



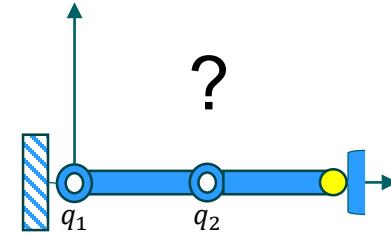
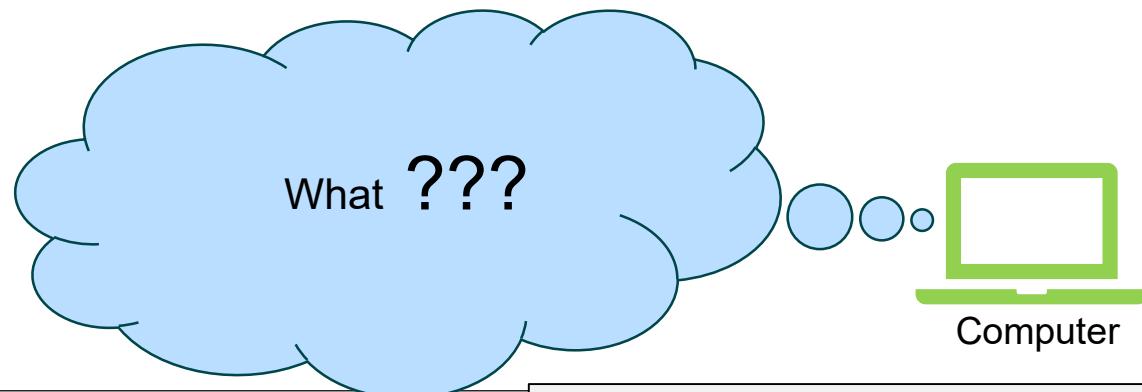
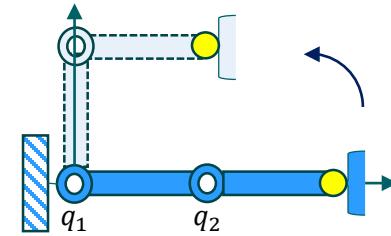
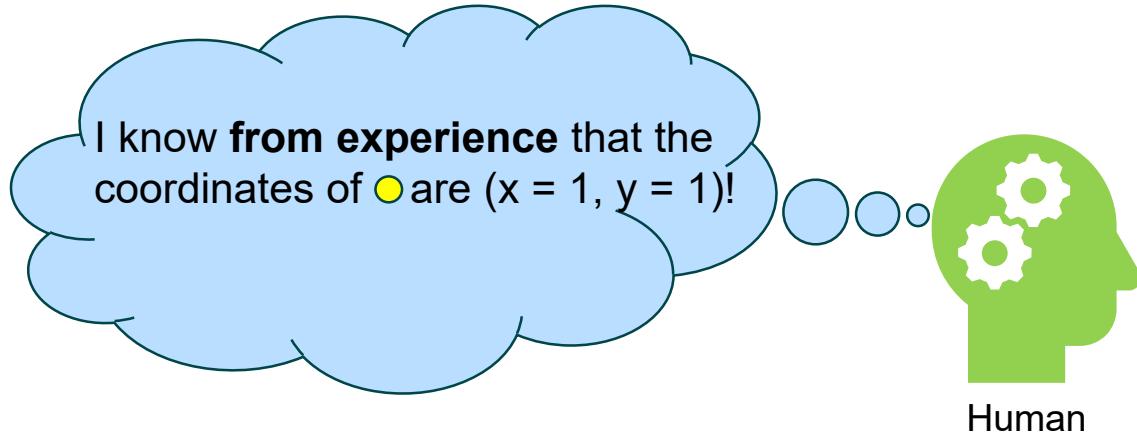
# Robotics und Machine Learning (ML)

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Eric Kaigom

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# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

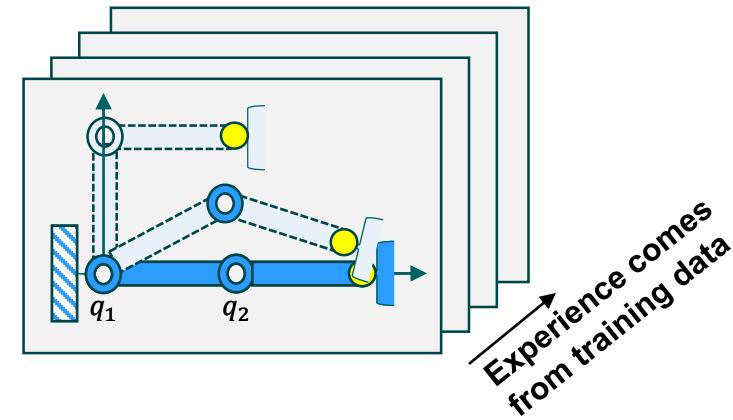
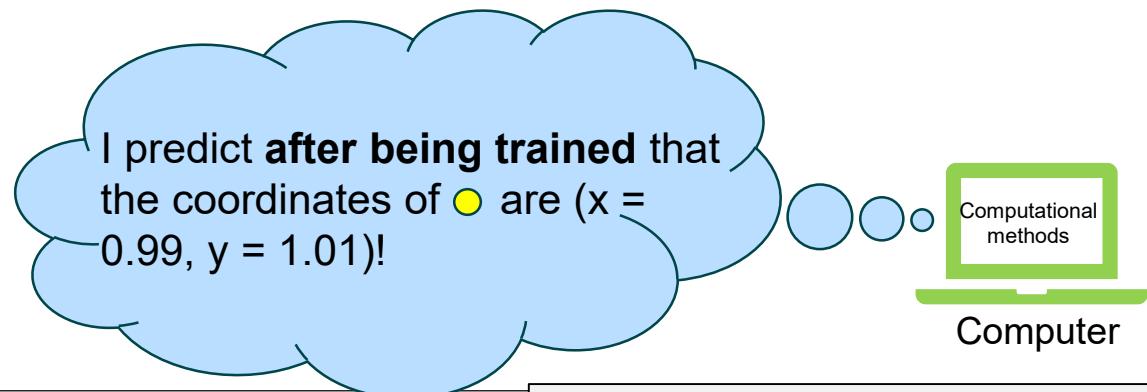
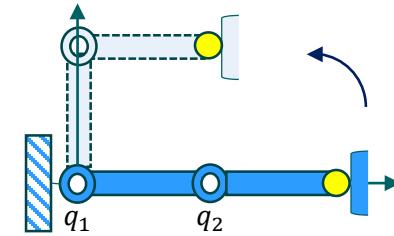
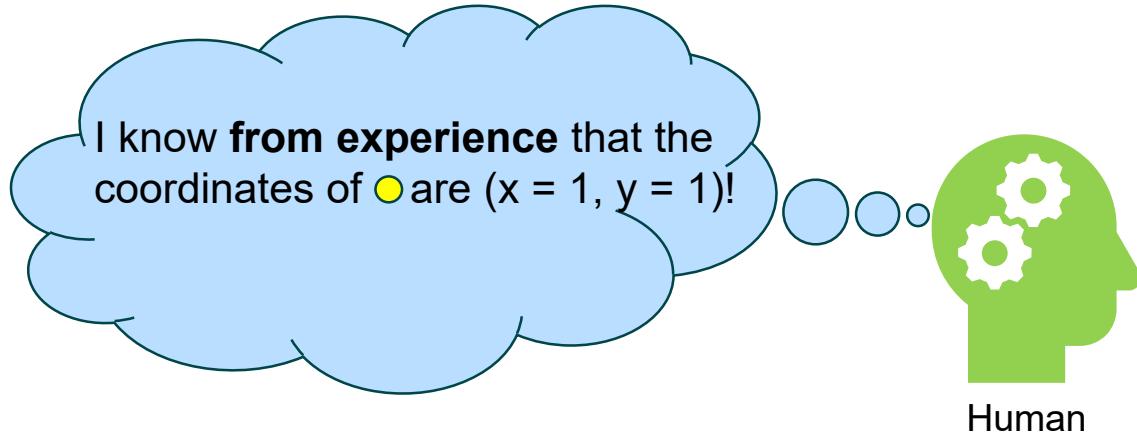
**Learning from experience – What are the coordinates of ● for  $q_1 = \frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $q_2 = -\frac{\pi}{2}$  ?**



Can a computer (or in general a machine) do the same, i.e.,  
**learn from experience** like a human?

# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

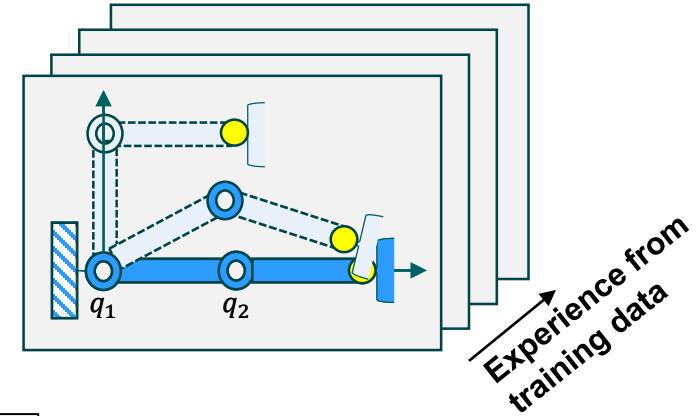
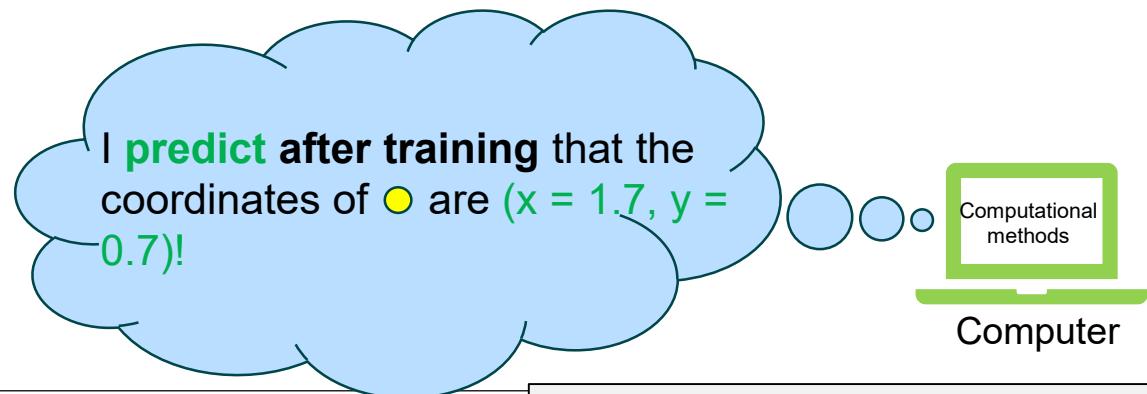
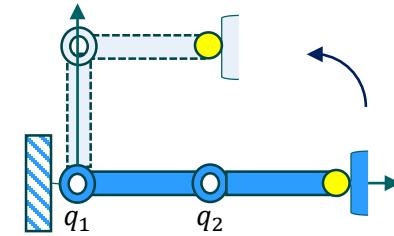
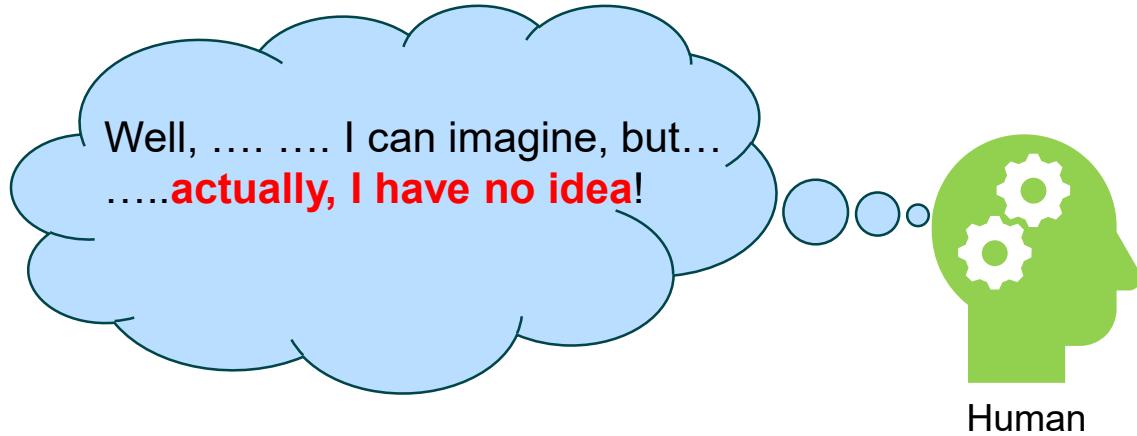
**Learning from experience – What are the coordinates of ● for  $q_1 = \frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $q_2 = -\frac{\pi}{2}$  ?**



Can a computer (or in general a machine) do the same, i.e., **learn from experience** like a human?? **Yes!**

# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

Learning from experience – What are the coordinates of ● for  $q_1 = \frac{\pi}{4}$  and  $q_2 = -\frac{\pi}{4}$  ?



A trained **machine** can **outperform** human capabilities in e.g. non-nominal cases by **learning** from data (entailing a rich and diversified experience).

# Machine Learning

# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

## Machine Learning – A brief overview

Machine learning is the **process** of using **algorithms** to learn a **model** that helps **predict** the outcomes of previously **unseen events** (i.e., model input data) by using experiences condensed in **training data**.

What

Challenge and constraints understanding, selection of a learning approach

How

### Data management

- Collection
- Pre-processing
- etc

### Model development

- Hyperparameterization
- Optimization
- Validation, etc

### Applications

- Forward kinematics
- Backward kinematics
- etc

Our focus

# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

## Understanding challenges, constraints, and opportunities - example



### Why and what

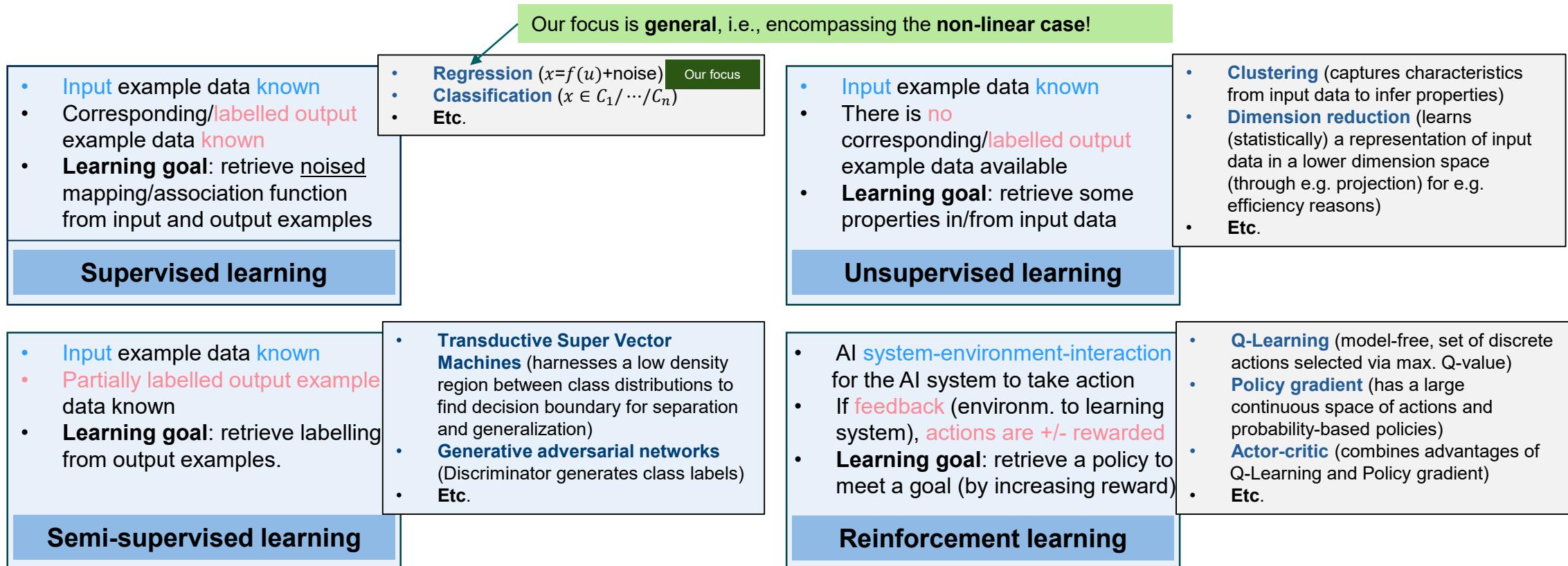
- Forward kinematics (FK) and backward kinematics (BK) not available in a closed form (e.g., refurbished robots)
- FK and BK prone to uncertainties (e.g., geometry, structural properties, noise, etc.)
- Access to input (e.g., joint pos.) and output (e.g., end-effector pos.) data via measurements and data acquisition

### How

- Instead of a **model-based** (i.e., analytical) derivation of the input-output or output-input mapping in closed form, **data samples** are **leveraged** to capture the **mapping model** (FK and BK)
- Captured models (FK and BK) can be used in **arbitrary** (e.g., physical or virtualized) **applications** and even **shared via mail** („FK and BK to go!“)

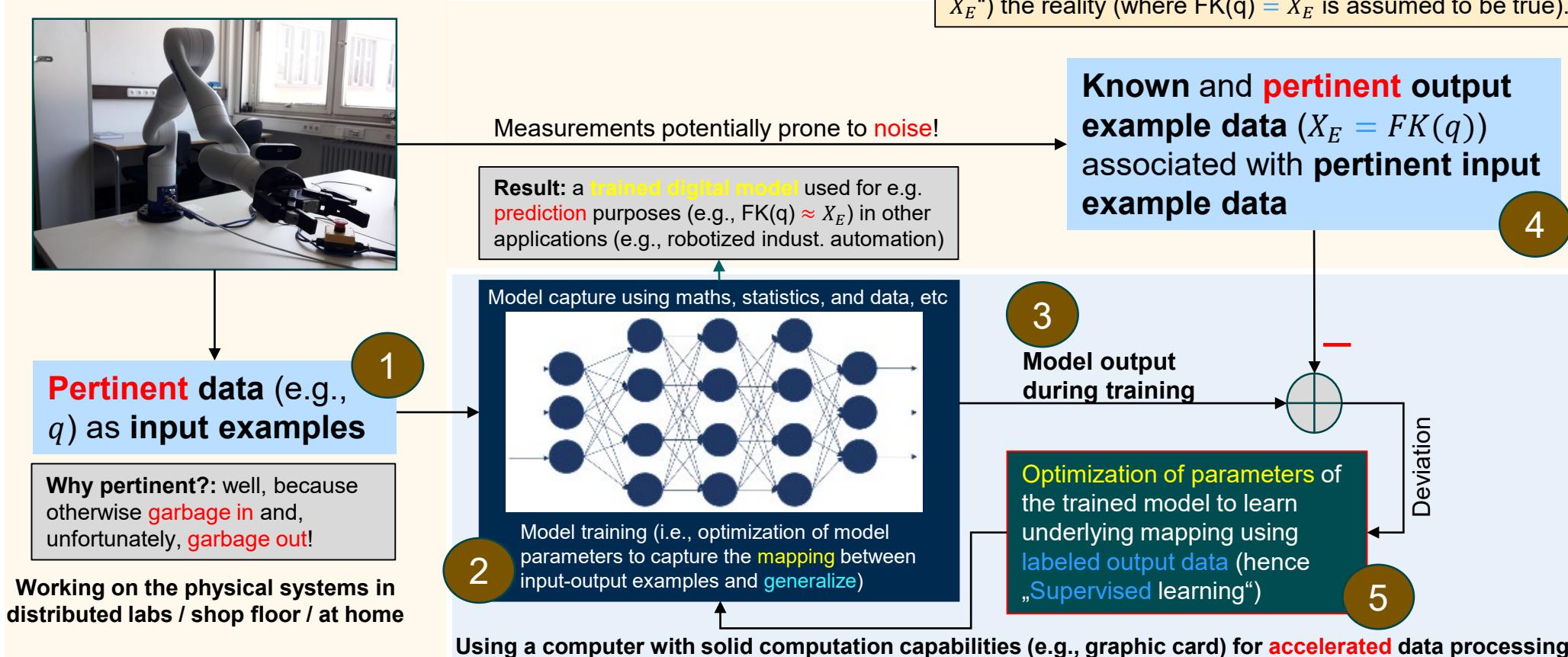
# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

## Selecting a suitable machine learning approach



# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

## Machine Learning – Supervised Learning (Big Picture)



# Preparing data

## Why data preparation?

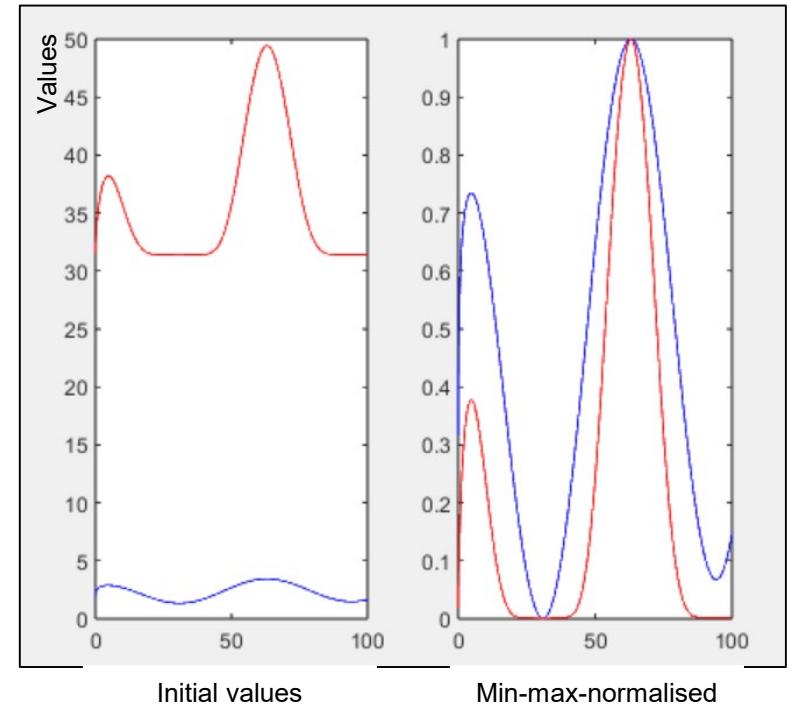
- An important step before data analysis (...in order to learn an unkown mapping or correspondence)
- Pivotal point in Machine Learning: How **features** are **distributed**
- **Implications:**
  - Preserve how the data samples (e.g., joint positions) relate to each other
  - Accommodate the impact of units
  - Avoid effects of relative scale (otherwise: learning performance can drop, i.e., convergence takes longer due to overshoot. More later on.)
- **Challenges:**
  - Impacts of outliers
  - etc

## Data preparation - Minimum-Maximum Normalization

- $x = [x_1 \ x_2 \ \dots \ x_n]$  the vector of  $n$  scalars
- $x_{min}$  and  $x_{max}$  is minimum and maximum value in  $x$
- $\hat{x}$  is the min-max-normalized value of  $x$ :

$$\hat{x} = \frac{x - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}}$$

- Values in  $\hat{x}$  are squeezed between 0 and 1, i.e., within  $[0 \ 1]$
- Is it possible to squeeze values between scalars  $z_0$  and  $z_1$  with  $z_0 < z_1$ ?



## Application #1

- 1) Use Matlab to randomly generate a vector V of 100 scalars between -100 and 100.
- 2) Carry out the min-max normalization of this vector and store the result in Vn.
- 3) Set the value at index 20 in V to 500. Store the result in Vo.
- 4) Carry out the min-max normalization of Vo and store the result in Von.
- 5) Plot V, Vn and Von in three subplots. What do you observe?

