Lecture 5:
Learning Rate Schedules
Neural Networks

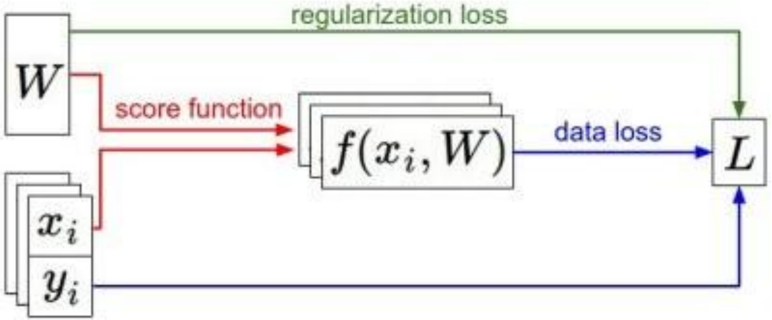
Recap

- We have some dataset of (x,y)
- We have a **score function:** $s = f(x; W) \overset{\text{e.g.}}{=} Wx$
- We have a **loss function**:

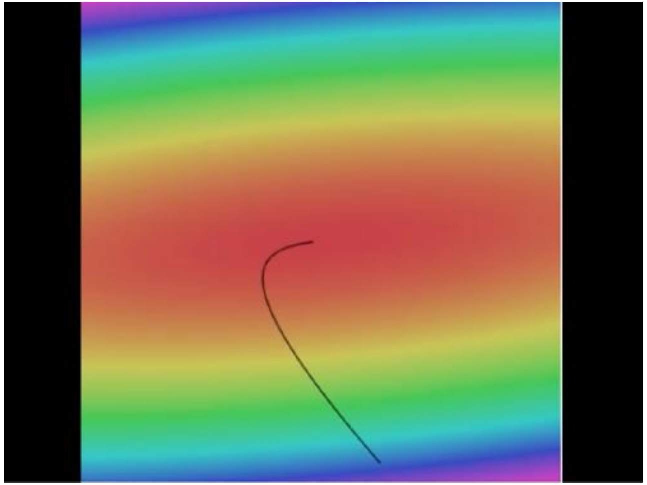
$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{s_{y_i}}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}\right)$$ Softmax

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$ SVM

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} L_i + R(W)$$ Full loss



Finding the best W: Optimize with Gradient Descent



Landscape image is CC0 1.0 public domain
Walking man image is CC0 1.0 public domain

```
# Vanilla Gradient Descent

while True:
  weights_grad = evaluate_gradient(loss_fun, data, weights)
  weights += - step_size * weights_grad # perform parameter update
```

Gradient descent

$$\frac{df(x)}{dx} = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

Numerical gradient: slow :(, approximate :(, easy to write :)
Analytic gradient: fast :), exact :), error-prone :(

In practice: Derive analytic gradient, check your implementation with numerical gradient

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

$$L(W) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} L_i(x_i, y_i, W) + \lambda R(W)$$

$$\nabla_W L(W) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \nabla_W L_i(x_i, y_i, W) + \lambda \nabla_W R(W)$$

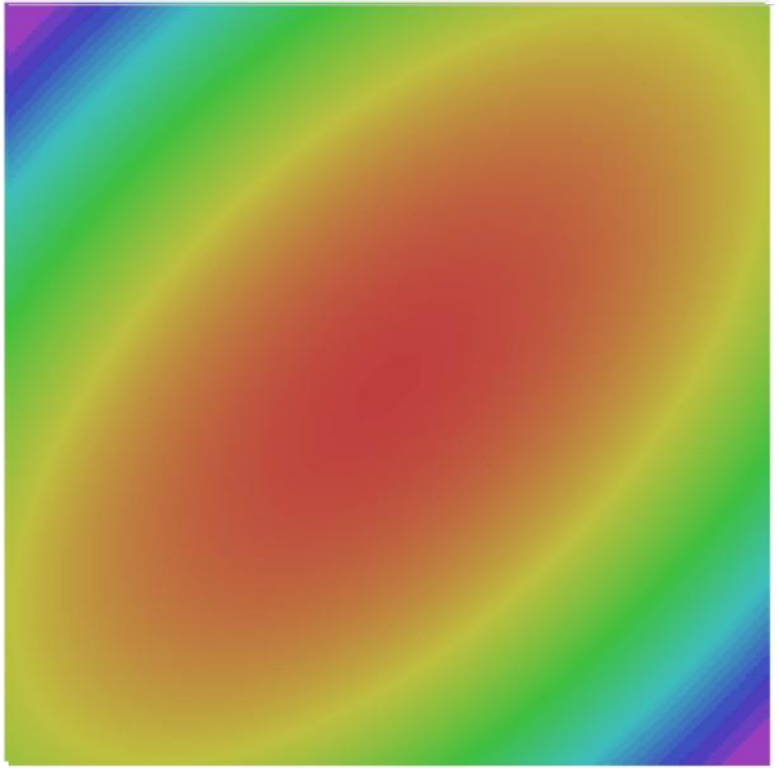
Full sum expensive when N is large!

Approximate sum using a **minibatch** of examples
32 / 64 / 128 common

```
# Vanilla Minibatch Gradient Descent

while True:
  data_batch = sample_training_data(data, 256) # sample 256 examples
  weights_grad = evaluate_gradient(loss_fun, data_batch, weights)
  weights += - step_size * weights_grad # perform parameter update
```

