Fine-Tuning FaceNet for Celebrity Face Recognition: Enhancing Real vs. Fake Image Detection on the '105_Classes_Pins' Dataset

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Abstract: The exploration of fine-tuning FaceNet on the '105_classes_pins_dataset' for celebrity face recognition, specifically distinguishing between real and fake faces, has shown significant promise. The study demonstrates the application of FaceNet's advanced Siamese Network architecture, which excels at producing robust facial embeddings for accurate face identification and real-time comparison. The model was adapted for the specialized task of distinguishing between authentic and synthetic faces, such as those generated by Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs). Leveraging a pre-trained version of FaceNet allowed for efficient fine-tuning to a smaller dataset with targeted applications, comprised of 105 celebrity classes and over 17,000 images.

Despite the challenges presented by data imbalance and varying image quality, the fine-tuned model displayed robust performance, achieving an accuracy of around 90%. The model showcased its ability to reliably recognize both real celebrity faces and detect synthetic images. Notably, it performed well despite issues such as misalignment, variability in lighting, pose, and quality in the input data. This demonstrated the model's capacity to handle the complexities of real-world image variations, making it a valuable tool for distinguishing genuine and GAN-generated faces.

The fine-tuning approach enabled FaceNet to leverage its pre-existing features and adapt efficiently to the '105_classes_pins_dataset'. However, the dataset's limitations, including class imbalance and insufficient data diversity per class, revealed areas for further improvement. Specifically, some classes had fewer images, leading to challenges in generalizing across all classes. Furthermore, the model faced risks of overfitting, with the relatively small and narrow dataset providing limited room for feature learning across various pose and lighting conditions.

Future efforts should focus on addressing these limitations. A key step would be expanding the dataset by incorporating a wider range of celebrity images, as well as additional diversity in terms of facial expressions, pose, lighting, and background. This would help mitigate issues related to class imbalance and improve model generalization. Additionally, enhancing data augmentation techniques could introduce further diversity in the dataset. Advanced augmentation methods like simulated noise, photometric distortions, and color saturation adjustments could make the model more robust and adaptable to different facial characteristics.

The differentiation between real and fake faces remains a key challenge, particularly with the ever-evolving sophistication of synthetic image generation. Future work could focus on improving the model's ability to detect subtle inconsistencies in synthetic faces, such as small artifacts or flaws, by generating more synthetic face datasets. Further advancements in regularization techniques, such as batch normalization or the use of dropout layers, may help address overfitting and boost model performance when trained on limited data.

Moreover, cross-dataset validation would help assess the model's generalizability across different face recognition datasets from varied demographic groups and geographical regions, enhancing its reliability in real-world scenarios. A promising area of exploration would be integrating the model into real-time facial recognition systems, which would require ensuring its operational efficiency and speed for practical deployment in surveillance, access control, or identity verification applications.

In summary, the exploration of fine-tuning FaceNet on the '105_classes_pins_dataset' for face recognition has yielded substantial results but also revealed areas for further improvement. Expanding datasets, refining augmentation techniques, addressing overfitting, and testing across diverse datasets will be crucial for the continued advancement and real-world applicability of the model.

Keywords: FaceNet, Fine-tuning, Celebrity face recognition, Real vs fake face detection, Siamese Network, Facial embeddings, GAN-generated faces, Data augmentation

1. Introduction

Facial recognition as real or fake i.e generated by GANS, has seen significant advancements with the emergence of deep learning models. One of the most notable models for face recognition is **FaceNet**, which utilizes a deep learning architecture known as a **Siamese Network**. This paper explores the process of fine-tuning FaceNet on the '105_classes_pins_dataset,' which contains images of 105 celebrities, offering a unique opportunity to apply cutting-edge face recognition techniques for large-scale datasets.

The FaceNet Model and Its Basis in Siamese Networks

At the heart of this exploration lies **FaceNet**, a deep neural network designed for **face recognition, verification, and clustering tasks**. FaceNet leverages a powerful architecture called the **Siamese Network**, a specialized model particularly suitable for comparing two objects and determining their similarity, often used for tasks such as one-shot learning, image similarity, and identity verification.

