

**DR**

# DeepRob

Lecture 6  
Backpropagation  
University of Michigan and University of Minnesota

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_1}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_2}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_3}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_4}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_5}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \text{Out}}$$





# Project 1 – Reminder

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- Instructions and code available on the website
  - Here: [https://rpm-lab.github.io/CSCI5980-Spr23-DeepRob/projects/  
project1/](https://rpm-lab.github.io/CSCI5980-Spr23-DeepRob/projects/project1/)
- Uses Python, PyTorch and Google Colab
- Implement KNN, linear SVM, and linear softmax classifiers
- **Autograder might be delayed!**
- **Due Tuesday, February 7th 11:59 PM CT**





# Quiz 2 was today

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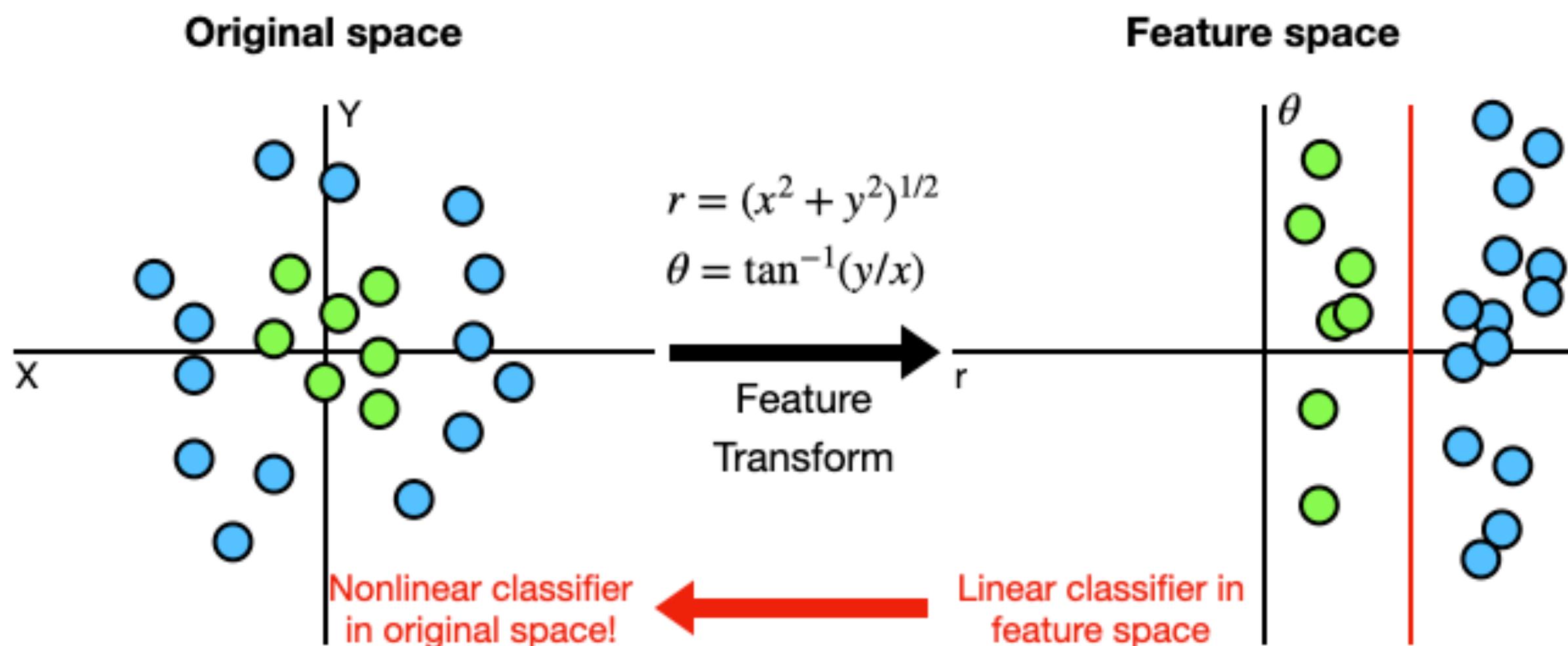
Quiz 3 will be on 02/07, coming Tuesday

Quiz 4 will be on 02/09, next Thursday

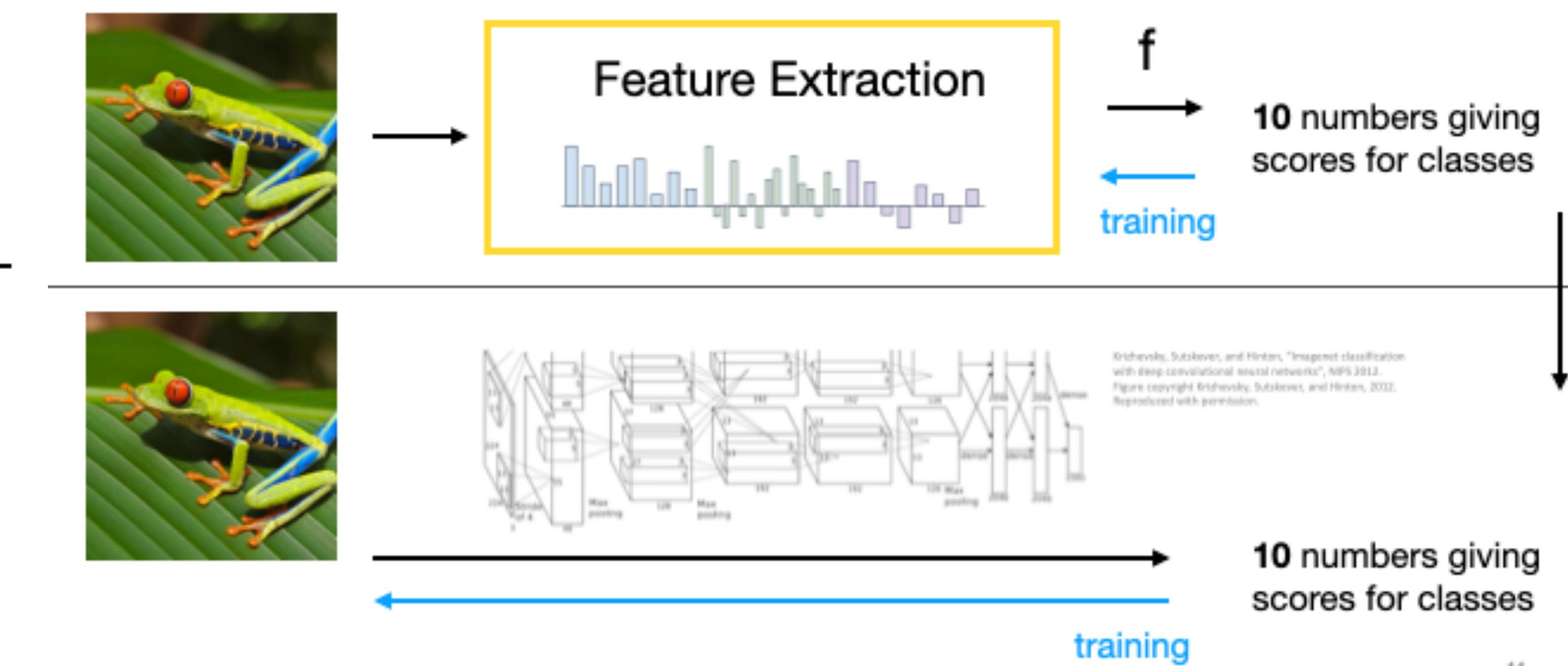


# Recap from Previous Lecture

Feature transform + Linear classifier allows nonlinear decision boundaries



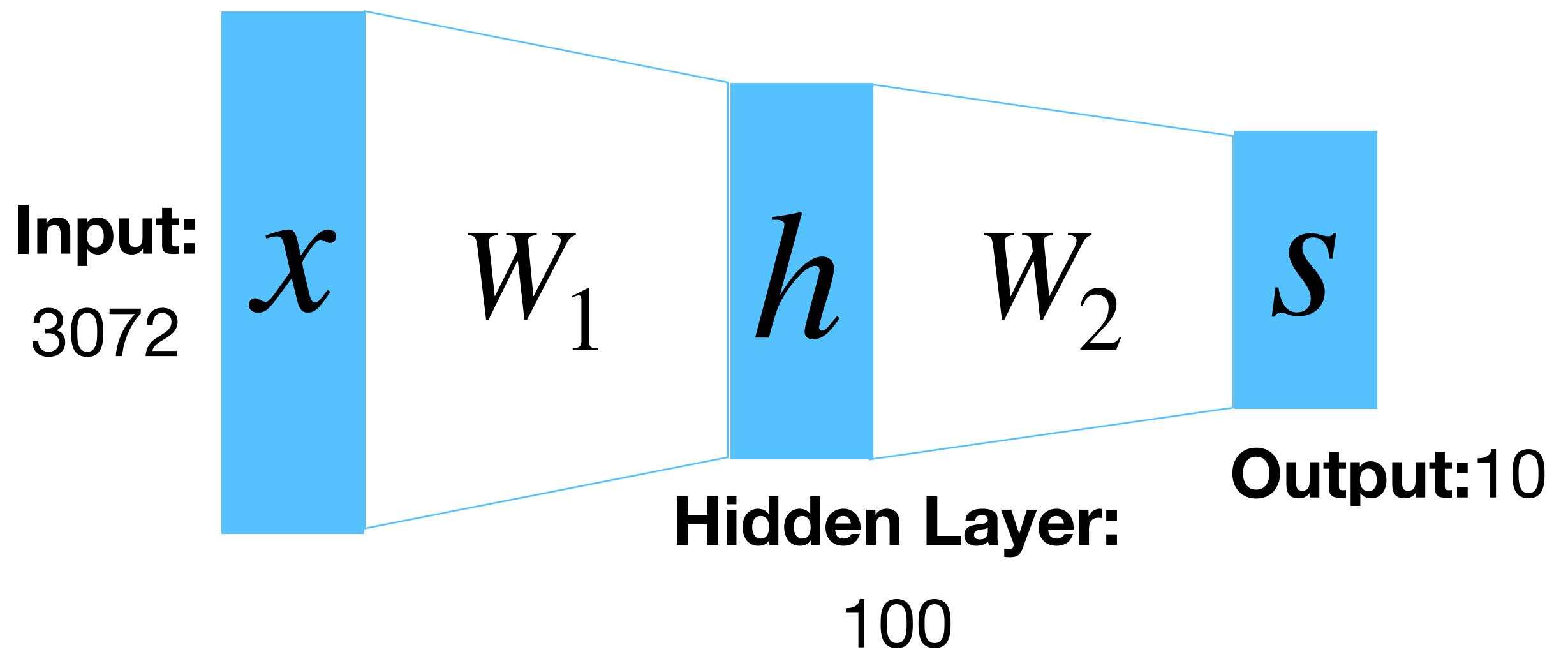
Neural Networks as learnable feature transforms



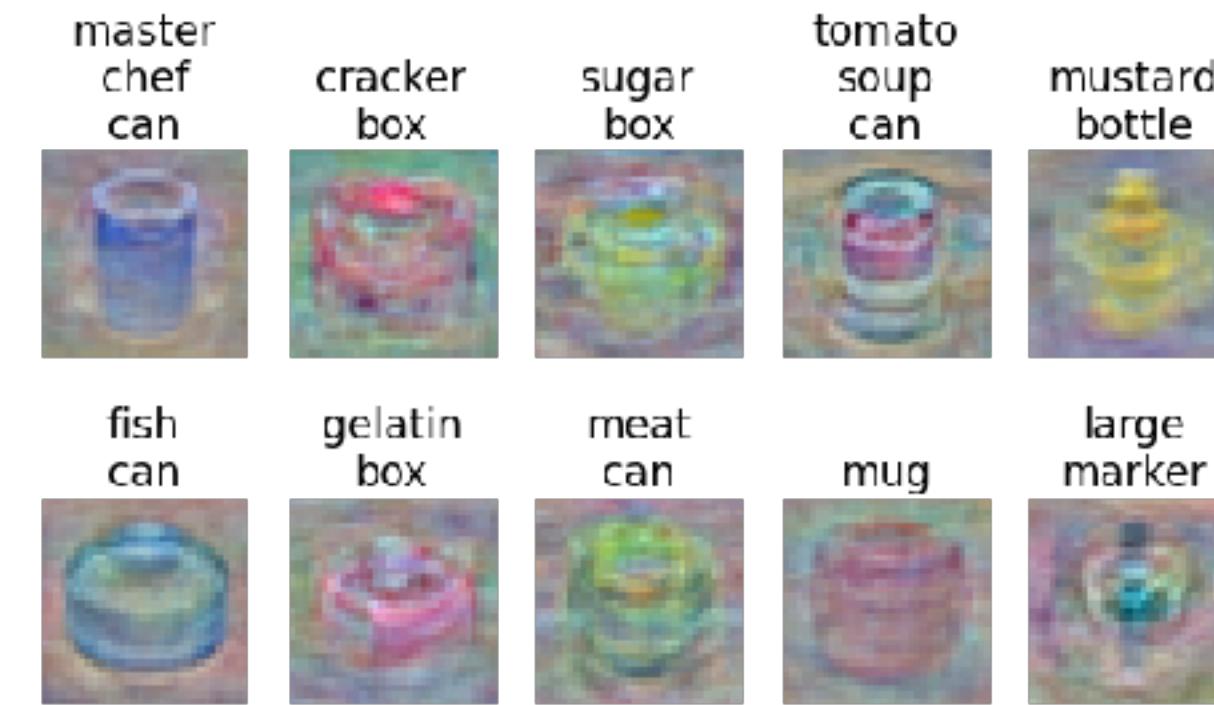
# Recap from Previous Lecture

From linear classifiers to  
fully-connected networks

$$f(x) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$



Linear classifier: One template per class



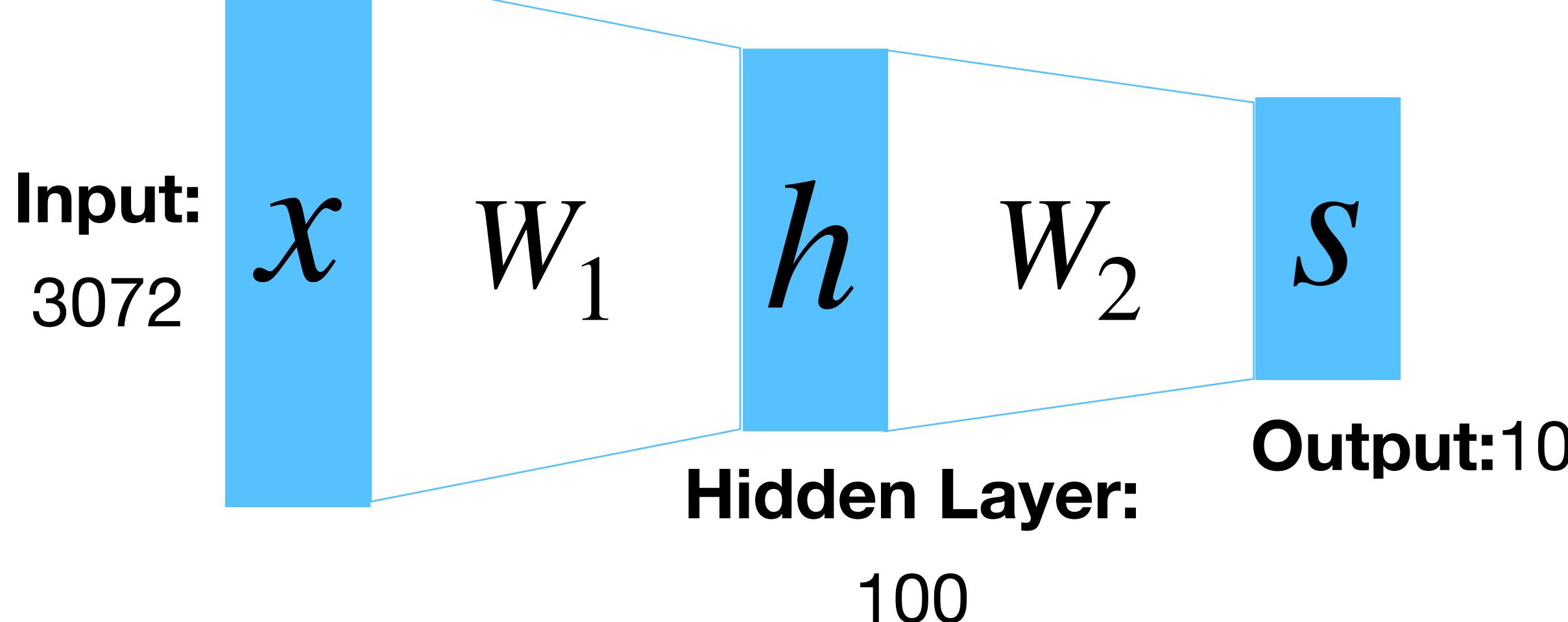
Neural networks: Many reusable templates



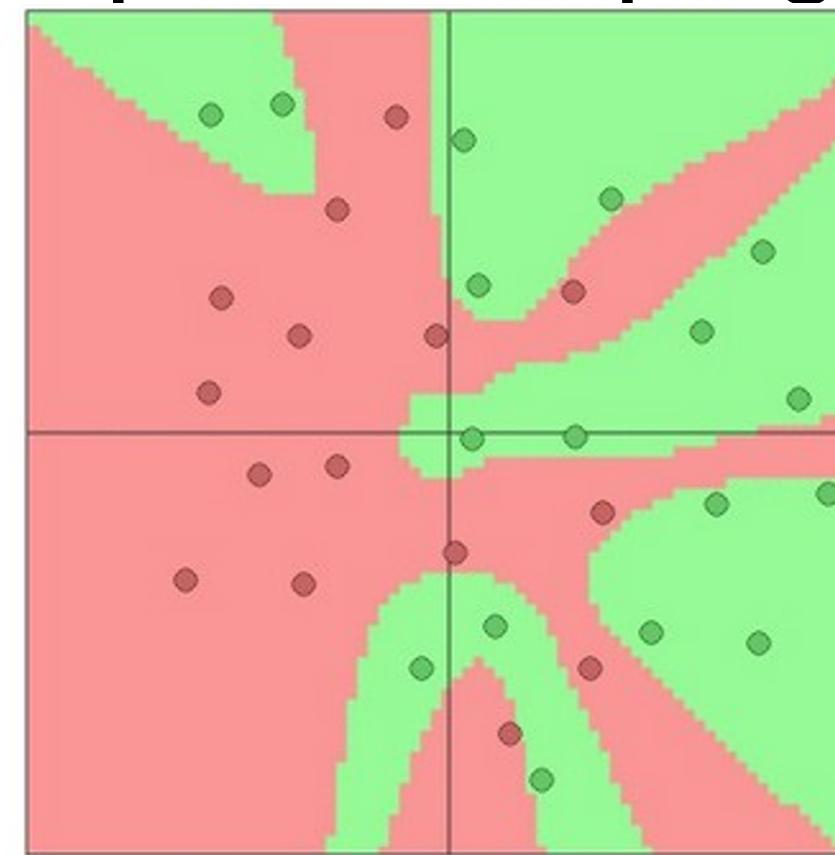
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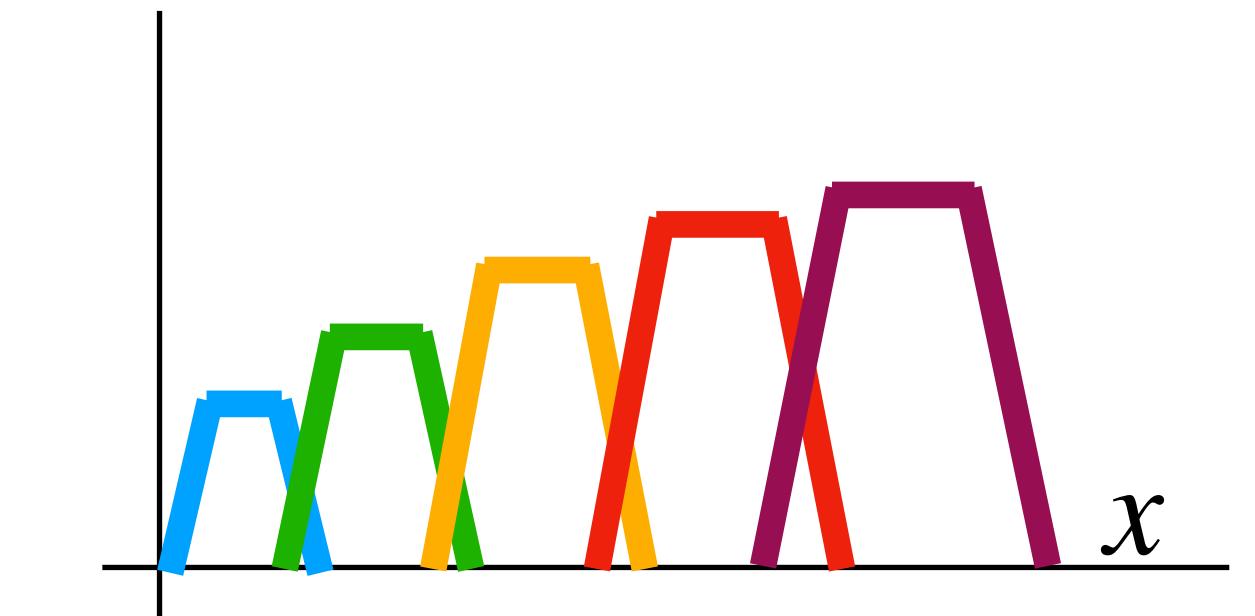
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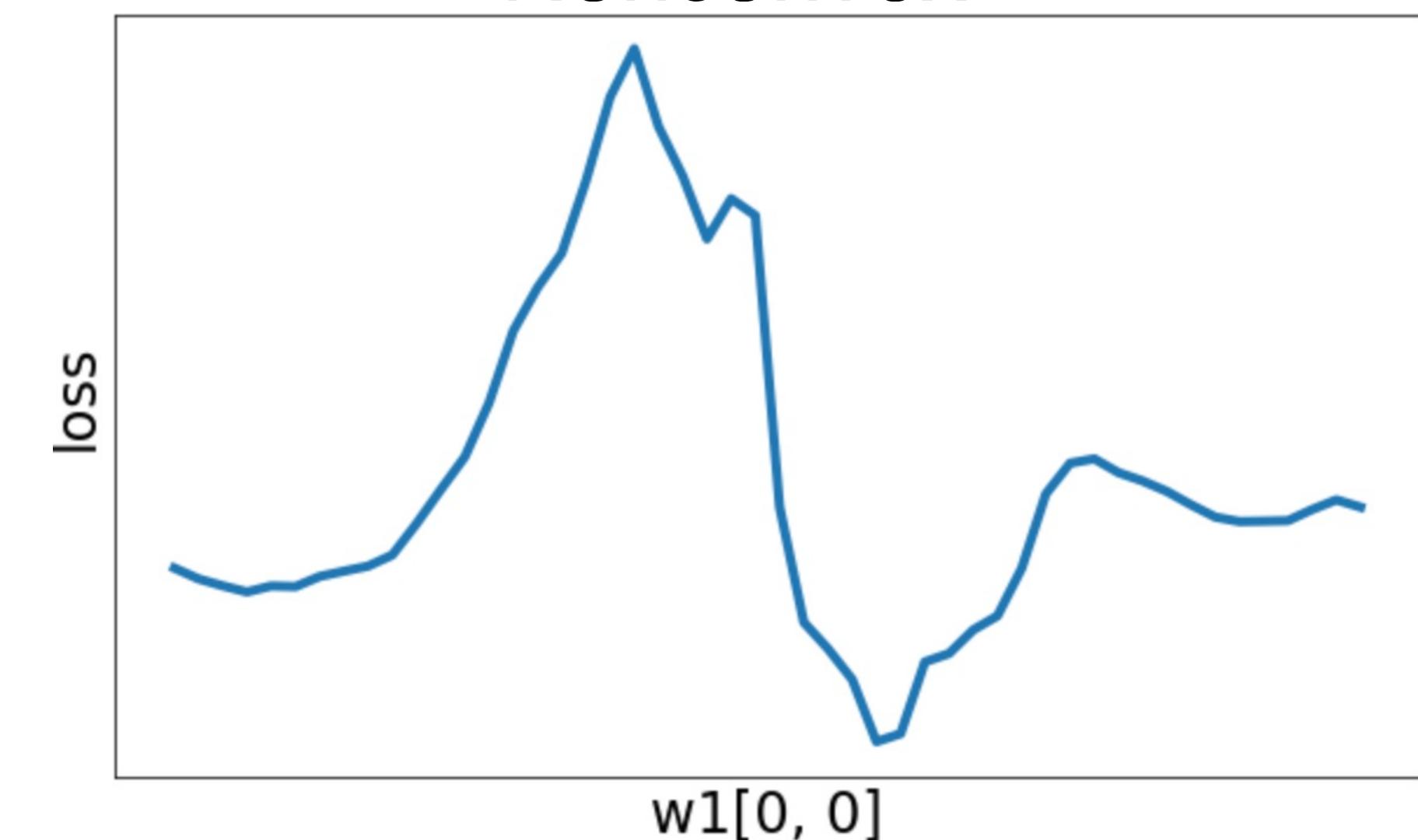
Space Warping



Universal approximation



Nonconvex



# Problem: How to compute gradients?

$$s = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$

ReLU activation

Nonlinear score function

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

Hinge loss

Per-element data loss

$$R(W) = \sum_k W_k^2$$

L2 regularization

$$L(W_1, W_2, b_1, b_2) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i + \lambda R(W_1) + \lambda R(W_2)$$

Data loss

Regularization term

Total loss

If we can compute  $\frac{\delta L}{\delta W_1}, \frac{\delta L}{\delta W_2}, \frac{\delta L}{\delta b_1}, \frac{\delta L}{\delta b_2}$  then we can optimize with SGD



# (Bad) Idea: Derive $\nabla_W L$ on paper

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$$s = f(x; W) = Wx$$

$$\begin{aligned} L_i &= \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1) \\ &= \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, W_{j,:} x - W_{y_i,:} x + 1) \\ L &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i + \lambda \sum_k W_k^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, W_{j,:} x - W_{y_i,:} x + 1) + \lambda \sum_k W_k^2 \end{aligned}$$

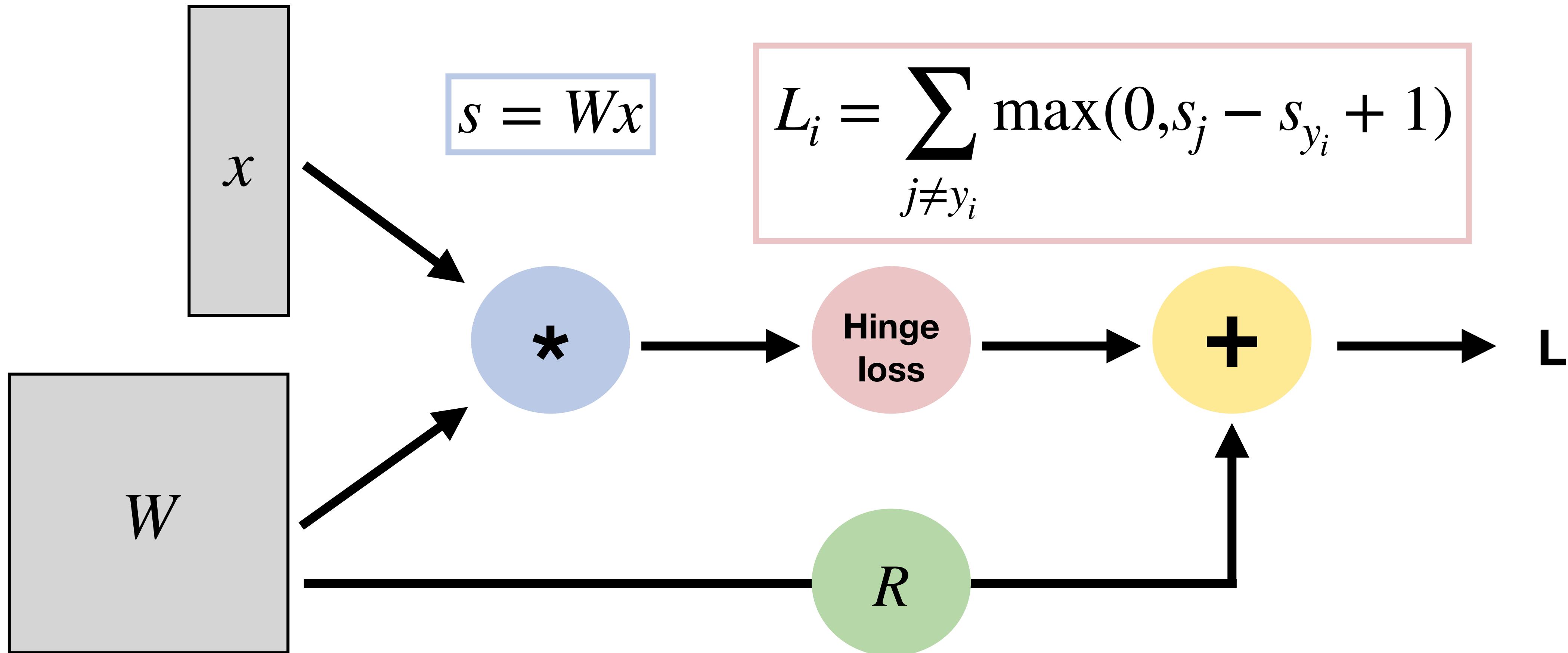
$$\nabla_W L = \nabla_W \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, W_{j,:} x - W_{y_i,:} x + 1) + \lambda \sum_k W_k^2 \right)$$

**Problem:** Very tedious with lots of matrix calculus

**Problem:** What if we want to change the loss? E.g. use softmax instead of SVM? Need to re-derive from scratch. Not modular!

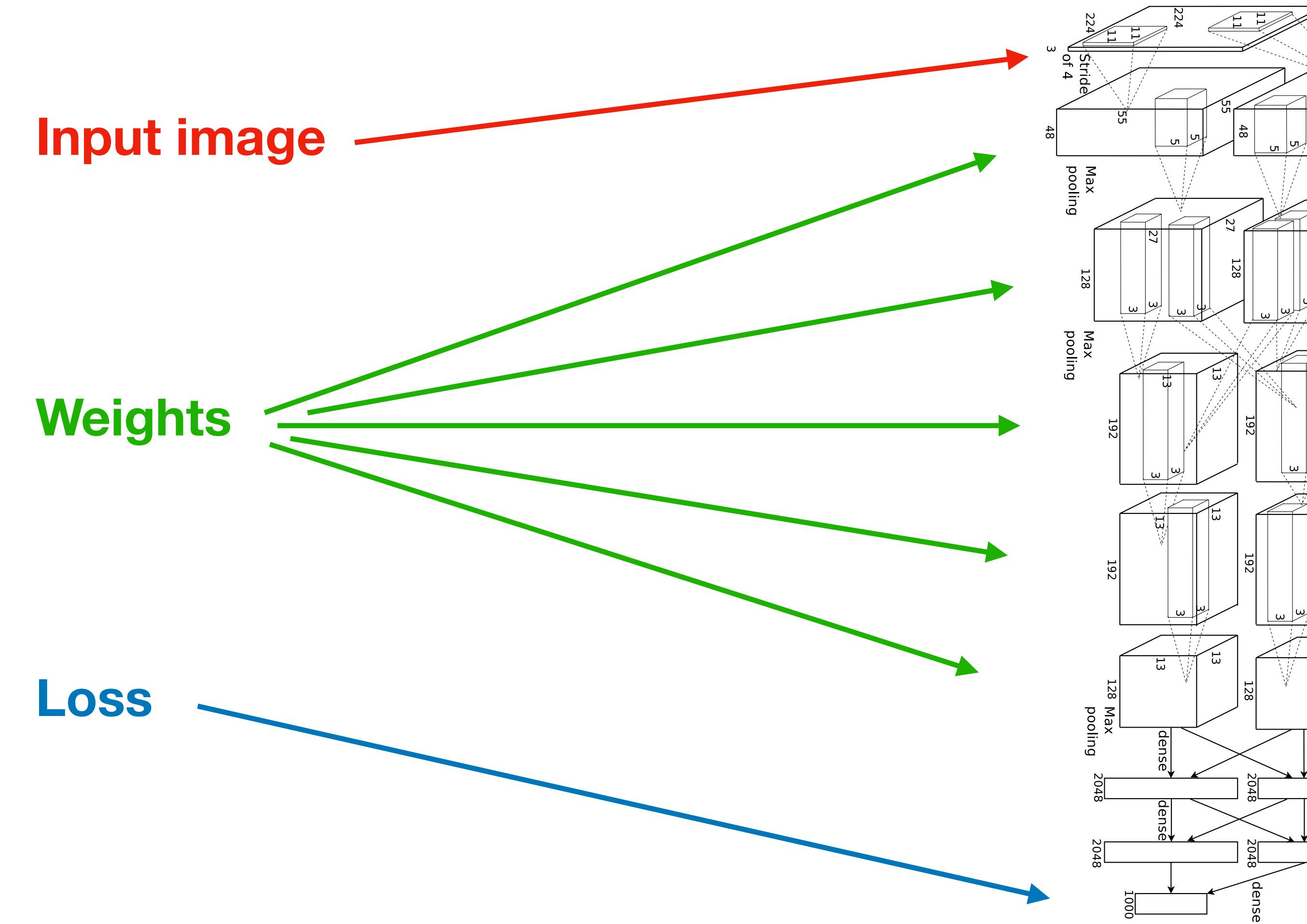
**Problem:** Not feasible for very complex models!

# Better Idea: Computational Graphs



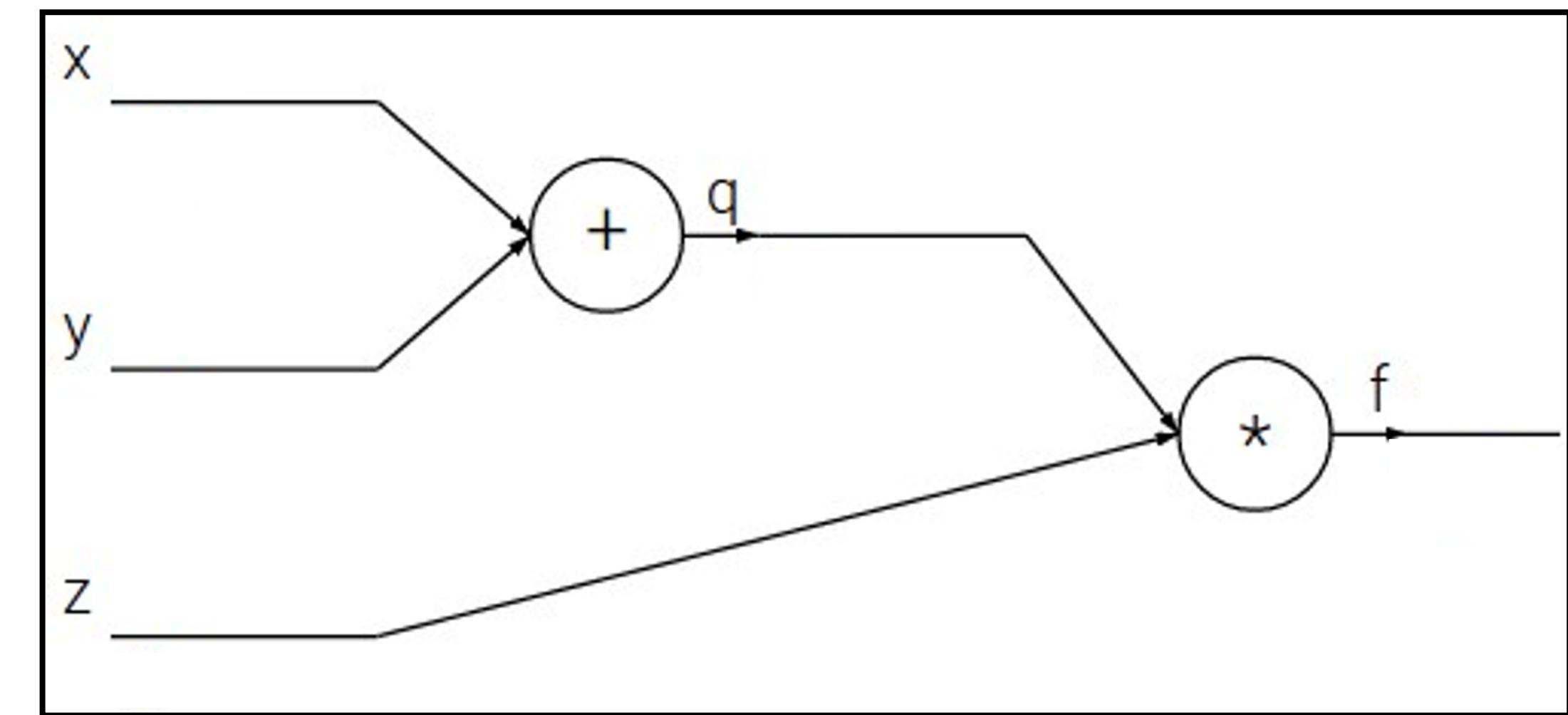


# Deep Network (AlexNet)



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

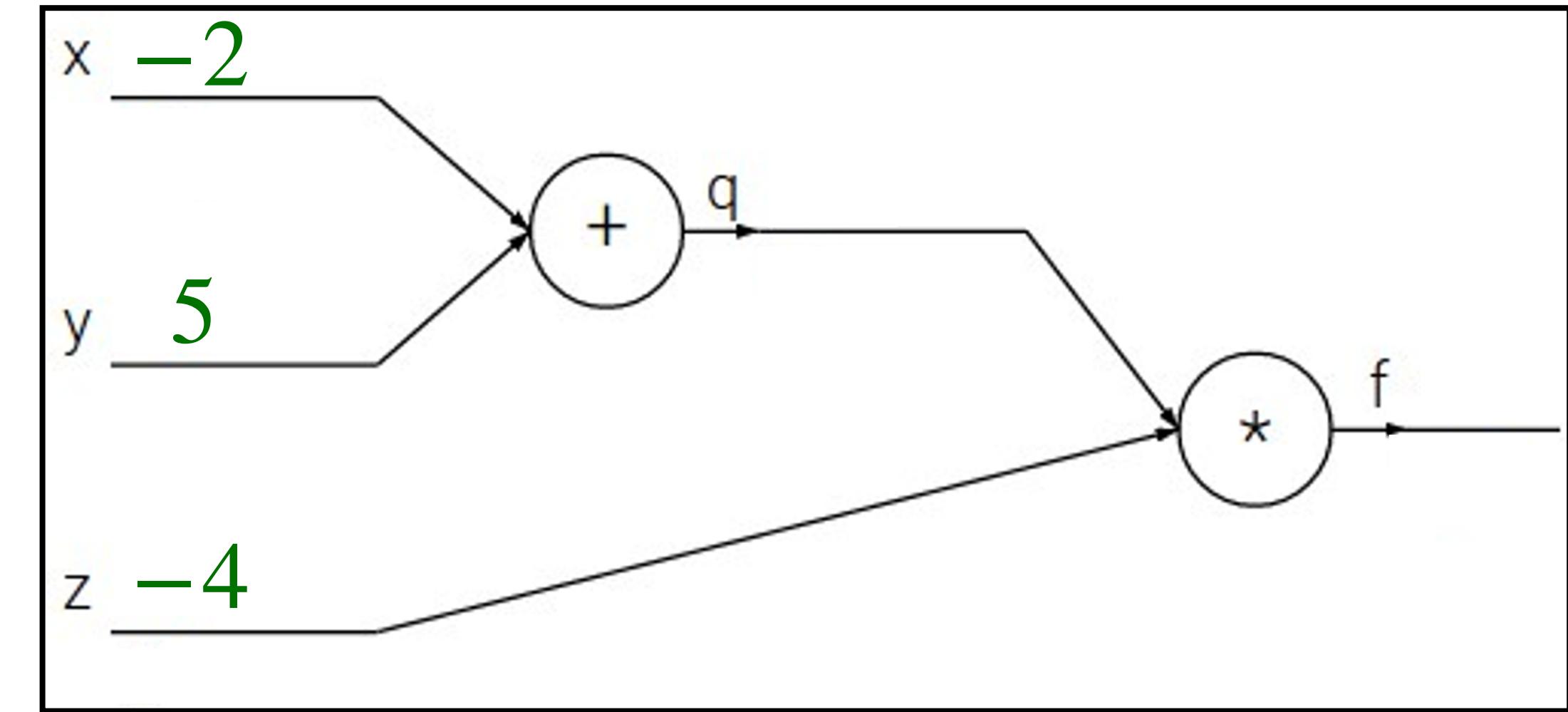
$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$



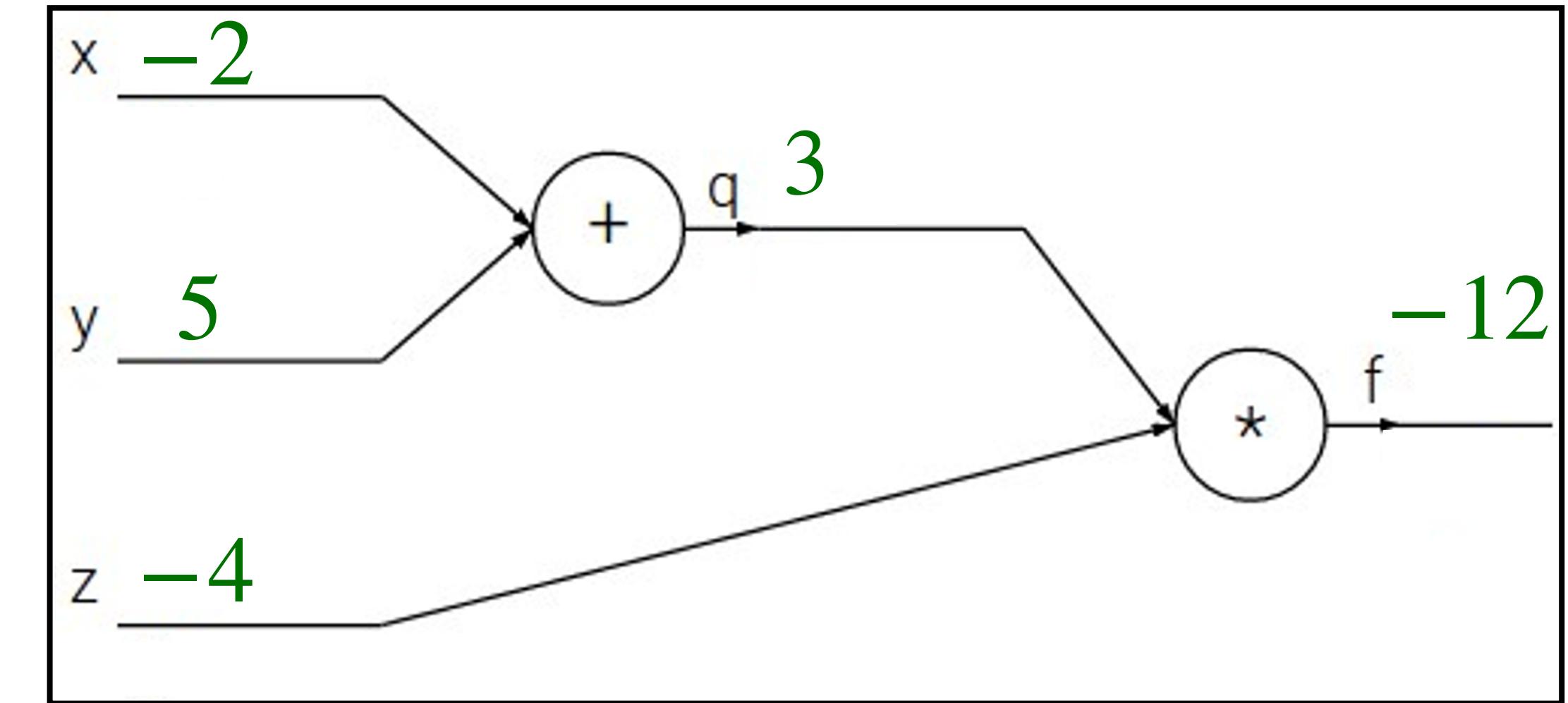
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**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$



