Neural Networks



The Neuron Metaphor

- Inspired by attempts to simulate biological neural systems.
- Neurons
 - accept information from multiple inputs,
 - transmit information to other neurons.
- Multiply inputs by weights along edges
- Apply some function to the set of inputs at each node





Output Y is 1 if at least two of the three inputs are equal to 1.



$$Y = sign(0.3X_1 + 0.3X_2 + 0.3X_3 - 0.4)$$

where $sign(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \ge 0 \\ -1 & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$

- Model is an assembly of inter-connected nodes and weighted links
- Output node sums up each of its input value according to the weights of its links
- Compare output node against some threshold t (also named bias b)
- Bias b => the output of the transformation is biased toward being b in the absence of any input.



Characterizing the Artificial Neuron

- Input/Output signal may be:
 - Real value
 - Unipolar {0, 1}
 - Bipolar [-1, +1]
- Weight (w or sigma): θ_{ij} strength of connection from unit *j* to unit *i*
- Learning amounts to adjusting the weights θ_{ij} by means of an optimization algorithm aiming to minimize a cost function, i.e., as in biological systems training a perceptron model amounts to adapting the weights of the links until they fit the input output relationships of the underlying data.

Characterizing the Artificial Neuron

• The bias *b* is a constant that can be written as $\theta_{i0}x_0$ with $x_0 = 1$ and $\theta_{i0} = b$ such that

$$net_i = \sum_{j=0}^n \theta_{ij} x_j$$

- The function $f(net_i(x))$ is the unit's **activation** function for the output neuron.
- The simplest case, *f* is the identity function, and the unit's output is just its net input. This is called a *linear unit*.
- Otherwise we can have other functions that we see later

The Perceptron Classifier

Perceptron

- Single layer network
 - Contains only input and output nodes
- Activation function: f = sign(w•x)
- Applying model is straightforward

$$Y = sign(0.3X_1 + 0.3X_2 + 0.3X_3 - 0.4)$$

where $sign(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \ge 0 \\ -1 & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$
• X₁ = 1, X₂ = 0, X₃ = 1 => y = sign(0.2) = 1

Learning Iterative Procedure

- During the training phase the weight parameters are adjusted until the outputs of the perceptron become consistent with the true outputs of the training examples.
- Initialize the weights (w₀, w₁, ..., w_m)
- Repeat



Perceptron Learning Rule

• Weight update formula:

$$w^{(k+1)} = w^{(k)} + \lambda \left[y_i - f(w^{(k)}, x_i) \right] x_i ; \lambda : \text{learning rate}$$

- Intuition:
 - Update weight based on error: $e = [y_i f(w^{(k)}, x_i)]$
 - If y=f(x,w), e=0: no update needed
 - If y>f(x,w), e=2: weight must be increased so that f(x,w) will increase
 - If y<f(x,w), e=-2: weight must be decreased so that f(x,w) will decrease

The Learning Rate

- Is a parameter with value between 0 and 1 used to control the amount of adjustment made in each iteration.
- If is close to 0 the new weight is mostly influenced by the value of the old weight.
- If it is close to 1, then the new weight is mostly influenced by the current adjustment.
- The learning rate can be adaptive: initially moderately large and the gradually decreases in subsequent iterations.

Nonlinearly Separable Data

- Since f(w,x) is a linear combination of input variables, decision boundary is linear.
- For nonlinearly separable problems, the perceptron fails because no linear hyperplane can separate the data perfectly.
- An example of nonlinearly separable data is the XOR function.





Multilayer Neural Network

Multilayer Neural Network

- Hidden Layers: intermediary layers between input and output layers.
- Different type of **activation functions** (sigmoid, linear, hyperbolic tangent, etc.).
- Multi-layer neural network can solve any type of classification task involving nonlinear decision surfaces.
- Perceptron is single layer.
- We can think to each hidden node as a perceptron that tries to construct one hyperplane, while the output node combines the results to return the decision boundary.



General Structure of ANN



- The neurons perform a linear transformation on this input using the weights and biases.
- An activation function is applied to it
- The output moves to the next hidden layer

- Various types of neural network topology
 - single-layered network (perceptron) versus multi-layered network
 - Feed-forward: connections only between nodes of level L_i and the next one L_{i+1}
 - Recurrent network: feedback connections in which outputs of the model are fed back into itself.



Recurrent Neural Network

Feed-Forward Neural Network

• Various types of activation functions (f)

$$Y = f(\sum_{i} w_i X_i)$$

Activation function: Sigmoid

• Logistic function (Sigmoid): values in [0,1]

$$f(net) = \sigma(net) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-net}}$$



• Derivative:

$$\sigma'(net) = \frac{\partial}{\partial net} \left(\frac{1}{1 + e^{-net}} \right) = \frac{e^{-net}}{(1 + e^{-net})^2} = \sigma(net) \left(1 - \sigma(net) \right)$$

Activation function: Hyperbolic Tangent

- Hyperbolic Tangent has values in [-1,1]
- More complex wrt Sigmoid
- Better than sigmoid because symmetric wrt 0 and leads to a faster convergence
- We can obtain it by Sigmoid

 $f(net) = \tau(net) = 2\sigma(2 \cdot net) - 1$

• Derivative: $\tau'(net) = 1 - \tau(net)^2$



Activation function: RELU

• Rectified Linear Unit: values in [0,inf]

 $f(net) = \begin{cases} 0 \ (or \ \epsilon) \ for \ net < 0\\ net & for \ net \ge 0 \end{cases}$



- It will output the input directly if it is positive, otherwise, it will output zero
- Overcomes the vanishing gradient problem, allowing models to learn faster and perform better.