Last time: fancy optimizers



SGD

SGD+Momentum

RMSProp

Adam

Learning rate schedules

Learning rate schedules

```
# Vanilla Gradient Descent

while True:
  weights_grad = evaluate_gradient(loss_fun, data, weights)
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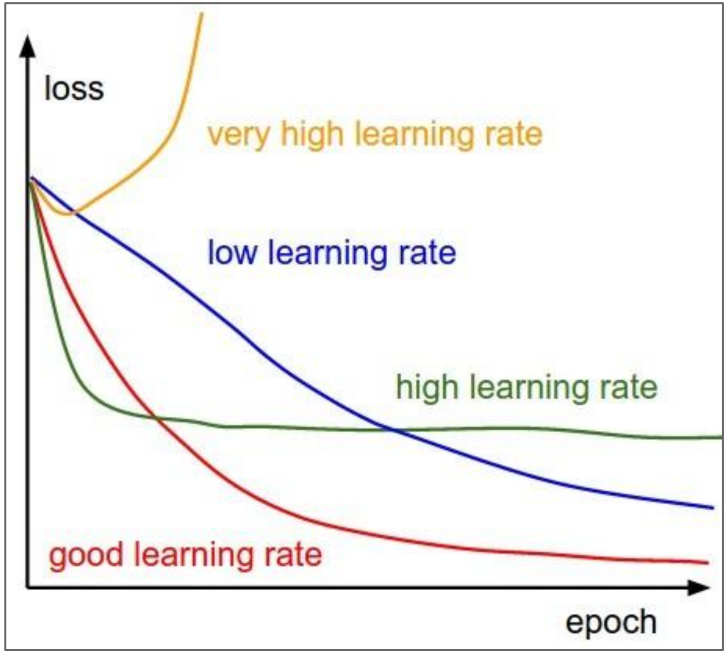
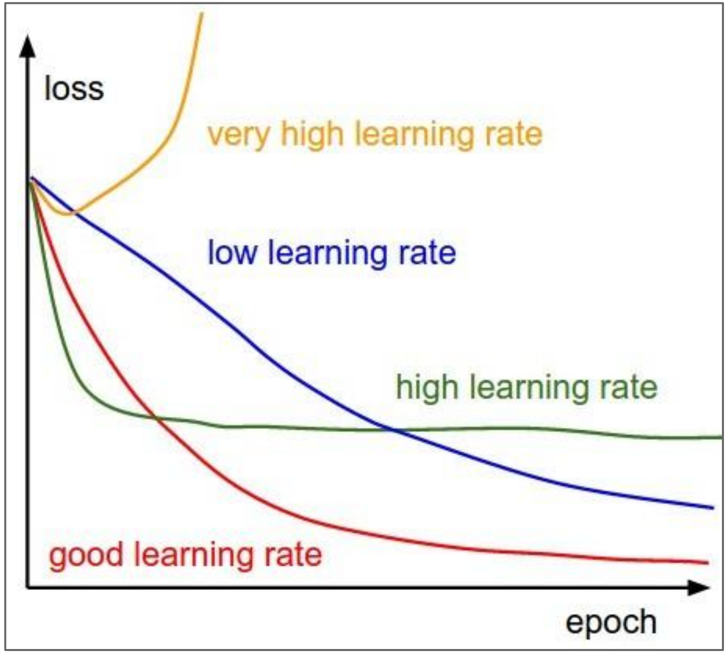
Learning rate

SGD, SGD+Momentum, Adagrad, RMSProp, Adam all have **learning rate** as a hyperparameter.



Q: Which one of these learning rates is best to use?

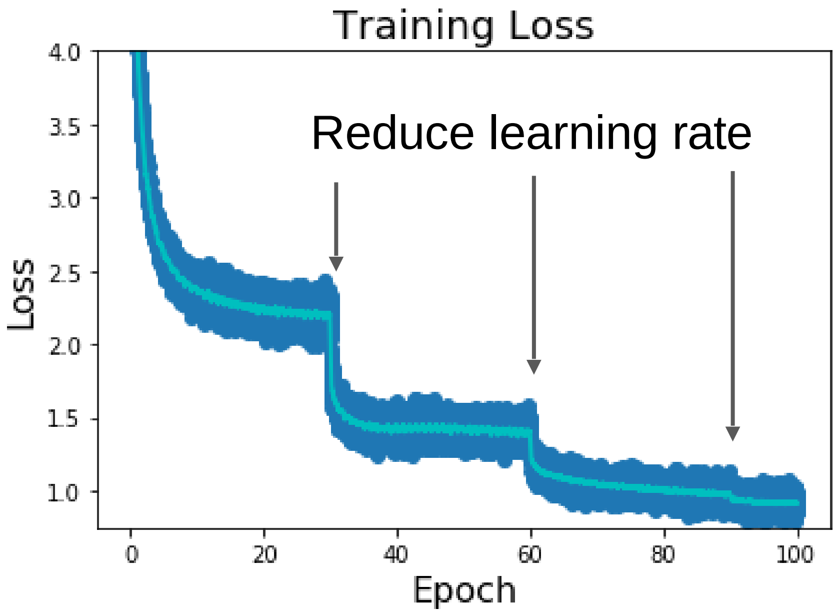
SGD, SGD+Momentum, Adagrad, RMSProp, Adam all have **learning rate** as a hyperparameter.



Q: Which one of these learning rates is best to use?

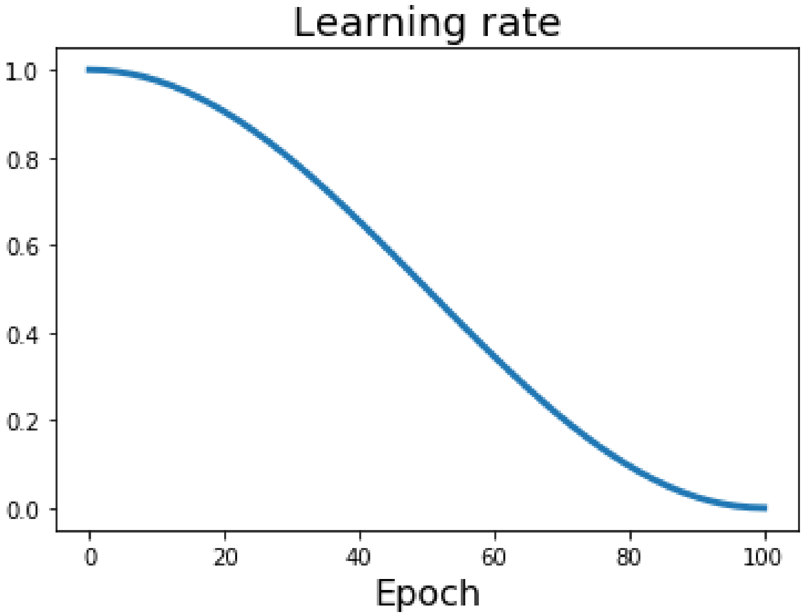
A: In reality, all of these are good learning rates.

Learning rate decays over time



Step: Reduce learning rate at a few fixed points. E.g. for ResNets, multiply LR by 0.1 after epochs 30, 60, and 90.

Learning Rate Decay



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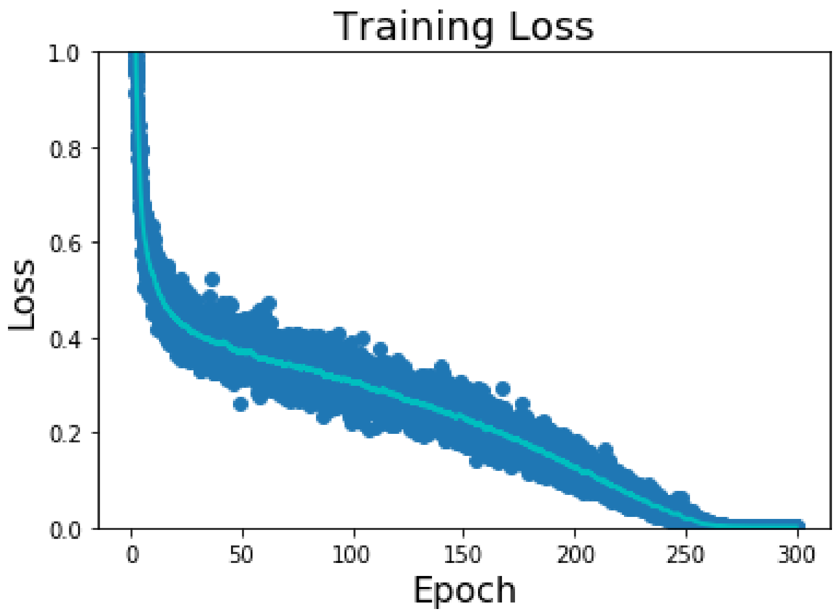
Cosine: $\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2}\alpha_0\left(1 + \cos(t\pi/T)\right)$

α_0 : Initial learning rate
α_t : Learning rate at epoch t
T : Total number of epochs

Loshchilov and Hutter, "SGDR: Stochastic Gradient Descent with Warm Restarts", ICLR 2017
Radford et al, "Improving Language Understanding by Generative Pre-Training", 2018
Feichtenhofer et al, "SlowFast Networks for Video Recognition", arXiv 2018
Child at al, "Generating Long Sequences with Sparse Transformers", arXiv 2019

Learning Rate Decay



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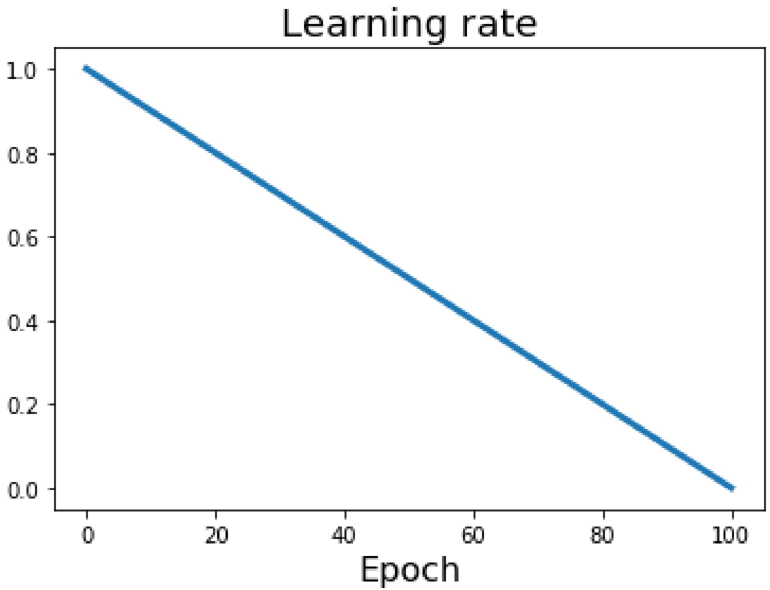
Learning Rate Decay



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Linear: $$\alpha_t = \alpha_0(1 - t/T)$$

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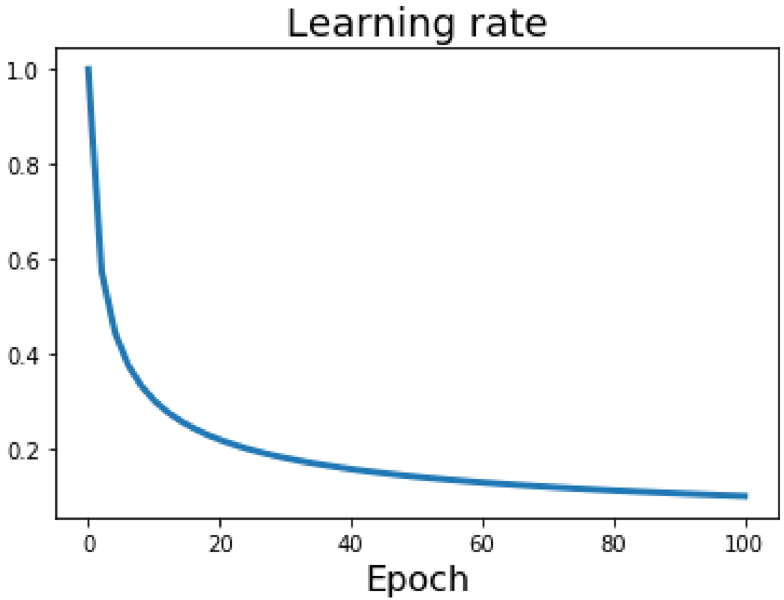
Devlin et al, "BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding", 2018

Learning Rate Decay



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Cosine: $\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2}\alpha_0 \left(1 + \cos(t\pi/T)\right)$

Linear: $\alpha_t = \alpha_0(1 - t/T)$

Inverse sqrt: $\alpha_t = \alpha_0/\sqrt{t}$

α_0 : Initial learning rate
α_t : Learning rate at epoch t
T : Total number of epochs

