

## SysEng 5212 /EE 5370

### Introduction to Neural Networks and Applications

#### *Week 5 :Multilayer Perceptrons and Backpropagation Learning*

**Cihan H Dagli, PhD**

*Professor of Engineering Management and Systems Engineering  
Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Founder and Director of Systems Engineering Graduate Program*

[dagli@mst.edu](mailto:dagli@mst.edu)

MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
Rolla, Missouri, U.S.A.

# Volunteers Tally

- Murat Aslan
- Tatiana Cardona Sepulveda
- Prince Codjoe
- Xiongming Dai
- Jeffrey Dierker

# Volunteers Tally

- Venkata Sai Abhishek Dwivadula
- Brian Guenther
- Anthony Guertin
- Timothy Guertin
- Seth Kitchen

# Volunteers Tally

- Gregory Leach
- Yu Li
- John Nganga
- Igor Povarich
- Jack Savage

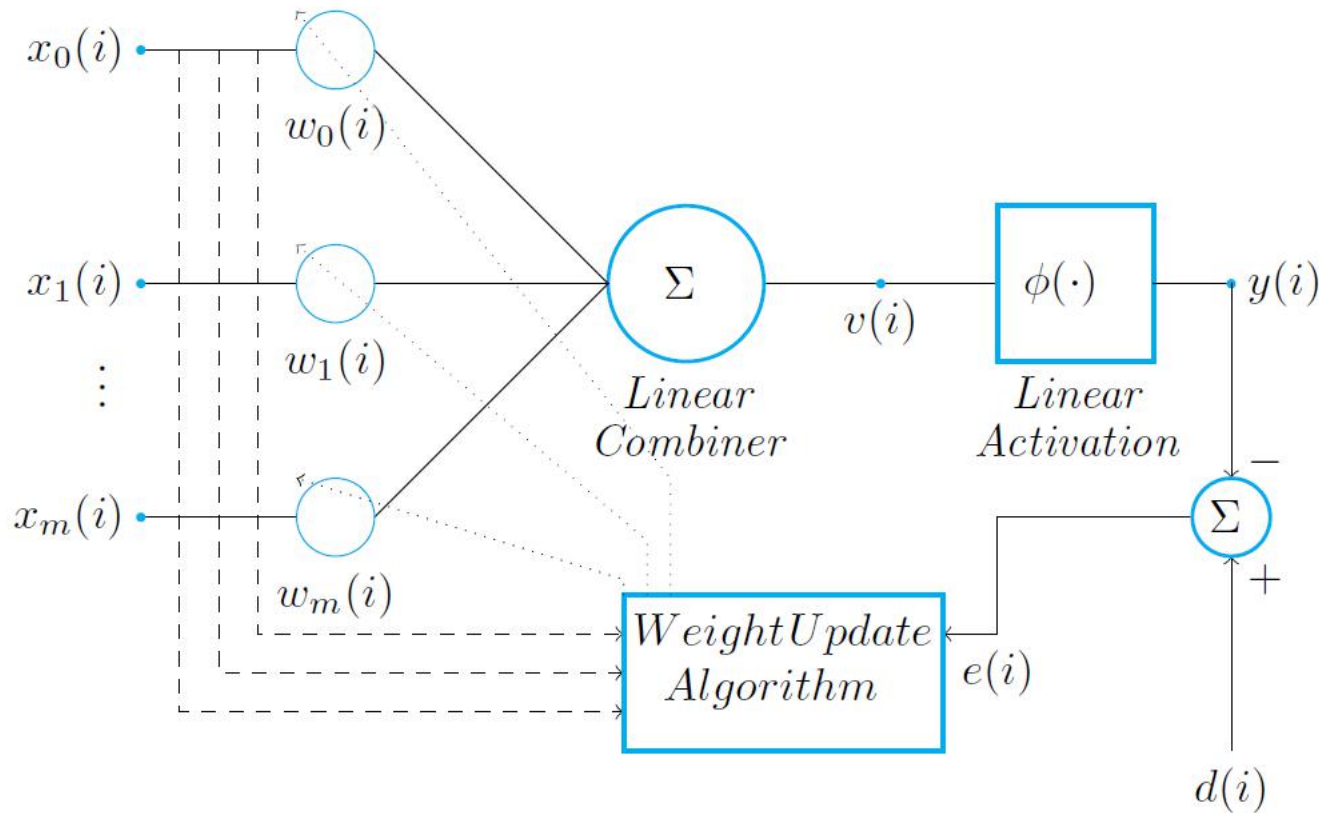
# Volunteers Tally

- William Symolon
- Wayne Viers III
- Tao Wang
- Kari Ward
- Julia White
- Jun Xu

# Lecture outline

1. Nonlinear Perceptron
  - Character Recognition Example
2. Multilayer Perceptrons
  - XOR Problem
3. Backpropagation
  - Derivation of Backpropagation Weight Update Rule
  - Backpropagation Examples
4. Improving Performance

# Perceptron with a Nonlinear Activation Function



MATLAB:  $y = \text{purelin}(v)$

这个就是  $y=v$ ，斜率等于1的直线

# Network Output

Given that the output of the linear combiner is,  $v(n) = \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}$ , the network output is given by,

$$y(n) = \Phi(v(n))$$

Most commonly used nonlinear activation function is the sigmoidal nonlinearity; Its two variations are,

- **Logistic function**, where  $a > 0$  is the slope parameter.

$$\Phi(v(n)) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-av(n)}}$$

双曲线的

正切的

- **Hyperbolic tangent function**, where  $a$  and  $b$  are positive constants

$$\Phi(v(n)) = a \tanh(bv(n))$$





# Weight Update Rule for the Linear Neuron

Weight update for the linear neuron,

$$\hat{w}(n+1) = \hat{w}(n) + \eta x(n) \hat{e}(n)$$

Where  $-x(n)\hat{e}(n)$  is the instantaneous estimate of the gradient.

瞬间的

The **error**  $e(n)$  is,

$$e(n) = d(n) - y(n) = d(n) - \Phi(v(n))$$

The **derivative** of the error  $e'(n)$  is,

$$e'(n) = -\Phi'(v(n)) = \Phi(w^T x) = -x(n)$$

这个就是对w的求导

# Weight Update Rule for the Nonlinear Neuron

For the nonlinear neuron, the derivative of the error is,

$$e'(n) = -\Phi'(v(n))$$

and the instantaneous estimate of the gradient is given by,

$$\hat{w}(n+1) = \hat{w}(n) + \eta \hat{e}(n) \Phi'(v(n))$$

# Derivative of the Logistic Function

Logistic function:

$$\phi(v(n)) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-av(n)}}$$

求导的时候，直接把a  
作为1计算。

The derivative:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi'(v(n)) &= \frac{ae^{-av(n)}}{[1 + e^{-av(n)}]^2} \\ &= a \left( \frac{e^{-av(n)}}{[1 + e^{-av(n)}]} \right) \left( \frac{1}{[1 + e^{-av(n)}]} \right) \\ &= ay(n)[1 - y(n)]\end{aligned}$$

