## A Gentle Introduction to Deep Learning

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## A brief history

- 1943: neural networks ⇔ logical circuits (McCulloch/Pitts)
- 1949: "cells that fire together wire together" learning rule (Hebb)
- 1969: theoretical limitations of neural networks (Minsky/Papert)
- 1974: backpropagation for training multi-layer networks (Werbos)
- 1986: popularization of backpropagation (Rumelhardt, Hinton, Williams)



Figure from Models of Computation

## A brief history

- 1980: Neocognitron, a.k.a. convolutional neural networks (Fukushima)
- · 1989: backpropagation on convolutional neural networks (LeCun)
- 1990: recurrent neural networks (Elman)
- 1997: Long Short-Term Memory networks (Hochreiter/Schmidhuber)
- 2006: unsupervised layerwise training of deep networks (Hinton et al.)

## What is deep learning?

A family of techniques for learning compositional vector representations of complex data.









## Roadmap

**Feedforward neural networks** 

Convolutional neural networks

Recurrent neural networks

Unsupervised learning

Final remarks

## Review: linear predictors



Output:

$$
f_{\theta}(x) = \mathbf{w} \cdot x
$$

Parameters:  $\theta = w$ 



### Review: neural networks



Intermediate hidden units:

$$
h_j(x) = \sigma(\mathbf{v}_j \cdot x) \quad \sigma(z) = (1 + e^{-z})^{-1}
$$

Output:

$$
f_{\theta}(x) = \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{h}(x)
$$

Parameters:  $\theta = (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{w})$ 

#### Depth



Intuitions:

- Hierarchical feature representations
- Can simulate a bounded computation logic circuit (original motivation from McCul $loch/Pits, 1943)$
- Learn this computation (and potentially more because networks are real-valued)
- Depth  $k+1$  logic circuits can represent more than depth  $k$  (counting argument)
- $\bullet$  Formal theory/understanding is still incomplete

[figure from Honglak Lee]

## What's learned?



3rd layer "Objects"

2nd layer "Object parts"

1st layer "Edges"

Pixels





• Deep networks learn hierarchical representations of data

• Train via SGD, use backpropagation to compute gradients

• Non-convex optimization, but works empirically given enough compute and data

## Review: optimization

Regression:

$$
\text{Loss}(x, y, \theta) = (f_{\theta}(x) - y)^2
$$
\n
$$
\text{Key idea: minimize training loss}
$$
\n
$$
\text{TrainLoss}(\theta) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}_{\text{train}}|} \sum_{(x, y) \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{train}}}
$$
\n
$$
\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d} \text{TrainLoss}(\theta)
$$

Algorithm: stochastic gradient descent-

For  $t = 1, \ldots, T$ : For  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{train}}$ :  $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \eta_t \nabla_{\theta} \textsf{Loss}(x, y, \theta)$ 

## Training



- Non-convex optimization
- No theoretical guarantees that it works
- Before 2000s, empirically very difficult to get working

### What's different today

Computation (time/memory) Information (data)





## How to make it work



- More hidden units (over-provisioning)
- Adaptive step sizes (AdaGrad, ADAM)
- Dropout to guard against overfitting
- Careful initialization (pre-training)
- Batch normalization
- Model and optimization are tightly coupled



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## Motivation



- Observation: images are not arbitrary vectors
- Goal: leverage spatial structure of images (translation invariance)

## Idea: Convolutions



Output

## Prior knowledge



- Local connectivity: each hidden unit operates on a local image patch  $(3 \text{ instead of } 7)$ connections per hidden unit)
- Parameter sharing: processing of each image patch is same (3 parameters instead of  $3.5$ )
- Intuition: try to match a pattern in image

## **Convolutional layers**



. Instead of vector to vector, we do volume to volume

## Max-pooling



- Intuition: test if there exists a pattern in neighborhood
- Reduce computation, prevent overfitting

#### Example of function evaluation







- Non-linearity: use ReIU  $(\max(z, 0))$  instead of logistic
- Data augmentation: translate, horizontal reflection, vary intensity, dropout (guard against overfitting)
- Computation: parallelize across two GPUs (6 days)
- Results on ImageNet: 16.4% error (next best was 25.8%)





- Architecture: deeper but smaller filters; uniform
- Computation: 4 GPUs for 2-3 weeks
- Results on ImageNet: 7.3% error (AlexNet: 16.4%)

## Residual networks



- Key idea: make it easy to learn the identity (good inductive bias)
- Enables training 152 layer networks
- Results on ImageNet: 3.6% error







• Key idea: locality of connections, capture spatial structure

• Filters have parameter sharing; most parameters in last fully connected layers

• Depth really matters

• Applications to text, Go, drug design, etc.



