

Unit 8

Neural Networks

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ECE 4300: Introduction to Machine Learning, Sp20

Learning objectives

- Understand 2-layer feedforward **neural networks**:
 - Motivation: learning feature transformations
 - Network architecture: **linear and nonlinear layers**
 - Choice of **activation functions** and training loss
- Understand **mini-batch training** and **stochastic gradient descent**
- Understand the **back-propagation** approach to gradient computation
- Know how to implement a neural network using **PyTorch**

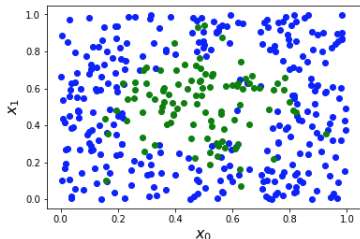
Outline

- Motivating Example: Learning a Feature Transformation
- Feed-Forward Neural Networks
- Training via Stochastic Gradient Descent
- Implementing and Training Neural Nets with PyTorch
- Gradient Computation via Back-Propagation

Dealing with data that is not linearly separable

- Consider data $\{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ on right:

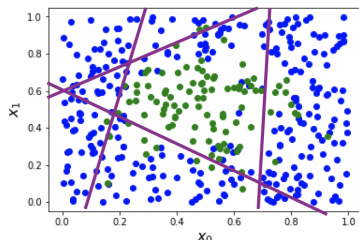
- Features $\mathbf{x}_i = [x_{i0}, x_{i1}]^T \in \mathbb{R}^2$
- Labels $y_i \in \{0, 1\}$
- Not linearly separable!



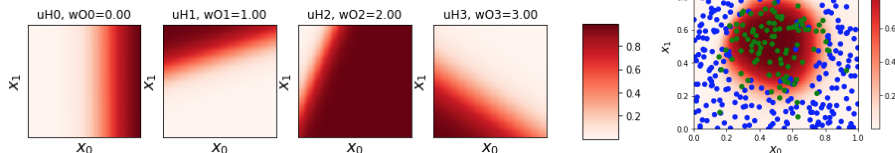
- Could use a **feature transformation** to enhance linear separability, and then apply **linear classification** on the transformed features
 - But what if we don't know a good transformation?
 - Can we **learn one**?
 - Yes!

A two-stage approach to classification

- A two-stage approach:
 - 1) Learn 4 **transformed features**, each the **soft output** of a **linear classifier**
 - “soft output” means in the interval $[0, 1]$
 - 2) Apply **linear classification** to the transformed features, giving a final soft output



- Plot of transformed features and final soft output vs. x :



- The overall approach is successful in classifying the data!

Details of two-stage approach

■ Stage 1: “Hidden layer”

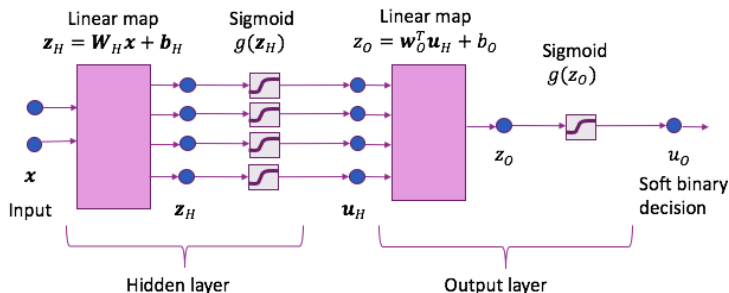
- scores: $z_H = W_H x + b_H \in \mathbb{R}^{d_H}$
- soft outputs: $u_H = g(z_H) \in [0, 1]^{d_H}$
- u_H are the learned features

■ Stage 2: “Output layer”

- score: $z_O = w_O^T u_H + b_O \in \mathbb{R}$
- soft output: $u_O = g(z_O) \in [0, 1]$
- u_O is the final $\Pr\{y=1 \mid x\}$

■ If we use logistic regression for both, then $g(z) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-z}}$, a “sigmoid”

■ This is a two-stage feed-forward **neural network**!



Training the model

- Let's collect the **model parameters** into $\theta \triangleq (\mathbf{W}_H, \mathbf{b}_H, \mathbf{w}_O, b_O)$
- We fit these parameters using training data $\{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$
- Since we used logistic regression, the **likelihood function** would be

$$\Pr\{y_i=1 \mid \mathbf{x}_i; \theta\} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z_{O,i}}} \quad \text{for } z_{O,i} = F(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta)$$

- $F(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$ describes the network from input \mathbf{x} to output score z_O
- Then the **maximum-likelihood** model parameters are

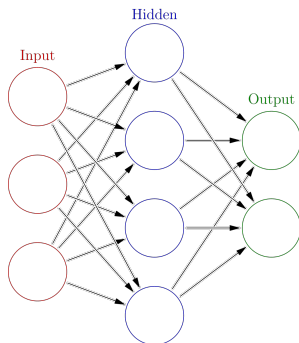
$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\theta}_{\text{ml}} &= \arg \min_{\theta} \sum_{i=1}^n \left[-\ln p(y_i \mid \mathbf{x}_i; \theta) \right] \\ &= \arg \min_{\theta} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\ln[1 + e^{z_{O,i}}] - y_i z_{O,i} \right) \quad (\text{binary cross-entropy loss}) \end{aligned}$$
- We will discuss how to do this optimization later

