The background of the slide features a large number of overlapping circles in various colors, including shades of green, blue, orange, and yellow, set against a dark gray gradient.

# Deep Learning for NLP

Natalie Parde

UIC CS 421

# This Week's Topics

✗ Neural networks  
Computational units  
Combining layers of units

Tuesday

Thursday

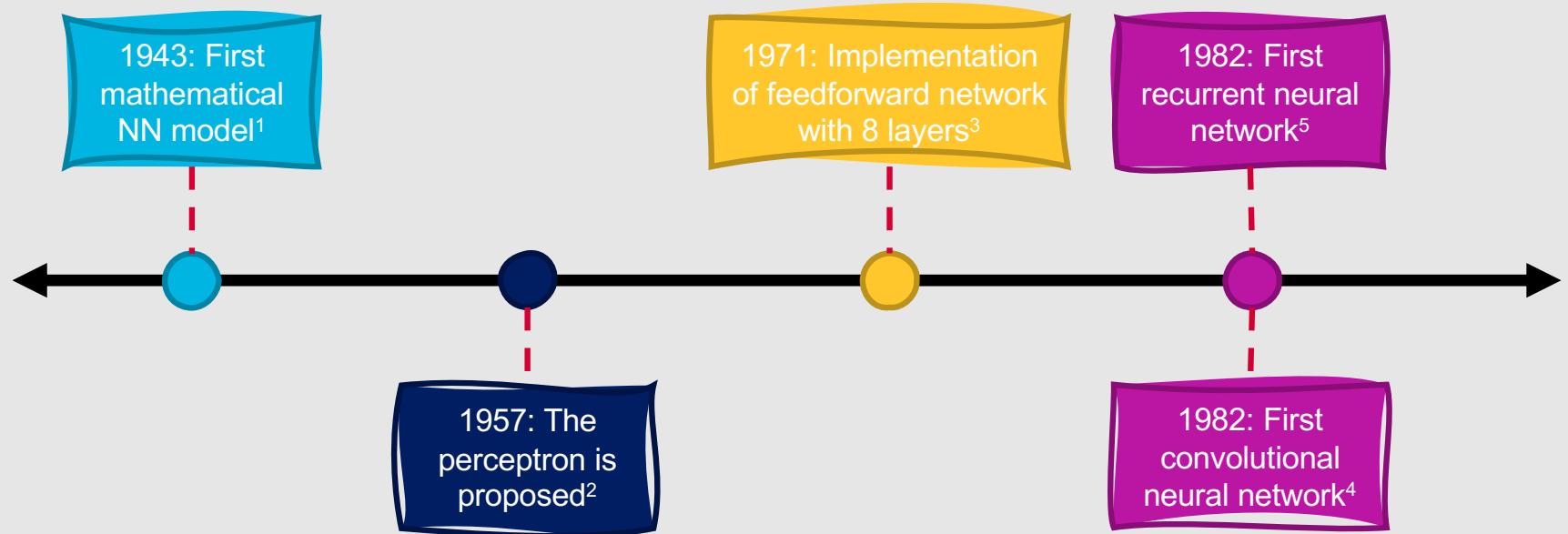
Backpropagation  
Neural language models  
Recurrent neural networks  
Other popular deep learning architectures

## Now that we have more advanced word embeddings....

- We can incorporate these word embeddings in more sophisticated text classification models
- Extremely popular modern text classification model: **Neural network**
  - Classification models comprised of interconnected computing units, or **neurons**, (loosely!) mirroring the interconnected neurons in the human brain
- Neural networks are the force behind **deep learning**



# Are neural networks new?



<sup>1</sup>McCulloch, W. S., and W. Pitts. "A logical calculus of the ideas immanent in nervous activity." *The bulletin of mathematical biophysics* 5.4 (1943): 115-133.

<sup>2</sup>Rosenblatt, F. (1957). *The perceptron, a perceiving and recognizing automaton Project Para*. Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory.

<sup>3</sup>Hopfield, J. J. (1982). Neural networks and physical systems with emergent collective computational abilities. *Proceedings of the national academy of sciences*, 79(8), 2554-2558.

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<sup>4</sup>Ivakhnenco, A. G. (1971). Polynomial theory of complex systems. *IEEE transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics*, (4), 364-378.

<sup>5</sup>Fukushima, K., & Miyake, S. (1982). Neocognitron: A self-organizing neural network model for a mechanism of visual pattern recognition. In *Competition and cooperation in neural nets* (pp. 267-285). Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.

# Why haven't they been a big deal until recently then?

- Data
- Computing power



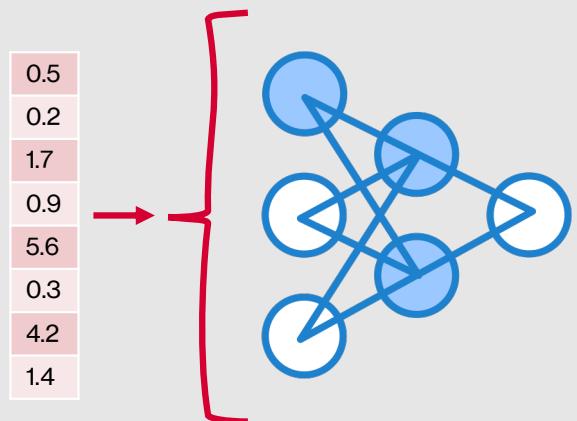
# There are many types of neural networks!

- Feedforward neural networks
- Recurrent neural networks
- Convolutional neural networks
- Transformers
- ....

# Common Themes across Deep Learning Approaches

- Input is typically a **dense vector representation**
  - In most cases, the dimensions within this representation do not correspond to specific, known attributes

Word2Vec  
fasttext  
GloVe



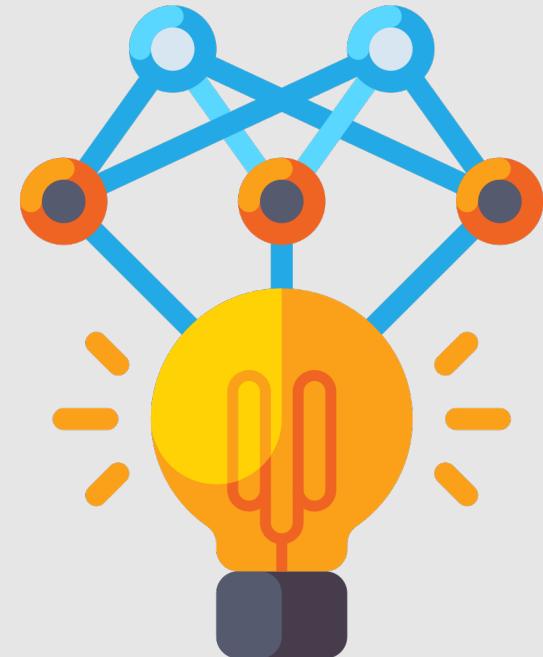
# Common Themes across Deep Learning Approaches

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- Structure of the deep learning model is determined at least partially by a **hyperparameter tuning process**
  - Many experiments will be run using different hyperparameter combinations to determine what leads to the best performance on the validation data



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- Output is **task-dependent**
  - Can be a class label, a number, or a string of generated text



# Common Themes across Deep Learning Approaches

- Input is typically a dense vector representation
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  - Many experiments will be run using different hyperparameter combinations to determine what leads to the best performance on the validation data
- Output is task-dependent
  - Can be a class label, a number, or a string of generated text
- Training can be performed **end-to-end**
  - The model is trained to predict the target output directly, rather than through pipelined components





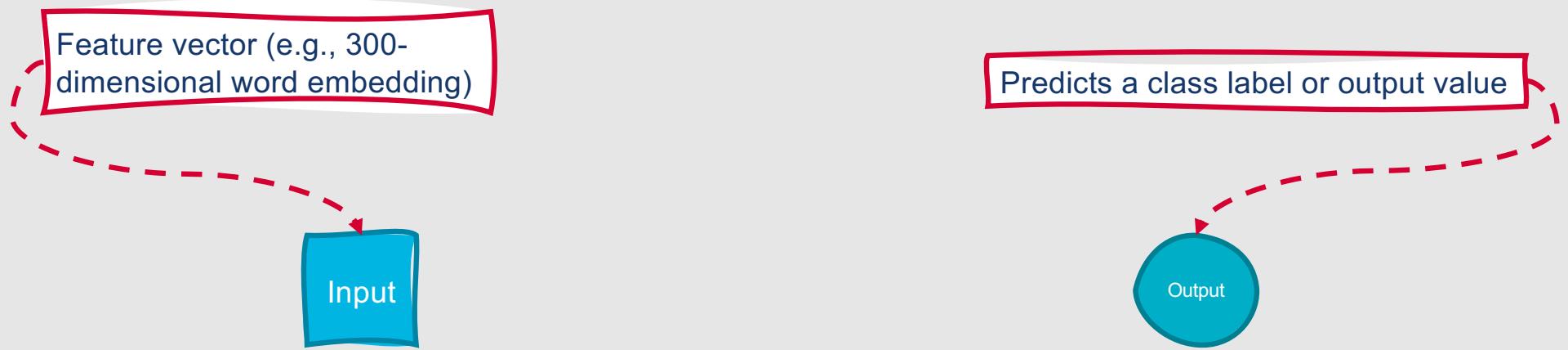
**Despite these common themes, deep learning models are implemented in many different ways!**

- They may vary in how they:
  - Handle prior context
  - Draw inferences from the data
  - Pass data between layers
- These variations make different kinds of deep learning models work better for different tasks

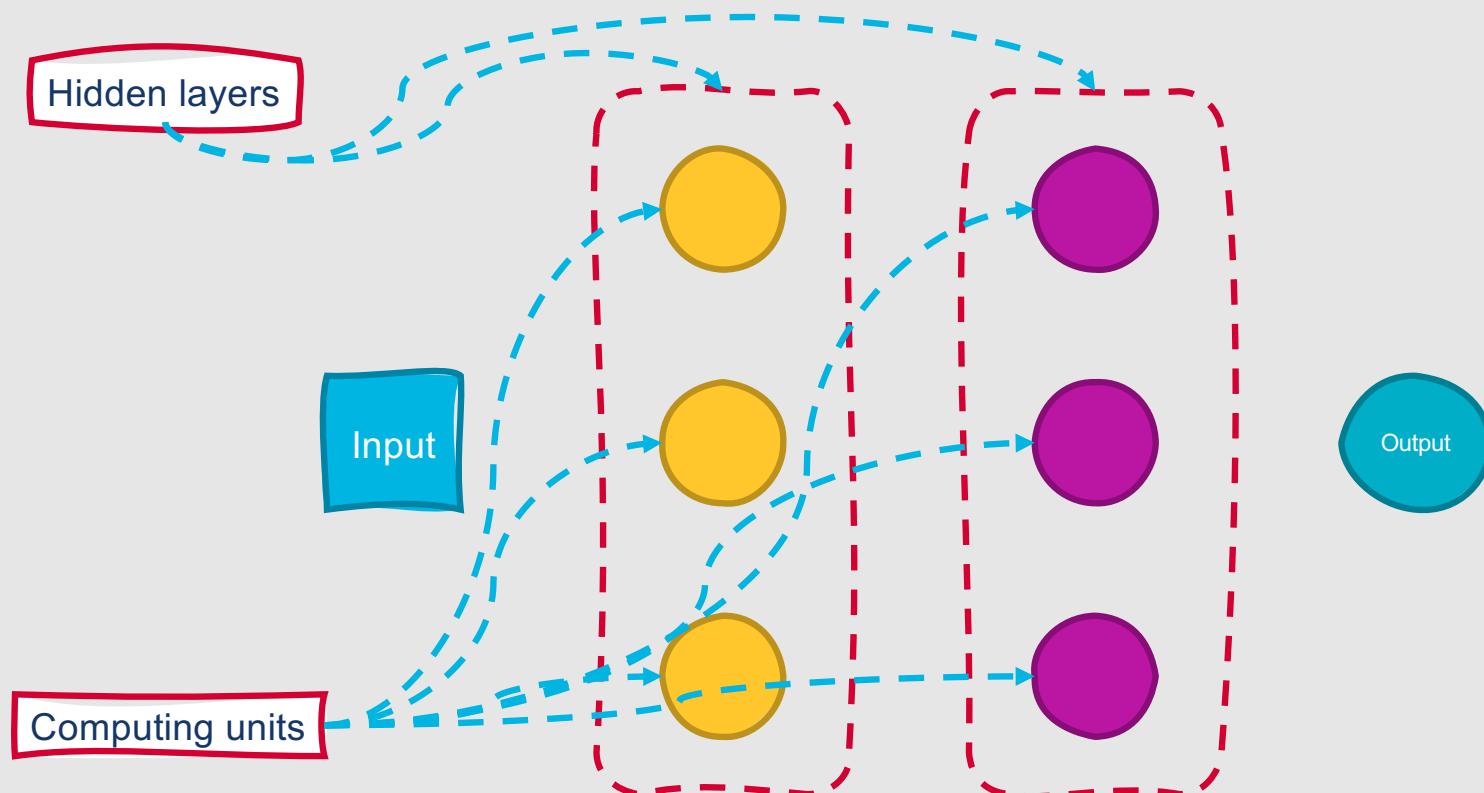
# Feedforward Neural Networks

- Earliest and simplest form of neural network
- Data is fed forward from one layer to the next
- Each layer:
  - One or more units
  - A unit in layer  $n$  receives input from all units in layer  $n-1$  and sends output to all units in layer  $n+1$
  - A unit in layer  $n$  does not communicate with any other units in layer  $n$
- The outputs of all units except for those in the last layer are **hidden** from external viewers

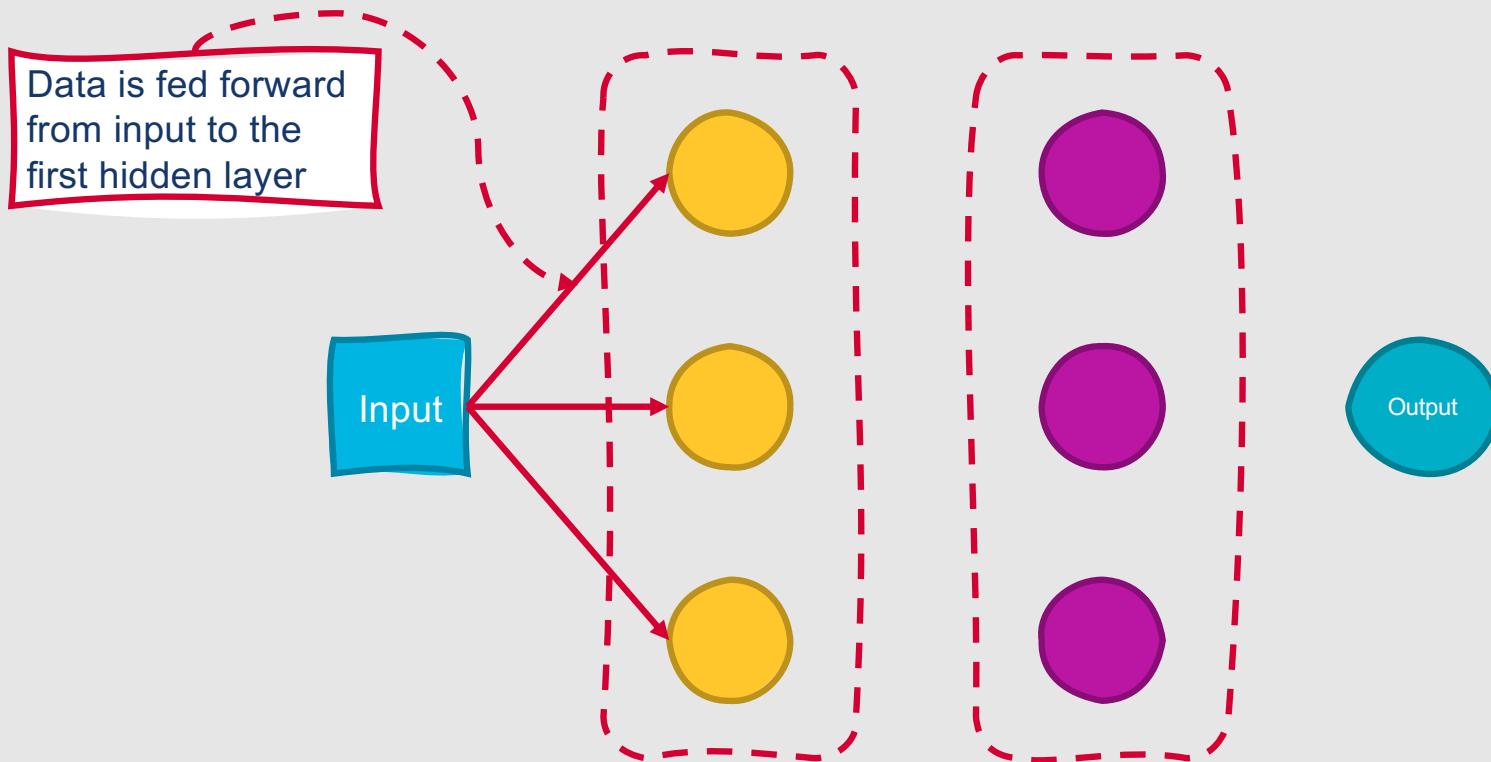
# Feedforward Neural Networks



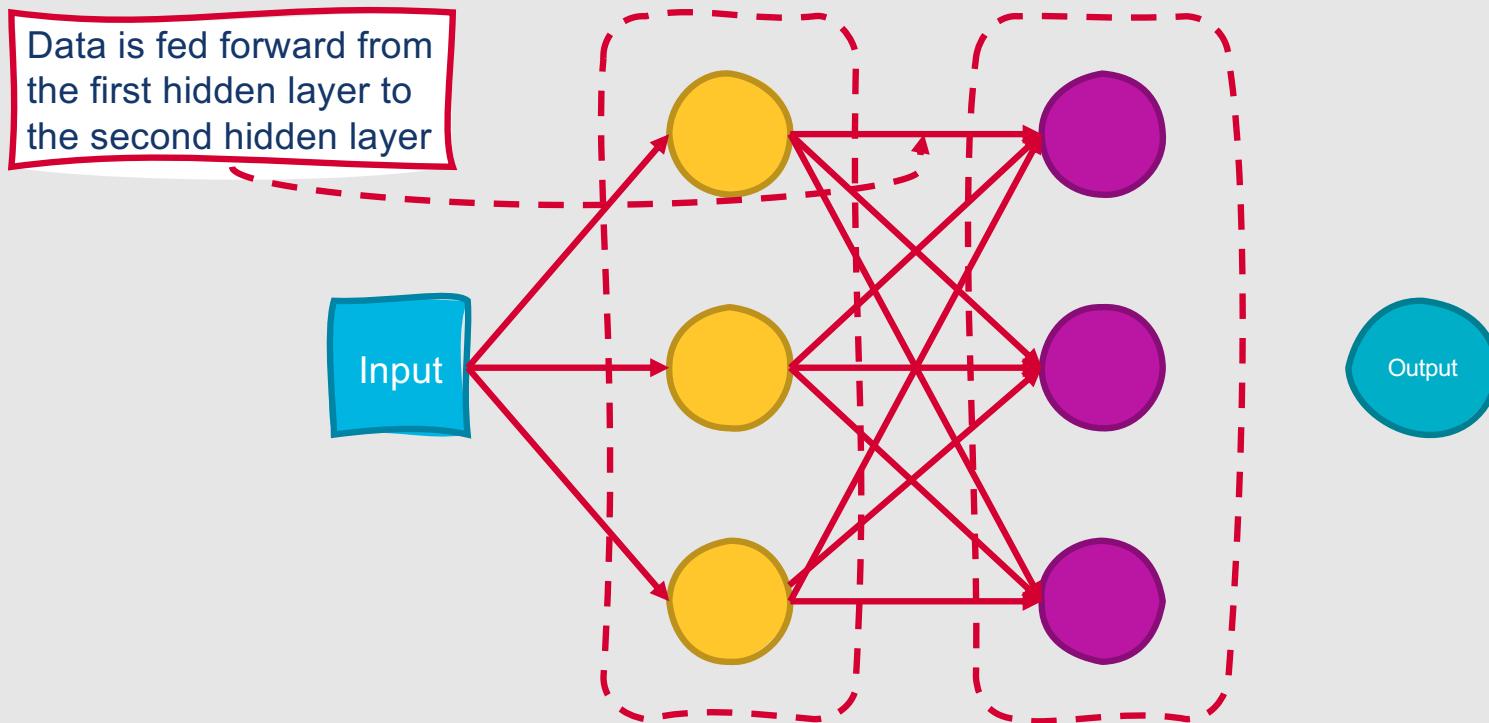
# Feedforward Neural Networks



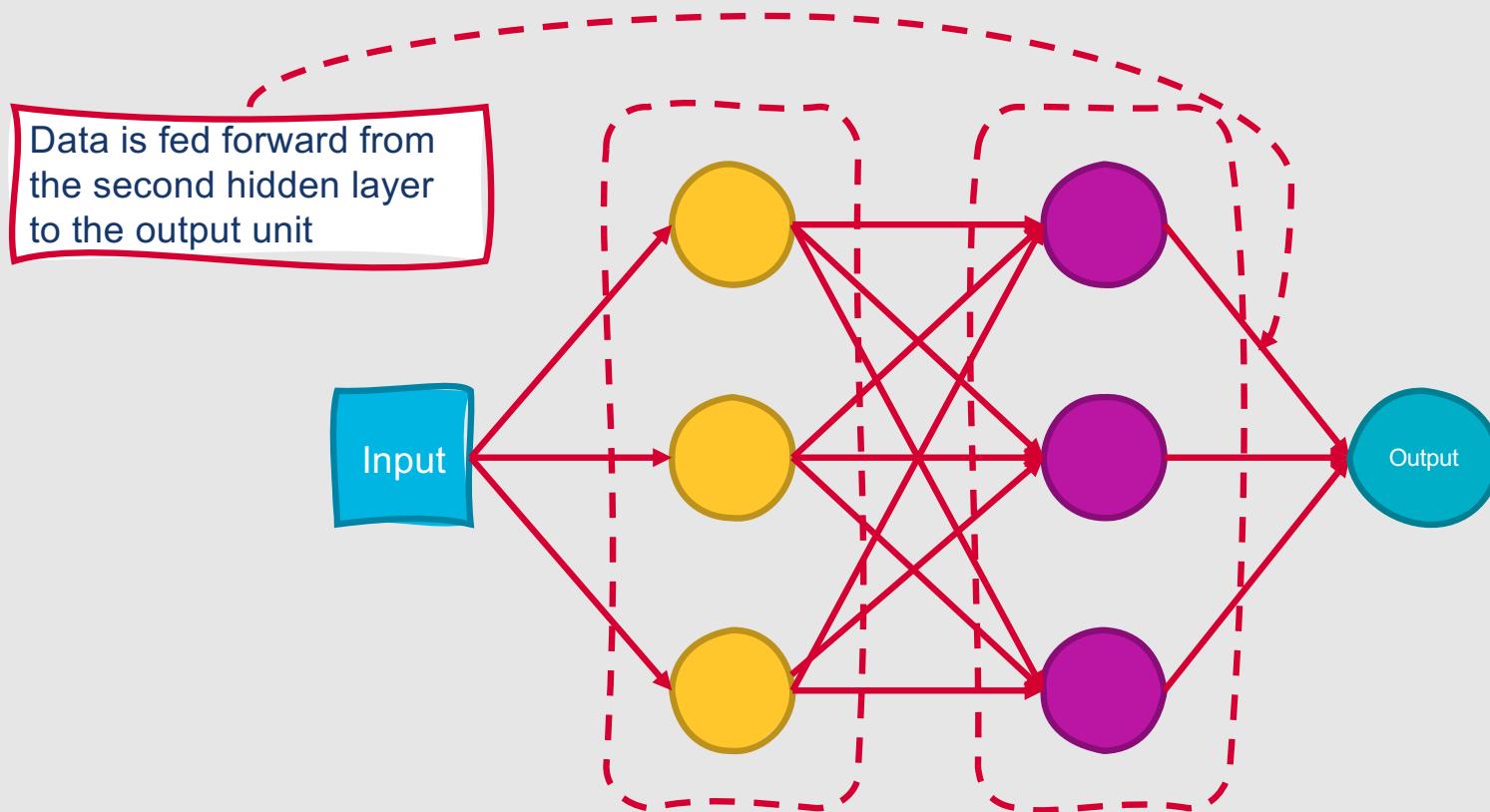
# Feedforward Neural Networks



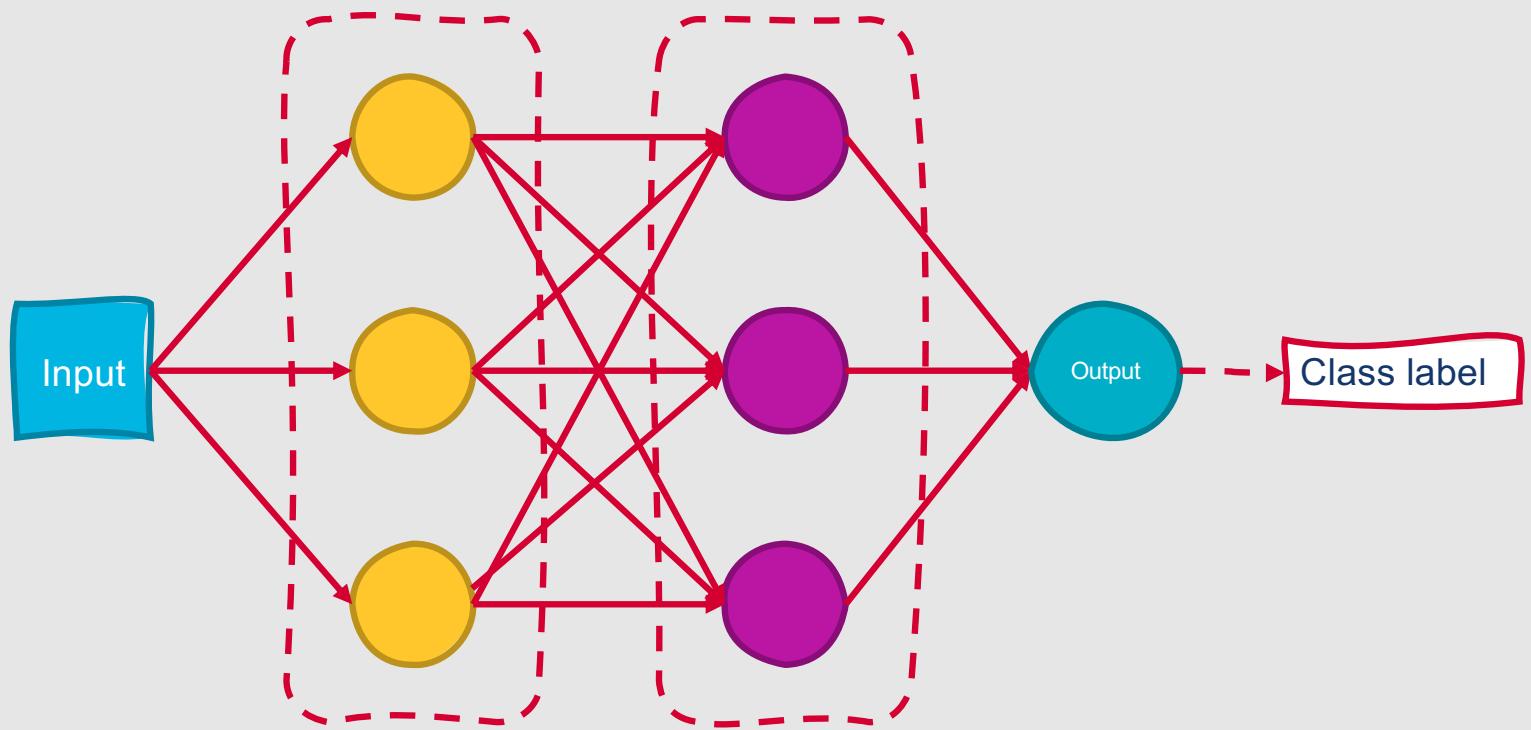
# Feedforward Neural Networks



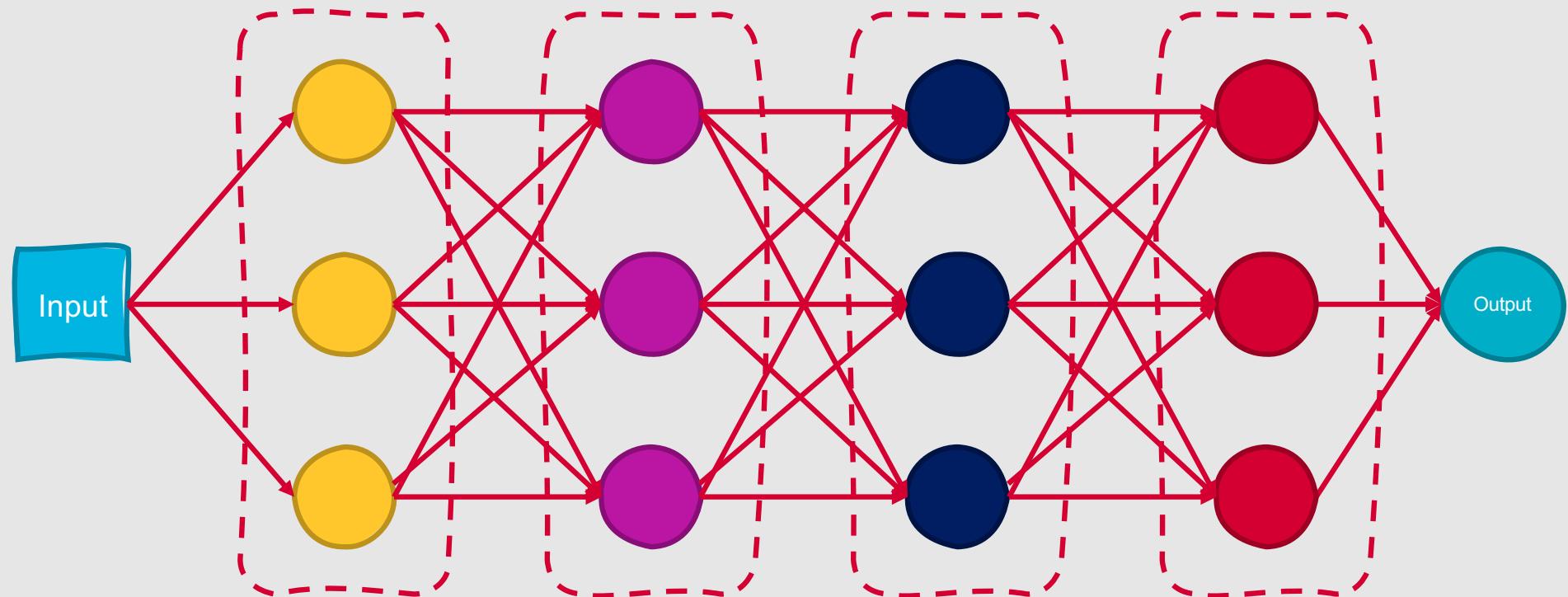
# Feedforward Neural Networks



# Feedforward Neural Networks

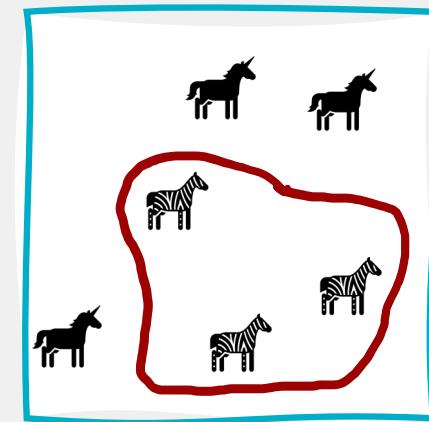
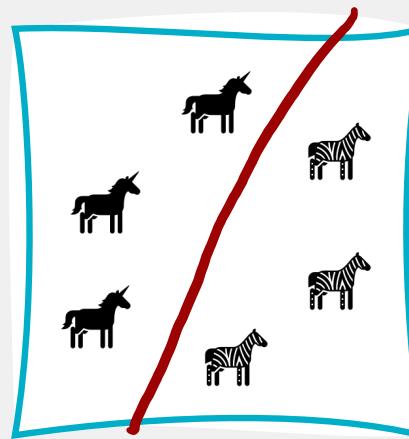


**Any neural network architecture with hidden layers can be referred to as “deep learning,” but this term often refers to networks with multiple hidden layers.**



# Neural networks tend to be more powerful than feature-based classifiers.

- Classification algorithms like naïve Bayes and logistic regression assume that data is **linearly separable**
- In contrast, neural networks learn **nonlinear** ways to separate the data



**Neural  
networks  
aren't  
necessarily  
the best  
classifier  
for all  
tasks!**

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Learning features **implicitly**  
requires a lot of data

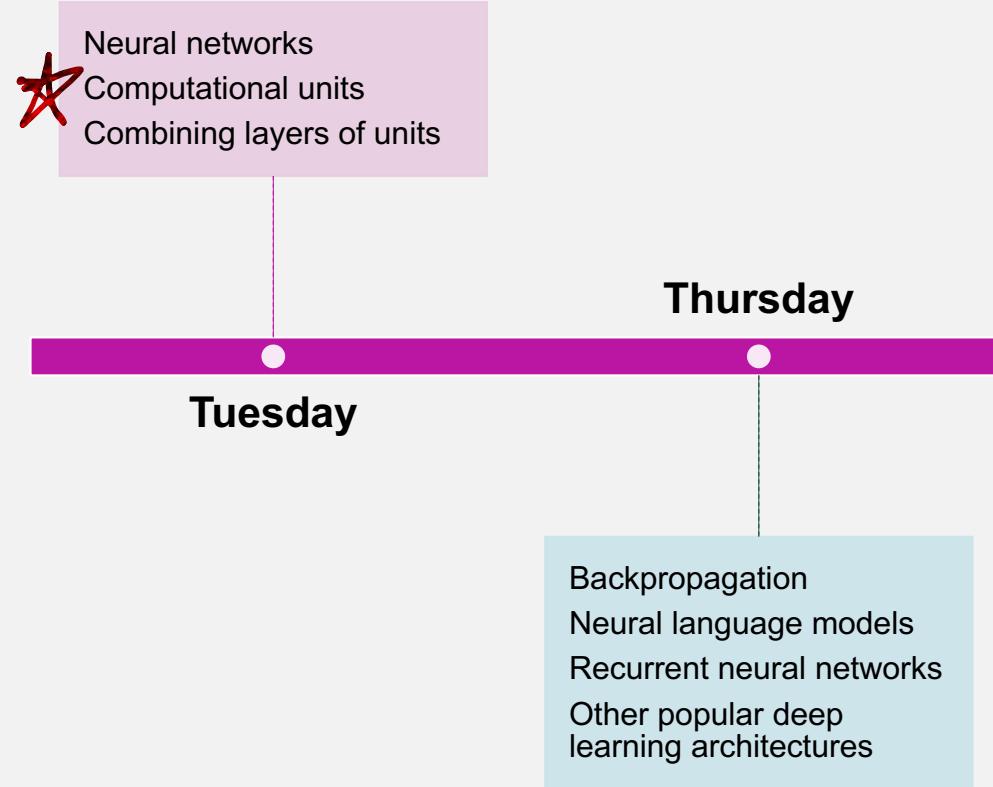
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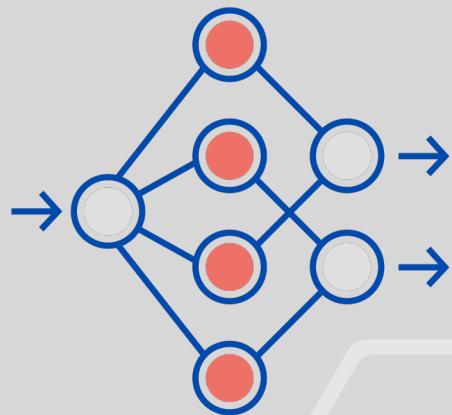
In general, deeper network →  
more data needed

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Neural nets tend to work very well  
for large-scale problems, but not  
as well for small-scale problems

# This Week's Topics

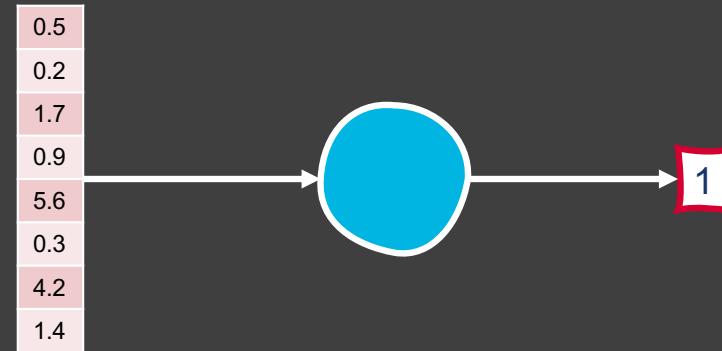




# How do you build a neural network?

# Building Blocks for Neural Networks

- Neural networks are comprised of **computational units**
- Computational units:
  1. Take a set of real-valued numbers as input
  2. Perform some computation on them
  3. Produce a single output



# Computational Units

- The computation performed by each unit is a weighted sum of inputs
  - Assign a weight to each input
  - Add one additional bias term
- More formally, given a set of inputs  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , a unit has a set of corresponding weights  $w_1, \dots, w_n$  and a bias  $b$ , so the weighted sum  $z$  can be represented as:
  - $$z = b + \sum_i w_i x_i$$

