Backpropagation: a simple example

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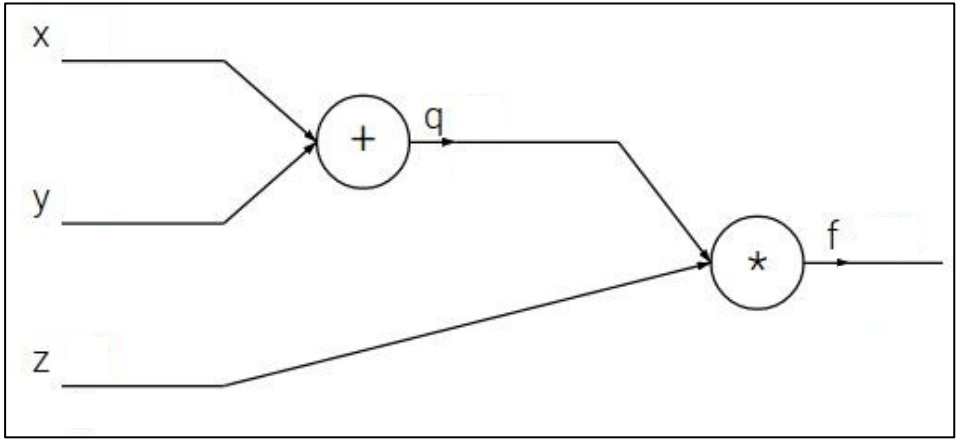

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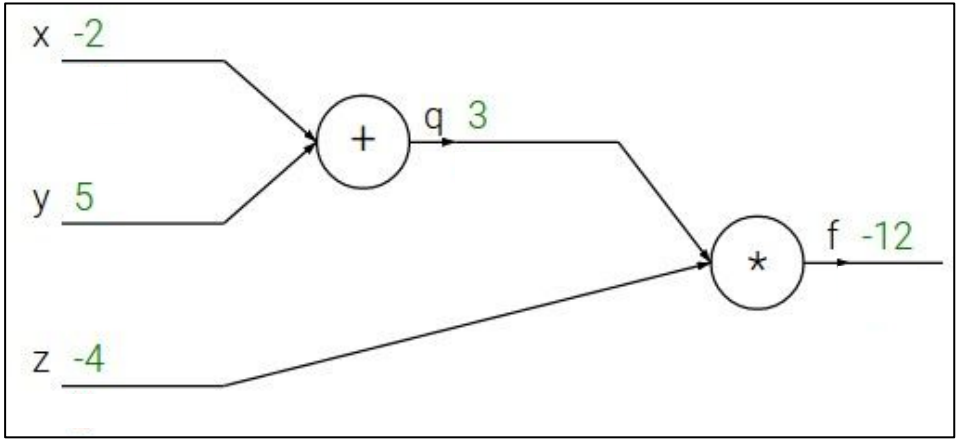

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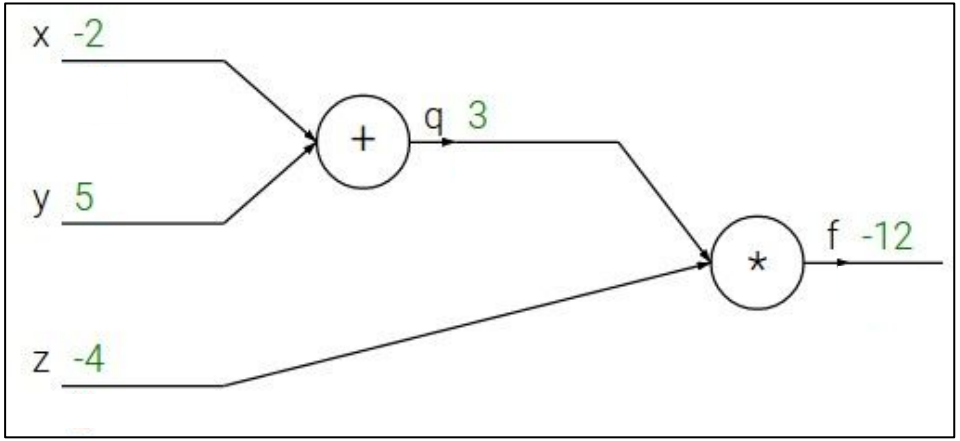

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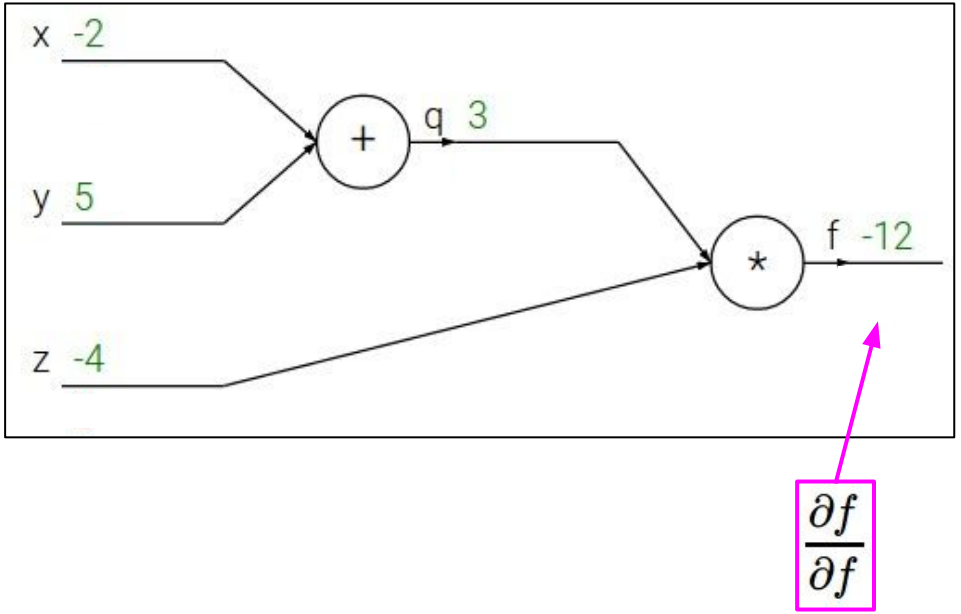

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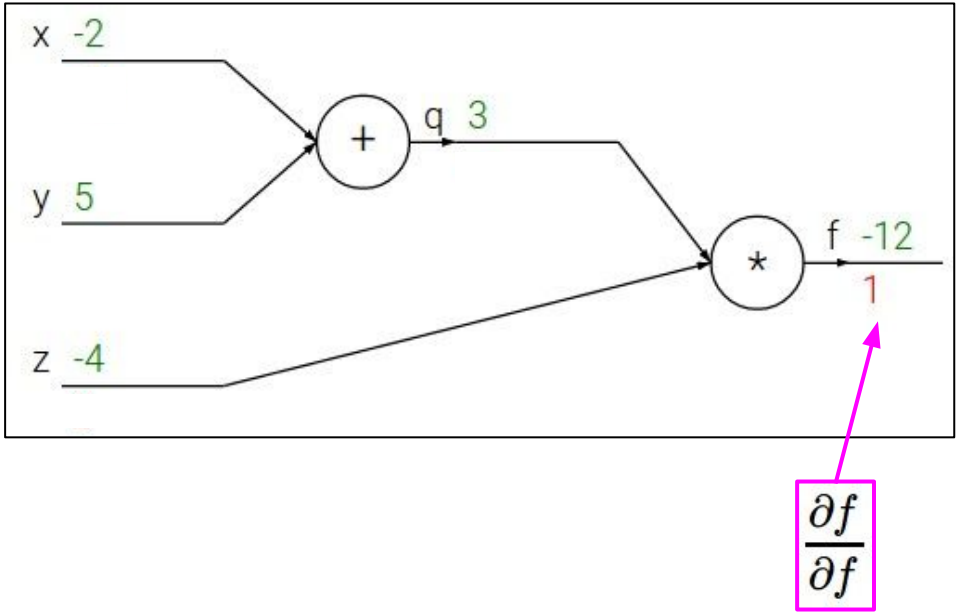

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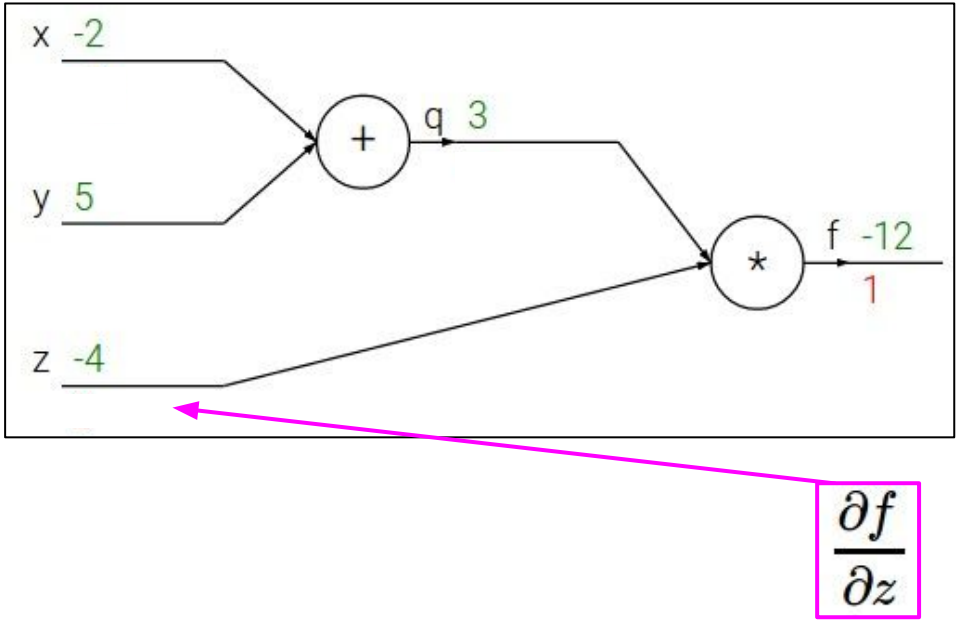

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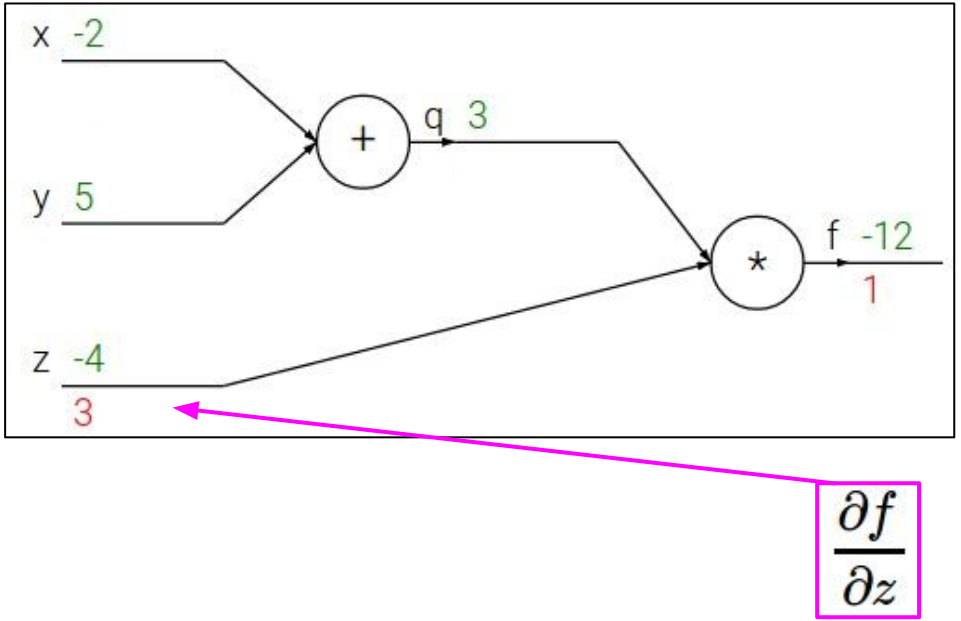

