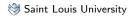
Lecture 1 Linear Classification

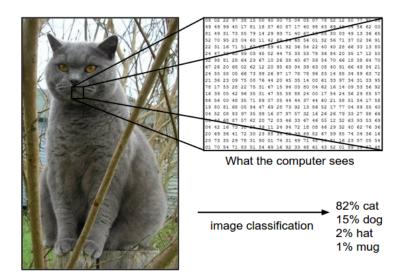
Fei Tan





Introduction to Neural Networks July 12, 2025

Image Classification



The Road Ahead...

1 Linear Classifiers

2 Gradient Descent

3 Backpropagation

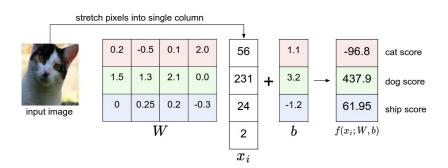
Score Function

Linear score

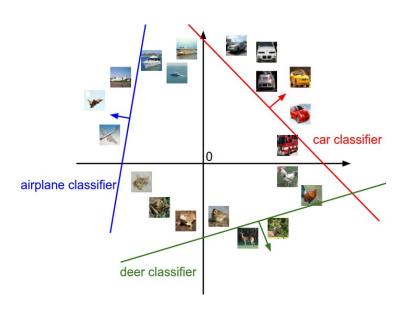
$$f(x_i, W, b) = Wx_i + b$$

- Notation
 - ▶ dataset of N examples $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$, D (normalized) features $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^D$, K categories of *single* attribute $y_i \in 1, \ldots, K$
 - \blacktriangleright $K \times D$ weights $W, K \times 1$ bias b
- Pipeline
 - split data into training, validation, and test sets
 - train parameters and (cross) validate hyperparameters
 - evaluate on test set only once at the end

Algebraic Interpretation



Geometric Interpretation



Loss Function

Regularized loss

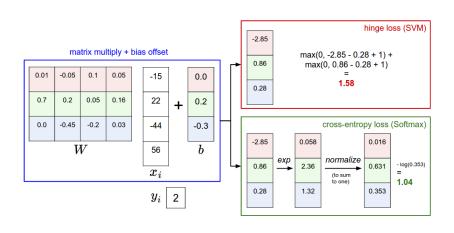
$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i} L_{i} + \lambda R(W), \quad \lambda > 0$$

- Examples of data loss
 - multiclass support vector machine (SVM) classifier uses hinge loss: $L_i = \sum_{i \neq y_i} \max(0, f_i f_{y_i} + \Delta), \ \Delta > 0$
 - Softmax classifier uses cross-entropy loss: $L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{fy_i}}{\sum_i e^{f_j}}\right)$
- ► Examples of regularization/prior
 - ▶ L^1 regularization: $R(W) = \sum_{i,j} |W_{ij}|$
 - ► L^2 regularization: $R(W) = \sum_{i,j} W_{ij}^2$

Loss Function (Cont'd)

```
import numpy as np
# SVM classifier
def L1_i(x_i, y_i, W, b):
    delta = 1.0
   f = W.dot(x_i) + b
    margins = np.maximum(0, f - f[y_i] + delta)
    margins[y_i] = 0 # ignore true class
    return np.sum(margins)
# Softmax classifier
def L2_i(x_i, y_i, W, b):
    f = W.dot(x i) + b
    f -= np.max(f) # avoid potential blowup
    p = np.exp(f) / np.sum(np.exp(f))
   return -np.log(p[y_i])
```

SVM vs. Softmax



The Road Ahead...

