Feedforward Neural Network recap

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Lecture goal

- Recap fundamentals of Neural Networks
  - The perceptron and the activation functions
  - Single-layer and Deep architectures
  - Loss minimization and stochastic gradient descent
  - Overfitting

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Disclaimer

- Neural networks and deep learning architectures are a prerequisite
  - This body of knowledge is intended to be a quick refresh of basic concepts that are particularly relevant to Deep NLP

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Credits

- The following slides used as supporting materials are an extract of
  - Alexander Amini and Ava Soleimany
  - 6.S191 Introduction to Deep Learning. MIT Course
  - https://introtodeeplearning.com
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What is Deep Learning?

Artificial Intelligence

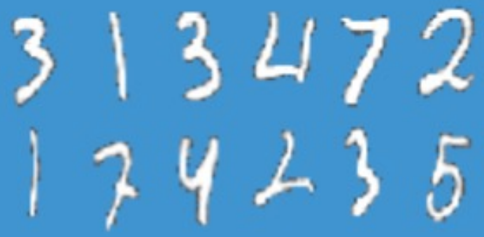
Any technique that enables computers to mimic human behavior

Machine Learning

Ability to learn without explicitly being programmed

Deep Learning

Extract patterns from data using neural networks



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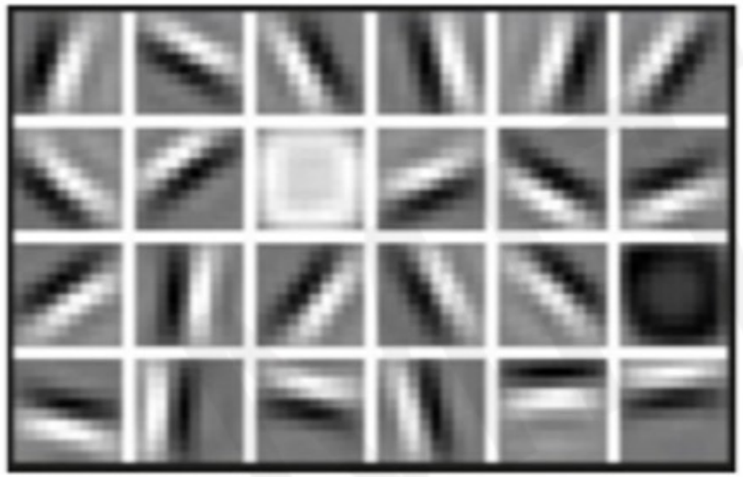
Why Deep Learning?

Hand engineered features are time consuming, brittle, and not scalable in practice

Can we learn the **underlying features** directly from data?

Low Level Features



Lines & Edges

Mid Level Features

Eyes & Nose & Ears

High Level Features

Facial Structure

Why Now?

Neural Networks date back decades, so why the resurgence?

1952 Stochastic Gradient Descent

1958 Perceptron
- Learnable Weights

⋮

1986 Backpropagation
- Multi-Layer Perceptron

1995 Deep Convolutional NN
- Digit Recognition

⋮

1. Big Data

- Larger Datasets
- Easier Collection & Storage

IMAGENET

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

2. Hardware

- Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)
- Massively Parallelizable

3. Software

- Improved Techniques
- New Models
- Toolboxes

TensorFlow

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The Perceptron

The structural building block of deep learning

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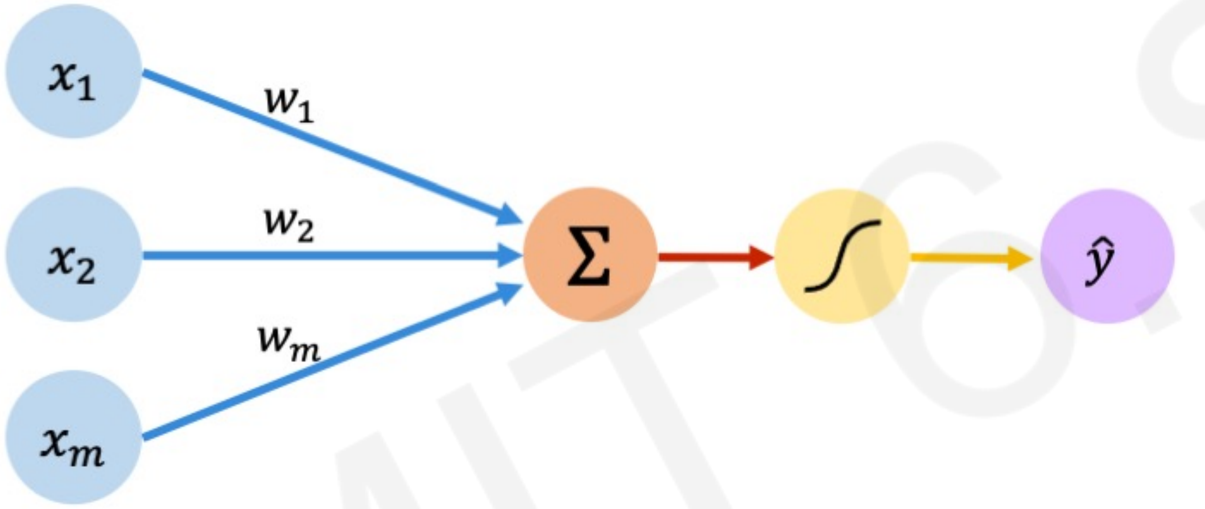
The Perceptron: Forward Propagation



Inputs Weights Sum Non-Linearity Output

Output

Linear combination of inputs

$$\hat{y} = g\left(\sum_{i=1}^{m} x_i \, w_i\right)$$

Non-linear activation function

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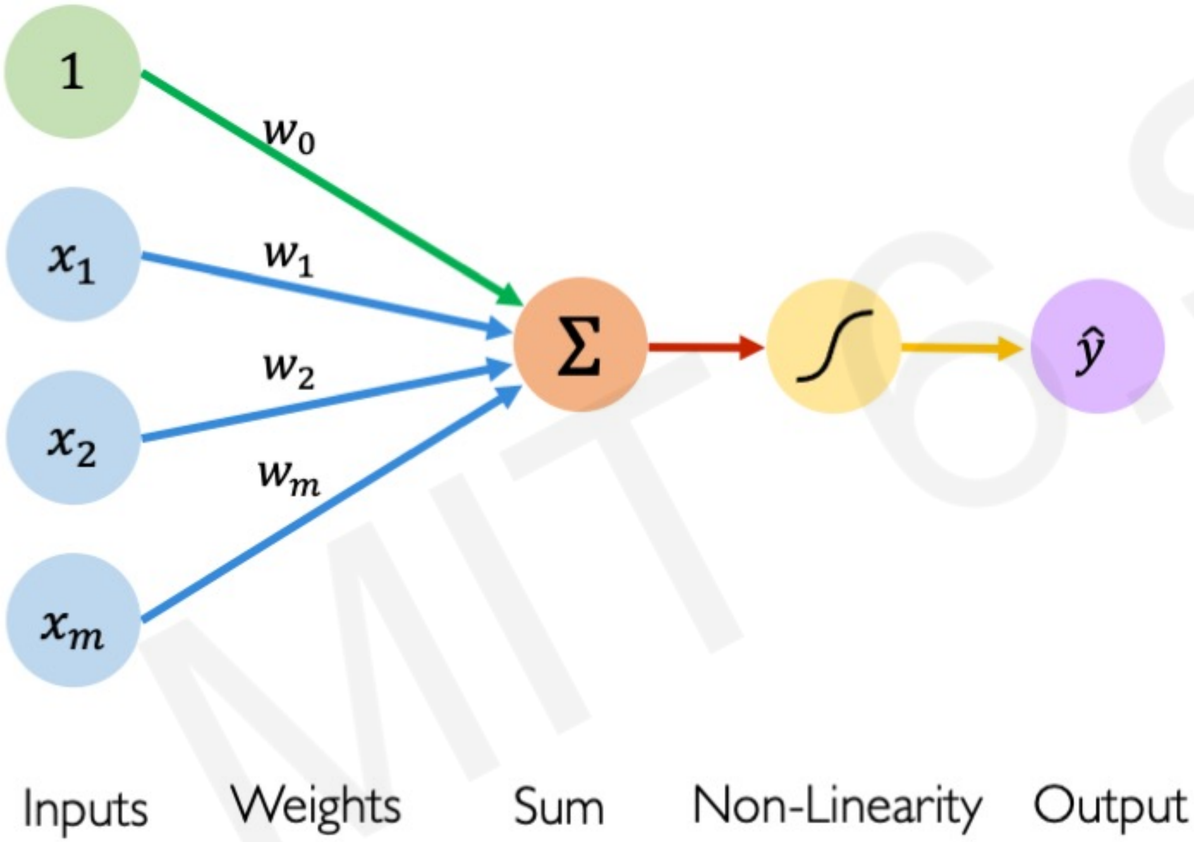
The Perceptron: Forward Propagation



Output

Linear combination of inputs

$$\hat{y} = g\left(w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{m} x_i w_i\right)$$

Non-linear activation function

Bias

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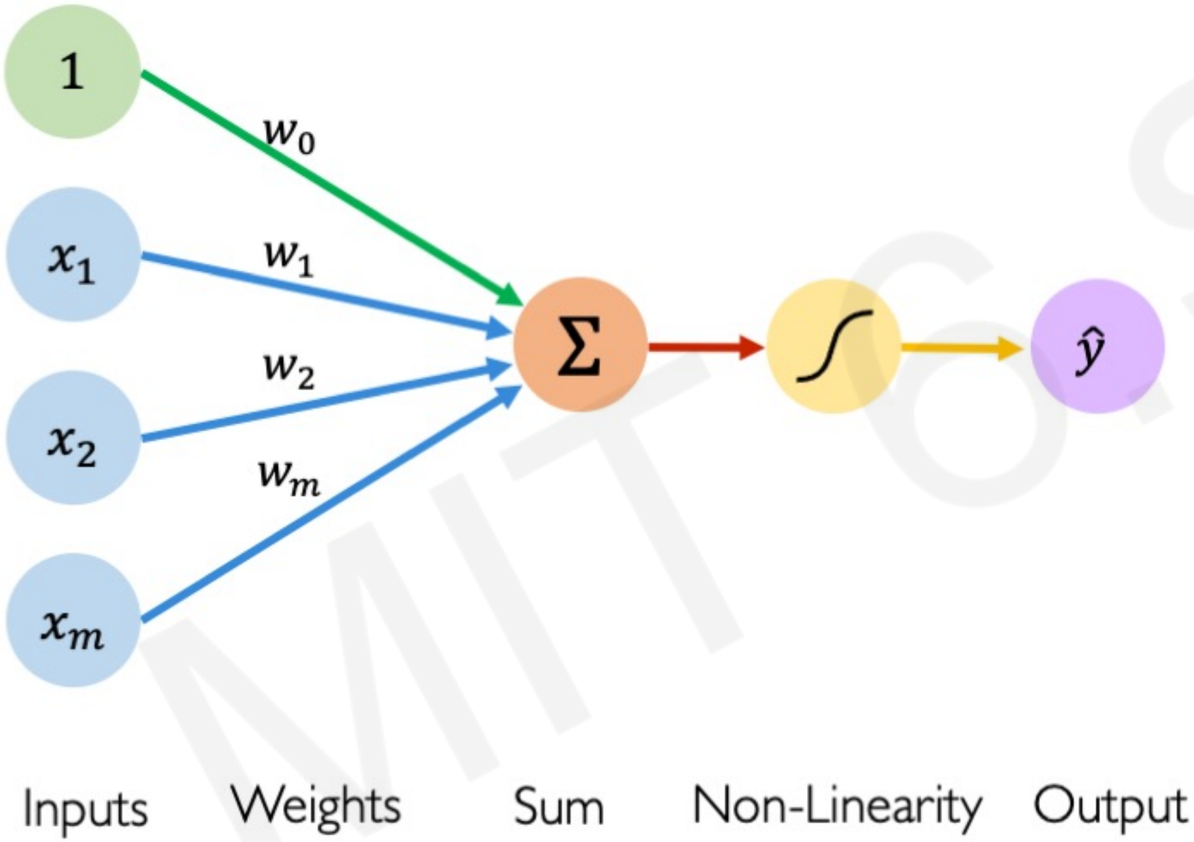
The Perceptron: Forward Propagation



$$\hat{y} = g\left(w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{m} x_i \, w_i\right)$$

$$\hat{y} = g\left(w_0 + \boldsymbol{X}^T \boldsymbol{W}\right)$$

where: $\boldsymbol{X} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix}$ and $\boldsymbol{W} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_m \end{bmatrix}$

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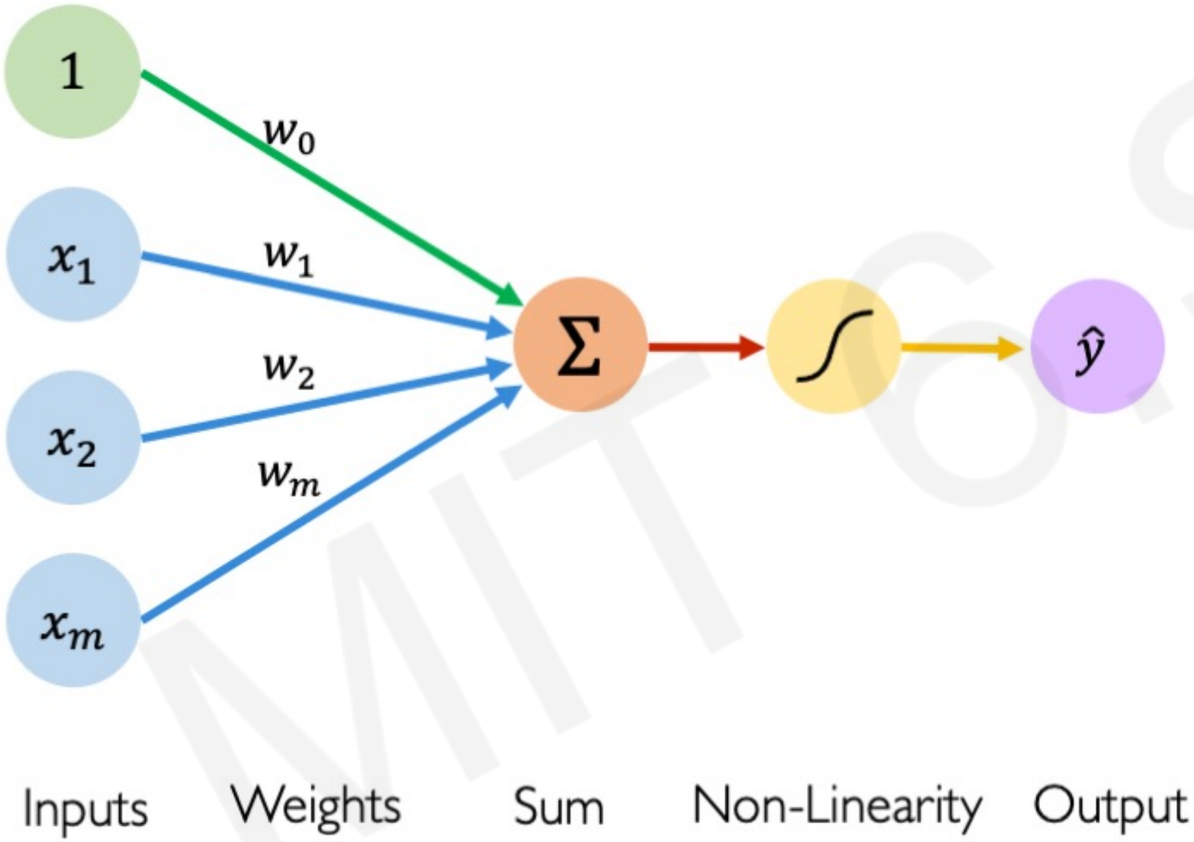
The Perceptron: Forward Propagation

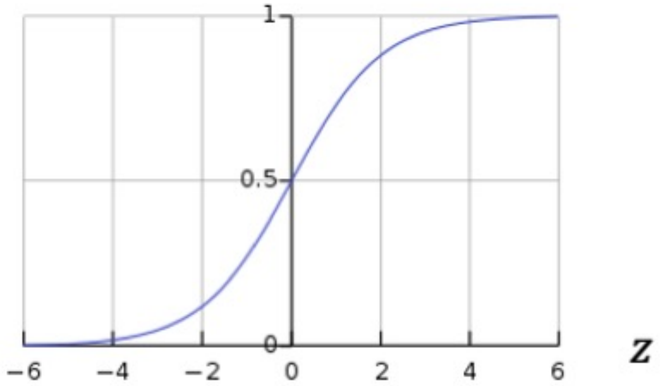


Activation Functions

$$\hat{y} = g\left(w_0 + \boldsymbol{X}^T \boldsymbol{W} \right)$$

- Example: sigmoid function

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



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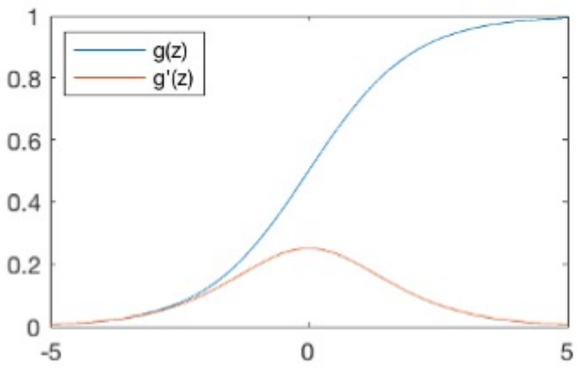
Common Activation Functions

Sigmoid Function

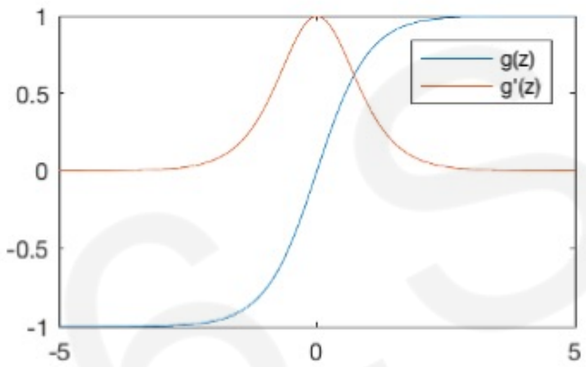


$$g(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}$$

$$g'(z) = g(z)(1 - g(z))$$

```
tf.math.sigmoid(z)
```

Hyperbolic Tangent

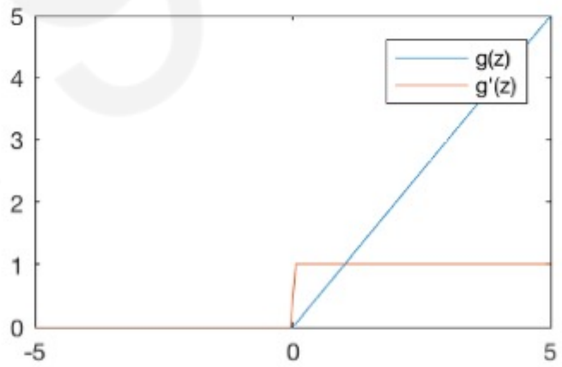


$$g(z) = \frac{e^{z} - e^{-z}}{e^{z} + e^{-z}}$$

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

```
tf.math.tanh(z)
```

Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU)



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

$$g'(z) = \begin{cases} 1, & z > 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

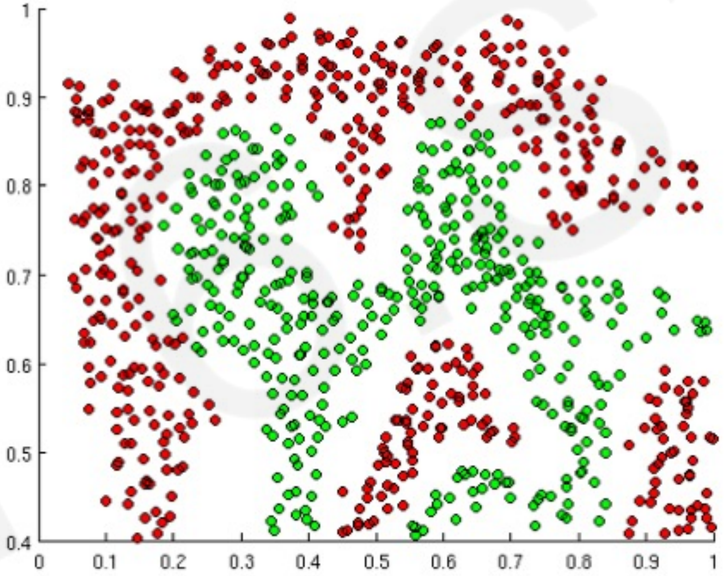
```
tf.nn.relu(z)
```

TensorFlow code blocks

NOTE: All activation functions are non-linear

Importance of Activation Functions

The purpose of activation functions is to ***introduce non-linearities*** *into the network*



What if we wanted to build a neural network to distinguish green vs red points?

