Manual training with TensorFlow

October 6, 2025

This notebook demonstrates the implementation of a churn prediction model using a manual training loop with tf.GradientTape.

Although this approach is not part of the main project workflow, it is included to illustrate an advanced technique in model training and optimization.

This approach provides insight into how weights are manually updated, how the loss is computed, and how the optimizer is applied.

Although Keras abstracts these steps, understanding them in detail is valuable for custom architectures, non-standard loss functions, or deep debugging.

```
[12]: import numpy as np import pandas as pd
```

```
[16]: # We define the model with the same parameters as the original one
import tensorflow as tf
from tensorflow.keras import Input, Sequential
from tensorflow.keras.layers import Dense

n_features = Xtrain.shape[1]

model = Sequential([
    Input(shape=(n_features,)),
    Dense(10, activation='relu'),
    Dense(1, activation='sigmoid')
])
```

Manual Configuration

Training with a manual loop provides full control over every step of the learning process—from the forward pass and loss computation to backpropagation and weight updates.

It allows for seamless integration of custom logic, tailored metrics, and advanced techniques such as multiple optimizers, direct gradient manipulation, conditional computations, and non-standard loss functions.

This approach is especially valuable in research, experimentation, or scenarios where the standard training pipeline is insufficient

```
[54]: # Manual configuration
      loss_fn = tf.keras.losses.BinaryCrossentropy() # This function measures the
       → difference between the actual probability distribution (labels 0 or 1)
                                                       # and the probability predicted
       \rightarrow by the model.
      optimizer = tf.keras.optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=1e-3) # The same learning_
       →rate we used in .compile() on the main notebook.
      train_ds = tf.data.Dataset.from_tensor_slices((Xtrain, y_train)).batch(32) #__
       → This creates a dataset that produces 32 samples with tag per iteration.
[42]: # To see how the weights were calculated for this particular dataset
      # please refer to '3.1) Importance of class weight' on the main Notebook.
      class_weights = {0: 0.6810433884297521, 1: 1.8808844507845934}
[60]: # Training Loop with GradientTape
      for epoch in range(30): # Using 30 epochs as the original
          epoch_loss = 0
          for step, (x_batch, y_batch) in enumerate(train_ds): # Every step will_
       →obtain a batch with 'x_batch' caracteristics, and its tags 'y_batch'.
              with tf.GradientTape() as tape: # This opens a context for recording_
       → automatic gradient calculation
                                                # (this will be need for the
       \rightarrow backpropagation training).
                  logits = model(x_batch, training=True) # obtains the predictions (or_
       \hookrightarrow logits).
                  logits = tf.squeeze(logits) # Asures compatible form.
                  loss = loss_fn(y_batch, logits) # calculates loss comparing true_
       \rightarrow labels agains the predictions.
```

Epoch 2, Loss: 0.4357 Epoch 3, Loss: 0.4334 Epoch 4, Loss: 0.4316 Epoch 5, Loss: 0.4301 Epoch 6, Loss: 0.4287 Epoch 7, Loss: 0.4274 Epoch 8, Loss: 0.4264 Epoch 9, Loss: 0.4255 Epoch 10, Loss: 0.4247 Epoch 11, Loss: 0.4240 Epoch 12, Loss: 0.4233 Epoch 13, Loss: 0.4227 Epoch 14, Loss: 0.4221 Epoch 15, Loss: 0.4215 Epoch 16, Loss: 0.4211 Epoch 17, Loss: 0.4207 Epoch 18, Loss: 0.4203 Epoch 19, Loss: 0.4198 Epoch 20, Loss: 0.4195 Epoch 21, Loss: 0.4191 Epoch 22, Loss: 0.4188 Epoch 23, Loss: 0.4186 Epoch 24, Loss: 0.4183 Epoch 25, Loss: 0.4180 Epoch 26, Loss: 0.4177 Epoch 27, Loss: 0.4174 Epoch 28, Loss: 0.4172 Epoch 29, Loss: 0.4169 Epoch 30, Loss: 0.4167

Evaluation of the Model

```
probs min/max/mean: 0.003331948 0.9032699 0.24757144
Unique binary preds and counts: (array([0, 1]), array([1443, 315],
dtype=int64))
Confusion matrix:
  [[1192    99]
   [ 251    216]]
ROC AUC: 0.8454022826452943
PR AUC: 0.6567113634864129
```

With the manual configuration of the loop and metrics not only we obtained the same results in ROC-AUC & PR-AUC curves but also, we obtained small improvement on the values in the targeted results of the confusion matrix: True positives & False positives.

While using pure TensorFlow requires a deeper understanding of the training process, it offers insight into the internal workflow of model learning—beneficial for both customization and optimization.