Project: Efficiency of Our Matlab/Octave Implementation

Last updated: May 11, 2020
Goal

- Running time analysis of our SG implementation in MATLAB and how efficient it is in comparison with Tensorflow
- MATLAB: we explicitly conduct every operation discussed in slides
- Tensorflow: it calculates the gradient for us.
In simpleNN there is a MATLAB implementation.
We are interested in checking how efficient it is.
Let’s run
- Tensorflow’s SG for 10 epochs
- Our SG for 10 epochs
Check and analyze the running time per epoch.
Let’s use the simple SG without momentum (so not Adam). That is, the simplest setting.
We use the same CNN 4 layers architecture as before.
Ensure that they use the same parameters (e.g., batch size)

However, no need to worry if they use the same initial solution (as accuracy isn’t important now)

They do the same pre-processing steps though at this moment you don’t worry about what these steps are

These things shouldn’t affect the input size and therefore the amount of computation
A key thing to check is the percentage of each main operation of our implementation (see the list of operations in our slides)
To do this, based on materials in our lectures you want to trace the code and know details
To see time of each operation or each subroutine, you must do MATLAB/Octave profiling
Another thing to check is the timing comparison with Tensorflow.
Separately analyzing main operations in Tensorflow may not be easy (?) so let’s focus only on the total training time

- For both MATLAB and Tensorflow, make sure you check only the training time (i.e., no validation)
- For this project let’s still consider the same data sets as before
- This project is more research oriented than the earlier ones.

For the final grading the weight of this project may be higher
Make sure you run both simpleNN and Tensorflow on CPU without using GPU
Otherwise your timing analysis may be incorrect
All details are given in README
You must put two configuration files for the two data sets in the config sub-directory.
You also need a driver file.
We give a sample driver file called example.m but you may modify the driver file for your need.
Remember to specify -gpu_use 0 for using CPU only.
You should trace the code because it handles some tricky things.

For example,

```matlab
Z = [full(Z) zeros(size(Z,1), a*b*d - size(Z,2))];
```

gives zeros columns in the end.

If the input matrix is in the sparse format, zero columns in the end are not stored.

You don’t need to understand details of the two normalization steps in the code.
Both Tensorflow and MATLAB try to use multiple cores

But for MATLAB we know only some of the main operations use multi-core

So the timing comparison can be tricky

For MATLAB, let’s focus on getting correct wall-clock time of each major operation

You can check both single and multi-core settings

For MATLAB, the following command specifies that one core is used
matlab -singleCompThread

- For octave, we can use
  
  export OMP_NUM_THREADS=1

- For Tensorflow let’s just use the default (multi-core)
By default Tensorflow uses single

Let’s use single in MATLAB too

You can use the option -ftype to specify the use of single
Octave’s profiling functionality is not as good as Matlab’s yet

- It may not show the time spent on each line
- However, from the time of each function call, you should still be able to do some analysis
Optimized BLAS I

- How to know which optimized BLAS used by MATLAB/Octave?
- You can do
  ```octave
  octave:4> version(’-blas’)
  ans = OpenBLAS (config: NO_LAPACKE DYNAMIC_ARCH Haswell MAX_THREADS=64)
  ```
- You may try to build Octave by linking Intel MKL
- You can follow the procedure in the section Link/Build Latest Octave with latest MKL at
you may need to add

--enable-fortran-calling-convention=gfortran

into the configure options to build Octave.
Students with the following IDs:
  t08901107
  r07922154
  b05902105
  t08902130
  b05201037
  b06902008
  b05902050
  a08922203
  r08521508

please do a 10-minute presentation (9-minute the contents and 1-minute Q&A)
Acknowledgments

- Pin-Yen Lin helped to figure out many settings described in this file
- Chien-Chih Wang helped to check the driver file