PV021: Neural networks

Tomáš Brázdil

Course organization

Course materials:

- **Main:** The lecture
- Neural Networks and Deep Learning by Michael Nielsen

  `http://neuralnetworksanddeeplearning.com/`

  (Extremely well written modern online textbook.)
- Deep learning by Ian Goodfellow, Yoshua Bengio and Aaron Courville

  `http://www.deeplearningbook.org/`

  (A very good overview of the state-of-the-art in neural networks.)
- Inifinitely many online tutorials on everything (to build intuition)

Suggested: deeplearning.ai courses by Andrew Ng

Course organization

Evaluation:

- Project
  - teams of two students
  - implementation of a selected model + analysis of given data
  - implementation either in C, C++ **without use of any specialized libraries for data analysis and machine learning**
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- Oral exam
  - I may ask about anything from the lecture! You will get a detailed manual specifying the mandatory knowledge.

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Q: Why should you attend this course when there are infinitely many great reasources elsewhere?

A: There are at least two reasons:

- You may discuss issues with me, my colleagues and other students.
- I will make you truly learn fundamentals by heart.

Notable features of the course

- Use of mathematical notation and reasoning (contains several proofs that are mandatory for the exam)
- Sometimes goes deeper into statistical underpinnings of neural networks learning
- The project demands a complete working solution which must satisfy a prescribed performance specification

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An example of an instruction email (from another course with the same system):

```
It is typically not sufficient to devote a single
afternoon to the preparation for the exam.
You have to know _everything_ (which means every
single thing) starting with the slide 42
and ending with the slide 245 with notable exceptions
of slides: 121 - 123, 137 - 140, 165, 167.
Proofs presented on the whiteboard are also mandatory.
```

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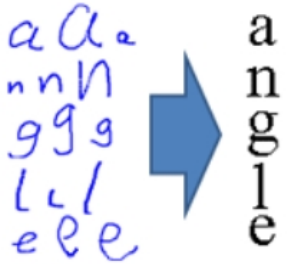

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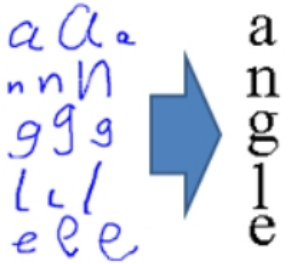

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  - and lots of much much more sophisticated applications ...

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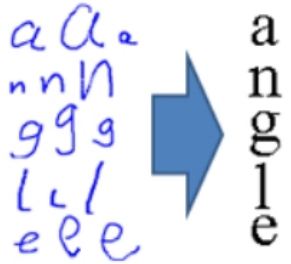

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- Basic attributes of learning algorithms:
  - **representation**: ability to capture the inner structure of training data
  - **generalization**: ability to work properly on new data

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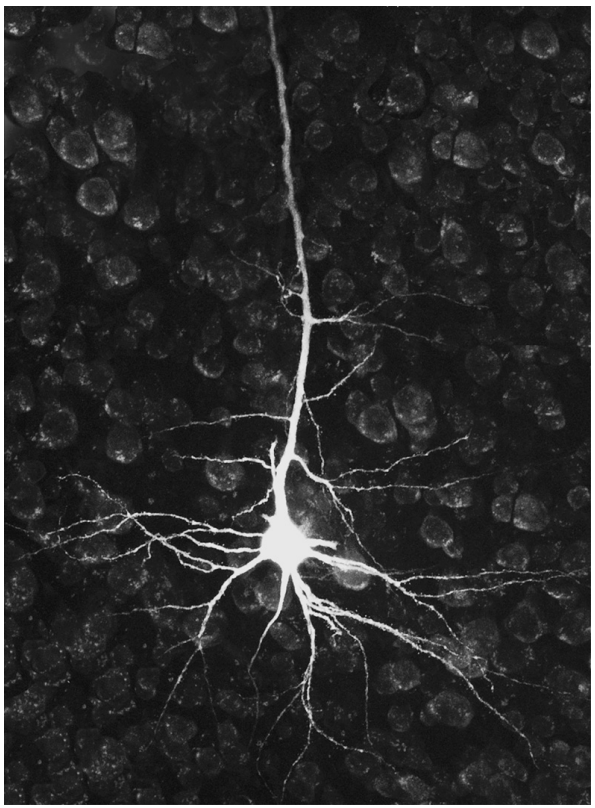
There are many types of models:

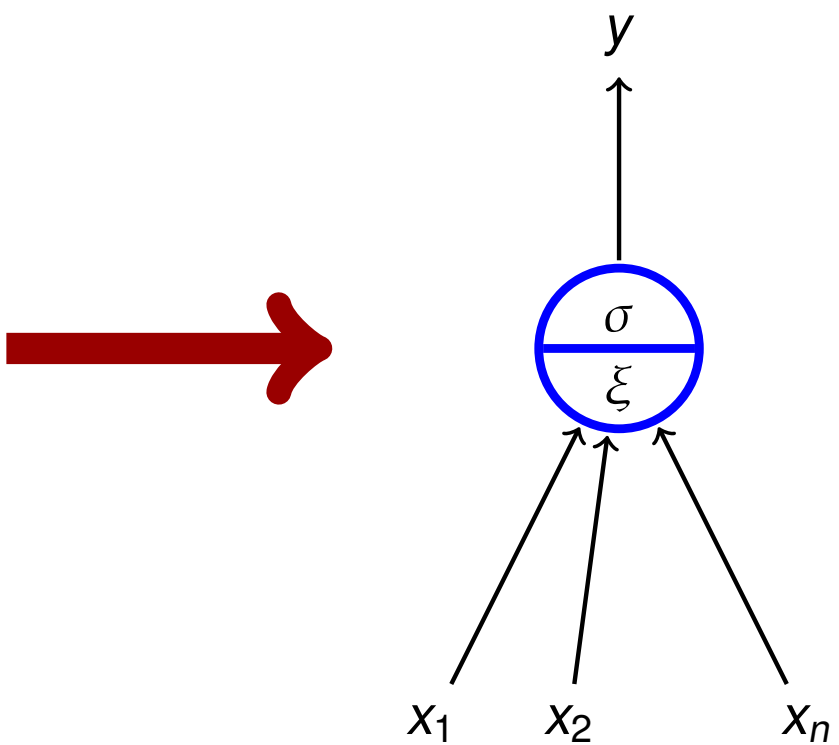
- decision trees
- support vector machines
- hidden Markov models
- Bayes networks and other graphical models
- **neural networks**
- ...

Neural networks, based on models of a (human) brain, form a natural basis for learning algorithms!

Artificial neural networks

- **Artificial neuron** is a *rough mathematical approximation* of a biological neuron.
- **(Aritificial) neural network (NN)** consists of a number of interconnected artificial neurons. "Behavior" of the network is encoded in connections between neurons.





Zdroj obrázku: `http://tulane.edu/sse/cmb/people/schrader/`

Why artificial neural networks?

Modelling of biological neural networks (computational neuroscience).

- simplified mathematical models help to identify important mechanisms
  - How a brain receives information?
  - How the information is stored?
  - How a brain develops?
  - ...

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  - ...
- neuroscience is strongly multidisciplinary; precise mathematical descriptions help in communication among experts and in design of new experiments.

I will not spend much time on this area!

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Neural networks in machine learning.

- Typically primitive models, far from their biological counterparts (but often inspired by biology).
- Strongly oriented towards concrete application domains:
  - decision making and control - autonomous vehicles, manufacturing processes, control of natural resources
  - games - backgammon, poker, GO, Starcraft, ...
  - finance - stock prices, risk analysis
  - medicine - diagnosis, signal processing (EKG, EEG, ...), image processing (MRI, CT, WSI ...)
  - text and speech processing - machine translation, text generation, speech recognition
  - other signal processing - filtering, radar tracking, noise reduction
  - art - music and painting generation, deepfakes
  - ...

I will concentrate on this area!

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- Robustness
  - a blurred photo of a rabbit may still be classified as an image of a rabbit
- Graceful degradation
  - Experiments have shown that damaged neural network is still able to work quite well
  - Damaged network may re-adapt, remaining neurons may take on functionality of the damaged ones

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- We will concentrate on
  - basic techniques and principles of neural networks,
  - fundamental models of neural networks and their applications.
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  - basic models

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  - Basic information about current implementations
    (TensorFlow-Keras, Pytorch)

Biological neural network

- Human neural network consists of approximately 10^{11} (100 billion on the short scale) neurons; a single cubic centimeter of a human brain contains almost 50 million neurons.
- Each neuron is connected with approx. 10^4 neurons.
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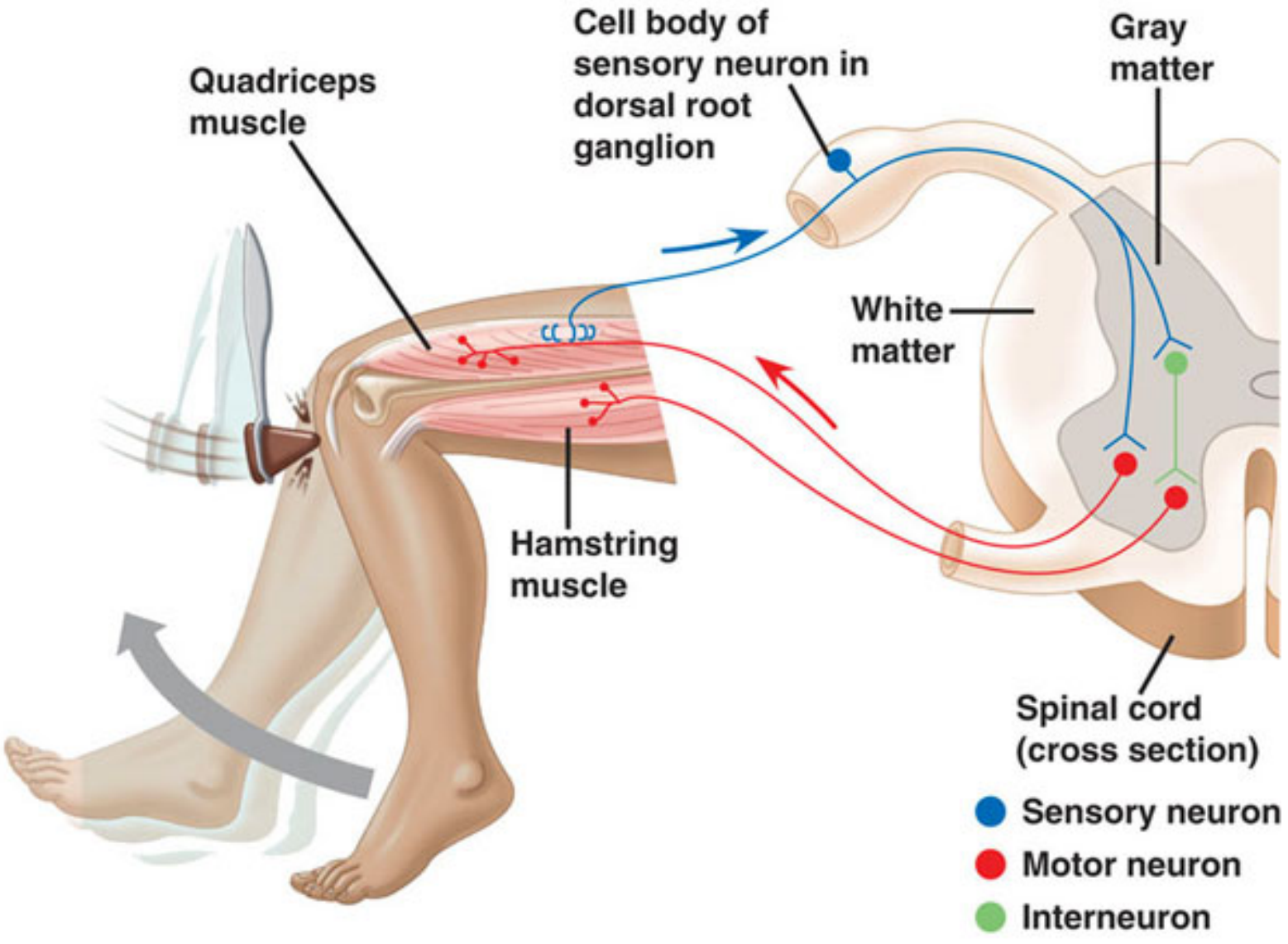
- Afterwards, the output signal is transfered via PNS to *effectors* (e.g. muscle cells).

