



COS 484: Natural Language Processing

# Neural Network Basics

Fall 2019

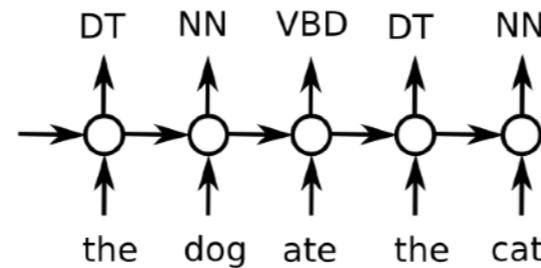
# Course planning

Representations for Language

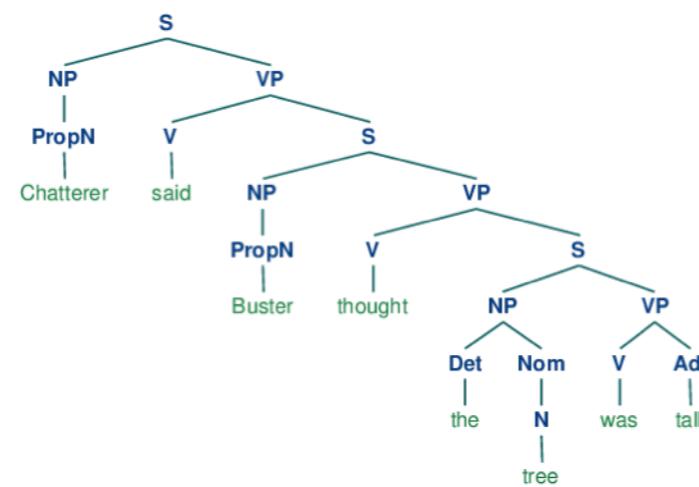
N-grams, Bag-of-words

Word Embeddings

Sequences (tagging)



Trees (parsing)



Machine Learning Classifiers

Naive Bayes

Logistic Regression

Neural Networks  
(aka. Deep Learning)

**Covered in midterm!**

# Course planning

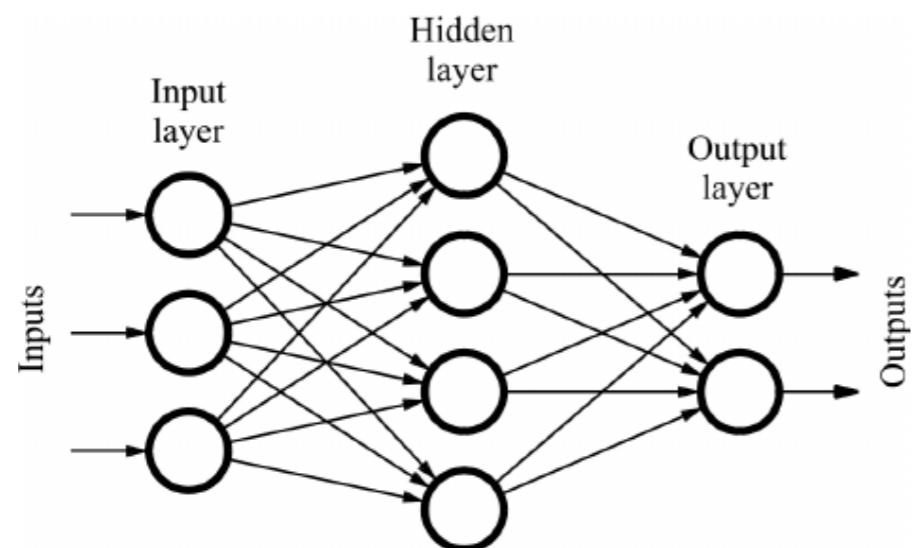
After midterm...

- Machine translation
- Information extraction
- Question answering
- Coreference resolution
- Dialogue
- NLP and vision
- Contextualized word embeddings
- More advanced neural networks

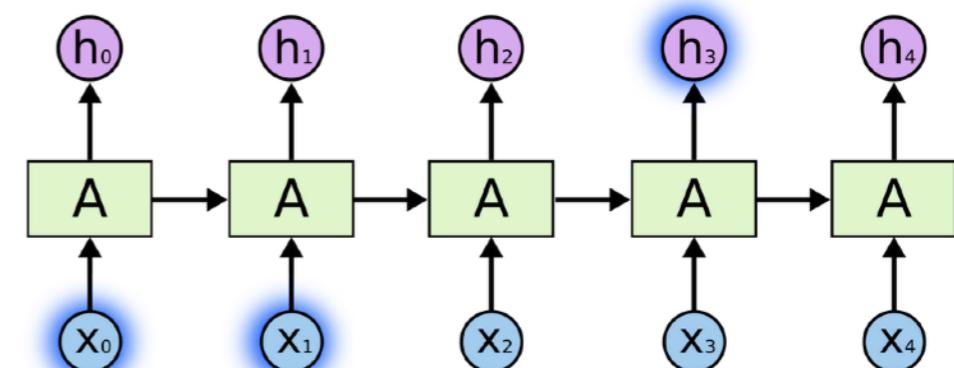
**Final project!**

# Neural networks for NLP

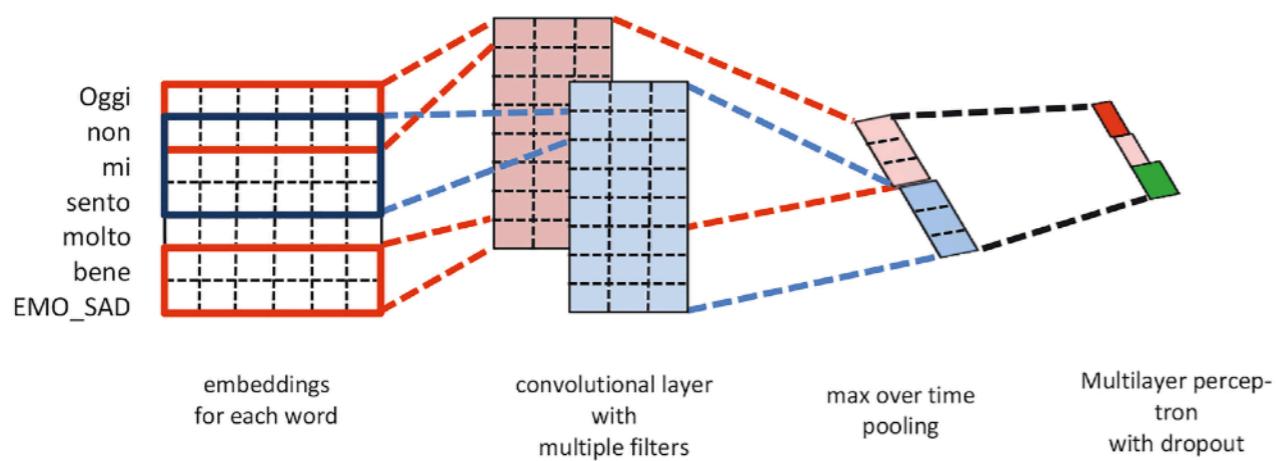
## Feed-forward NNs



## Recurrent NNs

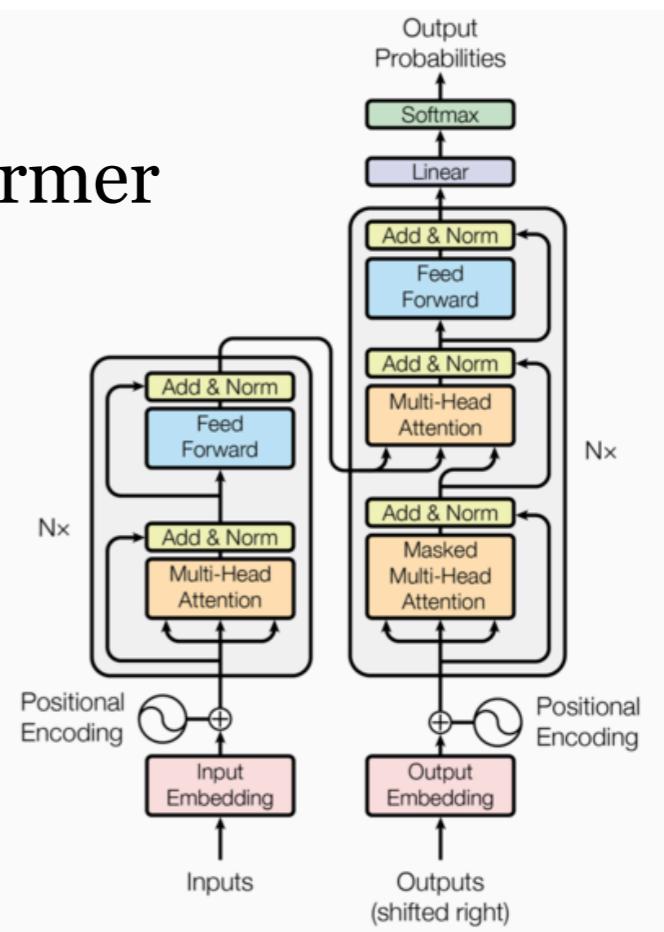


## Convolutional NNs



Always coupled with word embeddings...

