Recurrent neural networks and Long-short term memory (LSTM)

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Outline

• RNN
  • RNN
  • Unfolding Computational Graph
  • Backpropagation and weight update
  • Explode / Vanishing gradient problem
• LSTM
• GRU
• Tasks with RNN
• Software Packages
So far we are

- Modeling sequence (time-series) and predicting future values by probabilistic models (AR, HMM, LDS, Particle Filtering, Hawkes Process, etc)

- E.g. LDS
  - Observation $x_t$ is modeled as emission matrix $C$, hidden state $z_t$ with Gaussian noise $w_t$
    $$x_t = Cz_t + w_t ; w_t \sim N(w|0, \Sigma)$$
  - The hidden state is also probabilistically computed with transition matrix $A$ and Gaussian noise $v_t$
    $$z_t = Az_{t-1} + v_t ; v_t \sim N(w|0, \Gamma)$$

Paradigm Shift to RNN

- We are moving into a new world where no probabilistic component exists in a model
- That is, we may not need to inference like in LDS and HMM
  - In RNN, hidden states bear no probabilistic form or assumption
- Given fixed input and target from data, RNN is to learn intermediate association between them and also the real-valued vector representation
RNN

• RNN’s input, output, and internal representation (hidden states) are all real-valued vectors

\[ h_t = \tanh(Ux_t + Wh_{t-1}) \]

\[ \hat{y} = \lambda(\mathcal{V}h_t) \]

• \( h_t \): hidden states; real-valued vector
• \( x_t \): input vector (real-valued)
• \( \mathcal{V}h_t \): real-valued vector
• \( \hat{y} \): output vector (real-valued)

RNN

• RNN consists of three parameter matrices \((U, W, \mathcal{V})\) with activation functions

\[ h_t = \tanh(Ux_t + Wh_{t-1}) \]

\[ \hat{y} = \lambda(\mathcal{V}h_t) \]

• \( U \): input-hidden matrix
• \( W \): hidden-hidden matrix
• \( \mathcal{V} \): hidden-output matrix
RNN

- \( \text{tanh}(\cdot) \) is a tangent hyperbolic function. It models non-linearity.

\[
h_t = \text{tanh}(U x_t + W h_{t-1})
\]

\[
y = \lambda(V h_t)
\]
Make a prediction

• Let’s see how it makes a prediction
• In the beginning, initial hidden state $h_0$ is filled with zero or random value
• Also we assume the model is already trained. (we will see how it is trained soon)

\[ h_0 \]

\[ x_1 \]

Make a prediction

• Assume we currently have observation $x_1$ and want to predict $x_2$
• We compute hidden states $h_1$ first

\[ h_1 = \tanh(Ux_1 + Wh_0) \]
Make a prediction

• Then we generate prediction:
• $Vh_1$ is a real-valued vector or scalar value (depends on the size of output matrix $V$)

$$h_1 = \tanh(Ux_1 + Wh_0)$$

$$\hat{x}_2 = \hat{y} = \lambda(Vh_1)$$

Make a prediction multiple steps

• In prediction for multiple steps a head, predicted value $\hat{x}_2$ from previous step is considered as input $x_2$ at time step 2

$$h_2 = \tanh(U\hat{x}_2 + Wh_1)$$

$$\hat{x}_3 = \hat{y} = \lambda(Vh_2)$$
Make a prediction multiple steps

- Same mechanism applies forward in time..

\[ h_3 = \tanh(U\hat{x}_3 + W h_2) \]

\[ \hat{x}_4 = \hat{y} = \lambda(Vh_3) \]

RNN Characteristic

- You might observed that...
- Parameters \( U, V, W \) are shared across all time steps
- No probabilistic component (random number generation) is involved
- So, everything is deterministic
Another way to see RNN

• RNN is a type of **neural network**

Neural Network

• Cascading several **linear weights** with nonlinear activation functions in between them

• \( y \): output
• \( V \): Hidden-Output matrix
• \( h \): hidden units (states)
• \( U \): Input-Hidden matrix
• \( x \): input
Neural Network

• In traditional NN, it is assumed that every input is independent each other

• But with sequential data, input in current time step is highly likely depends on input in previous time step

• We need some additional structure that can model dependencies of inputs over time

Recurrent Neural Network

• A type of a neural network that has a recurrence structure
• The recurrence structure allows us to operate over a sequence of vectors
RNN as an Unfolding Computational Graph

RNN can be converted into a feed-forward neural network by unfolding over time.
How to train RNN?