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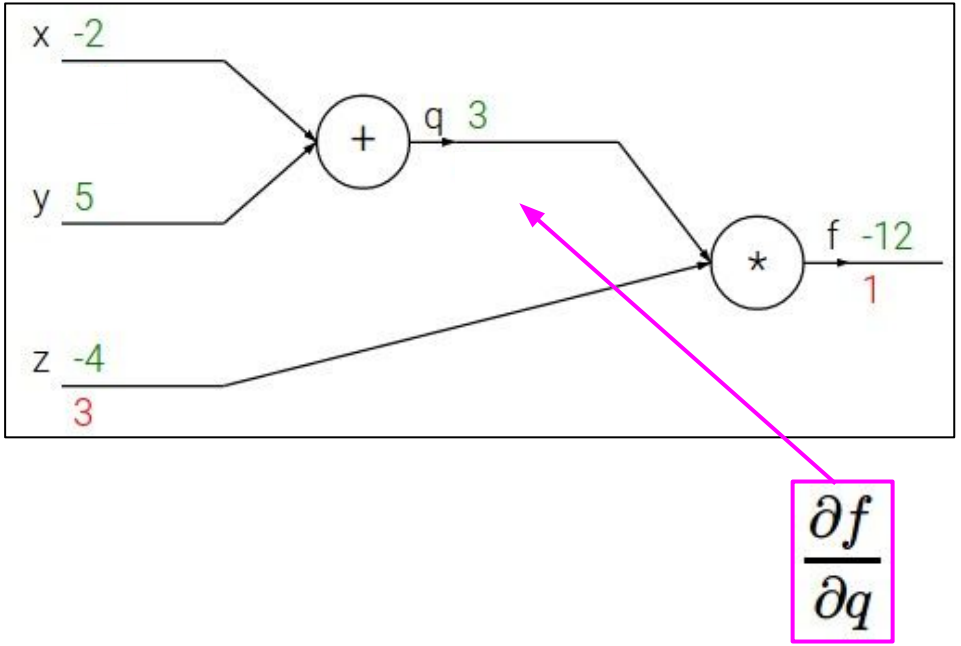

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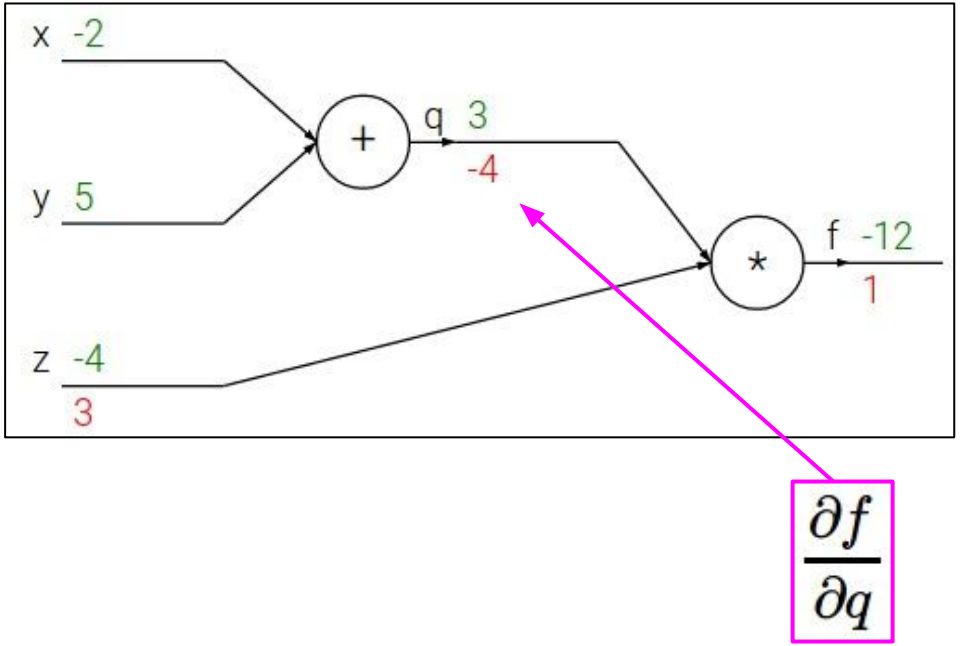

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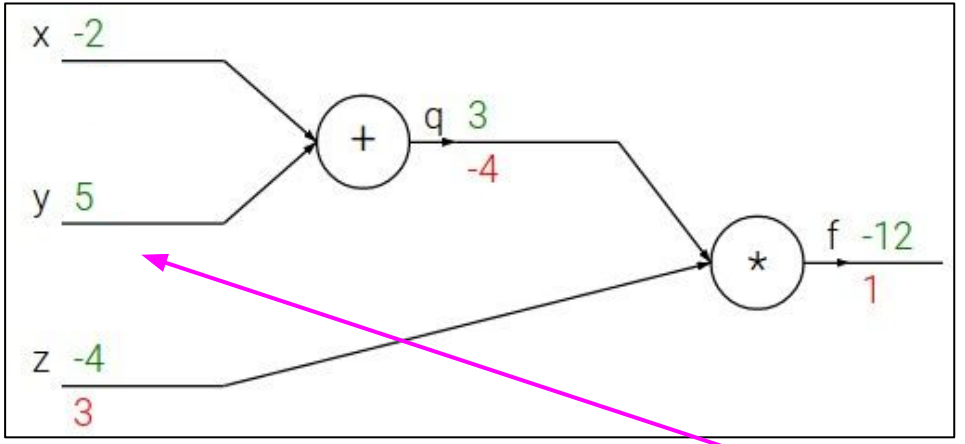

Chain rule:

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Upstream gradient

Local gradient

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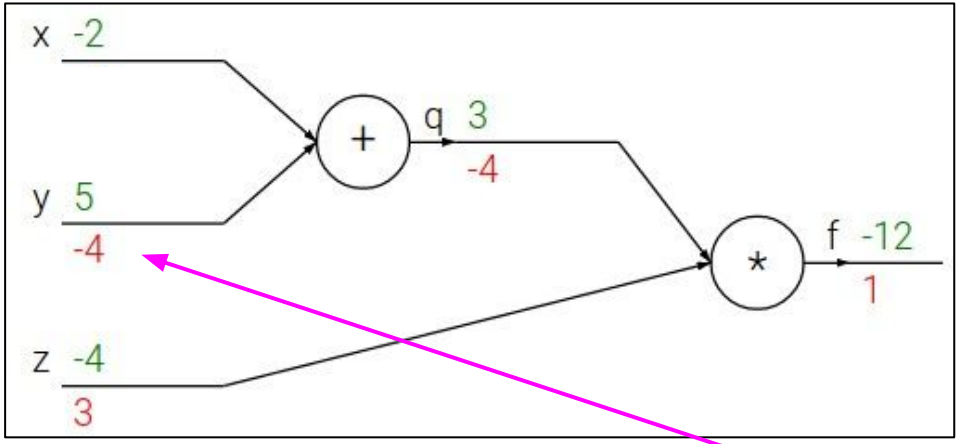

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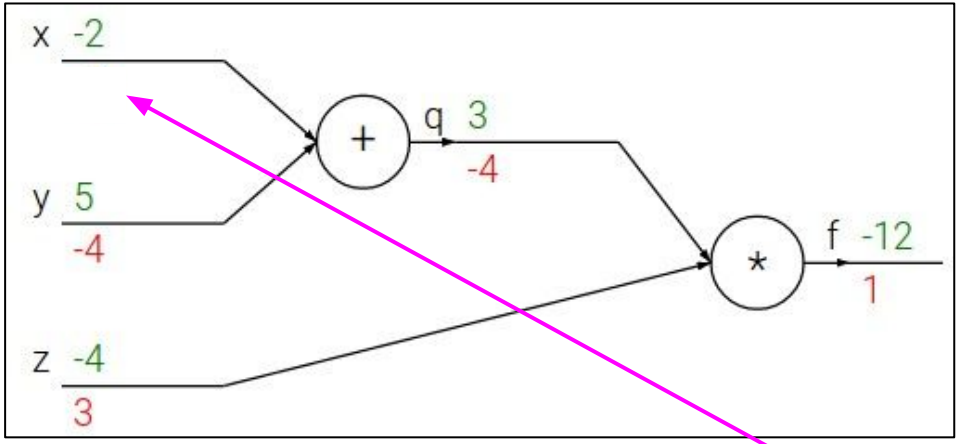

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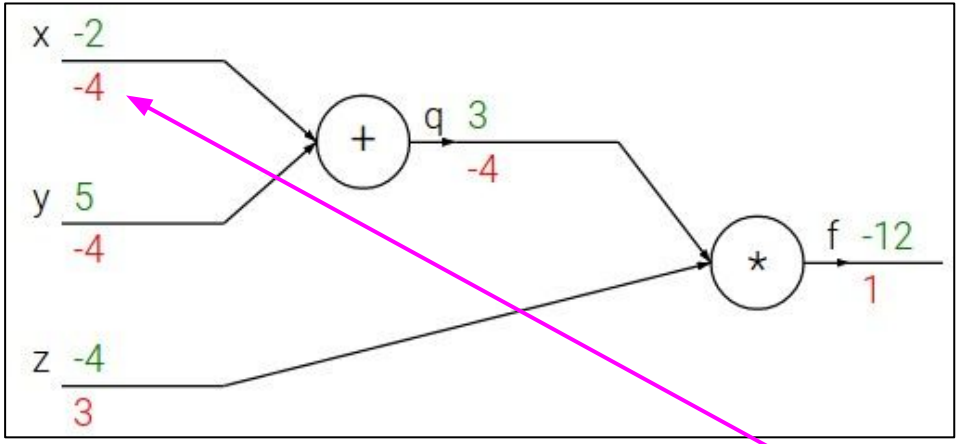

