INTERLEAVED INCREMENTAL-DECREMENTAL SUPPORT VECTOR MACHINE FOR EMBEDDED APPLICATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Incremental Decremental Support Vector Machine (IDSVM) is one of the widely used incremental learning algorithms known for its high accuracy for data stream analytics and high computational complexity. One of the biggest problems of IDSVM is that the model scales with the input data set size that directly correlates with the computational and memory resources. In order to deploy IDSVM in an embedded system with limited memory, a moving window architecture is needed to limit the kernel sizes. However, this also increases the overall complexity of the algorithm since each data instance needs to be unlearned when exiting the window. This thesis proposes an Interleaved IDSVM (IIDSVM) algorithm that performs incremental and decremental learning concurrently. The interleaved method can reduce the overall kernel size and consume less memory. This thesis also proposes a reduced-division IIDSVM algorithm that replaces the more complex division operations with simpler inverse multiplications. Certain IIDSVM tasks can be simplified by replacing most of the complex divisions with inverse multiplication that can achieve a similar outcome since only a single sample variation value is used to update the weights.Finally, a Radial Basis Function (RBF) kernel, which is a widely used kernel in SVM, is proposed to be implemented as a hardware accelerator to speed up the computation time of the IIDSVM. Based on our experiments, the proposed IIDSVM achieved a speedup of 2.5 - 4.2× on computation time while producing similar accuracy as IDSVM and LIBSVM. Furthermore, the reduced-division IIDSVM can improve computation time up to 1.4× on a Nios II embedded platform for certain data sets. The RBF kernel's hardware implementation is analyzed on the Stratix V Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) platform. It can perform up to four orders of magnitude faster than the software implementation on the Nios II embedded processor for data sets with 8, 12, and 16 feature sizes. Besides that, the proposed architecture RBF kernel can maintain a maximum operating frequency of approximately 200Mhz for feature sizes 8, 12, and 16. Collectively the proposed works can improve the runtime of incremental SVM compute-intensive data stream analytics.

ABSTRAK

Mesin Vektor Sokongan Tokokan dan Susutan (IDSVM) ialah salah satu algoritma pembelajaran tokokan yang digunakan secara meluas dengan ketepatan yang tinggi untuk analitik aliran data tetapi mempunyai kerumitan pengiraannya yang tinggi. Salah satu masalah terbesar IDSVM ialah model berskala dengan saiz set data input yang berkorelasi secara langsung dengan sumber pengiraan dan memori. Untuk menggunakan IDSVM dalam sistem terbenam dengan memori terhad, seni bina seakan tetingkap bergerak diperlukan untuk mengehadkan saiz kernel. Walau bagaimanapun, ini juga meningkatkan kerumitan keseluruhan algoritma kerana setiap tika perlu dilupakan apabila keluar dari tetingkap. Tesis ini mencadangkan algoritma IDSVM antara kembar (IIDSVM) yang melaksanakan pembelajaran tokokan dan susutan secara serentak. Kaedah antara kembar boleh mengurangkan saiz kernel keseluruhan dan menggunakan memori yang lebih kecil. Tesis ini juga mencadangkan algoritma IIDSVM dengan pengurangan pembahagian dan menggantikan operasi bahagi yang kompleks dengan pendaraban songsang yang lebih mudah. Tugas-tugas tertentu dalam IIDSVM boleh dipermudahkan dengan menggantikan sebahagian besar pembahagian kompleks dengan pendaraban songsang bagi mencapai hasil yang serupa kerana hanya satu nilai variasi sampel digunakan untuk mengemas kini pemberat. Akhir sekali, kernel Radial Basis Function (RBF), yang merupakan kernel yang digunakan secara meluas dalam SVM, dicadangkan untuk dilaksanakan sebagai pemecut perkakasan untuk mempercepatkan masa pengiraan daripada IIDSVM. Berdasarkan eksperimen kami, IIDSVM yang dicadangkan mencapai penambahbaikan 2.5 - 4.2× pada masa pengiraan sambil menghasilkan ketepatan yang serupa seperti IDSVM dan LIBSVM. IIDSVM pembahagian berkurang boleh meningkatkan masa pengiraan sehingga 1.4× pada platform terbenam Nios II untuk set data tertentu. Pelaksanaan perkakasan kernel RBF dianalisis pada platform Stratix V Tatasusunan Get Boleh Program Medan (FPGA). Pemecut perkakasan RBF boleh melakukan sehingga empat urutan magnitud lebih pantas daripada pelaksanaan perisian pada pemproses terbenam NiosII untuk set data dengan saiz ciri 8, 12 dan 16. Selain itu, kernel RBF seni bina yang dicadangkan boleh mengekalkan kekerapan operasi maksimum kira-kira 200Mhz untuk saiz ciri 8, 12, dan 16. Secara kolektif kerja-kerja yang dicadangkan boleh meningkatkan daya pemprosesan bagi pengiraan intensif analitik aliran data SVM.