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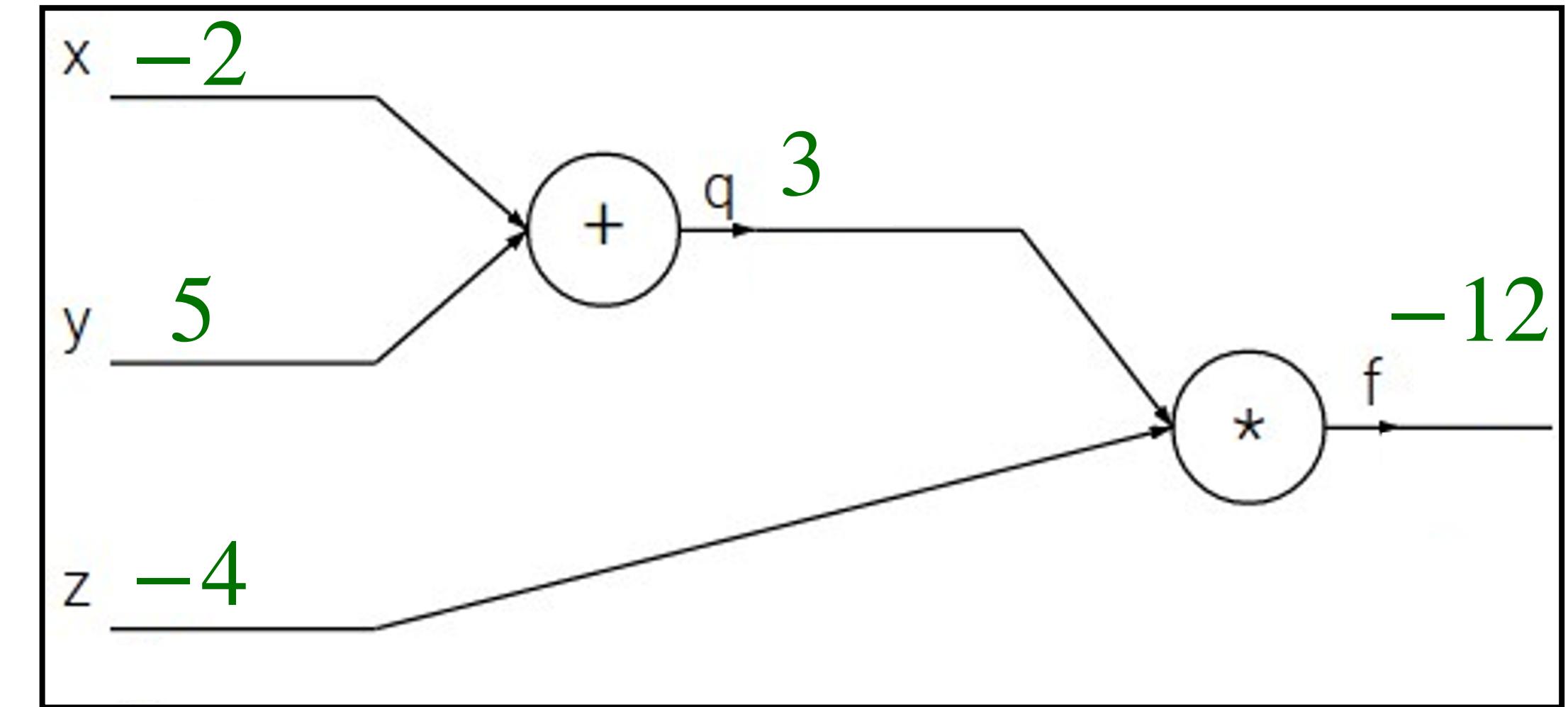
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Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



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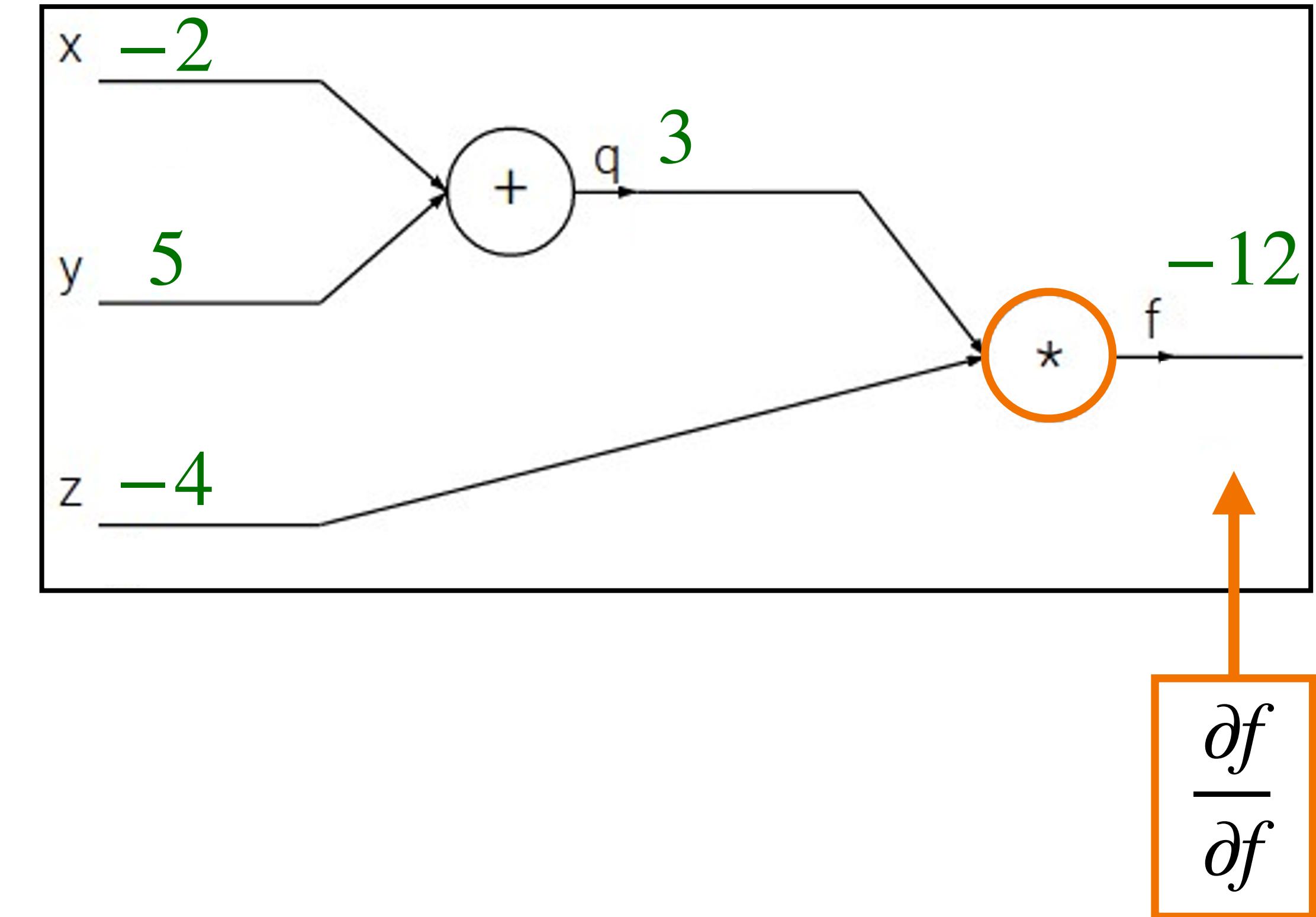
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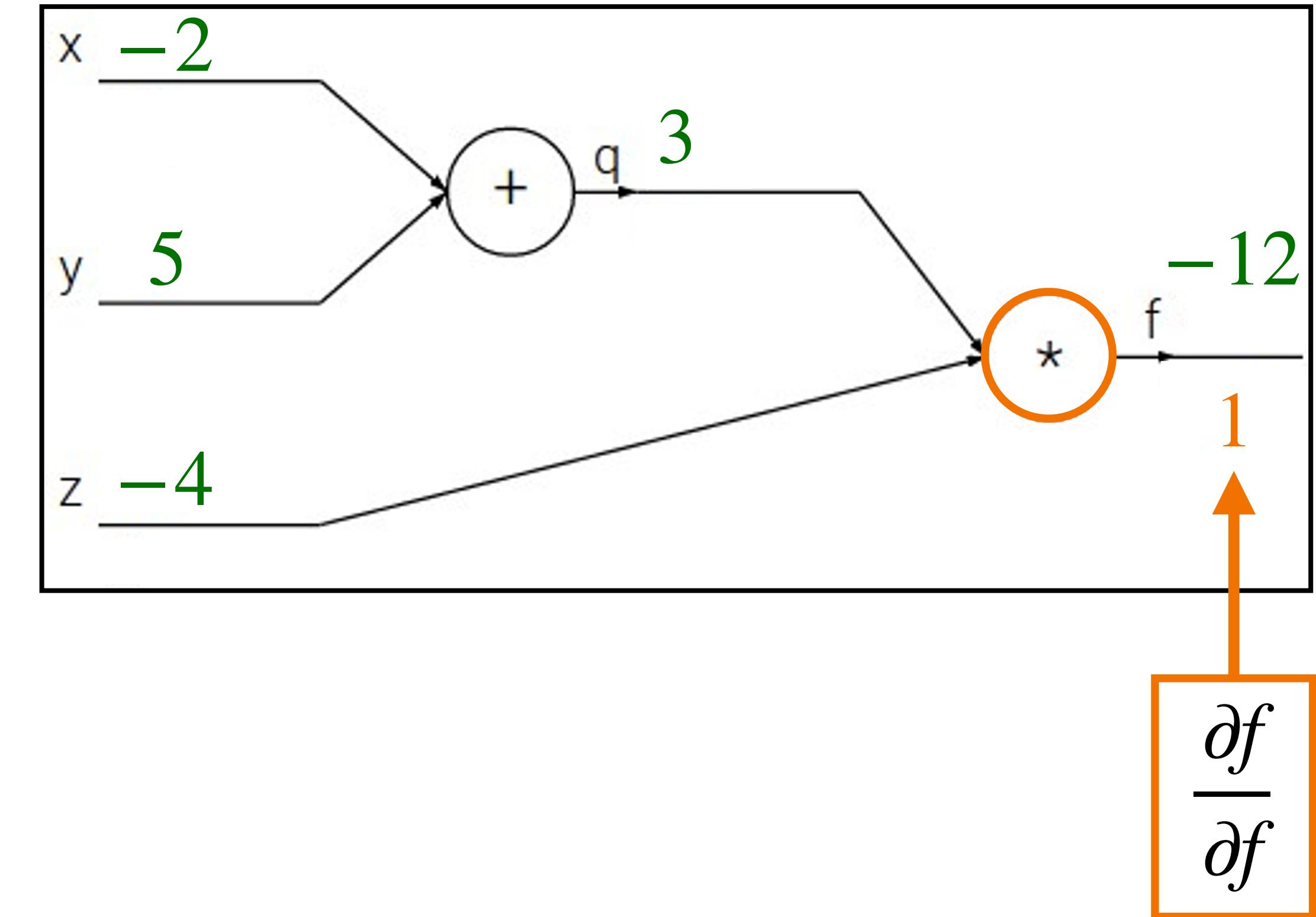
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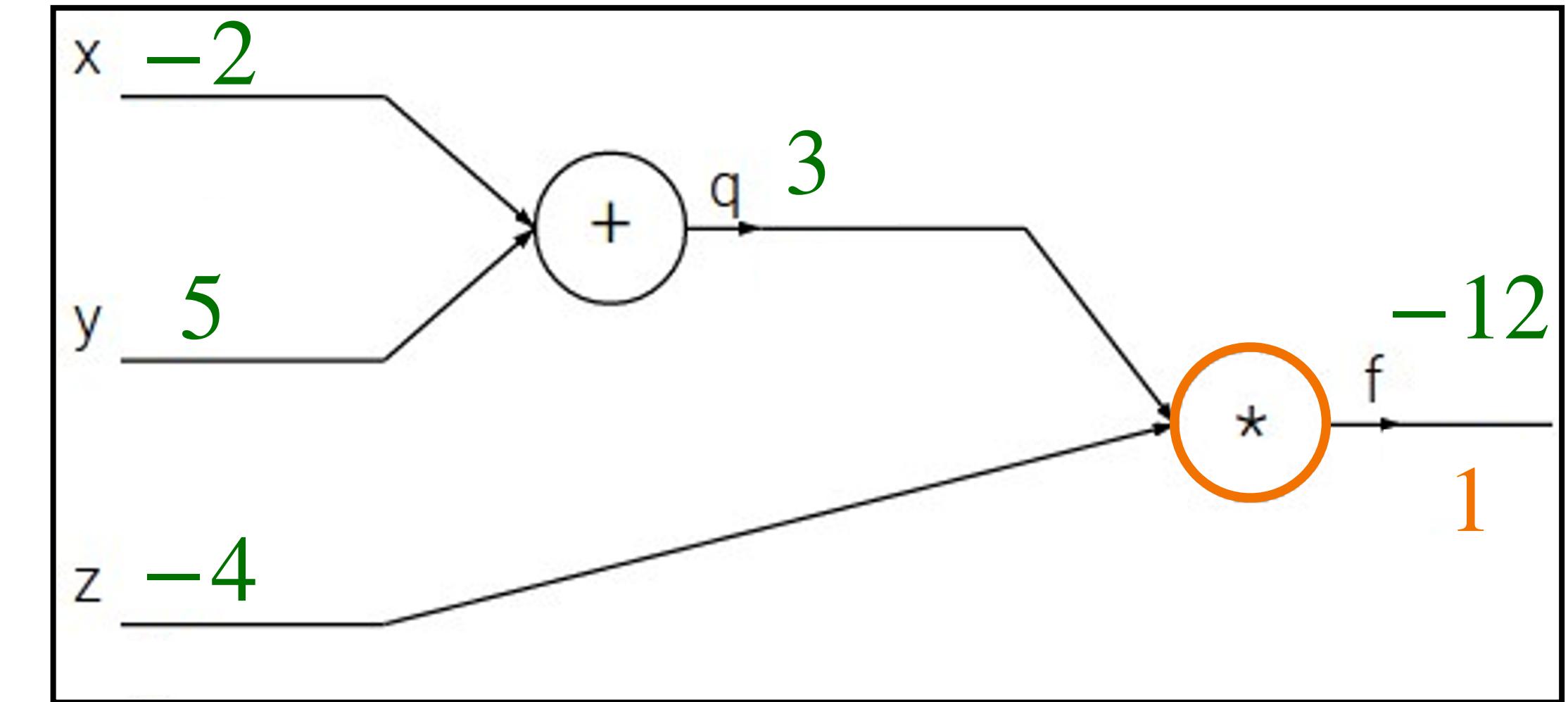
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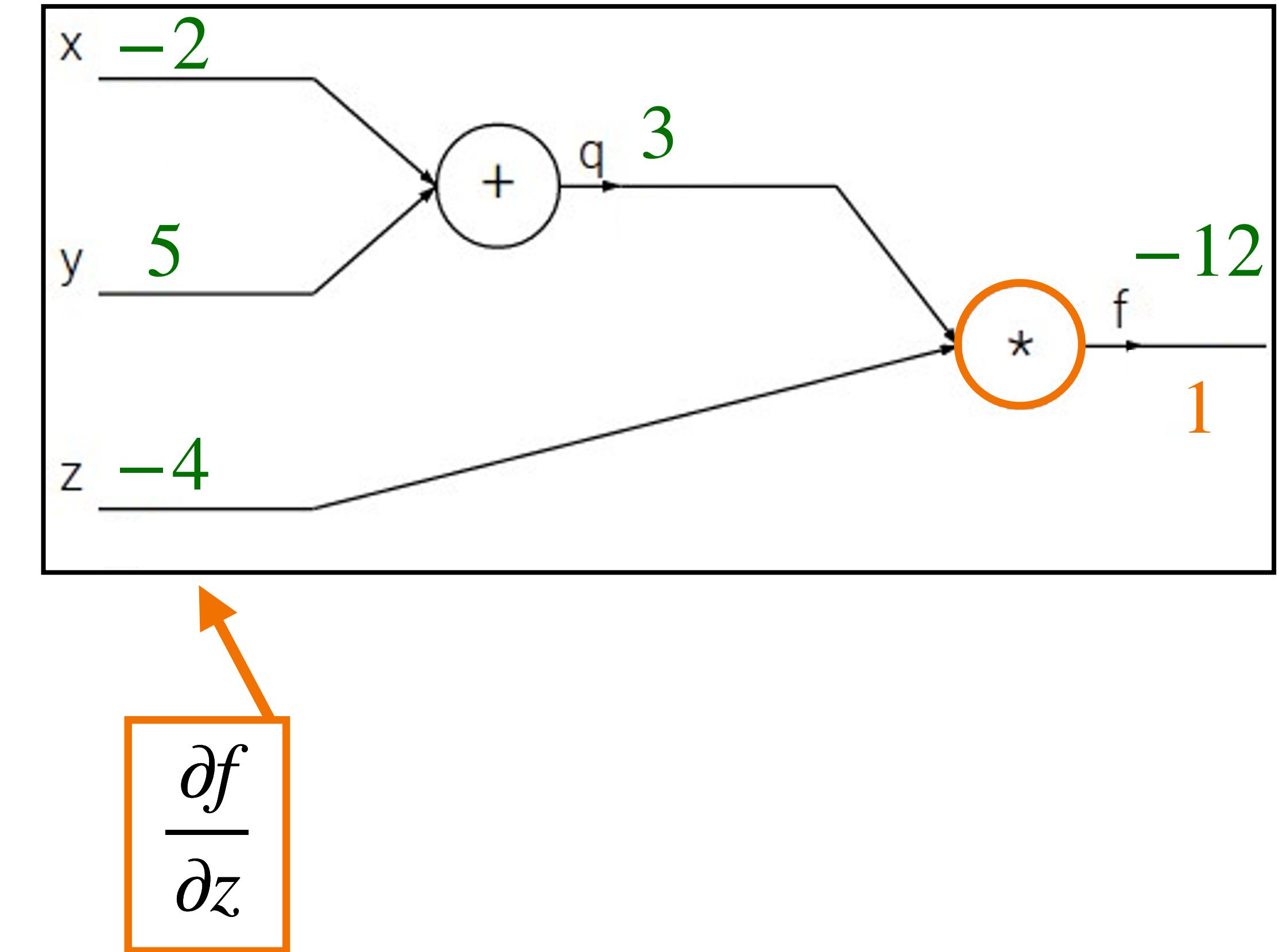
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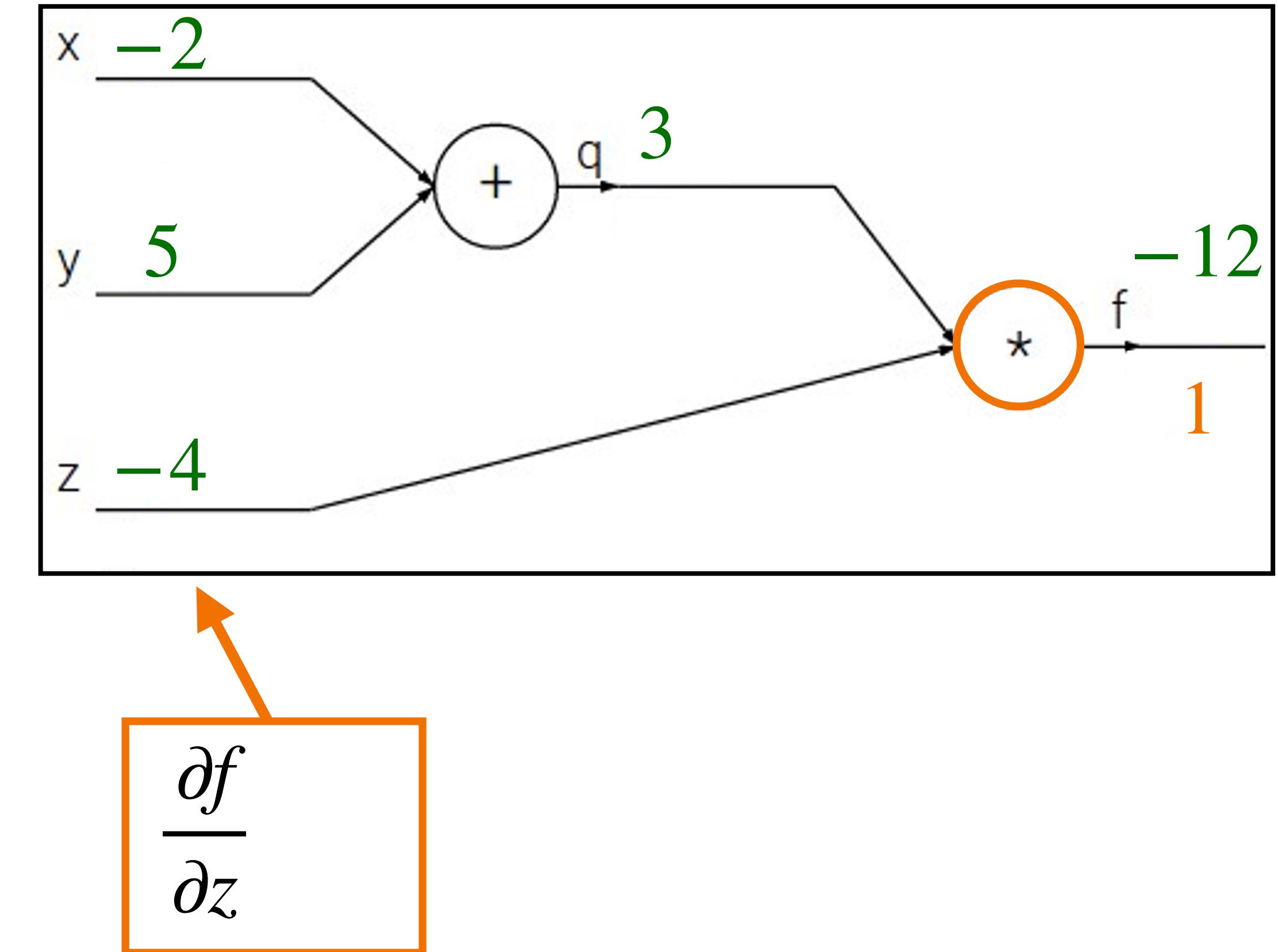
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$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$$

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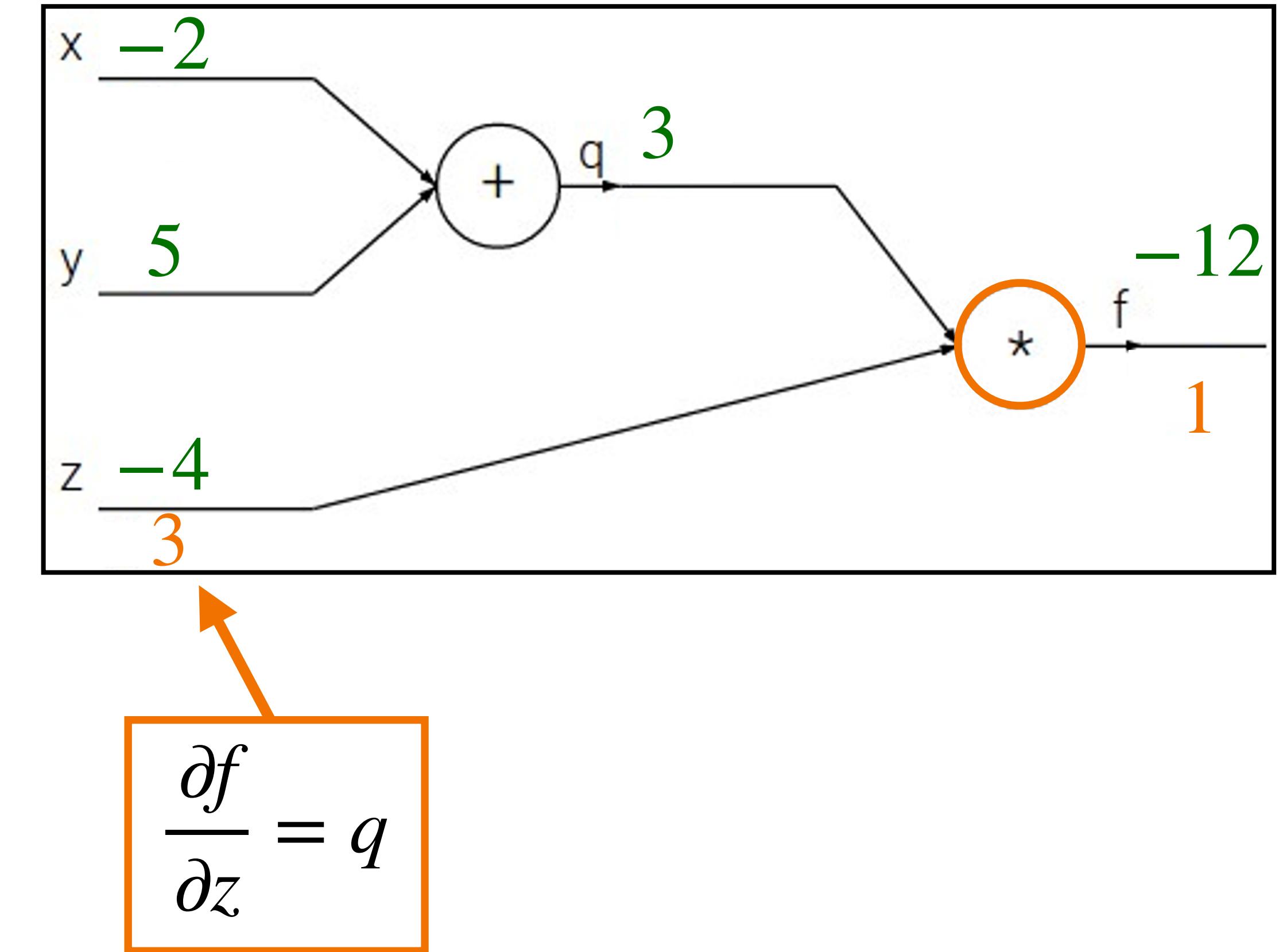
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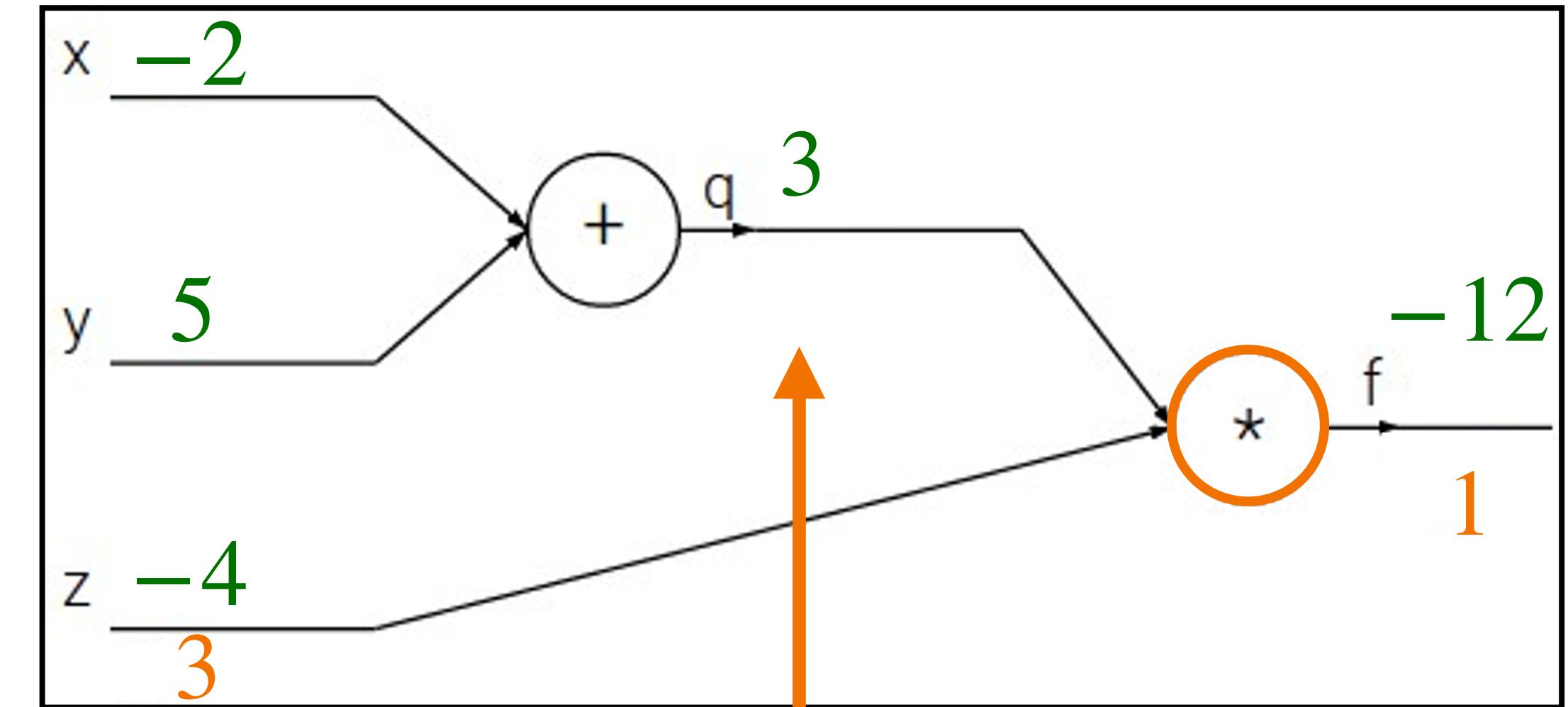
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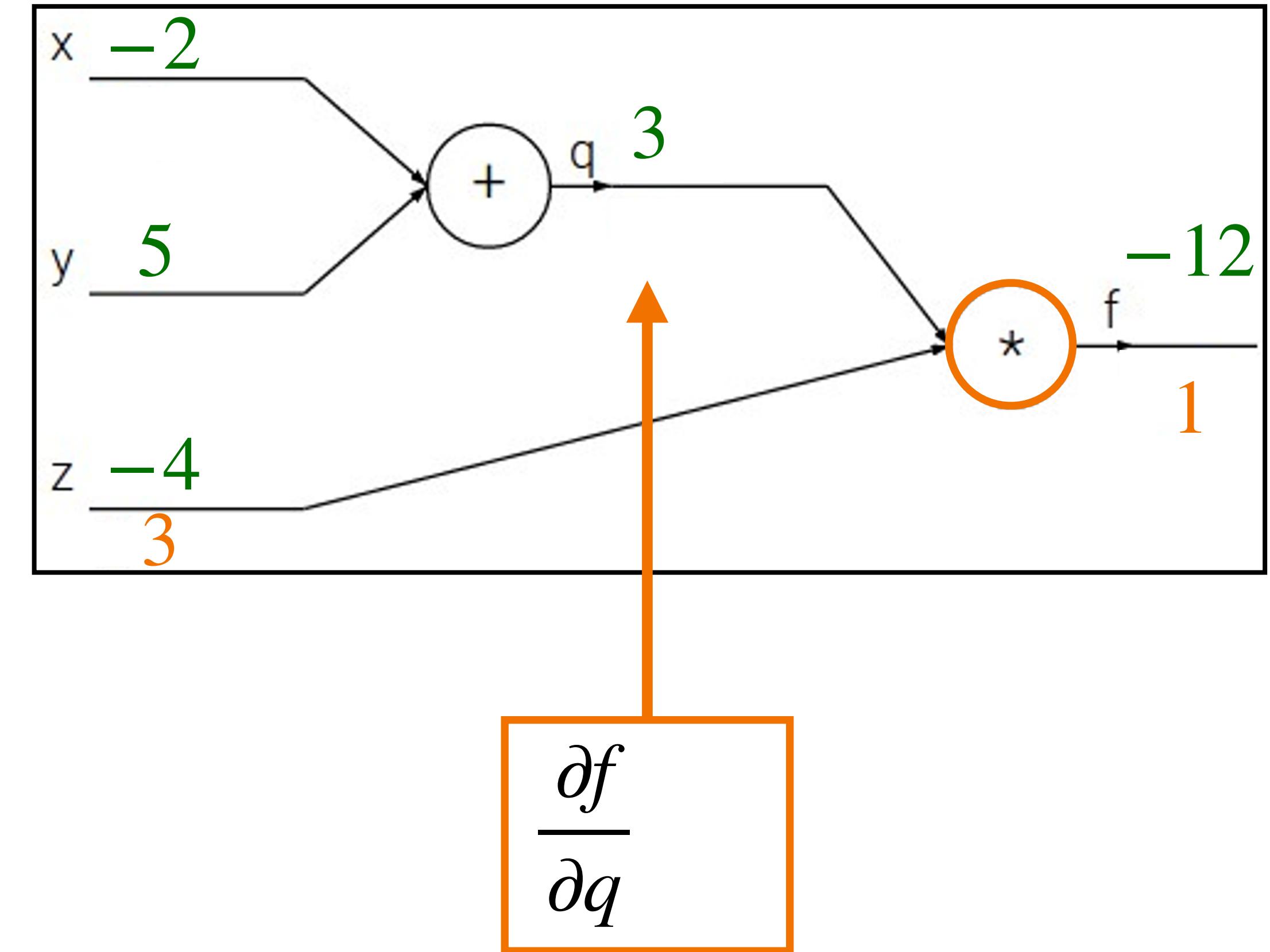
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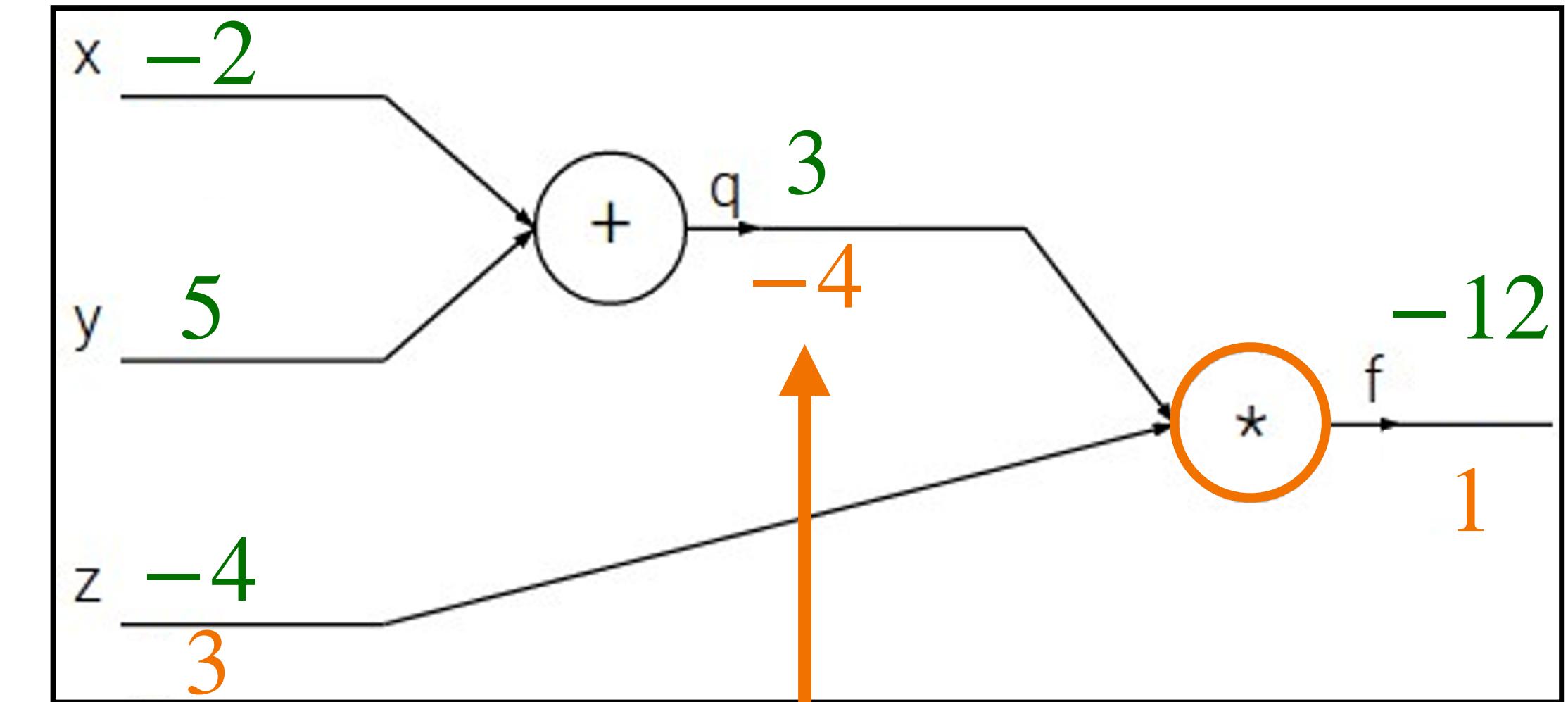
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$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial q} = z$$

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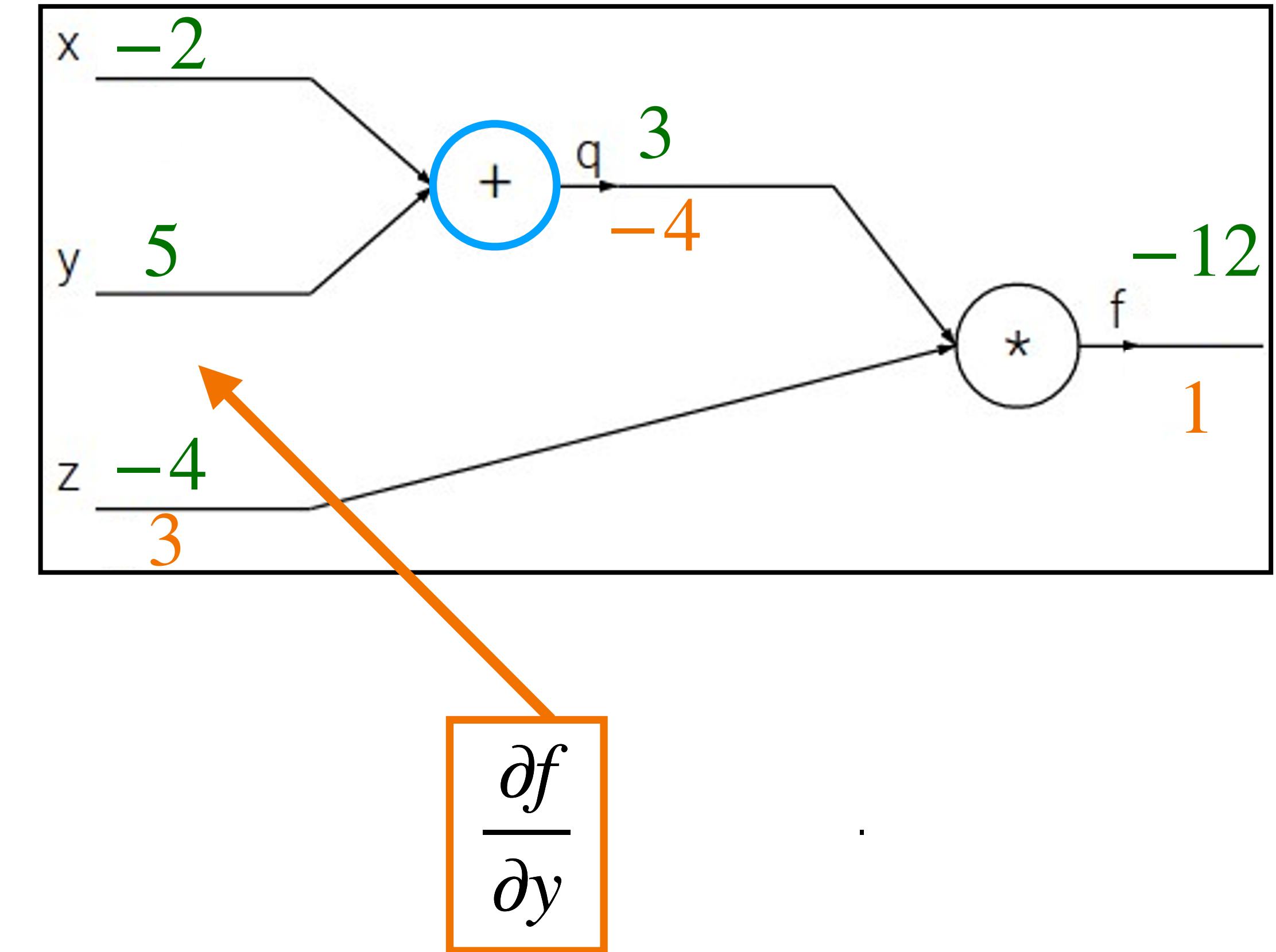
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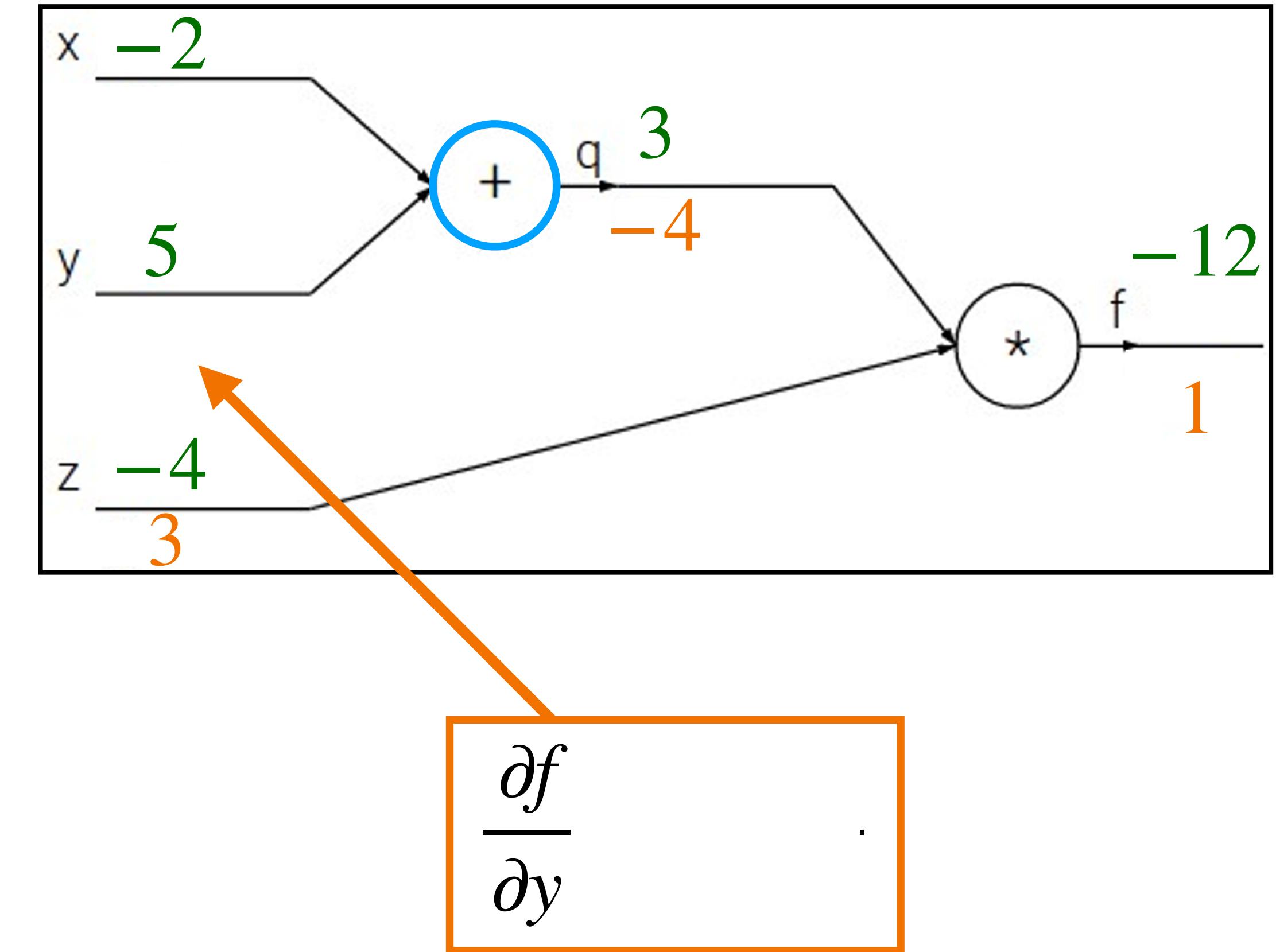
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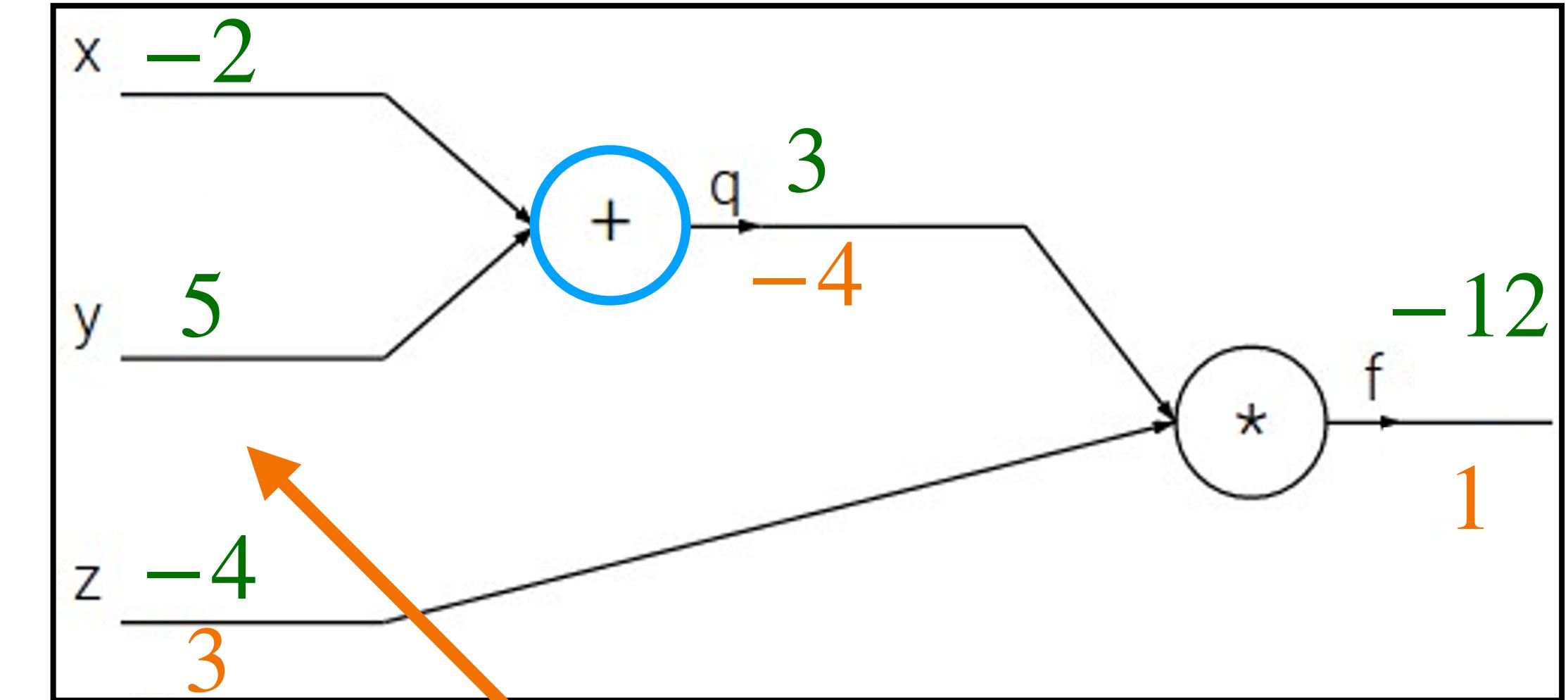
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$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \frac{\partial f}{\partial q}$$

