Research Talk

Anna Goldie

Overview

- Natural Language Processing
 - Conversational Modeling (Best Paper Award at ICML Language Generation Workshop, EMNLP 2017)
 - Open-Source tf-seq2seq framework (4000+ stars, 1000+ forks), and exploration of NMT architectures (EMNLP 2017, 100+ citations)
- Deep Dive: ML for Systems
 - Device Placement with Deep Reinforcement Learning (ICLR 2018)

Tell me a story about a bear...

Tell me a story about a bear...

a. "I don't know."

Tell me a story about a bear...

- a. "I don't know."
- b. "A bear walks into a bar to get a drink, then another bear comes and sits in his room with the bear thought he was a wolf."



Motivation: Generate Informative and Coherent Responses

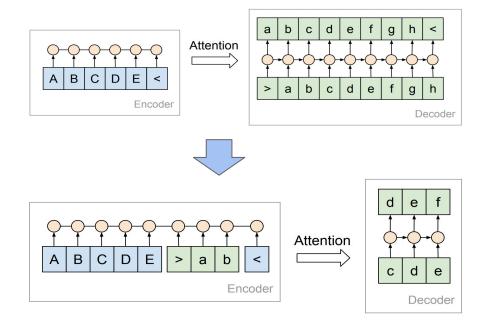
- Address shortcomings of sequence-to-sequence models
 - Short/generic responses with high MLE in virtually any context
 - "I don't know."
 - Incoherent and redundant responses when forced to elaborate through explicit length promoting heuristics
 - "I live in the center of the sun in the center of the sun in the center of the sun..."

Method Overview

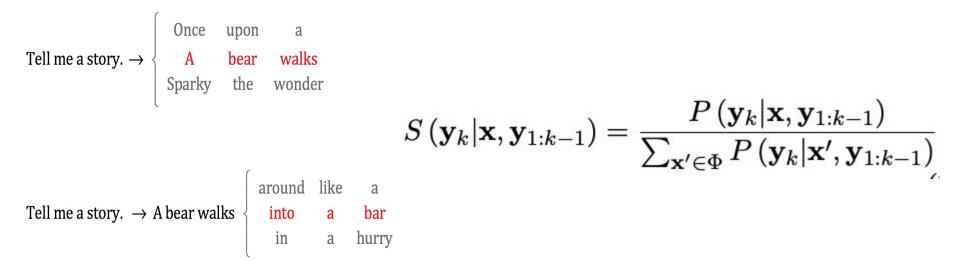
- Generate segment by segment
 - Inject diversity early in generation process
 - Computationally efficient form of target-side attention
- Stochastic beam search
 - Rerank segments using negative sampling

Self Attention for Coherence

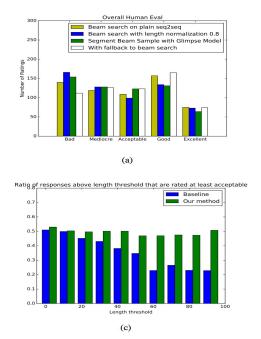
- Glimpse Model: Computationally efficient form of Self Attention
- Memory capacity of the decoder LSTM is a bottleneck
- So, let decoder also attend to the previously generated text

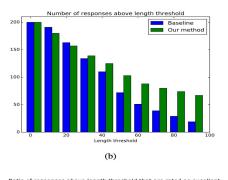


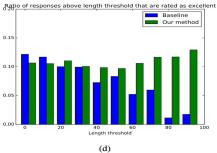
Stochastic Beam Search with Segment Reranking



Evaluation



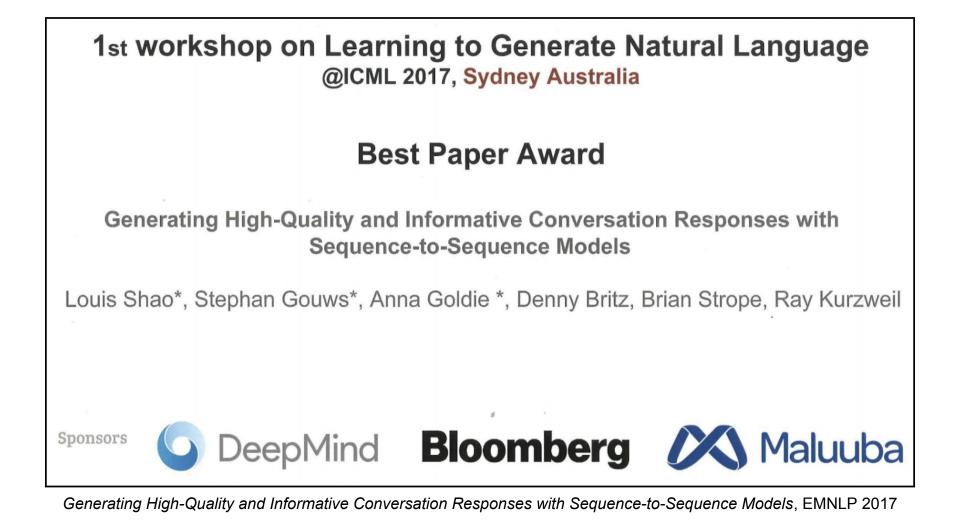




N for computing "N-choose-1"	50	10	2
No Normalization	0.047	0.15	0.56
Normalize by Marginal	0.44	0.65	0.91
Normalize by Random Prompts (our heuristics)	0.61	0.78	0.97

Sample Conversation Responses

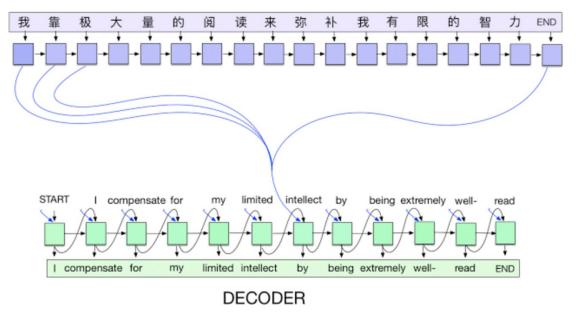
PROMPT:	RESPONSE FROM BASELINE (A) vs OUR METHOD (B)
what do you have planned tonight	A: I have no idea what I want to do with my life. I have no idea what I want to (Bad, Mediocre, Bad)
what do you have planned tonight	B: I was planning on doing a few of these, but I'm not sure what to choose. I need to find a place to camp, and I don't have a lot
	of time to make a plan. (Excellent, Good, Mediocre)
I'd like to read a good science fiction novel. Haven't read scifi	A: If you like sci fi you should check out The Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss (Excellent, Excellent, Excellent)
in a while.	B : If you want to know what sci-fi is, read the first book by Neil Gaiman. It's a sci-fi sci-fi sci-fi novel. It is really good and I
	recommend it to all of you. It has a great premise. (Acceptable, Excellent, Acceptable)
Cat any his westond plane?	A: I have plans for the weekend but I don't know if I will be able to make it to the (Bad, Mediocre, Bad)
Got any big weekend plans?	B: I don't really have much to do on Saturday. But I plan on going to the movies at the mall and going to the show. (Good,
	Good, Bad)
Sometimes flying messes my ears, because of the air pressure.	A: I don't know why, but when I was a kid I used to do this all the time when I was younger. (Good, Bad, Bad)
Especially if I have a cold or something, flying gets me messed	B : I have no idea why, but I feel exactly the same way. I don't know why, but my brain is so sensitive to air that it makes my
up.	nose twitch. (Excellent, Mediocre, Good)
Yeah. I have this friend, and we get bored just hanging out here	A: What kind of things do you like to do? (Excellent, Excellent, Excellent)
sometimes, so we take little trips to places. We went to Seattle	B: That sounds like a great time. I have a lot of friends that go to Seattle, so I was wondering if you could share any of the
a couple of months ago.	locations? (Excellent, Excellent)
have you seen Suicide Squad?	A: I have not, but I will check it out. (Good, Good, Good)
nave you seen Suicide Squad?	B : I saw it in a theater once and it was great. It was very I don't know, a little dark. I like the psychological effects and the
	way it portrays the characters in the movie. (Excellent, Excellent, Excellent)
Actually I like the snow too, except for today. It's all slushy and	A: I hate the snow. I hate the
it's all over the sidewalks and it's gross.	snow. (Acceptable, Good, Good)
	B : I'm in the same boat as you. I hate it when it's snowy and I don't like to shovel it all day. :(So this is a perfect excuse to not
	get out of bed and go somewhere else. (Excellent, Good, Acceptable)
What do you hope to see in the future?	A: I want to be able to go back in time to when I was born. I want to be (Mediocre, Bad, Mediocre)
what do you hope to see in the juture?	B: I want to see an actual movie where the characters have the ability to hide the fact that they are actually in the movie. (Good,
	Acceptable, Acceptable)
what dangers could happen with the singularity?	A: I don't think it would be that big of a deal. (Acceptable, Mediocre, Acceptable)
what dangers could happen with the singularity:	B: If you look at it from the perspective of an alien, you can't say that there aren't any alternative ways to deal with it. (Accept-
	able, Mediocre, Acceptable)
I think you're a little crazy.	A: I don't think you know what that word means. (Acceptable, Good, Good)
ι παιά γου το ο αποτοτομο.	B: I am, actually. I don't think I'm crazy though. I certainly am. (Acceptable, Mediocre, Acceptable)



