

# MAX78000 Model Training and Synthesis

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May 7, 2021

The Maxim Integrated AI project is comprised of four repositories:

1. **Start here:** [Top Level Documentation](#)
2. The software development kit (SDK), which contains drivers and example programs ready to run on the Evaluation Kit:  
[MAX78000 SDK](#)
3. The training repository, which is used for deep learning *model development and training*:  
[ai8x-training \(described in this document\)](#)
4. The synthesis repository, which is used to *convert a trained model into C code* using the “izer” tool:  
[ai8x-synthesis \(described in this document\)](#)

Open the `.md` version of this file in a markdown enabled viewer, for example Typora (<http://typora.io>).

See <https://github.com/adam-p/markdown-here/wiki/Markdown-Cheatsheet> for a description of Markdown. A [PDF copy of this file](#) is available in this repository. The GitHub rendering of this document does not show the formulas or the clickable table of contents.

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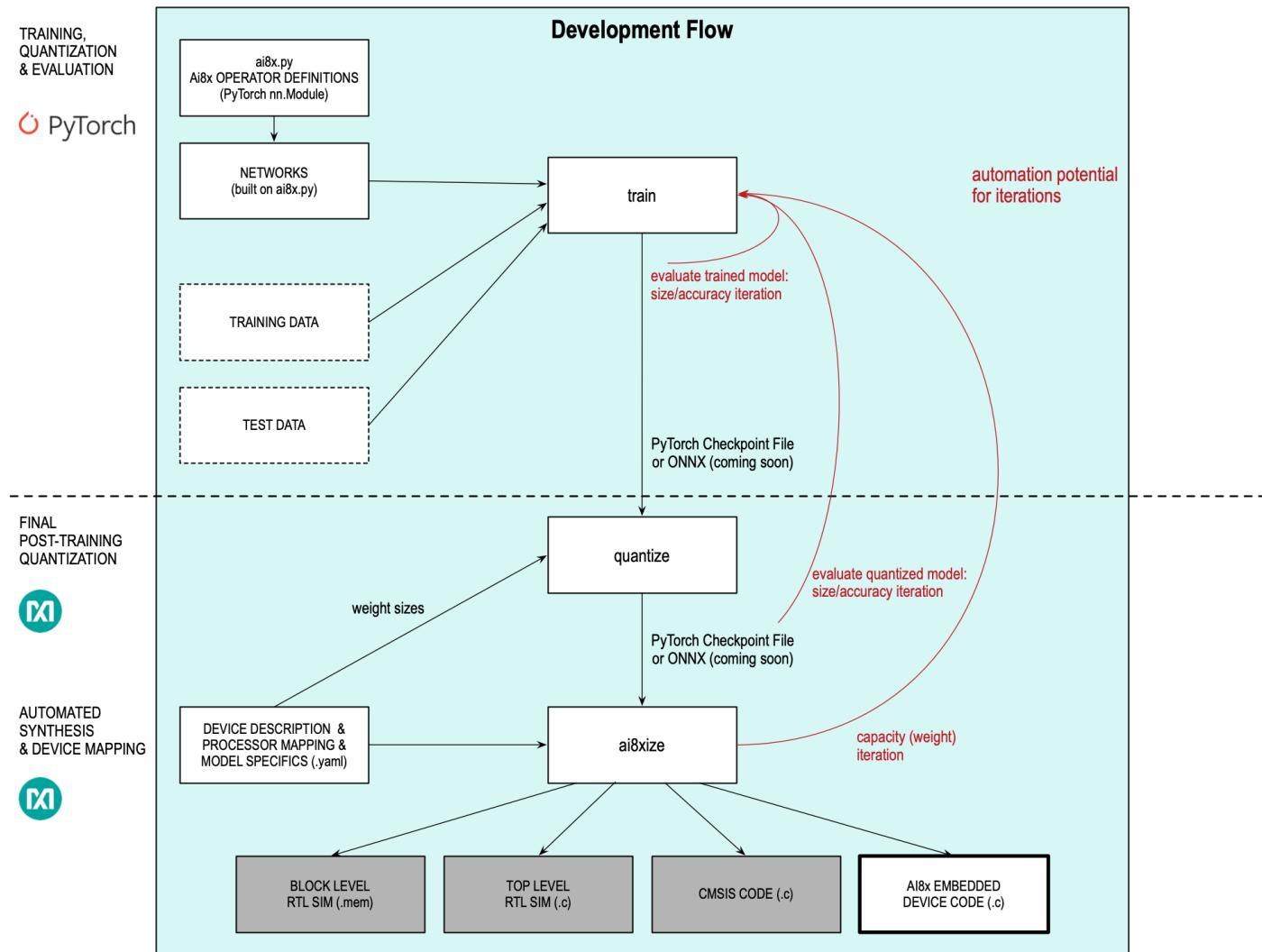
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This document covers several of Maxim's ultra-low power machine learning accelerator systems. They are sometimes referred to by their die types. The following shows the die types and their corresponding part numbers:

Die Type	Part Number(s)
AI84	<i>Unreleased test chip</i>
AI85	<b>MAX78000</b>
AI87	MAX78002 (in development)

## Overview

The following graphic shows an overview of the development flow:



## Installation

# File System Layout

Including the SDK, the expected/resulting file system layout will be:

```

1 ..../ai8x-training/
2 ..../ai8x-synthesis/
3 ..../ai8x-synthesis/sdk/
4 ..../manifold/

```

where “....” is the project root, for example `~/Documents/Source/AI`.

## Prerequisites

This software currently supports Ubuntu Linux 18.04 LTS and 20.04 LTS. The server version is sufficient, see <https://ubuntu.com/download/server>. Alternatively, Ubuntu Linux can also be used inside the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL2) by following <https://docs.nvidia.com/cuda/wsl-user-guide/>. However, please note that WSL2 with CUDA is a pre-release and unexpected behavior may occur.

When going beyond simple models, model training does not work well without CUDA hardware acceleration. The network loader (“izer”) does not require CUDA, and very simple models can also be trained on systems without CUDA.

*Recommendation:* Install the latest version of CUDA 11 on Ubuntu 20.04 LTS. See <https://developer.nvidia.com/cuda-toolkit-archive>.

*Note:* When using multiple GPUs, the software will automatically use all available GPUs and distribute the workload. To prevent this, set the `CUDA_VISIBLE_DEVICES` environment variable. Use the `--gpus` command line argument to set the default GPU.

## Shared (Multi-User) and Remote Systems

On a shared (multi-user) system that has previously been set up, only local installation is needed. CUDA and any `apt-get` or `brew` tasks are not necessary.

The `screen` command (or alternatively, the more powerful `tmux`) can be used inside a remote terminal to disconnect a session from the controlling terminal, so that a long running training session doesn't abort due to network issues, or local power saving. In addition, screen can log all console output to a text file.

Example:

```

1 $ ssh targethost
2 targethost$ screen -L # or screen -r to resume, screen -list to list
3 targethost$
4 Ctrl+A,D to disconnect

```

`man screen` and `man tux` describe the software in more detail.

## Recommended Software

The following software is optional, and can be replaced with other similar software of the user's choosing.

1. Visual Studio Code (Editor, Free), <https://code.visualstudio.com>, with the "Remote - SSH" plugin
2. Typora (Markdown Editor, Free during beta), <http://typora.io>
3. CoolTerm (Serial Terminal, Free), <http://freeware.the-meiers.org>  
or Serial (\$30), <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/serial/id877615577?mt=12>
4. Git Fork (Graphical Git Client, \$50), <https://git-fork.com>  
or GitHub Desktop (Graphical Git Client, Free), <https://desktop.github.com>
5. Beyond Compare (Diff and Merge Tool, \$60), <https://scootersoftware.com>

## Project Installation

### System Packages

Some additional system packages are required, and installation of these additional packages requires administrator privileges. Note that this is the only time administrator privileges are required unless the optional Manifold is installed locally.

#### macOS

On macOS (no CUDA support available) use:

```
1 | $ brew install libomp libsndfile tcl-tk
```

#### Linux (Ubuntu)

```
1 | $ sudo apt-get install -y make build-essential libssl-dev zlib1g-dev \
2 | libbz2-dev libreadline-dev libsqlite3-dev wget curl llvm \
3 | libncurses5-dev libncursesw5-dev xz-utils tk-dev libffi-dev liblzma-dev \
4 | libsndfile-dev portaudio19-dev
```

#### RedHat Enterprise Linux / CentOS 8

While Ubuntu 20.04 LTS is the supported distribution, the MAX78000 software packages run fine on all modern Linux distributions that also support CUDA. The *apt-get install* commands above must be replaced with distribution specific commands and package names. Unfortunately, there is no obvious 1:1 mapping between package names from one distribution to the next. The following example shows the commands needed for RHEL/CentOS 8.

*Two of the required packages are not in the base repositories. Enable the EPEL and PowerTools repositories:*

```

1 $ sudo dnf install https://dl.fedoraproject.org/pub/epel/epel-release-latest-
2 8.noarch.rpm
2 $ sudo dnf config-manager --set-enabled powertools

```

*Proceed to install the required packages:*

```

1 $ sudo dnf group install "Development Tools"
2 $ sudo dnf install openssl-devel zlib-devel \
3   bzip2-devel readline-devel sqlite-devel wget llvm \
4   xz-devel tk tk-devel libffi-devel \
5   libsndfile libsndfile-devel portaudio-devel

```

## Python 3.8

*The software in this project uses Python 3.8.9 or a later 3.8.x version.*

It is not necessary to install Python 3.8.9 system-wide, or to rely on the system-provided Python. To manage Python versions, use `pyenv` (<https://github.com/pyenv/pyenv>).

On macOS (no CUDA support available):

```

1 $ brew install pyenv pyenv-virtualenv

```

On Linux:

```

1 $ curl -L https://github.com/pyenv/pyenv-installer/raw/master/bin/pyenv-installer |
  bash # NOTE: Verify contents of the script before running it!!

```

Then, add to either `~/.bash_profile`, `~/.bashrc`, or `~/.profile` (as shown by the terminal output of the previous step):

```

1 eval "$(pyenv init -)"
2 eval "$($pyenv virtualenv-init -)"

```

If you use zsh as the shell (default on macOS), add these same commands to `~/.zprofile` or `~/.zshrc` in addition to adding them to the bash startup scripts.

Next, close the Terminal, open a new Terminal and install Python 3.8.9.

On macOS:

```

1 $ env \
2 PATH=$(brew --prefix tcl-tk)/bin:$PATH" \
3 LDFLAGS="-L$(brew --prefix tcl-tk)/lib" \
4 CPPFLAGS="-I$(brew --prefix tcl-tk)/include" \
5 PKG_CONFIG_PATH=$(brew --prefix tcl-tk)/lib/pkgconfig" \
6 CFLAGS="-I$(brew --prefix tcl-tk)/include" \
7 PYTHON_CONFIGURE_OPTS="--with-tcltk-includes='-I$(brew --prefix tcl-tk)/include' -- \
8 with-tcltk-libs='-L$(brew --prefix tcl-tk)/lib -ltcl8.6 -ltk8.6'" \
pyenv install 3.8.9

```

On Linux:

```
1 $ pyenv install 3.8.9
```

## git Environment

If the local git environment has not been previously configured, add the following commands to configure e-mail and name. The e-mail must match GitHub (including upper/lower case):

```

1 $ git config --global user.email "first.last@maximintegrated.com"
2 $ git config --global user.name "First Last"

```

## Project Root

For convenience, define a shell variable named `AI_PROJECT_ROOT`:

```
1 $ export AI_PROJECT_ROOT="$HOME/Documents/Source/AI"
```

Add this line to `~/.profile` (and on macOS, to `~/.zprofile`).

## Nervana Distiller

Nirvana Distiller is package for neural network compression and quantization. Network compression can reduce the memory footprint of a neural network, increase its inference speed and save energy. Distiller is automatically installed as a git sub-module with the other packages.

## Uber Manifold (Optional)

Manifold is a model-agnostic visual debugging tool for machine learning. Manifold can compare models, detects which subset of data a model is inaccurately predicting, and explains the potential cause of poor model performance by surfacing the feature distribution difference between better and worse-performing subsets of data.

There is a hosted version of Manifold at <http://manifold.mlvis.io/>. To install it locally (for IP reasons and higher speed):

`git clone https://github.com/mlvis/manifold.git`

On macOS,

```
1 | brew install yarn npm
```

On Linux,

```
1 | $ cd $AI_PROJECT_ROOT
2 | $ curl -sS https://dl.yarnpkg.com/debian/pubkey.gpg | sudo apt-key add -
3 | $ echo "deb https://dl.yarnpkg.com/debian/ stable main" | sudo tee
   /etc/apt/sources.list.d/yarn.list
4 | $ curl -sL https://deb.nodesource.com/setup_13.x | sudo -E bash -
5 | $ sudo apt-get update
6 | $ sudo apt-get install -y nodejs yarn
```

On both Mac and Linux:

```
1 | $ git clone https://github.com/uber/manifold.git
2 | $ cd manifold
3 | $ yarn
4 | # ignore warnings
5 | $ cd examples/manifold
6 | $ yarn
7 | # ignore warnings
```

## Windows Systems

Windows/MS-DOS is not supported for training networks at this time. *This includes the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) since it currently lacks CUDA support.*

## Upstream Code

Change to the project root and run the following commands. Use your GitHub credentials if prompted.

```
1 | $ cd $AI_PROJECT_ROOT
2 | $ git clone https://github.com/MaximIntegratedAI/ai8x-training.git
3 | $ git clone https://github.com/MaximIntegratedAI/ai8x-synthesis.git
```

## Creating the Virtual Environment

To create the virtual environment and install basic wheels:

```
1 | $ cd ai8x-training
```

If you want to use the “develop” branch, switch to “develop” using this optional step:

```
1 | $ git checkout develop # optional
```

Then continue with the following:

```
1 | $ git submodule update --init
2 | $ pyenv local 3.8.9
3 | $ python3 -m venv .
4 | $ source bin/activate
5 | (ai8x-training) $ pip3 install -U pip wheel setuptools
```

The next step differs depending on whether the system uses Linux with CUDA 11.x, or any other setup.

For CUDA 11.x on Linux:

```
1 | (ai8x-training) $ pip3 install -r requirements-cu11.txt
```

For all other systems, including CUDA 10.2 on Linux:

```
1 | (ai8x-training) $ pip3 install -r requirements.txt
```

## Repository Branches

By default, the main branch is checked out. This branch has been tested more rigorously than the `develop` branch. `develop`, on the other hand, contains the latest improvements to the project. To switch to `develop`, use the following command:

```
1 | (ai8x-training) $ git checkout develop
```

## TensorFlow / Keras

Support for TensorFlow / Keras is currently in the `develop-tf` branch.

## Updating to the Latest Version

After additional testing, `develop` is merged into the main branch at regular intervals.

After a small delay of typically a day, a “Release” tag is created on GitHub for all non-trivial merges into the main branch. GitHub offers email alerts for all activity in a project, or for new releases only. Subscribing to releases only substantially reduces email traffic.

*Note: Each “Release” automatically creates a code archive. It is recommended to use a git client to access (pull from) the main branch of the repository using a git client instead of downloading the archives.*

In addition to code updated in the repository itself, submodules and Python libraries may have been updated as well.

Major upgrades (such as updating from PyTorch 1.7 to PyTorch 1.8) are best done by removing all installed

Major upgrades (such as updating from Python 3.7 to Python 3.8) are best done by removing all installed wheels. This can be achieved most easily by creating a new folder and starting from scratch at [Upstream Code](#). Starting from scratch is also recommended when upgrading the Python version.

For minor updates, pull the latest code and install the updated wheels:

```
1 (ai8x-training) $ git pull
2 (ai8x-training) $ git submodule update --init
3 (ai8x-training) $ pip3 install -U pip setuptools
4 (ai8x-training) $ pip3 install -U -r requirements.txt # or requirements-cull.txt with
   CUDA 11.x
```

## Python Version Updates

Updating Python may require updating `pyenv` first. Should `pyenv install 3.8.9` fail,

```
1 $ pyenv install 3.8.9
2 python-build: definition not found: 3.8.9
```

then `pyenv` must be updated. On macOS, use:

```
1 $ brew update && brew upgrade pyenv
2 ...
3 $
```

On Linux, use:

```
1 $ cd $(pyenv root) && git pull && cd -
2 remote: Enumerating objects: 19021, done.
3 ...
4 $
```

The update should now succeed:

```
1 $ pyenv install 3.8.9
2 Downloading Python-3.8.9.tar.xz...
3 -> https://www.python.org/ftp/python/3.8.9/Python-3.8.9.tar.xz
4 Installing Python-3.8.9...
5 ...
6 $ pyenv local 3.8.9
```

## Synthesis Project

The `ai8x-synthesis` project does not require CUDA.

Start by deactivating the `ai8x-training` environment if it is active.

```
1 | (ai8x-training) $ deactivate
```

Then, create a second virtual environment:

```
1 | $ cd $AI_PROJECT_ROOT
2 | $ cd ai8x-synthesis
```

If you want to use the “develop” branch, switch to “develop” using this optional step:

```
1 | $ git checkout develop # optional
```

Then continue:

```
1 | $ git submodule update --init
2 | $ pyenv local 3.8.9
3 | $ python3 -m venv .
4 | $ source bin/activate
5 | (ai8x-synthesis) $ pip3 install -U pip setuptools
6 | (ai8x-synthesis) $ pip3 install -r requirements.txt
```

## Repository Branches and Updates

Branches and updates for `ai8x-synthesis` are handled similarly to the [ai8x-training](#) project.

## Installation is now Complete

With the installation of Training and Synthesis projects completed it is important to remember to activate the proper Python virtual environment when switching between projects. If scripts begin failing in a previously working environment, the cause might be that the incorrect virtual environment is active or that no virtual environment has been activated.

## Embedded Software Development Kit (SDK)

The MAX78000 SDK is a git submodule of `ai8x-synthesis`. It is checked out automatically to a version compatible with the project into the folder `sdk`.

***If the embedded C compiler is run on Windows instead of Linux or macOS, ignore this section and install the Maxim SDK executable, see [https://github.com/MaximIntegratedAI/MaximAI\\_Documentation](https://github.com/MaximIntegratedAI/MaximAI_Documentation).***

The Arm embedded compiler can be downloaded from [https://developer.arm.com/tools-and-software/developer-tools/gnu-toolchain/gnu-arm-eabi](https://developer.arm.com/tools-and-software/open-source-software/developer-tools/gnu-toolchain/gnu-arm-eabi)

The ARM embedded compiler can be downloaded from <https://developer.arm.com/tools-and-software/open-source-software/developer-tools/gnu-toolchain/gnu-arm-none-eabi/downloads>. The SDK has been tested with version 9-2019-q4-major of the embedded Arm compiler. Newer versions may or may not work correctly.

The RISC-V embedded compiler can be downloaded from <https://github.com/xpack-dev-tools/riscv-none-embed-gcc-xpack/releases/>. The SDK has been tested with version 8.3.0-1.1 of the RISC-V embedded compiler. Newer versions may or may not work correctly.

Add the following to your `~/.profile` (and on macOS, to `~/.zprofile`), adjusting for the actual `PATH` to the compilers:

```

1 echo $PATH | grep -q -s "/usr/local/gcc-arm-none-eabi-9-2019-q4-major/bin"
2 if [ $? -eq 1 ] ; then
3     PATH=$PATH:/usr/local/gcc-arm-none-eabi-9-2019-q4-major/bin
4     export PATH
5     ARMGCC_DIR=/usr/local/gcc-arm-none-eabi-9-2019-q4-major
6     export ARMGCC_DIR
7 fi
8
9 echo $PATH | grep -q -s "/usr/local/riscv-none-embed-gcc/8.3.0-1.1/bin"
10 if [ $? -eq 1 ] ; then
11     PATH=$PATH:/usr/local/riscv-none-embed-gcc/8.3.0-1.1/bin
12     export PATH
13     RISCVGCC_DIR=/usr/local/riscv-none-embed-gcc/8.3.0-1.1
14     export RISCVGCC_DIR
15 fi

```

The debugger requires OpenOCD. On Windows, an OpenOCD executable is installed with the SDK. On macOS and Linux, the OpenOCD fork from <https://github.com/MaximIntegratedMicros/openocd.git> must be used. An Ubuntu Linux binary is available at [https://github.com/MaximIntegratedAI/MAX78000\\_SDK/blob/master/Tools/OpenOCD/openocd](https://github.com/MaximIntegratedAI/MAX78000_SDK/blob/master/Tools/OpenOCD/openocd). Note: A copy of the configuration files and a `run-openocd-maxdap` script are contained in the hardware folder of the `ai8x-synthesis` project.

`gen-demos-max78000.sh` will create code that is compatible with the SDK and copy it into the SDK's Example directories.

