ROB 498/599: Deep Learning for Robot Perception (DeepRob)

Lecture 10: Training Neural Networks - Part 2

02/11/2026

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Today

P2 Due Feb.15, 2026

Canvas Quiz: Due Feb 18, 2026

- Feedback and Recap (5min)
- Training NNs
  - One-time Setup (Cont'd)
    - Weight Initialization
    - Dropout
  - Training Dynamics
    - Learning Rate scheduling
    - Choosing Hyperparameters
  - If time permits: After Training
    - Model Ensembles, Transfer Learning
- Summary and Takeaways (5min)

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Aha Slides
(In-class participation)

https://ahaslides.com/RLCCA

Recap: Activation Functions

Sigmoid

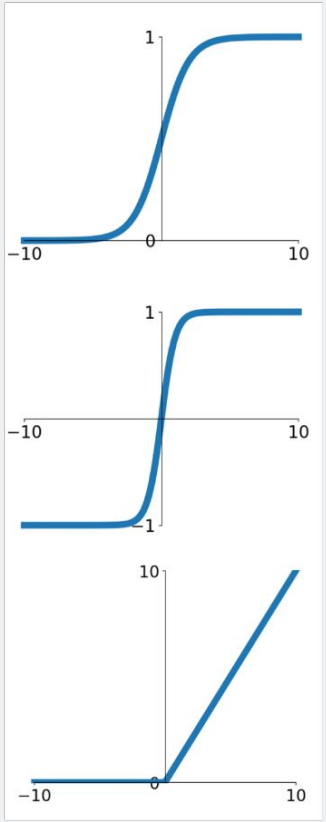
$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

tanh

$$\tanh(x)$$

ReLU

$$\max(0,x)$$



Leaky ReLU

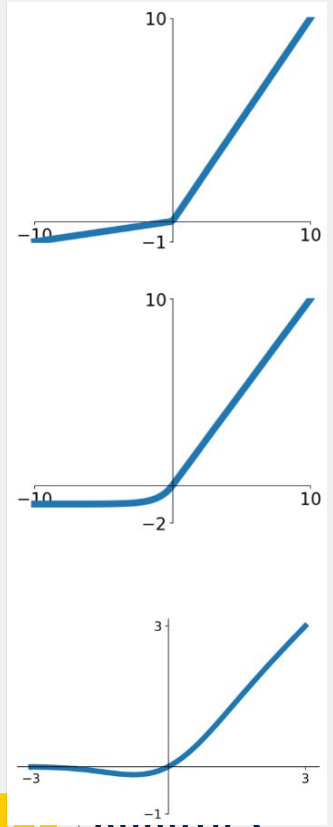
$$\max(0.1x, x)$$

ELU

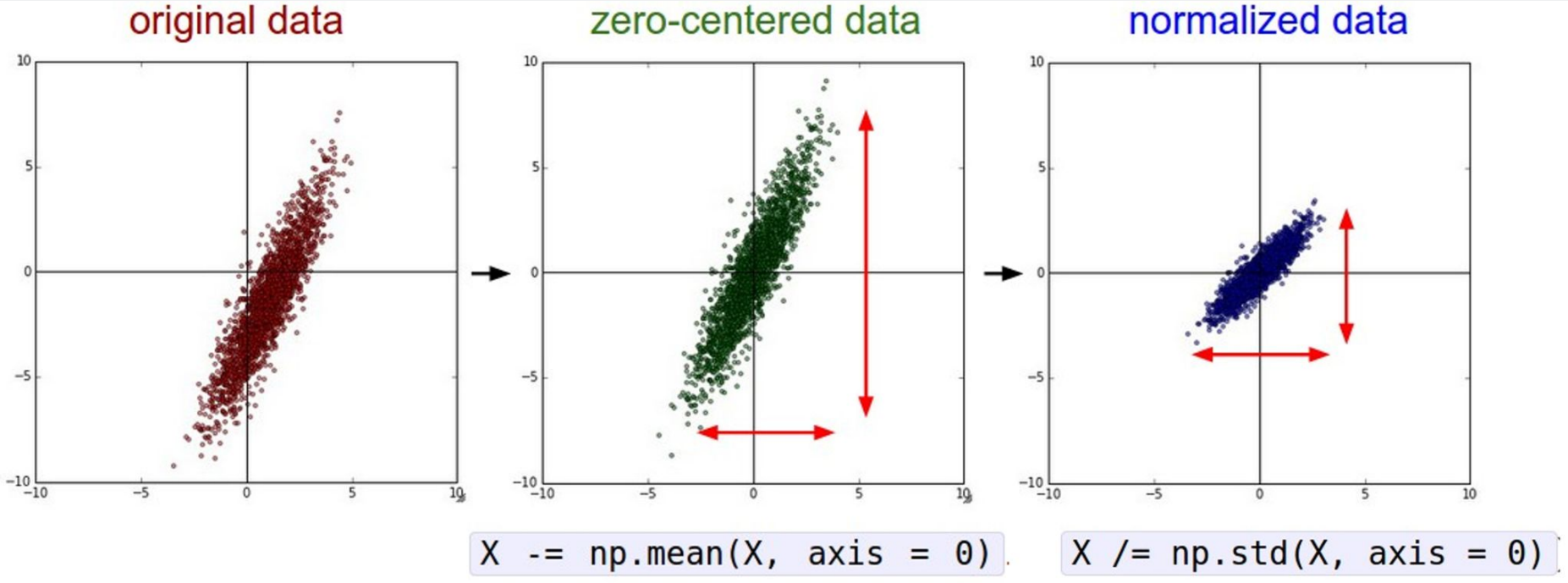
$$\begin{cases} x & x \geq 0 \\ \alpha(\exp^x - 1) & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

GELU

$$\approx x\alpha(1.702x)$$



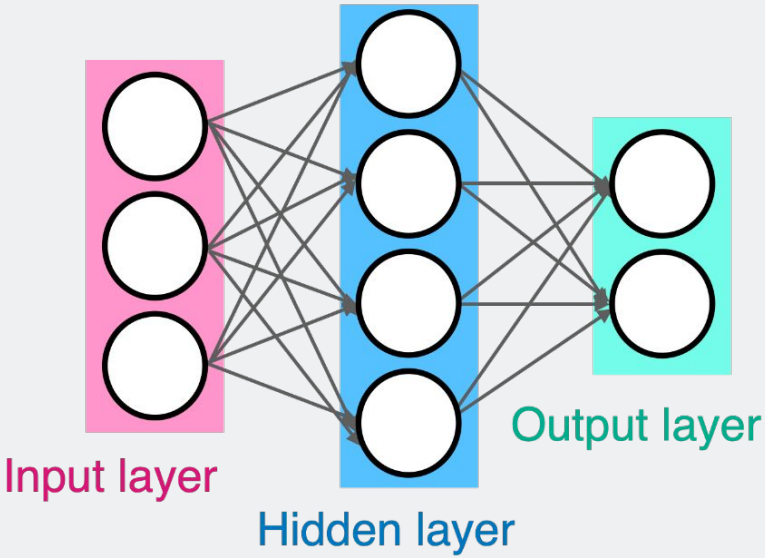
Recap: Data Preprocessing



(Assume X[NxD] is data matrix, each example in a row)

Weight Initialization

Weight Initialization



Q: What happens if we initialize all W=0, b=0?

A: All outputs are 0, all gradients are the same! No “symmetry breaking”

Weight Initialization

Next idea: **small random numbers** (Gaussian with zero mean, std=0.01)

```
W = 0.01 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)
```

Works ~okay for small networks, but problems with deeper networks.

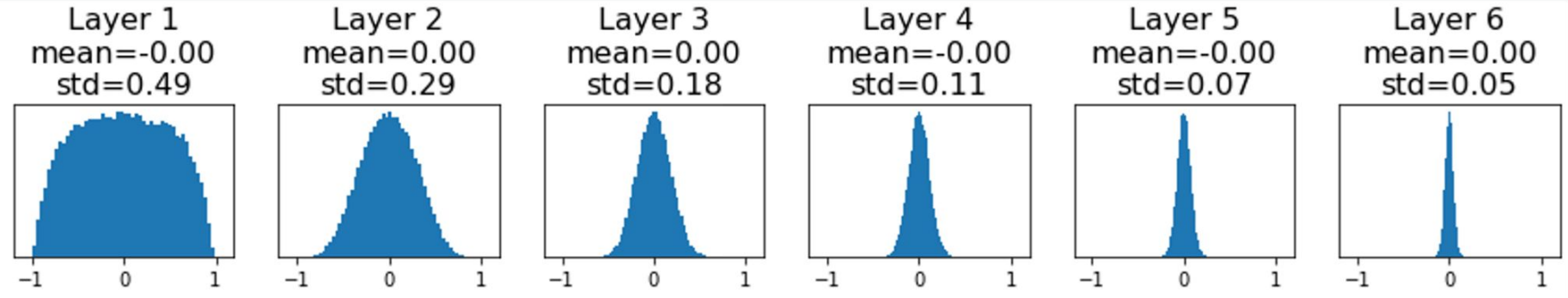
Weight Initialization: Activation Statistics

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = 0.01 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)
    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

Forward pass for a 6-layer net with hidden size 4096

All activations tend to zero for deeper network layers

Q: What do the gradients look like?



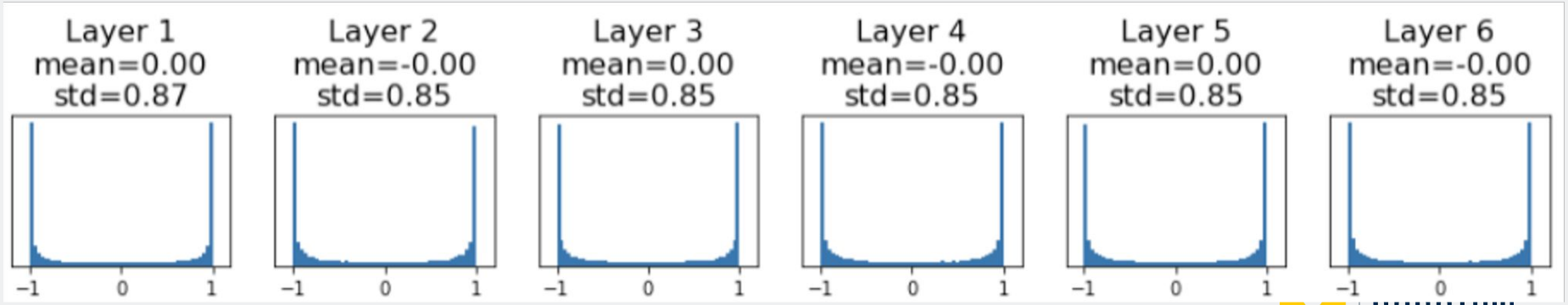
Weight Initialization: Activation Statistics

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = 0.05 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)
    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

Increase std of initial weights from 0.01 to 0.05

All activations saturate

Q: What do the gradients look like?



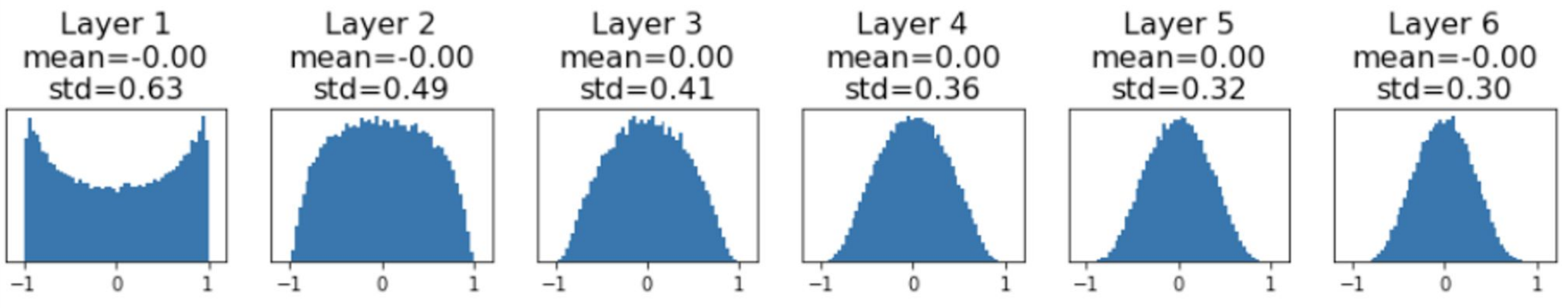
Weight Initialization: Xavier Initialization

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = np.random.randn(Din, Dout) / np.sqrt(Din)
    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

"Xavier" initialization:
std = 1/sqrt(Din)

"Just right": Activations are nicely scaled for all layers!