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becomes apparent in embedded systems with limited computing power and memory. Storing and processing a very large volume of data will be deemed infeasible. Thus, incremental learning is needed for Big Data applications since it can process data in real-time and update its model as data arrives [7].

1.1 Embedded Incremental Learning

As a new data instance arrives, incremental learning in an embedded system would allow it to learn beyond its design and production phases. However, the environment and habits may differ depending on the user and in certain application traffic varies with time or season. Therefore dedicated machine learning model is required to adapt to the concept changes. The batch learning approach for an embedded system can overcome this problem by outsourcing its data to the cloud, giving it access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources. By outsourcing data, users of embedded system applications can be relieved from local data storage maintenance, computation burden and communication to the cloud. However, users no longer have physical possession of large outsourced data, which makes data integrity and protection a huge problem. Data encryption can be added, though this will introduce additional latency to the overall system.

Applications such as self-driving autonomous robots, robotic vacuum cleaners and lawnmowers can benefit from fast and reliable learning to perform decision-making when their environments are constantly changing [1, 6, 8]. Incremental learning can continually learn beyond the production phase. Moreover, for cloud computing to work, a permanent and reliable connection is needed; and such infrastructure may not be available in the location where the embedded systems are deployed. Besides that, users also may not want to part with their data due to privacy issues. Reliance on cloud systems to process all raw data would incur additional latency. Having an embedded device with continuous learning capability can provide earlier decision making [1]. Arduino Nano 33 [9], ARM Cortex-M processors [10], and Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs) [11] are some of the example of platform when embedded learning are implemented. The constrain on application is dependent on the platform in which the machine learning is implemented.

Multiple challenges need to be addressed in incorporating incremental learning in an embedded system. For instance, in stream-like architecture, data that have passed cannot be recovered. Therefore, incoming data need to be incorporated into the model as soon as possible. Besides that, limited embedded system memory limits the number of training samples that can be maintained. Therefore, the system memory needs to continuously remove old data and update the latest incoming data. On the whole, embedded incremental learning needs to be fast, accurate, and forget or unlearn outdated data.

There are several algorithms for incremental learning such as Incremental Decremental Support Vector Machine (IDSVM) [12], LASVM [13], On-line Random Forest (ORF) [14], Incremental Learning Vector Quantization (ILVQ) [15], Learn++ (LPP_{CART}) [16], Incremental Extreme Learning Machine (IELM) [17], Naive Bayes (NB_{Gauss}) [18], and Stochastic Gradient Descent $SGDB_{\text{Lin}}$) [19]. The aforementioned algorithms are able to perform instance incremental learning where learning takes place as data arrives. Each of these algorithms has various levels of complexity which result in different levels of performance in terms of accuracy and timing. Based on a comparison study on several incremental learning algorithm done in [1], IDSVM has the best accuracy but high computational complexity.

1.2 Problem Statement

IDSVM is one of the most accurate incremental learning algorithms for a variety of data set [1]. However, IDSVM has difficulty handling a very large data set due to its algorithmic limitation. When applied to a large data set, the IDSVM has to compute many support vectors, resulting in a large inverse kernel matrix which causes an exponential increase in memory size requirement. In order to cope with this limitation on IDSVM, Shao et al. [20], and Ma et al. [21] applied a moving window approach to limit the number of support vectors to a fixed value. With the moving window

approach, IDSVM can be applied to larger data sets, and hardware implementation on an embedded platform and Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) devices becomes feasible [20].

The data samples within an IDSVM model cannot be removed. Instead, it has to be unlearned, where the weights of all remaining data samples are recalibrated as a single data sample is being unlearned. The complexity of unlearning a data sample is similar to learning it [12]. Therefore, the moving window approach adds complexity to the overall algorithm and directly reduces the system's overall throughput. The added computation of unlearning every time new data arrives becomes even more critical for embedded platform implementation, where processing capability is limited and operates at a lower clock frequency.

To the best of our knowledge, the first and only complete implementation of IDSVM in an FPGA device was done by Shao et al. [20]. In this work, IDSVM was implemented using a dataflow programming language, Maxeler J, targeted for regression problems. The implementation was done on a Stratix V FPGA device. The IDSVM algorithm was based on the work by Cauwenberghs and Poggio [12]. Shao et al. [20] tested their implementation for stock prediction. It also discussed the algorithm restructuring for faster memory access time. However, open problems on the IDSVM complexity on window based implementation are yet to be explored.