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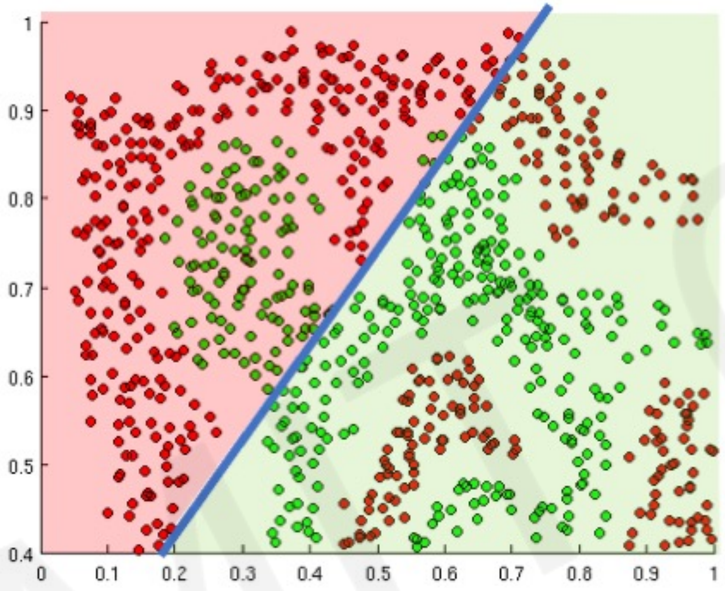
Importance of Activation Functions

The purpose of activation functions is to ***introduce non-linearities*** *into the network*



Linear activation functions produce linear decisions no matter the network size

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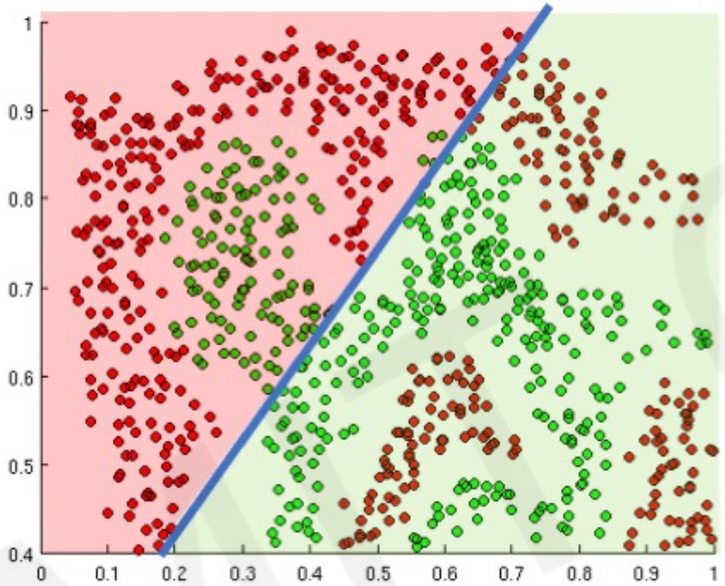
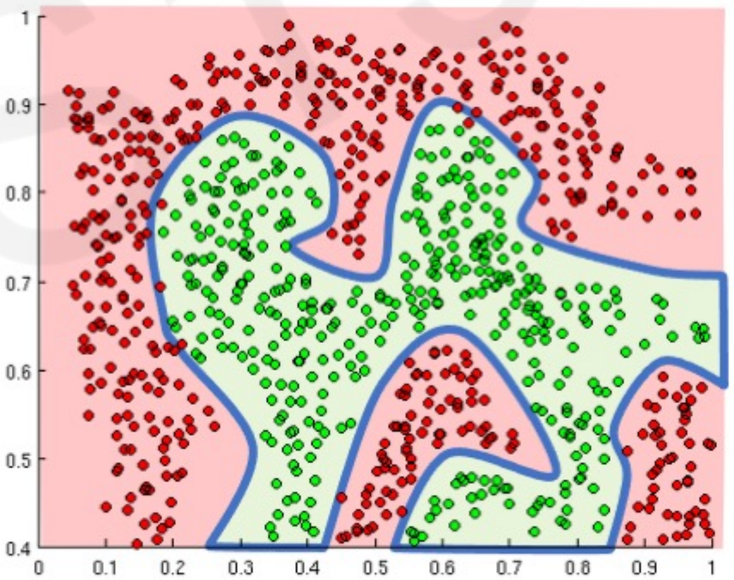
Importance of Activation Functions

The purpose of activation functions is to ***introduce non-linearities*** *into the network*

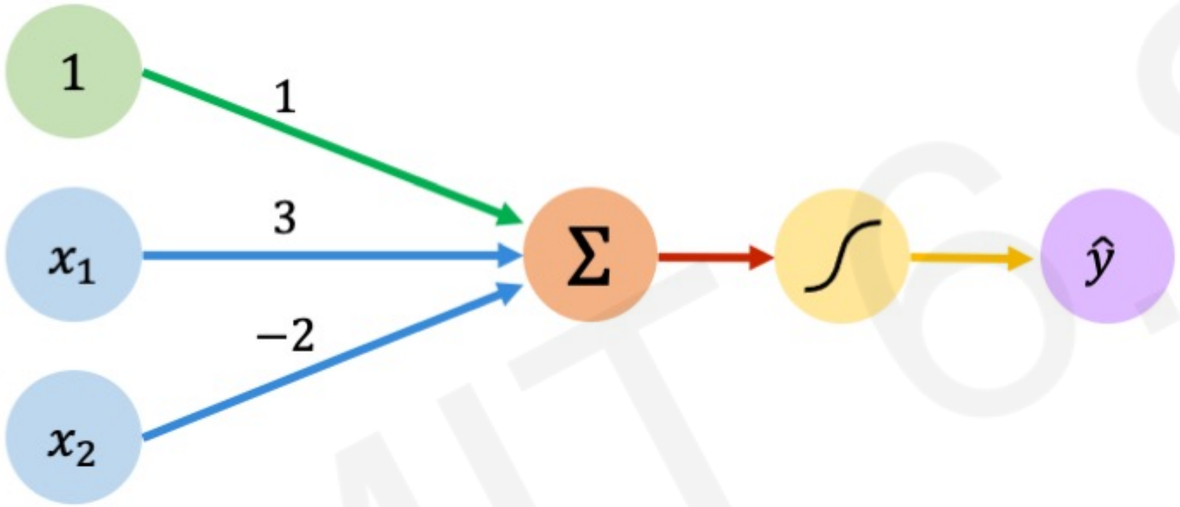


Linear activation functions produce linear decisions no matter the network size



Non-linearities allow us to approximate arbitrarily complex functions

The Perceptron: Example



We have: $w_0 = 1$ and $\boldsymbol{W} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\hat{y} = g(w_0 + \boldsymbol{X}^T \boldsymbol{W})$$

$$= g\left(1 + \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

$$\hat{y} = g(\underbrace{1 + 3x_1 - 2x_2}_{\text{This is just a line in 2D!}})$$

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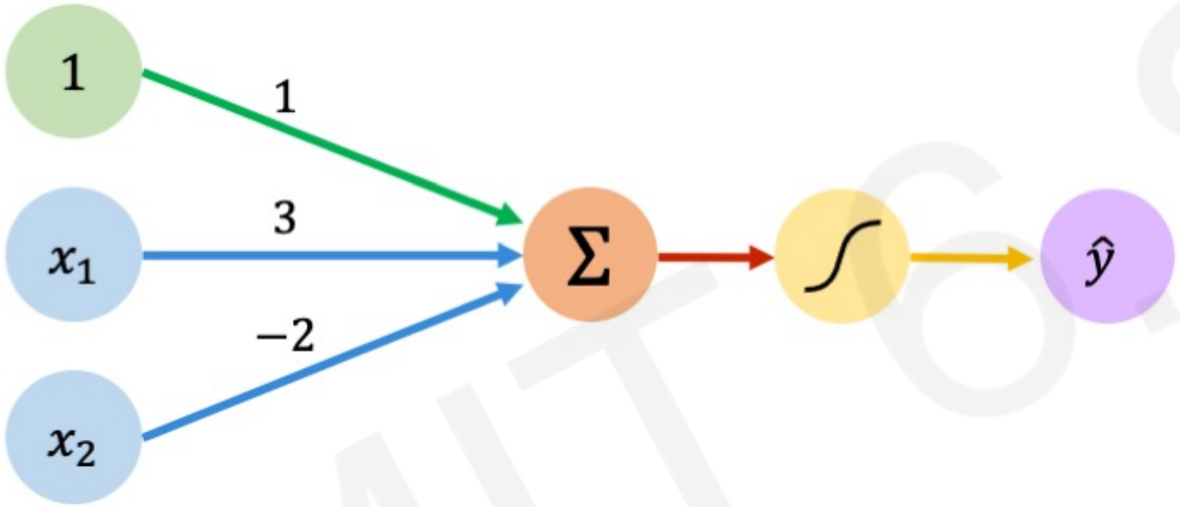
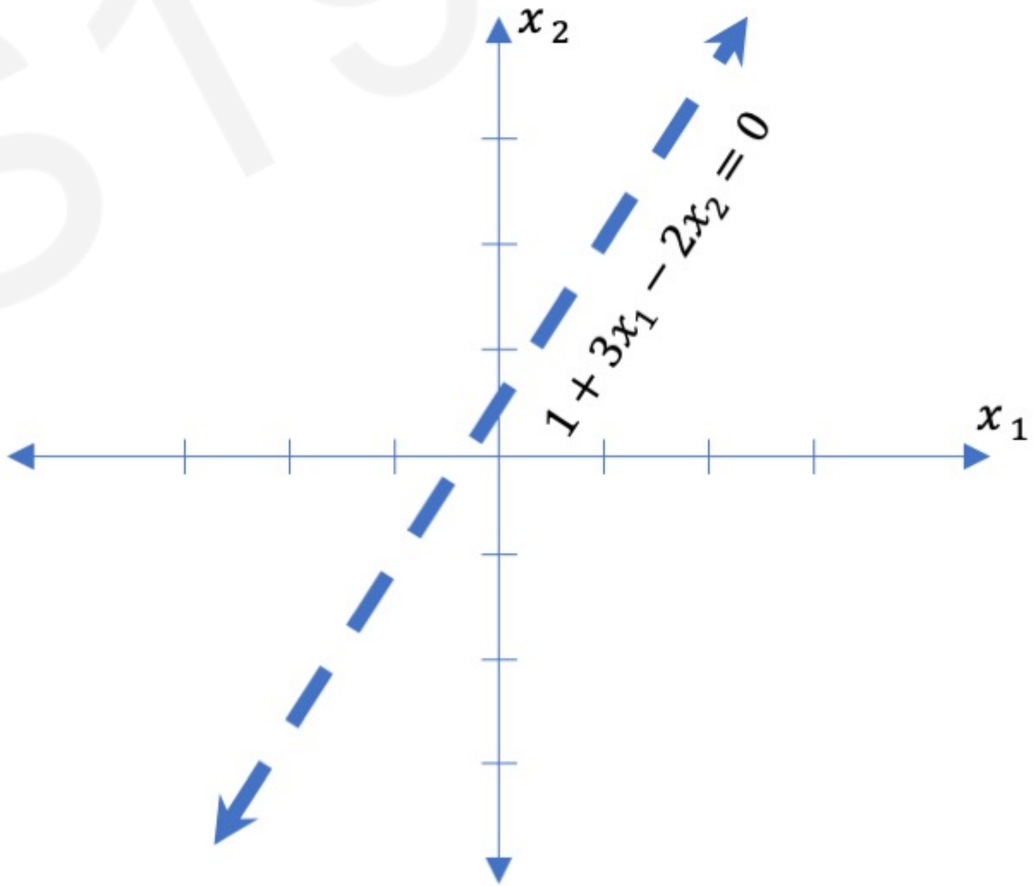
The Perceptron: Example



$$\hat{y} = g(1 + 3x_1 - 2x_2)$$



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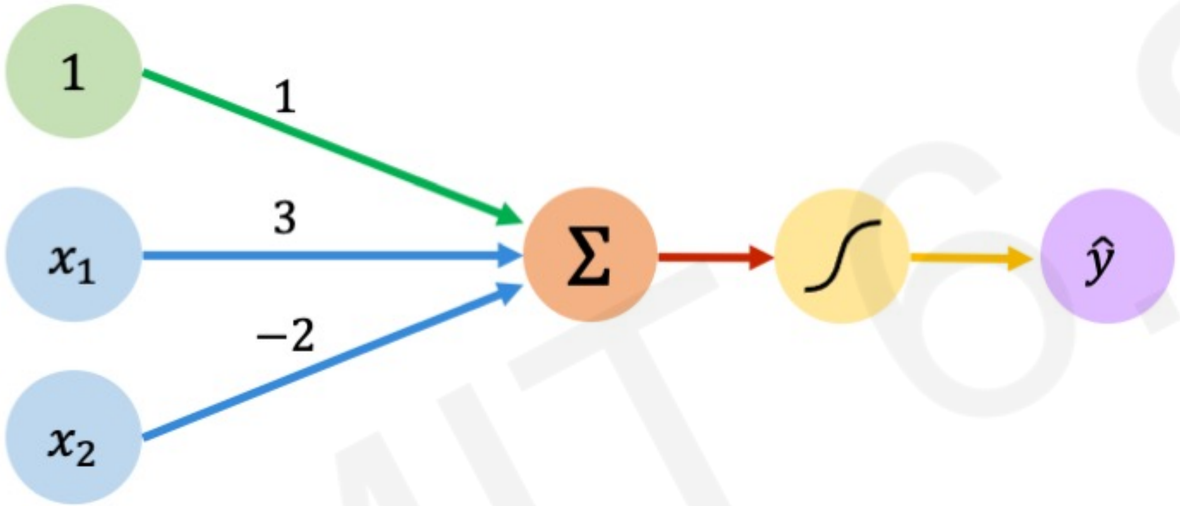
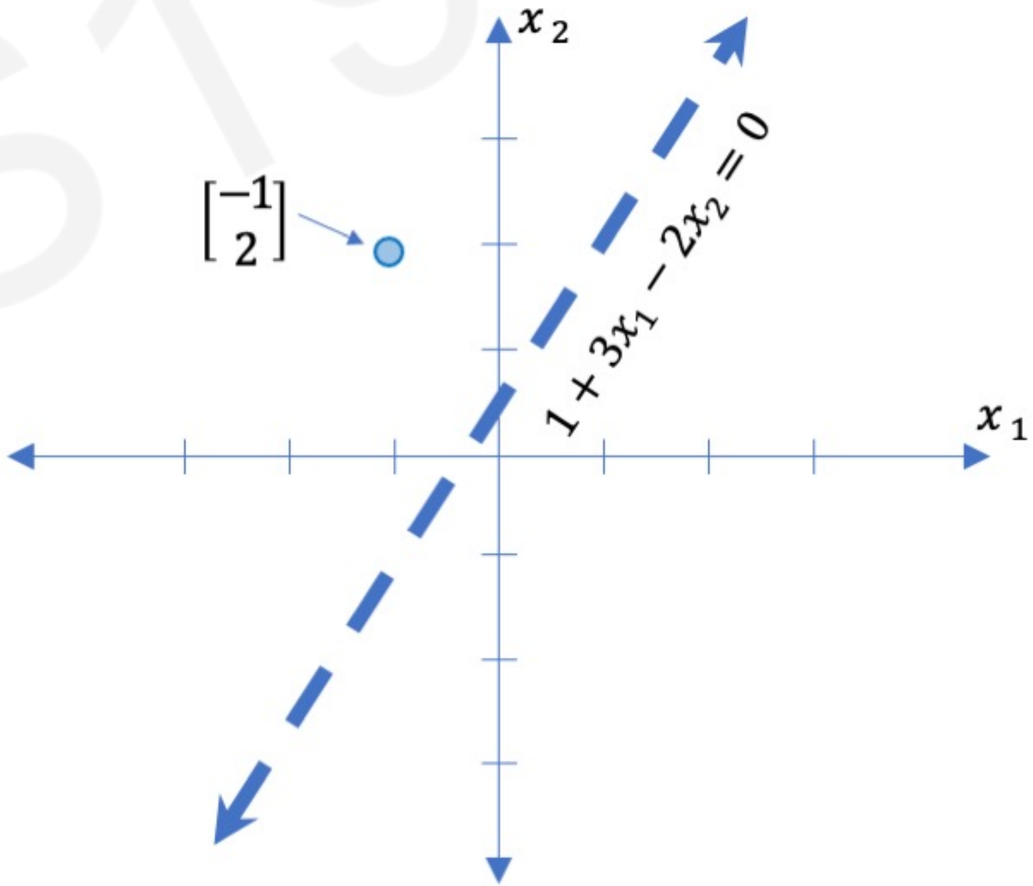
The Perceptron: Example



$$\hat{y} = g(1 + 3x_1 - 2x_2)$$



Assume we have input: $\boldsymbol{X} = \begin{bmatrix}-1\\2\end{bmatrix}$

$$\hat{y} = g\big(1 + (3 * -1) - (2 * 2)\big)$$
$$= g(-6) \approx 0.002$$

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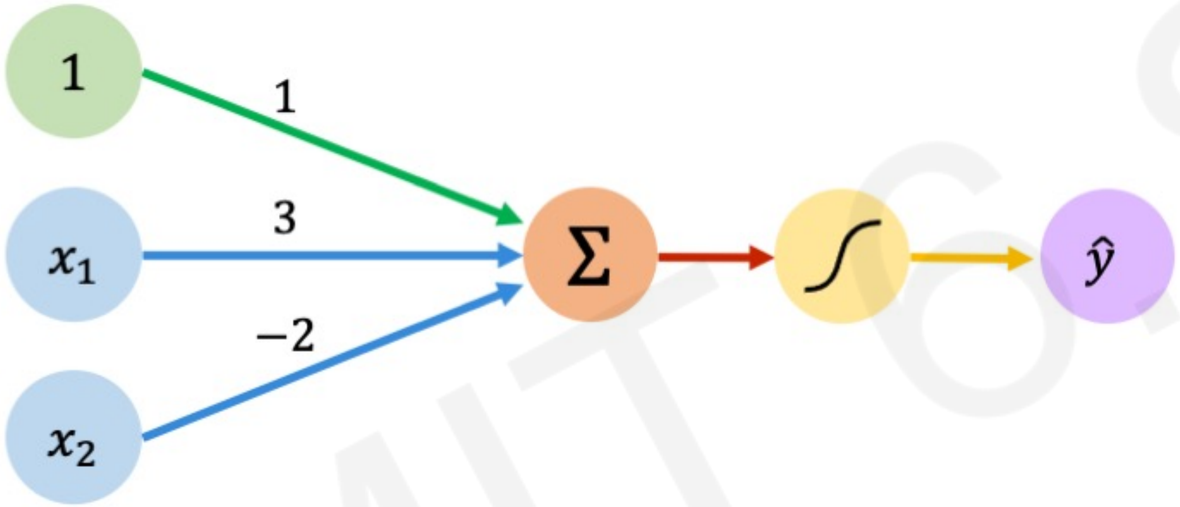
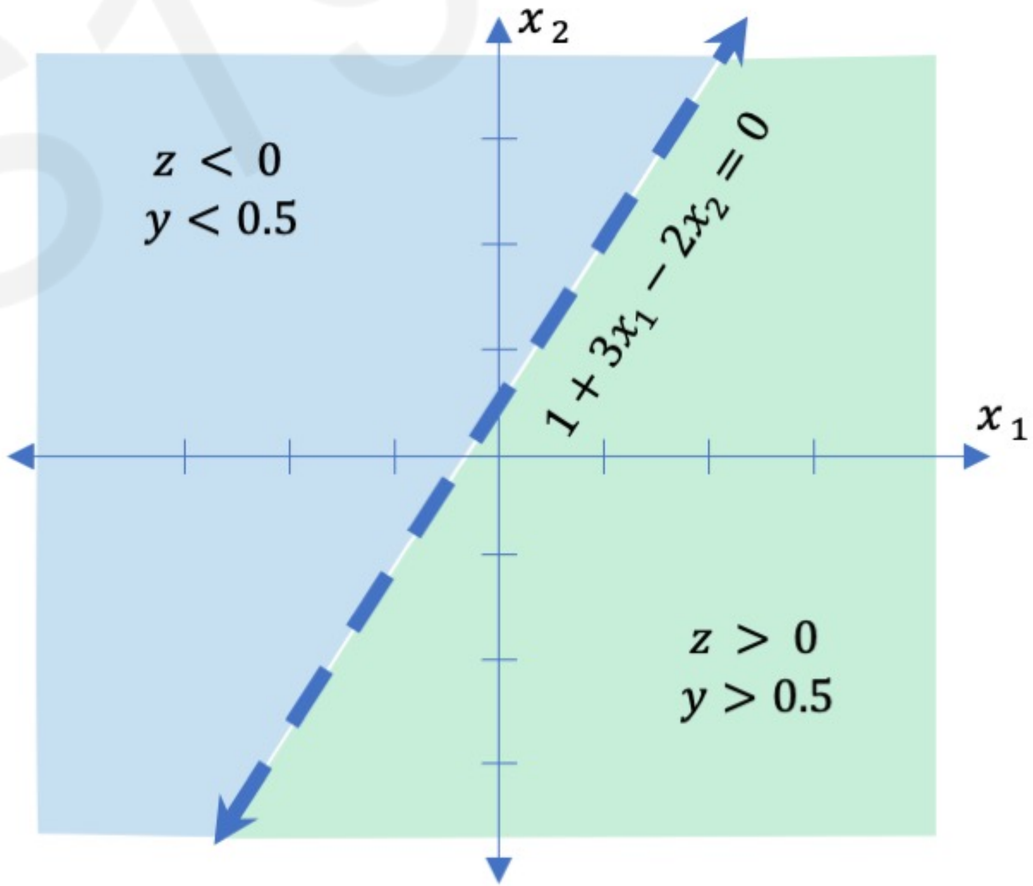
The Perceptron: Example



$$\hat{y} = g(1 + 3x_1 - 2x_2)$$



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Building Neural Networks with Perceptrons

