

Artificial Intelligence and Forestry

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- Introduction to artificial intelligence
- Machine learning from big and complex data
- A gentle introduction to convolutional neural networks
- Some applications of machine learning in forestry (and broader)



AI is the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs (Alan Turing)



AI history & early optimism

Start in the 1950s, Dartmouth conference in 1956: Big expectations, underestimating the difficulties that lie ahead

- 1958, H. A. Simon and Allen Newell: "... within ten years a digital computer will discover and prove an important new mathematical theorem."
- 1965, H. A. Simon: "... machines will be capable, within twenty years, of doing any work a man can do."
- 1967, Marvin Minsky: "Within a generation ... the problem of creating 'artificial intelligence' will substantially be solved."
- 1970, Marvin Minsky: "In from three to eight years we will have a machine with the general intelligence of an average human being."

The perceptron: An artificial neuron

• The perceptron can be viewed as an artificial neuron



- Performs binary classification via linear discrimination: The basic unit of Artificial Neural Networks (Rosenblatt, 1958)
- Minsky and Papert (1969) show it cannot learn XOR function



Following the Minsky and Papert paper, the first Al winter ensues



Expert systems

- An expert system is a computer system emulating the decision-making ability of a human expert
- Expert systems are designed to solve complex problems by reasoning over their knowledge bases, represented mainly as if—then rules
- Knowledge captured from human expert by a knowledge engineer, through a process known as knowledge acquisition





Expert Systems Here and Now: Decision Support Models





Qualitative Multi-Attribute Models as Knowledge-Bases (DEXi)



$\cos ts$	safety	car	_			
low	v. good	v. good	-			
low	good	good				
low	acc.	mid.		price	maint.	$\cos ts$
low	\mathbf{bad}	\mathbf{bad}		low	low	low
mid.	v. good	good		low	mid.	low
mid.	good	good		low	high	mid.
mid.	acc.	acc.		mid.	low	low
mid.	bad	bad		mid.	mid.	mid.
high	v. good	good		mid.	high	high
high	good	mid.		high	low	mid.
high	acc.	bad		high	mid.	high
high	bad	\mathbf{bad}		high	high	high

IF ABS=no AND size=small THEN safety = bad

ABS	size	safety
no	small	bad
no	mid.	acc.
no	$_{\rm big}$	good
yes	\mathbf{small}	bad
yes	mid.	good
yes	$_{\rm big}$	v. good

The knowledge acquisition bottleneck

- To create an expert system, you need a knowledge-base.
- The knowledge needs to go from the experts to the computer.



Knowledge Engineering

"Critical scientific problem [...] successful applied AI requires that knowledge move from the heads of experts into programs"

• Experts notoriously bad at explaining how they solve problems



Machine Learning to the Rescue

• Input: Table of data

Location	PLC	FOREST-ABUNDANCE	PTS	Other EnvVariables	BBH
11	Forest	80	21.4		Yes
12	Forest	66	13.9		Yes
13	Forest	55	50.0		No
14	Forest	72	1.2		No
15	Grassland	6	19.1		No
16	Grassland	0	11.4		No
17	Wetland	3	5.8		No
18	Water	0	3.9		No

- Output: Models in the form of IF-THEN rules or decision trees
 - IF PREDOMINANT-LAND-COVER = Forest PredominantLandCover FOREST-ABUNDANCE > 60% OtherAND Forest Unsuitable ForestAbundance PROXIMITY-TO-SETTLEMENTS > 1.5 km AND > 60 % < 60 %THEN BrownBearHabitat = Suitable ProximityToSettlements Unsuitable $< 1.5 \ km$ $> 1.5 \ km$

Unsuitable

Suitable

Decision Boundaries

• Linear and nonlinear boundaries



Linearly separable dataset

Linearly inseparable dataset

The multi-layer perceptron & NNs

- While a single perceptron cannot learn XOR, a multilayer perceptron can. MLPs can approximate an arbitrary non-linear mapping between inputs & outputs
- Arbitrary depth or width may be needed
- Note the hidden layers: If only a few, shallow NNs





Neural Networks Decision Boundaries



Ensemble methods: R. forests

- Ensembles are collections of models
- Whose predictions are combined to obtain a final p.
- Can have much higher predictive performance



Decision Boundaries for Ensembles



Decision Boundaries Illustrated

Input data







Decision Tree



Random Forest

Neural Net









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Deep Neural Networks: Advantages

CNNs are DNNs that include computer vision ideas (convolutional filters) and can learn features from images



This is the key to the success of NNs: End-to-end learning



Deep Neural Networks: Limits

But, neural networks cannot 'explain their thinking'!

- This is unacceptable in many areas (e.g., medicine)
- This also leaves the needs of scientists, whose very enterprise is founded on explanation, fundamentally unmet

Neural networks are data hungry

• They need lots of **labeled** training data, not easy to get

Neural networks are computationally demanding

 In a recent study, DNN performance: 97% accuracy, 3300 hrs GPU, competing method 96% accuracy, 36 hrs CPU

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 Electricity spent (rough estimate): 1KWh for competitor, 1 MWh for DNNs

There's more to ML than DNNs!

