Getting Neural Nets to Train

Designing, Visualizing and Understanding Deep Neural Networks

CS W182/282A

Instructor: Sergey Levine UC Berkeley



This lecture

Help! My network doesn't train

If you follow everything I described in the previous lectures...

And you implement everything correctly...

And you train everything for a long time...

There is a good chance it **still** won't work

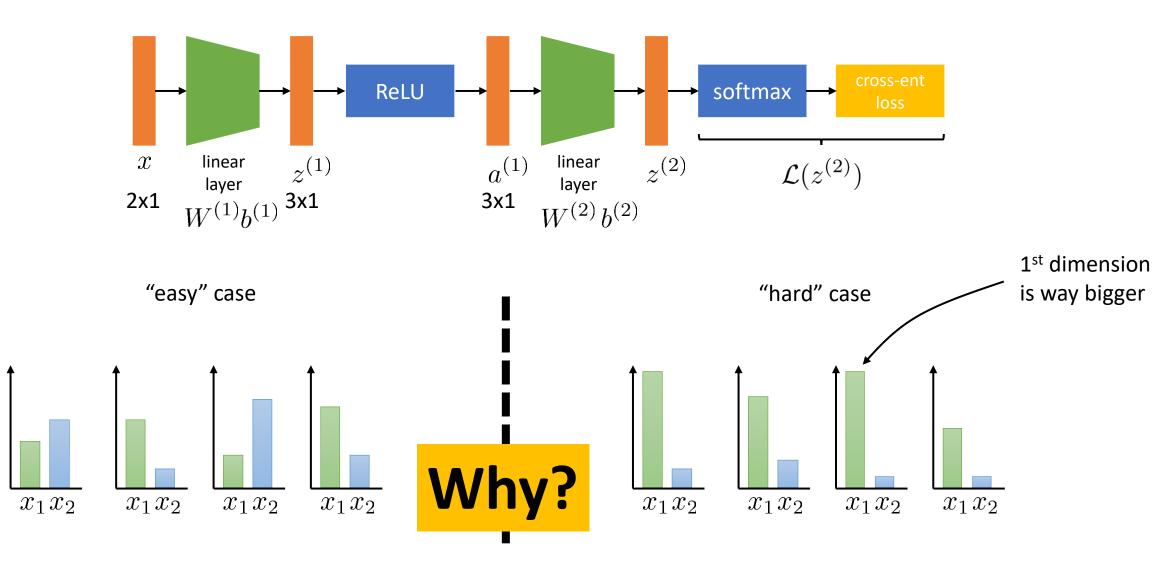
Neural networks are messy

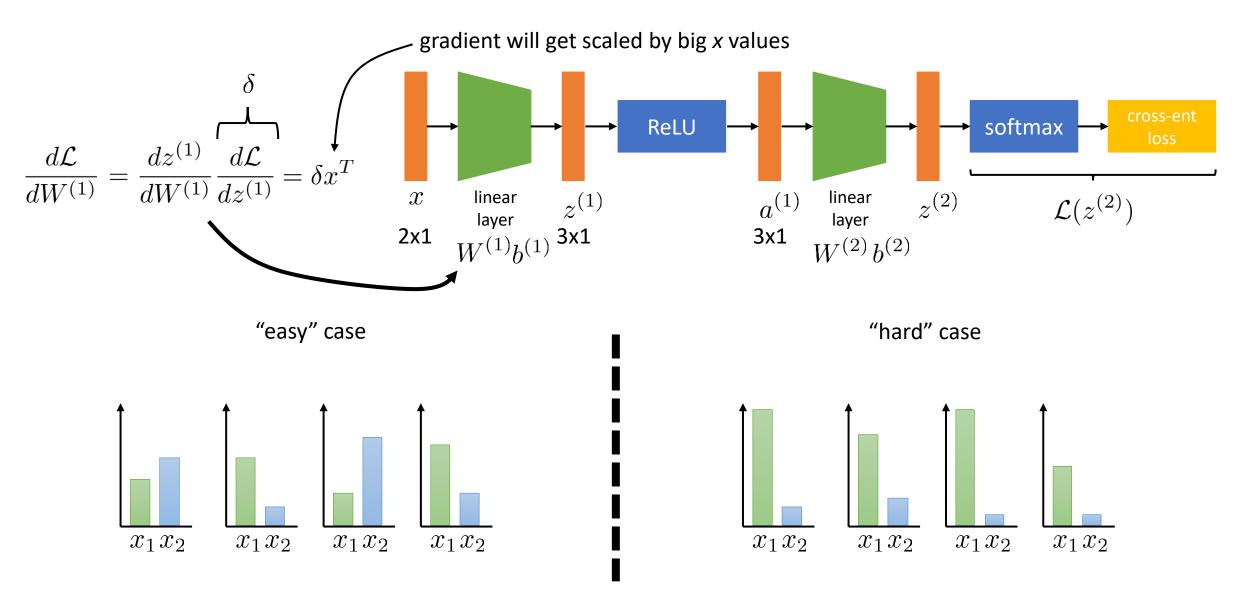
They require lots of "tricks" to train well