For embedded system platforms like ARM Cortex M33, M22 [10], and Nios II/f [22] embedded processor, the division instruction takes longer execution time compared to multiplication. Besides that, within the IDSVM algorithm, many division computations are repeated continuously during the learning and unlearning processes. The division operations that involve a constant denominator can be optimized into inverse multiplication during compile time [23–25]. However, the division operation in the IDSVM algorithm involves two variables, thus requiring the division instruction from the compiler, that reduces the overall performance of IDSVM on embedded systems. Reducing the number of division operations within the IDSVM algorithm is currently an open problem.

There are numerous works aimed at implementing SVM with Radial Basis Function (RBF) kernel for embedded systems, such as [20, 26–30]. The RBF kernel is the most popular choice in many applications since it can handle a wide range of data formats and has only a few tuning parameters [31]. Based on [32], the computation time for an IDSVM algorithm mainly revolves around RBF kernel computation. However, the RBF kernel hardware architecture for the IDSVM algorithm is yet to be explored.

1.3 Objectives

The primary aim of this thesis is to propose an IDSVM algorithm that is suitable for embedded systems. The proposed algorithm is targeted to have faster runtime and low memory footprint. Besides that, the algorithm can be optimized better to suit the limited capability of an embedded system. Specifically, this thesis proposes the following objectives:

- 1. To propose an improved IDSVM algorithm that allows the learning and unlearning tasks to be done in parallel. The IDSVM algorithm is analyzed for tasks that can be performed in parallel. Next, the Interleaved Incremental Support Vector Machine (IIDSVM) algorithm is proposed using a dual window that enables simultaneous learning and unlearning. The IIDSVM is then implemented and analyzed for overall runtime, accuracy and memory utilization.
- 2. To propose an improved algorithm of IIDSVM by reducing the number of division operations. The reduced-division IIDSVM is targeted to speed up IIDSVM on embedded platform with an acceptable accuracy. The IIDSVM algorithm is first analyzed, and parts of the algorithm that utilizes division operations are replaced using inverse multiplication to achieve similar accuracy. The proposed algorithm is then validated against the unmodified IIDSVM on and the overall runtime is analyzed.
- 3. To design a fully pipelined hardware architecture of the RBF kernel for the IIDSVM. The proposed architecture is parameterizable and minimizes the data transfer needed between the hardware and software partitions. The proposed

hardware architecture is then analyzed for runtime, accuracy, resource utilization and maximum operating frequency.

1.4 Scope of Work

The IDSVM implementation in this thesis is based from Parrella's work [33] on MATLAB. Parrella's IDSVM [33] targets online learning for regression based on Cauwenberghs and Poggio work [12]. There are many variations of IDSVM, and Cauwenberghs and Poggio's work [12] has always been referred to as the true incremental support vector machine [1]. The main IDSVM benchmark is then modified with moving window architecture based on Shao et al. [20] architecture.

The IDSVM algorithm in this thesis only targets regression problems. Similar to [20], the proposed work also targets stock price applications. For classification data sets that consist of multiple classes, each class needs to be compared against other classes. SVM, by nature, is a binary classifier. In order to handle multiple classes, multiple incremental learning models are required. However, only a single model is required for regression applications and binary classification problems. The discussion on the effect of multi-class application towards the proposed algorithm is beyond the scope of this thesis.

Four regression data sets from the different applications are used for functional and performance validation. The data set consists of abalone [34], cadata [35], cpusmall [36], and stock_mid [37]. Abalone, cadata and cpu_small data sets are available in LIBSVM [31]. These data sets are taken from secondary sources since the data structure had been preprocessed to be compatible with LIBSVM. The stock-mid data is taken directly from reference [20] on incremental SVM implementation, and the data structure is already compatible with LIBSVM.

Multiple kernels can be applied on LIBSVM, such as Linear, Polynomial, RBF, or Sigmoid. In this thesis, the RBF kernel is used for all implementations. RBF kernel is the most common choice in many applications mainly due to its ability to handle a wide range of data types as well as having only a few parameters for tuning [31].

