

Optimization for Training Deep Models

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Table of Contents

- Optimization for machine learning models
- Challenges of optimizing neural networks
- Optimizations
 - algorithms
 - initializations
 - adapting the learning rate
 - leveraging second derivatives
 - optimization algorithms and meta-algorithms

How Learning Differs from Pure Optimization

Optimization for ML

- Goal and Objective Function
 - **ML** (goal not always equal to obj func)
 - Goal: evaluation measure AUC
 - Obj func: cross entropy, squared loss
 - **Pure Optimization** (goal = obj func)

Objective Function

$$J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{x}, y) \sim \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} L(f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), y)$$

$$J^*(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{x}, y) \sim p_{\text{data}}} L(f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), y)$$

Empirical Risk Minimization

- Risk minimization
- Empirical risk minimization
- if $p^*(x,y) = p(x,y)$
- **ML** is based on empirical risk, **OPT** is based on true risk.

Surrogate Loss Function

- Challenges:
 - empirical risk minimization is prone to overfitting
 - 0-1 loss with no derivatives $L(\hat{y}, y) = I(\hat{y} \neq y)$
- Solution
 - negative log-likelihood of the correct class as surrogate for 0-1 loss
- ML especially for DL is usually based on surrogate loss functions.

Local Minima

- **ML** minimizes a surrogate loss and halts when a convergence criterion (e.g. early stop) is satisfied. i.e. drop into a local minima
 - converges even when gradient is still large
- **OPT** converges when gradient becomes very small.

Batch and Minibatch

- **ML** optimization algorithms typically compute update based on an expected value of cost function using only a subset of the terms of the full cost function.
- why
 - more computations, not much more effectiveness
 - redundancy within training sets σ / \sqrt{n}
 - batch/deterministic gradient methods = utilize all samples
 - stochastic gradient descent = utilize 1 sample

Mini-batch

- utilize >1 and $<$ all samples
- factors of mini-batch size
 - more accurate estimate of the gradient
 - multicore architectures underutilize extremely small batches
 - memory in parallel system scales batch size
 - specific hardware better run with specific sizes of arrays
 - small batch offers regularizing effect (Wilson 2003)

Mini-batch

- Unrepeated mini-batch learning models generalization error.

$$J^*(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} \sum_y p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x}, y) L(f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), y)$$

$$\mathbf{g} = \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} J^*(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} \sum_y p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x}, y) \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} L(f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), y)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{g}} = \frac{1}{m} \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \sum_i L(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), y^{(i)})$$