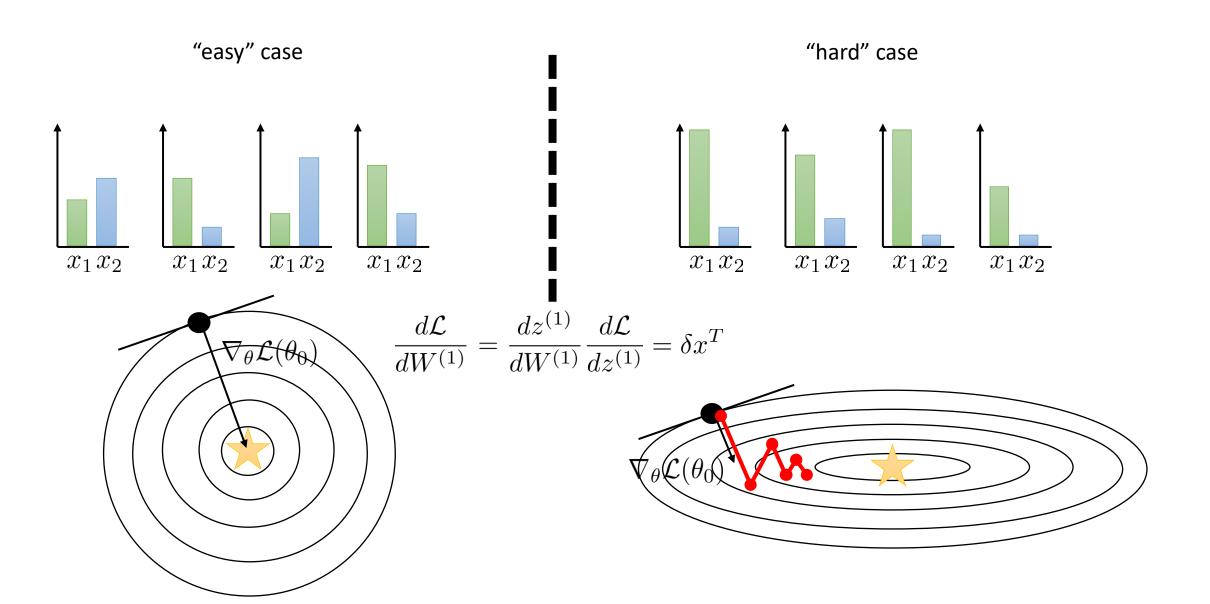
We'll discuss these tricks today



- Normalizing inputs and outputs
- > Normalizing **activations** (batch normalization)
- Initialization of weight matrices & bias vectors
- Gradient clipping
- Best practices for hyperparameter optimization
- Ensembling, dropout







In general...

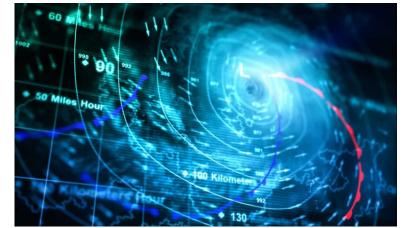
we really want all entries in x to be roughly on the same scale sometimes not a problem:

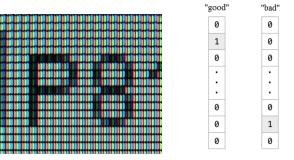
images: all pixels are roughly in [0, 1] or $\{0, \ldots, 255\}$

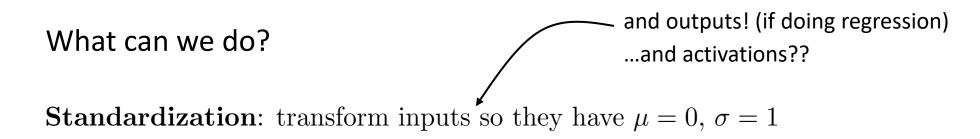
discrete inputs (e.g., NLP): all inputs are one-hot (zero or one) sometimes a **huge** problem:

forecasting the weather?

temperature: somewhere 40-100? humidity: somewhere 0.3 - 0.6? etc.





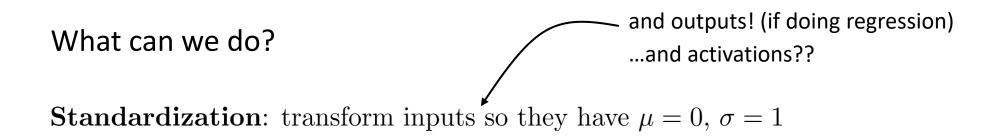


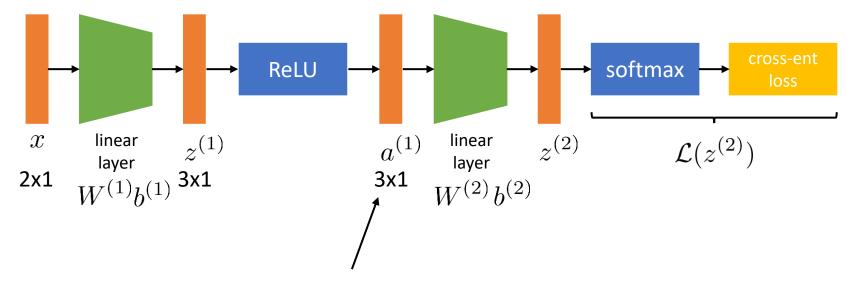
To make $\mu = 0$: $\bar{x}_i = x_i - E[x]$ $E[x] \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i$ all operation

all operations are per-dimension

To also make $\sigma = 1$: $\bar{x}_i = \frac{x_i - E[x]}{\sqrt{E[(x_i - E[x])^2]}}$ \longleftarrow standard deviation

Standardizing activations?





