

*Neural Networks – Part II*  
*PHYS 250 (Autumn 2025) – Lecture 16*

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# Outline

## 1 *Reminders*

- Reminders from Lecture 15

## 2 *Historical perspective*

- Brief History of Machine Learning Generally
- Brief History of Neural Networks

## 3 *Structure of Neural Networks*

- Single layer perceptron
- Training a single layer perceptron
- Training a Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)

## *Reminders from last time*

We embarked on a whirlwind introduction to neural networks.

### Neural networks and machine learning

- **Context and perspective**

- We discussed the general issue of training computers to **discover, identify, and analyze patterns** of interest in datasets
- Categorized tasks that make use of this idea: **classification, regression, generation, clustering, anomaly detection**

- **Neural networks as a tool**

- Introduced both the **modeling** perspective as well as the **biological** perspective on what a neural network achieves
- Described the **structure and function** of a neuron
- Began discussing the **mathematical properties** of a neural network

Today we will build our own networks! But first, I just wanted to follow-up on some points and questions from last time.

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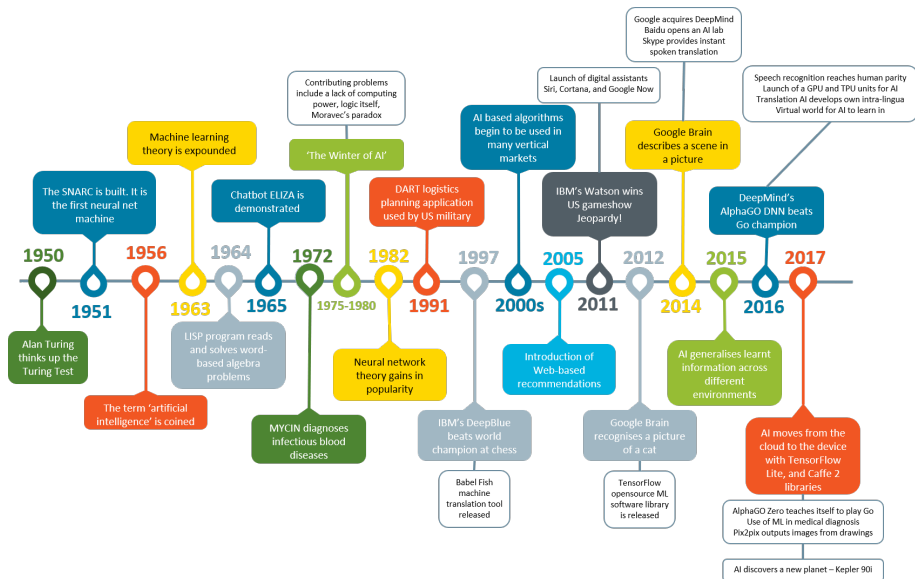
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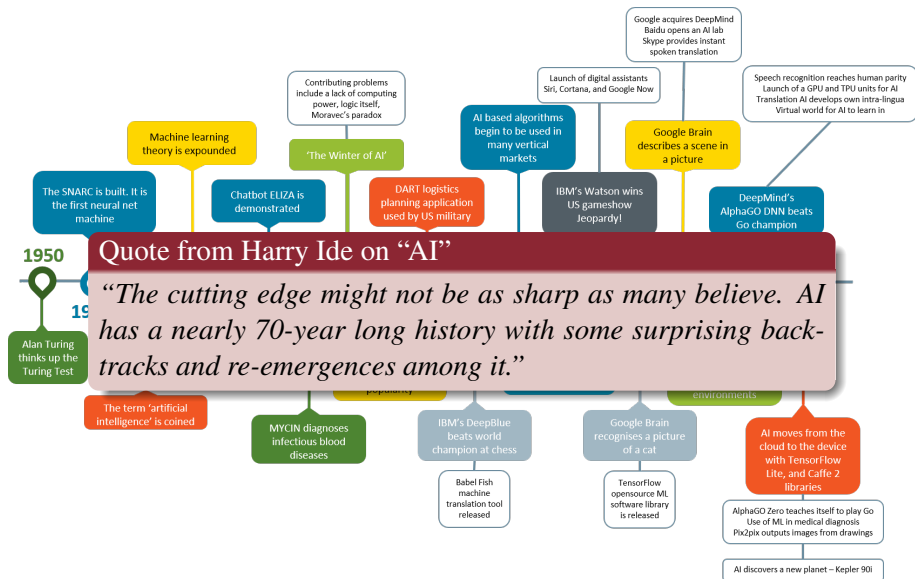
# Brief history of machine learning

Taken from **Harry Ide on InnovationLaboratory.com (18 May 2018):**



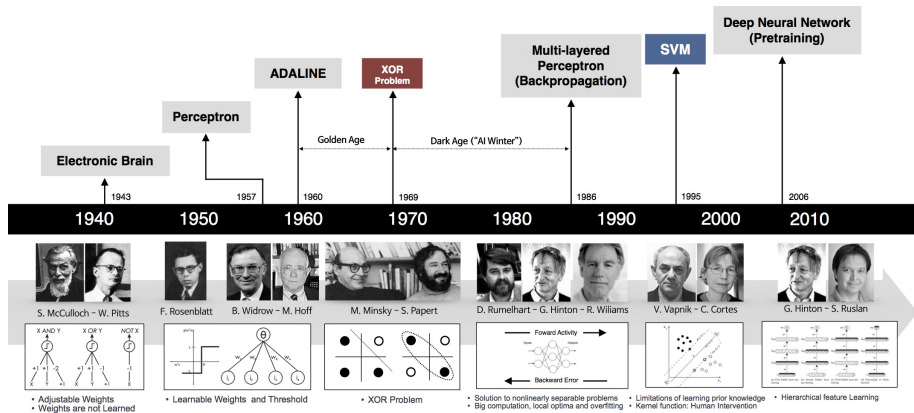
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# Brief history of neural networks