LMS weight update with the logistic function,

$$\hat{w}(n+1) = \hat{w}(n) + a\eta\hat{e}(n)y(n)[1 - y(n)]$$

# Derivative of the Hyperbolic Tangent Function

Hyperbolic tangent function:

$$\phi(v(n)) = a \tanh(bv(n))$$

The derivative:

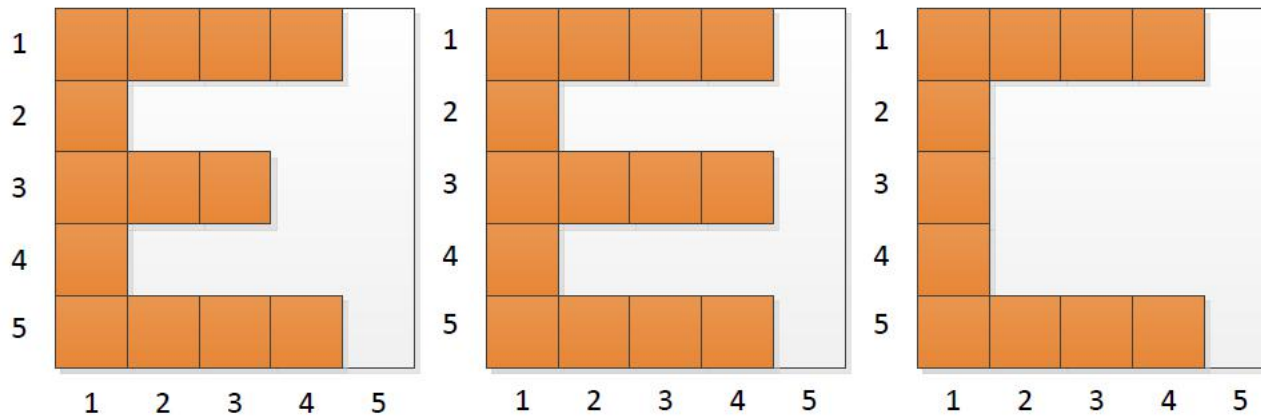
$$\begin{aligned}\phi'(v(n)) &= ab \operatorname{sech}^2(bv(n)) \\ &= ab[1 - \tanh^2(bv(n))] \\ &= ab \left[ 1 - \frac{y^2(n)}{a^2} \right] \\ &= \frac{b}{a} [a - y(n)][a + y(n)]\end{aligned}$$

LMS weight update with the hyperbolic tangent function,

$$\hat{w}(n+1) = \hat{w}(n) + \frac{b}{a} \eta \hat{e}(n) [a - y(n)][a + y(n)]$$

# Character Recognition Example

Use a perceptron with a sigmoid activation function to learn the letter E.



Each image consists of a 5 5 array of pixels.

- The ON pixels have a value of 1
- The OFF pixels have a value of 0

# Preparing the Input

Each input character is a 5 5 array,

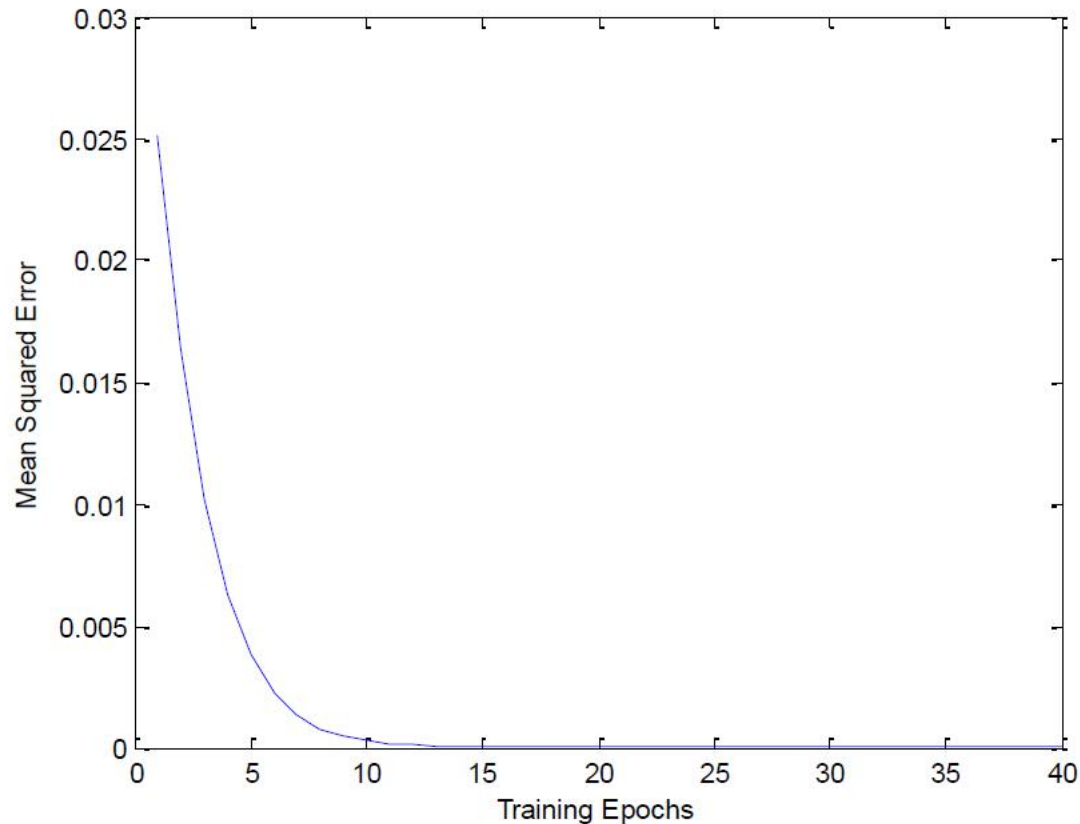
$$x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

To present the input to the neuron, we vectorize it,

$$x = [1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]^T$$

We set the desired response to 0.5

# Performance Curve



# Compensating for Noisy Input

补偿, 修正

Vectors representing noisy input, (red numbers are noise)