# Sound familiar?

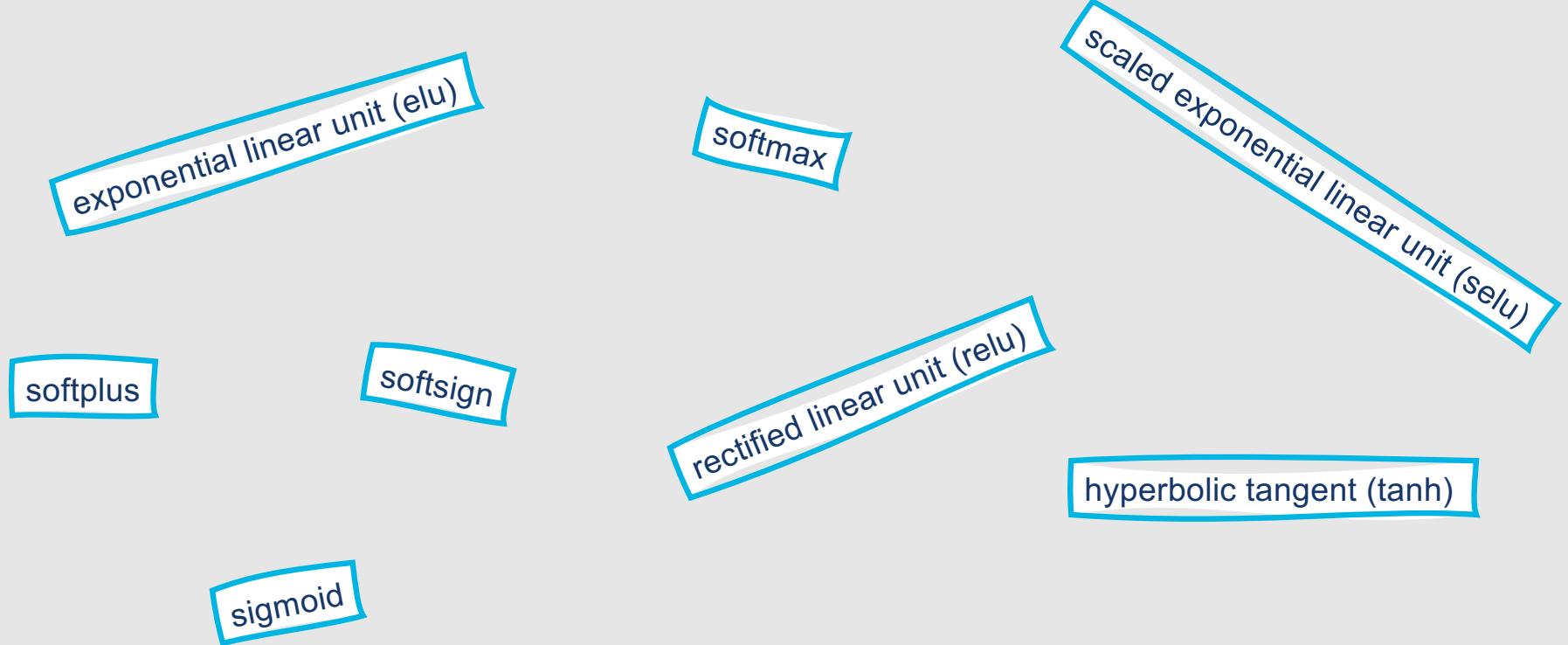
- This is exactly the same sort of weighted sum of inputs that we needed to find with logistic regression!
- Recall that we can also represent the weighted sum  $z$  using vector notation:
  - $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} + b$



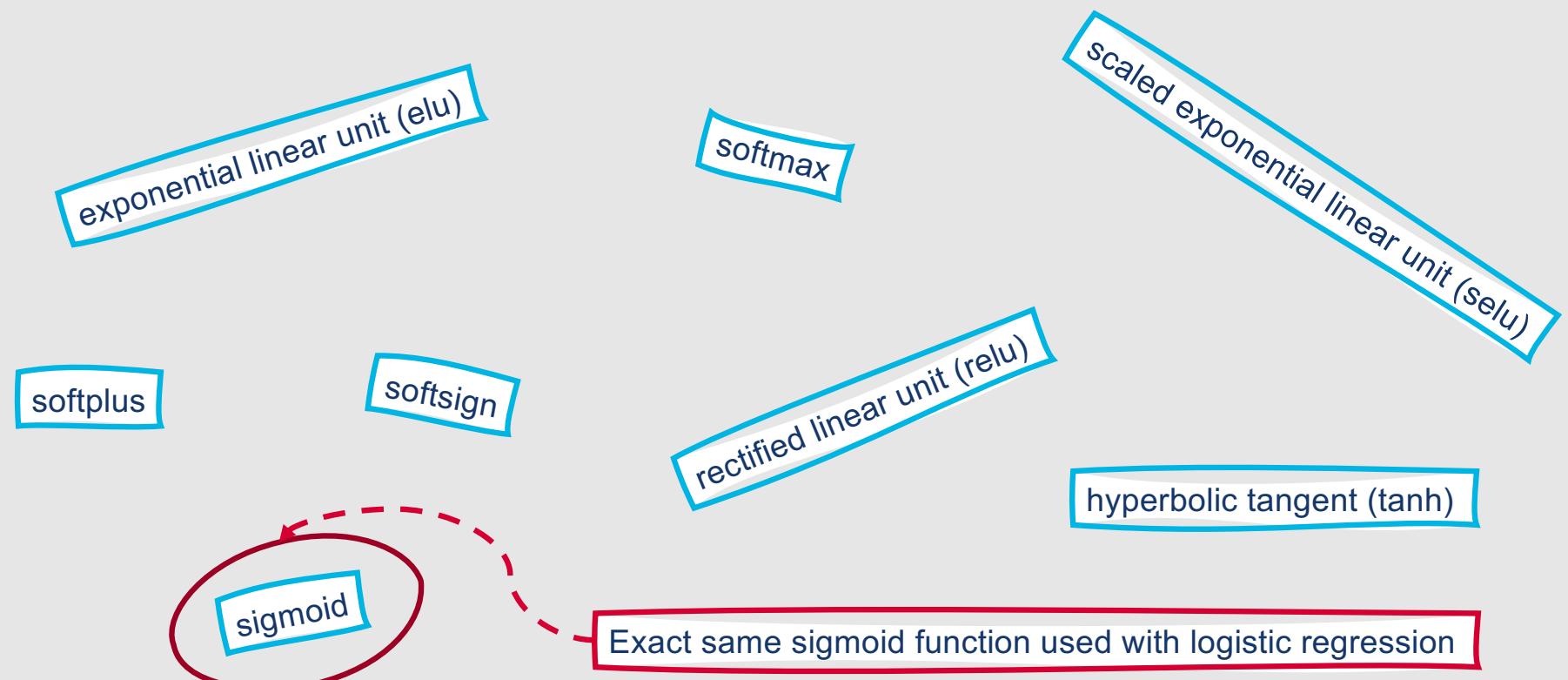
# Computational Units

- Neural networks apply nonlinear functions referred to as **activations** to the weighted sum of inputs
- The output of a computation unit is thus the **activation value** for the unit,  $y$ 
  - $y = f(z) = f(w \cdot x + b)$

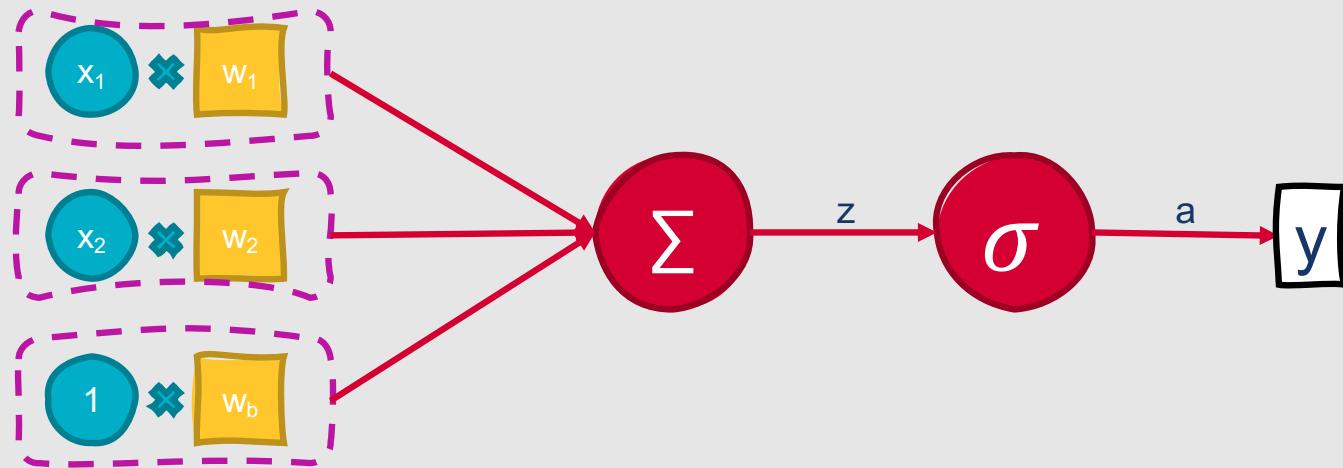
# There are many different activation functions!



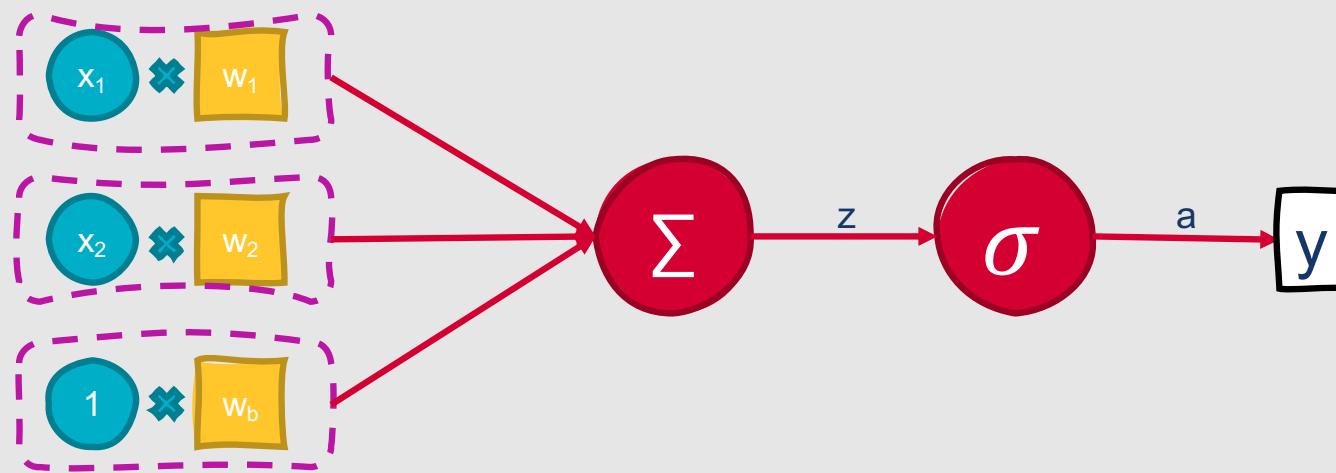
# There are many different activation functions!



# Computational Unit with Sigmoid Activation



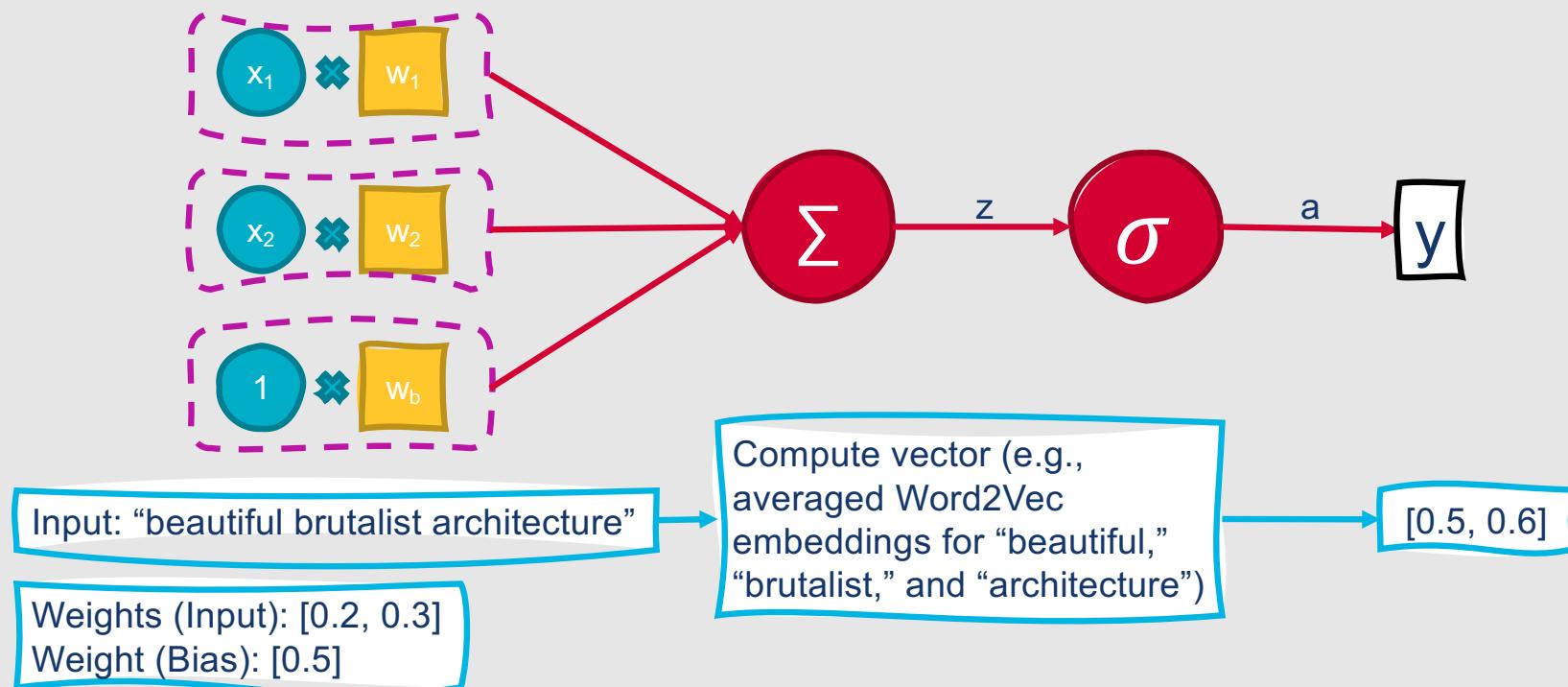
# Example: Computational Unit with Sigmoid Activation



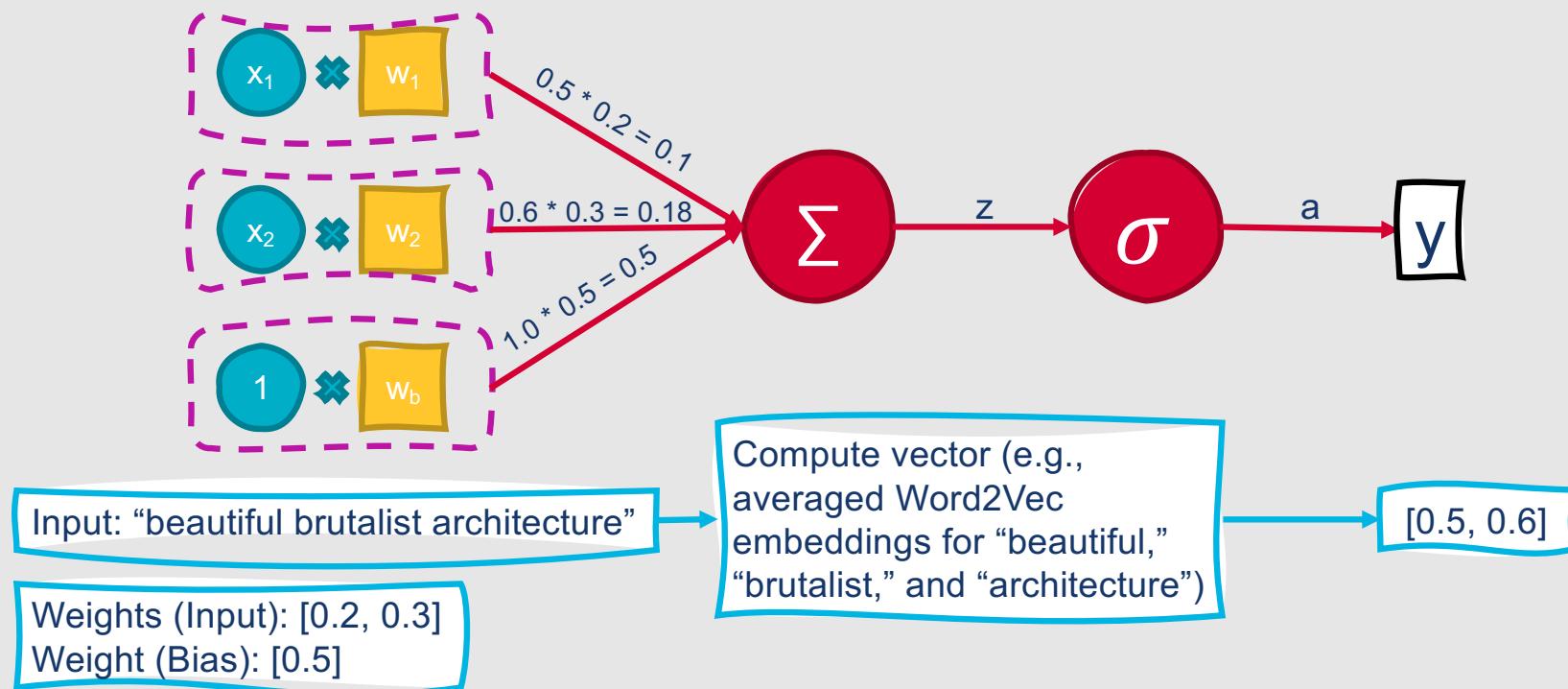
Input: "beautiful brutalist architecture"

Weights (Input): [0.2, 0.3]  
Weight (Bias): [0.5]

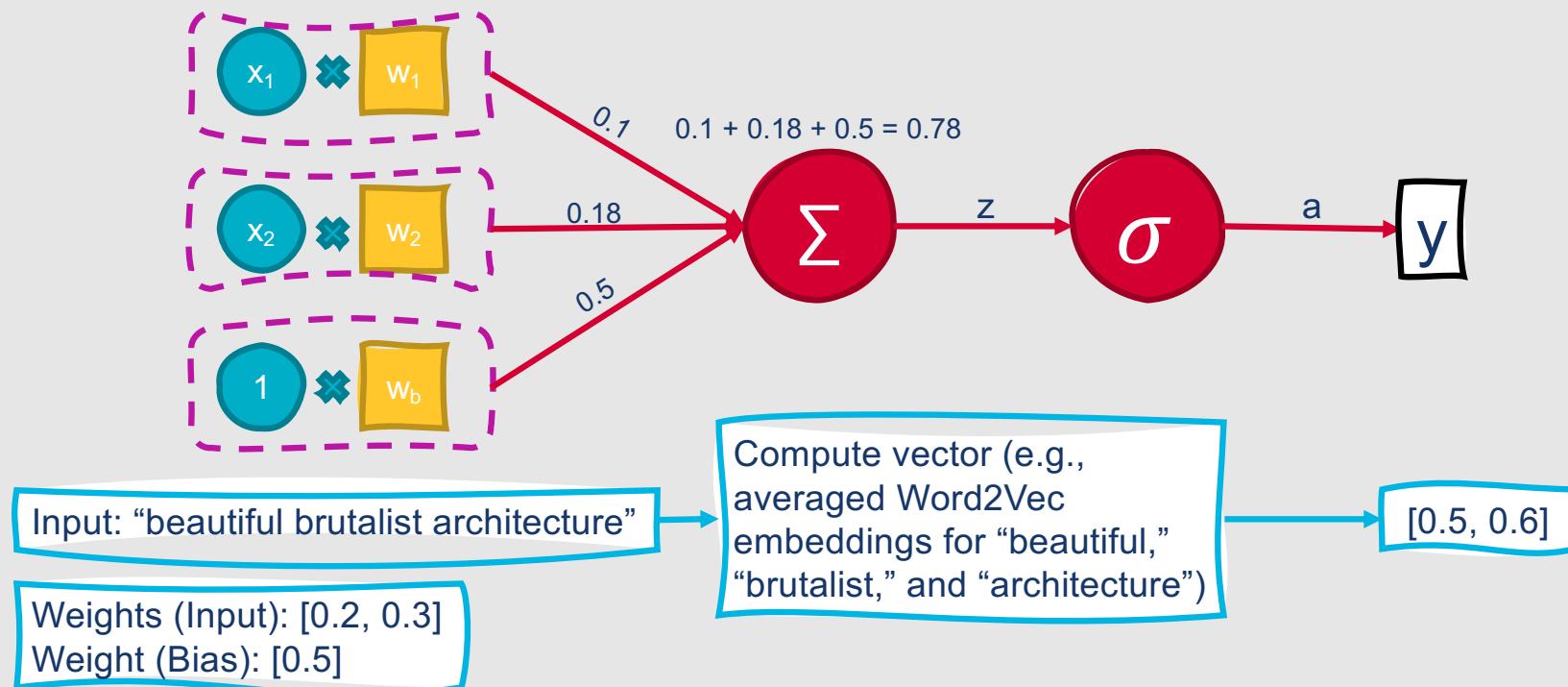
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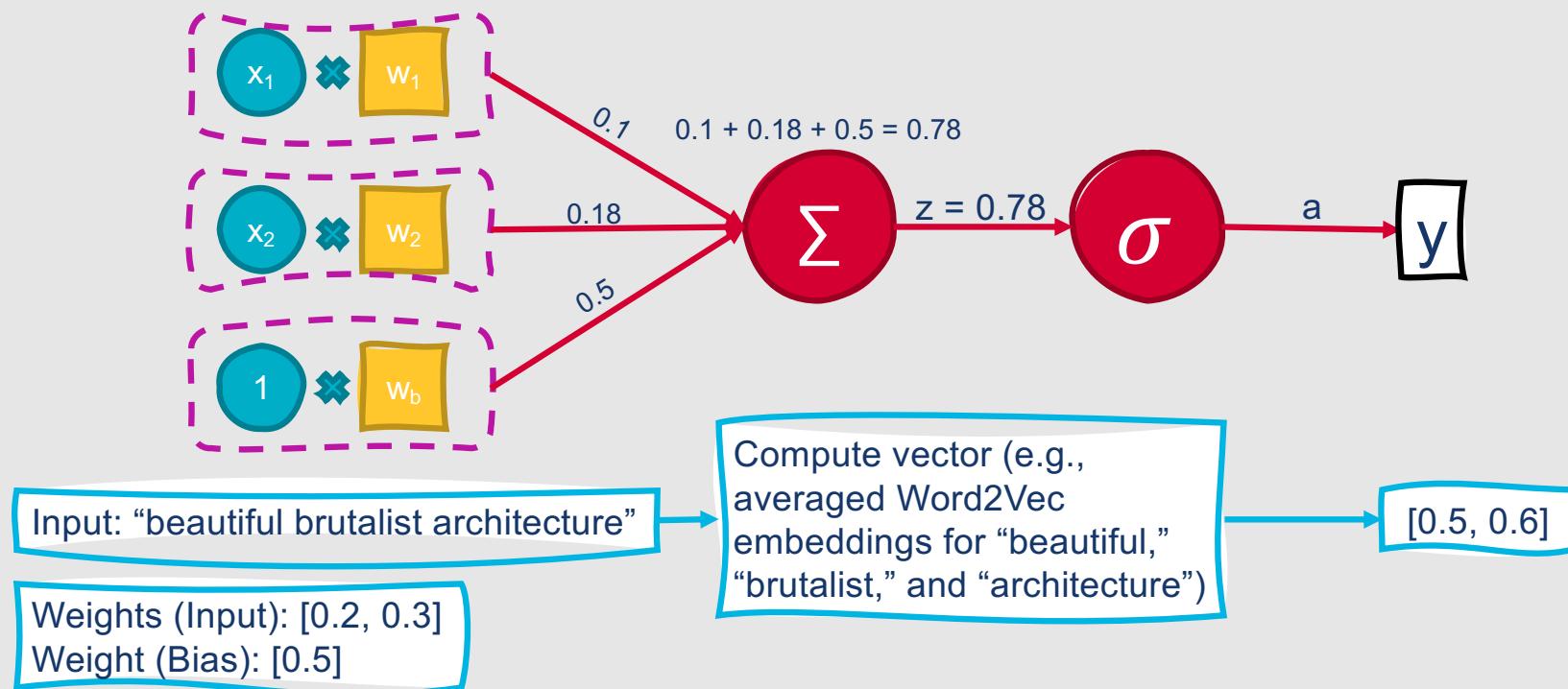
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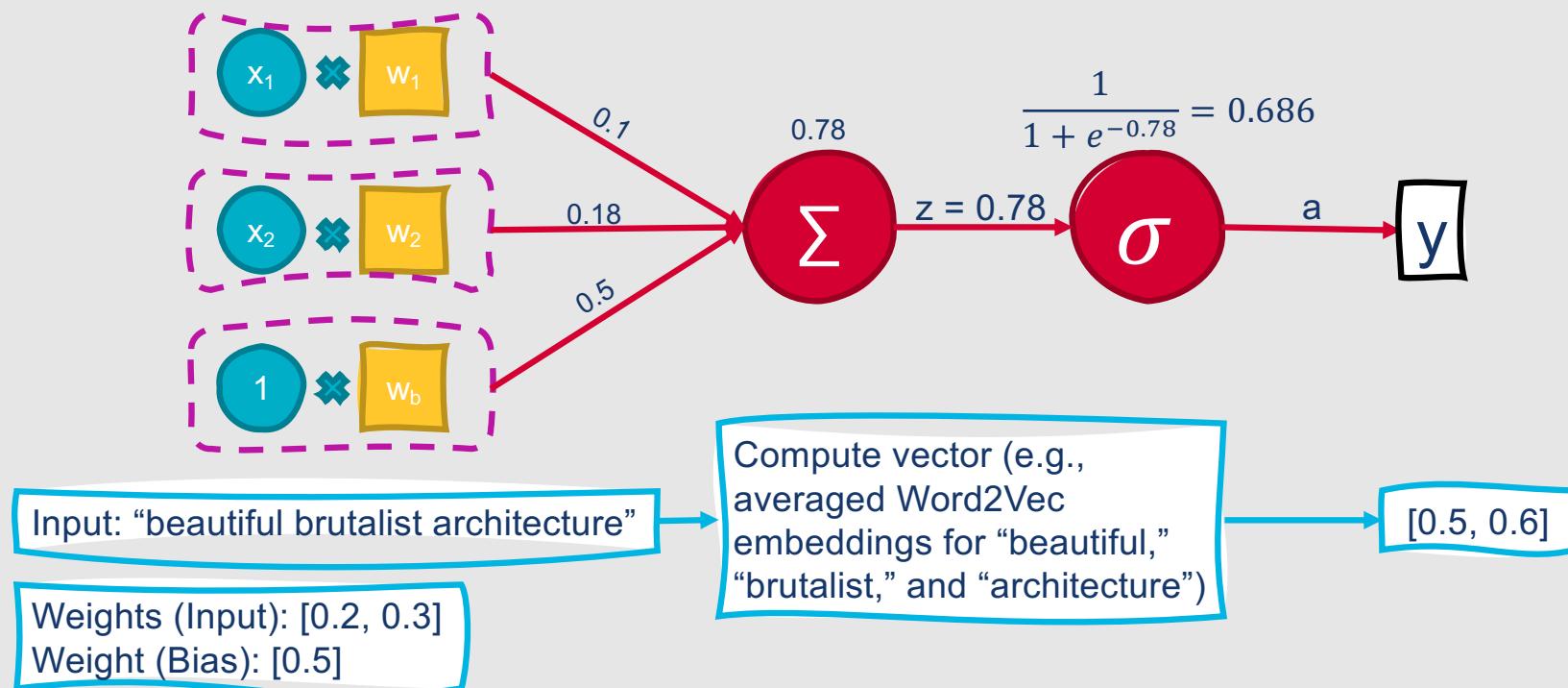
# Example: Computational Unit with Sigmoid Activation



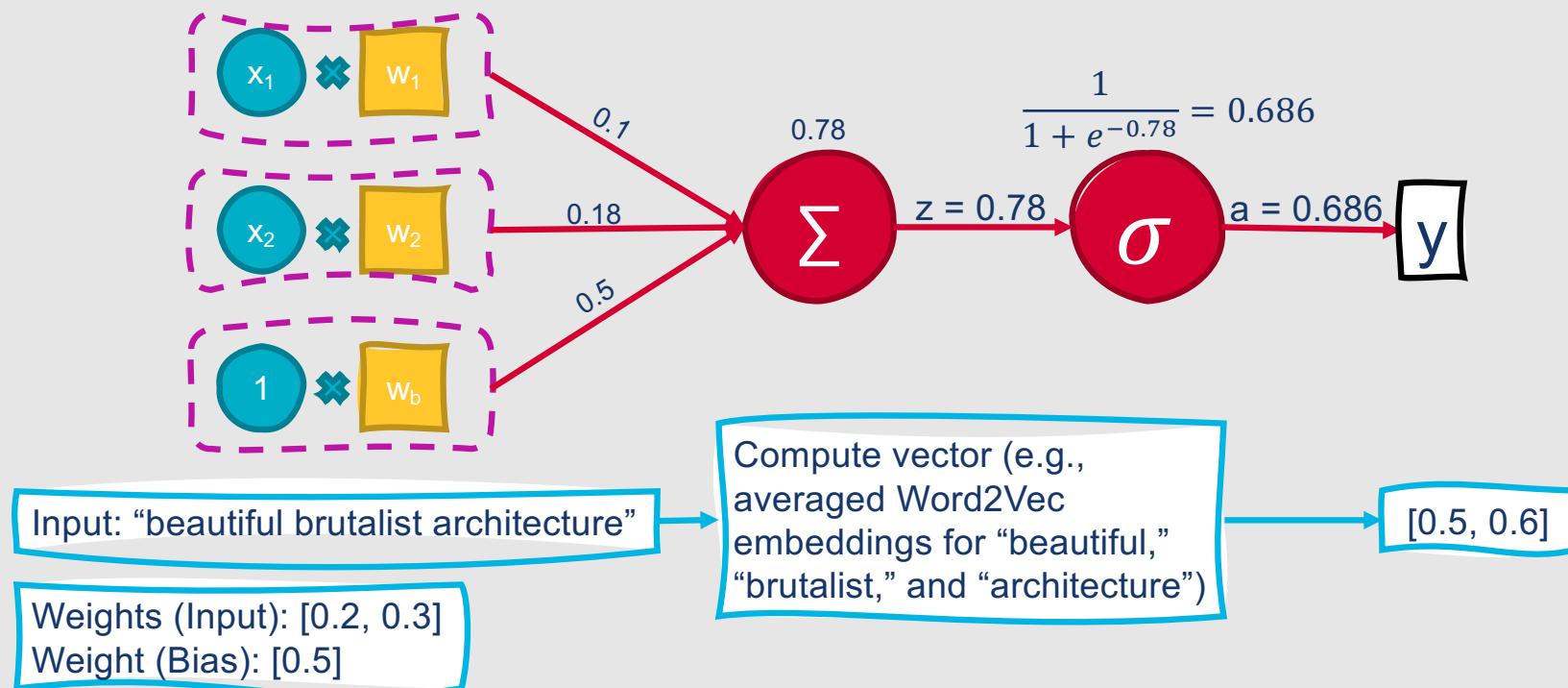
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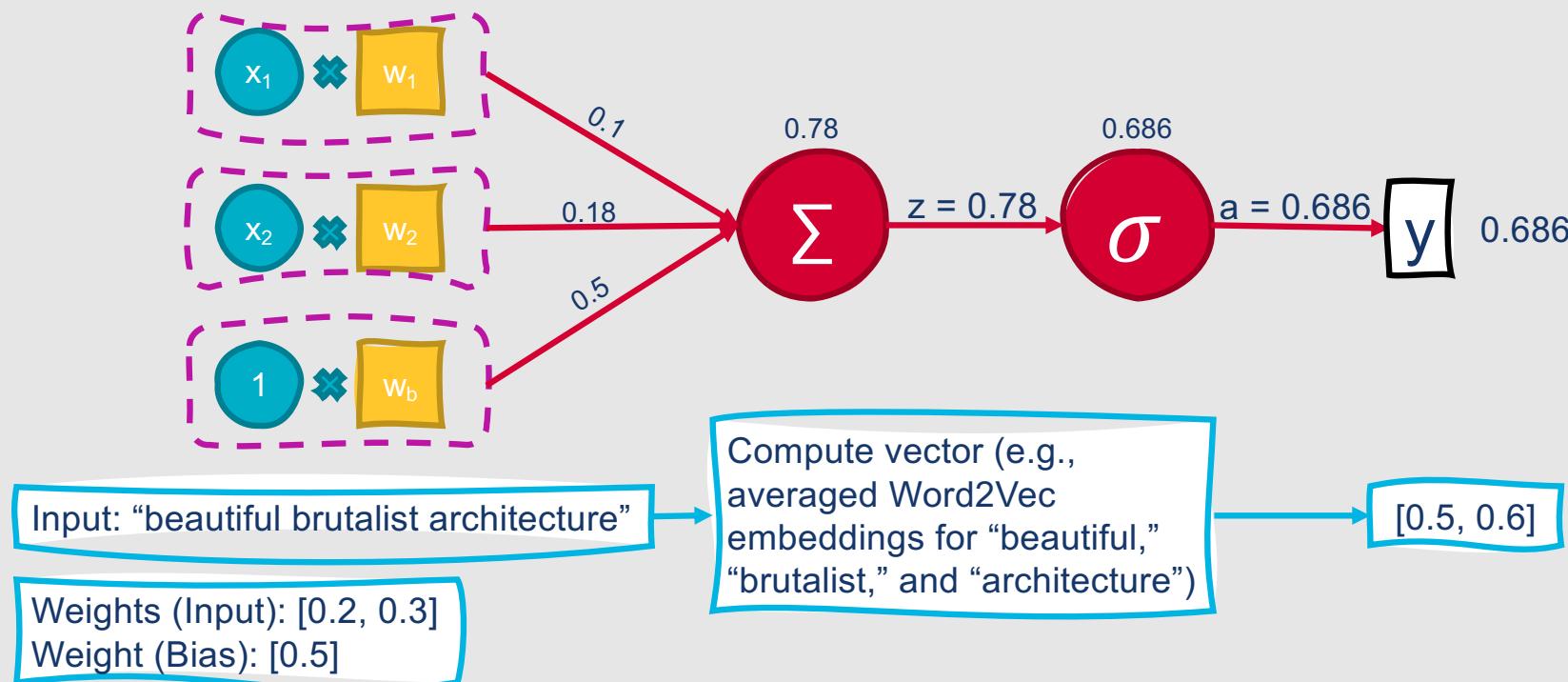
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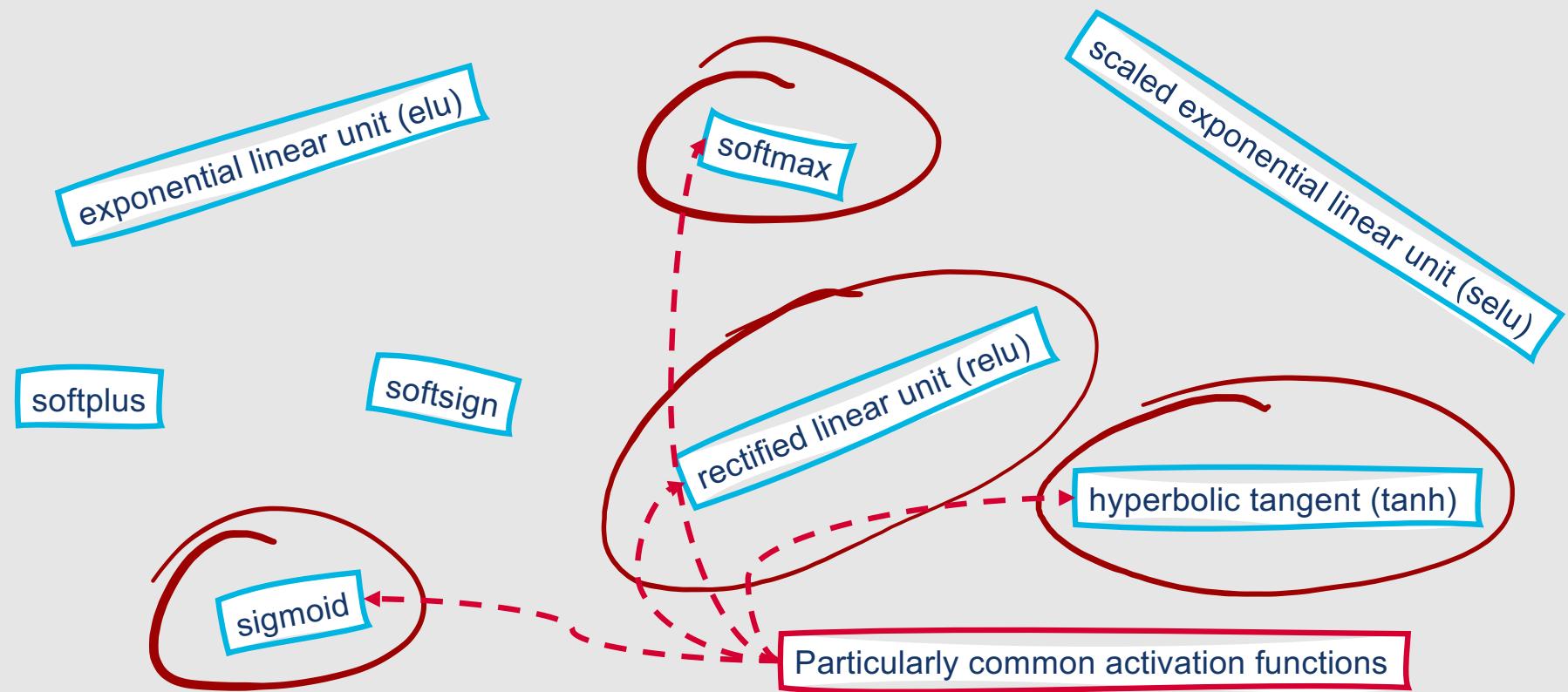
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# Example: Computational Unit with Sigmoid Activation



