

# COMP0197

# Applied Deep Learning

Andre Altmann

Department of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering

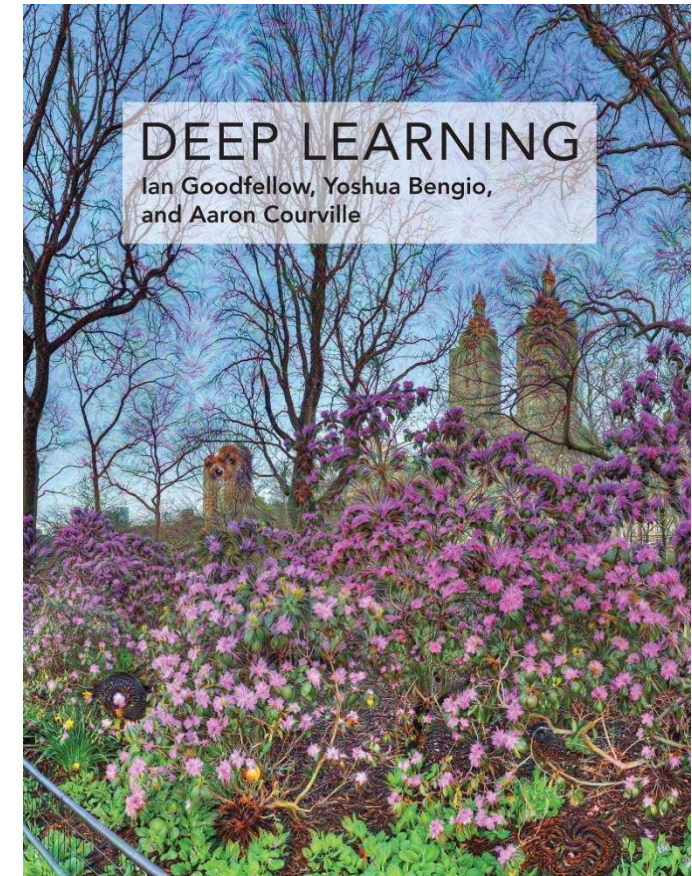
The UCL Hawkes Institute

[a.altmann@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.altmann@ucl.ac.uk)

A refresher on Linear Algebra and Probability Theory can be found in Chapters 2 and 3

Today:

- Numerical Computation
- Gradient based optimization
- Parallel computing
- Information Theory
- Maximum Likelihood Estimation



# Numerical Computation

- We are using continuous math
- Trying to compute on a digital computer
  - Limited precision to represent numbers
  - Rounding errors potentiate
- Models that work in theory, but may fail in practice

## Underflow

- Values close to 0 are rounded to 0
  - $0.00000001 \rightarrow 0$
  - Accidental 'division by 0'
  - Logarithm set to  $-\infty$

## Overflow

- Numbers with large magnitude are approximated to  $\infty$  or  $-\infty$

- **softmax** function (used to turn ‘outputs’  $1, \dots, n$  into a probability distrib.):

$$\text{softmax}(x)_i = \frac{\exp(x_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^n \exp(x_j)}$$

- Assume all  $x_i = c$
- Should be:  $\frac{1}{n}$
- If  $c$  is very large negative: **underflow**
  - Division by 0 (undefined)
- If  $c$  is very large positive: **overflow**

# Example II

- Avoid overflow

compute:  $\text{softmax}(\mathbf{z})$ , with  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{x} - \max_i x_i$

$$\text{softmax}(x)_i = \frac{\exp(x_i - \max_i x_i) \exp(\max_i x_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^n \exp(x_j - \max_i x_i) \exp(\max_i x_i)}$$

- Avoid underflow in the numerator.  
(problem for  $\log \text{softmax}(x) \rightarrow -\infty$ )  
make log softmax 'stable' using same approach
- Common underflow/overflow issues dealt with by libraries

# Example III

- Working with probabilities
- $p(x) \in [0,1]$
- We often computed products of probabilities:  
$$\prod p(x^{(i)})$$
- Quickly converges to something close to 0 (**underflow**)
- Work instead with *log* probabilities:  
$$\sum \log p(x^{(i)})$$



- Conditioning: *"how rapid does a function changes with small changes to the input"*
- Think:  $\frac{f(x+\epsilon)}{f(x)}$  or  $f(x + \epsilon) - f(x)$ 
  - Rounding errors can have a huge impact in poor conditioning
- Example:  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{x}$ ;  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  has eigenvalue decomposition  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$
- **Condition number**:  $\max_{i,j} \left[ \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_j} \right]$
- Large condition number  $\rightarrow$  matrix inversion sensitive to errors in input

Deep Learning functions are complex

Can get guarantees (on bounds, convergence etc.) if functions (or their derivatives) are **Lipschitz continuous**:

$$\forall \mathbf{x}, \forall \mathbf{y}, |f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{y})| \leq \mathcal{L} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2$$

