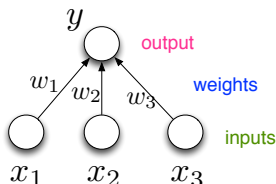


# CSC321 Lecture 5: Multilayer Perceptrons

Roger Grosse

# Overview

- Recall the simple neuron-like unit:



$$y = g \left( b + \sum_i x_i w_i \right)$$

The equation is annotated with colored arrows: a pink arrow points to  $y$  labeled "output"; a blue arrow points to  $b$  labeled "bias"; a blue arrow points to  $w_i$  labeled "i'th weight"; a green arrow points to  $x_i$  labeled "i'th input"; and a red arrow points to  $g$  labeled "nonlinearity".

- These units are much more powerful if we connect many of them into a neural network.

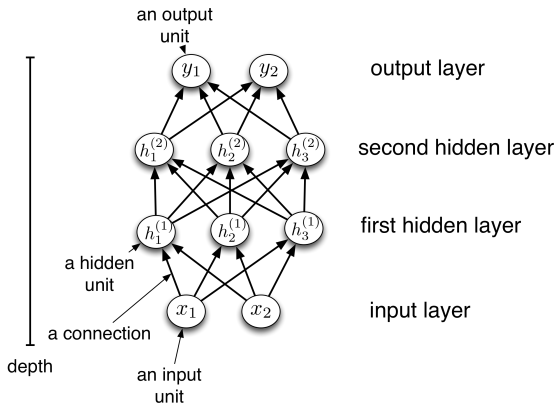
## Design choices so far

- **Task:** regression, binary classification, multiway classification
- **Model/Architecture:** linear, log-linear, **feed-forward neural network**
- **Loss function:** squared error, 0–1 loss, cross-entropy, hinge loss
- **Optimization algorithm:** direct solution, gradient descent, perceptron

# Multilayer Perceptrons

- We can connect lots of units together into a **directed acyclic graph**.
- This gives a **feed-forward neural network**. That's in contrast to **recurrent neural networks**, which can have cycles. (We'll talk about those later.)
- Typically, units are grouped together into **layers**.

hidden: learnt



width of layer: number of unit in a layer

# Multilayer Perceptrons

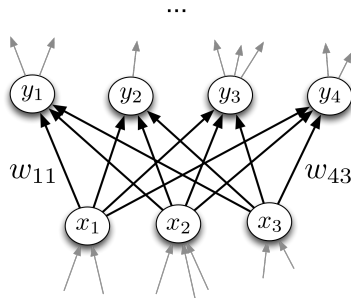
- Each layer connects  $N$  input units to  $M$  output units.
- In the simplest case, **all input units are connected to all output units**. We call this a **fully connected layer**. We'll consider other layer types later.
- Note: the inputs and outputs for a layer are distinct from the inputs and outputs to the network.

1 entry in weight matrix for each unit pairs

- Recall from multiway logistic regression: this means we need an  $M \times N$  weight matrix.
- The output units are a function of the input units:

$$\mathbf{y} = f(\mathbf{x}) = \phi(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b})$$

- A multilayer network consisting of fully connected layers is called a **multilayer perceptron**. Despite the name, it has nothing to do with perceptrons!

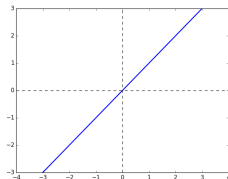


$\mathbf{W}$  is  $4 \times 3$ , inputs in layer of  $\mathbf{x}$  to layer of  $\mathbf{y}$

# Multilayer Perceptrons

## Some activation functions:

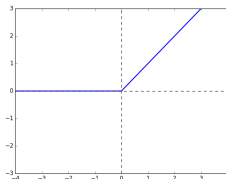
equivalent to no activation  
linear regression



**Linear**

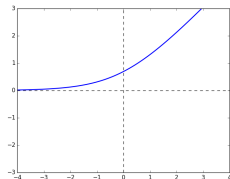
$$y = z$$

make ReLU differentiable at 0  
same form as logistic + CE



clip -> no negative  
**Rectified Linear Unit**  
(ReLU)

$$y = \max(0, z)$$



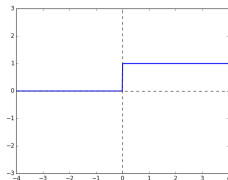
**Soft ReLU**

$$y = \log(1 + e^z)$$

# Multilayer Perceptrons

## Some activation functions:

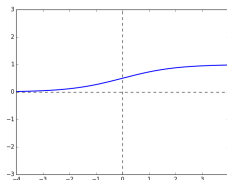
equivalent to binary  
classification



**Hard Threshold**

$$y = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } z \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