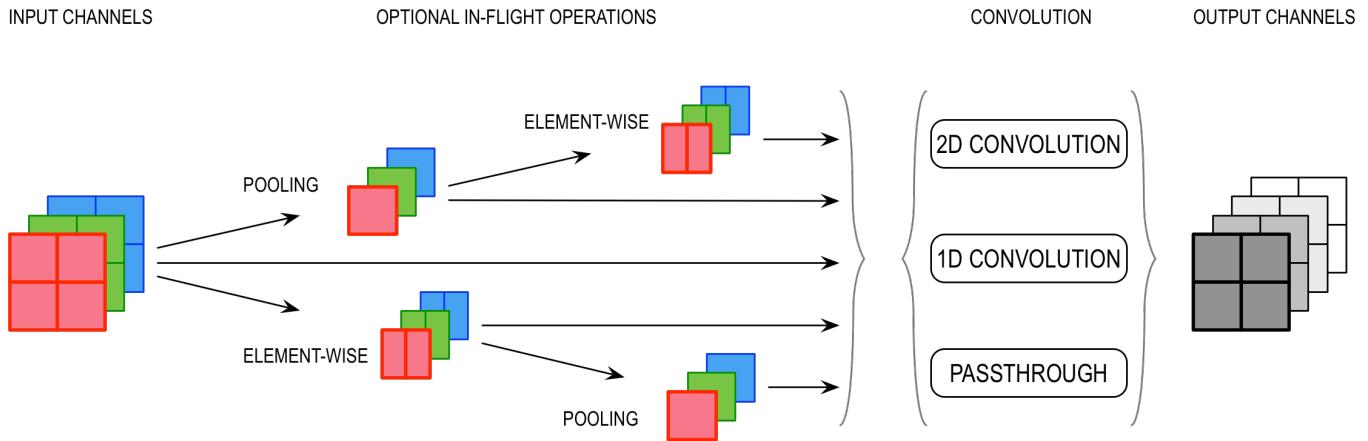
## MAX78000 Hardware and Resources

MAX78000/MAX78002 are embedded accelerators. Unlike GPUs, MAX78000/MAX78002 do not have gigabytes of memory, and cannot support arbitrary data (image) sizes.

**OVERVIEW**

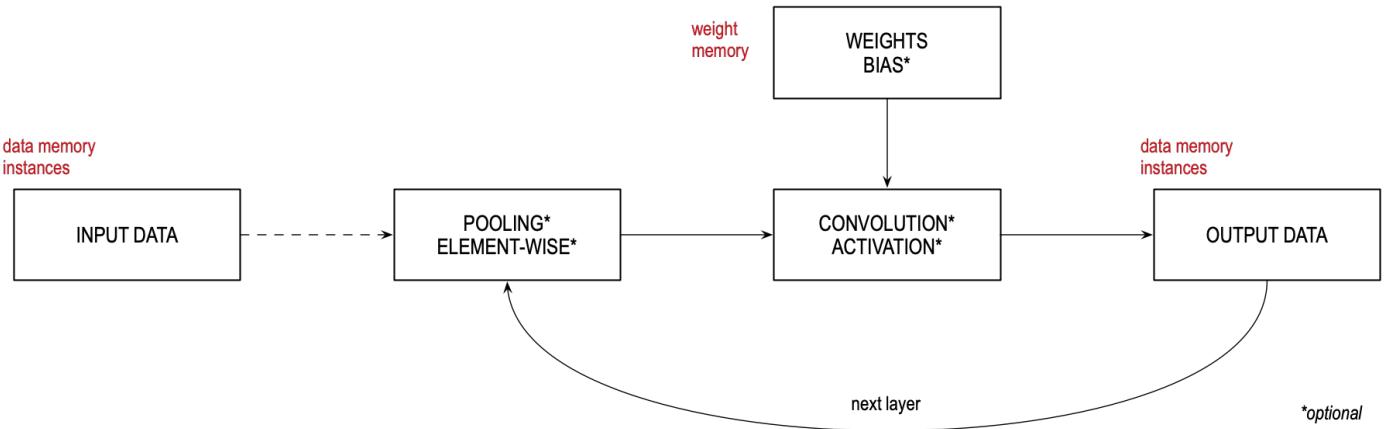
A typical CNN operation consists of pooling followed by a convolution. While these are traditionally expressed as separate layers, pooling can be done “in-flight” on MAX78000/MAX78002 for greater efficiency.

To minimize data movement, the accelerator is optimized for convolutions with in-flight pooling on a sequence of layers. MAX78000 and MAX78002 also support in-flight element-wise operations, pass-through layers and 1D convolutions (without element-wise operations):



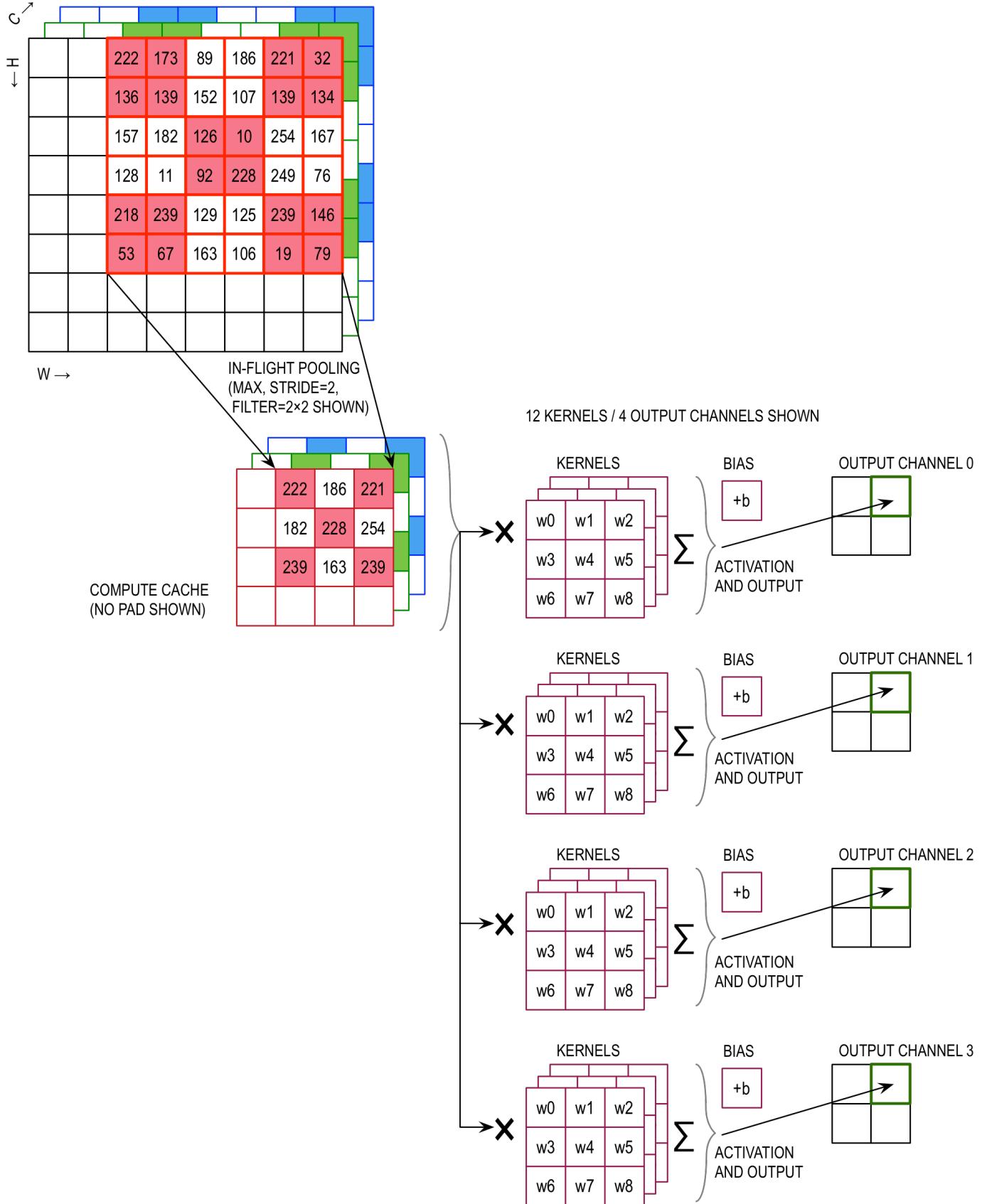
The MAX78000/MAX78002 accelerators contain 64 parallel processors. There are four groups that contain 16 processors each.

Each processor includes a pooling unit and a convolutional engine with dedicated weight memory:



Data is read from data memory associated with the processor, and written out to any data memory located within the accelerator. To run a deep convolutional neural network, multiple layers are chained together, where each layer’s operation is individually configurable. The output data from one layer is used as the input data for the next layer, for up to 32 layers (where *in-flight* pooling and *in-flight* element-wise operations do not count as layers).

The following picture shows an example view of a 2D convolution with pooling:



## Data Weights and Processors

## Data, weights, and processors

Data memory, weight memory, and processors are interdependent.

In the MAX78000/MAX78002 accelerator, processors are organized as follows:

- Each processor is connected to its own dedicated weight memory instance.
- Four processors share one data memory instance.
- A group of sixteen processors shares certain common controls and can be operated as a slave to another group, or independently/separately.

Any given processor has visibility of:

- Its dedicated weight memory, and
- The data memory instance it shares with three other processors.

## Weight Memory

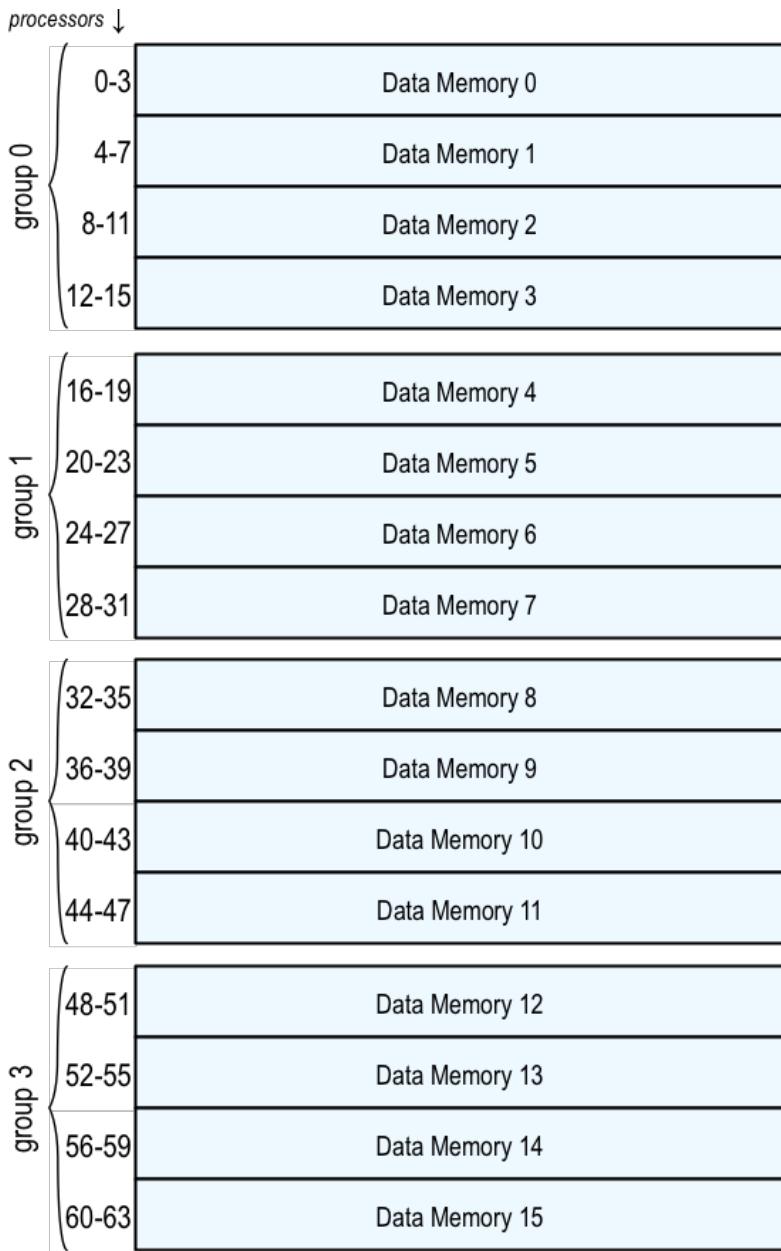
For each of the four 16-processor groups, weight memory and processors can be visualized as follows.

Assuming one input channel processed by processor 0, and 8 output channels, the 8 shaded kernels will be used:

processor ↓	0	1	...	column	...													last
group of 16 processors	0	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	1	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	2	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	4	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	5	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	6	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	7	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	8	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	9	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	10	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	11	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	12	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	13	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	14	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	
	15	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	

## Data Memory

Data memory connections can be visualized as follows:



All input data must be located in the data memory instance the processor can access. Conversely, output data can be written to any data memory instance inside the accelerator (but not to general purpose SRAM on the Arm microcontroller bus).

The data memory instances inside the accelerator are single-port memories. This means that only one access operation can happen per clock cycle. When using the HWC data format (see [Channel Data Formats](#)), this means that each of the four processors sharing the data memory instance will receive one byte of data per clock cycle (since each 32-bit data word consists of four packed channels).

When data has more channels than active processors, “multi-pass” is used. Each processor works on more than one channel, using multiple sequential passes, and each data memory holds more than four channels.

As data is read using multiple passes, and all available processor work in parallel, the first pass reads channels 0 through 63, the second pass reads channels 64 through 127, etc., assuming 64 processors are active.

For example, if 192-channel data is read using 64 active processors, Data Memory 0 stores three 32-bit words: channels 0, 1, 2, 3 in the first word, 64, 65, 66, 67 in the second word, and 128, 129, 130, 131 in the third word. Data Memory 1 stores channels 4, 5, 6, 7 in the first word, 68, 69, 70, 71 in the second word, and 132, 133, 134, 135 in the third word, and so on. The first processor processes channel 0 in the first pass, channel 64 in the second pass, and channel 128 in the third pass.

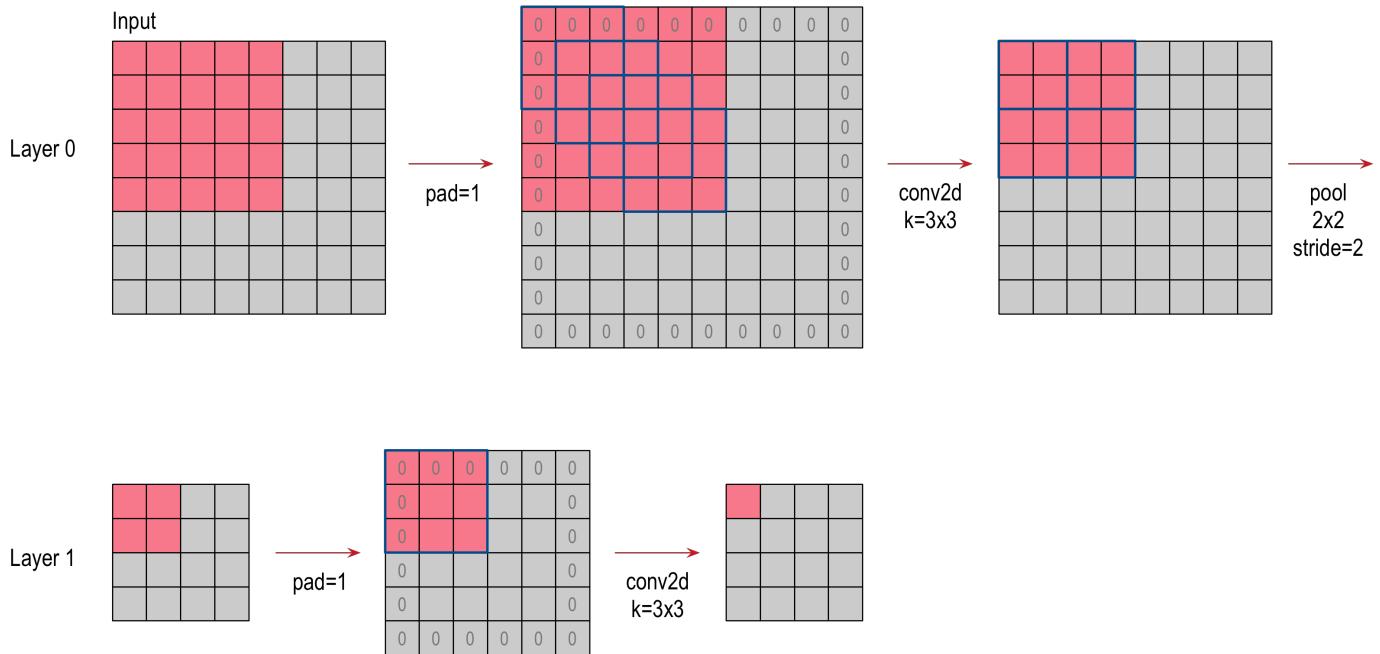
*Note: Multi-pass also works with channel counts that are not a multiple of 64, and can be used with less than 64 active processors.*

*Note: For all multi-pass cases, the processor count per pass is rounded up to the next multiple of 4.*

## Streaming Mode

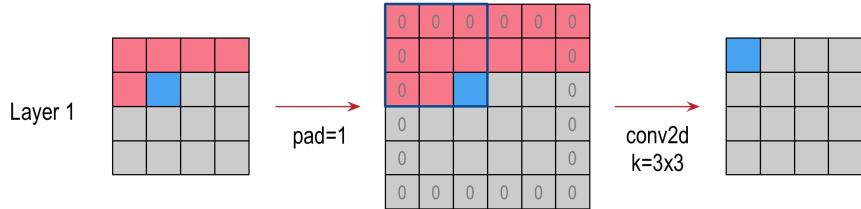
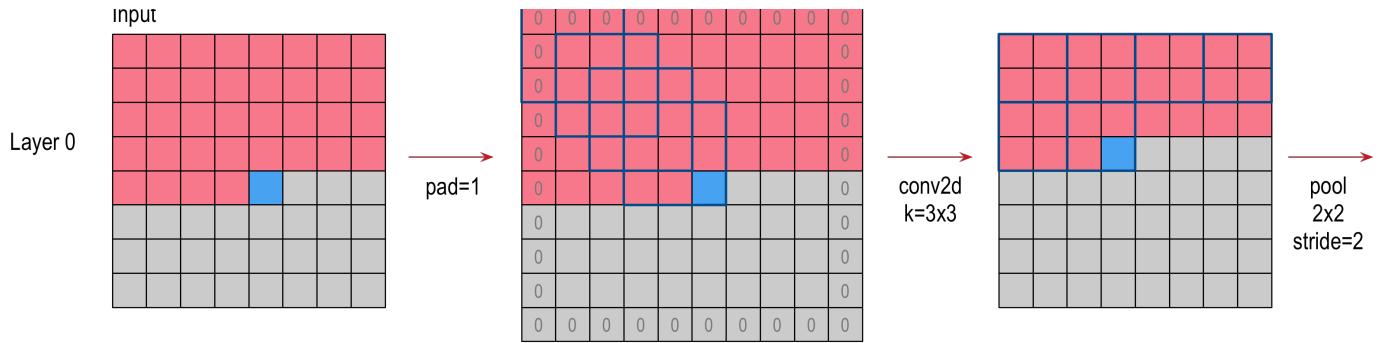
The machine also implements a streaming mode. Streaming allows input data dimensions that exceed the available per-channel data memory in the accelerator.

The following illustration shows the basic principle: In order to produce the first output pixel of the second layer, not all data needs to be present at the input. In the example, a 5×5 input needs to be available.

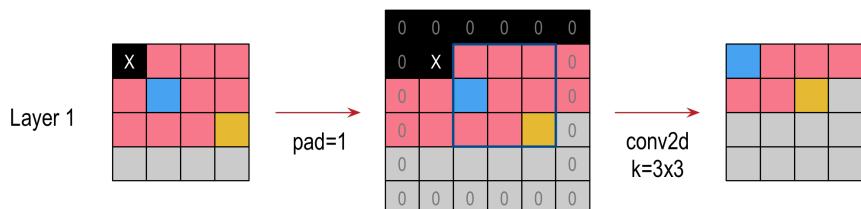
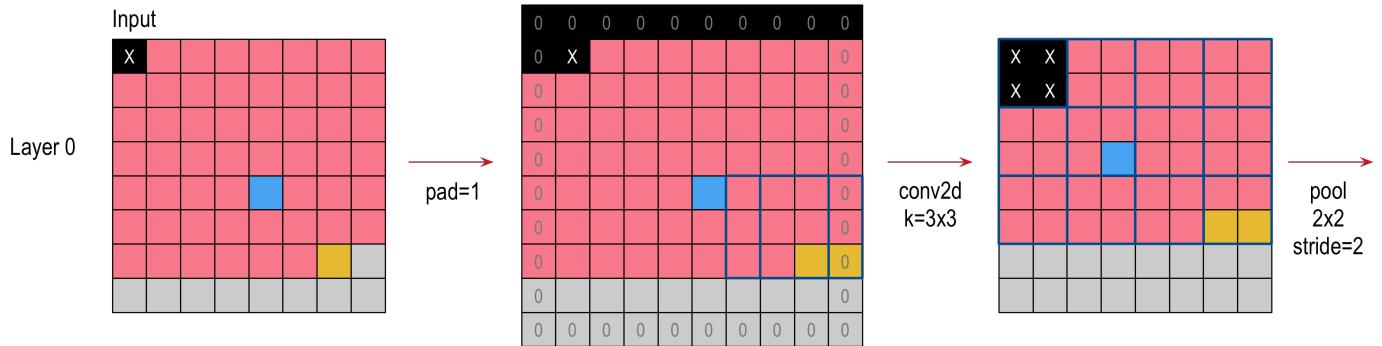


In the accelerator implementation, data is shifted into the Tornado memory in a sequential fashion, so prior rows will be available as well. In order to produce the *blue* output pixel, input data up to the blue input pixel must be available.





