Training Binarized Neural Networks using MIP and CP

Rodrigo Toro IcarteLeón IllanesMargarita P. CastroAndre A. CireSheila A. McIlraithJ. Christopher Beck



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Binarized Neural Networks

Deep learning





Deep learning





Deep learning



Binarized Neural Networks (BNNs)

- BNNs are NNs with binary weights and activations.
- Similar performance to standard deep learning.
- More efficient (w.r.t. energy and memory) at deploy time.



How to train BNNs

Objective

Learn a function that maps inputs to outputs from examples.



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5 0 4 1 8 6 2 7 3 9 5 0 4 1 8 6 2 7 3 9

Example: Digit recognition.



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$$n = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } \sum_{i} w_i \cdot x_i \ge 0 \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
, where $w_i \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$.







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How can we use the perceptron for digit recognition?



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$$n_2 = egin{cases} +1 & ext{if } \sum_i w_{i2} \cdot x_i \geq 0 \ -1 & ext{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
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$$n_3 = egin{cases} +1 & ext{if } \sum_i w_{i3} \cdot x_i \geq 0 \ -1 & ext{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 , where $w_{ij} \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$







$$n_4 = egin{cases} +1 & ext{if } \sum_i w_{i4} \cdot x_i \geq 0 \ -1 & ext{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 , where $w_{ij} \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$







$$n_5 = egin{cases} +1 & ext{if } \sum_i w_{i5} \cdot x_i \geq 0 \ -1 & ext{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 , where $w_{ij} \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$







$$n_6 = egin{cases} +1 & ext{if } \sum_i w_{i6} \cdot x_i \geq 0 \ -1 & ext{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 , where $w_{ij} \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$







$$n_7 = egin{cases} +1 & ext{if } \sum_i w_{i7} \cdot x_i \geq 0 \ -1 & ext{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 , where $w_{ij} \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$







$$n_8 = egin{cases} +1 & ext{if } \sum_i w_{i8} \cdot x_i \geq 0 \ -1 & ext{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 , where $w_{ij} \in \{-1,0,1\}$.







$$n_9 = egin{cases} +1 & ext{if } \sum_i w_{i9} \cdot x_i \geq 0 \ -1 & ext{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 , where $w_{ij} \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$.





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Problem: for most training sets, this problem is infeasible.


























































































Any assignment to $\bm{\mathsf{W}}$ defines a function $\mathcal{N}_{\bm{\mathsf{W}}}:\mathbb{R}^{N_0}\to\{-1,1\}^{N_L}:$

•
$$n_{0j} = x_j$$
 (first layer).

•
$$n_{\ell j} = 1$$
 if $\sum_{i} w_{i\ell j} \cdot n_{(\ell-1)i} \ge 0$; -1 otherwise.



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Training a BNN

Given $\mathcal{T} = \{(\mathbf{x}^1, \mathbf{y}^1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}^T, \mathbf{y}^T)\}$, find \mathbf{W} s.t. $\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x}^k) \approx \mathbf{y}^k \ \forall k$.



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How can we train a BNN?



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How can we train a BNN?

Use gradient descent!





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- Train over continuous weights and activations.
- Binarize the weights and activations during the forward pass.
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[To me] It feels like an odd hack to GD... but it works in practice.



About this work

- 1. Show that training BNNs is a discrete optimization problem.
- 2. Propose a MIP, CP, and MIP/CP hybrid model to train BNNs.
- 3. Run an extensive experimental comparison.

Code: https://bitbucket.org/RToroIcarte/bnn



 e.g. Fischetti et al. (2017), Tjeng et al. (2017), Khalil et al. (2018), Narodytska (2018), Cheng et al. (2018), among others.



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Model-based approaches can find provably optimal solutions



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Model-based approaches can find provably optimal solutions, but they have two (fundamental) issues:

- Scalability.
- Overfitting.



