

Activation functions

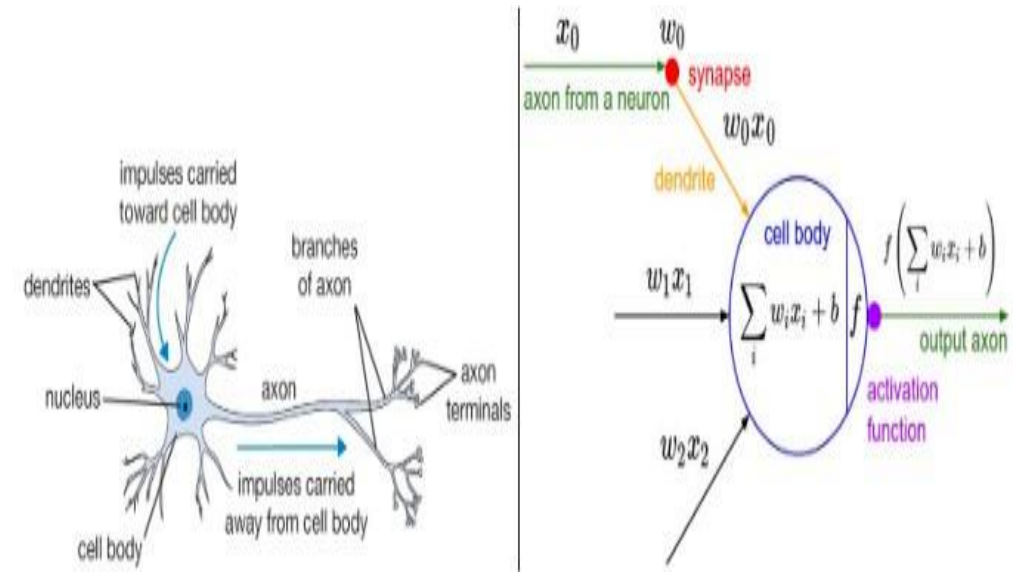
Dr. Muhammad Sajjad

R.A: Kaleem Ullah

Purpose of Activation Functions

To enable the learning of **complex patterns** in our data

- Biological neurons fire (activate) on certain inputs, these are then fed into other neurons
- Introduces **non-linearity** to our network
- This allows a non-linear decision boundary via non-linear combinations of the weight and inputs



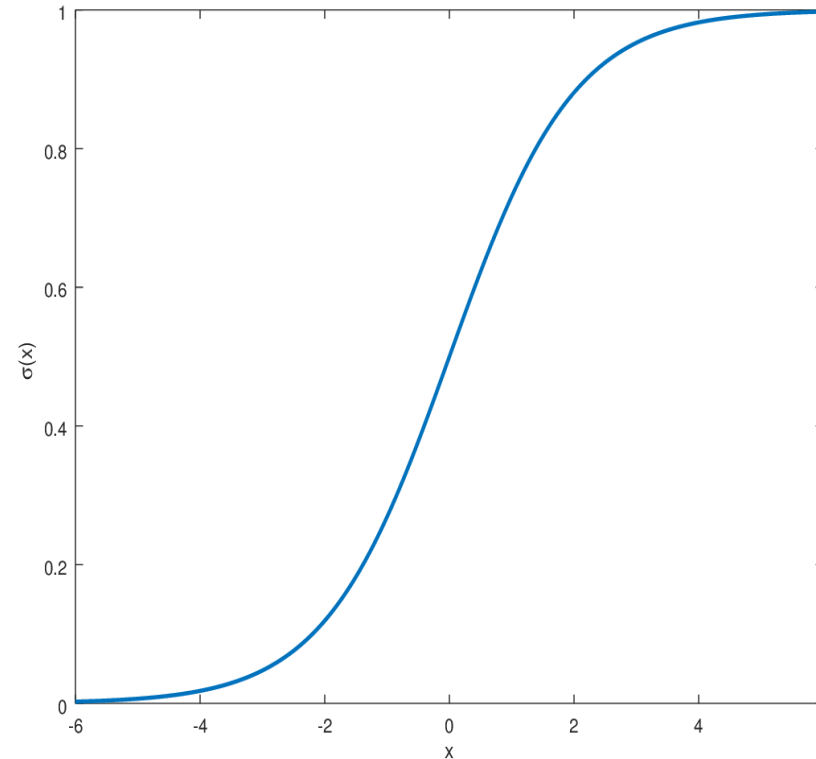
A cartoon drawing of a biological neuron (left) and its mathematical model (right).

