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Lecture - 29 Autoencoder Vs. PCA I

Hello, welcome to the NPTEL online certification course on Deep Learning. So, since our previous class we have started discussion on Auto encoders. So, what we discussed yesterday or in our previous class is what is an Autoencoder and a particular variant of auto encoder that we have introduced is what is known as under complete autoencoder.

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Today in this lecture we will discuss about the auto encoder versus principal component analysis that is whether principal components and the auto encoder outputs they are related, if that related how they are related what is the similarity and what is the dissimilarity between these two.

And then we saw in subsequent lectures we will discuss about other Autoencoder topics, like training Autoencoders, Sparse Autoencoder, Denoising Autoencoder, Contractive Autoencoder, Convolution Autoencoder and all that.

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So, before we start today's topic on Autoencoder versus PCA, let us just briefly recapitulate what we have discussed in our previous class. So, we have said that auto encoder is an unsupervised learning technique. So, a learning technique which forces the feed forward or deep neural networks to learn what is known as the representation learning. That is given an input vector or an input signal the network or auto encoder learns compressed domain representation or learns a structure which is present in the input data.

And the way in the neural network of the auto encoder learns this representation data representation of data structure is by imposing a bottleneck layer in the network. And this bottleneck layer actually forces a compressed knowledge representation of the input and that is what the auto encoder learns and this compressed domain knowledge representation is subsequently used for other applications.

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So, while doing this we assume something, the assumption is the degree of correlation or the structure that exists in the input data is quite high. And in fact if the input data or the input feature vectors are uncorrelated or they are statistically independent then compression and subsequent reconstruction would be difficult of course, we will be able to compress. But in the compression will be highly lossy compression if there is no redundancy because whatever information is present in the input data unless there is redundancy of there is correlation then going for any short of compression leads to a loss of data.

And once in that compressed domain representation the data or the information is lost whichever way I try to reconstruct my signal, the original signal from that lossy compressed representation my output will always be lossy. That means, the decompressed data or reconstructed data cannot be identical to the input. So, the basic assumption in use of auto encoders, when you go for encoding in compressed domain or representation in compressed domain the basic assumption is the data is highly correlated.

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So, based on this we have seen a basic auto encoder architecture which is something like this that you have an input layer you have an output layer. So, input layer actually accepts the input data.

So, if the dimensionality of the input data is n at the input layer I will have n number of nodes, in addition there will be one more node to take care of the bias. And in fact we have seen earlier that addition of this bias in the input vector allows us to go for an unified fied representation, that is the bias term can be taken can be considered as an additional term in the weight vector.

So, number of nodes in the input layer will be n plus 1, if the input data vector has dimensionality n. Similarly in the output layer which reconstructs the input as X hat, so our input is X and the output is X hat. So, the output layer will consist of n number of nodes, because we want that the input X should be reconstructed at the output.

And in case of a basic model of an auto encoder we have a hidden layer in between input layer and output layer and what we have said in case of under complete autoencoder that the number of nodes in the hidden layer is much less is less than the number of nodes in the input layer or the number of nodes in the output layer. So, this is what he is known as a bottleneck layer. So, in bottleneck layer as the number of nodes is less than the input layer nodes. So, what this network does is the network passes the input information through a restricted layer whether the number of nodes is must much less and then subsequently as this information passes through this restricted layer, then the decoder side that is the output layer tries to reconstruct the original input from this restricted output.

So, as the information passes through this restricted layer, the network tries to learn a compressed domain representation of the data. So, you imagine what will happen if I do not have this bottleneck layer, that is if the number of nodes in the hidden layer is same as the number of nodes in the input layer that is the size of the data or even more than the number of notes in the input layer.

In that case it might be possible that the network will simply learn an identity function, that is given an input it goes to an intermediate representation and then knows how to reconstruct the same output. And in the process if I have large number of nodes in the hidden layer the network eventually may not learn the compressed domain representation or the structure present in the data which is not our m. So, that is the reason that in the hidden layer or in the bottom neck layer you put some restriction on the number of nodes that you can have.

Later on we will see that when we talk about the sparse auto encoder that it is not even necessary to have the restriction on the number of nodes. But we can add some other regularization term where the red node activations will be restricted. So, instead of trying to restrict the number of nodes you try to restrict the node activations.

