ANNE PRINCIPLES AND **COMMON ARCHITECTURES** S. Giagu - 4th ML_INFN Hackathon

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ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORKS

the most popular approach to machine learning in the last decade

$$f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m: y = f(x) \longrightarrow ANN(x) = \hat{y}$$

- very shallow analogy with biological neural networks
- more precisely defined as a composition of functions (layers) connected in chains described by a graph (ex: a feed-forward ANN described as a direct acyclic graph)

- •
- flow through the network during the training steps
- non linear response obtained by non linear neuron outputs •
- hierarchic representation learning obtained by implementing complex multilayered topologies (DNN)

• an ANN is a mathematical model able to approximate with high precision generic multidimensional functions:



connectionist computational approach: collective actions performed in parallel by simple computational units (neurons)

learns as an adaptive system: the network structure dynamically change during a training phase based on a set of examples that





ARTIFICIAL NEURON MODEL: TRESHOLD LINEAR UNIT

artificial neuron (McCulloch-Pitts (1943) and Rosenblatt (1962)):



extension to multilayers with non-linear activations allows to effectively learn complex hypersurfaces 3

receives in input n signals x_i and outputs y given as

$$z = w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n w_i x_i = w_0 + \mathbf{w}^t \mathbf{x} \qquad \mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_m \end{bmatrix}$$

and an activation function (for example a step function): $a(z) = \begin{cases} 1 \text{ if } \mathbf{w}^t \mathbf{z} \ge -w_0 \\ 0 \text{ if } \mathbf{w}^t \mathbf{z} < -w_0 \end{cases}$







MULTILAYER PERCEPTRON (FEED-FORWARD NN)

- the most classical and simplest DNN architecture (FFNN or MLP)
 - neurons organised in consecutive layers: input, hidden-1, ..., hidden-K, output
 - only connections of neurons of a given layer towards the next are possible: acyclic direct graph
 - all possible connections are present (dense laye



ers)

$$z_i = w_{0i}^{(1)} + \sum_{j=1}^m x_j w_{ji}^{(1)}$$
 synaptic sun
 $a_1(z_i)$ activation
 \hat{y}_1
 \hat{y}_2
 $\hat{y}_i = a_2 \left(w_{0i}^{(2)} + \sum_{j=1}^{d_1} a_1(z_j) w_{ji}^{(2)} \right)$

output

- NN behaviour determined by:
 - network topology (#layers, size of each layer, ...)
 - weights w_{ii}
 - activation function of each layer



non-linear activations allows to learn complex and non linear patterns ...









1





$a(z) = \tanh[z]$



 $a(z) = \max[0, z]$



ACTIVATION FUNCTIONS FOR THE HIDDEN LAYERS

In general, any continuous and differentiable function would works. In practice some functions are better than others

ReLU $\max(0, x)$



the most popular:

- allows non linear dynamics
- faster convergence of the NN because doesn't saturate
- no vanishing gradient problem



- induce gradient sparsity (0 output for negative values, i.e. fewer active neurons). This can be an advantage or an issue depending on the specific ANN architecture and task. In case of problems can be replaced with alternatives:

$$\begin{bmatrix}
 x \\
 \alpha(e^x - 1) \\
 x < 0
 \end{bmatrix}$$

should not be used in general for dense and convolutional layers: - gradient vanishes away from $x=0 \rightarrow vanishing gradient problem$ - sigmoid has output not centered in zero \rightarrow affects SGD dynamic (zig-zag instabilities) - used in RNN to control gated I/O and often in dense layers in GAN to avoid sparsity







POPULAR ACTIVATION FUNCTIONS FOR THE OUTPUT LAYER



Identity (linear): standard choice for regression tasks

Sigmoid: typically used in binary classification problems (2 classes) with a single output neuron, or multilabel (multiple mutually inclusive classes) or sometime when the output features are numbers in (0,1)



Softmax: $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0,1]^n$

- soft version of the argmax output ($y = \arg \max[\mathbf{z}]$)