Sigmoid Function (Logistic)

- **Explanation:** The sigmoid function squashes the input values between 0 and 1, making it useful in binary classification problems where we need to produce probabilities.
- **Formula:**

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

- **Usage:** Commonly used in the output layer for binary classification tasks, where it transforms the network's raw output into probabilities.



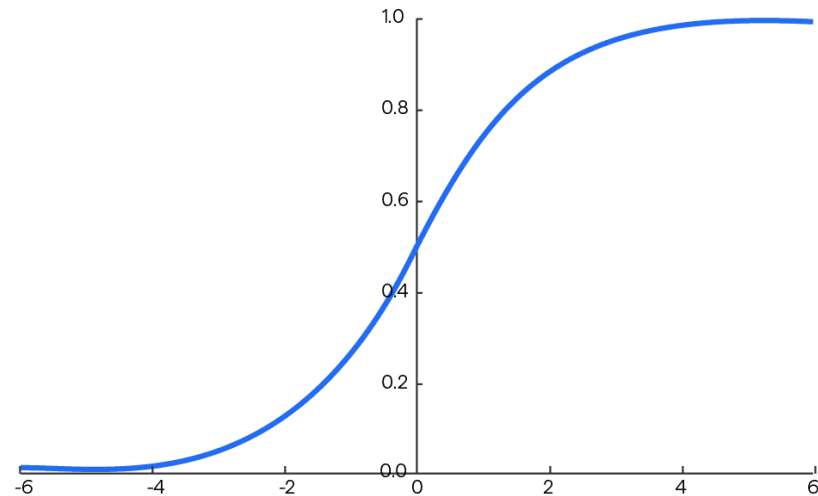
Softmax Function

- **Explanation:** The softmax function is commonly used in the output layer of neural networks for multi-class classification problems. It converts raw scores (logits) into probabilities, ensuring that the sum of the probabilities for all classes is equal to 1.

- **Formula:**

$$s(x_i) = \frac{e^{x_i}}{\sum_{j=1}^n e^{x_j}}$$

- **Usage:** Softmax transforms the final layer activations into a probability distribution, allowing the model to make predictions about the likelihood of each class.



