Neural networks

Training neural networks - parameter initialization

MACHINE LEARNING

Topics: stochastic gradient descent (SGD)

- Algorithm that performs updates after each example
  - initialize $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ ($\boldsymbol{\theta} \equiv \{\mathbf{W}^{(1)}, \mathbf{b}^{(1)}, \ldots, \mathbf{W}^{(L+1)}, \mathbf{b}^{(L+1)}\}$)
  - for N iterations
    - for each training example $(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, y^{(t)})$
      - ✓ $\Delta = -\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} l(f(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), y^{(t)}) - \lambda \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \Omega(\boldsymbol{\theta})$
      - ✓ $\boldsymbol{\theta} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{\theta} + \alpha \, \Delta$

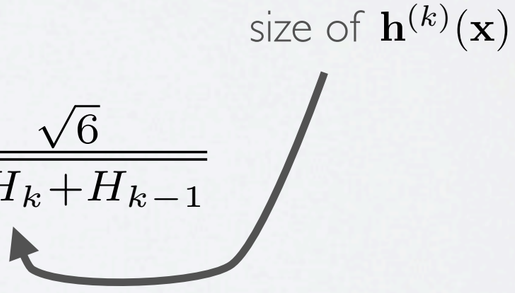
    } training epoch = iteration over **all** examples

- To apply this algorithm to neural network training, we need
  - the loss function $l(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), y^{(t)})$
  - a procedure to compute the parameter gradients $\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} l(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), y^{(t)})$
  - the regularizer $\Omega(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ (and the gradient $\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \Omega(\boldsymbol{\theta})$)
  - initialization method

INITIALIZATION

Topics: initialization

- For biases
  - initialize all to 0
- For weights
  - Can't initialize weights to 0 with tanh activation
    - we can show that all gradients would then be 0 (saddle point)
  - Can't initialize all weights to the same value
    - we can show that all hidden units in a layer will always behave the same
    - need to break symmetry
  - Recipe: sample $\mathbf{W}_{i,j}^{(k)}$ from $U\left[-b, b\right]$ where $b = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{H_k + H_{k-1}}}$



    - the idea is to sample around 0 but break symmetry
    - other values of b could work well (not an exact science) (see Glorot & Bengio, 2010)