## Transformer



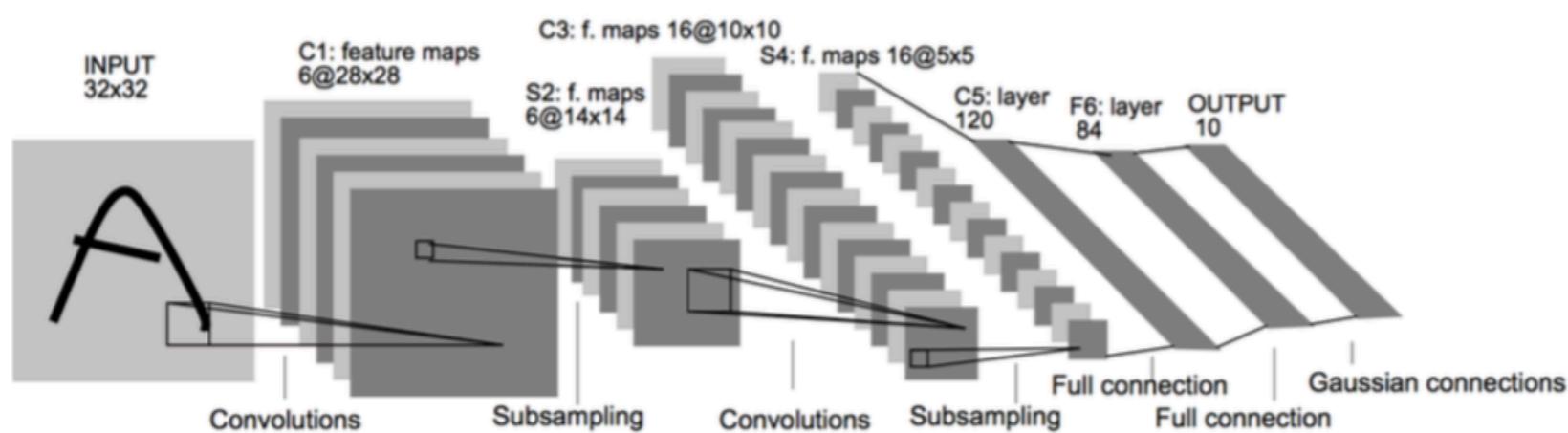
# This Lecture

- Feedforward Neural Networks
- Applications
  - Neural Bag-of-Words Models
  - Feedforward Neural Language Models
- The training algorithm: Back-propagation

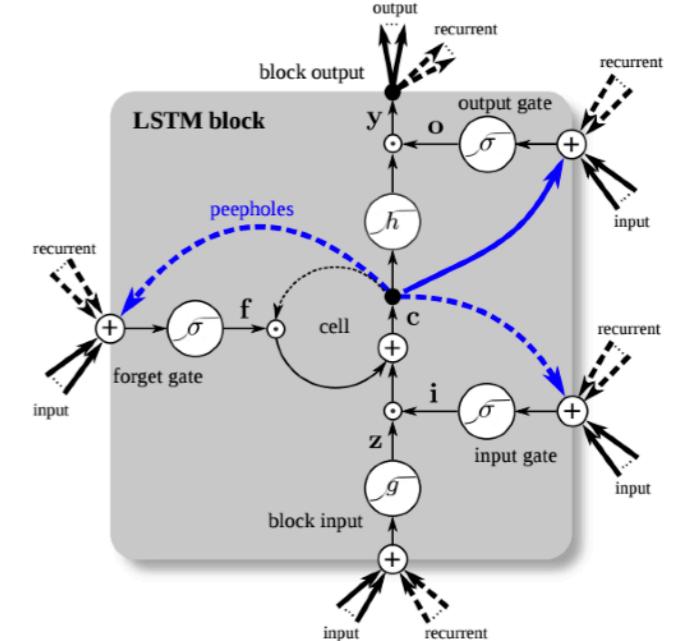
# Neural Networks: History

# NN “dark ages”

- Neural network algorithms date from the 80s
- ConvNets: applied to MNIST by LeCun in 1998



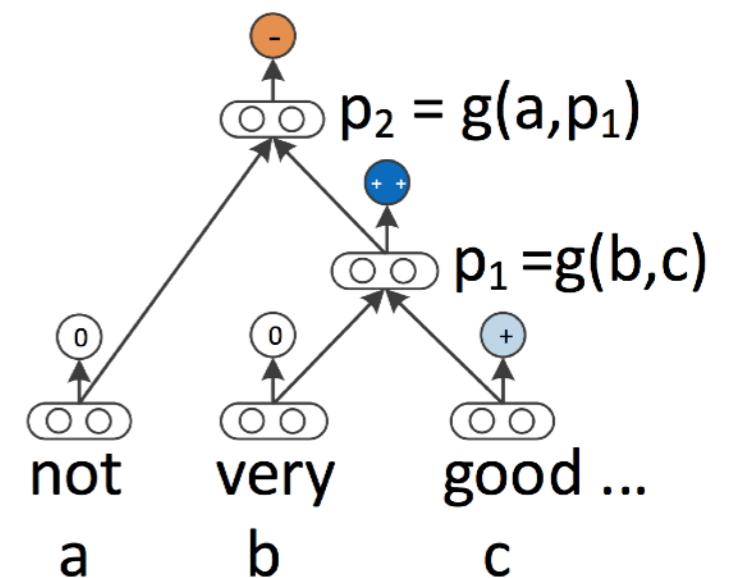
- Long Short-term Memory Networks (LSTMs): Hochreiter and Schmidhuber 1997
- Henderson 2003: neural shift-reduce parser, not SOTA



Credits: Greg Durrett

# 2008-2013: A glimmer of light

- Collobert and Weston 2011: “**NLP (almost) from Scratch**”
  - Feedforward NNs can replace “feature engineering”
  - 2008 version was marred by bad experiments, claimed SOTA bu wasn’t, 2011 version tied SOTA
- Krizhevsky et al, 2012: AlexNet for ImageNet Classification
- Socher 2011-2014: tree-structured RNNs working okay



Credits: Greg Durrett

# 2014: Stuff starts working

- Kim (2014) + Kalchbrenner et al, 2014: sentence classification
  - ConvNets work for NLP!
- Sutskever et al, 2014: sequence-to-sequence for neural MT
  - LSTMs work for NLP!
- Chen and Manning 2014: dependency parsing
  - Even feedforward networks work well for NLP!
- 2015: explosion of neural networks for everything under the sun

# Why didn't they work before?

- **Datasets too small:** for MT, not really better until you have 1M+ parallel sentences (and really need a lot more)
- **Optimization not well understood:** good initialization, per-feature scaling + momentum (Adagrad/Adam) work best out-of-the-box
  - Regularization: dropout is pretty helpful
  - Computers not big enough: can't run for enough iterations
- Inputs: need **word embeddings** to represent continuous semantics

# The “Promise”

- Most NLP works in the past focused on human-designed representations and input features

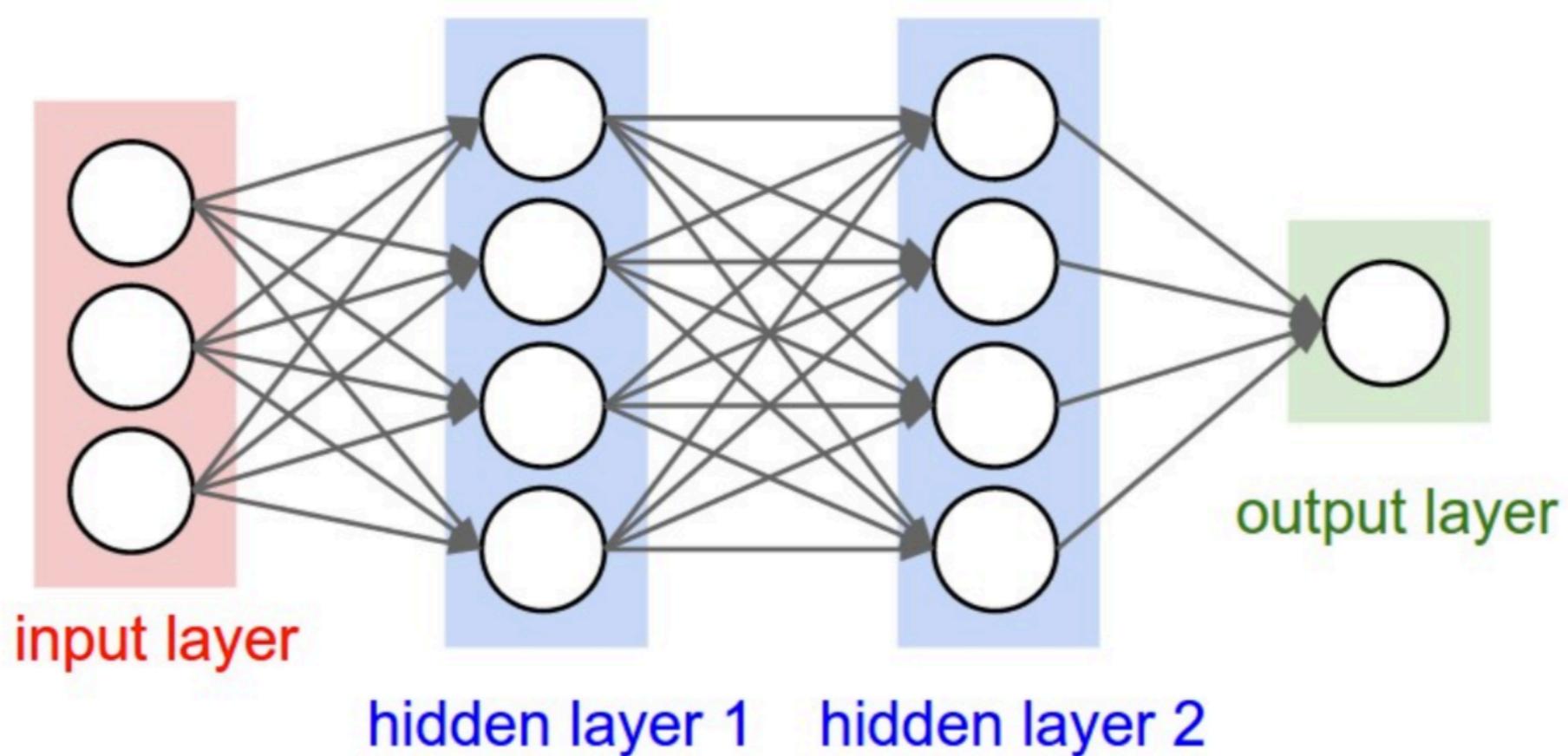
Var	Definition	Value in Fig. 5.2
$x_1$	$\text{count}(\text{positive lexicon}) \in \text{doc}$ )	3
$x_2$	$\text{count}(\text{negative lexicon}) \in \text{doc}$ )	2
$x_3$	$\begin{cases} 1 & \text{if “no”} \in \text{doc} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$	1
$x_4$	$\text{count}(1\text{st and 2nd pronouns} \in \text{doc})$	3
$x_5$	$\begin{cases} 1 & \text{if “!”} \in \text{doc} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$	0
$x_6$	$\log(\text{word count of doc})$	$\ln(64) = 4.15$

