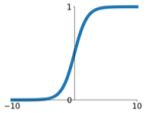
Lecture 7:
Training Neural Networks

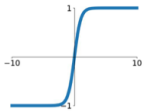
Activation Functions

Activation Functions

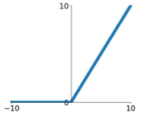
Sigmoid
$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$



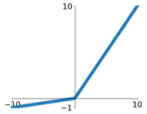
tanh
$\tanh(x)$



ReLU
$\max(0, x)$

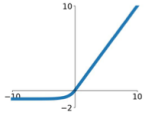


Leaky ReLU
$\max(0.1x, x)$



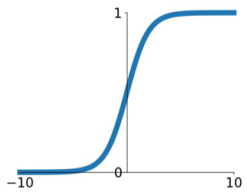
Maxout
$\max(w_1^T x + b_1, w_2^T x + b_2)$

ELU
$$\begin{cases} x & x \geq 0 \\ \alpha(e^x - 1) & x < 0 \end{cases}$$



Activation Functions

$\sigma(x) = 1/(1+e^{-x})$



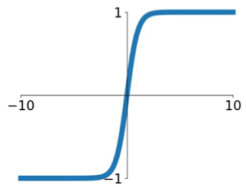
Sigmoid

- Squashes numbers to range [0,1]
- Historically popular since they have nice interpretation as a saturating “firing rate” of a neuron

3 problems:

1. Saturated neurons “kill” the gradients
2. Sigmoid outputs are not zero-centered
3. exp() is a bit compute expensive

Activation Functions

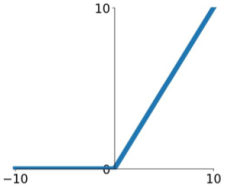


tanh(x)

- Squashes numbers to range [-1,1]
- zero centered (nice)
- still kills gradients when saturated :(

[LeCun et al., 1991]

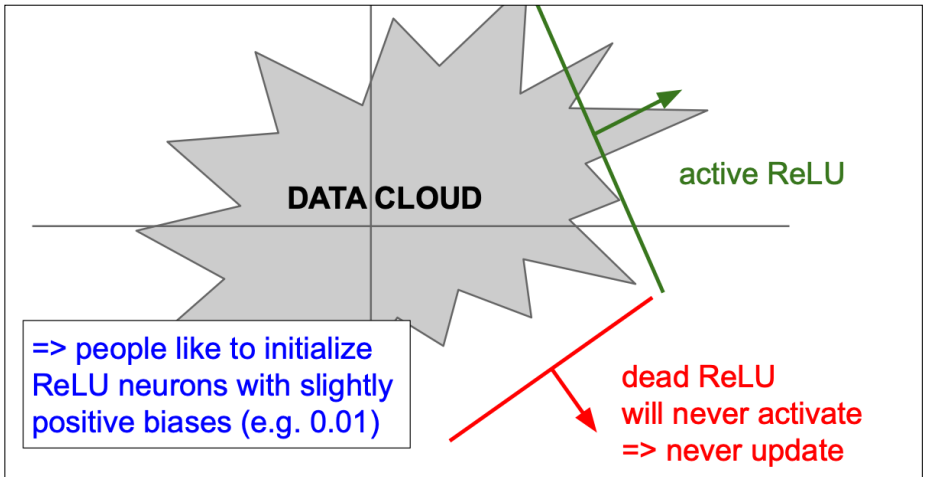
Activation Functions



ReLU
(Rectified Linear Unit)

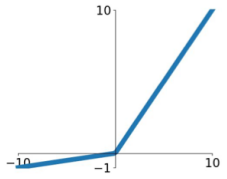
- Computes **f(x) = max(0,x)**
- Does not saturate (in +region)
- Very computationally efficient
- Converges much faster than sigmoid/tanh in practice (e.g. 6x)
- Not zero-centered output
- An annoyance:

hint: what is the gradient when x < 0?