- often used in multi-class classification tasks (with mutually exclusive classes) -makes output a convex sum: $y_i \in (0,1)$ and $\sum y_i = 1$ interpretable as a probability





FFNN AS UNIVERSAL APPROXIMATORS

a FFNN with a single hidden layer containing a finite number of neurons with non linear activations can approximate continuous functions on compact subsets of Rⁿ, under mild assumptions on the activation function

$$F(x) = \sum_{n} c_i a(w_{0i} + \mathbf{w}^t \mathbf{x})$$
$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \|f(x) - F(x)\|_p dx < \epsilon$$

Universal approximation theorem proof:

- unbounded, sigmoid: <u>here</u>
- bounded, ReLU, arbitrary depth: here

IMPORTANT: the theorem says nothing about the effective possibility to learn in a simple way the parameters of the model, all the DNN practice boils down in finding optimal and efficient techniques to solve this problem ...

Structur	Decision regions	Shapes
	sub-spaced delimited by hyperplanes	
	convex regions	
	arbitrary shaped regions	





ANN AS A NON LINEAR MAPPING ALGORITHM

LEARN A NON LINEAR MAPPING OF THE INPUT





evolution of this approach: Deep-NN a DNN is a ANN with >1 hidden layer ...

DNN: WHY GOING DEEP WORKS?

- approximate any function with arbitrary precision
- however deep architectures are much more efficient at representing a larger class of mapping functions:
 - problems that can be represented with a polynomial number of neurons in k layers require an exponential number of neurons in a shallow network (Hastad et Al (86), Y.Bengio (2007))
 - sub-features (intermediate representations) can be used in parallel for multiple tasks performed with the same model
 - overparametrization and skip connections in very deep NN seems to have beneficial effects in smoothing the loss function landscape

• the universal approximation theorem tells us that already a FFNN with one hidden layer can

VGG-56

arXiv:1712.09913 [cs.LG]

#weights

VGG-110 '[∪]



WHY GOING DEEP IS DIFFICULT: VANISHING GRADIENT

- the main problem in the use of DNN architectures is related to the vanishing gradient
- the first layers of a deep NN fail to learn efficiently
 - reason: during backprop in a network of n hidden layers, n derivatives of the activation ulletfunctions will be multiplied together. If the derivatives are small then the gradient will decrease exponentially as we propagate through the model until it eventually vanishes

• SOLUTIONS:

- 1. use activation functions which do not produce small derivatives: i.e. ReLU, LeakyReLU, Selu, ...
- 2. use batch normalisation layers: in which the input is normalised before to be processed by the layer in order to constraint it to not reach regions of the activation function where derivatives are small (additional advantage: prevent the target of each layer from moving continuously during the training (internal covariate shift))
- 3. use residual networks: in which skip connections that do not pass through the activation functions and propagate information to subsequent layers (additional advantage : makes learning the layer easier)





LEARN THE PARAMETERS (I.E. TRAINING OF THE ANN)

- •training consists in adjusting the parameters according to a given cost function that is a differentiable proxy to the performance of the model wrt the specific task we want to solve
 - weights and biases: "adjusted" using stochastic gradient descent with back-propagation
 - hyperparameters (parameters whose values are fixed before the learning process begins): "adjusted" using heuristic approaches (manual trial&error, grid or random search, bayesian-opt, autoML, ...)

Example: supervised training

- during the training N examples are presented to the network: $T{x^{(i)}, y^{(i)}}$ (i=1,...,N)
- weights are initialised to random values (small and around zero): for example $\sim N(0,\sigma)$ or U[- ϵ,ϵ]
- for each event the output of the model $\hat{y}(x^{(i)})$ is calculated and compared with the expected target $y^{(i)}$ by means of an appropriate loss function that measures the "distance" between $\hat{y}(x^{(i)})$ and $y^{(i)}$:

$$L(\mathbf{w}, T) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} L_i \left(y^{(i)}, \hat{y}^{(i)}(x^{(i)} | \mathbf{w}) \right)$$

$$L_{i} = \frac{1}{2} \left(y^{(i)} - \hat{y}^{(i)} (x^{(i)} | \mathbf{w}) \right)^{2}$$

example: MSE





LOSS FUNCTIONS

Modern ANNs are trained using the maximum likelihood principle, consequently the most used loss functions are simply equivalent expressions/approximations of the negative log-likelihood:

$$L(\mathbf{w}) = - \mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{T}}[\log p_{model}(y | x, \mathbf{w})]$$

most popular forms:

MSE $MSE = ||y - \hat{y}||_2$

binary cross-entropy $H_p(q) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} y_i \log(p_i)$

given two distributions p and q, $H_p(q)$ measures the average number of bits needed to identify an event extracted from the set, when the p model is used for the probability distribution, rather than the "true" distribution q. It is usually the best loss function to train ANNs that output probabilities (example: softmax)

$$y = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (y - \hat{y})^2$$
 for regression problems
(also MAE, UberLoss, ...)

$$(p_i) + (1 - y_i)\log(1 - p_i)$$
 p = predicted probability (
y = label (0 or 1)

NOTE: generalisation for multi class problems

- categorical cross-entropy (one-hot encoded label)
- sparse categorical cross-entropy (integer labels)



(0,1)

LOSS FUNCTION MINIMIZATION

- the vector of weights is chosen as the one that minimizes L:
- the minimum is sought with GD techniques ... •



$\mathbf{w}^* = argmin[L(\mathbf{w})]$ W $\mathbf{W}_{(t+1)} = \mathbf{W}_{(t)} - \eta \nabla_{w} L(T | \mathbf{w})$

STOCHASTIC GRADIENT DESCENT (WITH MOMENTUM)

- for large datasets GD becomes computationally inefficient and it is replaced by a stochastic implementation:
- weights are updated after having presented to the model sub-sets (mini batches) of the entire dataset T: •
 - T is divided in m sub-samples (mini batches) T₁...T_m •
 - weights are updated using each subset T_i:

$$\nabla L_{i}$$

$$\mathbf{w}^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{w}^{(k)} - \eta \mathbf{v}^{(k+1)}$$

$$\mathbf{v}^{(k+1)} = \alpha \mathbf{v}^{(k)} + (1 - \alpha) \nabla L_{i}(\mathbf{w}^{(k)})$$
previous step gradient direction
$$\mathbf{v}^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{v}^{(k)} + (1 - \alpha) \nabla L_{i}(\mathbf{w}^{(k)})$$

MOMENTUM:

- for $\alpha = 0$ we have classic GD/SGD
- for $\alpha = 1$ the gradient descent is ignored and the weight update follows the previous direction (momentum)
- typically: α ~0.9-0.99



VARIABLE LEARNING RATE

- η affects the speed of convergence:
 - a small value can result in excessive slowness and an increase in the probability of being trapped in local minima
 - a large value can cause the algorithm to diverge
- solution: Variable Learning Rate and Adaptive Learning Rate Optimizers
 - during the iterations the learning rate decrease according to a predetermined schedule or adapt following a specific strategy



ADAptive grad: the learning rate associated with each weight is individually scaled inversely proportional to the root of the historical sum of squares of the gradients for that parameter: - directions associated to relevant features: smaller effective LR

$$w_{t+1} = w_t - \frac{\eta}{\sqrt{G_t + \epsilon}} \frac{\partial L}{\partial w} \qquad G_t = \sum_{\tau=1}^t \left[\frac{\partial L}{\partial w}\right]^2$$



- directions associated to non relevant/low frequency features: larger effective LR

several implementations: Adadelta, RMSProp, Adam, ...





