

11310CS460200 Intro 2 ML Lab 6

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When predicting values using sine wave data, is there a performance difference between the model that only contains Dense layers and one that includes an RNN layer? Which performs better?

- Only Dense layers can also fit the sine wave very well, but the number of layers and parameters is higher than RNN one. In other word, model that contains RNN layer can use more shallow and less parameters to reach the same performance of only Dense model.

Have you tried stacking two consecutive RNN layers in the model? How would you configure the parameters for the second RNN layer if the first RNN layer is defined as $\text{RNN}(1, 16)$? Briefly explain your reasoning.

- Yes! I have tried to stack two to three RNN layers in my model. We can view the last timestamp hidden layer as the input of next RNN layer, then continue to train next RNN layer. That is, if first RNN layer is defined as $\text{RNN}(1, 16)$, the next layer can be $\text{RNN}(16, *)$ where $*$ represents arbitrary dimension. Similarly, we can stack more RNN layers like $\text{RNN}(1, 16) \rightarrow \text{RNN}(16, *) \rightarrow \text{RNN}(*, **) \rightarrow \dots$, so and so on.

What would be the effects with the larger size of hidden units in RNN layer?

- More hidden units in RNN layer provide more dimensions and trainable parameters that can "capture" more complex hidden features in the data, while consuming more computation resources. Like parameters in Dense, if the dimensions set too high, the model would probably overfit the training data. Moreover, too large hidden units may result in gradient exploding or vanishing in RNN model. So find the most suitable size of hidden units rather than increasing it infinitely.