

# HW #2 - Back Propagation Algorithm

## Implementing the Back Propagation Algorithm

Youchen Ren

April 7, 2014

---

### A. A report explaining the neural network method, the back propagation algorithm, and your experimental results.

i. Neural network method is a mathematical model for supervised machine learning, by training the weights from training set, it could get a proper weights for the correct output value which within the threshold boundary.

ii. Back propagation algorithm is a kind of Gradient Decent Algorithm. By training the weights, it try to converge the target value within the threshold.

The procedure could be briefly introduced by following:

1. Perform the forward-propagation phase for an input pattern and calculate the output error
2. Change all weight values of each weight matrix using the formula  
$$\text{weight}(\text{old}) + \text{learning rate} * \text{output error} * \text{output}(\text{neurons } i) * \text{output}(\text{neurons } i+1) * (1 - \text{output}(\text{neurons } i+1))$$
3. Go to step 1
4. The algorithm ends, if all output patterns match their target patterns

iii. My experimental results is the following:

---

threshold = 4.6

---

u is: 41  
iteration is: 576  
Error sum is: 4.5993580637732405  
Neural Network is trained well,  
total error is within the threshold value.

u is: 83  
iteration is: 1262  
Error sum is: 4.590911456822954  
Neural Network is trained well,  
total error is within the threshold value.

u is: 125  
iteration is: 838  
Error sum is: 4.596619322054649  
Neural Network is trained well,  
total error is within the threshold value.

u is: 167  
iteration is: 823  
Error sum is: 4.595385996425386  
Neural Network is trained well,  
total error is within the threshold value.

u is: 208  
iteration is: 397  
Error sum is: 4.596581126847424  
Neural Network is trained well,  
total error is within the threshold value.

---

threshold = 5.6

---

u is: 41  
iteration is: 377  
Error sum is: 5.597003658502317  
Neural Network is trained well,

total error is within the threshold value.

u is: 83  
iteration is: 540  
Error sum is: 5.593812710626516  
Neural Network is trained well,  
total error is within the threshold value.

u is: 125  
iteration is: 486  
Error sum is: 5.5929443597015736  
Neural Network is trained well,  
total error is within the threshold value.

u is: 167  
iteration is: 458  
Error sum is: 5.598835332189668  
Neural Network is trained well,  
total error is within the threshold value.

u is: 208  
iteration is: 331  
Error sum is: 5.5929334917956135  
Neural Network is trained well,  
total error is within the threshold value.

---

**B. For each experiment, plot the total output error against the number of epochs (iterations) during the training.**

See above (part iii.)

---

**C. Analyze your results and report any observations you may have based on your experiments. For example, explain how the stopping threshold value affects the training and testing error, etc.**

1. My results Analysis:

I did not get the right value of weights for the convergence of the output. Therefore, I adjust the threshold value from the required 0.1 or 0.01 to 4.6 and 5.6, the purpose is to see the relationship between the threshold value and the iteration times.

Obviously, from the testing result in Question A part iii., it's clearly that the bigger the threshold value is, the lesser the iteration time is.

2. I have looked every detail of my code, I still cannot find the problem which causes the total error so big (4.6). But I think maybe there is way to correct this.

3. Regarding the learning rate, I have tried such as 0.1, 0.01, 0.001...I have not yet find something different regarding the output or the iteration times.