

Evaluation of Random Neural Layers in Deep Neural Networks

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► **To cite this version:**

Corentin Hardy, Erwan Le Merrer, Gerardo Rubino, Bruno Sericola. Evaluation of Random Neural Layers in Deep Neural Networks. NIPS 2017 - workshop Deep Learning: Bridging Theory and Practice, Dec 2017, Long Beach, United States. pp.1, 2017. <hal-01657644>

HAL Id: hal-01657644

<https://hal.inria.fr/hal-01657644>

Submitted on 7 Dec 2017

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Queuing system as Neural Network

Random Neural Networks (RNN) are proposed in 1989 by Gelenbe. A RNN is a **queuing system**.

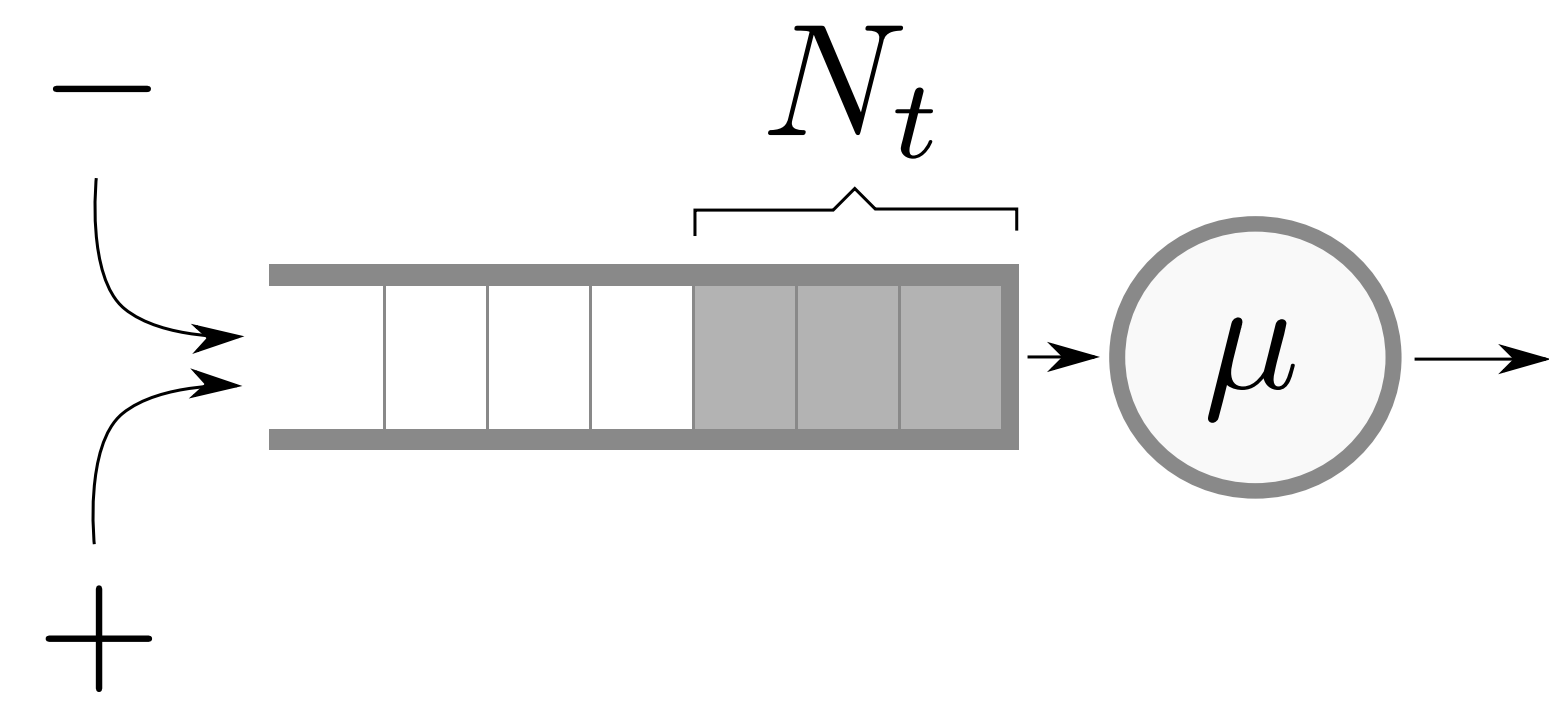


Fig 1 : A queue as Neuron

- Neurons are seen as queues receiving **positive and negative customers** :