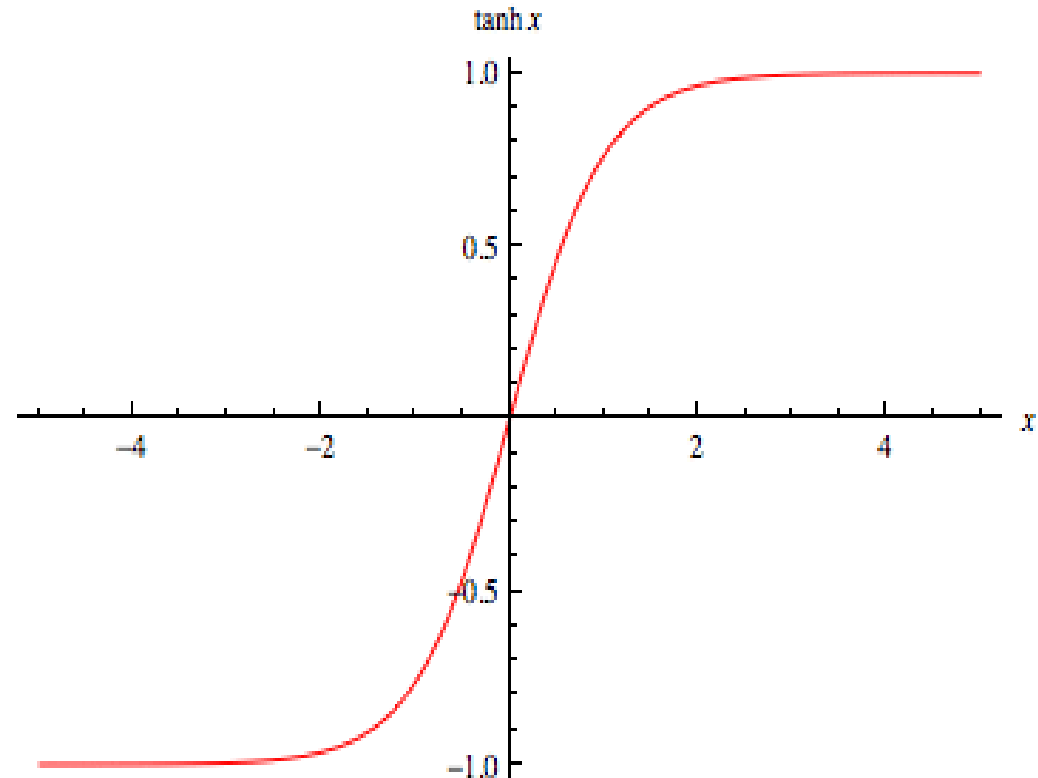
Hyperbolic Tangent Function (Tanh)

- **Explanation:** Tanh function squashes the input values between -1 and 1, which can be useful for normalization and also in classification tasks.

- **Formula:**

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

- **Usage:** Similar to other activations function, tanh is used in the hidden layers of neural networks. Specifically useful in GANs and GenAI.

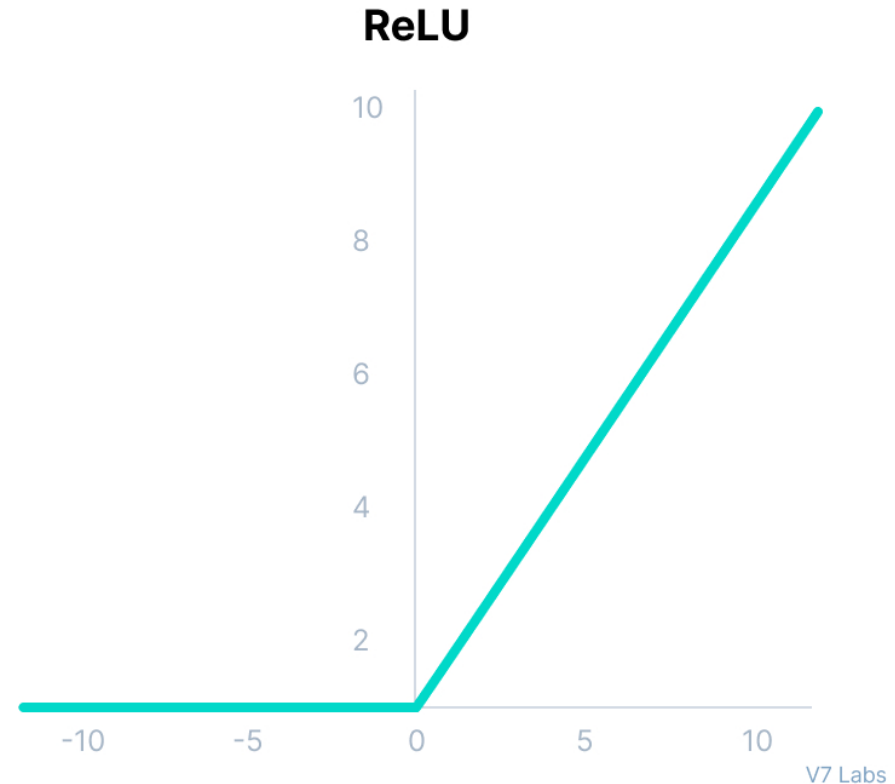


Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU)

- **Explanation:** ReLU returns 0 for negative inputs and the input value for positive inputs.
- It's widely used due to its simplicity and effectiveness.
- **Formula:**

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

- **Usage:** ReLU is widely used in hidden layers due to its simplicity and effectiveness in combating the vanishing gradient problem, common in deep networks.