When the *yellow* output pixel is produced, the first (*black*) pixel of the input data is no longer needed and its data can be discarded:



The number of discarded pixels is network specific and dependent on pooling strides and the types of convolution. In general, streaming mode is only useful for networks where the output data dimensions decrease from layer to layer (for example, by using a pooling stride).

*Note: Streaming mode requires the use of FIFOs.*

## FIFOs

Since the data memory instances are single-port memories, software would have to temporarily disable the accelerator in order to feed it new data. Using FIFOs, software can input available data while the accelerator is running. The accelerator will autonomously fetch data from the FIFOs when needed, and stall (pause) when no enough data is available.

The MAX78000/MAX78002 accelerator has two types of FIFO:

### Standard FIFOs

There are four dedicated FIFOs connected to processors 0-3, 16-19, 32-35, and 48-51, supporting up to 16 input channels (in HWC format) or four channels (CHW format). These FIFOs work when used from the ARM Cortex-M4 core and from the RISC-V core.

The standard FIFOs are selected using the `--fifo` argument for `ai8xize.py`.

### Fast FIFO

The fast FIFO is only available from the RISC-V core, and runs synchronously with the RISC-V for increased throughput. It supports up to four input channels (HWC format) or a single channel (CHW format). The fast FIFO is connected to processors 0, 1, 2, 3 or 0, 16, 32, 48.

The fast FIFO is selected using the `--fast-fifo` argument for `ai8xize.py`.

## Number Format

All weights, bias values and data are stored and computed in Q7 format (signed two's complement 8-bit integers, [-128...+127]). See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Q\\_%28number\\_format%29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Q_%28number_format%29).

The 8-bit value  $w$  is defined as:

$$w = (-a_7 2^7 + a_6 2^6 + a_5 2^5 + a_4 2^4 + a_3 2^3 + a_2 2^2 + a_1 2^1 + a_0)/128$$

BIT 7	BIT 6	BIT 5	BIT 4	BIT 3	BIT 2	BIT 1	BIT 0
-1	1/2	1/4	1/8	1/16	1/32	1/64	1/128

Examples:

Binary	Value
--------	-------

0000 0000	0
0000 0001	1/128
0000 0010	2/128
0111 1110	126/128
0111 1111	127/128
1000 0000	-128/128 (-1)
1000 0001	-127/128
1000 0010	-126/128
1111 1110	-2/128
1111 1111	-1/128

On MAX78000/MAX78002, *weights* can be 1, 2, 4, or 8 bits wide (configurable per layer using the [quantization](#) key). Bias values are always 8 bits wide. Data is 8 bits wide, except for the last layer that can optionally output 32 bits of unclipped data in Q17.14 format when not using activation.

wt bits	min	max
8	-128	+127
4	-8	7
2	-2	1
1	-1	0

Note that 1-bit weights (and, to a lesser degree, 2-bit weights) require the use of bias to produce useful results. Without bias, all sums of products of activated data from a prior layer would be negative, and activation of that data would always be zero.

In other cases, using bias in convolutional layers does not improve inference performance. In particular, [Quantization](#)-Aware Training (QAT) optimizes the weight distribution, possibly deteriorating the distribution of the bias values.

## Rounding

MAX78000/MAX78002 rounding (for the CNN sum of products) uses “round half towards positive infinity”, i.e.  $y = \lfloor 0.5 + x \rfloor$ . This rounding method is not the default method in either Excel or Python/NumPy. The rounding method can be achieved in NumPy using `y = np.floor(0.5 + x)` and in Excel as `=FLOOR.PRECISE(0.5 + x)`.

By way of example:

Input	Rounded
+3.5	+4
+3.25, +3.0, +2.75, +2.5	+3
+2.25, +2.0, +1.75, +1.5	+2
+1.25, +1.0, +0.75, +0.5	+1
+0.25, 0, -0.25, -0.5	0
-0.75, -1.0, -1.25, -1.5	-1
-1.75, -2.0, -2.25, -2.5	-2
-2.75, -3.0, -3.25, -3.5	-3

## Addition

Addition works similarly to regular two’s-complement arithmetic.

Example:

$$w_0 = 1/64 \rightarrow 00000010$$

$$w_1 = 1/2 \rightarrow 01000000$$

$$w_0 + w_1 = 33/64 \rightarrow 01000010$$

## Saturation and Clipping

Values smaller than  $-128 / 128$  are saturated to  $-128 / 128$  (1000 0000). Values larger than  $+127 / 128$  are saturated to  $+127 / 128$  (0111 1111).

The MAX78000/MAX78002 CNN sum of products uses full resolution for both products and sums, so the saturation happens only at the very end of the computation.

Example 1:

$$w_0 = 127/128 \rightarrow 01111111$$

$$w_1 = 127/128 \rightarrow 01111111$$

$$w_0 + w_1 = 254/128 \rightarrow \text{saturate} \rightarrow 01111111 (= 127/128)$$

Example 2:

$$w_0 = -128/128 \rightarrow 10000000$$

$$w_1 = -128/128 \rightarrow 10000000$$

$$w_0 + w_1 = -256/128 \rightarrow \text{saturate} \rightarrow 10000000 (= -128/128)$$

## Multiplication

Since operand values are implicitly divided by 128, the product of two values has to be shifted in order to maintain magnitude when using a standard multiplier (e.g., 8×8):

$$w_0 * w_1 = \frac{w'_0}{128} * \frac{w'_1}{128} = \frac{w'_0 * w'_1}{128} \gg 7$$

In software,

- Determine the sign bit:  $s = \text{sign}(w_0) * \text{sign}(w_1)$
- Convert operands to absolute values:  $w'_0 = \text{abs}(w_0); w'_1 = \text{abs}(w_1)$
- Multiply using standard multiplier:  $w'_0 * w'_1 = w''_0/128 * w''_1/128; r' = w''_0 * w''_1$
- Shift:  $r'' = r' \gg 7$
- Round up/down depending on  $r'[6]$
- Apply sign:  $r = s * r''$

Example 1:

$$w_0 = 1/64 \rightarrow 00000010$$

$$w_1 = 1/2 \rightarrow 01000000$$

$$w_0 * w_1 = 1/128 \rightarrow \text{shift, truncate} \rightarrow 00000001 (= 1/128)$$

A “standard” two’s-complement multiplication would return 00000000 10000000. The MAX78000/MAX78002 data format discards the rightmost bits.

Example 2:

$$w_0 = 1/64 \rightarrow 00000010$$

$$w_1 = 1/4 \rightarrow 00100000$$

$$w_0 * w_1 = 1/256 \rightarrow \text{shift, truncate} \rightarrow 00000000 (= 0)$$

“Standard” two’s-complement multiplication would return 00000000 01000000, the MAX78000/MAX78002 result is truncated to 0 after the shift operation.

## Sign Bit

Operations preserve the sign bit.

Example 1:

$$w_0 = -1/64 \rightarrow 11111110$$

$$w_1 = 1/4 \rightarrow 00100000$$

$$w_0 * w_1 = -1/256 \rightarrow \text{shift, truncate} \rightarrow 00000000 (= 0)$$

- Determine the sign bit:  $s = \text{sign}(-1/64) * \text{sign}(1/4) = -1 * 1 = -1$
- Convert operands to absolute values:  $w'_0 = \text{abs}(-1/64); w'_1 = \text{abs}(1/4)$

- Multiply using standard multiplier:  $r' = 1/64 \ll 7 * 1/4 \ll 7 = 2 * 32 = 64$
- Shift:  $r'' = r' \gg 7 = 64 \gg 7 = 0$
- Apply sign:  $r = s * r'' = -1 * 0 = 0$

Example 2:

$$w_0 = -1/64 \rightarrow 11111110$$

$$w_1 = 1/2 \rightarrow 01000000$$

$$w_0 * w_1 = -1/128 \rightarrow \text{shift, truncate} \rightarrow 11111111 (= -1/128)$$

- Determine the sign bit:  $s = \text{sign}(-1/64) * \text{sign}(1/2) = -1 * 1 = -1$
- Convert operands to absolute values:  $w'_0 = \text{abs}(-1/64); w'_1 = \text{abs}(1/2)$
- Multiply using standard multiplier:  $r' = 1/64 \ll 7 * 1/2 \ll 7 = 2 * 64 = 128$
- Shift:  $r'' = r' \gg 7 = 128 \gg 7 = 1$
- Apply sign:  $r = s * r'' = -1 * 1 \gg 7 = -1/128$

Example 3:

$$w_0 = 127/128 \rightarrow 01111111$$

$$w_1 = 1/128 \rightarrow 00000001$$

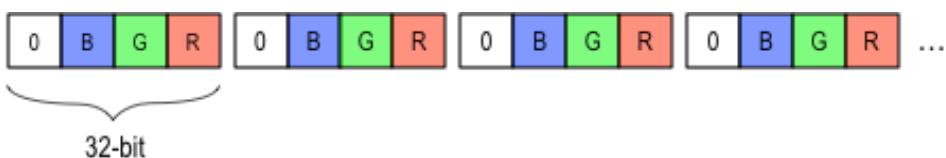
$$w_0 * w_1 = 128/128 \rightarrow \text{saturation} \rightarrow 01111111 (= 127/128)$$

## Channel Data Formats

### HWC

All internal data are stored in HWC format, 4 channels per 32-bit word. Assuming 3-color (or 3-channel) input, one byte will be unused. The highest frequency in this data format is the channel, so the channels are interleaved.

Example:

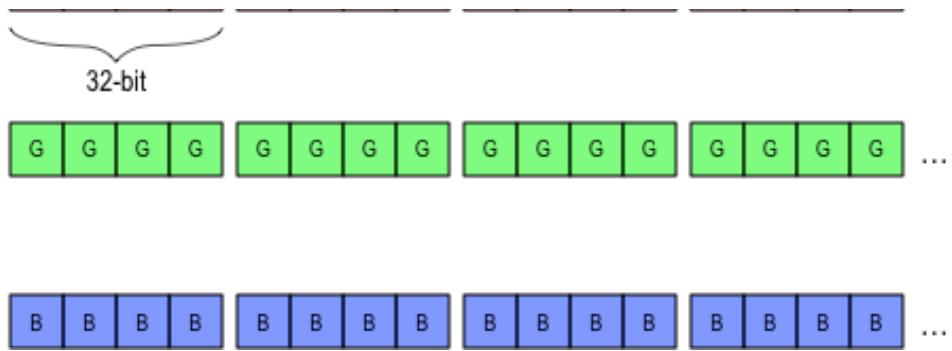


### CHW

The input layer can alternatively also use the CHW format (a sequence of channels). The highest frequency in this data format is the width or X-axis (W), and the lowest frequency is the channel. Assuming an RGB input, all red pixels are followed by all green pixels, followed by all blue pixels.

Example:





## Considerations for Choosing an Input Format

The accelerator supports both HWC and CHW input formats to avoid unnecessary data manipulation. Internal layers always use the HWC format.

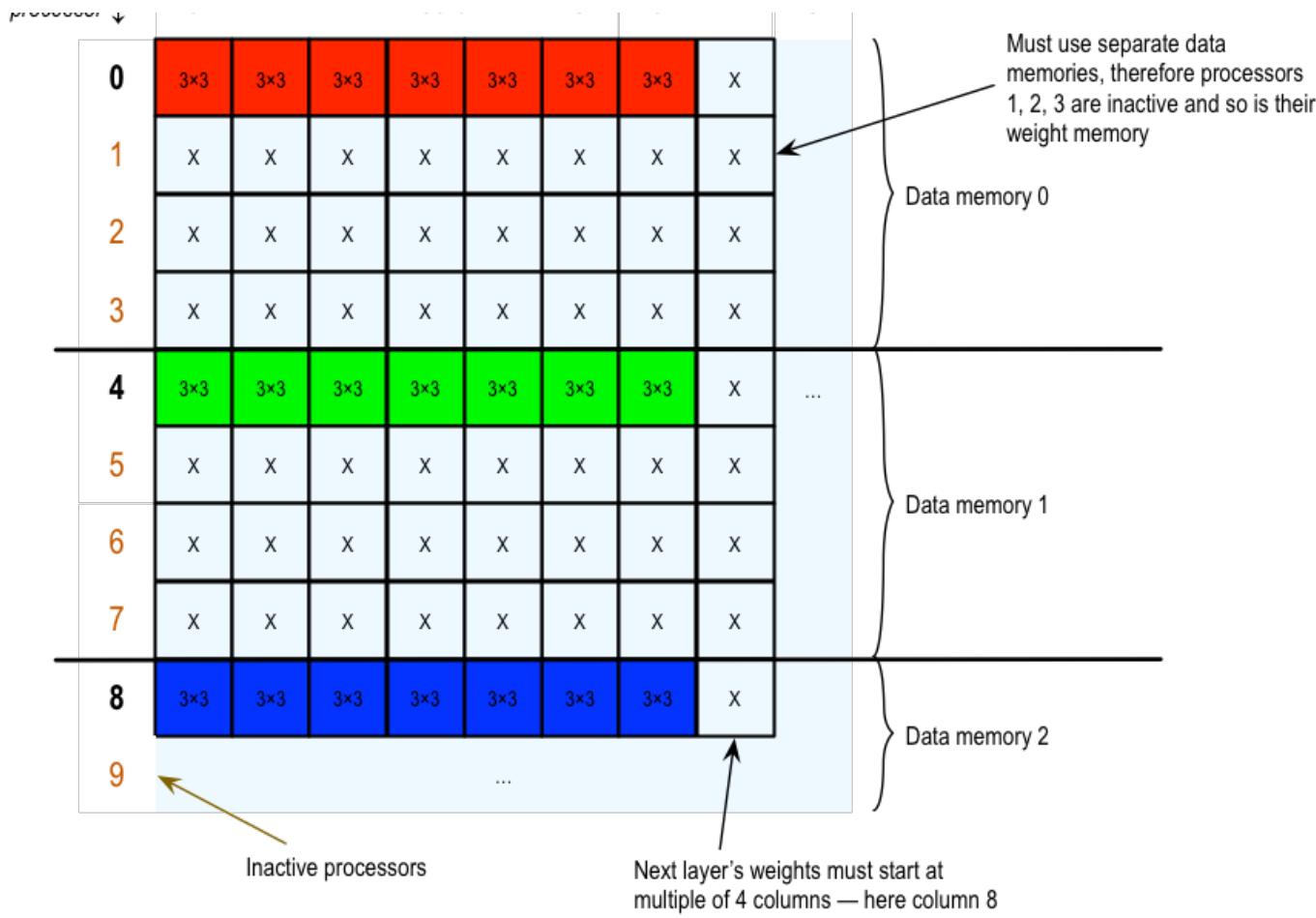
In general, HWC is faster since each memory read can deliver data to up to four processors in parallel. On the other hand, four processors must share one data memory instance, which reduces the maximum allowable dimensions.

## CHW Input Data Format and Consequences for Weight Memory Layout

When using the CHW data format, only one of the four processors sharing the data memory instance can be used. The next channel needs to use a processor connected to a different data memory instance, so that the machine can deliver one byte per clock cycle to each enabled processor.

Because of the fact that a processor has its own dedicated weight memory, this will introduce "gaps" in the weight memory map, as shown in the following illustration:





## Active Processors and Layers

For each layer, a set of active processors must be specified. The number input channels for the layer must be equal to or a multiple of the active processors, and the input data for that layer must be located in data memory instances accessible to the selected processors.

It is possible to specify a relative offset into the data memory instance that applies to all processors.

*Example:* Assuming HWC data format, specifying the offset as 16384 bytes (or 0x4000) will cause processors 0-3 to read their input from the second half of data memory 0, processors 4-7 will read from the second half of data memory instance 1, etc.

For most simple networks with limited data sizes, it is easiest to ping-pong between the first and second halves of the data memories – specify the data offset as 0 for the first layer, 0x4000 for the second layer, 0 for the third layer, etc. This strategy avoids overlapping inputs and outputs when a given processor is used in two consecutive layers.

Even though it is supported by the accelerator, the Network Generator will not be able to check for inadvertent overwriting of unprocessed input data by newly generated output data when overlapping data or streaming data. Use the `--overlap-data` command line switch to disable these checks, and to allow overlapped data.

## Layers and Weight Memory

For each layer, the weight memory start column is automatically configured by the Network Loader. The start column must be a multiple of 4, and the value applies to all processors.

The following example shows the weight memory layout for two layers. The first layer (L0) has 8 inputs and 10 outputs, and the second layer (L1) has 10 inputs and 2 outputs.

processor ↓	0	1	2	column	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	...
0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0			L1	L1	
1	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0			L1	L1	
2	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0			L1	L1	
3	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0			L1	L1	
4	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0			L1	L1	
5	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0			L1	L1	
6	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0			L1	L1	
7	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0			L1	L1	
8												L1	L1	
9												L1	L1	
...														

## Bias Memories

Bias values are stored in separate bias memories. There are four bias memory instances available, and a layer can access any bias memory instance where at least one processor is enabled. By default, bias memories are automatically allocated using a modified Fit-First Descending (FFD) algorithm. Before considering the required resource sizes in descending order, and placing values in the bias memory with most available resources, the algorithm places those bias values that require a single specified bias memory. The bias memory allocation can optionally be controlled using the [bias\\_group](#) configuration option.

## Weight Storage Example

The file `ai84net.xlsx` contains an example for a single-channel CHW input using the `AI84Net5` network (this example also supports up to four channels in HWC).

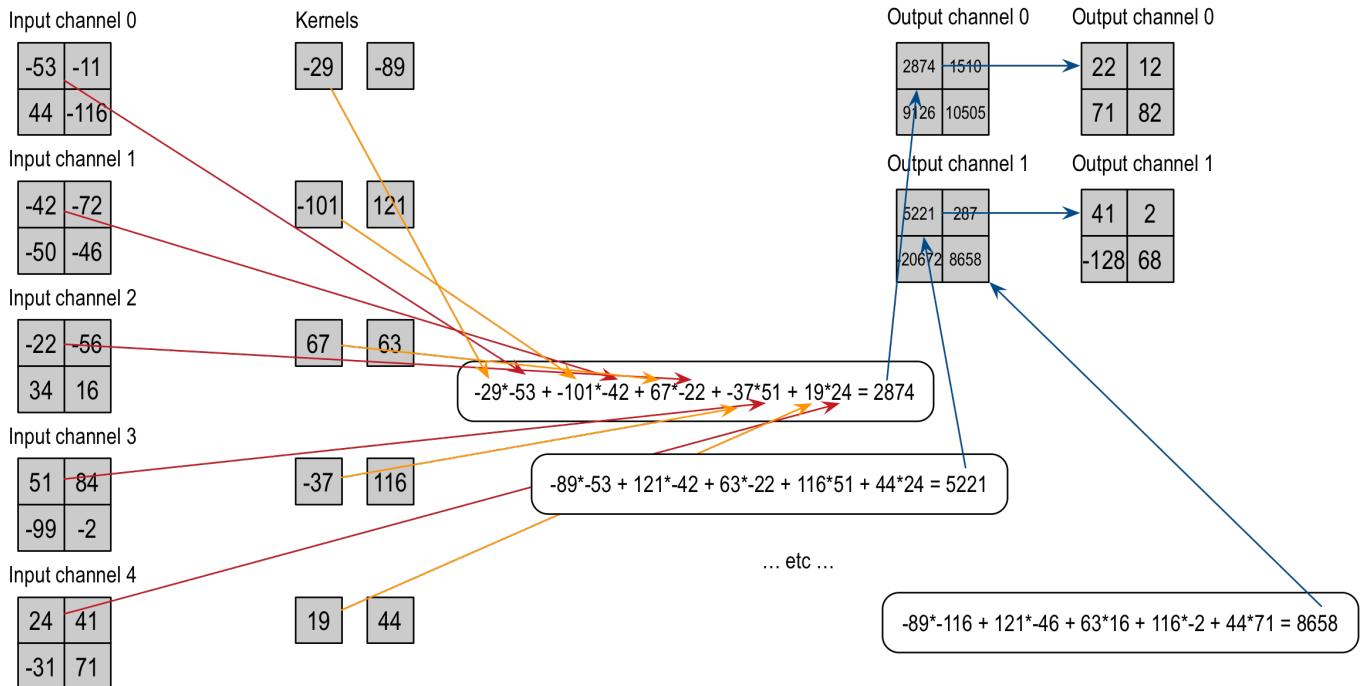
*Note:* As described above, multiple CHW channels must be loaded into separate memory instances. When using a large number of channels, this can cause “holes” in the processor map, which in turn can cause subsequent layers’ kernels to require padding.

The Network Loader prints a kernel map that shows the kernel arrangement based on the provided network description. It will also flag cases where kernel or bias memories are exceeded.

