

An Introduction to Deep Learning Computed Tomography and Known Operator Learning

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European Research Council







Known Operator Learning

- Introduction
- Current State-of-the-art in Deep Learning
- Prior Operators in Deep Networks
- Future Work





Work at the Lab - Examples







Known Operator Learning

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Work at the Lab - Examples







Work at the Lab – Examples Deep Learning







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Prior Operators in Neural Networks

"Let's not reinvent the wheel..."





Universal Approximation Theorem

Any continuous function can be approximated by Neural Net

$$u(\mathbf{x}) \approx U(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i} u_i s(\mathbf{w}_i^\top \mathbf{x} + w_{j,0})$$

The error is bound by

$$|U(\mathbf{x}) - u(\mathbf{x})| \le \epsilon_u$$









Prior Operators – Precision Learning

Consider the case of using known operators in the net



• Specifically consider the use of two operators in sequence

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = g(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}))$$

[5] Andreas Maier et al. Precision Learning: Towards use of known operators in neural networks. ICPR 2018.





Approximation Sequences

Sequential operations

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = g(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}))$$

• Can be approximated:

$$F_u(\mathbf{x}) = g(\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x})) = f(\mathbf{x}) - e_u$$

$$F_g(\mathbf{x}) = G(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})) = f(\mathbf{x}) - e_g$$

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = G(\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x})) = f(\mathbf{x}) - e_f$$





Error of Approximation Sequences

Approximation introduces error

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = g(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})) = G(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})) + e_g$$

= $\sum_j g_j s(u_j(\mathbf{x})) + g_0 + e_g$
= $\sum_j g_j s(U_j(\mathbf{x}) + e_{u_j}) + g_0 + e_g$

• Can we find bounds on this error?





Bounds for Sigmoid Functions

Sigmoid function satisfies the following upper bound: ۲







Observations on Bounds

Bound on Error:

$$|e_{f}| \leq \sum_{j} |g_{j}| \cdot l_{s} \cdot |e_{u_{j}}| + \epsilon_{g}$$

Error U(x)
Error G(x)

- Observations
 - Error in U(x) and G(x) additive
 - Error of U(x) amplified by g(x)
 - Interpretation as Feature Extractor => Importance of Features
 - Requires Lipschitz continuity





Observations on Bounds

• Extension to Deep Networks:



• Proof by Recursion:

Theorem 4 (Unknown Operators in Deep Networks). Let $\mathbf{u}_{\ell}(\mathbf{x}_{\ell}) : \mathcal{D}_{\ell} \to \mathcal{D}_{\ell-1}$ be a continuous function with Lipschitz-bound $\mathbf{l}_{\mathbf{u}_{\ell}}$ on compact set $\mathcal{D}_{\ell} \subset \mathbb{R}^{N_{\ell}}$ with integer $\ell > 0$. Further let $\mathbf{f}_{\ell}(\mathbf{x}_{\ell}) : \mathcal{D}_{\ell} \to \mathcal{D}$ be a function composed of ℓ layers / function blocks defined as recursion $\mathbf{f}_{\ell}(\mathbf{x}_{\ell}) = \mathbf{f}_{\ell-1}(\mathbf{u}_{\ell}(\mathbf{x}_{\ell}))$ with $\mathbf{f}_{\ell=0}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}$ on compact set $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^{N_{D}+1}$ bound by Lipschitz constant $\mathbf{l}_{\mathbf{f}_{\ell}}$ with $\mathbf{l}_{\mathbf{f}_{\ell=0}} = 1$. Recursive function $\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{\ell}(\mathbf{x}_{\ell}) = \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{\ell-1}(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_{\ell}(\mathbf{x}_{\ell}))$ with $\hat{\mathbf{f}}_{\ell=0}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}$ is then an approximation of $\mathbf{f}_{\ell}(\mathbf{x}_{\ell})$. Then, $\mathbf{e}_{f,\ell} = \mathbf{f}_{\ell}(\mathbf{x}_{\ell}) - \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{\ell}(\mathbf{x}_{\ell})$ is generally bounded for all $\mathbf{x}_{\ell} \in \mathcal{D}_{\ell}$ and for all $\ell > 0$ in each component k by

$$e_{f,\ell,k}| \le \sum_{\ell_i=1}^{\ell} ||\mathbf{e}_{u,\ell_i}||_p \cdot l_{\mathbf{f}_{\ell_i-1}}$$
 (13)

where $\mathbf{e}_{u,\ell} = [e_{u,\ell,0}, \dots e_{u,\ell,N_I}]^{\top}$ is the vector of errors introduced by $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_{\ell}(\mathbf{x}_{\ell})$.





