

Perceptrons

CAI 5107: Machine Learning

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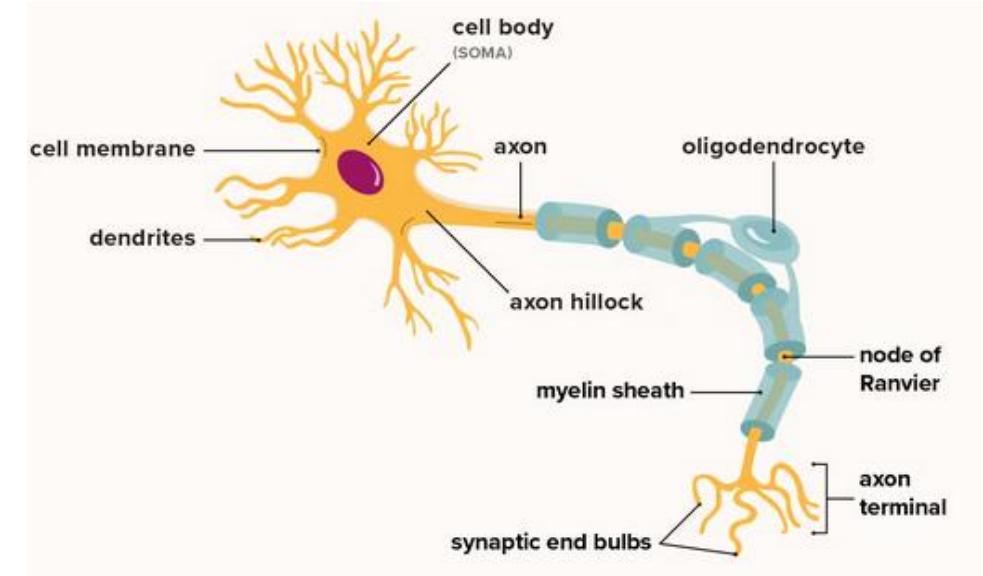
Fall 2025

Outline

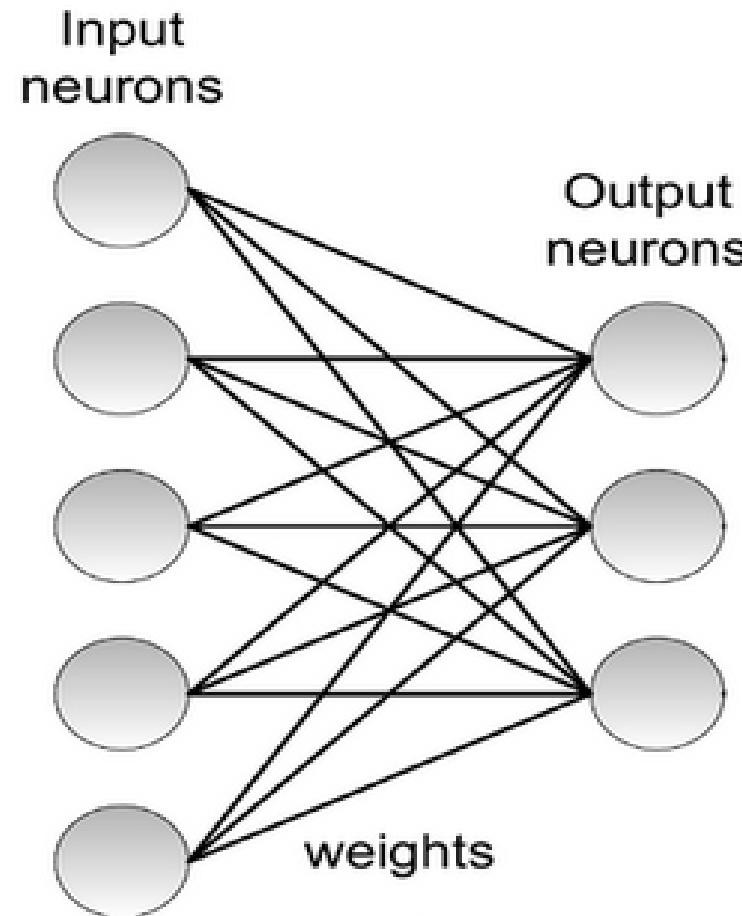
- Perceptrons
- Feedforward neural networks (FCNNs)
- Backpropagation