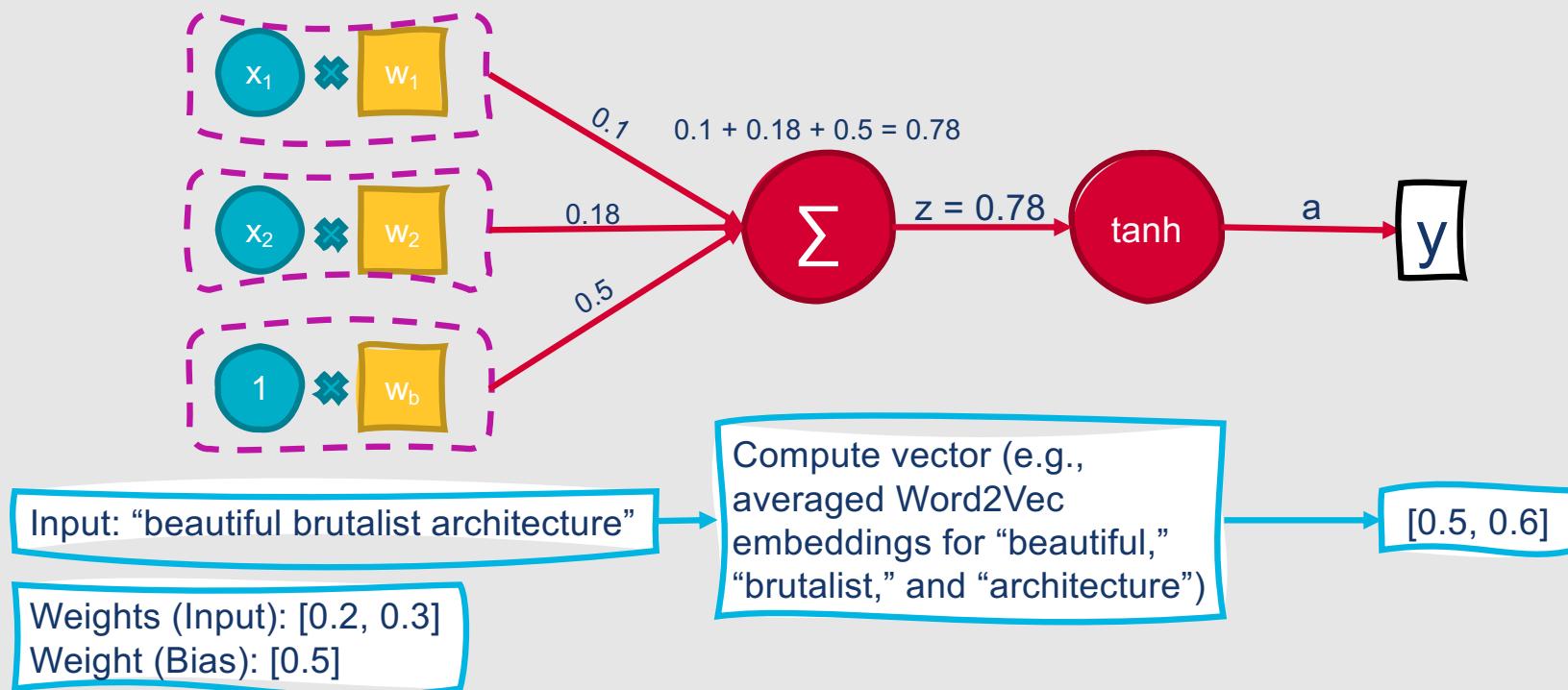
# Other Popular Activation Functions



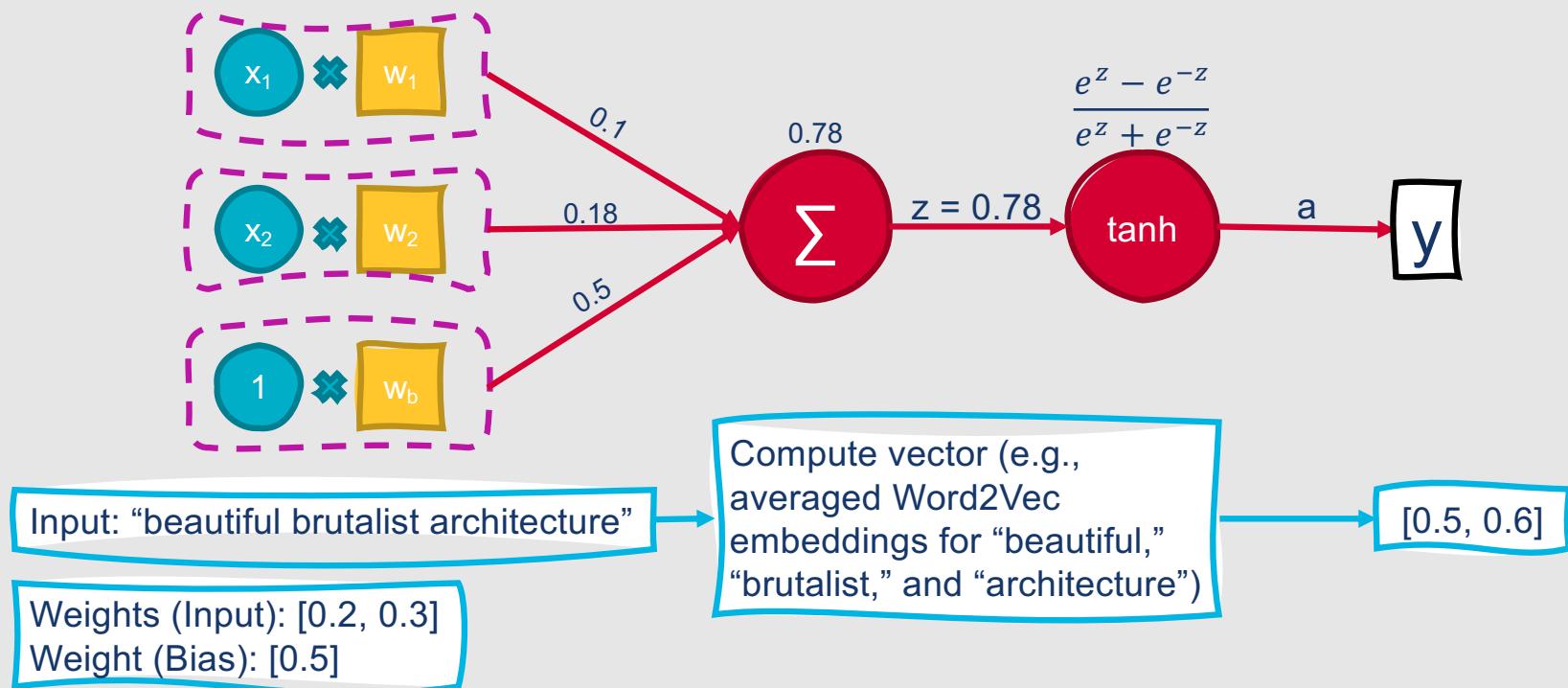
# Activation: tanh

- Variant of sigmoid that ranges from -1 to +1
  - $y = \frac{e^z - e^{-z}}{e^z + e^{-z}}$
- Larger derivatives → generally faster convergence

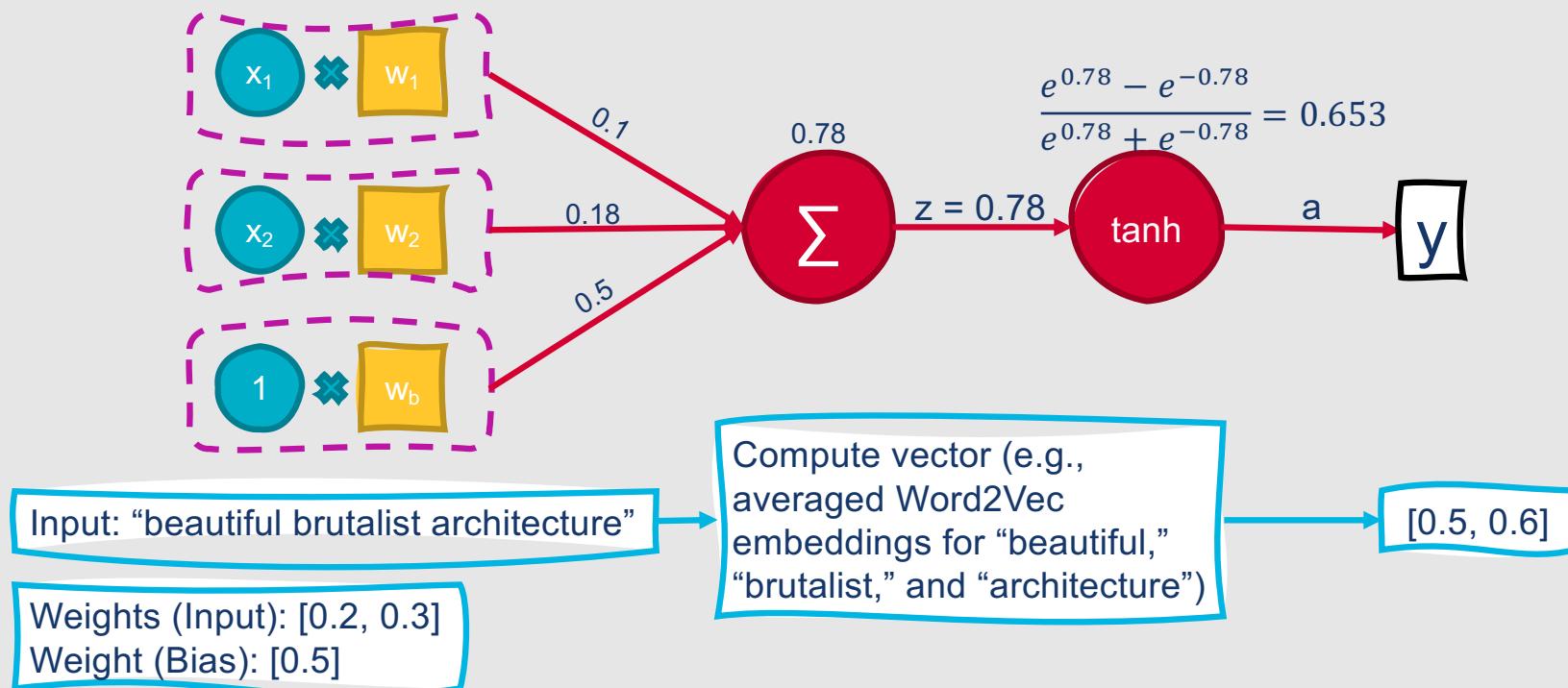
# Example: Computational Unit with tanh Activation



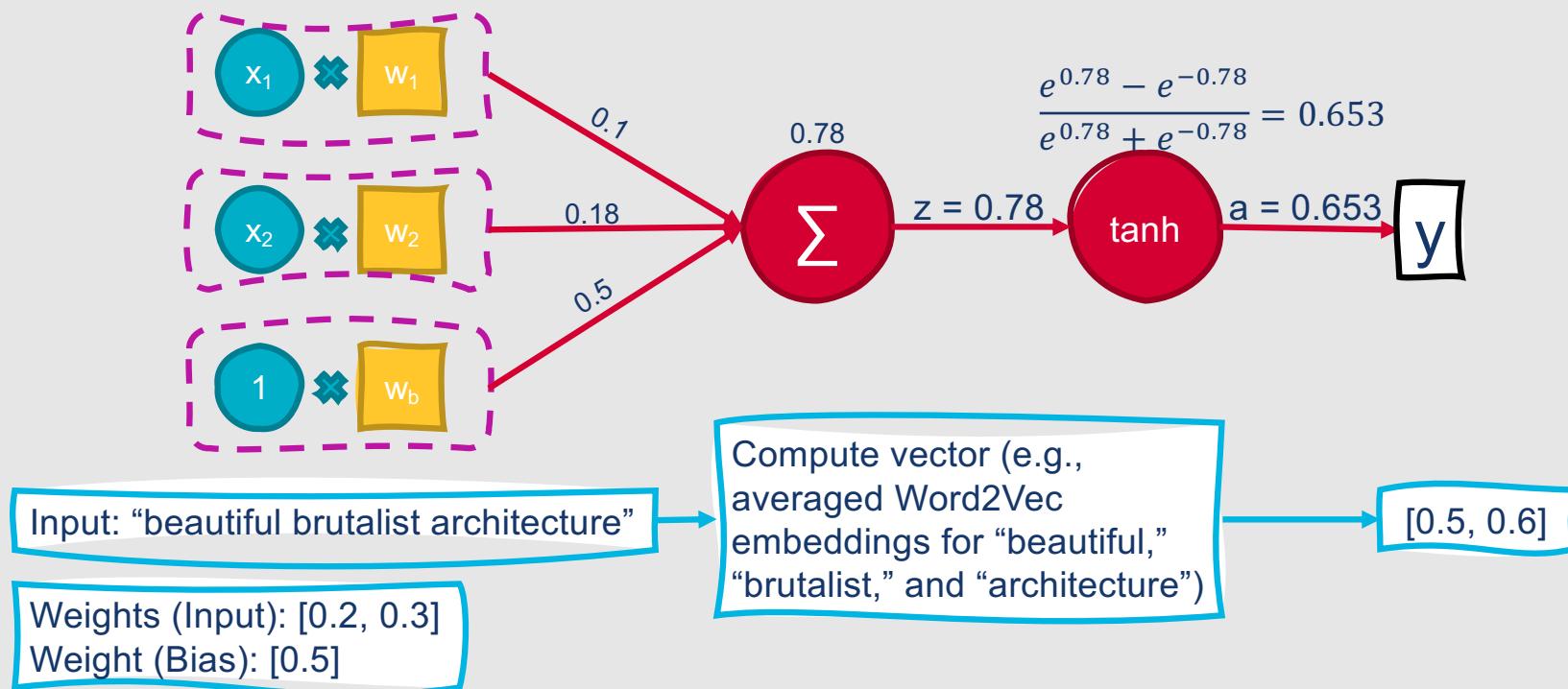
# Example: Computational Unit with tanh Activation



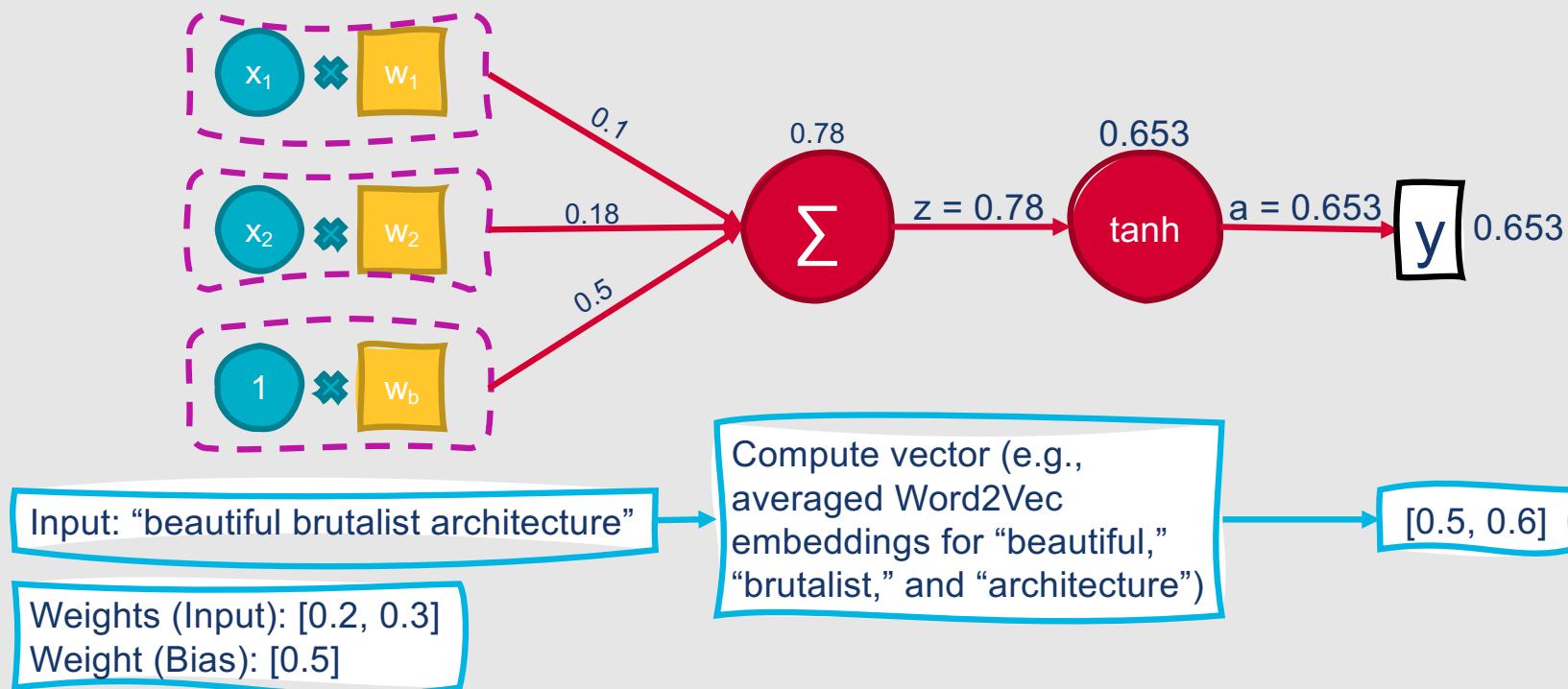
# Example: Computational Unit with tanh Activation



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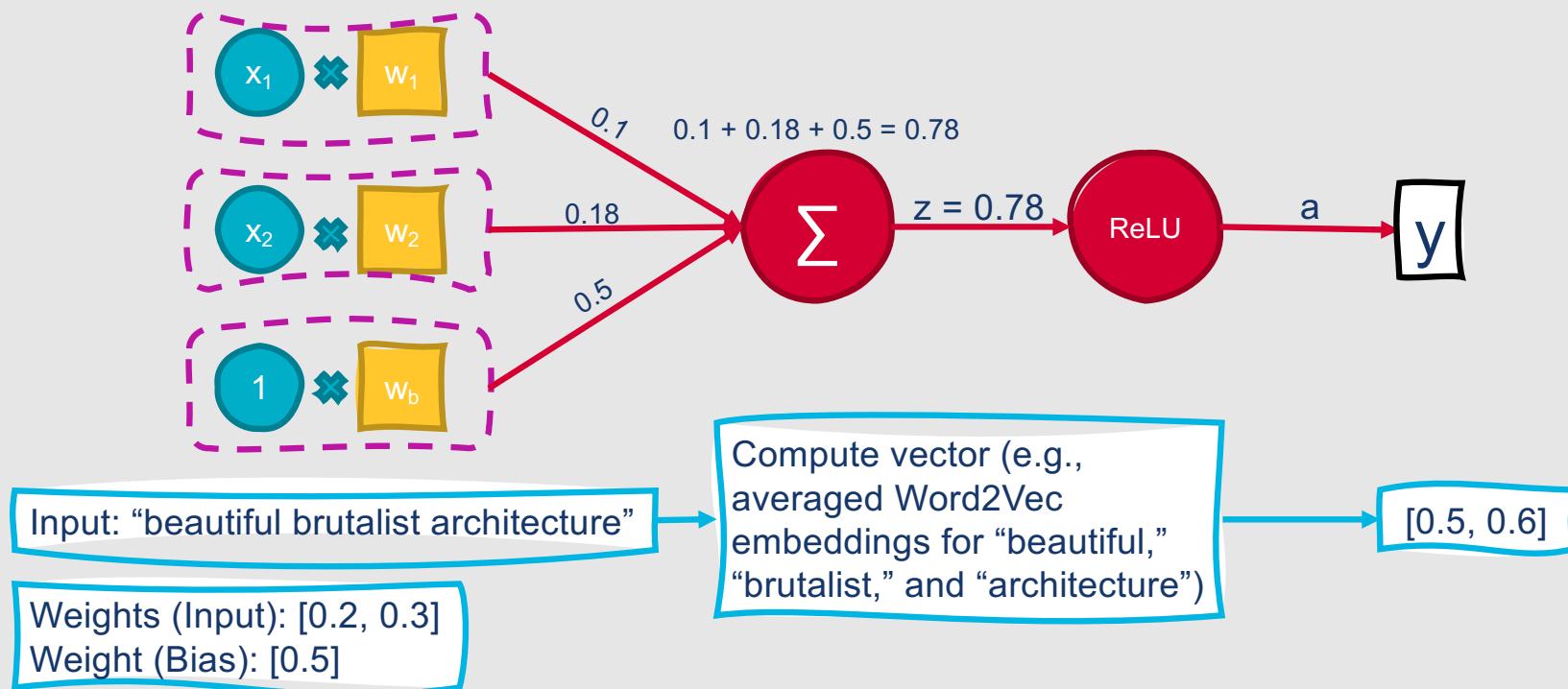
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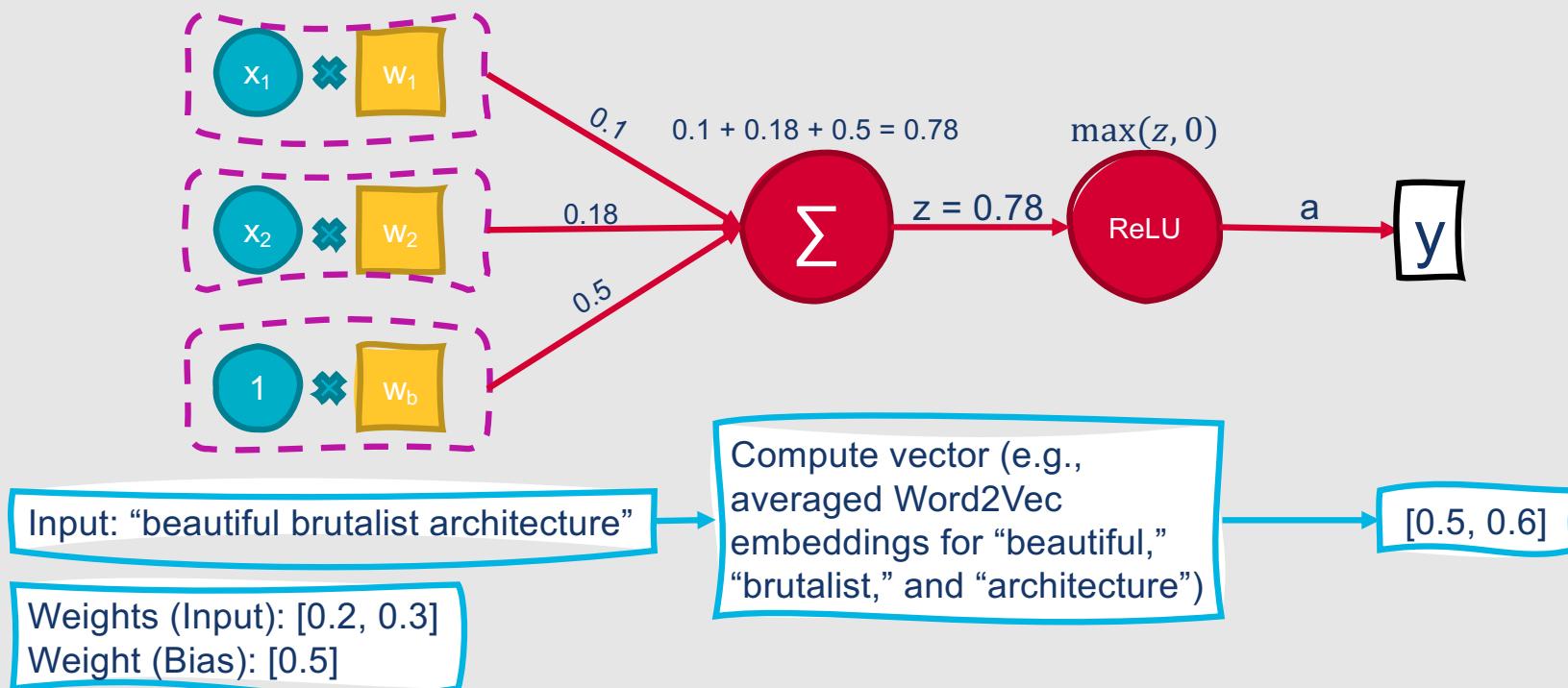
# Activation: ReLU

- Ranges from 0 to  $\infty$
- Simplest activation function:
  - $y = \max(z, 0)$
- Very close to a linear function!
- Quick and easy to compute

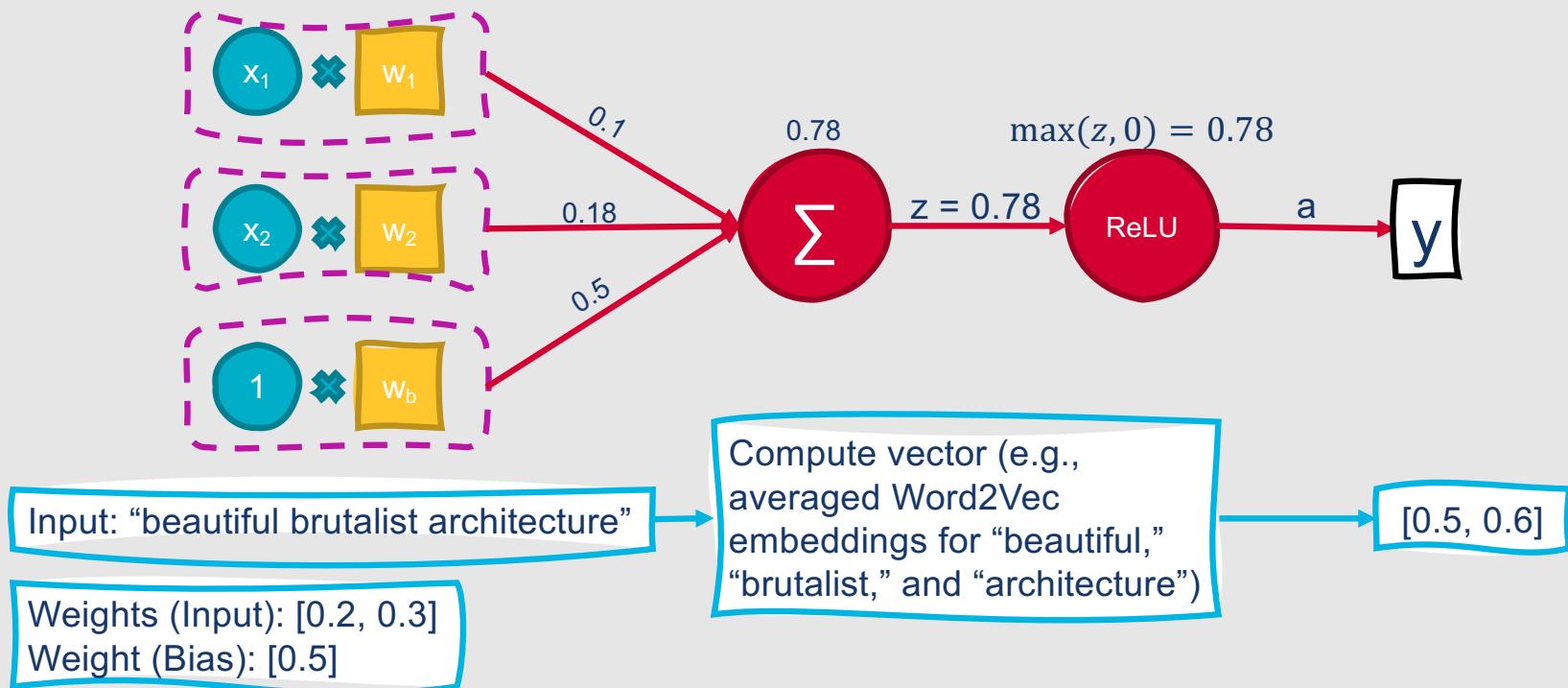
# Example: Computational Unit with ReLU Activation



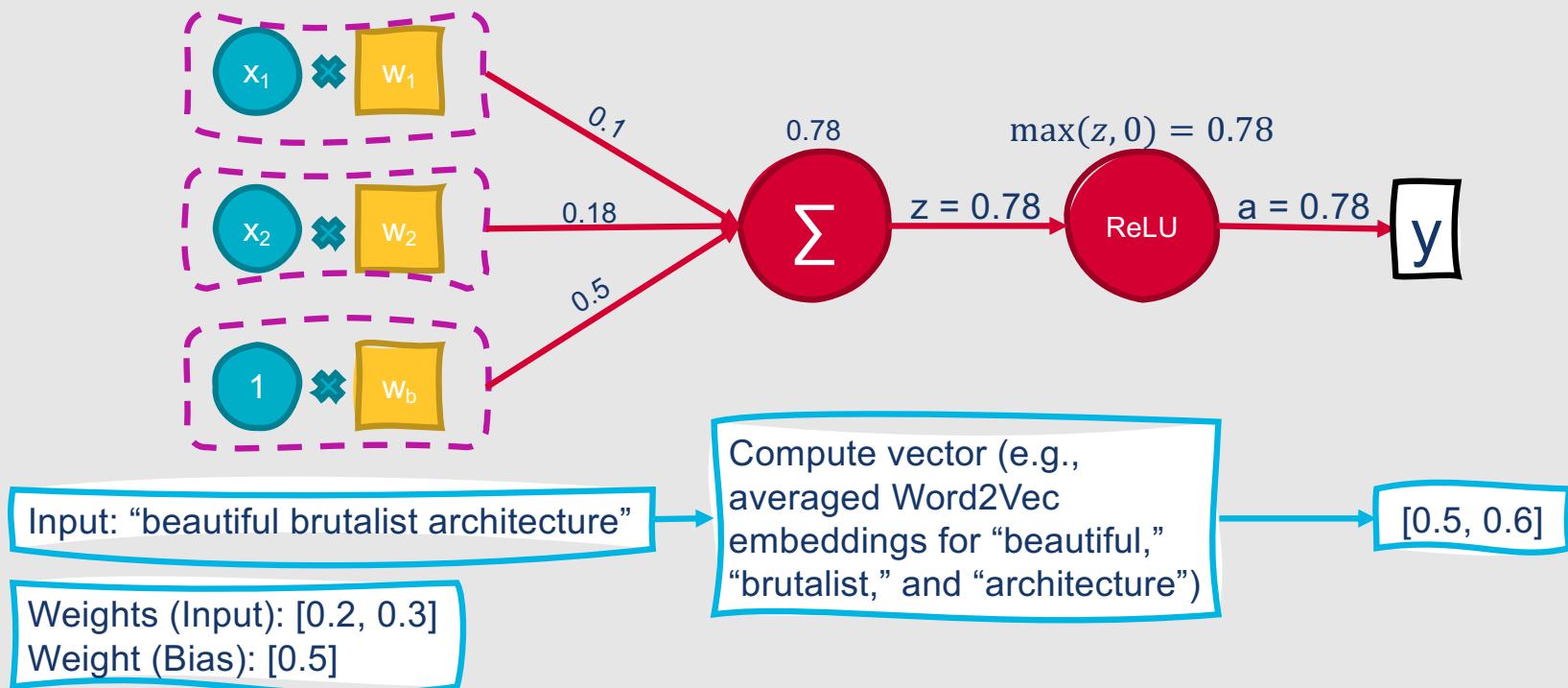
# Example: Computational Unit with ReLU Activation



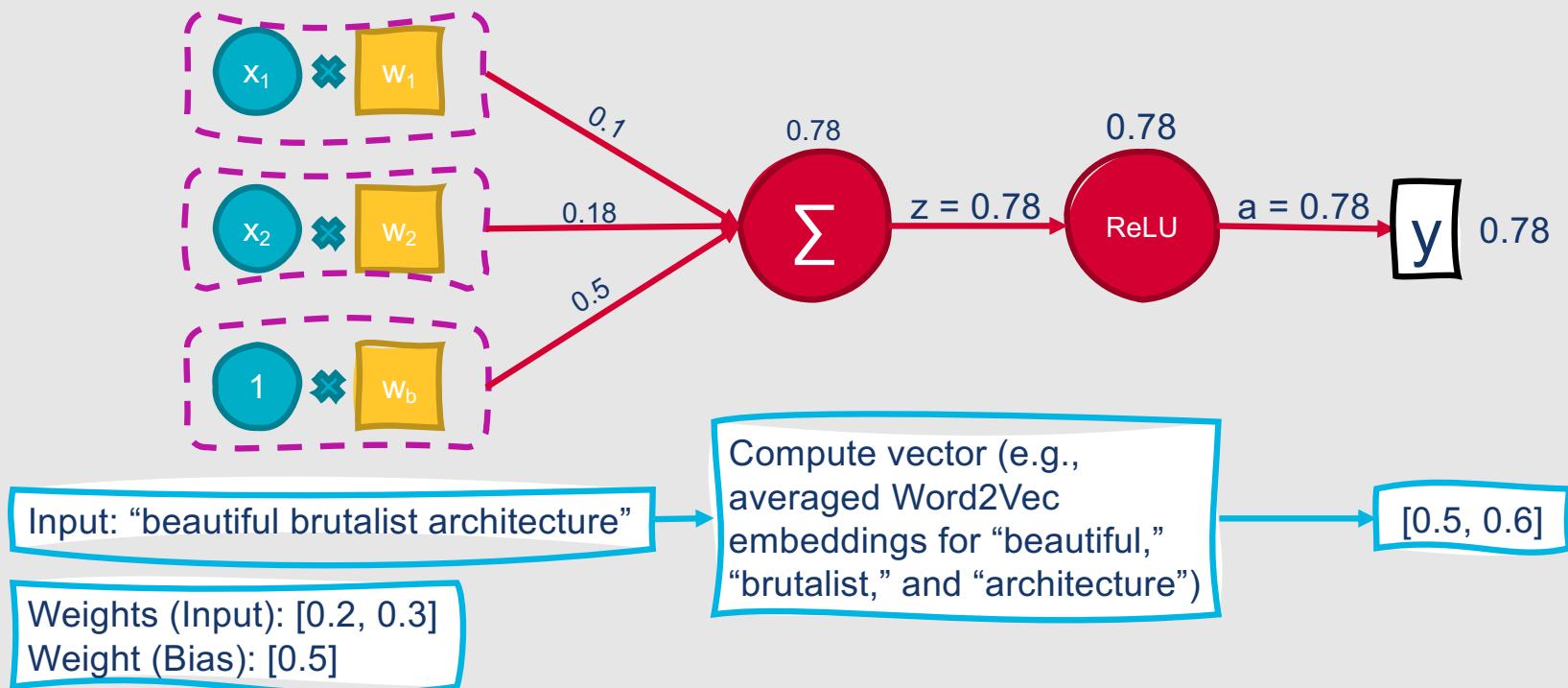
# Example: Computational Unit with ReLU Activation



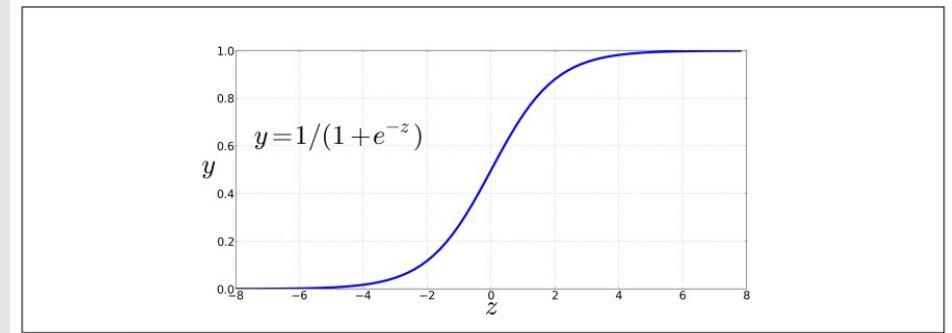
# Example: Computational Unit with ReLU Activation



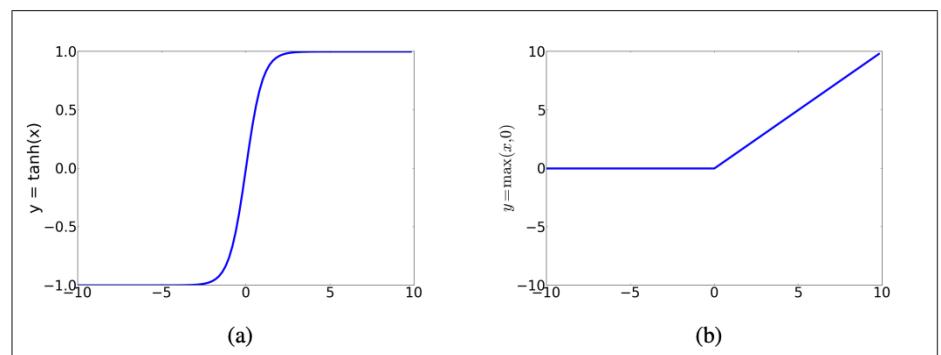
# Example: Computational Unit with ReLU Activation



# Comparing sigmoid, tanh, and ReLU



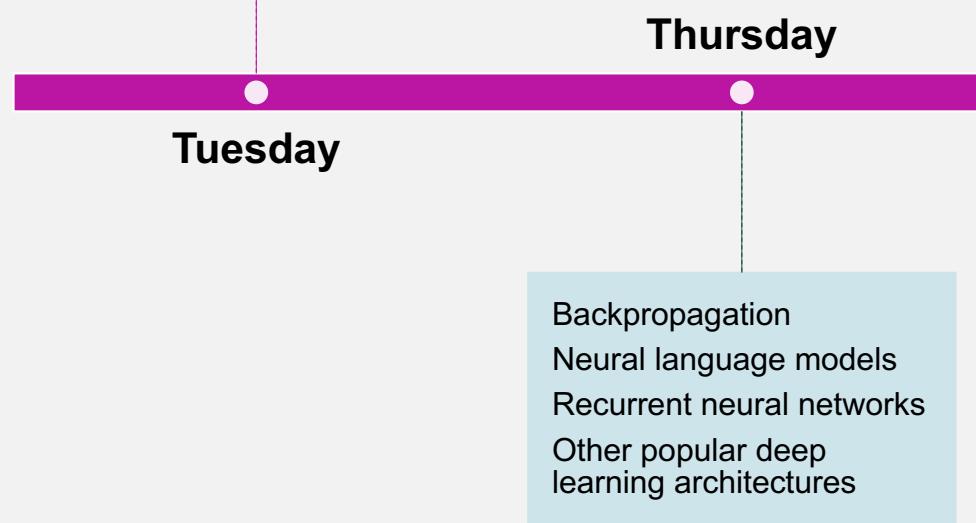
**Figure 7.1** The sigmoid function takes a real value and maps it to the range  $[0, 1]$ . It is nearly linear around 0 but outlier values get squashed toward 0 or 1.