- Learning from data (inductive learning)
 - Unsupervised learning (clustering)
 - Supervised learning (predictive modeling)
 - Classification
 - Regression
- Learning from data (Data Mining)
 - Learning understandable/ explainable models
 - Trees & tree ensembles
 - Rules & rule ensembles
 - Learning neural networks/ Deep learning
- Reinforcement learning
- Computational scientific discovery

Explainable AI/ML

- Explaining predictions
- Explaining models
- Very important in medicine (changing therapy for Parkinson's)



Also very important in science

Ensembles: Accuracy/Expl. Trade-off

- Ensembles contain multiple-trees
- Predictions combined for _____
 better accuracy
- Provide feature
 importance estimates
 and thus some insight/
 interpretation
- E.g., random forests
- Very efficient

#	Descriptive attributes					Target attributes			
	KMnO ₄	CO_2	•••	$K_2Cr_2O_7$	Baetis	Tubifex	•••	Simulium	
1	0.66	0.15		2.7	3	0	•••	3	
2	2.05	0.56		2.8	0	0		5	
:	:	:		:	:	:		:	
1060	1.3	1.23		1.1	5	3	•••	1	

A single decision tree

An ensemble of decision trees



Reinforcement learning

- Agent learning from interaction with the environment
 - Performs actions
 - Receives feedback/ reinforcement
- Google's AlphaGo



Computational scientific discovery: Finding laws in data

- Planets further from the Sun orbit slower, following the law $d^3/p^2 = k$ (Kepler's third law)
- Where d is the distance from the planet to the Sun, and p is period of one revolution; k is a constant
- This law is also followed by the moons of Jupiter

Moon	Moon	d	p	Ganymede: 7.2 days
lo	А	5.67	1.77	Europa: 3.6 days
Europa	В	8.67	3.57	
Ganimed	С	14.00	7.16	
Calysto	D	24.67	16.69	

Computational scientific discovery: Finding laws in data

1.77

3.57

7.16

16.69

5.67

8.67

14.00

С

- Input: Observations of distances between moons and Jupiter (d) and periods of their orbits (p) $Moon \ d p$
- Output: Kepler's third law $d^3/p^2 = k$ A B
- Process of discovery
 - BACON (Langley 1978; Langley et al. 1987)
 - Carries out heuristic search through the space of numeric terms, looking for constant values and linear relations

Moon	d	p	d/p	d^2/p	d^{3}/p^{2}
А	5.67	1.77	3.20	18.15	58.15
В	8.67	3.57	2.43	21.04	51.06
С	14.00	7.16	1.96	27.40	53.16
D	24.67	16.69	1.48	36.46	53.89

• Proceeds from observed variables to constant theoretical term

There's more to AI than ML

- Knowledge representation & engineering, Reasoning
- All of the above exemplified, e.g., in decision support



There's more to AI than ML

- Reasoning (e.g., theorem proving)
- Planning: Blocks world example
- Initial state

Ontable(A), Ontable(B)	С	
On(D,A), On(C,D)		
Clear(C). Clear(B)	D	
Handempty	A	В

Goal state

Ontable(B), Ontable(C)		
On(D,A), On(C,D)	A	
Clear(C), Clear(B)	D	
Handempty	в	С

• Plan: Sequence of actions to get to goal state UNSTACK(C,D),PUTDOWN(C),UNSTACK(D,A),STACK(D,B),PICKUP(A),STACK(A,D)

Natural Language Processing (NLP)

- Syntactic Analysis
 - Tokenization: Breaking up text into smaller parts/tokens
 - **Stop-word removal** removes frequently occuring words that don't add any semantic value: *I, they, have, like, yours,* etc.
 - Lemmatization & stemming consist of reducing inflected words to their base form to make them easier to analyze
 - Part of speech tagging (PoS tagging) labels tokens as verb, adverb, adjective, noun, etc.
 - **Parsing** determines the syntactic structure of text by analyzing its words based on an underlying grammar

sentence -> noun_phrase, verb_phrase noun_phrase -> proper_noun noun_phrase -> determiner, noun verb_phrase -> verb, noun_phrase proper_noun -> [Tom] noun -> [apple] verb -> [ate] determiner -> [an]



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Natural Language Processing (NLP)

- Semantic Analysis: focuses on capturing the meaning of text. First, it studies the meaning of each individual word (lexical semantics). Then, it looks at the combination of words and what they mean in context.
 - Word sense disambiguation tries to identify in which sense a word is being used in a given context.
 - **Relationship extraction** attempts to understand how entities (places, persons, organizations) relate to each other in a text.
- Classical approach to NLP: Knowledge-driven (e.g., write a grammar for Slovene)
- Currently predominant: Statistical NLP (based on corpora of text)

NLP Downstream Tasks

- Sentiment Analysis: identifies emotions in text and classifies opinions as positive, negative, or neutral
 - Opposite orientations in different application domains
 - "This camera sucks."
 - "This vacuum cleaner really sucks."
 - Sarcasm:
 - "What a great car! It stopped working in two days."
- Machine Translation

kdo lahko razume moj svet? mu sam sploh lahko sledim? hodim in iščem, sem mar zaklet? Who can understand me? čakam, da se zbudim? Myself I am lost

who can understand my world? Can I follow him at all?



Google Translate

NLP Downstream Tasks

- Information Extraction
- Chat-bots
 - Me: Mitsuku, I want to show your abilities to the audience.
 - Mitsuku: Yep, I want to become smarter than humans.
 - Me: Do you know anything about NLP?
 - Mitsuku: Natural Language Processing.
- Topic Classification





Computer Vision

- How computers can be made to gain high-level understanding from digital images or videos
- Typical tasks in computer vision
 - Recognition
 - Motion analysis
 - Scene reconstruction
 - Image restoration
- Recognition
 - Object recognition/classification
 - Identification
 - Detection
 - Content-based image retrieval

Object recognition/classification

• Typically addressed by deep/convolutional NNs today

airplane	and the	-	X	*	+	3			- Bhar
automobile				-	Tel			1.0	*
bird		2		1	4	1		2	ø
cat		a r	600		10	Z.	A.	No.	1
deer		X	RA	17	Y	Ŷ	1	-	
dog	¥.	-		1			18	1	No.
frog		13					5		50
Computer Vision with DNNs

• On one hand, excellent accuracies and applications



Original Radiograph

Output Image

Computer Vision with DNNs

• On the other hand, brittle & vulnerable to attacks

0.8

1.0 0.8 0.6 0.4 0.2 0.0













Computer Vision with DNNs

• Failures on out-of-distribution examples



school bus 1.0 garbage truck 0.99 punching bag 1.0 snowplow 0.92



motor scooter 0.99 parachute 1.0

bobsled 1.0





fire truck 0.99 school bus 0.98 fireboat 0.98 bobsled 0.79



- Short break
- Questions welcome!
- Before and after





Machine Learning from Big and Complex Data



Predictive modeling (single-target classification and regression)