The FPGA device used in this thesis is Intel Stratix V. For embedded processor implementation of the incremental SVM, Nios II soft-core processor is used. The Nios II processor core is a 32-bit RISC processor optimized for use in Intel's mainstream FPGAs. Only the RBF kernel is implemented in hardware for the FPGA implementation of the proposed IIDSVM. The kernel is the most compute-intensive section in the incremental SVM algorithm [32]. In addition, this section of the algorithm is deterministically recursive and has the potential for parallelism. The proposed RBF kernel is designed without automation using Verilog code.

For objective 1, the IIDSVM experiment is done on a MATLAB environment. The computer has an Intel I5 4460 CPU, with 8 GB of memory. The proposed IIDSVM is evaluated for overall runtime, accuracy and memory utilization. For objective 2, a single Nios II SoC is used for the embedded platform, and the implementation is evaluated in terms of accuracy and runtime. The single Nios II implementation of IDSVM emulated the single window implementation. For the IIDSVM, the results are approximated from IDSVM result using the speed-up factor obtained from objective 1. Finally, for objective 3 the proposed RBF kernel hardware implementation for IIDSVM is implemented on Stratix V FPGA and analyzed for runtime, accuracy, resource utilization and maximum operating frequency.

1.5 Contribution

The following are the expected contribution of the thesis:

- 1. The proposed IIDSVM algorithm is an improved algorithm over the conventional IDSVM algorithm proposed in Shao et al. [20]. The IIDSVM algorithm enables learning and unlearning to be performed simultaneously, resulting in higher throughput and lesser memory utilization for the kernel implementation.
- 2. Specific compute-intensive division operations within the IIDSVM algorithm are substituted with inverse multiplication. As a result, the proposed algorithm reduces the overall computational complexity, which results in faster computational time while producing similar accuracy.
- 3. A hardware-accelerated RBF kernel module for IIDSVM is developed. The hardware module is parameterizable and can adapt to different application requirements. Furthermore, the proposed hardware computes the RBF kernel much faster than the equivalent software model implemented in the embedded processor core.

1.6 Thesis Structure

The remainder of the thesis is organized as follows.

Chapter 2 covers literature-related works and discusses important aspects of incremental learning, mainly focusing on IDSVM. First, a comparison between batch and incremental learning is discussed. The application and justification of incremental learning are also included in this chapter. Next is the discussion on SVM and its algorithm developments, followed by a discussion on related works on IDSVM and the existing hardware implementation of IDSVM. Finally, this chapter ends with a discussion on the motivation for extended works on IDSVM based on the limitation of prior implementations.

Chapter 3 provides the methodology for the thesis work. This chapter also includes the general approach in IDSVM research presented in this thesis and the tools and platform used to model the proposed IIDSVM. The final section in this chapter describes the data sets used for verifications and the prequential analysis used to evaluate an incremental machine learning model's performance accurately.

Chapter 4 presents the proposed IIDSVM algorithm. This chapter first discusses the details on the development of the IDSVM. Then, the discussion continues to the moving window method for hardware implementation for the proposed IIDSVM. The proposed method is then compared with the conventional method and analyzed for overall runtime, accuracy and memory utilization.

Chapter 5 focuses on optimizing IIDSVM for embedded systems by reducing division operations. This chapter starts by comparing multiplication and division operations for embedded system applications. This is followed by a detailed analysis of the IIDSVM algorithm, where division operation can be replaced with multiplication and comparator operation. Finally, the proposed algorithm is compared with the unaltered IIDSVM for the overall runtime.

Chapter 6 discusses the fully pipelined RBF kernel implementation architecture in hardware. First, the RBF kernel equation is discussed, followed by the features and specifications needed to operate in an incremental learning environment. This is then followed by details on the hardware architecture of the RBF kernel. Finally, the performance of the proposed hardware is analyzed in terms of runtime, accuracy, resource utilization and maximum operating frequency.

Chapter 7 summarises the outcome of research objectives re-stating the contribution to knowledge and their significance and suggestions for future research directions.

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Indexed Journal (SCOPUS)

1. Sirkunan, J., Tang, J.W., Shaikh-Husin, N. and Marsono, M.N., 2019. A streaming multi-class support vector machine classification architecture for embedded systems. Indonesian Journal of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, 16(3), pp.1286-1296.

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- 1. Sirkunan, J., Shaikh-Husin, N. and Marsono, M.N., 2019, May. Interleaved Incremental/Decremental Support Vector Machine for Embedded System. In 2019 IEEE International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS) (pp. 1-5). IEEE.
- 2. Sirkunan, J., Shaikh-Husin, N., Andromeda, T. and Marsono, M.N., 2017, September. Reconfigurable logic embedded architecture of support vector machine linear kernel. In 2017 4th International Conference on Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Informatics (EECSI) (pp. 1-5). IEEE.