Mathematics for Machine Learning

— Vector Calculus

Backpropagation & Automatic Differentiation

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Credits for the resource

- The slides are based on the textbooks:
 - Marc Peter Deisenroth, A. Aldo Faisal, and Cheng Soon Ong: Mathematics for Machine Learning. Cambridge University Press. 2020.
 - Arnold J. Insel, Lawrence E. Spence, Stephen H. Friedberg: Linear Algebra, 4th Edition. Prentice Hall. 2013.
 - Howard Anton, Chris Rorres, Anton Kaul: Elementary Linear Algebra, 12th Edition. Wiley. 2019.
- We could partially refer to the monograph: Francesco Orabona: A Modern Introduction to Online Learning. https://arxiv.org/abs/1912.13213

Outline

Backpropagation

Automatic Differentiation

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Outline

Backpropagation

2 Automatic Differentiation

Consider the function

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$$\frac{\mathrm{d}f}{\mathrm{d}x} = \frac{2x + 2x \exp(x^2)}{2\sqrt{x^2 + \exp(x^2)}} - \sin(x^2 + \exp(x^2))(2x + 2x \exp(x^2))$$

$$= 2x \left(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x^2 + \exp(x^2)}} - \sin(x^2 + \exp(x^2))\right) (1 + \exp(x^2)).$$

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- Impractical to write it explicitly.
- The implementation of the gradient could be expensive.

Gradients in a Deep Network

$$\mathbf{y} = (f_k \circ f_{k-1} \circ \cdots \circ f_1)(\mathbf{x}) = f_k(f_{k-1}(\cdots (f_1(\mathbf{x}))\cdots)).$$

- x: inputs (e.g., images).
- y: observations (e.g., class labels).
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- y: observations (e.g., class labels).
- f_i , i = 1, ..., K: functions with their own parameters.
 - $f_i(\mathbf{x}_{i-1}) = \sigma(\mathbf{A}_{i-1}\mathbf{x}_{i-1} + \mathbf{b}_{i-1})$, in the *i*th layer.
 - \mathbf{x}_{i-1} : the output of layer i-1.
 - σ : activation function (e.g., $1/(1 + e^{-x})$, tanh(x), rectified linear unit (ReLU), etc.).
 - $\mathbf{f}_0 := \mathbf{x};$ $\mathbf{f}_i := \sigma_i(\mathbf{A}_{i-1}\mathbf{f}_{i-1} + \mathbf{b}_{i-1}), i = 1, ..., K.$

- ullet To obtain the gradients w.r.t. the parameter set $m{ heta}$:
 - $\theta = \{A_0, b_0, \dots, A_{k-1}, b_{K-1}\}.$
 - The squared loss: $L(\theta) = \|\mathbf{y} \mathbf{f}_K(\theta, \mathbf{x})\|^2$.
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$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta_{K-1}} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{f}_{K}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}_{K}}{\partial \theta_{K-1}}$$

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• Partial derivatives of the output of a layer w.r.t. (1) its inputs or (2) its parameters.

What have we learnt?

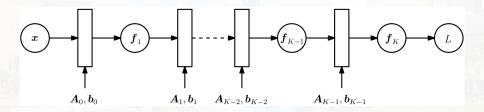
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}_{i+1}} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{f}_{K}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}_{K}}{\partial \mathbf{f}_{K-1}} \cdots \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}_{i+3}}{\partial \mathbf{f}_{i+2}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}_{i+2}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}_{i+1}} \\
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not reused yet

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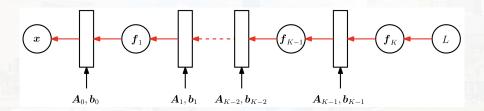
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Hence the name backpropagation.

Forward Pass



Backward Pass



Outline

Backpropagation

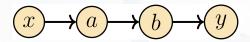
2 Automatic Differentiation

Automatic Differentiation

- A set of techniques to numerically evaluate the "exact" (up to machine precision) gradient of a function by working with intermediate variables & chain rule.
- Complicated functions can be computed automatically.
 - It just applies a series of elementary arithmetic operations.

Forward Mode & Reverse Mode

• Input: x; Output: y; Intermediate variables a, b.



Reverse Mode (backpropagation):

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} = \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}b}\frac{\mathrm{d}b}{\mathrm{d}a}\right)\frac{\mathrm{d}a}{\mathrm{d}x}$$

Forward Mode:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} = \frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}b} \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}b}{\mathrm{d}a} \frac{\mathrm{d}a}{\mathrm{d}x} \right)$$

Example

Example (Reverse Mode)

Consider the function

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x^2 + \exp(x^2)} + \cos(x^2 + \exp(x^2)).$$

Introducing intermediate variables:

$$a = x^{2}$$

$$b = \exp(a)$$

$$c = a + b$$

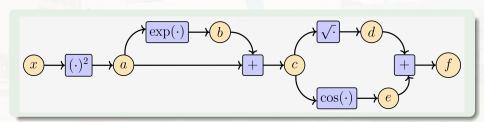
$$d = \sqrt{c}$$

$$e = \cos(c)$$

$$f = d + e$$

Example

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x^2 + \exp(x^2)} + \cos(x^2 + \exp(x^2)).$$



$$a = x^{2}$$

$$b = \exp(a)$$

$$c = a + b$$

$$d = \sqrt{c}$$

$$e = \cos(c)$$

$$f = d + e$$

$$\frac{\partial a}{\partial x} = 2x$$

$$\frac{\partial b}{\partial a} = \exp(a)$$

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial a} = 1 = \frac{\partial c}{\partial b}$$

$$\frac{\partial d}{\partial c} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{c}}$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial c} = -\sin(c)$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial d} = 1 = \frac{\partial f}{\partial e}$$

Compute $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial c} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial d} \frac{\partial d}{\partial c} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial e} \frac{\partial e}{\partial c}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial b} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial c} \frac{\partial c}{\partial b}$$

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Compute $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial c} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial d} \frac{\partial d}{\partial c} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial e} \frac{\partial e}{\partial c} = 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{v}} + 1 \cdot (-\sin(c))$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial b} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial c} \frac{\partial c}{\partial b} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial c} \cdot 1$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial a} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial b} \frac{\partial b}{\partial a} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial c} \frac{\partial c}{\partial a} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial b} \exp(a) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial c} \cdot 1$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial a} \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial a} \cdot 2x.$$

Automatic Differentiation in General

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- x_1, \ldots, x_d : input variables
- x_{d+1}, \ldots, x_{D-1} : intermediate variables
- x_D : the output variable

The computation graph can be expressed as

For
$$i = d + 1, ..., D$$
: $x_i = g_i(x_{pa(x_i)}),$

where $g_i(\cdot)$ are (elementary) functions, $x_{pa(x_i)}$ are parent nodes of x_i .

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$$f = x_D \Longrightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_D} = 1.$$

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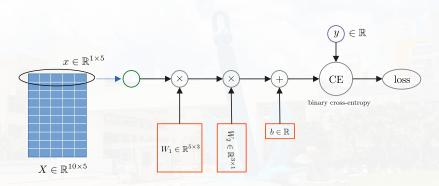
$$f = x_D \Longrightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_D} = 1.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} = \sum_{x_j: x_i \in \mathsf{pa}(x_j)} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial x_j}{\partial x_i} = \sum_{x_j: x_i \in \mathsf{pa}(x_j)} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial x_i}. \text{ (backpropagation)}$$

Automatic Differentiation

- A set of techniques to numerically evaluate the "exact" (up to machine precision) gradient of a function.
 - By intermediate variables & chain rule.
- Complicated functions can be computed automatically, whenever it can be expressed as a computation graph and the elementary functions are differentiable.
- Programming structures, such as for loops and if statements, require more care as well.

Example



$$CE \approx -y \cdot \log \sigma(z) + (1 - y) \cdot \log(1 - \sigma(z))$$

$$z = \mathbf{x} \mathbf{W}_1 \mathbf{W}_2 + b$$

$$\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}$$

Example

Discussions