# Learning and Generalization in Artificial Neural Networks

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### A cat that once sat on a hot stove will never again sit on a hot stove or on a cold one either.

Mark Twain

# Outline

- What is an Artificial Neural Network?
- Nonlinear Regression
- Generalization
- Techniques for Improving Generalization
- Regularization
  - Bayesian Regularization
- Early Stopping
- Relationship Between Early Stopping and Regularization
- Summary













### Multilayer Network



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### Function Approximation Example







### **Universal Approximator**

A two-layer network with a bounded, monotone-increasing transfer function in the first layer and a linear transfer function in the second layer can approximate any continuous function to an arbitrary accuracy over a bounded interval, given a sufficient number of neurons in the first layer.

> Cybenko (1988) Weierstrass (1885)



### **Problem Statement**

Training Set  $\{p_1, t_1\}, \{p_2, t_2\}, ..., \{p_n, t_n\}$ 

**Target Generation** 

 $t_i = g(p_i) + \varepsilon_i$ 

Performance Index for Training

$$F = E_D = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (t_i - a_i)^2$$
Regression Output

Gradient Descent Optimization  $w_{i,j}^{m}(k+1) = w_{i,j}^{m}(k) - \alpha \frac{\partial F}{\partial w_{i,j}^{m}}$   $b_{i}^{m}(k+1) = b_{i}^{m}(k) - \alpha \frac{\partial F}{\partial b_{i}^{m}}$ 





### Generalization

- The network input-output mapping is accurate for the training data and for test data never seen before.
- The network interpolates well.

### Cause of Overfitting

Poor generalization is caused by using a network that is too complex (too many neurons/parameters). To have the best performance we need to find the least complex network that can represent the data (Occam's Razor).

### Methods for Improving Generalization

- Pruning (removing neurons) until the performance is degraded.
- Growing (adding neurons) until the performance is adequate.
- Regularization
- Validation Methods

### Regularization

**Standard Performance Measure** 

 $F = E_D$ 

Performance Measure with Regularization

$$F = \beta E_D + \alpha E_W$$

Complexity Penalty

where

$$E_W = \sum_{i=1}^N w_i^2$$

(Smaller weights means a smoother function.)





### **NN Bayesian Framework**



### Gaussian Assumptions

**Gaussian Noise** 

$$P(D|\mathbf{w},\beta,M) = \frac{1}{Z_D(\beta)} \exp(-\beta E_D) \qquad \qquad Z_D(\beta) = (\pi/\beta)^{n/2}$$

Gaussian Prior:

$$P(\mathbf{w} \mid \alpha, M) = \frac{1}{Z_W(\alpha)} \exp(-\alpha E_W) \qquad \qquad Z_W(\alpha) = (\pi/\alpha)^{N/2}$$

$$P(\mathbf{w} \mid D, \alpha, \beta, M) = \frac{\frac{1}{Z_W(\alpha)} \frac{1}{Z_D(\beta)} \exp(-(\beta E_D + \alpha E_W))}{\text{Normalization Factor}}$$
$$= \frac{1}{Z_F(\alpha, \beta)} \exp(-F(\mathbf{w}))$$
$$\uparrow$$
$$\text{Minimize F to Maximize P.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Optimizing Regularization Parameters} \\ & \text{Evidence from First Level} \\ & \text{Second Level} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} P(\alpha, \beta | D, M) = \frac{P(D | \alpha, \beta, M) P(\alpha, \beta | M)}{P(D | M)} \\ \text{Of Inference} \end{array} \right. \\ & \text{Evidence:} \quad P(D | \alpha, \beta, M) = \frac{P(D | \mathbf{w}, \beta, M) P(\mathbf{w} | \alpha, M)}{P(\mathbf{w} | D, \alpha, \beta, M)} \\ & \text{Evidence:} \quad P(D | \alpha, \beta, M) = \frac{P(D | \mathbf{w}, \beta, M) P(\mathbf{w} | \alpha, M)}{P(\mathbf{w} | D, \alpha, \beta, M)} \\ & = \frac{\left[\frac{1}{Z_D(\beta)} \exp(-\beta E_D)\right] \left[\frac{1}{Z_W(\alpha)} \exp(-\alpha E_W)\right]}{\frac{1}{Z_F(\alpha, \beta)} \exp(-F(\mathbf{w}))} \\ & = \frac{Z_F(\alpha, \beta)}{Z_D(\beta) Z_W(\alpha)} \cdot \frac{\exp(-\beta E_D - \alpha E_W)}{\exp(-F(\mathbf{w}))} = \frac{Z_F(\alpha, \beta)}{Z_D(\beta) Z_W(\alpha)} \end{aligned}$$

### Quadratic Approximation

The only unknown term in the evidence is  $Z_F$ . It can be approximated using a second order Taylor series expansion.