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General structure of feed-forward neural network

- **Input:** $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, \dots, x_d]^T$
 - d = number of features (or inputs)
- **Hidden layer:**
 - $u_{\mathbf{H},l} = g_{\mathbf{H}}\left(b_{\mathbf{H},l} + \sum_{j=1}^d w_{\mathbf{H},lj}x_j\right)$, $l = 1 \dots d_{\mathbf{H}}$
 - $g_{\mathbf{H}}(\cdot)$ is a nonlinear “**activation**”
 - $d_{\mathbf{H}}$ = number of hidden units
- **Output layer:**
 - $u_{\mathbf{O},k} = g_{\mathbf{O}}\left(b_{\mathbf{O},k} + \sum_{l=1}^{d_{\mathbf{H}}} w_{\mathbf{O},kl}u_{\mathbf{H},l}\right)$, $k = 1 \dots d_{\mathbf{O}}$
 - $g_{\mathbf{O}}(\cdot)$ determines if regression or classification net
 - $d_{\mathbf{O}}$ = number of outputs
- Can use more than two layers (“deep network”), but for now we focus on two
 - Other variations: <http://www.asimovinstitute.org/neural-network-zoo/>



Vector/matrix representation of feed-forward neural network

■ Hidden layer:

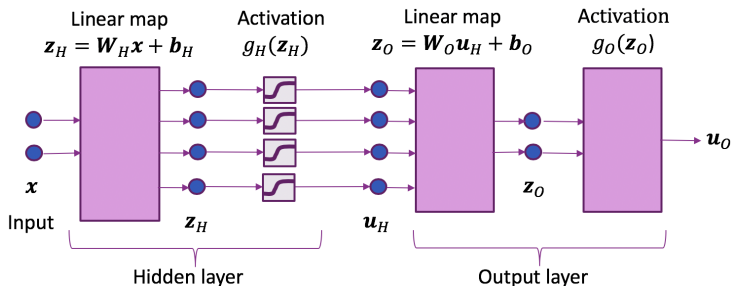
■ **linear transform:** $z_H = W_H x + b_H$

■ **nonlinear activation:** $u_H = g_H(z_H) \in \mathbb{R}^{d_H}$, where $g_H(\cdot)$ acts elementwise

■ Output layer:

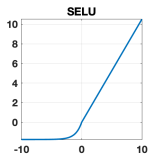
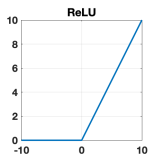
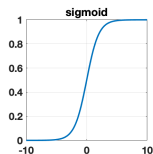
■ **linear transform:** $z_O = W_O u_H + b_O$

■ **nonlinear activation:** $u_O = g_O(z_O) \in \mathbb{R}^{d_O}$, where $g_O(\cdot)$ may act on full vector



Common choices for hidden-layer activation $g_{\mathbf{H}}(z_{\mathbf{H}})$

- **sigmoid**: $g_{\mathbf{H}}(z) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-z}} \triangleq \sigma(z)$
 - values are bounded, but not centered
 - often used in shallow networks
- **tanh**: $g_{\mathbf{H}}(z) = \tanh(z) = 2\sigma(z) - 1$
 - values are bounded and centered
- **rectified linear unit (ReLU)**: $g_{\mathbf{H}}(z) = \max\{0, z\}$
 - most popular choice in deep networks
- **scaled exponential linear units (SELU)**:
 - $g_{\mathbf{H}}(z) = \begin{cases} \lambda z & z \geq 0 \\ \lambda \alpha (e^z - 1) & z < 0 \end{cases}$ with $\lambda = 1.0507$ and $\alpha = 1.67326$
 - preserve mean=0 & variance=1 from input to output
 - network weights must be **properly initialized**



Common choices for output-layer activation $g_o(z_o)$

■ Binary classification:

- $z_o = z_o$ is a scalar
- Hard decision: $\hat{y} = \text{sgn}(z_o)$
- Soft decision: $\Pr\{y=1 \mid \mathbf{x}\} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z_o}}$ (logistic)

■ Multiclass classification with K classes:

- $\mathbf{z}_o = [z_{o,1}, \dots, z_{o,K}]^T \in \mathbb{R}^K$
- Hard decision: $\hat{y} = \arg \max_{k=1 \dots K} z_{o,k}$
- Soft decision: $\Pr\{y=k \mid \mathbf{x}\} = \frac{e^{z_{o,k}}}{\sum_{l=1}^K e^{z_{o,l}}}$ (softmax)

■ Regression with K -dimensional targets (i.e., $\mathbf{y}_i \in \mathbb{R}^K$):

- $\mathbf{z}_o = [z_{o,1}, \dots, z_{o,K}]^T \in \mathbb{R}^K$
- $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{z}_o$ (linear)

Loss functions for training

The application determines the output activation $g_{\mathbf{o}}(\cdot)$ and the loss function!