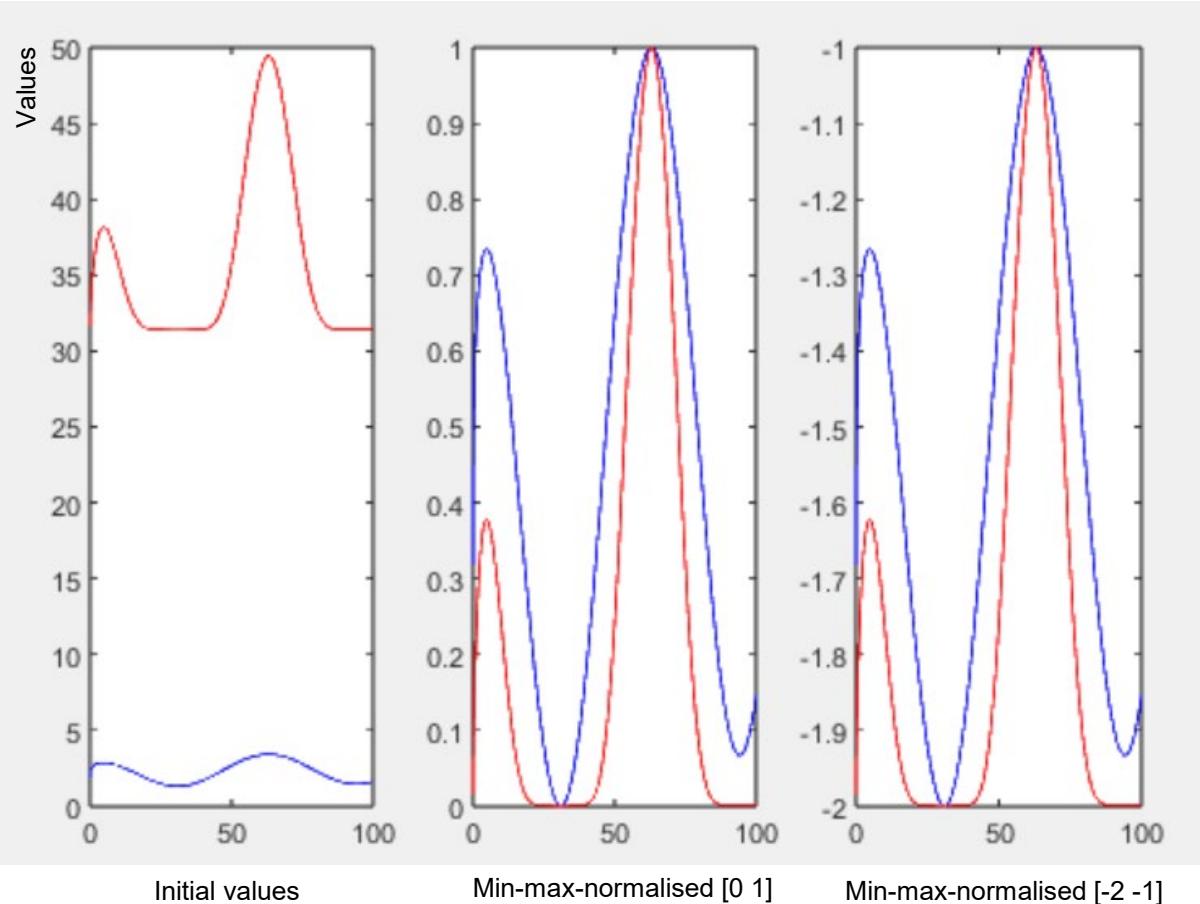
$$\hat{x} = \frac{x - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}}$$

## Data preparation - Minimum-Maximum Normalization

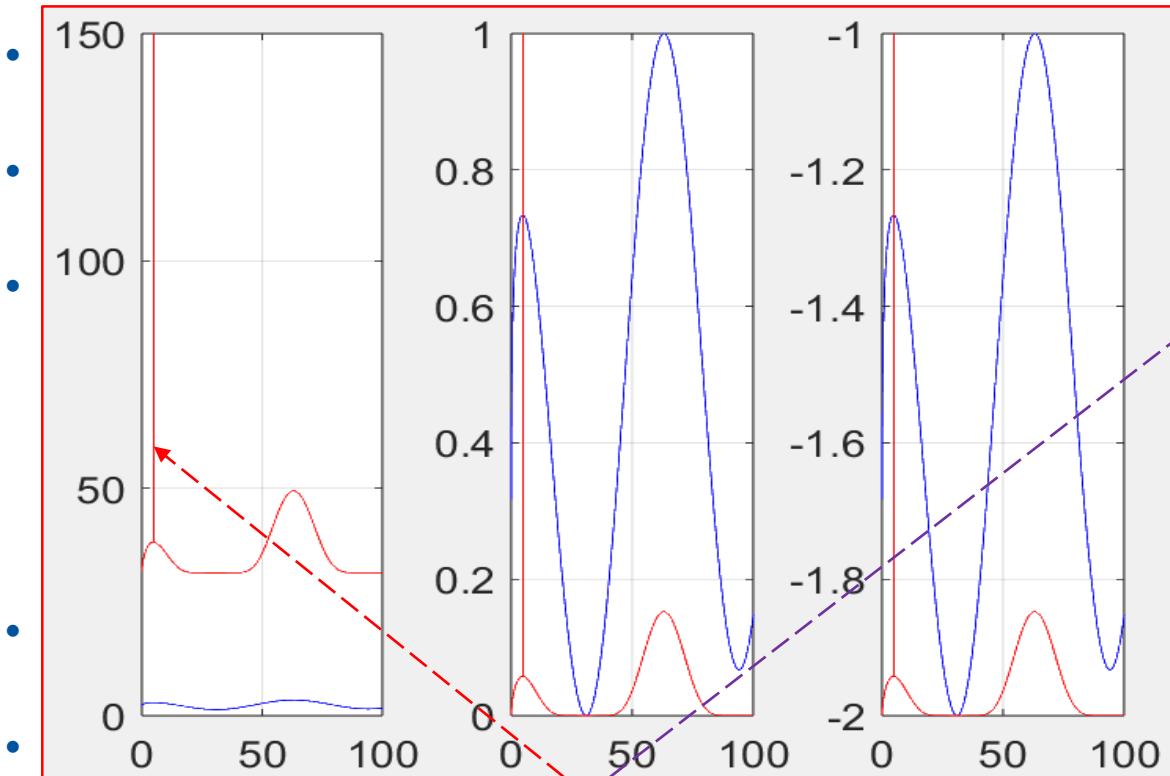
- $x = [x_1 \ x_2 \ \dots \ x_n]$  the vector of  $n$  scalar data
- $x_{min}$  and  $x_{max}$  is minimum and maximum value in  $x$
- $\hat{x}$  is the min-max-normalized value of  $x$ :

$$\hat{x} = z_0 + (z_1 - z_0) \frac{x - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}}$$

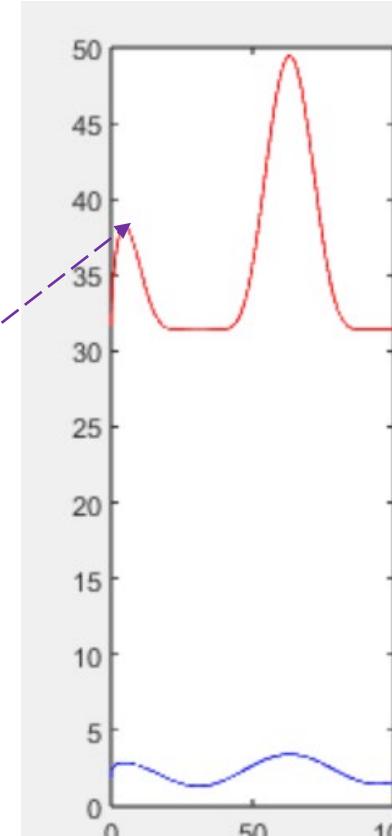
- Values in  $\hat{x}$  are squeezed between  $z_0$  and  $z_1$



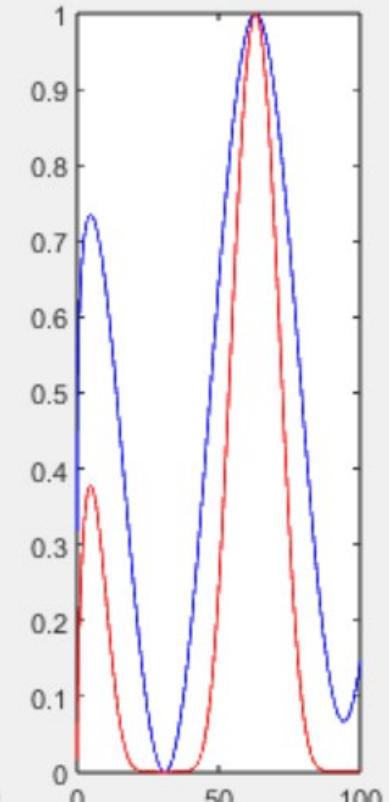
## Data preparation - Minimum-Maximum Normalization



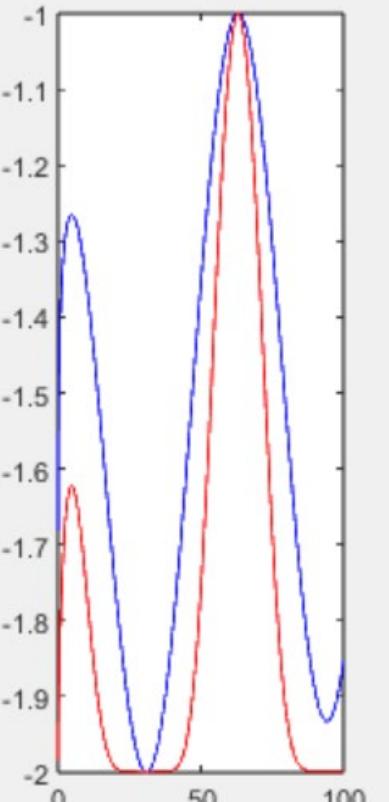
- Min-max normalization faces **outliers** issues!
- Shape (of the **distribution**) is **preserved**
- How to influence **mean value** and **standard deviation**?



Initial values



Min-max-normalised [0 1]



Min-max-normalised [-2 -1]

## Data preparation - z-Score Normalization

- $x = [x_1 \ x_2 \ \dots \ x_n]$  the vector of  $n$  scalar data
- Mean value

$$\mu = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

- Standard deviation

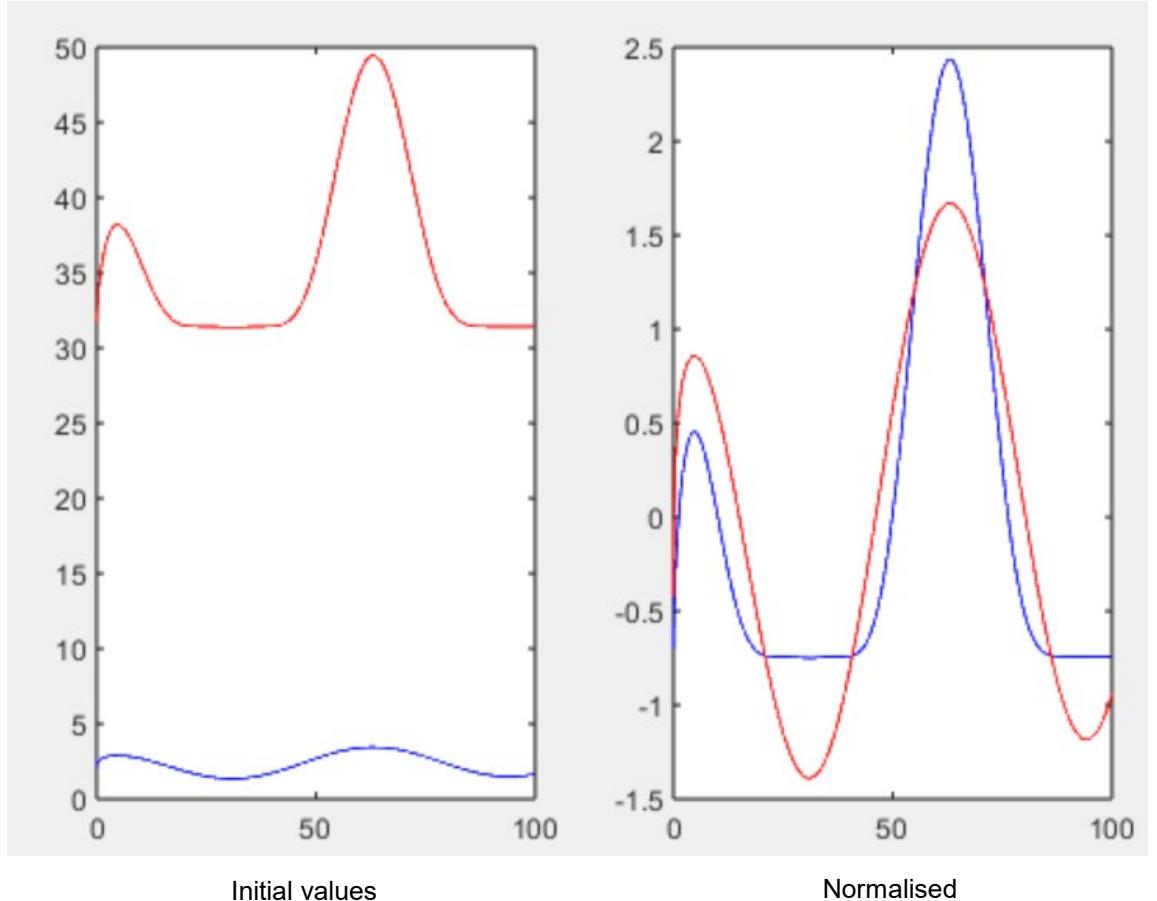
$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2}$$

- Normalization:

$$\hat{x} = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

- **Hints:**

- The feature  $\hat{x}$  has mean  $\hat{\mu} = 0$  and standard dev.  $\hat{\sigma} = 1$
- Data are **not** necessarily confined within  $[0 \ 1]$  (during training), which is helpful for robustness (w.r.t **new** test data outside  $[-1 \ 1]$ )!



## Data preparation - z-Score Normalization

- $x = [x_1 \ x_2 \ \dots \ x_n]$  the vector of  $n$  scalar data
- Mean value

$$\mu = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

- Standard deviation

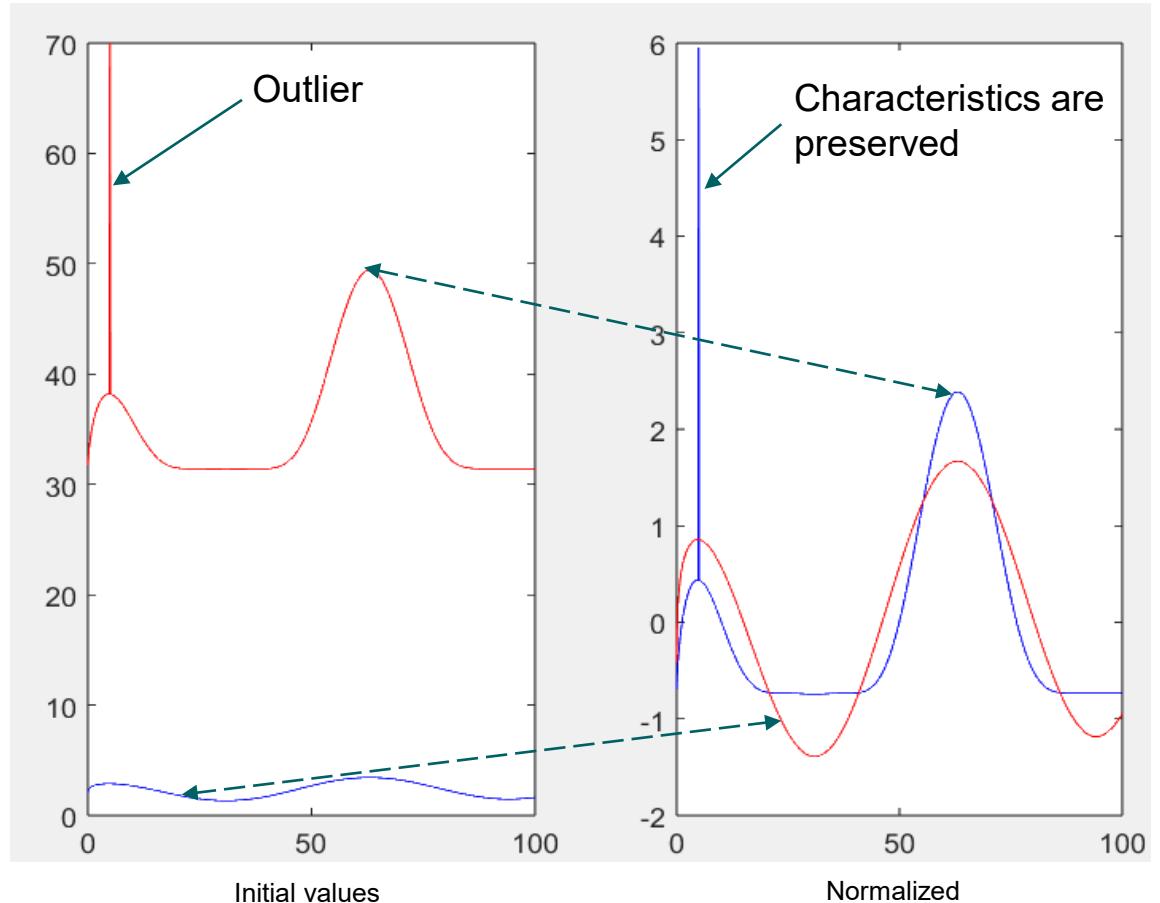
$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2}$$

- Normalisation:

$$\hat{x} = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

- **Hints:**

- Useful properties about outliers are kept!
- Impact of outliers on normalized data is mitigated (hence robustness!)



## Application #2:

- Assume that  $u = [x_1, \dots, x_n]^T$  is a dataset
- Calculate Min-Max(z-Score(x))

## Solution:

$$\hat{x} = \frac{x - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}} = \frac{\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} - \frac{x_{min} - \mu}{\sigma}}{\frac{x_{max} - \mu}{\sigma} - \frac{x_{min} - \mu}{\sigma}} = \frac{x - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}}$$

```
>> n=10; a=rand(n,1)'; zm = normalize(a, 'range')- normalize(normalize(a), 'range')
zm =
1.0e-15 *
-0.1110   -0.0555      0       0       0       0       0       0     -0.1110
```

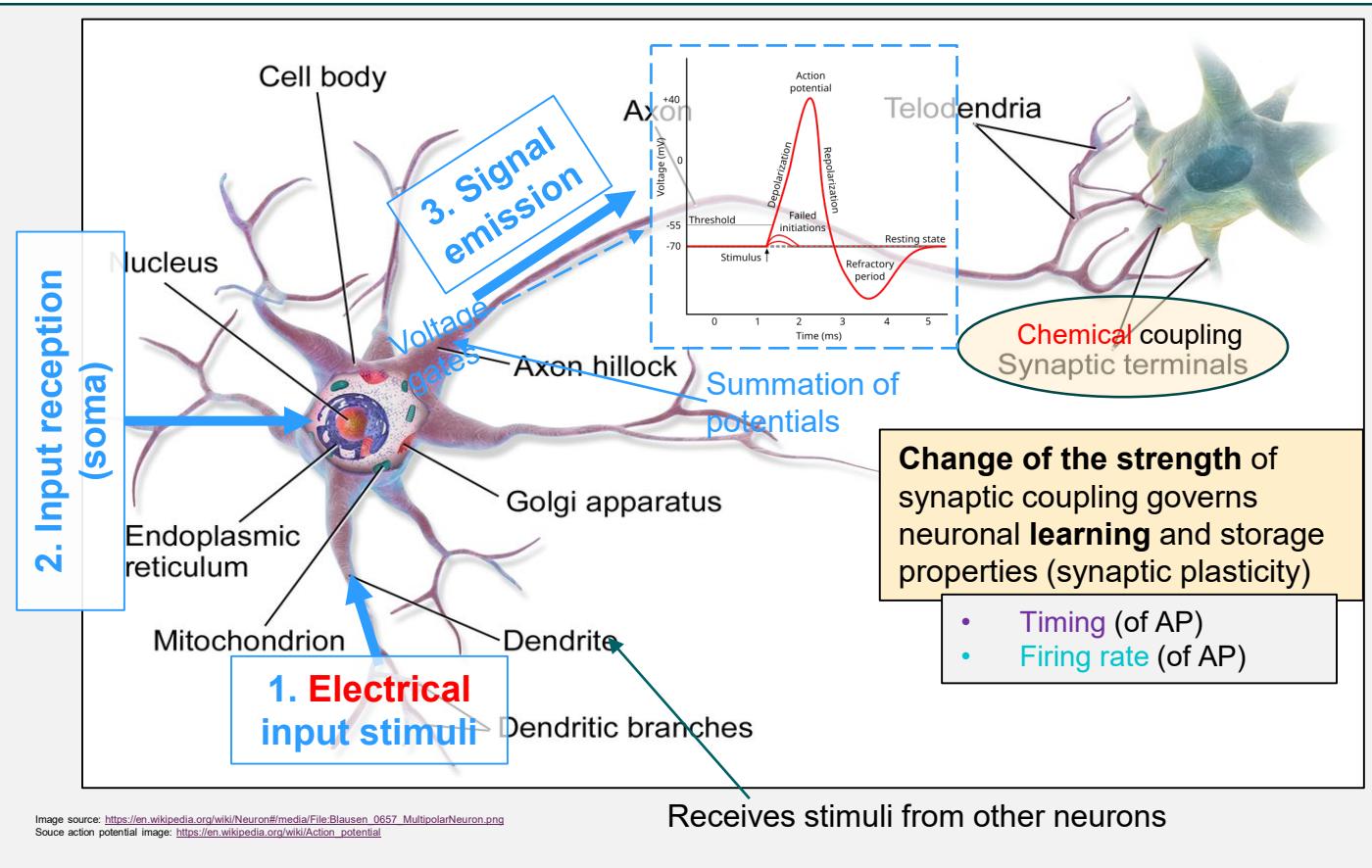
The diagram illustrates the multi-step process of transforming raw data into normalized z-scores. It consists of three main components connected by arrows:

- Min-max Between [0 1]:** This step takes the raw data  $a$  and applies a min-max normalization to produce intermediate values.
- Z-score:** This step takes the intermediate values and applies a z-score normalization to produce the final z-scores.
- Between [0 1]:** This step takes the z-scores and applies another min-max normalization to produce the final output  $zm$ .

# Using neurons to reason

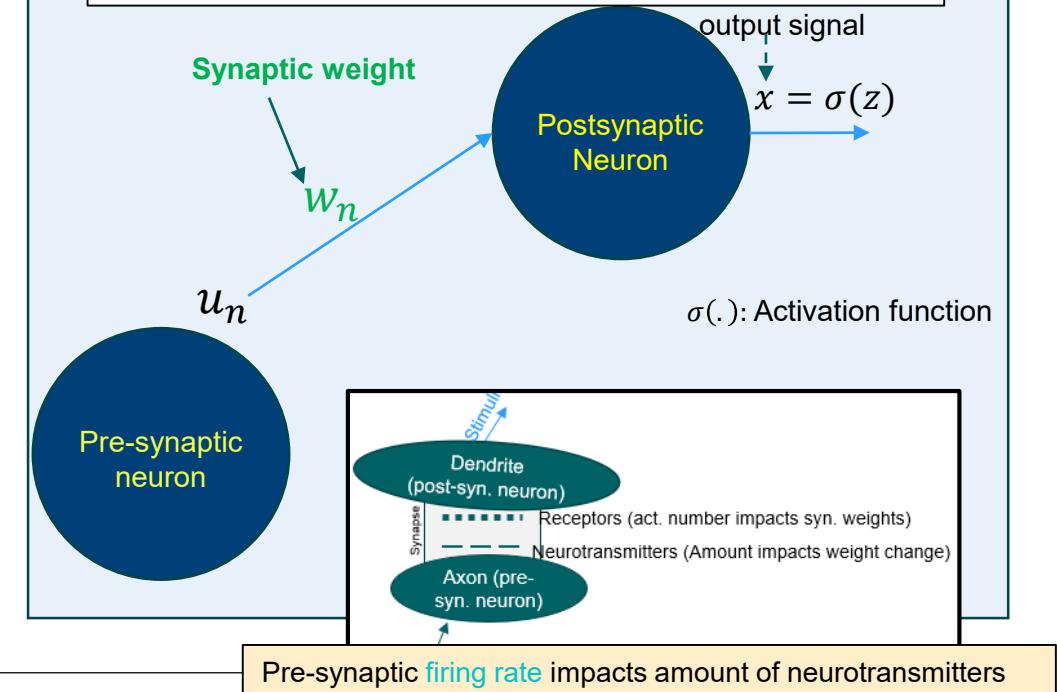
# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

## Neuron model – Synapse dynamics



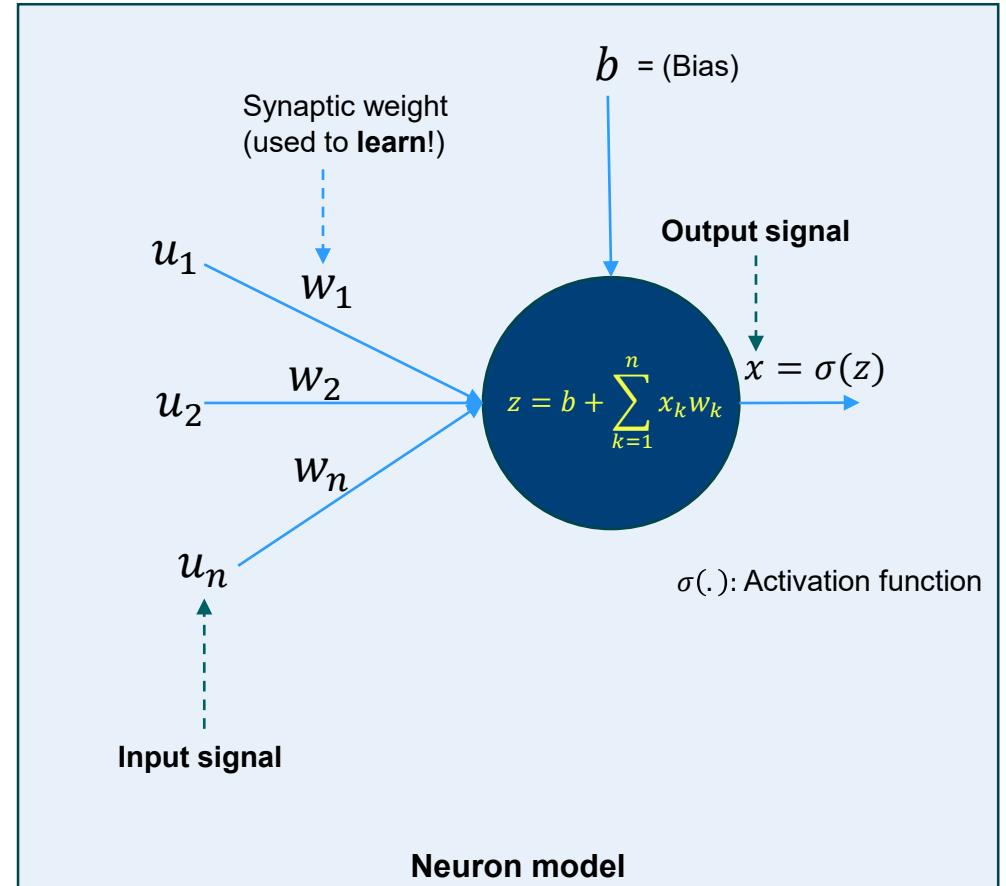
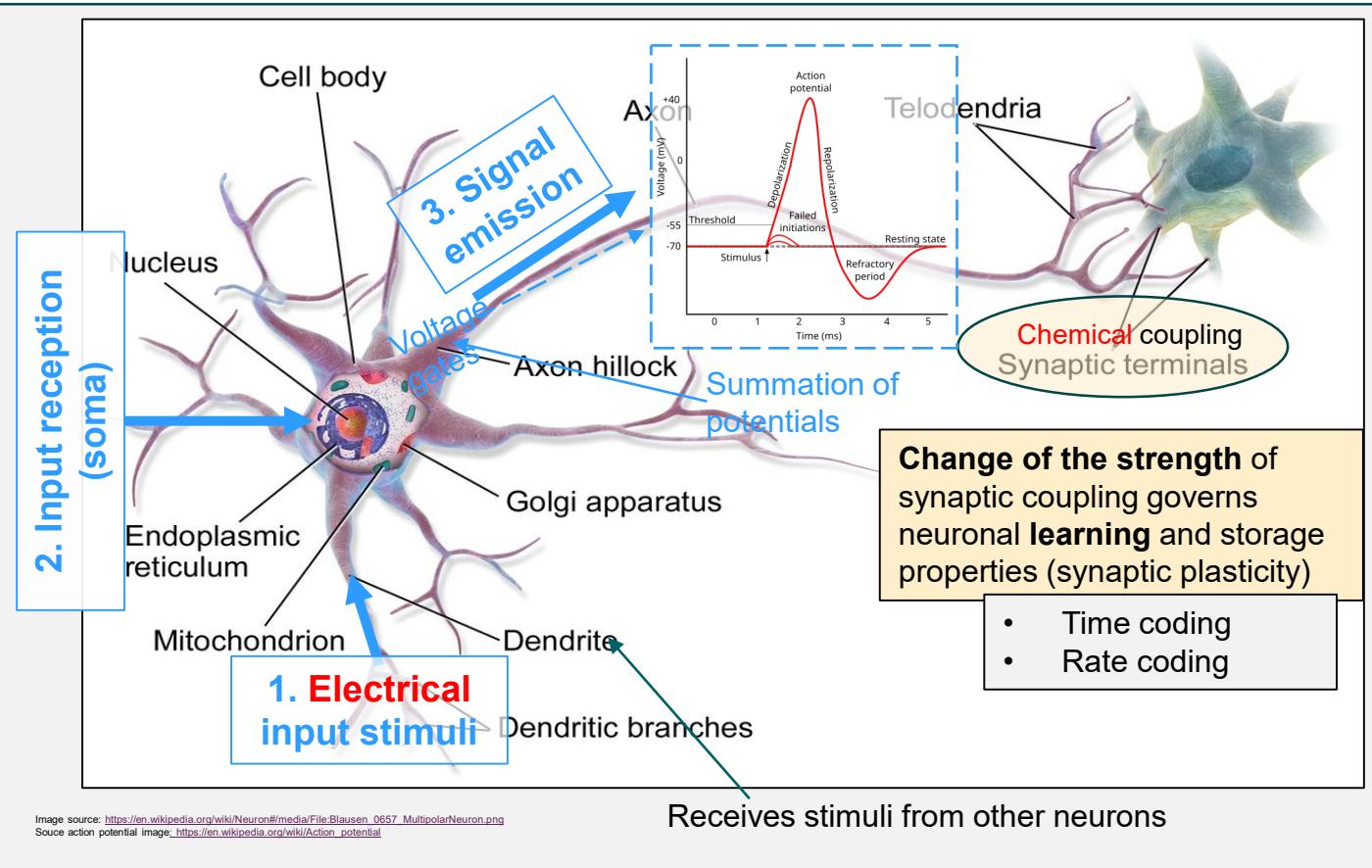
### Spike-timing-dependent plasticity