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#### Motivation: modeling sequences

Sentences:

 $x_1$  $x_2$  $x_3$   $x_4$   $x_5$   $x_6$   $x_7$   $x_8$   $x_9$   $x_{10}$   $x_{11}$  $x_{12}$ Paris Talks Set Stage for Action as Risks to the Climate Rise

Time series:



#### Recurrent neural networks



## Recurrent neural networks



$$
h_1 = \text{Encode}(x_1)
$$
  
\n $x_2 \sim \text{Decode}(h_1)$   
\n $h_2 = \text{Encode}(h_1, x_2)$   
\n $x_3 \sim \text{Decode}(h_2)$   
\n $h_3 = \text{Encode}(h_2, x_3)$   
\n $x_4 \sim \text{Decode}(h_3)$   
\n $x_4 = \text{Encode}(h_3, x_4)$   
\n $h_4 = \text{Encode}(h_3, x_4)$   
\n $h_5 = \text{Encode}(h_3)$   
\n $h_6 = \text{Encode}(h_3)$   
\n $h_7 = \text{Encode}(h_3, x_4)$   
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\n $h_9 = \text{Encode}(h_3, x_4)$   
\n $h_1 = \text{Encode}(h_3, x_4)$   
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\n $h_4 = \text{Encode}(h_3, x_4)$   
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\n $h_7 = \text{probe}(h_3, x_4)$   
\n $h_8 = \text{probe}(h_3, x_4)$   
\n $h_9 = \text{probe}(h_3, x_5)$   
\n $h_9 = \text{probe}(h_3, x_6)$   
\n $h_9 = \text{probe}(h_3, x_7)$   
\n $h_9 = \text{probe}(h_3, x_8)$   
\n $h_9 = \text{probe}(h_3, x_9)$   
\n $h_9 = \text{mode}(h_3, x_9)$   
\n $h_9 = \text{mode}($ 

[Elman, 1990]

#### Simple recurrent network



## Vanishing gradient problem



- RNNs can have long or short dependancies
- When there are long dependancies, gradients have trouble backpropagating through

## Vanishing gradient problem





Chain  $rule \Rightarrow$  multiplications

Can explode or shrink!

$$
\frac{\partial E_t}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}} = \sum_{k=0}^t \frac{\partial E_t}{\partial \boldsymbol{o_t}} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{o_t}}{\partial \boldsymbol{s_t}} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{s_t}}{\partial \boldsymbol{s_k}} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{s_k}}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}}
$$

$$
\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{s}_t}{\partial \boldsymbol{s}_k} = \prod_{j=k+1}^{t} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{s}_j}{\partial \boldsymbol{s}_{j-1}}
$$

## Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

#### API:

$$
(h_t, c_t) = \text{LSTM}(h_{t-1}, c_{t-1}, x_t)
$$

Input gate:

 $i_t = \sigma(W_i x_t + U_i h_{t-1} + V_i c_{t-1} + b_i)$ 

Forget gate (initialize with  $b_f$  large, so close to 1):

 $f_t = \sigma(W_f x_t + U_f h_{t-1} + V_f c_{t-1} + b_f)$ 

Cell: additive combination of RNN update with previous cell

 $c_t = i_t \odot \tanh(W_c x_t + U_c h_{t-1} + b_c) + f_t \odot c_{t-1}$ 

Output gate:

 $o_t = \sigma(W_o x_t + U_o h_{t-1} + V_o c_t + b_o)$ 

Hidden state:

 $h_t = o_t \odot \tanh(c_t)$ 

Compared with RNN, LSTM can handle the information in memory for the long period of time---remembering information for long period of time.

[Sutskever et al., 2014]

#### Sequence-to-sequence model

#### Motivation: machine translation

x:Je crains l'homme de un seul livre. y:Fear the man of one book.



Sequence-to-sequence models are not a type of neural network (like RNN or LSTM), but rather a framework for solving sequence transduction problems by using RNN or LSTM.

Read in a sentence first, output according to RNN:

 $h_t =$  Encode( $h_{t-1}, x_t$  or  $y_{t-1}$ ),  $y_t =$ Decode( $h_t$ )

#### Attention-based models

Motivation: long sentences - compress to finite dimensional vector?

Eine Folge von Ereignissen bewirkte, dass aus Beethovens Studienreise nach Wien ein dauerhafter und endgültiger Aufenthalt wurde. Kurz nach Beethovens Ankunft, am 18. Dezember 1792, starb sein Vater. 1794 besetzten französische Truppen das Rheinland, und der kurfürstliche Hof musste fliehen.