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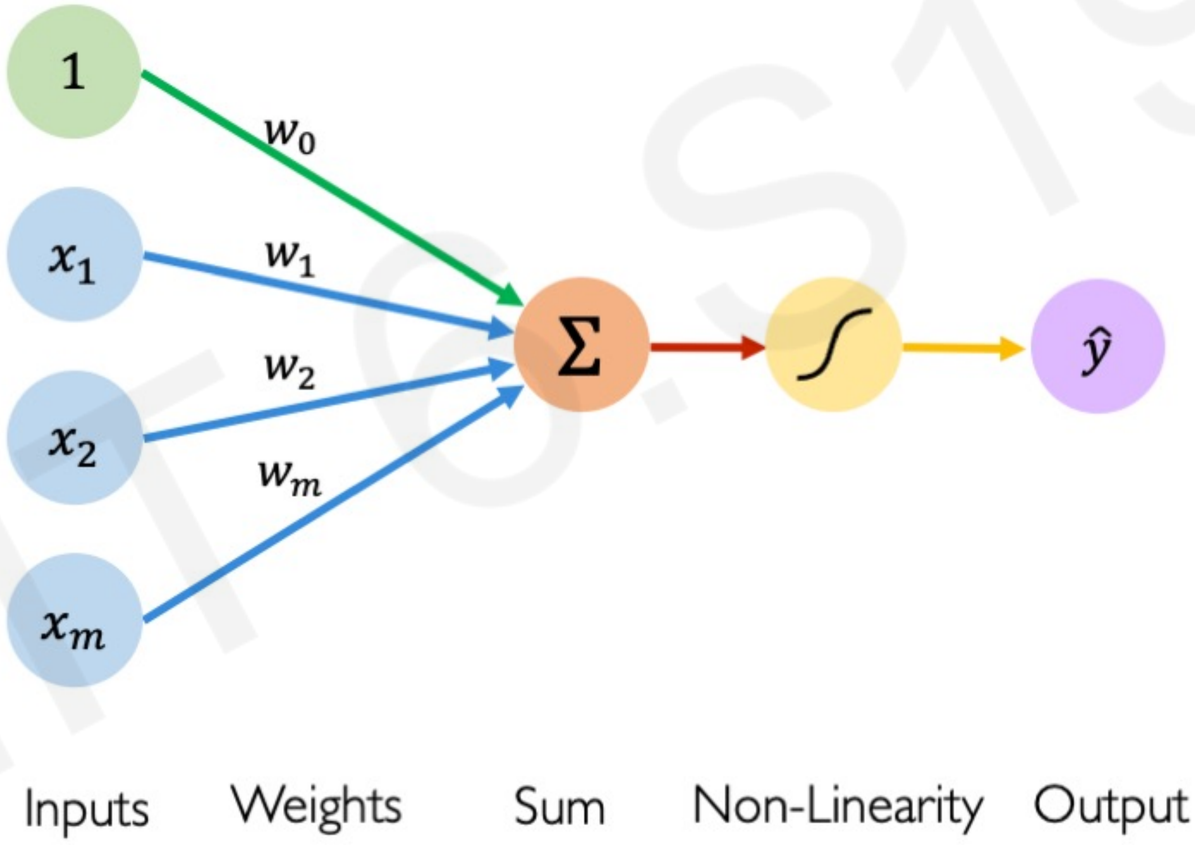
The Perceptron: Simplified

$$\hat{y} = g\left(w_0 + \boldsymbol{X}^T \boldsymbol{W} \right)$$



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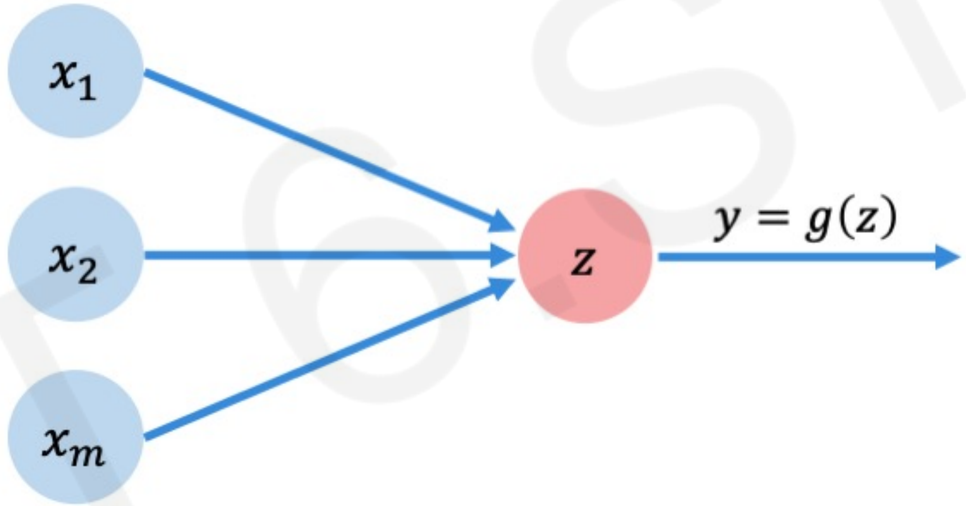
The Perceptron: Simplified



$$z = w_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{m} x_j w_j$$

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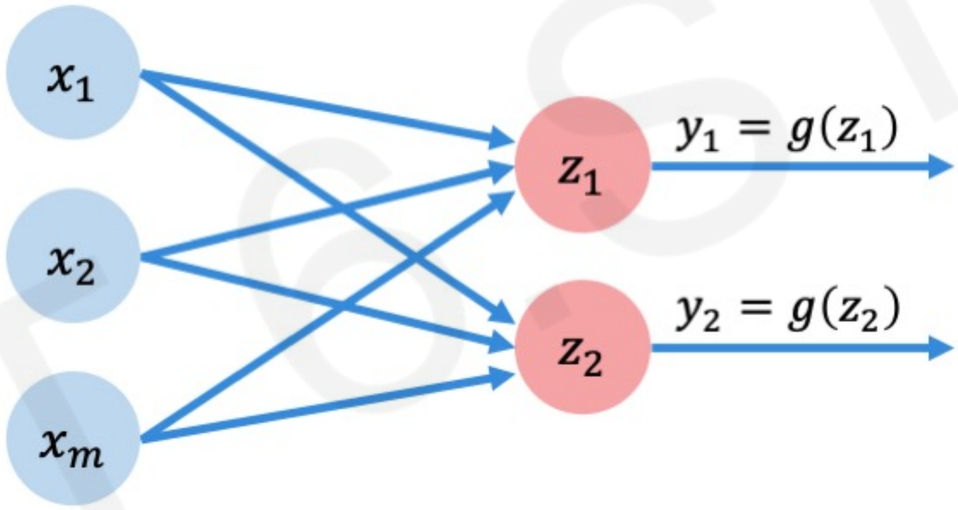
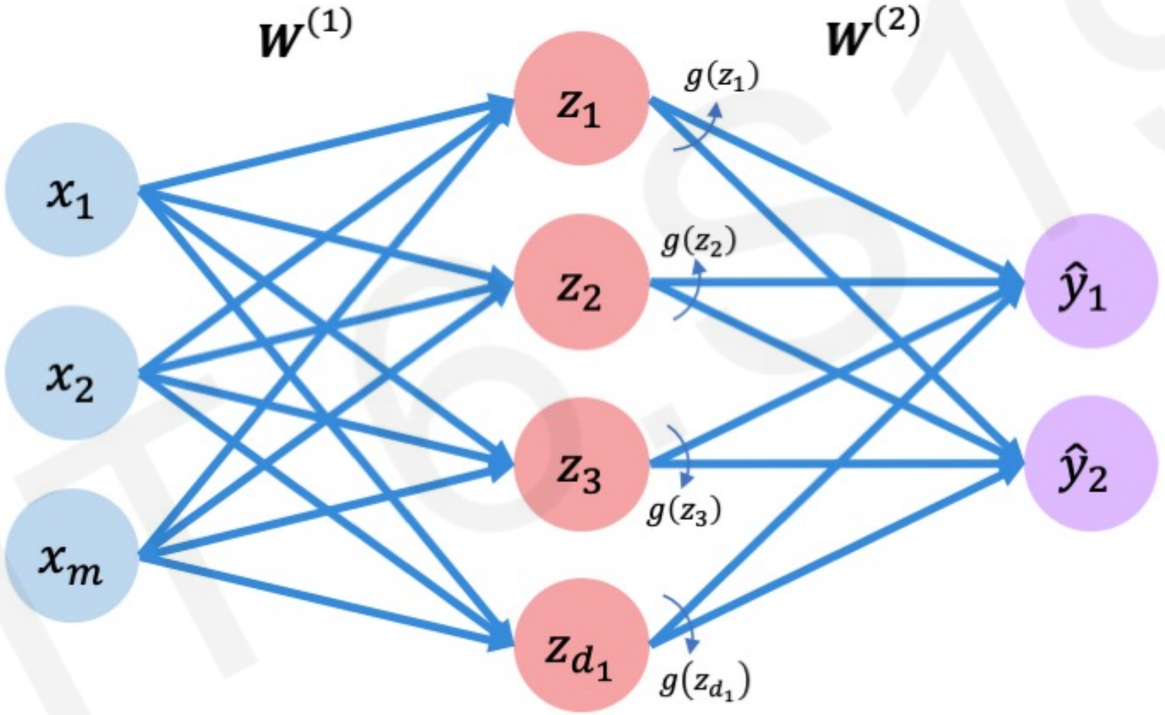
Multi Output Perceptron

Because all inputs are densely connected to all outputs, these layers are called **Dense** layers



$$z_i = w_{0,i} + \sum_{j=1}^{m} x_j \, w_{j,i}$$

Single Layer Neural Network



$$z_i = w_{0,i}^{(1)} + \sum_{j=1}^{m} x_j \, w_{j,i}^{(1)} \qquad \hat{y}_i = g\left(w_{0,i}^{(2)} + \sum_{j=1}^{d_1} g(z_j) \, w_{j,i}^{(2)}\right)$$

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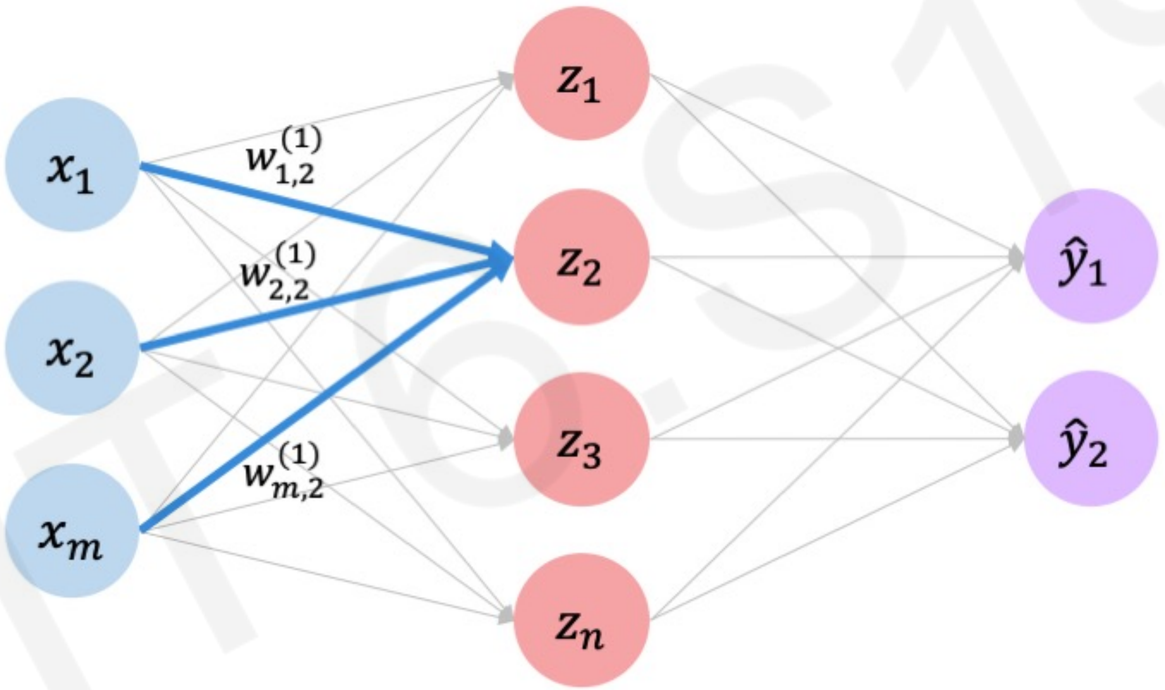
Single Layer Neural Network



$$z_2 = w_{0,2}^{(1)} + \sum_{j=1}^{m} x_j \, w_{j,2}^{(1)}$$

$$= w_{0,2}^{(1)} + x_1 \, w_{1,2}^{(1)} + x_2 \, w_{2,2}^{(1)} + x_m \, w_{m,2}^{(1)}$$

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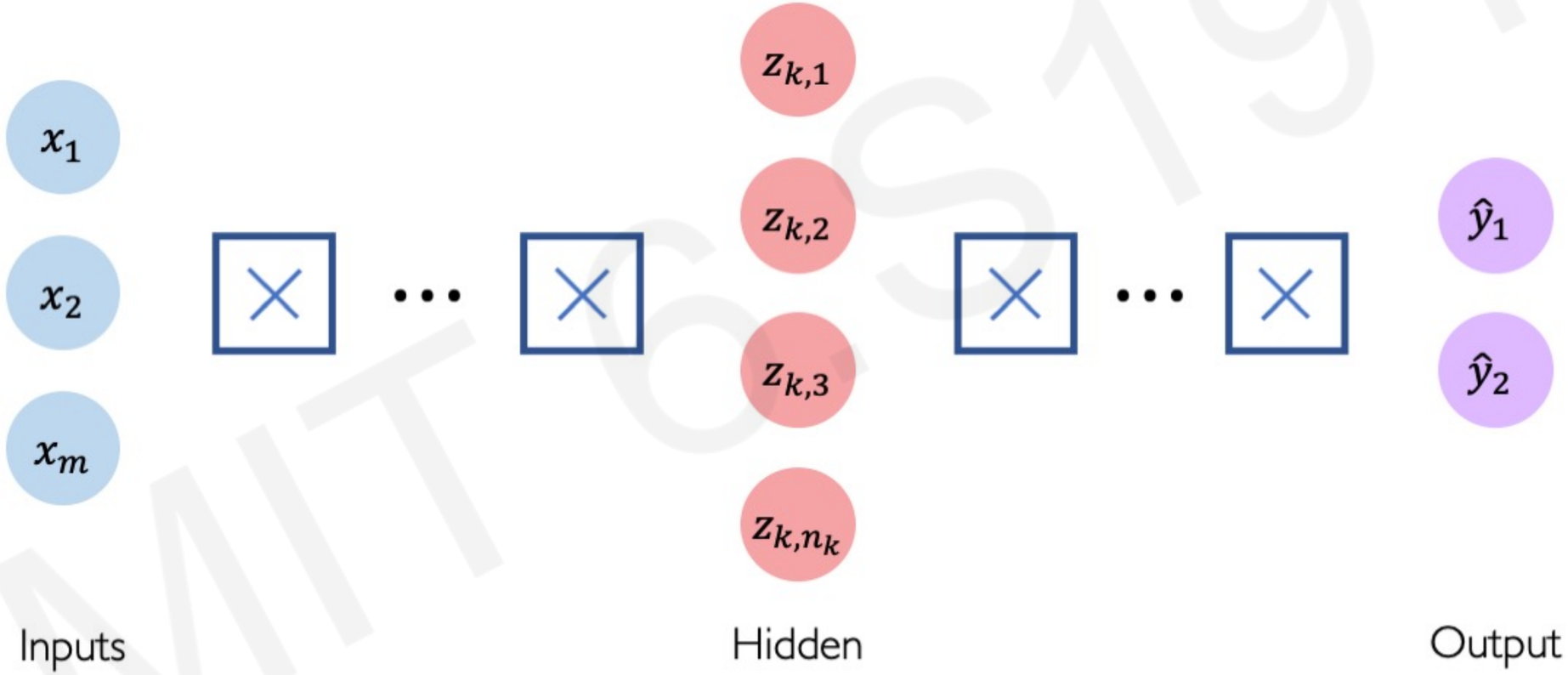
Deep Neural Network



$$z_{k,i} = w_{0,i}^{(k)} + \sum_{j=1}^{n_{k-1}} g(z_{k-1,j})\, w_{j,i}^{(k)}$$

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Applying Neural Networks

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Example Problem

Will I pass this class?

Let's start with a simple two feature model

x_1 = Number of lectures you attend

x_2 = Hours spent on the final project

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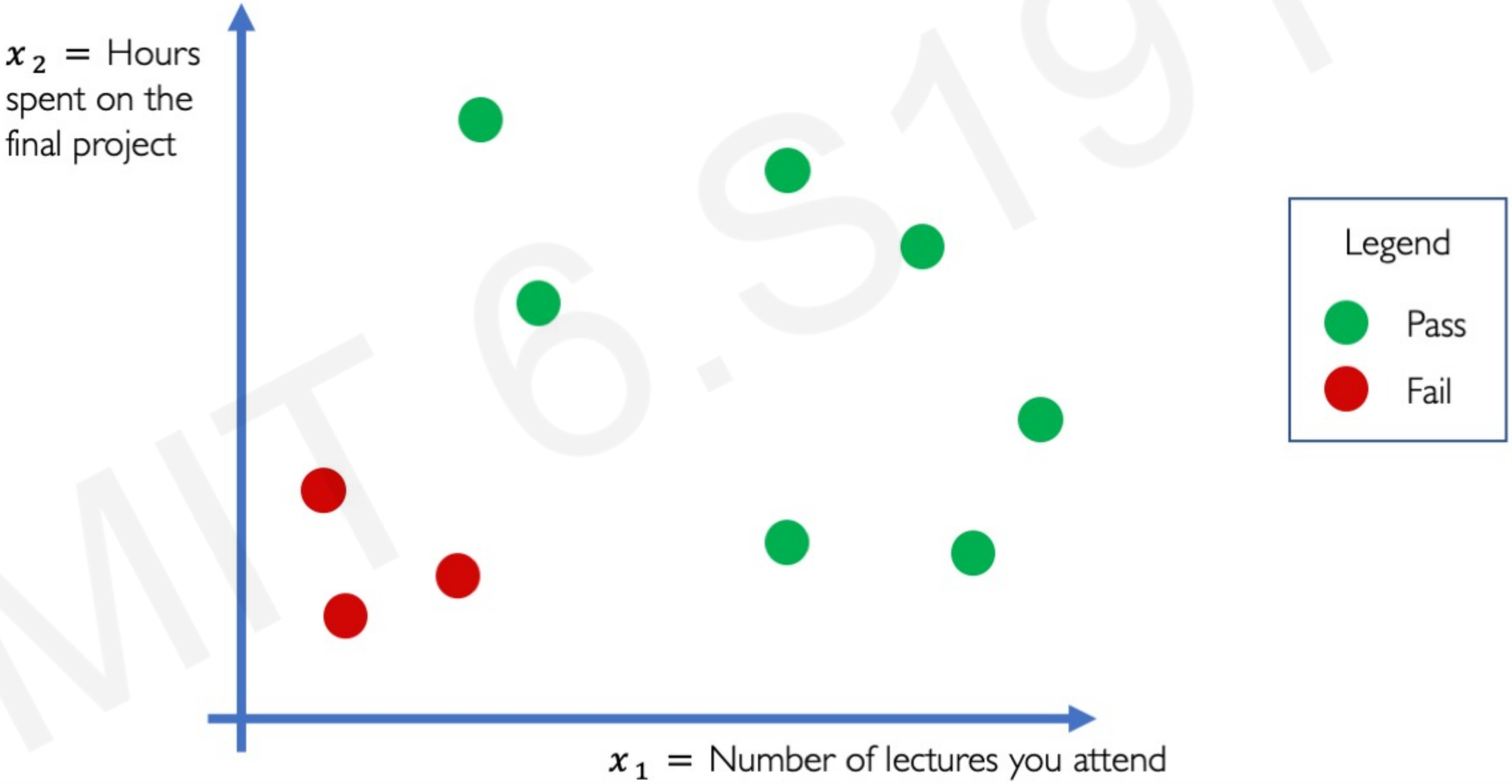
Example Problem: Will I pass this class?