Neural Network (NN)

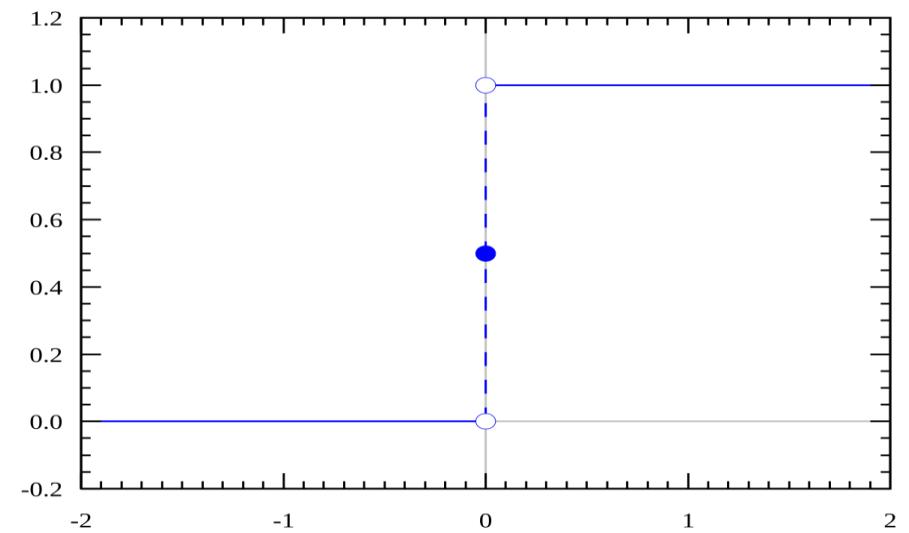
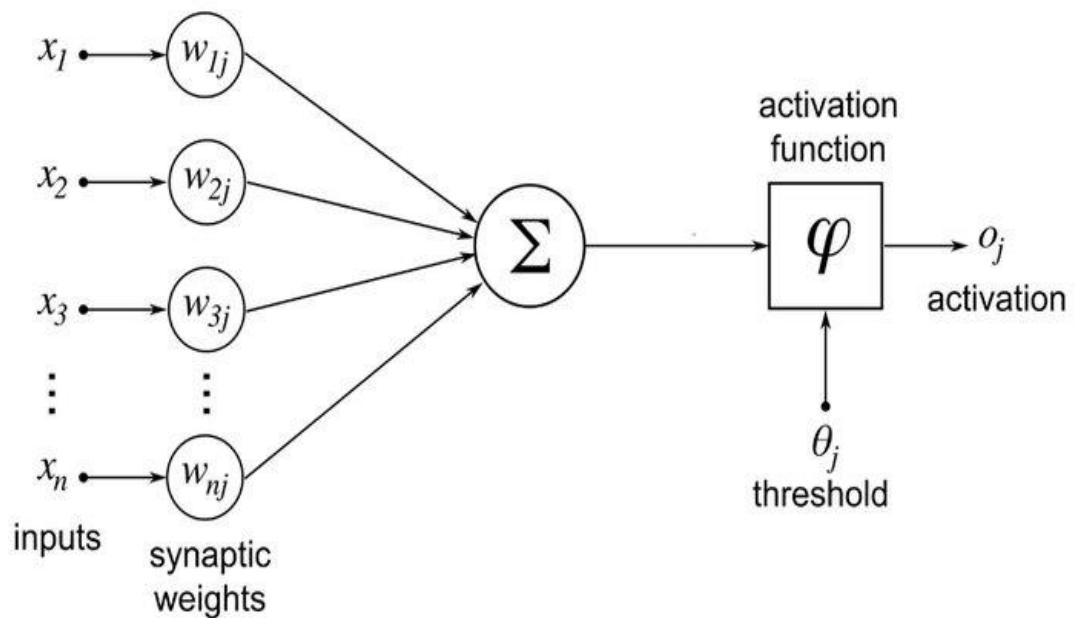
- NN is a mathematical function
 - Analogically, can be thought of as a neuron
- Benefits
 - Successfully applied in variety of domains
 - Can model complex and nonlinear problems
 - Machine learning problems can be solved with sufficient amount of data
 - Inference is fast



