CS 237B: Principles of Robot Autonomy II  
Problem Set 03

Name: Ricardo Paschoeto  
SUID: rp304154

**Problem 1: Getting Started.**

(i) When we initialized all weights with “0” the derivative with respect to loss function will be the same for every weight in the layers W, all weights will have the same value in the iterations. The hidden units are symmetric and continues, the model works as a linear model and neurons learn the same features during training process, in some cases this will be too simply to achieve good results when used in complex systems. The biases have no effect when initialized with 0 and will not create any problems.

(ii) Xavier Initialization prevent the gradients of network’s activation from vanishing or exploding based on the following theory:

* The activation’s mean should be zero ->
* The activation’s variance should stay the same for every layer ->
* Use activation function which is linear (approx.) when works with small inputs.

Where,

Therefore, for Xavier Initialization, for every layer we have the weights from a normal distribution with , the biases are initialized with zeros:

Or

Then, the conclusion, the Xavier Initialization avoid choosing the weights initialization too-high (exploding gradients) or too-small (vanish gradients) setting .

(iii) Different from classical SGD that applies the same learning rate to all parameters update, Adam algorithm provide a heuristic approach without requiring tunning learning rate manually, it’s important mainly when we have a sparse data, and we want to update the parameters in different extent instead. Adam algorithm allows the learning rate to adapt over time and achieves faster convergence, these factors helps in the learning process.

Some other advantages of Adam optimizer:

* Implementation is simple, therefore, could be implemented with fewer lines of code, e.g., Python.
* Computationally efficient
* Little memory requirement
* The magnitude of parameter updates are invariant to diagonal rescaling of gradient:

The iteration step in the dimension of the parameter (in the iteration) is given by,

When scaling the partial derivative of the parameter, we can multiply the value by *c>0*,

,

,

Thus, we get:

,

Considering very small,

,

Therefore, scaling the partial derivative of the parameter by factor *c* doesn’t affect

* Appropriate for problems with large data and/or parameters
* Does not require a stationary objective
* Appropriate for problems with very noise and/or sparse gradients
* Hyperparameters have intuitive interpretation and require little tuning.

Some Disadvantages:

* Adam does not converge to an optimal solution in some areas
* Adam can suffer a weight decay problem

***Source:* *https://towardsdatascience.com/complete-guide-to-adam-optimization-1e5f29532c3d***

(iv) SGD uses the constant learning rate to update NN parameters, in (1) and (2) we have the same initialization, batches and learning rate, in (2) we slice the epochs (250 + 250), although despite this difference we just split the train process from (1) because we restart from resultant neural network with the same initialization, batches and learning rates and we obtain the same network from (1). Although if we use Adam optimizer the NN will be different because Adam uses a variable learning rate to update de parameters.

**Problem 2: Behavior Cloning.**

(i) Optimization Problem:

, *Xavier Initialization.*

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*Where optimization process (update weights) is given by Adam algorithm:*

(iii) Full training process:

* First, we initialize the weights using Xavier Initialization in the neural network layers.
* For each epoch (to “left” and “straight” goals (g) the number was 500 epochs):
  + For each batch the forward pass (*call()* function) using the pair (o, g) is done by call function and the prediction action is evaluated in the output ()
  + The loss function is evaluated (L2 loss) from predict action and action from samples (). For (“left” and “straight” goals was used different penalties factors to “steering” and “throttle”, 1.0 and 1.2, respectively
  + The gradient and Optimizer were applied, Adam optimizer is used with learning rate of 0.0003 (“left” and “straight” goals) and the parameters () are updated and learning rate () is adapted over time by:

The process is repeated for each epoch and inner batches.

(iv) Success Report:

* “left”: Success Rate = 0.33
* “straight”: Success Rate = 0.89
* “right”: Success Rate = 0.0

(v) The L2 loss function was used with different penalties factors for “steering” and “throttle”.

If the data perfectly overfit the minimum loss = 0.0. it’s bounded below because isn’t possible the L2 norm error be less than zero.

(vi) Some of the properties of covariance matrix:

* A covariance matrix is always symmetric, implying that the transpose of a covariance matrix is always equal to the original matrix.
* A covariance matrix is always positive and semi-definite.
* The eigenvalues of a covariance matrix are always real and non-negative (from second property).

However, in our we assuming that covariance matrix is symmetric but maybe can be PSD. The matrix is always and has the same eigenvectors from A but the eigenvalues . Therefore we can decompose in eigenvalues and eigenvectors and calculate new A matrix (symmetric and PSD) from

Where, is the eigenvectors column matrix and is diagonal matrix of eigenvalues from . We reached the last two properties for a covariance matrix.

(vii)