



# Gradient Descent

## Towards Neural Networks

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Undergraduate AI Society  
April 2nd, 2019

# Outline

- 1 Decision Making
  - Perceptrons
  - Activation Functions
- 2 Classifying Digits through MNIST
- 3 Improvements

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We can now define my **activation threshold**,  $t$ , which will determine whether or not I go to the game, represented in binary.

# Formula for Decision Making

The general formula for my decision to go to the Oilers game is

$$\text{output} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \bar{\mathbf{w}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{x}} < t \\ 1 & \text{if } \bar{\mathbf{w}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{x}} \geq t. \end{cases}$$

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For instance, if  $t = 9$ , we see I'll only go if I'm both available and interested. If  $t = 7$ , I'll also go if the tickets are cheap and I'm available:

Ticket Prices	Availability	Interest	$\bar{\mathbf{x}}$	$\bar{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{w}}$
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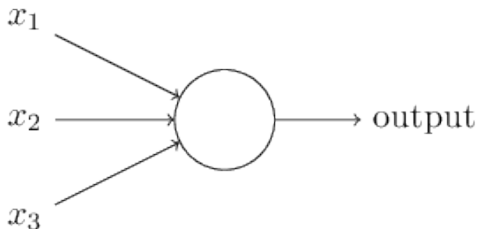


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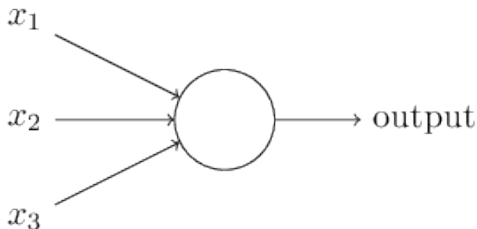


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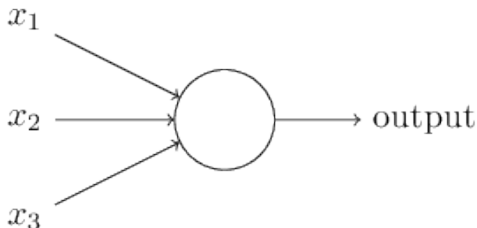


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Each of these lines collect evidence and are weighted to produce an output. In practice, our inputs and outputs don't necessarily have to be binary; they can be real-valued. We therefore have to define a new activation function.



# Introducing the Bias

Instead of comparing our weighted sum to a threshold, we instead *add* a bias,  $b$ , to our weighted sum. We write this as  $\bar{\mathbf{w}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{x}} + b$  instead.

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This is known as the *heaviside step function*. We'll extend our model to multiple outputs soon, but first we'll examine other activation functions.

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Graphically, we can see:

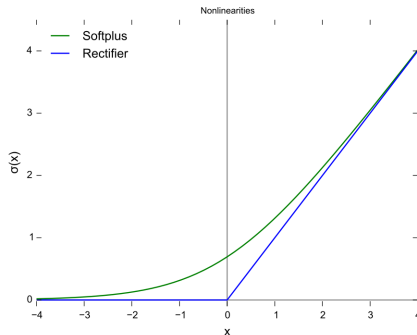


Figure 2: Rectifier, and a smooth approximation  $\log(1 + e^x)$ . (Source: Wikipedia).

# Sigmoid Function

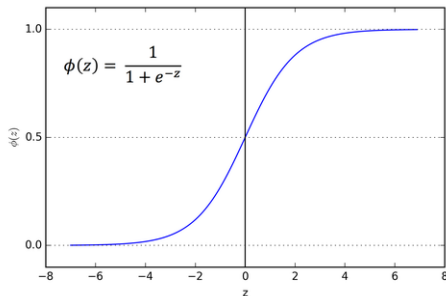
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**Figure 3:** As  $z \rightarrow \infty$ , we see  $\sigma(z) \rightarrow 1$ . Alternatively, as  $z \rightarrow -\infty$ ,  $\sigma(z) \rightarrow 0$ . (Source: *Towards Data Science*).



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## 1 Decision Making

## 2 Classifying Digits through MNIST

- Neural Networks
- Randomizing Weights and Biases
- Softmax and One-Hot Encoding
- Loss Function
- Gradient Descent
- Backpropagation

## 3 Improvements

## Example Images

In **supervised learning** problems, we're given a set of training data with labels, which we try to learn. We'll use a generalization of the perceptron with different neurons, for which we try to learn the best possible weights.