A simple architecture



An artificial neuron



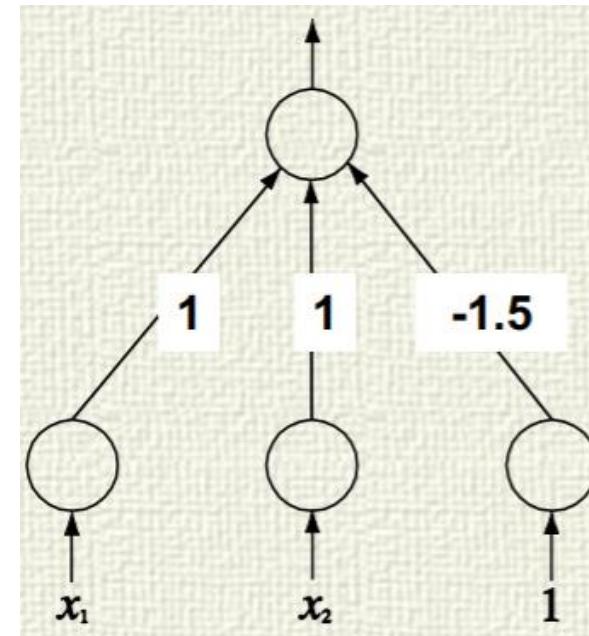
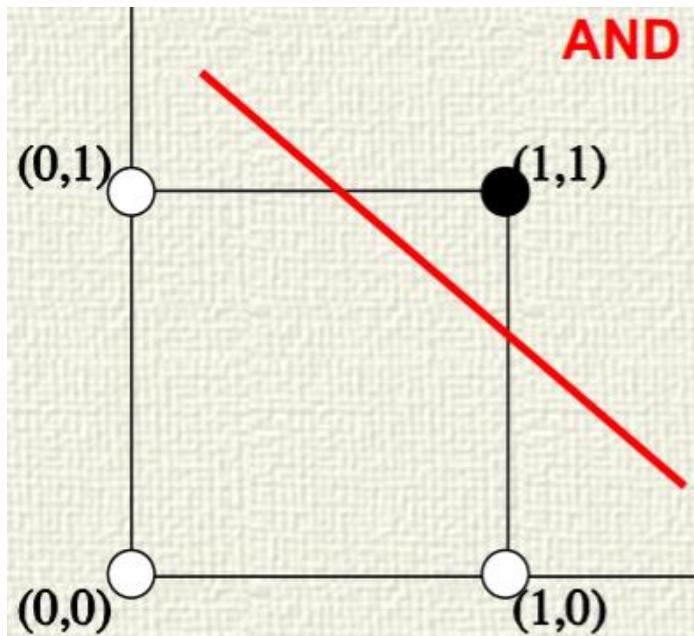
Activation function: Heaviside step function

