

Train ANNs on Google Colab

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1 Introduction

Google Colab is an online environment, based on Python Jupyter notebooks, which provides free Tesla K80 GPUs for use. You can run your Python code in Colab environment, and all you need is a Google account.

Note that Google Colab automatically recycles a runtime (or session) if it lacks activity for 90 minutes or it has existed for 12 hours, which means you have to interact with the web page every 90 minutes, and finish all your work within 12 hours. Otherwise, your job will be killed and files will be deleted.¹

2 Objectives

1. Preparation
2. Create a notebook on Google Colab by uploading a script from local
3. Setup the environment and upload dataset
4. Train ANNs
5. Download trained model

3 Preparation

Files in folder "calsim_ANN":

1. `ANN_data.xlsx`: dataset.
2. `ann_helper.py`: a helper script which users do not need to modify or run.
3. `train_single_output_ANN.ipynb` and `train_multi_output_ANN.ipynb`: Training scripts. Users can train single-output or multi-output ANNs by running them on Google Colab platform.
4. `test_single_output_ANN.py` and `test_multi_output_ANN.py`: Testing scripts. Users can test trained ANN models by running them on local computer.

Before running our scripts on Google Colab platform, we need to upload the helper script and dataset to Google Drive. Go to <https://drive.google.com/>, click on `New`, then `Folder Upload` and select `calsim_ANN`.

¹One easiest way to keep your Colab job active is to open a separate browser window (instead of a tab in your current window) for it, then you don't need to go back to it every 90 minutes.

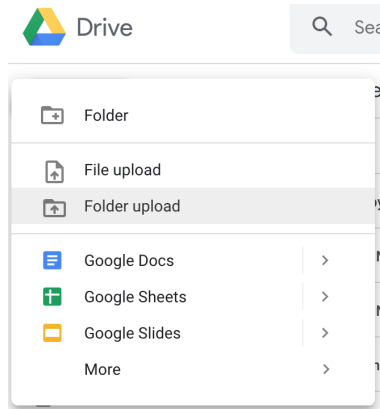
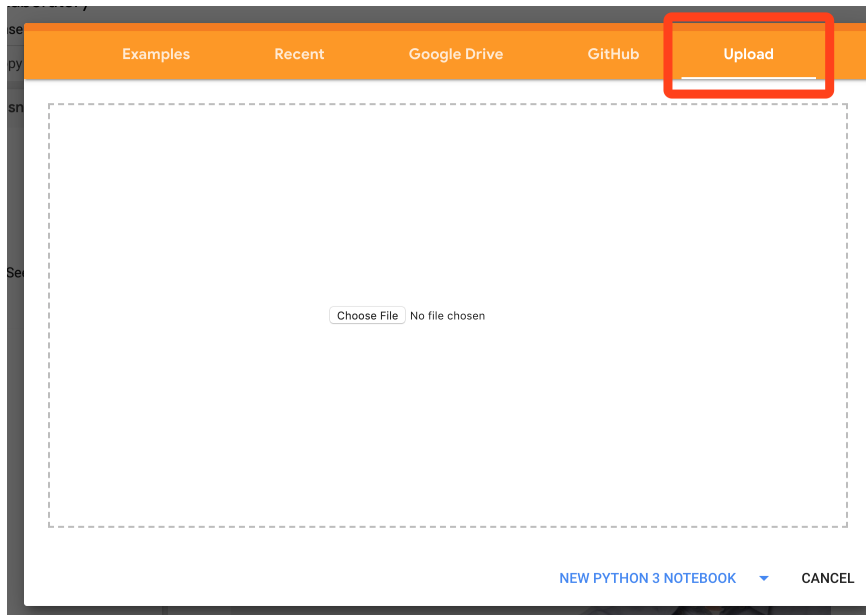


Figure 1: Upload the complete folder

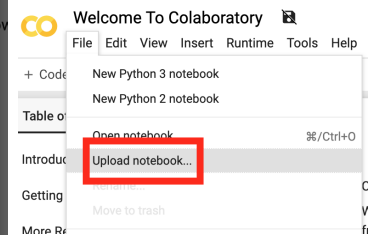
4 Open Notebook

Go to Google Colab (<http://colab.research.google.com>) and click **Upload** as in Fig.2a. If this message box does not pop up, select **File** → **Upload files** as in Fig.2b. Then click **Choose File** and select the **.ipynb** file in **calsim_ANN** folder.