		Descripti	ve space		Target space
Example 1	1	TRUE	0.49	0.69	Yes
Example 2	2	FALSE	0.08	0.07	Yes
Example 3	1	FALSE	0.08	0.07	No
Example 4	2	TRUE	0.49	0.69	Yes
Example 5	3	TRUE	0.49	0.69	No
Example 6	4	FALSE	0.08	0.07	Yes
		•••	•		

		Descripti	ve space		Target space
Example 1	1	TRUE	0.49	0.69	0.84
Example 2	2	FALSE	0.08	0.07	0.75
Example 3	1	FALSE	0.08	0.07	0.11
Example 4	2	TRUE	0.49	0.69	0.52
Example 5	3	TRUE	0.49	0.69	0.35
Example 6	4	FALSE	0.08	0.07	0.78
•••		•••	•		

Big Data: Volume & Velocity

- Large number of columns (high dimensionality)
 - Need feature ranking/selection
- Large number of rows (massive data)
 - Need efficient data mining methods
- Streaming rows (data streams)
 - Need incrementality: Not all data available simultaneously
 - Data instances arrive at **high velocities**, in a **specific order** and their number is **potentially arbitrarily large**
 - The underlying concept (distribution) governing the data can change (concept drift)
 - We need **fast processing** (due to the high velocity)
 - The large and potentially infinite number of examples demands economical management of available memory ⁴³



		Target space			
Ekaanppelen#5	1	TRUE	0.49	0.69	0.45
Example n+1	4	FALSE	0.08	0.07	0.12
Example n+2	6	FALSE	0.08	0.07	1.54
Example n+3	8	TRUE	0.00	1.00	3.12
Example n+4	6	TRUE	0.00	0.00	0.05



Big Data: Variety -Structured Output

- Example: Hierarchical classification
- Taxonomic classification of diatoms
- From microscopic images
- Taking into account the taxonomy of diatoms



Multi-target prediction

Classification

11	ication		Descripti	ve space	Target space							
	Example 1	1	TRUE	0.49	0.69	Yes	Blue	Rain				
	Example 2	2	FALSE	0.08	0.07	Yes	Green	Sun				
	Example 3	1	FALSE	0.08	0.07	Yes	Blue	Cloudy				
	Example 4	2	TRUE	0.49	0.69	Yes	Green	Sun				
	Example 5	3	TRUE	0.49	0.69	No	Blue	Sun				
	Example 6	4	FALSE	0.08	0.07	Yes	Red	Cloudy				
	••••		•••	•		•••	•••	Beneral and a second se				

Regression

		Descripti	ve space				
Example 1	1	TRUE	0.49	0.69	0.68	0.60	3.91
Example 2	2	FALSE	0.08	0.07	0.56	0.99	7.59
Example 3	1	FALSE	0.08	0.07	0.10	1.69	7.57
Example 4	2	TRUE	0.49	0.69	0.08	0.77	8.86
Example 5	3	TRUE	0.49	0.69	0.11	3.51	2.50
Example 6	4	FALSE	0.08	0.07	0.43	2.10	8.09
							· · · ·

Weather prediction

- Predicting the outlook (sunny, overcast, rain): STC
- Predicting the temperature (in degrees Celsius): STR
- Predicting the weather: MTP
 - Outlook
 - Temperature
 - Humidity
 - Quantity of precipitation ...

The taxonomy of MTP tasks

Multi-target prediction

- Multi-target regression
 - Hierarchical multi-target regression
- Multi-target classification
 - Multi-label classification
 - Hierarchical multi-label classification

Few methods exist that can handle multi-target prediction with mixed targets, most focus on MTR/MLC

Multi-Label Classification

- Learning models that simultaneously predict several binary target variables
- Input: A vector of descriptive variables
- Output: A vector of several **binary** targets

		Desc	riptiv	e vari	ables						Tar	get v	ariak	oles					
Sample ID	Temperature	K ₂ Cr ₂ O ₇	NO2	CI	CO ₂	Cladophora sp.	Gongrosira incrustans	Oedogonium sp.	Stigeoclonium tenue	Melosira varians	Nitzschia palea	Audouinella chalybea	Erpobdella octoculata	Gammarus fossarum	Baetis rhodani	Hydropsyche sp.	Rhyacophila sp.	Simulim sp.	Tubifex sp.
ID1	0.66	0.00	0.40	1.46	0.84	 1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ID2	2.03	0.16	0.35	1.74	0.71	 0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
ID3	3.25	0.70	0.46	0.78	0.71	 1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1

Multi-Label Classification Example

• A decision tree for multi-label classification



Hierarchical multi-label classification

		Descript	ive space		Target space
Example 1	1	TRUE	0.49	0.69	1/1 1/2 1/1/1 1/1/2 1/2/1
Example 2	2	FALSE	0.08	0.07	1 1/1 1/2 1/1/1 1/2/1 1/2/2
Example 3	1	FALSE	0.08	0.07	1 1/1 1/2 1/2/1
Example 4	2	TRUE	0.49	0.69	1 1/1 1/2 1/3/1 1/1/ 1/2/ 1/2/ 1/2/ 1/2/ 1/2/ 1/2/ 1/
		•	••		

A decision tree for HMLC

Taking into account the taxonomy of living organisms



- Tubifex 0.61

Semi-supervised learning: Classification and regression

		Descriptive space 1 TRUE 0.49 0.69 2 FALSE 0.08 0.07 1 FALSE 0.08 0.07 2 TRUE 0.49 0.69									
Example 1	1	TRUE	0.49	0.69	Yes						
Example 2	2	FALSE	0.08	0.07	?						
Example 3	1	FALSE	0.08	0.07	?						
Example 4	2	TRUE	0.49	0.69	Yes						
Example 5	3	TRUE	0.49	0.69	No						
Example 6	4	FALSE	0.08	0.07	?						