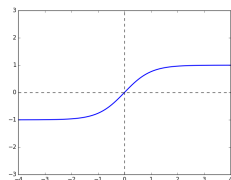
equivalent to  
logistic regression



soft threshold

**Logistic**

$$y = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}$$



similar to logistic

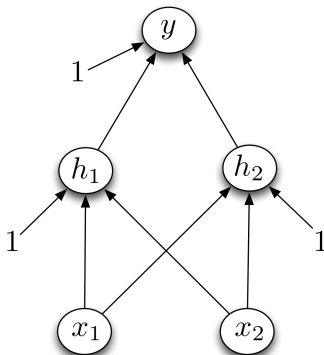
**Hyperbolic Tangent  
(tanh)**

$$y = \frac{e^z - e^{-z}}{e^z + e^{-z}}$$

# Multilayer Perceptrons

## Designing a network to compute XOR:

Assume hard threshold activation function

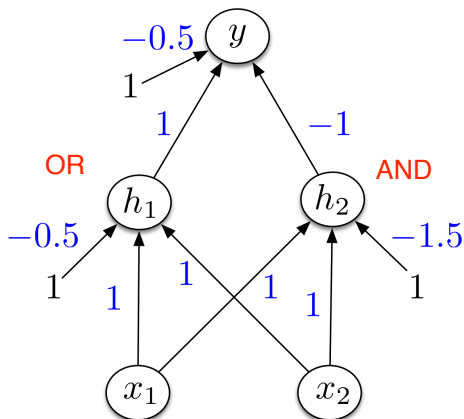


h1: AND  
h2: OR



# Multilayer Perceptrons

activate if  $h_1$  ON and  $h_2$  off



# Multilayer Perceptrons

- Each layer computes a function, so the network computes a composition of functions:

$$\mathbf{h}^{(1)} = f^{(1)}(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\mathbf{h}^{(2)} = f^{(2)}(\mathbf{h}^{(1)})$$

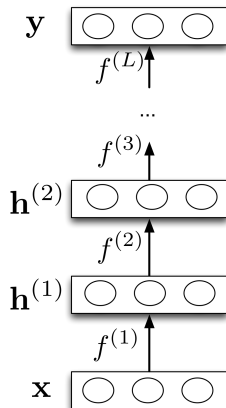
$$\vdots$$

$$\mathbf{y} = f^{(L)}(\mathbf{h}^{(L-1)})$$

- Or more simply:

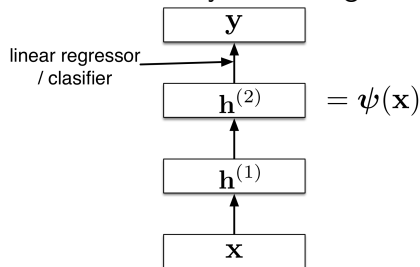
$$\mathbf{y} = f^{(L)} \circ \dots \circ f^{(1)}(\mathbf{x}).$$

- Neural nets provide **modularity**: we can implement each layer's computations as a black box.



# Feature Learning

- Neural nets can be viewed as a way of learning features:

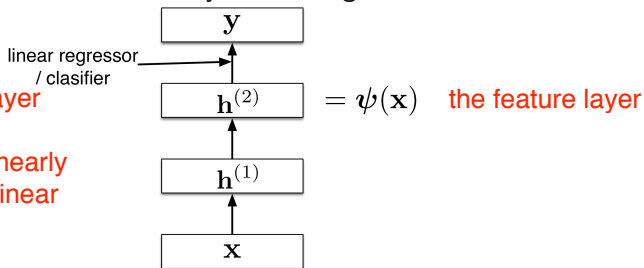


# Feature Learning

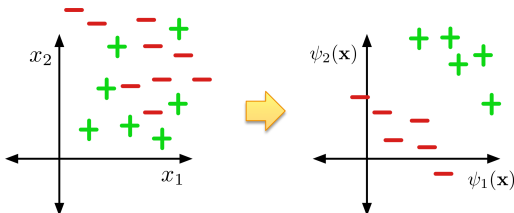
map input space to feature space  
such that the problem is now linearly separable

- Neural nets can be viewed as a way of learning features:

idea is the last hidden layer  
are functions of inputs,  
we the activations are linearly  
separate using the last linear  
regressor / classifier



- The goal:



# Feature Learning

Input representation of a digit : 784 dimensional vector.

[illegible]

# Feature Learning

Each first-layer hidden unit computes  $\sigma(\mathbf{w}_i^T \mathbf{x})$

Here is one of the **weight vectors** (also called a **feature**).

