

EEP 596: LLMs: From Transformers to GPT || Lecture 2

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Univ. of Washington, Seattle

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Outline for Lecture

- Motivation for DL

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- DL Applications

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- DL History

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- Logistic Regression

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- Training and Back-propagation
- Over-fitting and Hyper-parameters

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- Deep Learning Models
- Activation functions
- Tensorflow Demo
- Training and Back-propagation
- Over-fitting and Hyper-parameters
- Other DL architectures

Deep Learning Reference

Deep Learning

Great reference for the theory and fundamentals of deep learning: Book by Goodfellow and Bengio et al [Bengio et al](#)

[Deep Learning History](#)

Introduction to Deep Learning

Deep Learning

- ① Lot of buzz around Deep Learning in the past decade and a half!

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Deep Learning

- ① Lot of buzz around Deep Learning in the past decade and a half!
- ② Deep Learning refers to Neural Networks that is a loose approximation of how the brain works

Applications of Deep Learning

Applications

- 1 Self-driving cars

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- 2 Sentiment analysis

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- 8 Auto-complete search results.
- 9 Chat bots - Like ChatGPT/Sparrow/Anthropic, etc

Email auto-complete

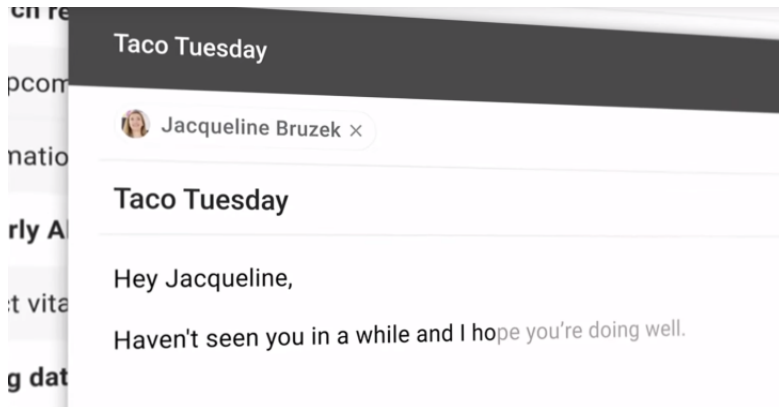
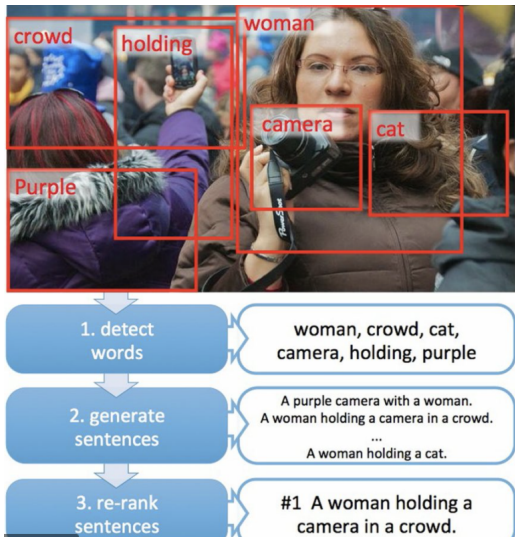
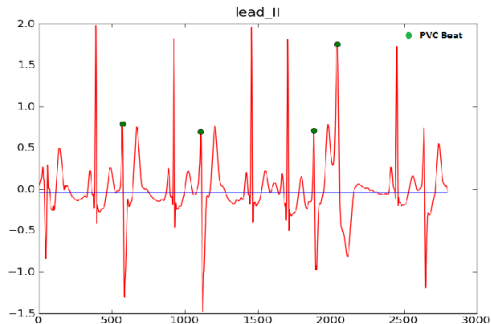


Image to Text!



Arrhythmia Detection



Industry Applications (NLP focused)

- Tagging products at e-commerce companies with tags/category ids
- Coming up with category names, when none existed before
- Summarizing reviews for products
- Customer service help - Chatbots
- Live Speech Translation
- Intent Recognition: Understanding intent behind a sentence or paragraph
- Detecting malicious intent and content in text (part of Responsible AI)
- Converting natural language instructions into SQL queries to run and respond back in natural language
- And many more!

Brief History of Deep Learning

- **1965:** First deep-learning model came out in 1965 by Ivakhenko et al. Didn't use back-propagation for training but sequential least squares fit.
- **1979:** Earliest Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) by Fukushima et al.
- **1985:** Earliest back-propagation in 1985 by Hinton et al
- **1989:** Application of back-prop for recognizing MNIST hand-written digits at Bell labs by Yann LeCun
- **1993:** **LeNet** by Yann LeCun. The beginning of the **X-Nets** where X could be Alex, Inception, etc
- **1997:** Discovery of recurrent Neural Nets - RNN and LSTMs in 1997 by Hochreiter and Schmidhuber.

Brief History of Deep Learning (and LLMs)

- **1997 - 2006:** GPUs got faster - 1000x computational speed improvement
- **2011:** Ciresan et al showed that you can train a CNN without pre-trained weights just with good computational power.
- **2012:** Beginning of ILSVRC competition for improving image-net data set performance.
- **2017:** Transformers arrive on the scene with Vaswani et al and begin the **Language Model revolution**.
- **2020:** Transformer gets applied to Vision as well and matches CNN in performance through the Vi-Transformer.
- **2022:** ChatGPT (based on transformers) arrives on the scene and puts AI on the world map!