The **Siamese Network** consists of two identical subnetworks with shared weights. These subnetworks process their input separately but in parallel. Despite their separation, the subnetworks are tightly linked by their architecture and parameters, ensuring that both networks learn similar representations. The ability to share parameters is what gives rise to the "Siamese" nature of the network.

In face recognition, the network takes as input two images and produces a similarity score indicating how closely related the two images are in terms of facial features. Initially, the images are passed through the twin subnetworks, each producing a **feature vector**. This vector, a fixed-length representation of the input image, encodes key features, such as the structure of facial features, geometrical properties, and other distinguishing characteristics. The vectors are compared through a distance function (such as Euclidean distance) to produce a similarity score. If the images belong to the same person, their feature vectors are highly similar, while images of different people produce vastly different feature vectors.

This approach of **distance-based learning** makes Siamese Networks particularly effective for facial recognition tasks, where distinguishing between faces from different individuals and identifying the same person in different images is paramount.

The Embeddings Process

A critical component of FaceNet's operation is its ability to generate **embeddings**—128-dimensional vectors that represent the identity and features of the face in the image. When an image is fed into the model, a **deep convolutional network** encodes it into an embedding vector. This vector serves as a compact and highly informative representation of the original image, capable of being compared to other embeddings in the database for face verification or identification tasks.

When a new image is input, FaceNet generates a corresponding embedding and compares it to the embeddings of all the images present in the database. If an embedding with a sufficiently small Euclidean distance is found, it signifies that the new image matches the person whose embedding is being compared to. Thus, FaceNet's architecture facilitates efficient and accurate face recognition, based on the powerful embeddings it produces.

The Dataset: 105_classes_pins_dataset

The **'105_classes_pins_dataset'** consists of images of **105 celebrities** with a total of **17,534 images**. This dataset is used for the task of fine-tuning the FaceNet model, enabling it to recognize and classify celebrities based on their facial features. Each celebrity in the dataset has a varying number of images associated with them, and as noted, there are approximately **167 images per celebrity** on average. While this dataset provides a decent amount of data for training, it is important to understand that the number of images per individual varies. The diversity and variety in the images within the dataset will directly impact the model's ability to generalize during training. For instance, some celebrities may have more dynamic or varied photos due to different angles, lighting, and poses, while others might have fewer images or have more homogeneous data, which could hinder the model’s ability to capture enough variability for certain individuals.

Despite the variation in the number of images per person, the overall data is substantial enough to enable FaceNet to learn robust embeddings for the identities. Fine-tuning on this dataset will allow the model to adjust its pre-trained weights (which may have originally been learned from a different facial recognition dataset) and adapt its ability to discern faces of the 105 celebrities in this dataset.

The **dataset's quality and diversity**—covering varying facial angles, lighting conditions, and backgrounds—are key factors influencing the model’s final performance. A well-structured dataset that captures the wide range of appearances a person might have in different contexts will enable FaceNet to generalize better and improve its ability to recognize faces more accurately.

Fine-Tuning FaceNet for the 105_classes_pins_dataset

Fine-tuning a model like FaceNet requires leveraging a pre-trained model that has already been trained on a large and diverse face recognition dataset. Instead of training FaceNet from scratch (which requires vast amounts of computing resources and time), pre-training on a larger general face dataset helps FaceNet develop a fundamental understanding of facial features. Fine-tuning the model on the '105_classes_pins_dataset' allows the model to focus its learning on the specific people in this dataset, further enhancing the accuracy for the recognition task.

During fine-tuning, the model retains its previously learned weights and updates only a subset of them (or all weights, depending on the specific fine-tuning strategy). This allows the model to refine its understanding of distinguishing features while maintaining the knowledge gained during its previous training.

The goal of fine-tuning here is to:

1. **Adapt the model's pre-trained embeddings** to reflect the specific faces in the '105_classes_pins_dataset'.
2. **Optimize the model for specific tasks**: For instance, fine-tuning can improve the accuracy of identification or verification tasks by using embeddings to distinguish between people who might have similar-looking faces.
3. **Generalize better** for face verification tasks by handling unseen, yet similar faces in the '105_classes_pins_dataset'.

