

[5 points] True or False: A K-nearest neighbor classifier is only able to learn linear discriminant functions. ☐ True ☒ **False**

[5 points] True or False: A Parzen kernel density estimator uses only the nearest sample in the dataset to estimate the probability of an input sample  $\mathbf{x}$ . ☐ True ☒ **False**

[5 points] How many parameters will a Multilayer Perceptron (MLP) for binary classification with a single hidden layer of width 10 and an input dimensionality of 8 have?  
☐ 80 ☐ 99 ☐ 88 ☒ **None of the above (101)**

[5 points] What will the entries of the Gram matrix be for a linear kernel?

- poly** ☐  $K[i, j] = (\mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j)^\gamma$   
**rbf** ☐  $K[i, j] = \exp(-\gamma \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|_2^2)$   
**gauss.** ☒  $K[i, j] = \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j$   
☐ None of the above

[5 points] Which of the following loss functions is called the negative log likelihood?

- ☐  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = -\sum_{c=1}^C (\ln y_c - \ln \hat{y}_c)^2$   
☐  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = -\sum_{c=1}^C (y_c - \ln \hat{y}_c)^2$   
☒  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = -\sum_{c=1}^C y_c \ln \hat{y}_c$   
☐  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = -\sum_{c=1}^C \ln \hat{y}_c$

[5 points] Which of the following activation functions is called the Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU)?

- ☐  $\sigma(z) = \min(0, z)$   
☐  $\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-z}}$   
☒  $\sigma(z) = \max(0, z)$   
☐  $\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{\exp(-z)}$

[5 points] How many iterations of gradient descent must we perform for an epoch of minibatch Stochastic Gradient Descent with a dataset of 1024 samples and a batch size of 16?

- ☐ 1024 ☐ 1 ☐ 32 ☒ **64**

[5 points] True or False: The K-means algorithm is guaranteed to find the best cluster centers for any dataset. ☐ True ☒ **False**

[5 points] True or False: Projecting a dataset onto its first principal component minimizes the squared distances between the original and projected points. ☒ **True** ☐ False

[5 points] True or False: Multilayer Perceptrons (MLPs) generally outperform Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) on image classification problems. ☐ True ☒ **False**

[5 points] True or False: Adding residual connections to a CNN can make number of model parameters increase. ☐ True ☒ **False**

- [5 points] Which of the following are advantages of Ensemble Models (e.g. Committees)? *Bagging*  
*Boosting*
- ☒ **They reduce the variance of the resulting model.**
  - ☐ They are much more efficient than the base model.
  - ☒ **They can reduce the expected error of the final model.**
  - ☐ The resulting model is nonlinear even if the base model is linear.

[5 points] Which of the following are requirements for applying backpropagation to compute gradients in a deep network?

- ☐ The network must not be too deep.
- ☒ **The network must be a directed acyclic graph.**
- ☒ **All activation functions must be differentiable.** (*Almost everywhere*)
- ☒ All activation functions must be continuous.

[5 points] Which of the following are true of the Nadaraya-Watson estimator?

- ☐ It only requires some of the training data at test time.
- ☒ **It is a nonparametric method.**
- ☒ **It estimates a nonlinear function of the input.**
- ☐ It estimates a linear function of the input.

[5 points] What does the learning rate control in Stochastic Gradient Descent?

- ☒ **The size of gradient steps made in each iteration.**
- ☐ The degree of nonlinearity in the model.
- ☐ The number of iterations per epoch.
- ☒ **The speed at which the model learns.**

$$\theta_{i+1} = \theta_i - \eta \nabla_{\theta_i} \mathcal{L}$$

[5 points] Which of the following models are nonparametric?

- ☐ The Multilayer Perceptron (MLP).
- ☐ Logistic regression.
- ☒ **The K-Nearest Neighbor Classifier**
- ☐ Decision Trees.

[5 points] Which of the following are causes of the vanishing gradients when training neural networks?

- ☒ **Saturated inputs to activation functions with near-zero derivatives when saturated.**
- ☐ Badly scaled input values.
- ☒ **Very deep models.**
- ☐ Bad random initialization of the network parameters.

[5 points] What do residual connections in a Deep Neural Network do?