BACKPROPAGATION

to update the weights of all the layers of the network is necessary to calculate the gradient of complicated non convex functions with respect each weight, and to evaluate its numerical value. Doing it in a simple and efficient way is called **Backpropagation** procedure

- the training of an NN takes place in two distinct phases which are repeated at each iteration:
 - forward phase: the weights are fixed and the input vector is propagated layer by layer up to the output neurons (function signal)
 - backward phase: the Δ error is calculated by comparing the output with the target y and the result is propagated back, again layer by layer (error signal)
- each neuron (hidden or output) receives and compares the function and error signals
- graph to which apply automatic differentiation
- with backprop calculating the gradient of the Loss is as fast as calculating the Loss itself ...





back-propagation consists of a simplification of the gradient calculation obtained by applying recursively the rule of derivation of compound functions in the backward phase and implementing it as a computational



MONITORING THE TRAINING: LEARNING CURVES

- at the start of the training phase when the network weights have been initialised randomly (with small random values) the error on the training set (the loss value) is typically large
- with the iterations (epochs) the error tend to decrease until it reach (typically) a plateau value that depends on: the size of the training set, the NN architecture, initial value of the weights, the hyper-parameters ...
- training progress is visualized with the learning curves (loss or accuracy or any useful metrics vs epochs)
- multiple datasets (or cross validation) are needed to monitor the tradeoff between bias and variance during the training (e.g. undercutting vs overfitting) and to optimise the hyper parameter of the model
 - training set: to update the weights
 - validation set: to choose hyper-parameters and the training stop \bullet criteria
 - test set: to evaluate the final performances of the trained model \bullet









DOUBLE DESCENT IN DNN

- overfit to the training data and is expected to generalize poorly
- however large overparametrized DNNs, trained with datasets smaller than the number of <u>abs/1812.11118</u>):



• the bias-variance tradeoff tell us that larger models are worse: a model with zero training error is

parameters, exhibit the so called doubled descent phenomena (M.Belkin et al. https://arxiv.org/









MOST CRITICAL ASPECTS IN THE TRAINING OF ANNS

- training speed:
 - mitigated by using stochastic-learning, momentum, adaptive learning rate (Adam o RMSProp), non saturating activation functions (ReLU, ...), smart weight initialisation, and scaling of the input features
 - but most of all by using dedicated coprocessors (GPUs, TPUs, ACAPs, SOCs, FPGAs, ...)
- <u>hardcore overfitting:</u>
 - inevitable consequence of the trade-off between variance (large expressive power) and bias (generalization)
 - issue controlled by applying a set of regularization techniques aimed at reducing the error on the test set (typically at the expense of error on the training set)
 - regularisation techniques impose constraints on different aspects of the NN model such as the complexity of the NN architecture, the error reduction on the training set, the representation of the loss function landscape, the size of weights, etc... so that will be more difficult for the model to learn characteristic that are specific of the training set itself





DROPOUT

- very popular and powerful technique to prevent overfitting in architecture of deep neural network
- imposes constraints on the complexity of the Neural Network architecture
- neuron connections are randomly eliminated during training (only on training step non validation) based on a defined probability
- forces the model to not rely excessively on particular sets of features



- used routinely in with convolutional-NN where it can sensibly increase performance on the test set
- model ...

NOTE: random sampling is applied independently for each mini-batch (works like a sort of ensamble method)

after

can be also applied as preprocessing of the input (dropping part of the input, like some nodes in a point cloud or nodes/edges in a graph), or also after training (weight pruning) to improve generalisation and also to compress the









EXPLICIT WEIGHT PENALTIES: L1/L2/L3 REGULARIZATION

- idea: constrain the complexity of the model by penalizing large values of the weights, unless it is strongly requested by the data itself
- method: a penalty is added to the loss function: $L(w) \rightarrow L(w) + \alpha \Omega(w)$









EARLY STOPPING AND NOISE INJECTION

- early stopping: imposes constraints on the error reduction on the training set



- noise injection/information loss: makes it more difficult for the lacksquarenetwork to learn specific characteristics of the input features
 - random flip of labels \bullet
 - random occlusion of pixels or feature bits
 - adding withe/colored/gaussian noise to the features
 - . . .