- Process associated with the modification (optimization) of the **synaptic weights**
- Depends upon **temporal dynamics** (e.g., latency) between action potential (AP) in **pre-** and **postsynaptic** neurons (+/- strength of long-term potentiation resp. depression)

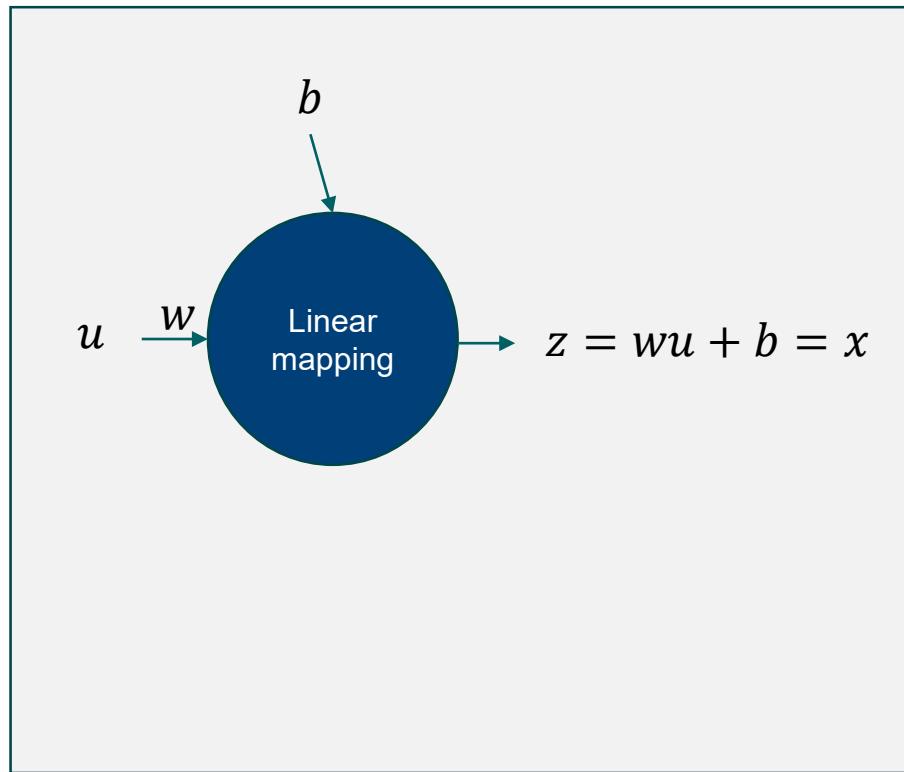


# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

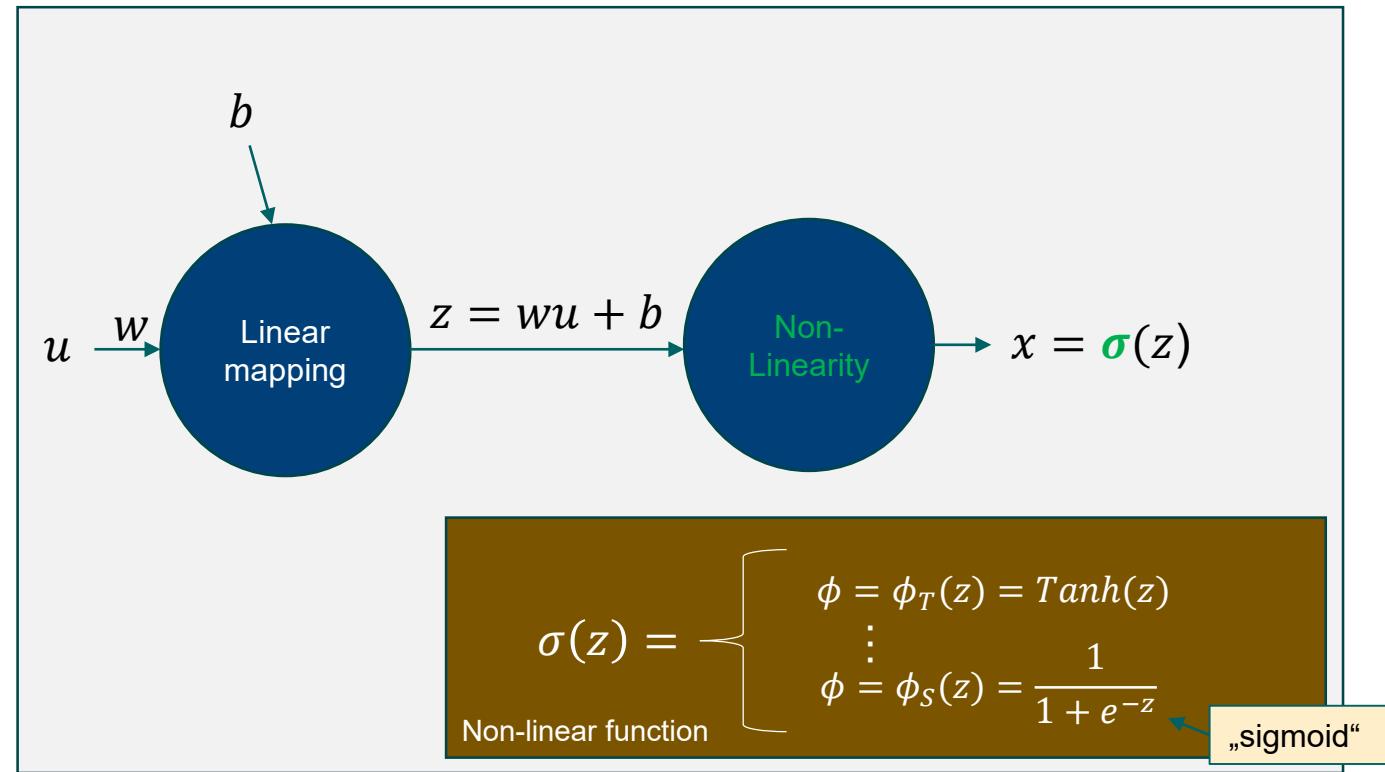
## Neuron model – Synapse dynamics



## Artificial neuron

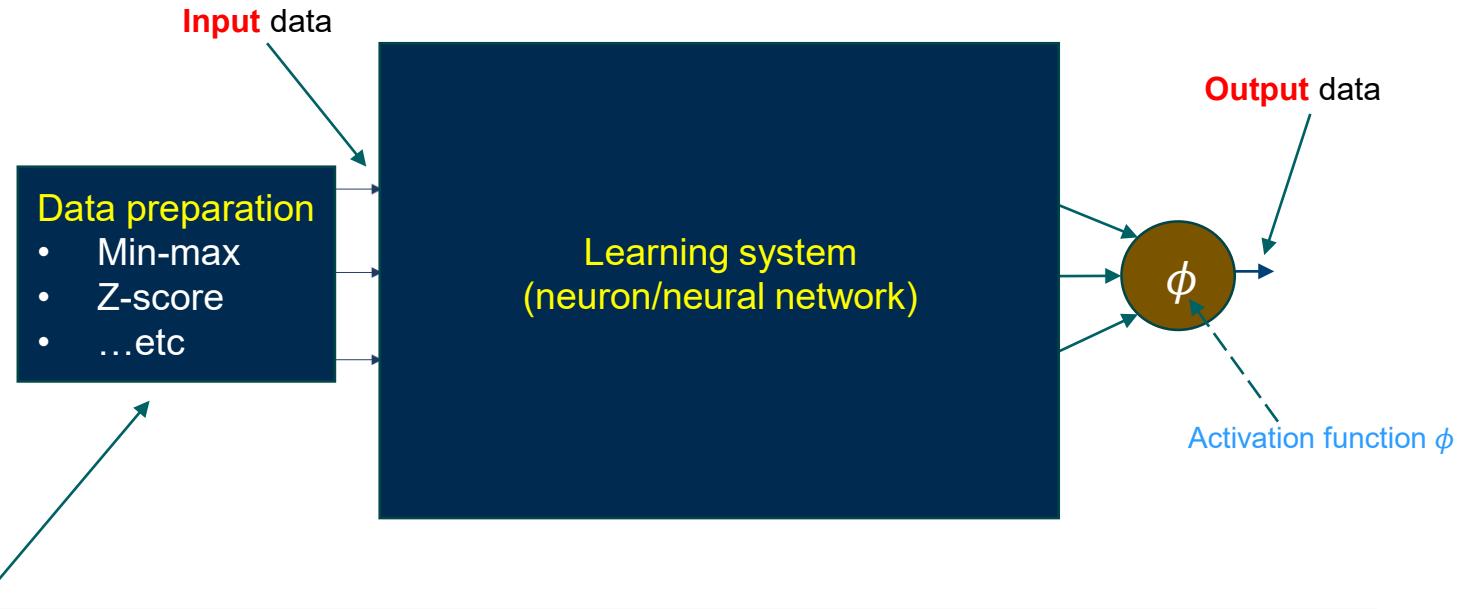


Identity activation



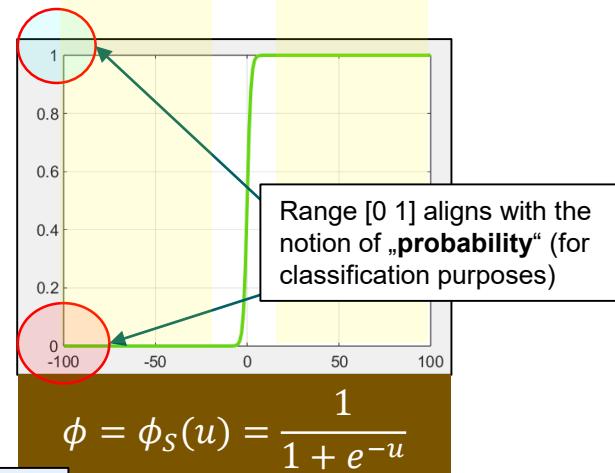
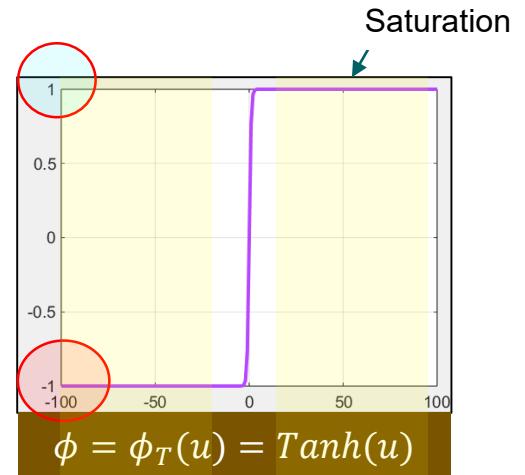
From identity activation to **non-linear** activation

## Data preparation and activation function



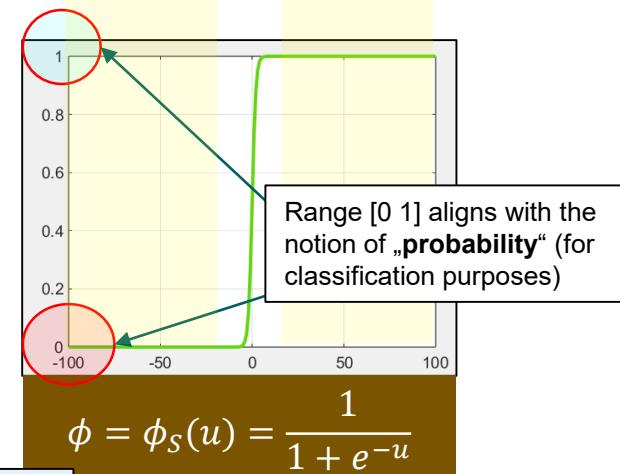
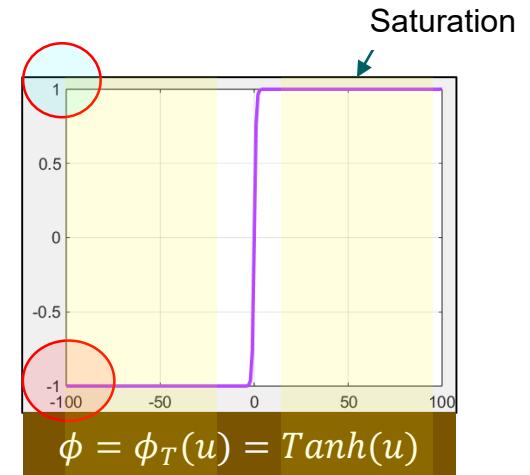
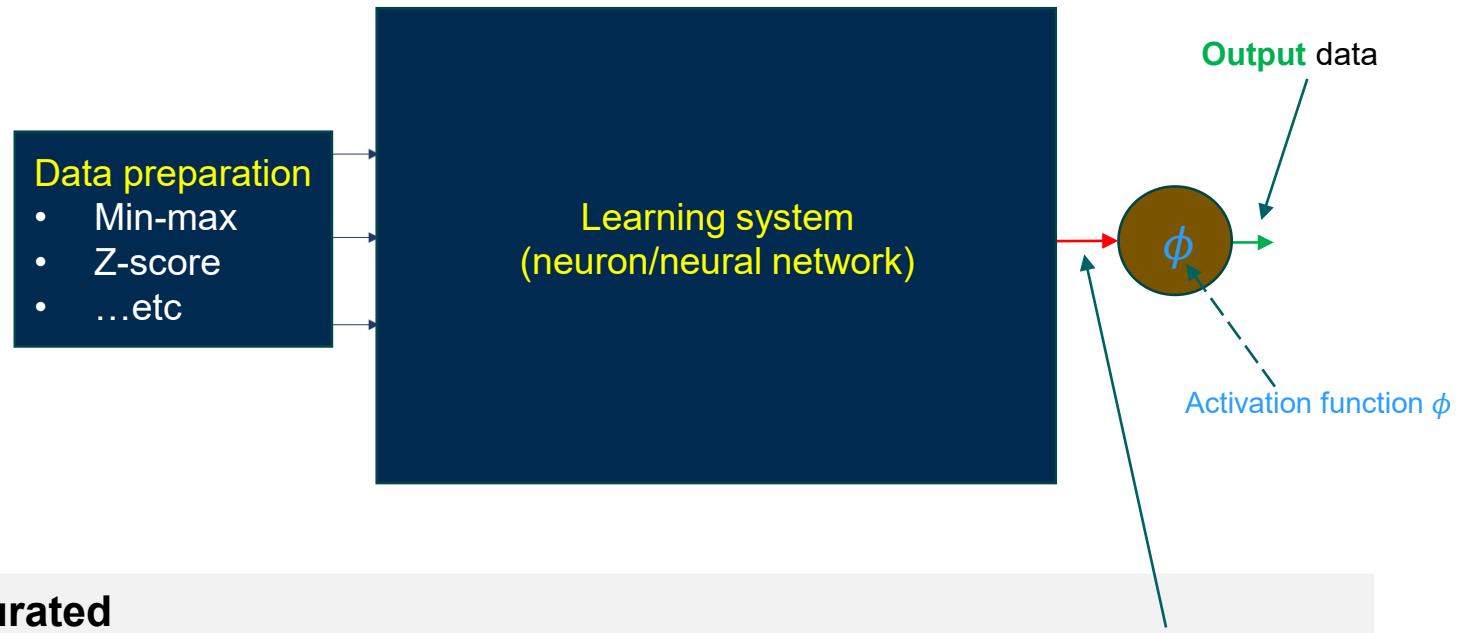
### Data preparation helps

- keep the input training data in the **range** of the activation function  $\phi$
- accelerate** the training process



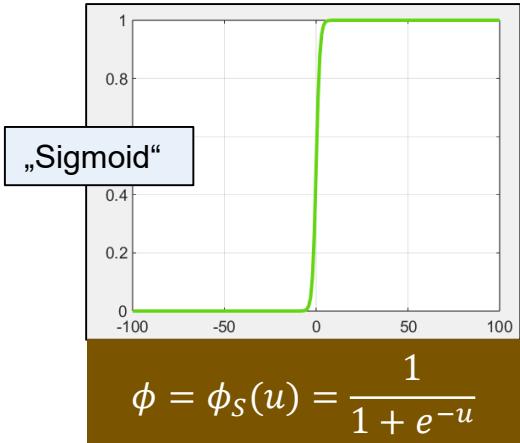
Called  
"Sigmoid"

## Activation function - Saturation



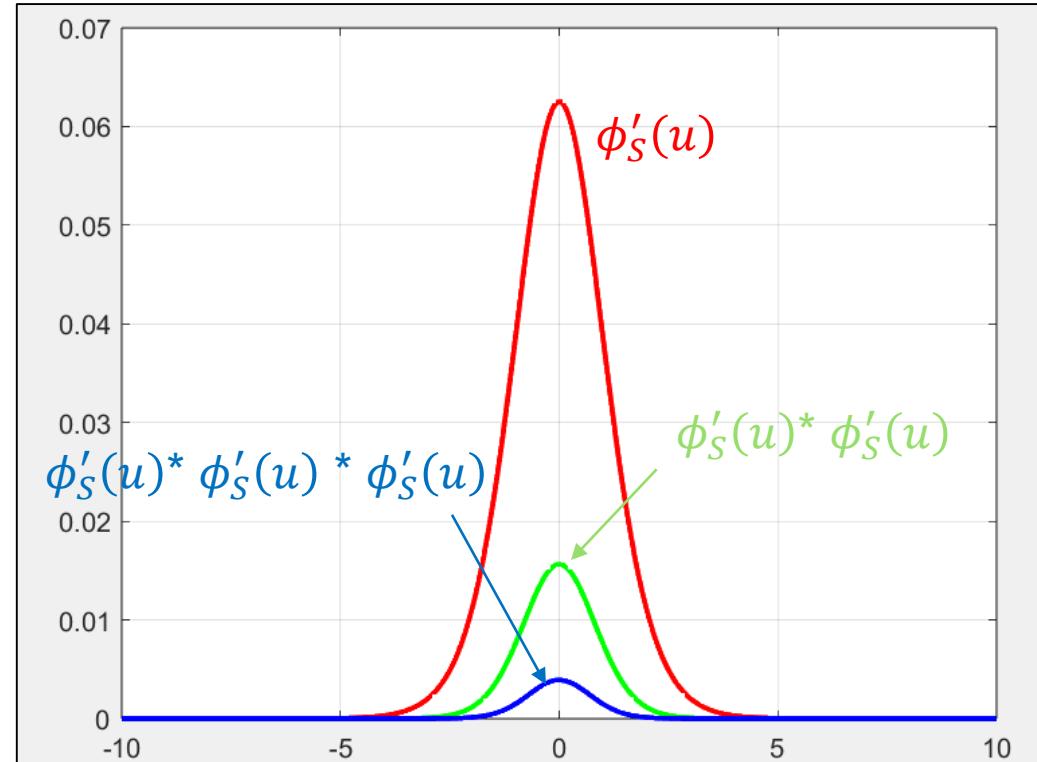
Called  
„Sigmoid“

## Activation function – Product of derivatives



„Sigmoid derivative“

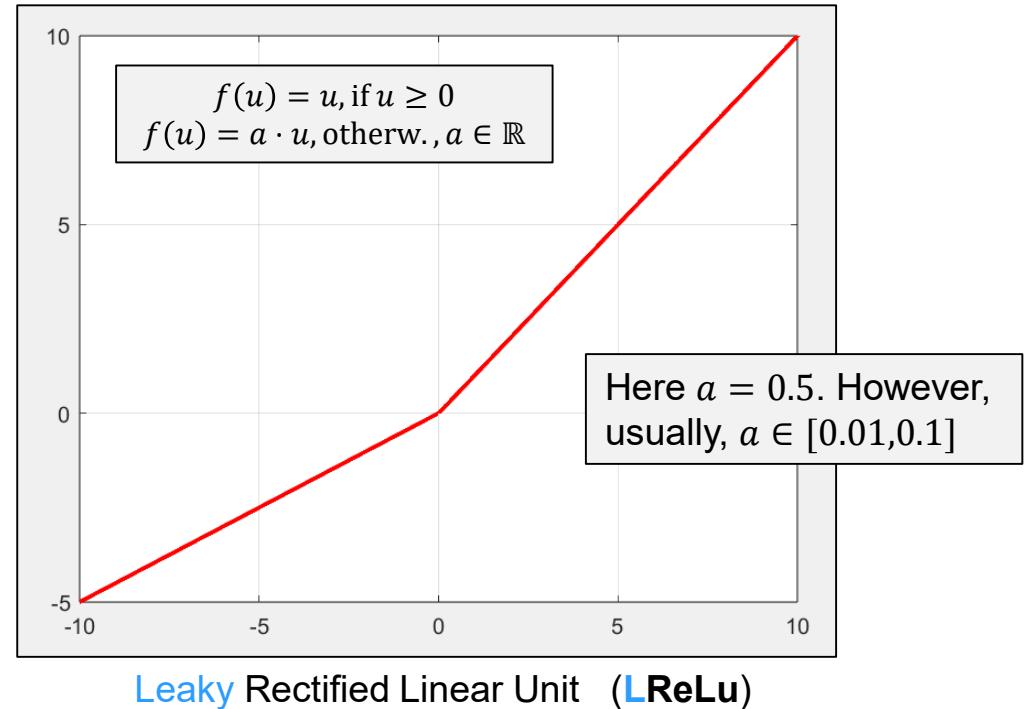
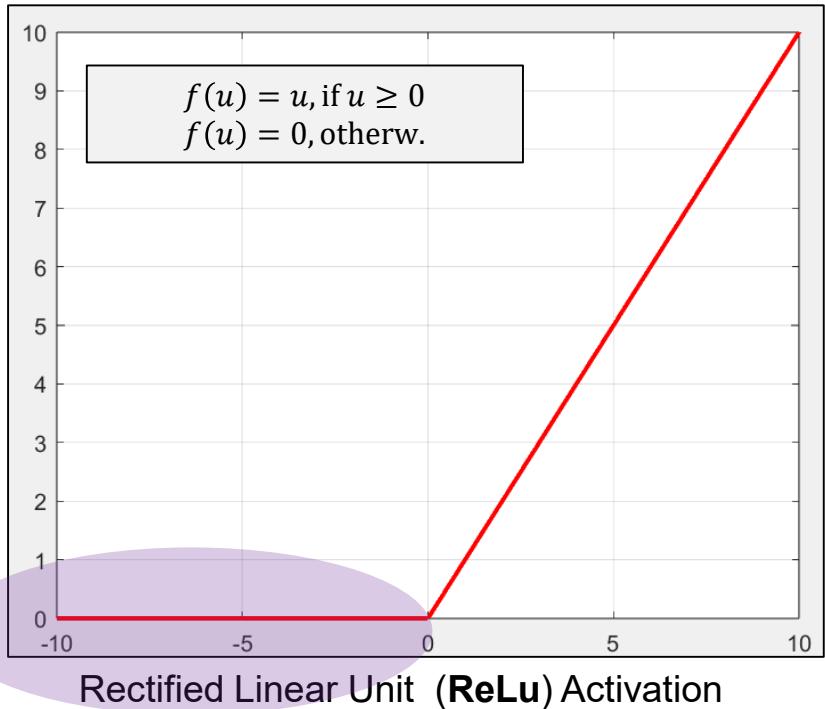
$$\phi'_s(u) = (1 - \phi_s(u))\phi_s(u)$$



**Observation:** The amplitude of the product of the derivative  $\phi'_s(u)$  by itself decreases with the increasing number of product terms.

Application#3: verify above-mentioned behavior ( $\phi'_s(u) * \dots * \phi'_s(u)$ ) of the sigmoid by writing and executing a matlab code for three product terms.