Downstream  
Gradient

Local  
Gradient

Upstream  
Gradient

# Backpropagation: Simple Example

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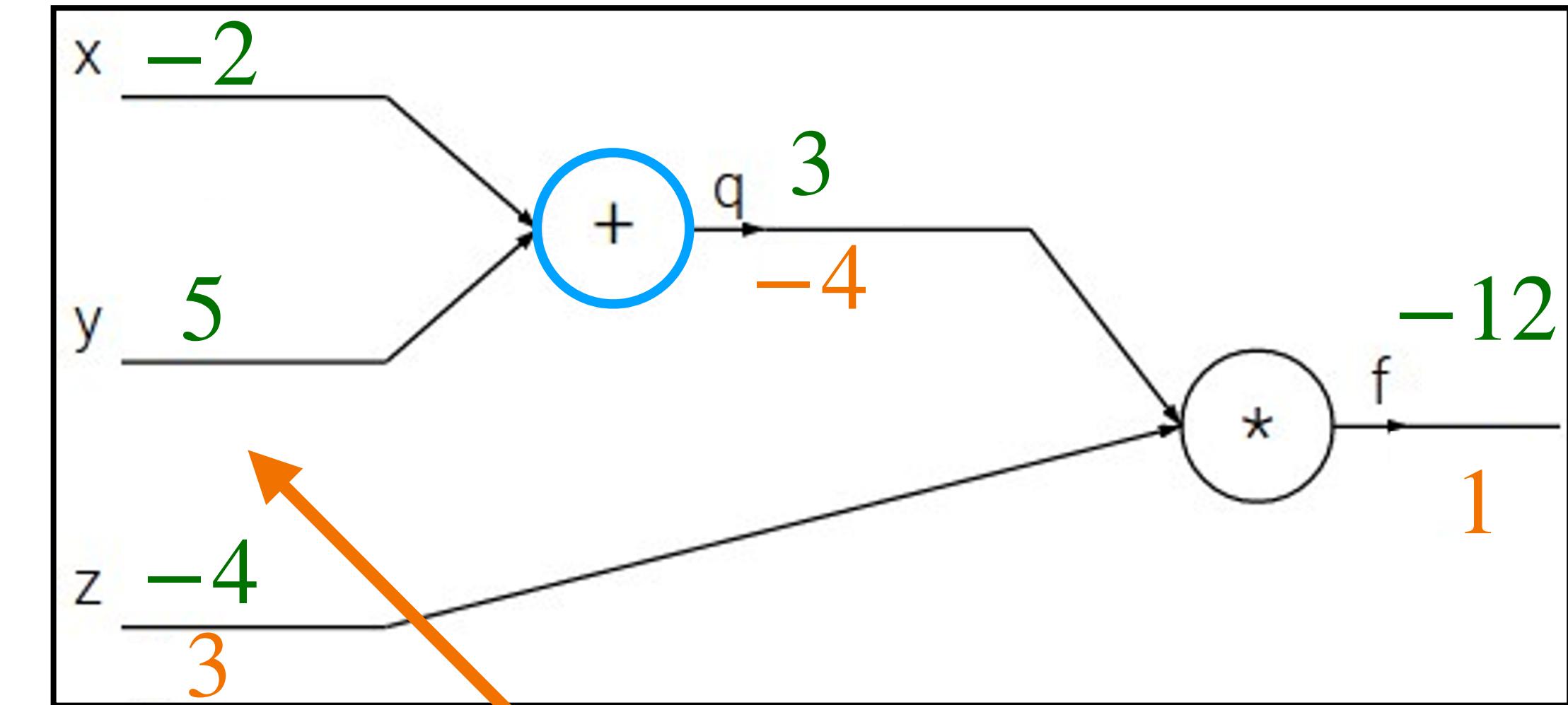
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$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \frac{\partial f}{\partial q}$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial y} = 1$$

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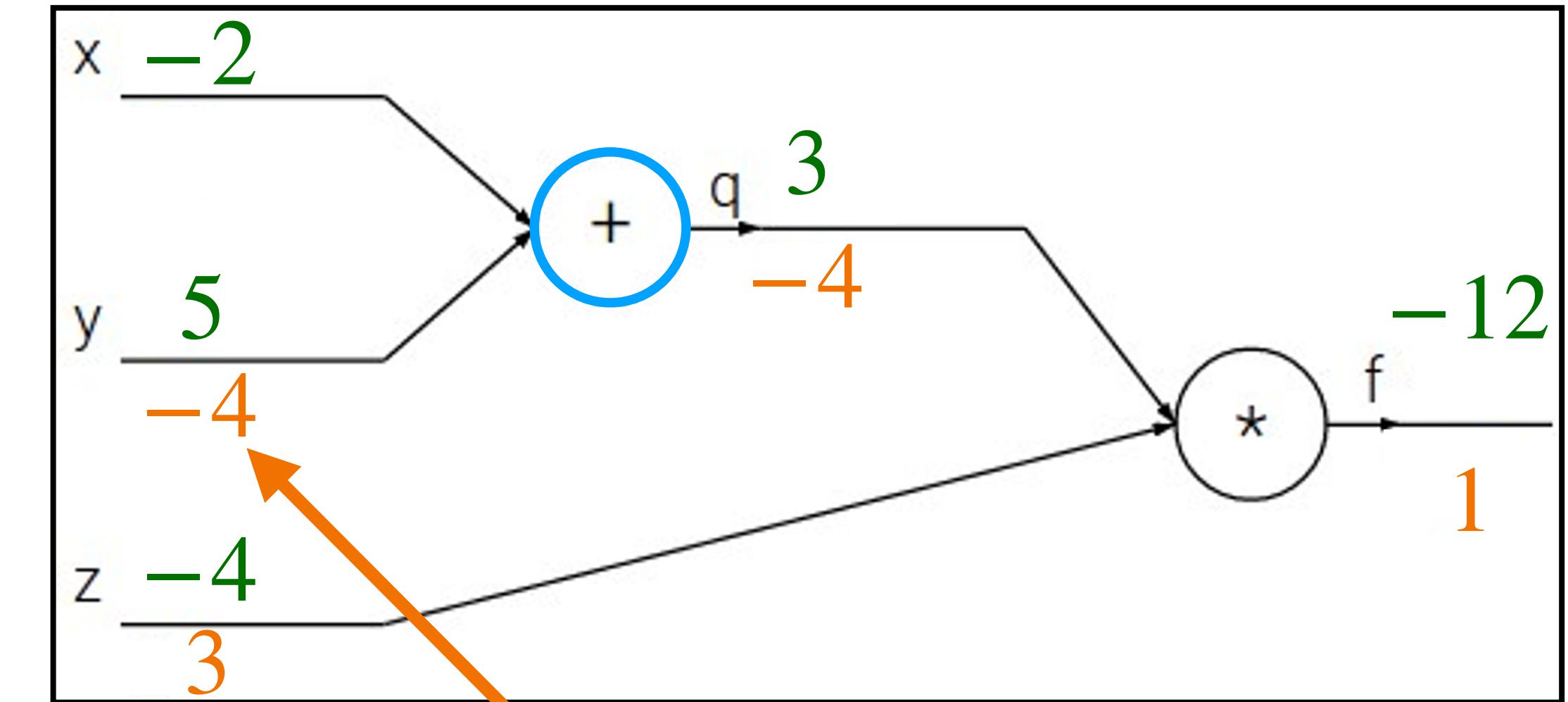
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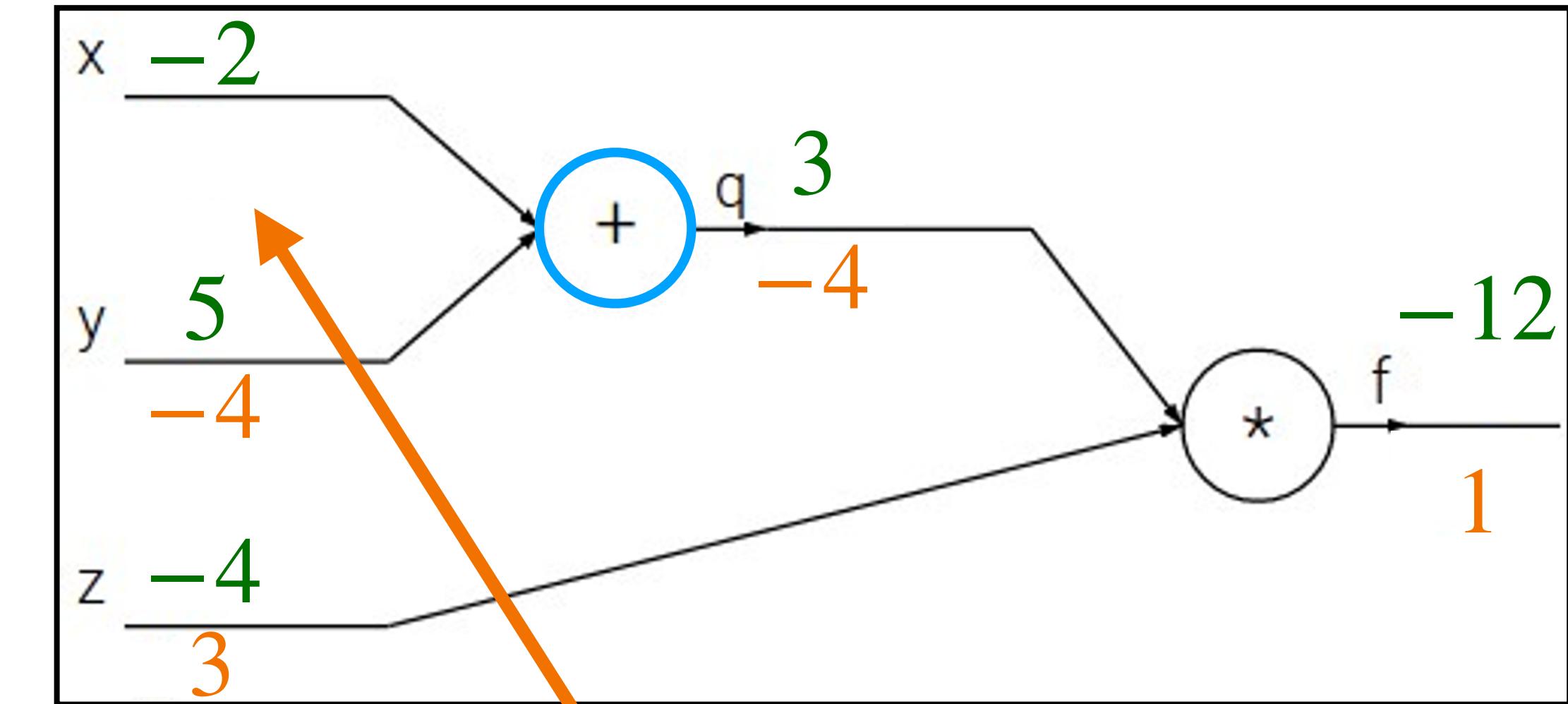
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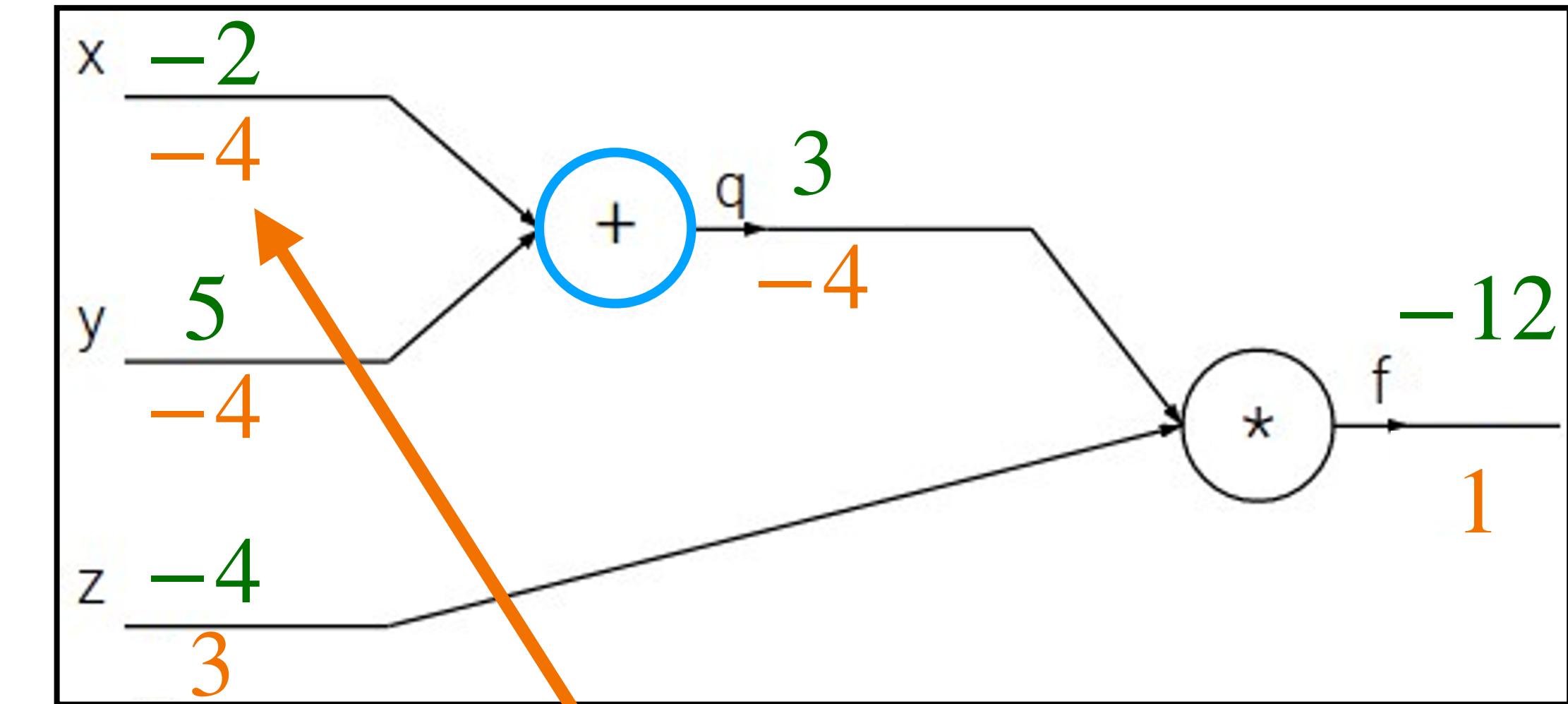
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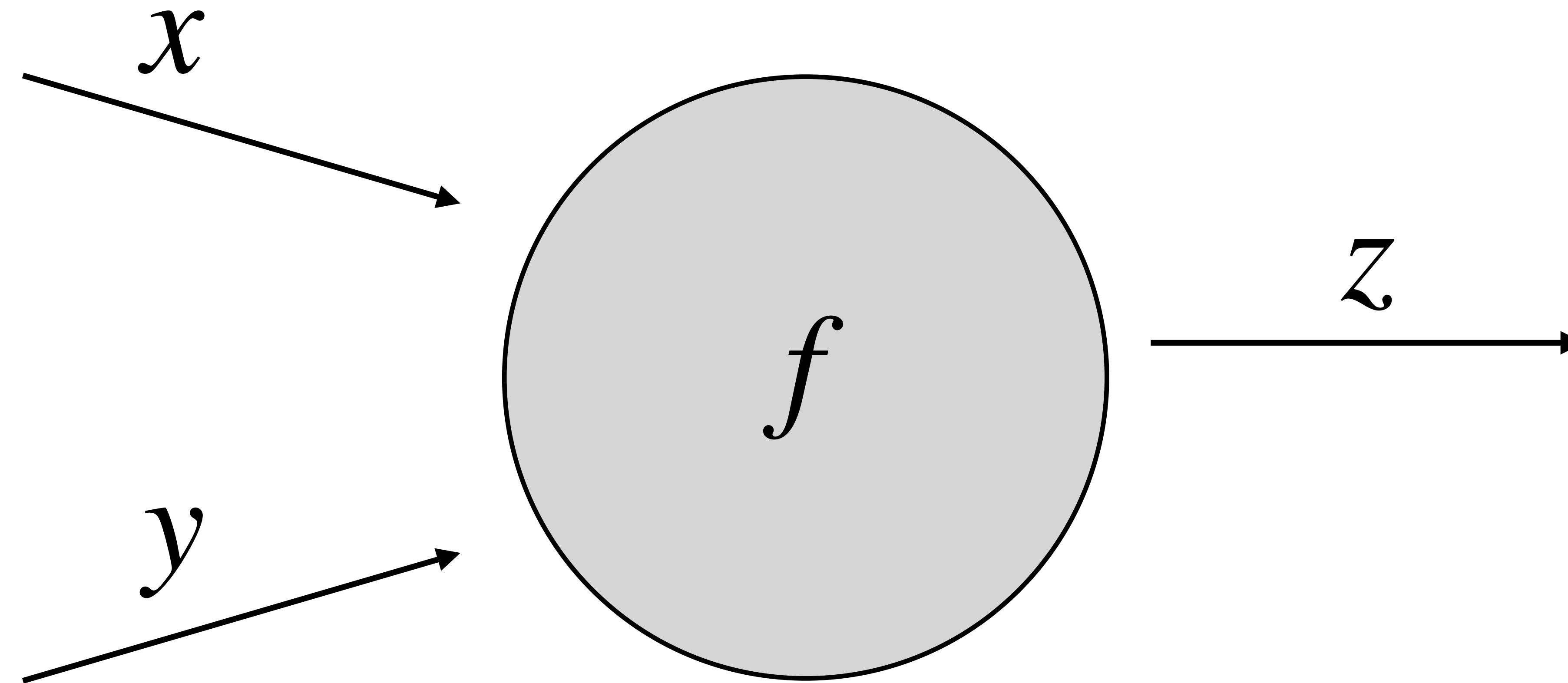
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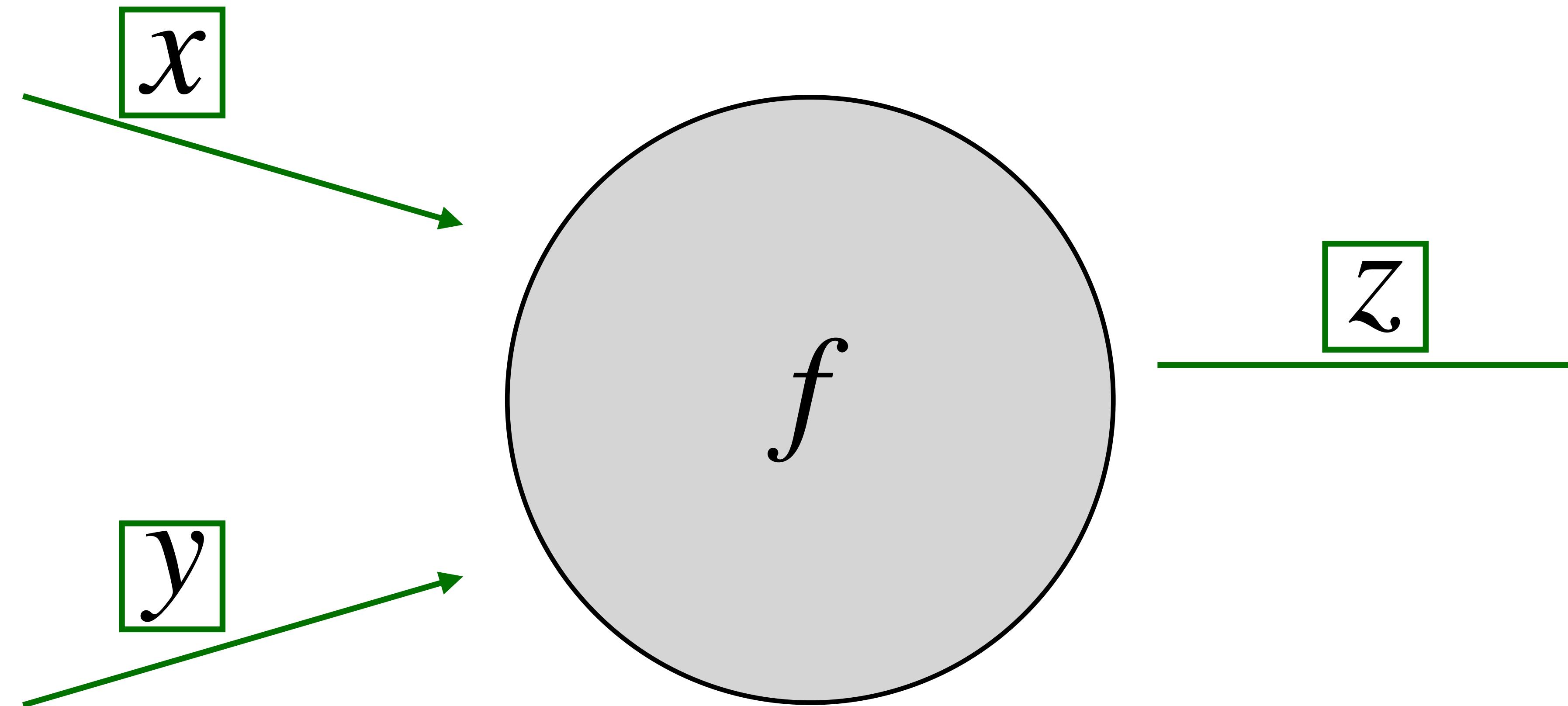
# Local Properties of Backpropagation

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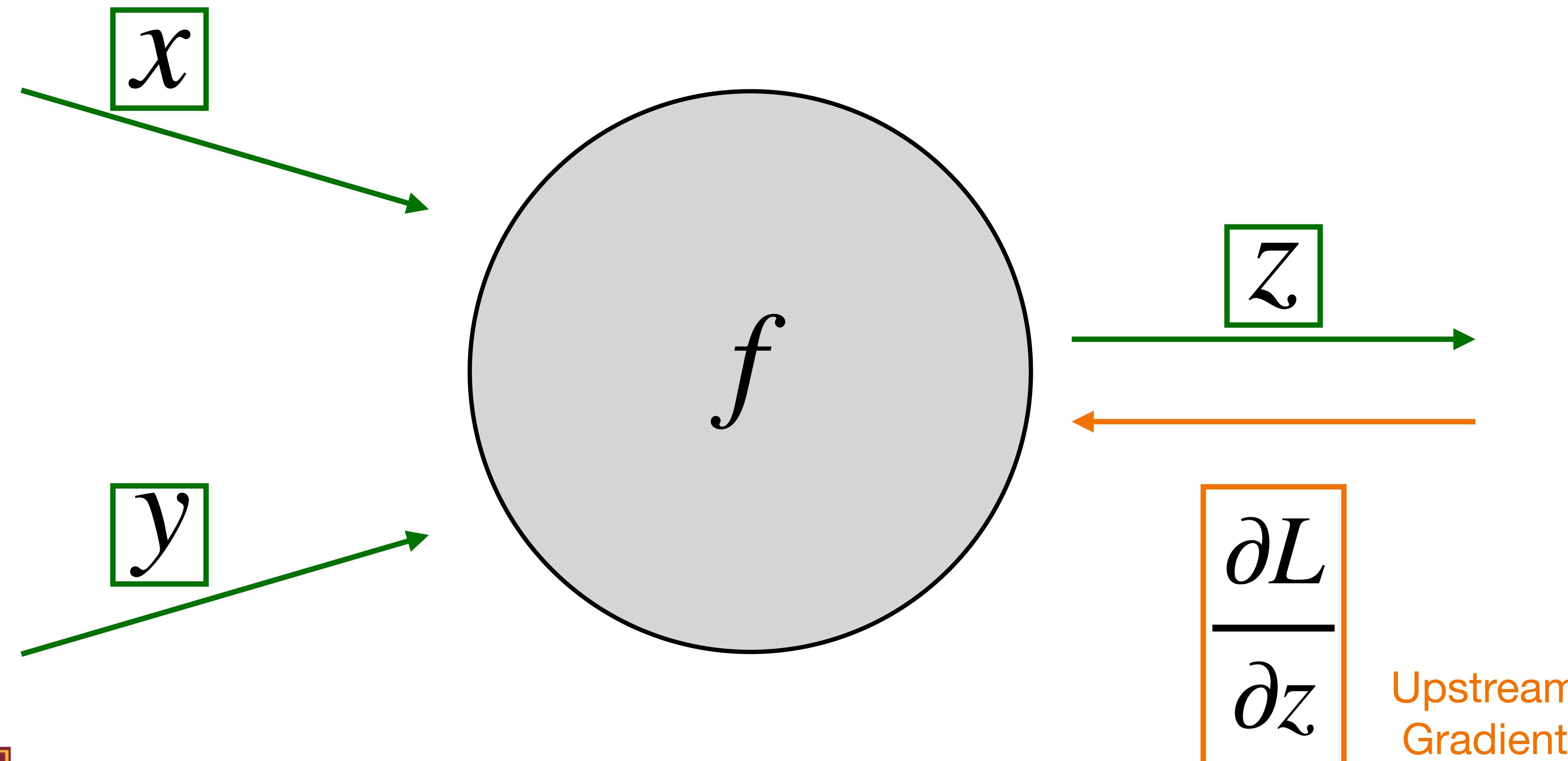


# Local Properties of Backpropagation

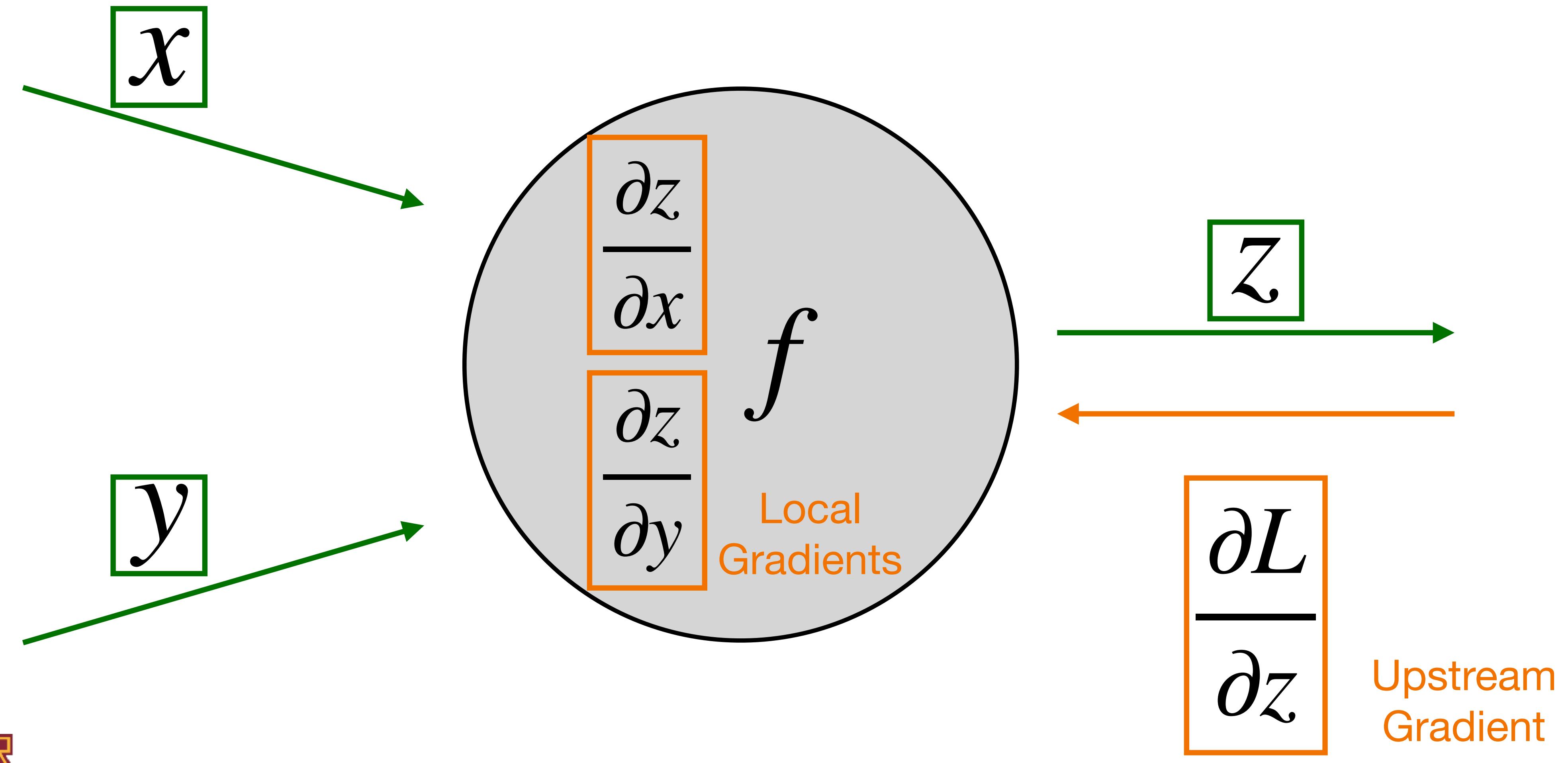
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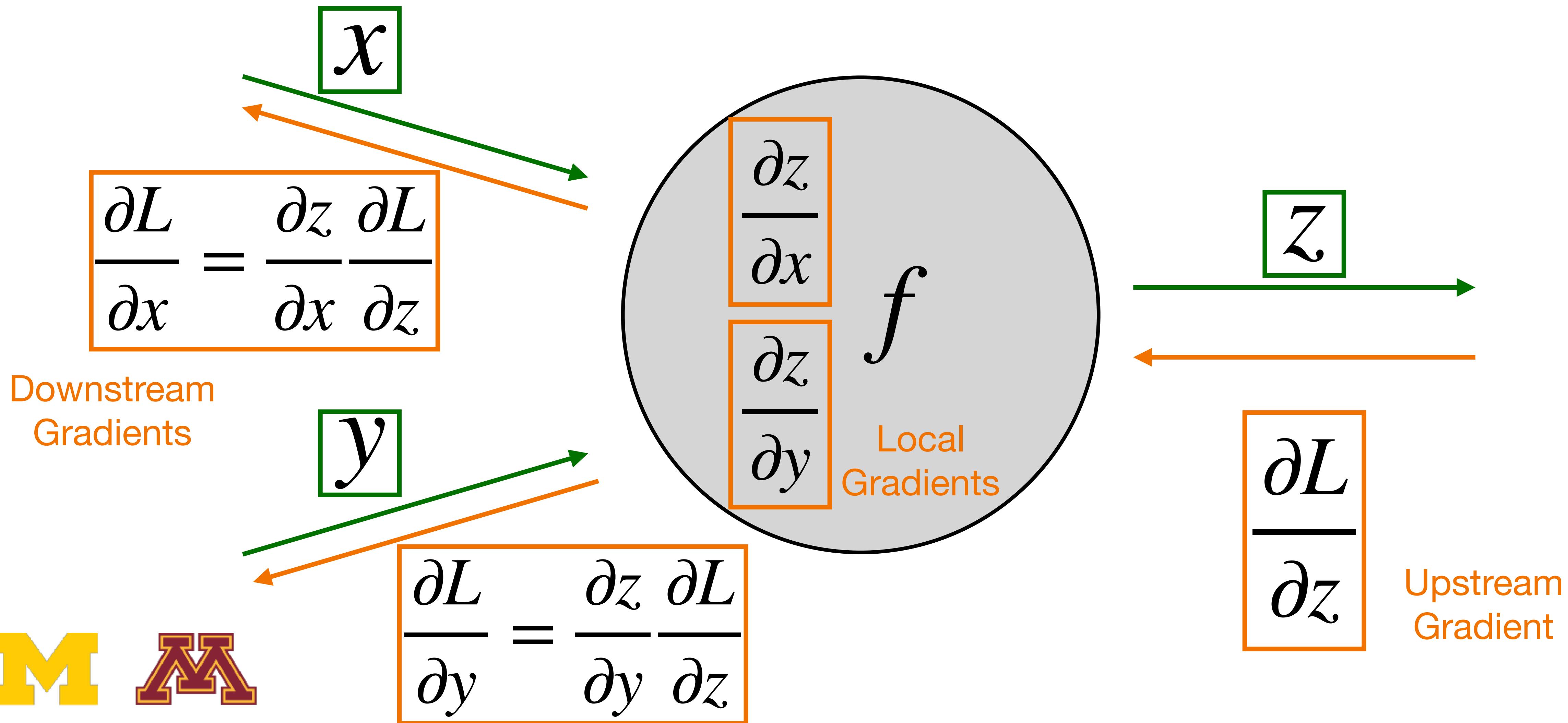
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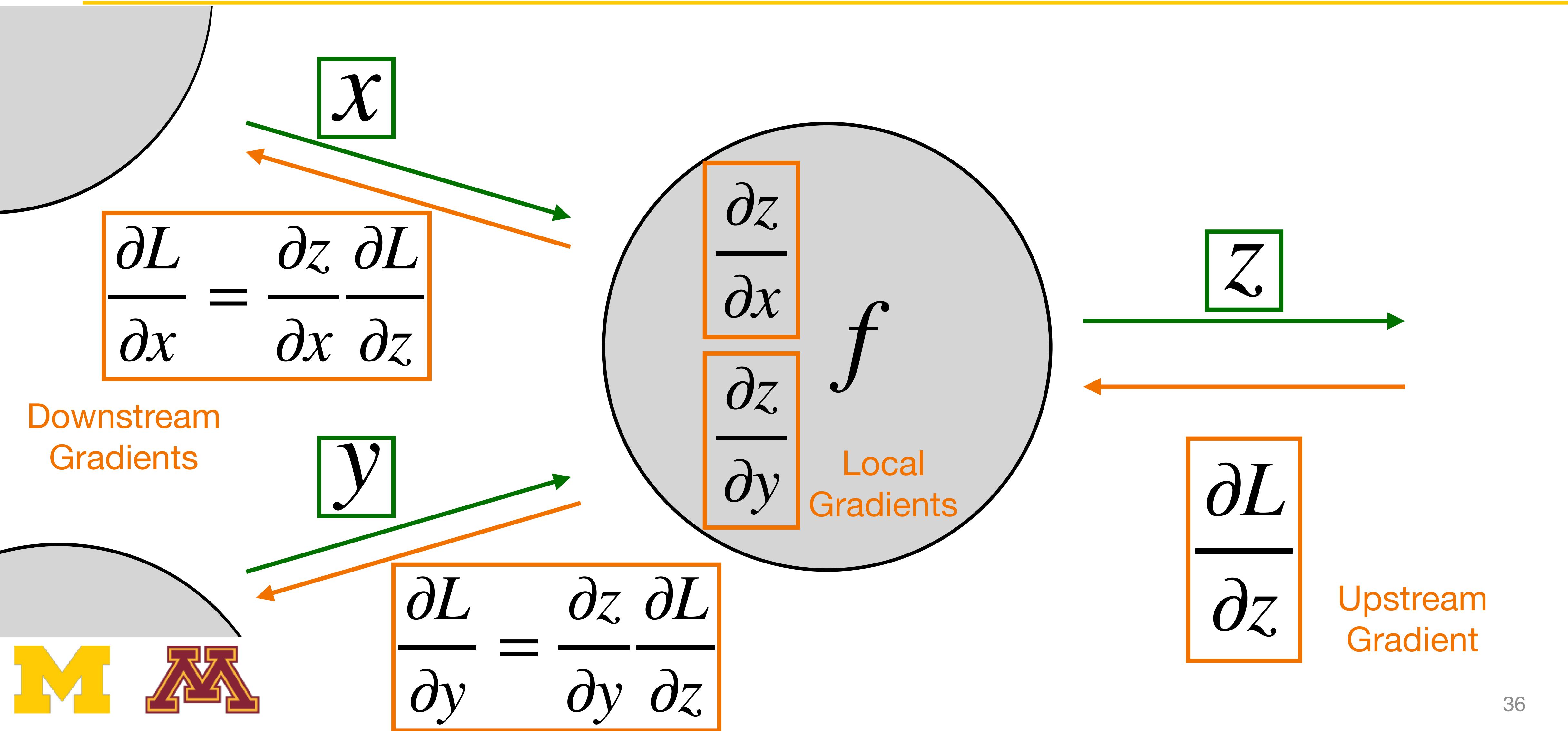
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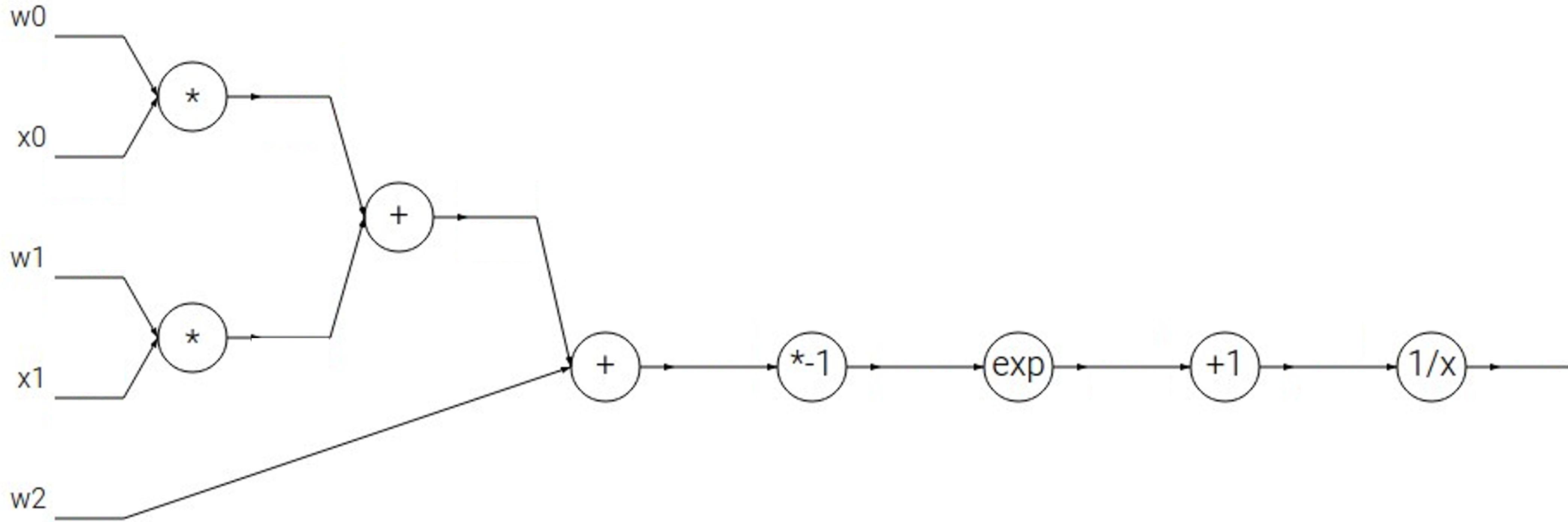
# Another example

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$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

