

Advanced Machine Learning  
#L3

# Neural Network

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# Topics for Today

- Motivating example: digit recognition
- Two important types of artificial neuron
  - the perceptron
  - the sigmoid neuron
- Neural networks
  - Architecture and representation
  - A simple network to classify handwritten digits
- Learning with gradient descent
- Backpropagation algorithm

# Motivating example: digit recognition

- Consider the following sequence of handwritten digits:

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- How can we humans recognize it?
  - We carry in our heads a supercomputer, and superbly adapted to understand the visual world

# Motivating example: digit recognition

- How do we develop a system which can learn from those training examples?

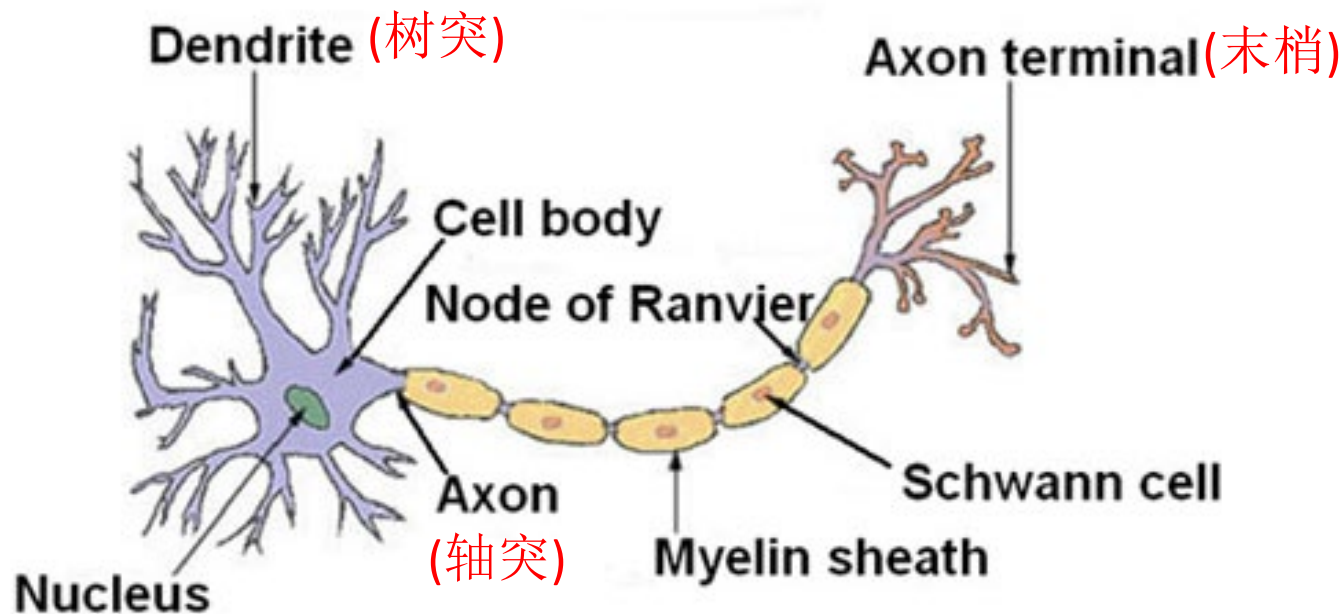


# Neural Networks

- Origins: Algorithms that try to mimic the brain.
- Was very widely used in 80s and early 90s; popularity diminished in late 90s.
- Recent resurgence: State-of-the-art technique for many applications

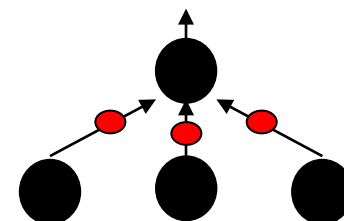
# Neural Networks

- How the brain works?
  - Neuron in the brain



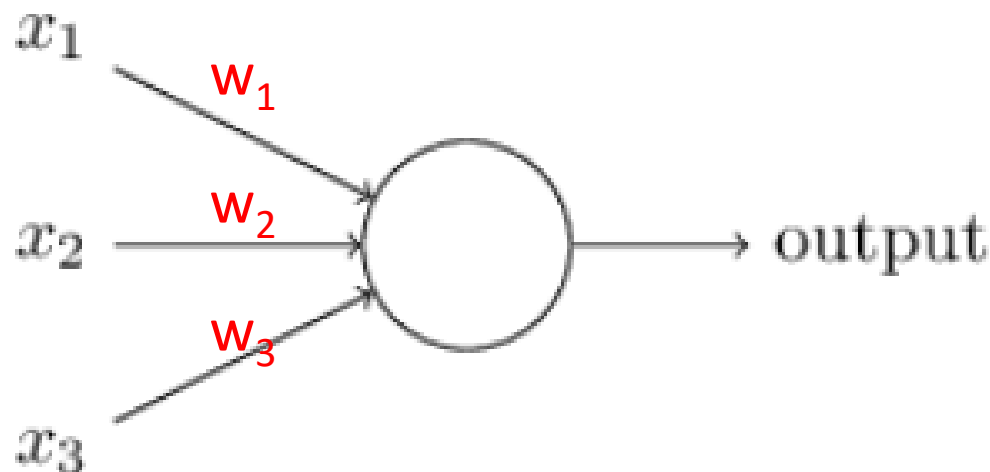
# Neural Networks

- How the brain works?
- Each neuron receives inputs from other neurons
  - A few neurons also connect to receptors.
  - Cortical neurons use spikes to communicate.
- The effect of each input line on the neuron is controlled by a synaptic weight
  - The weights can be positive or negative.
- The synaptic weights adapt so that the whole network learns to perform useful computations
  - Recognizing objects, understanding language, making plans, controlling the body.
- You have about  $10^{11}$  neurons each with about  $10^4$  weights.
  - A huge number of weights can affect the computation in a very short time. Much better bandwidth than a workstation.



# Neuron model: Perceptron

- A perceptron takes several binary inputs  $x_1, x_2, \dots$  and produces a single binary output:



**3 elements: Input weight**

**output**

$$\text{output} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \sum_j w_j x_j \leq \text{threshold} \\ 1 & \text{if } \sum_j w_j x_j > \text{threshold} \end{cases}$$

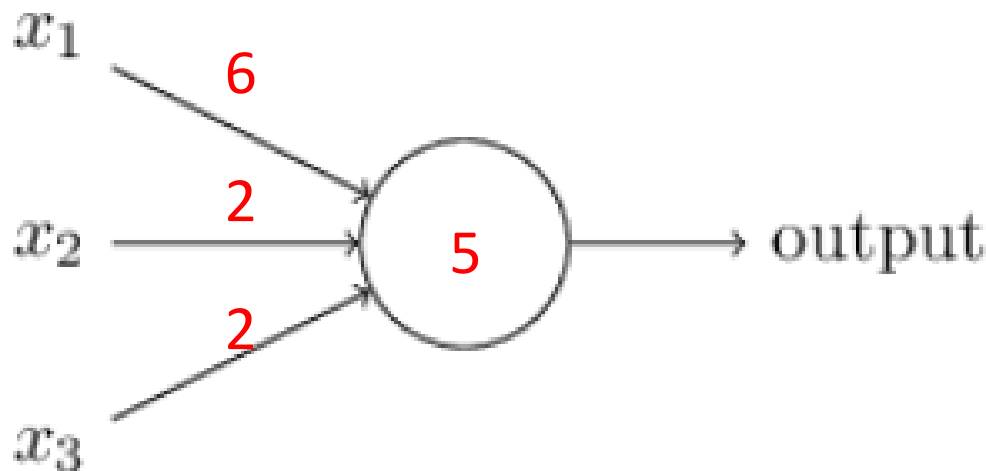


# Neuron model: Perceptron

- It works like a device that makes decisions by weighing up evidence
- An example: whether or not to go to play tennis:

- **Three factors:**

- 1. Is the weather good?
- 2. Does your boyfriend like you?
- 3. Is the playground near your car?

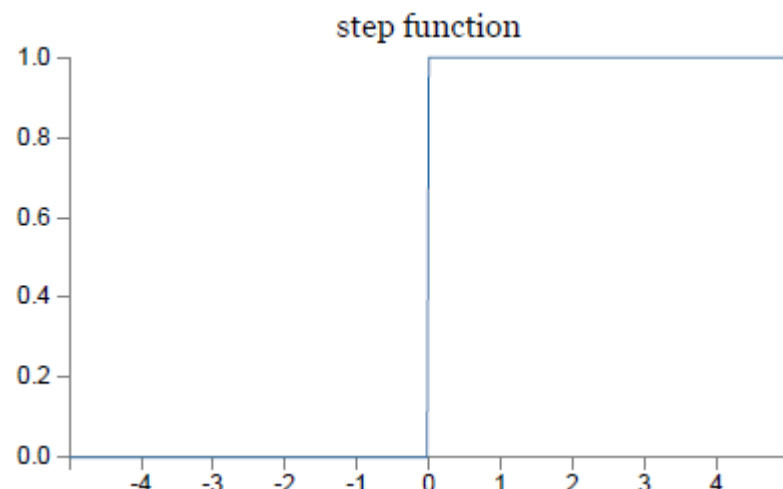


- Choose a weight:  $w_1 =$
- Choose a threshold of  $\theta$
- (By varying the weights and the threshold, we can get different models of decision making.)