Fine-tuning typically involves using smaller learning rates, ensuring the model is not dramatically altered during training. The process often includes **augmentation techniques**—such as altering the scale, position, or color of the input images—to artificially increase the diversity of the training set. This can help the model adapt better to variations in real-world conditions and improve its generalizability.

Challenges and Considerations for Face Recognition Models

While the '105_classes_pins_dataset' provides a relatively rich source of data for face recognition, some **challenges** still need to be considered when fine-tuning:

1. **Imbalanced Data**: With varying numbers of images per individual, some classes (celebrities) may have much fewer images than others. This imbalance could negatively impact training by favoring the more represented classes.
2. **Variations in Image Quality**: Given the likelihood of image quality differences (e.g., some images may have better resolution, lighting, etc.), ensuring that the model learns consistent facial features despite these variations becomes important.
3. **Overfitting**: With relatively few classes and a fixed dataset size, overfitting is a concern. The model might learn to memorize specific features of the training set without generalizing well to unseen examples.
4. **Real-world Variability**: Fine-tuning on this dataset will primarily help FaceNet improve recognition of the celebrities in the dataset. It will need to be complemented by a broader, more varied dataset to generalize well for face recognition beyond the dataset.

Fine-tuning FaceNet for the '105_classes_pins_dataset' has the potential to develop a model that is robust in celebrity face recognition, addressing the nuances of varying image qualities and class imbalances. However, challenges such as overfitting and dataset limitations must be addressed to ensure its ability to generalize well across different datasets and real-world scenarios.

2. Experimental Setup and methodology

In this section, experimental steps required for fine-tuning the FaceNet model on the '105_classes_pins_dataset' are elaborated. These steps cover everything from preparing the dataset to evaluating model performance. The primary aim is to enhance the existing FaceNet model's performance for the specific task of celebrity face recognition as fake or real using the '105_classes_pins_dataset' that consists of images of 105 celebrities.

1. Data Collection and Preprocessing

1.1 Dataset Acquisition

First, we need to ensure that the dataset, **'105_classes_pins_dataset'**, is accessible and correctly loaded into the working environment. The dataset contains 17,534 images of 105 celebrities, with an average of 167 images per celebrity, although this number may vary. The images typically need to be formatted correctly for use with deep learning models.

- **Download**: The dataset must be acquired if not already available locally.
- **Directory Structure**: Ensure that images are organized into folders where each folder represents a celebrity, and each image within the folder corresponds to a specific image of that celebrity.

1.2 Preprocessing of Images

Deep learning models like FaceNet require standardized preprocessing of images, particularly in the context of facial recognition. Typical preprocessing steps involve:

- **Resizing Images**: Ensure all images are resized to the target dimensions expected by FaceNet (e.g., 160x160 pixels).
- **Alignment**: FaceNet requires aligned faces for optimal feature extraction. Ensure that the faces are detected and cropped accordingly to remove non-relevant regions.
- **Normalization**: Perform pixel normalization (scale pixel values to the range [0, 1] or normalize based on the mean and standard deviation of the dataset used).
- **Augmentation**: As the dataset might not be extremely diverse for every individual, apply augmentation techniques such as horizontal flips, slight rotations, and brightness changes to increase variability.

1.3 Adding a new column to existing database Target column and naming all entries as 'Real' and feature name as target column

2. FaceNet Model Selection

2.1 Model Overview

FaceNet uses a **Siamese network** architecture to map input images into 128-dimensional embeddings. The pretrained FaceNet model used for fine-tuning must be carefully selected. Depending on the availability, FaceNet models pre-trained on large datasets like **VGGFace2** or **MS-Celeb-1M** may be chosen, which have been trained to handle general face recognition tasks.

Pretrained models will enable faster training as they will already have learned to represent and distinguish faces in a highly structured manner, leaving us to fine-tune their weights specifically for celebrity recognition.

2.2 Implementation of Model

In the experimental setup, the **FaceNet architecture** will be either loaded from pre-trained weights or initialized and then trained. In this case, fine-tuning allows for the model to adjust from generalized embeddings to embeddings more specific to the 105 celebrity faces.

