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# Contents

vii	Authors
ix	Conference Committee
xiii	Introduction to the Invited Panel Discussion
XV	Invited Panel Slides
SESSION 1	MULTISENSOR FUSION, MULTITARGET TRACKING, AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT I
10646 02	Track stitching and approximate track association on a pairwise-likelihood graph [10646-1]
10646 03	From labels to tracks: it's complicated [10646-2]
10646 04	An introduction to the generalized labeled multi-Bernoulli filter through Matlab code [10646-3]
10646 05	On-orbit calibration of satellite based imaging sensors [10646-5]
10646 06	<b>The data-driven δ-generalized labeled multi-Bernoulli tracker for automatic birth initialization</b> [10646-4]
SESSION 2	MULTISENSOR FUSION, MULTITARGET TRACKING, AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT II
10646 07	Localization of a point target from an optical sensor's focal plane array [10646-6]
10646 09	Trajectory estimation and impact point prediction of a ballistic object from a single fixed passive sensor [10646-8]
10646 0A	A study of particle filtering approaches for the kidnapped robot problem [10646-9]
10646 OB	Evaluation of optimizations of Murty's M-best assignment [10646-10]
SESSION 3	INFORMATION FUSION METHODOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS I
10646 OC	A generalized labeled multi-Bernoulli filter for correlated multitarget systems [10646-11]

10646 0D A clutter-agnostic generalized labeled multi-Bernoulli filter [10646-12]

10646 OE	A fast labeled multi-Bernoulli filter for superpositional sensors [10646-13]
10646 OF	Large constellation tracking using a labeled multi-Bernoulli filter [10646-14]
SESSION 4	INFORMATION FUSION METHODOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS II
10646 0G	Detection system fusion based on the predictive value curve and its variations [10646-15]
10646 OH	Improving ATR system performance through sequences of classification tasks [10646-16]
SESSION 5	INFORMATION FUSION METHODOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS III
10646 OK	pystemlib: towards an open-source tracking, state estimation, and mapping toolbox in Python [10646-19]
10646 OL	Analysis of noise impact on distributed average consensus [10646-20]
SESSION 6	INFORMATION FUSION METHODOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS IV
10646 OM	A framework for adaptive MaxEnt modeling within distributed sensors and decision fusion for robust target detection/recognition [10646-21]
10646 ON	A comparison between robust information theoretic estimator and asymptotic maximum likelihood estimator for misspecified model [10646-22]
10646 00	<b>Optimizing collaborative computations for scalable distributed inference in large graphs</b> [10646-23]
10646 OP	Enabling self-configuration of fusion networks via scalable opportunistic sensor calibration [10646-24]
10646 0Q	Multiscale graph-based framework for efficient multi-sensor integration and event detection [10646-25]
SESSION 7	INFORMATION FUSION METHODOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS V
10646 OS	An adaptive sensing approach for the detection of small UAV: first investigation of static sensor network and moving sensor platform [10646-27]
10646 OU	MARINE-EO bridging innovative downstream earth observation and Copernicus enabled services for integrated maritime environment, surveillance, and security [10646-29]
10646 OV	A novel architecture for behavior/event detection in security and safety management systems [10646-30]

#### SESSION 8 SIGNAL AND IMAGE PROCESSING, AND INFORMATION FUSION APPLICATIONS I

- 10646 OW A new FSII-CFAR detector based on fuzzy membership degree [10646-31]
- 10646 0Z Low-cost multi-camera module and processor array for the ultra-fast framerate recognition, location, and characterization of explosive events [10646-34]
- 10646 10 Super-resolution of remote sensing images using edge-directed radial basis functions [10646-35]
- 10646 11 Compressive sensing using the log-barrier algorithm with complex-valued measurements [10646-36]

#### SESSION 9 SIGNAL AND IMAGE PROCESSING, AND INFORMATION FUSION APPLICATIONS II

- 10646 12 Stabilization and registration of full-motion video data using deep convolutional neural networks [10646-37]
- 10646 13 iSight: computer vision based system to assist low vision [10646-38]
- 10646 14 A real-time object detection framework for aerial imagery using deep neural networks and synthetic training images [10646-39]
- 10646 15 Mobile crowd-sensing for access point localization [10646-40]
- 10646 16 Going deeper with CNN in malicious crowd event classification [10646-41]

#### SESSION 10 SIGNAL AND IMAGE PROCESSING, AND INFORMATION FUSION APPLICATIONS III

10646 1A Scanning LiDAR for airfield damage assessment [10646-47]

#### SESSION 11 SIGNAL AND DATA PROCESSING FOR SMALL TARGETS

- 10646 1FRobust spectral classification [10646-50]
- 10646 1H Separation of small targets in multi-wavelength mixtures based on statistical independence [10646-52]
- 10646 1K Error statistics of bias-naïve filtering in the presence of bias [10646-55]
- 10646 1L An analytic solution to ellipsoid intersections for multistatic radar [10646-56]

10646 1M Multilevel probabilistic target identification methodology utilizing multiple heterogeneous sensors providing various levels of target characteristics [10646-57]

#### POSTER SESSION

10646 1P	Attitude control system for a balloon based telescope [10646-60]
10646 1R	Blind modulation detection via staged GLRT [10646-62]
10646 1S	CRLB for estimation of 3D sensor biases in spherical coordinates [10646-63]

### **Authors**

Numbers in the index correspond to the last two digits of the seven-digit citation identifier (CID) article numbering system used in Proceedings of SPIE. The first five digits reflect the volume number. Base 36 numbering is employed for the last two digits and indicates the order of articles within the volume. Numbers start with 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 0A, 0B...0Z, followed by 10-1Z, 20-2Z, etc.