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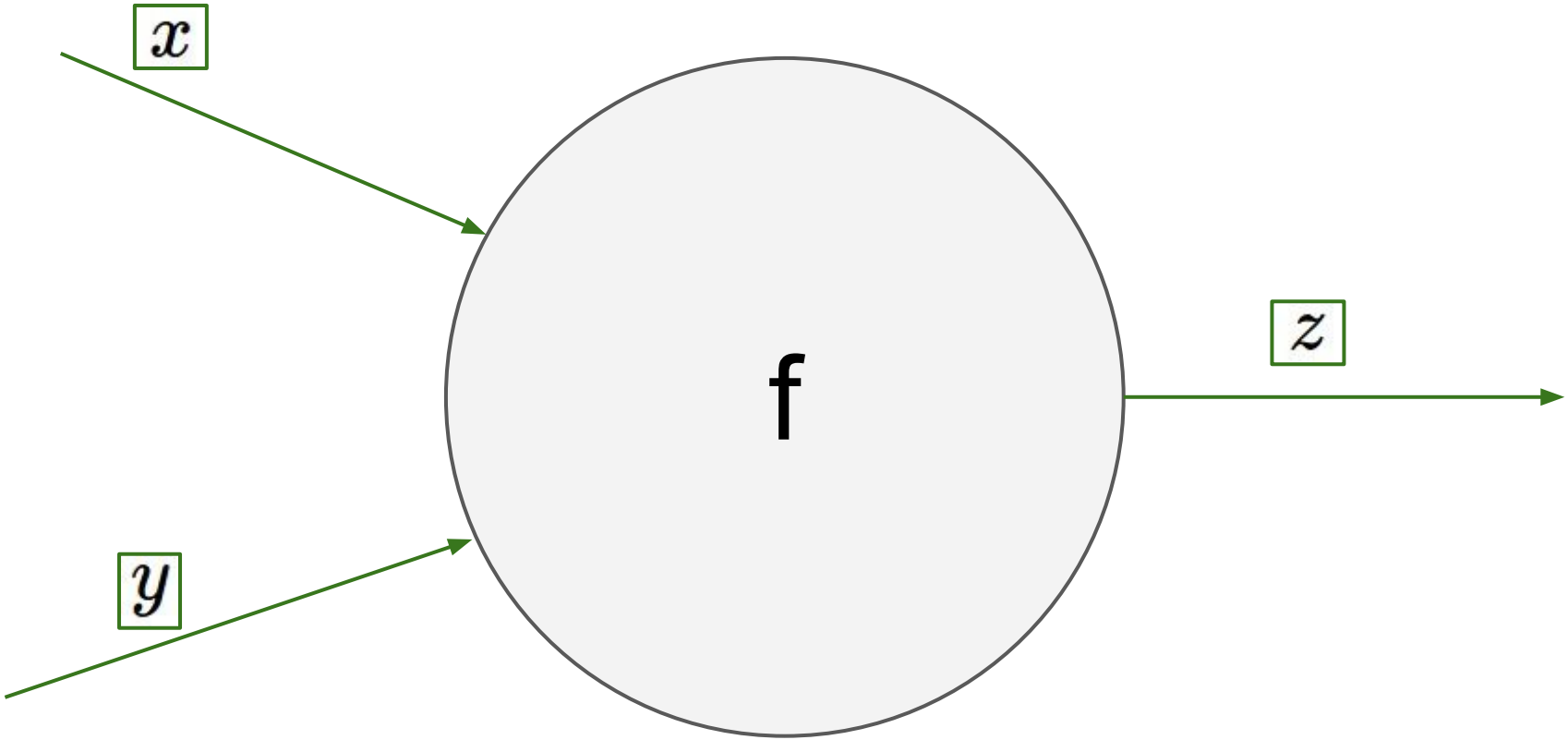
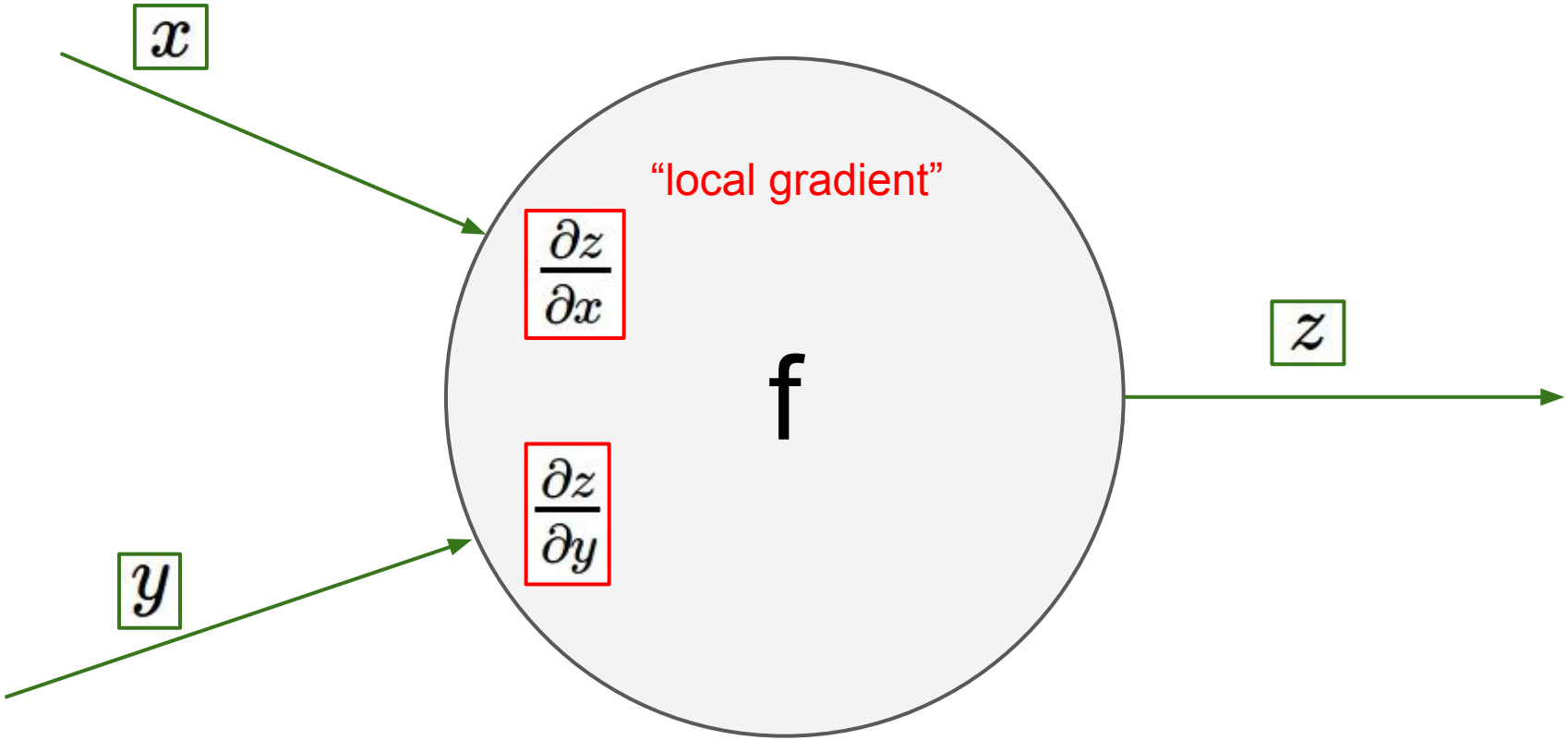

