# Neural Network Forward Propagation - Example

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In this example, we'll consider another simple neural network with a different combination of activation functions:

• Input Layer: 3 neurons

• Hidden Layer: 2 neurons with Sigmoid activation

• Output Layer: 1 neuron with ReLU activation

## Step 1: Initialize Input

Let the input vector be:

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

# **Step 2: Define Weights and Biases**

Initialize the weights and biases for each layer.

#### Weights and Biases for Hidden Layer

$$\mathbf{W}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} w_{11}^{(1)} & w_{12}^{(1)} & w_{13}^{(1)} \\ w_{21}^{(1)} & w_{22}^{(1)} & w_{23}^{(1)} \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{b}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1^{(1)} \\ b_2^{(1)} \end{bmatrix}$$

#### Weights and Biases for Output Layer

$$\mathbf{W}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} w_{11}^{(2)} & w_{12}^{(2)} \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{b}^{(2)} = b^{(2)}$$

## **Step 3: Forward Propagation**

#### 3.1 Compute Weighted Sum for Hidden Layer

The weighted input to the hidden layer neurons is calculated as:

$$Z^{(1)} = \mathbf{W}^{(1)}\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{b}^{(1)}$$

# 3.2 Apply Sigmoid Activation Function

The Sigmoid activation function is defined as:

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

Applying Sigmoid to each element of  $Z^{(1)}$ :

$$A^{(1)} = \sigma(Z^{(1)})$$

#### 3.3 Compute Weighted Sum for Output Layer

The weighted input to the output neuron is:

$$Z^{(2)} = \mathbf{W}^{(2)} A^{(1)} + b^{(2)}$$

#### 3.4 Apply ReLU Activation Function

The ReLU activation function is defined as:

$$ReLU(z) = \max(0, z)$$

Applying ReLU to  $Z^{(2)}$ :

$$A^{(2)} = ReLU(Z^{(2)})$$

# **Step 4: Summary of Forward Propagation**

- 1. Input:  $\mathbf{X}$
- 2. Hidden Layer:
  - i. Weighted Sum:  $Z^{(1)} = \mathbf{W}^{(1)}\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{b}^{(1)}$
  - ii. Activation:  $A^{(1)} = \sigma(Z^{(1)})$
- 3. Output Layer:
  - i. Weighted Sum:  $Z^{(2)} = \mathbf{W}^{(2)} A^{(1)} + b^{(2)}$
  - ii. Activation:  $A^{(2)}=ReLU(Z^{(2)})$

# **Example Calculation**

Let's assign specific values to the inputs, weights, and biases for a concrete example.

#### Given:

- $x_1 = 0.5$
- $x_2 = -1.5$
- $x_3 = 2.0$

• 
$$w_{11}^{(1)} = 0.2$$

• 
$$w_{12}^{(1)} = -0.5$$

• 
$$w_{13}^{(1)} = 0.3$$

• 
$$w_{21}^{(1)} = 1.0$$

• 
$$w_{22}^{(1)} = 0.7$$

• 
$$w_{23}^{(1)} = -1.2$$

• 
$$b_1^{(1)} = 0.1$$

• 
$$b_2^{(1)} = -0.2$$

• 
$$w_{11}^{(2)} = 1.5$$

• 
$$w_{12}^{(2)} = -2.0$$

• 
$$b^{(2)} = 0.5$$

## **4.1 Compute** $Z^{(1)}$

$$Z^{(1)} = \mathbf{W}^{(1)}\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{b}^{(1)}$$

Calculating each component:

• 
$$Z_1^{(1)} = 0.2 \times 0.5 + (-0.5) \times (-1.5) + 0.3 \times 2.0 + 0.1$$

Calculation:

$$Z_1^{(1)} = 0.1 + 0.75 + 0.6 + 0.1 = 1.55$$

• 
$$Z_2^{(1)} = 1.0 \times 0.5 + 0.7 \times (-1.5) + (-1.2) \times 2.0 + (-0.2)$$

Calculation:

$$Z_2^{(1)} = 0.5 - 1.05 - 2.4 - 0.2 = -3.15$$

Thus:

$$Z^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.55 \\ -3.15 \end{bmatrix}$$

# 4.2 Apply Sigmoid to Get $A^{(1)}$

$$A^{(1)} = \sigma(Z^{(1)}) = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma(1.55) \\ \sigma(-3.15) \end{bmatrix}$$

Calculating each component:

$$\sigma(1.55) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-1.55}}$$

Calculation:

$$e^{-1.55} \approx 0.212$$

$$\sigma(1.55) = \frac{1}{1 + 0.212} = \frac{1}{1.212} \approx 0.825$$

$$\sigma(-3.15) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{3.15}}$$

Calculation:

$$e^{3.15} \approx 23.344$$

$$\sigma(-3.15) = \frac{1}{1 + 23.344} = \frac{1}{24.344} \approx 0.041$$

Thus:

$$A^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.825\\ 0.041 \end{bmatrix}$$

#### 4.3 Compute $Z^{(2)}$

$$Z^{(2)} = \mathbf{W}^{(2)} A^{(1)} + b^{(2)}$$

Calculating:

$$Z^{(2)} = 1.5 \times 0.825 + (-2.0) \times 0.041 + 0.5$$

Calculation:

$$Z^{(2)} = 1.2375 - 0.082 + 0.5 = 1.6555$$

Thus:

$$Z^{(2)} = 1.6555$$

# 4.4 Apply ReLU to Get $A^{(2)}$

$$A^{(2)} = ReLU(Z^{(2)}) = ReLU(1.6555) = \max(0, 1.6555) = 1.6555$$

# **Step 5: Final Output**

The output of the network is:

$$A^{(2)} = 1.6555$$

# **Conclusion**

$$\mathbf{X} = egin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ -1.5 \\ 2.0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 and produces an

Through forward propagation, the neural network processes the input  $\lfloor 2.0 \rfloor$  and produces an output  $A^{(2)}=1.6555$  using a combination of Sigmoid and ReLU activation functions.

# **General Forward Propagation Equations**

For a neural network with multiple layers, the forward propagation can be generalized as:

- Layer I:
  - $\bullet \ \ \mathsf{Weighted} \ \mathsf{Sum} \ : Z^{(l)} = \mathbf{W}^{(l)} A^{(l-1)} + \mathbf{b}^{(l)}$
  - $\quad \text{o} \quad \text{Activation:} \, A^{(l)} = \operatorname{activation}(Z^{(l)}) \\$

The final output layer applies an appropriate activation function based on the task (e.g., ReLU for regression or other purposes).

#### **Activation Functions Used**

#### Sigmoid

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

Sigmoid squashes the input into a range between 0 and 1, making it suitable for probability estimation in binary classification tasks.

#### **ReLU** (Rectified Linear Unit)

$$ReLU(z) = \max(0, z)$$

ReLU introduces non-linearity by outputting zero for negative inputs and the input itself for positive inputs.

#### **Final Notes**

This example demonstrates how different activation functions can be combined within a neural network to leverage their unique properties. Sigmoid activation in the hidden layer allows the network to model non-linear relationships, while ReLU in the output layer ensures that the output remains non-negative, which can be beneficial for certain tasks like regression where negative values may not be meaningful.