

Multiclass classification is an extension of binary. There are three main multiclass strategies in machine learning:

1. One vs all:
2. One vs one
3. Hierarchical tree-like determination of classes

Suppose we have data from four classes:

	Y	f1	f2
X0	0	1	2
X1	0	2	2
X2	1	20	21
X3	1	22	19
X4	2	5	6
X5	2	7	5
X6	3	-1	-2
X7	3	-2	-3

One vs all

We create four new datasets:

D0:

x0, x1 have label +1

x2, x3, x4, x5, x6, x7 have label -1

D1:

x2, x3 have label +1

x0, x1, x4, x5, x6, x7 have label -1

D2:

x4, x5 have label +1

x0, x1, x2, x3, x6, x7 have label -1

D3:

x6, x7 have label +1

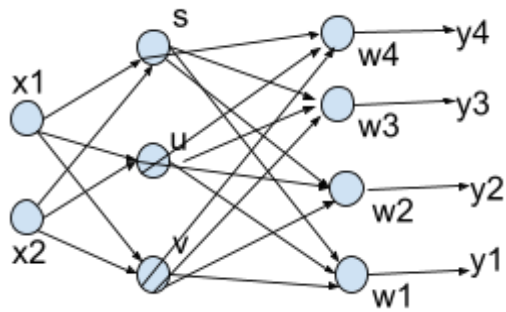
x0, x1, x2, x3, x4, x5 have label -1

Training: We learn four binary classifiers on each dataset D0, D1, D2, and D3 giving us C0, C1, C3, and C4.

Testing: We assign a test datapoint x' to the class i with the largest output value of $C_i(x')$. In the above example we calculate $C_0(x')$, $C_1(x')$, $C_2(x')$, and $C_3(x')$. We then assign x' to the class with the highest output value.

How do we perform multiclass in a neural network? We extend one-vs-all to the final layer.

Below is a neural network with four nodes in the final layer. Each node corresponds to a one-vs-all binary classifier.



In training the above network on the data below we would set the y labels to be one-hot label vectors.

	Y	f_1	f_2
X_0	(1,0,0,0)	1	2
X_1	(1,0,0,0)	2	2
X_2	(0,1,0,0)	20	21
X_3	(0,1,0,0)	22	19
X_4	(0,0,1,0)	5	6
X_5	(0,0,1,0)	7	5
X_6	(0,0,0,1)	-1	-2
X_7	(0,0,0,1)	-2	-3

The output of a test datapoint x' from the above network would be a vector containing four values (y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4). We select the class with the highest value.