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## Deep Transfer Learning for Food Recognition

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### Abstract

Food Recognition is an essential topic in the area of computer vision. One of its target applications is to avoid achieving a cashier at the dining place. In this paper, we investigate the application of Deep Transfer Learning for food recognition. We fine-tune three well-known deep learning models namely; AlexNet, GoogleNet, and Vgg16. The fine-tuning procedure depends on removing the last three layers of each model and adds another five new layers. The training and validation of each model conducted through food a dataset collected from our university's canteen. The dataset contains 39 food types, 20 images for each type. The fine-tuned models show similar training and validation performance and achieved 100% accuracy over the small-scale dataset.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The recent advent of transfer deep learning has achieved successes in many areas such as classification and recognition [1]–[4]. One of the most promising visual object recognition applications is food recognition, since it helps to estimate food calories and analyze eating habits of people to maintain their health [5]. Those applications started to open new challenges to the computer vision and object recognition algorithms. Most of existing methods of food recognition directly extract visual features of the whole image using popular deep networks for food recognition without considering its own characteristics [6]. Food recognition is gaining more attention in the multimedia community due to its various applications, e.g., multimodal food-log and personalized healthcare [7]. It is common that one dish can be served in several ways. Therefore, in this paper, we will explain the utilization of deep transfer learning concept for small-scale food dataset captured directly from the tray. The rest of the paper is

organized as follows: Section 2 covers the Literature Review, Section 3 contains details of the materials used in this paper and methodologies. Section 4 elaborates on the achieved results and finally the conclusion.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Recently the use of artificial intelligence is increasing rapidly. Almost, in every branch of our lives we are facing with the beginnings of its use. That is, also, the case with food recognition applications. More and more researches are done in this field, and many of them are there to help improving health of human body. Recognizing of food type and its features, as the content of meal brought automatic or semi-automatic dietary estimations to help people control their eating habits and help them in their diets and daily food income [8]. Those applications were improved using CNN methods, the powerful class of models in various problems, applied to the database taken from 23 restaurants, to predict the calories and nutrition of

their meals from one single image [5, 8]. More and more researchers are using CNN such as ResNet, GoogleNet, MobileNet and VGG-Net. Some of the researches mention that the GoogleNet has the highest validation accuracy value, with the lowest number of epochs[10]. This lead to the use of DCNN (deep convolutional neural network), which is very suitable for large-scale image data, since it takes only 0.03 seconds to classify one food photo with GPU. The experiments done with this on ETH Food-101, UEC FOOD 100, and UEC FOOD 256 datasets show that it has achieved the accuracy of 88.28%, 81.45%, and 76.17% as top-1 accuracy and 96.88%, 97.27%, and 92.58% as top-5 accuracy [11]. The further working was concentrated on a buffet-style restaurant. The results showed that, using real data can achieve 0.79 in F-measure and 9.4% error in energy, much better than the previous approach [12]. The Supervised Extreme Learning Committee (SELC) takes as many features as possible but shows just the features which are proposed for the classification of the food. Each ELM presented a particular type feature [13]. The classification rate of 55.8 % is reached in the approach of recognizing multiple images by detecting candidate regions and classifying them with various features [12]. Newly proposed system, the visual attention analysis, has shown that the network is able to self-identify the relevant portions of the image that should be considered for classification [6]. Going further, the Ingredient-Guided Cascaded Multi-Attention Network (IG-CMAN) brings the state-of-the-art recognition performance with new dataset WikiFood-200 [7]. The improvement of meal-recognition systems were done by Tensorflow based machine-learning process was performed, where an Expert.js-based semantic network was constructed. Recognizing the Korean, Chinese and Italian food brought the result of 55.3 % of the food recognition accuracy rate [14]. When it was not just enough to recognize the meal on the plate, the system for retrieving recipes from the picture was set. The joint relationship between food and ingredient labels through multi-task learning is exploited by deep architecture. It is done by learning contextual relationships of ingredients from a large textual corpus of recipes [15]. To see the quality of the food one of the most important parameters is its expiration date. Mobile application was developed to be used in recognizing of printed expiration dates [16]. Furthermore, the ear-warn device was proposed for identification of the temporal similarity between different types of food. It is aimed to record the fluctuations on the glucose level during the satiation and satiety periods of the user, in order to keep track on daily intake of calories and their deficit, to provide a better dietary experience for users [17].