Brief History of Deep Learning (and LLMs)

- **2023:** Llama2 released with model weights (7b, 13b, 70b) by Meta and sees wider adoption as an open source alternative to ChatGPT. Context length of 4096 tokens
- **2024:** Llama3 released with 8b, 70b and 450b parameters. Context length of 8192 tokens but can extend to 128k tokens. Most popular and performant Meta model so far (unfortunately Llama4 didn't match expectations!)
- **2025:** DeepSeek releases their models with low-budget and architecture additions such as MLA and MOE, shaking up the industry and forcing big players to innovate!
- **2026:** Quest for super-intelligence continues as research explore multi-modal reasoning and mimicking how human brains work and reason with Thinking Machines and AMI as examples
- **2026:** DeepSeek again releases a paper that doesn't just train existing transformers architecture on better data, but re-does the architecture for better results!

Perceptron to Deep Neural Networks/Deep Learning

Logistic Regression to Deep Learning

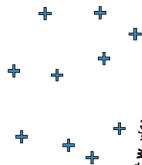
Linear to Non-linear Models

Let's work through the nitty-gritties of the logistic regression model and neural network model!

Perceptron

$$\text{Score}(x) = w_0 + w_1 x[1] + w_2 x[2] + \dots + w_d x[d]$$

$\text{Score}(x) > 0$

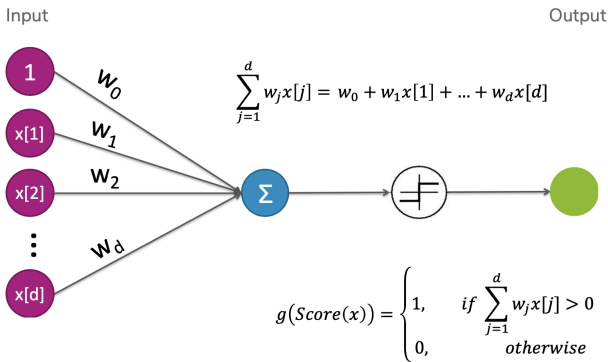


$$w_0 + w_1 x[1] + w_2 x[2] + \dots + w_d x[d] = 0$$

$\text{Score}(x) < 0$

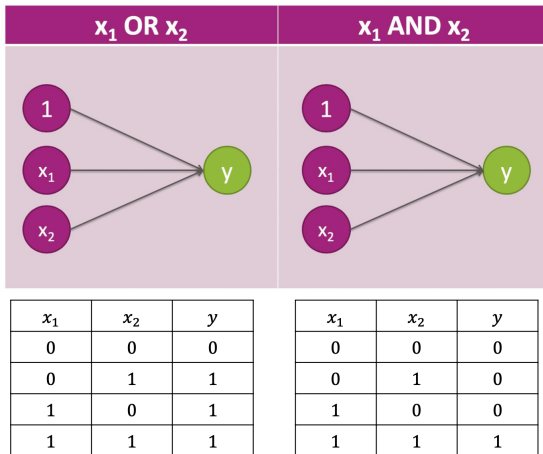


Perceptron

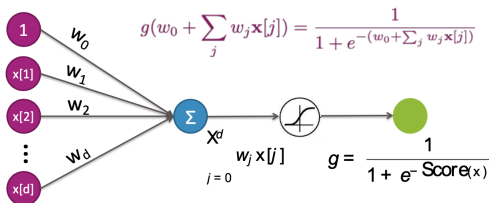


OR and AND Functions

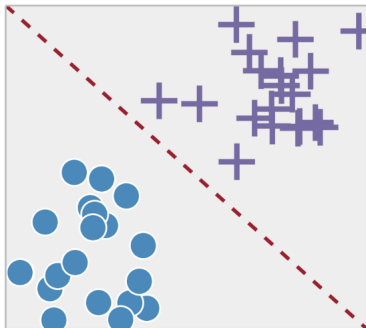
What can a perceptrons represent?



Perceptron to Logistic Regression



Logistic Regression



LR fundamentals

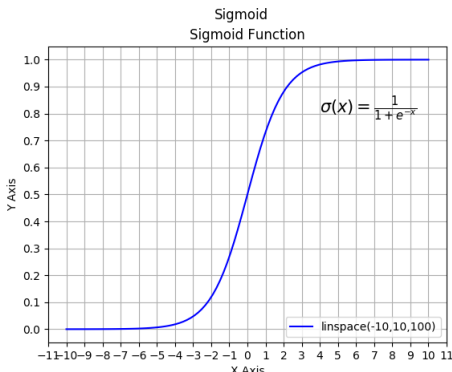
- Linear Model
- Want score $w^T x^i > 0$ for $y_i = +1$ and $w^T x_i < 0$ for $y_i = -1$!
- If linearly separable data, above is feasible. Else, minimize error in separability!!

Logistic Regression

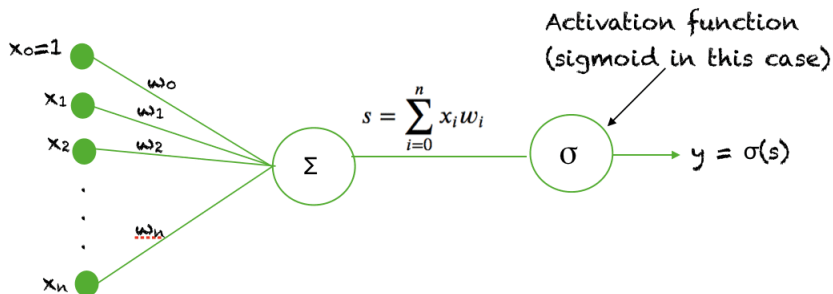
Probability for a class

In LR, the score, $w^T x$ is converted to a probability through the sigmoid function. So we can talk about $P(\hat{y}^i = +1)$ or $P(\hat{y}^i = -1)$

Sigmoid Function



LR represented Graphically



Logistic Regression

LR Prediction

$$\hat{y}_i = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\hat{w}^T x^i}}$$

