ECE 1508: Applied Deep Learning

Chapter 1: Preliminaries

Ali Bereyhi

ali.bereyhi@utoronto.ca

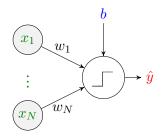
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
University of Toronto

Winter 2025

Let's start our long story with binary classification via perceptron

- **1** Dataset $\mathbb{D} = \{(x_i, y_i) : i = 1, \dots, I\}$ with binary labels $y_i \in \{0, 1\}$
- 2 Perceptron as the model Binary classifier

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = s(\mathbf{w}^\mathsf{T} x + b) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{w}^\mathsf{T} x + b \ge 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } \mathbf{w}^\mathsf{T} x + b < 0 \end{cases}$$



3 Error indicator as the loss function

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{y}, \mathbf{y}) = \mathbb{1}(\hat{y} \neq \mathbf{y}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \hat{y} \neq \mathbf{y} \\ 0 & \hat{y} = \mathbf{y} \end{cases}$$

Let's write down the empirical risk

$$\begin{split} \hat{R}\left(\mathbf{w},b\right) &= \frac{1}{I} \sum_{i=1}^{I} \mathcal{L}\left(\hat{y}_{i},y_{i}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{I} \sum_{i=1}^{I} \mathbb{1}\left(\hat{y}_{i} \neq y_{i}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{I} \sum_{i=1}^{I} \mathbb{1}\left(s(\mathbf{w}^{\mathsf{T}}x_{i} + b) \neq y_{i}\right) \\ &= \frac{\text{\# of times perceptron misclassifies}}{I} \\ &\equiv \text{Error Rate} \end{split}$$

We should now minimize the empirical risk

$$\mathbf{w}^{\star}, b^{\star} = \underset{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^{N}, b \in \mathbb{R}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \hat{R}(\mathbf{w}, b) = \underset{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^{N}, b \in \mathbb{R}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \frac{1}{I} \sum_{i=1}^{I} \mathbb{1}\left(s(\mathbf{w}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{x}_{i} + b) \neq \mathbf{y}_{i}\right)$$

But, how can we solve this optimization? It doesn't look easy!

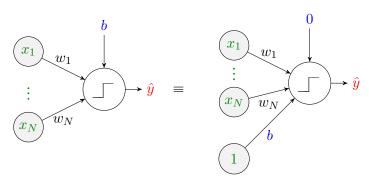
Let's see what Rosenblatt did: Rosenblatt's perceptron had no bias, i.e., b=0

```
1: Start with \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0} or some small random initial value 2: while \hat{R}(\mathbf{w}) \neq 0 do 3: for i = 1: I do 4: Compute z_i = \mathbf{w}^\mathsf{T} x_i and \hat{y}_i = s(z_i) # pass through perceptron 5: if \hat{y}_i \neq y_i then 6: \mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} - \mathsf{sign}(z_i) x_i 7: end if 8: end for 9: end while
```

It's almost zero effort to extend Rosenblatt's algorithm to the case with bias

$$\mathbf{w}^\mathsf{T} x_i + b = [\mathbf{w}^\mathsf{T}, b] \begin{bmatrix} x_i \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \tilde{\mathbf{w}}^\mathsf{T} \tilde{x}_i$$

So, bias only adds one dimension to the data-point with value 1



So, we just need to replace \mathbf{w} with $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{w} \\ b \end{bmatrix}$ in Rosenblatt's algorithm

```
1: Start with \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0} and b = 0, or some small random initial value

2: \mathbf{while} \ \hat{R} \ (\mathbf{w}, b) \neq 0 \ \mathbf{do}

3: \mathbf{for} \ i = 1 : I \ \mathbf{do}

4: Compute z_i = \mathbf{w}^\mathsf{T} x_i + b \ \mathrm{and} \ \hat{y}_i = s(z_i) # pass through perceptron

5: \mathbf{if} \ \hat{y}_i \neq y_i \ \mathbf{then}

6: \mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} - \mathrm{sign} \ (z_i) \ x_i \ \mathrm{and} \ b \leftarrow b - \mathrm{sign} \ (z_i)

7: \mathbf{end} \ \mathbf{if}

8: \mathbf{end} \ \mathbf{for}

9: \mathbf{end} \ \mathbf{while}
```