For conv layers, Din is kernel_size^2 x input_channels



Glorot and Bengio, "Understanding the difficulty of training deep feedforward neural networks", AISTAT 2010

Weight Initialization: Xavier Initialization

Derivation: Variance of output = Variance of input

$y = Wx$

$$y_i = \sum_{j=1}^{Din} x_j w_j$$

$Var(y_i) = Din * Var(x_i w_i)$ [Assume x, w are iid]

$= Din * (E[x_i^2]E[w_i^2] - E[x_i]^2 E[w_i]^2)$ [Assume x, w independent]

$= Din * Var(x_i) * Var(w_i)$ [Assume x, w are zero-mean]

If $Var(w_i) = 1/Din$ then $Var(y_i) = Var(x_i)$

Glorot and Bengio, “Understanding the difficulty of training deep feedforward neural networks”, AISTAT 2010

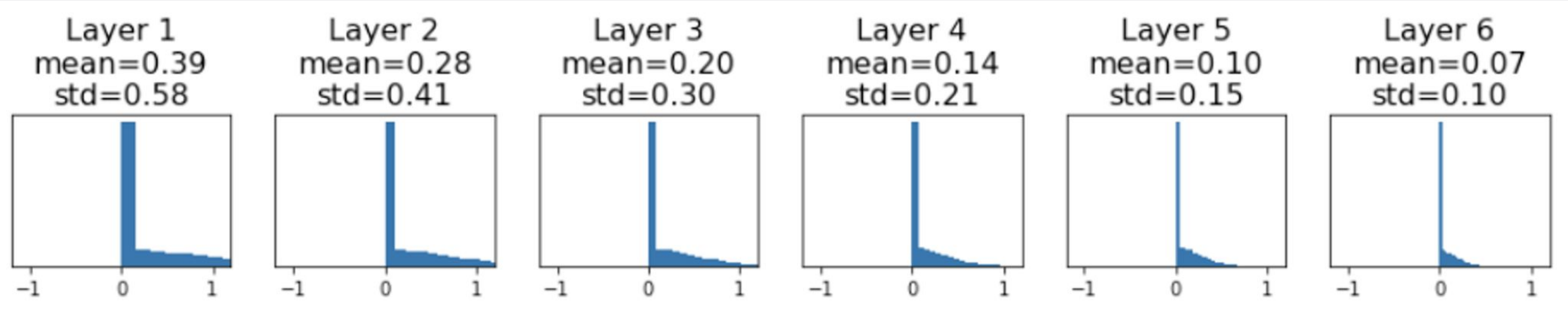
Weight Initialization: Xavier Initialization

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = np.random.randn(Din, Dout) / np.sqrt(Din)
    x = np.maximum(0, x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

Change from tanh to ReLU

Xavier assumes zero centered activation function

Activations collapse to zero again, no learning :(

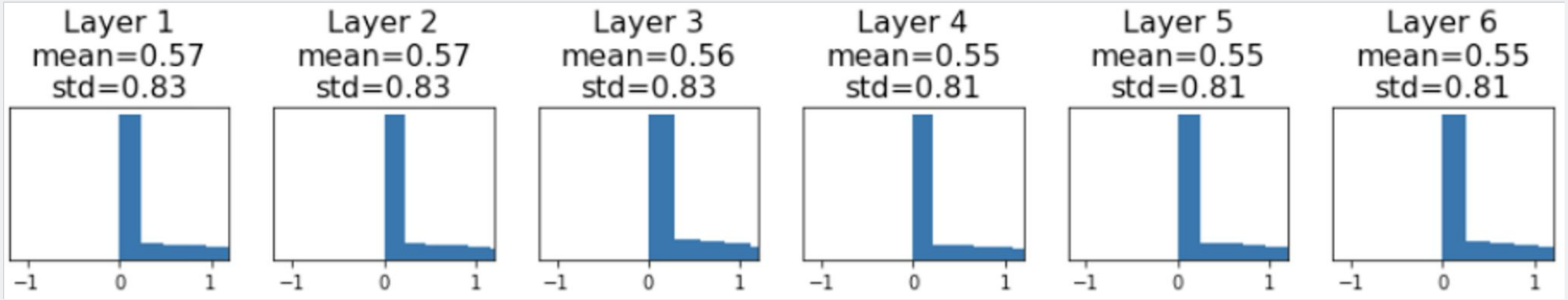


Weight Initialization: Kaiming/MSRA initialization

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = np.random.randn(Din, Dout) / np.sqrt(Din)
    x = np.maximum(0, x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

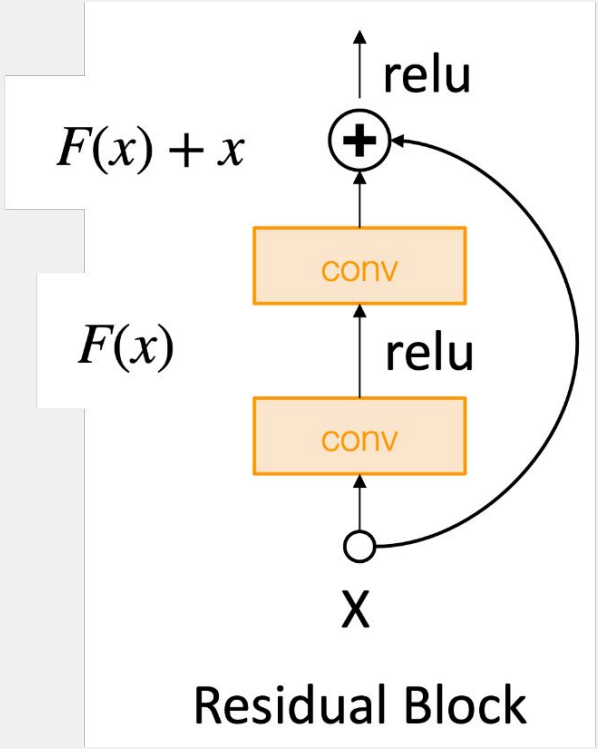
ReLU correction: std = sqrt(2 / Din)

"Just right" - activations nicely scaled for all layers



He et al., "Delving Deep into Rectifiers: Surpassing Human-Level Performance on ImageNet Classification", ICCV 2015

Weight Initialization: Residual Networks



If we initialize with MSRA: then

$$Var(F(x)) = Var(x)$$

But then $Var(F(x) + x) > Var(x)$
variance grows with each block!

Solution: Initialize first conv with MSRA, initialize second conv to zero. Then

$$Var(F(x) + x) = Var(x)$$

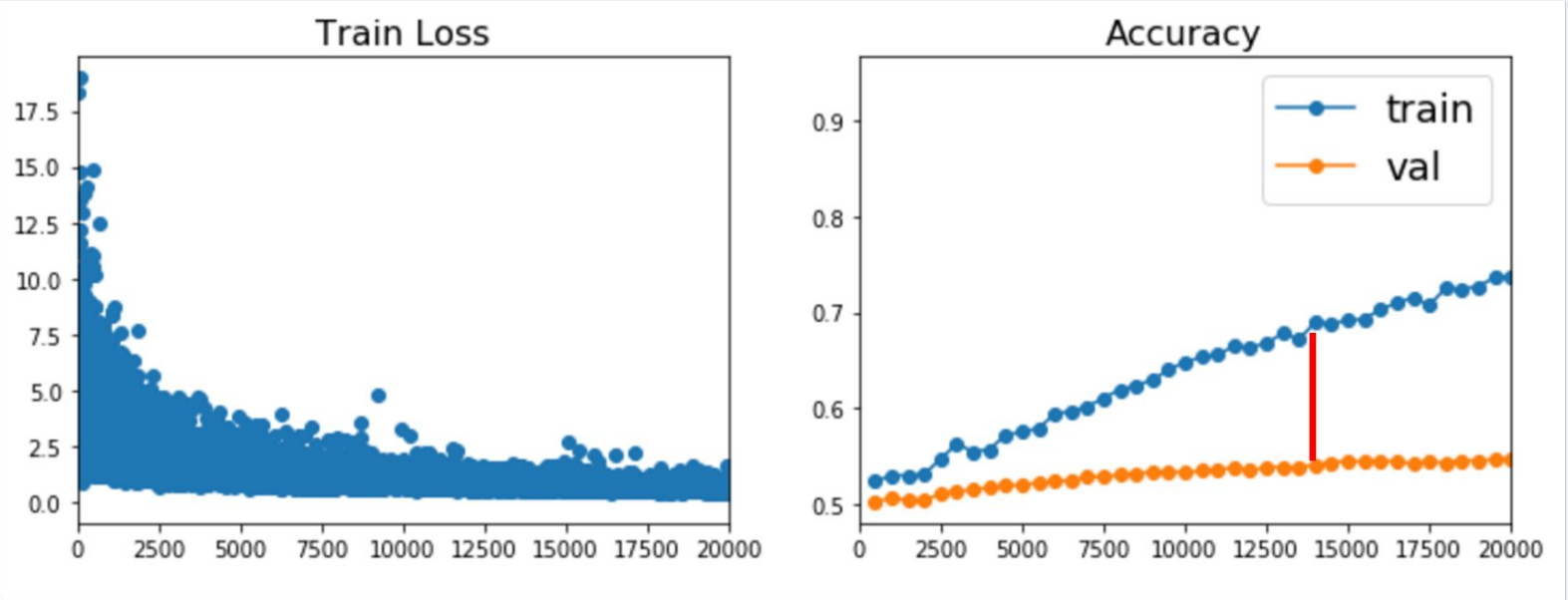
Zhang et al, "Fixup Initialization: Residual Learning Without Normalization", ICLR 2019
https://arxiv.org/abs/1901.09321

Proper Initialization: Active area of research

- Understanding the difficulty of training deep feedforward neural networks by Glorot and Bengio, 2010
- Exact solutions to the nonlinear dynamics of learning in deep linear neural networks by Saxe et al, 2013
- Random walk initialization for training very deep feedforward networks by Sussillo and Abbott, 2014
- Delving deep into rectifiers: Surpassing human-level performance on ImageNet classification by He et al., 2015
- Data-dependent Initializations of Convolutional Neural Networks by Krähenbühl et al., 2015
- All you need is a good init, Mishkin and Matas, 2015
- Fixup Initialization: Residual Learning Without Normalization, Zhang et al, 2019
- The Lottery Ticket Hypothesis: Finding Sparse, Trainable Neural Networks, Frankle and Carbin, 2019
- ……

Regularization (Dropout)

Now your model is training… but it overfits!



Regularization

Recap: Regularization

$$L = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\sum_{j\neq y_i}\max(0, f(x_i; W)_j - f(x_i; W)_{y_i} + 1) + \lambda R(W)$$

In common use:

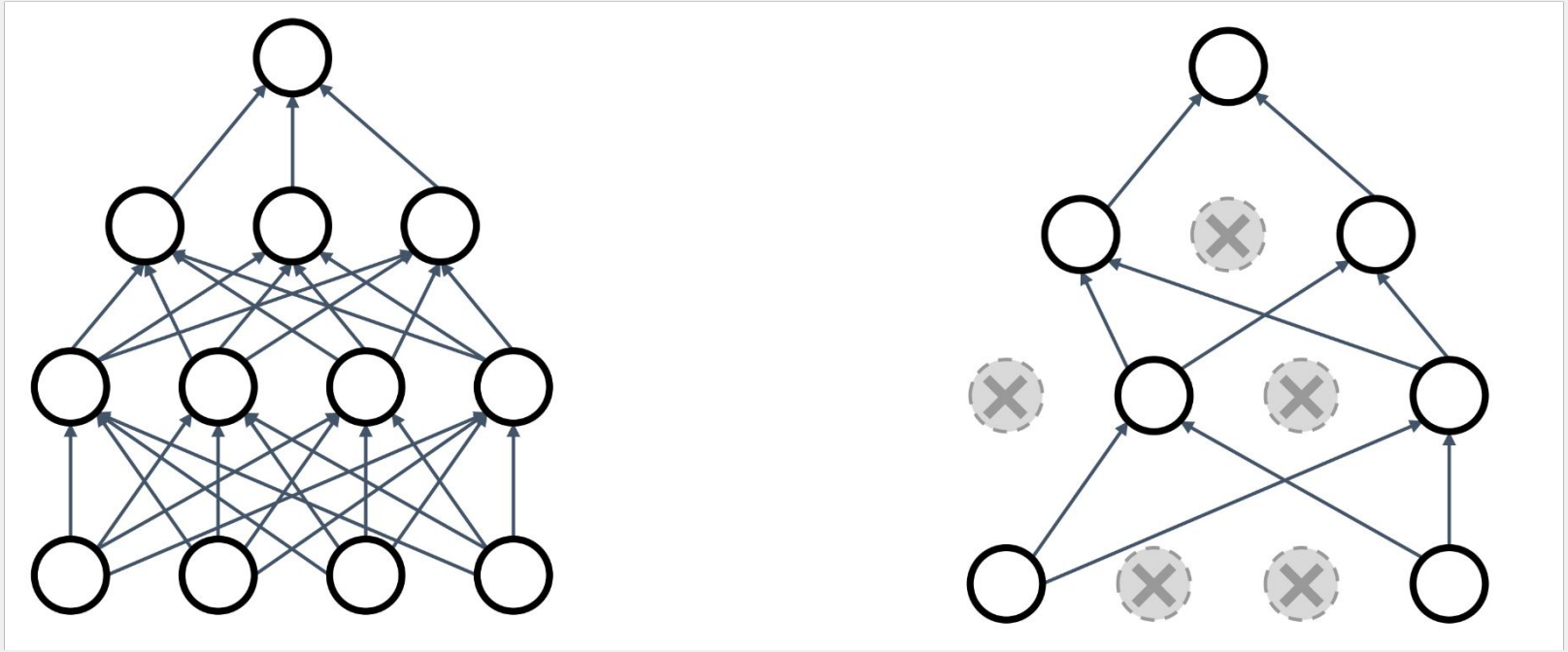
L2 regularization $R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l W_{k,l}^2$ (Weight decay)

L1 regularization $R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l |W_{k,l}|$

Elastic net (L1 + L2) $R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l \beta W_{k,l}^2 + |W_{k,l}|$

Regularization: Dropout

In each forward pass, randomly set some neurons to zero
Probability of dropping is a hyperparameter; 0.5 is common



Srivastava et al, “Dropout: A simple way to prevent neural networks from overfitting”, JMLR 2014
https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~hinton/absps/JMLRdropout.pdf

Regularization: Dropout

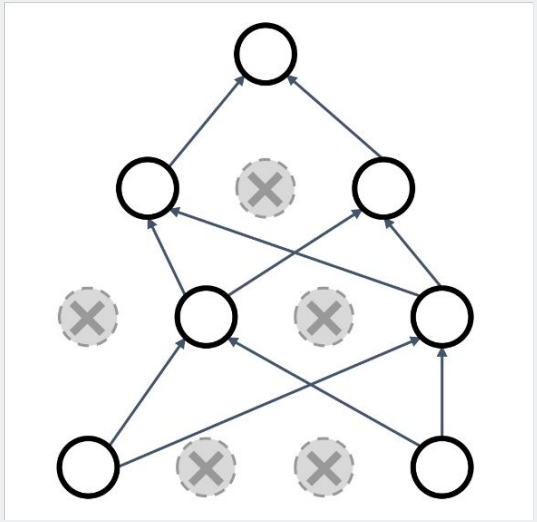
```
p = 0.5 # probability of keeping a unit active. higher = less dropout

def train_step(X):
  """ X contains the data """

  # forward pass for example 3-layer neural network
  H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1)
  U1 = np.random.rand(*H1.shape) < p # first dropout mask
  H1 *= U1 # drop!
  H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)
  U2 = np.random.rand(*H2.shape) < p # second dropout mask
  H2 *= U2 # drop!
  out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3

  # backward pass: compute gradients... (not shown)
  # perform parameter update... (not shown)
```

