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8 Agustos 2016 Pazartesi

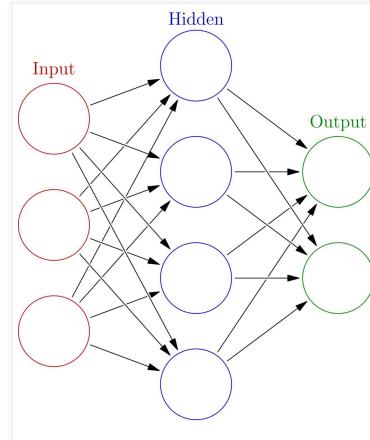
Building An Artifical Neurol Network With .Net and C#

 Download demo source code [HEJ](#)

Terminator, matrix, i robot were all great movies because artifical intelligence is so cool concept. That's why humanity working hard to build a 1 skynet. Artifical neurol networks is a step forward on this purpose. It is a mathematical model of biological neurol networks. Unlike many huma they can learn by experiance. Neurol network models can be trained by samples. A network is made of following structures.

1. **Input neurons:** An input data for neurol network to think about it.
2. **Neuron:** A math function node that calculates inputs and generates an output for other neurons. Output value is always must be a deci between 0 and 1. Thats why functions like logistic or softmax usually preferred. Name of function that chosen for neurons called "Activat Function".
3. **Hidden layers:** Contains neurons that process input data. Mathematical magic happens here.
4. **Weights:** Connections between neurons. They are just simple decimal numbers that sets characteristics of neurol network.
5. **Bias:** Some value between 0 to 1 that added to neurons output. That prevents 0 valued outputs from neurons and keep neurons alive. M boring thing in neurol networks.
6. **Output neurons:** Final output and conclusion of your network.

Here is a visual representation of ANN:



Artificial neural network is an application of mathematics so MATH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART! Let's take look at it step by step using graph above. For each neuron in the hidden layers and output layer calculate output signals by following formula:

K is logistic sigmoid activation function of our neurons

$$K(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

g_i is a vector of other connected neuron outputs and w_i is vector of weight connections. Output signal function for each neuron is:

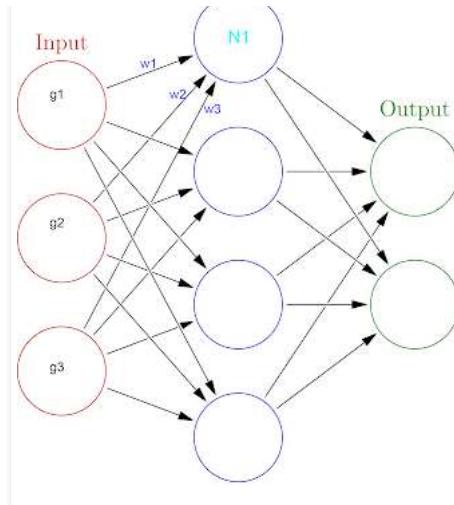
$$f(x) = K(\sum_i w_i g_i(x))$$

Every input data must be normalized to floating point between 0 to 1. That will also generate every neural signal in range of 0 to 1. This is the scal equalization for input data:

$$X' = \frac{X - X_{\min}}{X_{\max} - X_{\min}}$$

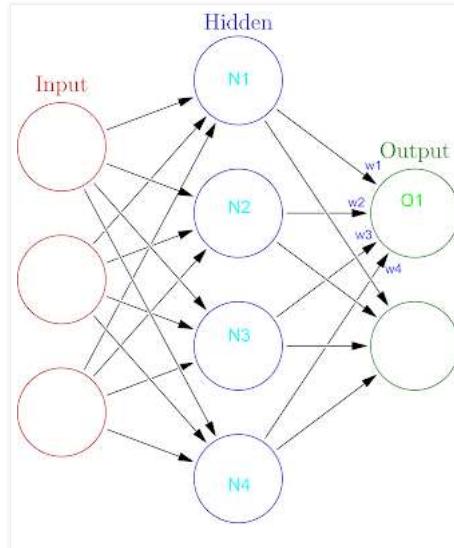
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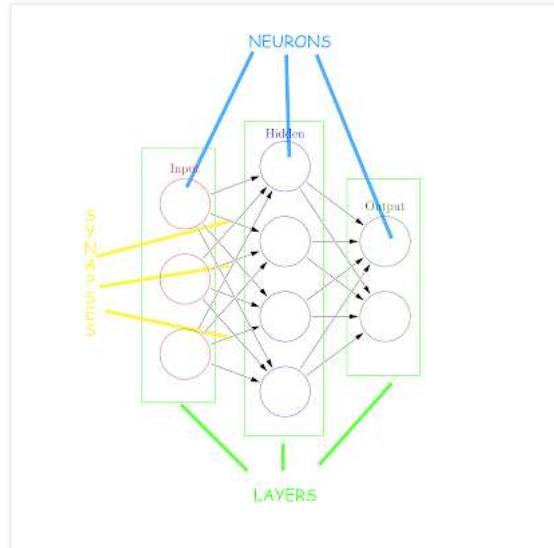
Output signal for $N_1 = K(g_1 * w_1 + g_2 * w_2 + g_3 * w_3)$

Another example for output neuron called O_1 :



Output signal for $O_1 = K(N_1 * w_1 + N_2 * w_2 + N_3 * w_3 + N_4 * w_4)$

We will get back to math later. That is enough for now. On this blog I will try to build an artificial neural network with .net and c# because there are enough python examples already. Also, I will try to do it on object oriented approach. It is simple to write it just using matrix calculations but I think this way is more easy to understand and maintain. Here is my object structure:



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}

Here is neuron class. We will breakdown all the details later.

```
public enum NeuronTypes
{
    Input,
    Hidden,
    Output
}

public class Neuron
{
    public List<Synapse> Inputs { get; set; }
    public List<Synapse> Outputs { get; set; }
    public double Output { get; set; }
    public double TargetOutput { get; set; }
    public double Delta { get; set; }
    public double Bias { get; set; }
    int? maxInput { get; set; }
    public NeuronTypes NeuronType { get; set; }

    public Neuron(NeuronTypes neuronType, int? maxInput)
    {
        this.NeuronType = neuronType;
        this.maxInput = maxInput;
        this.Inputs = new List<Synapse>();
        this.Outputs = new List<Synapse>();
    }

    public bool AcceptConnection
    {
        get
        {
            return !(NeuronType == NeuronTypes.Hidden && maxInput.HasValue && Inputs.Count > maxInput);
        }
    }

    public double InputSignal
    {
        get
        {
            return Inputs.Sum(d => d.Weight * (d.Source.Output + Bias));
        }
    }

    public double BackwardSignal()
    {
        if (Outputs.Any())
        {
            Delta = Outputs.Sum(d => d.Target.Delta * d.Weight) * activatePrime(Output);
        }
        else
        {
            Delta = (Output - TargetOutput) * activatePrime(Output);
        }

        return Delta + Bias;
    }

    public void AdjustWeights(double learnRate, double momentum)
    {
        if (Inputs.Any())
        {
            foreach (var input in Inputs)
            {
                input.Weight += learnRate * (TargetOutput - Output) * Bias;
                input.Momentum = momentum * input.Momentum + learnRate * (TargetOutput - Output) * input.Source.Output;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

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```
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synp.Weight -= learnRate * adjustDelta + synp.PreDelta * momentum;
synp.PreDelta = adjustDelta;

}

}

public double ForwardSignal()
{
    Output = activate(InputSignal);
    return Output;
}

double activatePrime(double x)
{
    return x * (1 - x);
}

double activate(double x)
{
    return 1 / (1 + Math.Pow(Math.E, -x));
}
}
```