# Neuron model: Perceptron

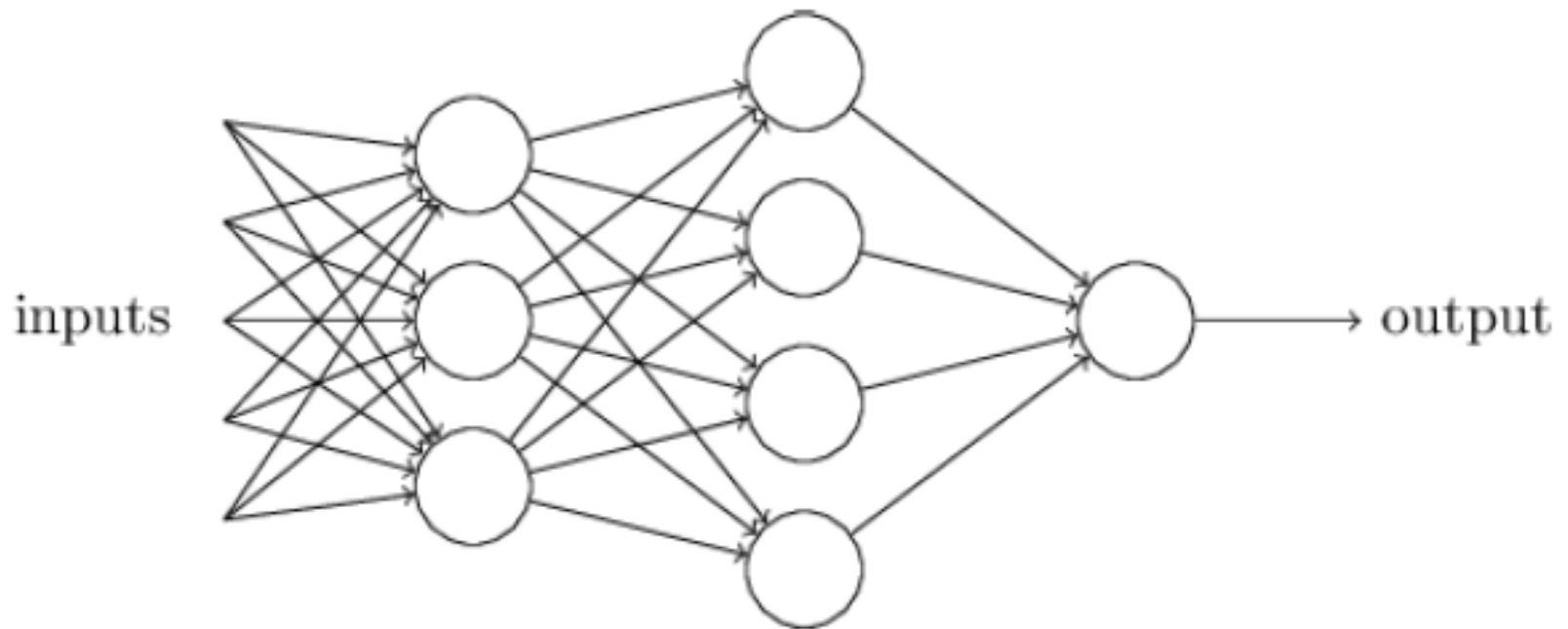
- To simplify:
  - Denote:  $w \cdot x \equiv \sum_j w_j x_j$ ,
  - And bias  $b$ =threshold
- The perceptron rule can be rewritten:

$$\text{output} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } w \cdot x + b \leq 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } w \cdot x + b > 0 \end{cases}$$



# Neuron model: Perceptron

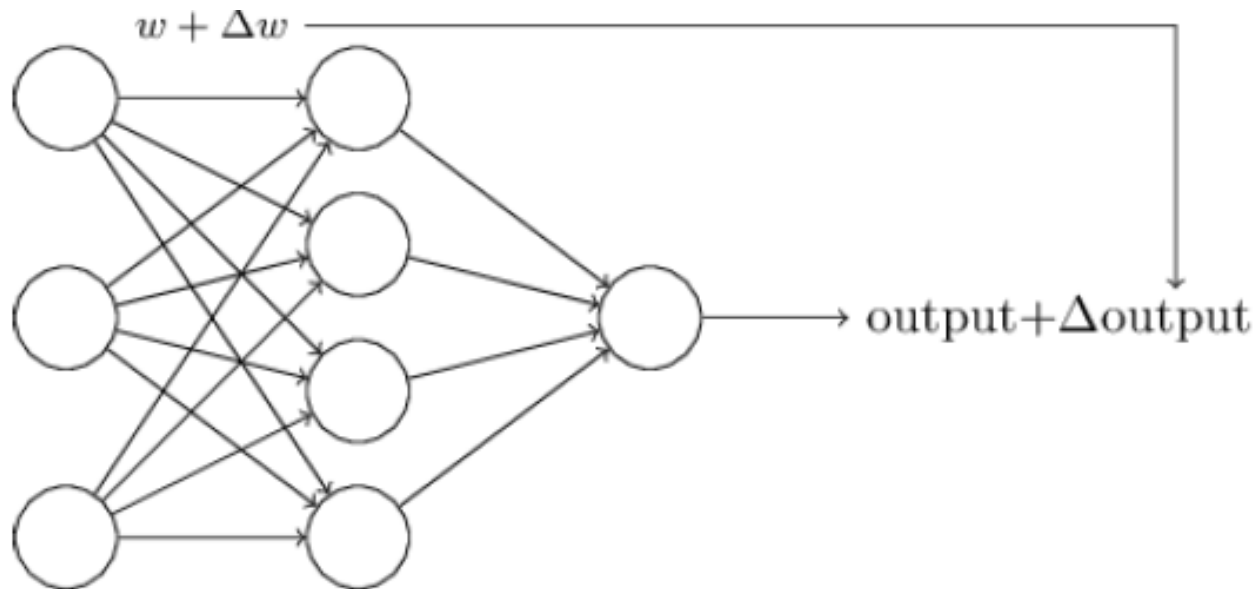
- A complex network of perceptrons for quite subtle decisions:



# Neuron model: Sigmoid Neuron

- We need some learning algorithm that can learn weights and biases, e.g., to correctly classifies the digit

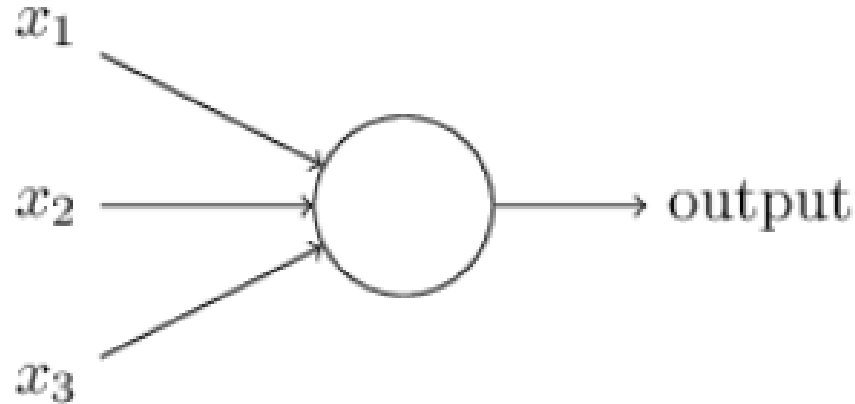
A small change in any weight (or bias) causes a small change in the output



However, it sometimes cause the output of that perceptron to completely flip, say from 1 to 0

# Neuron model: Sigmoid Neuron

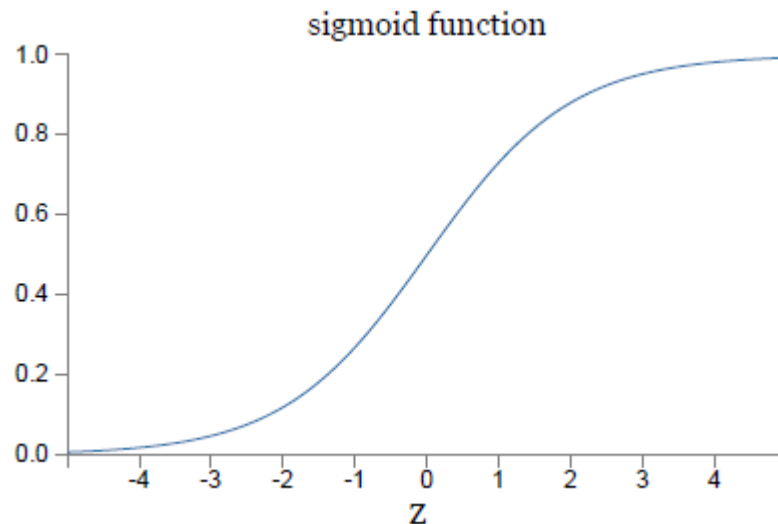
- Sigmoid neuron



- Input:  $x_1, x_2, \dots$  can take on any values between 0 and 1 (not just 0 or 1)
- Weight: weights for each input  $w_1, w_2, \dots$ , and bias  $b$
- Output: between 0 and 1(not just 0 or 1)

