

# Lecture 7:

# Training Neural Networks

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Where we are now...

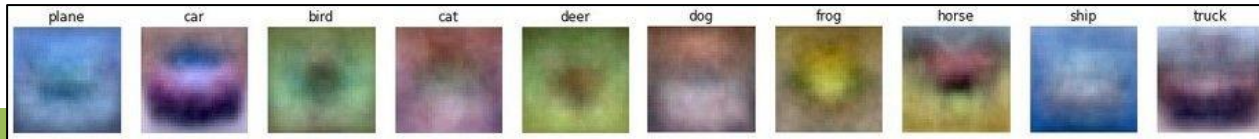
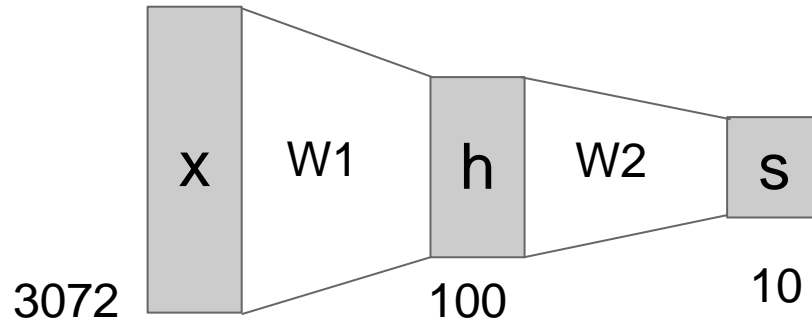
# Neural Networks

Linear score function:

$$f = Wx$$

2-layer Neural Network

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

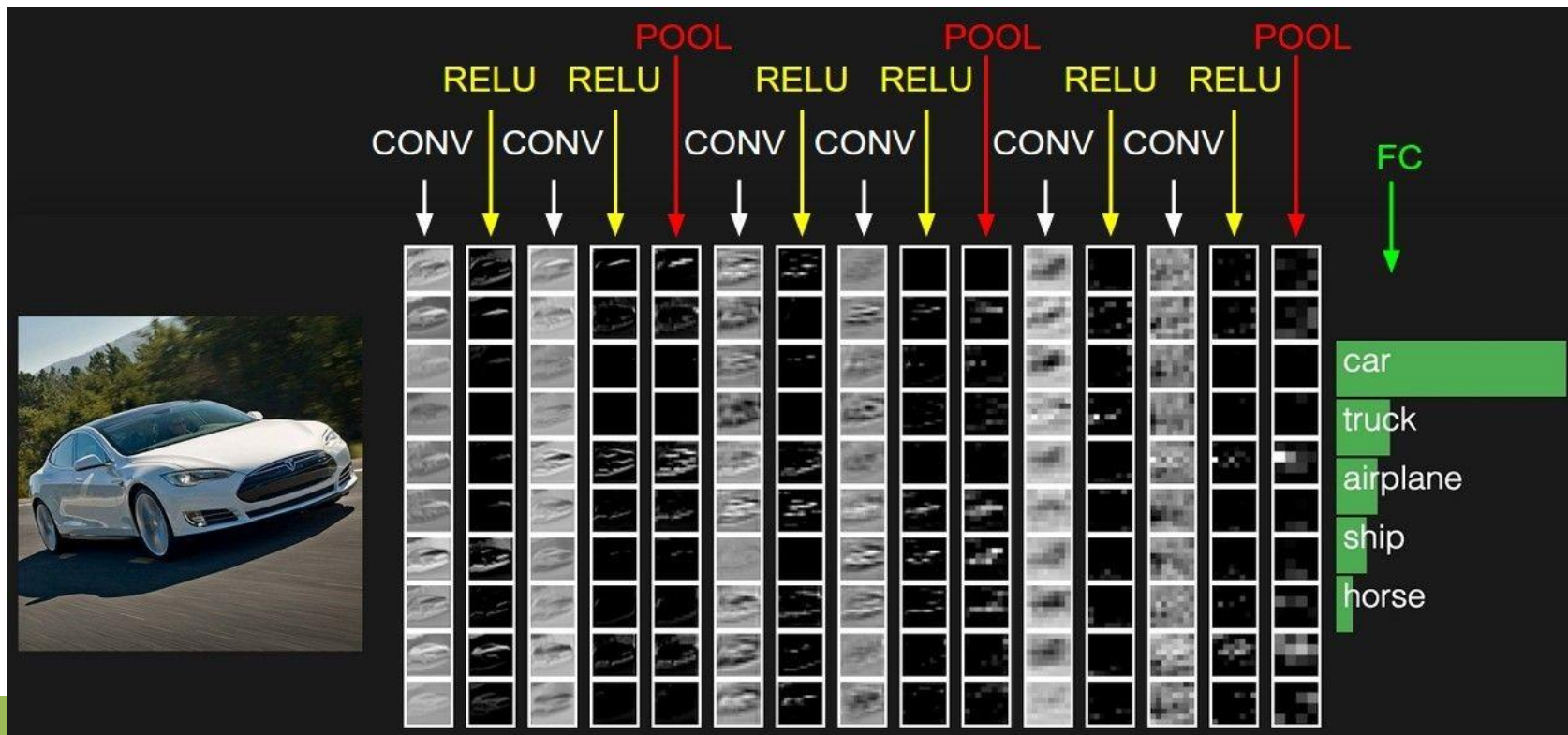


Training Neural Networks



Where we are now...

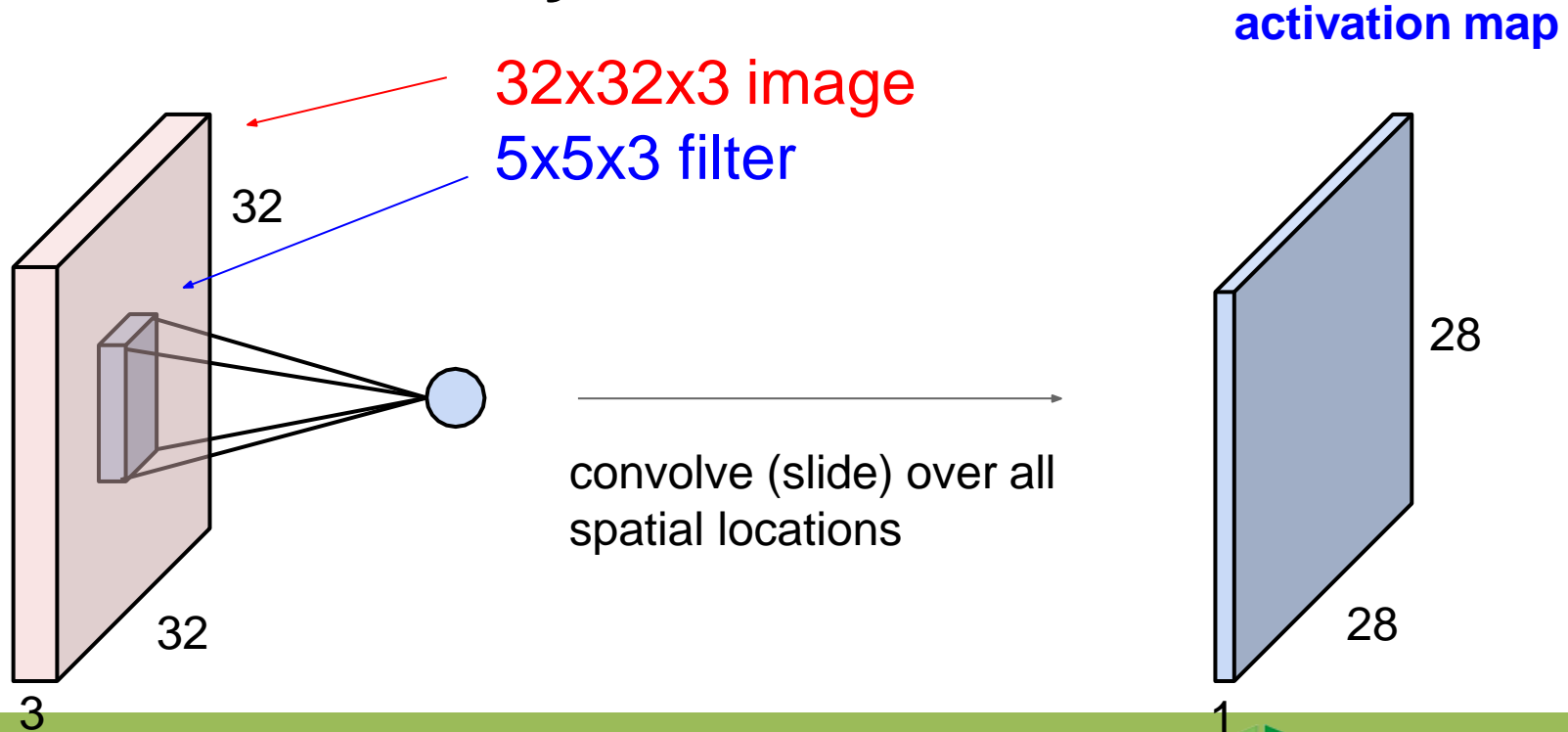
# Convolutional Neural Networks



Training Neural Networks

Where we are now...

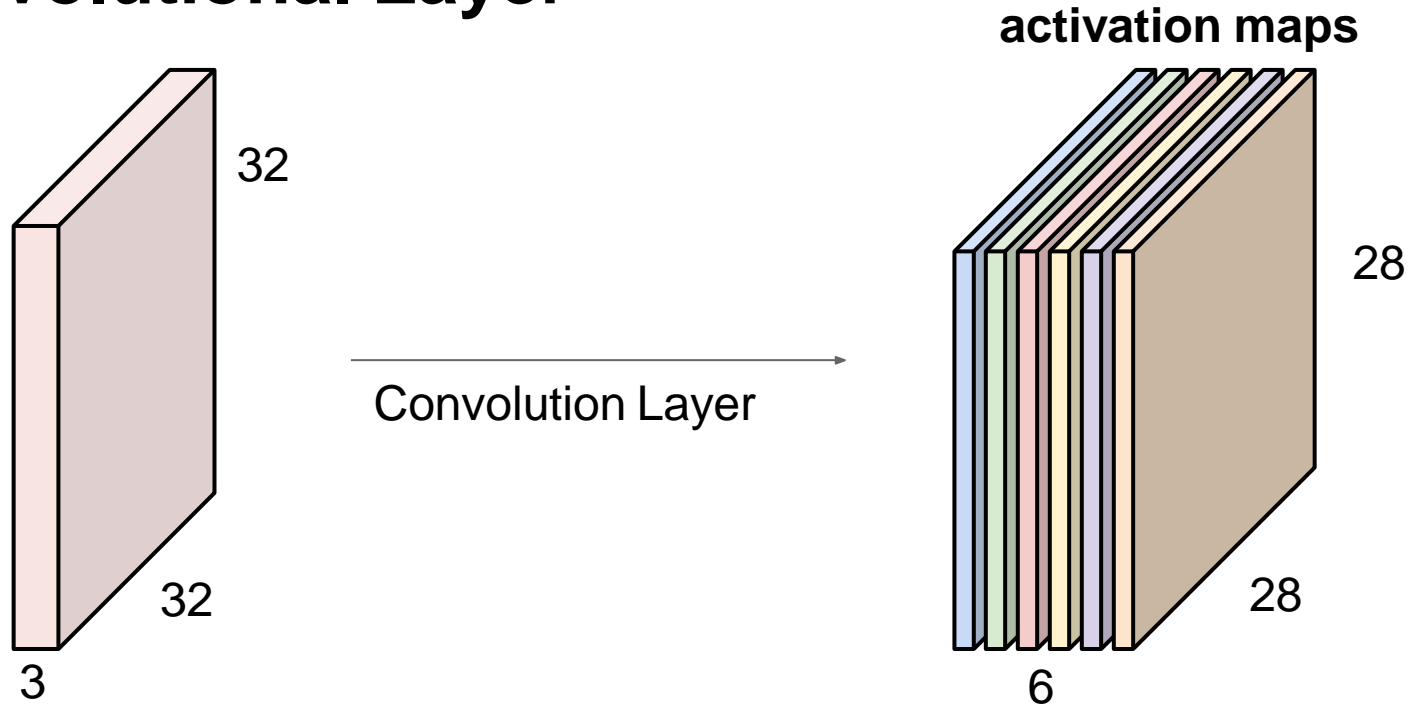
## Convolutional Layer



Where we are now...

## Convolutional Layer

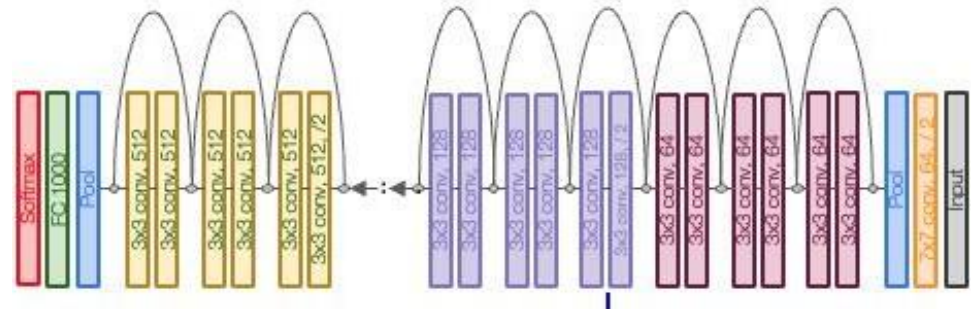
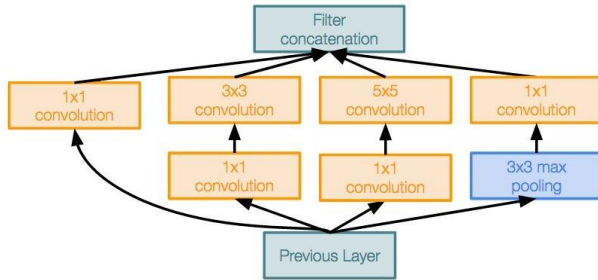
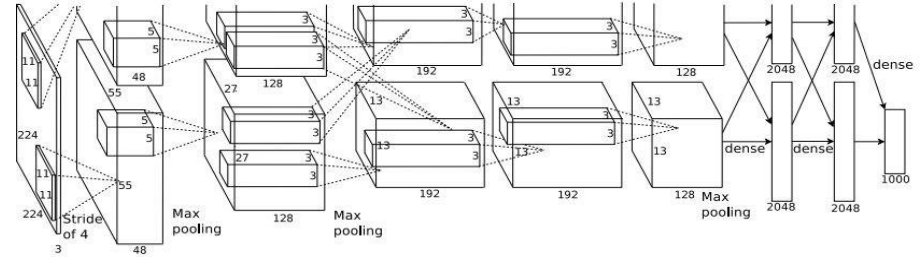
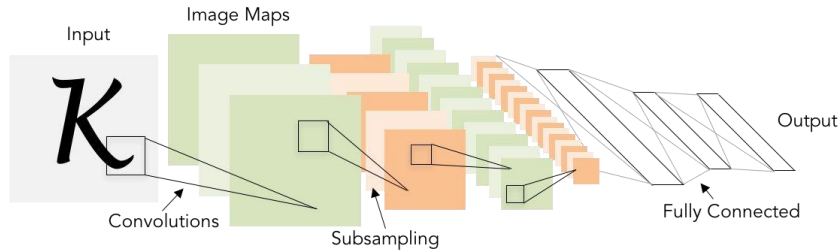
For example, if we had 6 5x5 filters, we'll get 6 separate activation maps:



We stack these up to get a “new image” of size 28x28x6!

Where we are now...

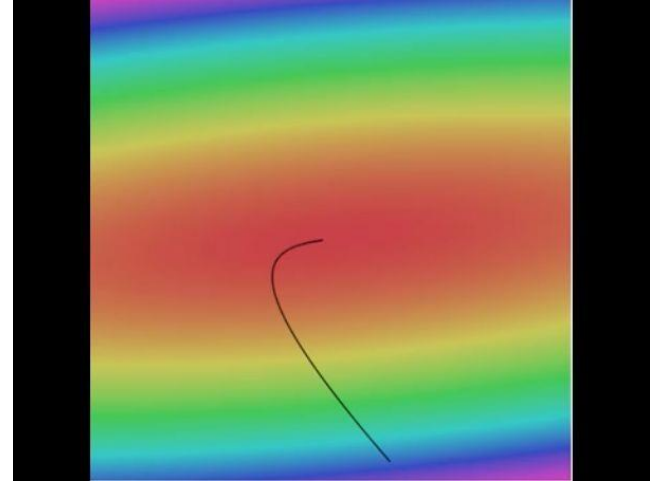
# CNN Architectures



Training Neural Networks

Where we are now...

