

# STAT406- Methods of Statistical Learning Lecture 19

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TO COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION, PLEASE TELL US  
WHETHER OR NOT THIS IMAGE CONTAINS A STOP SIGN:



NO YES

ANSWER QUICKLY—OUR SELF-DRIVING  
CAR IS ALMOST AT THE INTERSECTION.

SO MUCH OF "AI" IS JUST FIGURING OUT WAYS  
TO OFFLOAD WORK ONTO RANDOM STRANGERS.

# Boosting

- AdaBoost uses the following loss function

$$L(y, G(\mathbf{x})) = \exp(-y G(\mathbf{x}))$$

- At the  $j$ -th iteration we have

$$\arg \min_{\beta, \gamma} \sum_{i=1}^n \exp(-y_i (f_{j-1}(\mathbf{x}_i) + \beta f(\mathbf{x}_i, \gamma)))$$

$$\arg \min_{\beta, \gamma} \sum_{i=1}^n w_i^{(l-1)} \exp(-\beta y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i, \gamma))$$

# Boosting

- For any  $\beta > 0$  the solution is the classifier  $f(\mathbf{x}, \gamma)$  that minimizes

$$\sum_{y_i \neq f(\mathbf{x}_i, \gamma)} w_i^{(j-1)} = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i^{(j-1)} I(y_i \neq f(\mathbf{x}_i, \gamma))$$

which is a weighted missclassification error

# Boosting

- Similarly we obtain

$$\beta_j = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{1 - e_j}{e_j} \right)$$

where

$$e_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^{(j-1)} I(y_i \neq f(\mathbf{x}_i, \gamma_j))}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^{(j-1)}}$$

# Boosting

- We then update

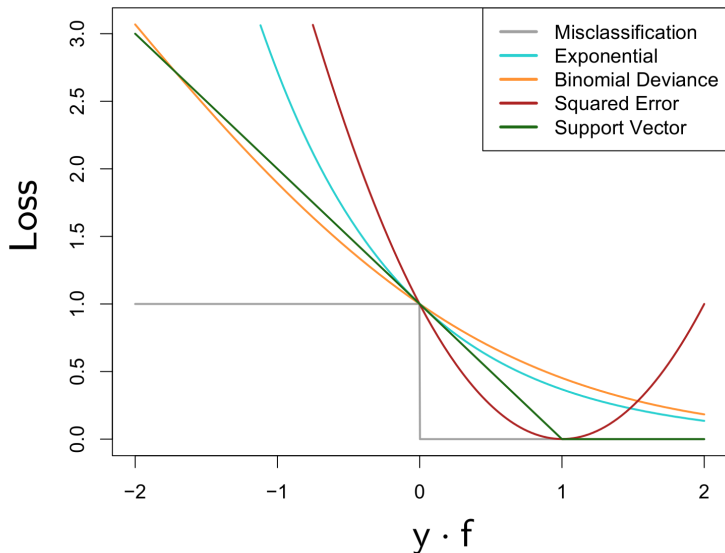
$$f_j(\mathbf{x}) = f_{j-1}(\mathbf{x}) + \beta_j f(\mathbf{x}, \gamma_j)$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} w_i^{(j+1)} &= w_i^{(j)} \exp(-\beta_j y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i, \gamma_j)) \\ &= \exp(-\beta_j) w_i^{(j)} \exp(-\alpha_j I(y_i \neq f(\mathbf{x}_i, \gamma_j))) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\alpha_j = 2 \beta_j$

# Loss functions



# Boosting

- The exponential loss penalizes misclassifications more than it approves correct classifications
- In particular, severe mistakes are very costly
- but the benefit of correct calls changes much more slowly



# Boosting

- One can show that the “population” solution

$$\begin{aligned}\arg \min_{G(\mathbf{x})} E_{Y|\mathbf{X}=\mathbf{x}} [\exp(-Y G(\mathbf{x}))] &= \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{P(Y = 1 | \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x})}{P(Y = -1 | \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x})} \right)\end{aligned}$$

- The deviance loss also has the same “target” solution but grows slower - (so what?)

# Boosting

- The shape of the exponential loss means that even if we have perfect classification for the training data, the objective function

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n L(y_i, G(\mathbf{x}_i))$$

may not have reached its minimum

- Thus the iterations continue...