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tf-seq2seq: A general-purpose encoder-decoder framework for Tensorflow



ENCODER

Massive Exploration of Neural Machine Translation Architectures, EMNLP 2017

Goals for the Framework

- **Generality**: Machine Translation, Summarization, Conversational Modeling, Image Captioning, and more!
- **Usability**: Train a model with a single command. Several types of input data are supported, including standard raw text.
- **Reproducibility**: Training pipelines and models configured using YAML files
- **Extensibility**: Code is modular and easy to build upon
 - E.g., adding a new type of attention mechanism or encoder architecture requires only minimal code changes.
- Documentation:
 - All code is documented using standard Python docstrings
 - Guides to help you get started with common tasks.
- Performance:
 - Fast enough to cover almost all production and research use cases
 - Supports distributed training

Massive Exploration of Neural Machine Translation Architectures, EMNLP 2017

Reception

	1,036
tensorflow translation machine-translation neural-network deeplearning	
🕞 880 commits 🖗 12 branches 🛇 0 releases 416 contributors 🎄 Apache-2	0

- Featured in AMTA Panel on "Deploying Open Source Neural Machine Translation (NMT) in the Enterprise"
- Used in dozens of papers from top industry and academic labs



Massive Exploration of Neural Machine Translation Architectures

Denny Britz*, Anna Goldie*, Minh-Thang Luong, Quoc V. Le {agoldie.thangluong.gvl}@google.com

Abstract

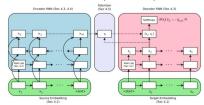
Results

One major drawback of current Neural Machine Translation (NMT) architectures is that they are expensive to train, typically requiring days to weeks of GPU time to converge. This makes exhaustive hyperparameter search, as is commonly done with other neural network architectures, prohibitively expensive. In this work, we present the first large-scale analysis of NMT architecture hyperparameters. We report empirical results and variance numbers for several hundred experimental runs, corresponding to over 250,000 GPU hours on the standard WMT English to German translation task. Our experiments lead to novel insights and practical advice for building and extending NMT architectures.

Open Source Framework: tf-seq2seq

- We ran all experiments on tf-seq2seq, our own open source framework in TensorFlow that makes it easy to experiment with seq2seq models and achieve state-of-the-art results
- tf-seq2seq supports various configurations of the standard seq2seq model, such as depth of the encoder/decoder, attention mechanism. RNN cell type, and beam size
- https://google.github.io/seq2seq/ has tutorials and source code

Network Architecture: Sequence to Sequence Model



Results

Embedding Dimensionality

Dim	newstest2013	Params
128	21.50 ± 0.16 (21.66)	36.13M
256	21.73 ± 0.09 (21.85)	46.20M
512	21.78 ± 0.05 (21.83)	66.32M
1024	21.36 ± 0.27 (21.67)	106.58M
2048	21.86 ± 0.17 (22.08)	187.09M

ints

RNN C	ell Variant		
	Cell	newstest2013	Params
	LSTM	22.22 ± 0.08 (22.33)	68.95M
	GRU	21.78 ± 0.05 (21.83)	66.32M
	Vanilla-Dec	$15.38 \pm 0.28 (15.73)$	63.18M

Encoder and Decoder Depth and Type of Residual Connections

Depth	newstest2013	Params
Enc-2	21.78 ± 0.05 (21.83)	66.32M
Enc-4	21.85 ± 0.32 (22.23)	69.47M
Enc-8	21.32 ± 0.14 (21.51)	75.77M
Enc-8-Res	19.23 ± 1.96 (21.97)	75.77M
Enc-8-ResD	17.30 ± 2.64 (21.03)	75.77M
Dec-1	21.76 ± 0.12 (21.93)	64.75M
Dec-2	21.78 ± 0.05 (21.83)	66.32M
Dec-4	22.37 ± 0.10 (22.51)	69.47M
Dec-4-Res	17.48 ± 0.25 (17.82)	68.69M
Dec-4-ResD	21.10 ± 0.24 (21.43)	68.69M
Dec-8	01.42 ± 0.23 (1.66)	75.77M
Dec-8-Res	16.99 ± 0.42 (17.47)	75.77M
Dec-8-ResD	20.97 ± 0.34 (21.42)	75.77M

