

Neural networks

Architectures and training tips

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What is a neural network?



Modified from <http://www.texample.net/tikz/examples/neural-network/>

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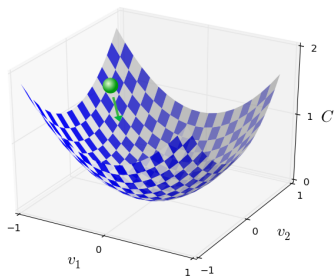
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The function f is called the activation function. It must be non-linear to allow the network to learn non-linear dependencies.

Training neural networks using SGD



[Nielsen, 2015], Chapter 1.

The training data is processed in small batches, and the weights of the model are iteratively updated by going in the direction of the negative gradient of the loss function.

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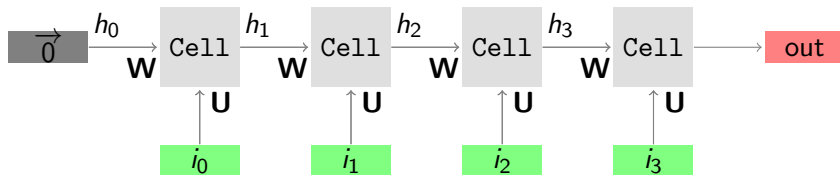
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- Useful especially when the amount of data is large compared to input dimensionality
- Less need for feature engineering compared to traditional ML methods

Recurrent neural network (RNN)



Processes each element of the input sequence in order, and keeps information about the past elements in a hidden state vector.

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Other RNN architectures (for instance LSTM or GRU) use more complicated ways of updating the hidden state to control the flow of information to and from the hidden state.

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 - The model may not remember early inputs and can be biased toward the end of the sequence

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 - Patents with a positive citation get vectors that are close to each other
- 3 A prior art search for a new patent can then be done by searching for the nearest neighbors of the vector created from the new invention

RNN real life use case: Patent search

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US patent no. 7 908 981

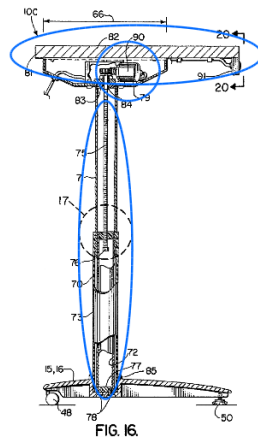
table

worktop

legs

telescope pipe

motor



Convolutional neural network (CNN)

Feed-forward networks do not scale well to images due to the large input size. Convolutional neural networks are constrained to looking only at a small part of the image at a time, and thus the number of weights stays manageable.

A CNN uses three types of layers: convolutional, pooling and fully connected.

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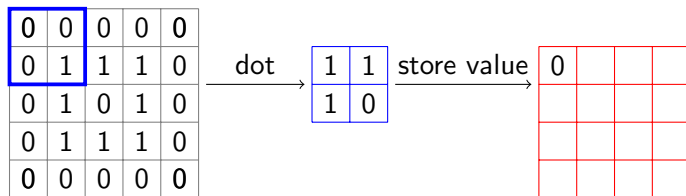
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- The idea is that each filter learns to identify some kind of feature (for instance part of a shape)

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 - For instance if we use max pooling with a filter of size 2×2 we discard 75 percent of the values

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- Does not take into account orientation of the object

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- It's often hard to know why the model predicts as it does because of the complexity of the model

Tips and tricks

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- Use normalization (batch, layer, group, weight...)
 - Speeds up convergence significantly
 - Start by trying batch normalization for CNN and feed-forward nets and layer normalization for RNN

The curious case of the batch size

- Training of neural nets can be sped up by increasing the batch size, since then the GPU/TPU can process more training examples in parallel
- Unfortunately increasing the batch size may result in a worse model. In extreme cases the model might not learn anything at all! [Masters et. al., 2018]
- The basic rule is to increase the learning rate linearly when increasing the batch size (e.g. double learning rate when doubling batch size)
 - Otherwise the magnitude of the weight updates decreases
- This means that increasing the batch size trades computational efficiency for stale gradients.

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