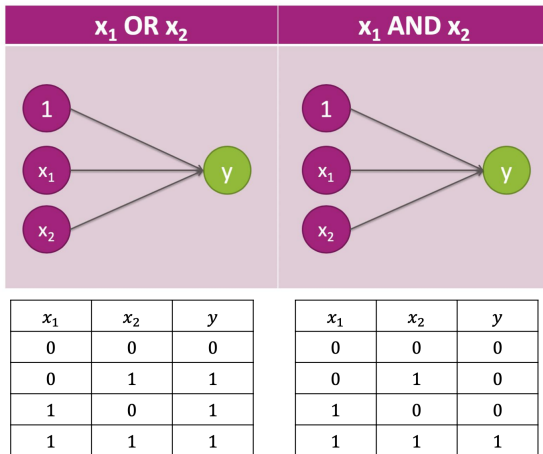
LR Loss

Assume that $y_i = 0$ or $y_i = 1$ (i.e. the negative class has a label 0). Then the binary cross-entropy loss applies to LR:

$$\min_w y_i \log(\hat{y}_i) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \hat{y}_i)$$

OR and AND Functions

What can a perceptrons represent?



Learning XOR

XOR through Multi-layer perceptron

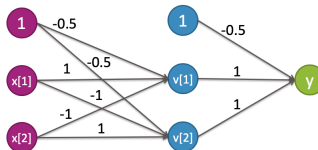
This is a 2-layer neural network

$$y = x[1] \text{ XOR } x[2] = (x[1] \text{ AND } \neg x[2]) \text{ OR } (\neg x[1] \text{ AND } x[2])$$

$$\begin{aligned} v[1] &= (x[1] \text{ AND } \neg x[2]) \\ &= g(-0.5 + x[1] - x[2]) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} v[2] &= (\neg x[1] \text{ AND } x[2]) \\ &= g(-0.5 - x[1] + x[2]) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} y &= v[1] \text{ OR } v[2] \\ &= g(-0.5 + v[1] + v[2]) \end{aligned}$$

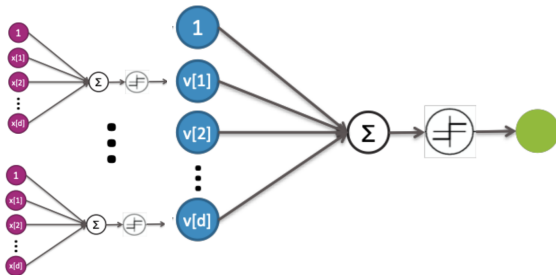


ICE #1

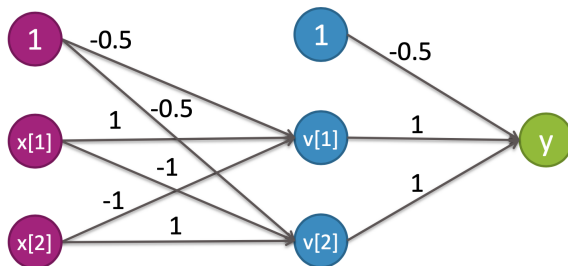
Which methods can learn the XOR function?

- ① Logistics Regression
- ② Naive Bayes Classifier
- ③ Decision Trees
- ④ Support Vector Machines

Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)

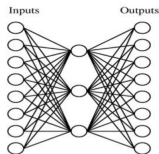


Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)



2 Layer Neural Network

Two layer neural network (alt. one hidden-layer neural network)



Single

$$out(x) = g\left(w_0 + \sum_j w_j x[j]\right)$$

1-hidden layer

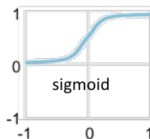
$$out(x) = g\left(w_0 + \sum_k w_k g\left(w_0^{(k)} + \sum_j w_j^{(k)} x[j]\right)\right)$$

Deep Learning: Activations, FFN and more

Choices for Non-Linear Activation Function

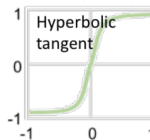
- **Sigmoid**

- Historically popular, but (mostly) fallen out of favor
- Neuron's activation saturates (weights get very large $\rightarrow$ gradients get small)
- Not zero-centered $\rightarrow$ other issues in the gradient steps
- When put on the output layer, called “softmax” because interpreted as class probability (soft assignment)



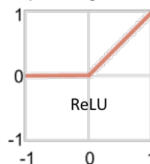
- **Hyperbolic tangent** $g(x) = \tanh(x)$

- Saturates like sigmoid unit, but zero-centered



- **Rectified linear unit (ReLU)** $g(x) = x^+ = \max(0, x)$

- Most popular choice these days
- Fragile during training and neurons can “die off”... be careful about learning rates
- “Noisy” or “leaky” variants



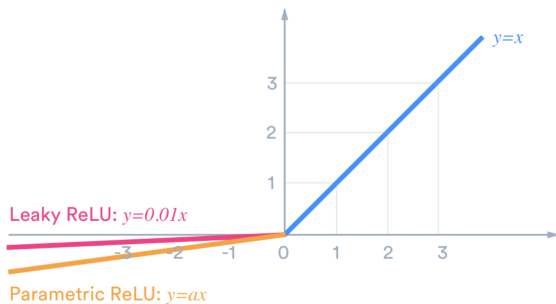
- **Softplus** $g(x) = \log(1 + \exp(x))$

