**Homework 2**

1. **Section 1 – MNIST Dataset**
   1. **Network architecture and results**
      1. **Model**

In Table 1 the final configuration used for the convolutional network model implemented in the experiments can be seen. The inputs of the model are the 28x28 pictures provided by the MNIST dataset.

Table Neural network specifications

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Layer type** | **Layer’s details** | **Output Shape** |
| Convolutional input layer | 4 filters  Filter size: 5x5  Stride: 1x1  Padding: Same | 28,28,4 |
| Max pooling layer | -- | 14,14,4 |
| Convolutional layer | 8 filters  Filter size: 5x5  Stride: 1x1  Padding: Same | 14,14,8 |
| Max pooling layer | -- | 7,7,8 |
| Convolutional layer | 16 filters  Filter size: 5x5  Stride: 1x1  Padding: Same | 7,7,16 |
| Flatten layer | -- | 784 |
| Fully connected layer | 64 neurons | 64 |
| Fully connected output layer | 10 neurons | 10 |

The training hyperparameters are presented in the Table 2.

Table Training hyperparameters

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Optimizer** | Adam |
| **Loss** | Sparse Categorical Cross Entropy Loss |
| **Epochs** | 10 |
| **Activation of layers** | ReLU |

* + 1. **Stride and filter sizes**

The output size of each convolutional layer is determined by the following equation:

To test different filter sizes and strides, some padding had to be applied to counter the rapidly decreasing output size of the layers. A “same padding” was applied to the convolutional layers, which means that the padding’s size was calculated so that the output size is equal to the input size.

In Table 3 we can see the results of different configurations of filter sizes and strides for the model. The rest of the hyperparameters remained the same as those described in Table 2.

Table Different filter sizes and strides configurations, from best to worst performance

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Filter size** | **Strides** | **Padding** | **Loss** | **Accuracy** | **Accuracy** |
| 5x5 | 1,1 | Same | 0.0855 | 98.14% | --- |
| 3x3 | 1,1 | None | 0.0808 | 97.54% | -0.60% |
| 7x7 | 1,1 | Same | 0.1078 | 97.49% | -0.65% |
| 5x5 | 2,2 | Same | 0.0993 | 96.94% | -1.20% |
| 7x7 | 3,3 | Same | 0.1412 | 95.59% | -2.55% |
| 3x3 | 2,2 | Same | 0.1444 | 95.26% | -2.88% |
| 3x3 | 3,3 | Same | 0.4314 | 85.43% | -12.71% |

Initially, a 3x3 filter and a stride 1,1 was selected, but after executing these tests, the best combination turned out to be a filter of size 5x5 and a stride of 1,1. Increasing the stride was only hurtful to the model’s performance, indicating that the model benefits from having more spatial information of the nearby pixels by having a slightly bigger filter size and small stride.

* + 1. **Learning curve plot and Accuracy of training and test sets**

After defining the best configuration for stride and filter size, the following results and plots were obtained. The training loss and model accuracy for the test and training data can be observed in Figure 1.

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Model accuracy and training loss

The results for the test set were 0.0855 and 98.14% for the loss and accuracy respectively.

* + 1. **Distribution of weights and biases**

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Weights and biases of the first convolutional layer

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Weights and biases of the second convolutional layer

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Weights and biases of the third convolutional layer

Chart, histogram, scatter chart

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Figure Weights and biases of the first fully connected layer

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Weights and biases of the output layer

* 1. **Examples**
     1. **Correctly classified examples**

A picture containing text, screenshot, clipart

Description automatically generated

Figure Five correctly predicted images from the test data

* + 1. **Incorrectly classified examples**

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Figure Five incorrectly predicted images from the test data

* + 1. **Discussion**

As expected, the images that were incorrectly classified (seen in Figure 8) are images were the digits are not as well written as those correctly classified (seen in Figure 7), for example, the third digit from Figure 8 is meant to be a number 6 but it resembles a number 0 in a way that even humans may mistake it sometimes. The fourth image in the mislabeled numbers is a 0, mistakenly labeled as a number 6, which can be understandable because the digit in the image is not even fully closed, making it a lot more different from the rest of training data that represent a number 0. The first, second and fifth mislabeled numbers are not extremely hard images, but they are still examples of digits not clearly written.

* 1. **Feature maps**

The following feature maps represent the activations of the different filters in the convolutional layers of the model. We can observe that as we plot deeper layers, the filters capture bigger areas of the image, not focusing so much on minor details but on larger features. This resembles the effect of neural networks that only have fully connected layers, where we know that the first layers capture simple details such as lines and deeper layers recognize more complicated patterns as faces or body parts.

The feature maps presented in Figure 10, Figure 11 and Figure 12 are the representations of the input image shown on Figure 9.

Qr code

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Figure Image used in the feature maps plotting

* + 1. **First convolutional layer**

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Figure Feature map of the first convolutional layer

* + 1. **Second convolutional layer**

A picture containing text, crossword puzzle

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Figure Feature map of the second convolutional layer

* + 1. **Third convolutional layer**

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Figure Feature map of the third convolutional layer

* 1. **Regularization**

After adding L2 regularization to all the layers, the model was able to improve its generalization to unseen data, by slightly improving the great result it had already achieved. The new model has a final loss and accuracy of 0.1263 and 98.44% respectively and it can be seen in Figure 13 that the model accuracy for the test data was always above the accuracy for the training data, due to the regularization applied to the layers. Obviously, at this level of accuracy, improving the model is already a difficult task, as it approaches 100% of accuracy, so this level of improvement is also a good thing.

Graphical user interface, chart, line chart

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Figure Accuracy and loss with regularization

Chart, histogram

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Chart

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Chart

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Figure Weights’ histogram of all the layers after adding L2 regularization

1. **Section 2 – CIFAR-10 Dataset**
   1. **Network architecture and results**
      1. **Model**

In Table 4 the final configuration used for the convolutional network model implemented in the experiments can be seen. The inputs of the model are the pre-processed pictures provided by the CIFAR-10 dataset.

Table Configuration of the neural network for the CIFAR-10 Dataset

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Layer type** | **Layer’s details** | **Output Shape** |
| Convolutional input layer | 16 filters  Filter size: 3x3  Stride: 1,1  Padding: Same | 32,32,16 |
| Max pooling layer | -- | 16,16,16 |
| Convolutional layer | 32 filters  Filter size: 3x3  Stride: 1x1  Padding: Same | 16,16,32 |
| Max pooling layer | -- | 8,8,32 |
| Convolutional layer | 64 filters  Filter size: 3x3  Stride: 1x1  Padding: Same | 8,8,64 |
| Flatten layer | -- | 4096 |
| Fully connected layer | 64 neurons | 64 |
| Fully connected layer | 128 neurons | 128 |
| Fully connected output layer | 10 neurons | 10 |

The training hyperparameters for this section are presented in the Table 5.

Table Hyperparameters for the CIFAR-10 problem

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Optimizer** | Adam |
| **Loss** | Sparse Categorical Cross Entropy Loss |
| **Epochs** | 15 |
| **Activation of layers** | ReLU |

* + 1. **Stride and filter sizes**

Similar to section 1, different stride and filter sizes were tested for this particular dataset and the results can be seen in Table 6.

Table Different stride and filter sizes for the CIFAR-10 problem

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Filter size** | **Strides** | **Padding** | **Loss** | **Accuracy** | **Accuracy** |
| 3x3 | 1,1 | Same | 1.1179 | 71.20% | ------ |
| 3x3 | 2,2 | Same | 1.4857 | 69.08% | -2.12% |
| 5,5 | 2,2 | Same | 1.1143 | 62.54% | -8.66% |
| 5,5 | 1,1 | Same | 1.0841 | 61.33% | -9.87% |

The configuration that provided the best results was the first one tested, with a filter size of 3x3 and a stride of 1,1.

* + 1. **Learning curve plot and Accuracy of training and test sets**

In Figure 15 one can observe the training loss and model accuracy for the test and training data. In the model accuracy for the test and training data, it is noticeable that approximately after epoch 3, even though the training accuracy increases, the test accuracy remains similar, indicating that the model is incapable of improving its generalization to new unseen data and is overfitting the training set.

Some type of regularization is known to mitigate the overfitting problem, as we can see in the section 2.4, where the training and test accuracy are more aligned after implementing an L2 regularization to the model.

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

Figure Model accuracy and training loss for the CIFAR-10 problem

The results for the test set were 1.1179 and 71.20% for the loss and accuracy respectively.

* + 1. **Distribution of weights and biases**

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Weights and biases of the first convolutional layer

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Weights and biases of the second convolutional layer

Chart, histogram, bubble chart

Description automatically generated

Figure Weights and biases of the third convolutional layer

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Weights and biases of the first Fully Connected layer

Chart, histogram

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Figure Weights and biases of the second Fully Connected layer

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure Weights and biases of the third Fully Connected layer

* 1. **Examples**
     1. **Correctly classified examples**

Graphical user interface, application

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Figure Five correctly classified examples of the CIFAR-10 test dataset

* + 1. **Incorrectly classified examples**

Graphical user interface, application, website, PowerPoint

Description automatically generated

Figure Five incorrectly classified examples of the CIFAR-10 test dataset

* + 1. **Discussion**

The conclusions that can be drawn by analyzing the results from Figure 22 and Figure 23 are similar to those ones in the previous section, as most of the incorrectly classified examples from the test dataset are images where even a human can mislabel the object inside them. For example, the fourth picture in Figure 23 can easily be a truck instead of an automobile, so it makes sense for the neural network to predict this label. Of course, the images’ size also impacts the performance of the neural network, as we cannot expect many details of these kind of complex labels in a 32x32 color image. It is worth noticing that some of the correctly predicted images are also somewhat tricky to the human eye, as is the case of the second image, where the picture also has some of the characteristics found on a bird.

As always with this kind of datasets, it is obvious that high-quality images improve the maximum performance an object recognition neural network can have, by allowing the neural network to focus on smaller details that are solely connected to a specific label and not shared between different ones.

* 1. **Feature maps**

The feature maps presented in Figure 25, Figure 26 and Figure 27 are the representations of the journey taken by the image from Figure 24 in the neural network, going through the deeper layers’ filters. We can notice that earlier layers focus on small details, such as straight and curved lines, and deeper layers focus on more general regions of the image.

A picture containing blurry

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Figure Image used in the plotting of feature maps in the CIFAR-10 dataset

A picture containing text

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Figure Feature map from the first convolutional network

A picture containing text, scoreboard

Description automatically generated

Figure Feature map from the second convolutional network

A picture containing text, crossword puzzle, colorful, tiled

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Figure Feature map from the third convolutional network

* 1. **Regularization**

To solve the overfitting problem showed in Figure 15 an L2 regularization was applied to all layers. This experiment maintained all other settings and hyperparameters of the previous model. The model accuracy and training loss plot can be seen in Figure 28, and the final loss and accuracy for test data were 1.7382 and 48.77% respectively. It can be noted that even though there is no more overfitting, the result is a lot worse than the previous, unregularized model.

Chart, line chart

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Figure Model accuracy and training loss for the CIFAR-10 problem after L2 regularization

Chart, histogram

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Chart

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Chart

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Figure Weights’ histogram of all the layers after adding L2 regularization for the CIFAR-10 dataset

By further tweaking the configuration of the neural network and applying the changes shown in Table 7, the result of the model is the one shown in Figure 30, with a loss and accuracy values of 1.0726 and 67.95% respectively. As seen, the model accuracy plot shows that the overfitting problem is resolved, but the accuracy is still worse than the original model. In these situations, we can assume that regularization is not enough to improve the model and other techniques should be used in further experiments, such as data augmentation, other regularization techniques or other neural network architectures (like the already established YOLO algorithm).

Table 7 Changes in parameters of the model after regularization

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Parameter adjusted** | **Original setting** | **Changed setting** |
| Adam learning rate | 0.001 | 0.002 |
| Epochs | 15 | 20 |
| L2 regularization | Applied to all layers | Applied to the first and third convolutional layer and to the first fully connected layer. |

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

Figure 30 Model accuracy and training loss for the CIFAR-10 problem after L2 regularization and parameter changes

* 1. **Pre-processing of images**

When working with the CIFAR-10 dataset, some pre-processing work had to be applied to the images before using them as input for the neural network model. The images went to a normalization process that converted each value of the image’s array of pixels into a value between 0 and 1, on its three-color channels. This was done by dividing each value into 255, which is the maximum value a pixel can have.

**Main References**

* Andrew Ng, *Neural Networks and Deep Learning* [MOOC]. Coursera. <https://www.coursera.org/learn/convolutional-neural-networks>
* <https://keras.io/api/layers/regularizers/>
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