

# Activation functions

Rafał Skrzypiec

## 1 Activation functions

There are many possible choices for the non-linear activation functions in a multilayered network... biology czemu non-linear? rne funkcje w zalenoci od zastosowa, ReLU, Sigmoid, TanH, Heavyside

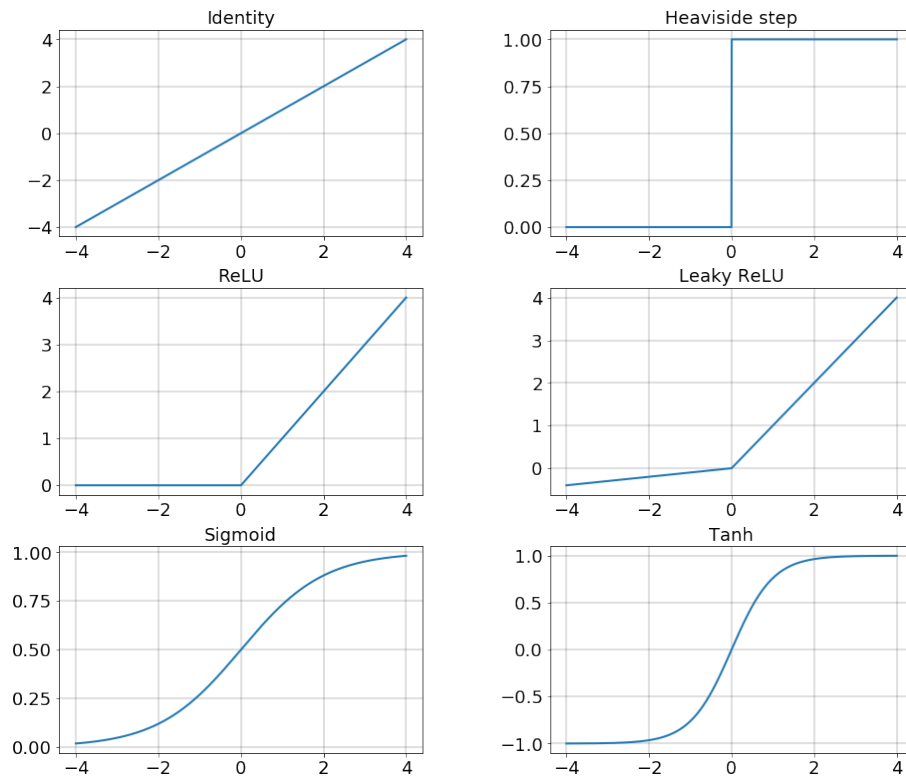


Figure 1: COO

## 1.1 Sigmoid

-nieliniowa -dobrze odwzorowuje liniowe zaleznosci dla niewielkich wag -moze byc funkcj schodkow dla duzej wartosci sumy -prosta pochodna

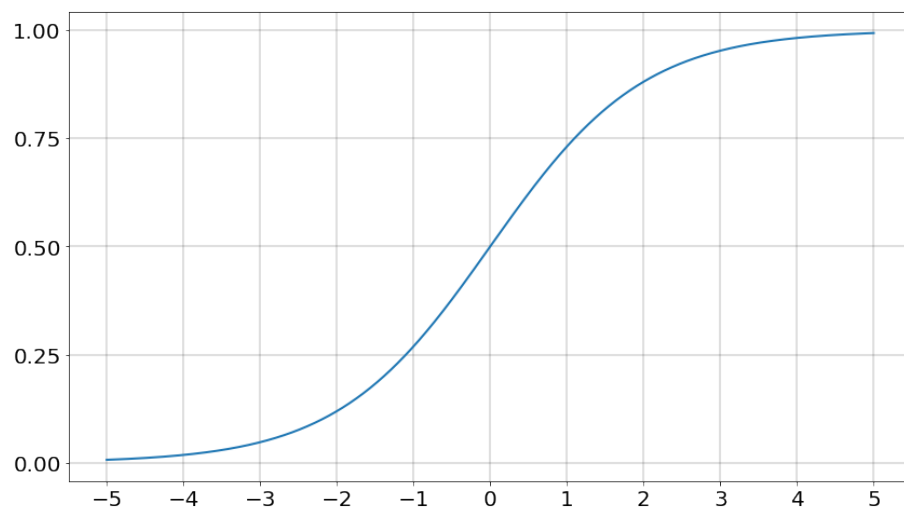


Figure 2: Example of sigmoidal function - sigmoid function,  $\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$

narysowa jeszcze tanh, zwizek z sigmoid, jeden obrazek z kilkoma funkcjami aktywacji

