

## Abstract

Classification and prediction tasks on high resolution continuous data require models with *exponentially many parameters*. In this paper we generalize artificial neural networks to infinite dimensional Banach spaces to attack the curse of dimensionality. Using this new class of algorithms,  $\{\mathcal{G}\}$ , we prove a new universal approximation theorem for bounded continuous operators and show that this new functional representation of weights is invariant to the number of samples.

## The Problem with High Resolution

Computationally, we deal with *discrete data*, but most of the time this data is sampled from a *continuous process*. For example,

- *Audio*: Inherently a continuous  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  sampled as a vector  $v \in \mathbb{R}^{44,100 \times t}$
- *Images*: Truthfully a function  $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ , but sampled as  $v \in \mathbb{R}^{3872 \times 2592}$

However, performing tractable machine learning on this data almost always requires some *lossy pre-processing* like PCA or Discrete Fourier Analysis[1]. Even the state of the art approaches, convolutional neural networks, *do not escape the dimensionality issues associated with high resolution data* [1,2].

## Our Solution

In answer to this problem, we assume the data is a continuous  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

- This leads to a powerful generalization of ANNs,  $\{\mathcal{G}\}$  which are *universal approximators* of  $K : L^p(X) \rightarrow L^q(X)$
- Assuming continuity gives *invariance to input resolution* and a *massive reduction of parameters*.

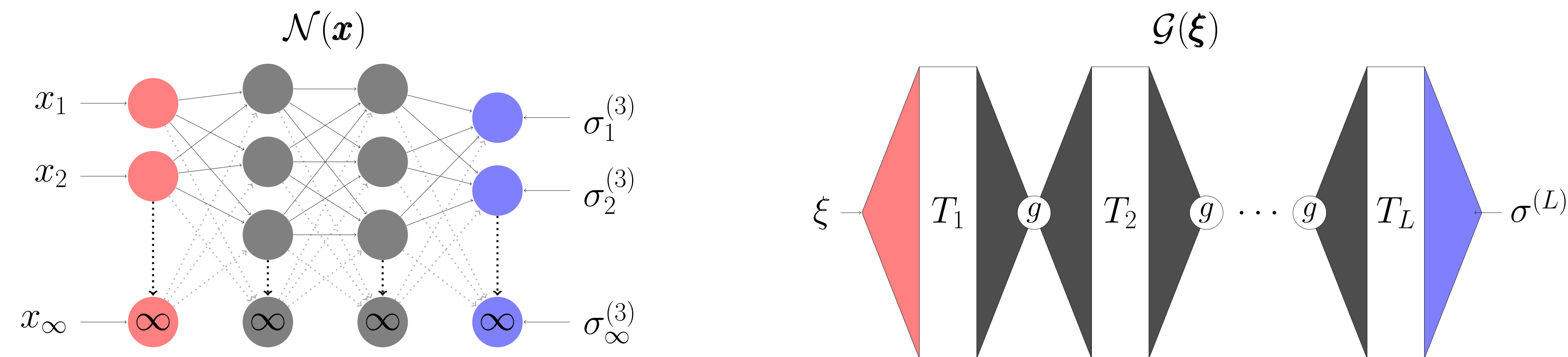


Figure 1: Left: A neural network  $\mathcal{N}$  as the number of nodes  $\rightarrow \infty$ . Right: A generalized neural network  $\mathcal{G}$ .

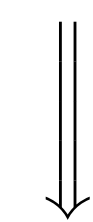
## Operator Neural Networks

**Definition 1.** We say  $\mathcal{N} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is a feed-forward neural network if for an input vector  $\mathbf{x}$ ,

$$\mathcal{N} : \sigma_j^{(l+1)} = g \left( \sum_i w_{ij}^{(l)} \sigma_i^{(l)} + \beta^{(l)} \right) \quad (1)$$

$$\sigma_i^{(0)} = x_i.$$

Furthermore we say  $\{\mathcal{N}\}$  is the set of all neural networks.



