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Adversarial Label Flips

Matthias Dellago & Maximilian Samsinger

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1   Notation

We denote neural network classifiers as $f_\theta\colon \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}, x \mapsto y$ with trainable parameter θ. $\mathcal{X}$ is a set of images with corresponding labels (classes) $\mathcal{Y}$. The parameter θ is optimized by minimizing a training objective $(\theta, x, y) \mapsto J(\theta, x, y)$ with respect to θ.

2   On neural networks

Convolutional neural networks are the de facto standard in computer vision related tasks. They were first introduced in [1] to classify handwritten digits. In [2], Krizhevsky et al. demonstrated the effectiveness of deep convolutional neural networks on ImageNet dataset [3], winning the ImageNet Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge 2012 [4]. The architecture of convolutional neural networks has since been further optimized. Residual neural networks [5] and their variants are state-of-the-art for image recognition tasks and dominate the leaderboard on websites such as `https://paperswithcode.com/task/image-classification`.

Experiments   For our experiments we will consider the MNIST [6], Fashion-MNIST [7] and CIFAR-10 [8] datasets. For MNIST and Fashion-MNIST we will use the convolutional neural network described in [9], Table 1. For CIFAR-10 we may use a ResNet-18 architecture [5] with the "pre-activation" optimization [10].

3   On adversarial attacks

Deep neural networks have been shown to be vulnerable to tiny, maliciously crafted perturbations applied to otherwise benign inputs. These so-called "adversarial examples" were first introduced in [11]. Further research showed that these adversarial examples generalize over multiple datasets and architectures [12]. Even very inexpensive attacks like the Fast Gradient Sign Method (FGSM) [12] can be used to fool neural networks. FGSM requires white-box access to the targeted neural networks architecture and its weights. Adversarial examples are computed by performing a gradient ascent step with respect to the sign of the gradient

$$\text{FGSM}_\epsilon(x) = x + \epsilon\, \text{sign}(\nabla_x J(\theta, x, y))$$

given a step size $\epsilon > 0$. FGSM is an L^∞-bounded attack[1], i.e. $\|x - \text{FGSM}_\epsilon(x)\|_\infty \le \epsilon$, meaning that each pixel value of a benign image x may only be perturbed by up to ϵ. Stronger attacks can be computed by repeatedly applying FGSM with smaller step sizes. This type of attack is known as Projected Gradient

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[1] While bounds with respect to an L^p norm are commonly used in the machine learning literature, we are aware that they are "[...] neither necessary nor sufficient for perceptual similarity [...]" [13].

Descent (PGD) and was first introduced [14]. Their experiments demonstrated the effectiveness of such attacks and showed that convergence is achieved after only a few hundred iterations or less.

Foolbox For our experiments we will use a suite of different attacks using the FoolBox library [15]. The documentation is available at `https://foolbox.readthedocs.io/en/stable/`.

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