- ☒ **They help mitigate the problem of vanishing gradients.**
- ☒ **They make training deeper models possible.**
- ☐ They introduce additional nonlinear activations in the network.
- ☐ None of the above

[5 points] What are the advantages of projecting data onto  $K < D$  principal components?

- ☒ We eliminate noise in the original representation.
- ☐ Classes are guaranteed to be linearly separable.
- ☐ It is a nonlinear embedding that makes learning easy with simpler models.
- ☒ Models trained on the reduced data are simpler.

[5 points] If we want to penalize classification errors less when training an SVM we should

- ☐ Increase the hyperparameter  $C$ .
- ☐ Use a radial basis kernel.
- ☒ Decrease the hyperparameter  $C$ .
- ☐ None of the above.

[5 points] How many parameters will a Convolutional Layer with  $C_{out}$  convolutions of size  $3 \times 3$  have if it takes an input with  $C_{in}$  feature maps?

- ☐  $9 \times C_{in} + C_{out}$     ☒  $9 \times C_{in} \times C_{out} + C_{out}$     ☐  $9 \times C_{out} + C_{in}$     ☐ None of the above

[5 points] Consider one layer of weights (edges) in a convolutional neural network (CNN) for grayscale images, connecting one layer of units to the next layer of units. Which type of layer has fewer parameters to be learned during training?

- ☐ A convolutional layer with 10  $3 \times 3$  filters. (100)
- ☒ A max-pooling layer that reduces a  $10 \times 10$  image to  $5 \times 5$ . (0)
- ☐ A convolutional layer with 8  $5 \times 5$  filters. (208)
- ☐ A fully-connected layer from 20 hidden units to 4 output units. (84)

[5 points] How many iterations of gradient descent must we perform for an epoch of minibatch Stochastic Gradient Descent with a dataset of  $N$  samples and a batch size of  $B$ ?

- ☒  $N/B$     ☐  $N$     ☐  $B \times N$     ☐  $N - B$

[5 points] Which of the following are true of the vanishing gradient problem for networks using sigmoid activation functions?

- ☒ Deeper neural networks tend to be more susceptible to vanishing gradients.
- ☐ Networks with sigmoid units don't have this problem if they're trained with the cross-entropy loss function.
- ☒ Using ReLU units instead of sigmoid units can reduce this problem.
- ☐ None of the above.

[5 points] Which of the following are true of convolutional neural networks (CNNs) for image analysis?

- ☒ Pooling layers reduce the spatial resolution of the image.
- ☐ They have more parameters than fully connected networks with the same number of layers and the same number of neurons in each layer.
- ☐ A CNN can be trained for unsupervised learning tasks, whereas an ordinary neural net cannot.
- ☒ Filters in each layer tend to detect low-level features like edges and blobs.

[5 points] In neural networks, nonlinear activation functions such as a sigmoid, tanh and ReLU

- ☐ speed up the gradient calculation in backpropagation, as compared to linear units.
- ☐ are applied only to the output units.
- ☒ help to learn nonlinear decision boundaries.
- ☐ always output values between 0 and 1.


[5 points] The numerical output of a sigmoid activation in a neural network

- ☐ is unbounded, encompassing all real numbers.
- ☐ is unbounded above, encompassing all non-negative real numbers.
- ☒ is bounded between 0 and 1.
- ☐ is bounded between -1 and 1.

[5 points] Which of the following are true of the Nadaraya-Watson estimator?

- ☐ It requires estimating  $D + 1$  parameters, where  $D$  is the dimensionality of the inputs.
- ☒ It estimates a nonlinear function of the input.
- ☒ It requires all of the training data at test time.
- ☐ It estimates a polynomial function of the input.

[5 points] If, when training an MLP, the training error goes down and converges to a local minimum, but when testing on new data the test error is very high: What is probably going wrong and what can you do to fix it?

- ☐ Use the same training data but add two more hidden layers. 
- ☒ The training data size is not large enough, collect more training data and retrain it.
- ☒ Use a different initialization and train the network several times. Use the average of predictions from all nets to predict test data.
- ☒ Play with learning rate and add regularization term to the objective function.

[5 points] Which of the following is true about the K-means clustering algorithm?

- ☐ It is a supervised learning algorithm.
- ☐ It adjusts the number of clusters  $K$ .
- ☐ It will always terminate for any  $K$ .
- ☐ None of the above.