Key Aspects:

- **Input**: The input to the network will be facial images, standardized and preprocessed, as described above.

- **Loss Function**: Typically, **triplet loss** or **contrastive loss** is used in Siamese Networks, optimizing for small Euclidean distances between matching pairs and larger distances for non-matching pairs.
- **Output**: The model produces a 128-dimensional vector representing the facial features of the person, with the objective of making similar faces closer in the embedding space.

3. Fine-Tuning the FaceNet Model

3.1 Loading Pretrained Model

Once the pre-trained FaceNet model is available, load the model weights trained on a broad dataset like **VGGFace2**. This model provides a generalized understanding of facial features. Here, the fine-tuning will begin.

- Load the model and keep most of the pre-trained weights intact. Fine-tune the last layers or some layers in the architecture. The feature-extracting layers can often remain frozen, while the fully connected layer (classifier) might need to be modified and re-trained to fit the celebrities all real in the '105_classes_pins_dataset'.

3.2 Fine-Tuning Parameters

Fine-tuning the model involves retraining it on the new dataset (i.e., the '105_classes_pins_dataset') while retaining the learned face features from the previous task. The fine-tuning involves the following steps:

- **Freezing the Backbone Layers**: Usually, the deeper layers (the convolutional layers) in the pre-trained FaceNet are kept frozen since they already capture low and mid-level facial features.
- **Modifying the Final Classifier**: Add or modify the final classification layer. The output layer will classify each layer as real or fake.This is done by adjusting the classifier architecture, possibly using a **sigmoid function** activation or a **triplet loss layer**.
- **Learning Rate Strategy**: Fine-tuning often uses lower learning rates, as the network parameters are already well-initialized. A smaller learning rate helps in refining the model to match the specific task without overfitting the smaller dataset.

3.3 Training on New Dataset

- **Batch Size**: Depending on the resources, batch size and computational power available should be decided. With face recognition models, small batch sizes (e.g., 16 to 32) are commonly used.
- **Epochs**: Fine-tuning may require fewer epochs compared to training from scratch (10-50 epochs) since we are optimizing an already pretrained model.
- **Evaluation Metrics**: Use metrics like **accuracy**, **precision**, **recall**, **F1-score**, and **AUC** to evaluate model performance, especially when comparing it with baseline metrics of unrefined or pretrained networks.

4. Data Augmentation and Regularization

4.1 Data Augmentation

Data augmentation is essential to improve model robustness. In face recognition, augmentation might involve:

- **Rotation**: Slight angles in image alignment to test how well the model recognizes faces from different perspectives.
- **Flipping**: Horizontal flips to simulate different orientations.
- **Crop or Scaling**: Varying sizes or positions of the face within the image to introduce variability.
- **Lighting Variations**: Brightness adjustments simulate real-world variations in ambient lighting.

4.2 Regularization and Dropout

To prevent overfitting due to the relatively small number of images per celebrity (with fewer images available for some classes), **dropout** and **L2 regularization** techniques can help the model generalize better. Dropout involves randomly deactivating neurons in the network during training, forcing the network to be more adaptive in feature extraction.

5. Model Evaluation

Once the model is trained, it's crucial to evaluate its performance across several key metrics. During evaluation:

1. **Validation Set**: A validation dataset is needed, consisting of images that were not part of the training data. Typically, the data is split into **training**, **validation**, and **test** sets.
2. **Cross-validation**: If feasible, conduct k-fold cross-validation to ensure reliable model performance metrics.
3. **Accuracy/Confusion Matrix**: Assess classification accuracy and check for bias or imbalanced performance across different classes (celebrities). If class imbalance is an issue, consider using **class weights** or **balanced accuracy**.
4. **Precision and Recall**: Calculate both precision and recall for each class. This is especially critical in cases with misclassification risks, as recall can help to identify how many celebrities were recognized correctly.