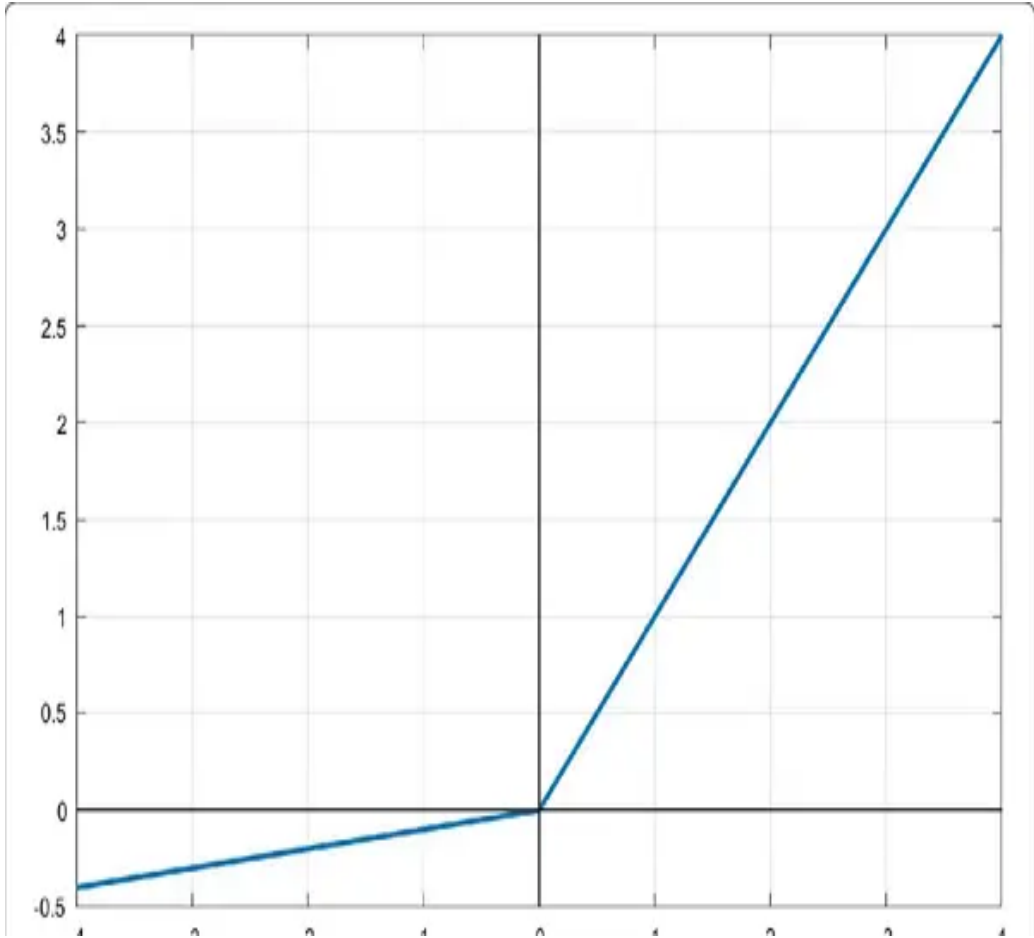
Leaky ReLU

- **Explanation:** Leaky ReLU is similar to ReLU but has a small slope for negative inputs, which helps mitigate the "dying ReLU" problem.

- **Formula**

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

- **Usage:** Leaky ReLU addresses the "dying ReLU" problem by allowing a small gradient for negative inputs, which can be beneficial in training deep networks.