Activation Functions

[Mass et al., 2013]
[He et al., 2015]



Leaky ReLU

$$f(x) = \max(0.01x, x)$$

- Does not saturate
- Computationally efficient
- Converges much faster than sigmoid/tanh in practice! (e.g. 6x)
- **will not "die".**

Parametric Rectifier (PReLU)

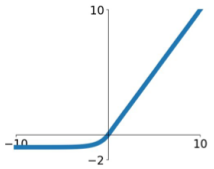
$$f(x) = \max(\alpha x, x)$$

backprop into α (parameter)

Activation Functions

[Clevert et al., 2015]

Exponential Linear Units (ELU)



- All benefits of ReLU
- Closer to zero mean outputs
- Negative saturation regime compared with Leaky ReLU adds some robustness to noise

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x > 0 \\ \alpha\,(\exp(x) - 1) & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

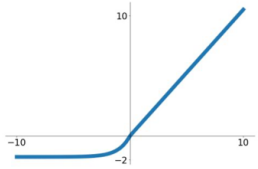
(Alpha default = 1)

- Computation requires exp()

Activation Functions

[Klambauer et al. ICLR 2017]

Scaled Exponential Linear Units (SELU)



- Scaled version of ELU that works better for deep networks
- "Self-normalizing" property;
- Can train deep SELU networks without BatchNorm

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda x & \text{if } x > 0 \\ \lambda\alpha(e^x - 1) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha = 1.6732632423543772848170429916717$$
$$\lambda = 1.0507009873554804934193349852946$$

Maxout "Neuron"

[Goodfellow et al., 2013]

- Does not have the basic form of dot product -> nonlinearity
- Generalizes ReLU and Leaky ReLU
- Linear Regime! Does not saturate! Does not die!

$$\max(w_1^T x + b_1, w_2^T x + b_2)$$

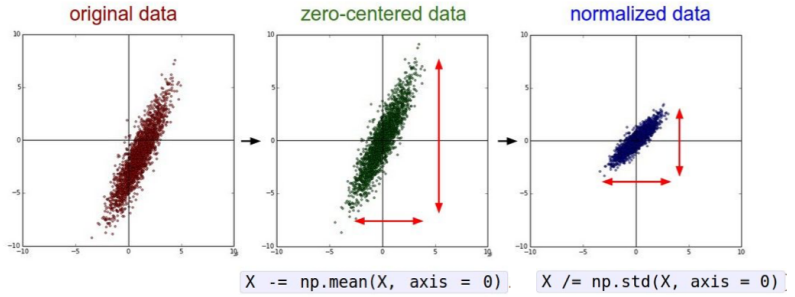
Problem: doubles the number of parameters/neuron :(

TLDR: In practice:

- Use ReLU. Be careful with your learning rates
- Try out Leaky ReLU / Maxout / ELU / SELU
  - To squeeze out some marginal gains
- Don't use sigmoid or tanh

Data Preprocessing

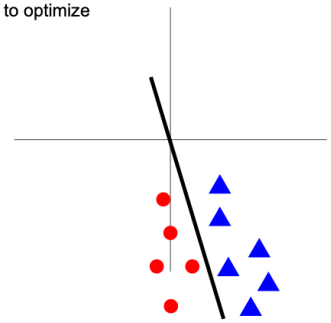
Data Preprocessing



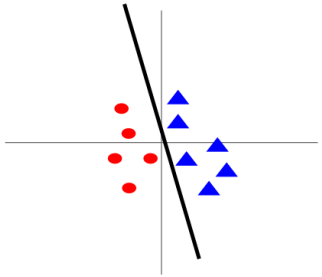
(Assume X [NxD] is data matrix, each example in a row)

Data Preprocessing

Before normalization: classification loss very sensitive to changes in weight matrix; hard to optimize



After normalization: less sensitive to small changes in weights; easier to optimize



TLDR: In practice for Images: center only

e.g. consider CIFAR-10 example with [32,32,3] images

- Subtract the mean image (e.g. AlexNet)
  (mean image = [32,32,3] array)
- Subtract per-channel mean (e.g. VGGNet)
  (mean along each channel = 3 numbers)
- Subtract per-channel mean and
  Divide by per-channel std (e.g. ResNet)
  (mean along each channel = 3 numbers)

Not common to do PCA or whitening

Weight Initialization

- First idea: **Small random numbers**
(gaussian with zero mean and 1e-2 standard deviation)

```
W = 0.01 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)
```

Works ~okay for small networks, but problems with deeper networks.

