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Image Restoration Using RBM

Vrushali Kondhalkar[1], Vedant Jeurkar[2], Tanaji Dhavale[3], Jyotiraditya Jadhav[4]
[1]Professor, [2, 3, 4]Authors, Department of CSE, MIT School of Computing 2024-25.

Abstract: Image restoration is a critical task in computer vision, aiming to recover degraded images caused by noise, missing pixels, or corruption. Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBMs), a type of unsupervised neural network, have gained popularity for their ability to learn hidden representations and restore images effectively. This paper provides a review of existing research and projects related to image restoration using RBMs and other deep learning techniques. It highlights the key approaches, algorithms, and outcomes in this field, providing a comparative perspective on their effectiveness.
Keywords: Image Restoration, Restricted Boltzmann Machine, Deep Learning, Denoising, Feature Learning

I. INTRODUCTION

Image restoration plays a crucial role in the realm of image processing and computer vision. Its main objective is to enhance the visual quality of images that have been compromised or deteriorated. This process is essential for various applications, including the restoration of historical images, enhancement of satellite images, correction of transmission errors in medical imaging, and more. In the realm of deep learning, models like RBMs are revolutionizing the way we restore missing or corrupted parts of images. These models offer a more effective solution by learning intricate representations and utilizing them for image restoration.

II. BACKGROUND

A Restricted Boltzmann Machine (RBM) is a powerful generative stochastic neural network that is widely used in machine learning. It consists of two layers: a visible layer (input) and a hidden layer (features). Each visible unit is connected to every hidden unit, creating a complex network for data representation. Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBMs) play a crucial role in image restoration by learning a probability distribution over their inputs. They can be effectively trained using contrastive divergence, a technique that helps them understand how uncorrupted images are structured. This knowledge is then utilized by RBMs to fill in missing or damaged parts of an image when provided with incomplete data.

RBMs are powerful tools in the field of image processing and restoration. By learning the underlying structure of uncorrupted images, they can effectively reconstruct and enhance incomplete or damaged images. This makes them a valuable asset in scenarios where restoring image quality is essential.

III. RELATED WORK

A. Structural Restricted Boltzmann Machine for Image DE noising and Classification

Bidaurrazaga et al.[1] introduced a modified RBM known as the Structural RBM (SRBM). Unlike standard RBMs, SRBMs take into account spatial relationships by restricting connections based on pixel proximity. This structure allows the model to maintain local consistency in images and reduce overfitting. Experiments demonstrated superior denoising capabilities, particularly in preserving edges and textures in noisy images.

1) A New RBM Training Algorithm for Image Restoration

In this work, Ali Fakhari and Kourosh Kiani [2]proposed a novel RBM training method designed to handle corrupted image data more effectively. Their algorithm adjusts the gradient updates to account for missing pixels, leading to better convergence and restoration accuracy. The study validated this approach on benchmark image datasets, showing substantial improvement over traditional RBM training methods.

2) Deep Learning Survey on Image Restoration

Jingwen Su and colleagues conducted a comprehensive survey comparing various deep learning techniques for image restoration, including Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), RBMs, and Autoencoders. Their findings indicated that while CNNs are widely used due to their success in handling spatial data, RBMs offer a lightweight alternative suitable for unsupervised learning tasks. The paper also discussed image quality metrics like PSNR (Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio) and SSIM (Structural Similarity Index) to evaluate model performance.

3) General Review on RBMs

This review paper provided a deep dive into the theoretical underpinnings and practical applications of RBMs. It described how RBMs are effective in unsupervised feature extraction and generative modeling. The paper also reviewed variations of RBMs, such as Gaussian-Bernoulli RBMs for continuous data and Conditional RBMs for structured outputs, emphasizing their flexibility in modeling different types of image data.

B. Diffusion Models for Image Enhancement

A more recent innovation in the field, diffusion models work by gradually reversing the process of image degradation. This approach models the image as a series of iterative refinements. Although still under active research, diffusion models have shown exceptional results in generating high-quality restored images and are considered a promising alternative to RBMs and GANs.