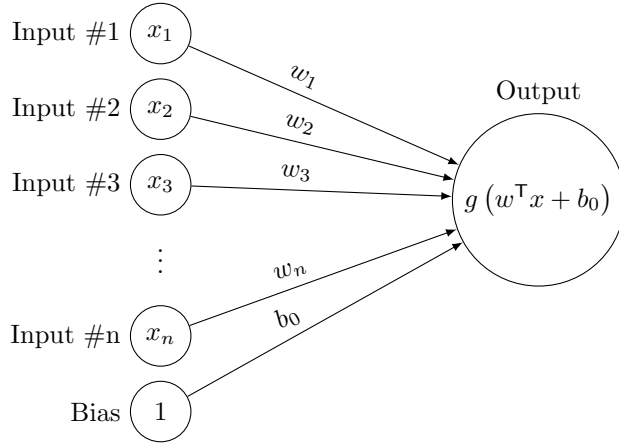


Figure 3:  
Representation of  
discriminant function  
 $y(x)$  as a neural net-  
work diagram, having  
 $n$  inputs, bias term  
and one output.

## 1.2 Probabilistic interpretation of sigmoid

The application of sigmoid as an activation function arises naturally as the form of the posterior probability distribution in Bayesian treatment of two-class classification problem. Let us consider a single-layer network and the concept of a discriminant function  $y(x)$ , such that the vector  $x$  is assigned to class  $C_1$  if  $y(x) > 0$  and to class  $C_2$  if  $y(x) < 0$ .

In the simplest, linear form, discriminant function can be written as:

$$y(x) = w^T x + b_0. \quad (1)$$

We should refer to d-dimensional vector  $w$  as the weight vector and the parameter  $b_0$  as the bias. There are several ways to generalize such functions, here we consider a function  $g(\cdot)$  called activation function that acts on a aforementioned linear sum, and gives a discrimination function of the form

$$y = g(w^T x + b_0) \quad (2)$$

Assumption that probability distribution functions of data given the class  $C_k$  are given by Gaussian distributions with equal covariance matrices  $\Sigma_1 = \Sigma_2 = \Sigma$  gives:

$$p(x|C_k) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}} |\Sigma|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} (x - \mu_k)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x - \mu_k) \right]. \quad (3)$$

The posterior probability of class  $C_1$  can be written using Bayes' theorem:

$$\begin{aligned}
p(C_1|x) &= \frac{p(x|C_1)p(C_1)}{p(x|C_1)p(C_1) + p(x|C_2)p(C_2)} \\
&= \frac{1}{1 + \frac{p(x|C_2)p(C_2)}{p(x|C_1)p(C_1)}} \\
&= \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a)},
\end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
a &= \ln \frac{p(x|C_1)p(C_1)}{p(x|C_2)p(C_2)} \\
&= (\mu_1 - \mu_2)^\top \Sigma^{-1} x - \frac{1}{2} \mu_1^\top \mu_1 + \frac{1}{2} \mu_2^\top \Sigma^{-1} \mu_2 + \ln \frac{p(C_1)}{p(C_2)},
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

hence

$$w = \Sigma^{-1} (\mu_1 - \mu_2) \tag{6a}$$

$$b_0 = -\frac{1}{2} \mu_1^\top \mu_1 + \frac{1}{2} \mu_2^\top \Sigma^{-1} \mu_2 + \ln \frac{p(C_1)}{p(C_2)} \tag{6b}$$

Thus the network output is given by a sigmoid activation function acting on a weighted linear combination of inputs. This reasoning can be generalized to multi-layered network. Then outputs of each hidden neuron with logistic sigmoid activation function can be interpreted as probabilities of the presence of corresponding attribute conditioned by the inputs.