# Unification by Error-Correction 

Ekaterina Komendantskaya

INRIA Sophia Antipolis, France
NeSy'08 4th International Workshop on Neural-Symbolic Learning and Reasoning
21 July 2008, Patras, Greece

## Outline

(1) Motivation

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## (2) Background Definitions

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(2) Background Definitions
(3) Unification in Neural Networks
(4) Conclusions

## A Simple Example

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\begin{aligned}
& B \leftarrow \\
& A \leftarrow \\
& C \leftarrow A, B \\
& T_{P} \uparrow 0=\{B, A\} \\
& I f p\left(T_{P}\right)=T_{P} \uparrow 1=\{B, A, C\}
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B
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lfp(TP)= TP
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& \text { Paradox: } \\
& \text { (computability, } \\
& \text { complexity, } \\
& \text { proof theory) }
\end{aligned}
$$



## What causes the problems?

(1) We compute $T_{P}$-operator, which forces us to work with Herbrand base and Herbrand model;
(2) First-order atoms are not represented in the neural networks directly, instead truth values 0 and 1 are propagated.
(3) $\Longrightarrow$

- Only ground atoms are processed; so essentially we are able to work only with propositional case.
- Require infinitely long layers in the first-order case.
(0) Status of learning?


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## Example

I wish to be able to distinguish/prove properties of natural numbers without listing the whole (infinite) set $\{1,2,3,4, \ldots\}$.

## Most General Unifier

## MGU

Let $S$ be a finite set of atoms. A substitution $\theta$ is called a unifier for $S$ if $S$ is a singleton. A unifier $\theta$ for $S$ is called a most general unifier (mgu) for $S$ if, for each unifier $\sigma$ of $S$, there exists a substitution $\gamma$ such that $\sigma=\theta \gamma$.

Example: If $S=(P(x), P(0))$, then $\theta=\{x / 0\}$ is the mgu.

## Disagreement set

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To find the disagreement set $D_{S}$ of $S$ locate the leftmost symbol position at which not all atoms in $S$ have the same symbol and extract from each atom in $S$ the term beginning at that symbol position. The set of all such terms is the disagreement set.

Example: For $S=(Q(f(x, y)), Q(f(a, b)))$ we have $D_{S}=\{x, a\}$.

## Unification algorithm

(1) Put $k=0$ and $\sigma_{0}=\varepsilon$.
(2) If $S \sigma_{k}$ is a singleton, then stop; $\sigma_{k}$ is an mgu of $S$. Otherwise, find the disagreement set $D_{k}$ of $S \sigma_{k}$.
(3) If there exist a variable $v$ and a term $t$ in $D_{k}$ such that $v$ does not occur in $t$, then put $\theta_{k+1}=\theta_{k}\{v / t\}$, increment $k$ and go to 2 . Otherwise, stop; $S$ is not unifiable.

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Unification theorem.

## Functions we define and embed:

- Disagreement set: $\ominus$;
- Concatenation: $\oplus$;
- Applying the substitution: $g \odot s$.


## Neurons in Connectionist Neural Networks

$$
\begin{aligned}
& p_{k}(t)=\left(\sum_{j=1}^{n_{k}} w_{k j} v_{j}(t)\right)-\Theta_{k} \\
& v_{k}(t+\Delta t)=\psi\left(p_{k}(t)\right)= \begin{cases}1 & \text { if } p_{k}(t)>0 \\
0 & \text { otherwise } .\end{cases}
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We embed a new parameter, desired response $d_{k}$ into neurons;
Error-signal: $e_{k}(t)=d_{k}(t)-v_{k}(t)$;
Error-correction learning rule: $\Delta w_{k j}(t)=\eta e_{k}(t) v_{j}(t)$.


## Main Result

## Theorem

Given two first-order atoms $A$ and $B$, there exists a two-neuron learning neural network that performs the algorithm of unification for $A$ and $B$.