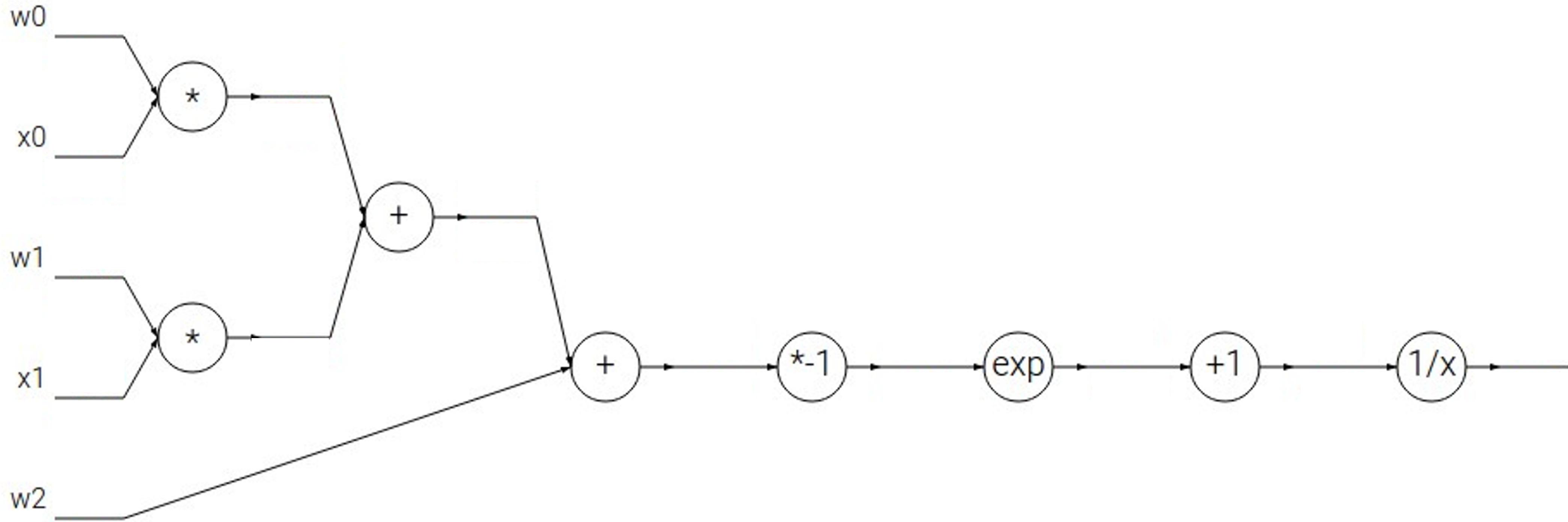
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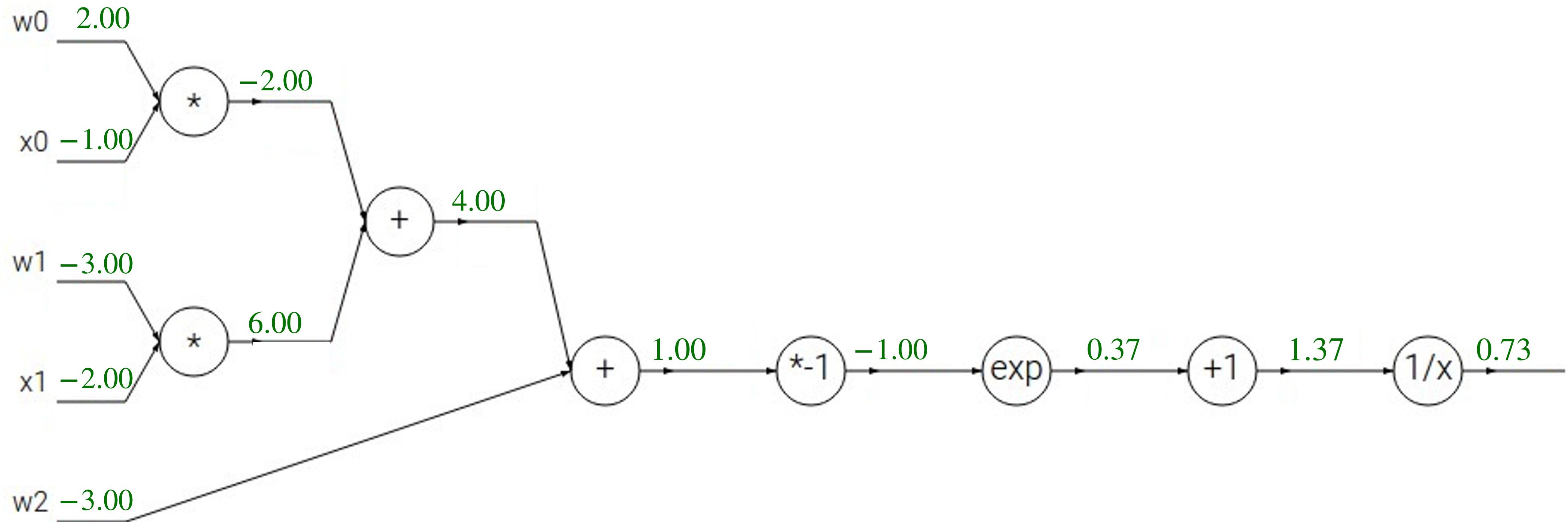
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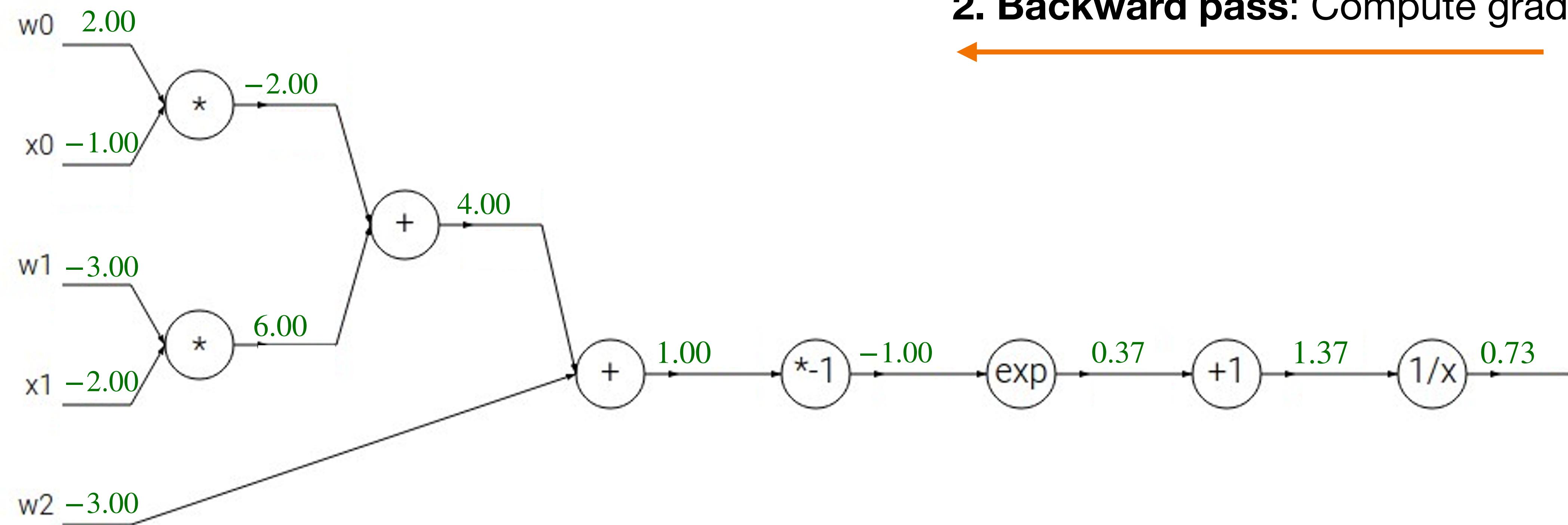
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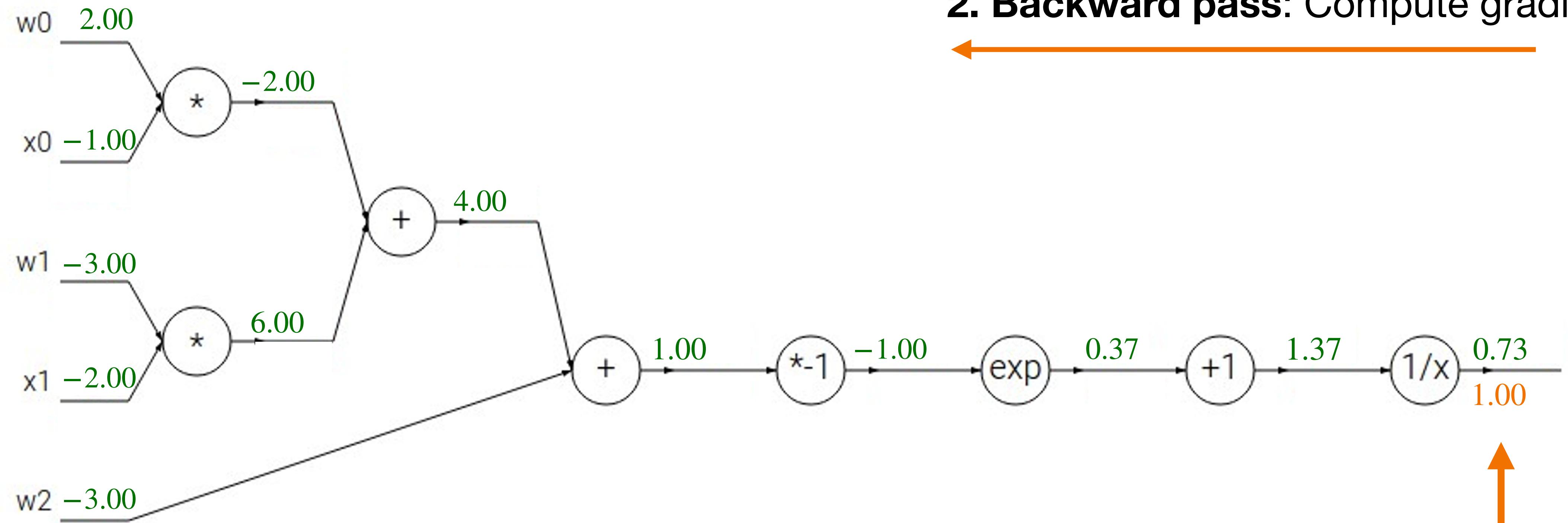
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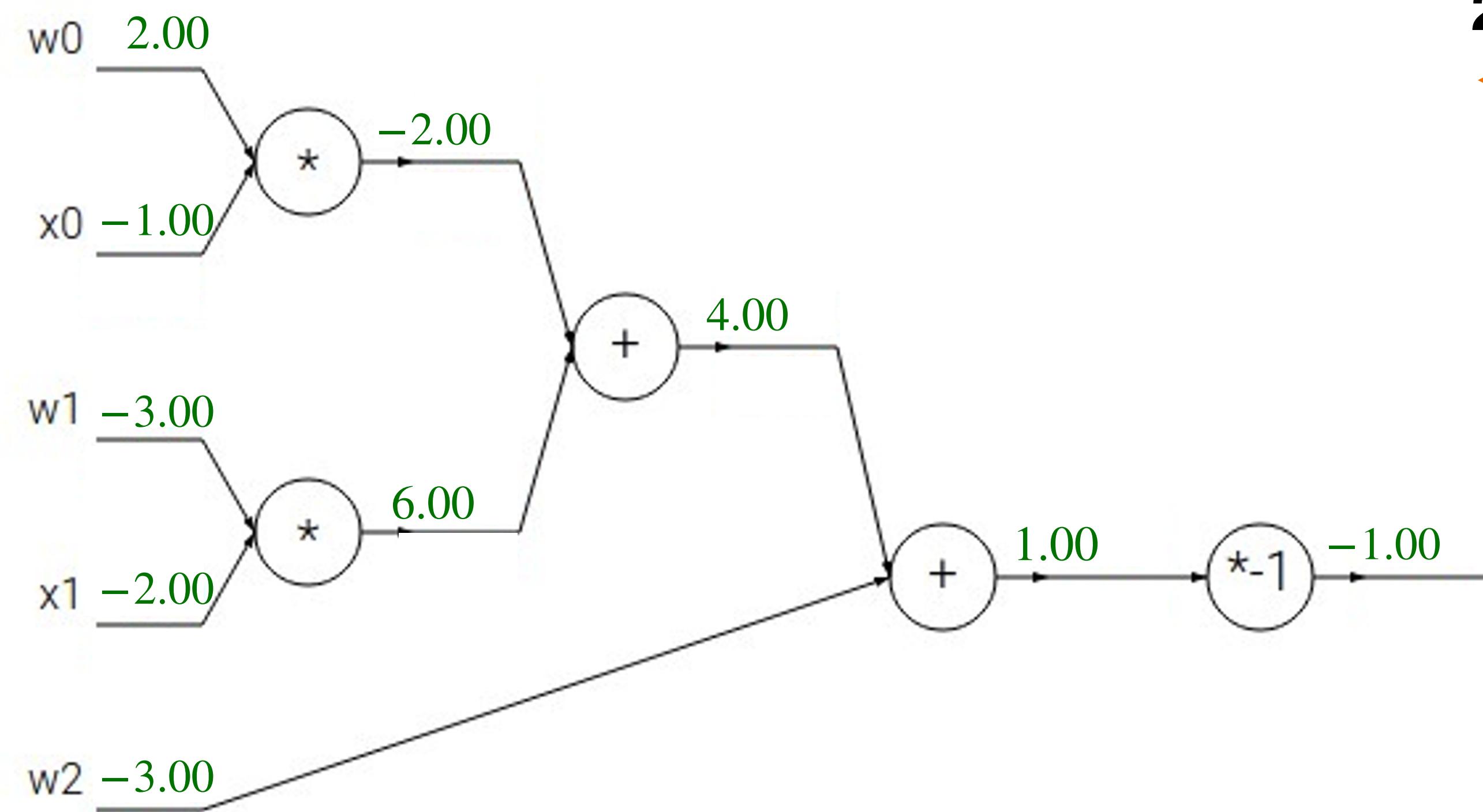
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# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs



**2. Backward pass:** Compute gradients



Local Gradient

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ \frac{1}{x} \right] = -\frac{1}{x^2}$$

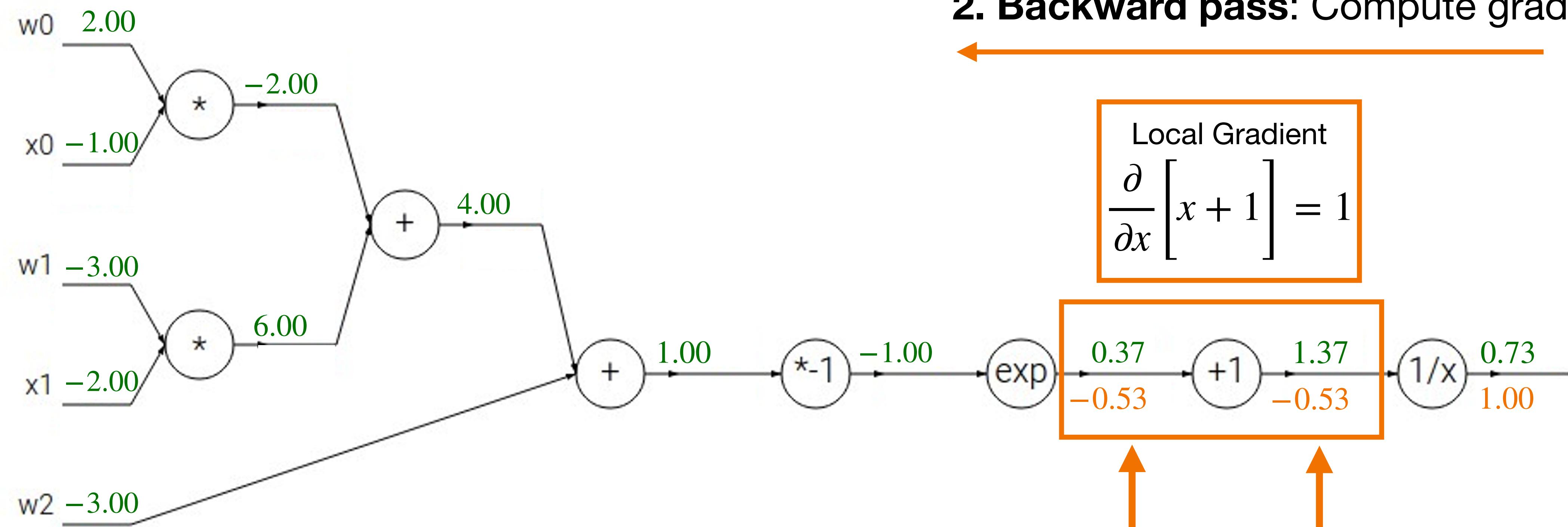
$$\begin{matrix} 1.37 \\ -0.53 \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} 0.73 \\ 1.00 \end{matrix}$$

Downstream  
Gradient

Upstream  
Gradient

# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

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Local Gradient

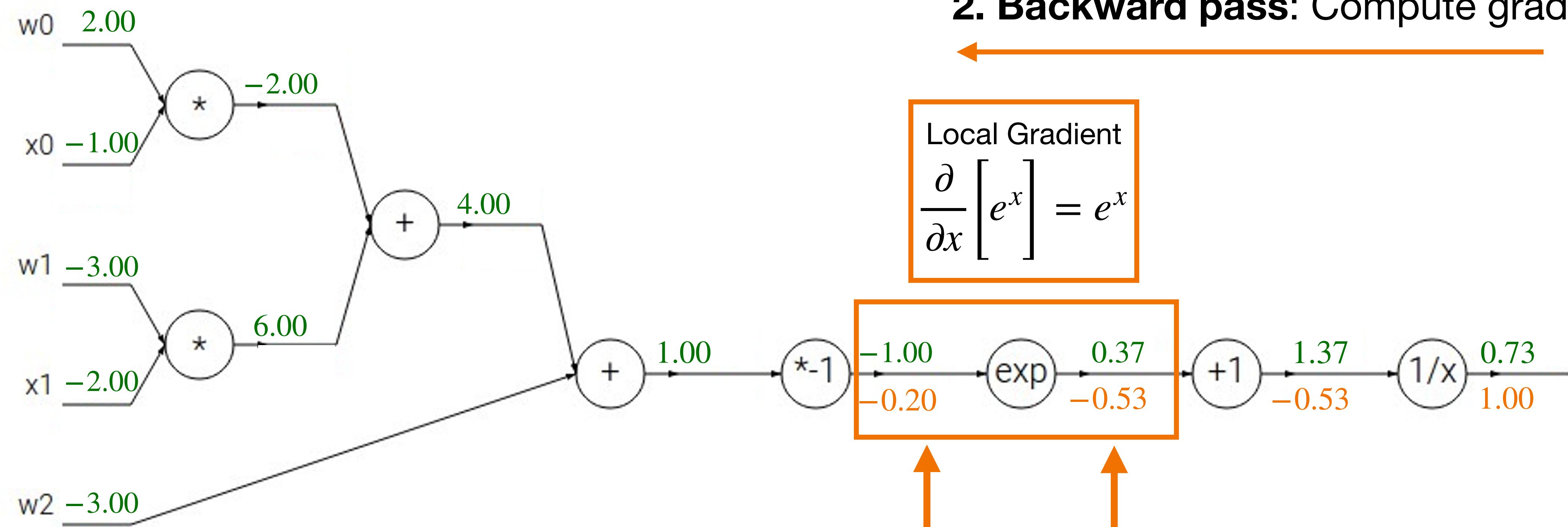
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [x + 1] = 1$$

Downstream Gradient

Upstream Gradient

# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

$$\begin{matrix} w_0 & 2.00 \\ x_0 & -1.00 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} w_1 & -3.00 \\ x_1 & -2.00 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} w_2 & -3.00 \end{matrix}$$

Local Gradient

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [-1 \cdot x] = -1$$

$$\begin{matrix} 1.00 & -1.00 \\ 0.20 & -0.20 \end{matrix}$$

Downstream  
Gradient

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

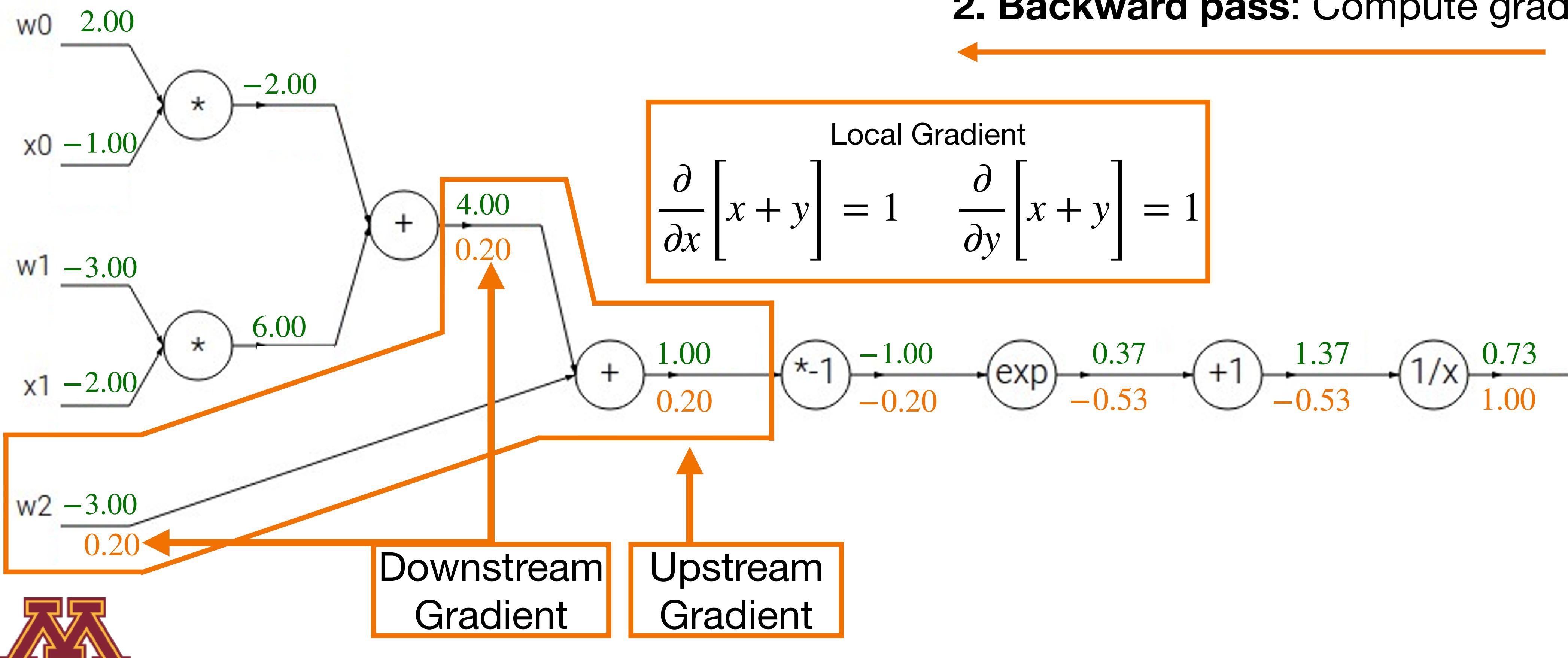
**2. Backward pass:** Compute gradients



Upstream  
Gradient

# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

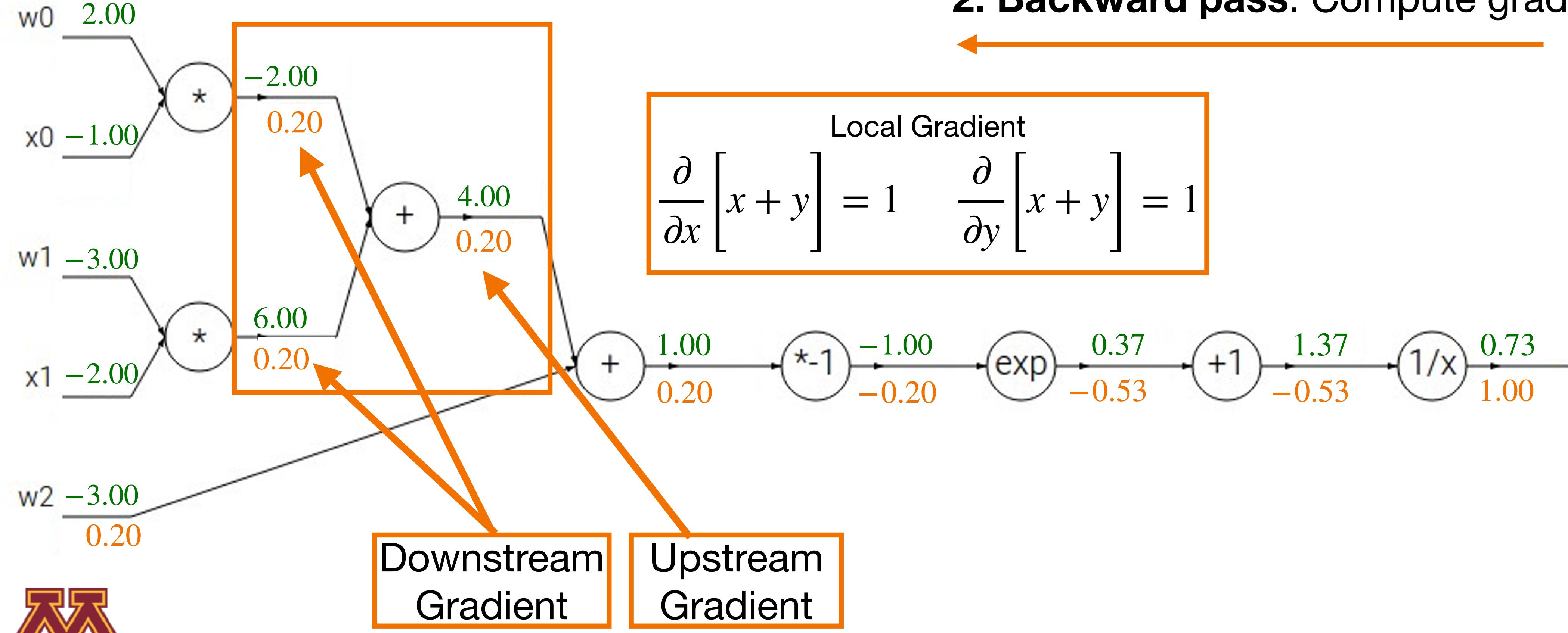


1. Forward pass: Compute outputs

2. Backward pass: Compute gradients

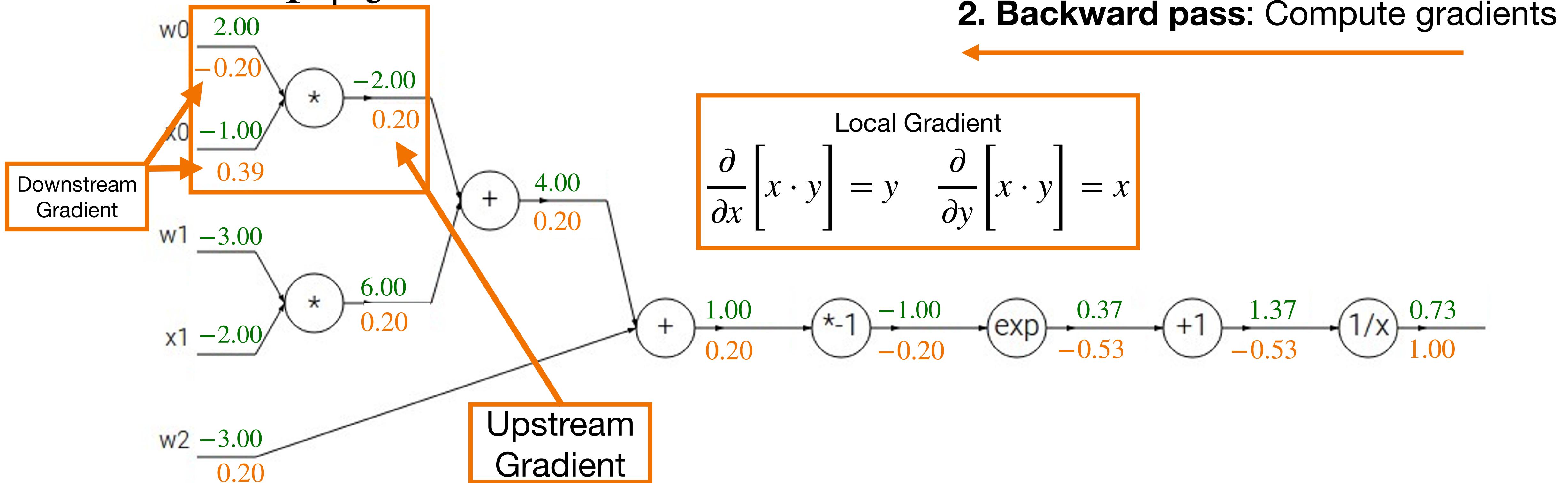
# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

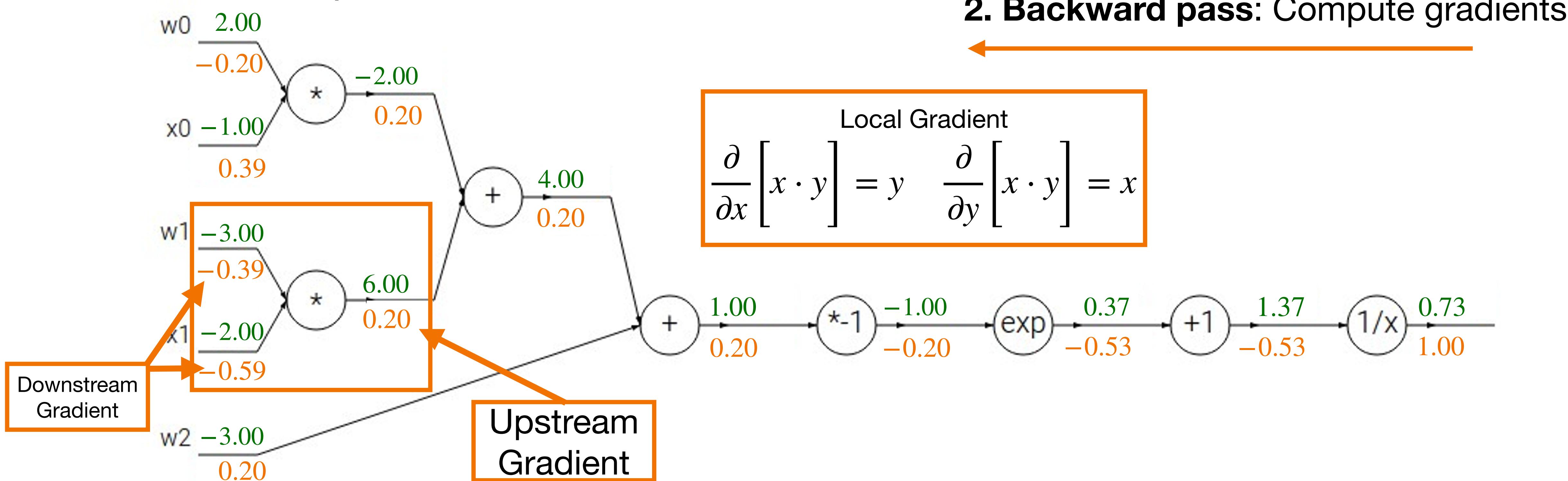


**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

**2. Backward pass:** Compute gradients

# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



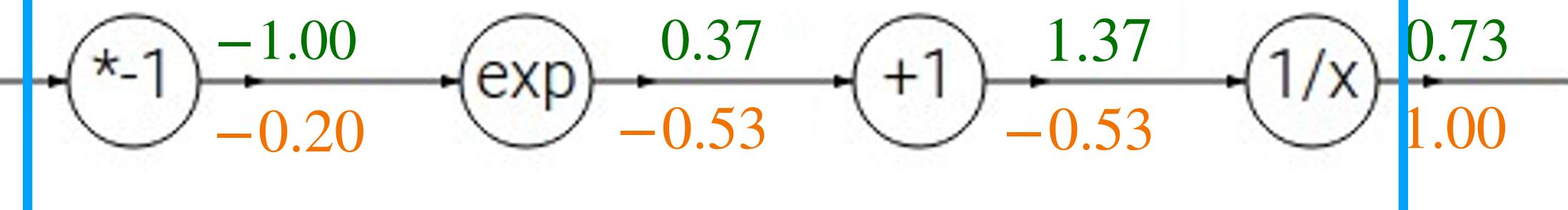
# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

$= \sigma(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)$

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

Sigmoid



**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

**2. Backward pass:** Compute gradients

Computational graph is not unique: we can use primitives that have simple local gradients

# Another example

The diagram illustrates the computation of a node's output  $f(x, w)$  using the sigmoid function. The input vector  $x = [x_0, x_1]$  and weight vector  $w = [w_0, w_1, w_2]$  are multiplied element-wise to produce intermediate values  $0.39$ ,  $0.20$ , and  $0.20$ . These values are then summed along with a bias of  $4.00$  to produce a final value of  $1.00$ .

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

$$= \sigma(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)$$

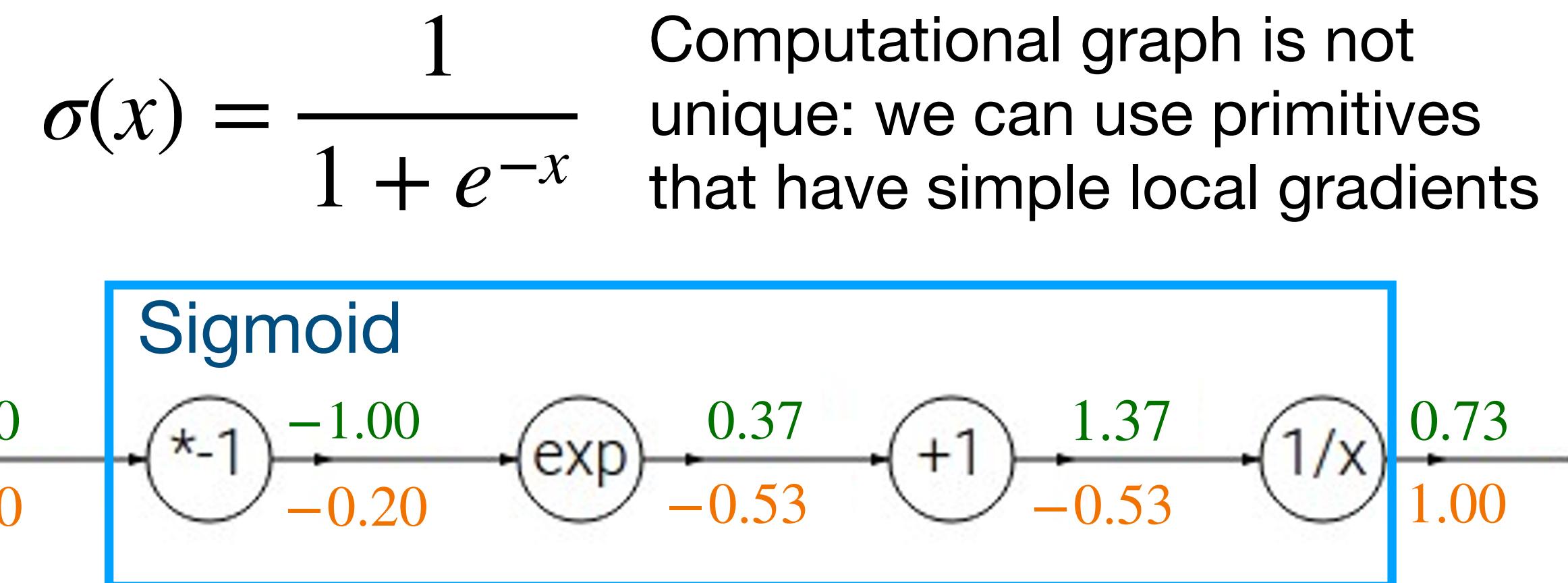
$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

**Sigma**

# 1. Forward pass: Compute outputs

## 2. Backward pass: Compute gradients

- Computational graph is not unique: we can use primitives that have simple local gradients



# Sigmoid local gradient:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ \sigma(x) \right] = \frac{e^{-x}}{(1 + e^{-x})^2} = \left( \frac{1 + e^{-x} - 1}{1 + e^{-x}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}} \right) = (1 - \sigma(x))\sigma(x)$$

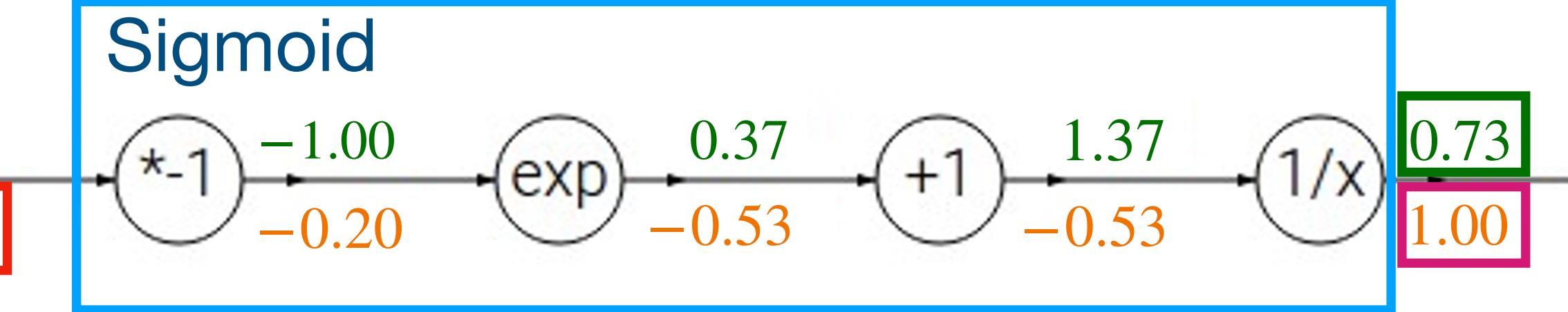
# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

$$= \sigma(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)$$

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

Sigmoid



[Downstream] = [Local] · [Upstream]

$$= (1 - 0.73) \cdot 0.73 \cdot 1.00 = 0.20$$

Sigmoid local  
gradient:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [\sigma(x)] = \frac{e^{-x}}{(1 + e^{-x})^2} = \left( \frac{1 + e^{-x} - 1}{1 + e^{-x}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}} \right) = (1 - \sigma(x))\sigma(x)$$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

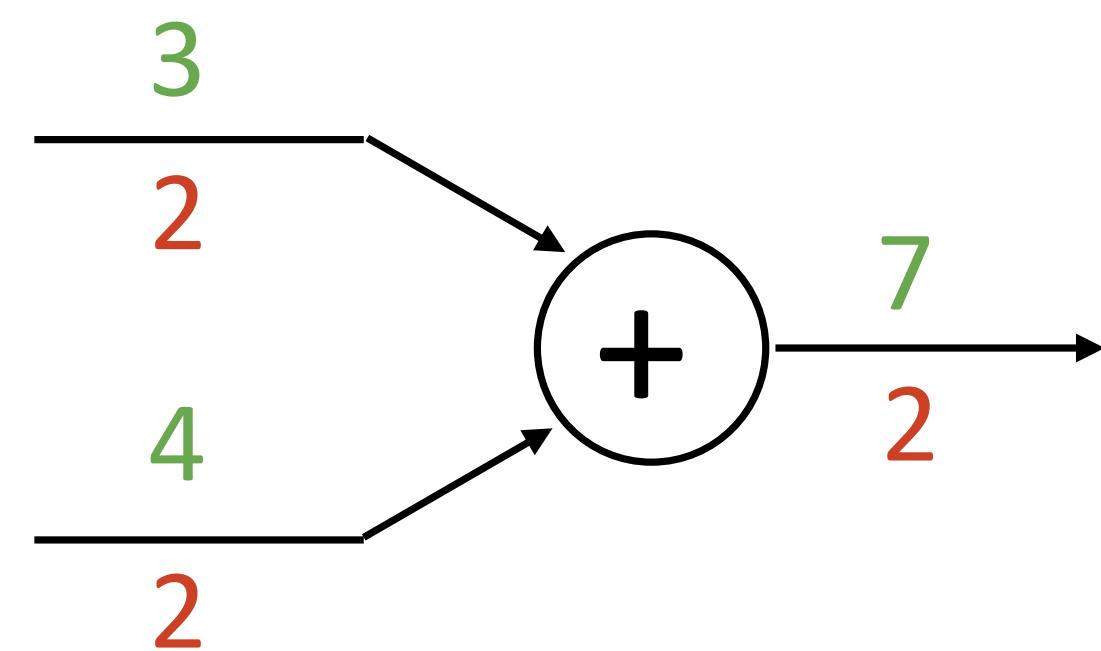
**2. Backward pass:** Compute gradients

Computational graph is not unique: we can use primitives that have simple local gradients