**Figure 7.3** The tanh and ReLU activation functions.

# This Week's Topics

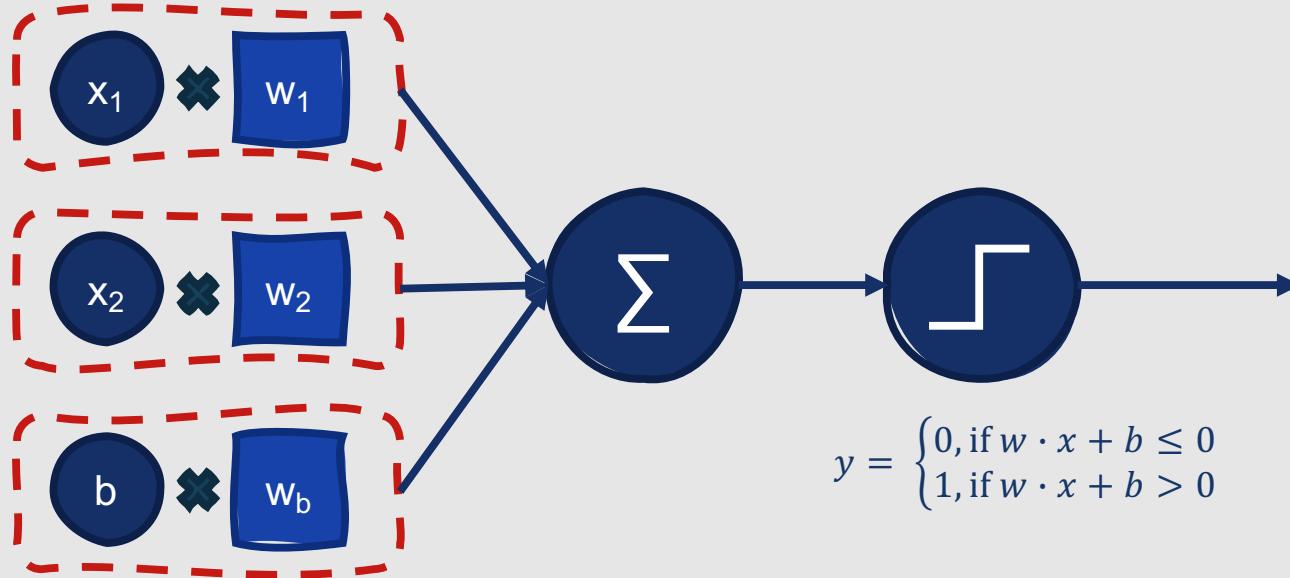
Neural networks  
Computational units  
**X** Combining layers of units



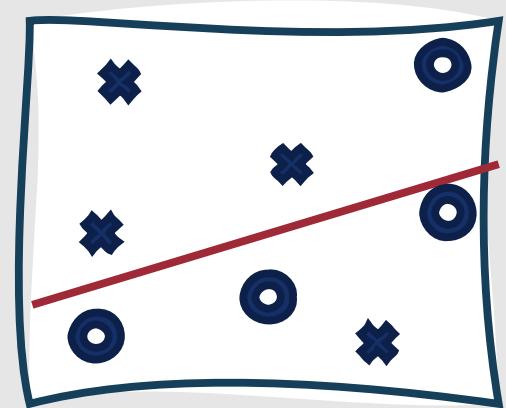
# Combining Computational Units

- Neural networks are powerful primarily because they can **combine multiple computational units into larger networks**
- Many problems cannot be solved using a single computational unit
  - Example: XOR

AND			OR			XOR		
x1	x2	y	x1	x2	y	x1	x2	y
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0



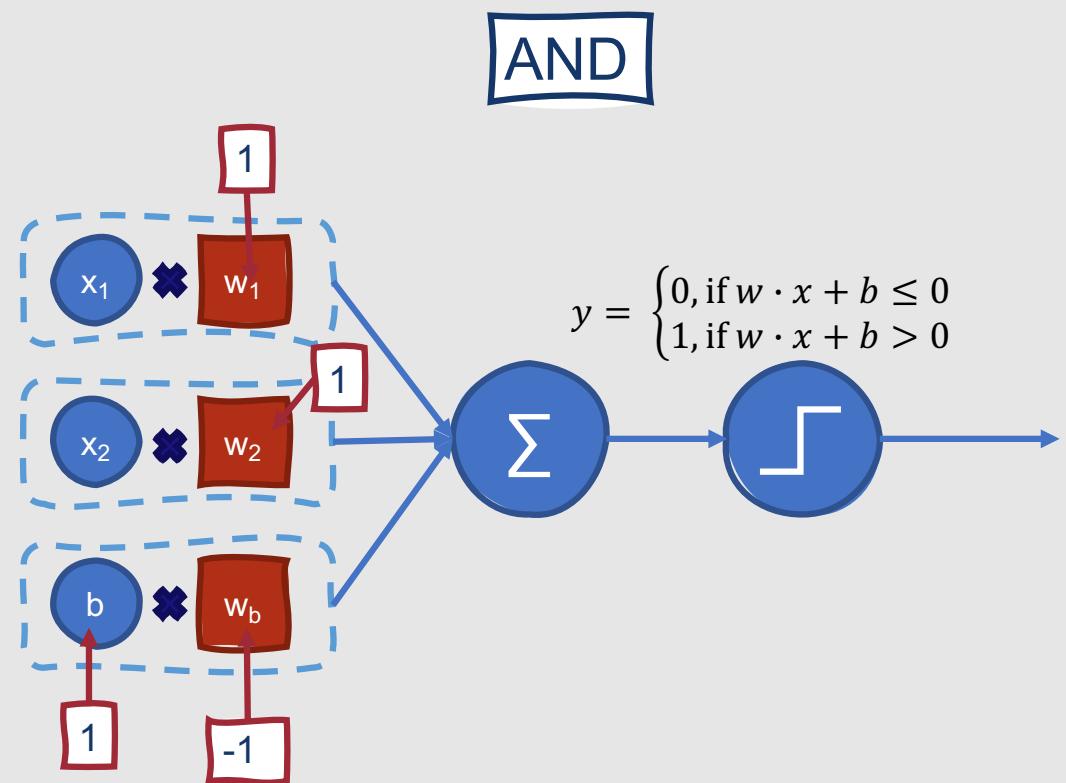
$$y = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } w \cdot x + b \leq 0 \\ 1, & \text{if } w \cdot x + b > 0 \end{cases}$$



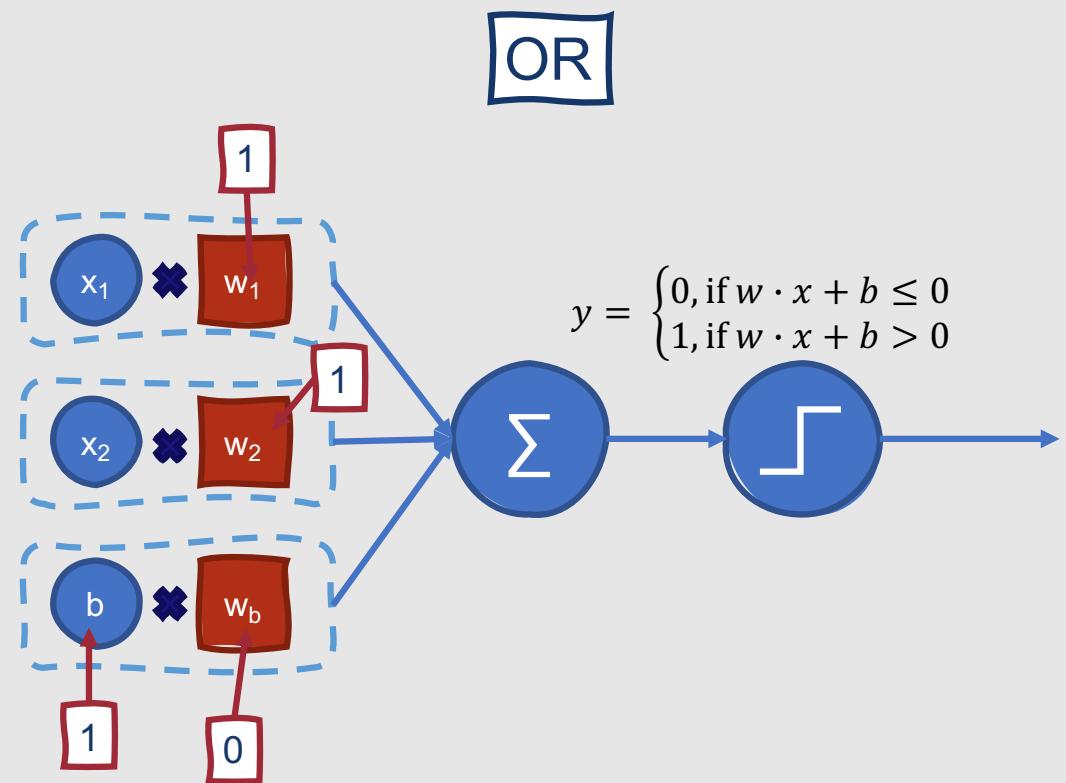
**AND and OR can both be solved using a single perceptron.**

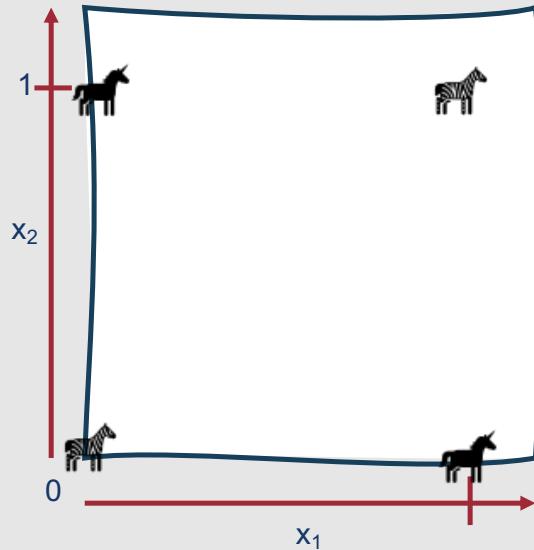
- **Perceptron:** A function that outputs a binary value based on whether the product of its inputs and associated weights surpasses a threshold

**It's easy to  
compute  
AND and OR  
using  
perceptrons.**



**It's easy to  
compute  
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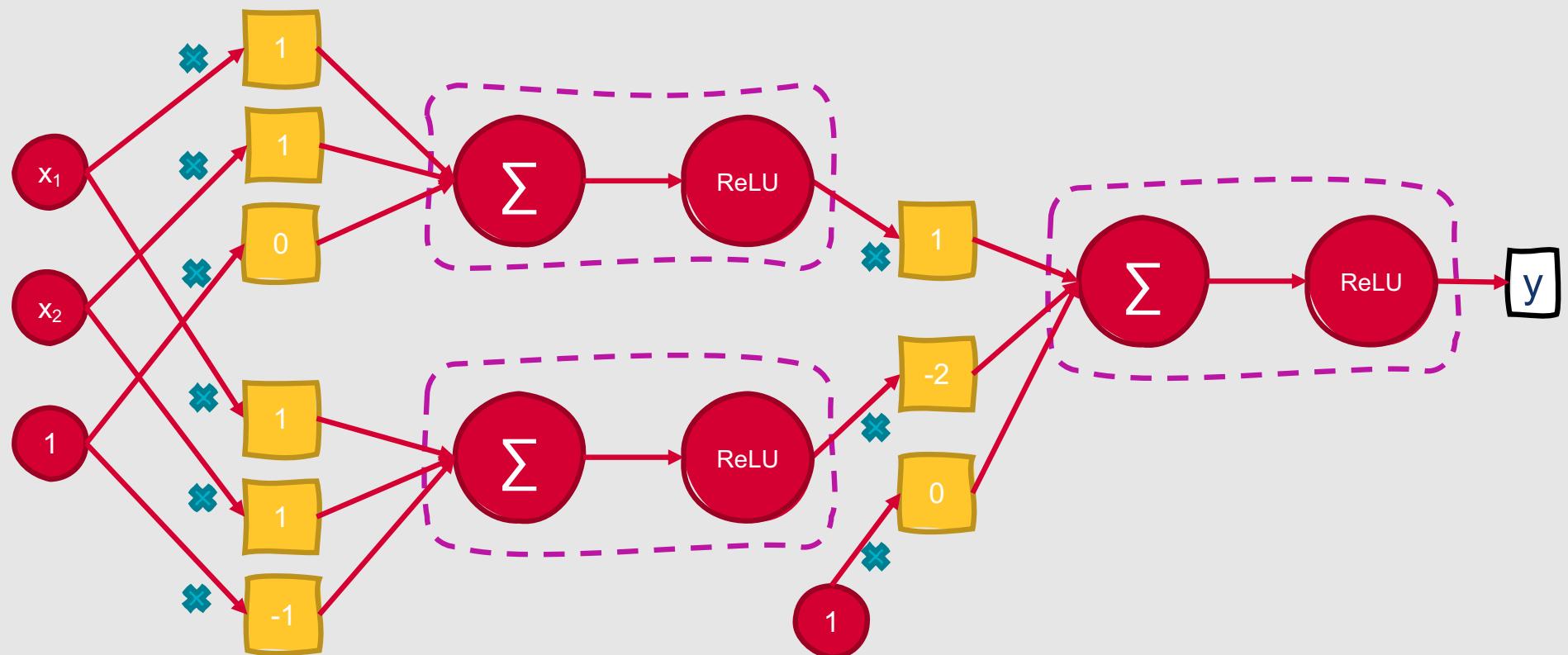


AND			OR			XOR		
$x_1$	$x_2$	$y$	$x_1$	$x_2$	$y$	$x_1$	$x_2$	$y$
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0

However, it's impossible to compute XOR using a single perceptron.

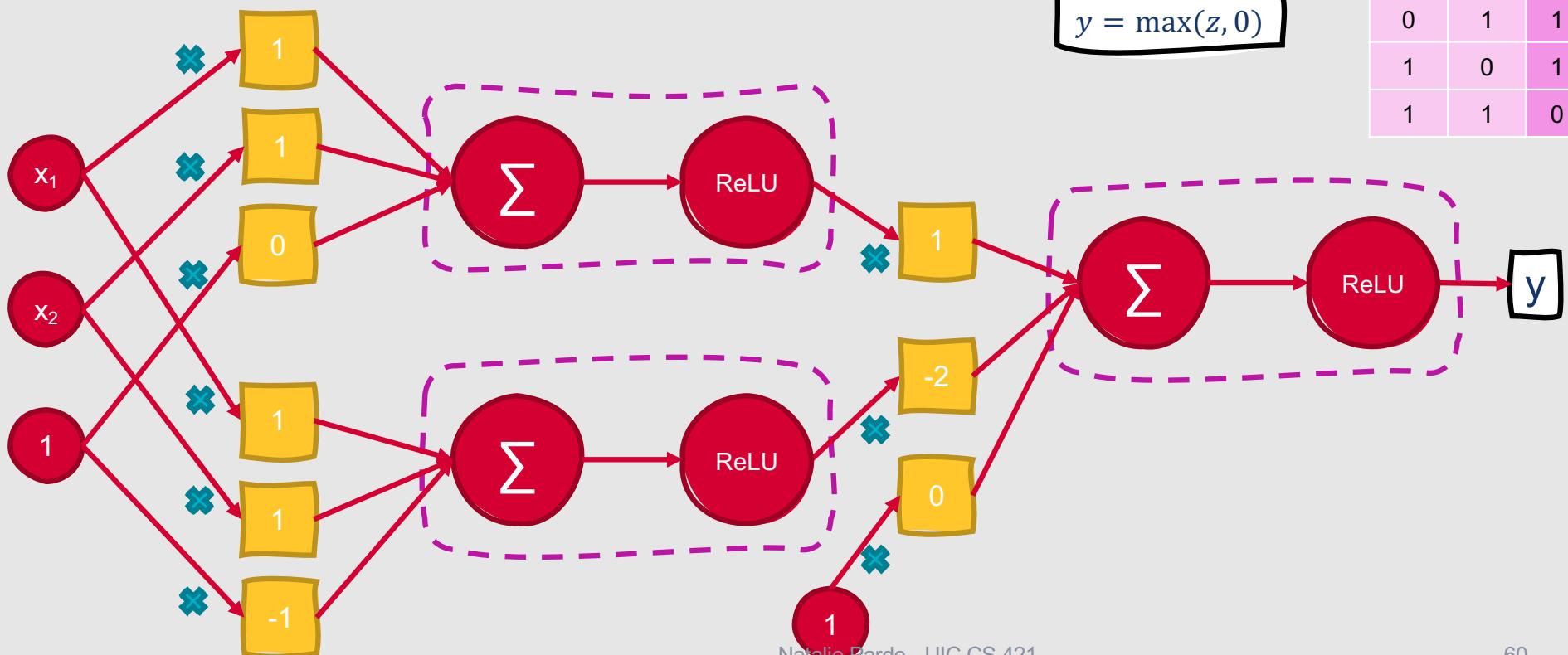
- Why?
  - Perceptrons are **linear classifiers**
  - XOR is not a **linearly separable function**

The only successful way to compute XOR is by combining these smaller units into a larger network.

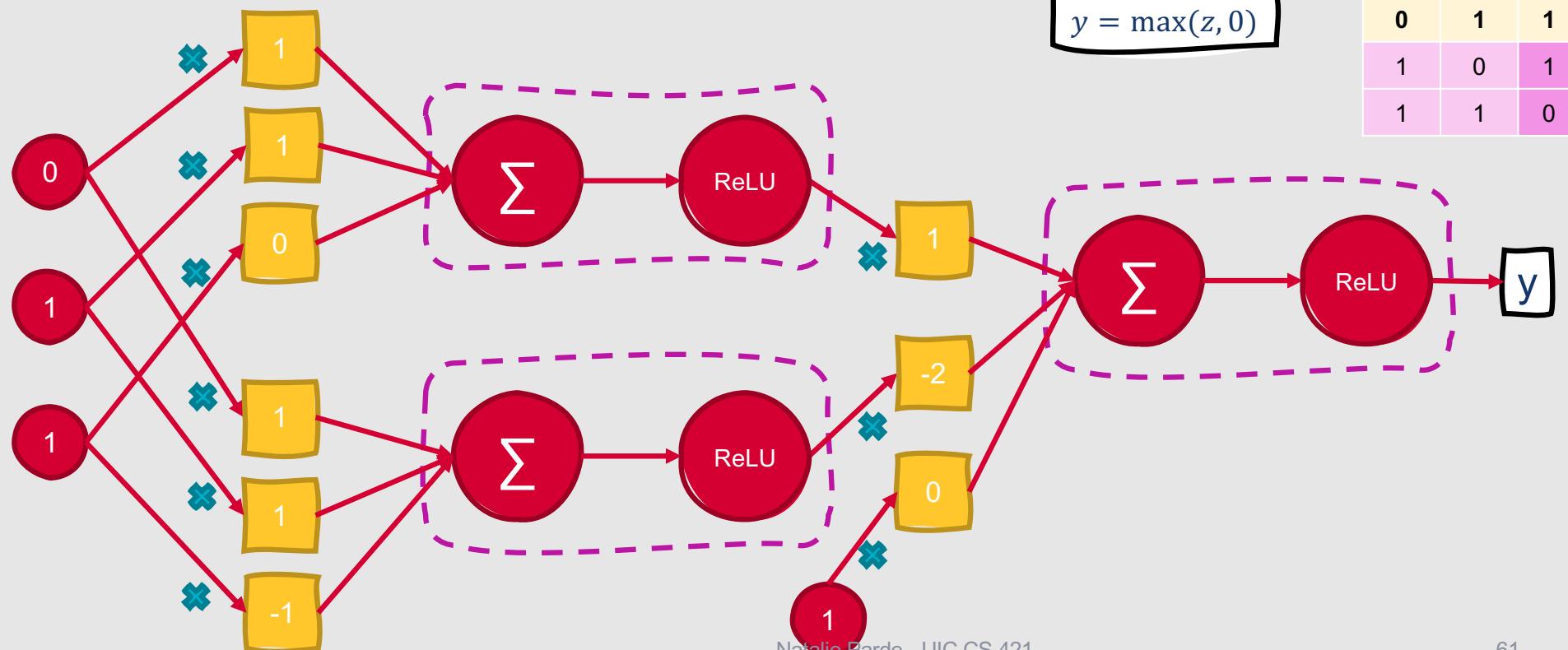


# Truth Table Examples: XOR

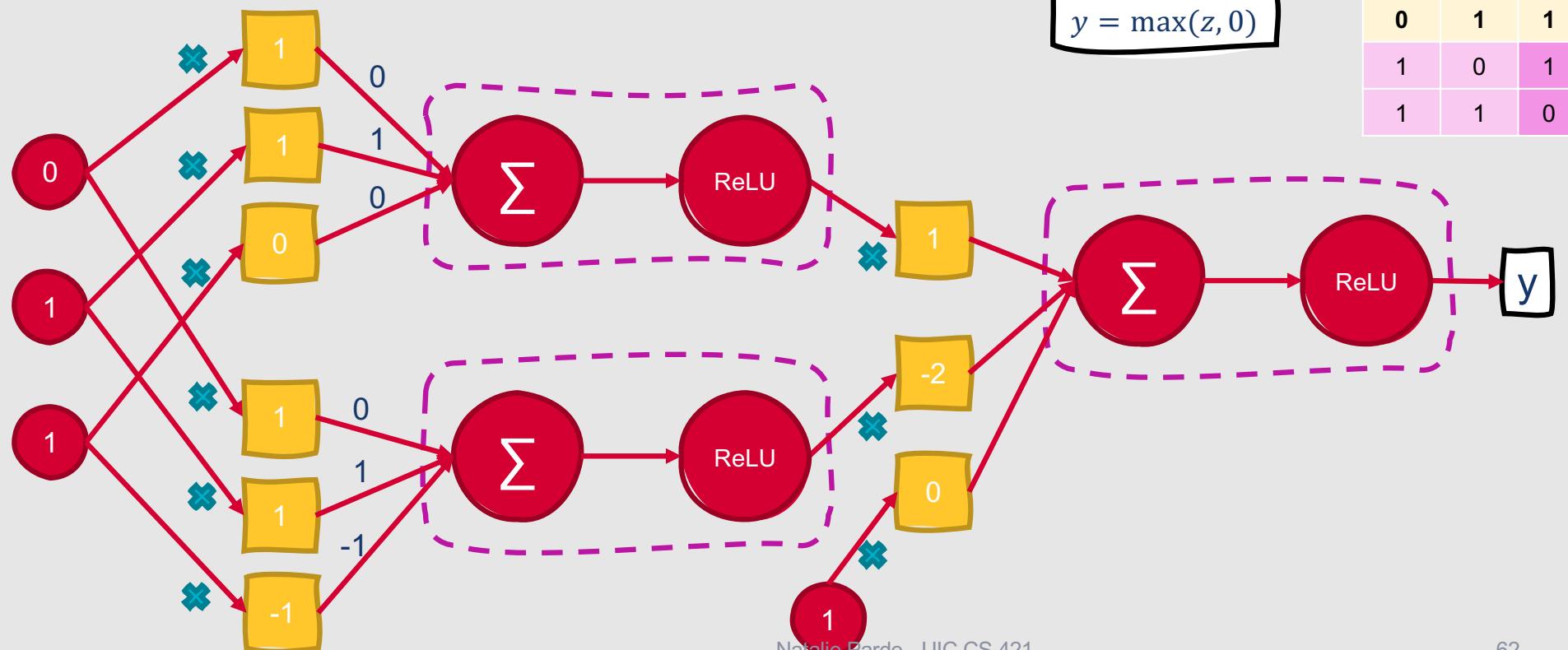
XOR		
x1	x2	y
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0



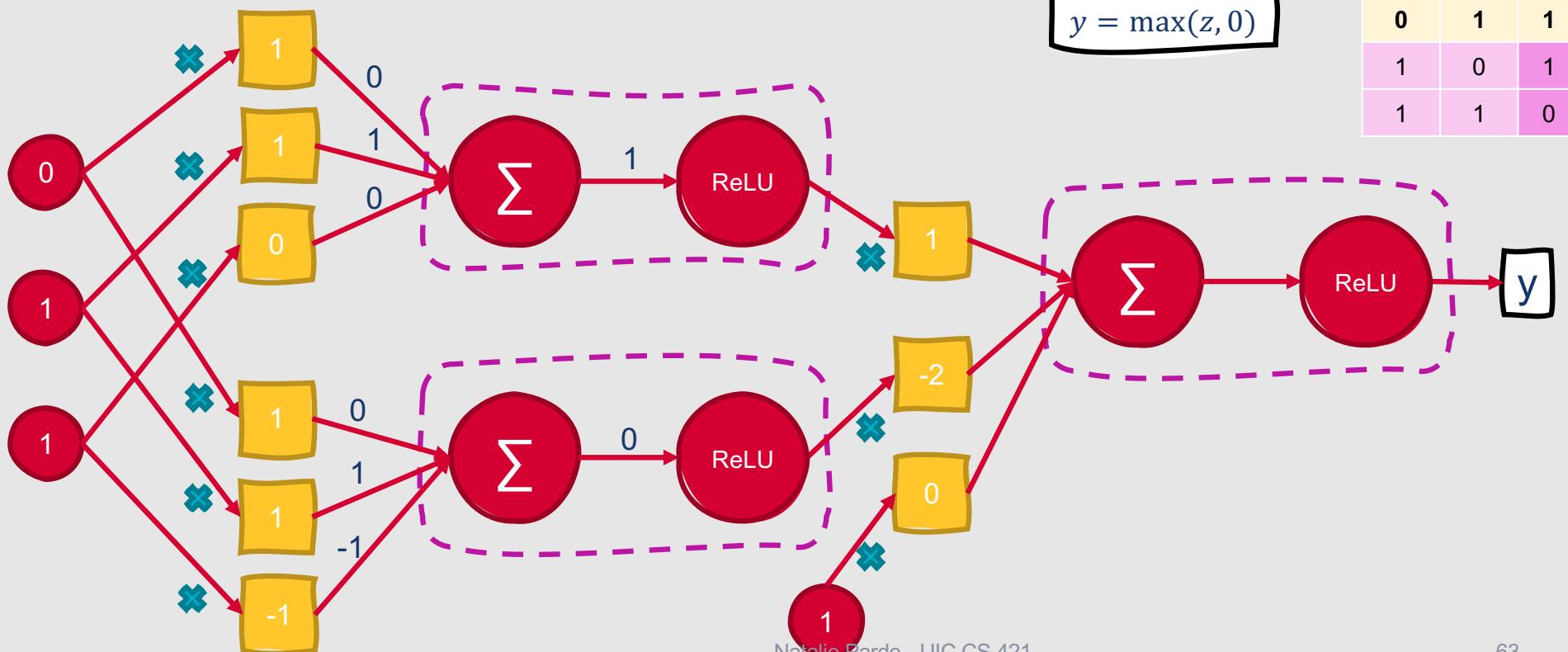
# Truth Table Examples: XOR



# Truth Table Examples: XOR

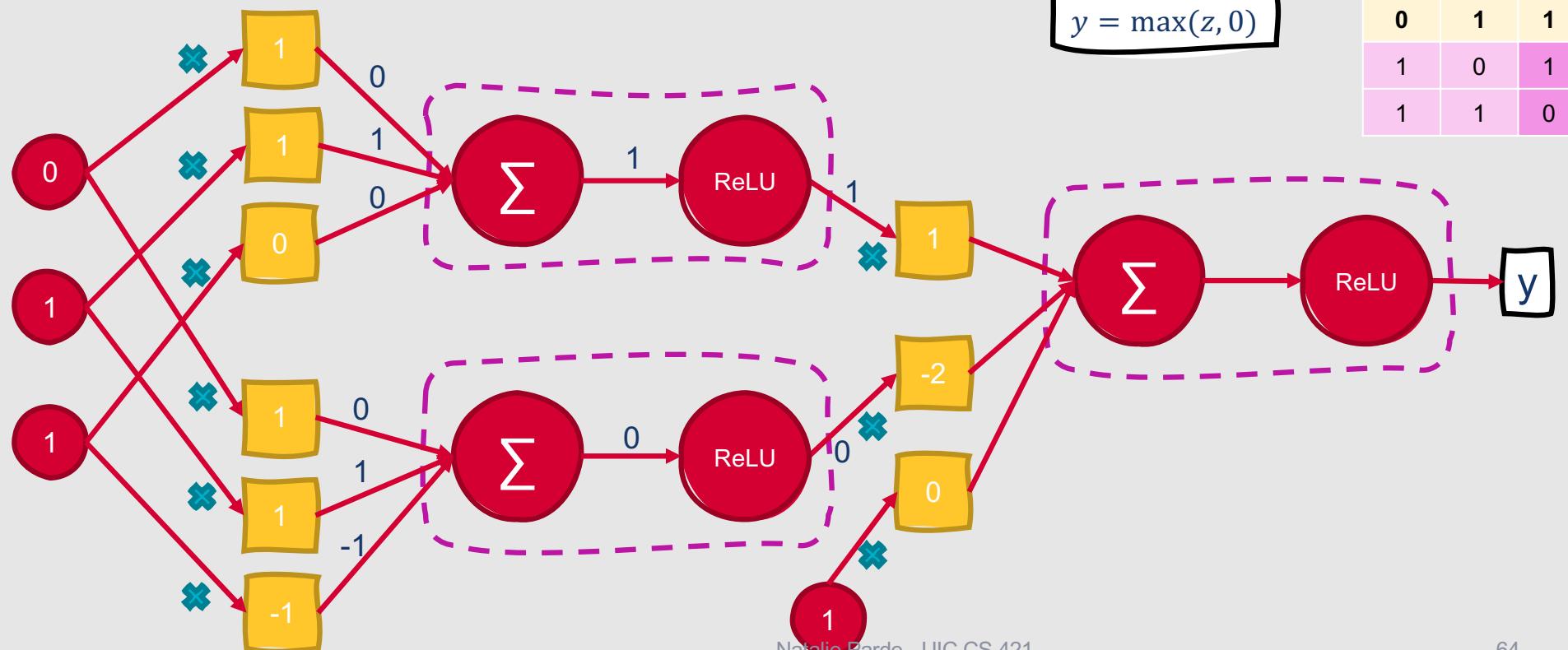


# Truth Table Examples: XOR



XOR		
x1	x2	y
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

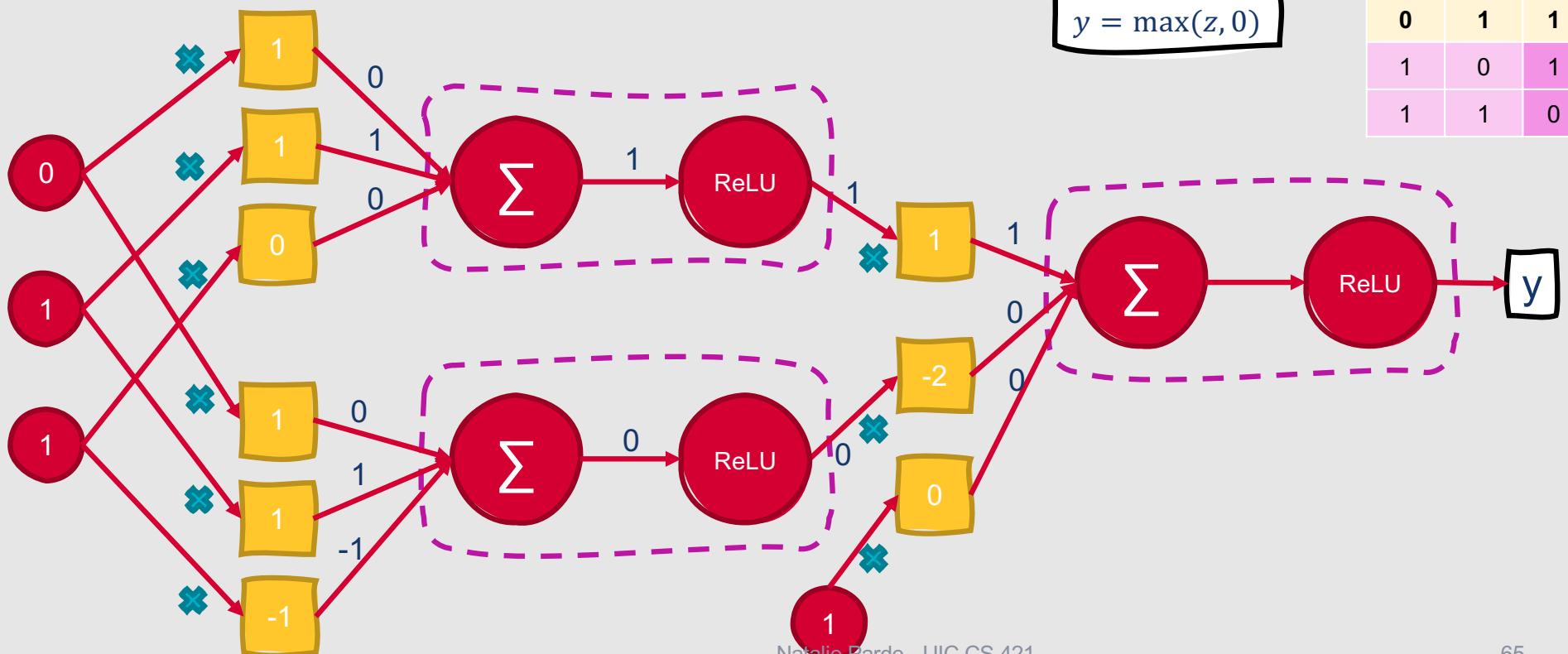
# Truth Table Examples: XOR



XOR		
x1	x2	y
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0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

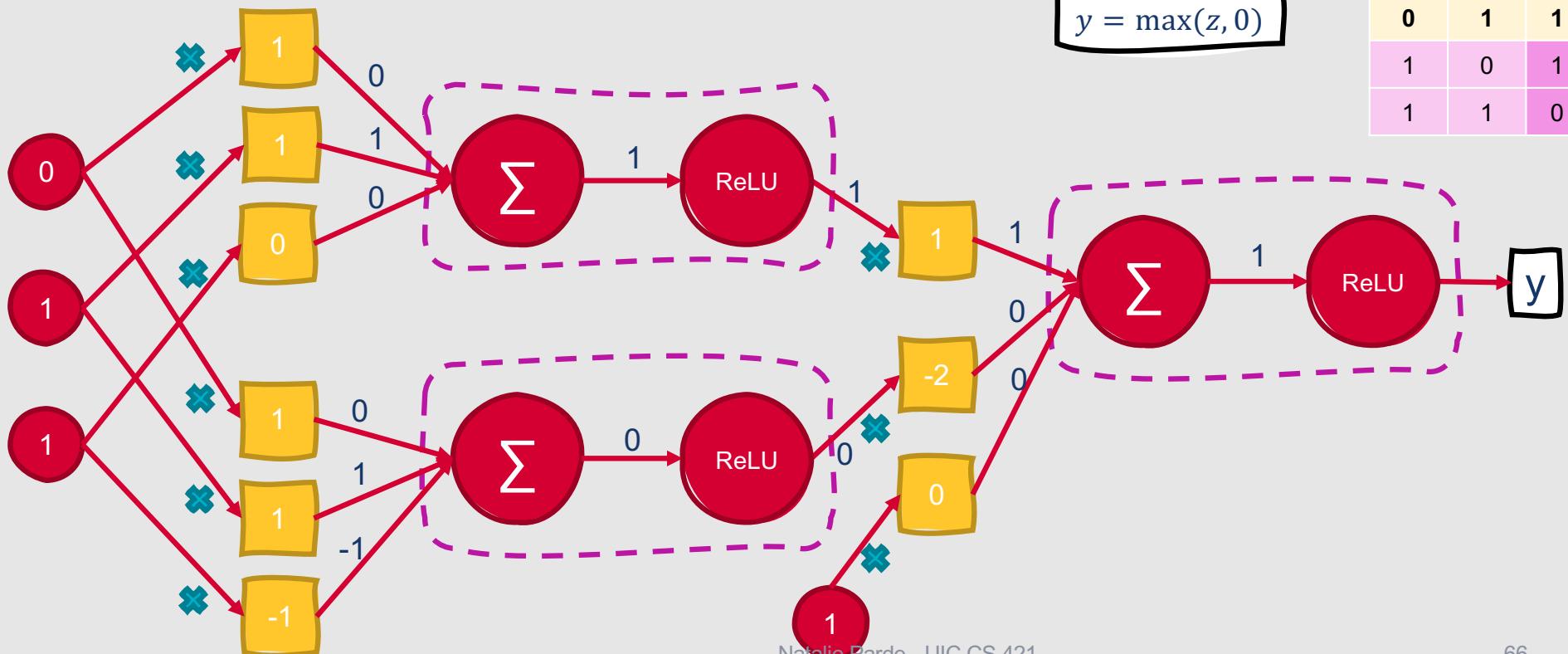
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XOR		
x1	x2	y
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0



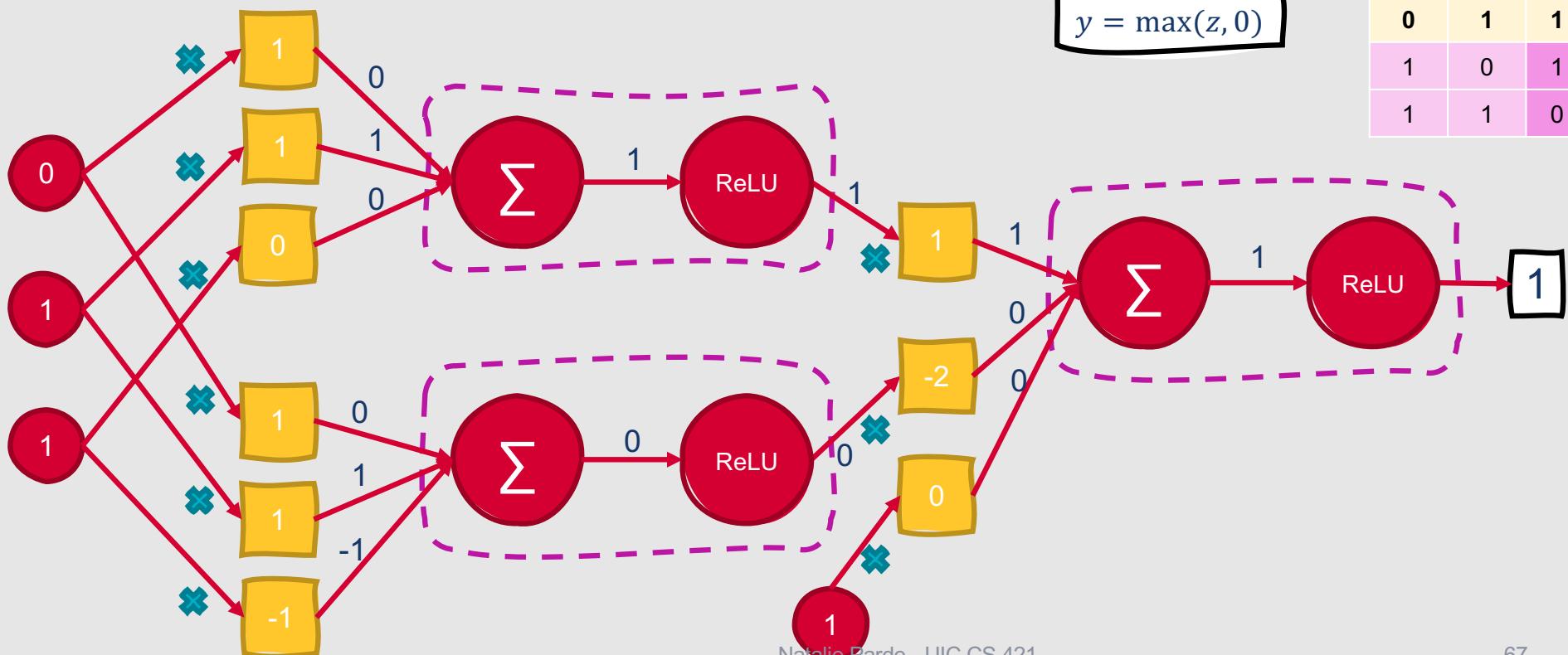
# Truth Table Examples: XOR

XOR		
x1	x2	y
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0



# Truth Table Examples: XOR

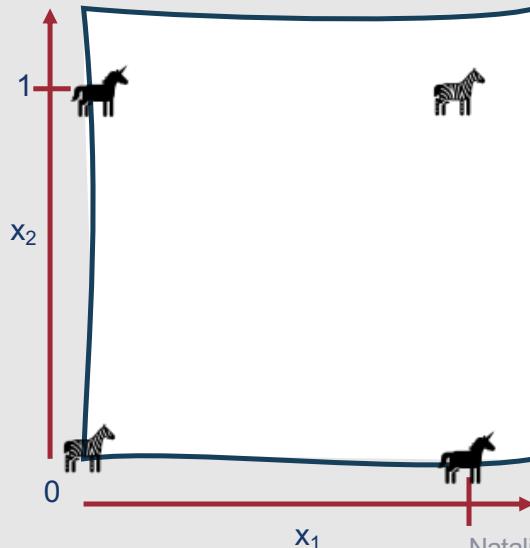
XOR		
x1	x2	y
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0



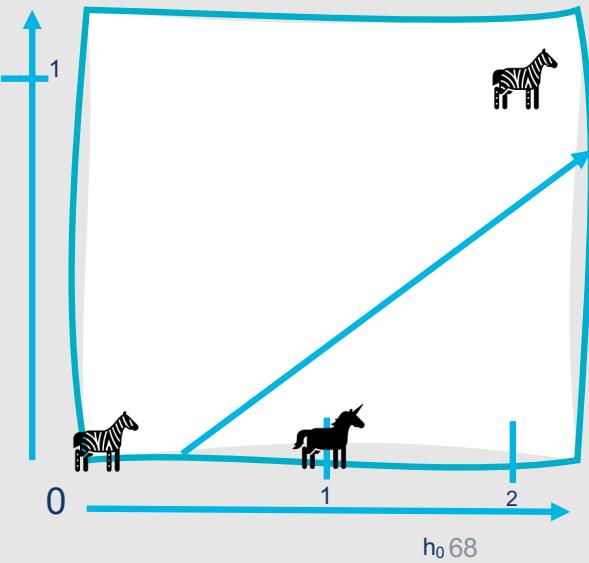
# Why does this work?

- When computational units are combined, the outputs from each successive layer provide **new representations** for the input
- These new representations are **linearly separable**

XOR		
x1	x2	y
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0



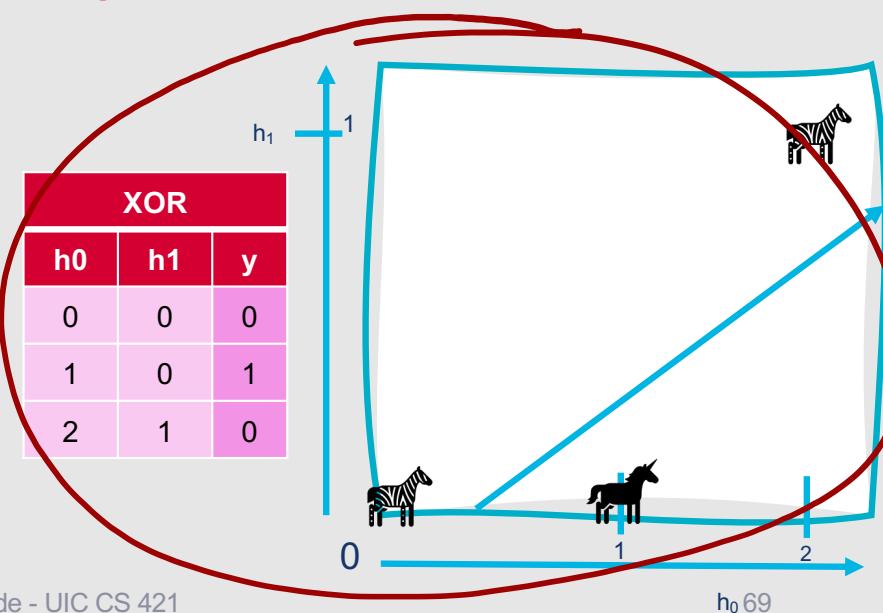
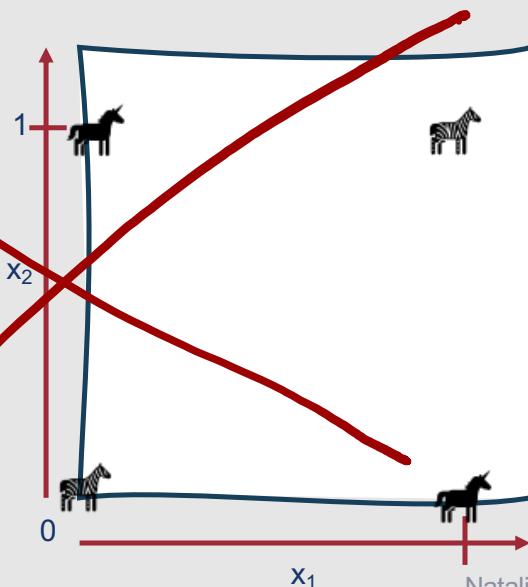
XOR		
h0	h1	y
0	0	0
1	0	1
2	1	0



# Why does this work?

- When computational units are combined, the outputs from each successive layer provide **new representations** for the input
- These new representations are **linearly separable**

XOR		
x1	x2	y
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0



# Feedforward Network

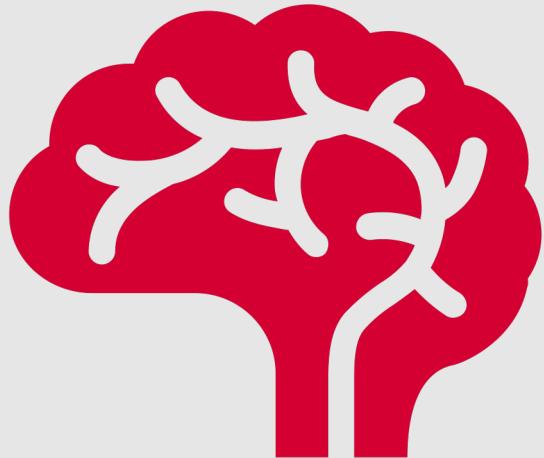
- Final formulation for previous network:
  - $\mathbf{h} = \text{ReLU}(W\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b})$
  - $y' = \text{ReLU}(U\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{b})$
- This represents a two-layer feedforward neural network
  - When numbering layers, count the hidden and output layers but not the inputs

**We can  
generalize  
this for  
networks  
with > 2  
layers.**

- Let  $W^{[n]}$  be the weight matrix for layer  $n$ ,  $b^{[n]}$  be the bias vector for layer  $n$ , and so forth
- Let  $g(\cdot)$  be any activation function
- Let  $a^{[n]}$  be the output from layer  $n$ , and  $z^{[n]}$  be the combination of weights and biases  $W^{[n]} a^{[n-1]} + b^{[n]}$
- Let the input layer be  $a^{[0]}$

# Neural Network: Formal Structure

- With this representation, a two-layer network becomes:
  - $z^{[1]} = W^{[1]}a^{[0]} + b^{[1]}$
  - $a^{[1]} = g^{[1]}(z^{[1]})$
  - $z^{[2]} = W^{[2]}a^{[1]} + b^{[2]}$
  - $a^{[2]} = g^{[2]}(z^{[2]})$
  - $y' = a^{[2]}$
- We can easily generalize to networks with more layers:
  - For i in 1..n
    - $z^{[i]} = W^{[i]}a^{[i-1]} + b^{[i]}$
    - $a^{[i]} = g^{[i]}(z^{[i]})$
  - $y' = a^{[n]}$



# General Tips for Improving Neural Network Performance

- **Initialize weights** with small random numbers
- **Tune hyperparameters**
  - Learning rate
  - Number of layers
  - Number of units per layer
  - Type of activation function
  - Type of optimization function

# Fortunately, you shouldn't need to build your neural networks from scratch!

TensorFlow

- <https://www.tensorflow.org/>

Keras

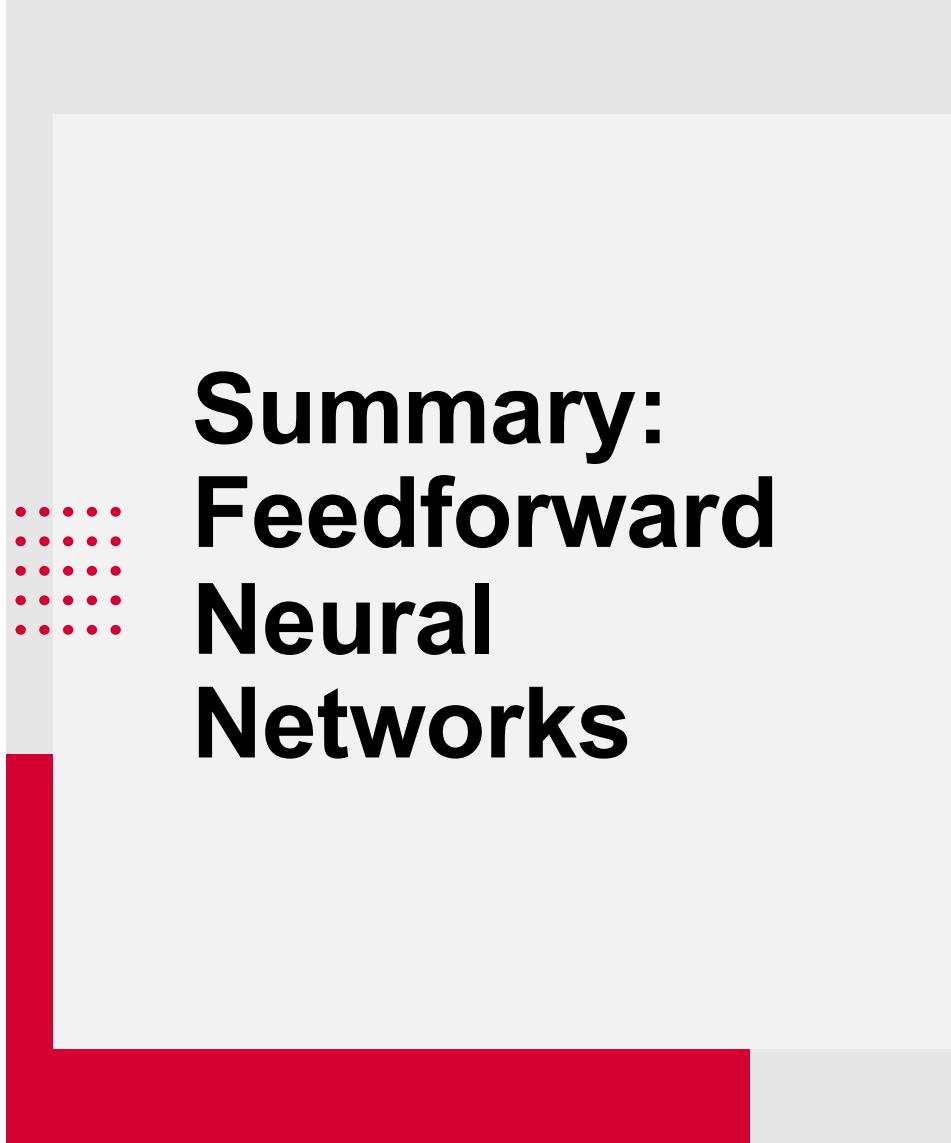
- <https://keras.io/>

PyTorch

- <https://pytorch.org/>

DL4J

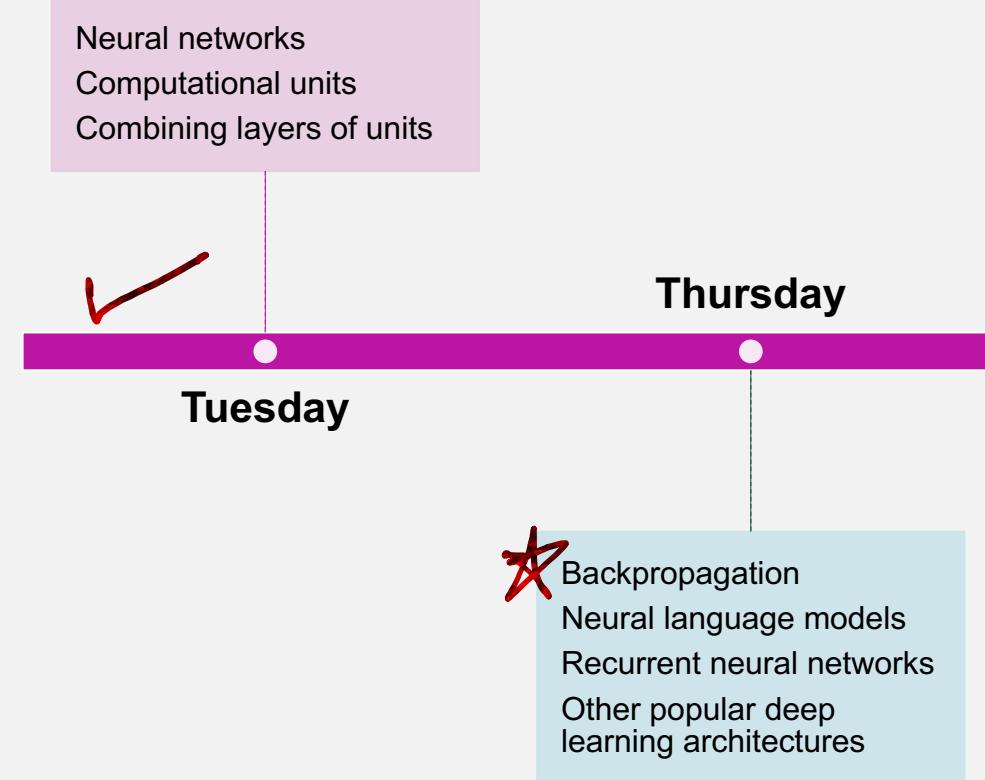
- <https://deeplearning4j.org/>



# Summary: Feedforward Neural Networks

- Neural networks are classification models that **implicitly learn** sophisticated feature representations
- **Feedforward neural networks** are comprised of interconnected layers of computing units through which information is passed forward from one layer to the next
- An **activation function** is a non-linear function applied to the weighted sum of inputs for a computing unit
- Computing units can be combined with another to solve complex tasks

# This Week's Topics





# How do we train neural networks?

---

- ❑ Loss function
- ❑ Optimization algorithm
- ❑ Some way to compute the gradient across all of the network's intermediate layers



# How do we train neural networks?

---

- ✓ Loss function
  - ❑ Optimization algorithm
  - ❑ Some way to compute the gradient across all of the network's intermediate layers
- Cross-entropy loss



# How do we train neural networks?

---

- ✓ Loss function
- ✓ Optimization algorithm
- ❑ Some way to compute the gradient across all of the network's intermediate layers

Gradient descent



# How do we train neural networks?

---

- ✓ Loss function
- ✓ Optimization algorithm
- ❑ Some way to compute the gradient across all of the network's intermediate layers



There are  
two ways  
that we can  
pass  
information  
through a  
neural  
network.

- **Forward pass**

- Apply operations in the direction of the final layer
- Pass the output of one computation as the input to the next

- **Backward pass**

- ???

# Backpropagation

- Propagates loss values all the way back to the beginning of a neural network, even though it's only computed at the end of the network
- Why is this necessary?
  - Simply taking the derivative like we did for logistic regression only provides the gradient for the most recent (i.e., last) weight layer
  - What we need is a way to:
    - Compute the derivative with respect to weight parameters occurring earlier in the network as well
    - Even though we can only compute loss at a single point (the end of the network)



# Backpropagation in a nutshell....

- Compute your loss at the final layer
- Propagate your loss backward using the chain rule
  - Given a function  $f(x) = u(v(x))$ :
    - Find the derivative of  $u(x)$  with respect to  $v(x)$
    - Find the derivative of  $v(x)$  with respect to  $x$
    - Multiply the two together
    - $\frac{df}{dx} = \frac{du}{dv} * \frac{dv}{dx}$
  - Update weights at each layer based on this information

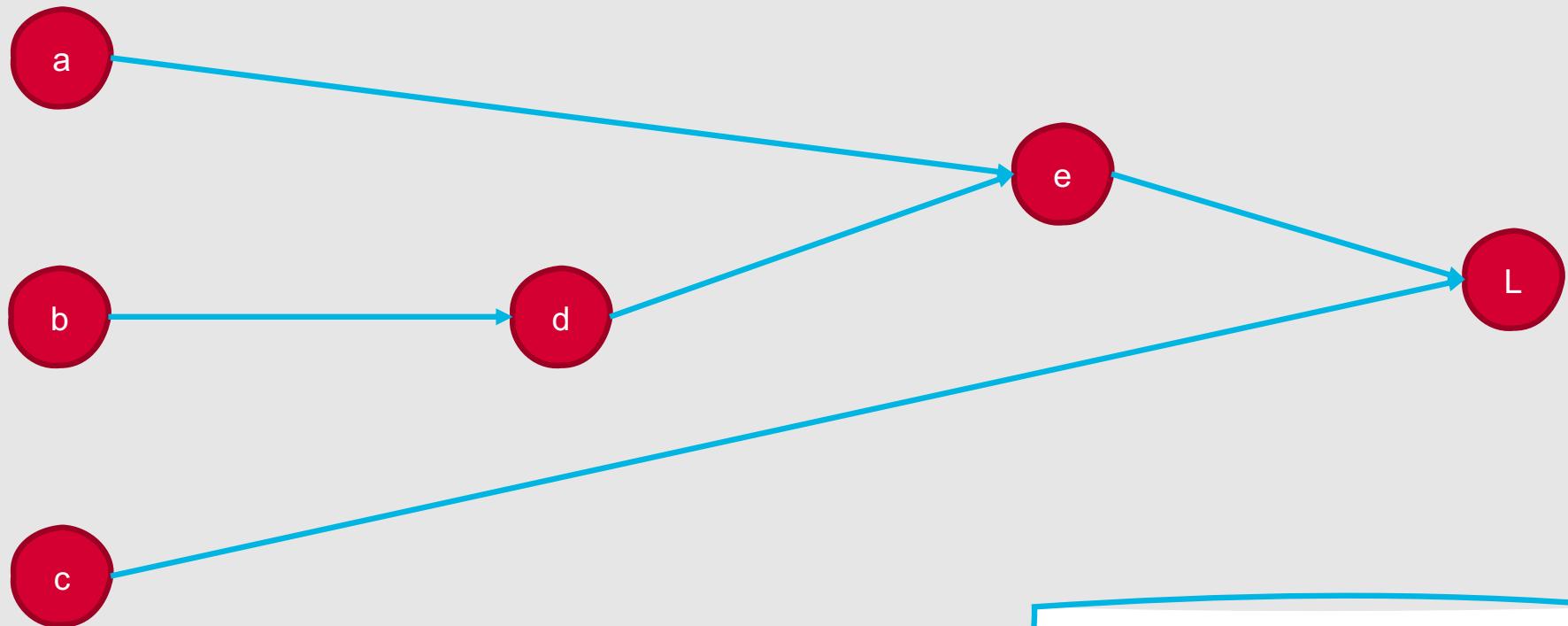
There are  
two ways  
that we can  
pass  
information  
through a  
neural  
network.

- **Forward pass**
  - Apply operations in the direction of the final layer
  - Pass the output of one computation as the input to the next
- **Backward pass**
  - Compute partial derivatives in the opposite direction of the final layer
  - Multiply them by the partial derivatives passed down from the previous step

# Example: Forward Pass

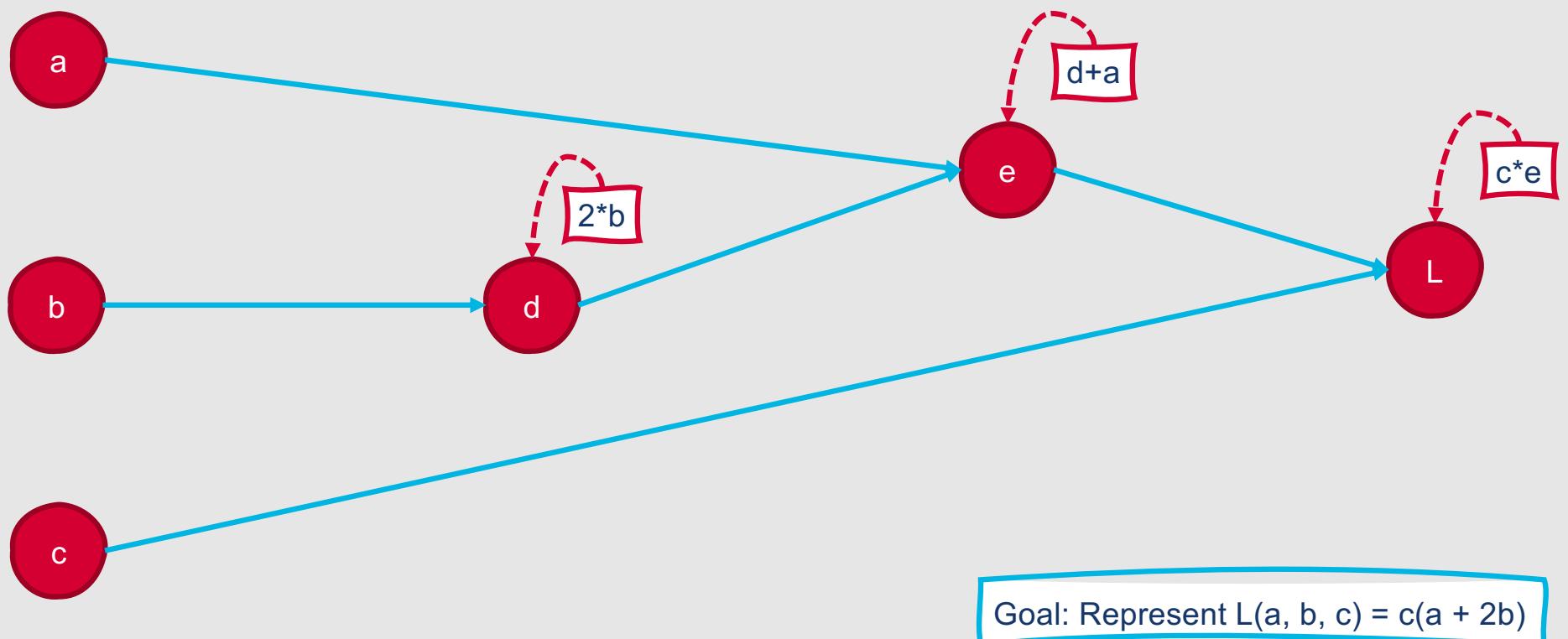
Goal: Represent  $L(a, b, c) = c(a + 2b)$

# Example: Forward Pass

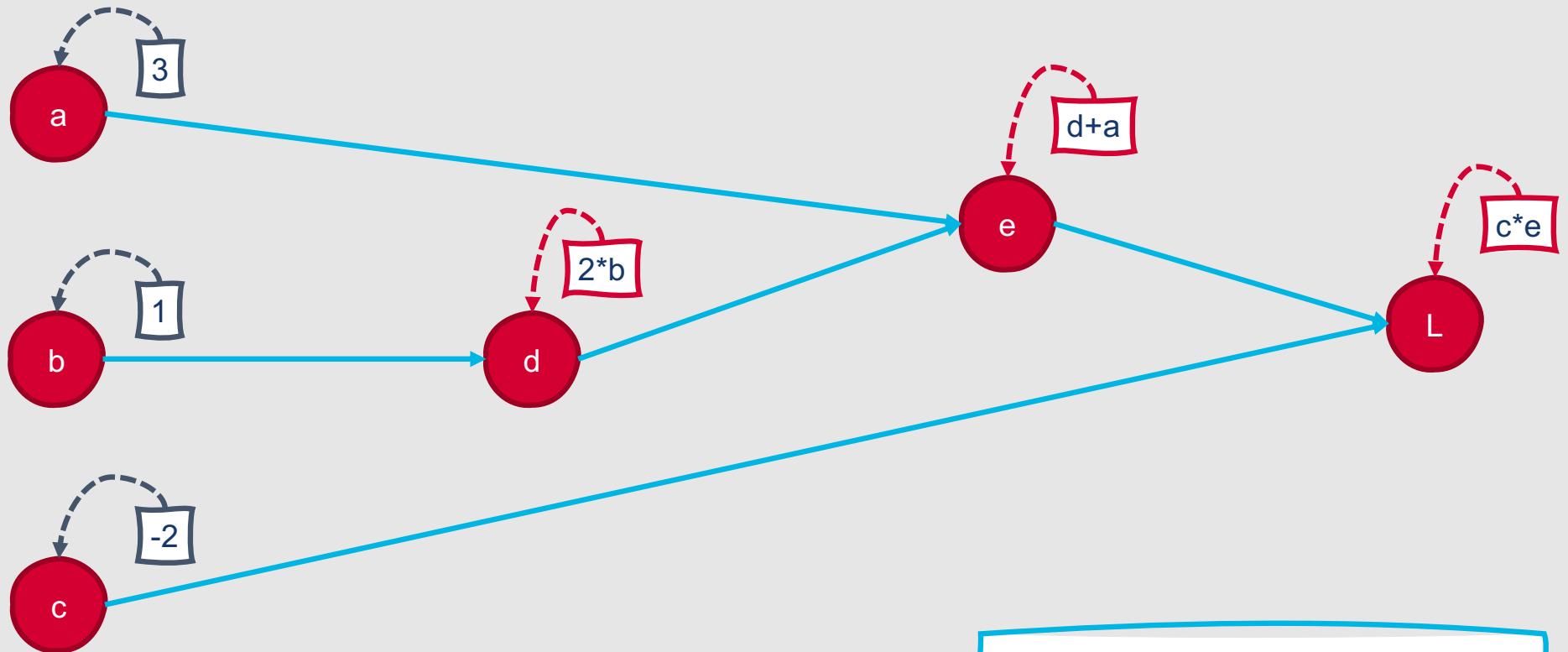


Goal: Represent  $L(a, b, c) = c(a + 2b)$

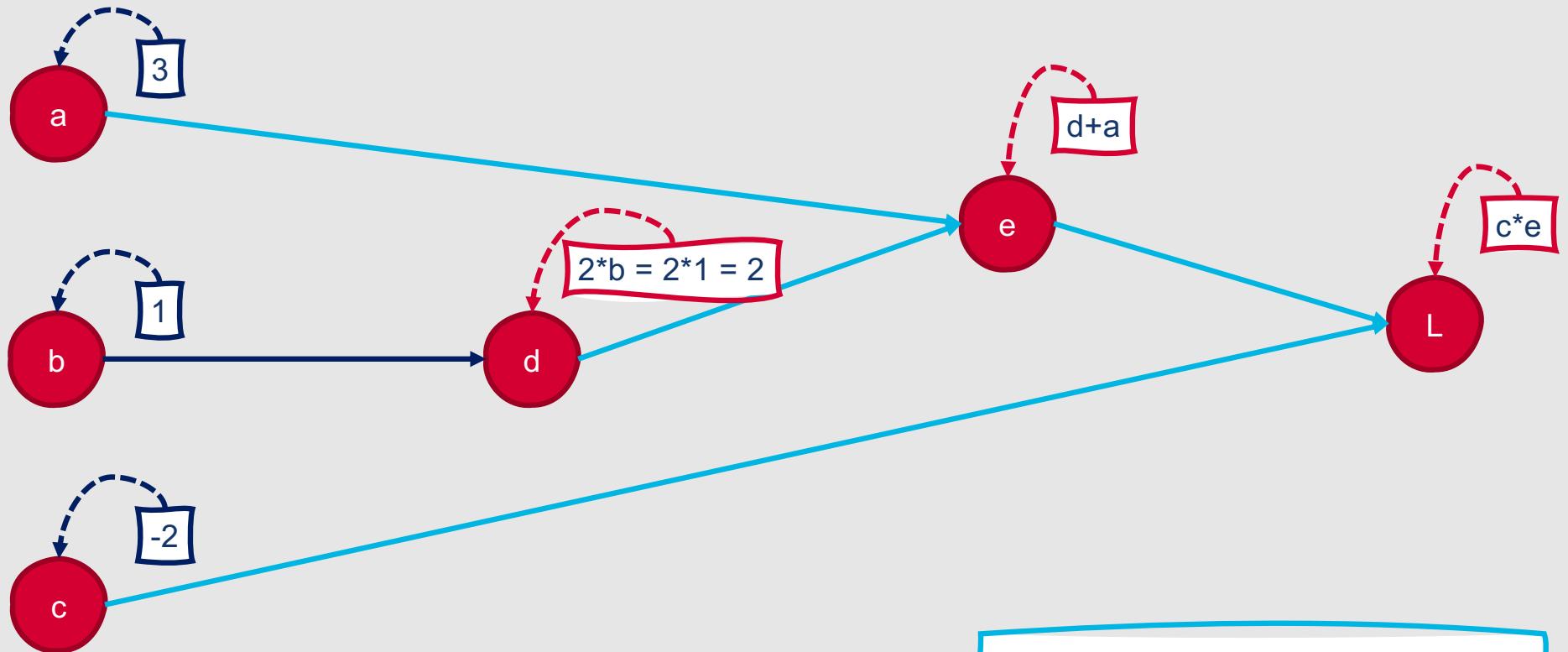
# Example: Forward Pass



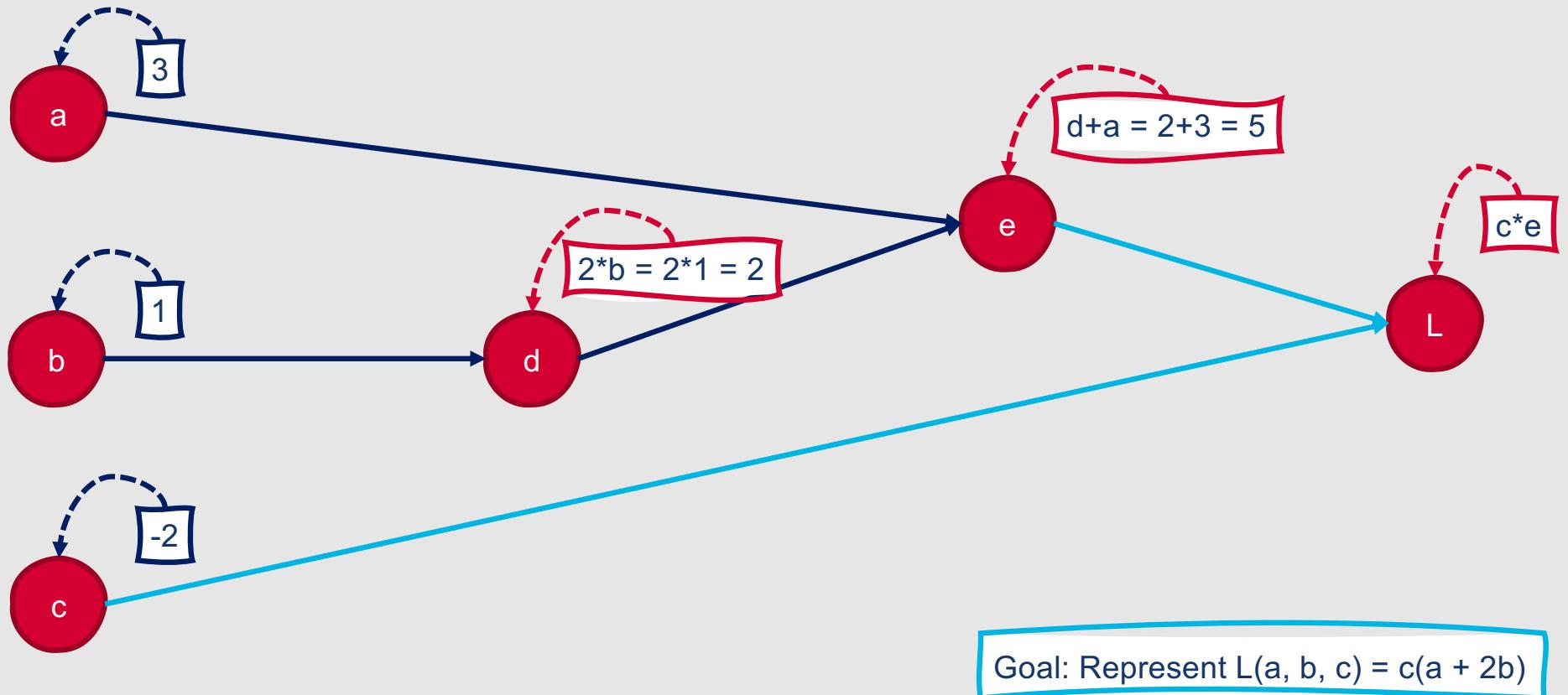
# Example: Forward Pass



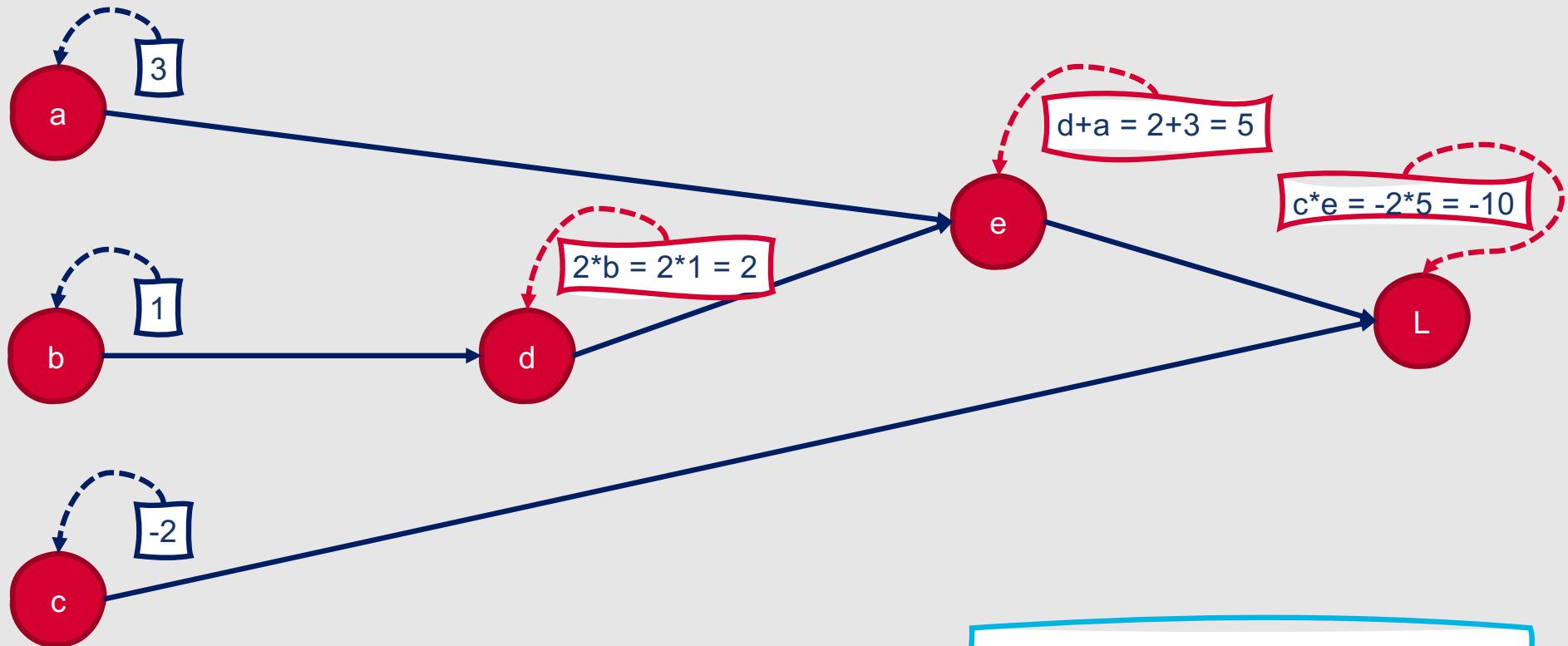
# Example: Forward Pass



# Example: Forward Pass



# Example: Forward Pass



# To perform a backward pass, how do we get from L all the way back to a, b, and c?

- Chain rule!
  - Given a function  $f(x) = u(v(x))$ :
  - Find the derivative of  $u(x)$  with respect to  $v(x)$
  - Find the derivative of  $v(x)$  with respect to  $x$
  - Multiply the two together
  - $\frac{df}{dx} = \frac{du}{dv} * \frac{dv}{dx}$

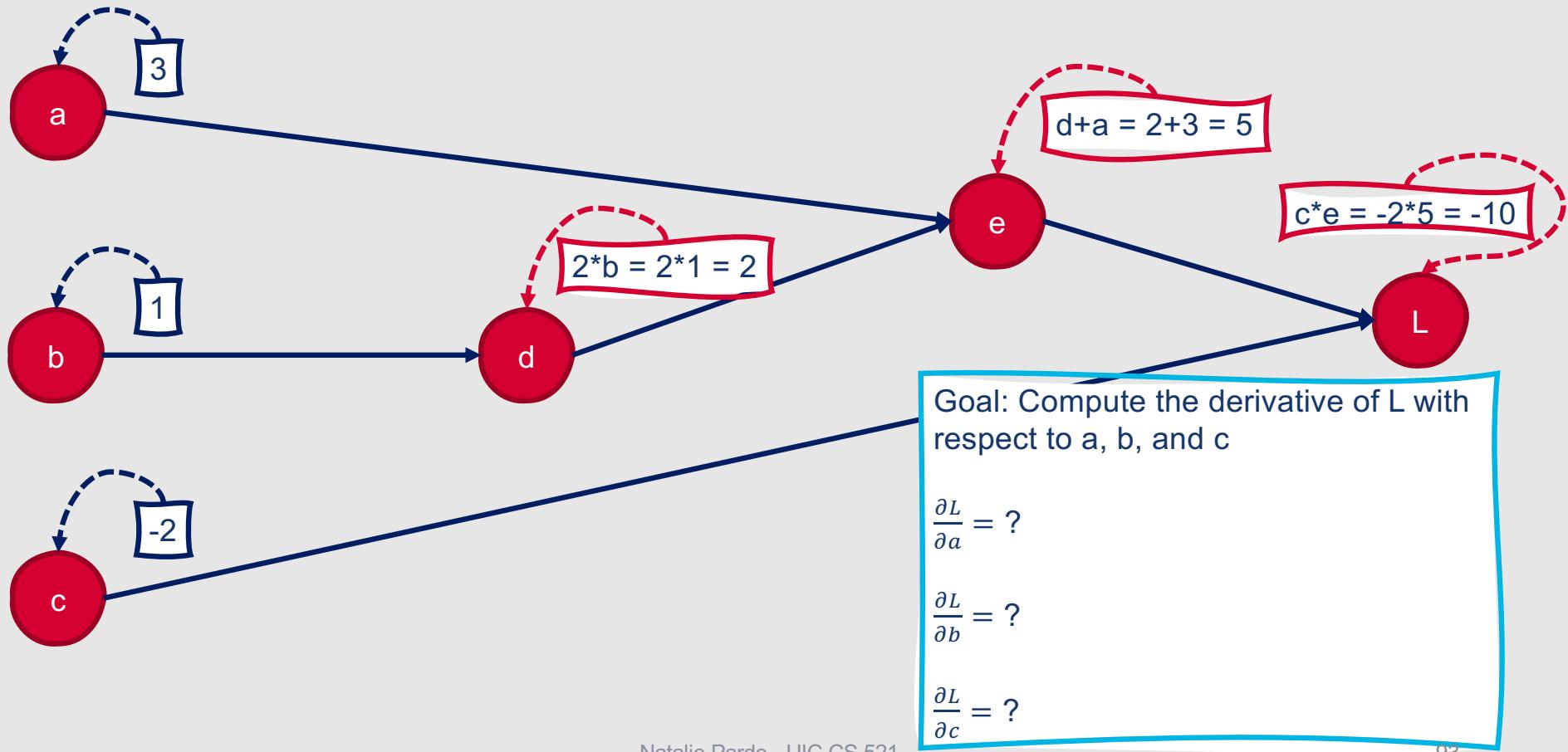
In theory,  $\frac{\partial \text{ReLU}(0)}{\partial z}$  is undefined! In practice, by convention we set  $\frac{\partial \text{ReLU}(0)}{\partial z} = 0$ .

