

# Basic Artificial Neural Networks

Stephen Scott

(Adapted from Vinod Variyam, Ethem Alpaydin, Tom Mitchell,  
Ian Goodfellow, and Aurélien Géron)

[sscott@cse.unl.edu](mailto:sscott@cse.unl.edu)

# Introduction

## Supervised Learning

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- **Supervised learning** is most fundamental, “classic” form of machine learning
- “Supervised” part comes from the part of **labels** for examples (instances)
- Many ways to do supervised learning; we’ll focus on **artificial neural networks**, which are the basis for deep learning

Consider humans:

- Total number of neurons  $\approx 10^{10}$
  - Neuron switching time  $\approx 10^{-3}$  second (vs.  $10^{-10}$ )
  - Connections per neuron  $\approx 10^4$ – $10^5$
  - Scene recognition time  $\approx 0.1$  second
  - 100 inference steps doesn't seem like enough
- ⇒ massive parallel computation

# Introduction

## Properties

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

## Properties of artificial neural nets (ANNs):

- Many “neuron-like” switching units
- Many weighted interconnections among units
- Highly parallel, distributed process
- Emphasis on tuning weights automatically

Strong differences between ANNs for ML and ANNs for biological modeling

# When to Consider ANNs

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- Input is high-dimensional discrete- or real-valued (e.g., raw sensor input)
- Output is discrete- or real-valued
- Output is a vector of values
- Possibly noisy data
- Form of target function is unknown
- Human readability of result is unimportant
- Long training times acceptable

# Introduction

## Brief History of ANNs

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- **The Beginning:** Linear units and the Perceptron algorithm (1940s)
  - **Spoiler Alert:** stagnated because of inability to handle data not **linearly separable**
  - Aware of usefulness of multi-layer networks, but could not train
- **The Comeback:** Training of multi-layer networks with Backpropagation (1980s)
  - Many applications, but in 1990s replaced by large-margin approaches such as **support vector machines and boosting**

# Introduction

## Brief History of ANNs (cont'd)

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- **The Resurgence:** Deep architectures (2000s)
  - Better hardware<sup>1</sup> and software support allow for deep (> 5–8 layers) networks
  - Still use Backpropagation, but
    - Larger datasets, algorithmic improvements (new loss and activation functions), and deeper networks improve performance considerably
  - Very impressive applications, e.g., captioning images

- **The Inevitable:** (TBD)
  - Oops



<sup>1</sup>Thank a gamer today.

- Supervised learning
- Basic ANN units
  - Linear unit
  - Linear threshold units
  - Perceptron training rule
- Gradient Descent
- Nonlinearly separable problems and multilayer networks
- Backpropagation
- Types of activation functions
- Putting everything together
- Summary



# Learning from Examples

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- Let  $C$  be the target function (or target concept) to be learned
  - Think of  $C$  as a function that takes as input an **example** (or **instance**) and outputs a **label**
- **Goal:** Given **training set**  $\mathcal{X} = \{(x^t, y^t)\}_{t=1}^N$  where  $y^t = C(x^t)$ , output **hypothesis**  $h \in \mathcal{H}$  that approximates  $C$  in its classifications of new instances
- Each instance  $x$  represented as a vector of **attributes** or **features**
  - E.g., let each  $x = (x_1, x_2)$  be a vector describing attributes of a car;  $x_1 = \text{price}$  and  $x_2 = \text{engine power}$
  - In this example, label is binary (positive/negative, yes/no, 1/0, +1/-1) indicating whether instance  $x$  is a “family car”

# Learning from Examples (cont'd)

Alpaydin (2020)

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

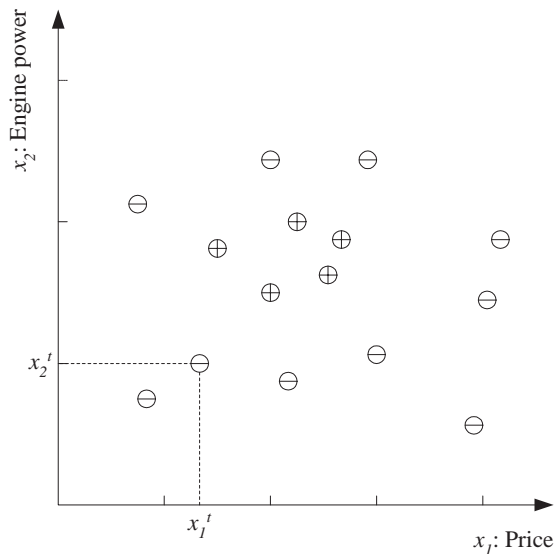
Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary



- Can think of target concept  $C$  as a **function**
  - In example,  $C$  is an axis-parallel box, equivalent to upper and lower bounds on each attribute
  - Might decide to set  $\mathcal{H}$  (set of candidate hypotheses) to the same family that  $C$  comes from
  - Not required to do so
- Can also think of target concept  $C$  as a **set** of positive instances
  - In example,  $C$  the continuous set of all positive points in the plane
- Use whichever is convenient at the time

# Thinking about $C$ (cont'd)

Alpaydin (2020)

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

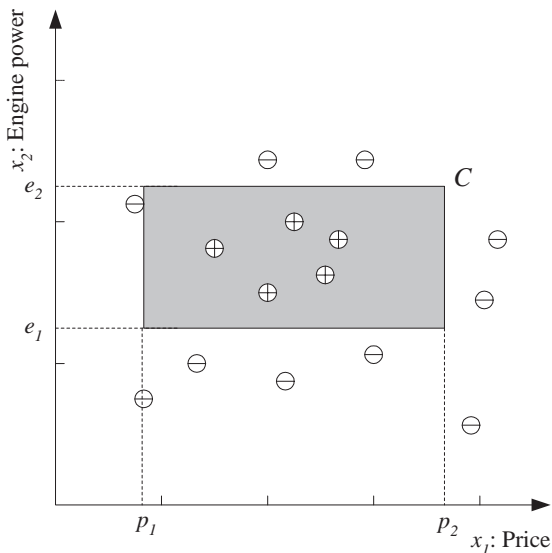
Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary



# Hypotheses and Error

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

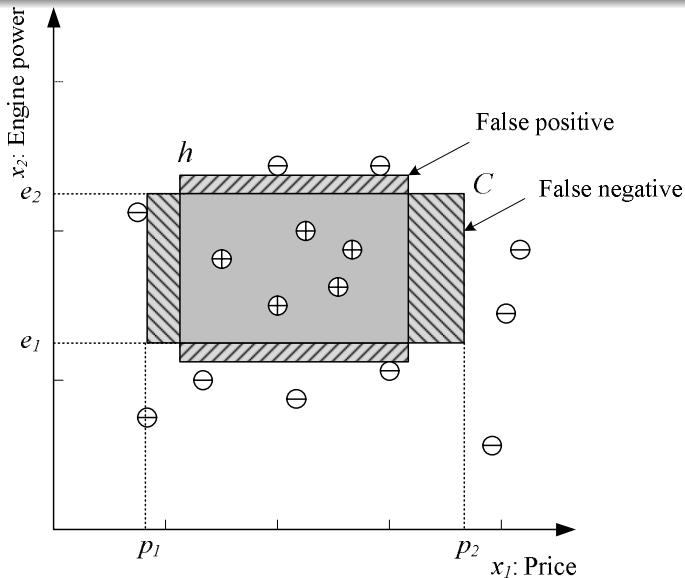
Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- A learning algorithm uses training set  $\mathcal{X}$  and finds a hypothesis  $h \in \mathcal{H}$  that approximates  $C$
- In example,  $\mathcal{H}$  can be set of all axis-parallel boxes
- If  $C$  guaranteed to come from  $\mathcal{H}$ , then we know that a perfect hypothesis exists *Very rare though*
  - In this case, we choose  $h$  from the **version space** = subset of  $\mathcal{H}$  consistent with  $\mathcal{X}$
  - What learning algorithm can you think of to learn  $C$ ?
- Can think of two types of **error** (or **loss**) of  $h$ 
  - **Empirical error** is fraction of  $\mathcal{X}$  that  $h$  gets wrong
  - ★ **Generalization error** is probability that a new, randomly selected, instance is misclassified by  $h$ 
    - Depends on the probability distribution over instances
  - Can further classify error as **false positive** and **false negative**

# Hypotheses and Error (cont'd)

Alpaydin (2020)



Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

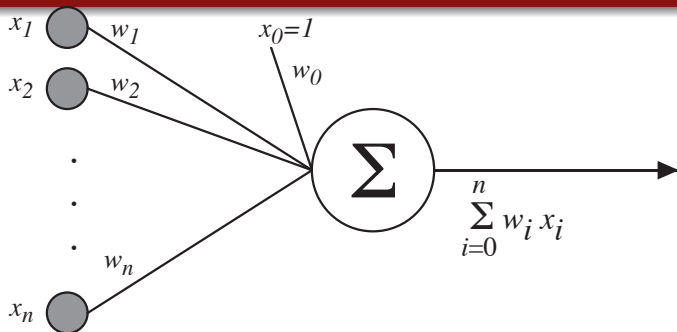
Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

# Linear Unit (Regression)

Mitchell (1997)



$$\hat{y} = f(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{w}, b) = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{w} + b = w_1 x_1 + \cdots + w_n x_n + b$$

- Each weight vector  $\mathbf{w}$  is different  $h$
- If set  $w_0 = b$ , can simplify above
- Forms the basis for many other activation functions

# Linear Threshold Unit (Binary Classification)

Mitchell (1997)

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Linear Unit

Linear Threshold  
Unit

Perceptron Training  
Rule

Gradient  
Descent

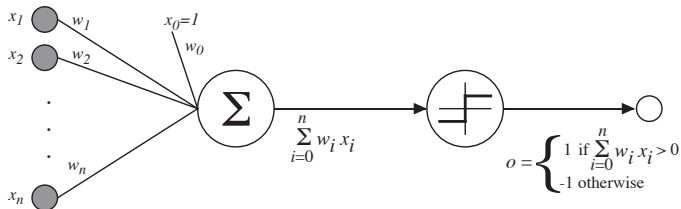
Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary



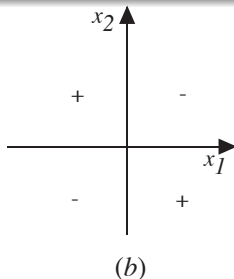
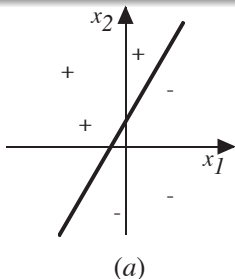
$$y = o(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{w}, b) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } f(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{w}, b) > 0 \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(sometimes use 0 instead of  $-1$ )



# Linear Threshold Unit

## Decision Surface (Mitchell 1997)



Represents some useful functions

- What parameters ( $\mathbf{w}, b$ ) represent  
 $g(x_1, x_2; \mathbf{w}, b) = \text{AND}(x_1, x_2)$ ?

But some functions not representable

- I.e., those not **linearly separable**: (b) above
- Therefore, we'll want **networks** of units

# Linear Threshold Unit

## Decision Surface (Mitchell 1997)

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Linear Unit

Linear Threshold  
Unit

Perceptron Training  
Rule

Gradient  
Descent

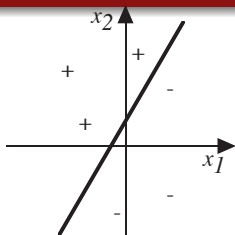
Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

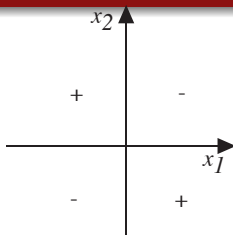
Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary



(a)



(b)

Represents some useful functions

- What parameters ( $\mathbf{w}, b$ ) represent  $g(x_1, x_2; \mathbf{w}, b) = AND(x_1, x_2)$ ?

