

# Artificial Neural Networks

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  - Possible Mappings
  - Backprop Algorithm
  - Practical Problems
- 4 Generalization

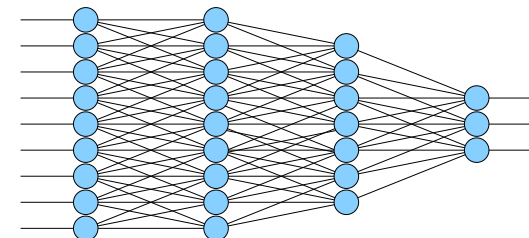
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## Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)

- Inspired from the nervous system
- Parallel processing

We will focus on **one** class of ANNs:

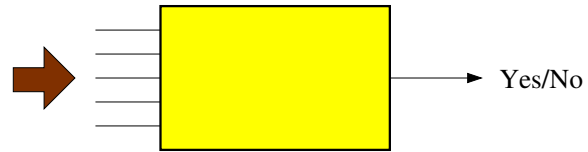
### Feed-forward Layered Networks



## Applications

Operates like a general "Learning Box"!

Classification



Function Approximation



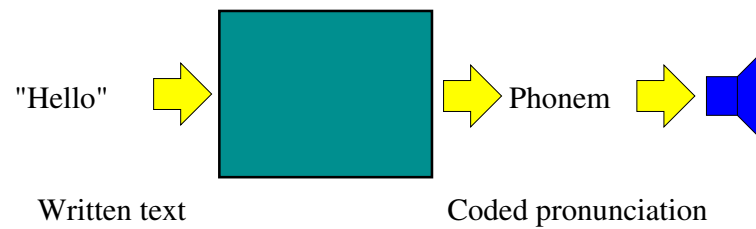
Multidimensional Mapping



## Classical Examples

NetTalk

Speech Synthesis



Written text

Coded pronunciation

Trained using a large database of spoken text

## Classical Examples

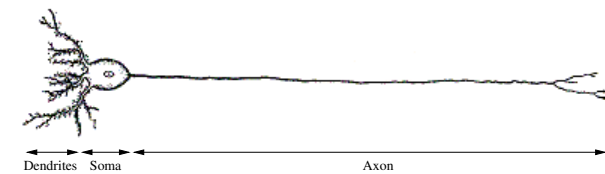
ALVINN

Autonomous driving



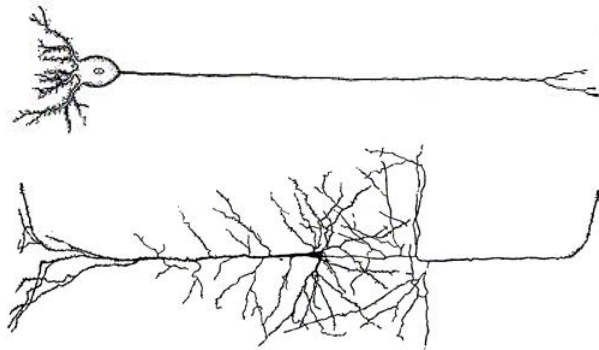
Trained to mimic the behavior of human drivers

How do real neurons (nerve cells) work?



- **Dendrites**  
Passive reception of (chemical) signals
- **Soma (Cell Body)**  
Summing, Thresholding
- **Axon**  
Active pulses are transmitted to other cells

Nerve cells can vary in shape and other properties



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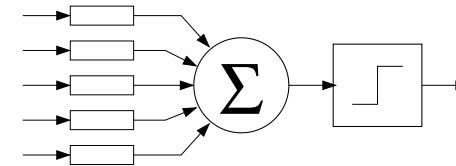
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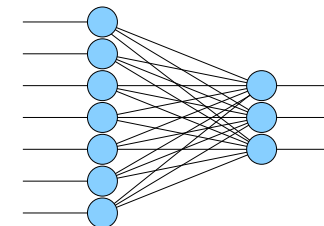
ANN-caricatures

(simplified view of the neural information processing)



- Weighted input signals
- Summing
- Thresholded output

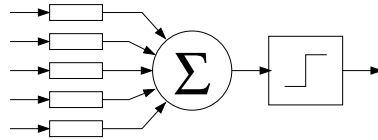
What do we mean by a *Single Layer Network*?



Each cell operates independently of the others!

It is sufficient to understand what **one** cell can compute

What can a single "cell" compute?

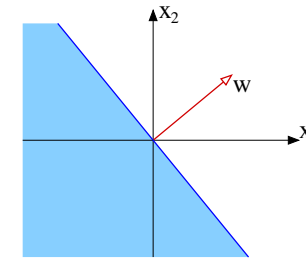


- $\vec{x}$  Input in vector format
- $\vec{w}$  Weights in vector format
- $o$  Output

$$o = \text{sign} \left( \sum_i x_i w_i \right)$$

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Geometrical interpretation



Separating hyper plane  
 Linear separability

## Learning in ANNs

What does learning mean here?