IV. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

In the realm of image restoration techniques, the Restricted Boltzmann Machine (RBM) plays a crucial role in restoring degraded or corrupted binary images. This method utilizes unsupervised learning to effectively improve the quality of images. In the realm of image recognition, the preprocessing of the dataset plays a crucial role in optimizing the performance of the model. This process involves converting input images into a binary format using Bernoulli sampling and reshaping them into a flat vector of 784 pixels (28×28). The RBM model is then initialized with 784 visible units and 500 hidden units[1], creating a bipartite structure that facilitates the learning of hidden patterns within the data.Training is performed using the Contrastive Divergence (CD-1) algorithm, where the model alternates between sampling hidden and visible layers to approximate the gradient of the log-likelihood. The loss is calculated using the difference in free energy between the original and reconstructed images. Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD) is used to update weights and biases during each iteration. After training, the RBM is capable of reconstructing corrupted inputs by generating approximate versions of the original data from its learned feature space. When it comes to evaluating the effectiveness of a restoration methodology, visual comparison of original and restored images, as well as computation of energy-based loss, plays a crucial role. In this professional article, we explore how Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBMs) can effectively learn image structure and restore missing or noisy regions without the need for labeled training data.

V. LITERATURE SURVEY

The field of image restoration has witnessed significant advancements over the past two decades, particularly with the integration of machine learning and deep learning techniques. One of the earliest contributions to this domain came from Geoffrey Hinton in 2002, who introduced the concept of training Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBMs) using the Contrastive Divergence algorithm. This approach made it feasible to train RBMs efficiently on binary data, enabling the model to learn probability distributions over input images in an unsupervised manner. Although this laid the foundation for generative models in image processing, early RBMs faced challenges such as limited scalability and difficulties in modeling complex image structures beyond simple datasets like MNIST.

In a more application-focused study, Fakhari and Kiani [2] (2021) proposed a new training algorithm for RBMs specifically tailored for image restoration. Their method improved the model's ability to reconstruct corrupted images by addressing common training issues such as slow convergence and instability. The algorithm was tested on benchmark datasets and demonstrated significant improvements in restoring missing or noisy image regions. However, a notable limitation was the high sensitivity of the model to hyperparameters like the learning rate and the number of hidden units, which required meticulous fine-tuning for optimal performance. The concept of hybrid modeling was explored further by Li and Zhang [9] (2022), who introduced a system that combines RBMs with Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs). This hybrid RBM-CNN architecture leveraged the unsupervised feature learning of RBMs and the spatial pattern recognition abilities of CNNs. The result was a robust model capable of restoring images with higher fidelity. The integration of both models enabled better generalization and improved reconstruction accuracy, but it also increased the model's complexity and computational demands, making it less suitable for low-resource environments.

A broader survey conducted by Su, Xu, and Yin [3] (2022) examined a wide range of deep learning techniques used in image restoration, including CNNs, Autoencoders, GANs, and RBMs. Their analysis showed that while CNNs generally outperformed other models in tasks requiring high accuracy, RBMs held their ground in unsupervised scenarios, especially when labeled datasets were limited or unavailable. The survey highlighted the efficiency of RBMs in capturing latent features from data without the need for extensive supervision, making them suitable for applications in historical restoration or low-resolution image enhancement.

In 2023, Bidaurrazaga et al.[1] introduced the concept of Structural RBMs to address the challenge of maintaining spatial consistency in image restoration. Unlike traditional RBMs, Structural RBMs restricted connections based on spatial proximity, allowing the model to focus on localized features such as edges and textures. This modification led to better denoising results and structural preservation in restored images. However, the added structural constraints also increased the training complexity and limited its application to binary or low-resolution image datasets.