$x_1$	$x_2$	$AND(x_1, x_2)$
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

$w_1 = 1, w_2 = 1, b = -3/2$

But some functions not representable

- I.e., those not **linearly separable**: (b) above
- Therefore, we'll want **networks** of units

# Linear Threshold Unit

## Non-Numeric Inputs

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units  
Linear Unit

Linear Threshold  
Unit

Perceptron Training  
Rule

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- What if attributes are not numeric?
- **Encode** them numerically
- E.g., if an attribute *Color* has values *Red*, *Green*, and *Blue*, can encode as **one-hot** vectors  $[1, 0, 0]$ ,  $[0, 1, 0]$ ,  $[0, 0, 1]$
- Generally better than using a single integer (e.g., *Red* is 1, *Green* is 2, and *Blue* is 3) since there is no implicit ordering of the values of the attribute

# Perceptron Training Rule (Learning Algorithm)

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Linear Unit  
Linear Threshold  
Unit

Perceptron Training  
Rule

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

$$w_j' \leftarrow w_j + \eta (y^t - \hat{y}^t) x_j^t$$

where

- $x_j^t$  is  $j$ th attribute of training instance  $t$
- $y^t$  is label of training instance  $t$
- $\hat{y}^t$  is Perceptron output on training instance  $t$
- $\eta > 0$  is small constant (e.g., 0.1) called **learning rate**

I.e., if  $(y - \hat{y}) > 0$  then increase  $w_j$  w.r.t.  $x_j$ , else decrease

Can prove rule will converge if training data is linearly separable and  $\eta$  sufficiently small

# Where Does the Training Rule Come From?

## Linear Regression

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

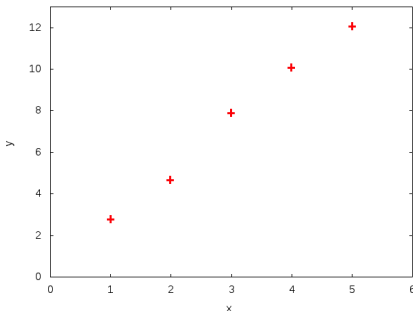
Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- Recall initial **linear unit** (no threshold)
- If only one feature, then this is a **regression** problem
- Find a straight line that best fits the training data
  - For simplicity, let it pass through the origin
  - Slope specified by parameter  $w_1$

$x^t$	$y^t$
1	2.8
2	4.65
3	7.9
4	10.1
5	12.1



# Where Does the Training Rule Come From?

## Linear Regression

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

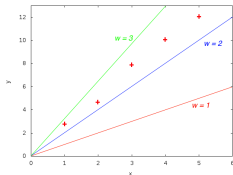
Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- If we use hypothesis  $w_1 = 1$ , then **square loss** is

$$J(1) = \sum_{t=1}^m (\hat{y}^t - y^t)^2$$

$$= \sum_{t=1}^m (1x^t - y^t)^2 = (1 - 2.8)^2 + (2 - 4.65)^2 + (3 - 7.9)^2 \\ + (4 - 10.1)^2 + (5 - 12.1)^2 = 121.8925$$



- If we use  $w_1 = 2$ , then we get  $J(2) = 13.4925$
- Can plot  $J(w_1)$  versus  $w_1$
- Goal is to find  $w_1$  to minimize  $J(w_1)$

# Where Does the Training Rule Come From?

## Linear Regression

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- Can write  $J(w_1)$  in general:

$$J(w_1) = \sum_{t=1}^m (\hat{y}^t - y^t)^2 = \sum_{t=1}^m (w_1 x^t - y^t)^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (1w_1 - 2.8)^2 + (2w_1 - 4.65)^2 + (3w_1 - 7.9)^2 \\ &\quad + (4w_1 - 10.1)^2 + (5w_1 - 12.1)^2 \\ &= 55w_1^2 - 273.4w_1 + 340.293 \end{aligned}$$

# Where Does the Training Rule Come From?

## Convex Quadratic Optimization

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

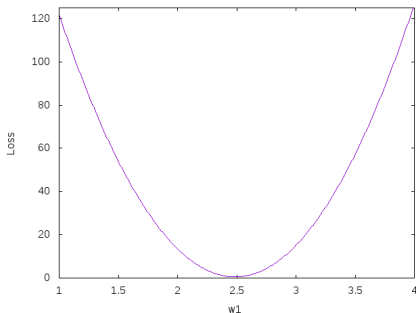
Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

$$J(w_1) = 55w_1^2 - 273.4w_1 + 340.293$$



- Minimum is at  $w_1 \approx 2.485$ , with loss  $\approx 0.53$
- What's special about that point?



# Where Does the Training Rule Come From?

## Gradient Descent

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- Recall that a function has a (local) minimum or maximum where the derivative is 0

$$\frac{d}{dw_1} J(w_1) = 110w_1 - 273.4$$

- Setting this = 0 and solving for  $w_1$  yields  $w_1 \approx 2.485$
- Motivates the use of **gradient descent** to solve in high-dimensional spaces with nonconvex functions:

$$\mathbf{w}' = \mathbf{w} - \eta \nabla J(\mathbf{w})$$

- $\eta$  is **learning rate** to moderate updates
- Gradient is a vector of partial derivatives:  $\left[ \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_i} \right]_{i=1}^n$
- $\frac{\partial J}{\partial w_i}$  is how much a change in  $w_i$  changes  $J$

# Where Does the Training Rule Come From?

## Gradient Descent Example

- In our example, initialize  $w_1$ , then repeatedly update

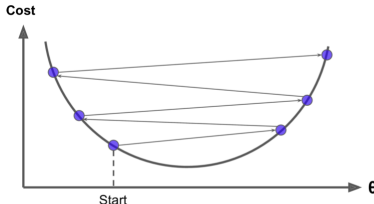
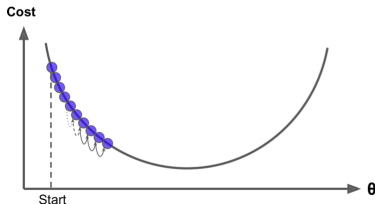
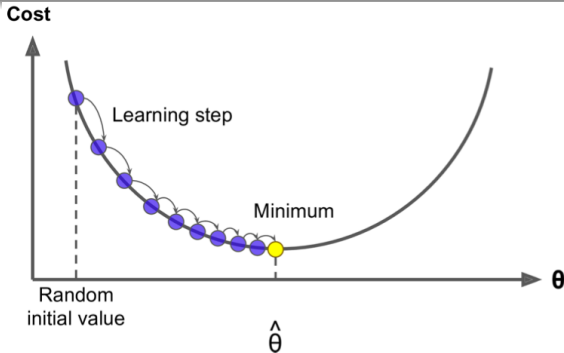
$$w'_1 = w_1 - \eta(110w_1 - 273.4)$$

