Introduction

Seminar Series Neural Networks for Finance

Lecture 1

Aim

From linear to non-linear theory: towards an understanding of supervised learning

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General introduction to machine learning

Machine learning - General

Machine learning is a collection of techniques to "learn" a relationship between an *input space* A and an *output space* B. Often highly automated and with a statistical approach.

Example 1: (binary classification)

We want to classify images of cats and dogs. Assuming equal format of each image A can be a space of $X \times Y$ —matrices representing pixels of images and $B = \{\text{"cat"}, \text{"dog"}\}.$

Example 2: (function approximation)

We want to approximate $\mathbb{R} \ni x \mapsto f(x) \in [0,1]$. Then, clearly $A = \mathbb{R}$ and B = [0,1].

Machine learning - General

Denote by H the true relation we want to learn, for $x \in A$, $H(x) \in B$ is the "truth". The aim for a machine learning algorithm is to achieve an accurate representation $\Phi \approx H$ in some sense. What do we need?

- A measure to define accuracy of our approximation $L(\Phi) = d(H, \Phi)$, referred to as the *loss function* (d refers to a non-specified metric).
- A collection of samples, or features $\mathbf{x}_M = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_M)$ from A, i.e., $x_i \in A$.
- An empirical error measure, denoted $\overline{L}(\Phi|\mathbf{x}_M)$, satisfying $\lim_{M\to\infty}\overline{L}(\Phi|\mathbf{x}_M)=L(\Phi)$. Typically referred to as the empirical loss function
- An optimization algorithm to approximately solve $\inf_{\Phi \in \mathcal{H}} \overline{L}(\Phi)$ in a pre-specified space \mathcal{H} . Typically referred to as *training*.

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Machine learning - General scheme

Schematic scheme (some repetition of previous slide) **Given data:** \mathbf{x}_M of size M (could also have labels in supervised learning, more on this later). Evaluation data $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_M$ of size \bar{M} .

Training:

Find an approximate minimizer of the loss function Φ^* , *i.e.*, $\widehat{\Phi} \approx \mathrm{argmin}_{\Phi \in \mathcal{H}} \overline{\mathcal{L}}(\Phi | \mathbf{x}_M)$. Training or optimization is performed in a different way for each machine learning algorithm.

Evaluation:

This step is to verify that the algorithm is able to generalize, *i.e.*, perform well beyond the training data. This is done by comparing $\overline{L}(\Phi|\mathbf{x}_M)$ and $\overline{L}(\Phi|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_M)$. If $\overline{L}(\Phi|\mathbf{x}_M) << \overline{L}(\Phi|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_M)$, then the problem might be *overfitting*, *i.e.*, the algorithm is fitted well against the training data but performs poorly on unseen data.

Machine learning - Different types of problems

Two main categories:

Supervised learning:

Each input element $x_i \in A$ comes with a corresponding output element $y_i \in B$. Implies that $H(x_i) = y_i$.

Unsupervised learning:

Only input elements are available during training. Need to rely on specific structure of the problem at hand to construct a loss function.

Machine learning - Supervised learning

Supervised learning:

- Training data comes in pairs (x_i, y_i) such that $H(x_i) = y_i$, for i = 1, 2, ..., M, where $y_1, y_2, ..., y_M$ are referred to as *labels*.
- As empirical loss function $L(\Phi|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \mathrm{d}(\Phi(x_m), y_m)$ can be used.

Example: (Binary classification - American options)

At a certain point in time, given the price of the underlying, should the option be held or exercised? Optimal stopping policy.

Machine learning - Supervised learning Example

Input data: x_1, \ldots, x_M representing M states of the underlying asset.

Labels: y_1, \ldots, y_M taking on values in $\{0, 1\}$ where "0" means sub-optimal to exercise option and "1" means it is optimal to exercise option.

The aim is to approximate $H: \mathbb{R}_+ \to \{0,1\}$ with Φ .

Loss function: $L(\Phi|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \mathrm{d}(\Phi(x_m), y_m)$, where $\mathrm{d}(a, b)$ could be |a - b| but usually more sophisticated to have a smoother loss function.

Machine learning - Unsupervised learning

Unsupervised learning:

- Training data consists of only input data x_1, \ldots, x_M and the aim is to approximate H by Φ without being able to observe $H(x_i)$.
- We need to come up with an empirical loss function
- As empirical loss function $L(\Phi|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} F(\Phi(x_m))$, where F is a certain functional such that if $L(\Phi|\mathbf{x})$ is minimized (or maximized), then Φ is a good approximator of H (at least for states around x_1, \ldots, x_M).

Example: (Option valuation - European options)

At a certain point in time, given the price of the underlying, what is the value of a European option? Solving the pricing PDE.

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Machine learning - Unsupervised learning Example

Pricing PDE:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = f\left(t, x, V, \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2}\right) & (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \Omega = (x_{\min}, x_{\max}), \\ V(t, x) = f(t, x), & (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \overline{\Omega}, \\ V(T, x) = g(x), & x \in \Omega = \{x_{\min}, x_{\max}\}. \end{cases}$$

Here f is determined by the dynamics of the underlying asset, g is the pay-off function and the boundary conditions are set up to be "asymptotically reasonable".

For instance, the Black–Scholes model gives f linear in $V, \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2}$ making the PDE linear. Other models may yield a semi-linear or even a fully non-linear PDE.