Example forward pass with a 3-layer network using dropout



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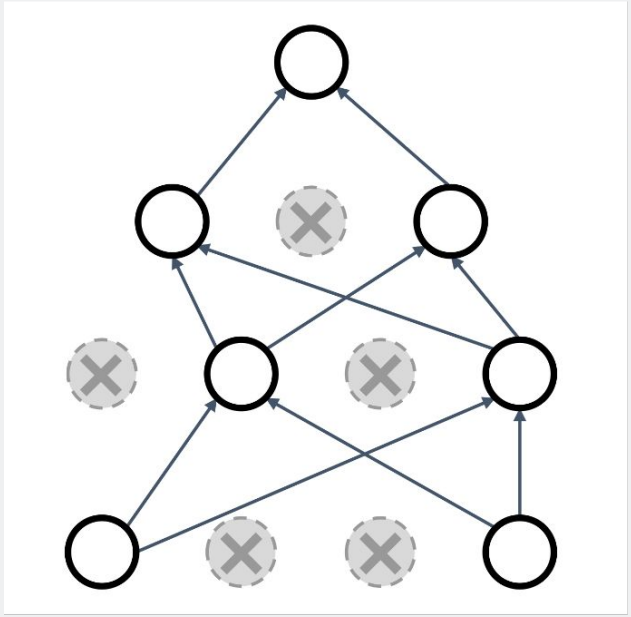
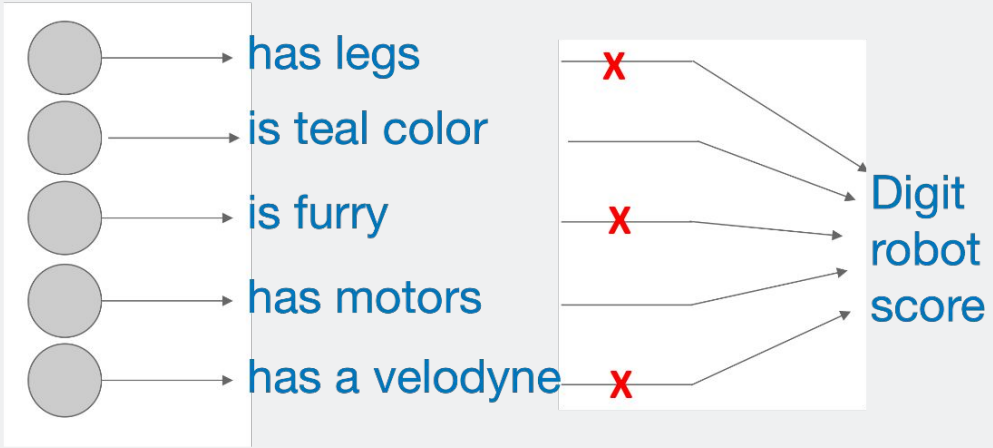
Interpreting Dropout



Forces the network to have a redundant representation; prevents **co-adaptation** of features



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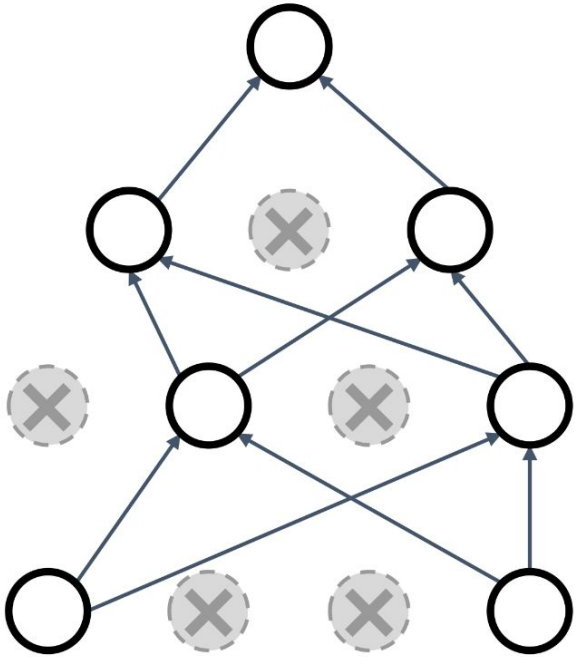
Interpreting Dropout



Another interpretation:

Dropout is training a large *ensemble* of models (that share parameters).

Each binary mask is one model

An FC layer with 4096 units has
$2^{4096} \sim 10^{1233}$ possible masks!
Only $\sim 10^{82}$ atoms in the universe…

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Dropout: Test Time

Dropout makes our output random!

Random mask

$$y = f_w(x, z)$$

Output label Input image

Want to "average out" the randomness at test-time

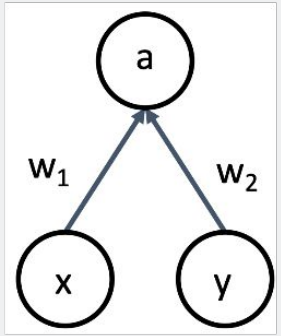
$$y = f(x, z) = \mathbb{E}_z[f(x, z)] = \int p(z) f(x, z) dz$$

But this integral seems hard…

Dropout: Test Time

Want to approximate the integral

$$y = f(x, z) = \mathbb{E}_z[f(x, z)] = \int p(z) f(x, z) dz$$



Consider a single neuron:

At test time we have: $\mathbb{E}[a] = w_1 x + w_2 y$

During training time we have:

$$\mathbb{E}[a] = \frac{1}{4}(w_1 x + w_2 y) + \frac{1}{4}(w_1 x + 0y) + \frac{1}{4}(0x + 0y) + \frac{1}{4}(0x + w_2 y)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(w_1 x + w_2 y)$$

At test time, drop nothing and **multiply** by dropout probability

Dropout: Test Time

```
def predict(X):
  # ensembled forward pass
  H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1) * p # NOTE: scale the activations
  H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2) * p # NOTE: scale the activations
  out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3
```

At test time all neurons are active always

=> We must scale the activations so that for each neuron:
Output at test time = Expected output at training time

Dropout: Summary

```
""" Vanilla Dropout: Not recommended implementation (see notes below) """

p = 0.5 # probability of keeping a unit active. higher = less dropout

def train_step(X):
  """ X contains the data """

  # forward pass for example 3-layer neural network
  H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1)
  U1 = np.random.rand(*H1.shape) < p # first dropout mask
  H1 *= U1 # drop!
  H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)
  U2 = np.random.rand(*H2.shape) < p # second dropout mask
  H2 *= U2 # drop!
  out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3

  # backward pass: compute gradients... (not shown)
  # perform parameter update... (not shown)

def predict(X):
  # ensembled forward pass
  H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1) * p # NOTE: scale the activations
  H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2) * p # NOTE: scale the activations
  out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3
```

Drop in forward pass

Scale at test time

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More common: “Inverted dropout”

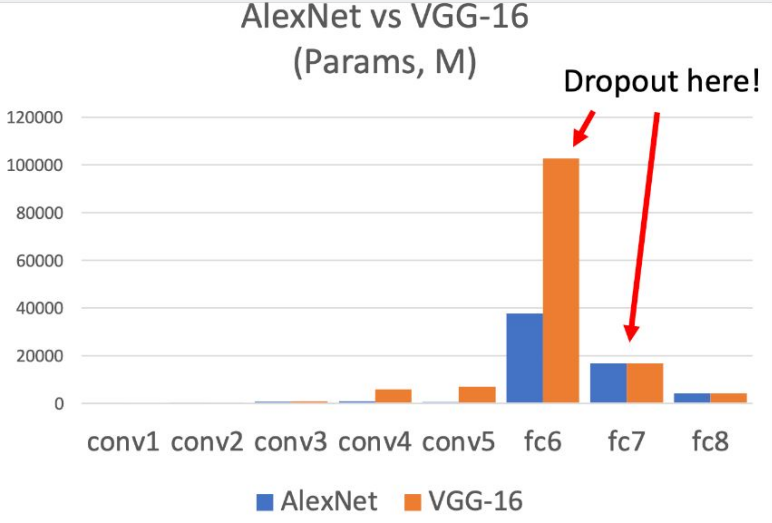
```python
p = 0.5 # probability of keeping a unit active. higher = less dropout

def train_step(X):
  # forward pass for example 3-layer neural network
  H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1)
  U1 = (np.random.rand(*H1.shape) < p) / p # first dropout mask. Notice /p!
  H1 *= U1 # drop!
  H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)
  U2 = (np.random.rand(*H2.shape) < p) / p # second dropout mask. Notice /p!
  H2 *= U2 # drop!
  out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3

  # backward pass: compute gradients... (not shown)
  # perform parameter update... (not shown)

def predict(X):
  # ensembled forward pass
  H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1) # no scaling necessary
  H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)
  out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3
```

Drop and scale during training

test time is unchanged!

Dropout architectures

Recall AlexNet, VGG have most of their parameters in **fully-connected layers**; usually Dropout is applied there



Later architectures (GoogLeNet, ResNet, etc) use global average pooling instead of fully-connected layers: they don't use dropout at all!

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Regularization: A common pattern

Training: Add some kind of randomness

$$y = f_w(x, z)$$

For ResNet and later, often L2 and Batch Normalization are the only regularizers!

Example: Batch Normalization

Training: Normalize using stats from random mini batches

Testing: Average out randomness (sometimes approximate)

$$y = f(x, z) = \mathbb{E}_z[f(x, z)] = \int p(z) f(x, z) dz$$

Testing: Use fixed stats to normalize

Regularization: A common pattern

Training: Add some randomness
Testing: Marginalize over randomness

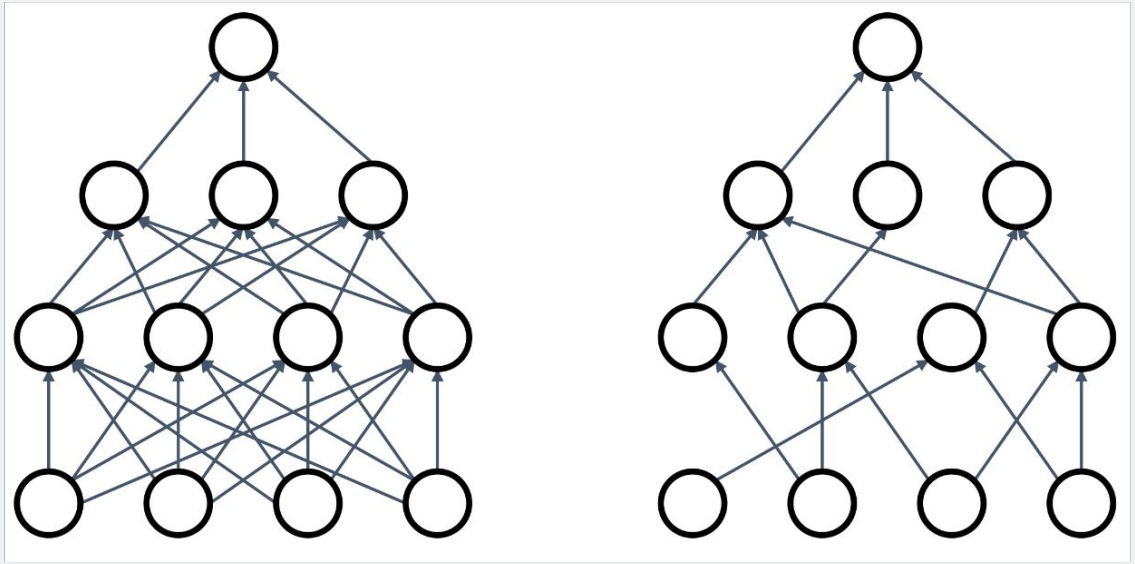
Examples:

- Dropout
- Batch Normalization
- Data Augmentation

Regularization: DropConnect

Training: Drop random connections between neurons (set weight=0)
Testing: Use all the connections

Examples:
Dropout
Batch Normalization
Data Augmentation
DropConnect



Wan et al, “Regularization of Neural Networks using DropConnect”, ICML 2013
https://proceedings.mlr.press/v28/wan13.html

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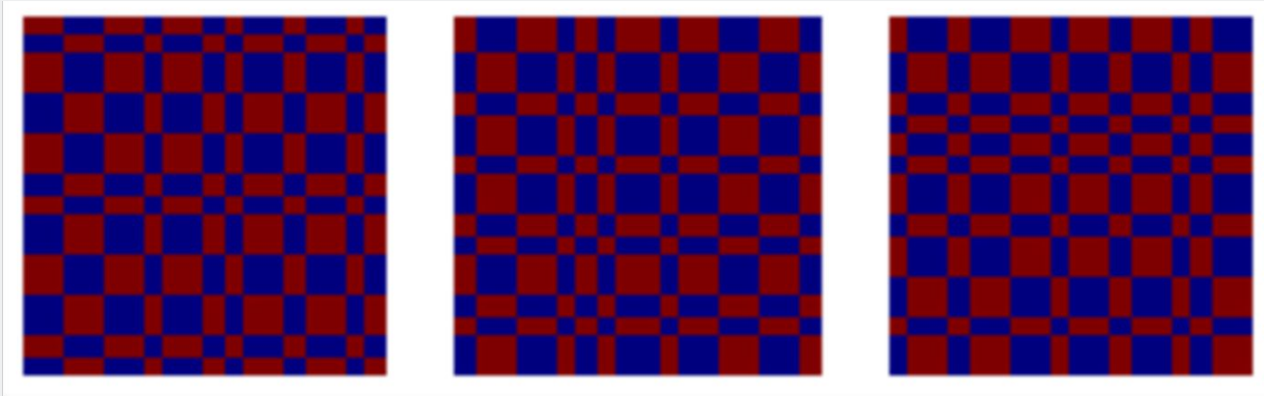
Regularization: Fractional Pooling