Biological neural network



Zdroj: N. Campbell and J. Reece; Biology, 7th Edition; ISBN: 080537146X

Summation

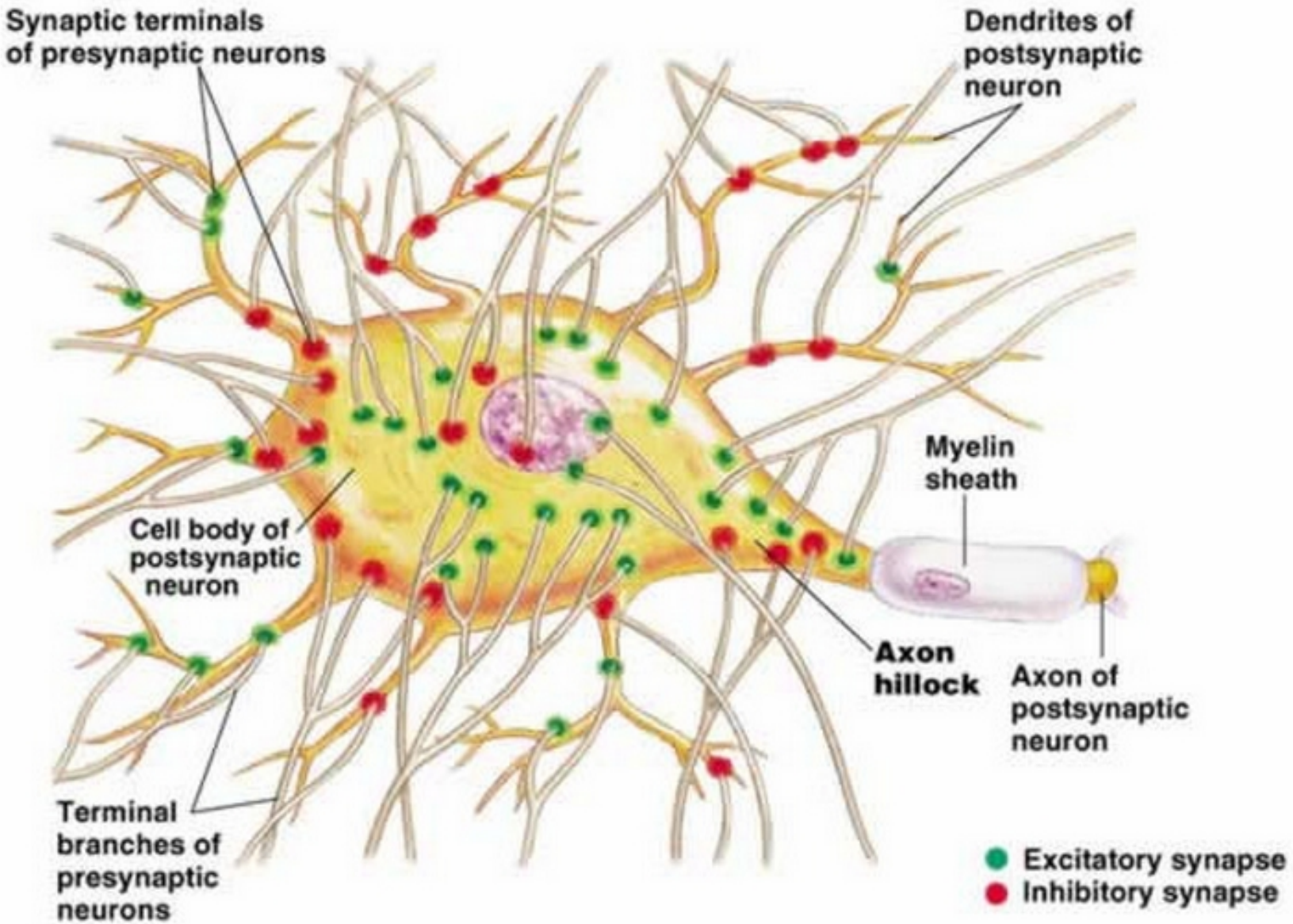
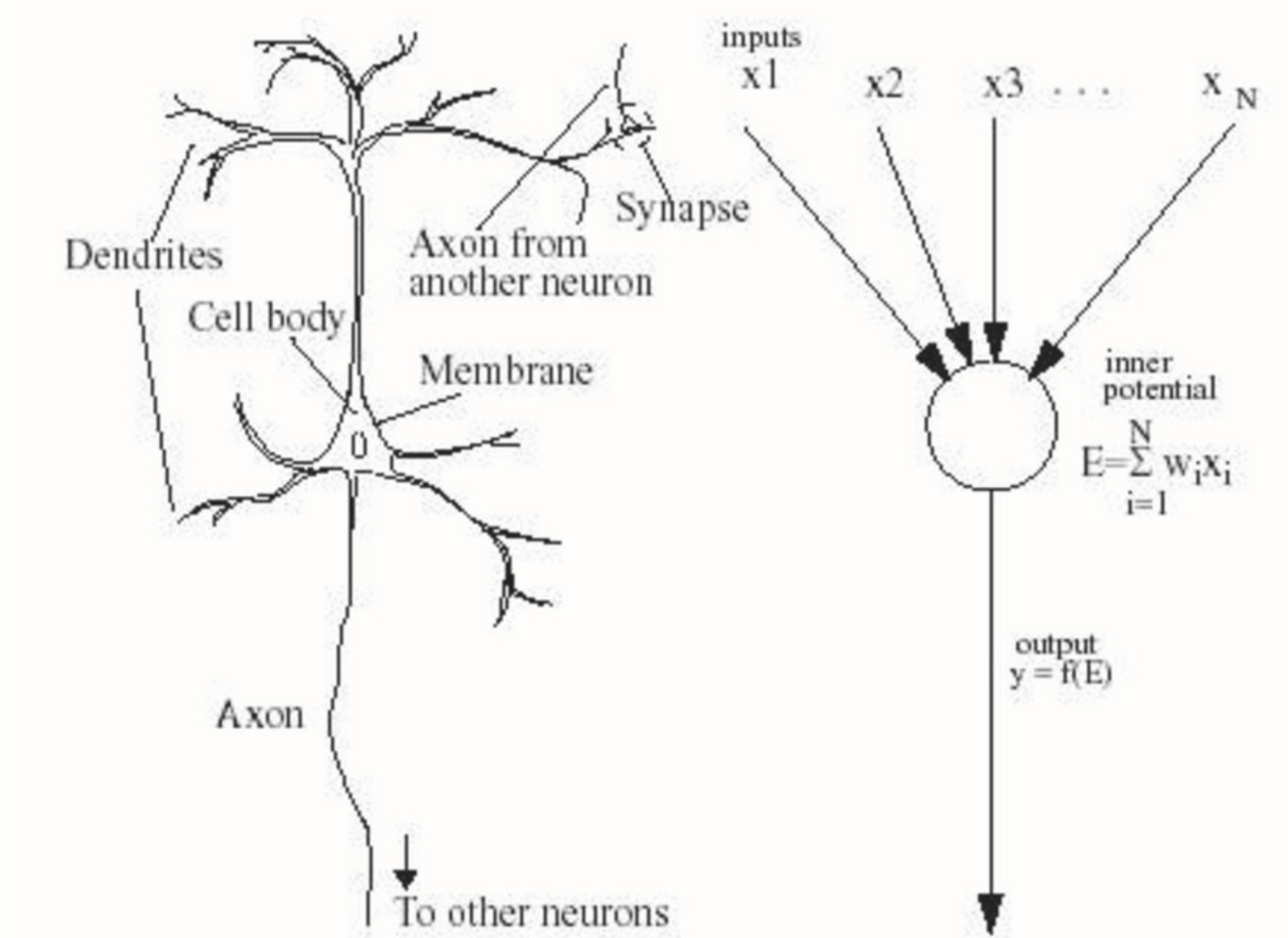
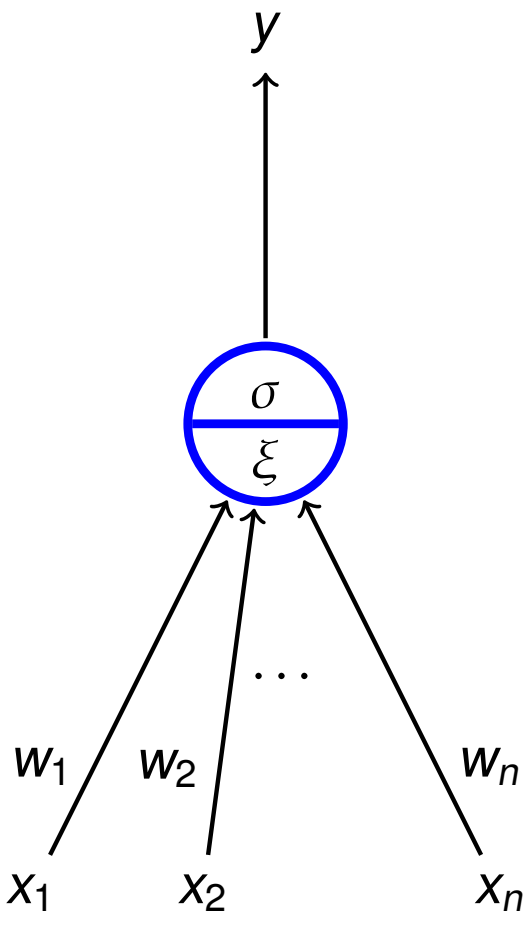