Machine learning - Unsupervised learning Example

We do not know the PDE solution apriori and therefore, have no access to labels as in supervised learning. Need to create a loss function which uses the structure from the PDE.

$$L(\Phi) = MSE_{inner} + MSE_{TC} + MSE_{BC},$$

where

$$\begin{cases} \mathsf{MSE}_{\mathsf{inner}} = \frac{1}{M_{\mathsf{inner}}} \sum_{m=1}^{M_{\mathsf{inner}}} \left| \frac{\partial \Phi(t_m, x_m)}{\partial t} - f(t_m, x_m, \Phi, \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial x^2}) \right|^2 \\ \mathsf{MSE}_{\mathsf{TC}} = \frac{1}{M_{\mathsf{TC}}} \sum_{m=1}^{M_{\mathsf{IC}}} |g(x_m) - \Phi(T, x_m)|^2, \\ \mathsf{MSE}_{\mathsf{BC}} = \frac{1}{M_{\mathsf{BC}}} \sum_{m=1}^{M_{\mathsf{BC}}} |f(t_m, x_m) - \Phi(t_m, x_m)|^2. \end{cases}$$

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Machine learning – Other categories of tasks

- Anomaly detection
- Synthesis and sampling
- Denoising
- Density estimations
- . . .

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From statistics to machine learning: classical statistical inference

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From statistics to machine learning: classical statistical inference

"Machine learning is essentially a form of applied statistics with increased emphasis on the use of computers to statistically estimate complicated functions and a decreased emphasis on proving confidence intervals around these functions[...]"

Goodfellow et al.: Deep Learning (2016), MIT Press

Statistical Estimates

- Statistics is about extracting as much information as possible from measurement data, e.g. fitting functions, estimating finite/infinite parameters, distributions, assessing confidence intervals around estimates
- In the most general, measure theoretic statement: a statistical model is a family of probability measures $\{\mathbb{P}_{\theta}, \theta \in \Omega\}$ on a measurable space $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{B})$ acting on the distribution of data X
 - ullet Ω finite dimensional: parametric models
 - ullet Ω infinite dimensional: non-parametric models
- In this course we will focus on parametric models

Statistical Point Estimates

- Two main schools of statistical inference:
 - ① Classical/Frequentist: the true value of a parameter θ is fixed but not known; the *point estimate* $\widehat{\theta}$ is a random variable as a function of the randomly generated data
 - ② Bayesian: data is directly observed thus cannot be random; the true value of the parameter θ is unknown therefore uncertain and thus can modeled as a random variable
- \bullet Frequentist: summarizes data into a single value of the parameter set $\widehat{\theta}$ and then makes predictions
- Bayesian: encompasses prior knowledge into a **prior** probability distribution $p(\theta)$ which is then used to make predictions through the Bayes theorem $p(\theta|x) = \frac{p(x|\theta)p(\theta)}{p(x)}$
- Through most of the course we will take the frequentists' perspective, however when studying General Adversarial Networks (GANs) we will rely on the Bayesian approach

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Estimators, bias, variance

• Given data $\{x_1, \ldots, x_m\}$, a point estimator is a function which maps the data to an element of the parameter space $\widehat{\theta}_m := g(x_1, \ldots, x_m)$

- Example: $x_i \in \mathbb{R}$, the statistical model consists of fitting a line on the data points
- Bias: $\operatorname{bias}(\widehat{\theta}) := \mathbb{E}\left[\widehat{\theta}\right] \theta$, where the expectation is taken over the data-generating distribution, $\operatorname{bias}(\widehat{\theta}_m) = 0 \implies$ unbiased estimator
- Variance: $Var\left[\widehat{\theta}_{m}\right]$
- The mean-squared error (MSE) defines a trade-off between the minimization of the two

$$\mathsf{MSE}(\widehat{\theta}_m) = \mathbb{E}\left[(\widehat{\theta}_m - \theta)^2\right] = \mathsf{bias}^2(\widehat{\theta}_m) + \mathsf{Var}\left[\widehat{\theta}_m\right]$$

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Notions of generalization

$$\mathsf{MSE}(\widehat{\theta}_{\mathit{m}}) = \mathbb{E}\left[(\widehat{\theta}_{\mathit{m}} - \theta)^2\right] = \mathsf{bias}^2(\widehat{\theta}_{\mathit{m}}) + \mathsf{Var}\left[\widehat{\theta}_{\mathit{m}}\right]$$

- Notions of generalization: capacity, underfitting, overfitting
 - underfitting: small capacity leads to low variance, large bias
 - ② overfitting: increased capacity, decreases bias but increases variance

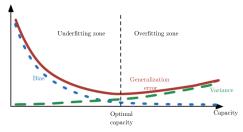


Figure: Goodfellow et al.: Deep Learning (2016), MIT Press [Figure 5.6, pg. 128]

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Maximum Likelihood Principle

• Maximum Likelihood Estimator (MLE) principle: given a data generating distribution $\mathbb{P}_{\text{data}}(x)$ and a statistical model $\mathbb{P}_{\text{model}}(x|\theta)$

$$\widehat{\theta}_{\mathsf{ML}} := \arg\max_{\theta} \mathbb{P}_{\mathsf{model}}(X|\theta) \tag{1}$$

• Under the assumption of **independent, identically** distributed (iid) data samples $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_M\}$, this can be written $\widehat{\theta}_{\mathsf{ML}} := \arg\max_{\theta} \prod_{m=1}^{M} \mathbb{P}_{\mathsf{model}}(x_m | \theta)$

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From linear to non-linear theory: regression

Ordinary Least-Squares Regression

- We are given a data set $\{x_{m1}, \dots, x_{md}; y_m\}_{m=1}^M$ of M measurements drawn from the same distribution
- The elements of the vector $\mathbf{x}_m \coloneqq (x_{m1}, \dots, x_{md}) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ are called the *explanatory/independent* variables; $y_m \in \mathbb{R}$ is the response/dependent variable
- We assume a *linear* relation with noise between the fixed measurements of independent variables and the response variable

$$y = \mathbf{x}^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{\beta} + \epsilon \tag{2}$$

with some **parameter** vector $oldsymbol{eta} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

• the noise term ϵ incorporates the residual influence on y not captured by the regressors (measurement errors in y, missing regressors, etc.)