# Patterns in Gradient Flow

---

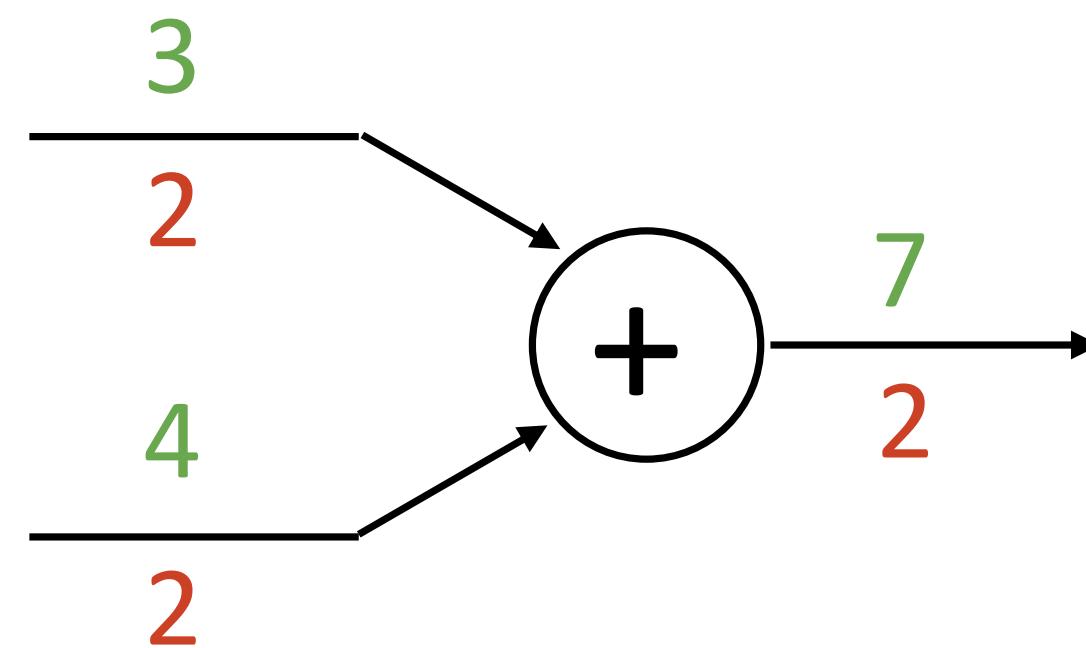
add gate: gradient distributor



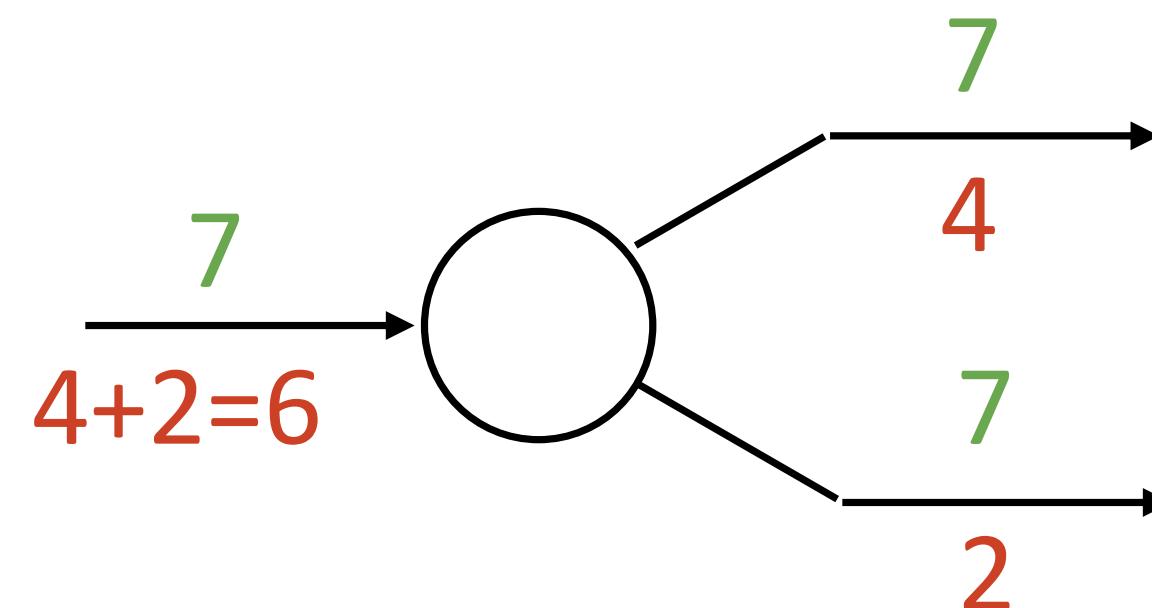
# Patterns in Gradient Flow

---

**add gate: gradient distributor**

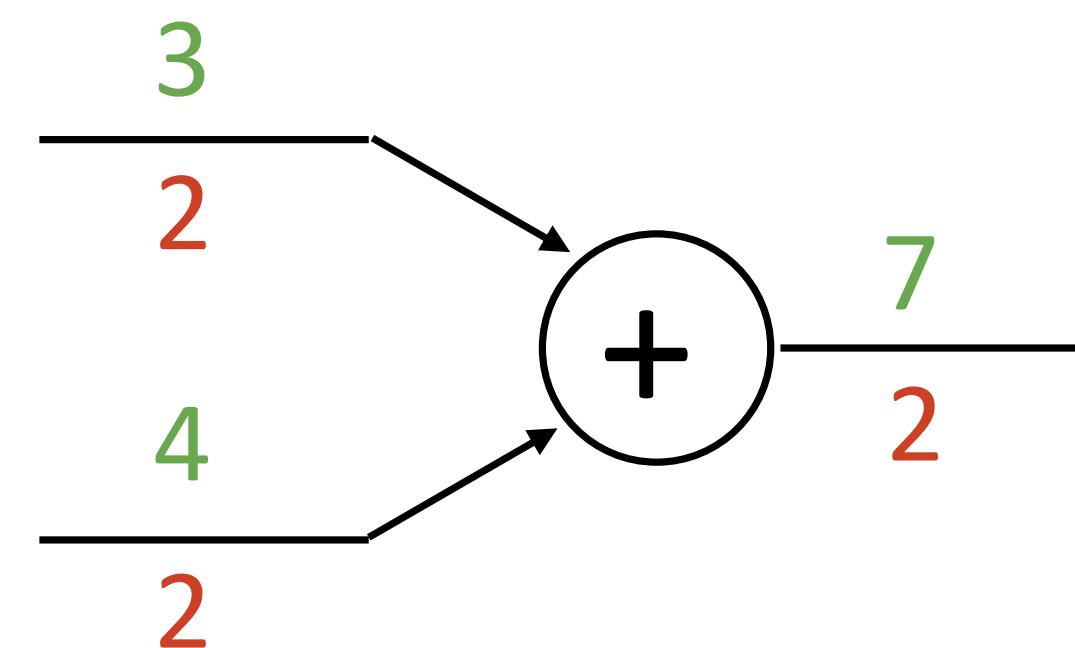


**copy gate: gradient adder**

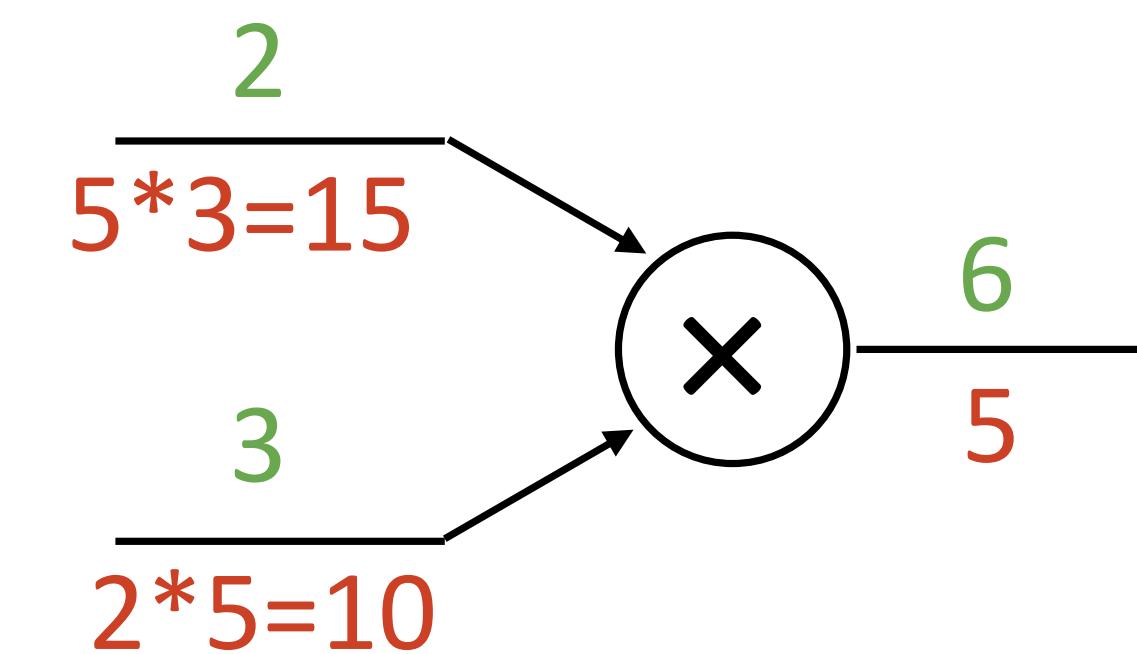


# Patterns in Gradient Flow

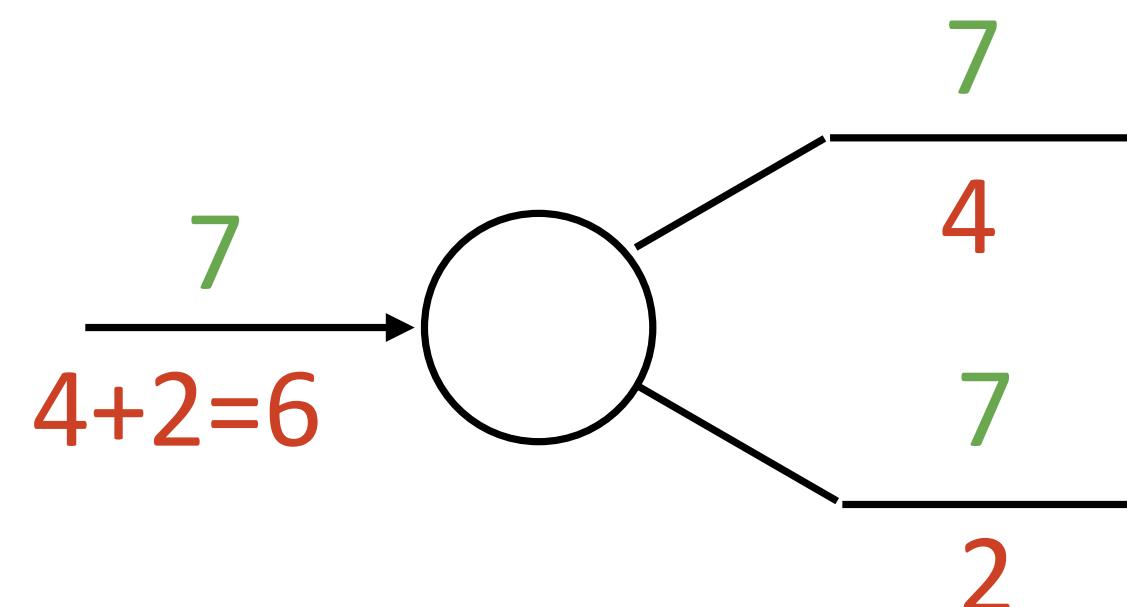
**add gate: gradient distributor**



**mul gate: “swap multiplier”**

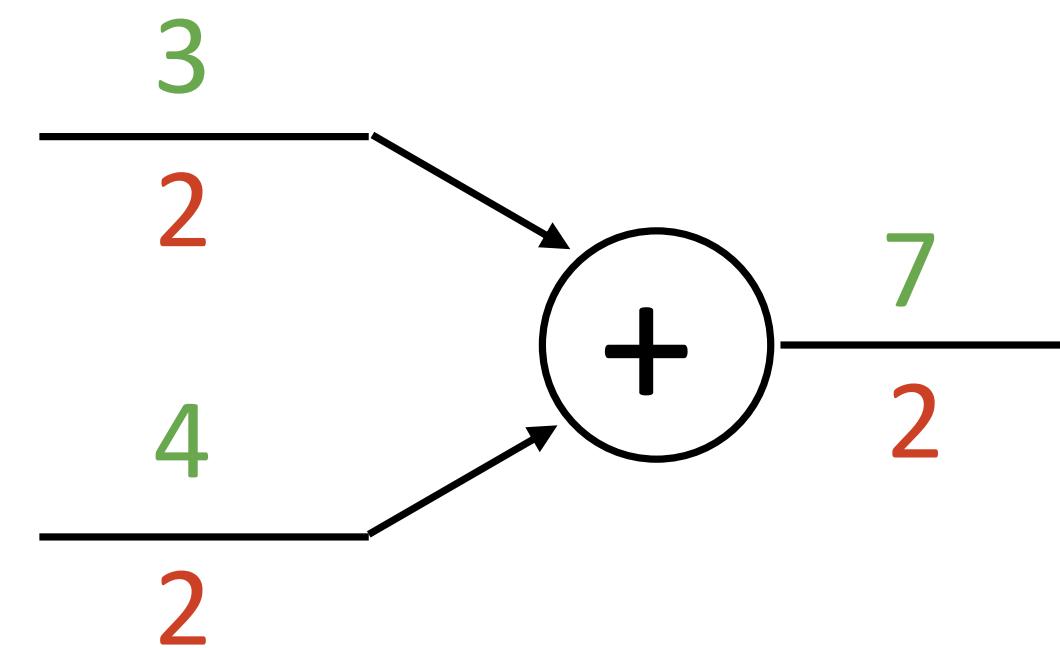


**copy gate: gradient adder**

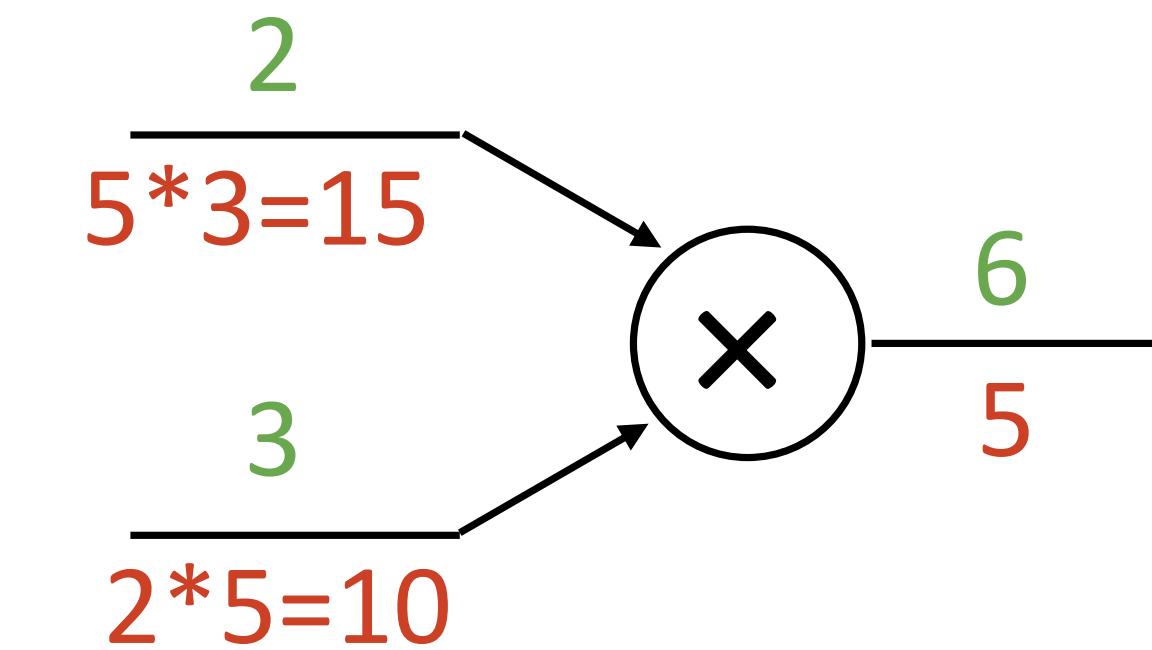


# Patterns in Gradient Flow

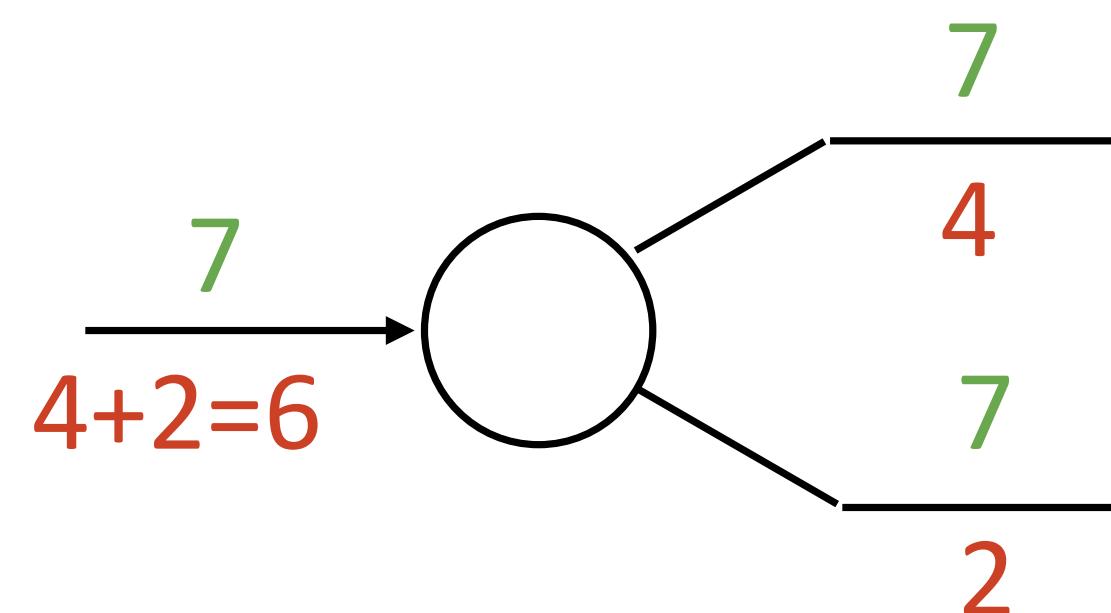
**add gate: gradient distributor**



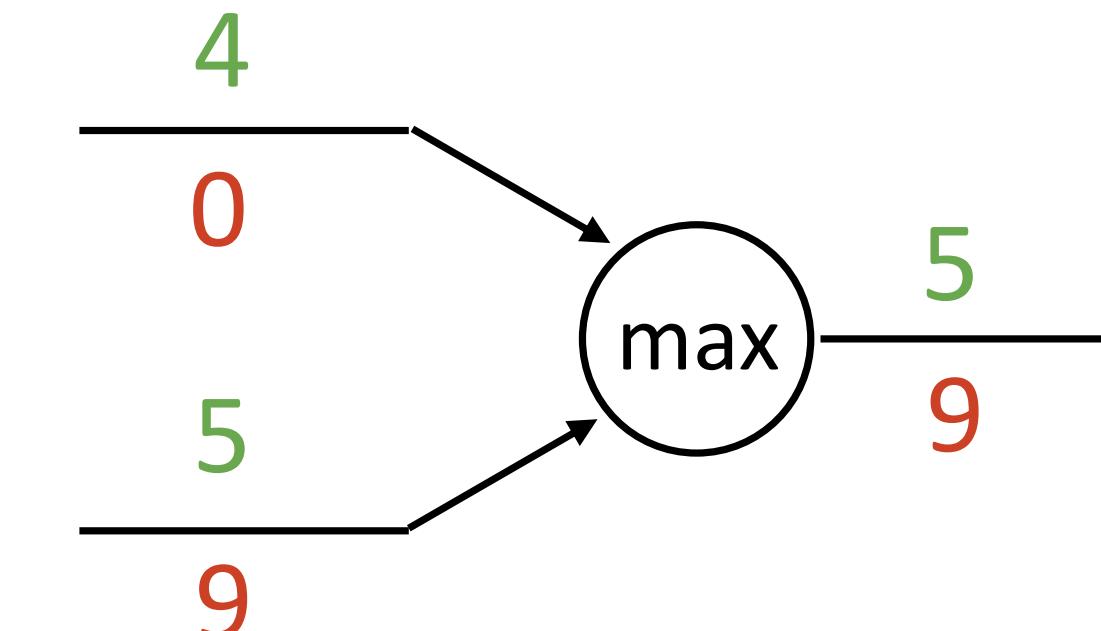
**mul gate: “swap multiplier”**



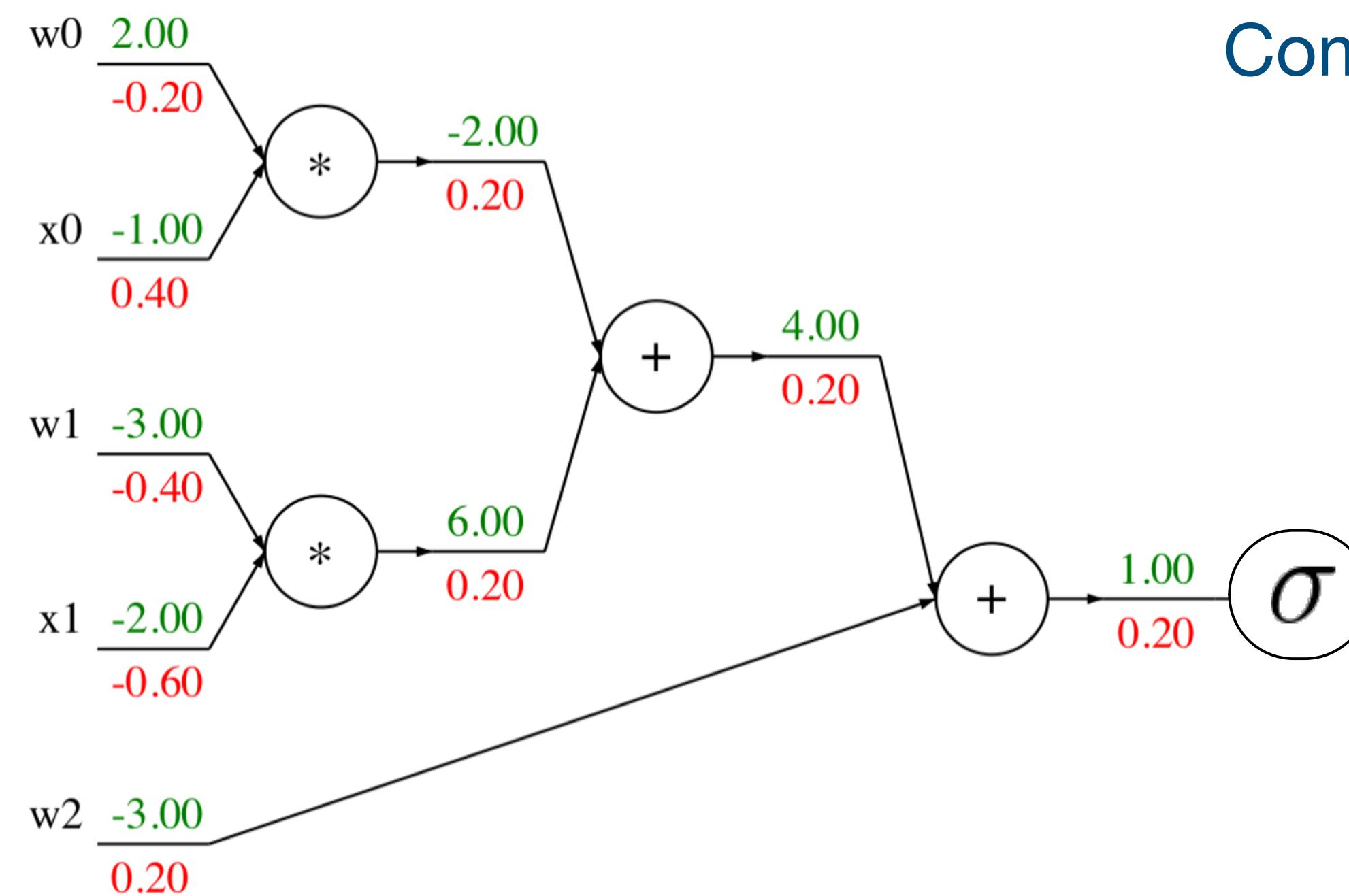
**copy gate: gradient adder**



**max gate: gradient router**



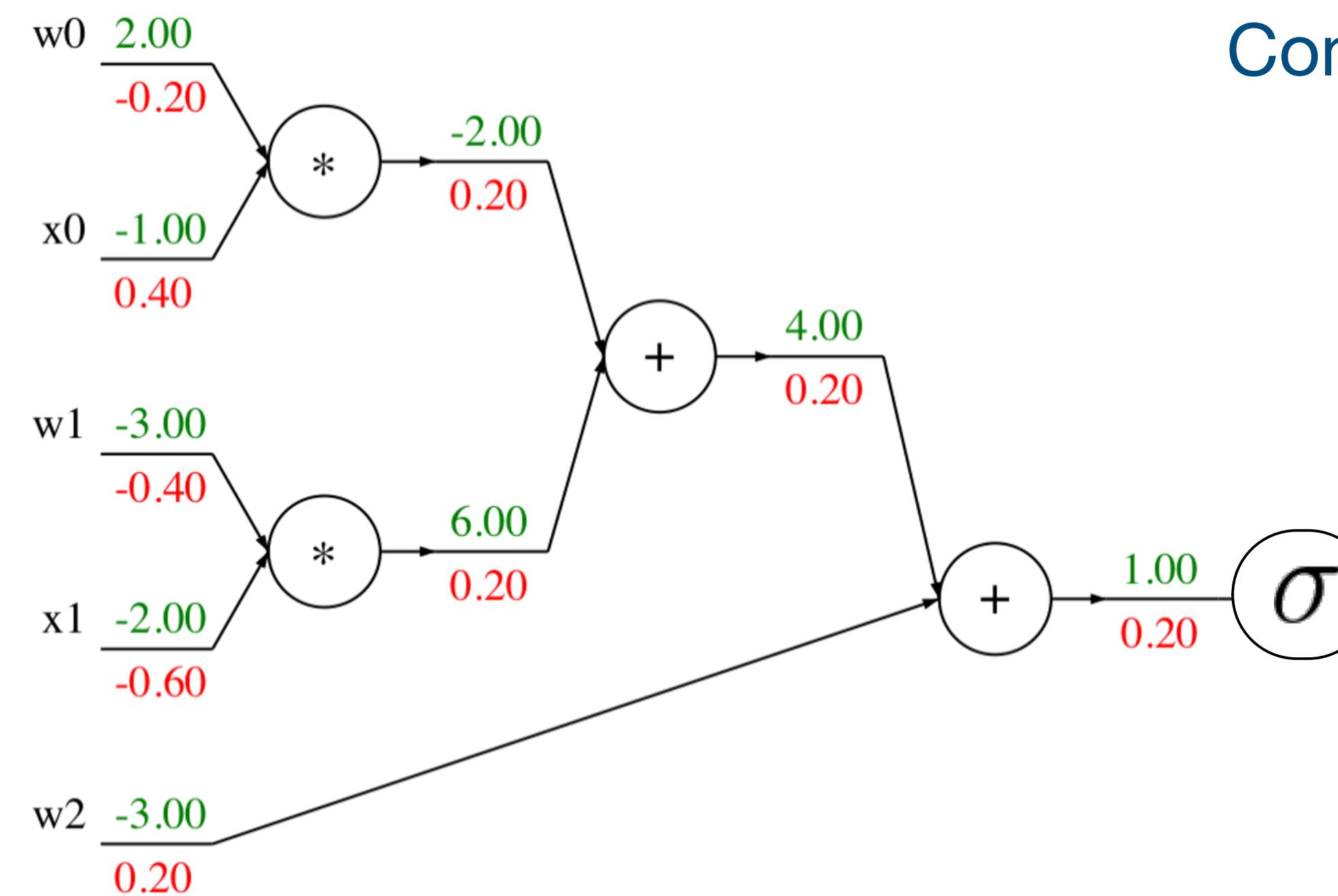
# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):  
    s0 = w0 * x0  
    s1 = w1 * x1  
    s2 = s0 + s1  
    s3 = s2 + w2  
    L = sigmoid(s3)
```

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



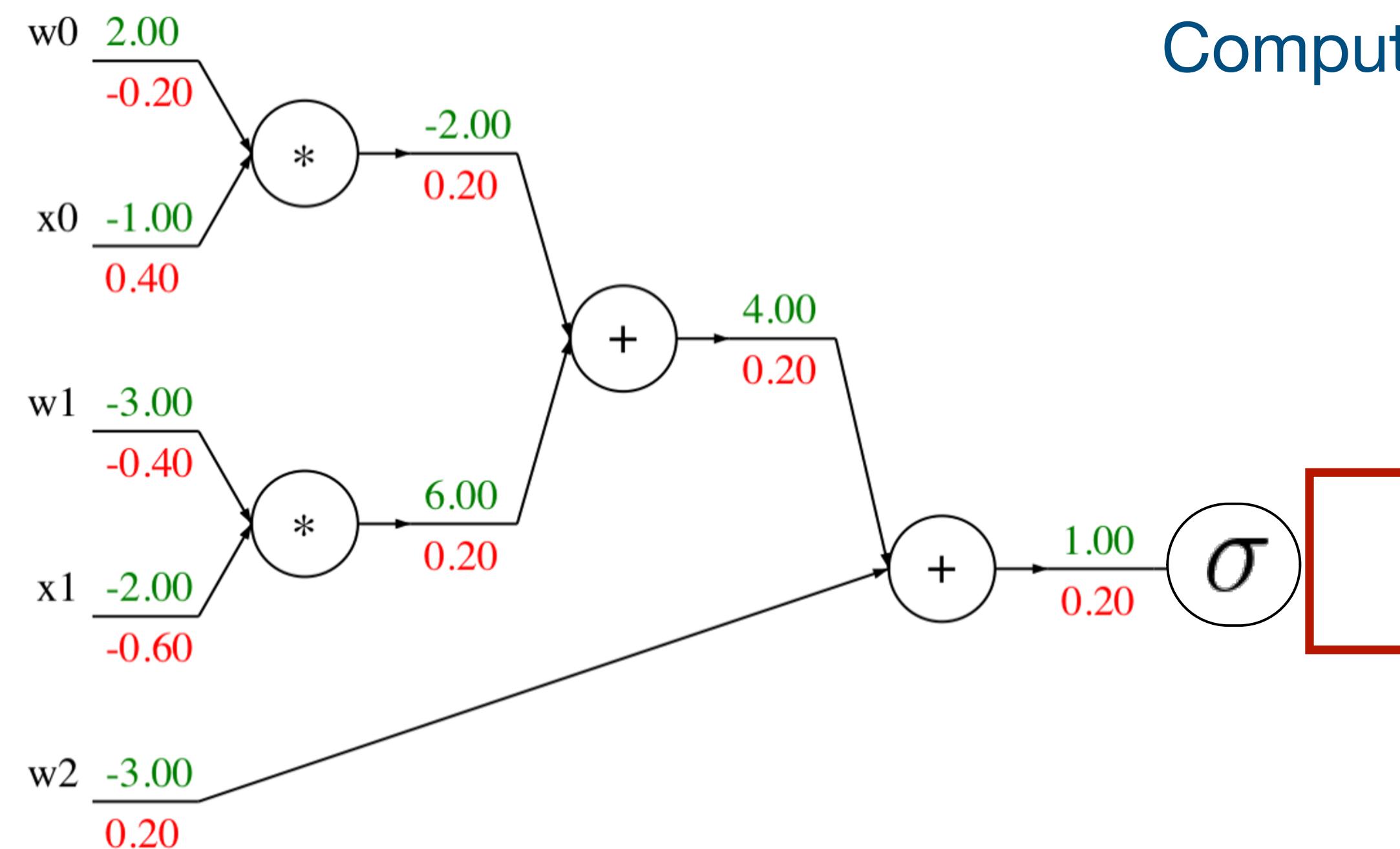
**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)
```

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

```
grad_L = 1.0
grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
grad_w2 = grad_s3
grad_s2 = grad_s3
grad_s0 = grad_s2
grad_s1 = grad_s2
grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

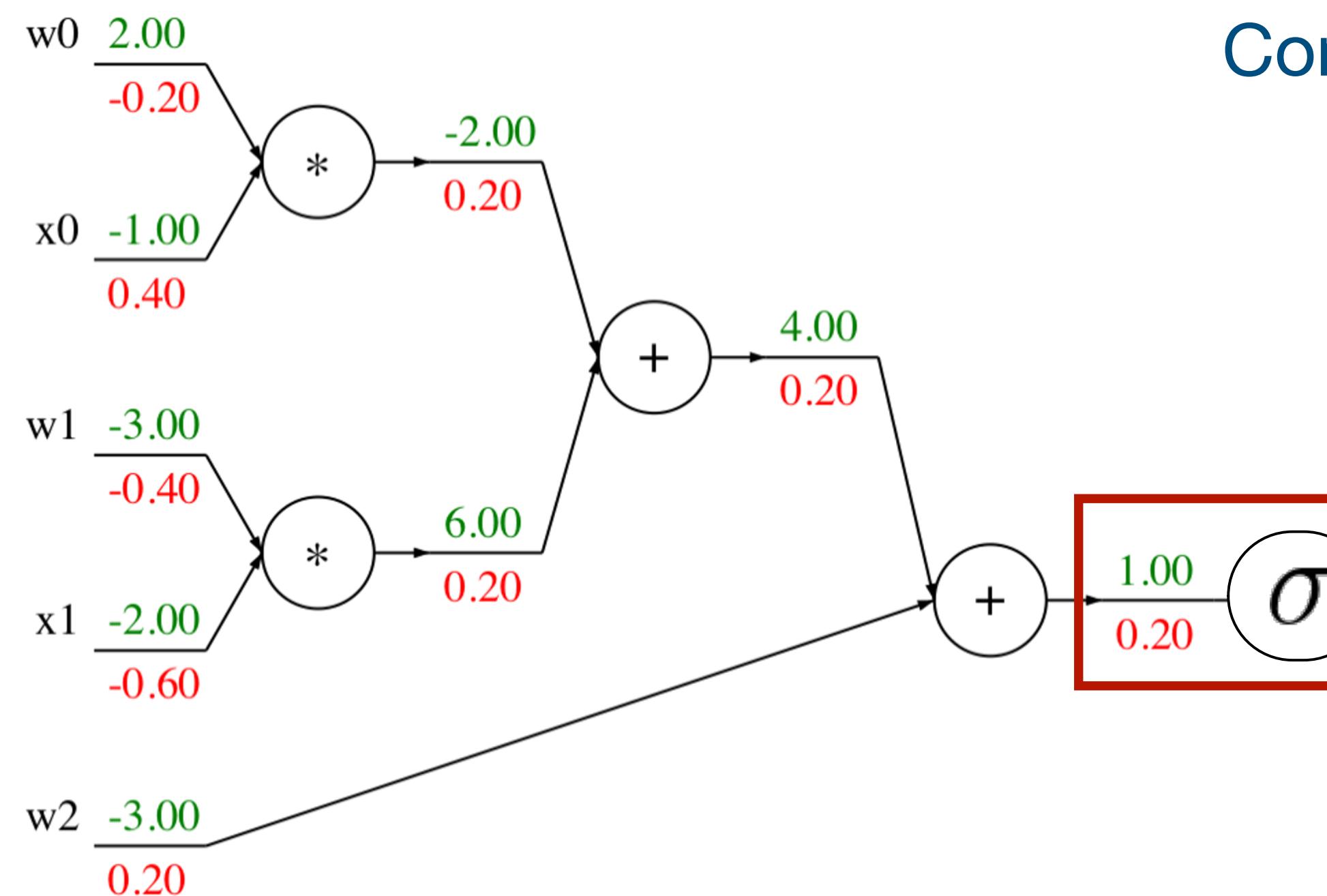
```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)
```

Base case

```
grad_L = 1.0
grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
grad_w2 = grad_s3
grad_s2 = grad_s3
grad_s0 = grad_s2
grad_s1 = grad_s2
grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

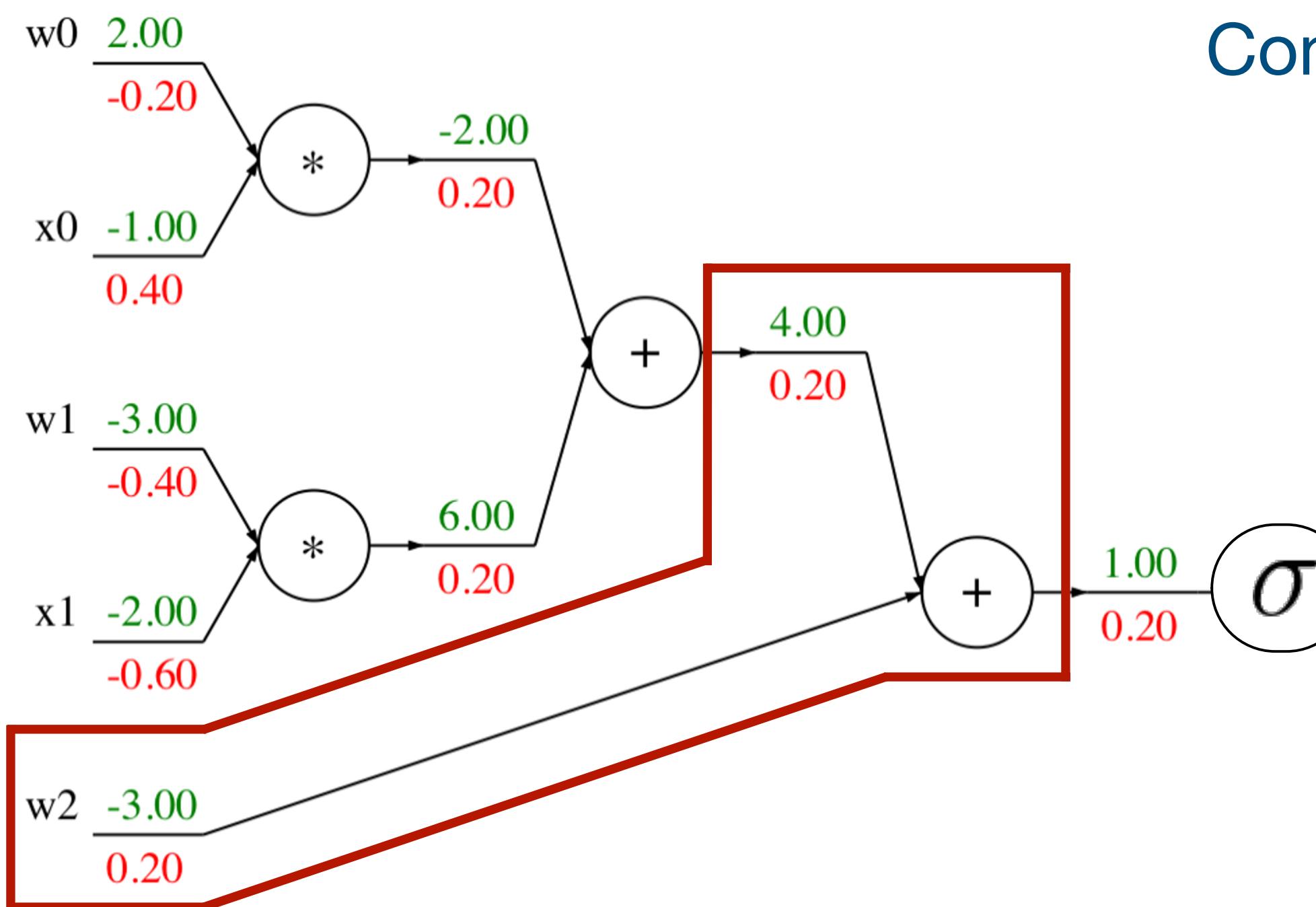
Sigmoid

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)

grad_L = 1.0
grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
grad_w2 = grad_s3
grad_s2 = grad_s3
grad_s0 = grad_s2
grad_s1 = grad_s2
grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

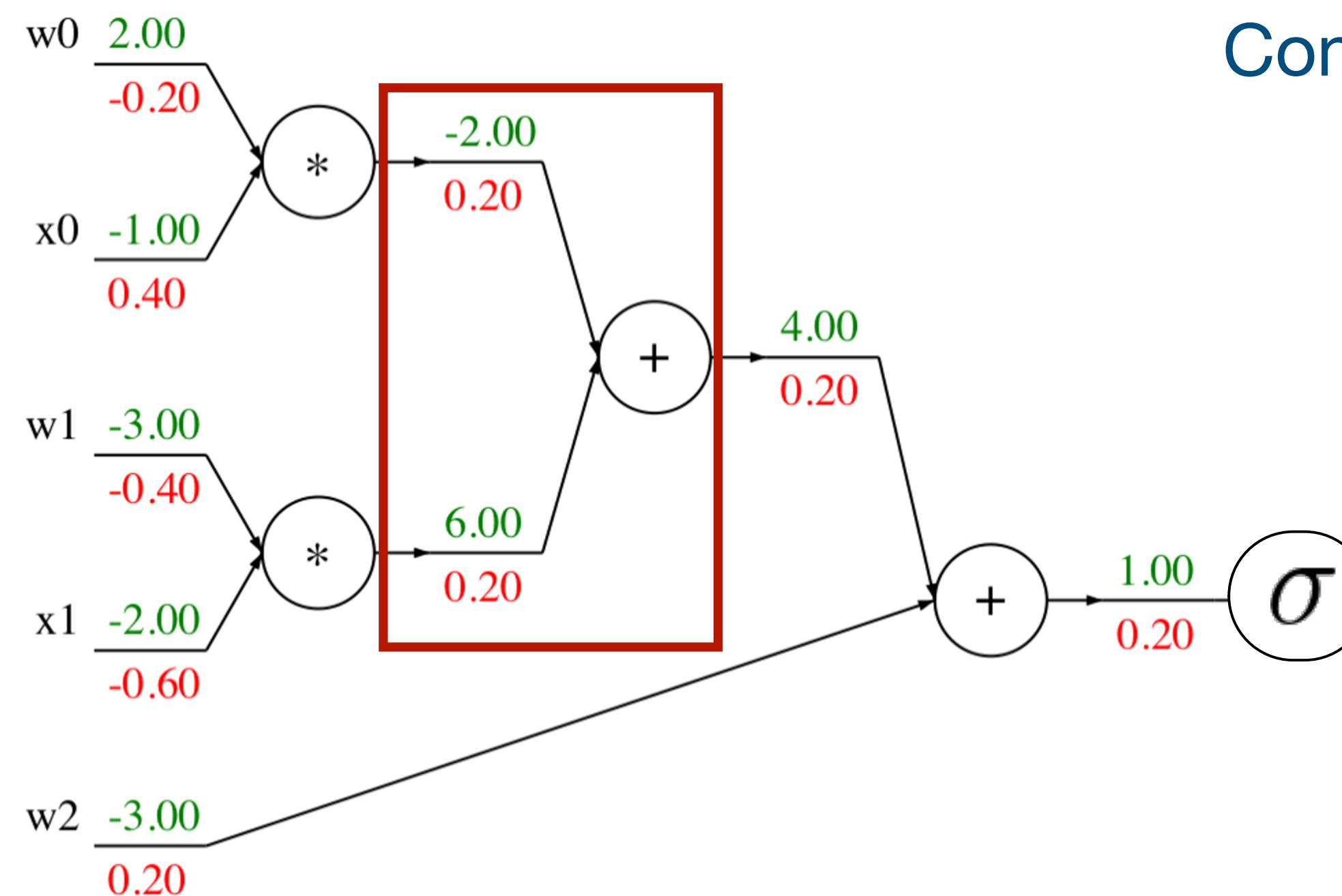
```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)
```

Add

```
grad_L = 1.0
grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
grad_w2 = grad_s3
grad_s2 = grad_s3
grad_s0 = grad_s2
grad_s1 = grad_s2
grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

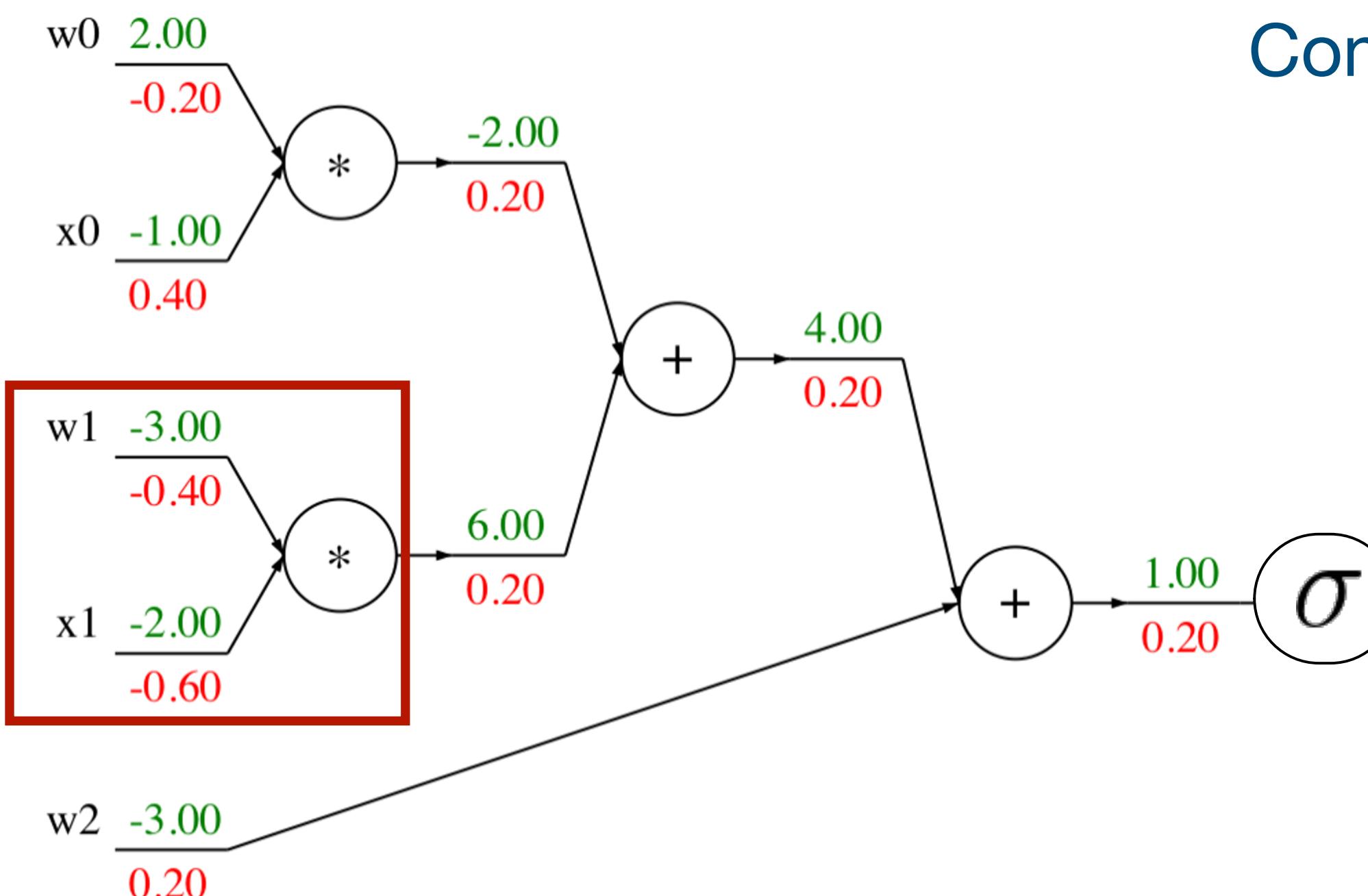
Add

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)

    grad_L = 1.0
    grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
    grad_w2 = grad_s3
    grad_s2 = grad_s3
    grad_s0 = grad_s2
    grad_s1 = grad_s2
    grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
    grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
    grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
    grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

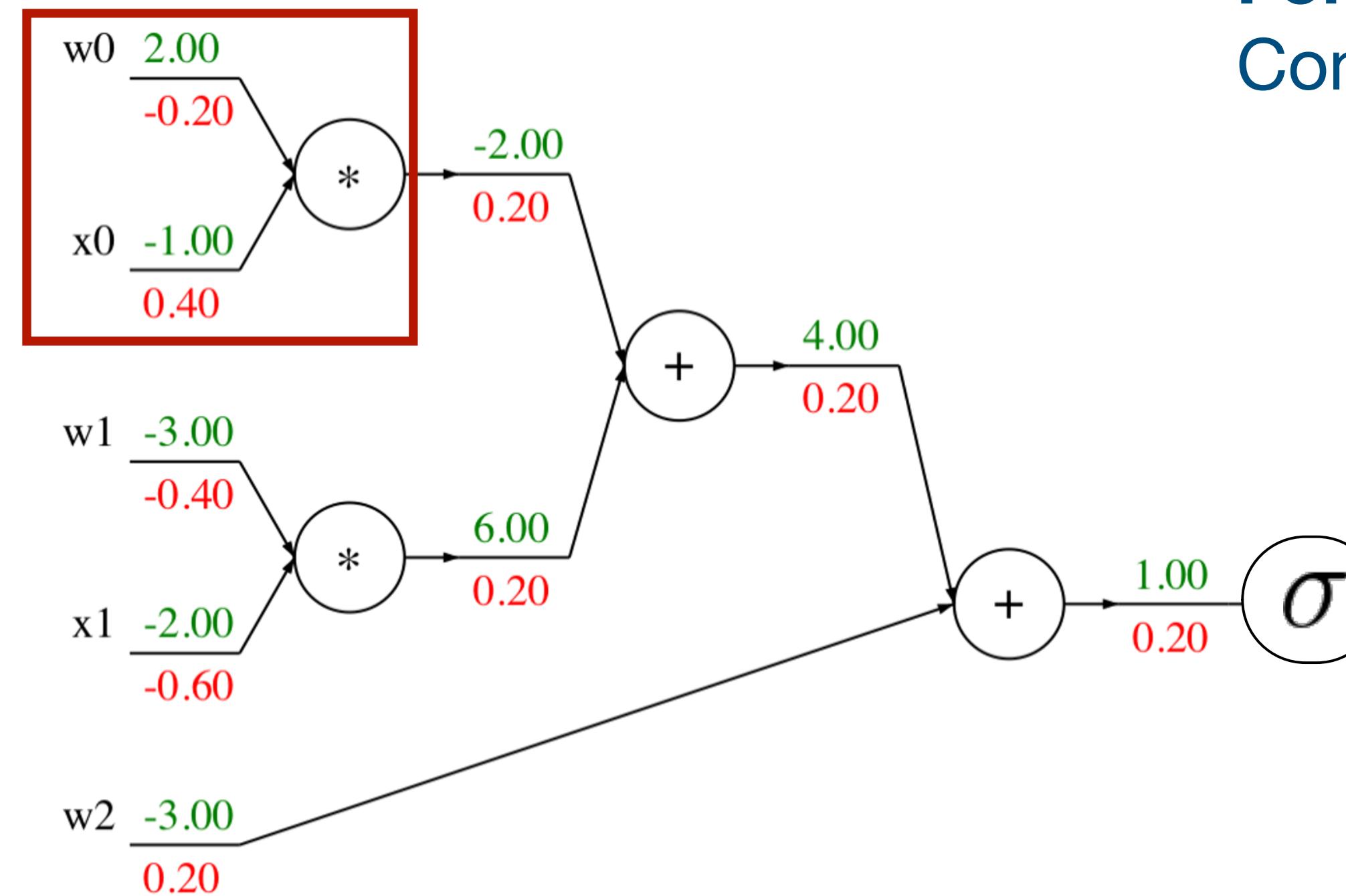
Multiply

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)

    grad_L = 1.0
    grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
    grad_w2 = grad_s3
    grad_s2 = grad_s3
    grad_s0 = grad_s2
    grad_s1 = grad_s2
    grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
    grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
    grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
    grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)

    grad_L = 1.0
    grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
    grad_w2 = grad_s3
    grad_s2 = grad_s3
    grad_s0 = grad_s2
    grad_s1 = grad_s2
    grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
    grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
    grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
    grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

Multiply

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

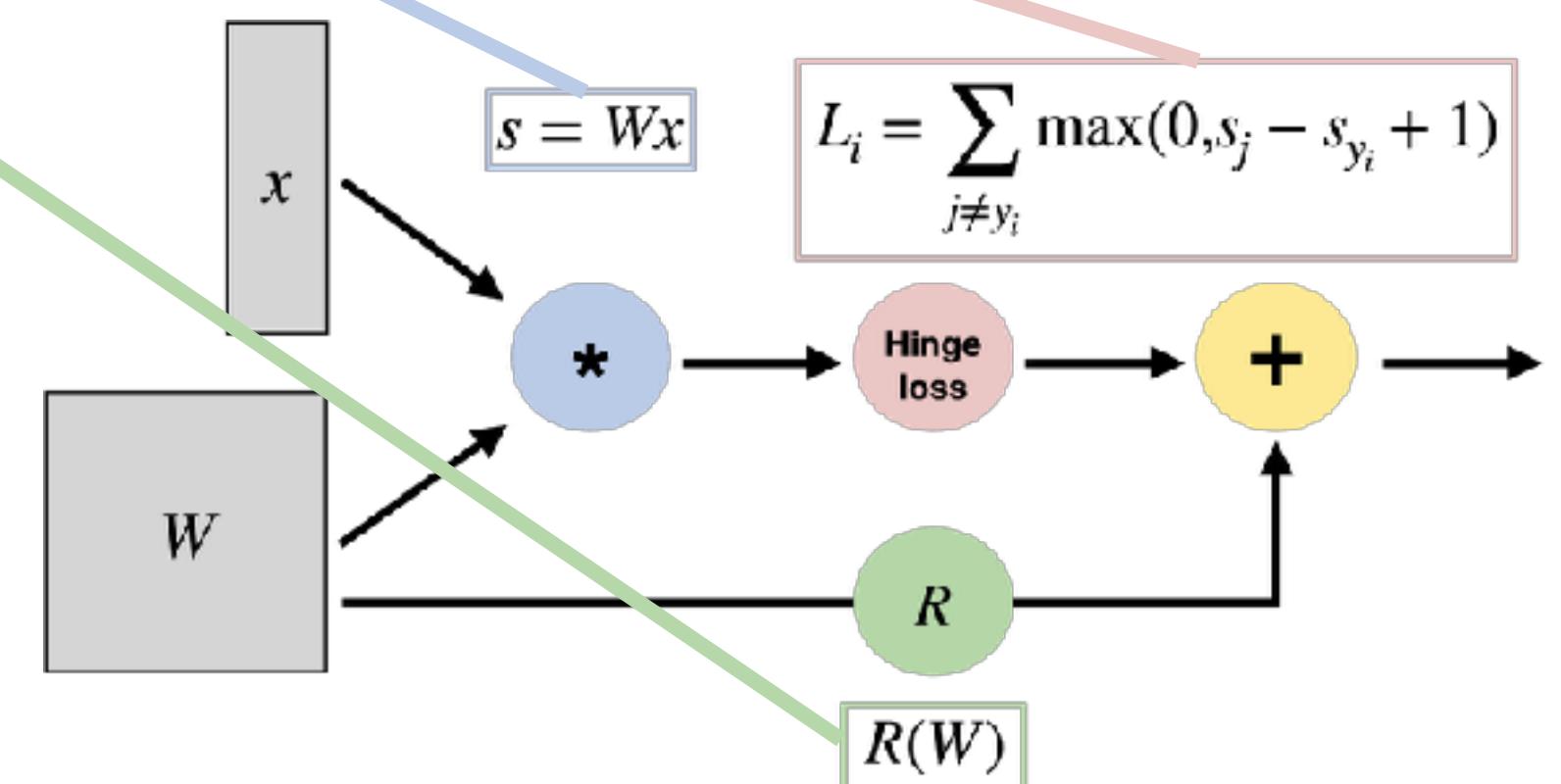
# “Flat” Backprop: Do this for Project 1 & 2

## Forward pass: Compute outputs