eta	0.01			
round	w	J	grad	update
0	1	121.893	-163.4	1.634
1	2.634	1.74498	16.34	-0.1634
2	2.4706	0.5434998	-1.634	0.01634
3	2.48694	0.531485	0.1634	-0.001634
4	2.485306	0.53136485	-0.01634	0.0001634
5	2.4854694	0.53136365	0.001634	-1.634E-05
6	2.48545306	0.53136364	-0.0001634	1.634E-06
7	2.48545469	0.53136364	1.634E-05	-1.634E-07
8	2.48545453	0.53136364	-1.634E-06	1.634E-08
9	2.48545455	0.53136364	1.634E-07	-1.634E-09
10	2.48545455	0.53136364	-1.634E-08	1.634E-10
11	2.48545455	0.53136364	1.634E-09	-1.634E-11
12	2.48545455	0.53136364	-1.634E-10	1.6337E-12
13	2.48545455	0.53136364	1.6314E-11	-1.631E-13
14	2.48545455	0.53136364	-1.592E-12	1.5916E-14
15	2.48545455	0.53136364	0	0

- Could also update one at a time:  $\frac{\partial J}{\partial w_1} = 2w_1 (x^t)^2 - 2x^t y^t$   
 $\Rightarrow$  **Stochastic gradient descent** (SGD)

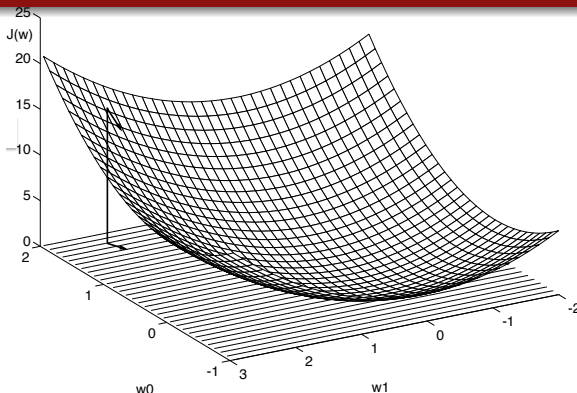
# Where Does the Training Rule Come From?

## Effect of $\eta$



# Where Does the Training Rule Come From?

## Gradient Descent (Mitchell 1997)



$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = \left[ \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_0}, \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_n} \right]$$

In general, define loss function  $J$ , compute gradient of  $J$  w.r.t.  $J$ 's parameters, then apply gradient descent

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

# Where Does the Training Rule Come From?

## Nonconvex Optimization

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

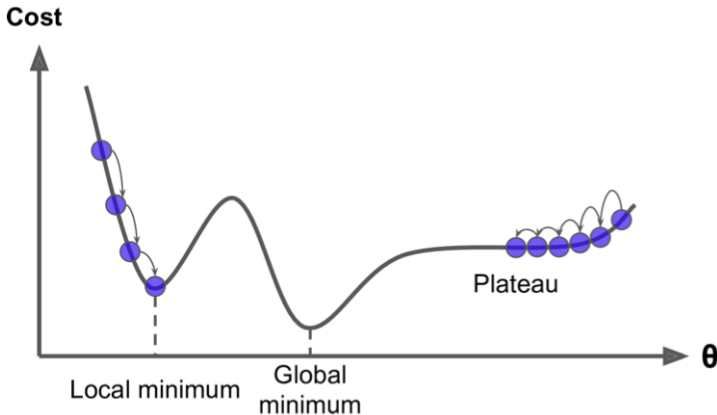
Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary



# Handling Nonlinearly Separable Problems

## The XOR Problem

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

XOR

General Nonlinearly  
Separable Problems

Backprop

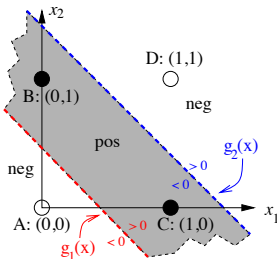
Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

29 / 62

Using linear threshold units



Represent with **intersection** of two linear separators

$$g_1(\mathbf{x}) = 1 \cdot x_1 + 1 \cdot x_2 - 1/2$$

$$g_2(\mathbf{x}) = 1 \cdot x_1 + 1 \cdot x_2 - 3/2$$

$$\text{pos} = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : g_1(\mathbf{x}) > 0 \text{ AND } g_2(\mathbf{x}) < 0\}$$

$$\text{neg} = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : g_1(\mathbf{x}), g_2(\mathbf{x}) < 0 \text{ OR } g_1(\mathbf{x}), g_2(\mathbf{x}) > 0\}$$

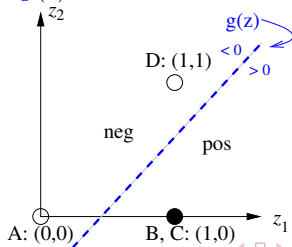
# Handling Nonlinearly Separable Problems

## The XOR Problem (cont'd)

$$\text{Let } z_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } g_i(\mathbf{x}) < 0 \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Class	$(x_1, x_2)$	$g_1(\mathbf{x})$	$z_1$	$g_2(\mathbf{x})$	$z_2$
pos	B: (0, 1)	1/2	1	-1/2	0
pos	C: (1, 0)	1/2	1	-1/2	0
neg	A: (0, 0)	-1/2	0	-3/2	0
neg	D: (1, 1)	3/2	1	1/2	1

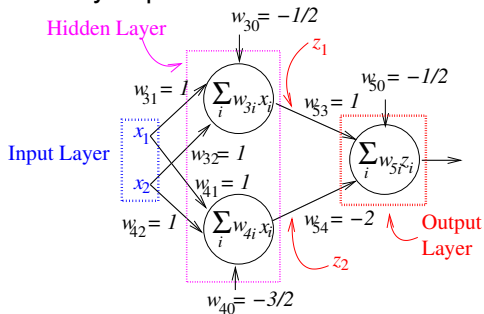
Now feed  $z_1, z_2$  into  $g(\mathbf{z}) = 1 \cdot z_1 - 2 \cdot z_2 - 1/2$