Altman, Emilie, OK Anderson, Evan, 1K Angotta, Bill, 1A Astyakopoulos, Alkis, OU Bacher, E., OS Bailey, Colleen P., 1R Balaji, Bhashyam, OK Balasingam, Balakumar, 07 Bar-Shalom, Yaakov, 05, 07, 09, 0B, 1S Bayer, Michael A., 12 Belfadel, Djedjiga, 05, 1S Ben-Dov, R., 09 Borel-Donohue, Christoph, 14 Bothos, John, OV Carniglia, Peter, OK Chance, Zachary, 1K Chandran, Krishnan, 13 Chen, Lingji, 02, 03, 04 Colonna-Romano, John, 00 Copsey, Keith, OP Couwenhoven, Doug W., 12 Cox, Kevin, 0Z da Silva, Felipe B., 11 DeMars, Kyle J., 06 Diltz, Robert, 1A Dou, Wenbo, OB Dunham, Joel, 1M Emge, Darren K., 1H English, Woody, 1A Eum, Sungmin, 16 Fowler, Stuart, 1A Gatsak, Tatiana, OK Giovanneschi, F., OS Gómez Miguel, Beatriz, OU Grewe, Lynne, 13 Hammer, M., OS Hengy, S., OS Hommes, A., OS Hurley, Jeffery D., 1M Johannes, W., OS Johnson, Clint, 1M Jones, Brandon A., OF Kadar, Ivan, OM Kashyap, Archana, 13 Kay, Steven M., ON, 1F Kong, Yingying, OW Kontoes, Haris, OU Kowalski, Michael, 1S Kwon, Heesung, 14, 16

Kyriazanos, Dimitris M., OU, OV Langford, Darrell, 1A Laurenzis, M., OS Lee, Hyungtae, 14, 16 LeGrand, Keith A., 06 Leirens, Sylvain, 15 Le Moigne, Jaqueline, 10 Leung, Henry, OL, OW Levchuk, Georgiy, 00 Li, Boyuan, OL Lu, Qin, 07, 0B Lykousis, Vasilios, OU Mahler, Ronald, OC, OD, OE Maraviglia, Carlos, OZ Mareboyana, Manohar, 10 Markellou, Marina, OU Martins, Ana, OU McArdle, Sean M., OF Milarom, B., 09 Miosso, Cristiano J., 11 Mohler, David, 0A Mowakeaa, Rami, 1H Mulgrew, Bernard, OP Narayanan, Priya, 14 Nehmetallah, George, 1P Oxley, Mark E., 0G, 0H Pados, Dimitris A., 1R Page, Scott, OP Park, Sungjoo, OZ Pattipati, Krishna, OB Pereira da Silva, Alex, 15 Poyet, J.-M., OS Prasad, Lakshman, OQ Rao, Raghuveer, 14 Rassy, O., OS Ravago, Nicholas, OF Relyea, Stephen, 1K Rinehart, Stephen A., 1P Rizogiannis, Constantinos, OU, OV Robinson, Brian, 1A Rumbley, Sarah E., 02 Schertzer, S., OS Schubert Kabban, Christine M., OG, OH Seneviratne, Chatura, OL Shah, Akhil K., OF Shahshahani, Allen, 13 Shahshahani, Jake, 13 Shapero, Samuel A., 1L Simmons, Jimmy, 1M

Taylor, Clark N., 0A Thanos, Konstantinos Georgios, OV Thomas, Paul, OP Thomopoulos, Stelios C. A., OU, OV Trypitsidis, Anestis, OU Tsouni, Alexia, OU Tucker, Andrew W., 1F Üney, Murat, OP Varkitzi, Ioanna, OU Vieira, Fábio AL., OU Vila Hernandez de Lorenzo, Jordi, 1P Visina, Radu, OB von Borries, Ricardo, 11 Walters, Josh, 1A Walvoord, Derek J., 12 Willett, Peter, 07, 09, 0B, 1S Yang, Kaipei, 09 Yoedt, Cedric, 0Z Zalonis, Andreas, OV Zhang, Shu, OW Zhou, Xin, ON

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- 3 Information Fusion Methodologies and Applications I Ronald P. S. Mahler, Random Sets LLC (United States)
- Information Fusion Methodologies and Applications II
  Ivan Kadar, Interlink Systems Sciences, Inc. (United States)
  Chee-Yee Chong, Independent Consultant (United States)
- 5 Information Fusion Methodologies and Applications III Chee-Yee Chong, Independent Consultant (United States) Ivan Kadar, Interlink Systems Sciences, Inc. (United States)
- 6 Information Fusion Methodologies and Applications IV Chee-Yee Chong, Independent Consultant (United States) Ivan Kadar, Interlink Systems Sciences, Inc. (United States)
- Information Fusion Methodologies and Applications V
  Erik Blasch, Air Force Research Laboratory (United States)
  Ivan Kadar, Interlink Systems Sciences, Inc. (United States)
  Chee-Yee Chong, Independent Consultant (United States)

- 8 Signal and Image Processing, and Information Fusion Applications I Lynne L. Grewe, California State University, East Bay (United States) Alex L. Chan, U.S. Army Research Laboratory (United States)
- 9 Signal and Image Processing, and Information Fusion Applications II Lynne L. Grewe, California State University, East Bay (United States) Alex L. Chan, U.S. Army Research Laboratory (United States)
- Signal and Image Processing, and Information Fusion Applications III Alex L. Chan, U.S. Army Research Laboratory (United States) Lynne L. Grewe, California State University, East Bay (United States)
- Signal and Data Processing for Small Targets
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## Introduction to the Invited Panel Discussion

### **Deep Learning in AI and Information Fusion**

In the early days of artificial intelligence (AI) starting, say in the 1970s and 1980s, the predominant reasoning methods were logical and symbolic, using, e.g., Lisp/Prolog languages. Later in the 1980s, AI tools were used such as Knowledge Environment Engineering (KEE) and Automated Reasoning Tool (ART) expert systems, and early heuristic reasoning methods. Also, the concept and mathematical representation of "context" logic was defined. The concept and apps of both "knowledge based" and "context" are currently used in several apps in information fusion (IF) along with several methods to apply and learn contextual information.