The network structure is normally fixed

Learning means finding the **best weights**  $w_i$

Two good algorithms for single layer networks:

- Perceptron Learning
- Delta Rule

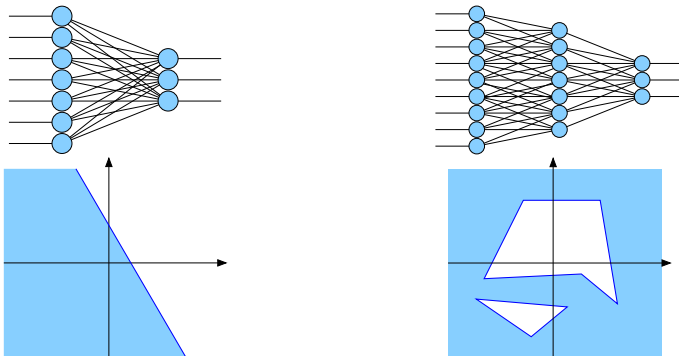
Perceptron Learning

- Incremental learning
- Weights only change when the output is wrong
- Update rule:  $w_i \leftarrow w_i + \eta(t - o)x_i$
- Always converges if the problem is solvable

### Delta Rule (LMS-rule)

- Incremental learning
- Weights always change
- $w_i \leftarrow w_i + \eta(t - \vec{w}^T \vec{x})x_i$
- Converges only in the mean
- Will find an optimal solution even if the problem can not be fully solved

### What is the point of having multiple layers?



A two layer network can implement **arbitrary decision surfaces** ...provided we have *enough hidden units*

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### Will it be even better with more layers?

- Two layers can describe **any** classification
- Two layers can approximate **any** "continuous" function
- Three layers can sometimes do the same thing more efficiently
- More than three layers are rarely used

How can we train a multi layer network?

Neither perceptron learning, nor the delta rule can be used

**Fundamental problem:**

When the network gives the wrong answer there is no information on in which direction the weights need to change to improve the result

**Fundamental trick:**

Use threshold-like, but continuous functions

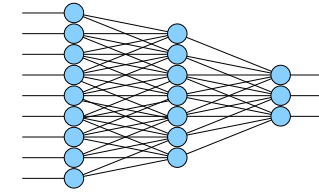
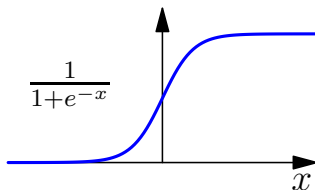


Normally one can use the error from each example separately

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k \in \text{Out}} (t_k - o_k)^2$$

A common "threshold-like function" is

$$\rho(y) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-y}}$$



**Basic idéa:**

Minimize the error ( $E$ ) as a function of **all** weights ( $\vec{w}$ )

- 1 Compute the direction in weight space where the error increases the most  $\text{grad}_{\vec{w}}(E)$
- 2 Change the weights in the opposite direction

$$w_i \leftarrow w_i - \eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_i}$$

The gradient can be expressed as a function of a *local generalized error*  $\delta$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ji}} = -\delta_i x_j \quad w_{ji} \leftarrow w_{ji} + \eta \delta_i x_j$$

Output layer:

$$\delta_k = o_k \cdot (1 - o_k) \cdot (t_k - o_k)$$

Hidden layers:

$$\delta_h = o_h \cdot (1 - o_h) \cdot \sum_{k \in \text{Out}} w_{kh} \delta_k$$

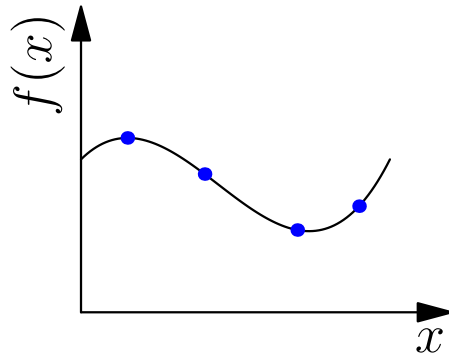
The error  $\delta$  propagates backwards through the layers  
*Error backpropagation (BackProp)*

### Things to think about when using BackProp

- Sloooow  
 Normal to require thousands of iterations through the dataset
- Gradient following  
 Risk of getting stuck in local minima
- Many parameters
  - Step size  $\eta$
  - Number of layers
  - Number of hidden units
  - Input and output representation
  - Initial weights

## Generalization

The net normally *interpolates* smoothly between the data points



Results in good generalization

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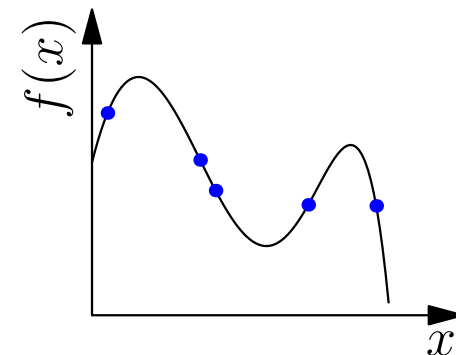
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Risk for overfitting!

If the network has too many degrees of freedom (weights), the risk increases that learning will find a "strange" solution



Limiting the number of hidden units tends to improve generalization