```
#####
# TODO: #
# Implement a vectorized version of the structured SVM loss, storing the # #
# result in loss. #
#####
# Replace "pass" statement with your code #
num_classes = W.shape[1] #
num_train = X.shape[0] #
score = # ... #
correct_class_score = # ... #
margin = # ... #
data_loss = # ... #
reg_loss = # ... #
loss += data_loss + reg_loss #
#####
# END OF YOUR CODE #
#####
#
```

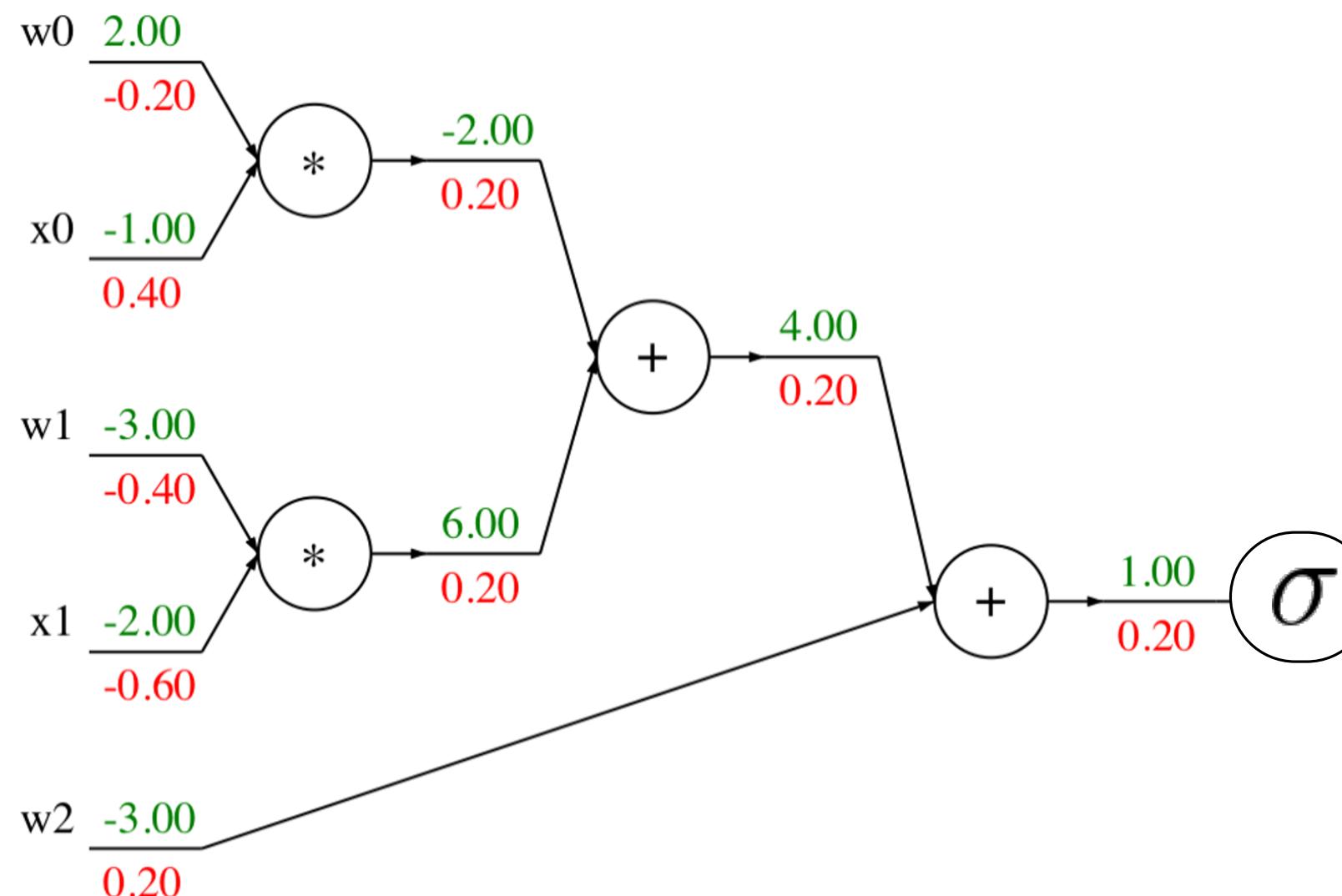
## Backward pass: Compute gradients

```
#####
# TODO: #
# Implement a vectorized version of the gradient for the structured SVM # #
# loss, storing the result in dW. #
#
# Hint: Instead of computing the gradient from scratch, it may be easier # #
# to reuse some of the intermediate values that you used to compute the # #
# loss. #
#####
# Replace "pass" statement with your code #
dmargins = # ... #
dscores = # ... #
dW = # ... #
#####
# END OF YOUR CODE #
#####
#
```



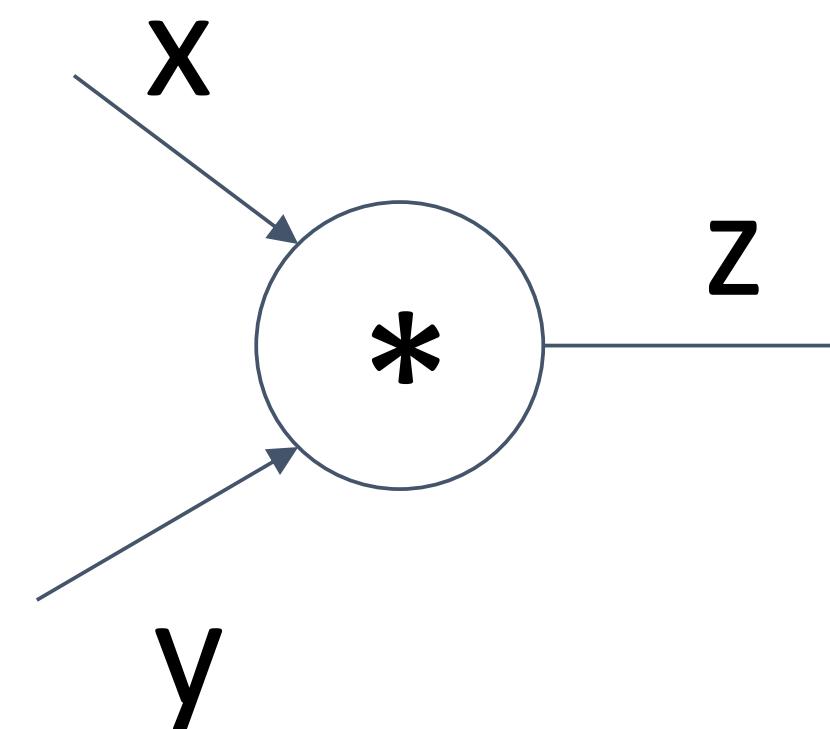
# Backprop Implementation: Modular API

Graph (or Net) object (*rough pseudo code*)



```
class ComputationalGraph(object):  
    ...  
    def forward(inputs):  
        # 1. [pass inputs to input gates...]  
        # 2. forward the computational graph:  
        for gate in self.graph.nodes_topologically_sorted():  
            gate.forward()  
        return loss # the final gate in the graph outputs the loss  
    def backward():  
        for gate in reversed(self.graph.nodes_topologically_sorted()):  
            gate.backward() # little piece of backprop (chain rule applied)  
        return inputs_gradients
```

# Example: PyTorch Autograd Functions



( $x, y, z$  are scalars)

```
class Multiply(torch.autograd.Function):
    @staticmethod
    def forward(ctx, x, y):
        ctx.save_for_backward(x, y)
        z = x * y
        return z