## Example: Conv2D

The following picture shows an example of a `conv2d` with  $1 \times 1$  kernels, 5 input channels, 2 output channels and data size of  $2 \times 2$ . The inputs are shown on the left, and the outputs on the right, and the kernels are shown lined up with the associated inputs — the number of kernel rows matches the number of input channels, and the number kernel columns matches the number of output channels. The lower half of the picture shows how the data is arranged in memory when HWC data is used for both input and output.

**Example: Conv2D with  $1 \times 1$  kernels**



```
// HWC (little data): 2x2, channels 0 to 3
*((volatile uint32_t *) 0x50400000) = 0x33ead6cb;
*((volatile uint32_t *) 0x50400004) = 0x54c8b8f5;
*((volatile uint32_t *) 0x50400008) = 0x9d22ce2c;
*((volatile uint32_t *) 0x5040000c) = 0xfe10d28c;
// HWC (little data): 2x2, channels 4 to 4
*((volatile uint32_t *) 0x50408000) = 0x00000018;
*((volatile uint32_t *) 0x50408004) = 0x00000029;
*((volatile uint32_t *) 0x50408008) = 0x000000e1;
*((volatile uint32_t *) 0x5040800c) = 0x00000047;
```

```
if (*((volatile uint32_t *) 0x50402000) != 0x00002916) return 0;
if (*((volatile uint32_t *) 0x50402004) != 0x0000020c) return 0;
if (*((volatile uint32_t *) 0x50402008) != 0x00008047) return 0;
if (*((volatile uint32_t *) 0x5040200c) != 0x00004452) return 0;
```

51	-22	-42	-53
84	-56	-72	-11
-99	34	-50	44
-2	16	-46	-116

Memory instance 0

0	0	0	24
0	0	0	41
0	0	0	-31
0	0	0	71

Memory instance 1

0	0	41	22
0	0	2	12
0	0	-128	71
0	0	68	82

Memory instance 0

A185 memory addresses shown

## Limitations of MAX78000 Networks

The MAX78000 hardware does not support arbitrary network parameters. Specifically,

- **Conv2d:**
  - Kernel sizes must be 1x1 or 3x3.
  - Padding can be 0, 1, or 2. Padding always uses zeros.
  - Stride is fixed to 1 1

◦ Stride is fixed to 1, 1.

- Conv1d:
    - Kernel sizes must be 1 through 9.
    - Padding can be 0, 1, or 2.
    - Stride is fixed to 1.
  - ConvTranspose2d:
    - Kernel sizes must be 3×3.
    - Padding can be 0, 1, or 2.
    - Stride is fixed to [2, 2]. Output padding is fixed to 1.
  - A programmable layer-specific shift operator is available at the output of a convolution, see [output\\_shift \(Optional\)](#).
  - The supported activation functions are `ReLU` and `Abs`, and a limited subset of `Linear`.
  - Pooling:
    - Both max pooling and average pooling are available, with or without convolution.
    - Pooling does not support padding.
    - Pooling more than 64 channels requires use of a “fused” convolution in the same layer, unless the pooled dimensions are 1×1.
    - Pooling strides can be 1 through 16. For 2D pooling, the stride is the same for both dimensions.
    - For 2D pooling, supported pooling kernel sizes are 1×1 through 16×16, including non-square kernels. 1D pooling supports kernel sizes from 1 through 16. *Note: Pooling kernel size values do not have to be the same as the pooling stride.*
    - Average pooling is implemented both using `floor()` and using rounding (half towards positive infinity). Use the `--avg-pool-rounding` switch to turn on rounding in the training software and the Network Generator.
- Example:
- *floor*: Since there is a quantization step at the output of the average pooling, a 2×2 `AvgPool2d` of `[[0, 0], [0, 3]]` will return  $\lfloor \frac{3}{4} \rfloor = 0$ .
  - *rounding*: 2×2 `AvgPool2d` of `[[0, 0], [0, 3]]` will return  $\lfloor \frac{3}{4} \rfloor = 1$ .
- The number of input channels must not exceed 1024 per layer.
  - The number of output channels must not exceed 1024 per layer.
    - Bias is supported for up to 512 output channels per layer.
  - The number of layers must not exceed 32 (where pooling and element-wise operations do not add to the count when preceding a convolution).
  - The maximum dimension (number of rows or columns) for input or output data is 1023.
    - When using data greater than 90×91, `streaming` mode must be used.
    - When using `streaming` mode, the product of any layer’s input width, input height, and input channels divided by 64 rounded up must not exceed  $2^{21}$ :  $width * height * \lceil \frac{channels}{64} \rceil < 2^{21}$ . *width* and *height* must not exceed 1023.
    - `Streaming` is limited to 8 layers or less, and is limited to four FIFOs (up to 4 input channels in CHW and

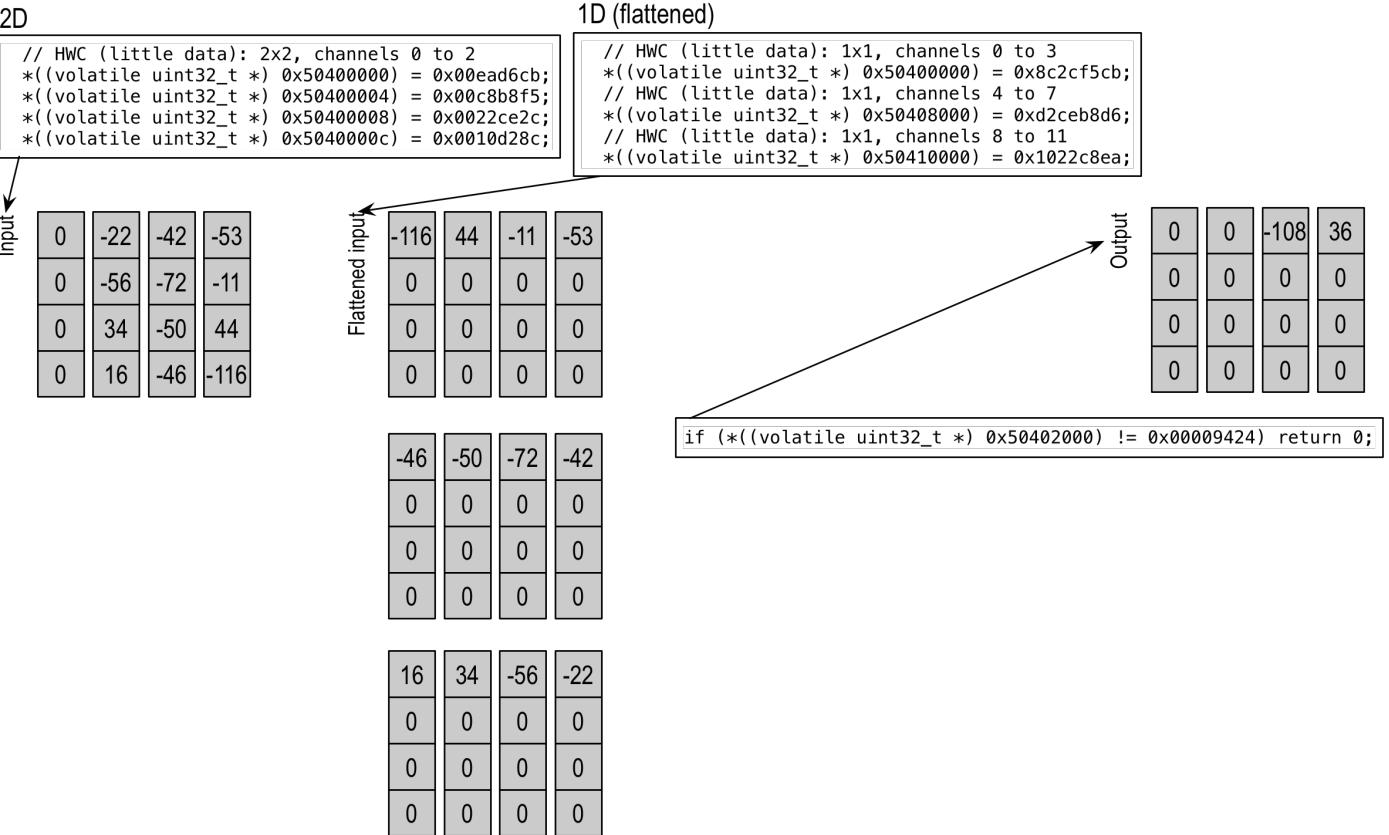
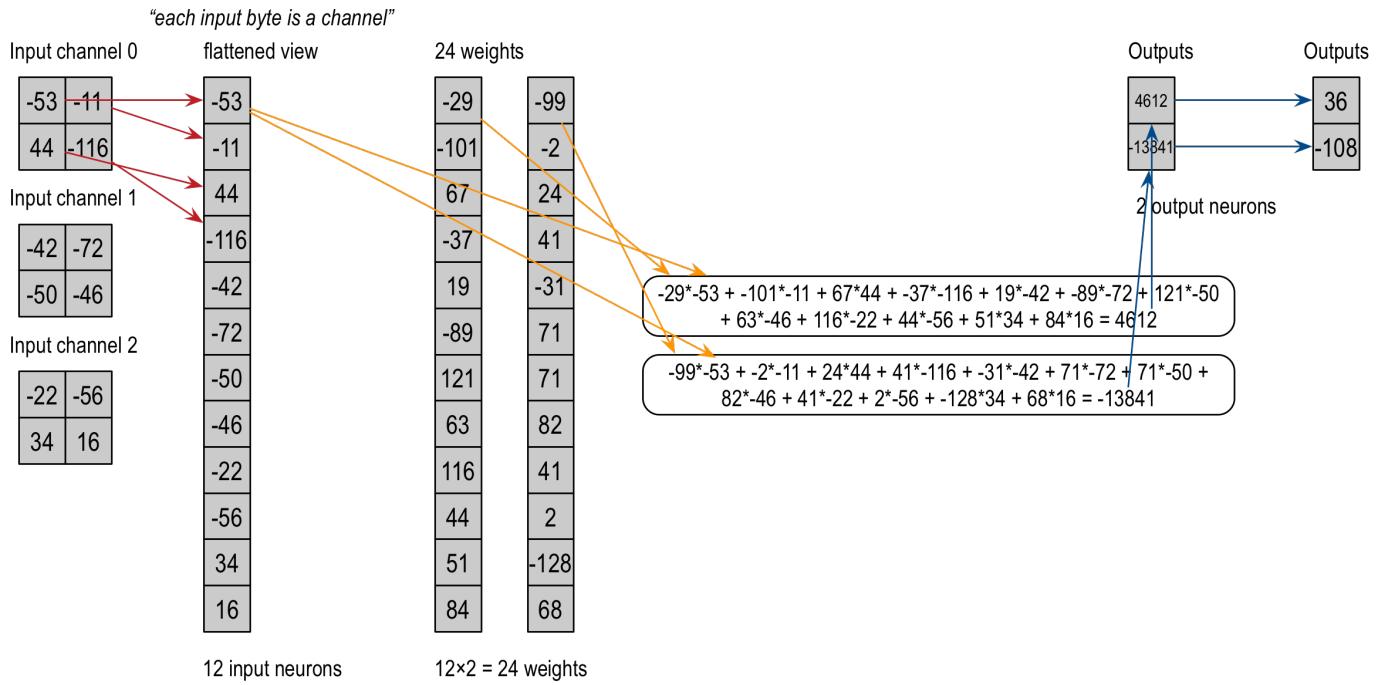
- Streaming is limited to 8 layers of CNN, and is limited to four FIFOs (up to 4 input channels in CHW and up to 16 channels in HWC format), see [FIFOs](#).
  - o For streaming layers, bias values may not be added correctly in all cases.
- The weight memory supports up to  $768 * 64 \text{ } 3 \times 3 \text{ Q7}$  kernels (see [Number Format](#)).  
 When using 1-, 2- or 4 bit weights, the capacity increases accordingly.  
 When using more than 64 input or output channels, weight memory is shared and effective capacity decreases.  
 Weights must be arranged according to specific rules detailed in [Layers and Weight Memory](#).
- There are 16 instances of 32 KiB data memory. When not using streaming mode, any data channel (input, intermediate, or output) must completely fit into one memory instance. This limits the first-layer input to  $181 \times 181$  pixels per channel in the CHW format. However, when using more than one input channel, the HWC format may be preferred, and all layer output are in HWC format as well. In those cases, it is required that four channels fit into a single memory instance -- or  $91 \times 90$  pixels per channel.  
 Note that the first layer commonly creates a wide expansion (i.e., large number of output channels) that needs to fit into data memory, so the input size limit is mostly theoretical.
- The hardware supports 1D and 2D convolution layers, 2D transposed convolution layers (upsampling), element-wise addition, subtraction, binary OR, binary XOR as well as fully connected layers ([Linear](#)), which are implemented using  $1 \times 1$  convolutions on  $1 \times 1$  data:
  - o The maximum number of input neurons is 1024, and the maximum number of output neurons is 1024 (16 each per processor used).
  - o [Flatten](#) functionality is available to convert 2D input data for use by fully connected layers, see [Fully Connected Layers](#).
  - o When “flattening” two-dimensional data, the input dimensions ( $C \times H \times W$ ) must satisfy  $C \times H \times W \leq 16384$ . Pooling cannot be used at the same time as flattening.
  - o Element-wise operators support from 2 up to 16 inputs.
  - o Element-wise operators can be chained in-flight with pooling and 2D convolution (where the order of pooling and element-wise operations can be swapped).
  - o For convenience, a [softmax](#) operator is supported in software.
- Since the internal network format is HWC in groups of four channels, output concatenation only works properly when all components of the concatenation other than the last have multiples of four channels.
- Dilation, groups, and depth-wise convolutions are not supported. *Note: Batch normalization should be folded into the weights, see [Batch Normalization](#).*

## Fully Connected (Linear) Layers

$m \times n$  fully connected layers can be realized in hardware by “flattening” 2D input data of dimensions  $C \times H \times W$  into  $m = C \times H \times W$  channels of  $1 \times 1$  input data. The hardware will produce  $n$  channels of  $1 \times 1$  output data. When chaining multiple fully connected layers, the flattening step is omitted. The following picture shows 2D data, the equivalent flattened 1D data, and the output.

For MAX78000/MAX78002, the product  $C \times H \times W$  must not exceed 16384.

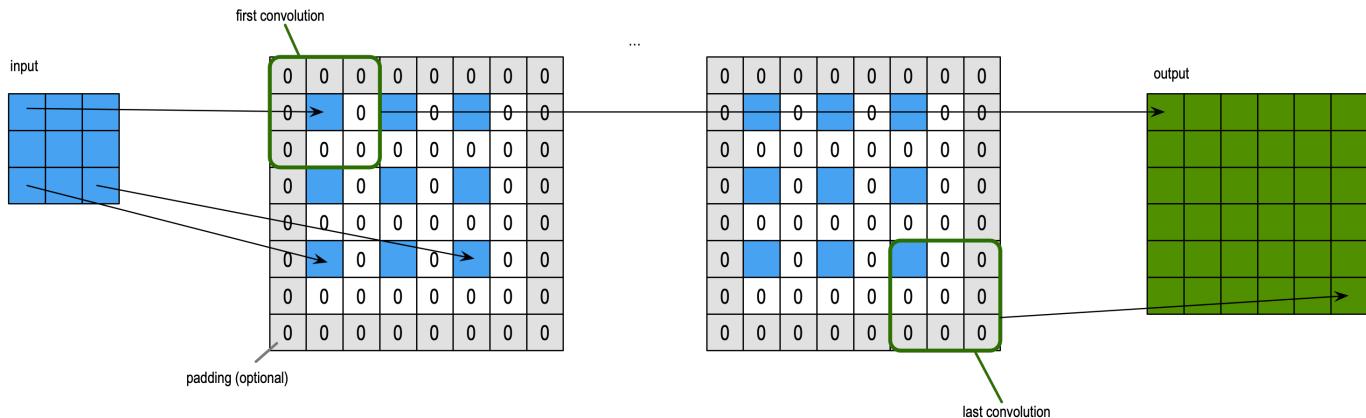
**MLP with ‘flatten’ of prior layer CNN output (2x2x3 to 1x1x12 inputs): 12 input neurons, 2 output neurons**



## Upsampling (Fractionally-Strided 2D Convolutions)

The hardware supports 2D upsampling (“fractionally-strided convolutions”, sometimes called “deconvolution” even though this is not strictly mathematically correct). The PyTorch equivalent is `ConvTranspose2D` with a stride of 2.

The example shows a fractionally-strided convolution with a stride of 2, pad of 1, and a 3x3 kernel. This “upsamples” the input dimensions from 3x3 to output dimensions of 6x6.



## Model Training and Quantization

The main training software is `train.py`. It drives the training aspects including model creation, checkpointing, model save, and status display (see `--help` for the many supported options, and the `scripts/train_*.sh` scripts for example usage).

The `ai84net.py` and `ai85net.py` files contain models that fit into AI84’s weight memory. These models rely on the MAX78000/MAX78002 hardware operators that are defined in `ai8x.py`.

To train the FP32 model for MNIST on MAX78000, run `scripts/train_mnist.sh` from the `ai8x-training` project. This script will place checkpoint files into the log directory. Training makes use of the Distiller framework, but the `train.py` software has been modified slightly to improve it and add some MAX78000/MAX78002 specifics.

Since training can take hours or days, the training script does not overwrite any weights previously produced. Results are placed in sub-directories under `logs/` named with date and time when training began. The latest results are always soft-linked to by `latest-log_dir` and `latest_log_file`.

## Command Line Arguments

The following table describes the most important command line arguments for `train.py`. Use `--help` for a complete list.

Argument	Description	Example
<code>--help</code>	Complete list of arguments	

<i>Device selection</i>		
<code>--device</code>	Set device (default: AI84)	<code>--device</code> MAX78000
<i>Model and dataset</i>		
<code>-a, --arch, --model</code>	Set model (collected from models folder)	<code>--model</code> ai85net5
<code>--dataset</code>	Set dataset (collected from datasets folder)	<code>--dataset</code> MNIST
<code>--data</code>	Path to dataset (default: data)	<code>--data</code> <code>/data/ml</code>
<i>Training</i>		
<code>--epochs</code>	Number of epochs to train (default: 90)	<code>--epochs</code> 100
<code>-b, --batch-size</code>	Mini-batch size (default: 256)	<code>--batch-size</code> 512
<code>--compress</code>	Set compression and learning rate schedule	<code>--compress</code> <code>schedule.yaml</code>
<code>--lr, --learning-rate</code>	Set initial learning rate	<code>--lr</code> 0.001
<code>--deterministic</code>	Seed random number generators with fixed values	
<code>--resume-from</code>	Resume from previous checkpoint	<code>--resume-from</code> <code>chk.pth.tar</code>
<code>--qat-policy</code>	Define QAT policy in YAML file (default: <code>qat_policy.yaml</code> ). Use "None" to disable QAT.	<code>--qat-policy</code> <code>qat_policy.yaml</code>
<i>Display and statistics</i>		
<code>--enable-tensorboard</code>	Enable logging to TensorBoard (default: disabled)	
<code>--confusion</code>	Display the confusion matrix	
<code>--param-hist</code>	Collect parameter statistics	
<code>--pr-curves</code>	Generate precision-recall curves	

--embedding	Display embedding (using projector)	
<i>Hardware</i>		
--use-bias	The <code>bias=True</code> parameter is passed to the model. The effect of this parameter is model dependent (the parameter does nothing, effects some operations, or all operations).	
--avg-pool-rounding	Use rounding for AvgPool	
<i>Evaluation</i>		
-e, --evaluate	Evaluate previously trained model	
--8-bit-mode, -8	Simluate quantized operation for hardware device (8-bit data)	
--exp-load-weights-from	Load weights from file	
<i>Export</i>		
--summary onnx	Export trained model to ONNX (default name: to <code>model.onnx</code> ) — <i>see description below</i>	
--summary onnx_simplified	Export trained model to simplified ONNX file (default name: <code>model.onnx</code> )	
--summary-filename	Change the file name for the exported model	--summary-filename mnist.onnx
--save-sample	Save <code>data[index]</code> from the test set to a NumPy pickle for use as sample data	--save-sample 10

## ONNX Model Export

The ONNX model export (via `--summary onnx` or `--summary onnx_simplified`) is primarily intended for visualization of the model. ONNX does not support all of the operators that `ai8x.py` uses, and these operators are therefore removed from the export (see function `onnx_export_prep()` in `ai8x.py`). The ONNX file does contain the trained weights and *may* therefore be usable for inference under certain circumstances. However, it is important to note that the ONNX file **will not** be usable for training (for example, the ONNX `floor` operator has a gradient of zero which is incompatible with quantization-aware training as implemented in `ai8x.py`).

## Observing GPU Resources

`nvidia-smi` can be used in a different terminal during training to examine the GPU resource usage of the training process. In the following example, the GPU is using 100% of its compute capabilities, but not all of the available memory. In this particular case, the batch size could be increased to use more memory.

```

1 | $ nvidia-smi
2 | +-----+
3 | NVIDIA-SMI 430.50      Driver Version: 430.50      CUDA Version: 10.1 |
4 | |-----+-----+-----+
5 | GPU  Name      Persistence-M| Bus-Id      Disp.A  | Volatile Uncorr. ECC |
6 | Fan  Temp  Perf  Pwr:Usage/Cap| Memory-Usage | GPU-Util  Compute M. |
7 | ======+=====+=====+=====+=====+=====+=====+=====
8 | 0  GeForce RTX 208... Off  | 00000000:01:00.0 On   |                  N/A |
9 | 39%   65C     P2    152W / 250W |   3555MiB / 11016MiB | 100%     Default |
10| +-----+-----+-----+-----+
11| ...

