

# Implementing MomentUm Orthogonalized by Newton-Schultz (MUON)

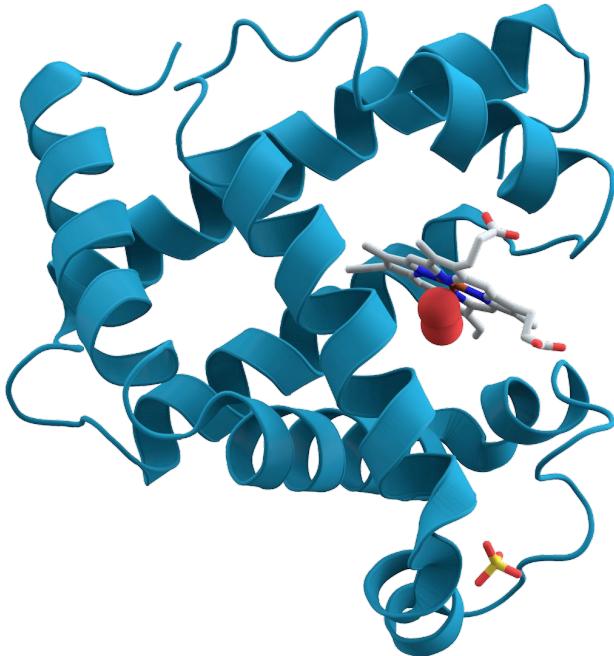
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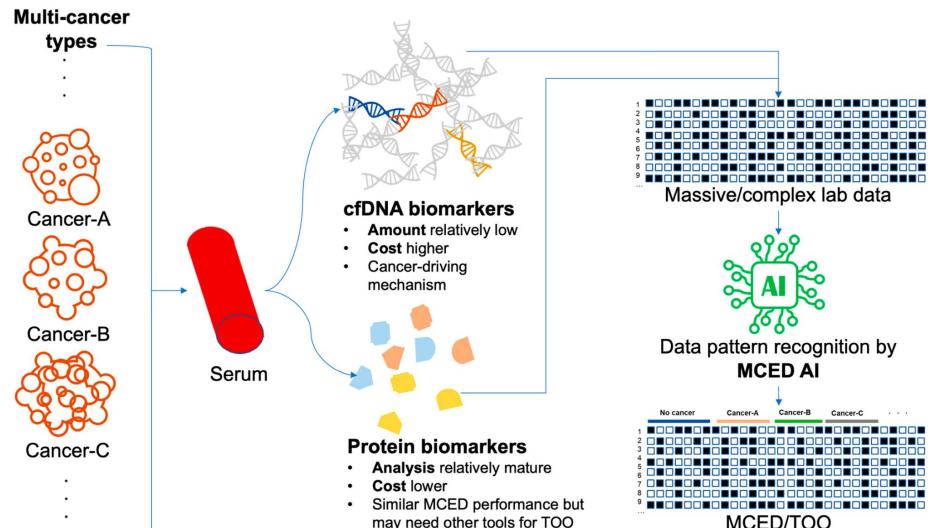
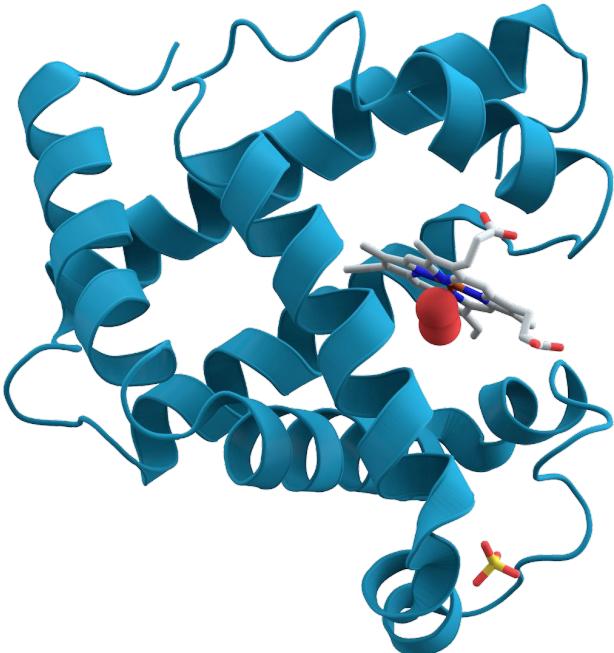
SF1672 Linear Programming Group 13

