CS-4053 Recommender System

Spring 2023

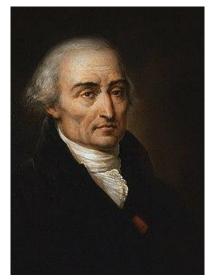
Lecture 8: Neural Networks (Part 1)

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Joseph Lagrange

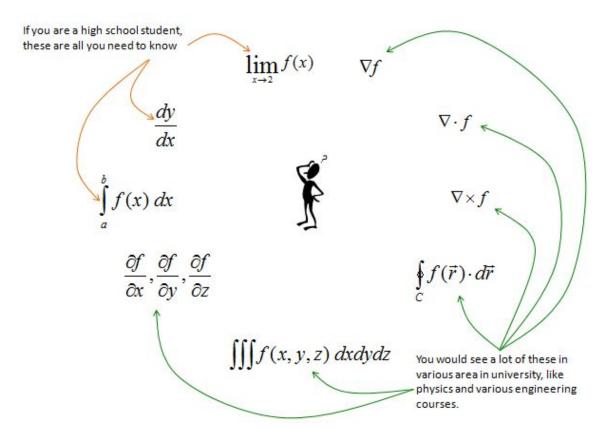


Gottfried Leibniz



Isaac Newton

☐ Idea: Intuition of derivatives will be enough



- Imagine having an arcade machine
- There is a certain game G1 that you like
- To play this game you need coins
- For every **x** coin, you get to play **2x** minutes
- So for 1 coin you play 1 minute
- For 2 coins, you play 4 minutes and so on...



For coin x: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Play time: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10

For every change in coin quantity x, how much more play time we get?2 more minutes



□ x:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

2, 4, 6, 8, 10

Derivative of f(x):

$$\frac{df(x)}{dx} = 2$$

"jump" in the value of **y** w.r.t change in value of **x**



Partial Derivatives: Recap

- Let us assume we have **3** games on this machine
- For every x coin, you get to play 2x minutes of G1
- For every y coin, you get to play 3y minutes of G2
- For every z coin, you get to play 5z minutes of G3
- If we only have coins for **G1**, then **G2** and **G3** don't matter to us
- If we only have coins for **G2**, then **G1** and **G3** don't matter to us
- If we only have coins for **G3**, then **G1** and **G2** don't matter to us



Partial Derivatives: Recap

A derivative taken w.r.t only one variable while treating the remaining variables as constants



□ x:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

☐ y

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

□ z:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

$$\frac{\partial f(x,y,z)}{\partial x} = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial f(x,y,z)}{\partial z} = 5$$



Gradient: Recap

- Let us assume we have **3** games on this machine
- For every x coin, you get to play 2x minutes of G1
- For every y coin, you get to play 3y minutes of G2
- For every z coin, you get to play 5z minutes of G3
- To "optimize" your gaming time, you need to decide coins for which games to use more i.e., you need to find the optimal values of x, y and z and see how much "change" that brings to your "overall" gaming time/experience



Gradient: Recap

Gradient yields a vector whose components are partial derivatives of the function with respect to its variables. You can think of gradient as the overall change i.e., "change" w.r.t every variable

$$\nabla_{\theta}(f) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f(\theta)}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial f(\theta)}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial f(\theta)}{\partial z} \end{bmatrix}$$



Linear Regression

(Informally) "Give me a bunch of numbers as input and I will give you a number in return."

$$y = mx + b$$

(Formally) It allows us to model relationship between a scalar value and one or more variables

Linear Regression

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Consider the following equation for m = 2 and b = 3:

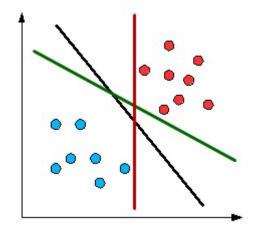
$$\mathbf{y} = mx + b = 2x + 3$$

- \Box For x = 1, y = 5
- \Box For x = 2, y = 7
- \Box For x = 3, y = 9

and so on...

