

Neural Networks for physics

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- Numbers on a computer
- All good, but then what?

2 Neural Networks, the basics

Outline

How does a computer think?

- ➊ How does a digital computer actually think? A brief window on machine instructions, assembly and programming languages.
- ➋ How can we make a higher-level model of intelligence (or logical reasoning) on a machine? Neural Networks demystified.
- ➌ A specific application: how to use a NN to model an unknown physics phenomena.

Computer basics

A general idea

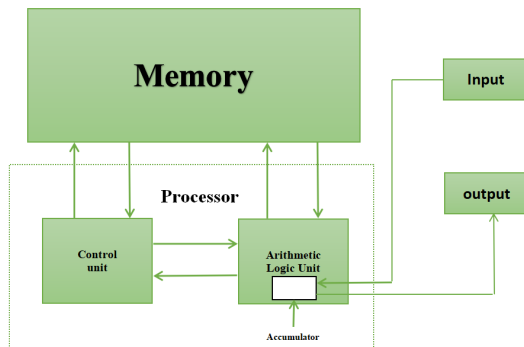
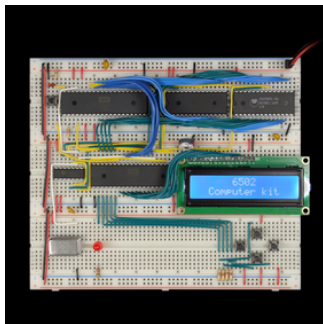


Transistors: the foundation

A general idea

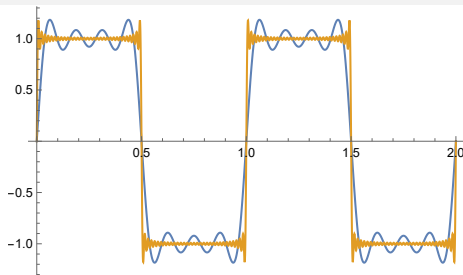


Transistors: the foundation



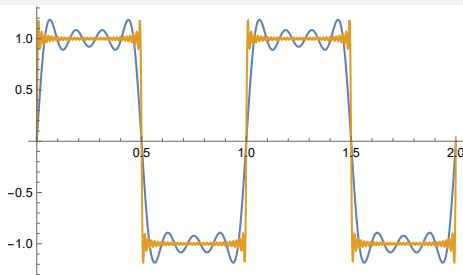
Number representation

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Why not more? Possible, but it has costs: energy, reliability, scalability etc...
How can we represent numbers using only 0, 1? Binary!
How to read a **base-10** number?

$$6710597111_{10} \equiv 1 \cdot 10^0 + 1 \cdot 10^1 + 1 \cdot 10^2 + 7 \cdot 10^3 + \dots$$

↖

So, binary = base-2:

$$11011011_2 = 1 \cdot 2^0 + 1 \cdot 2^1 + 0 \cdot 2^2 + 1 \cdot 2^3 + \dots$$

Number representation

Nowadays hardware can manage **64 bit** numbers: up to $2^{63} \lesssim 10^{19}$.

Inconvenient to think in binary \Rightarrow hexadecimal! Use 0 and other 15 symbols to represent numbers: 0, 1, ..., 9, A, B, C, D, E, F: $\underbrace{1101}_D \underbrace{1011}_B = DB_{16}$

1 bit: one 1 or 0, 1 byte: eight 1 and 0 like 01000010 \equiv two hex number 42.
64 bits \equiv 8 bytes.

Addition table:

	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	0*

 and multiplication table:

	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

*: carrying the 1, like in $9 + 1 = 0$ plus the carried 1.

Beyond positive integers

From any base n to decimal is simple. From base-10 to any base:
quotient-remainder algorithm: a tiny bit more annoying to carry out.

Positive integers ✓

Negative integers? Use the most significant bit (the leftmost one) to encode the sign: 0 \Rightarrow positive. In formulas

$$b_{N-1}b_{N-2}\dots b_0 = -b_{N-1}2^{N-1} + \sum_{i=0}^{N-2} b_i 2^i$$

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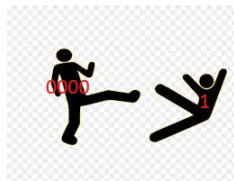
$$b_{N-1}b_{N-2}...b_0 = -b_{N-1}2^{N-1} + \sum_{i=0}^{N-2} b_i 2^i$$

For example:

$$1001_2 = -1 \cdot 2^3 + 1 \cdot 2^0 = -8 + 1 = -7$$

Check: $7_{10} = 0111_2$ and

$$\begin{array}{r} 0^1 1^1 1^1 1^1 + \\ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 = \\ \hline 10 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \end{array}$$



Floating Point

How to represent numbers that are not integers?

In binary we can use inverse powers of 2, for instance $0.1_2 \equiv 1 \cdot 2^{-1}$.