- **Representation learning** attempts to automatically learn good features and representations
- **Deep learning** attempts to learn multiple levels of representation on increasing complexity/abstraction

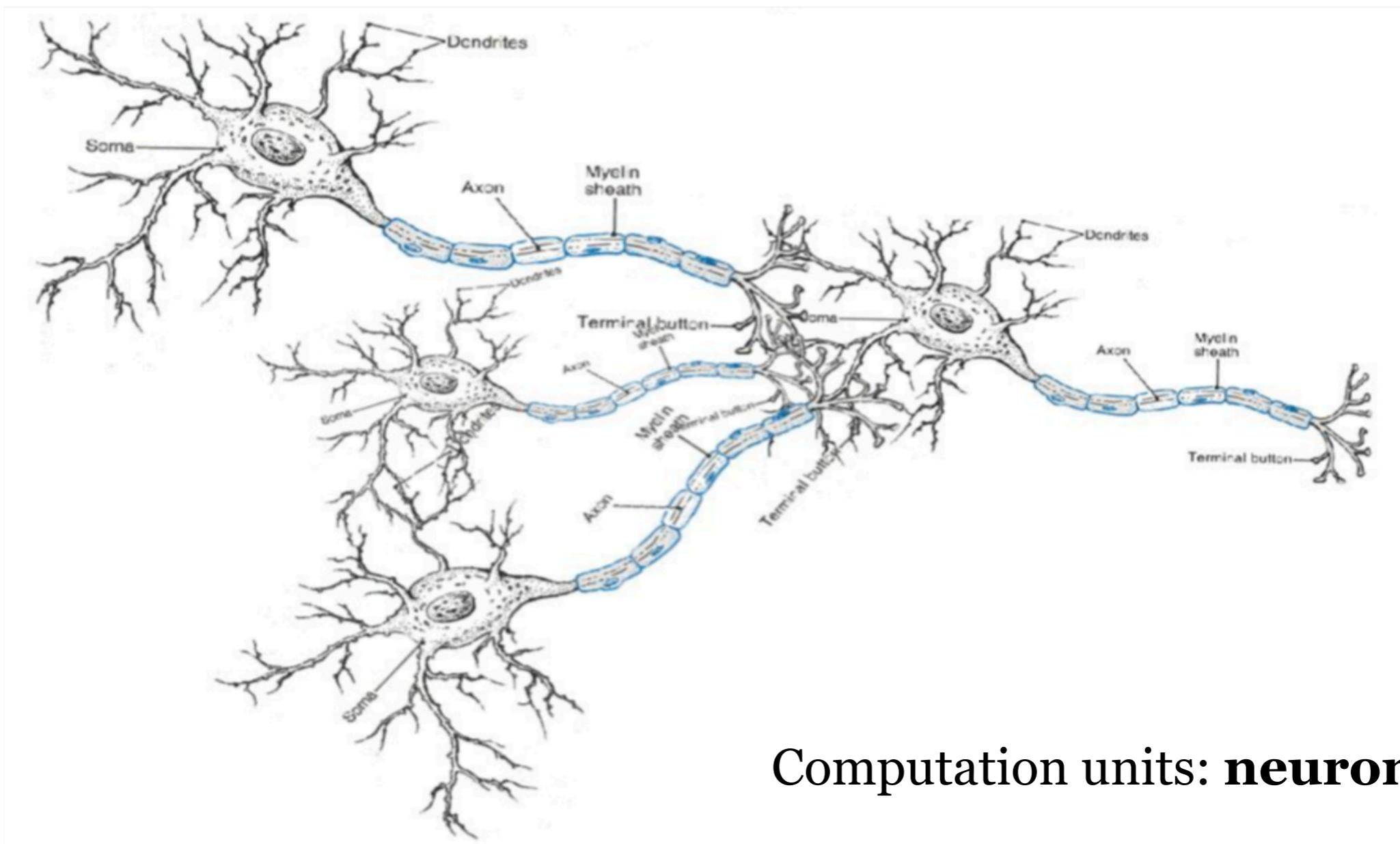
# Feed-forward Neural Networks

# Feed-forward NNs

- Input:  $x_1, \dots, x_d$
- Output:  $y \in \{0,1\}$

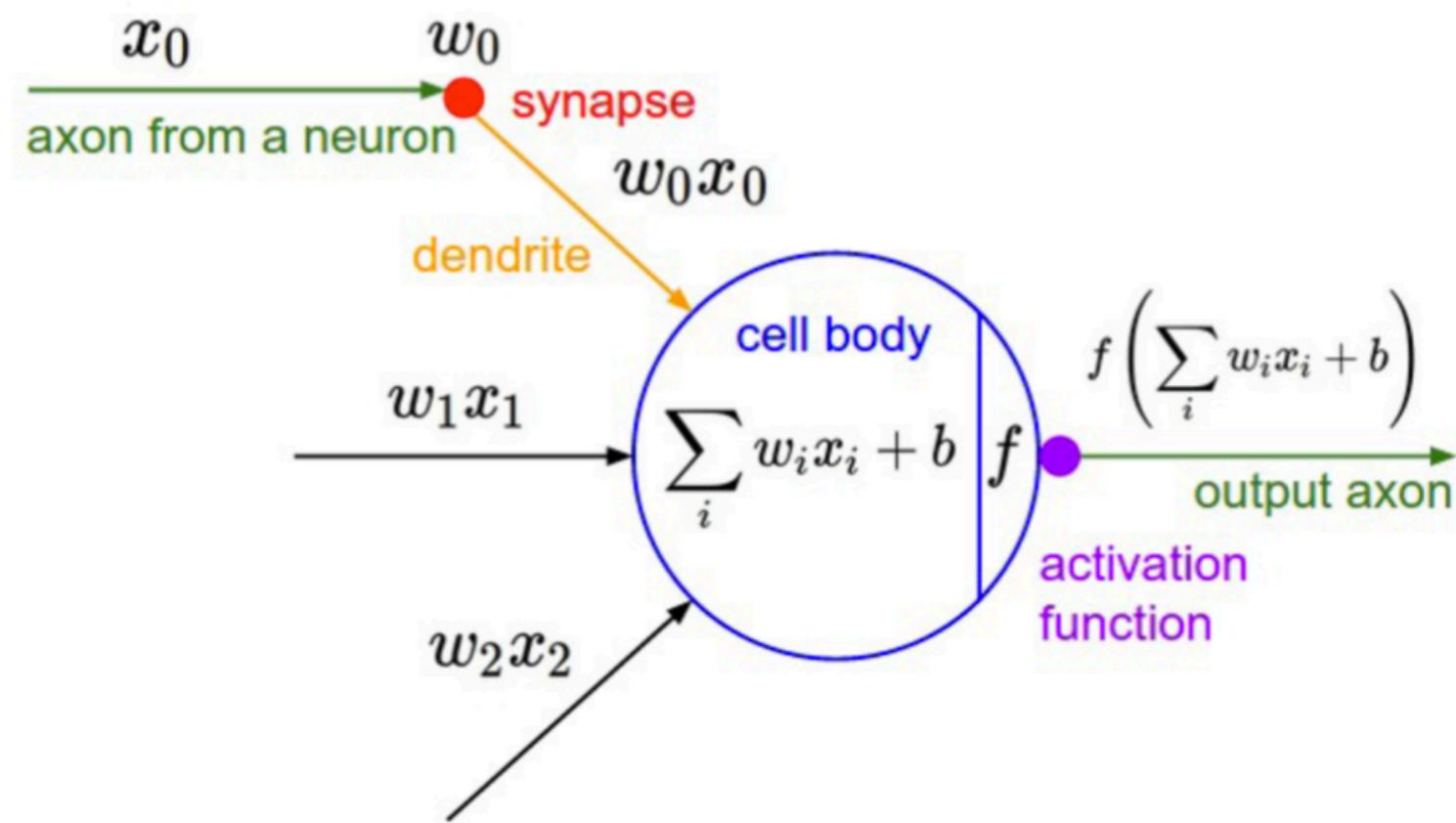


# Neural computation



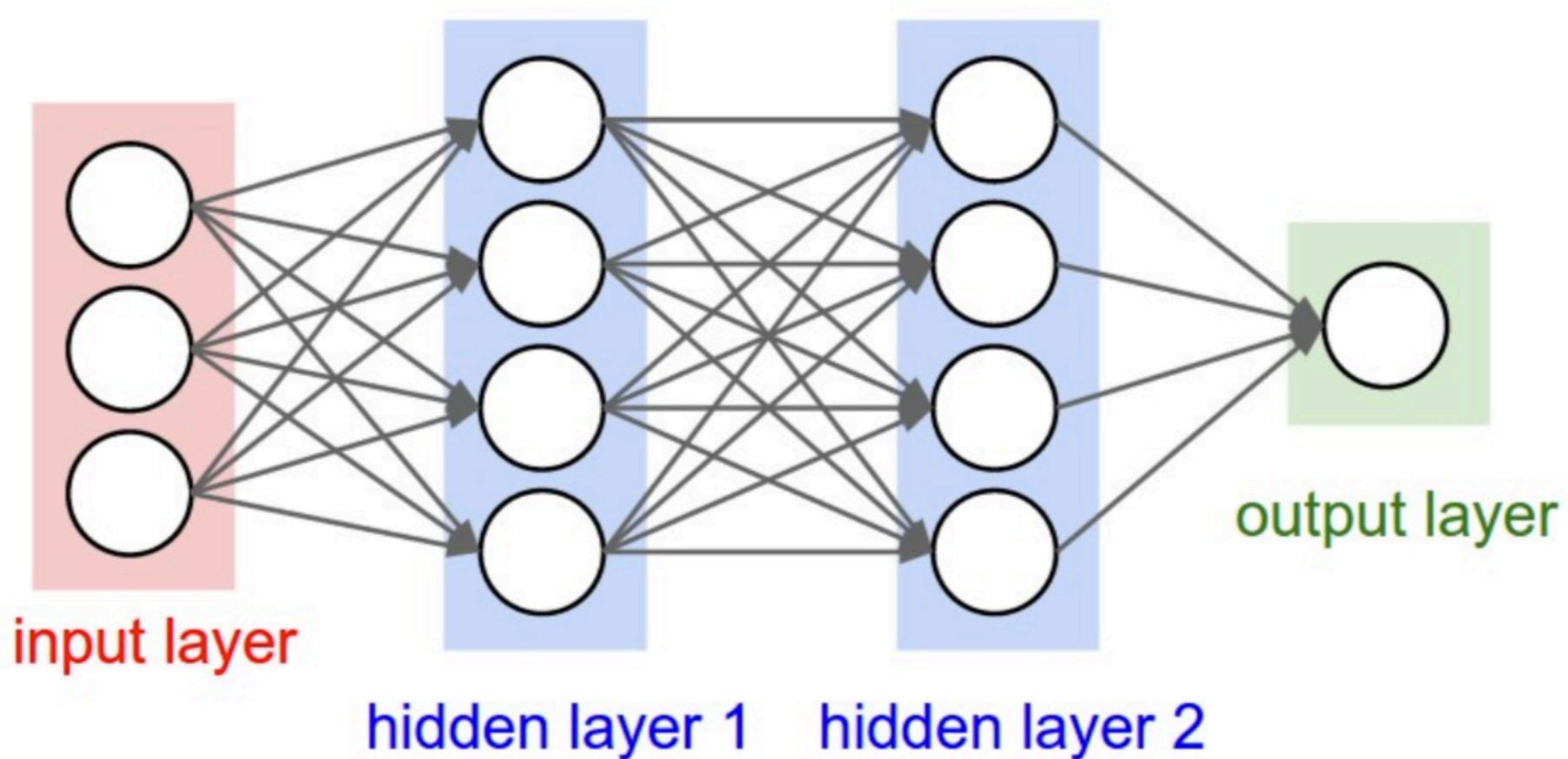
# An artificial neuron

- A neuron is a computational unit that has scalar inputs and an output
- Each input has an associated weight.