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**Figure 4:** How would you devise a system for a **computer** to classify the digits? How can we best utilize the data set, known as MNIST? (*Source: Nielsen*)

- The MNIST database contains seventy thousand handwritten digits.

# MNIST Dataset

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  - Each data-point contains both an image, and the desired digit.
  - 60,000 images are designated for training, and 10,000 for testing:

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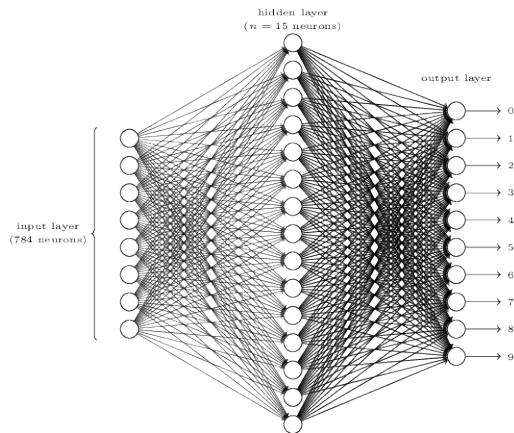
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We'll build a model from the training images that will learn to classify digits!

# What we're building towards



**Figure 5:** A simple neural network structure. The input vectors on the left hand side have  $28 \times 28 = 784$  inputs for each pixel, and the output layer has 10 digits. (Source: Nielsen)

## Extending our Model

All of our weights and bias will be initialized from a normal distribution with mean 0 and standard deviation 1.

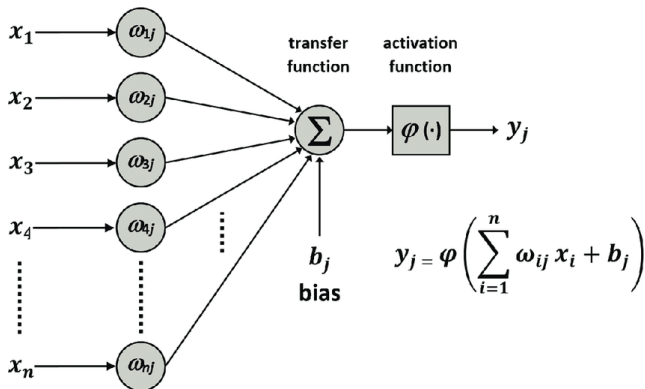


Figure 6: Source: Daniel Alvarez, InTech

## Hidden Layer

The role of the **hidden layer** is to hold intermediate calculations. These will in turn be used to compute the output layer. To produce the hidden layer, we must have an  $784 \times 15$  weight matrix, as seen below:

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} w_{11} & w_{12} & \cdots & w_{1,784} \\ w_{21} & w_{22} & \cdots & w_{2,784} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ w_{15,1} & w_{15,2} & \cdots & w_{15,784} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ x_{784} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_{15} \end{pmatrix}.$$

We take the dot product of each **row** with our input vector  $\mathbf{x}$ . We then add our bias vector,  $\mathbf{b}$ , which is  $15 \times 1$ . We finally apply our activation:

$$\mathbf{h} = \sigma(W\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}).$$

Notice the sigmoid function is applied component wise.

## Output Layer

We must now define a transformation from  $\mathbb{R}^{15}$  to  $\mathbb{R}^{10}$ , which we can do using a  $10 \times 15$  weight matrix  $\hat{W}$ . We can then add a  $10 \times 1$  bias vector,  $\hat{\mathbf{b}}$ .

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$$\text{softmax}(\mathbf{z})_j = \frac{e^{z_j}}{\sum_{k=1}^{10} e^{z_k}}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 10.$$

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$$\mathbf{f} = \hat{W}\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{b}, \quad \mathbf{o} = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{f}).$$

# One Hot Encoding

Once we've computed the output, we need a way to compare it to our desired result. However,  $\mathbf{o}$  is a  $10 \times 1$  vector, whereas our desired digit  $y_{\text{train}}(\mathbf{x})$  is a scalar. We therefore encode the digit as a  $10 \times 1$  vector:

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$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} & \dots & \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & 9 \end{array}$$

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The code for this is relatively simple:

```
y_test=keras.utils.to_categorical(y_test, num_classes=10)
y_train=keras.utils.to_categorical(y_train, num_classes=10)
```

