CS-568 Deep Learning

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Multilayer Perceptrons and The Universal Approximation Theorem

MLP and the XOR Problem

- ▶ We have seen that a single perceptron cannot solve the XOR problem.
- But 3 perceptrons arranged in 2 layers can solve it.



▶ In this lecture, we will see that multilayer perceptrons (MLPs) can model

- 1. any Boolean function,
- 2. any classification boundary, and
- **3.** *any* continuous function.

MLPs and Boolean Functions

- A single perceptron can model the basis set {AND, OR, NOT} of logic gates.
- All Boolean functions can be written using combinations of these basic gates.
- Therefore, combinations of perceptrons (MLPs) can model all Boolean functions.

MLPs and Boolean Functions *Depth*

- A Boolean function of N variables has 2^N different input combinations.
- Disjunctive normal form (DNF) models the truth values (1s only).

$$f = \bar{X}\bar{Y}Z + \bar{X}Y\bar{Z} + X\bar{Y}\bar{Z} + XYZ$$

- DNF corresponds to OR of AND gates.
- Maximum possible ANDs in DNF is 2^{N-1} .
- Each AND corresponds to one perceptron in the hidden layer. So size of hidden layers will be exponential in N.
- OR corresponds to one perceptron in output layer.

Any Boolean function in N variables can be modelled by an MLP using 1 hidden layer of 2^{N-1} AND perceptrons followed by 1 OR perceptron.

Х	Y	Ζ	f	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	1	1	
0	1	0	1	
0	1	1	0	
1	0	0	1	
1	0	1	0	
1	1	0	0	
1	1	1	1	

MLPs and Boolean Functions *Depth*

- Function f on last slide was actually XOR(X, Y, Z). It required 2^{N-1} + 1 perceptrons using 2-layers only.
- ► $X \oplus Y \oplus Z$ can be modelled using pairwise XORs as $(X \oplus Y) \oplus Z$.
- Corresponds to a *deep* MLP.
 - Deep: more than 2 layers.
- Requires 3(N-1) perceptrons.

Number of perceptrons required in deep MLP is linear in N versus exponential in N for single hidden layer MLP.



MLPs and Classification Boundaries



Yellow region modelled by ANDing 4 linear classifiers (perceptrons). First layer contains 4 perceptrons for modelling 4 lines and second layer contains a perceptron for modelling an AND gate. Source: Bhiksha Raj

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MLPs and Classification Boundaries Non-contiguous



Yellow region equals OR(polygon 1, polygon 2). Each polygon equals AND of some lines. Each line equals 1 perceptron. Source: Bhiksha Raj

Since inputs and outputs are visible, all layers in-between are known as *hidden layers*.

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MLPs and Classification Boundaries Benefit of Depth

- Can the region in the last slide be modelled using a single hidden layer?
- Detour can you model a circular boundary? Yes, via *many* lines.



- Circle = $\lim_{k\to\infty} k$ -gon.
- As number of sides approaches ∞ , regular polygons approximate circles.

MLPs and Classification Boundaries Benefit of Depth

- Any shape can be modelled by filling it with *many circles*, where each circle is modelled via *many lines*.
- ▶ Precision increases as number of circles approaches ∞ and as number of lines per circle approaches ∞.



MLPs and Classification Boundaries Benefit of Depth

- In other words, shape equals OR(many circles) where each circle equals AND(many lines).
- Can be done with 1 *really really wide* hidden layer.



Adding more layers exponentially reduces the number of required neurons.



MLPs and Continuous Functions

MLPs are universal approximators.

A two-layer network with linear outputs can uniformly approximate any continuous function on a compact input domain to arbitrary accuracy, *provided* that the network has a sufficiently large number of hidden units.

The next few slides present a proof of this statement.

Generating a pulse using an MLP



For $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$, the pulse can be made infinitely wide when $(\beta - \alpha) \to \infty$ and infinitesimally thin when $(\beta - \alpha) \to 0$.

Generating a pulse using an MLP



Since $\sum w_i x_i + b \ge 0 \implies \sum w_i x_i \ge -b$, we have removed each neuron's bias *b* by setting -b as the firing threshold instead of 0.

Combining MLP Pulsers



Functions as pulse combinations



Approximation using 12 pulsers. This is similar to approximation of area under a function using integration as width of strip/pulse $\delta \rightarrow 0$.

Functions as pulse combinations



More pulsers will yield better approximation of the function.

Universal Approximation Theorem

A linear combination of 2-layer perceptrons (pulsers) can approximate any function to arbitrary precision as long as we use *enough* pulsers.

At the cost of 3 perceptrons per pulse.

Summary

- ► MLP with a single hidden layer is a *universal approximator* of
 - 1. Boolean functions,
 - 2. Classification boundaries, and
 - **3.** Continuous functions.
- Size of hidden layer needs to be exponential in number of inputs.
- Adding more layers *exponentially reduces* the number of neurons.
- Next lecture: learning of weights in a perceptron.