- Tips of mini-batch learning
 - shuffle dataset
 - parallel computing

Challenges in Neural Network Optimization

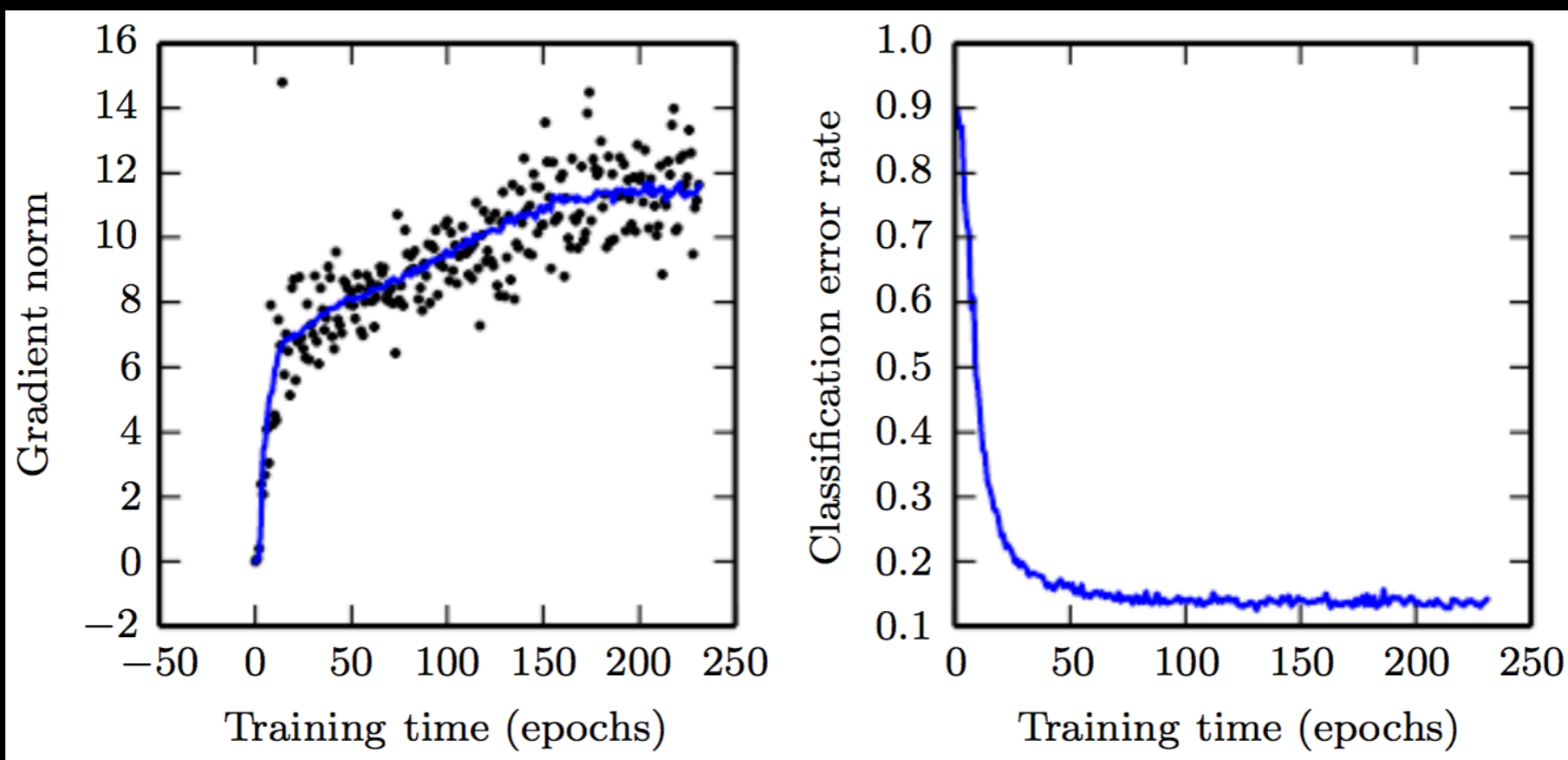
Challenges

- General non-convex case
- Ill-conditioning
 - methods to solve it needs modification for NN
- Local Minima

ill-conditioning

$$f(\mathbf{x}) \approx f(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}) + (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{(0)})^\top \mathbf{g} + \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{(0)})^\top \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{(0)})$$

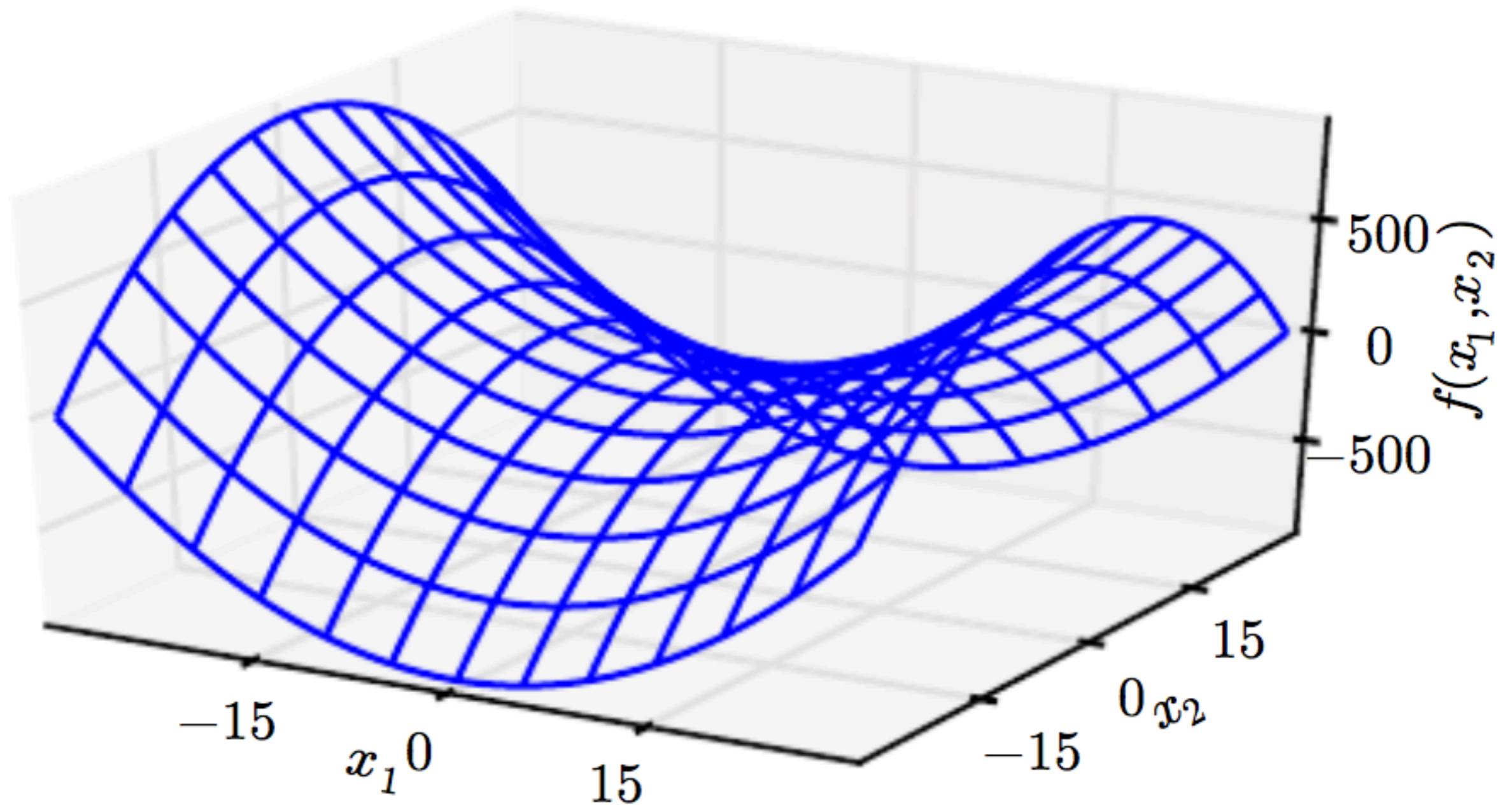
$$f(\mathbf{x}^{(0)} - \epsilon \mathbf{g}) \approx f(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}) - \epsilon \mathbf{g}^\top \mathbf{g} + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^2 \mathbf{g}^\top \mathbf{H} \mathbf{g}$$



