## AMFG 2015 Sparse Coding Trees with Application to Emotion Classification



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#### Application Motivation Emotion Classification for IoT and Beyond



User feedback systems, advertising, security systems

Automatic derivation of voter preferences, focus group testing Additional metrics for patient care, helping children with autism

## Methodology Motivation Machine Learning and Unsupervised Feature Extraction



 Sparse coding makes data more linearly separable

Labels are not required

Feature 1

## Sparse Coding Pipeline for Classification



Representation by Sparse Coding Express the input signal (x) as the weighted (z) sum of a few features (D)



## $\operatorname{argmin}_{z} ||\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{D}z||_{2}^{2} + \lambda ||z||_{0}$

Note: we can also penalize L1 norm instead of L0 norm

## **Dictionary Learning**

- Finds common patterns in training data
- Solved by alternating updates of D and Z



## **Our Enhancement to SC**

**Sparse Coding tree (SC-tree)** to learn features with hierarchy

## **Non-negative constraints**

to mitigate over-fitting in SC

## Mirroring

to increase variation tolerance

## Sparse Coding Tree Learning Features for Hard Cases

- Some discriminating features can be subtle
- Finding clusters within clusters, similar to how hierarchical k-means works



Fear can be confused with happiness because they both display teeth

## **Constructing Sparse Coding Tree**

If certain classes get confused consistently, put them through another layer of feature extraction



## Branching in Sparse Coding Tree

Based on the confusion matrix from the coarse predictor



#### Features Learned in SC-tree

#### Features learned in the root node



## Mirroring for Reflection Invariance

Using max pooling to capture the horizontal symmetry inherent in emotion classification



## Improved Robustness with Mirroring

With max pooling, we always pick up response from the side of face with stronger features



(a) Original images

(b) Reconstructed images

### Nonnegative Sparse Coding

Nonnegativity prevents cancelation of components, and therefore mitigates over-fitting

# argmin<sub>z</sub> $||x - Dz||_2^2 + \lambda ||z||_0$ s.t. $D \ge 0, z \ge 0$

D without NN-constraint



D with NN-constraint



Tends to learn regional components

#### Datasets

Multi-class Multi-class Binary Binary Cohn-Kanade Extended Dataset (CK+) Emotions in the Wild Dataset (EitW) GENKI-4K Dataset AM-FED Dataset



Performance on Emotion Classification

The sparse coding tree improves the performance of our pipeline consistently.



Results reported in average recall

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## **MNNSC** Performance

with Mirroring and the non-negativity constraint, even greedy methods like OMP (L0) can be competitive



Results reported in area under curve

#### Applying Sparse Coding Tree to Action Recognition



## Conclusion

Sparse coding, as an effective feature extraction method, can be enhanced by these techniques:

Sparse Coding tree (SC-tree) to learn features with hierarchy Non-negative constraints to mitigate over-fitting in SC Mirroring to increase variation tolerance