[5 points] Which of the following will increase variance in a deep neural network?

- ☒ Adding more hidden layers.
- ☐ Adding L2 regularization term to the loss.
- ☐ Removing hidden layers.
- ☒ Increasing the number of units in hidden layers.

[15 points] Show that a Committee Ensemble model using  $N$  bootstrapped linear regression models is a linear regression (i.e. that can be expressed as  $\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} + b$  for some  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $b$ ).

**Note:** Be sure to state all assumptions you make in your answer.

**Solution:** A committee model with  $N$  bootstrapped linear regression models has this form:

$$f(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{w}_n^T \mathbf{x} + b_n$$

for  $\theta = (\mathbf{w}_n, b_n)_{n=1}^N$ . But then by linearity and commutativity of inner products we have:

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{x}; \theta) &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N [\mathbf{w}_n^T \mathbf{x} + b_n] \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{w}_n^T \mathbf{x} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N b_n \quad (\text{by linearity}) \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{x}^T \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{w}_n + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N b_n \quad (\text{by commutativity of inner product}) \\ &= \hat{\mathbf{w}}^T \mathbf{x} + \hat{b} \end{aligned}$$

$\hat{\mathbf{w}}^T \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^T \hat{\mathbf{w}}$

For the new model parameters  $\hat{\theta}$ :

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{w}_n \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{b} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N b_n$$

□

[15 points] Show that a Multilayer Perceptron with two hidden layers with activation function  $\sigma(x) = x$  is only capable of learning linear functions.

**Solution:** An MLP with two hidden layers computes the function:

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{x}) &= W_{\text{out}} \sigma(W_2 \sigma(W_1 \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_1) + \mathbf{b}_2) + \mathbf{b}_{\text{out}} \\ &= W_{\text{out}} (W_2 (W_1 \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_1) + \mathbf{b}_2) + \mathbf{b}_{\text{out}} \quad (\text{since } \sigma \text{ is the identity function}) \\ &= (W_{\text{out}} W_2 W_1) \mathbf{x} + [W_{\text{out}} W_2 \mathbf{b}_1 + W_{\text{out}} \mathbf{b}_2 + \mathbf{b}_{\text{out}}], \end{aligned}$$

(by linearity, distribute Matrix multiplications)

which is a linear (well, affine) function  $f(\mathbf{x}) = W \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}$  for:

$$\begin{aligned} W &= W_{\text{out}} W_2 W_1 \\ \mathbf{b} &= W_{\text{out}} W_2 \mathbf{b}_1 + W_{\text{out}} \mathbf{b}_2 + \mathbf{b}_{\text{out}}. \end{aligned}$$

□

[15 points] Show that the first principal component of dataset  $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}_n\}_{n=1}^N$  is an eigenvector of the data covariance matrix.

**Solution:** We saw this in class. Consider a dataset  $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N\}$  with  $\mathbf{x}_n \in \mathbb{R}^D$ . We seek a subspace of dimensionality  $M = 1$  in which the projected points have maximum variance. The mean of the dataset  $\mathcal{D}$  projected onto a basis vector  $\mathbf{u}_1$  is:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{u}_1^T \mathbf{x}_n &= \mathbf{u}_1^T \left\{ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{x}_n \right\} \\ &= \mathbf{u}_1^T \bar{\mathbf{x}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\bar{\mathbf{x}} = N^{-1} \sum_n \mathbf{x}_n$ . The variance is then:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N (\mathbf{u}_1^T \mathbf{x}_n - \mathbf{u}_1^T \bar{\mathbf{x}})^2 &= \mathbf{u}_1^T \mathbf{S} \mathbf{u}_1 \\ \text{where } \mathbf{S} &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N (\mathbf{x}_n - \bar{\mathbf{x}})(\mathbf{x}_n - \bar{\mathbf{x}})^T. \end{aligned}$$

We cannot simply maximize this – it is unbounded. We must constrain the optimization so that  $\mathbf{u}$  has unit norm:

$$\mathbf{u}_1^* = \arg \max_{\mathbf{u}} [\mathbf{u}_1^T \mathbf{S} \mathbf{u}_1 + \lambda_1 (1 - \mathbf{u}_1^T \mathbf{u}_1)]$$