Scalability



AlexNet:





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- Neurons: 154K (input) 707K (hidden) 1K (output).
- Weights: 62.3 millions.
- ImageNet: 14 million examples.

How many discrete decision variables are needed?





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How many discrete decision variables are needed? $62.3M \text{ (weights)} + 0.7M \times 14M \text{ (hidden activations)}$ $\approx 9.89 \cdot 10^{12} \text{ decision variables!}$



Fortunately, not all is about big data ;)

Few-shot learning





Why?

- 1. Humans learn with far less examples than deep networks.
- 2. Collecting large amounts of labeled data is expensive ... and sometimes impossible (e.g., healthcare).



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- 1. Humans learn with far less examples than deep networks.
- 2. Collecting large amounts of labeled data is expensive ... and sometimes impossible (e.g., healthcare).

E.g., let's say that we only have access to the following examples:



We better classify them correctly!



Training BNNs: A feasibility perspective


Objective: Find a BNN that fits the data.

Problem definition

Given $\mathcal{T} = \{(\mathbf{x}^1, \mathbf{y}^1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}^T, \mathbf{y}^T)\}$, find \mathbf{W} s.t. $\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x}^k) = \mathbf{y}^k \ \forall k$.

...also known as 100% train performance.



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Let's start by formulating this problem as a MIP model.















Goal: Find **W** such that $\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x}^k) = \mathbf{y}^k$ for all $k \in \{1 \dots T\}$.





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$$\sum_{i} w_{ij} \cdot x_{i}^{0} \ge 0 \qquad \qquad j = 5$$
$$\sum_{i} w_{ij} \cdot x_{i}^{0} < 0 \qquad \qquad j \neq 5$$





$$\sum_{i} w_{ij} \cdot x_{i}^{1} \ge 0 \qquad \qquad j = 0$$
$$\sum_{i} w_{ij} \cdot x_{i}^{1} < 0 \qquad \qquad j \neq 0$$



$$\begin{aligned} w_{ij} \in \{-1, 0, 1\} & \forall i \in N_0, j \in N_L \\ \sum_{i=1}^{N_0} x_i^k \cdot w_{ij} \ge 0 & \forall j \in N_L, k \in T : y_j^k = 1 \\ \sum_{i=1}^{N_0} x_i^k \cdot w_{ij} \le -\epsilon & \forall j \in N_L, k \in T : y_j^k = -1 \end{aligned}$$



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What if the BNN has hidden layers?















We need to model the neuron activations using extra variables:

- $u_{\ell j}^k$ is 1 if neuron j in layer ℓ is *active* given $x^k \in \mathcal{T}$ and 0 o/w.
- $2 \cdot u_{\ell i}^k 1$ is the neuron's output.



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$$\begin{array}{l} \bullet \ (u_{\ell j}^{k}=1) \implies \sum_{i \in N_{\ell-1}} w_{i\ell j} \cdot (2 \cdot u_{(\ell-1)i}^{k}-1) \geq 0 \\ \bullet \ (u_{\ell j}^{k}=0) \implies \sum_{i \in N_{\ell-1}} w_{i\ell j} \cdot (2 \cdot u_{(\ell-1)i}^{k}-1) \leq -\epsilon \end{array}$$

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• Add variable $c_{i\ell j}^k$ to represent $w_{i\ell j} \cdot (2 \cdot u_{(\ell-1)i}^k - 1)$



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$$(u_{\ell j}^{k} = 1) \implies (c_{i \ell j}^{k} = w_{i \ell j})$$
$$(u_{\ell j}^{k} = 0) \implies (c_{i \ell j}^{k} = -w_{i \ell j})$$