Figure 48.11(a), page 972, Campbell's *Biology, 5th Edition*

Biological and Mathematical neurons



Formal neuron (without bias)



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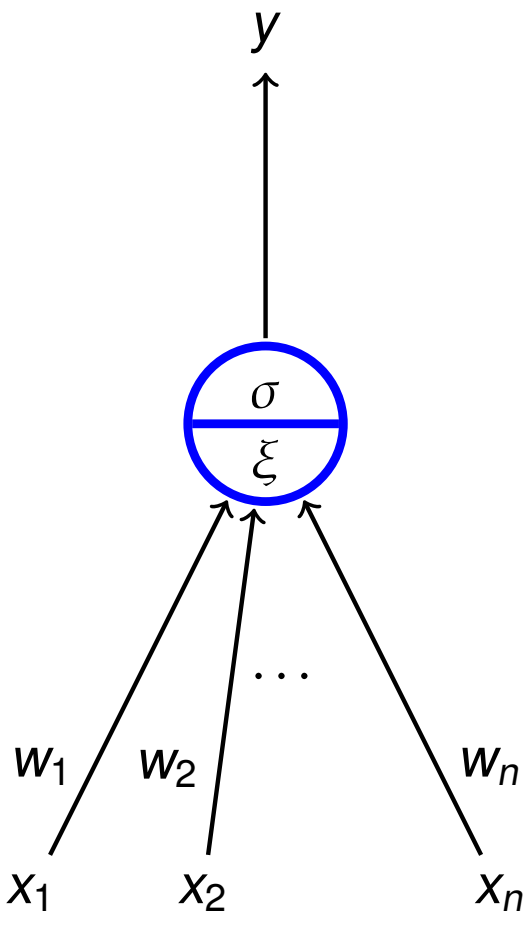

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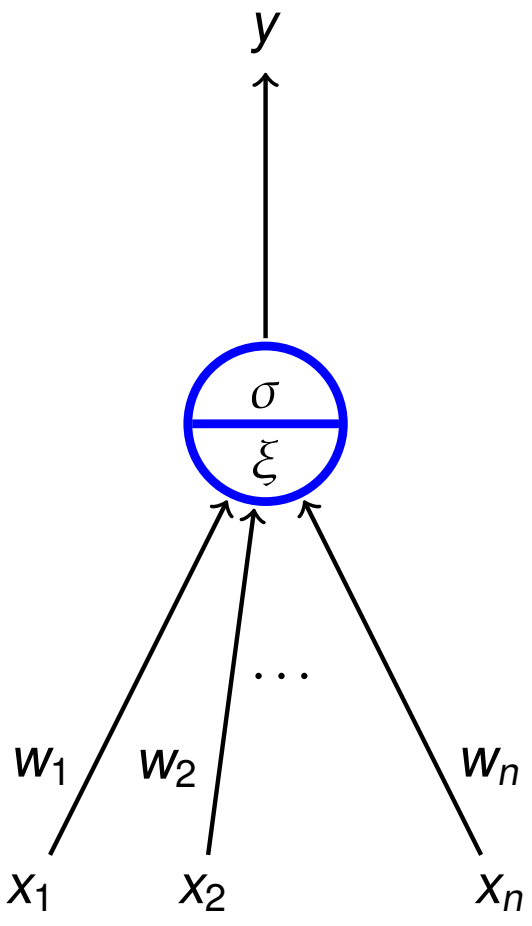

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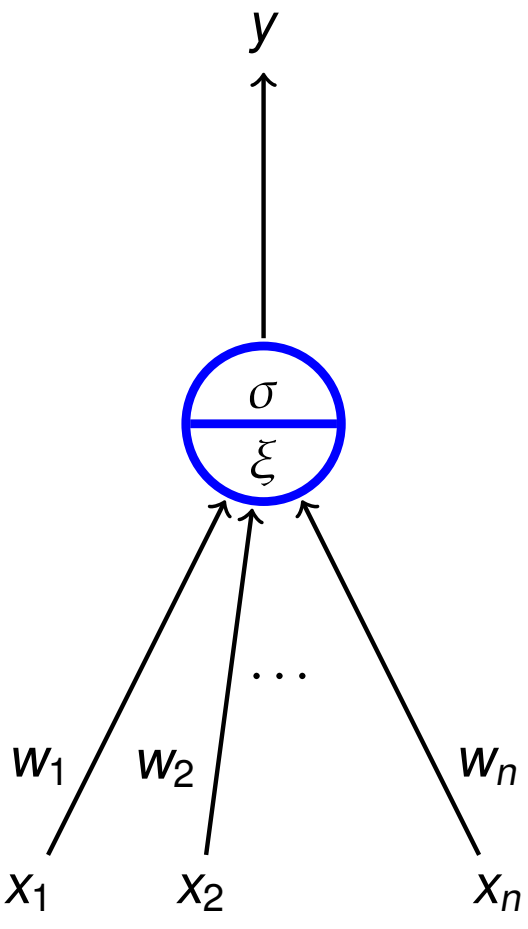

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  where σ is an **activation function**;
  e.g. a *unit step function*

$$\sigma(\xi) = \begin{cases} 1 & \xi \geq h\,; \\ 0 & \xi < h. \end{cases}$$

where $h \in \mathbb{R}$ is a *threshold*.

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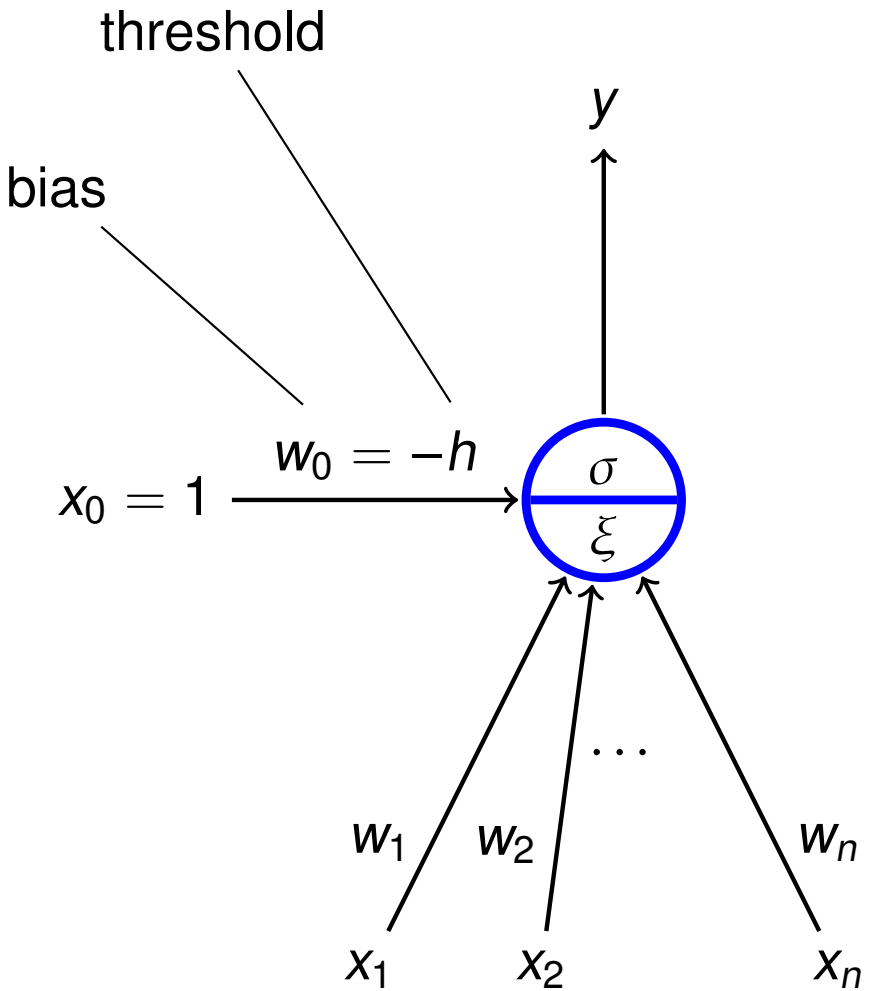

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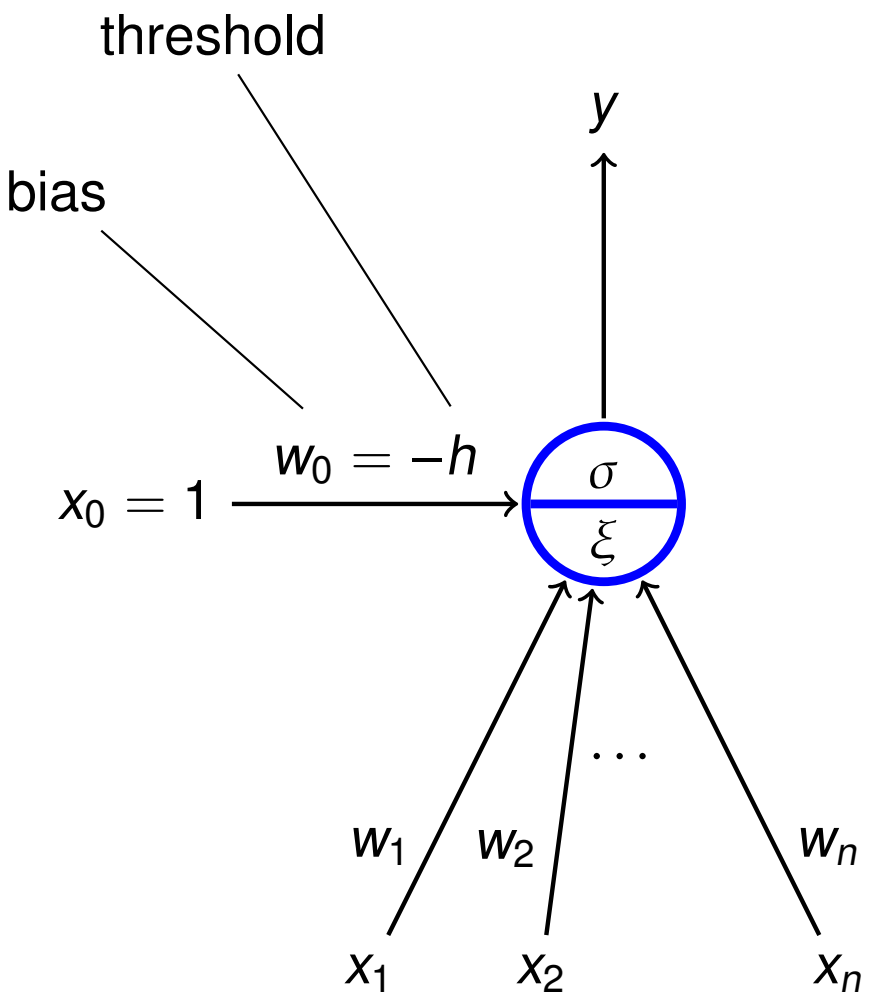