• the training process is stopped as soon as the loss on the validation sample reaches a plateau or start to increase

always remember there are regimes in which training more improve generalisation (e.g. double descent)



• Mimics potential loss of

parts of image

 More tolerance to quality variation of inputs

DATA AUGMENTATION



modern approaches can be also based on data produced with generative models (GAN, VAE, ...) p_A +



• a good way to make an ML algorithm to generalize better is to train it on larger and more expressive data

• but having more data is normally the real issue in ML/DL \rightarrow solution: artificially increase the dimension of the training set by applying transformations that preserve the relevant "physics" of the data/problem

Random crop	Color shift	Contrast chang
 Random focus on one part of the image Several random crops can be done in a row 	 Nuances of RGB is slightly changed Captures noise that can occur with light exposure 	 Luminosity changes Controls difference exposition due to time day







HOW A ANN "SEE" AN IMAGE ...

images for a computer are essentially meshes (tensors) of numbers



gray scale image with 8bit depth: 12x16x1 intensity $\in [0,256]$ color image with n-bit depth: $m_1 x m_2 x^3$ with each RGB intensity $\in [0, 2^n]$

50	152	129	151	172	161	155	156
75	62	33	17	110	210	180	154
34	6	10	33	48	105	159	181
91	111	120	204	166	15	56	180
37	239	239	228	227	87	71	201
33	214	220	239	228	98	.74	206
85	215	211	158	139	75	20	169
10	168	134	n	31	62	22	148
58	227	178	143	182	105	36	190
36	231	149	178	228	43	95	234
36	187	85	150	79	38	218	241
27	210	127	102	36	101	255	224
83	143	95	50	2	109	249	215
1	81	47	0	6	217	255	211
0	Ģ	12	108	200	138	243	236
77	121	123	200	175	13	96	218

157	153	174	168	150	152	129	15)	172	161	155	156
155	182	163	74	75	62	33	17	110	210	180	154
180	180	50	14	34	6	10	33	48	106	159	181
206	109	5	124	131	111	120	204	166	15	56	180
194	68	137	251	237	239	239	228	227	87	n	201
172	105	207	233	233	214	220	239	228	98	74	206
188	88	179	209	185	215	211	158	139	75	20	169
189	97	165	84	10	168	134	11	31	62	22	148
199	168	191	193	158	227	178	143	182	106	36	190
205	174	155	252	236	231	149	178	228	43	96	234
190	216	116	149	236	187	86	150	79	38	218	241
190	224	147	108	227	210	127	102	36	101	255	224
190	214	173	66	103	143	96	50	2	109	249	215
187	196	235	75	1	81	47	0	6	217	255	211
183	202	237	145	0	0	12	108	200	138	243	236
195	206	123	207	177	121	123	200	175	13	96	218

credit MIT AI course





HOW AN ANN "SEE" AN IMAGE

we know that a FFNN is able to learn the desired hierarchical representations:

x 1D array of the image pixel values



However:

- it needs a huge number of learnable parameters (weights) \rightarrow hard to train, overfitting ...
- it does not use any local spatial information
- too much flexibility results in arbitrarily complex models for which is very hard to achieve generalisation

not learnt (called inductive relational biases), motivated by general properties observed in data



A remedy to facilitate the training, is to introduce task independent priors, i.e. parts of the model that are







ARCHITECTURES FOR VISION: CNN

- Acts directly on the images (raw "pixel" information organised in a fixed size mesh)
- Implements several inductive biases typical of photographic images:
 - locality of the features: to identify a feature it takes just a few pixels in a small portion of the image
 - translation equivariance: features in the image remain the same in different points of the image
 - self-similarity: identical features can be recognised with a single filter
 - compositionality: a complex feature can be recognised by identifying only few of such sub-features
- features present there

 - weights of the filters are not fixed but are learned

Convolutional NN is one of these specific DNN architecture designed to excel in image recognition tasks

• Implementation idea: apply layers called convolutional filters that operate on the input by recognising the local

• the same filters use shared parameters (weights) and sequentially analyse all portions of the image