A curiosity: whether a number as a periodical form **depends** on the base! For instance $1/5 = 0.2_{10}$ in binary is $0.001\ 1001\ 1001\ \dots_2$.

On a computer only so many bits: no real numbers!

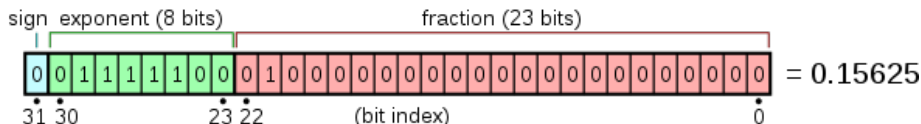
Could we reserve some bits for the part after the period? Like

$$\underbrace{101\dots1}_{32\text{-bit}}.\underbrace{110\dots1}_{32\text{-bit}}$$

Yes, but impractical: sometimes we want very large numbers, sometimes very small, this has no adaptation capability. This is called **fixed-point representation**. This representation is very fast, and in older machines that did not have any hardware for **floating** point it was extensively used (and if you dig in the gcc compiler, you will still find it).

Floating Point

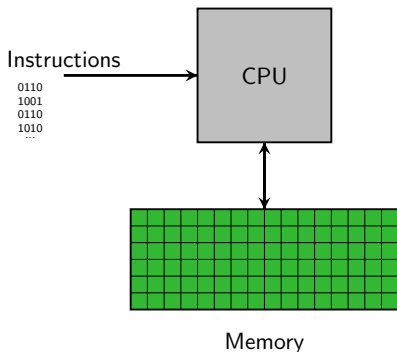
Modern solution: scientific notation! For a 32-bit number:



This is the **IEEE 754** standard: everybody must agree how to parse the bits, otherwise it is a mess!

Exercise: you have a simple program that given a floating point input gives you the bit representation as in the figure above, plus the decomposition in powers of 2. What are your observations? How is the number formatted?

How does we instruct the computer



How does it work (in a very approximate way)?

Level 0: BIOS/UEFI = basic software built-in in the motherboard, manages the very low level hardware

Level 1: OS = manages all the software, it is loaded by the BIOS/UEFI by reading instructions off a particular region of the memory

Level 2: programs = the OS manages your programs, the memory for each of them, where they store information etc.

How does we instruct the computer

On a 64 bit machine each instruction can be up to 15 **bytes** long(!). The 64 bit refers to the maximum size of each **register** in the cpu.

Each instruction is **literally** a sequence of 0,1 that triggers some electronics to do 'stuff', like adding two numbers, moving memory, jump to different addresses etc. It is not manageable to write instructions in binary (or hex) format:

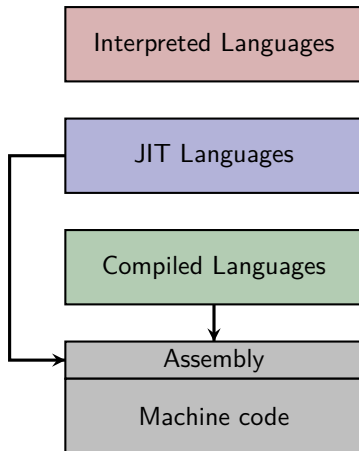
human-readable machine code ~ assembly 

```
push rbp
mov rbp, rsp
mov DWORD PTR [rbp-4], 1
mov DWORD PTR [rbp-8], 2
mov edx, DWORD PTR [rbp-4]
mov eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-8]
add eax, edx
mov DWORD PTR [rbp-12], eax
mov eax, 0
pop rbp
ret
```

More readable than a buch of 1 and 0, but still a long way from its C counterpart:

```
int a = 1;
int b = 2;
int c = a + b;
```

Programming languages



Examples

What does it mean to 'compile' a language?

Human-readable code \implies Machine code

It is a translation!

Python: interpreted language. What does it mean? It reads the commands, parse them, construct **on the fly** the logical tree and execute them via previously compiled functions.

Lua: JIT (just-in-time compiled) language. It reads pieces of code, **compile them on-the-fly** and execute the resulting binary.

C/C++: compiled languages. There is a dedicated piece of software (the compiler) that translates the code to machine instructions. This is done **separately** from the running of the program itself.

Programming languages (or syntaxes) come in all shape and form!

Not all of them are friendly: in the beginning select the language that feels most natural to you, then you should keep in mind to use **the right tool for the job**.

For instance, did you know that you can programm a roller coaster in Excel? [Link](#)

Or that it does exist a (Turing complete!) programming language with just 8 symbols? It is called **Brainfuck** (guess why...) and to print the string 'Hello World!' the code is

```
+++++[>++++[>+>++++>++++
>+<<<<-]>+>+>->+[<]<-]
>>.>---.+++++..+++.>>.<-.
<.+ + + . - - - - - . - - - - - . >> + . > + + .
```

Crazy, ain't it?

Your turn now, let us play a bit!

Neural Networks, the basics