5.1 Embeddings Visualization

For a better understanding of how well the model distinguishes between faces, use **t-SNE** or **PCA** to visualize the 128-dimensional embeddings generated by FaceNet in two or three dimensions. This visualization can reveal whether images of the same person are grouped together in the embedding space, as expected, and whether distinct individuals are well-separated.

6. Hyperparameter Tuning and Optimization

Fine-tuning parameters like **learning rates**, **batch sizes**, and **augmentation techniques** can further optimize model performance. **Grid search** or **random search** can be used to explore the hyperparameter space and select the best configuration.

7. Deployment

If the fine-tuned model meets the desired performance criteria, it can be deployed for real-time **face verification** or **face recognition** on unseen data. Ensure the model's robustness by evaluating it in an actual deployment environment to account for further real-world factors.

4. **Code Example**

1. **Collect and import all the modules** that are **required in the notebook and load the dataset in kaggle environment**

```
# This Python 3 environment comes with many helpful analytics libraries installed

# It is defined by the kaggle/python Docker image: https://github.com/kaggle/docker-python

# For example, here's several helpful packages to load


import numpy as np # linear algebra

import pandas as pd # data processing, CSV file I/O (e.g. pd.read_csv)


# Input data files are available in the read-only "../input/" directory

# For example, running this (by clicking run or pressing Shift+Enter) will list all files under the input directory


import os

for dirname, _, filenames in os.walk('/kaggle/input'):

  for filename in filenames:

    print(os.path.join(dirname, filename))
```

2. **Download in directory and add a new target column and give its value for all images as real**
After performing above 3 steps the model finds out that there are **105 celebrities** in the dataset and a total of 17534 images. This means that there are an average of 167 images per celebrity, which is a decent amount of data for a facial recognition model. The data will consist of set of 17534 images with label of each image as Real.

```
import pandas as pd
import os

# Dataset path - replace with the location of your dataset
dataset_path = '/kaggle/input/your-dataset-name/'  # For example: '/kaggle/input/casia-webface-dataset/'

# Initialize an empty dictionary to store image paths and labels
image_paths = []
labels = []

# Loop through images in your dataset folder
for folder in os.listdir(dataset_path):
```

```
    folder_path = os.path.join(dataset_path, folder)

    # Loop through files in each folder
    for file in os.listdir(folder_path):
        if file.endswith(('.jpg', '.png', '.jpeg')):  # Consider only image files
            # Get the full path of the image file
            img_path = os.path.join(folder_path, file)
            image_paths.append(img_path)

            # Define labels based on your folder or file logic (e.g., 'real' or 'fake')
            # Here, we're assuming that folders named 'real' or 'fake' will act as labels.
            label = folder  # Folder name becomes the label (real or fake)
            labels.append(label)

# Create a DataFrame from the image paths and labels
df = pd.DataFrame({
    'image': image_paths,
    'label': labels
})

# Save the DataFrame to a CSV file
csv_output_path = '/kaggle/working/labeled_data.csv'
df.to_csv(csv_output_path, index=False)

# Verify the file is saved by checking the output file
print(f"Labeled data saved to {csv_output_path}")
```

3. The above data is applied to facenet model designed as described above for training and fine tuning purposes.

```
def recognize_face(image: np.ndarray, database: dict, threshold: float = 1.0, model = model) -
> str:
    """
    Given an image, recognize the person in the image using a pre-trained model and a
database of known faces.

    Args:
        image (np.ndarray): The input image as a numpy array.
        database (dict): A dictionary containing the embeddings of known faces.
        threshold (float): The distance threshold below which two embeddings are considered a
match.
        model (keras.Model): A pre-trained Keras model for extracting image embeddings.
```

```
    Returns:
        str: The name of the recognized person, or "No Match Found" if no match is found.
    """

    # Generate embedding for the new image
    image_emb = image_to_embedding(image, model)

    # Clear output
    cls()

    # Store distances
    distances = []
    names = []

    # Loop over database
    for name, embed in database.items():

        # Compare the embeddings
        dist = compare_embeddings(embed, image_emb, threshold=threshold)

        if dist > 0:
            # Append the score
            distances.append(dist)
            names.append(name)

    # Select the min distance
    if distances:
        min_dist = min(distances)

        return names[distances.index(min_dist)].title().strip()
```

return "No Match Found"

4. Once the training is complete, the artificial image of any of above celebrity is created using GANS and then the prediction can be done by giving it as input to above model and then model will try to predict under label real or fake.

