

# Gradient Descent

## Towards Neural Networks

Justin Stevens

# Outline

- 1 Decision Making
  - Perceptrons
  - Activation Functions
- 2 Classifying Digits through MNIST

# Should I Stay or Should I Go?

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Ticket Prices	Availability	Interest	$\bar{x}$
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Cheap	No	Yes	$(1, 0, 1)$	4
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We can now define my **activation threshold**,  $t$ , which will determine whether or not I go to the game, represented in binary.

# Formula for Decision Making

The general formula for my decision to go to the Oilers game is

$$\text{output} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \bar{w} \cdot \bar{x} < t \\ 1 & \text{if } \bar{w} \cdot \bar{x} \geq t. \end{cases}$$

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For instance, if  $t = 9$ , we see I'll only go if I'm both available and interested.  
If  $t = 7$ , I'll also go if the tickets are cheap and I'm available:

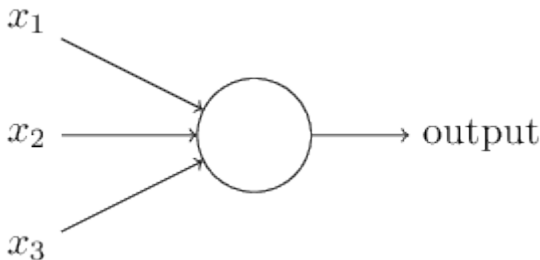
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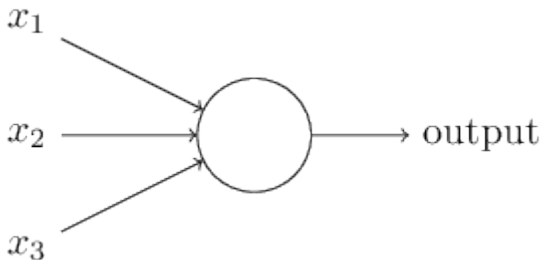
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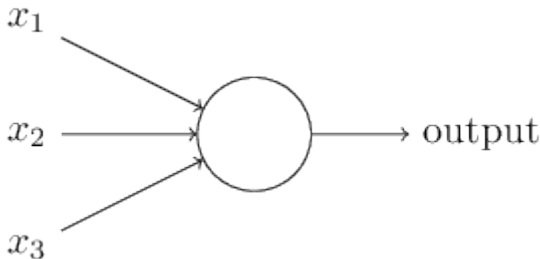


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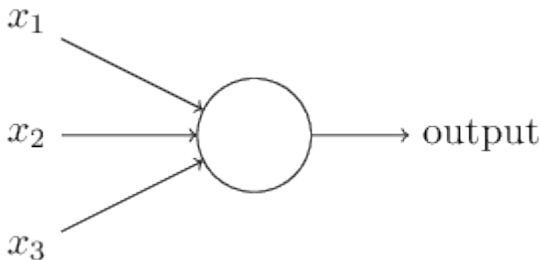
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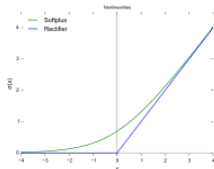


Figure 1: Rectifier, and a smooth approximation  $\log(1 + e^x)$ . (Source: Wikipedia).

# Outline

## 1 Decision Making

## 2 Classifying Digits through MNIST

- Defining the Problem
- References

# Example Images



**Figure 2:** How would you devise a system for a **computer** to classify the digits? What assumptions do we have to make about the data set, known as MNIST?

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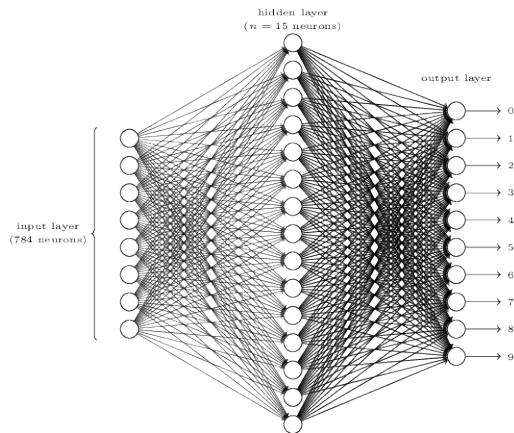
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- The desired digit is represented as a number from 0 to 9.
- 60,000 images are designated for training, and 10,000 for testing.
- We'll build a model from the training images that will learn to classify digits!

# What we're building towards



**Figure 3:** A simple neural network structure. The input vectors on the left hand side have  $28 \times 28 = 784$  inputs for each pixel, and the output layer has 10 digits, one for each number from 0 to 9.

# References

- › Stewart Calculus: Early Transcendentals, 6th Edition
- › Professor Leonard Calculus 3 (Full Length Videos)
- › Paul's Online Math Notes, Calculus III