# What's this TensorFlow business?

You've written a lot of code in this assignment to provide a whole host of neural network functionality. Dropout, Batch Norm, and 2D convolutions are some of the workhorses of deep learning in computer vision. You've also worked hard to make your code efficient and vectorized.

For the last part of this assignment, though, we're going to leave behind your beautiful codebase and instead migrate to one of two popular deep learning frameworks: in this instance, TensorFlow (or PyTorch, if you choose to work with that notebook).

# **Part I: Preparation**

First, we load the CIFAR-10 dataset. This might take a few minutes to download the first time you run it, but after that the files should be cached on disk and loading should be faster.

In previous parts of the assignment we used CS231N-specific code to download and read the CIFAR-10 dataset; however the tf.keras.datasets package in TensorFlow provides prebuilt utility functions for loading many common datasets.

For the purposes of this assignment we will still write our own code to preprocess the data and iterate through it in minibatches. The tf.data package in TensorFlow provides tools for automating this process, but working with this package adds extra complication and is beyond the scope of this notebook. However using tf.data can be much more efficient than the simple approach used in this notebook, so you should consider using it for your project.

```
In [ ]:
```

```
# We can iterate through a dataset like this:
for t, (x, y) in enumerate(train_dset):
    print(t, x.shape, y.shape)
    if t > 5: break
```

You can optionally **use GPU by setting the flag to True below**. It's not neccessary to use a GPU for this assignment; if you are working on Google Cloud then we recommend that you do not use a GPU, as it will be significantly more expensive.

### **Barebones TensorFlow: Define a Two-Layer Network**

We will now implement our first neural network with TensorFlow: a fully-connected ReLU network with two hidden layers and no biases on the CIFAR10 dataset. For now we will use only low-level TensorFlow operators to define the network; later we will see how to use the higher-level abstractions provided by tf.keras to simplify the process.

We will define the forward pass of the network in the function two\_layer\_fc; this will accept TensorFlow Tensors for the inputs and weights of the network, and return a TensorFlow Tensor for the scores.

After defining the network architecture in the two\_layer\_fc function, we will test the implementation by checking the shape of the output.

It's important that you read and understand this implementation.

# **Barebones TensorFlow: Three-Layer ConvNet**

Here you will complete the implementation of the function three\_layer\_convnet which will perform the forward pass of a three-layer convolutional network. The network should have the following architecture:

- 1. A convolutional layer (with bias) with channel\_1 filters, each with shape KW1 x KH1, and zero-padding of two
- 2. ReLU nonlinearity
- 3. A convolutional layer (with bias) with channel\_2 filters, each with shape KW2 x KH2, and zero-padding of one
- 4. ReLU nonlinearity
- 5. Fully-connected layer with bias, producing scores for C classes.

HINT: For convolutions: https://www.tensorflow.org/versions/r2.0/api\_docs/python/tf/nn/conv2d; be careful with padding!

```
In [ ]:
```

```
def three_layer_convnet(x, params):
   A three-layer convolutional network with the architecture described above.
  Inputs:
   - x: A TensorFlow Tensor of shape (N, H, W, 3) giving a minibatch of images
   - params: A list of TensorFlow Tensors giving the weights and biases for the
    network; should contain the following:
     - conv_w1: TensorFlow Tensor of shape (KH1, KW1, 3, channel_1) giving
      weights for the first convolutional layer.
    - conv_b1: TensorFlow Tensor of shape (channel_1,) giving biases for the
      first convolutional layer.
    - conv_w2: TensorFlow Tensor of shape (KH2, KW2, channel_1, channel_2)
      giving weights for the second convolutional layer
    - conv_b2: TensorFlow Tensor of shape (channel_2,) giving biases for the
      second convolutional lauer.
    - fc_w: TensorFlow Tensor giving weights for the fully-connected layer.
      Can you figure out what the shape should be?
     fc_b: TensorFlow Tensor giving biases for the fully-connected layer.
      Can you figure out what the shape should be?
   conv_w1, conv_b1, conv_w2, conv_b2, fc_w, fc_b = params
   scores = None
   # TODO: Implement the forward pass for the three-layer ConvNet.
   # *****START OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
   pass
   # *****END OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
   END OF YOUR CODE
   return scores
```

After defing the forward pass of the three-layer ConvNet above, run the following cell to test your implementation. Like the two-layer network, we run the graph on a batch of zeros just to make sure the function doesn't crash, and produces outputs of the correct shape.

When you run this function, scores\_np should have shape (64, 10).