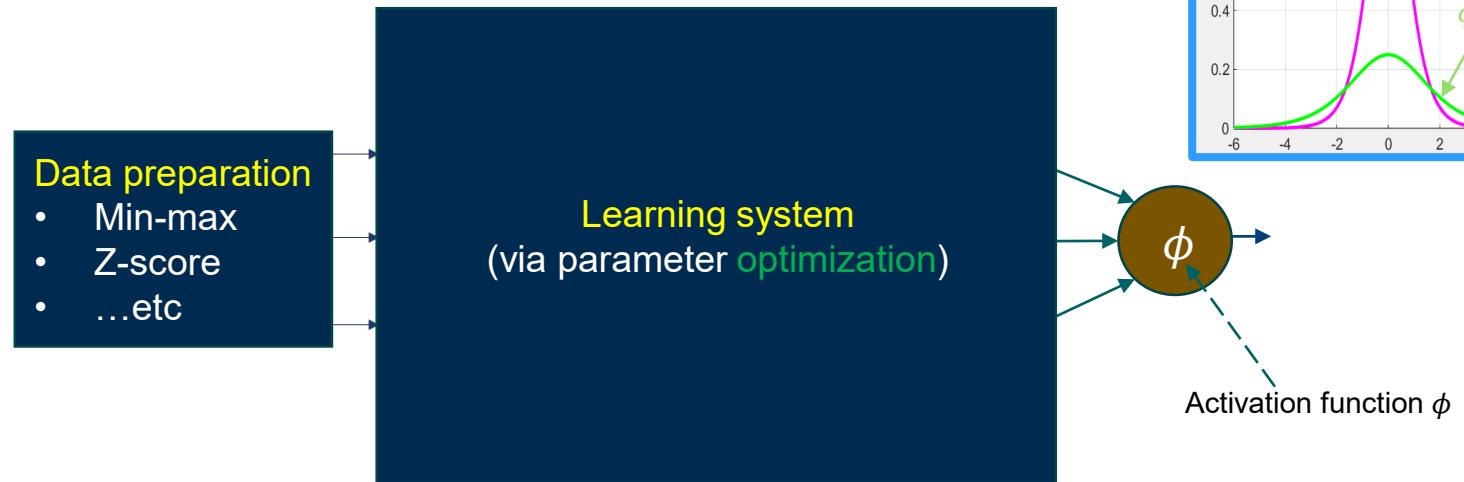
## Activation function – Fixing saturation issues



- Not sensitive to negative inputs (might lead to dead neuron!)
- Unbounded for positive inputs

- Customized response (via  $a$ ) to negative inputs (helps control the amplitude of derivative for negative inputs)
- Unbounded and no saturation hazard (thus: enhances learning rate during (optimization-based) learning)

## Activation function – Fixing derivative issues

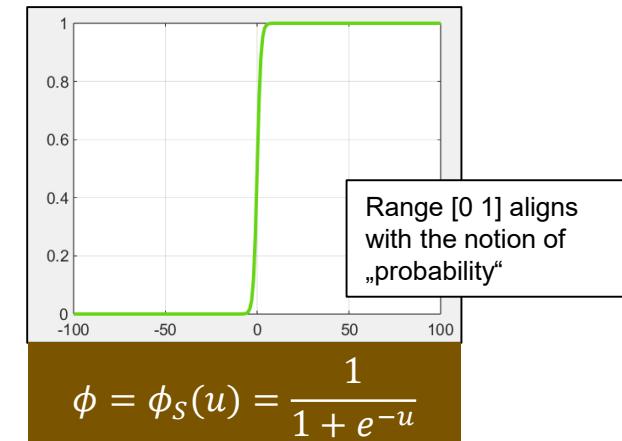
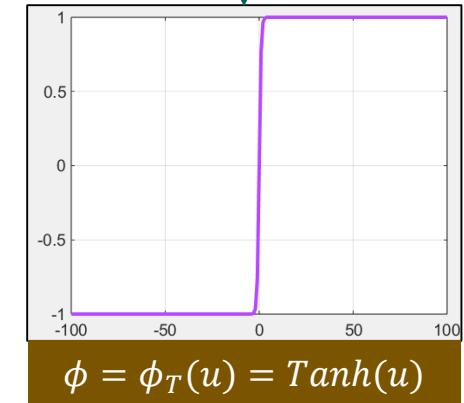
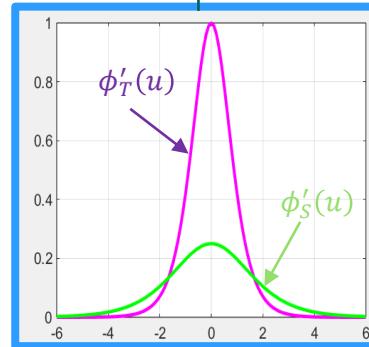


**Derivative of  $\phi_T$  and  $\phi_S$ :**

$$\phi'_T(u) = 1 - \tanh^2(u)$$

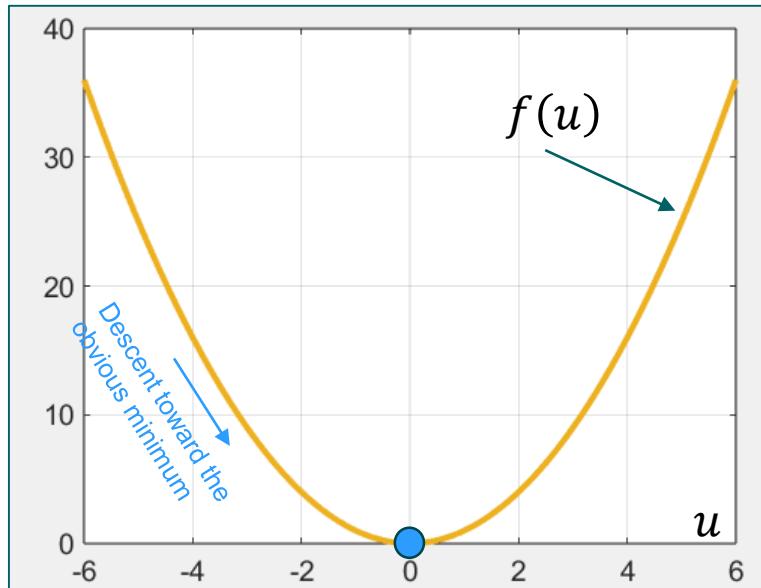
„Sigmoid derivative“

$$\phi'_S(u) = (1 - \phi_S(u))\phi_S(u)$$



## What is an „optimization“ and how does it work?

**Goal:** looking for a location with „maximum“ or „minimum“ function value



**Optimization goal:** find  $u^*$  that e.g. minimizes the 1D (or n-D) loss function  $f(u)$ .



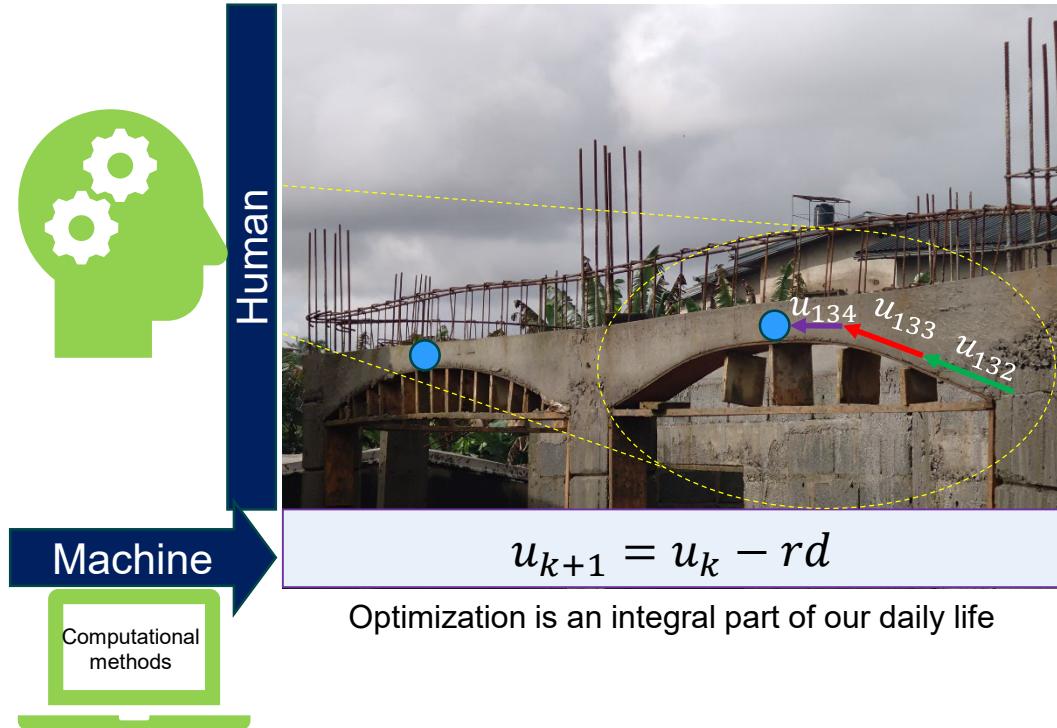
$$u_{k+1} = u_k - rd$$

Optimization is an integral part of our daily life

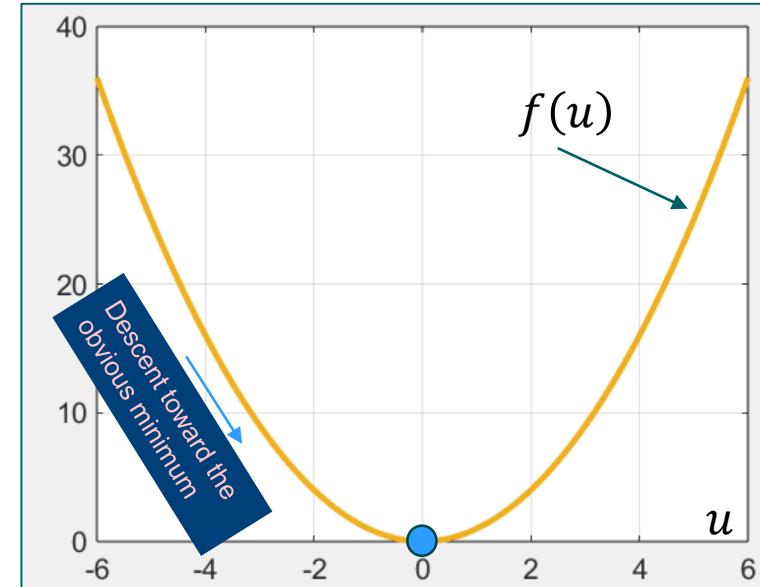
Whereas humans tend to perceive optimum in some cases from experiences (see, e.g., r.h.s), the gradient can help machines do so in a systematic way!

# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

## What is an „optimization“ and how does it work?



While humans tend to perceive an optimum in some cases (see, e.g., l.h.s), the gradient  $d$  can help machines do so in a systematic way with rate  $r$ !



**Optimization goal:** find  $u^*$  that e.g. minimizes the 1D (or n-D) loss function  $f(u)$ .

## What is a gradient?

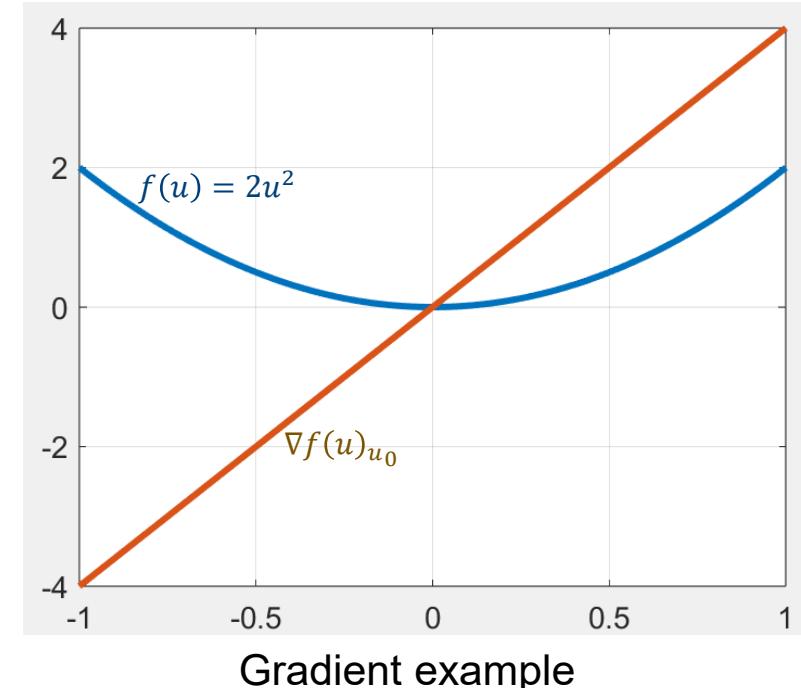
- Preliminary:  $x = f(u)$  is a real function of a real variable  $u$ .
- Gradient  $\nabla f(u)_{u_0}$  of  $f(u)$  w.r.t  $u$  at position  $u = u_0$  is given by

$$\nabla f(u)_{u_0} = \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial u} \Big|_{u=u_0}$$

1. Order derivative w.r.t  $u$  at  $u = u_0$

In the  $n$ -dimensional space:  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

- $u = (u_1, \dots, u_n)$
- $\nabla f(u)_{u_0} = \left[ \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial u_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial u_n} \right]^T_{u=u_0}$



## What is a gradient?

- Preliminary:  $x = f(u)$  is a real function of a real variable  $u$ .
- Gradient  $\nabla f(u)_{u_0}$  of  $f(u)$  w.r.t  $u$  at position  $u = u_0$  is given by

$$\nabla f(u)_{u_0} = \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial u} \Big|_{u=u_0}$$

1. Order derivative w.r.t  $u$  at  $u = u_0$

### Application #4:

- $f(u) = u^2 \rightarrow \nabla f(u)_{u_0=1} = \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial u} \Big|_{u=1} = \frac{\partial u^2}{\partial u} \Big|_{u=1} = 2u \Big|_{u=1} = 2 \cdot 1 = 2$
- $f(u) = \frac{1}{u-1} \rightarrow \nabla f(u)_{u_0=0} = \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial u} \Big|_{u=0} = \frac{0-1}{(u-1)^2} \Big|_{u=0} = -1$

## Application #5

**Challenge:**

$$x = f(u_1, u_2) = 2u_1^3 + \ln(u_2)$$

Calculate the gradient of  $f(u_1, u_2)$  at  $u = (u_1, u_2)$

**Solution:**

$$x = f(u_1, \dots, u_n) \rightarrow \nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_n} \end{bmatrix} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} 6u_1^2 \\ \frac{1}{u_2} \end{bmatrix}$$

## Application #6

**Challenge:**

$$x = f(u_1, u_2) = -u_2^2 + u_2 + 17$$

Calculate the gradient of  $f(u_1, u_2)$  at  $u = (u_1, u_2)$

**Solution:**

$$x = f(u_1, \dots, u_n) \rightarrow \nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_n} \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2u_2 + 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Application #7

**Challenge:**

$$x = f(u_1, u_2) = -u_1 u_2^2 + u_1 u_2 + 17u_2$$

Calculate the gradient of  $f(u_1, u_2)$  at  $u = (u_1, u_2)$

**Solution:**

$$x = f(u_1, \dots, u_n) \rightarrow \nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_n} \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} -u_2^2 + u_2 \\ -2u_1 u_2 + u_1 + 17 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Application #8

**Challenge:**

$$x = f(u_1, u_2, u_3) = -u_1 u_2^2 u_3 + u_1 u_2 + 17u_2 + u_3$$

Calculate the gradient of  $f(u_1, u_2, u_3)$  at  $u = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$

**Solution:**

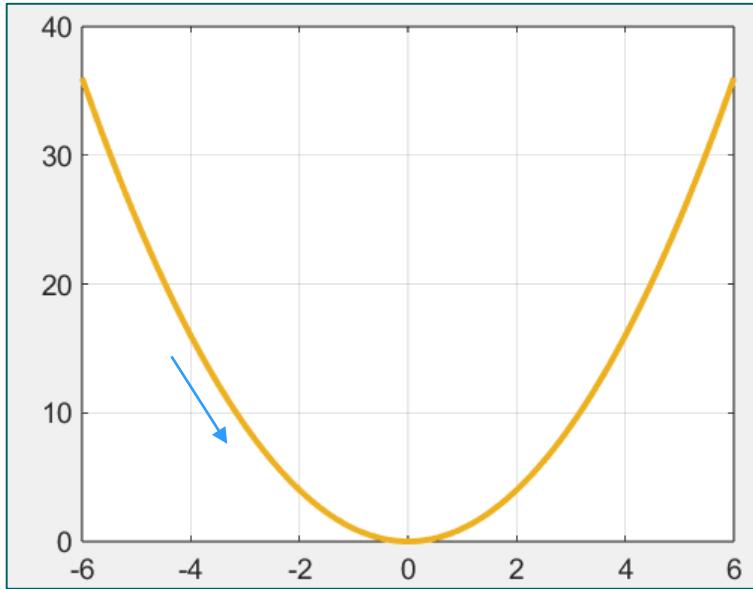
$$x = f(u_1, \dots, u_n) \rightarrow \nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_n} \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} -u_2^2 u_3 + u_2 \\ -2u_1 u_3 u_2 + u_1 + 17 \\ -u_1 u_2^2 + 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Why is the gradient useful?

- Suppose that we have a function  $x = f(u) = u^2$



How to find  $u^*$  that minimize  $f(u)$ ?

### Approach:

$$u_{k+1} = u_k - r \nabla f(u) \underset{=d}{\cancel{|}}_{u_k} = u_k - r \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial u} \Big|_{u=u_k}$$

- $r$  is a **hyperparameter** that reflects the **learning rate**
- The **fastest decay** of  $f(u)$  is the **opposite direction** of the **gradient**  $\nabla f(u)$  of  $f(u)$
- Hence,  $-r \nabla f(u)$  steers the series until the convergence  $u_{k+1} \rightarrow u^*$

Source: <https://cdn.britannica.com/32/124632-004-1C08C796/craters-Mount-Cameron.jpg>



Caution: Many local optima might exist

## Optimization **routine** based upon the gradient

Goal: find minimum of  $x = f(u) = u^2$

```

1    clear;
2    syms u           %symbolic variable
3    f =u^2;          %function to be optimized
4    c = gradient(f,u); %symbolic gradient
5    uk = -5;         % initial uk value
6    r = 0.1;         % learning rate
7    interval=1:100; % 100 steps
8    U=[]; functionValue=[];%container
9    for i=interval
10       u = uk;
11       uk = uk - r*subs(c); %main iteration loop
12       U=[U uk];          % for plotting
13       functionValue = [functionValue (subs(f))];
14    end
15    subplot(1,2,1); plot(U,functionValue,'b');
16    subplot(1,2,2); plot(interval,U,'g');

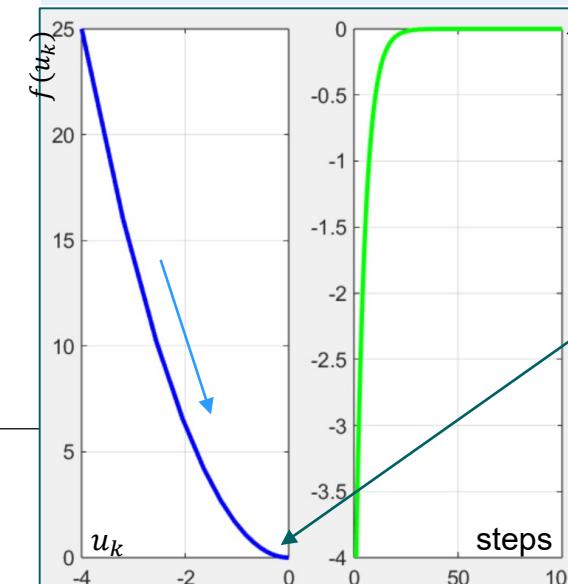
```

You are welcome to optimize and share the code in our lecture forum!

### Approach:

$$u_{k+1} = u_k - r \nabla f(u) \Big|_{u=u_k} = u_k - r \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial u} \Big|_{u=u_k}$$

- $r$  is a **hyperparameter** that reflects the learning rate
- The **fastest decay** of  $f(u)$  is the **opposite direction** of the **gradient**  $\nabla f(u)$  of  $f(u)$
- Hence,  $-r \nabla f(u)$  steers the series until the convergence  $u_{k+1} \rightarrow u^*$

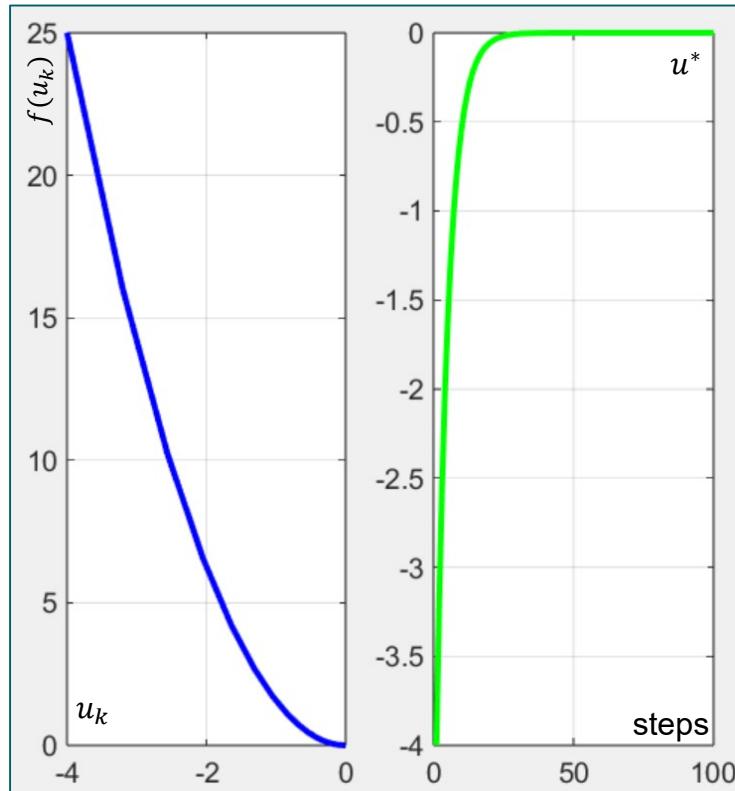


### Observations:

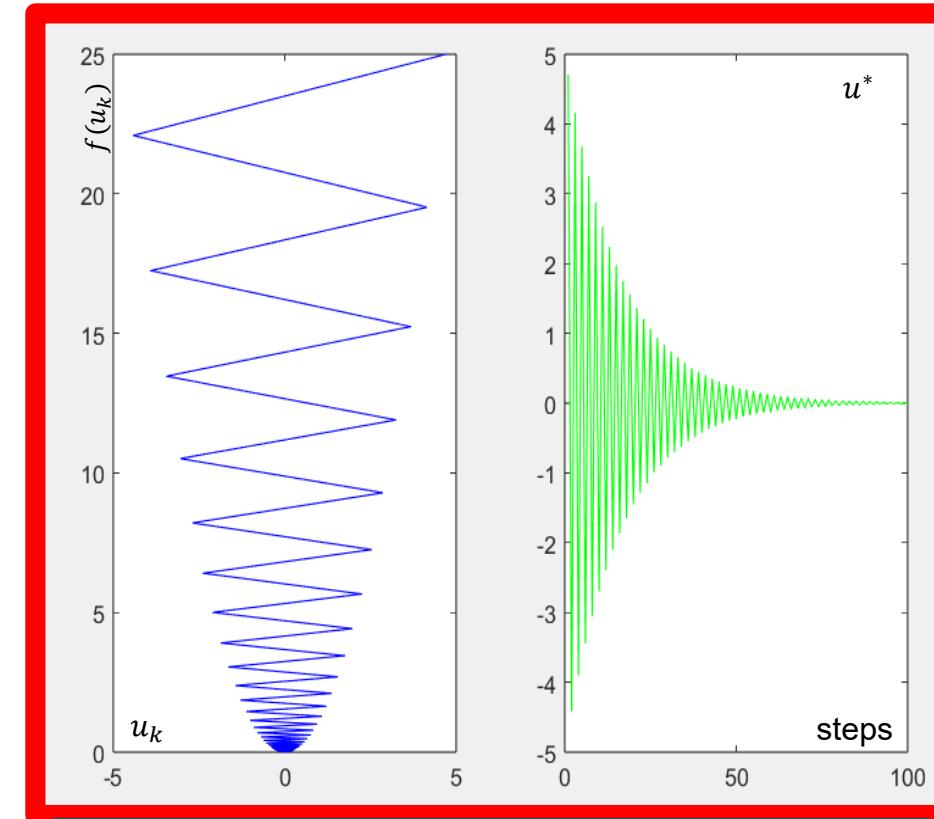
- Goal-oriented decay toward minimum value
- Minimum position  $u^*$  is attained
- However ...

We are aware of the gradient usefulness. The path toward usefulness can be **struggling!** Why?

- Minimizing  $x = f(u) = u^2$  to find minimum  $u = u^*$



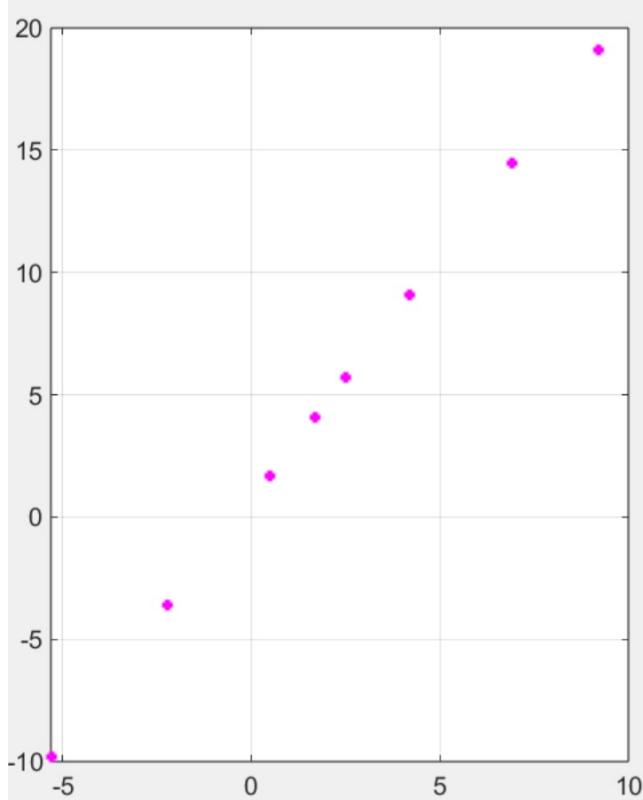
Learning rate  $r = 0.1$ . Optimization remains smooth and fast.