In the early 1980's, AI was viewed as the solution to information fusion problems. In fact, many contributors to the first distributed sensor networks program were AI researchers. However, inadequate computing and AI approaches such as expert systems and heuristic uncertainty reasoning could not address the challenges of information fusion. Thus, important advances in information fusion, and in particular, multi-target tracking, were made with little contribution from AI.

During the long AI winter, researchers addressed the deficiencies of early AI, developing rigorous representation and reasoning techniques for uncertainty, and machine learning approaches. Recently, data science was established as a popular area to exploit the large volumes of data (a.k.a. Big Data) collected by physical sensors and online activities using machine learning and other analytic tools.

Artificial intelligence and data science pose both challenges and opportunities to IF. They are challenges because they appear to address the same problems as information fusion, but with more powerful techniques, thus siphoning away both research funding and research talent. However, these challenges can also be opportunities because AI and data science provide new research directions for information fusion. Examples include: IF with big data, hard and soft data fusion, learning about context, graph techniques for tracking and fusion, dynamic network analysis, apps to cyber and imagery processing.

The objective of this panel was to bring to the attention of the fusion community the importance of the application of deep learning in AI and IF, highlighting issues, illustrating approaches and addressing challenges. A number of invited experts discussed challenges in processing and research, and addressed these challenges with IF. The panelists illustrated parts of the abovementioned areas over different applications and association with IF. The panel highlighted impending issues and challenges using conceptual and real-world related examples associated with the applications of above.

> Chee-Yee Chong Ivan Kadar

### Invited Panel Discussion Deep Learning in AI and Information Fusion

#### Organizers

Chee-Yee Chong, Independent Consultant Ivan Kadar, Interlink Systems Sciences, Inc. Erik Blasch, Air Force Research Lab

#### Moderators

Ivan Kadar, Interlink Systems Sciences, Inc. Chee-Yee Chong, Independent Consultant April 16, 2018 SPIE Conference 10646 "Signal Processing, Sensor Fusion and Target Recognition XXVII" Orlando, ,FL 16-19 April 2018

# Invited Panel Discussion *Panel Participants:* Dr. Erik Blasch, Air Force Research Lab., U.S.A. Dr. Chee-Yee Chong, Independent Consultant, U.S.A. Professor George Cybenko, Dartmouth College, NH, U.S.A (unable to attend Professor Lynne Grewe, California State Univ, East Bay, U.S.A Dr. Ivan Kadar, Interlink Systems Sciences, Inc., U.S.A.

Dr. Uttam K. Majumber, Air Force Research Lab., U.S.A

# **Invited Panel Discussion**

## **Presentation Topics**

"Challenges of Using Deep Learning for Trusted Sensor Fusion"

Dr. Chee-Yee Chong, Independent Consultant

"Deep Learning and Computer Vision: Guidelines and Special Issues"

Professor Lynne Grewe and Garrett Stevenson, California State Univ, East Bay, CA

" Deep Learning for Object Recognition from High Volume Radio Frequency Data"

Dr. Uttam K. Majumber, Air Force Research Lab.

"Retrospectives on the Application of AI & Deep Learning in Information Fusion" (addendum to presentations) Dr. Ivan Kadar, Interlink Systems Sciences, Inc.



























































- · Information fusion researchers have love hate relationship with computers
  - · Love to develop algorithms for computers
  - · Hate when computers become too smart to take over their job
- Users do not care about specific approach as long as it provides solution
- Al and deep learning still cannot solve all fusion problems, especially in trusted or mission critical systems
- Trusted fusion system should exploit
  - Knowledge when it is available and can be represented for inference
  - Machine learning when knowledge is weak and data are available

#### 29



# Computer Vision Today & Deep Learning

Computer Vision is becoming pervasive in today's society and has a presence in self-driving cars, cities of the future, drones, medicine and more. Central to its use and popularity is the combination of Deep Learning and Computer Vision to tackle the important tasks of object classification and localization.

Recent developments of Computer Vision with Deep Learning will be discussed with guidelines & special issues

# overview

- Trends: Vision and Deep Learning architectures
- Running on mobile platforms/embedded devices
- Multi-Modal issues for Vision- a case study
- Temporal Networks LSTM
- General Adversarial Networks
- Varying data size
- Transfer Learning
- Guidelines
- Resources –datasets, frameworks & computation
- iLab (my) Deep Learning Research Projects




















 For a depthwise separable convolution on the same example, we traverse the 16 channels with 1 3x3 kernel each, giving us 16 feature maps (called DepthWise Convolution). Now, before merging anything, we traverse these 16 feature maps with 32 1x1 convolutions each (called Pointwise convolution) and only then start to them add together. (this 1x1 is called a depthwise multiplier of 1)

#### Comparison of number of parameters --> SEPARATED IS LESS!!!

• This results in 656 (16x3x3 + 16x32x1x1) parameters opposed to the 4608 (16x32x3x3) parameters from above.

SO its faster



























----taking in time









memory

Have cells that allow for both "long-term" and "short-term"



- Can propagate without modification using a simple learned gating function and this is a kind of "long range learning".
- nodes in a LSTM network allow the network to learn when to "forget" previous hidden states and when to update hidden states given new information. This is a kind of "short-term" memory, basically having an expiration to previous information.