Taken from [this talk on SlideShare](#):

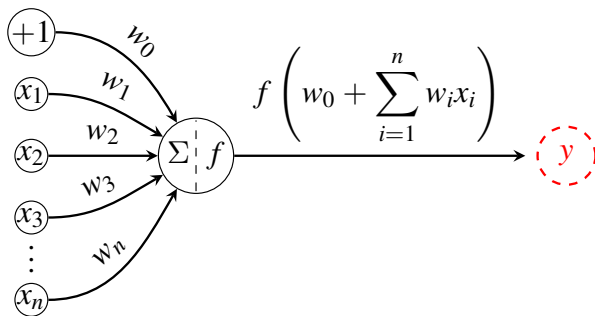


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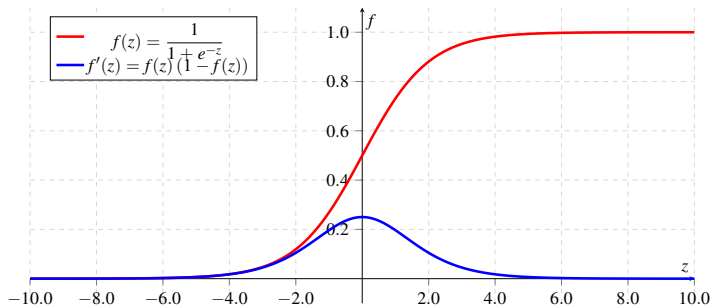
## Single layer perceptron



- $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  is an input feature vector of length  $n$   
i.e. the attributes of the data, e.g. voltages
- $\vec{w} = (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n)$  is the weight vector with  $w_0$  reserved as a bias
  - becomes a matrix for multiple layers
- $\Sigma$  indicates summation (or matrix mult.):  $z = \sum w_i x_i$  ( $x_0 = 1$ )
- $f$  is the activation function, or non-linearity:  $f(z)$
- $y = f(z)$  is the output

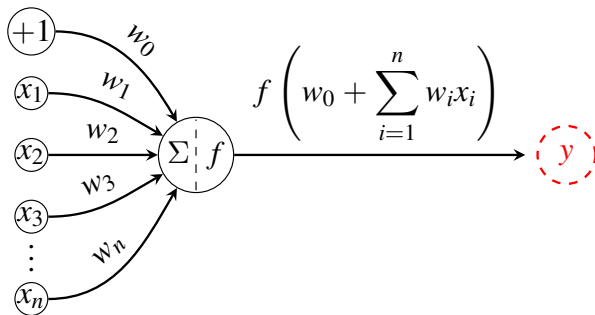
## Sigmoid as activation function

As we discussed, a typical function for a **single layer perceptron** is the **sigmoid**.



Here, we plot both the function itself, as well as its derivative, since that will be important when evaluating the **backpropagation** of weights in order to update the neural network.

## Training a single layer perceptron

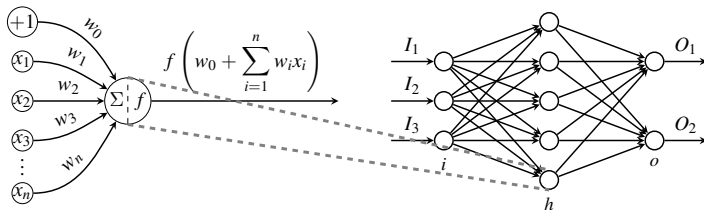


Given  $j$  objects  $\vec{x}_j$  in dataset, each with **known values of  $f$** ,  $d_j$

- **Calculate the output:**  $y_j = f(\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_j)$
- **Determine the error:**  $\epsilon_j = d_j - y_j$
- **Update the weights:**  $w_i^{\text{new}} = w_i + r(\epsilon_j \cdot \vec{x}_j)_i$

Choosing the learning rate  $r$  is where the derivative is used. It's not important for the single-layer perceptron, but is **essential** for a network.

# Multi-layer perceptron (MLP)



Given  $j$  objects  $\vec{I}_j$  in dataset, each with features  $\vec{I} = (I_1, I_2, \dots, I_n)$  and **known outputs  $\vec{d}_j$  at each output node  $o$** ,  $\vec{d} = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_o)$

- **Calculate the  $h$  outputs of hidden layer:**  $v_h = f(\sum_i w_{ih} I_i)$
- **Calculate the  $o$  outputs of output layer:**  $y_o = f(\sum_h w_{ho} v_h)$
- **Determine the error at output each node  $o$ :**  $\epsilon_o = d_o - y_o$
- **Determine the total error for data object  $j$ :**  $\mathcal{E}_j = \frac{1}{2} \sum_o \epsilon_o^2$
- **Determine change in weights for output neuron  $y_o$ :**  $\Delta w_{oh} = -\eta \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial z_o} v_h = \eta \epsilon_o f'(z_o)$

# LeCun, Bengio, Hinton, “Deep learning”

*Nature volume 521, pages 436-444 (28 May 2015)*