$$Z_F \approx (2\pi)^{N/2} (\det((\mathbf{H}^{\mathrm{MP}})^{-1}))^{1/2} \exp(-F(\mathbf{w}^{\mathrm{MP}}))$$

Hessian Matrix

 $\mathbf{H} = \beta \nabla^2 E_D + \alpha \nabla^2 E_W$ 

### **Optimum Parameters**

If we make this substitution for  $Z_F$  in the expression for the evidence and then take the derivative with respect to  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  to locate the minimum we find:

$$\alpha^{\rm MP} = \frac{\gamma}{2E_W(\mathbf{w}^{\rm MP})} \qquad \beta^{\rm MP} = \frac{n-\gamma}{2E_D(\mathbf{w}^{\rm MP})}$$

**Effective Number of Parameters** 

$$\gamma = N - 2\alpha^{MP} tr(\mathbf{H}^{MP})^{-1}$$

### **Gauss-Newton Approximation**

It can be expensive to compute the Hessian matrix.

Try the Gauss-Newton Approximation.

$$\mathbf{H} = \nabla^2 F(\mathbf{w}) \approx 2\beta \mathbf{J}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{J} + 2\alpha \mathbf{I}_N$$

This is readily available if the Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm is used for training.

## Algorithm

0. Initialize  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and the weights.

- 1. Take one step of Levenberg-Marquardt to minimize  $F(\mathbf{w})$ .
- 2. Compute the effective number of parameters  $\gamma = N 2\alpha tr(\mathbf{H}^{-1})$ , using the Gauss-Newton approximation for **H**.
- 3. Compute new estimates of the regularization parameters  $\alpha = \gamma/(2E_W)$  and  $\beta = (n-\gamma)/(2E_D)$ .
- 4. Iterate steps 1-3 until convergence.

### Checks of Performance

- If γ is very close to N, then the network may be too small. Add more hidden layer neurons and retrain.
- If the larger network has the same final  $\gamma$ , then the smaller network was large enough.
- Otherwise, increase the number of hidden neurons.
- If a network is sufficiently large, then a larger network will achieve comparable values for  $\gamma$ ,  $E_D$  and  $E_W$ .

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

### **Triangle Wave Results**

S	E <sub>D</sub>	E <sub>w</sub>	E <sub>A</sub>	Ν	γ
2	1.612	203.0	0.5031	7	5.659
3	1.214	187.8	0.1954	10	8.468
4	1.144	177.0	0.1080	13	9.843
5	1.143	177.2	0.1085	16	9.906
6	1.143	177.2	0.1088	19	9.908
8	1.143	177.1	0.1091	25	9.911
10	1.142	177.1	0.1093	31	9.913
14	1.142	177.0	0.1095	43	9.915

# Early Stopping

- Break up data into training, *validation*, and test sets.
- Use only the training set to compute gradients and determine weight updates.
- Compute the performance on the validation set at each iteration of training.
- Stop training when the performance on the validation set goes up for a specified number of iterations.
- Use the weights which achieved the lowest error on the validation set.

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### Point A Response (Early Stopping) 1.5 1 0.5 0 -0.5 -1 -1.5<sup>L</sup> 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.9 0.7 0.8 1

![](_page_38_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Other Validation Set Uses

- Setting the regularization parameter
- Committee of networks
  - Averaging
  - Voting
- Boosting

### Relationship Between Early Stopping and Regularization

### **Quadratic Functions**

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}^{T}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{d}^{T}\mathbf{x} + c \qquad (\text{Symmetric } \mathbf{A})$$

Gradient and Hessian:

Useful properties of gradients:  $\nabla(\mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{x}) = \nabla(\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{h}) = \mathbf{h}$   $\nabla \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{x} = 2\mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} \text{ (for symmetric } \mathbf{Q})$ 

Gradient of Quadratic Function:

 $\nabla F(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{d}$ 

Hessian of Quadratic Function:

 $\nabla^2 F(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{A}$ 

### Eigensystem of the Hessian

Consider a quadratic function which has a stationary point at the origin, and whose value there is zero.

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$$

Perform a similarity transform on the Hessian matrix, using the eigenvalues as the new basis vectors.