### 3. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Dataset

The dataset is consisted of images of 39 different sorts of foods. Each food type contains 20 images. Therefore, the

total number of images in the dataset is 780. smartphone used to collect the dataset. Table 1 contains a full list of the food names included in this dataset. The dataset includes pictures of soups, main dishes, appetizers, and salads. Figure 1 shows samples of the dataset images. All the images collected from foods provided at the ccanteen of the International University of Sarajevo.

Table 1: Food labels and number of images for each type

No.	Label	Count	No.	Label	Count
1	Arap Tava	20	21	Hurmašica	20
2	Baked drumsticks	20	22	Lece	20
3	Baked potatoes	20	23	Macaroni	20
4	Baklava	20	24	Macaroni and Cheese	20
5	Baklava i Pistacija	20	25	Mashed potatoes	20
6	Barbecue steak	20	26	Meat and eggs	20
7	Burek	20	27	Mercimek soup	20
8	Cacik	20	28	Mixed salad	20
9	Chicken cream soup	20	29	Musaka	20
10	Chicken croquette	20	30	Pileci duvec	20
11	Chicken Curry	20	31	Pizza	20
12	Chicken drumstick and potatoes	20	32	Rice	20
13	Chicken wings	20	33	Season salad	20
14	Chickpeas	20	34	Šehrija	20
15	Çoban Kavurma	20	35	Simica	20
16	Çoban salad	20	36	Stuffed pepper	20
17	Dana Rosto	20	37	Turkish Manti	20
18	Duvec	20	38	Zeljanica	20
19	Et Haslama	20	39	Grašak	20
20	Ezogelin soup	20			



Figure 1: Samples of food images

3.2 Methods

The success of [18] to deal with largescale dataset became a revolution in the field of machine learning. In contrast with the shallow neural network, deep neural network comprises of large number of layers. Therefore, it generates a large number of parameters which needs hardware with high capability such as GPUs working in parallel. Hence, Transfer learning concepts emerged to assist in training deep neural network models with small scale datasets. In this paper, we fine-tuned 3 of the earliest deep learning models namely; AlexNet [18], GoogleNet [19] and Vgg16 [20]. The fine-tuning depends on removing the last 3 layers of each model and replacing it with 5 new layers. Fine-tuning process is tabulated in Table 2.

Table 2: AlexNet, GoogleNet and Vgg16 fine tuning

AlexNet	GoogleNet	Vgg16	Fine-tune
'fc8': Fully Connected	'loss3-classifier': Fully Connected	'fc8': Fully Connected	'fc8': Fully connected
'prob': Softmax	'prob': Softmax	'prob': Softmax	'relu8': Relu
'output': Classification Output	'output': Classification Output	'output': Classification Output	'fc9': Fully connected
			'prob': Softmax
			'output': Classification output

Fine-tuning makes the models hybridized of trained and newly added layers. Therefore, in order to have balance between all layers in terms of the learning speed, we assign higher learning rate for the new layers to boost their learning and freeze the old layers weight.

4. RESULTS

The deep transfer neural networks that were used in this research were trained in MATLAB, and after the training process is accomplished, the results of the training are seen. The results show how accuracy and loss have been behaving from the first to the last iteration. Accuracy represents how well the network has learned the image, and loss function is actually the opposite of accuracy, the percentage of the loss in training. We can see from the presented figures that loss is basically an opposite graph of the accuracy.

4.1 Training Evaluation

A. AlexNet

Firstly, we notice from Figure 2 (a) that AlexNet training accuracy rises up very quickly. This shows how handy transfer learning is in practice. The main reason it rises so fast is that all of the layers not containing new data for the

learning process were already trained. Almost after 200 iterations approximately, the accuracy is fully developed. This means that the accuracy of the learning process is done, and the network has learned 100% of the data we already gave it for processing. More details about the performance of AlexNet training during the earlier iterations is shown in Figure 2(b).

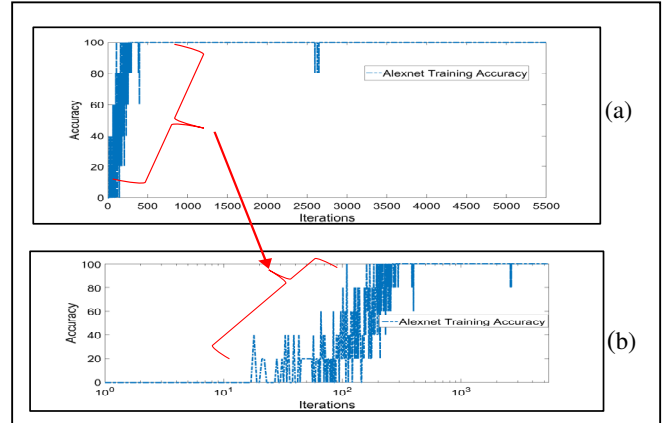


Figure 2: (a) AlexNet training accuracy, (b) more details of AlexNet earlier training iterations

B. GoogleNet

Secondly, with the GoogleNet training, we can see in Figure 3(a) that the training accuracy made a quick rise, but now we can see that it has reached 100% even faster than AlexNet. There are no visible oscillations throughout the training except during the first few iterations as illustrated in Figure 3(b). We also notice that the loss started decreasing earlier, not on the top of the scale, since the neural network itself already has some training, which is also a benefit from transfer learning.

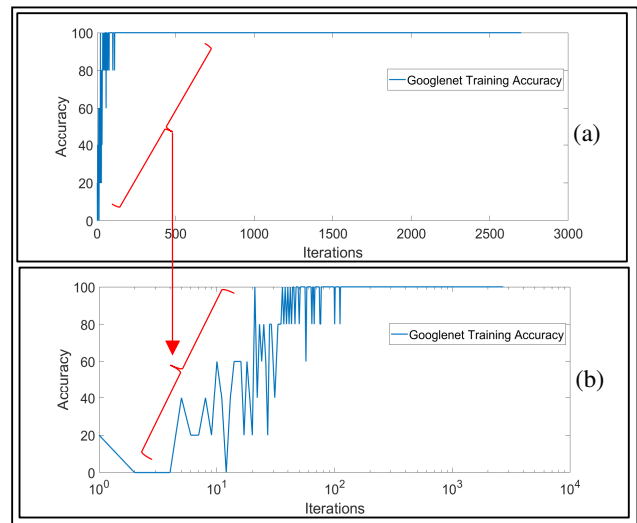


Figure 3: (a) GoogleNet training accuracy, (b) more details of GoogleNet earlier training iterations

C. Vgg16

Figure 4(a) represents Vgg16 training accuracy at different iterations. We can see a little different performance, with more oscillations than the previous ones. This happens when too much similarity is present in the data. Since the data here had pictures of food that are really hard to differ, the accuracy was lowered at some times.

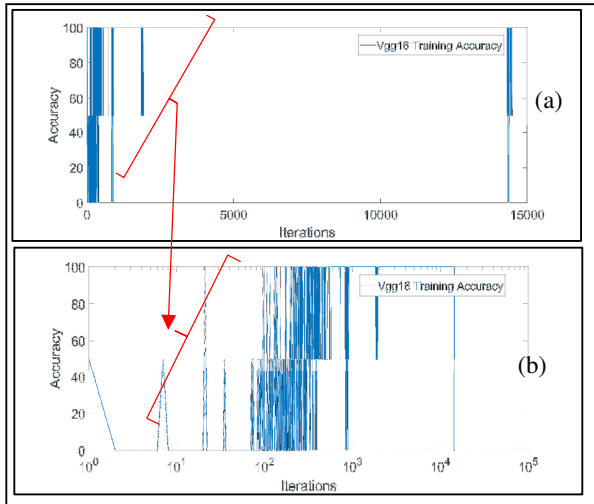


Figure 4: (a) Vgg16 training accuracy, (b) more details of Vgg16 earlier training iterations

4.2 Loss Evaluation

Loss function is an important part in Deep Neural Networks evaluation, which is used to measure the inconsistency between predicted value and actual label. For AlexNet model, we can observe from the Figure 5(a) that as accuracy increases, loss decreases. This is also a representation of the benefits from transfer learning.

