Neural Networks and Deep Learning for Space Physics



Asti Bhatt CEDAR 2019 Tutorial

Source: xkcd

Neural Networks

5 5 = 5



How does a neuron operate?



A brief history of neural networks

- In 1943, neurophysicist Warren McCulloch and the mathematician Walter Pitts proposed a simplified computational model of how biological neurons might work, but their model lacked a mechanism for learning
- In 1949, Donald Hebb published 'Cells that fire together, wire together'
- In 1960, Frank Rosenblatt developed a 'Perceptron' a simple neural network with a linear activation function - capable of classifying shapes
- Between 1960's to 1980's there were ups and downs in usage
- In recent times, the increase in computational power and data infrastructure has made it possible to use neural networks to their potential

How does a neural network learn?



http://www.thejavageek.com/2018/04/17/how-do-neural-networks-learn/

Activation functions

- Also known as 'transfer function' calculates the weighted sum, and decides whether to 'fire' a neuron or not.
- Most common example a step function.
- Non-linear activation functions help solve complex problems





Cost function minimization

Most commonly used technique - **Gradient descent** is an optimization algorithm used to minimize some function by iteratively moving in the direction of steepest **descent** as defined by the negative of the **gradient**.



https://blog.paperspace.com/intro-to-optimization-in-deep-learning-gradient-descent/

Supervised learning



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aircAruvnKk



Deep Learning

- The higher the number of 'hidden' layers, the 'deeper' the network goes.
- A neural net with two or more hidden layers is qualified as 'deep'
- Each layer in a 'deep' network trains on a distinct set of features based on the output from previous layer
- Deeper the net, more complex are the features it can recognize

Deep Learning Examples

Successive model layers learn deeper intermediate representations



https://skymind.ai/wiki/neural-network

Training, Validation, Testing Neural Nets

Training Dataset: The sample of data used to fit the model. (*Largest*)

Validation Dataset: The sample of data used to provide an unbiased evaluation of a model fit on the training dataset while tuning model hyperparameters. The evaluation becomes more biased as skill on the validation dataset is incorporated into the model configuration.

Test Dataset: The sample of data used to provide an unbiased evaluation of a final model fit on the training dataset. (*Something that the model has never seen*)



https://towardsdatascience.com/train-validation-and-test-sets-72cb40cba9e7

Commonly used Neural Networks

- Feed forward Multilayer Perceptron (MLP)
- Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN): Commonly used for image analysis
- Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN): Commonly used for temporal sequence analysis

DATA



Canadian High Arctic Ionospheric Network (CHAIN)



Building a predictive model GNSS scintillations using inputs from solar activity, magnetospheric coupling and ionosphere

Solar Activity	Geomagnetic	Ionosphere		
IMF By, Bz, clock angle	AE, SymH, Kp	GNSS Station location Information		+ . 1hr
Solar wind density and velocity	Solar wind magnetosphere	GNSS Scintillation	τ	t + 10t
V rou flux	coupling functions	Phase power	11 Input	
A-ray nux	Magnetometer	spectral slope	factures	Predicted
Proton flux	Data	TEC	Teatures	Scintillation
F10.7		dTEC		

- Training data: 2015-2016 | Test on: 2017
- Model: Multilayer perceptron 4 hidden layers and 128 nodes in each layer
- Activation function: Exponential Linear Unit (ELU)
- **Optimizer**: Adam (extension of gradient descent)



- 96% True results over all predicted results ('Recall')
- Localized model performed much better than a model developed for all sites together - Why?
- Adding co-located magnetometer data improved the prediction accuracy -Why?

So, should you use Deep Learning?

Advantages

- Massive amounts of data available
- Computational power to match the available massive amounts of data
- Advances in algorithms that make them much faster to run and access more data than before
- Ability to outperform nearly every other ML algorithms

Disadvantages

- Black Box what are underlying rules that gave you the output you did
- While libraries with simplified functions exist, more complex challenges require longer development and resources
- Your neural network is only as good as your training data requires massive amount to train properly
- More computationally expensive

Tools to explore deep learning



] model.summary()

Opportunities that combine Space Physics and Machine Learning



What to do next?

- Go through CEDAR and identify long standing questions with enough relevant data, where ML approaches can be used
- Take a statistics course at your university
- Look up simple web-based ML tutorials
- Learn Python play with canned tutorials on tools like Google Colab - or install Scikit-Learn on your machine
- Familiarize yourselves with geospace Python tools that help you access data - attend sessions and hackathons planned during CEDAR -
 - Python session and Hackathon on Monday
 - Integrated Geoscience Observatory workshop on Wednesday
 - Geospace Data Science on Thursday

Additional Resources

- Hands-On Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn & TensorFlow -O'reilly book by Aurelien Geron
- http://www.scs.ryerson.ca/~aharley/neural-networks/
- Coursera Course on Machine Learning by Andrew Ng