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Ordinary Least-Squares Regression

Goal

The goal of Ordinary Least-Squares (OLS) regression is to find a(/the?) set of regression coefficients $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_d)$ such that the Euclidean norm of the noise term is minimized

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} := \underset{\boldsymbol{\beta}}{\operatorname{arg \, min}} \|\boldsymbol{\epsilon}\|_{2}^{2} = \underset{\boldsymbol{\beta}}{\operatorname{arg \, min}} \|\boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_{2}^{2} = \sum_{m=1}^{M} \left| y_{m} - \boldsymbol{x}_{m}^{T}\boldsymbol{\beta} \right|^{2}, \quad (3)$$

where
$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & \dots & x_{1d} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ x_{m1} & \dots & x_{md} \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_m), \boldsymbol{\epsilon} = (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_m)$$

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Ordinary Least-Squares Regression

• Denote mean-squared *loss*, subject to the measurements $\mathbf{D} := (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y})$ by $L(\beta | \mathbf{D}) = \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\beta\|_2^2$ which is equal to

$$L(\boldsymbol{\beta}|\mathbf{D}) = \mathbf{y}\mathbf{y}^T - \mathbf{y}^T\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}^T\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{y} + \boldsymbol{\beta}^T\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}$$

• Due to the **convexity** of $\beta \mapsto L(\beta|\mathbf{D})$ the unique global minimum is found where the gradient vanishes

$$\mathbf{0} = \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\beta}} L(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} | \mathbf{D}) = -2\mathbf{y}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{X} + 2\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{X}$$

Unique Solution

The unique minimizer of (3) is given by

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y},\tag{4}$$

and the corresponding approximations

$$\widehat{\mathbf{y}} := \mathbf{X}\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$$
 (5)

Key Remarks

- Under standard assumptions (linearity, independence of ϵ_m 's, homoscedasticity the variance of ϵ_m does not depend on the values \mathbf{x}_m , lack of perfect multicollinearity \mathbf{X} has full column rank d) the OLS problem admits to a unique, closed-form solution
- The intercept (constant) can be incorporated into the model as a zero'th dimension
- ullet The distribution of ${\bf X}$ has a great impact on the accuracy of $\widehat{m{\beta}}$ assumes high-quality sampling methods
- The OLS estimate coincides with the Maximum Likelihood Estimate (MLE)

Non-linear regression

- Same setting
 - data coming from a fixed data generating distribution: $\{x_{m1}, \dots, x_{md}; y_m\}_{m=1}^M$ of M measurements drawn from the same distribution
 - explanatory and response variables $\mathbf{x}_m \coloneqq (x_{m1}, \dots, x_{md}) \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $y_m \in \mathbb{R}$
- However, the assumptions of linearity established by (2) no longer holds
- Instead, we consider the following non-linear extension of the model

$$y = H(\mathbf{x}) + \epsilon \tag{6}$$

where $H: \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ is a deterministic mapping

Non-linear regression

Question?

What could be an appropriate family of statistical models $\{\phi(x|\theta): \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}: \theta \in \mathbb{R}^p\}$ which spans a "large enough" space for all potential Hs?

- In what follows we will study classes of statistical models which are suitable for specific tasks
- For now, let us briefly assume we have a family of "black box" statistical models of the form $\{\phi(x|\theta): p \in \mathbb{N}, \theta \in \mathbb{R}^p\}$ which possess this quality
- Within such a family of statistical models, the question still remains: how do we choose the "right" number of p parameters?

Generalization Properties

- Here *p* is called a **hyperparameter** of the model which needs to be chosen carefully
- The ultimate goal of the regression problem is not to fit the training data $\{x_{m1}, \ldots, x_{md}; y_m\}_{m=1}^{M}$ with arbitrary accuracy but rather to **approximate the relation** (6)
- In fact, we seek to find a set of parameters $\{\widehat{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^p : p \in \mathbb{N}\}$ such that $\phi(x|\widehat{\theta}) \approx H(x)$ for any x drawn from the data generating distribution regardless whether it is in the training data or not
- trade-off: representational capacity naturally grows with p, however generalization capibility decreases – recall Figure 1

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Hyperparameter Selection: Under- and Overfitting

In some applications one has direct access to the data generating distribution (e.g.: Monte Carlo option pricing), in most cases however we are only provided with a finite sample

$$\mathbf{D} = \{(\mathbf{x}_m, y_m)\}_{m=1}^{M}$$

Question

Question: in case of the latter, how does one ensure *unbiased* estimates, with good generalization properties?

- Idea: split the data set D into a partition, a subset for training $D_{train} \subset D$ and one for testing $D_{test} \subset D$, such that $D_{train} \cap D_{test} = \emptyset$ and $D_{train} \cup D_{test} = D$.
- We choose multiple p:s and optimize their corresponding statistical models with a black box optimization method (soon explained) according to an appropriately selected loss function (e.g. MSE)

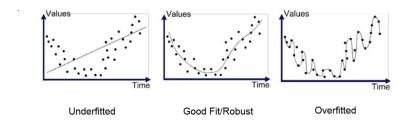
Hyperparameter Selection: Under- and Overfitting

- Out of the optimal parameter sets, the one with lowest loss generalizes best. However, the error measure remains inaccurate to future predictions due to overfitting on the test set.
- Partitioning into three subsets: training data $D_{train} \subset D$, validation data $D_{val} \subset D$ and test data $D_{test} \subset D$, such that $D_{train} \cup D_{val} \cup D_{test} = D$ and $D_{train} \cap D_{val} \cap D_{test} = \emptyset$ resolves this problem
- First, multiple parameter sets are trained on the training set.
- Second, the best performing set of parameters is chosen from the validation set.
- At last, the error measure is calculated on the test set.
- This method gives an unbiased estimate of the error measure on future data.