CT Reconstruction





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CT Reconstruction

• CT solves a system of equations







CT Reconstruction

• Typically

512 x 512 x 512 = 134 217 728

unknown variables

- Operator A is large (about 65.000 TB in float precision)
- Efficient solution required
- Solution known since 1917
- First prototype in 1971 by Hounsfield





Computed Tomography

• Efficient solution via filtered back-projection:

$$f(x,y) = \int_0^{\pi} p(s,\theta) * \frac{1}{-2\pi^2 s^2} d\theta \quad \text{mit } s = x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta$$

- Three steps:
 - Convolution along s
 - Back-projection along θ
 - Suppress negative values





Computed Tomography

• Efficient solution via filtered back-projection:

$$f(x,y) = \int_0^{\pi} p(s,\theta) * \frac{1}{-2\pi^2 s^2} d\theta \quad \text{mit } s = x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta$$

• Can also be derived in matrix notation:

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}$$
$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{A}^{\top}\underbrace{(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^{\top})^{-1}}_{\text{Filter}}\mathbf{p}$$





• All three steps can be modeled as neural network:







Discretization

• Derivation of Radon Inverse relies on continuous form:

$$f(x,y) = \int_0^{\pi} p(s,\theta) * \frac{1}{-2\pi^2 s^2} d\theta \quad \text{mit } s = x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta$$

• Detector pixels need to be infinitely small!







































- Idea: Neural Networks are discrete end-to-end
 > Net work must learn correct solution
- Correct discretization is an intrinsic property of the net

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^{\top} (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^{\top})^{-1} \mathbf{p}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p}$$





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$$Net$$





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$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p}$$

• Associated optimization problem:

$$f(\mathbf{K}) = \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x}||_{\mathbf{2}}^{\mathbf{2}}$$





• Objective function:

$$f(\mathbf{K}) = \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x}||_{\mathbf{2}}^{\mathbf{2}}$$





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$$\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{K})}{\partial \mathbf{K}} = \mathbf{F} \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x}) (\mathbf{F} \mathbf{p})^{\top}$$





• Objective function:

$$f(\mathbf{K}) = \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x}||_{\mathbf{2}}^{\mathbf{2}}$$

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• Objective function:

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$$\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{K})}{\partial \mathbf{K}} = \frac{\mathbf{F} \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x})}{\mathbf{B} a c k propagation} (\mathbf{F} \mathbf{p})^{\top}$$





• Objective function:

$$f(\mathbf{K}) = \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x}||_{\mathbf{2}}^{\mathbf{2}}$$

• Gradient:

$$\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{K})}{\partial \mathbf{K}} = \frac{\mathbf{F} \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x})}{\mathbf{B} a c k propagation} (\mathbf{F} \mathbf{p})^{\top}$$

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• Objective function:

$$f(\mathbf{K}) = \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x}||_{\mathbf{2}}^{\mathbf{2}}$$

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• Objective function:

$$f(\mathbf{K}) = \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x}||_{\mathbf{2}}^{\mathbf{2}}$$

• Gradient:

$$\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{K})}{\partial \mathbf{K}} = \frac{\mathbf{F} \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{x}) (\mathbf{F} \mathbf{p})^{\top}}{\mathbf{B} ackpropagation} \quad \text{,,l-1"}$$

$$\Delta w_{ij}^{(l)} = \eta \, \delta_j^{(l)} \, y_i^{(l-1)}$$

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• Filter after "Learning":











• Fan-beam reconstruction formula:

 $x = \mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{W} \mathbf{p}$







Application to incomplete scans [2]



Reconstruction with 360 deg





Application to incomplete scans [2]



Reconstruction with 180 deg (FBP)





Application to incomplete scans [2]



Reconstruction with 180 deg (NN)





Learned Weights







Further Extensions

Add non-linear de-streaking and de-noising step:

$$E(\boldsymbol{y}) = \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\boldsymbol{y}_{VN} - \boldsymbol{y}_{NN}\|_2^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{N_k} \rho_i(\mathbf{K}_i \boldsymbol{y}_{VN})$$

$$m{y}_{VN}^{t} = m{y}_{VN}^{t-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{N_k} \mathbf{K}_{i,t}^T
ho_{i,t}' (\mathbf{K}_{i,t} m{y}_{VN}^{t-1}) - \lambda_t (m{y}_{VN}^{t-1} - m{y}_{NN})$$

[7] Hammernik, Kerstin, et al. "A deep learning architecture for limited-angle computed tomography reconstruction." *Bildverarbeitung für die Medizin 2017.* Springer Vieweg, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2017. 92-97.





Further Extensions

Add non-linear de-streaking and de-noising step:



Step 1: Neural network CT reconstruction

Step 2: Variational network image denoising

[7] Hammernik, Kerstin, et al. "A deep learning architecture for limited-angle computed tomography reconstruction." *Bildverarbeitung für die Medizin 2017.* Springer Vieweg, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2017. 92-97.