# Neuron model: Sigmoid Neuron

- The output of a sigmoid neuron with inputs  $x_1, x_2, \dots$ , weights  $w_1, w_2, \dots$ , and bias  $b$ :



$$\frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\sum_j w_j x_j - b)}$$

$$\sigma(z) \equiv \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}} \text{ is a sigmoid function}$$

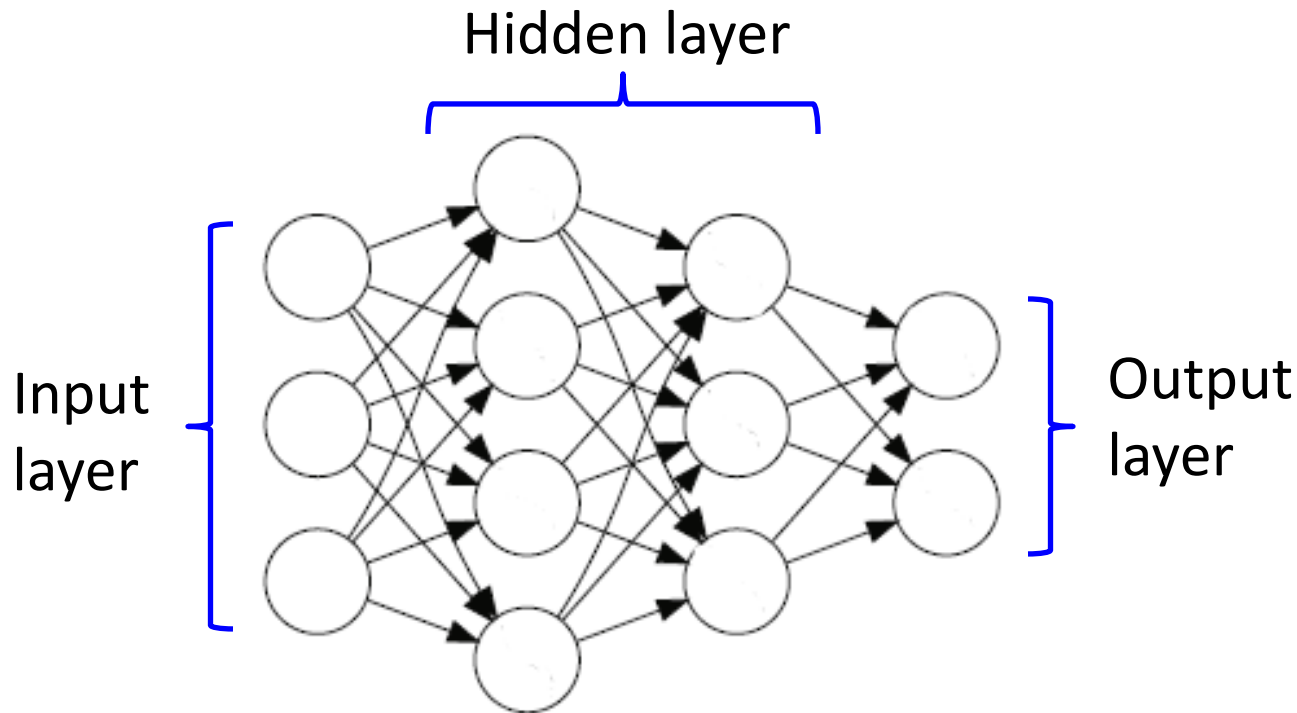
# Neuron model: Sigmoid Neuron

- Sigmoid neuron closely approximates a smoothed out perceptron
- $\Delta \text{output}$  is a *linear function* of the changes  $\Delta w$  and  $\Delta b$  in the weights and bias.

$$\Delta \text{output} \approx \sum_j \frac{\partial \text{output}}{\partial w_j} \Delta w_j + \frac{\partial \text{output}}{\partial b} \Delta b$$

# Neural networks: architecture

***Feedforward neural networks:*** the output from one layer is used as input to the next layer (no loops)





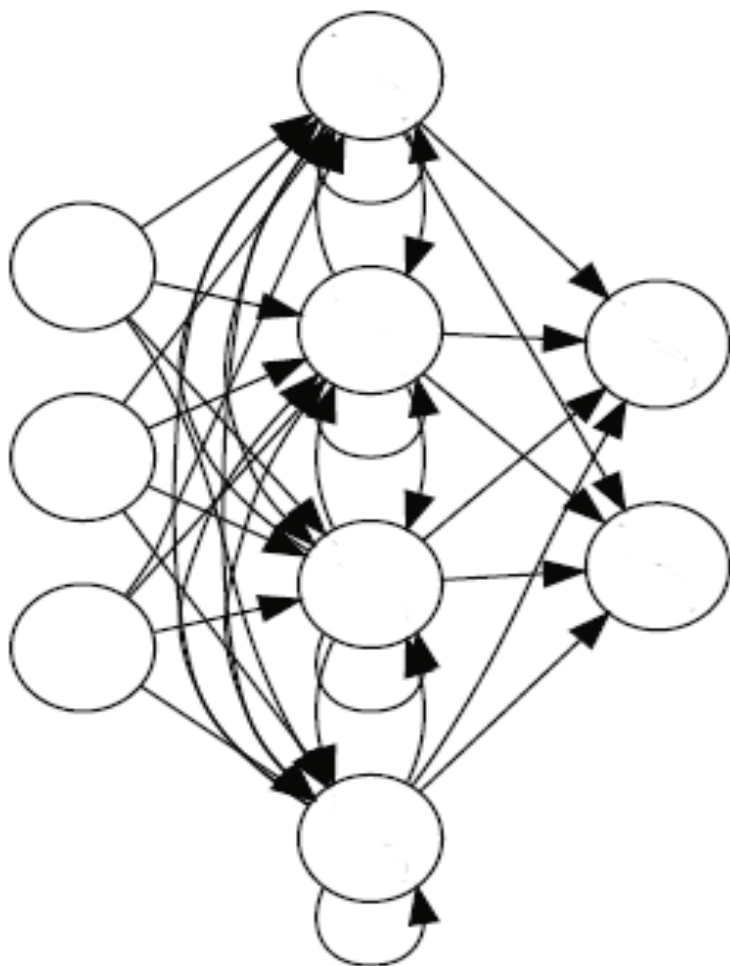
# Neural networks: architecture

- Well known examples of FNNs include:
  - *Perceptrons* (Rosenblatt, 1958)
  - *Radial basis function networks* (Broomhead and Lowe, 1988)
  - *Kohonen maps (Self-Organizing Map)* (Kohonen, 1989)
  - *Hopfield nets* (Hopfield, 1982)
  - The most widely used form of FNN is the *multilayer perceptron (MLP; Rumelhart et al., 1986; Werbos, 1988; Bishop, 1995)*.

\* Sometimes called *multilayer perceptrons* or *MLPs*, despite being made up of sigmoid neurons, not perceptrons.

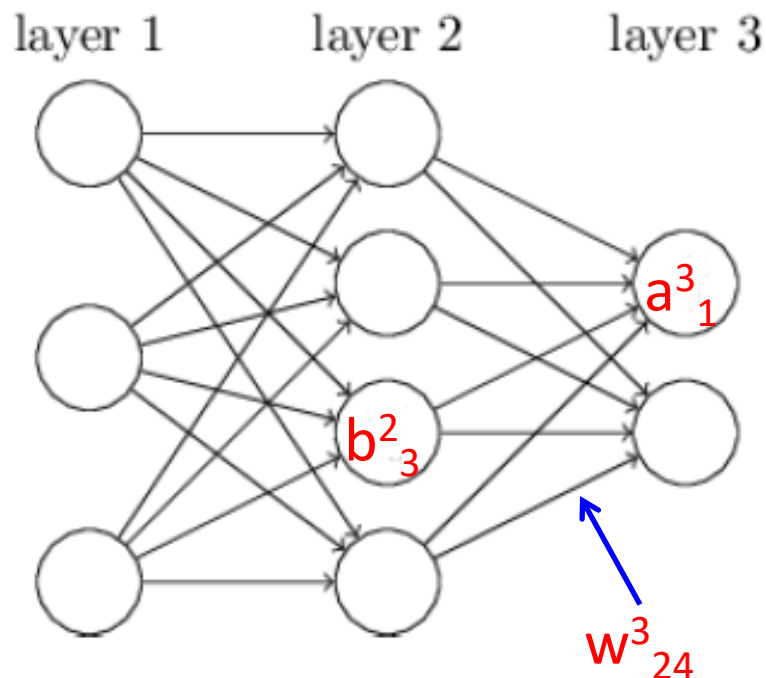
# Neural networks: architecture

***Recurrent neural networks:*** allow cyclical connections between layers (e.g., a single, self connected hidden layer)



- Many varieties of RNN:
  - Elman networks (Elman, 1990)
  - Jordan networks (Jordan, 1990)
  - time delay neural networks (Lang et al., 1990)
  - Long short-term memory (LSTM) (Hochreiter and Schmidhuber, 1997)
  - echo state networks (Jaeger, 2001)
  - Gated Recurrent Units (Chung et al., 2014)
  - .....