T





## **GAN** - applications

#### APPLICATIONS:

- 1. may be more suited to future predictive problems such as future video frame predictions
- 2. discriminator network could be used as a "feature extractor" stage in a more complex CNN.
- 3. Generator network could be used for synthesis
- 4. GANs used to produce photorealistic images for modeling scenes, to reconstruct 3D models of objects from images and for texture synthesis [9-11]. They have also been used for various object detection techniques like detection of open spaces for parking [12].

























lvii

# **Recommendation Summary**

ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION
More Complex Problems	Increase depth of network
<ul> <li>Large number of classes</li> <li>Large data set</li> <li>Greater confusion between classes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Current trend – use larger number of layers of small sized filters</li> </ul>
Mobile and Low Computational Devices (IoT)	For on device computation (otherwise consider cloud)
	• Shallow Networks, minimize number of filters at each convolutional layer.
	<ul> <li>Depthwise Separable Filters (reduce #parameters in mode) – MobileNet architecture [4]</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Optimize networks (elimination of low contribution nodes, etc.)</li> <li>Consider special purpose frameworks like TensorFlow Lite. [12]</li> </ul>
Temporal	CNN + Long Term Short Term (LSTM) Networks
Synthesis or Prediction	Consider Generative Adversarial Networks

Overall Recommendations		
ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION	
Multi-Modal Data	<ul> <li>Tradeoff consideration: potentially higher accuracy for increased computation of combined modality processing versus faster (and potentially lower accuracy) of having separate networks for each modality processing in parallel.</li> </ul>	
Data Size Variability	Pyramid approach [13]	
	• When size is different than trained network but, is fixed. Use only front (not FC layers) for feature extraction and then create new FC layers for your new size.	
	• Otherwise necessitates rescaling of data to input size of existing	
Minimal Time and Resources <ul> <li>Minimal time for training</li> </ul>	Perform Transfer Learning • by finding a pre-trained network that has ideally similarity with your problem and replay the last layer(s)	
<ul> <li>Minimal resources (computation, budget)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>and retrain with your set of classes.</li> <li>Essentially use the pre-trained network's beginning feature and potentially fully connected layers (minimally replace)</li> </ul>	
	the end layer)	

# **Overall Recommendations**

ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION
<ul> <li>Lack of Training Data</li> <li>Minimal data or none at all.</li> <li>Accommodate your sensor data to size</li> <li>Scale training data or sensor data to match</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Numerous data sets mostly for 2D rgb images such as ImageNet [23], COCO [24]</li> <li>Emerging data sets in 3D [25-31]</li> <li>Specialized datasets -example: Person datasets: [32-35]</li> <li>Also, may consider use of pre-trained network if you research is focusing on other issues</li> </ul>























# Conclusions

- Follow Guidelines
- "areas to explore"
  - temporal learning
  - Gamming the system GANs
  - Multi-modal considerations
  - Varying data size

### **Deep Learning and Computer Vision: Guidelines and Special Issues**

Lynne Grewe<sup>a</sup> and Garrett Stevenson<sup>a</sup>

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#### ABSTRACT

The catapult of Computer Vision into recent societal prominence is represented by advancements in self-driving cars, drone autonomy, and cities of the future. Central to these advancements are the developments of Deep Learning with Computer Vision to tackle the important tasks of object classification and localization. This paper surveys some of the current research and presents current guidelines for working in computer vision with deep learning. Additionally, special topics are highlighted including Multi-Modal Vision with Deep Learning and Temporal Networks.

Keywords: Deep Learning, Computer Vision, Multi-Modal Deep Learning, Temporal Networks

### **1. RESARCH TRENDS**

One Deep Learning research trend is "going deeper", creating CNNs with a greater number of layers. In [1], VGG Net is a CNN with 19 layers (2014). In 2015, GoogLeNet [2], a 22 layer network, was able to achieve a top 5 error rate of 6.7% and was different than previous CNNs in that is was not a sequentially layered network and instead had parallelly processed layers. At the same time Microsoft ResNet [3] is a 152 layer network that produced an incredibly low error rate of 3.6% for the ILSVRC 2015 challenge. Generally, more complex problems (larger number of classes) can require having deeper networks to yield higher accuracy.

At the same time that some researchers have gone deeper, there is a strong interest in mobile vision and using CNN/deep learning on the mobile devices which are comparatively low computational devices compared to the machines running ResNet. So, going deep (or as deep) will not work on these devices. MobileNet [4] is an example of recent work that creates a CNN architecture that optimizes the network to run more efficiently on mobile devices by using depth wise separable convolution. Following the MobileNet architecture a general guideline for low computational devices is to stick with shallower networks. In [5], use of MobileNet architecture is shown for the iSight system that uses Deep Learning and Visualization to assist people with Low Vision.

Another recent emerging trend is that of Generative Adversarial Networks [6,7]. With GANs there are two networks, the first network ("discriminator") takes the image as input and output is the determination of whether the input is a true representation or fake representation of some class. At the same time a second network ("generator") is trained that generates input to train the first network. The "adversarial" component of this concept is the second network ("generator") tries to progressively create hard input to "fool" the first network. By doing so, ultimately the first network will achieve better discriminating capabilities, meaning higher accuracy. This can be thought of as a zero-sum or minimax two player game This form of Deep Learning Networks may be more suited to future predictive problems such as future video frame predictions [8] over non-GAN CNNs. Additionally, a GAN discriminator network could be used as a "feature extractor" stage in a more complex CNN. GANs have been used to produce photorealistic images for modeling scenes, to reconstruct 3D models of objects from images and for texture synthesis [9-11]. They have also been used for various object detection techniques like the detection of open spaces for parking [12].

#### 2. MULTI-MODAL VISION AND DEEP LEARNING

Multi-modal vision is the idea that more than one kind of data is being presented to the system. This data may come from multiple sensors and may even be different in nature. Multi-modal data processing with a Deep Learning

framework has not been fully explored but some examples can be found at [13-17]. One technique is to create a CNN only with one sensor data and use the other sensors' data for additional information. For example, in [17] a system is discussed that performs object detection using a CNN with only 2D image data. Subsequently, two depth sensors (one stereo and the other based on IR technology) have collected depth information of the scene and using the detected location in the 2D image of the object, the 3D location of the object can be estimated. The advantages of such a technique is more simplicity and faster processing than using multi-modal data in the CNN.