- Before make train happen, we need to define these:
  - $y^t$: true target
  - $\hat{y}_t$: output of RNN (=prediction for true target)
  - $E_t$: error (loss); difference between the true target and the output

- As the output transformation function $\lambda$ is selected by the task and data, so does the loss:
  - Binary Classification: Binary Cross Entropy
  - Categorical Classification: Cross Entropy
  - Regression: Mean Squared Error

With the loss, the RNN will be like:
Back Propagation Through Time (BPTT)

• Extension of standard backpropagation that performs gradient descent on an unfolded network
• Goal is to calculate gradients of the error with respect to parameters $U$, $V$, and $W$ and learn desired parameters using Stochastic Gradient Descent

\[
\frac{\partial E}{\partial W} = \sum_t \frac{\partial E_t}{\partial W}
\]
Learning Parameters

\[ h_t = \tanh(Ux_t + Wh_{t-1}) \]
\[ z_t = Ux_t + Wh_{t-1} \]
\[ h_t = \tanh(z_t) \]

- Let

\[ \lambda_k = \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial W} \quad \alpha_k = \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial z_k} = 1 - h_k^2 \]
\[ \beta_k = \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial h_k} = (o_k - y_k)V \]

Learning Parameters

\[ \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial h_k} \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial W} = \beta_k \lambda_k \]
\[ \lambda_k = \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial z_k} \frac{\partial z_k}{\partial W} = \alpha_k (h_{k-1} + W\lambda_{k-1}) \]
\[ \psi_k = \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial U} = \alpha_k \frac{\partial z_k}{\partial U} = \alpha_k (x_k + W\psi_{k-1}) \]
Initialization:
\[ \alpha_0 = 1 - h_0^2; \lambda_0 = 0; \psi_0 = \alpha_0 \cdot x_0 \]
\[ \Delta w = 0; \Delta u = 0; \Delta v = 0 \]
For k= 1...T (T; length of a sequence):
\[ \alpha_k = 1 - h_k^2 \]
\[ \lambda_k = \alpha_k (h_{k-1} + W \lambda_{k-1}) \]
\[ \beta_k = (o_k - y_k) V \]
\[ \Delta w = \Delta w + \beta_k \lambda_k \]
\[ \psi_k = \alpha_k (x_k + W \psi_{k-1}) \]
\[ \Delta u = \Delta u + \beta_k \psi_k \]
\[ \Delta v = \Delta v + (o_k - y_k) \odot h_k \]

Then,
\[ V_{\text{new}} = V_{old} - \alpha \Delta v \]
\[ W_{\text{new}} = W_{old} - \alpha \Delta w \]
\[ U_{\text{new}} = U_{old} - \alpha \Delta u \]

\( \alpha \): learning rate
\( \odot \): element-wise multiplication

Exploding and Vanishing Gradient Problem

• In RNN, we repeatedly multiply \( W \) along with a input sequence
  \[ h_t = \tanh(Ux_t + Wh_{t-1}) \]

• The recurrence multiplication can result in difficulties called exploding and vanishing gradient problem
Exploding and Vanishing Gradient Problem

- For example, we can think of simple RNN with lacking inputs $\mathbf{x}$
  \[ h_t = W h_{t-1} \]
- It can be simplified to
  \[ h_t = (W^t) h_0 \]
- If $W$ has an Eigen decomposition, we can decompose $W$ into $V$ (consists of eigen vectors) and a diagonal matrix of eigen values: $\text{diag}(\lambda)$
  \[ W = V \text{diag}(\lambda) V^{-1} \]
  \[ W^t = (V \text{diag}(\lambda) V^{-1})^t = V \text{diag}(\lambda^t) V^{-1} \]

Exploding and Vanishing Gradient Problem

\[ h_t = (W^t) h_0 \]
\[ h_t = V \text{diag}(\lambda^t) V^{-1} h_0 \]
- Any eigenvalues $\lambda_i$ that are not near an absolute value of 1 will either
  - explode if they are greater than 1 in magnitude
  - vanish if they are less than 1 in magnitude
- The gradients through such a graph are also scaled according to $\text{diag}(\lambda^t)$
Exploding and Vanishing Gradient Problem

\[ h_t = V \text{ diag}(\lambda^t)V^{-1}h_0 \]

• Whenever the model is able to represent long-term dependencies, the gradient of a long-term interaction has exponentially smaller magnitude than the gradient of a short-term interaction.
• That is, it is not impossible to learn, but that it might take a very long time to learn long-term dependencies:
• Because the signal about these dependencies will tend to be hidden by the smallest fluctuations arising from short-term dependencies.