- The neuron multiples each input by its weight, sums them, applied a **nonlinear function** to the result, and passes it to its output.

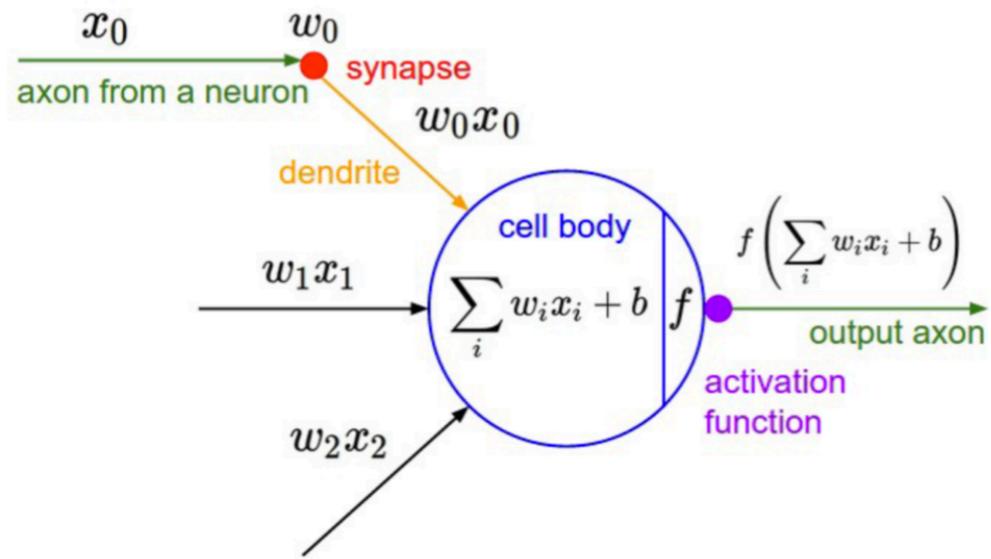


# Neural networks

- The neurons are connected to each other, forming a **network**
- The output of a neuron may feed into the inputs of other neurons

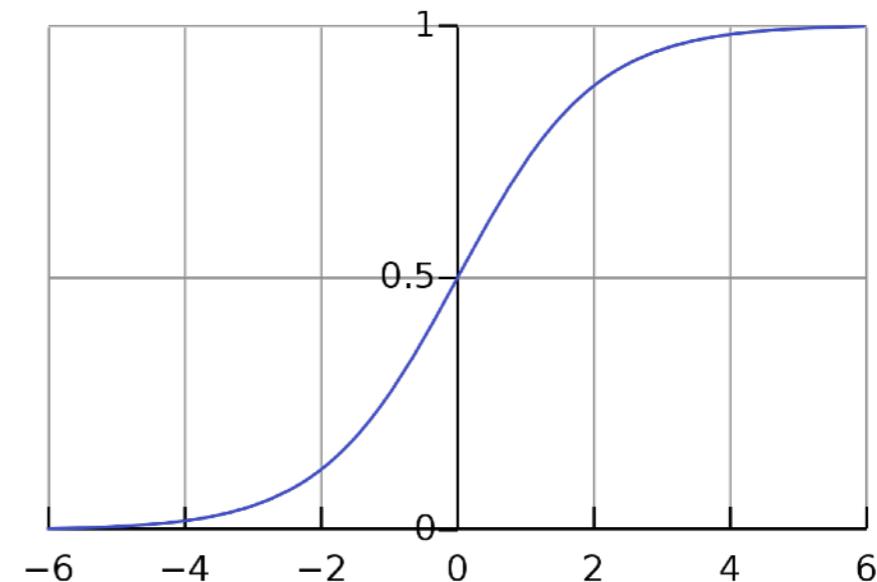


# A neuron can be a binary logistic regression unit



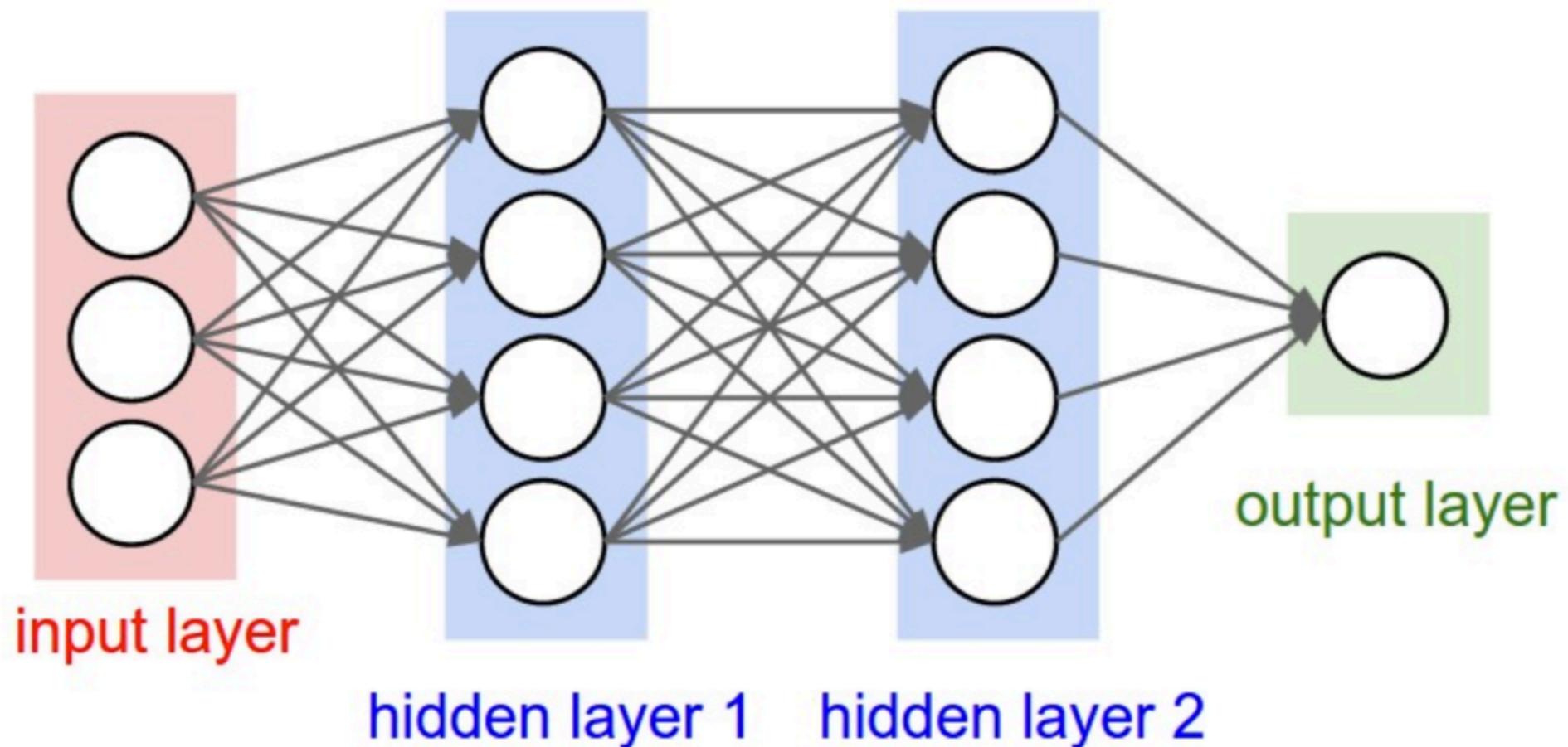
$$f(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}$$

$$h_{\mathbf{w}, b}(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x} + b)$$



