

## Homework 1: Learning

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Due: Feb 20, 2024

### Goals and Directions:

- The main goal of this assignment is to implement perceptrons and neural networks (multi-layer perceptrons) from scratch, and train them on any given dataset
- Comprehend the impact of hyperparameters and learn to tune them effectively.
- You are **not** allowed to use neural network libraries like PyTorch, Tensorflow and Keras.
- You are also **not** allowed to add, move, or remove any files, or even modify their names.
- You are also **not** allowed to change the signature (list of input attributes) of each function.
- Please note that this code may take several hours to run on one CPU.

### Problem 1 Neural Network Components

5 points

- **BASIS FEATURES:** Implement a linear function in `hw1/mlcvlab/nn/basis.py` (1 points)

You may test your implementation by running `hw1/test_basis.py`.

#### Linear Basis:

- $X$  is a  $K \times 1$  vector
- $W$  is a  $M \times K$  vector – Note that  $M$  is a hyperparameter.
- *Linear function:*  $Y = W \cdot X$  is a  $M \times 1$  vector.
- *Gradient of Linear function:*  $\nabla_W Y = X$

- **ACTIVATION FUNCTIONS:** Implement four activation functions, namely step, ReLU, Sigmoid, Softmax and Tanh function in `hw1/mlcvlab/nn/activations.py`. (2 points)

Note: Let  $x_i$  be one of the entries in  $X$ . Then, activation functions are typically defined on each entry in  $X$ , i.e.  $y_i = \sigma(x_i)$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, N$

Also, you may test your implementation by running `hw1/test_activations.py`.

#### ReLU Activation:

- *ReLU function:*  $y = \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x \geq 0, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

- Gradient of ReLU function:  $\text{relu\_grad}(y) = \nabla_x y = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x \geq 0, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$
- Note that the above definition includes the subgradient of ReLU at  $x = 0$ .

**Sigmoid Function:**

- Sigmoid function:  $y = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$
- Gradient of Sigmoid Function:  $\nabla_x y = y(1 - y)$

**Softmax Function:**

- Softmax function:  $y_i = e^{x_i} \cdot \left( \sum_{k=1}^N e^{x_k} \right)^{-1}$ , for all  $i = 1, \dots, N$
- Gradient of Softmax Function:  $\frac{\partial y_i}{\partial x_j} = \begin{cases} y_i(1 - y_i), & \text{if } i = j, \\ -y_i y_j, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

**Hyperbolic Tangent Function:**

- Hyperbolic Tangent function:  $y = \tanh x = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$
- Gradient of Hyperbolic Tangent function:  $\nabla_x y = 1 - y^2$

- **LOSS FUNCTIONS:** Implement two loss functions, namely mean squared error (MSE) and binary cross entropy in `hw1/mlcvlab/nn/losses.py`. (2 points)

You may test your implementation by running `hw1/test_losses.py`.

 **$\ell_2$  norm:**

- $\ell_2$  norm function:  $z = l(y, \hat{y}) = \|y - \hat{y}\|_2 = \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$
- Gradient of  $\ell_2$  norm<sup>1</sup>:  $\nabla_{\hat{y}} z = \frac{\partial z}{\partial \hat{y}_i} = \frac{1}{z}(y - \hat{y})$

**Binary Cross Entropy:**

- Binary Cross Entropy:  $z = l(y, \hat{y}) = -y \log \hat{y} - (1 - y) \log(1 - \hat{y})$
- Gradient of Binary Cross Entropy:  $\nabla_{\hat{y}} z = \frac{1 - y}{1 - \hat{y}} - \frac{y}{\hat{y}}$

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<sup>1</sup>Note that gradient formulae can throw an error for edge cases when the denominator is zero, or it is in  $\frac{0}{0}$  form. In practice, such problems are addressed via distorting both numerator and denominator by a small amount  $\epsilon = 10^{-6}$ . A better approach is to perform gradient clipping, or normalization to control exploding gradients.

## Problem 2 Models

8 points

Using library functions defined in `hw1/mlcvlab/nn/*`, do the following:

- **2-layer Neural Network:** Implement a two-layer NN in `hw1/mlcvlab/models/nn2.py`

**NN2 model:** Implement in `nn2` definition. (2 points)

- Function:  $\hat{y} = \sigma_2(\mathbf{w}_2^T \cdot \sigma_1(W_1 \cdot \mathbf{x}))$
- Assume  $\sigma_2(\cdot)$  is a sigmoid function, and  $\sigma_1(\cdot)$  a ReLU function.
- Assume  $W_1$  is a  $M \times K$  matrix, and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  is a  $M \times 1$  vector.

**Gradient of NN2 model (Backpropagation):** Implement in `grad` definition. (4 points)

- Let  $\mathbf{z}_1 = W_1 \cdot \mathbf{x}$ ,  $\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_1 = \sigma_1(\mathbf{z}_1)$ , and  $z_2 = \mathbf{w}_2^T \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{z}}_1$ . Then,  $\hat{y} = \sigma_2(z_2)$ .
- Gradient Computation (Backpropagation):  $\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} \ell(y, \hat{y}) = \begin{bmatrix} \nabla_{W_1} \ell(y, \hat{y}) \\ \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_2} \ell(y, \hat{y}) \end{bmatrix}$ , where

$$* \quad \nabla_{W_1} \ell = (\nabla_{\mathbf{z}_1} \ell)^T \cdot \nabla_{W_1} \mathbf{z}_1 = \left[ \frac{\partial \ell}{\partial W_1(i, j)} \right] \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times K}$$