• CNNs learn from the training data sample the best set of filters to solve the task given the chosen architecture





CONVOLUTIONAL FEATURE EXTRACTION LAYER

- used to identify similar features that are present in different position of the image
- based on three basic ideas:
 - local receptive field
 - shared-weights kernels
 - pooling layers



 input neurons (one for each NxN pixels of the image) are NOT fully connected with all the neurons of the first hidden layer. Connections exist only for localised and small regions of the image called local receptive fields

• the local receptive field is shifted through the whole image: for each shifted receptive field there will be an hidden neuron in the hidden layer

input neurons	first hidden laver
000000000000000000000000000000000000000	
input neurons	first hidden laver
000000000000000000000000000000000000000	









after the convolution operation, non linearity is applied to each neutron of the filtered image via an activation (ex. ReLU)

• shared-weights:

- all the hidden neurons of a given hidden layer share the same weights \rightarrow all neurons of the hidden layer detect the same sub-feature, only in different regions of the image
- as the CNN has to identify many sub-features: there can be many convolutional kernels each one with an associated hidden layer: input image $(n,m,3) \rightarrow output (k,l,d)$
- huge advantage wrt DNN: much smaller number of weights to learn ...













convert the image to gray color gray = cv2.cvtColor(image, cv2.COLOR_RGB2GRAY) # declaring sobel filter

sobel = np.array([[-1, -2, -1]],[0, 0, 0], [1, 2, 1])

applying sobel filter filtered_image = cv2.filter2D(gray, -1, sobel_y) # plotting the image plt.imshow(filtered_image, cmap='gray')









NON LINEARITY

after the convolution operation, an activation function is applied to each (neuron) of the filtered image (ex. ReLU: all negative values are set to zero)

- emphasize only some of the dominant characteristics of the sub-features selected by the filter



before ReLU

after ReLU





- pooling layers:
 - output from the convolutional layer (less weights) and making the NN less sensitive to small translations of the image
 - as to know the relative position wrt the other sub-feature in the image



• in addition of the convolution layers a CNN has also other layers called pooling layers, usually used after each convolution layer. They performs a downsampling operation: simplifying the information in

• motivated on the fact that once a sub-feature is found, to know the exact position is not as important

Single depth slice

1	1	2	4
5	6	7	8
3	2	1	0
1	2	3	4

max pool with 2x2 filters and stride 2







FULL CNN: CONV BLOCKS + DENSE MLP STAGE

- mapping (regression), etc...
- Example: LeNet (Yan LeCun)



generally after the convolutions the output of the convolutional layers is connected via a flattening layer with one or more dense layers (DNN), that are used to optime objectives: class scores (classification),





MODERN CNNs

philosophy: deeper is better ...

- AlexNet: better backdrop via ReLU, dropout, batch normalisation, data augmentation
- VGG: smaller 2D kernels(3x3) with more convolutional blocks to induce more nonlinearity and so more degree of freedom for the network
- GoogleNet (Inception):

Inception module:

- 2D convolutions with different kernel sizes process the same input and then are concatenated
- multi-level feature extraction at each step: general features captured by 5x5 at the same time with local ones captured by 3x3
- additional intermediate classification tasks to inject gradient in intermediate layers ...





ResNet and DenseNet

going deeper increase the vanishing gradient problem residual learning in ResNet help mitigating it

estreme extension of the idea: connect entire blocks of layers to one another helps in diversifying the features within these blocks

> DenseNet Block

specialized evolution: UNet architecture, CNN for image segmentation and denoising (see specific lectures on object-detection)



- main difference were ResNets is that feature maps are concatenated instead of added (better feature reuse but requires transition downsampling layers to keep same size in feature maps) - to avoid memory explosion use 1x1 bottlenecks





ANN ARCHITECTURES FOR UNSUPERVISED REPRESENTATION LEARNING: AUTOENCODERS

- combines an encoder that converts input data in a different representation, with a decoder that converts the new representation back to the original input
- trained to output something as close as possible to the input (i.e to learn the identity function)



non-supervised algorithm that try to identify common and fundamental characteristic in the input data