Vanishing Gradient

• Tanh function has derivatives of 0 at both ends. (They approach a flat line)
• When this happens we say the corresponding neurons are saturated.
• They have a zero gradient and drive other gradients in previous layers towards 0.
• Thus, with small values in the matrix and multiple matrix multiplications the gradient values are shrinking exponentially fast, eventually vanishing completely after a few time steps.

[Tanh f(x) and its derivative]

[WildML 2015]
Solution1: Truncated BPTT

• Run forward as it is, but run the backward in the chunk of the sequence instead of the whole sequence

Solution2: Gating mechanism (LSTM;GRU)

• Add gates to produce paths where gradients can flow more constantly in longer-term without vanishing nor exploding
• We’ll see in next chapter
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Long Short-term Memory (LSTM)

- Capable of modeling longer term dependencies by having memory cells and gates that controls the information flow along with the memory cells
**Long Short-term Memory (LSTM)**

- Capable of modeling longer term dependencies by having memory cells and gates that controls the information flow along with the memory cells

![LSTM Diagram](http://colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/)

**Long Short-term Memory (LSTM)**

- The contents of the memory cells $C_t$ are regulated by various gates:
  - Forget gate $f_t$
  - Input gate $i_t$
  - Reset gate $r_t$
  - Output gate $o_t$

- Each gates are composed of affine transformation with Sigmoid activation function

![LSTM Diagram](http://colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/)
Forget Gate

- It determines how much contents from previous cell $C_{t-1}$ will be erased (we will see how it works in next a few slides).
- Linear transformation of concatenated previous hidden states and input are followed by Sigmoid function.
- The sigmoid generates values 0 and 1:
  - 0: completely remove info in the dimension
  - 1: completely keep info in the dimension

\[ f_t = \sigma(W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f) \]

New Candidate Cell and Input Gate

- New candidate cell states $\tilde{C}_t$ are created as a function of $h_{t-1}$ and $x_t$.
- Input gates $i_t$ decides how much of values of the new candidate cell states $\tilde{C}_t$ are combined into the cell states.

\[ i_t = \sigma(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i) \quad \tilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_C \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_C) \]
Update Cell States

- The previous cell states $C_{t-1}$ are updated to the new cell states $C_t$ by using the input and forget gates with new candidate cell states

$$C_t = f_t * C_{t-1} + i_t * \tilde{C}_t$$

Generate Output

- Output will be based on cell state $C_t$ with filter from output gate $o_t$
- The output gate $o_t$ decides which part of cell state $C_t$ will be in the output

$$o_t = \sigma(W_o \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_o)$$

- Then the final output is generated from tanh-ed cell states filtered by $o_t$

$$h_t = o_t * \text{tanh}(C_t)$$
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Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)

• Simplify LSTM by combining forget and input gate into update gate $z_t$
• $z_t$ controls the forgetting factor and the decision to update the state unit

\[
\begin{align*}
    z_t &= \sigma(W_z \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_z) \\
    r_t &= \sigma(W_r \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_r) \\
    \tilde{h}_t &= \text{tanh}(W \cdot [r_t \ast h_{t-1}, x_t] + b) \\
    h_t &= (1 - z_t) \ast h_{t-1} + z_t \ast \tilde{h}_t
\end{align*}
\]
Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)

• Reset gates $r_t$ control which parts of the state get used to compute the next target state
• It introduces additional nonlinear effect in the relationship between past state and future state

$$z_t = \sigma(W_Z \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_z)$$
$$r_t = \sigma(W_r \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_r)$$
$$\tilde{h}_t = \tanh(W \cdot [r_t \cdot h_{t-1}, x_t] + b)$$
$$h_t = (1 - z_t) \cdot h_{t-1} + z_t \cdot \tilde{h}_t$$

Comparison LSTM and GRU

$$f_t = \sigma(W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f)$$
$$\tilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_C \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_C)$$
$$i_t = \sigma(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i)$$
$$C_t = f_t \cdot C_{t-1} + i_t \cdot \tilde{C}_t$$
$$o_t = \sigma(W_o \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_o)$$
$$h_t = o_t \cdot \tanh(C_t)$$

$$z_t = \sigma(W_z \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_z)$$
$$r_t = \sigma(W_r \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_r)$$
$$\tilde{h}_t = \tanh(W \cdot [r_t \cdot h_{t-1}, x_t] + b)$$
$$h_t = (1 - z_t) \cdot h_{t-1} + z_t \cdot \tilde{h}_t$$
Comparison LSTM and GRU

• Greff, et al. (2015) compared LSTM, GRU and several variants on thousands of experiments and found that none of the variants can improve upon the standard LSTM architecture significantly, and demonstrate the forget gate and the output activation function to be its most critical components.