x
y
f
z


x
y
“local gradient”
$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$
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f
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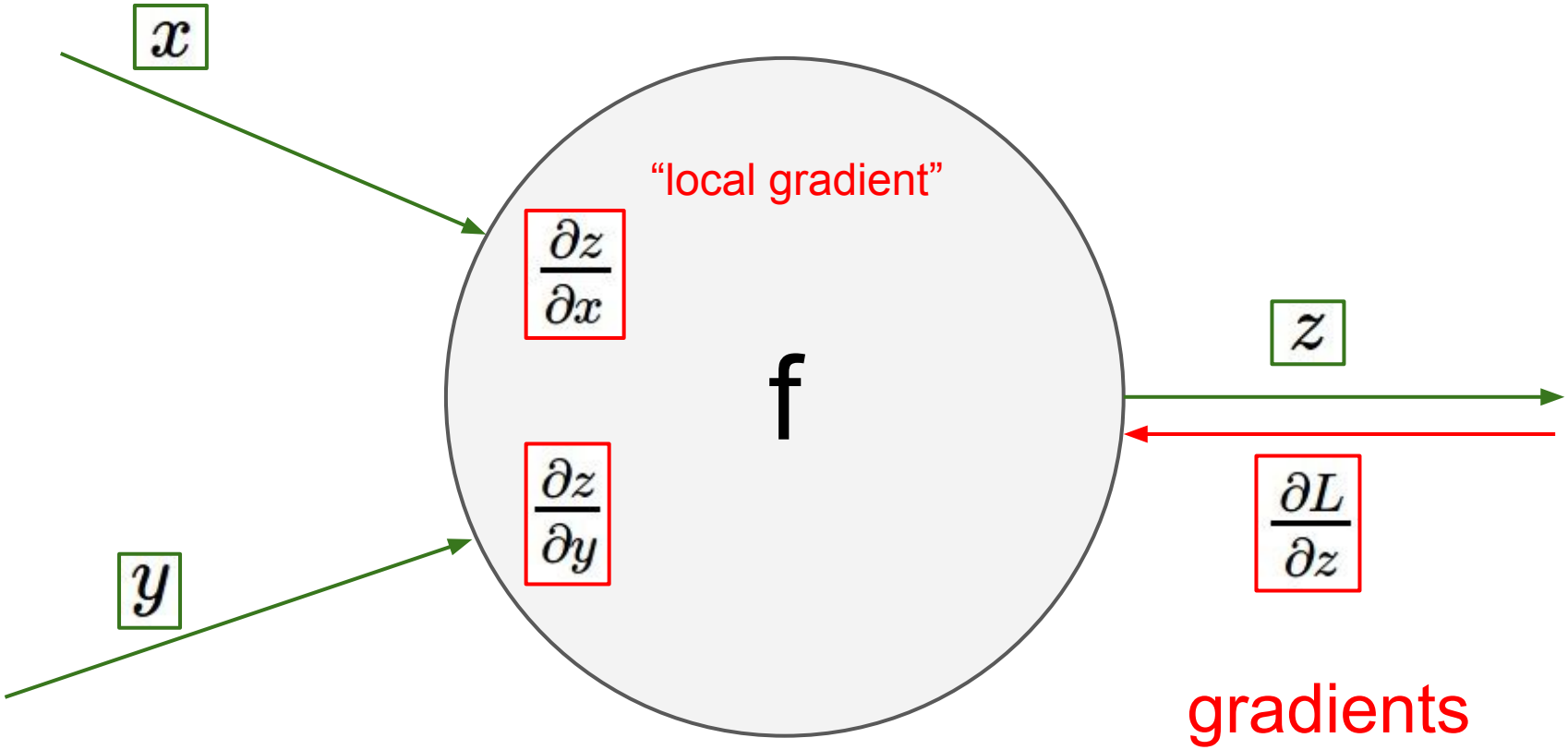
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f
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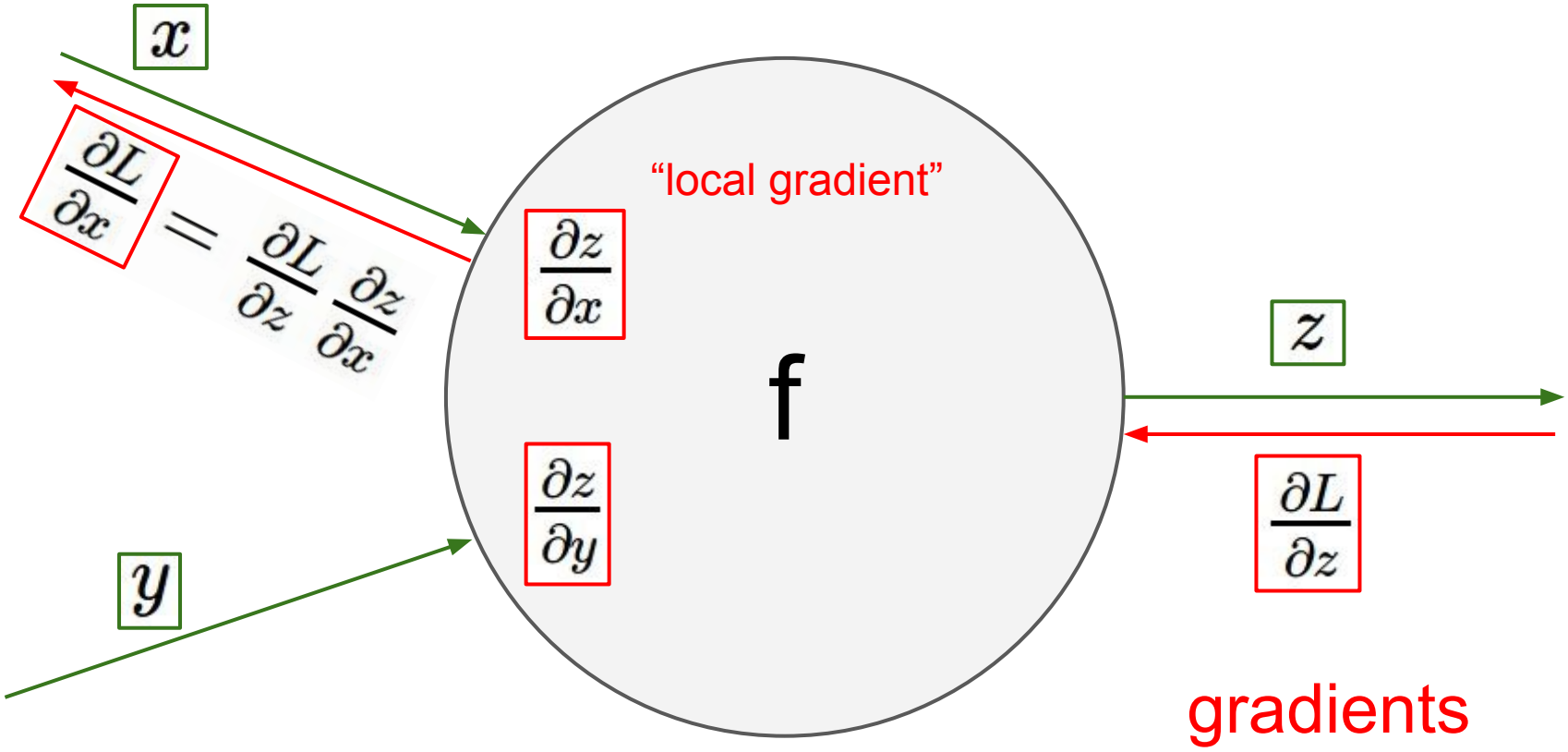
$\frac{\partial L}{\partial z}$
gradients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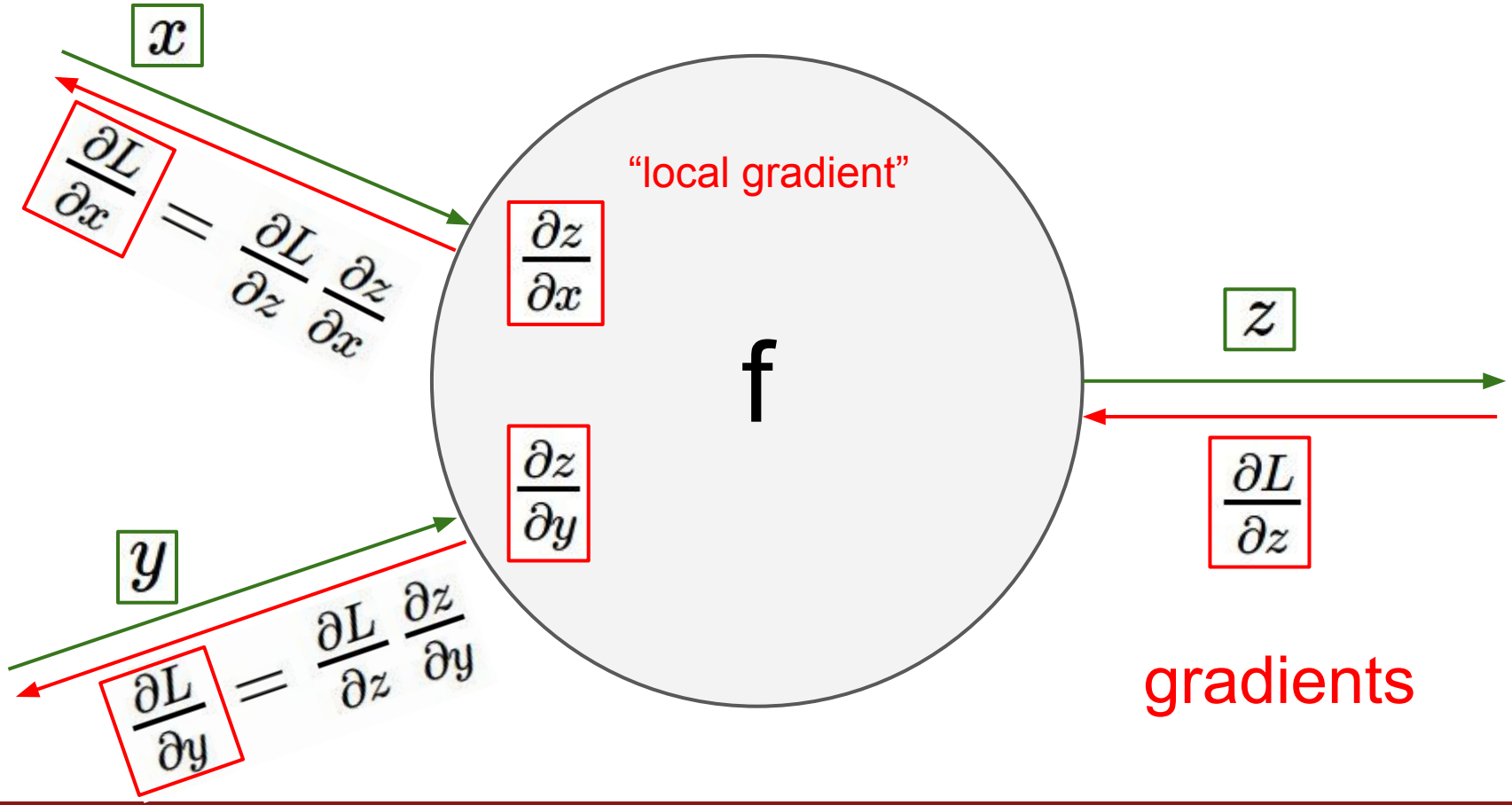
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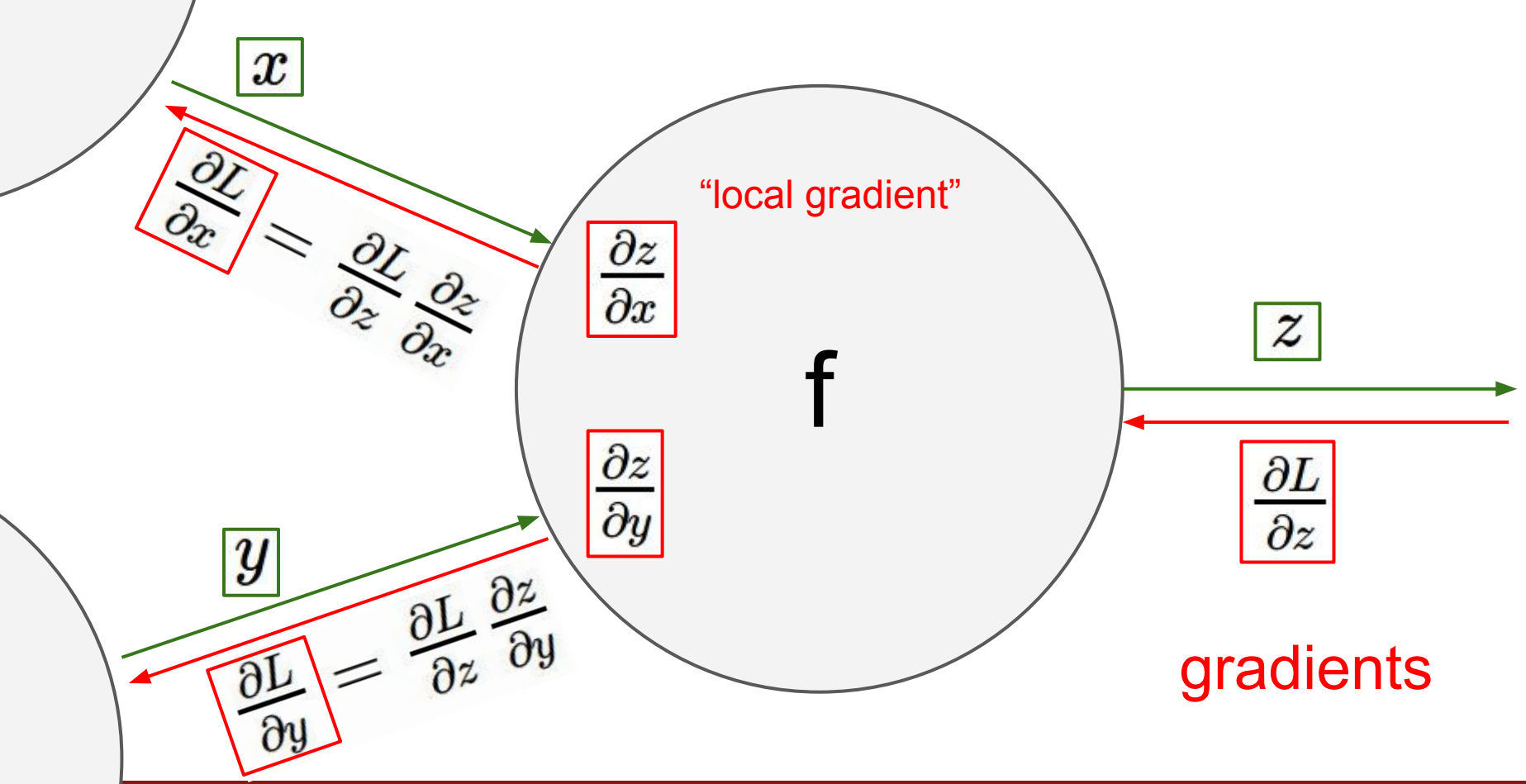
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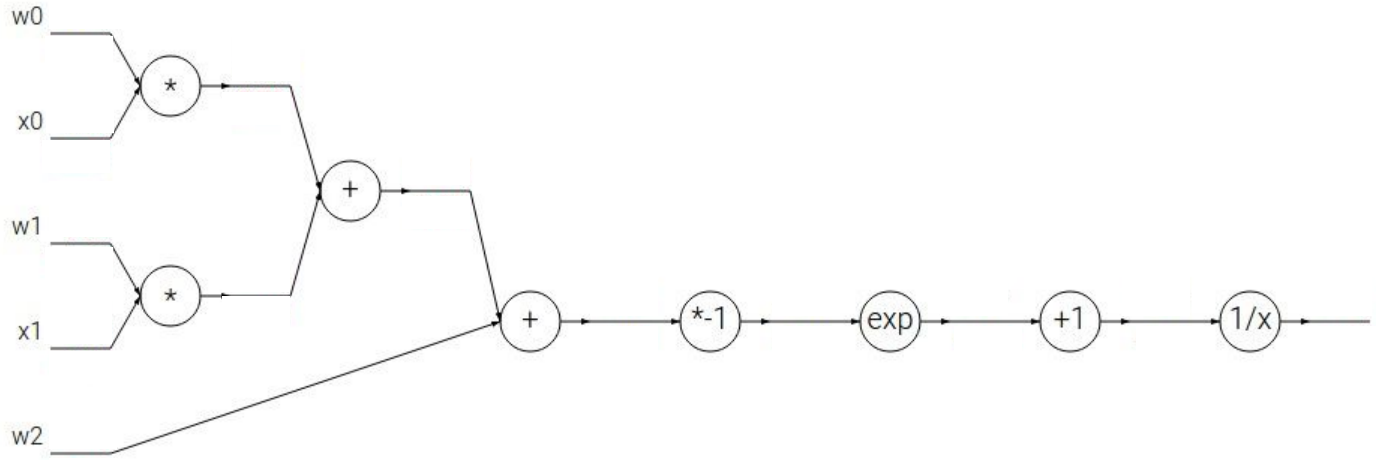

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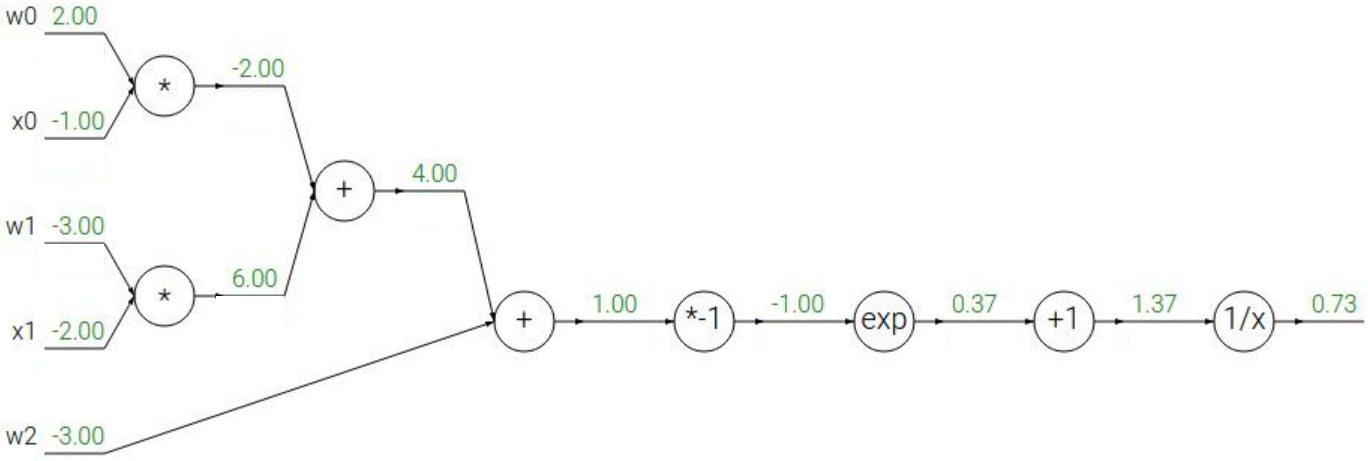