Activation function: Softmax

- Each value in the output of the softmax function is interpreted as the probability of membership for each class.
- Generalization of the logistic function to multiple dimensions
- Useful for addressing a multiclass problem

$$z_k = f(net_k) = \frac{e^{net_k}}{\sum_{c=1\dots s} e^{net_c}}$$

Activation Functions Summary



Training Multilayer NN



Training Multilayer NN





Error Backpropagation



Error is computed at the output and propagated back to the input by chain rule to compute the contribution of each weight (a.k.a. derivative) to the loss

A 2-step process

- 1. Forward pass Compute the network output
- 2. Backward pass Compute the loss function gradients and update

Forward propagation



$$z_k = f\left(\sum_{j=1\dots n_H} w_{jk} \cdot y_j + w_{0k}\right) = f\left(\sum_{j=1\dots n_H} w_{jk} \cdot f\left(\sum_{i=1\dots d} w_{ij} \cdot x_i + w_{0j}\right) + w_{0k}\right)$$

Forward propagation





Learning Multi-layer Neural Network

- Can we apply perceptron learning to each node, including hidden nodes?
- Perceptron computes error e = y f(w, x) and updates weights accordingly
- Problem: how to determine the true value of *y* for hidden nodes?
- Approximate error in hidden nodes by error in the output nodes
- Problems:
 - Not clear how adjustment in the hidden nodes affect overall error
 - No guarantee of convergence to optimal solution

Gradient Descent for Multilayer NN

- Error function to minimize: $E = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\mathbf{y}_{i} f(\sum_{j} w_{j} x_{ij}) \right)^{2}$ Quadratic function from which we can find a global minimum solution • Weight update: $w_{j}^{(k+1)} = w_{j}^{(k)} - \lambda \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{j}}$
- The second term states that weight should be increased in a direction reducing the overall error term
 - The gradient descent learning rule moves a small (λ) step in the negative gradient direction
 - Gradient indicates the direction of growing of the function
- Activation function *f* must be differentiable
- Error function is nonlinear GD method can get trapped in a local minimum

Gradient Descent for Multilayer NN

- Weights are updated in the opposite direction of the gradient of the loss function.
- Gradient direction is the direction of uphill of the error function.
- By taking the negative we are going downhill.
- Hopefully to a minimum of the error.



$$w_{j}^{(k+1)} = w_{j}^{(k)} - \lambda \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{j}}$$

Gradient Descent for Multilayer NN

- For output neurons, weight update formula is the same as before (gradient descent for perceptron)
- For hidden neurons:

$$w_{pi}^{(k+1)} = w_{pi}^{(k)} + \lambda o_i (1 - o_i) \sum_{j \in \Phi_i} \delta_j w_{ij}$$

Output neurons: $\delta_j = o_j (1 - o_j) (y_i - o_j)$
Hidden neurons: $\delta_j = o_j (1 - o_j) \sum_{k \in \Phi_j} \delta_k w_{jk}$



Consider the Sigmoid o(x) the derivative is o(x)(1 - o(x))

Backpropagation in other words

- In order to get the loss of a node (e.g. Z0), we multiply the value of its corresponding f'(z) by the loss of the node it is connected to in the next layer (delta_1), by the weight of the link connecting both nodes.
- We do the delta calculation step at every unit, back-propagating the loss into the neural net, and finding out what loss every node/unit is responsible for.



Backpropagation



Learning a MLNN

Inizialize n_H , **w**, λ , Nun_epoch, size_{mb}

epoch = 0

do epoch = epoch +1

random sort the Training Set (*n* istances)

for each mini-batch B of $size_{\rm mb}$

reset gradiente

for each \mathbf{x} in B

forward step

backward step

update weights

Compute Loss

Compute accuracy on Training Set and Validation Set

while (not convergence and epoch < *Num_epoch*)

- All the weights are initialized to 0.5
- The learning rate is 1
- Activation function: $Z_j = f(net_j) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-net_j}}$
- $f'(net) = Z_j(1-Z_j)$
- $\Delta w_{ij} = \lambda \delta_j Z_j$
- Output node: $\delta_j = (T_j Z_j)f'(net)$
- Hidden node: $\delta_j = \sum_k (\delta_k w_{jk}) f'(net)$



- $net_4 = 0.9 * 0.5 + 0.6 * 0.5 + 1 * 0.5 = 1.25$
- $net_5 = 0.9 * 0.5 + 0.6 * 0.5 + 1 * 0.5 = 1.25$