28 November 2025

loss - gör rätt  
byt pl

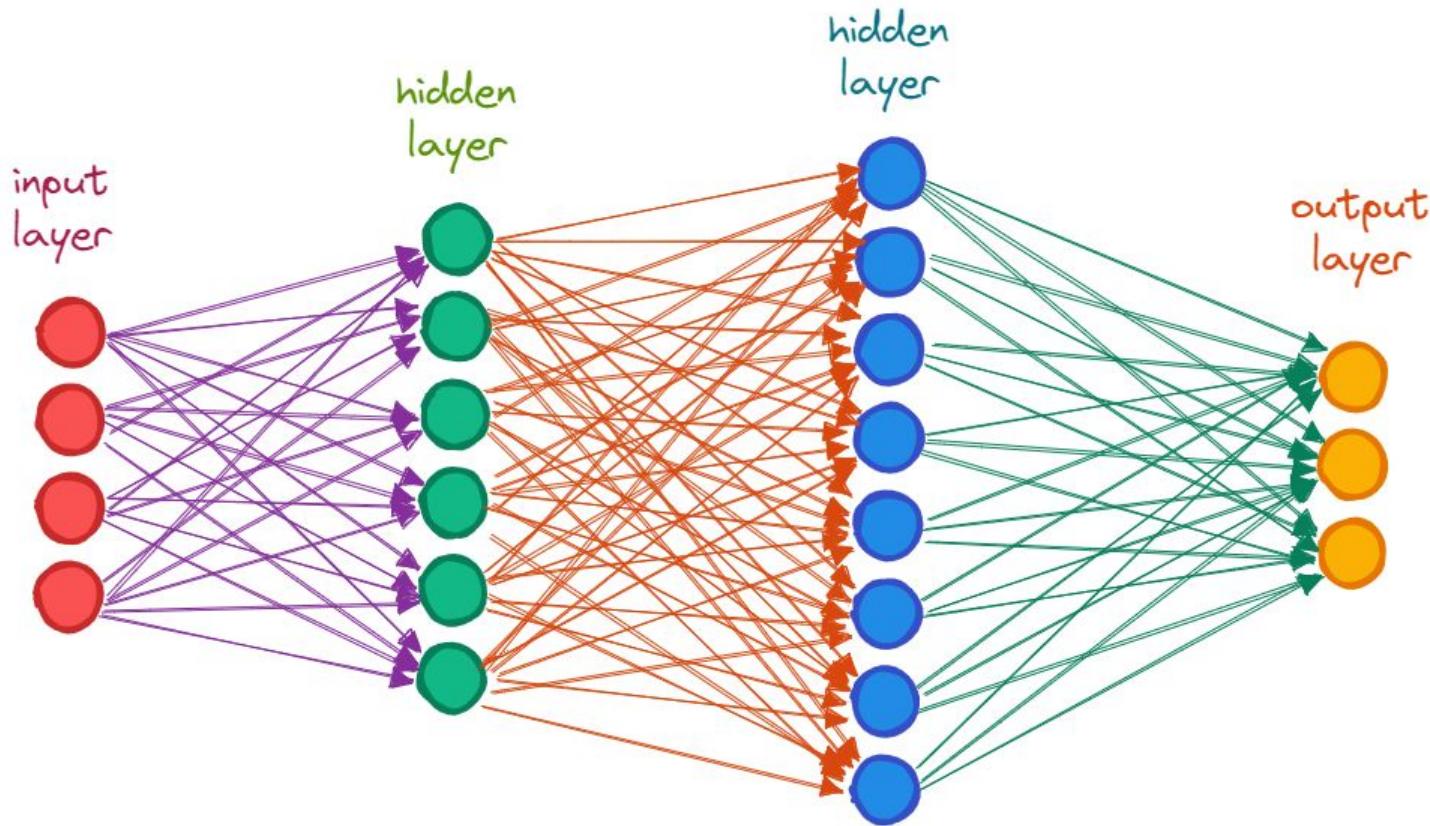


# An introduction...



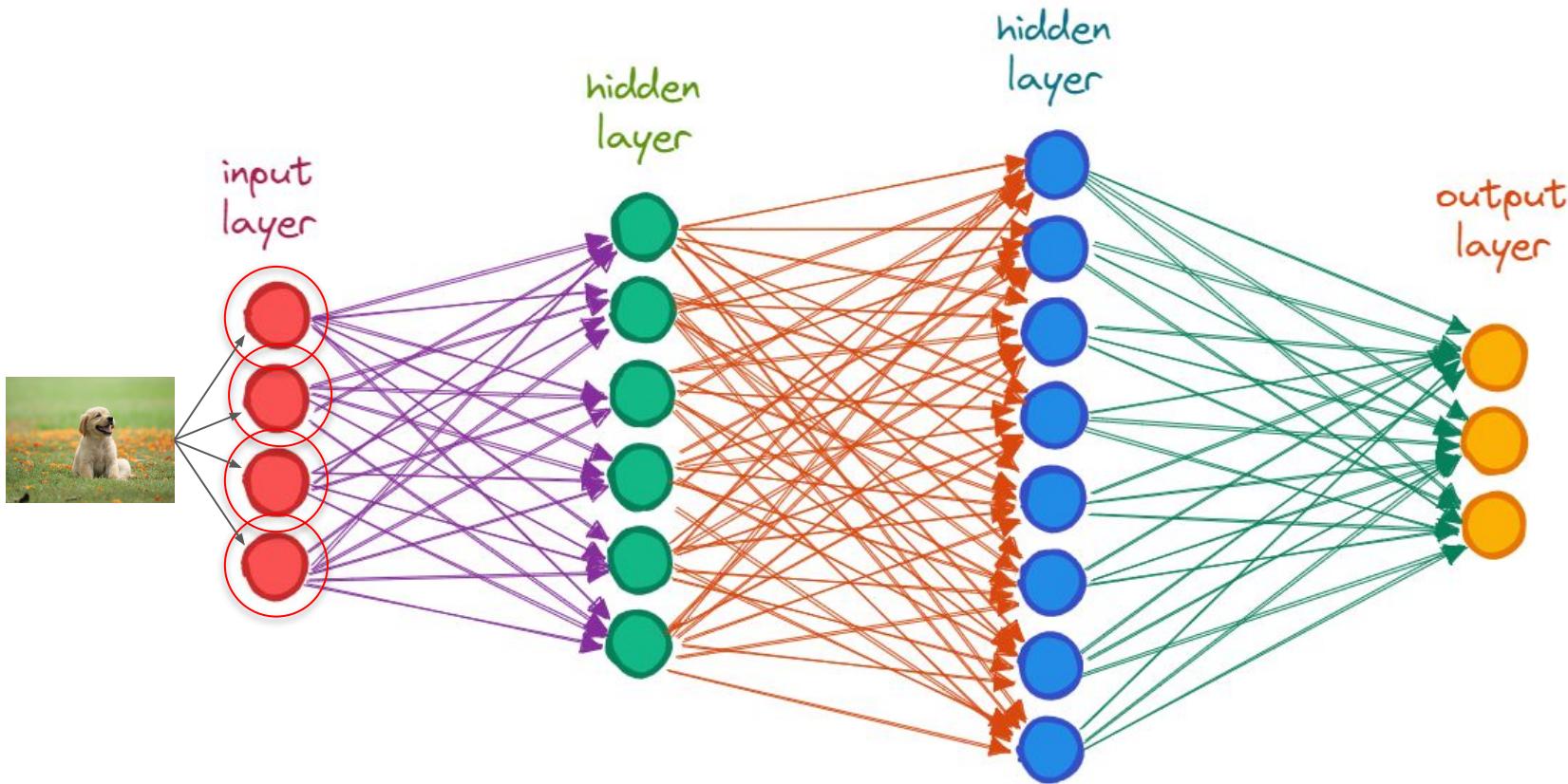
# Neural Network

for  