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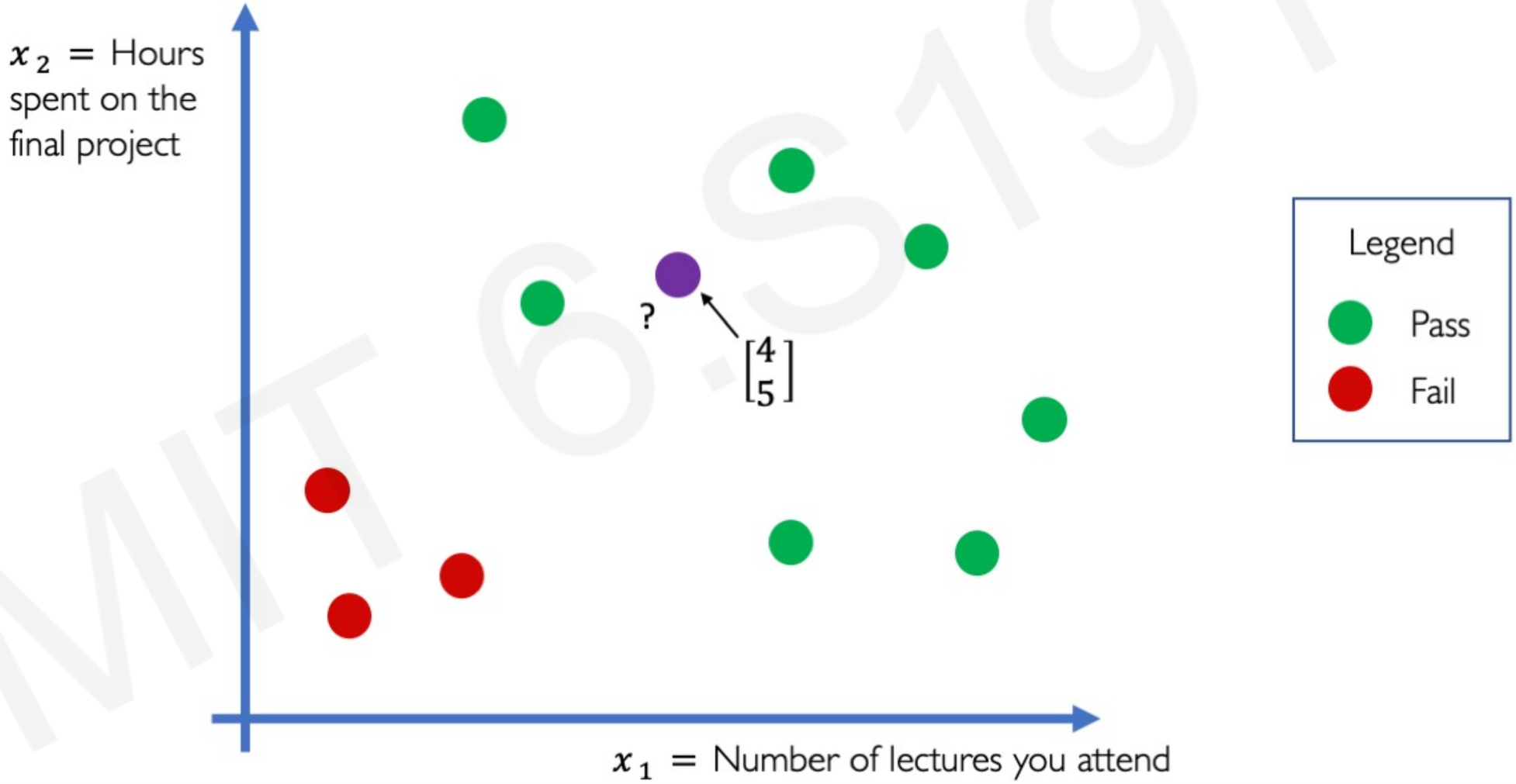

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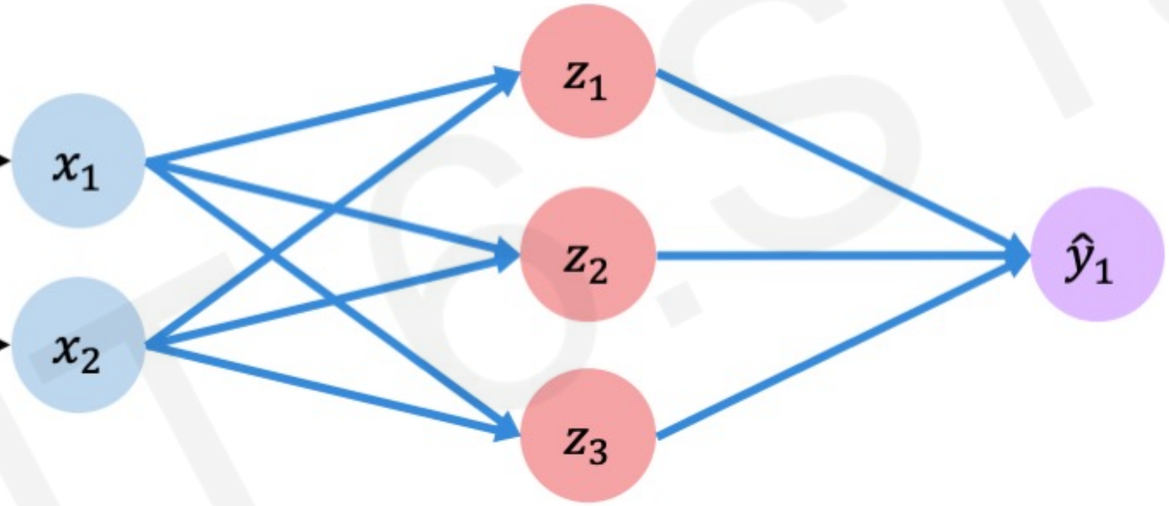
Example Problem: Will I pass this class?

$$x^{(1)} = [4\ ,5\ ]$$



Predicted: 0.1

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Example Problem: Will I pass this class?

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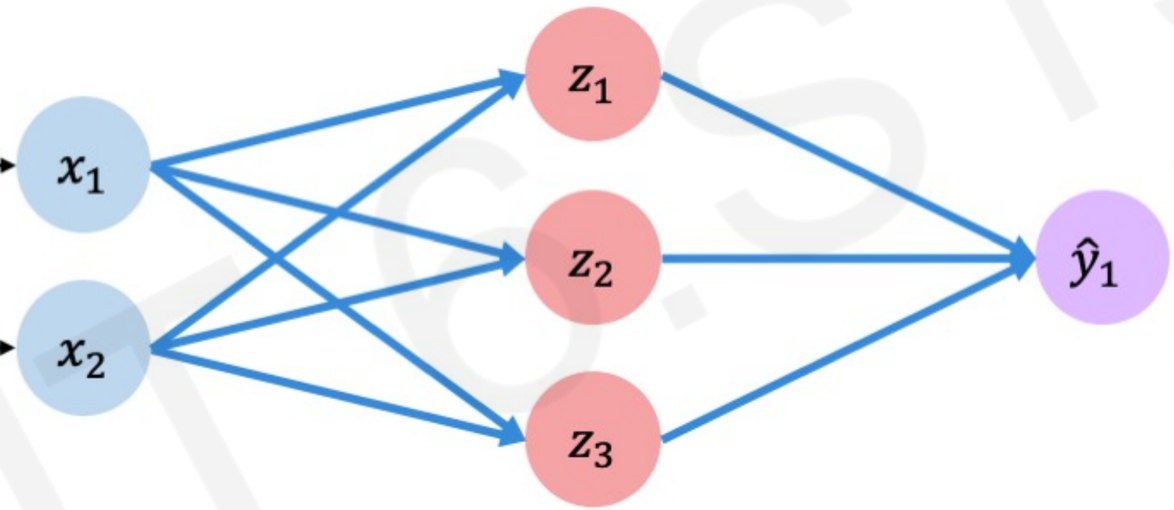

Predicted: 0.1
Actual: 1

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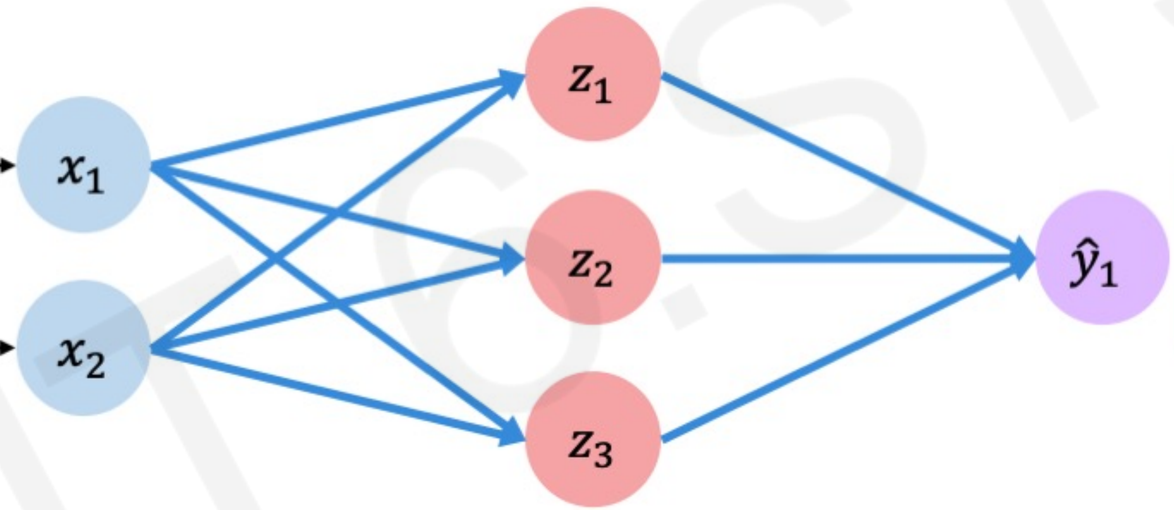
Quantifying Loss

*The **loss** of our network measures the cost incurred from incorrect predictions*

$$x^{(1)} = [4\ ,5]$$



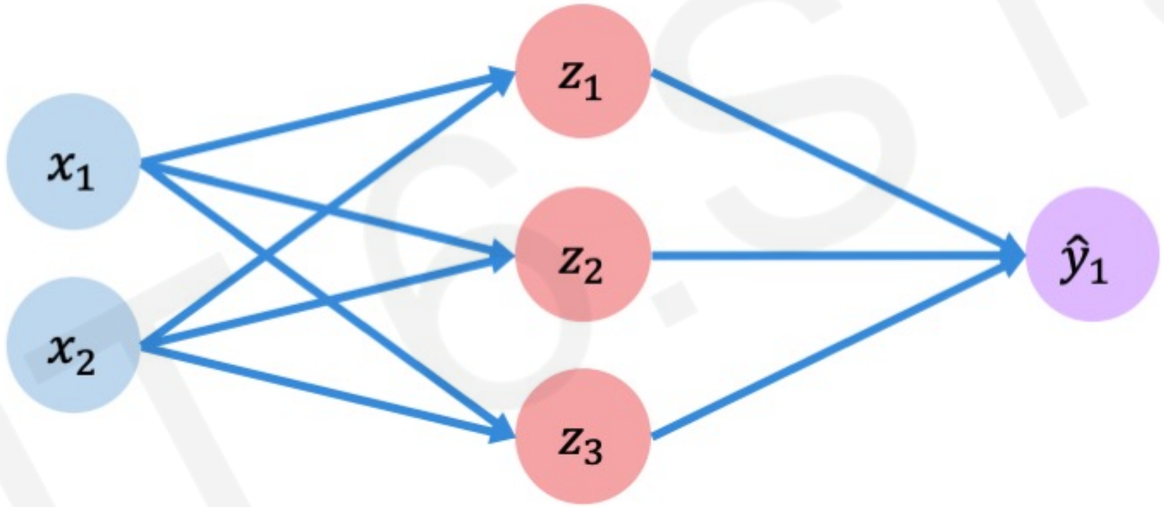
Predicted: **0.1**
Actual: **1**

$$\mathcal{L}\left(\underbrace{f\left(x^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{W}\right)}_{\text{Predicted}}, \underbrace{y^{(i)}}_{\text{Actual}}\right)$$

Empirical Loss

*The **empirical loss** measures the total loss over our entire dataset*

$$\boldsymbol{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 4, & 5 \\ 2, & 1 \\ 5, & 8 \\ \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\begin{array}{ccc} f(x) & & y \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0.1 \\ 0.8 \\ 0.6 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} & \begin{matrix} \times \\ \times \\ \checkmark \\ \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

Also known as:
- Objective function
- Cost function
- Empirical Risk

$$\boldsymbol{J}(\boldsymbol{W}) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathcal{L}\left(\underbrace{f\left(x^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{W}\right)}_{\text{Predicted}}, \underbrace{y^{(i)}}_{\text{Actual}}\right)$$

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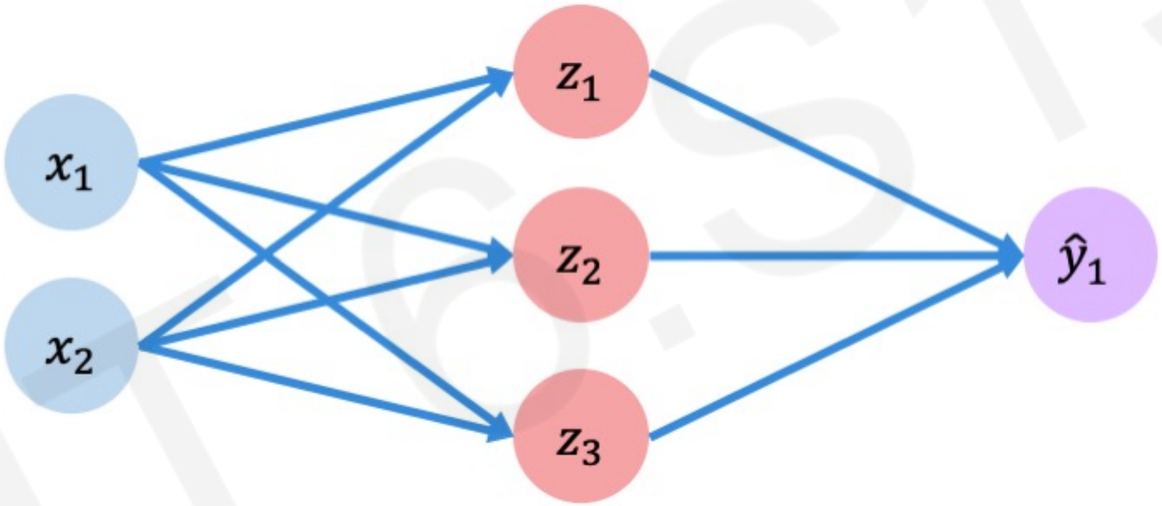
Binary Cross Entropy Loss

Cross entropy loss *can be used with models that output a probability between 0 and 1*

$$\boldsymbol{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 4, & 5 \\ 2, & 1 \\ 5, & 8 \\ \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\begin{array}{ccc} f(x) & & y \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0.1 \\ 0.8 \\ 0.6 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} & \begin{matrix} \times \\ \times \\ \checkmark \\ \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

$$\boldsymbol{J}(\boldsymbol{W}) = -\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} \underbrace{y^{(i)}}_{\text{Actual}} \log\Big(\underbrace{f\big(x^{(i)};\boldsymbol{W}\big)}_{\text{Predicted}}\Big) + (1 - \underbrace{y^{(i)}}_{\text{Actual}}) \log\Big(1 - \underbrace{f\big(x^{(i)};\boldsymbol{W}\big)}_{\text{Predicted}}\Big)$$

```
loss = tf.reduce_mean( tf.nn.softmax_cross_entropy_with_logits(y, predicted) )
```

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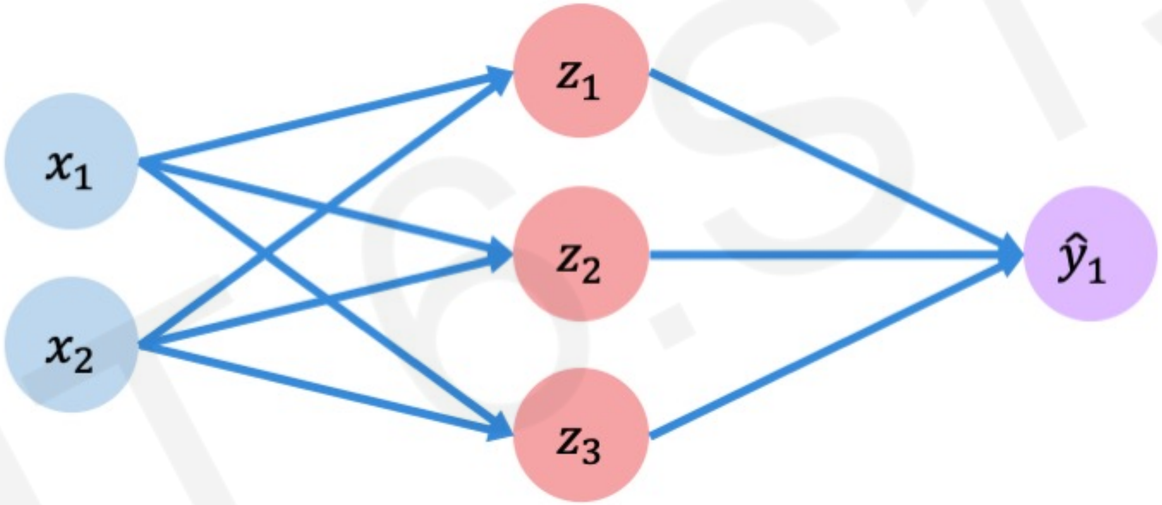
Mean Squared Error Loss

Mean squared error loss *can be used with regression models that output continuous real numbers*

$$\boldsymbol{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 4, & 5 \\ 2, & 1 \\ 5, & 8 \\ \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\begin{array}{ccc} f(x) & & y \\ \begin{bmatrix} 30 \\ 80 \\ 85 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} & \begin{matrix} \times \\ \times \\ \checkmark \\ \\ \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 90 \\ 20 \\ 95 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

Final Grades (percentage)

$$\boldsymbol{J}(\boldsymbol{W}) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\underbrace{y^{(i)}}_{\text{Actual}} - \underbrace{f\left(x^{(i)};\boldsymbol{W}\right)}_{\text{Predicted}}\right)^2$$

```
loss = tf.reduce_mean( tf.square(tf.subtract(y, predicted)) )
loss = tf.keras.losses.MSE( y, predicted )
```