## Example of Unification in Neural Networks: time $=t_{1}$.


$w_{i k}\left(t_{1}\right)=v_{i}\left(t_{1}\right)=g$ is some encoding of $P(x)$;
$d_{k}\left(t_{1}\right)=h$ is some encoding of $P(0)$.

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$w_{k i}\left(t_{1}\right)=v_{i}\left(t_{1}\right)=g$ is the number of $P(x)$;
$d_{k}\left(t_{1}\right)=h$ is the number of $P(0)$; Compute $e_{k}\left(t_{1}\right)=d_{k}\left(t_{1}\right) \ominus v_{k}\left(t_{1}\right)$

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v_{h}\left(t_{1}\right)^{k}=0
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$$
v_{h} \stackrel{\vee}{=} 0
$$

## Example of Unification in Neural Networks: time $=t_{1-2}$.



$$
v_{h}\left(t_{1}\right)^{K}=0
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Compute $e_{k}\left(t_{1}\right)=d_{k}\left(t_{1}\right) \ominus v_{k}\left(t_{1}\right)$

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$\Delta w\left(t_{1}\right)=v_{i}\left(t_{1}\right) e_{k}\left(t_{1}\right)=e_{k}\left(t_{1}\right)$.
Substitutions are applied:
$w_{k i}\left(t_{2}\right)=w_{k i}\left(t_{1}\right) \odot \Delta w\left(t_{1}\right)$
and $d_{k}\left(t_{2}\right)=d_{k}\left(t_{1}\right) \odot \Delta w\left(t_{1}\right)$.


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\begin{aligned}
& w_{h k}\left(t_{2}\right)=w_{h k}\left(t_{1}\right) \oplus e_{k}\left(t_{1}\right) \\
& w_{i k}\left(t_{2}\right)=v_{i}\left(t_{2}\right)=g \text { is the num- } \\
& \text { ber of } P(0) \\
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& \text { ber of } P(0) ; \\
& d_{k}\left(t_{2}\right)=g \text { is the number of } P(0) . \\
& v_{i}\left(t_{2}\right) \ominus d_{k}\left(t_{2}\right)=\emptyset . \text { This means } \\
& \text { that we set } e_{k}\left(t_{2}\right)=0 .
\end{aligned}
$$

## Example of Unification in Neural Networks: time $=t_{3}$.



$$
\begin{aligned}
& w_{h k}\left(t_{3}\right)=w_{h k}\left(t_{2}\right) \oplus 0 ; \\
& v_{h}\left(t_{3}\right)=w_{h k}\left(t_{3}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

When $v_{h}$ starts and ends with 0 , computation stops.

## Conclusions

## Properties of these neural networks

- First-order atoms are embedded directly into a neural network.
- Neural networks are finite and give deterministic results, comparing with infinite layers needed to perform substitutions in $T_{P}$-neural networks.
- Unification algorithm is performed as an adaptive process, which corrects one piece of data relatively to the other piece of data.


## Conclusions

## Discussion

- Does the main theorem really define a connectionist neural network?
- Does the network really learn?
- Can we use these networks for massively parallel computations?
- What is the significance of these neural networks?


## Future Work

- Practical implementations of SLD neural networks.


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- Practical implementations of SLD neural networks.
- Theoretical development:
- SLD neural networks allow higher-order generalisations.
- ...can therefore be extended to higher-order Horn logics, hereditary Harrop logics...
- ...can be extended to non-classical logic programs: linear, many-valued, etc...
- Inductive logic and SLD neural networks.
- Try proof methods such as sequent calculus and tableaux instead of SLD-resolution...


## My Super-Wish-List

I wish...

- ...to use parallelism of NNs in implementations of SLD-resolution, and thus to show that these Neural networks bring computational advantage to proof theory.
* Undecidability of second-order unification would be a target...


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- ...to show that learning laws bring advantages to computational logic...

Thank you!