## Attention-based models



Distribution over input positions:

 $\alpha_t = \text{softmax}([\text{Attend}(h_1, h_{t-1}), \dots, \text{Attend}(h_L, h_{t-1})])$ 

Generate with attended input:

$$
h_t = \text{Encode}(h_{t-1}, y_{t-1}, \sum_{j=1}^{L} \alpha_t h_j)
$$

Transformer models: attention only – no RNN!

The Transformer model:

- 1. An encoder-decoder model
- 2. Uses self-attention
- 3. Parallel processing (Not sequential)
- 4. The "T" in ChatGPT

#### Machine translation



## Image captioning



A woman is throwing a frisbee in a park.



A dog is standing on a hardwood floor.



A little girl sitting on a bed with a teddy bear.



A group of people sitting on a boat in the water.





- Recurrent neural networks: model sequences (non-linear version of Kalman filter or HMM)
- Logic intuition: learning a program with a for loop (reduce)
- LSTMs mitigate the vanishing gradient problem
- Attention-based models: when only part of input is relevant at a time
- Newer models with "external memory": memory networks, neural Turing machines



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Final remarks



• Deep neural networks require lot of data

• Sometimes not very much labeled data, but plenty of unlabeled data (text, images, videos)

• Humans rarely get direct supervision; can learn from raw sensory information?

#### Autoencoders

Analogy:

#### $A A A A B B B B B \longrightarrow 4 A's$ ,  $5 B's \longrightarrow A A A B B B B B$



#### Key idea: autoencoders-

If we can compress a data point and still reconstruct it, then we have learned something generally useful.

General framework:



## Principal component analysis



(assume  $x_i$ 's are mean zero and U is orthogonal)

PCA objective:

minimize  $\sum_{i=1} \|x_i - \textsf{Decode}(\textsf{Encode}(x_i))\|^2$ 

#### Autoencoders

Increase dimensionality of hidden dimension:



- Problem: learning nothing just set Encode, Decode to identity function!
- Need to control complexity of Encode and Decode somehow...

#### Non-linear autoencoders

Non-linear transformation (e.g., logistic function):



Loss function:

```
minimize ||x - \text{Decode}(\text{Encode}(x))||^2
```
Key: non-linearity makes life harder, prevents degeneracy

## Denoising autoencoders



Types of noise:

- Blankout:  $\text{Corrupt}([1, 2, 3, 4]) = [0, 2, 3, 0]$
- Gaussian:  $Corrupt([1, 2, 3, 4]) = [1.1, 1.9, 3.3, 4.2])$

Objective:

minimize  $||x - \text{Decode}(\text{Encode}(\text{Corrupt}(x)))||^2$ 

Algorithm: pick example, add fresh noise, SGD update

Key: noise makes life harder, prevents degeneracy

#### [Figure 7 of Vincent et al. (2010)]

## Denoising autoencoders

#### MNIST: 60,000 images of digits (784 dimensions)



#### 200 learned filters (rows of  $W$ ):



 $W$ 

## Unsupervised pre-training



labeled





#### (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers, Google 2018)



• Tasks: fill in words, predict whether is next sentence

• Trained on 3.3B words, 4 days on 64 TPUs





# **Unsupervised learning**

- Principle: make up prediction tasks (e.g., x given x or context)
- Hard task  $\rightarrow$  pressure to learn something
- Loss minimzation using SGD
- Discriminatively fine tune: initialize feedforward neural network and backpropagate to optimize task accuracy
- How far can one push this?



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## Getting things to work

Better optimization algorithms: SGD, SGD+momentum, AdaGrad, AdaDelta, momentum, Nesterov, Adam

Tricks: initialization, gradient clipping, batch normalization, dropout

More hyperparameter tuning: step sizes, architectures

Better hardware: GPUs, TPUs



... wait for a long time...

## Theory: why does it work?

Two questions:

- Approximation: why are neural networks good hypothesis classes?
- Optimization: why can SGD optimize a high-dimensional non-convex problem?

#### Partial answers:

- 1-layer neural networks can approximate any continuous function on compact set  $\lceil Cy \frac{1}{2}x \frac{1}{2}x \rceil$ benko, 1989; Barron, 1993]
- Generate random features works too [Rahimi/Recht, 2009; Andoni et. al, 2014]
- Use statistical physics to analyze loss surfaces [Choromanska et al., 2014]









Extensibility: able to compose modules



Learning programs: think about analogy with a computer



**We cannot simply depend on GPU and data to achieve AGI. New science and technology are needed.**