Vaswani et al, “Attention is all you need”, NIPS 2017

In practice:

- **Adam** is a good default choice in many cases; it often works ok even with constant learning rate
- **SGD+Momentum** can outperform Adam but may require more tuning of LR and schedule

Neural Networks

Neural networks: the original linear classifier

(**Before**) Linear score function: $f = Wx$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^D, W \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times D}$$

Neural networks: 2 layers

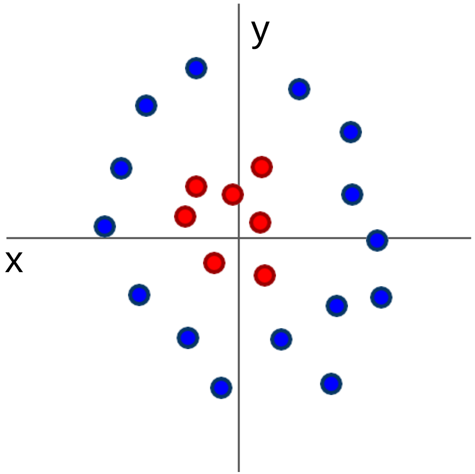
(**Before**) Linear score function: $f = Wx$

(**Now**) 2-layer Neural Network $f = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x)$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^D, W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times D}, W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H}$$

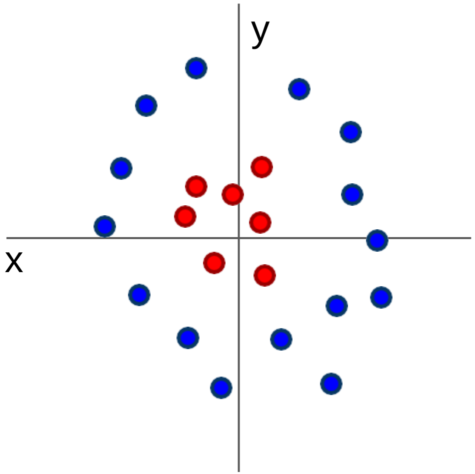
(In practice we will usually add a learnable bias at each layer as well)

Why do we want non-linearity?

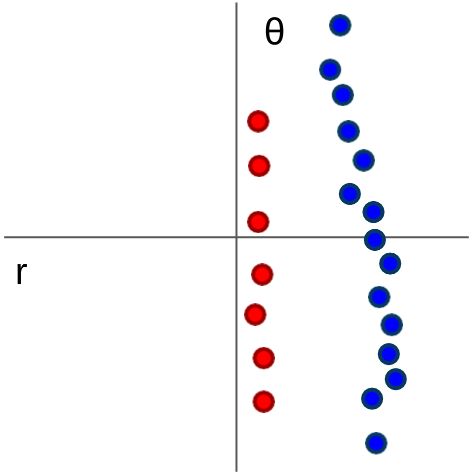


Cannot separate red and blue points with linear classifier

Why do we want non-linearity?



$$f(x, y) = (r(x, y), \theta(x, y))$$



Cannot separate red and blue points with linear classifier

After applying feature transform, points can be separated by linear classifier

Neural networks: also called fully connected network

(**Before**) Linear score function: $f = Wx$

(**Now**) 2-layer Neural Network $f = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x)$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^D, W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times D}, W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H}$$

“Neural Network” is a very broad term; these are more accurately called “fully-connected networks” or sometimes “multi-layer perceptrons” (MLP)

(In practice we will usually add a learnable bias at each layer as well)

Neural networks: 3 layers

(**Before**) Linear score function: $f = Wx$

(**Now**) 2-layer Neural Network $f = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x)$

or 3-layer Neural Network

$$f = W_3 \max(0, W_2 \max(0, W_1 x))$$

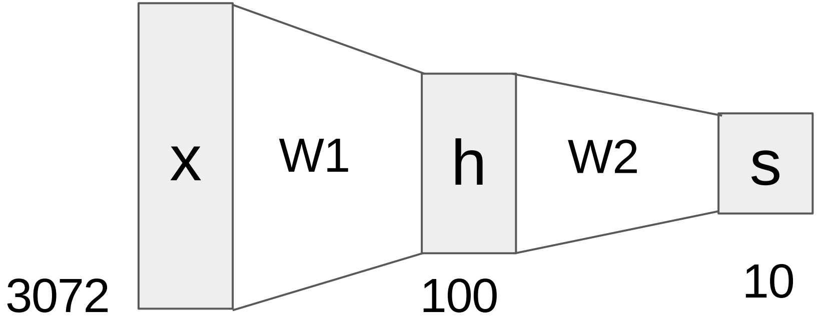
$$x \in \mathbb{R}^D, W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{H_1 \times D}, W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{H_2 \times H_1}, W_3 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H_2}$$