Unidirectional vs Bidirectional Encoders

Cell	newstest2013	Params
Bidi-2	$21.78 \pm 0.05 (21.83)$	66.32M
Uni-1	20.54 ± 0.16 (20.73)	63.44M
Uni-1R	21.16 ± 0.35 (21.64)	63.44M
Uni-2	20.98 ± 0.10 (21.07)	65.01M
Uni-2R	21.76 ± 0.21 (21.93)	65.01M
Uni-4	21.47 ± 0.22 (21.70)	68.16M
Uni-4R	21.32 ± 0.42 (21.89)	68.16M

R suffix indicates a reversed source s

Attention Mechanism

Attention	newstest2013	Params
Mul-128	22.03 ± 0.08 (22.14)	65.73M
Mul-256	22.33 ± 0.28 (22.64)	65.93M
Mul-512	21.78 ± 0.05 (21.83)	66.32M
Mul-1024	18.22 ± 0.03 (18.26)	67.11M
Add-128	22.23 ± 0.11 (22.38)	65.73M
Add-256	22.33 ± 0.04 (22.39)	65.93M
Add-512	22.47 ± 0.27 (22.79)	66.33M
Add-1028	22.10 ± 0.18 (22.36)	67.11M
None-State	9.98 ± 0.28 (10.25)	64.23M
None-Input	$11.57 \pm 0.30 (11.85)$	64.49M

Results

Beam Search Strategies

Beam	newstest2013	Params
B1	20.66 ± 0.31 (21.08)	66.32M
B3	21.55 ± 0.26 (21.94)	66.32M
B5	21.60 ± 0.28 (22.03)	66.32M
B10	21.57 ± 0.26 (21.91)	66.32M
B25	21.47 ± 0.30 (21.77)	66.32M
B100	21.10 ± 0.31 (21.39)	66.32M
B10-LP-0.5	21.71 ± 0.25 (22.04)	66.32M
B10-LP-1.0	21.80 ± 0.25 (22.16)	66.32M

Final System Comparison

Hyperparameter	Value	Model	newstest14	newstest15
embedding dim	512	Ours (experimental)	22.03	24.75
rnn cell variant	LSTMCell	Ours (combined)	22.19	25.23
encoder depth	4	OpenNMT	19.34	-
decoder depth	4	Luong	20.9	-
attention dim	512	BPE-Char	21.5	23.9
ttention type	Bahdanau	BPE	-	20.5
encoder	bidirectional	RNNSearch-LV	19.4	-
beam size		RNNSearch	-	16.5
	10	Deep-Att	20.6	-
length penalty	1.0	GNMT*	24.61	-
		Deep-Conv*	-	24.3

Systems with an * do not have a public implementation

Conclusions

- Large embeddings with 2048 dimensions achieved the best results, but only by a small margin. Even small embeddings with 128 dimensions seem to have sufficient capacity to capture most of the necessary semantic information.
- LSTM Cells consistently outperformed GRU Cells.
- Bidirectional encoders with 2 to 4 layers performed best.
 Deeper encoders were significantly more unstable to train, but show potential if they can be optimized well.
- Deep 4-layer decoders slightly outperformed shallower decoders. Residual connections were necessary to train decoders with 8 layers and dense residual connections offer additional robustness.
- Parameterized additive attention yielded the overall best results.
- A well-tuned beam search with length penalty is crucial. Beam widths of 5 to 10 together with a length penalty of 1.0 seemed to work well.

Massive Exploration of Neural Machine Translation Architectures, EMNLP 2017

Takeaways

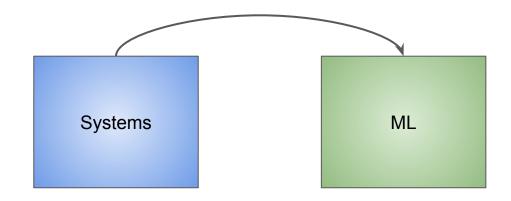
- LSTM Cells consistently outperformed GRU Cells.
- Parameterized additive attention outperformed multiplicative attention.
- Large embeddings with 2048 dimensions achieved the best results, but only by a small margin.
- A well-tuned beam search with length penalty is crucial. Beam widths of 5 to 10 together with a length penalty of 1.0 seemed to work well.