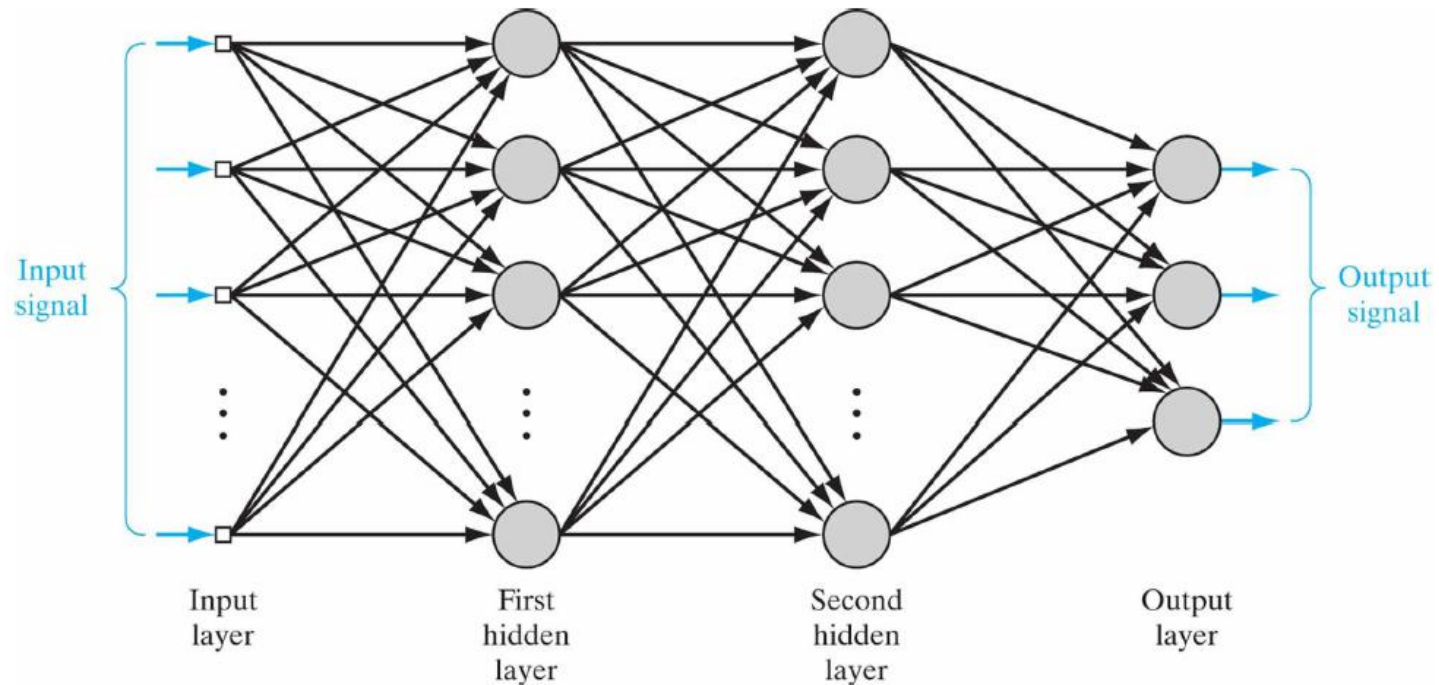
$$\mathbf{x} = [1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, \textcolor{red}{1}, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]^T$$

$$\mathbf{x} = [1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, \textcolor{red}{0}, 0, 1, 1, 0, \textcolor{red}{0}, 0, 1, 1, 0, \textcolor{red}{0}, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]^T$$

- A single neuron cannot compensate very well for noisy input.  
As noise increases performance degrades.

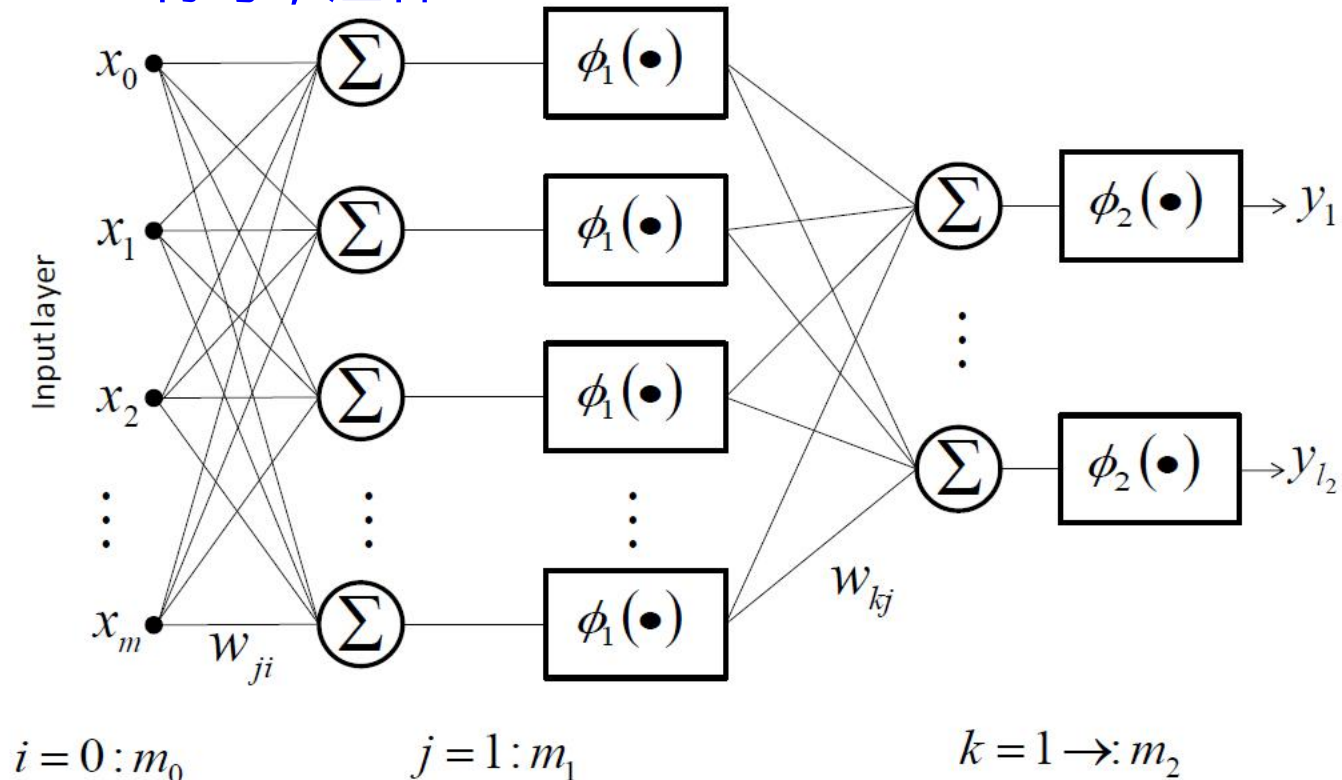


# Layered Architecture



# Notation and Network Output

符号, 注释



## Basic Features of an MLP

- Each neuron has a nonlinear activation function that is continuously differentiable
- Each network contains one or more hidden layers
- Network exhibits a high degree of connectivity determined by the synaptic weights of the network



# Purpose of the Hidden Neurons

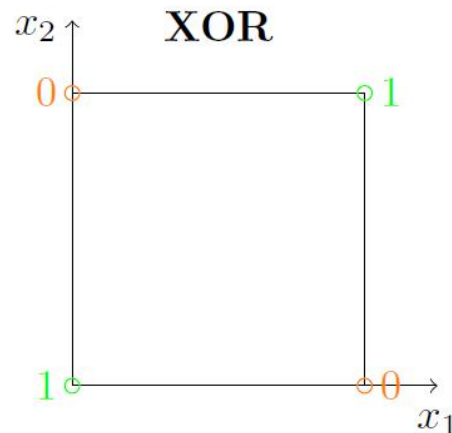
- Transform the **input space** into a new space called the **feature space**
- Act as **feature detectors** that identify the most useful components of the input
- Separation of classes becomes easier in this new space than in the original input space
- Provide the MLP with the **capability to perform nonlinear separation.**



# Solving the XOR Problem

| $x_1$ | $x_1$ | XOR |
|-------|-------|-----|
| 0     | 0     | 0   |
| 0     | 1     | 1   |
| 1     | 0     | 1   |
| 1     | 1     | 0   |