$$\Omega(x) = 1 \text{ if } x > 0$$

$$\Omega(x) = 0 \text{ if } x \leq 0$$

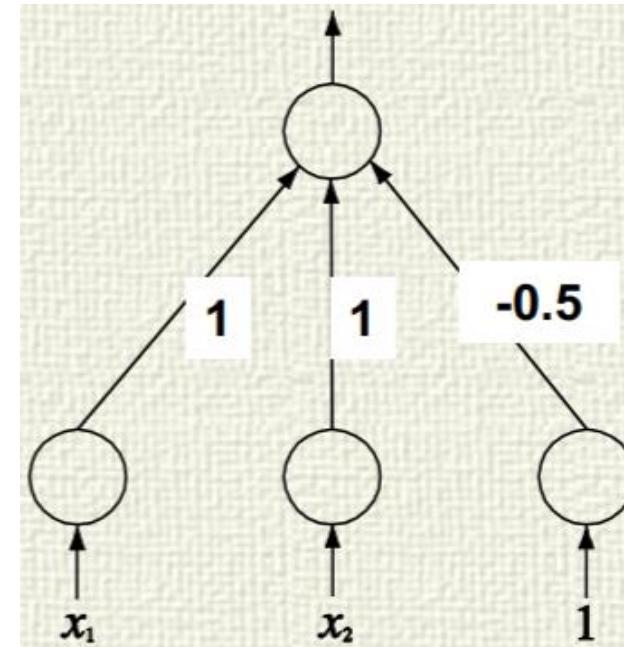
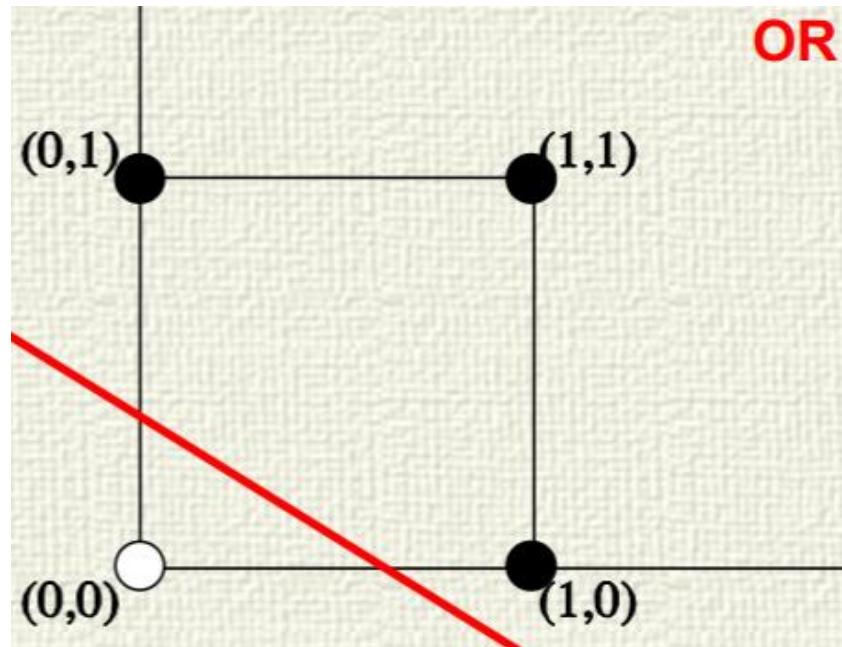
Representational Power of Perceptrons