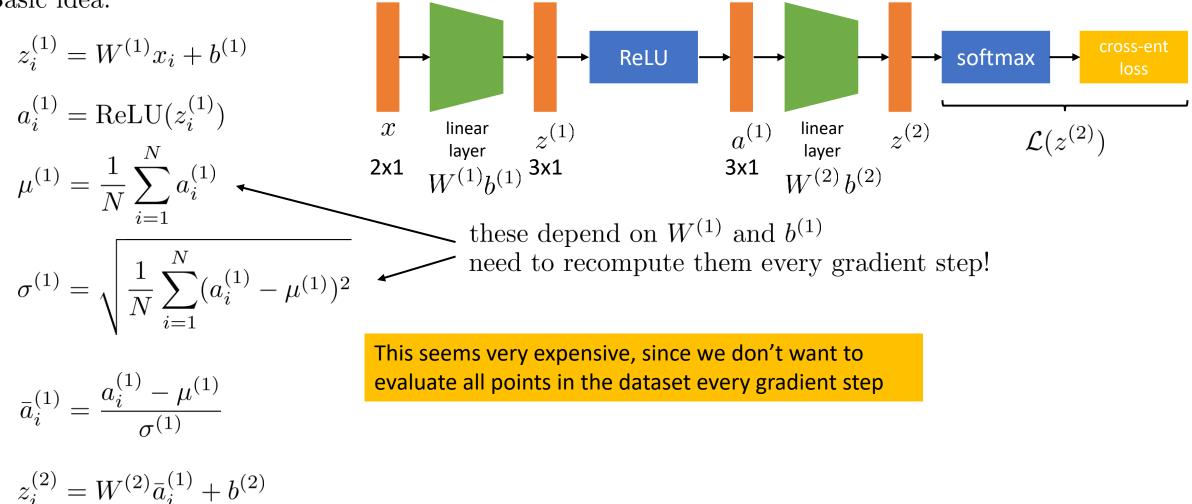
what if we start getting really different scales for each dimension here?

can we just standardize these activations too?

basically yes, but now the mean and standard deviation changes during training...

Standardizing activations?

Basic idea:



etc...

Batch normalization (basic version)

Basic idea:

 $z_i^{(1)} = W^{(1)}x_i + b^{(1)}$ $a_i^{(1)} = \text{ReLU}(z_i^{(1)})$ $\mu^{(1)} = \frac{\Gamma}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu^{(n)}$ $\sigma^{(1)} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (a_i^{(1)} - \mu^{(1)})^2}$ $\bar{a}_i^{(1)} = \frac{a_i^{(1)} - \mu^{(1)}}{(1)}$

 $\mu^{(1)} \approx \frac{1}{B} \sum_{j=1}^{B} a_{i_j}^{(1)}$ $\sigma^{(1)} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{B} \sum_{j=1}^{B} (a_{i_j}^{(1)} - \mu^{(1)})^2}$

This seems very expensive, since we don't want to

evaluate all points in the dataset every gradient step

compute mean and std only over the current **batch**

 $z_i^{(2)} = W^{(2)}\bar{a}_i^{(1)} + b^{(2)}$

etc...

Batch normalization (real version)

Basic idea:

 $z_i^{(1)} = W^{(1)}x_i + b^{(1)}$ $a_i^{(1)} = \text{ReLU}(z_i^{(1)})$ $\mu^{(1)} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} q_{i}^{(1)}$ $\sigma^{(1)} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum (a_i^{(1)} - \mu^{(1)})^2}$ $\bar{a}_{i}^{(1)} =$ $z_i^{(2)} = W^{(2)}\bar{a}_i^{(1)} + b^{(2)}$ etc...

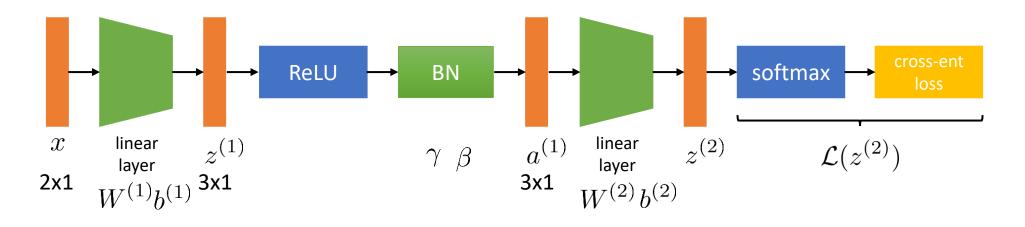
This seems very expensive, since we don't want to evaluate all points in the dataset every gradient step

 $\mu^{(1)} \approx \frac{1}{B} \sum_{j=1}^{B} a_{i_j}^{(1)}$ $\sigma^{(1)} \approx \sqrt{\frac{1}{B} \sum_{j=1}^{B} (a_{i_j}^{(1)} - \mu^{(1)})^2}$

compute mean and std only over the current **batch**

 $\bar{a}_{i}^{(1)} = \frac{a_{i}^{(1)} - \mu^{(1)}}{\sigma^{(1)}} \gamma + \beta$ $\uparrow \swarrow$ learnable scale and bias
same dim as $\bar{a}_{i}^{(1)}$

Batch normalization "layer"



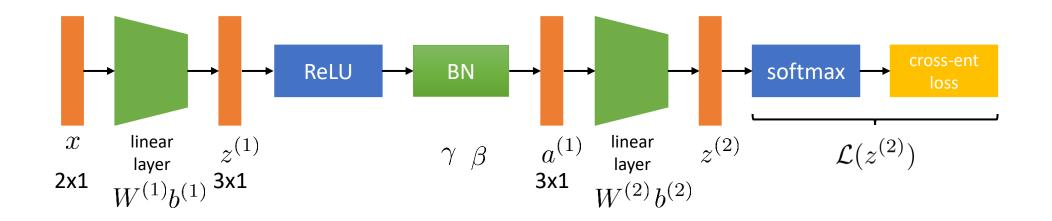
$$\mu^{(1)} \approx \frac{1}{B} \sum_{j=1}^{B} a_{i_j}^{(1)} \qquad \sigma^{(1)} \approx \sqrt{\frac{1}{B} \sum_{j=1}^{B} (a_{i_j}^{(1)} - \mu^{(1)})^2} \qquad \bar{a}_i^{(1)} = \frac{a_i^{(1)} - \mu^{(1)}}{\sigma^{(1)}} \gamma + \beta$$

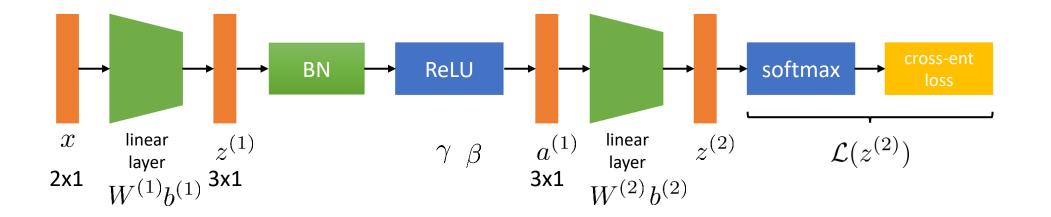
How to train?

Just use backpropagation!

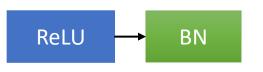
Exercise: figure out the derivatives w.r.t. parameters and input!

Where to put back normalization?

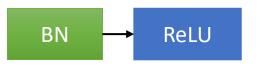




Where to put back normalization?



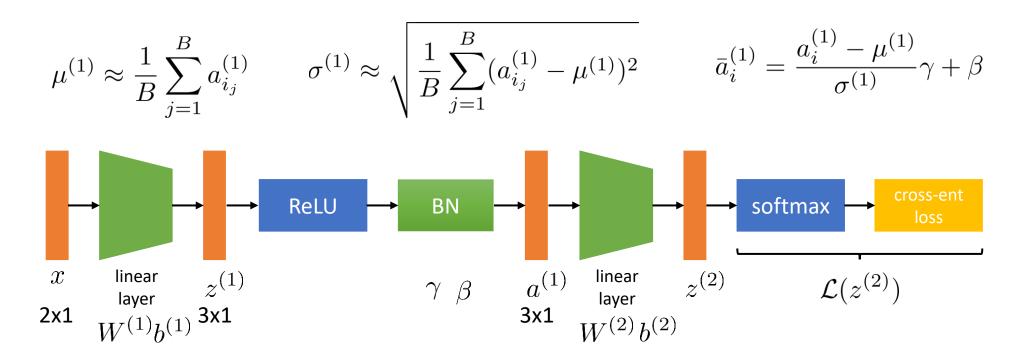
- Scale and bias seemingly should be subsumed by next linear layer?
- All ReLU outputs are positive



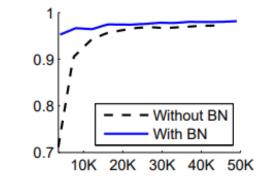
- The "classic" version
- Just appears to be a transformation on the preceding linear layer?

No one seems to agree on what the right way to do it is, try a few options and see what works (but both often work)

A few considerations about batch norm

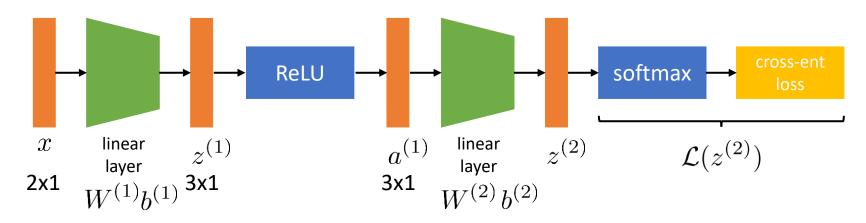


- Often we can use a larger learning rate with batch norm
- > Models with batch norm can train **much** faster
- Generally requires less regularization (e.g., doesn't need dropout)
- Very good idea in many cases



Weight initialization

General themes



- We want the overall scale of activations in the network not to be too big or too small for our initial (randomized) weights, so that the gradients propagate well
- Basic initialization methods: ensure that activations are on a reasonable scale, and the scale of activations doesn't grow or shrink in later layers as we increase the number of layers
- More advanced initialization methods: try to do something about eigenvalues of Jacobians

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dW^{(1)}} = \frac{dz^{(1)}}{dW^{(1)}} \frac{da^{(1)}}{dz^{(1)}} \frac{dz^{(2)}}{da^{(1)}} \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dz^{(2)}}$$
$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dW^{(1)}} = J_1 J_2 J_3 \dots J_n \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dz^{(n)}}$$

If we multiply many many numbers together, what will we get?

If most of the numbers are < 1, we get 0

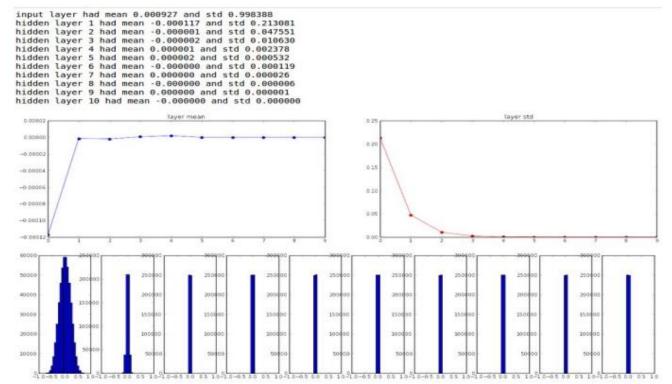
If most of the numbers are > 1, we get infinity

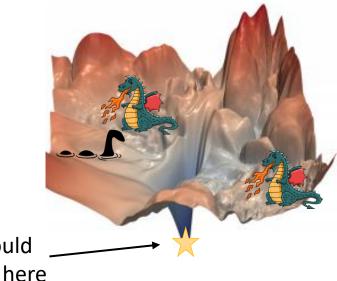
We only get a reasonable answer if the numbers are all close to 1!