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So, this is the basic structure of an auto encoder and as we said that all subsequent representations, we will use this form of representation diagram to represent an autoencoder. So, I have an encoder part which is the from input layer to the hidden layer and I have a decoder part which is from the decoder to the output layer and this whole thing taken together the encoder decoder together is known as Auto encoder. And as it is an under complete auto encoder that we are trying to depict the number of nodes in the hidden layer, which is the bottleneck layer is less than the number of nodes in the input layer or the number of nodes in the output layer.

And while training this auto encoder the loss function that you try to minimize is the squared error loss between the input and output. So, that is X minus X hat l 2 norm of that X minus X hat square take the summation over all the data points all the training samples that you are feeding for training this network. So, this is the basic structure of an auto encoder which has got one input layer one output layer with a hidden layer or a bottleneck layer in between.

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Now, when you go for; so what does this auto encoder try to learn? So, here what has been shown is that if I feed an input to an autoencoder which is an image. So, in our case x is an image and the output that is x hat which is reconstructed is also an image right. And in ideal case if the auto encoder is properly trained then X hat will be same as X. Now, once this auto encoder is properly trained, what does this encoding layer or the bottleneck layer actually learn? So, this is an example which has been obtained from training such an autoencoder with large number of input images.

So, you find that on the right hand side the example image set that we have. So, this particular image this particular sub image is actually the image or the structure which is learnt by the first auto encoder. Now, here you find that this output is not exactly from this particular network that we are showing here, here you find that there are 100 such sub images or hundred structures. That means, the auto encoder which has been trained with for this kind of a example has 100 number of nodes in the middle layer or in the bottleneck layer and every node learns some structure.

So, this first node it learns this structure similarly second node may learn this structure and so on and how this image has been formed. It is nothing but this weights from the input which are connected to the first node, you remember the way we have got this vector is by concatenating the columns of the input image.

So, when you form these structures when I reconstruct the structures which are learnt by these hidden layer nodes these are these weight vectors which are folded back in the form of an image ok. So, you find that if there are n number of nodes in the input. So, I have an image consisting of n number of pixels, here also I have n number of vectors of course, the n plus 1 considering the bias term. Now, when you form this you remove that bias term, so among the remaining vectors remaining components of the weight vector I fold it back in the form of an image.

So, this is such an image so these are the structures as shown in this set of images which are learnt by this encoding layer and as you see over here these sub images appear to be edges oriented in various directions. So, edges are nothing but the detailed information's which are present in the image. So, this simple example shows that this input layers or nodes in the input layer actually learn the structures which are present in the image. It does not simply pass the input image to the output layer and then what this decoder side does is the decoder side use makes use of these structures which is which are present in the image and from these structures it tries to reconstruct the original image.

So, when this network is properly learned this is the form of structure which will which is actually learnt by this encoding layer right. So, this is how an encoder learns the structure which is present in the data.

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In case of Deep autoencoders, so earlier what we have shown is a basic structure of an auto encoder where I have an input layer, I have an output layer and I have one hidden layer which is a bottleneck layer. In a deep autoencoder I can have a number of such auto encoding layers which has stacked one after another. So, in this diagram what has been shown is this is your input layer this is the input layer, this is the auto encoder layer one so I put it as AE1 this is AE2 or this is actually the coding layer in this particular diagram.

 I can have AE1 AE2 AE3 AE4 and so on I can go on stacking such auto encoder layers ok. Then accordingly on the decoder side also I will have stacking of a number of such decoding layers ok. So, in case of deep autoencoder the number of layers number of encoding layers and the number of decoding layers that you make part of the auto encoder that decides, what is the depth of the auto encoder that we are going to design or the auto encoder that you are going to use.

However for training the auto encoder we still use the squared error loss between the input and the output for training the auto encoder. So, given this here you find that what this auto encoder does as we have already said that given an input data of dimension say N.

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So, X having dimension N if in the encoding layer or in the bottleneck layer I have the number of nodes which is equal to d, where d is much less than N. So, here this auto encoder learns a compressed representation of this N dimensional data to a d dimensional representation, which is the latent also called as latent space representation. And it is expected that if the auto encoder is properly trained then from this latent space representation that decoder will be able to decode this latent space representation of the data to give you the reconstructed data X hat, which is almost a replica of your input data X.

