

Transfer Learning in Computer Vision

Rohit Katageri*, Rohan Bhushi**, Dr. Sunita S. Padmannavar***

*(Department of MCA, KLS Gogte Institute of Technology/VTU, India)

** (Department of MCA, KLS Gogte Institute of Technology/VTU, India)

*** (Department of MCA, KLS Gogte Institute of Technology/VTU, India,

Email: sspadmannavar@git.edu)

Abstract:

Transfer learning has become an important technique in computer vision, allowing models to take knowledge from pre-trained models and adapt it to new tasks. Transfer learning addresses challenges using pre-trained models that have learned common visual characteristics from large datasets such as ImageNet. By fine-tuning these models to the task of interest, we can apply them to new and unseen problems. Transfer learning has found success in various computer vision fields. Object detection benefits from pretrained models such as VGGNet, ResNet, and Inception to achieve the best performance on benchmarks such as ImageNet. Object detection tasks have also been improved by fine-tuning models such as Faster R-CNN, SSD and YOLO to accurately locate objects in different domains. Semantic segmentation, which involves understanding images at the pixel level, benefits from transfer learning. Models such as fully convolutional networks (FCNs) and U-Nets pretrained on large datasets are optimized for accurate and efficient segmentation.

Keywords —Transfer learning, computer vision, Transfer learning strategy, AlexNet

I. INTRODUCTION

Computer vision has made great strides in recent years, achieving remarkable results in various tasks such as object recognition, object recognition, and semantic segmentation. However, these successes were largely driven by large labeled datasets and computationally intensive training processes. Obtaining labeled data for a given task can be time-consuming and expensive, and training a deep learning model from scratch requires significant computational resources. Transfer learning has emerged as a powerful technique to address these challenges by applying knowledge gained from pre-trained models to new tasks. Transfer learning allows models to benefit from common visual representations already obtained from models pre-trained on large datasets rather than starting from scratch. This approach has revolutionized the field of computer vision, allowing researchers and practitioners to achieve top performance even

with limited labeled data and computational resources. The concept of transfer learning is based on the idea that low- and medium-level functions learned by a model in one task are related and transferable to related tasks. Transfer learning reduces the need for large-scale training by using a pre-trained model as a starting point, allowing the model to quickly adapt to new tasks. This not only saves time and computational resources, but also improves model performance using lessons learned from solving previous problems. This review aims to provide an overview of transfer learning and its applications to computer vision. We examine how transfer learning is applied to various domains such as object recognition, object recognition, semantic segmentation, domain matching, captioning, and visual question answering. We review techniques and architectures commonly used in transfer learning for computer vision tasks and highlight the benefits and challenges associated with each approach. This paper aims to reveal the potential

of transfer learning to further advance the field of computer vision by investigating the latest advances and research trends in transfer learning. Overall, transfer learning has changed the landscape of computer vision, allowing models to use existing knowledge to adapt to new tasks. Its applications have made a huge impact, improving performance, shortening development cycles, and making better use of limited resources. Understanding the principles and applications of transfer learning in computer vision is essential for researchers and practitioners who want to harness its potential to push the frontiers of visual perception and understanding.

II. TRANSFER LEARNING

Traditional ML vs. Transfer Learning

There are two main approaches in the field of machine learning. Traditional machine learning (ML) and transfer learning. Although there are some similarities between traditional ML and transfer learning, the training methods and applications are very different. Let's compare these two approaches, especially in the context of computer vision.

1. Training method:

In traditional ML, a model is trained from scratch on a specific dataset for a specific task. This process includes feature extraction, feature engineering, and model training using algorithms such as support vector machines (SVM), decision trees, and random forests. A model is trained to learn from the data you provide and make predictions based on the patterns it learns.

Transfer learning, on the other hand, uses pretrained models that have already been trained on large datasets, typically using deep learning architectures such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs). Transfer learning takes learned representations of these pretrained models and fine-tunes them to the target task or domain, rather than starting from scratch.

2. Dataset requirements:

Traditional ML approaches require a tagged dataset specific to the task at hand. These datasets should be collected, tagged, and curated for features that

are relevant to the problem they solve. The performance of traditional ML models is highly dependent on the quantity and quality of labeled data.

Transfer learning reduces reliance on large labeled datasets. Pretrained models used in transfer learning are typically trained on huge datasets such as ImageNet, which contain millions of labeled images with a wide range of categories. Knowledge gained from these pre-training tasks with rich labeled data available can be transferred to new tasks using smaller labeled data sets.