**dummies**<sup>®</sup>  
A Wiley Brand



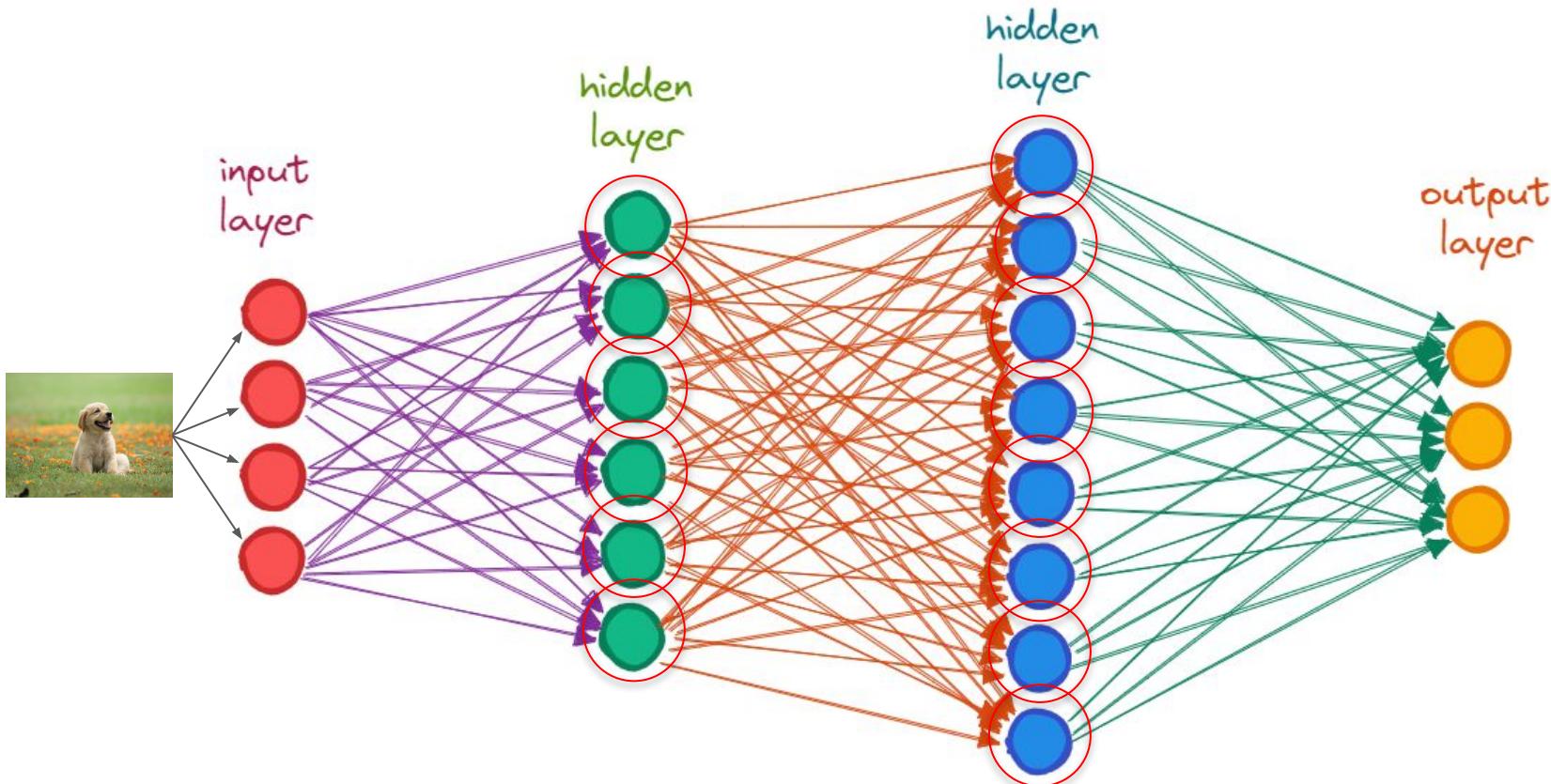
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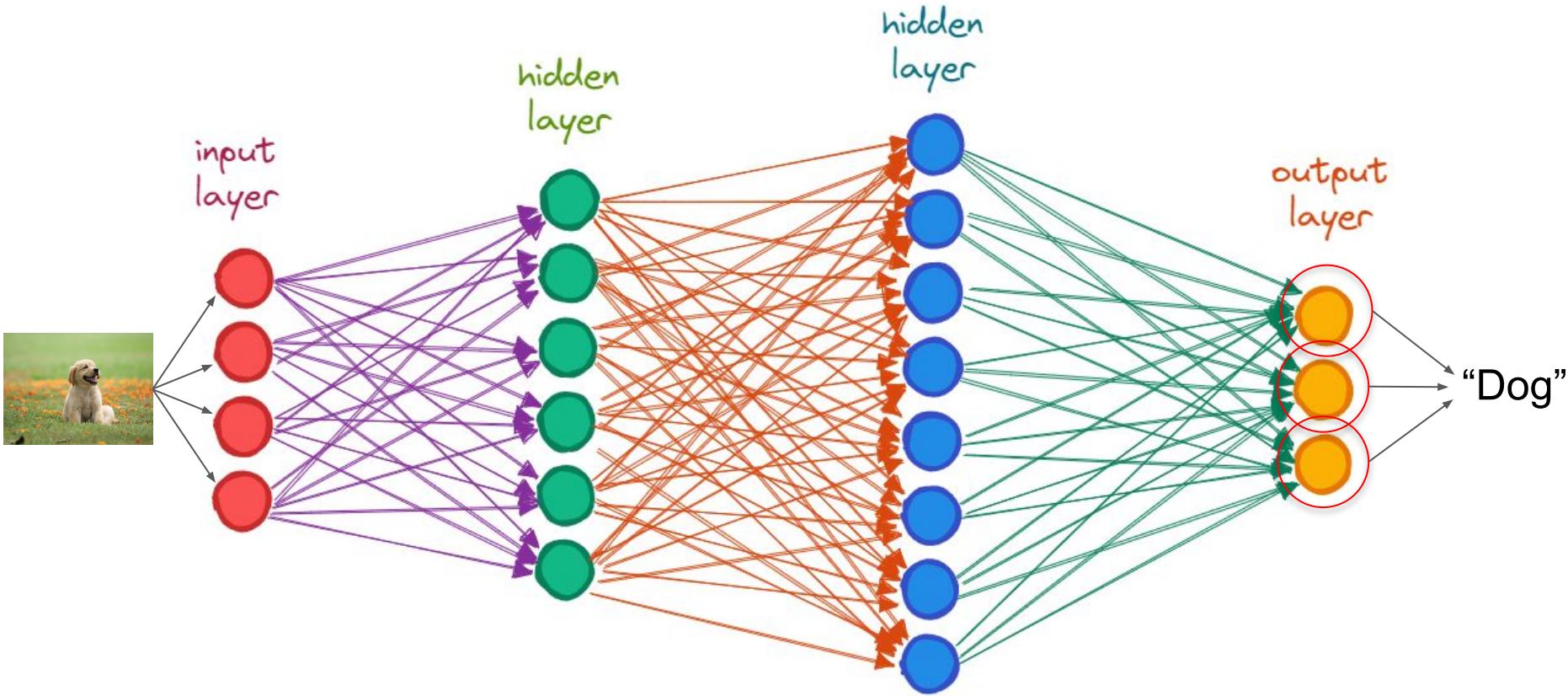
# Neural Network