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{z}_1 & \mathbf{z}_2 & \dots & \mathbf{z}_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Since the Hessian matrix is symmetric, its eigenvectors are orthogonal.  $\mathbf{B}^{-1} = \mathbf{B}^{T}$ 

$$\mathbf{A}' = [\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{B}] = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} = \Lambda \qquad \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B} \Lambda \mathbf{B}^T$$

### **Second Directional Derivative**

$$\frac{\mathbf{p}^T \nabla^2 F(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{p}}{\|\mathbf{p}\|^2} = \frac{\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{p}}{\|\mathbf{p}\|^2}$$

Represent **p** with respect to the eigenvectors (new basis):

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 $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{c}$ 

$$\frac{\mathbf{p}^{T} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{p}}{\|\mathbf{p}\|^{2}} = \frac{\mathbf{c}^{T} \mathbf{B}^{T} (\mathbf{B} \wedge \mathbf{B}^{T}) \mathbf{B} \mathbf{c}}{\mathbf{c}^{T} \mathbf{B}^{T} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{c}} = \frac{\mathbf{c}^{T} \wedge \mathbf{c}}{\mathbf{c}^{T} \mathbf{c}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_{i} c_{i}^{2}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} c_{i}^{2}}$$

$$\lambda_{min} \leq \frac{\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{p}}{\|\mathbf{p}\|^2} \leq \lambda_{max}$$

### Eigenvector (Largest Eigenvalue)

![](_page_44_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Performance Index

#### Training Set:

$$\{\mathbf{p}_{1},\mathbf{t}_{1}\}, \{\mathbf{p}_{2},\mathbf{t}_{2}\}, \dots, \{\mathbf{p}_{Q},\mathbf{t}_{Q}\}$$

Input:  $\mathbf{p}_q$  Target:  $\mathbf{t}_q$ 

Notation:

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{w} \\ b \end{bmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{z} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad a = \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{p} + b \qquad \square > a = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{z}$$

Mean Square Error:

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = E[e^2] = E[(t-a)^2] = E[(t-\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{z})^2] = E_D$$

Error Analysis  

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = E[e^{2}] = E[(t-a)^{2}] = E[(t-\mathbf{x}^{T}\mathbf{z})^{2}]$$

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = E[t^{2}-2t\mathbf{x}^{T}\mathbf{z}+\mathbf{x}^{T}\mathbf{z}\mathbf{z}^{T}\mathbf{x}]$$

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = E[t^{2}]-2\mathbf{x}^{T}E[t\mathbf{z}]+\mathbf{x}^{T}E[\mathbf{z}\mathbf{z}^{T}]\mathbf{x}$$

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = c-2\mathbf{x}^{T}\mathbf{h}+\mathbf{x}^{T}\mathbf{R}\mathbf{x}$$

$$c = E[t^{2}] \qquad \mathbf{h} = E[t\mathbf{z}] \qquad \mathbf{R} = E[\mathbf{z}\mathbf{z}^{T}]$$

The mean square error for the Linear Network is a quadratic function:

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = c + \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{x} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$$
$$\mathbf{d} = -2\mathbf{h} \qquad \mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{R}$$

![](_page_48_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Performance Contour

Optimum Point (Maximum Likelihood) Hessian Matrix

$$\mathbf{x}^{ML} = -\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{R}^{-1}\mathbf{h} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \nabla^2 F(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Eigenvalues  

$$\begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 3 = (\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 3) \implies \lambda_1 = 1, \quad \lambda_2 = 3$$
Eigenvectors  

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{v} = 0$$

$$\lambda_1 = 1 \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1 = 0 \quad \mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \lambda_2 = 3 \quad \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{v}_2 = 0 \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

![](_page_50_Figure_0.jpeg)

### **Steepest Descent Trajectory**

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k - \alpha \mathbf{g}_k = \mathbf{x}_k - \alpha (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{d})$$
  
=  $\mathbf{x}_k - \alpha \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{d}) = \mathbf{x}_k - \alpha \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{x}^{ML})$   
=  $[\mathbf{I} - \alpha \mathbf{A}]\mathbf{x}_k + \alpha \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{ML} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}_k + [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{M}]\mathbf{x}^{ML}$   $\mathbf{M} = [\mathbf{I} - \alpha \mathbf{A}]$ 

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}_0 + [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{M}]\mathbf{x}^{ML}$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{2} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}_{1} + [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{M}]\mathbf{x}^{ML}$$
  
=  $\mathbf{M}^{2}\mathbf{x}_{0} + \mathbf{M}[\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{M}]\mathbf{x}^{ML} + [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{M}]\mathbf{x}^{ML}$   
=  $\mathbf{M}^{2}\mathbf{x}_{0} + \mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}^{ML} - \mathbf{M}^{2}\mathbf{x}^{ML} + \mathbf{x}^{ML} - \mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}^{ML}$   
=  $\mathbf{M}^{2}\mathbf{x}_{0} + \mathbf{x}^{ML} - \mathbf{M}^{2}\mathbf{x}^{ML} = \mathbf{M}^{2}\mathbf{x}_{0} + [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{M}^{2}]\mathbf{x}^{ML}$ 

$$\mathbf{x}_{k} = \mathbf{M}^{k}\mathbf{x}_{0} + [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{M}^{k}]\mathbf{x}^{ML}$$

