Machine Learning for Medical Applications

DSC at W&M, March 2021



### What is machine learning?

• An algorithm that "learns" from data to build a complex, non-linear model that can make predictions by identifying patterns and categories.



### **Neural Networks**

- Input layer, hidden layer(s), output layer
- Weights
- Activation functions





### **Techniques**

- Data pre-processing
  - Data reduction
  - Normalizing values
- Test/training data
  - Split data into two sets (about 70-30 split)
  - Train the model on the training set, evaluate its performance on "unseen" data with the test set



# **Gradient Descent and Hyperparameters**

- Gradient descent
  - The algorithm chooses an initial random value for the weights
  - It then calculates the *direction of steepest descent* (the gradient) of the loss function (error)
    and takes a small step in that direction



## **Gradient Descent and Hyperparameters**

- Hyperparameters model parameters that aren't learned
  - Learning rate: the size of each step
  - Batch size: the amount of training data used to calculate the direction of steepest descent each step
  - **Number of epochs**: the number of times we feed the training data through the network
  - Momentum: a fraction of the previous update quantity for a weight is added to the current update to avoid getting stuck in a local minimum

#### **Different Optimizers at Work**



# **Overfitting and Generalization**

- Bias
  - Underfitting: The model is too simple to fit the training data *or* the test data well.
- Variance
  - Overfitting: The model fits the training data very well but is too specific to generalize to test data.



### **Overfitting and Generalization**



Model Capacity

### Learning curves

Use learning curves to diagnose bias or variance and adjust model complexity accordingly.



## **Additional Resources**

- <u>A high-level intro to machine learning algorithms</u>
- <u>A more mathematical treatment of machine learning</u>
- Keras documentation (what we'll use to build our networks)
- Machine learning as applied to medicine