- Smooth approximation to rectifier activation

Gradient of Sigmoid and RELU

Sigmoid vs RELU

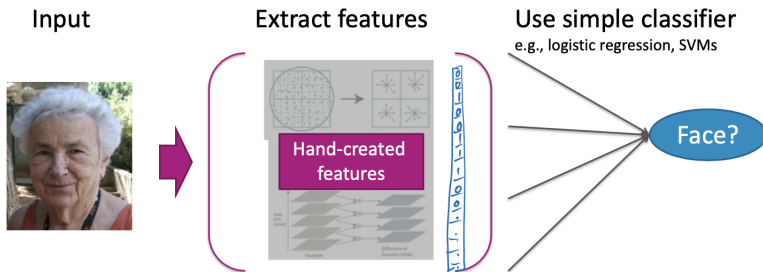
RELU vs Leaky RELU



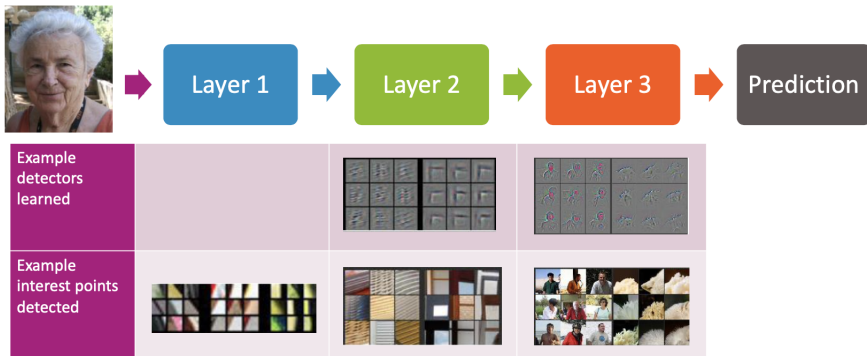
Tensorflow Playground Demo

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Computer vision before deep learning

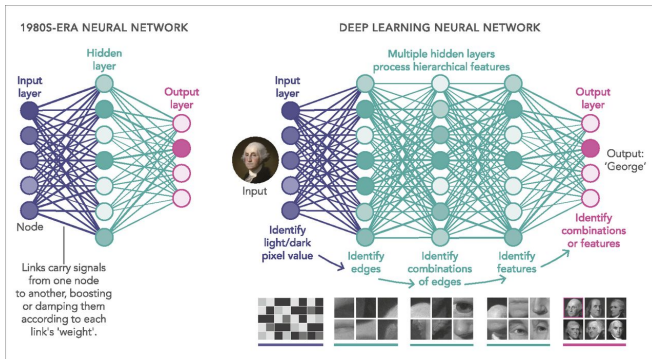


Computer vision after deep learning

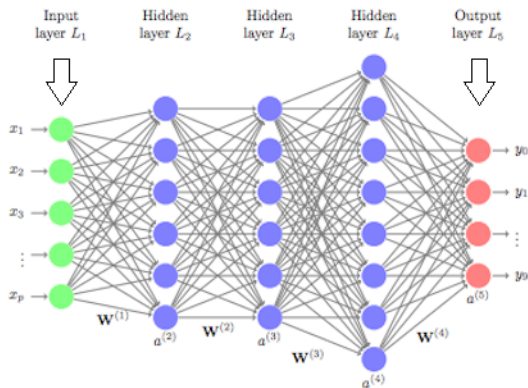


[Zeiler & Fergus '13]

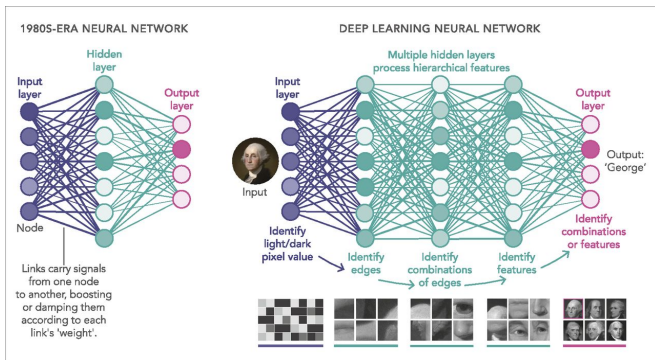
Feed-forward Deep Learning Architecture Example



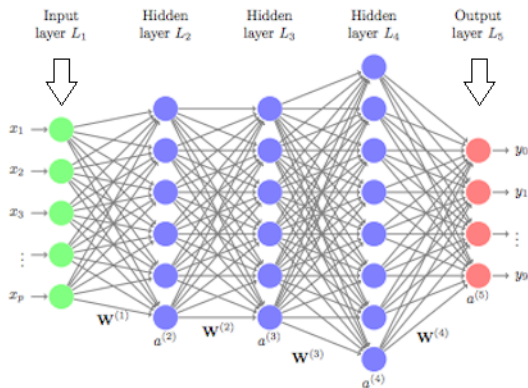
Feed-forward Deep Learning Architecture Example



Feed-forward Deep Learning Architecture Example



Feed-forward Deep Learning Architecture Example



ICE #2

Compute the number of parameters in DNN model

Consider a DNN model with 3 hidden layers where each hidden layer has 1000 neurons. Let the input layer be raw pixels from a 100x100 image and the output layer has 10 dimensions, let's say for a 10 class image classification example. How many total parameters exist in the DNN model?

- ① 10 million parameters
- ② 11 million parameters
- ③ 12 million parameters
- ④ 13 million parameters

Training a DNN

SGD with mini-batch

SGD mini-batch is the staple diet. However there are some **learning rate schedulers** that are known to work better for DNNs - Such as Adagrad and more recently, ADAM. ADAM adapts the learning rate to each individual parameter instead of having a global learning rate.

Training a DNN

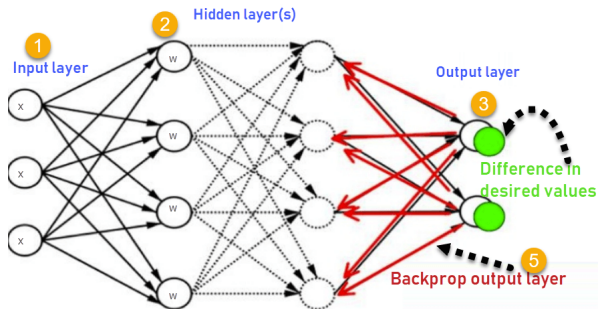
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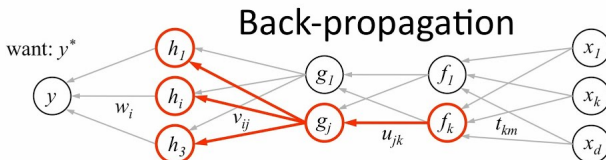
How do we compute gradient in a DNN?