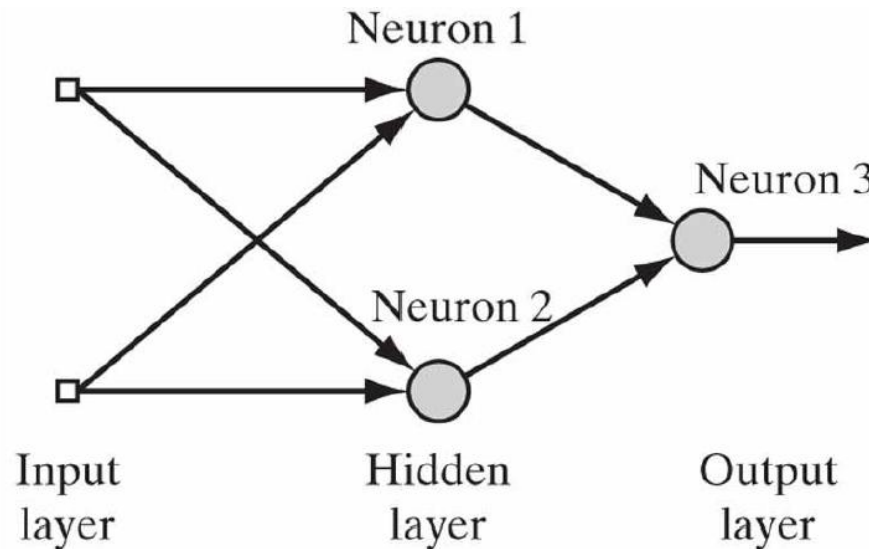
Separation of the input space for the XOR function,



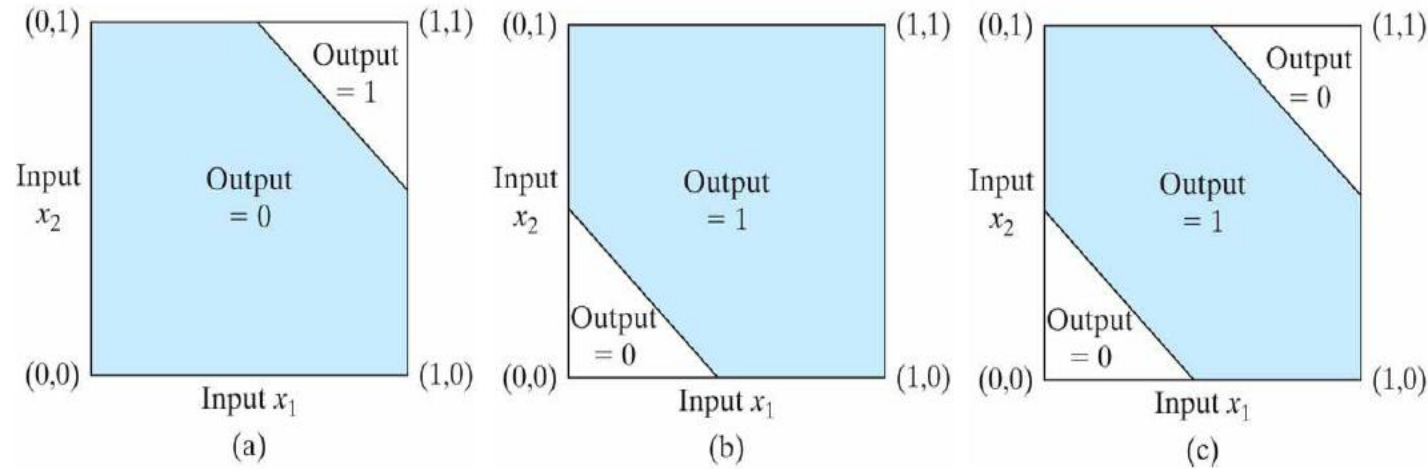
# Multilayer Network for Solving the XOR Problem

Rosenblatt's perceptron could not classify the XOR input patterns, as they are not linearly separable.

We can solve this problem by using a network with a single hidden layer with two neurons.



# Decision Boundaries of the Network



$$\{w_1 1 = w_1 2 = +1, \quad b_1 = -3/2\}$$

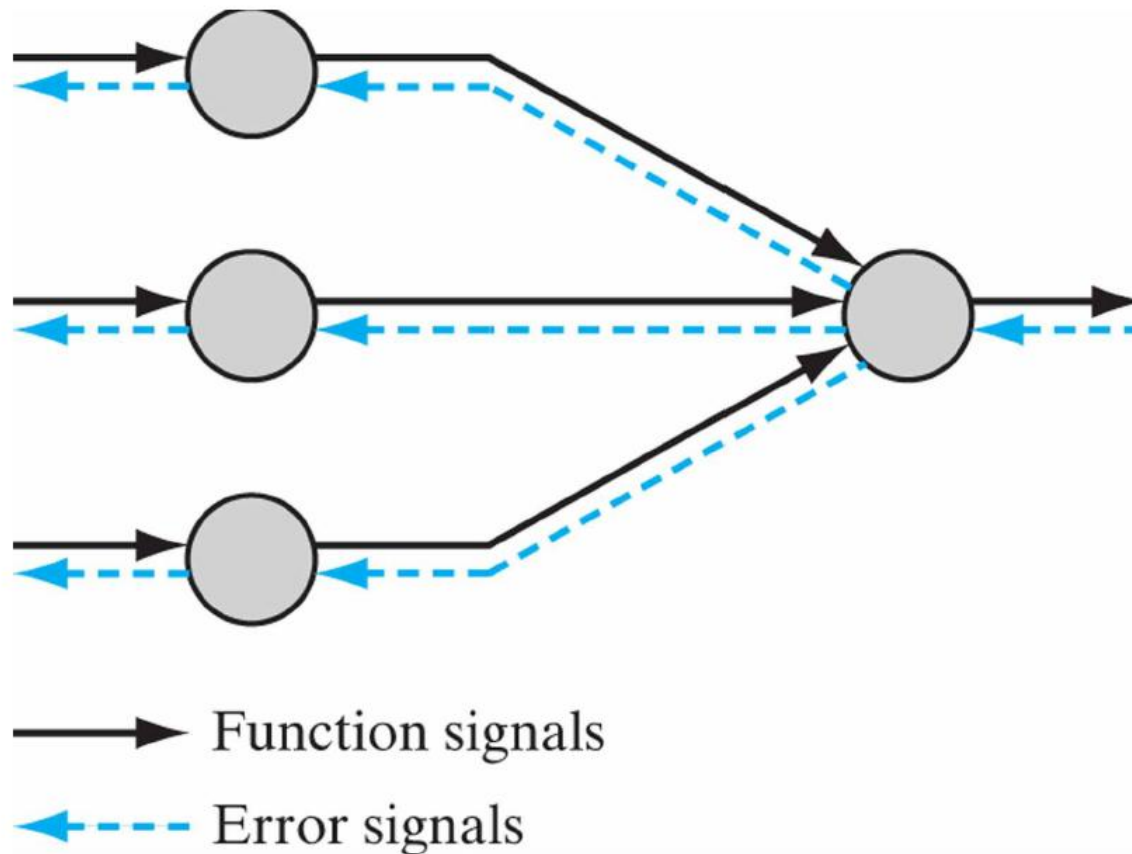
$$\{w_2 1 = w_2 2 = +1, \quad b_1 = -1/2\}$$