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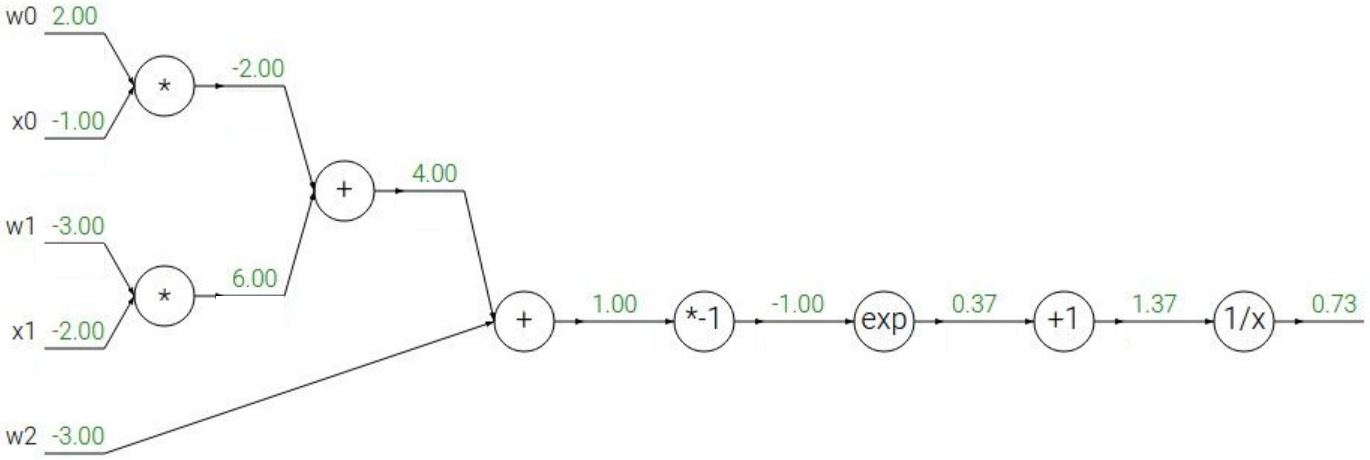

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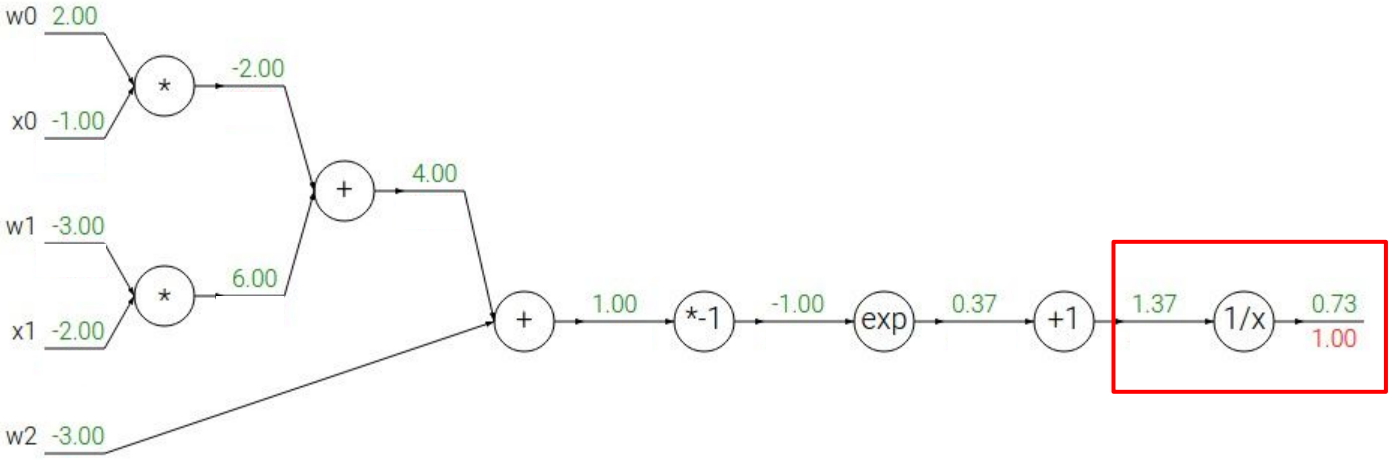

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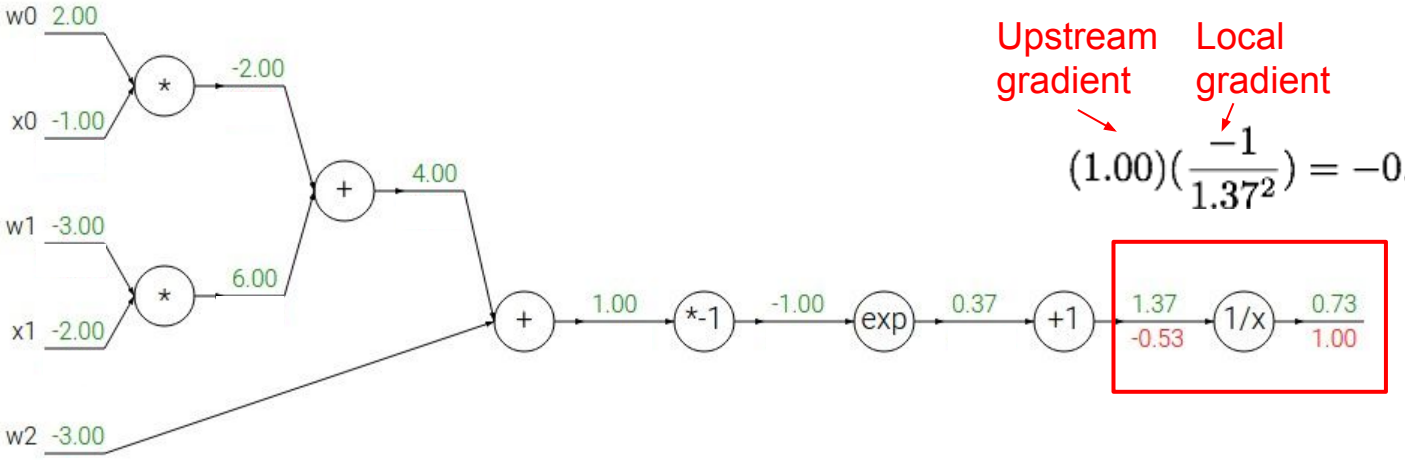

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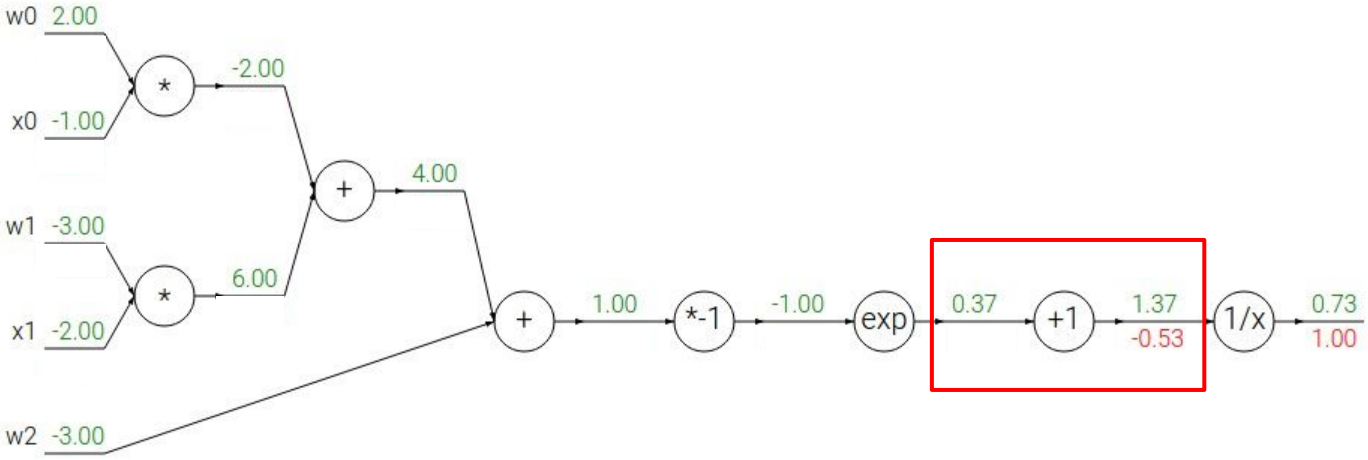

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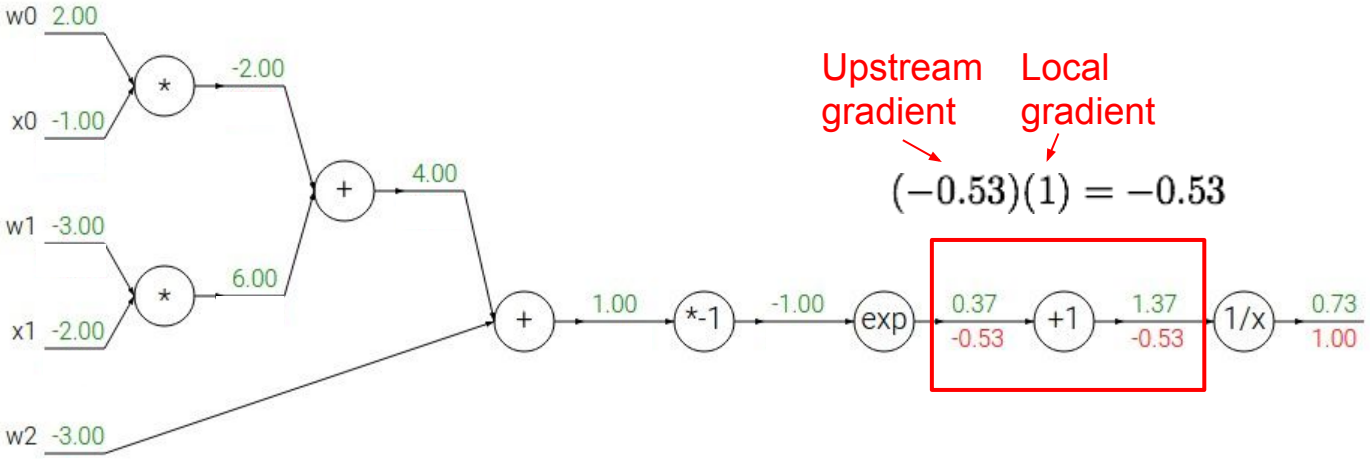

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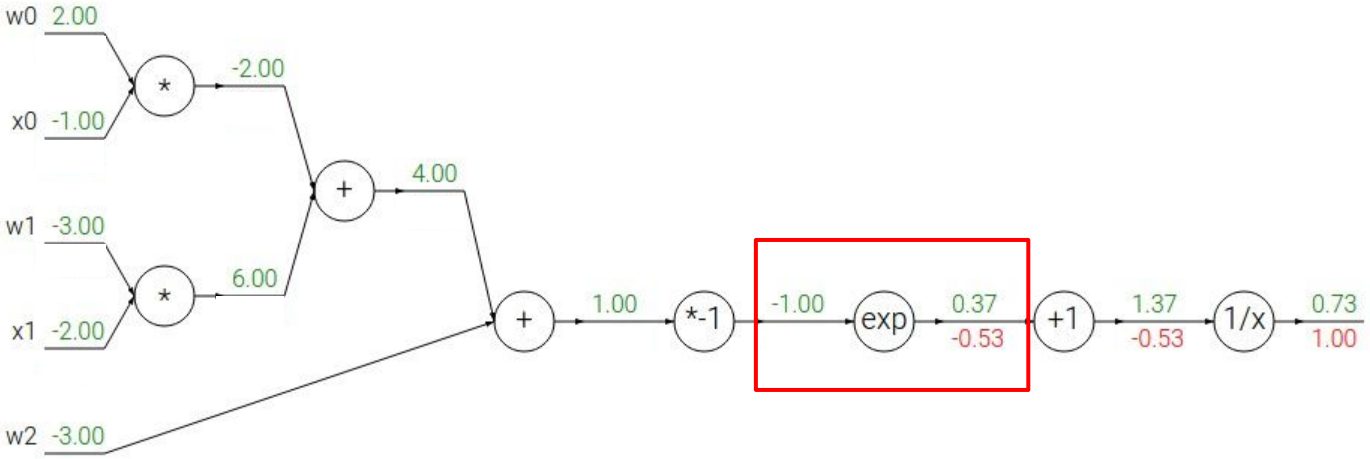