Similarly to cross validation

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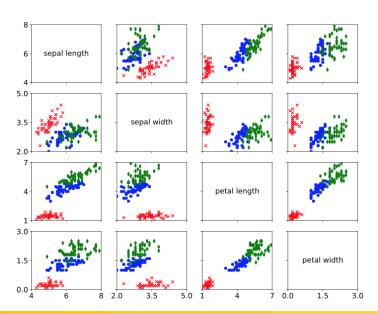
Summary: Under- and Overfitting



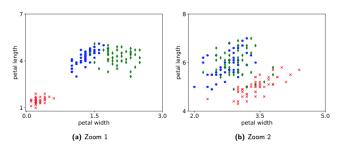
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From linear to non-linear theory: classification

- The Iris data set is a multivariate set with 50 entries for each species. There are three species, consisting of four features: sepal length, sepal width, petal length and petal width.
- The four features can be displayed in a scatter plot
- Determining categories by using their features is called classification
- Setosa is blue, Versicolor is red, and Virginica is green colored



• See, left figure below, the Setosa species can be distinguished from the others, by using the petal length.



- In mathematical terms, it can be stated that the Setosa is linearly separable.
- Two sets $X_1 \subset X$ and $X_2 \subset X$ are called **linearly separable** if their convex hulls are disjoint.

• Consider the set X_1 , the petal lengths of the Versicolor and the Virginica species and the set X_2 , the petal lengths of the Setosa species. In this case

$$convhull(X_1) = \{x | x \in [min(X_1), max(X_1)]\} = [3.0, 6.9]$$

and

$$convhull(X_2) = \{x | x \in [min(X_2), max(X_2)]\} = [1.0, 1.9]$$

• Clearly, $convhull(X_1) \cap convhull(X_2) = \emptyset$, therefore X_1 and X_2 are linearly separable, and thus it is possible to classify the Setosa species in the Iris data set

Motivating Example: Iris data set

- From the scatter plot at the right side of the last figure, the species are not easily distinguishable
- By creating convex hulls of the individual features, the two species are not linearly separable for the individual features
- It is impossible to classify the species using linear classifiers deterministically. We could create (hyper-)planes such that a minimal number of data entries is incorrectly separated
- This gives a statistically optimal result for the data set on which the classifier is trained
- Support Vector Machines (SVM) designed to find such optimal hyperplanes

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Standard models of classification

Standard Models of Classification

- We are given a **binary** response variable $Y \in \{0,1\}$; and a vector of real-valued regressors \mathbf{x} which are assumed to influence Y multinomial extensions are straightforward
- We obtained a data set of measurements $\{\mathbf{x} = (x_{m1}, \dots, x_{md}), y_m\}_{m=1}^{M}$
- Formally we describe the outcome of each measurement with a Bernoulli distribution with *unobserved* probability p_m

$$Y_m|x_{m1}, \dots x_{md} \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p_m)$$

• Define the linear latent variable model with an auxiliary random variable \widetilde{Y} such that

$$\widetilde{Y} = \mathbf{x}^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{\beta} + \epsilon, \tag{7}$$

where ϵ follows a given symmetric, centered distribution

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Standard Models of Classification

• Thereby Y can be interpreted as the indicator function

$$Y = \begin{cases} 1, & \widetilde{Y} > 0 \\ 0, & \widetilde{Y} \le 0 \end{cases}$$

 By the symmetricity of the distribution of the noise term we have

$$\mathbb{P}\left[Y = 1 | \mathbf{x}\right] = \mathbb{P}\left[\widetilde{Y} > 0 | \mathbf{x}\right] = \mathbb{P}\left[\epsilon > -\mathbf{x}^T \boldsymbol{\beta}\right] = \mathsf{CDF}(\mathbf{x}^T \boldsymbol{\beta})$$

- The corresponding estimates are then defined by setting the distribution of the noise term, two classical choices
 - **1 Probit regression**: $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$ which implies

$$\mathbb{P}\left[Y=1|\mathbf{x}\right] = \Phi(\mathbf{x}^T\boldsymbol{\beta})$$

2 Logistic regression: ϵ follows a standard logistic distribution whose CDF is given by $\frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$

$$\mathbb{P}\left[Y=1|\mathbf{x}\right] = \frac{1}{1+e^{-\mathbf{x}^T\boldsymbol{\beta}}}$$

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Logistic Regression

- Logistic regression is more common in machine learning practices due to the convenience of a closed form CDF
- So far we have a prediction for the probability of the m'th measurement taking the value 1

$$\mathbb{P}\left[Y_m = 1|\mathbf{x}_m, \boldsymbol{\beta}\right] = p(\mathbf{x}_m|\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{x}_m^T \boldsymbol{\beta}}}$$

- Notice that the prediction of each class is no longer a linear mapping of X; only in case of the latent variable
- In fact, the model is not linear in the predicted probabilities but rather in the so called log-odds'es

$$odds(\mathbf{x}) := \frac{p(\mathbf{x}|\beta)}{1 - p(\mathbf{x}|\beta)} = e^{-\mathbf{x}^T \beta}$$

 This establishes the direct relation between standard linear and logistic regressions

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Logistic Regression

 Due to the Bernoulli condition, under the assumption of independent samples the corresponding likelihood function is of the form

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\beta}|\mathbf{X},\mathbf{y}) = \prod_{m=1}^{M} \mathbb{P}\left[y_{m}|\mathbf{x}_{m},\boldsymbol{\beta}\right] = \prod_{m=1}^{M} p(\mathbf{x}_{m}|\boldsymbol{\beta})^{y_{m}} (1-p(\mathbf{x}_{m}|\boldsymbol{\beta}))^{1-y_{m}}$$

