

# 2025 USA-NA-AIO Round 1, Problem 2, Part 2

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Mar 2025

## Part 2 (10 points, non-coding task)

Define  $\nabla_z f(z)$  to be the gradient of function  $f$  with respect to vector/matrix  $z$ .

Compute the following gradients. Reasoning is required.

1.  $\nabla_x y$ .

The final answer should be in a matrix form.

2.  $\nabla_w y$ .

The final answer should be in an element-wise form.

3.  $\nabla_b y$ .

The final answer should be in a matrix form.

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Misplaced '#'

1. Since  $y \in \mathbb{R}^M$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $\nabla_x y \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$ .

We have



[Skip to main content](#)

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial y_m}{\partial x_n} &= \frac{\partial (\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} w_{mi}x_i + b_m)}{\partial x_n} \\ &= w_{mn}.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\boxed{\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{W}}.$$

2. Since  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^M$  and  $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$ ,  $\nabla_{\mathbf{W}} \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M \times N}$ .

We have

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial y_m}{\partial w_{kn}} &= \frac{\partial (\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} w_{mi}x_i + b_m)}{\partial w_{kn}} \\ &= \boxed{x_n \delta_{mk}}.\end{aligned}$$

3. Since  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^M$  and  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^M$ ,  $\nabla_{\mathbf{b}} \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M}$ .

We have

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial y_m}{\partial b_k} &= \frac{\partial (\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} w_{mi}x_i + b_m)}{\partial b_k} \\ &= \delta_{mk}.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\boxed{\nabla_{\mathbf{b}} \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{I}_{M \times M}}.$$

[Skip to main content](#)

"" END OF THIS PART ""

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