# Boosting

- Since we know what this method is estimating

$$\frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{P(Y = 1 | \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x})}{P(Y = -1 | \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x})} \right)$$

... and we know what type of functions is attempting to use

$$\sum_{j=1}^K \beta_j f(\mathbf{x}, \gamma_j) = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{P(Y = 1 | \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x})}{P(Y = -1 | \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x})} \right)$$

# Boosting

- ... we can understand when it works and when it may not work
- Note that the class of base classifiers  $f(\mathbf{x}, \gamma)$  determines the type of log odds ratio we can model
- In particular, when using trees, the number of leaves (terminal nodes) determines the degree of interaction among the features that it may be able to capture

# Gradient Boosting

- We are trying to find

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \sum_{i=1}^n L(y_i, f_i)$$

- Many numerical optimization methods compute  $\hat{\mathbf{f}}$  iteratively

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}} = \sum_{\ell=1}^K \mathbf{a}_{\ell}$$

where  $\mathbf{a}_{\ell} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

# Gradient Boosting

- For example, gradient descent methods

$$\mathbf{a}_\ell = -\lambda_\ell \nabla L(\mathbf{f})|_{\mathbf{f}=\mathbf{f}_{\ell-1}}$$

where

$$\mathbf{f}_j = \begin{pmatrix} f_j(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ f_j(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \vdots \\ f_j(\mathbf{x}_n) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

# Gradient Boosting

- The difference is that in

$$\Theta_j = \arg \min_{\Theta} \sum_{i=1}^n L(y_i, f_{j-1}(\mathbf{x}_i) + T(\mathbf{x}_i, \Theta))$$

the components of the “update”  
vector

$$\begin{pmatrix} T(\mathbf{x}_1, \Theta) \\ T(\mathbf{x}_2, \Theta) \\ \vdots \\ T(\mathbf{x}_n, \Theta) \end{pmatrix}$$

are constrained to result from a single  
tree

# Gradient Boosting

- In addition, our goal is to “generalize”  $\sum_{j=1}^K T(\mathbf{x}_j, \Theta)$  to other  $\mathbf{x}$ 's
- Gradients, on the other hand, are much easier to compute



# Gradient Boosting

- This suggests the following, at each step

$$\arg \min_{\Theta} \sum_{i=1}^n (-g_{i,\ell} - T(\mathbf{x}_i, \Theta))^2$$

where  $g_{i,\ell}$  is the  $i$ -th element of the gradient evaluated at the  $\ell$ -th step:

$$\nabla L(\mathbf{f})|_{\mathbf{f}=\mathbf{f}_{\ell-1}}$$

# Gradient Tree Boosting

- Initialize

$$\mathbf{f}_0 = \arg \min_{\gamma \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_{i=1}^n L(y_i, \gamma)$$

- For  $j = 1, 2, \dots, K$
- Let

$$g_{i,j} = - \left. \frac{\partial L(y_i, f)}{\partial f} \right|_{f=f_{j-1}(\mathbf{x}_i)} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

- Fit a regression tree to the “responses”  $g_{1,j}, g_{2,j}, \dots, g_{n,j}$ , obtaining the regions  $R_{1,j}, \dots, R_{M_j,j}$

# Gradient Tree Boosting

- For  $h = 1, 2, \dots, M_j$  find the constants

$$\gamma_{h,j} = \arg \min_{\gamma} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in R_{h,j}} L(y_i, f_{j-1}(\mathbf{x}_i) + \gamma)$$

- Let

$$f_j(\mathbf{x}) = f_{j-1}(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{h=1}^{M_j} \gamma_{h,j} \mathbf{1}(\mathbf{x} \in R_{h,j})$$

# Gradient Tree Boosting

- Shrinkage:

$$f_j(\mathbf{x}) = f_{j-1}(\mathbf{x}) + \tau \sum_{h=1}^{M_j} \gamma_{h,j} \mathbf{1}(\mathbf{x} \in R_{h,j})$$

where  $\tau \in (0, 1)$

- $\tau$  is the “rate of learning”
- Small values of  $\tau$  require more iterations ( $K$ )
- This approach works very well in practice. More work is needed.