- Unlike in OLS regression the model does not have a closed-form (maximum likelihood) solution
- To formulate an equivalent loss minimization problem we define $L(\beta|\mathbf{X},\mathbf{y}) := -\log \mathcal{L}(\beta|\mathbf{X},\mathbf{y})$ leading to the cross-entropy loss

$$L(\beta|\mathbf{X},\mathbf{y}) = -\sum_{m=1}^{M} y_m \log(p(\mathbf{x}_m|\beta)) + (1 - y_m)(1 - p(\mathbf{x}_m|\beta))$$

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Logistic Regression

$$L(\boldsymbol{\beta}|\mathbf{X},\mathbf{y}) = -\sum_{m=1}^{M} y_m \log(p(\mathbf{x}_m|\boldsymbol{\beta})) + (1 - y_m)(1 - p(\mathbf{x}_m|\boldsymbol{\beta}))$$
(9)

- There is **no closed-form** solution for the minimizer
- Iterative root searching methods can be applied to gather an estimate for the minimizer

$$\widehat{oldsymbol{eta}}\coloneqq \mathop{\mathsf{arg\,min}}_{oldsymbol{eta}} L(oldsymbol{eta}|\mathbf{X},\mathbf{y})$$

- For instance: Newton's method, (stochastic) gradient descent coming soon...
- The gradient of the cross-entropy loss is equal to that of MSE

$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\beta}} L(\boldsymbol{\beta}|\mathbf{X},\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{X}(\widehat{y} - y)$$

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Other classification approaches

- clustering
- k-nearest neighbours
- isolation forests
- decision trees
- support vector machines (SVM)
- naive Bayes classifier
- . . .

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Non-linear theory: Artifical Neural Networks and Deep Neural Networks

From linear to non-linear mappings

- Linear models have the obvious defect of model capacity only spanning the space of linear mappings
- We wish to extend and represent non-linear functions of some vector input $\mathbf{x} \mapsto H(\mathbf{x})$
- Idea: apply a linear model to not $\mathbf x$ itself but rather to a non-linear, vector-valued transformation of it $\phi(\mathbf x|\theta):\mathbb R^d\to\mathbb R^p$
- The resulting approximations of $H(\mathbf{x})$ read as

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}|\Theta \coloneqq (\theta, \mathbf{w})) = \varphi^{T}(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\mathbf{w},$$

with $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^p$

Question

How do we choose the family of $\Phi(\mathbf{x}|\Theta)$?

The Single Layer Perceptron Model

 Single Layer Perceptron (SLP) is the simplest neural network model originally designed to solve the binary classification problem

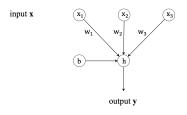


Figure: Illustration of an SLP

- Inputs (written as x) are passed through a weighted, directed graph.
- A function h corresponds to the non-linear mapping $\phi(\mathbf{x}|\theta)$ from above

The Single Layer Perceptron Model

- SLP has d+1 parameters: a d-dimensional vector of weights $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ connecting the node of h to each input feature; and a bias denoted by $b \in \mathbb{R}$
- The non-linearity $h: \mathbb{R} \to \{-1,1\}$ is defined by the following heaviside function with threshold b

$$h(z) = \begin{cases} 1, & z > b, \\ -1, & z \le b, \end{cases} \tag{10}$$

which can be interpreted as true or false

- The input of the non-linearity is a scalar defined by the inner product of the input vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and the weights: $\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}$
- Thus the mapping of SLP is given by the following *sequence* of compositions

$$\mathsf{SLP}(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta} := (\mathbf{w}, b)) = \begin{cases} 1, & \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} > b, \\ -1, & \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} \leq b. \end{cases}$$
(11)

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Training: Optimization Analytically

Question

How to find an **optimal** set of parameters properly assigning a binary classification label?

- For linearly separable data, an algorithm optimizes/trains the parameter vector $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (b, \mathbf{w})$ such that the output of the perceptron corresponds to the correct class for all data entries in X.
- The algorithm starts by initializing a random parameter vector and a convergence test variable. It then picks a random sample from the data set and tests whether the sign of the weight vector assigns the correct label to the random sample.
- If an incorrect label is assigned, it updates the weight such that the argument of the sign function moves to the correct label.

Training: Optimization Analytically

• For notational convenience we attach the bias node to the input as a 0'th (constant) dimension $\mathbf{x}'=(1,\mathbf{x})\in\mathbb{R}^{d+1}$, and assign it $w_0=-b$ weight. These thresholds are equivalent

$$\theta^T \mathbf{x}' \ge 0 \iff \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} \ge b$$

 Consider the case of a positive label in y and a negative prediction label, the weight is updated by adding the data x'.
 To see why this works, consider:

$$sign\left(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T}\mathbf{x}'\right) = -1. \tag{12}$$

Add \mathbf{x}' to $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ and use the linearity of the inner product:

$$sign\left((\theta + \mathbf{x}')^{T}\mathbf{x}'\right) = sign\left(\theta^{T}\mathbf{x}' + \mathbf{x}'^{T}\mathbf{x}'\right)$$
(13)

- By definition, for the inner product we have $\mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{x}' \geq 0$. Since $\mathbf{x}' \neq 0$ from (12), $\mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{x} > 0$.
- Therefore the weight update improves the prediction

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Perceptron Learning Algorithm for linearly separable data

- Let X be an $M \times (d+1)$ matrix with M measurements, d features and a column for the bias (all values equal 1), such that two classes in the set are linearly separable; let length M vector $\mathbf{y} \in \{-1,1\}^M$ indicate the class of a data entry of X.
- ullet Choose a random $oldsymbol{w} \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$. Set $\mathit{conv} = 1$
- while conv do Choose a random $r \in U(0, M)$ Set $\mathbf{x}' = X(r, \cdot)$ Set $y = \mathbf{y}(r)$ Compute $\hat{y} = sign(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}')$
- if y = 1 and $\hat{y} = -1$ then Update $\theta := \theta + \mathbf{x}'$, endif
- if y = -1 and $\hat{y} = 1$ then Update $\theta := \theta - \mathbf{x}'$, endif
- Convergence test: conv := 0 if $sign(X^T \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{y}$
- end while

Summary

- After each random sample, a convergence test is done by comparing all the signs of the samples in the data set with their corresponding labels.
- If not all data entries are classified correctly, the algorithm starts over by picking a new random sample, otherwise the algorithm has successfully found a set of weights which classifies the data, and terminates.
- To speed up the training time, one might consider using different algorithms (training of perceptrons can be translated to solving an interior point problem).