# Handling Nonlinearly Separable Problems

## The XOR Problem (cont'd)

In other words, we **remapped** all vectors  $x$  to  $z$  such that the classes are linearly separable in the new vector space



This is a **two-layer perceptron** or **two-layer feedforward neural network**

Can use many **nonlinear** activation functions in hidden layer



# Handling Nonlinearly Separable Problems

## General Nonlinearly Separable Problems

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

XOR

General Nonlinearly  
Separable Problems

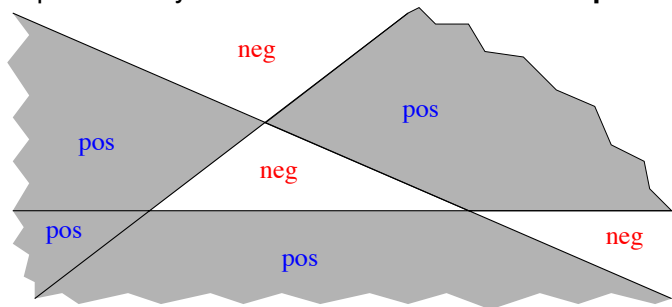
Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

By adding up to 2 **hidden layers** of linear threshold units, can represent any **union of intersection of halfspaces**



First hidden layer defines halfspaces, second hidden layer takes intersection (AND), output layer takes union (OR)

# Training Multiple Layers

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

Training Multilayer  
Networks

Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things

Together  
33/62

- In a multi-layer network, have to tune parameters in all layers
- In order to train, need to know the gradient of the loss function w.r.t. each parameter
- The **Backpropagation** algorithm first **feeds forward** the network's inputs to its outputs, then **propagates back** error via repeated application of **chain rule** for derivatives
- Can be decomposed in a simple, modular way

# Computation Graphs

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

Training Multilayer  
Networks

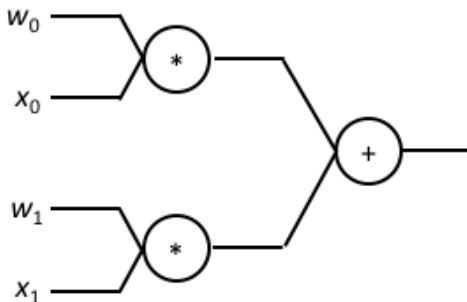
Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things

Together  
34/62

- Given a complicated function  $f(\cdot)$ , want to know its partial derivatives w.r.t. its parameters
- Will represent  $f$  in a modular fashion via a **computation graph** (like what we do in TensorFlow)
- E.g., let  $f(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}) = w_0x_0 + w_1x_1$



# Computation Graphs

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

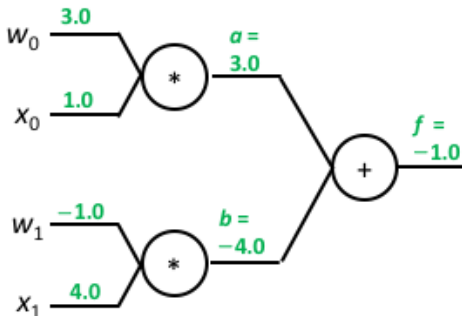
Training Multilayer  
Networks

Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

E.g.,  $w_0 = 3.0$ ,  $w_1 = -1.0$ ,  $x_0 = 1.0$ ,  $x_1 = 4.0$



# Computation Graphs

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

Training Multilayer  
Networks

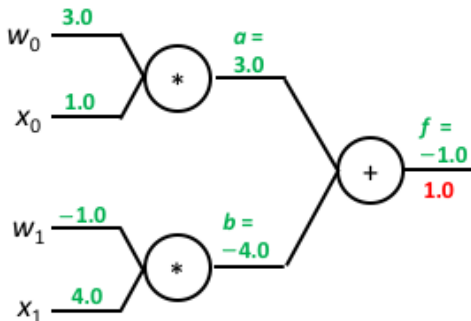
Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things

Together  
36/62

- So what?
- Can now decompose gradient calculation into basic operations
- $\frac{\partial f}{\partial f} = 1$



# Computation Graphs

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

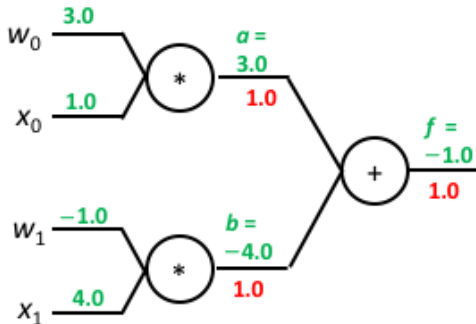
Training Multilayer  
Networks

Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

- If  $g(y, z) = y + z$  then  $\frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} = 1$
- Via chain rule,  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial a} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial g} \frac{\partial g}{\partial a} = (1.0)(1.0) = 1.0$
- Same with  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial b}$



# Computation Graphs

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

Training Multilayer  
Networks

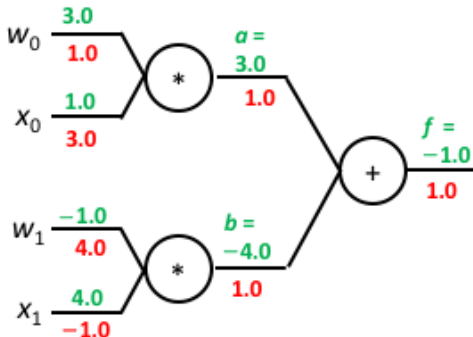
Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things

Together  
38/62

- If  $h(y, z) = yz$  then  $\frac{\partial h}{\partial y} = z$
- Via chain rule,  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_0} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial a} \frac{\partial a}{\partial x_0} = 1.0w_0 = 3.0$



So for  $\mathbf{x} = [1.0, 4.0]^T$ ,  $\nabla f(\mathbf{w}) = [1.0, 4.0]^T$

# The Sigmoid Unit

## Basics

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

Training Multilayer  
Networks

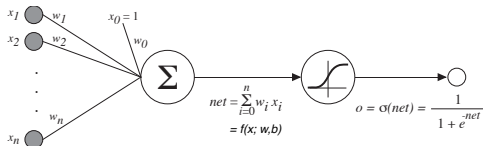
Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

39/62

- How does this help us with multi-layer ANNs?
- First, let's replace the threshold function with a continuous approximation



