Introduction to Tensorflow

Dr. Xiaowei Huang

https://cgi.csc.liv.ac.uk/~xiaowei/

TensorFlow requires explicit evaluation!

```
In [37]: a = np.zeros((2,2))
```

```
In [38]: ta = tf.zeros((2,2))
```

```
In [39]: print(a)
[[ 0. 0.]
[ 0. 0.]]
```

```
In [40]: print(ta)
Tensor("zeros_1:0", shape=(2, 2), dtype=float32)
```

```
In [41]: print(ta.eval())
[[ 0. 0.]
[ 0. 0.]]
```

TensorFlow computations define a computation graph that has no numerical value until evaluated!

TensorFlow Session Object (1)

 "A Session object encapsulates the environment in which Tensor objects are evaluated"

```
In [20]: a = tf.constant(5.0)
In [21]: b = tf.constant(6.0)
                                                       c.eval() is just syntactic sugar for
                                                       sess.run(c) in the currently active
In [22]: c = a * b
                                                       session!
In [23]: with tf.Session() as sess:
   ....: print(sess.run(c))
   ....: print(c.eval())
   ....
30.0
30.0
```

TensorFlow Session Object (2)

- tf.InteractiveSession() is just convenient syntactic sugar for keeping a default session open in ipython.
- sess.run(c) is an example of a TensorFlow Fetch. Will say more on this soon

Tensorflow Computation Graph

- "TensorFlow programs are usually structured into
 - a construction phase, that assembles a graph, and
 - an execution phase that uses a session to execute ops in the graph."
- All computations add nodes to global default graph

TensorFlow Variables (1)

- "When you train a model you use variables to hold and update parameters. Variables are in-memory buffers containing tensors"
- All tensors we've used previously have been constant tensors, not variables

TensorFlow Variables (2)

```
In [32]: W1 = tf.ones((2,2))
```

```
In [33]: W2 = tf.Variable(tf.zeros((2,2)), name="weights")
```

TensorFlow Variables (3)

• TensorFlow variables must be initialized before they have values! Contrast with constant tensors

```
Variable objects can be
initialized from constants or
random values
In [39]: R = tf.Variable(tf.random_normal((2,2)), name="random_weights")
In [40]: with tf.Session() as sess:
...: sess.run(tf.initialize_all_variables())
...: print(sess.run(W))
...: print(sess.run(R))
....: Initializes all variables with
specified values.
```

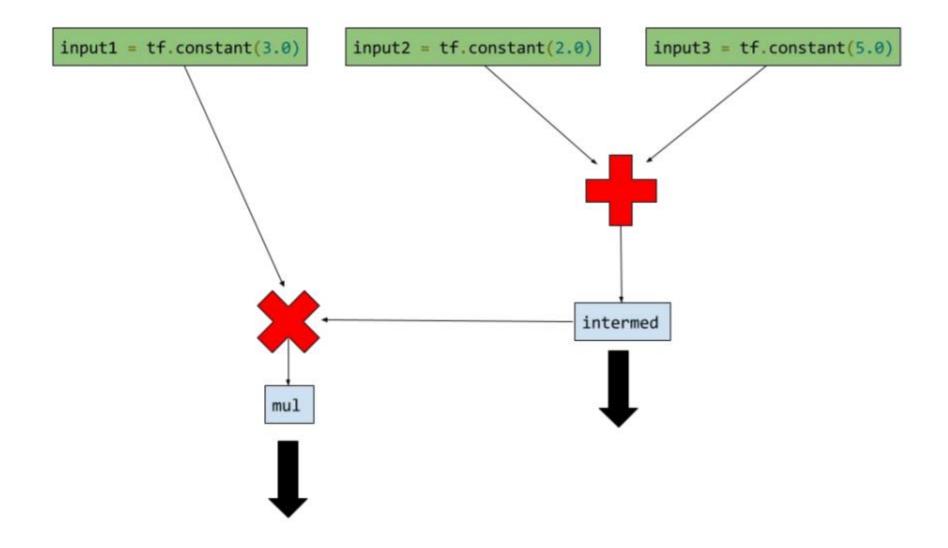
Updating Variable State

```
In [63]: state = tf.Variable(0, name="counter")
In [64]: new_value = tf.add(state, tf.constant(1)) <---</pre>
                                                             Roughly new_value = state + 1
                                                             Roughly state = new value
In [65]: update = tf.assign(state, new value) +
                                                              Roughly
In [66]: with tf.Session() as sess:
                                                              state = 0
            sess.run(tf.initialize_all_variables())
   ....
   ....: print(sess.run(state))
                                                              print(state)
   ....: for _ in range(3):
                                                              for in range(3):
                sess.run(update)
   ....
                                                                state = state + 1
                print(sess.run(state))
   . . . . :
                                                                print(state)
   . . . . :
0
1
2
3
```