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Logistic regression as an SLP

- In the previous SLP example we specified a step function to model non-linear behavior
- If one replaces $h: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ with the CDF of the standard logistic distribution

$$CDF(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}'}},$$

the resulting SLP scheme is equivalent to the logistic regression model

 The resulting equivalent SLP model can then be optimized in an identical fashion as in case of logistic regression: minimizing the cross-entropy loss with an iterative root searching algorithm

Multinomial Logistic regression

- One can easily extend the binary logistic regression to multinomial models of K outcomes $\{0, \ldots, K-1\}$
- ullet This is done by running K-1 many binary classifications with a fixed outcome as pivot

$$\frac{\mathbb{P}\left[Y_m = 0\right]}{\mathbb{P}\left[Y_m = K - 1\right]} = e^{-\beta_1^T \mathbf{x}_m}, \quad \dots \quad , \frac{\mathbb{P}\left[Y_m = K - 2\right]}{\mathbb{P}\left[Y_m = K - 1\right]} = e^{-\beta_{K-1}^T \mathbf{x}_m},$$
 where $\beta_k \in \mathbb{R}^d$

• The probabilities assigned to each class must sum up to 1:

$$\mathbb{P}\left[Y_m = K - 1\right] = 1 - \sum_{k=0}^{K-2} \mathbb{P}\left[Y_m = k\right]$$
$$\Longrightarrow \mathbb{P}\left[Y_m = K - 1\right] = \frac{1}{1 + \sum_{k=0}^{K-2} e^{-\beta_k^T \mathbf{x}_m}},$$

where $\boldsymbol{\beta}_k \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ is the coefficients corresponding to the k'th class

Multinomial Logistic regression

• The resulting multinomial logistic regression scheme assigns the following probabilities to class $k \le K - 2$

$$\mathbb{P}\left[Y_{m} = k | \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{x_{m}}\right] = \frac{e^{-\beta_{k}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{m}}}{1 + \sum_{k=0}^{K-2} e^{-\beta_{k}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{m}}}$$
(14)

- The set of parameters $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{K-1 \times d+1}$ becomes a matrix of weights defining the mapping to each outcome class
- For the Iris classification problem, the vector consists of three elements, where vector (1,0,0) is assigned to Setosa, (0,1,0) is assigned to the class Versicolor and (0,0,1) to Virginica

Example: XOR problem

- Example that shows why an SLP may be insufficient for simple classification and gives rise more refined non-linear models
- Consider the XOR-problem (exclusive OR relation)
- In this problem the data is not linearly separable. We have input $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and a class $y \in \{-1,1\}$ as shown below.

 Impossible to classify this using a Single Layer Perceptron

Building blocks of neural networks

Building blocks of neural networks

Composition of simple functions

- SLP is only capable of computing binary functions
- It nevertheless acts as a motivating structure for non-linear parametrizations
- Linear combinations of the input are passed to a non-linear function

Idea

Generalize this structure: build non-linear parametrizations as **hierarchical compositions** of non-linear and linear transformations \rightarrow neural networks

Building blocks of composition: affine transformations

- Recall: in OLS $\hat{y} = \beta^T \mathbf{x}$ where $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ is the parameter vector
- In the context of neural networks, affine mappings of the form

$$\mathbb{R}^d \ni \mathbf{x} \mapsto \mathbf{W}^{(1)}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}^{(1)} =: \mathbf{z}^{(1)} \in \mathbb{R}^p$$
 (15)

are called the **linear layers**, which map their input x to an affine combination with **weights** $\mathbf{W}^{(1)} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times d}$ and **biases** $\mathbf{b}^{(1)} \in \mathbb{R}^p$

- The total number of parameters is $\boldsymbol{ heta}^{(1)} = (\mathbf{W}^{(1)}, \mathbf{b}^{(1)}) \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times (d+1)}$
- The length of $z^{(1)}$ is called the **width** of the layer
- The components of $\mathbf{z}^{(1)}$ are called **neurons**
- The number of neurons in a hidden layer is a *hyperparameter*, the wider it is set, the more parameters there are

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Building blocks of composition: hidden layers

- The machine learning community often confuses the terms linear and affine. This is due to the fact that the constant bias (similar as in OLS or SLP) can be viewed as an additional constant dimension with weight vector **b**.
- So far this is identical to the model of (vector-valued) OLS with *cast*: $\hat{y} \leftarrow \mathbf{z}^{(1)}$ and $\boldsymbol{\beta} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(1)}$
- Recall idea: apply a (non-)linear vector-valued mapping to the affine combinations of the input $\mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{z}^{(1)}|\theta^{(1)})$

$$\mathbb{R}^{p_1} \ni \mathbf{z}^{(1)} \mapsto \left(\varphi_1^{(1)}(z_1^{(1)}), \dots, \varphi_p^{(1)}(z_p^{(1)}) \right) =: \mathbf{a}^{(1)} \in \mathbb{R}^{p_1},$$

where $\varphi_i^{(1)}: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ are non-linear **activations**