Setting the gradient of the right-hand side to zero and solving, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\mathbf{u}_1} \mathbf{u}_1^T \mathbf{S} \mathbf{u}_1 + \lambda (1 - \mathbf{u}_1^T \mathbf{u}_1) &= \mathbf{0} \\ \implies \mathbf{S} \mathbf{u}_1 &= \lambda \mathbf{u}_1, \end{aligned}$$

which tells us that  $\mathbf{u}_1$  must be an eigenvector of  $\mathbf{S}$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ . □

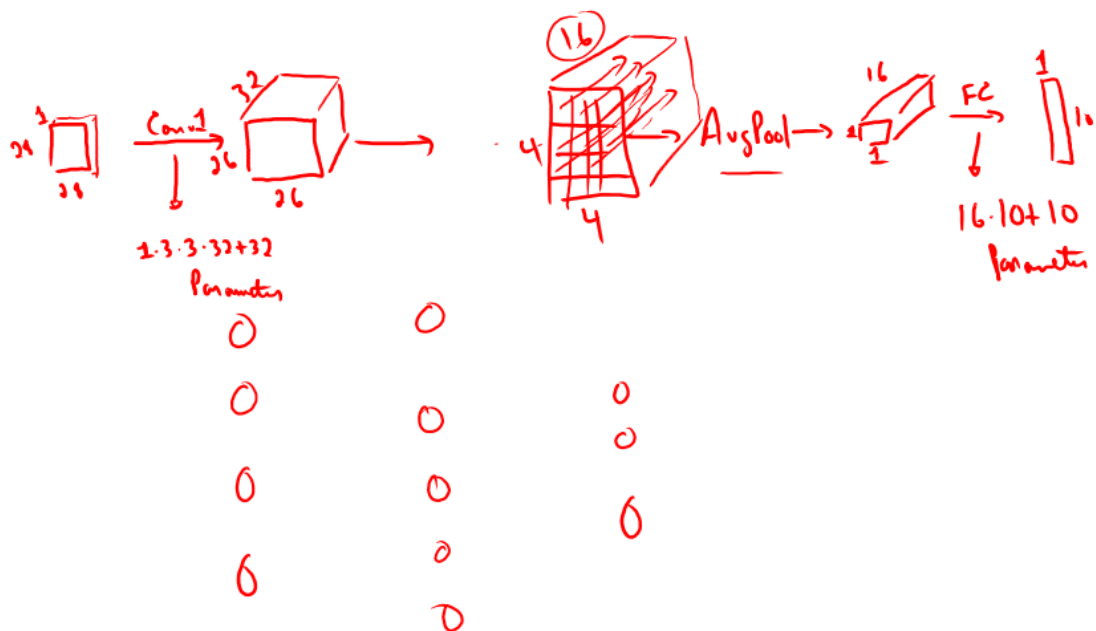


[10 points (bonus)] Design a Deep Convolutional Neural Network (with at least three convolutional layers and one or more pooling layers) to classify MNIST images (input size  $28 \times 28$ ). Draw the network (or write pseudocode for its definition) and indicate how many parameters each layer has and the sizes of the intermediate feature maps.

**Solution:** I will write pseudocode in tabular form for the definition of each layer (with corresponding numbers of parameters and size of the activations):

| Layer | Type                 | Activation Size          | # Parameters                                |
|-------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1     | Input                | $1 \times 28 \times 28$  | 0   |
| 2     | Conv2D(32, 1, 3, 3)  | $32 \times 26 \times 26$ | 320 ( $32 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 + 32$ )           |
| 3     | ReLU                 | $32 \times 26 \times 26$ | 0   |
| 4     | Conv2D(32, 32, 3, 3) | $32 \times 24 \times 24$ | 9248 ( $32 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 32 + 32$ ) |
| 5     | ReLU                 | $32 \times 24 \times 24$ | 0   |
| 6     | MaxPool(2, 2)        | $32 \times 12 \times 12$ | 0   |
| 7     | Conv2D(16, 32, 3, 3) | $16 \times 10 \times 10$ | 4624 ( $32 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 16 + 16$ ) |
| 8     | ReLU                 | $16 \times 10 \times 10$ | 0   |
| 9     | Conv2D(16, 16, 3, 3) | $16 \times 8 \times 8$   | 2320 ( $16 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 16 + 16$ ) |
| 10    | ReLU                 | $16 \times 8 \times 8$   | 0   |
| 11    | MaxPool(2, 2)        | $16 \times 4 \times 4$   | 0   |
| 12    | Flatten()            | 400                      | 0   |
| 13    | Linear(400, 128)     | 128                      | 51328 ( $32 \cdot 768$ )                    |
| 14    | ReLU                 | 128                      | 0   |
| 15    | Linear(128, 64)      | 64                       | 8256  |
| 16    | ReLU                 | 64                       | 0   |
| 17    | Linear(64, 10)       | 10                       | 650   |