Further Extensions

Full Scan Reference







Neural Network Input







ResNets Revisited

General Function Optimization: Find maxima of

Idea: follow gradient direction

$$\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \mathbf{x}_n + \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_n)$$

 $f(\mathbf{x})$





 $\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{CB}$





$$\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{CB}$$



Cone-beam acquisition









$$\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{CB}$$

 $\mathbf{A}_{PB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{PB}$



Parallel projection





$$\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{CB}$$

 $\mathbf{A}_{PB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{PB}$



Parallel projection Can't be measured!





$$\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{CB}$$
$$\mathbf{A}_{PB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{PB}$$
$$x = \mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top}(\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top})^{-1}\mathbf{p}_{CB}$$





$$\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{CB}$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{PB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{PB}$$

$$x = \mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top}(\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top})^{-1}\mathbf{p}_{CB}$$

$$\mathbf{p}_{PB} = \mathbf{A}_{PB}\mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top}(\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top})^{-1}\mathbf{p}_{CB}$$





$$\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{CB}$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{PB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{PB}$$

$$x = \mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top}(\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top})^{-1}\mathbf{p}_{CB}$$

$$\mathbf{p}_{PB} = \mathbf{A}_{PB}\mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top}(\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top})^{-1}\mathbf{p}_{CB}$$

$$\mathbf{p}_{PB} = \mathbf{A}_{PB}\mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top}F^{H}KF\mathbf{p}_{CB}$$





$$\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{CB}$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{PB}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}_{PB}$$

$$x = \mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top}(\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top})^{-1}\mathbf{p}_{CB}$$

$$\mathbf{p}_{PB} = \mathbf{A}_{PB}\mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top}(\mathbf{A}_{CB}\mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top})^{-1}\mathbf{p}_{CB}$$

$$\mathbf{p}_{PB} = \mathbf{A}_{PB}\mathbf{A}_{CB}^{\top}F^{H}KF\mathbf{p}_{CB}$$
New Net
Topology ?





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- Future Work





4D+ nanoSCOPE Project

Cardiology



*Kindly provided by S. Achenbach, FAU Erlangen









Muller et al., Hierarchical microimaging of bone structure and function, Nat. Rev. Rheum. 5, 373 (2009)





Known Operator Learning

- Many traditional approaches mathematically equivalent to neural networks and vice versa
- Learned algorithms are again traditional algorithms
- Learned parameters can be interpreted!
- Virtually all state-of-the art methods can also be integrated
- Methods efficient and interpretable





Thank you for your attention!

[1] Florin Ghesu et al. Robust Multi-Scale Anatomical Landmark Detection in Incomplete 3D-CT Data. Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention MICCAI 2017 (MICCAI), Quebec, Canada, pp. 194-202, 2017 – **MICCAI Young Researcher Award**

[2] Florin Ghesu et al. Multi-Scale Deep Reinforcement Learning for Real-Time 3D-Landmark Detection in CT Scans. IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence. ePub ahead of print. 2018

[3] Bastian Bier et al. X-ray-transform Invariant Anatomical Landmark Detection for Pelvic Trauma Surgery. MICCAI 2018 – MICCAI Young Researcher Award

[4] Yixing Huang et al. Some Investigations on Robustness of Deep Learning in Limited Angle Tomography. MICCAI 2018.

[5] Andreas Maier et al. Precision Learning: Towards use of known operators in neural networks. ICPR 2018.

[6] Tobias Würfl, Florin Ghesu, Vincent Christlein, Andreas Maier. Deep Learning Computed Tomography. MICCAI 2016.

[7] Hammernik, Kerstin, et al. "A deep learning architecture for limited-angle computed tomography reconstruction." *Bildverarbeitung für die Medizin 2017*. Springer Vieweg, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2017. 92-97.

[8] Aubreville, Marc, et al. "Deep Denoising for Hearing Aid Applications." 2018 16th International Workshop on Acoustic Signal Enhancement (IWAENC). IEEE, 2018.

[9] Christopher Syben, Bernhard Stimpel, Jonathan Lommen, Tobias Würfl, Arnd Dörfler, Andreas Maier. Deriving Neural Network Architectures using Precision Learning: Parallel-to-fan beam Conversion. GCPR 2018. <u>https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.03057</u>

[10] Stromer, Daniel, et al. "Browsing through sealed historical manuscripts by using 3-D computed tomography with low-brilliance X-ray sources." Scientific reports 8.1 (2018): 15335.

[11] Stromer, Daniel, et al. "Virtual cleaning and unwrapping of non-invasively digitized soiled bamboo scrolls." *Scientific reports* 9.1 (2019): 2311.