Learning rate  $r = 0.97$ . Optimization takes longer to converge while oscillating!

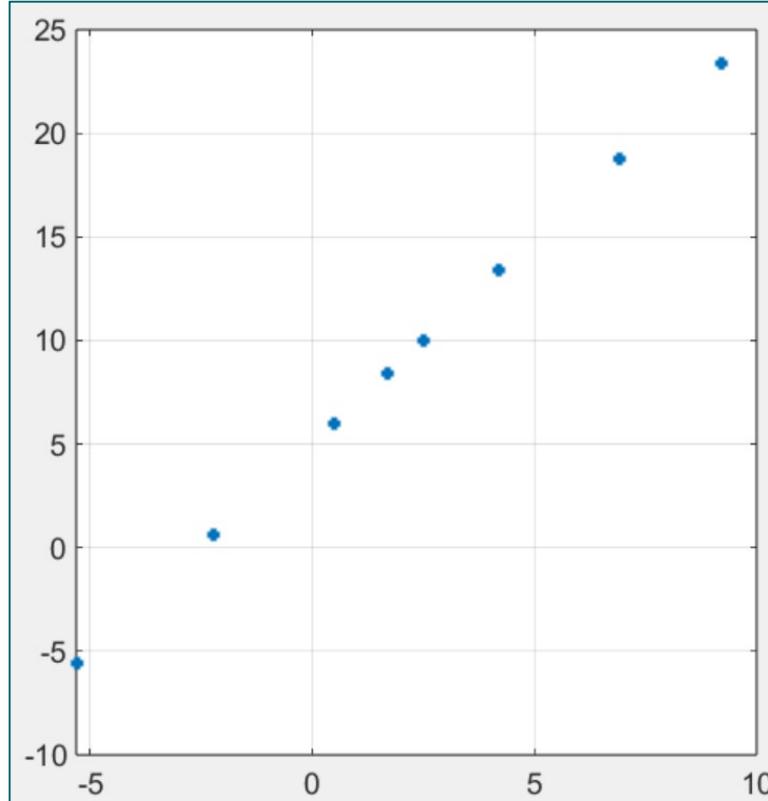
# Linear regression

## Objective of regression – Find a function that captures the set of points



- Input:  $u = [-5.3 \ -2.2 \ 0.5 \ 1.7 \ 2.5 \ 4.2 \ 6.9 \ 9.2]^T$ ;
  - Output:  $x = [-9.8 \ -3.6 \ 1.70 \ 4.1 \ 5.7 \ 9.1 \ 14.5 \ 19.1 ]^T$ ;
- 
- Points A ( $u, x$ ) potentially line up with a line L
  - If so, then approxim. of L should read:  $\hat{x} = wu + b$
  - $w$  (a scalar) is the slope, given by the **gradient**
  - $b$  (also a scalar) is the „bias“

## Objective of regression – Find a function that captures the set of points



- $u = [-5.3 \ -2.2 \ 0.5 \ 1.7 \ 2.5 \ 4.2 \ 6.9 \ 9.2]^T;$

- $x = [-5.6 \ 0.6 \ 6.0 \ 8.4 \ 10.0 \ 13.4 \ 18.8 \ 23.4]^T;$

$\frac{\partial f}{\partial u_1}$  is growth rate of  $f([u_1 \dots u_n])$  in the  $u_1$  direction

- Line  $\hat{x} = wu + b$

- Loss  $L(w, b) = \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{x}_i - x_i)^2$

Hint:

$$x = f(u_1, \dots, u_n) \rightarrow \nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_n} \end{bmatrix} \text{ is a vector of } \mathbb{R}^n!$$

Goal: learning  $w$  and  $b$  that min.  $L(w, b)$

$\nabla f$  is the direction of the steepest ascent (hence,  $-\nabla f$  is the direction of steepest descent) at  $u$ .

- Gradient  $\nabla L(w, b) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial L(w, b)}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial L(w, b)}{\partial b} \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^n \begin{bmatrix} 2u(\hat{x}_i - x_i) \\ 2(\hat{x}_i - x_i) \end{bmatrix}$

- $u_{k+1} = u_k - r \nabla L(u)_{u_k}, u_k = [w_k \ b_k]^T$

Hint:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L}{\partial w} &= \frac{\partial L}{\partial \hat{x}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial b} &= \frac{\partial L}{\partial \hat{x}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}}{\partial b} \end{aligned}$$

## Optimization pitfall



## When to update the parameters?



- Line  $\hat{x} = wu + b$
- Loss  $L(w, b) = \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{x}_i - x_i)^2$
- Gradient  $\nabla L(w, b) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial L(w, b)}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial L(w, b)}{\partial b} \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^n [2u(\hat{x}_i - x_i) \quad 2(\hat{x}_i - x_i)]$
- $u_{k+1} = u_k - r \nabla L(u)$ ,  $u_k = [w_k \ b_k]^T$

Hint:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \hat{x}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}}{\partial w}$$
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial b} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \hat{x}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}}{\partial b}$$

Gradient descent:

Update after a loss evaluation related to **all training data samples** (after each epoch)

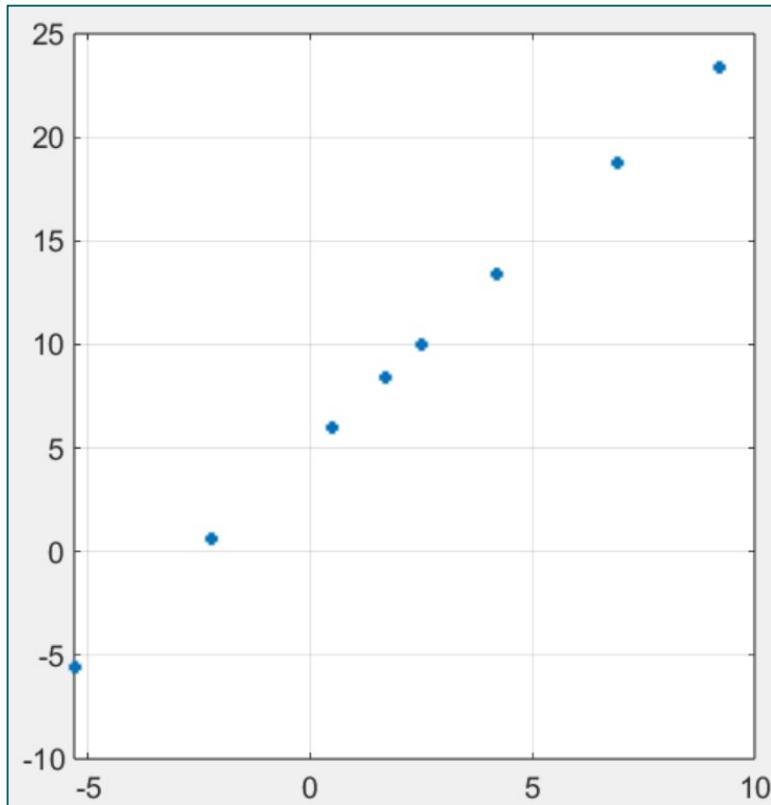
Stochastic gradient descent:

Update after the loss related to a **training data sample** has been computed

Mini-batch stochastic gradient descent:

Update after the loss related to a **number of training data samples** has been computed

## Application #9: Write and execute a Matlab code that learns w and b!



- $u = [-5.3 \ -2.2 \ 0.5 \ 1.7 \ 2.5 \ 4.2 \ 6.9 \ 9.2]^T;$

- $x = [-5.6 \ 0.6 \ 6.0 \ 8.4 \ 10.0 \ 13.4 \ 18.8 \ 23.4]^T;$

$\frac{\partial f}{\partial u_1}$  is growth rate of  $f([u_1 \dots u_n])$  in the  $u_1$  direction

- Line  $\hat{x} = wu + b$

- Loss  $L(w, b) = \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{x}_i - x_i)^2$

Hint:

$x = f(u_1, \dots, u_n) \rightarrow \nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_n} \end{bmatrix}$  is a vector of  $\mathbb{R}^n!$

Goal: learning  $w$  and  $b$  that min.  $L(w, b)$

$\nabla f$  is the direction of the steepest ascent (hence,  $-\nabla f$  is the direction of steepest descent) at  $u$ .

- Gradient  $\nabla L(w, b) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial L(w,b)}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial L(w,b)}{\partial b} \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^n \begin{bmatrix} 2u(\hat{x}_i - x_i) \\ 2(\hat{x}_i - x_i) \end{bmatrix}$

- $u_{k+1} = u_k - r \nabla L(u)_{u_k}, u_k = [w_k \ b_k]^T$

Hint:

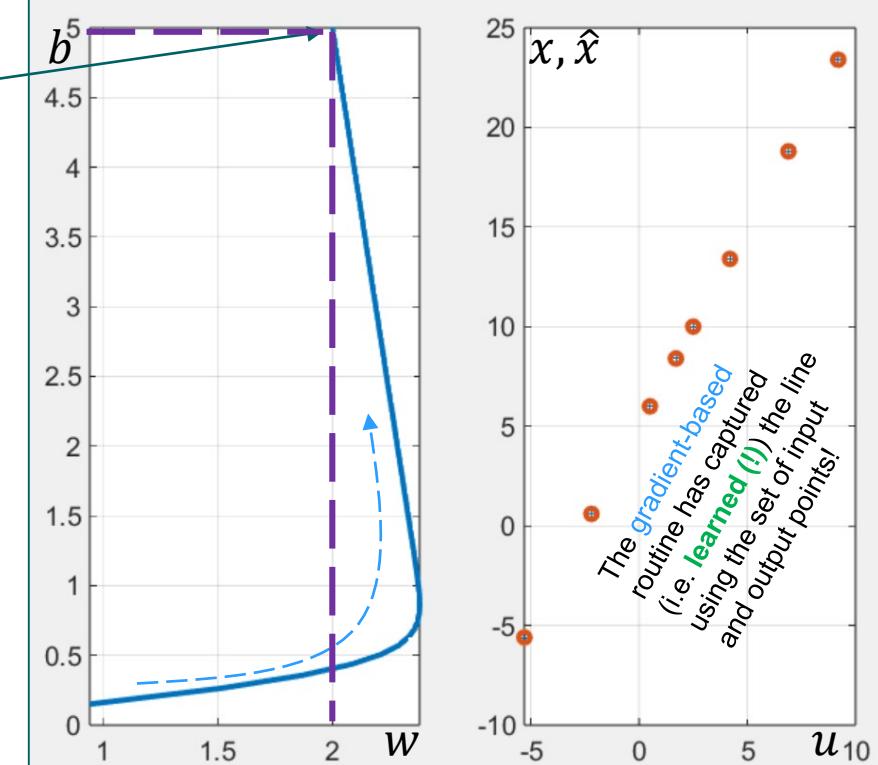
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L}{\partial w} &= \frac{\partial L}{\partial \hat{x}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial b} &= \frac{\partial L}{\partial \hat{x}} \frac{\partial \hat{x}}{\partial b} \end{aligned}$$

## Objective of regression – Find a function that captures the set of points

```
1 clear; clc;
2 input = [-5.3 -2.2 0.5 1.7 2.5 4.2 6.9 9.2];
3 output=[-5.6 0.6 6.0 8.4 10.0 13.4 18.8 23.4];
4 uk=[0;0];
5 r = 0.001; U = []; w = 0; b = 0;
6 for i = 1:10000
7 uk = uk -r*gradientloss(uk,input,output);
8 U = [U uk]; w = uk(1); b = uk(2);
9 end
10
11 subplot(1,2,1); plot(U(1,:),U(2,:));
12 subplot(1,2,2); plot(input,output,'+') ; hold on; plot(input,w*input+b, 'o');
13
14 function [r] =gradientloss (uk, in, out)
15 r1 = sum(2*(uk(1)*in+uk(2)-out).*in);
16 r2 = sum(2*(uk(1)*in+uk(2)-out) );
17 r=[r1;r2];
18 end
```

% $ou = 2*in + 5$

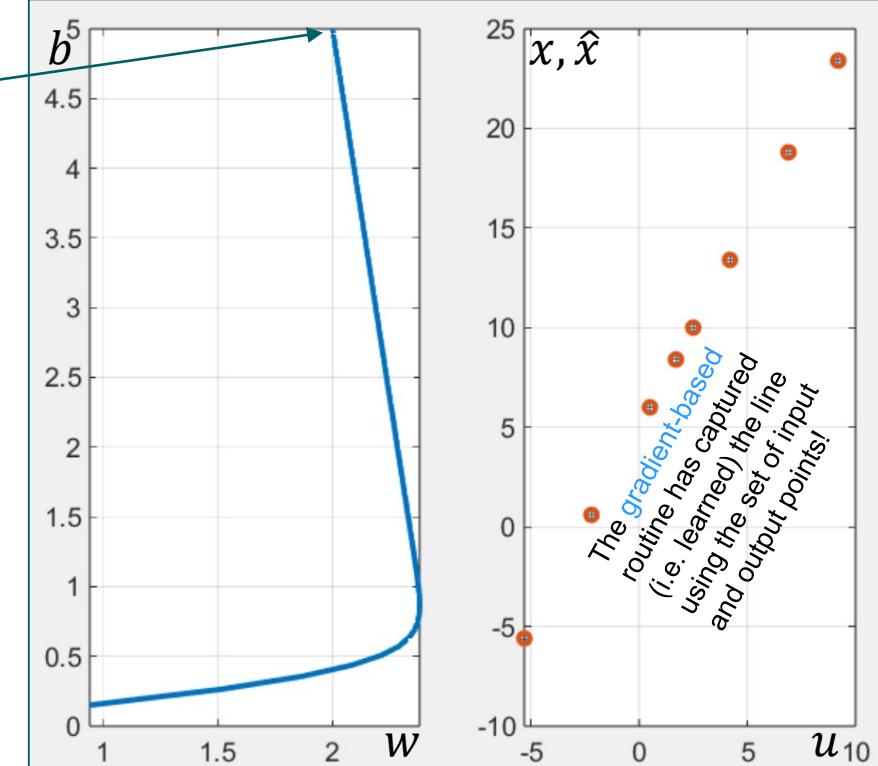
Ground truth



Once we have the weights  $w$  and  $b$ , we have **captured** the mapping between input and output data!

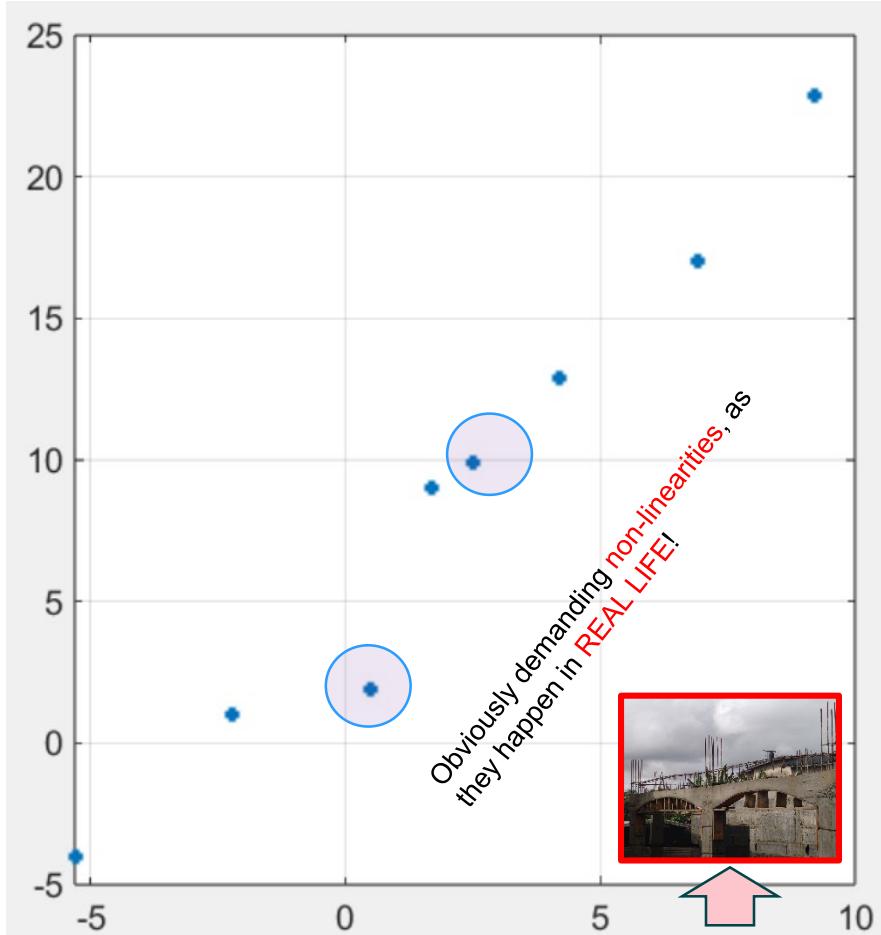
## Objective of regression – Find a function that captures the set of points

```
1 clear; clc;
2 input = [-5.3 -2.2 0.5 1.7 2.5 4.2 6.9 9.2];
3 output=[-5.6 0.6 6.0 8.4 10.0 13.4 18.8 23.4];
4 uk=[0;0];
5 r = 0.001; U = []; w = 0; b = 0;
6 for i = 1:10000
7 uk = uk -r*gradientloss(uk,input,output);
8 U = [U uk]; w = uk(1); b = uk(2);
9 end
10
11 subplot(1,2,1); plot(U(1,:),U(2,:));
12 subplot(1,2,2); plot(input,output,'+') ; hold on; plot(input,w*input+b, 'o');
13
14 function [r] =gradientloss (uk, in, out)
15 r1 = sum(2*(uk(1)*in+uk(2)-out).*in);
16 r2 = sum(2*(uk(1)*in+uk(2)-out) );
17 r=[r1;r2];
18 end
```



**Observation #2: Gradient helps LEARN the mapping (Here:  $\hat{x} = \textcolor{blue}{w}u + \textcolor{blue}{b}$ ) using input & output data! However...**

## Objective – Find a function that captures the set of points



Recall: the real world (and thus application data...) is (mostly) non-linear.

- $u = [-5.3 \ -2.2 \ 0.5 \ 1.7 \ 2.5 \ 4.2 \ 6.9 \ 9.2];$
- $x = [-4.0 \ 1.0 \ 1.9 \ 9.0 \ 9.90 \ 12.9 \ 17.0 \ 22.9];$

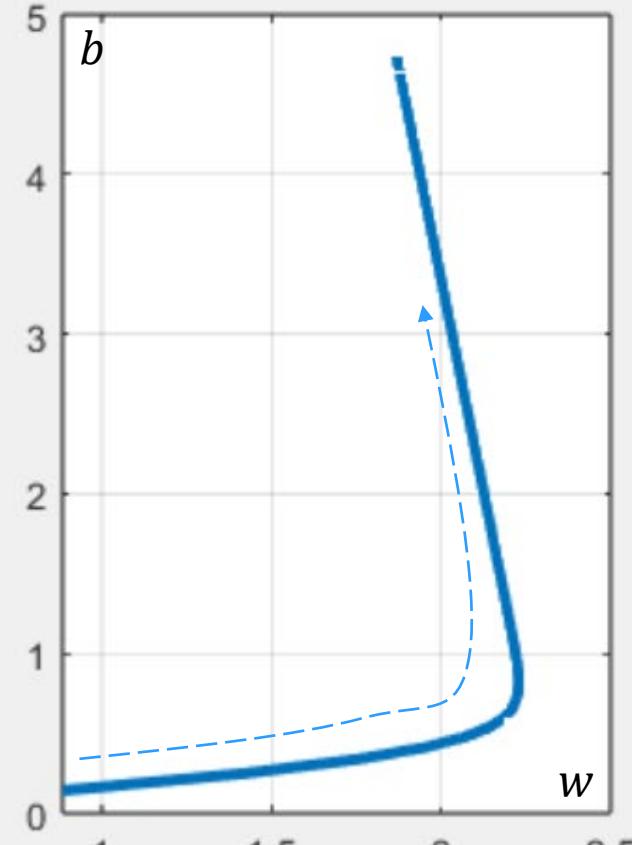
Hint:

$$x = f(u_1, \dots, u_n) \rightarrow \nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

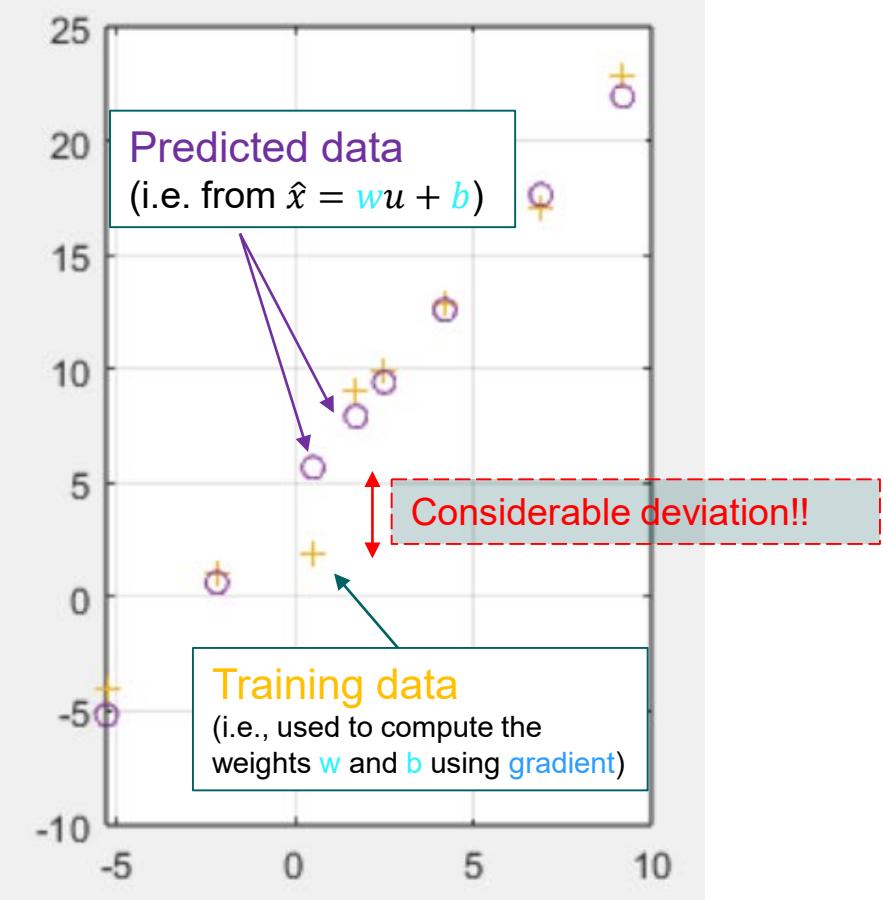
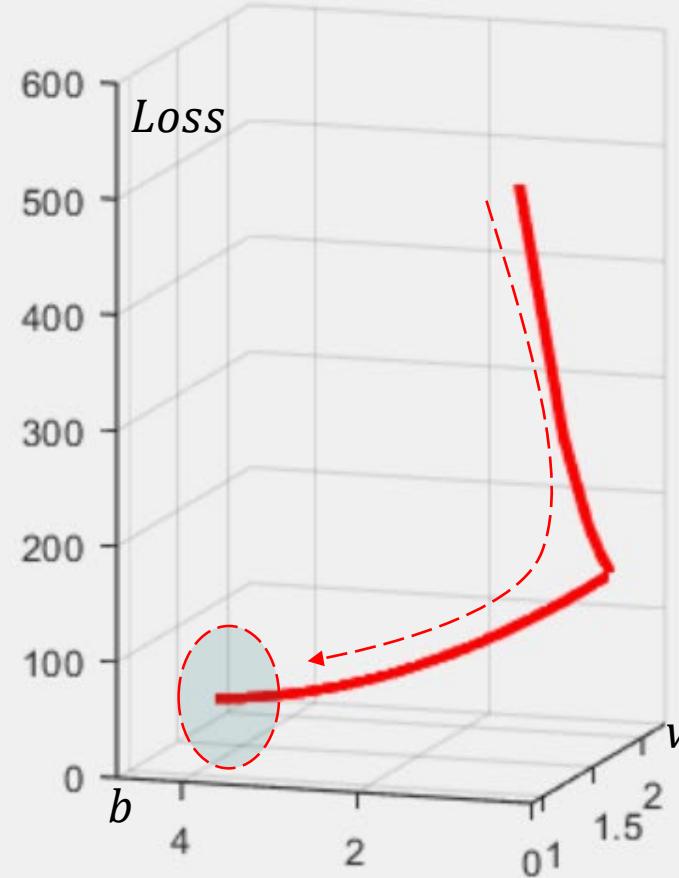
- Still a line  $\hat{x} = wu + b$  ?!
- Loss  $L(w, b) = \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{x}_i - x_i)^2$
- Gradient  $\nabla L(w, b) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial L(w,b)}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial L(w,b)}{\partial b} \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^n \begin{bmatrix} 2u(\hat{x}_i - x_i) \\ 2(\hat{x}_i - x_i) \end{bmatrix}$
- $u_{k+1} = u_k - r \nabla L(u)_{u_k}, u_k = [w_k \ b_k]^T$

...how good does this approach with linearity assumption perform?!