Basic initialization

Simple choice: Gaussian random weights

 $W_{jk}^{(i)} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 0.0001)$





Ideally we could ______just initialize here

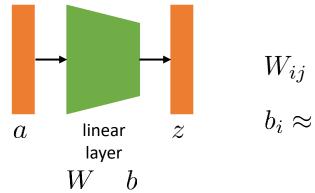
But we have no idea where that is!

Goal is **not** to start at a good solution, but to have well-behaved gradients & activations

Why is this bad? $\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dW^{(i)}} = \frac{dz^{(i)}}{dW^{(i)}} \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dz^{(i)}} = \delta a^{(i-1)^T}$

Image from: Fei-Fei Li & Andrej Karpathy

Basic initialization



$$W_{ij} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_W^2)$$

 $b_i \approx 0$

what is (roughly) the magnitude of z_i ?

$$z_i = \sum_j W_{ij} a_j + b_i \quad b_i \approx 0 \qquad \text{assume } a_j \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_a)$$
everything is (roughly) 0-mean

$$E[z_i^2] = \sum_j E[W_{ij}^2] E[a_j^2] = D_a \sigma_W^2 \sigma_a^2$$

dimensionality of a

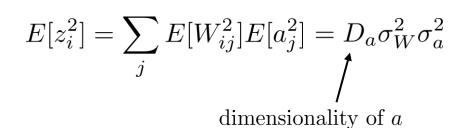
if $D_a \sigma_W^2 > 1$, magnitude grows with each layer! if $D_a \sigma_W^2 < 1$, magnitude shrinks with each layer! what if we choose $\sigma_W^2 = 1/D_a$?

reasonable choice!

if we standardize x, then

 $x \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

Basic initialization



if $D_a \sigma_W^2 > 1$, magnitude grows with each layer! if $D_a \sigma_W^2 < 1$, magnitude shrinks with each layer! what if we choose $\sigma_W^2 = 1/D_a$?

this sometimes referred to as "Xavier initialization"

basic principle: get std of W_{ij} to be about $1/\sqrt{D_a}$

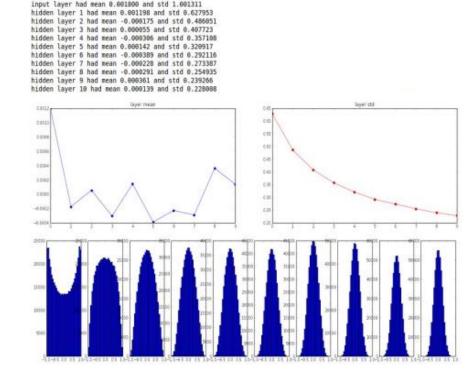
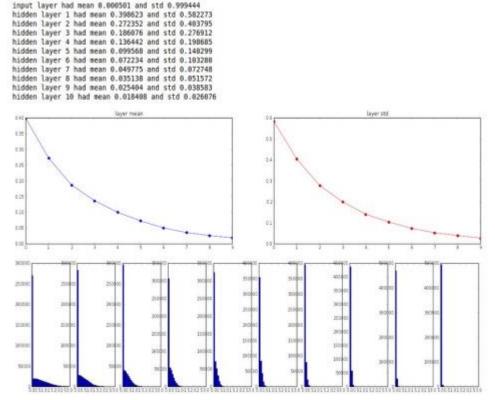


Image from: Fei-Fei Li & Andrej Karpathy

Little detail: ReLUs

$$E[z_{i}^{2}] = \sum_{j} E[W_{ij}^{2}] E[a_{j}^{2}] = D_{a}\sigma_{W}^{2}\sigma_{a}^{2}$$

basic principle: get std of W_{ij} to be about $1/\sqrt{D_a}$



This was all without nonlinearities!

problem: $a_j = \operatorname{ReLU}(z_j)$

"negative half" of 0-mean activations is removed! variance is cut in half!

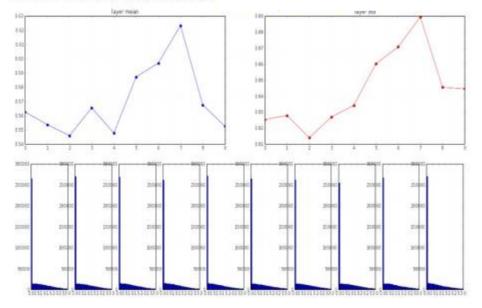
might not seem like much... but it adds up!

Little detail: ReLUs

$$E[z_{i}^{2}] = \sum_{j} E[W_{ij}^{2}]E[a_{j}^{2}] = D_{a}\sigma_{W}^{2}\sigma_{a}^{2}$$

basic principle: get std of W_{ij} to be about $1/\sqrt{D_a}$

input layer had mean 0.000501 and std 0.999444 hidden layer 1 had mean 0.562408 and std 0.825232 hidden layer 2 had mean 0.553614 and std 0.827835 hidden layer 3 had mean 0.565396 and std 0.8270835 hidden layer 4 had mean 0.565396 and std 0.826902 hidden layer 5 had mean 0.547678 and std 0.826902 hidden layer 6 had mean 0.597103 and std 0.860035 hidden layer 7 had mean 0.595867 and std 0.860035 hidden layer 7 had mean 0.525241 and std 0.80940 hidden layer 9 had mean 0.525231 and std 0.84523