# Neural networks: representation



- $w^l_{jk}$ : the weight for the connection from the  $k$ th neuron in the  $(l-1)$ th layer to the  $j$ th neuron in the  $l$ th layer
- $b^l_j$ : the bias of the  $j$ th neuron in the  $l$ th layer
- $a^l_j$ : the activation of the  $j$ th neuron in the  $l$ th layer

# Neural networks: representation

- $a_j^l$ : the activation of the  $j$ th neuron in the  $l$ th layer

$$a_j^l = \sigma \left( \sum_k w_{jk}^l a_k^{l-1} + b_j^l \right)$$

- the sum is over all neurons  $k$  in the  $(l-1)$ th layer

# Neural networks: representation

- $w^l$ : a weight matrix for each layer,  $l$ 
  - the entry in the  $j$ th row and  $k$ th column is  $w_{jk}^l$
- $b^l$ : a bias vector for each layer,  $l$ 
  - the entry in the  $j$ th row is  $b_j^l$
- $a^l$ : an activation vector
  - with components the activations  $a_j^l$
- $\sigma$ : function vectorization
- Then,
$$a^l = \sigma(w^l a^{l-1} + b^l)$$
  - how the activations in one layer relate to activations in the previous layer

# Neural networks: representation

- $z^l$ : the weighted input to the neurons in layer  $l$

$$z^l \equiv w^l a^{l-1} + b^l$$

- with components the weighted input to the activation function for neuron  $j$  in layer  $l$

$$z_j^l = \sum_k w_{jk}^l a_k^{l-1} + b_j^l$$

- Finally,

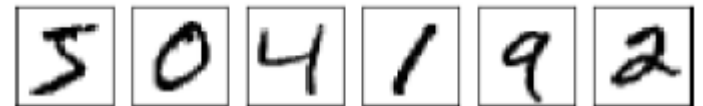
$$a^l = \sigma(z^l).$$

# Neural networks: Example

- A simple network to classify handwritten digits

- Segment the image

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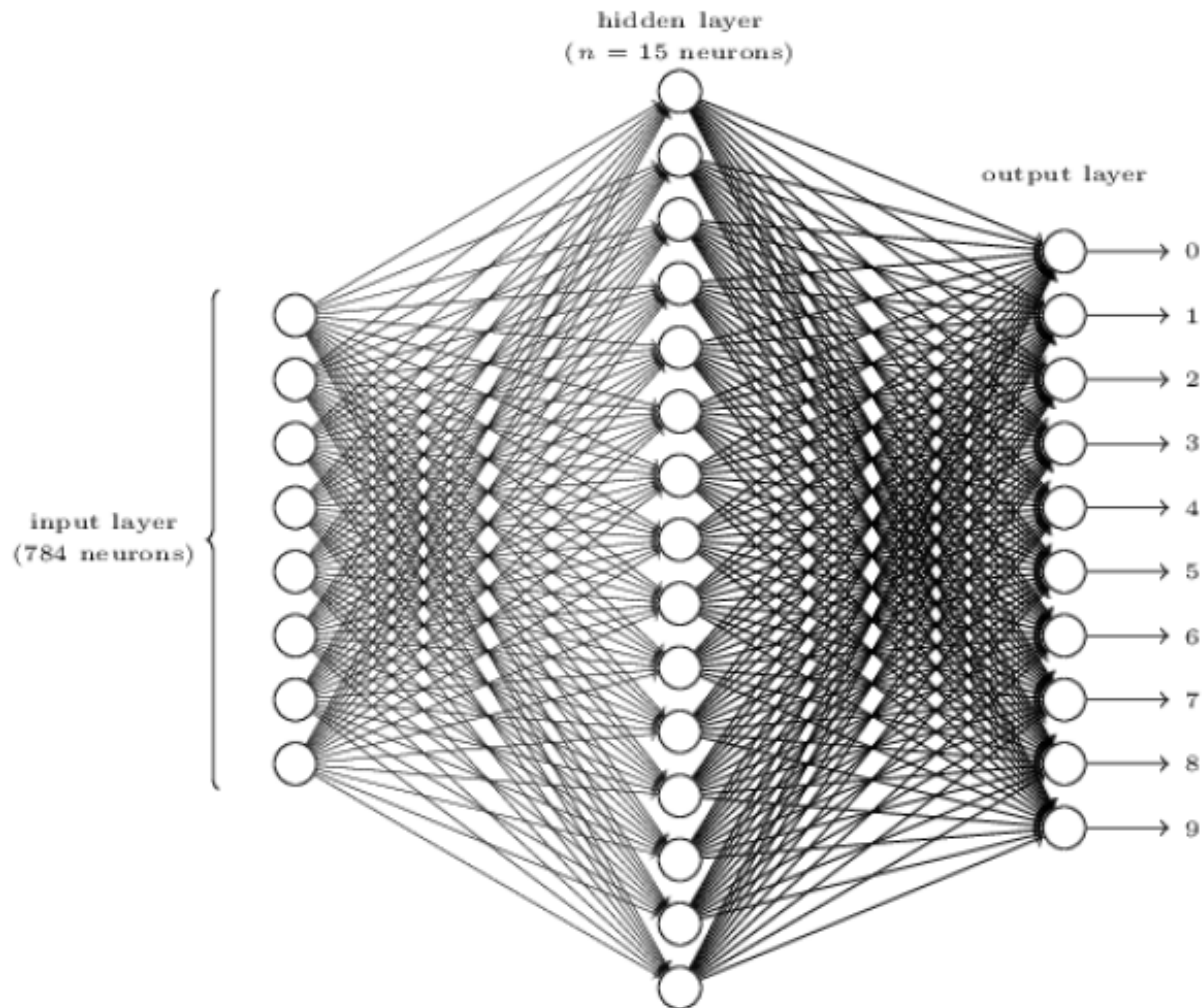
- Classify individual digits



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# Neural networks: Example

- One possible network architecture:





# Neural networks: Example

- Input layer: 784 neurons
  - 28\*28 pixel
  - greyscale, with a value of 1 representing white, a value of 0 representing black, and in between values representing gradually darkening shades of grey.
- Hidden layer: 15 neurons
  - Quite an art to the design of the hidden layers
  - Experiment with different values
- Output layer: 10 neurons
  - If the first neuron fires, i.e., has an output  $\approx 1$ , then that will indicate that the network thinks the digit is a 0. The second fires for digit 1. And so on.

# Neural networks: Learning

- Training data: e.g., the MNIST data set, with  $n$  training data
  - $x$ : denotes a training data, a  $28*28=784$  dimensional vector
  - $y$ : desired output,  $y=y(x)$ , a 10 dimensional vector
  - E.g., if a particular training image,  $x$ , depicts a 6, then  $y=(0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0)^T$
- Network:
  - Parameters:  $w$ , all the weights,  $b$ , all the bias
  - Output:  $a=a(x)$ , the vector of outputs from the network when  $x$  is input
- Goal: find weights  $w$  and biases  $b$  so that the output  $a(x)$  from the network approximates  $y(x)$  for all training inputs  $x$

# Neural networks: Learning

- Cost function: e.g., the *mean squared error* (or just *MSE*)

$$C = \frac{1}{2n} \sum_x \| y(x) - a^L(x) \|^2;$$

- $L$ : the number of layers in the network
- A gradient method!
  - to compute the partial derivatives  $\partial C / \partial w$  and  $\partial C / \partial b$  of the cost function  $C$  with respect to any weight  $w$  or bias  $b$  in the network
  - Ultimately, this means computing the partial derivatives  $\partial C / \partial w_{jk}^l$  and  $\partial C / \partial b_j^l$

# Neural networks: Learning

- $C_x$ : Cost functions for individual training examples,  $x$

$$C_x = \frac{1}{2} \|y - a^L\|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_j (y_j - a_j^L)^2$$