```

## Custom nn.Modules

The `ai8x.py` file contains customized PyTorch classes (subclasses of `torch.nn.Module`). Any model that is designed to run on MAX78000/MAX78002 should use these classes. There are three main changes over the default classes in `torch.nn.Module`:

1. Additional “Fused” operators that model in-flight pooling and activation.
2. Rounding and clipping that matches the hardware.
3. Support for quantized operation (when using the `-8` command line argument).

## List of Predefined Modules

The following modules are predefined:

Name	Description / PyTorch equivalent
Conv2d	Conv2d
FusedConv2dReLU	Conv2d, followed by ReLU
FusedConv2dAbs	Conv2d, followed by Abs
MaxPool2d	MaxPool2d
FusedMaxPoolConv2d	MaxPool2d, followed by Conv2d
FusedMaxPoolConv2dReLU	MaxPool2d, followed by Conv2d, and ReLU
FusedMaxPoolConv2dAbs	MaxPool2d, followed by Conv2d, and Abs
AvgPool2d	AvgPool2d

FusedAvgPoolConv2d	AvgPool2d, followed by Conv2d
FusedAvgPoolConv2dReLU	AvgPool2d, followed by Conv2d, and ReLU
FusedAvgPoolConv2dAbs	AvgPool2d, followed by Conv2d, and Abs
ConvTranspose2d	ConvTranspose2d
FusedConvTranspose2dReLU	ConvTranspose2d, followed by ReLU
FusedConvTranspose2dAbs	ConvTranspose2d, followed by Abs
FusedMaxPoolConvTranspose2d	MaxPool2d, followed by ConvTranspose2d
FusedMaxPoolConvTranspose2dReLU	MaxPool2d, followed by ConvTranspose2d, and ReLU
FusedMaxPoolConvTranspose2dAbs	MaxPool2d, followed by ConvTranspose2d, and Abs
FusedAvgPoolConvTranspose2d	AvgPool2d, followed by ConvTranspose2d
FusedAvgPoolConvTranspose2dReLU	AvgPool2d, followed by ConvTranspose2d, and ReLU
FusedAvgPoolConvTranspose2dAbs	AvgPool2d, followed by ConvTranspose2d, and Abs
Linear	Linear
FusedLinearReLU	Linear, followed by ReLU
FusedLinearAbs	Linear, followed by Abs
Conv1d	Conv1d
FusedConv1dReLU	Conv1d, followed by ReLU
FusedConv1dAbs	Conv1d, followed by Abs
MaxPool1d	MaxPool1d
FusedMaxPoolConv1d	MaxPool1d, followed by Conv1d
FusedMaxPoolConv1dReLU	MaxPool2d, followed by Conv1d, and ReLU
FusedMaxPoolConv1dAbs	MaxPool2d, followed by Conv1d, and Abs
AvgPool1d	AvgPool1d
FusedAvgPoolConv1d	AvgPool1d, followed by Conv1d
FusedAvgPoolConv1dReLU	AvgPool1d, followed by Conv1d, and ReLU
FusedAvgPoolConv1dAbs	AvgPool1d, followed by Conv1d, and Abs
Add	Element-wise Add

Sub	Element-wise Sub
Or	Element-wise bitwise Or
Xor	Element-wise bitwise Xor

## Dropout

Dropout modules such as `torch.nn.Dropout()` and `torch.nn.Dropout2d()` are automatically disabled during inference, and can therefore be used for training without affecting inference.

## view and reshape

There are two supported cases for `view()` or `reshape()`.

- Conversion between 1D data and 2D data: Both the batch dimension (first dimension) and the channel dimension (second dimension) must stay the same. The height/width of the 2D data must match the length of the 1D data (i.e.,  $H \times W = L$ ).

Examples:

```
x = x.view(x.size(0), x.size(1), -1) # 2D to 1D
x = x.view(x.shape[0], x.shape[1], 16, -1) # 1D to 2D
```

Note: `x.size()` and `x.shape[]` are equivalent.

When reshaping data, `in_dim:` must be specified in the model description file.

- Conversion from 1D and 2D to Fully Connected ("flattening"): The batch dimension (first dimension) must stay the same, and the other dimensions are combined (i.e.,  $M = C \times H \times W$  or  $M = C \times L$ ).

Example:

```
x = x.view(x.size(0), -1) # Flatten
```

## Support for Quantization

The hardware always uses signed integers for data and weights. While data is always 8-bit, weights can be configured on a per-layer basis. However, training makes use of floating point values for both data and weights, while also clipping (clamping) values.

### Data

When using the `-8` command line switch, all module outputs are quantized to 8-bit in the range [-128...+127] to simulate hardware behavior. The last layer can optionally use 32-bit output for increased precision. This is simulated by adding the parameter `wide=True` to the module function call.

### Weights: Quantization Aware Training (QAT)

Quantization-aware training (QAT) is enabled by default. QAT is controlled by a command-line argument `--qat`.

Quantization-aware training (QAT) is enabled by default. QAT is controlled by a policy file, specified by `--qat-policy`.

- After `start_epoch` epochs, training will learn an additional parameter that corresponds to a shift of the final sum of products.
- `weight_bits` describes the number of bits available for weights.
- `overrides` allows specifying the `weight_bits` on a per-layer basis.

By default, weights are quantized to 8-bits after 10 epochs as specified in `qat_policy.yaml`. A more refined example that specifies weight sizes for individual layers can be seen in `qat_policy_cifar100.yaml`.

Quantization-aware training can be disabled by specifying `--qat-policy None`.

For more information, please also see [Quantization](#).

## Batch Normalization

Batch normalization after `Conv1d` and `Conv2d` layers is supported using “fusing”. The fusing operation merges the effect of batch normalization layers into the parameters of the preceding convolutional layer. For detailed information about batch normalization fusing/folding, see Section 3.2 of the following paper: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1712.05877.pdf>.

After fusing/folding, the network will not contain any batchnorm layers. The effects of batch normalization will instead be expressed by modified weights and biases of the preceding convolutional layer. If the trained network contains batchnorm layers, the `batchnormfuser.py` script (see [BatchNorm Fusing](#)) should be called before `quantize.py` to fuse the batchnorm layers. To be able perform folding/fusing by running `batchnormfuser.py`, a second model architecture should be defined without batchnorm layers. This architecture should be exactly the same as the input model architecture, except for the removal of all batchnorm layers.

## Model Comparison and Feature Attribution

Both TensorBoard and Manifold can be used for model comparison and feature attribution.

### TensorBoard

TensorBoard is built into `train.py`. When enabled using `--enable-tensorboard`, it provides a local web server that can be started before, during, or after training and it picks up all data that is written to the `logs/` directory.

For classification models, TensorBoard supports the optional `--param-hist` and `--embedding` command line arguments. `--embedding` randomly selects up to 100 data points from the last batch of each verification epoch. These can be viewed in the “projector” tab in TensorBoard.

To start the TensorBoard server, use a second terminal window:

```
1 | (ai8x-training) $ tensorboard --logdir='./logs'
2 | TensorBoard 2.2.2 at http://127.0.0.1:6006/ (Press CTRL+C to quit)
```

On a shared system, add the `--port 0` command line option.

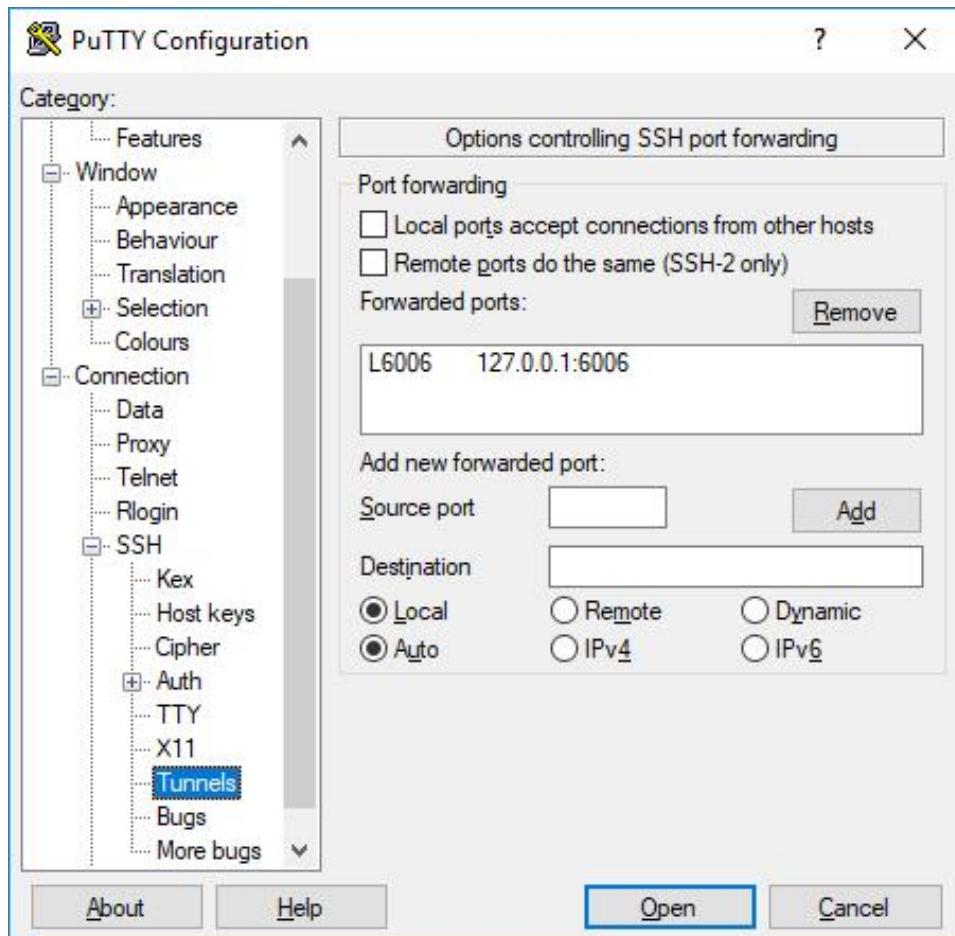
The training progress can be observed by starting TensorBoard and pointing a web browser to the port indicated.

## Remote Access to TensorBoard

When using a remote system, use `ssh` in another terminal window to forward the remote port to the local machine:

```
1 | $ ssh -L 6006:127.0.0.1:6006 targethost
```

When using PuTTY, port forwarding is achieved as follows:



## Manifold

The quickest way to integrate manifold is by creating CSV files from the training software. Note that performance will suffer when there are more than about 20,000 records in the CSV file. Subsampling the data is one way to avoid this problem.

The `train.py` program can create CSV files using the `--save-csv` command line argument in combination with `--evaluate`:

```
1 | ./train.py --model ai85net5 --dataset MNIST --confusion --evaluate --save-csv mnist --  
device MAX78000 --exp-load-weights-from ../ai8x-synthesis/trained/ai85-mnist.pth.tar -8
```

To run the manifold example application:

```
1 | $ cd manifold/examples/manifold  
2 | $ npm run start
```

The code will run in JavaScript inside the browser (this may cause warnings that the web page is consuming lots of resources). To run a browser remotely on a development machine, forward X11 using the following command:

```
1 | $ ssh -Yn targethost firefox http://localhost:8080/
```

To forward only the remote web port, use `ssh`:

```
1 | $ ssh -L 8080:127.0.0.1:8080 targethost
```

## SHAP — SHapely Additive exPlanations

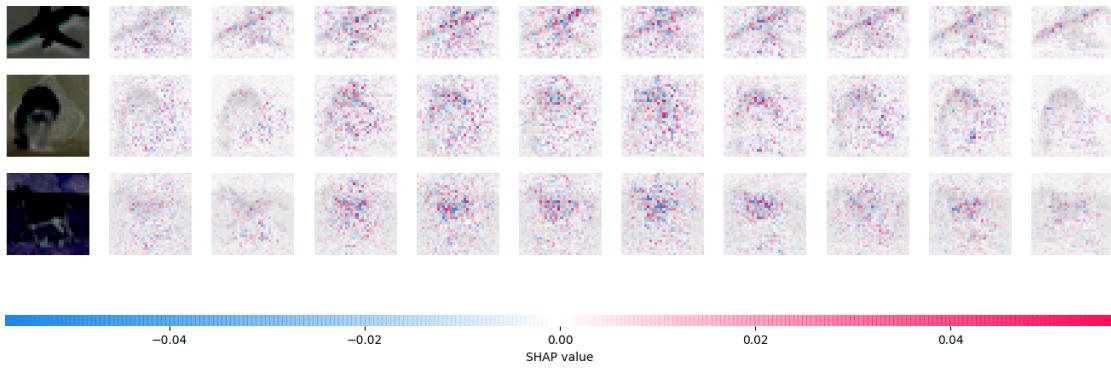
The training software integrates code to generate SHAP plots (see <https://github.com/slundberg/shap>). This can help with feature attribution for input images.

The `train.py` program can create plots using the `--shap` command line argument in combination with `--evaluate`:

```
1 | ./train.py --model ai85net5 --dataset CIFAR10 --confusion --evaluate --device MAX78000  
--exp-load-weights-from logs/CIFAR-new/best.pth.tar --shap 3
```

This will create a plot with a random selection of 3 test images. The plot shows ten outputs (the ten classes) for the three different input images on the left. Red pixels increase the model's output while blue pixels decrease the output. The sum of the SHAP values equals the difference between the expected model output (averaged over the background dataset) and the current model output.





## BatchNorm Fusing

If batchnorm fusing is needed (see [Batch Normalization](#)), the `batchnormfuser.py` tool must be run.

### Command Line Arguments

The following table describes the command line arguments for `batchnormfuser.py`:

Argument	Description	Example
<code>-i</code> , <code>--inp_path</code>	Set input checkpoint path	<code>-i logs/2020.06.05-235316/best.pth.tar</code>
<code>-o</code> , <code>--out_path</code>	Set output checkpoint path for saving fused model	<code>-o best_without_bn.pth.tar</code>
<code>-oa</code> , <code>--out_arch</code>	Set output architecture name (architecture without batchnorm layers)	<code>-oa ai85simplenet</code>

## Quantization

There are two main approaches to quantization — quantization-aware training and post-training quantization. The MAX78000/MAX78002 support both approaches.

The `quantize.py` software quantizes an existing PyTorch checkpoint file and writes out a new PyTorch checkpoint file that can then be used to evaluate the quality of the quantized network, using the same PyTorch framework used for training. The same new checkpoint file will also be used to feed the [Network Loader](#).

## Quantization-Aware Training (QAT)

Quantization-aware training is the better approach if you want to maintain accuracy. It is enabled by default. QAT losses additional memory and computation.

Quantization-aware training is the better performing approach. It is enabled by default. QAT learns additional parameters during training that help with quantization (see [Weights: Quantization Aware Training \(QAT\)](#)). No additional arguments are needed for `quantize.py`.

## Post-Training Quantization

This approach is also called “*naive quantization*”. It should be used when `--qat-policy None` is specified for training.

While several approaches for clipping are implemented in `quantize.py`, clipping with a simple fixed scale factor performs best, based on experimental results. The approach requires the clamping operators implemented in `ai8x.py`.

Note that the “optimum” scale factor for simple clipping is highly dependent on the model and weight data. For the MNIST example, a `--scale 0.85` works well. For the CIFAR-100 example on the other hand, Top-1 performance is 30 points better with `--scale 1.0`.

## Command Line Arguments

The `quantize.py` software has the following important command line arguments:

Argument	Description	Example
<code>--help</code>	Complete list of options	
<i>Device selection</i>		
<code>--device</code>	Set device (default: AI84)	<code>--device MAX78000</code>
<i>Debug</i>		
<code>-v</code>	Verbose output	
<i>Weight quantization</i>		
<code>-c, --config-file</code>	YAML file with weight quantization information (default: from checkpoint file, or 8-bit for all layers)	<code>-c mnist.yaml</code>
<code>--clip-method</code>	Non-QAT clipping method — either STDDEV, AVG, AVGMAX or SCALE	<code>--clip-method SCALE</code>
<code>--scale</code>	Sets scale for the SCALE clipping method	<code>--scale 0.85</code>

*Note: The syntax for the optional YAML file is described below. The same file can be used for both `quantize.py` and `ai8xsize.py`.*

## Example and Evaluation

Copy the working and tested weight files into the `trained/` folder of the `ai8x-synthesis` project.

Example for MNIST:

```
1 | (ai8x-synthesis) $ scripts/quantize_mnist.sh
```

To evaluate the quantized network for MAX78000 (run from the training project):

```
1 | (ai8x-training) $ scripts/evaluate_mnist.sh
```

## Alternative Quantization Approaches

If quantization-aware training is not desired, post-training quantization can be improved using more sophisticated methods. For example, see

<https://github.com/pytorch/glow/blob/master/docs/Quantization.md>,

<https://github.com/ARM-software/ML-examples/tree/master/cmsisnn-cifar10>,

[https://github.com/ARM-software/ML-KWS-for-MCU/blob/master/Deployment/Quant\\_guide.md](https://github.com/ARM-software/ML-KWS-for-MCU/blob/master/Deployment/Quant_guide.md),

or Distiller's approach (installed with this software).

Further, a quantized network can be refined using post-quantization training (see Distiller).

In all cases, ensure that the quantizer writes out a checkpoint file that the Network Loader can read.

## Adding New Network Models and New Datasets to the Training Process

The following step is needed to add new network models:

- Implement a new network model based on the constraints described earlier, see [Custom nn.Modules](#) (and `models/ai85net.py` for an example). The file must include the `models` data structure that describes the model (name, minimum number of inputs, and whether it can handle 1D or 2D inputs). `models` can list multiple models in the same file.

The following steps are needed for new data formats and datasets:

### Data Loader

Develop a data loader in PyTorch, see [https://pytorch.org/tutorials/beginner/data\\_loading\\_tutorial.html](https://pytorch.org/tutorials/beginner/data_loading_tutorial.html). See `datasets/mnist.py` for an example.

The data loader must include a loader function, for example `mnist_get_datasets(data, load_train=True, load_test=True)`. `data` is a tuple of the specified data directory and the program arguments, and the two

bools specify whether training and/or test data should be loaded.

The data loader is expected to download and preprocess the datasets as needed and install everything in the specified location.

The loader returns a tuple of two PyTorch Datasets for training and test data.

## **datasets Data Structure**

Add the new data loader to a new file in the `datasets` directory (for example `datasets/mnist.py`). The file must include the `datasets` data structure that describes the dataset and points to the new loader. `datasets` can list multiple datasets in the same file.

The `input` key describes the dimensionality of the data, and the first dimension is passed as `num_channels` to the model, whereas the remaining dimensions are passed as `dimension`. For example, `'input': (1, 28, 28)` will be passed to the model as `num_channels=1` and `dimensions=(28,28)`.

The optional `regression` key in the structure can be set to `True` to automatically select the `--regression` command line argument. `regression` defaults to `False`.

The optional `visualize` key can point to a custom visualization function used when creating `--embedding`. The input to the function (format NCHW for 2D data, or NCL for 1D data) is a batch of data (with  $N \leq 100$ ). The default handles square RGB or monochrome images. For any other data, a custom function must be supplied.

## **Training and Verification Data**

The training/verification data is located (by default) in `data/DataSetName`, for example `data/CIFAR10`. The location can be overridden with the `--data target_directory` command line argument.

## **Training Process**

Train the new network/new dataset. See `scripts/train_mnist.sh` for a command line example.

## **Netron — Network Visualization**

The [Netron tool](#) can visualize networks, similar to what is available within Tensorboard. To use Netron, use `train.py` to export the trained network to ONNX, and upload the ONNX file.

```
1 | (ai8x-training) $ ./train.py --model ai85net5 --dataset MNIST --evaluate --exp-load-weights-from checkpoint.pth.tar --device MAX78000 --summary onnx
```

---

## **Network Loader (AI8Xize)**

---

The `ai8xize` network loader currently depends on PyTorch and Nervana's Distiller. This requirement will be removed in the future.

The network loader creates C code that programs the MAX78000/MAX78002 (for embedded execution, or RTL simulation). Additionally, the generated code contains sample input data and the expected output for the sample, as well as code that verifies the expected output.

The `ai8xize.py` program needs two inputs:

1. A quantized checkpoint file, generated by the MAX78000/MAX78002 model quantization program `quantize.py`.
2. A YAML description of the network.

By default, the C code is split into two files: `main.c` contains the wrapper code, and loads a sample input and verifies the output for the sample input. `cnn.c` contains functions that are generated for a specific network to load, configure, and run the accelerator. During development, this split makes it easier to swap out only the network while keeping customized wrapper code intact.

## Command Line Arguments

The following table describes the most important command line arguments for `ai8xize.py`. Use `--help` for a complete list.

