

# Neural gas algorithm

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Algorithm:

1. Initialize:

- inputs,  $\{X\}_1^N = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N\}$ ,
- neurons,  $\{U\}_1^K = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_K\}$ ,  $K < N$  // "U" stands for "unit"
- topology (connection matrix)  $A = [\mathbf{0}]_{K,K}$

where  $x_i, u_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$

2. Set maximum age for connections,  $\tau$

3. Loop until maximum number of iterations M: // loop through inputs

i. Randomly select an input  $x_i$

ii. Loop over neurons  $\{U\}_1^K$ :

- Let current neuron be  $u_c$
- Find  $|B_c|$  where  $B_c = \{u_b \mid \text{norm}(u_b, x_i) < \text{norm}(u_c, x_i)\}$

iii. Sort neurons by distance to  $x_i$ ,  $\{U_{\text{sorted}}\} = \{u_{i_0}, u_{i_1} \dots u_{i_{K-1}}\}$

iv. Update/replace all neurons with,

$$u_c = u_c + \epsilon \cdot e^{-|B_c|/\lambda} (x_i - u_c)$$

for  $c=\{1,2,\dots,K\}$ .

v. Make connections between closest neurons  $(u_{i_0}, u_{i_1})$  if connection doesn't exist already else increase connection age,  $C_{u_{i_0}, u_{i_1}} = C_{u_{i_0}, u_{i_1}} + 1$

vi. if  $C_{u_{i_0}, u_{i_1}} > \tau$ , set  $C_{u_{i_0}, u_{i_1}} = 0$

In the original paper, the parameters  $\lambda, \epsilon, \tau$  were defined by a function of time (iteration),

$$g(t) = g_i \frac{g_f}{g_i} \frac{t}{t_{max}} \text{ where,}$$

$$\lambda_i = 30, \lambda_f = 0.01, \epsilon_i = 0.3, \epsilon_f = 0.05, \tau_i = 20, \tau_f = 200, t_{max} = 40000$$

Written with [StackEdit](#).