# **Constructing a Neuron using Column Generation**

## Julian Yarkony

Experian Data Lab San Diego CA julian.e.yarkony@gmail.com

## **Abstract**

We consider the problem of describing neurons in single neuron images. To do this we map the problem to a problem of constructing a lineage to one

# 1 Formulation

#### 1.1 Tracks

- We describe the set of detections as  $\mathcal{D}$  which we index with d.
- We describe the set of tracks as  $\mathcal{P}$  which we index with p.
- We use  $X \in \{0,1\}^{|\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{P}|}$  to denote a mapping of detections to tracks where  $X_{dp} = 1$  indicates that track d is associated with track p.
- A track consists of as sequence of sub-tracks each of k detections where k is a user defined hyper-parameter that trades off model complexity and efficiency of inference.
- We use  $\bar{X} \in \{0,1\}^{|\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{P}|}$  to denote a mapping of detections to tracks where  $X_{dp} = 1$  indicates that track d is associated with track p and detection d is not in the first k-1 detections on the track.

#### 1.2 Sub-Tracks

- We define the set of subtracks as S which we index with s. A given subtrack has elements  $\{s_1, s_2, s_3...s_k\}$  ordered in time from earliest to latest.
- We use  $F \in \{0,1\}^{|\mathcal{D}|\times|\mathcal{S}|}$  which we index by d,s respectively. We set  $F_{ds}=1$  if and only if detection d is in subtrack s.
- We use  $F^- \in \{0,1\}^{|\mathcal{D}| \times |\mathcal{S}|}$  which we index by d,s respectively. We set  $F_{ds}=1$  if and only if detection d is the final detection on subtrack s.
- We define a mapping of tracks to subtracks using a matrix  $S^0 \in \{0,1\}^{|\mathcal{S}| \times |\mathcal{P}|}$ . We use  $S^0_{sp} = 1$  to indicate that track p contains subtrack s as neither the start nor the end.
- In order to describe the first subtrack on a track we use matrix  $S^+ \in \{0,1\}^{|\mathcal{S}| \times |\mathcal{P}|}$  which we index with s,p where  $S^+_{sp}=1$  if and only if subtrack s is the first subtrack on track p
- In order to describe the first subtrack on a track we use matrix  $S^- \in \{0,1\}^{|\mathcal{S}| \times |\mathcal{P}|}$  which we index with s,p where  $S^+_{sp}=1$  if and only if subtrack s is the first subtrack on track p
- The subtracks in the sequence that describes a track overlap eachother. Hence if a sub-tracks  $s_1$  is succeeded by another subtrack  $s_2$  on a given track then the final k-1 elements on  $s_1$  are the same as the earliest k-1 elements in  $s_2$
- We use  $Q \in \{0,1\}^{|\mathcal{S}| \times |\mathcal{S}|}$  which we index by  $s_1, s_2$  respectively. We set  $Q_{s_1 s_2} = 1$  if and only if subtrack  $s_1$  can succeed  $s_2$ .

#### 1.3 Costs

We associate tracks with costs with costs usign the following noattion. We use  $\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{P}}$  which we index by p to associate tracks with costs. We use  $\Theta_p$  to associate track p with a cost.

- We use  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{S}|,3}$  which we index by s/[+,-,0] respectively.
- We use  $\theta_{s+}$  to denote the cost of starting a track at subtrack s.
- We use  $\theta_{s-}$  to denote the cost of terminating a track at subtrack s.
- ullet We use  $heta_{s0}$  to denote the cost of including a subtrack s in a track as neither the start nor the end .

We assocaite a track with cost with cost  $\Theta_p$  as follows.

$$\Theta_p = \sum_{s \in S} S_{sp}^+ \theta_{s+} + S_{sp}^- \theta_{s-} + S_{sp}^0 \theta_{s0}$$
 (1)

#### 1.4 Collection of Tracks

We describe a collection of tracks that describe a neuron using a vector  $\gamma \in \{0,1\}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$  which we index with p. We set  $\gamma_p = 1$  if and only if track p is incuded in the neuron.

We use  $\Gamma$  to describe the set of all possible neurons. This a subset of  $\gamma \in \{0,1\}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$  The cost associated with a nueron described by  $\gamma$  is defined by the sum of the tracks that compose it. The selection of the lowest cost neuron is thuse written below

$$\min_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \sum_{p} \gamma_p \Theta_p \tag{2}$$

#### 1.5 Feasibility

We assume that the soma is defined by a subtrack  $s_0$  which is a special subtrack that initializes the neuron

A track is included or not included :  $\gamma_p \in \{0, 1\}$ 

No two tracks can continue through a given detection

$$\sum_{p} \gamma_p \hat{X}_{dp} \le 1 \quad \forall d \tag{3}$$

A detetion can not be part of more than two tracks. This blocks succession in close proximity.

$$\sum_{p} \gamma_p X_{dp} \le 2 \quad \forall d \tag{4}$$

A track can not split off a subtrack unless that sub-track is already on a track.

$$\sum_{p} \sum_{s} Q_{ss_1} S_{s_1 p}^+ \gamma_p \le \sum_{p} S_{sp}^0 \gamma_p \tag{5}$$

If a track terminates at a given detection then no detections can start off it. A strong penalty for ending a track early negates the need for this. Since this strong penalty has been described I ignore this constraint in the document.

$$\sum_{p} \gamma_{p} \sum_{s} (F_{ds} - F_{ds}^{-}) \le (1 - \sum_{p} \gamma_{p} \sum_{s} S_{p}^{-} F_{ds}^{-}) \tag{6}$$