Argument	Description	Example
<code>--help</code>	Complete list of arguments	
<i>Device selection</i>		
<code>--device</code>	Set device (default: AI84)	<code>--device</code> <code>MAX78000</code>
<i>Hardware features</i>		
<code>--avg-pool-rounding</code>	Round average pooling results	
<code>--simple1b</code>	Use simple XOR instead of 1-bit multiplication	
<i>Embedded code</i>		
<code>--config-file</code>	YAML configuration file containing layer configuration	<code>--config-</code> <code>file</code> <code>cfg.yaml</code>

--checkpoint-file	Checkpoint file containing quantized weights	--checkpoint-file chk.pth.tar
--display-checkpoint	Show parsed checkpoint data	
--prefix	Set test name prefix	--prefix mnist
--board-name	Set the target board (default: EvKit_v1)	--board-name FTHR_RevA
<i>Code generation</i>		
--overwrite	Produce output even when the target directory exists (default: abort)	
--compact-data	Use <i>memcpy</i> to load input data in order to save code space	
--compact-weights	Use <i>memcpy</i> to load weights in order to save code space	
--mexpress	Use faster kernel loading	
--mlator	Use hardware to swap output bytes (useful for large multi-channel outputs)	
--softmax	Add software Softmax functions to generated code	
--boost	Turn on a port pin to boost the CNN supply	--boost 2.5
--timer	Insert code to time the inference using a timer	--timer 0
<i>File names</i>		
--c-filename	Main C file name base (default: main.c)	--c-filename main.c
--api-filename	API C file name (default: cnn.c)	--api-filename cnn.c

--weight- filename	Weight header file name (default: weights.h)	--weight- filename wt.h
--sample- filename	Sample data header file name (default: sampledata.h)	--sample- filename kat.h
--sample- input	Sample data source file name (default: tests/sample_dataset.npy)	--sample- input kat.npy
<i>Streaming and FIFOs</i>		
--fifo	Use FIFOs to load streaming data	
--fast-fifo	Use fast FIFO to load streaming data	
--fast-fifo- quad	Use fast FIFO in quad fanout mode (implies --fast-fifo)	
<i>RISC-V</i>		
--riscv	Use RISC-V processor	
--riscv- debug	Use RISC-V processor and enable the RISC-V JTAG	
--riscv- exclusive	Use exclusive SRAM access for RISC-V (implies --riscv)	
<i>Debug and logging</i>		
-v, -- verbose	Verbose output	
-L, --log	Redirect stdout to log file	
--log- intermediate	Log data between layers	
--log- pooling	Log unpooled and pooled data between layers in CSV format	
--log- filename	Log file name (default: log.txt)	--log- filename -

		run.log
<code>-D, --debug</code>	Debug mode	
<code>--debug-computation</code>	Debug computation (SLOW)	
<code>--stop-after</code>	Stop after layer	<code>--stop-after 2</code>
<code>--one-shot</code>	Use layer-by-layer one-shot mechanism	
<code>--ignore-bias-groups</code>	Do not force <code>bias_group</code> to only available x16 groups	
<i>Streaming tweaks</i>		
<code>--overlap-data</code>	Allow output to overwrite input	
<code>--override-start</code>	Override auto-computed streaming start value (x8 hex)	
<code>--increase-start</code>	Add integer to streaming start value (default: 2)	
<code>--override-rollover</code>	Override auto-computed streaming rollover value (x8 hex)	
<code>--override-delta1</code>	Override auto-computed streaming delta1 value (x8 hex)	
<code>--increase-delta1</code>	Add integer to streaming delta1 value (default: 0)	
<code>--override-delta2</code>	Override auto-computed streaming delta2 value (x8 hex)	
<code>--increase-delta2</code>	Add integer to streaming delta2 value (default: 0)	
<code>--ignore-streaming</code>	Ignore all 'streaming' layer directives	
<i>Power saving</i>		
<code>--powerdown</code>	Power down unused MRAM instances	

--deepsleep	Put ARM core into deep sleep	
<i>Hardware settings</i>		
--input-offset	First layer input offset (x8 hex, defaults to 0x0000)	--input-offset 2000
--mlator-noverify	Do not check both mlator and non-mlator output	
--write-zero-registers	Write registers even if the value is zero	
--init-tram	Initialize TRAM to 0	
--zero-sram	Zero memories	
--zero-unused	Zero unused registers	
--ready-sel	Specify memory waitstates	
--ready-sel-fifo	Specify FIFO waitstates	
--ready-sel-aon	Specify AON waitstates	
Various		
--synthesize-input	Instead of using large sample input data, use only the first --synthesize-words words of the sample input, and add N to each subsequent set of --synthesize-words 32-bit words	--synthesize-input 0x112233
--synthesize-words	When using --synthesize-input, specifies how many words to use from the input. The default is 8. This number must be a divisor of the total number of pixels per channel.	--synthesize-words 64
--max-checklines	Instead of checking all of the expected output data, verify only the first N words	--max-checklines 1024

## YAML Network Description

The [quick-start guide](#) provides a short overview of the purpose and structure of the YAML network description.

This [quick-start guide](#) provides a short overview of the purpose and structure of the TAMIL network description file.

The following is a detailed guide into all supported configuration options.

An example network description for the ai85net5 architecture and MNIST is shown below:

```

1 # CHW (big data) configuration for MNIST
2
3 arch: ai85net5
4 dataset: MNIST
5
6 # Define layer parameters in order of the layer sequence
7 layers:
8 - pad: 1
9   activate: ReLU
10  out_offset: 0x2000
11  processors: 0x000000000000000000000001
12  data_format: CHW
13  op: conv2d
14 - max_pool: 2
15   pool_stride: 2
16   pad: 2
17   activate: ReLU
18   out_offset: 0
19   processors: 0xffffffffffff0
20   op: conv2d
21 - max_pool: 2
22   pool_stride: 2
23   pad: 1
24   activate: ReLU
25   out_offset: 0x2000
26   processors: 0xffffffffffff0
27   op: conv2d
28 - avg_pool: 2
29   pool_stride: 2
30   pad: 1
31   activate: ReLU
32   out_offset: 0
33   processors: 0xffffffffffff0
34   op: conv2d
35 - op: mlp
36   flatten: true
37   out_offset: 0x1000
38
39   output_width: 32
40   processors: 0x00000000000000ff

```

To generate an embedded MAX78000 demo in the `demos/ai85-mnist/` folder, use the following command line:

```
1 | (ai8x-synthesize) $ ./ai8xize.py --verbose --log --test-dir demos --prefix ai85-mnist --checkpoint-file trained/ai85-mnist.pth.tar --config-file networks/mnist-chw-ai85.yaml --device MAX78000 --compact-data --mexpress --softmax
```

Running this command will combine the network described above with a fully connected software classification layer. The generated code will include all loading, unloading, and configuration steps.

To generate an RTL simulation for the same network and sample data in the directory `tests/ai85-mnist-....` (where .... is an autogenerated string based on the network topology), use:

```
1 | (ai8x-synthesize) $ ./ai8xize.py --rtl --verbose --autogen rtlsim --log --test-dir rtlsim --prefix ai85-mnist --checkpoint-file trained/ai85-mnist.pth.tar --config-file networks/mnist-chw-ai85.yaml --device MAX78000
```

## Network Loader Configuration Language

Network descriptions are written in YAML (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/YAML>). There are two sections in each file — global statements and a sequence of layer descriptions.

### Purpose of the YAML Network Description

The network description must match the model that was used for training. In effect, the checkpoint file contains the trained weights, and the YAML file contains a description of the network structure. Additionally, the YAML file (sometimes also called “sidecar file”) describes which processors to use (`processors`) and which offsets to read and write data from (`in_offset` and `out_offset`).

### Data Memory Ping-Pong

For simple networks with relatively small data dimensions, the easiest way to use the data offsets is by “ping-ponging” between offset 0 and half the memory (offset 0x4000). For example, the input is loaded at offset 0, and the first layer produces its output at offset 0x4000. The second layer reads from 0x4000 and writes to 0. Assuming the dimensions are small enough, this easy method avoids overwriting an input that has not yet been consumed by the accelerator.

## Global Configuration

### `arch` (Mandatory)

`arch` specifies the network architecture, for example `ai84net5`. This key is matched against the architecture embedded in the checkpoint file.

### `bias` (Optional, Test Only)

The `bias` configuration is only used for test data. *To use bias with trained networks, use the `bias` parameter in PyTorch's `nn.Module.Conv2d()` function. The converter tool will then automatically add bias parameters as needed.*

### `dataset` (Mandatory)

`dataset` configures the data set for the network. This determines the input data size and dimensions as well as the number of input channels.

Data sets are for example `mnist`, `fashionmnist`, and `cifar-10`.

### `output_map` (Optional)

The global `output_map`, if specified, overrides the memory instances where the last layer outputs its results. If not specified, this will be either the `output_processors` specified for the last layer, or, if that key does not exist, default to the number of processors needed for the output channels, starting at 0. Please also see `output_processors`.

Example:

```
output_map: 0x00000000000000ff0
```

### `layers` (Mandatory)

`layers` is a list that defines the per-layer description.

## Per-Layer Configuration

Each layer in the `layers` list describes the layer's processors, convolution type, activation, pooling, weight and output sizes, data input format, data memory offsets, and its processing sequence. Several examples are located in the `networks/` and `tests/` folders.

### `sequence` (Optional)

This key allows overriding of the processing sequence. The default is `0` for the first layer, or the previous layer's sequence + 1 for other layers.

`sequence` numbers may have gaps. The software will sort layers by their numeric value, with the lowest value first.

### `processors` (Mandatory)

`processors` specifies which processors will handle the input data. The processor map must match the number

of input channels, and the input data format. For example, in CHW format, processors must be attached to different data memory instances.

`processors` is specified as a 64-bit hexadecimal value. Dots ('.') and a leading '0x' are ignored.

*Note: When using multi-pass (i.e., using more than 64 channels), the number processors is an integer division of the channel count, rounded up to the next multiple of 4. For example, 52 processors are required for 100 channels (since  $100 \text{ div } 2 = 50$ , and 52 is the next multiple of 4). For best efficiency, use channel counts that are multiples of 4.*

Example for three processors 0, 4, and 8:

```
processors: 0x0000.0000.0000.0111
```

Example for four processors 0, 1, 2, and 3:

```
processors: 0x0000.0000.0000.000f
```

### `output_processors` (Optional)

`output_processors` specifies which data memory instances and 32-bit word offsets to use for the layer's output data. When not specified, this key defaults to the next layer's `processors`, or, for the last layer, to the global `output_map`. `output_processors` is specified as a 64-bit hexadecimal value. Dots ('.') and a leading '0x' are ignored.

### `out_offset` (Optional)

`out_offset` specifies the relative offset inside the data memory instance where the output data should be written to. When not specified, `out_offset` defaults to `0`. See also [Data Memory Ping-Pong](#).

Example:

```
out_offset: 0x2000
```

### `in_offset` (Optional)

`in_offset` specifies the offset into the data memory instances where the input data should be loaded from. When not specified, this key defaults to the previous layer's `out_offset`, or `0` for the first layer.

Example:

```
in_offset: 0x2000
```

### `output_width` (Optional)

When **not** using an `activation`, the **last** layer can output `32` bits of unclipped data in Q17.14 format. The default is `8` bits. Note that the corresponding model's last layer must be trained with `wide=True` when `output_width` is `32`.

Example:

```
output_width: 32
```

### `data_format` (Optional)

When specified for the first layer only, `data_format` can be either `chw/big` or `hwc/little`. The default is

`hwc`. Note that the data format interacts with `processors`, see [Channel Data Formats](#).

### **operation**

This key (which can also be specified using `op`, `operator`, or `convolution`) selects a layer's main operation after the optional input pooling.

When this key is not specified, a warning is displayed and `Conv2d` is selected.

Operation	Description
<code>Conv1d</code>	1D convolution over an input composed of several input planes
<code>Conv2d</code>	2D convolution over an input composed of several input planes
<code>ConvTranspose2d</code>	2D transposed convolution (upsampling) over an input composed of several input planes
<code>None</code> or <code>Passthrough</code>	No operation ( <i>note: input and output processors must be the same</i> )
<code>Linear</code> or <code>FC</code> or <code>MLP</code>	Linear transformation to the incoming data
<code>Add</code>	Element-wise addition
<code>Sub</code>	Element-wise subtraction
<code>Xor</code>	Element-wise binary XOR
<code>Or</code>	Element-wise binary OR

Element-wise operations default to two operands. This can be changed using the `operands` key.

### **eltwise (Optional)**

Element-wise operations can also be added “in-flight” to `conv2d`. In this case, the element-wise operation is specified using the `eltwise` key.

*Note: On MAX78000, this is only supported for 64 channels, or up to 128 channels when only two operands are used. Use a separate layer for the element-wise operation when more operands or channels are needed instead of combining the element-wise operator with a convolution.*

Example:

```
eltwise: add
```

### **pool\_first (Optional)**

When using both pooling and element-wise operations, pooling is performed first by default. Optionally, the

element-wise operation can be performed before the pooling operation by setting `pool_first` to `False`.

Example:

```
pool_first: false
```

### **operands (Optional)**

For any element-wise `operation`, this key configures the number of operands from `2` to `16` inclusive. The default is `2`.

Example:

```
operation: add
```

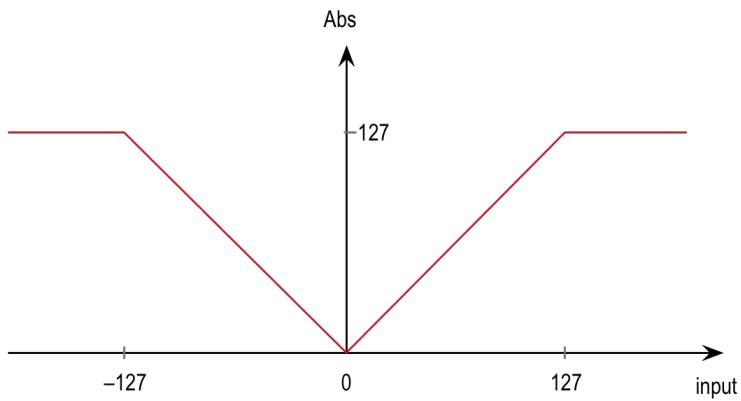
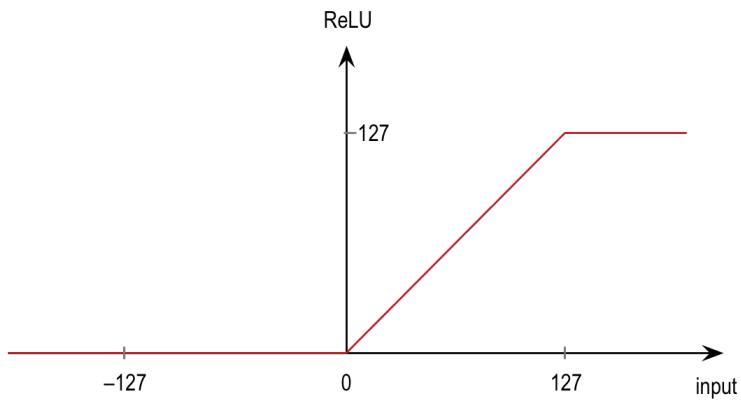
```
operands: 4
```

### **activate (Optional)**

This key describes whether to activate the layer output (the default is to not activate). When specified, this key must be `ReLU`, `Abs` or `None` (the default). *Please note that there is always an implicit non-linearity when outputting 8-bit data since outputs are clamped to  $[-1, +127/128]$  during training.*

Note that the output values are clipped (saturated) to  $[0, +127]$ . Because of this, `ReLU` behaves more similar to PyTorch's `nn.Hardtanh(min_value=0, max_value=127)` than to PyTorch's `nn.ReLU()`.

Note that `output_shift` can be used for (limited) "linear" activation.



### quantization (Optional)

This key describes the width of the weight memory in bits and can be 1, 2, 4, or 8 (the default is based on the range of the layer's weights). Specifying a `quantization` that is smaller than what the weights require results in an error message. By default, the value is automatically derived from the weights.

Example:

```
quantization: 4
```

### output\_shift (Optional)

When `output_width` is 8, the 32-bit intermediate result can be shifted left or right before reduction to 8-bit. The value specified here is cumulative with the value generated from and used by `quantization`. Note that `output_shift` is not supported for passthrough layers.

The 32-bit intermediate result is multiplied by  $2^{totalshift}$ , where the total shift count must be within the range  $[-15, +15]$ , resulting in a factor of  $[2^{-15}, 2^{15}]$  or [0.0000305176 to 32768].

weight quantization	shift used by quantization	available range for <code>output_shift</code>
8-bit	0	[−15, +15]
4-bit	4	[−19, +11]
2-bit	6	[−21, +9]
1-bit	7	[−22, +8]

Using `output_shift` can help normalize data, particularly when using small weights. By default, `output_shift` is generated by the training software, and it is used for batch normalization as well as quantization-aware training.

Note: When using 32-bit wide outputs in the final layer, no hardware shift is performed and `output_shift` is ignored.

Example:

```
output_shift: 2
```

### `kernel_size` (Optional)

- For `Conv2D`, this key must be `3x3` (the default) or `1x1`.
- For `Conv1D`, this key must be `1` through `9`.
- For `ConvTranspose2D`, this key must be `3x3` (the default).

Example:

```
kernel_size: 1x1
```

### `stride` (Optional)

This key must be `1` or `[1, 1]`.

### `pad` (Optional)

`pad` sets the padding for the convolution.

- For `Conv2d`, this value can be `0`, `1` (the default), or `2`.
- For `Conv1d`, the value can be `0`, `1`, `2`, or `3` (the default).
- For `ConvTranspose2d`, this value can be `0`, `1` (the default), or `2`. Note that the value follows PyTorch conventions and effectively adds `(kernel_size - 1) - pad` amount of zero padding to both sizes of the input, so “0” adds 2 zeros each and “2” adds no padding.
- For `Passthrough`, this value must be `0` (the default).

### `max_pool` (Optional)

When specified, performs a `MaxPool` before the convolution. The pooling size can be specified as an integer (when

the value is identical for both dimensions, or for 1D convolutions), or as two values in order [H, W].

Example:

```
max_pool: 2
```

### **avg\_pool (Optional)**

When specified, performs an `AvgPool` before the convolution. The pooling size can be specified as an integer (when the value is identical for both dimensions, or for 1D convolutions), or as two values in order [H, W].

Example:

```
avg_pool: 2
```

### **pool\_stride (Optional)**

When performing a pooling operation, this key describes the pool stride. The pooling stride can be specified as an integer (when the value is identical for both dimensions, or for 1D convolutions), or as two values in order [H, W], where both values must be identical. The default is 1 or [1, 1].

Example:

```
pool_stride: [2, 2]
```

### **in\_channels (Optional)**

`in_channels` specifies the number of channels of the input data. This is usually automatically computed based on the weights file and the layer sequence. This key allows overriding of the number of channels. See also: `in_dim`.

Example:

```
in_channels: 8
```

### **in\_dim (Optional)**

`in_dim` specifies the dimensions of the input data. This is usually automatically computed based on the output of the previous layer or the layer(s) referenced by `in_sequences`. This key allows overriding of the automatically calculated dimensions. `in_dim` must be used when changing from 1D to 2D data or vice versa.

See also: `in_channels`.

Example:

```
in_dim: [64, 64]
```

### **in\_sequences (Optional)**

By default, a layer's input is the output of the previous layer. `in_sequences` can be used to point to the output

or one or more arbitrary previous layers, for example when processing the same data using two different kernel sizes, or when combining the outputs of several prior layers. `in_sequences` can be specified as an integer (for a single input) or as a list (for multiple inputs). As a special case, `-1` is the input data. The `in_offset` and `out_offset` must be set to match the specified sequence.

Example:

```
in_sequences: [2, 3]
```

See the [Fire example](#) for a network that uses `in_sequences`.

### `out_channels` (Optional)

`out_channels` specifies the number of channels of the output data. This is usually automatically computed based on the weights and layer sequence. This key allows overriding the number of output channels.

Example:

```
out_channels: 8
```

### `streaming` (Optional)

`streaming` specifies that the layer is using streaming mode. this is necessary when the input data dimensions exceed the available data memory. When enabling `streaming`, all prior layers have to enable `streaming` as well. `streaming` can be enabled for up to 8 layers.

Example:

```
streaming: true
```

### `flatten` (Optional)

`flatten` specifies that 2D input data should be transformed to 1D data for use by a `Linear` layer. Note that flattening cannot be used in the same layer as pooling.

Example:

```
flatten: true
```

### `write_gap` (Optional)

`write_gap` specifies the number of channels that should be skipped during write operations (this value is multiplied with the output multi-pass, i.e., write every  $n$ th word where  $n = \text{write\_gap} \times \text{output\_multipass}$ ). This creates an interleaved output that can be used as the input for subsequent layers that use an element-wise operation, or to concatenate multiple inputs to form data with more than 64 channels.

Set `write_gap` to `1` to produce output for a subsequent two-input element-wise operation.

Example:

```
write_gap: 1
```

### `bias_group` (Optional)

For layers that use a bias, this key can specify one or more bias memories that should be used. By default, the software uses a "Fit First Descending (FFD)" allocation algorithm that considers largest bias lengths first, and

Software uses a **Fit First Descending (FFD)** allocation algorithm that considers largest bias lengths first, then the layer number, and places each bias in the available group with the most available space, descending to the smallest bias length.