		Descripti	ve space		Target space
Example 1	1	TRUE	0.49	0.69	0.84
Example 2	2	FALSE	0.08	0.07	?
Example 3	1	FALSE	0.08	0.07	0.11
Example 4	2	TRUE	0.49	0.69	?
Example 5	3	TRUE	0.49	0.69	?
Example 6	4	FALSE	0.08	0.07	0.78
•••		•••			

SOP+SSL Incomplete Annotations

• Some examples have labels, some don't, some partial

					Descript	ive space				Target space				
Example 1	L	-	1		TRUE	0.49		0.	69		$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1/1 \\ 1/2 \\ 1/1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ 1/2 \\ 1/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$			
Example 2	2	ź	2		FALSE	0.08		0.0	07		?			
Example 3	3	-	1		FALSE	0.08		0.0	07		?			
Example 4		2	2		TRUE	0.49		0.0	69		1 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3			
			Desc	ripti		Target sp	bace							
Example 1		1	TRUE		0.49	0.69		?	0.60		3.91			
Example 2		2	FALSE		0.08	0.07		0.56	0.99		7.59			
Example 3		1	FALSE	.SE 0.08 0.07 ?		?	?		?					
Example 4		2	TRUE		0.49	0.69		0.08	0.77		8.86			
Example 5		3	TRUE		0.49	0.69		0.11	?		?			
Example 6		4	FALSE		0.08	0.07	0.43		2.10		8.09			

ML from Complex Data by Top-down induction of PCTs (Predictive Clustering Trees)

To construct a tree T from a training set S:

- If the examples in S have low variance, construct a leaf labeled target(prototype(S))
- Otherwise:
 - Select the best attribute A with values v1, ..., vn, which **reduces the most the variance** (*measured according to a given distance function d*)
 - Partition S into S1, ..., Sn according to A
 - Recursively construct subtrees T1 to Tn for S1 to Sn
 - Result: a tree with root A and subtrees T1, ..., Tn



- Recursively partition data set into subsets (cluste with low intra-cluster variance
 - Variance = avg. squared distance to prototype

Clustering:

$$ICV(S) = \sum_{y_j \in S} d(y_j, p(S))^2$$

- For the variance, the distance is measured
 - In standard clustering, along all dimensions
 - In prediction, along a single target dimension
 - In predictive clustering, along a structured target, e.g., several target dimensions



Prediction:

В

Selecting the best test in a PCT

- Select the test that maximizes variance reduction
- Calculated in line 4

procedure BestTest(E)

$$Var(E) = \sum_{i=1}^{\prime} Var(Y_i).$$

- 1: $(t^*, h^*, \mathcal{P}^*) = (none, 0, \emptyset)$
- 2: for each possible test t do
- 3: $\mathcal{P} = \text{partition induced by } t \text{ on } E$

4:
$$h = Var(E) - \sum_{E_i \in \mathcal{P}} \frac{|E_i|}{|E|} Var(E_i)$$

5: if $(h > h^*) \land Acceptable(t, \mathcal{P})$ then

6:
$$(t^*, h^*, \mathcal{P}^*) = (t, h, \mathcal{P})$$

7: return (t^{*}, h^{*}, P^{*})

Semi-Supervised Learning w. PCTs

• New definition of variance that includes both targets and attributes, e.g., for MTR

$$Var(E) = \frac{1}{T+D} \cdot \left(w \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{T} Var(Y_i) + (1-w) \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{D} Var(X_j) \right)$$

- *T* = #target attributes, *D* = #descriptive attributes
- $E = E_{\text{Labeled}} \cup E_{\text{Unlabeled}}$
- Variances only calculated for non-missing values

PCTs for ML from Big & Complex D.

- Different tasks of structured output prediction
 - MTR
 - MLC/HMLC
- Learning from data streams
- Semi-supervised Learning
- Tree ensembles
- Feature ranking
- CLUS SW available at http://source.ijs.si/ktclus/clus-public



A Gentle Introduction to Neural Networks



The basic building block of NNs: Artificial neuron = Perceptron

• The perceptron can be viewed as an artificial neuron, the basic building block of artificial neural networks



• Performs binary classification via linear discrimination

The multi-layer perceptron & NNs

- A multi-layer perceptron has
 - An Input layer
 - An Output layer
 - And several Hidden layers of neurons
- Can approximate arbitrary non-linear mapping
- Arbitrary depth or width may be needed
- Note the hidden layers:
 If only a few, shallow NNs



Feed-forward NNs & Backpropagation

- Reasoning/making predictions: Feed-forward
- Learning the weights in an ANN: Back-propagation







Decision boundaries of DNNs

Decision Boundary of Deep Architecture



Convolutional Neural Nets (CNNs)

Combine ideas from NNs and computer vision



 Convolutions are filtering/smoothing operations in which a kernel/filter is applied to an image

CNN Ingredients

• Convolution with filter K = $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$





Convolved Feature

• Convolution over an RGB (3-channel) image

0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0				
0	156	155	156	158	158			0	167	166	167	169	169	-	0	163	162	163	165	165				
0	153	154	157	159	159			0	164	165	168	170	170		0	160	161	164	166	166				
0	149	151	155	158	159		ſ	0	160	162	166	169	170		0	156	158	162	165	166				
0	146	146	149	153	158			0	156	156	159	163	168		0	155	155	158	162	167				
0	145	143	143	148	158			0	155	153	153	158	168		0	154	152	152	157	167				
																-								
	Inpu	t Cha	nnel	#1 (Red)			Ir	nput	Char	nnel ‡	#2 (G	reen)		nput	Cha	nnel	#3 (E	Blue)				
	Γ	-1	-1	1	1				Γ	1	0	0	1				0	1	1					
	t	0	1	-1					h	1	-1	-1	1				0	1	0					
	ł	0	1	1						1	0	-1	1				1	-1	1					
	Ke	rnel	Chan	nelt	1 ±1				L Ke	rnel	Char	nelt	1 12			Ke	rnel	Char	nelt	#3				
		inci	П	incr i	-				n.c	inci	П	incr i	-				- ner	П					Out	u
			Ŷ								Ŷ							Î				-25		Γ
		3	08			+				-	-49	8			+			164	+	1 =	-25			Τ
																				î				Τ
																			D		1			T
																			DI	as =	T		 -	-