■ Binary classification:

■ Likelihood: $\Pr\{y=1 \mid \mathbf{x}\} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z_{\mathbf{o}}}}$ (logistic)

■ Loss: $\mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{i=1}^n (\ln[1 + e^{z_{\mathbf{o},i}}] - y_i z_{\mathbf{o},i})$ (binary cross entropy)

■ Multiclass classification with K classes:

■ Likelihood: $\Pr\{y=k \mid \mathbf{x}\} = \frac{e^{z_{\mathbf{o},k}}}{\sum_{l=1}^K e^{-z_{\mathbf{o},l}}}$ (softmax)

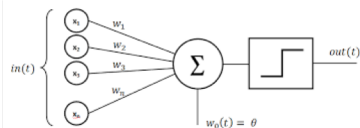
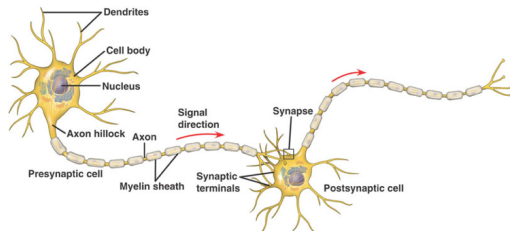
■ Loss: $\mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\ln \left[\sum_{k=1}^K e^{z_{\mathbf{o},ik}} \right] - \sum_{k=1}^K y_{ik} z_{\mathbf{o},ik} \right)$ (cross entropy)

■ Regression with K -dimensional targets:

■ Likelihood: $\Pr\{\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x}\} = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y}; \mathbf{z}_{\mathbf{o}}, \sigma_{\epsilon}^2 \mathbf{I})$ (i.i.d. Gaussian)

■ Loss: $\mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^K (y_{ik} - z_{\mathbf{o},ik})^2$ (quadratic)

Inspiration from biology



■ Simple model of neurons:

- Dendrites: Input currents from other neurons
- Soma: Cell body, accumulation of charge
- Axon: Outputs to other neurons
- Synapse: Junction between neurons

■ Operation:

- Output when the sum of input currents reaches a threshold
- Similar to (artificial) neural network: $u_{H,j} = g_H(w_{H,j}^T x + b_{H,j})$

History

- Interest in understanding the brain for thousands of years
- 1940s: Donald Hebb — Hebbian learning for neural plasticity
 - Hypothesized rule for updating synaptic weights in biological neurons
- 1950s: Frank Rosenblatt — Coined the term “perceptron”
 - Essentially a single-layer network, similar to logistic regression
 - Early computer implementations
 - But linear classifiers are limited, and so was compute power
- 1960s: Back-propagation — Efficient way to train multi-layer networks
 - We'll cover this later in this unit
- 1990s: Resurgence with greater computational power
- 2012-now: The deep-network revolution
 - Many more layers. Massive computational power and data
 - Breakthroughs in speech and image processing first, then many more fields ...
 - We'll cover deep networks in the next unit

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Gradient descent

- Goal: Find model parameters θ that minimize the loss function $\mathcal{J}(\theta)$:

$$\hat{\theta}_{\text{ml}} = \arg \min_{\theta} \mathcal{J}(\theta) \quad \text{for} \quad \mathcal{J}(\theta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n J(\theta, \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i),$$

where $J(\theta, \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)$ is the contribution from training sample i

- Can tackle this using the **gradient descent** (GD) algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned} \theta^{k+1} &= \theta^k - \alpha_k \nabla \mathcal{J}(\theta^k) \\ &= \theta^k - \frac{\alpha_k}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla J(\theta^k, \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i) \end{aligned}$$

- Each iteration computes n gradients
- This is too expensive when n (# training samples) is large!

Stochastic gradient descent using mini-batches

- Main idea: In each step ...
 - select a random mini-batch
 - evaluate gradient on mini-batch

- Details: At step $t = 1 \dots T$:

- select mini-batch indices:

$$I_t \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$$

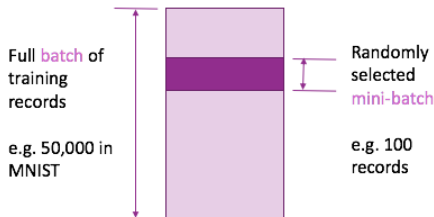
- compute approximate gradient:

$$\mathbf{g}^t \triangleq \frac{1}{|I_t|} \sum_{i \in I_t} \nabla J(\boldsymbol{\theta}^t, \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)$$

- update parameters:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^{t+1} = \boldsymbol{\theta}^t - \alpha_t \mathbf{g}^t$$

- Called **stochastic gradient descent** (SGD) because \mathbf{g}^t is a random approximation of the true gradient



Rationale for stochastic gradient descent

- The gradient approximation \mathbf{g}^t is **correct on average**:

$$\mathbb{E} \{ \mathbf{g}^t \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}^t \} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{g}^t = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla J(\boldsymbol{\theta}^t, \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i) = \nabla \mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^t)$$

- Thus the updated parameters are also **correct on average**:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \{ \boldsymbol{\theta}^{t+1} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}^t \} &= \mathbb{E} \{ \boldsymbol{\theta}^t - \alpha_t \mathbf{g}^t \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}^t \} \\ &= \boldsymbol{\theta}^t - \alpha_t \nabla \mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^t) \end{aligned}$$

- We can think of \mathbf{g}^t as having “**gradient noise**” $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}^t$ that is zero mean:

$$\mathbf{g}^t = \nabla \mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^t) + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^t \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbb{E} \{ \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^t \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}^t \} = \mathbf{0}$$

- This noise makes the SGD trajectory more noisy than the true GD trajectory
- Can be mitigated by reducing the step-size α_t
- For more details, see