It's reshaped into an image, with gray = 0, white = +, black = -.

To compute  **$\mathbf{w}_i^T \mathbf{x}$** , multiply the corresponding pixels, and sum the result.

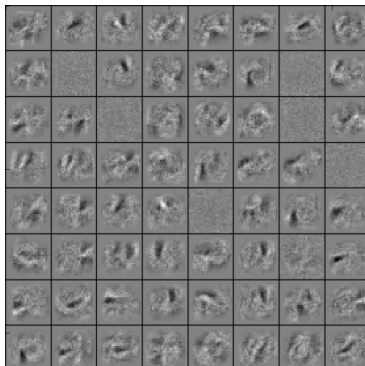
dot product of weights and input image  $\mathbf{x}$



# Feature Learning

There are 256 first-level features total. Here are some of them.

features are localized



# Levels of Abstraction

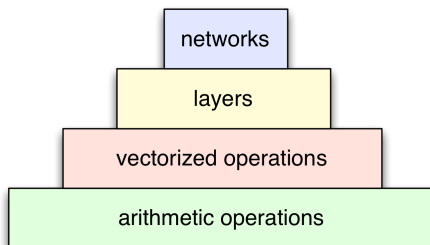
The psychological profiling [of a programmer] is mostly the ability to shift levels of abstraction, from low level to high level. To see something in the small and to see something in the large.

– Don Knuth



# Levels of Abstraction

When you design neural networks and machine learning algorithms, you'll need to think at multiple levels of abstraction.



# Expressive Power

- We've seen that there are some functions that linear classifiers can't represent. Are deep networks any better?
- Any sequence of *linear* layers can be equivalently represented with a single linear layer.

$$y = \underbrace{W^{(3)}W^{(2)}W^{(1)}}_{\triangleq W'} x$$

- Deep linear networks are no more expressive than linear regression!
- Linear layers do have their uses — stay tuned!

# Expressive Power

- Multilayer feed-forward neural nets with *nonlinear* activation functions are **universal approximators**: they can approximate any function arbitrarily well.
- This has been shown for various activation functions (thresholds, logistic, ReLU, etc.)
  - Even though ReLU is “almost” linear, it’s nonlinear enough!

# Expressive Power

bias=-.25

output 1 only for this configuration

only 1 hidden unit activates

## Universality for binary inputs and targets:

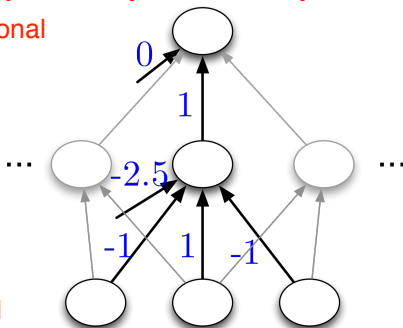
- Hard threshold hidden units, linear output
- Strategy:  $2^D$  hidden units, each of which responds to one particular input configuration

requires just 1 really wide hidden layer

where input vector is D-dimensional

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$t$
	$\vdots$		$\vdots$
-1	-1	1	-1
-1	1	-1	1
-1	1	1	1
	$\vdots$		$\vdots$

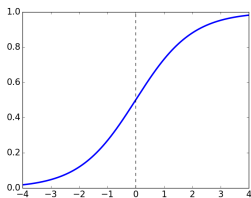
hard threshold



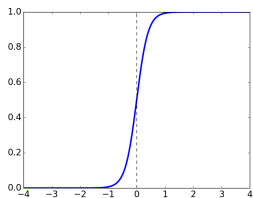
- Only requires one hidden layer, though it needs to be extremely wide!

# Expressive Power

- What about the logistic activation function?
- You can approximate a hard threshold by scaling up the weights and biases: **so logistic is equally universal as hard threshold with approximation**



$$y = \sigma(x)$$



$$y = \sigma(5x)$$

- This is good: logistic units are differentiable, so we can tune them with gradient descent. (Stay tuned!)

# Expressive Power

- Limits of universality
  - You may need to represent an exponentially large network.
  - If you can learn any function, you'll just overfit.
  - Really, we desire a *compact* representation!

# Expressive Power

- Limits of universality
  - You may need to represent an exponentially large network.
  - If you can learn any function, you'll just overfit.
  - Really, we desire a *compact* representation!
- We've derived units which compute the functions AND, OR, and NOT. Therefore, any Boolean circuit can be translated into a feed-forward neural net.
  - This suggests you might be able to learn *compact* representations of some complicated functions
  - The view of neural nets as “differentiable computers” is starting to take hold. More about this when we talk about recurrent neural nets.