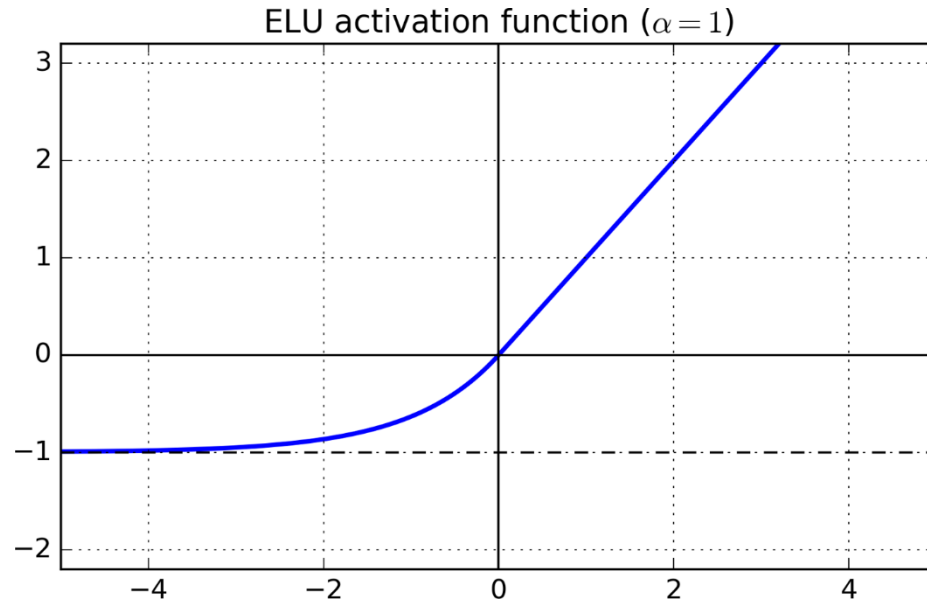
Exponential Linear Unit (ELU)

- **Explanation:** ELU is similar to ReLU for positive inputs but allows negative values with a smooth curve, aiming to address some limitations of ReLU.

- **Formula**

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

- **Usage:** ELU mitigates the limitations of ReLU by handling negative inputs with a smooth curve, which can improve the robustness of deep networks.



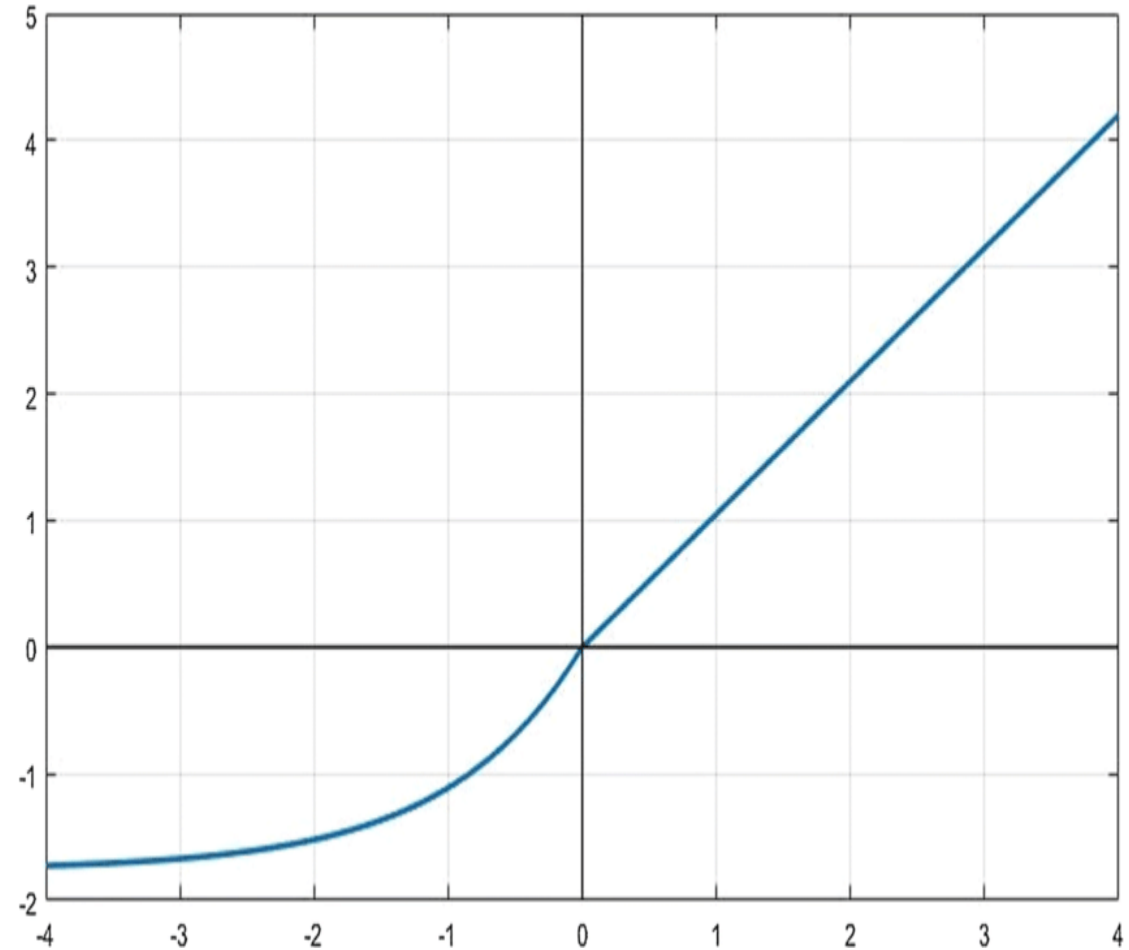
Scaled Exponential Linear Unit (SELU)