Fetching Variable State (1)

Calling sess.run(var) on a tf.Session() object retrieves its value. Can retrieve multiple variables simultaneously with sess.run([var1, var2]) (See Fetches in TF docs)

Fetching Variable State (2)



Inputting Data

- All previous examples have manually defined tensors. How can we input external data into TensorFlow?
- Simple solution: Import from Numpy:

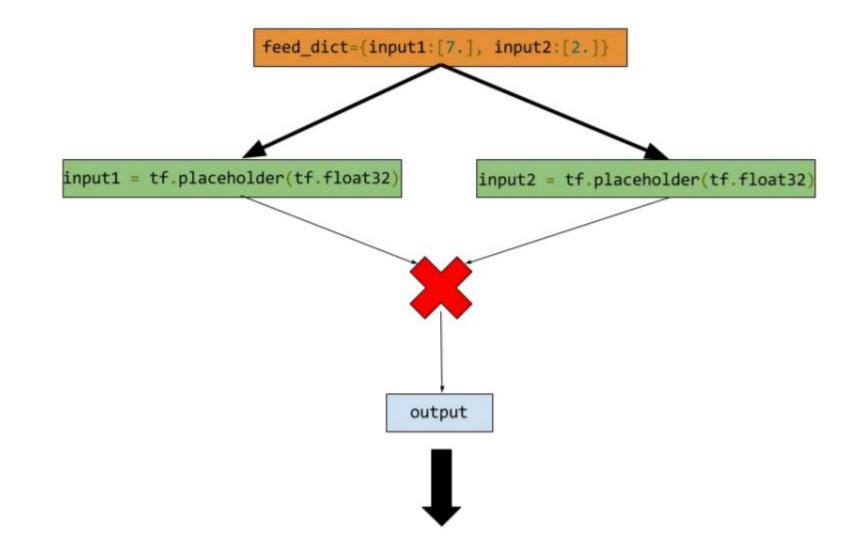
Placeholders and Feed Dictionaries (1)

- Inputting data with tf.convert_to_tensor() is convenient, but doesn't scale.
- Use tf.placeholder variables (dummy nodes that provide entry points for data to computational graph).
- A feed_dict is a python dictionary mapping from tf. placeholder vars (or their names) to data (numpy arrays, lists, etc.).

Placeholders and Feed Dictionaries (2)

```
In [96]: input1 = tf.placeholder(tf.float32)
                                                              Define tf.placeholder
                                                              objects for data entry.
In [97]: input2 = tf.placeholder(tf.float32)
In [98]: output = tf.mul(input1, input2)
In [99]: with tf.Session() as sess:
                print(sess.run([output], feed_dict={input1:[7.], input2:[2.]}))
   ....
   . . . . .
[array([ 14.], dtype=float32)]
                                 Fetch value of output
                                                               Feed data into
                                 from computation graph.
                                                               computation graph.
```

Placeholders and Feed Dictionaries (3)



Variable Scope (1)

- Complicated TensorFlow models can have hundreds of variables.
 - tf.variable_scope() provides simple name-spacing to avoid clashes.
 - tf.get_variable() creates/accesses variables from within a variable scope.

Variable Scope (2)

• Variable scope is a simple type of namespacing that adds prefixes to variable names within scope

```
with tf.variable_scope("foo"):
    with tf.variable_scope("bar"):
        v = tf.get_variable("v", [1])
assert v.name == "foo/bar/v:0"
```

Variable Scope (3)

• Variable scopes control variable (re)use

```
with tf.variable_scope("foo"):
    v = tf.get_variable("v", [1])
    tf.get_variable_scope().reuse_variables()
    v1 = tf.get_variable("v", [1])
assert v1 == v
```

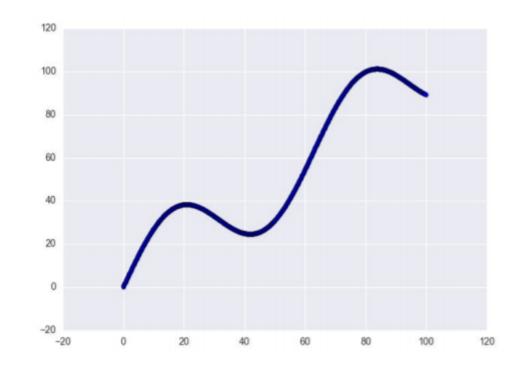
• You'll need to use reuse_variables() to implement RNNs in homework

Ex: Linear Regression in TensorFlow (1)

import numpy as np
import seaborn

Define input data
X_data = np.arange(100, step=.1)
y_data = X_data + 20 * np.sin(X_data/10)