- when a *positive customer* (labeled +) enters in the queue at time t , it increases the queue size N_t by one,
- when a *negative customer* (labeled -) enters in the queue at time t , it deletes one positive customer in the queue, if any, decreasing the queue size N_t by one,
- The first positive customer of the queue leaves the queue every $1/\mu$ in average.
- When a customer leaves a queue, it decreases the queue size by one.
- The **activation value** of a neuron is the probability that $N_t > 0$ in steady state (ie., $t \rightarrow \infty$).

Gelenbe shows that it is possible to compute the activation values of neurons of a RNN. He introduces weight connections between queues which are tunable to train the RNN for a task with a Gradient Descent as in a classical Neural Network.

Random Neural Layer*

Inspired by Random Neural Networks, we introduce Random Neural Layer (RNL), which is compatible with other kinds of neural layers in Deep Neural Networks (DNN). The RNL takes as input a vector $X \in R^m$. The RNL is composed of :

- A matrix of parameters $W^+ \in R_+^{n \times m}$
- A matrix of parameters $W^- \in R_+^{n \times m}$
- A vector of constants $M \in R_+^n$

The activation values of the RNL is a vector $A \in R^n$ computed such as :

$$A = N/D \quad (\text{element-wise division})$$

where

$$N = W^+ X$$

$$D = W^- X + M$$

N_i represents the mean throughput of positive customers of neuron i . D_i is the mean throughput of negative customers plus the mean service rate μ .

Recall on the classical fully-connected layers (FCL)

The activation value of a FCL with an input $X \in R^m$ is :

$$A = F(WX + \beta)$$

where $\beta \in R^n$ is the bias vector, $W \in R^{n \times m}$ is the matrix of weights, and F is the activation function.

Experiments

We experiment RNLs in classical architectures of DNNs (taken from Keras). We run different combinations by mixing classical FCL and RNL. In CNN models, convolutional layers are not changed.

| 1 st layer | 2 nd layer | 3 rd layer | Final accuracy |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| RNL | RNL | RNL | 96.39% |
| RNL | RNL | FCL | 97.16% |
| RNL | FCL | RNL | 97.22% |
| RNL | FCL | FCL | 97.31% |
| FCL | RNL | RNL | 94.78% |
| FCL | RNL | FCL | 98.06% |
| FCL | FCL | RNL | 98.35% |
| FCL | FCL | FCL | 98.31% |

Final accuracy of a MLP model on MNIST

| 1 st layer | 2 nd layer | 3 rd layer | 4 th layer | Final accuracy |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| CNN | CNN | RNL | RNL | 98.12% |
| CNN | CNN | RNL | FCL | 98.68% |
| CNN | CNN | FCL | RNL | 98.96% |
| CNN | CNN | FCL | FCL | 99.03% |

Final accuracy of a CNN on MNIST

| 1 st layer | 2 nd layer | 3 rd layer | 4 th layer | 5 th layer | 6 th layer | Final accuracy |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| CNN | CNN | CNN | CNN | RNL | RNL | 75.57% |
| CNN | CNN | CNN | CNN | RNL | FCL | 50.83% |
| CNN | CNN | CNN | CNN | FCL | RNL | 83.92% |
| CNN | CNN | CNN | CNN | FCL | FCL | 81.17% |

Final accuracy of a CNN on CIFAR10

Take away message

DNNs containing a mix of classical neural layers and RNLs may obtain similar or better results, especially when the RNL is the last layer.