

# Neural Network and Backpropagation Questions

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## Question 1: Step Activation Function <sup>1</sup>

Suppose we have a neural network with one hidden layer.

$$f(x) = w_0 + \sum_i w_i h_i(x); \quad h_i(x) = g(b_i + v_i x),$$

where activation function  $g$  is defined as

$$g(z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } z < 0 \end{cases}$$

Which of the following functions can be exactly represented by this neural network?

- polynomials of degree one:  $l(x) = ax + b$
- hinge loss:  $l(x) = \max(1 - x, 0)$
- polynomials of degree two:  $l(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$
- piecewise constant functions

<sup>1</sup>From CMU

## [Solution] Question 1: Step Activation Function

Suppose we have a neural network with one hidden layer.

$$f(x) = w_0 + \sum_i w_i h_i(x); \quad h_i(x) = g(b_i + v_i x),$$

where activation function  $g$  is defined as

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Which of the following functions can be exactly represented by this neural network?

- polynomials of degree one:  $l(x) = ax + b$  **No**

If  $g$  can be identity function, then the answer is **Yes**

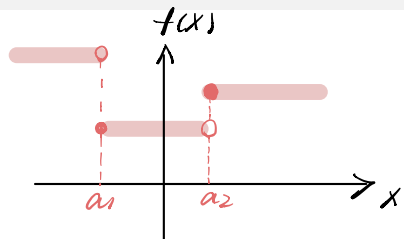
- hinge loss:  $l(x) = \max(1 - x, 0)$  **No**

- polynomials of degree two:  $l(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$  **No**

- piecewise constant functions **Yes**

$(-c) \cdot g(x - b) + (c) \cdot g(x - a)$  can represent  $l(x) = c, a \leq x < b$ .

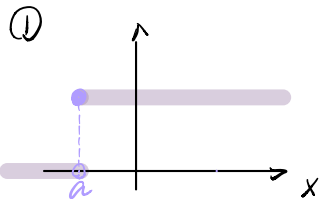
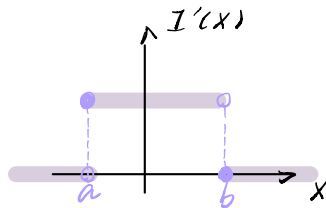
# [Solution] Question 1: Step Activation Function



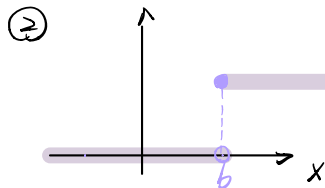
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} c_1 & x < a_1 \\ c_2 & a_1 \leq x < a_2 \\ \dots & \\ c_n & x \geq a_n \end{cases}$$

If we can represent any,  
 $I(x) = c, a \leq x < b$   
 then any piecewise constant  
 function can be represented  
 by  $f(x) = \sum I_i(x)$

Q: How to represent  $I(x) = c, a \leq x \leq b$ ?  
 $I(x) = cI'(x)$  where  $I'(x) = 1, a \leq x \leq b$



$$I'_1(x) = g(x-a)$$



$$I'_2(x) = g(x-b)$$

$$\Rightarrow I'(x) = g(x-a) - g(x-b)$$

$$\Rightarrow I(x) = cg(x-a) - cg(x-b)$$

## Question 2: Power of ReLU <sup>2</sup>

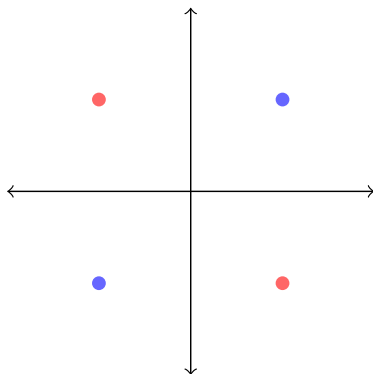
Consider the following small NN:

$$w_2^\top \text{ReLU}(W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$

where the data is 2D,  $W_1$  is 2 by 2,  $b_1$  is 2D,  $w_2$  is 2D and  $b_2$  is 1D.

$$x_1 = (1, 1) \quad y_1 = 1; \quad x_2 = (1, -1) \quad y_2 = -1; \quad x_3 = (-1, 1) \quad y_3 = -1; \quad x_4 = (-1, -1) \quad y_4 = 1$$

Find  $b_1, b_2, W_1, w_2$  to solve the problem. (Separate points from class  $y = 1$  and  $y = -1$ .)