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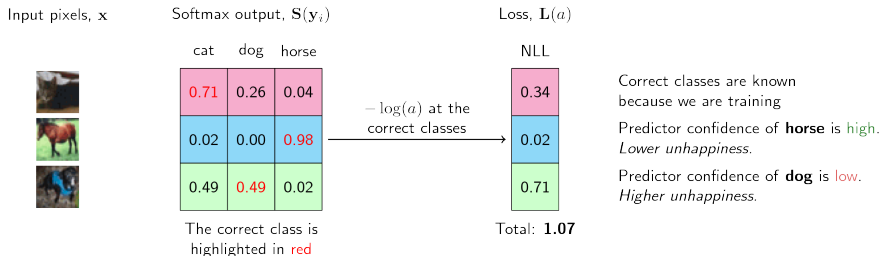


Figure 7: Source: LJ Mirand

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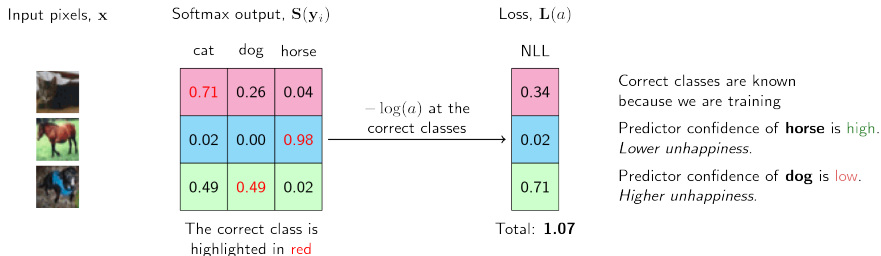


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To compute the loss for an individual training example,  $\mathbf{x}$ , with one-hot encoded label  $y_{\text{train}}(\mathbf{x})$ , and output  $\mathbf{o}$ , we compute

$$L(\mathbf{x}) = -y_{\text{train}}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \log \mathbf{o} = -\log(o_j),$$

where  $j$  is the true label.

# Graph of Negative Log

Recall  $L(\mathbf{x}) = -\log(o_j)$ . Since  $o_j$  is between 0 and 1, we can graph the function, noting it approaches 0 as  $o_j \rightarrow 1$ , and goes to  $\infty$  as  $o_j \rightarrow 0$ .

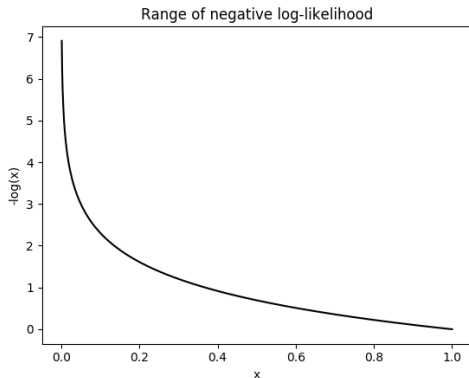


Figure 8: *Source: LJ Mirand*



# Summarizing the Loss Function

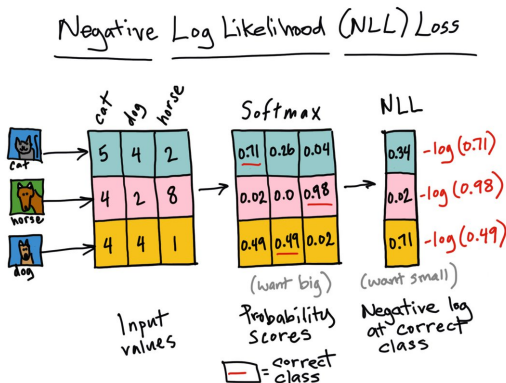


Figure 9: Source: Micheleen Harris

# Gradient Descent Intuition

Our goal is to minimize loss with respect to weights and biases. To simplify the model, let's assume  $C$  is a function of two variables:  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ .

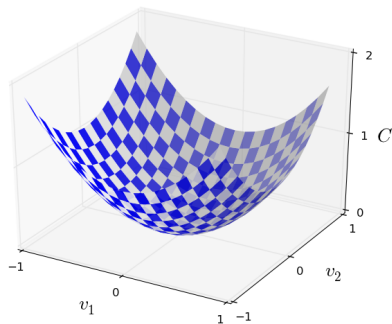


Figure 10: *Source: Nielsen*

## Gradient Descent II

We see how much  $C$  changes as we nudge  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ . Approximating,

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We find the optimal way to adjust  $\Delta v_1$  and  $\Delta v_2$  so that  $\Delta C$  is negative. We define  $\Delta \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta v_1 \\ \Delta v_2 \end{pmatrix}$  and the **gradient** vector  $\nabla C = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial C}{\partial v_1} & \frac{\partial C}{\partial v_2} \end{pmatrix}^T$ .