So, in other sense we can say that while coding the auto encoder actually gives you a transformation that transforms the data from a higher dimensional space to a lower dimensional space. And while doing so it ensures that your reconstruction error end to end reconstruction error when the data will be reconstructed that is minimized.

So, this lower dimensional representation indicates that the loss it tells that the loss that you incur while compressing the data or while trying to extract from the structure from the data the loss incurred will be minimum. So, in other case you can consider the function of the auto encoder is to go for dimensionality reduction of the input data. And if I consider the function of the auto encoder as a dimensionality reduction function, then we have to see that what is the other dimensionality reduction function that we have and it is known that traditionally the dimensionality reduction is done by an algorithm known as principal component analysis.

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So, naturally then the question comes that how does principal component analysis compared with auto encoders? So, in order to do that before going to that comparison for the benefit of those who does not know what is principal component analysis. Let me briefly say what is principal component analysis?

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So, in case of principal component analysis our input is let us assume that input is a set of vectors X. So, I put this as set of vectors X1 X2 X3 up to say X, X N. So, assuming that we have N number of input vectors and each of the input vector maybe of dimension say let me put as capital D. So, capital D is the dimension of the input vectors. That means, each of x one x two up to x n each of them has t number of components.

Now, once I have such a collection of vectors X you define the covariance matrix as C x which is defined as expectation value of X minus mu X into X minus mu X transpose. What is mu X? Mu X is nothing but mean of the input vectors. So, I have N number of input vectors. So, this will be 1 upon N sum of Xi, where i varies from 1 to N. So, this is my mu X and X is each of these individual vectors.

So, I define the covariance matrix of the set of input vectors as the expectation value of X minus mu X into X minus mu X transpose and now if you analyze this covariance matrix. So, what will be the size of this covariance matrix as the vector is N dimensional. So, this covariance matrix will be D by D matrix as D is the dimension of the feature vectors.

So, this covariance matrix will be a D by D matrix and in this covariance matrix the diagonal elements will give you the variance of the individual components of the vectors. That means, if I take the first vector, first component of X1, first component of X2, first component of X3 and so on and I compute the variance of all those first components that variance will be my sigma 1 1 which is the first component in this diagonal vector. Similarly sigma 2 2 will be the variance of the second component sigma d d will be the variance of the d th component of the last component. And all the off diagonal elements in this matrix will give you the covariance of different components.

So, sigma 1 2 is the covariance between the first component and the second component, sigma 4 5 is the covariance between the fourth component and fifth component and so on, so this is what is your covariance matrix. So, once I have this covariance matrix then from the covariance matrix I can compute the eigenvalues and the eigenvectors. So, suppose how do you compute the eigenvalues and the eigenvectors given a covariance matrix Cx?

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Having say sigma 1 1 sigma one two up to sigma one d sigma 2 1 sigma 2 2 up to sigma 2 d and so on. This is sigma d 1 sigma d 2 up to sigma d d. So, this is say my covariance matrix and I want to compute the eigenvectors i and the eigenvalues lambda.

So, the way you have compute this eigenvalue is from each of these diagonal elements you subtract lambda and then make determinant. So, the determinant will be sigma 1 1 minus lambda sigma 1 2 up to sigma 1 d sigma 2 1 sigma 2 2 minus lambda sigma 2 3 goes on sigma d 1 sigma d 2 sigma d d minus lambda make a determinant and equate this to 0.

So, once you put this you will find that this determinant will give you a polynomial of degree d and it will be a polynomial in lambda. So, once I solve this I will get d components or t values of lambda. So, I will get lambda I, where i varies from 1 to d and then for each of this lambda i I can compute the corresponding eigenvector. So, the way you compute eigenvector is if for lambda i the corresponding eigenvector is say e i.

Then the equation that has to be satisfied is $C \times e$ i have to be equal to lambda i times e i. So, I know what is C x I know what is lambda i you solve this equation I get the i th eigenvector which is e. So, this is how given a set of vectors I can compute the covariance matrix, from the covariance matrix I can compute the eigenvectors or eigenvalues and for every eigenvalue I can compute the Eigen corresponding eigenvector.