# Learning network parameters through optimization



```
# Vanilla Gradient Descent

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

[Landscape image](#) is [CC0 1.0](#) public domain

[Walking man image](#) is [CC0 1.0](#) public domain

Where we are now...

## Mini-batch SGD

Loop:

1. **Sample** a batch of data
2. **Forward** prop it through the graph (network), get loss
3. **Backprop** to calculate the gradients
4. **Update** the parameters using the gradient



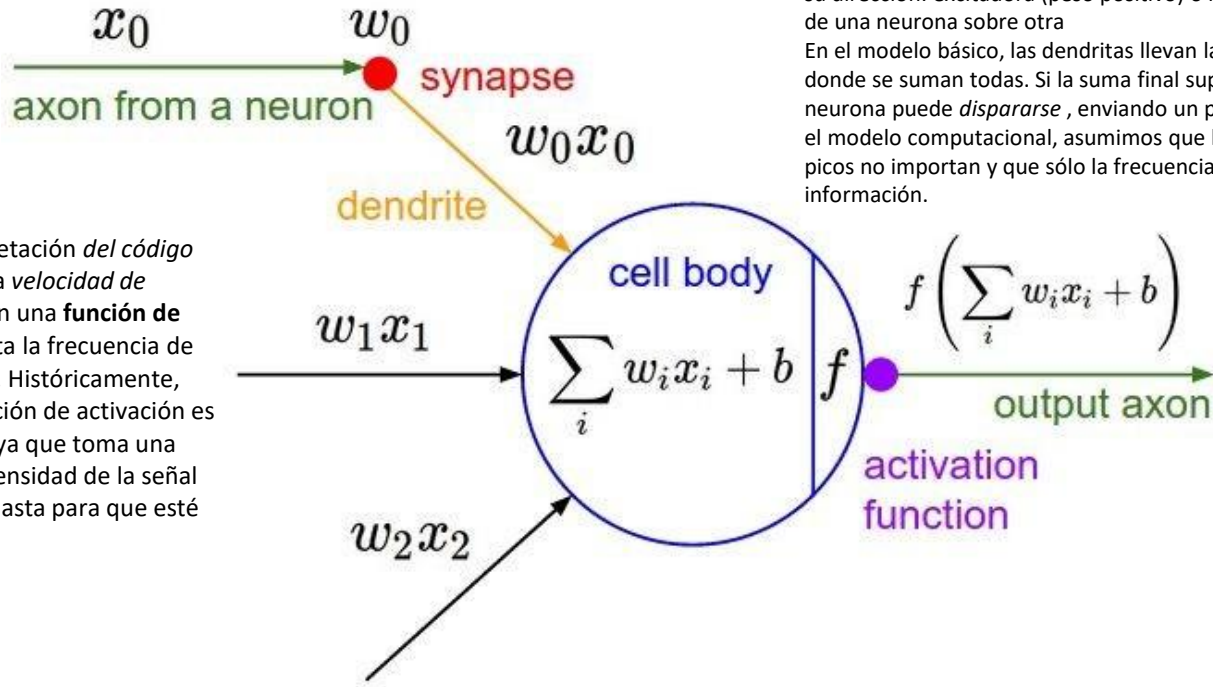
# Today: Training Neural Networks

# Overview

1. **One time set up:** activation functions, preprocessing, weight initialization, regularization, gradient checking
2. **Training dynamics:** babysitting the learning process, parameter updates, hyperparameter optimization
3. **Evaluation:** model ensembles, test-time augmentation, transfer learning

# Activation Functions

# Activation Functions



Basándonos en esta interpretación *del código de velocidad*, modelamos la *velocidad de activación* de la neurona con una **función de activación**.  $F$ , que representa la frecuencia de los picos a lo largo del axón. Históricamente, una elección común de función de activación es la **función sigmoidea**. pag, ya que toma una entrada de valor real (la intensidad de la señal después de la suma) y la aplasta para que esté entre 0 y 1

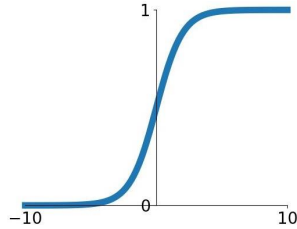
En el modelo computacional de una neurona, las señales que viajan a lo largo de los axones (p. ej.  $x_0$ ) interactúan multiplicativamente (p. ej.  $En_0 x_0$ ) con las dendritas de la otra neurona según la fuerza sináptica en esa sinapsis (p. ej.  $En_0$ ). La idea es que las fortalezas sinápticas (los pesos  $En$ ) se pueden aprender y controlar la fuerza de la influencia (y su dirección: excitadora (peso positivo) o inhibidora (peso negativo)) de una neurona sobre otra

En el modelo básico, las dendritas llevan la señal al cuerpo celular donde se suman todas. Si la suma final supera un cierto umbral, la neurona puede *dispararse*, enviando un pico a lo largo de su axón. En el modelo computacional, asumimos que los tiempos precisos de los picos no importan y que sólo la frecuencia de los disparos comunica información.

# Activation Functions

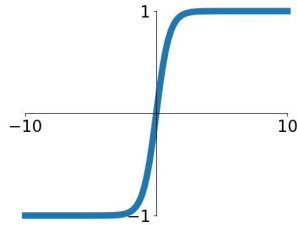
## Sigmoid

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



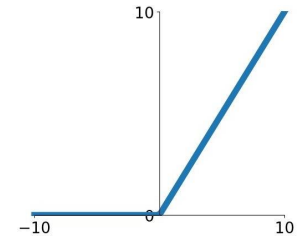
## tanh

$$\tanh(x)$$



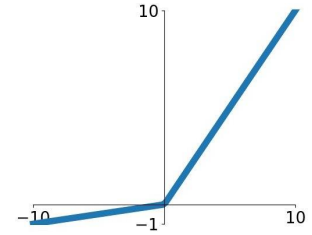
## ReLU

$$\max(0, x)$$



## Leaky ReLU

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

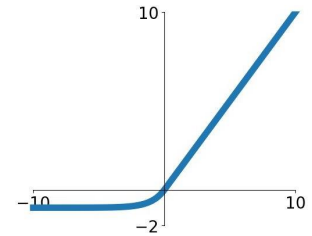


## Maxout

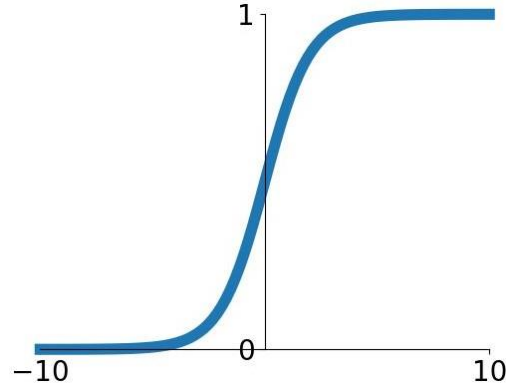
$$\max(w_1^T x + b_1, w_2^T x + b_2)$$

## ELU

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



# Activation Functions



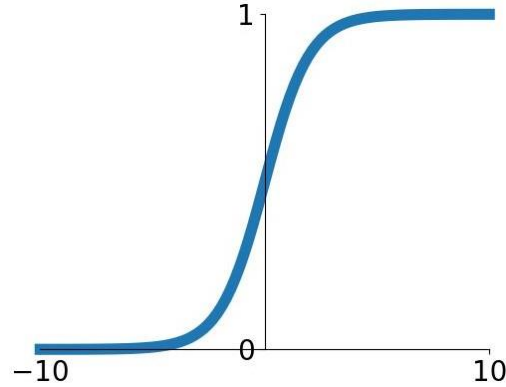
**Sigmoid**

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

- Squashes numbers to range [0,1]
- Historically popular since they have nice interpretation as a saturating “firing rate” of a neuron

Los sigmoideos saturan y matan los gradientes . Una propiedad muy indeseable de la neurona sigmoidea es que cuando la activación de la neurona se satura en cualquiera de las colas de 0 o 1, el gradiente en estas regiones es casi cero. Recuerde que, durante la retropropagación, este gradiente (local) se multiplicará por el gradiente de salida de esta puerta para todo el objetivo. Por lo tanto, si el gradiente local es muy pequeño, efectivamente "matará" el gradiente y casi ninguna señal fluirá a través de la neurona hacia sus pesos y de forma recursiva hacia sus datos. Además, se debe tener especial cuidado al inicializar los pesos de las neuronas sigmoideas para evitar la saturación. Por ejemplo, si los pesos iniciales son demasiado grandes, la mayoría de las neuronas se saturarían y la red apenas aprenderá. Las salidas sigmoideas no están centradas en cero . Esto no es deseable ya que las neuronas en capas posteriores de procesamiento en una red neuronal (más sobre esto pronto) recibirían datos que no están centrados en cero. Esto tiene implicaciones en la dinámica durante el descenso del gradiente, porque si los datos que llegan a una neurona son siempre positivos (por ejemplo,  $x > 0$  elemento a elemento en  $F = Enx + b$ ), entonces el gradiente en los pesos  $En$  durante la propagación hacia atrás, todos serán positivos o todos negativos (dependiendo del gradiente de toda la expresión  $F$ ). Esto podría introducir una dinámica de zigzag no deseada en las actualizaciones de gradiente de los pesos. Sin embargo, tenga en cuenta que una vez que estos gradientes se suman en un lote de datos, la actualización final de las ponderaciones puede tener signos variables, lo que mitiga en cierta medida este problema. Por lo tanto, esto es un inconveniente, pero tiene consecuencias menos graves en comparación con el problema de activación saturada anterior.

# Activation Functions



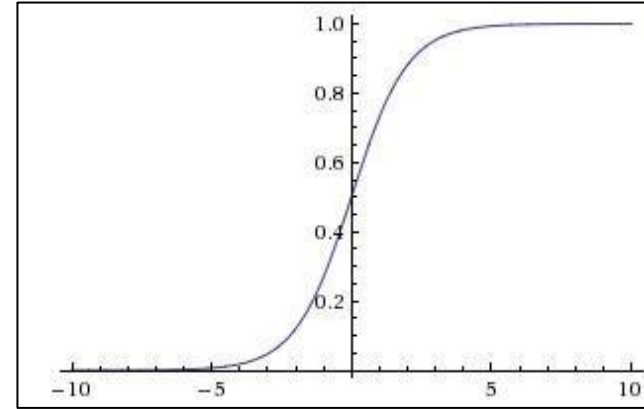
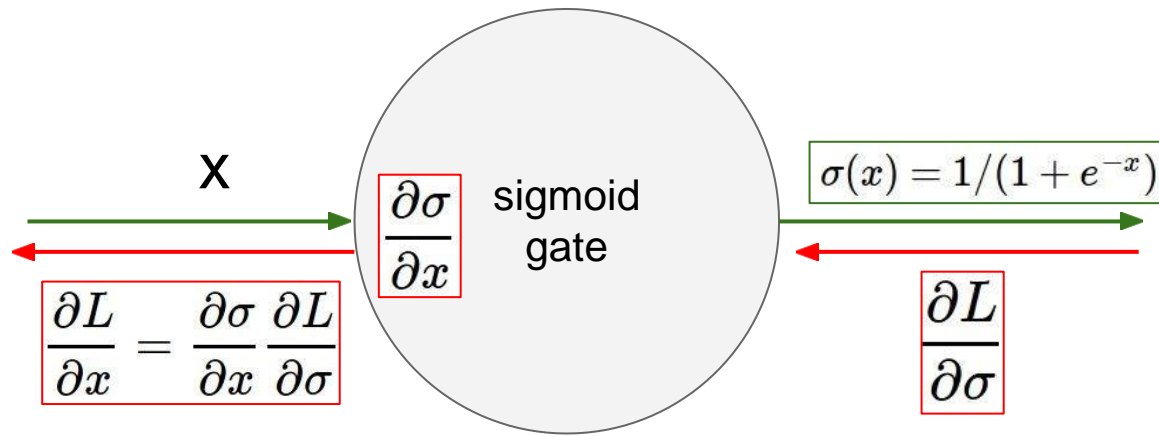
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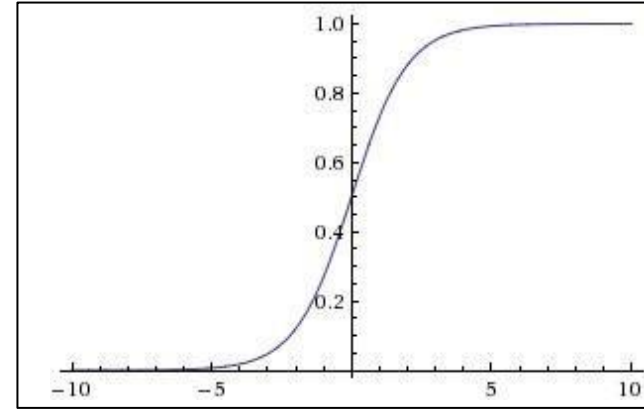
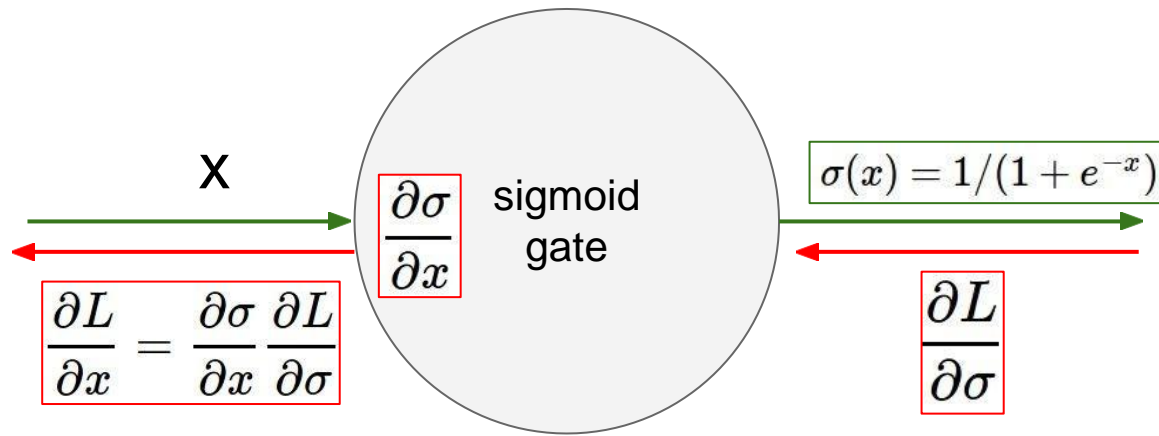
3 problems:

1. Saturated neurons “kill” the gradients



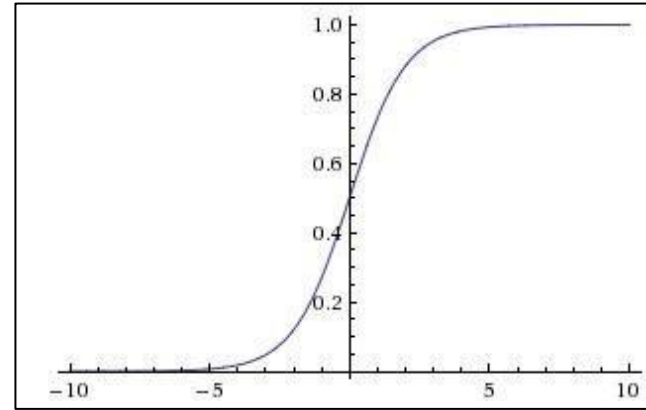
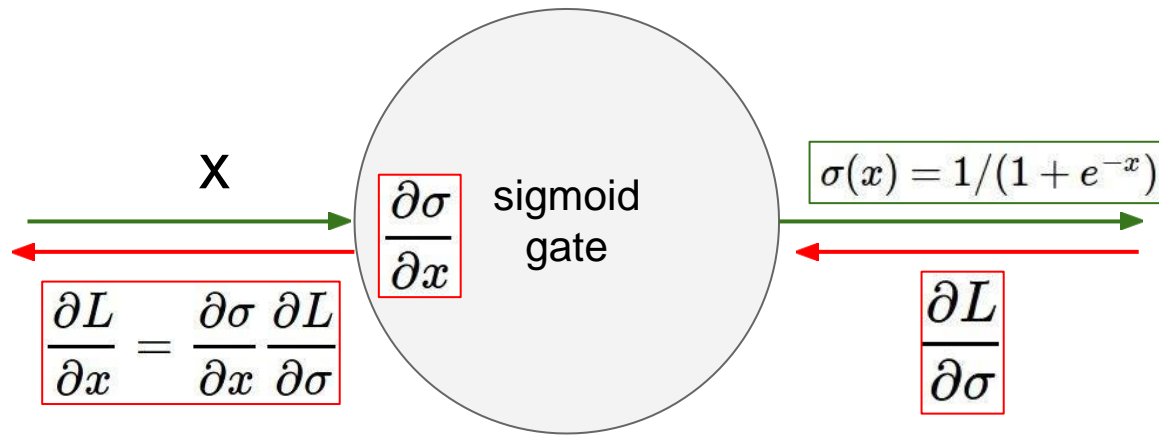
$$\frac{\partial \sigma(x)}{\partial x} = \sigma(x) (1 - \sigma(x))$$





What happens when  $x = -10$ ?

$$\frac{\partial \sigma(x)}{\partial x} = \sigma(x) (1 - \sigma(x))$$

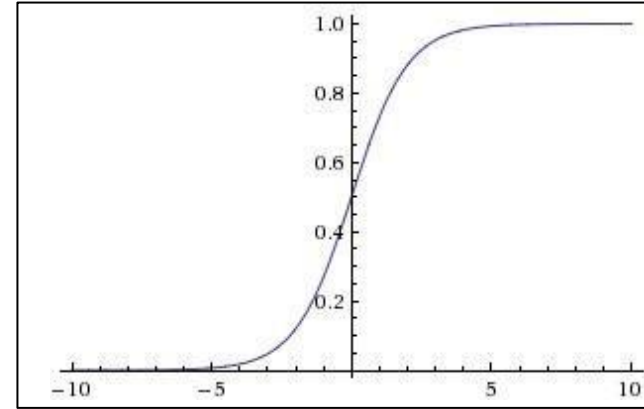
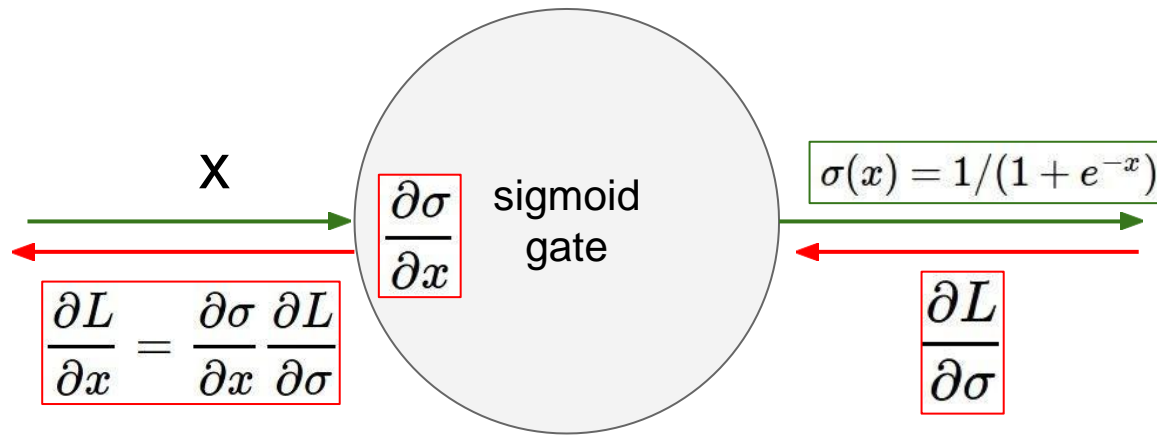


What happens when  $x = -10$ ?

$$\sigma(x) \approx 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \sigma(x)}{\partial x} = \sigma(x) (1 - \sigma(x)) = 0(1 - 0) = 0$$

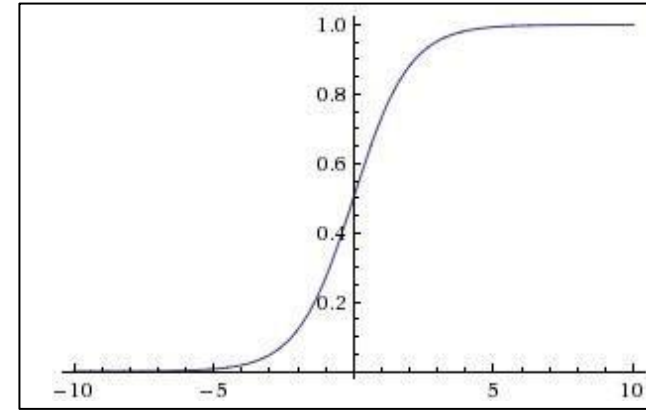
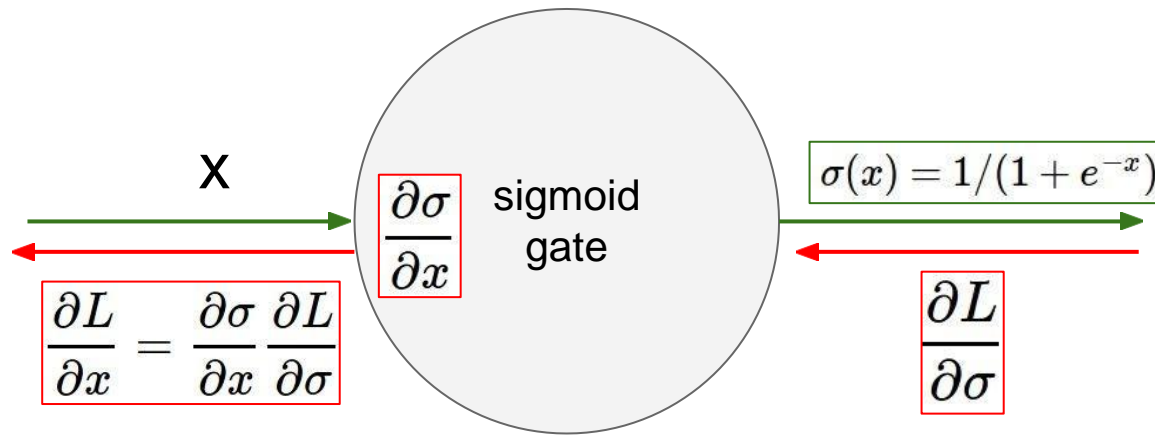
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$$\frac{\partial \sigma(x)}{\partial x} = \sigma(x) (1 - \sigma(x))$$



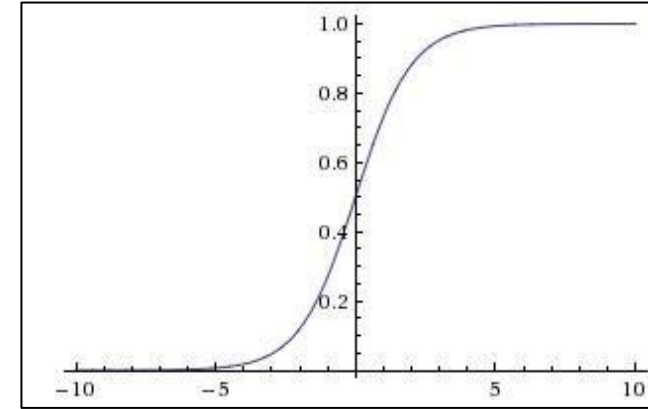
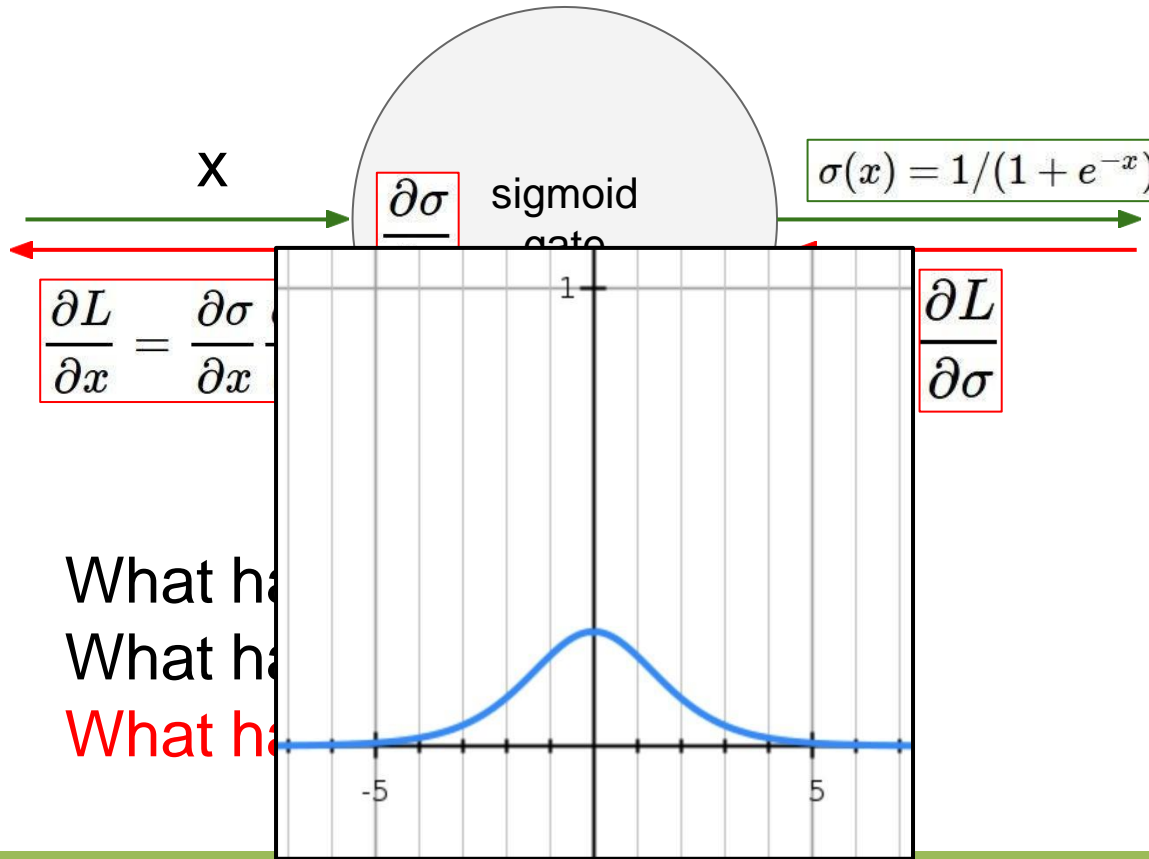
What happens when  $x = -10$ ?

What happens when  $x = 0$ ?

What happens when  $x = 10$ ?

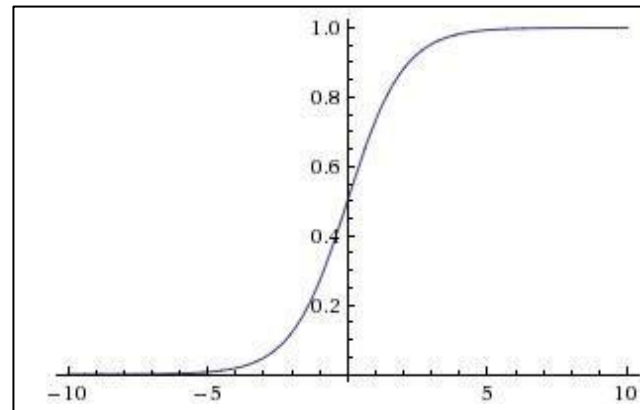
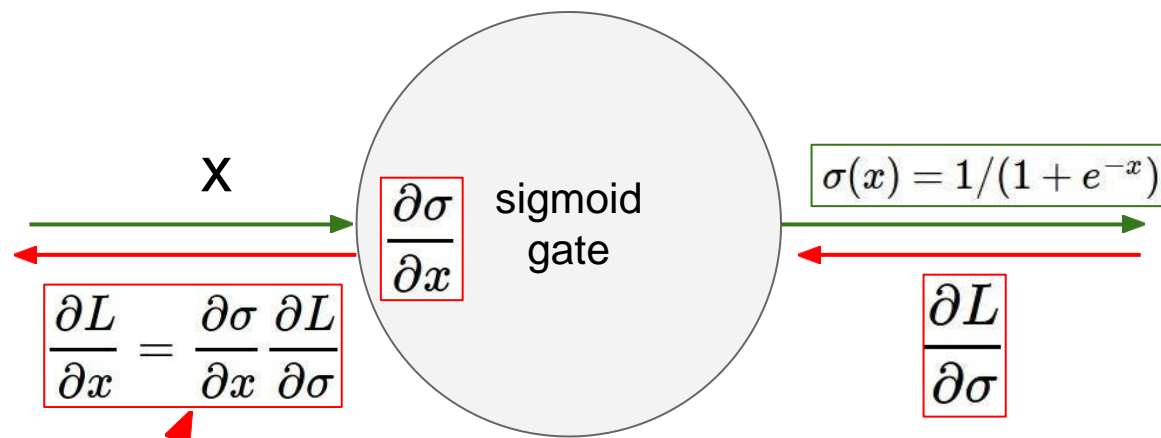
$$\frac{\partial \sigma(x)}{\partial x} = \sigma(x) (1 - \sigma(x))$$

$$\sigma(x) \approx 1 \quad \frac{\partial \sigma(x)}{\partial x} = \sigma(x) (1 - \sigma(x)) = 1(1 - 1) = 0$$



$$\frac{\partial \sigma(x)}{\partial x} = \sigma(x) (1 - \sigma(x))$$

What has  
What has  
What has

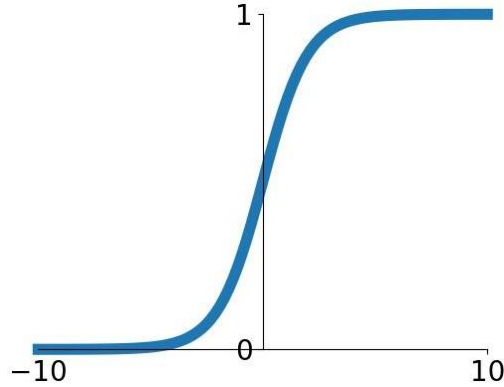


Why is this a problem?

If all the gradients flowing back will be zero and weights will never change

$$\frac{\partial \sigma(x)}{\partial x} = \sigma(x) (1 - \sigma(x))$$

# Activation Functions



**Sigmoid**

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

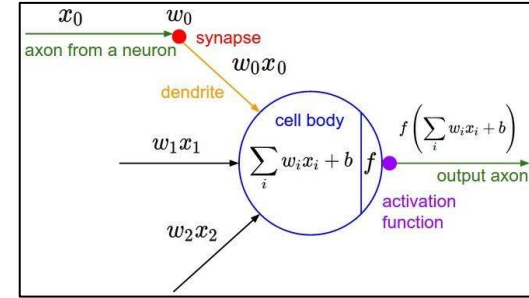
- Squashes numbers to range [0,1]
- Historically popular since they have nice interpretation as a saturating “firing rate” of a neuron

3 problems:

1. Saturated neurons “kill” the gradients
2. Sigmoid outputs are not zero-centered

Consider what happens when the input to a neuron is always positive...

$$f\left(\sum_i w_i x_i + b\right)$$

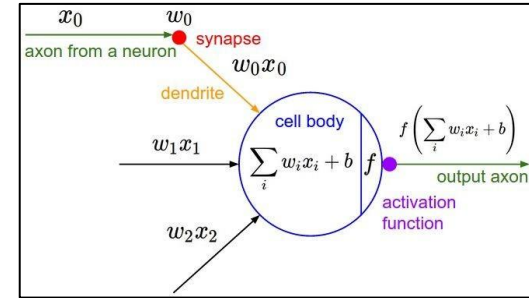


What can we say about the gradients on  $\mathbf{w}$ ?



Consider what happens when the input to a neuron is always positive...

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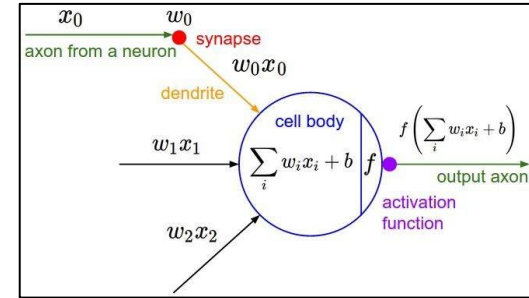


What can we say about the gradients on  $\mathbf{w}$ ?

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \sigma(\sum_i w_i x_i + b)(1 - \sigma(\sum_i w_i x_i + b))x \times upstream\_gradient$$

Consider what happens when the input to a neuron is always positive...

$$f\left(\sum_i w_i x_i + b\right)$$



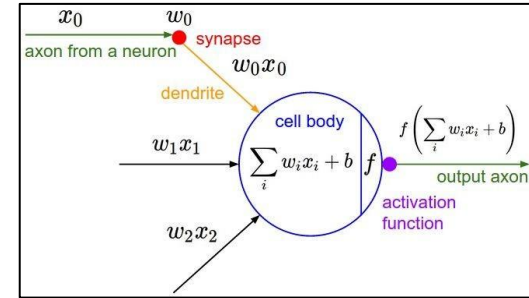
What can we say about the gradients on  $\mathbf{w}$ ?

We know that local gradient of sigmoid is always positive

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \sigma(\sum_i w_i x_i + b)(1 - \sigma(\sum_i w_i x_i + b))x \times upstream\_gradient$$

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What can we say about the gradients on  $\mathbf{w}$ ?

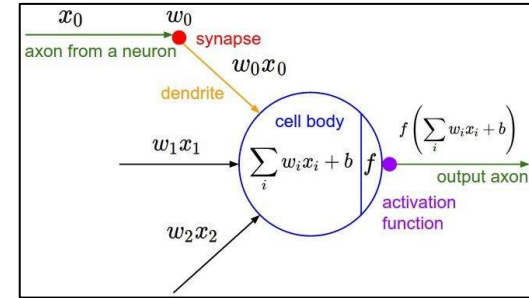
We know that local gradient of sigmoid is always positive

We are assuming  $x$  is always positive

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \sigma(\sum_i w_i x_i + b)(1 - \sigma(\sum_i w_i x_i + b))x \times upstream\_gradient$$

Consider what happens when the input to a neuron is always positive...

$$f\left(\sum_i w_i x_i + b\right)$$



What can we say about the gradients on  $\mathbf{w}$ ?

We know that local gradient of sigmoid is always positive

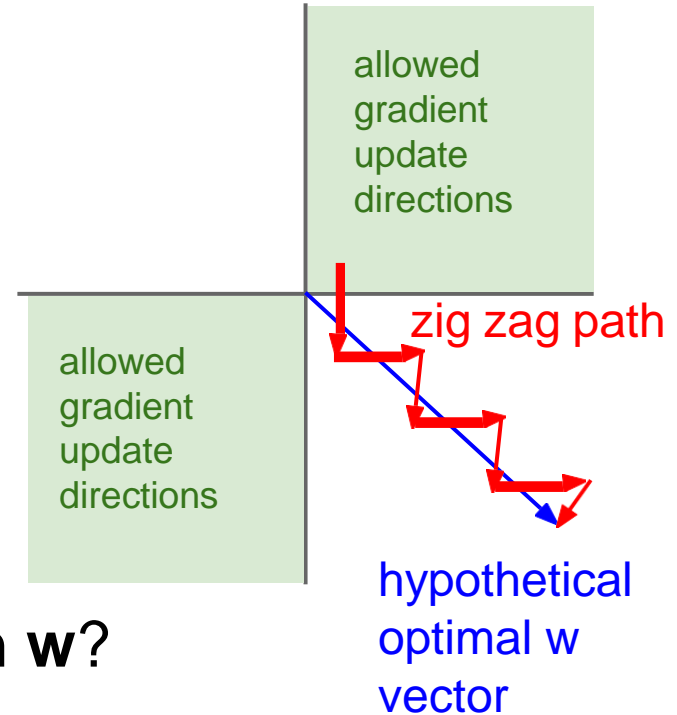
We are assuming  $x$  is always positive

So!! Sign of gradient **for all**  $w_i$  is the same as the sign of upstream scalar gradient!

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = \sigma(\sum_i w_i x_i + b)(1 - \sigma(\sum_i w_i x_i + b))x \times \text{upstream\_gradient}$$

Consider what happens when the input to a neuron is always positive...

$$f\left(\sum_i w_i x_i + b\right)$$

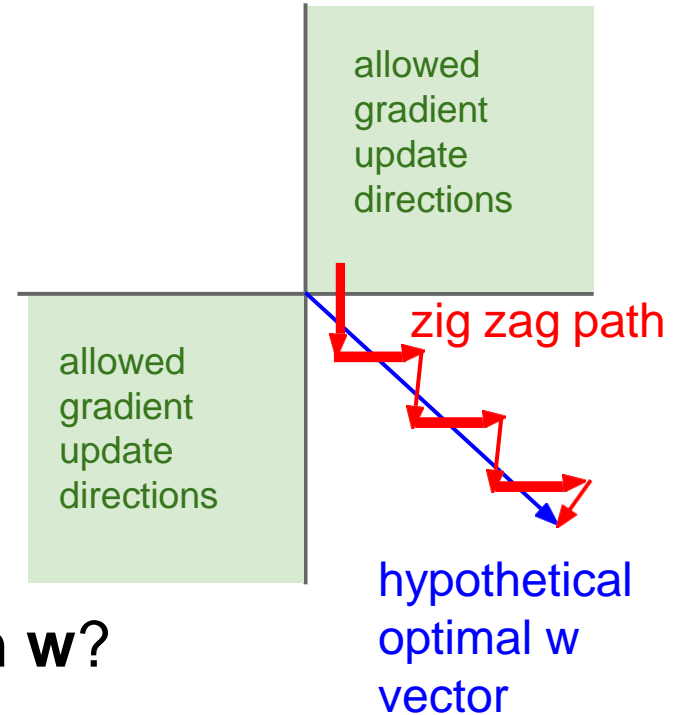


What can we say about the gradients on  $\mathbf{w}$ ?

Always all positive or all negative :(

Consider what happens when the input to a neuron is always positive...

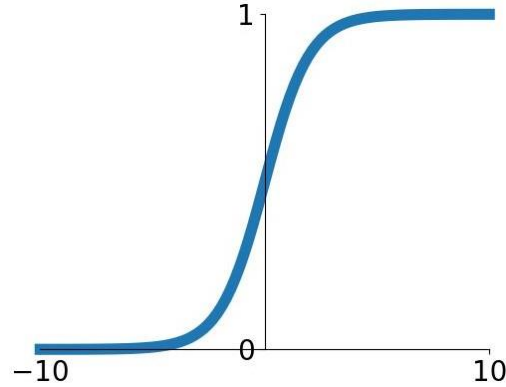
$$f\left(\sum_i w_i x_i + b\right)$$



What can we say about the gradients on  $\mathbf{w}$ ?

Always all positive or all negative :(  
(For a single element! Minibatches help)

# Activation Functions



**Sigmoid**

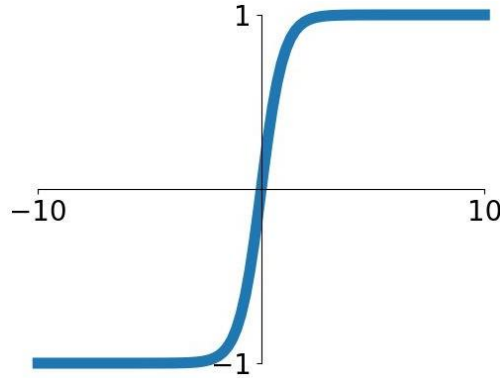
$$\sigma(x) = 1/(1 + e^{-x})$$

- Squashes numbers to range [0,1]
- Historically popular since they have nice interpretation as a saturating “firing rate” of a neuron

3 problems:

1. Saturated neurons “kill” the gradients
2. Sigmoid outputs are not zero-centered
3.  $\exp()$  is a bit compute expensive

# Activation Functions



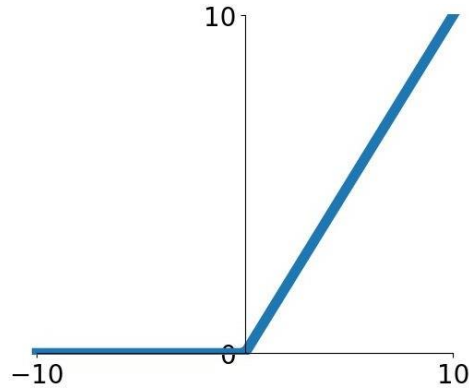
**$\tanh(x)$**

- Squashes numbers to range  $[-1,1]$
- zero centered (nice)
- still kills gradients when saturated :(

[LeCun et al., 1991]



# Activation Functions

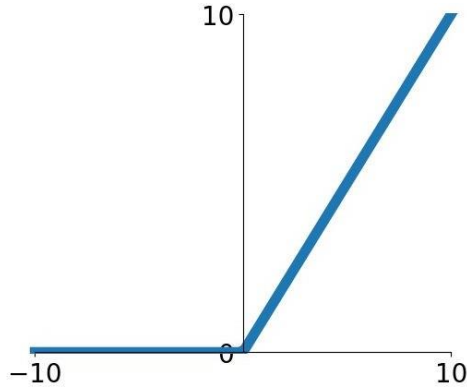


- Computes  $f(x) = \max(0, x)$
- Does not saturate (in +region)
- Very computationally efficient
- Converges much faster than sigmoid/tanh in practice (e.g. 6x)

**ReLU**  
(Rectified Linear Unit)

[Krizhevsky et al., 2012]

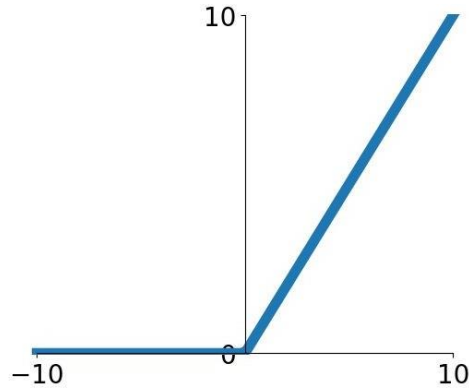
# Activation Functions



## ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit)

- Computes  $f(x) = \max(0, x)$
- Does not saturate (in +region)
- Very computationally efficient
- Converges much faster than sigmoid/tanh in practice (e.g. 6x)
- Not zero-centered output

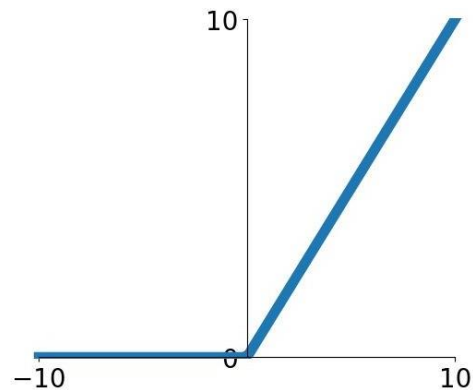
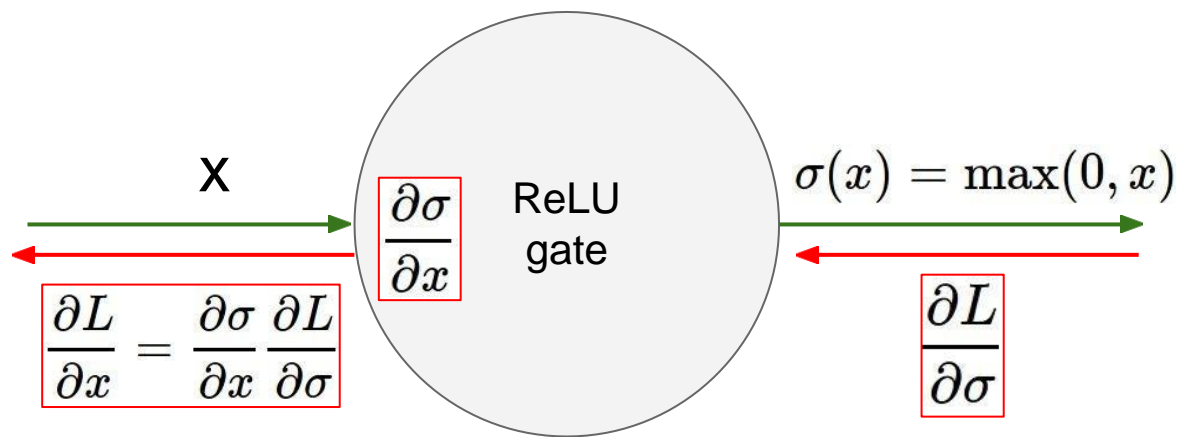
# Activation Functions



## ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit)

- Computes  $f(x) = \max(0, x)$
- Does not saturate (in +region)
- Very computationally efficient
- Converges much faster than sigmoid/tanh in practice (e.g. 6x)
- Not zero-centered output
- An annoyance:

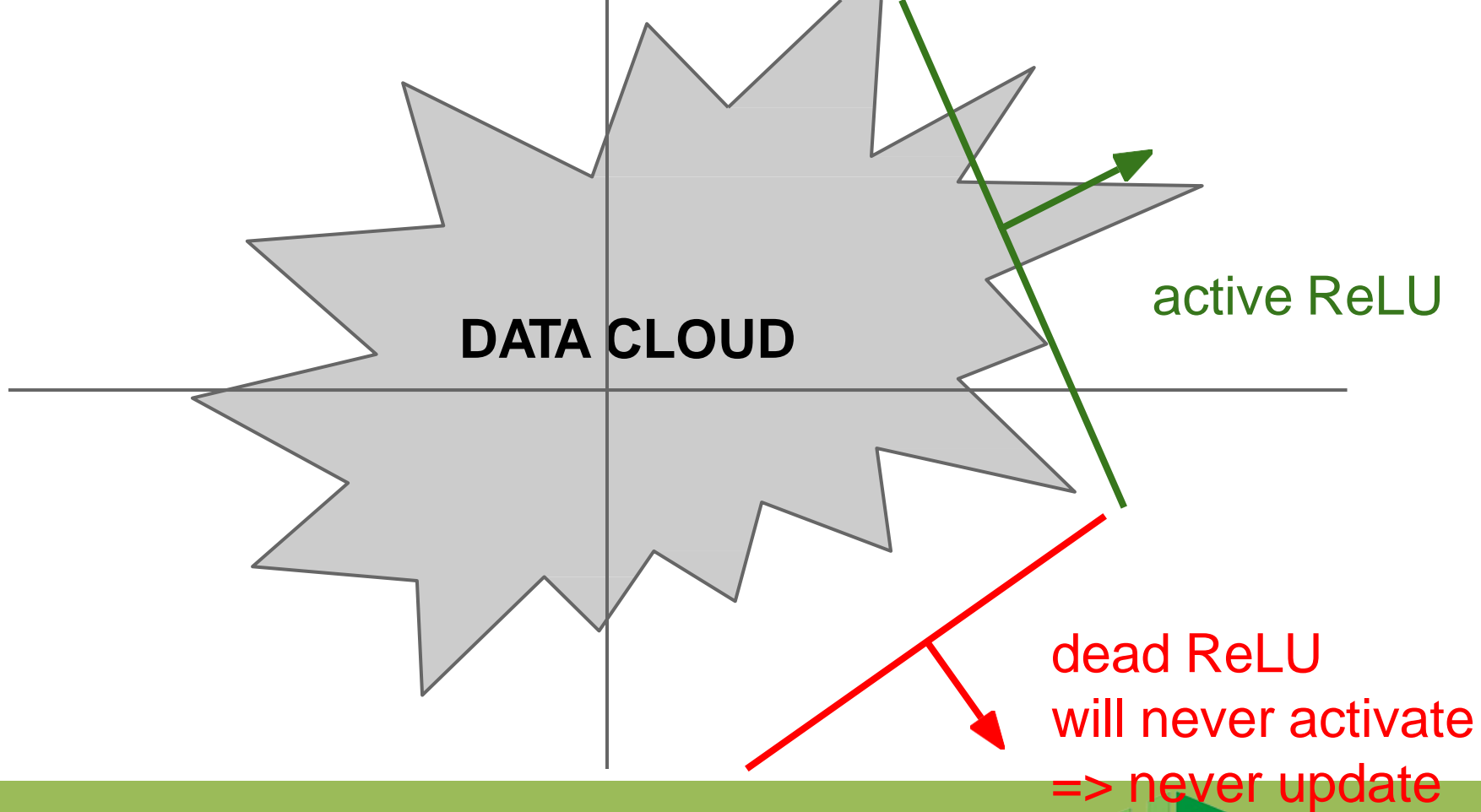
hint: what is the gradient when  $x < 0$ ?

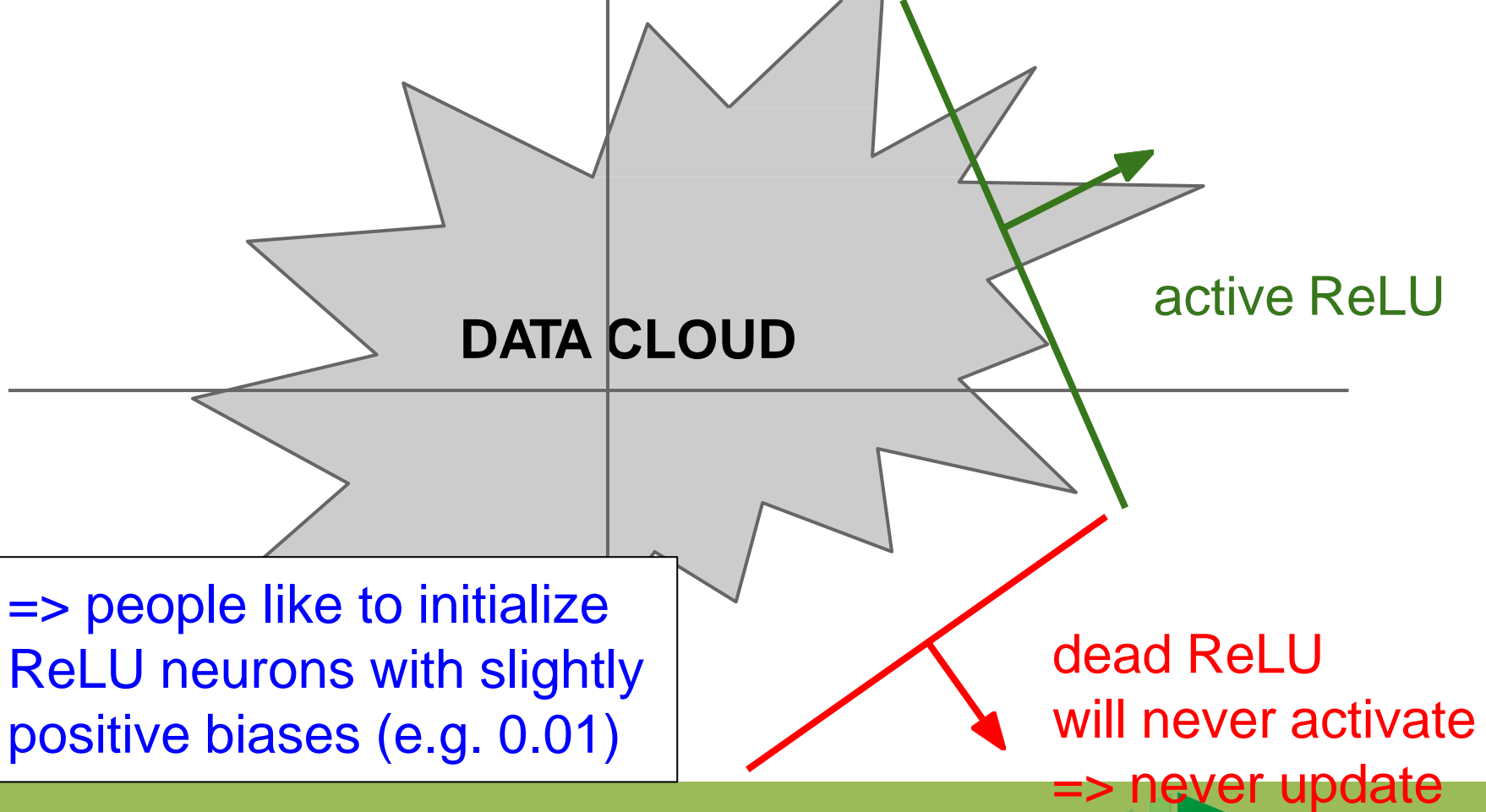


What happens when  $x = -10$ ?

What happens when  $x = 0$ ?

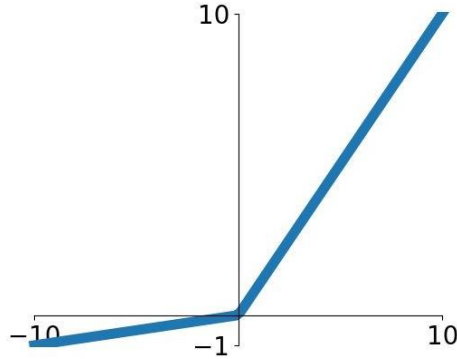
What happens when  $x = 10$ ?





# Activation Functions

[Mass et al., 2013]  
[He et al., 2015]



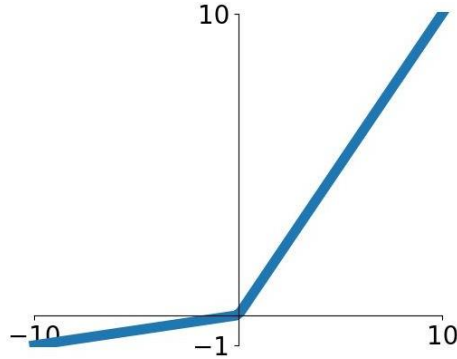
- Does not saturate
- Computationally efficient
- Converges much faster than sigmoid/tanh in practice! (e.g. 6x)
- **will not “die”.**

## Leaky ReLU

$$f(x) = \max(0.01x, x)$$

# Activation Functions

[Mass et al., 2013]  
[He et al., 2015]



## Leaky ReLU

$$f(x) = \max(0.01x, x)$$

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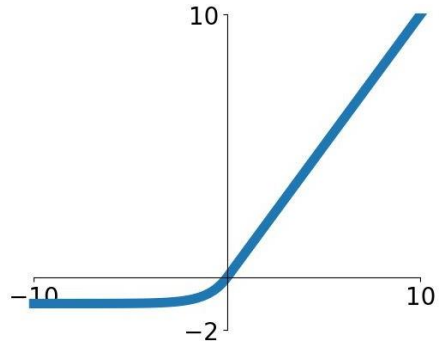
## Parametric Rectifier (PReLU)

$$f(x) = \max(\alpha x, x)$$

backprop into  $\alpha$  (parameter)



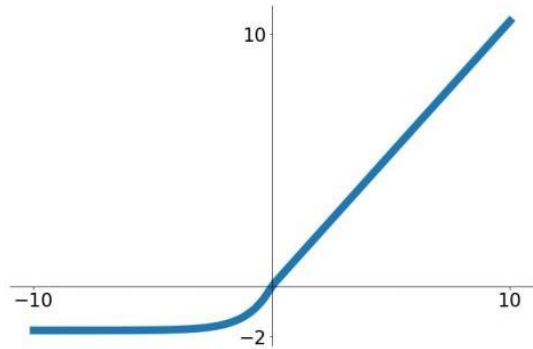
## Exponential Linear Units (ELU)



$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x > 0 \\ \alpha (\exp(x) - 1) & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

- All benefits of ReLU
- Closer to zero mean outputs
- Negative saturation regime compared with Leaky ReLU adds some robustness to noise
- Computation requires  $\exp()$

## Scaled Exponential Linear Units (SELU)



- Scaled version of ELU that works better for deep networks
- “Self-normalizing” property;
- Can train deep SELU networks without BatchNorm

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda x & \text{if } x > 0 \\ \lambda \alpha (e^x - 1) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha = 1.6732632423543772848170429916717$$

$$\lambda = 1.0507009873554804934193349852946$$

Training Neural Networks

# Maxout “Neuron”

[Goodfellow et al., 2013]

- Does not have the basic form of dot product -> nonlinearity
- Generalizes ReLU and Leaky ReLU
- Linear Regime! Does not saturate! Does not die!

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

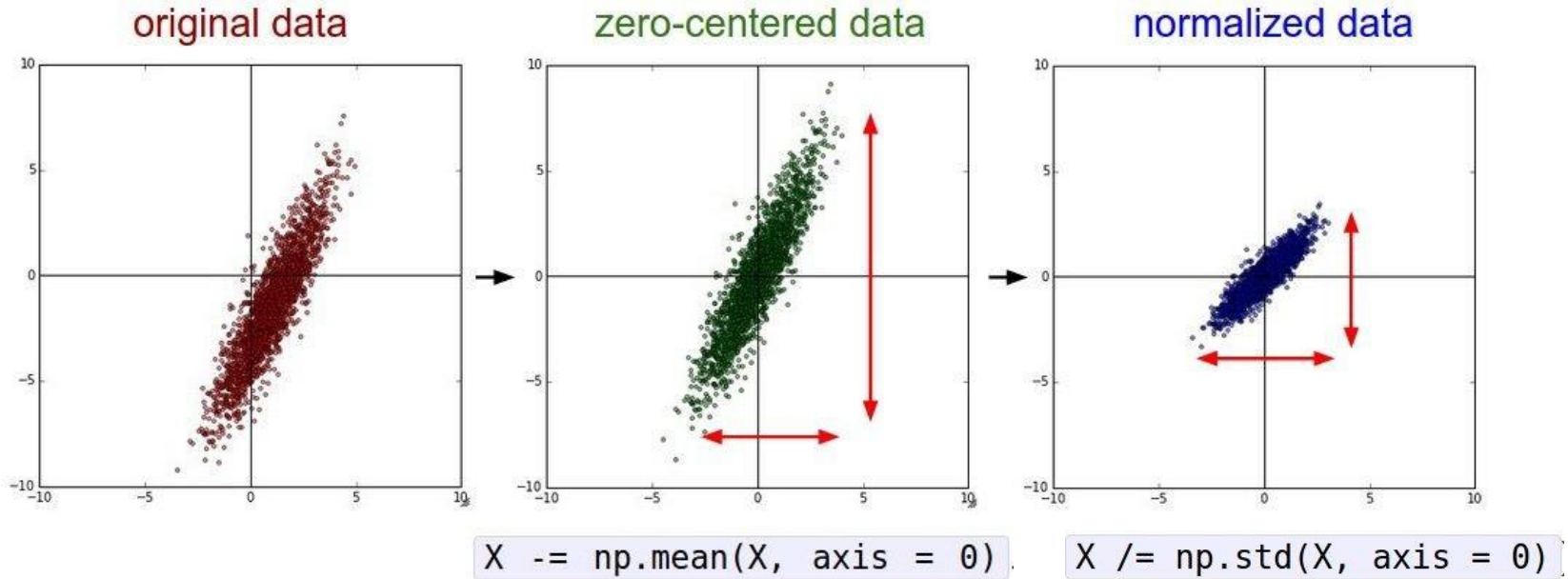
Problem: doubles the number of parameters/neuron :(

# TLDR: In practice:

- Use **ReLU**. Be careful with your learning rates
- Try out **Leaky ReLU / Maxout / ELU / SELU**
  - To squeeze out some marginal gains
- Don't use **sigmoid** or **tanh**

# Data Preprocessing

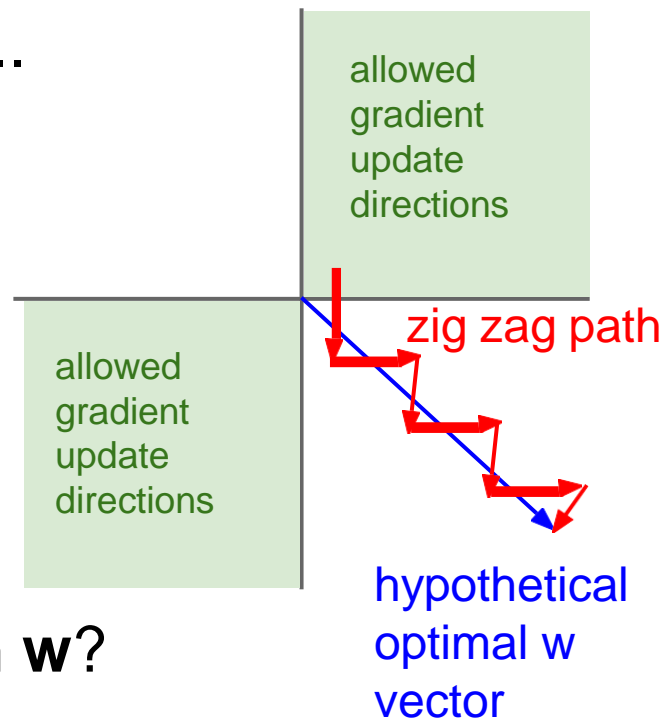
# Data Preprocessing



(Assume  $X$  [NxD] is data matrix,  
each example in a row)

Remember: Consider what happens when the input to a neuron is always positive...

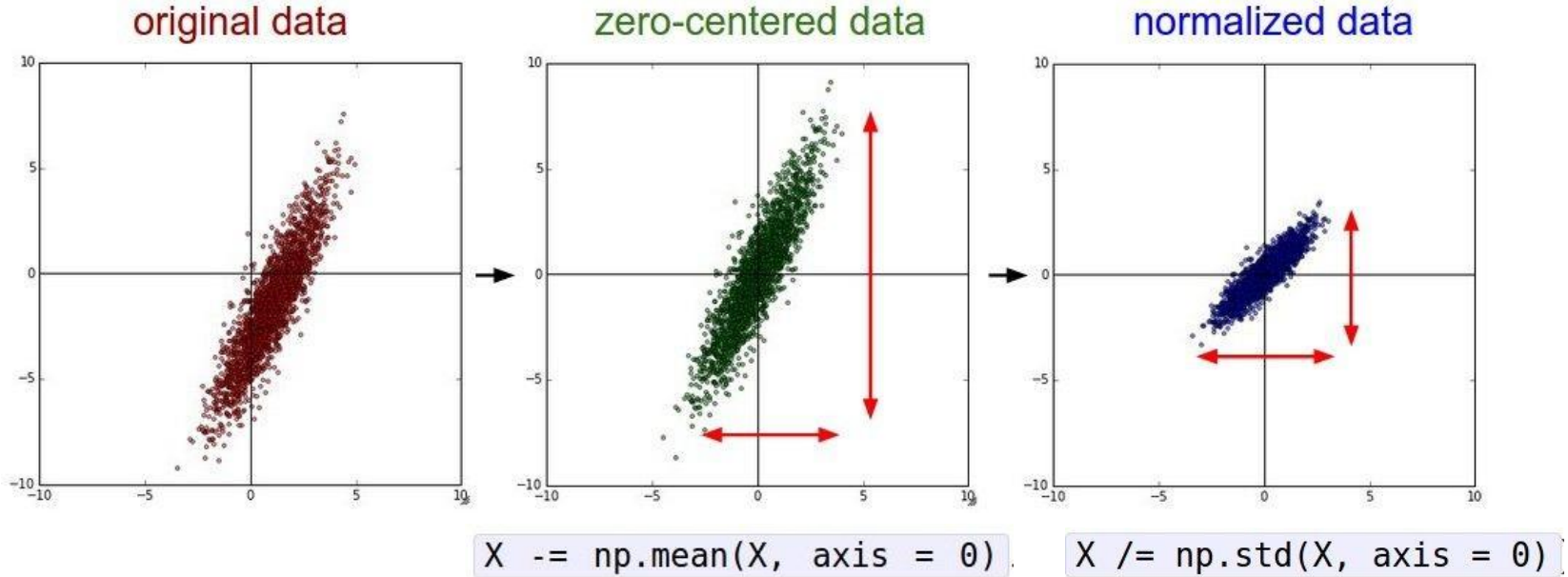
$$f\left(\sum_i w_i x_i + b\right)$$



What can we say about the gradients on  $\mathbf{w}$ ?

Always all positive or all negative :(  
(this is also why you want zero-mean data!)

# Data Preprocessing

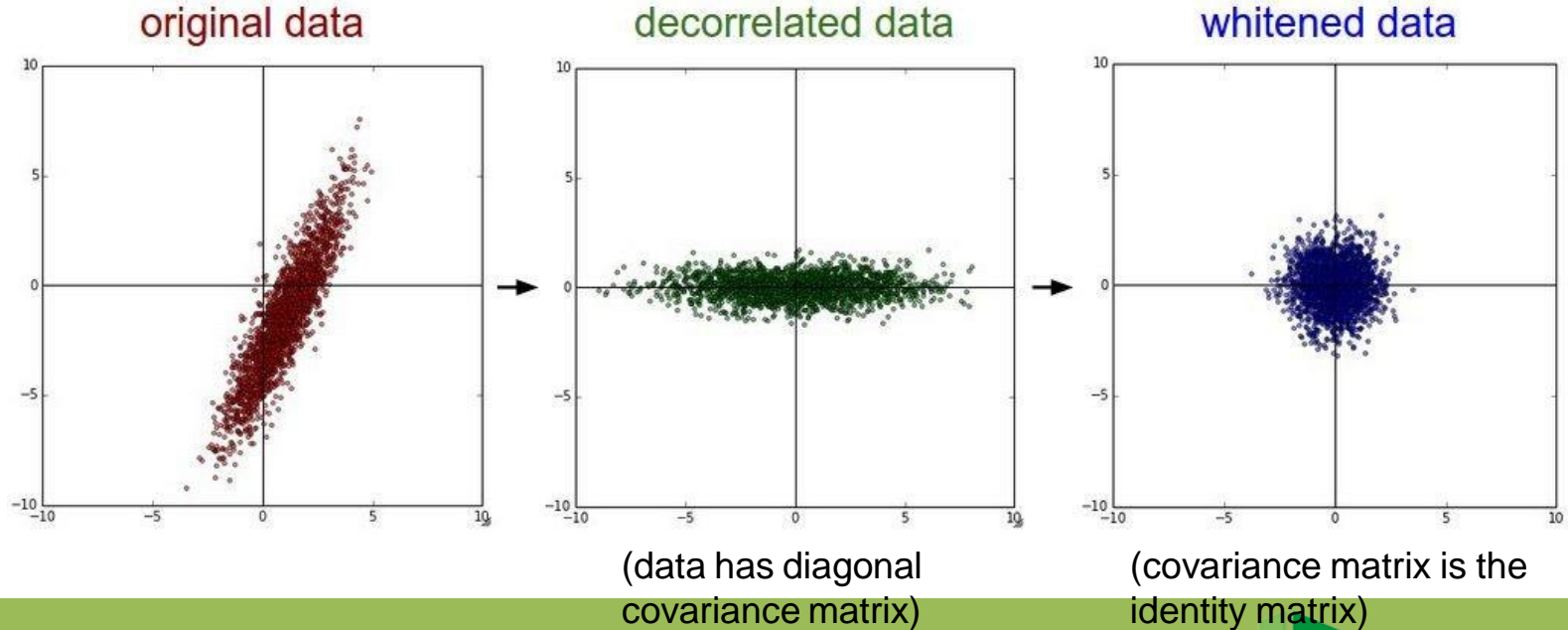


(Assume  $X$  [NxD] is data matrix, each example in a row)



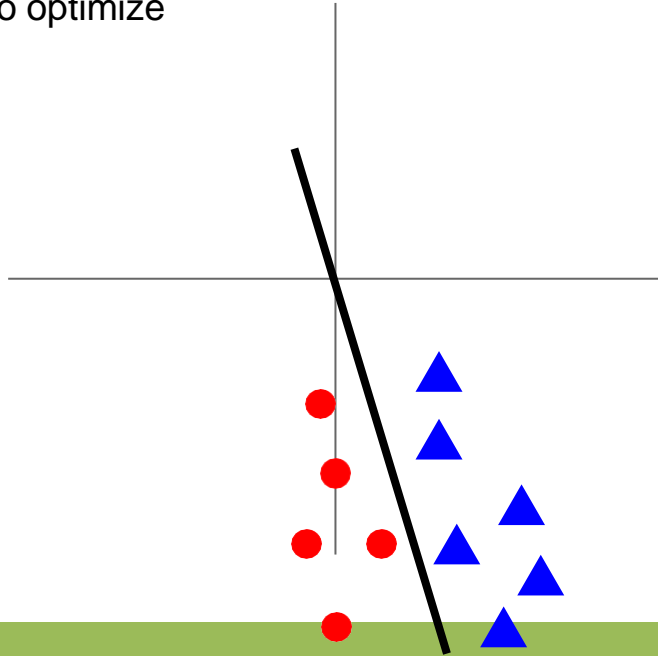
# Data Preprocessing

In practice, you may also see **PCA** and **Whitening** of the data

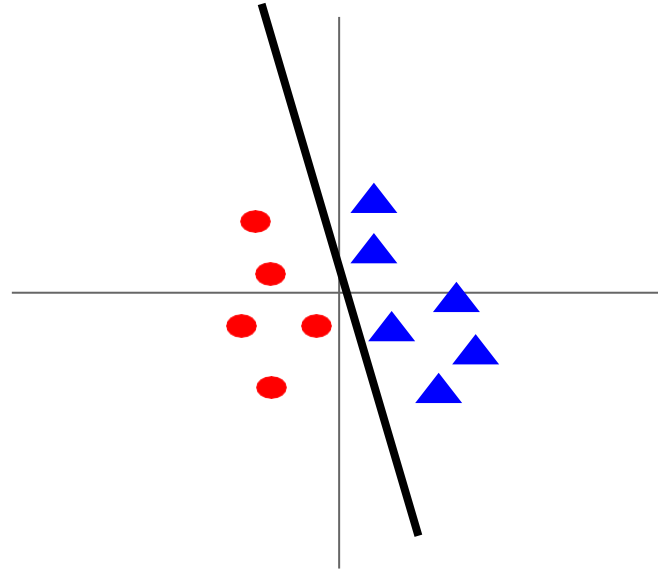


# Data Preprocessing

**Before normalization:** classification loss very sensitive to changes in weight matrix; hard to optimize



**After normalization:** less sensitive to small changes in weights; easier to optimize



# TLDR: In practice for Images: center only

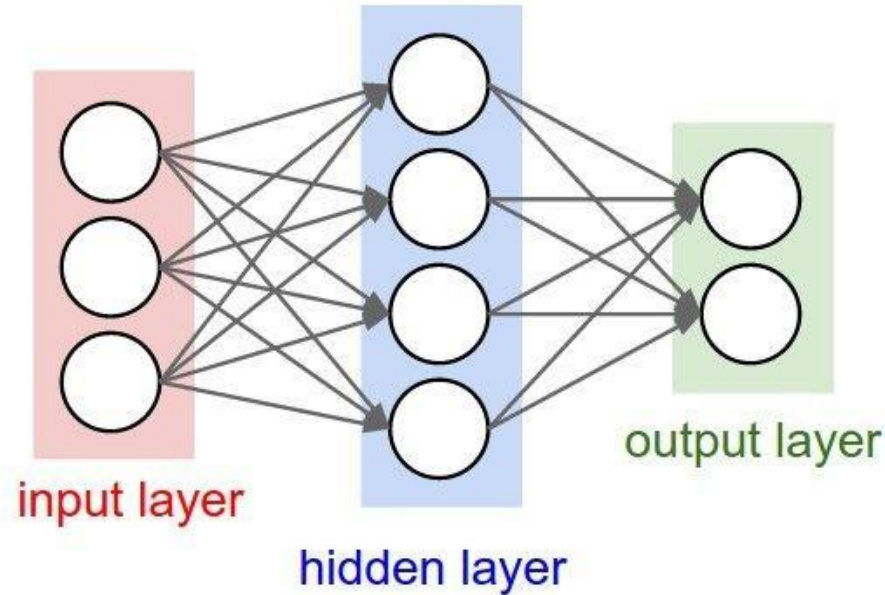
e.g. consider CIFAR-10 example with [32,32,3] images

- Subtract the mean image (e.g. AlexNet)  
(mean image = [32,32,3] array)
- Subtract per-channel mean (e.g. VGGNet)  
(mean along each channel = 3 numbers)
- Subtract per-channel mean and  
Divide by per-channel std (e.g. ResNet)  
(mean along each channel = 3 numbers)

Not common  
to do PCA or  
whitening

# Weight Initialization

- Q: what happens when  $W=\text{constant}$  init is used?



- First idea: **Small random numbers**  
(gaussian with zero mean and  $1e-2$  standard deviation)

```
W = 0.01 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)
```

- First idea: **Small random numbers**  
(gaussian with zero mean and  $1e-2$  standard deviation)

```
W = 0.01 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)
```

Works ~okay for small networks, but problems with deeper networks.

# Weight Initialization: Activation statistics

```
dims = [4096] * 7    Forward pass for a 6-layer  
hs = []             net with hidden size 4096  
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])  
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):  
    W = 0.01 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)  
    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))  
    hs.append(x)
```

What will happen to the activations for the last layer?

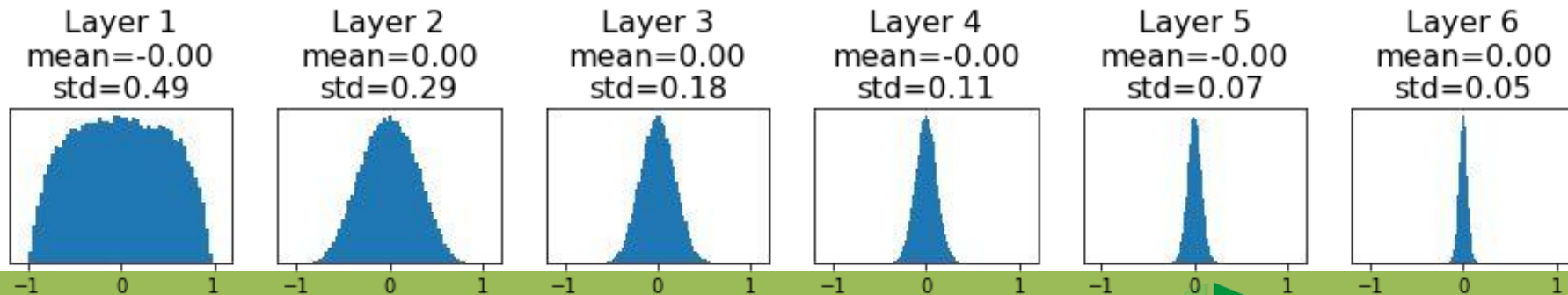


# Weight Initialization: Activation statistics

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dims = [4096] * 7      Forward pass for a 6-layer  
                        net with hidden size 4096  
hs = []  
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    W = 0.01 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)  
    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))  
    hs.append(x)
```

All activations tend to zero  
for deeper network layers

**Q: What do the gradients  $dL/dW$  look like?**



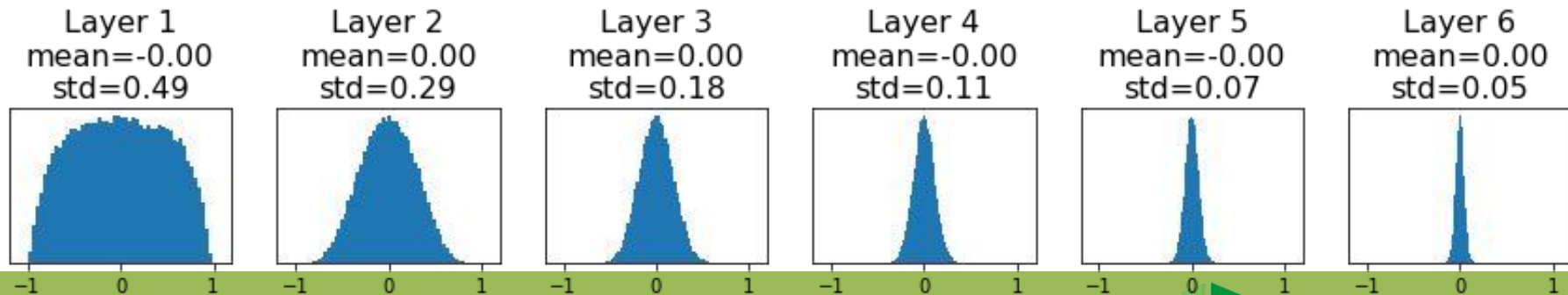
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    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

All activations tend to zero for deeper network layers

**Q:** What do the gradients  $dL/dW$  look like?

**A:** All zero, no learning =(



# Weight Initialization: Activation statistics

```
dims = [4096] * 7    Increase std of initial
hs = []              weights from 0.01 to 0.05
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = 0.05 * np.random.randn(Din, Dout)
    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

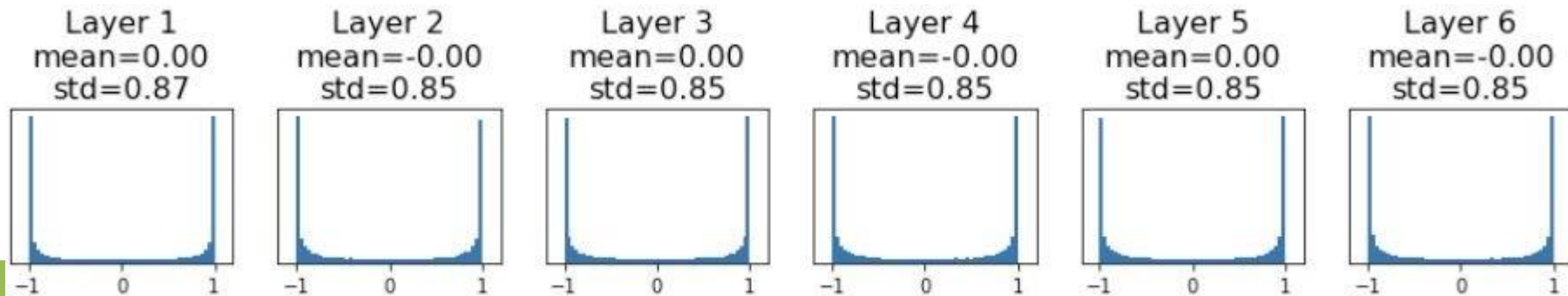
What will happen to the activations for the last layer?

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    hs.append(x)
```

All activations saturate

**Q:** What do the gradients look like?



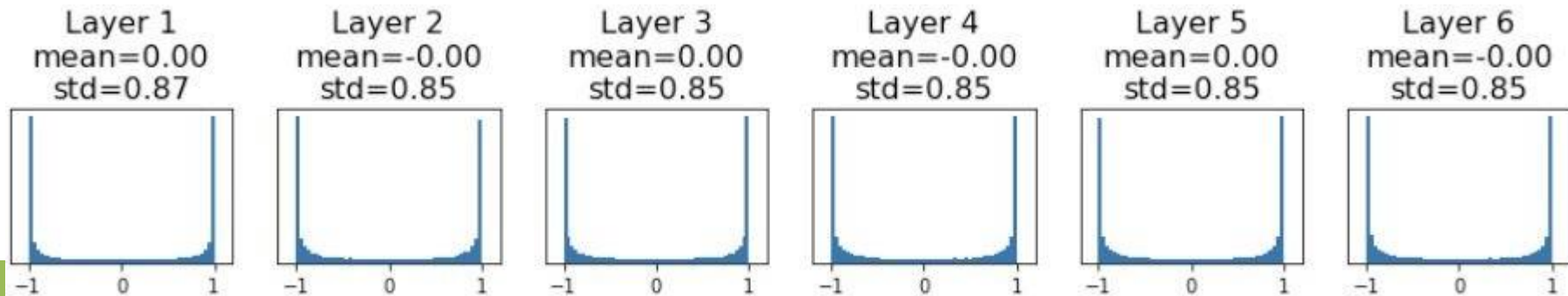
# Weight Initialization: Activation statistics

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    hs.append(x)
```

All activations saturate

**Q:** What do the gradients look like?

**A:** Local gradients all zero, no learning =(



# Weight Initialization: “Xavier” Initialization

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = np.random.randn(Din, Dout) / np.sqrt(Din)
    x = np.tanh(x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

“Xavier” initialization:  
std =  $1/\sqrt{D_{in}}$

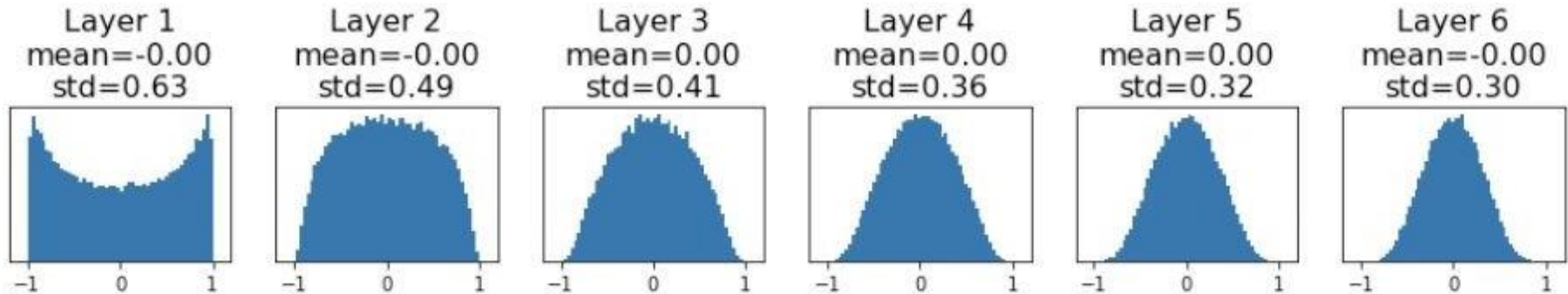
Glorot and Bengio, “Understanding the difficulty of training deep feedforward neural networks”, AISTAT 2010

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    hs.append(x)
```

“Xavier” initialization:  
 $\text{std} = 1/\sqrt{\text{Din}}$

“Just right”: Activations are nicely scaled for all layers!



Glorot and Bengio, “Understanding the difficulty of training deep feedforward neural networks”, AISTAT 2010



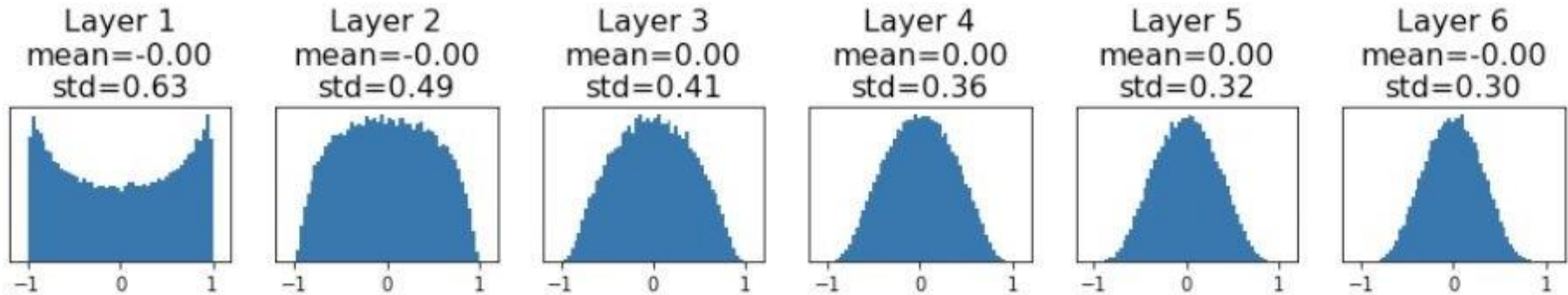
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Glorot and Bengio, “Understanding the difficulty of training deep feedforward neural networks”, AISTAT 2010



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    hs.append(x)
```

“Xavier” initialization:  
std = 1/sqrt(Din)

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For conv layers, Din is filter\_size<sup>2</sup> \* input\_channels

**Let:**  $y = x_1 w_1 + x_2 w_2 + \dots + x_{Din} w_{Din}$

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hs = []
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For conv layers,  $D_{in}$  is  $\text{filter\_size}^2 * \text{input\_channels}$

**Let:**  $y = x_1 w_1 + x_2 w_2 + \dots + x_{D_{in}} w_{D_{in}}$

**Assume:**  $\text{Var}(x_1) = \text{Var}(x_2) = \dots = \text{Var}(x_{D_{in}})$

# Weight Initialization: “Xavier” Initialization

```
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**We want:**  $\text{Var}(y) = \text{Var}(x_i)$

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**Assume:**  $\text{Var}(x_1) = \text{Var}(x_2) = \dots = \text{Var}(x_{D_{in}})$

**We want:**  $\text{Var}(y) = \text{Var}(x_i)$

$\text{Var}(y) = \text{Var}(x_1 w_1 + x_2 w_2 + \dots + x_{D_{in}} w_{D_{in}})$   
[substituting value of  $y$ ]

# Weight Initialization: “Xavier” Initialization

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
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**We want:**  $\text{Var}(y) = \text{Var}(x_i)$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(y) &= \text{Var}(x_1 w_1 + x_2 w_2 + \dots + x_{D_{in}} w_{D_{in}}) \\ &= D_{in} \text{Var}(x_i w_i)\end{aligned}$$

[Assume all  $x_i, w_i$  are iid]

# Weight Initialization: “Xavier” Initialization

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**Let:**  $y = x_1 w_1 + x_2 w_2 + \dots + x_{D_{in}} w_{D_{in}}$

**Assume:**  $\text{Var}(x_1) = \text{Var}(x_2) = \dots = \text{Var}(x_{D_{in}})$

**We want:**  $\text{Var}(y) = \text{Var}(x_i)$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(y) &= \text{Var}(x_1 w_1 + x_2 w_2 + \dots + x_{D_{in}} w_{D_{in}}) \\ &= D_{in} \text{Var}(x_i w_i) \\ &= D_{in} \text{Var}(x_i) \text{Var}(w_i)\end{aligned}$$

[Assume all  $x_i, w_i$  are zero mean]

# Weight Initialization: “Xavier” Initialization

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
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**Assume:**  $\text{Var}(x_1) = \text{Var}(x_2) = \dots = \text{Var}(x_{D_{in}})$

**We want:**  $\text{Var}(y) = \text{Var}(x_i)$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(y) &= \text{Var}(x_1 w_1 + x_2 w_2 + \dots + x_{D_{in}} w_{D_{in}}) \\ &= D_{in} \text{Var}(x_i w_i) \\ &= D_{in} \text{Var}(x_i) \text{Var}(w_i) \\ &\text{[Assume all } x_i, w_i \text{ are iid]}\end{aligned}$$

So,  $\text{Var}(y) = \text{Var}(x_i)$  only when  $\text{Var}(w_i) = 1/D_{in}$

# Weight Initialization: What about ReLU?

```
dims = [4096] * 7      Change from tanh to ReLU
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = np.random.randn(Din, Dout) / np.sqrt(Din)
    x = np.maximum(0, x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

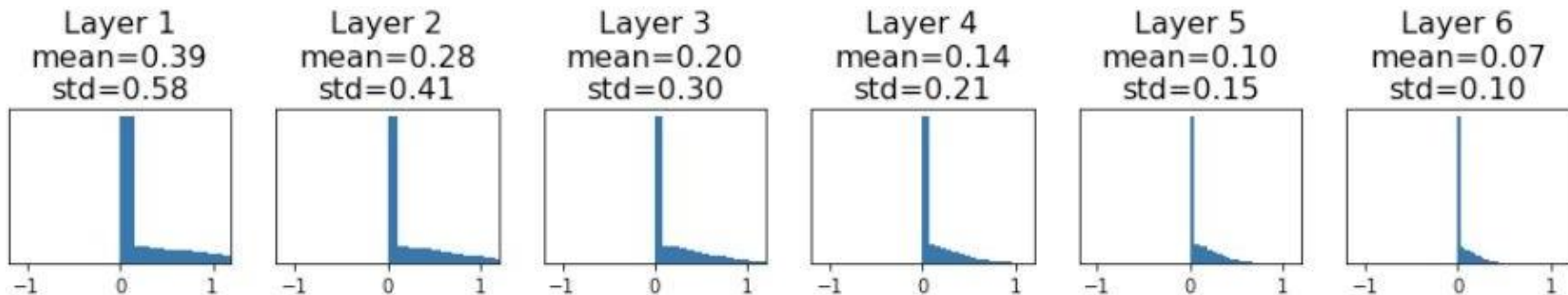


# Weight Initialization: What about ReLU?

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    W = np.random.randn(Din, Dout) / np.sqrt(Din)
    x = np.maximum(0, x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

Xavier assumes zero centered activation function

Activations collapse to zero again, no learning =(

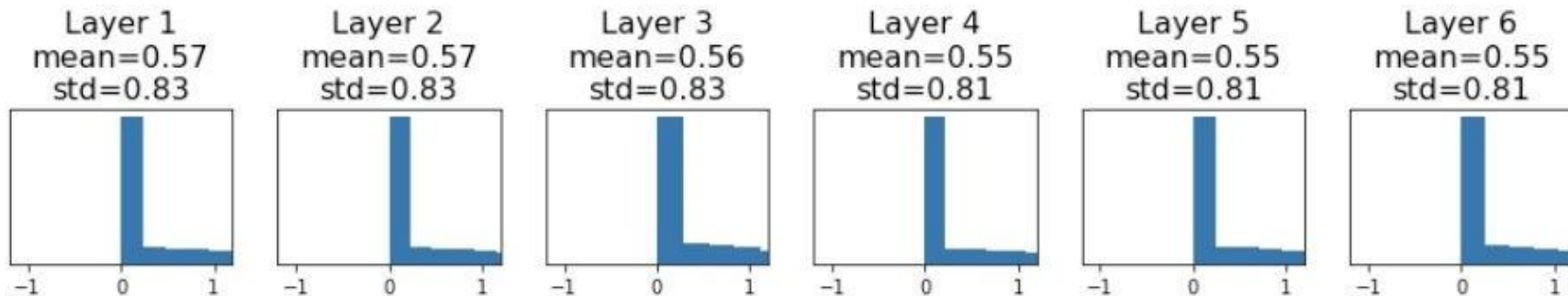


# Weight Initialization: Kaiming / MSRA Initialization

```
dims = [4096] * 7
hs = []
x = np.random.randn(16, dims[0])
for Din, Dout in zip(dims[:-1], dims[1:]):
    W = np.random.randn(Din, Dout) * np.sqrt(2/Din)
    x = np.maximum(0, x.dot(W))
    hs.append(x)
```

ReLU correction:  $\text{std} = \sqrt{2 / D_{\text{in}}}$

“Just right”: Activations are nicely scaled for all layers!



He et al, “Delving Deep into Rectifiers: Surpassing Human-Level Performance on ImageNet Classification”, ICCV 2015

# Proper initialization is an active area of research...

***Understanding the difficulty of training deep feedforward neural networks***

by Glorot and Bengio, 2010

***Exact solutions to the nonlinear dynamics of learning in deep linear neural networks*** by Saxe et al, 2013

***Random walk initialization for training very deep feedforward networks*** by Sussillo and Abbott, 2014

***Delving deep into rectifiers: Surpassing human-level performance on ImageNet classification*** by He et al., 2015

***Data-dependent Initializations of Convolutional Neural Networks*** by Krähenbühl et al., 2015

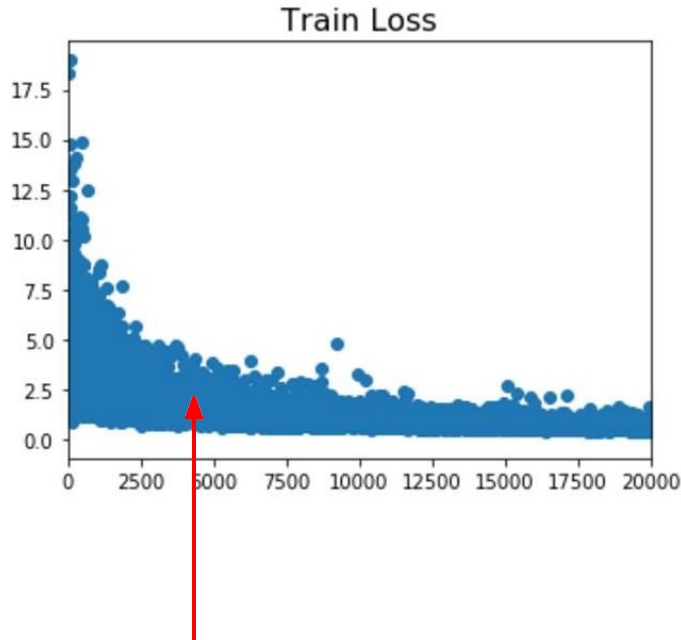
***All you need is a good init***, Mishkin and Matas, 2015

***Fixup Initialization: Residual Learning Without Normalization***, Zhang et al, 2019

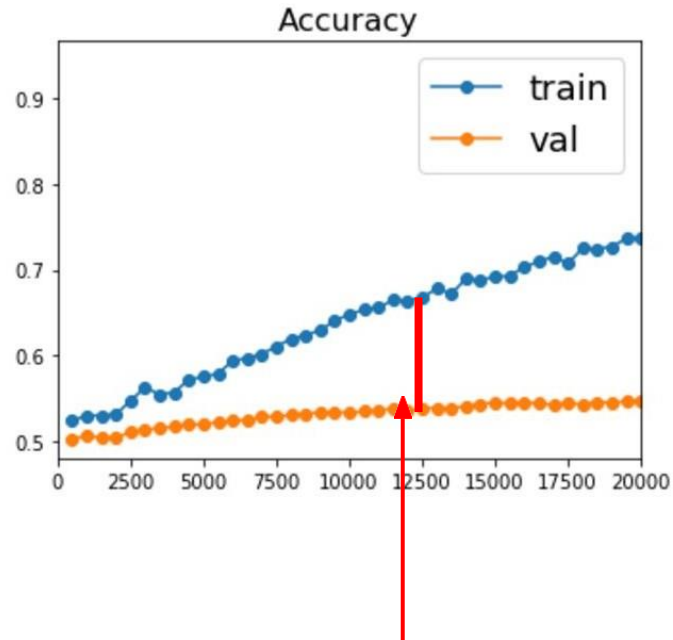
***The Lottery Ticket Hypothesis: Finding Sparse, Trainable Neural Networks***, Frankle and Carbin, 2019

# Training vs. Testing Error

# Beyond Training Error

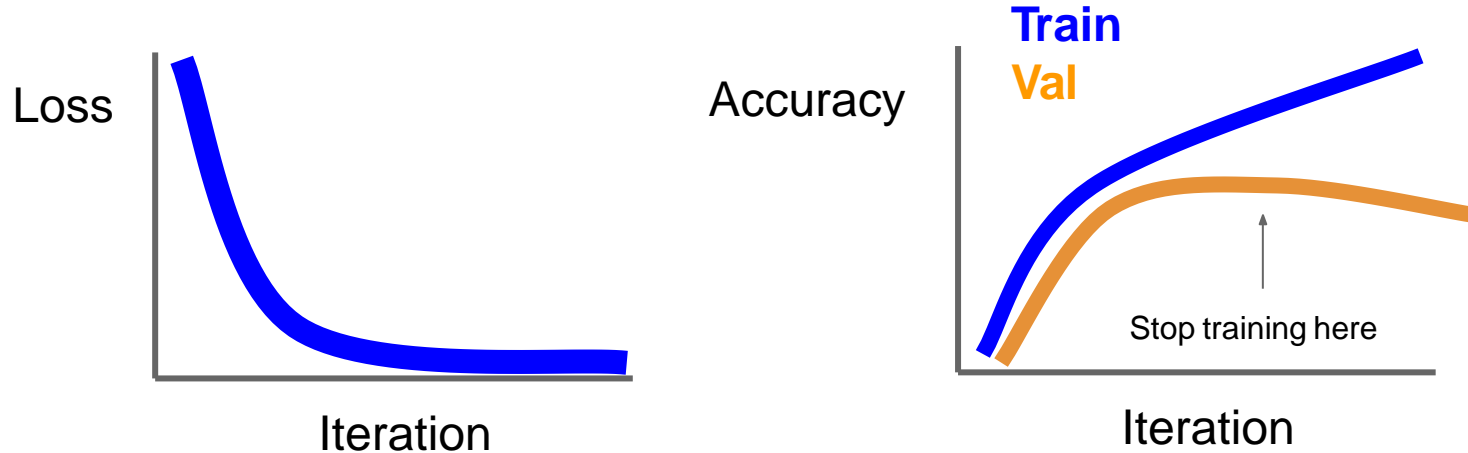


Better optimization algorithms  
help reduce training loss



But we really care about error on  
new data - how to reduce the gap?

# Early Stopping: Always do this



Stop training the model when accuracy on the validation set decreases  
Or train for a long time, but always keep track of the model snapshot  
that worked best on val

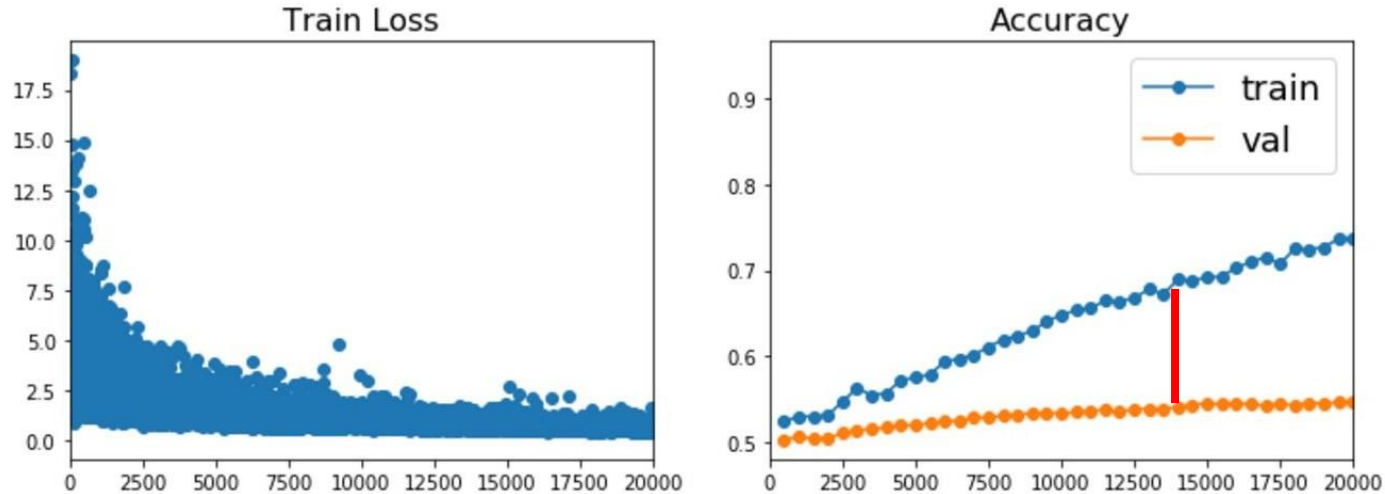
# Model Ensembles

1. Train multiple independent models
2. At test time average their results

(Take average of predicted probability distributions, then choose argmax)

Enjoy 2% extra performance

# How to improve single-model performance?



Regularization



# Regularization: Add term to loss

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, f(x_i; W)_j - f(x_i; W)_{y_i} + 1) + \boxed{\lambda R(W)}$$

In common use:

L2 regularization

$$R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l W_{k,l}^2 \quad (\text{Weight decay})$$

L1 regularization

$$R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l |W_{k,l}|$$

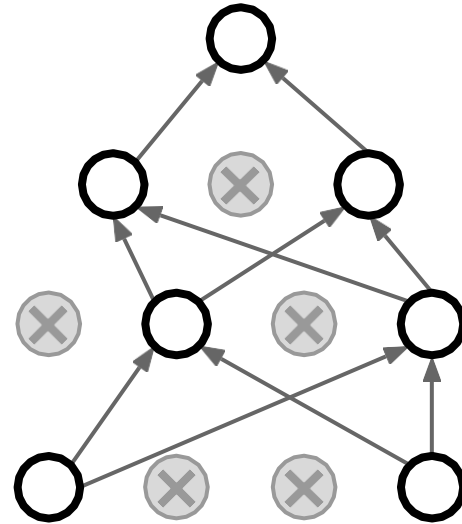
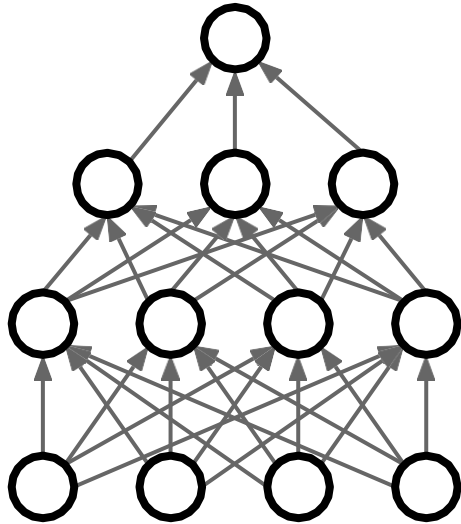
Elastic net (L1 + L2)

$$R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l \beta W_{k,l}^2 + |W_{k,l}|$$

# Regularization: Dropout

In each forward pass, randomly set some neurons to zero

Probability of dropping is a hyperparameter; 0.5 is common



# Regularization: Dropout

```
p = 0.5 # probability of keeping a unit active. higher = less dropout
```

```
def train_step(X):
```

```
    """ X contains the data """
```

```
    # forward pass for example 3-layer neural network
```

```
    H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1)
```

```
    U1 = np.random.rand(*H1.shape) < p # first dropout mask
```

```
    H1 *= U1 # drop!
```

```
    H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)
```

```
    U2 = np.random.rand(*H2.shape) < p # second dropout mask
```

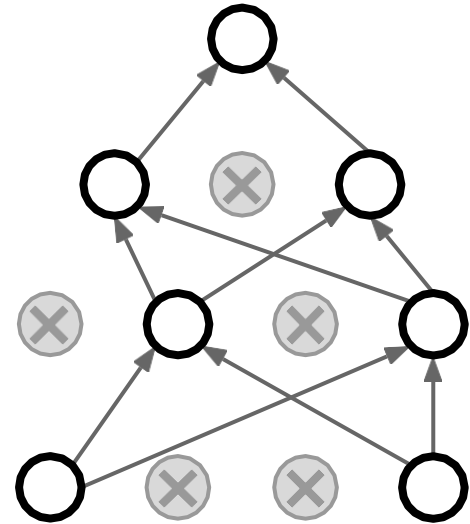
```
    H2 *= U2 # drop!
```

```
    out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3
```

```
    # backward pass: compute gradients... (not shown)
```

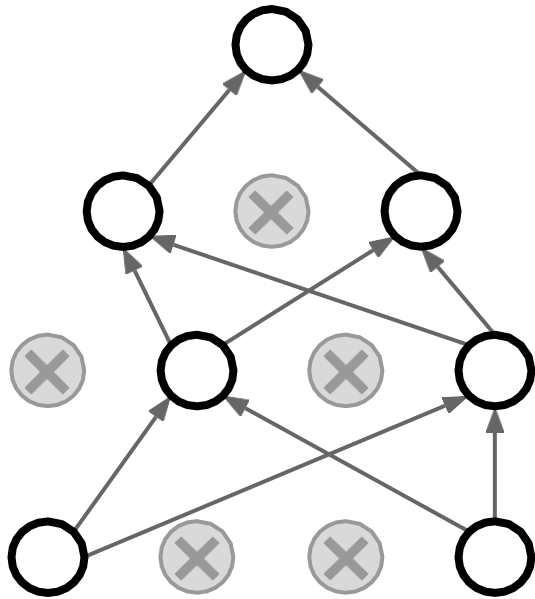
```
    # perform parameter update... (not shown)
```

Example forward pass with a 3-layer network using dropout



# Regularization: Dropout

How can this possibly be a good idea?

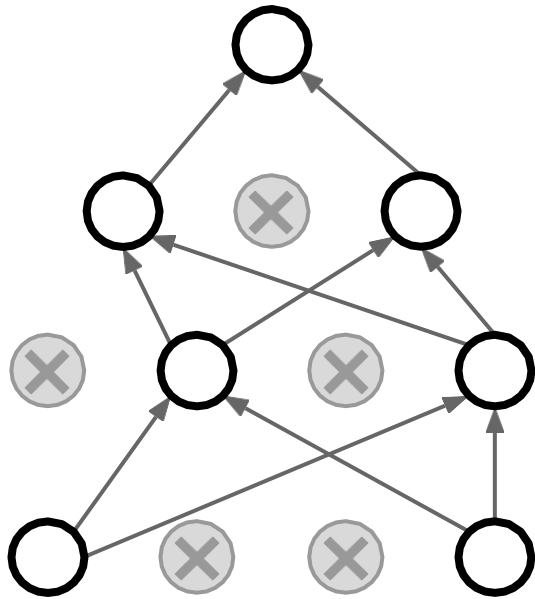


Forces the network to have a redundant representation;  
Prevents co-adaptation of features



# Regularization: Dropout

How can this possibly be a good idea?



Another interpretation:

Dropout is training a large **ensemble** of models (that share parameters).

Each binary mask is one model

An FC layer with 4096 units has  $2^{4096} \sim 10^{1233}$  possible masks!

Only  $\sim 10^{82}$  atoms in the universe...

# Dropout: Test time

Dropout makes our output random!

Output (label)      Input (image)

$$\boxed{y} = f_W(\boxed{x}, \boxed{z})$$

Random mask

Want to “average out” the randomness at test-time

$$y = f(x) = E_z[f(x, z)] = \int p(z) f(x, z) dz$$

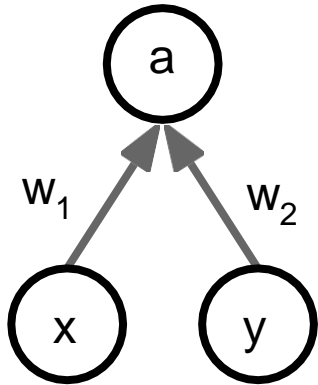
But this integral seems hard ...

# Dropout: Test time

Want to approximate  
the integral

$$y = f(x) = E_z [f(x, z)] = \int p(z) f(x, z) dz$$

Consider a single neuron.



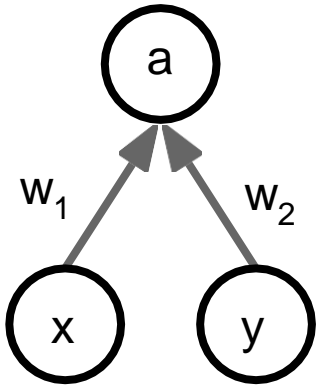
# Dropout: Test time

Want to approximate  
the integral

$$y = f(x) = E_z [f(x, z)] = \int p(z) f(x, z) dz$$

Consider a single neuron.

At test time we have:  $E[a] = w_1x + w_2y$



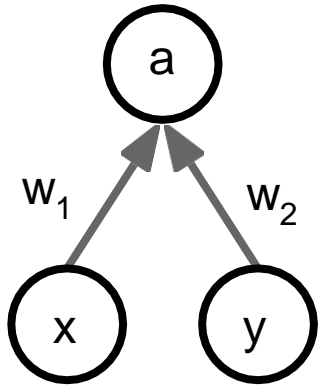


# Dropout: Test time

Want to approximate the integral

$$y = f(x) = E_z [f(x, z)] = \int p(z) f(x, z) dz$$

Consider a single neuron.



At test time we have:  $E[a] = w_1x + w_2y$

During training we have:

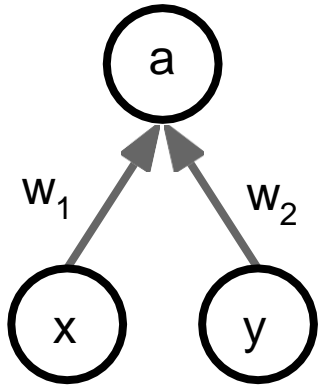
$$\begin{aligned} E[a] &= \frac{1}{4}(w_1x + w_2y) + \frac{1}{4}(w_1x + 0y) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{4}(0x + 0y) + \frac{1}{4}(0x + w_2y) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(w_1x + w_2y) \end{aligned}$$

# Dropout: Test time

Want to approximate the integral

$$y = f(x) = E_z [f(x, z)] = \int p(z) f(x, z) dz$$

Consider a single neuron.



At test time we have:  $E[a] = w_1x + w_2y$

During training we have:

$$\begin{aligned} E[a] &= \frac{1}{4}(w_1x + w_2y) + \frac{1}{4}(w_1x + 0y) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{4}(0x + 0y) + \frac{1}{4}(0x + w_2y) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(w_1x + w_2y) \end{aligned}$$

**At test time, multiply  
by dropout probability**

# Dropout: Test time

```
def predict(X):  
    # ensembled forward pass  
    H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1) * p # NOTE: scale the activations  
    H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2) * p # NOTE: scale the activations  
    out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3
```

At test time all neurons are active always

=> We must scale the activations so that for each neuron:

output at test time = expected output at training time

# Dropout Summary

```
""" Vanilla Dropout: Not recommended implementation (see notes below) """
```

```
p = 0.5 # probability of keeping a unit active. higher = less dropout
```

```
def train_step(X):
```

```
    """ X contains the data """
```

```
    # forward pass for example 3-layer neural network
```

```
    H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1)
```

```
    U1 = np.random.rand(*H1.shape) < p # first dropout mask
```

```
    H1 *= U1 # drop!
```

```
    H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)
```

```
    U2 = np.random.rand(*H2.shape) < p # second dropout mask
```

```
    H2 *= U2 # drop!
```

```
    out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3
```

```
    # backward pass: compute gradients... (not shown)
```

```
    # perform parameter update... (not shown)
```

```
def predict(X):
```

```
    # ensembled forward pass
```

```
    H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1) * p # NOTE: scale the activations
```

```
    H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2) * p # NOTE: scale the activations
```

```
    out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3
```

drop in train time

scale at test time

# More common: “Inverted dropout”

```
p = 0.5 # probability of keeping a unit active. higher = less dropout

def train_step(X):
    # forward pass for example 3-layer neural network
    H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1)
    U1 = (np.random.rand(*H1.shape) < p) / p # first dropout mask. Notice /p!
    H1 *= U1 # drop!
    H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)
    U2 = (np.random.rand(*H2.shape) < p) / p # second dropout mask. Notice /p!
    H2 *= U2 # drop!
    out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3

    # backward pass: compute gradients... (not shown)
    # perform parameter update... (not shown)

def predict(X):
    # ensembled forward pass
    H1 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W1, X) + b1) # no scaling necessary
    H2 = np.maximum(0, np.dot(W2, H1) + b2)
    out = np.dot(W3, H2) + b3
```

test time is unchanged!

# Regularization: A common pattern

**Training:** Add some kind of randomness

$$y = f_W(x, z)$$

**Testing:** Average out randomness (sometimes approximate)

$$y = f(x) = E_z[f(x, z)] = \int p(z) f(x, z) dz$$

# Regularization: A common pattern

**Training:** Add some kind of randomness

$$y = f_W(x, z)$$

**Testing:** Average out randomness (sometimes approximate)

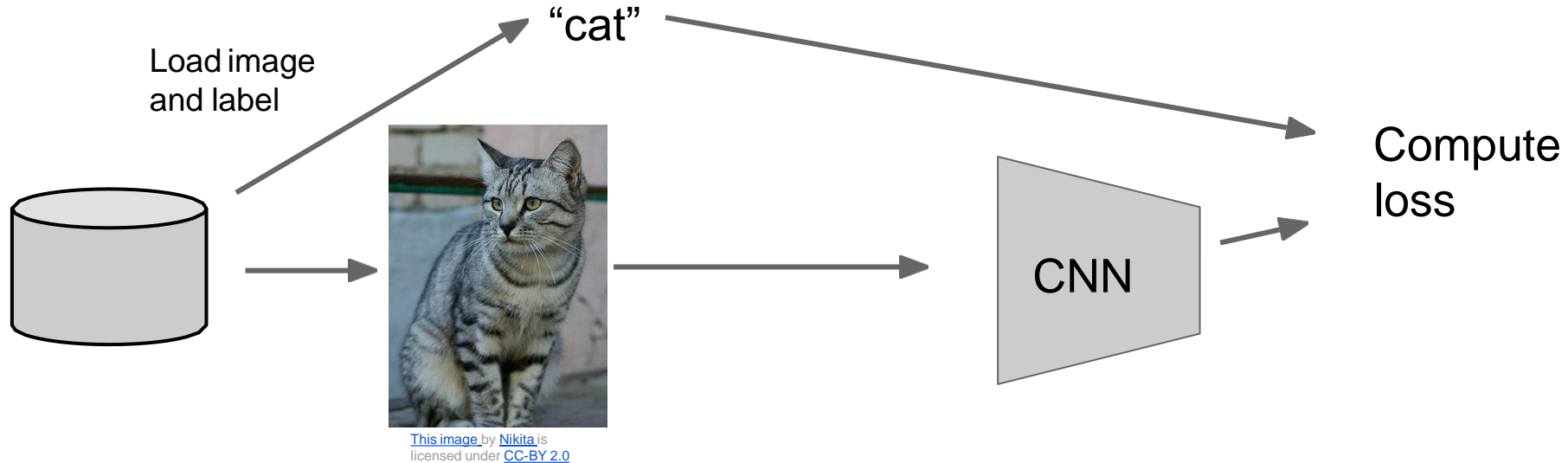
$$y = f(x) = E_z[f(x, z)] = \int p(z)f(x, z)dz$$

**Example:** Batch Normalization

**Training:** Normalize using stats from random minibatches

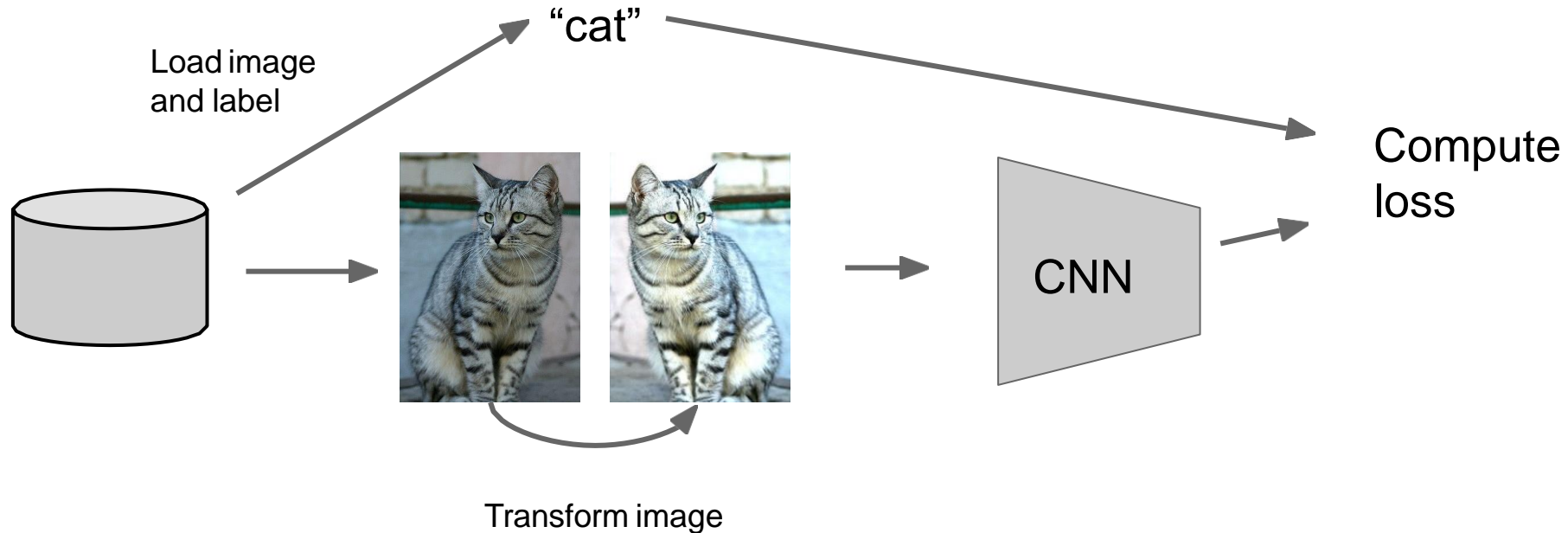
**Testing:** Use fixed stats to normalize

# Regularization: Data Augmentation





# Regularization: Data Augmentation



# Data Augmentation

## Horizontal Flips



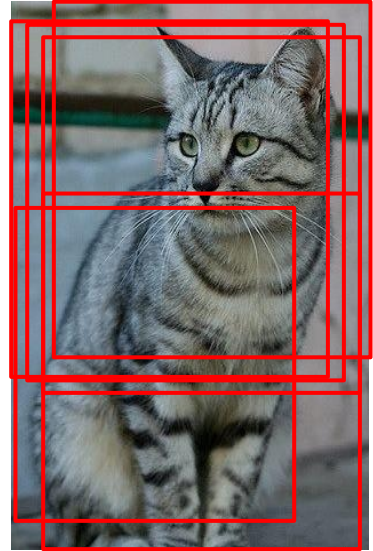
# Data Augmentation

## Random crops and scales

**Training:** sample random crops / scales

ResNet:

1. Pick random  $L$  in range  $[256, 480]$
2. Resize training image, short side =  $L$
3. Sample random  $224 \times 224$  patch



# Data Augmentation

## Random crops and scales

**Training:** sample random crops / scales

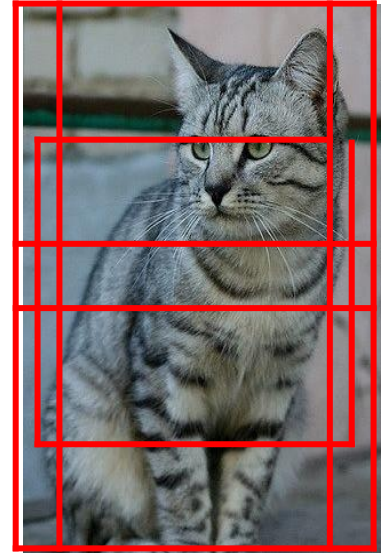
ResNet:

1. Pick random  $L$  in range  $[256, 480]$
2. Resize training image, short side =  $L$
3. Sample random  $224 \times 224$  patch

**Testing:** average a fixed set of crops

ResNet:

1. Resize image at 5 scales:  $\{224, 256, 384, 480, 640\}$
2. For each size, use 10  $224 \times 224$  crops: 4 corners + center, + flips



# Data Augmentation

## Color Jitter

Simple: Randomize  
contrast and brightness



Training Neural Networks

# Data Augmentation

## Color Jitter

Simple: Randomize  
contrast and brightness



## More Complex:

1. Apply PCA to all [R, G, B] pixels in training set
2. Sample a “color offset” along principal component directions
3. Add offset to all pixels of a training image

(As seen in [Krizhevsky et al. 2012], ResNet, etc)

# Data Augmentation



















Get creative for your problem!

Examples of data augmentations:

- translation
- rotation
- stretching
- shearing,
- lens distortions, ... (go crazy)



# Automatic Data Augmentation

	Original	Sub-policy 1	Sub-policy 2	Sub-policy 3	Sub-policy 4	Sub-policy 5
Batch 1						
Batch 2						
Batch 3						
		ShearX, 0.9, 7 Invert, 0.2, 3	ShearY, 0.7, 6 Solarize, 0.4, 8	ShearX, 0.9, 4 AutoContrast, 0.8, 3	Invert, 0.9, 3 Equalize, 0.6, 3	ShearY, 0.8, 5 AutoContrast, 0.7, 3

Cubuk et al., "AutoAugment: Learning Augmentation Strategies from Data", CVPR 2019

Training Neural Networks



# Regularization: A common pattern

**Training:** Add random noise

**Testing:** Marginalize over the noise

## Examples:

Dropout

Batch Normalization

Data Augmentation

# Regularization: DropConnect

**Training:** Drop connections between neurons (set weights to 0)

**Testing:** Use all the connections

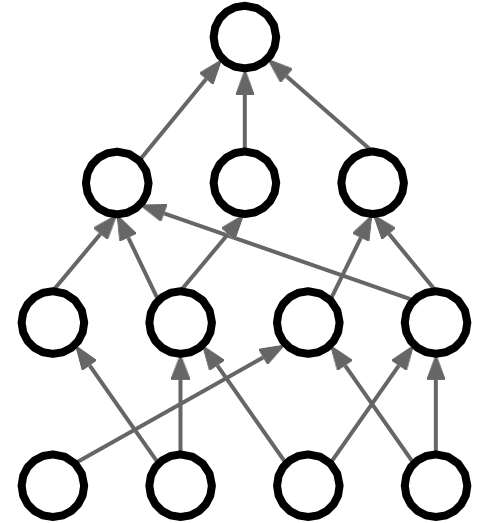
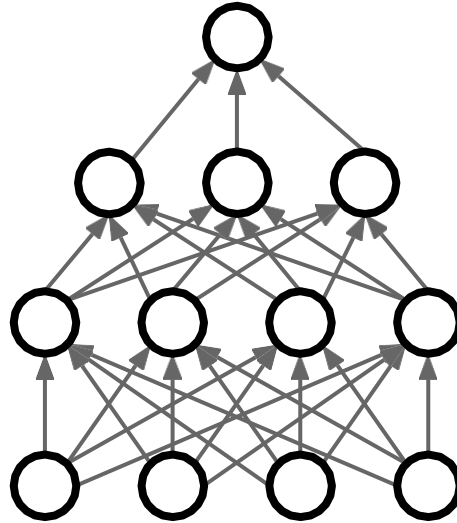
## Examples:

Dropout

Batch Normalization

Data Augmentation

**DropConnect**



# Regularization: Fractional Pooling

**Training:** Use randomized pooling regions

**Testing:** Average predictions from several regions

## Examples:

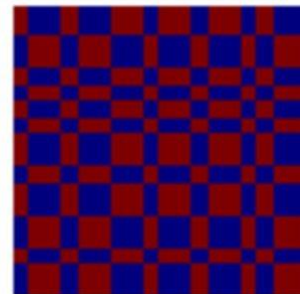
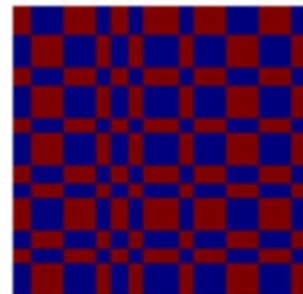
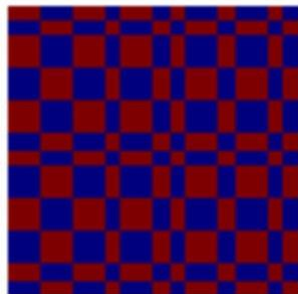
Dropout

Batch Normalization

Data Augmentation

DropConnect

Fractional Max Pooling



# Regularization: Stochastic Depth

**Training:** Skip some layers in the network

**Testing:** Use all the layer

## Examples:

Dropout

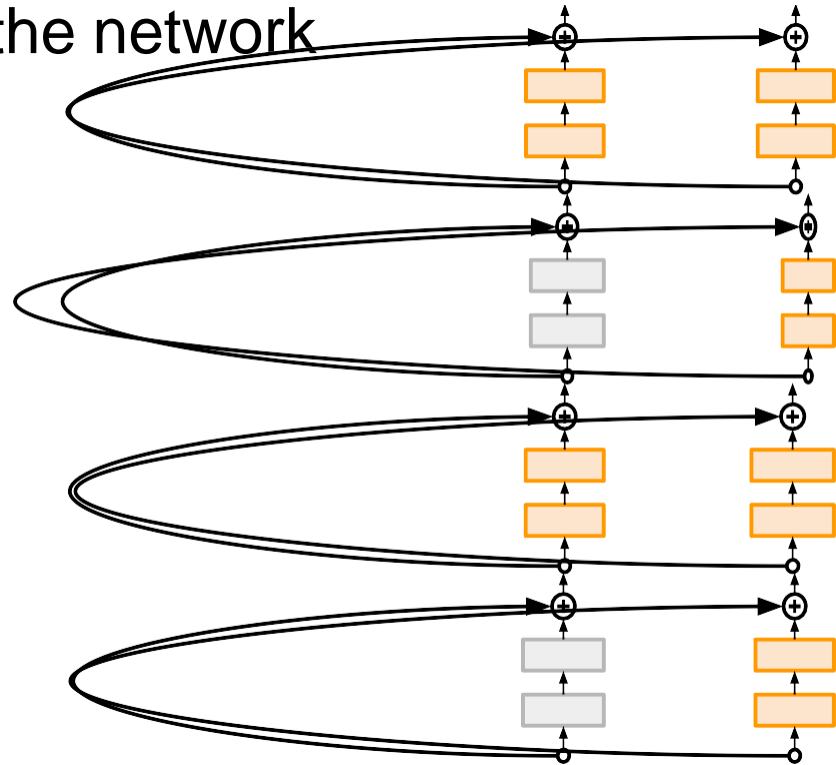
Batch Normalization

Data Augmentation

DropConnect

Fractional Max Pooling

Stochastic Depth



Huang et al, "Deep Networks with Stochastic Depth", ECCV 2016

# Regularization: Cutout

**Training:** Set random image regions to zero

**Testing:** Use full image

## Examples:

Dropout

Batch Normalization

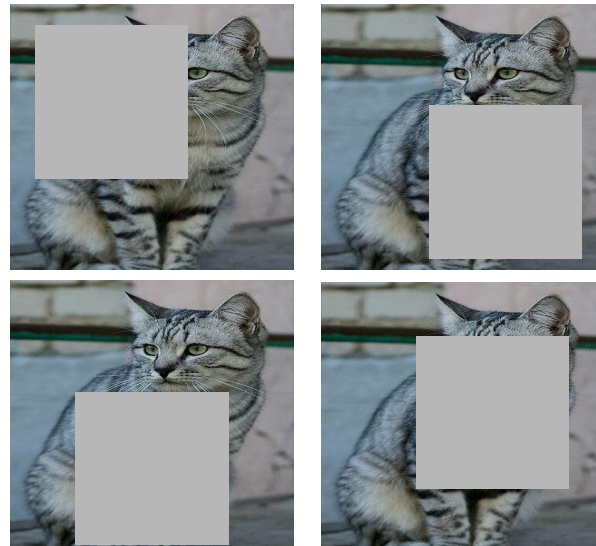
Data Augmentation

DropConnect

Fractional Max Pooling

Stochastic Depth

**Cutout / Random Crop**



Works very well for small datasets like CIFAR,  
less common for large datasets like ImageNet

DeVries and Taylor, "Improved Regularization of  
Convolutional Neural Networks with Cutout", arXiv 2017