“Available groups” is the complete list of groups used by the network (in any layer). `bias_group` must reference one or more of these available groups.

`bias_group` can be a list of integers or a single integer.

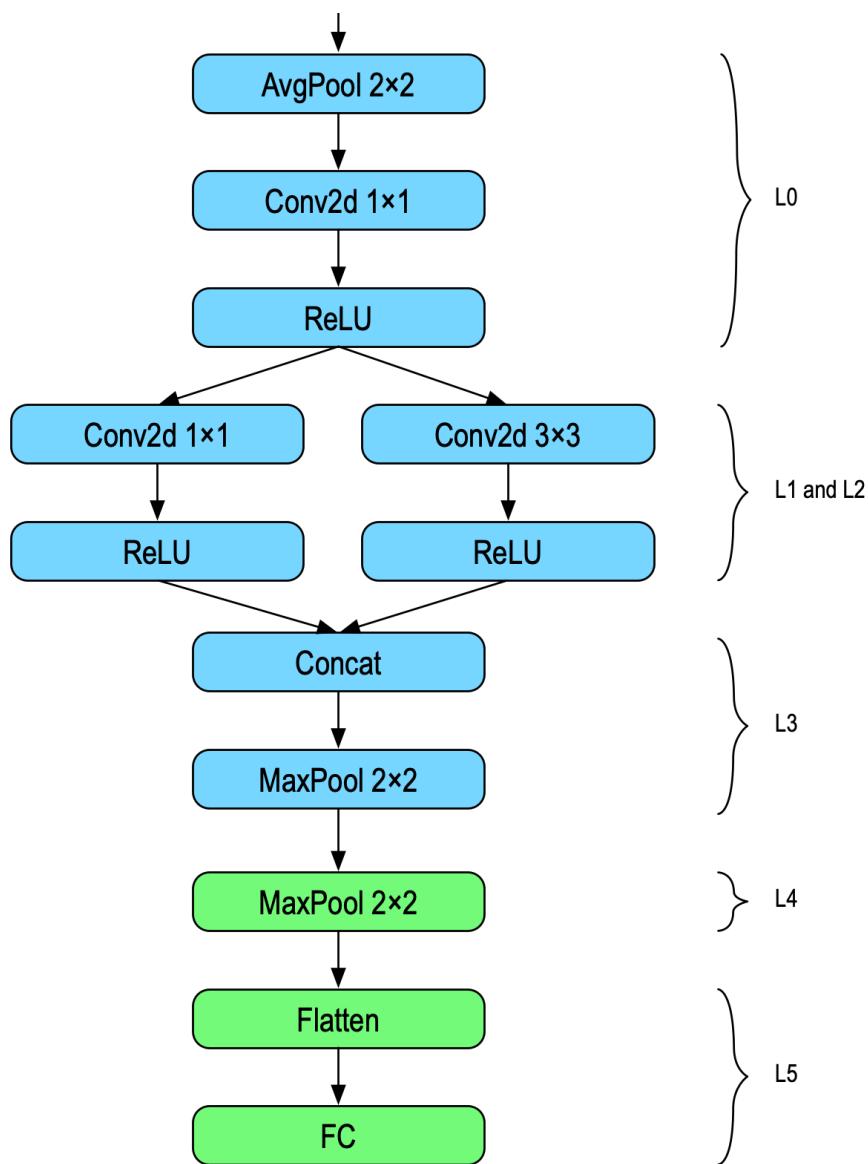
Example:

```
bias_group: 0
```

## Example

The following shows an example for a single “Fire” operation, the MAX78000/MAX78002 hardware layer numbers and its YAML description.

| Input (“-1”)



```
1 arch: ai85firetestnet
2
3 dataset: CIFAR-10
4
5 # Input dimensions are 3x32x32
6
7 layers:
8
9 #### Fire
10
11 # Squeeze
12 - avg_pool: 2
13   pool_stride: 2
14   pad: 0
15   in_offset: 0x1000
16
17
18 processors: 0x0000000000000007
19
20 data_format: HWC
21
22 out_offset: 0x0000
```

```

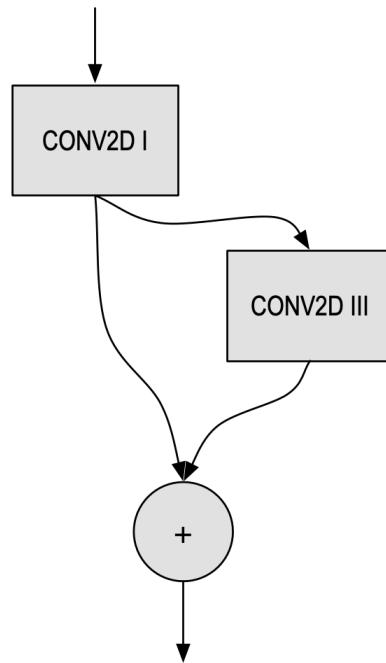
15  operation: conv2d
16  kernel_size: 1x1
17  activate: ReLU
18 # Expand 1x1
19 - in_offset: 0x0000
20   out_offset: 0x1000
21   processors: 0x000000000000000030
22   output_processors: 0x000000000000f00
23   operation: conv2d
24   kernel_size: 1x1
25   pad: 0
26   activate: ReLU
27 # Expand 3x3
28 - in_offset: 0x0000
29   out_offset: 0x1000
30   processors: 0x000000000000000030
31   output_processors: 0x000000000000f000
32   operation: conv2d
33   kernel_size: 3x3
34   activate: ReLU
35   in_sequences: 0
36 # Concatenate
37 - max_pool: 2
38   pool_stride: 2
39   in_offset: 0x1000
40   out_offset: 0x0000
41   processors: 0x000000000000ff00
42   operation: none
43   in_sequences: [1, 2]
44 ### Additional layers
45 - max_pool: 2
46   pool_stride: 2
47   out_offset: 0x1000
48   processors: 0x000000000000ff00
49   operation: none
50 - flatten: true
51   out_offset: 0x0000
52   op: mlp
53   processors: 0x000000000000ff00
54   output_width: 32

```

## Residual Connections

Many networks use residual connections. In the following example, the convolution on the right works on the output data of the first convolution. However, that same output data also "bypasses" the second convolution.

Output data of the first convolution. However, this same output data also bypasses the second convolution and is added to the output.



On MAX78000/MAX78002, the element-wise addition works on “interleaved data”, i.e., each machine fetch gathers one operand.

In order to achieve this, a layer must be inserted that does nothing else but reformat the data into interleaved format using the `write_gap` keyword (this operation happens in parallel and is fast).

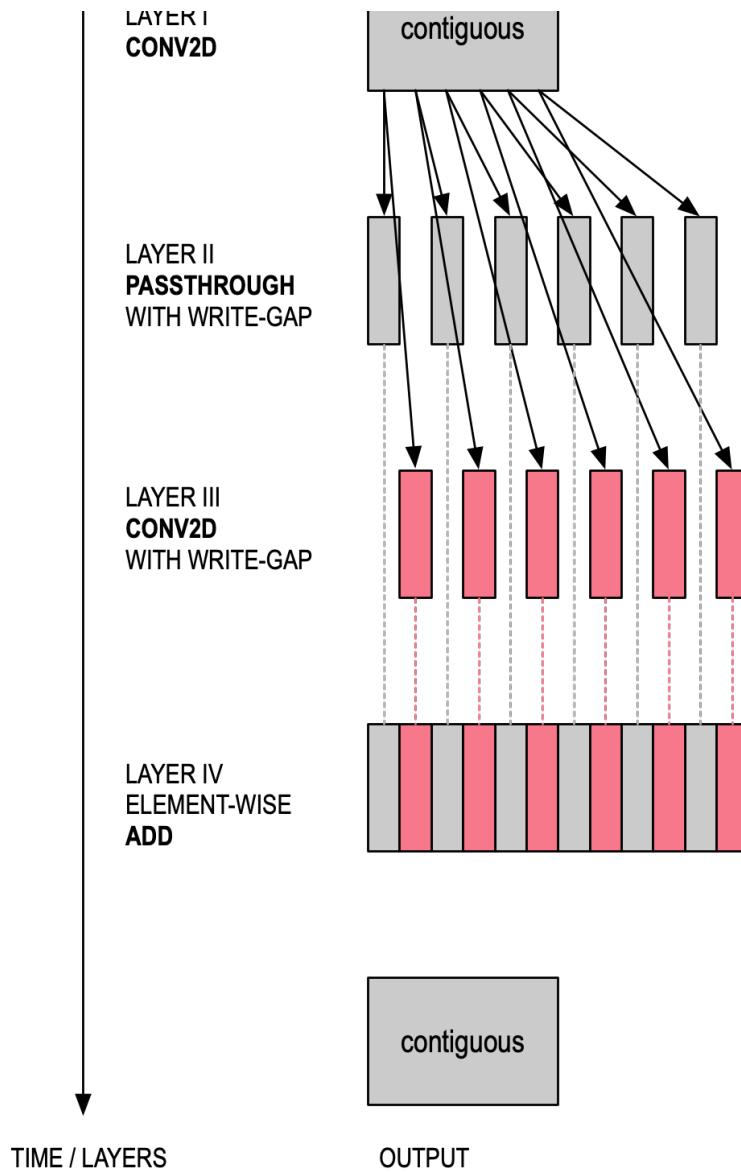
```

1 # Layer 1
2 - out_offset: 0x0000
3   processors: 0xfffff000000000000
4   operation: conv2d
5   kernel_size: 3x3
6   pad: 1
7   activate: ReLU
8
9 # Layer 2 - re-format data with gap
10 - out_offset: 0x2000
11   processors: 0x00000000000fffff
12   output_processors: 0x00000000000fffff
13   operation: passthrough
14   write_gap: 1
15
16 # Layer 3
17 - in_offset: 0x0000
18   out_offset: 0x2004
   processors: 0x00000000000fffff
  
```

```
17 processors: 0x0000000000000000
20 operation: conv2d
21 kernel_size: 3x3
22 pad: 1
23 activate: ReLU
24 write_gap: 1
25
26 # Layer 4 - Residual
27 - in_sequences: [2, 3]
28   in_offset: 0x2000
29   out_offset: 0x0000
30   processors: 0x000000000000ffff
31   eltwise: add
32 ...
```

The same network can also be viewed graphically:





## Adding New Models and New Datasets to the Network Loader

Adding new datasets to the Network Loader is implemented as follows:

1. Provide the network model, its YAML description and weights. Place the YAML file (e.g., `new.yaml`) in the `networks` directory, and weights in the `trained` directory.

The non-quantized weights are obtained from a training checkpoint, for example:

```
(ai8x-synthesis) $ cp ../ai8x-training/logs/2020.06.02-154133/best.pth.tar trained/new-unquantized.pth.tar
```

2. When using post-training quantization, the quantized weights are the result of the quantization step. Copy and customize an existing quantization shell script, for example:

```
(ai8x-synthesis) $ cp scripts/quantize_mnist.sh scripts/quantize_new.sh
```

Then, edit this script to point to the new model and dataset (`vi scripts/quantize_new.sh`), and call the script to generate the quantized weights. Example:

```

1 (ai8x-synthesis) $ scripts/quantize_new.sh
2 Configuring device: MAX78000.
3 Reading networks/new.yaml to configure network...
4 Converting checkpoint file trained/new-unquantized.pth.tar to trained/new.pth.tar
5 +-----+
6 | Key           | Type    | Value   |
7 |-----+-----+-----+
8 | arch          | str     | ai85net5 |
9 | compression_sched | dict   |           |
10 | epoch         | int     | 165      |
11 | extras         | dict   |           |
12 | optimizer_state_dict | dict   |           |
13 | optimizer_type | type    | SGD      |
14 | state_dict     | OrderedDict |           |
15 +-----+
16 Model keys (state_dict):
17 conv1.conv2d.weight, conv2.conv2d.weight, conv3.conv2d.weight,
18 conv4.conv2d.weight, fc.linear.weight, fc.linear.bias
19 conv1.conv2d.weight avg_max: tensor(0.3100) max: tensor(0.7568) mean:
20 tensor(0.0104) factor: 54.4 bits: 8
21 conv2.conv2d.weight avg_max: tensor(0.1843) max: tensor(0.2897) mean:
22 tensor(-0.0063) factor: 108.8 bits: 8
23 conv3.conv2d.weight avg_max: tensor(0.1972) max: tensor(0.3065) mean:
24 tensor(-0.0053) factor: 108.8 bits: 8
25 conv4.conv2d.weight avg_max: tensor(0.3880) max: tensor(0.5299) mean:
26 tensor(0.0036) factor: 108.8 bits: 8
27 fc.linear.weight avg_max: tensor(0.6916) max: tensor(0.9419) mean: tensor(-0.0554)
28 factor: 108.8 bits: 8
29 fc.linear.bias

```

- Provide a sample input. The sample input is used to generate a known-answer test (self test). The sample input is provided as a NumPy “pickle”—add `sample_dset.npy` for the dataset named `dset` to the `tests` directory. This file can be generated by saving a sample in CHW format (no batch dimension) using `numpy.save()`, see below.

For example, the MNIST  $1 \times 28 \times 28$  image sample would be stored in `tests/sample_mnist.npy` in an `np.array` with shape `[1, 28, 28]` and datatype `<i8`. The file can be random, or can be obtained from the `train.py` software.

## Generating a Random Sample Input

To generate a random sample input, use a short NumPy script. In the MNIST example:

```

1 import os
2 import numpy as np
3
4 a = np.random.randint(-128, 127, size=(1, 28, 28), dtype=np.int64)
5 np.save(os.path.join('tests', 'sample_mnist'), a, allow_pickle=False,
fix_imports=False)

```

## Saving a Sample Input from Training Data

1. In the `ai8x-training` project, add the argument `--save-sample 10` to the `scripts/evaluate_mnist.sh` script. *Note: The index 10 is arbitrary, but it must be smaller than the batch size. If manual visual verification is desired, it is a good idea to pick a sample where the quantized model computes the correct answer.*
2. Run the modified `scripts/evaluate_mnist.sh`. It will produce a file named `sample_mnist.npy`.
3. Save the `sample_mnist.npy` file and copy it to the `ai8x-synthesis` project.

## Evaluate the Quantized Weights with the New Dataset and Model

1. Switch to training project directory and activate the environment:

```

1 (ai8x-synthesis) $ deactivate
2 $ cd ../ai8x-training
3 $ source bin/activate

```

2. Create an evaluation script and run it:

```

1 (ai8x-training) $ cp scripts/evaluate_mnist.sh scripts/evaluate_new.sh
2 (ai8x-training) $ vim scripts/evaluate_new.sh
3 (ai8x-training) $ scripts/evaluate_new.sh

```

Example output:

```

1 (ai8x-training) $ scripts/evaluate_new.sh
2 Configuring device: MAX78000, simulate=True.
3 Log file for this run: logs/2020.06.03-125328/2020.06.03-125328.log
4 -----
5 Logging to TensorBoard -- remember to execute the server:
6 > tensorboard --logdir='./logs'
7
8 => loading checkpoint ../ai8x-synthesis/trained/new.pth.tar
9 => Checkpoint contents:
10 +-----+-----+
11 | Key           | Type        | Value      |
12 |-----+-----+-----|
13 | arch          | str         | ai85net5  |

```

```

14 | compression_sched    | dict      |           |
15 | epoch                 | int       | 165      |
16 | extras                | dict      |           |
17 | optimizer_state_dict | dict      |           |
18 | optimizer_type        | type      | SGD      |
19 | state_dict            | OrderedDict |           |
20 +-----+-----+
21
22 => Checkpoint['extras'] contents:
23 +-----+
24 | Key          | Type   | Value  |
25 |-----+-----+-----|
26 | best_epoch   | int    | 165   |
27 | best_top1    | float  | 99.46666666666667 |
28 | clipping_method | str    | SCALE |
29 | clipping_scale  | float  | 0.85  |
30 | current_top1   | float  | 99.46666666666667 |
31 +-----+
32
33 Loaded compression schedule from checkpoint (epoch 165)
34 => loaded 'state_dict' from checkpoint '../ai8x-synthesis/trained/new.pth.tar'
35 Optimizer Type: <class 'torch.optim.sgd.SGD'>
36 Optimizer Args: {'lr': 0.1, 'momentum': 0.9, 'dampening': 0, 'weight_decay':
37     0.0001, 'nesterov': False}
38 Dataset sizes:
39     training=54000
40     validation=6000
41     test=10000
42 ----- test -----
43 10000 samples (256 per mini-batch)
44 Test: [ 10/ 40] Loss 44.193750 Top1 99.609375 Top5 99.960938
45 Test: [ 20/ 40] Loss 66.567578 Top1 99.433594 Top5 99.980469
46 Test: [ 30/ 40] Loss 51.816276 Top1 99.518229 Top5 99.986979
47 Test: [ 40/ 40] Loss 53.596094 Top1 99.500000 Top5 99.990000
48 ==> Top1: 99.500     Top5: 99.990     Loss: 53.596
49 ==> Confusion:
50 [[ 979  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  1  0]
51 [ 0 1132  1  0  0  0  0  2  0  0]
52 [ 2  0 1026  1  0  0  0  3  0  0]
53 [ 0  0  0 1009  0  0  0  0  1  0]
54 [ 0  0  0  0 978  0  0  0  0  4]
55 [ 1  0  0  3  0 886  1  0  0  1]
56 [ 5  4  1  0  1  0 946  0  1  0]
57 [ 0  1  3  0  0  0  0 1023  0  1]
58 [ 0  0  0  1  1  1  0  0 970  1]

```

```

59 [ 0 0 0 0 4 1 0 3 0 1001 ]
60
61 Log file for this run: logs/2020.06.03-125328/2020.06.03-125328.log

```

## Generating C Code

Run `ai8xsize.py` with the new network and the new sample data to generate embedded C code that can be compiled with the Arm and RISC-V compilers. See `gen-demos-max78000.sh` for examples.

## Starting an Inference, Waiting for Completion, Multiple Inferences in Sequence

An inference is started by configuring registers and weights, loading the input, and enabling processing. This code is automatically generated—see the `cnn_init()`, `cnn_load_weights()`, `cnn_load_bias()`, `cnn_configure()`, and `load_input()` functions. The sample data can be used as a self-checking feature on device power-up since the output for the sample data is known.

To start the accelerator, use `cnn_start()`. The `load_input()` function is called either before `cnn_start()`, or after `cnn_start()`, depending on whether FIFOs are used. To run a second inference with new data, call `cnn_start()` again (after or before loading the new data input using `load_input()``).

The MAX78000/MAX78002 accelerator can generate an interrupt on completion, and it will set a status bit (see `cnn.c`). The resulting data can now be unloaded from the accelerator (code for this is also auto-generated in `cnn_unload()`).

To run another inference, ensure all groups are disabled (stopping the state machine, as shown in `cnn_init()`). Next, load the new input data and start processing.

## Overview of the Functions in main.c

The generated code is split between API code (in `cnn.c`) and data dependent code in `main.c` or `main_riscv.c`. The data dependent code is based on a known-answer test. The `main()` function shows the proper sequence of steps to load and configure the CNN accelerator, run it, unload it, and verify the result.

```
void load_input(void);
```

Load the example input. This function can serve as a template for loading data into the CNN accelerator. Note that the clocks and power to the accelerator must be enabled first. If this is skipped, the device may hang and the [recovery procedure](#) may have to be used.

```
int check_output(void);
```

This function verifies that the known-answer test works correctly in hardware (using the example input). This function is typically not needed in the final application.

```
int main(void);
```

This is the main function and can serve as a template for the user application. It shows the correct sequence of operations to initialize, load, run, and unload the CNN accelerator.

## Overview of the Generated API Functions

The API code (in `cnn.c` by default) is auto-generated. It is data independent, but differs depending on the network. This simplifies replacing the network while keeping the remainder of the code intact.