•
$$z_4 = \frac{1}{1+e^{-1.25}} = 0.77$$

•
$$z_5 = \frac{1}{1+e^{-1.25}} = 0.77$$

• $net_7 = 0.77 * 0.5 + 0.77 * 0.5 + 1 * 0.5 = 1.27$

•
$$z_7 = \frac{1}{(1+e^{-1.27})} = 0.78$$

• $Z_j = f(net_j) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-net_j}}$

•
$$f'(net) = Z_j(1-Z_j)$$

•
$$\Delta w_{ij} = \lambda \delta_j Z_j$$

• Output node: $\delta_j = (T_j - Z_j)f'(net)$

• Hidden node:
$$\delta_j = \sum_k (\delta_k w_{jk}) f'(net)$$



•
$$net_4 = 1.25$$
, $net_5 = 1.25$, $z_4 = 0.77$, $z_5 = 0.77$,
 $net_7 = 1.27$, $z_7 = 0.78$

•
$$\delta_7 = (0 - 0.78) * 0.78 * (1 - 0.78) = -0.13$$

•
$$\delta_4 = (-0.13 * 0.5) * 0.77 * (1 - 0.77) = -0.11$$

•
$$\delta_5 = (-0.13 * 0.5) * 0.77 * (1 - 0.77) = -0.11$$

•
$$Z_j = f(net_j) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-net_j}}$$

• $f'(net) = Z_j(1-Z_j)$
• $\Delta w_{ij} = \lambda \delta_j Z_j$
• Output node: $\delta_j = (T_j - Z_j)f'(net)$
• Hidden node: $\delta_j = \sum_k (\delta_k w_{jk}) f'(net)$
7
6
1
1
0.9
0.6
1

- $net_4 = 1.25$, $net_5 = 1.25$, $z_4 = 0.77$, $z_5 = 0.77$, $net_7 = 1.27$, $z_7 = 0.78$
- $\delta_7 = -0.13$
- $\delta_4 = -0.11$
- $\delta_5 = -0.11$
- $w_{47} = 0.5 + (1 * -0.13 * 0.77) = 0.39$
- $w_{57} = 0.5 + (1 * -0.13 * 0.77) = 0.39$
- $w_{67} = 0.5 + (1 * -0.13 * 1) = 0.36$

• $Z_j = f(net_j) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-net_j}}$

•
$$f'(net) = Z_j(1-Z_j)$$

•
$$\Delta w_{ij} = \lambda \delta_j Z_j$$

- Output node: $\delta_j = (T_j Z_j)f'(net)$
- Hidden node: $\delta_j = \sum_k (\delta_k w_{jk}) f'(net)$



•
$$\delta_7 = -0.13, \delta_4 = -0.11, \delta_5 = -0.11$$

•
$$w_{47} = 0.39, w_{57} = 0.39, w_{67} = 0.36$$

•
$$w_{14} = 0.5 + (1 * -0.11 * 0.9) = 0.48$$

•
$$w_{15} = 0.5 + (1 * -0.11 * 0.9) = 0.48$$

•
$$w_{24} = 0.5 + (1 * -0.11 * 0.6) = 0.49$$

•
$$w_{25} = 0.5 + (1 * -0.11 * 0.6) = 0.49$$

•
$$w_{34} = 0.5 + (1 * -0.11 * 1) = 0.48$$

•
$$w_{35} = 0.5 + (1 * -0.11 * 1) = 0.48$$

• $Z_j = f(net_j) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-net_j}}$

•
$$f'(net) = Z_j(1-Z_j)$$

•
$$\Delta w_{ij} = \lambda \delta_j Z_j$$

• Output node: $\delta_j = (T_j - Z_j)f'(net)$

• Hidden node:
$$\delta_j = \sum_k (\delta_k w_{jk}) f'(net)$$



Learning Rate



On the Key Importance of Error Functions

- The error/loss/cost function reduces all the various good and bad aspects of a possibly complex system down to a single number, a scalar value, which allows candidate solutions to be compared.
- It is important, therefore, that **the function faithfully represents our design goals**.
- If we choose a poor error function and obtain unsatisfactory results, the fault is ours for badly specifying the goal of the search.

Design Issues in ANN

- Number of nodes in input layer
 - One input node per binary/continuous attribute
 - *k* or *log*₂*k* nodes for each categorical attribute with k values
- Number of nodes in output layer
 - One output for binary class problem
 - k nodes for k-class problem
- Number of nodes in hidden layer
- Initial weights and biases

Characteristics of ANN

- Multilayer ANN are universal approximators but could suffer from *overfitting* if the network is too large.
- Gradient descent may converge to *local minimum*.
- Model building can be very time consuming, but testing can be very fast.
- Can handle redundant attributes because weights are automatically learnt.
- Sensitive to noise in training data.
- Difficult to handle missing attributes.

References

• Artificial Neural Network. Chapter 5.4 and 5.5. Introduction to Data Mining.