Training: Use randomized pooling regions
Testing: Average predictions over different samples

Examples:
Dropout
Batch Normalization
Data Augmentation
DropConnect
Fractional Max Pooling



Graham, “Fractional Max Pooling”, arXiv 2014
https://arxiv.org/abs/1412.6071

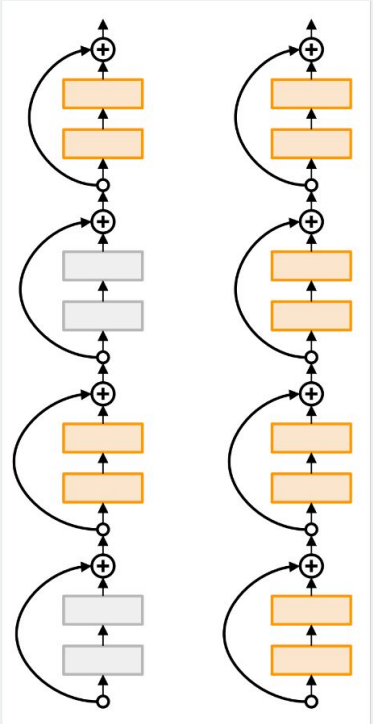
Regularization: Stochastic Depth

Training: Skip some residual blocks in ResNet
Testing: Use the whole network

Examples:
Dropout
Batch Normalization
Data Augmentation
DropConnect
Fractional Max Pooling
Stochastic Depth

Starting to become common in recent architectures:

- Pham et al, “Very Deep Self-Attention Networks for End-to-End Speech Recognition”, INTERSPEECH 2019
- Tan and Le, “EfficientNetV2: Smaller Models and Faster Training”, ICML 2021
- Fan et al, “Multiscale Vision Transformers”, ICCV 2021
- Bello et al, “Revisiting ResNets: Improved Training and Scaling Strategies”, NeurIPS 2021
- Steiner et al, “How to train your ViT? Data, Augmentation, and Regularization in Vision Transformers”, arXiv 2021

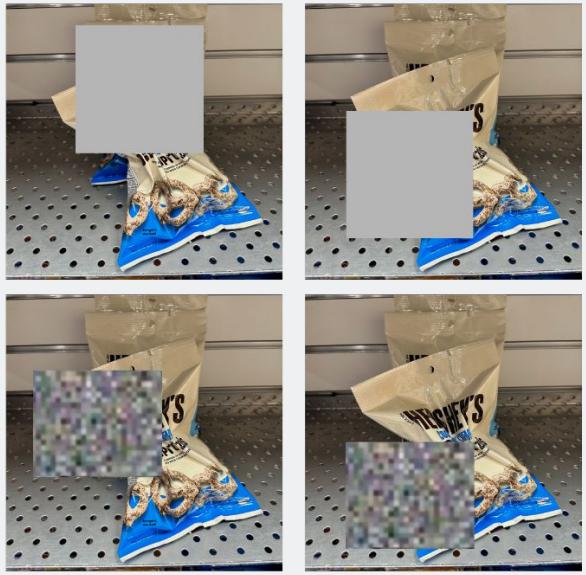


Huang et al, “Deep Networks with Stochastic Depth”, ECCV 2016
https://arxiv.org/abs/1603.09382

Regularization: CutOut

Training: Set random image regions to 0
Testing: Use the whole image

Examples:
Dropout
Batch Normalization
Data Augmentation
DropConnect
Fractional Max Pooling
Stochastic Depth
Cutout / Random Erasing



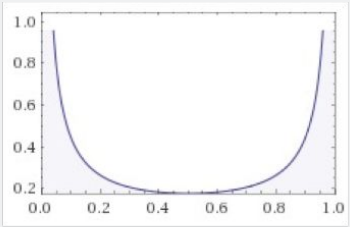
Replace random regions with mean value or random values

DeVries and Taylor, “Improved Regularization of Convolutional Neural Networks with Cutout”, arXiv 2017
Zhong et al, “Random Erasing Data Augmentation”, AAAI 2020

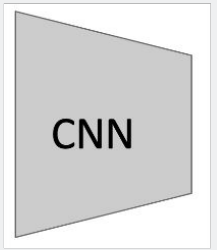
Regularization: Mixup

Training: Train on random blends of images
Testing: Use original images

Examples:
Dropout
Batch Normalization
Data Augmentation
DropConnect
Fractional Max Pooling
Stochastic Depth
Cutout / Random Erasing
Mixup



Sample blend probability from a beta distribution Beta(a, b) with a=b=0 so blend weights are close to 0/1



Target label:
Pretzels: 0.6
Robot: 0.4

Randomly blend the pixels of pairs of training images, e.g. 60% pretzels, 40% robot

Zhang et al, "*mixup*: Beyond Empirical Risk Minimization", ICLR 2018

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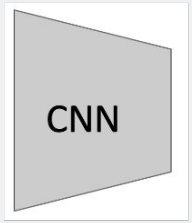
Regularization: CutMix

Training: Train on random blends of images
Testing: Use original images

Examples:
Dropout
Batch Normalization
Data Augmentation
DropConnect
Fractional Max Pooling
Stochastic Depth
Cutout / Random Erasing
Mixup / CutMix



Target label:
Pretzels: 0.6
Robot: 0.4

Replace random crops of one image with another, e.g. 60% of pixels from pretzels, 40% from robot

Yun et al, “CutMix: Regularization Strategies to Train Strong Classifiers with Localizable Features”, ICCV 2019

Regularization: Label Smoothing

Training: Train on smooth labels
Testing: Use original images

Examples:
Dropout
Batch Normalization
Data Augmentation
DropConnect
Fractional Max Pooling
Stochastic Depth
Cutout / Random Erasing
Mixup / CutMix
Label Smoothing

Standard Training	**Label Smoothing**
Pretzels: 100%	Pretzels: 90%
Robot: 0%	Robot: 5%
Sugar: 0%	Sugar: 5%

Set target distribution to be $1 - \frac{K-1}{K}\epsilon$ on the correct category and ϵ/K on all other categories, with K categories and $\epsilon \in (0,1)$.

Loss is cross-entropy between predicted and target distribution.

Szegedy et al, “Rethinking the Inception Architecture for Computer Vision”, CVPR 2015

Data Augmentation

(example - cvpr2024)

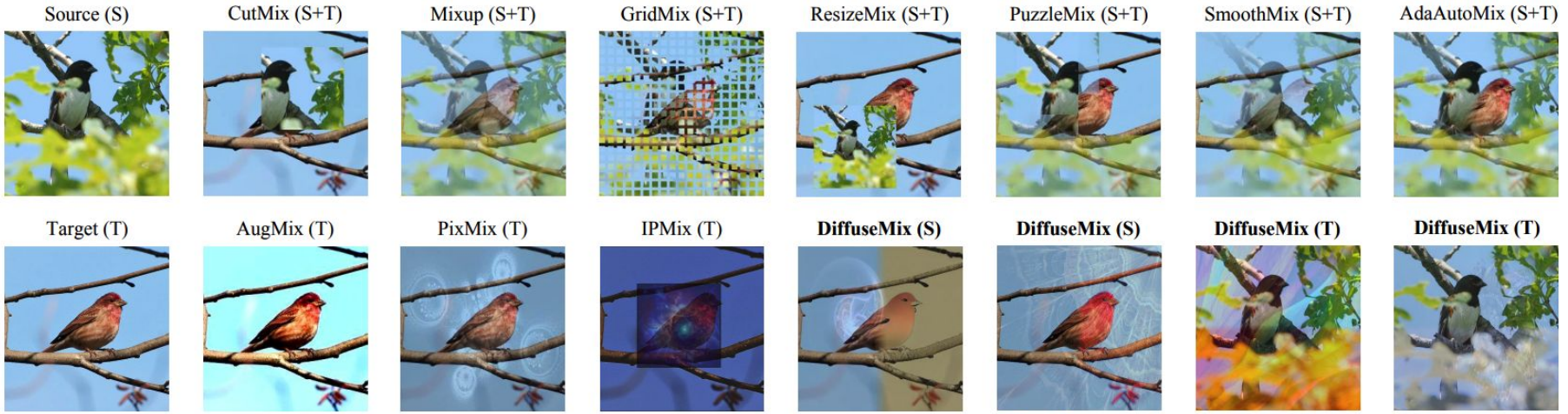


Figure 1. **Top row:** existing mixup methods *interpolate* two different training images [22, 48]. **Bottom row:** label-preserving methods. For each input image, DIFFUSEMIX employs *conditional prompts* to obtain generated images. The input image is then concatenated with a generated image to obtain a hybrid image. Each hybrid image is blended with a random fractal to obtain the final training image.

https://openaccess.thecvf.com/content/CVPR2024/papers/Islam_DiffuseMix_Label-Preserving_Data_Augmentation_with_Diffusion_Models_CVPR_2024_paper.pdf

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Regularization: Summary

Training: Add some randomness
Testing: Marginalize over randomness

Examples:
Dropout
Batch Normalization
Data Augmentation
DropConnect
Fractional Max Pooling
Stochastic Depth
Cutout / Random Erasing
Mixup / CutMix
Label Smoothing

- Use DropOut for large fully-connected layers
- Data augmentation is always a good idea
- Use BatchNorm for CNNs (but not ViTs)
- Try Cutout, Mixup, CutMix, Stochastic Depth, Label Smoothing to squeeze out a bit of extra performance

Recap

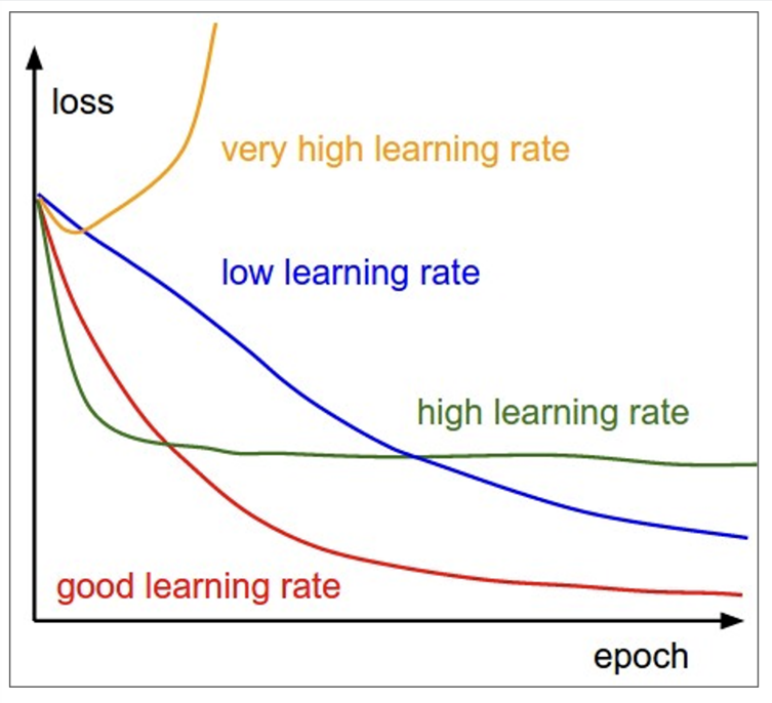
P2: Due Feb.15, 2026

Canvas Quiz: Due Feb 18, 2026

1. **One time setup:** — Last time
   - Activation functions, data preprocessing, weight initialization, regularization
2. **Training dynamics:** — Today
   - Learning rate schedules; large-batch training; hyperparameter optimization
3. **After training:**
   - Model ensembles, transfer learning

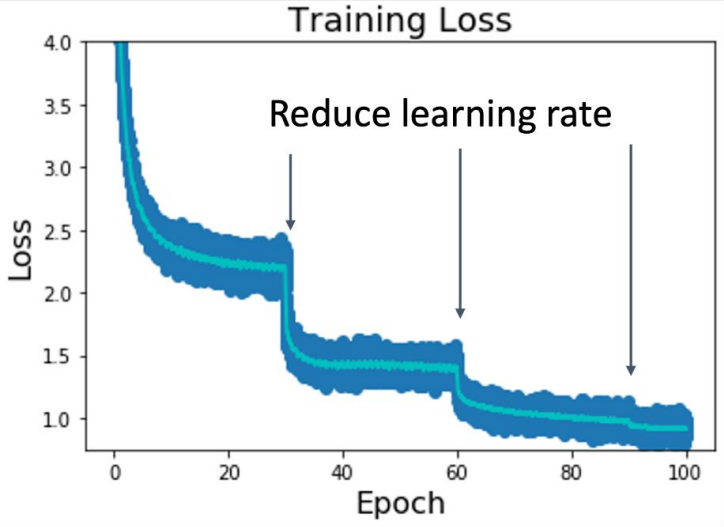
Learning Rate Scheduling

SGD, SGD+Momentum, Adagrad, RMSProp, Adam all have **learning rate** as hyper parameter

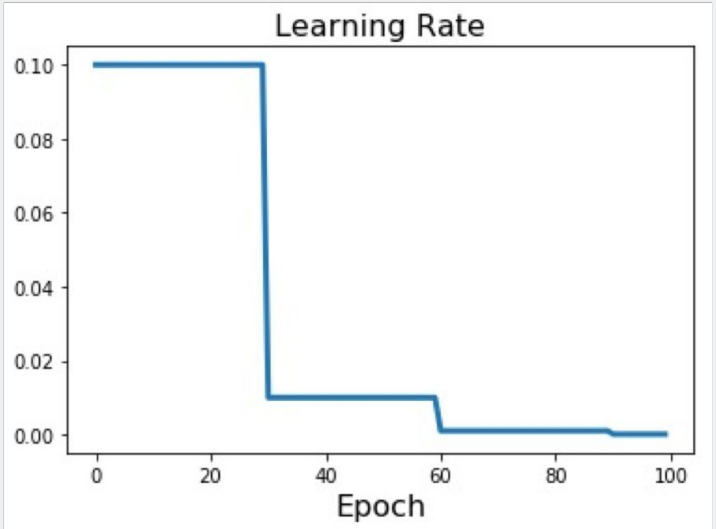


Q: Which one of these learning rates is **best** to use?