• Greff, et al. (2015): LSTM: A Search Space Odyssey

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• Tasks with RNN
  • One-to-Many
  • Many-to-One
  • Many-to-Many
  • Encoder-Decoder Seq2Seq Model
  • Attention Mechanism
  • Bidirectional RNN
• Software Packages
Tasks with RNN

• One of strengths of RNN is flexibility in modeling any task with any data type

• By composing the input and output as either sequence or non-sequence data, you can model many different tasks

• Here are some of the examples:

One-to-Many

• Input: non-sequence vector / Output: sequence of vectors
• After the first time step, hidden states are updated with only previous step’s hidden states
• Example: Sentence generation given image
  • Typically the input image is processed with CNN to generate a real-valued vector representation
  • During training, true target is a sentence (sequence of words) about the training image
Many-to-One

- Input: sequence of vectors / Output: non-sequence vector
- Only the last time step’s hidden states is used as the output
- Example: Sequence classification, sentiment classification

Many-to-Many

- Input: sequence of vectors / Output: sequence of vectors
- Generate a sequence given another sequence
- Example: Machine translation
  - Especially parameterized by what is called “Encoder-Decoder” model
Encoder-Decoder (Seq2Seq) Model

- **Key idea:**
  - **Encoder RNN** generates a fixed-length context vector $C$ from input sequence $X = (x^{(1)}, ..., x^{(n_x)})$
  - **Decoder RNN** generates an output sequence $Y = (y^{(1)}, ..., y^{(n_y)})$ conditioned on the context $C$

- The two RNNs are trained jointly to maximize the average of $\log P(y^{(1)}, ..., y^{(n_y)} | x^{(1)}, ..., x^{(n_x)})$ over all sequence in training set

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**Diagram:**

- **Typically,** the last hidden states of encoder RNN $h^{(n_x)}$ is used as context $C$
- **But when** the context $C$ has smaller dimension or lengths of sequences are longer, $C$ can be a **bottleneck**; it cannot properly summarize the input sequence
Attention Mechanism

- Attention mechanism learns to **associate hidden states of input sequence** to generation of each step of the target sequence.

Attention Mechanism

- The association is modeled as **additional feed-forward network** $f$ gets input sequence’s hidden states and predicted target on previous time step.
In $f$, Softmax is used to generate the weights among the hidden states of the input sequences.

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- Encoder-Decoder Seq2Seq Model
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- Software Packages
Bidirectional RNN

• In some applications, such as speech recognition or machine translation, dependencies over time not only lie in forward in time but also lie in backward in time
• It assumes all-time step of a sequence is available

![Image: jumps over the lazy dog](https://distill.pub/2017/ctc/)

Bidirectional RNN

• To model these, two RNNs are trained together forward RNN and backward RNN
• Each time step’s hidden states from both RNNs are concatenated to form a final output
Hierarchical RNN

- In many cases, a sequence could have (latent) hierarchical structures.
- Example:
  - Document $\rightarrow$ Paragraphs $\rightarrow$ Sentences $\rightarrow$ Words $\rightarrow$ Characters
  - Video $\rightarrow$ Shots $\rightarrow$ Still frames
Hierarchical RNN

• One of key research question is to detect where a segment finishes and starts

  E.g.,
  • Boundaries of words (in a sequence of character)
  • Boundaries of scenes (in a sequence of image frames)

• Many works attempted to train models that detect these boundaries

Hierarchical RNN

• Video

• Two Layer-Approach
  • First layer learns to segment a video into several shots
  • Second layer captures forward & backward dependencies among the boundary frames
Hierarchical RNN

• Text
  [Hierarchical Multiscale Recurrent Neural Networks, Chung 2016]

• Hidden states at each level are updated based on (learned) structure of a sequence
  • Higher-level hidden states are only update when a segment finishes
  • Lower-level hidden states uses higher-level hidden states info when a new segment is started

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Software Packages for RNN

- Many recent Deep Learning packages are supporting RNN/LSTM/GRU:
  - TensorFlow: [https://www.tensorflow.org/tutorials/sequences/recurrent](https://www.tensorflow.org/tutorials/sequences/recurrent)
  - Keras: [https://keras.io/layers/recurrent/](https://keras.io/layers/recurrent/)

References

- The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Recurrent Neural Networks [http://karpathy.github.io/2015/05/21/rnn-effectiveness/](http://karpathy.github.io/2015/05/21/rnn-effectiveness/)
- Understanding LSTM Networks [http://colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/](http://colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/)
Thank you!

Any questions?