# **Barebones TensorFlow: Training Step**

We now define the training\_step function performs a single training step. This will take three basic steps:

- 1. Compute the loss
- 2. Compute the gradient of the loss with respect to all network weights
- 3. Make a weight update step using (stochastic) gradient descent.

We need to use a few new TensorFlow functions to do all of this:

- For computing the cross-entropy loss we'll use tf.nn.sparse\_softmax\_cross\_entropy\_with\_logits: https://www.tensorflow.org/versions/r2.0/api\_docs/python/tf/nn/sparse\_softmax\_cross\_entropy\_with\_logits
- For averaging the loss across a minibatch of data we'll use tf.reduce\_mean:

https://www.tensorflow.org/versions/r2.0/api\_docs/python/tf/reduce\_mean

- For computing gradients of the loss with respect to the weights we'll use tf.GradientTape (useful for Eager execution): https://www.tensorflow.org/versions/r2.0/api docs/python/tf/GradientTape
- We'll mutate the weight values stored in a TensorFlow Tensor using tf.assign\_sub ("sub" is for subtraction):
   <a href="https://www.tensorflow.org/api\_docs/python/tf/assign\_sub">https://www.tensorflow.org/api\_docs/python/tf/assign\_sub</a>

### **Barebones TensorFlow: Initialization**

We'll use the following utility method to initialize the weight matrices for our models using Kaiming's normalization method.

[1] He et al, *Delving Deep into Rectifiers: Surpassing Human-Level Performance on ImageNet Classification*, ICCV 2015, https://arxiv.org/abs/1502.01852

```
In [ ]:
```

```
def create_matrix_with_kaiming_normal(shape):
    if len(shape) == 2:
        fan_in, fan_out = shape[0], shape[1]
    elif len(shape) == 4:
        fan_in, fan_out = np.prod(shape[:3]), shape[3]
    return tf.keras.backend.random_normal(shape) * np.sqrt(2.0 / fan_in)
```

# **Barebones TensorFlow: Train a Two-Layer Network**

We are finally ready to use all of the pieces defined above to train a two-layer fully-connected network on CIFAR-10.

We just need to define a function to initialize the weights of the model, and call train\_part2.

Defining the weights of the network introduces another important piece of TensorFlow API: tf.Variable. A TensorFlow Variable is a Tensor whose value is stored in the graph and persists across runs of the computational graph; however unlike constants defined with tf.zeros or tf.random\_normal, the values of a Variable can be mutated as the graph runs; these mutations will persist across graph runs. Learnable parameters of the network are usually stored in Variables.

You don't need to tune any hyperparameters, but you should achieve validation accuracies above 40% after one epoch of training.

#### In []:

```
def two_layer_fc_init():
    """
    Initialize the weights of a two-layer network, for use with the
    two_layer_network function defined above.
    You can use the `create_matrix_with_kaiming_normal` helper!

Inputs: None

Returns: A list of:
    - w1: TensorFlow tf.Variable giving the weights for the first layer
    - w2: TensorFlow tf.Variable giving the weights for the second layer
    """
    hidden_layer_size = 4000
    w1 = tf.Variable(create_matrix_with_kaiming_normal((3 * 32 * 32, 4000)))
    w2 = tf.Variable(create_matrix_with_kaiming_normal((4000, 10)))
    return [w1, w2]

learning_rate = 1e-2
train_part2(two_layer_fc, two_layer_fc_init, learning_rate)
```

## Barebones TensorFlow: Train a three-layer ConvNet

We will now use TensorFlow to train a three-layer ConvNet on CIFAR-10.

You need to implement the three\_layer\_convnet\_init function. Recall that the architecture of the network is:

- 1. Convolutional layer (with bias) with 32 5x5 filters, with zero-padding 2
- 2. ReLU
- 3. Convolutional layer (with bias) with 16 3x3 filters, with zero-padding 1
- 4. ReLU
- 5. Fully-connected layer (with bias) to compute scores for 10 classes

You don't need to do any hyperparameter tuning, but you should see validation accuracies above 43% after one epoch of training.