"trivial" unless to constrain the network to learn a "compressed" latent representations (in the example: $x \in \mathbb{R}^5 \rightarrow z \in \mathbb{R}^3$, able to capture "high-level" features of the data







AUTO-ENCODER IMPLEMENTATION



$$\phi^*, \theta^* = \arg \max \frac{1}{N} \sum L(x^{(i)}, \hat{x}^{(i)})$$

$$= \arg \max \frac{1}{N} \sum L(x^{(i)}, f_{\theta}(g_{\phi}))$$

$$= \operatorname{DECODER: z \to x}$$

$$f_{\theta}(z) : R^z \to R^d$$

$$f_{\theta}(z) : R^z \to R^d$$

$$f_{\theta}(x) = -\sum [x_k \log(\hat{x}_k) + (1 - x_k)\log(1 - x_k)]$$

D







ARCHITECTURES FOR SEQUENCES: RECURRENT NEURAL NETWORKS

- series forecasting, etc...)
- 24h, the flavour of a hadron jet in an hep experiment, ...)
- a RNN is able to:
 - takes in input sequences of variable length
 - keep track of dependences between elements thatare distant in the sequence
 - keep information on the order between the elements of the sequence
 - use shared weights so that identified correlations between elements can be transferred in diverse points of the sequence

• RNN are specific ANN architectures optimised to identify long-term correlations in sequence of informations of variable lengths (example: natural language processing, signal processing, time

• typical task for a RNN: given a sequence of features (text, music, ... a list of charged tracks parameters), predict one or more targets (the next word on a phrase, the weather in the next









RNN IMPLEMENTATION

- the entire processing of the sequence's elements
- state). h_t is passed to the same network during the processing of the next element of the sequence



a RNN processes the input in a loop (recurrent connection) that allows the persistence of the informations during

base module: A is a NN that analyse the t element of the input sequence x_t and produce the output h_t (hidden)







RNN AND LONG TERM DEPENDENCIES



problem solved in LSTM RNN (Hochreiter, '97) with a "software trick": uses four neural layers which interact in such a way to implement a sort of parallel data-flow which at each step t makes the information from previous steps available w/o being affected by gradient dilution



- in RNNs unbounded activations (like ReLU) cannot be used as they create instabilities
- tanh or sigmoid are OK but suffers vanishing of the gradient

key element: cell-state Ct

is a memory units ("conveyor belt") to which is possibile to add or subtract information using "gate" structures







LONG SHORT TERM MEMORY NETWORKS

gate: NN-layer with sigmoid activation and a point-wise multiplication



every publication implementing a LSTM has used a slightly different version of the original algorithm, so you'll find it with different names ...



LSTM with "peephole": gate layers can see the cell-state

- output $\in [0,1]$:
- every LSTM has 3 gates:
 - f: forget gate (controls deleting from the cell-state)
 - i: input gate (controls writing on the cell-state)
 - o: output gate (controls the output on h_t)

the backprop from $C_t \rightarrow C_{t-1}$ doesn't requires multiplications for tanh/sigmoid \rightarrow no gradient dilution ...



GRU (Gate Recurrent Unit): combines the gates and unify hidden state with cell-state to simplify model and number of parameters (one of the most used RNNs)





VARIATIONS

Stacked RNNs

enables more complex representation capturing information at different scales



Initialize the RNN. rnn = nn.RNN(input_size, hidden_size, num_layers = 2, nonlinearity='tanh', batch_first=True)

Bidirectional RNNs inputs are processed in both forward and reverse time order allows a BRNN to look at future context as well



Initialize the RNN. rnn = nn.RNN(input_size, hidden_size, num_layers = 1, nonlinearity='tanh', bidirectional = True, batch_first=True)







VARIATIONS

Encoder-Decoder RNNs





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Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca

KEEP IN TOUCH ...





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