If you already have the notebook created, you can directly open it from **Recent** tab and skip to next section.



(a) Welcome page



(b) Toolbar

Figure 2: Upload notebook

If uploading is successful, you will be redirected to the newly created notebook on Google Colab just like Fig.3.

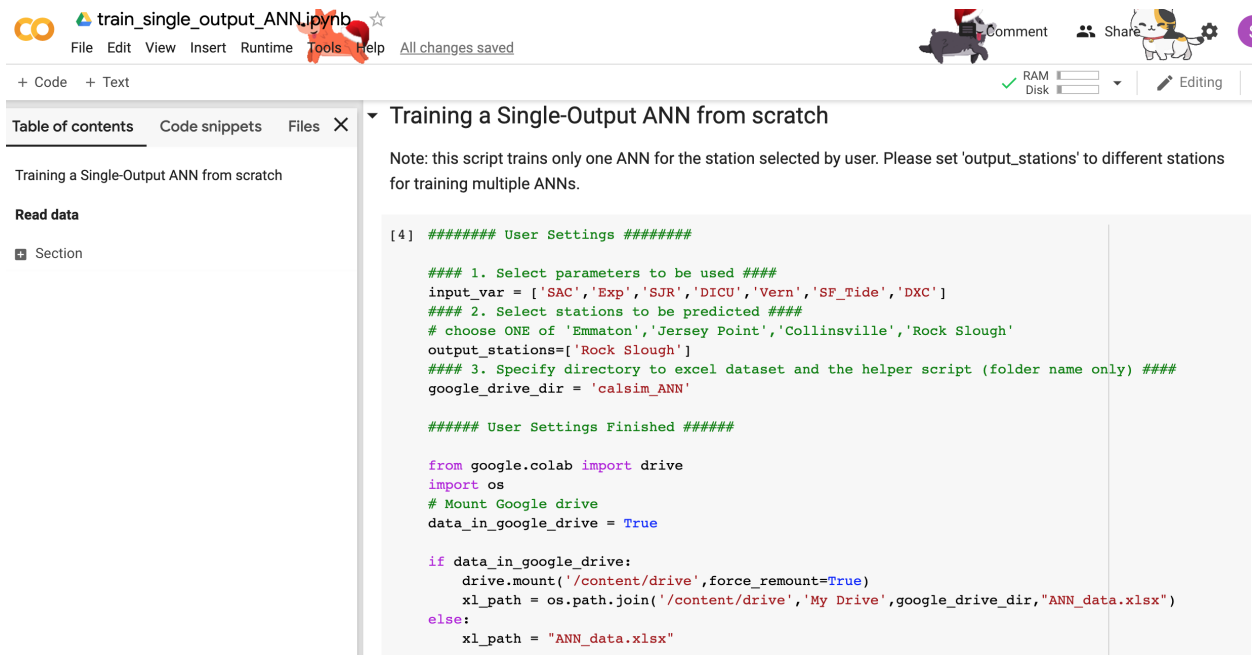
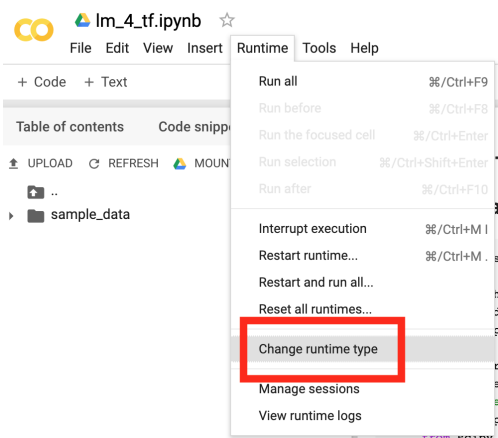


Figure 3: New notebook uploaded

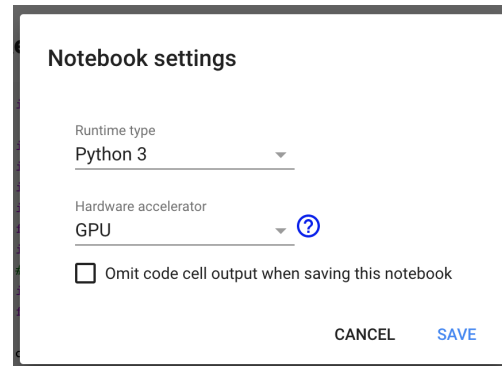
5 Setup Environment and Prepare Dataset

5.1 Environment Setup

Choose **Runtime** → **Change runtime type** in toolbar, set **Runtime type** to **Python 3** and **Hardware accelerator** to **GPU** like Fig.4. The settings will be saved, so you can skip this step next time running this same notebook.



