# C4W3\_Assignment\_Using RNNs to predict time series

May 26, 2023

# 1 Week 3: Using RNNs to predict time series

Welcome! In the previous assignment you used a vanilla deep neural network to create forecasts for generated time series. This time you will be using Tensorflow's layers for processing sequence data such as Recurrent layers or LSTMs to see how these two approaches compare.

Let's get started!

**NOTE:** To prevent errors from the autograder, you are not allowed to edit or delete some of the cells in this notebook. Please only put your solutions in between the ### START CODE HERE and ### END CODE HERE code comments, and also refrain from adding any new cells. **Once you have passed this assignment** and want to experiment with any of the locked cells, you may follow the instructions at the bottom of this notebook.

```
[1]: import tensorflow as tf
  import numpy as np
  import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
  from dataclasses import dataclass
  from absl import logging
  logging.set_verbosity(logging.ERROR)
```

#### 1.1 Generating the data

The next cell includes a bunch of helper functions to generate and plot the time series:

```
def seasonality(time, period, amplitude=1, phase=0):
    """Repeats the same pattern at each period"""
    season_time = ((time + phase) % period) / period
    return amplitude * seasonal_pattern(season_time)

def noise(time, noise_level=1, seed=None):
    rnd = np.random.RandomState(seed)
    return rnd.randn(len(time)) * noise_level
```

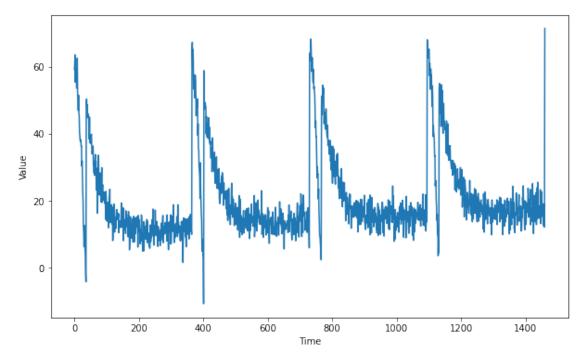
You will be generating the same time series data as in last week's assignment.

Notice that this time all the generation is done within a function and global variables are saved within a dataclass. This is done to avoid using global scope as it was done in during the first week of the course.

If you haven't used dataclasses before, they are just Python classes that provide a convenient syntax for storing data. You can read more about them in the docs.

```
[3]: def generate_time_series():
         # The time dimension or the x-coordinate of the time series
         time = np.arange(4 * 365 + 1, dtype="float32")
         # Initial series is just a straight line with a y-intercept
         y_intercept = 10
         slope = 0.005
         series = trend(time, slope) + y_intercept
         # Adding seasonality
         amplitude = 50
         series += seasonality(time, period=365, amplitude=amplitude)
         # Adding some noise
         noise_level = 3
         series += noise(time, noise_level, seed=51)
         return time, series
     # Save all "global" variables within the G class (G stands for global)
     @dataclass
     class G:
         TIME, SERIES = generate_time_series()
         SPLIT_TIME = 1100
         WINDOW_SIZE = 20
         BATCH SIZE = 32
         SHUFFLE_BUFFER_SIZE = 1000
```

```
# Plot the generated series
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
plot_series(G.TIME, G.SERIES)
plt.show()
```



# 1.2 Processing the data

Since you already coded the train\_val\_split and windowed\_dataset functions during past week's assignments, this time they are provided for you:

```
[4]: def train_val_split(time, series, time_step=G.SPLIT_TIME):
    time_train = time[:time_step]
    series_train = series[:time_step]
    time_valid = time[time_step:]
    series_valid = series[time_step:]

    return time_train, series_train, time_valid, series_valid

# Split the dataset
time_train, series_train, time_valid, series_valid = train_val_split(G.TIME, G.

SERIES)
```

```
[5]: def windowed_dataset(series, window_size=G.WINDOW_SIZE, batch_size=G.

→BATCH_SIZE, shuffle_buffer=G.SHUFFLE_BUFFER_SIZE):
    dataset = tf.data.Dataset.from_tensor_slices(series)
    dataset = dataset.window(window_size + 1, shift=1, drop_remainder=True)
    dataset = dataset.flat_map(lambda window: window.batch(window_size + 1))
    dataset = dataset.shuffle(shuffle_buffer)
    dataset = dataset.map(lambda window: (window[:-1], window[-1]))
    dataset = dataset.batch(batch_size).prefetch(1)
    return dataset

# Apply the transformation to the training set
dataset = windowed_dataset(series_train)
```

