

# Automatic Feature Extraction for Social Touch Classification

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## Motivation

Tactile Modality is vital in subtle communication and conveying emotion  
→ A need for automatic social gesture recognition

### Previous Studies

Classification with the Corpus of Social Touch (CoST)

- Manual feature engineering
- Highest accuracy: 60%  
→ need better feature extraction to minimize possible humans' errors in hand-picked features

### Goal

Automatic and inexpensive feature extraction for accurate classification

## Dataset

The Corpus of Social Touch (CoST) - Jung et al. (2017)

- 14 gestures were captured.  
(Grab, hit, massage, pat, pinch, poke, press, rub, scratch, slap, squeeze, stroke, tap, tickle)
- 3 variants (gentle, normal, rough)
- The number of frames: 10 – 1747 (average: 191.78)
- Each frame consists of 64 channels (8 x 8 sensor grid)
- The channel values: 0 – 1023

### Preprocessing

- Zero-padded to 1747 x 64
- Incremented by 1 before zero-padding
- Training : Validation: Test = 7 : 1 : 2

## Experiment

## Feature Extraction

### ConvLSTM Autoencoder

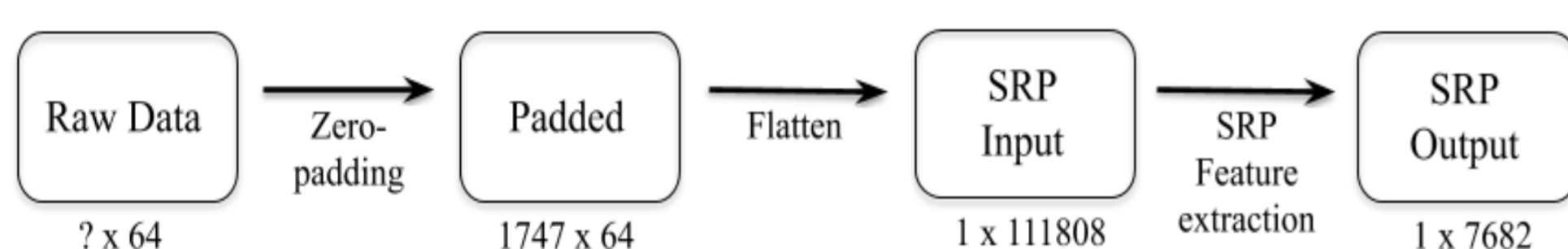
- Capture spatio-temporal correlation
- 93,640 trainable parameters
- Latent representation of size 2048

### Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

- Extract the dominant patterns in the data matrix
- Output of size 6400

### Sparse Random Projection (SRP)

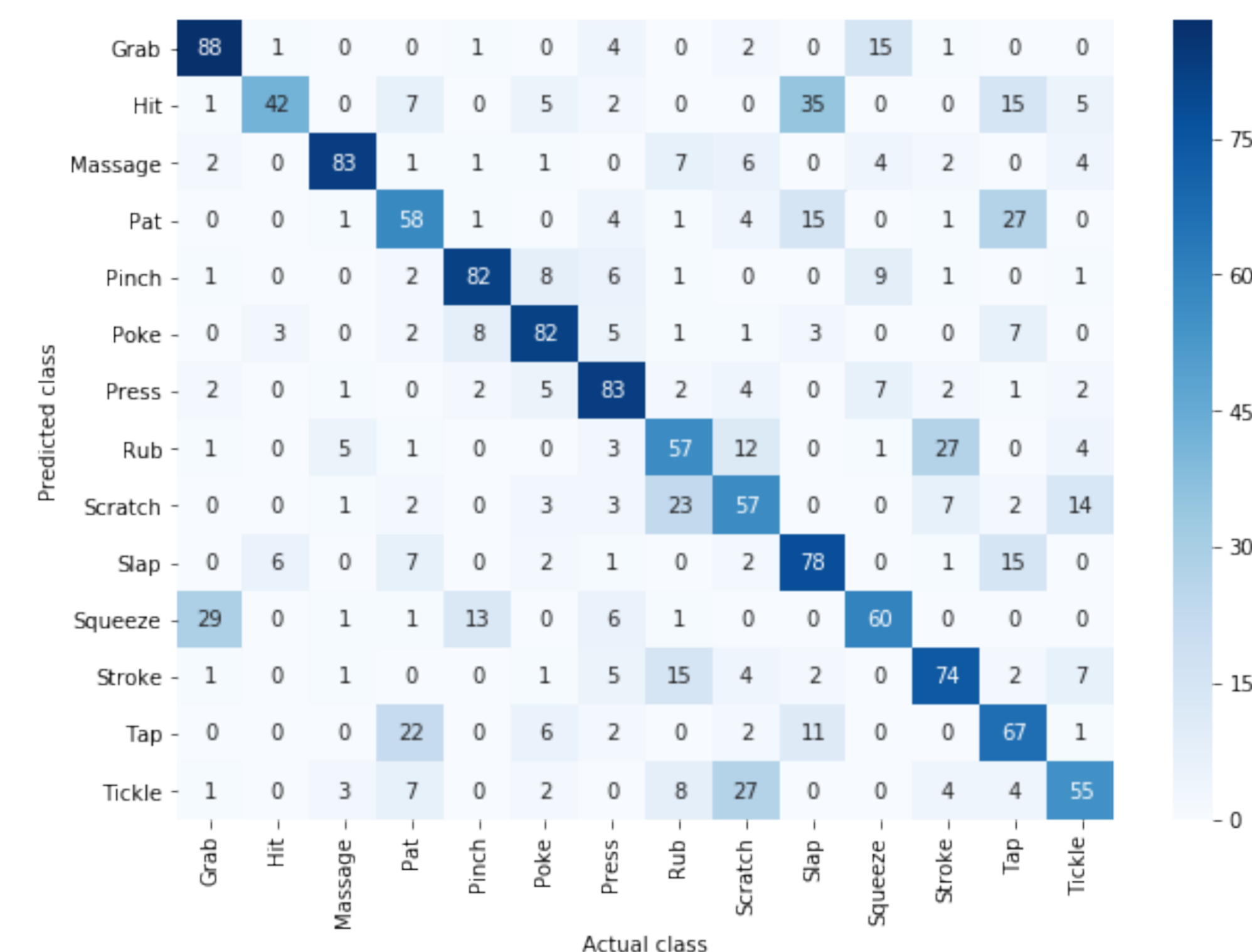
- Any high dimensional data can be converted into a lower dimensional space through random projection (Johnson-Lindenstrauss)
- Random projection matrix density:  $1/\sqrt{n\_features}$
- Output size:  $n \text{ components} \geq \frac{4 \log(n \text{ samples})}{\epsilon^2 - \epsilon^3}$



