Introduction to Machine Learning:

Lecture 2 – Intro to Neural Networks





TRISEP Summer School July 8-12, 2024 • Lecture 1 – Machine Learning Fundamentals

• Lecture 2 – Intro to Neural Networks

• Lecture 3 – Intro to Deep Learning

• Lecture 4 – Intro to Unsupervised Learning

• Lecture 5 – Intro to Deep Generative Models

Logistic Regression

Linear decision boundary:

$$h(x;w) = \boldsymbol{w}^T \boldsymbol{x}$$

Class probability:

$$p(y = 1 | \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-w^T x}}$$



Adding non-linearity: Basis Functions



• What if non-linear relationship between **y** and **x**?

Adding non-linearity: Basis Functions



- What if non-linear relationship between y and x?
- Choose **basis functions** $\phi(x)$ to form new features
 - Example: Polynomial basis
 - Logistic regression on new features:

$$\phi(x) \sim \{1, x, x^2, x^3, \dots\}$$

$$h(x;w) = \sigma(w^T \phi(x))$$

$$p(y=1|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x})}}$$

Adding non-linearity: Basis Functions



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 - Example: Polynomial basis $\phi(x) \sim \{1, x, x^2, x^3, ...\}$
 - Logistic regression on new features: $h(x; w) = \sigma(w^T \phi(x))$
- What basis functions to choose? *Overfit* with too much flexibility?

What is Overfitting



Underfitting

Overfitting

http://scikit-learn.org/

- Models allow us to generalize from data
- Different models generalize in different ways

Bias Variance Tradeoff

 generalization error = systematic error + sensitivity of prediction (bias) (variance)

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 As dataset size grows, can reduce variance! Use more complex model







Regularization – Control Complexity

$$L(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w})^2 + \alpha \Omega(\mathbf{w})$$

$$L2: \quad \Omega(\mathbf{w}) = ||\mathbf{w}||^2$$



- L2 keeps weights small, L1 keeps weights sparse!
- But how to choose hyperparameter α ?

http://scikit-learn.org/

 $L1: \quad \Omega(\mathbf{w}) = ||\mathbf{w}||$

How to Measure Generalization Error?



- Split dataset into multiple parts
- Training set
 - Used to fit model parameters

Validation set

 Used to check performance on independent data and tune hyper parameters

• Test set

- final evaluation of performance after all hyper-parameters fixed
- Needed since we tune, or "peek", performance with validation set





How to Measure Generalization Error?



Model Complexity

From Logistic Regression to Neural Networks

What if we want a non-linear decision boundary?
 – Choose basis functions, e.g: φ(x) ~ {x², sin(x), log(x), ... }

$$p(y=1|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x})}}$$



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- What if we don't know what basis functions we want?
- Learn the basis functions directly from data

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- Where **u** is a set of parameters for the transformation
- Combines basis selection & learning→Representation Learning
- Several different approaches, focus here on neural networks
- Learning / optimization becomes more difficult

Neural Networks

• Define the basis functions $j = \{1 \dots d\}$

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$$\phi(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{U}) = \sigma(\mathbf{U}\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma(u_1^T x) \\ \sigma(u_2^T x) \\ \vdots \\ \sigma(u_d^T x) \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

 $-\sigma$ is a point-wise non-linearity acting on each vector element

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• Full model becomes $h(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{U}) = \mathbf{v}$

$$(\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{w}, \boldsymbol{U}) = \boldsymbol{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{U})$$

Feed Forward Neural Network





Multi-layer Neural Network



- Multilayer NN
 - Each layer adapts basis functions based on previous layer

Neural Network Optimization Problem

- Neural Network Model: $h(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^T \sigma(\mathbf{U}\mathbf{x})$
- **Classification**: Cross-entropy loss function $p_i = p(y_i = 1 | \mathbf{x}_i) = \sigma(h(\mathbf{x}_i))$

$$L(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{U}) = -\sum_{i} y_{i} \ln(p_{i}) + (1 - y_{i}) \ln(1 - p_{i})$$

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• **Regression**: Square error loss function

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$$L(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{U}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} (y_i - h(\mathbf{x}_i))^2$$

• Minimize loss with respect to weights w, U

Minimizing loss with gradient descent:

• Parameter update:

$$w \leftarrow w - \eta \frac{\partial L(w, U)}{\partial w}$$

$$U \leftarrow U - \eta \frac{\partial L(w, U)}{\partial U}$$

• How to compute gradients?