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Training Neural Networks

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Loss Optimization

We want to find the network weights that ***achieve the lowest loss***

$$\boldsymbol{W}^* = \underset{\boldsymbol{W}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathcal{L}\left(f\left(x^{(i)}; \boldsymbol{W}\right), y^{(i)}\right)$$

$$\boldsymbol{W}^* = \underset{\boldsymbol{W}}{\operatorname{argmin}} J(\boldsymbol{W})$$

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$$\boldsymbol{W}^* = \underset{\boldsymbol{W}}{\operatorname{argmin}} J(\boldsymbol{W})$$

Remember:

$$\boldsymbol{W} = \left\{\boldsymbol{W}^{(0)}, \boldsymbol{W}^{(1)}, \dots\right\}$$

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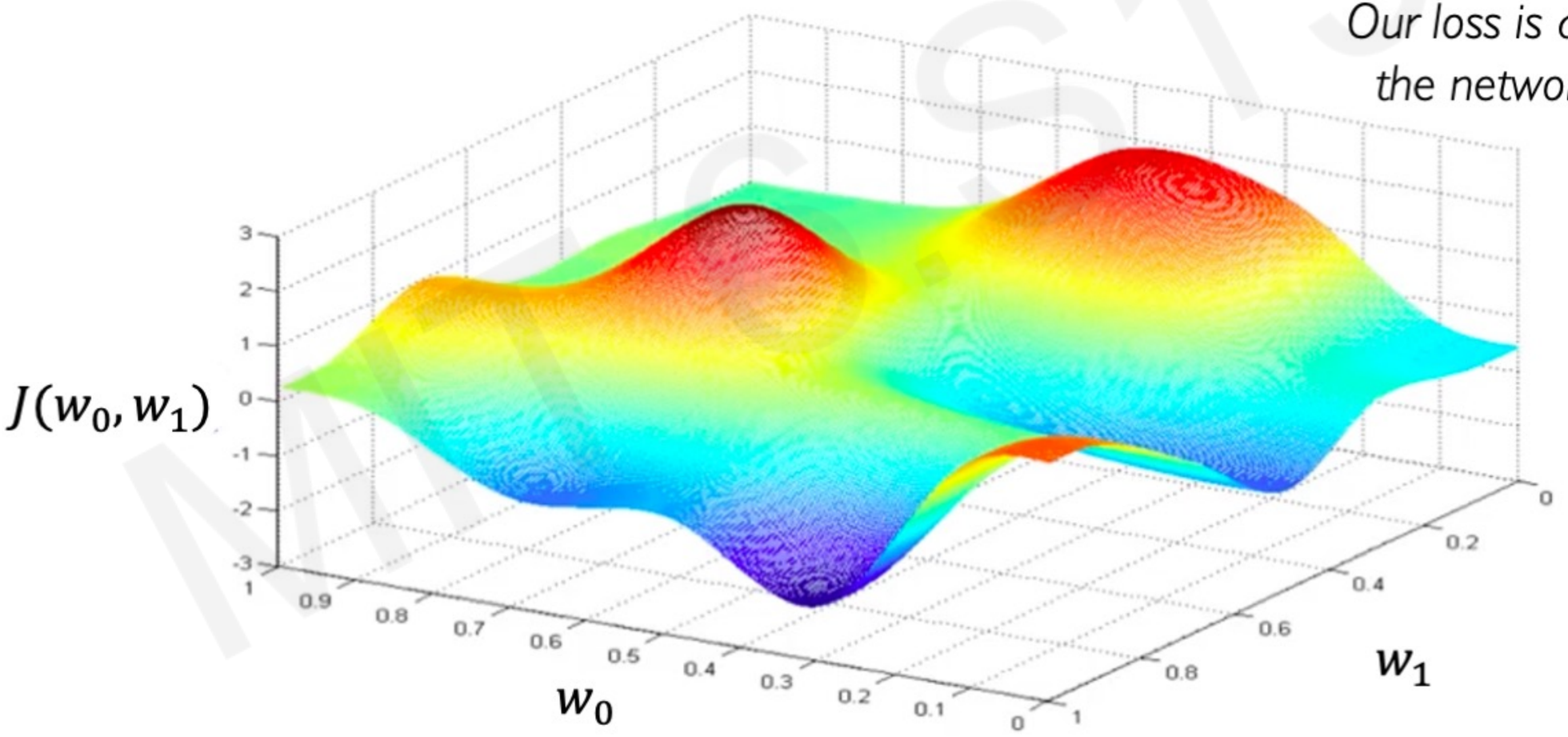
Loss Optimization

$$\boldsymbol{W}^* = \underset{\boldsymbol{W}}{\operatorname{argmin}}\, J(\boldsymbol{W})$$

Remember:
Our loss is a function of the network weights!



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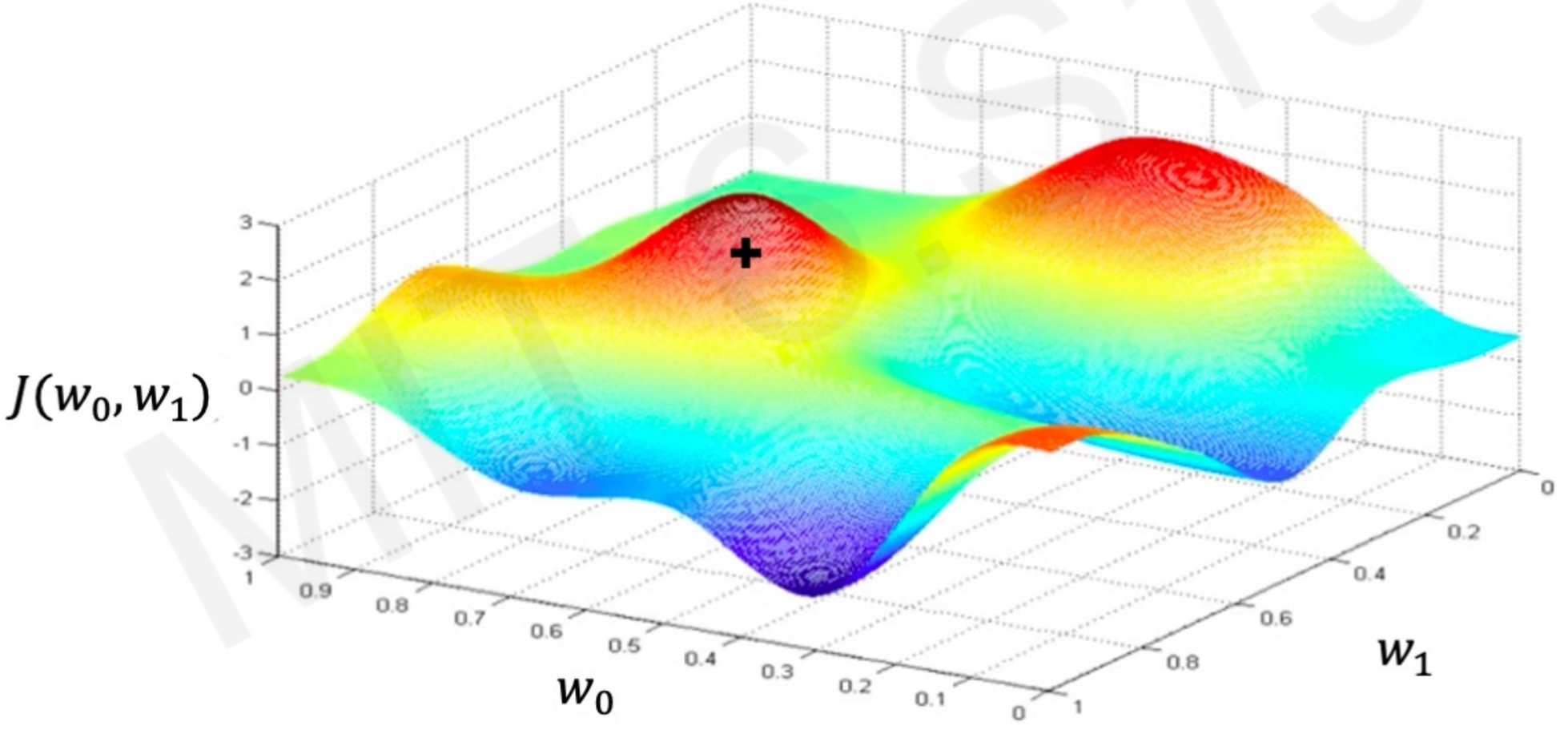
Loss Optimization

Randomly pick an initial (w_0, w_1)



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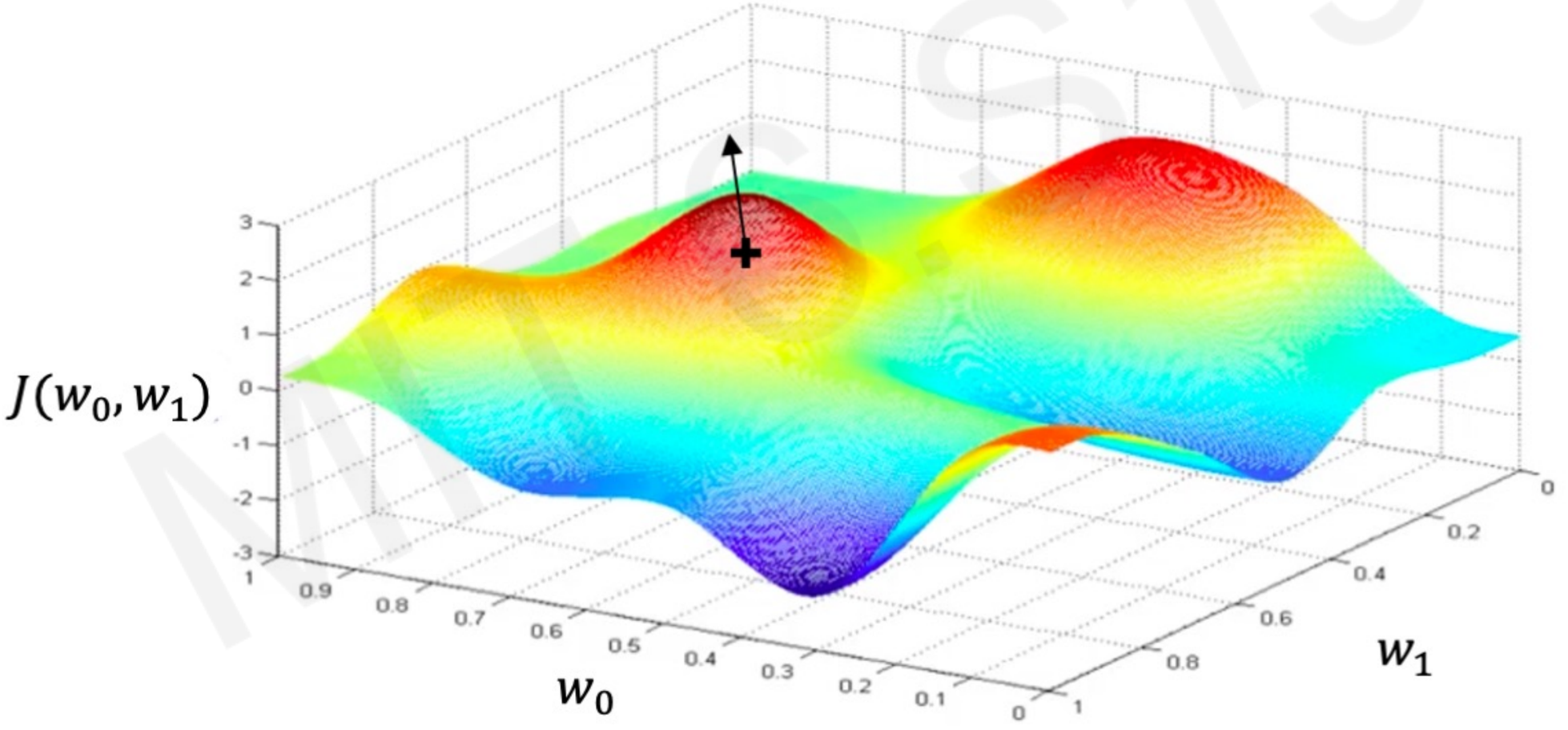
Loss Optimization

Compute gradient, $\frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}}$



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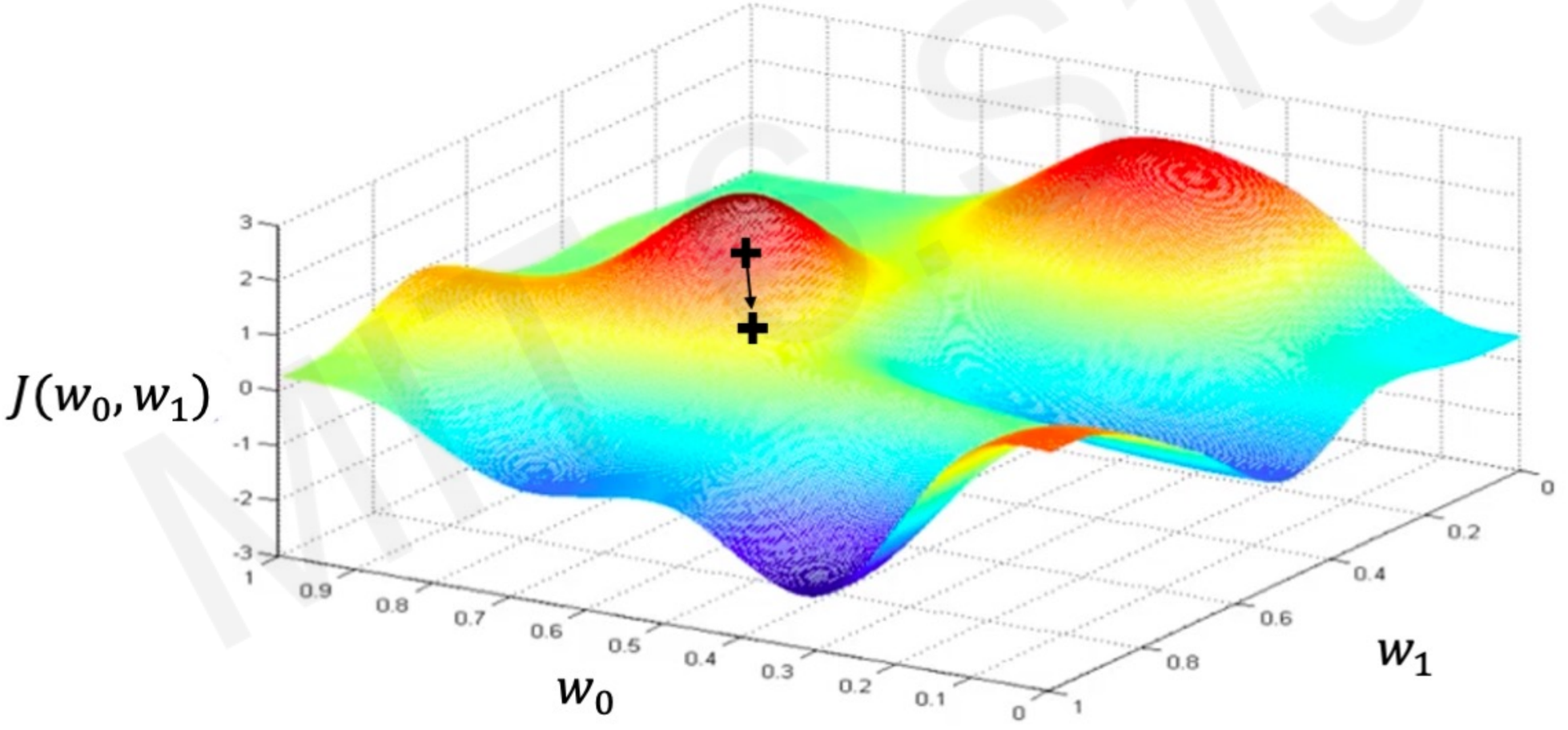
Loss Optimization

Take small step in opposite direction of gradient



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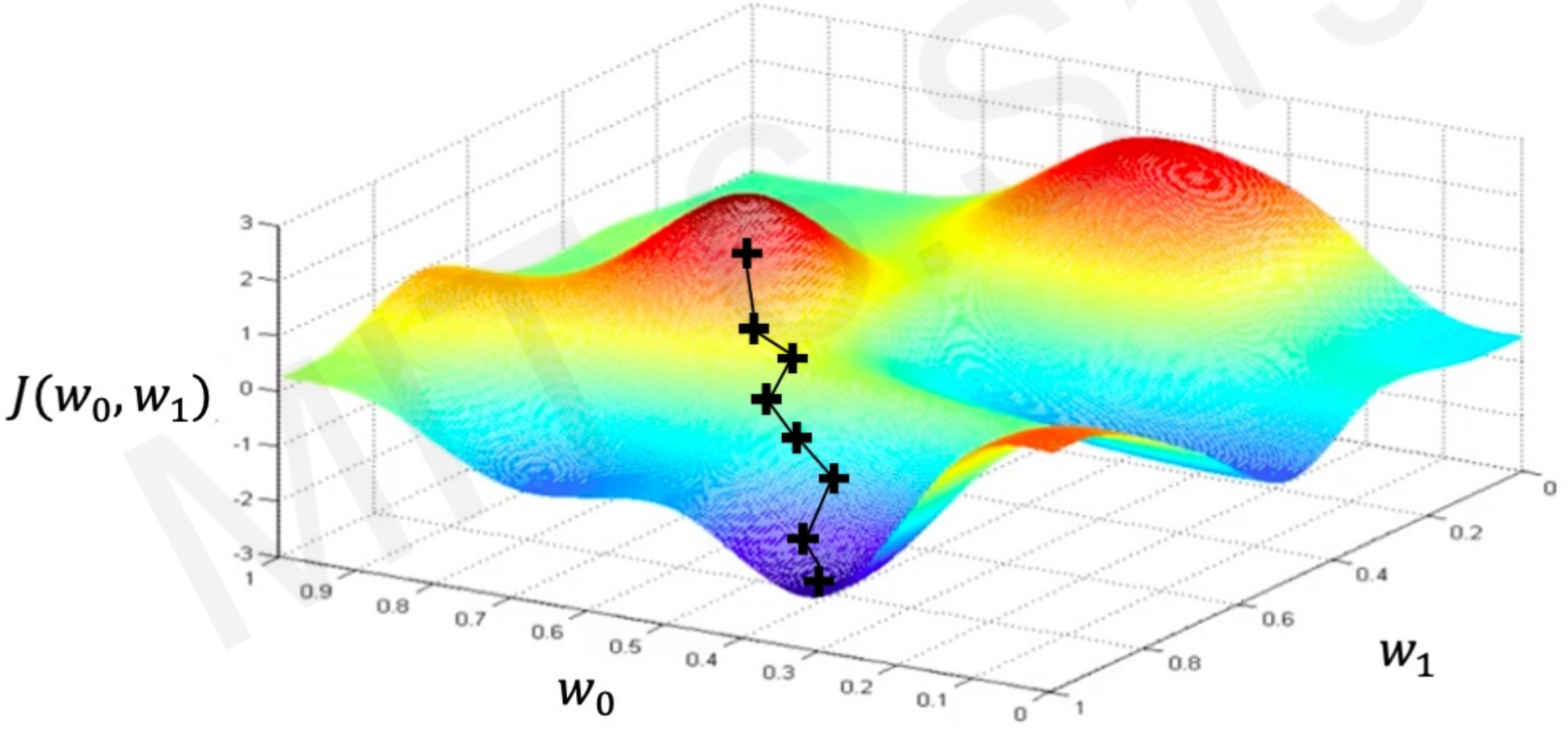
Gradient Descent

Repeat until convergence



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Gradient Descent

Algorithm

1. Initialize weights randomly $\sim\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$
2. Loop until convergence:
3. Compute gradient, $\frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}}$
4. Update weights, $\boldsymbol{W} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{W} - \eta \frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}}$
5. Return weights

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Computing Gradients: Backpropagation

$$\frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial w_2} =$$

Let's use the chain rule!