In [15, 16], 2D image data and 3D depth information is used directly in the CNN. In [16], an exploration of different ways to incorporate it are compared for performance. Having separate CNNs that run in parallel for 2D and 3D is one case. The second case is presenting 2D and 3D as a 4 D image input (r,g,b, depth) into a single CNN. These two multi-modal systems are compared to a 2D only (single sensor data) system. The best results were achieved for the 4D image input. At the same time, this fused data network will be the largest and hence will potentially run slower than the separate CNN case which could potentially run the 2 separate CNNs in parallel. This indicates that presenting all the data at once to a single CNN may yield superior results. Certainly this approach will let the Network learn how to combine the data at different layers (and scales) to best achieve features to yield higher accuracies.

### **3. TEMPORAL NETWORKS**

In addition to looking at different kinds of sensor data, gathering data over time and processing it in a temporal fashion can yield superior results and allow for different applications like activity recognition ("man eating", "woman walking") and video captioning ("2 persons walking a dog"). Architectures to incorporate temporal processing in include Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) and Long Short Term (memory) Networks (LSTM). Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) have been successfully applied to processing both speech and video analysis [18] but, are primarily used for speech as they do not inherently capture spatial data as CNNs do. One work looks at integrating CNN and RNN directly in [19]. However, the use of CNNs for temporal processing is best represented in Long Short Term Memory Networks (LSTM) [20-22].

One problem with neural network models using state information is the ability to backpropogate anderro over a longrange temporal span becomes difficult. The LSTM networks have nodes which allow them to propogate without modification using a simple learned gating function and this is a kind of "long term effect" called "long range learning". Additionally, the nodes in a LSTM network allow the network to learn when to "forget" previous hidden states and when to update hidden states given new information. This is a kind of "short-term" memory, basically having an expiration to previous information. In [20], a CNN is used to perform object identification which is fed into an RNN (textual input) to come up with a image caption. More recently in [22], a CNN is used to process the image frames of a video sequence that is then fed into a LSTM to perform activity recognition, and both image and video captioning.

### 4. GUIDELINES

Every vision application has different demands. Some systems will have access to good computational resources and others may need to run on mobile and embedded systems. Some systems will have single sensor data and others multi-sensor/ multi-modal data and so on. Table 1 shows some guidelines for different operating scenarios.

ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION	
More Complex Problems	Increase depth of network	
Large number of classes	• Current trend – use larger number of small sized	
Large data set	filters	
Greater confusion between classes		
Future Looking	Consider Generative Adversarial Networks	
• Beyond classification of current state, looking to		
predict future		

Mobile and Low Computational Devices (IoT)	<ul> <li>For on device computation (otherwise consider cloud0 <ul> <li>Shallow Networks</li> <li>Depthwise Separable Filters (reduce #parameters in mode) – MobileNet architecture [4]</li> <li>Optimize networks (elimination of low contribution nodes, etc.)</li> <li>Consider special purpose frameworks like TensorFlow Lite [13]</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Multi-Modal Data	Tradeoff: potentially higher accuracy for increased computation of combined modality processing versus faster (and potentially lower accuracy) of having separate networks for each modality processing in parallel.
Data Size Variability	<ul> <li>Pyramid approach [14]</li> <li>When size is different than trained network but, is fixed. Use only front (not FC layers) for feature extraction and then create new FC layers for your new size.</li> <li>Otherwise necessitates rescaling of data to input size of existing</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Minimal Time and Resources</li> <li>Minimal time for training</li> <li>Minimal resources (computation, budget)</li> </ul>	• Perform Transfer Learning -by finding a pre- trained network that has ideally similarity with your problem and replay the last layer(s) and retrain with your set of classes. Essentially use the pre-trained network's beginning feature and potentially fully connected layers (minimally replace the end layer)
<ul> <li>Temporal Processing Needed</li> <li>Video applications, time sequence data</li> </ul>	• Use Long Short Term (memory) Network (LSTM) (or CNN+RNN)
<ul> <li>Lack of Training Data</li> <li>Minimal data or none at all.</li> <li>Accommodate your sensor data to size</li> <li>Scale training data or sensor data to match</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Numerous data sets mostly for 2D rgb images such as ImageNet [23], COCO [24]</li> <li>Emerging data sets in 3D [25-31]</li> <li>Specialized datasets -example: Person datasets: [32-35]</li> </ul>

Table 1: Current Deep Learning Recommended Guidelines based on Research Trends.

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Key network parameters								
Learning rate 0.001 Batch size 64 1000 training epochs	5 Convolution layers 3 InnerProduct (FC) layers 2x2 stride 1 max pool filters	Dropout regularization						









# Deep Learning for Object Recognition from High Volume Radio Frequency Data

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### ABSTRACT

Much research efforts have been devoted to applying deep learning (DL) algorithms in video imagery for object recognition. However, very limited publications can be found on technical challenges and approaches to execute DL algorithms in radio frequency (RF) data. This talks highlights recent advancements of DL on synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imagery for object recognition. Radar enables imaging ground objects at far greater standoff distances than an electro-optic sensor. Further, radar enables imaging a scene and obtaining salient features of objects in all weather/day-night conditions. One example is that future self-driving/autonomous vehicles/cars could integrate radar among other sensors for decision making while sharing the roads and avoiding collisions/accidents. Existing non-DL based object recognition algorithms are less accurate and require impractically large computing resources. DL enables more accurate, realtime/non-realtime, and low-power object recognition system development. An examples is presented on Convolution Neural Network (CNN) based SAR object recognition for GPU and energy efficient computing systems. Results demonstrate acceptable classification accuracy on relevant SAR data.