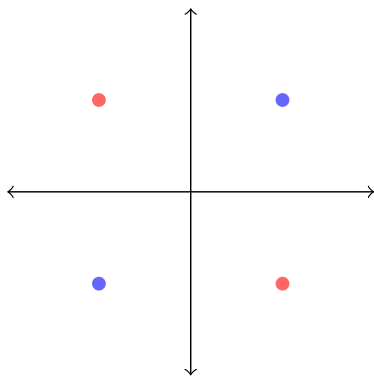


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<sup>2</sup>From Harvard

## [Solution] Question 2: Power of ReLU

$$\hat{y} = w_2^\top \text{ReLU}(W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$



One choice is

$$W_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, b_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$w_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, b_2 = -1$$

## [Solution] Question 2: Power of ReLU

$x$	$h(x)$	$\text{ReLU}(h(x))$	$\hat{y}$
$(1, 1)$	$(2, -2)$	$(2, 0)$	$2-1 = 1$
$(-1, 1)$	$(0, 0)$	$(0, 0)$	$0-1 = -1$
$(1, -1)$	$(0, 0)$	$(0, 0)$	$0-1 = -1$
$(-1, -1)$	$(-2, 2)$	$(0, 2)$	$2-1 = 1$

## Question 3: Backpropagation <sup>3</sup>

Suppose we have a one hidden layer network and computation is:

$$h = \text{RELU}(Wx + b_1)$$

$$\hat{y} = \text{softmax}(Uh + b_2)$$

$$J = \text{Cross entropy}(y, \hat{y}) = - \sum_i y_i \log \hat{y}_i$$

The dimensions of the matrices are:

$$W \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad b_1 \in \mathbb{R}^m \quad U \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times m} \quad b_2 \in \mathbb{R}^k$$

Use backpropagation to calculate these four gradients

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial b_2} \quad \frac{\partial J}{\partial U} \quad \frac{\partial J}{\partial b_1} \quad \frac{\partial J}{\partial W}$$

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<sup>3</sup>From Stanford



## [Solution] Question 3: Backpropagation

$$z_2 = Uh + b_2 \quad \delta_1 = \frac{\partial J}{\partial z_2} = \hat{y} - y$$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial b_2} = \delta_1$$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial U} = \delta_1 h^T$$

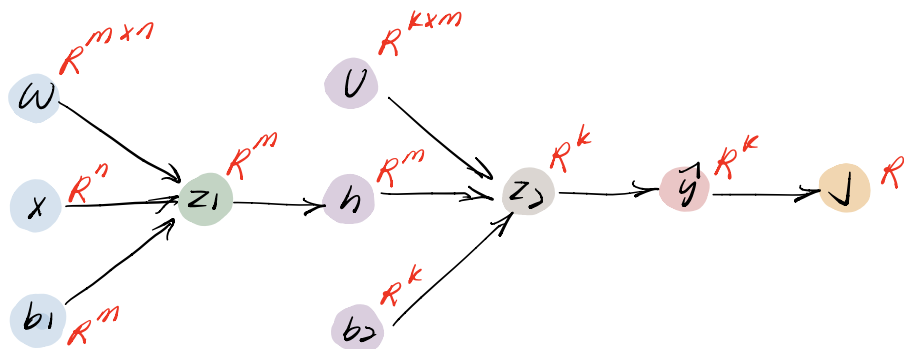
$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial h} = U^T \delta_1$$

$$z_1 = Wx + b_1 \quad \delta_2 = \frac{\partial J}{\partial z_1} = U^T \delta_1 \circ 1\{h > 0\}$$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial b_1} = \delta_2$$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial W} = \delta_2 x^T$$

# [Solution] Question 3: Backpropagation



$$J = - \sum_i y_i \log \frac{e^{z_{2i}}}{\sum_j e^{z_{2j}}} = - \sum_i y_i (z_{2i} - \log \sum_j e^{z_{2j}})$$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial z_{2k}} = -y_k + \sum_i y_i \frac{e^{z_{2k}}}{\sum_j e^{z_{2j}}} = -y_k + \hat{y}_k \sum_i y_i = -y_k + \hat{y}_k \Rightarrow \frac{\partial J}{\partial z_{2k}} = \hat{y}_k - y_k$$

(y is one-hot vector)