



# WeightAlign: Normalizing Activations by Weight Alignment

XiangWei Shi\*, Yunqiang Li\*, Xin Liu\* and Jan van Gemert  
Computer Vision Lab, TU Delft, Netherlands  
ICPR2020



# Motivation

- BatchNorm (BN) suffers from performance degradation on small batch-size that is statistically unstable.



# Motivation

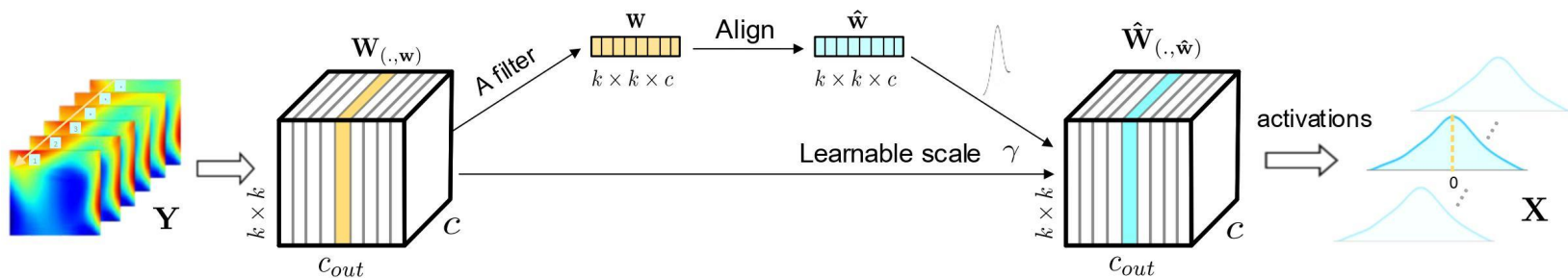
- BatchNorm (BN) suffers from performance degradation on small batch-size that is statistically unstable.
- Proposed WeightAlign: normalizing activations without using sample statistics.



# Motivation

- BatchNorm (BN) suffers from performance degradation on small batch-size that is statistically unstable.
- Proposed WeightAlign: normalizing activations without using sample statistics.
- Our method re-parameterize the weights within a filter to reach correctly normalized activations.

# Method Overview





## Proposed Method

BN: 
$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mu_\beta}{\sigma_\beta}, \quad \mathbf{r} = \gamma \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \beta, \quad (1)$$



## Proposed Method

BN: 
$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mu_\beta}{\sigma_\beta}, \quad \mathbf{r} = \gamma \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \beta, \quad (1)$$

Expressing statistics by weights:

$$\mu_\beta = E[x] = nE[w]E[Y], \quad (2)$$

$$\sigma_\beta^2 = \text{Var}[x] = n(E[w^2]E[Y^2] - E^2[w]E^2[Y]) \quad (3)$$



## Proposed Method

BN:  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mu_\beta}{\sigma_\beta}, \quad \mathbf{r} = \gamma \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \beta, \quad (1)$

Expressing statistics by weights:

$$\mu_\beta = E[x] = nE[w]E[Y], \quad (2)$$

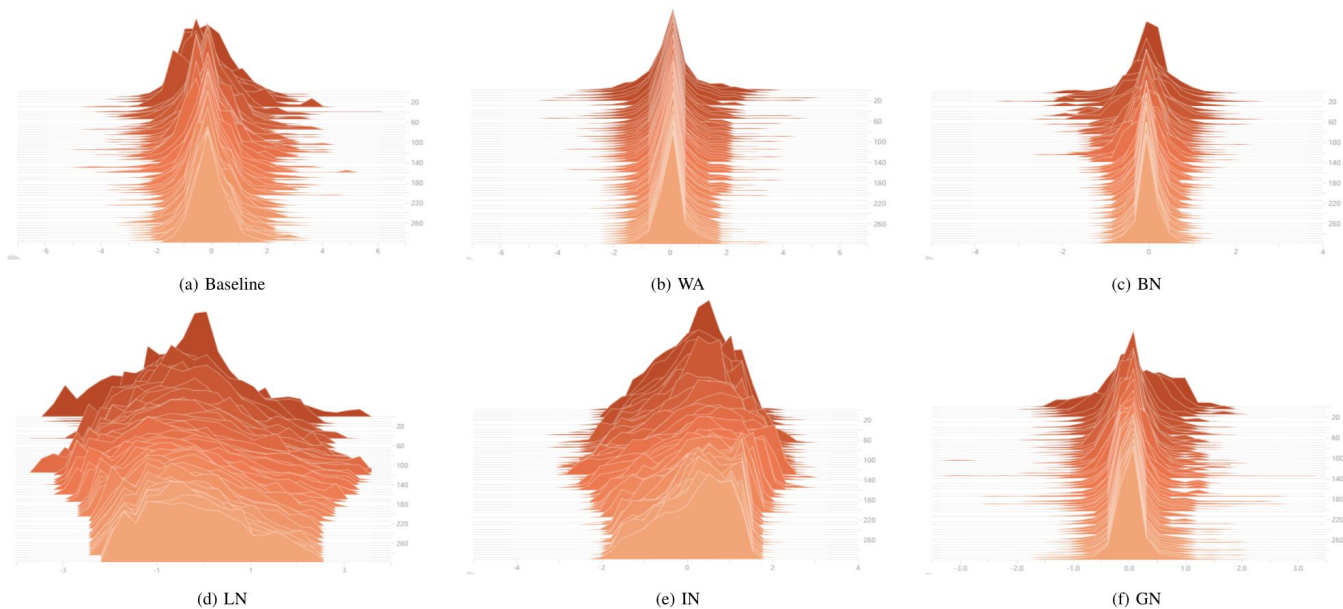
$$\sigma_\beta^2 = \text{Var}[x] = n(E[w^2]E[Y^2] - E^2[w]E^2[Y]) \quad (3)$$

WeightAlign (WA):  $E[w] = 0, \quad \frac{1}{2}n\text{Var}[w] = 1. \quad (4)$

$$\hat{w} = \gamma \frac{w - E[w]}{\sqrt{n/2 \cdot \text{Var}[w]}}, \quad (5)$$



# Experiment results



visualization of a single channel activation in training

## Experiment results

CIFAR-10							
Batch size 64				Batch size 1			
Method	Error	Method	Error	Method	Error	Method	Error
Baseline [36]	6.46	WA	6.21	Baseline	7.27	WA	6.61
BN [23]	4.30	BN+WA	4.29	BN	-	BN+WA	-
IN [20]	6.49	IN+WA	6.42	IN	6.91	IN+WA	6.50
LN [19]	5.02	LN+WA	5.12	LN	6.82	LN+WA	5.76
GN [21]	4.96	GN+WA	4.60	GN	5.79	GN+WA	5.51

Error rate of ResNet50 on CIFAR-10 for classification

## Experiment results

model	Top-1 (%) Error	Top-5 (%) Error
VGG16* (Baseline)	31.30	11.19
VGG16 (BN)*	29.58	10.16
VGG16 (WA)	29.78	10.23
VGG16 (BN+WA)	<b>27.07</b>	<b>8.78</b>
ResNet50 (Baseline) <sup>†</sup> [36]	27.60	-
ResNet50 (BN)*	24.89	7.71
ResNet50 (WA)	26.62	8.91
ResNet50 (BN+WA)	<b>24.04</b>	<b>7.12</b>

Image classification on ImageNet



**Thank you**