Neural Networks

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CS 486/686
University of Waterloo

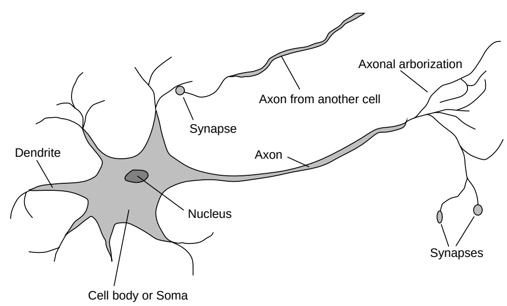
Outline

- Neural networks
  - Perceptron
  - Supervised learning algorithms for neural networks
- Reading: R&N Ch 20.5

Brain

- Seat of human intelligence
- Where memory/knowledge resides
- Responsible for thoughts and decisions
- Can learn
- Consists of nerve cells called neurons

Neuron



Comparison

- Brain
  - Network of neurons
  - Nerve signals propagate in a neural network
  - Parallel computation
  - Robust (neurons die everyday without any impact)
- Computer
  - Bunch of gates
  - Electrical signals directed by gates
  - Sequential computation
  - Fragile (if a gate stops working, computer crashes)

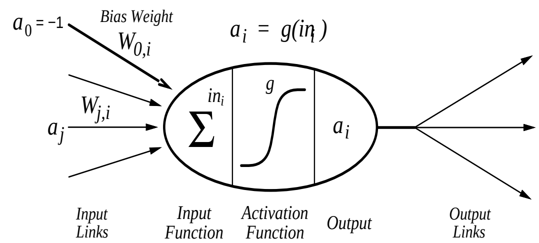
Artificial Neural Networks

- Idea: mimic the brain to do computation
- Artificial neural network:
  - Nodes (a.k.a units) correspond to neurons
  - Links correspond to synapses
- Computation:
  - Numerical signal transmitted between nodes corresponds to chemical signals between neurons
  - Nodes modifying numerical signal corresponds to neurons firing rate

ANN Unit

- For each unit i:
- Weights: W_{ji}
  - Strength of the link from unit j to unit i
  - Input signals a_j weighted by W_{ji} and linearly combined: $in_i = \Sigma_j W_{ji} a_j$
- Activation function: g
  - Numerical signal produced: $a_i = g(in_i)$

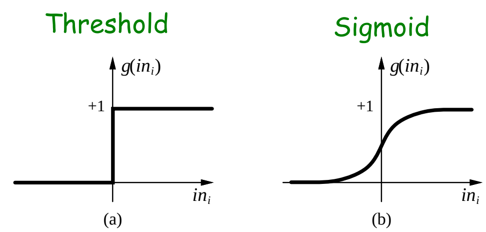
ANN Unit



Activation Function

- Should be nonlinear
  - Otherwise network is just a linear function
- Often chosen to mimic firing in neurons
  - Unit should be "active" (output near 1) when fed with the "right" inputs
  - Unit should be "inactive" (output near 0) when fed with the "wrong" inputs

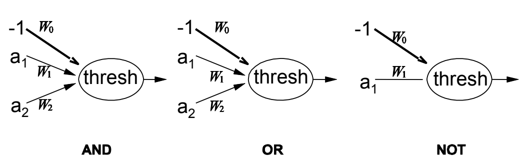
Common Activation Functions



$g(x) = 1/(1+e^{-x})$

Logic Gates

- McCulloch and Pitts (1943)
  - Design ANNs to represent Boolean fns
- What should be the weights of the following units to code AND, OR, NOT ?

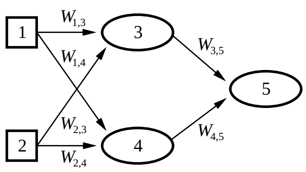


Network Structures

- Feed-forward network
  - Directed acyclic graph
  - No internal state
  - Simply computes outputs from inputs
- Recurrent network
  - Directed cyclic graph
  - Dynamical system with internal states
  - Can memorize information

Feed-forward network

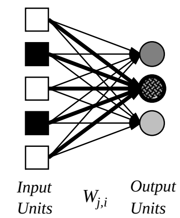
- Simple network with two inputs, one hidden layer of two units, one output unit



$a_5 = g(W_{3,5}a_3 + W_{4,5}a_4)$
$= g(W_{3,5}g(W_{1,3}a_1 + W_{2,3}a_2) + W_{4,5}g(W_{1,4}a_1 + W_{2,4}a_2))$

Perceptron

- Single layer feed-forward network



Supervised Learning

- Given list of <input,output> pairs
- Train feed-forward ANN
  - To compute proper outputs when fed with inputs
  - Consists of adjusting weights W_{ji}
- Simple learning algorithm for threshold perceptrons