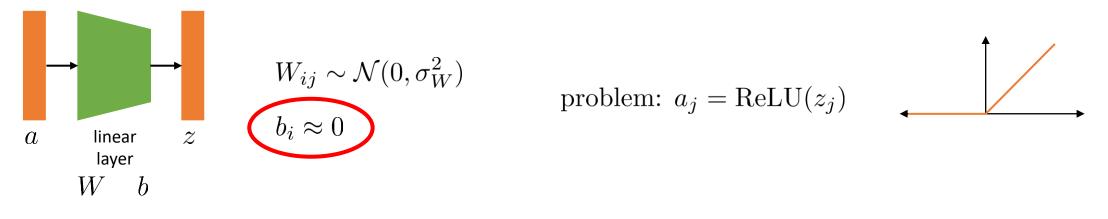
This was all without nonlinearities!

problem: $a_j = \operatorname{ReLU}(z_j)$

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might not seem like much... proposed by He et al. for ResNet makes big difference 150+ layers...

Littler detail: ReLUs & biases



half of our units (on average) will be "dead"!

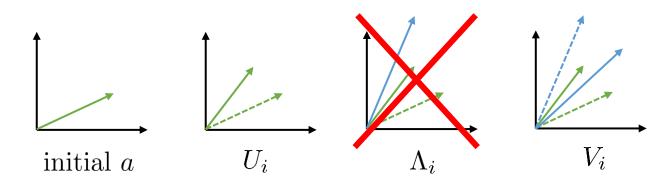
often initialize $b_i = 0.1$ (or small constant)

Advanced initialization

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dW^{(1)}} = \frac{dz^{(1)}}{dW^{(1)}} \frac{da^{(1)}}{dz^{(1)}} \frac{dz^{(2)}}{da^{(1)}} \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dz^{(2)}}$$
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If we multiply many many numbers together, what will we get?
 If most of the numbers are < 1, we get 0
 If most of the numbers are > 1, we get infinity
 We only get a reasonable answer if the numbers are all close to 1!

for each J_i , we can write: $J_i = U_i \Lambda_i V_i$ e.g., using singular value decomposition scale-preserving transformations diagonal matrix with same eigenvalues as J_i (i.e., orthonormal bases)



Advanced initialization

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dW^{(1)}} = \frac{dz^{(1)}}{dW^{(1)}} \frac{da^{(1)}}{dz^{(1)}} \frac{dz^{(2)}}{da^{(1)}} \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dz^{(2)}}$$
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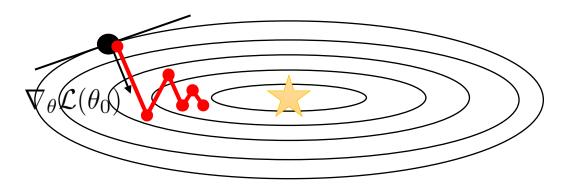
for each $W^{(i)}$, we can write: $W^{(i)} = U^{(i)} \Lambda^{(i)} V^{(i)}$ e.g., using singular value decomposition $W^{(i)} \leftarrow U^{(i)} V^{(i)}$ just need to force this to be identity matrix

even simpler:

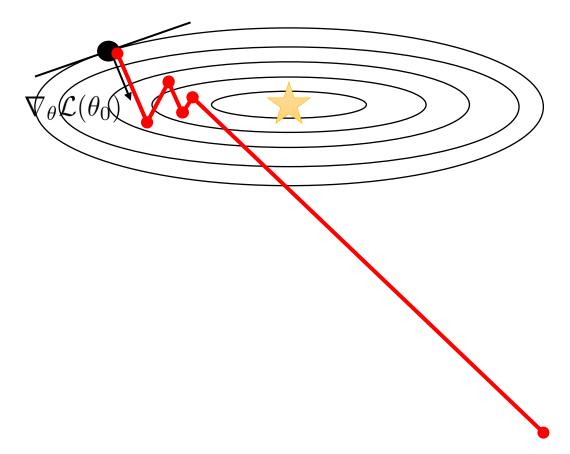
https://github.com/Lasagne/Lasagne

Last bit: Gradient clipping

what we hope happens:



what actually happens: because deep learning, that's why



- > Took a step that was too big in the wrong place
- Something got divided by something small (e.g., in batch norm, softmax, etc.)
- Just got really unlucky

Clipping the monster gradients

per-element clipping: $\bar{g}_i \leftarrow \max(\min(g_i, c_i), -c_i)$ norm clipping: $\bar{g}_i \leftarrow g \frac{\min(||g||, c)}{||g||}$

how to choose c?

run a few epochs (assuming it doesn't explode) see what "healthy" magnitudes look like

Ensembles & dropout

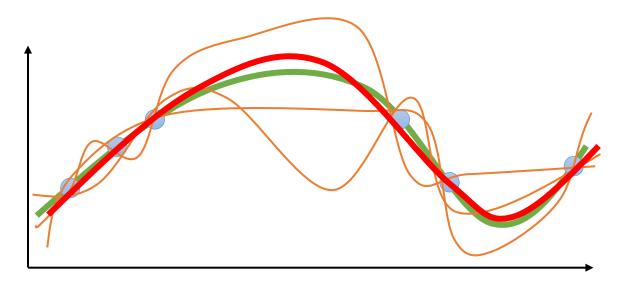
What if my model makes a mistake?

Problem: neural networks have many parameters, often have high variance

Not **nearly** as high as we would expect from basic learning theory (i.e., overfitting is usually **not** catastrophic), but still...

