
BACKPROPAGATION(*training_examples*, η , n_{in} , n_{out} , n_{hidden})

Each training example is a pair of the form $\langle \vec{x}, \vec{t} \rangle$, where \vec{x} is the vector of network input values, and \vec{t} is the vector of target network output values.

η is the learning rate (e.g., .05). n_{in} is the number of network inputs, n_{hidden} the number of units in the hidden layer, and n_{out} the number of output units.

The input from unit i into unit j is denoted x_{ji} , and the weight from unit i to unit j is denoted w_{ji} .

- Create a feed-forward network with n_{in} inputs, n_{hidden} hidden units, and n_{out} output units.
- Initialize all network weights to small random numbers (e.g., between $-.05$ and $.05$).
- Until the termination condition is met, Do
 - For each $\langle \vec{x}, \vec{t} \rangle$ in *training_examples*, Do

Propagate the input forward through the network:

1. Input the instance \vec{x} to the network and compute the output o_u of every unit u in the network.

Propagate the errors backward through the network:

2. For each network output unit k , calculate its error term δ_k

$$\delta_k \leftarrow o_k(1 - o_k)(t_k - o_k) \quad (\text{T4.3})$$

3. For each hidden unit h , calculate its error term δ_h

$$\delta_h \leftarrow o_h(1 - o_h) \sum_{k \in \text{outputs}} w_{kh} \delta_k \quad (\text{T4.4})$$

4. Update each network weight w_{ji}

$$w_{ji} \leftarrow w_{ji} + \Delta w_{ji}$$

where

$$\Delta w_{ji} = \eta \delta_j x_{ji} \quad (\text{T4.5})$$

TABLE 4.2

The stochastic gradient descent version of the BACKPROPAGATION algorithm for feedforward networks containing two layers of sigmoid units.

One major difference in the case of multilayer networks is that the error surface can have multiple local minima, in contrast to the single-minimum parabolic error surface shown in Figure 4.4. Unfortunately, this means that gradient descent is guaranteed only to converge toward some local minimum, and not necessarily the global minimum error. Despite this obstacle, in practice BACKPROPAGATION has been found to produce excellent results in many real-world applications.

The BACKPROPAGATION algorithm is presented in Table 4.2. The algorithm as described here applies to layered feedforward networks containing two layers of sigmoid units, with units at each layer connected to all units from the preceding layer. This is the incremental, or stochastic, gradient descent version of BACKPROPAGATION. The notation used here is the same as that used in earlier sections, with the following extensions: