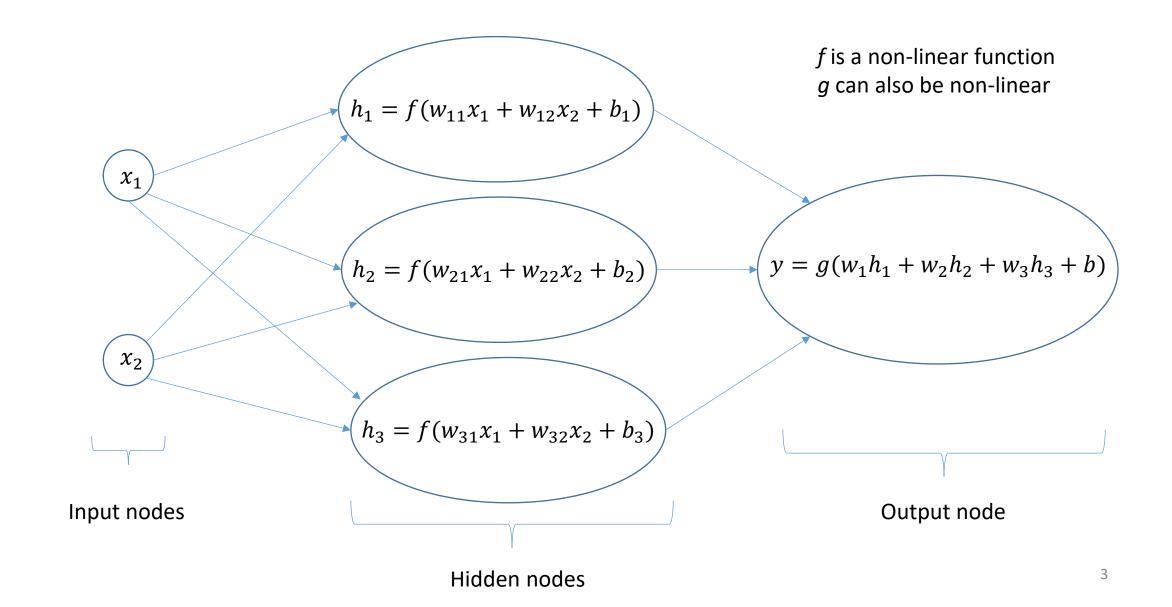
# Introduction to Neural Networks and Backpropagation

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#### Agenda

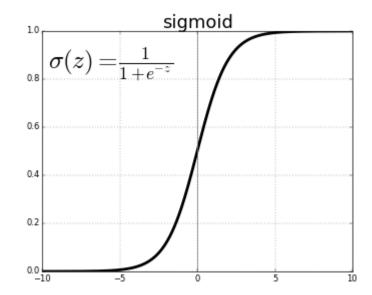
- What is a Neural Net?
  - Neural net as a computational graph
- Approximating "XOR" function with neural net
- Applying a neural net to classify MNIST
- Universal function approximation by a neural net
- (re)Introduction to gradient descent optimization
- Chain rule of derivatives
- Understanding backpropagation algorithm

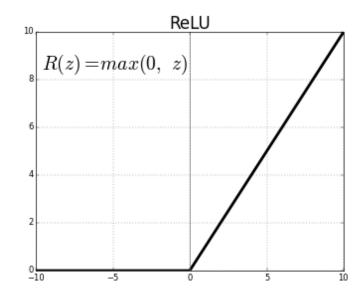
#### Feed forward neural network



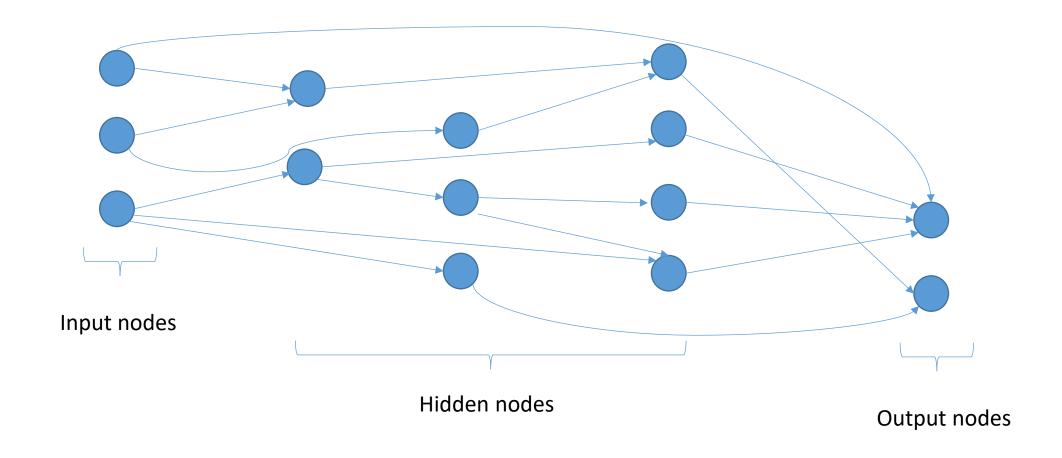
#### Feed forward net: non-linear functions

- Non-linear functions at hidden nodes are known as "activation function"
  - Sigmoid, ReLU, ELU, ....





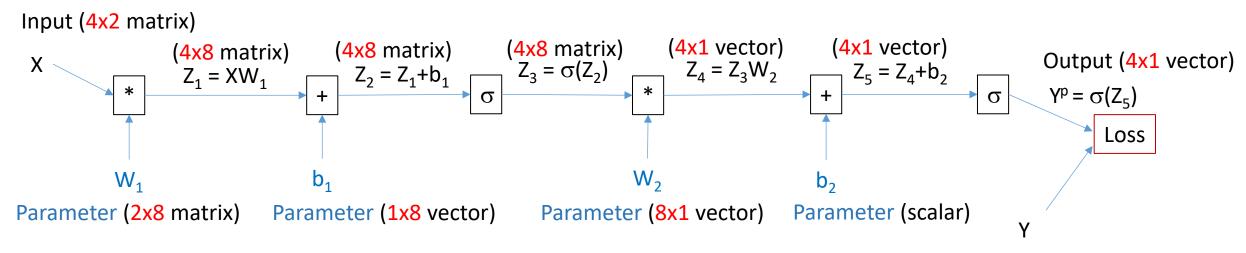
#### Feedforward net in general: Directed acyclic graph



#### What's the big deal about neural net?

- Mathematically rich: it can approximate any function
- It is biologically inspired: (loosely) resembles brain connections
- Computationally:
  - Simple: matrix-vector multiplication and point-wise non-linear function
  - Highly paralleizable: cuBLAS, GEMM, Batched GEMM!
- Excellent empirical results on "generalization capability" over variety of applications!

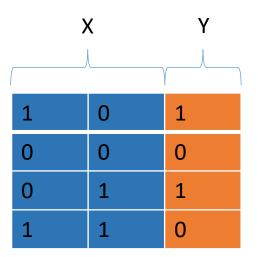
#### Neural network as a computational graph



$$\sigma(a) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a)}$$

Sigmoid function; applied pointwise to a vector or matrix input

This network is trying to learn XOR function



Ideal output (4x1 vector)

See Learn\_XOR.ipynb

#### How does PyTorch optimize parameters?

- By gradient descent PyTorch adjusts network parameters to reduce the value of the loss function.
- But how?
  - Answer: Backpropagation
- We will learn to do backpropagation on a computational graph later

#### Using PyTorch to Learn XOR

Learning algorithm has this basic structure as we have already seen in logistic regression

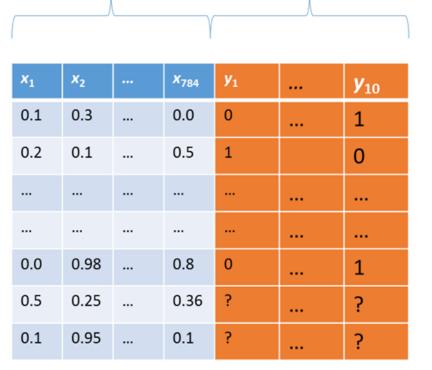
- Define an architecture for the neural network and instantiate it
- Instantiate an optimizer to adjust the parameters of the neural net
- Iterate
  - Load data (*X*, *y*)
  - Do a forward pass, i.e., compute output of neural net:  $f(X;\theta)$
  - Do a backward pass:
    - Compute loss  $L(f(X;\theta), y)$ . The function L (loss) measures discrepancy between ground truth annotation y and the output of the neural net  $f(X;\theta)$
    - Adjust parameters  $\theta$  of the neural network to reduce loss value
  - Diagnostic: from time to time print loss value

#### MNIST classification problem



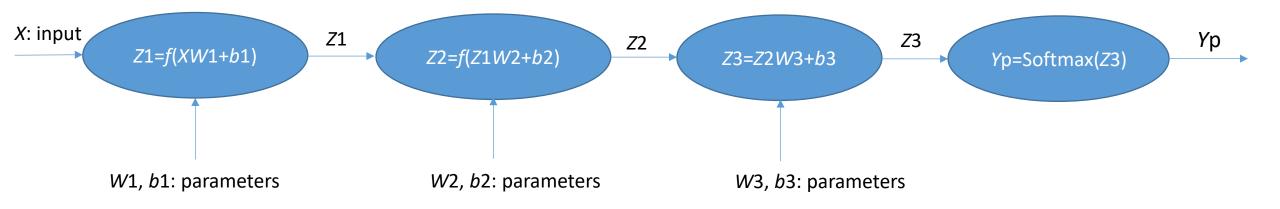
Small 28 pixels-by-28 pixels images of hand written digits

The visual recognition problem definition: to recognize the digit from an image



Pixel values (feature) Digit: 1-hot vector

#### NN Architecture for MNIST Classification



Activation function, *f* is ReLU in our implementation

#### Learning MNIST NN with Backprop and SGD

Initialize all parameters of the neural network Initialize learning rate variable *Ir*Iterate:

(Load Data): Get training data batch X

(Forward pass): Compute Z1, Z2, Z3, Yp

(Compute loss): Compute a suitable loss between ideal output Y and output of NN Yp

(Backward pass): Ask PyTorch optimizer to adjust neural network parameters

(Diagnostics): Compute loss on training and validation sets

MNIST\_NN.ipynb

## Neural Net as Universal Function Approximator

http://neuralnetworksanddeeplearning.com/index.html

#### Gradient Descent: PyTorch under the hood

- How does PyTorch optimizes parameters of a model to reduce loss value?
  - Using gradient descent
- We will apply GD to multiple linear regression
- Then we will move on to using it for a neural net
  - We must learn how to use the chain rule of differentiation

#### Gradient of a function

#### Example:

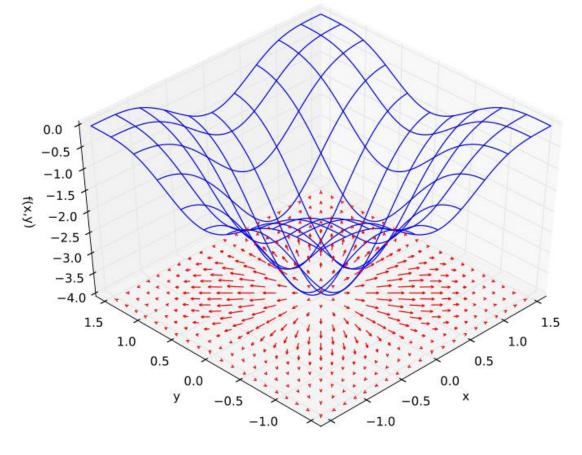
$$f(x,y) = -(\cos^2 x + \cos^2 y)^2$$

$$\nabla f(x,y) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4(\cos^2(x) + \cos^2(y))\cos(x)\sin(x) \\ 4(\cos^2(x) + \cos^2(y))\cos(y)\sin(y) \end{bmatrix}$$

**Note 1**: *f* is a function of two variables, so gradient of *f* is a two dimensional vector

**Note 2**: Gradient (vector) of f points toward the steepest ascent for f

**Note 3**: At a (local) minimum of *f* its gradient becomes a zero vector



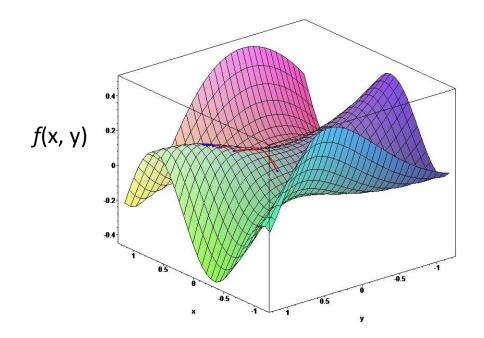
#### Gradient descent optimization

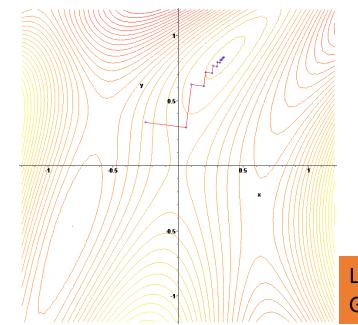
Start at an initial guess for the optimization variable:  $x_0$ 

Iterate until gradient magnitude becomes too small:  $\mathbf{x}^{t+1} = \mathbf{x}^t - \alpha \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^t)$ 

Gradient descent algorithm

 $\alpha$  is called the step-length.





Gradient descent creates a zig-zag path leading to a local minimum of f

Look at GradientDescentDemo.ipynb

Picture source: Wikipedia

#### PyTorch optimizer uses GD

Let's try our own gradient descent for multiple linear regression

Gradient of loss function for multiple linear regression:  $\nabla_W L = (X^T X + \gamma I)W - X^T Y$ 

$$\nabla_W L = (X^T X + \gamma I)W - X^T Y$$

$$\nabla_b L = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i^p - y_i)$$

Exercise: write GD for MNIST multiple linear regression

For implementation of this GD, look at MNIST Multiple Linear Regression.ipynb

#### How do we apply GD for learning a neural net?

We need to compute gradient of the loss function with respect to all parameters in a neural net:

$$\delta\theta_i \equiv \nabla_{\theta_i} L(y^p, y)$$

Parameter in the *i*<sup>th</sup> layer

Ground truth/tag

Output (aka prediction) from neural net

Once we have this loss gradient, we can adjust parameters using gradient descent rule:

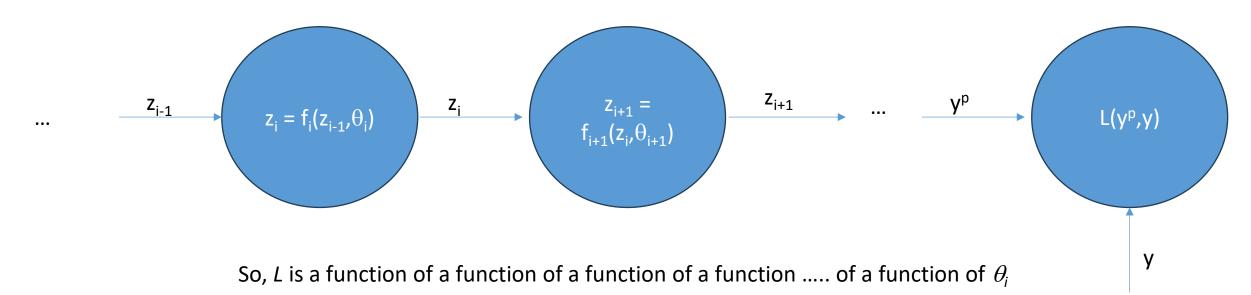
$$\theta_i = \theta_i - \alpha \delta \theta_i$$

Learning rate/step size

#### How do we apply GD for learning a neural net?

We need to compute gradient of the loss function with respect to all parameters in a neural net:

$$\delta\theta_i \equiv \nabla_{\theta_i} L(y^p, y)$$



Therefore, we need chain rule of derivative to compute  $\delta heta_i$ 

#### To apply chain rule of derivative in a neural net...

- We need to understand chain rule of derivative for multivariate functions: Jacobian vector product
- We also need to understand the notion of a computational graph and how to apply Jacobian vector product to a computational graph
- These components will lead us to the well acclaimed backpropagation algorithm for learning parameters of a neural net using GD

#### Example gradient computations

• Let's consider the following function of four variables:

$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = (x_1 + 10x_2)^2 + 5(x_3 - x_4)^2 + (x_2 + 2x_3)^4 + 10(x_1 - x_4)^4$$

• Let's compute derivative (gradient) of this function at

$$[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4] = [3, -1, 0, 1]$$

- Cross-verify PyTorch partial derivative computations with math formulas
- Gradient descent optimization

Look into Understanding\_chain\_rule.ipynb

#### Chain rule of derivatives

Let consider the same function as before:

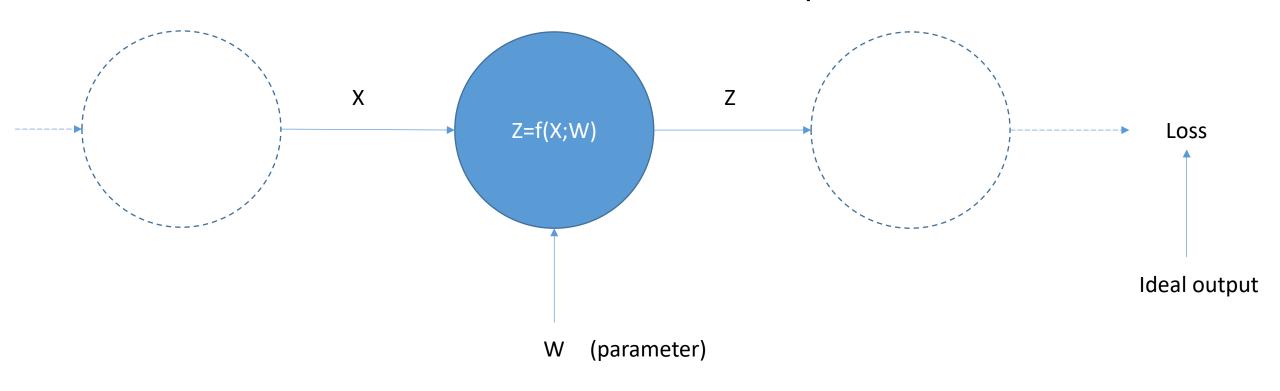
$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = (x_1 + 10x_2)^2 + 5(x_3 - x_4)^2 + (x_2 + 2x_3)^4 + 10(x_1 - x_4)^4$$

• But this time x is a (vector-valued) function of two variables  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ :

$$x_1 = z_1 - z_2,$$
  
 $x_2 = z_1^2,$   
 $x_3 = z_2^2,$   
 $x_4 = z_1^2 + z_1 z_2$ 

Let's compute gradient of f with respect to z using chain rule:
 Jacobian vector product

#### Chain rule of derivative for a computational node



If X, Z, W are all scalars, then usual chain rule of derivative applies:

$$\frac{\partial (\text{Loss})}{\partial X} = \frac{\partial Z}{\partial X} \frac{\partial (\text{Loss})}{\partial Z}$$

$$\frac{\partial (\text{Loss})}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial Z}{\partial W} \frac{\partial (\text{Loss})}{\partial Z}$$

### OK, let's apply chain rule to a computational graph where all variables and parameters are scalars

So, our scalar neural net is:

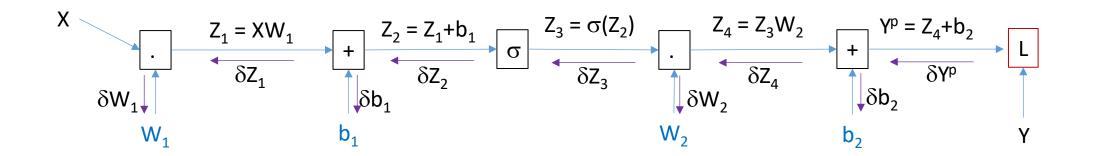
$$Y^p = \sigma(XW_1 + b_1)W_2 + b_2$$

with a square (aka Euclidean) loss function:

$$L(Y^p, Y) = \frac{1}{2}(Y^p - Y)^2$$

As usual, X is the input,  $Y^p$  is the output, and  $W_1$ ,  $b_1$ ,  $W_2$ ,  $b_2$  are parameters of the neural net,  $\sigma$  is a non-linear function.

The computational graph for this scalar neural net is (also showing loss gradient symbols):



#### Chain rule for a scalar neural net...

$$Z_{1} = XW_{1}$$

$$SZ_{1} = XW_{1}$$

$$SZ_{1} = XW_{1}$$

$$SZ_{2} = Z_{1} + b_{1}$$

$$SZ_{3} = S(Z_{2})$$

$$SZ_{4} = Z_{3}W_{2}$$

$$SZ_{5} = Z_{4}$$

$$SZ_{5} = Z_{5}$$

$$SZ_{5} = Z_$$

$$\delta Y^p \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial Y^p} = \frac{\partial}{\partial Y^p} \left[ \frac{1}{2} (Y^p - Y)^2 \right] = y^p - y \qquad \qquad \qquad \\ \delta Z_2 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_2} = \frac{\partial Z_3}{\partial Z_2} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_3} = \sigma'(Z_2) \delta Z_3$$

$$\delta Z_2 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_2} = \frac{\partial Z_3}{\partial Z_2} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_3} = \sigma'(Z_2) \delta Z_3$$

$$\delta Z_4 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_4} = \frac{\partial Y^p}{\partial Z_4} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Y^p} = \delta Y^p$$

Because 
$$Z_3 = \sigma(Z_2), \frac{\partial Z_3}{\partial Z_2} = \sigma'(Z_2)$$

Because 
$$Y^p = Z_4 + b_2$$
,  $\frac{\partial Y^p}{\partial Z_4} = 1$ 

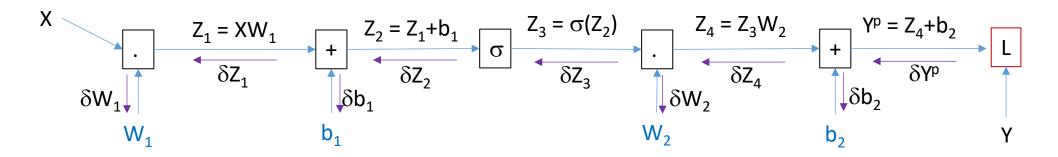
$$\delta Z_1 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_1} = \frac{\partial Z_2}{\partial Z_1} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_2} = \delta Z_2$$

$$\delta Z_3 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_3} = \frac{\partial Z_4}{\partial Z_3} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_4} = W_2 \delta Z_4$$

Because 
$$Z_2 = Z_1 + b_1$$
,  $\frac{\partial Z_2}{\partial Z_1} = 1$ 

Because  $Z_4 = Z_3 W_2$ ,  $\frac{\partial Z_4}{\partial Z_2} = W_2$ 

#### Loss derivatives w.r.t. parameters



$$\delta W_1 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial W_1} = \frac{\partial Z_1}{\partial W_1} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_1} = X \delta Z_1$$

$$\delta W_2 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial W_2} = \frac{\partial Z_4}{\partial W_2} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_4} = Z_3 \delta Z_4$$

Because 
$$Z_1 = XW_1, \frac{\partial Z_1}{\partial W_1} = X$$

$$\delta b_1 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial b_1} = \frac{\partial Z_2}{\partial b_1} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_2} = \delta Z_2$$

Because 
$$Z_2 = Z_1 + b_1$$
,  $\frac{\partial Z_2}{\partial b_1} = 1$ 

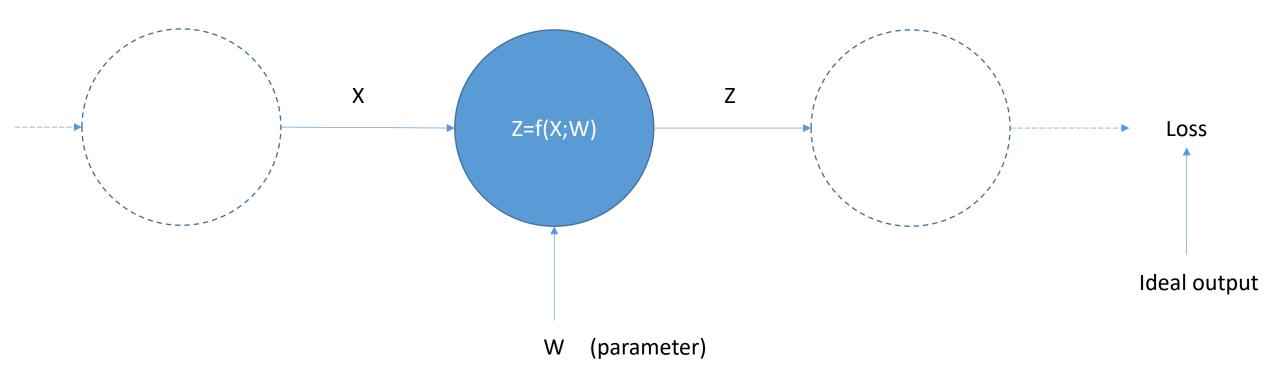
$$\delta W_2 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial W_2} = \frac{\partial Z_4}{\partial W_2} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_4} = Z_3 \delta Z_4$$

Because 
$$Z_4 = Z_3 W_2$$
,  $\frac{\partial Z_4}{\partial W_2} = Z_3$ 

$$\delta b_2 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial b_2} = \frac{\partial Y^p}{\partial b_2} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Y^p} = \delta Y^p$$

Because 
$$Y^p = Z_4 + b_2$$
,  $\frac{\partial Y^p}{\partial b_2} = 1$ 

#### Chain rule of derivative...



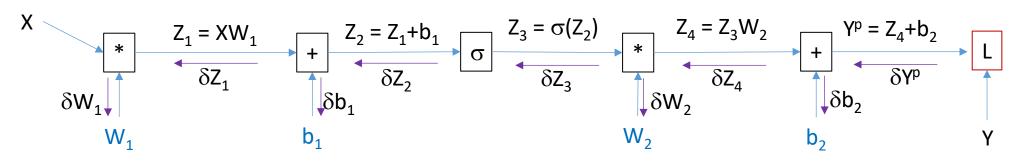
If X, Z, W are matrices or vectors, then:

$$\nabla_X(\text{Loss}) = \left(\frac{\partial Z}{\partial X}\right) * \nabla_Z(\text{Loss})$$

$$\nabla_W(\text{Loss}) = \left(\frac{\partial Z}{\partial W}\right) * \nabla_Z(\text{Loss})$$

"\*" refers to matrix vector multiplication

### Chain rule for a (general) neural net



$$\delta Y^{p} \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial Y^{p}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial Y^{p}} \left[ \frac{1}{2} ||Y^{p} - Y||^{2} \right] = y^{p} - y \qquad 4 \qquad \delta Z_{2} \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_{2}} = \frac{\partial Z_{3}}{\partial Z_{2}} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_{3}} = \sigma'(Z_{2}) \cdot \delta Z_{3}$$

$$\delta Z_4 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_4} = \frac{\partial Y^p}{\partial Z_4} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Y^p} = \delta Y^p$$

Because 
$$Y^p = Z_4 + b_2$$
,  $\frac{\partial Y^p}{\partial Z_4} = 1$ 

$$\delta Z_3 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_3} = \frac{\partial Z_4}{\partial Z_3} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_4} = \delta Z_4 W_2^T$$
Because  $Z_4 = Z_3 W_2$ ,  $\frac{\partial Z_4}{\partial Z_2} = W_2^T$ 

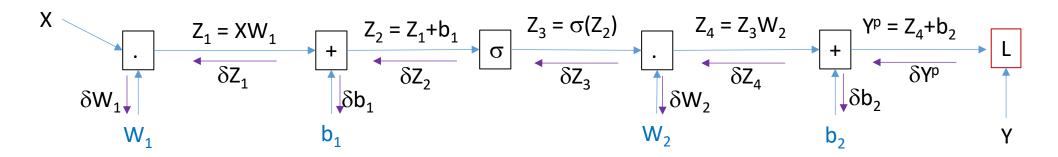
$$\delta Z_2 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_2} = \frac{\partial Z_3}{\partial Z_2} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_3} = \sigma'(Z_2) \cdot \delta Z_3$$

Because 
$$Z_3 = \sigma(Z_2), \frac{\partial Z_3}{\partial Z_2} = \sigma'(Z_2)$$

$$\delta Z_1 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_1} = \frac{\partial Z_2}{\partial Z_1} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_2} = \delta Z_2$$

Because 
$$Z_2 = Z_1 + b_1$$
,  $\frac{\partial Z_2}{\partial Z_1} = 1$ 

#### Loss derivatives w.r.t. matrix or vector parameters



$$\delta W_1 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial W_1} = \frac{\partial Z_1}{\partial W_1} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_1} = \mathbf{X}^T \delta \mathbf{Z_1}$$

$$\delta W_2 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial W_2} = \frac{\partial Z_4}{\partial W_2} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_4} = \mathbf{Z_3}^T \delta Z_4$$

Because 
$$Z_1 = XW_1, \frac{\partial Z_1}{\partial W_1} = X^T$$

Because 
$$Z_1 = XW_1$$
,  $\frac{\partial Z_1}{\partial W_1} = X^T$ 

$$\delta b_1 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial b_1} = \frac{\partial Z_2}{\partial b_1} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_2} = \sum_{k} (\delta Z_2)_{k,:} \qquad \qquad \delta b_2 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial b_2} = \frac{\partial Y^p}{\partial b_2} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Y^p} = \sum_{k} (\delta Y^p)_{k,:}$$

Because 
$$Z_2 = Z_1 + b_1, \frac{\partial Z_2}{\partial b_1} = [1, ..., 1]$$

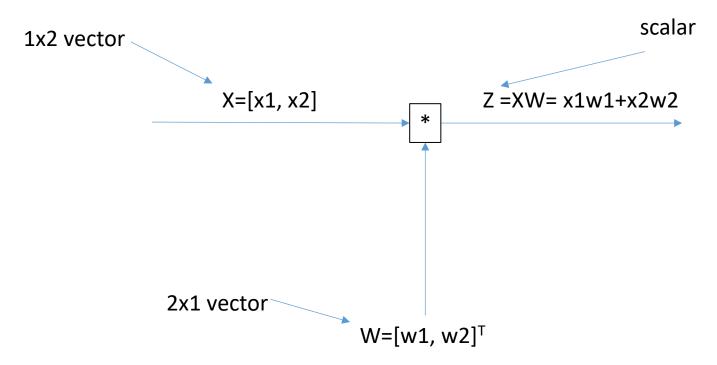
$$\delta W_2 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial W_2} = \frac{\partial Z_4}{\partial W_2} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Z_4} = \mathbf{Z_3^T} \delta Z_4$$

Because 
$$Z_4 = Z_3 W_2$$
,  $\frac{\partial Z_4}{\partial W_2} = \mathbf{Z_3^T}$ 

$$\delta b_2 \equiv \frac{\partial L}{\partial b_2} = \frac{\partial Y^p}{\partial b_2} \frac{\partial L}{\partial Y^p} = \sum_{k} (\delta Y^p)_{k,k}$$

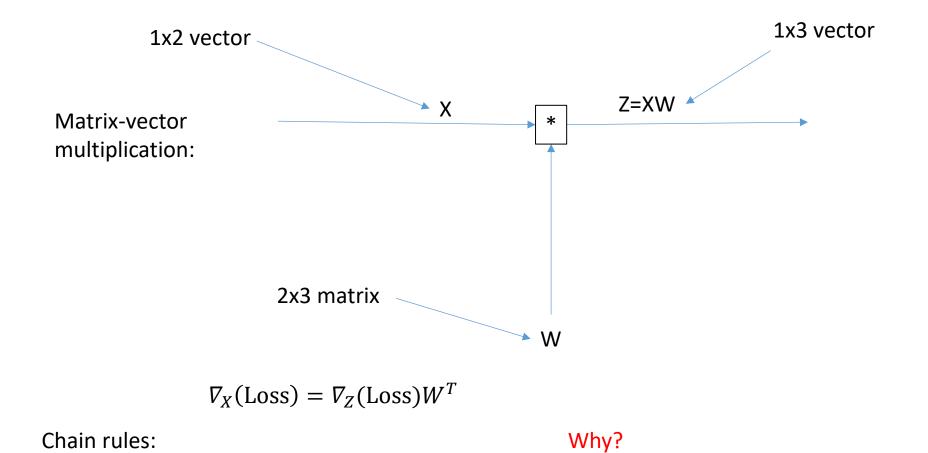
Because 
$$Z_2 = Z_1 + b_1$$
,  $\frac{\partial Z_2}{\partial b_1} = [1, ..., 1]$  Because  $Y^p = Z_4 + b_2$ ,  $\frac{\partial Y^p}{\partial b_2} = [1, ..., 1]$ 

#### Example 1



Chain rules: 
$$\nabla_X(\text{Loss}) = W^T \frac{\partial(\text{Loss})}{\partial Z} = [w1 \ w2] \frac{\partial(\text{Loss})}{\partial Z}$$
 Why? 
$$\nabla_W(\text{Loss}) = X^T \frac{\partial(\text{Loss})}{\partial Z} = \begin{bmatrix} x1 \\ x2 \end{bmatrix} \frac{\partial(\text{Loss})}{\partial Z}$$

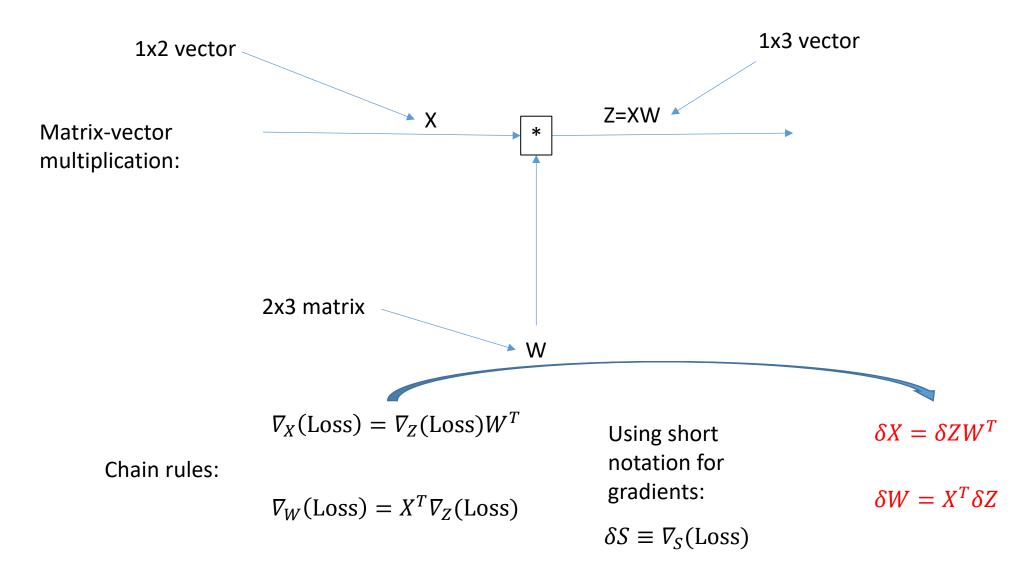
#### Example 2



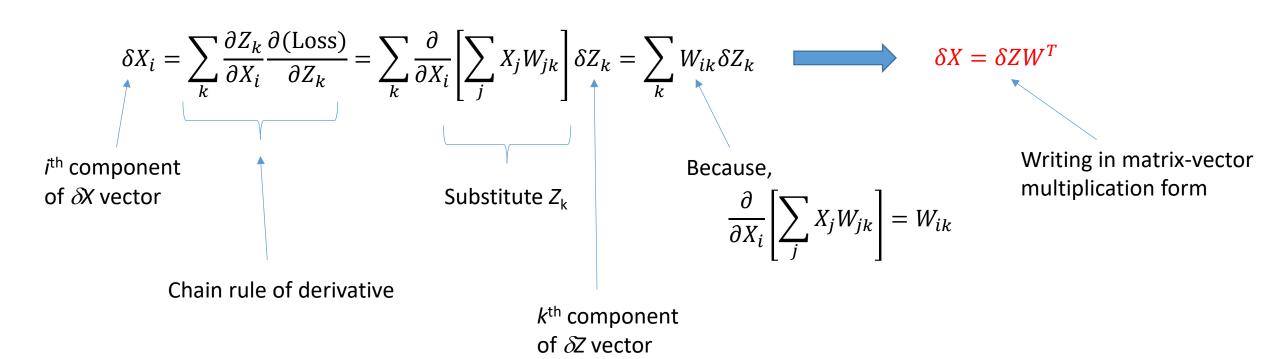
 $\nabla_W(\text{Loss}) = X^T \nabla_Z(\text{Loss})$ 

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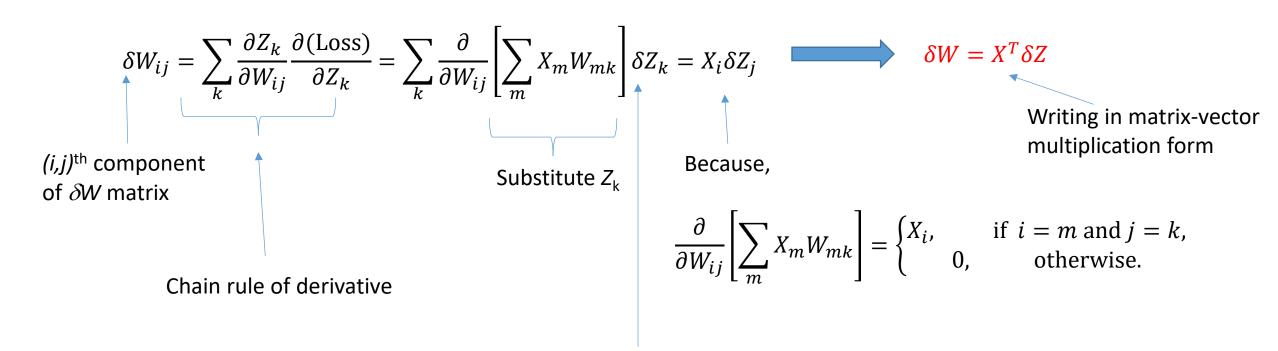
#### Backprop derivation



#### Backprop derivation...



#### Backprop derivation...



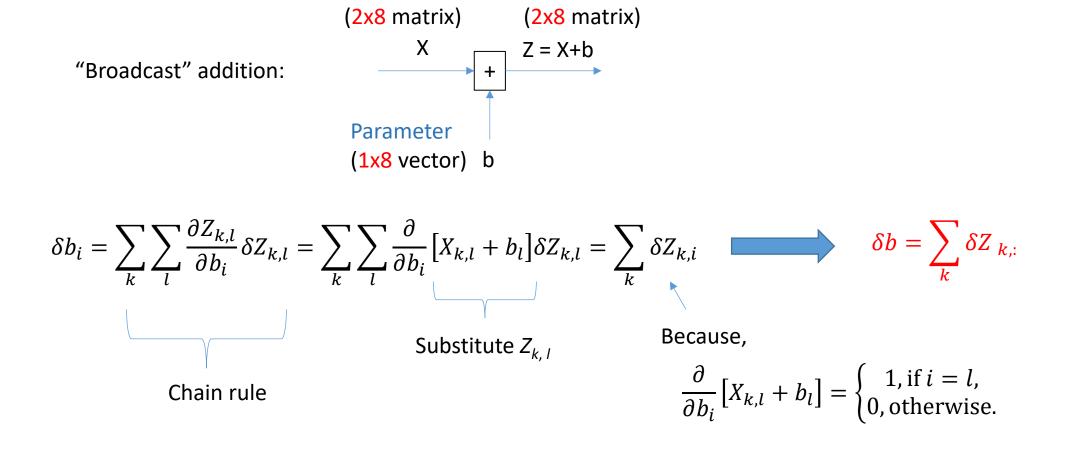
 $k^{\text{th}}$  component of  $\delta Z$  vector

#### Backprop derivation...

"Broadcast" addition: X Z = X+bParameter (2x1 vector)

$$\delta X_{i,j} = \sum_k \sum_l \frac{\partial Z_{k,l}}{\partial X_{i,j}} \delta Z_{k,l} = \sum_k \sum_l \frac{\partial}{\partial X_{i,j}} \big[ X_{k,l} + b_k \big] \delta Z_{k,l} = \delta Z_{i,j}$$
 
$$\delta X = \delta Z$$
 Substitute  $Z_{k,l}$  Because, 
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X_{i,j}} \big[ X_{k,l} + b_k \big] = \begin{cases} 1, \text{ if } i = k \text{ and } j = l, \\ 0, \text{ otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

#### Backprop derivation for broadcast addition



#### Backprop derivation for activation function

(applied pointwise)

$$X \qquad Z = \sigma(X)$$

Non-linear function: 
$$X$$
Using chain rule:  $\delta X_{i,j} = \frac{dZ_{i,j}}{dX_{i,j}} \delta Z_{i,j} = \frac{d\sigma(X_{i,j})}{dX_{i,j}} \delta Z_{i,j}$ 

If the non-linear function is sigmoid,

$$\sigma(a) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a)}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{da} = \frac{\exp(-a)}{(1 + \exp(-a))^2} = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a)} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a)} \right) = \sigma(a)(1 - \sigma(a))$$

$$\delta X_{i,j} = \sigma(X_{i,j})(1 - \sigma(X_{i,j}))\delta Z_{i,j}$$

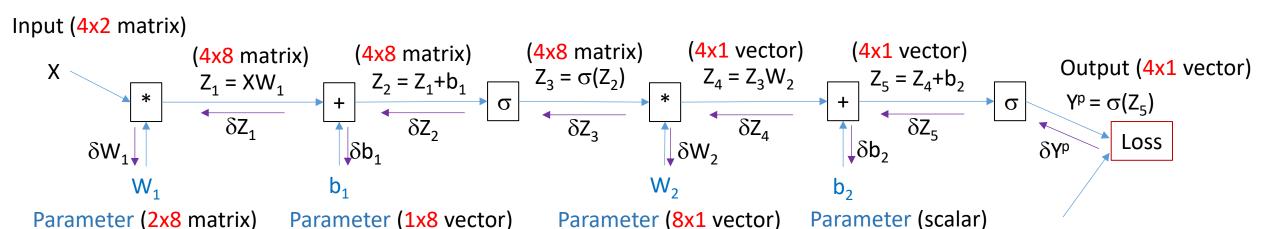
#### Backprop derivation for loss function

Euclidean loss function: 
$$Loss(Y^p, Y) = \frac{1}{2} ||Y^p - Y||^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (Y_i^p - Y_i)^2$$

$$i^{\text{th}}$$
 component of  $\delta Y^p$  vector:  $\delta Y_i^p = \frac{\partial}{\partial Y_i^p} Loss(Y^p, Y) = \frac{\partial}{\partial Y_i^p} \frac{1}{2} \sum_k (Y_k^p - Y_k)^2 = Y_i^p - Y_i$ 

Using vector notation: 
$$\delta Y^p = Y^p - Y$$

#### Apply chain rule to XOR neural network

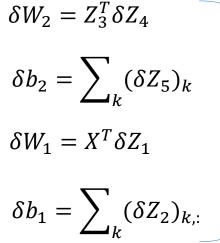


backward

Ideal output (4x1 vector)

Chain rule of derivatives: 
$$\delta Z_5 = \sigma(Z_5). \left(1 - \sigma(Z_5)\right). \delta Y^p$$
 
$$\delta Z_4 = \delta Z_5$$
 
$$\delta Z_3 = \delta Z_4 W_2^T$$
 New notation: 
$$\delta Z_2 = \sigma(Z_2). \left(1 - \sigma(Z_2)\right). \delta Z_3$$
 
$$\delta S \equiv V_S(\text{Loss})$$
 
$$\delta Z_1 = \delta Z_2$$

Gradient of "Loss"  $\delta b_2 =$  with respect to input signals  $\delta W_1 =$   $\delta b_1 =$  Propagates



Gradient of "Loss" with respect to parameters

#### Backprop to train a neural net

Initialize all parameters of the neural network Initialize learning rate variable *Ir* Iterate:

If loading the whole training data, do it once outside the "Iterate" loop, to be efficient

(Load Data): Get training data batch

(Forward pass): Compute  $Z_1, Z_2,...,Y^p$ 

(Backward pass): Compute gradients  $\delta Y^p$ ,  $\delta Z_5$ ,...,  $\delta Z_1$ ,  $\delta W_2$ ,  $\delta W_1$ ,  $\delta b_2$ ,  $\delta b_1$ 

(Gradient descent to update parameters):  $W_2 \leftarrow W_2 - lr * \delta W_2$ ,  $b_2 \leftarrow b_2 - lr * \delta b_2$ , ...,

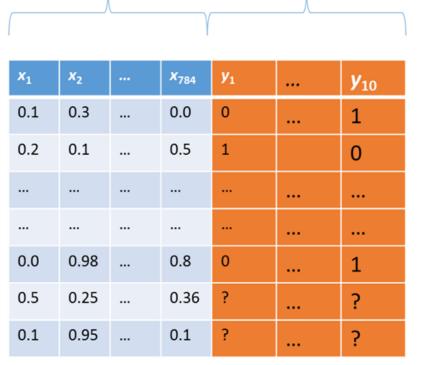
(Diagnostics): Compute "Loss" from time to time to check if it is decreasing

#### MNIST classification problem



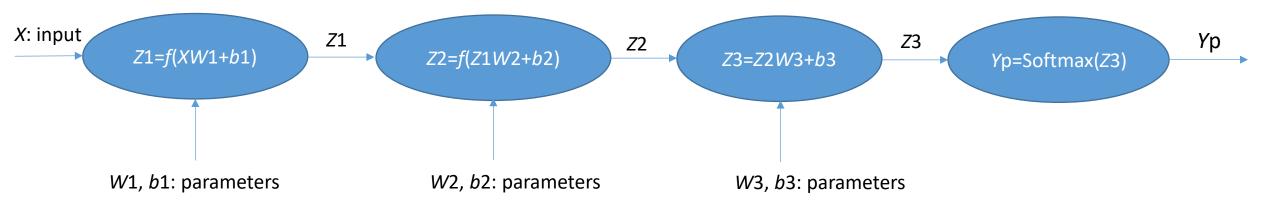
Small 28 pixels-by-28 pixels images of hand written digits

The visual recognition problem definition: to recognize the digit from an image



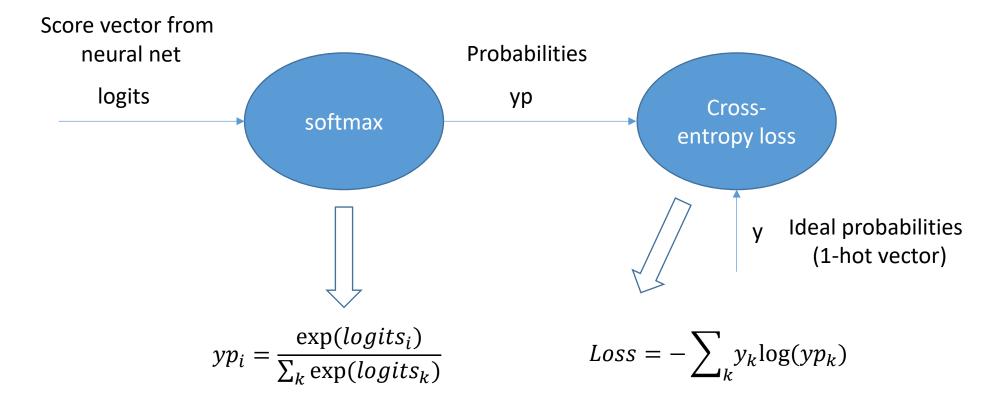
Pixel values (feature) Digit: 1-hot vector

#### NN Architecture for MNIST Classification



Activation function, *f* is ReLU in our implementation

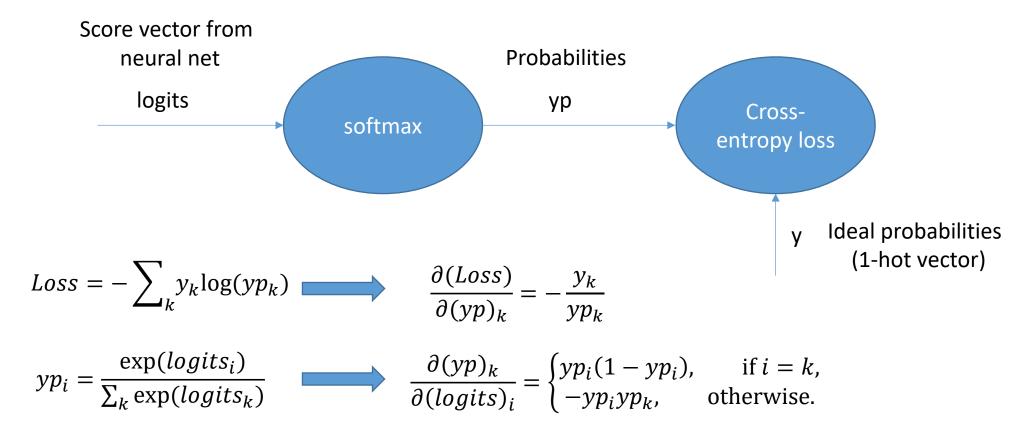
#### Softmax and cross-entropy loss



To backpropagate error, we need to compute:

$$\delta(logits)_i \equiv \frac{\partial(Loss)}{\partial(logits)_i}$$

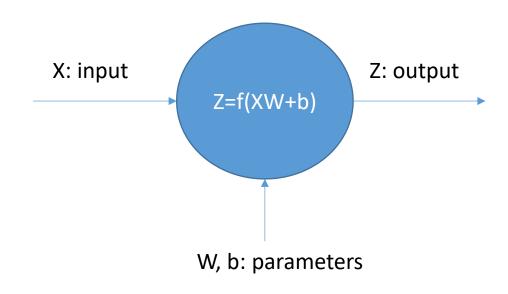
#### Softmax and cross-entropy loss: backprop



Using the above two results in the chain rule,

$$\delta(logits)_{i} \equiv \frac{\partial(Loss)}{\partial(logits)_{i}} = \sum_{k} \frac{\partial(yp)_{k}}{\partial(logits)_{i}} \frac{\partial(Loss)}{\partial(yp)_{k}} = yp_{i} - y_{i}$$

### Backprop across a neural net layer



Pointwise multiplication

Backprop rules:

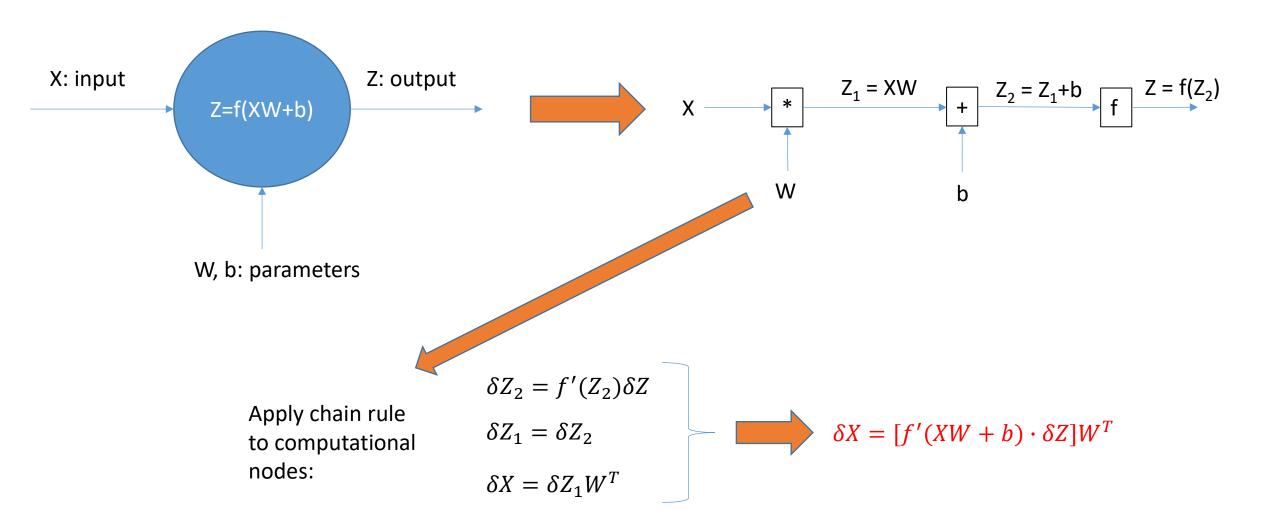
$$\delta X = [f'(XW + b) \cdot \delta Z]W^T$$

$$\delta W = X^T [f'(XW + b) \cdot \delta Z]$$

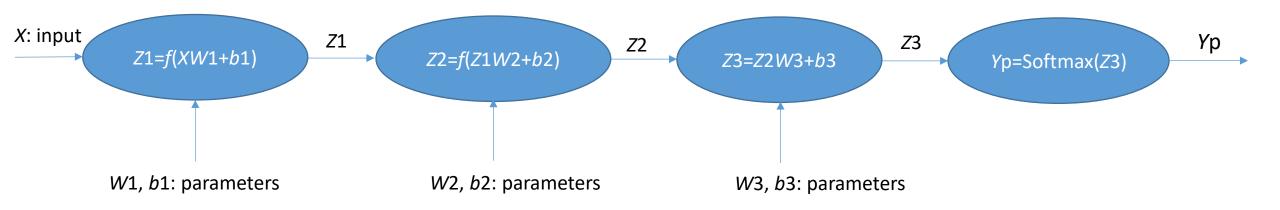
$$\delta b = \sum_{l} [f'(XW + b) \cdot \delta Z]_{l,:}$$

Matrix multiplication

#### Backprop across a neural net layer: derivation



## NN for MNIST Classification: Gradients and Manual Backprop



#### Backprop:

$$\delta Z3 = Yp-Y$$

$$\delta Z2 = (\delta Z3)W3^{\mathsf{T}}$$

$$\delta Z1 = [f(Z1W2+b2).\delta Z2]W2^{\top}$$

$$\delta W3 = (Z2^T)\delta Z3$$

$$\delta W2 = Z1^{T}[f'(Z1W2 + b2) \cdot \delta Z2]$$

$$\delta W1 = X^T [f'(XW1 + b1) \cdot \delta Z1]$$

$$\delta b3 = \sum_{l} [\delta Z3]_{l,:}$$

$$\delta b2 = \sum_{l} [f'(Z1W2 + b2) \cdot \delta Z2]_{l,:}$$

$$\delta b1 = \sum_{l} [f'(XW1 + b1) \cdot \delta Z1]_{l,:}$$