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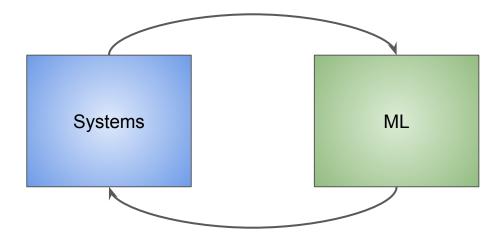
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In the past decade, systems and hardware have transformed ML.



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Now, it's time for ML to transform systems.



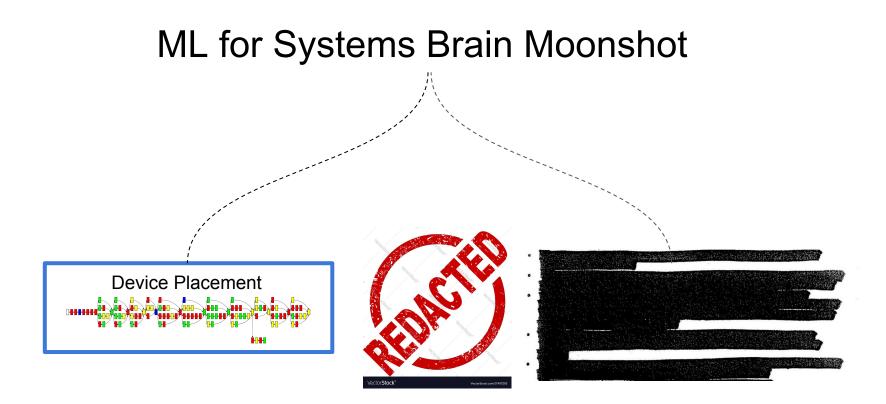
Problems in computer systems

Design

- Computer architecture exploration
 - Architectural specification tuning
 - MatMul tiling optimization
- ML engines like TensorFlow
- Chip design
 - Verification
 - Logic synthesis
 - Placement
 - Manufacturing

Operation

- Resource allocation
 - Model parallelism (e.g. TPU Pods)
 - Compiler register allocation
- Resource provisioning
 - Network demand forecasting
 - Memory forecasting
- Scheduling
 - TensorFlow op scheduling
 - Compiler instruction scheduling



Hierarchical Learning for Device Placement

Azalia Mirhoseini*, Anna Goldie*, Hieu Pham, Benoit Steiner, Quoc V. Le, Jeff Dean

(*): Equal contribution

SUMMARY

We propose a Reinforcement Learning algorithm that learns to automatically design model parallelism for TensorFlow graphs.

PROBLEM

- · Given:
- TensorFlow computational graph G with N ops
- List of computing devices D (GPUs, CPUs, etc.)
- Find:
- Placement P = { p_1 , p_2 , ..., p_N }, with p_i ∈ D
- Minimizes the running time of G

A REINFORCEMENT LEARNING APPROACH

Using policy gradient to learn a policy π that:
 Proposes placement and then measures runtime
 Minimizes expected runtime J(θ_g, θ_d) = E_{P(d,θ_g, θ_d)}[R_d]



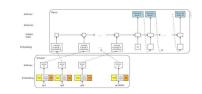
DISTRIBUTED TRAINING

- N controllers share a parameter server.
- · Each controller sends placements to its children.
- · Each child executes its placement.
- Each controller receives runtimes and updates the policy asynchronously.



MODEL

A two-level hierarchical network, consisting of a Grouper (which partitions the graph into groups) and a Placer (which places those groups onto devices)



TRAINING WITH REINFORCE

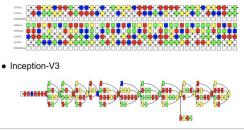
The goal is to minimize the expectation of runtime: $J(\theta_g, \theta_d) = \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{d}; \theta_g, \theta_d)}[R_d] = \sum_{g \sim \pi_g} \sum_{d \sim \pi_d} p(g; \theta_g) p(d|g; \theta_d) R_d$ $\nabla_{\theta g} J(\theta_g, \theta_d) = \sum_{g \sim \pi_g} \nabla_{\theta g} p(g; \theta_g) \sum_{d \sim \pi_d} p(d|g; \theta_d) R_d$ $\approx \frac{1}{m} \sum_{g_i \sim \pi_g}^{1 \le i \le m} \nabla_{\theta g} \log p(g_i; \theta_g) \cdot \frac{1}{k} \left(\sum_{d_j \sim \pi_d}^{1 \le j \le k} R_{d_j} \right)$ $\nabla_{\theta d} J(\theta_g, \theta_d) = \sum_{d \sim \pi_d} \sum_{g \sim \pi_g} p(g; \theta_g) \nabla_{\theta d} p(d|g; \theta_d) R_d$ $\approx \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^{1 \le j \le k} \frac{1}{m} \left(\sum_{q \neq j=1}^{1 \le i \le m} \nabla_{\theta d} \log p(d_j|g_i; \theta_d) R_{d_j} \right)$