Local minima

- Model identifiability
 - A model is said to be identifiable if a sufficiently large training set can rule out all but one setting of the model's parameters.
 - models with latent variables are often not identifiable
 - m layers with n units each $\rightarrow n!^m$ ways of arranging hidden units (weight space symmetry)

Local minima



Saddle Points

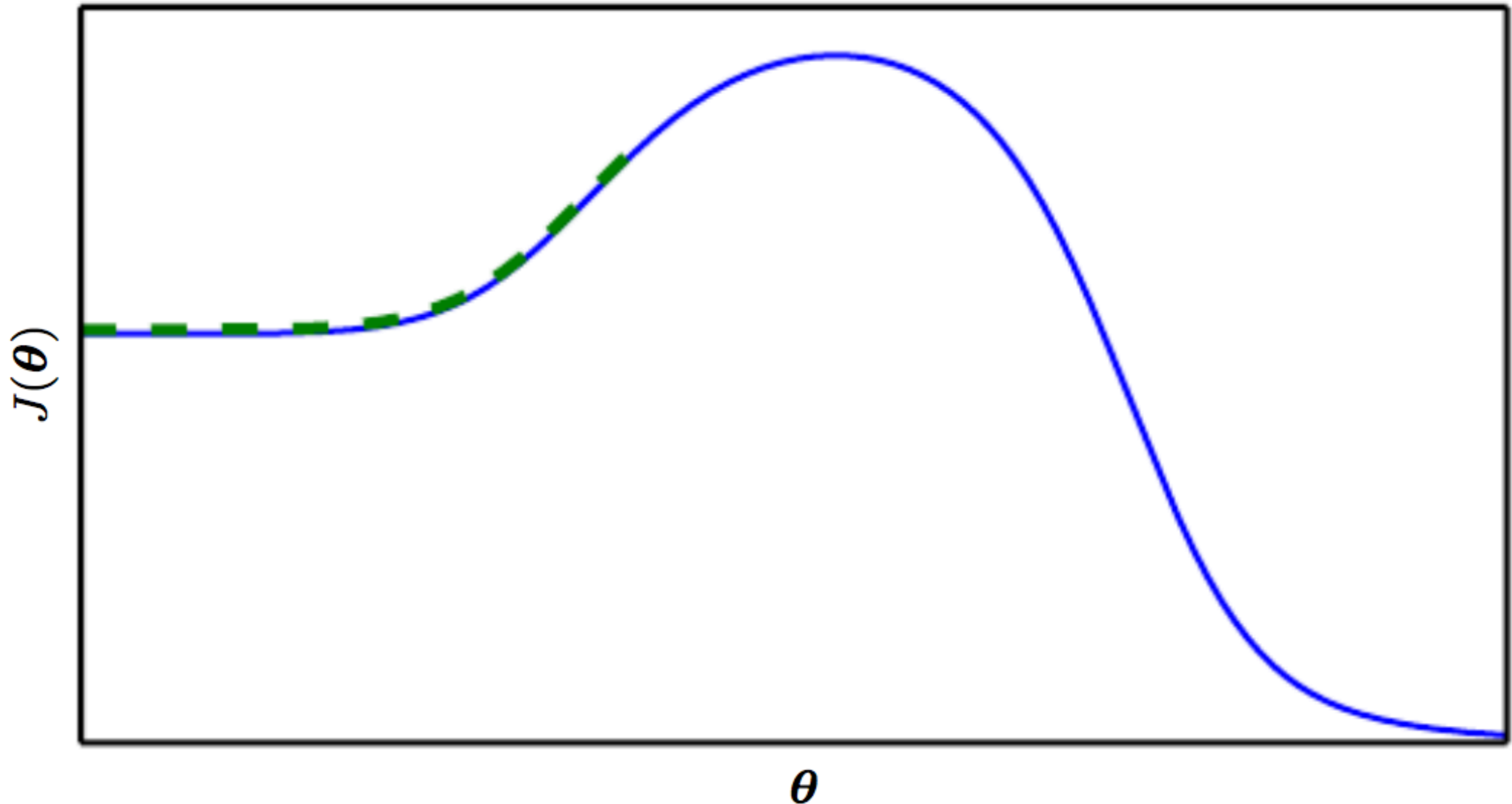
- Gradient Descent is designed to move “downhill”.
- Newton’s method is to solve a point where the gradient is zero.
- Dauphin (2014): saddle free Newton method

Long-Term Dependencies

- Repeated application of the same parameters (RNN)

$$\mathbf{W}^t = (\mathbf{V} \text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) \mathbf{V}^{-1})^t = \mathbf{V} \text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\lambda})^t \mathbf{V}^{-1}$$

Poor correspondence between local and global structure



Basic Algorithms

Stochastic Gradient Descent

- sufficient condition to guarantee convergence of SGD

- $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \epsilon_k = \infty$ $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \epsilon_k^2 < \infty$

- a bit higher than the best performing learning rate monitored in the first 100 iterations or so.