Issue: Linearly Separable Data

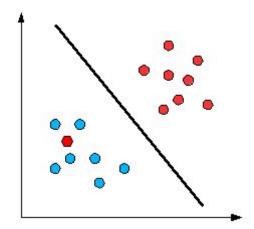
Let us assume that we have to "separate" the red and blue data points



■ We can essentially separate the given data into red and blue sets using a linear equation

Issue: Linearly Separable Data

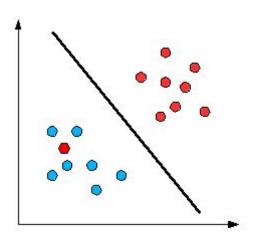
Unfortunately, we are not so lucky in reality



☐ The data we have is rarely ever linearly separable hence a line is not enough to "separate" the given data points

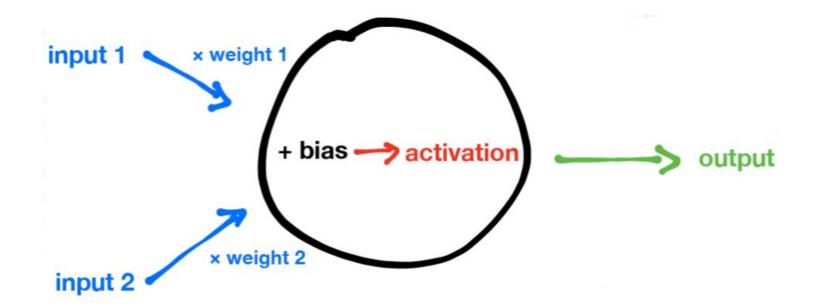
Issue: Linearly Separable Data

We need non-linearity to separate these data points



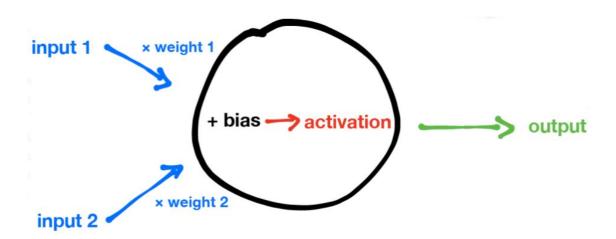
Neural Network: What is a Neuron?

A neuron takes any number of inputs and spits out an output



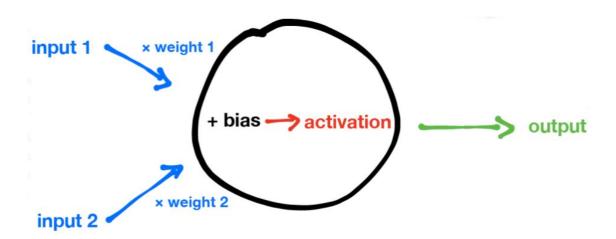
Neural Network: What is a Neuron?

If we ignore the activation, this neuron can be expressed as: $y = weight_1 * input1 + weight_2 * input2 + bias$



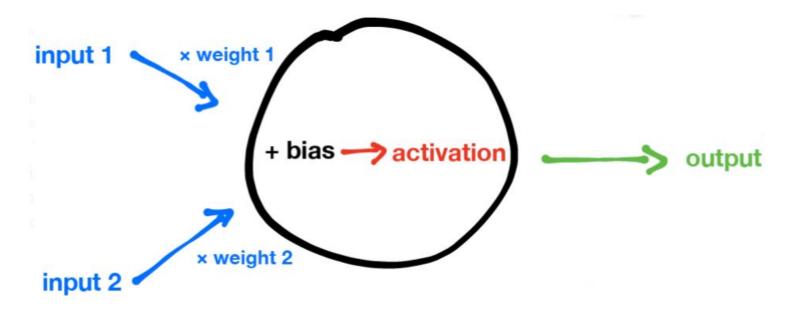
Neural Network: What is a Neuron?

Without activation, we are performing **regression** with this neuron: $y = weight_1 * input1 + weight_2 * input2 + bias$



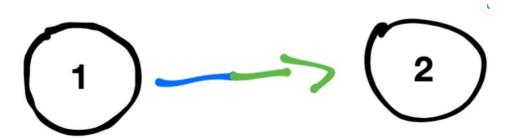
Neural Network: What is an Activation?