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stochastic_gradient_descent

Implementing mini-batch

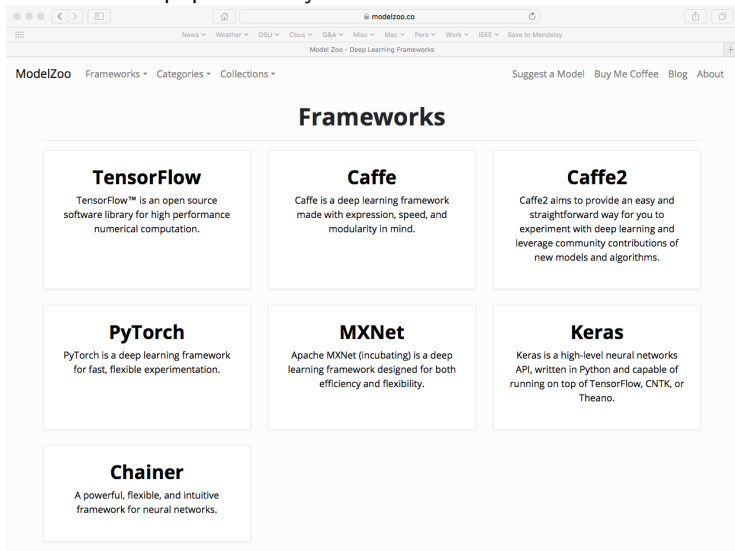
- Setup:
 - n samples in the training set
 - B samples in each (non-overlapping) mini-batch
 - $T = n/B$ mini-batches total
 - 1 SGD **update step** per mini-batch
 - T updates in each “**training epoch**”
 - Each training epoch goes through the entire training data once
- Implementation:
 - Begin each epoch by **randomly shuffling** all n training indices i
 - Then partition the shuffled indices into T subsets $\{I_t\}_{t=1}^T$
 - Subset I_t defines the mini-batch $\{(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)\}_{i \in I_t}$ used at GD update step t
 - This way, the mini-batches change over the epochs!

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Frameworks for implementing neural nets

The frameworks most popular today:



Top 3 frameworks

- **TensorFlow**
 - Advantages: widespread (many examples!), very flexible, runs pretty fast
 - Disadvantages: difficult to code, not well integrated with Python
- **Keras** (runs on top of TensorFlow or Theano or CNTK)
 - Advantages: very easy to code
 - Disadvantages: difficult to debug and customize (much is hidden), runs slower
- **PyTorch**
 - Advantages: easy to code & debug, runs fast, excellent Python integration
 - Disadvantages: not as widespread as TensorFlow

We will use **PyTorch**! See the following for more about pros & cons:

- PyTorch vs. TensorFlow: [The Gradient \(10/19\)](#), [Towards Data Science \(2/20\)](#)
- PyTorch vs. Keras: [deepsense.ai \(6/18\)](#), [fast.ai \(10/18\)](#)

PyTorch recipe

- 1) Construct the **dataset** and **dataloader** objects
- 2) Construct the network
 - # hidden units, # output units, activations, etc ...
- 3) Select the optimizer and loss criterion
- 4) Fit the network parameters
- 5) Apply the network



1) Construct the dataset and dataloader objects

```
import torch

import torch.utils.data

# Convert the numpy arrays to Tensor type
X_torch = torch.Tensor(X)
y_torch = torch.Tensor(y)

# Create a Dataset from the Tensors
dataset = torch.utils.data.TensorDataset(X_torch, y_torch)
# Create a DataLoader from the Dataset
loader = torch.utils.data.DataLoader(dataset, batch_size=100)
```

- `torch.Tensor`: the datatype used by PyTorch for multi-dimensional matrices
- `dataset`: the object used to hold the training data
- `DataLoader`: adds random sampling and multi-processor support to the Dataset
- Later we will draw mini-batches via:

```
for batch, data in enumerate(loader):  
    x_batch, y_batch = data
```

2) Construct the network

- The neural net is described by a `torch.nn.Module`
 - `__init__()` defines the network components
 - `forward()` defines one forward pass through the network
- We instantiate the neural net as “`model`”

```
import torch.nn as nn

nh = 4

# nin: dimension of input data
# nh: number of hidden units
# nout: number of outputs = 1 since this is bi

class Net(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, nin, nh, nout):
        super(Net, self).__init__()
        self.activation = nn.Sigmoid()
        self.Dense1 = nn.Linear(nin, nh)
        self.Dense2 = nn.Linear(nh, nout)

    def forward(self, x):
        x = self.activation(self.Dense1(x))
        out = self.activation(self.Dense2(x))
        return out

model = Net(nin=nx, nh=nh, nout=1)
```

3) Select the optimizer and loss criterion

```
import torch.optim as optim

opt = optim.Adam(model.parameters(), lr=0.01)
criterion = nn.BCELoss()
```

- Learning algorithms are stored as “optimizer objects” in `torch.optim`
 - Many options, e.g., SGD, Rprop, RMSprop, AdaDelta, AdaGrad, Adam, etc.
 - Some descriptions can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)
- We instantiated the Adam optimizer as “`opt`” using ...
 - the network parameters θ that we want to optimize
 - Adam’s algorithmic parameters (i.e., learning rate)
- The `torch.nn` library includes many loss criteria
 - Examples: `BCELoss`, `CrossEntropyLoss`, `MSELoss` (i.e., RSS), `L1Loss`, etc.
 - These can be scaled and [combined](#) (e.g., “`MSELoss + \lambda L1Loss`” for Lasso)