Derivatives of popular activation functions:

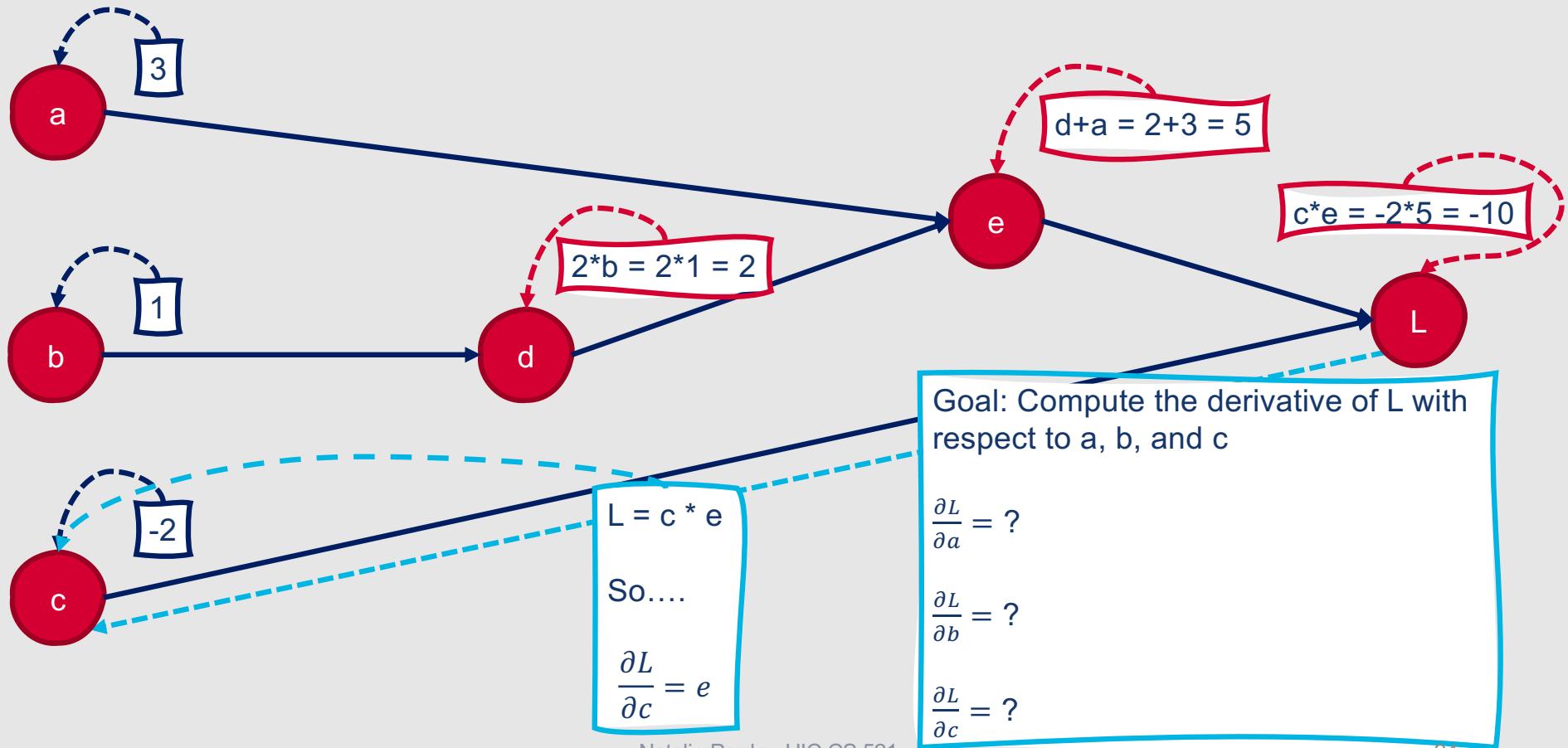
$$\frac{\partial \tanh(z)}{\partial z} = 1 - \tanh^2(z)$$

$$\frac{\partial \text{ReLU}(z)}{\partial z} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } z < 0 \\ 1 & \text{for } z \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

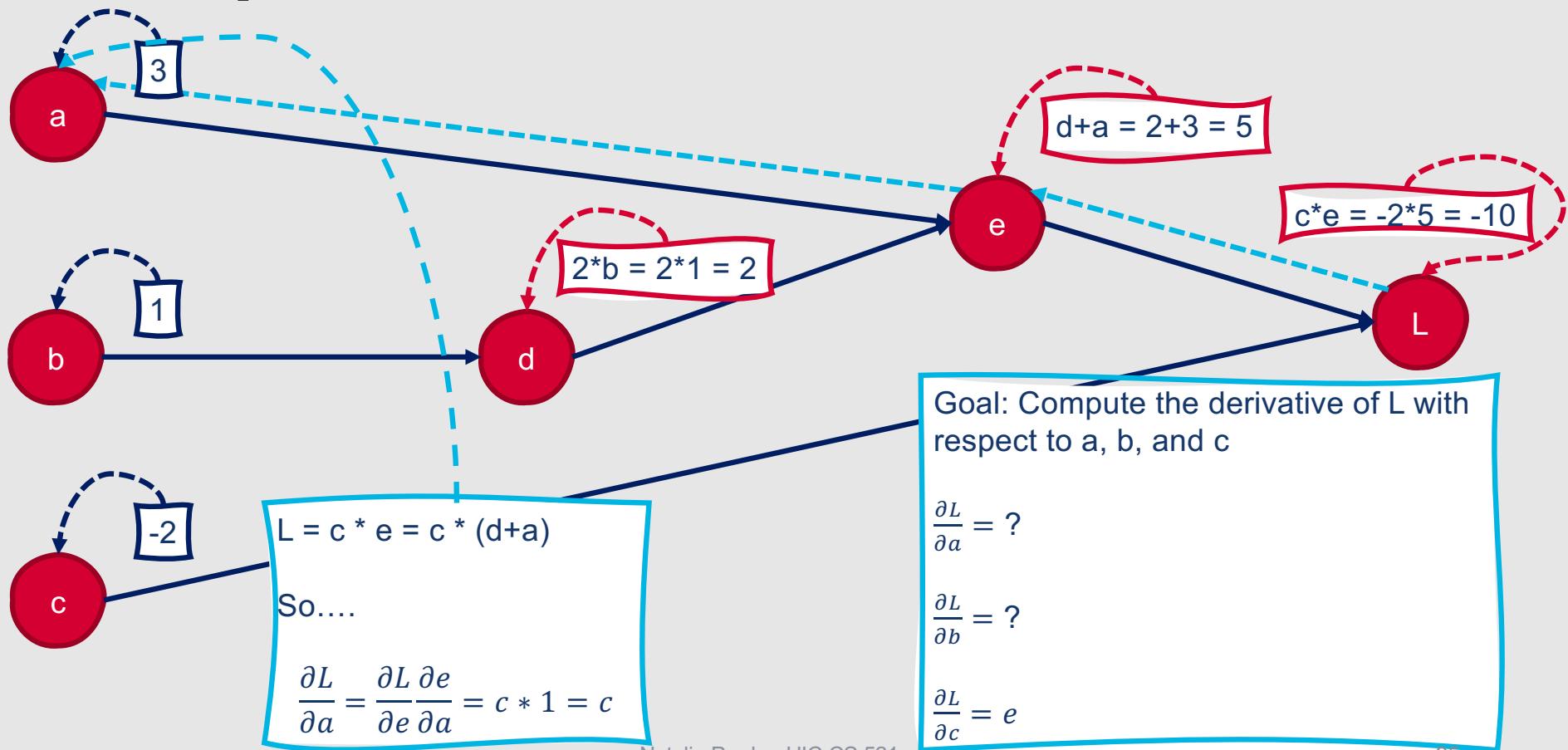
# Example: Backward Pass



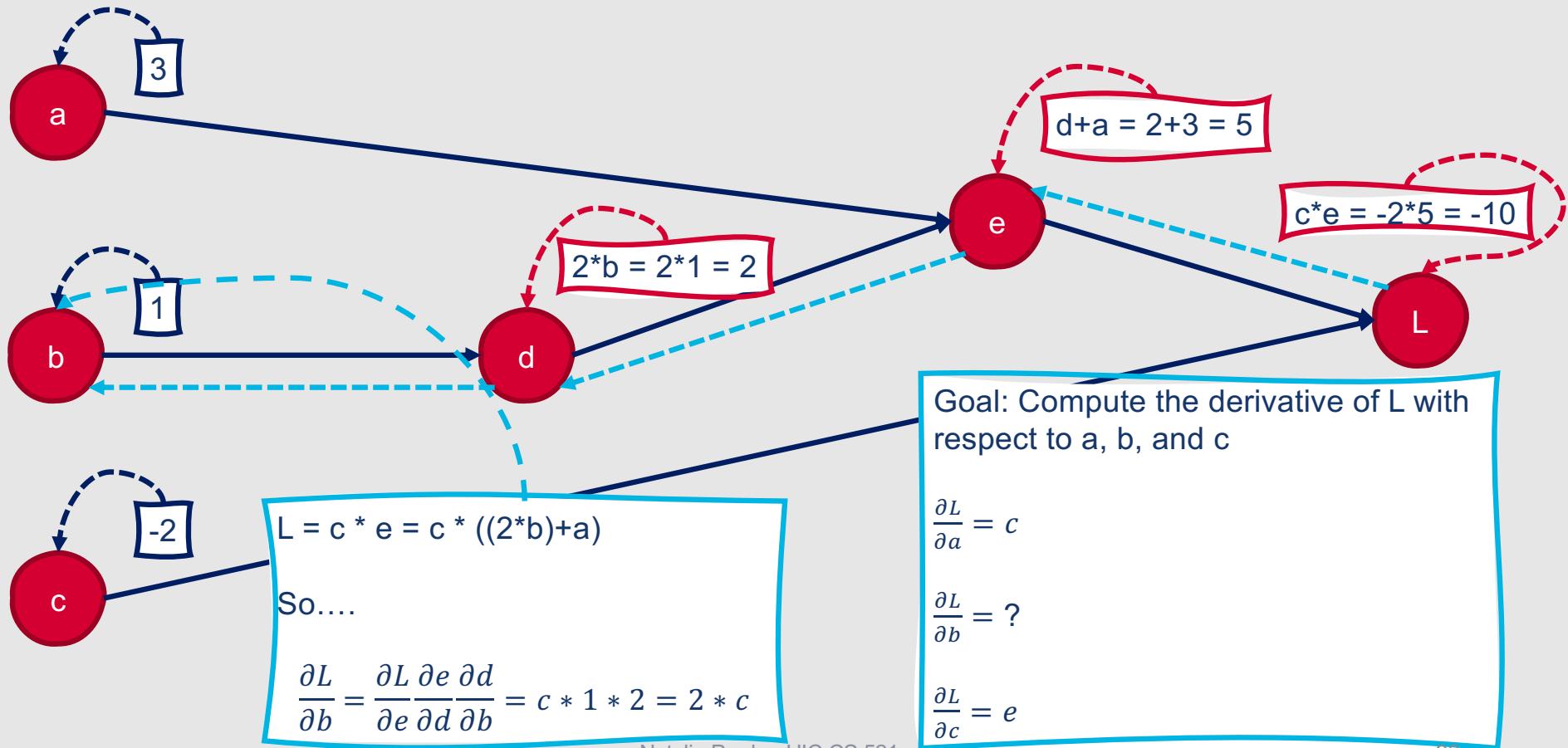
# Example: Backward Pass



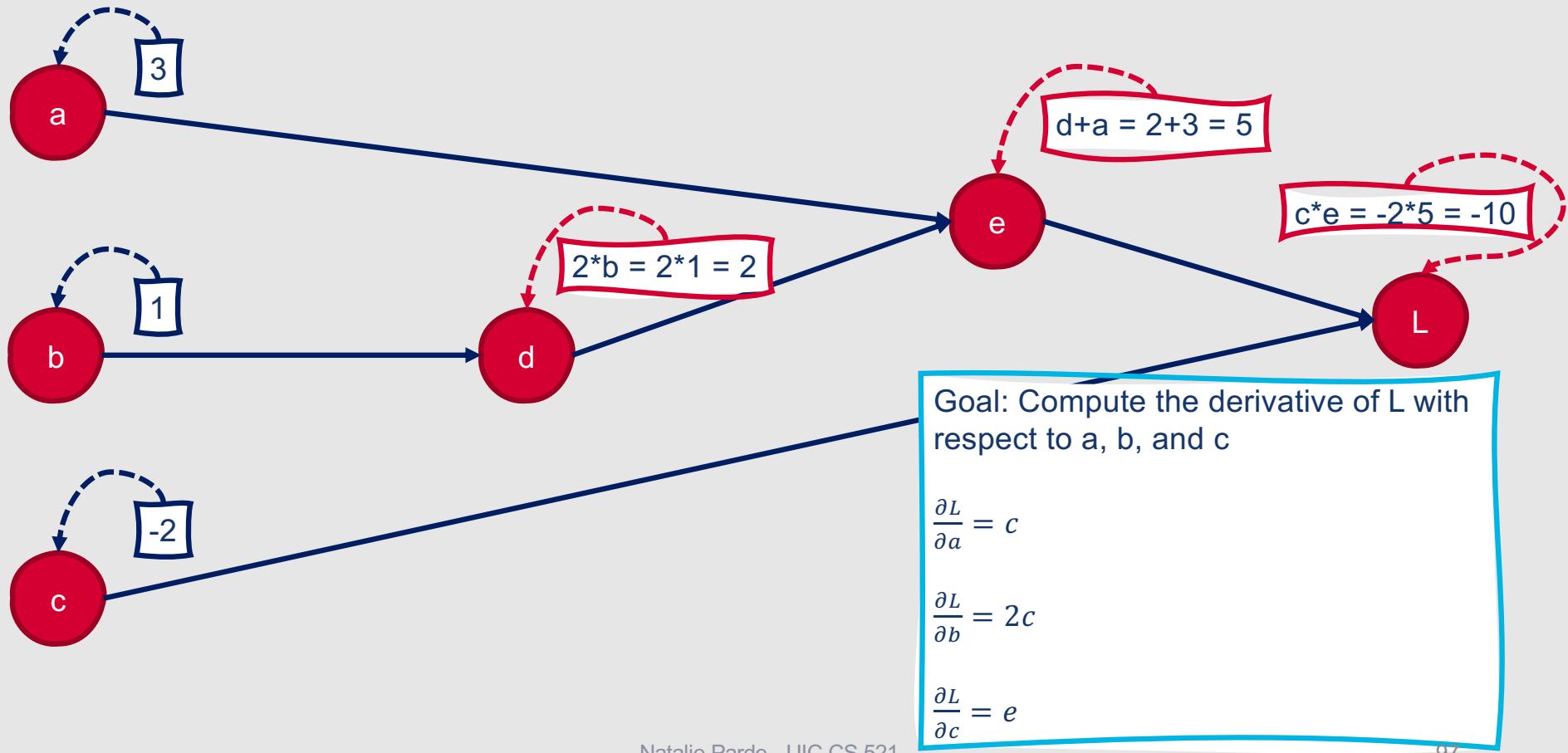
# Example: Backward Pass



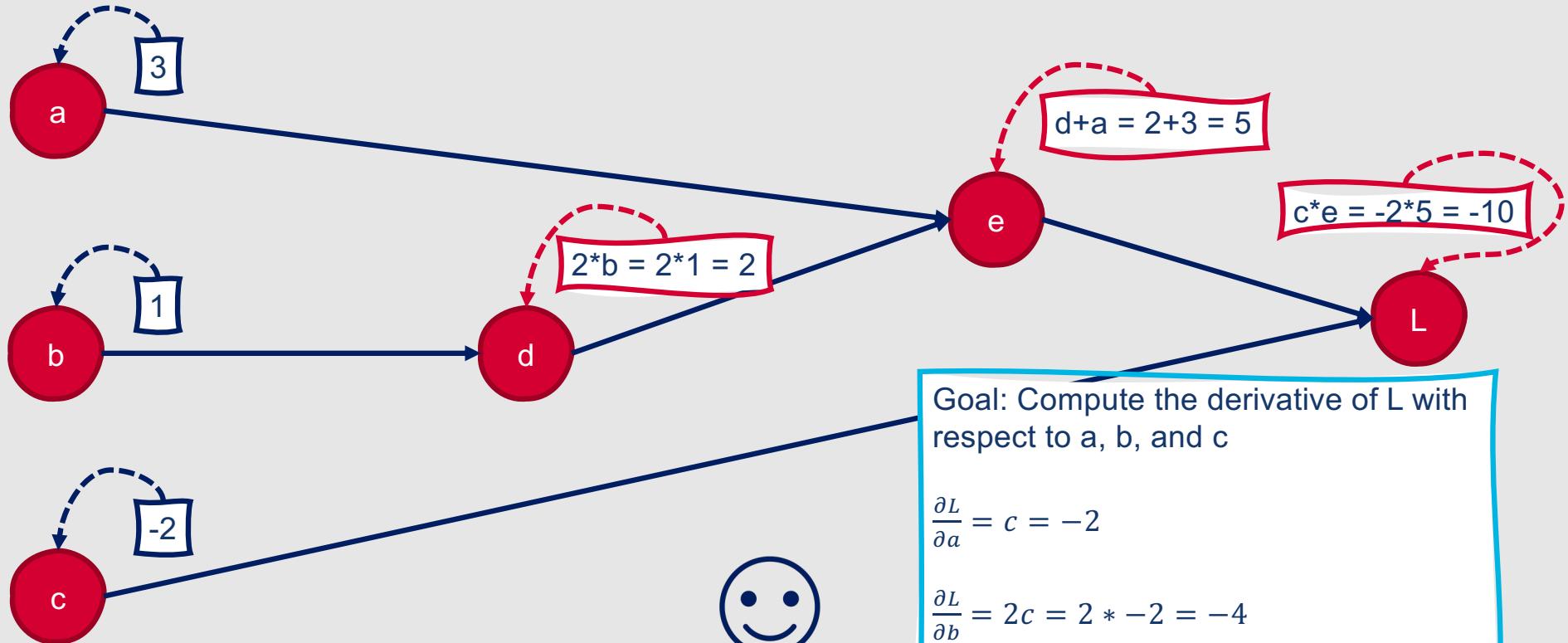
# Example: Backward Pass



# Example: Backward Pass



# Example: Backward Pass



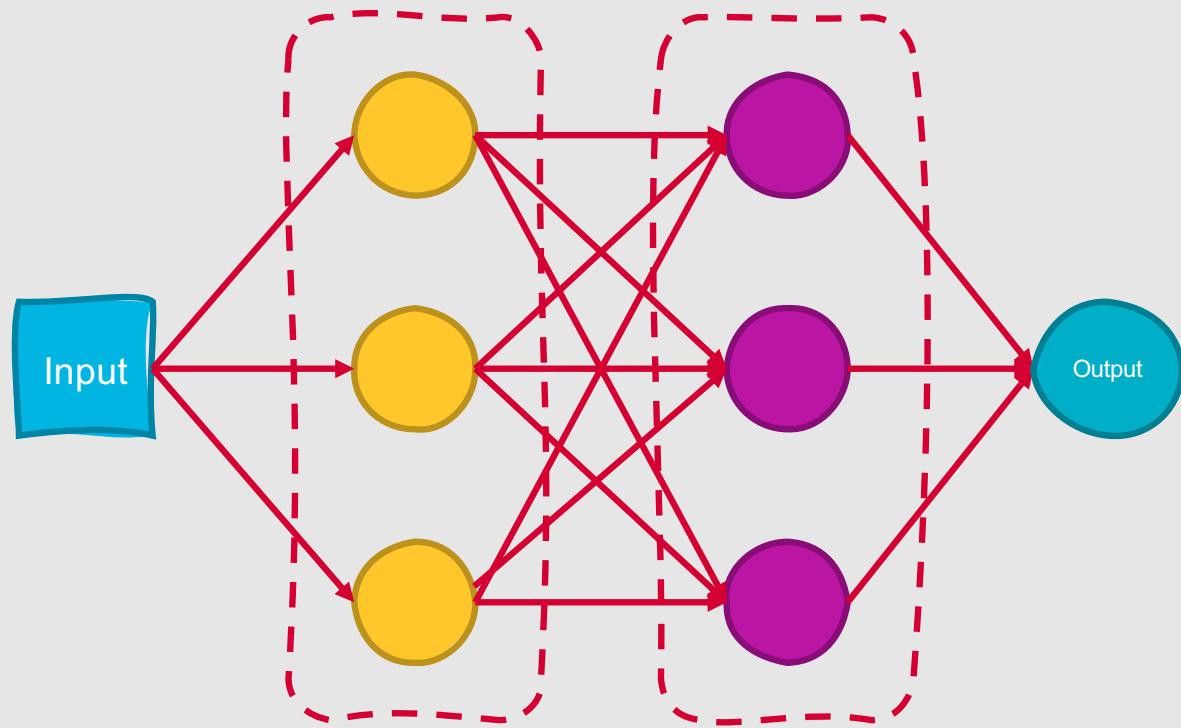
Goal: Compute the derivative of L with respect to a, b, and c

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial a} = c = -2$$

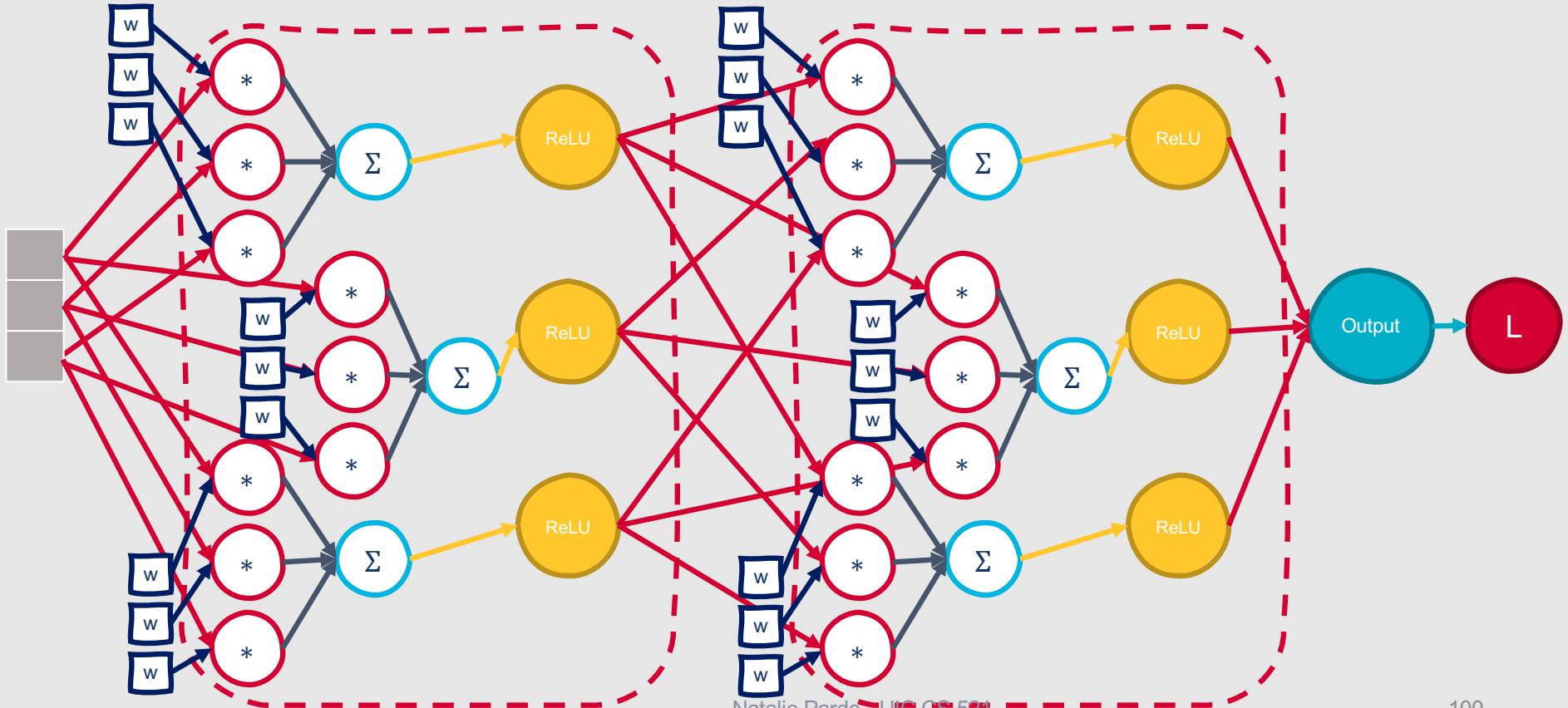
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial b} = 2c = 2 * -2 = -4$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial c} = e = 5$$

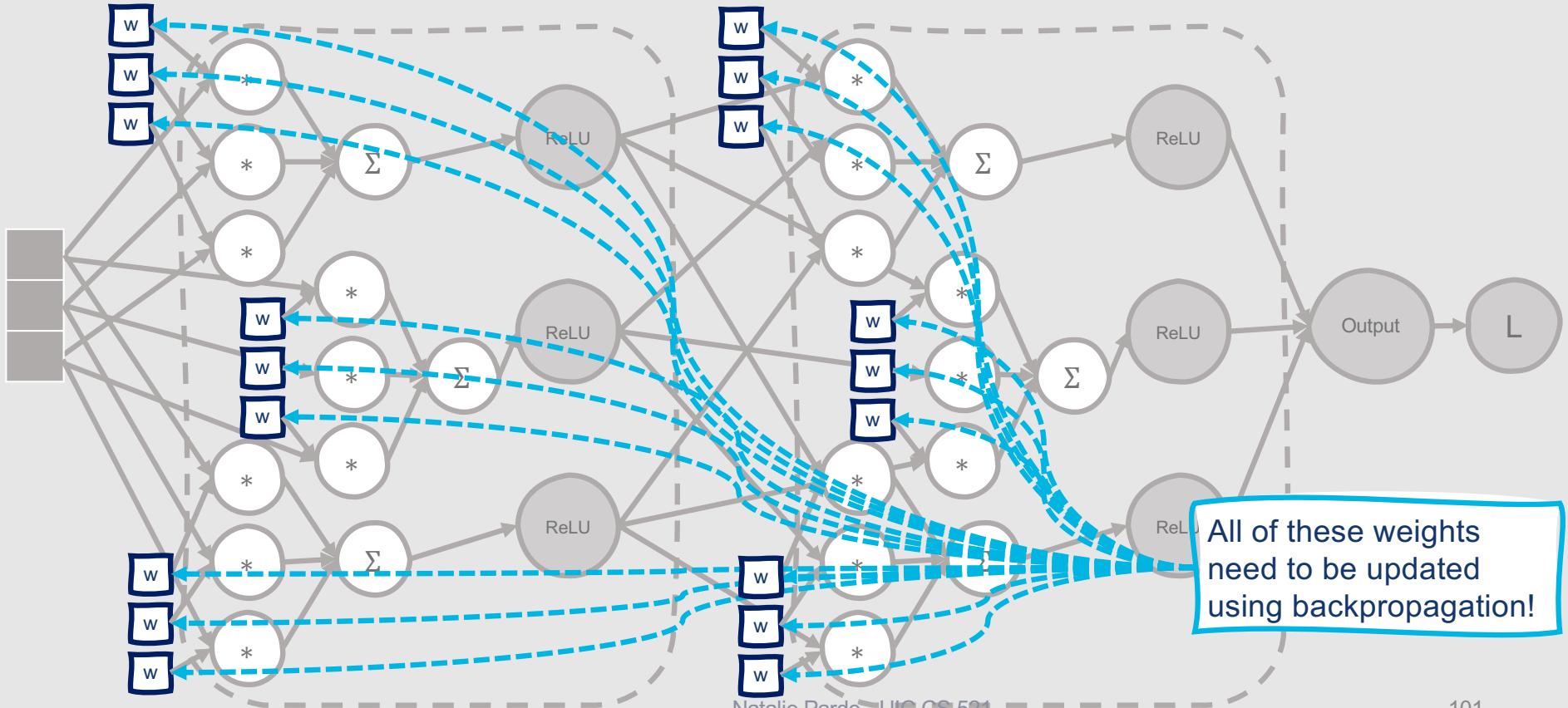
# Computation graphs for neural networks involve numerous interconnected units.



# What would a computation graph look like for a simple neural network?

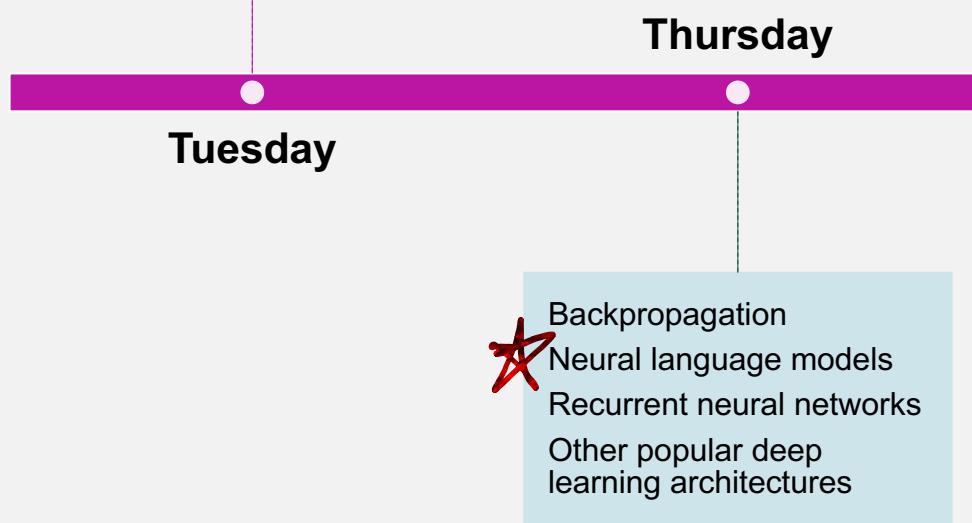


# What would a computation graph look like for a simple neural network?



# This Week's Topics

Neural networks  
Computational units  
Combining layers of units



# Neural Language Models

- Popular application of neural networks
- Advantages over  $n$ -gram language models:
  - Can handle longer histories
  - Can generalize over contexts of similar words
- Disadvantage:
  - Slower to train
- Neural language models make more accurate predictions than  $n$ -gram language models trained on datasets of similar sizes



# Feedforward Neural Language Model

- Input: Representation of some number of previous words
  - $w_{t-1}, w_{t-2}$ , etc.
- Output: Probability distribution over possible next words
- Goal: Approximate the probability of a word given the entire prior context  $P(w_t|w_1^{t-1})$  based on the  $n$  previous words
  - $P(w_t|w_1^{t-1}) \approx P(w_t|w_{t-n+1}^{t-1})$

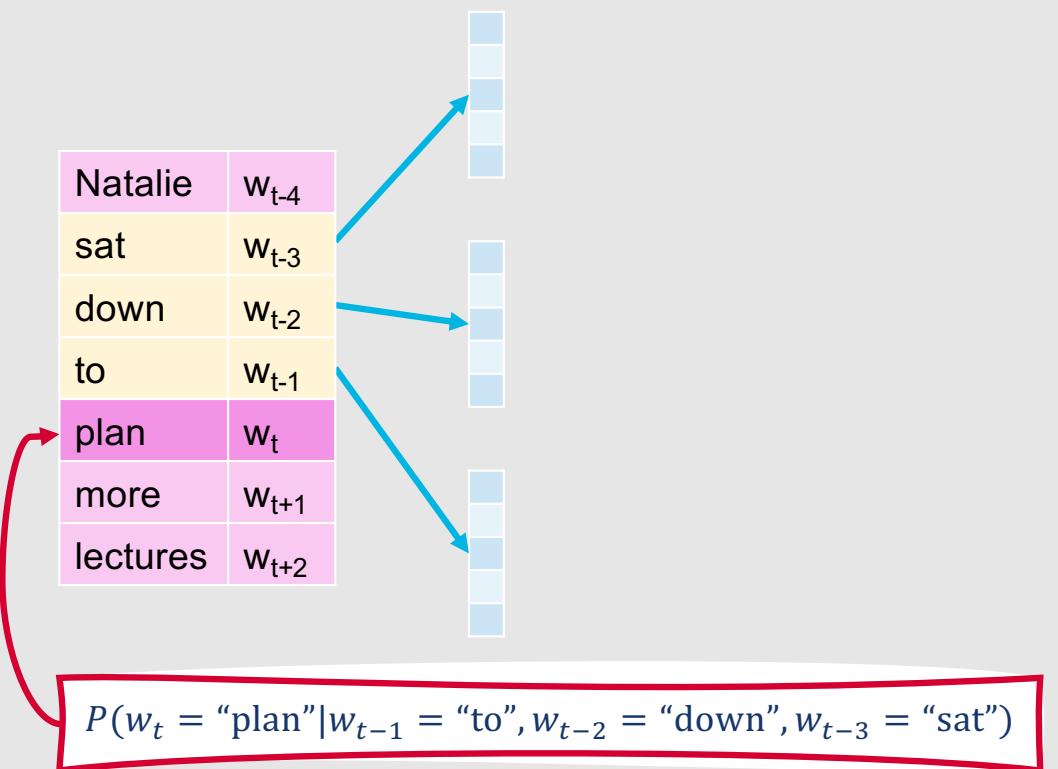
# Neural Language Model

Natalie	$w_{t-4}$
sat	$w_{t-3}$
down	$w_{t-2}$
to	$w_{t-1}$
plan	$w_t$
more	$w_{t+1}$
lectures	$w_{t+2}$

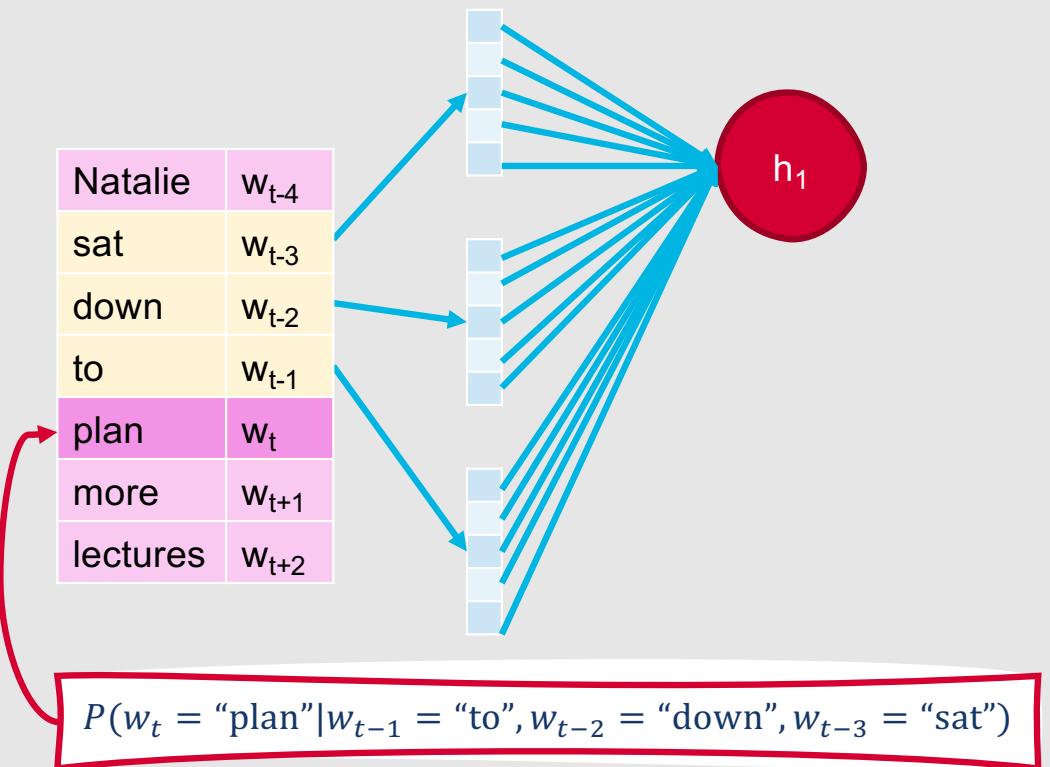


$$P(w_t = \text{"plan"} | w_{t-1} = \text{"to"}, w_{t-2} = \text{"down"}, w_{t-3} = \text{"sat"})$$