### Regularization

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = E_D + \gamma E_W \qquad (\gamma = \alpha/\beta)$$

$$E_W = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^T (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)$$

#### To locate the minimum point, set the gradient to zero.

$$\nabla F(\mathbf{X}) = \nabla E_D + \gamma \nabla E_W$$

$$\nabla E_W = (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0) \qquad \nabla E_D = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{ML})$$

$$\nabla F(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{ML}) + \gamma(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0) = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\begin{split} \textbf{MAP} - \textbf{ML} \\ \textbf{A}(\textbf{x}^{MAP} - \textbf{x}^{ML}) &= -\gamma(\textbf{x}^{MAP} - \textbf{x}_0) = -\gamma(\textbf{x}^{MAP} - \textbf{x}^{ML} + \textbf{x}^{ML} - \textbf{x}_0) \\ &= -\gamma(\textbf{x}^{MAP} - \textbf{x}^{ML}) - \gamma(\textbf{x}^{ML} - \textbf{x}_0) \\ (\textbf{A} + \gamma \textbf{I})(\textbf{x}^{MAP} - \textbf{x}^{ML}) &= \gamma(\textbf{x}_0 - \textbf{x}^{ML}) \\ (\textbf{x}^{MAP} - \textbf{x}^{ML}) &= \gamma(\textbf{A} + \gamma \textbf{I})^{-1}(\textbf{x}_0 - \textbf{x}^{ML}) \\ \textbf{x}^{MAP} &= \textbf{x}^{ML} - \gamma(\textbf{A} + \gamma \textbf{I})^{-1}\textbf{x}^{ML} + \gamma(\textbf{A} + \gamma \textbf{I})^{-1}\textbf{x}_0 = \textbf{x}^{ML} - \textbf{M}_{\gamma}\textbf{x}^{ML} + \textbf{M}_{\gamma}\textbf{x}_0 \\ \textbf{M}_{\gamma} &= \gamma(\textbf{A} + \gamma \textbf{I})^{-1} \end{split}$$

### Early Stopping – Regularization

$$\mathbf{x}_{k} = \mathbf{M}^{k}\mathbf{x}_{0} + [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{M}^{k}]\mathbf{x}^{ML}$$

 $\mathbf{M} = [\mathbf{I} - \alpha \mathbf{A}]$ 

$$\mathbf{x}^{MAP} = \mathbf{M}_{\gamma}\mathbf{x}_{0} + [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{M}_{\gamma}]\mathbf{x}^{ML}$$

$$\mathbf{M}_{\gamma} = \gamma (\mathbf{A} + \gamma \mathbf{I})^{-1}$$

#### Eigenvalues of $\mathbf{M}^{k}$ :

$$[\mathbf{I} - \alpha \mathbf{A}]\mathbf{z}_{i} = \mathbf{z}_{i} - \alpha \mathbf{A}\mathbf{z}_{i} = \mathbf{z}_{i} - \alpha \lambda_{i}\mathbf{z}_{i} = (1 - \alpha \lambda_{i})\mathbf{z}_{i}$$

 $\mathbf{z}_i$  - eigenvector of  $\mathbf{A}$  $\lambda_i$  - eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{A}$ 

Eigenvalues of M

$$\operatorname{eig}(\mathbf{M}^{k}) = (1 - \alpha \lambda_{i})^{k}$$

Eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{M}_{\gamma}$ : eig( $\mathbf{M}_{\gamma}$ ) =  $\frac{\gamma}{(\lambda_i + \gamma)}$ 

### Reg. Parameter – Iteration Number

 $\mathbf{M}^k$  and  $\mathbf{M}_{\gamma}$  have the same eigenvectors. They would be equal if their eigenvalues were equal.

$$\frac{\gamma}{(\lambda_i + \gamma)} = (1 - \alpha \lambda_i)^k \quad \text{Taking log}: \quad -\log\left(1 + \frac{\lambda_i}{\gamma}\right) = k\log(1 - \alpha \lambda_i)$$

Since these are equal at  $\lambda_i = 0$ , they are always equal if the slopes are equal.

If  $\alpha \lambda_i$  and  $\lambda_i / \gamma$  are small, then:

![](_page_55_Picture_6.jpeg)

(Increasing the number of iterations is equivalent to decreasing the regularization parameter!)

![](_page_56_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_61_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_63_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_64_Figure_0.jpeg)

# Summary

- Regularization improves generalization.
- Bayesian framework is attractive.
- Regularization and early stopping are approximately equivalent processes.
- When using early stopping a relatively slow training algorithm should be used.
- Increasing the length of training is equivalent to reducing the regularization.
- The effective number of parameters increases during the training process.
- Regularization usually produces a "smoother" function.

### References

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