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$$\Delta C \approx \frac{\partial C}{\partial v_1} \Delta v_1 + \frac{\partial C}{\partial v_2} \Delta v_2.$$

We find the optimal way to adjust  $\Delta v_1$  and  $\Delta v_2$  so that  $\Delta C$  is negative. We define  $\Delta \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta v_1 \\ \Delta v_2 \end{pmatrix}$  and the **gradient** vector  $\nabla C = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial C}{\partial v_1} & \frac{\partial C}{\partial v_2} \end{pmatrix}^T$ . Therefore,

$$\Delta C \approx \nabla C \cdot \Delta \mathbf{v}.$$

## Gradient Descent II

We see how much  $C$  changes as we nudge  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ . Approximating,

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$$\Delta C \approx \nabla C \cdot \Delta \mathbf{v}.$$

By the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality, the direction of greatest descent is  $\Delta \mathbf{v} = -\lambda \nabla C$ . In this case,  $\Delta C \approx \nabla C \cdot -\lambda \nabla C = -\lambda \|\nabla C\|^2 \ll 0$ .

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By the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality, the direction of greatest descent is  $\Delta v = -\lambda \nabla C$ . In this case,  $\Delta C \approx \nabla C \cdot -\lambda \nabla C = -\lambda \|\nabla C\|^2 \ll 0$ .

We therefore update  $v \rightarrow v' = v - \lambda \nabla C$ , where  $\lambda$  is the **learning rate**. We iterate this process in the hopes of finding a local minimum of  $C$ . This process can fairly easily generalize from 2 variables to  $n$  variables if we wish.



# Gradient Descent III

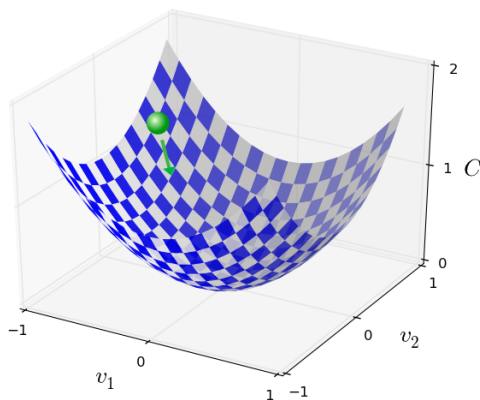


Figure 11: *Source: Nielsen*

## Gradient Descent IV

Our general rule for updating weights and biases in our neural network is

$$w_k \rightarrow w'_k = w_k - \eta \frac{\partial L}{\partial w_k}, \quad b_\ell \rightarrow b'_\ell = b_\ell - \eta \frac{\partial L}{\partial b_\ell}.$$

In practice, updating our weights at every step is subject to stochastic error.

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In practice, updating our weights at every step is subject to stochastic error. Therefore, we approximate our gradient function (which holds all of the partial derivatives) in **batches** of size  $m$  and take their average:

$$\nabla L \approx \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \nabla L_{x_i}.$$

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We can rewrite our update steps as 
$$\begin{cases} w_k \rightarrow & w'_k = w_k - \frac{\eta}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\partial L_{x_i}}{\partial w_k} \\ b_\ell \rightarrow & b'_\ell = b_\ell - \frac{\eta}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\partial L_{x_i}}{\partial b_\ell} \end{cases}.$$

# Backpropagation Part I

In our hidden layer, we have  $784 \times 15 + 15 \times 1 = 11,775$  weights and biases to train on. In the output layer, we only have  $15 \times 10 + 10 \times 1 = 160$ .

# Backpropagation Part I

In our hidden layer, we have  $784 \times 15 + 15 \times 1 = 11,775$  weights and biases to train on. In the output layer, we only have  $15 \times 10 + 10 \times 1 = 160$ . We'll answer the question: how much does our loss function depend on these parameters? To answer this, we need the chain rule from calculus:

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Then  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial f_j} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial o_j} \frac{\partial o_j}{\partial f_j} = -\frac{1}{o_j} \frac{\partial o_j}{\partial f_j}$ . Using the quotient rule and some algebra,