# Neural Networks

- Neural networks are flexible regression models
- Hybrid (or particular case) of non-parametric regression and projection-pursuit
- Versatile, computationally very costly and fragile

# Neural Networks

- Fitting them can almost be considered an art...
- Recently they've made a come back under the umbrella of “deep learning”

# Neural Networks

- Neural networks (NN) build flexible regression models
- They use an ordered sequence of unobserved units that are transformed linear combinations of units appearing in previous levels of the network
- We'll focus on single-layer NNs (to simplify the discussion)

# Neural Networks

- Let  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^p$  be a generic vector of explanatory variables
- Build a new set of explanatory variables

$$Z_m = \sigma(\alpha_{0,m} + \alpha'_m \mathbf{X}) , \quad m = 1, 2, \dots, M$$

(These form the hidden layer)



# Neural Networks

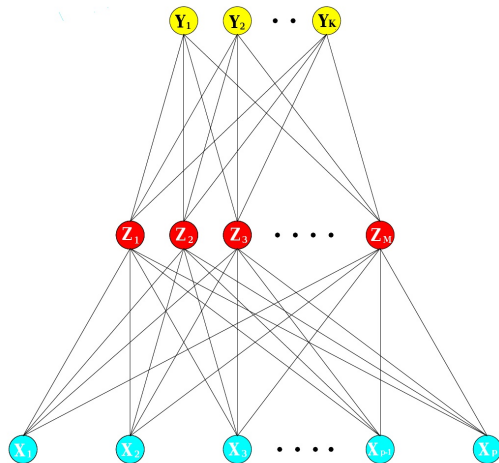
- The output variables are then linear combinations of the  $Z_m$ 's

$$T_k = \beta_{0,k} + \beta'_k \mathbf{Z}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, K$$

- The output variables may themselves be transformed again

$$f_k = f_k(\mathbf{X}) = g_k(\mathbf{T})$$

# Neural Networks



# Neural Networks

- The “activation function” is usually

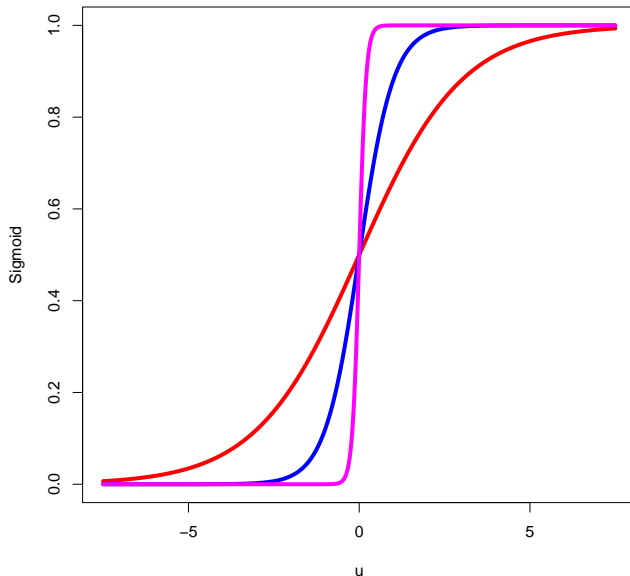
$$\sigma(u) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-u)} = \frac{\exp(u)}{1 + \exp(u)}$$

- For continuous responses we set  $K = 1$  and  $g_k(\mathbf{T}) = T_k$
- For categorical responses  $K$  is the number of classes and

$$g_k(\mathbf{T}) = \frac{\exp(T_k)}{\sum_{s=1}^K \exp(T_s)}$$

(aka “soft-max” outputs)

# “Activation function”



# Neural Networks

- How do we estimate (“learn”) the  $\alpha$ ’s and  $\beta$ ’s?
- For continuous responses

$$\min_{\alpha, \beta} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f_1(\mathbf{x}_i))^2$$

$$\min_{\alpha, \beta} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta' \mathbf{z})^2$$

$$\min_{\alpha, \beta} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( y_i - \beta_0 - \sum_{s=1}^M \beta_s \sigma(\alpha_{0,s} + \alpha'_m \mathbf{x}_i) \right)^2$$

# Neural Networks

- For categorical responses we use the deviance (cross-entropy) function

$$\min_{\alpha, \beta} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^K y_{i,k} \log(f_k(\mathbf{x}_i))$$

# Neural Networks

- Soft-max outputs and cross-entropy loss = logistic regression model on the variables in the hidden layer + MLE estimation
- By adding variables in the hidden layer the model becomes more flexible

