Machine Learning

CS Kickball! 4PM Today at FloMo Field

Evaluate this course on Axess!

Your comments really make a difference.

Introduction to Perceptrons



How do we choose good values for $w_0 \dots w_n$?

One Approach

- **Train** the perceptron on valid data.
- For each data point:
 - Ask the perceptron what it thinks.
 - If correct, do nothing.
 - Otherwise, nudge $w_0 \dots w_n$ in the right direction.
- Repeat until number of errors is "small enough."
- Question: What kind of mistakes can we make?

False Positive





False Negative





A Cute Math Trick

- For false positives, set $w_i = w_i \alpha x_i$.
- For false negatives, set $w_i = w_i + \alpha x_i$.
- For correct answers, set $w_i = w_i$.
- Let "YES" be 1 and "NO" be 0.
- Consider the difference between actual answer and perceptron guess:
 - False positive: Actually NO, we say YES. Difference is -1.
 - False negative: Actually YES, we say NO. Difference is +1.
 - Correct answer: Both YES or both NO. Difference is 0.
- General update rule: $w_i = w_i + \alpha$ (real guess) x_i .

Perceptron Learning Algorithm

- Start with a random guess of each w_i .
- Repeat until perceptron is sufficiently accurate:
 - Choose a training example $(x_0, x_1, ..., x_n)$.
 - Let **real** be the real answer, **guess** be the perceptron's guess.
 - For each i, set $w_i := w_i + \alpha$ (real guess) x_i
- Note: Use **batching** in practice.
 - Update everything all at once.

Application: Handwriting Analysis



- Train a computer to recognize handwritten numbers 0 – 9.
- Large training and test set available (MNIST Handwritten Digit Database)







Combining Perceptrons



This is called a neural network.

Machine Learning

- Interesting in machine learning? Take CS109 and CS229!
- Many beautiful algorithms:
 - Naive Bayes classifiers (used in spam filtering).
 - Decision trees (used in hospitals for diagnostics).
 - Bayesian networks (used in cancer research to learn what causes tumors).