**Definition 2.** We call  $\mathcal{O} : L^p(X) \rightarrow L^q(Y)$  an operator neural network if,

$$\mathcal{O} : \sigma^{(l+1)}(j) = g \left( \int_X \sigma^{(l)}(i) w^{(l)}(i, j) di \right) \quad (2)$$

$$\sigma^{(0)}(i) = f(i).$$

Furthermore let  $\{\mathcal{O}\}$  denote the set of all operator neural networks.

## Generalized Neural Networks

Both  $\mathcal{O}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  look really similar. Is there some more general category or structure containing them?

**Definition 3.** If  $A, B$  are (possibly distinct) Banach spaces over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , we say  $\mathcal{G} : A \rightarrow B$  is a generalized neural network if and only if

$$\mathcal{G} : \sigma^{(l+1)} = g \left( T_l \left[ \sigma^{(l)} \right] + \beta^{(l)} \right) \quad (7)$$

$$\sigma^{(0)} = \xi$$

for some input  $\xi \in A$ , and a linear form  $T_l$ . Denote the set of all such networks,  $\{\mathcal{G}\}$

**Remark.**  $\mathcal{G}$  is a category, and we can write neural networks as commutative diagrams.

## Layer Types

We suggest several types of layers in the category.

$T_l$  is **o-operational** if

$$\mathbf{o} : L^p(X) \rightarrow L^q(Y)$$

$$\sigma \mapsto \int_X \sigma(i) w^{(l)}(i, j) di. \quad (3)$$

$T_l$  is **n-discrete** if

$$\mathbf{n} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$$

$$\vec{\sigma} \mapsto \sum_j \vec{e}_j \sum_i \sigma_i w_{ij}^{(l)} \quad (4)$$

$T_l$  is **n<sub>1</sub>-transitional** if

$$\mathbf{n}_1 : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow L^q(Y)$$

$$\vec{\sigma} \mapsto \sum_i \sigma_i w_i^{(l)}(j). \quad (5)$$

$T_l$  is **n<sub>2</sub>-transitional** if

$$\mathbf{n}_2 : L^p(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$$

$$\sigma(i) \mapsto \sum_j \vec{e}_j \int_X \sigma(i) w_j^{(l)}(i) di \quad (6)$$

## ANNs as Commutative Diagrams

This generalization is nice from a creative standpoint. We make new "classifiers" as we like.

**Examples:**

- A three-layer neural network is just

$$\mathcal{N}_3 : \mathbb{R}^{10000} \xrightarrow{g \circ \mathbf{n}} \mathbb{R}^{30} \xrightarrow{g \circ \mathbf{n}} \mathbb{R}^3.$$

- A three-layer operator network is simply

$$\mathcal{O}_3 : L^p(\mathbb{R}) \xrightarrow{g \circ \mathbf{o}} L^1(\mathbb{R}) \xrightarrow{g \circ \mathbf{o}} C(\mathbb{R}).$$

- We can even classify functions!

$$\mathcal{C} : L^p(X) \xrightarrow{g \circ \mathbf{o}} L^1(X) \xrightarrow{g \circ \mathbf{o}} L^1(X) \xrightarrow{g \circ \mathbf{n}_2} \mathbb{R}^n.$$

## Results

**Theorem 1. (Inclusion)** It follows that

$$\{\mathcal{N}\} \subset \{\mathcal{O}\} \subset \{\mathcal{G}\}.$$

Inclusion is the first and most important result to this generalization. For every  $\mathcal{N}$  there exists an  $\mathcal{O}$  such that  $\mathcal{O} \simeq \mathcal{N}$ .