$$\{w_3 1 = -2, \quad w_3 2 = +1, \quad b_1 = -1/2\}$$





# Signal Flows in a Multilayer Perceptron





# Forward Pass: Computation of Network Error

**Output at layer 1:**

$$v_j(n) = \sum_{i=0}^m w_{ji}(n)x_i(n)$$

$$y_j(n) = \Phi(v_j(n))$$

**Output at layer 2 (output layer):**

$$v_k(n) = \sum_{j=0}^{m_1} w_{kj}(n)y_j(n)$$

$$y_k(n) = \Phi(v_k(n))$$

**Error at the output layer:**

$$e_k(n) = d_k(n) - y_k(n)$$



# Generalizing the LMS Cost Function

From the LMS derivation, instantaneous error for a single neuron  $k$  is

$\frac{1}{2} e^2_k(n)$ . Combined error of all neurons in the output layer for iteration  $n$  is,

又是这个二分之一惹的祸！！！！

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in C} e^2_k(n)$$

Average squared error over all the input samples ( $N$ ) is,

$$|\mathcal{E}_{av} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathcal{E}(n)$$

The objective of the learning process is to minimize the average squared error. To do so, we will consider an incremental training approach.

# Chain Rule of Calculus

$$\frac{df(n(t))}{dt} = \frac{df(n)}{dn} \times \frac{dn(t)}{dt}$$

Consider,  $f(n) = \ln(n)$ ,  $n = t^2$ , and  $f(n(t)) = \ln(t^2)$ .

$$\frac{df(n(t))}{dt} = \frac{df(n)}{dn} \times \frac{dn(t)}{dt} = \frac{1}{n} \times 2t = \frac{2t}{n}$$



# Backward Pass: Weight Correction

Similar to the LMS algorithm, the backpropagation algorithm applies the correction  $\Delta w_{kj}(n)$ .

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial w_{kj}(n)} \sim \Delta w_{kj}(n)$$

Using the chain rule of calculus,

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial w_{kj}(n)} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial e_k(n)} \frac{\partial e_k(n)}{\partial y_k(n)} \frac{\partial y_k(n)}{\partial v_j(n)} \frac{\partial v_j(n)}{\partial w_{kj}(n)}$$



# Computing the Gradient

Differentiating w.r.t  $e_k(n)$ , with regard to; with reference to;

$$\frac{\partial \varepsilon(n)}{\partial e_k(n)} = e_k(n)$$

Differentiating w.r.t  $y_k(n)$ ,

$$\frac{\partial e_k(n)}{\partial y_k(n)} = -1$$

Differentiating w.r.t  $v_k(n)$ ,

$$\frac{\partial y_k(n)}{\partial v_k(n)} = \phi'_k(v_k(n))$$

Differentiating w.r.t  $w_{jk}(n)$ ,

$$\frac{\partial v_k(n)}{\partial w_{jk}(n)} = y_j(n)$$

where  $y_j(n) = x_i(n)$  for the first layer.

Thus the gradient is given by,

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial w_{kj}(n)} = -e_k(n) \phi'_k(v_k(n)) y_j(n)$$

From the LMS algorithm, the error correction  $\Delta w_{kj}(n)$  applied to weight  $w_{kj}(n)$  is defined by the *delta rule*,

$$\Delta w_{kj}(n) = -\eta \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial w_{kj}(n)}$$

which can be rewritten as,

$$\Delta w_{kj}(n) = \eta \delta_k(n) y_j(n)$$

where  $\delta_k(n)$  is known as the *local gradient*.

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_k(n) &= \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial v_k(n)} \\ &= e_k(n) \phi'_k(v_k(n)) \end{aligned}$$



## Case 1: Output Neuron

The error and the local gradient for output neurons can be computed in a straightforward manner using the expressions we just derived.

$$e_k(n) = d_k(n) - y_k(n)$$

$$\delta_k(n) = e_k(n) \Phi_k'(v(n))$$

Thus the error correction for output neurons is,

$$\Delta w_{kj}(n) = \eta \delta_k(n) y_j(n)$$



## Case 2: Hidden Neuron

- No desired responses are available for the hidden neurons.
- The error signal must be worked out backwards.
- The error at each hidden neuron is a combination of its share of the error at each output neuron.



## Case 2: Hidden Neuron

Local gradient for the hidden neuron,

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_j(n) &= -\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial y_j(n)} \frac{\partial y_j(n)}{\partial v_j(n)} \\ &= -\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial y_j(n)} \phi'_j(v_j(n))\end{aligned}$$

To calculate  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial y_j(n)}$ , consider the error at the output layer,

$$\mathcal{E}(n) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k \in C} e_k^2(n)$$

Differentiate w.r.t  $y_j(n)$ ,

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial y_j(n)} = \sum_k e_k \frac{\partial e_k}{\partial y_j(n)}$$

Using the chain rule, we expand the above result,

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial y_j(n)} = \sum_k e_k \frac{\partial e_k}{\partial v_k(n)} \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial y_j(n)}$$

Error at the output neuron  $k$  is,

$$e_k(n) = d_k(n) - \phi_k(v_k(n))$$

Hence,

$$\frac{\partial e_k}{\partial v_k(n)} = -\phi'_k(v_k(n))$$

Recall that  $v_k(n) = \sum_{j=0}^{m_1} w_{kj}(n)y_j(n)$ ; Differentiating w.r.t  $y_j(n)$ ,

$$\frac{\partial v_k}{\partial y_j(n)} = w_{kj}(n)$$

Thus,  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial y_j(n)}$  is given by,

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(n)}{\partial y_j(n)} = - \sum_k e_k \phi'_k(v_k(n)) w_{kj}(n) = - \sum_k \delta_k(n) w_{kj}(n)$$

Finally the backpropagation formula for local gradient of the hidden neuron is,

$$\delta_j(n) = \phi'_j(v_j(n)) \sum_k \delta_k(n) w_{kj}(n)$$

Thus the error correction for the hidden neuron is,

$$\Delta w_{ji}(n) = \eta \delta_j(n) y_i(n)$$



## Summary of Weight Update Rules for Backpropagation

The weight correction  $\Delta w_{ji}(n)$  applied to the weight connecting any neuron  $i$  to any neuron  $j$  is given by the delta rule,

$$\Delta w_{kj}(n) = \eta \delta_j(n) y_i(n)$$

Where  $y_i(n)$  is the input signal of neuron  $j$ , and the local gradient  $\delta_j(n)$  varies as,

1. If  $j$  is an output neuron,

$$\delta_j(n) = e_j(n) \Phi_j'(v_j(n))$$

2. If  $j$  is a hidden neuron,

$$\delta_j(n) = \Phi_j'(v_j(n)) \sum_k \delta_k(n) w_{kj}(n)$$



# Computation of the Local Gradient

- To compute  $\delta$ , we need to compute the derivative of the activation function.
- The activation function of an MLP must be nonlinear and continuously differentiable.
- Two commonly used activation functions are the logistic function and the hyperbolic tangent function.