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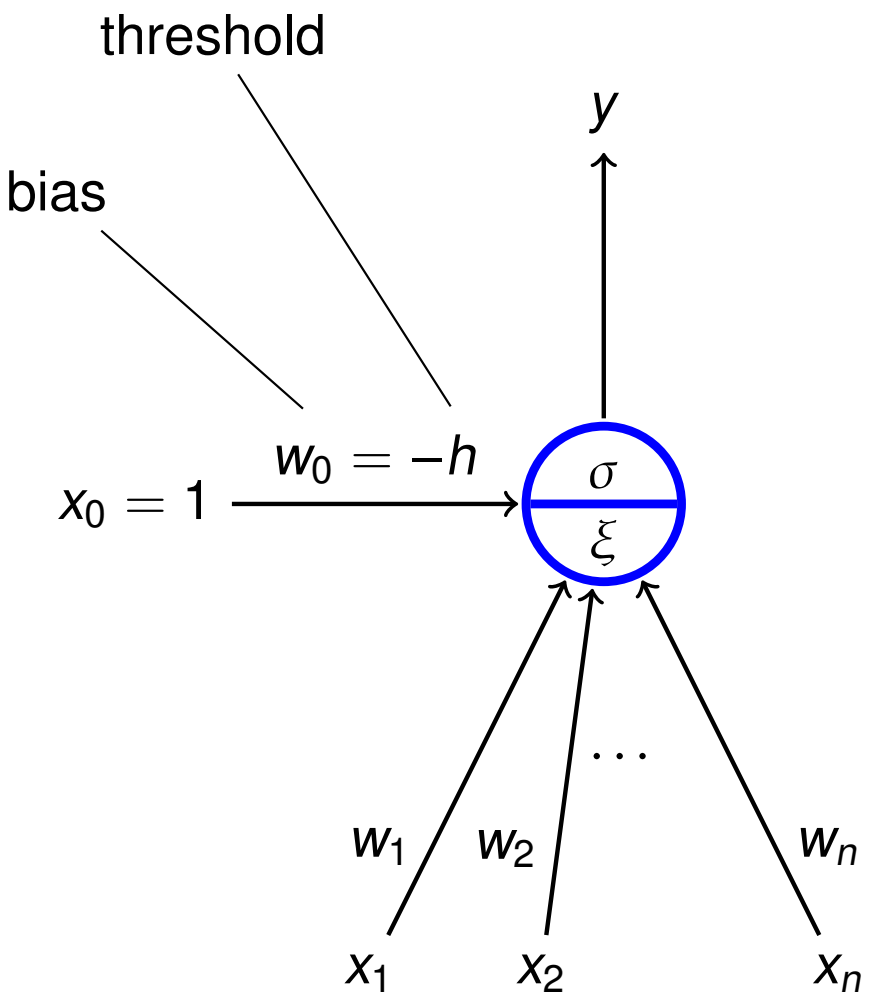

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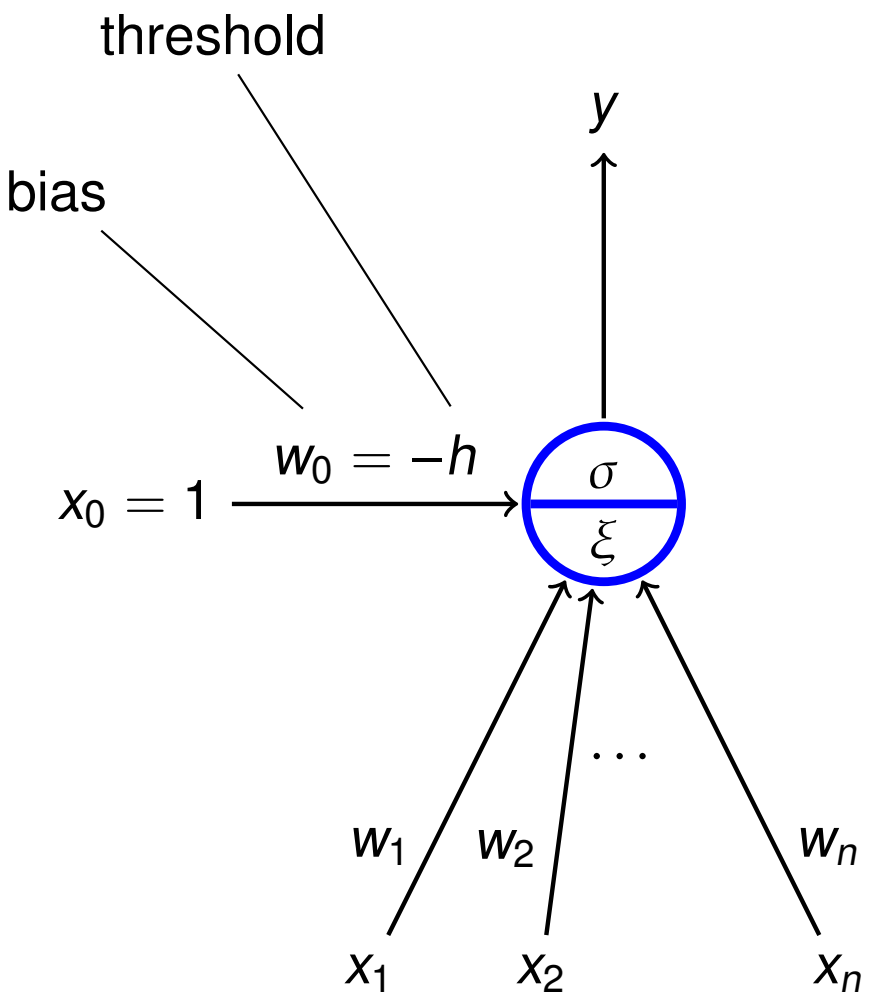

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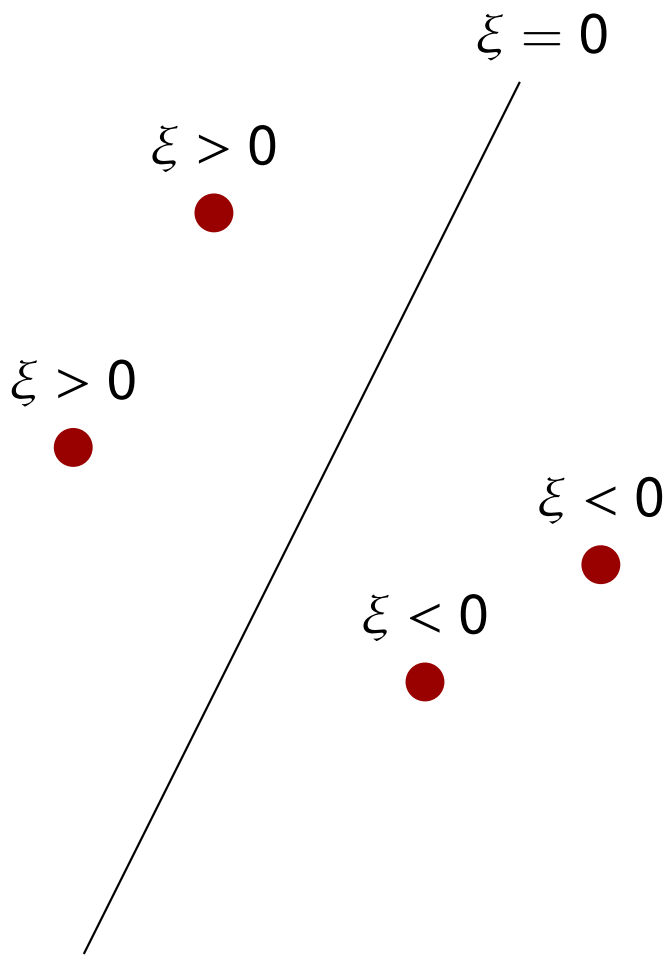
(The threshold h has been substituted with the new input $x_0 = 1$ and the weight $w_0 = -h$.)

Neuron and linear separation



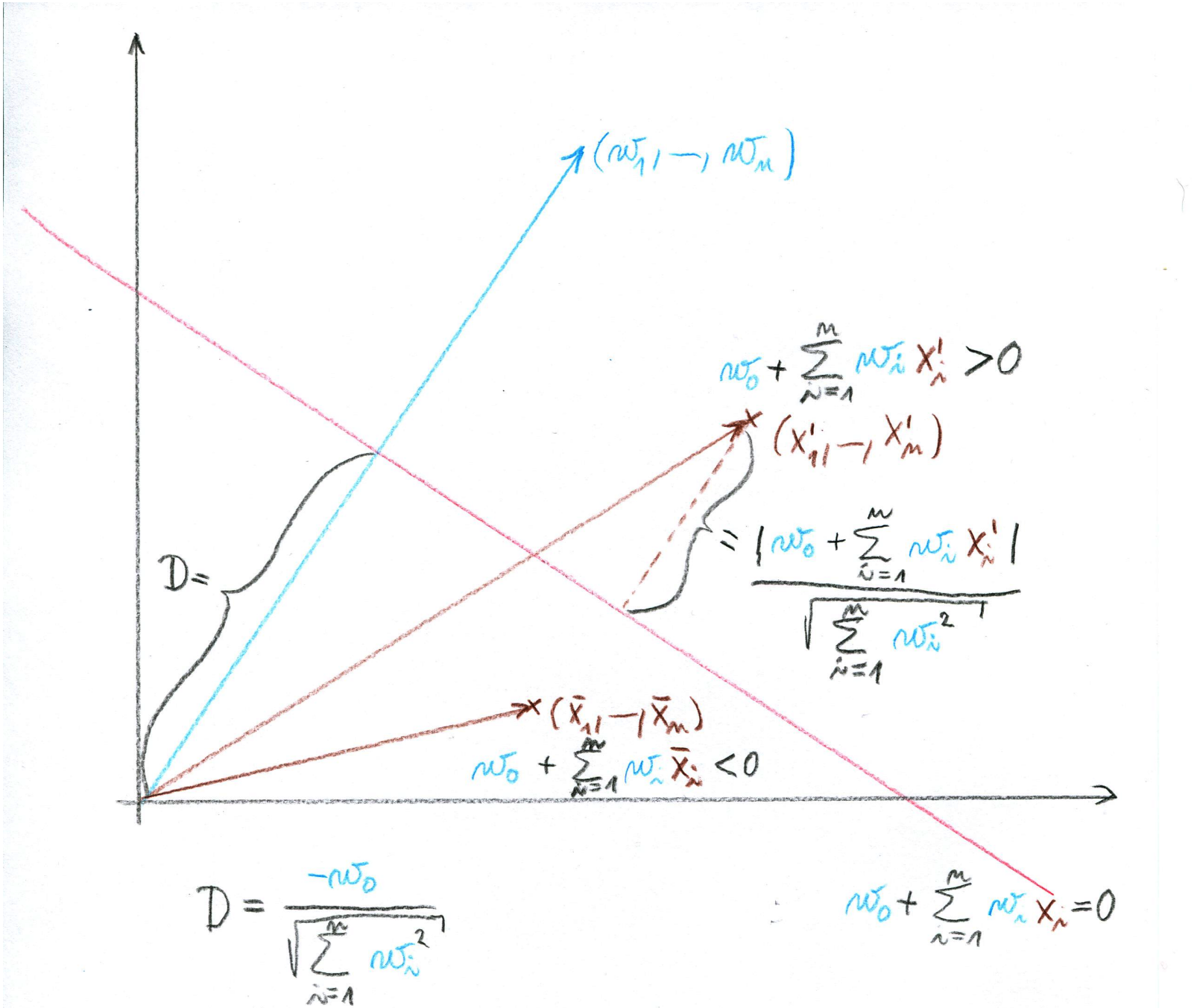
- inner potential

$$\xi = w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i x_i$$

determines a separation hyperplane in the n-dimensional **input space**

- in 2d line
- in 3d plane
- ...

Neuron geometry



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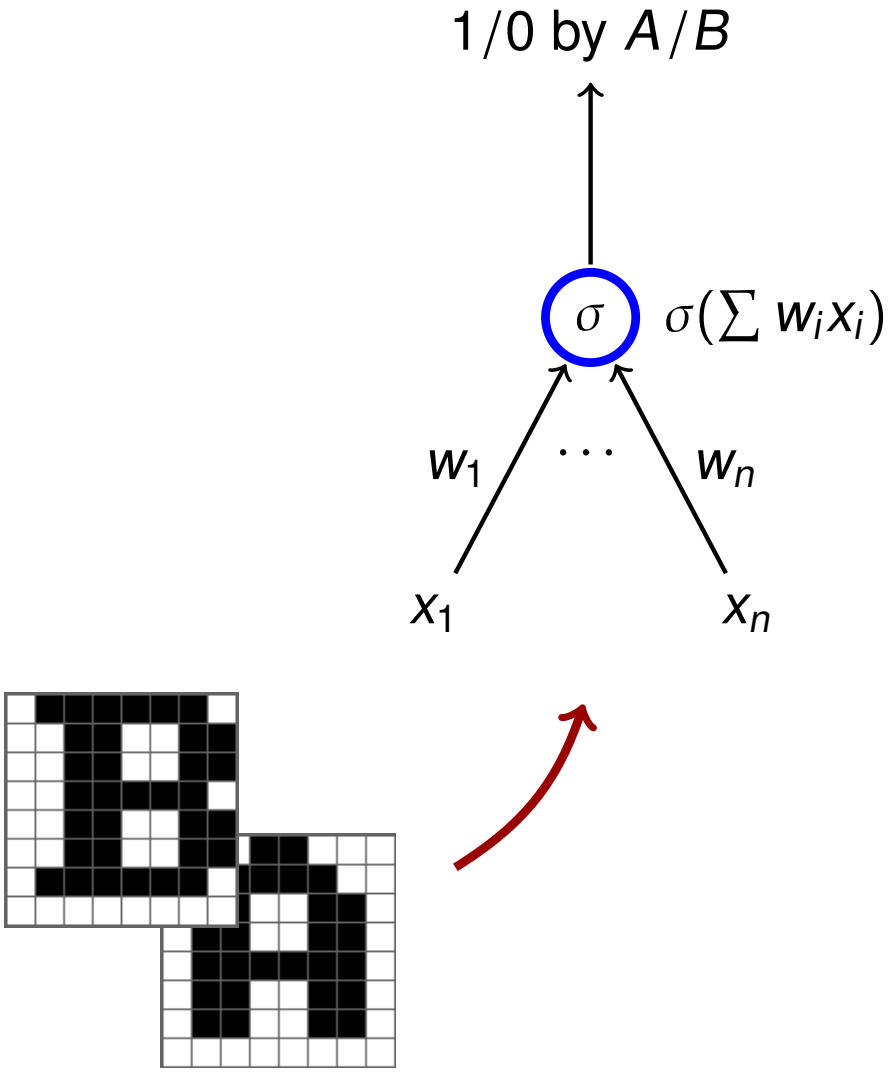

$n = 8 \cdot 8$, i.e. the number of pixels in the images. Inputs are binary vectors of dimension n (black pixel ≈ 1, white pixel ≈ 0).

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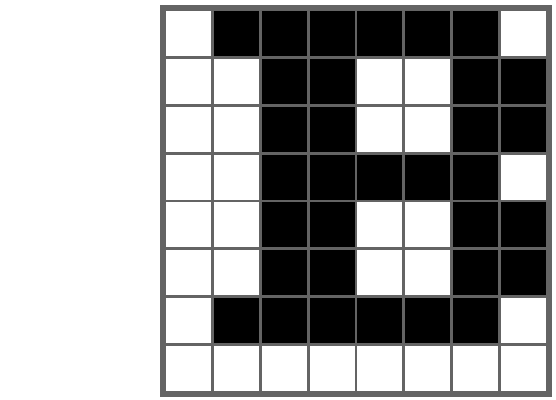