And you see that if this covariance matrix is a real and symmetric which usually is then the eigenvectors are orthogonal and what this lambda tells you or the eigenvalue tells you it simply tells you that what is the scatter or what is the variation of that data in the direction of the corresponding eigenvector. So, if lambda 1 is very high that in k that indicates that the variation of data in the direction of the corresponding eigenvector which is e 1.

So, lambda one very high indicates that the variation of data in the direction of e 1 is very high right. So, given this once I have this eigenvectors then I can define a transformation. So, how do you define this transformation?

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For defining a transformation you make you form a transformation matrix A, this transformation matrix A is formed using the eigenvectors as the rows in the transformation matrix. So, the first row in this transformation matrix is e 1 the second row is e 2 the last row is e d, you remember that we had d number of eigenvectors as our input vector is of dimension d.

And how I get this transformation matrix or how I arrange such eigenvectors into rows of this transformation matrix is in this transformation matrix e 1 corresponding to that my eigenvector is lambda 1 and for vector e 2 my corresponding eigenvalues the eigenvalue is lambda 1 and corresponding to this I have my eigenvalue which is lambda 2.

So, I arrange this eigenvectors as rows in this transformation matrix in descending order of the corresponding eigenvalues. So, here e 1 is the first row e 2 is the second row that indicates that I have lambda 1 greater than lambda 2 right. So, for two for a pair of eigenvalues say lambda i lambda j where both i and j varies from 1 to d because I will have lambda that is from lambda 1 to lambda d.

So, for this pair of eigenvalues lambda i and lambda j, if lambda i is greater than lambda j that indicates that e i the eigenvector e i will occupy a higher row than e j in this transformation matrix. So, but this e i I have the corresponding eigenvalue lambda i for e j I have the corresponding value lambda j. So, as lambda i is greater than lambda j in this transformation matrix a e will e i will occupy a higher position than e j, so that is how this transformation matrix is formed.

So, once I have this transformation matrix, then I can define a transformation, my input vectors are x. I can have a transformation which is given by A times say X k the k th vector minus mu j mu X which is the mean of the vectors. So, this defines the transformation. So, this gives me a transform vector which is Y k. So, for k th vector this transformation gives me a transform vector Y k.

So, if you look at this transformation, what this transformation is doing if I take the first component of X k. So, difference of first component of X k and first component of mu x right. This is transformed or the vector X k minus mu k is being projected onto vector e 1, because this is nothing but the dot product of e 1 with X k minus mu X that gives that gives me the first component of Y k.

Similarly, the dot product of X k minus mu x with e 2 which is the second row in my transformation matrix gives me the second component of Y k right. So, this transformation that you get this is what is popularly known as KL transformation and I can use this KL transformation for data reduction in the sense, that if I want to reduce the dimension from d 2. What I will do is in this transformation matrix A that I form this a instead of considering all the eigenvectors I will only consider e 1 and e 2 the eigenvectors e 1 and e 2 and the transformation will be same as this A times X k minus mu x, where Ais now this is actually 2 by d matrix I have 2 rows and d number of columns right.

So, this is A 2 by d matrix. So, when you go for this transformation this Y k you find that it will be a 2 by 1 vector. That means, it is a two dimensional vector. So, just by trunk of truncation of this transformation matrix I can transform the data from n dimension to two dimension or d dimension to two dimension. So, that is what gives me a reduction in the dimensionality of the input data and this is what is popularly known as KL transformation and the components of this transform vector Y k that you get that is Y k 1 the first component and Y k 2 that is the second component.

After this transformation these are what are known as principal components and the eigenvectors are the principal directions. So, effectively what you are doing is you are transforming your input data into a space which is known as Eigen space and the eigenvectors bring orthogonal the Eigen space is also orthogonal.

And the projections in the Eigen space in every Eigen direction are the principal components of the input data and by arranging the transformation matrix A in this form. That is arranging the rows as Eigenvectors in descending order of corresponding eigenvalues ensures that the error that you encounter by in by truncating some of the rows from the lower side, ensures that the error that you encounter will be minimum. So, let me stop here today I will take up this illustrations with principal component in the next class.

Thank you.