(a) Set runtime type




(b) Settings

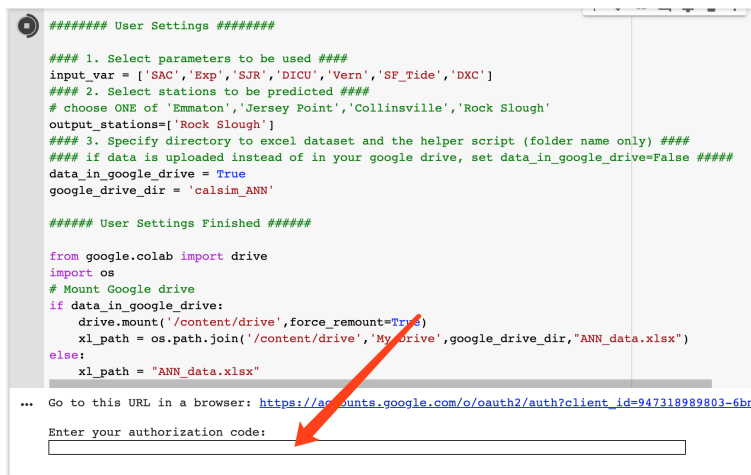
Figure 4: Environment setup

5.2 Prepare Dataset

Now the environment is ready. Next we will mount our Google Drive to access the dataset.

Go to the first code cell in the notebook and set `google_drive_dir` to the Google Drive folder where `ann_helper.py` and `ANN_data.xlsx` are in, by default it is `calsim_ANN`.

Click the  button of first code cell, then click on the URL shown in the interactive output block to verify your account, copy authorization code, paste it in the text entry box pointed by the red arrow in Fig.5 and press enter.



```
##### User Settings #####
### 1. Select parameters to be used ###
input_var = ['SAC','Exp','SJR','DICU','Vern','SF_Tide','DXC']
### 2. Select stations to be predicted ###
# choose ONE of 'Emmaton','Jersey Point','Collinsville','Rock Slough'
output_stations=['Rock Slough']
### 3. Specify directory to excel dataset and the helper script (folder name only) ###
### if data is uploaded instead of in your google drive, set data_in_google_drive=False #####
data_in_google_drive = True
google_drive_dir = 'calsim_ANN'

##### User Settings Finished #####

from google.colab import drive
import os
# Mount Google drive
if data_in_google_drive:
    drive.mount('/content/drive',force_remount=True)
    xl_path = os.path.join('/content/drive','My Drive',google_drive_dir,'ANN_data.xlsx')
else:
    xl_path = "ANN_data.xlsx"

... Go to this URL in a browser: https://accounts.google.com/o/oauth2/auth?client\_id=947318989803-6bn
Enter your authorization code: 
```

Figure 5: Variable settings and verification

6 Train your ANN

Click `Runtime` → `Run all`, and now your program is running!

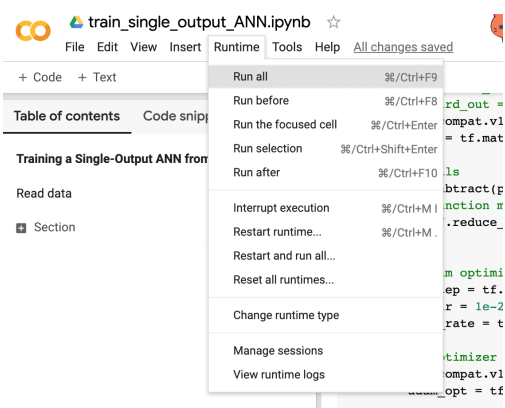




Figure 6: Run your training job

7 Download Trained Model

Once training is finished, the model and fortran file are automatically downloaded as a `.zip` file.

In case they are not downloaded after training, which usually happens, go to the last cell and click the  button beside it. When the icon turns into a  button, click on it again.

To use the model, unzip the file and move it to the folder (on your computer, not Google Drive) where `test_single_output_ANN.py` and `test_multi_output_ANN.py` is in.