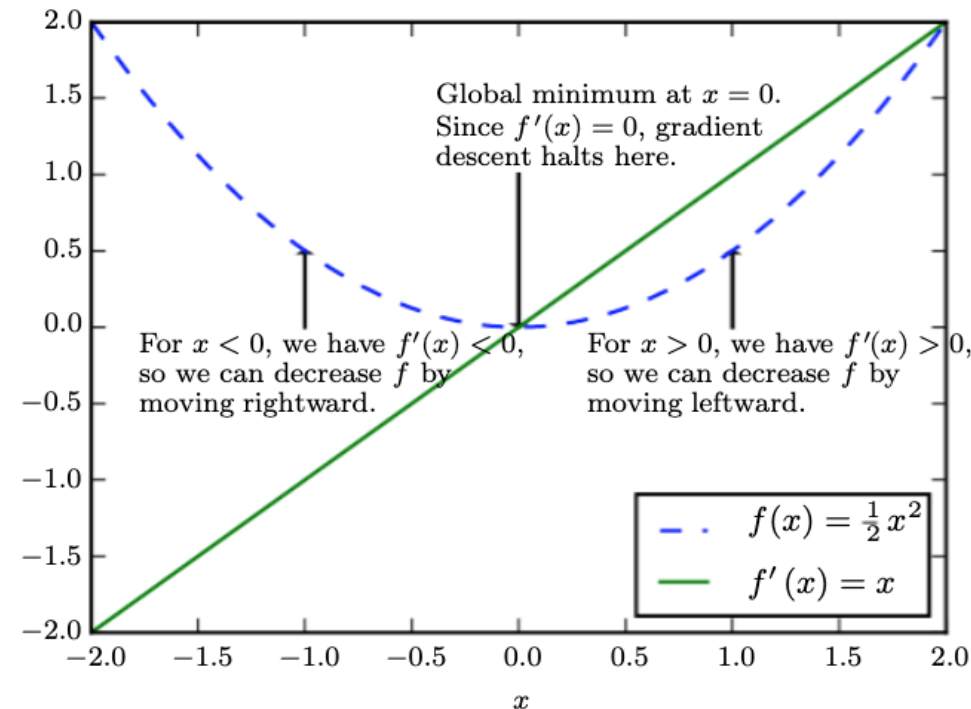
**Lipschitz constant:**  $\mathcal{L}$

# **Gradient based optimization**

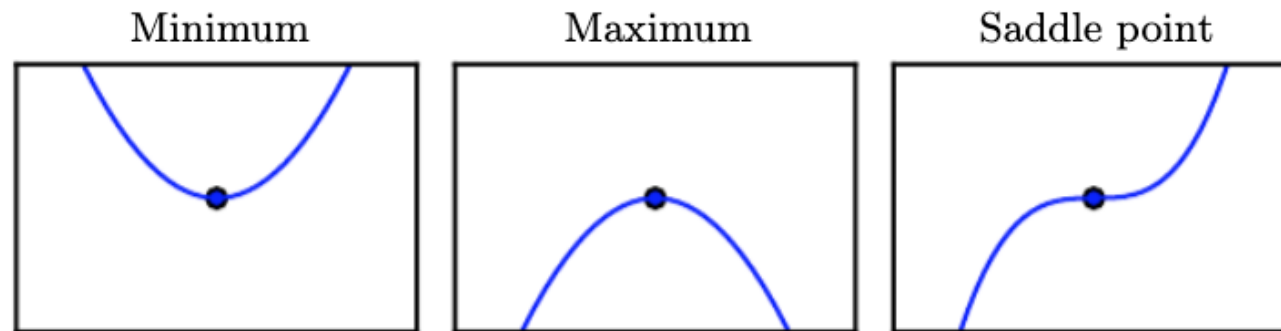
- Learning involves maximizing or minimizing some function  $f(x)$ 
  - **Objective function, criterion, cost function, loss function or error function**
  - $x^* = \arg \min f(x)$
- With linear regression we were *lucky* – analytical solution exists to find the **global minimum**

# Gradient based optimization

- We require the **derivative** of the function
- $y = f(x)$  denoted as  $f'(x)$  or  $\frac{dy}{dx}$
- The derivative provides the *slope* at the point  $x$

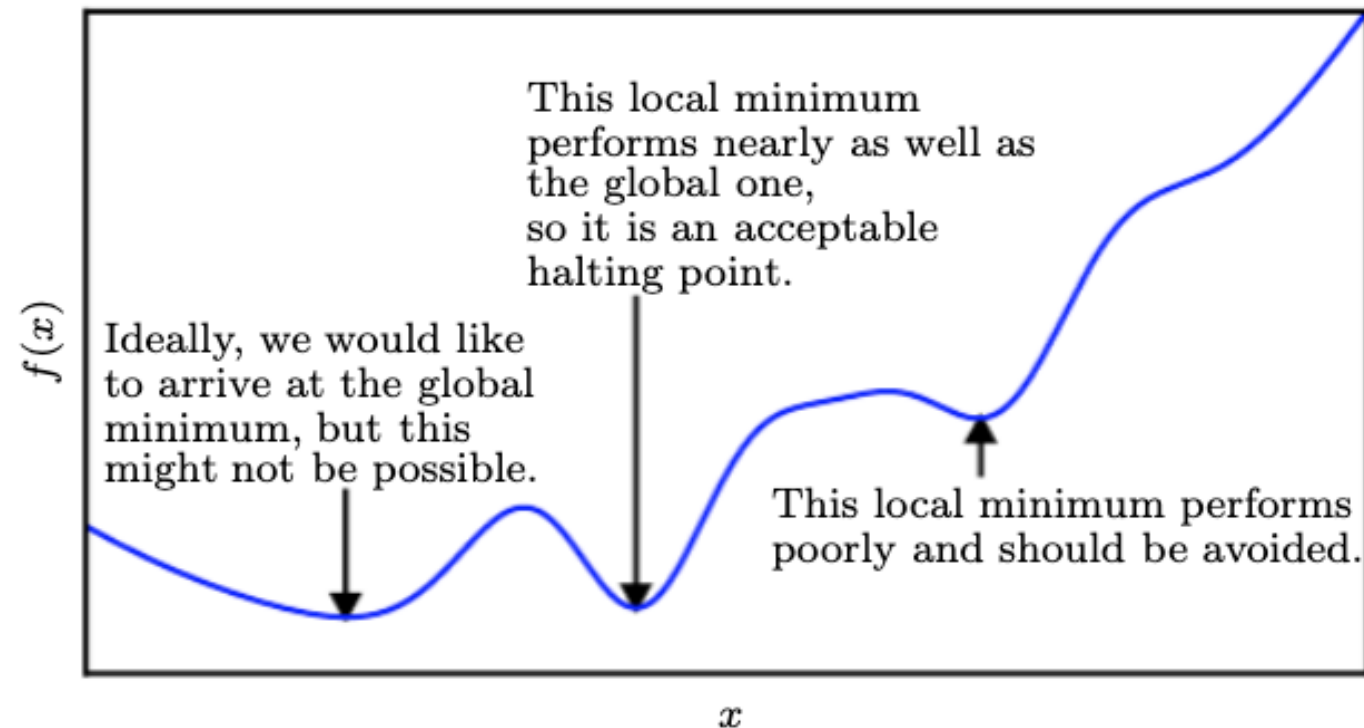


- The slope  $f'(x)$  tells us in which direction of  $x$  we must move to make  $f(x)$  smaller
- Roughly:  $f(x + \epsilon) \approx f(x) + \epsilon f'(x)$
- Points of interest:  $f'(x) = 0$