# Regularization: Mixup

**Training:** Train on random blends of images

**Testing:** Use original images

## Examples:

Dropout

Batch Normalization

Data Augmentation

DropConnect

Fractional Max Pooling

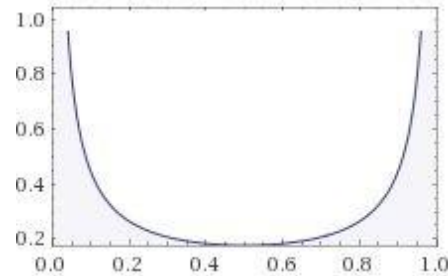
Stochastic Depth

Cutout / Random Crop

Mixup



Randomly blend the pixels of pairs of training images, e.g. 40% cat, 60% dog



CNN

Target label:

cat: 0.4

dog: 0.6

# Regularization - In practice

**Training:** Add random noise

**Testing:** Marginalize over the noise

## Examples:

Dropout

Batch Normalization

Data Augmentation

DropConnect

Fractional Max Pooling

Stochastic Depth

Cutout / Random Crop

Mixup

- Consider dropout for large fully-connected layers
- Batch normalization and data augmentation almost always a good idea
- Try cutout and mixup especially for small classification datasets

# Choosing Hyperparameters

(without tons of GPUs)



# Choosing Hyperparameters

## Step 1: Check initial loss

Turn off weight decay, sanity check loss at initialization  
e.g.  $\log(C)$  for softmax with  $C$  classes

# Choosing Hyperparameters

**Step 1:** Check initial loss

**Step 2:** Overfit a small sample

Try to train to 100% training accuracy on a small sample of training data (~5-10 minibatches); fiddle with architecture, learning rate, weight initialization

Loss not going down? LR too low, bad initialization

Loss explodes to Inf or NaN? LR too high, bad initialization

# Choosing Hyperparameters

**Step 1:** Check initial loss

**Step 2:** Overfit a small sample

**Step 3:** Find LR that makes loss go down

Use the architecture from the previous step, use all training data, turn on small weight decay, find a learning rate that makes the loss drop significantly within ~100 iterations

Good learning rates to try:  $1e-1$ ,  $1e-2$ ,  $1e-3$ ,  $1e-4$

# Choosing Hyperparameters

**Step 1:** Check initial loss

**Step 2:** Overfit a small sample

**Step 3:** Find LR that makes loss go down

**Step 4:** Coarse grid, train for ~1-5 epochs

Choose a few values of learning rate and weight decay around what worked from Step 3, train a few models for ~1-5 epochs.

Good weight decay to try:  $1e-4$ ,  $1e-5$ , 0

# Choosing Hyperparameters

**Step 1:** Check initial loss

**Step 2:** Overfit a small sample

**Step 3:** Find LR that makes loss go down

**Step 4:** Coarse grid, train for ~1-5 epochs

**Step 5:** Refine grid, train longer

Pick best models from Step 4, train them for longer (~10-20 epochs) without learning rate decay

# Choosing Hyperparameters

**Step 1:** Check initial loss

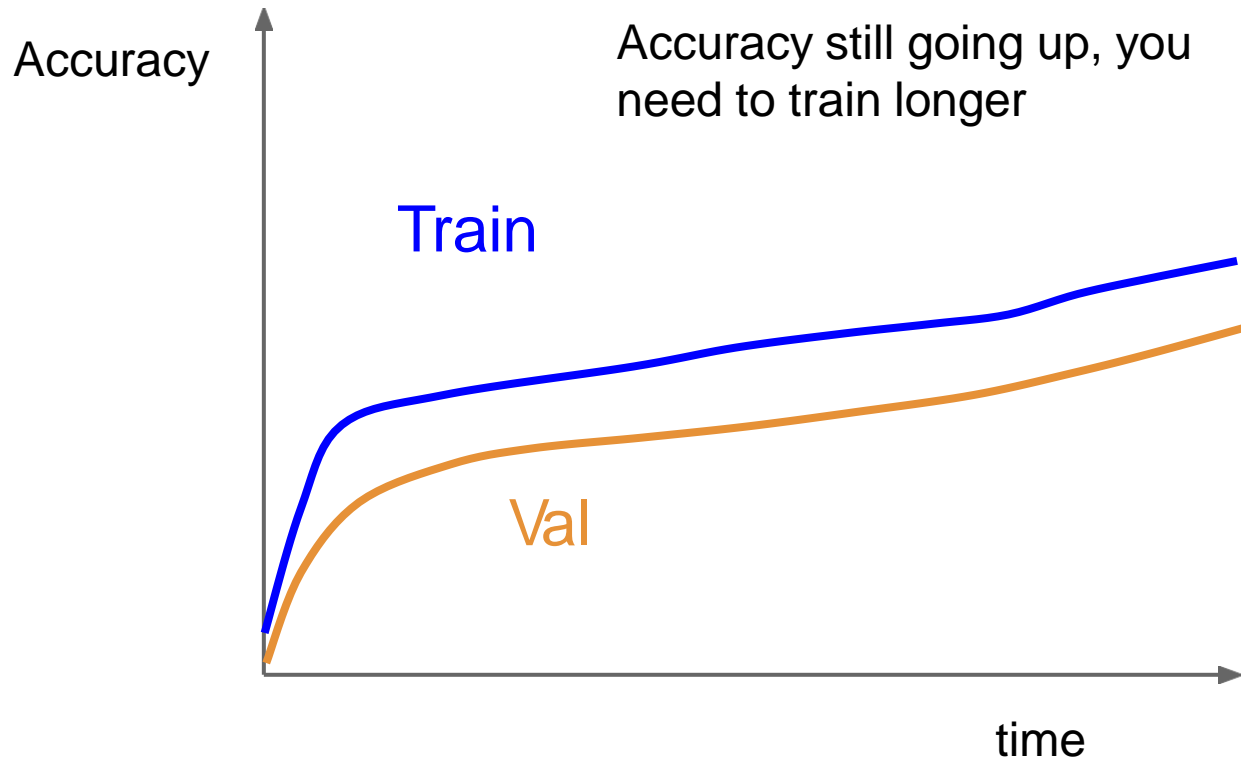
**Step 2:** Overfit a small sample

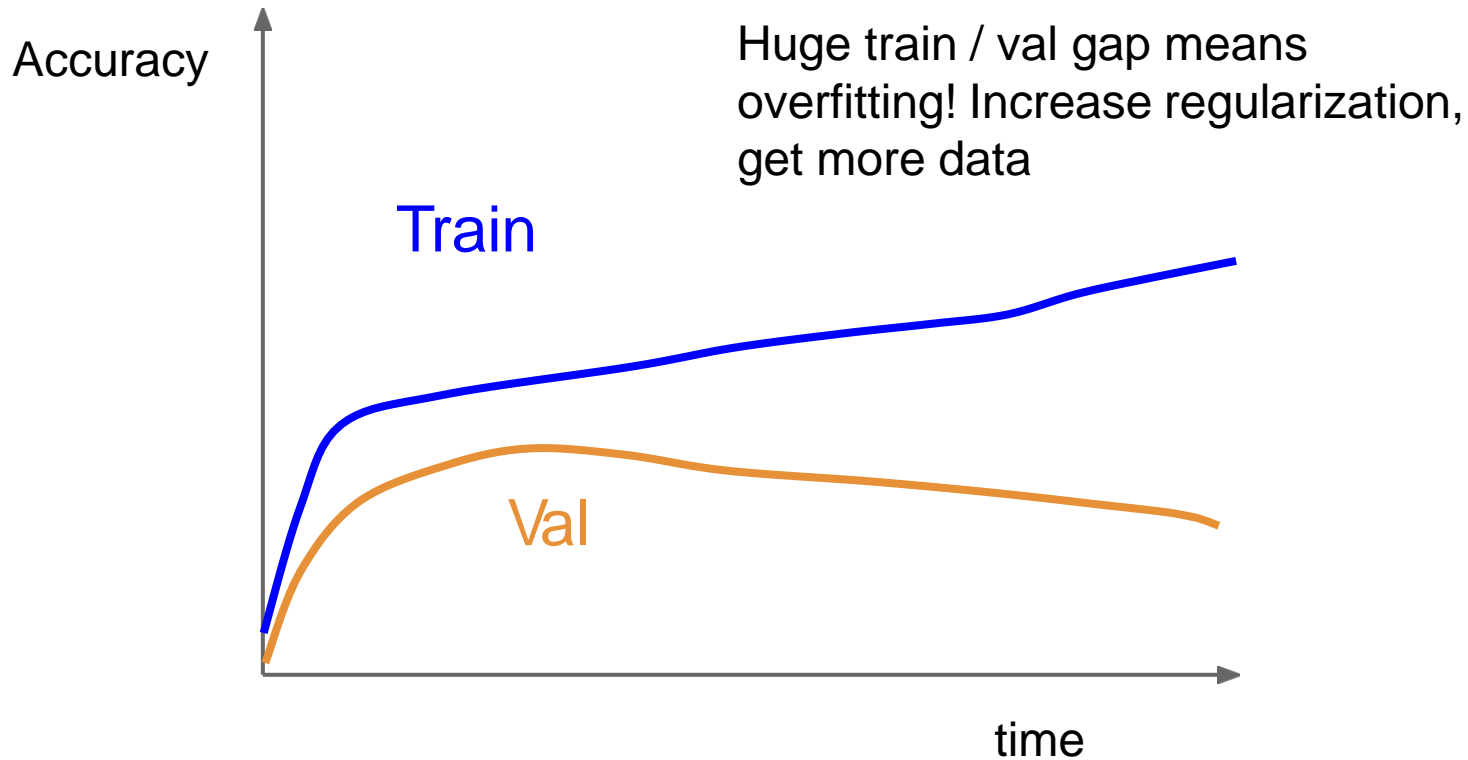
**Step 3:** Find LR that makes loss go down

**Step 4:** Coarse grid, train for ~1-5 epochs

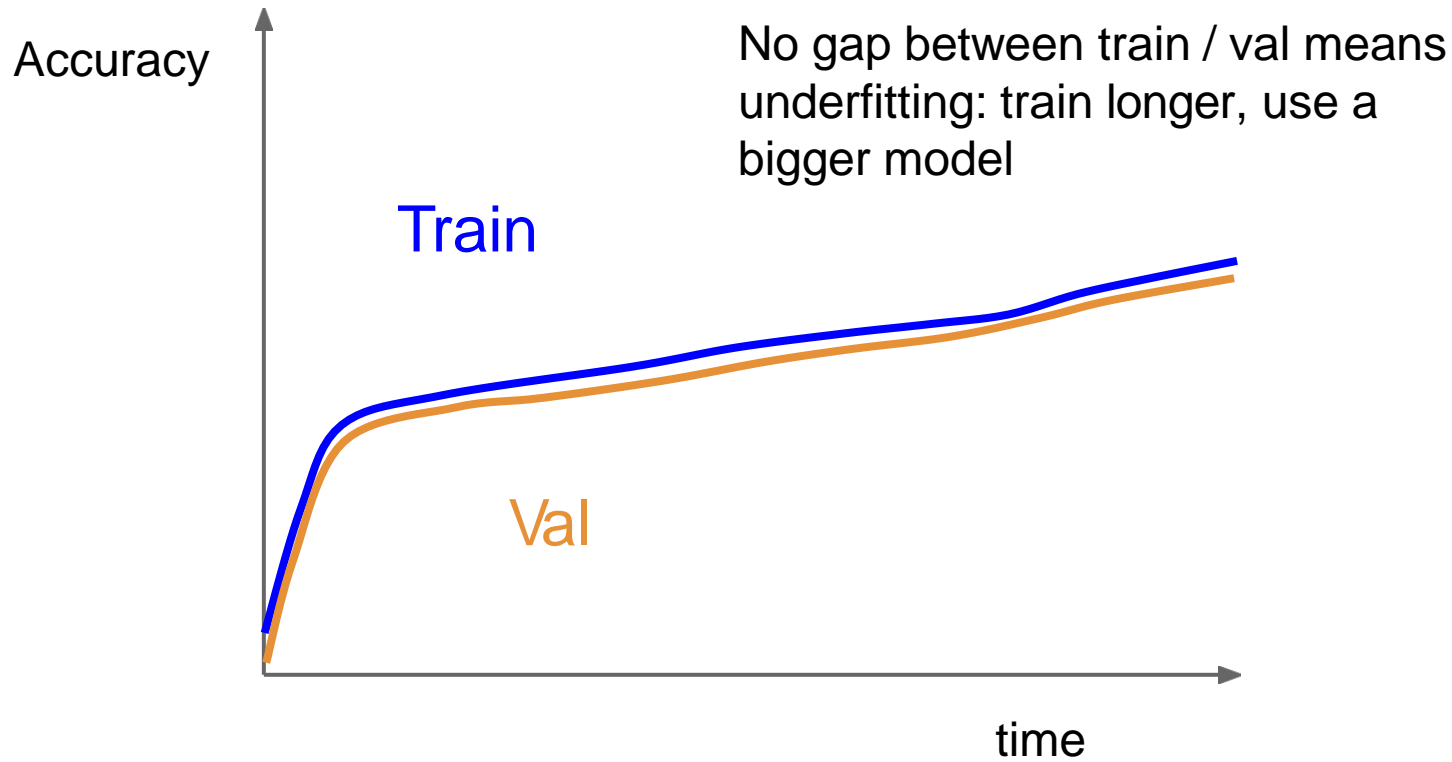
**Step 5:** Refine grid, train longer

**Step 6:** Look at loss and accuracy curves



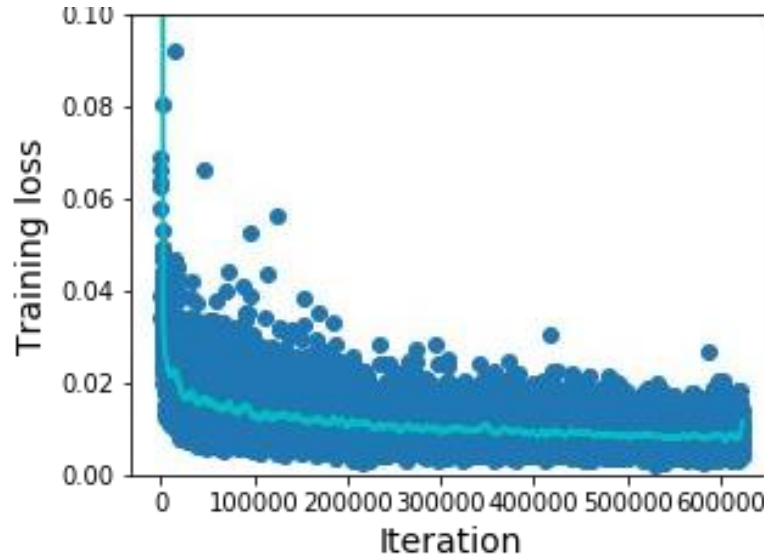




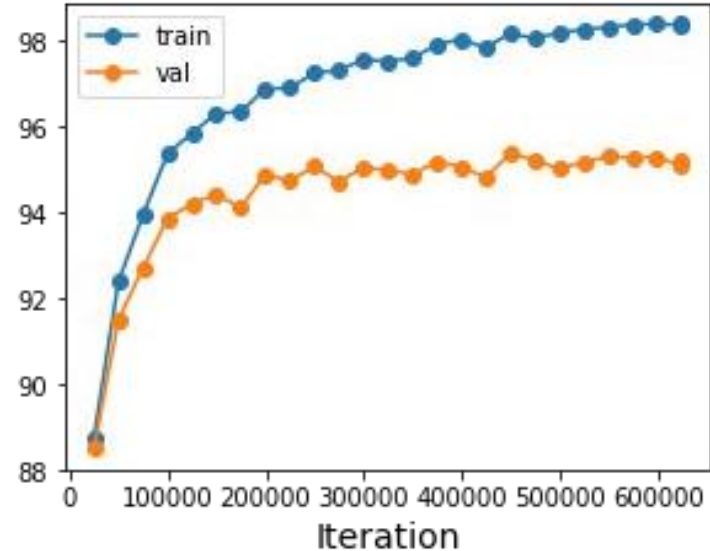


# Look at learning curves!

Training Loss



Train / Val Accuracy

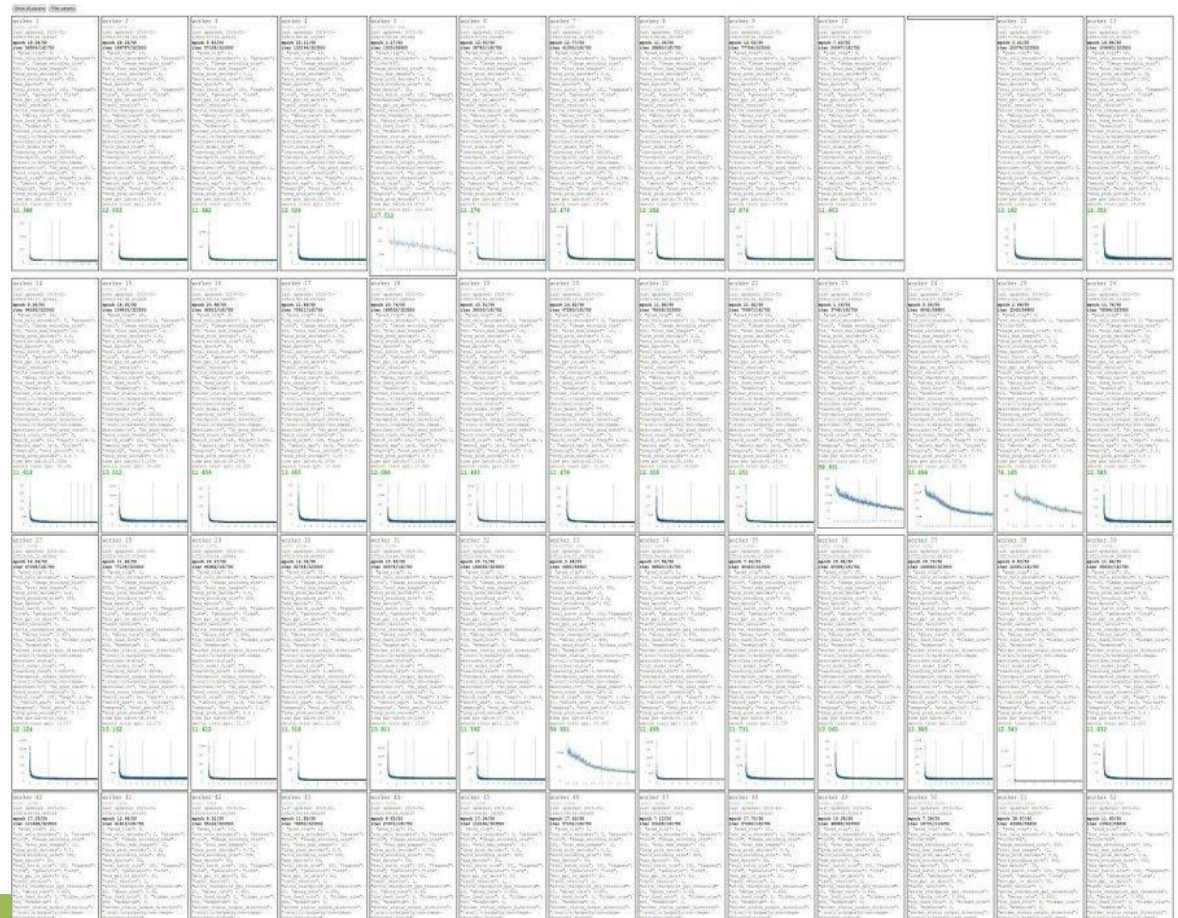


Losses may be noisy, use a scatter plot and also plot moving average to see trends better

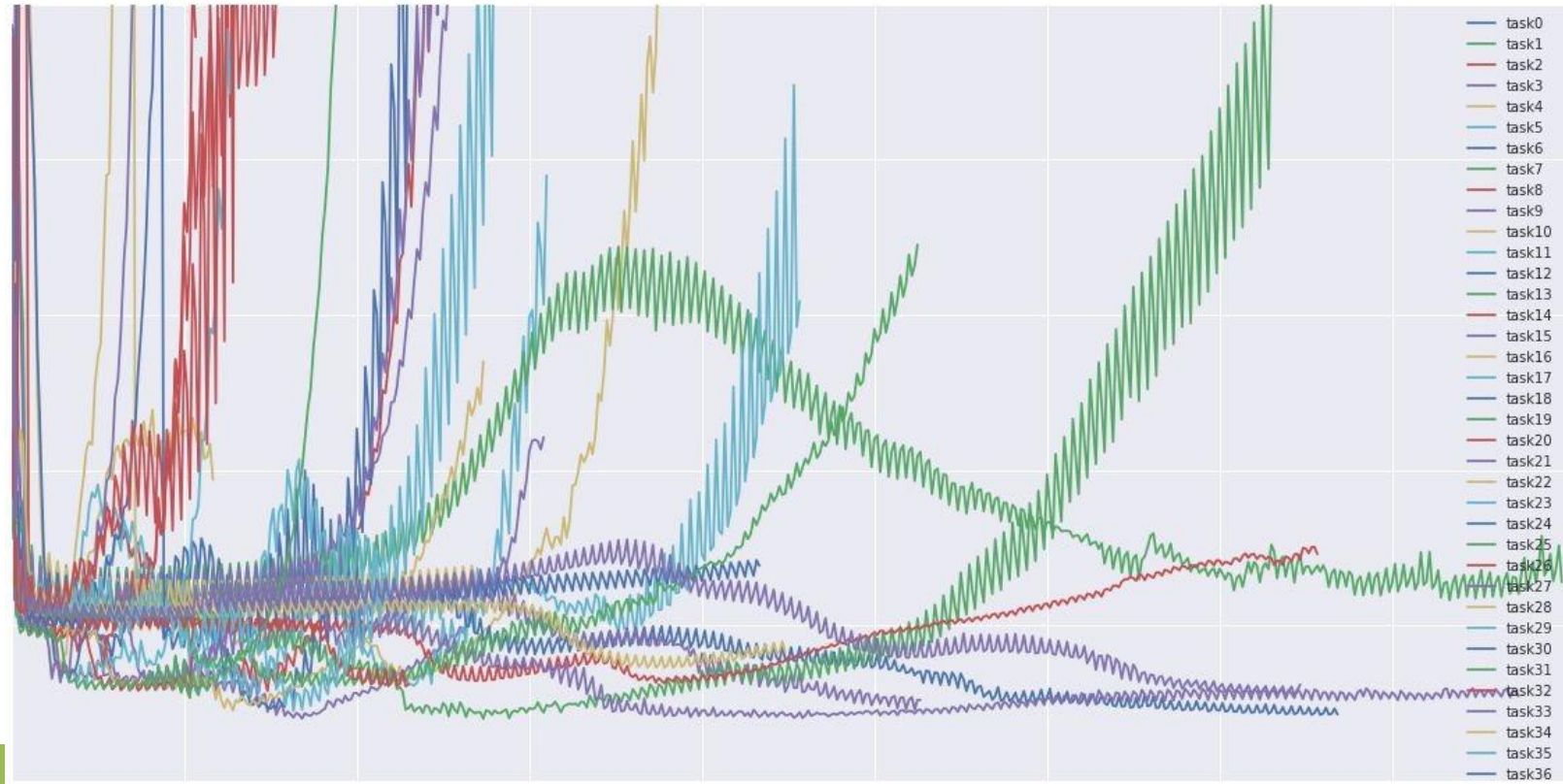
# Cross-validation

We develop "command centers" to visualize all our models training with different hyperparameters

check out [weights and biases](#)



You can plot all your loss curves for different hyperparameters on a single plot





Don't look at accuracy or loss curves for too long!



# Choosing Hyperparameters

**Step 1:** Check initial loss

**Step 2:** Overfit a small sample

**Step 3:** Find LR that makes loss go down

**Step 4:** Coarse grid, train for ~1-5 epochs

**Step 5:** Refine grid, train longer

**Step 6:** Look at loss and accuracy curves

**Step 7:** GOTO step 5

# Random Search vs. Grid Search

*Random Search for  
Hyper-Parameter Optimization*  
Bergstra and Bengio, 2012

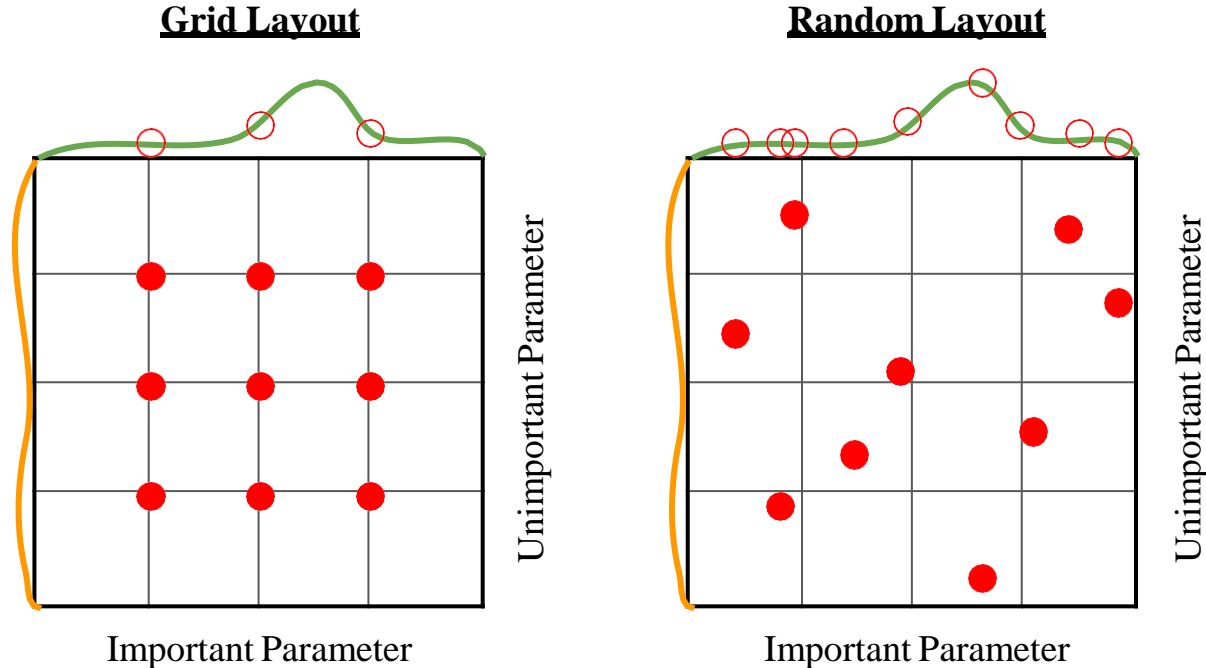


Illustration of Bergstra et al., 2012 by Shayne  
Longpre, copyright CS231n 2017

# Summary

- Improve your training error:
  - Optimizers
  - Learning rate schedules
- Improve your test error:
  - Regularization
  - Choosing Hyperparameters



# Summary

## TLDRs

We looked in detail at:

- Activation Functions (use ReLU)
- Data Preprocessing (images: subtract mean)
- Weight Initialization (use Xavier/He init)
- Batch Normalization (use this!)
- Transfer learning (use this if you can!)

# Next time: Visualizing and Understanding