3. Generalization and adaptation:

Traditional ML models are designed to solve specific tasks using specific data sets. It lacks the ability to generalize well to new, unknown data and adapt to different domains. Faced with new tasks and datasets, models often need to be retrained or reengineered.

Transfer learning is characterized by generalization and adaptation. Our pre-trained models capture rich visual representations from various datasets and enable us to extract meaningful features that can be well-transformed to new tasks and domains. By fine-tuning the pre-trained model to the target task, it can adapt to specific visual characteristics and improve performance even with limited labeled data.

4. Computing requirements:

Traditional ML algorithms are typically less computationally intensive compared to deep learning models. Traditional ML training and inference processes are relatively fast and accessible, making them suitable for resource-constrained environments.

Transfer learning, especially with deep learning models, typically requires a large amount of computational resources. Pre-training a large model on a huge dataset can be computationally intensive. However, fine-tuning a pre-trained model for a new task is more computationally efficient than training from scratch.

5.Application:

Traditional ML approaches are widely used in various fields, including computer vision, but their effectiveness can be limited by the availability and quality of labeled data. Feature engineering plays an important role in traditional ML to extract features that are relevant to a task.

Transfer learning has great implications for computer vision applications. Researchers and practitioners can leverage learned representations of pre-trained models to achieve state-of-the-art performance. Transfer learning has been successfully used in object recognition, object recognition, semantic segmentation, domain matching, captioning, visual question answering tasks, to name a few. In summary, traditional ML and transfer learning differ in training methods, dataset requirements, generalization capabilities, computational requirements, and applications.

III. TRANSFER LEARNING STRATEGIES

Transfer learning is a machine learning technique that leverages and applies knowledge or representations from one task or domain to improve the performance of another related task or domain. In the context of computer vision, transfer learning refers to using a pre-trained model, typically trained on a large data set, as a starting point and fine-tuning it for a specific target task or domain.

The pre-trained models learned common visual features such as edges, textures, shapes, and high-level rendering when trained on large datasets for the first time. By using these learned representations, transfer learning can generalize the model well to new tasks, even with limited labeled data. The fine-tuning process involves adjusting or updating the parameters of the model to adapt the learned representation to specific characteristics of the target task or domain and improve its performance on the target task. Transfer learning has several applications in computer vision, such as reducing the need for extensive training on limited labeled data, leveraging existing knowledge and representations, accelerating the model development process, and improving model generalization and customization capabilities. This has become a key

technology in a variety of computer vision applications, including: B. Object recognition, object recognition, semantic segmentation, domain matching, captions, visual question answering.

Transfer learning in computer vision employs different strategies to effectively use pretrained models and adapt them to new tasks and domains. Here are some transfer learning strategies commonly used in computer vision.

1. Feature extraction:

This strategy uses a pre-trained model as a fixed feature extractor. The convolutional layers of the pretrained model are frozen and only the last layer specific to the new task is added and trained. A pre-trained model extracts relevant features from the input image and is fed into new task-specific layers for classification or regression. This approach is especially useful when the target task has a small data set or limited computational resources.

2. Tweaks:

Fine-tuning trains the pre-trained model for a new task and updates the layer weights of the pre-trained model at the same time. The first few layers are responsible for learning low-level functions and may have more general representations carried over to new tasks. Higher-level layers that capture more task-specific representations may need tweaking or replacement to adapt to new tasks. Fine-tuning allows the model to update its learned representations to adapt to the target task and improve performance.

3. Pre-training and initialization:

This strategy involves pre-training the model on a large dataset such as ImageNet and using the learned weights as initialization to train a new task. The pretraining step helps the model get a general visual representation, and the initialization step provides a good starting point for new tasks. The model is then further trained on task-specific target data to refine the representation and optimize performance.

4. Domain Customization:

Domain customization aims to transfer knowledge from a source domain with large amounts of labeled data available to a target domain with different characteristics or limited labeled data. In this strategy, pre-trained models are trained on source domain data and adapted to the target domain using techniques such as adversarial training and domain-specific fine-tuning. The goal is to match the representation learned from the source domain to the target domain so that the model performs well on the target task despite domain differences.

5. Multitask learning:

Multitask learning involves training a model on multiple related tasks simultaneously. A pre-trained model can be used as the backbone for multiple task-specific branches. By learning multiple tasks together, the model benefits from a shared representation and can use the knowledge gained in one task to improve the performance of other tasks. This strategy is useful when tasks are related and can provide complementary information to improve overall performance.