Weight Initialization: Activation statistics

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = 0.01 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)
    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

Forward pass for a 6-layer net with hidden size 4096

What will happen to the activations for the last layer?

- First idea: **Small random numbers**
(gaussian with zero mean and 1e-2 standard deviation)

```
W = 0.01 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)
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Weight Initialization: Activation statistics

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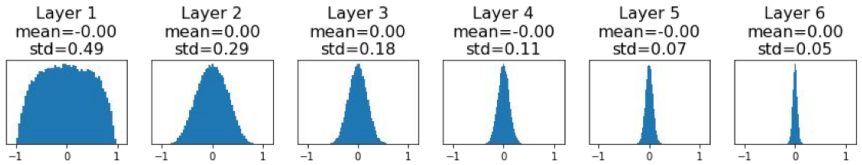
    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

Forward pass for a 6-layer net with hidden size 4096

All activations tend to zero for deeper network layers

Q: What do the gradients dL/dW look like?

A: All zero, no learning =(



Weight Initialization: Activation statistics

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = 0.05 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)
    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

Increase std of initial weights from 0.01 to 0.05

What will happen to the activations for the last layer?

Weight Initialization: Activation statistics

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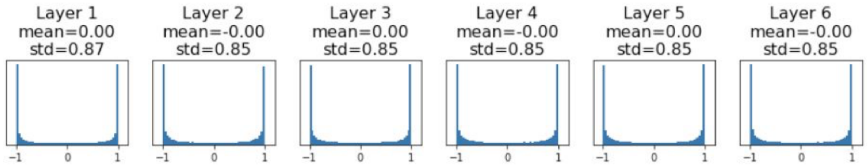
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = 0.05 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)
    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

Increase std of initial weights from 0.01 to 0.05

All activations saturate

Q: What do the gradients look like?

A: Local gradients all zero, no learning =(

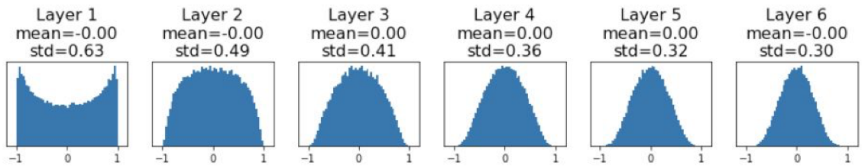


Weight Initialization: "Xavier" Initialization

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = np.random.randn(Din, Dout) / np.sqrt(Din)
    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

"Xavier" initialization: std = 1/sqrt(Din)

"Just right": Activations are nicely scaled for all layers!



Glorot and Bengio, "Understanding the difficulty of training deep feedforward neural networks", AISTAT 2010

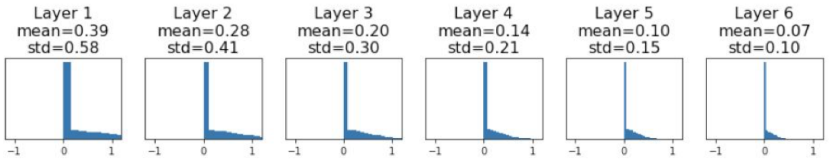
Weight Initialization: What about ReLU?

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = np.random.randn(Din, Dout) / np.sqrt(Din)
    x = np.maximum(0, x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

Change from tanh to ReLU

Xavier assumes zero centered activation function

Activations collapse to zero again, no learning =(

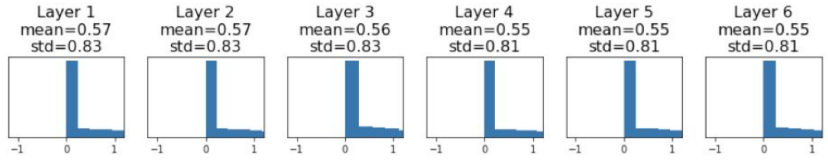


Weight Initialization: Kaiming / MSRA Initialization

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = np.random.randn(Din, Dout) * np.sqrt(2/Din)