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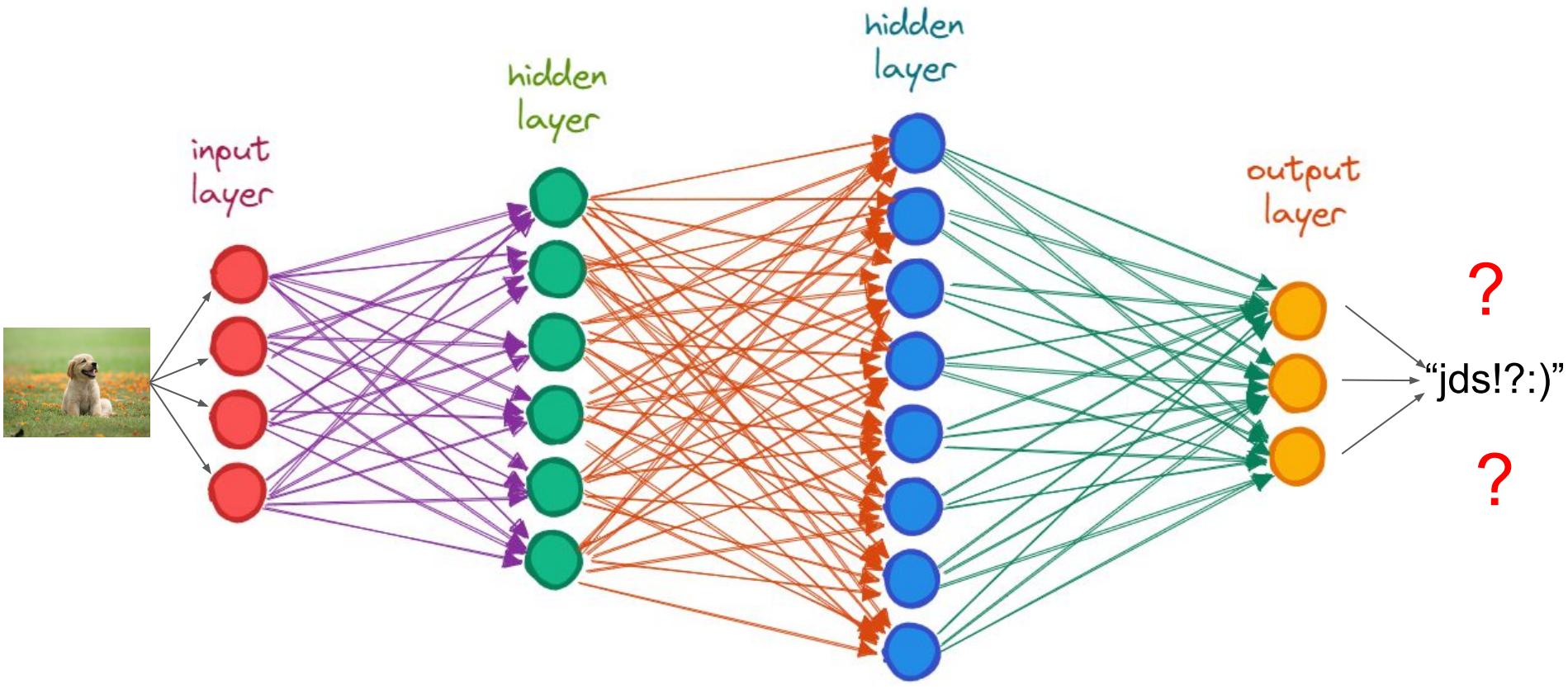
# Neural Network

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# Neural Network

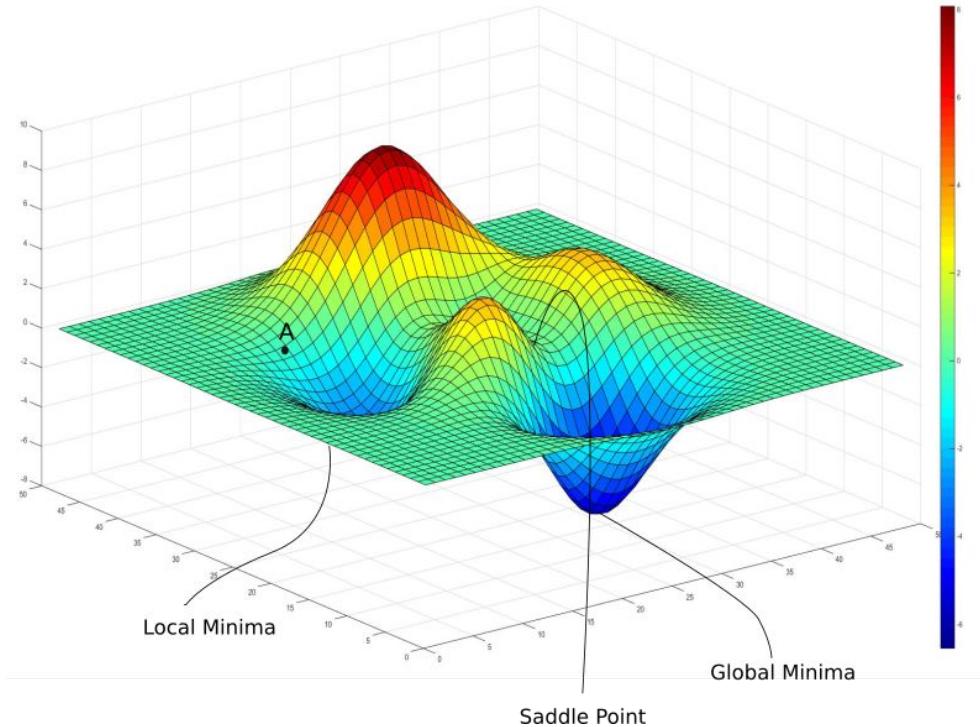
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# Loss function



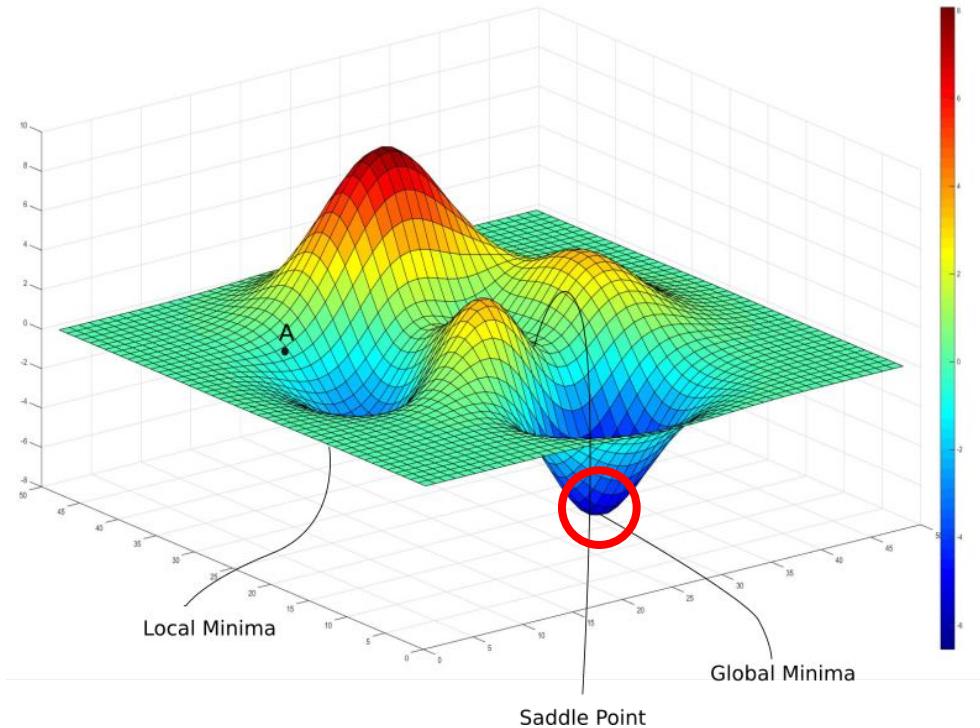
Loss = Desired Output - Actual Output



# Loss function



Loss = Desired Output - Actual Output

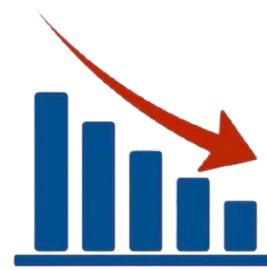


An introduction...