Stochastic Gradient Descent

Algorithm 8.1 Stochastic gradient descent (SGD) update at training iteration k

Require: Learning rate ϵ_k .

Require: Initial parameter θ

while stopping criterion not met **do**

 Sample a minibatch of m examples from the training set $\{\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}$ with corresponding targets $\mathbf{y}^{(i)}$.

 Compute gradient estimate: $\hat{\mathbf{g}} \leftarrow +\frac{1}{m} \nabla_{\theta} \sum_i L(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \theta), \mathbf{y}^{(i)})$

 Apply update: $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \epsilon \hat{\mathbf{g}}$

end while

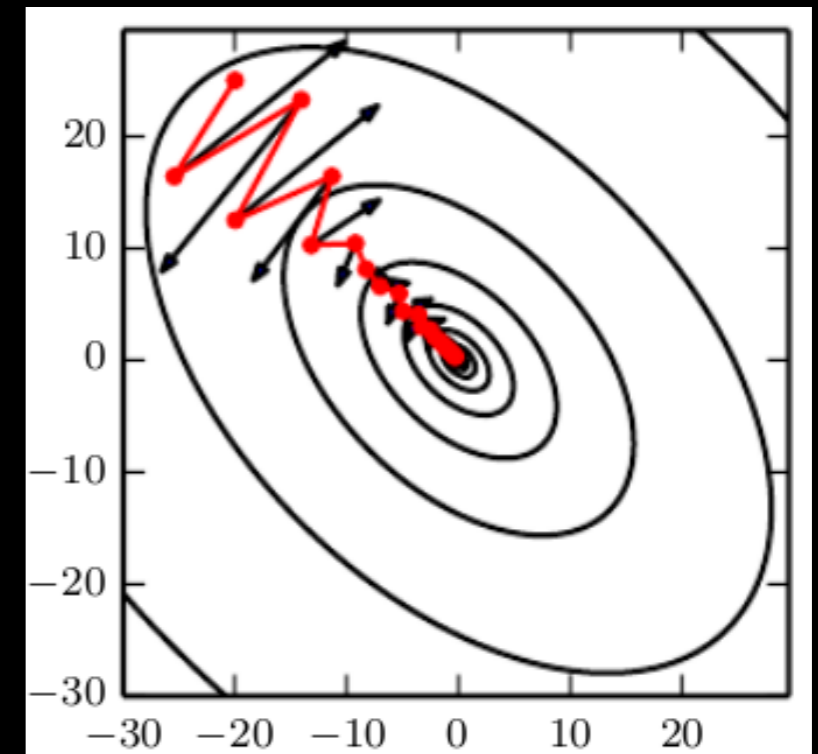
Convergence Rate of SGD

- excess error: $e = J(w) - \min_w J(w)$
- after k iterations
 - convex problem: $e = O(1/\sqrt{k})$
 - strong convex: $e = O(1/k)$
- presumably overfit when converge faster than $O(1/k)$ of generation error, unless make some assumptions

Momentum

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v} &\leftarrow \alpha \mathbf{v} - \epsilon \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m L(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), \mathbf{y}^{(i)}) \right) \\ \boldsymbol{\theta} &\leftarrow \boldsymbol{\theta} + \mathbf{v}. \end{aligned}$$

- \mathbf{v} (velocity) is exponentially decaying average of negative gradient
- unit mass



Momentum

- When the same direction occurs, the maximum terminal velocity happens when terminal velocity ends in $\frac{\epsilon \|g\|}{1 - \alpha}$
- If alpha = 0.9/0.99/...

Physical View of Momentum

- position $\theta(t)$
- force onto the particle $f(t) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \theta(t)$ $f(t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} v(t)$
- velocity of the particle at time t $v(t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \theta(t)$
- two forces
 - downhill force $-\nabla_{\theta} J(\theta)$
 - viscous drag force $-v(t)$

Nesterov Momentum

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v} &\leftarrow \alpha \mathbf{v} - \epsilon \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \left[\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m L \left(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{\theta} + \alpha \mathbf{v}), \mathbf{y}^{(i)} \right) \right] \\ \boldsymbol{\theta} &\leftarrow \boldsymbol{\theta} + \mathbf{v}, \end{aligned}$$

- add a correction factor to the standard method of momentum
- convex batch gradient case: $O(1/k^2)$ convergence of excess error
- stochastic gradient descent $O(1/k)$

Initialization Strategies

Difficulties

- Deep learning has no such luxuries.
 - Normal Equation
 - Convergence to acceptable solution regardless of initialization
- Simple initialization strategies
 - achieve good properties after initialization
 - no idea about which property is preserved after proceeding
- Some initial points may be beneficial for optimization but detrimental for generalization

Break Symmetry

- Same inputs, same activation function, better to initialize different parameters
- Aims to capture more patterns in both feed-forward and back-propagation procedures
- Random initialization from a high-entropy distribution over a high-dimensional space is computationally cheaper and unlikely to symmetry.