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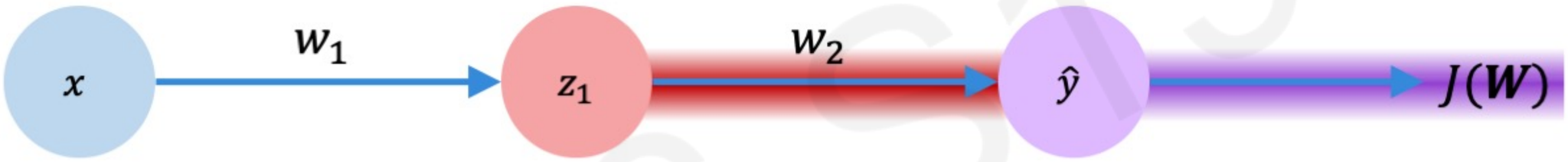
Computing Gradients: Backpropagation



$$\frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial w_2} = \frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \hat{y}} * \frac{\partial \hat{y}}{\partial w_2}$$

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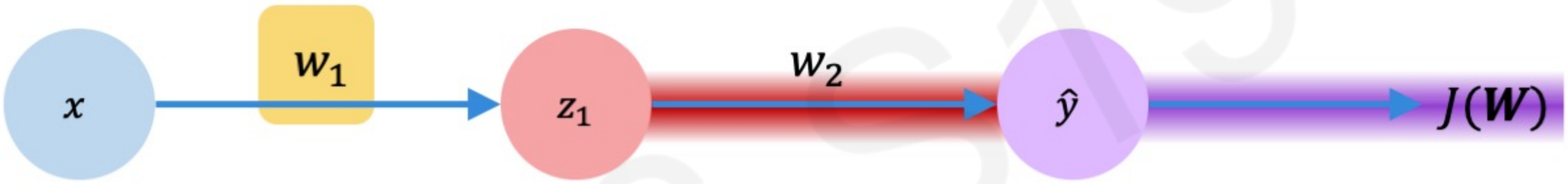
Computing Gradients: Backpropagation



$$\frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial w_1} = \frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \hat{y}} * \frac{\partial \hat{y}}{\partial w_1}$$

Apply chain rule!

Apply chain rule!

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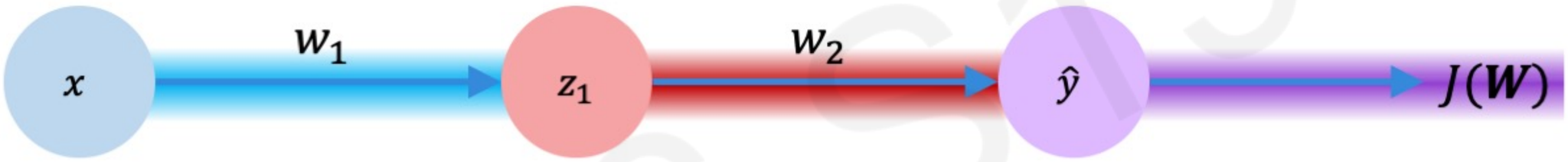
Computing Gradients: Backpropagation



$$\frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial w_1} = \frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \hat{y}} * \frac{\partial \hat{y}}{\partial z_1} * \frac{\partial z_1}{\partial w_1}$$

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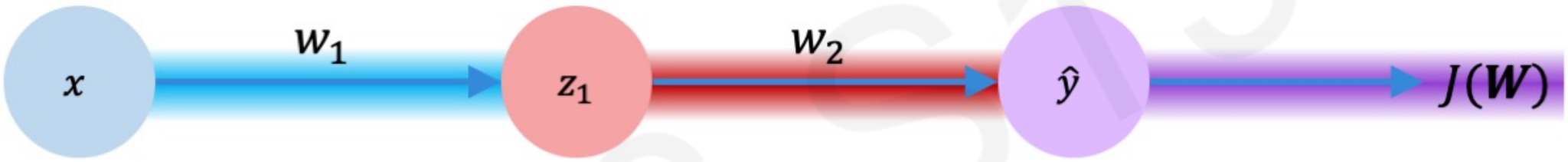
Computing Gradients: Backpropagation



$$\frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial w_1} = \frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \hat{y}} * \frac{\partial \hat{y}}{\partial z_1} * \frac{\partial z_1}{\partial w_1}$$

Repeat this for ***every weight in the network*** *using gradients from later layers*

Neural Networks in Practice: Optimization

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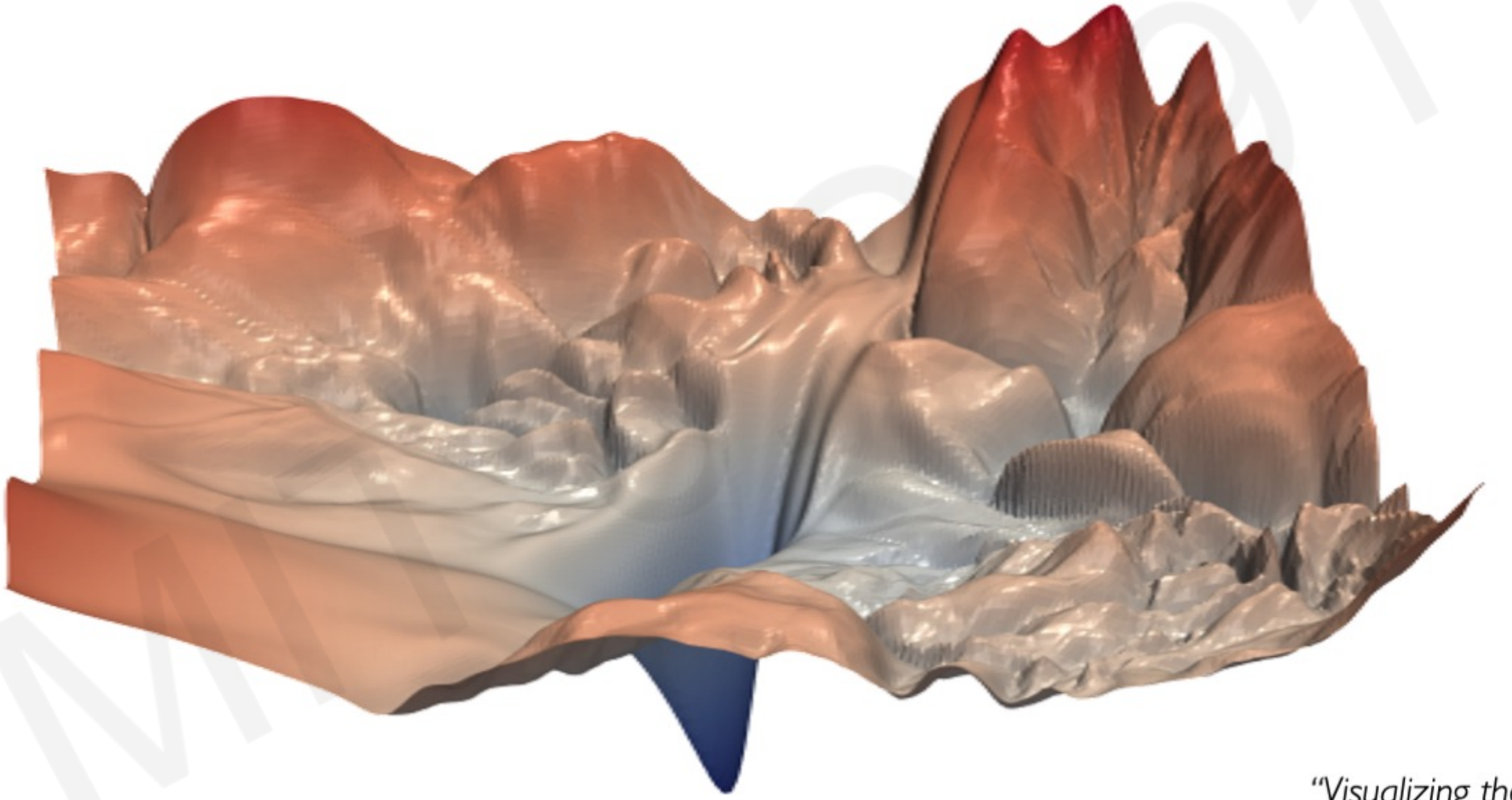
Training Neural Networks is Difficult



"Visualizing the loss landscape of neural nets". Dec 2017.

Loss Functions Can Be Difficult to Optimize

Remember:

Optimization through gradient descent

$$\boldsymbol{W} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{W} - \eta \frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}}$$

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Loss Functions Can Be Difficult to Optimize

Remember:

Optimization through gradient descent

$$\boldsymbol{W} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{W} - \boxed{\eta} \frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}}$$

How can we set the learning rate?

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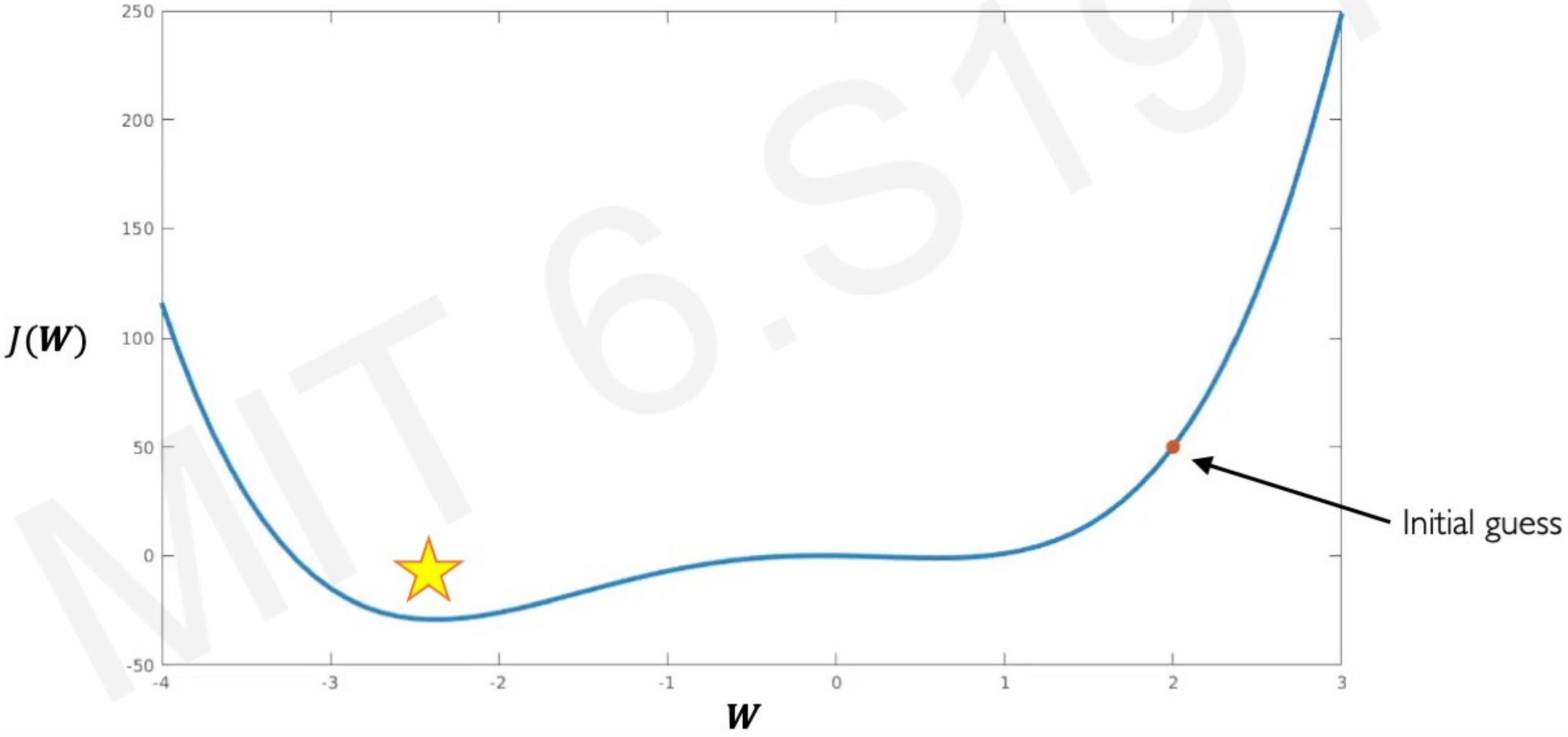
Setting the Learning Rate

Small learning rate *converges slowly and gets stuck in false local minima*



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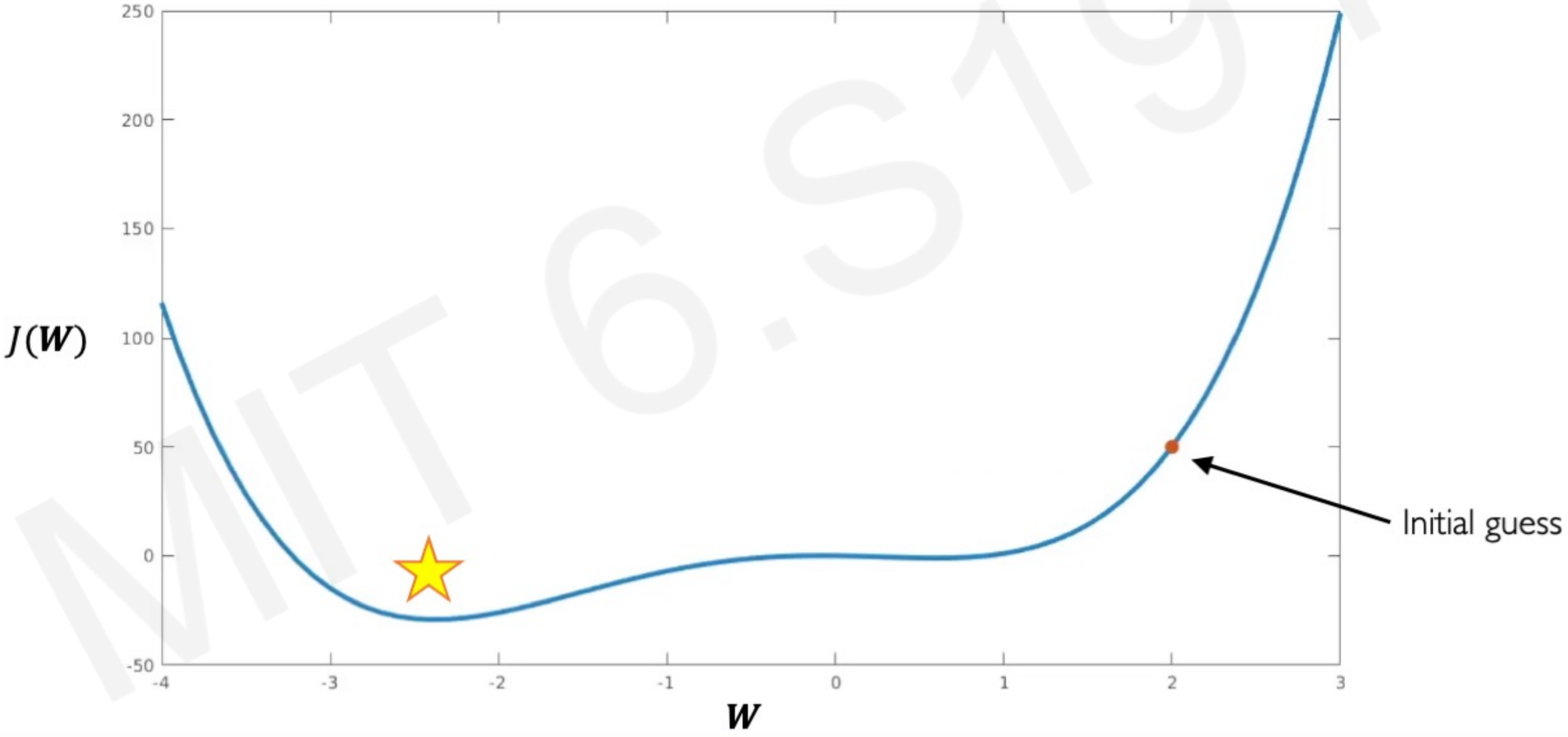
Setting the Learning Rate

Large learning rates *overshoot, become unstable and diverge*



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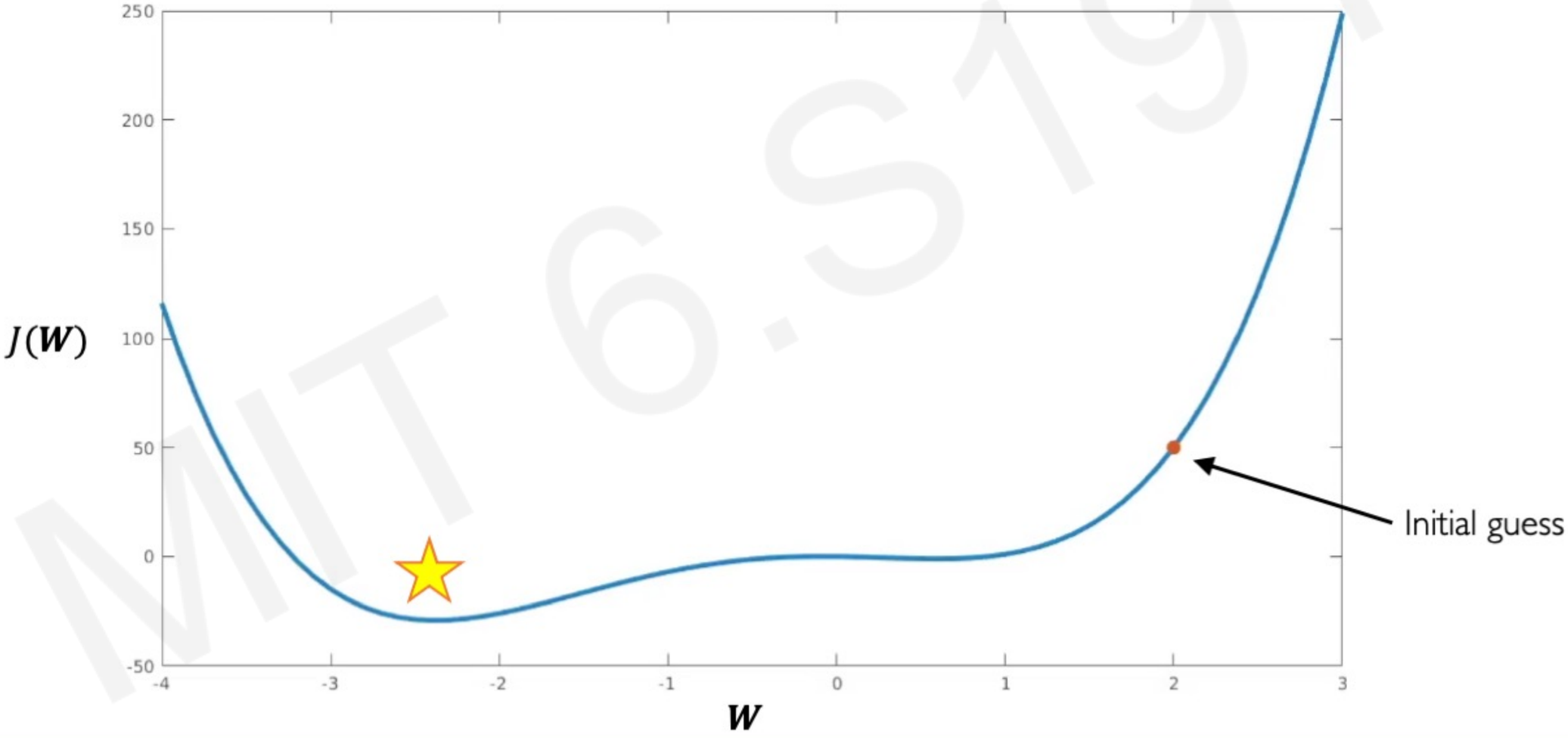
Setting the Learning Rate

Stable learning rates *converge smoothly and avoid local minima*



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How to deal with this?

Idea 1:

Try lots of different learning rates and see what works "just right"

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How to deal with this?

Idea 1:

Try lots of different learning rates and see what works "just right"

Idea 2:

Do something smarter!
Design an adaptive learning rate that "adapts" to the landscape

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Adaptive Learning Rates

- Learning rates are no longer fixed
- Can be made larger or smaller depending on:
  - how large gradient is
  - how fast learning is happening
  - size of particular weights
  - etc...