# MUON

Better Results

Less Computation



# Different Types of Optimizer

## Gradient Descent

$$\theta_{t+1} \leftarrow \theta_t - \eta g(\theta_t).$$



Updated parameters



Previous parameters

Gradient

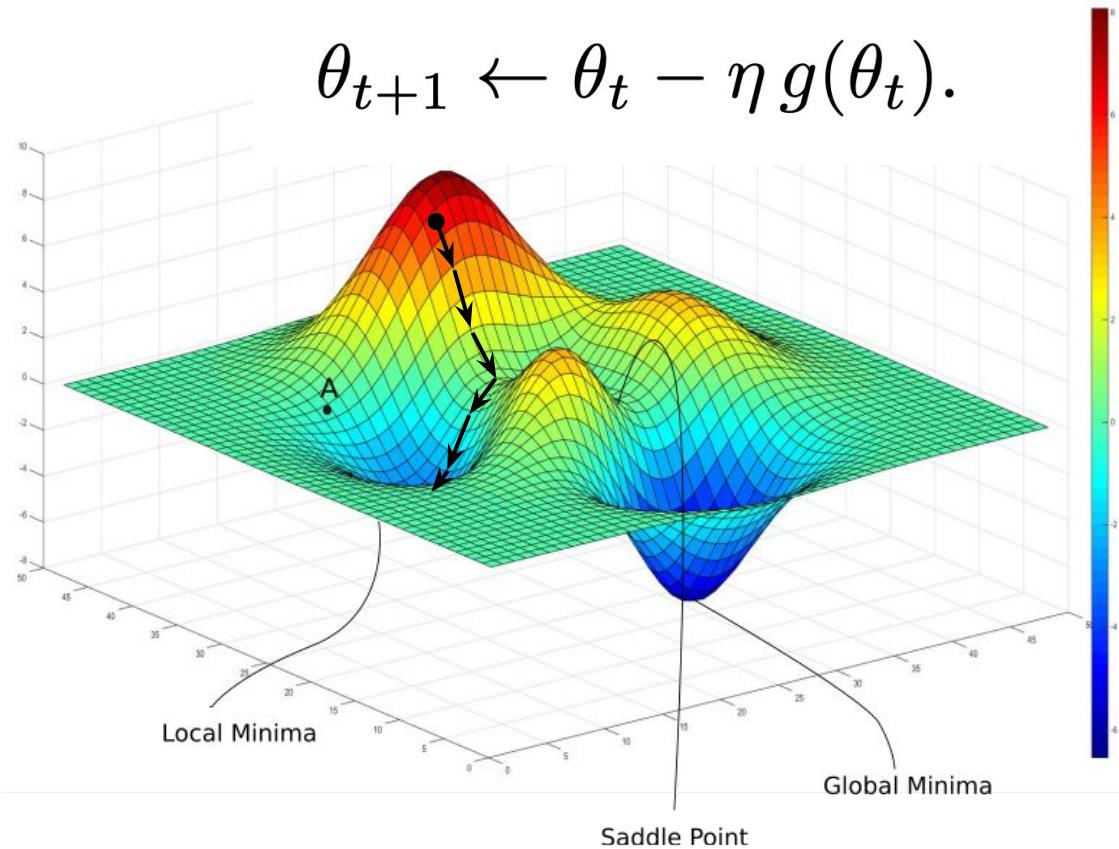
$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial L(\theta_t)}{\partial \theta_{1,1}} & \dots & \frac{\partial L(\theta_t)}{\partial \theta_{1,n}} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial L(\theta_t)}{\partial \theta_{m,1}} & \dots & \frac{\partial L(\theta_t)}{\partial \theta_{m,n}} \end{bmatrix}$$

Adam

Muon

# Gradient Descent

$$\theta_{t+1} \leftarrow \theta_t - \eta g(\theta_t).$$



# The Defacto Standard Optimizer

## Adam

$$m_t \leftarrow \beta_1 m_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_1)g(\theta_t),$$

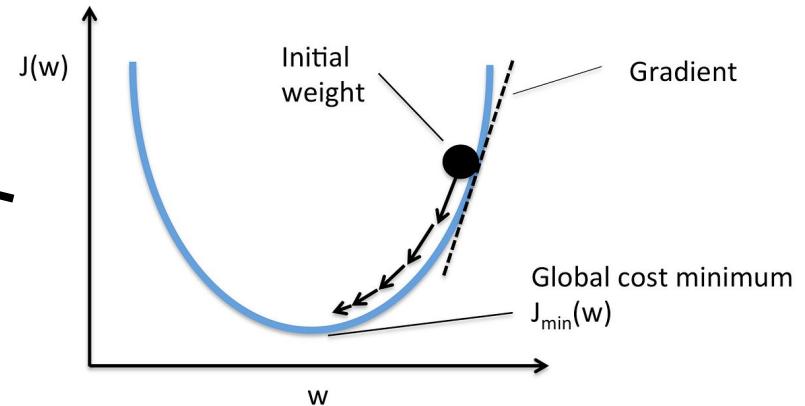
$$v_t \leftarrow \beta_2 v_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_2)g(\theta_t)^2.$$

$$\theta_{t+1} \leftarrow \theta_t - \eta \frac{m_t}{\sqrt{v_t} + \epsilon},$$

# The Defacto Standard Optimizer

## Adam

$$\begin{aligned}m_t &\leftarrow \beta_1 m_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_1)g(\theta_t), \\v_t &\leftarrow \beta_2 v_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_2)g(\theta_t)^2. \\ \theta_{t+1} &\leftarrow \theta_t - \eta \frac{m_t}{\sqrt{v_t} + \epsilon},\end{aligned}$$



# The Defacto Standard Optimizer

## Adam

$$m_t \leftarrow \beta_1 m_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_1)g(\theta_t),$$

$$v_t \leftarrow \beta_2 v_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_2)g(\theta_t)^2$$

$$\theta_{t+1} \leftarrow \theta_t - \eta \frac{m_t}{\sqrt{v_t} + \epsilon},$$

Adaptive Scaling  
Factor

# The Defacto Standard Optimizer

Adam

$$m_t \leftarrow \beta_1 m_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_1)g(\theta_t),$$

$$v_t \leftarrow \beta_2 v_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_2)g(\theta_t)^2$$

$$\theta_{t+1} \leftarrow \theta_t - \eta \frac{m_t}{\sqrt{v_t} + \epsilon}$$

Adaptive  
Scaling Factor  
**(Expensive to Have)**

# MomentUm Orthogonalized by Newton-Schulz (MUON)

Adam

$$m_t \leftarrow \beta_1 m_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_1) g(\theta_t),$$



$$v_t \leftarrow \beta_2 v_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_2) g(\theta_t)^2.$$

$$\theta_{t+1} \leftarrow \theta_t - \eta \frac{m_t}{\sqrt{v_t} + \epsilon},$$

MUON

$$M_t \leftarrow \beta M_{t-1} + g(\theta_t)$$

$$N_t \leftarrow \frac{M_t}{\|M_t\|_F}$$

$$O_t \leftarrow \text{NewtonSchulz5}(N_t)$$

$$\theta_t \leftarrow \theta_t + \eta O_t$$

# MomentUm Orthogonalized by Newton-Schulz (MUON)

Adam

$$m_t \leftarrow \beta_1 m_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_1) g(\theta_t),$$

