

# Neural Network Models

Dr. Charles Determan Jr. PhD\*

June 13, 2016

## 1 Introduction

This vignette is designed to provide further direction when particularly interested in exploring further options of neural networks. This aspects require a few more steps beyond what is required by other models because of the multiple different options available to neural networks.

---

\*[cdeterman@healthgrades.com](mailto:cdeterman@healthgrades.com)

## 2 Grid Searching

In addition to the `denovo.grid` function there is an additional `denovo_neuralnet_grid` function provided to expand the grid to include additional parameters such as activation functions and dropout. You can see available functions with `act_fcts`.

```
library(HGTools)
grid <- denovo_neuralnet_grid(res = 3,
                             act_fcts = c("logistic", "relu"),
                             dropout=TRUE)

dim(grid)

## [1] 216    6

head(grid)

##   .hidden .threshold .act_fcts .dropout .visible_dropout .hidden_dropout
## 1      2         5 logistic     TRUE              0           0.1
## 2      3         5 logistic     TRUE              0           0.1
## 3      4         5 logistic     TRUE              0           0.1
## 4      5         5 logistic     TRUE              0           0.1
## 5      2         3 logistic     TRUE              0           0.1
## 6      3         3 logistic     TRUE              0           0.1
```

It can be seen that the size of the grid rapidly increases with additional parameters. It is always the user who ultimately controls which iterations to attempt. The grid can be easily filtered if certain iterations are known to not work well for a given problem. It is always possible to create a grid manually to include only those iterations that are of interest. Furthermore, if there user is interested in exploring multiple layers in the neural network it becomes necessary to create the grid manually using `expand.grid`.

```
expand.grid(.hidden = paste(c(10,5,5), collapse=","),
            .threshold = c(1,5),
            .act_fcts = c("logistic", "relu"))

##   .hidden .threshold .act_fcts
## 1 10,5,5         1 logistic
## 2 10,5,5         5 logistic
## 3 10,5,5         1      relu
## 4 10,5,5         5      relu
```

In order for the vector of hidden layers to be passed through in a grid the numbers must be concatenated as a string. This is handled internally by `train` function. This is only relevant when creating a grid for `train` and not when calling `neuralnet` directly.

### 3 Guidelines

*Note - this section is intended to be expanded. It is also does not contain absolutes but general guidelines for neuralnets in the context of HG.*

When creating grids manually, if including dropout, a general heuristic is to not exceed 0.2 for visible dropout and not to exceed 0.5 for hidden dropout in each hidden layer.