- Perceptron can solve linearly separable boolean functions



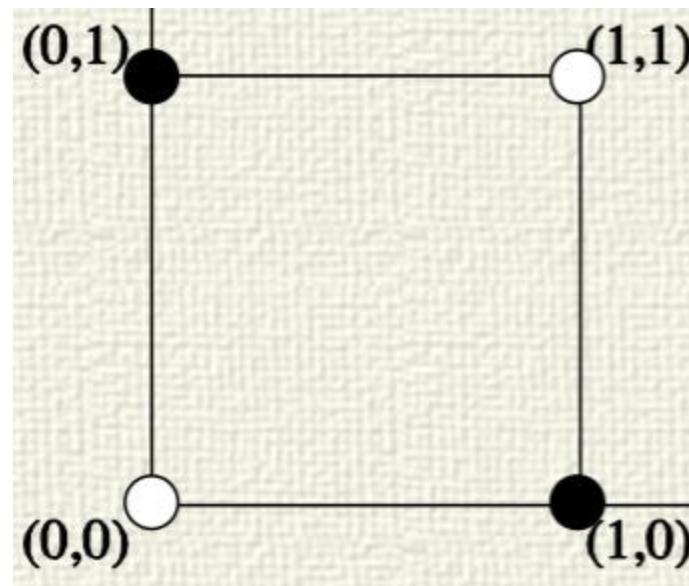
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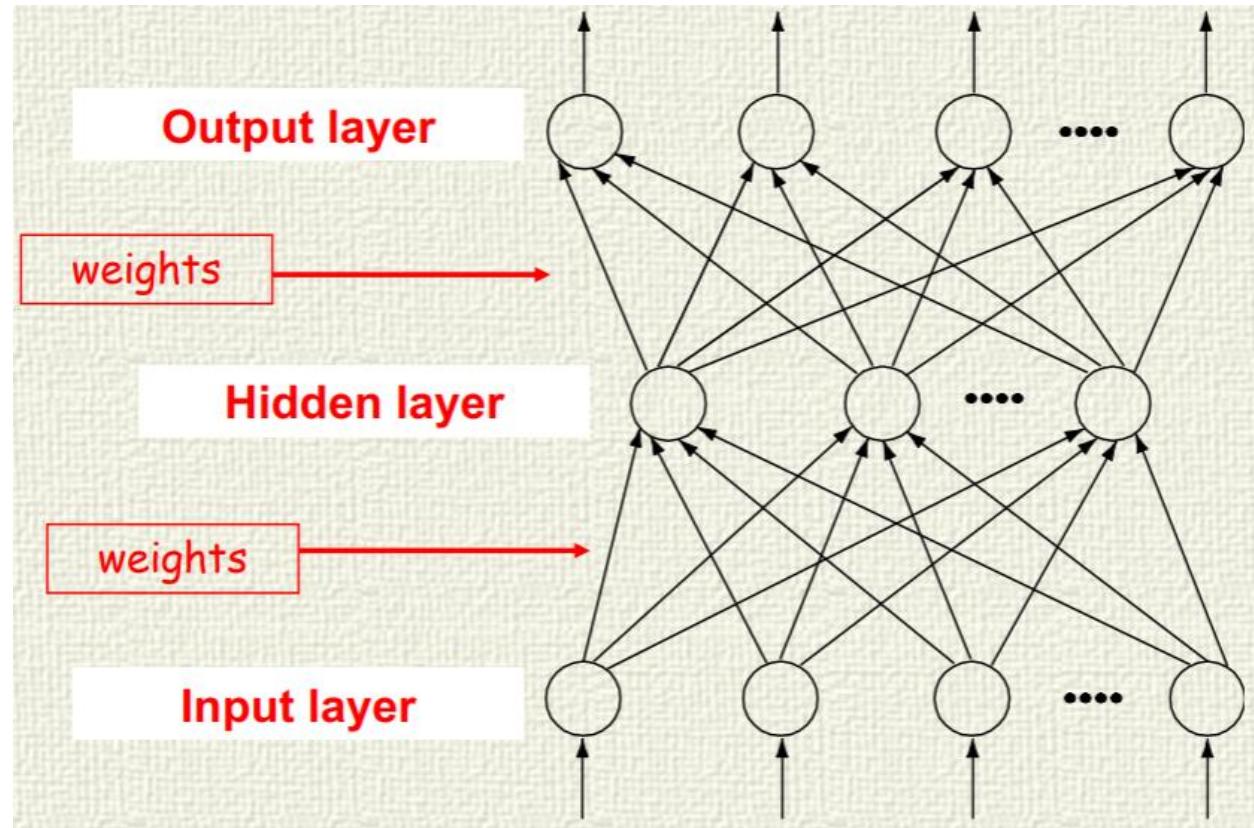
Representational Power of Perceptrons

- Perceptron **cannot** solve **nonlinearly** separable boolean functions



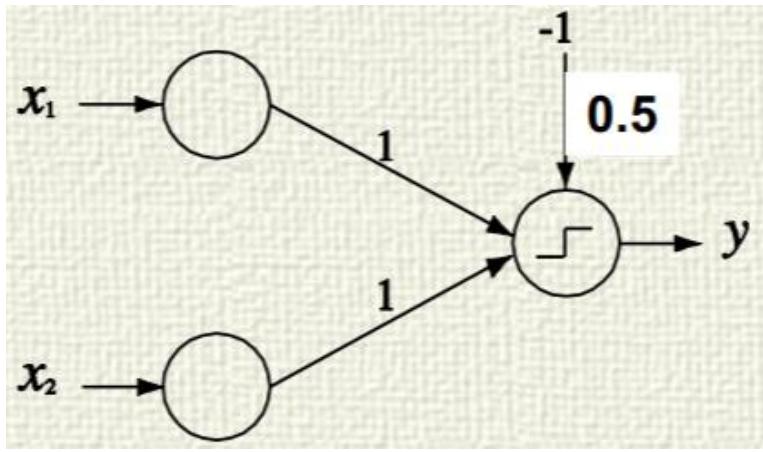
Solution: Add a hidden layer

- Multilayer Neural Network
 - Generalized perceptron having more computational power
 - Allows to learn nonlinearly separable transformations from input to output
 - A single hidden layer allows to compute any input/output transformation