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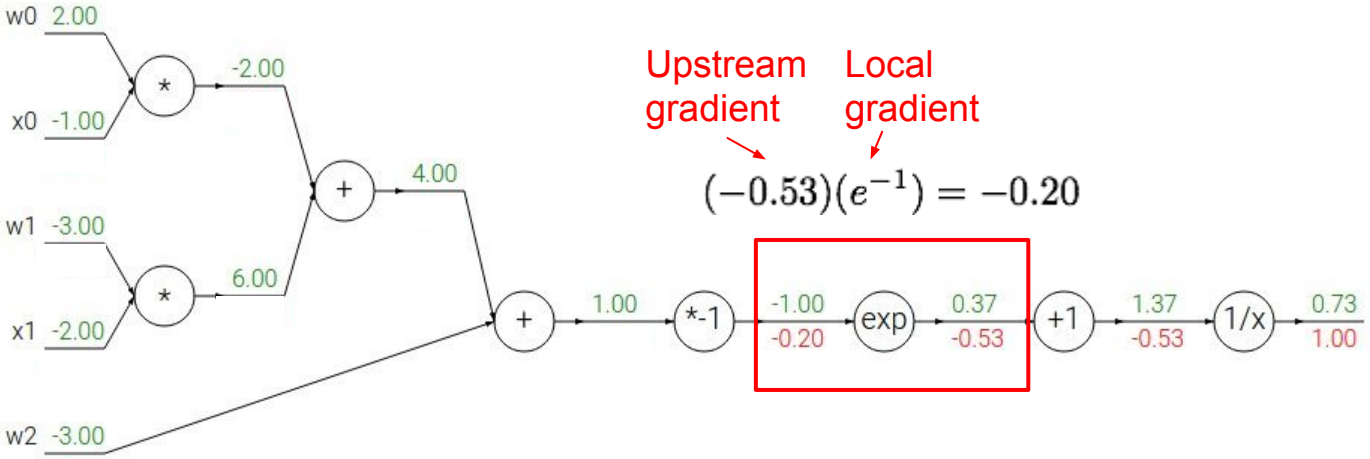

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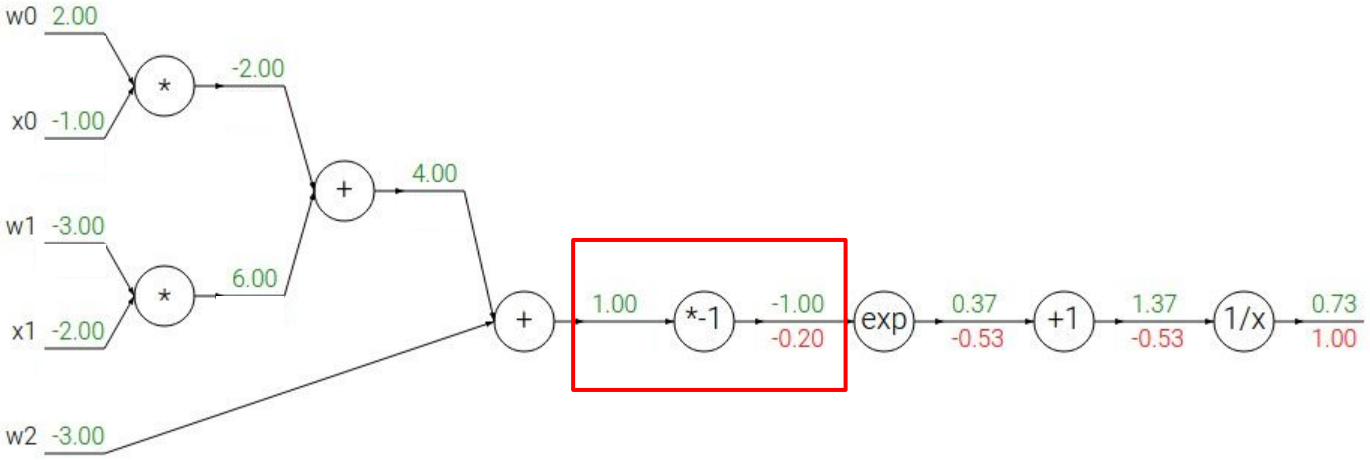

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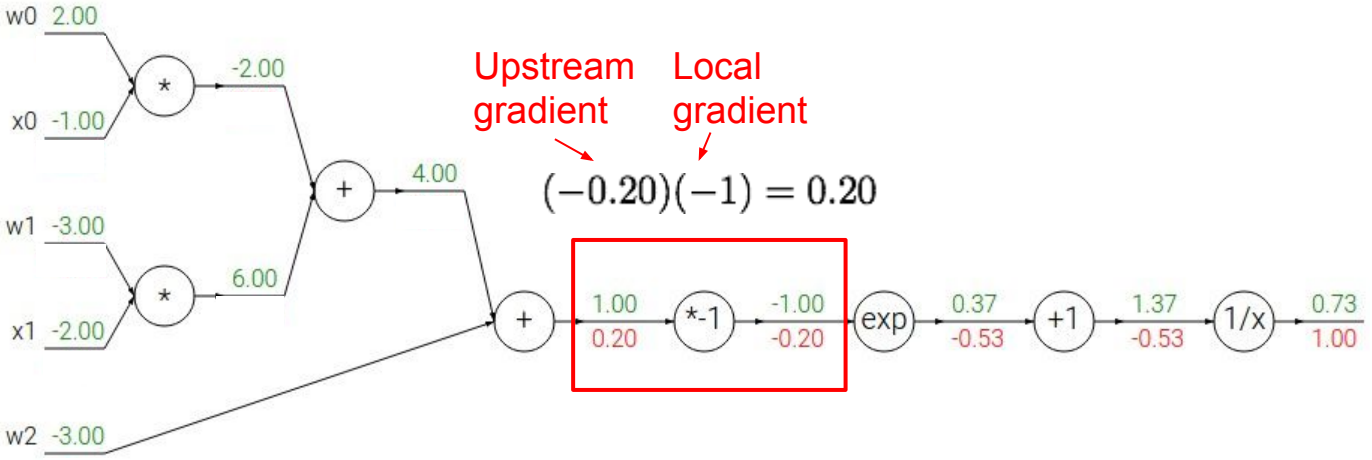

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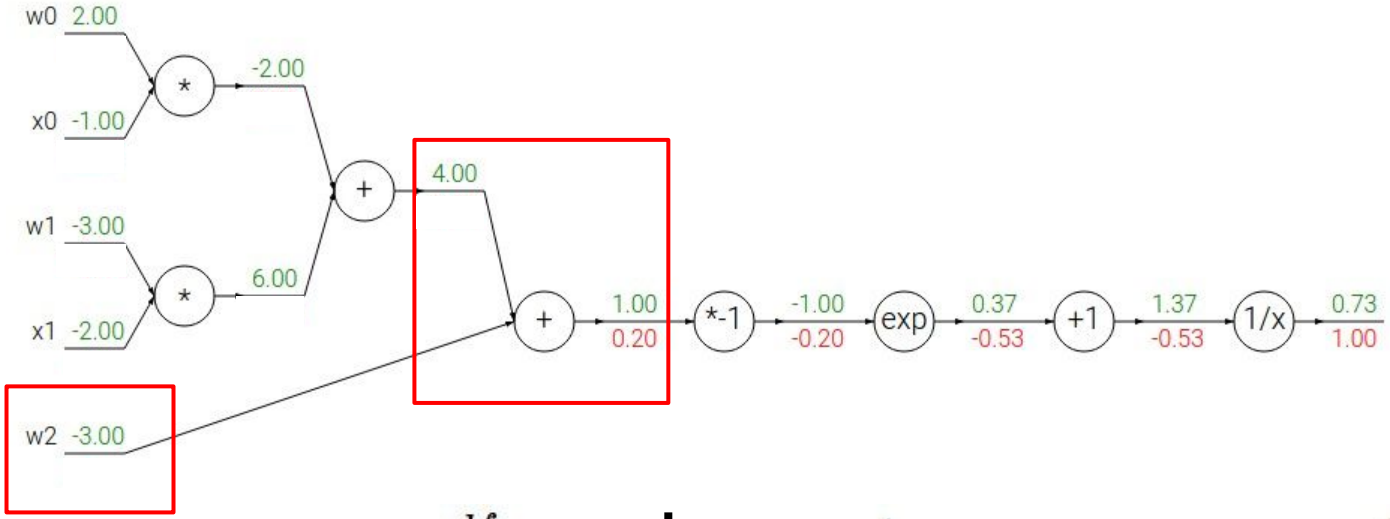

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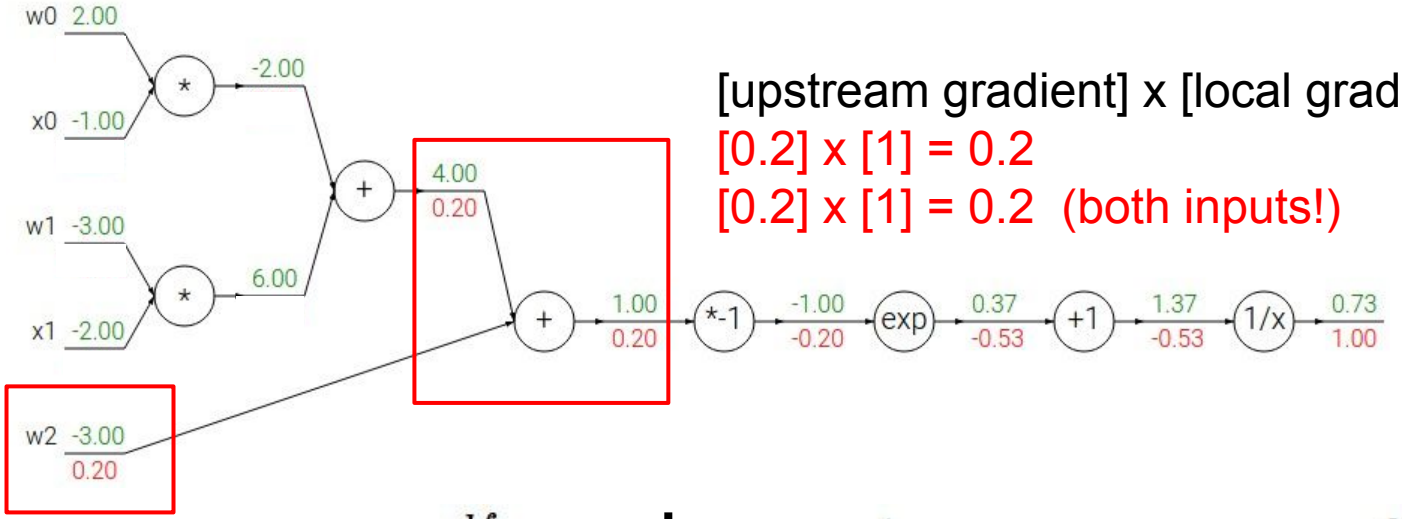
Another example: $$f(w,x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-(w_0x_0+w_1x_1+w_2)}}$$



[upstream gradient] x [local gradient]

[0.2] x [1] = 0.2

[0.2] x [1] = 0.2 (both inputs!)

