Combining Supervised and Unsupervised Learning (and the Ladder Network)

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About me (Tapani Raiko)

- MSc 2001 Helsinki University of Technology Deep learning (Hierarchical Nonlinear Factor Analysis) Erkki Oja, Juha Karhunen, Harri Valpola
- DSc 2006, Same group
 Variational Bayesian modelling, relational models
- ZenRobotics Ltd 2009-2014 (primary job 2013)
- Assistant prof 2014- Aalto University
- Research visits:
 - ► Luc De Raedt, Freiburg, 2001-2002
 - ► Yann Lecun, New York, 2010
 - ► Geoffrey Hinton, Toronto, 2012
 - Yoshua Bengio, Montreal, 2014



Motivation



Deep learning today:

- Mostly about pure supervised learning
- Requires a lot of labeled data: expensive to collect

Deep learning in the future:

 Unsupervised, more human-like

"We expect unsupervised learning to become far more important in the longer term. Human and animal learning is largely unsupervised: we discover the structure of the world by observing it, not by being told the name of every object." -LeCun, Bengio, Hinton, Nature 2015

Motivation: Ladder network



Yearly progress in permutation-invariant MNIST. A. Rasmus, H. Valpola, M. Honkala, M. Berglund, and T. Raiko. Semi-Supervised Learning with Ladder Network. ArXiv, July 2015.



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How can unlabeled data help in classification? Example: Only two data points with labels.



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How would you label this point?

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What if you see all the unlabeled data?

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Labels are homogenous in densely populated space.

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Labels are homogenous in densely populated space.

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Labeled data: $\{\mathbf{x}_t, y_t\}_{1 \le t \le N}$. Unlabeled data: $\{\mathbf{x}_t\}_{N+1 \le t \le M}$. Often labeled data is scarce, unlabeled data is plentiful: $N \ll M$.

Early works (McLachlan, 1975; Titterington et al., 1985) modelled $P(\mathbf{x}|y)$ as clusters. Unlabeled data affects the shape and size of clusters. Use Bayes theorem $P(y|\mathbf{x}) \propto P(\mathbf{x}|y)P(y)$ to classify.



How about $P(y|\mathbf{x})$ directly?

Modelling $P(\mathbf{x}|y)$ is inefficient when real task is $P(y|\mathbf{x})$.

Idea? Assign probabilistic labels $q(y_t) = P(y_t | \mathbf{x}_t)$ to unlabeled inputs \mathbf{x}_t , and train $P(y | \mathbf{x})$ with them. However, there is no effect as the gradient vanishes:

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}_{q(y)} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log P(y \mid \mathbf{x}) \right] &= \int q(y) \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} P(y \mid \mathbf{x})}{P(y \mid \mathbf{x})} \mathrm{d}y \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \int P(y \mid \mathbf{x}) \mathrm{d}y = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} 1 = 0. \end{split}$$

There are ways to adjust the assigned labels $q(y_t)$ to make them count.



Adjusting assigned labels $q(y_t)$ (1/2)



Label propagation (Szummer and Jaakkola, 2003)

- ► Nearest neighbours tend to have the same label.
- Propagate labels to their neighbours and iterate.

Pseudo-labels (Lee, 2013)

► Round probabilistic labels q(y_t) towards 0/1 gradually during training.



Adjusting assigned labels $q(y_t)$ (2/2)

Co-training (Blum and Mitchell, 1998)

- Assumes multiple views on \mathbf{x} , say $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \mathbf{x}^{(2)})$.
- Train a separate classifier $P(y | \mathbf{x}^{(j)})$ for each view.
- For unlabeled data, the true label is the same for each view.
- ► Combine individual q^(j)(y_t) into a joint q(y_t) and feed it as target to each classifier.

Part of Ladder network (Rasmus et al., 2015)

- Corrupt input \mathbf{x}_t with noise to get $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t$.
- Train $P(y|\tilde{\mathbf{x}})$ with a target from clean $q(y_t) = P(y_t|\mathbf{x}_t)$.



Code available



You can play with this as the last (third) exercise. In low dimensions, bad local minima are an issue.



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Unsupervised learning

Data is just \mathbf{x}' , not input-output pairs \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} . Possible goals:

- Model $P(\mathbf{x}')$, or
- Representation $f : \mathbf{x}' \to \mathbf{h}$.

Comparisons to supervised learning $P(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})$:

- See data as $\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{y}$, model $P(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x} = \varnothing)$
- No right output y given, invent your own output h
- ► Concatenate inputs and outputs to x' = [x; y], prepare to answer any query, including P(y|x).