    x = np.maximum(0, x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

ReLU correction: std = sqrt(2 / Din)

"Just right": Activations are nicely scaled for all layers!



He et al, "Delving Deep into Rectifiers: Surpassing Human-Level Performance on ImageNet Classification", ICCV 2015

Proper initialization is an active area of research…

Understanding the difficulty of training deep feedforward neural networks by Glorot and Bengio, 2010

Exact solutions to the nonlinear dynamics of learning in deep linear neural networks by Saxe et al, 2013

Random walk initialization for training very deep feedforward networks by Sussillo and Abbott, 2014

Delving deep into rectifiers: Surpassing human-level performance on ImageNet classification by He et al., 2015

Data-dependent Initializations of Convolutional Neural Networks by Krähenbühl et al., 2015

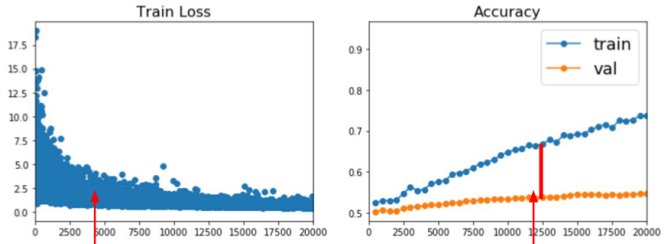
All you need is a good init, Mishkin and Matas, 2015

Fixup Initialization: Residual Learning Without Normalization, Zhang et al, 2019

The Lottery Ticket Hypothesis: Finding Sparse, Trainable Neural Networks, Frankle and Carbin, 2019

Training vs. Testing Error

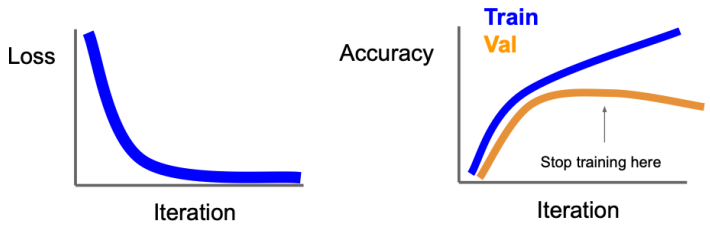
Beyond Training Error



Better optimization algorithms help reduce training loss

But we really care about error on new data - how to reduce the gap?

Early Stopping: Always do this



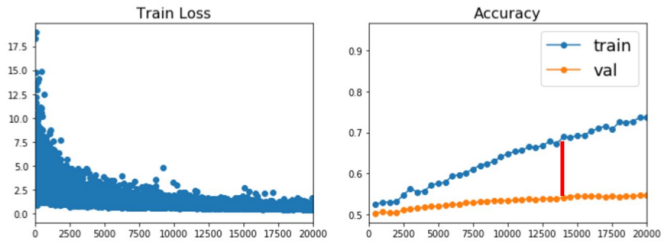
Stop training the model when accuracy on the validation set decreases
Or train for a long time, but always keep track of the model snapshot that worked best on val

Model Ensembles

1. Train multiple independent models
2. At test time average their results
   (Take average of predicted probability distributions, then choose argmax)

Enjoy 2% extra performance

How to improve single-model performance?



Regularization

Regularization: Add term to loss

$$L = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\sum_{j\neq y_i}\max(0, f(x_i;W)_j - f(x_i;W)_{y_i} + 1) + \lambda R(W)$$

In common use:

L2 regularization $R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l W_{k,l}^2$ (Weight decay)

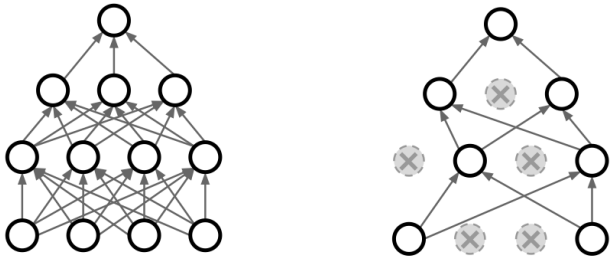
L1 regularization $R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l |W_{k,l}|$

Elastic net (L1 + L2) $R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l \beta W_{k,l}^2 + |W_{k,l}|$

Regularization: Dropout

In each forward pass, randomly set some neurons to zero

Probability of dropping is a hyperparameter; 0.5 is common



Srivastava et al, "Dropout: A simple way to prevent neural networks from overfitting", JMLR 2014

Regularization: Dropout

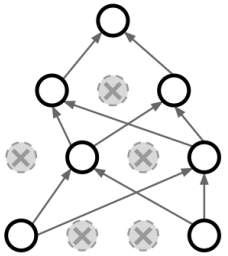
```
p = 0.5 # probability of keeping a unit active. higher = less dropout

def train_step(X):
  """ X contains the data """