A neural network

= running several logistic regressions at the same time



- If we feed a vector of inputs through a bunch of logistic regression functions, then we get a vector of outputs...
- which we can feed into another logistic regression function

# Mathematical Notations

- Input layer:  $x_1, \dots, x_d$

- Hidden layer 1:  $h_1^{(1)}, h_2^{(1)}, \dots, h_{d_1}^{(1)}$

$$h_1^{(1)} = f(W_{1,1}^{(1)} + W_{1,2}^{(1)}x_2 + \dots + W_{1,d}^{(1)}x_d + b_1^{(1)})$$

$$h_2^{(1)} = f(W_{2,1}^{(1)} + W_{2,2}^{(1)}x_2 + \dots + W_{2,d}^{(1)}x_d + b_2^{(1)})$$

$\dots$

- Hidden layer 2:  $h_1^{(2)}, h_2^{(2)}, \dots, h_{d_2}^{(2)}$

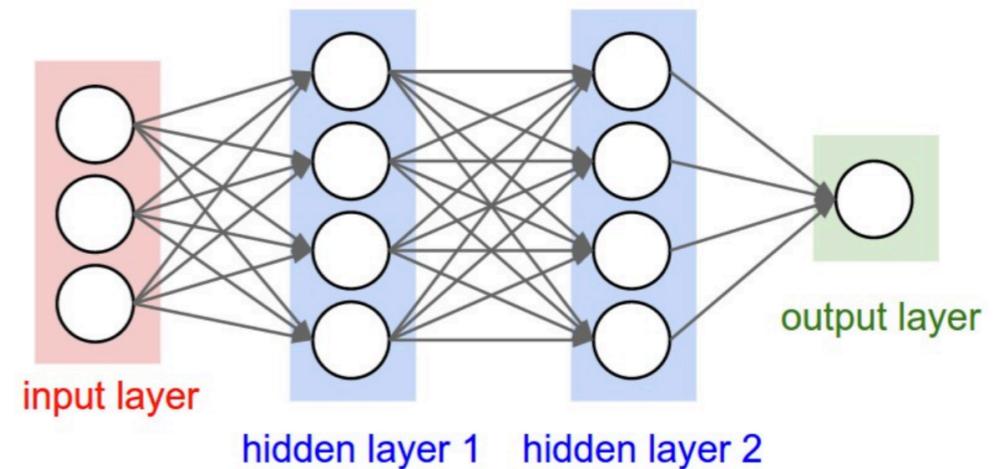
$$h_1^{(2)} = f(W_{1,1}^{(2)}h_1^{(1)} + W_{1,2}^{(2)}h_2^{(1)} + \dots + W_{1,d_1}^{(2)}h_{d_1}^{(1)} + b_1^{(2)})$$

$$h_2^{(2)} = f(W_{2,1}^{(2)}h_1^{(1)} + W_{2,2}^{(2)}h_2^{(1)} + \dots + W_{2,d_1}^{(2)}h_{d_1}^{(1)} + b_2^{(2)})$$

$\dots$

- Output layer:

$$y = \sigma(w_1^{(o)}h_1^{(2)} + w_2^{(o)}h_2^{(2)} + \dots + w_{d_2}^{(o)}h_{d_2}^{(2)} + b^{(o)})$$



# Matrix Notations

- Input layer:  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

- Hidden layer 1:

$$\mathbf{h}_1 = f(\mathbf{W}^{(1)}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}^{(1)}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d_1}$$

$$\mathbf{W}^{(1)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_1 \times d}, \mathbf{b}^{(1)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_1}$$

- Hidden layer 2:

$$\mathbf{h}_2 = f(\mathbf{W}^{(2)}\mathbf{h}_1 + \mathbf{b}^{(2)}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d_2}$$

$$\mathbf{W}^{(2)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_2 \times d_1}, \mathbf{b}^{(2)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_2}$$

- Output layer:

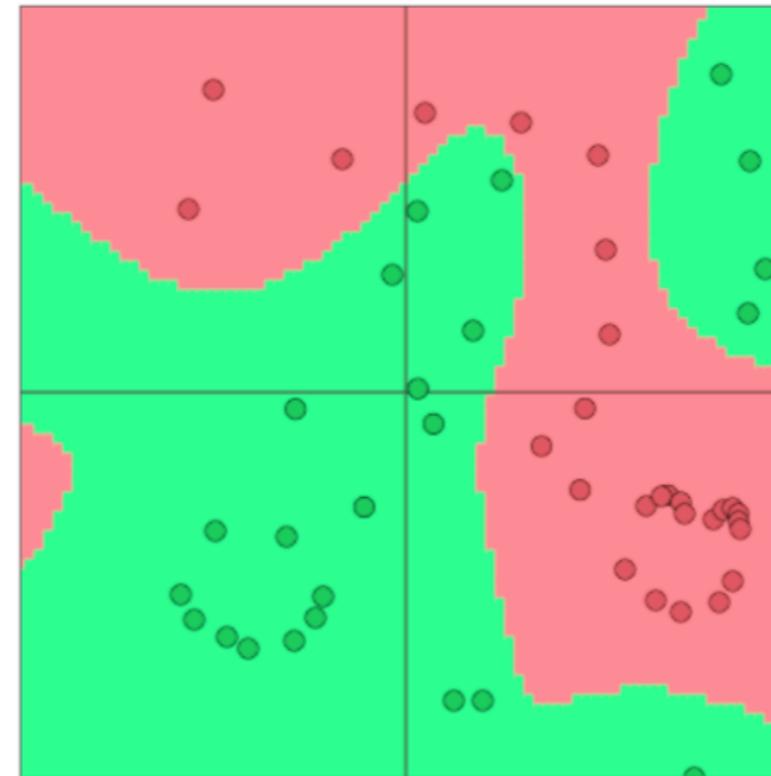
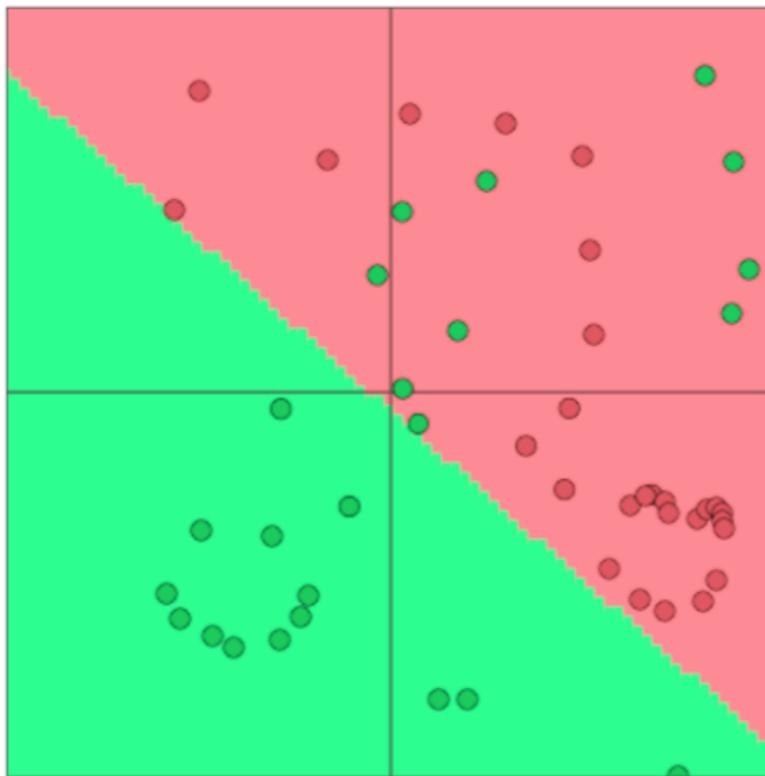
$$y = \sigma(\mathbf{w}^{(o)} \cdot \mathbf{h}_2 + b^{(o)})$$

\*:  $f$  is applied element-wise

$$f([z_1, z_2, z_3]) = [f(z_1), f(z_2), f(z_3)]$$

# Why non-linearities?

- Neural networks can learn much more complex functions and nonlinear decision boundaries



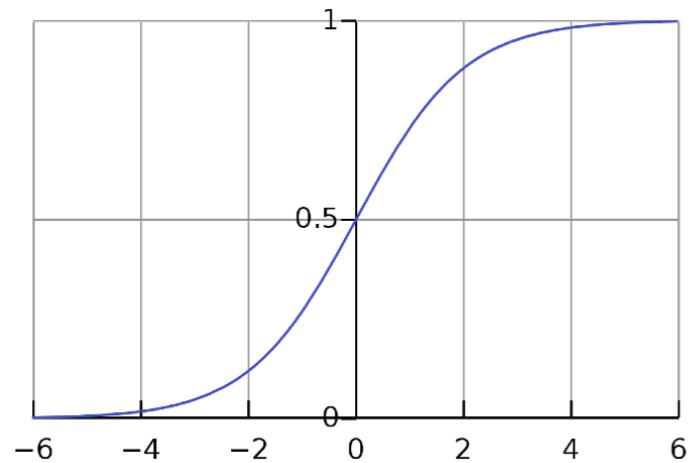
The capacity of the network increases with more hidden units and more hidden layers

How if we remove activation function?