# Neural Networks

- Overfitting / regularization

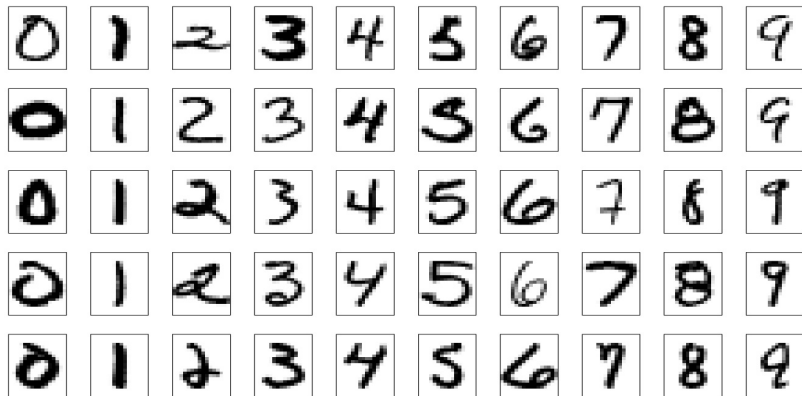
$$\min_{\alpha, \beta} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^K y_{i,k} \log(f_k(\mathbf{x}_i)) + \lambda P(\alpha, \beta)$$

$$P(\alpha, \beta) = \|\alpha\|_2^2 + \|\beta\|_2^2$$

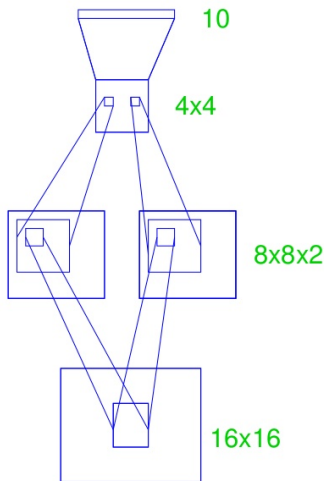
- A.K.A. as “weight decay”
- Since random starts are needed, the scale of the input variables becomes a potentially important issue



# Feature “discovery”



# Feature “discovery”



Shared Weights

# Neural Networks - ISOLET

```
> # ISOLET EXAMPLE
> # 3 and 26 "C" and "Z"
>
> set.seed(123)
> a1 <- nnet(V618 ~ ., data=x.tr, size=1, decay=0, maxit=1500,
             MaxNWts=2000)
# weights:  620
initial  value 350.425020
iter  10 value 41.176789
...
iter 120 value 6.482733
final  value 6.482722
converged
> a1$value
[1] 6.482722
>
>
> b1 <- predict(a1, type='class') #, type='raw')
> mean(b1 != x.tr$V618)
[1] 0.002083333
>
```

# Neural Networks - ISOLET

```
> set.seed(456)
> a2 <- nnet(V618 ~ ., data=x.tr, size=1, decay=0, maxit=1500,
             MaxNWts=2000)
# weights:
initial  value 336.934868
iter 10 value 157.630462
...
iter 150 value 16.164762
final  value 16.164753
converged
> a2$value
[1] 16.16475
> b2 <- predict(a2, type='class') #, type='raw')
> mean(b2 != x.tr$V618)
[1] 0.00625
> b1 <- predict(a1, newdata=x.te, type='class') #, type='raw')
> mean(b1 != x.te$V618)
[1] 0.03333333
> b2 <- predict(a2, newdata=x.te, type='class') #, type='raw')
> mean(b2 != x.te$V618)
[1] 0.025
```

# Neural Networks - ISOLET

```
> set.seed(123)
> a1 <- nnet(V618 ~ ., data=x.tr, size=3, decay=0,
             maxit=1500, MaxNWts=2000)

# weights:  1858
initial  value 334.262969
...
iter   90 value 6.482739
final   value 6.482738
converged

>
> set.seed(456)
> a2 <- nnet(V618 ~ ., data=x.tr, size=3, decay=0,
             maxit=1500, MaxNWts=2000)

# weights:  1858
initial  value 348.931860
...
iter   30 value 0.001012
final   value 0.000091
converged
```

# Neural Networks - ISOLET

```
> b1 <- predict(a1, type='class')
> mean(b1 != x.tr$V618)
[1] 0.002083333
>
> b2 <- predict(a2, type='class')
> mean(b2 != x.tr$V618)
[1] 0
>
> b1 <- predict(a1, newdata=x.te, type='class')
> mean(b1 != x.te$V618)
[1] 0.03333333
>
> b2 <- predict(a2, newdata=x.te, type='class')
> mean(b2 != x.te$V618)
[1] 0.04166667
```