Synapse class for connections between neurons.

```
public class Synapse
{
    public double Weight { get; set; }
    public Neuron Target { get; set; }
    public Neuron Source { get; set; }
    public double PreDelta { get; set; }
    public double Gradient { get; set; }
    public Synapse(double weight, Neuron target, Neuron source)
    {
        Weight = weight;
        Target = target;
        Source = source;
    }
}
```

And the NeuralNetwork class, the maestro that pulls them together.

```
public class NeuralNetwork
{
    public double LearnRate = .5;
    public double Momentum = .3;
    public List<Layer> Layers { get; private set; }
    int? maxNeuronConnection;
    public int? Seed { get; set; }
    public NeuralNetwork(int inputs, int[] hiddenLayers, int outputs, int? maxNeuronConnection = null, int? seed =
    {
        this.Seed = seed;
        this.maxNeuronConnection = maxNeuronConnection;
        this.Layers = new List<Layer>();
        buildLayer(inputs, NeuronTypes.Input);
        for (int i = 0; i < hiddenLayers.Length; i++)
        {
            buildLayer(hiddenLayers[i], NeuronTypes.Hidden);
        }
        buildLayer(outputs, NeuronTypes.Output);
        InitSynpes();
    }
}
```

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```

var nodeBuilder = new List<Neuron>(),
    for (int i = 0; i < nodeSize; i++)
    {
        nodeBuilder.Add(new Neuron(neuronType, maxNeuronConnection));
    }
layer.Neurons = nodeBuilder.ToArray();
Layers.Add(layer);
}

private void InitSynapses()
{
    var rnd = Seed.HasValue ? new Random(Seed.Value) : new Random();

    for (int i = 0; i < Layers.Count - 1; i++)
    {
        var layer = Layers[i];
        var nextLayer = Layers[i + 1];
        foreach (var node in layer.Neurons)
        {
            node.Bias = 0.1 * rnd.NextDouble();
            foreach (var nNode in nextLayer.Neurons)
            {
                if (!nNode.AcceptConnection) continue;
                var synapse = new Synapse(rnd.NextDouble(), nNode, node);
                node.Outputs.Add(synapse);
                nNode.Inputs.Add(synapse);
            }
        }
    }
}

public double GlobalError
{
    get
    {
        return Math.Round(Layers.Last().Neurons.Sum(d => Math.Pow(d.TargetOutput - d.Output, 2) / 2), 4);
    }
}

public void BackPropagation()
{
    for (int i = Layers.Count - 1; i > 0; i--)
    {
        var layer = Layers[i];
        foreach (var node in layer.Neurons)
        {
            node.BackwardSignal();
        }
    }
    for (int i = Layers.Count - 1; i >= 1; i--)
    {
        var layer = Layers[i];
        foreach (var node in layer.Neurons)
        {
            node.AdjustWeights(LearnRate, Momentum);
        }
    }
}

public double[] Train(double[] _input, double[] _outputs)
{
    if (_outputs.Count() != Layers.Last().Neurons.Count() || _input.Any(d => d < 0 || d > 1) || _outputs.Any(d
        throw new ArgumentException();

    var outputs = Layers.Last().Neurons;
    for (int i = 0; i < _outputs.Length; i++)

```

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```

        BackPropagation();
        return result;
    }

    public double[] FeedForward(double[] _input)
    {
        if (_input.Count() != Layers.First().Neurons.Count())
            throw new ArgumentException();

        var InputLayer = Layers.First().Neurons;
        for (int i = 0; i < _input.Length; i++)
        {
            InputLayer[i].Output = _input[i];
        }

        for (int i = 1; i < Layers.Count; i++)
        {
            var layer = Layers[i];
            foreach (var node in layer.Neurons)
            {
                node.ForwardSignal();
            }
        }

        return Layers.Last().Neurons.Select(d => d.Output).ToArray();
    }
}