Plot input data
plt.scatter(X_data, y_data)



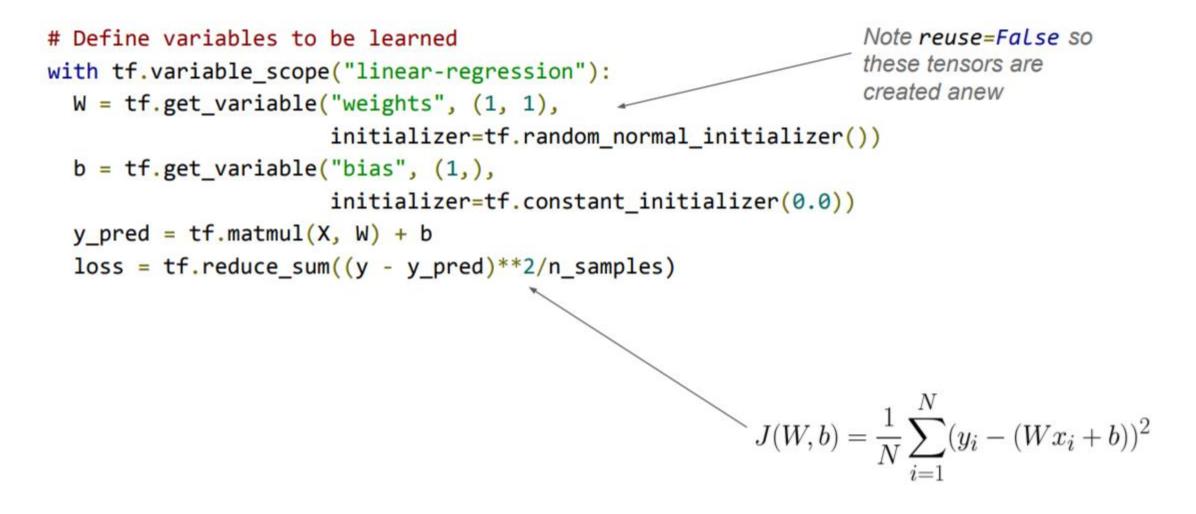
Ex: Linear Regression in TensorFlow (2)

Define data size and batch size n_samples = 1000 batch_size = 100

```
# Tensorflow is finicky about shapes, so resize
X_data = np.reshape(X_data, (n_samples,1))
y_data = np.reshape(y_data, (n_samples,1))
```

```
# Define placeholders for input
X = tf.placeholder(tf.float32, shape=(batch_size, 1))
y = tf.placeholder(tf.float32, shape=(batch_size, 1))
```

Ex: Linear Regression in TensorFlow (3)



Ex: Linear Regression in TensorFlow (4)

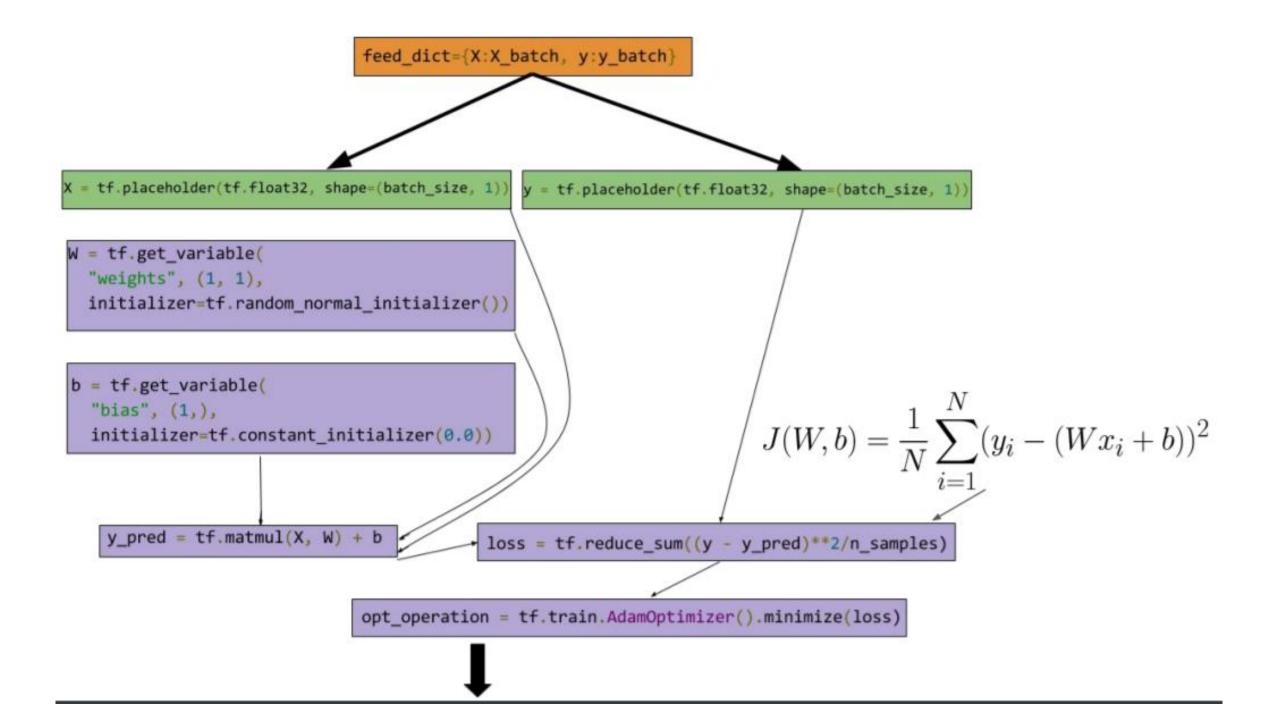
```
# Sample code to run one step of gradient descent
                                                                  Note TensorFlow scope is
In [136]: opt = tf.train.AdamOptimizer()
                                                                  not python scope! Python
                                                                  variable Loss is still visible.
In [137]: opt_operation = opt.minimize(loss)
In [138]: with tf.Session() as sess:
               sess.run(tf.initialize all variables())
   . . . . . . :
               sess.run([opt operation], feed dict={X: X data, y: y data})
   . . . . . . .
   . . . . . .
                                                 But how does this actually work under the
                                                 hood? Will return to TensorFlow
```