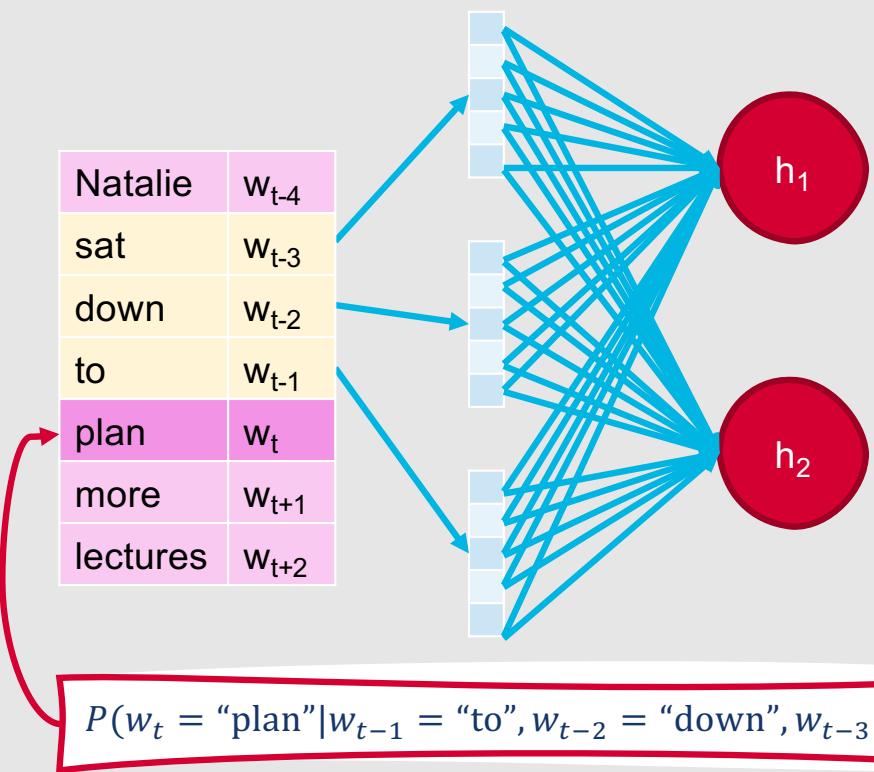
# Neural Language Model



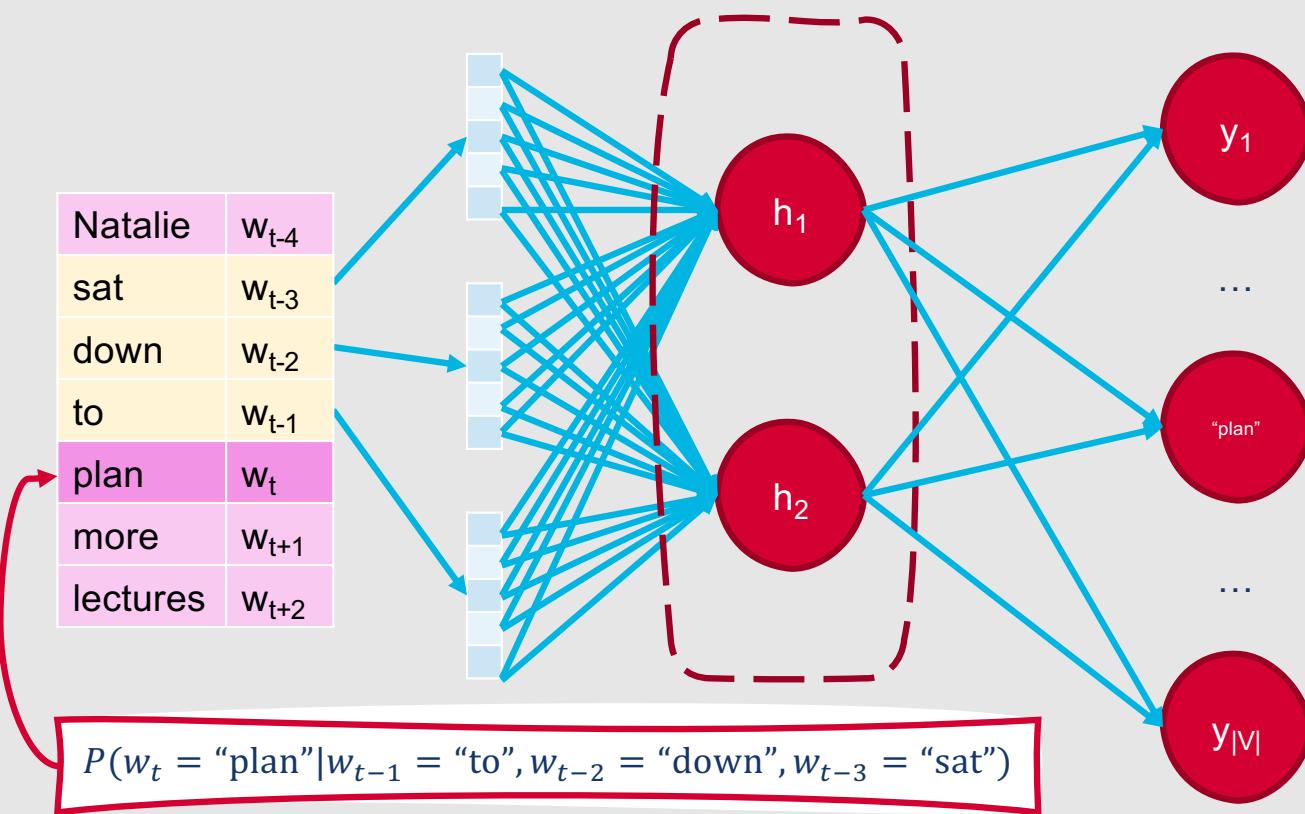
# Neural Language Model



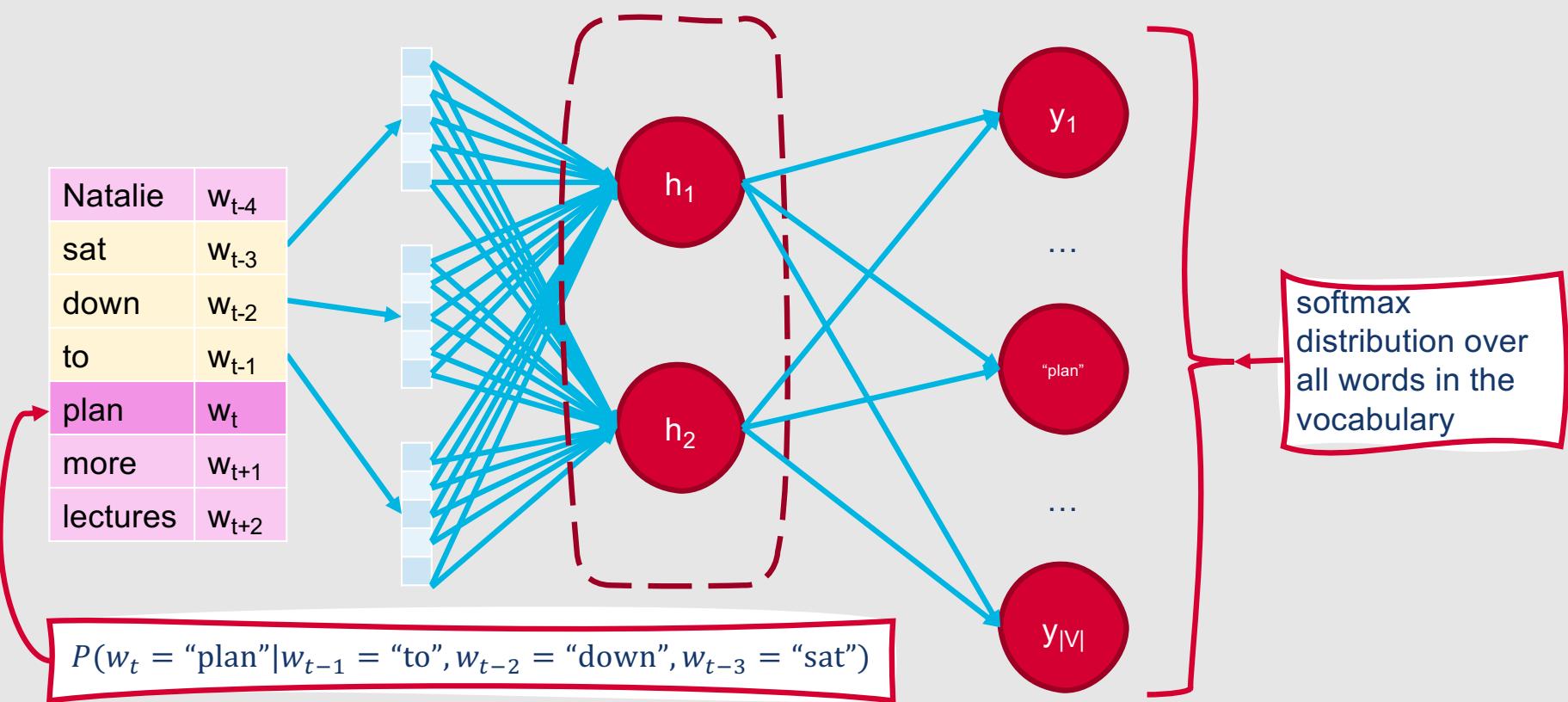
# Neural Language Model



# Neural Language Model



# Neural Language Model



# This Week's Topics

Neural networks  
Computational units  
Combining layers of units

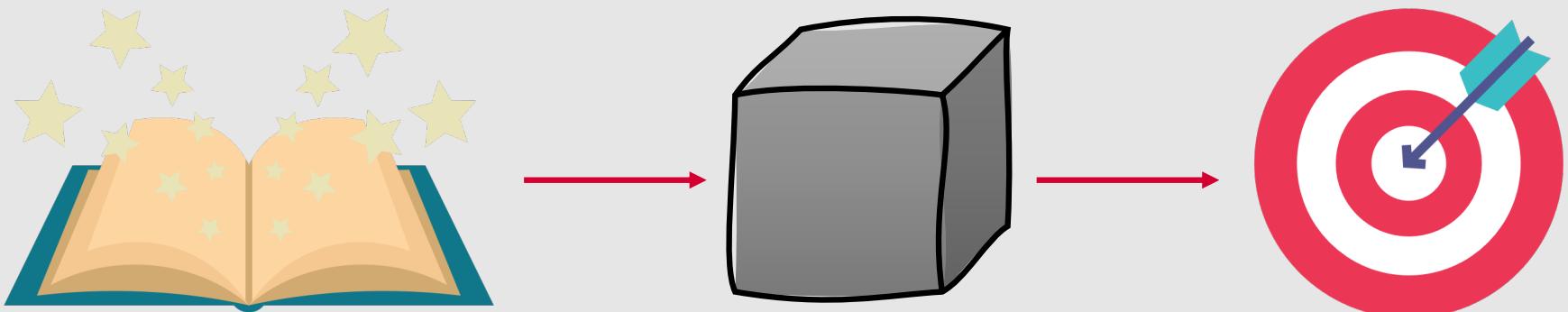
Tuesday

Thursday

Backpropagation  
Neural language models  
~~Recurrent neural networks~~  
Other popular deep learning architectures

# Popular Deep Learning Architectures in Contemporary NLP

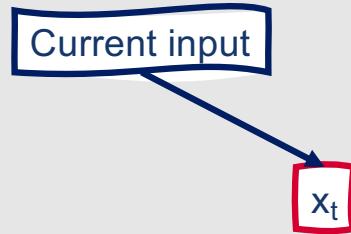
- Recurrent Neural Networks
- Convolutional Neural Networks
- Transformers



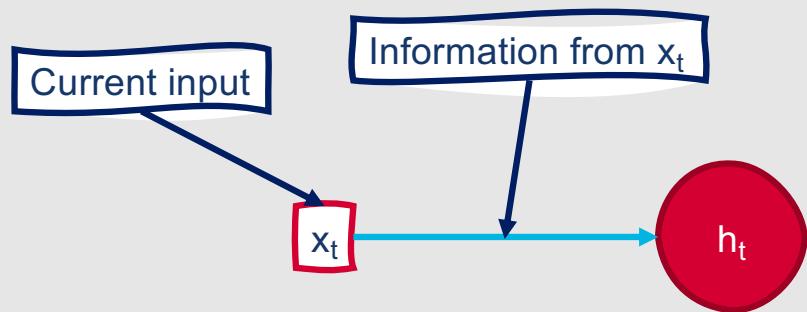
# Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs)

- General premise:
  - Deep learning models should be making decisions for sequential input based on decisions that have already been made at earlier points of the sequence
- Classic feedforward neural network:
  - Input to a layer is a vector of numbers representing the outputs of all units in the previous layer
- Modification for recurrent neural networks:
  - Input to a layer is a vector of numbers representing the outputs of all units in the previous layer **+ a vector of numbers representing the layer's output at the previous timestep**

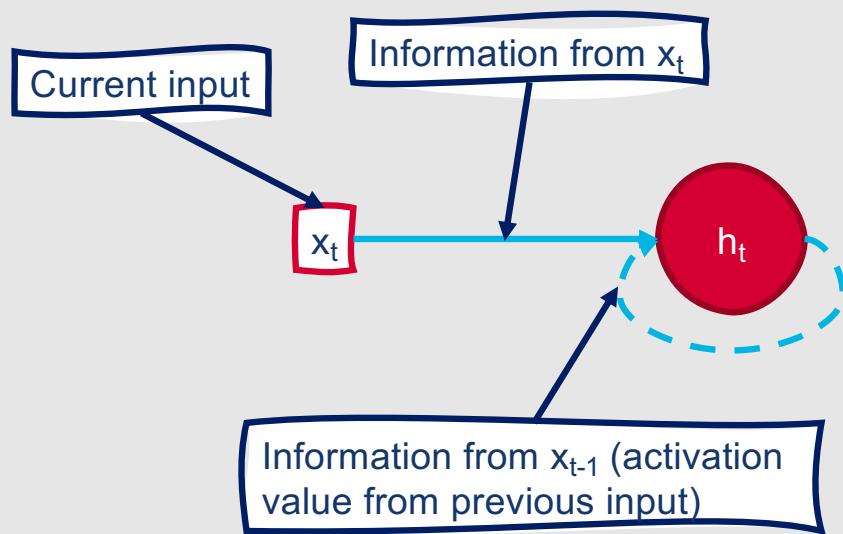
# Structure of Single-Unit RNN Layer



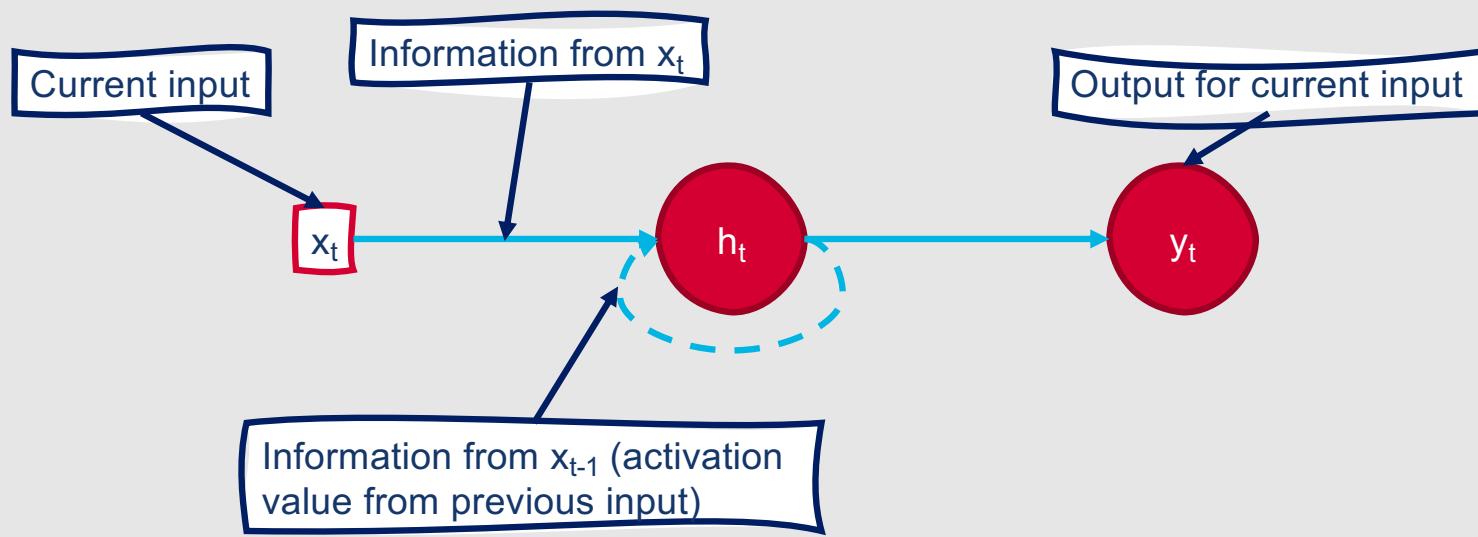
# Structure of Single-Unit RNN Layer



# Structure of Single-Unit RNN Layer



# Structure of Single-Unit RNN Layer

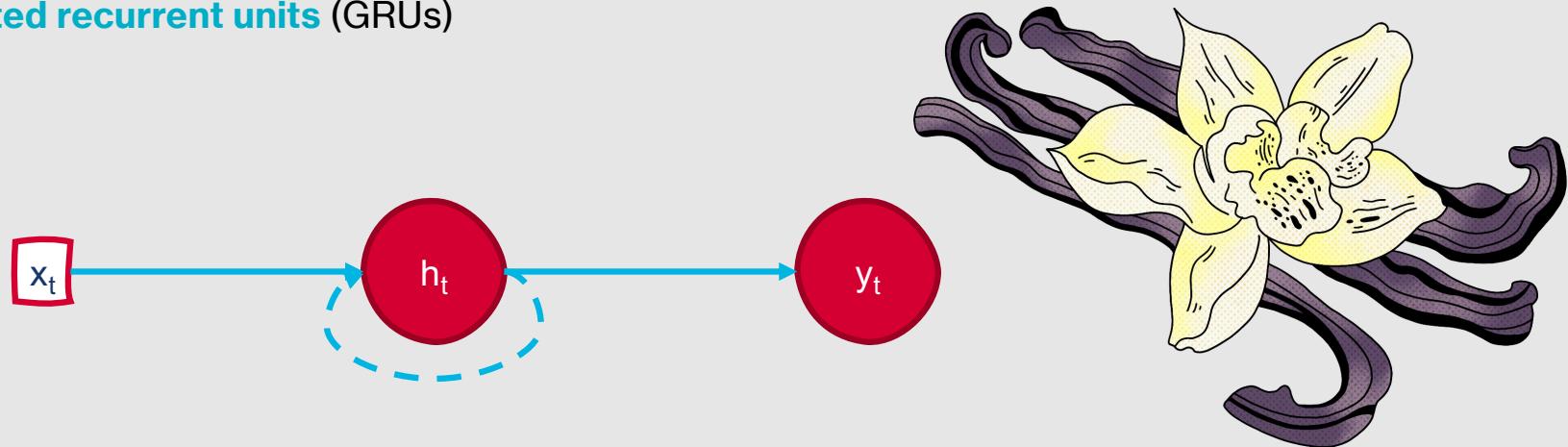


## Why is this useful for NLP problems?

- Most data for NLP tasks is inherently sequential!
- Making use of sequences using feedforward neural networks requires:
  - Fixed-length context windows
  - Concatenated context vectors
- This limits the model's abilities, and prevents it from considering variable-length context

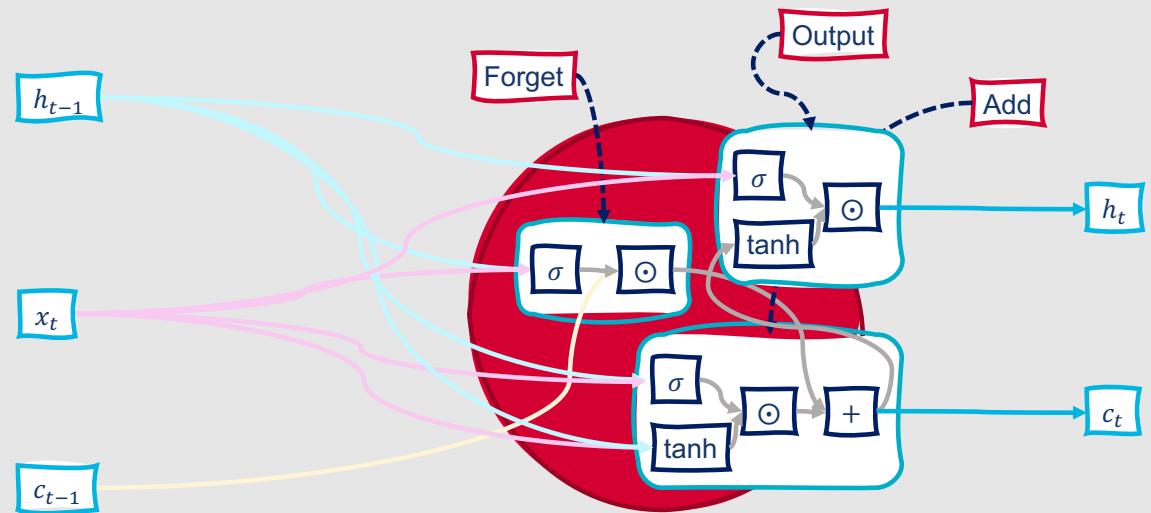
# There are many popular variations of RNNs.

- “Standard” RNNs are often referred to informally as **vanilla RNNs**
- Some RNN architectures are modified to specifically improve the model’s ability to consider long-term context
  - **Long short-term memory networks** (LSTMs)
  - **Gated recurrent units** (GRUs)



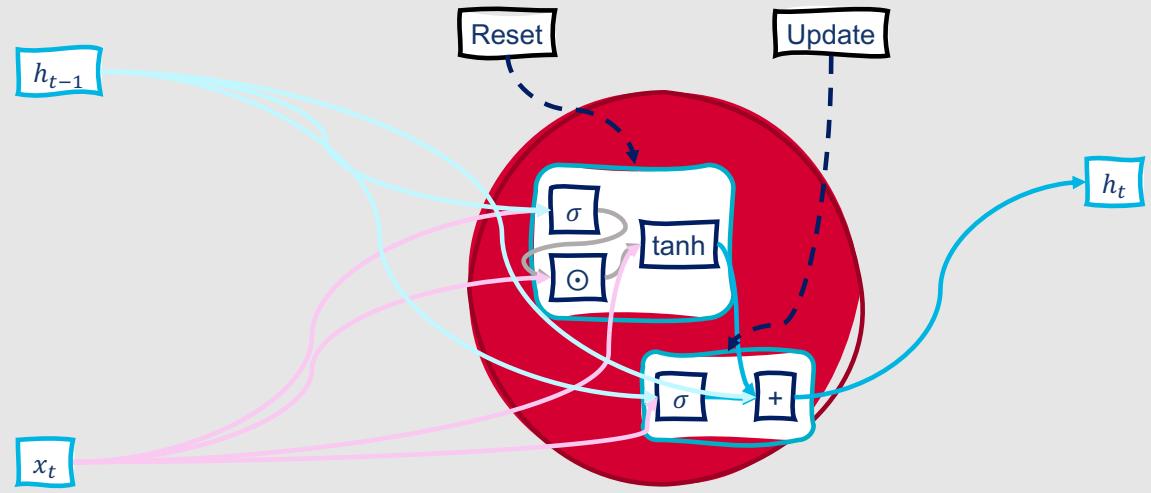
# Long Short-Term Memory Networks (LSTMs)

- Specialized RNN units that incorporate gating mechanisms to remove information that is no longer needed from the context, and add information that is anticipated to be of use later
- Gating mechanisms include:
  - Forget gate:** Should we erase this existing information from the context?
  - Add gate:** Should we write this new information to the context?
  - Output gate:** What information should be leveraged for the current hidden state?

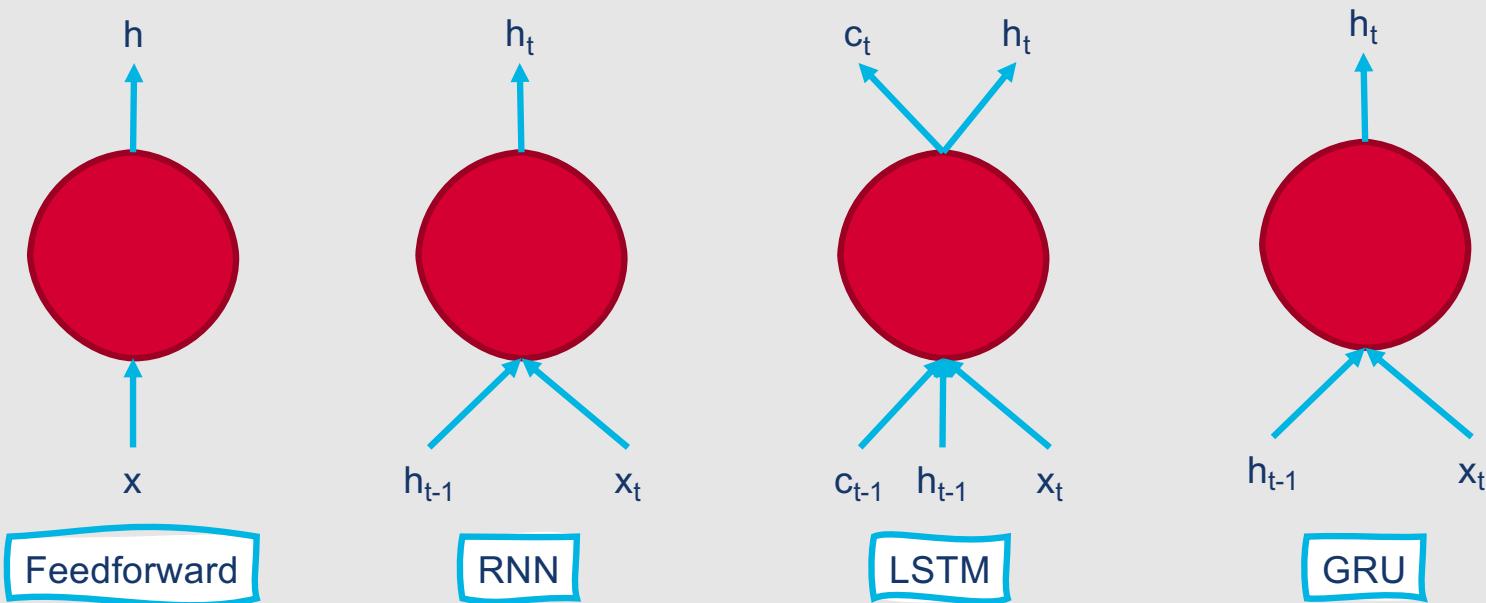


# Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs)

- Also utilizes gating mechanisms to manage contexts, but uses a simpler architecture than LSTMs
- Only two gates:
  - **Reset gate:** Which elements of the previous hidden state are relevant to the current context?
  - **Update gate:** Which elements of the intermediate hidden state and of the previous hidden state need to be preserved for future use?



# Overall, comparing inputs and outputs for some different types of neural units....



# When to use LSTMs vs. GRUs?

## Why use GRUs instead of LSTMs?

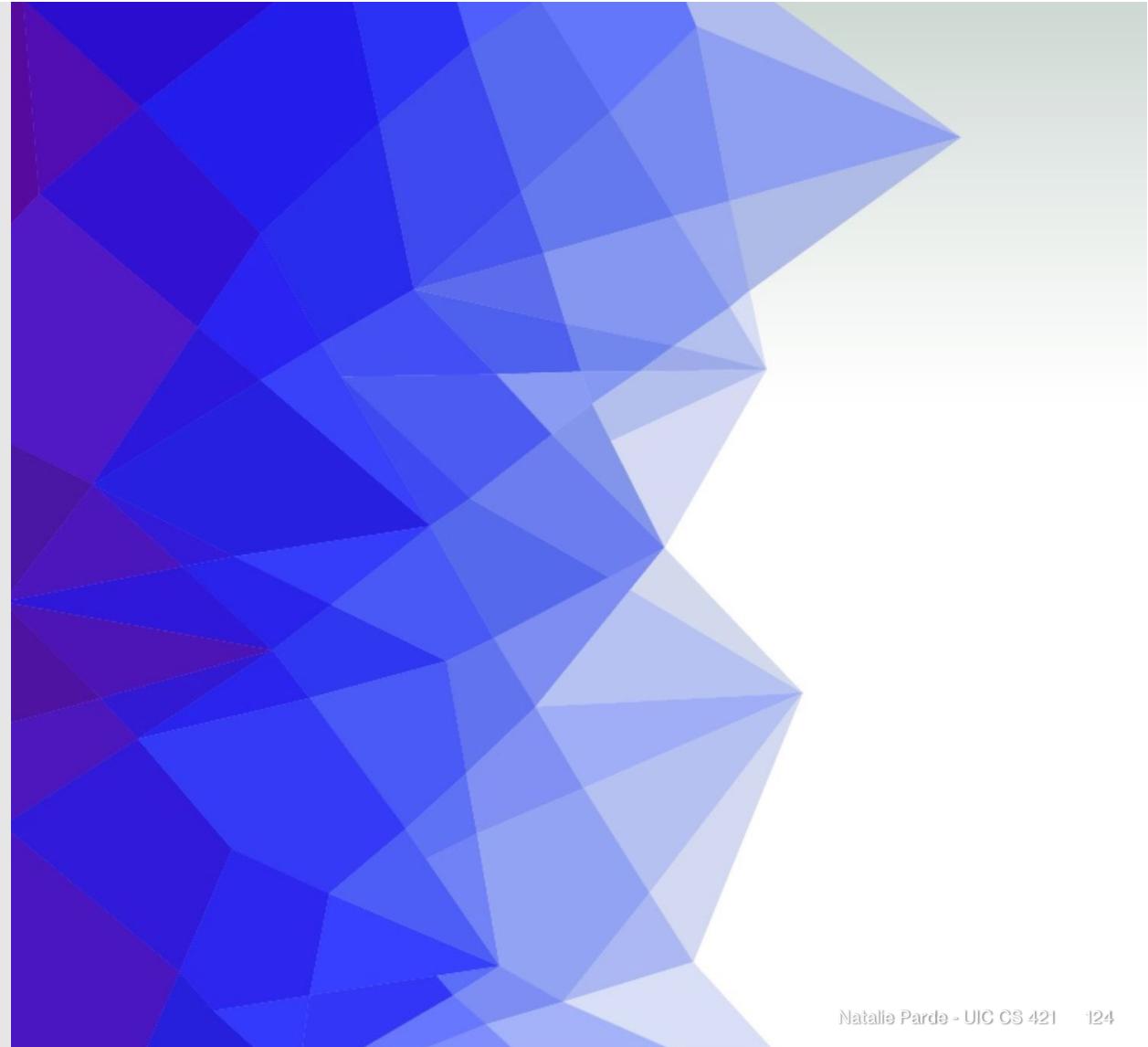
- **Computational efficiency:** Good for scenarios in which you need to train your model quickly and don't have access to high-performance computing resources

## Why use LSTMs instead of GRUs?

- **Performance:** LSTMs generally outperform GRUs at the same tasks

# Bidirectional Models

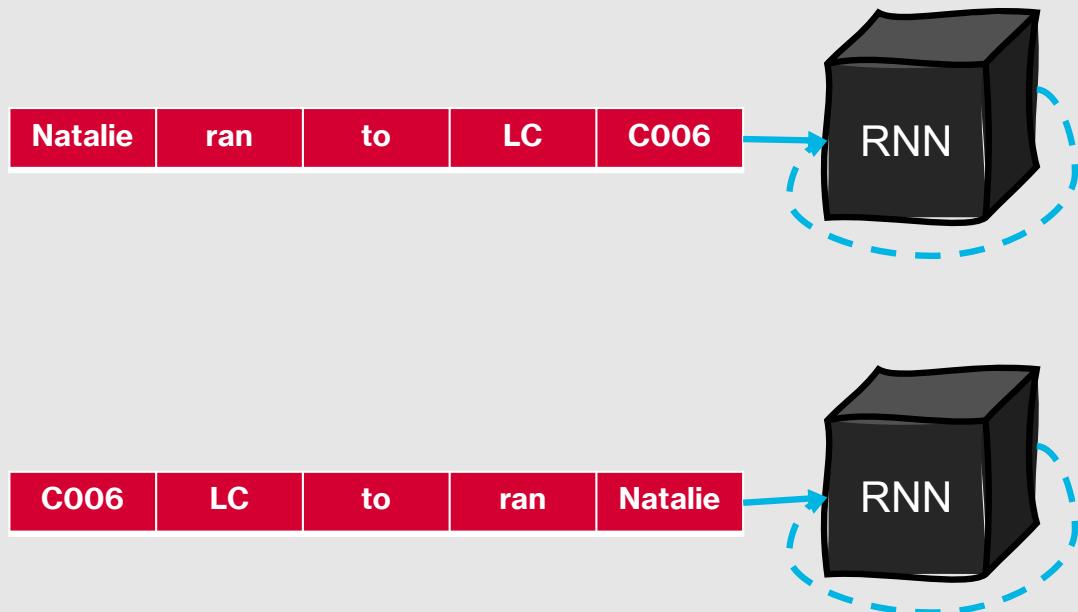
- All RNN units can be combined with one another in the same way that feedforward units can be combined
  - Layers of vanilla RNN units
  - Layers of LSTM units
  - Layers of GRU units
- These layers can also be combined to implement **bidirectional** architectures that process input both from beginning to end and from end to beginning



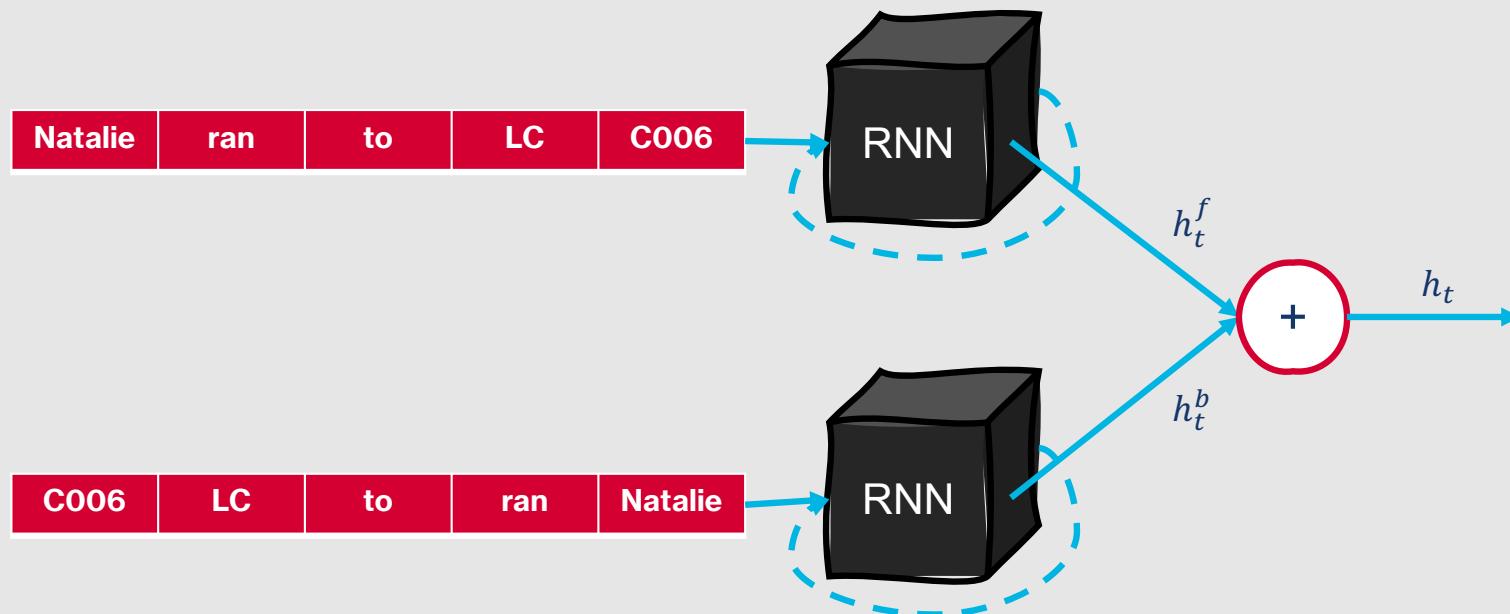
# Bidirectional RNNs



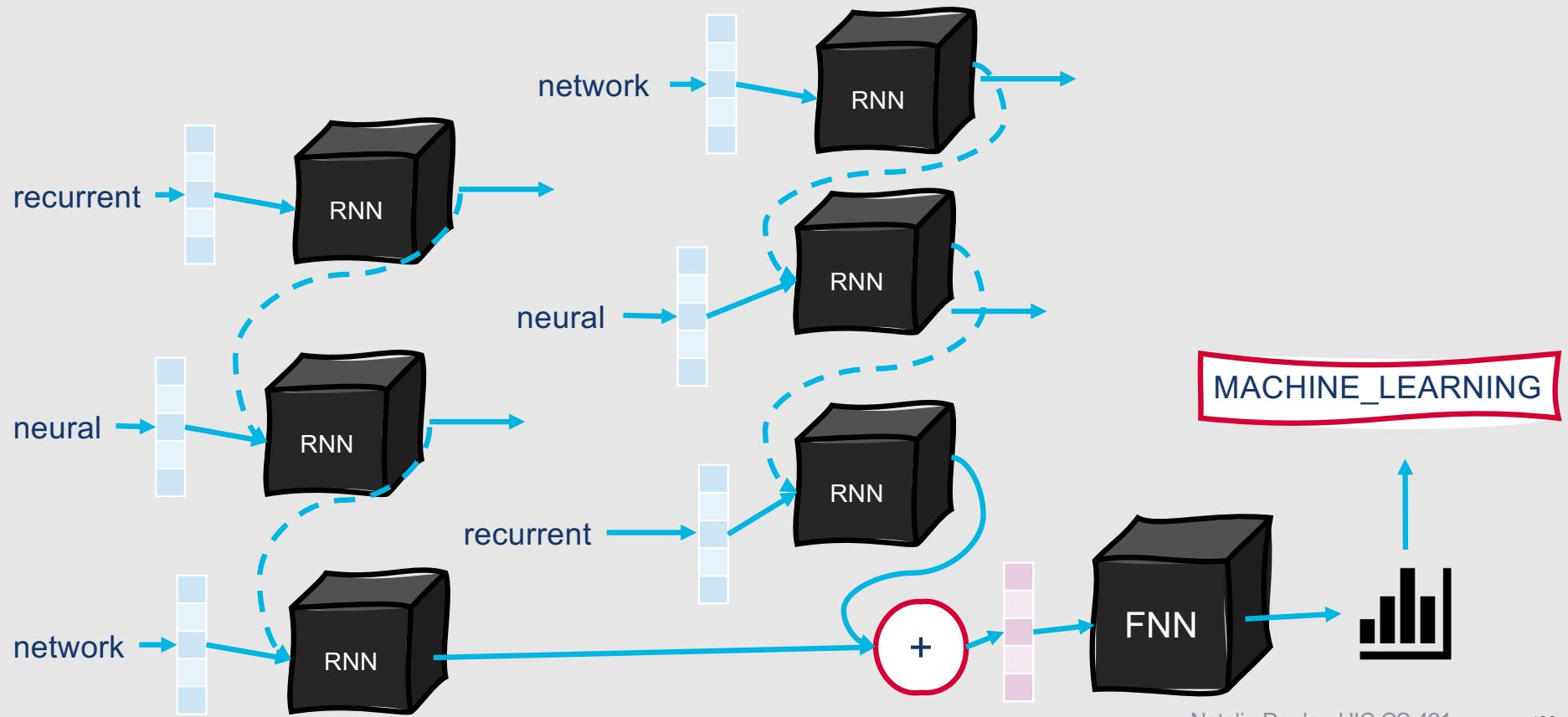
# Bidirectional RNNs



# Bidirectional RNNs

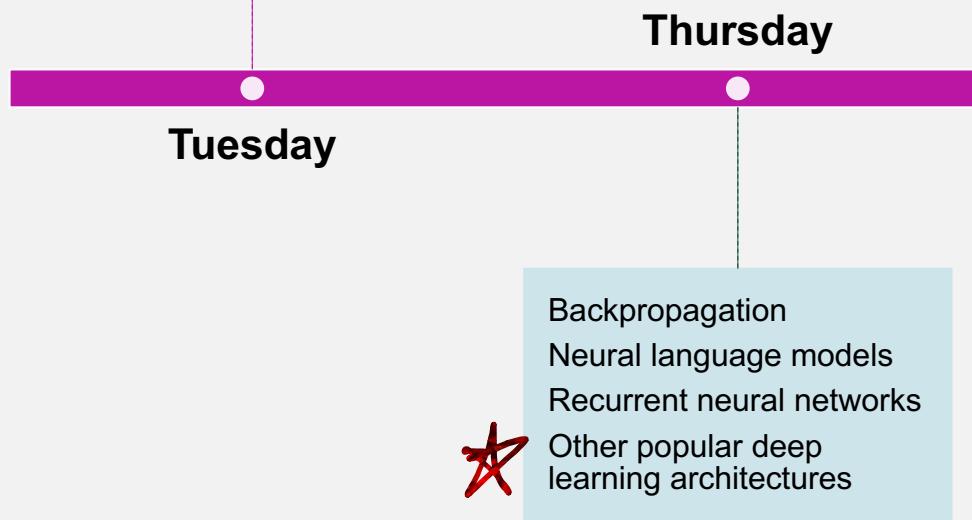


# Sequence Classification with a Bidirectional RNN



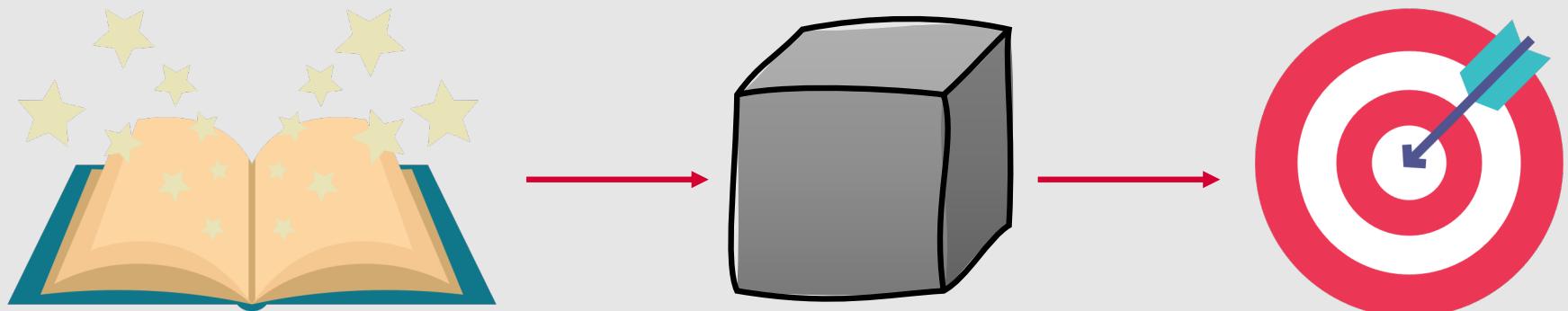
# This Week's Topics

Neural networks  
Computational units  
Combining layers of units



# Popular Deep Learning Architectures in Contemporary NLP

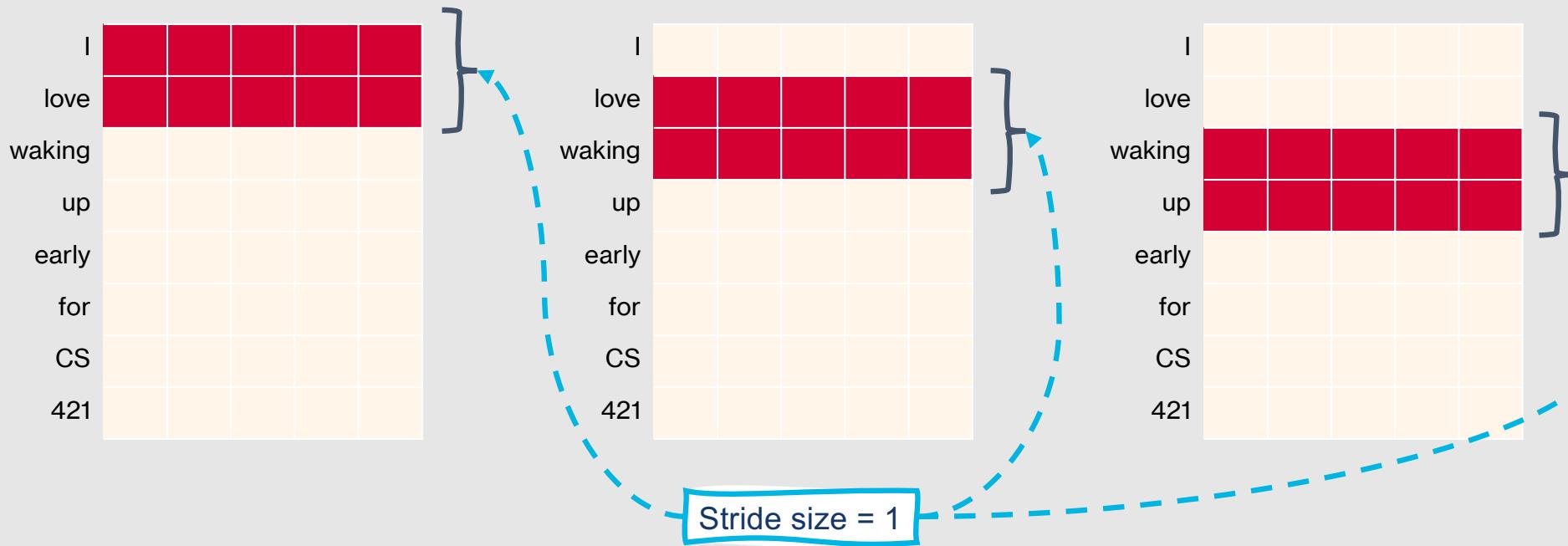
- Recurrent Neural Networks
- **Convolutional Neural Networks**
- Transformers



# Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)

- General premise:
  - Deep learning models should be making decisions based on local regions of the context
- Classic feedforward neural network:
  - Input to a layer is a vector of numbers representing the outputs of all units in the previous layer
- Modification for convolutional neural networks:
  - Input to a layer is the output of **convolutional operations performed on subsets of the output** from the previous layer

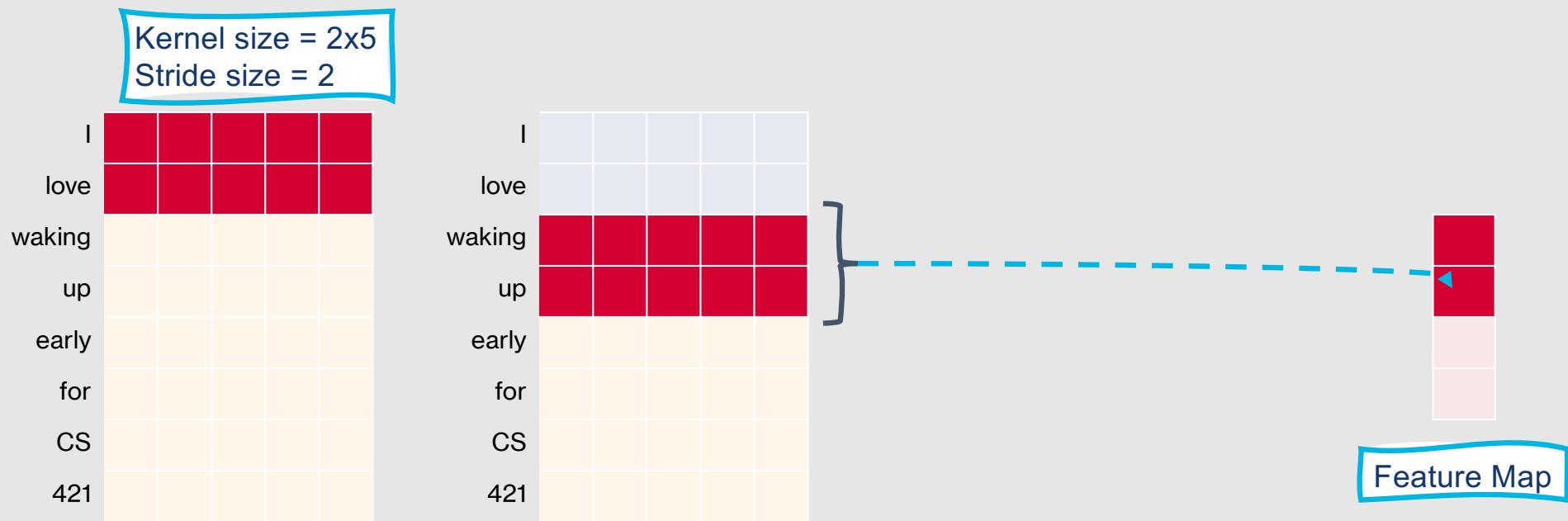
**In NLP, convolutions are typically performed on entire rows of an input matrix, where each row corresponds to a word.**



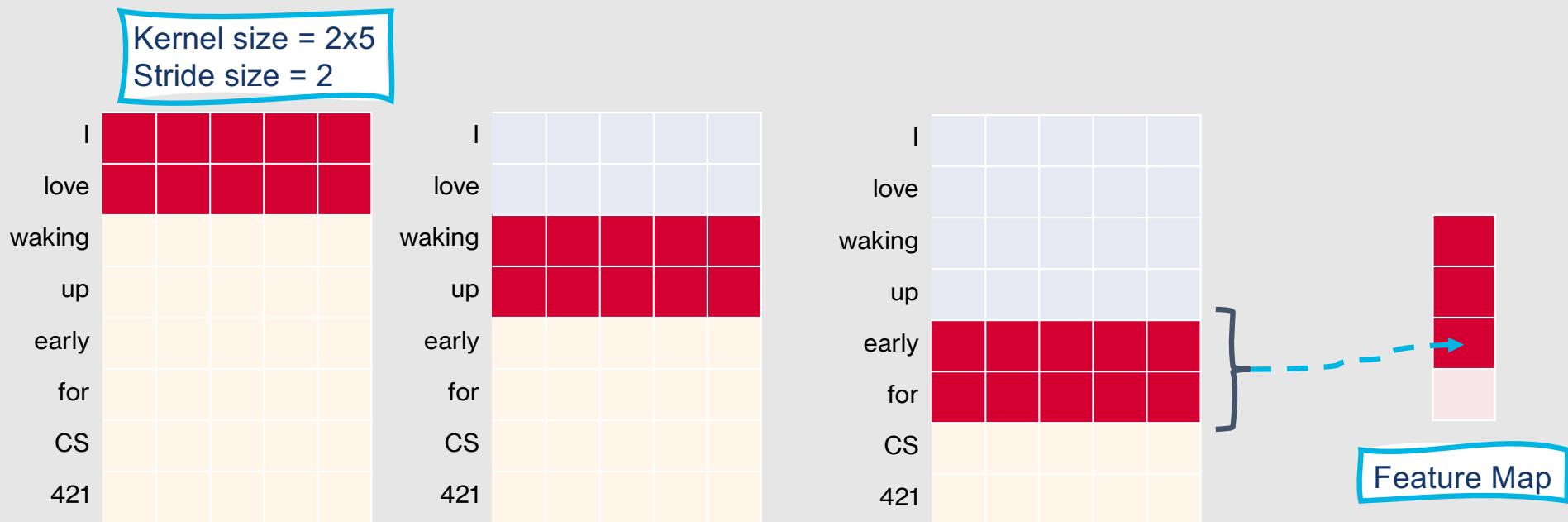
**We apply convolutions with specific region (kernel) and stride sizes to an input matrix, and end up with a feature map.**



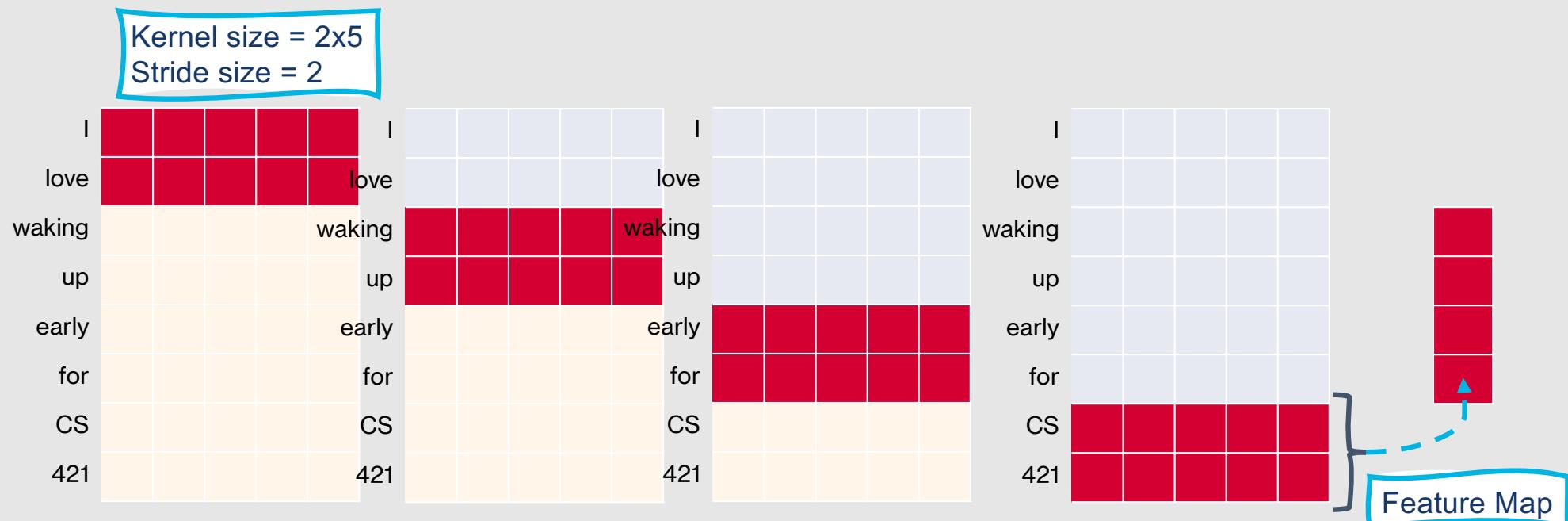
**We apply convolutions with specific region (kernel) and stride sizes to an input matrix, and end up with a feature map.**



**We apply convolutions with specific region (kernel) and stride sizes to an input matrix, and end up with a feature map.**

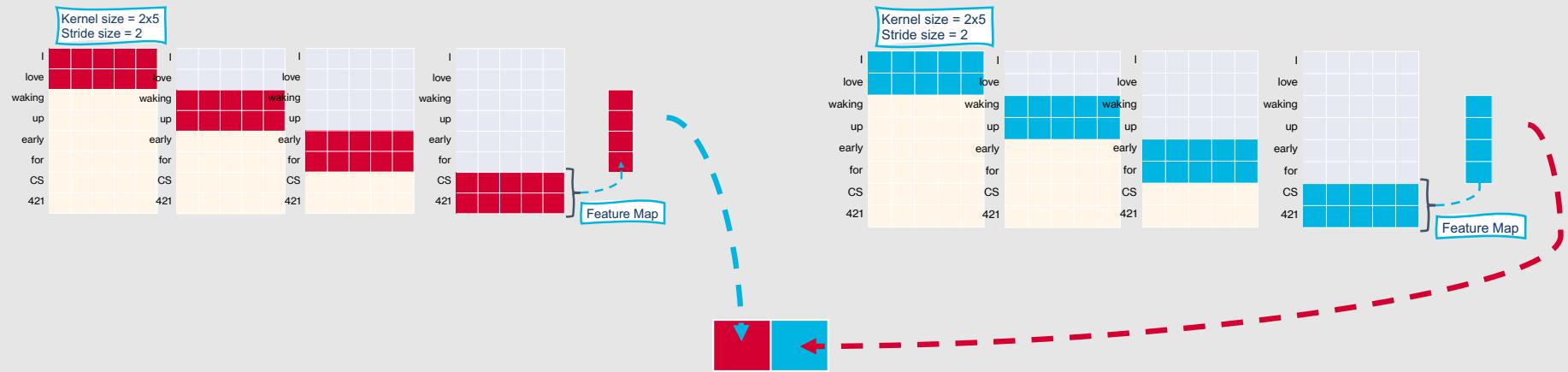


**We apply convolutions with specific region (kernel) and stride sizes to an input matrix, and end up with a feature map.**

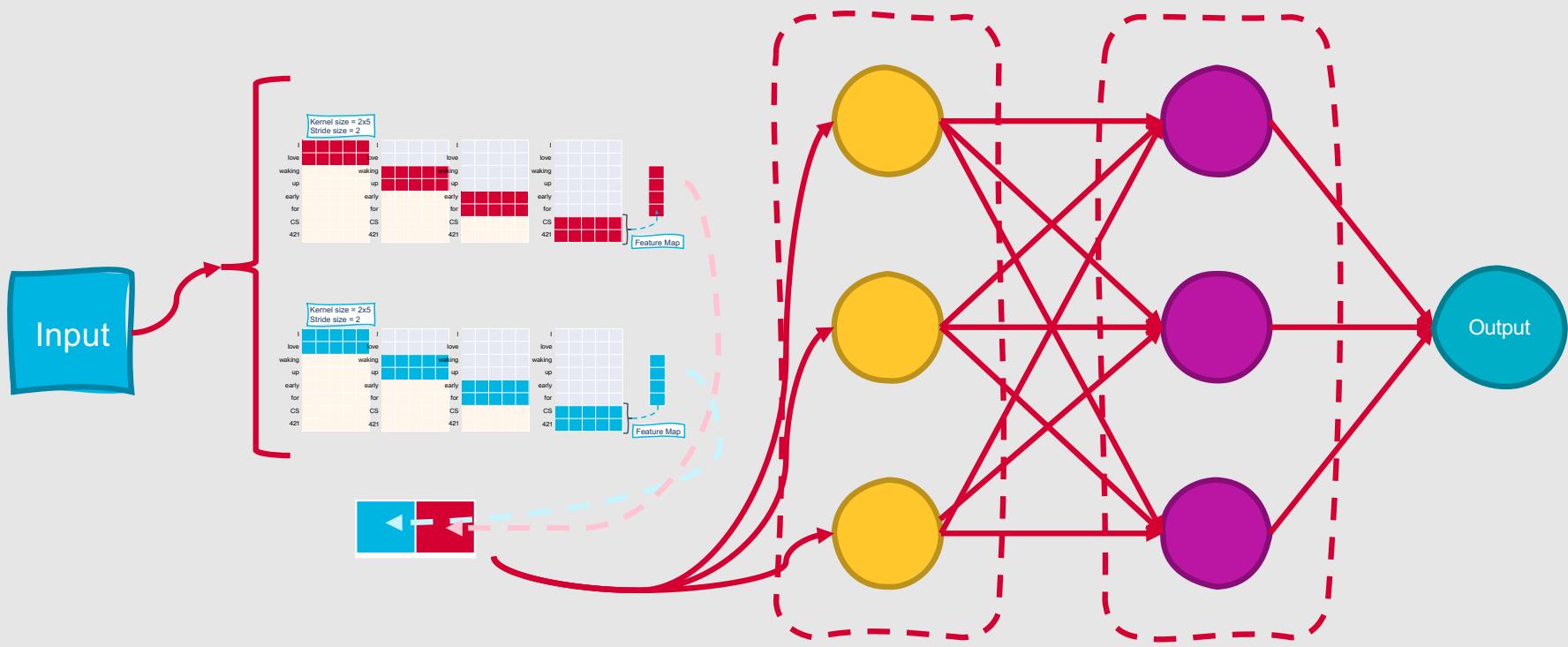


**Typically, we learn multiple feature maps and then reduce the dimensionality of the learned feature maps by pooling (e.g., taking the average or maximum) subsets of their values.**

- This is done to:
  - Further increase efficiency
  - Improve the model's invariance to small changes in the input



**The output from pooling layers is typically then passed along as input to one or more feedforward layers.**

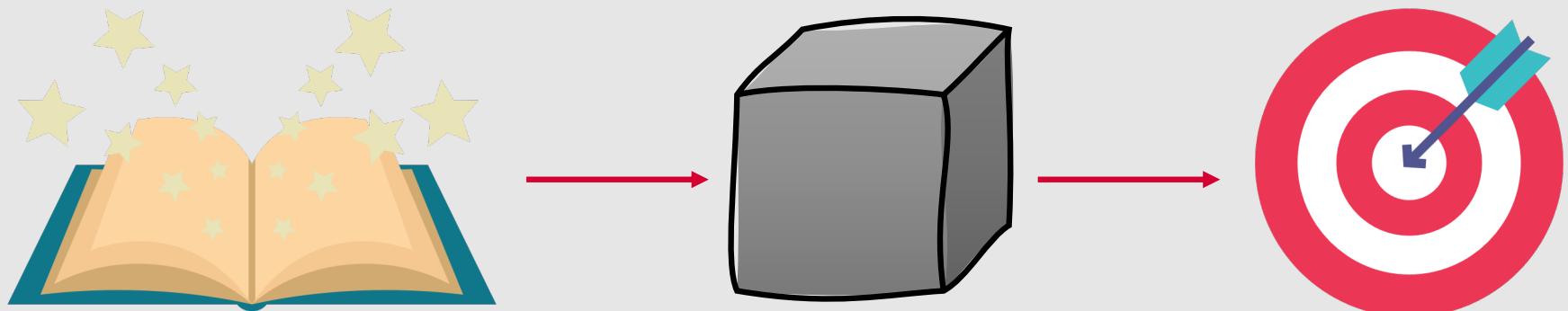


# Why use CNNs for an NLP task?

- Originally designed for image classification!
- However, offers unique advantages for NLP tasks:
  - Extracts meaningful local structures from input
  - Increases efficiency of the training process relative to feedforward neural networks

# Popular Deep Learning Architectures in Contemporary NLP

- Recurrent Neural Networks
- Convolutional Neural Networks
- **Transformers**



# Transformers

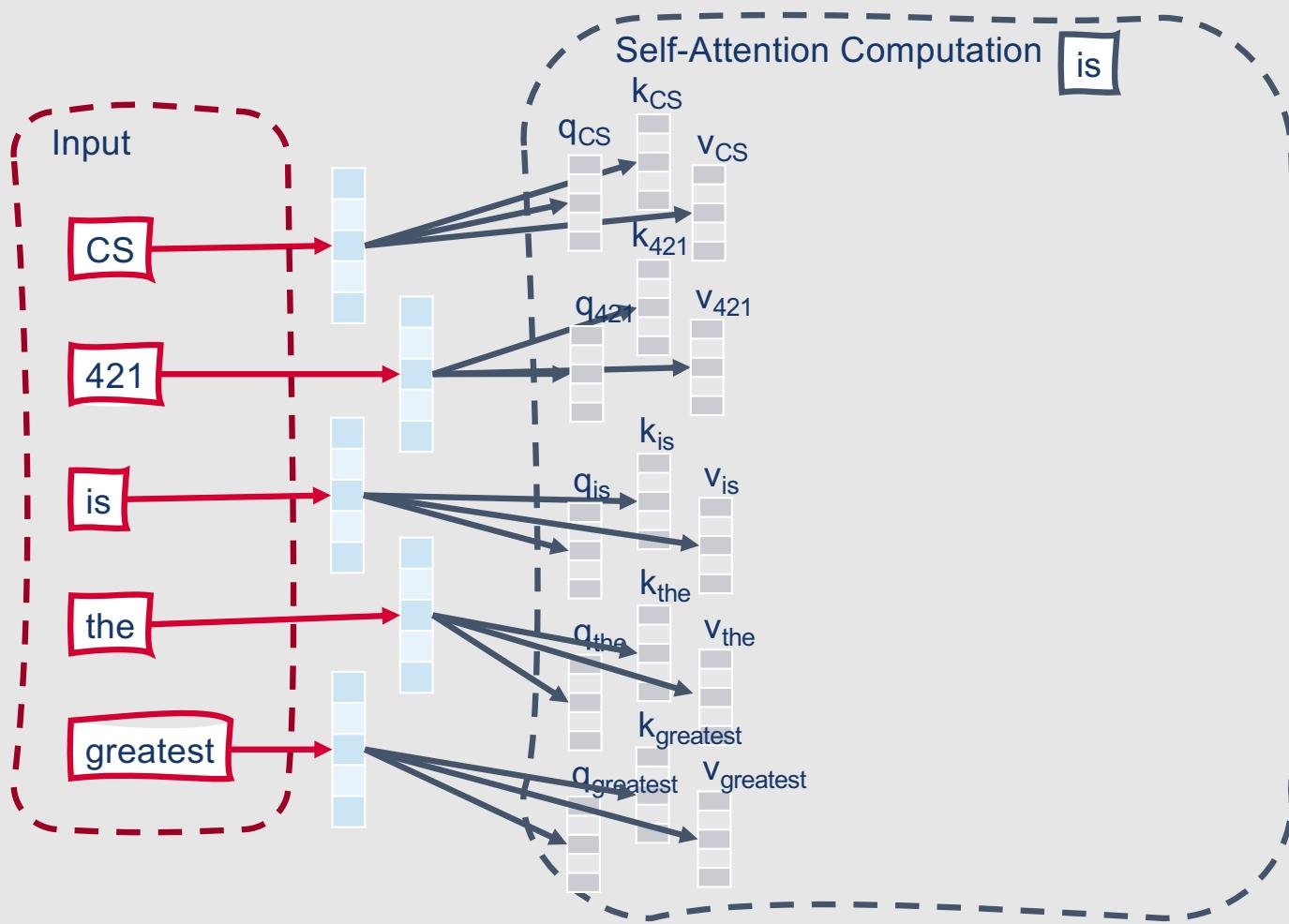
- General premise:
  - Deep learning models don't need to wait to process items one after the other to incorporate sequential information
- Classic feedforward neural network:
  - Input to a layer is a vector of numbers representing the outputs of all units in the previous layer
- Modification for recurrent neural networks:
  - Input to a layer is a vector of numbers representing the outputs of all units in the previous layer + a vector of numbers representing the layer's output at the previous timestep
- Modification for Transformers:
  - Input to a feedforward layer is the output from a **self-attention layer** computed over the entire input sequence, indicating which words in the sequence are most important to one another

# Self-Attention

1. Generate key, query, and value embeddings for each element of the input vector  $\mathbf{x}$

- $\mathbf{q}_i = \mathbf{W}^Q \mathbf{x}_i$
- $\mathbf{k}_i = \mathbf{W}^K \mathbf{x}_i$
- $\mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{W}^V \mathbf{x}_i$

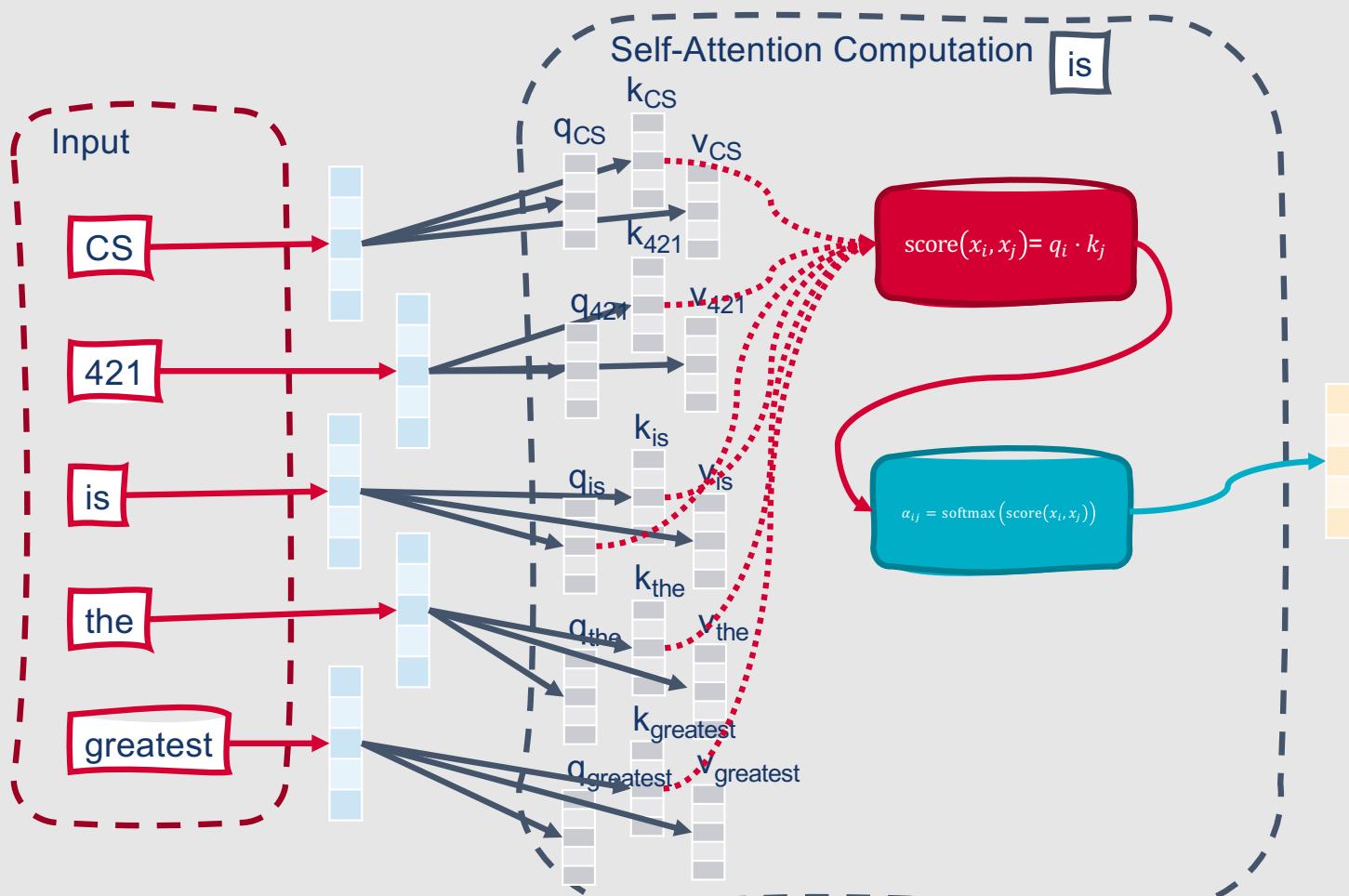
# Bidirectional Self-Attention Layer



# Self-Attention

1. Generate key, query, and value embeddings for each element of the input vector  $\mathbf{x}$ 
  - $\mathbf{q}_i = \mathbf{W}^Q \mathbf{x}_i$
  - $\mathbf{k}_i = \mathbf{W}^K \mathbf{x}_i$
  - $\mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{W}^V \mathbf{x}_i$
2. Compute attention weights  $\alpha$  by applying a softmax activation over the element-wise comparison scores between all possible query-key pairs in the full input sequence
  - $\text{score}_{ij} = \mathbf{q}_i \cdot \mathbf{k}_j$
  - $\alpha_{ij} = \frac{\exp(\text{score}_{ij})}{\sum_{k=1}^n \exp(\text{score}_{ik})}$

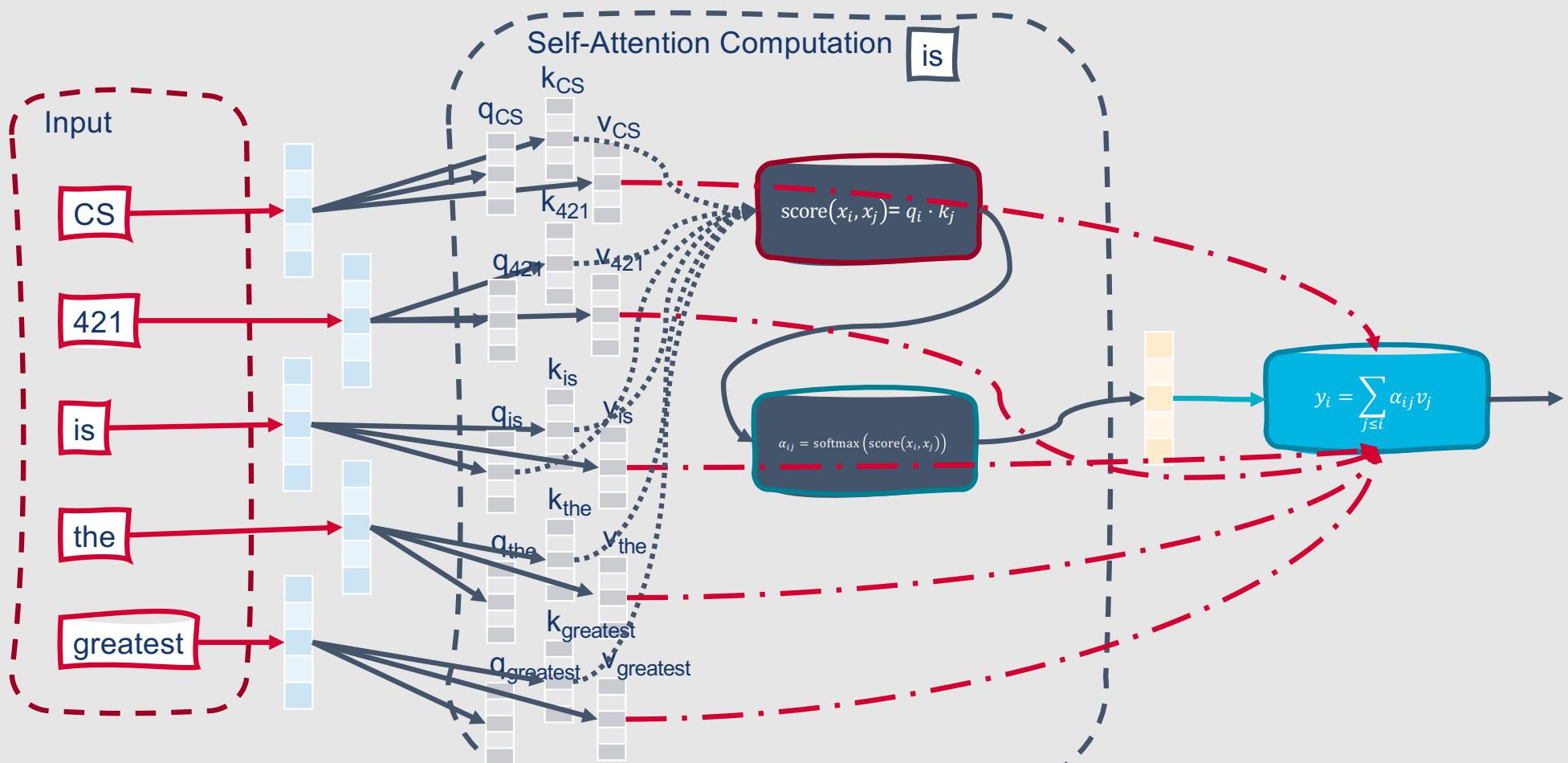
# Bidirectional Self-Attention Layer



# Self-Attention

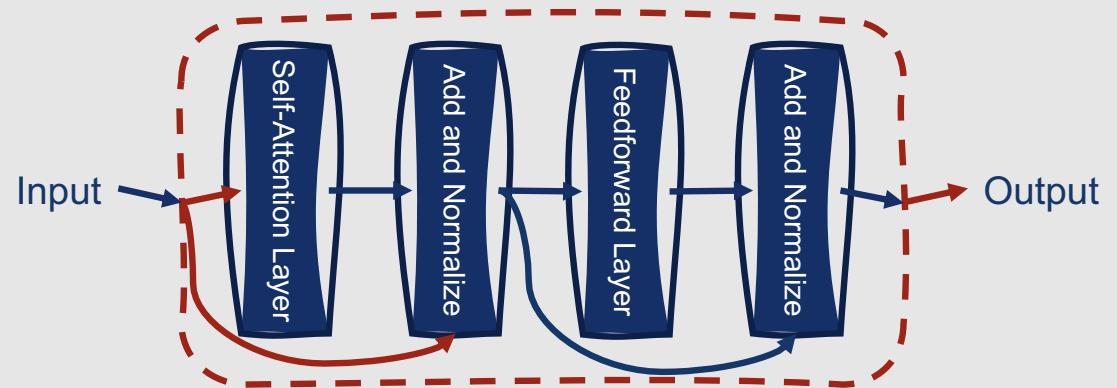
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  - $\alpha_{ij} = \frac{\exp(\text{score}_{ij})}{\sum_{k=1}^n \exp(\text{score}_{ik})}$
3. Compute the output vector  $\mathbf{y}_i$  as the attention-weighted sum of the input value vectors  $\mathbf{v}$ 
  - $\mathbf{y}_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_{ij} \mathbf{v}_j$

# Bidirectional Self-Attention Layer



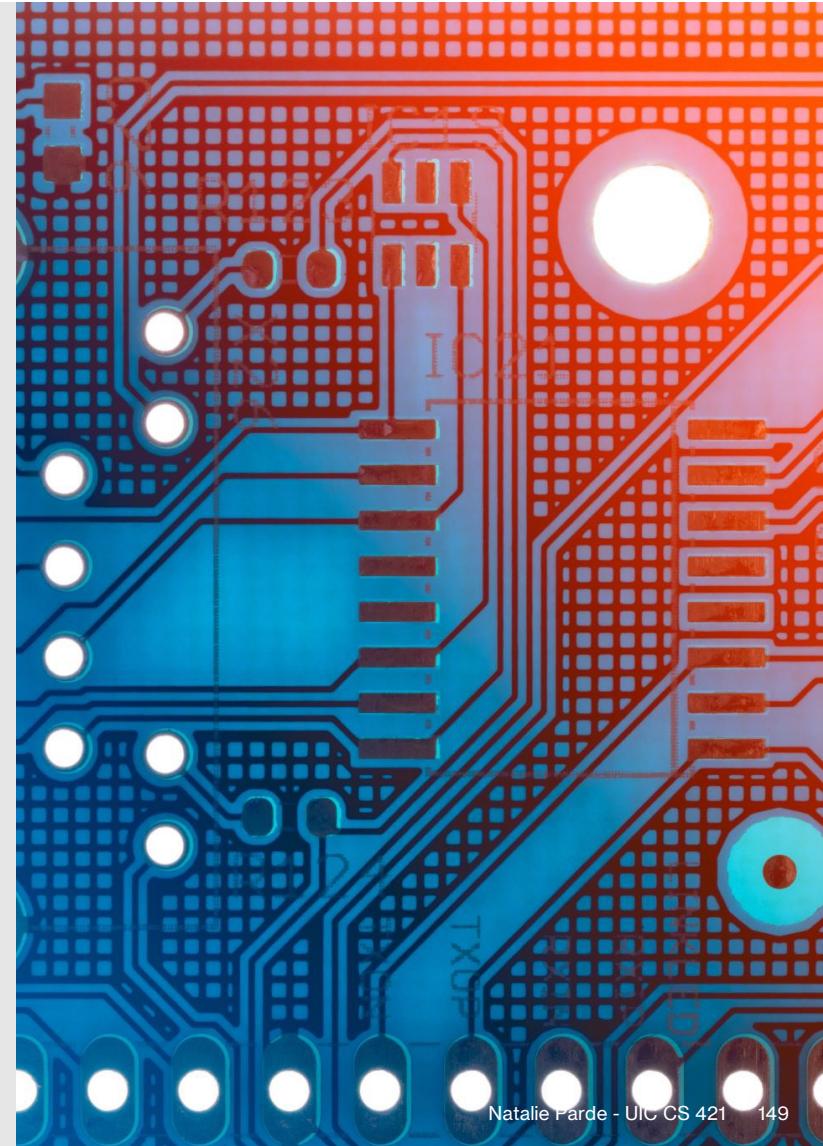
# Transformer Blocks

- Transformers are implemented by stacking one or more blocks of the following layers:
  - Self-attention layer
  - Normalization layer
  - Feedforward layer
  - Another normalization layer
- Some of these layers have **residual** connections between them even though they do not immediately precede or proceed one another



# Which of these architectures should you use?

- Depends on your:
  - Task
  - Dataset
  - Compute resources
- Current state-of-the-art models are usually Transformer-based; however, state-of-the-art Transformers require many compute resources
  - GPUs for performing lots of floating point operations
  - RAM for holding lots of data in memory
- Specialized tasks may also benefit from combined architectures (e.g., CNN-LSTM)!
- It's good to experiment with numerous models to determine what works best for the problem you're trying to solve, within the constraints of your compute environment





# Summary: Deep Learning for NLP

- Loss can be propagated backward through the network from the output layer to earlier layers using **backpropagation**
- Network architectures can be optimized via a **fine-tuning** process
- Neural networks can be used to build **neural language models**
- **Recurrent neural networks** directly encode temporal context into the network's computational units
- **Convolutional neural networks** increase efficiency by performing operations over regions of input data
- **Transformers** calculate self-attention to encode temporal context for the full input in a single step