(In practice we will usually add a learnable bias at each layer as well)

Neural networks: hierarchical computation

(**Before**) Linear score function: $f = Wx$

(**Now**) 2-layer Neural Network $f = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x)$

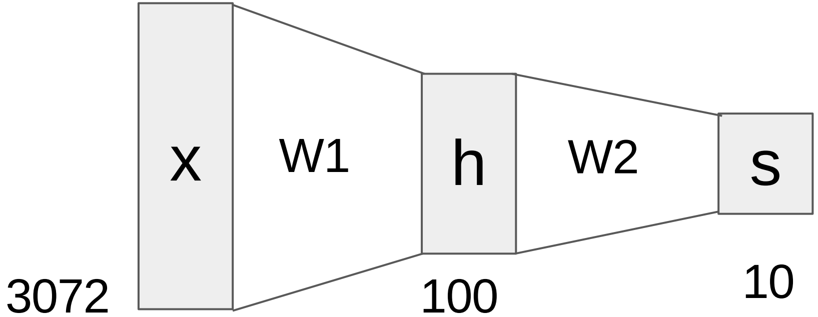


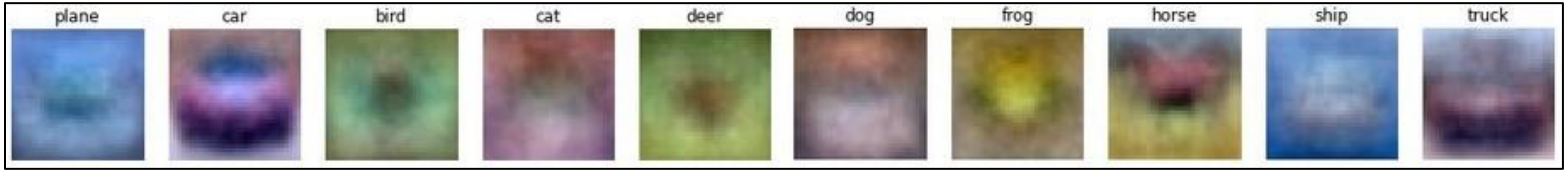
$$x \in \mathbb{R}^D, W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times D}, W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H}$$

Neural networks: learning 100s of templates

(**Before**) Linear score function: $f = Wx$

(**Now**) 2-layer Neural Network $f = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x)$





Learn 100 templates instead of 10.

Share templates between classes

Neural networks: why is max operator important?

(**Before**) Linear score function: $f = Wx$

(**Now**) 2-layer Neural Network $f = W_2 \boxed{\max(0,} W_1 x)$

The function $\max(0, z)$ is called the **activation function.**

Q: What if we try to build a neural network without one?

$$f = W_2 W_1 x$$

Neural networks: why is max operator important?

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The function $\max(0, z)$ is called the **activation function.**
Q: What if we try to build a neural network without one?

$$f = W_2 W_1 x \qquad W_3 = W_2 W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H}, f = W_3 x$$

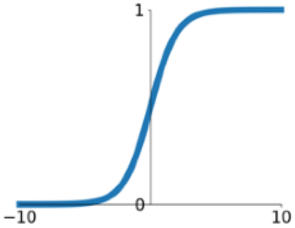
A: We end up with a linear classifier again!

Activation functions

ReLU is a good default choice for most problems

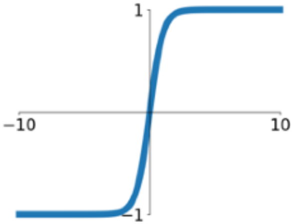
Sigmoid

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



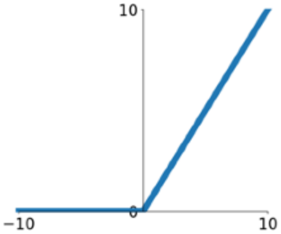
tanh

$$\tanh(x)$$



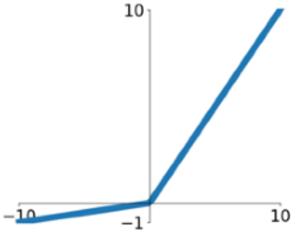
ReLU

$$\max(0, x)$$



Leaky ReLU

$$\max(0.1x, x)$$

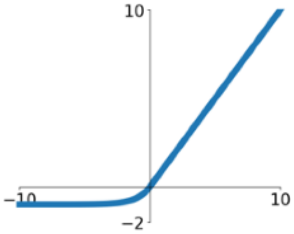


Maxout

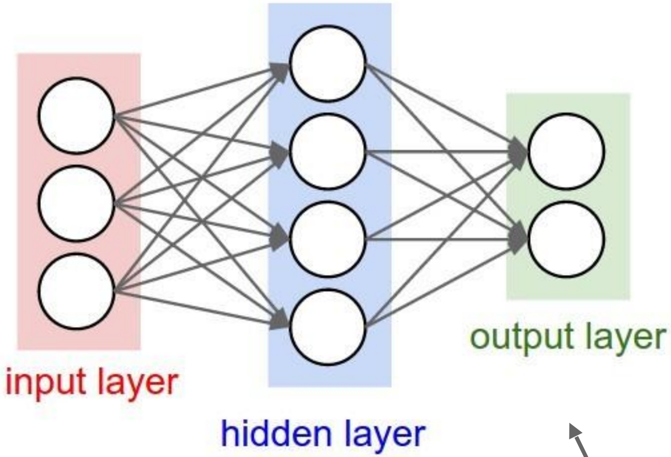
$$\max(w_1^T x + b_1, w_2^T x + b_2)$$

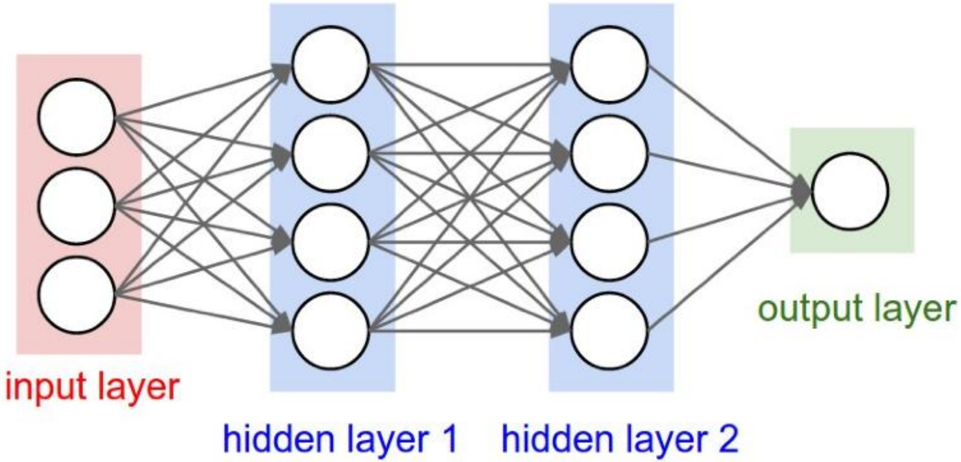
ELU

$$\begin{cases} x & x \geq 0 \\ \alpha(e^x - 1) & x < 0 \end{cases}$$



Neural networks: Architectures



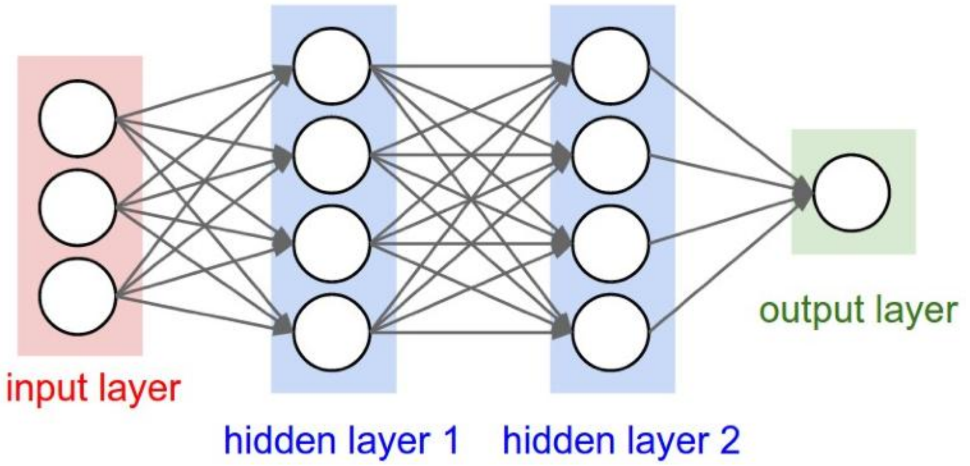


“2-layer Neural Net”, or
“1-hidden-layer Neural Net”

“3-layer Neural Net”, or
“2-hidden-layer Neural Net”

“Fully-connected” layers

Example feed-forward computation of a neural network