4) Fit the network parameters

For each mini-batch $\{x_i\}$:

- compute outputs $\{u_{o,i}\}$
- compute loss $\mathcal{J}(\theta^t)$
- compute gradient $\nabla \mathcal{J}(\theta^t)$
- update parameters θ^{t+1}
- record loss & accuracy

```
num_epoch = 2000

print_intvl = 100
a_loss = np.zeros([num_epoch])
a_accuracy = np.zeros([num_epoch])

# Outer loop over epochs
for epoch in range(num_epoch):
    error = 0 # initialize error counter
    total = 0 # initialize total counter
    batch_loss = []
    # Inner loop over mini-batches
    for batch, data in enumerate(loader):
        x_batch, y_batch = data
        y_batch = y_batch.view(-1,1) # resizes y_batch to (batch_size,1)
        out = model(x_batch)
        # Compute loss
        loss = criterion(out, y_batch)
        batch_loss.append(loss.item())
        # Compute gradients using back-propagation
        opt.zero_grad()
        loss.backward()
        # Take an optimization 'step' (i.e., update parameters)
        opt.step()

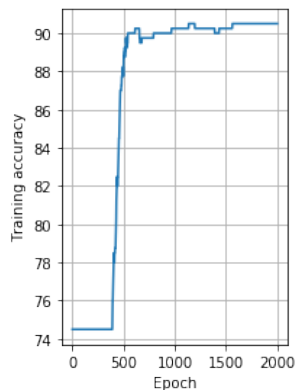
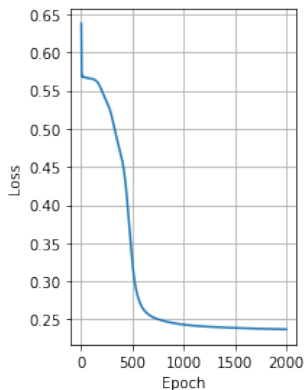
    # Compute number of decision errors
    guess = out.round() # hard binary outputs
    error += torch.sum(torch.abs(guess - y_batch))
    total += len(y_batch)

accuracy = 100*(1-error/total) # Compute accuracy over epoch
a_loss[epoch] = np.mean(batch_loss) # Compute average loss over epoch
a_accuracy[epoch] = accuracy
```

Performance vs. epoch

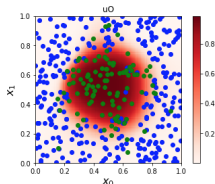
Over the epochs ...

- Loss gradually decreases
- Classification accuracy gradually increases



5) Applying the network: Visualizing the decision region

- Xplot created with rows densely sampling \mathbf{x}^T over $[0, 1]^2$
- Xplot recast as a `torch.Tensor`
- `model()` applies network
 - It calls `model.__call__()`, which eventually calls the `forward` method and does other book-keeping
- `.detach().numpy()` extracts the data and converts it to NumPy



```
# Limits to plot the response.
xmin = [0,0]
xmax = [1,1]

# Use meshgrid to create the 2D input
nplot = 100
x0plot = np.linspace(xmin[0],xmax[1],nplot)
x1plot = np.linspace(xmin[0],xmax[1],nplot)
x0mat, x1mat = np.meshgrid(x0plot,x1plot)
Xplot = np.column_stack([x0mat.ravel(), x1mat.ravel()])
Xplot_tensor = torch.Tensor(Xplot)

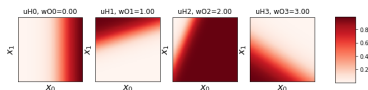
# Compute the output and export to numpy
u0plot = model(Xplot_tensor).detach().numpy()
u0plot_mat = u0plot[:,0].reshape((nplot, nplot))

# Plot the recovered region
plt.imshow(np.flipud(u0plot_mat), extent=[xmin[0],xmax[0],
plt.colorbar()

# Overlay the samples
I0 = np.where(y==0)[0]
I1 = np.where(y==1)[0]
plt.plot(X[I0,0], X[I0,1], 'bo')
plt.plot(X[I1,0], X[I1,1], 'go')
plt.xlabel('$x_0$', fontsize=16)
plt.ylabel('$x_1$', fontsize=16)
plt.title('u0')
```

5) Applying the network: Visualizing the hidden layer

- `model.Dense1()` applies the first linear stage
- `model.activation()` applies the activation
- `.detach().numpy()` extracts the data and converts it to NumPy
- `model.state_dict()` exports the model parameters



```
# Get the outputs of the hidden layer
uhid = model.activation(model.Dense1(Xplot_tensor))
uhid_plot = uhid.detach().numpy()
uhid_plot = uhid_plot.reshape((nplot,nplot,nh))

# Get the weights of the output layer
state_dict = model.state_dict()
Wo, bo = state_dict['Dense2.weight'], state_dict['Dense2.bias']

fig = plt.figure(figsize=(10, 4))

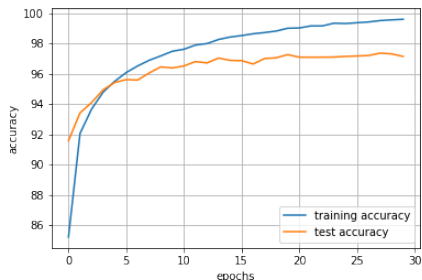
for i in range(nh):

    plt.subplot(1,nh,i+1)
    uhid_ploti = np.flipud(uhid_plot[:, :, i])
    im = plt.imshow(uhid_ploti, extent=[xmin[0],xmax[0],xmin[1],xmax[1]])
    plt.xticks([])
    plt.yticks([])
    plt.xlabel('$x_0$', fontsize=16)
    plt.ylabel('$x_1$', fontsize=16)
    plt.title('uH{0:d}, wO{0:d}={1:4.2f}'.format(i,i,Wo[0,i]))

fig.subplots_adjust(right=0.85)
cbar_ax = fig.add_axes([0.9, 0.30, 0.05, 0.4])
fig.colorbar(im, cax=cbar_ax)
```

Application to MNIST

- In a second demo, we use a 2-layer neural network for MNIST digit classification
- For this, we used
 - $d_H = 100$ hidden nodes
 - $d_O = 10$ output nodes (10 classes)
 - cross-entropy loss
 - logistic activation fxn $g_H(\cdot)$
 - the **Adam** optimizer with $\alpha = 10^{-3}$
 - 50,000 training samples
 - 10,000 test samples
- We achieved a test accuracy of $\approx 97\%$. Not bad!
 - Accuracy is similar to SVM. But neural net is much faster!
 - And further fine-tuning should improve neural-net performance



Fine-tuning the implementation

We have several decisions to make when implementing a 2-layer neural network:

- Network details
 - Number of hidden units d_H
 - Type of hidden-layer activation functions $g_H(\cdot)$
- Optimizer details
 - which optimizer (e.g., [Adam](#))
 - learning rate
 - # epochs
- Regularization
 - L2 regularization can be implemented via optimizer's [weight_decay](#) option
 - By default, L2 regularization applied to both weights and biases
 - Can restrict to weights via [per-parameter options](#). (See example [here](#))

Ideally these are all selected via cross-validation!

PyTorch loss options

- Throughout these lecture notes, the loss $\mathcal{J}(\theta)$ has been defined on the output-layer linear scores z_o , also called **logits**. For example,
 - Binary cross-entropy: $J(\theta) = \sum_i (\ln[1 + e^{z_{o,i}}] - y_i z_{o,i})$
- But the loss can also be written in terms of the output-layer activations u_o :
 - Binary cross-entropy: $J(\theta) = - \sum_i (y_i \ln u_{o,i} + [1 - y_i] \ln[1 - u_{o,i}])$
 with sigmoid activation $u_{o,i} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z_{o,i}}}$
- **PyTorch** allows the loss to be defined in either way, so be careful!
 - `nn.BCEWithLogitsLoss`: takes logits as input
 - `nn.BCELoss`: takes sigmoid activations as input
 - `nn.CrossEntropyLoss`: takes logits as input
 - `nn.NLLLoss`: takes log-softmax activations as input
- For more discussion, see [this blog post](#)

Outline

- Motivating Example: Learning a Feature Transformation
- Feed-Forward Neural Networks
- Training via Stochastic Gradient Descent
- Implementing and Training Neural Nets with PyTorch
- Gradient Computation via Back-Propagation

Computing the gradient

- The network parameters $\theta = (W_H, b_H, W_O, b_O)$ must be trained
- To do this, we proposed the mini-batch SGD update

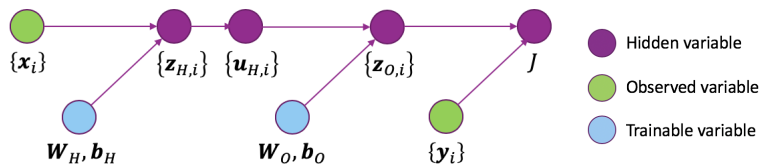
$$\theta^{t+1} = \theta^t - \frac{\alpha_t}{|I_t|} \nabla \underbrace{\sum_{i \in I_t} J(\theta^t; x_i, y_i)}_{\triangleq \mathcal{J}^t(\theta^t)}$$

- How do we compute the gradient?
 - Recall: the gradient is the partial derivative w.r.t. each parameter in θ
 - So we need to compute

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}^t(\theta^t)}{\partial w_{H,lj}} \quad \forall l, j, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}^t(\theta^t)}{\partial b_{H,l}} \quad \forall l, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}^t(\theta^t)}{\partial w_{O,kl}} \quad \forall k, l, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}^t(\theta^t)}{\partial b_{O,k}} \quad \forall k$$

- Going forward, we simplify the notation by dropping the batch index “t”

The computation graph



- The **computation graph** will help us to organize our computations
- The loss \mathcal{J} can be computed using a **forward pass** through the graph:

$$z_{H,i} = W_H x_i + b_H, \quad \forall i = 1 \dots B$$

$$u_{H,i} = g_H(z_{H,i}), \quad \forall i = 1 \dots B$$

$$z_{O,i} = W_O u_{H,i} + b_O, \quad \forall i = 1 \dots B$$

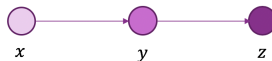
$$\mathcal{J} = \sum_{i=1}^B J(z_{O,i}; y_i)$$

- The gradients can then be computed using a **backward pass**, as described next
- Note: we write the loss $J(\cdot, y_i)$ in terms of $z_{O,i}$, not $u_{O,i}$, as in past lectures
 - **PyTorch** allows either, but note that the example on page 28 used $u_{O,i}$

Review of the chain rule

- Suppose that x, y, z are scalars. Then the **chain rule** says

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}$$



- Now suppose that another variable u is inserted. Previous expression still holds!