$$\begin{split} \mathbf{a}_{\ell j}^{k} &= \sum_{i \in N_{\ell-1}} c_{i \ell j}^{k} \\ \mathbf{a}_{L j}^{k} &\geq 0 \\ \mathbf{a}_{L j}^{k} &\leq -\epsilon \\ (u_{\ell j}^{k} &= 1) \implies (\mathbf{a}_{\ell j}^{k} \geq 0) \\ (u_{\ell j}^{k} &= 0) \implies (\mathbf{a}_{\ell j}^{k} \leq -\epsilon) \\ c_{i 1 j}^{i} &= x_{i}^{k} \cdot w_{i 1 j} \\ (u_{\ell j}^{k} &= 1) \implies (c_{i \ell j}^{k} &= w_{i \ell j}) \\ (u_{\ell j}^{k} &= 0) \implies (c_{i \ell j}^{k} &= -w_{i \ell j}) \\ w_{i \ell j} &\in \{-1, 0, 1\} \\ u_{\ell j}^{k} &\in \{0, 1\} \\ c_{i \ell j}^{k} &\in \mathbb{R} \end{split}$$

$$\forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T$$

$$\forall j \in N_{L}, k \in T : y_{j}^{k} = 1$$

$$\forall j \in N_{L}, k \in T : y_{j}^{t} = -1$$

$$\forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}^{L-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T$$

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$$\forall i \in N_{0}, j \in N_{1}, k \in T$$

$$\forall i \in \mathcal{L}_{2}, i \in N_{\ell-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T$$

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1. It has (way too) many auxiliary variables: $u_{\ell j}^{k} \in \{0,1\} \qquad \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}^{L-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T$ $c_{i\ell i}^{k} \in \mathbb{R} \qquad \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}, i \in N_{\ell-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T$



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- 2. Everywhere I look, I see an implication constraint:
 - $\begin{array}{ll} (u_{\ell j}^{k}=1) \implies (a_{\ell j}^{k} \geq 0) & \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}^{L-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T \\ (u_{\ell j}^{k}=0) \implies (a_{\ell j}^{k} \leq -\epsilon) & \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}^{L-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T \\ (u_{\ell j}^{k}=1) \implies (c_{i\ell j}^{k}=w_{i\ell j}) & \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}_{2}, i \in N_{\ell-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T \\ (u_{\ell j}^{k}=0) \implies (c_{i\ell j}^{k}=-w_{i\ell j}) & \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}_{2}, i \in N_{\ell-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T \end{array}$



CP model



We do not need auxiliary variables for this problem:



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$$\begin{aligned} n_{Lj}^k &= y_j^k & & \forall j \in N_L, k \in T \\ w_{i\ell j} \in \{-1, 0, 1\} & & \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}, i \in N_{\ell-1}, j \in N_\ell \end{aligned}$$



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where $n_{\ell i}^k$ is a CP expression recursively defined as follows:

$$\begin{split} n_{0j}^k &= x_j^k & \forall j \in N_0, k \in T \\ n_{\ell j}^k &= 2\left(\texttt{scal_prod}(\mathbf{w}_{\ell j}, \mathbf{n}_{\ell-1}^k) \geq 0\right) - 1 & \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L} \setminus \{L\}, j \in N_\ell, k \in T \end{split}$$





Approaches:

- GD: Standard gradient-based approach.
- MIP: MIP model solved by Gurobi 8.1
- CP: CP model solved by CP Optimizer 12.8



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Problem instances:

- A 100 small training sets sampled from MNIST.
- Each training set has from 1 to 10 examples per class.
- Zero, one, and two hidden layers with 16 neurons.



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- A 100 small training sets sampled from MNIST.
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Question:

• Which approach solves more instances given a 2h time limit?



	No hidden layers			One hidden layer			Two hidden layers		
$ \mathcal{T} $	MIP	GD	CP	MIP	GD	CP	MIP	GD	CP
10	10	10	10	10	9.6	10	9	9.2	10
20	10	10	10	7	5.6	10	0	8.4	10
30	10	10	10	0	0.4	9	0	5.2	10
40	10	10	10	0	0	8	0	6.2	10
50	10	10	10	0	0	8	0	4.2	10
60	10	10	10	0	0	7	0	2.2	10
70	10	10	10	0	0	3	0	0	10
80	10	10	10	0	0	3	0	0	10
90	10	10	8	0	0	1	0	0	8
100	10	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	6



Overfitting

Memorizing is not learning!

