

Motivations

Neural Networks

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Model Representation I

Let's examine how we will represent a hypothesis function using neural networks. At a very basic level, neurons are basically computational units that take inputs (**dendrites**) as electrical inputs (called **axons**). In our model, our dendrites are like the input features x and the result of our hypothesis function. In this model our x_0 input node is sometimes called always equal to 1. In neural networks, we use the same logistic function as in classification, sometimes called a sigmoid (logistic) **activation** function. In this situation, our "theta" parameters are called "weights".

Visually, a simplistic representation looks like:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\] \rightarrow h_{\theta}(x)$$

Our input nodes (layer 1), also known as the "input layer", go into another node (layer 2) through a hypothesis function, known as the "output layer".

We can have intermediate layers of nodes between the input and output layers called hidden layers.

In this example, we label these intermediate or "hidden" layer nodes $a_0^{(2)} \cdots a_n^{(2)}$ and call them "activation nodes".

$a_i^{(j)}$ = "activation" of unit i in layer j

$\Theta^{(j)}$ = matrix of weights controlling function mapping from layer j to layer $j + 1$

If we had one hidden layer, it would look like:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a_1^{(2)} \\ a_2^{(2)} \\ a_3^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow h_{\theta}(x)$$

The values for each of the "activation" nodes is obtained as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} a_1^{(2)} &= g(\Theta_{10}^{(1)} x_0 + \Theta_{11}^{(1)} x_1 + \Theta_{12}^{(1)} x_2 + \Theta_{13}^{(1)} x_3) \\ a_2^{(2)} &= g(\Theta_{20}^{(1)} x_0 + \Theta_{21}^{(1)} x_1 + \Theta_{22}^{(1)} x_2 + \Theta_{23}^{(1)} x_3) \\ a_3^{(2)} &= g(\Theta_{30}^{(1)} x_0 + \Theta_{31}^{(1)} x_1 + \Theta_{32}^{(1)} x_2 + \Theta_{33}^{(1)} x_3) \\ h_{\Theta}(x) &= a_1^{(3)} = g(\Theta_{10}^{(2)} a_0^{(2)} + \Theta_{11}^{(2)} a_1^{(2)} + \Theta_{12}^{(2)} a_2^{(2)} + \Theta_{13}^{(2)} a_3^{(2)}) \end{aligned}$$

This is saying that we compute our activation nodes by using a 3x4 matrix of parameter values to our inputs to obtain the value for one activation node. Our hypothesis function is then applied to the sum of the values of our activation nodes, which have been multiplied by matrix $\Theta^{(2)}$ containing the weights for our second layer of nodes.

Each layer gets its own matrix of weights, $\Theta^{(j)}$.

The dimensions of these matrices of weights is determined as follows:

If network has s_j units in layer j and s_{j+1} units in layer $j + 1$, then $\Theta^{(j)}$ will be of size $s_{j+1} \times s_j$.

The +1 comes from the addition in $\Theta^{(j)}$ of the "bias nodes," x_0 and $\Theta_0^{(j)}$. In other words, the inputs include the bias nodes while the weights do not. The following image summarizes our model.