# Gradient based optimization

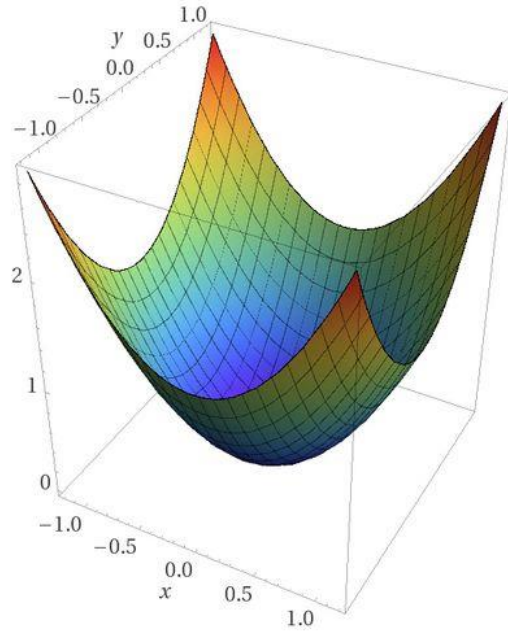
- Convex functions lack saddle points and have only one minimum
- DL functions are not 'convex' but have many local minima



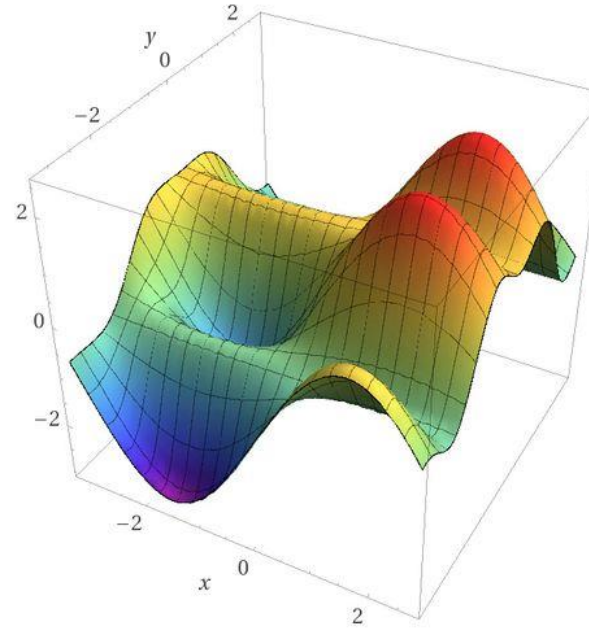
# Gradient based optimization

- Functions we work with have multiple input dimensions

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = y$$
$$f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$



Computed by Wolfram|Alpha



Computed by Wolfram|Alpha



- For functions with multiple input dimensions we compute the **partial derivative** for each input dimension

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} f(\mathbf{x})$$

- The slope becomes a **gradient**: the vector of all partial derivatives:

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x})$$

# Gradient based optimization

- To find the minimum we want to move into the direction where  $f$  decreases the fastest

- We use the 'small' step trick as before

- Let  $\mathbf{u}$  be a unit vector ( $\|\mathbf{u}\|_2 = 1$ )

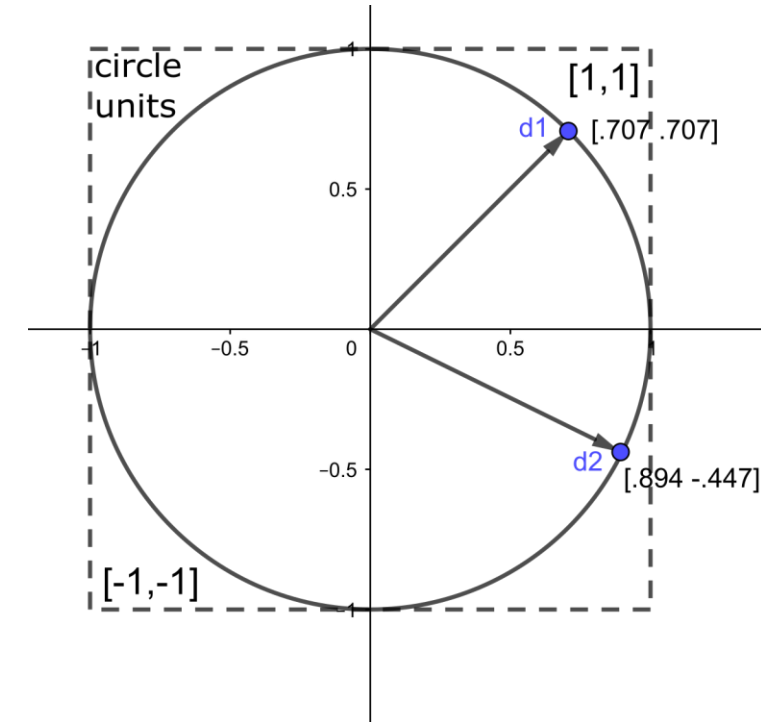
- $f(\mathbf{x} + \alpha \mathbf{u})$

- $\frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} f(\mathbf{x} + \alpha \mathbf{u})$  at  $\alpha = 0 \rightarrow \mathbf{u}^T \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x})$

- To find the best direction:

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{u} = 1} \mathbf{u}^T \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \min_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{u} = 1} \|\mathbf{u}\|_2 \|\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x})\|_2 \cos \theta \\ &= \min_{\mathbf{u}} \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

Opposite direction of the gradient.  
→  $(\cos(180^\circ) = -1)$ .



- Update rule:

$$\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{x} - \epsilon \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x})$$

- Learning rate:  $\epsilon$ 
  - Small constant
  - Evaluate  $f(\mathbf{x} - \epsilon \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x}))$  for multiple  $\epsilon$  (**line search**)
- Stopping criteria:
  - Change after update is very small:  $f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}') < c$
  - After a fixed number of iterations

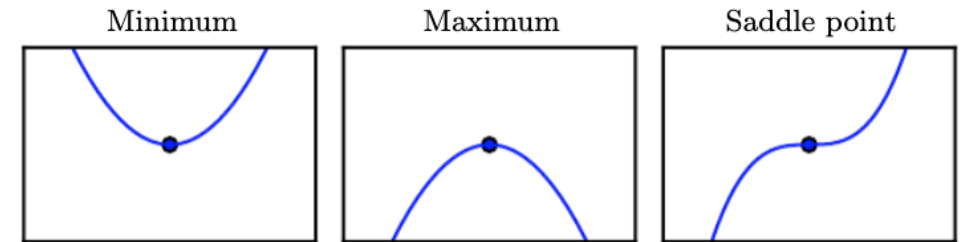
- Assume multiple outputs  $f: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$
- **Jacobian matrix**  $J \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}: J_{i,j} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} f(\mathbf{x})_i$
- **Second derivative** (curvature) of  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ 
  - Many functions – represented as **Hessian matrix**:
$$\mathbf{H}(f)(\mathbf{x})_{i,j} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} f(\mathbf{x})$$
  - Hessian is simply the Jacobian of the gradient.

