Understanding model optimization

Puteaux, Fall/Winter 2020-2021

- 1. Why is optimization hard?
 - Simultaneously optimize 1000's of parameters with complex relationships.
 - Updates may not improve the model meaningfully.
 - Updates will be too small (if the learning rate is low) or too large (if the learning rate is high).

2. Code of stochastic gradient descent:

```
data = pd.read_csv('ref1. Basketball shot log.csv')
data = data_preparation(data)

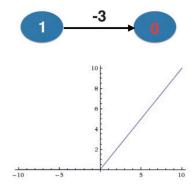
predictors = data.drop(['shot_result'], axis=1).to_numpy()
n_cols = predictors.shape[1]
target = to_categorical(data.shot_result)
input_shape = (n_cols, )
```

```
[2]: def get_new_model(input_shape=input_shape):
    model = Sequential()
    model.add(Dense(100, activation='relu', input_shape=input_shape))
    model.add(Dense(100, activation='relu'))
    model.add(Dense(2, activation='softmax'))
    return (model)

lr_to_test = [.000001, 0.01, 1]

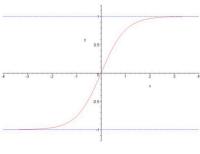
# loop over learning rates
for lr in lr_to_test:
    model = get_new_model()
    my_optimizer = SGD(lr=lr)
    model.compile(optimizer=my_optimizer, loss='categorical_crossentropy')
    model.fit(predictors, target)
```

3. What is the dying neuron problem?



4. What is the vanishing gradient problem?

- This occurs when many layers have very small slopes:
 - e.g., due to being on at part of the hyperbolic tangent (tanh) curve
- In deep networks, updates to backpropagation were close to 0.



tanh function

5. Practice question for diagnosing optimization problems:

- Which of the following could prevent a model from showing an improved loss in its first few epochs?
 - \square Learning rate too low.
 - \square Learning rate too high.
 - \square Poor choice of the activation function.
 - \boxtimes All of the above.

6. Practice exercises for understanding model optimization:

▶ Package pre-loading:

```
[3]: import pandas as pd
from keras.layers import Dense
from keras.models import Sequential
from keras.utils import to_categorical
```

▶ Data pre-loading:

```
[4]: df = pd.read_csv('ref4. Titanic.csv')

df.replace(False, 0, inplace=True)

df.replace(True, 1, inplace=True)

predictors = df.drop(['survived'], axis=1).to_numpy()

n_cols = predictors.shape[1]

target = to_categorical(df.survived)
input_shape = (n_cols, )
```

► Code pre-loading:

```
[5]: def get_new_model(input_shape=input_shape):
    model = Sequential()
    model.add(Dense(100, activation='relu', input_shape=input_shape))
    model.add(Dense(100, activation='relu'))
    model.add(Dense(2, activation='softmax'))
    return (model)
```

▶ Changing optimization parameters practice:

```
[6]: # Import the SGD optimizer
from keras.optimizers import SGD

# Create list of learning rates: lr_to_test
lr_to_test = [.000001, 0.01, 1]

# Loop over learning rates
for lr in lr_to_test:
    print('\n\nTesting model with learning rate: %f\n' % lr)

# Build new model to test, unaffected by previous models
model = get_new_model()

# Create SGD optimizer with specified learning rate: my_optimizer
my_optimizer = SGD(lr=lr)

# Compile the model
model.compile(optimizer=my_optimizer, loss='categorical_crossentropy')

# Fit the model
model.fit(predictors, target)
```