# Activation functions

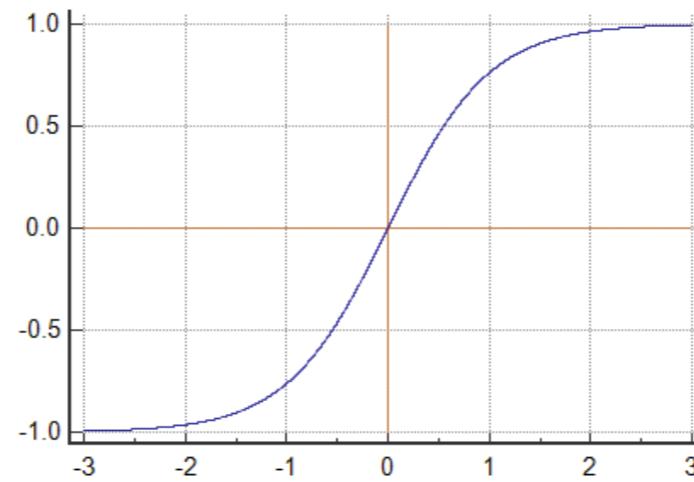
sigmoid

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



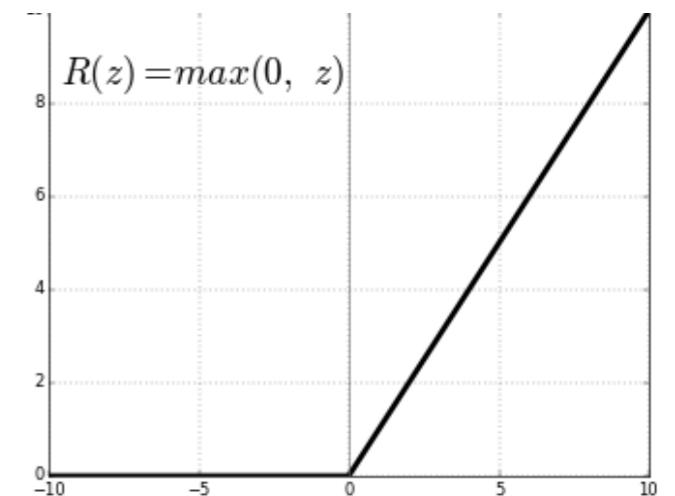
tanh

$$f(z) = \frac{e^{2z} - 1}{e^{2z} + 1}$$



ReLU  
(rectified linear unit)

$$f(z) = \max(0, z)$$



$$f'(z) = f(z) \times (1 - f(z))$$

$$f'(z) = 1 - f(z)^2$$

$$f'(z) = \begin{cases} 1 & z > 0 \\ 0 & z < 0 \end{cases}$$

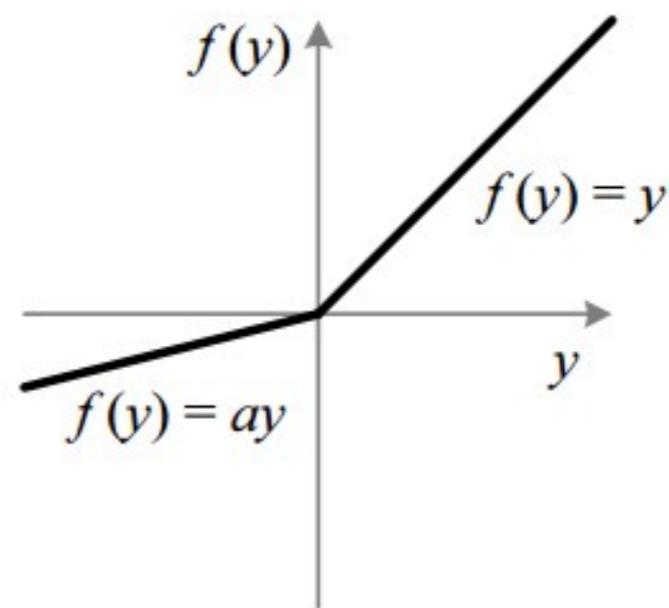
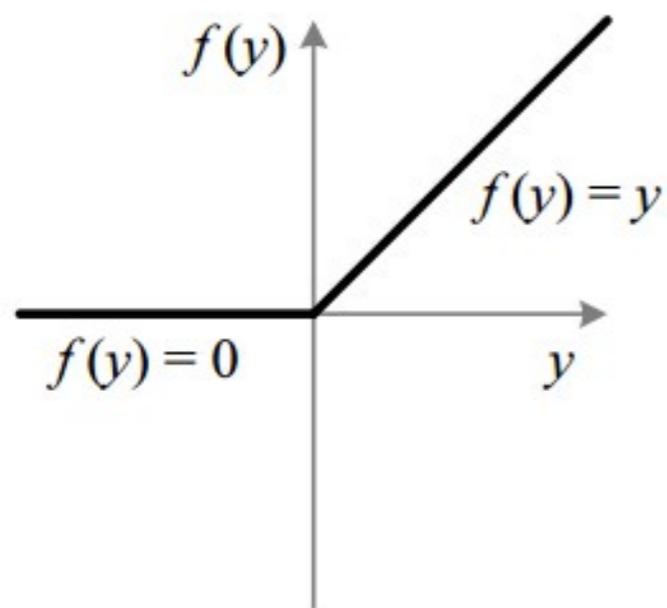
Advantages of ReLU?

# Activation functions

Problems of ReLU? “dead neurons”

Leaky ReLU

$$f(z) = \begin{cases} z & z \geq 0 \\ 0.01z & z < 0 \end{cases}$$



# Loss functions

- Binary classification

$$y = \sigma(\mathbf{w}^{(o)} \cdot \mathbf{h}_2 + b^{(o)})$$

$$\mathcal{L}(y, y^*) = -y^* \log y - (1 - y^*) \log (1 - y)$$

- Regression

$$y = \mathbf{w}^{(o)} \cdot \mathbf{h}_2 + b^{(o)}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{MSE}}(y, y^*) = (y - y^*)^2$$

- Multi-class classification ( $C$  classes)

$$y_i = \text{softmax}_i(\mathbf{W}^{(o)} \mathbf{h}_2 + \mathbf{b}^{(o)}) \quad \mathbf{W}^{(o)} \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times d_2}, \mathbf{b}^{(o)} \in \mathbb{R}^C$$

$$\mathcal{L}(y, y^*) = - \sum_{i=1}^C y_i^* \log y_i$$

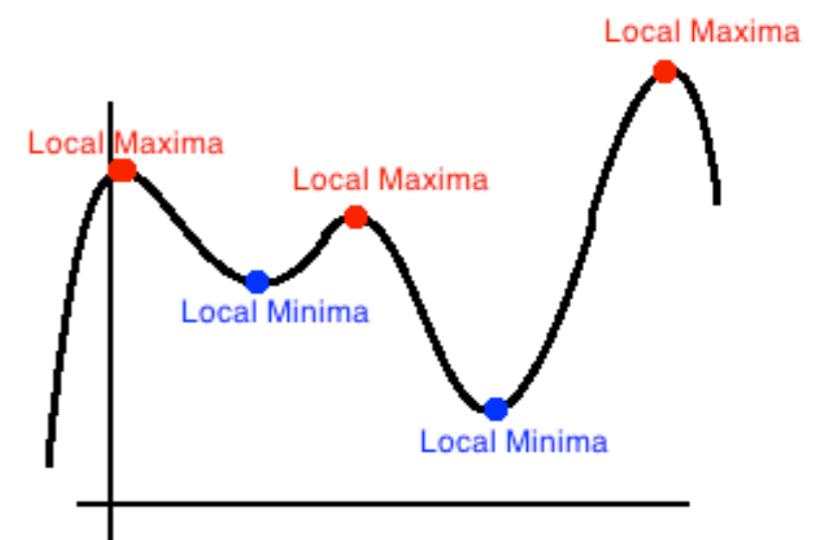
The question again becomes how to compute:  $\nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta)$

$$\theta = \{\mathbf{W}^{(1)}, \mathbf{b}^{(1)}, \mathbf{W}^{(2)}, \mathbf{b}^{(2)}, \mathbf{w}^{(o)}, b^{(o)}\}$$

