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CHAPTER VII

Learning in Recurrent Networks

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CHAPTER VI : *Learning in Recurrent Networks*

Introduction

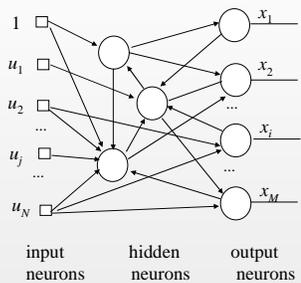
- We have examined the dynamics of recurrent neural networks in detail in Chapter 2.
- Then in Chapter 3, we used them as associative memory with fixed weights.
- In this chapter, the backpropagation learning algorithm that we have considered for feedforward networks in Chapter 6 will be extended to recurrent neural networks [Almeida 87, 88].
- Therefore, the weights of the recurrent network will be adapted in order to use it as associative memory.
- Such a network is expected to converge to the desired output pattern when the associated pattern is applied at the network inputs.

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7.1. Recurrent Backpropagation

- Consider the recurrent system shown in the Figure 7.1, in which there are n neurons, some of them being input units, and some others outputs.
- In such a network, the units, which are neither input nor output, are called hidden neurons.



input neurons hidden neurons output neurons

Figure 7.1 Recurrent network architecture

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7.1. Recurrent Backpropagation

- We will assume a network dynamic defined as:

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_i + f\left(\sum_j w_{ji}x_j + \theta_i\right) \tag{7.1.1}$$

- This may be written equivalently as

$$\frac{da_i}{dt} = -a_i + \sum_j w_{ji}f(a_j) + \theta_i \tag{7.1.2}$$

through a linear transformation.

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7.1. Recurrent Backpropagation

- Our goal is to update the weights of the network so that it will be able to remember predefined associations, $\mu^k=(\mathbf{u}^k, \mathbf{y}^k)$, $\mathbf{u}^k \in \mathbb{R}^N$, $\mathbf{y}^k \in \mathbb{R}^N$, $k=1..K$.
- With no loss of generality, we extended here the input vector \mathbf{u} such that $u_i=0$ if the neuron i is not an input neuron. Furthermore, we will simply ignore the outputs of the unrelated neurons.
- We apply an input \mathbf{u}^k to the network by setting

$$\theta_i = u_i^k \quad i = 1..N \quad (7.1.3)$$

- Therefore, we desire the network with an initial state $\mathbf{x}(0)=\mathbf{x}^{k0}$ to converge to

$$\mathbf{x}^k(\infty)=\mathbf{x}^{k\infty}=\mathbf{y}^k \quad (7.1.4)$$

whenever \mathbf{u}^k is applied as input to the network.

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7.1. Recurrent Backpropagation

- The recurrent backpropagation algorithm, updates the connection weights aiming to minimize the error

$$e^k = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\varepsilon_i^k)^2 \quad (7.1.5)$$

so that the mean error is also minimized

- $e = \langle (\varepsilon^k)^2 \rangle \quad (7.1.6)$

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- Notice that, e^k and e are scalar values while \mathbf{e}^k is a vector defined as

$$\mathbf{e}^k = \mathbf{y}^k - \mathbf{x}^k \quad (7.1.7)$$

whose i^{th} component \mathbf{e}_i^k , $i=1..M$, is

$$\mathbf{e}_i^k = \alpha_i (y_i^k - x_i^k) \quad (7.1.8)$$

- In equation (7.1.8) the coefficient α_i used to discriminate between the output neurons and the others by setting its value as

$$\alpha_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is an output neuron} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (7.1.9)$$

- Therefore, the neurons, which are not output, will have no effect on the error.

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7.1. Recurrent Backpropagation

- Notice that, if an input \mathbf{u}^k is applied to the network and if it is let to converge to a fixed point $\mathbf{x}^{k\infty}$, the error depends on the weight matrix through these fixed points. The learning algorithm should modify the connection weights so that the fixed points satisfy

$$x_i^{k\infty} = y_i^k \quad (7.1.10)$$

- For this purpose, we let the system to evolve in the weight space along trajectories in the opposite direction of the gradient, that is

$$\frac{d\mathbf{w}}{dt} = -\eta \nabla \mathbf{e}^k \quad (7.1.11)$$

- In particular w_{ij} should satisfy

$$\frac{d w_{ij}}{dt} = -\eta \frac{\partial \mathbf{e}^k}{\partial w_{ij}} \quad (7.1.12)$$

- Here η is a positive constant named the learning rate, which should be chosen so small.