The real goal is to find weights that generalize (small testing error).



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small training error \neq small testing error






























































We better classify them correctly!



While most solutions overfit ... some generalize.



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We better classify them correctly!



While most solutions overfit ... some generalize.

How can we identify them?



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How can we identify them?

Two principles: simplicity & robustness.



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The simplicity principle



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Occam's razor: prefer the simplest BNN that fits the data.





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The robustness principle



Prefer robust solutions

BNNs that fit the data under small perturbations to their weights.





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$$\begin{array}{ll} \max_{\mathbf{W}} & \sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}, j \in \mathcal{N}_{\ell}} \min\{|a_{\ell j}(\mathbf{x})| : (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathcal{T}\} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{y} & \forall (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathcal{T} \\ & w \in \{-1, 0, 1\} & \forall w \in \mathbf{W} \\ & & (\mathsf{max-margin}) \end{array}$$



An optimality experiment



- CP_w and CP_m : min-weight and max-margin CP models.
- MIP_w and MIP_m: min-weight and max-margin MIP models.



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Problem instances:

■ Same 100 instances using 0, 1, or 2 hidden layers.



- CP_w and CP_m : min-weight and max-margin CP models.
- MIP_w and MIP_m: min-weight and max-margin MIP models.

Problem instances:

Same 100 instances using 0, 1, or 2 hidden layers.

Question:

• Will MIP or CP find better solutions given a 2h time limit?



An optimality experiment





Idea: use CP to find feasible solutions and MIP to optimize them.



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Option 1: model HW

Use the CP solution as a warm-start for MIP.



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Use the CP solution as a warm-start for MIP.

Option 2: model HA

Use the CP solution to fix the activations of all neurons in the MIP model and search only over the weights.



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- **1.** It has (way too) many auxiliary variables: $u_{\ell j}^{k} \in \{0,1\} \qquad \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}^{L-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T$ $c_{\ell \ell i}^{k} \in \mathbb{R} \qquad \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}, i \in N_{\ell-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T$
- 2. Everywhere I look, I see an implication constraint:
 - $\begin{array}{ll} (u_{\ell j}^{k}=1) \implies (a_{\ell j}^{k} \geq 0) & \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}^{L-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T \\ (u_{\ell j}^{k}=0) \implies (a_{\ell j}^{k} \leq -\epsilon) & \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}^{L-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T \\ (u_{\ell j}^{k}=1) \implies (c_{i\ell j}^{k}=w_{i\ell j}) & \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}_{2}, i \in N_{\ell-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T \\ (u_{\ell j}^{k}=0) \implies (c_{i\ell j}^{k}=-w_{i\ell j}) & \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}_{2}, i \in N_{\ell-1}, j \in N_{\ell}, k \in T \end{array}$























Results

- CP_w , CP_m , MIP_w , and MIP_m as before.
- HW_w and HW_m : min-weight and max-margin warm-start CP/MIP.
- HA_w and HA_m: min-weight and max-margin fixed-activation CP/MIP.
- GD_b and GD_t : Two versions of gradient descent.



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Same 100 instances using 0, 1, or 2 hidden layers.



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Problem instances:

Same 100 instances using 0, 1, or 2 hidden layers.

Question:

• Which model finds solutions that generalize better within 2h?



A generalization experiment

Test performance





A generalization experiment

Test performance



 HA_m outperforms max{ GD_b, GD_t } in **253 out of 300** experiments!


A generalization experiment

 HA_m outperforms alternatives by a large margin!



A generalization experiment



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Summary:

- Training BNNs is a discrete optimization problem.
- We can train BNNs using MIP and CP, but:
 - Use small datasets.
 - Optimize some proxy for generalizability.
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Thanks!