Example: XOR

- First consider a perceptron that cannot solve xor



$$\mathbf{x}_1 = 0, \mathbf{x}_2 = 0 \quad H(-0.5) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = 1, \mathbf{x}_2 = 0 \quad H(1 - 0.5) = 1$$

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = 0, \mathbf{x}_2 = 1 \quad H(1 - 0.5) = 1$$

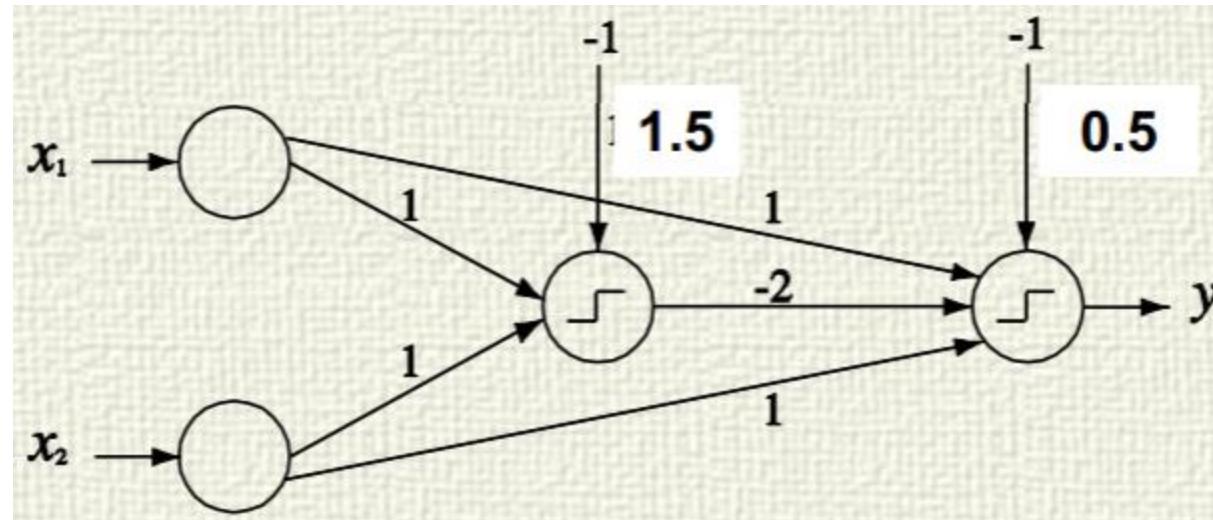
$$\mathbf{x}_1 = 1, \mathbf{x}_2 = 1 \quad H(1 + 1 - 0.5) = 1$$

Right

Wrong

Example: XOR

- Idea: Introduce one hidden unit with a large enough threshold, so that it is activated only in the 4th case.
- The hidden unit provides a negative input to the output unit to correct its response in the 4th case