- *Then,*

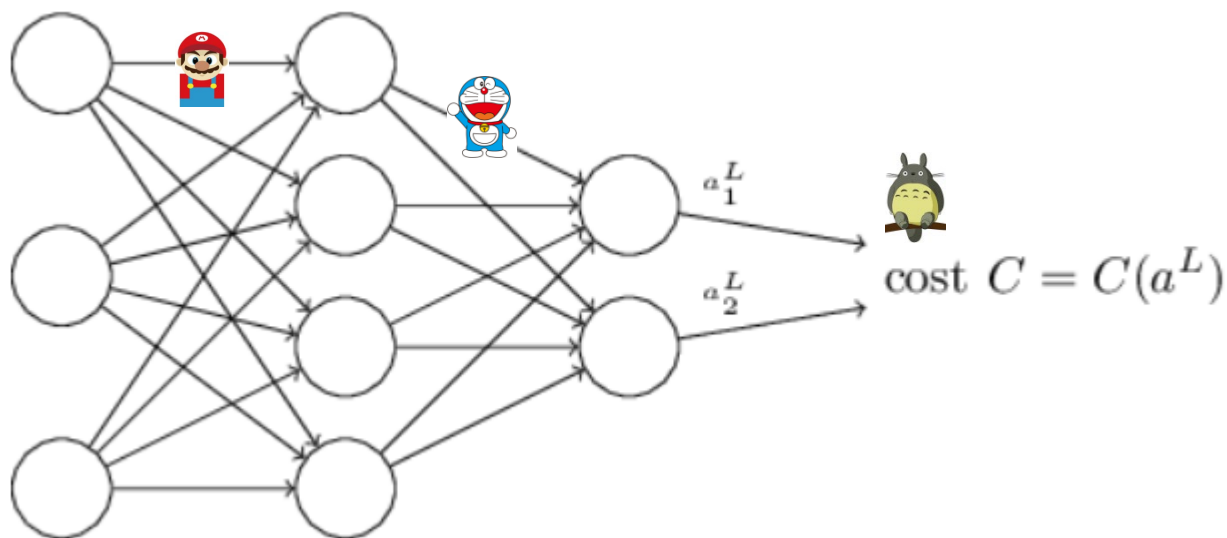
$$C = \frac{1}{n} \sum_x C_x$$

- $C$  is a function of the output activations:

$$C = C(a^L)$$

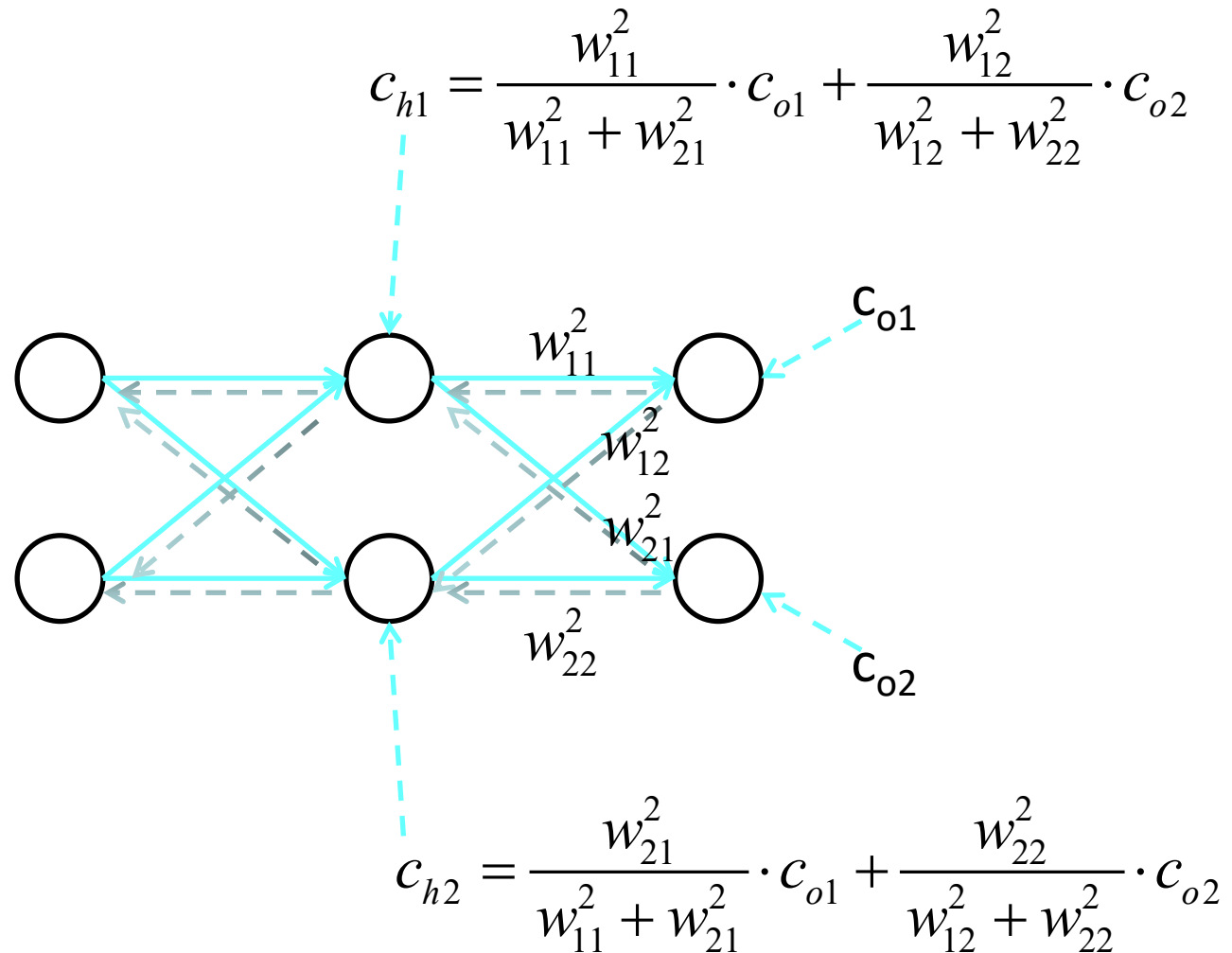
Ultimately, this means computing the partial derivatives  $\partial C / \partial w_{jk}^l$  and  $\partial C / \partial b_j^l$

# Neural networks: Learning

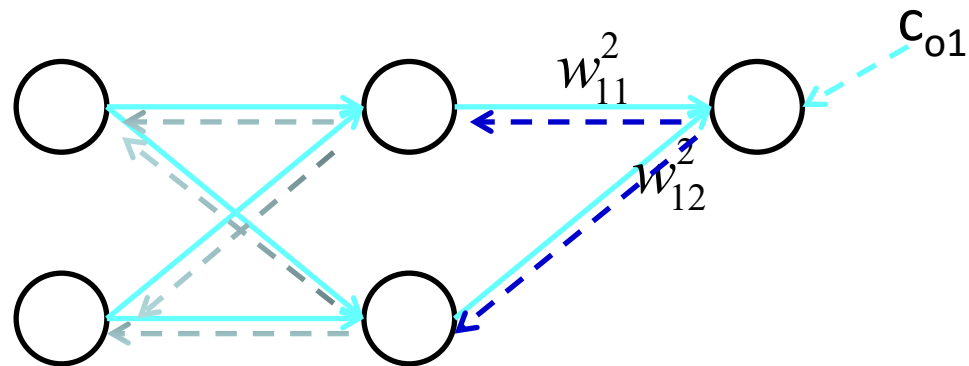


- We are trying to make the cost smaller.
- A little change  $\Delta z_j^l$  to the neuron's weighted input will cause the outputting  $\sigma(z_j^l)$  change to  $\sigma(z_j^l + \Delta z_j^l)$
- This change propagates through later layers in the network, finally causing the overall cost to change by an amount  $\partial C / \partial z_j^l$

# Neural networks: Learning



# Neural networks: Learning



$$c_{o1} = \frac{1}{2}(a_1^3 - y_1)^2$$

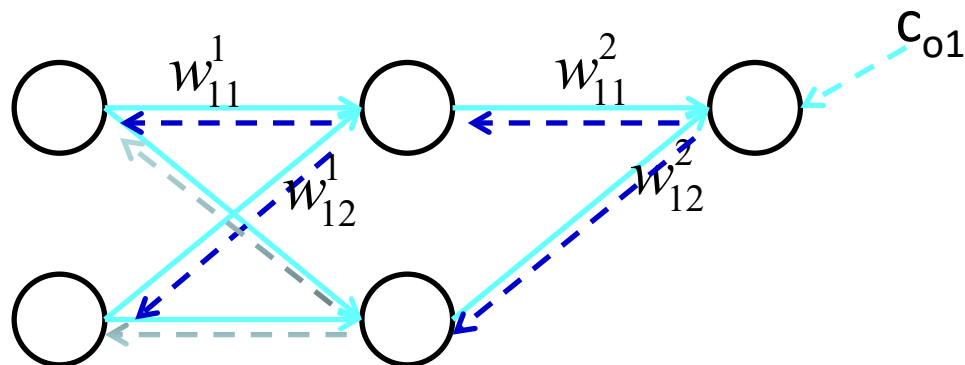
$$a_1^3 = \sigma(z_1^3)$$

$$z_1^3 = w_{11}^2 \cdot a_1^2 + w_{12}^2 \cdot a_2^2 + b_1^3$$

$$\frac{\partial c_{o1}}{\partial w_{11}^2} = \frac{\partial c_{o1}}{\partial a_1^3} \cdot \frac{\partial a_1^3}{\partial z_1^3} \cdot \frac{\partial z_1^3}{\partial w_{11}^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial c_{o1}}{\partial w_{12}^2} = \frac{\partial c_{o1}}{\partial a_1^3} \cdot \frac{\partial a_1^3}{\partial z_1^3} \cdot \frac{\partial z_1^3}{\partial w_{12}^2}$$

