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Subject: Re: slow processing of my k-nearest neighbour code  
Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Tue, 15 Aug 2006 15:14:14 GMT  
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humphreymurray@gmail.com wrote:

> Wow, that's a great idea to remove most of the code from the loops.  
> The only problem is that the code doesn't run on data of any usable  
> size. I get a "Unable to allocate memory: to make array" error on this  
> line of code:  
>  
> training\_duplicates = REBIN(TRANSPPOSE(training\_data), \$  
>     num\_attributes, num\_training\_elements, num\_testing\_elements)  
>  
> This code works fine with really small data, but when I'm trying to  
> classify a 256x256 pixel image, it is trying to create an array of  
> dimensions: [15, 400, 65536]. According to my math, this would be  
> about 390 million elements, and assuming that each element takes 1 byte  
> of memory, it would use 390mb of ram. My machine at uni only has 512mb  
> of ram, so I will try this code at home tonight, where I have 1gb of  
> ram.  
>  
> Would the way to fix this problem be to split the number of training  
> pixels up, and process them in small groups? For example, analyse a  
> row of pixels at a time?

Yes, one of the key limitations of this technique is that it uses extra memory to achieve faster processing speeds (at least, it should process faster: I'd recommend doing some performance testing with your actual data, to make sure). Breaking up the full test data set into smaller sub-sets is exactly the right way to deal with this problem. I would have mentioned that if I'd realized that you were working with arrays that were big enough for that to be a problem.

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