# Local Gradient for the Logistic Function

We calculated the derivative of the logistic function as,

$$\phi'(v(n)) = ay(n)[1 - y(n)]$$

- The local gradient of the output neuron  $j$  with a logistic activation

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_j(n) &= e_j(n)\phi'_j(v_j(n)) \\ &= a[d_j(n) - y_j(n)]y_j(n)[1 - y_j(n)]\end{aligned}$$

- The local gradient of the hidden neuron  $j$  with a logistic activation

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_j(n) &= \phi'_j(v_j(n)) \sum_k \delta_k(n)w_{kj}(n) \\ &= ay_j(n)[1 - y_j(n)] \sum_k \delta_k(n)w_{kj}(n)\end{aligned}$$

$k$  is a neuron in the next layer.





# Local Gradient for the Hyperbolic Tangent Function

Hyperbolic tangent function:

$$\phi(v(n)) = a \tanh(bv(n))$$

The derivative:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi'(v(n)) &= ab \operatorname{sech}^2(bv(n)) \\ &= ab[1 - \tanh^2(bv(n))] \\ &= ab \left[ 1 - \frac{y^2(n)}{a^2} \right] \\ &= \frac{b}{a} [a - y(n)][a + y(n)]\end{aligned}$$

LMS weight update with the hyperbolic tangent function,

$$\hat{w}(n+1) = \hat{w}(n) + \frac{b}{a} \eta \hat{e}(n) [a - y(n)][a + y(n)]$$



# Generalized Delta Rule

The rule for updating the synaptic weights can be written as,

$$w_{ji}(n+1) = w_{ji}(n) + \eta \delta_j(n) y_i(n)$$

$$y_i(n) = x(n) \text{ for layer 1.}$$

The value of  $\delta_j(n)$  depends on whether neuron  $j$  is an output neuron or a hidden neuron.



# Comments on Learning Rate

- Backpropagation is a generalization of the LMS algorithm.
- The learning rate behaves similar to the that of the LMS algorithm
  - smaller learning rate → smoother trajectory → slower rate of convergence
  - Larger learning rate → zigzagging trajectory → faster rate of learning; possible unstable behavior



# Comments on Learning Rate

To avoid instability while increasing the learning rate, a modified delta rule can be used,

$$\Delta w_{ji}(n) = \alpha w_{ji}(n - 1) + \eta \delta_j(n) y_i(n)$$

or,

$$w_{ji}(n + 1) = w_{ji}(n) + \alpha [w_{ji}(n + 1)] + \eta \delta_j(n) y_i(n)$$

可能是n

Here,  $\alpha w_{ji}(n - 1)$  is the momentum term.

- $\alpha$  is the momentum constant;  $0 \leq \alpha < 1$
- $\alpha$  is generally positive
- Setting  $\alpha = 0$  gives the original delta rule

Momentum accelerates descent, however it has a stabilizing effect on oscillatory behavior of the direction of descent.



# Training Methods

How often should we update the weights?

- after each input sample
- after a complete presentation of all input samples
- after a small batch of input samples

How do we set the learning rate?

- Fixed learning rate
- Use annealing methods
- Use momentum with learning rate



# Stopping Criteria

Some 'reasonable' criteria for stopping training,

- When the norm of the gradient vector goes below a threshold value
- When the average squared error per iteration is below a threshold value
- When the generalization performance has peaked



# Example

- <https://mattmazur.com/2015/03/17/a-step-by-step-backpropagation-example/>



# Function Approximation Example

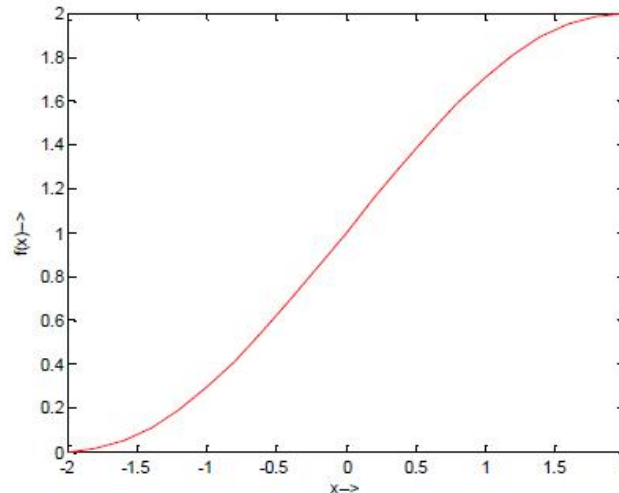
We want to use a MLP trained using backpropagation to approximate the function,

$$f(x) = 1 + \sin \frac{\pi}{4} x, \quad \text{for } -2 \leq x \leq 2$$

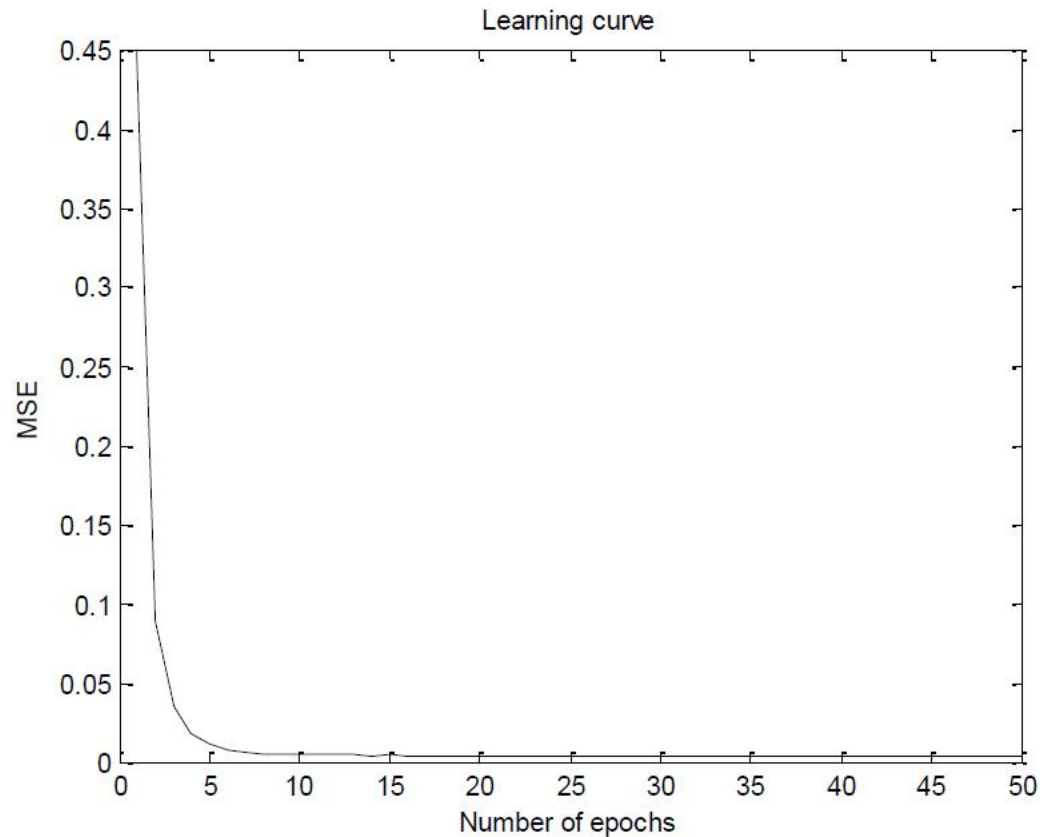
Create a dataset by evaluating the function for several values of  $x$  within the specified interval.