These transfer learning strategies offer different approaches for adapting pre-trained models to new tasks and domains in computer vision. The choice of strategy depends on factors such as availability of tagged data, computing resources, similarity between source and target tasks/domains, and specific requirements of target tasks.

IV. TRANSFERABLE COMPONENTS

In transfer learning, certain components of a pretrained model are considered transferable, meaning that they can be effectively applied to new tasks and domains. These transferable components capture common visual representations and knowledge that can be used in a variety of contexts. The main components that can be transferred when studying with Computer

Vision Transfer are:

1. Low level functions:

Lower layers of pretrained convolutional neural

networks (CNN) capture low-level features such as edges, textures, and primitives. These functions can be transferred to another task or domain. Using these low-level functions, the model can quickly learn relevant visual patterns and transition gracefully to new tasks.

2. Midrange features:

Mid-level features in pretrained CNNs represent more complex visual patterns and concepts such as: B. A part or texture of an object. These features are learned in the middle layers of the network and are useful for various tasks such as object detection, object recognition, and semantic segmentation. They provide a higher level abstraction of the input image and can be transferred to similar tasks and domains. 3. High-level semantics:

Higher layers of pretrained CNNs capture higher-level semantic information and represent more abstract concepts and classes of objects. These layers learn to recognize specific objects and scenes and their contextual relationships. The knowledge recorded in these layers can be transferred to object recognition, image classification, or scene understanding tasks.

4. Spatial hierarchy:

Transmittable components also include spatial hierarchies learned from CNNs. CNNs are inherently designed to capture spatial dependencies and hierarchies in images. These spatial hierarchies encode information about local and global contexts that can be effectively applied to tasks such as object recognition, semantic segmentation, and image understanding.

5. Reminder Mechanism:

Some pre-trained models contain attention mechanisms that learn to focus on relevant regions or features in images. These attentional mechanisms can be applied to tasks that require localization or detailed understanding. B. Object location, captions, and visual question answering.

6. Contextual information:

Pre-trained models often learn how to

capture contextual information by modeling the relationships between objects or regions in an image. This contextual knowledge helps with tasks such as understanding the relationships between scenes, captions, and objects.

It is important to note that the portability of a component may vary depending on the similarity between the source and target tasks or domains. Components learned through pre-training on large datasets may be more applicable to related tasks and domains that share similar visual features. However, transfer learning can also offer advantages in different task and domain scenarios, as the initial representation captured by the pre-trained model serves as a useful starting point for adaptation and learning on the target task.

Understanding the transferable components of a pre-trained model helps design effective transfer-learning strategies and select appropriate levels or functions for fine-tuning or extraction of the target task. By leveraging these transferable components, transfer learning enables models to adapt quickly and improve performance even with limited tagged data in new computer vision tasks.

V. TRANSFER LEARNING FOR DEEP LEARNING

Transfer learning with deep learning has revolutionized the field of computer vision by enabling the transfer of knowledge from pre-trained deep neural networks to new tasks and domains. Deep learning models such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) excel at learning hierarchical representations from large data sets. Below is an overview of transfer learning using deep learning in computer vision.

1. Pre-training on large datasets:

Deep learning models are first pre-trained on large datasets, often containing millions of annotated images such as: B. Imagenet. During pre-training, the model learns how to recognize different visual patterns, objects and features by optimizing loss functions such as cross-entropy. This pre-training step enables the model to capture common visual representations.

2. Transfer learning strategy:

Feature extraction:

A pre-trained deep learning model is used as a fixed feature extractor. Features learned from convolutional layers are extracted and fed into a new classifier or regression model for the target task. Previously trained weights are frozen and only new task-specific shifts are trained.

• Tweak:

The pre-trained model is further trained with new task-specific datasets while allowing weights for some or all layers to be updated. Fine-tuning allows the model to take advantage of general visual knowledge acquired during pre-training to tailor the learned representations to the target task.

• Pre-training and initialization:

A pre-trained model is used to initialize the weights of a new model architecture developed for the target task. The initial weights are the starting point and the new model is refined using the task-specific dataset.

• Multitask learning:

Several related tasks are trained together using the pre-trained model as a backbone. Common representations learned during pre-training are used to improve performance on multiple tasks and leverage transferable knowledge across different domains.

3. Adaptation and generalization:

Transfer learning using deep learning enables adaptation to new tasks and domains. A pre-trained model captures a general visual representation that can be tuned and applied to the target task. This fit allows the model to generalize well even with limited labeled data in the target domain.

