

# AI Questions

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# 1 Neural Networks

## 1.1 Multi Layer Perceptrons MLP

### 1.1.1 Definition

An  $r$ -layered perceptron is a feed-forward neural network with a strictly layered structure and an acyclic graph.

Each layer receives input from the preceding one and passes its output to the subsequent layer, jumps between non-consecutive layers are not allowed. Usually, each neuron is fully connected to the neurons in the preceding layer.

They are “feed-forward”, information flows in one direction only, there can’t be cycles. They can have significant processing capabilities, since they can be increased by increasing the number of neurons and/or layers.

There are different types of layers (and thus neurons):

- Input: receive inputs from the external world
- Hidden: one or more layers that perform transformations on the inputs
- Output: produces the final outputs of the network

Each neuron receives multiple inputs, either from the previous layer or from the external world, each one with an associated weight. The network input function combines these input, usually with a weighted sum, and thus determines the global solicitation received by the neuron.

The activation function determines the neuron’s activation status based on its inputs. It is a so-called sigmoid function, a monotonically non-decreasing function with a range  $[0,1]$  (or  $[-1,1]$  for bipolar sigmoid functions). It (usually) introduces non-linearity, giving the neuron its processing capabilities and allowing the network to learn complex patterns (if they were linear we could merge all functions into one).

The output function produces the final output of the neuron based on its activation status and the output is then passed to the next layer. It is often the identity function. It might be useful to scale the output to a desired range (linear function).

### 1.1.2 Function Approximation

Any Riemann-integrable function can be approximated with arbitrary accuracy by a four-layer multi-layer perceptron. We approximate the function into a step function and construct a neural network that computes said function.

The input is taken by a single input neuron, and the first hidden layer is composed of a neuron for each of the step borders of our approximated function. Each neuron determines on which side of the step border an input lies.

In the second hidden layer there's a neuron for each step, that receives input from the two neurons that refer to the values marking the border of the step. The weights and threshold are chosen in such a way that neurons in the second layer are active only if the function value is inside the step, i.e., only one of the neurons in the preceding layers is active. Only a single neuron in the second layer can be active at a time.

The output layer has the identity function as activation and receives only the value of the step as input.

The accuracy can be increased arbitrarily by increasing the number of steps.

We can remove a layer and simplify the approach by considering the variation of the function value between each step. There is a single hidden layer and outputs from this layer are weighted with the relative difference between steps.

### 1.1.3 Regression

Training a NN is closely related to regression, the statistical technique for finding a function that best approximates the relationship in a data set; both regression and MLP training involve minimizing an error function, usually the mean square error. We need to adapt weights and parameters of the activation function to minimize said error.

Types of regression:

- Linear: When a linear relationship between quantities is expected;
- Polynomial Regression: Extends linear regression to polynomial functions of arbitrary order;
- Multi-linear Regression: Used to fit functions with multiple arguments;
- Logistic Regression: Particularly relevant to ANNs because many such networks use a logistic function as their activation function. If we can transform a function to a linear/polynomial case we can determine weights and thresholds for the system, for a logistic function this can be done by

way of the Logit transformation, allowing a single neuron to compute the logistic regression function.

#### 1.1.4 Training

With the term “training”, for an MLP, we’re talking about minimizing the error function on the data set given for the training.

**Gradient Descent:** We can derive from the error function a direction in which to change the weights and thresholds to minimize the error.

The gradient is a vector in the direction of the steepest increase of the function. We make small steps (size determined by a learning rate) in the direction indicated by the gradient on the error function until convergence, i.e., a local optima of the error function is found.

This requires having a differentiable activation and output function.

The algorithm will essentially be:

- Compute the gradient
- Small step in the opposite direction of the gradient
- Repeat until convergence

Some variants have been developed to address the challenge of learning rate selection and overcoming local optima:

- Random restart: train the network multiple times, with different starting points
- Momentum: Adds a fraction of the previous weight change to the current step
- Manhattan Training: Uses only the sign of the gradient to determine the direction of the step, simplifying computation
- Adaptive Learning Rates: Adapt the learning rate for each parameter based on the history of gradients

**Error Backpropagation:** Only the output neurons are connected to the error, but we need to train the whole network.

The error values of any (hidden) layer of a multi layer perceptron can be computed from the error values of its successor layer. The error is computed at the end of the network and then backpropagated through the whole network.

General structure of the algorithm:

1. Setting and forward propagation of the input
2. Calculate the error and adapt the weights for the last layer

3. Error backpropagation, the “new” error factor is computed starting from the error of the subsequent layer, and this is done layer by layer

This allows to calculate how much each neuron “contributes” towards the final error.

The weight adaptation depends on a learning rate, which has to be initialized properly in order to not “jump” over the minimum without ever converging (i.e., it’s too high).