CNN ingredients: Pooling, AFs

- Convolution extracts high-level features, e.g., edges
- Like convolution, pooling reduces dimensionality by aggregation

3.0

3.0 3.0

2.0 3.0

3.0





- Contributes to feature learning
- Activation functions: RELU (rectified linear unit), SoftMax





0

3

 $\mathbf{2}$

3

 $\mathbf{2}$

0

CNN Ingredients: Classification



Transfer Learning with CNNs

- To combat scarcity of labeled data, learn in one domain (where enough labeled data available), then transfer the learned knowledge to another
- Fine-tuning pre-trained DNNs
- Cut-off final layers of pre-trained net
- Retrain final layers with labeled data



Transfer Learning with CNNs

 Typicall pre-train on ImageNet, fine-tune on labeled sets of satellite images



Problem: Differences on the characteristics of images between computer vision and RS.
Combining CNNs and PCTs

- Use features extracted by the convolutional layers, e.g., the input to the classification layers
- Apply the learned CNN, say to a set of multi-labeled satellite images, generating features
- From features & labels, learn PCT





- Short break
- Questions welcome!
- Before and after





Applications of Machine Learning in Forestry and Environmental Sciences



Estimating / Evaluating the State of Ecosystems



Australia: Remnants of indigenous vegetation

- 16967 sites
- 40 independent variables
 - Climate Variables (annual mean rainfall, temperature, evaporation)
 - Radiometric Data
 - Tree Density Data
 - Digital elevation model
 - Vegetation Type
- 7 dependent variables (Habitat Hectares scores)
 - Large Trees, Tree Canopy Cover, Understorey strata, Lack of weeds, Recruitment, Organic Litter, Logs

Australia: Remnants of indigenous vegetation







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Estimating the State of Forests in Slovenia from RS Data



From satellite images + LIDAR to forest height and density



Input: Landsat images, Multi-temporal, Multi-spectral

+ LIDAR for a small patch



Predict forest height & density

• For the Karst region in Slovenia



Assessing the state of Slovenian forests

- Most important two variables
 - Canopy cover/closure: Percentage of bare ground within a square covered by the vertical projection of overlaying vegetation
 - Forest stand height: Relative height of vegetation above bare ground
 - But also a complete vertical vegetation profile (total 10 vars)
- All the target variables derived from LIDAR data
- All the attributes derived from satellite images

Input: LIDAR data – A sample



Processing the LIDAR data

Calculating 11 target variables from LIDAR data

- Canopy cover/closure
 - Percentage of bare ground within a square covered by the vertical projection of overlaying vegetation
- Forest stand height
 - Relative height of vegetation above bare ground
- Percent of vegetation (higher than 1m)
 - Alternative to canopy closure]
- Vertical vegetation profile
 - Max. height of vegetation
 - 99% percentile
 - 95%, 75%, 50%, 25%, 10%, 5%





Input: Satellite images (LandSat)

• Multi-spectral, multi-temporal



Preprocessing LandSat Images

- Each image was segmented at two levels of spatial detail (avg. 4ha and 20ha)
 - 4 image segment statistics were calculated
 - Max / Min / Avg Reflectance
 - Standard deviation of Reflectance
- For each level and each of the five image channels (2,3,4,5,7)
- 160 explanatory variables derived for modeling (attributed back to individual image pixels)

Using MTR ensembles

• CLUS used to learn ensembles of multi-target regression trees to predict the 11 targets

```
b7s1 avg > 60.16
+--yes: d3s1 avg > 69.52
        +--yes: b2s1 std > 2
               +--yes: [10.147239,0.626994,9.984663,5.033252,4.306319,3.77362,2.926442,2.444724,2.054908,1.77576
               +--no: a4s1 std > 7.01
                        +--yes: [8.375,0.67625,7.125,7.48625,6.91875,6.42375,5.48125,4.98,4.6475,4.43375,4.34125]
                        +--no: c4s1 avg > 64.06
                                +--yes: c2s1_std > 1.98
                                        +--yes: [9,0.474,9.1,7.452,6.778,5.737,4.707,3.973,3.537,3.253,3.122] (3)
                                        +--no: a7s1 std > 1
                                                +--yes: [4.288577,0.266713,4.148297,2.196613,1.89984,1.658337,1.3
                                                +--no: [5.714286,0.507143,5.142857,8.504286,7.587143,6.694286,5.
                                +--no: a4s2 avg > 79.3
                                        +--yes: [9.707865,0.564073,9.713483,4.59441,3.932669,3.436292,2.666011,2.
                                        +--no: [2.408333,0.232583,2.358333,1.729,1.643917,1.485583,1.2455,1.0836
        +--no: c2s1 std > 1.82
                +--yes: [17.095436,1.004481,16.713693,6.832116,5.595519,4.819461,3.682241,3.018382,2.500415,2.163
                +--no: a3s1 avg > 67
                        +--yes: [3.656716,0.262438,3.781095,2.742537,2.535771,2.266567,1.879502,1.639005,1.424776
                        +--no: c4s1 max > 91
                                +--yes: [3.68,0.2608,3.413333,2.578533,2.138133,1.895067,1.506533,1.238933,1.0124
                                +--no: c4s1 avg > 62.18
                                        +--yes: c4s2 min > 49
                                                +--yes: [10.875,0.571798,10.664474,5.050833,4.322303,3.807149,3.0
                                                +--no: b7s2 std > 9.45
                                                        +--yes: [31.52381,2.156667,31.095238,9.232381,7.34,6.2023
                                                        +--no: d3s1 std > 4.23
```

The final output: Maps of forest height and density

• Generated by applying the learned models to satellite images of the whole Karst area