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$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L}{\partial f_j} &= -\frac{1}{o_j} \frac{(e^{f_1} + \dots + e^{f_{10}}) e^{f_j} - e^{f_j} e^{f_j}}{(e^{f_1} + \dots + e^{f_{10}})^2} \\ &= -\frac{e^{f_1} + \dots + e^{f_{10}}}{e^{f_j}} \cdot \frac{e^{f_j} (e^{f_1} + e^{f_2} + \dots + e^{f_{10}} - e^{f_j})}{(e^{f_1} + \dots + e^{f_{10}})^2} \\ &= -\frac{e^{f_1} + \dots + e^{f_{10}} - e^{f_j}}{e^{f_1} + \dots + e^{f_{10}}} = -(1 - o_j) = o_j - 1. \end{aligned}$$



## Backpropagation Part II

$$L = -\log(o_j), \quad o_j = \frac{e^{f_j}}{e^{f_1} + e^{f_2} + \dots + e^{f_{10}}}.$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L}{\partial f_i} &= -\frac{1}{o_j} \cdot \frac{-e^{f_j} e^{f_i}}{(e^{f_1} + e^{f_2} + \dots + e^{f_{10}})^2} \\ &= \frac{e^{f_1} + e^{f_2} + \dots + e^{f_{10}}}{e^{f_j}} \cdot \frac{e^{f_j} e^{f_i}}{(e^{f_1} + e^{f_2} + \dots + e^{f_{10}})^2} \\ &= \frac{e^{f_i}}{e^{f_1} + \dots + e^{f_{10}}} = o_i. \end{aligned}$$

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We've now computed how much our loss function depends upon the final activations before applying the softmax. We now go back a layer and see how much  $L$  depends upon  $\hat{W}$  and  $\hat{b}$ , and store these results in a gradient.

## Backpropagation Part III

We can write this as  $\mathbf{f} =$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{w}_{11} & \hat{w}_{12} & \cdots & \hat{w}_{1,15} \\ \hat{w}_{21} & \hat{w}_{22} & \cdots & \hat{w}_{2,15} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \hat{w}_{10,1} & \hat{w}_{10,2} & \cdots & \hat{w}_{10,15} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} h_1 \\ h_2 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ h_{15} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \hat{b}_1 \\ \hat{b}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \hat{b}_{10} \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Therefore, 
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \hat{w}_{k\ell}} = \sum_{i=1}^{10} \frac{\partial L}{\partial f_i} \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \hat{w}_{k\ell}} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial f_k} \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial \hat{w}_{k\ell}} = \begin{cases} o_k h_\ell & \text{if } k \neq j \\ (o_k - 1) h_\ell & \text{if } k = j \end{cases}.$$

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We can similarly see 
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial b_k} = \sum_{i=1}^{10} \frac{\partial L}{\partial f_i} \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial b_k} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial f_k} \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial b_k} = \begin{cases} o_k & \text{if } k \neq j \\ o_k - 1 & \text{if } k = j. \end{cases}$$



## Backpropagation Part III

We can write this as  $\mathbf{f} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{w}_{11} & \hat{w}_{12} & \cdots & \hat{w}_{1,15} \\ \hat{w}_{21} & \hat{w}_{22} & \cdots & \hat{w}_{2,15} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \hat{w}_{10,1} & \hat{w}_{10,2} & \cdots & \hat{w}_{10,15} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} h_1 \\ h_2 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ h_{15} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \hat{b}_1 \\ \hat{b}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \hat{b}_{10} \end{pmatrix}.$

By matrix multiplication,  $f_k = \hat{w}_{k1}h_1 + \hat{w}_{k2}h_2 + \cdots + \hat{w}_{k,15}h_{15} + b_k.$

Therefore, 
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \hat{w}_{kl}} = \sum_{i=1}^{10} \frac{\partial L}{\partial f_i} \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \hat{w}_{kl}} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial f_k} \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial \hat{w}_{kl}} = \begin{cases} o_k h_l & \text{if } k \neq j \\ (o_k - 1) h_l & \text{if } k = j. \end{cases}$$

We can similarly see 
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial b_k} = \sum_{i=1}^{10} \frac{\partial L}{\partial f_i} \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial b_k} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial f_k} \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial b_k} = \begin{cases} o_k & \text{if } k \neq j \\ o_k - 1 & \text{if } k = j. \end{cases}$$

Finally, we can observe  $\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial h_k} = \hat{w}_{ik}$  by the way we set up the matrix. We store all of these values in a gradient table for easy access later. This is a core feature of **dynamic programming**, which is essential in this program.