$$v_t \leftarrow \beta_2 v_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_2) g(\theta_t)^2.$$

$$\theta_{t+1} \leftarrow \theta_t - \eta \frac{m_t}{\sqrt{v_t} + \epsilon},$$

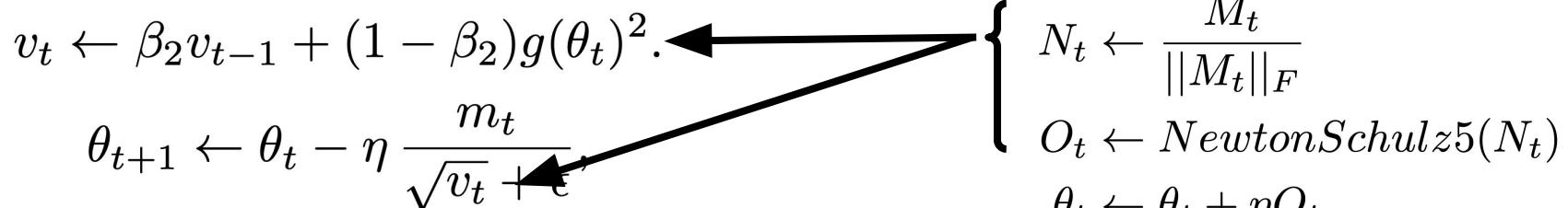
MUON

$$M_t \leftarrow \beta M_{t-1} + g(\theta_t)$$

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$$O_t \leftarrow \text{NewtonSchulz5}(N_t)$$

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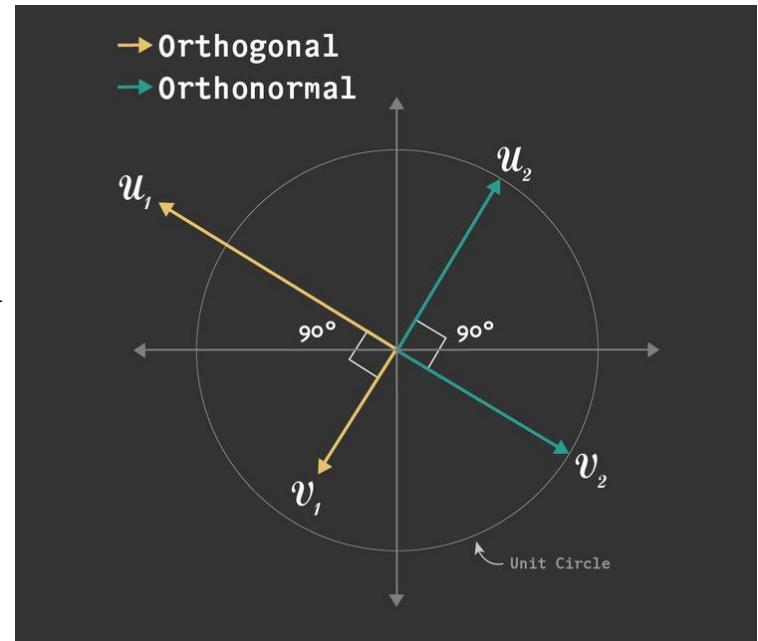


# MomentUm Orthogonalized by Newton-Schulz (MUON)

$\approx$

Scaling achieved by making the  
**Momentum Matrix orthonormal**  
(perpendicular and unit length).  $\rightarrow$

One way to do this efficiently is  
through the **Newton-Schulz**  
**algorithm**, which MUON uses.



## Why This Works

Without it, it has been shown that the momentum matrix tends to become low rank, so a few directions dominate.

The authors hypothesize that orthonormalization balances the effect of smaller directions in updates.

Lastly, update using the Orthonormal Momentum Matrix

$$\theta_{t+1} \leftarrow \theta_t + \eta O_t$$

# Newton-Schulz Algorithm

Gradient Estimate  $g(\theta_t)$

$$M_t \leftarrow \beta M_{t-1} + g(\theta_t)$$

$$N_t \leftarrow \frac{M_t}{\|M_t\|_F}$$

$$O_t \leftarrow NewtonSchulz5(N_t)$$

$$\theta_t \leftarrow \theta_t + \eta O_t$$



$$M = U \Sigma V^\top$$

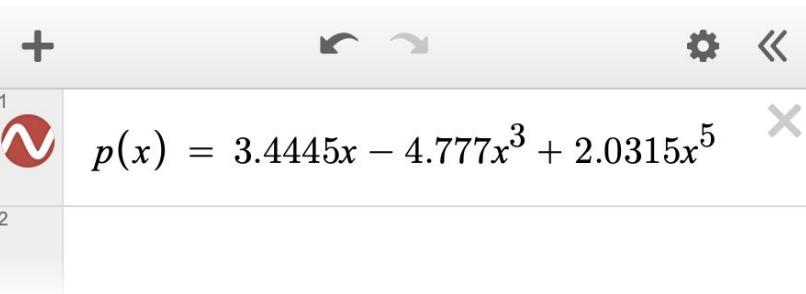
$$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & & & \\ & \sigma_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \sigma_{n-1} \\ & & & & \sigma_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M = U \boxed{\Sigma} V^\top$$

$$p(x) = ax + bx^3 + cx^5$$



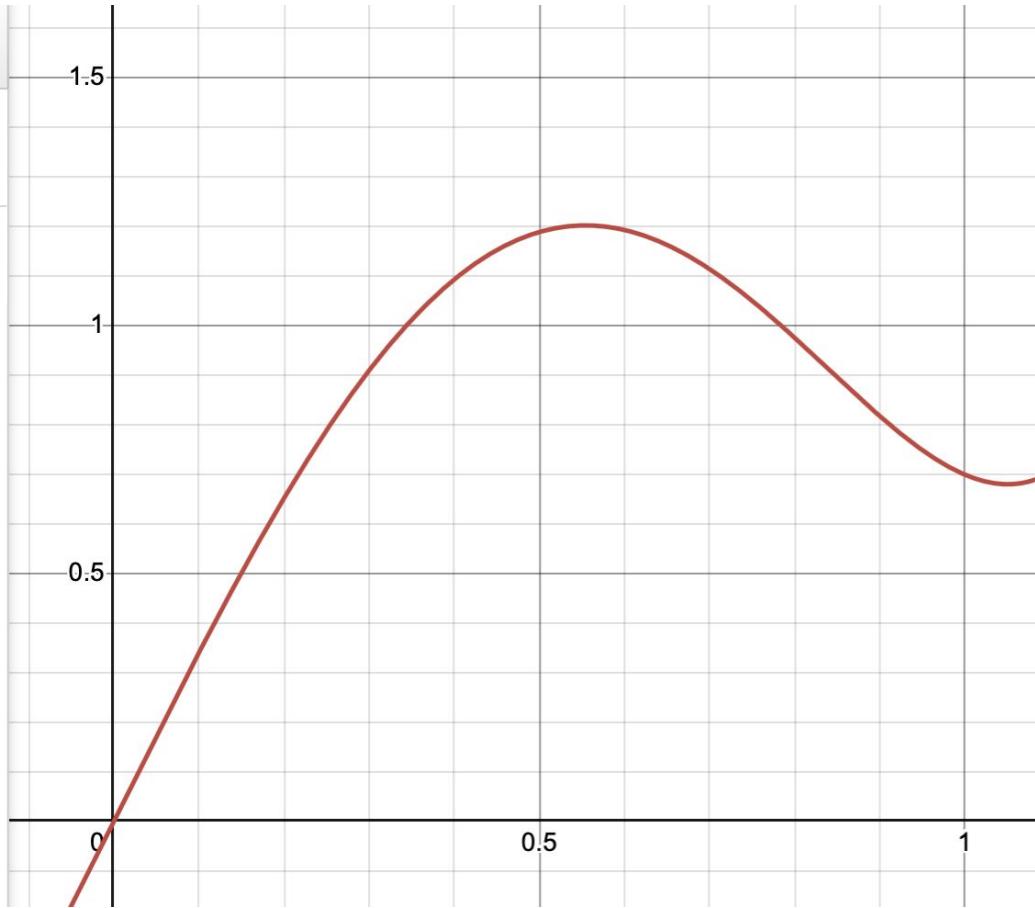
$$p(M) = p(U\Sigma V^\top) = Up(\Sigma)V^\top$$

