

Derivations of Activation Functions

Omar Ayman Bakr

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1 ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < 0; \\ x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$
$$f'(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < 0; \\ 1 & \text{if } x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

2 Sigmoid

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$$
$$\sigma'(x) = \frac{e^{-x}}{(1+e^{-x})^2}$$
$$= \sigma(x)(1 - \sigma(x))$$

3 tanh (Hyperbolic Tangent)

$$\tanh(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$$
$$\tanh'(x) = \frac{(e^x + e^{-x})(e^x + e^{-x}) - (e^x - e^{-x})(e^x - e^{-x})}{(e^x + e^{-x})^2}$$
$$= \frac{e^{2x} + 2 + e^{-2x} - (e^{2x} - 2 + e^{-2x})}{(e^x + e^{-x})^2}$$
$$= \frac{4}{(e^x + e^{-x})^2}$$
$$= 1 - \tanh^2(x)$$

another derivation could be using hyperbolic functions $\tanh(x) = \frac{\sinh(x)}{\cosh(x)}$
which will lead to the same results

4 $\tanh(x) = 2 \times \sigma(2x) - 1$

$$2 \times \sigma(2x) = \frac{2}{1+e^{-2x}} =$$
$$\frac{2}{1+e^{-2x}} + \frac{-1}{1} =$$
$$\frac{-1 - e^{-2x} + 2}{1+e^{-2x}} =$$
$$\frac{1 - e^{-2x}}{1+e^{-2x}}$$