# Neural Networks - ISOLET

```
> set.seed(123)
> a1 <- nnet(V618 ~ ., data=x.tr, size=6, decay=0.05,
             maxit=500, MaxNWts=4000)
# weights:  3715
...
iter 110 value 4.777807
final  value 4.777806
converged
>
> set.seed(456)
> a2 <- nnet(V618 ~ ., data=x.tr, size=6, decay=0.05,
             maxit=500, MaxNWts=4000)
# weights:  3715
...
iter 260 value 4.172023
final  value 4.172023
converged
```

# Neural Networks - ISOLET

```
> b1 <- predict(a1, type='class')
> mean(b1 != x.tr$V618)
[1] 0
>
> b2 <- predict(a2, type='class')
> mean(b2 != x.tr$V618)
[1] 0
>
> b1 <- predict(a1, newdata=x.te, type='class')
> mean(b1 != x.te$V618)
[1] 0.008333333
>
> b2 <- predict(a2, newdata=x.te, type='class')
> mean(b2 != x.te$V618)
[1] 0.008333333
```



# Neural Networks - ISOLET

```
> ### More letters
> lets <- c(3, 7, 9, 26)
> LETTERS[lets]
[1] "C" "G" "I" "Z"
> set.seed(123)
> a1 <- nnet(V618 ~ ., data=x.tr, size=1, decay=0,
             maxit=1500, MaxNWts=2000)
# weights:  626
...
iter 860 value 6.482741
final  value 6.482739
converged
> set.seed(456)
> a2 <- nnet(V618 ~ ., data=x.tr, size=1, decay=0,
             maxit=1500, MaxNWts=2000)
# weights:  626
...
iter  40 value 789.912166
final  value 789.900872
converged
```

# Neural Networks - ISOLET

```
> b1 <- predict(a1, type='class')
> mean(b1 != x.tr$V618)
[1] 0.001041667
>
> b2 <- predict(a2, type='class')
> mean(b2 != x.tr$V618)
[1] 0.5010417
>
> b1 <- predict(a1, newdata=x.te, type='class')
> mean(b1 != x.te$V618)
[1] 0.4666667
>
> b2 <- predict(a2, newdata=x.te, type='class')
> mean(b2 != x.te$V618)
[1] 0.525
```

# Neural Networks - ISOLET

```
> set.seed(123)
> a1 <- nnet(V618 ~ ., data=x.tr, size=3,
             decay=0, maxit=1500, MaxNWts=2000)
# weights:  1870
...
iter 410 value 27.422499
final  value 27.422441
converged
> set.seed(456)
> a2 <- nnet(V618 ~ ., data=x.tr, size=3,
             decay=0, maxit=1500, MaxNWts=2000)
...
iter 940 value 0.000134
final  value 0.000087
converged
```

# Neural Networks - ISOLET

```
> b1 <- predict(a1, type='class')
> mean(b1 != x.tr$V618)
[1] 0.00625
>
> b2 <- predict(a2, type='class')
> mean(b2 != x.tr$V618)
[1] 0
>
> b1 <- predict(a1, newdata=x.te, type='class')
> mean(b1 != x.te$V618)
[1] 0.04583333
>
> b2 <- predict(a2, newdata=x.te, type='class')
> mean(b2 != x.te$V618)
[1] 0.03333333
```

# Neural Networks - ISOLET

```
> set.seed(123)
> a1 <- nnet(V618 ~ ., data=x.tr, size=3,
             decay=0.05, maxit=500, MaxNWts=2000)
# weights:  1870
...
iter 180 value 13.768831
final  value 13.768831
converged
> set.seed(456)
> a2 <- nnet(V618 ~ ., data=x.tr, size=3,
             decay=0.05, maxit=500, MaxNWts=2000)
...
iter 230 value 13.900597
final  value 13.900596
converged
```

# Neural Networks - ISOLET

```
> b1 <- predict(a1, type='class')
> mean(b1 != x.tr$V618)
[1] 0
>
> b2 <- predict(a2, type='class')
> mean(b2 != x.tr$V618)
[1] 0
>
> b1 <- predict(a1, newdata=x.te, type='class')
> mean(b1 != x.te$V618)
[1] 0.01666667
>
> b2 <- predict(a2, newdata=x.te, type='class')
> mean(b2 != x.te$V618)
[1] 0.01666667
```