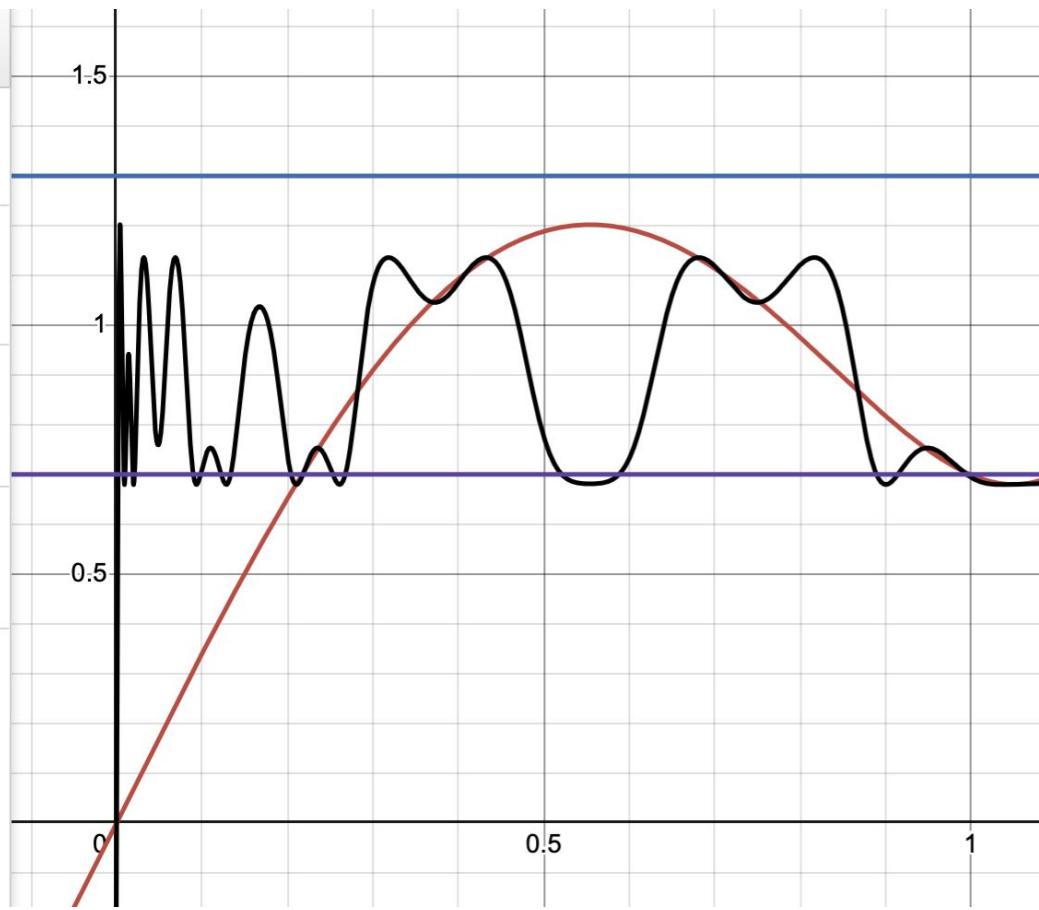
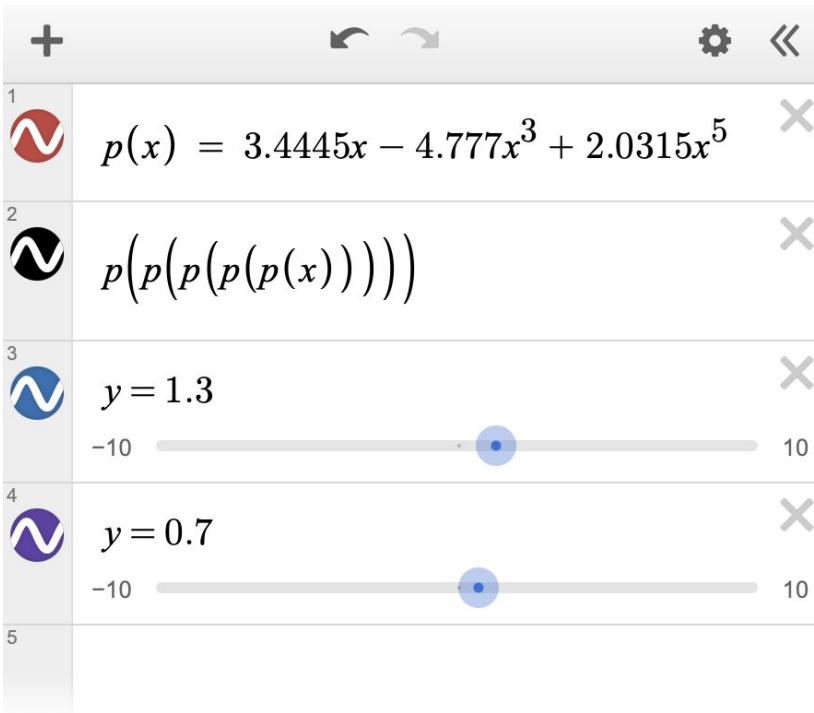