Interesting idea: when we have multiple high-variance learners, maybe they'll **agree** on the right answer, but **disagree** on the wrong answer

Said another way: there are many more ways to be wrong than to be right



Ensembles in theory

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Variance} &= E_{\mathcal{D} \sim p(\mathcal{D})}[||f_{\mathcal{D}}(x) - \bar{f}(x)||^2] \\ & \bar{f}(x) = E_{\mathcal{D} \sim p(\mathcal{D})}[f_{\mathcal{D}}(x)] \approx \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M f_{\mathcal{D}_j}(x) \\ & \swarrow \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{can we actually estimate this thing?} \end{aligned} \qquad \text{where do we get M different datasets??} \end{aligned}$$

Can we **cook up** multiple independent datasets from a single one?

overlapping but independently sampled Simple approach: just chop a big dataset into M-non-overlapping parts

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i)\}$$

turns out we actually don't need this!

for each \mathcal{D}_j pick N indices randomly in $\{1, ..., N\}$ $i_{j,1}, ..., i_{j,N}$

$$\mathcal{D}_j = \{ (x_{i_{j,1}}, y_{i_{j,1}})(x_{i_{j,2}}, y_{i_{j,2}}), \dots, (x_{i_{j,N}}, y_{i_{j,N}}) \}$$

Ensembles in theory

 $\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i)\}$

for each \mathcal{D}_j pick N indices randomly in $\{1, ..., N\}$ $i_{j,1}, ..., i_{j,N}$

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This is called resampling with replacement

 \mathcal{D} $x_1 x_2 x_3$

train separate models on each \mathcal{D}_j

Ensembles in theory

 $\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i)\}$

for each \mathcal{D}_j pick N indices randomly in $\{1, ..., N\}$ $i_{j,1}, ..., i_{j,N}$

$$\mathcal{D}_j = \{ (x_{i_{j,1}}, y_{i_{j,1}})(x_{i_{j,2}}, y_{i_{j,2}}), \dots, (x_{i_{j,N}}, y_{i_{j,N}}) \}$$

train separate models on each \mathcal{D}_j

 $p_{\theta_1}(y|x),...,p_{\theta_M}(y|x)$

how do we predict?

principled approach: average the probabilities:

$$p(y|x) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{j=1}^{M} p_{\theta_j}(y|x)$$

 $\mathbf{simple} \text{ approach: majority vote}$

Ensembles in practice

There is already a lot of randomness in neural network training

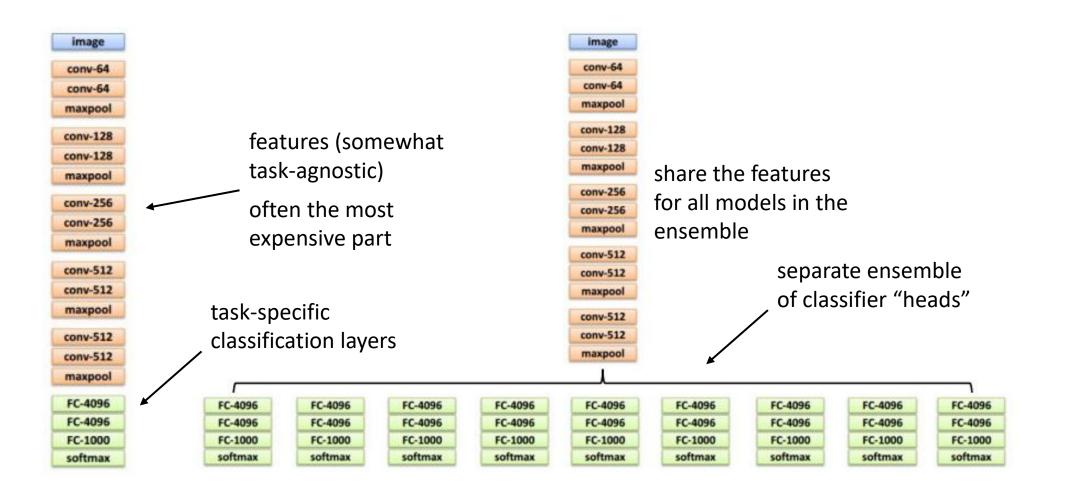
- Random initialization
- Random minibatch shuffling
- Stochastic gradient descent

In practice we get much of the same benefit without resampling

train M models $p_{\theta_j}(y|x)$ on the same \mathcal{D}

$$p(y|x) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{j=1}^{M} p_{\theta_j}(y|x)$$
 or majority vote

Even faster ensembles



Even fasterer ensembles

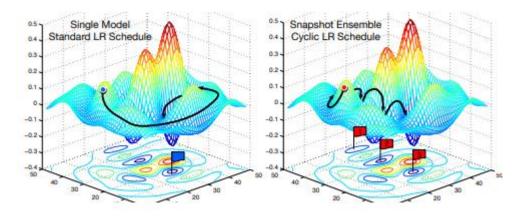
snapshot ensembles:

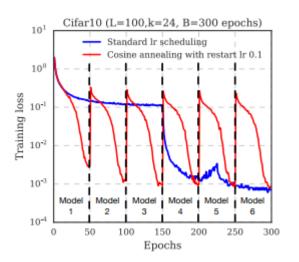
save out parameter snapshots over the course of SGD optimization, use each snapshot as a model in the ensemble

advantage: don't need to have a bunch of separate training runs

...but need to set things up carefully so that the snapshots are actually different

combining predictions: could average probabilities or vote, or **just average the parameter vectors together**