    @staticmethod
    def backward(ctx, grad_z):
        x, y = ctx.saved_tensors
        grad_x = y * grad_z # dz/dx * dL/dz
        grad_y = x * grad_z # dz/dy * dL/dz
        return grad_x, grad_y
```

Need to stash some values for use in backward

Upstream gradient

Multiply upstream and local gradients

So far: backprop with scalars

What about vector-valued functions?



# Recap: Vector Derivatives

---

$$x \in \mathbb{R}, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

Regular derivative:

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \in \mathbb{R}$$

If  $x$  changes by a small amount, how much will  $y$  change?



# Recap: Vector Derivatives

---

$$x \in \mathbb{R}, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

Regular derivative:

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \in \mathbb{R}$$

If  $x$  changes by a small amount, how much will  $y$  change?

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^N, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

Derivative is **Gradient**:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} &\in \mathbb{R}^N, \\ \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)_i &= \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i}\end{aligned}$$

For each element of  $x$ , if it changes by a small amount then how much will  $y$  change?

# Recap: Vector Derivatives

---

$$x \in \mathbb{R}, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} &\in \mathbb{R}^N, \\ \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)_i &= \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i}\end{aligned}$$

For each element of  $x$ , if it changes by a small amount then how much will  $y$  change?

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^N, y \in \mathbb{R}^M$$

Derivative is **Jacobian**:

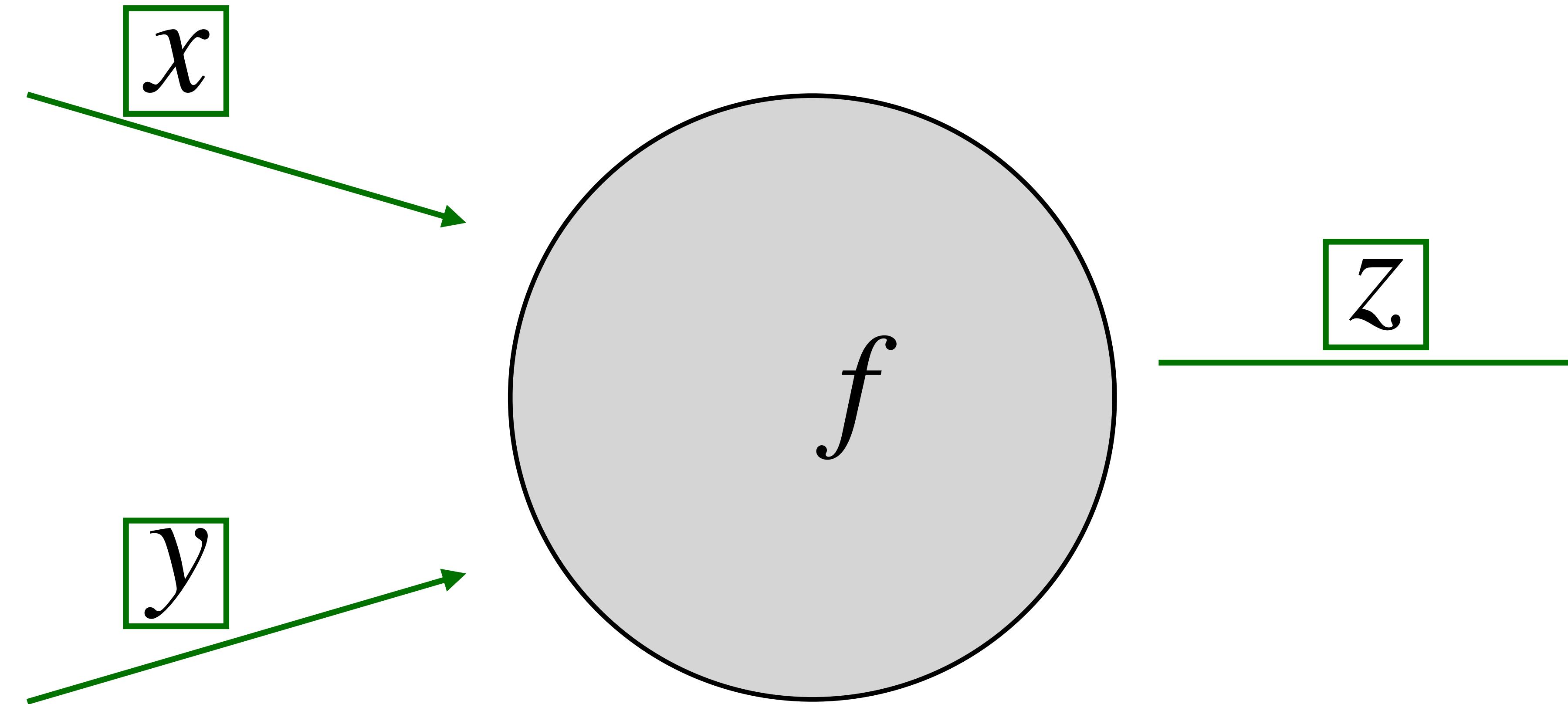
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} &\in \mathbb{R}^{N \times M} \\ \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)_{i,j} &= \frac{\partial y_j}{\partial x_i}\end{aligned}$$

For each element of  $x$ , if it changes by a small amount then how much will each element of  $y$  change?

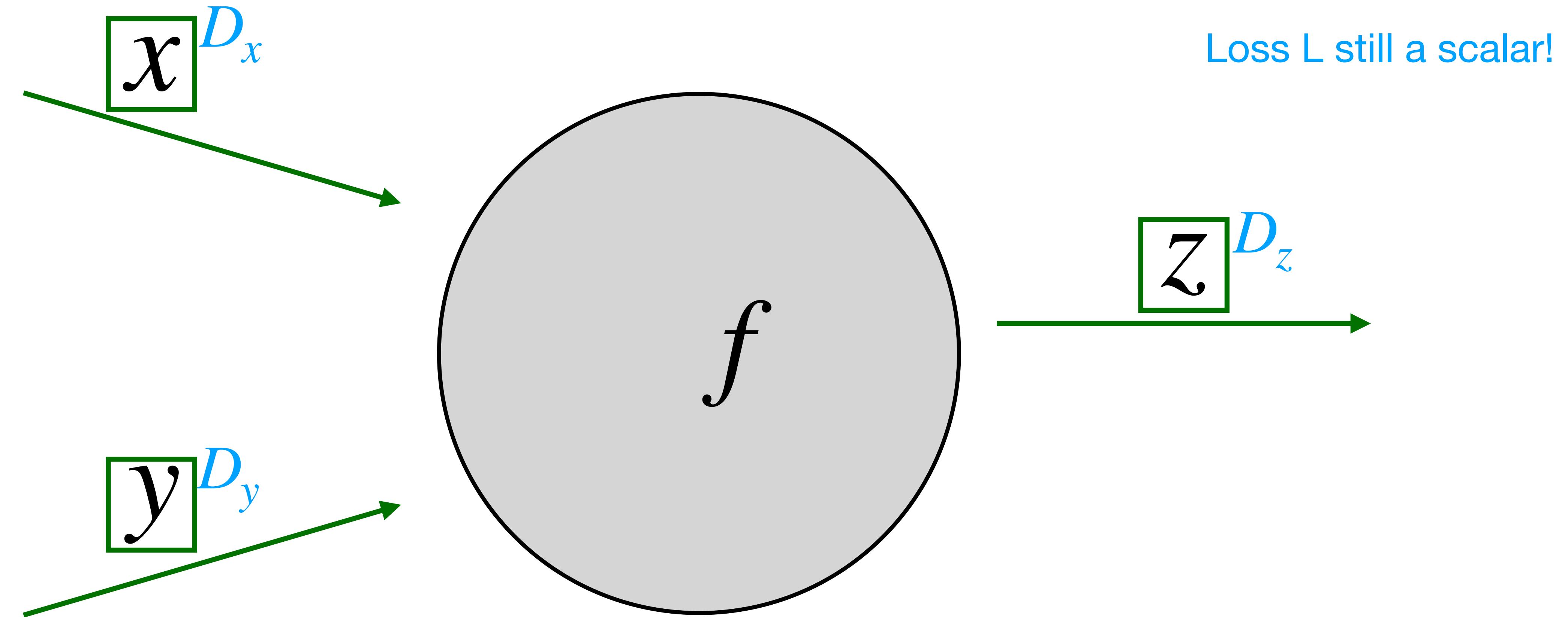


# Backprop with Vectors

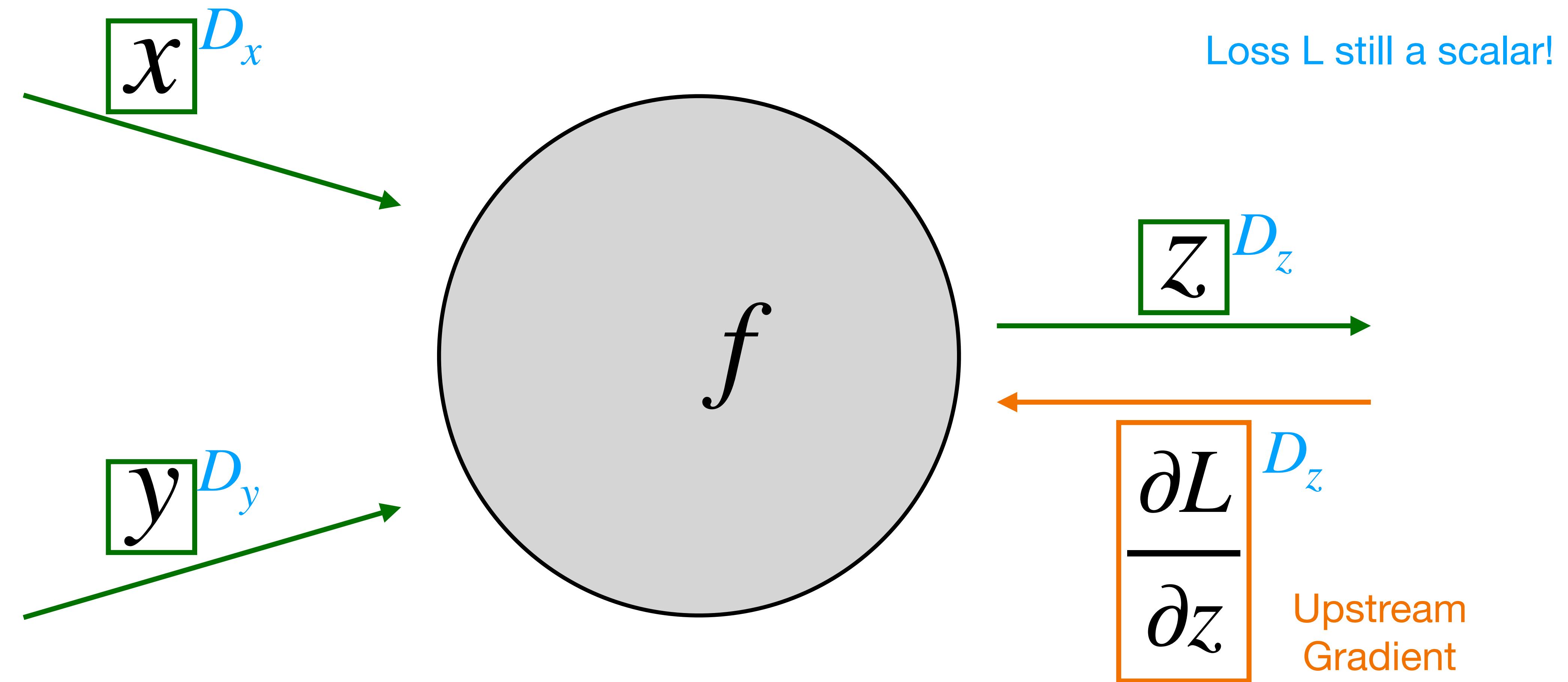
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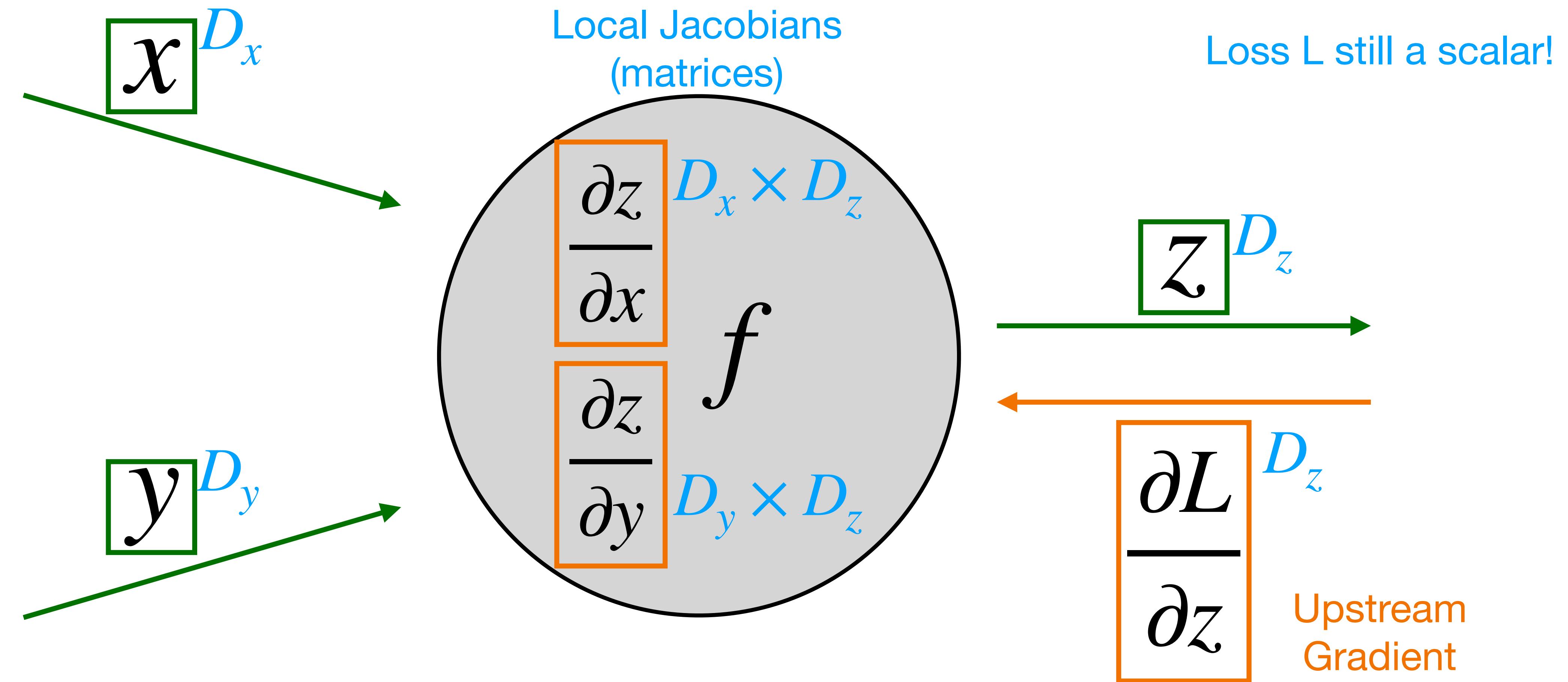
# Backprop with Vectors



# Backprop with Vectors

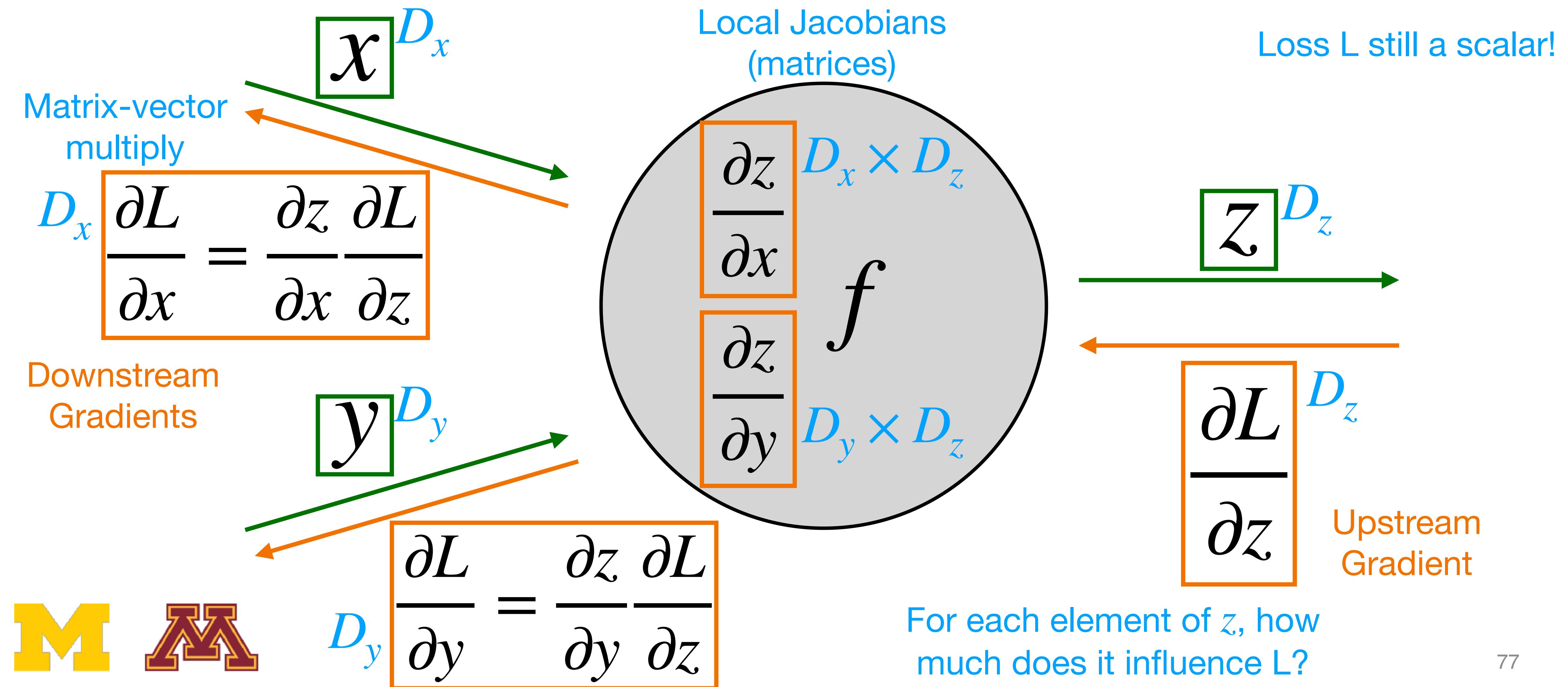


# Backprop with Vectors



For each element of  $z$ , how  
much does it influence  $L$ ?

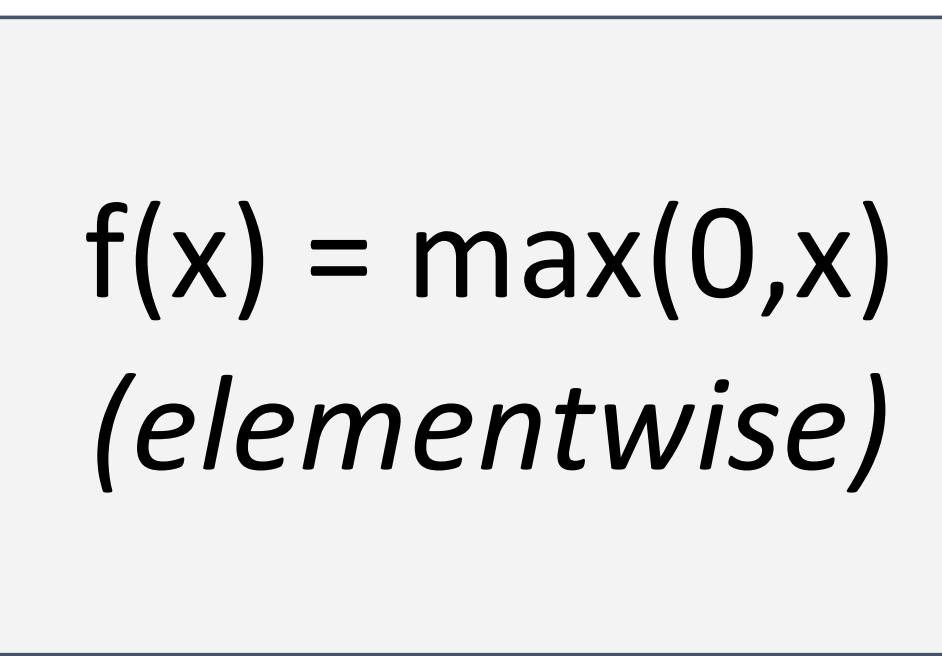
# Backprop with Vectors



# Backprop with Vectors

4D input x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow$$



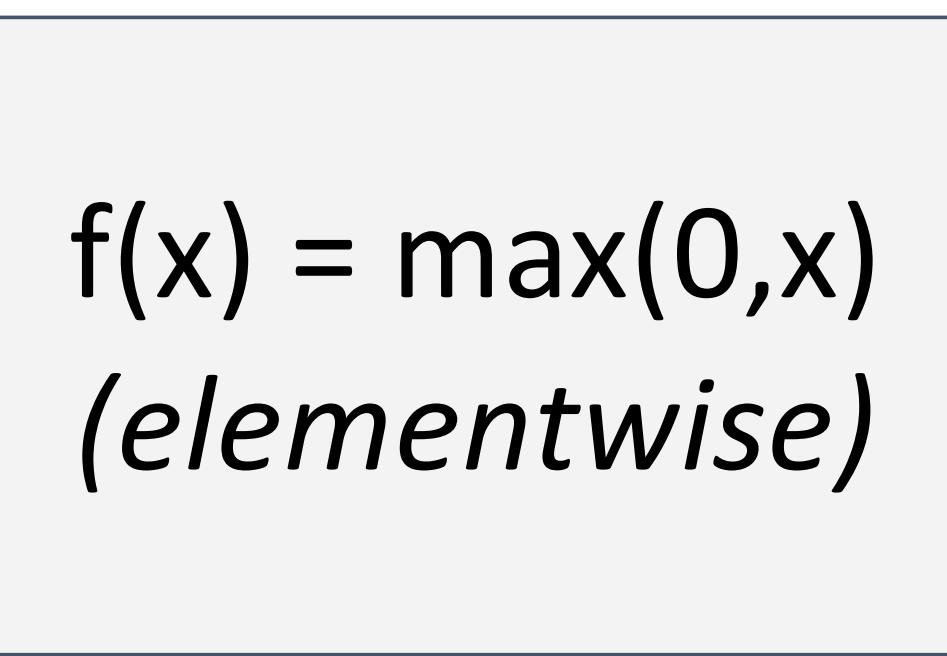
4D output y:

$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 3 \end{bmatrix} \\ \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

# Backprop with Vectors

4D input x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow$$



4D output y:

$$\longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

4D  $dL/dy$ :

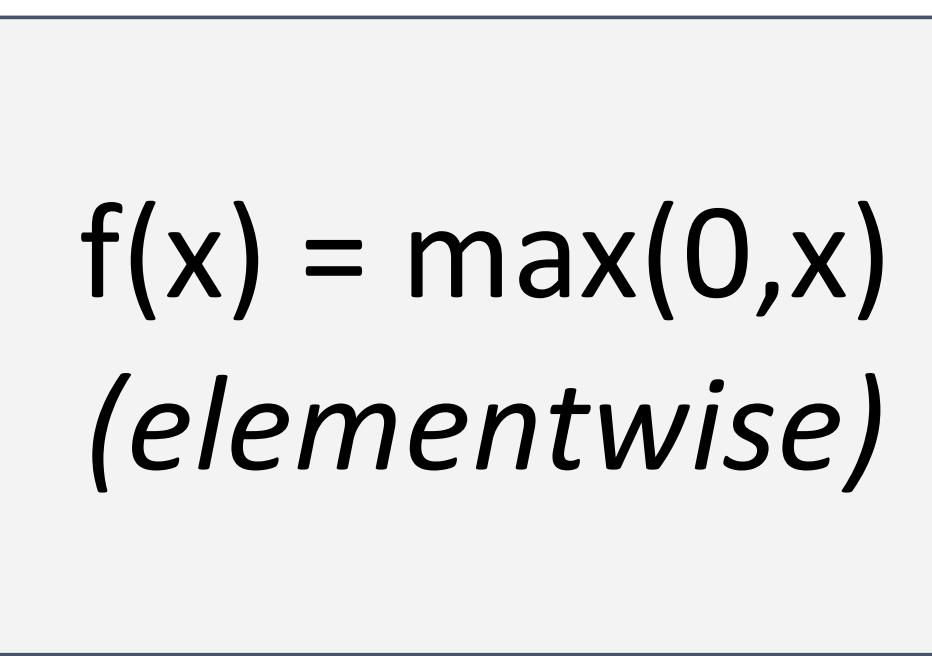
$$\begin{array}{c} \longleftarrow [ 4 ] \longrightarrow \\ \longleftarrow [ -1 ] \longrightarrow \\ \longleftarrow [ 5 ] \longrightarrow \\ \longleftarrow [ 9 ] \longrightarrow \end{array}$$

Upstream  
gradient

# Backprop with Vectors

4D input x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow$$



4D output y:

$$\longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$[dy/dx] [dL/dy]$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

4D  $dL/dy$ :

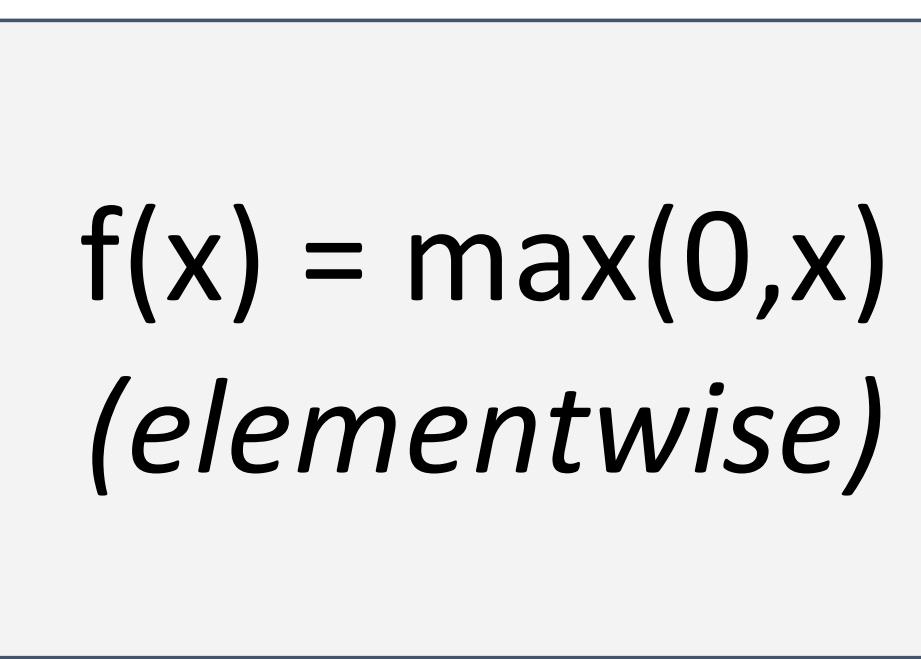
$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \longleftarrow$$

Upstream  
gradient

# Backprop with Vectors

4D input x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow$$



4D output y:

$$\longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

4D  $dL/dx$ :

$[ 4 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 ]$	$[ 4 ]$
$[ 0 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 ]$	$[ -1 ]$
$[ 5 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 ]$	$[ 5 ]$
$[ 0 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 ]$	$[ 9 ]$

4D  $dL/dy$ :

$[ 4 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 4 ]$
$[ -1 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ -1 ]$
$[ 5 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 5 ]$
$[ 9 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 9 ]$

Upstream  
gradient

# Backprop with Vectors

4D input x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{green arrow}}$$

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

*(elementwise)*

4D output y:

$$\begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\text{green arrow}} [1] \\ \xrightarrow{\text{green arrow}} [0] \\ \xrightarrow{\text{green arrow}} [3] \\ \xrightarrow{\text{green arrow}} [0] \end{array}$$

Jacobian is **sparse**: off-diagonal entries all zero!

4D  $dL/dx$ :

$$\begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} [4] \\ \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} [0] \\ \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} [5] \\ \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} [0] \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} dy/dx & dL/dy \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

4D  $dL/dy$ :

$$\begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} [4] \\ \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} [-1] \\ \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} [5] \\ \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} [9] \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} dy/dx & dL/dy \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

Upstream gradient

# Backprop with Vectors

4D input x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\quad} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f(x) = \max(0, x) \\ (\textit{elementwise})$$

4D output y:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Jacobian is **sparse**: off-diagonal entries all zero!  
Never **explicitly** form Jacobian; instead use **implicit** multiplication

4D  $dL/dx$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow$$

$[dy/dx] [dL/dy]$

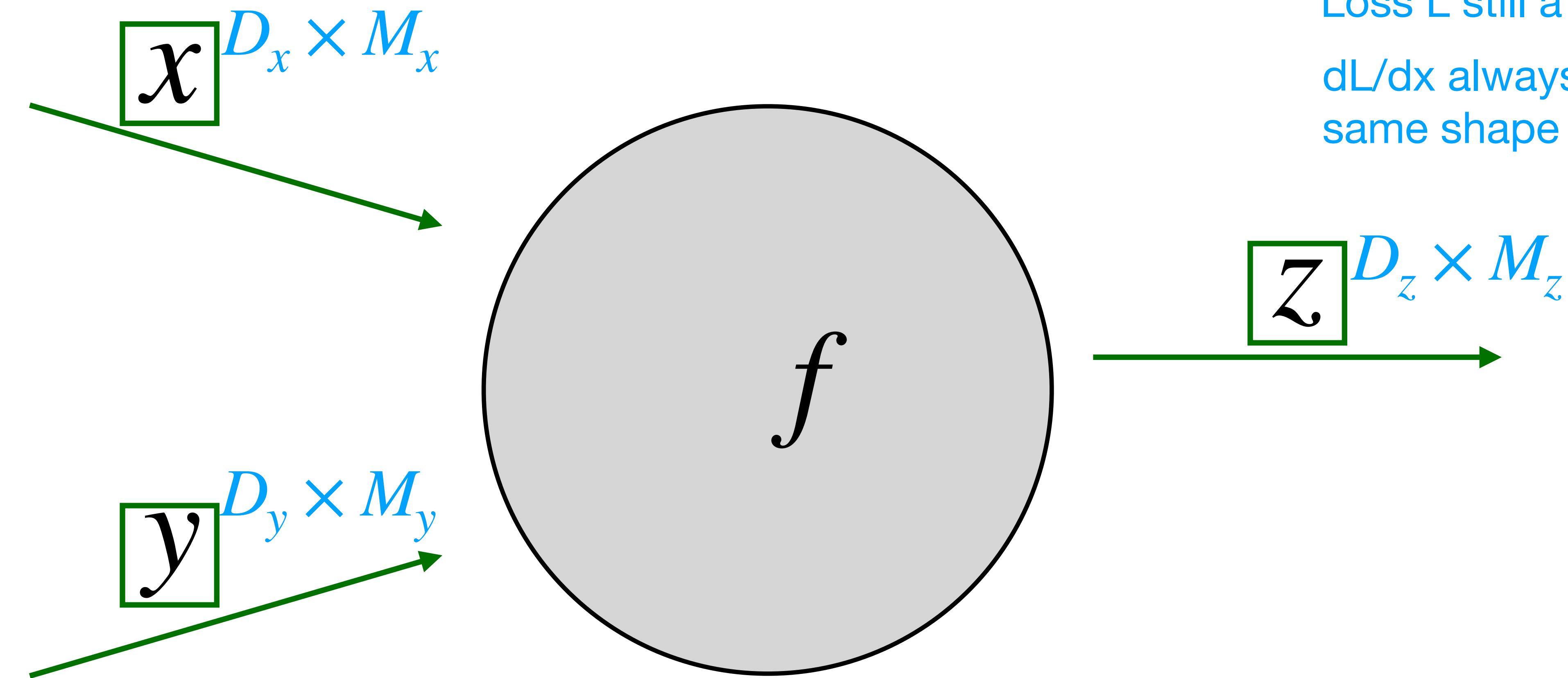
$$\left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} \right)_i = \begin{cases} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial y} \right)_i, & \text{if } x_i > 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

4D  $dL/dy$ :

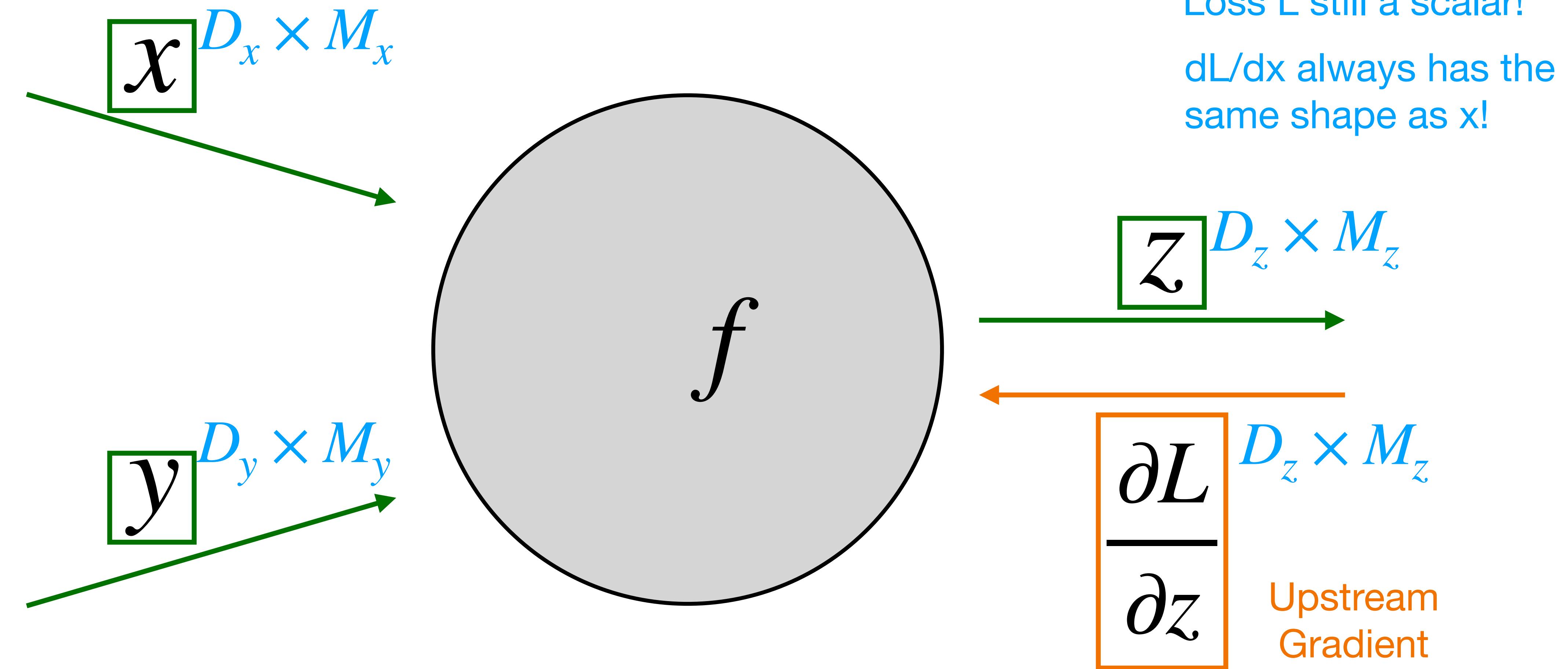
$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow$$

Upstream  
gradient

# Backprop with Matrices (or Tensors)

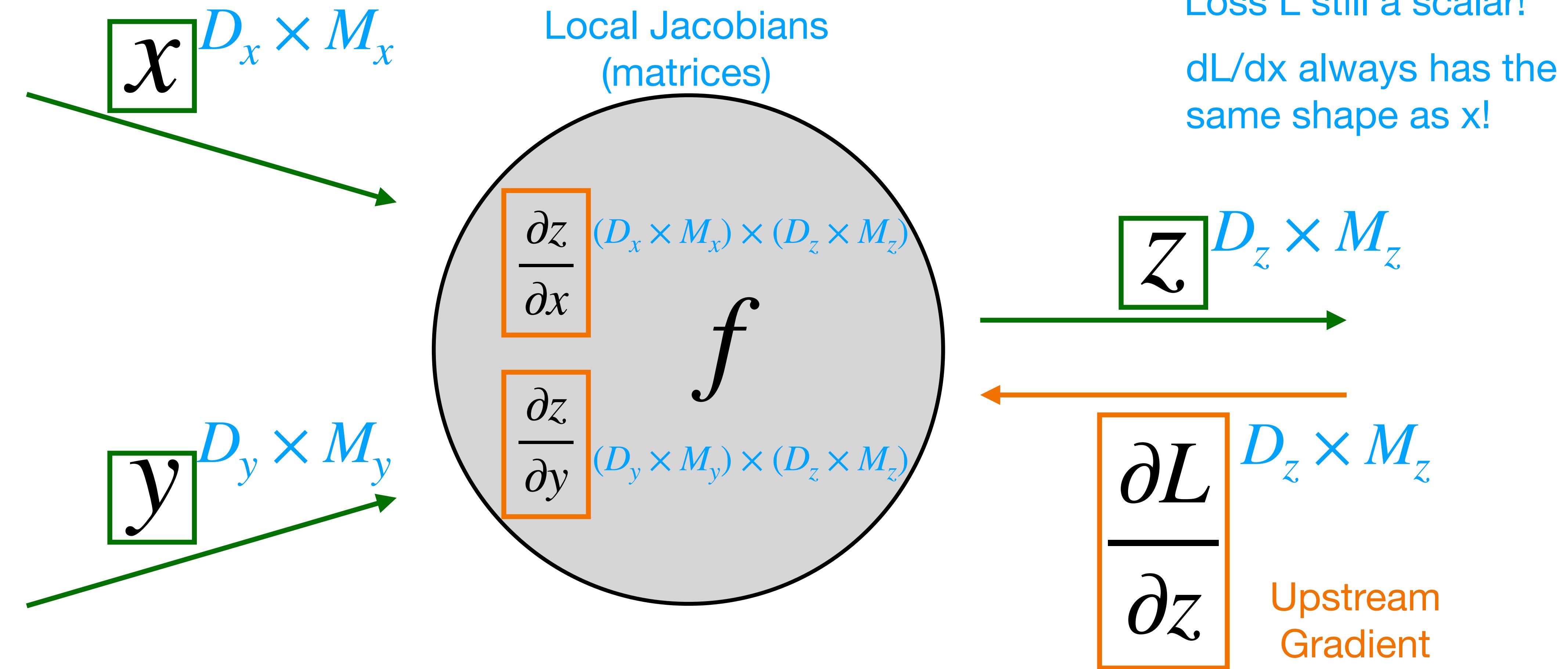


# Backprop with Matrices (or Tensors)



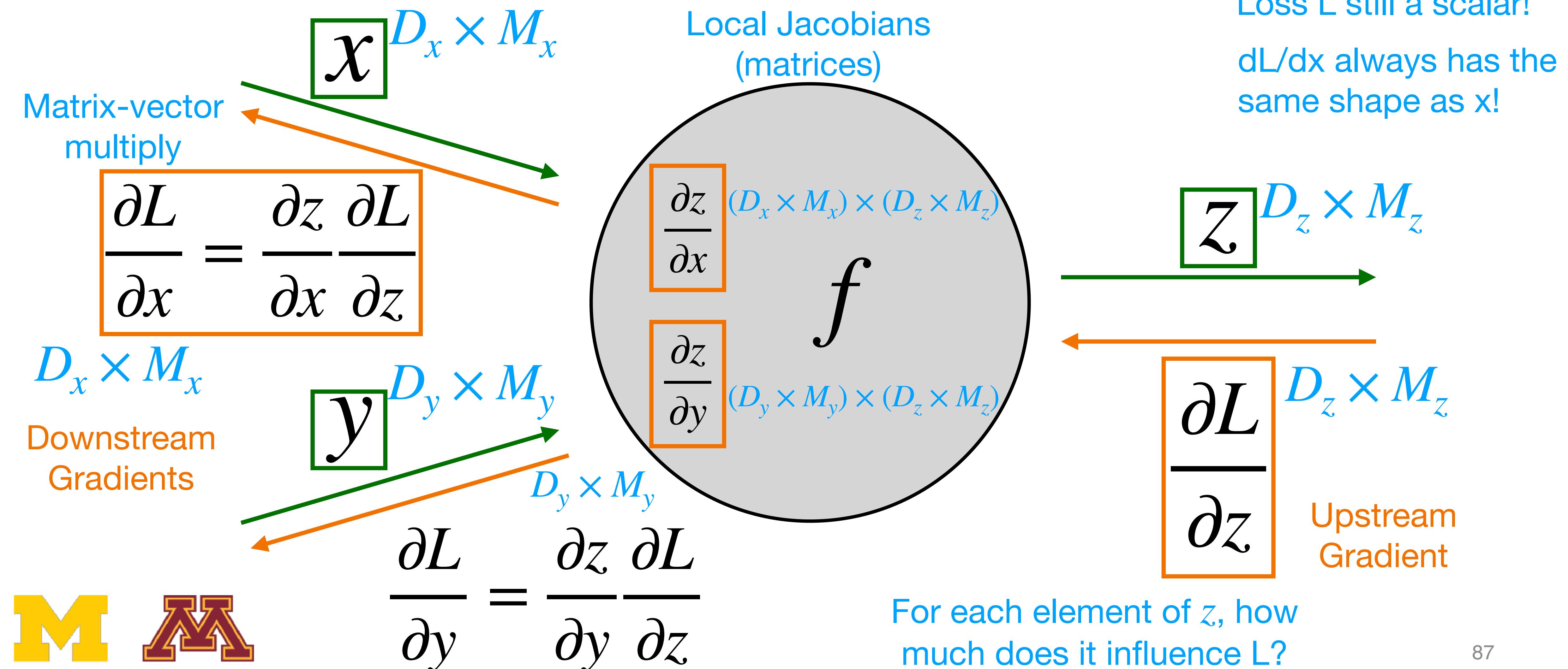
For each element of  $z$ , how much does it influence  $L$ ?

# Backprop with Matrices (or Tensors)



For each element of  $z$ , how much does it influence  $L$ ?

# Backprop with Matrices (or Tensors)



# Example: Matrix Multiplication

$$\begin{array}{l} x: [N \times D] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -3 \\ -3 & 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} w: [D \times M] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$



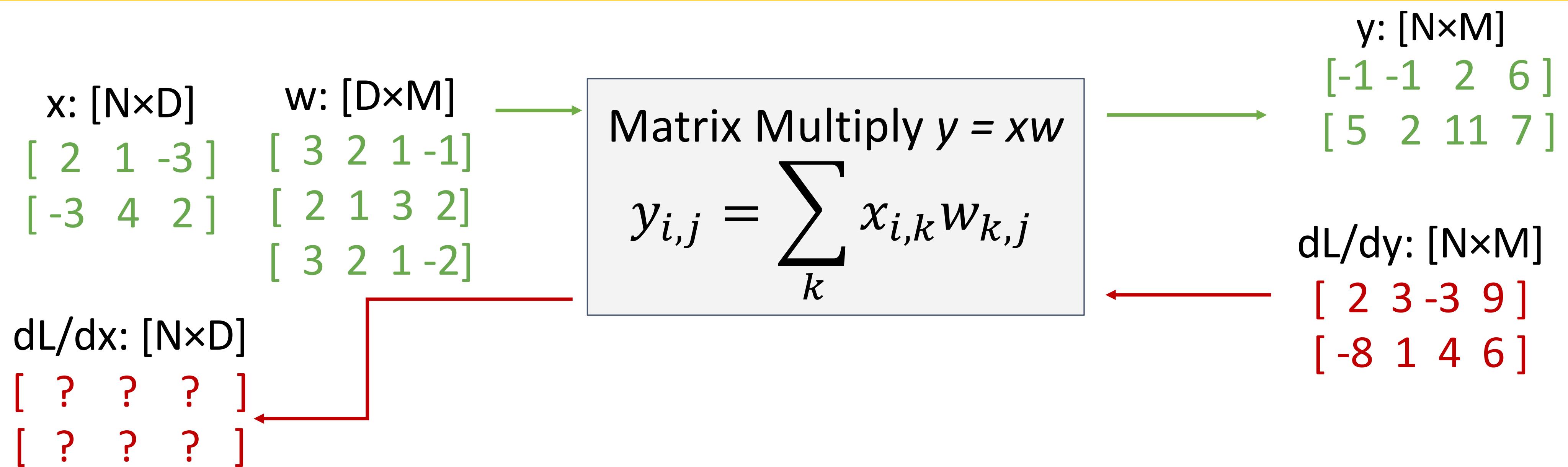
Matrix Multiply  $y = xw$

$$y_{i,j} = \sum_k x_{i,k} w_{k,j}$$

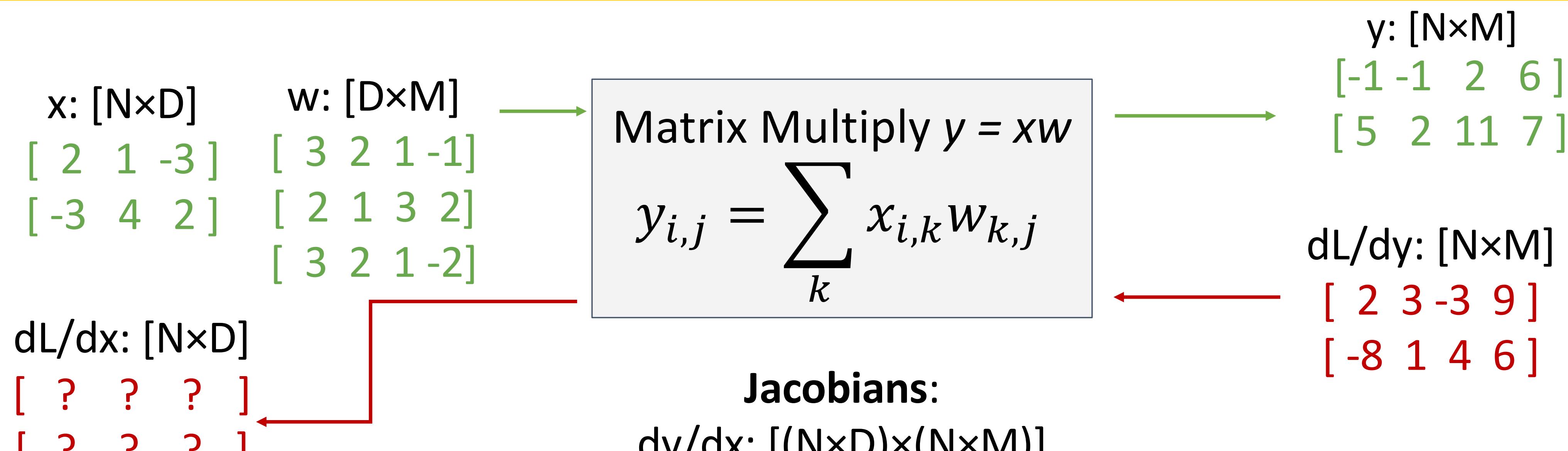


$$\begin{array}{l} y: [N \times M] \\ \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 2 & 6 \\ 5 & 2 & 11 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

# Example: Matrix Multiplication



# Example: Matrix Multiplication

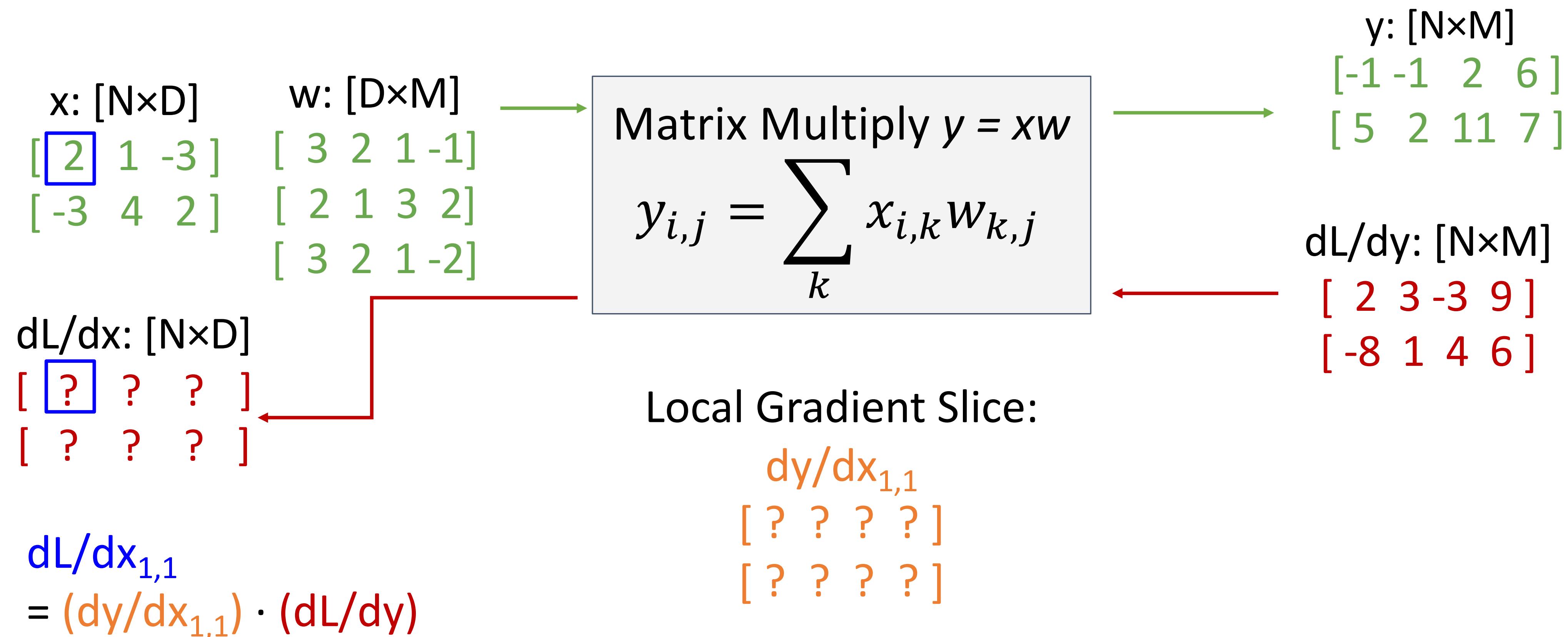


For a neural net we may have

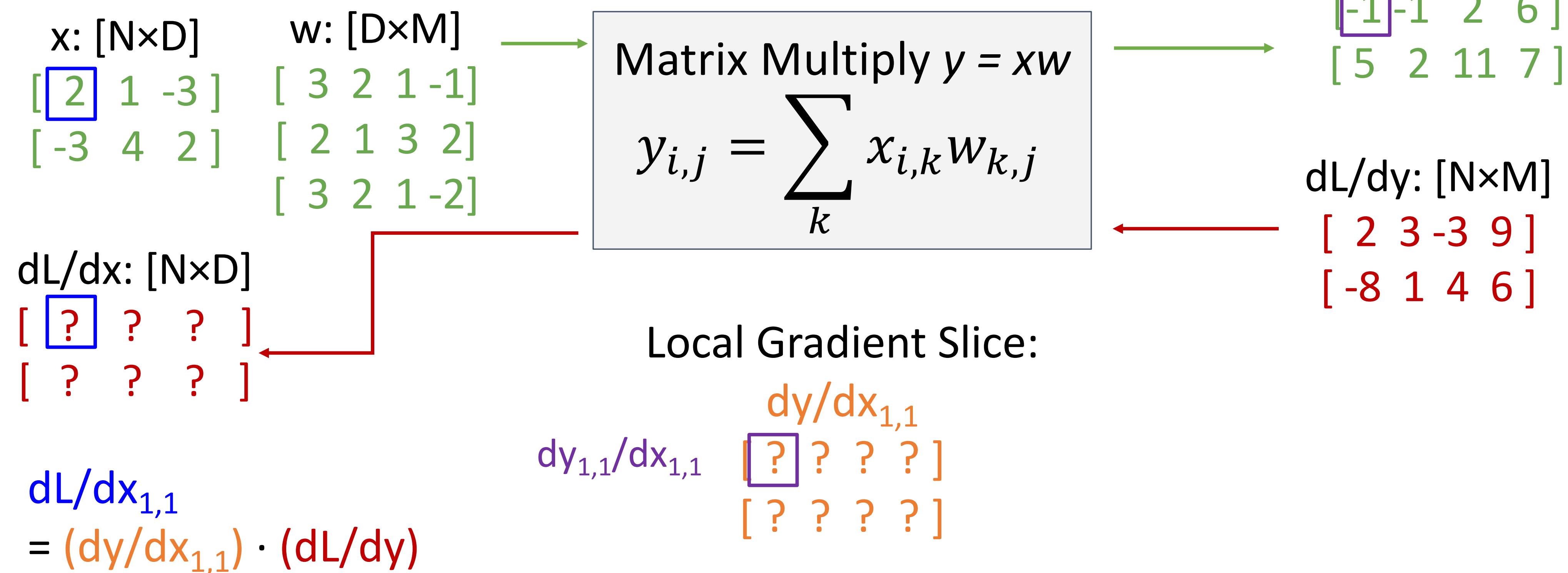
$$N=64, D=M=4096$$

Each Jacobian takes 256 GB of memory! Must work with them implicitly!

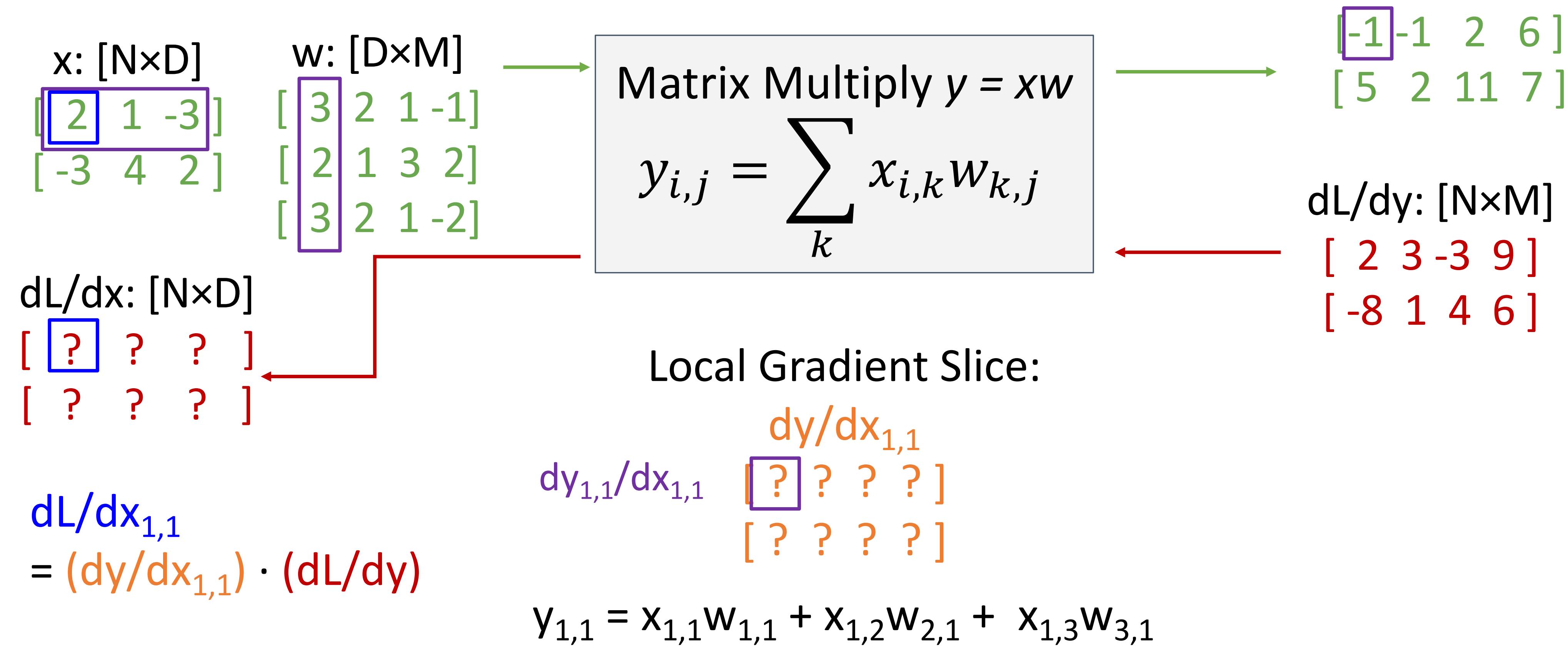
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



# Example: Matrix Multiplication



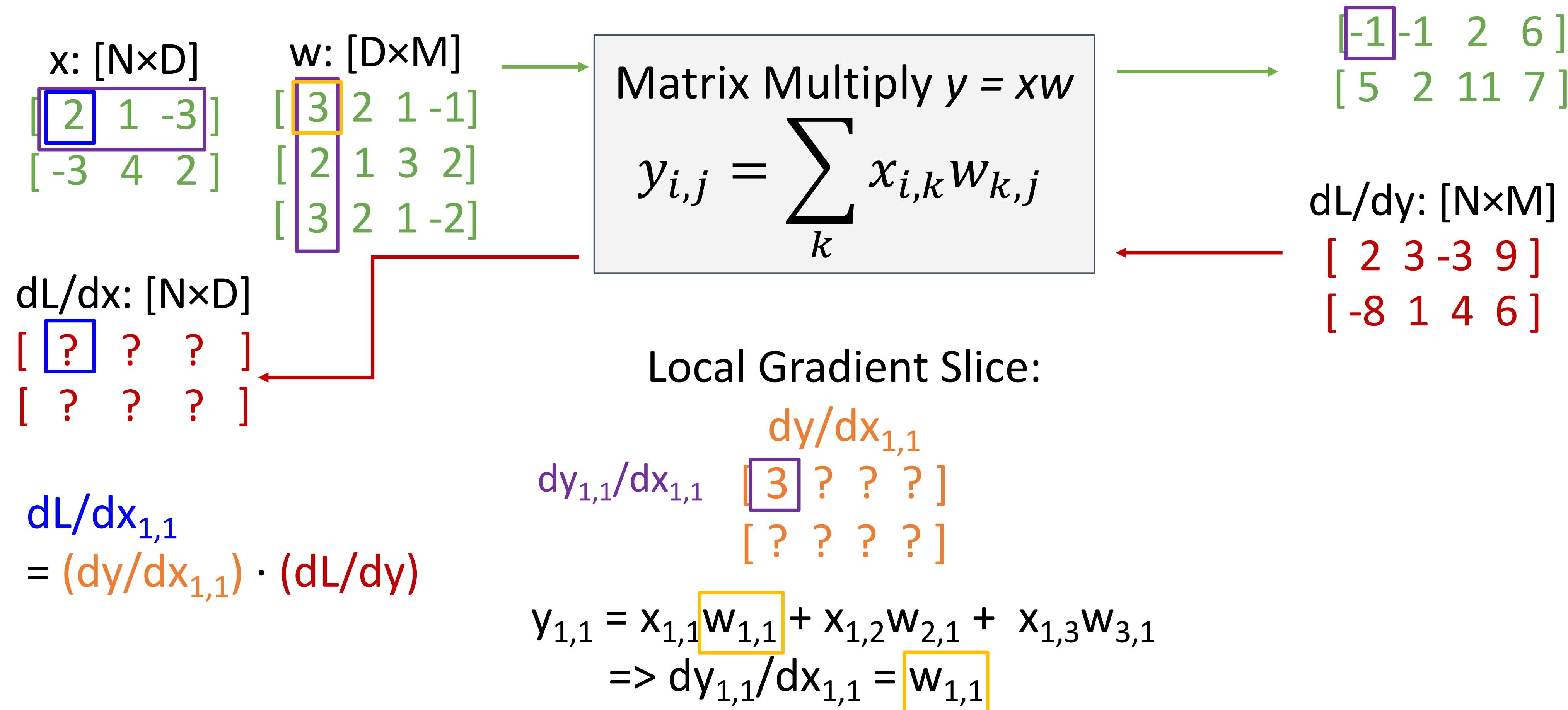
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



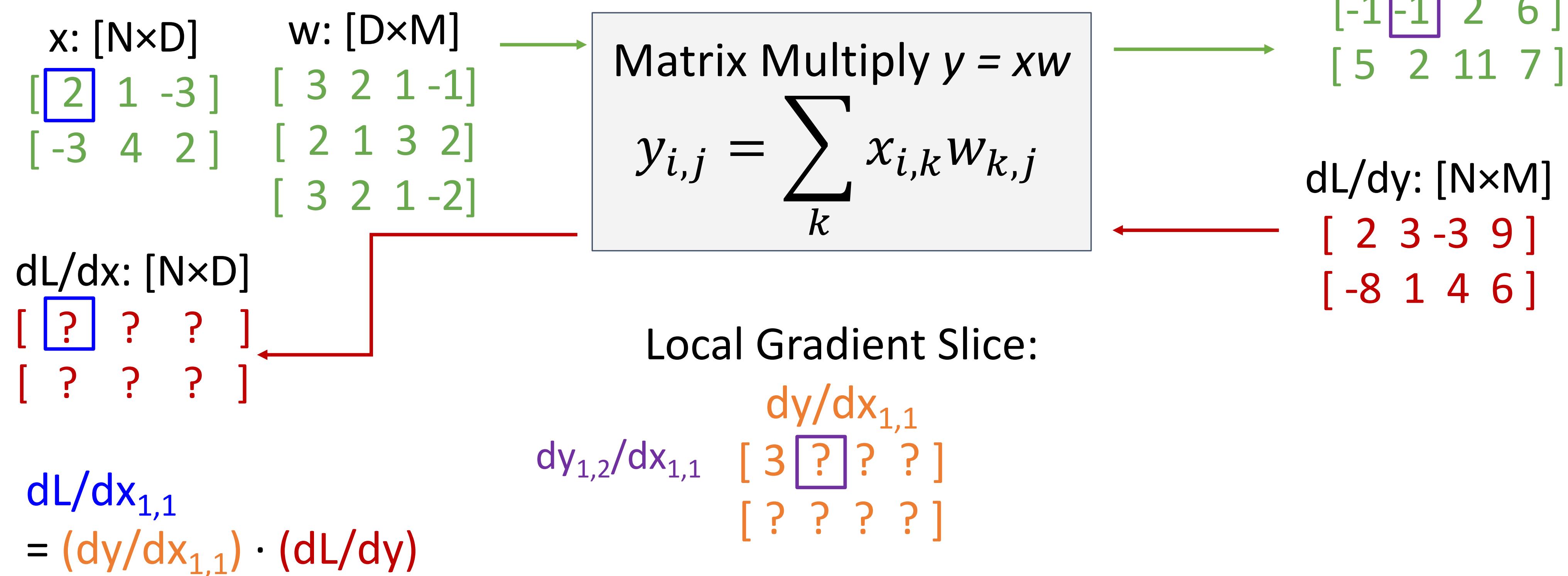
$$\begin{aligned} dL/dx_{1,1} \\ = (dy/dx_{1,1}) \cdot (dL/dy) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} dy/dx_{1,1} \\ dy_{1,1}/dx_{1,1} \\ \begin{bmatrix} ? & ? & ? & ? \\ ? & ? & ? & ? \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

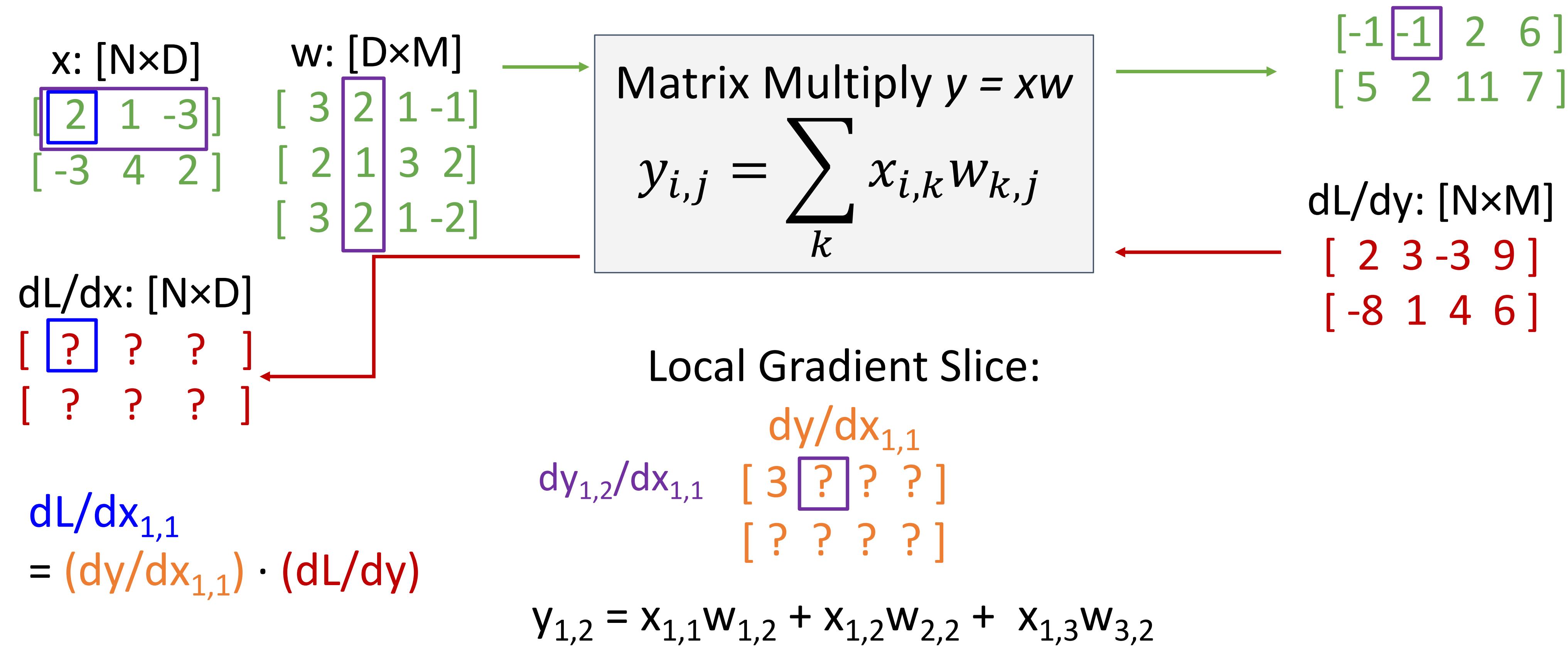
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



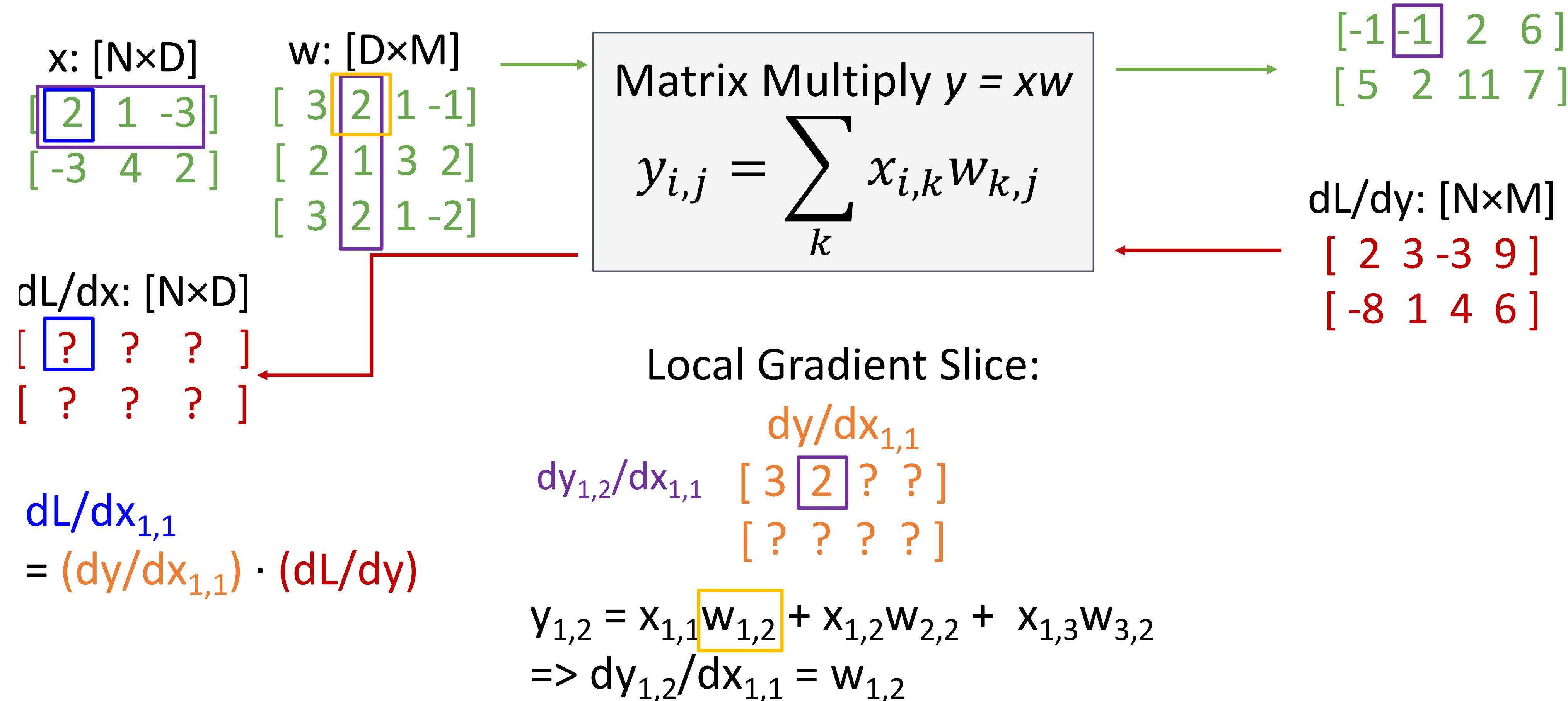
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



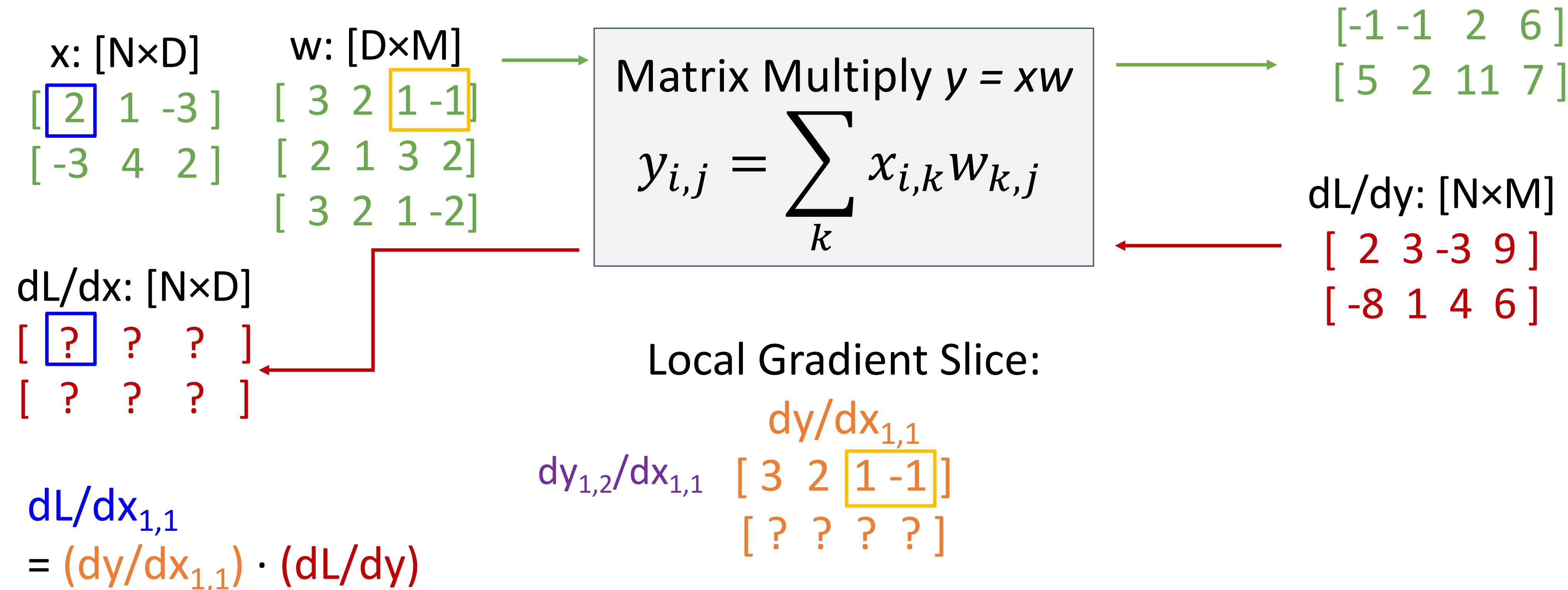
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



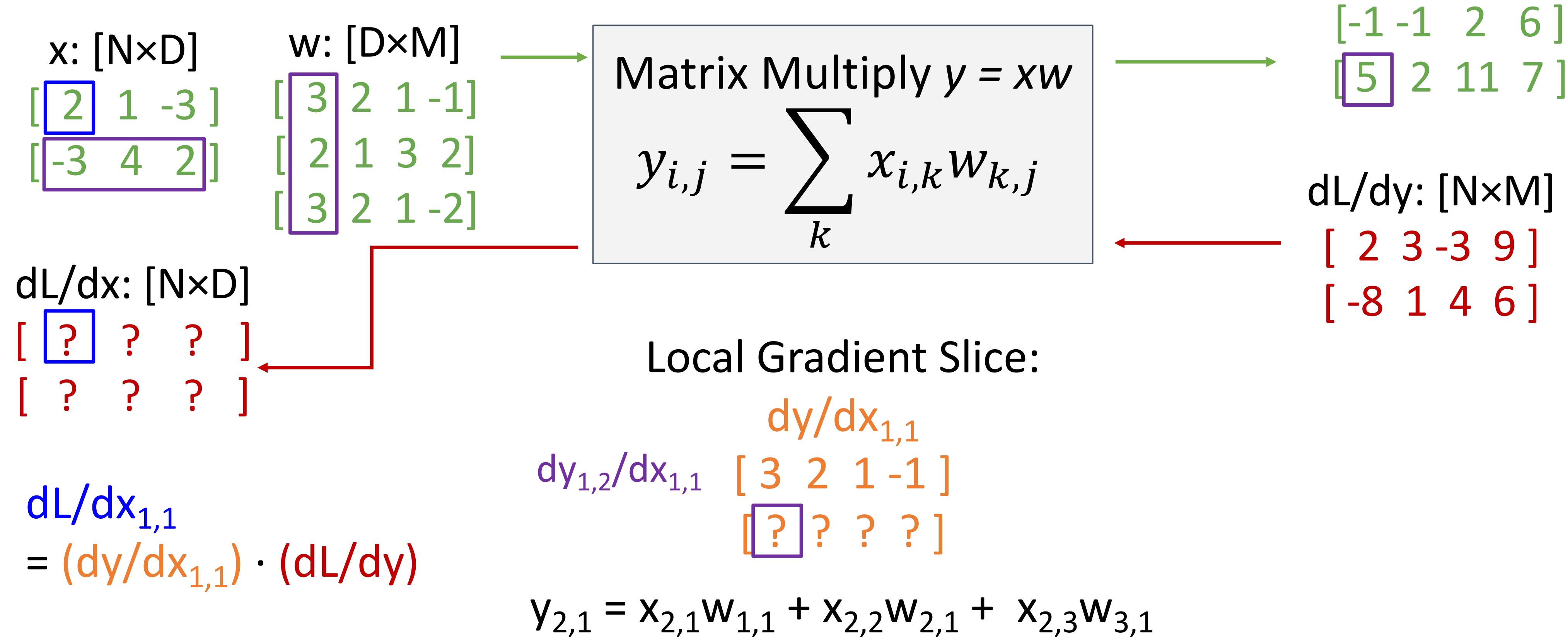
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



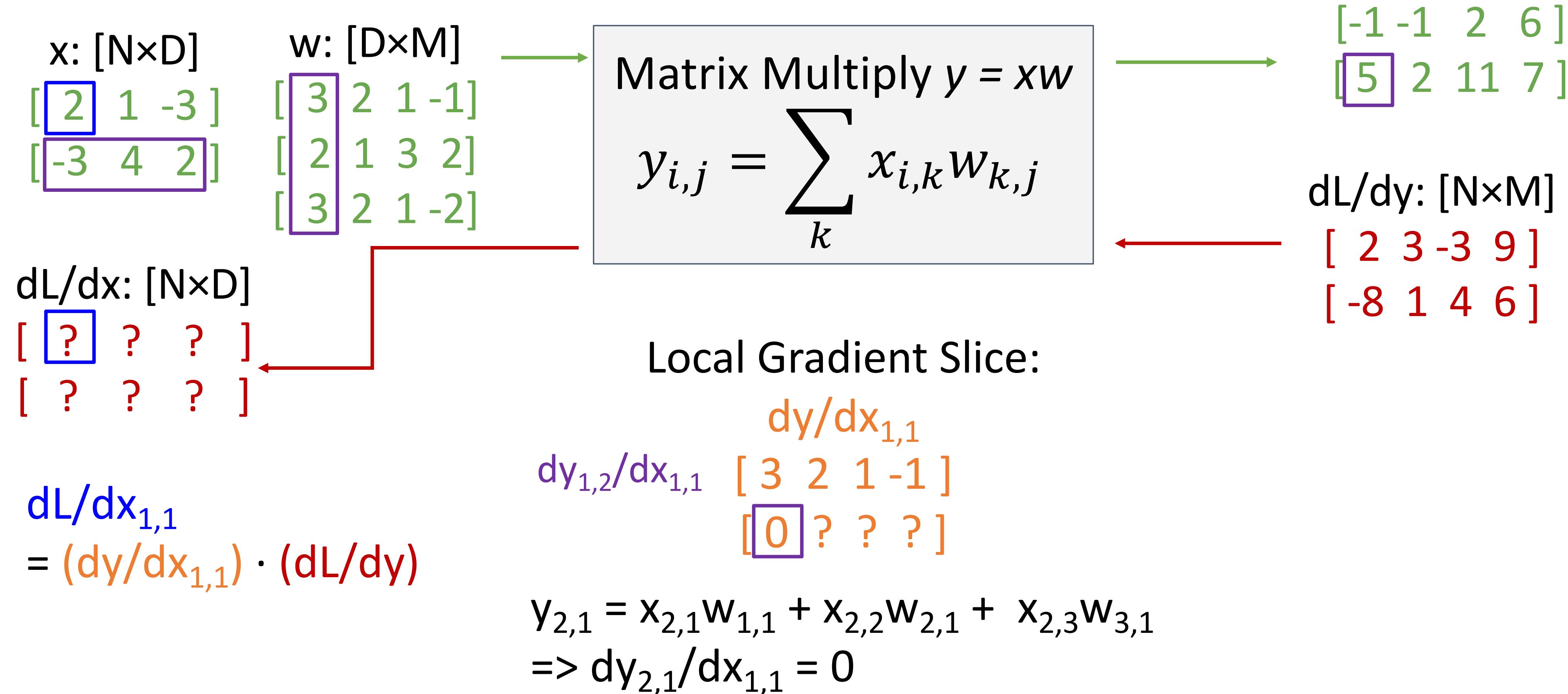
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



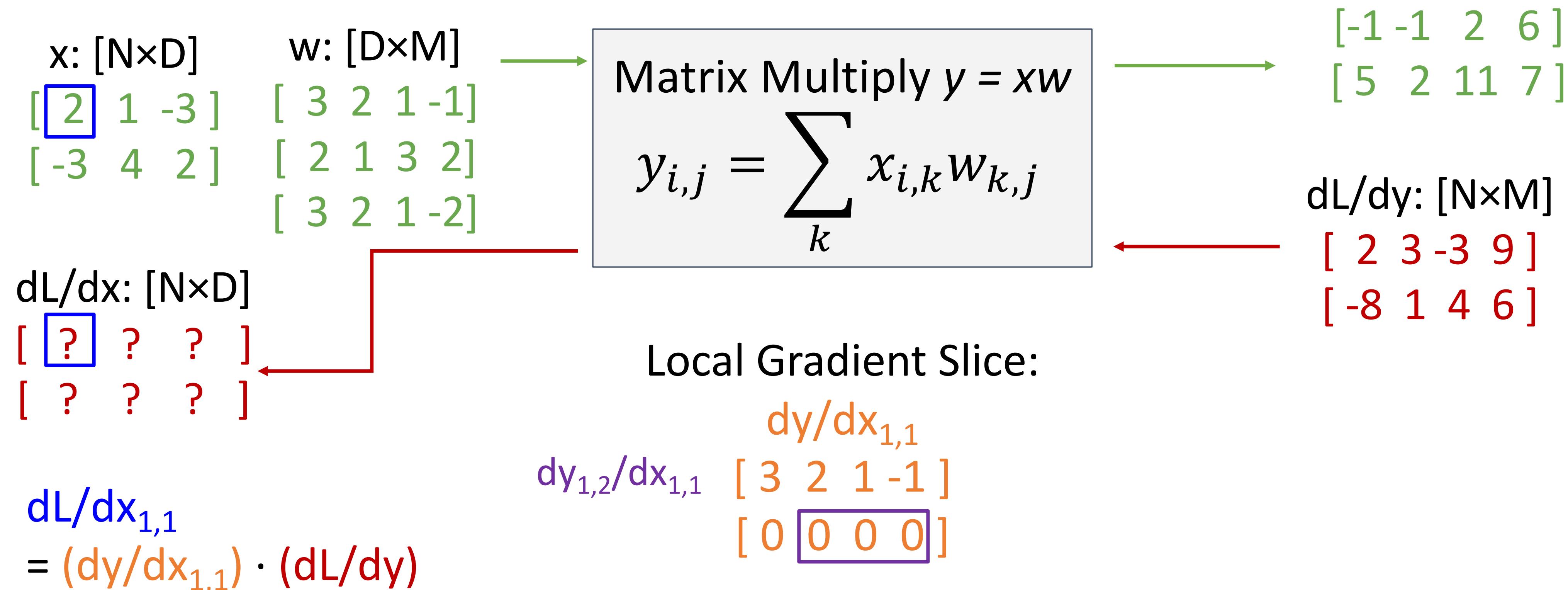
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



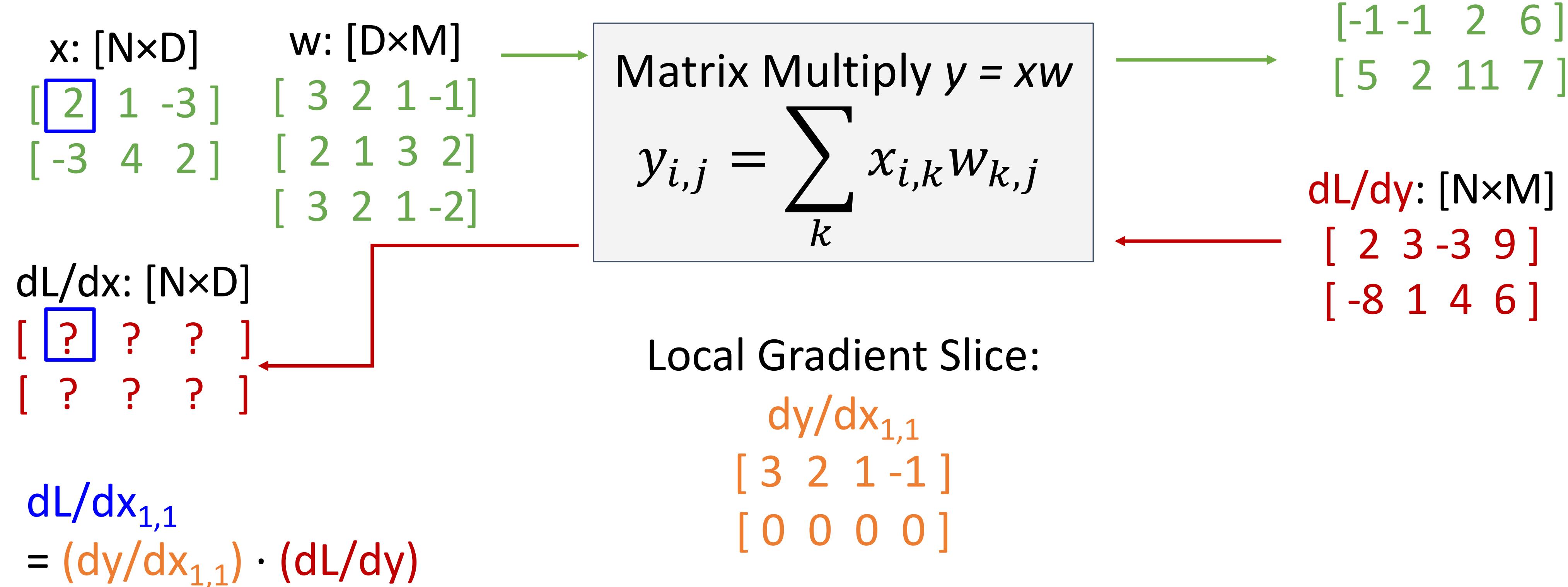
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



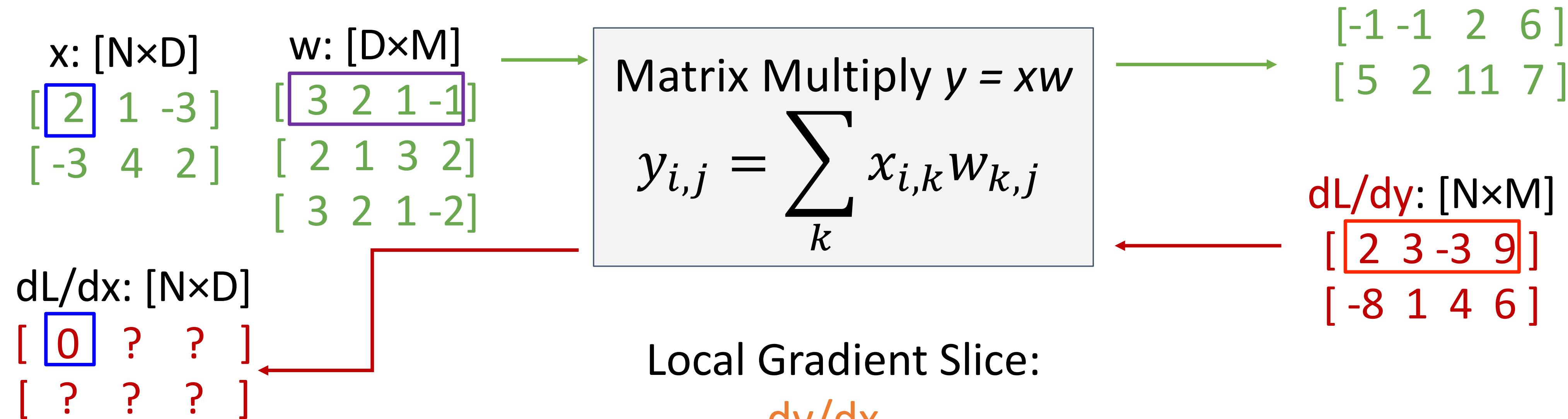
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



# Example: Matrix Multiplication

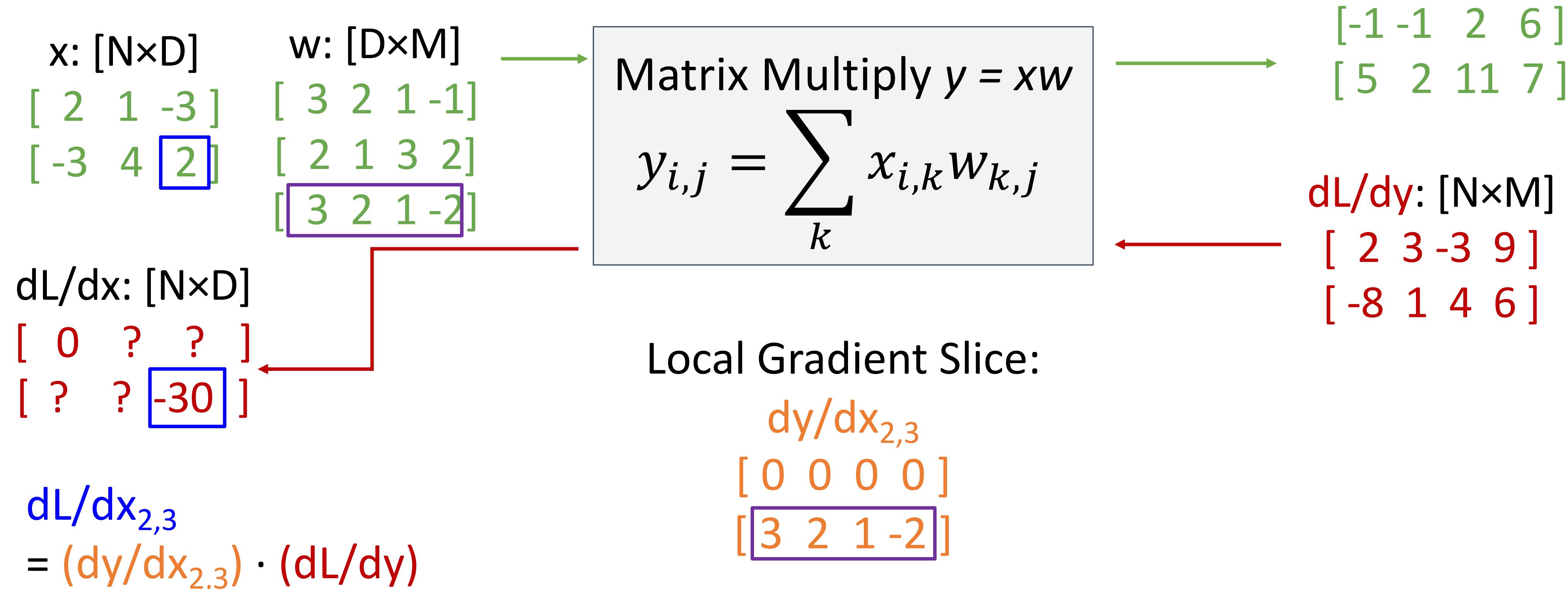


# Example: Matrix Multiplication

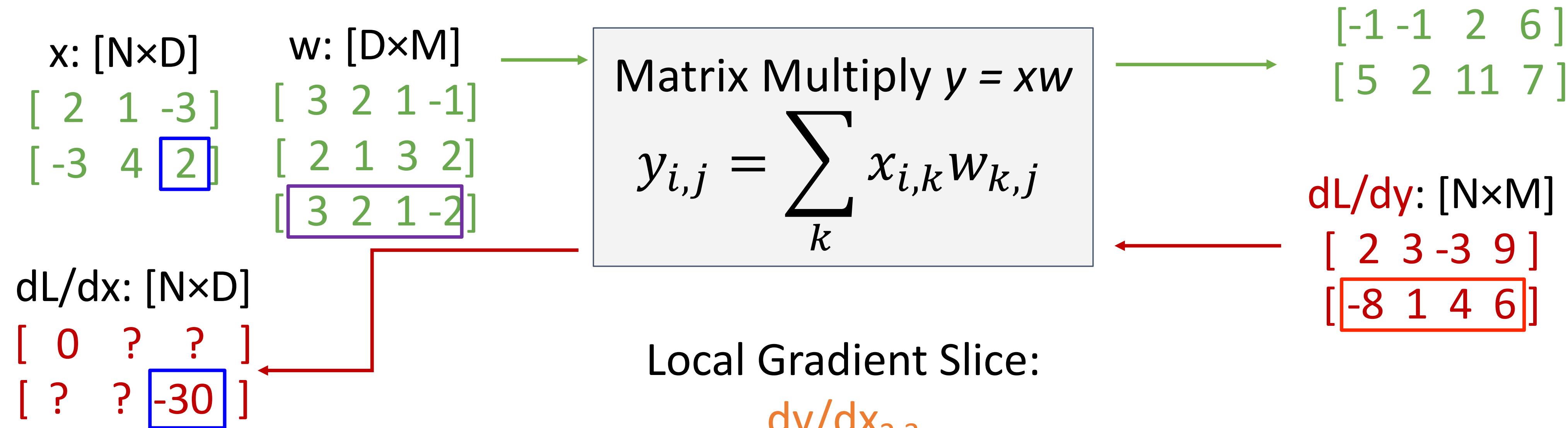


$$\begin{aligned}
 dL/dx_{1,1} &= (dy/dx_{1,1}) \cdot (dL/dy) \\
 &= (w_{1,:}) \cdot (dL/dy_{1,:}) \\
 &= 3*2 + 2*3 + 1*(-3) + (-1)*9 = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

# Example: Matrix Multiplication

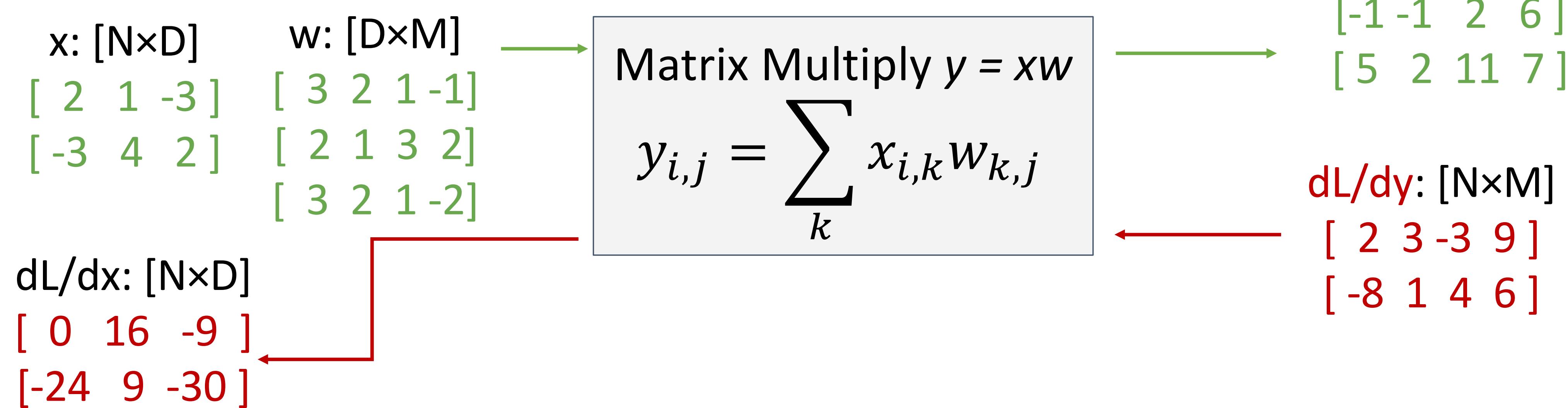


# Example: Matrix Multiplication



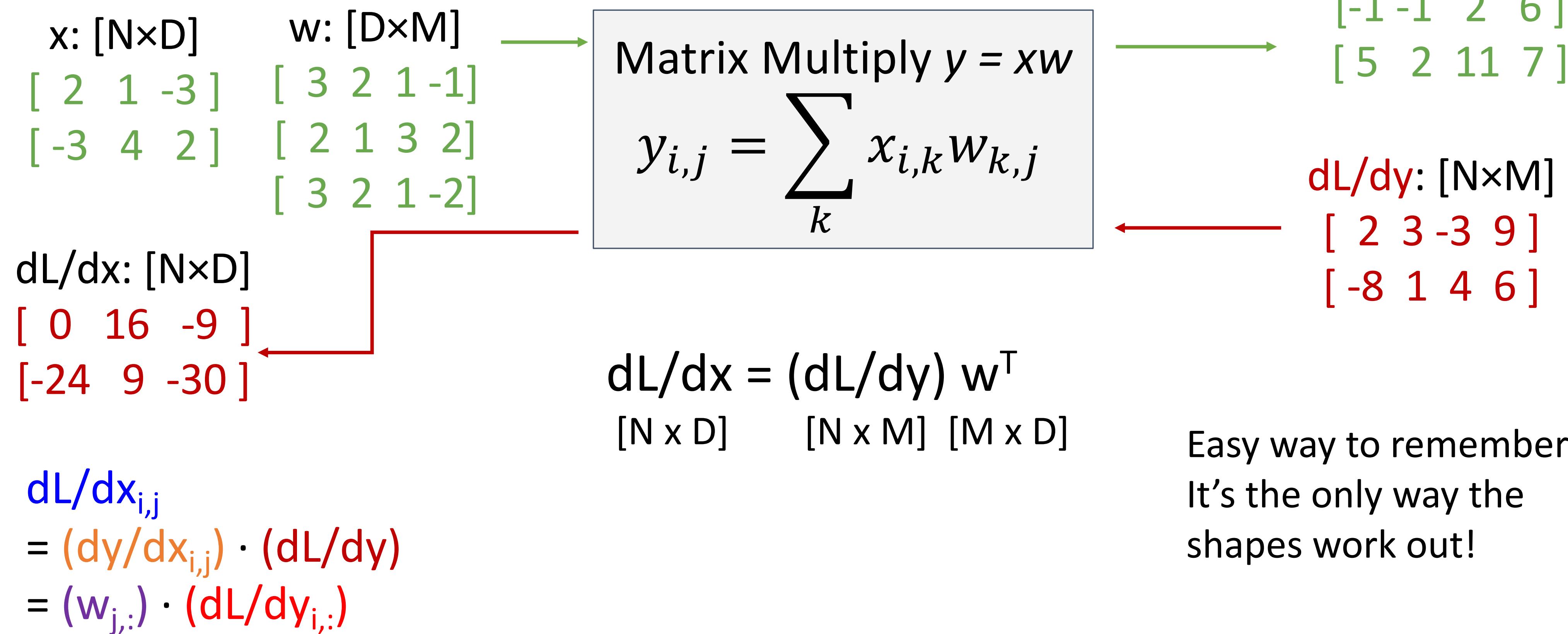
$$\begin{aligned}
 dL/dx_{2,3} &= (dy/dx_{2,3}) \cdot (dL/dy) \\
 &= (w_{3,:}) \cdot (dL/dy_{2,:}) \\
 &= 3*(-8) + 2*1 + 1*4 + (-2)*6 = -30
 \end{aligned}$$

# Example: Matrix Multiplication



$$\begin{aligned}
 dL/dx_{i,j} &= (dy/dx_{i,j}) \cdot (dL/dy) \\
 &= (w_{j,:}) \cdot (dL/dy_{i,:})
 \end{aligned}$$

# Example: Matrix Multiplication



# Example: Matrix Multiplication

$$\begin{array}{l} x: [N \times D] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -3 \\ -3 & 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} w: [D \times M] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

Matrix Multiply  $y = xw$

$$y_{i,j} = \sum_k x_{i,k} w_{k,j}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 2 & 6 \\ 5 & 2 & 11 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} dL/dx: [N \times D] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 16 & -9 \\ -24 & 9 & -30 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

$$dL/dx = (dL/dy) w^T$$

$$[N \times D] \quad [N \times M] \quad [M \times D]$$

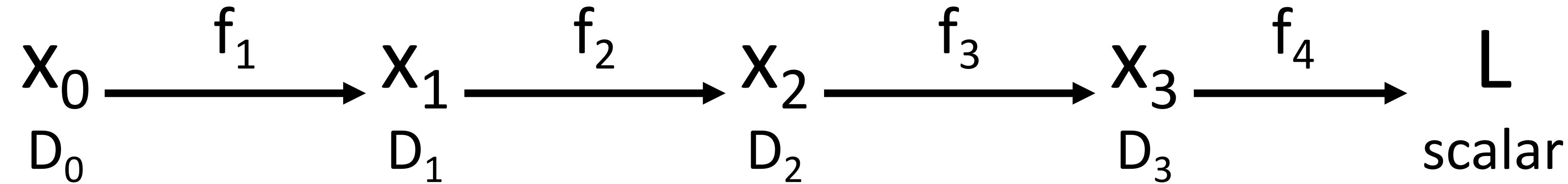
$$dL/dw = x^T (dL/dy)$$

$$[D \times M] \quad [D \times N] \quad [N \times M]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} dL/dy: [N \times M] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & -3 & 9 \\ -8 & 1 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

Easy way to remember:  
It's the only way the  
shapes work out!

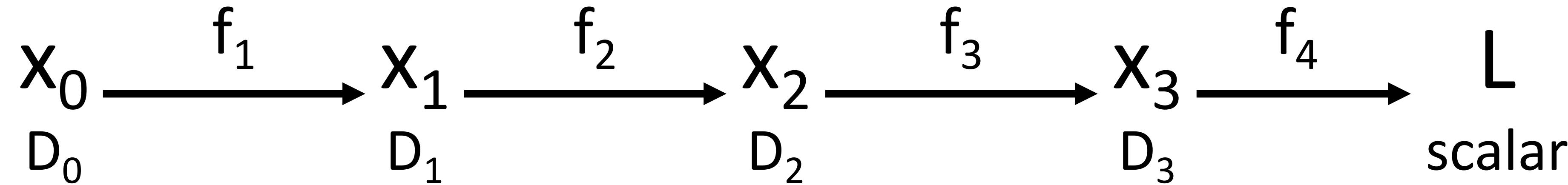
# Backpropagation: Another View



Chain rule

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_0} = \left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right) \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_3} \right)$$

# Backpropagation: Another View



Matrix multiplication is **associative**: we can compute products in any order

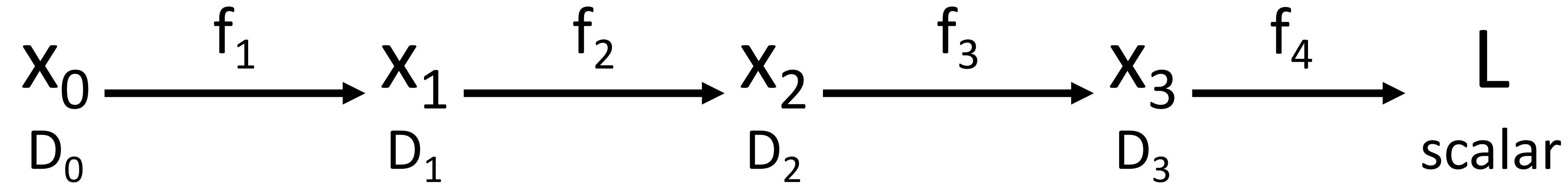
Chain rule

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_0} = \left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right) \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_3} \right)$$

$[D_0 \times D_1] [D_1 \times D_2] [D_2 \times D_3] [D_3]$

# Reverse-Mode Automatic Differentiation

---



Matrix multiplication is **associative**: we can compute products in any order  
 Computing products right-to-left avoids matrix-matrix products; only needs matrix-vector

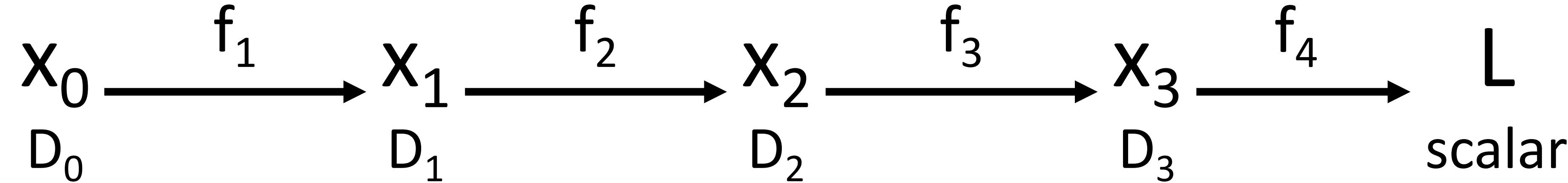
Chain rule

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_0} = \overbrace{\left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right) \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_3} \right)}^{\longleftarrow}$$

$[D_0 \times D_1] \ [D_1 \times D_2] \ [D_2 \times D_3] \ [D_3]$

# Reverse-Mode Automatic Differentiation

---



Matrix multiplication is **associative**: we can compute products in any order

Computing products right-to-left avoids matrix-matrix products; only needs matrix-vector

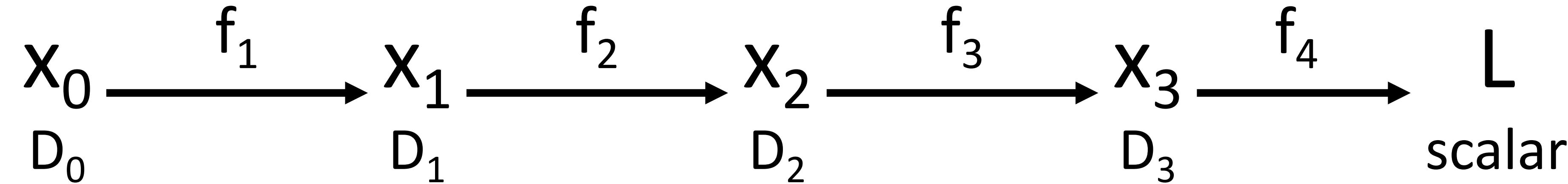
←

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_0} = \left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right) \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_3} \right)$$

Compute grad of scalar output  
w/ respect to all vector inputs

$[D_0 \times D_1] \ [D_1 \times D_2] \ [D_2 \times D_3] \ [D_3]$

# Reverse-Mode Automatic Differentiation



Matrix multiplication is **associative**: we can compute products in any order

Computing products right-to-left avoids matrix-matrix products; only needs matrix-vector

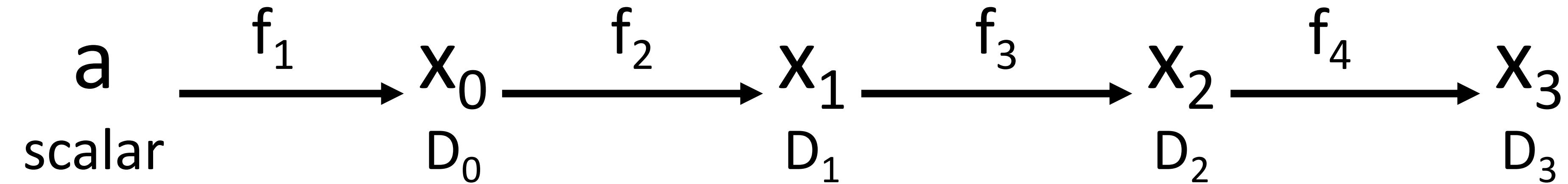
$$\text{Chain rule} \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_0} = \left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right) \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_3} \right)$$

Compute grad of scalar output  
w/respect to all vector inputs

$[D_0 \times D_1] [D_1 \times D_2] [D_2 \times D_3] [D_3]$

What if we want  
grads of scalar  
input w/respect  
to vector  
outputs?

# Forward-Mode Automatic Differentiation

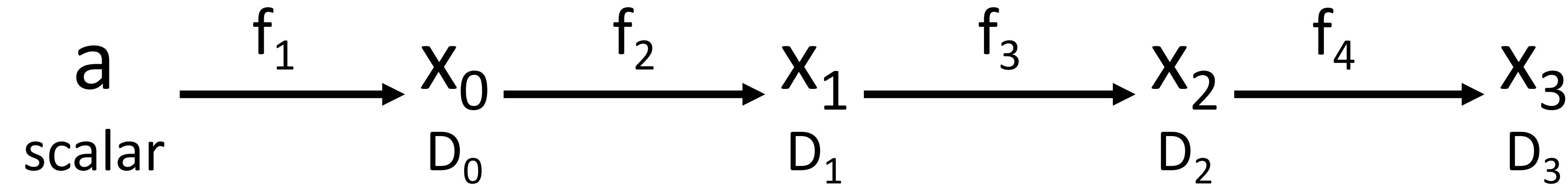


Chain  
rule

$$\frac{\partial x_3}{\partial a} = \left( \frac{\partial x_0}{\partial a} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right)$$

$[D_0] \quad [D_0 \times D_1] \quad [D_1 \times D_2] \quad [D_2 \times D_3]$

# Forward-Mode Automatic Differentiation

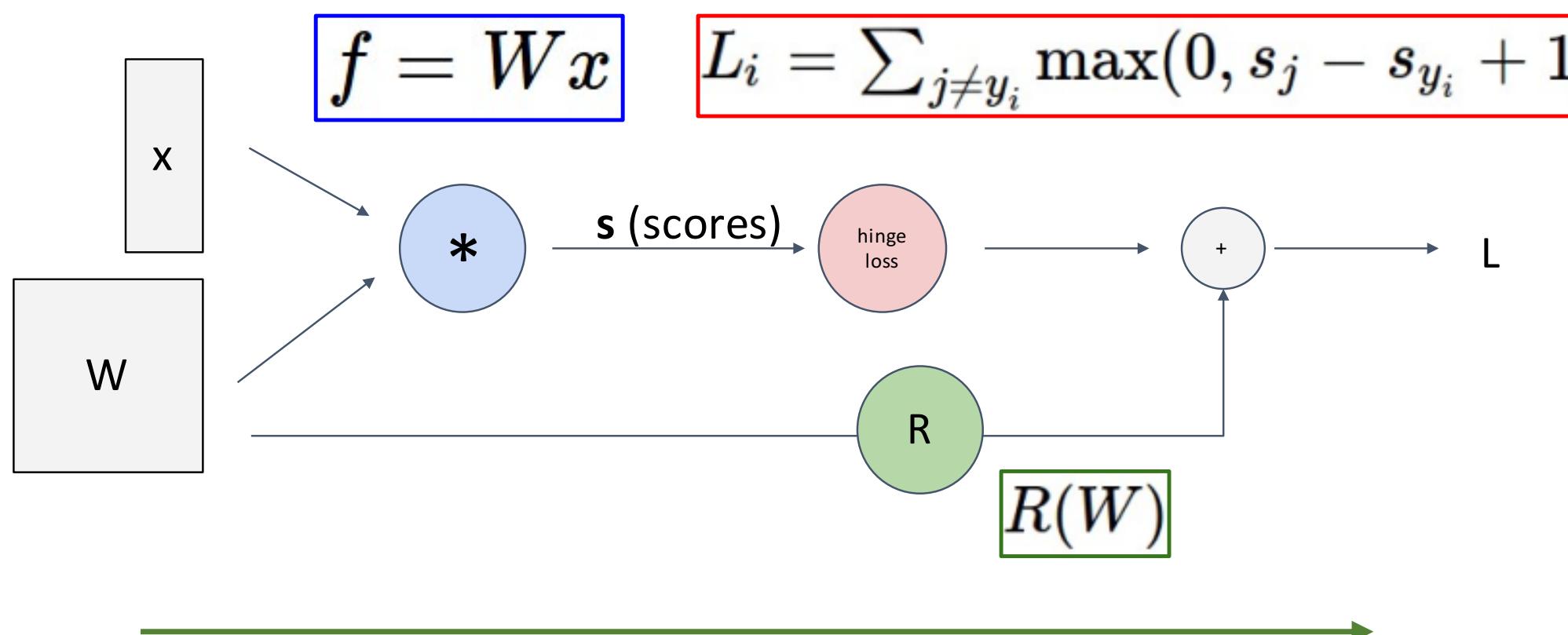


Computing products left-to-right avoids matrix-matrix products; only needs matrix-vector

Chain rule 
$$\frac{\partial x_3}{\partial a} = \overbrace{\left( \frac{\partial x_0}{\partial a} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right)}^{\longrightarrow}$$
  
[D<sub>0</sub>] [D<sub>0</sub> × D<sub>1</sub>] [D<sub>1</sub> × D<sub>2</sub>] [D<sub>2</sub> × D<sub>3</sub>]

# Summary

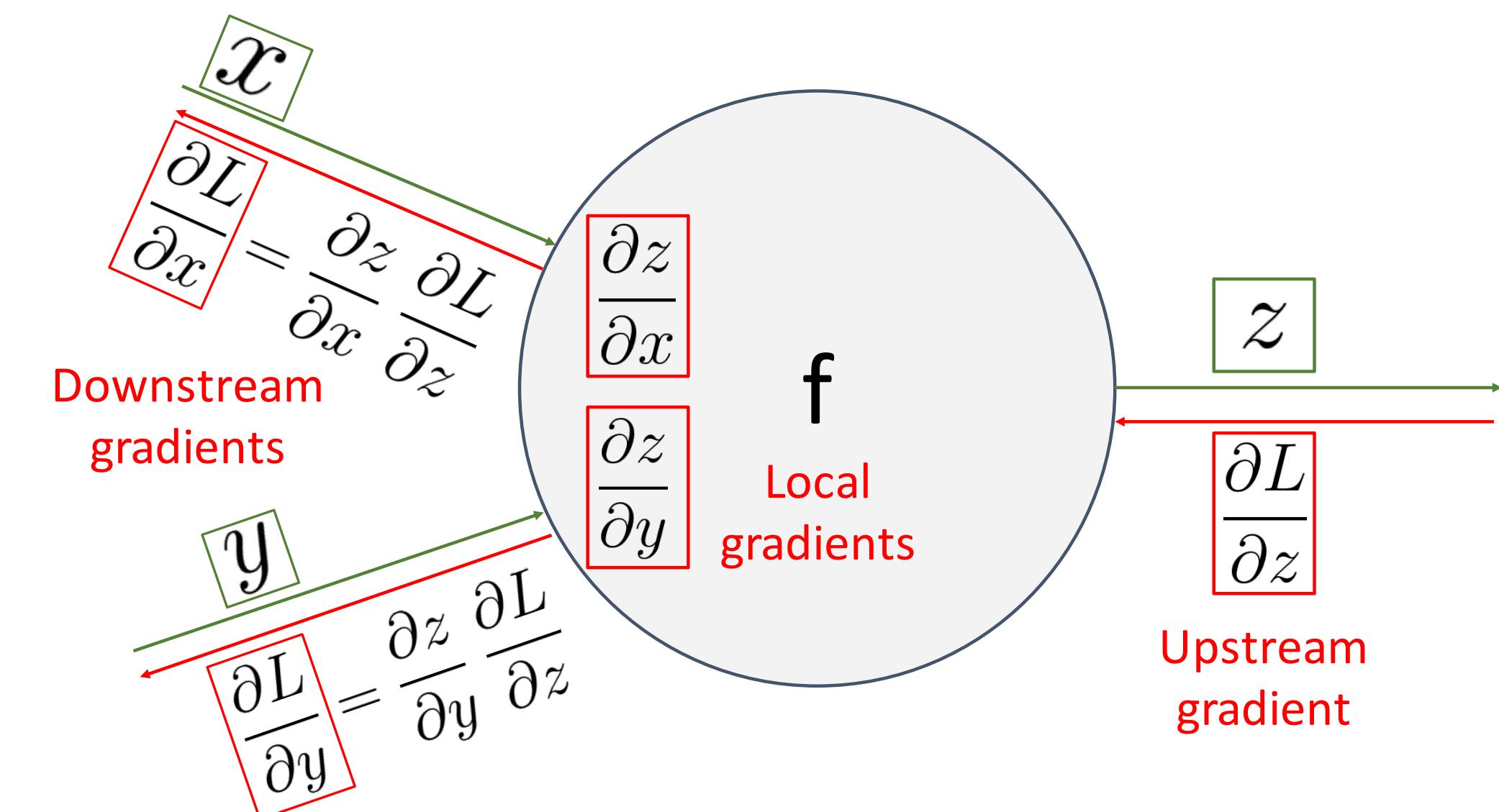
Represent complex expressions as **computational graphs**



Forward pass computes outputs

Backward pass computes gradients

During the backward pass, each node in the graph receives **upstream gradients** and multiplies them by **local gradients** to compute **downstream gradients**





# Summary

Backprop can be implemented with “flat” code where the backward pass looks like forward pass reversed

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)

    grad_L = 1.0
    grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
    grad_w2 = grad_s3
    grad_s2 = grad_s3
    grad_s0 = grad_s2
    grad_s1 = grad_s2
    grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
    grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
    grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
    grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

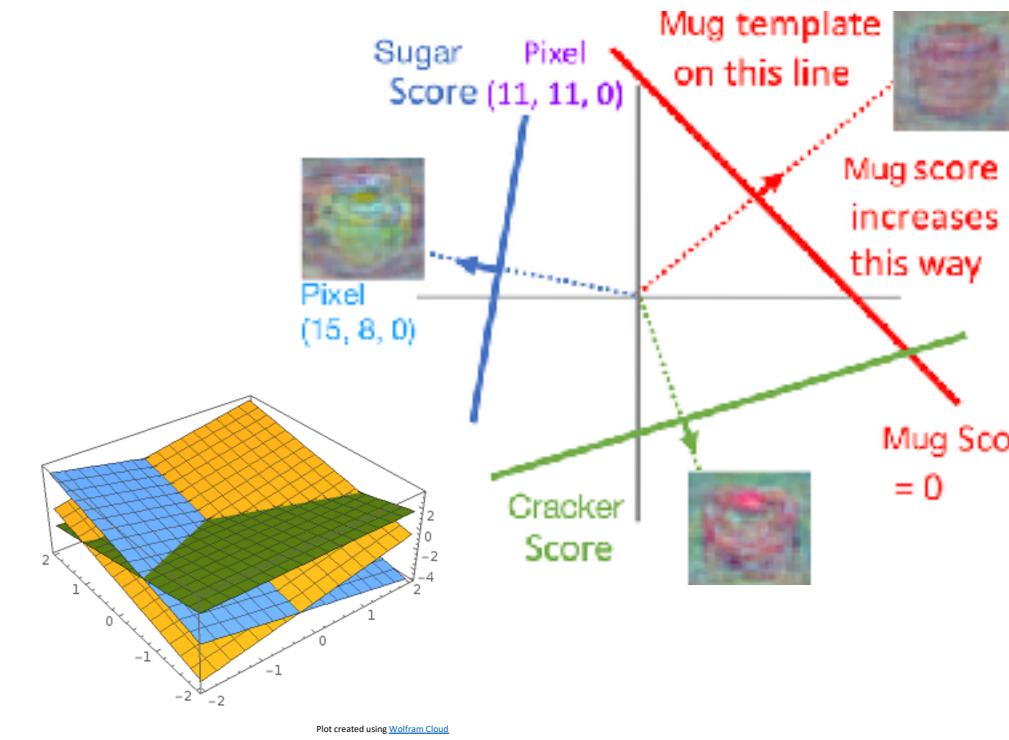
Backprop can be implemented with a modular API, as a set of paired forward/backward functions