4. Model selection and architecture:
Deep learning models for transfer learning in computer vision can vary in architecture and complexity. Popular architectures such as VGG, ResNet, Inception, and MobileNet are often used as pretrained models for transfer learning. Choosing a model architecture depends on the specific requirements of the target task, dataset size, computational resources, and available pre-trained models.

5. Application:

Deep learning transfer learning has found successful applications in various computer vision tasks. It is used for image classification, object detection, semantic segmentation, captioning, style transfer, domain matching, and many other tasks. Transfer learning leverages pre-trained models to reduce data and computational requirements while developing accurate and efficient vision models.

Transfer learning using deep learning has made significant progress in image processing by allowing models to leverage pre-trained knowledge and representations. It democratized the development of computer vision systems by alleviating the need for large annotated data sets and vast computational resources. Through ongoing research and development, transfer learning using deep learning continues to push the boundaries of computer vision capabilities.

VI. DEEP TRANSFER LEARNING STRATEGIES

Deep transfer learning in computer vision includes various strategies to effectively transfer knowledge from pre-trained deep neural networks to new tasks or domains. We introduce some important deep transfer learning strategies used in computer vision.

1. Partial fine-tuning:

This strategy fine-tunes only a subset of the layers in the pre-trained model, leaving the rest of the layers fixed. Lower layers that capture low-level functionality and general expressions are typically left frozen, while higher layers responsible for task-specific functionality are fine-tuned. This approach is beneficial when the target task has a limited amount of labeled data and the lower layers have already learned common visual representations.

2. Full tweaks:

Full tuning involves training all layers of the pretrained model on new task-specific datasets. All levels including low, medium and high are updated with the target task data. This strategy works well when the target task is closely related

to the pre-training task or when the labeled data for the target task is rich.

3. Progressive defrost:

Progressive decompression is an extension of the partial tuning strategy. In this approach, layers of pre-trained models are gradually softened and fine-tuned. Training starts with only the last few layers being released and fine-tuned. More layers are then gradually released in subsequent training iterations. This strategy allows the pretrained model to fit the target task more incrementally, especially when the labeled data for the target task is limited.

4. Pre-training with domain-specific data:

In some cases, models can be pre-trained on domain-specific datasets rather than relying solely on large general pre-training datasets such as ImageNet. This approach allows the model to capture a more specific visual representation of the target domain. Pre-training on domain-specific data improves target task initialization and improves performance in a given domain.

5. Multi-source transfer learning:

Multi-source transfer learning involves using knowledge from multiple pre-trained models or multiple source domains. This strategy is especially useful when the target task or domain does not have well-labeled data. By combining representations learned from multiple sources and adapting them to the target task, the model can generalize well and capture different visual patterns.

6. Domain matching by adversarial training:

Domain matching technology aims to transfer knowledge from a source domain to a target domain that lacks tagged data. Adversarial training is one technique that introduces additional domain identifiers in addition to the main task. The main task network and domain discriminator are trained adversarially to coordinate representations of the source and target domains. This approach helps reduce domain gaps and adapt pre-trained models to target domains.

These deep transfer learning strategies offer different approaches for adapting pre-trained

models to new tasks and domains in computer vision. The choice of strategy depends on factors such as similarity between source and target tasks or domains, availability of labeled data, computational resources, and specific requirements of target tasks. Deep transfer learning strategies greatly facilitate the development of powerful computer vision models by leveraging pre-trained representations and enabling effective knowledge transfer.

VII. PRE-TRAINED MODELS FOR COMPUTER VISION

Pretrained models have played an important role in advancing computer vision tasks through transfer learning. Trained on large datasets, these models acquire rich visual representations and knowledge that can be used for a variety of computer vision applications. Here are some common pretrained models used in computer vision.

1. Alex Net:

AlexNet is the one of the pioneering deep neural networks that gained a lot of attention in computer vision. It won the 2012 ImageNet Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge (ILSVRC), demonstrating the power of deep learning in image classification. AlexNet consists of 8 layers, including 5 convolutional layers and 3 fully connected layers. It provides a solid foundation for transfer learning in various computer vision tasks.

2. VGG Network (Visual Geometry Group):

The VGG model is known for its simplicity and effectiveness. VGG16 and VGG19 are the most commonly used variants. These models feature a deep architecture consisting of 16 or 19 weight layers with small 3x3 filters. VGG models are popular for image classification and widely used as pretrained models for transfer learning.