```python
# forward-pass of a 3-layer neural network:
f = lambda x: 1.0/(1.0 + np.exp(-x)) # activation function (use sigmoid)
x = np.random.randn(3, 1) # random input vector of three numbers (3x1)
h1 = f(np.dot(W1, x) + b1) # calculate first hidden layer activations (4x1)
h2 = f(np.dot(W2, h1) + b2) # calculate second hidden layer activations (4x1)
out = np.dot(W3, h2) + b3 # output neuron (1x1)
```

Full implementation of training a 2-layer Neural Network needs ~20 lines:

```python
import numpy as np
from numpy.random import randn

N, D_in, H, D_out = 64, 1000, 100, 10
x, y = randn(N, D_in), randn(N, D_out)
w1, w2 = randn(D_in, H), randn(H, D_out)

for t in range(2000):
  h = 1 / (1 + np.exp(-x.dot(w1)))
  y_pred = h.dot(w2)
  loss = np.square(y_pred - y).sum()
  print(t, loss)

  grad_y_pred = 2.0 * (y_pred - y)
  grad_w2 = h.T.dot(grad_y_pred)
  grad_h = grad_y_pred.dot(w2.T)
  grad_w1 = x.T.dot(grad_h * h * (1 - h))

  w1 -= 1e-4 * grad_w1
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Define the network

Forward pass

Calculate the analytical gradients

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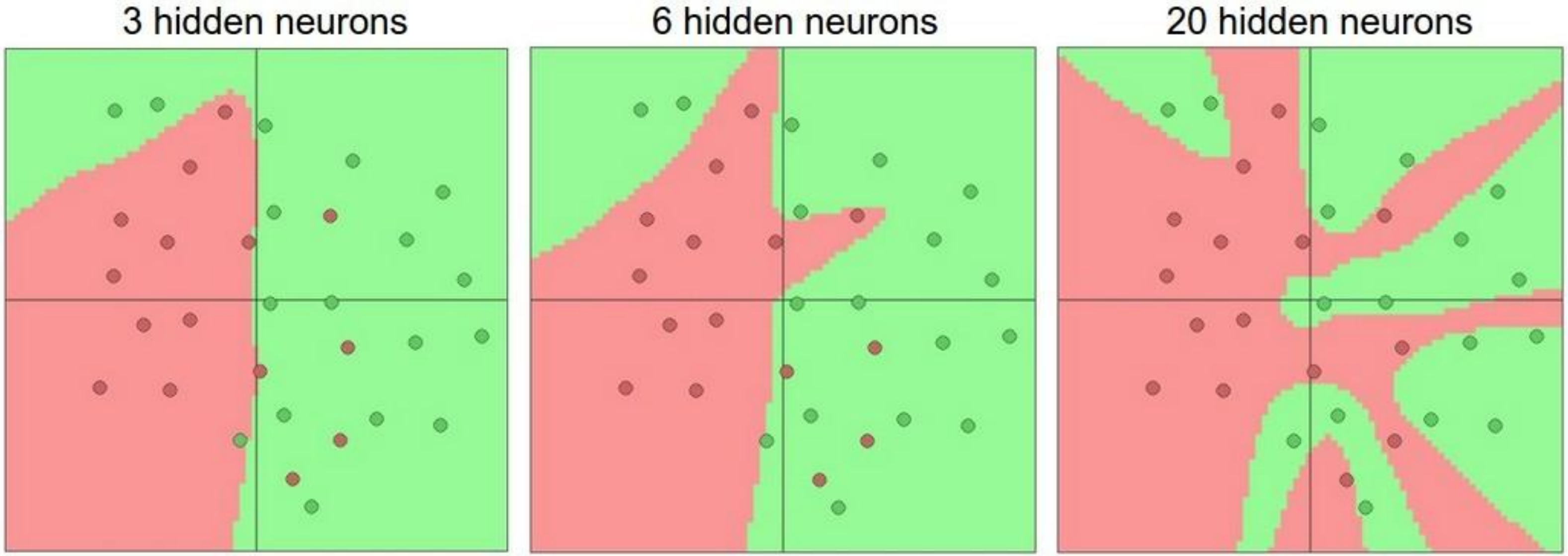
Define the network