- + Why should perceptron algorithm minimize the empirical risk?
- Let's inspect the no-bias version step by step

```
1: Start with \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0} or some small random initial value 2: while \hat{R}(\mathbf{w}) \neq 0 do 3: for i = 1: I do 4: Compute z_i = \mathbf{w}^\mathsf{T} x_i and \hat{y}_i = s(z_i) # pass through perceptron 5: if \hat{y}_i \neq y_i then 6: \mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} - \mathrm{sign}(z_i) x_i 7: end if 8: end for 9: end while
```

- Outer loop stops only if $\hat{R}(\mathbf{w}) = 0$ which is minimum empirical risk
- In inner loop, let's say at iteration t error occurs for x_i

so the algorithm pushes the weights somewhere that z_i could get negative

```
1: Start with \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0} or some small random initial value 2: while \hat{R}(\mathbf{w}) \neq 0 do 3: for i = 1: I do 4: Compute z_i = \mathbf{w}^\mathsf{T} x_i and \hat{y}_i = s(z_i) # pass through perceptron 5: if \hat{y}_i \neq y_i then 6: \mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} - \mathrm{sign}(z_i) x_i 7: end if 8: end for 9: end while
```

- Outer loop stops only if $\hat{R}(\mathbf{w}) = 0$ which is minimum empirical risk
- In inner loop, let's say at iteration t error occurs for $oldsymbol{x}_i$

so the algorithm pushes the weights somewhere that z_i could get positive

```
1: Start with \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0} or some small random initial value 2: while \hat{R}(\mathbf{w}) \neq 0 do 3: for i = 1: I do 4: Compute z_i = \mathbf{w}^\mathsf{T} x_i and \hat{y}_i = s(z_i) # pass through perceptron 5: if \hat{y}_i \neq y_i then 6: \mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} - \mathrm{sign}(z_i) x_i 7: end if 8: end for 9: end while
```

- + It makes sense that in each iteration w gets modified towards a right direction! But can we guarantee that this algorithm always converges? In other words, can't it get into an infinity loop?
- Well! Let's try some examples

Perceptron Algorithm: AND Operator

Assume that we have the following dataset two-dimensional inputs

$$\mathbb{D} = \left\{ (\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{0}), (\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{0}), (\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{0}), (\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{1}) \right\}$$

We intend to train perceptron with this dataset via perceptron algorithm

Before we start training, we note that this dataset represents the AND operator

$$\forall (\boldsymbol{x}_i, \boldsymbol{y}_i) \in \mathbb{D} : \boldsymbol{y}_i = x_{i,1} \land x_{i,2}$$

so, we basically want to see, if we could realize this operator via perceptron

Perceptron Algorithm: AND Operator

```
1: Start with \mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.1, 1.1 \end{bmatrix}^\mathsf{T} and b = -2.25: blue

2: while \hat{R}(\mathbf{w}, b) \neq 0 do

3: for i = 1:I do

4: Compute z_i = \mathbf{w}^\mathsf{T} x_i + b and \hat{y}_i = s(z_i)

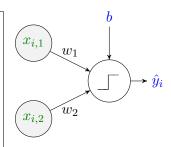
5: if \hat{y}_i \neq y_i then

6: \mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} - \mathrm{sign}(z_i) x_i and b \leftarrow b - \mathrm{sign}(z_i)

7: end if

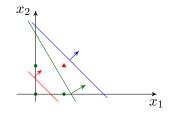
8: end for

9: end while
```



Let's show data-points with $y_i = 1$ by \triangle and those with $y_i = 0$ by \bullet

- Updated by $x_i = [1, 1]^T$ $\downarrow \mathbf{w} = [2.1, 2.1]^T \text{ and } b = -1.25 \text{: } \mathbf{red}$
- Updated by $x_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0, 1 \end{bmatrix}^\mathsf{T}$ $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 2.1, 1.1 \end{bmatrix}^\mathsf{T}$ and b = -2.25: green