3. ResNet (residual network):

ResNet introduced the concept of residual learning to allow training deeper neural networks. ResNet models are known for hop connections, which allow gradients to flow directly through the network, alleviating the problem of vanishing gradients. Variants such as ResNet-50, ResNet-

101, and ResNet-152 have achieved the best performance on various computer vision tasks, making them valuable pretrained models for transfer learning.

4. Inception model:

Inception models, including InceptionV3 and InceptionResNetV2, are designed to address tradeoffs between model depth and computational efficiency. These models use different types of convolutions such as 1x1, 3x3 and 5x5 filters to capture features at multiple scales. The Inception model shows excellent performance on image classification and object detection tasks.

5. Mobile net:

MobileNet was specifically developed for resource-constrained environments such as mobile devices. Depth-separable folds provide a balance between model size and accuracy. MobileNet models are widely used due to their lightweight architecture and show promising results in applications such as image classification and object detection on mobile platforms.

6. High density net:

DenseNet introduces dense connectivity where every layer feeds forward to every other layer. This high density of connections improves feature reuse and gradient flow, improving information flow across the network. DenseNet models excel at tasks such as image classification, object detection, and segmentation.

7. Efficient net:

EfficientNet is a model family aimed at achieving higher efficiency in terms of both accuracy and computational resources. These models use compound scaling to simultaneously optimize network depth, width, and resolution. EfficientNet models are computationally efficient and achieve state-of-the-art performance, making them suitable for transfer learning in resource-constrained scenarios.

These pretrained models are widely used in transfer learning for various computer vision tasks including image classification, object recognition, semantic segmentation, captioning, and more. They provide a powerful starting point for transfer learning, allowing models to benefit

from knowledge acquired on large datasets and adapt to new tasks and domains using limited labeled data.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

Transfer learning has emerged as a powerful technique in computer vision, enabling the transfer of knowledge from pre-trained models to new tasks and domains. This overview highlights the importance of transfer learning in computer vision and provides an overview of its applications, strategies, and pretrained models.

By leveraging pre-trained models, transfer learning reduces the need for large labeled data sets and extensive computational resources, making computer vision system development more accessible and efficient. This enables models to benefit from knowledge and representations learned from large datasets and capture common visual features and patterns.

Various transfer learning strategies have been studied, including feature extraction, fine-tuning, pre-training and initialization, multi-task learning, and domain matching. These strategies allow our models to fit well and generalize to new tasks and domains, even with limited labeled data. In addition, deep transfer learning techniques developed specifically for deep neural networks have revolutionized machine vision, enabling effective knowledge transfer and adaptation.

Pre-trained models such as AlexNet, VGG, ResNet, Inception, MobileNet, DenseNet, EfficientNet are useful for transfer learning applications. These models provide a solid foundation and capture rich

visual representations to enable accurate and efficient knowledge transfer.

Transfer learning has been successfully applied to various computer vision tasks such as image classification, object recognition, semantic segmentation, captioning, and domain matching. This has facilitated progress in this field, enabling researchers and practitioners to reduce data and computational requirements to create powerful models and systems.

In summary, transfer learning in computer vision is a key technique that unlocks the potential of pre-trained models and facilitates the transfer of knowledge to new tasks and domains. Through ongoing research and development, transfer learning continues to push the boundaries of computer vision capabilities, enabling the development of more accurate, efficient, and adaptive vision systems.

REFERENCES

- [1] Yosinski, J., Clune, J., Bengio, Y., & Lipson, H., How transferable are features in deep neural networks? In *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 2014
- [2] Pan, S. J., & Yang, Q., A survey on transfer learning. *IEEE Transactions on knowledge and data engineering*, 2010
- [3] Weiss, K., Khoshgoftaar, T. M., & Wang, D., A survey of transfer learning. *Journal of Big Data*, 2016
- [4] Oquab, M., Bottou, L., Laptev, I., & Sivic, J., Learning and transferring mid-level image representations using convolutional neural networks. In *Proceedings of the IEEE conference on computer vision and pattern recognition*, 2014.
- [5] Long, M., Cao, Y., Wang, J., & Jordan, M. I., Learning transferable features with deep adaptation networks. In *International conference on machine learning*, 2015.
- [6] Russakovsky, O., Deng, J., Su, H., Krause, J., Satheesh, S., Ma, S., ... & Fei-Fei, L., ImageNet large scale visual recognition challenge. *International journal of computer vision*, 2015.