A activation function adds non-linearity to the output of the neuron and helps decide whether the neuron should be "activated" or not

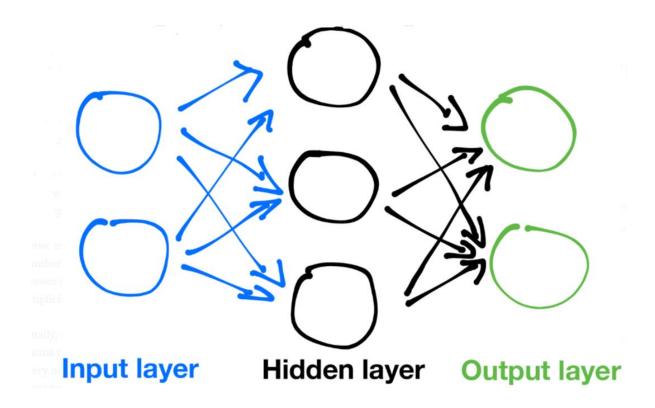


Neural Network: Why is it called a Network?

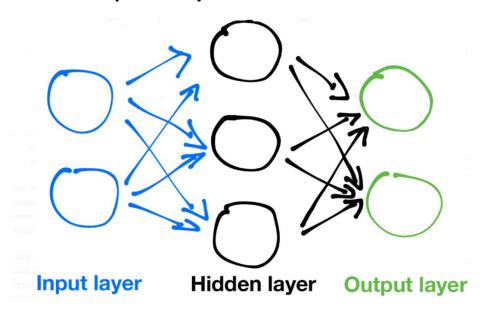
- A single neuron doesn't really help us find complex patterns (and is not cool enough!)
- We need a network of inter-connected neurons to make complex decisions
- ☐ The output of one neuron becomes the input of another neuron



■ A neural network is composed of layers of neurons



- A neural network is composed of fully-connected layers of neurons
- In general, there are three types of layers: an input layer, one or more hidden layers, and an output layer



The input layer will take on values of whatever the input is to the neural network

Input layer

Hidden layer

We can have our network take any number of inputs by changing the

number of neurons in the input layer

Output layer

The output of the output layer will be the output of the whole neural network

We can change the number of neurons in the output layer to match the

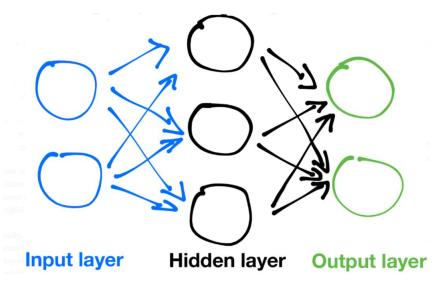
number of outputs we want

Output layer

Hidden layer

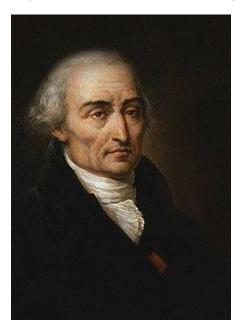
Input layer

- Between the input layer and the output layer are hidden layers
- We cannot generally know the number of hidden layers we should use (nice!)

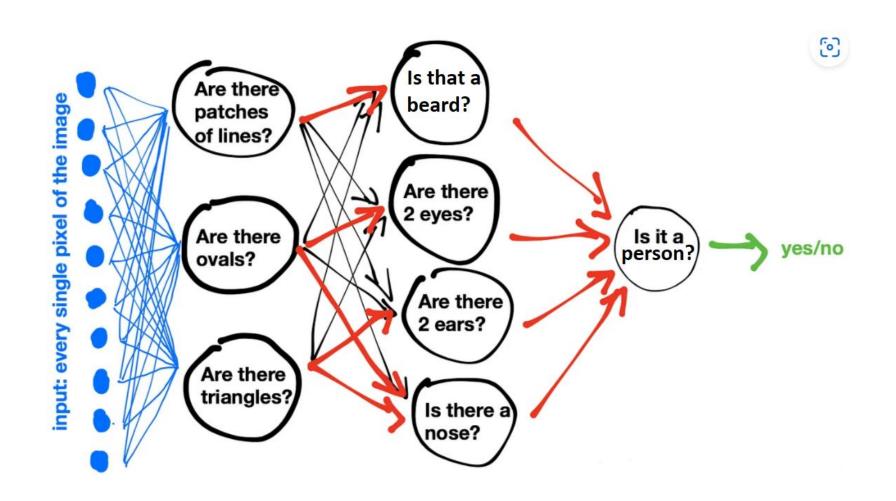


Neural Network: How does it work?

- If we want to identify a person we need to look for features
- Which features are relevant (discriminative)?