VI. TESTED SETUP AND CONFIGURATION DETAILS

The project was meticulously designed and validated within the Python environment utilizing Jupyter Notebook and Google Colab as the main development platforms. Our focus was to enhance performance and productivity by leveraging advanced technology and tools. System Configuration: Our experiments were executed on a system powered by an Intel Core i5 processor, 8GB RAM, and an NVIDIA CUDA-enabled GPU (GTX 1650). This high-performance setup allowed for GPU acceleration, resulting in expedited training processes. The Setup: The operating system utilized for this implementation was Windows 10, Python version 3.8. Utilizing PyTorch: To implement the Restricted Boltzmann Machine (RBM) model, PyTorch was the primary framework employed. Additional support was provided by libraries such as Torchvision, utilized for loading the MNIST dataset, NumPy for carrying out numerical operations, and Matplotlib for visualizing images. The RBM model consisted of 784 visible units (representing 28x28 pixel images) and 500 hidden units. The training process utilized a batch size of 64 for 20 epochs. Contrastive Divergence with one step (CD-1) served as the training algorithm, while stochastic gradient descent (SGD) was selected as the optimizer with a learning rate of 0.1.. The entire training process was optimized using CUDA for GPU acceleration, ensuring efficient computation and reduced training time. This setup provided a smooth development experience and produced reliable results for image restoration tasks.

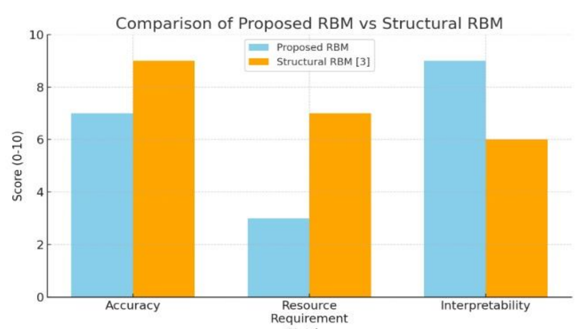
VII. DISCUSSION

The reviewed literature illustrates the considerable potential of Restricted Boltzmann Machines in the domain of image restoration. Despite being an older deep learning model, RBMs remain relevant due to their simplicity and effectiveness in unsupervised settings. Their ability to model complex probability distributions makes them suitable for handling noisy or incomplete image data. However, their limitations, such as difficulty in training deep networks and convergence issues, cannot be overlooked. Newer models like CNNs, transformers, and diffusion models have shown higher performance in specific tasks. Yet, combining RBMs with other models (e.g., using them for pretraining or feature extraction) offers a balanced approach, leveraging the strengths of both paradigms. Going forward, it is important to explore hybrid architectures, better training algorithms, and real-time implementation strategies to enhance RBM-based image restoration systems. Additionally, more focus on benchmarking across diverse datasets and degradation types will provide clearer insights into their generalizability.

VIII. RESULTS

The trained RBM model was evaluated on partially corrupted MNIST digits. In one case, the model received an image of the digit "7" where the upper half was replaced with random noise. Despite this corruption, the RBM was able to preserve and reconstruct the bottom half of the digit based on its learned patterns. This shows that the model successfully captured key structural features of the digits during training. The restored image clearly retained the recognizable shape of the digit, demonstrating the model's capability for effective image restoration even in unsupervised settings.

To evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed RBM model, it was compared with the Structural RBM approach introduced by Bidaurrazaga et al. [1]. While the Structural RBM achieves better spatial consistency due to its localized connectivity design, it also involves a more complex training process and higher computational demands. Our model, in contrast, uses a standard RBM structure with global connectivity and achieves competitive restoration quality with far lower complexity. This makes our approach more suitable for environments with limited resources or when interpretability and simplicity are desired.



IX. CONCLUSION

Restricted Boltzmann Machines continue to play a significant role in image restoration, especially in situations where training data is limited or unsupervised learning is necessary. Their ease of implementation and low computational cost make them attractive for certain applications, particularly in academic and lightweight real-time systems. Although newer methods such as GANs and diffusion models often outperform RBMs in quality and flexibility, RBMs remain a strong foundational tool for image restoration. With advancements in hybrid modeling, optimization techniques, and integration with newer architectures, RBMs can still contribute meaningfully to solving complex image restoration challenges. Future research should focus on scalability, adaptability to different restoration tasks, and incorporation into broader image processing frameworks.

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