Determining Player Skill in the Game of Go with Deep Neural Networks

Josef Moudřík[1] Roman Neruda[2]

[1]Charles University in Prague
Faculty of Mathematics and Physics
J.Moudrik@gmail.com

[2]Institute of Computer Science
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
roman@cs.cas.cz

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Presentation Outline

- Introduction: Go, Computer Go, Deep Learning
- Motivation
- Dataset
- Augmentation & Downsampling
- Model Architecture
- Experiments
- Conclusions

Introduction: Game of Go

- One of the oldest games.
- 2 players, perfect information, deterministic rules.
- Board size of 19×19 intersections.
- **Goal**: control the board

  — enclose territory, capture enemy.

Introduction: Computer Go

- **Go AI is hard:**
- high branching factor,
- no clear evaluation function.

- **Recently solved by Google AlphaGo,**
- a combination of Monte Carlo Tree Search with **deep learning**. [Silver et al., 2016]

Introduction: Deep Learning

- Differentiable neural network models,
- large number of parameters,
- deep — error is back-propagated through many steps.

- **Convolutional Neural Networks:**
- hierarchical model based on learning convolutional kernels,
- great for data with spatial structure — e.g. images, sound spectrograms, Go boards.
- Learns increasingly abstract hierarchical representations.

Introduction: Motivation

- Strength of Go players is measured by rating:
  - a numerical quantity — rating — is assigned to each player,
  - updated after each game, using win/loss information.
  - Rating is used to e.g. pair opponents with similar strength.
- Rating converges slowly for new players, causing problems such as badly matched opponents and rating deflation.
- Can we use more information (than the win/loss bit) from each game?

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- **Maybe the game record itself?!**
- **Our Work:** Use Deep Learning to predict player's strength from a board position, aiming to improve convergence of rating systems.

Dataset

- 188,700 Games from Online Go Server (OGS).
- this makes for 3,426,489 pairs (X, y), where
  - y is one of 3 classes based on strength, $y \in \{\text{strong}, \text{intermediate}, \text{beginner}\}$
  - X is encoding of position and last 4 moves, represented as a volume of size $13 \times 19 \times 19$:
    - 4 planes of liberties of current player,
    - 4 planes of liberties of opponent,
    - 1 plane for empty intersections,
    - 4 planes marking the last 4 moves.

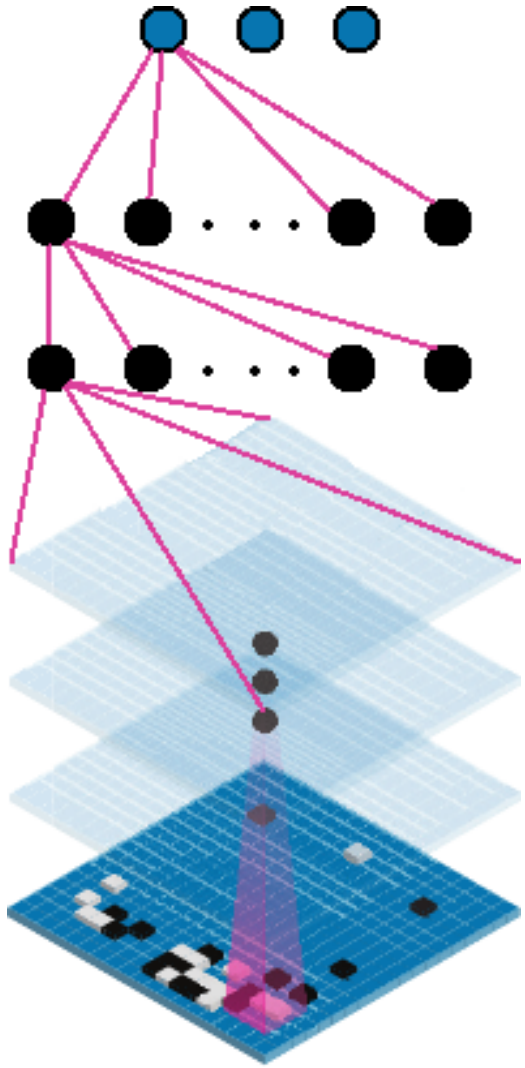
Augmentation & Downsampling

- Techniques to reduce over-fitting and improve generalization.
- **Sub-sampling:** on average, take every 5th position from each game (uniformly randomly).
- **Augmentation:** each sample is randomly transformed into 1 of its 8 symmetries during training.
- **Equalization:** y classes are equally represented in the training set (throwaway superfluous examples).