$\sigma(net)$  is the **logistic function**

$$\sigma(net) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-net}}$$

(a type of **sigmoid** function)

**Squashes**  $net$  into  $[0, 1]$  range



# The Sigmoid Unit

## Computation Graph

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

Training Multilayer  
Networks

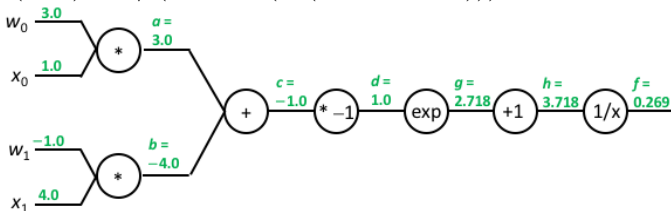
Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things

Together  
40/62

$$\text{Let } f(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}) = 1 / (1 + \exp(-(w_0 x_0 + w_1 x_1)))$$



# The Sigmoid Unit

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

Training Multilayer  
Networks

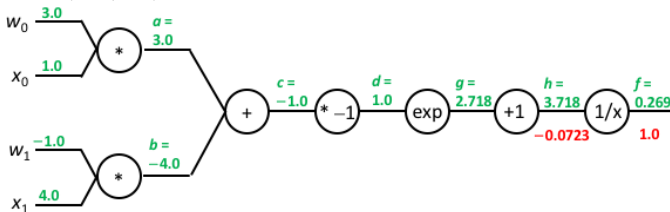
Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things

Together  
41/62

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial h} = 1.0(-1/h^2) = -0.0723$$



# The Sigmoid Unit

## Gradient

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

Training Multilayer  
Networks

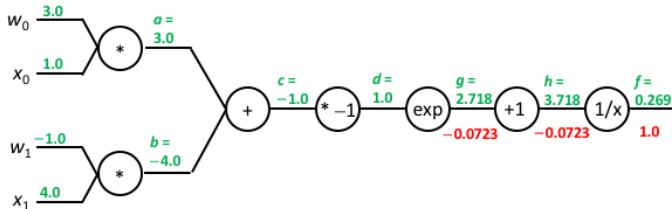
Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things

Together  
42/62

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial g} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial h} \frac{\partial h}{\partial g} = -0.0723(1) = -0.0723$$



# The Sigmoid Unit

## Gradient

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

Training Multilayer  
Networks

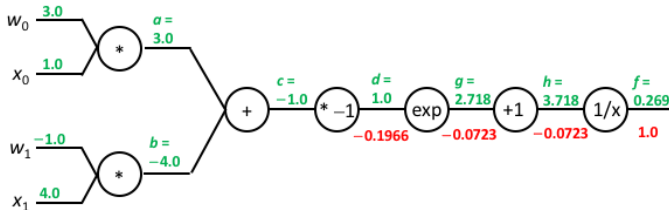
Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things

Together

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial d} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial g} \frac{\partial g}{\partial d} = -0.0723 \exp(d) = -0.1966$$



# The Sigmoid Unit

## Gradient

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

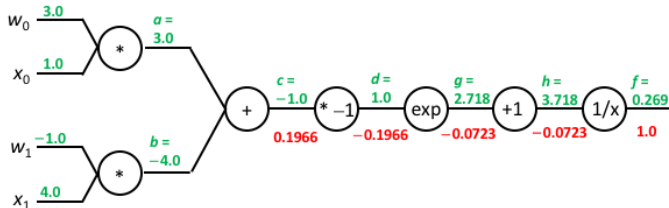
Training Multilayer  
Networks

Backprop Alg

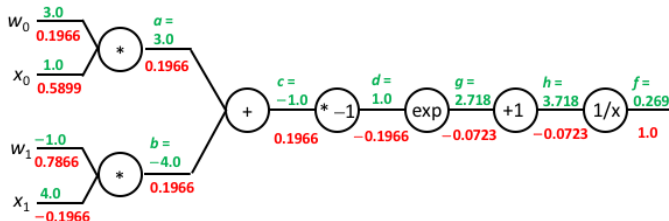
Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together  
44/62

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial c} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial d} \frac{\partial d}{\partial c} = -0.1966(-1) = 0.1966$$



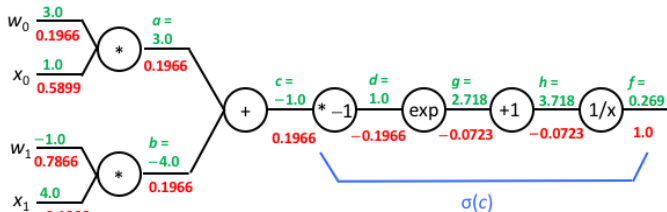
and so on:



So for  $\mathbf{x} = [1.0, 4.0]^T$ ,  $\nabla f(\mathbf{w}) = [0.1966, 0.7866]^T$

# The Sigmoid Unit

## Gradient



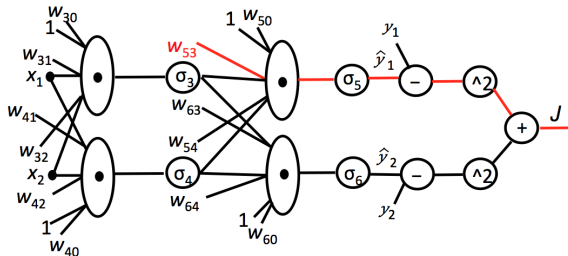
Note that  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial c} = \sigma(c)(1 - \sigma(c))$ , so

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial w_1} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial c} \frac{\partial c}{\partial b} \frac{\partial b}{\partial w_1} = \sigma(c)(1 - \sigma(c))(1)x_1$$

This is **modular**, so once we have a formula for the gradient for this unit, we can apply it anywhere in a larger graph