# Keywords: Deep Neural Network (DNN), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), Radio Frequency (RF), Big Data

### **RF BIG DATA**

According to IBM[1, 2], big data has several characteristics. Among these are volume, velocity, variety, and veracity. A big volume of data could be processing terabytes to exabytes or more data in a milliseconds or seconds. In some applications, RF data could be collected from petabytes to exabytes and these data need to be processed (e.g., object recognition) in real-time or near real-time. Radar images are difficult for humans to analyze. It requires significant efforts for accurate interpretation; however a DL system is very capable to interpret these images. The benefits of utilizing radar technology are evident given its advantages over electro-optical imaging. Specifically, radar is able to operate in a variety of operating conditions—including poor visibility, inclement weather, and night-time settings. Given the disparity between the technical capabilities of radar and its difficulty of interpretation, it is a goal to develop accurate methods for automatically recognizing objects in radar images without the need for expensive expert analysis. The benefits of object recognition for radar imagery include developing self-driving cars to autonomous systems.

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Though most recent work in applying artificial neural networks (ANN) to computer vision has focused on electro-optical images, the application to radar imagery is of particular interest for our research. Previously, achieving RF object classification using DL methods was the absence of necessary computational power. A radar imagery data collection project—called Moving and Stationary Target Acquisition and Recognition (MSTAR) program—was funded by DARPA and the AFRL in the 1990s to fill the void in available radar data for object classification research[3, 4]. Additionally, the recent introduction of affordable GPU computing resources[5] has made the efficient processing of datasets for deep learning (DL) applications a reality for RF object classification research efforts.

### **CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORKS**

Convolutional neural networks (CNN) are a special case of neural networks, as they make the explicit assumption that the input data are of constant size. This enables certain features to be encoded in them. In particular, the computational units, or "neurons," share parameters with their neighbors. The connections conceptually result in an intuitive visualization of the network as a series of filters that "slide" or "pool" over regions they are connected to—producing mathematical output based on the parameters, or "weights," of each filter. The output produced by these filters is then fed to other filters connected to them, and so on, concluding with a fully connected dens network shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Illustration of Convolution Neural Networks [6]

Through training, these filters learn to respond to complex features in image data. Filters closer to the data input layer learn to recognize simple features, such as edges. Mid-level filters might learn compositions of edges, like simple shapes. High-level filters then learn complex abstractions of the data, such as compositions of shapes forming full objects of interest. Thus, CNNs are a natural fit for working with the conceptual hierarchy of features present within image data.

## EXPERIMENTS ON RF OBJECT CLASSIFICATIONS

Software tools used for this research are: Caffe, DIGITS, Python, and LMDB. Caffe is a deeplearning framework maintained by the Berkeley Vision and Learning Center (BVLC)[7]. Caffe provides full end-to-end capability for deep learning tasks, and is the deep learning framework of choice for many in the machine learning community.

Experimental data were extracted from the MSTAR public dataset [3]. The MSTAR public dataset contains several hundred SAR images of a variety of targets collected in varying conditions. Sandia

National Laboratory used an X-band radar sensor at 1-foot resolution in spotlight mode to collect target data at 15, 17, 30, and 45-degree depression angles. Images taken at varying azimuth angles provide a 360-degree view of each given target. The images are 128x128 pixel chips containing a target roughly centered within its background. Bulldozers, trucks tanks, and anti-aircraft vehicles are among the targets included in the dataset as shown in Figure 2 with the SAR images in Figure 3.



Figure 3: SAR Images of Objects

# RESULTS

On MSTAR public release data [3], 99% classification accuracy was achieved using the model specifications described in Chen, *et al.* [8]. Most DL architectures tested reached an accuracy limit of 98.3%-98.7%, depending on testing batch size and number of testing iterations ran. This held true for models employing small convolution filters, models with additional convolution layers before pooling, and models with fully connected layers at the end of the network architecture. Dropout regularization provided an accuracy improvement of roughly 0.5% over models not employing a DL technique. Though a relatively modest improvement, it is nonetheless indicative of the benefits of using dropout to ensure a model's ability to generalize to new data.

### **CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH**

Research on applying DL techniques to multi-sensor information fusion is evolving, such as for image fusion [9]. Integrating RF sesnsor for Artifical Intelligence (AI) and information fusion has lots of technical challenges. Followings are key research that needs to be addressed:

- *RF Synthetic Data Research*: DL algorithms require lots of training data. Hence, research needs to be conducted to develop high fidelity synthetic RF data to augment measured RF data. This is important as measured RF data are expensive to collect.
- *Transfer Learning Algorithms Development*: Develop transfer learning techniques over operating spaces (e.g., range, resolution, target settings)
- *Robust Evaluation of DL Algorithms*: Results (classification accuracy) of DL algorithms are meaningless unless they are validated with representative operating environments (e.g., environment) [10]. Hence, validation and verification for reproducible object classification results in extensive operating conditions are very important.
- *Computational Efficiency*: Developing a real-time training algorithms and size, weight, and power-constrained (SWaP) computing systems will be required for future DL-based AI systems.

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# **Retrospectives on the Applications AI and Deep Learning in Information Fusion**

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### **BACKGROUND-PERSPECTIVES**

In this position paper concrete examples of the use of Neural Networks (NNs) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) components in Information Fusion (IF), are presented, based on work performed in the 1980s and 1990s-on at Grumman Aerospace Corporation, Advanced Technology Development Department, in Bethpage NY.

While the application of AI was prominent before NNs became popular, this paper starts with a description of my short verbal introduction to the subject at the panel, viz., NNs; and subsequently expands on the subject to depict the application of AI and NNs for IF applications.