**Theorem 2. (Universality)** Let  $F : A \rightarrow B$  be a continuous operator between Banach spaces. For every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exist a GANN

$$\mathcal{G}_2 : A \xrightarrow{g \circ T_1} C \xrightarrow{g \circ T_2} B$$

such that for all  $\xi$

$$\|C(\xi) - F(\xi)\| < \epsilon.$$

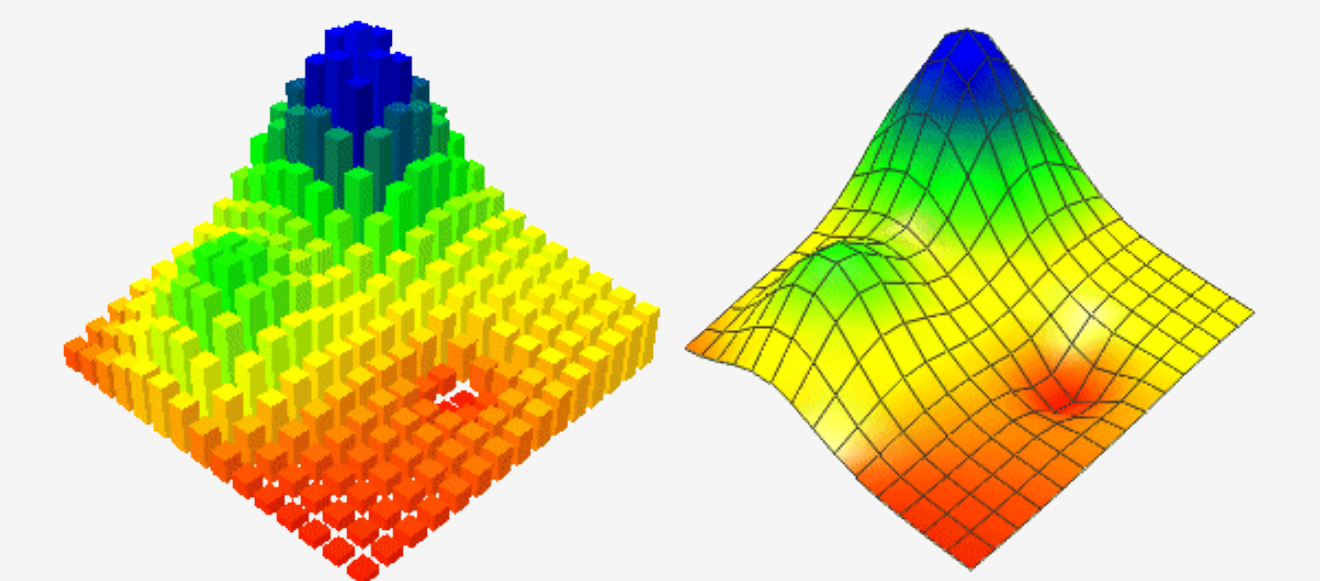


Figure 2: Parameter reduction using weight polynomials.

**Theorem 3. (Parameter Reduction)** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a continuous classifier

$$\mathcal{C} : L^p(X) \xrightarrow{g \circ \mathbf{o}} L^q(Y) \xrightarrow{g \circ \mathbf{n}_2} \mathbb{R}^n.$$

with  $O(1)$  weight polynomials. If a continuous function, say  $f(t)$  is sampled uniformly from  $t = 0$ , to  $t = N$ , such that  $x_n = f(n)$ , then there exists a unique  $\mathcal{N} \simeq \mathcal{C}$  with  $O(N^2)$  weights.

**Generalized Backpropagation.** If  $\mathcal{G}$  is parameterized by  $W^l \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$  then

$$B \otimes A \ni \frac{\partial \mathcal{G}}{\partial W^l} = \underbrace{\left[ \bigcirc_{k=L}^l Dg \circ T_k \right]}_{\delta_{l+1} \text{ from BP}} \circ Dg \circ D\pi_l.$$

## References

- [1] Burch, Carl (2012) A survey of machine learning *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*
- [2] Roux, Nicolas L and Bengio, Yoshua (2007) Continuous Neural Networks *Journal of Machine Learning Research*