computation graphs and explain.

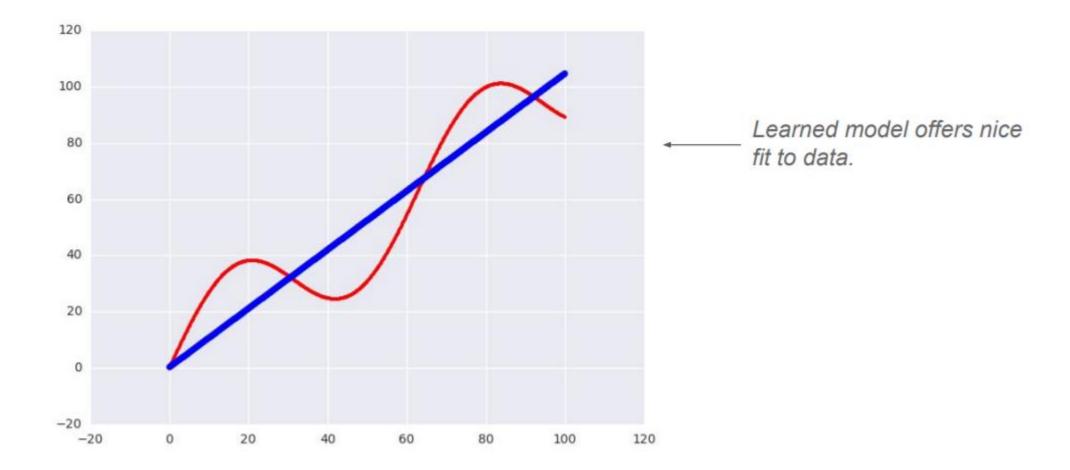
Ex: Linear Regression in TensorFlow (4)

```
# Sample code to run full gradient descent:
# Define optimizer operation
opt_operation = tf.train.AdamOptimizer().minimize(loss)
```

```
with tf.Session() as sess:
    # Initialize Variables in graph
    sess.run(tf.initialize_all_variables())
    # Gradient descent loop for 500 steps
    for _ in range(500):
        # Select random minibatch
        indices = np.random.choice(n_samples, batch_size)
        X_batch, y_batch = X_data[indices], y_data[indices]
        # Do gradient descent step
        _, loss_val = sess.run([opt_operation, loss], feed_dict={X: X_batch, y: y_batch})
```



Ex: Linear Regression in TensorFlow (6)



Concept: Auto-Differentiation

- Linear regression example computed L² loss for a linear regression system. How can we fit model to data?
 - tf.train.Optimizer creates an optimizer.
 - tf.train.Optimizer.minimize(loss, var_list) adds optimization operation to computation graph.
- Automatic differentiation computes gradients without user input!

TensorFlow Gradient Computation

- TensorFlow nodes in computation graph have attached gradient operations.
- Use backpropagation (using node-specific gradient ops) to compute required gradients for all variables in graph.

TensorBoard

- TensorFlow has some neat built-in visualization tools (TensorBoard).
- We won't use TensorBoard for assignments, but encourage you to check it out for your projects.