- **Explanation:** SELU is designed to maintain the mean and variance of the activations close to 0 and 1 respectively, aiding convergence.

- **Formula**

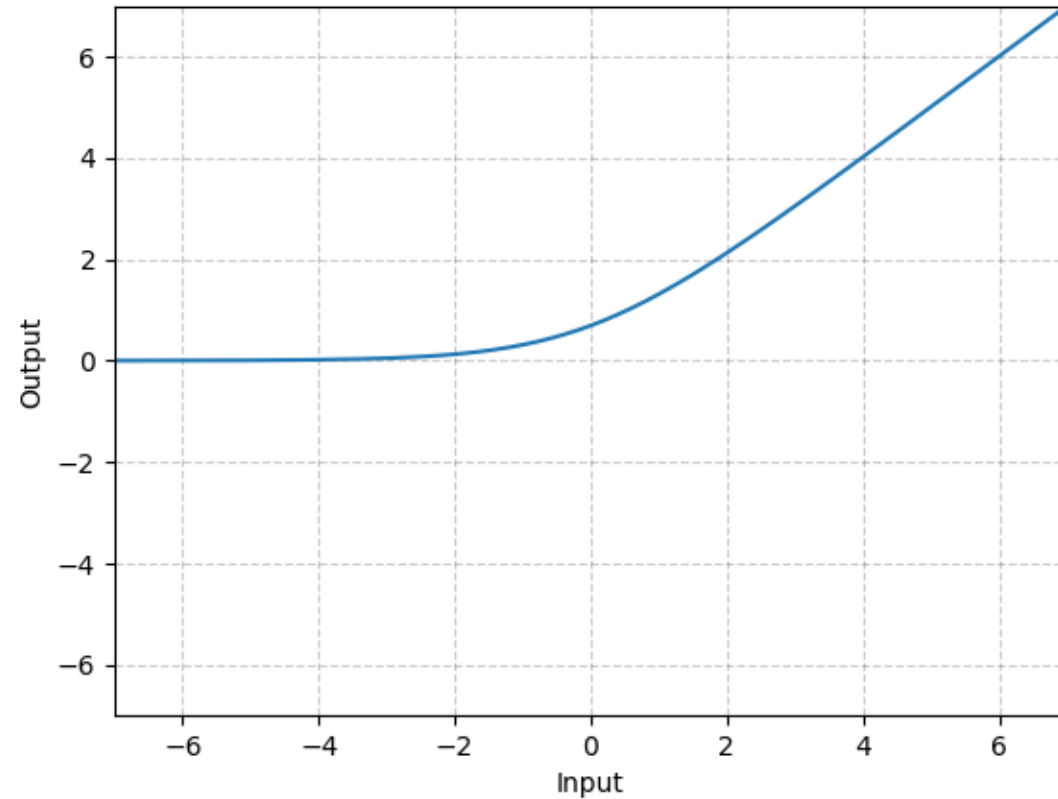
$$f(\alpha, x) = \lambda \begin{cases} \alpha(e^x - 1) & \text{for } x < 0 \\ x & \text{for } x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