Chain Rule – Symbolic Differentiation

$$L(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{U}) = -\sum_{i} y_{i} \ln(\sigma(h(\mathbf{x}_{i}))) + (1 - y_{i}) \ln(1 - \sigma(h(\mathbf{x}_{i})))$$

- Derivative of sigmoid: $\frac{\partial \sigma(x)}{\partial x} = \sigma(x)(1 \sigma(x))$
- Chain rule to compute gradient w.r.t. w

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial h} \frac{\partial h}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = \sum_{i} y_i (1 - \sigma(h(\mathbf{x}_i))) \sigma(\mathbf{U}\mathbf{x}) + (1 - y_i) \sigma(h(\mathbf{x})) \sigma(\mathbf{U}\mathbf{x}_i)$$

• Chain rule to compute gradient w.r.t. **u**_i

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{u}_j} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial h} \frac{\partial h}{\partial \sigma} \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial \mathbf{u}_j} =$$

$$= \sum_i y_i (1 - \sigma(h(\mathbf{x}_i))) w_j \sigma(\mathbf{u}_j \mathbf{x}_i) (1 - \sigma(\mathbf{u}_j \mathbf{x}_i)) \mathbf{x}_i$$

$$+ (1 - y_i) \sigma(h(\mathbf{x}_i)) w_j \sigma(\mathbf{u}_j \mathbf{x}_i) (1 - \sigma(\mathbf{u}_j \mathbf{x}_i)) \mathbf{x}_i$$

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Differentiation in Code



Baydin, Pearlmutter, Radul, Siskind. 2018. "Automatic Differentiation in Machine Learning: a Survey." Journal of Machine Learning Research (**JMLR**) Exact derivatives for gradient-based optimization come from running **differentiable code** via **automatic differentiation**



Backpropagation – Reverse Mode AD

• Loss function composed of layers of nonlinearity

$$L(\phi^N(\dots\phi^1(x)))$$

- Forward step (f-prop)
 - Compute and save intermediate computations

$$\phi^N\big(\dots\phi^1(x)\big)$$

• Backward step (b-prop)

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi^a} = \sum_j \frac{\partial \phi_j^{(a+1)}}{\partial \phi_j^a} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi_j^{(a+1)}}$$

Compute parameter gradients

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{w}^a} = \sum_j \frac{\partial \phi_j^a}{\partial \mathbf{w}^a} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi_j^a}$$

Training

- Repeat gradient update of weights to reduce loss
 Each iteration through dataset is called an epoch
- Use validation set to examine for overtraining, and determine when to stop training



[graphic from H. Larochelle]
- Major challenge in DL: Vanishing Gradients
- Small gradients slow down / block, stochastic gradient descent → Limits ability to learn!



Backpropagated gradients normalized histograms (Glorot and Bengio, 2010). Gradients for layers far from the output vanish to zero.

Activation Functions



Vanishing gradient problem

- Derivative of sigmoid
 Nearly 0 when x is far from 0!
- Can make gradient descent hard!

- Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU)
 - $\text{ReLU}(x) = \max\{0, x\}$
 - Derivative is constant!

 $\frac{\partial \operatorname{Re} LU(x)}{\partial x} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } x > 0\\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

ReLU gradient doesn't vanish

Neural Network Decision Boundaries



4-class classification2-hidden layer NNReLU activationsL2 norm regularization





X₁

Universal approximation theorem

• Feed-forward neural network with a single hidden layer containing a finite number of non-linear neurons (ReLU, Sigmoid, and others) can approximate continuous functions arbitrarily well on a compact space of \mathbb{R}^n

 $f(x) = \sigma(w_1x + b_1) + \sigma(w_2x + b_2) + \sigma(w_3x + b_3) + \dots$



Universal approximation theorem

- Feed-forward neural network with a single hidden layer containing a finite number of non-linear neurons (ReLU, Sigmoid, and others) can approximate continuous functions arbitrarily well on a compact space of \mathbb{R}^n
- Better approximation requires larger hidden layer, this theorem says nothing about relation between the two.
- Can make training error as low as we want by using a larger hidden layer. Result states nothing about test error
- Doesn't say how to find parameters for this approximation