Random Initialization

- Drawn from Gaussian Distribution or uniform distribution
- not very small, large weights may help more to break symmetry
- not very large, may activation function saturation or hard to optimize

Heuristic: Uniform Distribution

- initialize the weights of a fully connected layer with m inputs and n outputs by sampling from $U(-1/\sqrt{m}, 1/\sqrt{n})$

- Glorot 2010: normalized initialization

- assumes a chain of matrix multiplication without non linearities

- $$W_{i,j} \sim U\left(-\frac{6}{\sqrt{m+n}}, \frac{6}{\sqrt{m+n}}\right)$$

Heuristic: Orthogonal Matrix

- Saxe 2013: orthogonal matrix initialization
 - chosen scaling or **gain factor** for the nonlinearity applied at each layer
 - They derive specific values of the scaling factor for different types of nonlinear activation functions
- Sussillo 2014: correct gain factor
 - sufficient to train as deep as 1000 layers
 - without orthogonal initializations

Heuristic: Sparse Initialization

- Martens 2010
 - each unit is initialized to have k non-zero weights
- impose sparsity
- cost more to coordinate for Maxout units with several filters

Method: hyper-searching

- Hyperparameters for
 - choice of dense or sparse initialization
 - initial scale of the weights
- what to look at
 - standard deviation of activations or gradients
 - on a single mini-batch of data

Initialization for bias

- if bias is for an output unit
 - $\text{softmax}(b) = c$
- to avoid saturation at initialization
 - set bias 0.1 in ReLU hidden unit rather than 0
- for controller whether other units to participate
 - $u^*h \approx 0/1$, initially set $h \approx 1$
- variance or precision parameter
 - $p(y | \mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{N}(y | \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} + b, 1/\beta)$

Algorithms with Adaptive Learning Rates

Learning Rate

- A hyper-parameter the most difficult to set
- Jacobs 1988: delta-bar-delta method
 - partial derivatives remain the same sign, then increase the learning rate

AdaGrad

Algorithm 8.4 The AdaGrad algorithm

Require: Global learning rate ϵ

Require: Initial parameter θ

Require: Small constant δ , perhaps 10^{-7} , for numerical stability

Initialize gradient accumulation variable $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{0}$

while stopping criterion not met **do**

Sample a minibatch of m examples from the training set $\{\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}$ with corresponding targets $\mathbf{y}^{(i)}$.

Compute gradient: $\mathbf{g} \leftarrow \frac{1}{m} \nabla_{\theta} \sum_i L(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \theta), \mathbf{y}^{(i)})$

Accumulate squared gradient: $\mathbf{r} \leftarrow \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{g} \odot \mathbf{g}$

Compute update: $\Delta\theta \leftarrow -\frac{\epsilon}{\delta + \sqrt{\mathbf{r}}} \odot \mathbf{g}$. (Division and square root applied element-wise)

Apply update: $\theta \leftarrow \theta + \Delta\theta$

end while

may cause premature/excessive decrease for learning rate

RMSProp

Algorithm 8.5 The RMSProp algorithm

Require: Global learning rate ϵ , decay rate ρ .

Require: Initial parameter θ

Require: Small constant δ , usually 10^{-6} , used to stabilize division by small numbers.

Initialize accumulation variables $\mathbf{r} = 0$

while stopping criterion not met **do**

 Sample a minibatch of m examples from the training set $\{\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}$ with corresponding targets $\mathbf{y}^{(i)}$.

 Compute gradient: $\mathbf{g} \leftarrow \frac{1}{m} \nabla_{\theta} \sum_i L(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \theta), \mathbf{y}^{(i)})$

 Accumulate squared gradient: $\mathbf{r} \leftarrow \rho \mathbf{r} + (1 - \rho) \mathbf{g} \odot \mathbf{g}$

 Compute parameter update: $\Delta \theta = -\frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{\delta + \mathbf{r}}} \odot \mathbf{g}$. ($\frac{1}{\sqrt{\delta + \mathbf{r}}}$ applied element-wise)

 Apply update: $\theta \leftarrow \theta + \Delta \theta$

end while

RMSProp with Nesterov momentum

Algorithm 8.6 RMSProp algorithm with Nesterov momentum

Require: Global learning rate ϵ , decay rate ρ , momentum coefficient α .

Require: Initial parameter θ , initial velocity v .

Initialize accumulation variable $r = \mathbf{0}$

while stopping criterion not met **do**

Sample a minibatch of m examples from the training set $\{\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}$ with corresponding targets $\mathbf{y}^{(i)}$.

