

Power Saving Mode For Neural Networks

Introduction

Ever since the beginning humans have tried to create intelligent machines. Only recently have we begun to see some success. The best methods use some form of artificial neural networks (ANN) drawing some inspiration from the mammalian brain. The brain is an extraordinary biological machine capable of great tasks and it is very energy efficient. The main principle of the brain that most ANNs use is the perceptron—a simple model of a neuron, connecting multiple of these together you get a multilayer perceptron (MLP). If the goal is to mimic the brain in order to create intelligent machines, this technique may seem like a gross oversimplification, however it works quite well in practice leading to GPT, AlphaFold etc.

You may think that this is all we need to create intelligent machines and that this is essentially a solved problem, we just need more compute and perhaps fine tune the architectures a bit.

This does not scale that well we cannot throw infinite money and power at the problem

A 100 token prompt uses ~1MW [citation needed]

If we revisit the human brain it is apparent that it has some tricks that cannot be modeled by a simple MLP the brain uses 30W on what the current ANNs can't even do

We can try to draw more inspiration from the brain.

It is difficult to distill the fundamental properties that allow for efficient computation. Some models try to perfectly fit the intricate molecular dynamics of the neurons with ion channels and what not. This can be a great tool to understand the brain, but this might be a means to an end and not a key component of an intelligent system.

MLPs do matrix mul. can be inefficient if most elements do not contribute much. MLPs are relatively easy to train, use backprop this cannot be done using spiking NNs

Properties of the Brain

The spikes in a brain are delay to intensity encoders [citation needed]

The brain is on the edge of chaos, or critical system [citation needed]

visual cortex

Bibliography