  # forward pass for example 3-layer neural network
  H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1)
  U1 = np.random.rand(*H1.shape) < p # first dropout mask
  H1 *= U1 # drop!
  H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)
  U2 = np.random.rand(*H2.shape) < p # second dropout mask
  H2 *= U2 # drop!
  out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3

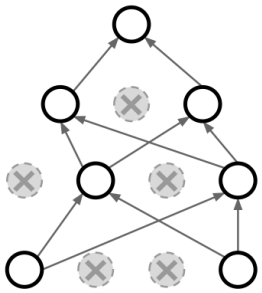
  # backward pass: compute gradients... (not shown)
  # perform parameter update... (not shown)
```

Example forward pass with a 3-layer network using dropout



Regularization: Dropout

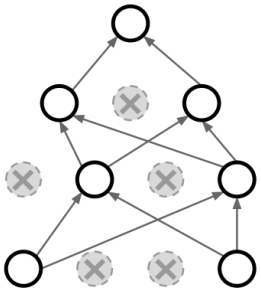
How can this possibly be a good idea?



Forces the network to have a redundant representation;
Prevents co-adaptation of features

Regularization: Dropout

How can this possibly be a good idea?



Another interpretation:

Dropout is training a large **ensemble** of models (that share parameters).

Each binary mask is one model

An FC layer with 4096 units has
$2^{4096} \sim 10^{1233}$ possible masks!
Only $\sim 10^{82}$ atoms in the universe...


```
""" Vanilla Dropout: Not recommended implementation (see notes below) """

p = 0.5 # probability of keeping a unit active. higher = less dropout

def train_step(X):
  """ X contains the data """

  # forward pass for example 3-layer neural network
  H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1)
  U1 = np.random.rand(*H1.shape) < p # first dropout mask
  H1 *= U1 # drop!
  H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)
  U2 = np.random.rand(*H2.shape) < p # second dropout mask
  H2 *= U2 # drop!
  out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3

  # backward pass: compute gradients... (not shown)
  # perform parameter update... (not shown)

def predict(X):
  # ensembled forward pass
  H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1) * p # NOTE: scale the activations
  H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2) * p # NOTE: scale the activations
  out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3
```

Dropout Summary

drop in train time

scale at test time

More common: "Inverted dropout"

```
p = 0.5 # probability of keeping a unit active. higher = less dropout

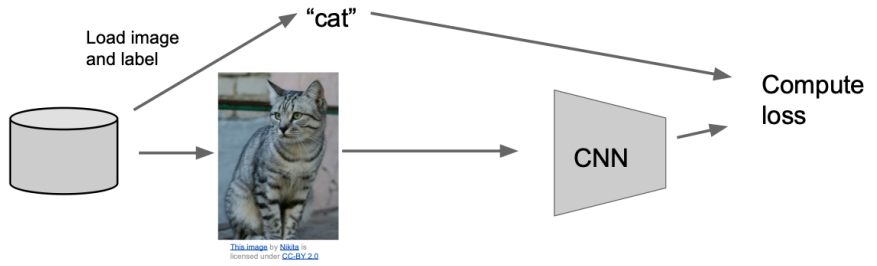
def train_step(X):
  # forward pass for example 3-layer neural network
  H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1)
  U1 = (np.random.rand(*H1.shape) < p) / p # first dropout mask. Notice /p!
  H1 *= U1 # drop!
  H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)
  U2 = (np.random.rand(*H2.shape) < p) / p # second dropout mask. Notice /p!
  H2 *= U2 # drop!
  out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3