From here on, data is just \mathbf{x} . Notation \mathbf{x}' was used to avoid confusion.



Approaches to unsupervised learning (1/2)

Besides kernel density estimation, virtually all unsupervised learning approaches use variables **h**.

- Discrete h (cluster index, hidden state of HMM, map unit of SOM)
- Binary vector h (most Boltzmann machines)
- Continuous vector h (PCA, ICA, NMF, sparse coding, autoencoders, state-space models, ...)

Vocabulary:

- Encoder function $f : \mathbf{x} \to \mathbf{h}$
- Decoder function $g: \mathbf{h} \to \hat{\mathbf{x}}$
- Reconstruction $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$

 $\widehat{\mathbf{x}}$

g

h

Х

Approaches to unsupervised learning (2/2)

Often the encoder function $f : \mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{h}$ is implicit:

- Nearest cluster center $f(\mathbf{x}) = \arg\min_h D(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}_h)$
- Bayesian inference in a generative model, e.g. maximum a posteriori f(x) = arg max_h P(x|h)P(h)

In complex models, exact inference is often impossible. Approximate inference might hurt learning.

Autoencoders have an explicit encoder function $f(\cdot)$, which makes learning complex models easier: Just backpropagation!



PCA as an autoencoder (1/2)



Assume linear encoder and decoder:

$$egin{aligned} f(\mathbf{x}) &= \mathbf{W}^{(1)}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}^{(1)}\ g(\mathbf{h}) &= \mathbf{W}^{(2)}\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{b}^{(2)} \end{aligned}$$

PCA solution minimizes criterion $C = \mathbb{E} \left| \|\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 \right|$.

Note: Solution is not unique, even if restricting $\mathbf{W}^{(2)} = \mathbf{W}^{(1)\top}$.



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PCA as an autoencoder (2/2)

Just learning the identity mapping
$$g(f(\cdot)) = I(\cdot)$$
?
 $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = g(f(\mathbf{x})) = (\mathbf{W}^{(2)}\mathbf{W}^{(1)})\mathbf{x} + (\mathbf{W}^{(2)}\mathbf{b}^{(1)} + \mathbf{b}^{(2)})$
We get $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}$ when $\mathbf{W}^{(2)} = (\mathbf{W}^{(1)})^{-1}$ and
 $\mathbf{b}^{(2)} = -\mathbf{W}^{(2)}\mathbf{b}^{(1)}$.

So any encoder with an invertible $\mathbf{W}^{(1)}$ is optimal.

How to make the autoencoding problem harder?



Regularized autoencoders

Regularization avoids learning the identity function:

- Bottleneck autoencoder (limit dimensionality of h) (Bourlard and Kamp, 1988, Oja, 1991)
- Sparse autoencoder (penalize activations of h) (Ranzato et al., 2006, Le et al., 2011)
- Denoising autoencoder (inject noise to input x) (Vincent et al., 2008)
- ▶ Contractive autoencoder (penalize Jacobian of f(·)) (Rifai et al., 2011)
- Variational autoencoder (probabilistic)
- Sometimes also weight sharing W⁽²⁾ = W^{(1)⊤}.



Denoising autoencoder (Vincent et al., 2008)



Feed corrupted inputs $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} \sim c(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}|\mathbf{x})$

- Additive noise $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}$ where e.g. $\epsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \sigma^2)$
- Salt noise x̃ = m ⊙ x or x̃_i = m_ix_i where binary m_i ~ Bernoulli(p)
- Masking noise $\mathbf{\tilde{x}} = [\mathbf{m} \odot \mathbf{x}; \mathbf{m}]$

Train $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = g(f(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}))$ to minimize reconstruction error, e.g. $C = \mathbb{E} \left[\|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}\|^2 \right]$.

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Denoising autoencoder



Basic encoder $\mathbf{h} = f(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) = \Phi \left(\mathbf{W}^{(1)} \tilde{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{b}^{(1)} \right)$ and decoder $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = g(\mathbf{h}) = \mathbf{W}^{(2)}\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{b}^{(2)}$. Deep autoencoder: both f and g multi-layered.



What does denoising autoencoder learn?



To point $g(f(\cdot))$ towards higher probability. Image from (Alain and Bengio, 2014)



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Comparison to training a classifier



- ► Training a classifier (left), when you get the labels right, learning stops. ⇒ Learned parameters are based on the information in labels: Less than #examples×#classes bits.
- Training a denoising autoencoder (right), outputs are richer: #examples×#dimensions.

