Towards hardware-friendlier neural networks

Roland Memisevic

University of Montreal

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Machine Learning



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Learning allows us to harness training data

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- Learning allows us to harness training data
- Learning allows us to harness parallelization

Neural networks



Floating point multiplication



figure from:

http://www.gamasutra.com/view/news/128521/Indepth_IEEE_754_Multiplication_And_Addition.php

Waste of circuitry?

Binary Connect

- Courbariaux, Bengio, David (2015):
- Stochastically binarize (or ternarize) weights during propagation (forward and backward) of activations.

$$p(W_{ij} = 1) = \frac{W_{ij} + 1}{2}$$

 $p(W_{ij} = -1) = 1 - P(W_{ij} = 1)$

Use full resolution for weight updates.

Quantized Backprop

$$\Delta W = [\eta \delta \circ h'(Wx + b)] x^{\mathrm{T}}$$

$$\Delta b = \eta \delta \circ h'(Wx + b)$$

$$\delta = [W^{\mathrm{T}}\delta] \circ h'(Wx + b)$$

- Lin, Courbariaux, Memisevic, Bengio (2015):
- Eliminate multiplications in weight updates by quantizing activations to power of two
- see also: (Simard, Graf 1992)

Classification performance

	Full precision	Binary connect	Binary connect + Quantized backprop	Ternary connect + Quantized backprop
MNIST	1.33%	1.23%	1.29%	1.15%
CIFAR10	15.64%	12.04%	12.08%	12.01%
SVHN	2.85%	2.47%	2.48%	2.42%

Two issues with convnets

- The number of neurons is very large: conv-nets maximize the ratio #neurons #parameters
- During learning, updates need to be distributed across parameters, which requires long-range communication. (During inference, it is common to distribute each filter over image locations, too).

Improving fully connected nets

- Architecture (Linear bottleneck layers)
- Non-linearities (Zero-bias relus)
- Optimization (Unsupervised pre-training helps)

Network activation sparsity



Sparsity levels in two networks trained on CIFAR-10. N1=(1000-2000-3000), N2=(2000-2000-2000 units). (N1_Crpt, N2_Crpt trained with dropout).

figure by Kishore Konda

Unfortunately, sparsity leads to "update scarcity".

Interleaved linear layers



Reduce parameters, increase gradient density.

Autoencoders learn negative biases

contractive AE (sigmoid) | denoising AE (ReLU)



 see also M. Ranzato, et al. 2007, K. Kavukcuoglu, et al., 2008.

The 2-d subspaces for images



For orthogonal features, which coefficients minimize reconstruction error?

 $oldsymbol{x} pprox oldsymbol{a}_k = ?, \quad oldsymbol{a}_\ell = ?$

figures by Javier Movellan

The 2-d subspaces for images

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For orthogonal features, which coefficients minimize reconstruction error?

$$oldsymbol{x} pprox oldsymbol{a}_k oldsymbol{w}_k + oldsymbol{a}_\ell oldsymbol{w}_\ell$$
 $oldsymbol{a}_k = oldsymbol{w}_k^{\mathrm{T}} oldsymbol{x}, \quad oldsymbol{a}_\ell = oldsymbol{w}_\ell^{\mathrm{T}} oldsymbol{x}$

figures by Javier Movellan

Do autoencoders orthogonalize weights?

Autoencoders minimize

$$(\boldsymbol{r}(\boldsymbol{x}) - \boldsymbol{x})^2$$

using as the reconstruction:

$$\boldsymbol{r}(\boldsymbol{x}) = W\boldsymbol{h}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{k:h_k \neq 0} h_k \boldsymbol{w}_k$$

where h_k is the output of hidden unit k

 For orthonormal active weights the optimal coefficients would be:

$$h_k = \boldsymbol{w}_k^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{x}$$

In reality, a ReLU autoencoder uses

$$h_k = \boldsymbol{w}_k^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{x} + b_k$$

Truncated rectified unit (Trec)



Like spike-and-slab, hard-threshold, "coring"

Truncated linear unit (TLin)



Like spike-and-slab, hard-threshold, "coring"

ZAE features from tiny images (Torralba et al.)





(Zhouhan Lin)



(Zhouhan Lin)



(Zhouhan Lin)

8 layers and dropout: **69.62%** Training with deformations (not perm-invariant): **78.62%**



- 1. Logistic Regression on whitened data (Krishevsky);
- 2. Pure backprop on a 782-10000-10 network (Krishevsky);
- 3. Pure backprop on a 782-10000-10000-10 network (Krishevsky);
- 4. RBM with 2 hidden layers of 10000 hidden units each, plus alogistic regression (Krishevsky);
- 5. RBM with 10000 hiddens plus logistic regression (Krishevsky);
- 6. Fastfood FFT model (13);
- 7. Zerobias autoencoder of 4000 hidden units with logistic regression (10);
- 782-4000-1000-4000-10 Z-Lin network trained without dropout;
- 9. 782-4000-1000-4000-1000-4000-1000-4000-10 Z-Lin network, trained with dropout
- 10. Z-Lin network the same as (8) but trained with dropout and data augmentation

Differentiable models of computation

 (Bahdanau et al. 2014), (Graves et al, 2014), (Weston et al, 2014), (Grefenstette et al. 2015), etc.



Other neural program applications

- Distilling complicated models or functions (Bucila et al 2006)
- Speeding up routines (eg. Esmaeilzadeh et al. 2012)
- Generating, then editing, text (eg. for translation)?
- Generating mocap sequences?

Deep Learning as compute paradigm

- Simulating neural nets on classic hardware never really worked
- Simulating classic hardware on neural nets works quite well
- The reason is that learning is a way to harness any kind of hardware, even the kind of hardware that would be hard to program