$$a = 3.4445$$

$$b = 4.7770$$

$$c = 2.0315$$





# Update Rule

Gradient Estimate  $g(\theta_t)$

$$M_t \leftarrow \beta M_{t-1} + g(\theta_t)$$

$$N_t \leftarrow \frac{M_t}{\|M_t\|_F}$$

← Normalize to [0, 1] first

$$O_t \leftarrow NewtonSchulz5(N_t)$$

$$\theta_t \leftarrow \theta_t + \eta O_t$$

# Test MUON Optimizer on CIFAR-10 Data

airplane



automobile



bird



cat



deer



dog



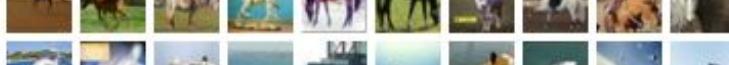
frog



horse



ship



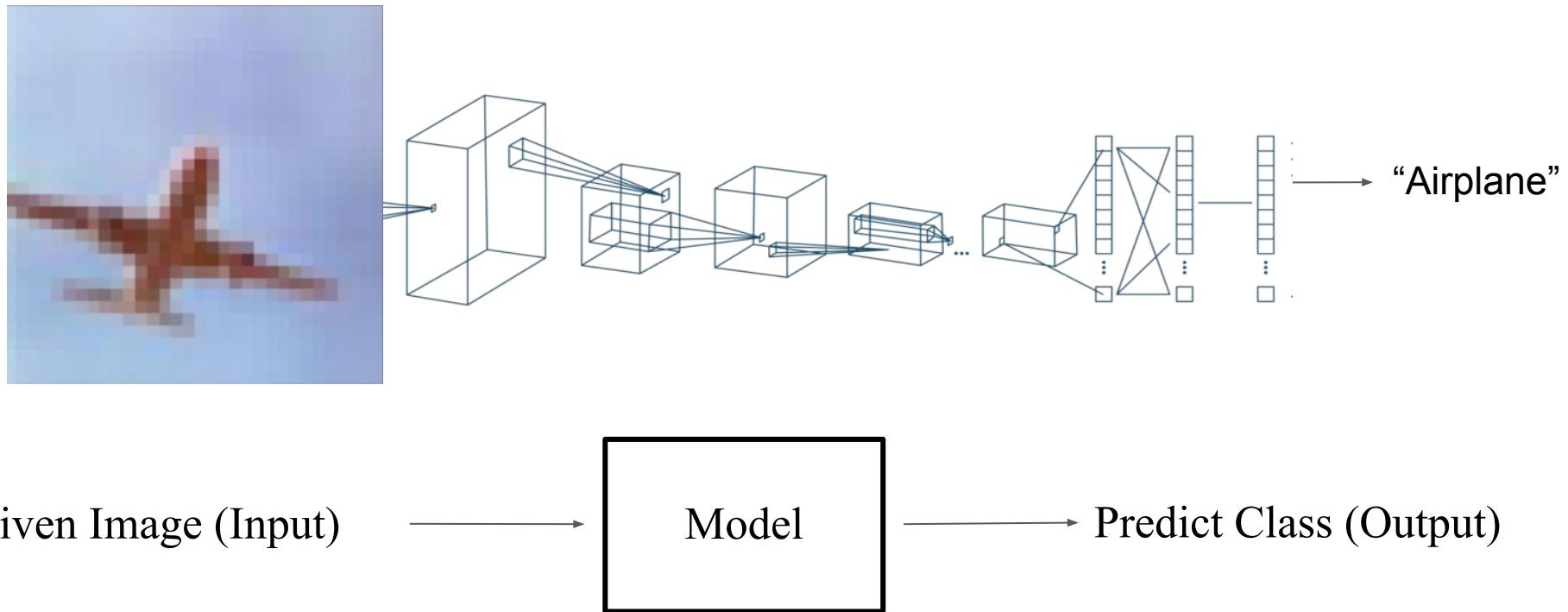
truck

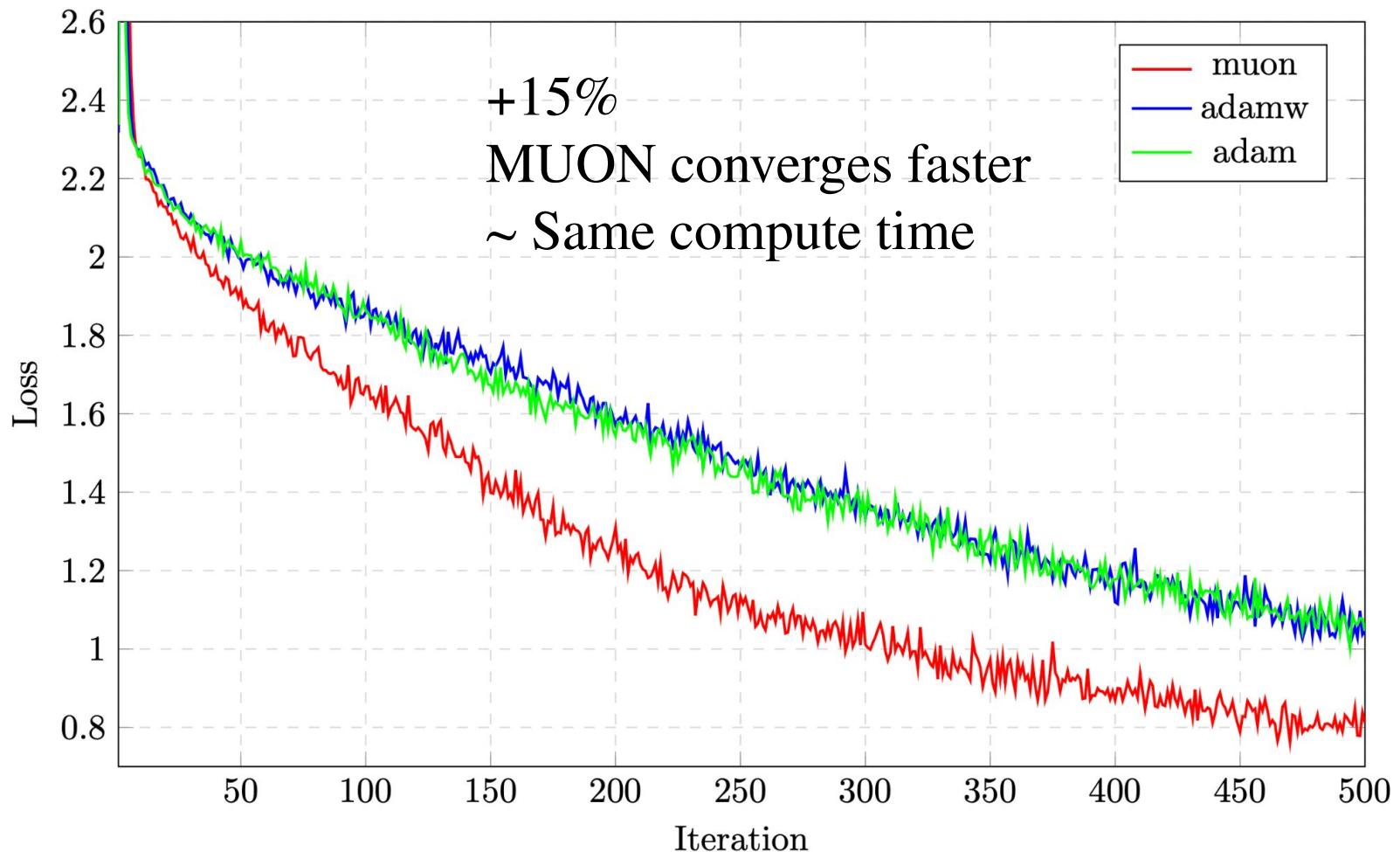


Total of 60k Images

10 classes

# Goal





# Conclusion

Works (very) well.

Worth researching more.

# Sources

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# Code