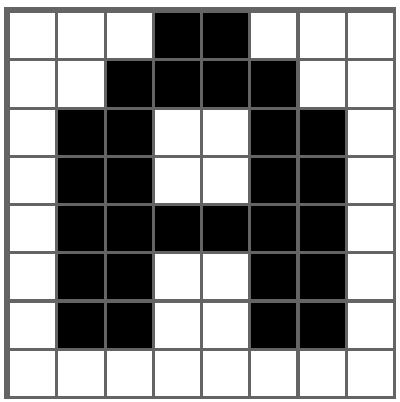

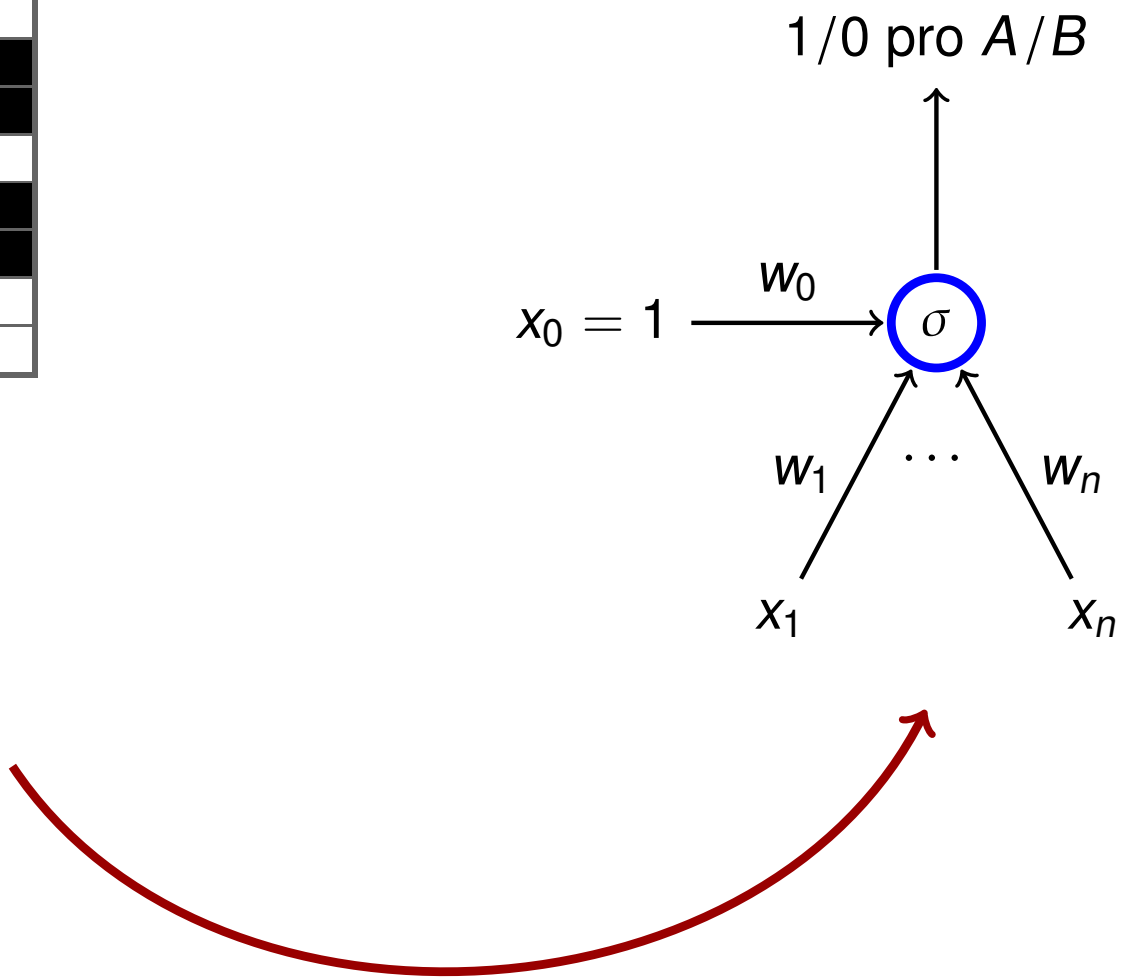

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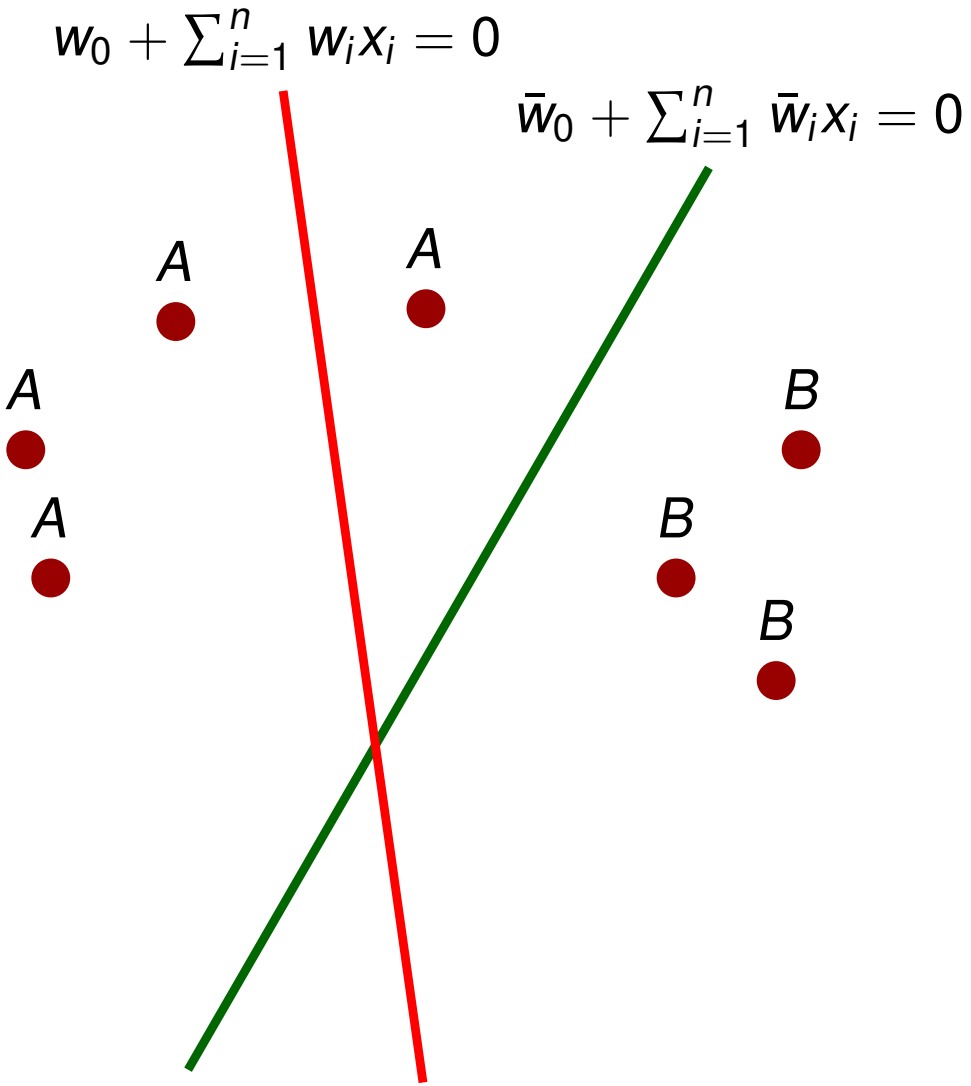
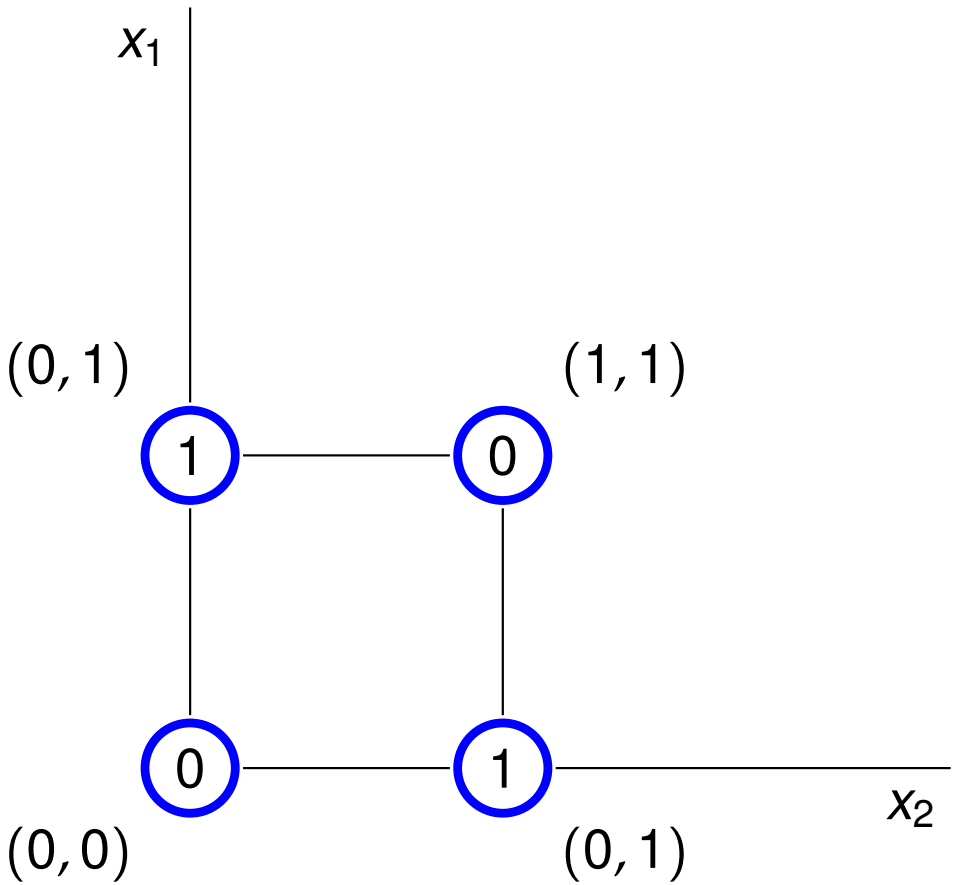


- Red line classifies incorrectly
- Green line classifies correctly (may be a result of a correction by a learning algorithm)

Neuron and linear separation (XOR)



- No line separates ones from zeros.

Neural networks

Neural network consists of formal neurons interconnected in such a way that the output of one neuron is an input of several other neurons.

In order to describe a particular type of neural networks we need to specify:

- Architecture

  How the neurons are connected.
- Activity

  How the network transforms inputs to outputs.
- Learning

  How the weights are changed during training.

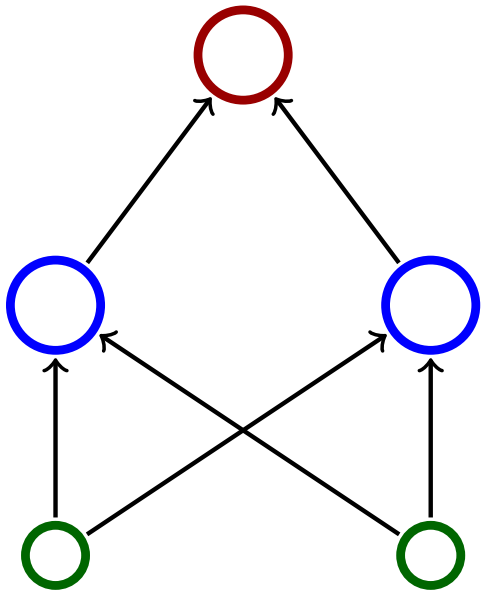
Architecture

Network architecture is given as a digraph whose nodes are neurons and edges are connections.

We distinguish several categories of neurons:

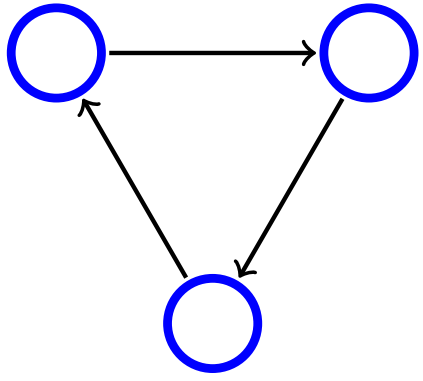
- Output neurons
- Hidden neurons
- Input neurons

(In general, a neuron may be both input and output; a neuron is hidden if it is neither input, nor output.)



Architecture – Cycles

- A network is **cyclic** (recurrent) if its architecture contains a directed cycle.



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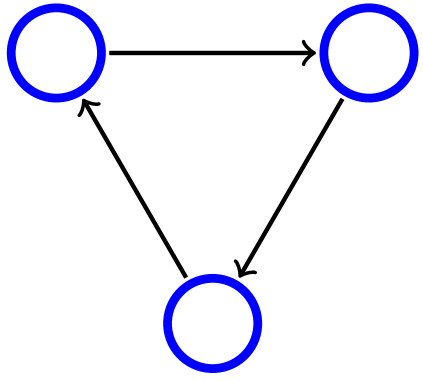
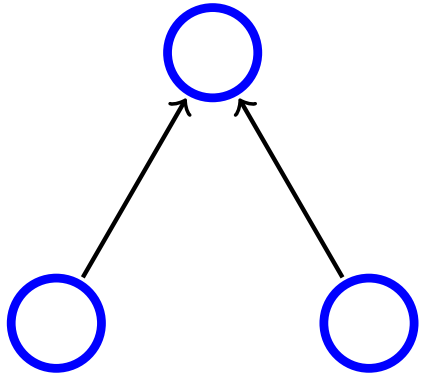
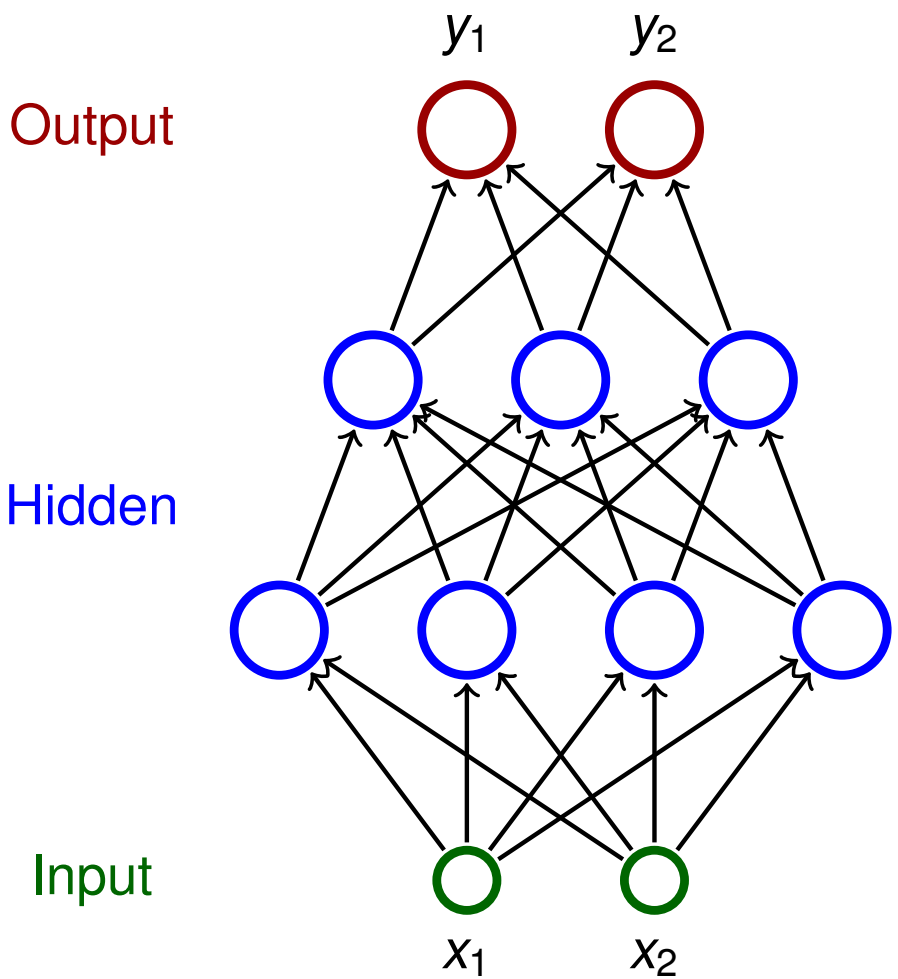