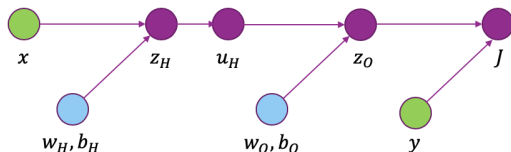
$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial z}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}}_{\frac{\partial z}{\partial y}} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}$$



- Now suppose that there are several intermediate variables $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^B$. The **multivariate chain rule** says

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = \sum_{i=1}^B \frac{\partial z}{\partial y_i} \frac{\partial y_i}{\partial x}$$



Simple case 1: Scalar variables and batch size $B = 1$ 

$$z_H = w_H x + b_H$$

$$u_H = g_H(z_H)$$

$$z_O = w_O u_H + b_O$$

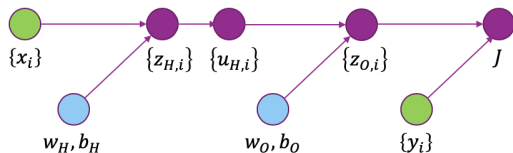
$$\mathcal{J} = J(z_O; y)$$

Gradients follow from the chain rule. Previous computations can be reused!

■ grad w.r.t. variables : $\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_O} = J'(z_O), \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial u_H} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_O} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_O}{\partial u_H}}_{=w_O}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_H} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial u_H} \underbrace{\frac{\partial u_H}{\partial z_H}}_{=g'_H(z_H)}$

■ grad w.r.t. parameters : $\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial b_O} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_O} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_O}{\partial b_O}}_{=1}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial w_O} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_O} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_O}{\partial w_O}}_{=u_H}$ can reuse $\partial \mathcal{J} / \partial z_O$!

$\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial b_H} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_H} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_H}{\partial b_H}}_{=1}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial w_H} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_H} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_H}{\partial w_H}}_{=x}$ can reuse $\partial \mathcal{J} / \partial z_H$!

Simple case 2: Scalar variables and batch size $B > 1$ 

$$z_{H,i} = w_H x_i + b_H, \quad \forall i$$

$$u_{H,i} = g_H(z_{H,i}), \quad \forall i$$

$$z_{O,i} = w_O u_{H,i} + b_O, \quad \forall i$$

$$\mathcal{J} = \sum_i J(z_{O,i}; y_i)$$

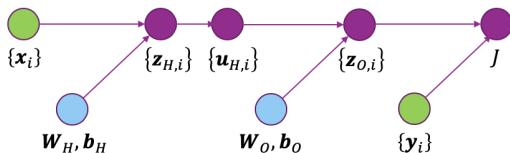
Now we need the **multivariable chain rule** for the parameter gradients:

■ grad w.r.t. variables : $\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{O,i}} = J'(z_{O,i}), \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial u_{H,i}} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{O,i}} \frac{\partial z_{O,i}}{\partial u_{H,i}}}_{=w_O}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{H,i}} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial u_{H,i}} \frac{\partial u_{H,i}}{\partial z_{H,i}}}_{=g'_H(z_{H,i})}$

■ grad w.r.t. parameters : $\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial b_O} = \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{O,i}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_{O,i}}{\partial b_O}}_{=1}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial w_O} = \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{O,i}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_{O,i}}{\partial w_O}}_{=u_{H,i}}$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial b_H} = \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{H,i}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_{H,i}}{\partial b_H}}_{=1}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial w_H} = \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{H,i}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_{H,i}}{\partial w_H}}_{=x_i}$$

Practical case: Vector variables and batch size $B > 1$



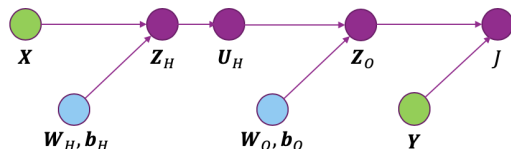
$$\begin{aligned}
 z_{H,i} &= W_H x_i + b_H, \quad \forall i \\
 u_{H,i} &= g_H(z_{H,i}), \quad \forall i \\
 z_{O,i} &= W_O u_{H,i} + b_O, \quad \forall i \\
 \mathcal{J} &= \sum_i J(z_{O,i}; y_i)
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we also use the **multivariable chain rule** for gradient w.r.t. $u_{H,il}$:

- grad wrt variables :
$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{O,ik}} = \frac{\partial J(z_{O,i})}{\partial z_{O,ik}}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial u_{H,il}} = \sum_k \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{O,ik}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_{O,ik}}{\partial u_{H,il}}}_{=w_{O,kl}}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{H,il}} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial u_{H,il}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial u_{H,il}}{\partial z_{H,il}}}_{=g'_H(z_{H,il})}$$
- grad wrt params :
$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial b_{O,k}} = \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{O,ik}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_{O,ik}}{\partial b_{O,k}}}_{=1}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial w_{O,kl}} = \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{O,ik}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_{O,ik}}{\partial w_{O,kl}}}_{=u_{H,il}}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial b_{H,l}} = \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{H,il}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_{H,il}}{\partial b_{H,l}}}_{=1}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial w_{H,lj}} = \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial z_{H,il}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial z_{H,il}}{\partial w_{H,lj}}}_{=x_{ij}}$$