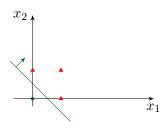
Perceptron Algorithm: AND Operator

Great! We trained the perceptron to behave as logical AND

- + What about logical OR?
- Easy! Let's write the dataset

$$\mathbb{D} = \left\{ \left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{0} \right), \left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{1} \right), \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{1} \right), \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{1} \right) \right\}$$

Trying the perceptron algorithm, we end up with some linear classifier like

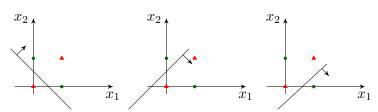


Perceptron Algorithm: False Conclusion

A false initial conclusion is that *perceptron can realize any binary function!*But, it is easy to see that *this is not the case!* Let's consider logical XOR:

$$x_1 \oplus x_2 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x_1 \neq x_2 \\ 0 & \text{if } x_1 = x_2 \end{cases} \leadsto \mathbb{D} = \left\{ (\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{0}), (\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{1}), (\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{1}), (\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{0}) \right\}$$

It's not hard to see that perceptron cannot learn this function¹



¹If you don't see it clearly, no worries! You'll show it as an assignment

Perceptron Algorithm: Linearly Separable Functions

- + What happens if we try the perceptron algorithm on this dataset?
- It will iterate for ever!
- + Why does this happen?
- This is because XOR is not linearly separable

Perceptron can classify only linearly separable functions

At this point, it was concluded that perceptron should be replaced by some other model in order to learn nonlinear function

Finding models that learn nonlinear function led to the birth of

Representation Learning

But, we don't need to study it, since deep learning solves the problem!

Multi-Layering Perceptrons

Let's play a bit with logical XOR: recall that

$$x_1 \oplus x_2 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x_1 \neq x_2 \\ 0 & \text{if } x_1 = x_2 \end{cases}$$

We can write this function as

$$x_1 \oplus x_2 = (x_1 \vee x_2) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_2)$$

where we have used the following notation

$$\bar{x} \equiv \text{complement of } x = 1 - x \qquad \text{and} \qquad \lor \equiv \text{logical OR}$$

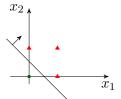
Multi-Layering Perceptrons

Logical XOR expands as

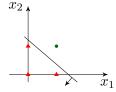
$$y = x_1 \oplus x_2 = \underbrace{(x_1 \vee x_2)}_{h_1} \wedge \underbrace{(\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_2)}_{h_2} = h_1 \wedge h_2$$

We can learn h_1 and h_2 by two different perceptrons

$$h_1 = x_1 \vee x_2$$

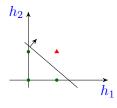


$$h_2 = \bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \equiv \overline{x_1 \wedge x_2}$$

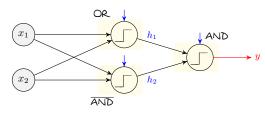


Multi-Layering Perceptrons

We can further learn $y = h_1 \wedge h_2$ by another perceptron

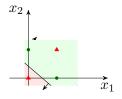


Well! It's true that we cannot learn XOR by a single perceptron, but we can learn it with a network of three perceptrons!



Multi-Layering Perceptrons: Geometrical Interpretation

Let's see geometrically what this network of perceptrons does



- First perceptron classifies
- Second perceptron classifies
- Third perceptron intersects the two regions

Multi-Layering Perceptrons: Correct Conclusion

We can learn any binary function using a network of perceptrons!

This has given birth to the idea of neural network

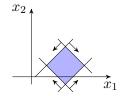
Neural Networks: Intuitive Introduction

looking at perceptron as an artificial neuron, we can learn any complicated function when we have a network of these neurons \equiv a Neural Network

- + But, why should we care only about binary functions? Don't we learn other type of functions as well?
- Well! We can extend the idea to other problems as well!