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- Since,

$$\alpha_i \varepsilon_i = \varepsilon_i \quad (7.1.13)$$

the partial derivative of e^k given in Eq. (7.1.5) with respect to w_{sr} becomes:

$$\frac{\partial e^k}{\partial w_{sr}} = -\sum_i \varepsilon_i^k \frac{\partial x_i^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} \quad (7.1.14)$$

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- On the other hand, since \mathbf{x}^k is a fixed point, it should satisfy

$$\frac{dx_i^{k\infty}}{dt} = 0 \quad (7.1.15)$$

for which Eq. (7.1.1) becomes

$$x_i^{k\infty} = f\left(\sum_j w_{ji} x_j^{k\infty} + u_i^k\right) \quad (7.1.16)$$

- Therefore ,

$$\frac{\partial x_i^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} = f'(a_i^{k\infty}) \sum_j (x_j^{k\infty} \frac{\partial w_{ji}}{\partial w_{sr}} + w_{ji} \frac{\partial x_j^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}}) \quad (7.1.17)$$

where

$$f'(a_i^{k\infty}) = \frac{df(a)}{da} \Big|_{a=\sum_j w_{ji} x_j^{k\infty} + u_i^k} \quad (7.1.18)$$



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7.1. Recurrent Backpropagation

■ Notice that,

$$\frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial w_{sr}} = \delta_{js} \delta_{ir} \quad (7.1.19)$$

where δ_{ij} is the Kronecker delta which have value 1 if $i=j$ and 0 otherwise, resulting

$$\sum_j x_j^{k\infty} \delta_{js} \delta_{ir} = \delta_{ir} x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.20)$$

■ Hence,

$$\frac{\partial x_i^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} = f'(a_i^{k\infty}) (\delta_{ir} x_s^{k\infty} + \sum_j w_{ji} \frac{\partial x_j^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}}) \quad (7.1.21)$$

■ By reorganizing the above equation, we obtain

$$\frac{\partial x_i^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} - f'(a_i^{k\infty}) \sum_j w_{ji} \frac{\partial x_j^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} = f'(a_i^{k\infty}) \delta_{ir} x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.22)$$



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7.1. Recurrent Backpropagation

Remember

$$\frac{\partial x_i^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} - f'(a_i^{k\infty}) \sum_j w_{ji} \frac{\partial x_j^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} = f'(a_i^{k\infty}) \delta_{ir} x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.22)$$

• Notice that,

$$\frac{\partial x_i^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} = \sum_j \delta_{ji} \frac{\partial x_j^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} \quad (7.1.23)$$

• Therefore, Eq. (7.1.22), can be written equivalently as,

$$\sum_j \delta_{ji} \frac{\partial x_j^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} - f'(a_i^{k\infty}) \sum_j w_{ji} \frac{\partial x_j^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} = f'(a_i^{k\infty}) \delta_{ir} x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.24)$$

or,

$$\sum_j ((\delta_{ji} - w_{ji} f'(a_i^{k\infty})) \frac{\partial x_j^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} = \delta_{ir} f'(a_i^{k\infty}) x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.25)$$

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Remember

$$\sum_j ((\delta_{ji} - w_{ji} f'(a_i^{k\infty})) \frac{\partial x_j^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}}) = \delta_{ir} f'(a_i^{k\infty}) x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.25)$$

- If we define matrix \mathbf{L}^k and vector \mathbf{R}^k such that

$$L_{ij}^{k\infty} = \delta_{ij} - f'(a_i^{k\infty}) w_{ji} \quad (7.1.26)$$

and

$$R_i^{k\infty} = \delta_{ir} f'(a_i^{k\infty}) \quad (7.1.27)$$

the equation (7.1.25) results in

$$\mathbf{L}^{k\infty} \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{sr}} \mathbf{x}^{k\infty} = \mathbf{R}^{k\infty} x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.28)$$

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- Hence, we obtain,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{sr}} \mathbf{x}^{k\infty} = (\mathbf{L}^{k\infty})^{-1} \mathbf{R} x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.29)$$

- In particular, if we consider the i^{th} row we observe that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{sr}} x_i^{k\infty} = (\sum_j (L^{k\infty})_{ij}^{-1} R_j) x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.30)$$

- Since

$$\sum_j (L^{k\infty})_{ij}^{-1} R_j = \sum_j (L^{k\infty})_{ij}^{-1} \delta_{jr} f'(a_j^{k\infty}) = (L^{k\infty})_{ir}^{-1} f'(a_r^{k\infty}) \quad (7.1.31)$$

we obtain

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{sr}} x_i^{k\infty} = (L^{k\infty})_{ir}^{-1} f'(a_r^{k\infty}) x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.32)$$

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Remember

$$\frac{d w_{ij}}{dt} = -\eta \frac{\partial e^k}{\partial w_{ij}} \quad (7.1.12)$$

$$\frac{\partial e^k}{\partial w_{sr}} = -\sum_i \varepsilon_i^k \frac{\partial x_i^{k\infty}}{\partial w_{sr}} \quad (7.1.14)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{sr}} x_i^{k\infty} = (L^{k\infty})_{ir}^{-1} f'(a_r^{k\infty}) x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.32)$$

- Insertion of (7.1.32) in equation (7.1.14) and then (7.1.12), results in

$$\frac{d w_{sr}}{dt} = \eta \sum_i \varepsilon_i^k (L^{k\infty})_{ir}^{-1} f'(a_r^{k\infty}) x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.33)$$

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- When the network with input \mathbf{u}^k has converged to $\mathbf{x}^{k\infty}$, the local gradient for recurrent backpropagation at the output of the r^{th} neuron may be defined in analogy with the standard backpropagation as

$$\delta_r^{k\infty} = f'(a_r^{k\infty}) \sum_i \varepsilon_i^{k\infty} (L^{k\infty})_{ir}^{-1} \quad (7.1.34)$$

- So, it becomes simply

$$\frac{d w_{sr}}{dt} = \eta \delta_r^{k\infty} x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.35)$$

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7.1. Recurrent Backpropagation

- In order to reach the minimum of the error e^k , instead of solving the above equation, we apply the delta rule as it is explained for the steepest descent algorithm:

$$\mathbf{w}(k+1) = \mathbf{w}(k) - \eta \nabla e^k \quad (7.1.36)$$

in which

$$w_{sr}(k+1) = w_{sr}(k) + \eta \delta_r^{k\infty} x_s^{k\infty} \quad (7.1.37)$$

for $s=1..N, r=1..N$

- The recurrent backpropagation algorithm for recurrent neural network is summarized in the following.

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7.1. Recurrent Backpropagation

Step 0. Initialize weights:

to small random values

Step 1. Apply a sample:

apply to the input a sample vector \mathbf{u}^k having desired output vector \mathbf{y}^k

Step 2. Forward Phase:

Let the network relax according to the state transition equation

$$\frac{d}{dt} x_i^k = -x_i^k + f\left(\sum_j w_{ji} x_j^k + u_i^k\right)$$

to a fixed point $\mathbf{x}^{k\infty}$

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7.1. Recurrent Backpropagation

Step 3. Local Gradients:
 Compute the local gradient for each unit as:

$$\delta_r^{k\infty} = f'(a_r^{k\infty}) \sum_i \varepsilon_i^{k\infty} (\mathbf{L}^{k\infty})_{ir}^{-1}$$

Step 4. Update weights according to the equation

$$w_{sr}(k+1) = w_{sr}(k) + \eta \delta_r^{k\infty} x_s^{k\infty}$$

Step 5. Repeat steps 1-4 for $k+1$, until mean error

$$e = \langle \mathbf{e}^k \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \alpha_i (y_i^k - x_i^{k\infty})^2$$

is sufficiently small

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7.2 Backward Phase

- Notice that, in the computation of local gradients, it is needed to find out \mathbf{L}^{-1} , which requires global information processing.
- In order to overcome this limitation, a local method to compute gradients is proposed in [Almeida 88,89].
- For this purpose an adjoint dynamical system in cooperation with the original recurrent neural network is introduced (Figure 7.2)

The diagram shows a 'Recurrent Network' block on the left and an 'Adjoint Network' block on the right. An input u^k enters the Recurrent Network from the left. The Recurrent Network outputs $x^{k\infty}$ to a summation node Σ . The summation node also receives an input y^k from the right. The summation node outputs an error signal e^k to the Adjoint Network. The Adjoint Network outputs weight updates Δw_{ji} back to the Recurrent Network.

Figure 7.2. Recurrent neural network and cooperating gradient network

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7.2 Backward Phase

Remember

$$\delta_r^{k\infty} = f'(a_r^{k\infty}) \sum_i \varepsilon_i^{k\infty} (\mathbf{L}^{k\infty})_{ir}^{-1} \tag{7.1.34}$$

- The local gradient given in Eq (7.1.34) can be redefined as

$$\delta_r^{k\infty} = f'(a_r^{k*}) v_r^{k\infty} \tag{7.2.1}$$
 by introducing a new vector variable \mathbf{v} into the system whose r^{th} component defined by the equation

$$v_r^{k\infty} = \sum_i (\mathbf{L}^{k*})_{ir}^{-1} \varepsilon_i^{k*} \tag{7.2.2}$$
 in which $*$ is used instead of ∞ in the right handside to denote the fixed values of the recurrent network in order to prevent confusion with the fixed points of the adjoint network.
- They have constant values in the derivations related to the fixed-point $\mathbf{v}^{k\infty}$ of the adjoint dynamic system.

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7.2 Backward Phase

- The equation (7.2.2) may be written in the matrix form as

$$\mathbf{v}^{k\infty} = (\mathbf{L}^{k*})^{-1} \mathbf{T} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^{k*} \tag{7.2.3}$$
 or equivalently

$$(\mathbf{L}^{k*}) \mathbf{T} \mathbf{v}^{k\infty} = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^{k*} \tag{7.2.4}$$
 that implies

$$\sum_j L_{jr}^{k*} v_j^{k\infty} = \varepsilon_r^{k*} \tag{7.2.5}$$

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7.2 Backward Phase

Remember

$$L_{ij}^{k\infty} = \delta_{ij} - f'(a_i^{k\infty})w_{ji} \quad (7.1.26)$$

- By using the definition of L_{ij} given in Eq. (7.1.26), we obtain,

$$\sum_j (\delta_{jr} - f'(a_j^{k*})w_{rj})v_j^{k\infty} = \varepsilon_r^{k*} \quad (7.2.6)$$

that is

$$0 = -v_r^{k\infty} + \sum_j f'(a_j^{k*})w_{rj}v_j^{k\infty} + \varepsilon_r^{k*} \quad (7.2.7)$$

- Such a set of equations may be assumed as a fixed-point solution to the dynamical system defined by the equation

$$\frac{dv_r}{dt} = -v_r + \sum_j f'(a_j^{k*})w_{rj}v_j + \varepsilon_r^{k*} \quad (7.2.8)$$

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7.2 Backward Phase

Remember

$$\delta_r^{k\infty} = f'(a_r^{k*})v_r^{k\infty} \quad (7.2.1)$$

- Therefore $v^{k\infty}$ and then $\delta^{k\infty}$ in equation (7.2.1) can be obtained by the relaxation of the adjoint dynamical system instead of computing L^{-1} .
- Hence, a backward phase is introduced to the recurrent backpropagation as summarized in the following:

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CHAPTER VI : *Learning in Recurrent Networks*7.2 Backward Phase: *Recurrent BP having backward phase*

Step 0. Initialize weights: to small random values

Step 1. Apply a sample: apply to the input a sample vector \mathbf{u}^k having desired output vector \mathbf{y}^k

Step 2. Forward Phase:

Let the network to relax according to the state transition equation

$$\frac{d}{dt}x_i^k(t) = -x_i^k + f\left(\sum_j w_{ji}x_j^k + u_i^k\right)$$

to a fixed point $\mathbf{x}^{k\infty}$

Step 3. Compute:

$$a_i^{k*} = a_i^{k\infty} = \sum_j w_{ji}x_j^{k\infty} + u_i^k$$

$$f'(a_i^{k*}) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial a} \Big|_{a=a_i^{k*}}$$

$$\varepsilon_i^{k*} = \varepsilon_i^{k\infty} = \alpha_i(y_i^k - x_i^{k\infty}) \quad i = 1..N$$

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7.2 Backward Phase

Step 4. Backward phase for local gradients :

Compute the local gradient for each unit as:

$$\delta_r^{k\infty} = f'(a_r^{k*})v_r^{k\infty}$$

where $v_r^{k\infty}$ is the fixed point solution of the dynamic system defined by the equation:

$$\frac{dv_r}{dt} = -v_r + \sum_j f'(a_j^{k*})w_{rj}v_j(t) + \varepsilon_r^{k*}$$

Step 4. Weight update: update weights according to the equation

$$w_{sr}(k+1) = w_{sr}(k) + \eta \delta_r^{k\infty} x_s^{k\infty}$$

Step 5. Repeat steps 1-4 for $k+1$, until the mean error

$$e = \langle e^k \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \alpha_i (y_i^k - x_i^{k\infty})^2 >$$

is sufficiently small.

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7.3. Stability of Recurrent Backpropagation

Remember

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_i + f\left(\sum_j w_{ji}x_j + \theta_i\right) \quad (7.1.1)$$

$$\frac{dv_r}{dt} = -v_r + \sum_j f'(a_j^{k*})w_{rj}v_j + \varepsilon_r^{k*} \quad (7.2.8)$$

- Due to difficulty in constructing a Lyapunov function for recurrent backpropagation, a local stability analysis [Almeida 87] is provided in the following. In recurrent backpropagation, we have two adjoint dynamic systems defined by Eqs. (7.1.1) and (7.2.8).
- Let \mathbf{x}^* and \mathbf{v}^* be stable attractors of these systems.
- Now we will introduce small disturbances $\Delta\mathbf{x}$ and $\Delta\mathbf{v}$ at these stable attractors and observe the behaviors of the systems.

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7.3. Stability of Recurrent Backpropagation

- First, consider the dynamic system defined by the Eq. (7.1.1) for the forward phase and insert $\mathbf{x}^* + \Delta\mathbf{x}$ instead of \mathbf{x} , which results in:

$$\frac{d}{dt}(x_i^* + \Delta x_i) = -(x_i^* + \Delta x_i) + f\left(\sum_j w_{ji}(x_j^* + \Delta x_j) + u_i\right) \quad (7.3.1)$$

satisfying

$$x_i^* = f\left(\sum_j w_{ji}x_j^* + u_i\right) \quad (7.3.2)$$

- If the disturbance \mathbf{x} is small enough, then a function $g(\cdot)$ at $\mathbf{x}^* + \Delta\mathbf{x}$ can be linearized approximately by using the first two terms of the Taylor expansion of the function around \mathbf{x}^* , which is

$$g(\mathbf{x}^* + \Delta\mathbf{x}) \cong g(\mathbf{x}^*) + \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^*)^T \Delta\mathbf{x} \quad (7.3.3)$$

where $\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^*)$ is the gradient of $g(\cdot)$ evaluated at \mathbf{x}^* .

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7.3. Stability of Recurrent Backpropagation

- Therefore, $f(\cdot)$ in Eq. (7.3.1) can be approximated as

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\sum_j w_{ji}(x_j^* + \Delta x_j) + u_i\right) \\ = f\left(\sum_j w_{ji}x_j^* + u_i\right) + \sum_j f'\left(\sum_j w_{ji}x_j^* + u_i\right)w_{ji}\Delta x_j \end{aligned} \quad (7.3.4)$$

where $f'(\cdot)$ is the derivative of $f(\cdot)$.