Practical case: Matrix/vector formulation



$$\mathbf{Z}_H^T = \mathbf{W}_H \mathbf{X}^T + b_H \mathbf{1}_B^T$$

$$\mathbf{U}_H = g_H(\mathbf{Z}_H)$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_O^T = \mathbf{W}_O \mathbf{U}_H^T + b_O \mathbf{1}_B^T$$

$$\mathcal{J} = \sum_i J(\mathbf{z}_{O,i}; \mathbf{y}_i)$$

- Define $\mathbf{X} \triangleq [\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_B]^T$, $\mathbf{Z}_H \triangleq [\mathbf{z}_{H,1}, \dots, \mathbf{z}_{H,B}]^T$, $\mathbf{U}_H \triangleq [\mathbf{u}_{H,1}, \dots, \mathbf{u}_{H,B}]^T$,
 $\mathbf{Y} \triangleq [\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_B]^T$, $\mathbf{Z}_O \triangleq [\mathbf{z}_{O,1}, \dots, \mathbf{z}_{O,B}]^T$
- grad wrt variables : $\left[\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{Z}_O} \right]_{ik} = \frac{\partial J(\mathbf{z}_{O,i})}{\partial z_{O,ik}}$, $\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{U}_H} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{Z}_O} \mathbf{W}_O$, $\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{Z}_H} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{U}_H} \odot g'_H(\mathbf{Z}_H)$
- grad wrt params : $\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{b}_O} = \mathbf{1}_B^T \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{Z}_O} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_O}$, $\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_O} = \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{Z}_O} \right)^T \mathbf{U}_H \in \mathbb{R}^{d_O \times d_H}$
 $\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{b}_H} = \mathbf{1}_B^T \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{Z}_H} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_H}$, $\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_H} = \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial \mathbf{Z}_H} \right)^T \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_H \times d}$
- Above, \odot denotes the elementwise or “Hadamard” product

Summary of forward and backward passes

So, to compute the gradients w.r.t. the parameters $\theta = (W_H, b_H, W_O, b_O)$, we ...

■ first perform the **forward pass**:

$$\begin{aligned} Z_H^T &= W_H X^T + b_H \mathbf{1}_B^T \\ U_H &= g_H(Z_H) \\ Z_O^T &= W_O U_H^T + b_O \mathbf{1}_B^T \\ \mathcal{J} &= \sum_i J(z_{o,i}; y_i) \end{aligned}$$

■ then the **backward pass**:

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial Z_O} \right]_{ik} &= \frac{\partial J(z_{o,i}; y_i)}{\partial z_{o,ik}} \quad \forall i = 1 \dots B, \quad k = 1 \dots d_o \\ \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial b_O} &= \mathbf{1}_B^T \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial Z_O} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial W_O} = \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial Z_O} \right)^T U_H \\ \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial Z_H} &= \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial Z_O} W_O \right) \odot g'_H(Z_H) \\ \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial b_H} &= \mathbf{1}_B^T \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial Z_H} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial W_H} = \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{J}}{\partial Z_H} \right)^T X \end{aligned}$$

Called “**back-propagation**,” since gradient computations work *backwards* from end!

Examples of loss derivative

- With **binary cross-entropy loss**, we have $d_{\mathbf{o}} = 1$ and

$$\mathcal{J} = \sum_{i=1}^B J(\mathbf{z}_{\mathbf{o},i}, y_i) \quad \text{with } y_i \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$\text{where } J(\mathbf{z}_{\mathbf{o},i}, y_i) = \ln(1 + e^{z_{\mathbf{o},i}}) - y_i z_{\mathbf{o},i}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial J(\mathbf{z}_{\mathbf{o},i}, y_i)}{\partial z_{\mathbf{o},i}} = \frac{e^{z_{\mathbf{o},i}}}{1 + e^{z_{\mathbf{o},i}}} - y_i$$

- With **K -ary cross-entropy loss**, we have $d_{\mathbf{o}} = K$ and

$$\mathcal{J} = \sum_{i=1}^B J(\mathbf{z}_{\mathbf{o},i}, \mathbf{y}_i) \quad \text{with } y_{ik} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y_i = k \\ 0 & \text{if } y_i \neq k \end{cases}$$

$$\text{where } J(\mathbf{z}_{\mathbf{o},i}, \mathbf{y}_i) = \ln \left(\sum_{l=1}^K e^{z_{\mathbf{o},il}} \right) - \sum_{l=1}^K y_{il} z_{\mathbf{o},il}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial J(\mathbf{z}_{\mathbf{o},i}, \mathbf{y}_i)}{\partial z_{\mathbf{o},ik}} = \frac{e^{z_{\mathbf{o},ik}}}{\sum_{l=1}^K e^{z_{\mathbf{o},il}}} - y_{ik}$$

Learning objectives

- Understand 2-layer feedforward **neural networks**:
 - Motivation: learning feature transformations
 - Network architecture: **linear and nonlinear layers**
 - Choice of **activation functions** and training loss
- Understand **mini-batch training** and **stochastic gradient descent**
- Understand the **back-propagation** approach to gradient computation
- Know how to implement a neural network using **PyTorch**