Input:  $x$

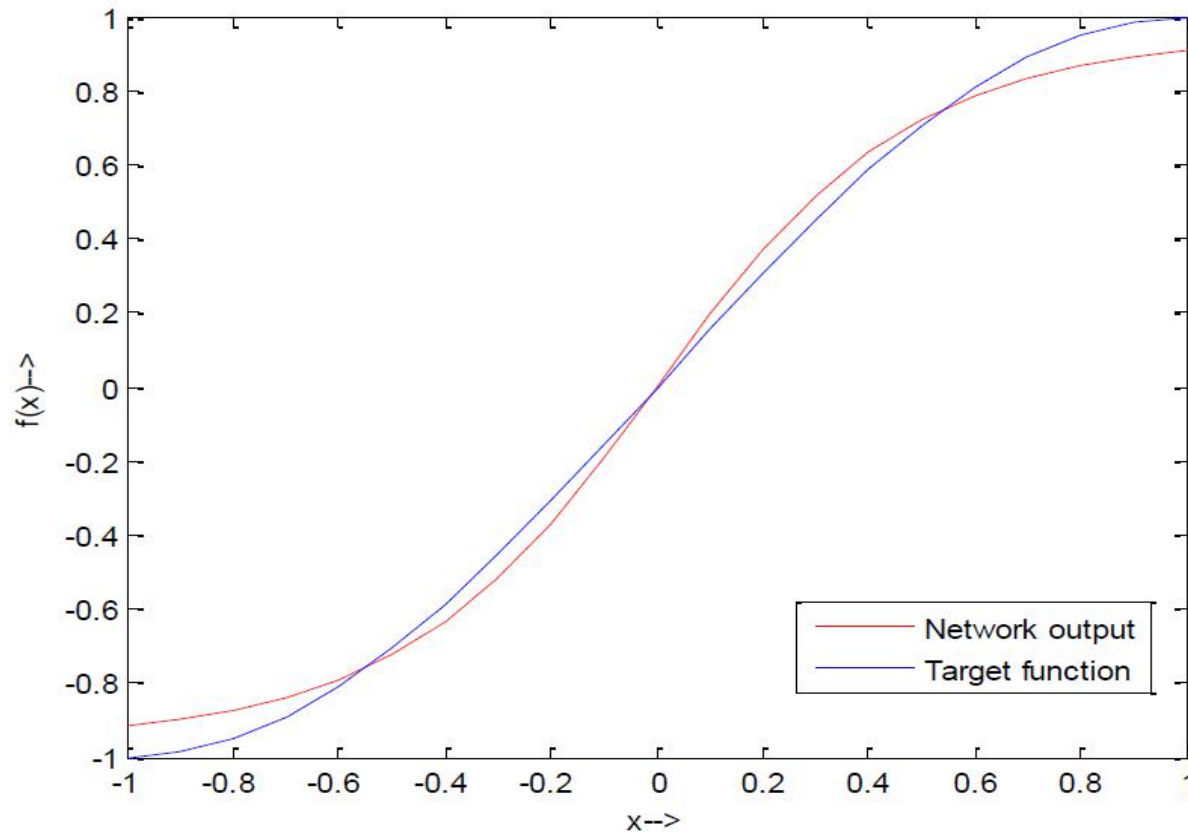
Target:  $F(x)$



# Learning Curve

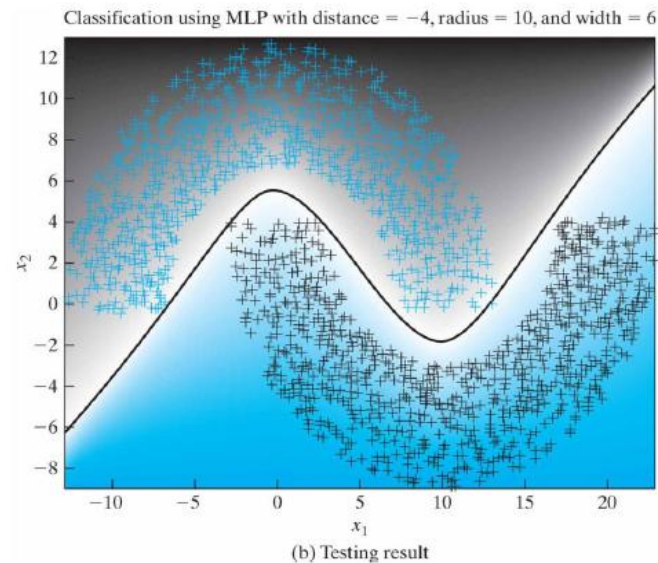
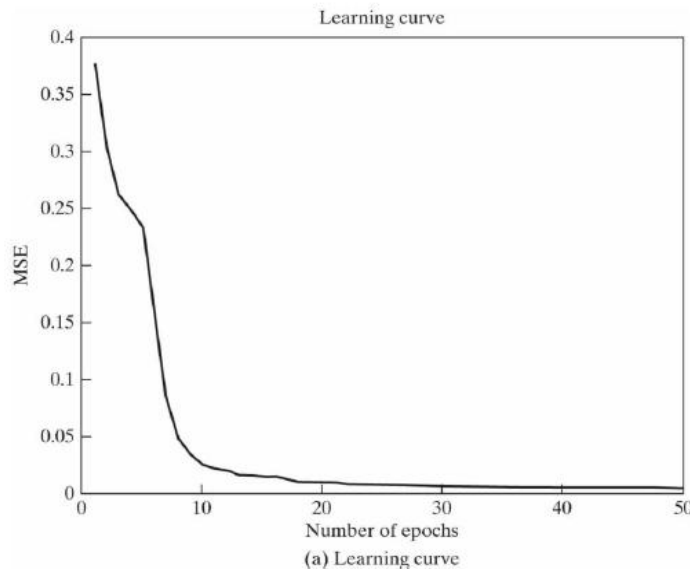