Deep Neural Networks



- As data complexity grows, need exponentially large number of neurons in a single-layer network to capture all structure in data
- Deep networks *factorize the learning* of structure across layers
- Difficult to train, recently possible with large datasets, fast computing (GPU/TPU) & new training algs. / network structures

More Complex Models – Bigger Search Space More Data – Find Better Solutions





Depth



Benefits of Depth





Image credit: D. McCandless, T. Evans, P. Barton

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Neural Network Zoo

- Structure of the networks, and the node connectivity can be adapted for problem at hand
- Moving inductive bias from feature engineering to model design
 - Inductive bias: Knowledge about the problem
 - Feature engineering: Hand crafted variables
 - Model design: The data representation and the structure of the machine learning model / network



Image credit: neural-network-zoo

- A single layer network may need a width exponential in D to approximate a depth-D network's output
 - Simplified version of Telgarsky (2015, 2016)

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 - Simplified version of Telgarsky (2015, 2016)
- Over-parametrizing a deep model often improves test performance, contrary to bias-variance tradeoff prediction



Figure 1: Curves for training risk (dashed line) and test risk (solid line). (a) The classical *U-shaped risk curve* arising from the bias-variance trade-off. (b) The *double descent risk curve*, which incorporates the U-shaped risk curve (i.e., the "classical" regime) together with the observed behavior from using high complexity function classes (i.e., the "modern" interpolating regime), separated by the interpolation threshold. The predictors to the right of the interpolation threshold have zero training risk.

- A single layer network may need a width exponential in D to approximate a depth-D network's output
 - Simplified version of Telgarsky (2015, 2016)
- Over-parametrizing a deep model often improves test performance, contrary to bias-variance tradeoff prediction
 - But we must control that:
 - Gradients don't vanish
 - Gradient amplitude is homogeneous across network
 - Gradients are under control when weights change

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- A single layer network may need a width exponential in D to approximate a depth-D network's output
 - Simplified version of Telgarsky (2015, 2016)
- Over-parametrizing a deep model often improves test performance, contrary to bias-variance tradeoff prediction

- Major part of deep learning is choosing the right function
 - Need to make gradient descent work, even if substantial engineering required

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Deep Neural Networks Loss Landscape



Choosing the right function...

- We know a lot about our data
 - What transformations shouldn't affect predictions
 - Symmetries, structures, geometry, ...
- Inductive Bias: we can match models to this knowledge
 - Throw out irrelevant functions we know aren't the solution
 - Bias the learning process towards good solutions



Choosing the right function...



- Neural Networks allow us to combine nonlinear basis selection with feature learning
- But must keep in mind the bias-variance tradeoff and how models will generalize
- Deep neural networks allow learning complex function by hierarchically structuring the feature learning, and we can use inductive bias (knowledge) to define models that are well adapted to our problem

Backup

- Model h(x), defined over dataset, modeling random variable output y $E[y] = \bar{y}$ $E[h(x)] = \bar{h}(x)$
- Examining generalization error at x, w.r.t. possible training datasets

$$E[(y - h(x))^{2}] = E[(y - \bar{y})^{2}] + (\bar{y} - \bar{h}(x))^{2} + E[(h(x) - \bar{h}(x))^{2}]$$

= noise + (bias)² + variance

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Intrinsic noise in system or measurements
Can not be avoided or improved with modeling
Lower bound on possible noise

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- More Complexity will make the model "move" more to capture the data points, and hence its variance will be larger.
 - As dataset size grows, can reduce variance! Can use more complex model

Automatic Differentiation

Exact derivatives for gradient-based optimization come from running **differentiable code** via **automatic differentiation**

$$f(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$$

$$\downarrow \text{ automatic} \\ \text{ differentiation} \\ \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n}\right)$$

f(x) {...}; ↓ df(x) {...};

Automatic Differentiation Example

- All numerical algorithms, when executed, evaluate to compositions of a finite set of elementary operations with known derivatives
 - Represent as a **computational graph** showing dependencies

$$f(a,b) = \log(ab)$$
$$\nabla f(a,b) = \left(\frac{1}{a}, \frac{1}{b}\right)$$

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Forward and Reverse Mode

 Derivatives can be computed in Forward Mode and Reverse Mode