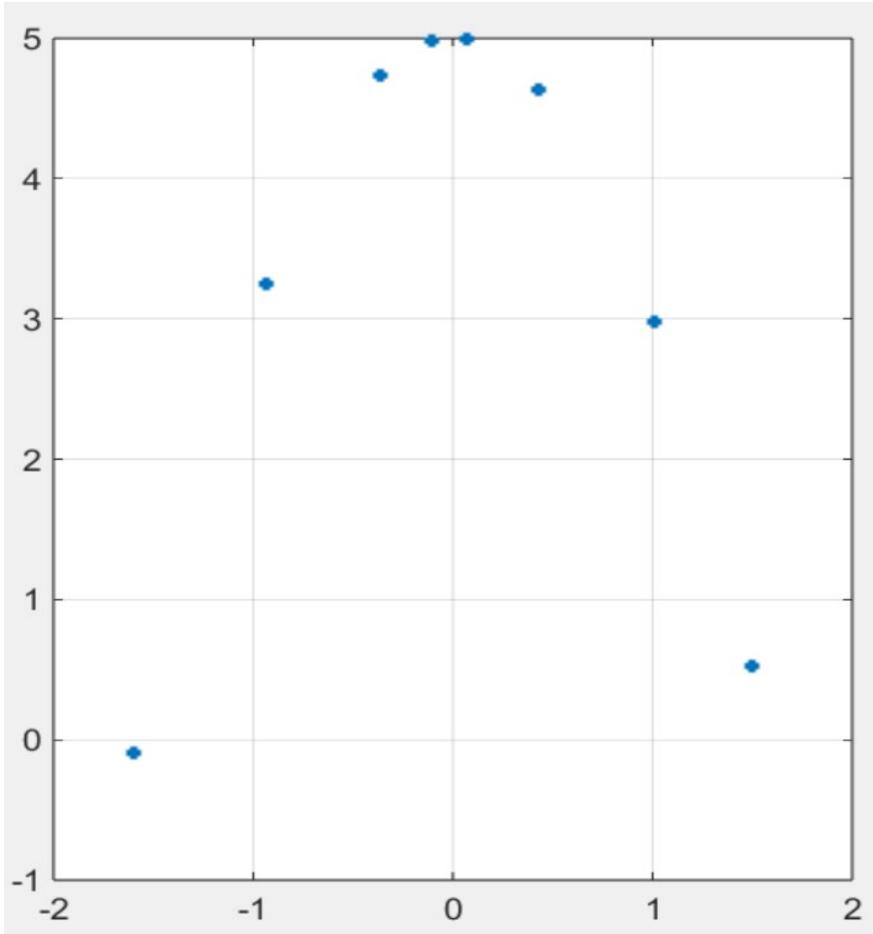
## Objective – Find a function that captures the set of points



Dynamics of optimization of weights



## Objective – Find a function that captures the set of points



- $u = [-1.5967 \quad -0.9356 \quad -0.3599 \quad -0.1040 \quad 0.0666 \quad 0.4292 \quad 1.0049 \quad 1.4954];$
- $x = [-0.0990 \quad 3.2492 \quad 4.7410 \quad 4.9784 \quad 4.9911 \quad 4.6316 \quad 2.9802 \quad 0.5275];$

- Obviously **not** a line  $\hat{x} = wu + b!$

- Loss  $L(w, b) = \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{x}_i - x_i)^2$

- Gradient  $\nabla L(w, b) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial L(w,b)}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial L(w,b)}{\partial b} \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^n \begin{bmatrix} 2u(\hat{x}_i - x_i) \\ 2(\hat{x}_i - x_i) \end{bmatrix}$

- $u_{k+1} = u_k - r \nabla L(u)_{u_k}, u_k = [w_k \ b_k]^T$

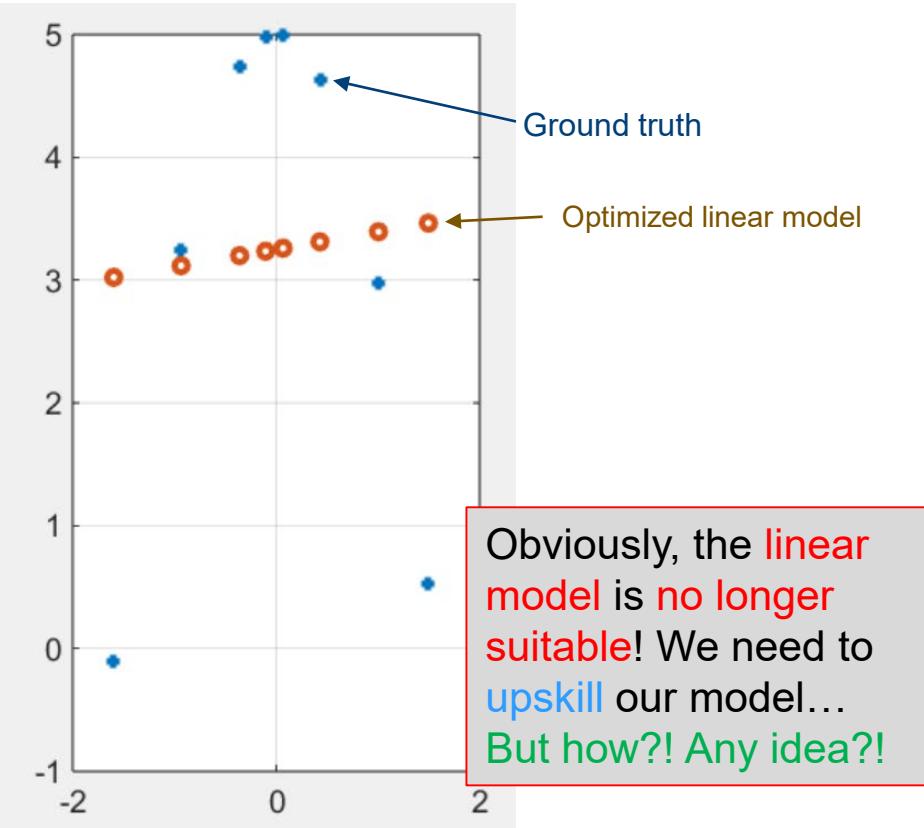
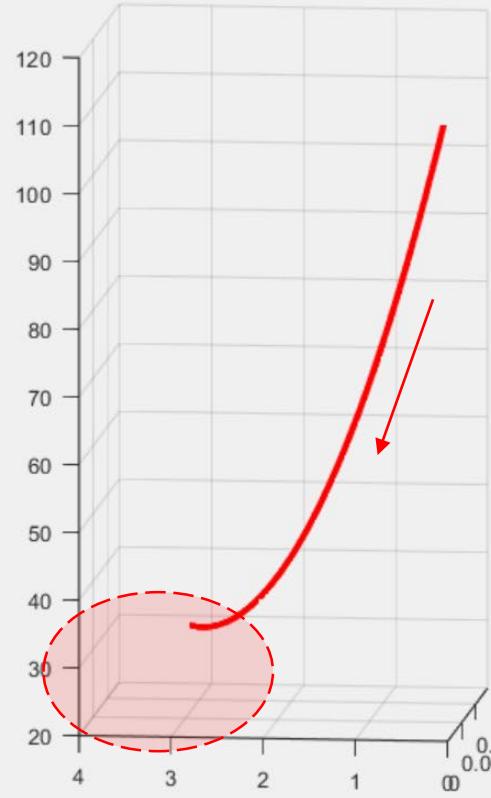
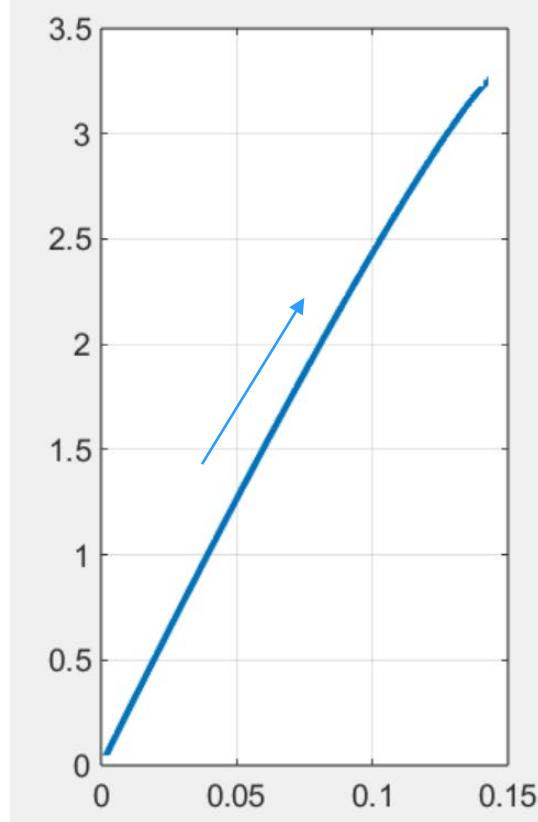
Hint:

$$x = f(u_1, \dots, u_n) \rightarrow \nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

...**how good** does this approach with **linearity assumption** perform?!

# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

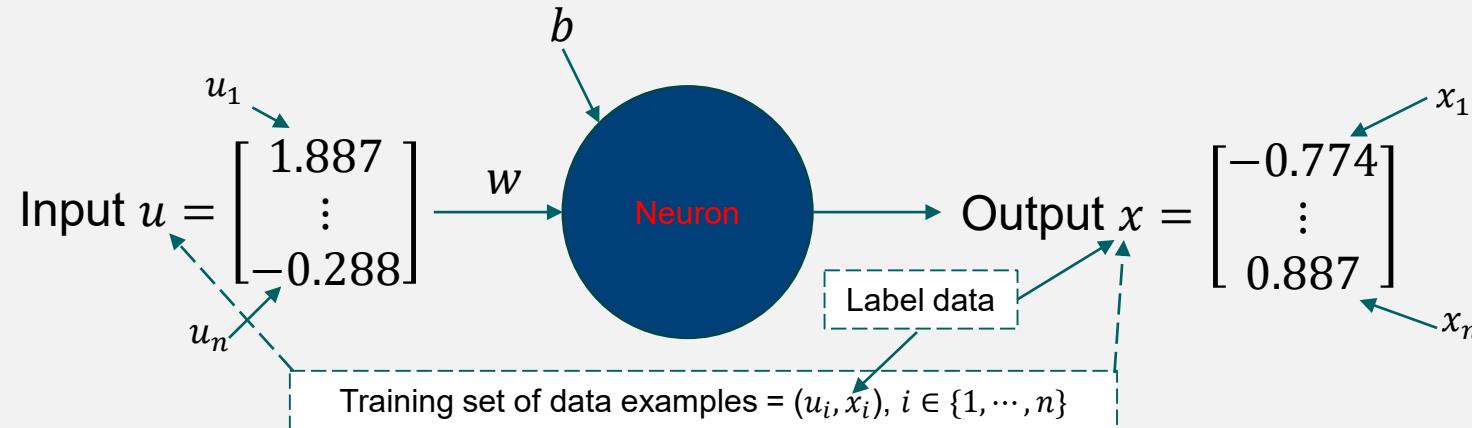
**Objective – Find a function that captures the set of points**



**Observation #3:** The performance of  $\hat{x} = \textcolor{green}{w}u + \textcolor{red}{b}$  drops as **non-linearities** and **outliers** are involved in training data!

# Learning using a neuron

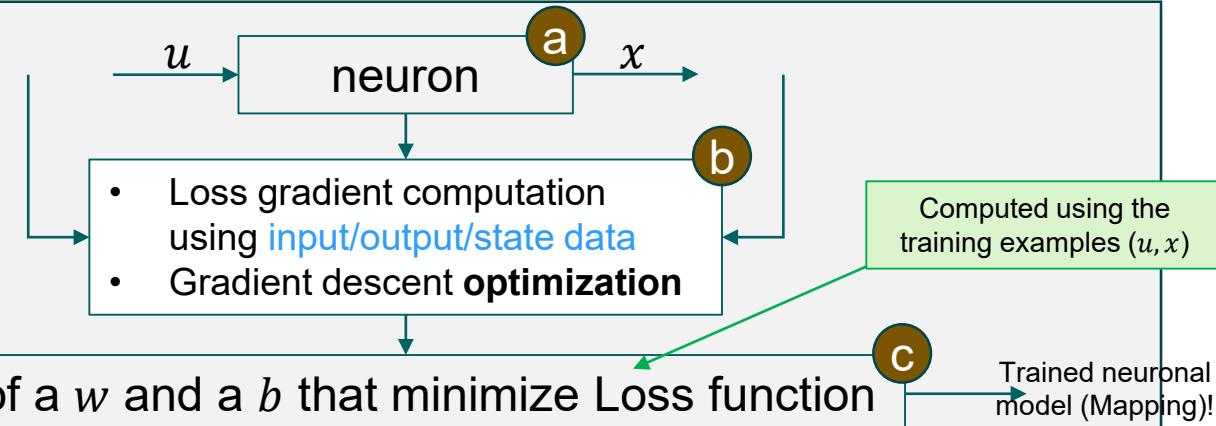
## 1 neuron case : Optimization of the weights using (Input data, Output data) and gradient



**Objectives:** How to find suitable  $w$  and  $b$ , two scalars, that ([learn to](#)) **associate (or map)** multiple input examples in  $u$  with corresponding output examples (i.e., labels) in  $x$  ?

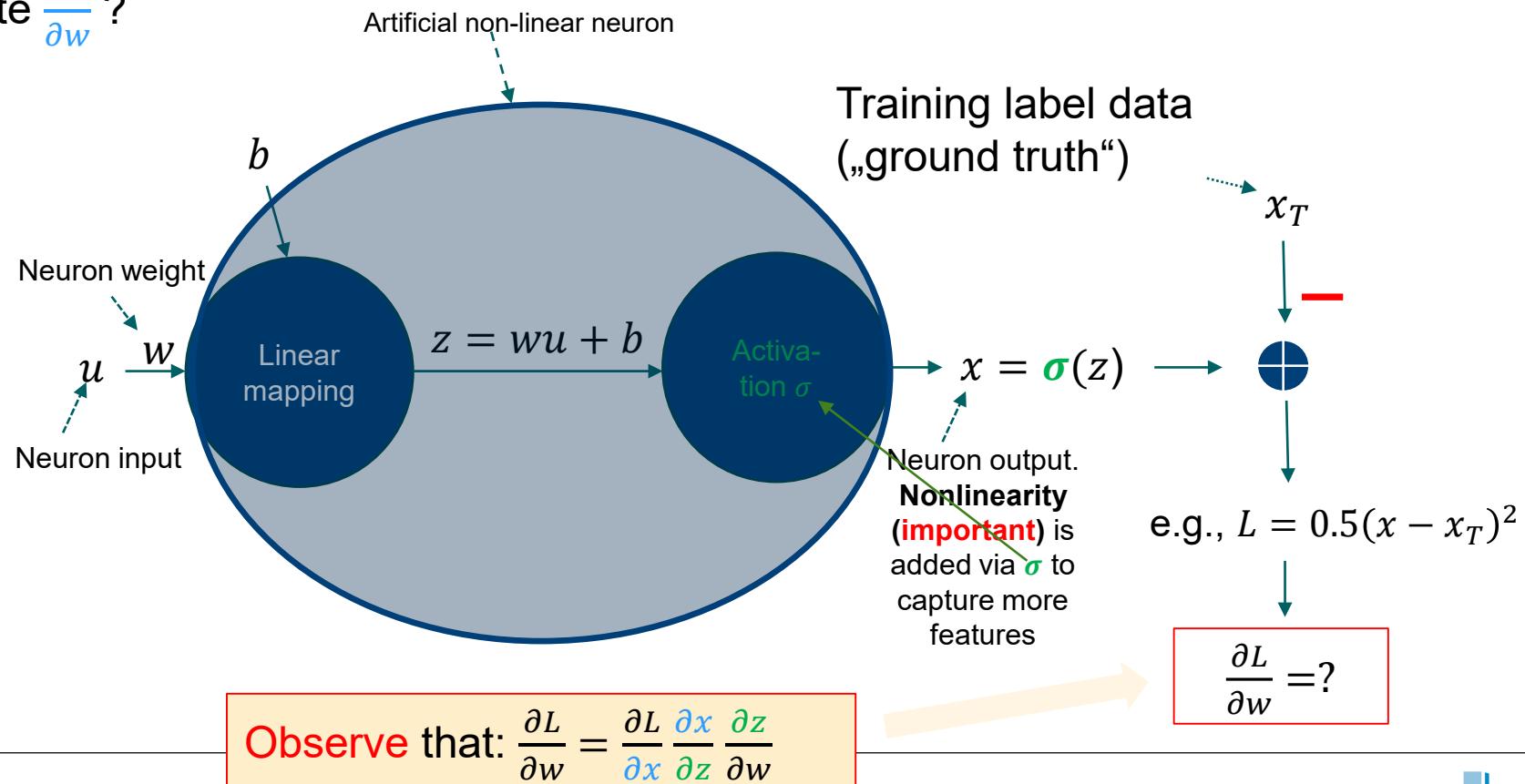
.. and with good [generalization!](#)

**Approach:**



## Neuron-related gradient computation

Objective: How to compute  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial w}$  ?



## Neuron-related gradient computation

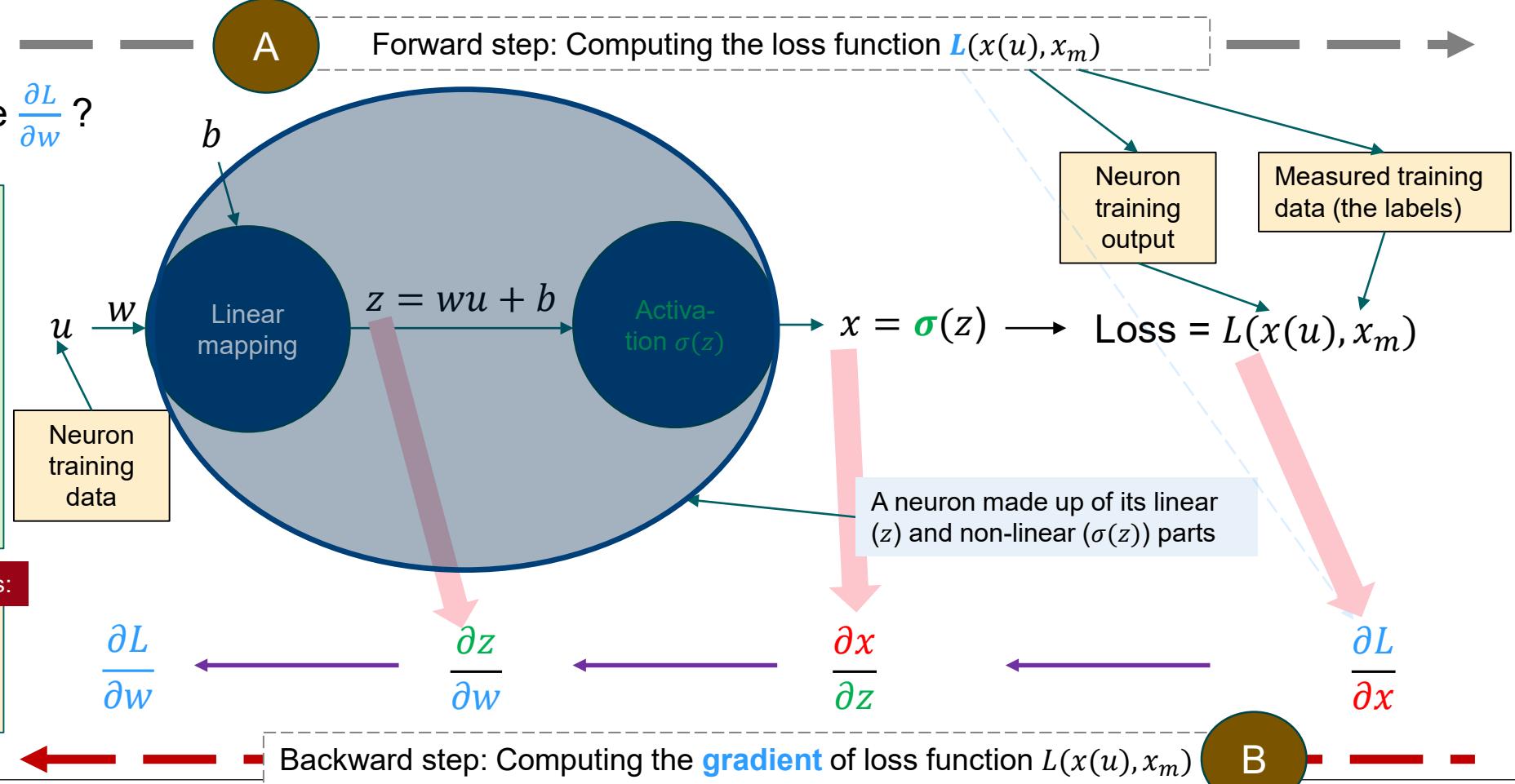
**Objective:** How to compute  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial w}$  ?

**Rationale:** We need the derivative (i.e.,  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial w}$ ) to be aware of the direction of fastest decrease (given by  $-\frac{\partial L}{\partial w}$ ) of  $L$  as a function of  $w$  to update  $w_{k+1}$ . Recall that we strive to find  $w_{k+1} = w_k - r \frac{\partial L}{\partial w} \rightarrow w^*$  that minimizes  $L$ !

This has implications:

**How? Observe that:**

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial w}$$



## Neuron-related gradient computation

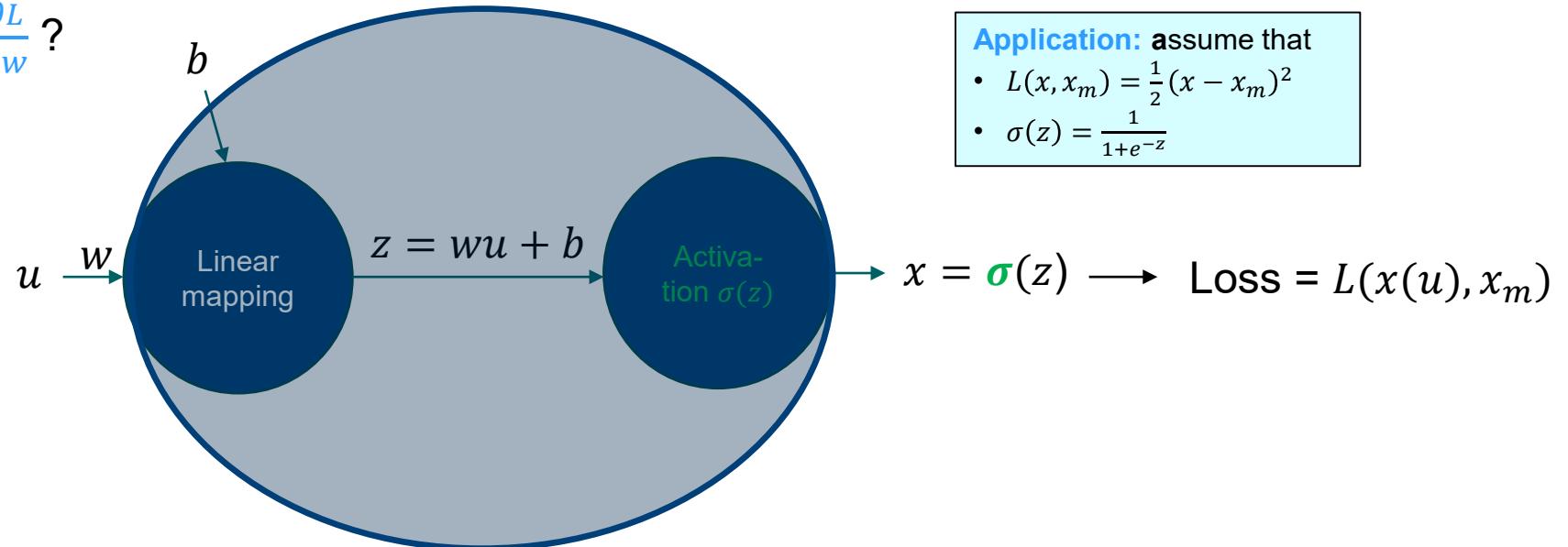
**Objective:** How to compute  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial w}$ ?

**Rationale:** We need the derivative (i.e.,  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial w}$ ) to be aware of the direction of fastest decrease (given by  $-\frac{\partial L}{\partial w}$ ) of  $L$  as a function of  $w$  to update  $w_{k+1}$ . Recall that we strive to find  $w_{k+1} = w_k - r \frac{\partial L}{\partial w} \rightarrow w^*$  that minimizes  $L$ !

**How? Observe that:**

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial w}$$

Forward step: Computing the loss function  $L(x(u), x_m)$



**Application:** assume that

- $L(x, x_m) = \frac{1}{2}(x - x_m)^2$
- $\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-z}}$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = (x - x_m)\sigma(z)(1 - \sigma(z))u$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial w} = u$$

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial z} = \sigma(z)(1 - \sigma(z))$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = (x - x_m)$$

Backward step: Computing the gradient of loss function  $L(x(u), x_m)$

## Neuron-related gradient computation

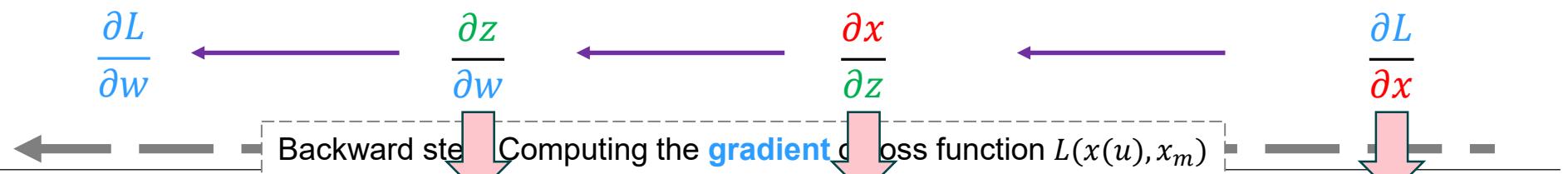
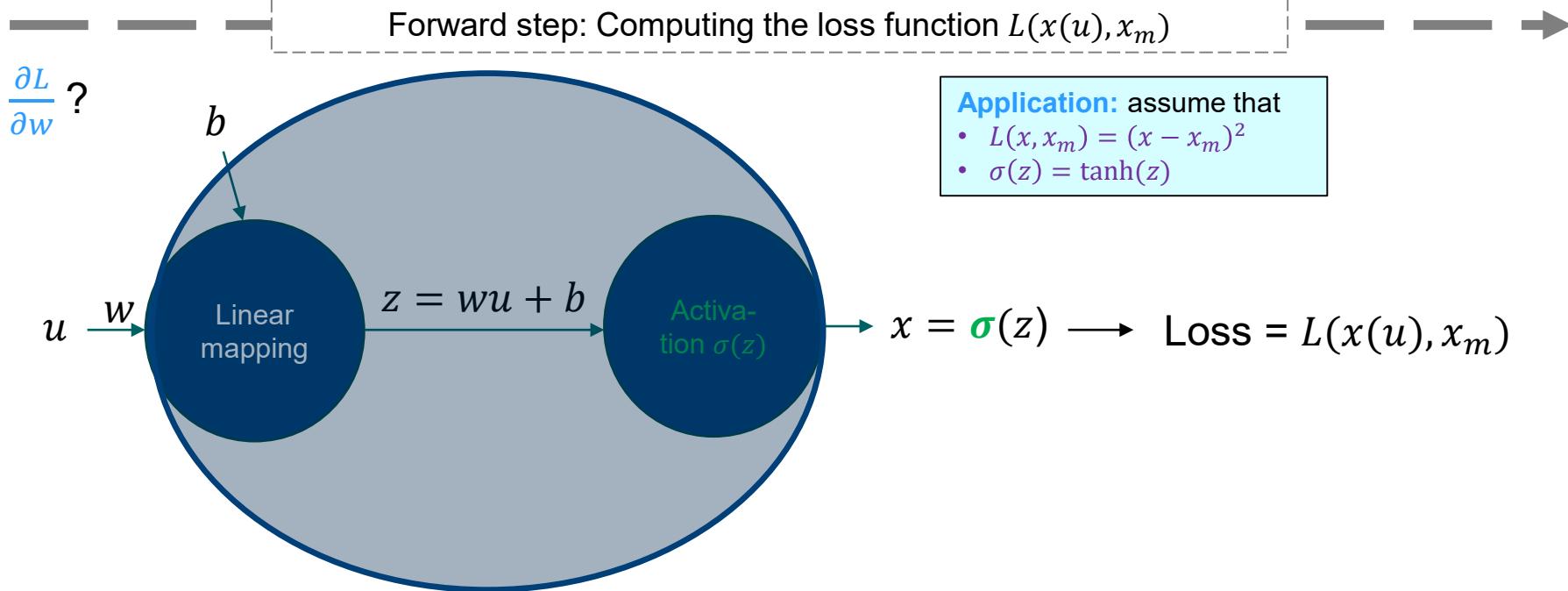
**Objective:** How to compute  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial w}$ ?