#### In [ ]:

```
def three_layer_convnet_init():
    """
    Initialize the weights of a Three-Layer ConvNet, for use with the
    three_layer_convnet function defined above.
    You can use the `create_matrix_with_kaiming_normal` helper!

Inputs: None
```

```
Returns a list containing:
   - conv_w1: TensorFlow tf. Variable giving weights for the first conv layer
   - conv_b1: TensorFlow tf. Variable giving biases for the first conv layer
  - conv_w2: TensorFlow tf. Variable giving weights for the second conv layer
  - conv_b2: TensorFlow tf. Variable giving biases for the second conv layer
   - fc_w: TensorFlow tf.Variable giving weights for the fully-connected layer
   fc_b: TensorFlow tf. Variable giving biases for the fully-connected layer
  params = None
  # TODO: Initialize the parameters of the three-layer network.
  # *****START OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
  # *****END OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
  END OF YOUR CODE
  return params
learning_rate = 3e-3
train_part2(three_layer_convnet, three_layer_convnet_init, learning_rate)
```

# Keras Model Subclassing API: Three-Layer ConvNet

Now it's your turn to implement a three-layer ConvNet using the tf.keras.Model API. Your model should have the same architecture used in Part II:

- 1. Convolutional layer with 5 x 5 kernels, with zero-padding of 2
- 2. ReLU nonlinearity
- 3. Convolutional layer with 3 x 3 kernels, with zero-padding of 1
- 4. ReLU nonlinearity
- 5. Fully-connected layer to give class scores
- 6. Softmax nonlinearity

You should initialize the weights of your network using the same initialization method as was used in the two-layer network above.

Hint: Refer to the documentation for tf.keras.layers.Conv2D and tf.keras.layers.Dense:

https://www.tensorflow.org/versions/r2.0/api\_docs/python/tf/keras/layers/Conv2D

https://www.tensorflow.org/versions/r2.0/api\_docs/python/tf/keras/layers/Dense

```
In [ ]:
```

```
class ThreeLayerConvNet (tf.keras.Model):
  def __init__(self, channel_1, channel_2, num_classes):
    super(ThreeLayerConvNet, self).__init__()
    # TODO: Implement the __init__ method for a three-layer ConvNet. You #
    # should instantiate layer objects to be used in the forward pass.
    # *****START OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
    # *****END OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
    END OF YOUR CODE
    def call(self, x, training=False):
    scores = None
    # TODO: Implement the forward pass for a three-layer ConvNet. You
    # should use the layer objects defined in the __init__ method.
    # *****START OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
    pass
```

Once you complete the implementation of the <a href="https://www.threelayerConvNet">ThreeLayerConvNet</a> above you can run the following to ensure that your implementation does not crash and produces outputs of the expected shape.

```
In []:
```

```
def test_ThreeLayerConvNet():
    channel_1, channel_2, num_classes = 12, 8, 10
    model = ThreeLayerConvNet(channel_1, channel_2, num_classes)
    with tf.device(device):
        x = tf.zeros((64, 3, 32, 32))
        scores = model(x)
        print(scores.shape)

test_ThreeLayerConvNet()
```

# **Keras Model Subclassing API: Eager Training**

While keras models have a builtin training loop (using the model.fit ), sometimes you need more customization. Here's an example, of a training loop implemented with eager execution.

In particular, notice tf.GradientTape . Automatic differentiation is used in the backend for implementing backpropagation in frameworks like TensorFlow. During eager execution, tf.GradientTape is used to trace operations for computing gradients later. A particular tf.GradientTape can only compute one gradient; subsequent calls to tape will throw a runtime error.

TensorFlow 2.0 ships with easy-to-use built-in metrics under tf.keras.metrics module. Each metric is an object, and we can use update\_state() to add observations and reset\_state() to clear all observations. We can get the current result of a metric by calling result() on the metric object.

### Keras Model Subclassing API: Train a Two-Layer Network

We can now use the tools defined above to train a two-layer network on CIFAR-10. We define the <code>model\_init\_fn</code> and <code>optimizer\_init\_fn</code> that construct the model and optimizer respectively when called. Here we want to train the model using stochastic gradient descent with no momentum, so we construct a <code>tf.keras.optimizers.SGD</code> function; you can read about it here

You don't need to tune any hyperparameters here, but you should achieve validation accuracies above 40% after one epoch of training.

#### In []:

```
hidden_size, num_classes = 4000, 10
learning_rate = 1e-2

def model_init_fn():
    return TwoLayerFC(hidden_size, num_classes)

def optimizer_init_fn():
    return tf.keras.optimizers.SGD(learning_rate=learning_rate)

train_part34(model_init_fn, optimizer_init_fn)
```

#### Keras Model Subclassing API: Train a Three-Layer ConvNet

Here you should use the tools we've defined above to train a three-layer ConvNet on CIFAR-10. Your ConvNet should use 32 filters in the first convolutional layer and 16 filters in the second layer.

To train the model you should use gradient descent with Nesterov momentum 0.9.