Compute interim update: $\tilde{\theta} \leftarrow \theta + \alpha v$

Compute gradient: $\mathbf{g} \leftarrow \frac{1}{m} \nabla_{\tilde{\theta}} \sum_i L(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \tilde{\theta}), \mathbf{y}^{(i)})$

Accumulate gradient: $r \leftarrow \rho r + (1 - \rho) \mathbf{g} \odot \mathbf{g}$

Compute velocity update: $v \leftarrow \alpha v - \frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{r}} \odot \mathbf{g}$. ($\frac{1}{\sqrt{r}}$ applied element-wise)

Apply update: $\theta \leftarrow \theta + v$

end while

Adam

Algorithm 8.7 The Adam algorithm

Require: Step size ϵ (Suggested default: 0.001)

Require: Exponential decay rates for moment estimates, ρ_1 and ρ_2 in $[0, 1)$.
(Suggested defaults: 0.9 and 0.999 respectively)

Require: Small constant δ used for numerical stabilization. (Suggested default: 10^{-8})

Require: Initial parameters θ

Initialize 1st and 2nd moment variables $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{0}$, $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{0}$

Initialize time step $t = 0$

while stopping criterion not met **do**

 Sample a minibatch of m examples from the training set $\{\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}$ with corresponding targets $\mathbf{y}^{(i)}$.

 Compute gradient: $\mathbf{g} \leftarrow \frac{1}{m} \nabla_{\theta} \sum_i L(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \theta), \mathbf{y}^{(i)})$

$t \leftarrow t + 1$

 Update biased first moment estimate: $\mathbf{s} \leftarrow \rho_1 \mathbf{s} + (1 - \rho_1) \mathbf{g}$

 Update biased second moment estimate: $\mathbf{r} \leftarrow \rho_2 \mathbf{r} + (1 - \rho_2) \mathbf{g} \odot \mathbf{g}$

 Correct bias in first moment: $\hat{\mathbf{s}} \leftarrow \frac{\mathbf{s}}{1 - \rho_1^t}$

 Correct bias in second moment: $\hat{\mathbf{r}} \leftarrow \frac{\mathbf{r}}{1 - \rho_2^t}$

 Compute update: $\Delta\theta = -\epsilon \frac{\hat{\mathbf{s}}}{\sqrt{\hat{\mathbf{r}} + \delta}}$ (operations applied element-wise)

 Apply update: $\theta \leftarrow \theta + \Delta\theta$

end while

Visualization

- <http://sebastianruder.com/optimizing-gradient-descent/>

Approximate 2nd-order Methods

Newton's Method

Algorithm 8.8 Newton's method with objective $J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m L(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), \mathbf{y}^{(i)})$.

Require: Initial parameter $\boldsymbol{\theta}_0$

Require: Training set of m examples

while stopping criterion not met **do**

 Compute gradient: $\mathbf{g} \leftarrow \frac{1}{m} \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \sum_i L(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), \mathbf{y}^{(i)})$

 Compute Hessian: $\mathbf{H} \leftarrow \frac{1}{m} \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^2 \sum_i L(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), \mathbf{y}^{(i)})$

 Compute Hessian inverse: \mathbf{H}^{-1}

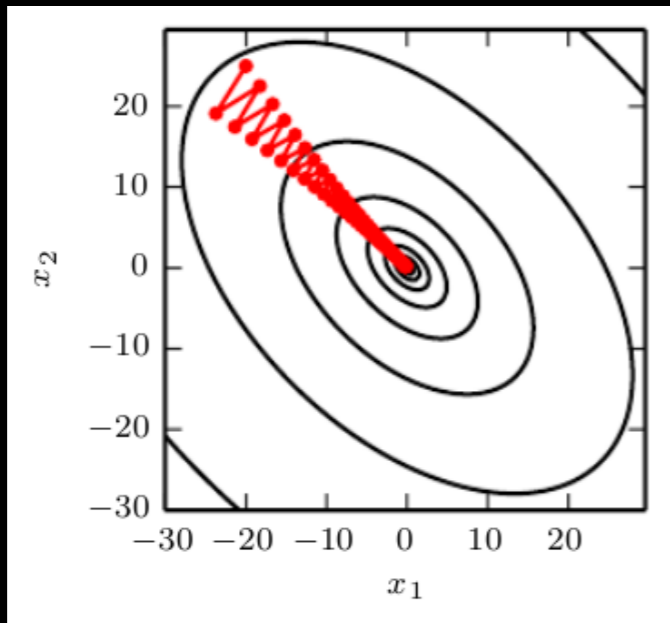
 Compute update: $\Delta\boldsymbol{\theta} = -\mathbf{H}^{-1}\mathbf{g}$

 Apply update: $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \boldsymbol{\theta} + \Delta\boldsymbol{\theta}$

end while

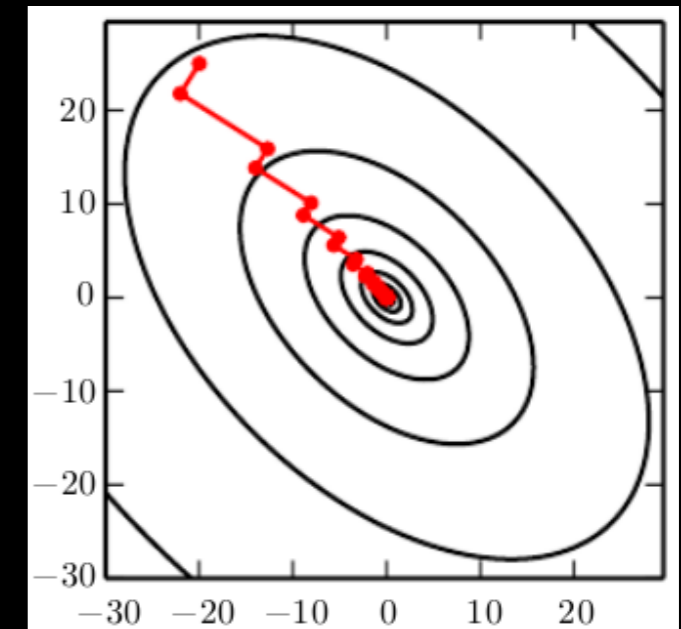
$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^* = \boldsymbol{\theta}_0 - [\mathbf{H}(f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_0)) + \alpha\mathbf{I}]^{-1} \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_0).$$