**Rationale:** We need the derivative (i.e.,  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial w}$ ) to be aware of the direction of fastest decrease (given by  $-\frac{\partial L}{\partial w}$ ) of  $L$  as a function of  $w$  to update  $w_{k+1}$ .

Recall that we strive to find  $w_{k+1} = w_k - r \frac{\partial L}{\partial w} \rightarrow w^*$  that minimizes the loss  $L$ !

**How? Observe that:**

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial w}$$



$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = 2(x - x_m)(1 - \sigma^2(z))u$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial w} = u$$

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial z} = 1 - \sigma^2(z)$$

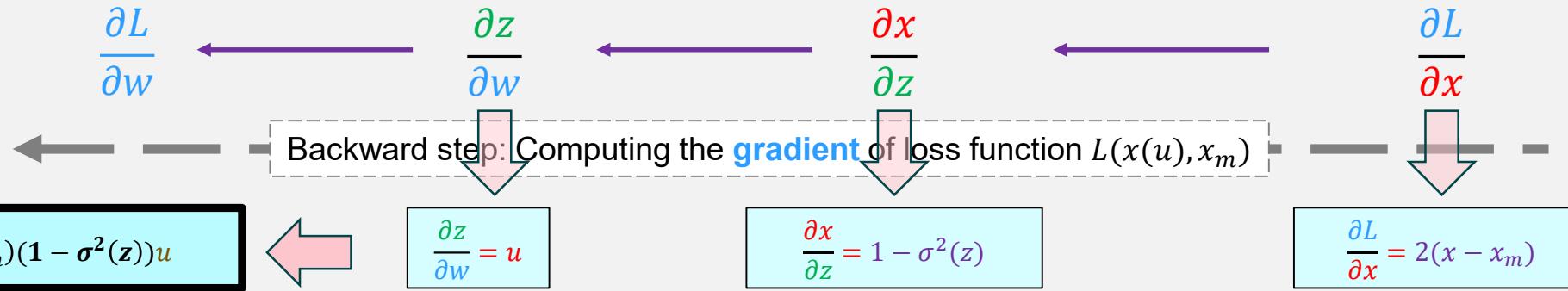
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = 2(x - x_m)$$

# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

## Neuron-related gradient computation

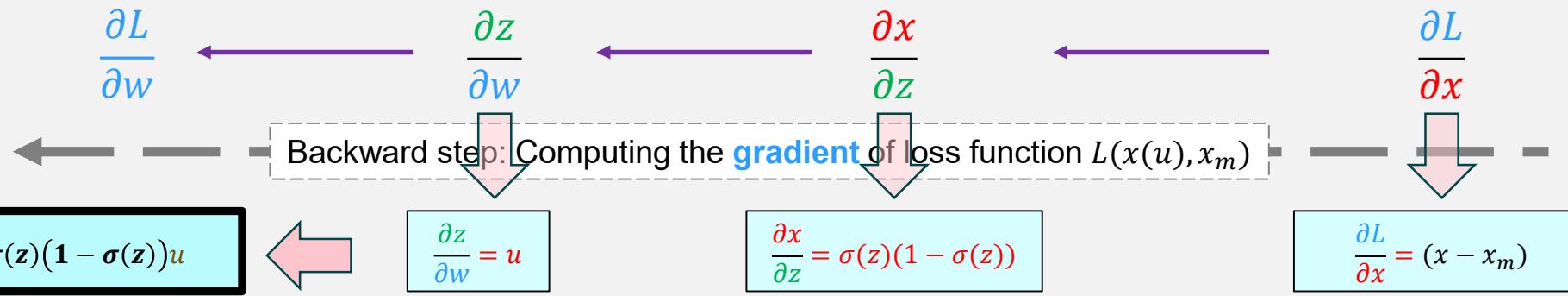
Assume that

- $L(x, x_m) = (x - x_m)^2$
- $\sigma(z) = \tanh(z)$



Assume that

- $L(x, x_m) = \frac{1}{2}(x - x_m)^2$
- $\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-z}}$



Observe that:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial w} = p \frac{\partial z}{\partial w}$$

$$\text{with } p = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial z}$$

Impact of the activation function on  $p$  is kept hidden!

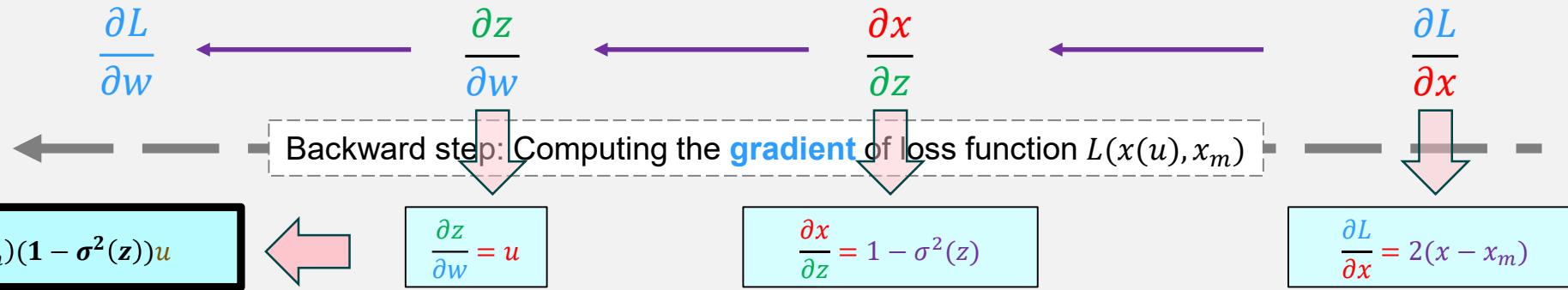
Unknown activation function  $\sigma(z)$

# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

## Neuron-related gradient computation

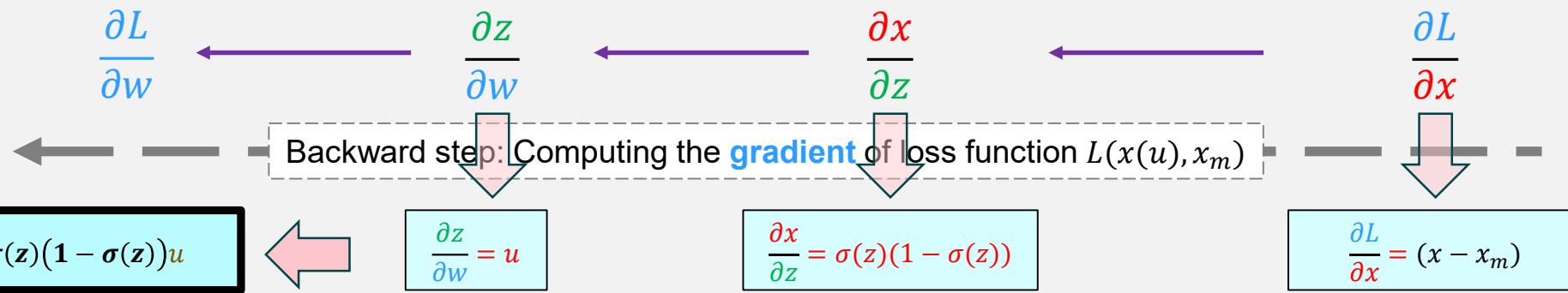
Assume that

- $L(x, x_m) = (x - x_m)^2$
- $\sigma(z) = \tanh(z)$



Assume that

- $L(x, x_m) = \frac{1}{2}(x - x_m)^2$
- $\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-z}}$



Observe that:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial w} = p u$$

$$\text{with } p = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial z}$$

$$\text{Weight update: } w_{k+1} = w_k - r \frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = w_{k+1} + w_k - rp u$$

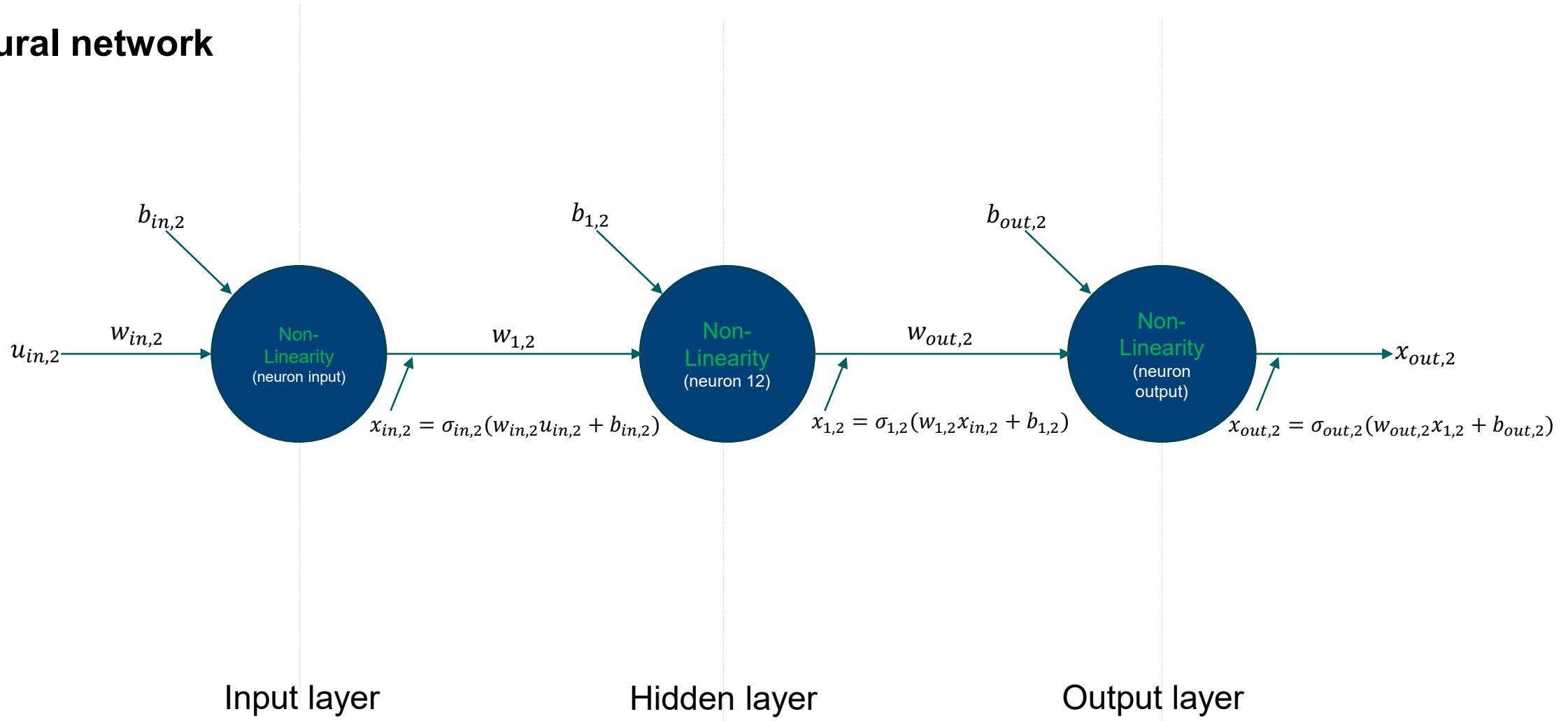
## Application

- 1) Generate the **set  $u$**  of **input training data** made up of **10000 random numbers** between -1 and 1
- 2) Generate the set  $y = x_m$  of label data with  $y = x_m = 243.5*u - 162$
- 3) Implement a neuron with **input  $u$ , weight  $w$ , bias  $b$ , state  $z$ , identity output  $x$**  as activation (i.e.,  $x(z) = \sigma(z) = z$ ) in Matlab. The neuron maps the input signal  $u$  to an ouput signal  $x$
- 4) Write a loop (the maximum number of iterations is  **$10^4$** ) that uses the neuron to run the
  - a) **Forward propagation** (from  $u$  to the current neural network output  $x$ )
  - b) **Compute the gradient of the loss function  $L$**  (what is a **useful one?**) by **using  $u$ ,  $x$ , and  $x_m$**
  - c) **Update the weights ( $w, b$ )** of the neuron
- 5) Did you retrieve  $(w = 243.5, b = 162)$ ? What do you observe while increasing/decrasing the learning rate  $r$ ?
- 6) Repeat from 2) with  $x_m = 2u^2+1$ . What did you observe?

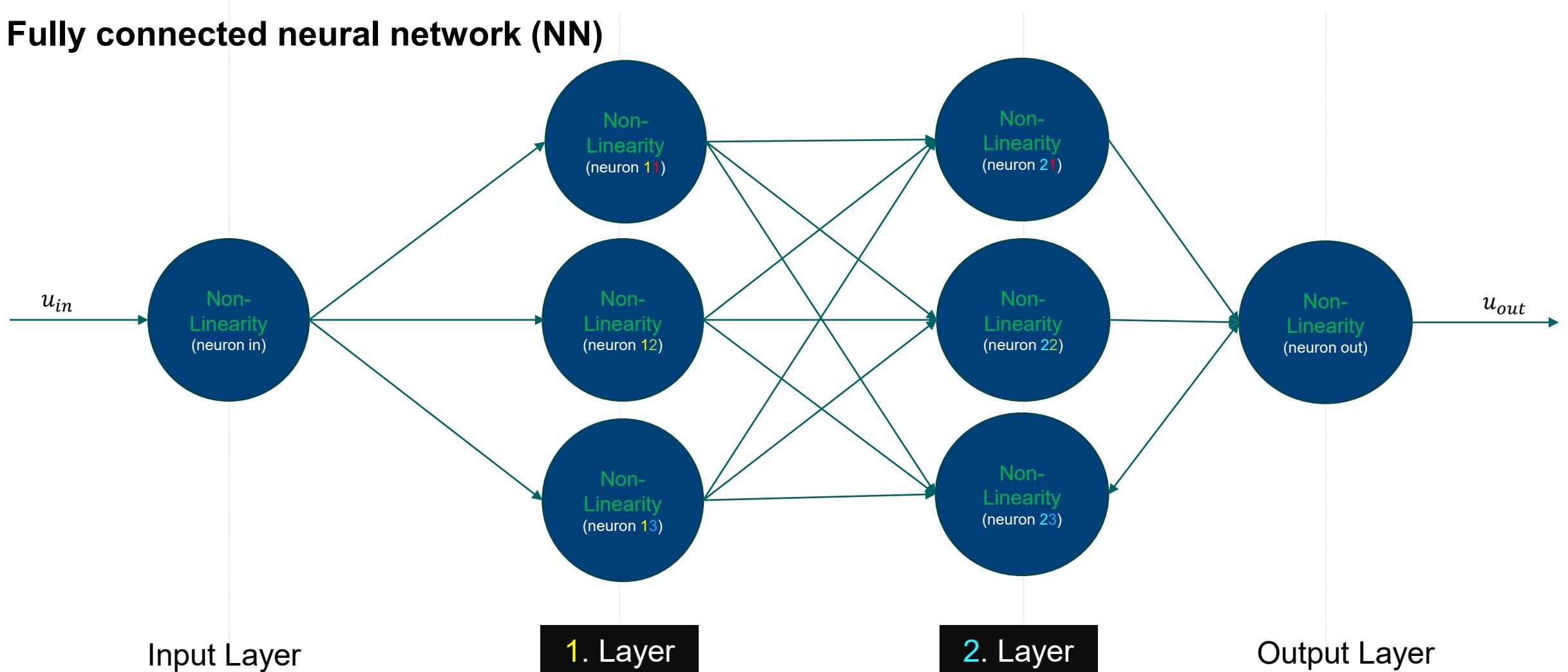
# **Learning with several fully connected neurons**

# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

## Neural network

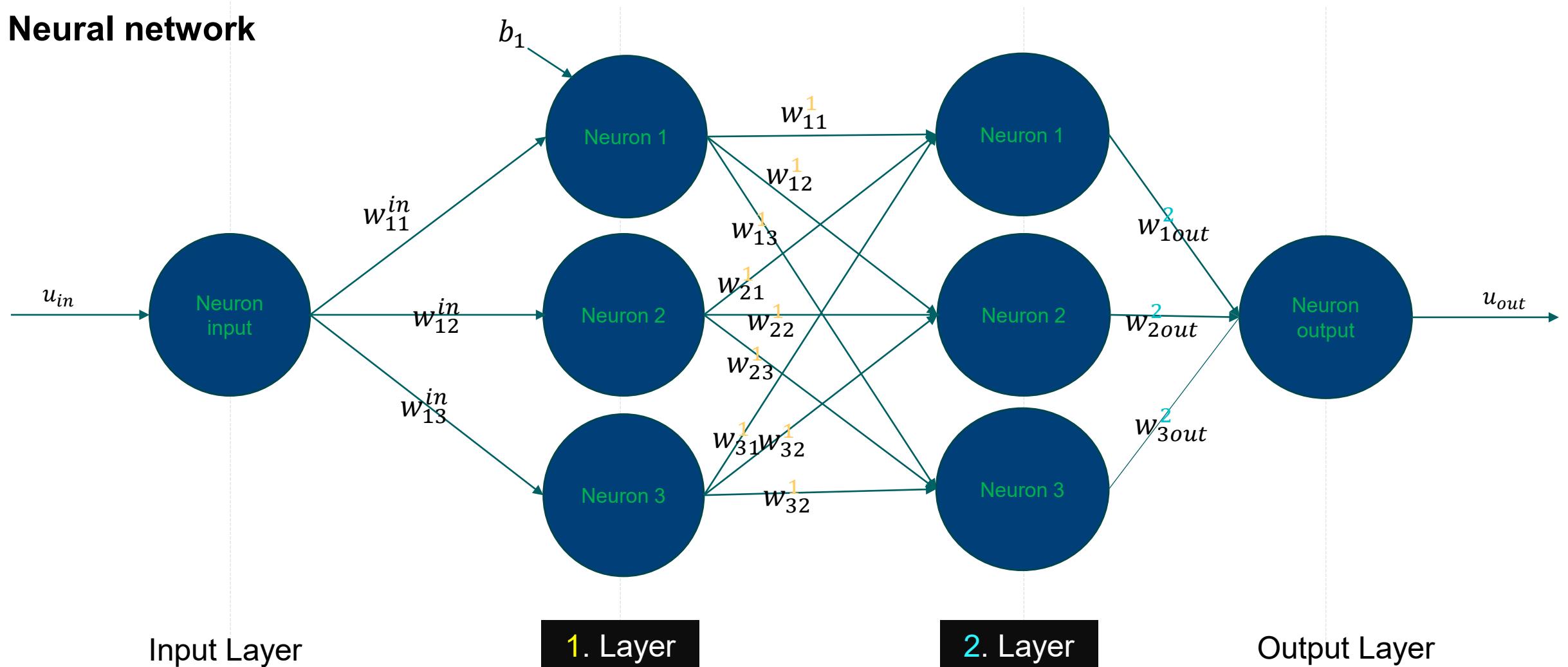


## Fully connected neural network (NN)



# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

## Neural network



## Gradient via backpropagation

Recall that:

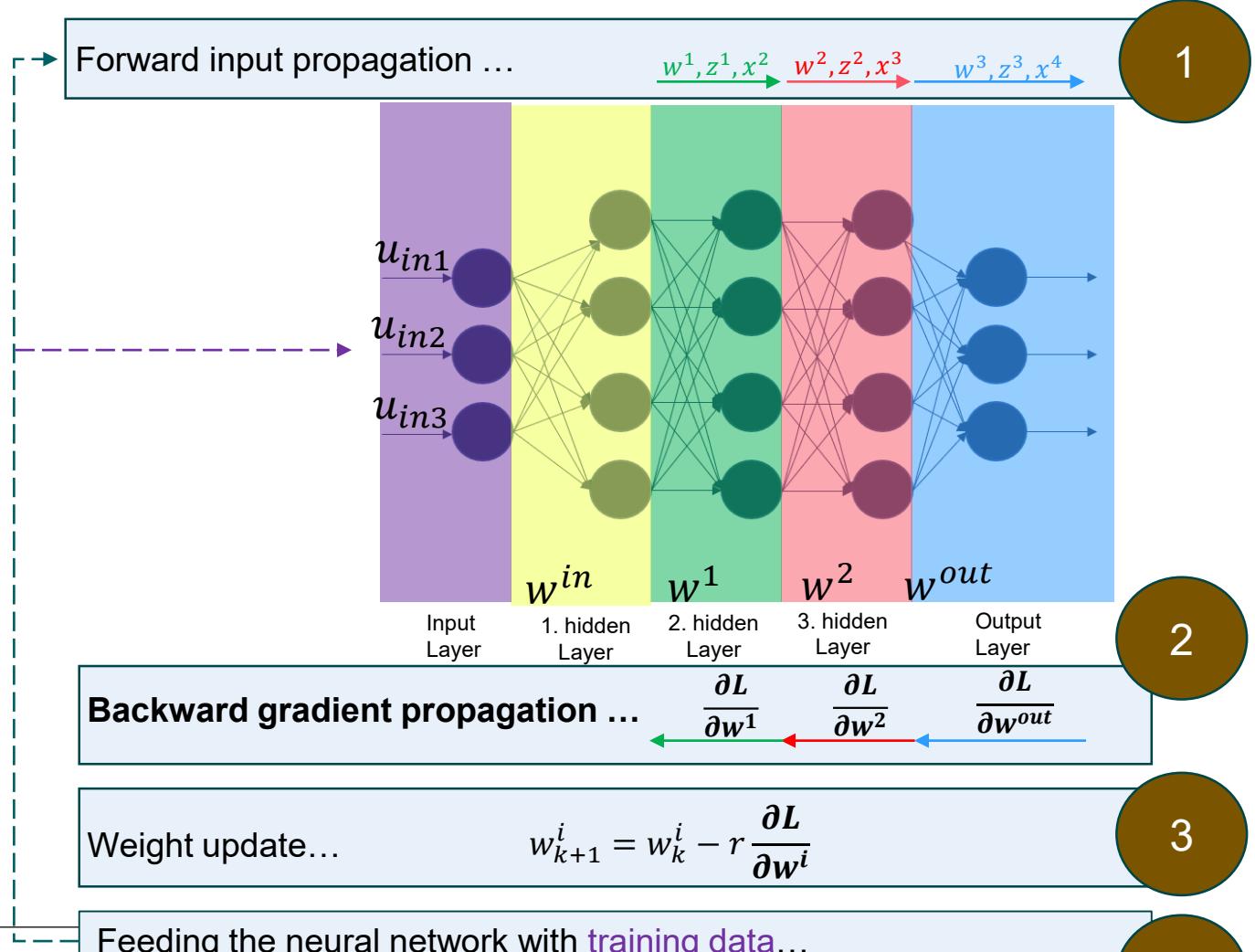
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial w}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w^4} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x^3} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial z^3} \frac{\partial z^3}{\partial w^4}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w^3} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x^3} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial z^3} \frac{\partial z^3}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial z^2} \frac{\partial z^2}{\partial w^3}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w^2} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x^3} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial z^3} \frac{\partial z^3}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial z^2} \frac{\partial z^2}{\partial x^1} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial z^1} \frac{\partial z^1}{\partial w^2}$$

$w^n$  means weights  $w$  w.r.t  $n$ -th layer



## Gradient via backpropagation

Recall that:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial w}$$

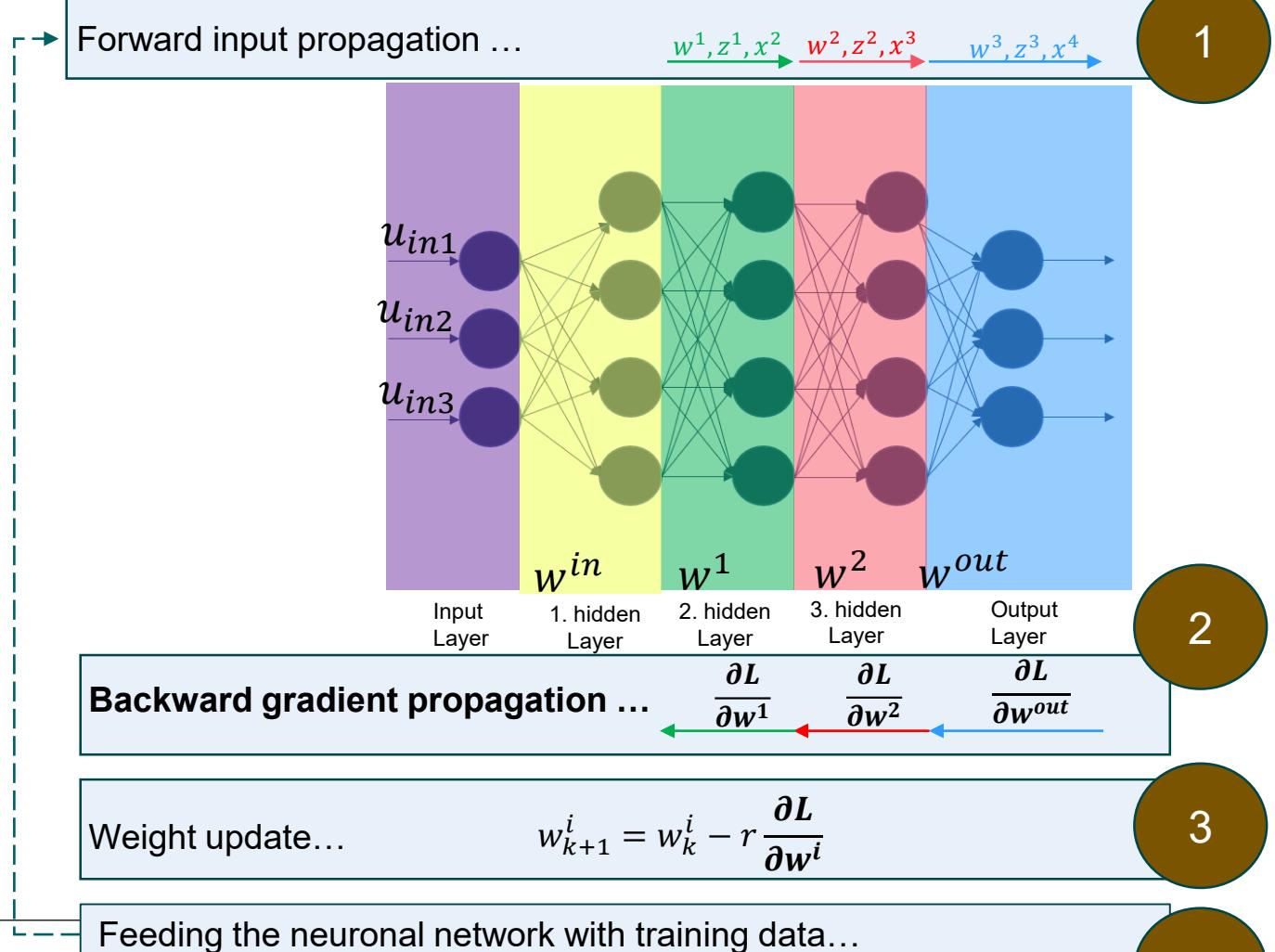
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w^4} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x^3} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial z^3} \frac{\partial z^3}{\partial w^4}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w^3} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x^3} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial z^3} \frac{\partial z^3}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial z^2} \frac{\partial z^2}{\partial w^3}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w^2} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x^3} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial z^3} \frac{\partial z^3}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial z^2} \frac{\partial z^2}{\partial x^1} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial z^1} \frac{\partial z^1}{\partial w^2}$$

Observations:

Some **terms** appear **many times** in the gradient-related chain!