Multi-Layering Perceptrons: More Complicated Functions

Assume we have binary classification with real-valued inputs: we want to train a classifier that distinguishes between the two-dimensional points inside the blue area and outside of it



- We classify Region 1 with three perceptrons
- We classify Region 2 with three perceptrons
- We intersect the two regions with a perceptron

A network of 7 perceptrons is more than enough!

Multi-Layering Perceptrons: More Complicated Functions

- + What if the classification problem is **not binary**?
- Well! We already have seen that we can reduce a multi-class classification to a series of binary classifications²

We want to classify an image as dog, cat or car

- ► Binary Classification 1: Is it class 0: dog or class 1: {cat, car}?
 - \downarrow If class 0 \rightsquigarrow classification ended
 - □ If class 1 → Binary Classification 2: Is it class 0: cat or class 1: car?

Moral of Story

We can learn any classifier with high accuracy using a network of perceptrons

²There are better multi-class classification techniques that we learn later

Multi-Layering Perceptrons: More Complicated Functions

- + Fair enough! We are happy with classification! But, what about the case that we have real-valued labels? Can we do it by perceptrons?
- This is the regression problem!
- And, Yes! We can do this as well using perceptrons

Regression is a supervised learning problem in which

labels belong to a continuous set, e.g., $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$

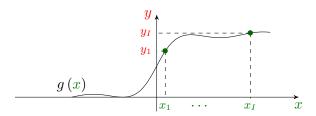
the label y_i in this case is the function sample at x_i

In regression, we learn a real-valued function

Let's look at a simple case with one-dimensional inputs, where we can visualize

$$\mathbb{D} = \{(x_i, y_i) : i = 1, \dots, I\}$$

A visualization of this dataset is

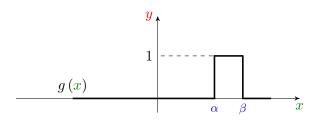


and we want to learn $g(\cdot)$

The main question is

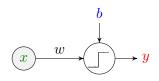
can we realize an arbitrary $g\left(\cdot\right)$ via a network of perceptrons?

Let's start with a simple function: the unit pulse



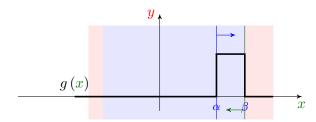
We can realize this function using three perceptrons

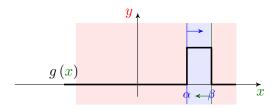
First, let's recall how perceptron looks with one-dimensional input



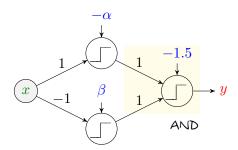
- \rightarrow with w = 1 and $b = -\alpha$: blue
- \rightarrow with w = -1 and $b = \beta$: green

We realize the pulse by applying AND on the outputs of these perceptrons

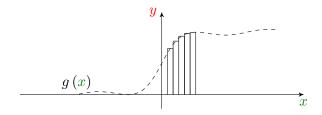




So, we can realize the unit pulse via the following network of perceptrons



We can approximate a general function via a weighted sum of unit pulses

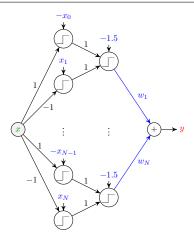


This means that we can approximate any function by

- realizing each pulse by a network of perceptrons
- applying linear transform on the outputs of these networks

Real-valued functions are well-approximated by

a network of perceptrons + a linear transform



Multi-Layering Perceptrons: Summary

A network of perceptrons seems to be a very sophisticated model

- It can learn any classifier
- It can approximate any function with arbitrary accuracy

Universal Approximation Theorem (informal)

Given function $g(\cdot)$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a neural network $f_{\mathbf{h}}(\cdot|\mathbf{w})$ that

$$\sup_{\mathbf{x}} \|g\left(\mathbf{x}\right) - f_{\mathbf{h}}\left(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{w}\right)\| \leqslant \varepsilon$$

So, it seems natural to train them for our learning tasks

A network of perceptrons is a special artificial neural network

we now formally introduce artificial neural network