- Notice that

$$a_i^* = \sum_j w_{ji}x_j^* + u_i \quad (7.3.5)$$

- Therefore, insertion of Eqs. (7.3.2) and (7.3.5) in equation (7.3.4) results in

$$f\left(\sum_j w_{ji}(x_j^* + \Delta x_j) + u_i\right) = x_i^* + \sum_j f'(a_i^*)w_{ji}\Delta x_j \quad (7.3.6)$$

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7.3. Stability of Recurrent Backpropagation

- Furthermore, notice that

$$\frac{d}{dt}(x_i^* + \Delta x_i) = \frac{d}{dt}\Delta x_i \quad (7.3.7)$$

- Therefore, by inserting equations (7.3.6) and (7.3.7) in equation (7.3.1), it becomes

$$\frac{d\Delta x_i}{dt} = -\Delta x_i + \sum_j f'(a_i^*)w_{ji}\Delta x_j \quad (7.3.8)$$

- This may be written equivalently as

$$\frac{d\Delta x_i}{dt} = -\sum_j (\delta_{ij} - f'(a_i^*)w_{ji})\Delta x_j \quad (7.3.9)$$

- Referring to the definition of L_{ij} given by Eq. (7.1.26), it becomes

$$\frac{d\Delta x_i}{dt} = -\sum_j L_{ij}^* \Delta x_j \quad (7.3.10)$$

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7.3. Stability of Recurrent Backpropagation

- In a similar manner, the dynamic system defined for the backward phase by Eq. (7.2.8) at $\mathbf{v}^* + \Delta \mathbf{v}$ becomes

$$\frac{d}{dt}(v_i^* + \Delta v_i) = -(v_i^* + \Delta v_i) + \sum_j f'(a_j^*) w_{ij} (v_j^* + \Delta v_j) + \varepsilon_i^* \quad (7.3.11)$$

satisfying

$$v_i^* = \sum_j f'(a_j^*) w_{ij} v_j^* + \varepsilon_i^* \quad (7.3.12)$$

- When the disturbance $\Delta \mathbf{v}$ in is small enough, then linearization in Eq. (7.3.11) results in

$$\frac{d\Delta v_i}{dt} = -\sum_j (\delta_{ji} - f'(a_j^*) w_{ij}) \Delta v_j \quad (7.3.13)$$

- This can be written shortly

$$\frac{d\Delta \mathbf{v}_i}{dt} = -\sum_j L_{ji}^* \Delta v_j \quad (7.3.14)$$

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7.3. Stability of Recurrent Backpropagation

- In matrix notation, the equation (7.3.10) may be written as

$$\frac{d}{dt} \Delta \mathbf{x} = -\mathbf{L}^* \Delta \mathbf{x} \quad (7.3.15)$$

- In addition, the equation (7.3.14) is

$$\frac{d\Delta \mathbf{v}}{dt} = -(\mathbf{L}^*)^T \Delta \mathbf{v} \quad (7.3.16)$$

- If the matrix \mathbf{L}^* has distinct eigenvalues, then the complete solution for the system of homogeneous linear differential equation given by (7.3.15) is in the form

$$\Delta \mathbf{x}(t) = \sum_j \gamma_j \xi_j e^{-\lambda_j t} \quad (7.3.17)$$

- where ξ_j is the eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue λ_j of \mathbf{L}^* and γ_j is any real constant to be determined by the initial condition.

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7.3. Stability of Recurrent Backpropagation

- On the other hand, since \mathbf{L}^{*T} has the same eigenvalues as \mathbf{L}^* , the solution (7.3.16) will be the same as given in Eq. (7.3.17) except the coefficients, that is

$$\Delta \mathbf{v}(t) = \sum_j \beta_j \xi_j e^{-\lambda_j t} \quad (7.3.18)$$

- If it is true that each λ_j has a positive real value then the convergence of both $\mathbf{x}(t)$ and $\mathbf{y}(t)$ to vector $\mathbf{0}$ are guaranteed.
- It should be noticed that, if weight vector \mathbf{w} is symmetric, it has real eigenvalues.
- Since \mathbf{L} can be written as

$$\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{D}(1) - \mathbf{D}(f'(a_i))\mathbf{W} \quad (7.3.19)$$

where $\mathbf{D}(c_i)$ represents diagonal matrix having i^{th} diagonal entry as c_i , real eigenvalues of \mathbf{W} imply that they are also real for \mathbf{L} .