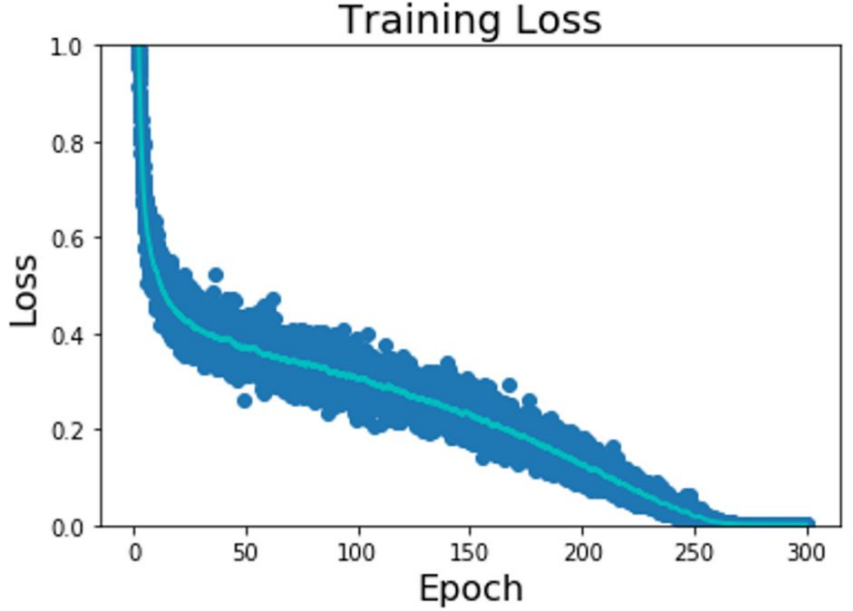
Learning Rate Decay: Step



Step: Reduce learning rate at a few fixed points. E.g. for ResNets, multiply LR by 0.1 after epochs 30, 60, and 90.

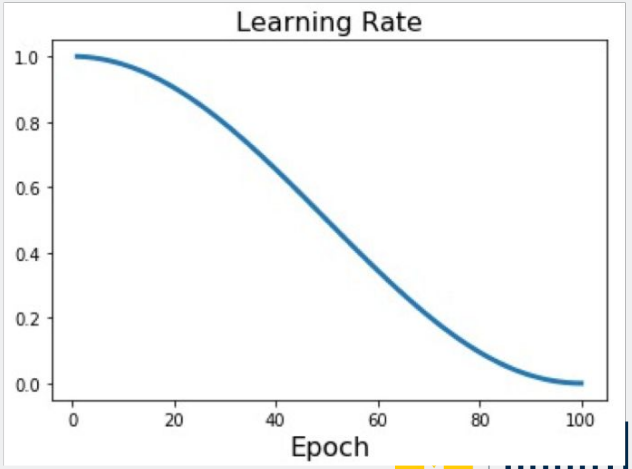


Learning Rate Decay: Cosine



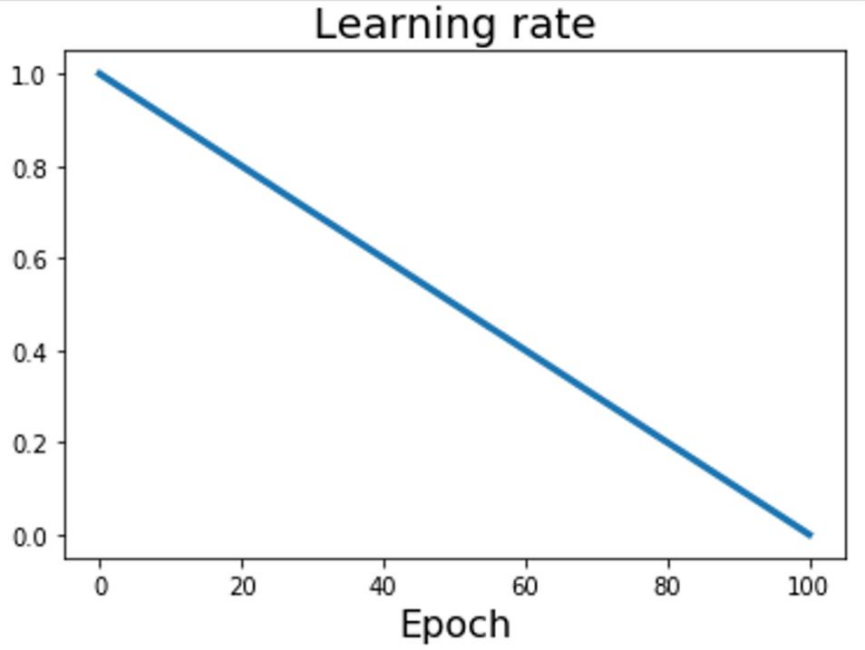
Step: Reduce learning rate at a few fixed points. E.g. for ResNets, multiply LR by 0.1 after epochs 30, 60, and 90.

Cosine: $\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2}\alpha_0(1 + \cos(\frac{t\pi}{T}))$



Loshchilov and Hutter, “SGDR: Stochastic Gradient Descent with Warm Restarts”, ICLR 2017
Radford et al, “Improving Language Understanding by Generative Pre-Training”, 2018
Feichtenhofer et al, “SlowFast Networks for Video Recognition”, ICCV 2019
Radosavovic et al, “On Network Design Spaces for Visual Recognition”, ICCV 2019
Child at al, “Generating Long Sequences with Sparse Transformers”, arXiv 2019

Learning Rate Decay: Linear



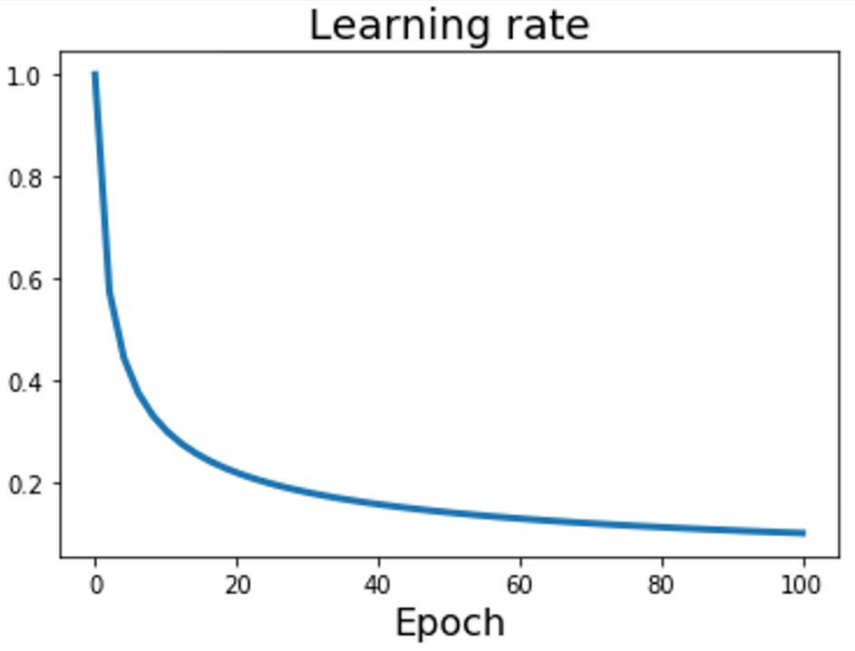
Step: Reduce learning rate at a few fixed points. E.g. for ResNets, multiply LR by 0.1 after epochs 30, 60, and 90.

Cosine: $\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2}\alpha_0(1 + \cos(\frac{t\pi}{T}))$

Linear: $\alpha_t = \alpha_0(1 - \frac{t}{T})$

Devlin et al, “BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding”, NAACL 2018
Liu et al, “RoBERTa: A Robustly Optimized BERT Pretraining Approach”, 2019Yang et al, “XLNet: Generalized Autoregressive Pretraining for Language Understanding”, NeurIPS 2019

Learning Rate Decay: Inverse Sqrt



Step: Reduce learning rate at a few fixed points. E.g. for ResNets, multiply LR by 0.1 after epochs 30, 60, and 90.

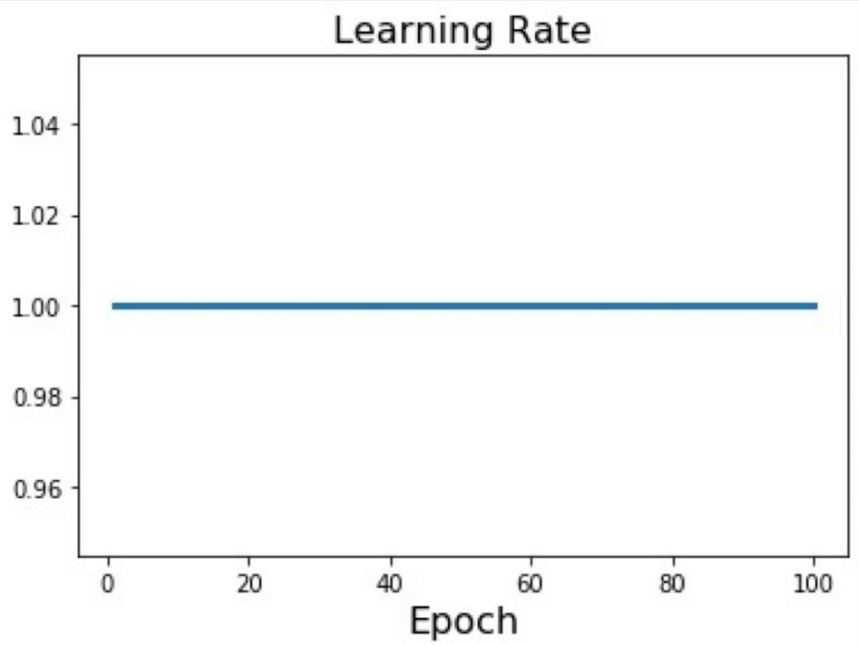
Cosine: $\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2}\alpha_0(1 + \cos(\frac{t\pi}{T}))$

Linear: $\alpha_t = \alpha_0(1 - \frac{t}{T})$

Inverse sqrt: $\alpha_t = \alpha_0/\sqrt{t}$

Vaswani et al, “Attention is all you need”, NIPS 2017

Learning Rate Decay: Constant



Step: Reduce learning rate at a few fixed points. E.g. for ResNets, multiply LR by 0.1 after epochs 30, 60, and 90.

Cosine: $\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2}\alpha_0(1 + \cos(\frac{t\pi}{T}))$

Linear: $\alpha_t = \alpha_0(1 - \frac{t}{T})$

Inverse sqrt: $\alpha_t = \alpha_0/\sqrt{t}$

Constant: $\alpha_t = \alpha_0$

Brock et al, “Large Scale GAN Training for High Fidelity Natural Image Synthesis”, ICLR 2019
Donahue and Simonyan, “Large Scale Adversarial Representation Learning”, NeurIPS 2019

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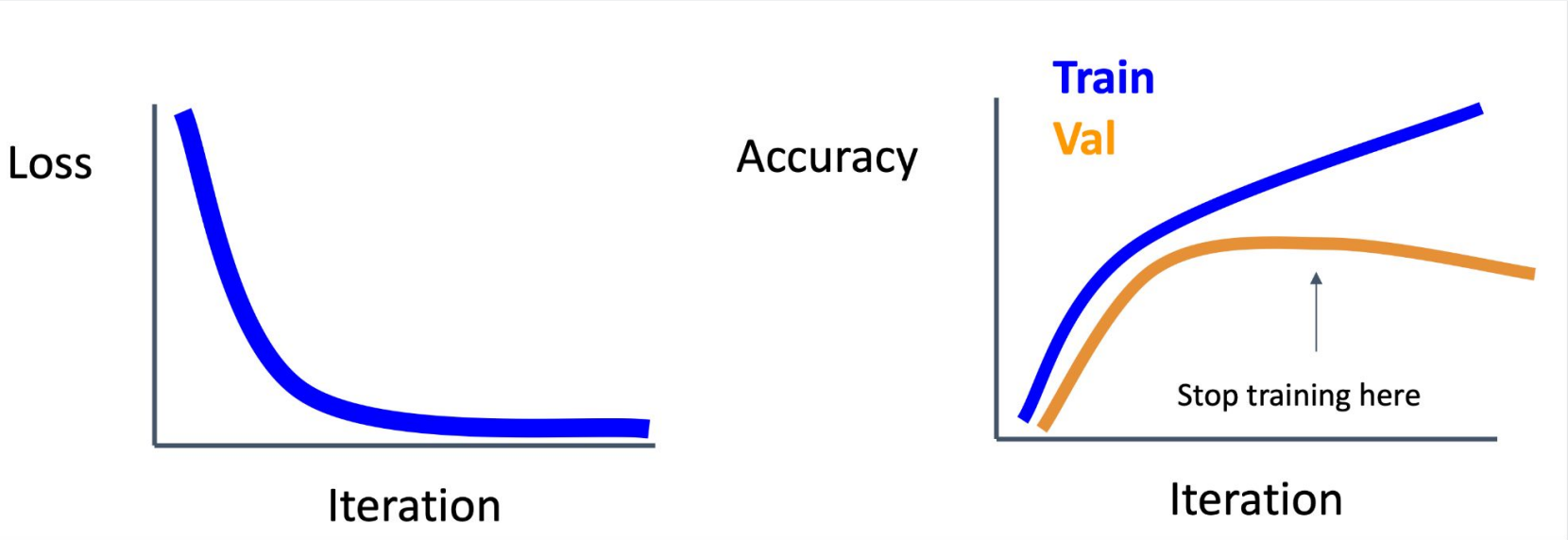
How long to train? Early Stopping