```

Now lets take a look how this thing works. My simple goal is to give my network 2 inputs and expect average of them as output result. As I said before input data must be scaled to 0 to 1 range. Of course I can simply calculate it like $x=(a+b)/2$. The point is a neural network can learn (almost) ANY function. It can LEARN any pattern. An ANN can be trained. For many cases this way is more effective than traditional methods. This approach works very well in vast area of applications like image recognition and processing, data classification, data prediction and of course artificial intelligence. Here is a console application sample:

```

class ANN
{
    static void Main(string[] args)
    {
        var network = new NeuralNetwork(2, new int[] { 4 }, 1);
        var inputData = new double[] { .3, .5 };
        var output = network.FeedForward(inputData);
        Console.WriteLine("Inputs: {0} {1} Output:{2}", inputData[0], inputData[1], output[0]);
        Console.ReadLine();
    }
}

```

new NeuralNetwork(2, new int[] { 4 }, 1); this means build neural network with 2 input neurons, 1 hidden layer with 4 neurons and 1 output neuron. .3 and .5 values sent towards network to generate an output signal by using FeedForward function. The result is:

Inputs: 0,3 0,5 Output:0,824978847489278

Different values on every run:

Inputs: 0,3 0,5 Output:0,939358321295954

What does it mean? We gave 0.3 and 0.5 as input data. Shouldn't we get 0.4 as an average of them? Yes computer science is modern sorcery but it's not that easy. We need to train our little ANN. We must teach what "average" means by showing samples over and over again. Before the learn part let's take a look at our artificial neural network deeper. What happened to data in ANN. On constructor method, layers built and neurons created in **buildLayer**. After that **InitSynapses** method created synapse connection layer by layer with some random value. That's why output result

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smaller than smaller. After enough training error value will be ignorable. Let's train: There is a windows form example.

```

public partial class Form1 : Form
{
    public NeuralNetwork network;
    public List<double[]> trainingData;
    Random rnd;
    int trainedTimes;
    public Form1()
    {
        InitializeComponent();

        //For debugging
        int Seed = 1923;

        // 2 input neurons 2 hidden layers with 3 and 2 neurons and 1 output neuron
        network = new NeuralNetwork(2, new int[] { 3, 3 }, 1, null, Seed);

        //Generate Random Training Data
        trainingData = new List<double[]>();
        rnd = new Random(Seed);

        var trainingAxisSize = 75;
        for (int i = 0; i < trainingAxisSize; i++)
        {
            var input1 = Math.Round(rnd.NextDouble(), 2); //input 1
            var input2 = Math.Round(rnd.NextDouble(), 2); // input 2
            var output = (input1+input2)/2 ; // output as average of inputs
            trainingData.Add(new double[] { input1, input2, output }); // Training data set
            chart1.Series[0].Points.AddXY(i, output);
        }
    }

    public void Train(int times)
    {
        //Train network x0 times
        for (int i = 0; i < times; i++)
        {
            //shuffle list for better training
            var shuffledTrainingData = trainingData.OrderBy(d => rnd.Next()).ToList();
            List<double> errors = new List<double>();
            foreach (var item in shuffledTrainingData)
            {
                var inputs = new double[] { item[0], item[1] };
                var output = new double[] { item[2] };

                //Train current set
                network.Train(inputs, output);

                errors.Add(network.GlobalError);
            }
        }
        chart1.Series[1].Points.Clear();
        for (int i = 0; i < trainingData.Count; i++)
        {
            var set = trainingData[i];

            chart1.Series[1].Points.AddXY(i, network.FeedForward(new double[] { set[0], set[1] })[0]);
        }
        trainedTimes += times;
        TrainCounterlbl.Text = string.Format("Trained {0} times", trainedTimes);
    }

    private void Trainx1_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
}