#### 1.3 Defining the model architecture

Now that you have a function that will process the data before it is fed into your neural network for training, it is time to define you layer architecture. Unlike previous weeks or courses in which you define your layers and compile the model in the same function, here you will first need to complete the create\_uncompiled\_model function below.

This is done so you can reuse your model's layers for the learning rate adjusting and the actual training.

Hint: - Fill in the Lambda layers at the beginning and end of the network with the correct lamda functions. - You should use SimpleRNN or Bidirectional (LSTM) as intermediate layers. - The last layer of the network (before the last Lambda) should be a Dense layer.

```
[18]: # Test your uncompiled model
uncompiled_model = create_uncompiled_model()
```

Your current architecture is compatible with the windowed dataset! :)

# 1.4 Adjusting the learning rate - (Optional Exercise)

As you saw in the lecture you can leverage Tensorflow's callbacks to dinamically vary the learning rate during training. This can be helpful to get a better sense of which learning rate better acommodates to the problem at hand.

Notice that this is only changing the learning rate during the training process to give you an idea of what a reasonable learning rate is and should not be confused with selecting the best learning rate, this is known as hyperparameter optimization and it is outside the scope of this course.

For the optimizers you can try out: - tf.keras.optimizers.Adam - tf.keras.optimizers.SGD with a momentum of 0.9

# [20]: # Run the training with dynamic LR lr\_history = adjust\_learning\_rate()

```
Epoch 1/100
40.8286 - lr: 1.0000e-06
Epoch 2/100
39.0933 - lr: 1.1220e-06
Epoch 3/100
37.1424 - lr: 1.2589e-06
Epoch 4/100
34.9467 - lr: 1.4125e-06
Epoch 5/100
32.4744 - lr: 1.5849e-06
Epoch 6/100
29.6888 - lr: 1.7783e-06
Epoch 7/100
26.5457 - lr: 1.9953e-06
Epoch 8/100
23.0429 - lr: 2.2387e-06
Epoch 9/100
19.2401 - lr: 2.5119e-06
Epoch 10/100
15.1244 - lr: 2.8184e-06
Epoch 11/100
10.6985 - lr: 3.1623e-06
Epoch 12/100
6.8636 - lr: 3.5481e-06
Epoch 13/100
5.5021 - lr: 3.9811e-06
Epoch 14/100
5.2796 - lr: 4.4668e-06
Epoch 15/100
```

```
5.1249 - lr: 5.0119e-06
Epoch 16/100
5.0025 - lr: 5.6234e-06
Epoch 17/100
4.9040 - lr: 6.3096e-06
Epoch 18/100
4.8201 - lr: 7.0795e-06
Epoch 19/100
4.7418 - lr: 7.9433e-06
Epoch 20/100
4.6646 - lr: 8.9125e-06
Epoch 21/100
4.5763 - lr: 1.0000e-05
Epoch 22/100
4.4768 - lr: 1.1220e-05
Epoch 23/100
4.3933 - lr: 1.2589e-05
Epoch 24/100
4.3242 - lr: 1.4125e-05
Epoch 25/100
4.2630 - lr: 1.5849e-05
Epoch 26/100
4.1722 - lr: 1.7783e-05
Epoch 27/100
4.0979 - lr: 1.9953e-05
Epoch 28/100
4.0378 - lr: 2.2387e-05
Epoch 29/100
3.9834 - lr: 2.5119e-05
Epoch 30/100
3.9117 - lr: 2.8184e-05
Epoch 31/100
```

```
3.8427 - lr: 3.1623e-05
Epoch 32/100
3.7876 - lr: 3.5481e-05
Epoch 33/100
3.7242 - lr: 3.9811e-05
Epoch 34/100
3.6805 - lr: 4.4668e-05
Epoch 35/100
3.5758 - lr: 5.0119e-05
Epoch 36/100
3.5099 - lr: 5.6234e-05
Epoch 37/100
3.4197 - lr: 6.3096e-05
Epoch 38/100
3.3483 - lr: 7.0795e-05
Epoch 39/100
3.4089 - lr: 7.9433e-05
Epoch 40/100
3.2641 - lr: 8.9125e-05
Epoch 41/100
3.2093 - lr: 1.0000e-04
Epoch 42/100
3.1915 - lr: 1.1220e-04
Epoch 43/100
3.2441 - lr: 1.2589e-04
Epoch 44/100
3.2065 - lr: 1.4125e-04
Epoch 45/100
3.1407 - lr: 1.5849e-04
Epoch 46/100
3.1536 - lr: 1.7783e-04
Epoch 47/100
```