# Network Performance

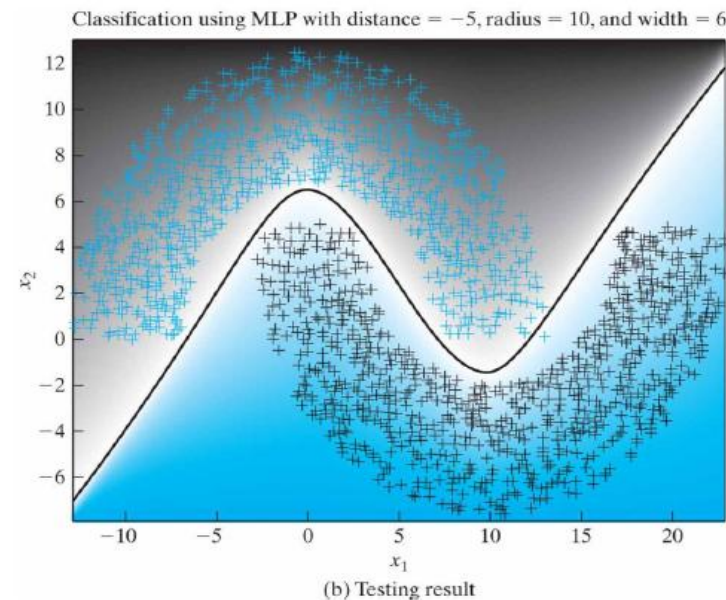
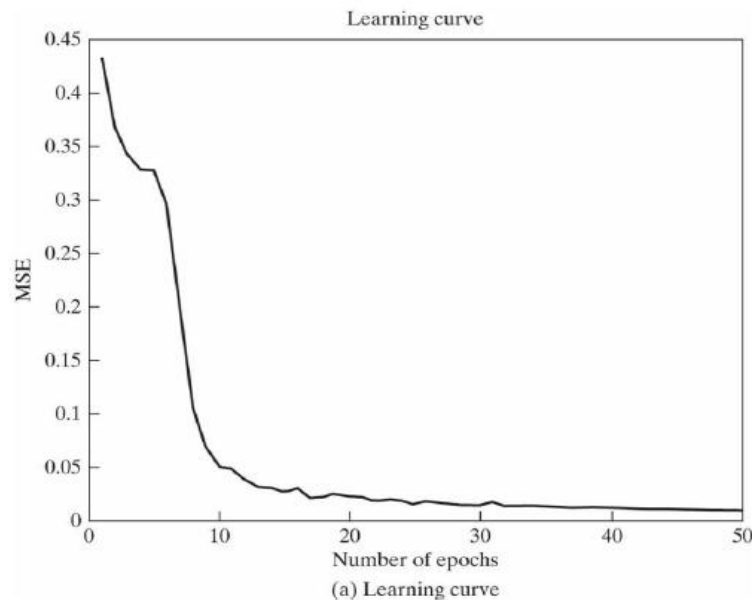




# Pattern Classification Example



Results of the computer experiment on the backpropagation algorithm applied to the MLP with distance  $d = -4$ .

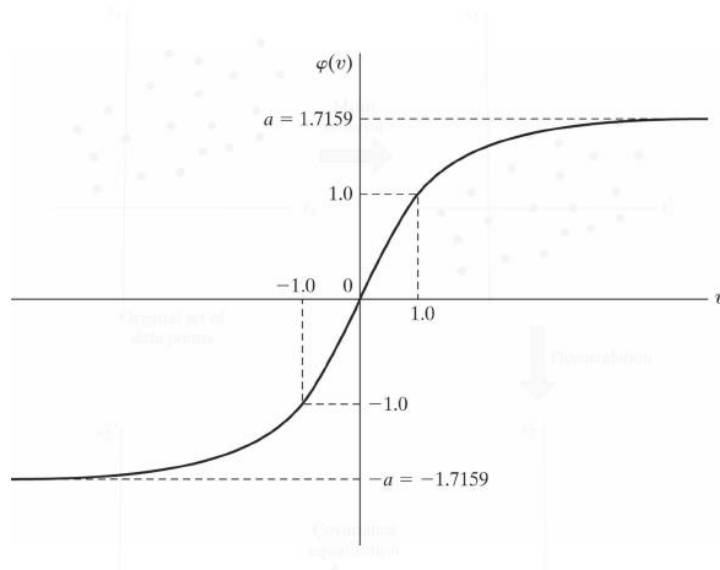


Results of the computer experiment on the back-propagation algorithm applied to the MLP with distance  $d = -5$

# Heuristics for Improving the Performance of the Backpropagation Algorithm

- Update scheme: Batch vs Sequential training is faster and less computationally intensive.
- Maximize information content Choose training samples that is different from previous samples and results in maximum training error.
- 洗牌
- Shuffle inputs before presenting to the network; As far as possible make sure each successive input belongs to a different class.

# Heuristics: Activation Function



Use an activation that is an odd function of its argument,

$$\phi(-v) = -\phi(v)$$

This condition is met by the hyperbolic tangent function,

$$\phi(v) = a \tanh(bv)$$

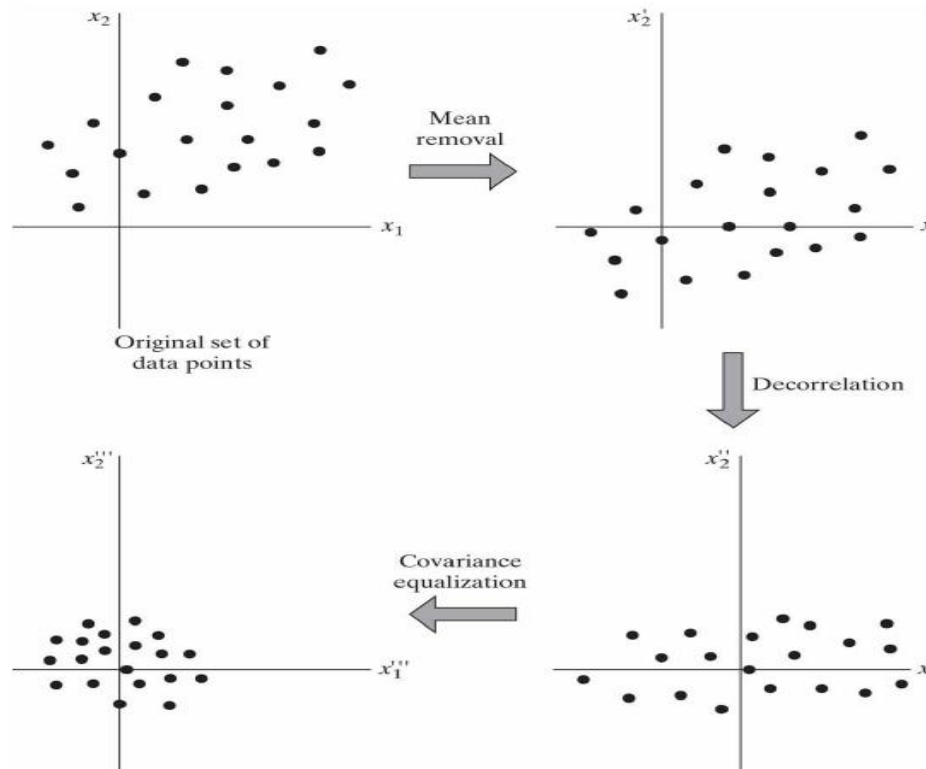
# Heuristics: Setting the Target Values

Use an offset to move the desired response away from the limiting values of the sigmoid function.

$$d_j = a - \varepsilon$$
$$d_j = -a + \varepsilon$$

where  $\varepsilon$  is a positive constant.

# Heuristics: Normalizing Inputs



# Heuristics: Other Suggestions

- Initialization: Avoid very large and very small values of initial weights. A safe range is  $[-0.5, 0.5]$ .
- Learning rates: Ideally all neurons in the network should learn at the same rate. Neurons with many inputs should have a lower learning rate than neurons with fewer inputs, to ensure a uniform learning time.