# Beyond gradients

- Use  $\mathbf{H}$  to optimize learning rate ( $\mathbf{g}$  is the gradient)

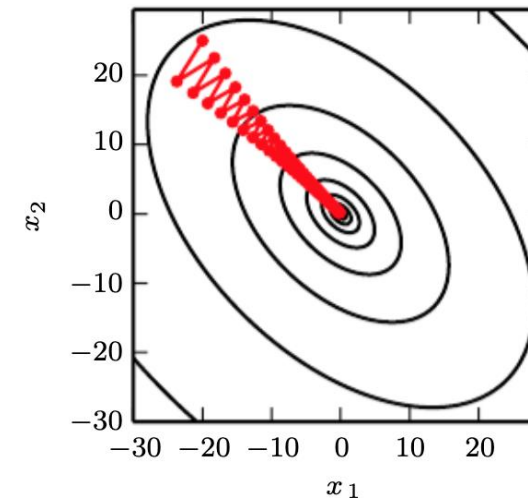
$$\epsilon^* = \frac{\mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{g}}{\mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{H} \mathbf{g}}$$

- Decide whether extreme point is local minimum/maximum



- Use in Newton's method to find critical points

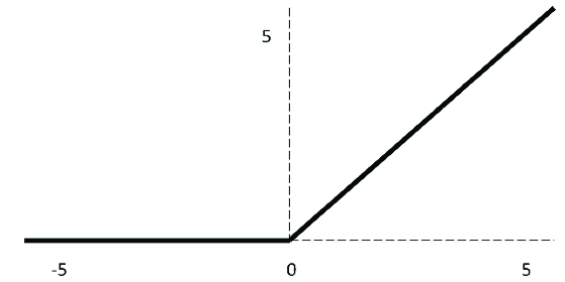
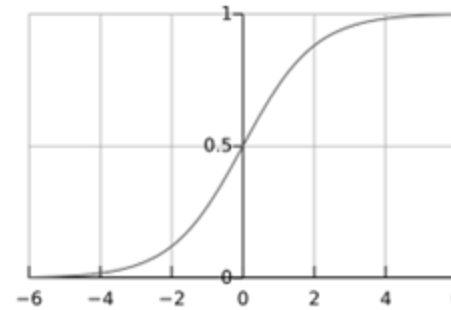
- $\mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{H}(f)(\mathbf{x})^{-1} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x})$



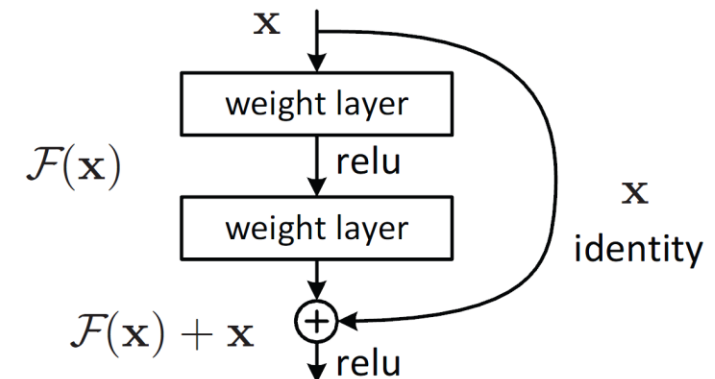
Happens when  $\mathbf{H}$  has a large **conditioning** number.

# Vanishing/Exploding Gradients

- Mathematically all well-defined
- Practically: vanishing/exploding gradients due to underflow/overflow



- How to avoid:
  - Choice of Activation Function (ReLU vs Sigmoid)
  - Change Architecture (ResNet)
  - Weight Initialization
  - Batch Normalization
  - Gradient Clipping



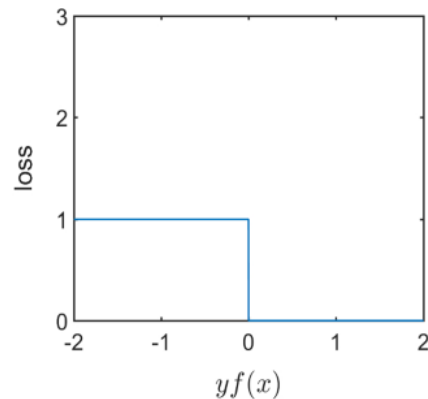
- We were optimizing a **loss** function, under **constraints**

$$J(\theta) = L(\hat{y}, y) + \lambda \Omega(\theta)$$

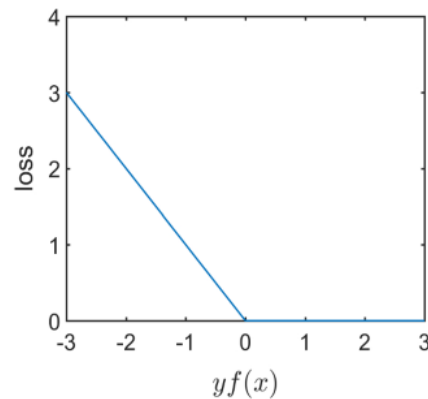
- The loss is defined over the training dataset
- To optimize  $J(\theta)$  with gradient based methods, we prefer it to be differentiable
  - Loss has to be differentiable
  - Regularizer has to be differentiable