  # backward pass: compute gradients... (not shown)
  # perform parameter update... (not shown)

def predict(X):
  # ensembled forward pass
  H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1) # no scaling necessary
  H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)
  out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3
```

test time is unchanged!

Regularization: Data Augmentation



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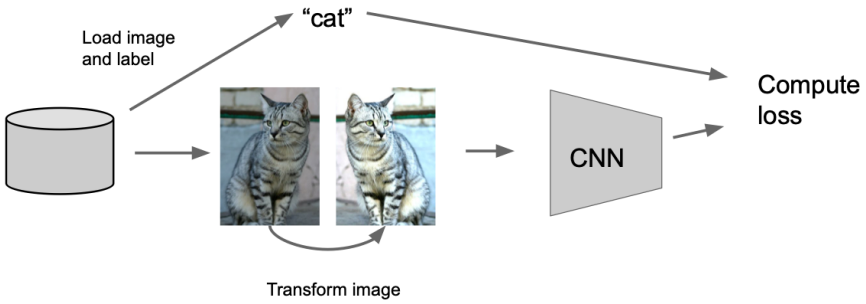
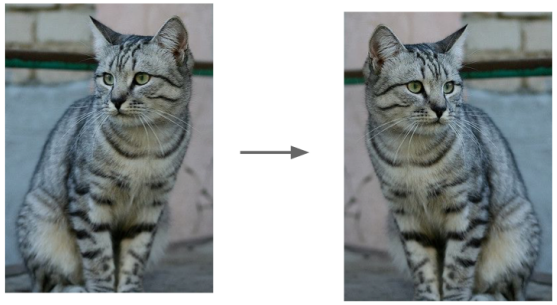
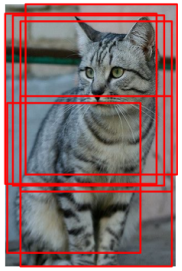


Data Augmentation
Horizontal Flips



Data Augmentation
Random crops and scales

Training: sample random crops / scales
ResNet:
1. Pick random L in range [256, 480]
2. Resize training image, short side = L
3. Sample random 224 x 224 patch



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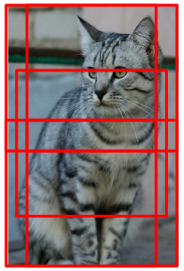


Testing: average a fixed set of crops
ResNet:
1. Resize image at 5 scales: {224, 256, 384, 480, 640}
2. For each size, use 10 224 x 224 crops: 4 corners + center, + flips

Data Augmentation
Color Jitter

Simple: Randomize
contrast and brightness

Data Augmentation
Color Jitter

Simple: Randomize
contrast and brightness

More Complex:

1. Apply PCA to all [R, G, B] pixels in training set
2. Sample a "color offset" along principal component directions
3. Add offset to all pixels of a training image

(As seen in *[Krizhevsky et al. 2012],* ResNet, etc)

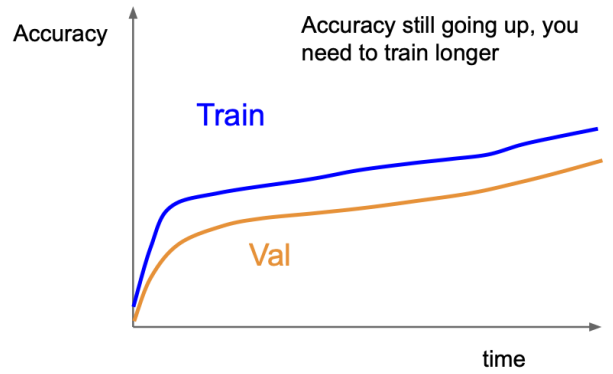
Data Augmentation
Get creative for your problem!