As further detailed below, as part of the work at the Advanced Technology Development Department, of the *Knowledge-Based Processing Systems Group* and associated *Knowledge-Based AI Technology development laboratory* (1984-1990), founded and managed by the author starting in 1983, we used: tracking, association and fusion algorithms, and developed: e.g., Common-LISP-based algorithms/programs/systems, including an interactive digital LISP-based image processing facility for both low-level vision processing and for an initial capability of high-level image understanding towards target recognition; used Expert Systems Tools [1], NNs [2], Dempster-Shafer theory (DST)-based algorithms for evidence representation and combination/fusion [3] and Fuzzy-Sets [4]; the latter three were also considered part of AI and not IF during that time frame. Given the available tool sets, we also developed the architecture, designed and implemented the simulation of a Tactical Assessment Expert System (TAES) [5]; all delineated in the sections below.

### **1. NEURAL NETWORKS**

During my short introduction at the panel discussion the subject being addressed and the participants, only highlighted one aspect of the subject: "Deep Learning" [6, 7], viz., the use of Neural Networks (NNs) for significant feature(s) recognition back in the 1987-1990's-on.

During that time frame we used a three hidden layer abductive polynomial NN [8] as the feature selection component of a ground-based-emitter discrimination algorithm in mid 1990s, resulting in a US Patent in 1999 [9]. Other components of the algorithm included Fuzzy Sets [4], and a related classifier.

An example abductive polynomial NN is shown below [8]:



where, in the equations shown in the algebraic forms below, the w's are the weights learned by regression, and the x's are the input variables.

Singles, doubles, and triples are elements whose names are based on the number of input variables. The algebraic form of each of these elements is shown in the following equations:

Single = W0 + 
$$(W1^*X_1)$$
 +  $(W2^*X_1^2)$  +  $(W3^*X_1^3)$ 

# $\begin{aligned} \text{Triple} &= \text{W0} + (\text{W1*X}_1) + (\text{W2*X}_2) + (\text{W3*X}_3) + (\text{W4*X}_1^2) + (\text{W5*X}_2^2) + (\text{W6*X}_3^2) + (\text{W7*X}_1^*\text{X}_2) \\ &+ (\text{W8*X}_1^*\text{X}_3) + (\text{W9*X}_2^*\text{X}_3) + (\text{W10*X}_1^*\text{X}_2^*\text{X}_3) + (\text{W11*X}_1^3) + (\text{W12*X}_2^3) + (\text{W13*X}_3^3) \end{aligned}$

Figure 1. An abductive polynomial NN example [8]

Given the CPU clock speeds of the mid 1990s, the training alone took two days. That is, computers were very slow (100-300 MHz clock speeds), memory was scarce and very expensive, and even the three hidden layers network took a day to converge to the solution.

The term "Deep Learning" [6, 7] (referring to hidden layers in NNs) was not introduced at that time although the network had three hidden layers, and indeed it "deep" learned.

Of course, today's Deep Learning NNs [7, 10] have multitudes of hidden layers for features recognition, but even the fastest special-chip-based networks do not always converge in real-time use quickly enough, (as mentioned in articles published in the Technology Related Business Sections in the New York Times during the Spring 2018).

### 2. ARTIFICIAL INTELIGENCE (INCLUDES NNs)

Sections below, illustrate the complementary interactions and harmonious use of AI and NNs components in IF applications. Part of the material is adapted in part from the author's position paper within: "Results from Levels 2/3 Fusion Implementations: Issues, Challenges, Retrospectives and Perspectives for the Future – An Annotated Perspective" presented at the SPIE Signal Processing, Sensor Fusion and Target Recognition XVII conference, Proc. SPIE Vol. 6968, Orlando Fl., April 2008.

It is well known that the concept of Situation Awareness (SA), (Level 2), and Threat Assessment (TA), (Level 3); SA/TA existed before the Joint Director of Laboratories Fusion Model (JDL) [11, 12, 13], viz., JDL established the numerical representation and "at-that-time" definition of Fusion "Levels" [9]. This is illustrated in a "circa 1984-1986 vintage" simulated "Tactical Assessment Expert System architecture," [14] depicted in Figure 2.

The TAES system utilized knowledge-based Expert Systems tools combined with numerical algorithms with the primary objective to reduce pilot workload so the pilot becomes the systems manager not just the operator.



Figure 2. Tactical Assessment Expert System Functional Architecture

That is, the TEAS system could inform the pilot: targets detections/IDs, environmental data and system status reports, and suggested tactical decisions for pilot's override. This was accomplished by modeling and encoding pilot's thought processes (via interviews) to form of an "experienced-software-copilot" during the SA/TA knowledge acquisition stage. The fundamental construct/design guidance for this system was based on an early fusion model (before JDL), called the "Perceptual Reasoning Machine (PRM) paradigm" [15], shown as an internal governing component of the Generic Information Fusion Process Model System (PMS) [14,15,16,17] shown in Figure 3. The dotted and yellow-highlighted blocks shown in Figure 2, correspond to the PRM functions shown in Figure 3. Figure 4 depicts the information flow among the PRM elements.



Figure 3. Genetic Information Fusion Process Model System (PMS)



its **KB** and from the "**anticipate**" module to form a database of **likely current situations** which include potential detected threats.

The "<u>assess</u>/(Gather)" module responding to "dynamically managed" received multisource information uses additional information from along with its KB and likely future situations information from along with its KB and likely future situations information from the "anticipate" module, issues assessments, identifies potential threats, provides plans of actions and goals, and as needed, request actions for additional information to confirm or negate conflicting hypotheses thus "Closing the loop".

The "anticipate" module provides information on expected likely future situations" for short and long-duration planning based on likely current situations from the "assess" module; prior, learned, process and tactical knowledge, and associated likely hypotheses.