## Gradient via backpropagation

Recall that:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial w}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w^4} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x^3} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial z^3} \frac{\partial z^3}{\partial w^4}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w^3} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x^3} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial z^3} \frac{\partial z^3}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial z^2} \frac{\partial z^2}{\partial w^3}$$

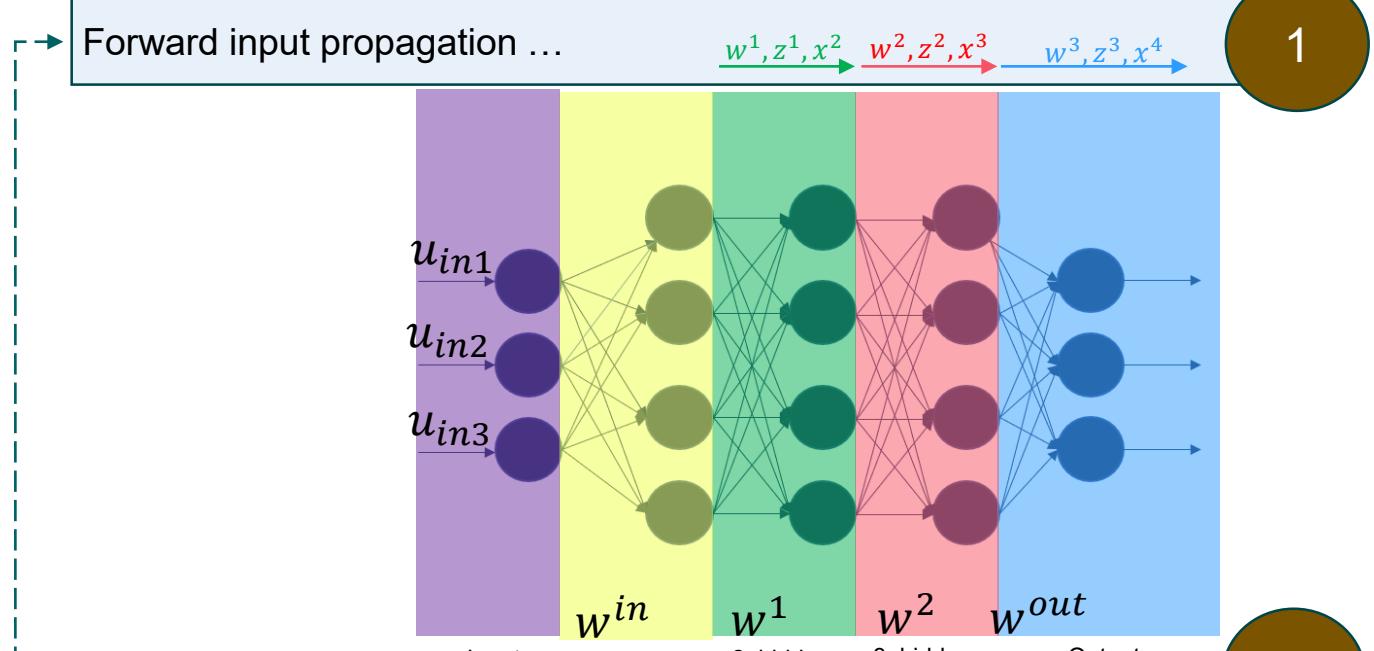
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w^2} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x^3} \frac{\partial x^3}{\partial z^3} \frac{\partial z^3}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial x^2}{\partial z^2} \frac{\partial z^2}{\partial x^1} \frac{\partial x^1}{\partial z^1} \frac{\partial z^1}{\partial w^2}$$

**Observation:**

If some of the  $\frac{\partial O}{\partial O}$  (e.g.,  $\frac{\partial x^2}{\partial z^2}$ ) in the chain are too small or simply vanish, the **gradient** is likely to **disappear**!

What does it **implicate**?

Big challenge faced by **deep neural networks**!



Backward gradient propagation ...

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w^1} \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial w^2} \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial w^{out}}$$

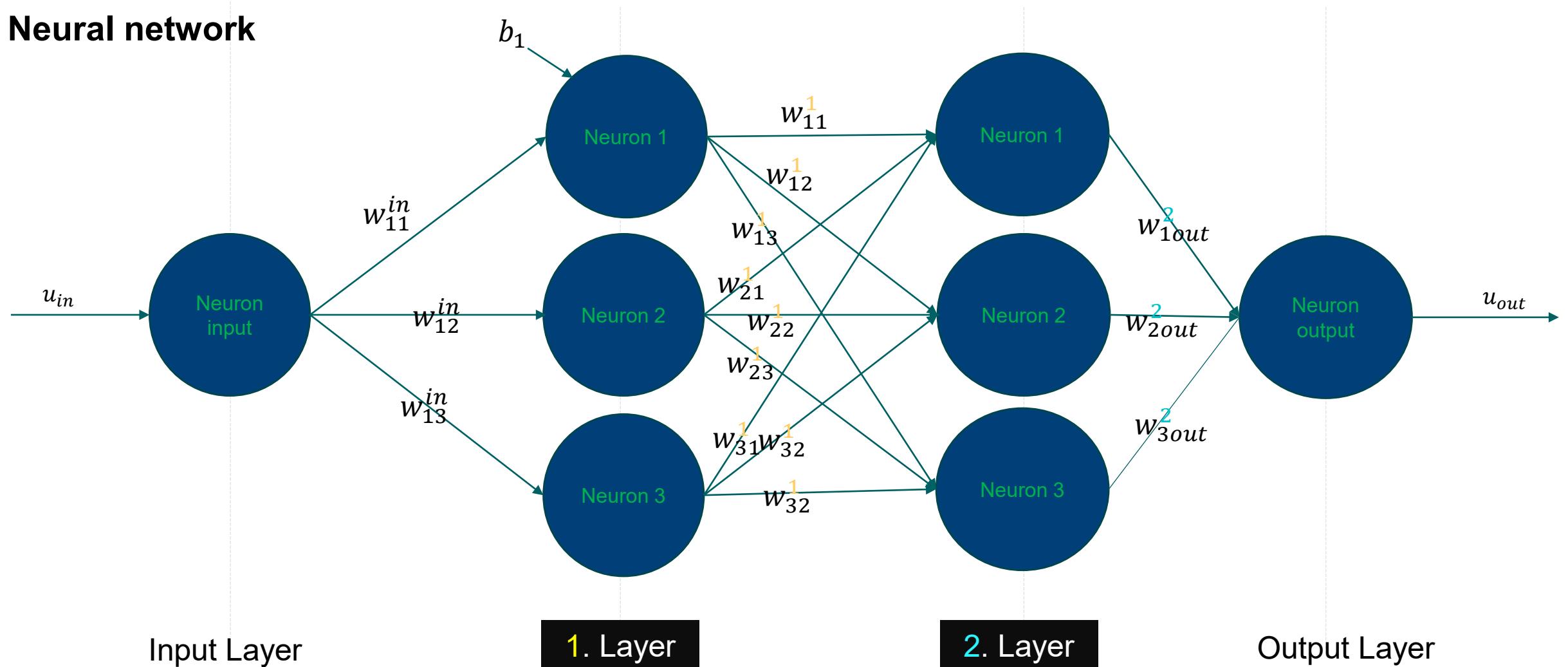
Weight update...

$$w_{k+1}^i = w_k^i - r \frac{\partial L}{\partial w^i}$$

Feeding the neuronal network with training data...

# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

## Neural network



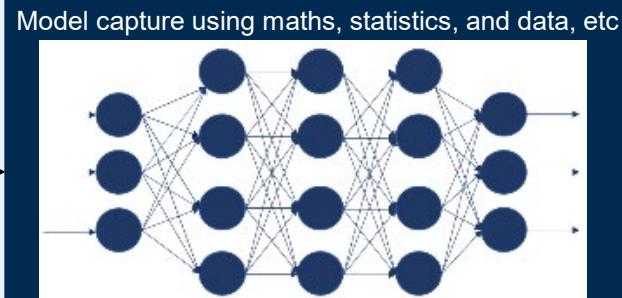
## Application

- 1) Implement a matlab function  $[x_1, x_2] = \text{forward}(q_1, q_2, w)$  that reflects a fully connected neural network made up of **two hidden layers** with **two neurons** for each of them. The function receives the following parameters
  - a) Two real inputs **q1** and **q2**
  - b) A vector **w** of weights for all layers and returns two real outputs **x1** and **x2**
- 2) Implement a loop that runs  $10^6$  times, feeds **forward(q1, q2, w)** with randomly generated **q1**, **q2**, and **w**.
- 3) Set **q1** and **q2** as a vector of 1000 random values between -1 and 1. Furthermore, assume (ground truth) that
  - $X_1 = q_1 + q_2$
  - $X_2 = q_1 - q_2$
- 4) Run the loop while feeding the network (i.e., **forward (...)**) with **q1** and **q2** value pairwise and compute a meaningful loss function for each epoch using **X1** and **X2**.

## Machine Learning – Updating the weights of the neural network in practice



**Pertinent data (e.g.,  $q$ ) as input examples**



Model training (i.e., optimization of model parameters to capture the mapping between input-output examples and generalize)

$$w_{k+1} = w_k - r \nabla f w_k$$

Weight update

Measurements potentially prone to **noise!**

Result: a **trained digital model** used for e.g. **prediction** purposes (e.g.,  $FK(q) \approx X_E$ ) in other applications (e.g., robotized indust. automation)

```
% Compute the contribution to the gradient of the loss for each weight
for i = 1:length(trainedWeights)
    % Perturb the current weight using epsilonValue
    trainedWeightsPerturbedRight = trainedWeights;
    trainedWeightsPerturbedRight(i) = trainedWeightsPerturbedRight(i) + epsilonValue;
```

Data label

3

Model output during training

5

Computation of the gradient  $\nabla f$  of the loss function  $f$  w.r.t the weights of the neural network

$$x = f(w_1, \dots, w_n)_u \rightarrow \nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial w_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial w_n} \end{bmatrix}$$



```
% Approximate the gradient contribution using a difference
grad(i) = (costFunctionPerturbedRight - costFunctionPerturbedLeft) ... / (2 * epsilonValue);
```

- $\epsilon$ : small and positive number
- $e_1: [1 0 0 0 0 \dots]$
- $e_2: [0 1 0 0 0 \dots]$

$$\frac{\partial f(w)}{\partial w_1} = \frac{f(x + \epsilon e_1) - f(x - \epsilon e_1)}{2\epsilon}$$

$$\frac{\partial f(w)}{\partial w_2} = \frac{f(x + \epsilon e_2) - f(x - \epsilon e_2)}{2\epsilon}$$

$$\vdots$$

# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

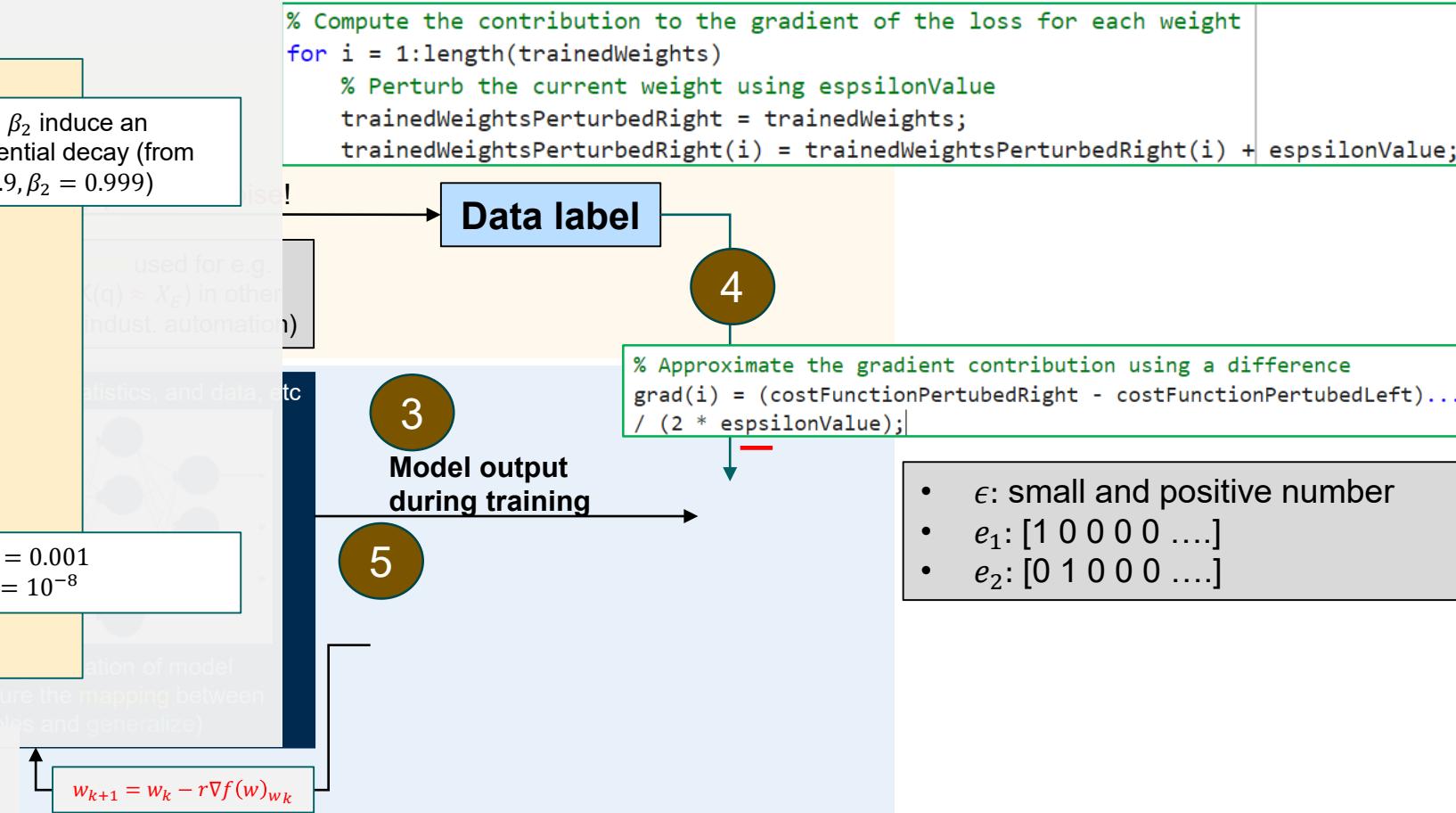
## Machine Learning – Adapting the learning rate via moment estimation

- $m_{k+1} = \beta_1 m_k + (1 - \beta_1) \nabla f$
  - $v_{k+1} = \beta_2 v_k + (1 - \beta_2) (\nabla f)^2$
  - $\hat{m}_{k+1} = \frac{m_{k+1}}{1 - \beta_1^{k+1}}$
  - $\hat{v}_{k+1} = \frac{v_{k+1}}{1 - \beta_2^{k+1}}$
  - $w_{k+1} = w_k - \alpha \frac{1}{\sqrt{\hat{v}_{k+1} + \epsilon}} \hat{m}_k$

adaptation

$\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  induce an exponential decay (from  $\beta_1 = 0.9, \beta_2 = 0.999$ )

- $\alpha = 0.001$
- $\epsilon = 10^{-8}$

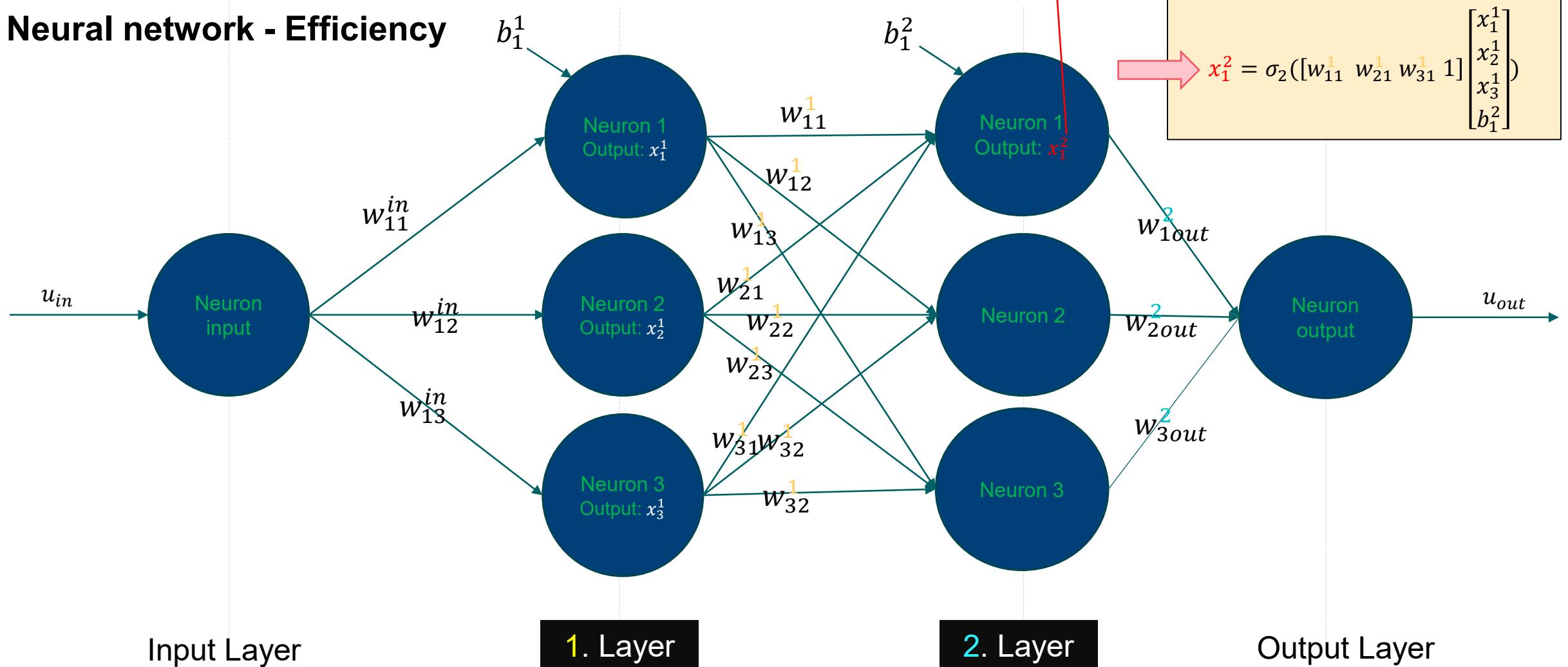


## Instead of ...

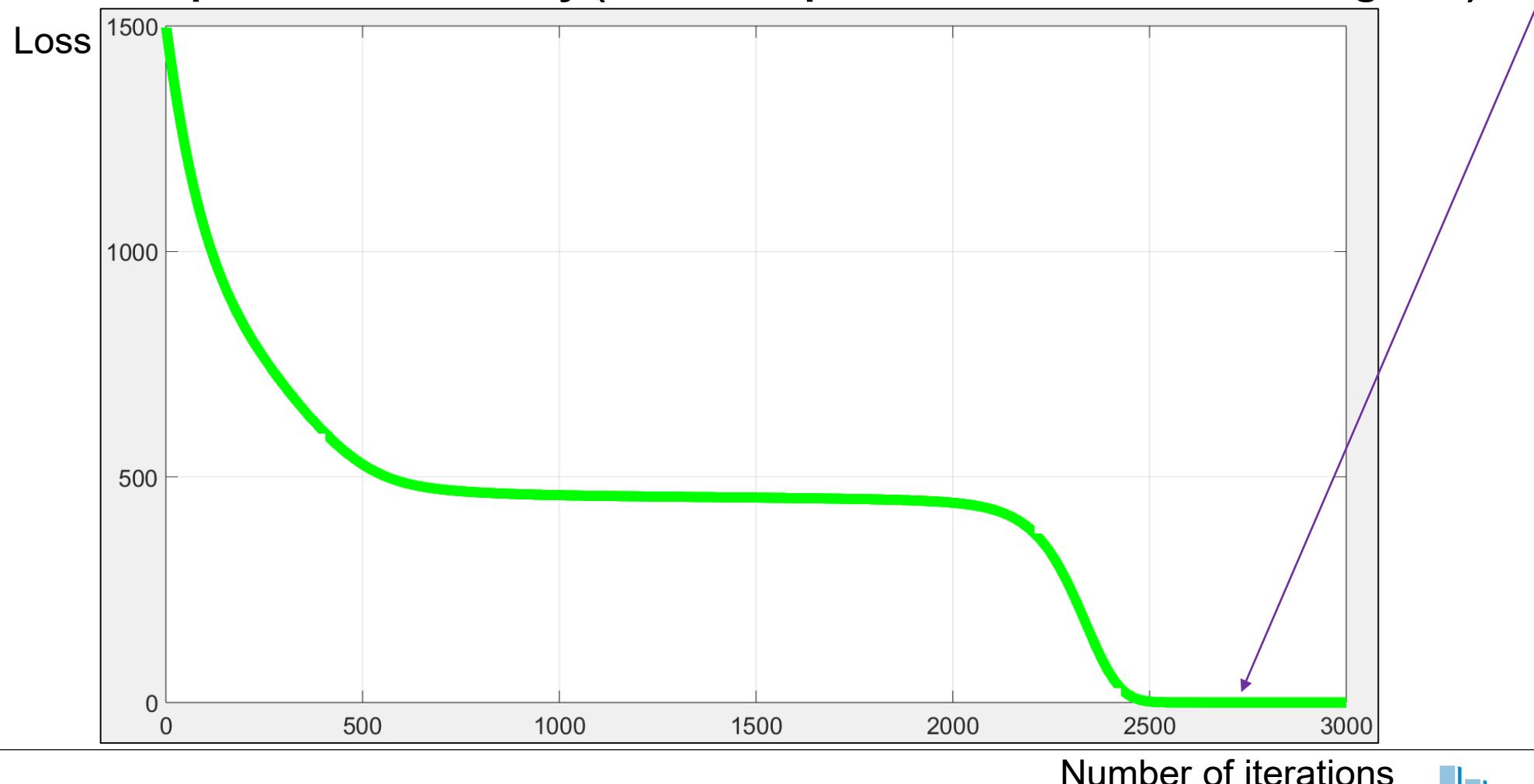
# Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

....harness the following insight:

## Neural network - Efficiency



### Optimization of the prediction accuracy (under adaptive moment-based learning rate) - Result



## Robotics and Machine Learning – Model Capture

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**Project (presentation: 29.01.25, 8:15 h, groups of min. 2 /max. 3 students, Duration max. 20 Min)**

- Improve our model (see the file withStudentsNew.m) to learn

- $X1 = q1 + q2 - 1$
- $X2 = q1 - q2 + 1$

and

- $X1 = q1 + q2.*q2 - 1$
- $X2 = q1 - q2 + 1$

- When and why is an enhancement necessary?
- How did you enhance the model?
- What did you observe? Explain your observation with your own words

**Thank you  
for your attention!**