Predicting the Risk of Fires



Estimating the risk of fire in the natural environment

- Develop models to predict fire outbreaks from
 - historical data on fires and
 - explanatory GIS data using data mining methods
- Three models developed for three different regions of Slovenia:
 - Kras (Karst) region,
 - Primorska (Coastal) region, and
 - Continental Slovenia



Data on fire outbreaks for the period 2000-2004

Data on influencing factors

- GIS data
 - Infrastructure
 - Land use
 - Relief
- Multi-temporal **MODIS** data
- Meteorological ALADIN data
- Fire fuels

The spatial unit was 1x1 km² quadrant

Additional data: Fire fuels

For the Kras/Karst region, additional data

- Properties of the forest stand
 - (height, canopy cover, vertical veg. profile)
- Related to fire fuel
- Derived by applying machine-learned models to LANDSAT images
- Training data for forest stand properties derived from 3D (LIDAR) and LANDSAT images, at spatial resolution of 25m x 25m
- Originally at 25m x 25 m, aggregated to 1 km x 1km quadrants 93

Positive and negative examples

- **Positive examples** locations where fires occurred in the past, along with the date and hour
- Negative examples represented by an equal number of points with random time stamps and random locations; at least 15 km away from any positive examples detected in ± 3 days of the random time stamp chosen.
- Locations of the positive and negative examples of fire occurrence spatially and temporally linked to the descriptive data

Machine Learning Setup

- Three datasets for different regions of Slovenia
 - Kras: 159 attributes and 1439 examples
 - Coastal Slovenia: 129 attributes and 2442 examples
 - Continental Slovenia: 129 attributes and 8476 examples
- Nominal Target attribute that predicts fire outbreak (yes/no)
- Several machine learning methods used
 - Logistic regression
 - Decision trees
 - Tree ensembles (boosting, bagging, random forests)
- Models were validated with 10 fold CV

Understandable rules

- For the Karst region
- Railways and human activity important

```
if ((dist_railways \leq 2970) and (elevation \geq 378) and (percBuiltUp \geq 0.875)) then
  fireOutbreak = YES
else if ((percBuiltUp \geq 0.875) and (dist_railways \leq 1487) and (percOver \leq 2.875) and
        (percRiparian \ge 0.625)) then
  fireOutbreak = YES
else if ((percSwMead \geq 26) and (percarable \geq 0.1875) and
        (evapotranspiration_48 \ge -0.9)) then
  fireOutbreak = YES
else if ((dist_railways \leq 2970) and (elevation \geq 350) and (percRiparian \geq 0.125) and
         (dist_railways \ge 1897)) then
  fireOutbreak = YES
else
  fireOutbreak = NO
end if
```

Municipality level estimates of risk

Merilo: 1 : 1084772 ______ 28697 m Nabor slojev | Sloji | Is<u>kalniki</u> 1 ------Iskanje lokacije Naslovi Dedatas CHAG UKKTA WOLFSBERG DEUTOCH Register zemljepisnih imen SPITTA ENIT A. D. DRA PRS Koordinatno okno • Požarna ogroženost KLAGENFURT (CELOVEC] 0 ~ Napoved za Slovenijo Požarna ogrozenost poročilo PART DATUM \bigcirc 16.07.2006 OCENA × 0 Ogroženosti TARAZOIR NAČIN POVZEMANJA OCEN × 0 Zgornja vrednost DELITEV V RAZREDE Geometrična × 0 Zelo nizka Nizka PARE. Srednja Visoka Zelo visoka PRESIG ZAGREB Ostalo > SAMARDA MONFAC UELIKA CORICA TRIESTE ITRST KOPER (CAPODISTRI ZOLALIS Pé Lostalia Ma KARLOVAC 10,23 IN ISEM 0 UMAR ind a se PETRIN,

More detailed estimates of risk





- Included in the GIS system e-GIS UJME about natural disasters at the Administration for Civil Protection and Rescue
- Available to and used by the following organizations
 - Firefighter association
 - Administration for civil protection and rescue
 - Environment Agency
 - Forest Service
- Also accessible to the whole range of users of eGIS-UJME (Natural Disasters), incl. municipalities



Relating the Environment and the Biota: From Habitat models to Community composition



Environment <-> Biota

- Predict the biota (or specific components of it)
- At a given site
- From characteristics of the environment at the site
- E.g. predict river water biota from water properties

		Descriptive variables					Target variables													
Sample ID	Temperature	K ₂ Cr ₂ O ₇	NO2	CI	CO ₂		Cladophora sp.	Gongrosira incrustans	Oedogonium sp.	Stigeoclonium tenue	Melosira varians	Nitzschia palea	Audouinella chalybea	Erpobdella octoculata	Gammarus fossarum	Baetis rhodani	Hydropsyche sp.	Rhyacophila sp.	Simulim sp.	Tubifex sp.
ID1	0.66	0.00	0.40	1.46	0.84		1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ID2	2.03	0.16	0.35	1.74	0.71		0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
ID3	3.25	0.70	0.46	0.78	0.71		1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1



 Model the presence & absence (abundance) of each species separately



• Binary Classification (Regression)

Predicting species composition

• One model for all the species at once



• Multi-target classification/regression

Predicting community structure

• One model for all of the species at once, additionally using the taxonomical hierarchy



L1:	L3:
Amphipoda : 1 Gammarus : 1 Gammarus fossarum : 1 Gammarus lacustris : 0	Amphipoda : 1 Gammarus : 1 Gammarus fossarum : 0 Gammarus lacustris : 1
Bacillariophyta : 1 Achnanthes : 1 Achnanthes minutissima: 1 Eiseniella : 0 Eiseniella tetraedra: 0	Bacillariophyta : 1 Achnanthes : 1 Achnanthes minutissim Eiseniella : 0 Eiseniella tetraedra: 0
12.	14.
Amphipoda : 1 Gammarus : 1 Gammarus fossarum : 1 Gammarus lacustris : 1	Amphipoda : 1 Gammarus : 1 Gammarus fossarum : 1 Gammarus lacustris : 0