For GoogleNet model, as shown in Figure 5(b), the decrease of loss indicate that the network learned rapidly. After it reaches 0 level, it is consistent at the bottom, with no visible oscillations. We can see that the training process of GoogleNet went somewhat better than training with AlexNet.

Lastly, Figure 5 (c) represents loss in training with VGG16. We can see that exactly at the points where accuracy increases, loss decreases. There is slightly more loss than in the previous graphs. Even though we can see some oscillations, the training still went well, and the final accuracy of the learning process is 100%.

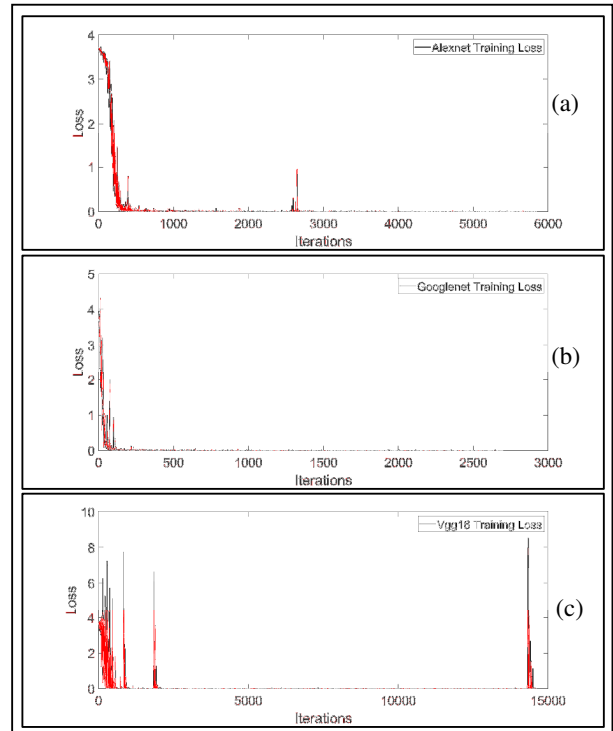


Figure 5: (a) AlexNet loss, (b) GoogLeNet loss, (c) Vgg16 loss

4.3 Validation

it is an important to show the validation of each model. As presented in Figure 6(a), the models shows different behaviours at the beginning of the training, while the rest of the performance is similar for all models. Figure 6(b) represents the models performance in terms of validation loss. It shows additional evidence that all the models has different performance at the beginning of the training.

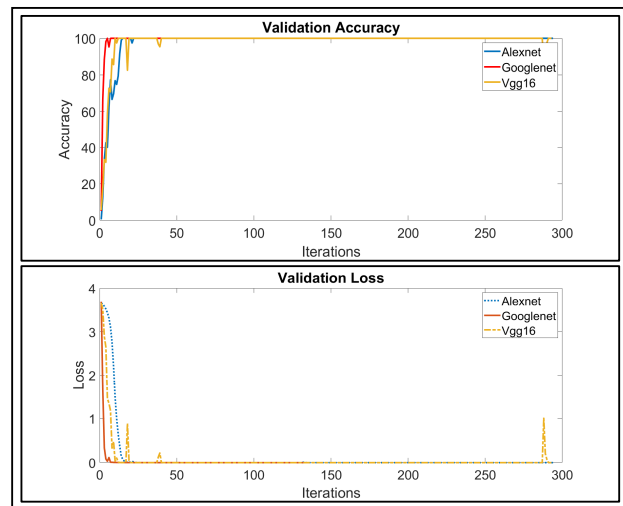


Figure 6: (a) Validation accuracy, (b) Validation loss

## 5. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we covered the utilization of three fine-tuned deep transfer learning models. AlexNet, GoogleNet and Vgg16 performed similarly in terms of training, validation and loss. The experiments shows the GoogleNet achieved higher scores faster than AlexNet and Vgg16. However, the fine-tuned models recorded 100% as training and validation accuracy. In the future, this work can be combined with currency recognition to automat the casheir position and develop a fully self-check-in counter.

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