# Examples of loss functions

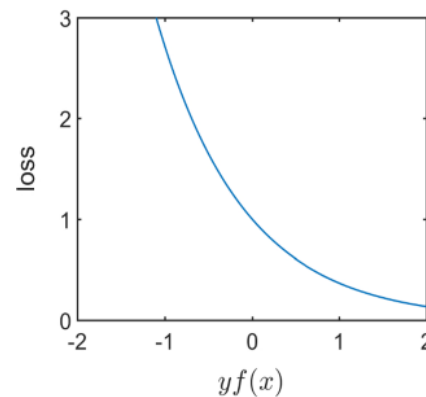
- E.g., in classification



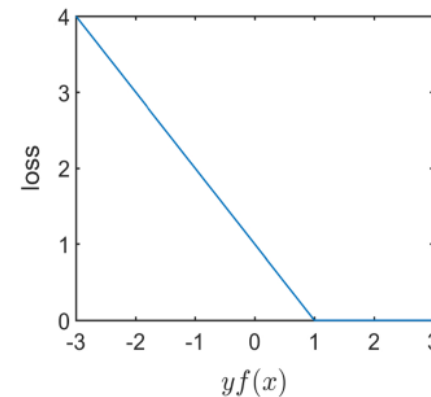
**(a)** 0-1 loss



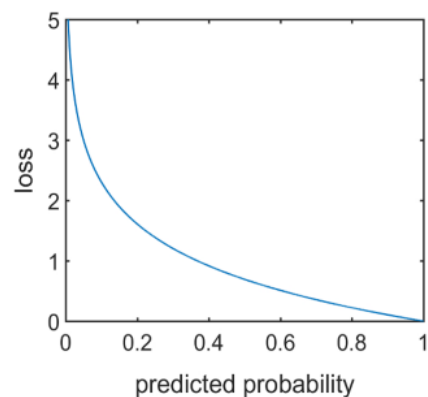
**(b)** perceptron loss



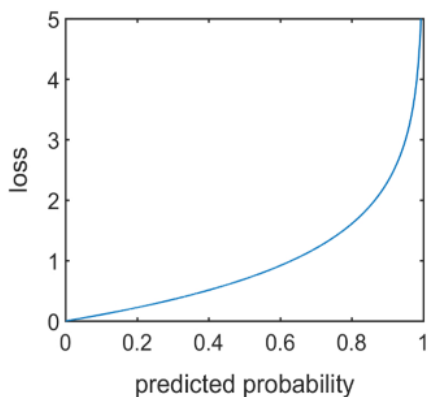
**(e)** exponential loss



**(f)** hinge loss



**(c)** logarithmic loss(label=1)



**(d)** logarithmic loss(label=-1)



# Parallel Computing

- Some tasks in ML and DL can be easily '*distributed*' across multiple CPUs
  - Dependency free: individual folds in CV, grid search (hyperparameter tuning), apply a trained model to new data, ...
- Underlying linear algebra (LA) tasks can be parallelized:
  - Matrix multiplication, inversion, singular value decomposition
  - Convolutions
  - GPUs!

- With very large datasets data is distributed
  - Compute statistics locally (e.g., mean) and combine centrally

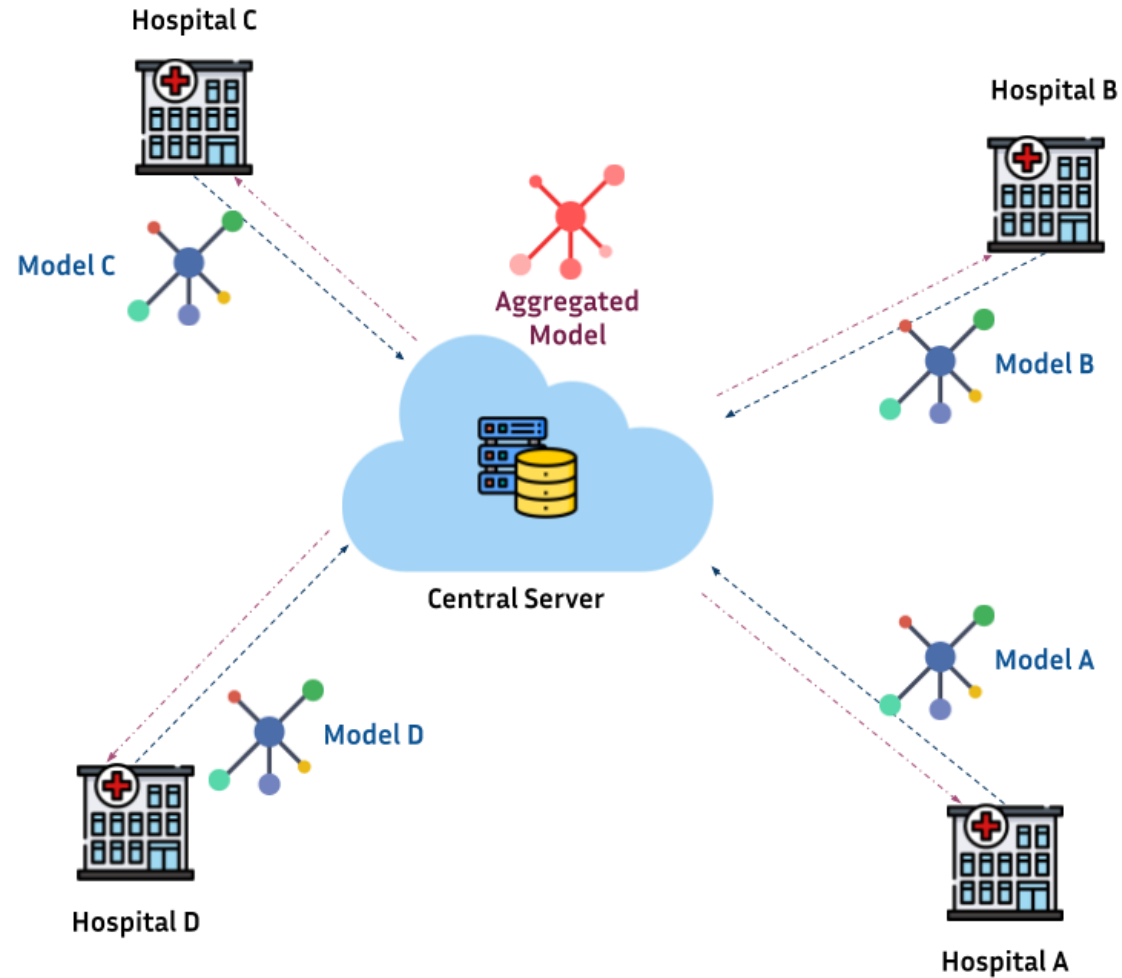
- Same works for gradients used in gradient descent:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}' = \boldsymbol{\theta} - \epsilon \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} J(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

- Say, data is split into two sites, with  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  samples:

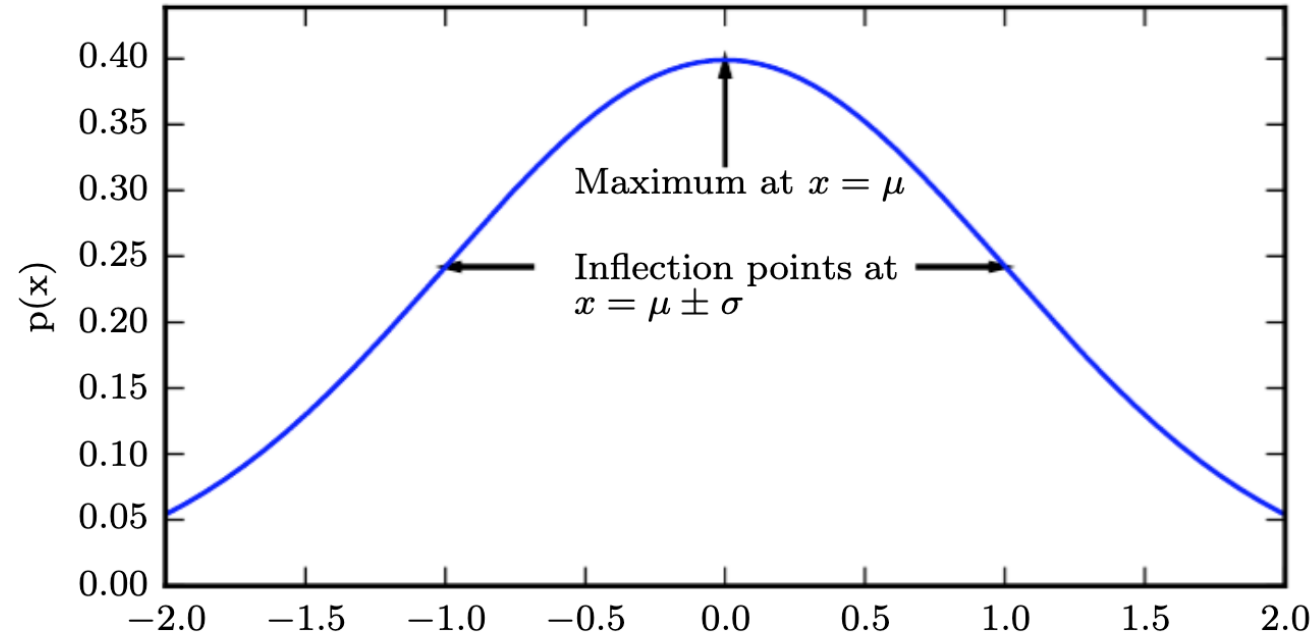
$$J_k(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{i=1}^{m_k} L(f(x^{(i)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}), y_i) \rightarrow J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = J_1(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + J_2(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$
$$\Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\theta}' = \boldsymbol{\theta} - \epsilon ( \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} J_1(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} J_2(\boldsymbol{\theta}) )$$

# Parallel Computing



# **Information Theory**

# Gaussian distribution



$$\mathcal{N}(x; \mu, \sigma^2) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x - \mu)^2\right).$$

$$\mathcal{N}(x; \mu, \beta^{-1}) = \sqrt{\frac{\beta}{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\beta(x - \mu)^2\right).$$

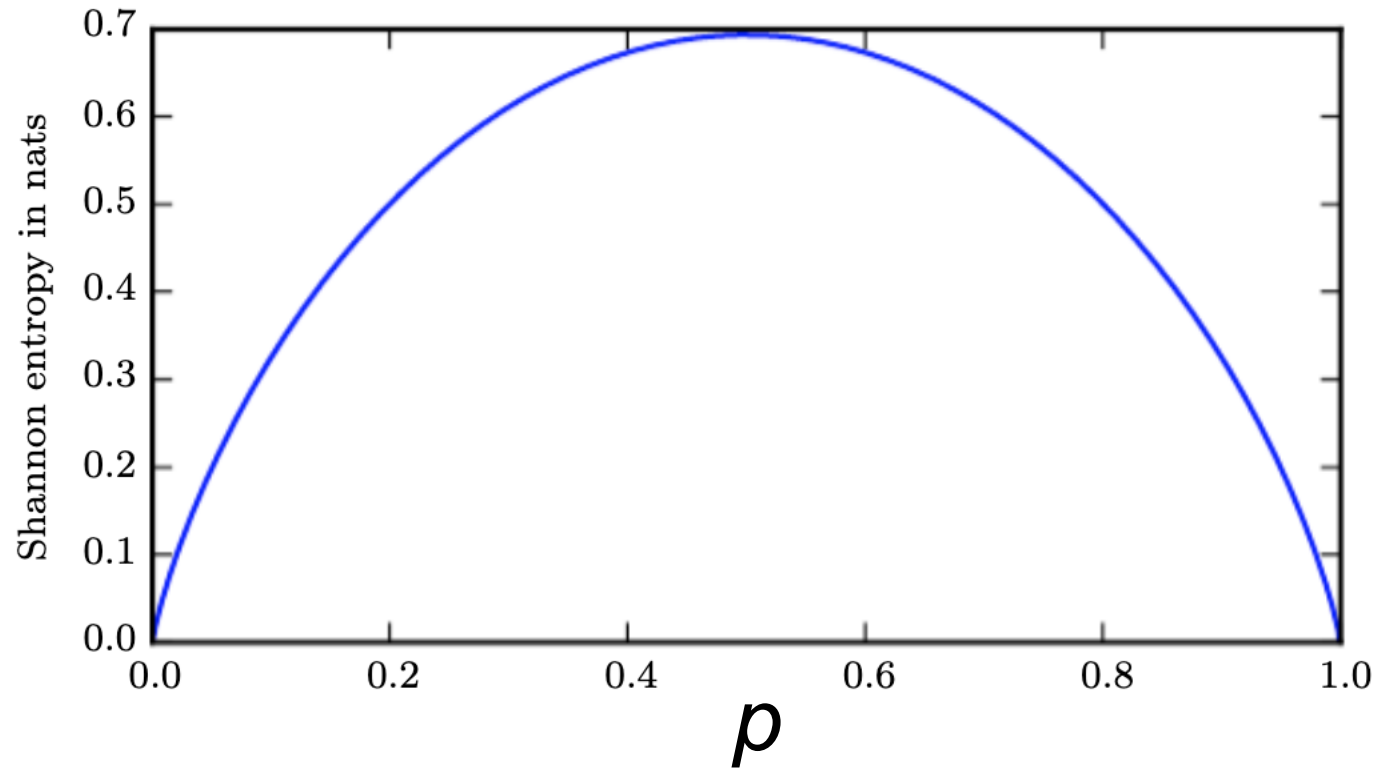
**precision**

- How much information present in a signal
- Many applications (noisy signals, etc.)
- Here:
  - Characterize probability distributions
  - Quantify similarity between probability distributions
- Intuition:
  - Observing a '*rare*' event carries more information than a '*common*' event