Stop training the model when accuracy on the validation set decreases Or train for a long time, but always keep track of the model snapshot that worked best on val. **Always a good idea to do this!**

Choosing Hyperparameters

Choosing Hyperparameters: Grid Search

Choose several values for each hyper parameter
(Often space choices log-linearly)

Example:
Weight decay: [$1x10^{-4}$, $1x10^{-3}$, $1x10^{-2}$, $1x10^{-1}$]
Learning rate: [$1x10^{-4}$, $1x10^{-3}$, $1x10^{-2}$, $1x10^{-1}$]

Evaluate all possible choices on this **hyperparameter grid**

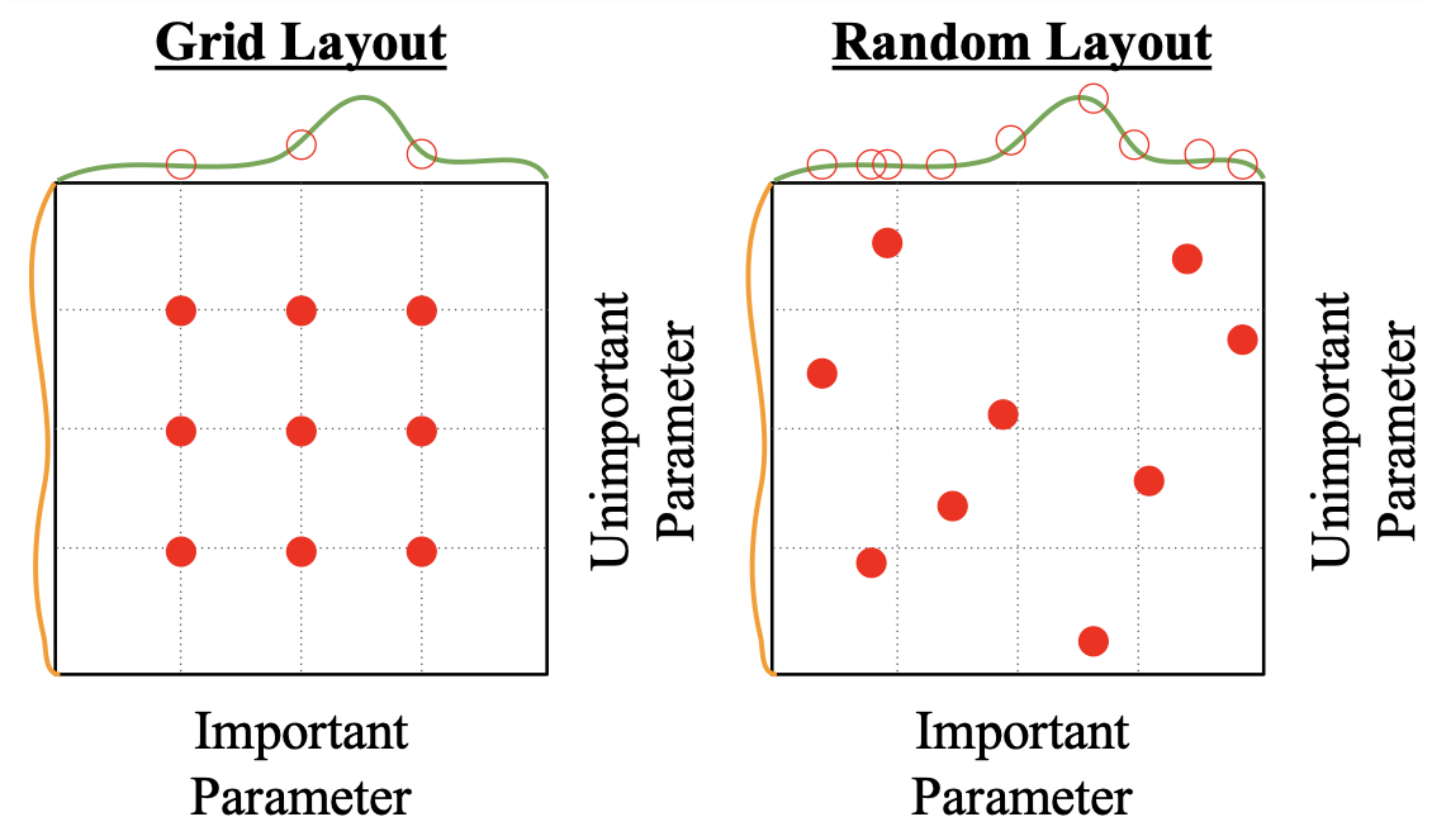
Choosing Hyperparameters: Random Search

Choose several values for each hyper parameter
(Often space choices log-linearly)

Example:
Weight decay: log-uniform on [$1x10^{-4}$, $1x10^{-1}$]
Learning rate: log-uniform on [$1x10^{-4}$, $1x10^{-1}$]

Run many different trials

Hyperparameters: Random vs Grid Search



Bergstra and Bengio, "Random Search for Hyper-Parameter Optimization", JMLR 2012

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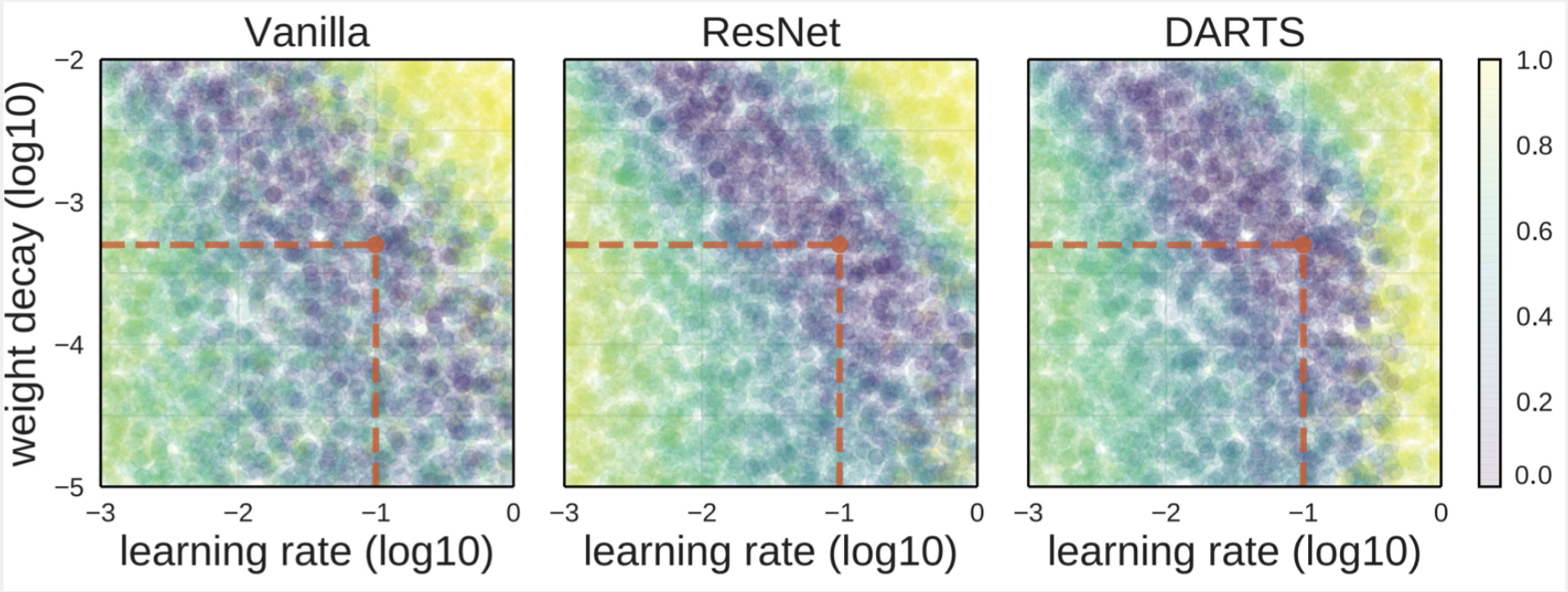
Choosing Hyperparameters: Random Search



Radosavovic et al, “On Network Design Spaces for Visual Recognition”, ICCV 2019

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Choosing Hyperparameters

(without tons of GPUs)

Choosing Hyperparameters

Step 1: Check initial loss

Turn off weight decay, sanity check loss at initialization
e.g. log(C) for softmax with C classes

Choosing Hyperparameters

Step 1: Check initial loss

Step 2: Overfit a small sample

Try to train to 100% training accuracy on a small sample of training data (~5-10 mini batches); fiddle with architecture, learning rate, weight initialization. Turn off regularization.

Loss not going down? LR too low, bad initialization
Loss explodes to Inf or NaN? LR too high, bad initialization

Choosing Hyperparameters

Step 1: Check initial loss

Step 2: Overfit a small sample

Step 3: Find LR that makes loss go down

Use the architecture from the previous step, use all training data, turn on small weight decay, find a learning rate that makes the loss drop significantly within ~100 iterations

Good learning rates to try: 1e-1, 1e-2, 1e-3, 1e-4

Choosing Hyperparameters

Step 1: Check initial loss

Step 2: Overfit a small sample

Step 3: Find LR that makes loss go down

Step 4: Coarse grid, train for ~1-5 epochs

Choose a few values of learning rate and weight decay around what worked from Step 3, train a few models for ~1-5 epochs

Good learning rates to try: 1e-4, 1e-5, 0

Choosing Hyperparameters

Step 1: Check initial loss

Step 2: Overfit a small sample

Step 3: Find LR that makes loss go down

Step 4: Coarse grid, train for ~1-5 epochs

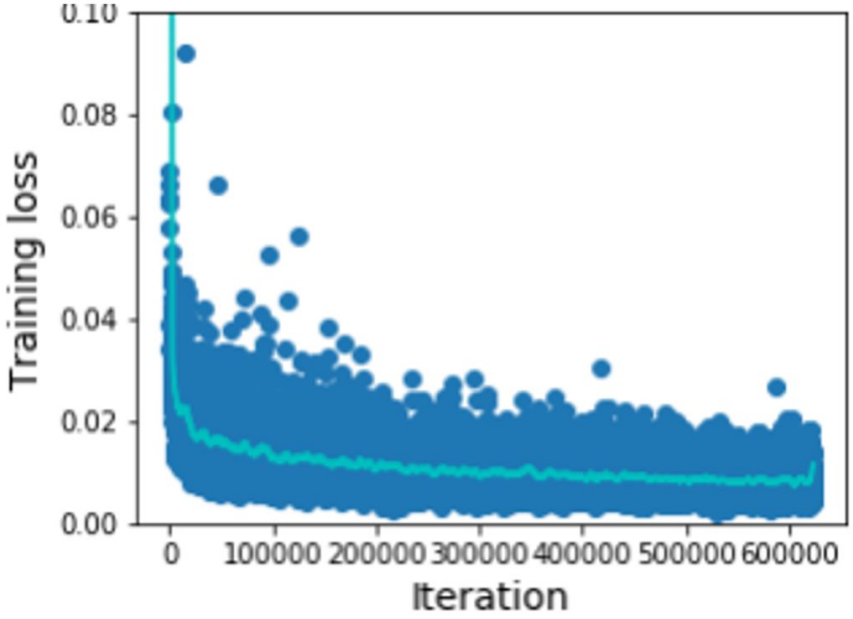
Step 5: Refine grid, train longer

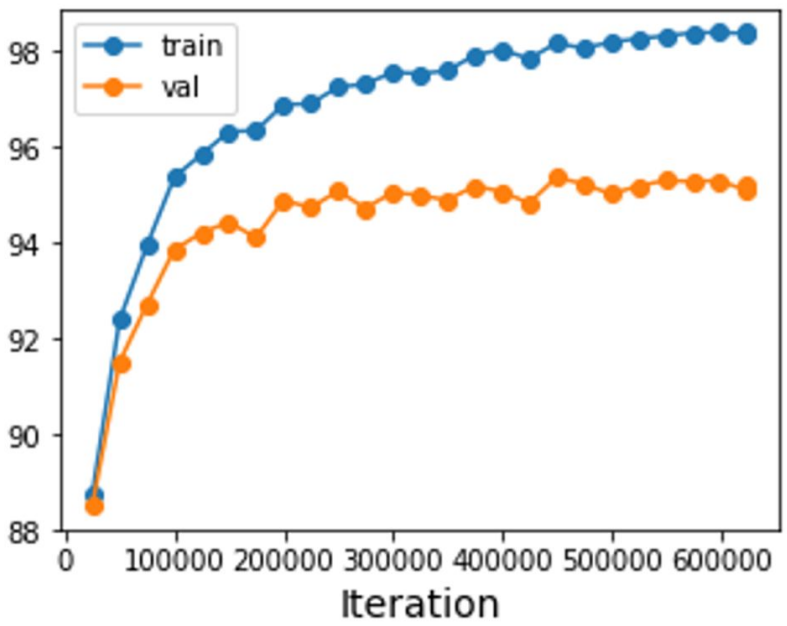
Pick best models from Step 4, train them for longer (~10-20 epochs) without learning rate decay

Choosing Hyperparameters - Summary

Step 1: Check initial loss
Step 2: Overfit a small sample
Step 3: Find LR that makes loss go down
Step 4: Coarse grid, train for ~1-5 epochs
Step 5: Refine grid, train longer
Step 6: Look at learning curves

Looking at Learning Curves





Losses may be noisy, use a scatter plot and also plot moving average to see trends better