# Neural networks: Learning



$$c_{o1} = \frac{1}{2}(a_1^3 - y_1)^2$$

$$a_1^3 = \sigma(z_1^3)$$

$$z_1^3 = w_{11}^2 \cdot a_1^2 + w_{12}^2 \cdot a_2^2 + b_1^3$$

$$a_1^2 = \sigma(z_1^2)$$

$$z_1^2 = w_{11}^1 \cdot a_1^1 + w_{12}^1 \cdot a_2^1 + b_1^2$$

$$\frac{\partial c_{o1}}{\partial w_{11}^1} = \left[ \frac{\partial c_{o1}}{\partial a_1^3} \cdot \frac{\partial a_1^3}{\partial z_1^3} \right] \cdot \left[ \frac{\partial z_1^3}{\partial a_1^2} \cdot \frac{\partial a_1^2}{\partial z_1^2} \right] \cdot \frac{\partial z_1^2}{\partial w_{11}^1}$$

weight update:

$$w_{11}^1 = w_{11}^1 - \eta \frac{\partial c_{o1}}{\partial w_{11}^1}$$



# Neural networks: Learning

- Define  $\delta_j^l$  error of neuron  $j$  in layer  $l$ :

$$\delta_j^l \equiv \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^l}$$

- $\delta^l$ : the vector of errors associated with layer  $l$
- $\delta^L$ : the error in the output layer

$$\delta_j^L = \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_j^L} \sigma'(z_j^L)$$

BP1

- Proof:

$$\delta_j^L = \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^L} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_j^L} \frac{\partial a_j^L}{\partial z_j^L} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_j^L} \sigma'(z_j^L)$$

# Neural networks: Learning

- In a matrix-based form:

$$\delta^L = \nabla_a C \odot \sigma'(z^L)$$

- $\odot$ : elementwise multiplication (or Hadamard product )
- As an example,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \odot \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 * 3 \\ 2 * 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Neural networks: Learning

- In the case of the quadratic cost,

$$C = \frac{1}{2} \sum_j (y_j - a_j^L)^2$$

- So

$$\partial C / \partial a_j^L = (a_j^L - y_j)$$

- And

$$\nabla_a C = (a^L - y)$$

- So the fully matrix-based form of  $\delta$  is

$$\delta^L = (a^L - y) \odot \sigma'(z^L)$$

# Neural networks: Learning

- *Error backward:*

$$\delta^l = ((w^{l+1})^T \delta^{l+1}) \odot \sigma'(z^l)$$

BP2

– Proof:

$$\delta_j^l = \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^l} = \sum_k \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_k^{l+1}} \frac{\partial z_k^{l+1}}{\partial z_j^l} = \sum_k \frac{\partial z_k^{l+1}}{\partial z_j^l} \delta_k^{l+1}$$

$$z_k^{l+1} = \sum_j w_{kj}^{l+1} a_j^l + b_k^{l+1} = \sum_j w_{kj}^{l+1} \sigma(z_j^l) + b_k^{l+1} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial z_k^{l+1}}{\partial z_j^l} = w_{kj}^{l+1} \sigma'(z_j^l)$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta_j^l = \sum_k w_{kj}^{l+1} \delta_k^{l+1} \sigma'(z_j^l)$$

# Neural networks: Learning

- The rate of change the cost with respect to any bias is: (exactly equal to the error  $\delta_j^l$ )

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial b_j^l} = \delta_j^l$$

BP3

- $\delta_j^l$  is being evaluated at the same neuron as the bias  $b$
- Proof:

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial b_j^l} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^l} \cdot \frac{\partial z_j^l}{\partial b_j^l} = \delta_j^l \cdot \frac{\partial (w_{jk}^l a_k^{l-1} + b_j^l)}{\partial b_j^l} = \delta_j^l$$

# Neural networks: Learning

- The rate of change of the cost with respect to any weight:

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{jk}^l} = a_k^{l-1} \delta_j^l$$

BP4

- Proof:

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{jk}^l} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^l} \cdot \frac{\partial z_j^l}{\partial w_{jk}^l} = \delta_j^l \cdot \frac{\partial (w_{jk}^l a_k^{l-1} + b_j^l)}{\partial w_{jk}^l} = a_k^{l-1} \delta_j^l$$

→ weights output from low activation neurons learn slowly

# Neural networks: Learning

- Summary: the four fundamental equations

$$\delta^L = \nabla_a C \odot \sigma'(z^L) \quad (\text{BP1})$$

$$\delta^l = ((w^{l+1})^T \delta^{l+1}) \odot \sigma'(z^l) \quad (\text{BP2})$$

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial b_j^l} = \delta_j^l \quad (\text{BP3})$$

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{jk}^l} = a_k^{l-1} \delta_j^l \quad (\text{BP4})$$

# The backpropagation algorithm

- The backpropagation equations provide us with a way of computing the gradient of the cost function

1. **Input  $x$ :** Set the corresponding activation  $a^1$  for the input layer.

2. **Feedforward:** For each  $l = 2, 3, \dots, L$  compute

$$z^l = w^l a^{l-1} + b^l \text{ and } a^l = \sigma(z^l)$$

3. **Output error  $\delta^L$ :** Compute the vector  $\delta^L = \nabla_a C \odot \sigma'(z^L)$

4. **Backpropagate the error:** For each  $l = L - 1, L - 2, \dots, 2$  compute  $\delta^l = ((w^{l+1})^T \delta^{l+1}) \odot \sigma'(z^l)$ .

5. **Output:** The gradient of the cost function is given by

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{jk}^l} = a_k^{l-1} \delta_j^l \text{ and } \frac{\partial C}{\partial b_j^l} = \delta_j^l.$$



# The backpropagation algorithm

- Stochastic gradient descent with a mini batch:

1. **Input a set of training examples**

2. **For each training example  $x$ :** Set the corresponding input activation  $a^{x,1}$ , and perform the following steps:

- **Feedforward:** For each  $l = 2, 3, \dots, L$  compute

$$z^{x,l} = w^l a^{x,l-1} + b^l \text{ and } a^{x,l} = \sigma(z^{x,l}).$$

- **Output error  $\delta^{x,L}$ :** Compute the vector

$$\delta^{x,L} = \nabla_a C_x \odot \sigma'(z^{x,L}).$$

- **Backpropagate the error:** For each

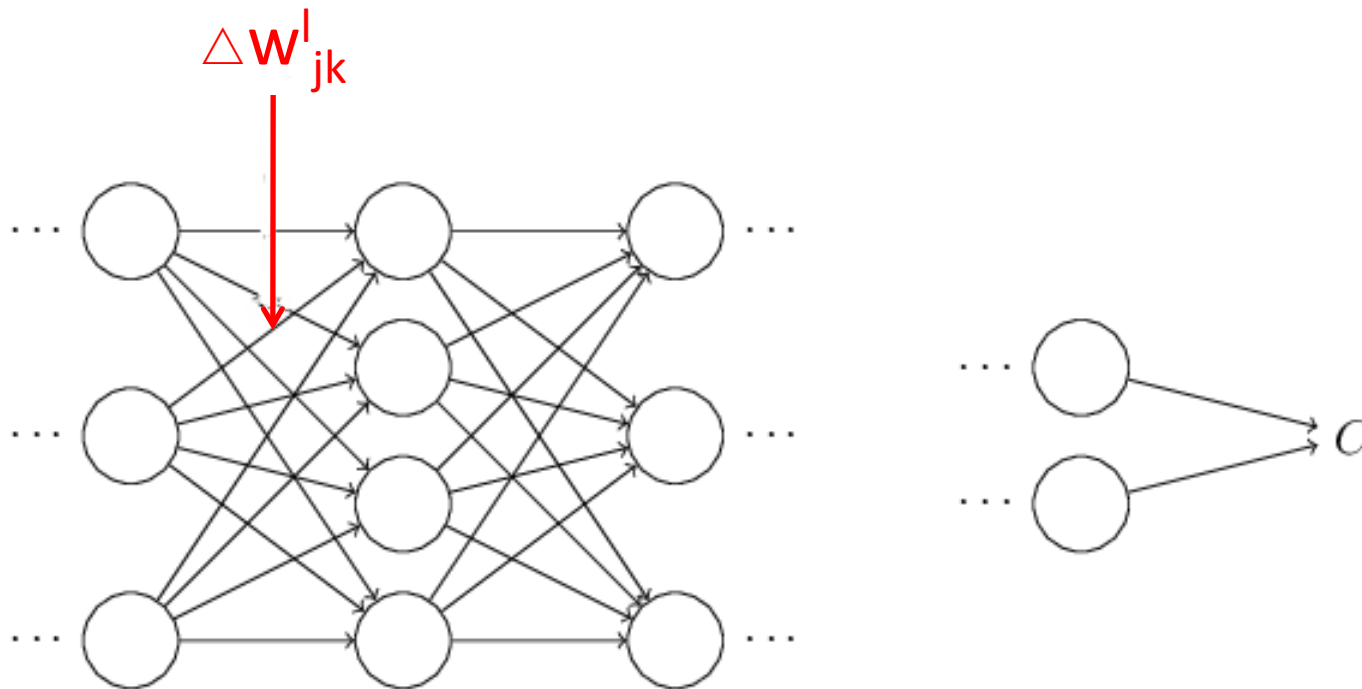
$l = L - 1, L - 2, \dots, 2$  compute

$$\delta^{x,l} = ((w^{l+1})^T \delta^{x,l+1}) \odot \sigma'(z^{x,l}).$$

3. **Gradient descent:** For each  $l = L, L - 1, \dots, 2$  update the weights according to the rule  $w^l \rightarrow w^l - \frac{\eta}{m} \sum_x \delta^{x,l} (a^{x,l-1})^T$ , and the biases according to the rule  $b^l \rightarrow b^l - \frac{\eta}{m} \sum_x \delta^{x,l}$ .

