ANALYSIS OF MACHINE LEARNING APPLIED TO BOARD GAMES

Adam Amanbaev, Jonathan Hallström, Alvar Edvardsson Hugo Åkerfeldt, Romeo Patzer

SUPERVISOR: ULF BACKLUND

ABSTRACT

In October 2022 DeepMind announced an artificial intelligence in a preprint [1] that was called AlphaTensor. It utilized *artificial neural networks* in combination with *heuristic algorithms* in order to solve the unsolved problem of finding faster algorithms for matrix multiplication. AlphaTensor was successful and has shed light on the process of finding new algorithms. In this paper we aim to study the effectiveness of different *neural networks* and *heuristic algorithms* such as the one used in AlphaTensor. More precisely, we intend to analyze the efficiency of those networks and algorithms in combination with varying *optimizations*, *parameters*, *hyperparameters* and *architectures* applied to the classic games *Connect Four* and *Othello*.

KEYWORDS — Machine Learning, Supervised Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Neural Network, Deep Learning

CONTENTS

Preface									ii					
Su	mmar	y of Notation												iii
	§o.₁	Background												I
	§0.2	Analysis											•	Ι
\$1	Game	es												2
	§1.1	Connect Four												2
	§1.2	Othello												2
§2	Deep	Learning												3
		Introduction												3
	§2.2	Basic Architecture of Neural Networks												4
		§2.2.1 Perceptron												4
		§2.2.2 Fully Connected Neural Network												4
	§2.3	Backpropagation												5
		§2.3.1 Gradient Descent												5
		§2.3.2 Loss Function												5
	\$2.4	Complications with Neural Network Training												6
		§2.4.1 Overfitting												6
		§2.4.2 Vanishing and Exploding Gradient												6
		§2.4.3 Difficulties in Convergence												6
		§2.4.4 Local Optima												6
		§2.4.5 Computational Challenges												6
	\$2.5	Training Neural Networks												7
	J,	§2.5.1 Backpropagation in Detail												7
		\$2.5.2 Preventing Extreme Gradients												7
		§2.5.3 Gradient Descent Strategies												7
	\$2.6	Generalizing Neural Networks												8
		Convolutional Neural Network												9
	y2./	\$2.7.1 Historical Background												9
		§2.7.2 Architecture of a Convolutional Network	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	9
		\$2.7.3 Training a Convolutional Network												9
		§2.7.4 Applications of Convolutional Networks												9
§ 2	Rein	forcement Learning												10
,,		Introduction												II
		Monte Carlo Tree Search												12
	yy.2	§3.2.1 Upper Confidence Bound												12
§ 4	Heur	istic Algorithms												13
		MiniMax												12

Preface

SUMMARY OF NOTATION

I am a forest, and a night of dark trees: but he who is not afraid of my darkness, will find banks full of roses under my cypresses.

— Friedrich Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra

§0.1 BACKGROUND §0.2 ANALYSIS

§I. GAMES

§1.1 CONNECT FOUR §1.2 OTHELLO

§2. Deep Learning

§2.1 Introduction

§2.3 BACKPROPAGATION

§2.3.1 GRADIENT DESCENT

§2.3.2 LOSS FUNCTION

§2.4 Complications with Neural Network Training

§2.4.1 Overfitting

§2.4.2 Vanishing and Exploding Gradient

§2.4.3 Difficulties in Convergence

§2.4.4 LOCAL OPTIMA

§2.4.5 COMPUTATIONAL CHALLENGES

§2.5 Training Neural Networks §2.5.1 Backpropagation in Detail §2.5.2 Preventing Extreme Gradients §2.5.3 Gradient Descent Strategies §2.6 Generalizing Neural Networks

§2.7 CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORK

§2.7.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

§2.7.2 ARCHITECTURE OF A CONVOLUTIONAL NETWORK

§2.7.3 TRAINING A CONVOLUTIONAL NETWORK

§2.7.4 APPLICATIONS OF CONVOLUTIONAL NETWORKS

§3. Reinforcement Learning

§3.1 Introduction

§3.2 Monte Carlo Tree Search §3.2.1 Upper Confidence Bound

§4. Heuristic Algorithms

§4.1 MINIMAX

REFERENCES

[1] Huang A Fawzi A, Balog M. Discovering faster matrix multiplication algorithms with reinforcement learning. *Nature*, 2022.