- Use unsupervised learning to construct representations layer by layer (Ballard, 1987).
- Breakthrough with Boltzmann machines (Hinton and Salakhutdinov 2006), starting deep learning boom.
- Presented here: Stacked denoising autoencoders





Phase 1: Denoising autoencoder.





Toss away the decoder $g(\cdot)$.





Phase 2: Stack another layer, keep the bottom fixed.





Toss away the second decoder $g_2(\cdot)$.



Supervised finetuning



Phase 3: Supervised finetuning with labels y. Note: Encoder f of an autoencoder is the same mapping as used in supervised learning.

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On details and invariance



What is average of images in the category Cat? What is the average of Dog?



On details and invariance



Answer: both are just blurry blobs.

Autoencoder tries to learn a representation from which it can reconstruct the observations.

It cannot discard details: position, pose, lighting...

 \Rightarrow Not well compatible with supervised learning.



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Denoising versus probabilistic modelling

- We noted that denoising models are much easier to train than probabilistic models.
 Trainable by basic back-propagation.
- There is a strong connection between the two: Models can be converted into each other.





Given: Model P(x) and observation $\tilde{x} = x + \text{noise}$. Noise distribution known.

Task: Find $\hat{x} = \arg \min \mathbb{E}_x \left[(x - \hat{x})^2 \right]$. Solution: Compute the posterior $P(x \mid \tilde{x})$, use its center of gravity as reconstruction \hat{x} .





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Denoising to probability

(Generative Stochastic Networks, Bengio et al., 2014)



Markov chain alternating between corruption $C(\tilde{X}|X)$ and denoising $P(X|\tilde{X})$. Theoretical result: Stationary distribution is P(X).

Denoising to probability (Bengio et al., 2014)



Generating samples from the Markov chain.



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Denoising to probability (Bengio et al., 2014)



Reconstructing the left half.



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Ladder network, main ideas

- Shortcut connections in an autoencoder network allow it to discard details.
- Learning in deep networks can be made efficient by spreading unsupervised learning targets all over the network.



Combining DSS+DAE



Denoising Source Separation (Särelä and Valpola, 2005)

Denoising Autoencoder (Vincent et al., 2008)

Ladder Network (Valpola, 2015, Rasmus et al., 2015)





Same encoder $f(\cdot)$ used for corrupted and clean paths.



Supervised learning: Backprop from output \tilde{y} .



Unsupervised learning: Several denoising autoencoders simultaneously.



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Unsupervised learning: Produce robust representations (DSS aspect).



Read test output from the clean path. (Not used in training.)



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Training criterion

Only one phase of training: Minimize criterion C.

$$C = -\log P(\tilde{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{x}_t) + \sum_{l=0}^{L} \lambda_l \left\| \mathbf{z}^{(l)} - \hat{\mathbf{z}}_{BN}^{(l)} \right\|^2$$



Scaling issues



Issue 1: Doubling $W^{(1)}$ and halving $W^{(2)}$ decreases noise. Issue 2: Collapsing $z^{(1)} = \hat{z}^{(1)} = 0$ eliminates cost $C^{(1)}$. Solution: Batch normalization (loffe and Szegedy, 2015)

Some model details





 $g(\tilde{\mathbf{z}}, \mathbf{u})$ done componentwise: $g_i(\tilde{z}_i, u_i)$.

Functional form of lateral connections?



Gaussian model: $P(z) = \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma_p^2)$ Gaussian noise: $P(\tilde{z}|z) = \mathcal{N}(z, \sigma_n^2)$ Optimal denoising: $\hat{z} = \frac{\sigma_n^2}{\sigma_p^2 + \sigma_n^2} \mu + \frac{\sigma_p^2}{\sigma_p^2 + \sigma_n^2} \tilde{z}$ Top-down signal *u* corresponds to P(z).



Functional form of lateral connections?

$$\widetilde{z} \xrightarrow{g(\widetilde{z}, u)} \widetilde{z}$$

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Recall $\hat{z} = \frac{\sigma_n^2}{\sigma_p^2 + \sigma_n^2} \mu + \frac{\sigma_p^2}{\sigma_p^2 + \sigma_n^2} \tilde{z}$ from previous slide. Additive: $\hat{z}_{add} = g_1(\tilde{z}) + g_2(u)$ corresponds to modelling the mean μ with u. Modulated: $\hat{z}_{mod} = g_3(\tilde{z}, u)(\tilde{z} + \text{bias})$ corresponds to modelling variance σ_p^2 with u.



