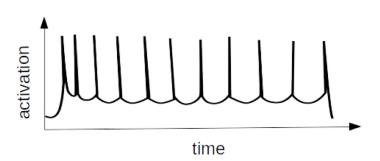
Artificial Neural Networks

Heni Ben Amor, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Arizona State University



Biological Neural Networks

- Human brain ~86,000,000,000 neurons
- Each neuron connected to ~1000 others
- Electrochemical inputs
- Only fires if signal exceeds voltage threshold
- Signals are spikes
- All-or-nothing response



Artificial Neural Network (ANN)

- **Machine Learning method**
 - Today, often called Deep Learning
- Inspired by Biological Neural Networks
- Mimics some of the basic functionalities
- Can learn from large amounts of data
- Can handle complex data types
 - Images, sound, video, EEG, etc.

Brief History of Artificial Neural Networks

- 1943 McCulloch and Pitts: One of the first mathematical models of neurons is able to calculate nearly any logical or arithmetic function.
- 1969 Minsky and Papert: A book published by Minsky and Papert, "Perceptrons", showed that the XOR function can not be learned by a perceptron. Interest in neural network wanes.

Brief History of Artificial Neural Networks

- 1986 Rumelhart, Hinton and Williams:
 Discovered new training algorithm that resolves issues raised by Minsky and Papert.
 Renewed interest in field.
- ~2000 Vapnik and Schoelkopf:
 Probabilistic (kernel) approaches outperform
 ANNs and follow stricter formal procedure.
 Interest in ANNs declines again.
- ~2005 LeCun, Hinton, Bengio, Schmidhuber, Ng, et al.: Field is revived again through introduction of deeper networks, more data, new tricks (e.g. autoencoders).

Applications

- Face and pose recognition
- Speech recognition
- Traffic sign classification
- Medical image analysis
- Predicting trends: stock market, twitter, etc.
- Finance and portfolio selection
- Automated game play: Atari games

Some Challenging Aspects

- Often large data sets are needed
- Training with large data sets can take days or even weeks
- Creating ANNs requires expert knowledge and experience
- ANNs are difficult to analyze and debug

Summary

- Neural networks inspired by biology
- Growing field with roots in early 60s
- Modern incarnation as deep learning
- Network structure that learns complex computation from data
- Many successful applications
- Some challenges in training