The functions that do not return `void` return either `CNN_FAIL` or `CNN_OK` as specified in the auto-generated `cnn.h` header file. The header file also contains a definition for the number of outputs of the network (`CNN_NUM_OUTPUTS`). In limited circumstances, this can make the wrapper code somewhat network independent.

```
int cnn_enable(uint32_t clock_source, uint32_t clock_divider);
```

Enable clocks (from `clock_source` with `clock_divider`) and power to the accelerator; also enable the accelerator interrupt. By default, on MAX78000, the accelerator runs at 50 MHz (APB clock or PCLK divided by 1).

```
int cnn_disable(void);
```

Disable clocks and power to the accelerator.

```
int cnn_init(void);
```

Perform minimum accelerator initialization so it can be configured or restarted.

```
int cnn_configure(void);
```

Configure the accelerator for the given network.

```
int cnn_load_weights(void);
```

Load the accelerator weights. Note that `cnn_init()` must be called before loading weights after reset or wake from sleep.

```
int cnn_verify_weights(void);
```

Verify the accelerator weights (used for debug only).

```
int cnn_load_bias(void);
```

Load accelerator the bias values (if needed).

```
int cnn_start(void);
```

Start accelerator processing.

```
int cnn_stop(void);
```

Force-stop the accelerator regardless of whether it has finished or not.

```
int cnn_continue(void);
```

Continue accelerator processing after force-stopping it.

```
int cnn_unload(uint32_t *out_buf);
```

Unload the results from the accelerator. The output buffer must be 32-bit aligned (round up to the next 32-bit size when using 8-bit outputs).

```
int cnn_boost_enable(mxc_gpio_regs_t *port, uint32_t pin);
```

Turn on the boost circuit on `port.pin`. This is only needed for very energy intense networks. Use the `--boost` command line option to insert calls to this function in the wrapper code.

```
int cnn_boost_disable(mxc_gpio_regs_t *port, uint32_t pin);
```

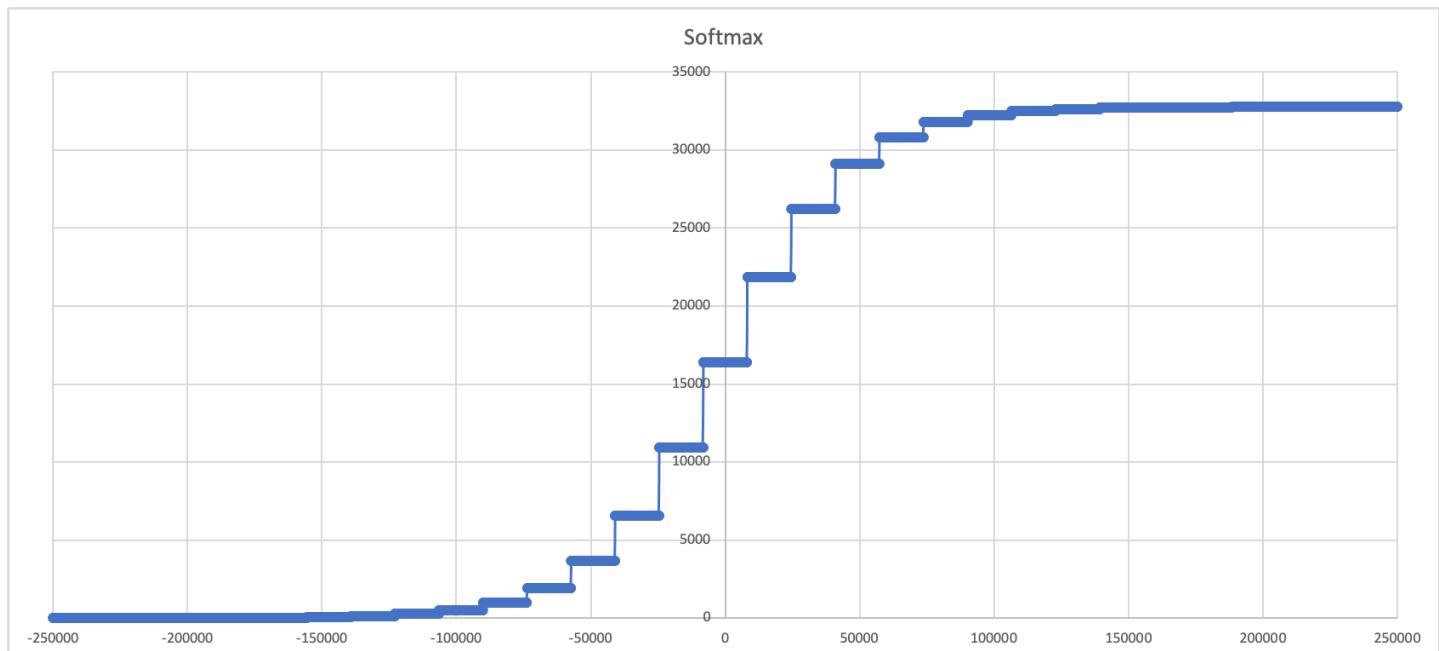
Turn off the boost circuit connected to `port.pin`.

## Softmax, and Data Unload in C

`ai8xize.py` can generate a call to a software Softmax function using the command line switch `--softmax`.

That function is provided in the `assets/device-all` folder. To use the provided software Softmax on MAX78000/MAX78002, the last layer output should be 32-bit wide (`output_width: 32`).

The software Softmax function is optimized for processing time and it quantizes the input. When the last layer uses weights that are not 8-bits, the software function used will shift the input values first.



## Generated Files and Upgrading the CNN Model

The generated C code comprises the following files. Some of the files are customized based in the project name, and some are custom for a combination of project name and weight/sample data inputs:

File name	Source	Project specific?	Model/weights change?
Makefile	template in assets/embedded-ai87	Yes	No

cnn.c	generated	Yes	<b>Yes</b>
cnn.h	template in assets/device-all	Yes	<b>Yes</b>
weights.h	generated	Yes	<b>Yes</b>
log.txt	generated	Yes	<b>Yes</b>
main.c	generated	Yes	No
sampledata.h	generated	Yes	No
softmax.c	assets/device-all	No	No
model.launch	template in assets/eclipse	Yes	No
.cproject	template in assets/eclipse	Yes	No
.project	template in assets/eclipse	Yes	No

In order to upgrade an embedded project after retraining the model, point the network generator to a new empty directory and regenerate. Then, copy the four files that will have changed to your original project — `cnn.c`, `cnn.h`, `weights.h`, and `log.txt`. This allows for persistent customization of the I/O code and project (for example, in `main.c` and additional files) while allowing easy model upgrades.

The generator also adds all files from the `assets/eclipse`, `assets/device-all`, and `assets/embedded-ai87` folders. These files (when starting with `template` in their name) will be automatically customized to include project specific information as shown in the following table:

Key	Replaced by
<code>##__PROJ_NAME__##</code>	Project name (works on file names as well as the file contents)
<code>##__ELF_FILE__##</code>	Output elf (binary) file name
<code>##__BOARD__##</code>	Board name (e.g., <code>EvKit_V1</code> )
<code>##__FILE_INSERT__##</code>	Network statistics and timer

## Contents of the device-all Folder

- For MAX78000/MAX78002, the software Softmax is implemented in `softmax.c`.
- A template for the `cnn.h` header file in `templatecnn.h`. The template is customized during code generation using model statistics and timer, but uses common function signatures for all projects.

## Determining the Compiled Flash Image Size

The generated `.elf` file (either `max78000.elf` or `max78000-combined.elf`) contains debug and other meta information. To determine the true Flash image size, either examine the `.map` file, or convert the `.elf` to a

binary image and examine the resulting image.

```
1 % arm-none-eabi-objcopy -I elf32-littlearm build/max78000.elf -O binary temp.bin
2 % ls -la temp.bin
3 -rwxr-xr-x 1 user staff 321968 Jan 1 11:11 temp.bin
```

## Handling Linker Flash Section Overflows

When linking the generated C code, the code space might overflow:

```
1 $ make
2 CC main.c
3 CC cnn.c
4 ...
5 LD build/max78000.elf
6 arm-none-eabi/bin/ld: build/max78000.elf section `text' will not fit in region `FLASH'
7 arm-none-eabi/bin/ld: region `FLASH' overflowed by 600176 bytes
8 collect2: error: ld returned 1 exit status
```

The most likely reason is that the input is too large (from `sampledata.h`), or that the expected output is too large. It is important to note that this only affects the generated code with the built-in known-answer test (KAT) that will not be part of the user application since normal input and output data are not predefined in Flash memory.

To deal with this issue, there are several options:

- The sample input data can be stored in external memory. This requires modifications to the generated code. Please see the SDK examples to learn how to access external memory.
- The sample input data can be programmatically generated. Typically, this requires manual modification of the generated code, and a corresponding modification of the sample input file. The generator also contains a built-in generator (supported *only* when using `-fifo`, and only for HWC inputs); the command line option `--synthesize-input` uses only the first few words of the sample input data, and then adds the specified value N (for example, 0x112233 if three input channels are used) to each subsequent set of M 32-bit words. M can be specified using `--synthesize-words` and defaults to 8. Note that M must be a divisor of the number of pixels per channel.
- The output check can be truncated. The command line option `--max-checklines` checks only the first N words of output data (for example, 1024).
- For 8-bit output values, `--mlator` typically generates more compact code.
- Change the compiler optimization level in `Makefile`. To change the default optimization levels, modify `MXC_OPTIMIZE_CFLAGS` in `assets/embedded-ai85/templateMakefile` for Arm code and `assets/embedded-riscv-ai85/templateMakefile.RISCV` for RISC-V code. Both `-O1` and `-Os` may result in smaller code compared to `-O2`.
- If the last layer has large-dimension, large-channel output, the `cnn_unload()` code in `cnn.c` may cause memory segment overflows not only in Flash, but also in the target buffer in SRAM (`ml_data32[]` or `ml_data1[]` in `main.c`). In this case, manual code edits are required to perform multiple partial unloads in

`MXC_EXECUTE` in `main.c`. In this case, manual code calls are required to perform multiple parallel arrays in sequence.

## Debugging Techniques

There can be many reasons why the known-answer test (KAT) fails for a given network. The following techniques may help in narrowing down where in the network or the YAML description of the network the error occurs:

- The default compiler optimization level is `-O2`, and incorrect code may be generated under rare circumstances. Lower the optimization level in the generated `Makefile` to `-O1`, clean (`make distclean && make clean`) and rebuild the project (`make`). If this solves the problem, one of the possible reasons is that code is missing the `volatile` keyword for certain variables.  
To permanently adjust the default compiler optimization level, modify `MXC_OPTIMIZE_CFLAGS` in `assets/embedded-ai85/templateMakefile` for Arm code and `assets/embedded-riscv-ai85/templateMakefile.RISCV` for RISC-V code.
- `--stop-after N` where `N` is a layer number may help finding the problematic layer by terminating the network early without having to retrain and without having to change the weight input file. Note that this may also require `--max-checklines` as [described above](#) since intermediate outputs tend to be large.
- `--no-bias LIST` where `LIST` is a comma-separated list of layers (e.g., `0,1,2,3`) can rule out problems due to the bias. This option zeros out the bias for the given layers without having to remove bias values from the weight input file.
- `--ignore-streaming` ignores all `streaming` statements in the YAML file. Note that this typically only works when the sample input is replaced with a different, lower-dimension sample input (for example, use  $3 \times 32 \times 32$  instead of  $3 \times 128 \times 128$ ).

## Energy Measurement

The MAX78000 Evaluation Kit (EVKit) revision C and later includes a MAX32625 microcontroller connected to a MAX34417 power accumulator. Since the sample rate of the MAX34417 is slow compared to typical inference times, `ai8xize.py` supports the command line parameter `--energy` that will run 100 iterations of the inference, separating out the input data load time. This allows enough sample time to get meaningful results (recommended minimum: 1 second).

When running C code generated with `--energy`, the power display on the EVKit will display the inference energy.

*Note: MAX78000 uses LED1 and LED2 to trigger power measurement via MAX32625 and MAX34417.*

See the [benchmarking guide](#) for more information about benchmarking.

---

## Further Information

Additional information about the evaluation kits, and the software development kit (SDK) is available on the web at [https://github.com/MaximIntegratedAI/MaximAI\\_Documentation](https://github.com/MaximIntegratedAI/MaximAI_Documentation)

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## AHB Memory Addresses

The following tables show the AHB memory addresses for the MAX78000 accelerator:

### Data memory

Total: 512 KiB (16 instances of 8192 × 32)

Group	Instance	Address Range
0	0	0x50400000 - 0x50407FFF

0	1	0x50408000 - 0x5040FFFF
0	2	0x50410000 - 0x50417FFF
0	3	0x50418000 - 0x5041FFFF
1	0	0x50800000 - 0x50807FFF
1	1	0x50808000 - 0x5080FFFF
1	2	0x50810000 - 0x50817FFF
1	3	0x50818000 - 0x5081FFFF
2	0	0x50C00000 - 0x50C07FFF
2	1	0x50C08000 - 0x50C0FFFF
2	2	0x50C10000 - 0x50C17FFF
2	3	0x50C18000 - 0x50C1FFFF
3	0	0x51000000 - 0x51007FFF
3	1	0x51008000 - 0x5100FFFF
3	2	0x51010000 - 0x51017FFF
3	3	0x51018000 - 0x5101FFFF

## TRAM

Total: 384 KiB (64 instances of 3072 × 16)

Group	Instance	Address Range*
0	0	0x50110000 - 0x50112FFF
0	1	0x50114000 - 0x50116FFF
0	2	0x50118000 - 0x5011AFFF
0	3	0x5011C000 - 0x5011EFFF
0	4	0x50120000 - 0x50122FFF
0	5	0x50124000 - 0x50126FFF
0	6	0x50128000 - 0x5012AFFF
0	7	0x5012C000 - 0x5012EFFF

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0	8	0x50130000 - 0x50132FFF
0	9	0x50134000 - 0x50136FFF
0	10	0x50138000 - 0x5013AFFF
0	11	0x5013C000 - 0x5013EFFF
0	12	0x50140000 - 0x50142FFF
0	13	0x50144000 - 0x50146FFF
0	14	0x50148000 - 0x5014AFFF
0	15	0x5014C000 - 0x5014EFFF
1	0	0x50510000 - 0x50512FFF
1	1	0x50514000 - 0x50516FFF
1	2	0x50518000 - 0x5051AFFF
1	3	0x5051C000 - 0x5051EFFF
1	4	0x50520000 - 0x50522FFF
1	5	0x50524000 - 0x50526FFF
1	6	0x50528000 - 0x5052AFFF
1	7	0x5052C000 - 0x5052EFFF
1	8	0x50530000 - 0x50532FFF
1	9	0x50534000 - 0x50536FFF
1	10	0x50538000 - 0x5053AFFF
1	11	0x5053C000 - 0x5053EFFF
1	12	0x50540000 - 0x50542FFF
1	13	0x50544000 - 0x50546FFF
1	14	0x50548000 - 0x5054AFFF
1	15	0x5054C000 - 0x5054EFFF
2	0	0x50910000 - 0x50912FFF
2	1	0x50914000 - 0x50916FFF
2	2	0x50918000 - 0x5091AFFF

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-	-	-
2	3	0x5091C000 - 0x5091EFFF
2	4	0x50920000 - 0x50922FFF
2	5	0x50924000 - 0x50926FFF
2	6	0x50928000 - 0x5092AFFF
2	7	0x5092C000 - 0x5092EFFF
2	8	0x50930000 - 0x50932FFF
2	9	0x50934000 - 0x50936FFF
2	10	0x50938000 - 0x5093AFFF
2	11	0x5093C000 - 0x5093EFFF
2	12	0x50940000 - 0x50942FFF
2	13	0x50944000 - 0x50946FFF
2	14	0x50948000 - 0x5094AFFF
2	15	0x5094C000 - 0x5094EFFF
3	0	0x50D10000 - 0x50D12FFF
3	1	0x50D14000 - 0x50D16FFF
3	2	0x50D18000 - 0x50D1AFFF
3	3	0x50D1C000 - 0x50D1EFFF
3	4	0x50D20000 - 0x50D22FFF
3	5	0x50D24000 - 0x50D26FFF
3	6	0x50D28000 - 0x50D2AFFF
3	7	0x50D2C000 - 0x50D2EFFF
3	8	0x50D30000 - 0x50D32FFF
3	9	0x50D34000 - 0x50D36FFF
3	10	0x50D38000 - 0x50D3AFFF
3	11	0x50D3C000 - 0x50D3EFFF
3	12	0x50D40000 - 0x50D42FFF
-	-	-

3	13	0x50D44000 - 0x50D46FFF
3	14	0x50D48000 - 0x50D4AFFF
3	15	0x50D4C000 - 0x50D4EFFF

\*using 32 bits of address space for each 16-bit memory

## Kernel memory (“MRAM”)

Total: 432 KiB (64 instances of 768 × 72)

Group	Instance	Address Range*
0	0	0x50180000 - 0x50182FFF
0	1	0x50184000 - 0x50186FFF
0	2	0x50188000 - 0x5018AFFF
0	3	0x5018c000 - 0x5018DFFF
0	4	0x50190000 - 0x50191FFF
0	5	0x50194000 - 0x50196FFF
0	6	0x50198000 - 0x5019AFFF
0	7	0x5019C000 - 0x5019DFFF
0	8	0x501A0000 - 0x501A2FFF
0	9	0x501A4000 - 0x501A6FFF
0	10	0x501A8000 - 0x501AAFFF
0	11	0x501AC000 - 0x501ADFFF
0	12	0x501B0000 - 0x501B2FFF
0	13	0x501B4000 - 0x501B6FFF
0	14	0x501B8000 - 0x501BAFFF
0	15	0x501BC000 - 0x501BDFFF
1	0	0x50580000 - 0x50582FFF
1	1	0x50584000 - 0x50586FFF
1	2	0x50588000 - 0x5058AFFF

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1	3	0x5058C000 - 0x5058DFFF
1	4	0x50590000 - 0x50591FFF
1	5	0x50594000 - 0x50596FFF
1	6	0x50598000 - 0x5059AFFF
1	7	0x5059C000 - 0x5059DFFF
1	8	0x505A0000 - 0x505A2FFF
1	9	0x505A4000 - 0x505A6FFF
1	10	0x505A8000 - 0x505AAFFF
1	11	0x505AC000 - 0x505ADFFF
1	12	0x505B0000 - 0x505B2FFF
1	13	0x505B4000 - 0x505B6FFF
1	14	0x505B8000 - 0x505BAFFF
1	15	0x505BC000 - 0x505BDFFF
2	0	0x50980000 - 0x50982FFF
2	1	0x50984000 - 0x50986FFF
2	2	0x50988000 - 0x5098AFFF
2	3	0x5098C000 - 0x5098DFFF
2	4	0x50990000 - 0x50991FFF
2	5	0x50994000 - 0x50996FFF
2	6	0x50998000 - 0x5099AFFF
2	7	0x5099C000 - 0x5099DFFF
2	8	0x509A0000 - 0x509A2FFF
2	9	0x509A4000 - 0x509A6FFF
2	10	0x509A8000 - 0x509AAFFF
2	11	0x509AC000 - 0x509ADFFF
2	12	0x509B0000 - 0x509B2FFF
2	13	0x509B4000 - 0x509B6FFF

2	14	0x509B8000 - 0x509BAFFF
2	15	0x509BC000 - 0x509BDFFF
3	0	0x50D80000 - 0x50D82FFF
3	1	0x50D84000 - 0x50D86FFF
3	2	0x50D88000 - 0x50D8AFFF
3	3	0x50D8C000 - 0x50D8DFFF
3	4	0x50D90000 - 0x50D91FFF
3	5	0x50D94000 - 0x50D96FFF
3	6	0x50D98000 - 0x50D9AFFF
3	7	0x50D9C000 - 0x50D9DFFF
3	8	0x50DA0000 - 0x50DA2FFF
3	9	0x50DA4000 - 0x50DA6FFF
3	10	0x50DA8000 - 0x50DAAFFF
3	11	0x50DAC000 - 0x50DADFFF
3	12	0x50DB0000 - 0x50DB2FFF
3	13	0x50DB4000 - 0x50DB6FFF
3	14	0x50DB8000 - 0x50DBAFFF
3	15	0x50DBC000 - 0x50DBDFFF

\*using 128 bits of address space for each 72-bit memory

## Bias memory

Total: 2 KiB (4 instances of 128 × 32)

Group	Address Range
0	0x50108000 - 0x50109FFF
1	0x50E08000 - 0x50E09FFF

1	0x50900000 - 0x5090FFFF
2	0x50908000 - 0x50909FFF
3	0x50D08000 - 0x50D09FFF

## Contributing Code

### Linting

Both projects are set up for `flake8`, `pylint` and `isort` to lint Python code. The line width is related to 100 (instead of the default of 80), and the number of lines per module was increased; configuration files are included in the projects. Shell code is linted by `shellcheck`, and YAML files by `yamllint`. Code should not generate any warnings in any of the tools (some of the components in the `ai8x-training` project will create warnings as they are based on third-party code).

`flake8` and `pylint` need to be installed into both virtual environments:

```
1 | (ai8x-synthesis) $ pip3 install flake8 pylint mypy isort
```

The GitHub projects use the [GitHub Super-Linter](#) to automatically verify push operations and pull requests. The Super-Linter can be installed locally, see [installation instructions](#).

To run locally, create a clean copy of the repository and run the following command from the project directory (i.e., `ai8x-training` or `ai8x-synthesis`):

```
1 | $ docker pull github/super-linter:latest
2 | $ docker run --rm -e RUN_LOCAL=true -e VALIDATE_MARKDOWN=false -e
  VALIDATE_PYTHON_BLACK=false -e VALIDATE_ANSIBLE=false -e VALIDATE_EDITORCONFIG=false -e
  VALIDATE_JSCPD=false -e FILTER_REGEX_EXCLUDE="attic/.*|inspect_ckpt.py" -v
  `pwd`:~/tmp/lint
github/super-linter
```

## Submitting Changes

Do not try to push any changes into the master branch. Instead, create a fork and submit a pull request against the `develop` branch. The easiest way to do this is using a [graphical client](#) such as Fork or GitHub Desktop.

*Note: After creating the fork, you must re-enable actions in the “Actions” tab of the repository on GitHub.*

The following document has more information:

[https://github.com/MaximIntegratedAI/MaximAI\\_Documentation/blob/master/CONTRIBUTING.md](https://github.com/MaximIntegratedAI/MaximAI_Documentation/blob/master/CONTRIBUTING.md)