

Assignment 1

Q1: Environmental Monitoring and Hazard Detection

Scenario:

A sensor-based system monitors environmental conditions to detect potential hazards (e.g., flooding, storms). Sensors provide binary input:

- $x_1=1$ – High temperature detected.
- $x_2=0$ – No wind activity.
- $x_3=0$ – Low humidity.
- $x_4=1$ – Rain detected.

Weights reflect the impact of each factor on the risk level. For instance:

- High temperature ($w_1=0.2$) slightly increases hazard risk.
- $w_2=-0.3$
- $w_3=0.5$
- Rain ($w_4=-0.4$) might reduce risk in fire-prone areas but increase it for floods.

The system activates an alarm (output 1) if the combined risk exceeds a threshold (e.g., $t=0.1$)

Real-World Application:

- Wildfire detection systems use similar neural networks, balancing factors like heat, wind, and humidity.
- Flood detection models assess rainfall, ground saturation, and temperature to trigger early warnings.

Task:

1. Calculate the output of the neuron based on the given inputs and weights.
2. Explain how each input influences the final decision.
3. Discuss how changing the weight of x_4 (e.g., from -0.4 to -0.1) might alter the neuron's behavior.

Q2: Autonomous Vehicle Decision-Making

Scenario:

An autonomous vehicle must decide whether to proceed or stop at an intersection. The system evaluates two key factors:

- x_1 – Obstacle detected (1 = Yes, 0 = No).

- x_2 – Traffic light is red (1 = Red, 0 = Green).

Weights reflect their importance:

- Obstacle ($w_1=0.7$) has more influence on stopping.
- Red light ($w_2=0.3$) is less critical but still considered.

The vehicle stops (output 1) if the weighted sum exceeds $t=0.5$.

Task:

1. Construct a truth table showing the neuron's output for all possible input combinations (x_1, x_2)
2. Analyze the table to explain under what conditions the neuron activates.
3. Reflect on how a slight decrease in w_1 or an increase in w_2 could impact the output.

Real-World Application:

- Self-driving cars use neural models to integrate sensor data and traffic signals.
- The model balances pedestrian detection, light signals, and surrounding vehicle positions to make driving decisions.

Q3: Predictive Maintenance in Industrial Equipment

Scenario:

A manufacturing plant uses sensor data to predict equipment failures. Four sensors measure machine conditions:

- $X=[2,1,-2,-1]$ – Temperature, vibration, pressure deviation, and fluid levels.

Weights represent the sensitivity of the system to these factors:

- $w=[-0.1,1,1,0.1]$ – Vibration and pressure deviations are more critical for failure prediction.

The ReLU activation ensures that only significant deviations trigger alerts (ignoring negative or minor inputs).

Task:

1. Calculate the initial output of the neuron using the ReLU activation function.
2. If the output is zero, explain how the network responds to this situation during training.

Real-World Application:

- Predictive maintenance systems analyze sensor data to prevent costly machine downtime.
- Neural networks learn from historical failures to adjust weights, improving accuracy over time.