Bacillariophyta : 0 Achnanthes : 0 Achnanthes minutissima: 0 Eiseniella : 0 Eiseniella tetraedra: 0

1 1 s minutissima: 1 etraedra: 0

Bacillariophyta : 1

Eiseniella : 1

Achnanthes : 1

Achnanthes minutissima: 1

Eiseniella tetraedra: 1

Amphipoda : 1

L5:

- Gammarus : 1 Gammarus fossarum : 1 Gammarus lacustris : 1
- Bacillariophyta : 1 Achnanthes : 0 Achnanthes minutissima: 0 Eiseniella : 1 Eiseniella tetraedra: 1

Hierarchical multi-label classification

Slovenian rivers

- 1.060 samples
- 16 physical and chemical props.
 of water, 491 species
- data collected in 1990-1995



ephemeroptera ephemeroptera_acantrella ephemeroptera acantrella sinaica ephemeroptera baetidae ephemeroptera baetis ephemeroptera baetis alpinus ephemeroptera baetis buceratus ephemeroptera baetis fuscatus ephemeroptera baetis muticus ephemeroptera baetis rhodani ephemeroptera baetis scambus ephemeroptera baetis vernus ephemeroptera ecdyonurus ephemeroptera ecdyonurus forcipula ephemeroptera_ecdyonurus_helveticus ephemeroptera ecdyonurus insignis ephemeroptera ecdyonurus torrentis ephemeroptera ecdyonurus venosus ephemeroptera_electrogena ephemeroptera electrogena lateralis ephemeroptera_electrogena_quadrilineata plecoptera plecoptera amphinemura plecoptera_amphinemura triangularis plecoptera brachyptera plecoptera_brachyptera_risi plecoptera brachyptera seticornis

Slovenian rivers: Habitat models



Diptera Chironomidae Zeleni

Bacillariophyta Navicula Cryptocephala Vcryptoceph

Slovenian rivers: Species comp.

• MLC: Multi-label classification tree



Slovenian rivers: Community struc.



- Tubifex 0.61

- Synedra 0.57
Danish farms:

- Soil Microarthropods
- 1.944 soil samples
- 137 attributes/agricultural events and soil biological parameters
- 35 collembolan species
- data collected
 1989-1993





Isotominae

Isotominae_Isotoma

Isotominae Isotoma anglicana Isotominae Isotoma notabilis Isotominae Isotoma tigrina Lepidocyrtinae Lepidocyrtinae Lepidocyrtus Lepidocyrtinae Lepidocyrtus cyaneus Lepidocyrtinae Lepidocyrtus lanuginosus Lepidocyrtinae Pseudosinella Lepidocyrtinae Pseudosinella alba Lepidocyrtinae Pseudosinella sexoculata Orchesellinae Orchesellinae Heteromurus Orchesellinae Heteromurus nitidus Orchesellinae Orchesella Orchesellinae Orchesella cincta Orchesellinae_Orchesella_villosa Sminthuridae Sminthuridae_Smint Sminthuridae Sminthurinus Sminthuridae Sminthurinus aureus Sminthuridae Sminthurinus elegans Sminthuridae Sminthurus Sminthuridae Sminthurus viridis Tomoceridae Tomoceridae_Tomocerus Tomoceridae Tomocerus flavescens Tomoceridae Tomocerus minor

Tullbergiidae

Tullbergiidae_Mesaphorura

Victoria, Australia Vegetation

- 27.482 sites
- 81 env. attributes
- 3.173 species



DivisionConifer DivisionConifer_callitris DivisionConifer_callitris_endlicheri DivisionConifer_callitris_glaucophylla DivisionConifer_callitris_gracilis DivisionConifer_callitris_gracilis_ssp~murrayensis DivisionConifer_callitris_rhomboidea DivisionConifer_callitris_verrucosa DivisionMonocotyledon DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_attenuatus DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_australis DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_clelandii DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_juniperinus DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_lanceolatus

DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_lanceolatus_var~lanceolatus DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_maccraei DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_microphyllus

DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_microphyllus_var~pilibundus DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_montanus DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_neurophyllus DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_parviflorus DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_virgatus

> DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_virgatus_var~brevifolius DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_virgatus_var~virgatus

DivisionMonocotyledon_leucopogon_woodsii DivisionMonocotyledon_epacris

DivisionMonocotyledon_epacris_breviflora DivisionMonocotyledon_epacris_celata DivisionMonocotyledon_epacris_glacialis DivisionMonocotyledon_epacris_gunnii DivisionMonocotyledon_epacris_impressa

DivisionMonocotyledon_epacris_impressa_var~grandiflora DivisionMonocotyledon_epacris_impressa_var~impressa

Community structure: Overall results



Dataset	Method	AUPRC	O_{S}	Learning time	Complexity	
	Single-label	0.239	0.692	23.3	15,336	
Slovenian rivers	HSC	0.309	0.591	10.2	25,035	
	Multi-label	0.322	0.007	9.4	1	
	HMC	0.374	0.132	0.6	37	
	Single-label	0.790	0.099	3.7	2605	
Danish farms	HSC	0,808	0.083	1.3	2873	
	Multi-label	0.801	0.112	0.7	265	
	HMC	0.815	0.065	0.4	259	
	Single-label	0.232	0.715	14,888.2	482,745	
Australian vegetation	HSC	0,306	0.591	76,023.2	648,970	
	Multi-label	0.278	0.684	4639.5	23,699	111
	HMC	0.376	0.180	313.5	1279	



Relating the Environment and the Biota: Predicting the functional composition/ traits of biota



New, much more extensive data: Collected 1960-2010, 53362 sites, more than 1.35 Mio indiv. spec. obs.