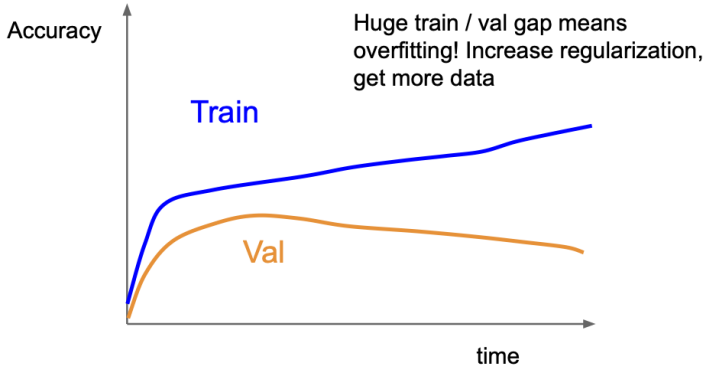
Examples of data augmentations:
- translation
- rotation
- stretching
- shearing,
- lens distortions, … (go crazy)

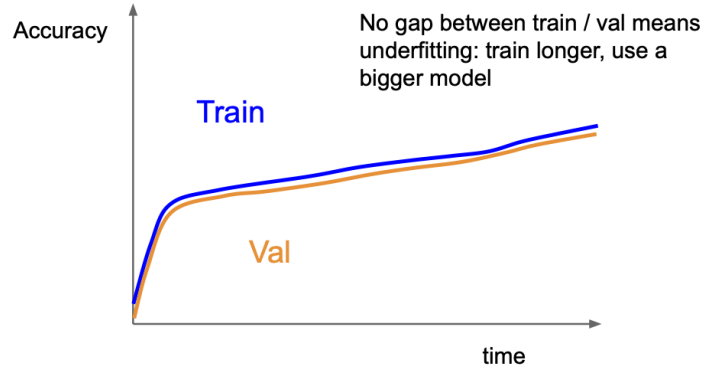
Choosing Hyperparameters
(without tons of GPUs)

Choosing Hyperparameters

Step 1: Check initial loss
Step 2: Overfit a small sample
Step 3: Find LR that makes loss go down
Step 4: Coarse grid, train for ~1-5 epochs
Step 5: Refine grid, train longer
Step 6: Look at loss and accuracy curves



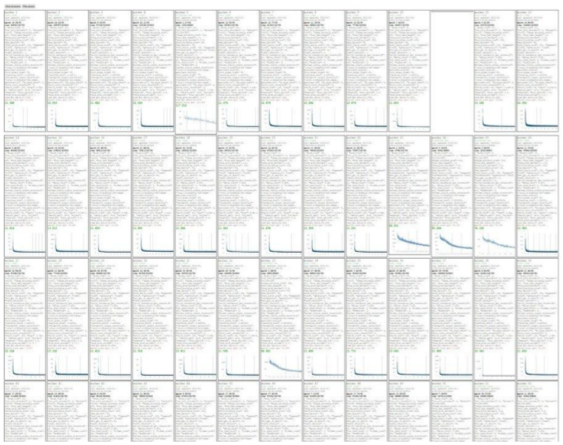




Cross-validation

We develop "command centers" to visualize all our models training with different hyperparameters

check out [weights and biases]



Transfer learning

You need a lot of a data if you want to train/use CNNs?

Transfer Learning with CNNs

Donahue et al, "DeCAF: A Deep Convolutional Activation Feature for Generic Visual Recognition", ICML 2014
Razavian et al, "CNN Features Off-the-Shelf: An Astounding Baseline for Recognition", CVPR Workshops 2014

1. Train on Imagenet

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2. Small Dataset (C classes)

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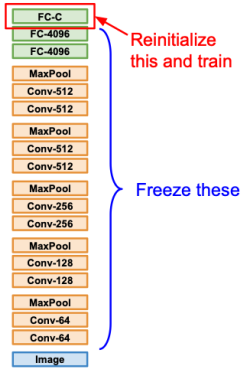

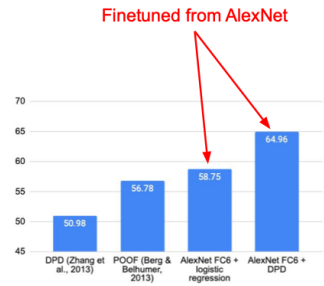

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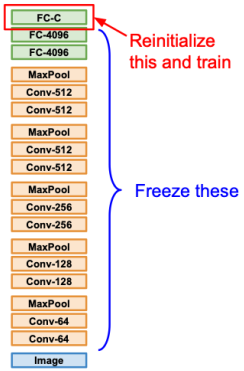
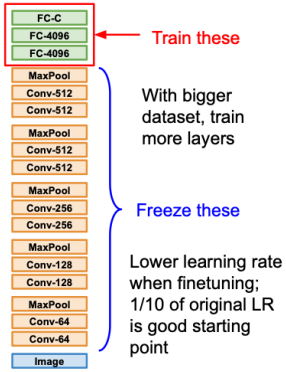


3. Bigger dataset



Summary

- Improve your training error:
  - Optimizers
  - Learning rate schedules
- Improve your test error:
  - Regularization
  - Choosing Hyperparameters