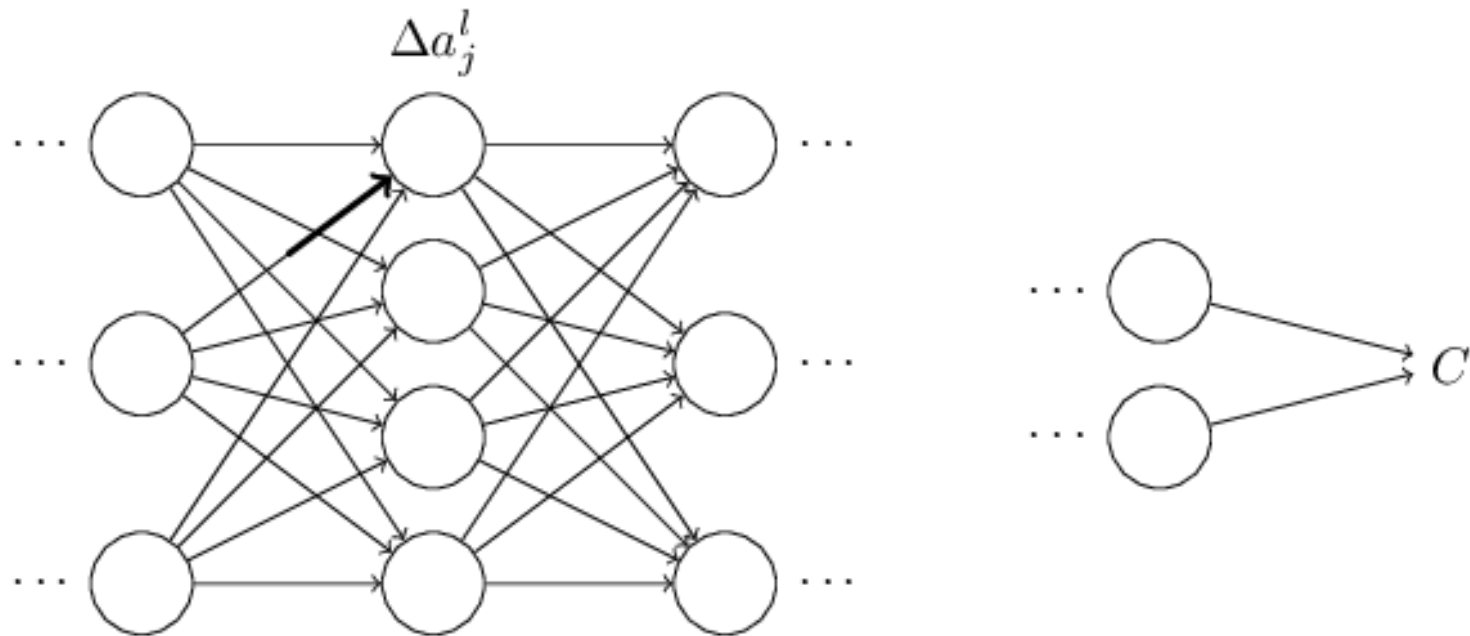
# Backpropagation: the big picture

- Suppose we make a small change  $\Delta w_{jk}^l$  to some weight in the network,  $w_{jk}^l$



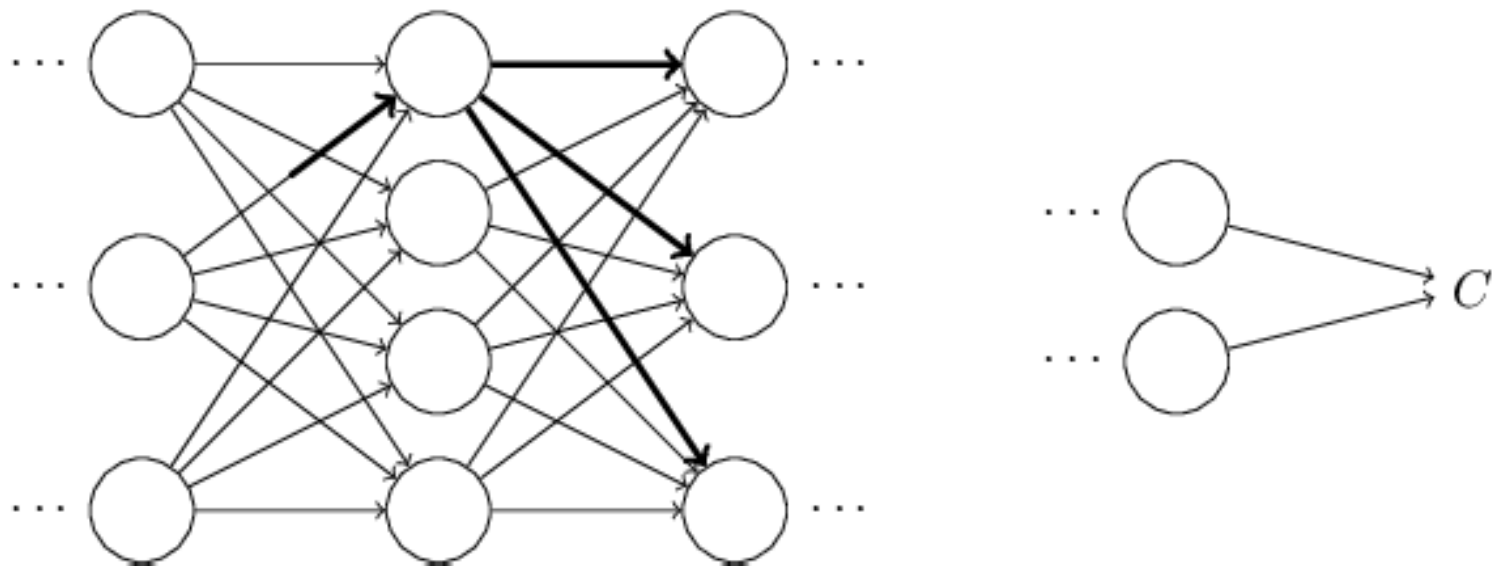
# Backpropagation: the big picture

- That change in weight will cause a change in the output activation from the corresponding neuron:



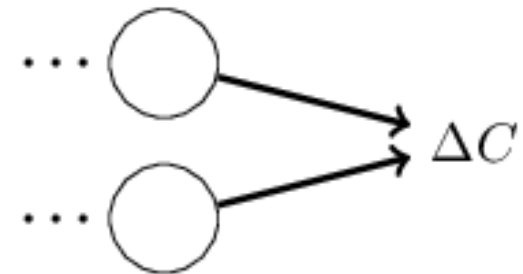
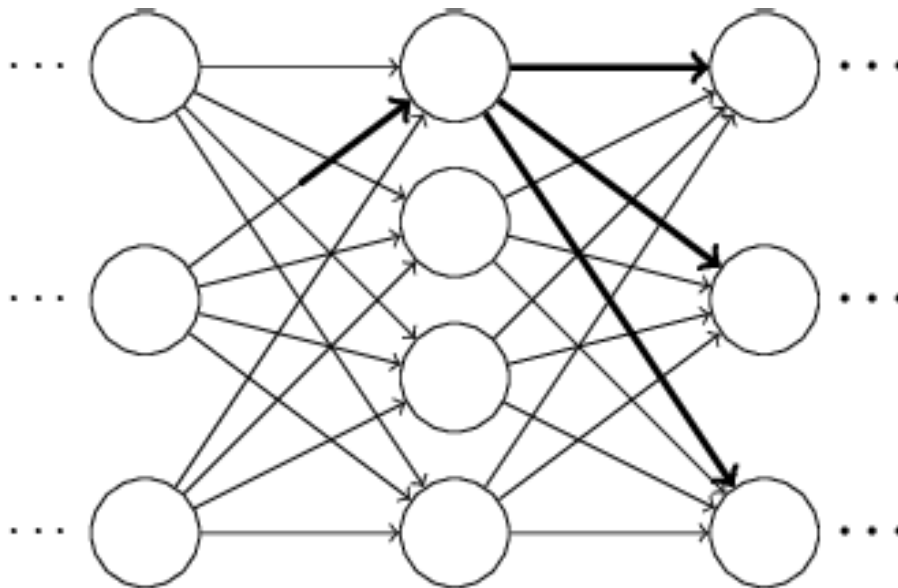
# Backpropagation: the big picture

- That, in turn, will cause a change in *all* the activations in the next layer:



# Backpropagation: the big picture

- And finally will cause a change in the final layer, and then in the cost function:



# Backpropagation: the big picture

- The change in the cost  $\Delta C$  is related to the change in the weight  $\Delta w_{jk}^l$  by the equation:

$$\Delta C \approx \frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{jk}^l} \Delta w_{jk}^l$$

- BUT how such change propagates to the cost  $C$ ?

