Deep Learning

Part II: Practical considerations

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Motivating example: cassava disease classification



Mwebaze et al. 2019: https://arxiv.org/pdf/1908.02900.pdf

Deep Learning in a nutshell





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Loss landscape

- Optimization: find a setting of parameters that minimize the loss.
- Gradients used to **navigate** the loss landscape.
- Non-convexity and high dimensionality cause issues.



Img credits: https://blog.paperspace.com/intro-to-optimization-in-deep-learning-gradient-descent/

Lesson 1: Initialization matters!

Bad initializations:

- Close to local minima
- Areas where gradients vanish/explode



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Rules of thumb*:

- Mean of activations ≈ 0
- Activation variance across layers \approx same $w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1/\#\text{neurons_in})$



* Glorot & Bengio 2010



Lesson 2: Navigate the loss landscape cleverly

- Adaptive learning rate
 - $W = \alpha(t) * W_{grad}$





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Momentum

 $W = \alpha * W_grad$ + b * W_grad_prev





Lesson 3: Improve properties of loss landscape

- Batch-normalization
 - m = BatchNormalization()(m)







Image:Resnet

Lesson 4: Avoid overfitting

Active infections 15 20 25 30 35 45 40 **#Days after lockdown**

Doesn't mean we have to smooth data; it means that in the absence of "strong" evidence we shouldn't make "strong" inferences.

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- Randomly drop units during training
- Prevents unit co-adaptation and overfitting



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```
m = Input(*img_size)
m = Dense(d) (m)
m = Dropout(0.5)(m)
```



Lesson 5: Transfer learning

• Solves many of the issues because it starts from a "good" parameter setting that works well for another, related task.







github.com/amzn/xfer

Transfer learning with feature extraction



github.com/amzn/xfer

Failure cases

Failure cases: unfamiliar poses



school bus 1.0 garbage truck 0.99 punching bag 1.0 snowplow 0.92



Failure cases: data issues

- Real data is messy (e.g. poor focus images)
- Real data is often limited



Failure cases: unexplainable predictions





Quinn et al. 2016: http://proceedings.mlr.press/v56/Quinn16.pdf

Other practical issues regarding learning

- Gradient properties (exploding, vanishing)
- Scalability & Storage (huge networks)
- Numerical issues
- Mismatch between training & test distribution
- Data inefficiency
- Continual learning

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Take home messages

- Understanding the loss landscape
- Initialization matters
- Navigate the loss landscape cleverly (adaptive learning rate; momentum)
- Make loss landscape better behaving
- Avoiding overfitting (early stopping; dropout)
- Transfer learning
- Consider failure cases