Functional form of lateral connections?



How to interpret top-down signal u modulating: Does this detail in \tilde{z} fit in the big picture? If yes, trust it at let it through to reconstruction \hat{z} . If not, filter it away as noise.



Analysis: Unsupervised learning



We compare deep denoising autoencoder and Ladder with additive or modulated lateral connections. Data is small natural image patches.



Analysis: Unsupervised learning Denoising performance



1 million parameters, vary sizes of layers. Result: Modulated connections best. Ladder needs fewer units on $\mathbf{h}^{(2)}$.



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Analysis: Unsupervised learning

Translation invariance measure of units $\mathbf{h}^{(2)}$ as a function of unit significance.



With modulated connections, all units become invariant.



Analysis: Unsupervised learning

Learned pooling functions



Each $\mathbf{h}^{(1)}$ unit belongs to several pooling groups. Units $\mathbf{h}^{(2)}$ specialize to colour, orientation, location, ...



Small network for $\hat{z}_i = g(\tilde{z}_i, u_i)$



Each unit *i* has its own mini network with 9 parameters. Few parameters compared to weight matrices. Product $u_i \tilde{z}_i$ for modulating (variance modelling). Nonlinearity for multimodal distributions.



Example of a multimodal distribution



Signal $z_0^{(L)}$ for digit 0 just before softmax.

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Algorithm 1 Calculation of the output and cost function of the Ladder network

Require: $\mathbf{x}(n)$ # Corrupted encoder and classifier $\tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(0)} \leftarrow \tilde{\mathbf{z}}^{(0)} \leftarrow \mathbf{x}(n) + \texttt{noise}$ for l = 1 to L do $\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_{\text{pre}}^{(l)} \leftarrow \mathbf{W}^{(l)} \tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(l-1)}$ $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{(l)} \leftarrow \texttt{batchmean}(\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_{\text{pre}}^{(l)})$ $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}^{(l)} \leftarrow \texttt{batchstd}(\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_{\text{pre}}^{(l)})$ $\tilde{\mathbf{z}}^{(l)} \leftarrow \texttt{batchnorm}(\tilde{\mathbf{z}}^{(l)}_{\texttt{pre}}) + \texttt{noise}$ $\tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(l)} \leftarrow \texttt{activation}(\boldsymbol{\gamma}^{(l)} \odot (\tilde{\mathbf{z}}^{(l)} + \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(l)}))$ end for $P(\tilde{\mathbf{v}} \mid \mathbf{x}) \leftarrow \tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(L)}$ # Clean encoder (for denoising targets) $\mathbf{h}^{(0)} \leftarrow \mathbf{z}^{(0)} \leftarrow \mathbf{x}(n)$ for l = 1 to L do $\mathbf{z}^{(l)} \leftarrow \texttt{batchnorm}(\mathbf{W}^{(l)}\mathbf{h}^{(l-1)})$ $\mathbf{h}^{(l)} \leftarrow \texttt{activation}(\boldsymbol{\gamma}^{(l)} \odot (\mathbf{z}^{(l)} + \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(l)}))$ end for

Final classification: $P(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x}) \leftarrow \mathbf{h}^{(L)}$ # Decoder and denoising for l = L to 0 do if l = L then $\mathbf{u}^{(L)} \leftarrow \texttt{batchnorm}(\tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(L)})$ else $\mathbf{u}^{(l)} \leftarrow \texttt{batchnorm}(\mathbf{V}^{(l)}\hat{\mathbf{z}}^{(l+1)})$ end if $\forall i: \hat{z}_i^{(l)} \leftarrow q(\tilde{z}_i^{(l)}, u_i^{(l)}) \# \text{Eq.} (1)$ $\forall i : \hat{z}_{i \text{ BN}}^{(l)} \leftarrow \frac{\hat{z}_{i}^{(l)} - \tilde{\mu}_{i}^{(l)}}{\tilde{z}^{(l)}}$ end for # Cost function C for training: $C \leftarrow 0$ if t(n) then $C \leftarrow -\log P(\tilde{\mathbf{v}} = t(n) \mid \mathbf{x})$ end if $\mathbf{C} \leftarrow \mathbf{C} + \sum_{l=0}^{L} \lambda_l \left\| \mathbf{z}^{(l)} - \hat{\mathbf{z}}_{BN}^{(l)} \right\|^2$

MNIST results





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Thanks for listening!



Deep Learning and Bayesian Modelling group



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Gamma (Г) model



Simplified model: Only auxiliary cost just before softmaxim

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