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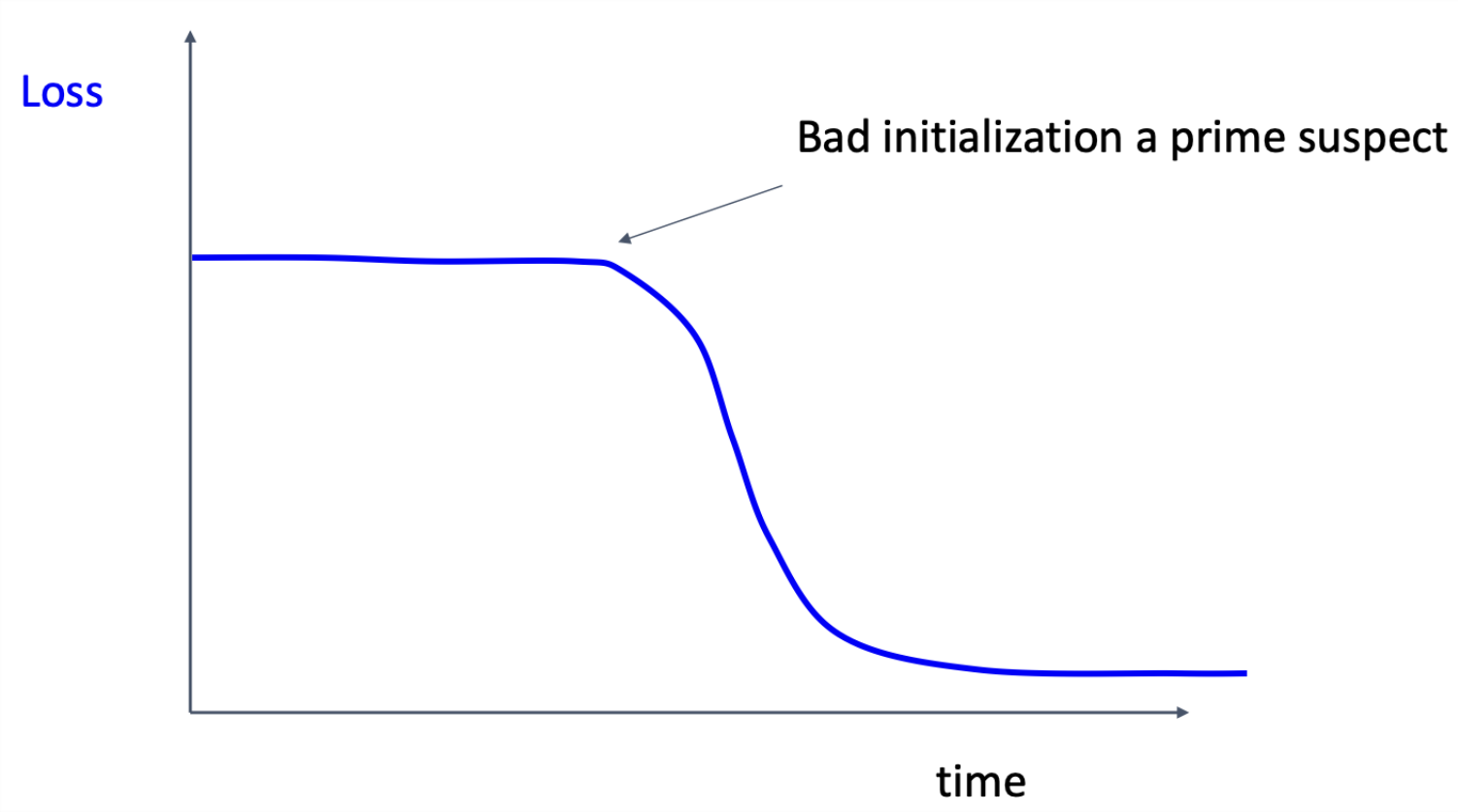
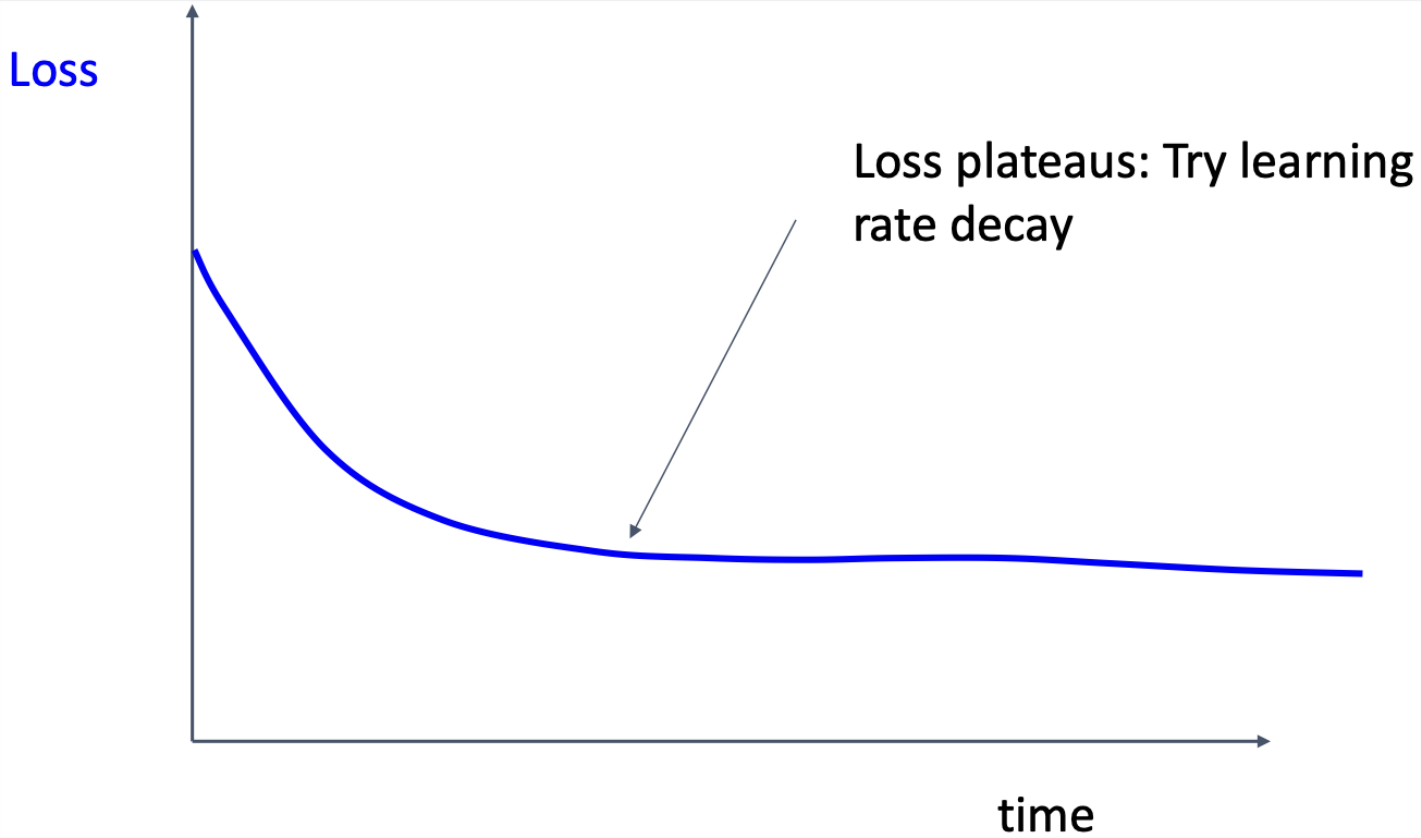
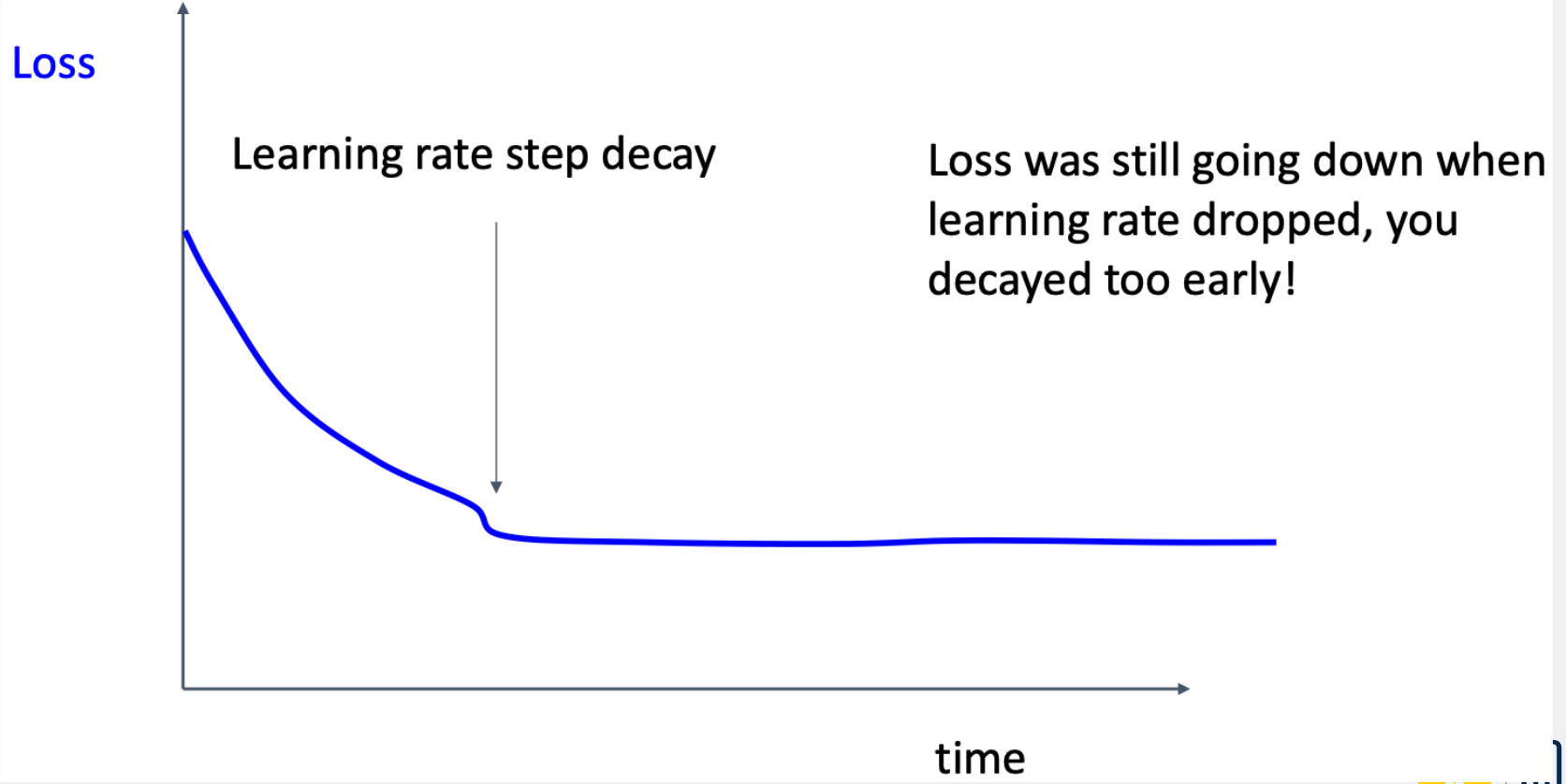
Choosing Hyperparameters