# Optimization

$$\theta^{(t+1)} = \theta^{(t)} - \eta \nabla_{\theta} J(\theta)$$

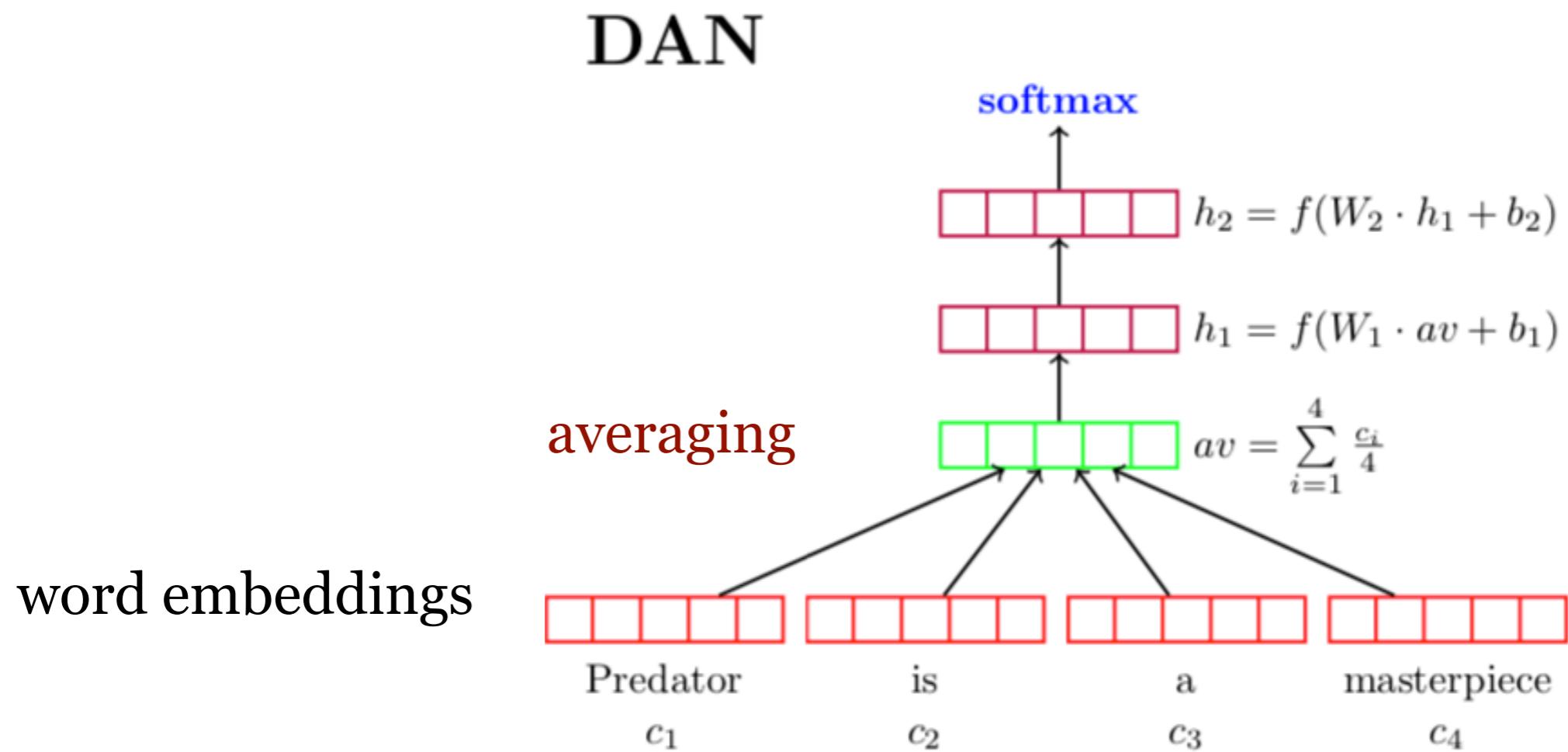
- Logistic regression is convex: one global minimum
- Neural networks are non-convex and not easy to optimize
- A class of more sophisticated “adaptive” optimizers that scale the parameter adjustment by an accumulated gradient.
  - **Adam**
  - Adagrad
  - RMSprop
  - ...



# Applications

# Neural Bag-of-Words (NBOW)

- Deep Averaging Networks (DAN) for Text Classification



# Word embeddings: re-train or not?

- Word embeddings can be treated as parameters too!

$$\theta = \{\mathbf{W}^{(1)}, \mathbf{b}^{(1)}, \mathbf{W}^{(2)}, \mathbf{b}^{(2)}, \mathbf{w}^{(o)}, b^{(o)}, \mathbf{E}_{emb}\}$$

- When the training set is small, don't re-train word embeddings (think of them as features!).

Why?

- Most cases: initialize word embeddings using pre-trained ones (word2vec, Glove) and re-train them for the task

“good” vs “bad”

- When you have enough data, you can just randomly initialize them and train from scratch (e.g. machine translation)

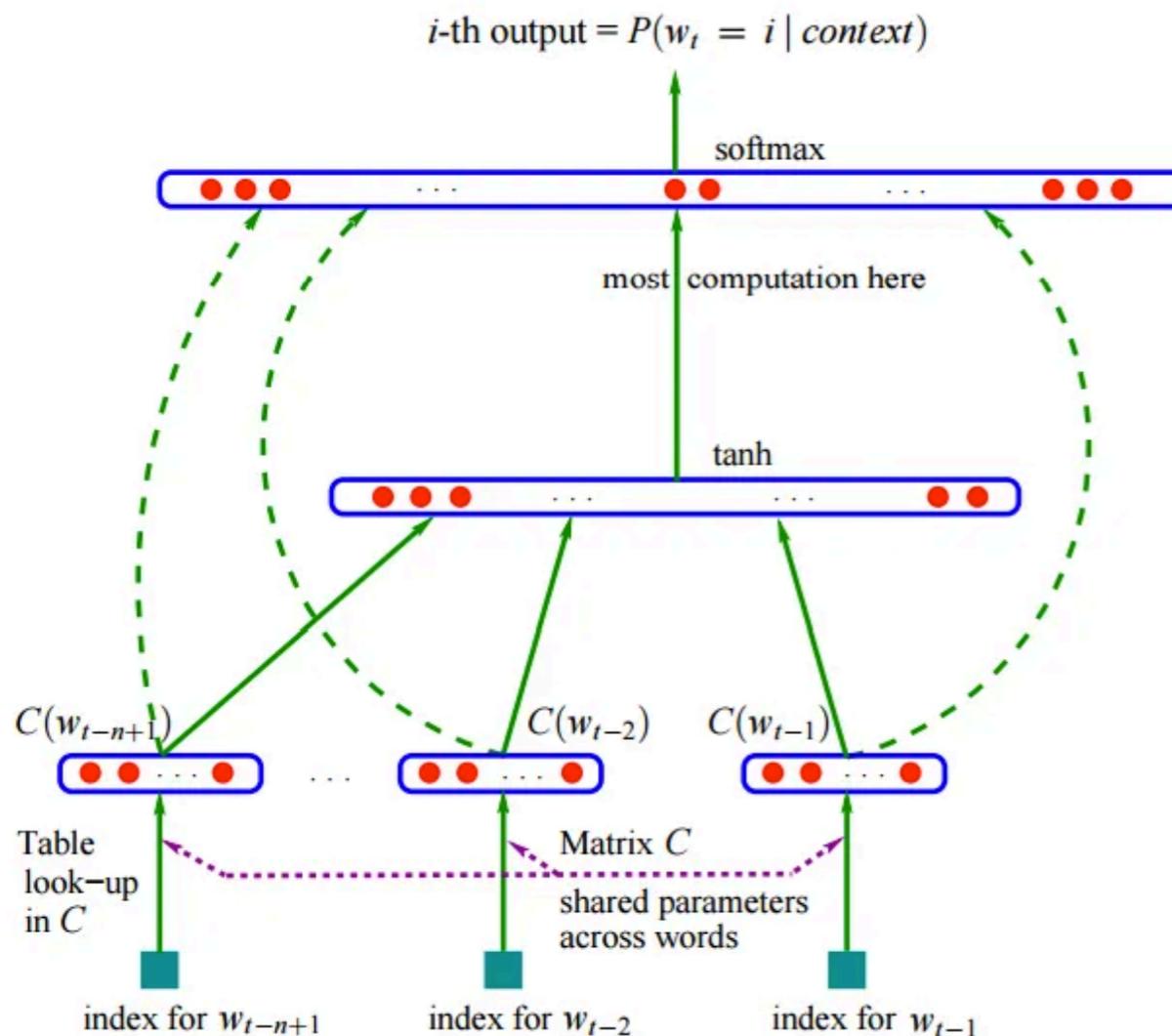
# Neural Bag-of-Words (NBOW)

Model	RT	SST fine	SST bin	IMDB	Time (s)
DAN-ROOT	—	46.9	85.7	—	<b>31</b>
DAN-RAND	77.3	45.4	83.2	88.8	136
DAN	80.3	47.7	86.3	89.4	136
NBOW-RAND	76.2	42.3	81.4	88.9	91
NBOW	79.0	43.6	83.6	89.0	91
BiNB	—	41.9	83.1	—	—
NBSVM-bi	79.4	—	—	91.2	—



# Feedforward Neural LMs

- N-gram models:  $P(\text{mat} | \text{the cat sat on the})$



- Input layer (context size  $n = 5$ ):  
$$\mathbf{x} = [e_{\text{the}}; e_{\text{cat}}; e_{\text{sat}}; e_{\text{on}}; e_{\text{the}}] \in \mathbb{R}^{dn}$$
**concatenation**
- Hidden layer  
$$\mathbf{h} = \tanh(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}) \in \mathbb{R}^h$$
- Output layer (softmax)  
$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^{|V|}$$
$$P(w = i | \text{context}) = \text{softmax}_i(\mathbf{z})$$

# Backpropagation

How to compute gradients?

# Backpropagation

- It's taking derivatives and applying chain rule!
- We'll **re-use** derivatives computed for higher layers in computing derivatives for lower layers so as to minimize computation
- Good news is that modern automatic differentiation tools did all for you!
  - Implementing backprop by hand is like programming in assembly language.



