Applied Deep Learning

Chapter 4: Convolutional Neural Networks

Ali Bereyhi

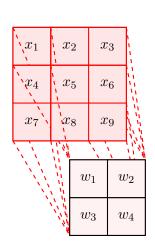
ali.bereyhi@utoronto.ca

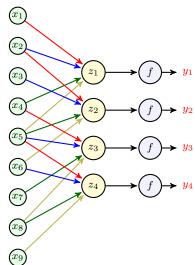
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
University of Toronto

Fall 2025

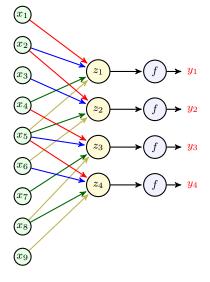
Convolutional Layer as Set of Neurons

We can look at a convolutional layer as a layer of neurons





Convolutional Layer as Set of Neurons



In this viewpoint

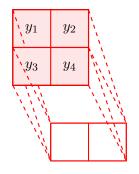
- \rightarrow neurons are activated by $f(\cdot)$

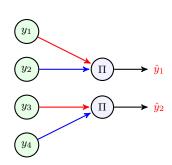
This is however not a fully-connected layer

- it is locally-connected
- → neurons have shared parameters

Pooling Layer as Set of Neurons

We can extend our viewpoint to pooling layers





Similar to convolutional layer, pooling layer is a feedforward layer with

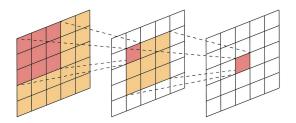
local connectivity and shared parameters

We usually have predefined parameters, i.e., no weights to be learned

Going Deep: Receptive Field

As we go deep in CNN, we mix features: features in deeper layers depend on more pixels of input tensor. We often say

deeper layers have larger receptive field



Receptive Field

The input region that each neuron in a given convolutional layer responds to

Receptive Field

Few points we may note regarding the receptive field

- → For first layer the receptive field is simply where the filter screen
- For deeper layers, actual receptive field is not immediately obvious and must be calculated

This is however obvious that

→ Receptive field increases as we go deeper

Receptive field also depends on the filter sizes

- + Why do we define receptive field? Does it have any particular meaning?!
- It helps very much building intuition, especially as we go deep

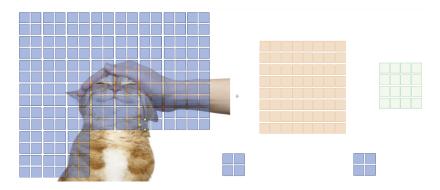
To design a deep CNN, we need to first build a bit of more intuition

Let's make a closer look: say we want to classify the following image



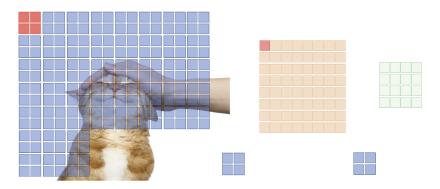
We use two convolutional + pooling layers cascaded both with 2×2 filters

The first layer extracts features of small region of input image



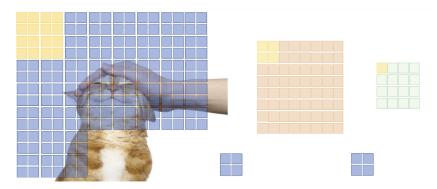
Say for instance, we look at the very first feature in the orange feature map

This red feature is calculated from input pixels at upper left corner



We could intuitively say that the neuron corresponding to this feature is looking locally at the upper left corner to extract the features of this region

Now, let's look at the very first feature in the green feature map



This neuron is looking at a larger region of input image, but it extracts the features of this region through the features extracted via the orange feature map

General Perspective on Deep CNNs

The given example illustrates an intuitive interpretation of deep CNNs

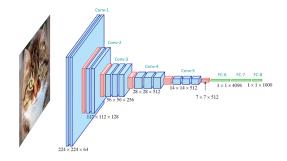
- □ Deep CNNs extract gradually the features of input
- In first layer they extract features of smaller regions of the input

This gives us a good idea on how a good deep CNN looks like

- First layer has small filters
 - - **→** the number of output channels is small
- As we go deeper in the CNN filters get a bit larger

Deep CNN: Example

Recall the example of VGG-16 architecture we had a look on

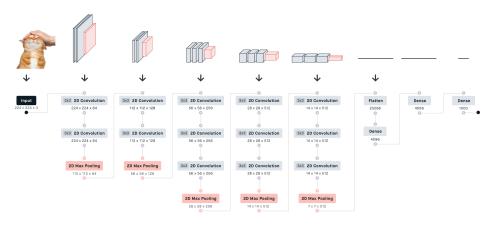


In the original proposal of this architecture, it is said

- ullet convolutional filters are 3 imes 3 and similar padding is used in all layers
- convolution performed with unit stride and max-pooling with stride 2

Deep CNN: Example

We can now break it down, as we know all the components



Deep CNN: Example

Let's count the number of layers with learnable parameters

# layers with weights $= 2$	first two convolutions
+2	second two convolutions
+ 3	third round of convolutions
+ 3	fourth round of convolutions
+3	fifth round of convolutions
+3	fully-connected network
= 16	

This is actually why it's called VGG-16