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Gradient Descent Algorithms

Algorithm	TF Implementation	Reference
• SGD	`tf.keras.optimizers.SGD`	Kiefer & Wolfowitz. "Stochastic Estimation of the Maximum of a Regression Function." 1952.
• Adam	`tf.keras.optimizers.Adam`	Kingma et al. "Adam: A Method for Stochastic Optimization." 2014.
• Adadelta	`tf.keras.optimizers.Adadelta`	Zeiler et al. "ADADELTA: An Adaptive Learning Rate Method." 2012.
• Adagrad	`tf.keras.optimizers.Adagrad`	Duchi et al. "Adaptive Subgradient Methods for Online Learning and Stochastic Optimization." 2011.
• RMSProp	`tf.keras.optimizers.RMSProp`	

Additional details: http://ruder.io/optimizing-gradient-descent/

Neural Networks in Practice: Mini-batches

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Gradient Descent

Algorithm

1. Initialize weights randomly $\sim\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$
2. Loop until convergence:
3. Compute gradient, $\frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}}$
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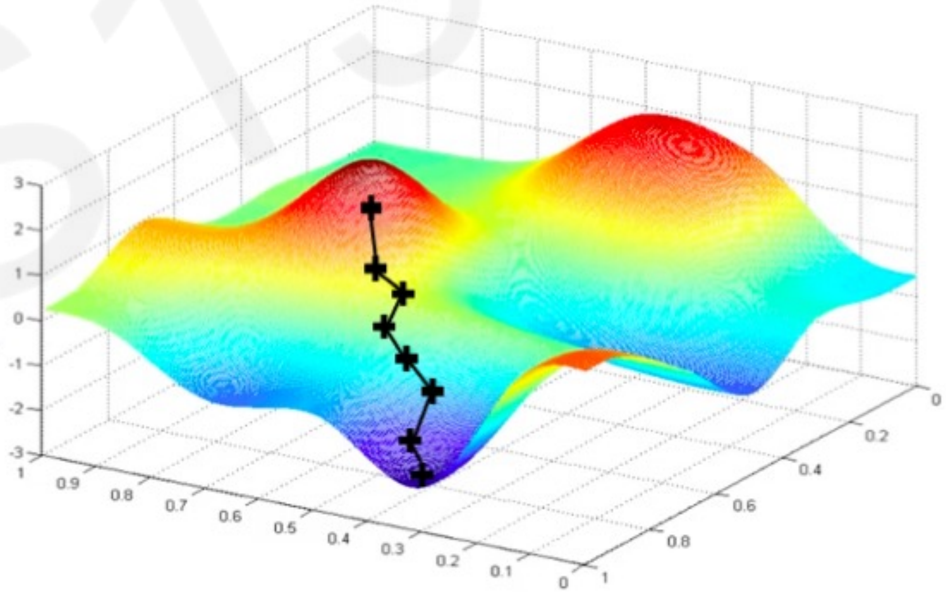
5. Return weights



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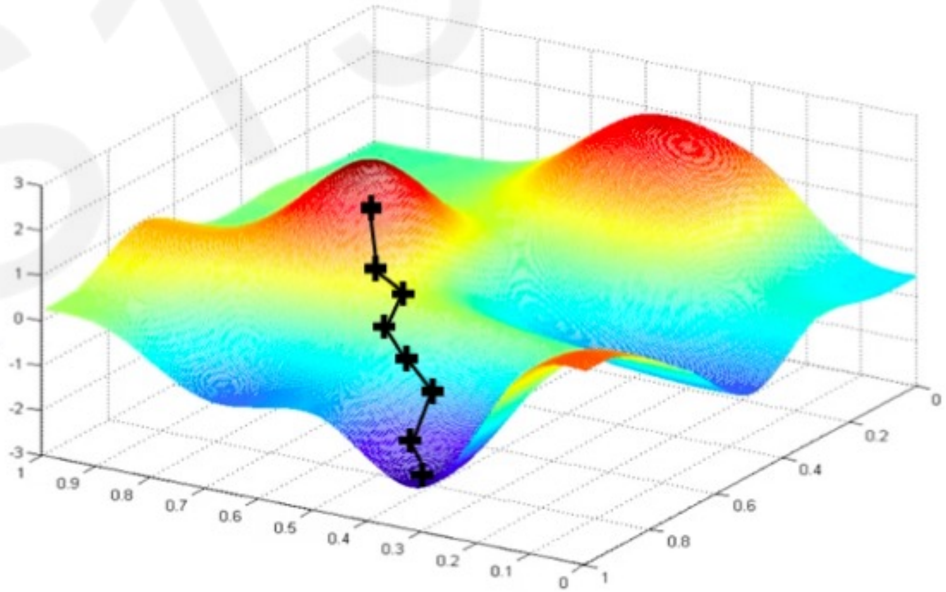

Can be very **computationally intensive** to compute!

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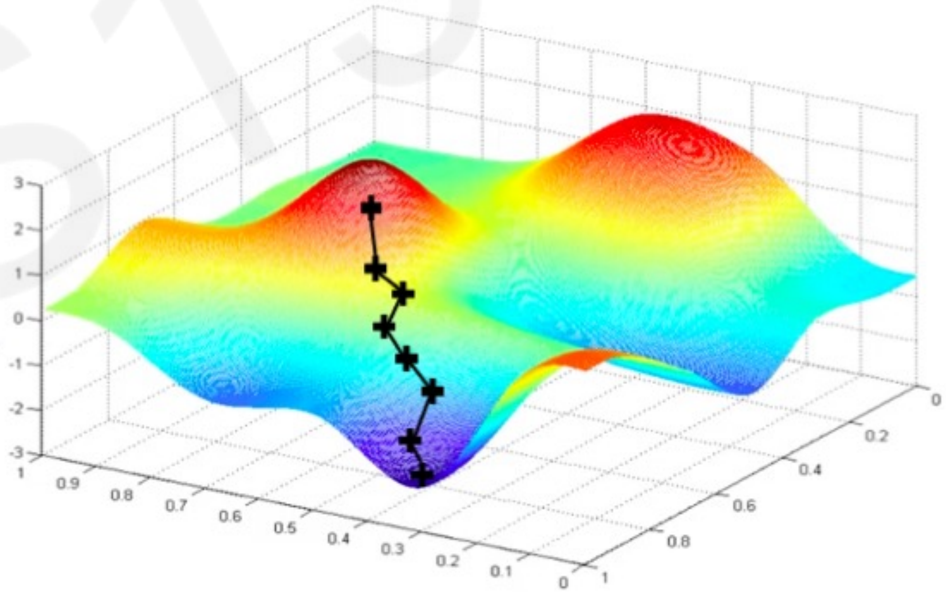
Stochastic Gradient Descent

Algorithm

1. Initialize weights randomly $\sim\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$
2. Loop until convergence:
3. Pick single data point $\boldsymbol{i}$
4. Compute gradient, $\frac{\partial J_i(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}}$
5. Update weights, $\boldsymbol{W} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{W} - \eta \frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}}$
6. Return weights



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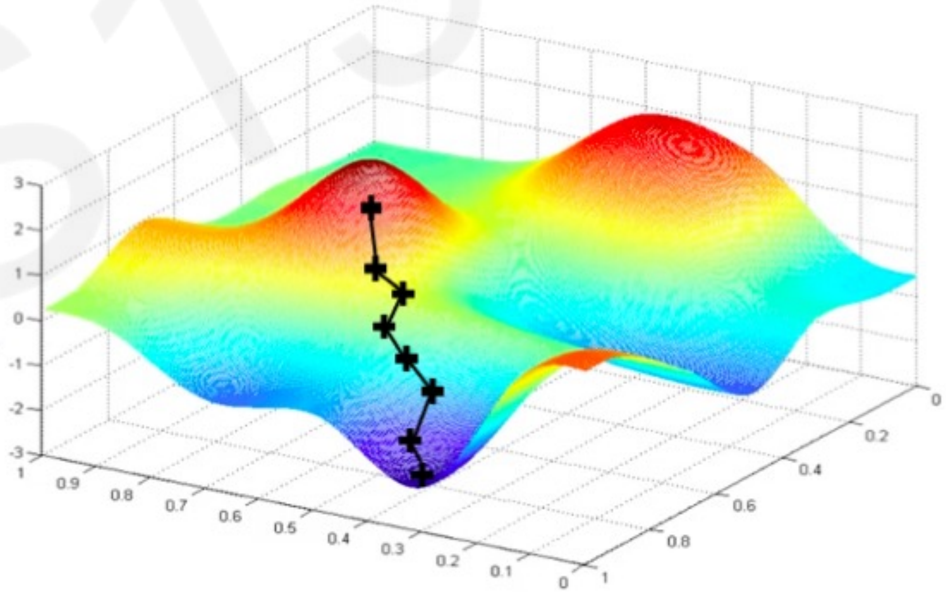

Easy to compute but **very noisy** (stochastic)!

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Stochastic Gradient Descent

Algorithm

1. Initialize weights randomly $\sim\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$
2. Loop until convergence:
3. Pick batch of B data points
4. Compute gradient, $\frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}} = \frac{1}{B}\sum_{k=1}^{B} \frac{\partial J_k(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}}$
5. Update weights, $\boldsymbol{W} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{W} - \eta \frac{\partial J(\boldsymbol{W})}{\partial \boldsymbol{W}}$
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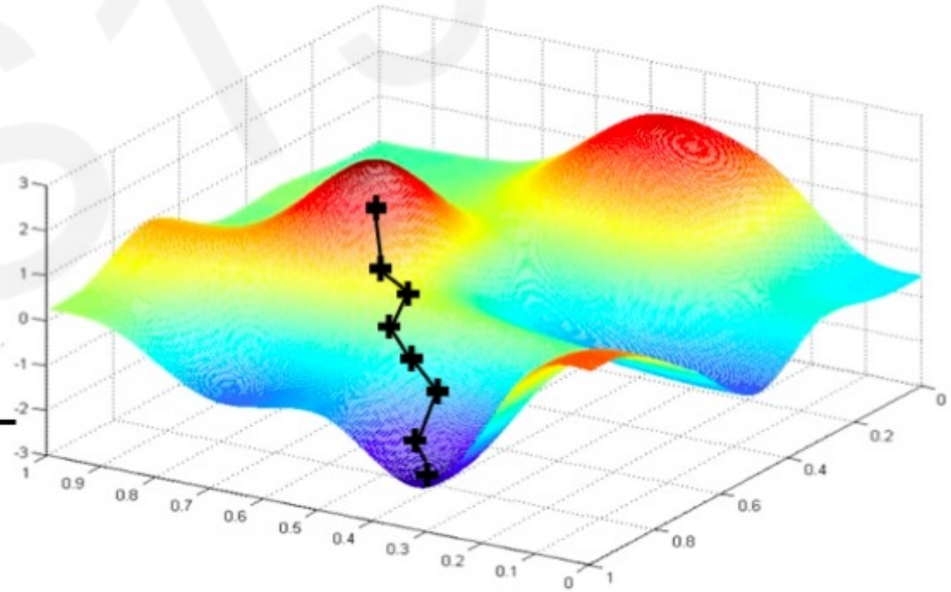

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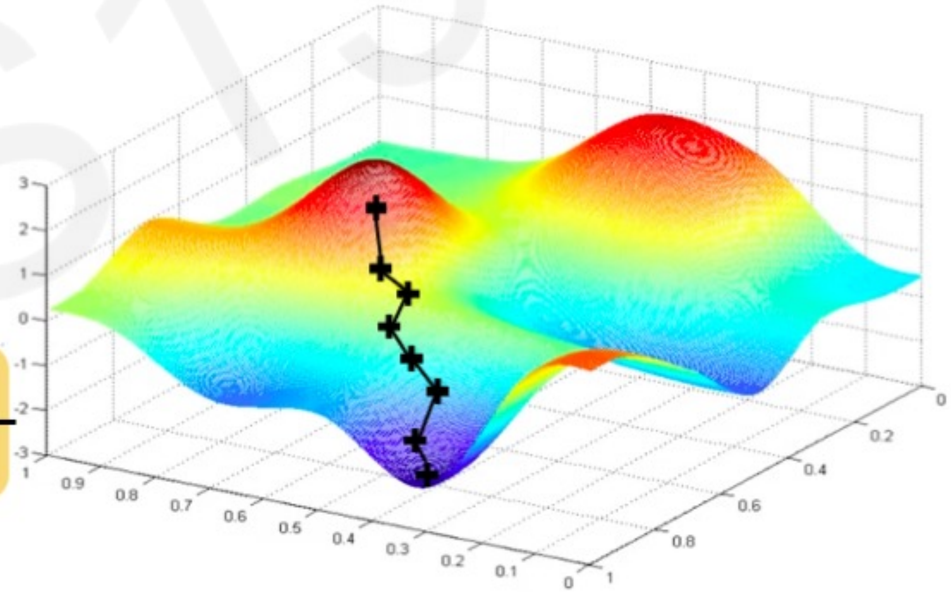

Fast to compute and a much better estimate of the true gradient!

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Mini-batches while training

More accurate estimation of gradient

Smoother convergence

Allows for larger learning rates

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Mini-batches while training

More accurate estimation of gradient

Smoother convergence

Allows for larger learning rates

Mini-batches lead to fast training!

Can parallelize computation + achieve significant speed increases on GPU's

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Neural Networks in Practice: Overfitting

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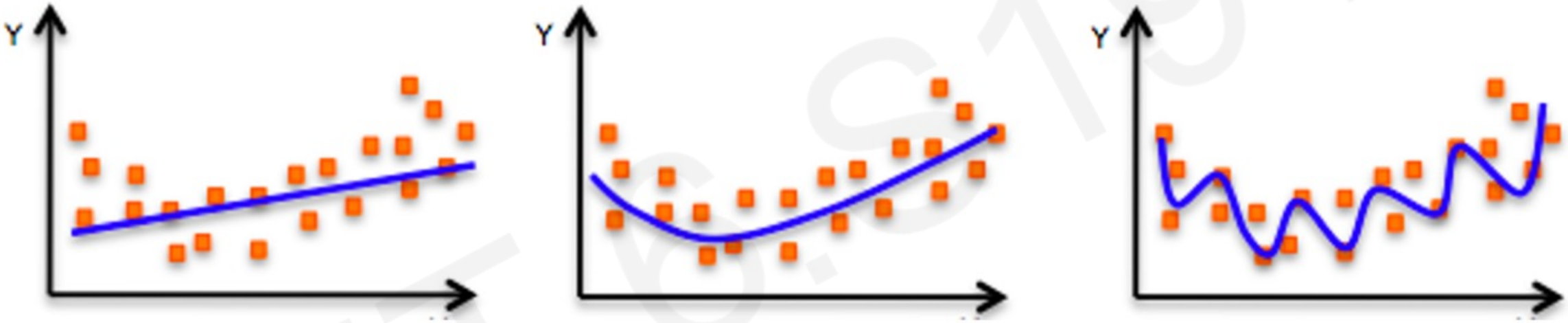
The Problem of Overfitting



Underfitting
Model does not have capacity to fully learn the data

Ideal fit

Overfitting
Too complex, extra parameters, does not generalize well

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Regularization

What is it?

Technique that constrains our optimization problem to discourage complex models

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Regularization

What is it?

Technique that constrains our optimization problem to discourage complex models

Why do we need it?

Improve generalization of our model on unseen data

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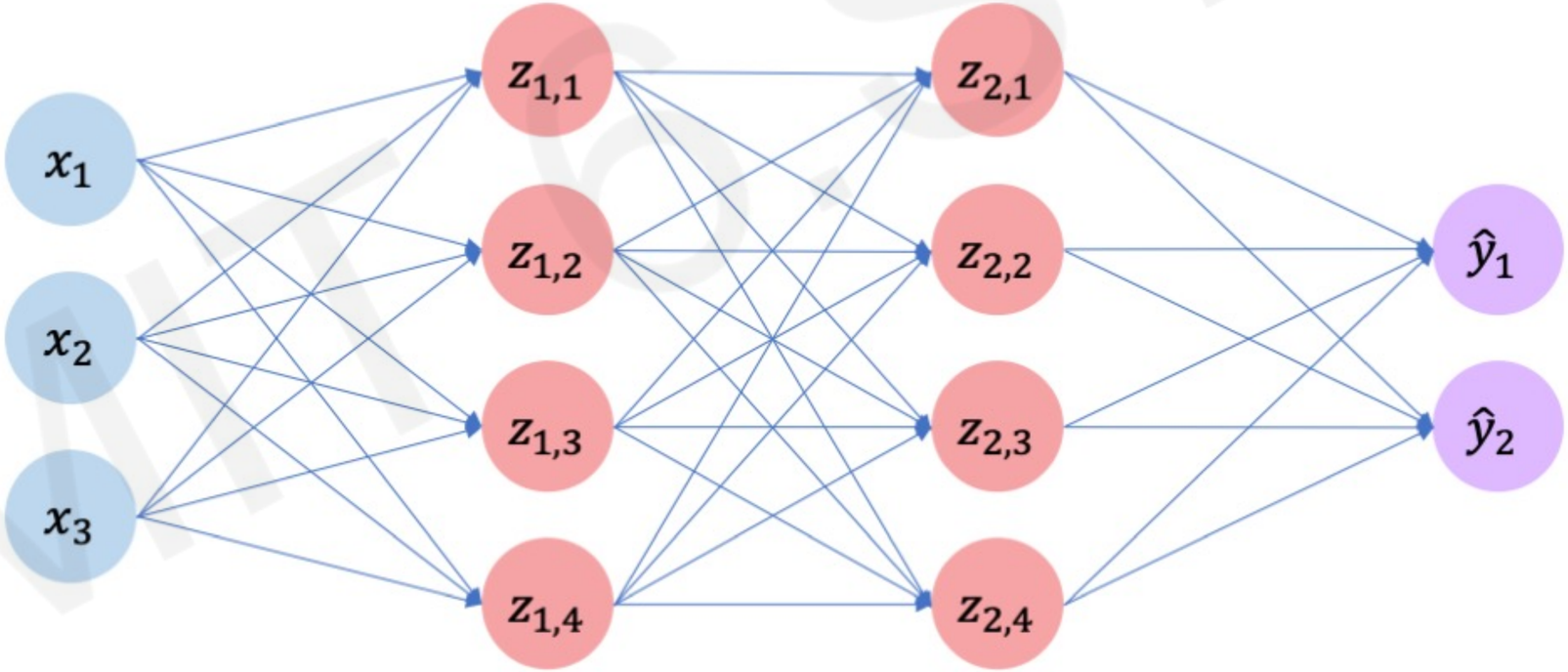
Regularization 1: Dropout

- During training, randomly set some activations to 0



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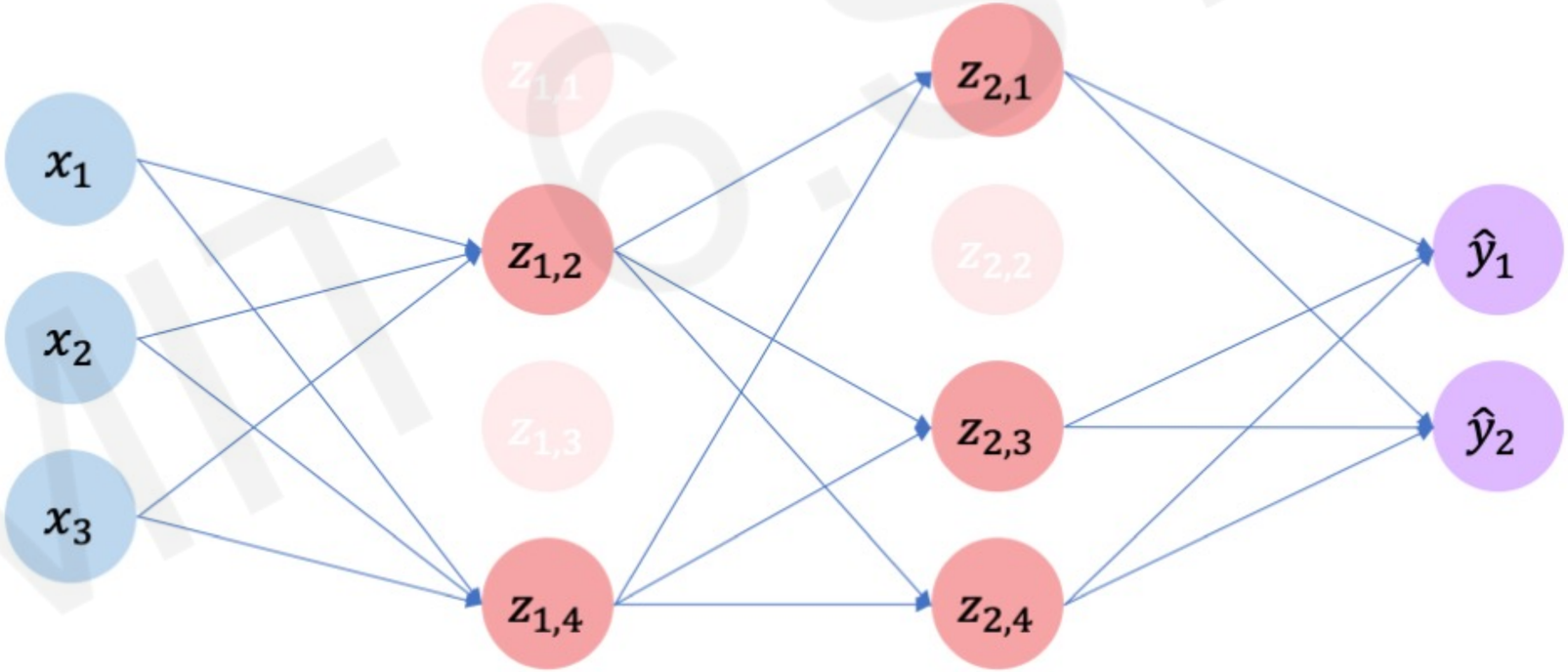
Regularization 1: Dropout