 The composition of these transformations is called a hidden layer of a neural network

$$\mathbf{x} \mapsto \varphi_i^{(1)} \left(\sum_{j=1}^d W_{ij}^{(1)} x_j + b_i^{(1)} \right) =: a_i^{(1)}, \forall i = 1, \dots, p_1 \quad (16)$$

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Building blocks of composition: output layer

- In above, p is a *hyperparameter* which, similarly to OLS, can be interpreted as the number of *basis functions* $\{x_1, \ldots, x_d\}$ in a regression
- In order to approximate vector valued functions $H: \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^q$, one needs to transform the mapping of the hidden layer to the appropriate dimension of the *output*
- As before, we do this by an affine combination of the output with another set of weights and biases

$$\mathbb{R}^{p_1} \ni \mathbf{a}^{(1)} \mapsto \mathbf{W}^{(2)} \mathbf{a}^{(1)} + \mathbf{b}^{(2)} =: \mathbf{z}^{(2)} \in \mathbb{R}^q$$
 (17)

with
$$\mathbf{W}^{(2)} \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times p_1}, \mathbf{b}^{(2)} \in \mathbb{R}^q,$$

 $\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(2)} \coloneqq (\mathbf{W}^{(2)}, \mathbf{b}^{(2)}) \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times (p_1+1)}$

Finally, in order to support the most general (bounded, binary,
 ...) output, the **output layer** is a composition

$$\mathbb{R}^{p_1}
ightarrow \mathbf{a}^{(1)} \mapsto \left(arphi_1^{(2)}(z_1^{(2)}), \dots, arphi_q^{(2)}(z_q^{(2)})
ight) =: \mathbf{a}^{(2)} \in \mathbb{R}^q$$

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(Fully-Connected) Feedforward Artificial Neural Networks

• A fully-connected, feedforward artificial neural network is simply a hiearchical composition of the transformations above, mapping an input $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ to the output $\mathbf{\Phi} \in \mathbb{R}^q$ whose i'th coordinate reads as follows

$$\Phi_{i}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{\Theta}) := \varphi_{i}^{(2)} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{p_{1}} W_{ij}^{(2)} \varphi_{j}^{(1)} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{d} W_{jk}^{(1)} x_{k} + b_{j}^{(1)} \right) + b_{i}^{(2)} \right) \\
\text{where } \mathbf{\Theta} := (\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(2)}) := (\mathbf{W}^{(1)}, \mathbf{b}^{(1)}, \mathbf{W}^{(2)}, \mathbf{b}^{(2)}) \in \\
\mathbb{R}^{p_{1} \times (d+1) + q \times (p_{1}+1)} \tag{18}$$

• The total number of parameters in the statistical model is

$$p = p_1 \times (d+1) + q \times (p_1 + 1) \tag{19}$$

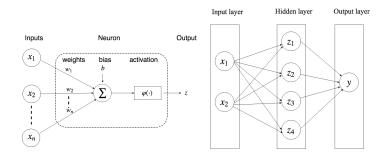
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(Fully-Connected) Feedforward Artificial Neural Networks

• Denoting the *element-wise* non-linearities by $\varphi^{(n)}(\mathbf{z}^{(n)}) \coloneqq (\varphi_1^{(n)}(z_1^{(n)}), \dots, \varphi_{p_n}^{(n)}(z_{p_n}^{(n)})) \in \mathbb{R}^{p_n}$, in vector notation this can be written as follows

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{\Theta}) := \varphi^{(2)} \circ \mathbf{z}^{(2)}(\cdot|\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(2)}) \circ \varphi^{(1)} \circ \mathbf{z}^{(1)}(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(1)})$$
(20)

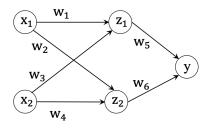
• FCFF ANNs can be thought of as directed, acyclic graphs



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Example: XOR revisited

 Unlike with SLP, adding a hidden layer, and parametrizing with ANNs solves the problem



• x_1 and x_2 are first mapped to intermediate binary values $z_1 = h_1(w_1x_1 + w_3x_2)$ and $z_2 = h_2(w_2x_1 + w_4x_2)$, where $h_{1,2}(\cdot)$ is a perceptron with b = 0.

Example: XOR revisited

• Using $w_1 = -1$, $w_2 = 1$, $w_3 = 1$, $w_4 = -1$, the outputs are shown in columns z_1 and z_2 .

• It remains to compute $h(w_5z_1 + w_6z_2)$, by setting threshold b=1 and $w_5=1$, $w_6=1$ the desired output is obtained in y and the XOR-problem is solved.

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Activations: the key feature of non-linearity

Activation Functions

- The key component of *non-linearity* is given by the **activation** functions $\varphi_i^{(n)}: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}, j=1,\ldots,p_n$
- For SLP we had $\varphi_1^{(1)}(x) = \operatorname{sgn}(x)$
- Most often, application functions within the same layer are chosen the same $\varphi_1^{(n)}(x) = \cdots = \varphi_{p_n}^{(n)}(x)$
- In regression applications the output activations are usually chosen to be the identity function $\varphi^{(2)}(\mathbf{z}^{(2)}) = \mathbf{z}^{(2)}$
- The parametrization inherits continuity and differentiability properties from the chosen activations
- The non-linear activation functions are hyperparameters of the statistical model, appropriate choices vary depending on the problem