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{z}_1} \ell = (\nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_1} \ell)^T \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{z}_1} \tilde{\mathbf{z}}_1 = \left[ \frac{\partial \ell}{\partial z_m} \right] \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times 1}$$

$$\nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_1} \ell = (\nabla_{z_2} \ell)^T \cdot \nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_1} z_2 = \left[ \frac{\partial \ell}{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{z}}_1(m)} \right] \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times 1}$$

$$\nabla_{z_2} \ell = (\nabla_{\hat{y}} \ell)^T \cdot \nabla_{z_2} \hat{y} = \left[ \frac{\partial \ell}{\partial z_2} \right] \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1}$$

$$* \quad \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_2} \ell = (\nabla_{z_2} \ell)^T \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_2} z_2 = \left[ \frac{\partial \ell}{\partial \mathbf{w}_2(m)} \right] \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times 1}$$

$$\nabla_{z_2} \ell = (\nabla_{\hat{y}} \ell)^T \cdot \nabla_{z_2} \hat{y} = \left[ \frac{\partial \ell}{\partial z_2} \right] \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1}$$

- $\nabla_{\hat{y}} \ell$  is the gradient of loss function, implemented in `hw1/mlcvlab/nn/losses.py`.

**Gradient of Empirical Risk of NN2 model:** Implement in `emp_loss_grad` definition.

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(2 points)

- Given a training data  $(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_N, y_N)$ , the empirical risk is given by

$$L_N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i).$$

- The gradient of empirical risk is given by

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} L_N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} \ell(y_i, \hat{y}_i).$$

- **Note:** Everytime the optimization algorithm updates  $\mathbf{w}$ , the gradient of loss function needs to be computed since  $\hat{y}$  changes accordingly.

### Problem 3 Optimization Algorithms

6 points

- **SGD:** Implement SGD in hw1/mlcvlab/optim/sgd.py (3 points)
  - Hyperparameter:  $\delta$
  - Identify one random parameter in  $\mathbb{W} = \{W_1, \dots, W_L\}$ , say the  $j^{th}$  parameter amongst all scalar parameters in  $\mathbb{W}$ .
  - Zero-out all the other parameters in  $\mathbf{W}^{r-1}$ , except the  $j^{th}$  parameter. Let this new matrix be  $[\mathbf{W}^{r-1}]_j$ .
  - Compute the gradient of empirical loss with respect to  $[\mathbf{W}^{r-1}]_j$  using *emp\_loss\_grad* function in the model class.
  - Compute the update step for any model:  $\mathbb{W}^{(r)} = \mathbb{W}^{(r-1)} - \delta [\nabla L_N(\mathbb{W}^{(r-1)})]_j$
  - **Note:** There is no momentum term here. We are interested in the basic SGD.
- **AdaM:** Implement AdaM in hw1/mlcvlab/optim/adam.py (3 points)
  - Assume the gradient of empirical loss with respect to  $\mathbb{W} = \{W_1, \dots, W_L\}$  is computed elsewhere and given.
  - Hyperparameter:  $\delta, \alpha, \beta_1, \beta_2$
  - Momentum:  $\mathbf{m}^{(r+1)} = \beta_1 \cdot \mathbf{m}^{(r)} + (1 - \beta_1) \cdot \nabla [L_N(\mathbb{W}^{(r)} + \beta_1 \cdot \mathbf{m}^{(r)})]_j$
  - RMSProp:  $s^{(r)} = \beta_2 \cdot s^{(r-1)} + (1 - \beta_2) \cdot [\nabla L_N(\mathbb{W}^{(r)})]^2$   
 . (the square operation is computed element-wise here.)
  - Normalization:  $\tilde{s}^{(r)} = \frac{s^{(r)}}{(1 - \beta_2^r)}$ , and  $\tilde{\mathbf{m}}^{(r+1)} = \frac{\mathbf{m}^{(r+1)}}{(1 - \beta_1^{r+1})}$
  - Compute the update step for any model:  $\mathbb{W}^{(r+1)} = \mathbb{W}^{(r)} - \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{\tilde{s}^{(r)}} + \epsilon} \tilde{\mathbf{m}}^{(r+1)}$   
 . (the square-root operation is computed element-wise here.)

### Problem 4 Classification on MNIST<sup>2</sup> Data

6 points

For this question, write your code in the Jupyter notebook, labeled as hw1/HW1\_MNIST\_NN2.ipynb

- **Data Preprocessing on MNIST:** (2 points)

<sup>2</sup>Original Source: <http://yann.lecun.com/exdb/mnist/>

- MNIST data comprises of 70,000 images of handwritten digits from 0 to 9 (10 label classes), where each image has  $28 \times 28$  pixels of gray-scale values ranging from 0 (black) to 1 (white).
  - Convert these 10-ary labels into a binary label, where the outcome is ‘1’ if the original image label is an **even** number, and ‘0’ otherwise.
  - Partition the entire dataset into  $T = 10,000$  test samples and the remaining as training samples.
- **Training on MNIST:** Train NN-2 model on the training portion of the pre-processed MNIST dataset in hw1/HW1\_MNIST\_NN2.ipynb. (2 points)  
**Note:** Your model performance depends on how well you choose your hyperparameters.
  - **Testing on MNIST:** Validate the performance of the trained NN-2 model using the testing portion of the pre-processed MNIST dataset in HW1\_MNIST\_NN2.ipynb file. Report your performance in terms of accuracy, which is defined as

$$Acc = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{i \in \text{Test Samples}} \mathbb{1}(y_i = \hat{y}_i),$$

where  $\mathbb{1}(A)$  is a indicator function that returns a value ‘1’, when  $A$  is true.

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(2 points)