Each vascular species, recorded together with % cover



Plant photosynthetic type (carbon fixation pathways)

- C3: cool-season-active
- C4: warm-season-active



Phylogeny via main monocot families (Poaceae=Grasses, Cyperaceae=Sedges; Chenopodiaceae=Goosefoots)



Phylogeny via three main grass genera





Stress tolerance: Tolerance to salinity, fire, inundation





Multi-label classification for Land-use/land-cover



MLC Datasets

Small datasets

- UC-Merced2100 multilabel 1
- AID multilabel 2.
- Ankara HIS Archive 3.
- DFC15 multilabel 4.
- The BigEarthNet dataset
- Size: 1% and 10% \bullet
- Labels: 43 and 19



permanently irrigated land, sclerophyllous vegetation, beaches, dunes, sands, estuaries, sea and ocean



permanently irrigated land, vineyards, beaches, dunes, sands, water courses

coniferous forest, mixed

forest, water bodies



non-irrigated arable land, fruit trees and berry plantations, agro-forestry areas, transitional woodland/shrub

non-irrigated arable land



discontinuous urban fabric, non-irrigated arable land, land principally occupied by agriculture, broad-leaved forest

Dataset	Examples	Train examples	Test examples	Labels
AID multilabel	3000	2400	600	17
Ankara HIS Archive	216	173	43	29
DFC15 multilabel	3342	2673	669	8
UC-Merced	2100	1600	500	17
Detect	Evennlee	Troin overmulee	Testevennles	
Dataset	Examples	Train examples	Test examples	Labels
Dataset BigEarthNet-b01	Examples 5,192	Train examples 3,934	Test examples 1,258	Labels 19
Dataset BigEarthNet-b01 BigEarthNet-b10	Examples 5,192 51,928	Train examples 3,934 39,341	Test examples 1,258 12,586	Labels 19 19
Dataset BigEarthNet-b01 BigEarthNet-b10 BigEarthNet-a01	Examples 5,192 51,928 5,192	Train examples 3,934 39,341 3,934	Test examples 1,258 12,586 1,258	Labels 19 19 43

End-to-End Deep Learning Approach

• VGG16: Used as a baseline,

but also to extract features from the images

• Pre-trained on ImageNet

(except for BigEarthNet, trained from scratch)

• Fine-tuned on the training set of each dataset



Multi-label classification approach

- Extensive empirical comparative study revealed that
- Tree-ensembles for multi-label classification work by far the best
- Here we apply tree ensembles for multi-label classification
- On features are extracted from pre-trained (and finetuned) CNNs, more specifically the VGG-16 architecture mentioned above

MLC: Summary of Results

- UC-Merced
 - RF for MLC: 0.8041 microF1 / VGG 16: 0.7987
- AID
 - RF for MLC: 0.8731 microF1 / VGG 16: 0.84
- DFC-15
 - RF for MLC: 0.7865 microF1 / VGG 16: 0.79
- Ankara
 - RF for MLC: 0.8048 microF1
- BigEarthNet
 - RF for MLC: 0.7502 microF1 / VGG 16: 0.74

Hierarchical Multi-label Classification (HMLC)

- For original BigEarthNet label set, with 43 labels, the labels are taken from the CLC nomenclature, which also provides the hierarchy
- Three-level hierarchy, all leaf labels are at level 3

		ooo omaacio una perpenan onon
4 Wetlands	41 Inland wetlands	411 Inland marshes
		412 Peat bogs
	42 Maritime wetlands	421 Salt marshes
		422 Salines
		423 Intertidal flats
5 Water bodies	51 Inland waters	511 Water courses
		512 Water bodies
	52 Marine waters	521 Coastal lagoons
		522 Estuaries
		523 Sea and ocean

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
1 Artificial	11 Urban fabric	111 Continuous urban fabric
surfaces		112 Discontinuous urban fabric
	12 Industrial, commercial	121 Industrial or commercial units
	and transport units	122 Road and rail networks and associated land
		123 Port areas
		124 Airports
	13 Mine, dump and	131 Mineral extraction sites
	construction sites	132 Dump sites
		133 Construction sites
	14 Artificial, non-agricultural	141 Green urban areas
	vegetated areas	142 Sport and leisure facilities
2 Agricultural	21 Arable land	211 Non-irrigated arable land
areas		212 Permanently irrigated land
		213 Rice fields
	22 Permanent crops	221 Vineyards
		222 Fruit trees and berry plantations
		223 Olive groves
	23 Pastures	231 Pastures
	24 Heterogeneous	241 Annual crops associated with permanent crops
	agricultural areas	242 Complex cultivation patterns
		243 Land principally occupied by agriculture, with :
		244 Agro-forestry areas
3 Forest and	31 Forests	311 Broad-leaved forest
semi natural		312 Coniferous forest
areas		313 Mixed forest

HMLC for BigEarthNet – 19 labels

• The CLC nomenclature can be easily adapted to the new set of 19 leaf labels (see below). Not all of the 19 labels are at level 3 (10 are at level 2).

Rev CLC Level 1	Rev CLC Level 2	Rev CLC Level 3
a Artificial surfaces	aa Urban fabric	
	ab Industrial, commercial and transport units	
b Agricultural areas	ba Arable land	
	bb Permanent crops	
	bc Pastures	
	bd Heterogeneous	bda Complex cultivation patterns
	agricultural areas	bdb Land principally occupied by agriculture, with significant areas of natural vegetation bdc Agro-forestry areas
c Forests and semi-natural areas	ca Forests	caa Broad-leaved forest cab Coniferous forest cac Mixed forest
	cb Shrub and/or herbaceous vegetation association	cba Natural grassland and sparsely vegetated areas cbb Moors, heathland and sclerophyllous vegetation cbc Transitional woodland shrub
	cc Beaches, dunes, sands	
d Wetlands	da Inland wetlands	
	db Coastal wetlands	
e Water bodies	ea Inland waters	
	eh Marine waters	



- Al is a very powerful technology
- It is more than just machine learning/DNNs
- Both explainable AI/ML and DNNs have their place under the sun, can be also used together
- There are many applications in forestry/env. sciences
- AITLAS Toolbox contains many useful ML methods



- For your attention
- Questions welcome!
- Thanks also to the AITLAS team





Artificial Intelligence Toolbox for Earth Observation







