

# Gradient Descent Review

Foundation for Modern Neural Network Training

## Core Concept

Iterative optimization algorithm to minimize loss function  
Updates parameters in negative gradient direction

## Update Rule

$$\theta = \theta - \eta \nabla L(\theta)$$

$\eta$ : Learning Rate

## How It Works

- 1 Calculate loss gradient for all parameters
- 2 Move parameters in opposite direction of gradient
- 3 Repeat until convergence

## Key Characteristics

Foundation of all modern neural network training algorithms

Convergence depends on learning rate, loss landscape, and initialization

## Challenges

- Can get trapped in local minima
- Saddle point problems

## Trade-off

Convergence speed  $\leftrightarrow$  Stability