Back-propagation!

Forward Propagation vs Back-propagation



Back Propagation explained



1. receive new observation $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, \dots, x_d]$ and target y^*
2. **feed forward:** for each unit g_j in each layer $1 \dots L$
compute g_j based on units f_k from previous layer: $g_j = \sigma \left(u_{j0} + \sum_k u_{jk} f_k \right)$
3. get prediction y and error $(y - y^*)$
4. **back-propagate error:** for each unit g_j in each layer $L \dots 1$

(a) compute error on g_j

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial g_j} = \sum_i \underbrace{\sigma'(h_i)}_{\text{should } g_j \text{ be higher or lower?}} \underbrace{v_{ij}}_{\text{how } h_i \text{ will change as } g_j \text{ changes}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial E}{\partial h_i}}_{\text{was } h_i \text{ too high or too low?}}$$

(b) for each u_{jk} that affects g_j

(i) compute error on u_{jk}

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial u_{jk}} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial E}{\partial g_j}}_{\text{do we want } g_j \text{ to be higher/lower}} \underbrace{\sigma'(g_j) f_k}_{\text{how } g_j \text{ will change if } u_{jk} \text{ is higher/lower}}$$

(ii) update the weight

$$u_{jk} \leftarrow u_{jk} - \eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial u_{jk}}$$

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Back Propagation Summary

Back Prop

Back prop is one of the fundamental backbones of the training modules behind deep learning and beyond (including for example ChatGPT). What exactly is back prop? It is just a way to unravel gradient computation in the neural network. Back prop is how we would **compute the gradient** in a neural network.

Back Propagation Summary

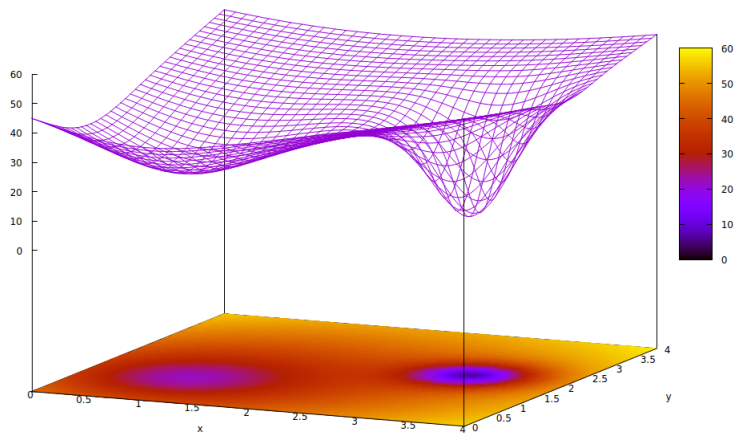
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Back Prop as information flow

It can also be thought of as flow information from the error in the output (the loss function) down to the weights. Update the weights so we don't make **this error** next time around. Back prop is a way to do **gradient descent in neural networks!**

Good vs Bad Local minima



Hyper-parameters in Deep Learning

ICE #3: Which of the following is not a hyper-parameter in deep learning?

- ① Learning rate
- ② Number of Hidden Layers
- ③ Number of neurons per hidden layer
- ④ All of the above

Hyper-parameters in Deep Learning

Hyper-parameters

- ① Learning rate
- ② Number of Hidden Layers
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Hyper-parameters in Deep Learning

Hyper-parameters

- ① Learning rate
- ② Number of Hidden Layers
- ③ Number of neurons per hidden layer
- ④ Type of non-linear activation function used

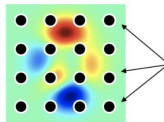
Hyper-parameters in Deep Learning

Hyper-parameters

- ① Learning rate
- ② Number of Hidden Layers
- ③ Number of neurons per hidden layer
- ④ Type of non-linear activation function used
- ⑤ Anything else?

Hyper-parameter tuning methods

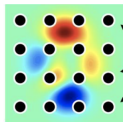
Grid search:



Hyperparameters
on 2d uniform grid

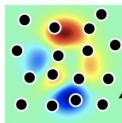
Hyper-parameter tuning methods

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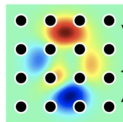
Random search:



Hyperparameters
randomly chosen

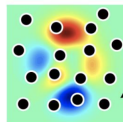
Hyper-parameter tuning methods

Grid search:



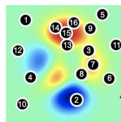
Hyperparameters
on 2d uniform grid

Random search:



Hyperparameters
randomly chosen

Bayesian Optimization:



Hyperparameters
adaptively chosen

Over-fitting in DNNs

How to handle over-fitting in DNNs

- 1 A DNN model with 100 million parameters and only 100k data points or even a million data points will overfit unless we take care of over-fitting.

Over-fitting in DNNs

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- 3 More common over-fitting strategy for DL?

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- ③ More common over-fitting strategy for DL?
- ④ Dropouts!

Over-fitting in DNNs

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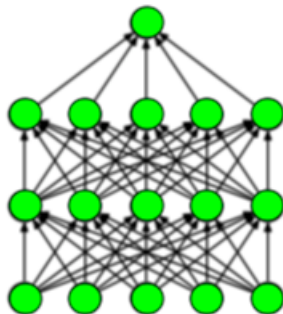
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- 5 Early stopping is also a great strategy! Stop training the DL model when the validation error starts increasing. How's this different from regular validation we were doing earlier??