RESULTS

Tasks	CPU Only	GPU Only	#GPUs	Human Expert	Scotch	MinCut	Hierarchical Planner	Runtime Reduction
Inception-V3	0.61	0.15	2	0.15	0.93	0.82	0.13	16.3%
ResNet		1.18	2	1.18	6.27	2.92	1.18	0%
RNNLM	6.89	1.57	2	1.57	5.62	5.21	1.57	0%
NMT (2-layer)	6.46	OOM	2	2.13	3.21	5.34	0.84	60.6%
NMT (4-layer)	10.68	OOM	4	3.64	11.18	11.63	1.69	53.7%
NMT (8-layer)	11.52	OOM	8	3.88	17.85	19.01	4.07	-4.9%

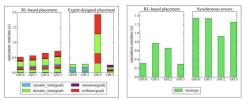
EXAMPLE PLACEMENTS

- Each color is a GPU; transparent is the CPU.
- Neural Machine Translation with 2 layers



UNDERSTANDING THE PLACEMENTS

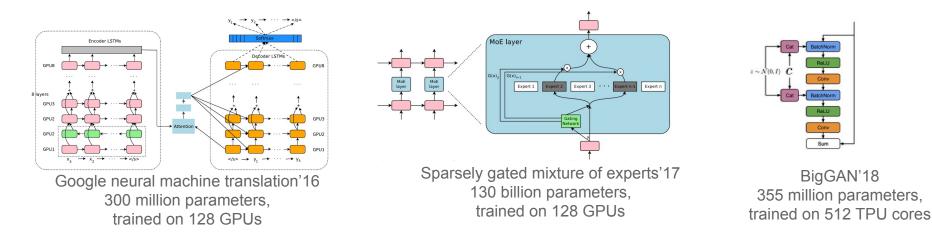
- Our method learns to optimize for different objectives for different models.
- For RNNLM: learns that it is best to put all ops on a single GPU.
- For NMT: learns to balance computation across devices.
- For Inception-V3: learns to mitigate the time spent on inter-device memory copy.



On the left, we show the computational load profiling of NMT model for RL-based and expert-designed placements. Smaller blocks of each color correspond to forward pass and same-color upper blocks correspond to back-propagation. On the right, we show memory copy time profiling. All memory copy activities in Synchronous tower are between a GPU and a CPU, which are in general slower than GPU copies that take place in the RL-based placement.

What is device placement and why is it important?

Trend towards many-device training, bigger models, larger batch sizes



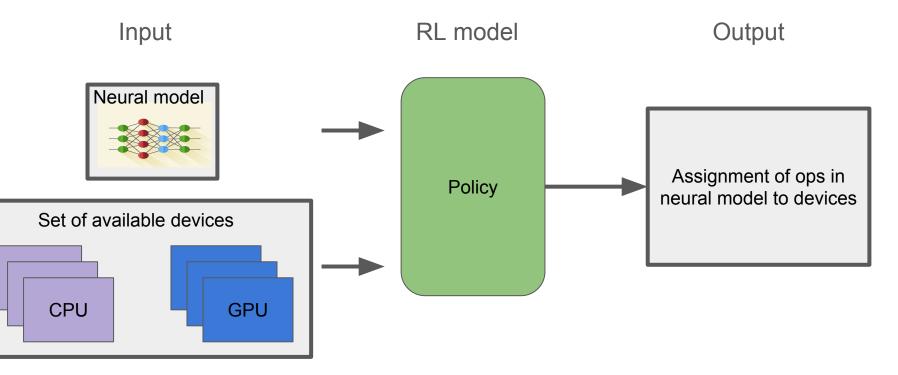
Standard practice for device placement

- Often based on greedy heuristics
- Requires deep understanding of devices: nonlinear FLOPs, bandwidth, latency behavior
- Requires modeling parallelism and pipelining
- Does not generalize well

