Inference on computational models from predictions of representational geometries

Nikolaus Kriegeskorte MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit Cambridge, UK

Inference on computational models from predictions of representational geometries

MVPA can reveal what information is present in a region (in a linearly decodable format).

Ultimately, we want to learn about the computational mechanisms of brain information processing.

We can test computational models by comparing their internal representations to brain representations.



Representational geometry

The geometry of the points in a high-dimensional response pattern space, which are thought to represent particular stimuli.



cell recordings



Kriegeskorte et al. 2008, cell recordings from Kiani et al. 2007



Kriegeskorte et al. 2008, cell recordings from Kiani et al. 2007



Seyed-Mahdi Khaligh-Razavi

Deep convolutional neural network

- state of the art in computer vision
- · trained with stochastic gradient descent
- supervised with 1.2 million category-labeled images
- 60 million parameters and 650,000 neurons

Is this network functionally similar to the brain?



Krizhevsky et al. 2012

Deep supervised convolutional network



Khaligh-Razavi & Kriegeskorte 2014, Nili et al. 2014 (RSA Toolbox)

Estimating the noise ceiling



Estimating the noise ceiling



Deep supervised convolutional network



Khaligh-Razavi & Kriegeskorte 2014, Nili et al. 2014 (RSA Toolbox)

The deep net almost reached the noise ceiling!

Can weighted combinations of its units fully explain the IT representation?

Khaligh-Razavi & Kriegeskorte 2014

Representational feature weighting with non-negative least-squares





Khaligh-Razavi & Kriegeskorte (2014)

Representational feature weighting with non-negative least-squares



$$\mathbf{w} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{w}\in\mathbf{R}^{+n}} \sum_{i\neq j} \left[\frac{\mathbf{d}_{i,j}^{2}}{d_{i,j}^{2}} - \hat{d}_{i,j}^{2} \right]^{2} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{w}\in\mathbf{R}^{+n}} \sum_{i\neq j} \left[d^{2} - \sum_{k=1}^{n} w_{k}^{2} \cdot \text{RDM}_{k} \right]_{i,j}^{2}$$

 w_k weight given to model feature k

 $f_k(i)$ model feature k for stimulus i

*d*_{*i,i*} distance between stimuli *i,j*

Khaligh-Razavi & Kriegeskorte (2014) \mathbf{w} is the weight vector $[w_1 \ w_2 \ \dots \ w_k]$ minimising the squared errors

Deep supervised convolutional network remixed & reweighted

3 SVM discriminants

- animate/inanimate
- face/nonface
- body/nonbody

non-neg. least squares one weight for each layer and each SVM discriminant



IT-geometry-supervised deep conv. network

Khaligh-Razavi & Kriegeskorte 2014

Deep supervised convolutional network remixed & reweighted





Khaligh-Razavi & Kriegeskorte 2014, Nili et al. 2014 (RSA Toolbox)

Conclusions

We can go beyond decoding stimulus information and test explicit computational models of brain information processing.

Representations in brains and models can be characterised by representational dissimilarity matrices (RDMs).

Multiple models can be statistically compared by nonparametric statistical inference.

The noise ceiling tells us whether a model fully explains our data, guiding us to seek either a better model or more data.

Combinations of representational features correspond to additive squared distance components, which can be fitted with nonnegative least squares.

Nili et al. (2014) Khaligh-Razavi et al. (2014) Diedrichsen et al. (2011)