Over-fitting in DNNs

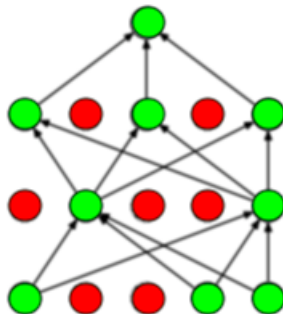
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- 6 Book by Yoshua Bengio has tons of details and great reference for Deep Learning!

Taking care of Over-fitting: Dropouts



(a) Standard Neural Net



(b) After applying dropout.

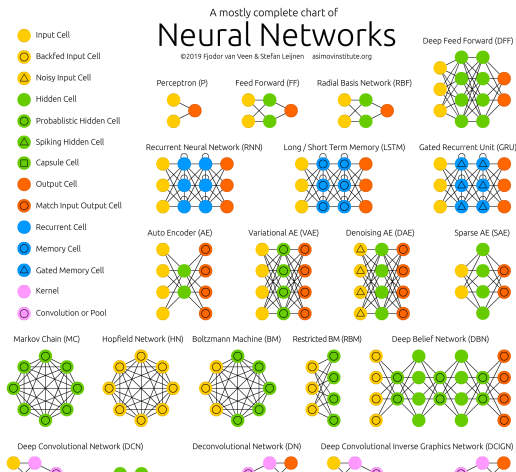
Tensorflow Playground Demo

Tensorflow Playground Demo

More DL Architectures

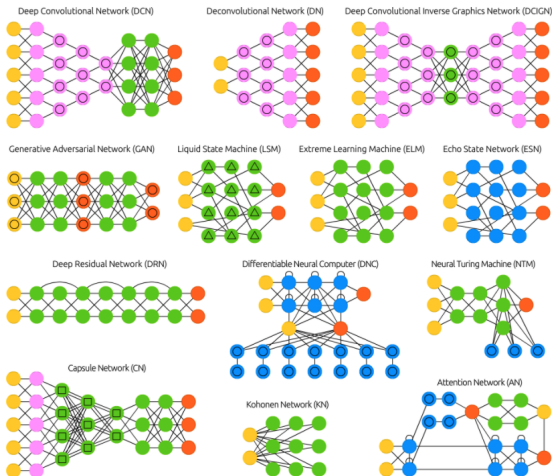
Neural Networks Zoo

Zoo Reference

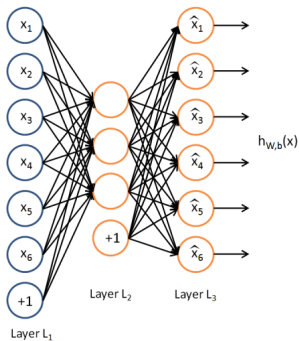


More DL Architectures

Neural Networks Zoo



Auto Encoders



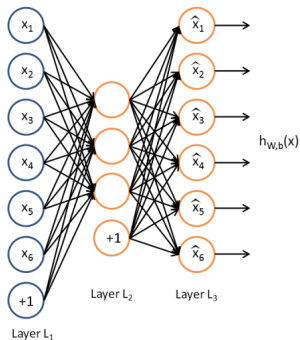
ICE #4

PCA vs Auto Encoder

Which of the following statements are true ?

- ① Both PCA and Auto Encoders serve the purpose of dimensionality reduction
- ② They are both linear models but one uses a neural nets architecture and the other is based on projections
- ③ PCA is robust to outliers while Auto Encoders are not
- ④ Auto Encoders are as better than Glove Embeddings to find low-dim embeddings for words

PCA vs Auto-Encoders



AutoEncoders and Dimensionality Reduction

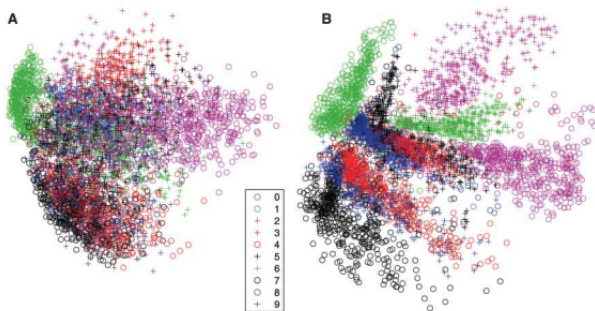
Visualization Performance

[Auto Encoder Reference Paper](#)

AutoEncoders and Dimensionality Reduction

Reading Reference for AE Dimensionality Reduction

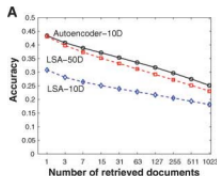
Fig. 3. (A) The two-dimensional codes for 500 digits of each class produced by taking the first two principal components of all 60,000 training images. (B) The two-dimensional codes found by a 784-1000-500-250-2 autoencoder. For an alternative visualization, see (B).



AutoEncoders and Dimensionality Reduction

Reading Reference for AE Dimensionality Reduction

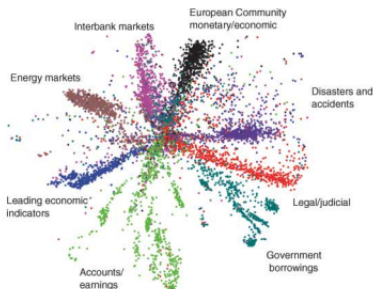
Fig. 4. (A) The fraction of retrieved documents in the same class as the query when a query document from the test set is used to retrieve other test set documents, averaged over all 402,207 possible queries. (B) The codes produced by two-dimensional LSA. (C) The codes produced by a 2000-500-250-125-2 autoencoder.



B



C



AutoEncoders Summary

- ① Auto-Encoders are a method for dimensionality reduction and can do better than PCA for visualization

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AutoEncoders Summary

- ① Auto-Encoders are a method for dimensionality reduction and can do better than PCA for visualization
- ② Use Neural Networks architecture and hence can encode non-linearity in the embeddings
- ③ Anything else?
- ④ Auto Encoders can learn convolutional layers instead of dense layers - Better for images! More flexibility!!

