

1. Let $\phi(v) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-av}}$.

Show that $\frac{d\phi}{dv} = a\phi(v)[1-\phi(v)]$.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\phi}{dv} &= \frac{-1}{(1+e^{-av})^2} \cdot e^{-av} \cdot a = \frac{ae^{-av}}{1+e^{-av^2}} = a \cdot \frac{1}{1+e^{-av}} \cdot \frac{1+e^{-av}-1}{1+e^{-av}} = a \cdot \frac{1}{1+e^{-av}} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{1+e^{-av}}\right) \\ &= a\phi(v)(1-\phi(v))\end{aligned}$$

What is the value of this expression at the origin?

$$\phi(v) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-av}} = \frac{1}{1+e^0} = \frac{1}{1+1} = 1/2$$

In the limit as a approaches infinity, what happens to this function?

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \phi(v) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-\infty v}} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } v > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } v < 0 \end{cases}$$

2. Let $\phi(v) = \tanh\left(\frac{av}{2}\right)$.

Show that $\frac{d\phi}{dv} = \frac{a}{2}[1-\phi^2(v)]$.

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(v) &= \frac{e^{av} - 1}{e^{av} + 1} \\ \frac{d\phi}{dv} &= -ae^{av} \frac{e^{av} - 1}{(e^{av} + 1)^2} + \frac{ae^{av}}{e^{av} + 1} \\ &= \frac{(-ae^{2av} + ae^{av}) + ae^{av}(e^{av} + 1)}{(e^{av} + 1)^2} \\ &= \frac{-ae^{2av} + ae^{av} + ae^{2av} + ae^{av}}{(e^{av} + 1)^2} \\ &= \frac{2ae^{av}}{(e^{av} + 1)^2} \\ &= \frac{a4e^{av}}{2(e^{av} + 1)^2} \\ &= \frac{a(e^{2av} + 2e^{av} + 1) - (e^{2av} - 2e^{av} + 1)}{2(e^{av} + 1)^2} \\ &= \frac{a(e^{av} + 1)^2 - (e^{av} - 1)^2}{2(e^{av} + 1)^2} \\ &= \frac{a}{2} \left(1 - \frac{(e^{av} - 1)^2}{(e^{av} + 1)^2}\right) = \frac{a}{2}(1 - \phi(v)^2).\end{aligned}$$

What is the value of this expression at the origin?

$$\phi(0) = \frac{e^0 - 1}{e^0 + 1} = 0/2 = 0.$$

In the limit as a approaches infinity, what happens to this function?

If v is positive, we must use L'Hopital's rule:

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \phi(v) = \frac{e^{av} - 1}{e^{av} + 1} = \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a e^{av}}{a e^{av}} = 1.$$

If, on the other hand, v is negative,

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \phi(v) = \frac{e^{av} - 1}{e^{av} + 1} = -1/1 = -1.$$

3. Let $\phi(v) = \frac{v}{\sqrt{1+v^2}}.$

Show that $\frac{d\phi}{dv} = \frac{\phi^3(v)}{v^3}.$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\phi}{dv} &= \frac{-v^2}{(1+v^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{1}{(1+v^2)^{1/2}} \\ &= \frac{-v^2}{(1+v^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{(1+v^2)}{(1+v^2)^{3/2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{(1+v^2)^{3/2}} \\ &= \frac{v^3}{v^3(1+v^2)^{3/2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{v^3} \phi(v)^3. \end{aligned}$$

4. Which of the functions in problems 1 through 3 can be treated as a cumulative probability distribution function. Why?

A cumulative probability distribution function is right-continuous, monotone non-decreasing, and its limits at plus and minus infinity are 1 and 0 respectively.

This applies to the logistic function of problem 1, however, this does not apply to the sigmoids presented in problems 2 and 3 since they take negative values on negative arguments.

5. Show the binomial expansion of $\frac{1}{(1-wz^{-1})} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} w^i z^{-i}.$

$$\frac{1}{(1-wz^{-1})} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} w^i z^{-i} \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{aligned}1 &= (1 - w z^{-1}) \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} w^i z^{-i} \\&= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} w^i z^{-i} - (w z^{-1}) \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} w^i z^{-i} \\&= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} w^i z^{-i} - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} w^i z^{-i} \\&= w^0 z^0 \\&= 1 \\&Q.E.D.\end{aligned}$$