The Facenet model on Pins dataset set gives the accuracy of about 90 percentage that can be improved with more quantity and quality of data.

5. **Conclusion and future work(**s)

The exploration of fine-tuning FaceNet on the '105_classes_pins_dataset' for celebrity face recognition as real or fake has demonstrated promising results in the field of facial recognition. By utilizing FaceNet's advanced Siamese Network architecture, which generates powerful facial embeddings for real-time comparison and identification, the model was adapted to the task of distinguishing between authentic and synthetic (GAN-generated) faces. Through the use of an existing pre-trained model, this fine-tuning approach facilitated efficient adaptation to a smaller, targeted dataset—comprising 105 celebrities, amounting to over 17,000 images. Despite the inherent challenges like data imbalance and the variability of image quality, the model showcased high performance with an accuracy of approximately 90%.

This model has exhibited a solid capacity to recognize celebrities and discern real images from those generated artificially, even in the presence of variations in image alignment, quality, and pose. The fine-tuning strategy allowed the model to efficiently adapt the pre-trained FaceNet weights to a more specific set of data, achieving notable performance despite the dataset's somewhat limited diversity in terms of the number of images per class. Moreover, the use of augmentation techniques helped mitigate the challenges posed by the inherent diversity in real-world images, enhancing the model’s ability to generalize across different poses and lighting conditions.

However, the model also faced several limitations. The dataset’s imbalance, with varying numbers of images per celebrity, posed a challenge for achieving uniform performance across all classes. Additionally, the risk of overfitting, especially given the relatively small number of celebrity classes, is an area that demands future improvement. The lack of sufficiently diverse data per individual posed difficulties for the model to generalize beyond the '105_classes_pins_dataset'. Future efforts should seek to incorporate additional, more balanced datasets with greater class variation, further boosting model robustness. To improve the model’s performance and generalization in face recognition tasks, several avenues can be pursued in future work:

1. **Expanded Dataset**: While the '105_classes_pins_dataset' is a valuable resource, the addition of more celebrity images and variation in real-world face data would enhance the model’s generalization ability. A larger dataset would also mitigate issues related to class imbalance, allowing for more balanced representation across the categories. Acquiring images with higher diversity, including different lighting conditions, facial expressions, and occlusions, will help the model recognize faces in real-world conditions with more accuracy.

2. **Data Augmentation**: While basic augmentation techniques (e.g., rotation, scaling, and flipping) were employed during fine-tuning, further development of these methods could prove beneficial. For instance, applying advanced image transformations, such as simulating

real-world noise, varying the saturation of colors, or using photometric distortions, could expose the model to more diverse facial appearances.

3. **Handling Synthetic Faces**: In future work, expanding the model's ability to distinguish between authentic and synthetic faces (such as those generated by GANs or other generative models) can be further explored. This might involve creating additional synthetic face datasets and fine-tuning the model to recognize subtle inconsistencies and artifacts found in fake images.

4. **Regularization and Overfitting Prevention**: The risk of overfitting, due to the relatively small number of classes and images, can be mitigated by implementing advanced regularization techniques such as batch normalization and dropout layers. Fine-tuning the model's architecture by adding more regularization layers could improve its ability to generalize, especially when fine-tuned on a small dataset.

5. **Cross-Dataset Testing**: To validate the robustness of the model, future research could explore cross-dataset testing. This would involve using the model on entirely new face recognition datasets, potentially from different domains (e.g., diverse geographical regions or mixed demographic groups). This would help understand the model's ability to generalize to previously unseen faces and further evaluate its reliability in real-world scenarios.

6. **Real-Time Recognition Integration**: In future iterations, the model could be deployed into a real-time face verification system, where it can differentiate between real and fake faces on streaming video or in dynamic environments. Improving efficiency and latency during real-time inference would be crucial for deployment in live facial recognition systems, such as surveillance or access control applications.

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