# Training Multilayer Networks

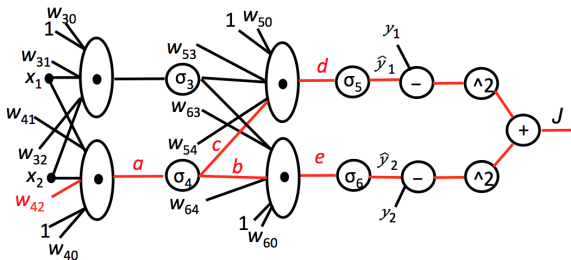
## Output Units



- Let loss on instance  $(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{y}^t)$  be  $J(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i^t - y_i^t)^2$
- Weights  $w_{5*}$  and  $w_{6*}$  tie to output units
- Gradients and weight updates done as before
- E.g.,  $w'_{53} = w_{53} - \eta \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_{53}} = w_{53} - \eta \hat{y}_1 (1 - \hat{y}_1) (\hat{y}_1 - y_1) \sigma_3$

# Training Multilayer Networks

## Hidden Units



Multivariate chain rule says we sum paths from  $J$  to  $w_{42}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_{42}} &= \frac{\partial J}{\partial a} \frac{\partial a}{\partial w_{42}} = \left( \frac{\partial J}{\partial c} \frac{\partial c}{\partial a} + \frac{\partial J}{\partial b} \frac{\partial b}{\partial a} \right) \frac{\partial a}{\partial w_{42}} \\
 &= \left( \frac{\partial J}{\partial d} \frac{\partial d}{\partial c} \frac{\partial c}{\partial a} + \frac{\partial J}{\partial e} \frac{\partial e}{\partial b} \frac{\partial b}{\partial a} \right) \frac{\partial a}{\partial w_{42}} \\
 &= ([\hat{y}_1(1 - \hat{y}_1)(\hat{y}_1 - y_1)] [w_{54}] [\sigma_4(a)(1 - \sigma_4(a))] \\
 &\quad + [\hat{y}_2(1 - \hat{y}_2)(\hat{y}_2 - y_2)] [w_{64}] [\sigma_4(a)(1 - \sigma_4(a))]) x_2
 \end{aligned}$$



# Training Multilayer Networks

## Hidden Units

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs  
Sigmoid Unit  
Multilayer Networks

Training Multilayer  
Networks

Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together  
48/62

- Analytical solution is messy, but we don't need the formula; only need to **compute** gradient for specific input(s)
- The modular form of a computation graph means that once we've computed  $\frac{\partial J}{\partial d}$  and  $\frac{\partial J}{\partial e}$ , we can plug those values in and compute gradients for earlier layers
  - Doesn't matter if layer is output, or farther back; can run indefinitely backward
- **Backpropagation** of error from outputs to inputs

# Training Multilayer Networks

## Hidden Units

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

Training Multilayer  
Networks

Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things

Together  
49/62

- We are **propagating back** error from output layer toward input layers
- Process:
  - 1 Submit inputs  $x$
  - 2 **Feed forward** signal to outputs
  - 3 Compute network loss
  - 4 Propagate error back to compute loss gradient w.r.t. each weight
  - 5 Update weights
- All done automatically in TensorFlow, etc.: **Automatic differentiation** based on computation graph

# Backpropagation Algorithm

## Notes

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Computation Graphs

Sigmoid Unit

Multilayer Networks

Training Multilayer  
Networks

Backprop Alg

Types of Units

Putting Things

Together  
50/62

- Initialization used to be via random numbers near zero, e.g., from  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ 
  - More refined methods available (later)
- Algorithm as presented updates weights after each instance
  - Can also accumulate updates across multiple training instances in the same **mini-batch** and do a single update per mini-batch
    - ⇒ **Stochastic gradient descent** (SGD)
  - Extreme case: Entire training set is a single batch (**batch gradient descent**)

# Types of Output Units

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Types of Output  
Units

Types of Hidden  
Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

51 / 62

Given hidden layer outputs  $\mathbf{h}$

- Linear unit:  $\hat{y} = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{h} + b$ 
  - Minimizing square loss with this output unit maximizes **log likelihood** when labels from normal distribution
    - I.e., find a set of parameters  $\theta$  that is most likely to generate the labels of the training data
  - Works well with GD training
- Logistic  $\hat{y} = \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{h} + b)$ 
  - Approximates non-differentiable threshold function
  - More common as hidden unit in older, shallower networks
  - Can be used to predict probabilities
- Softmax unit: Start with  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{b}$ 
  - Predict probability of label  $i$  to be  $\text{softmax}(\mathbf{z})_i = \exp(z_i) / \left( \sum_j \exp(z_j) \right)$
  - Continuous, differentiable approximation to  $\text{argmax}$

# Types of Hidden Units

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Types of Output  
Units

Types of Hidden  
Units

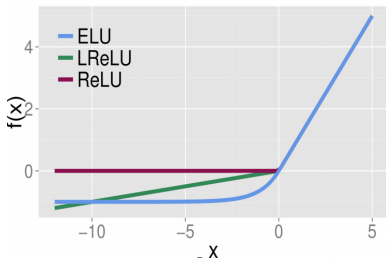
Putting Things  
Together

Summary

52/62

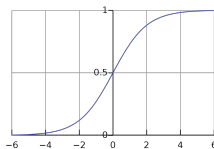
Rectified linear unit (ReLU):  $\max\{0, \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}\}$

- Good default choice
- In general, GD works well when functions nearly linear
- Variations: **leaky ReLU** and **exponential ReLU** replace  $z < 0$  side with  $0.01z$  and  $\alpha(\exp(z) - 1)$ , respectively



Logistic (done already) and tanh

- Nice approximation to threshold, but don't train well in deep networks since they saturate



# Putting Everything Together

## Hidden Layers

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

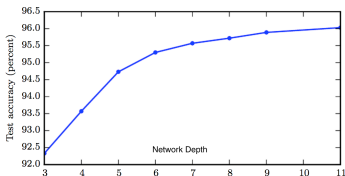
Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

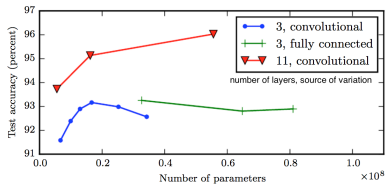
Summary

- How many layers to use?
  - Deep networks build potentially useful representations of data via composition of simple functions
  - Performance improvement not simply from more complex network (number of parameters)
  - Increasing number of layers still increases chances of overfitting, so need significant amount of training data with deep network; training time increases as well

### Accuracy vs Depth



### Accuracy vs Complexity



# Putting Everything Together

## Universal Approximation Theorem

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- Any boolean function can be represented with two layers
- Any bounded, continuous function can be represented with arbitrarily small error with two layers
- Any function can be represented with arbitrarily small error with three layers