Conjugate Gradients



$$\mathbf{d}_t = \nabla_{\theta} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \beta_t \mathbf{d}_{t-1}$$

$$\mathbf{d}_t^{\top} \mathbf{H} \mathbf{d}_{t-1} = 0$$



1. Fletcher-Reeves:

$$\beta_t = \frac{\nabla_{\theta} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)^{\top} \nabla_{\theta} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)}{\nabla_{\theta} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t-1})^{\top} \nabla_{\theta} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t-1})}$$

2. Polak-Ribière:

$$\beta_t = \frac{(\nabla_{\theta} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t) - \nabla_{\theta} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t-1}))^{\top} \nabla_{\theta} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)}{\nabla_{\theta} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t-1})^{\top} \nabla_{\theta} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t-1})}$$

BFGS

- Newton's method: $\theta^* = \theta_0 - H^{-1} \nabla_{\theta} J(\theta_0)$

- secant condition (quasi-Newton condition):

$$\theta_{t+1} - \theta_t = -H^{-1} (\nabla_{\theta} J(\theta_{t+1}) - \nabla_{\theta} J(\theta_t))$$

- Approximation of inverse of the Hessian inverse

$$M_t = M_{t-1} + \left(1 + \frac{\phi^{\top} M_{t-1} \phi}{\Delta^{\top} \phi} \right) \frac{\phi^{\top} \phi}{\Delta^{\top} \phi} - \left(\frac{\Delta \phi^{\top} M_{t-1} + M_{t-1} \phi \Delta^{\top}}{\Delta^{\top} \phi} \right)$$

$$\text{where } \mathbf{g}_t = \nabla_{\theta} J(\theta_t), \phi = \mathbf{g}_t - \mathbf{g}_{t-1} \text{ and } \Delta = \theta_t - \theta_{t-1}$$

BFGS

Algorithm 8.10 BFGS method

Require: Initial parameters θ_0

Initialize inverse Hessian $M_0 = I$

while stopping criterion not met **do**

 Compute gradient: $g_t = \nabla_{\theta} J(\theta_t)$

 Compute $\phi = g_t - g_{t-1}$, $\Delta = \theta_t - \theta_{t-1}$

 Approx H^{-1} : $M_t = M_{t-1} + \left(1 + \frac{\phi^\top M_{t-1} \phi}{\Delta^\top \phi}\right) \frac{\phi^\top \phi}{\Delta^\top \phi} - \left(\frac{\Delta \phi^\top M_{t-1} + M_{t-1} \phi \Delta^\top}{\Delta^\top \phi}\right)$

 Compute search direction: $\rho_t = M_t g_t$

 Perform line search to find: $\epsilon^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\epsilon} J(\theta_t + \epsilon \rho_t)$

 Apply update: $\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t + \epsilon^* \rho_t$

end while*

L-BFGS

- Limited Memory BFGS

$$\rho_t = -g_t + b\Delta + a\phi$$

$$a = - \left(1 + \frac{\phi^\top \phi}{\Delta^\top \phi} \right) \frac{\Delta^\top g_t}{\Delta^\top \phi} + \frac{\phi^\top g_t}{\Delta^\top \phi}$$
$$b = \frac{\Delta^\top g_t}{\Delta^\top \phi}$$

-

Optimization Strategies and Meta-Algorithms

Batch Normalization

$$\hat{y} = xw_1w_2w_3 \dots w_l$$

$$x(w_1 - \epsilon g_1)(w_2 - \epsilon g_2) \dots (w_l - \epsilon g_l)$$

- effect of the update of parameters has $\epsilon^2 g_1 g_2 \prod_{i=3}^l w_i$ for second-order term of Taylor series approximation of $y(\hat{y})$.
- perhaps solution
 - second-order / n-th order optimization, hopeless

Batch Normalization

- $H' = (H - \mu) / \sigma$

- μ : mean of each unit

$$\mu = \frac{1}{m} \sum_i H_{i,:}$$

- σ : standard deviation

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\delta + \frac{1}{m} \sum_i (H - \mu)_i^2}$$

- we back-propagate through these operations for computing the mean and the standard deviation, and for applying them to normalize H
- not changes a lot if lower layer changes
 - except for lower layer weights to 0 or changing the sign

Batch Normalization

- expressions of NN has been reduced
 - replace H' with $\gamma H' + \beta$
 - gamma and beta are learned

Coordinate Descent

- repeatedly cycling learning through all variables

$$J(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{W}) = \sum_{i,j} |H_{i,j}| + \sum_{i,j} (\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{H})_{i,j}^2$$

- may has problem in some cost functions, e.g.