Threshold Perceptron Learning

- Learning is done separately for each unit
  - Since units do not share weights
- Perceptron learning for unit i:
  - For each <inputs,output> pair do:
    - Case 1: correct output produced
      - $\forall_j\ W_{ji} \leftarrow W_{ji}$
    - Case 2: output produced is 0 instead of 1
      - $\forall_j\ W_{ji} \leftarrow W_{ji} + a_j$
    - Case 3: output produced is 1 instead of 0
      - $\forall_j\ W_{ji} \leftarrow W_{ji} - a_j$
  - Until correct output for all training instances

Threshold Perceptron Learning

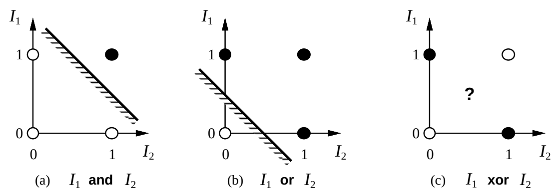
- Dot products: $a \bullet a \geq 0$ and $-a \bullet a \leq 0$
- Perceptron computes
  - 1 when $a \bullet W = \Sigma_j\ a_j W_{ji} > 0$
  - 0 when $a \bullet W = \Sigma_j\ a_j W_{ji} < 0$
- If output should be 1 instead of 0 then
  - $W \leftarrow W{+}a$ since $a \bullet (W{+}a) \geq a \bullet W$
- If output should be 0 instead of 1 then
  - $W \leftarrow W{-}a$ since $a \bullet (W{-}a) \leq a \bullet W$

Threshold Perceptron Hypothesis Space

- Hypothesis space h_W:
  - All binary classifications with param. W s.t.
    - $a \bullet W > 0 \rightarrow 1$
    - $a \bullet W < 0 \rightarrow 0$
- Since $a \bullet W$ is linear in W, perceptron is called a linear separator

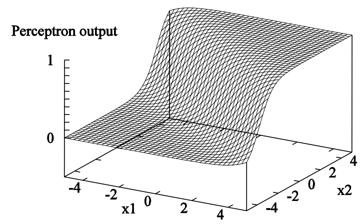
Threshold Perceptron Hypothesis Space

- Are all Boolean gates linearly separable?



Sigmoid Perceptron

- Represent "soft" linear separators



Sigmoid Perceptron Learning

- Formulate learning as an optimization search in weight space
  - Since g differentiable, use gradient descent
- Minimize squared error:
  - $E = 0.5\ Err^2 = 0.5\ (y - h_W(\mathbf{x}))^2$
    - $\mathbf{x}$: input
    - y: target output
    - $h_W(\mathbf{x})$: computed output

Perceptron Error Gradient

- $E = 0.5\ Err^2 = 0.5\ (y - h_W(\mathbf{x}))^2$
- $\partial E/\partial W_j = Err \times \partial Err/\partial W_j$
  $= Err \times \partial(y - g(\Sigma_j W_j x_j))$
  $= -Err \times g'(\Sigma_j W_j x_j) \times x_j$
- When g is sigmoid fn, then $g' = g(1-g)$

Perceptron Learning Algorithm

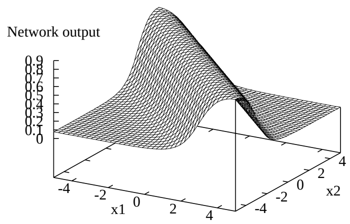
- Perceptron-Learning(examples,network)
  - Repeat
    - For each e in examples do
      - $in \leftarrow \Sigma_j W_j x_j[e]$
      - $Err \leftarrow y[e] - g(in)$
      - $W_j \leftarrow W_j + \alpha \times Err \times g'(in) \times x_j[e]$
  - Until some stopping criteria satisfied
  - Return learnt network
- N.B. α is a learning rate corresponding to the step size in gradient descent

Multilayer Feed-forward Neural Networks

- Perceptron can only represent (soft) linear separators
  - Because single layer
- With multiple layers, what fns can be represented?
  - Virtually any function!

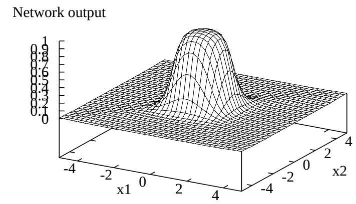
Multilayer Networks

- Adding two sigmoid units with parallel but opposite “cliffs” produces a ridge



Multilayer Networks

- Adding two intersecting ridges (and thresholding) produces a bump



Multilayer Networks

- By tiling bumps of various heights together, we can approximate any function
- Training algorithm:
  - Back-propagation
  - Essentially gradient performed by propagating errors backward into the network
  - See textbook for derivation

Neural Net Applications

- Neural nets can approximate any function, hence 1000’s of applications
  - NETtalk for pronouncing English text
  - Character recognition
  - Paint-quality inspection
  - Vision-based autonomous driving
  - Etc.

Neural Net Drawbacks

- Common problems:
  - How should we interpret units?
  - How many layers and units should a network have?
  - How to avoid local optimum while training with gradient descent?

Next Class

- Next Class:
  - Ensemble learning
  - Russell and Norvig Sect. 18.4