## 2 LP relaxation

$$\min_{\substack{\gamma \ge 0 \\ \sum_{p} \gamma_{p} \dot{X}_{dp} \le 1 \\ \sum_{p} \gamma_{p} X_{dp} \le 2 \\ \sum_{p} \sum_{s} Q_{ss_{1}} S_{s_{1p}}^{+} \gamma_{p} \le \sum_{p} S_{sp}^{0} \gamma_{p}}} \sum_{p} \gamma_{p} \Theta_{p} \tag{7}$$

We now take the dual form of this. We use lagragne multiplers  $\lambda^1 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{D}|}_{0+}, \lambda^2 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{D}|}_{0+}, \lambda^3 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{S}|}_{0+}$  to resprese nnteh constraints above in dual form.

$$\max_{\substack{\lambda^1 \ge 0\\ \lambda^2 \ge 0\\ \lambda^3 > 0}} -\sum_d (\lambda_d^1 + 2\lambda_d^2) \tag{8}$$

$$\Theta_p + \sum_{d} \hat{X}_{dp} \lambda_d^1 + \sum_{d} X_{dp} \lambda_d^2 - \sum_{s} (S_{sp}^0) \lambda_s^3 + \sum_{s_1} \lambda_{s_1}^3 \sum_{s_2} Q_{s_1 s_2} S_{s_2 p}^+ \ge 0$$
 (9)

Finding the most violated constraint is a dynamic program. Many constraints can be generated at once.

# 3 augmenting

To make things easier I susepct adding the following will help. We will make its multiplier slightly less

$$\sum_{p} \gamma_{p}(X_{dp} - \hat{X}_{dp}) \le \sum_{p} \gamma_{p} \hat{X}_{dp} \forall d \notin s_{0}$$
(10)

This is a weaker constarint that that imposed by  $\lambda^3$  but can be expressed in addition. It has thebenifit that it operates on a small number of variables  $\mathcal{D}$  not  $\mathcal{S}$ . We express it with multipliers  $\lambda^4 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{D}|}$ 

$$\max_{\substack{\lambda^1 \ge 0 \\ \lambda^2 \ge 0 \\ \lambda^3 \ge 0}} - \sum_{d} (\lambda_d^1 + 2\lambda_d^2)$$

$$\Theta_{p} + \sum_{d} \hat{X}_{dp} \lambda_{d}^{1} + \sum_{d} X_{dp} \lambda_{d}^{2} - \sum_{s} (S_{sp}^{0}) \lambda_{s}^{3} + \sum_{s_{1}} \lambda_{s_{1}}^{3} \sum_{s_{2}} Q_{s_{1}s_{2}} S_{s_{2}p}^{+} + \sum_{d \notin s_{0}} \lambda_{d}^{4} (X_{dp} - 2\hat{X}_{dp}) \ge 0$$

$$(12)$$

# 4 Dyanmic form

Finiding the most violated constraint is a dynamic program.

$$\min_{p} \Theta_{p} + \sum_{d} \hat{X}_{dp} \lambda_{d}^{1} + \sum_{d} X_{dp} \lambda_{d}^{2} - \sum_{s} (S_{sp}^{0}) \lambda_{s}^{3} + \sum_{s_{1}} \lambda_{s_{1}}^{3} \sum_{s_{2}} Q_{s_{1}s_{2}} S_{s_{2}p}^{+} + \sum_{d \notin s_{0}} \lambda_{d}^{4} (X_{dp} - 2\hat{X}_{dp})$$

$$\tag{13}$$

We now plug in for  $\Theta_p$ 

$$\min_{p} \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} S_{sp}^{+} \theta_{s+} + S_{sp}^{-} \theta_{s-} + S_{sp}^{0} \theta_{s0} 
+ \sum_{d} \hat{X}_{dp} \lambda_{d}^{1} + \sum_{d} X_{dp} \lambda_{d}^{2} - \sum_{s} (S_{sp}^{0}) \lambda_{s}^{3} + \sum_{s_{1}} \lambda_{s_{1}}^{3} \sum_{s_{2}} Q_{s_{1}s_{2}} S_{s_{2}p}^{+} + \sum_{d \notin s_{0}} \lambda_{d}^{4} (X_{dp} - 2\hat{X}_{dp})$$
(14)

The lowest cost track terminating at  $s_2$  can be written as follows.

Let  $\ell_{0s}$  be the cost to start and end a track at subtrack s. Let  $\ell_{s_1s_2}$  be of the lowest cost track ending ins  $s_2$  with  $s_1$  as its penultimate subtrack.

$$\ell_{0s} = \theta_s^- + \theta_s^+ - \lambda_s^3 + \sum_d F_{ds}(\lambda_d^4 + \lambda_d^2) + \sum_d F_{ds}^-(\lambda_d^1 - 2\lambda_d^2) + \sum_{s_1} \lambda_{s_1}^3 Q_{s_1 s}$$
 (15)

$$\ell_{\hat{s}s} = \ell_{\hat{s}} - \theta_{\hat{s}}^{-} + \theta_{\hat{s}}^{0} + \theta_{\hat{s}}^{-} - \lambda_{s}^{3} + \sum_{d} F_{ds}^{-} (\lambda_{d}^{1} + \lambda_{d}^{2} - \lambda_{d}^{4})$$
(16)

$$\ell_s = \min[\ell_{0s}, \min_{\substack{\hat{s} \\ Q_{\hat{s}s=1}}} \ell_{\hat{s}s}] \tag{17}$$