- Otherwise it is **acyclic** (feed-forward)



Architecture – Multilayer Perceptron (MLP)



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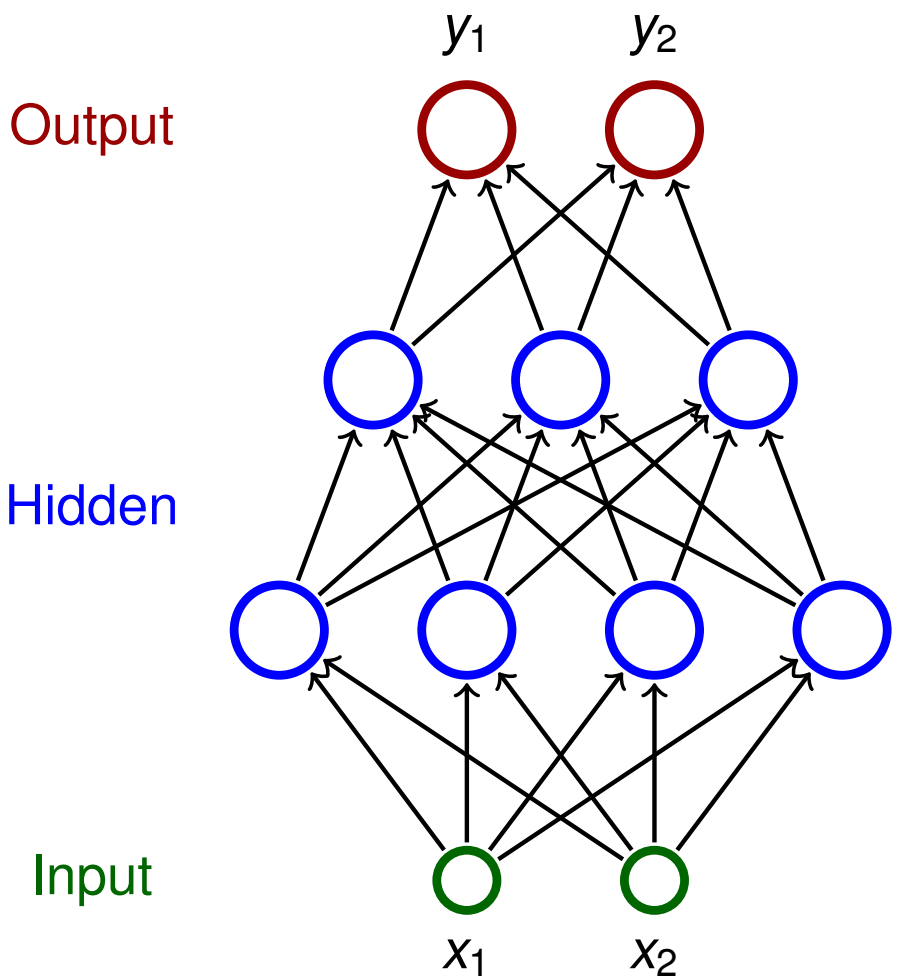

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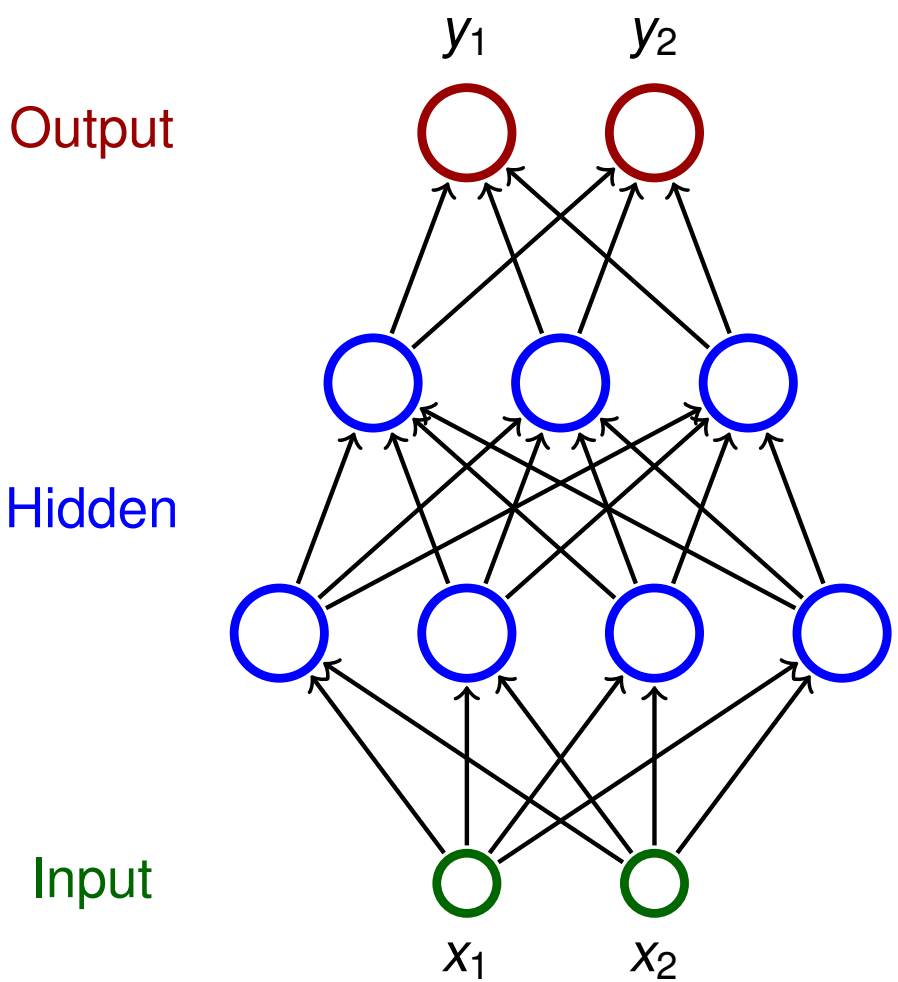

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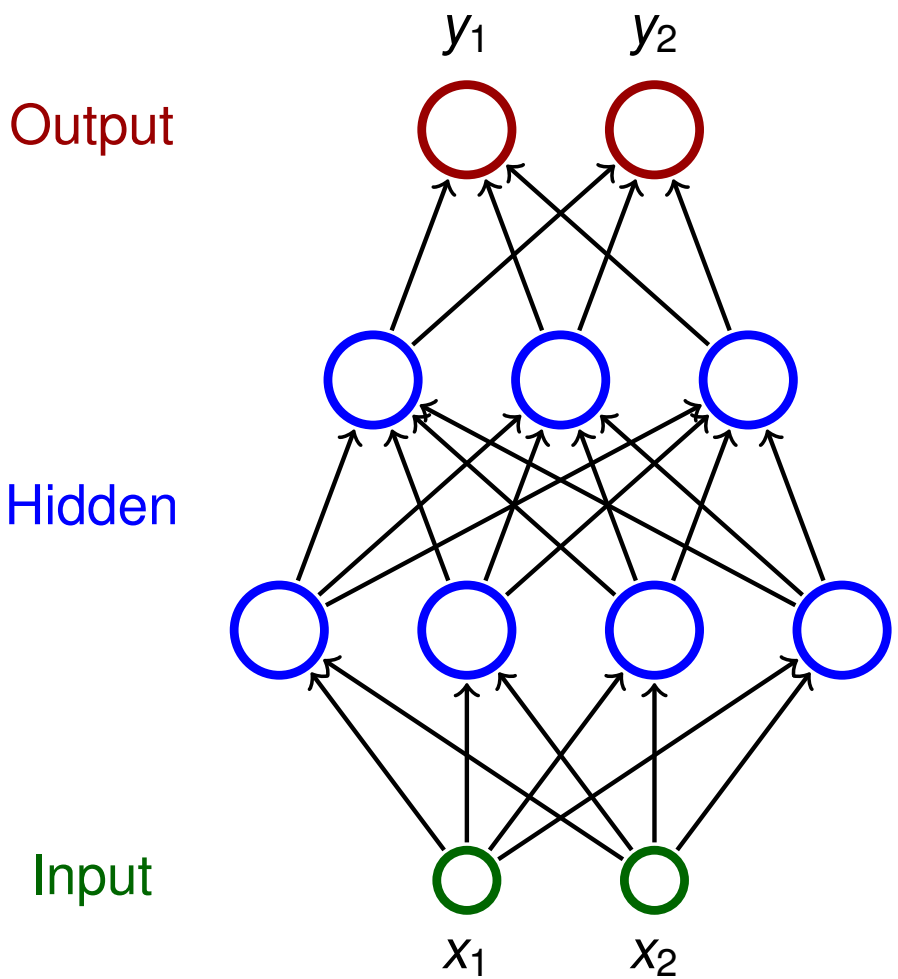

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- Neurons in the i-th layer are connected with all neurons in the $i + 1$-st layer
- Architecture of a MLP is typically described by numbers of neurons in individual layers (e.g. 2-4-3-2)

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- **Initial state**

  Input neurons set to values from the network input

  (each component of the network input corresponds to an input neuron)

  Values of the remaining neurons set to 0.