# Deriving gradients for Feedforward NNs

Input:  $\mathbf{x}$

$$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$\mathbf{h}_1 = \tanh(\mathbf{W}_1 \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_1)$$

$$\mathbf{W}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{d_1 \times d} \quad \mathbf{b}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{d_1}$$

$$\mathbf{h}_2 = \tanh(\mathbf{W}_2 \mathbf{h}_1 + \mathbf{b}_2)$$

$$\mathbf{W}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{d_2 \times d_1} \quad \mathbf{b}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{d_2}$$

$$y = \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{h}_2 + b)$$

$$\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_2}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(y, y^*) = -y^* \log y - (1 - y^*) \log (1 - y)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = ? \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial b} = ?$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{W}_2} = ? \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{b}_2} = ?$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{W}_1} = ? \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{b}_1} = ?$$

# Deriving gradients for Feedforward NNs

$$\mathbf{z}_1 = \mathbf{W}_1 \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_1 \quad \mathbf{h}_1 = \tanh(\mathbf{z}_1)$$

$$\mathbf{z}_2 = \mathbf{W}_2 \mathbf{h}_1 + \mathbf{b}_2 \quad \mathbf{h}_2 = \tanh(\mathbf{z}_2)$$

$$y = \sigma(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{h}_2 + b)$$

Forward  
Propagation

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial b} = y - y^* \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = (y - y^*) \mathbf{h}_2 \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{h}_2} = (y - y^*) \mathbf{w}$$

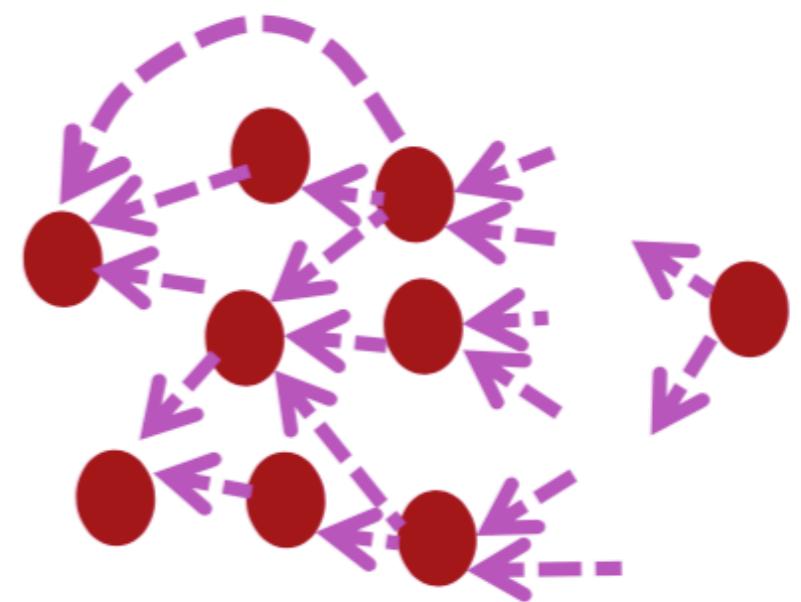
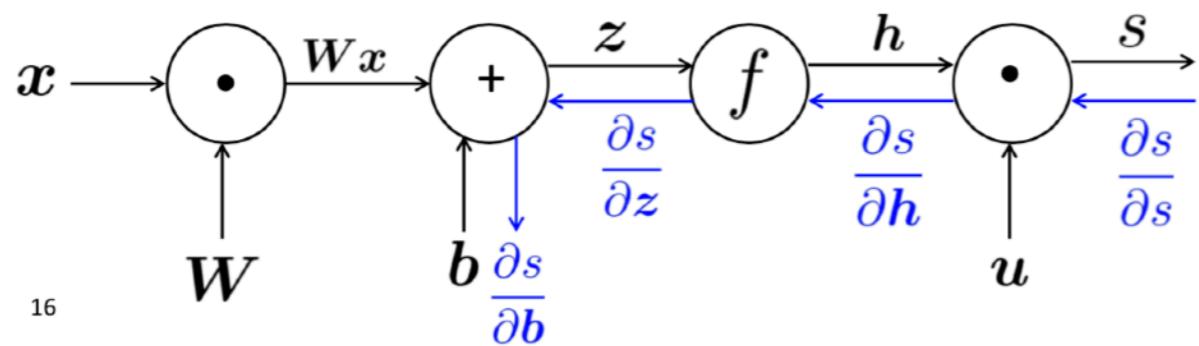
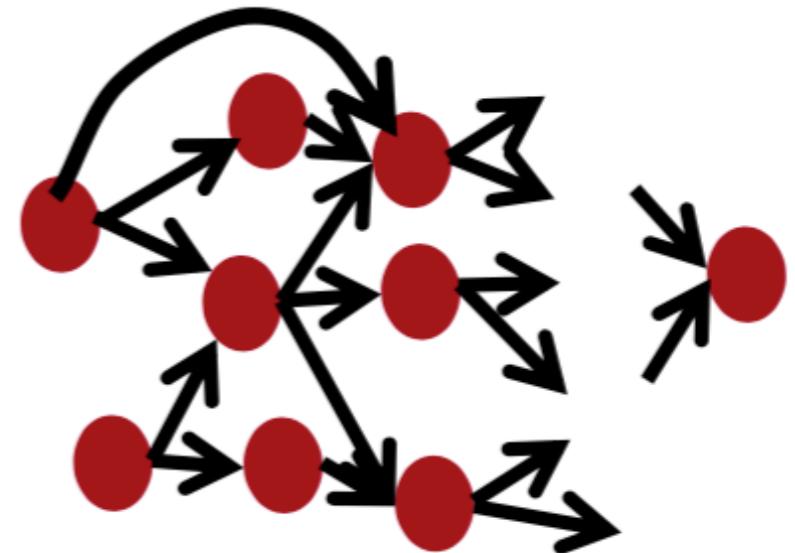
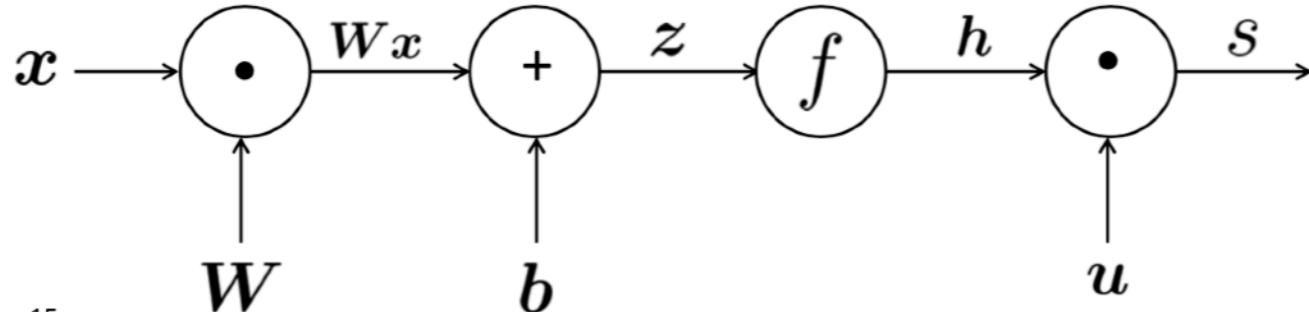
Backward  
Propagation

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{z}_2} = (1 - \mathbf{h}_2^2) \circ \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{h}_2}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{W}_2} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{z}_2} \mathbf{h}_1^\top \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{b}_2} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{z}_2} \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{h}_1} = \mathbf{W}_2^\top \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{z}_2}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{z}_1} = (1 - \mathbf{h}_1^2) \circ \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{h}_1} \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_1} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{z}_1} \mathbf{x}^\top \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{b}_1} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{z}_1}$$

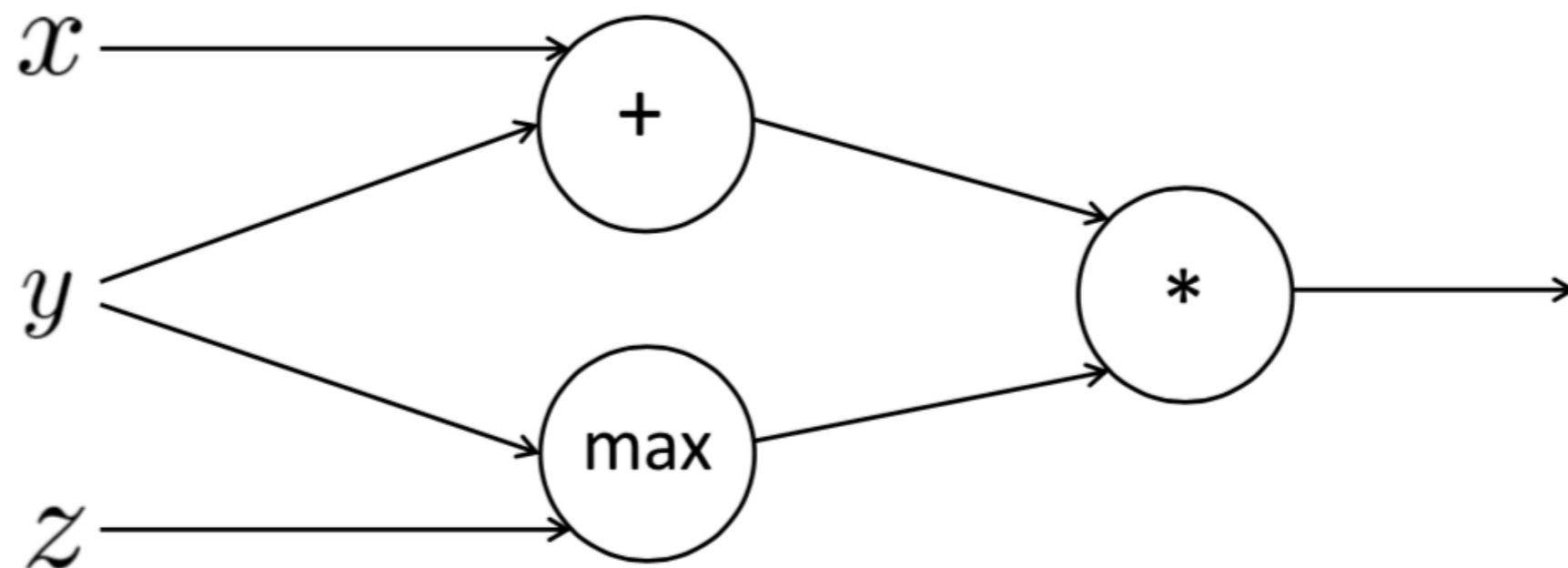
# Computational graphs



# An example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \max(y, z)$$
$$x = 1, y = 2, z = 0$$

$$a = x + y$$
$$b = \max(y, z)$$
$$f = ab$$



Compute the gradients yourself!

# Backpropagation in general computational graph

- Forward propagation: visit nodes in topological sort order
  - Compute value of node given predecessors
- Backward propagation:
  - Initialize output gradient as 1
  - Visit nodes in reverse order and compute gradient wrt each node using gradient wrt successors

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial y_i} \frac{\partial y_i}{\partial x}$$

$\{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$  = successors of  $x$