Removing obstacles in images

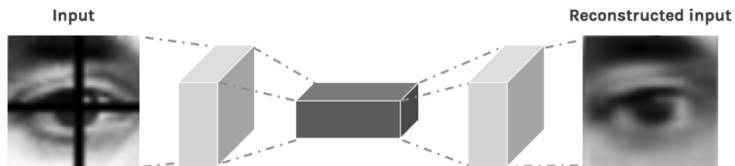


Figure 12: Reconstructed image from missing image [14]

Removing obstacles in images

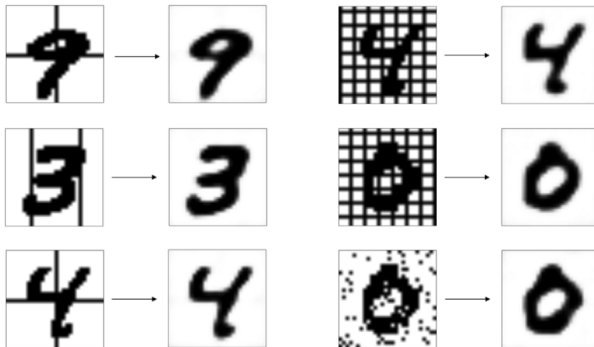
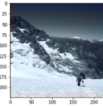
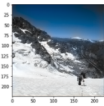
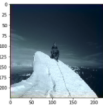
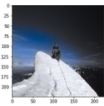
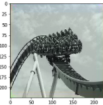
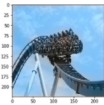
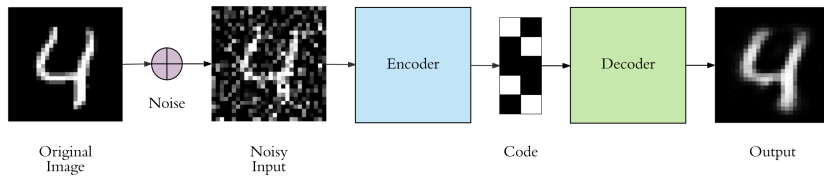


Figure 13: Source [15]

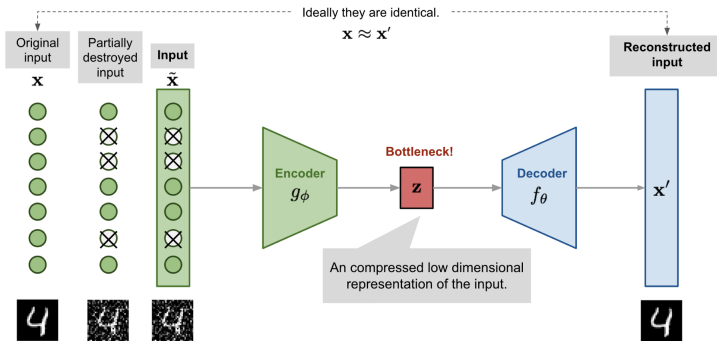
Coloring Images

Gray Image	Vanilla Autoencoder	Merge Model (YCbCr)	Merge Model (LAB)	Original
				
				
				

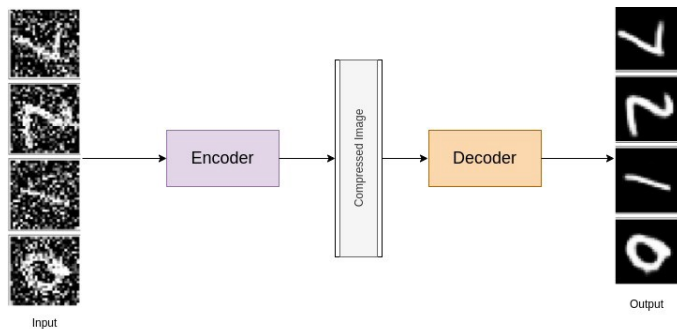
De-noising Auto Encoders



De-noising Auto Encoders



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De-noising Auto Encoders

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- This forces the Auto Encoder to “de-noise” data, esp. useful for images!

De-noising Auto Encoders

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- Just like an Auto Encoder
- Difference: Noise is injected in the inputs on purpose but output is a clean data point.
- This forces the Auto Encoder to “de-noise” data, esp. useful for images!
- Esp. useful for a category of objects or images (e.g. digit recognition or face recognition, etc)

ICE #5

Unsupervised Learning

Which of these is NOT an example of unsupervised learning?

- ① Perceptron
- ② Auto Encoder
- ③ De-noising Auto Encoder
- ④ K-means++
- ⑤ None of the above
- ⑥ All of the above

Breakouts Time 1

5 mins

Discuss in your groups what are some real-world applications of any or many of the Auto Encoder Architectures we discussed so far you can think of in your area of work or in a standard context e.g. images.

Sequence structure in NLP

Example

I love this car! Positive Sentiment

Sequence structure in NLP

Example

I love this car! Positive Sentiment

Example

I am not sure I love this car! Negative Sentiment

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I don't think its a bad car at all! → Positive Sentiment

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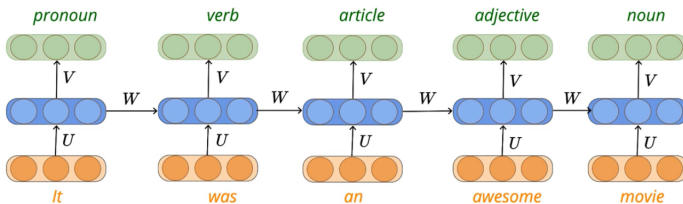
Example

I don't think its a bad car at all! → Positive Sentiment

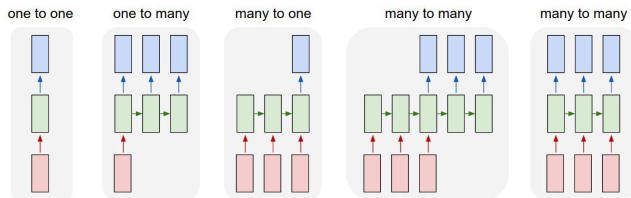
Example

Have to carry the **context(state)** from some-time back to fully understand what's happening!