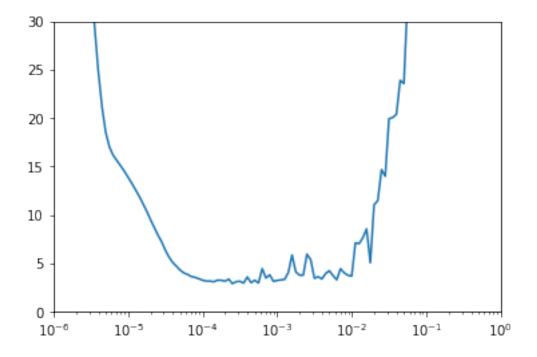
```
3.1306 - lr: 1.9953e-04
Epoch 48/100
3.1362 - lr: 2.2387e-04
Epoch 49/100
3.3001 - lr: 2.5119e-04
Epoch 50/100
3.3644 - lr: 2.8184e-04
Epoch 51/100
3.4155 - lr: 3.1623e-04
Epoch 52/100
3.0882 - lr: 3.5481e-04
Epoch 53/100
3.3082 - lr: 3.9811e-04
Epoch 54/100
3.3490 - lr: 4.4668e-04
Epoch 55/100
3.0787 - lr: 5.0119e-04
Epoch 56/100
3.0937 - lr: 5.6234e-04
Epoch 57/100
3.1120 - lr: 6.3096e-04
Epoch 58/100
3.0678 - lr: 7.0795e-04
Epoch 59/100
3.1512 - lr: 7.9433e-04
Epoch 60/100
3.1174 - lr: 8.9125e-04
Epoch 61/100
3.6089 - lr: 0.0010
Epoch 62/100
3.3005 - lr: 0.0011
Epoch 63/100
```

```
3.8341 - lr: 0.0013
Epoch 64/100
3.4587 - lr: 0.0014
Epoch 65/100
3.1596 - lr: 0.0016
Epoch 66/100
3.1301 - lr: 0.0018
Epoch 67/100
3.2176 - lr: 0.0020
Epoch 68/100
3.1955 - lr: 0.0022
Epoch 69/100
3.5036 - lr: 0.0025
Epoch 70/100
3.0569 - lr: 0.0028
Epoch 71/100
3.3226 - lr: 0.0032
Epoch 72/100
3.2685 - lr: 0.0035
Epoch 73/100
3.0839 - lr: 0.0040
Epoch 74/100
3.4341 - lr: 0.0045
Epoch 75/100
3.3440 - lr: 0.0050
Epoch 76/100
3.5281 - lr: 0.0056
Epoch 77/100
3.2951 - lr: 0.0063
Epoch 78/100
3.1464 - lr: 0.0071
Epoch 79/100
```

```
3.3347 - lr: 0.0079
Epoch 80/100
3.2853 - lr: 0.0089
Epoch 81/100
3.4671 - lr: 0.0100
Epoch 82/100
3.3499 - lr: 0.0112
Epoch 83/100
3.6826 - lr: 0.0126
Epoch 84/100
3.9169 - lr: 0.0141
Epoch 85/100
3.4420 - lr: 0.0158
Epoch 86/100
3.8997 - lr: 0.0178
Epoch 87/100
3.2292 - lr: 0.0200
Epoch 88/100
3.4148 - lr: 0.0224
Epoch 89/100
3.2882 - lr: 0.0251
Epoch 90/100
3.2830 - lr: 0.0282
Epoch 91/100
3.5475 - lr: 0.0316
Epoch 92/100
3.9041 - lr: 0.0355
Epoch 93/100
3.5901 - lr: 0.0398
Epoch 94/100
3.5482 - lr: 0.0447
Epoch 95/100
```

```
3.7924 - lr: 0.0501
  Epoch 96/100
  3.3431 - lr: 0.0562
  Epoch 97/100
  4.3556 - lr: 0.0631
  Epoch 98/100
                  ======] - 1s 20ms/step - loss: 3.7531 - mae:
  34/34 [=======
  4.2264 - lr: 0.0708
  Epoch 99/100
  6.6998 - lr: 0.0794
  Epoch 100/100
  8.3958 - lr: 0.0891
[10]: # Plot the loss for every LR
   plt.semilogx(lr_history.history["lr"], lr_history.history["loss"])
   plt.axis([1e-6, 1, 0, 30])
```

