CS 480 - Backpropagation Workshop

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1. Make a computation graph for the function $f(x, y) = (3x + xy)^3$. Then use the backpropagation algorithm to find the gradient ∇f at (x, y) = (2, -2). Hint: When you get the end of the backpropagation algorithm, the multivariable chain rule says that if both a and b are functions of x, then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial a} \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial b} \frac{\partial b}{\partial x}.$$

2. Make a computation graph for the following loss function. Label the edges with the partial derivatives for each step in the computation.

 $L(\mathbf{w}) = \max(0, 1 - \operatorname{margin}), where$ $\operatorname{margin} = y \cdot \operatorname{score}, and$ $\operatorname{score} = \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}.$

3. Consider the neural network with one hidden layer shown below:



where $\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}$ is an input data vector, \hat{y} is a prediction (between 0 and 1), and σ is the sigmoid activation function $\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$.

(a) What are the dimensions of the matrices $W^{(1)} W^{(2)}$, and the vectors $\mathbf{b}^{(1)}, \mathbf{b}^{(2)}$?

(b) How many (real valued) parameters does this model have?

(c) One reason that the sigmoid function is a popular choice for the activation function of the final layer in a neural network is because the final output can be interpreted as a probability. If that is the case, then how should we interpret the output of $W^{(2)}\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}^{(2)}$ before we apply the sigmoid function? Hint: Another formula for σ is $\sigma(x) = \frac{e^x}{e^x + 1}$. Where have we seen that formula, and what did x represent then?

(d) **Extra credit.** Suppose we want to train our neural network using several different data vectors $\mathbf{x}^{(i)}$ and corresponding classifications $y^{(i)}$ where each $y^{(i)}$ is either 1 or 0. We can use the cross entropy loss function (another name for the logistic loss function) which is the sum of the loss from each observation:

$$L^{(i)} = -y^{(i)}\log(\hat{y}^{(i)}) - (1 - y^{(i)})\log(1 - \hat{y}^{(i)})$$

Make a computation graph for this loss function (for one i). Hint: You'll need a big blank sheet of paper!