- Criteria:
  - Likely events should have low information content
  - Less likely events should have higher information content
  - Independent events should have additive information
- **Self-information** (event  $x = x$ ):
$$I(x) = -\log P(x)$$
- Unit: **nat**  $= \frac{1}{e}$  (as opposed to **bits/shannons**)
- **Shannon entropy**:
$$H(x) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P}[I(x)] = -\mathbb{E}_{x \sim P}[\log P(x)]$$



- Shannon entropy for a binary variable



- Two distributions over  $x$ :  $P(x)$  and  $Q(x)$
- We can measure the difference (“*similarity*”) of the distributions

$$D_{KL}(P \parallel Q) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P} \left[ \log \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} \right] = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P} [\log P(x) - \log Q(x)]$$

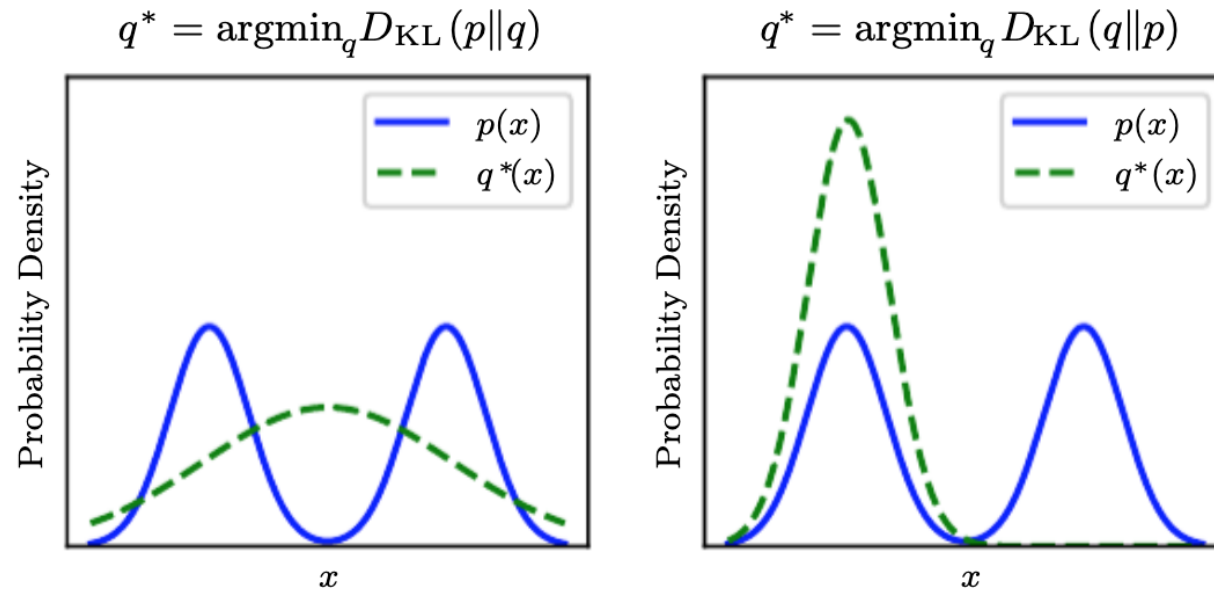
## Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergence

- Non-negative, only 0 iff  $P = Q$
- “distance between distributions”

- Not symmetric:

$$D_{KL}(P \parallel Q) \neq D_{KL}(Q \parallel P)$$

- Choice important for applications



- Used for **loss/cost** function when matching distributions

Closely related to KL-divergence

Popular loss function for classification

## Cross-entropy

$$\begin{aligned} H(P, Q) &= H(P) + D_{KL}(P \parallel Q) \\ &= -\mathbb{E}_{x \sim P} \log Q(x) \end{aligned}$$

- In the discrete case:

$$H(P, Q) = - \sum_{x \in X} P(x) \log Q(x)$$

$$0 \log 0 := 0$$

# **Maximum Likelihood Estimation**

- We were optimizing a **loss** function, under **constraints**

$$J(\theta) = L(\hat{y}, y) + \lambda \Omega(\theta)$$

- Now we view the problem as finding the parameters that generated the data
- Common approach: **maximum likelihood (ML)**

- Set of  $m$  examples  $\mathbb{X} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \mathbf{x}^{(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}$
- Samples were drawn independently from  $p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})$
- We have a family of probability distributions:

$$p_{\text{model}}(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

- ML: find parameter  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  that explains the observed data best

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{ML}} &= \operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} p_{\text{model}}(\mathbb{X}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \prod_i p_{\text{model}}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{\theta})\end{aligned}$$

- Prod. of many numbers computationally problematic (underflow), use *log*:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{ML}} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \sum_i \log p_{\text{model}}(\boldsymbol{x}^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

- Way to obtain estimates for  $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$  for Gaussian distributions

- Another way to write this:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{ML}} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{x} \sim \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} \log p_{\text{model}}(\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$$



- ML attempts to minimize the ‘*dissimilarity*’ between the empirical distribution  $\hat{p}_{\text{data}}$  and the model distribution  $p_{\text{model}}$
- **Kullback–Leibler (KL) divergence:**  
$$D_{\text{KL}}(\hat{p}_{\text{data}} || p_{\text{model}}) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} [\log \hat{p}_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x}) - \log p_{\text{model}}(\mathbf{x})]$$
- To minimize KL-divergence we need only to minimize:
  - $\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} [\log p_{\text{model}}(\mathbf{x})]$

- We can do the same for conditional probabilities
  - Model dependence of output  $y$  on input  $x$
  - $P(y | x; \theta)$  – basis for supervised learning

$$\theta_{\text{ML}} = \arg \max_{\theta} P(Y | X; \theta)$$

- Assume i.i.d. samples:

$$\theta_{\text{ML}} = \arg \max_{\theta} \sum_{i=1}^m \log P(y^{(i)} | x^{(i)}; \theta)$$

- We can use this to train Linear Regression.