```

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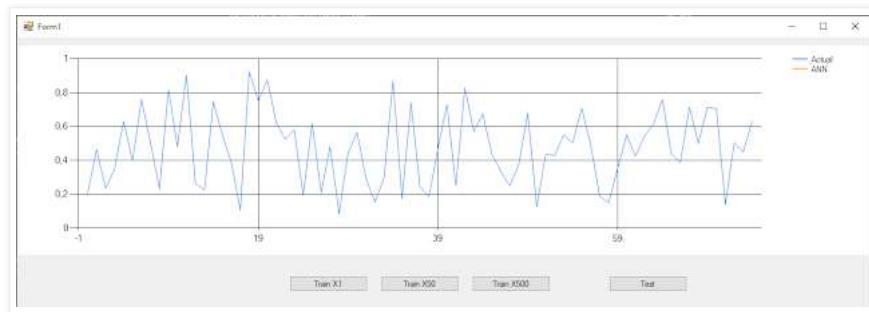
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```
    Train(50);
}

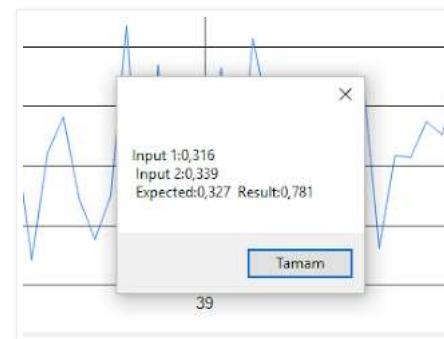
private void Trainx500_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    Train(500);
}

private void TestBtn_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    var testData = new double[] { rnd.NextDouble(), rnd.NextDouble() };
    var result = network.FeedForward(testData)[0];
    MessageBox.Show(string.Format("Input 1:{0} {4} Input 2:{1} {4} Expected:{3} Result:{2} {4}",
        format(testData[0]),
        format(testData[1]),
        format(result),
        format((testData[0] + testData[1]) / 2),
        Environment.NewLine));
}
string format(double val)
{
    return val.ToString("0.000");
}
```

Neural network has multiple hidden layers with 3 neurons each. 75 samples of random values generated at form constructor and stored "trainingData". Here is the output chart of "trainingData".



When I press test data my untrained ANN thinks average of 0.316 and 0.339 is equals to 0.781



Press "Train X1" button to study every samples for one time and here is the result:

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It is still too far from expected result. Yellow "ANN" line of chart is actual response of our network for each input set in the training data. They are almost same ~0.5. We must train more but Let's take a look what happened when we hit train button. Train method of network applies backpropagation algorithm. First **FeedForward** function generates an output signal. **BackPropagation** method calculates error value by using expected output and actual signal output. Feeds these error values back to input neurons using derivative of activation functions. That process helps find which weight connections are most responsible of the error. That method is called "Gradient Descent". Let's take a look at math of the process. Gradient descent method needs an error calculation function. Squared error function is most common:

$$E = \frac{1}{2}(t - y)^2$$

For each synapse connected to output neuron, backward signal can be calculated with following formula:

$$o_j = \varphi(\text{net}_j) = \varphi\left(\sum_{k=1}^n w_{kj} o_k\right)$$

Net backward error signal for previous neuron can be calculated with following partial derivative respect to a weight.

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ij}} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial o_j} \frac{\partial o_j}{\partial \text{net}_j} \frac{\partial \text{net}_j}{\partial w_{ij}}$$

Now let's inspect calculation of each term. The last term is error signal output of through a synapse connection.

$$\frac{\partial \text{net}_j}{\partial w_{ij}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ij}} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n w_{kj} o_k \right) = o_i$$

For output neuron next term is simply **actual output - expected output**. (Yes that is why there is a 1/2)

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial o_j} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \frac{1}{2}(t - y)^2 = y - t$$

For other neurons that calculation depends on derivative of activation function.

$$\varphi(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}$$

$$\frac{d\varphi}{dz}(z) = \varphi(z)(1 - \varphi(z))$$

$$\frac{\partial o_j}{\partial \text{net}_j} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \text{net}_j} \varphi(\text{net}_j) = \varphi(\text{net}_j)(1 - \varphi(\text{net}_j))$$

After all backward signals calculated we need to adjust synapse weights for better results. α here is called **momentum**. It is an adjustment value for faster learning that represents previous value

$$\Delta w_{ij} = -\alpha \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ij}} = \begin{cases} -\alpha o_i(o_j - t_j)o_j(1 - o_j) & \text{if } j \text{ is an output neuron} \\ -\alpha o_i(\sum_{l \in L} \delta_l w_{jl})o_j(1 - o_j) & \text{if } j \text{ is an inner neuron.} \end{cases}$$

In my code **BackwardSignal** applies partial derivative chain:

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```

}
else
{
    Delta = (Output - TargetOutput) * activatePrime(Output);
}

return Delta + Bias;
}

