

Model Representation I

Let's examine how we will represent a hypothesis function using neural networks. At a very simple level, neurons are basically computational units that take inputs (**dendrites**) as electrical inputs (called "spikes") that are channeled to outputs (**axons**). In our model, our dendrites are like the input features $x_1 \cdots x_n$, and the bias node x_0 is like the axon that is the result of our hypothesis function. In this model our x_0 input node is sometimes called the "bias" or "intercept" node, and it is always equal to 1. In neural networks, we use the same logistic function as in classification, $\frac{1}{1+e^{-\theta^T x}}$, which we sometimes call it a sigmoid (logistic) **activation** function. In this situation, our "theta" parameters are called "weights".

Visually, a simplistic representation looks like:

$$[x_0 x_1 x_2] \rightarrow [] \rightarrow h_{\theta}(x)$$

Our input nodes (layer 1), also known as the "input layer", go into another node (layer 2), which finally applies the hypothesis function, known as the "output layer".

We can have intermediate layers of nodes between the input and output layers called the "hidden layers".

In this example, we label these intermediate or "hidden" layer nodes $a_0^2 \cdots a_n^2$ and call them "activation" nodes.

$a_i^{(j)}$ = "activation" of unit i in layer j

$\Theta^{(j)}$ = matrix of weights controlling function mapping from layer j to layer $j + 1$

If we had one hidden layer, it would look like:

$$[x_0 x_1 x_2 x_3] \rightarrow [a_1^{(2)} a_2^{(2)} a_3^{(2)}] \rightarrow h_{\theta}(x)$$

The values for each of the "activation" nodes is obtained as follows:

$$a_1^{(2)} = g(\Theta_{10}^{(1)} x_0 + \Theta_{11}^{(1)} x_1 + \Theta_{12}^{(1)} x_2 + \Theta_{13}^{(1)} x_3)$$

$$a_2^{(2)} = g(\Theta_{20}^{(1)} x_0 + \Theta_{21}^{(1)} x_1 + \Theta_{22}^{(1)} x_2 + \Theta_{23}^{(1)} x_3)$$

$$a_3^{(2)} = g(\Theta_{30}^{(1)} x_0 + \Theta_{31}^{(1)} x_1 + \Theta_{32}^{(1)} x_2 + \Theta_{33}^{(1)} x_3)$$

$$h_{\theta}(x) = a_1^{(3)} = g(\Theta_{10}^{(2)} a_0^{(2)} + \Theta_{11}^{(2)} a_1^{(2)} + \Theta_{12}^{(2)} a_2^{(2)} + \Theta_{13}^{(2)} a_3^{(2)})$$