- During training, randomly set some activations to 0
  - Typically 'drop' 50% of activations in layer
  - Forces network to not rely on any 1 node

```
tf.keras.layers.Dropout(p=0.5)
```



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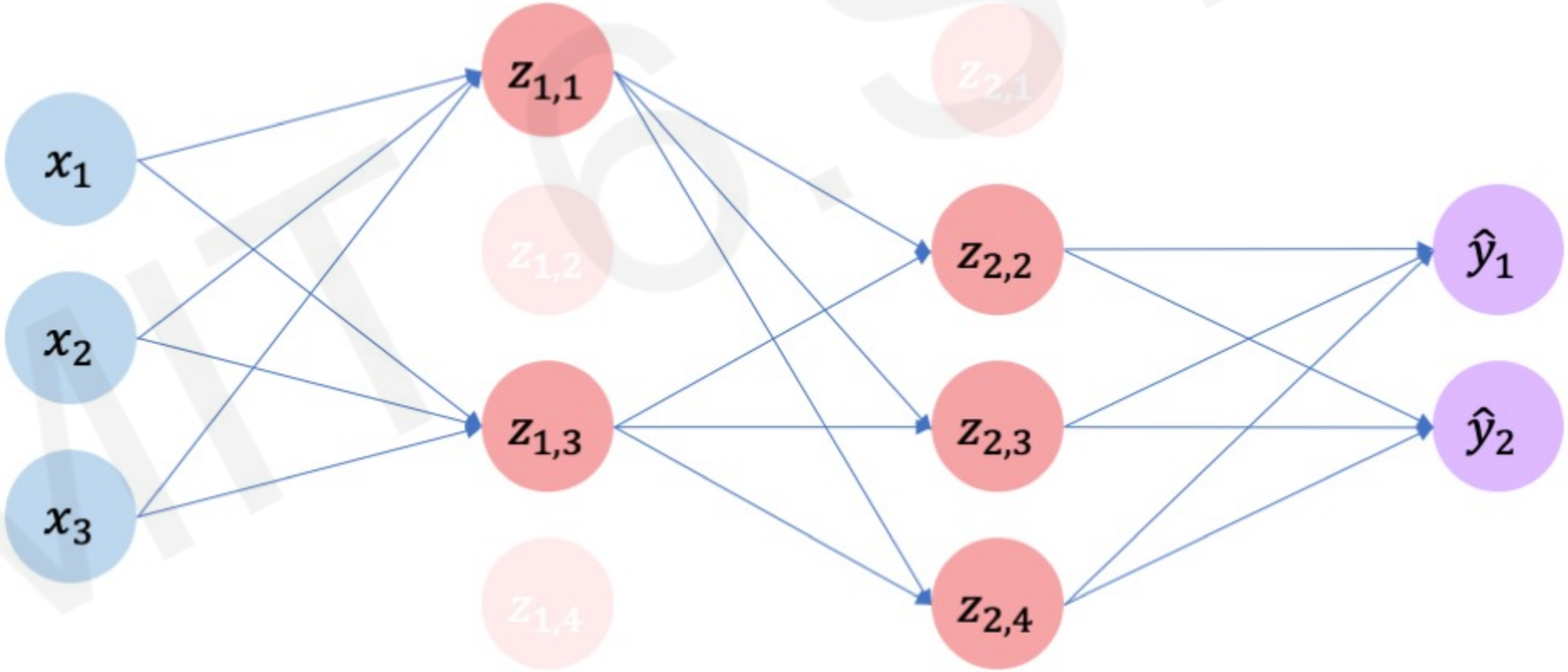

Regularization 2: Early Stopping

- Stop training before we have a chance to overfit

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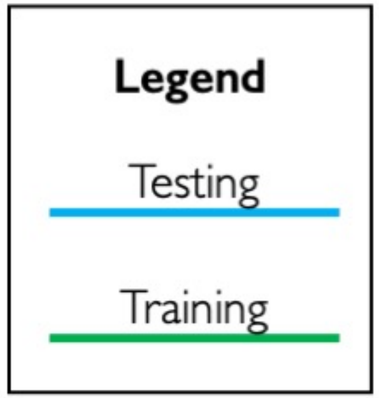

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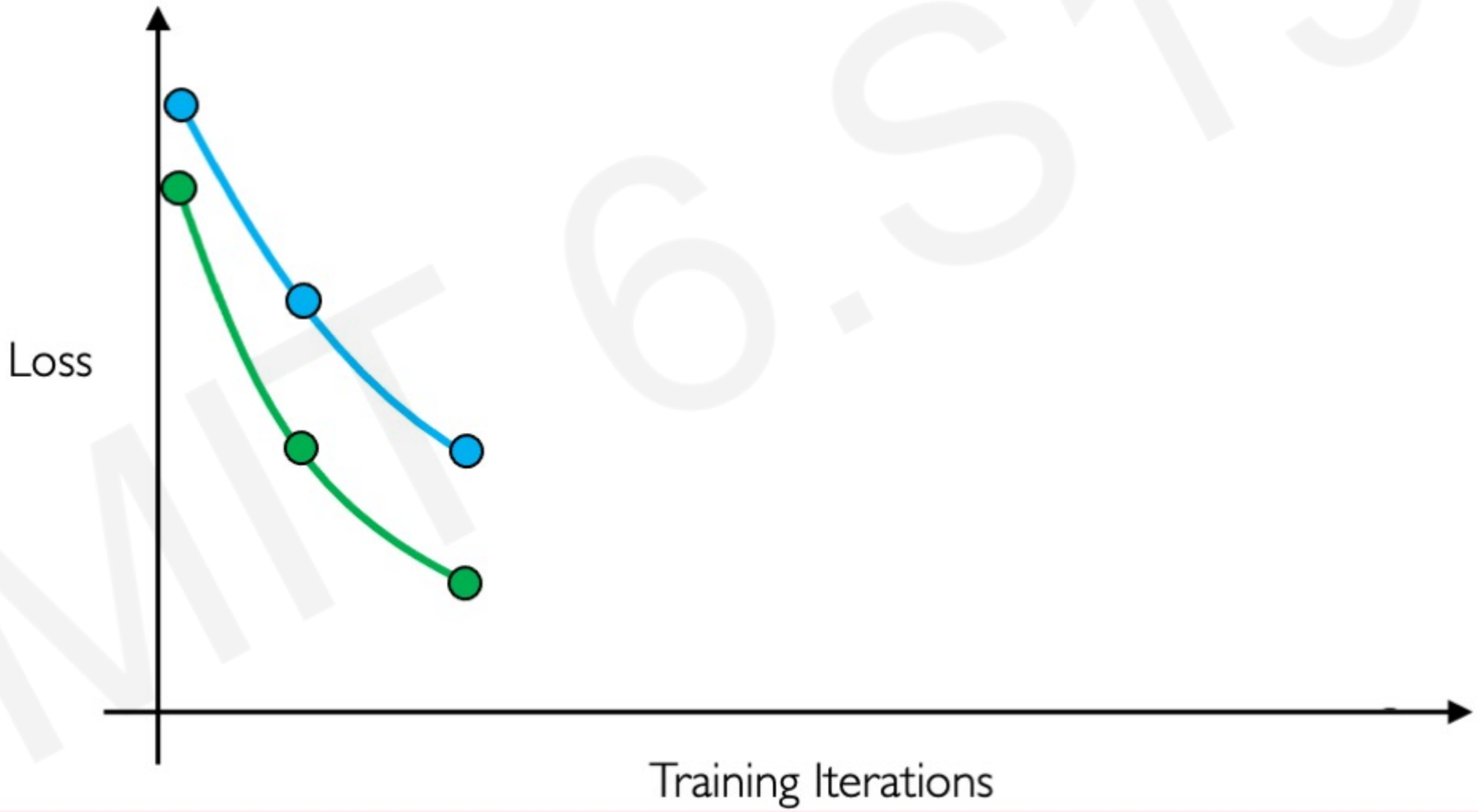

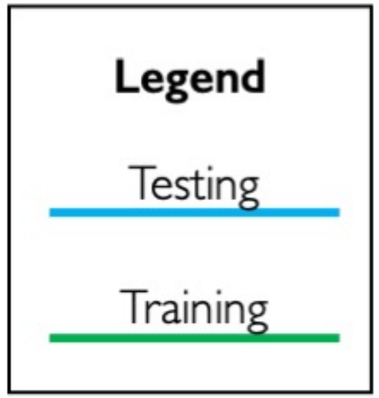

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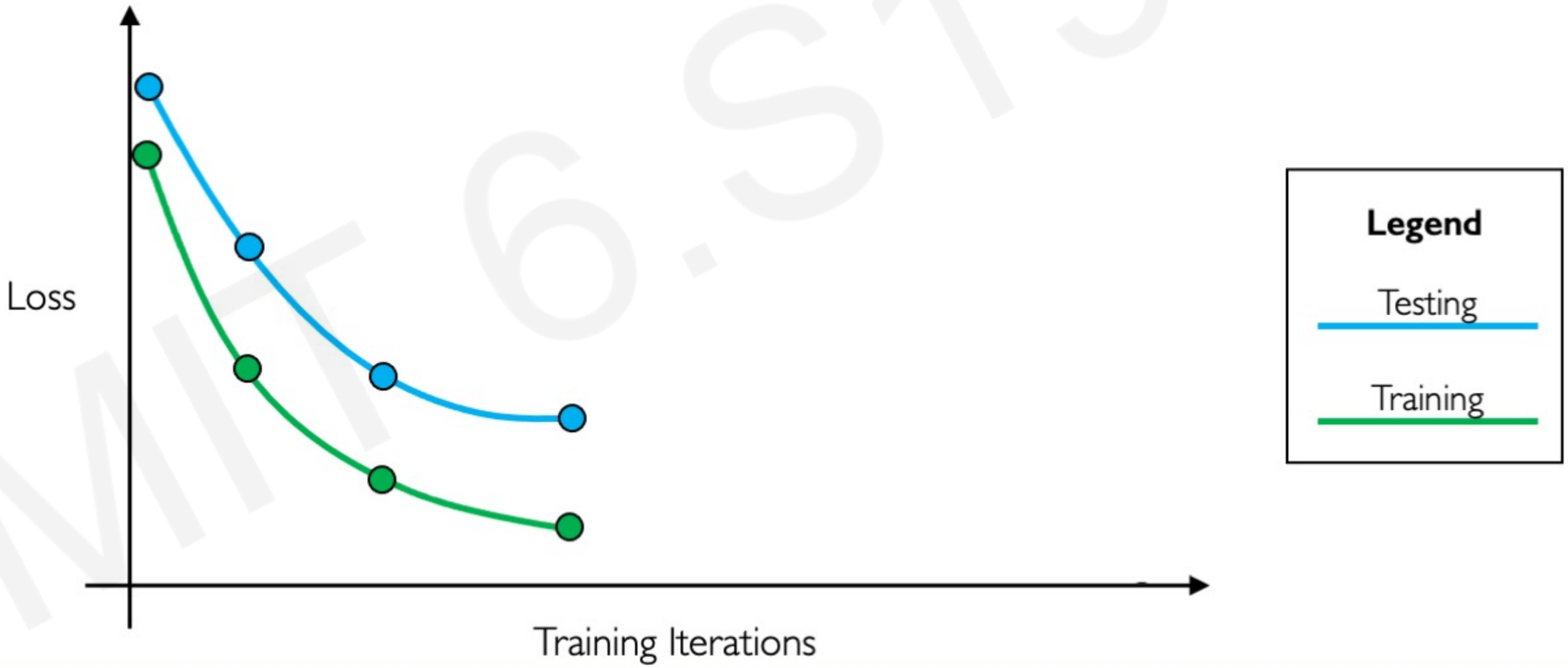

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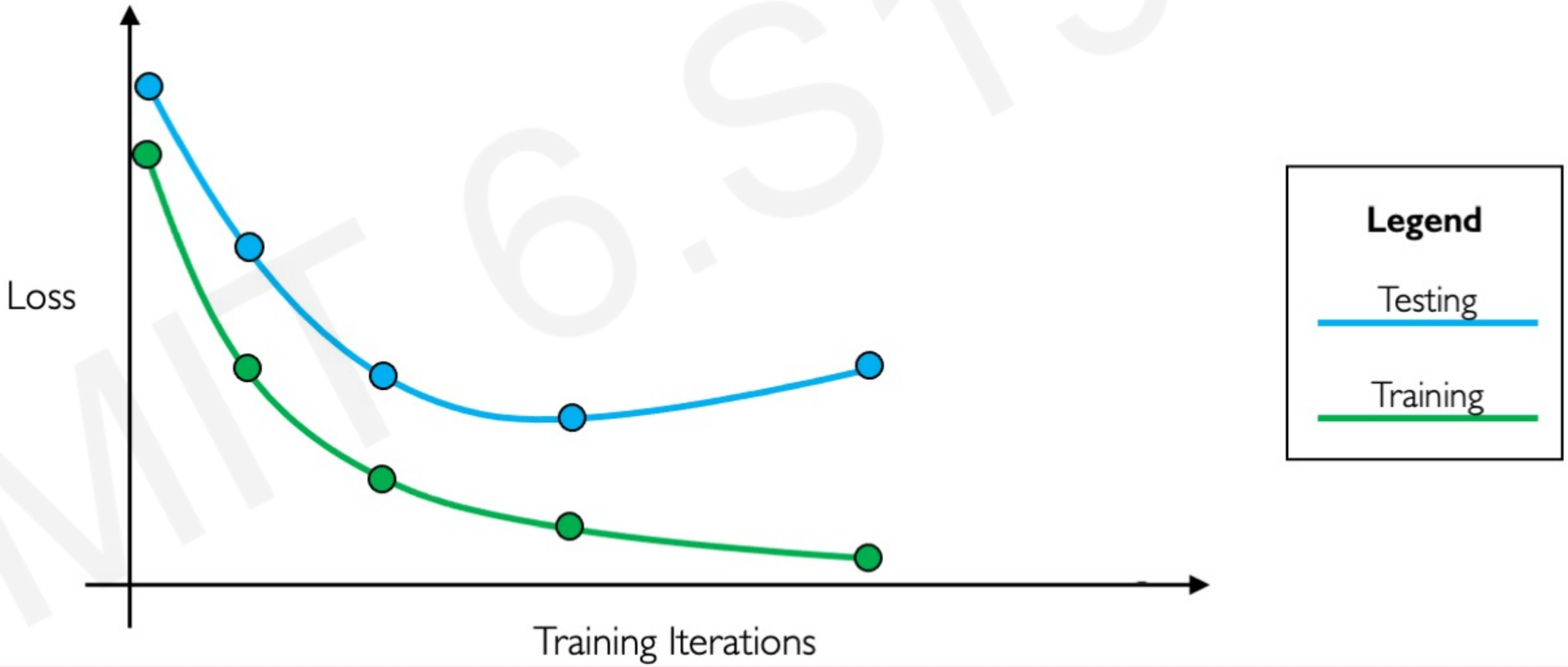

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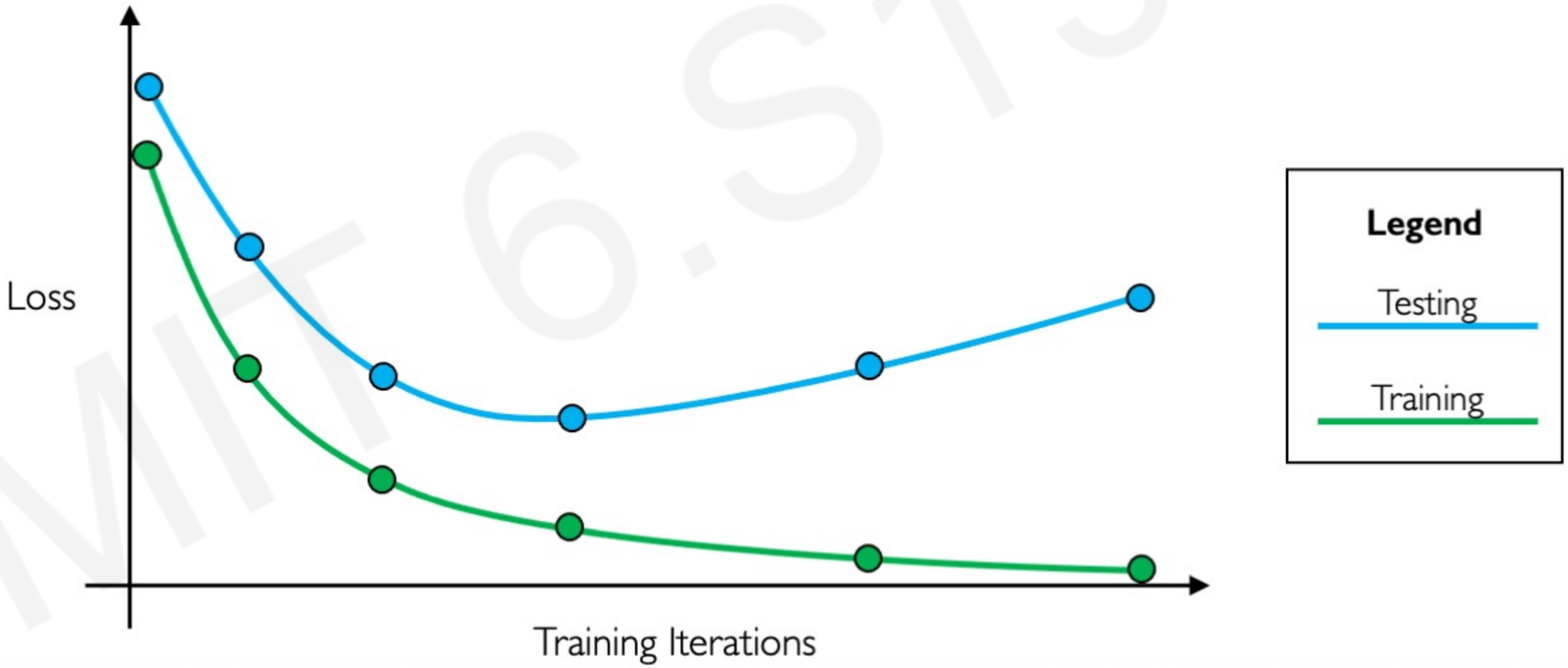

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Regularization 2: Early Stopping

- Stop training before we have a chance to overfit

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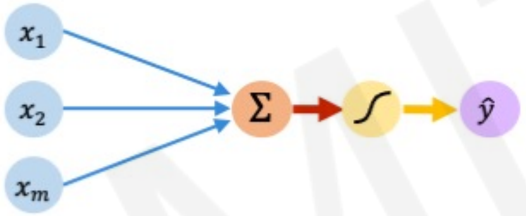
Core Foundation Review

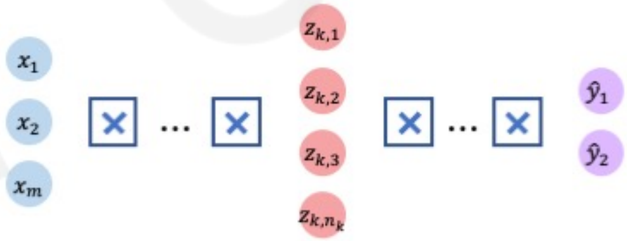
The Perceptron

- Structural building blocks
- Nonlinear activation functions



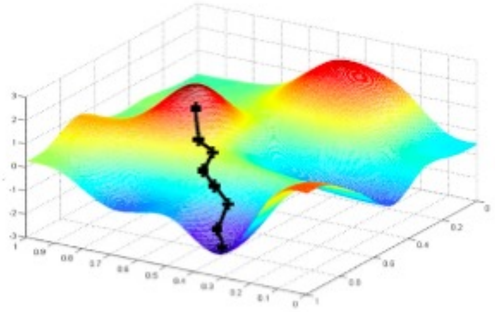
Neural Networks

- Stacking Perceptrons to form neural networks
- Optimization through backpropagation



Training in Practice

- Adaptive learning
- Batching
- Regularization



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