$f(x) = e^x \rightarrow \frac{df}{dx} = e^x$

$f_a(x) = ax \rightarrow \frac{df}{dx} = a$

$f(x) = \frac{1}{x} \rightarrow \frac{df}{dx} = -1/x^2$

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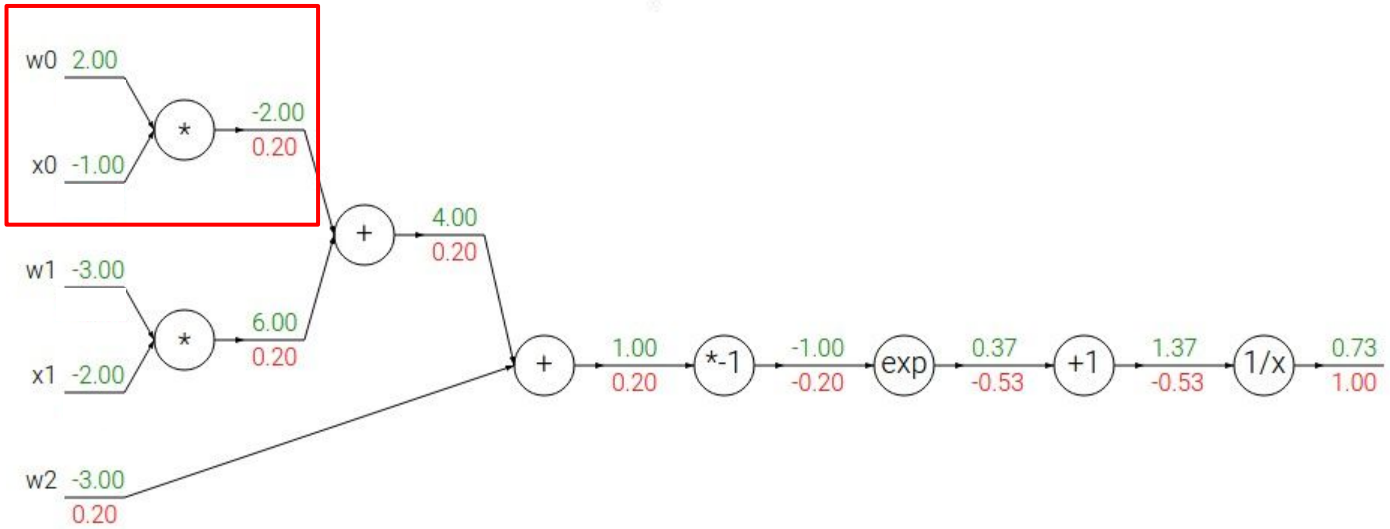

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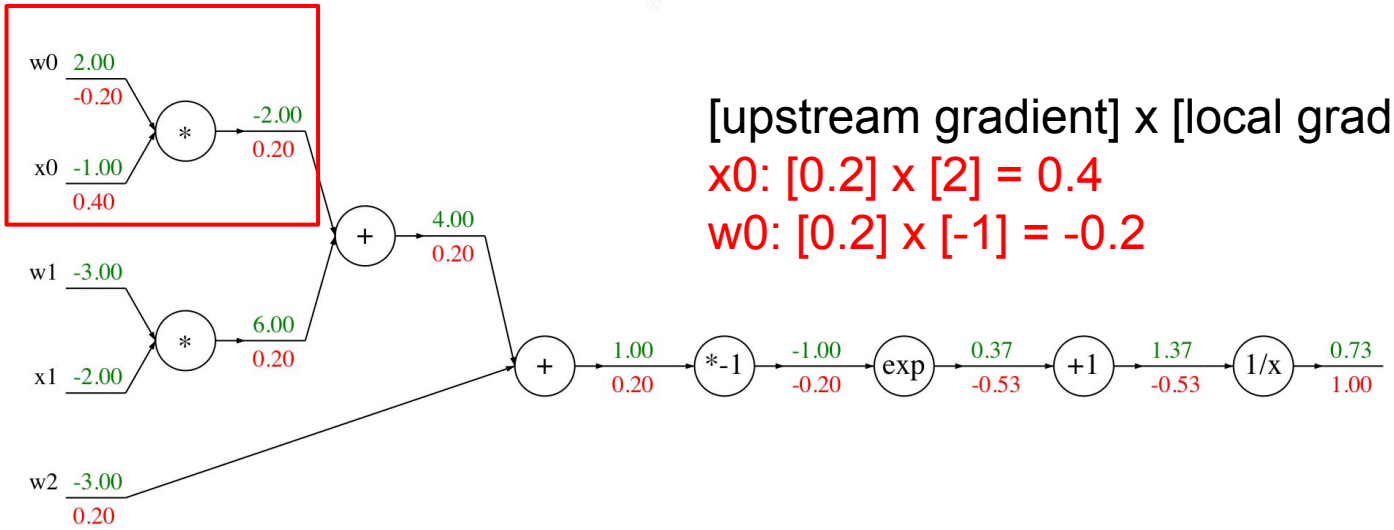


[upstream gradient] x [local gradient]

x0: [0.2] x [2] = 0.4

w0: [0.2] x [-1] = -0.2

$f(x) = e^x \rightarrow \frac{df}{dx} = e^x$

$f_a(x) = ax \rightarrow \frac{df}{dx} = a$

$f(x) = \frac{1}{x} \rightarrow \frac{df}{dx} = -1/x^2$

$f_c(x) = c + x \rightarrow \frac{df}{dx} = 1$

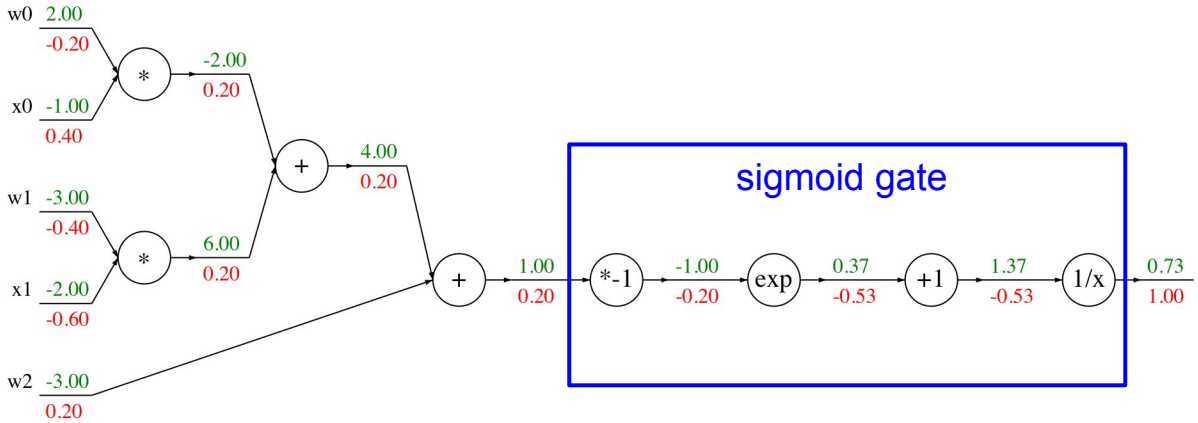
$$f(w,x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-(w_0x_0+w_1x_1+w_2)}}$$

Computational graph representation may not be unique. Choose one where local gradients at each node can be easily expressed!

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$$

sigmoid function

$$\frac{d\sigma(x)}{dx} = \frac{e^{-x}}{(1+e^{-x})^2} = \left(\frac{1+e^{-x}-1}{1+e^{-x}}\right)\left(\frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}\right) = (1-\sigma(x))\,\sigma(x)$$



$$f(w,x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-(w_0x_0+w_1x_1+w_2)}}$$

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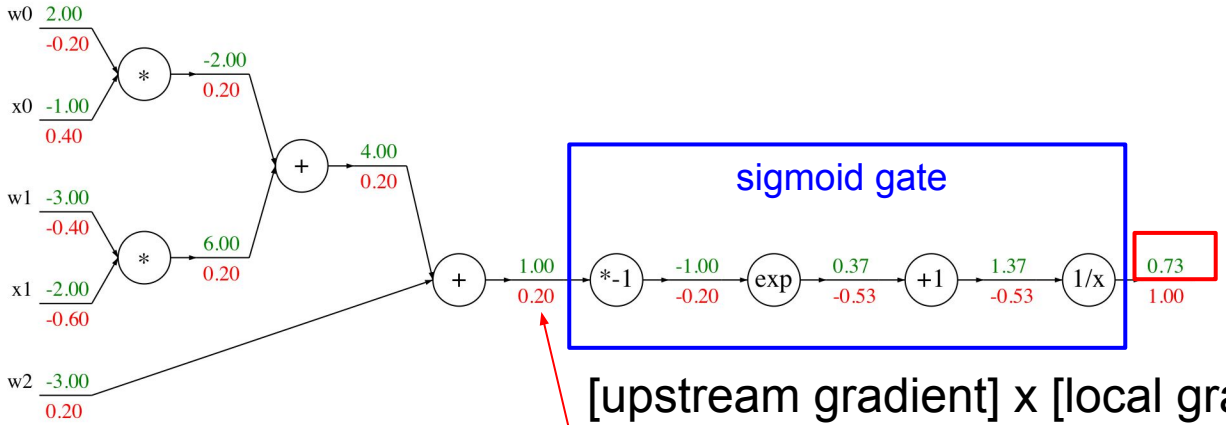
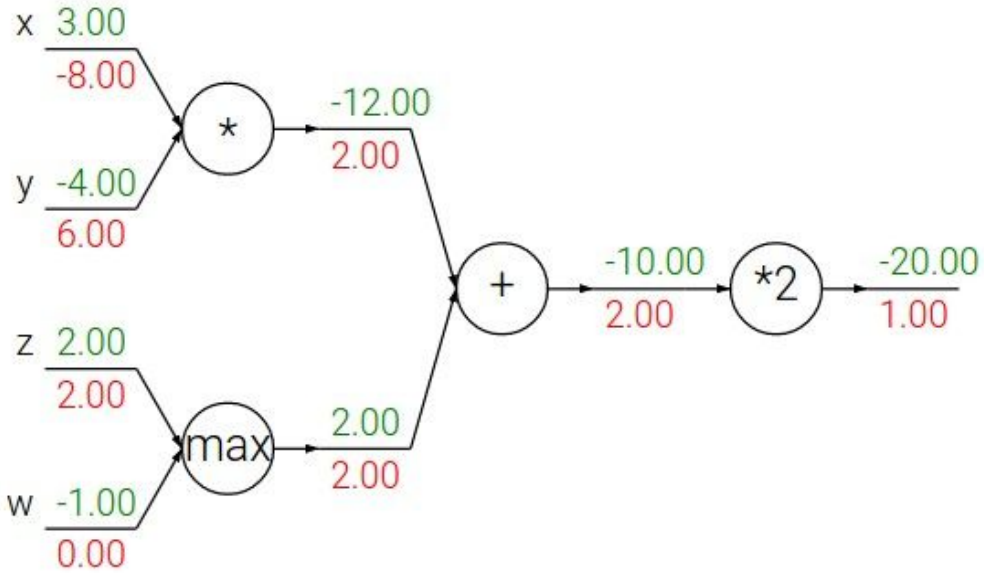


[upstream gradient] x [local gradient]

[1.00] x [(1 - 0.73) (0.73)]= 0.2

Patterns in backward flow

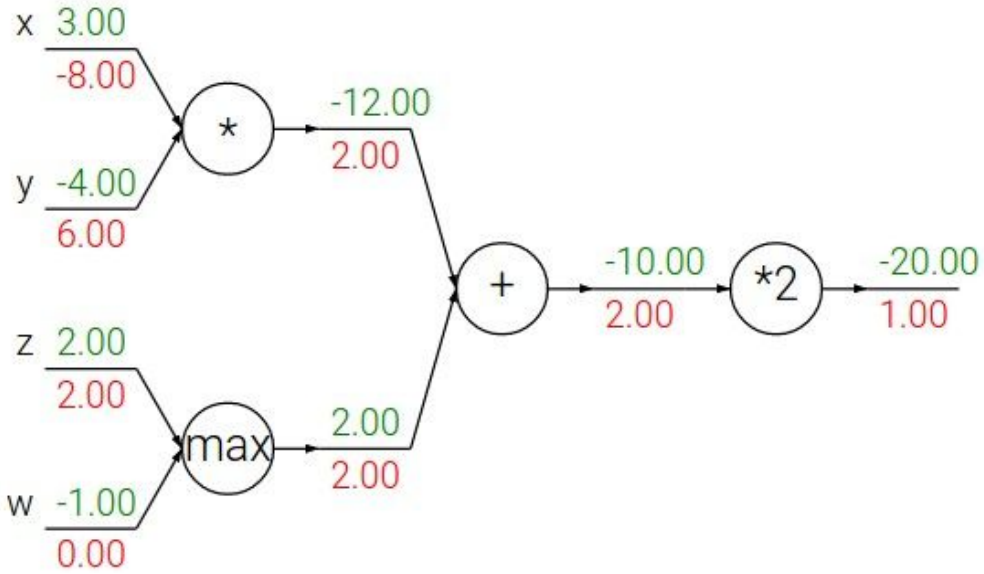
add gate: gradient distributor



Patterns in backward flow

add gate: gradient distributor

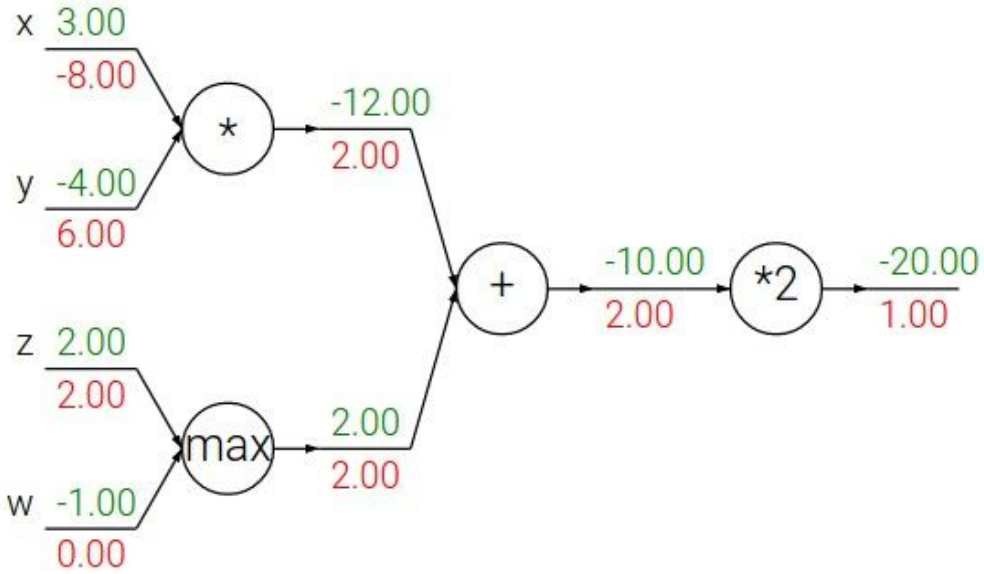
Q: What is a **max** gate?