### [10]: (1e-06, 1.0, 0.0, 30.0)



#### 1.5 Compiling the model

Now that you have trained the model while varying the learning rate, it is time to do the actual training that will be used to forecast the time series. For this complete the create\_model function below.

Notice that you are reusing the architecture you defined in the create\_uncompiled\_model earlier. Now you only need to compile this model using the appropriate loss, optimizer (and learning rate).

Hint: - The training should be really quick so if you notice that each epoch is taking more than a few seconds, consider trying a different architecture.

• If after the first epoch you get an output like this: loss: nan - mae: nan it is very likely that your network is suffering from exploding gradients. This is a common problem if you used SGD as optimizer and set a learning rate that is too high. If you encounter this problem consider lowering the learning rate or using Adam with the default learning rate.

```
[26]: # Save an instance of the model
model = create_model()

# Train it
history = model.fit(dataset, epochs=50)
```

```
4.9409
Epoch 5/50
4.5875
Epoch 6/50
4.2450
Epoch 7/50
4.1416
Epoch 8/50
3.8646
Epoch 9/50
3.7868
Epoch 10/50
3.6608
Epoch 11/50
3.6615
Epoch 12/50
3.5328
Epoch 13/50
3.5909
Epoch 14/50
3.4901
Epoch 15/50
3.2718
Epoch 16/50
3.3772
Epoch 17/50
3.3397
Epoch 18/50
3.3377
Epoch 19/50
3.1805
Epoch 20/50
```

```
3.2236
Epoch 21/50
3.2928
Epoch 22/50
3.4114
Epoch 23/50
3.1062
Epoch 24/50
3.0840
Epoch 25/50
3.1859
Epoch 26/50
3.1670
Epoch 27/50
3.2736
Epoch 28/50
3.0172
Epoch 29/50
3.1330
Epoch 30/50
3.1082
Epoch 31/50
3.0340
Epoch 32/50
3.0828
Epoch 33/50
3.0301
Epoch 34/50
3.0474
Epoch 35/50
3.0502
Epoch 36/50
```

```
2.9871
Epoch 37/50
3.0084
Epoch 38/50
3.0242
Epoch 39/50
2.8735
Epoch 40/50
2.9934
Epoch 41/50
2.9170
Epoch 42/50
2.9418
Epoch 43/50
2.9169
Epoch 44/50
2.8911
Epoch 45/50
2.8095
Epoch 46/50
2.9096
Epoch 47/50
2.9126
Epoch 48/50
2.8188
Epoch 49/50
2.7412
Epoch 50/50
2.7925
```

## 1.6 Evaluating the forecast

Now it is time to evaluate the performance of the forecast. For this you can use the compute\_metrics function that you coded in a previous assignment:

```
[27]: def compute_metrics(true_series, forecast):
    mse = tf.keras.metrics.mean_squared_error(true_series, forecast).numpy()
    mae = tf.keras.metrics.mean_absolute_error(true_series, forecast).numpy()
    return mse, mae
```

At this point only the model that will perform the forecast is ready but you still need to compute the actual forecast.

