How good is the Bayes Posterior in Deep Neural Networks really?

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Bayesian Learning Series (#11)

Robotic Vision Lab (RVL)
[Weekly Seminars 03/03/2021]

Outline

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Introduction

(in the past five years)

Inference procedures have been developed that allow for **Bayesian inference in Deep Neural Networks**

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- Improved uncertainty quantification and sample efficiency

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(as of early 2020)

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- **current understanding** of Bayes posteriors in popular deep neural networks

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- predictive performance **improved through use of a cold posterior** that overcounts evidence.

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- **Question** the goal of accurate posterior approximations in Bayesian Deep Learning

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- If the true Bayes posterior is poor, **what is the use of more accurate approximations?**
- **Time to focus** on understanding of **origin of improved performance of cold posteriors**

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- training dataset $\mathcal{D} = \{x_i, y_i\}_{i=1,\dots,n}$
- probabilistic model $p(y|x, \boldsymbol{\theta})$
- to minimize regularized cross-entropy objective

$$L(\boldsymbol{\theta}) := -\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} \log p\left(y_i | x_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) + \Omega(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \tag{1}$$

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- **approximate** the ***posterior distribution*** over model parameters, $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathcal{D}) \propto exp(-U(\boldsymbol{\theta})/T)$, where $U(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ is the ***posterior energy function***,

$$U(\boldsymbol{\theta}) := -\sum_{i=1}^{n} \log p\left(y_i | x_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) - \log p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \tag{2}$$

Bayesian Deep Learning

- Given $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathcal{D})$, we *predict* on a new instance x, by averaging over all likely models,

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where (3) is also known as ***posterior predictive*** or ***Bayes ensemble***.

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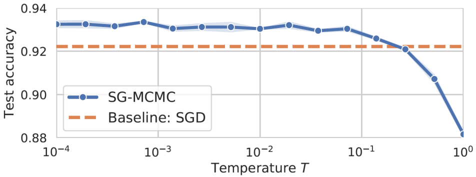

Figure 1. The "**cold posterior**" effect: for a ResNet-20 on CIFAR-10 we can improve the generalization performance significantly by cooling the posterior with a temperature $T \ll 1$, deviating from the Bayes posterior $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathcal{D}) \propto \exp(-U(\boldsymbol{\theta})/T)$ at $T = 1$.

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Why should Bayes ($T = 1$) be better?

Why expect that predictions made by the *ensemble model* (3) could improve over predictions made at a single well-chosen parameter?

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Three reasons:

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- ***Theory***: known that (3) can dominate common point-wise estimators based on likelihood, even in case of misspecification
- ***Classical empirical evidence***: for classical statistical models, averaged predictions (3) have been observed to be more robust in practice
- ***Model averaging***:recent deep learning models based on deterministic model averages have shown good predictive performance

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Why should Bayes ($T = 1$) be better?

- Note that a large body of work in Bayesian Deep Learning is **motivated by the assertion** that predicting **using (3) is desirable**
- Authors **confront the assertion** through **simple experiments**
- Show that **our understanding** of the Bayes posterior in deep models **is limited**

Contributions

- **Demonstrate** two models and tasks (ResNet-20 on CIFAR-10 and CNN-LSTM on IMDB) that the Bayes posterior predictive has **poor performance** compared to SGD-trained models

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Contributions

- **Demonstrate** two models and tasks (ResNet-20 on CIFAR-10 and CNN-LSTM on IMDB) that the Bayes posterior predictive has **poor performance** compared to SGD-trained models
- **Put forth and systematically examine hypotheses** that could **explain the observed behaviour**
- **Introduce two new diagnostic tools** for assessing the approximation quality of stochastic gradient Markov chain Monte Carlo methods (SG-MCMC) and **demonstrate** that the posterior is accurately simulated by existing SG-MCMC methods

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Deep Learning Models: ResNet-20 and LSTM

ResNet-20 on CIFAR-10

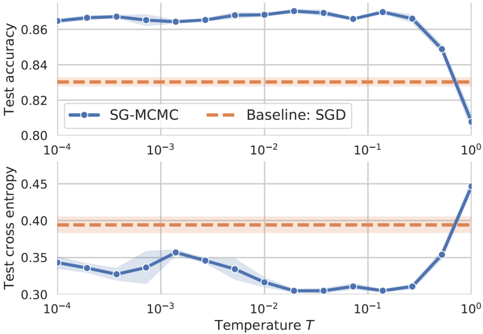
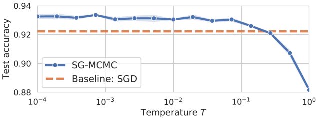


Figure 3. Predictive performance on the IMDB sentiment task test set for a tempered CNN-LSTM Bayes posterior. Error bars are ± one standard error over three runs. See Appendix A.4.

Deep Learning Models

CNN-LSTM on IMDB text classification



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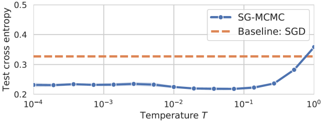

Figure 2. Predictive performance on the CIFAR-10 test set for a cooled ResNet-20 Bayes posterior. The SGD baseline is separately tuned for the same model (Appendix A.2).