Huang et al., Snapshot Ensembles: Train 1, Get M For Free

Some comparisons

Model	Prediction method	Test Accuracy
Baseline (10 epochs)	Single model	0.837
True ensemble of 10 models	Average predictions	0.855
True ensemble of 10 models	Voting	0.851
Snapshots (25) over 10 epochs	Average predictions	0.865
Snapshots (25) over 10 epochs	Voting	0.861
Snapshots (25) over 10 epochs	Parameter averaging	0.864

your mileage may vary

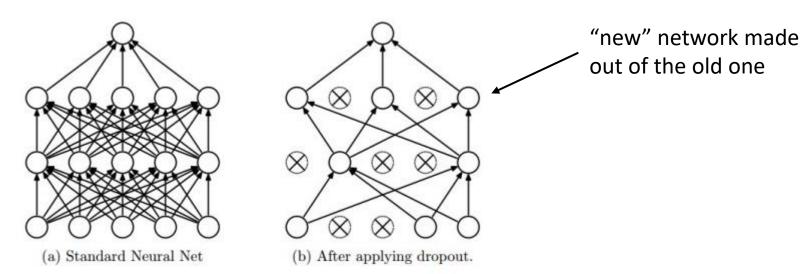
Really really big ensembles?

The bigger the ensemble is, the better it works (usually)

But making huge ensembles is expensive

Can we make multiple models out of a single neural network?

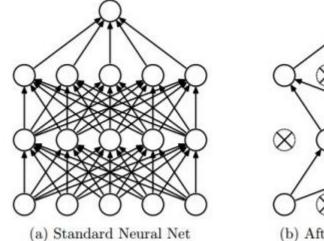
Dropout

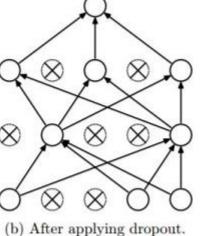


randomly set some activations to zero in the forward pass

Dropout

randomly set some activations to zero in the forward pass





p = 0.5 # probability of keeping a unit active. higher = less dropout

def train_step(X):

""" X contains the data """

forward pass for example 3-layer neural network

H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1)

U1 = np.random.rand(*H1.shape)

H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)

U2 = np.random.rand(*H2.shape) H2 *= U2 # drop!

out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3

backward pass: compute gradients... (not shown)
perform parameter update... (not shown)

Andrej Karpathy

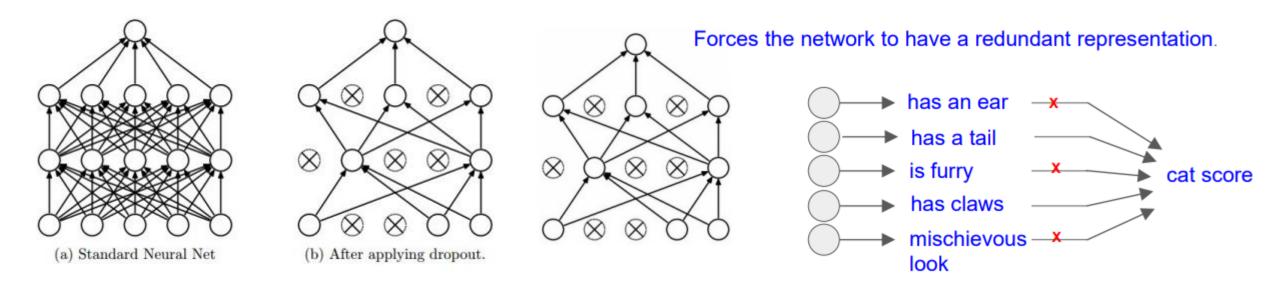
Implementation:

for each $a_j^{(i)}$, set it to $a_j^{(i)} m_{ij}$ $m_{ij} \sim \text{Bernoulli}(0.5)$ 1.0 with

1.0 with probability 50%, 0.0 otherwise

Dropout

randomly set some activations to zero in the forward pass



How could this possibly work?

- Can think of every **dropout mask** as defining a different model
- Hence this looks like a huge ensemble
- How huge?

At test time...

During training:

for each
$$a_j^{(i)}$$
, set it to $a_j^{(i)} m_{ij}$
 $m_{ij} \sim \text{Bernoulli}(0.5)$

p = 0.5 # probability of keeping a unit active, higher = less dropout def train step(X): # forward pass for example 3-layer neural network $H1 = np.maximum(\theta, np.dot(W1, X) + b1)$ U1 = (np.random.rand(*H1.shape) < p) / p # first dropout mask. Notice /p/ H1 *= U1 # drop! H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)U2 = (np.random.rand(*H2.shape) < p) / p # second dropout mask. Notice /p H2 *= U2 # drop! out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3# backward pass: compute gradients... (not shown) # perform parameter update... (not shown) test time is unchanged! def predict(X): # ensembled forward pass H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1) # no scaling necessary H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3

Andrej Karpathy

At test time: want to combine all the models

could just generate many dropout masks

what if we stop dropping out at test time?

before: on average $\frac{1}{2}$ of dimensions are forced to 0 now: none of them are, so $W^{(i)}a^{(i)}$ will be $\approx 2 \times$ bigger solution: $\bar{W}^{(i)} = \frac{1}{2}W^{(i)}$ (divide all weights by 2!)

Hyperparameters

- > With all these tricks, we have **a lot** of hyperparameters
- Some of these affect **optimization** (training)
 - Learning rate
 - Momentum
 - Initialization
 - Batch normalization
- Some of these affect generalization (validation)
 - Ensembling
 - Dropout
 - Architecture (# and size of layers)
- How do we pick these?
 - Recognize which is which: this can really matter!
 - Bad learning rate, momentum, initialization etc. shows up **very** early on in the training process

loss

good learning rate

- Effect of architecture usually only apparent after training is done
- Coarse to fine: start with broad sweep, then zero in
- Consider random hyperparameter search instead of grid

Example: short (5 epoch) log-space LR & weight decay sweep