```

Then adjustment of weights at

```

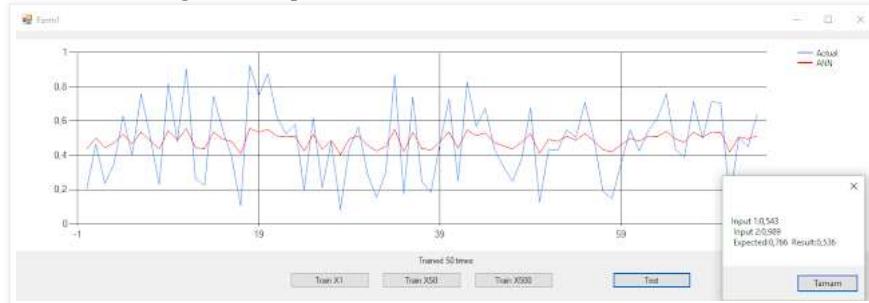
public void AdjustWeights(double learnRate, double momentum)
{
    if (Inputs.Any())
    {
        foreach (var synp in Inputs)
        {

            var adjustDelta = Delta * synp.Source.Output;
            synp.Weight -= learnRate * adjustDelta + synp.PreDelta * momentum;
            synp.PreDelta = adjustDelta;

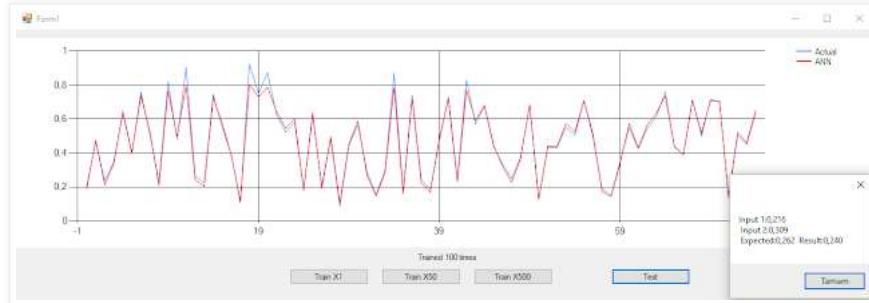
        }
    }
}

```

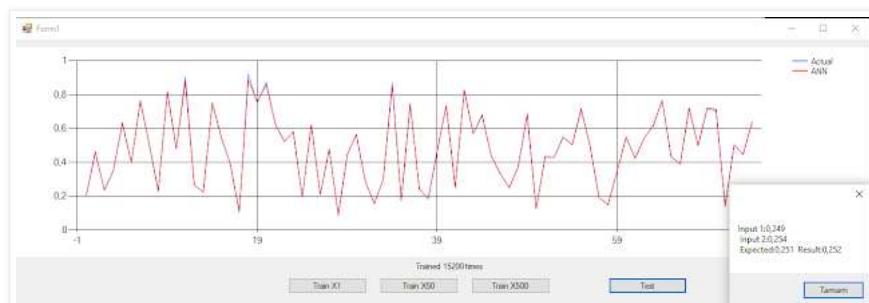
Back to demo application. Remember our application tries to find average of two input values. More we train better results we get. After training 50 times over artificial neural network, results begins to fit expected values.



100 training times later ANN fits far better.



15200 times later that thing knows what its doing.



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Hakkında

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