## Results

	ConvLSTM-AE	PCA	SRP
Output size	2048	6400	7682
Training hours	20	4	2
Training accuracy (%)	-	98.45	92.50
Test accuracy (%)	-	29.08	61.88

	All	Gentle	Normal	Rough
SRP-CNN	.62	.58	.68	.60
Bayesian	.57	.52	.59	.58
Decision tree	.48	.43	.49	.52
SVM linear	.59	.54	.60	.62
SVM RBF	.60	.54	.60	.62
Neural Network	.59	.52	.58	.59

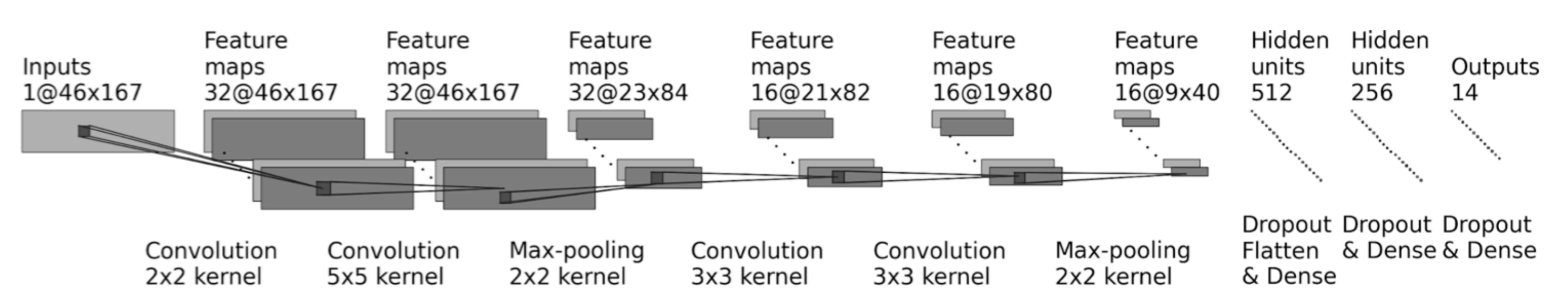


- SRP showed the best performance with test accuracy 61.88% (M=62%, SD=13%)
- Misclassification mostly due to similarity in nature between certain gestures
- Accuracy higher than the models from the previous studies
- Robust to different gesture variations

## Classification

### Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

- Classified 14 different gestures (not considering variants)
- Trained 250 epochs for the best performance
- Loss function:  $L(y, \hat{y}) = - \sum_{j=0}^M \sum_{i=0}^N (y_{ij} * \log(\hat{y}_{ij}))$
- Optimizer: AdaDelta



## Discussion

### Future Work

- Using SRP with different configurations and classifiers for a more optimal projected space
- Measuring the generalization performance of each pipeline
- Incorporating data from other modalities or other datasets of the tactile modality may enhance the classification of the gestures

### Conclusion

- A more memory and computation efficient pipeline to classify social touch gestures
- A stepping stone in developing real-time touch recognition

### References

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