- We assume a conditional distribution:

$$p(y|\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{N}(y; \hat{y}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}), \sigma^2)$$

- $\hat{y}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w})$  provides the mean based on input and model parameters
- We assume fixed variance (independent of the input)

- Examples are assumed i.i.d., conditional log-likelihood:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^m \log p(y^{(i)} | x^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &= -m \log \sigma - \frac{m}{2} \log 2\pi - \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\|\hat{y}^{(i)} - y^{(i)}\|^2}{2\sigma^2} \end{aligned}$$

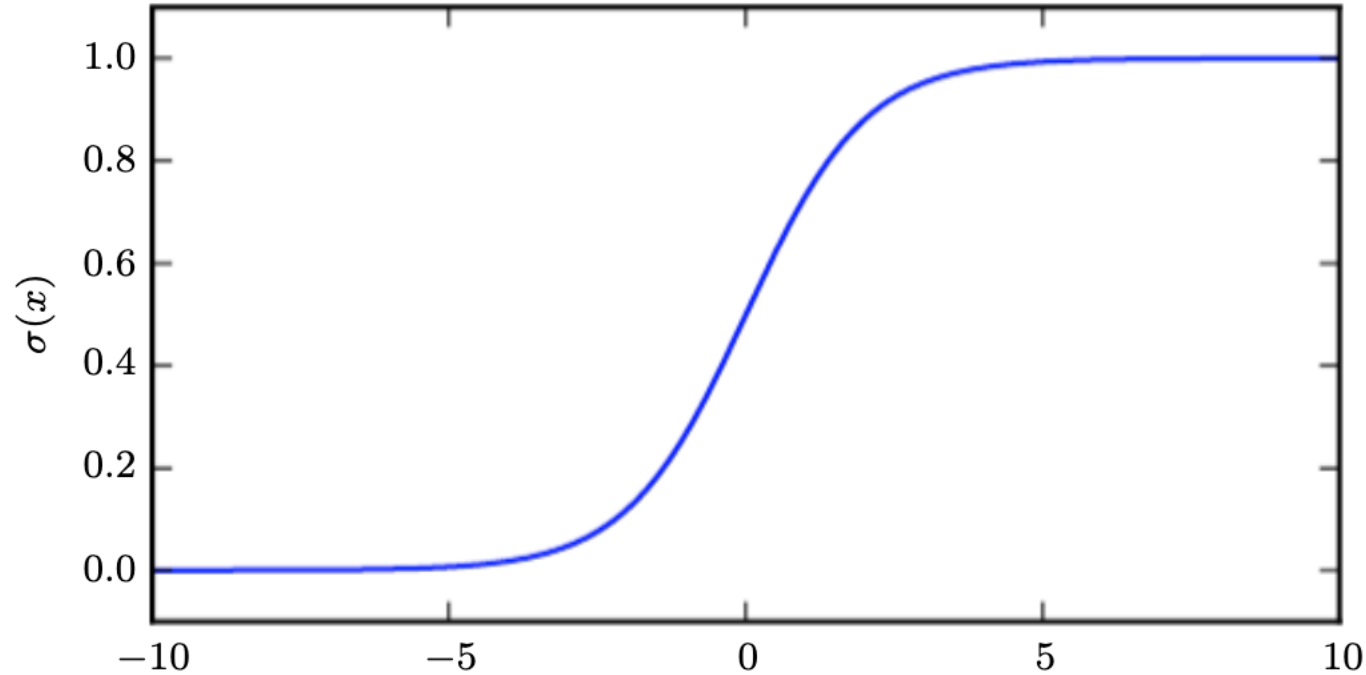
- For reference:

$$\text{MSE}_{\text{train}} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \|\hat{y}^{(i)} - y^{(i)}\|^2$$

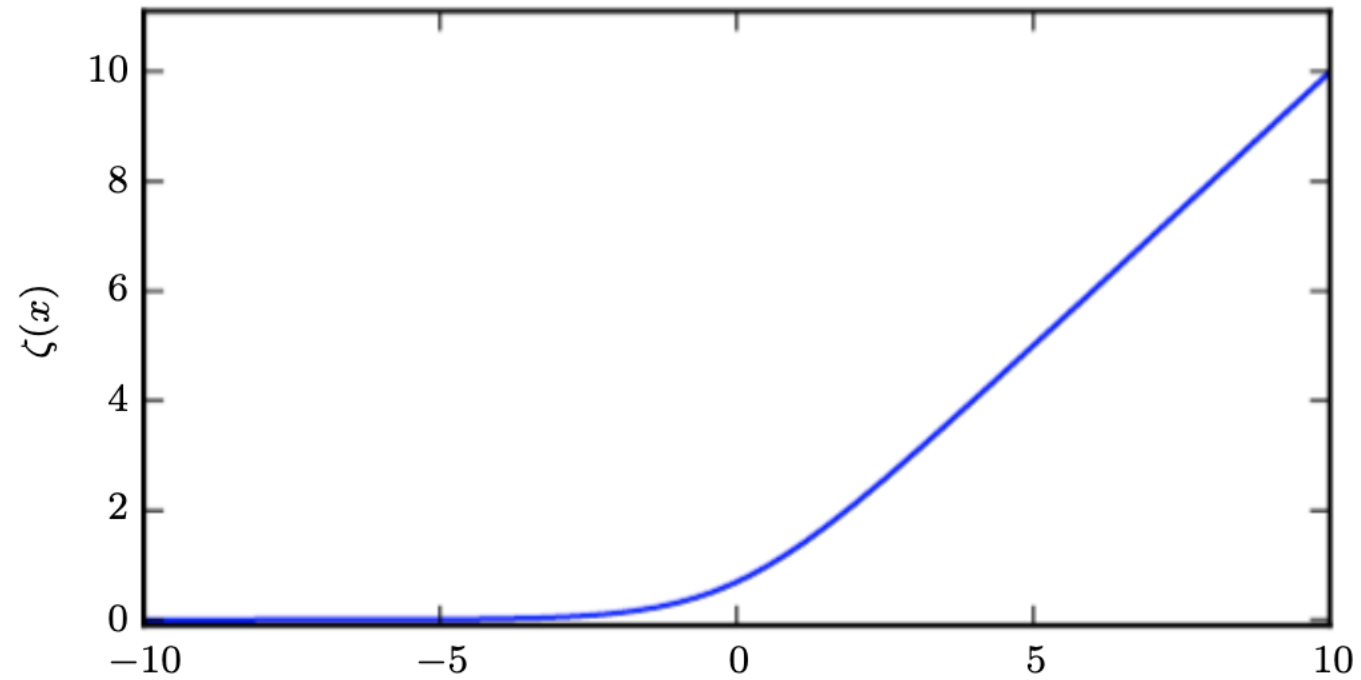
# Questions

Thank you!

# (logistic) sigmoid



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



$$\zeta(x) = \log(1 + \exp(x))$$