Patterns in backward flow

add gate: gradient distributor

max gate: gradient router

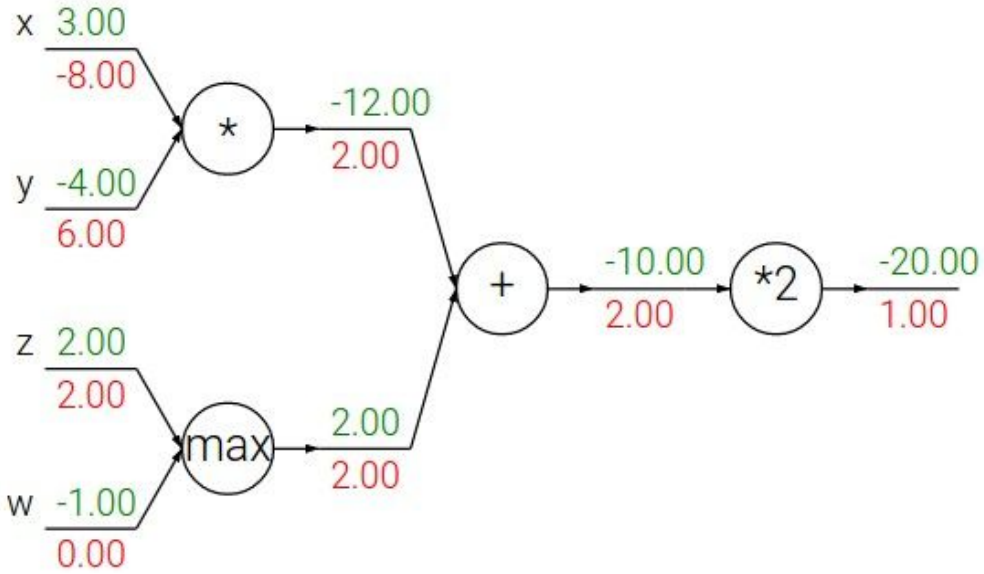


Patterns in backward flow

add gate: gradient distributor

max gate: gradient router

Q: What is a **mul** gate?

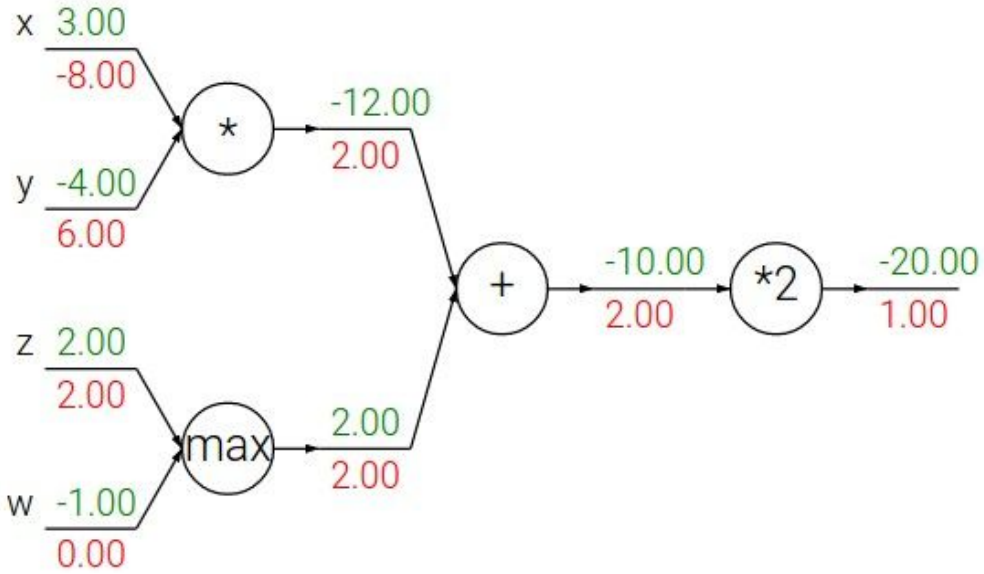


Patterns in backward flow

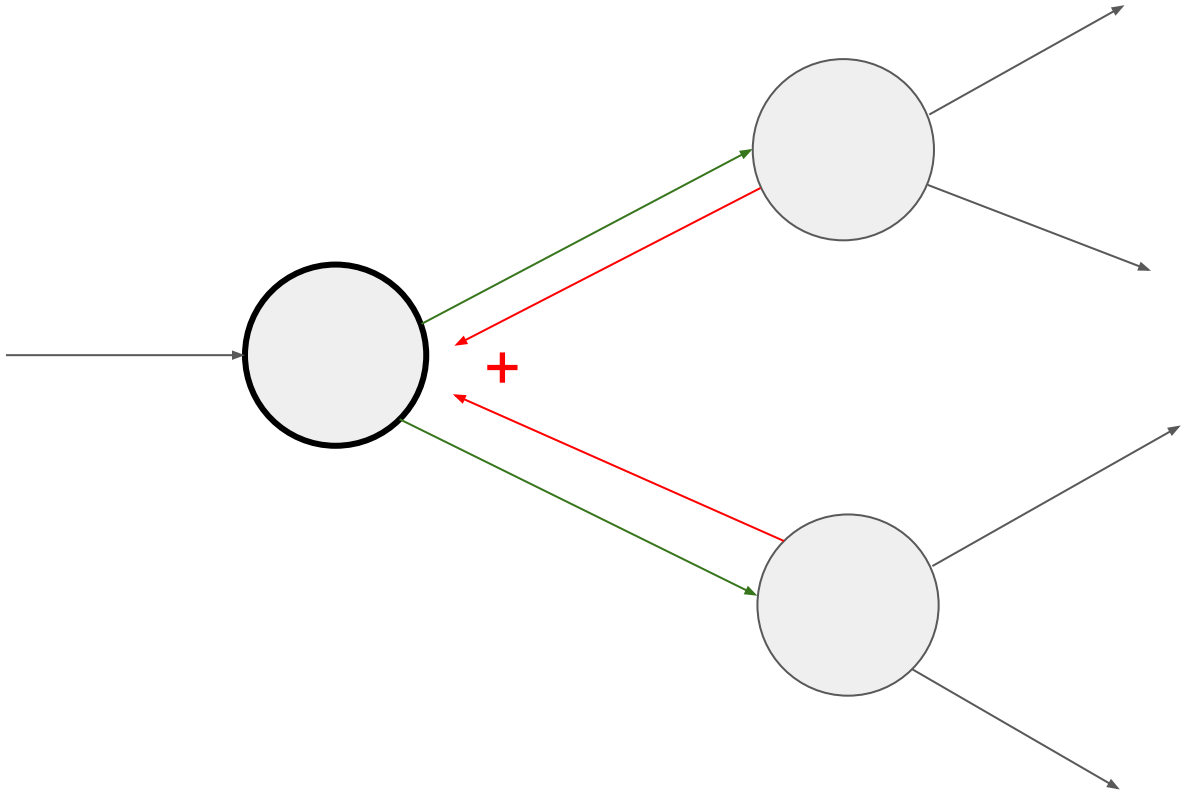
add gate: gradient distributor

max gate: gradient router

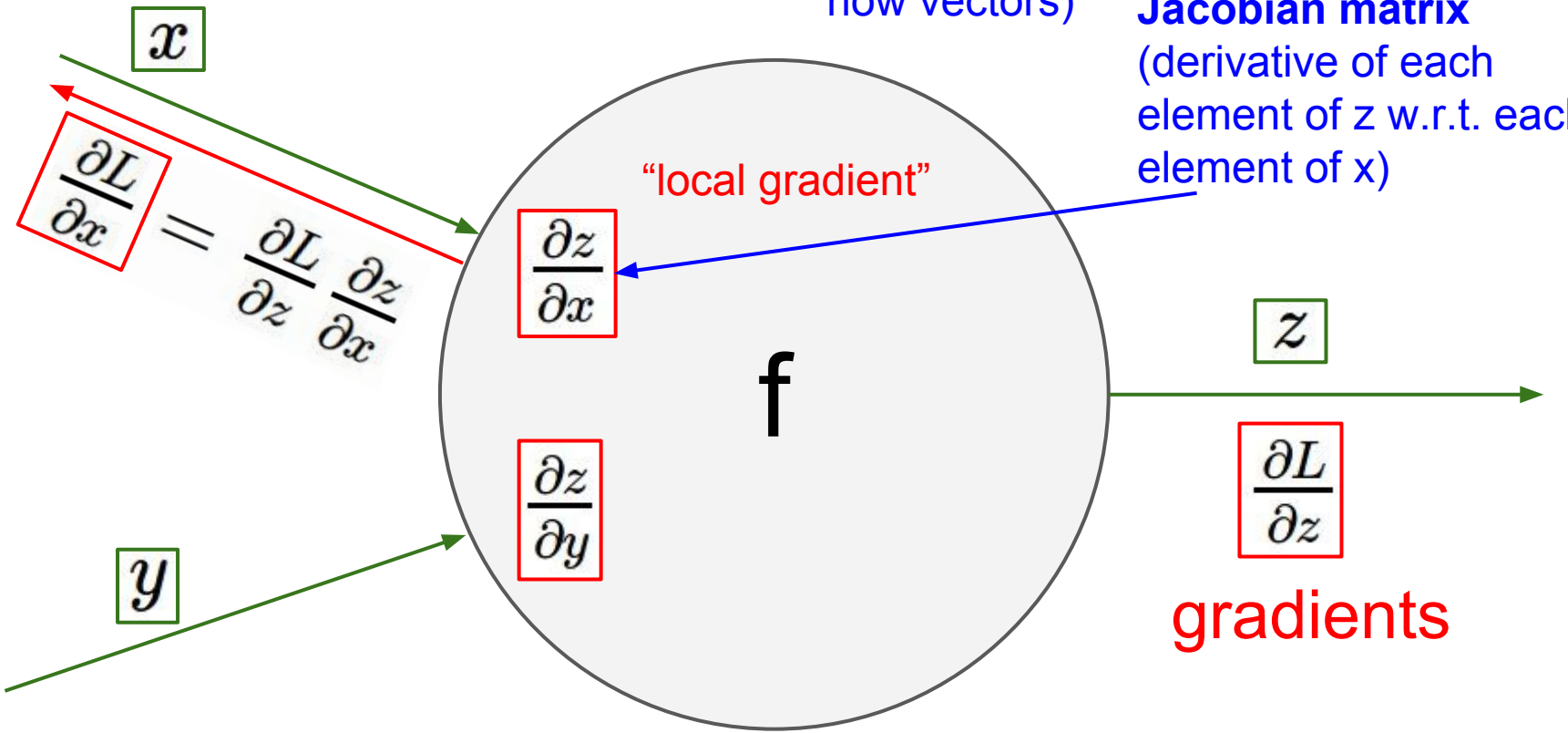
mul gate: gradient switcher



Gradients add at branches



Gradients for vectorized code

(x,y,z are now vectors)

This is now the **Jacobian matrix** (derivative of each element of z w.r.t. each element of x)