HINT: https://www.tensorflow.org/versions/r2.0/api\_docs/python/tf/optimizers/SGD

You don't need to perform any hyperparameter tuning, but you should achieve validation accuracies above 50% after training for one

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```

```
In []:
```

```
learning_rate = 3e-3
channel_1, channel_2, num_classes = 32, 16, 10
def model init fn():
 model = None
  # TODO: Complete the implementation of model_fn.
  # *****START OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) *****
  pass
  # *****END OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
  END OF YOUR CODE
  return model
def optimizer_init_fn():
  optimizer = None
  # TODO: Complete the implementation of model_fn.
  # *****START OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
  pass
  # *****END OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
  END OF YOUR CODE
  return optimizer
train_part34(model_init_fn, optimizer_init_fn)
```

# Part IV: Keras Sequential API

In Part III we introduced the tf.keras.Model API, which allows you to define models with any number of learnable layers and with arbitrary connectivity between layers.

However for many models you don't need such flexibility - a lot of models can be expressed as a sequential stack of layers, with the output of each layer fed to the next layer as input. If your model fits this pattern, then there is an even easier way to define your model: using tf.keras.Sequential. You don't need to write any custom classes; you simply call the tf.keras.Sequential constructor with a list containing a sequence of layer objects.

One complication with tf.keras.Sequential is that you must define the shape of the input to the model by passing a value to
the input\_shape of the first layer in your model.

### **Keras Sequential API: Two-Layer Network**

In this subsection, we will rewrite the two-layer fully-connected network using the training loop defined above.

You don't need to perform any hyperparameter tuning here, but you should see validation accuracies above 40% after training for one epoch.

#### In []:

```
kernel_initializer=initializer),

| model = tf.keras.Sequential(layers)
| return model |

def optimizer_init_fn():
| return tf.keras.optimizers.SGD(learning_rate=learning_rate) |

train_part34 (model_init_fn, optimizer_init_fn)
```

# **Abstracting Away the Training Loop**

In the previous examples, we used a customised training loop to train models (e.g. train\_part34). Writing your own training loop is only required if you need more flexibility and control during training your model. Alternately, you can also use built-in APIs like tf.keras.Model.fit() and tf.keras.Model.evaluate to train and evaluate a model. Also remember to configure your model for training by calling `tf.keras.Model.compile.

You don't need to perform any hyperparameter tuning here, but you should see validation and test accuracies above 42% after training for one epoch.

```
In []:

model = model_init_fn()
model.compile(optimizer=tf.keras.optimizers.SGD(learning_rate=learning_rate),
```

```
loss='sparse_categorical_crossentropy',
    metrics=[tf.keras.metrics.sparse_categorical_accuracy])
model.fit(X_train, y_train, batch_size=64, epochs=1, validation_data=(X_val, y_val))
model.evaluate(X test, y test)
```

# Keras Sequential API: Three-Layer ConvNet

Here you should use tf.keras.Sequential to reimplement the same three-layer ConvNet architecture used in Part II and Part III. As a reminder, your model should have the following architecture:

- 1. Convolutional layer with 32 5x5 kernels, using zero padding of 2
- 2. ReLU nonlinearity
- 3. Convolutional layer with 16 3x3 kernels, using zero padding of 1
- 4. ReLU nonlinearity
- 5. Fully-connected layer giving class scores
- 6. Softmax nonlinearity

You should initialize the weights of the model using a tf.initializers.VarianceScaling as above.

You should train the model using Nesterov momentum 0.9.

You don't need to perform any hyperparameter search, but you should achieve accuracy above 45% after training for one epoch.

```
In [ ]:
```

```
def model_init_fn():
 model = None
 # TODO: Construct a three-layer ConvNet using tf.keras.Sequential.
 # *****START OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
 pass
 # *****END OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
 END OF YOUR CODE
 return model
learning\_rate = 5e-4
def optimizer_init_fn():
 optimizer = None
 # TODO: Complete the implementation of model_fn.
 # *****START OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
```

We will also train this model with the built-in training loop APIs provided by TensorFlow.

```
In [ ]:
```

# Part IV: Functional API

## **Demonstration with a Two-Layer Network**

In the previous section, we saw how we can use tf.keras.Sequential to stack layers to quickly build simple models. But this comes at the cost of losing flexibility.

Often we will have to write complex models that have non-sequential data flows: a layer can have **multiple inputs and/or outputs**, such as stacking the output of 2 previous layers together to feed as input to a third! (Some examples are residual connections and dense blocks.)

In such cases, we can use Keras functional API to write models with complex topologies such as:

- 1. Multi-input models
- 2. Multi-output models
- 3. Models with shared layers (the same layer called several times)
- 4. Models with non-sequential data flows (e.g. residual connections)

Writing a model with Functional API requires us to create a tf.keras.Model instance and explicitly write input tensors and output tensors for this model.