Figure 4. Information Flow among PRM Elements [Note: **KB**=Knowledge Base]

The PRM construct, depicted in Figures 3 and 4, can be viewed as a "meta-level information management system", in general, and specifically when used within PMS, which is, a set of procedures and algorithms that capture the functional (temporal and/or spatial) dependency relationships of the task or processes being modeled [14-17]. PRM consists of a feedback planning/resource control system whose interacting elements are: "gather/assess", "anticipate" and "predict" [15-17], which are detailed, along with the required knowledge-bases, in Figure 4. Note: the "gather" part of the "gather/assess" module (shown in Figures 3 and 4) fuses optimally weighted information from multiple sensors/sources, and "assess" part functions are depicted in Figure 4.

#### 2.1 Evolving tools for Levels 2/3

The TEAS software architecture, shown in Figure 2, was built on Common LISP and using the Automated Reasoning Tool (ART) [18] an expert system building tool. There were several knowledge bases (KBs) as shown in Figure 2, (1) Declarative KB (functional - not shown) consisting of: Static KB- relations via semantic network using inheritance wherein the system exploits the inheritance structure of the KB to interpret incomplete data and a Pop-up menu driven on-Line KB to keep track of targets encountered, and to support interpretation of incomplete data; and, (2) Procedural/Operational KB consisting of: Production rules, interacting with a Dynamic KB using mathematical constructs - associated with the Control KB which are coupled with the interacting feedback structure of the PRM components of: Dempster-Shafer evidential reasoning (part of ID fusion expert system), Data Fusion/Tracking and Anticipation Expert Systems providing the reasoning mechanism for TEAS to arrive at a comprehensive interpretation of uncertain situations. The TEAS system was totally data Driven, i.e., LIFO - rules groups fired independently based on available data, allowing all modules to access to information during any stage of the program. Simulation results illustrated the interaction between a hypothetical scenario pilot thought process model (database derived from Jane's Book in all the Worlds Aircrafts) and the system, using simulated sensor reports to handle uncertainty. The TEAS system ran on the Symbolics 3675 LISP machine. The question arises how would one implement the software architecture of TAES today and what has changed since it was built.

As evident from the TAES construct, early approaches to higher-level fusion evolved from the mainstream use of early expert system tools (e.g., Knowledge Engineering Environment, "KEE" [19], Automatic Reasoning Tool, "ART" [18] built in Common-Lisp, both rule-based providing forward and backwards chaining, while ART provided hypotheses generation capability and prediction), other tools were based on: strings oriented symbolic (objects-oriented) language (SNOBOL-4) for pattern matching, common-LISP, logic (PROLOG), logical templates, procedural-LISP-based, such as Procedural Reasoning System "PRS", case-based languages, Blackboard (BB) system [20] representations, associative memory [21], schema-based languages and neural networks (NN) for knowledge elicitation/learning/acquisition (viz., background NNs learning the pilot's functions), evidential reasoning and ID declarations fusion using Dempster-Shafer calculi, tracking and related association algorithms, along with some of the basic methodologies remaining a part of current approaches. *It should be noted*: the "anticipate/predict" module of PRM (see Figure 4) was initially implemented using a KB of prior domain knowledge (which is automatically updated with current/latest knowledge), an inference engine and ART. Subsequently it was modified and used an associative memory [21] NN provided at that time by DEC corporation. The associative memory provided the "perceptual reasoning associative recall" function [22] in the PRM.

Current, and potential future trends, are primarily based on agent-based models [23] of interactions, including Blackboard (BB) systems [20], NN behavioral learning systems for knowledge acquisition, ontology representations (extending schemas), probability (Bayes-nets and Dempster-Shafer calculi and its extension [24, 25. 26] and possibility (fuzzy-sets)-based methods [27], graph theory oriented relational representations, game theoretic methods of optimization, some coupled with influence diagram formulations [28], but not excluding rule-based expert system tools, such as CLIPS built using C and JAVA [29], with the above representing a non-exhaustive representative list. The author is not aware of any comprehensive studies to compare the efficacy of the "historical main stream" and "current-main stream" trends in order to learn from experience.

### 2.2 Knowledge representation and reasoning (KKR) approaches/issues, when AI and NNs are available

Related to section 2.1, methods of knowledge elicitation/acquisition, learning, representation and reasoning (KRR) have not appeared to have made significant strides over the past several years in spite of several conferences devoted to KRR [30], illustrating the difficulty associated with this topical area. The following list highlights potential KRR *issues and challenges* [30, 31]:

### • Adequacy of KRR

- Using logic, semantics, ontology, probabilistic methods, neural networks, associative memory, blackboard, simulations, rules and computation *how to quantify and measure?*
- Expressiveness of models vs. tractability of inference
  - Measures of richness of model vs. knowledge that inference is decidable and *will produce and answer efficiently; and why correct and how arrived at that answer*? [31]
- Managing Complexity
  - Limits about tractability how to bound the problem with incomplete knowledge
- Data Information
  - *How to manage* heterogeneous and uncertain Knowledge Sources, and detect duplicate or incomplete concepts
  - Knowledge Acquisition/Elicitation Issues
    - Expert's difficulty in verbalizing knowledge
    - Reliability and uncertainty of knowledge, and how to calibrate (ground truth)
      - Methods for reasoning and discovery under uncertainty
      - Indirect learning of knowledge "on-line background" learning of "selected" features
- Presentation of knowledge to different users/experts with different levels of expertise. i.e., *what is pragmatic?*

# **3. CONCLUSIONS**

The purpose of this position paper is to illustrate the 1987-1990's use of NNs "Deep Learning" and AI algorithms, and subsequently highlight the 1984-1987-on retrospectives and perspectives on issues and challenges of Levels 2/3 information fusion using AI and NNs methods as components of the implementations, by presenting an independent point of view. There are many other possible additional implementation issues and challenges remaining, for example, in: model refinement, computational and processing methods, optimization, automation and decision making under uncertainty, human-machine interface and integration, distributed systems, knowledge elicitation, deep learning and representation, and potentially many more issues and challenges that hopefully will be addressed as part of future research in this area using new approaches.

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