$$x_1 = 1, x_2 = 1 \quad H(1+1-2-0.5) = 0 \quad \text{OK!}$$

Neural Network Learning Framework

- Activation function

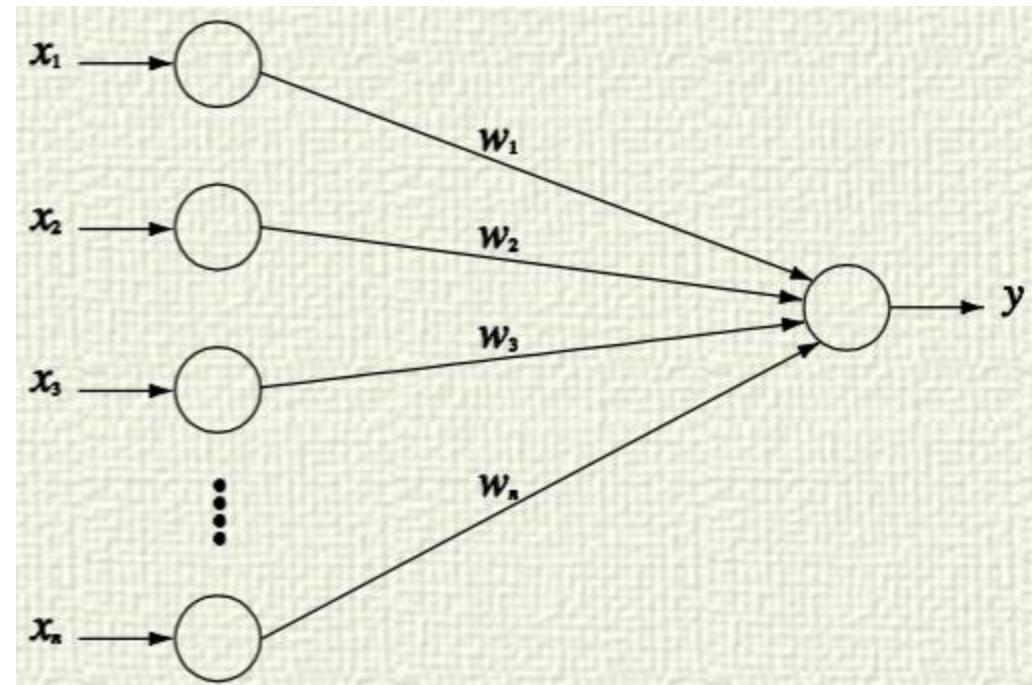
$$y = g\left(\sum_k w_k x_k\right) \in (0,1)$$

- g must be a differential function

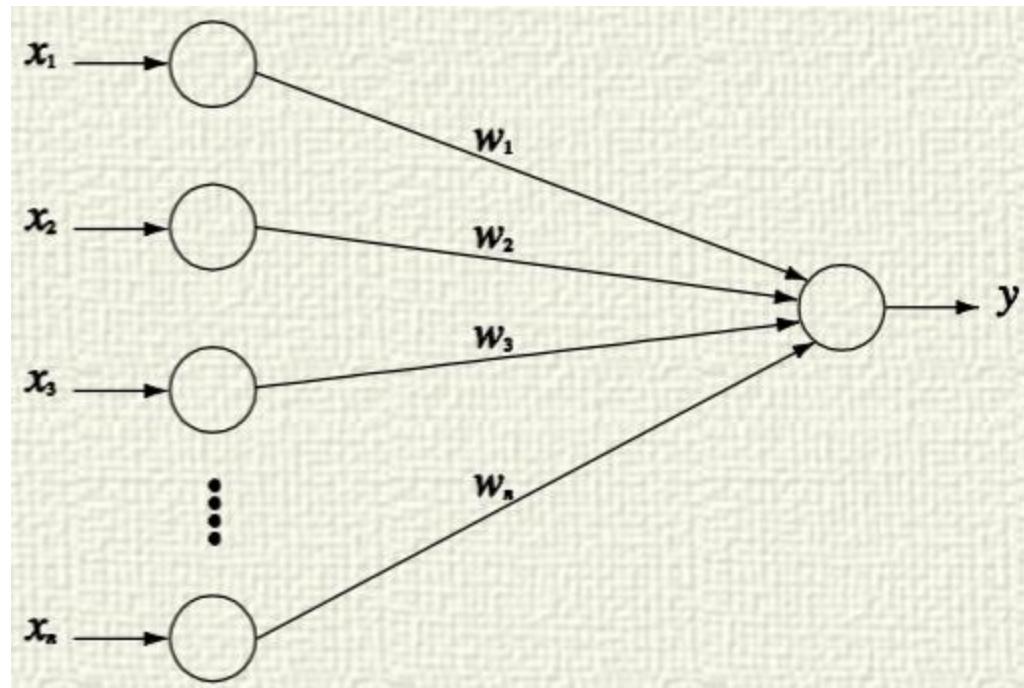
- NN dynamics:

- The network will learn the transformation (f which is unknown) from input to output
 - The network adjusts the weights so that, after a finite number of steps, the outputs $y \sim f(x)$