### Keras Functional API: Train a Two-Layer Network

You can now train this two-layer network constructed using the functional API.

You don't need to perform any hyperparameter tuning here, but you should see validation accuracies above 40% after training for one epoch.

#### In []:

```
input_shape = (32, 32, 3)
hidden_size, num_classes = 4000, 10
learning_rate = 1e-2

def model_init_fn():
    return two_layer_fc_functional(input_shape, hidden_size, num_classes)

def optimizer_init_fn():
    return tf.keras.optimizers.SGD(learning_rate=learning_rate)

train_part34(model_init_fn, optimizer_init_fn)
```

# Part V: CIFAR-10 open-ended challenge

In this section you can experiment with whatever ConvNet architecture you'd like on CIFAR-10.

You should experiment with architectures, hyperparameters, loss functions, regularization, or anything else you can think of to train a

model that achieves **at least 70%** accuracy on the **validation** set within 10 epochs. You can use the built-in train function, the train\_part34 function from above, or implement your own training loop.

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Describe what you did at the end of the notebook.

# Some things you can try:

- Filter size: Above we used 5x5 and 3x3; is this optimal?
- Number of filters: Above we used 16 and 32 filters. Would more or fewer do better?
- Pooling: We didn't use any pooling above. Would this improve the model?
- **Normalization**: Would your model be improved with batch normalization, layer normalization, group normalization, or some other normalization strategy?
- Network architecture: The ConvNet above has only three layers of trainable parameters. Would a deeper model do better?
- Global average pooling: Instead of flattening after the final convolutional layer, would global average pooling do better? This
  strategy is used for example in Google's Inception network and in Residual Networks.
- Regularization: Would some kind of regularization improve performance? Maybe weight decay or dropout?

## **NOTE: Batch Normalization / Dropout**

If you are using Batch Normalization and Dropout, remember to pass is\_training=True if you use the train\_part34() function. BatchNorm and Dropout layers have different behaviors at training and inference time. training is a specific keyword argument reserved for this purpose in any tf.keras.Model's call() function. Read more about this here:

https://www.tensorflow.org/versions/r2.0/api\_docs/python/tf/keras/layers/BatchNormalization#methods https://www.tensorflow.org/versions/r2.0/api\_docs/python/tf/keras/layers/Dropout#methods

### Tips for training

For each network architecture that you try, you should tune the learning rate and other hyperparameters. When doing this there are a couple important things to keep in mind:

- If the parameters are working well, you should see improvement within a few hundred iterations
- Remember the coarse-to-fine approach for hyperparameter tuning: start by testing a large range of hyperparameters for just a few training iterations to find the combinations of parameters that are working at all.
- Once you have found some sets of parameters that seem to work, search more finely around these parameters. You may need
  to train for more epochs.
- You should use the validation set for hyperparameter search, and save your test set for evaluating your architecture on the best parameters as selected by the validation set.

### Going above and beyond

If you are feeling adventurous there are many other features you can implement to try and improve your performance. You are **not required** to implement any of these, but don't miss the fun if you have time!

- Alternative optimizers: you can try Adam, Adagrad, RMSprop, etc.
- Alternative activation functions such as leaky ReLU, parametric ReLU, ELU, or MaxOut.
- Model ensembles
- Data augmentation
- New Architectures
  - ResNets where the input from the previous layer is added to the output.
  - <u>DenseNets</u> where inputs into previous layers are concatenated together.
  - This blog has an in-depth overview

# Have fun and happy training!

```
END OF YOUR CODE
     def call(self, input_tensor, training=False):
     # TODO: Construct a model that performs well on CIFAR-10
     # *****START OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
     pass
     # *****END OF YOUR CODE (DO NOT DELETE/MODIFY THIS LINE) ****
     END OF YOUR CODE
     return x
device = '/device:GPU:0'  # Change this to a CPU/GPU as you wish!
# device = '/cpu:0'  # Change this to a CPU/GPU as you wish!
print_every = 700
num_epochs = 10
model = CustomConvNet()
def model_init_fn():
  return CustomConvNet()
def optimizer_init_fn():
  learning_rate = 1e-3
  return tf.keras.optimizers.Adam(learning_rate)
train_part34 (model_init_fn, optimizer_init_fn, num_epochs=num_epochs, is_training=True)
```

# Describe what you did

In the cell below you should write an explanation of what you did, any additional features that you implemented, and/or any graphs that you made in the process of training and evaluating your network.

TODO: Tell us what you did