## Backpropagation IV

Recall in the hidden layer,  $h = \sigma(W\bar{x} + \bar{b})$ , where

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} w_{11} & w_{12} & \cdots & w_{1,784} \\ w_{21} & w_{22} & \cdots & w_{2,784} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ w_{15,1} & w_{15,2} & \cdots & w_{15,784} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ x_{784} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_{15} \end{pmatrix}.$$

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By matrix multiplication,  $h_k = \sigma(w_{k1}x_1 + w_{k2}x_2 + \cdots + w_{k,784}x_{784} + b_k)$ .

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By matrix multiplication,  $h_k = \sigma(w_{k1}x_1 + w_{k2}x_2 + \cdots + w_{k,784}x_{784} + b_k)$ .  
By the chain rule, we note  $w_{k\ell}$  is fed into every final layer, therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L}{\partial w_{k\ell}} &= \sum_{i=1}^{10} \frac{\partial L}{\partial f_i} \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial h_k} \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial w_{k\ell}} \\ &= \left( \sum_{i \neq j} o_i w_{ik} + (o_j - 1) w_{jk} \right) \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial w_{k\ell}}. \end{aligned}$$

# Backpropagation Finale

Let  $g_k = w_{k1}x_1 + w_{k2}x_2 + \cdots + w_{k,784}x_{784} + b_k$ . Then  $h_k = \sigma(g_k)$  hence

$$\frac{\partial h_k}{\partial w_{k\ell}} = \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial g_k} \frac{\partial g_k}{\partial w_{k\ell}}.$$

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$$\frac{\partial h_k}{\partial w_{k\ell}} = \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial g_k} \frac{\partial g_k}{\partial w_{k\ell}}.$$

Recall  $\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-z}}$ , so  $\frac{d}{dz}\sigma(z) = \frac{e^{-z}}{1+e^{-z}} \cdot \frac{1}{1+e^{-z}} = (1 - \sigma(z))\sigma(z)$ .

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$$\frac{\partial h_k}{\partial w_{k\ell}} = (1 - \sigma(g_k))\sigma(g_k)x_\ell.$$

Similarly, we see  $\frac{\partial h_k}{\partial b_k} = (1 - \sigma(g_k))\sigma(g_k)$ , since  $\frac{\partial g_k}{\partial b_k} = 1$ .



# Backpropagation Finale

Let  $g_k = w_{k1}x_1 + w_{k2}x_2 + \cdots + w_{k,784}x_{784} + b_k$ . Then  $h_k = \sigma(g_k)$  hence

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Similarly, we see  $\frac{\partial h_k}{\partial b_k} = (1 - \sigma(g_k))\sigma(g_k)$ , since  $\frac{\partial g_k}{\partial b_k} = 1$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial L}{\partial w_{k\ell}} &= \left( \sum_{i \neq j} o_i w_{ik} + (o_j - 1)w_{jk} \right) (1 - \sigma(g_k))\sigma(g_k)\mathbf{x}_\ell \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial b_k} &= \left( \sum_{i \neq j} o_i w_{ik} + (o_j - 1)w_{jk} \right) (1 - \sigma(g_k))\sigma(g_k).\end{aligned}$$

# Outline

- 1 Decision Making
- 2 Classifying Digits through MNIST
- 3 Improvements
  - Overfitting
  - References

# Overfitting

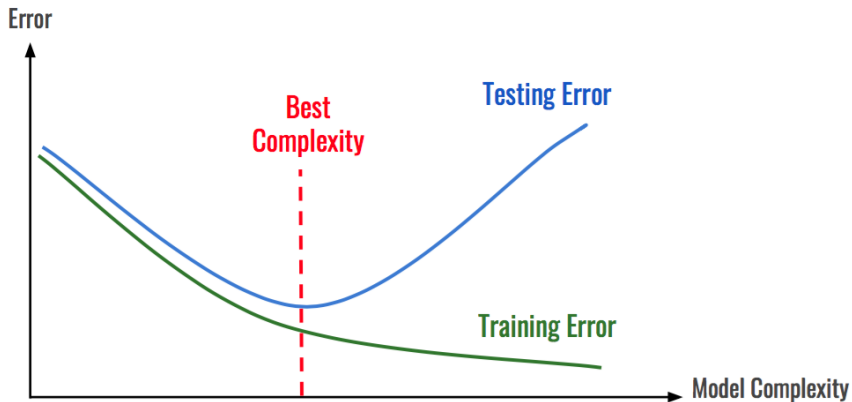


Figure 12: Source: Hacker Noon

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