$$(x_1 - x_2)^2 + \alpha (x_1^2 + x_2^2)$$

Polyak Averaging

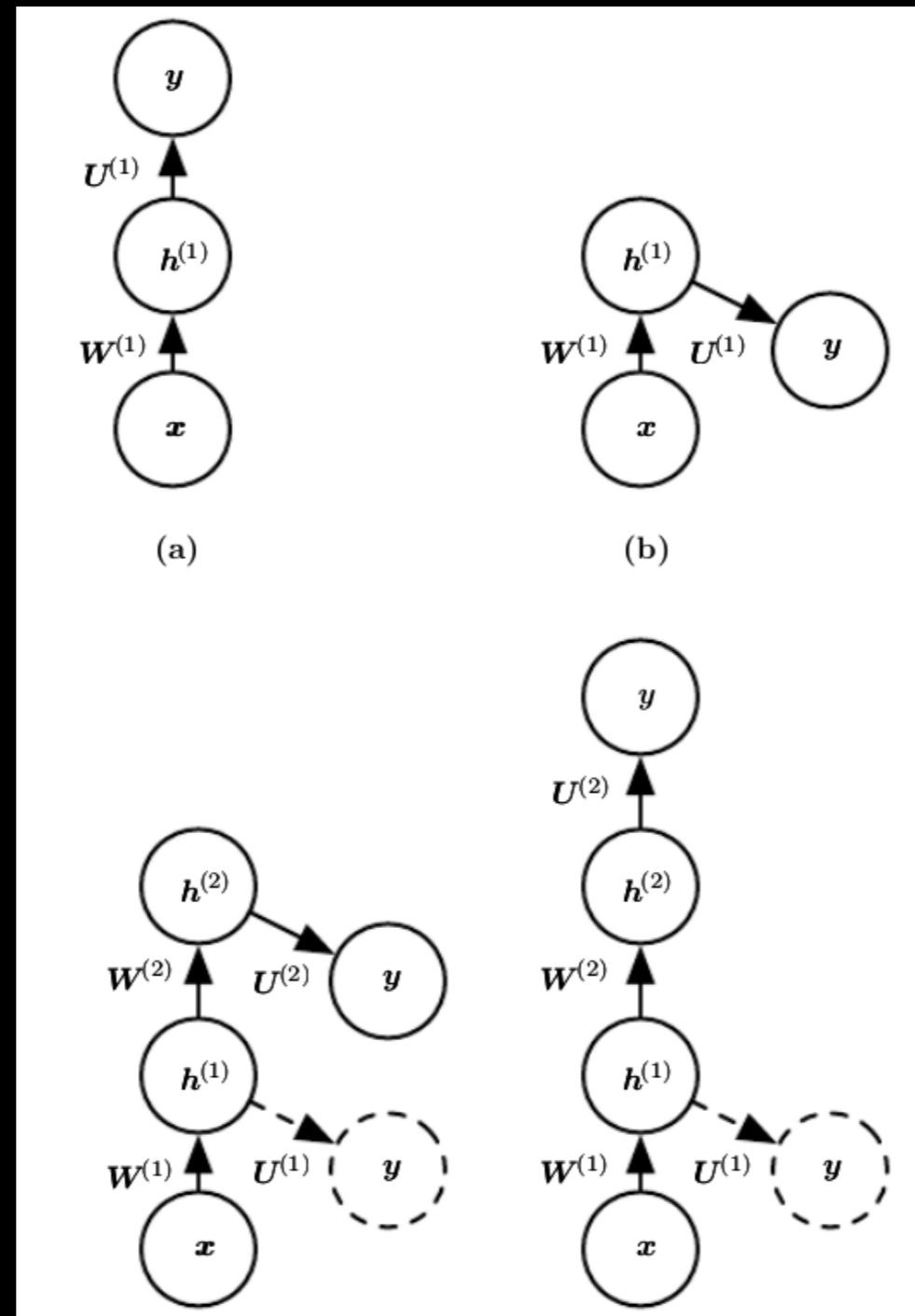
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{(t)} = \frac{1}{t} \sum_i \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(i)}$$

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{(t)} = \alpha \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{(t-1)} + (1 - \alpha) \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t)}$$

Supervised Pretraining

- Pretraining: learn for a difficult task from a simple model
- Greedy: break a problem into components

Greedy Supervised Pretraining



Related Work: Yosinski 2014

- Pretrain a CNN with 8 layers on a set of tasks
- Initialize a same-size net with first k layers of the first net

Related Work: FitNets

- train a low & fat teacher net
- then train a deep & thin student net to
 - predict the output for the original task
 - predict the value of the middle layer of the teacher network

Designing Models to Aid Optimization

- In practice, **it is more important to choose a model family that is easy to optimize than to use a powerful optimization algorithm.**
- skip connections (Srivastava 2015)
- adding extra copies to the output (GoogLeNet, Szegedy 2014, Lee 2014)

Continuation Methods

- The series of cost functions are designed so that a solution to one is a good initial point of the next.
 - $\{J^{(0)}, \dots, J^{(n)}\}$
- aim to overcome the challenge of local minima
 - reach a global minimum despite the presence of many local minima
- "blurring" the original cost function (non-convex to convex)
 - $J^{(i)}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\theta' \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta'; \theta, \sigma^{(i)2})} J(\theta')$

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