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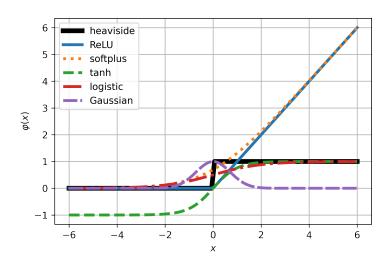
Activation Functions

name	$\varphi(x)$	$\varphi'(x)$	range	continuity
heaviside	$\begin{cases} 0, & x \le 0 \\ 1, & x > 0 \end{cases}$	$\int 0, \qquad x \neq 0$	{0,1}	C-1
	$\int 1, x > 0$	$\begin{cases} undefined, & x = 0 \end{cases}$	(0, 1)	C
ReLU	(0 4/0	$\int 0, \qquad x < 0$		
	$\begin{cases} 0, & x \le 0 \\ x, & x > 0 \end{cases}$	$\begin{cases} x, & x > 0 \end{cases}$	$[0,\infty)$	C^0
		undefined, $x = 0$		
Gaussian	e^{-x^2}	$-2xe^{-x^2}$	(0, 1]	C^{∞}
tanh	$\frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$	$1 - \tanh^2(x)$	(-1, 1)	C^{∞}
logistic	$\frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$	$\frac{\frac{e^{-x}}{1+e^{-x}}}{1}$	(0, 1)	C^{∞}
softplus	$\log(1+e^x)$	$\frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$	$(0,\infty)$	C^{∞}

See wiki

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Activation Functions



Layer dependent activations

- For classification problems it is chosen such that $\sum_{k=1}^{q} \varphi_k^{(2)}(z_k^{(2)}) = 1$
- In order to ensure that output *probabilities* indeed sum to one, activations are chosen such that they are not a collection of scalar-valued mappings of neurons but vector-valued functions depending on the whole layer $\varphi^{(n)}: \mathbb{R}^{p_n} \to \mathbb{R}^{p_n}$

name	$arphi_i(\mathbf{x})$	$\partial_{\pmb{j}} arphi_{\pmb{i}}(\mathbf{x})$	range	cont.
softmax	$\frac{e^{x_i}}{\sum_{i=1}^{p_n} e^{x_j}}$	$\varphi_i(\mathbf{x})(\delta_{ij}-\varphi_j(\mathbf{x}))$	(0,1)	C^{∞}
maxout	$\max_{i=1,\dots,p_n} x_i$	$\begin{cases} 1, & j = \arg\max_i x_i \\ 0, & j \neq \arg\max_i x_i \end{cases}$	$(-\infty,\infty)$	C ⁰

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Deep Neural Networks

Fully-Connected Feedforward Deep Neural Networks

- So far: neural network = input + hidden + output layer
- These are called **shallow** feedforward ANNs

$$\Phi(\mathsf{x}|\boldsymbol{\Theta}) \coloneqq \boldsymbol{\varphi}^{(2)} \circ \mathsf{z}^{(2)}(\cdot|\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(2)}) \circ \boldsymbol{\varphi}^{(1)} \circ \mathsf{z}^{(1)}(\mathsf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(1)})$$

- One can extend the model to allow for L-many hidden layers in the composition, with corresponding widths $p_l, l = 1 \dots, L$
- The resulting, deep neural network mapping reads as follows

$$\Psi(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{\Theta}) := \varphi^{(L+1)} \circ \mathbf{z}^{(L+1)} (\cdot|\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(L+1)}) \circ \cdots \circ \varphi^{(1)} \circ \mathbf{z}^{(1)} (\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(1)}), \tag{21}$$

where $oldsymbol{\Theta} \coloneqq (oldsymbol{ heta}^{(1)}, \dots, oldsymbol{ heta}^{(L+1)}) \in \mathbb{R}^p$

 The total number of parameters in the statistical model rapidly increases

$$p = d \times (p_1 + 1) + \sum_{l=1}^{L-1} p_l \times (p_{l+1} + 1) + p_L \times (q+1)$$
 (22)

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Fully-Connected Feedforward Deep Neural Networks

$$\Psi(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{\Theta}) := \boldsymbol{\varphi}^{(L+1)} \circ \mathbf{z}^{(L+1)}(\cdot|\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(L+1)}) \circ \cdots \circ \boldsymbol{\varphi}^{(1)} \circ \mathbf{z}^{(1)}(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(1)}),$$

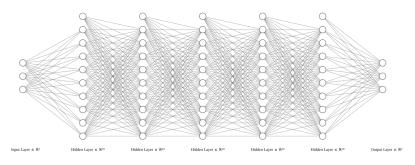


Figure: Illustration DNN, source: NN-SVG

$$p = d imes (p_1 + 1) + \sum_{l=1}^{L-1} p_l imes (p_{l+1} + 1) + p_L imes (q+1)$$

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Teaser: capacity and optimization

What we've seen so far

- We gathered **one potential** parametrization for non-linear problems via (deep) neural networks: $\Phi(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{\Theta}): \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^q$
- Similarly to MSE in OLS, one can define a *performance* measure $L(\Theta|\mathbf{x})$ which quantifies the "goodness" of a certain parameter set, under measurements \mathbf{x}
- Such losses can be of various forms
 - $L(\Theta|\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{\Phi}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{\Theta}), H(\mathbf{x}))]$ (supervised learning)
 - $L(\Theta|\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}\left[d(F(\mathbf{\Phi}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{\Theta})), 0)\right]$ (unsupervised learning)

where d is a desired $distance\ function$ — such as the ones induce by L^p norms $1 \le p < \infty$

$$d(f,g) = \|f - g\|_{p} := \sqrt[p]{\int_{\mathbf{X}} |f(\mathbf{x}) - g(\mathbf{x})|^{p} d\mu(\mathbf{x})}$$

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Questions remaining

- DNNs provide a certain family of statistical models how do we know what problems are they also appropriate for?
- In order to find a "good" statistical model we want to minimize the loss function

$$\arg\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} L(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{x}),$$

• Unlike in case of OLS, the MSE of supervised, neural network regression is no longer *convex* in $\Theta \mapsto L(\Theta|\mathbf{x}) \to \mathsf{no}$ closed-form minimizer

Next week

- **1** Universal Approximation Theorem (UAT): ANNs are dense in a very wide class of target functions \mathcal{H}
- Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD): an empirically successful iterative optimization method