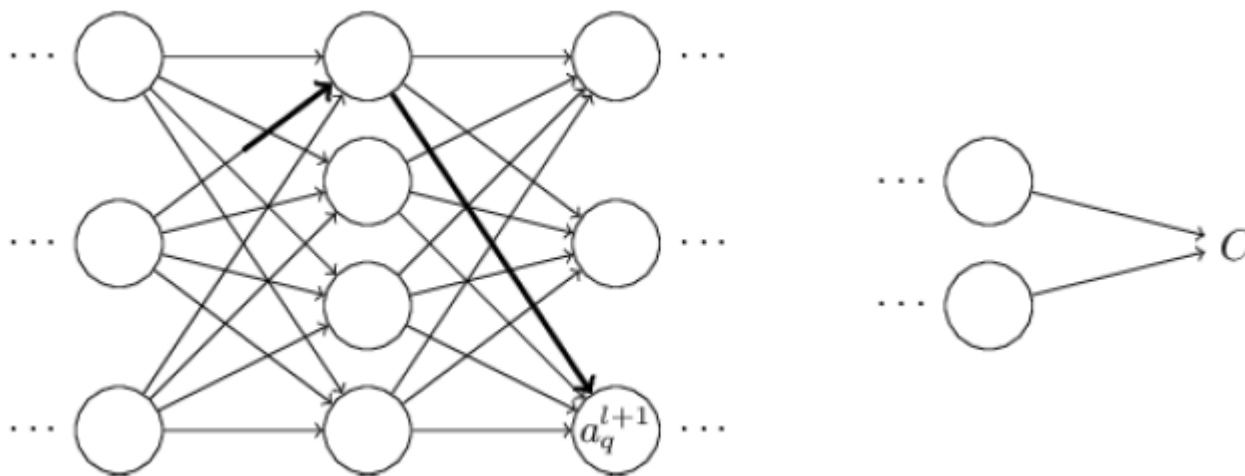
# Backpropagation: the big picture

- The change  $\Delta w_{jk}^l$  causes a small change  $\Delta a_j^l$  in the activation of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  neuron in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  layer

$$\Delta a_j^l \approx \frac{\partial a_j^l}{\partial w_{jk}^l} \Delta w_{jk}^l$$

# Backpropagation: the big picture

- The change  $\Delta a_j^l$  in activation will cause changes in *all the* activations in the next layer,  $l+1$  layer
- Consider a single one of the activation  $a_q^{l+1}$



$$\Delta a_q^{l+1} \approx \frac{\partial a_q^{l+1}}{\partial a_j^l} \Delta a_j^l \approx \frac{\partial a_q^{l+1}}{\partial a_j^l} \frac{\partial a_j^l}{\partial w_{jk}^l} \Delta w_{jk}^l$$



# Backpropagation: the big picture

- The change  $\Delta a_q^{l+1}$  will, in turn, cause changes in the activations in the next layer.
- If the path goes through activations  $a_j^l, a_q^{l+1}, \dots, a_n^{L-1}, a_m^L$ , then the change of cost caused in this particular path:

$$\Delta C \approx \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_m^L} \frac{\partial a_m^L}{\partial a_n^{L-1}} \frac{\partial a_n^{L-1}}{\partial a_p^{L-2}} \cdots \frac{\partial a_q^{l+1}}{\partial a_j^l} \frac{\partial a_j^l}{\partial w_{jk}^l} \Delta w_{jk}^l$$

# Backpropagation: the big picture

- To compute the total change in C it is plausible that we should sum

$$\Delta C \approx \sum_{mnp \dots q} \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_m^L} \frac{\partial a_m^L}{\partial a_n^{L-1}} \frac{\partial a_n^{L-1}}{\partial a_p^{L-2}} \cdots \frac{\partial a_q^{l+1}}{\partial a_j^l} \frac{\partial a_j^l}{\partial w_{jk}^l} \Delta w_{jk}^l$$

- Comparing

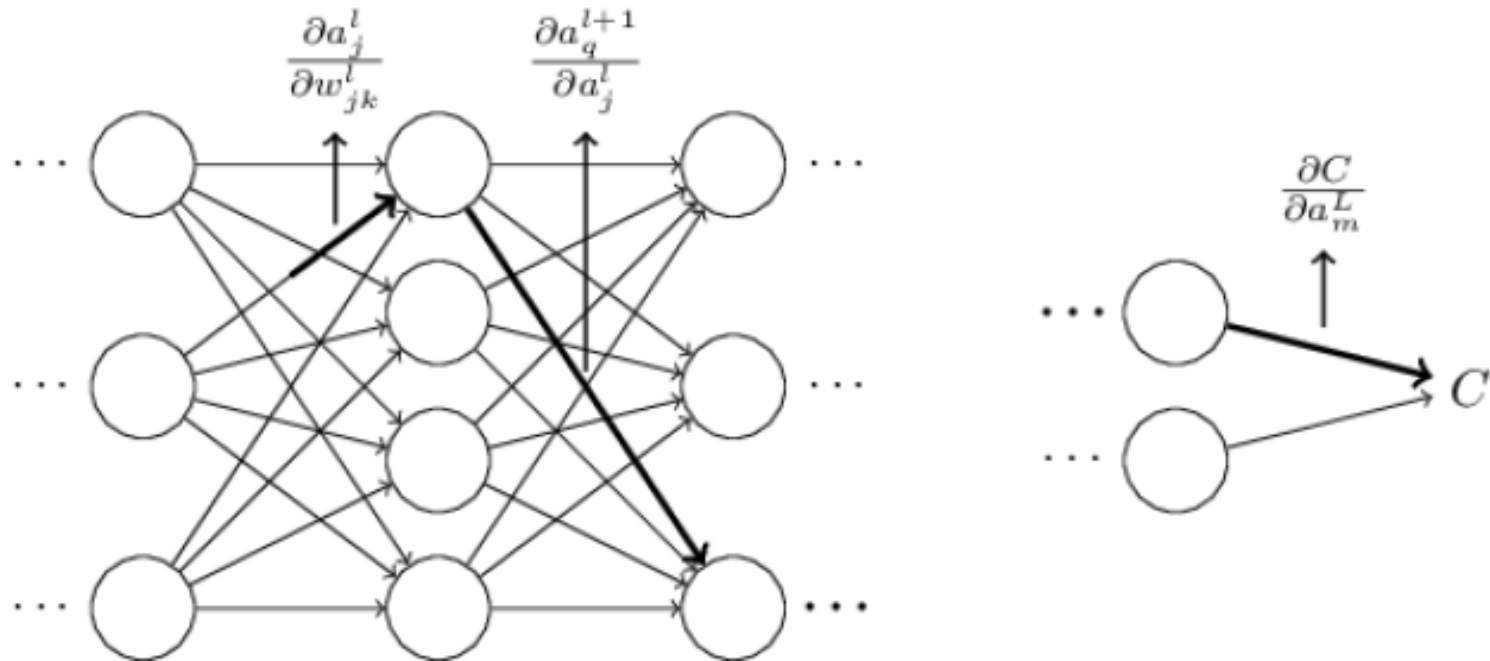
- We get

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{jk}^l} = \sum_{mnp \dots q} \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_m^L} \frac{\partial a_m^L}{\partial a_n^{L-1}} \frac{\partial a_n^{L-1}}{\partial a_p^{L-2}} \cdots \frac{\partial a_q^{l+1}}{\partial a_j^l} \frac{\partial a_j^l}{\partial w_{jk}^l}$$

What will  
happen?

# Backpropagation: the big picture

- The rate of change of  $C$  with respect to a weight  $w_{jk}^l$  in the network



# Backpropagation: the big picture

- Every edge between two neurons in the network is associated with a rate factor which is just the partial derivative of one neuron's activation with respect to the other neuron's activation.
- The backpropagation algorithm provides a way of computing the sum over the rate factor for all these paths

# 思考题

- 1. How perceptrons can be used is to compute the elementary logical functions such as AND, OR, and NAND?
- 2. In what sense is backpropagation a fast algorithm?
- 3. Backpropagation with linear neurons: Suppose we replace the usual nonlinear function  $\sigma$  with  $\sigma(z)=z$  throughout the network. Rewrite the backpropagation algorithm for this case.

- Next lecture:
  - Deep neural networks and advanced ways neural networks learn