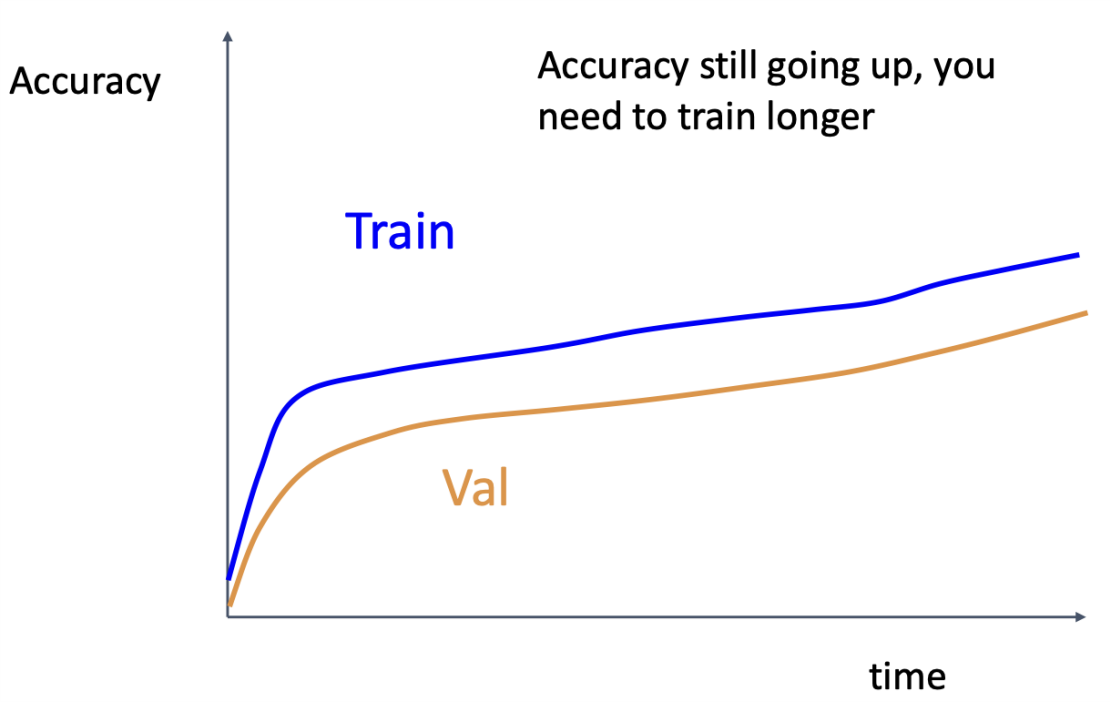
Choosing Hyperparameters



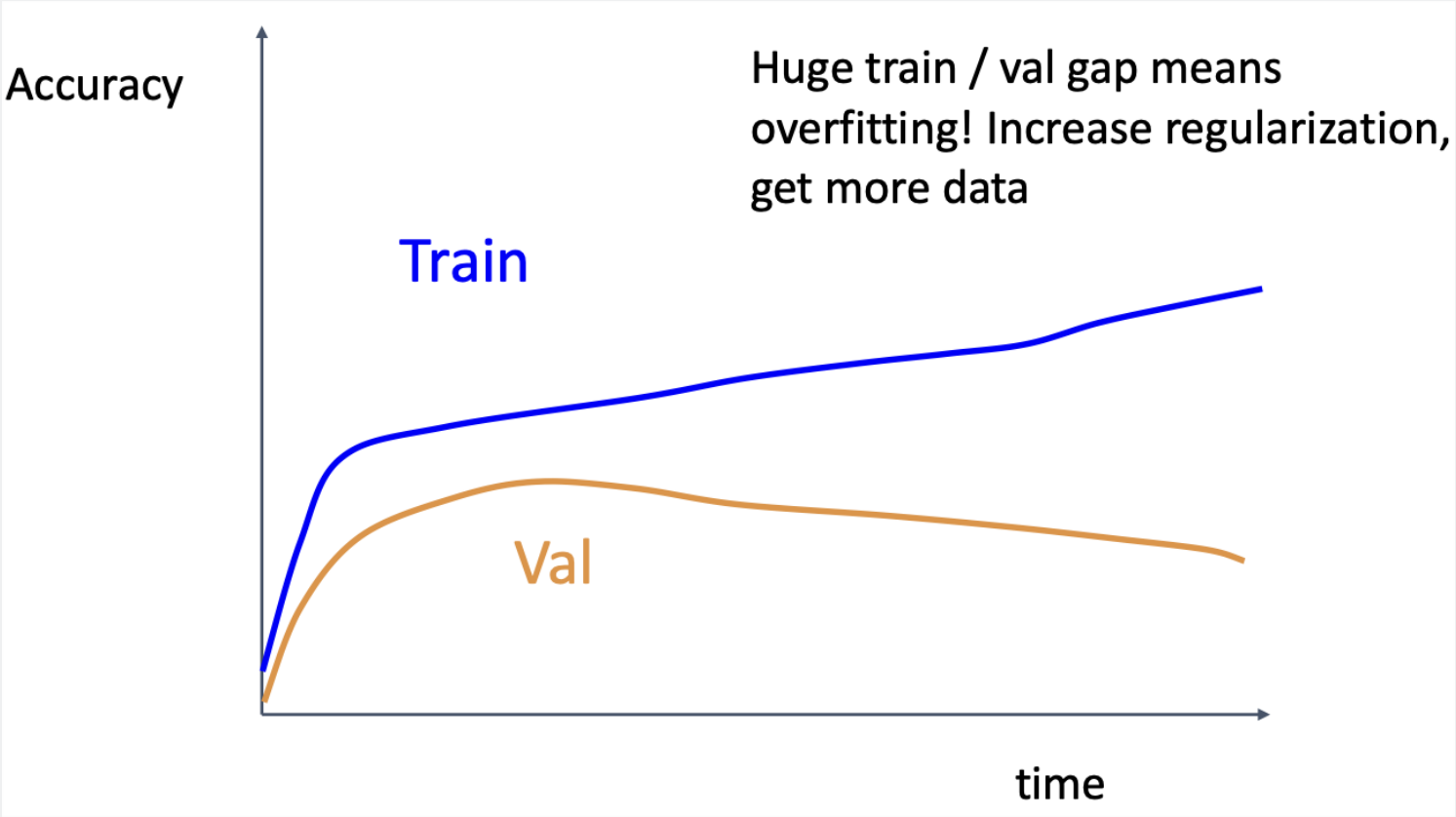
Choosing Hyperparameters



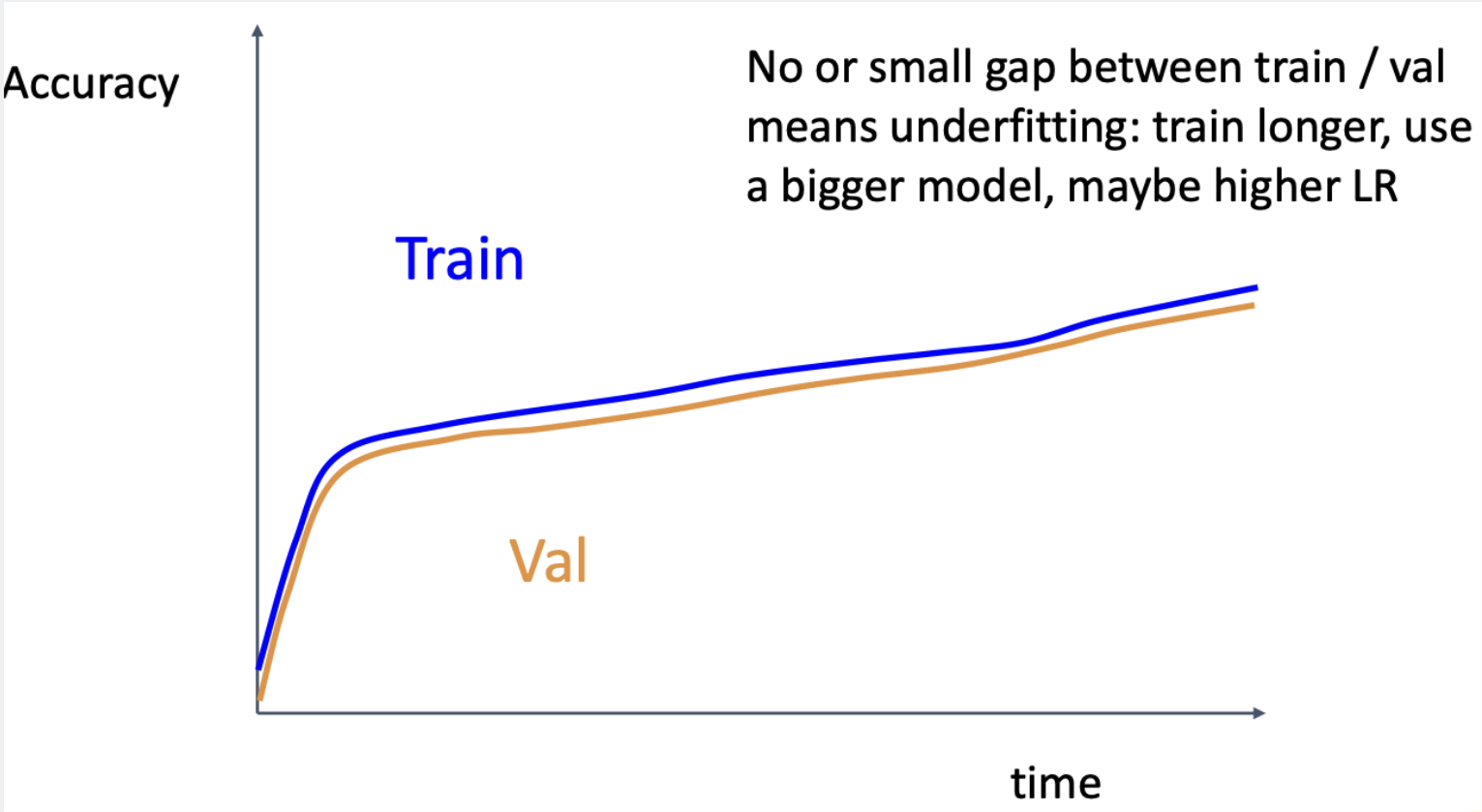
Choosing Hyperparameters



Choosing Hyperparameters



Choosing Hyperparameters



Test question

1. You start training your Neural Network but the total loss (cross entropy loss + regularization loss) is almost completely flat from the start. What could be the cause?

   (a) The learning rate could be too low

   (b) The regularization strength could be too high

   (c) The class distribution could be very uneven in the dataset

   (d) The weight initialization scale could be incorrectly set

https://ahaslides.com/RLCCA

Choosing Hyperparameters

Step 1: Check initial loss
Step 2: Overfit a small sample
Step 3: Find LR that makes loss go down
Step 4: Coarse grid, train for ~1-5 epochs
Step 5: Refine grid, train longer
Step 6: Look at ~~learning curves~~ loss curves
Step 7: GOTO step 5

Track ratio of weight update / weight magnitude

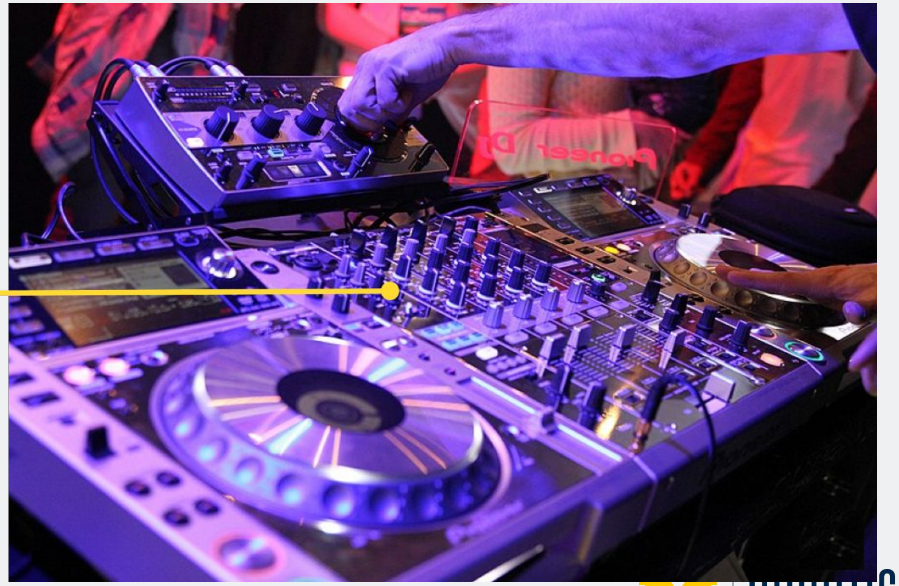
```
# assume parameter vector W and its gradient vector dW
param_scale = np.linalg.norm(W.ravel())
update = -learning_rate*dW # simple SGD update
update_scale = np.linalg.norm(update.ravel())
W += update # the actual update
print update_scale / param_scale # want ~1e-3
```

Ratio between the updates and values: ~0.0002 / 0.02 = 0.01 (about okay)
want this to be somewhere around 0.001 or so

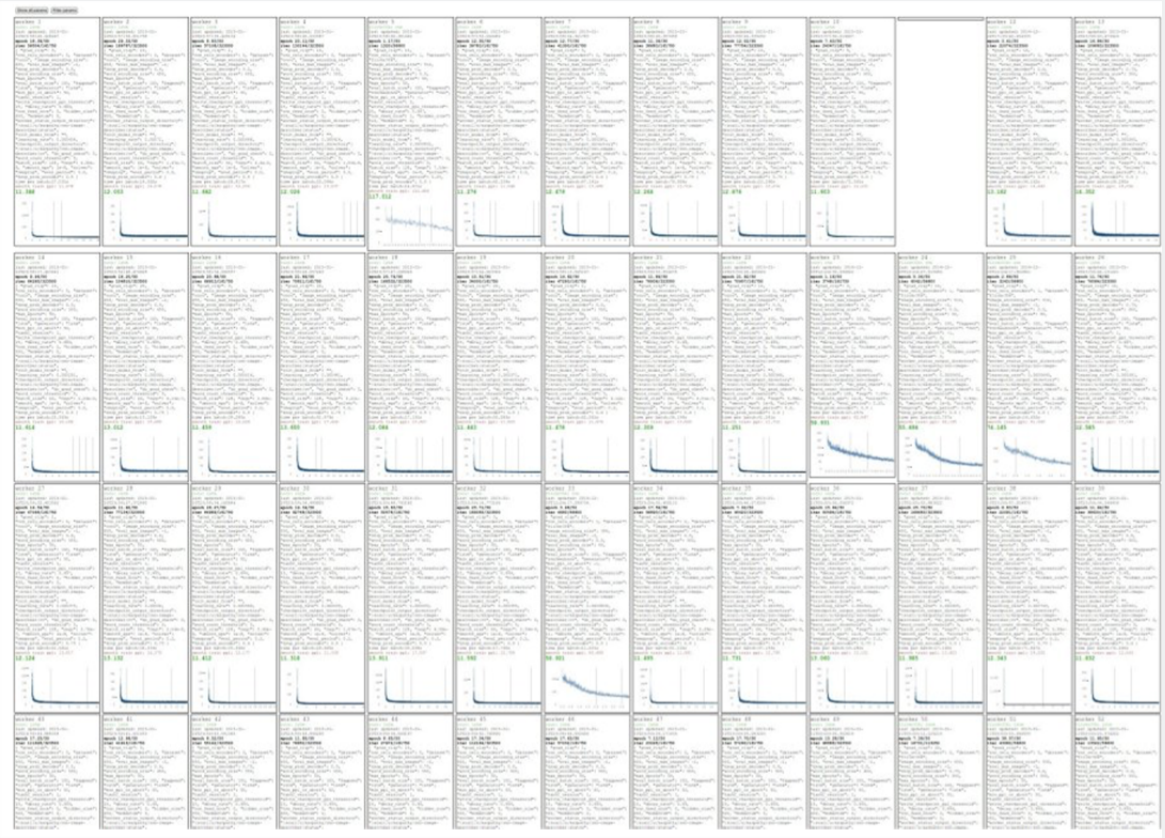
Hyperparameters to play with

- Network architecture
- Learning rate, its decay schedule, update type
- Regularization (L2/ Dropout strength)

Neural networks practitioner
Music = loss function



Cross-validation “command center”



- Tensorboard
- wandb.ai

https://docs.wandb.ai/tutorials/pytorch/

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Summary

P2: Due Feb.15, 2026

Canvas Quiz: Due Feb 18, 2026

1. **One time setup:**
   - Activation functions, data preprocessing, weight initialization, regularization
2. **Training dynamics:**
   - Learning rate schedules; hyperparameter optimization
3. **After training:**
   - Model ensembles, transfer learning, large-batch training

Next Time