- **Usage:** SELU is designed to maintain the stability of activations throughout the network, often leading to better convergence and performance in deep architectures.



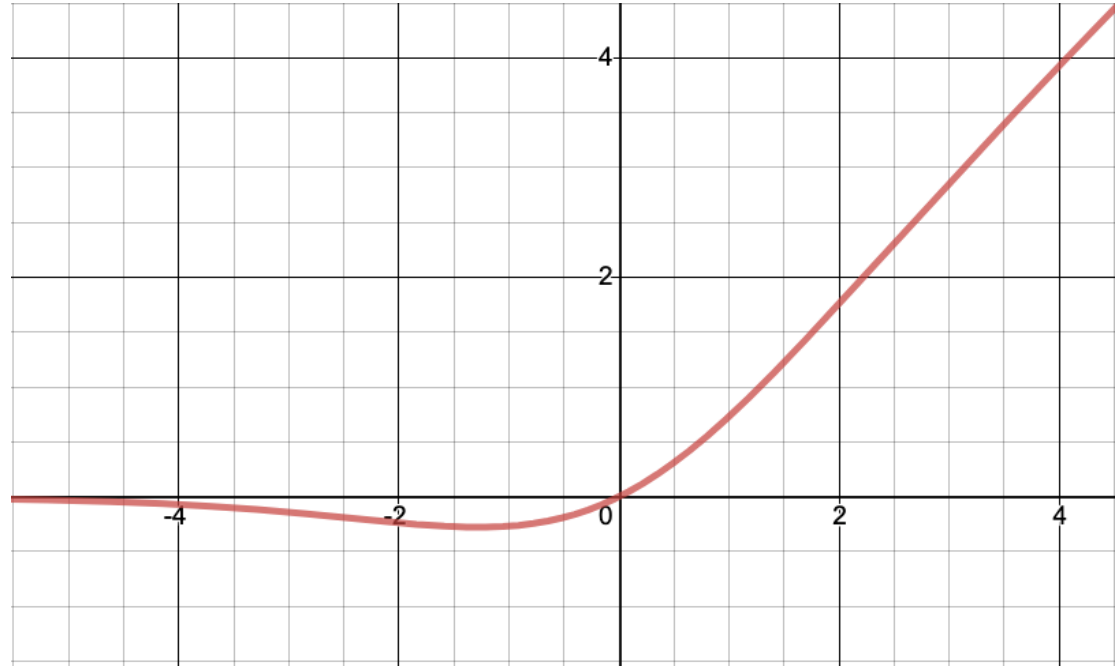
Softplus Function

- **Explanation:** Softplus is a smooth version of ReLU and can be used as an alternative activation function in some cases.
- **Formula**
- $f(x) = \ln(1 + e^x)$
- **Usage:** Softplus is a smooth approximation of ReLU and can be used in scenarios where a differentiable activation function is required.



Swish Function

- **Explanation:** Swish function is a recently proposed activation function that tends to perform better than ReLU in certain scenarios.
- **Formula**
- $f(x) = x \cdot \text{sigmoid}(x)$
- **Usage:** Swish is an alternative to ReLU, offering potentially better performance, especially in large-scale datasets and deeper networks.



Thank You