1 Linear Classifiers

2 Gradient Descent

Backpropagation

Analytic Gradient

Derivative of 1-D function

$$\frac{df(x)}{dx} = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

- Gradient of multi-D function
 - vector of partial derivatives in each dimension
 - examples of 2-D function

$$f(x,y) = xy \quad \rightarrow \quad \nabla f = \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial x'}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right] = [y,x]$$

$$f(x,y) = x + y \quad \rightarrow \quad \nabla f = [1,1]$$

$$f(x,y) = \max(x,y) \quad \rightarrow \quad \nabla f = [\mathbb{1}(x \ge y), \mathbb{1}(x \le y)]$$

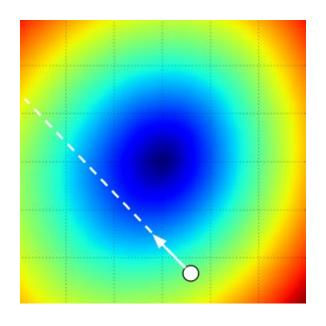
Numerical Gradient

```
import numpy as np
def num_grad(f, x): # finite difference method
   fx = f(x)
    grad = np.zeros(x.shape)
    h = 0.00001
    it = np.nditer(x, flags=['multi_index'],
       op_flags=['readwrite'])
    while not it finished:
        ix = it.multi_index
        old_value = x[ix]
        x[ix] = old value + h
        fxh = f(x)
        x[ix] = old_value
        grad[ix] = (fxh - fx) / h # alternatively
            [f(x+h)-f(x-h)]/2h
        it.iternext()
    return grad
```

Gradient Descent

- Repeated local search to minimize loss function
 - update in negative gradient direction
 - validate learning rate (step size)
- ► Mini-batch/stochastic gradient descent

Gradient Descent (Cont'd)



The Road Ahead...

1 Linear Classifiers

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Backpropagation

Chain rule

$$\frac{dz}{dx} = \frac{dz}{dy}\frac{dy}{dx}$$

Example of composite function

$$f(v(p(x,y),q(z,w))) = 2 \underbrace{\left[\underbrace{xy}_{p \text{ (* gate)}} + \underbrace{\max(z,w)}_{q \text{ (max gate)}} \right]}_{v \text{ (+ gate)}}$$

- forward pass: [x, y, z, w] = [3, -4, 2, -1], f = -20
- **b** backward pass: $\nabla f = \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial w}\right] = [-8, 6, 2, 0]$

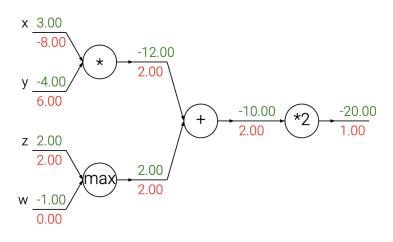
Backpropagation (Cont'd)

```
# Forward pass
x = 3; y = -4; z = 2; w = -1
p = x * y # -12
q = \max(z, w) # 2
v = p + q # -10
f = 2 * v # -20
# Backward pass
dfdv = 2
dvdp = 1
dpdx = y
dpdy = x
dvdq = 1
dqdz = (z > w)
dqdw = (w > z)
dfdx = dfdv * dvdp * dpdx # -8
dfdy = dfdv * dvdp * dpdy # 6
dfdz = dfdv * dvdq * dqdz # 2
dfdw = dfdv * dvdq * dqdw # 0
```

PyTorch Implementation

```
import torch
# Forward pass
x = torch.tensor(3., requires_grad=True)
y = torch.tensor(-4., requires_grad=True)
z = torch.tensor(2., requires_grad=True)
w = torch.tensor(-1., requires_grad=True)
p = x * y # tensor(-12., grad_fn=<MulBackward0>)
q = max(z, w) # tensor(2., grad_fn=<MaxBackward0>)
v = p + q # tensor(-10., grad_fn=<AddBackward0>)
f = 2 * v # tensor(-20., grad_fn=<MulBackward0>)
# Backward pass
f.backward() # compute gradients
print(x.grad) # tensor(-8.)
print(y.grad) # tensor(6.)
print(z.grad) # tensor(2.)
print(w.grad) # tensor(0.)
```

PyTorch Computation Graph



References

- cs231n.stanford.edu CS231n: Deep Learning for Computer Vision
- github.com/karpathy/micrograd A tiny scalar-valued autograd engine and a neural net library on top of it with PyTorch-like API
- ► Tang (2013), "Deep Learning using Linear Support Vector Machines", arXiv:1306.0239