Model Architecture

- Input layer,
- 1 Convolutional layer of 512 filters of size 5×5,
- 3 Convolutional layer of 128 filters of size 3×3,
- 2 fully connected layers of 128 neurons,
- Output layer, 3-way Softmax.

- All layers (except for the final one) have ReLU activation.
- Trained with mini-batched SGD with Nesterov momentum.



Img. adapted from [Silver et al., 2016].

- Baseline case, accuracy 71.5%

True Label \ Predicted Label	Strong	Intermediate	Weak
Strong	0.79	0.18	0.02
Intermediate	0.21	0.63	0.15
Weak	0.03	0.19	0.78

Confusion Matrix

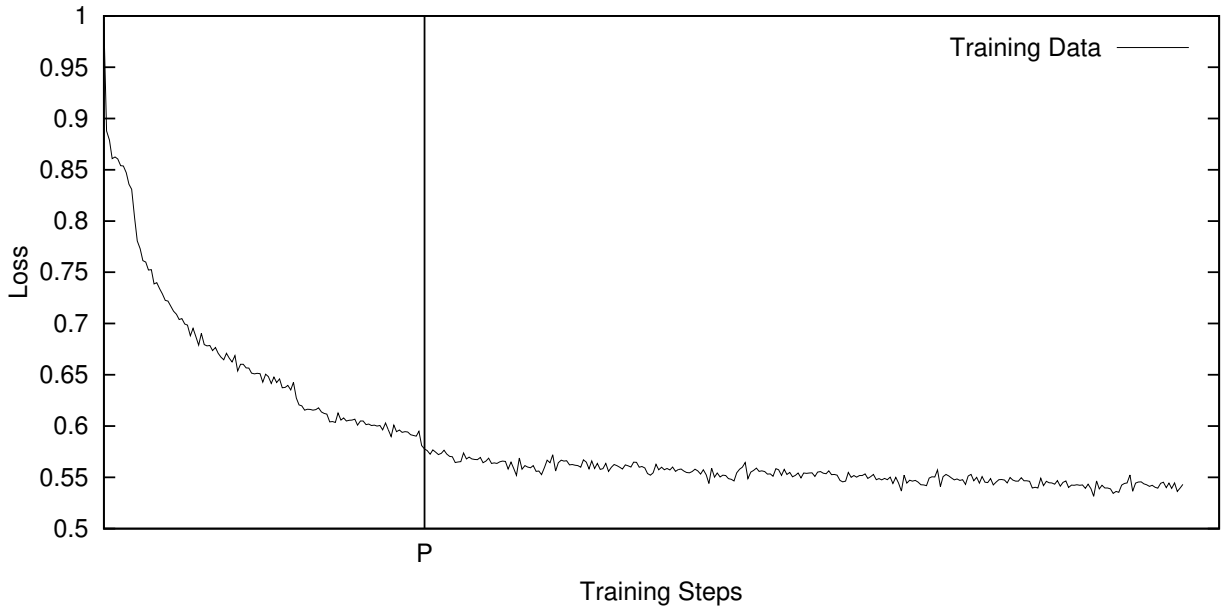


Figure: Training Loss Evolution

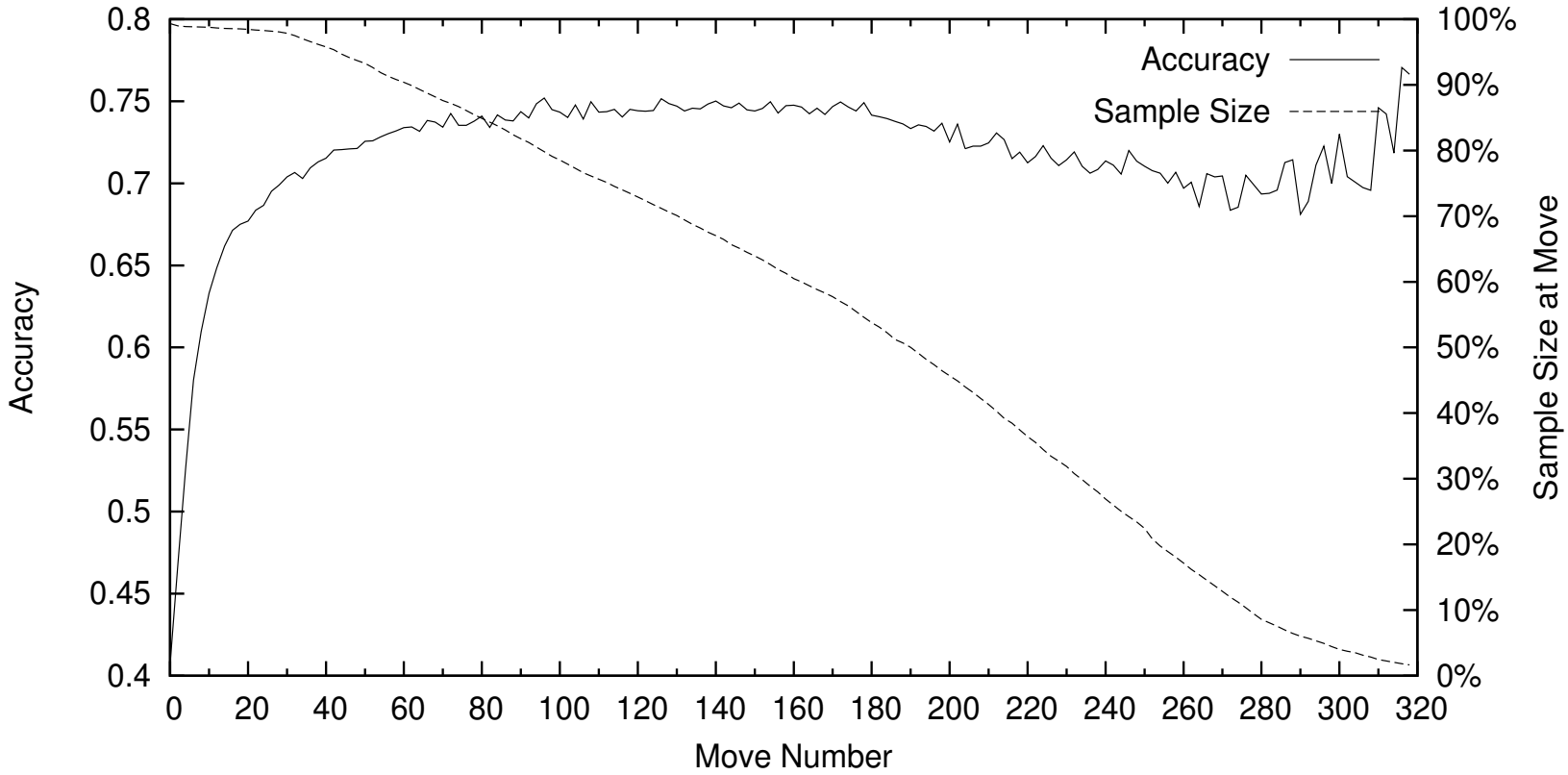


Figure: Dependency of accuracy and sample size on move number.

Table: Summary of results. **A**ugmentation (ensemble of 8 symmetries), **C**ropped (skip first 30 moves), **W**eighted (proportionaly to avg. Acc. for given move).

Model	Acc.	Acc. (Top-2)
Single Position	71.5 %	94.6%
Single Position (**A**)	72.5 %	94.9%
Aggregated per Game, mode (**A**)	76.8 %	N/A
Aggregated per Game, sum (**A**)	77.1 %	96.4%
Aggregated per Game, sum (**A**, **C**)	77.7 %	96.7%
Aggregated per Game, sum (**A**, **W**)	77.9 %	96.8%

Conclusions

- We have used Deep Learning to predict player's strength from a single game position (= little information).
- The method is applicable to whole games by aggregating individual predictions.
- Works nicely for 3 target classes, more data would be good to move towards accurate regression.
- Will be experimentally deployed on Online Go Server (hopefuly) soon.

References I

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