Forward pass

Calculate the analytical gradients

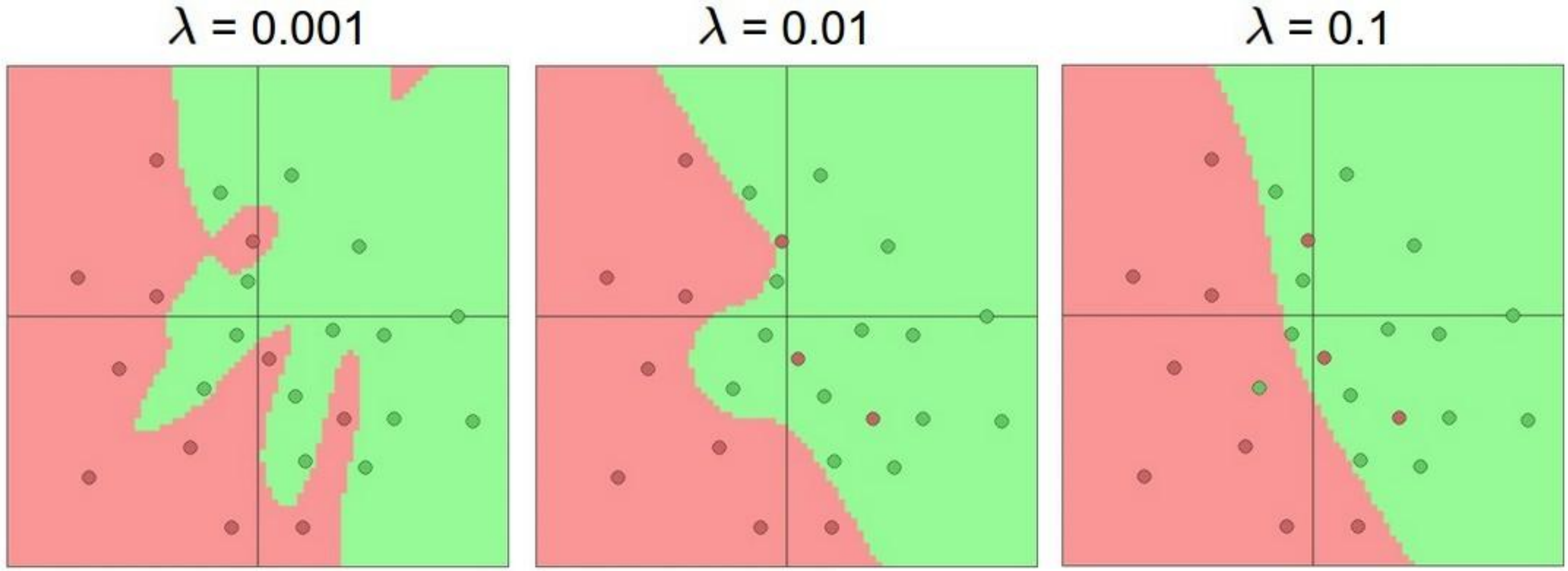
Gradient descent

Setting the number of layers and their sizes



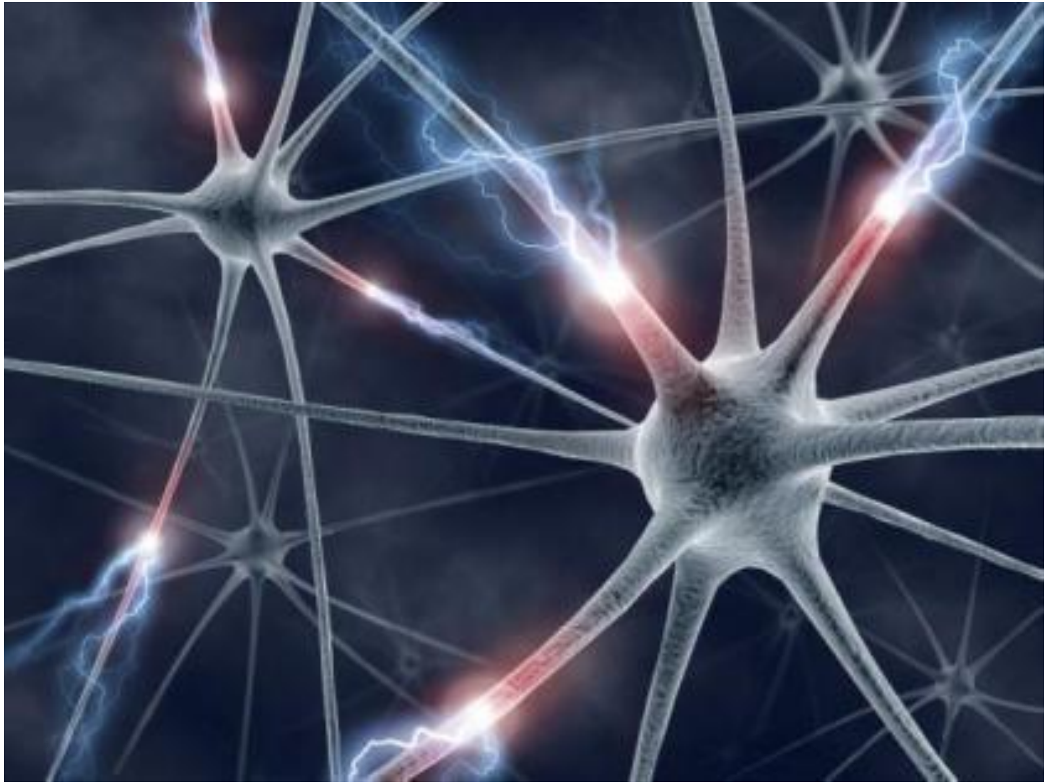
more neurons = more capacity

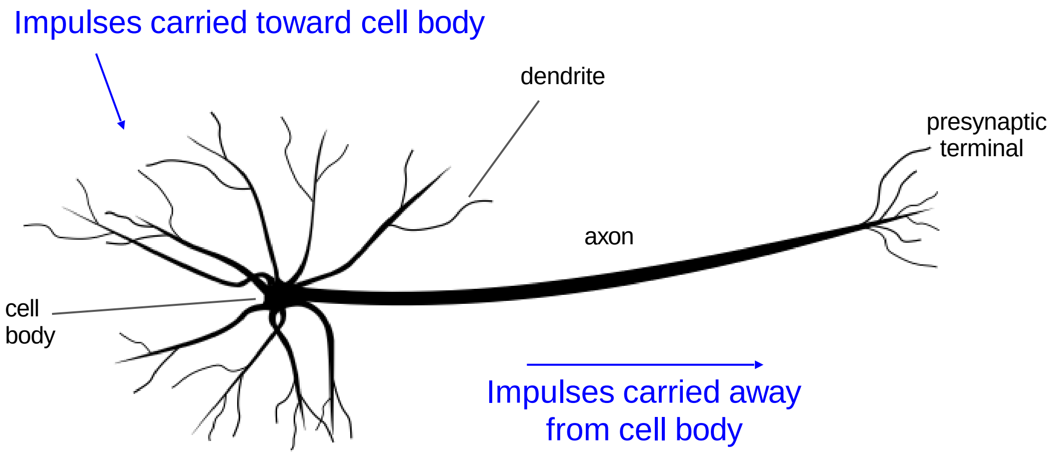
Do not use size of neural network as a regularizer. Use stronger regularization instead:

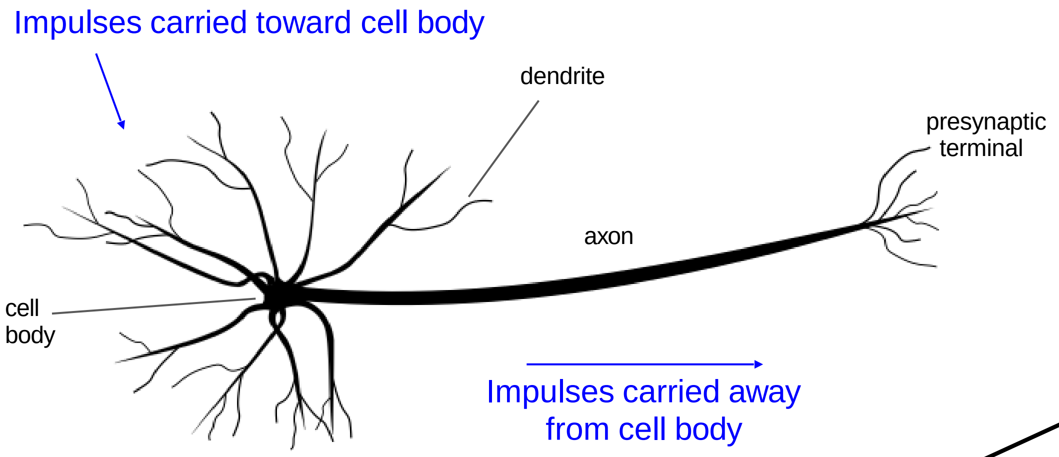


(Web demo with ConvNetJS: http://cs.stanford.edu/people/karpathy/convnetjs/demo/classify2d.html)

$$L(W) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} L_i(f(x_i, W), y_i) + \lambda R(W)$$




Impulses carried toward cell body
dendrite
presynaptic terminal
axon
cell body
Impulses carried away from cell body


Impulses carried toward cell body
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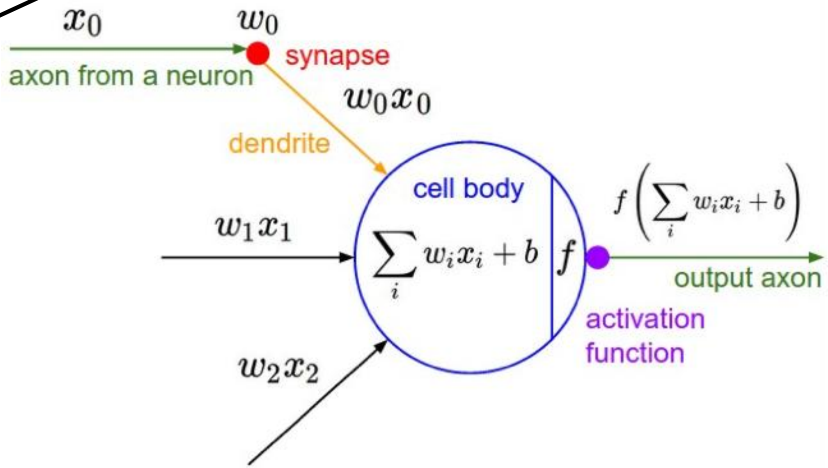
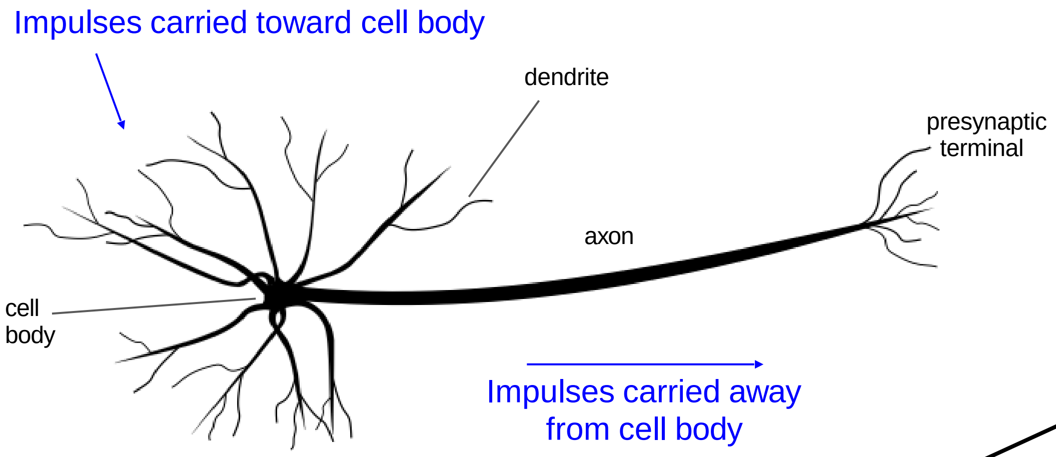
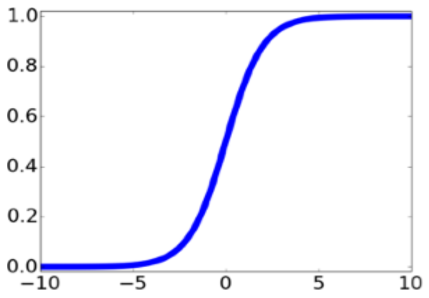
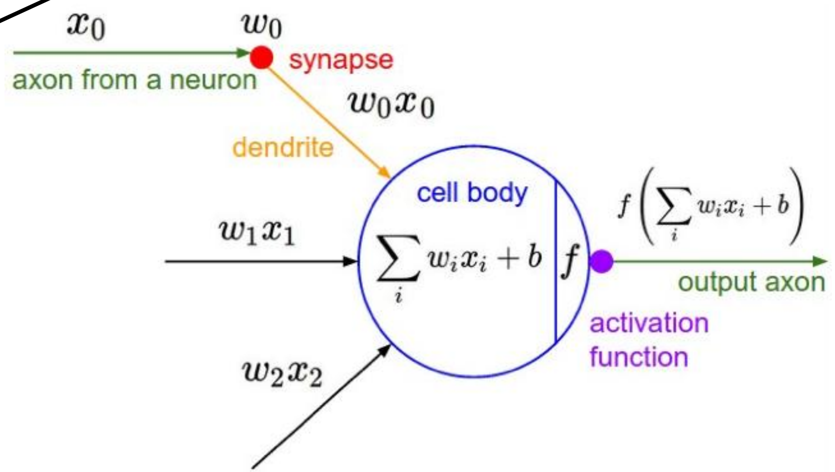

x_0
w_0
synapse
axon from a neuron
$w_0 x_0$
dendrite
cell body
$w_1 x_1$
$\sum_i w_i x_i + b$
f
$f\left(\sum_i w_i x_i + b\right)$
output axon
activation function
$w_2 x_2$