```
class Multiply(torch.autograd.Function):
    @staticmethod
    def forward(ctx, x, y):
        ctx.save_for_backward(x, y)
        z = x * y
        return z

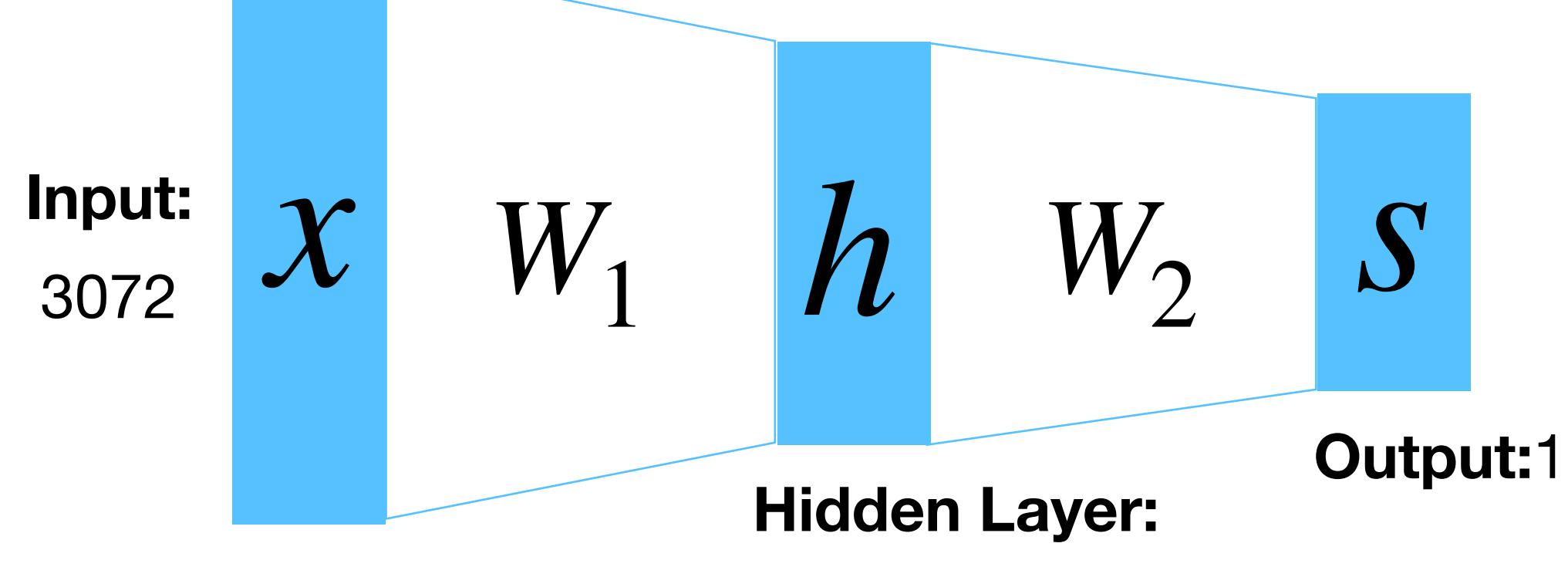
    @staticmethod
    def backward(ctx, grad_z):
        x, y = ctx.saved_tensors
        grad_x = y * grad_z    # dz/dx * dL/dz
        grad_y = x * grad_z    # dz/dy * dL/dz
        return grad_x, grad_y
```



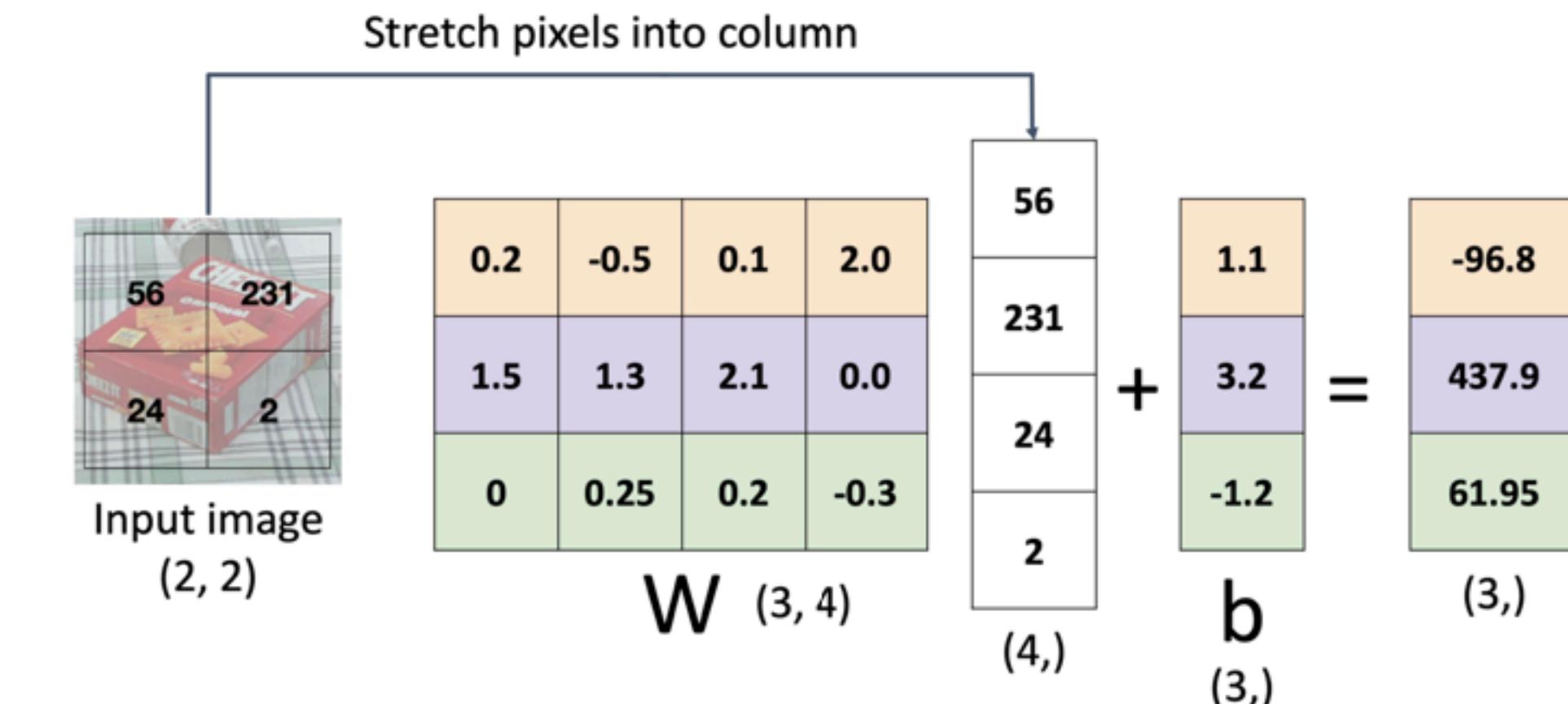
# Summary



$$f(x) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$



**Problem:** So far our classifiers don't respect the spatial structure of images!



# Next time: Convolutional Neural Networks



**DR**

# DeepRob

Lecture 6  
Backpropagation  
University of Michigan and University of Minnesota

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_1}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_2}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_3}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_4}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_5}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \text{Out}}$$