### Only an **EXISTENCE PROOF**

- Could need exponentially many nodes in a layer
- May not be able to find the right weights
- Highlights risk of overfitting and need for **regularization**

# Putting Everything Together

## Initialization

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- Previously, initialized weights to random numbers near 0 (from  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ )
  - Logistic nearly linear there, so GD expected to work better for  $\sigma$  with weights near zero
  - But in deep networks, this increases variance per layer, resulting in **vanishing gradients** and poor optimization
- Glorot initialization** controls variance per layer: If layer has  $n_{in}$  inputs and  $n_{out}$  outputs, initialize via uniform over  $[-r, r]$  or  $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$ 
  - $r = a\sqrt{\frac{6}{n_{in}+n_{out}}}$  and  $\sigma = a\sqrt{\frac{2}{n_{in}+n_{out}}}$

Activation	$a$
Logistic	1
tanh	4
ReLU	$\sqrt{2}$



# Putting Everything Together

## Learning Rate Scheduling

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

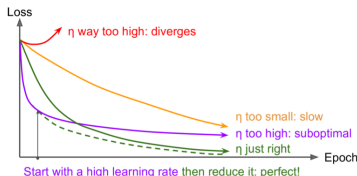
Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary



- Good choice of learning rate important
- Too small  $\Rightarrow$  converges slowly
- Too large  $\Rightarrow$  diverges or won't find minimum

- Better to adjust  $\eta$  per **schedule** (iteration  $t$ )
  - **Power scheduling:**  $\eta(t) = \eta_0 / (1 + t/s)^c$
  - **Exponential scheduling:**  $\eta(t) = \eta_0 0.1^{t/s}$
  - **Performance scheduling:** Reduce  $\eta$  by  $\lambda$  when no improvement in validation
  - **1cycle scheduling:** Increase from  $\eta_0$  linearly to  $\eta_1$  then back down to  $\eta_0$

## Variations on gradient descent optimization:

- Momentum optimization
- AdaGrad
- RMSProp
- Adam

# Putting Everything Together

## Momentum Optimization

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- Use a **momentum** term  $\beta$  to keep updates moving in same direction as previous trials
- Replace original GD update  $\mathbf{w}' = \mathbf{w} - \eta \nabla J(\mathbf{w})$  with

$$\mathbf{w}' = \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{m} ,$$

where

$$\mathbf{m} = \beta \mathbf{m} + \eta \nabla J(\mathbf{w})$$

- Can help move through small local minima to better ones & move along flat surfaces

# Putting Everything Together

## AdaGrad

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

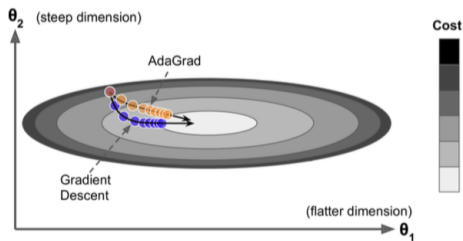
Summary

- Standard GD can too quickly descend steepest slope, then slowly crawl through a valley
- AdaGrad** adapts learning rate by scaling it down in steepest dimensions:  

$$\mathbf{w}' = \mathbf{w} - \eta \nabla J(\mathbf{w}) \oslash \sqrt{\mathbf{s} + \epsilon}, \text{ where}$$

$$\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{s} + \nabla J(\mathbf{w}) \otimes \nabla J(\mathbf{w}) ,$$
 $\otimes$  and  $\oslash$  are element-wise multiplication and division  
 and  $\epsilon = 10^{-10}$  prevents division by 0

$\mathbf{s}$  accumulates  
squares of gradient,  
and learning rate for  
each dimension  
scaled down



# Putting Everything Together

## RMSProp

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- AdaGrad tends to stop too early for neural networks due to over-aggressive downscaling
- **RMSProp** exponentially decays old gradients to address this

$$\mathbf{w}' = \mathbf{w} - \eta \nabla J(\mathbf{w}) \oslash \sqrt{\mathbf{s} + \epsilon} ,$$

where

$$\mathbf{s} = \beta \mathbf{s} + (1 - \beta) \nabla J(\mathbf{w}) \otimes \nabla J(\mathbf{w})$$

# Putting Everything Together

Adam

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

**Adam** (adaptive moment estimation) combines Momentum optimization and RMSProp

$$① \quad \mathbf{m} = \beta_1 \mathbf{m} + (1 - \beta_1) \nabla J(\mathbf{w})$$

$$② \quad \mathbf{s} = \beta_2 \mathbf{s} + (1 - \beta_2) \nabla J(\mathbf{w}) \otimes \nabla J(\mathbf{w})$$

$$③ \quad \mathbf{m} = \mathbf{m} / (1 - \beta_1^t)$$

$$④ \quad \mathbf{s} = \mathbf{s} / (1 - \beta_2^t)$$

$$⑤ \quad \mathbf{w}' = \mathbf{w} - \eta \mathbf{m} \oslash \sqrt{\mathbf{s} + \epsilon}$$

- Iteration counter  $t$  used in 3 and 4 to prevent  $\mathbf{m}$  and  $\mathbf{s}$  from vanishing
- Can set  $\beta_1 = 0.9$ ,  $\beta_2 = 0.999$ ,  $\epsilon = 10^{-8}$

# Summary

Basic Artificial  
Neural  
Networks

Stephen Scott

Introduction

Supervised  
Learning

Basic Units

Gradient  
Descent

Nonlinearly  
Separable  
Problems

Backprop

Types of Units

Putting Things  
Together

Summary

- Neural networks based on biological brains
- Very powerful ML approach; basis of **deep learning** (networks with many **hidden layers**)
- Each node computes a **weighted sum** of its inputs, then passes the sum through a nonlinear **activation function** such as **logistic**, **softmax**, and **ReLU**
- Once architecture fixed, learning done by using **stochastic gradient descent** (SGD) to tune weights minimizing **loss function**  $\Rightarrow$  **backpropagation**
- SGD algorithms include **momentum-based** approaches, **adaptive learning rate** approaches, and **Adam**, which uses both
- Many choices to be made on **hyperparameters** that affect architecture and optimization