

A dense network of blue neurons against a dark blue background. Some neurons are highlighted with bright white or yellow light, creating a glowing effect. The neurons have various shapes and sizes, representing a complex neural network.

Charu C. Aggarwal

Neural Networks and Deep Learning

A Textbook

Second Edition

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 Springer

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To my wife Lata, my daughter Sayani,
and my late parents Dr. Prem Sarup and Mrs. Pushplata Aggarwal.

Preface

“Any A.I. smart enough to pass a Turing test is smart enough to know to fail it.”—***Ian McDonald

Neural networks were developed to simulate the human nervous system for machine learning tasks by treating the computational units in a learning model in a manner similar to human neurons. The grand vision of neural networks is to create artificial intelligence by building machines whose architecture simulates the computations in the human nervous system. Although the biological model of neural networks is an exciting one and evokes comparisons with science fiction, neural networks have a much simpler and mundane mathematical basis than a complex biological system. The neural network abstraction can be viewed as a modular approach of enabling learning algorithms that are based on continuous optimization on a computational graph of mathematical dependencies between the input and output. These ideas are strikingly similar to classical optimization methods in control theory, which historically preceded the development of neural network algorithms.

Neural networks were developed soon after the advent of computers in the fifties and sixties. Rosenblatt’s perceptron algorithm was seen as a fundamental cornerstone of neural networks, which caused an initial period of euphoria — it was soon followed by disappointment as the initial successes were somewhat limited. Eventually, at the turn of the century, greater data availability and increasing computational power lead to increased successes of neural networks, and this area was reborn under the new label of “deep learning.” Although we are still far from the day that artificial intelligence (AI) is close to human performance, there are specific domains like image recognition, self-driving cars, and game playing, where AI has matched or exceeded human performance. It is also hard to predict what AI might be able to do in the future. For example, few computer vision experts would have thought two decades ago that any automated system could ever perform an intuitive task like categorizing an image more accurately than a human. The large amounts of data available in recent years together with increased computational power have enabled experimentation with more sophisticated and deep neural architectures than was previously possible. The resulting success has changed the broader perception of the potential of deep learning. This book discusses neural networks from this modern perspective. The chapters of the book are organized as follows:

1. *The basics of neural networks:* Chapters 1, 2, and 3 discuss the basics of neural network design and the backpropagation algorithm. Many traditional machine learning models

can be understood as special cases of neural learning. Understanding the relationship between traditional machine learning and neural networks is the first step to understanding the latter. The simulation of various machine learning models with neural networks is provided in Chapter 3. This will give the analyst a feel of how neural networks push the envelope of traditional machine learning algorithms.

2. *Fundamentals of neural networks:* Although Chapters 1, 2, and 3 provide an overview of the training methods for neural networks, a more detailed understanding of the training challenges is provided in Chapters 4 and 5. Chapters 6 and 7 present radial-basis function (RBF) networks and restricted Boltzmann machines.
3. *Advanced topics in neural networks:* A lot of the recent success of deep learning is a result of the specialized architectures for various domains, such as recurrent neural networks and convolutional neural networks. Chapters 8 and 9 discuss recurrent and convolutional neural networks. Graph neural networks are discussed in Chapter 10. Several advanced topics like deep reinforcement learning, attention mechanisms, neural Turing mechanisms, and generative adversarial networks are discussed in Chapters 11 and 12.

We have included some “forgotten” architectures like RBF networks and Kohonen self-organizing maps because of their potential in many applications. An application-centric view is highlighted throughout the book in order to give the reader a feel for the technology.

What Is New in The Second Edition

The second edition has focused on improving the presentations in the first edition and also on adding new material. Significant changes have been made to almost all the chapters to improve presentation and add new material where needed. In some cases, the material in different chapters has been reorganized and reordered in order to improve exposition. The discussion of training challenges with depth has been separated from the backpropagation chapter, so that both topics could be discussed in greater detail. Second-order methods have been explained with greater clarity and examples. Chapter 10 on graph neural networks is entirely new. The discussion on GRUs in Chapter 8 has been greatly enhanced. New convolutional architectures using attention, such as Squeeze-and-Excitation Networks, are discussed in Chapter 9. The chapter on reinforcement learning has been significantly reorganized in order to provide a clearer exposition. The Monte Carlo sampling approach for reinforcement learning is discussed in greater detail in its own dedicated section. Chapter 12 contains expanded discussions on attention mechanisms for graphs and computer vision, transformers, pre-trained language models, and adversarial learning.

Notations

Throughout this book, a vector or a multidimensional data point is annotated with a bar, such as \bar{X} or \bar{y} . A vector or multidimensional point may be denoted by either small letters or capital letters, as long as it has a bar. Vector dot products are denoted by centered dots, such as $\bar{X} \cdot \bar{Y}$. A matrix is denoted in capital letters without a bar, such as R . Throughout the book, the $n \times d$ matrix corresponding to the training data set is denoted by D , with n documents and d dimensions. The individual data points in D are therefore d -dimensional

row vectors. On the other hand, vectors with one component for each data point are usually n -dimensional column vectors. An example is the n -dimensional column vector \bar{y} of class variables. An observed value y_i is distinguished from a predicted value \hat{y}_i by a circumflex at the top of the variable.

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I would like to thank my family for their love and support during the busy time spent in writing this book. I would also like to thank my manager Nagui Halim for his support during the writing of this book.

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This book has benefitted from significant feedback and several collaborations that I have had with numerous colleagues over the years. I would like to thank Quoc Le, Saket Sathe, Karthik Subbian, Jiliang Tang, and Suhang Wang for their feedback on various portions of this book. Shuai Zheng provided feedback on the section on regularized autoencoders in Chapter 5. I received feedback on the sections on autoencoders from Lei Cai and Hao Yuan. Feedback on the chapter on convolutional neural networks was provided by Hongyang Gao, Shuiwang Ji, and Zhengyang Wang. Shuiwang Ji, Lei Cai, Zhengyang Wang and Hao Yuan also reviewed the Chapters 4 and 8, and suggested several edits. They also suggested the ideas of using Figures 9.6 and 9.7 for elucidating the convolution/deconvolution operations.

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Author Biography

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