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
		- \blacksquare "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

 0.10

 0.05

 0.00_L

Sample Conversation Responses

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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

Reception

- 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

GRU

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/seg2seg/ has tutorials and source code

Network Architecture: Sequence to Sequence Model

Results

Embedding Dimensionality

 21.78 ± 0.05 (21.83) Vanilla-Dec | 15.38 ± 0.28 (15.73) | 63.18M Encoder and Decoder Depth and Type of Residual Connections

Params

68.95M

66.32M

Unidirectional vs Bidirectional Encoders

Attention Mechanism

Results

Beam Search Strategies

Final System Comparison

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.

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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- Deep Dive: ML for Systems
	- **Device Placement with Deep Reinforcement Learning (ICLR 2018)**

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.)
- \bullet Find:
- Placement P = { p_1 , p_2 , ..., p_N }, with p_i ∈ D
○ Minimizes the running time of G
-

A REINFORCEMENT LEARNING APPROACH

- \bullet Using policy gradient to learn a policy π that: o Proposes placement and then measures runtime
- \circ Minimizes expected runtime $J(\theta_g, \theta_d) = \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{d}; \theta_g, \theta_d)}[R_d]$

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)

RESULTS

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.
- o For NMT: learns to balance computation across devices.
- o 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 *d*: trainable parameters of Placer *Rd*: runtime for placement d

Objective: Minimize expected runtime for predicted placement d

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$$

Probability of predicted group assignment of

operations

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

Probability of predicted device placement conditioned on grouping results

Gradient update for Grouper

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

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

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

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

Results (runtime in seconds)

Learned placements on NMT

Profiling placement on NMT

Learned placement on Inception-V3

Profiling placement on Inception-V3

Profiling placement on Inception-V3

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Questions?