Avg Pool  
AlmNet



### 3. Designing an MLP for classification.

(a) [5 points] Design a Multilayer Perceptron (MLP) with an input layer of size 3, two hidden layers with 5 units each, and a single output unit. Indicate the parameters of each layer and how many parameters each layer has.

Input layer: 3 units

First hidden layer: 5 units

Second hidden layer: 5 units

Output layer: 1 unit

Parameters:

Input layer → first hidden layer:  $3 \times 5$  weights + 5 biases = 20 parameters

First hidden layer → second hidden layer:  $5 \times 5$  weights + 5 biases = 30 parameters

Second hidden layer → output layer:  $5 \times 1$  weights + 1 bias = 6 parameters

for a total of  $20 + 30 + 6 = 56$  parameters.

(b) [5 points] Write the expression for the function this MLP computes using the parameters indicated in part (a).

Note:  $f(x) = Wx + b$

$$f(x) = \sigma_{\text{out}}(W_{\text{out}} \sigma(W_2 \sigma(W_1 x + b_1) + b_2) + b_{\text{out}})$$

(c) [5 points] What type of classification problems could you use this MLP for? What loss function should you use to train it?

Binary Classification, log loss;  
Multiclass Classification, softmax loss;  
Multilabel Classification, log loss.





[15 points] Assume you have a dataset  $D$  for a 3 class classification problem and you want to train a classification model  $f(x, \theta)$  parametrized by  $\theta$  on it. Write the pseudocode for one iteration of batch gradient descent and pseudocode for one iteration of minibatch stochastic gradient descent (batch size  $B$ ). For this model and dataset assume the negative log likelihood loss.

BGD:

1. Initialize the parameters  $\theta$ .
2. Compute the predictions:
3. Compute the negative log likelihood loss:
4. Compute the gradients of the loss with respect to  $\theta$ :
5. Average the gradients:
6. Update the parameters  $\theta$ :

Mini-Batch SGD:

1. Initialize the parameters  $\theta$ .
2. Shuffle the dataset  $D$  randomly.
3. For each mini-batch  $B_k$  of size  $B$ :
  - a.  $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \eta \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(B_k; \theta)$
  - b. Compute the predictions:
  - c. Compute the negative log likelihood loss:
  - d. Compute the gradients of the loss with respect to  $\theta$ :
  - e. Average the gradients over the mini-batch:
  - f. Update the parameters  $\theta$ :

[10 points] Assume you have a linearly separable dataset  $\mathcal{D}$  for binary classification problem. Show that any solution  $(w, b)$  minimizing the hinge loss is guaranteed to satisfy the constraints of the hard-margin primal SVM objective.

Optimal hard-margin SVM problem:

subject to  $y_i(w \cdot x_i + b) \geq 1$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

Total hinge loss to minimize:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \max(0, 1 - y_i(w \cdot x_i + b))$$

1. For a linearly separable dataset, we know there exists a hyperplane such that all points can be perfectly classified with some margin. That is, there exists  $(w, b)$  such that for all  $i$  we have:

$y_i(w \cdot x_i + b) \geq 1$  will be minimized when  $(w, b)$  is satisfied.

2. Now consider the minimization of the hinge loss. Since the hinge loss is minimized when  $y_i(w \cdot x_i + b) \geq 1$  for all  $i$ , the optimization problem will try to push  $(w, b)$  as far above 1 as possible. This corresponds to maximizing the margin, which is the goal of the hard margin SVM objective.

Thus, minimizing the hinge loss directly encourages a solution where the decision boundary (defined by  $w \cdot x + b = 0$ ) separates the classes with a margin of at least 1, which satisfies the constraints of the hard margin SVM problem.