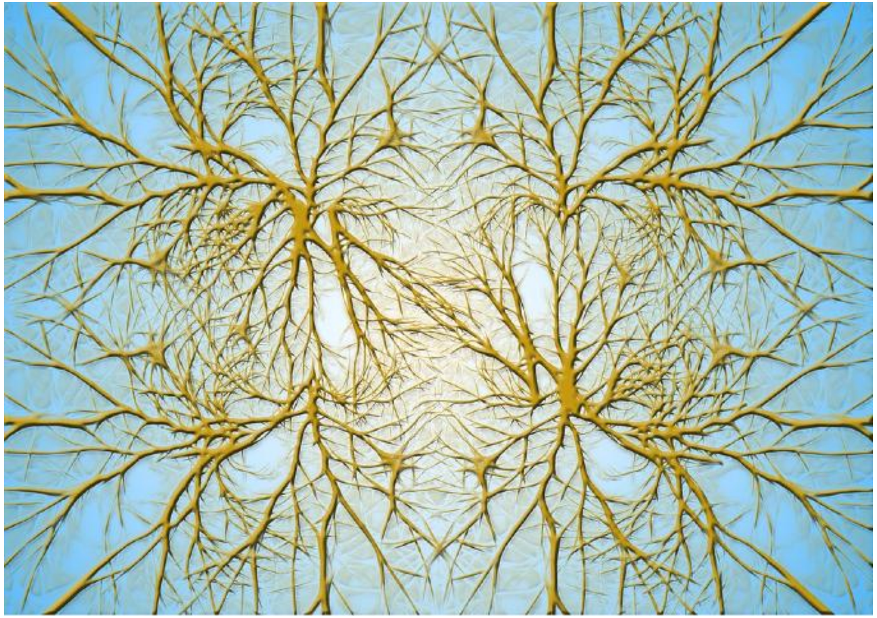


sigmoid activation function

$$\frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$$

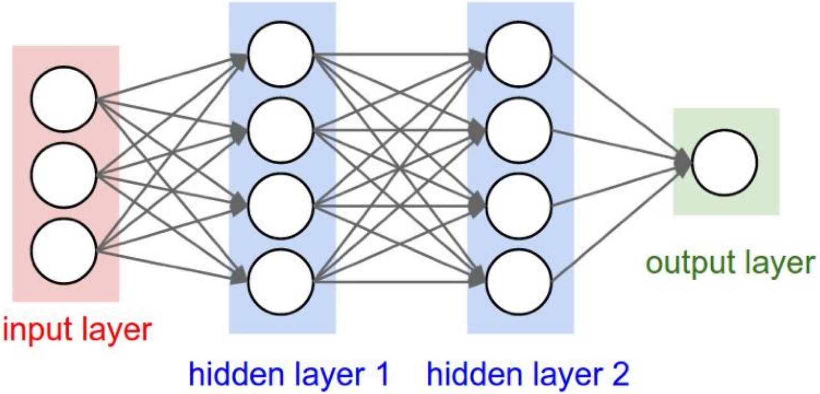


Biological Neurons:
Complex connectivity patterns

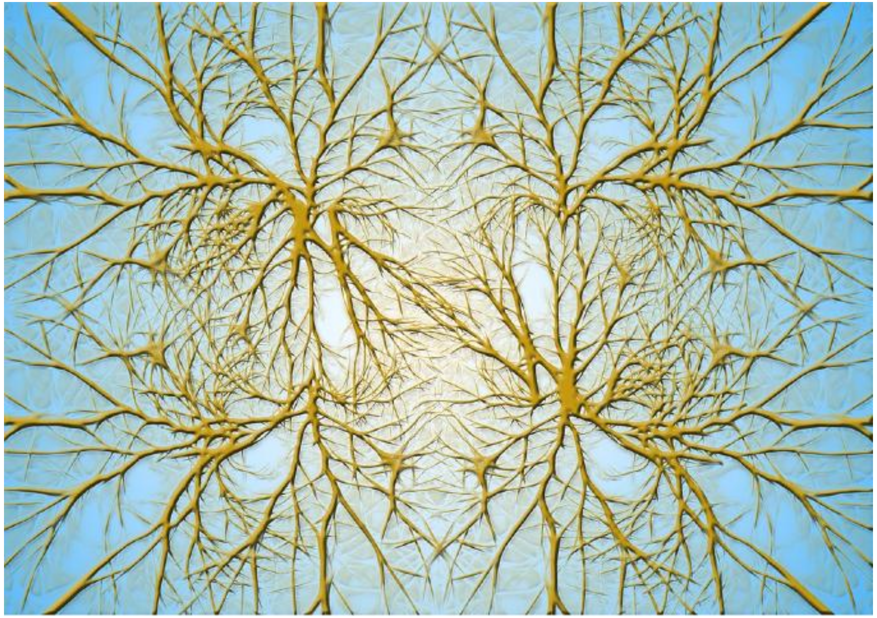


This image is CC0 Public Domain

Neurons in a neural network:
Organized into regular layers for computational efficiency



Biological Neurons:
Complex connectivity patterns



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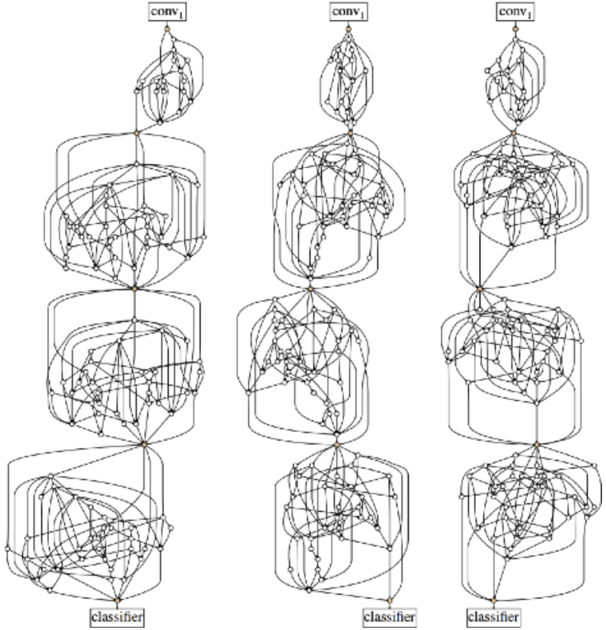
But neural networks with random connections can work too!



Xie et al, “Exploring Randomly Wired Neural Networks for Image Recognition”, arXiv 2019

Be very careful with your brain analogies!

Biological Neurons:

- Many different types
- Dendrites can perform complex non-linear computations
- Synapses are not a single weight but a complex non-linear dynamical system

[Dendritic Computation. London and Hausser]

Plugging in neural networks with loss functions

$$s = f(x; W_1, W_2) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x)$$ Nonlinear score function

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$ SVM Loss on predictions

$$R(W) = \sum_k W_k^2$$ Regularization

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} L_i + \lambda R(W_1) + \lambda R(W_2)$$ Total loss: data loss + regularization

Problem: How to compute gradients?

$$s = f(x; W_1, W_2) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x)$$ Nonlinear score function

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$ SVM Loss on predictions

$$R(W) = \sum_k W_k^2$$ Regularization

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} L_i + \lambda R(W_1) + \lambda R(W_2)$$ Total loss: data loss + regularization

If we can compute $\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_1}, \frac{\partial L}{\partial W_2}$ then we can learn W_1 and W_2

(Bad) Idea: Derive $\nabla_W L$ on paper

$$s = f(x; W) = Wx$$

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

$$= \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, W_{j,:} \cdot x + W_{y_i,:} \cdot x + 1)$$

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} L_i + \lambda \sum_k W_k^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, W_{j,:} \cdot x + W_{y_i,:} \cdot x + 1) + \lambda \sum_k W_k^2$$

$$\nabla_W L = \nabla_W \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, W_{j,:} \cdot x + W_{y_i,:} \cdot x + 1) + \lambda \sum_k W_k^2 \right)$$

Problem: Very tedious: Lots of matrix calculus, need lots of paper

Problem: What if we want to change loss? E.g. use softmax instead of SVM? Need to re-derive from scratch =(

Problem: Not feasible for very complex models!

Next lecture: Computational graphs + Backpropagation