15780 Project: Speeding Up Convolutional Neural Networks with Tensor Decompositions

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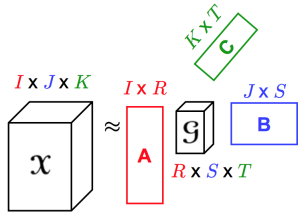
CNNs have revolutionized machine learning and AI techniques to solve problems in computer vision. A fundamental component of CNNs are convolution tensors, used to simplify the inputs to the layer by extracting important features of the input. In recent years there has been significant interest in speeding up CNNs by finding good approximations for the convolutional kernels, for example, there has been some work trying to approximate the kernels with low-rank approximations and clustering schemes. Our objective in the project was to find decompositions schemes for tensors that can be used to decompose the convolution kernels thereby, hopefully, dramatically reducing the number of variables that need to be trained.

We specifically focus on the Tucker-decomposition of tensors. For a 3D-tensor $\mathcal{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{I \times J \times K}$, tucker decomposition of $\mathcal{X}$ denoted by $[\![\mathcal{G}; A, B, C]\!]$ is an extension of SVD for higher dimensions. The decomposition is given by three matrices, $A \in \mathbb{R}^{I \times R}$, $B \in \mathbb{R}^{J \times S}$, $C \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times T}$ and a core tensor $\mathcal{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{R \times S \times T}$ such that:

$$\sum_{r,s,t} g_{rst} \cdot \vec{a}_r \circ \vec{b}_s \circ \vec{c}_t$$

where $\circ$ corresponds to the outer product of vectors in higher dimensions and $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ are column vectors in A, B, C respectively. A visualization of the decomposition is given below:



A convolutional kernel in a CNN is a 4D-tensor $\mathcal{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times d \times d \times C}$, where N, C are the numbers of the output and input features respectively and d is the spatial kernel size. Since d is generally small, we hypothesize that the benefit of the decomposition is in discovering the relationship between the input features, output features and spatial dimension. Hence, we imagine the spatial dimensions to be flattened into vectors in $\mathbb{R}^{d^2}$.

Our objective then is to find approximations of $\mathcal{W}$ by building a decomposition $[\![\mathcal{G}; W_N, W_C, W_D]\!]$ such that $W_N \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N'}$, $W_C \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times C'}$, $W_D \in \mathbb{R}^{d^2 \times D'}$ and the core $\mathcal{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{N' \times C' \times D'}$. Here, N', C', D' are hyperparameters that will need to be trained.

For the input matrix $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{X \times Y \times C}$, we would compute

$$W \star Z = \sum_{n',c',d'} \left(g_{n'c'd'} \cdot (\vec{w}_n)_{n'} \circ (\vec{w}_c)_{c'} \circ (\vec{w}_d)_{d'} \star Z \right)$$

The runtime of computing a standard convolution $W \star Z$ would be approximately $O(NXYCd^2)$ while computing this convolution is a $O(N'C'D')$ factor greater. Even though computing the convolution is greater, the number of parameters is $O(N'C'D' + NN' + CC' + d^2D')$ as compared to NCd^2 paramters

that need training without the decomposition. Our hypothesis is that for small values of N', C', D' we can get a significant speedup in the convergence rate of training the parameters of the CNN.

The Tucker-decomposition is a high dimension generalization of SVD, our motivation for using decomposing the convolutional networks is to capture the relationships between the different dimensions of the tensor and in doing so reduce the number of redundant dimensions. The matrix W_N captures how the output parameters relate to each other and similarly W_C and W_D capture how the input parameters relate to each other and the spatial parameters relate to each other respectively. The core $\mathcal{G}$ captures how the groups relate to one and other. Hence, in practical applications where the parameters have small subspaces that determine them, the decomposition can drastically reduce the number of parameters.

It is not completely clear yet how to perform back-propagation on this decomposition. We