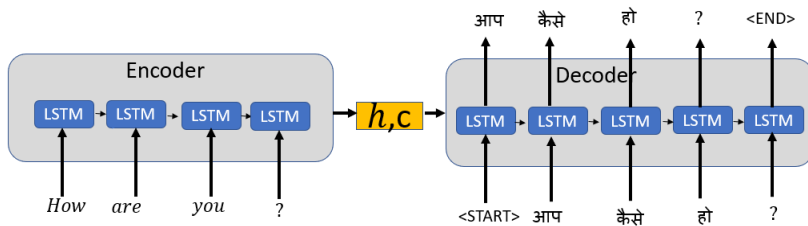
Sequence to Sequence Model (LSTM) Applications



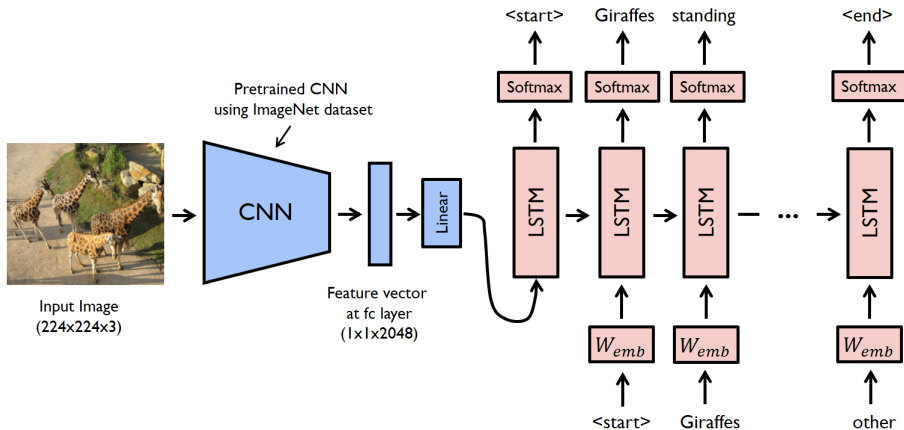
Sequence to Sequence Model (LSTM) Applications



Sequence to Sequence Model (LSTM) Applications



Sequence to Sequence Model (LSTM) Applications



Breakouts Time #2

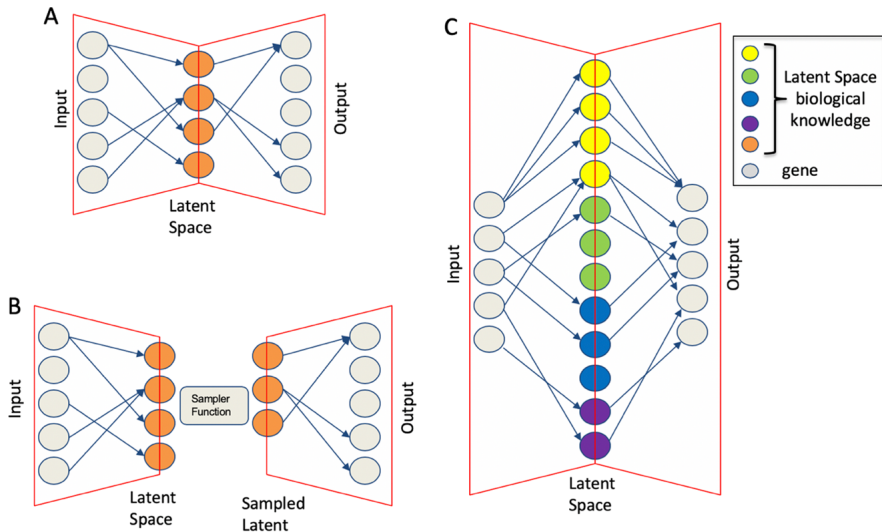
Auto-complete — 5 mins

Let's say you are tasked with building an in-email auto-completion application, which can help complete partial sentences into full sentences through suggestions (auto-complete). How would you use what we have learned so far to model this? What architecture would you use? What would be your data? And what are some pitfalls or painpoints your model should address?

Extra Slides

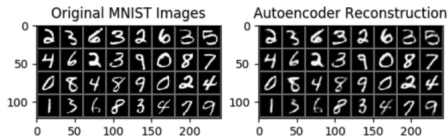
Sparse Auto Encoders

Sparse AE



Sparse Auto Encoders

Sparse AE Reference

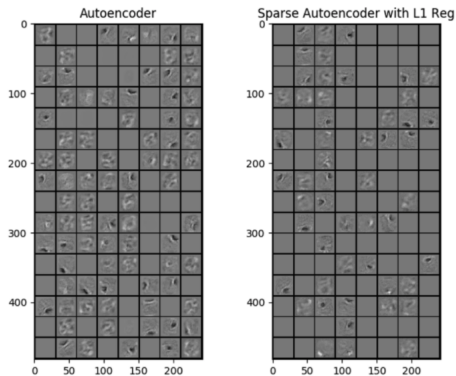


Methods	Best MSE Loss (MNIST or CIFAR-10)
Simple Autoencoder	0.0318 (MNIST)
Sparse Autoencoder (L1 reg)	0.0301 (MNIST)

Experiment Results

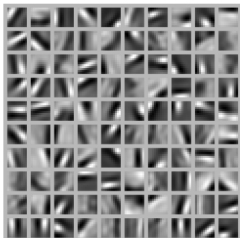
Sparse Auto Encoders

Sparse AE Reference



Sparse Auto Encoders

Input Image that maximizes activations for each neuron in hidden layer!



Sparse De-noising Auto Encoders