- Criterion: Minimize the difference between network's output and desired output



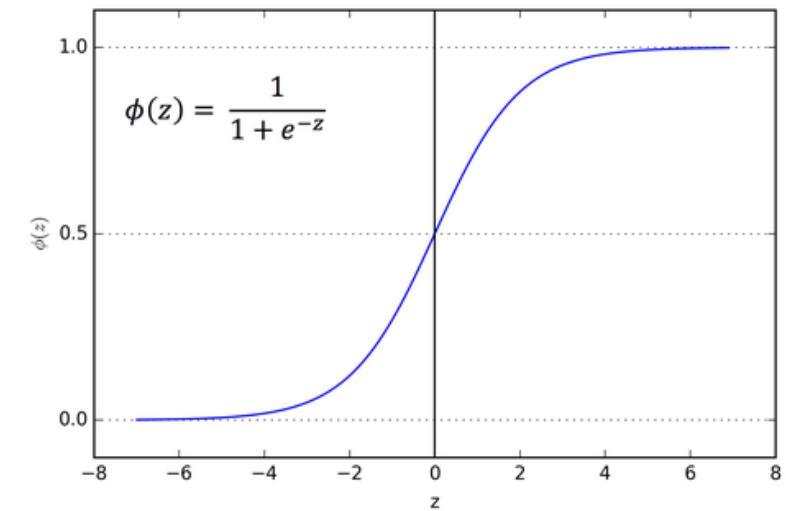
Learning Algorithm: No hidden units



$$z = \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}$$

$$y = g(z)$$

$$g(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}$$



Sigmoid activation function

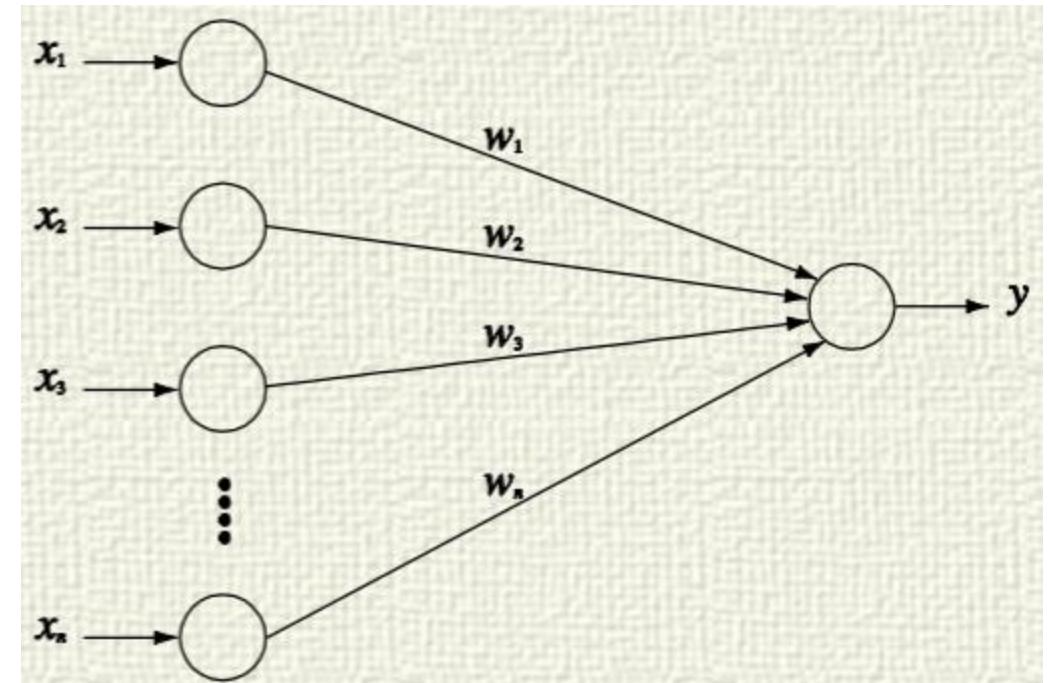
Learning Algorithm: No hidden units

$$J(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} (y^* - y)^2$$

$$y = g(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}}}$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial w_i} = y(1-y)x_i$$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial w_i} = -(y^* - y)y(1-y)x_i$$



Weight update rule

- Delta rule
 - For the sigmoid activation function with no hidden layers

$$\Delta w_i = w_i^{t+1} - w_i^t$$

$$\Delta w_i = \mu y(1-y)(y^* - y)x_i$$

μ is the learning rate

Acknowledgement

- Some figures are adopted from the Machine Learning class by Dr. Carlotta Dominiconi, George Mason University.