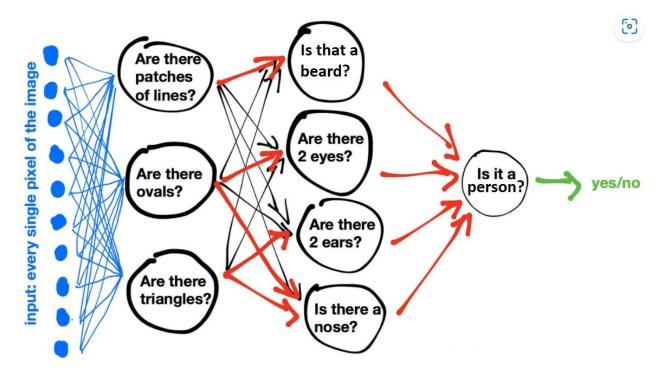
Neural Network: How does it work?



Neural Network: How does it work?

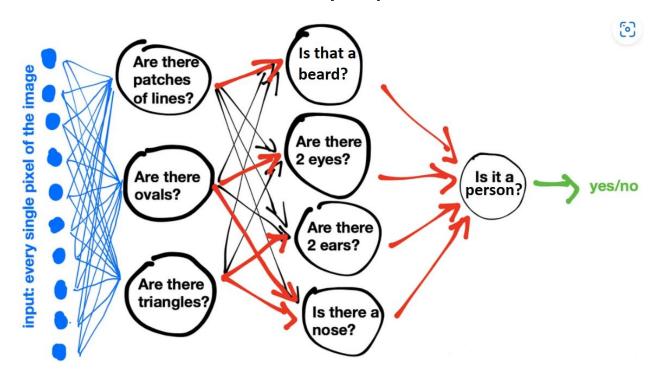
Notice that the neurons that are deeper ask more abstract questions

about the features



Neural Network: Training

How do we train our neural network to identify a person?



Neural Network: Training

- 1. Feed raw input (features) to the input layer
- 2. Initialize all the weights and biases for hidden layers with random values
- 3. Test if the network can accurately produce the output
 - I. If it does not produce accurate results then adjust the weights and biases. It simply means we want to use optimization (e.g. gradient descent) to minimize the value of our loss function. Repeat **Step 3**
 - II. If it does produce accurate results then terminate training

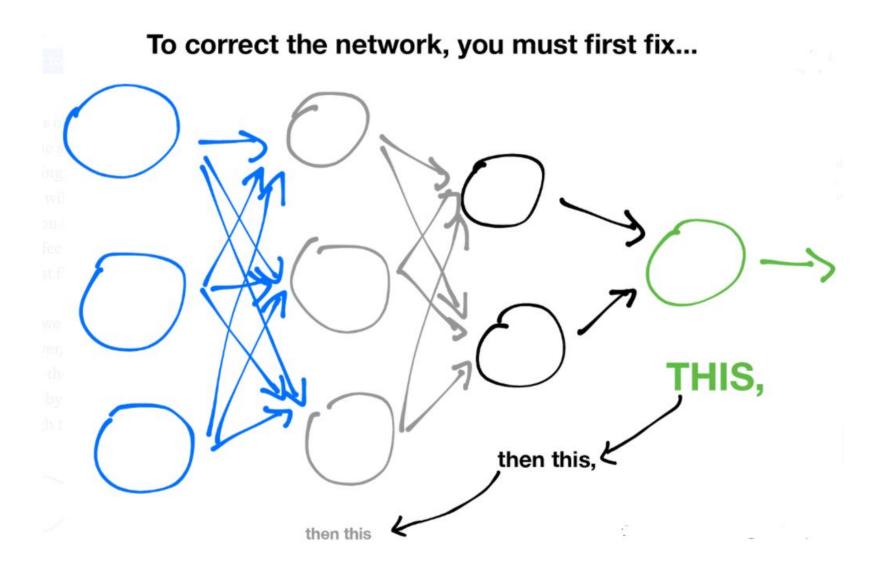
To "adjust" the parameters (weights and biases) we use backpropagation

Neural Network: Training

When the neural network outputs the wrong answer, you find the slopes (derivative) of the output layer first because it was the direct cause of the incorrect answer

- Since the output layer depends on the hidden layer, you'll have to fix that too by finding the slopes and using gradient descent
- Eventually you'll work your way back (backpropagate) to the first hidden layer

Neural Network: Backpropagation



Neural Network: Backpropagation

■ We calculate slopes by starting from the back and moving backwards through the network until we get all the slopes for gradient descent