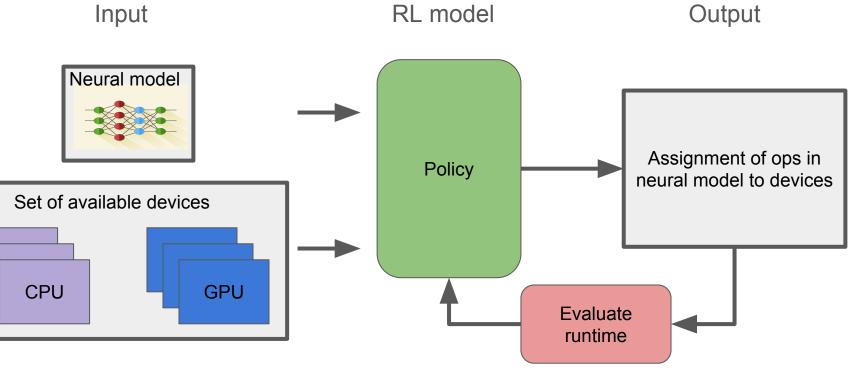
ML for device placement

- ML is repeatedly replacing rule based heuristics
- We show how RL can be applied to device placement
 - Effective search across large state and action spaces to find optimal solutions
 - Automated learning from underlying environment only based on reward function (e.g. runtime of a program)

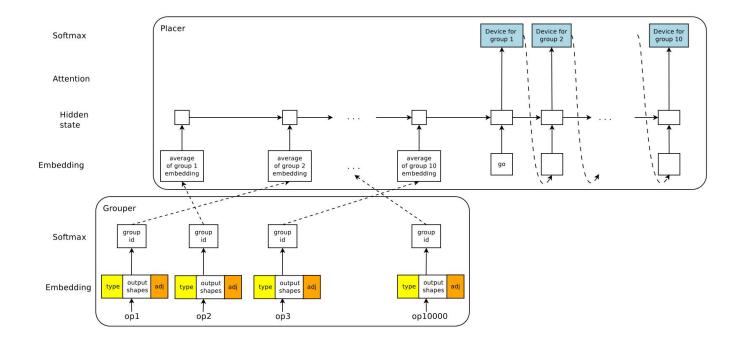
Posing device placement as an RL problem



Posing device placement as an RL problem



An end-to-end hierarchical placement model



Objective: Minimize expected runtime for predicted placement d

$$J(\theta_g, \theta_d) = \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{d}; \theta_{\mathbf{g}}, \theta_{\mathbf{d}})}[R_d] = \sum_{g \sim \pi_g} \sum_{d \sim \pi_d} p(g; \theta_g) p(d|g; \theta_d) R_d$$

 $J(\theta_{g}, \theta_{d})$: expected runtime θ_{g} : trainable parameters of Grouper θ_{d} : trainable parameters of Placer R_{d} : runtime for placement d

Objective: Minimize expected runtime for predicted placement d

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Probability of predicted group assignment of

Probability of predicted group assignment of operations

$$J(\theta_g, \theta_d) = \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{d}; \theta_g, \theta_d)}[R_d] = \sum_{g \sim \pi_g} \sum_{d \sim \pi_d} p(g; \theta_g) p(d|g; \theta_d) R_d$$

Probability of predicted device placement conditioned on grouping results

Gradient update for Grouper

$$J(\theta_g, \theta_d) = \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{d}; \theta_{\mathbf{g}}, \theta_{\mathbf{d}})}[R_d] = \sum_{g \sim \pi_g} \sum_{d \sim \pi_d} p(g; \theta_g) p(d|g; \theta_d) R_d$$

$$\boxed{\nabla_{\theta g} J(\theta_g, \theta_d)} = \sum_{g \sim \pi_g} \nabla_{\theta g} p(g; \theta_g) \sum_{d \sim \pi_d} p(d|g; \theta_d) R_d$$
Derivative w.r.t. parameters of Grouper $\approx \frac{1}{m} \sum_{g_i \sim \pi_g}^{1 \leq i \leq m} \nabla_{\theta g} \log p(g_i; \theta_g) \cdot \frac{1}{k} (\sum_{d_j \sim \pi_d}^{1 \leq j \leq k} R_{d_j})$

Gradient update for Placer

$$J(\theta_g, \theta_d) = \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{d}; \theta_{\mathbf{g}}, \theta_{\mathbf{d}})}[R_d] = \sum_{g \sim \pi_g} \sum_{d \sim \pi_d} p(g; \theta_g) p(d|g; \theta_d) R_d$$

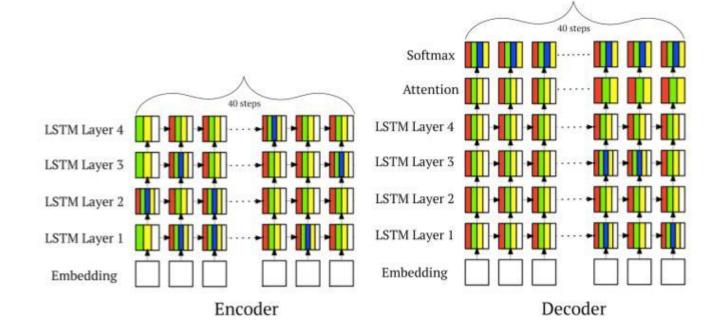
$$\nabla_{\theta d} J(\theta_g, \theta_d) = \sum_{d \sim \pi_d} \sum_{g \sim \pi_g} p(g; \theta_g) \nabla_{\theta d} p(d|g; \theta_d) R_d$$

Derivative w.r.t. parameters of Placer $\approx \frac{1}{k} \sum_{d_j \sim \pi_d}^{1 \leq j \leq k} \frac{1}{m} (\sum_{g_i \sim \pi_g}^{1 \leq i \leq m} \nabla_{\theta d} \log p(d_j | g_i; \theta_d) R_{d_j})$

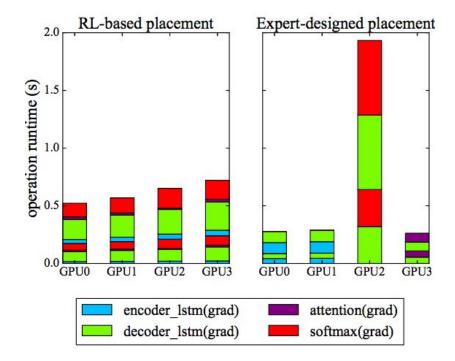
Results (runtime in seconds)

Tasks	CPU	GPU	#GPUs	Human	Scotch	MinCut	Hierarchical	Runtime
	Only	Only		Expert			Planner	Reduction
Inception-V3	0.61	0.15	2	0.15	0.93	0.82	0.13	16.3%
ResNet	-	1.18	2	1.18	6.27	2.92	1.18	0%
RNNLM	6.89	1.57	2	1.57	5.62	5.21	1.57	0%
NMT (2-layer)	6.46	OOM	2	2.13	3.21	5.34	0.84	60.6%
NMT (4-layer)	10.68	OOM	4	3.64	11.18	11.63	1.69	53.7%
NMT (8-layer)	11.52	OOM	8	3.88	17.85	19.01	4.07	-4.9%

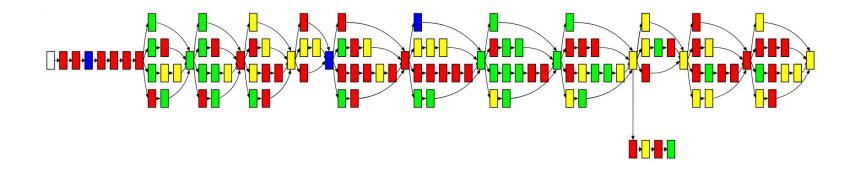
Learned placements on NMT



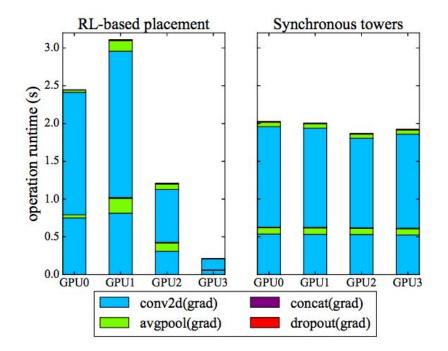
Profiling placement on NMT



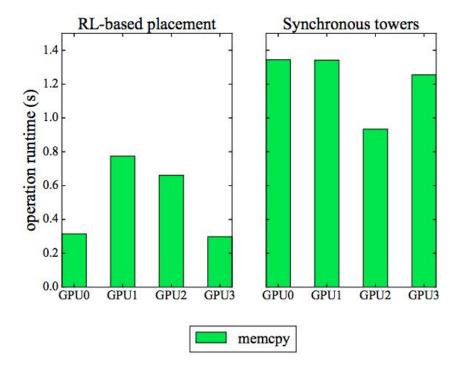
Learned placement on Inception-V3



Profiling placement on Inception-V3



Profiling placement on Inception-V3



Overview

- Natural Language Processing
 - Conversational Modeling (Best Paper Award at ICML Language Generation Workshop, EMNLP 2017)
 - Open-Source tf-seq2seq framework (4000+ stars, 1000+ forks), and exploration of NMT architectures (EMNLP 2017, 100+ citations)
- Deep Dive: ML for Systems
 - Device Placement with Deep Reinforcement Learning (ICLR 2018)

Questions?