The error can’t completely vanish due to the properties of the logistic function, there will always be some residual errors due to the computation of the various parameters.

### 1.1.5 Deep Learning

The term “Deep Learning” refers to a NN with several hidden layers. With “depth” we mean the number of layers that separate input and output.

Approximating a function with only three layers might require a large (even exponential) number of neurons, while more hidden layers allow for the same approximation with less neurons. Increasing the number of hidden layers decreases complexity. Having less neurons also allows to use smaller data sets.

The main problems with Deep Learning are:

- Overfitting: we’re increasing the quantity of adaptable parameters, and thus capabilities, it might lead to overfitting. Some solutions are: weight decay (avoiding large values for the weights), sparsity constraints, dropout training;
- Vanishing gradient: the gradient tends to vanish through the layers, slowing down significantly learning in the first layers. Some activation functions could counteract this by having larger values for the gradient. Another approach is training the network layer by layers, usually as a series of stacked autoencoders: 3-layer perceptrons that maps its inputs to approximation of themselves (layers are: encoding-hidden-decoding); the hidden layer is expected to learn features of the inputs, so we need to limit the number of hidden neurons. After training an autoencoder normally, the decoder layer is removed and another, not yet trained, autoencoder is added

### 1.1.6 Convolutional Neural Networks

Still inside the field of deep learning, but the “receptive field” of each neuron is reduced, i.e., each neuron is connected only to a partial region of the input data

(preceding layer, we're removing the fully connected constraint). This allows for very deep networks, with a reduced number of connections. The "convolutional" comes from all neurons in the same layer sharing the same weight, like convolution (kinda like sliding a window over an image).

Neurons in the layer after the convolution apply maximum pooling, keeping only the maximum activation of the neurons for each sampled region, maintaining the obtained results but losing knowledge of their location in the original input. This allows to extract features and remove noise.

Further layers allow for more high-level features, building a hierarchy over multiple stages.

## 1.2 Radial Basis Function Networks RBFN

### 1.2.1 Definition

RBFNs are a feed-forward (the data flows only in one direction, forward, no cycles) neural networks with always three layers. Each previous layer is fully connected to the subsequent.

In the hidden layer radial basis functions are employed as activation functions. A RBF is a function that peaks at zero and decreases in all other directions.

From hidden to output neurons the activation function is the "classical" weighted sum of all inputs. The activation function of the output neurons is linear and propagates to the output.

The input function of each hidden neuron is a distance function (there can be different types) between input and weight vectors. Each hidden neuron receives as input a distance. The activation function is a radial function, which decreases monotonically. The catchment region, defined by the reference radius  $\sigma$ , defines the shape and width of the function, i.e., the function is 1 at 0, decreases in some way until  $\sigma$ . Each neuron can have its own function.

Since the function is activated based on distance, this draws a circle (or equivalent for a certain definition of distance) in the feature space, where the data considered is located.

### 1.2.2 Function Approximation

RBFNs are universal approximators, like MLPs, but give more choices on how to approximate, improving the approximation, alternatively, obtaining the same approximation with less neurons.

Each function can be approximated by a delta approach in which the resulting function is the weighted sum of the function that define the RBFN. Using rect-

angular functions give the same approximation as an MLP, while triangular or gaussian function allow smoother transitions between steps.

### 1.2.3 Training

Considering a case of supervised learning with a “simple RBFN”, where each training example is covered by its own RBF, i.e., a neuron for each training example.

In this case the weights to the hidden neurons are initialized with the value of the respective training example.

The radii of the activation functions can be chosen heuristically in such a way that each function doesn’t interfere with other patterns. We center each radial function around a specific pattern.

We then can find analytically find the value of the weights from hidden to output neurons, it’s the vector of desired outputs multiplied by the inverse of the matrix containing the hidden layer outputs.

This method guarantees perfect approximation, it’s not necessary to train a simple RBFN.

General Radial Basis Function Networks possess fewer neurons than training examples, we need to select a subset of the training patterns as centers, which will become the input weights for the hidden neurons, then we find the weights for the output layer as before, with an over-determined matrix.

We need to find “good” centers, since they influence the training, they become what the radial function is based on. A way to find the centers is C-means Clustering: considering a number  $c$  of clusters to be found

1. Initialize the cluster centers randomly
2. Assign each training data point to the closest cluster center
3. Recalculate the centers from the new data points assigned
4. Repeat the last two steps until convergence

Then we can add backpropagation to train the network since it will not be perfectly accurate, following standard backpropagation rules.

A 3-phases RBF training consists of:

- Find output connection weights with inverse
- Find RBF centers (clustering)
- Error backpropagation

### 1.3 Learning Vector Quantization LVQN