#### 1.7 Faster model forecasts

In the previous week you used a for loop to compute the forecasts for every point in the sequence. This approach is valid but there is a more efficient way of doing the same thing by using batches of data. The code to implement this is provided in the model\_forecast below. Notice that the code is very similar to the one in the windowed\_dataset function with the differences that:

- The dataset is windowed using window\_size rather than window\_size + 1
- No shuffle should be used
- No need to split the data into features and labels
- A model is used to predict batches of the dataset

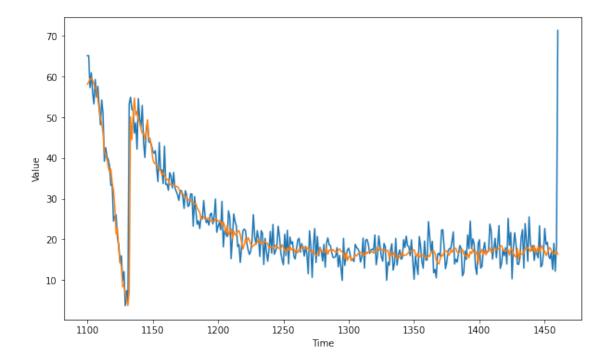
```
[28]: def model_forecast(model, series, window_size):
    ds = tf.data.Dataset.from_tensor_slices(series)
    ds = ds.window(window_size, shift=1, drop_remainder=True)
    ds = ds.flat_map(lambda w: w.batch(window_size))
    ds = ds.batch(32).prefetch(1)
    forecast = model.predict(ds)
    return forecast
```

```
[29]: # Compute the forecast for all the series
rnn_forecast = model_forecast(model, G.SERIES, G.WINDOW_SIZE).squeeze()

# Slice the forecast to get only the predictions for the validation set
rnn_forecast = rnn_forecast[G.SPLIT_TIME - G.WINDOW_SIZE:-1]

# Plot it
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))

plot_series(time_valid, series_valid)
plot_series(time_valid, rnn_forecast)
```



#### **Expected Output:**

A series similar to this one:

```
[30]: mse, mae = compute_metrics(series_valid, rnn_forecast)
print(f"mse: {mse:.2f}, mae: {mae:.2f} for forecast")
```

mse: 25.30, mae: 2.94 for forecast

To pass this assignment your forecast should achieve an MAE of 4.5 or less.

- If your forecast didn't achieve this threshold try re-training your model with a different architecture (you will need to re-run both create\_uncompiled\_model and create\_model functions) or tweaking the optimizer's parameters.
- If your forecast did achieve this threshold run the following cell to save your model in a tar file which will be used for grading and after doing so, submit your assignment for grading.
- This environment includes a dummy SavedModel directory which contains a dummy model trained for one epoch. To replace this file with your actual model you need to run the next cell before submitting for grading.
- Unlike last week, this time the model is saved using the SavedModel format. This is done because the HDF5 format does not fully support Lambda layers.

```
[31]: # Save your model in the SavedModel format model.save('saved_model/my_model')
```

```
# Compress the directory using tar
! tar -czvf saved_model.tar.gz saved_model/
```

```
INFO:tensorflow:Assets written to: saved_model/my_model/assets
INFO:tensorflow:Assets written to: saved_model/my_model/assets
saved_model/
saved_model/my_model/
saved_model/my_model/keras_metadata.pb
saved_model/my_model/variables/
saved_model/my_model/variables/variables.data-00000-of-00001
saved_model/my_model/variables/variables.index
saved_model/my_model/saved_model.pb
saved_model/my_model/assets/
```

#### Congratulations on finishing this week's assignment!

You have successfully implemented a neural network capable of forecasting time series leveraging Tensorflow's layers for sequence modelling such as RNNs and LSTMs! This resulted in a forecast that matches (or even surpasses) the one from last week while training for half of the epochs.

### Keep it up!

Please click here if you want to experiment with any of the non-graded code.

Important Note: Please only do this when you've already passed the assignment to avoid problems with the autograder.

On the notebook's menu, click "View" > "Cell Toolbar" > "Edit Metadata"

Hit the "Edit Metadata" button next to the code cell which you want to lock/unlock

Set the attribute value for "editable" to: