Learning Transferable Architectures for Scalable Image Recognition

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Seminar - Recent trends in Automated Machine Learning
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06. June 2019, Garching
Problem statement

Train a neural network image classification model
Previous solutions and shortcomings

- Architecture engineering
  - Requires domain knowledge
  - Trial and error

- NAS
  - Architecture search is limited to one dataset a time
  - No transferability
  - No scalability
NASNet search space - general idea

- Observation: handcrafted architectures often contain a lot of repetition
- Reduce search space to cells
  - Repeat those for whole architecture
  - Enables transferability
  - search/training is converges faster
  - Generalises better for other tasks
- Only convolutional layers
NASNet search space - architecture

- Two cells
  - Normal cell
  - Reduction cell
- Actual architecture is predefined by cell repetitions
  - Only few hyper parameters
  - Architecture can be scaled easily
Cell generation - cell content

Normal Cell

Reduction Cell
Cell generation - cell content

1 Block = 5 selections
Cell generation - cell content

- $B$ blocks
  - Each block consists of 5 selections
    - (2) Select two inputs
    - (2) Select one function for each input
      - Apply function to input
    - (1) Combine both inputs
      - element wise addition
      - concatenation
  - Blocks are size invariant
    - Stride and padding are selected accordingly
  - All unused hidden states are concatenated to output of cell
    - 1x1 convolutions are applied fit number of filters
  - Number of filters is doubled in reduction cell

- Functions
  - identity
  - 1x7 then 7x1 convolution
  - 3x3 average pooling
  - 5x5 max pooling
  - 1x1 convolution
  - 3x3 depthwise-separable conv
  - 7x7 depthwise-separable conv
  - 1x3 then 3x1 convolution
  - 3x3 dilated convolution
  - 3x3 max pooling
  - 7x7 max pooling
  - 3x3 convolution
  - 5x5 depthwise-separable conv
Cell generation - RNN

- One layer LSTM network
- Predict each block
- Two cells separate
Cell generation - RNN training loop

- Similar to NAS
- Predict cells
- Train resulting architecture on CIFAR10
- Scale probability of cell selection with accuracy
  - Update model weights
Resulting cells

Normal Cell

Reduction Cell
Results

- State of the art performance in 2017
  - On imagenet
  - Mobile (few parameters)
  - Object detection
- RL vs random search

Image Classification on ImageNet
Thank you for your attention!