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MLP uses the following selection rule:

In the *i*-th step evaluate all neurons in the *i*-th layer.

Activity – semantics of a network

Definition

Consider a network with n neurons, k input, ℓ output.
Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^k$ and $B \subseteq \mathbb{R}^\ell$. Suppose that the network stops on every input of A.
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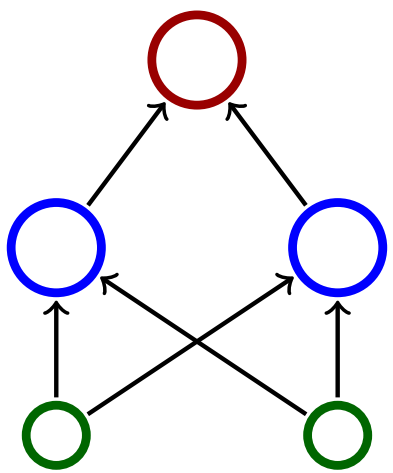
Example 1

This network computes a function from $\mathbb{R}^2$ to $\mathbb{R}$.



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There are special types of neural networks where the inner potential is computed differently, e.g., as a "distance" of an input from the weight vector:

$$\xi = \left\| \vec{x} - \vec{w} \right\|$$

here $\|\cdot\|$ is a vector norm, typically Euclidean.

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There are many activation functions, typical examples:

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- (Logistic) sigmoid

$$\sigma(\xi) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\lambda \cdot \xi}}$$ here $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ is a *steepness* parameter.

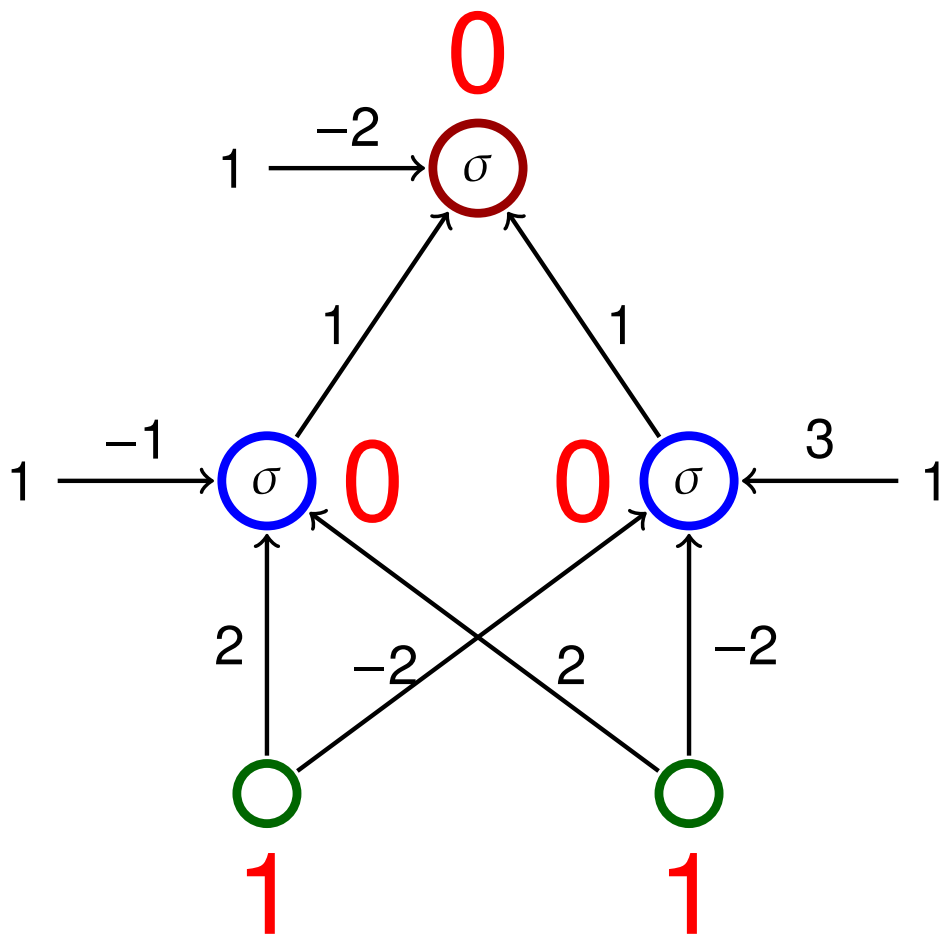
- Hyperbolic tangens

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

- ReLU

$$\sigma(\xi) = \max(\xi, 0)$$

Activity – XOR



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x_1	x_2	y
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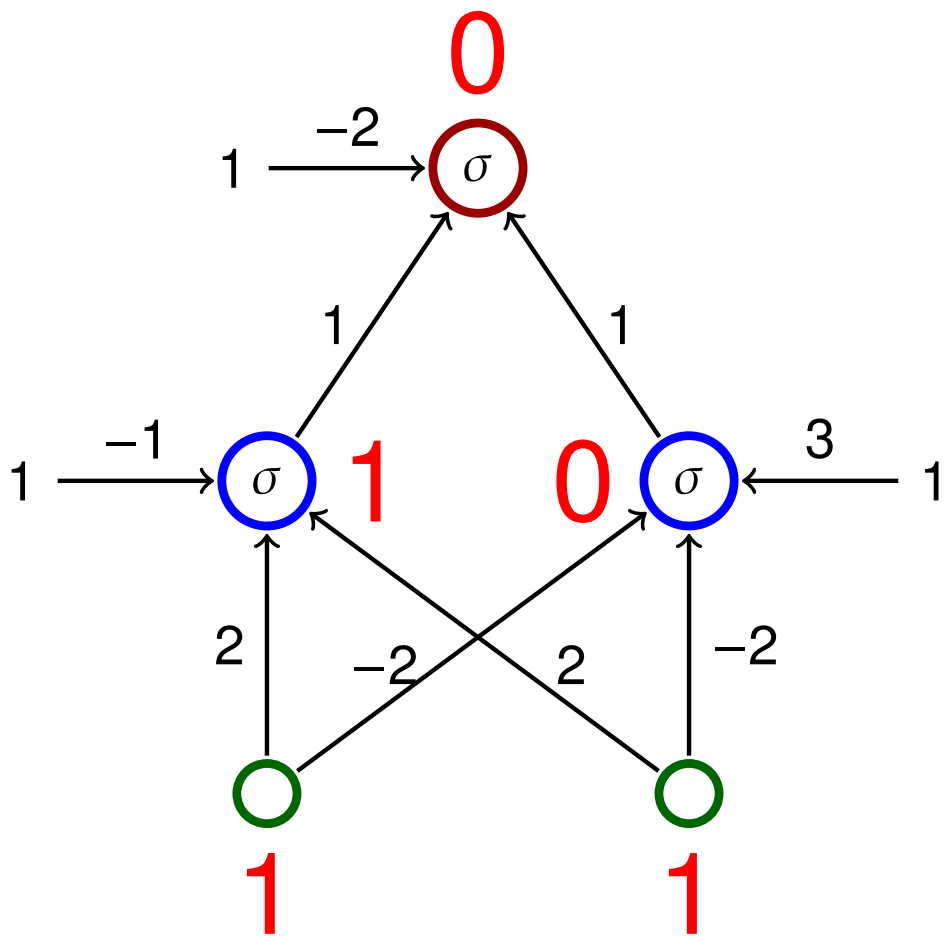

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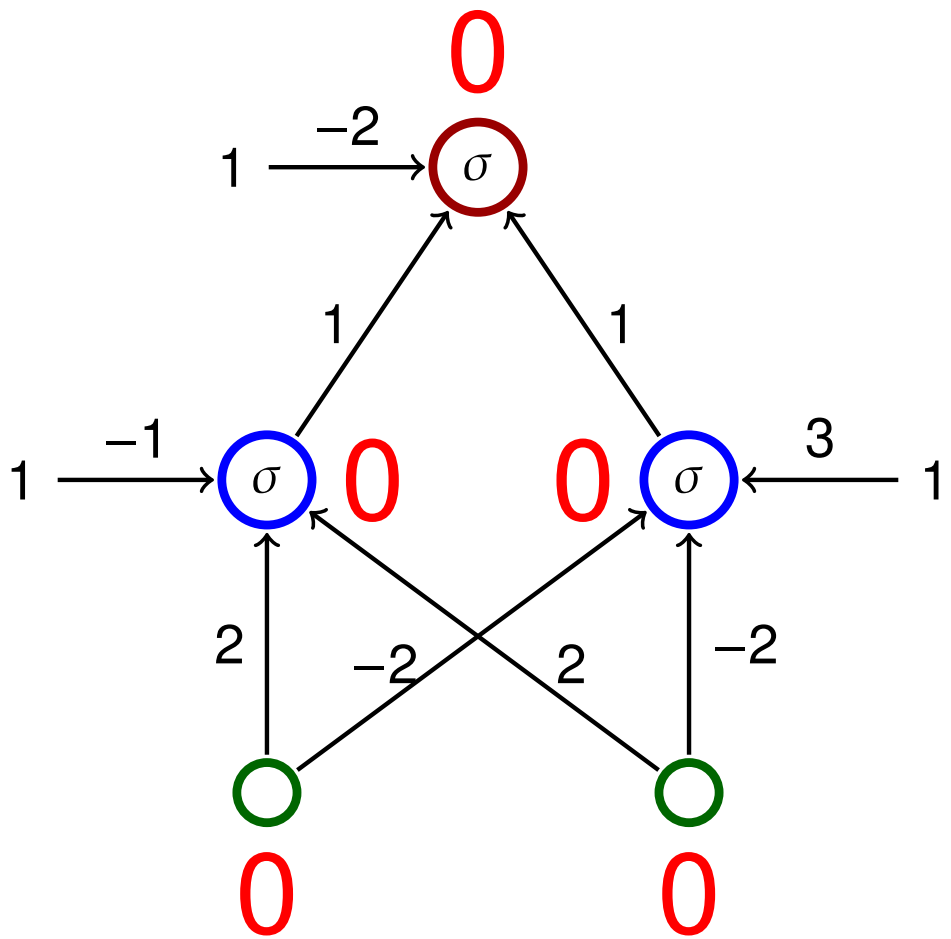

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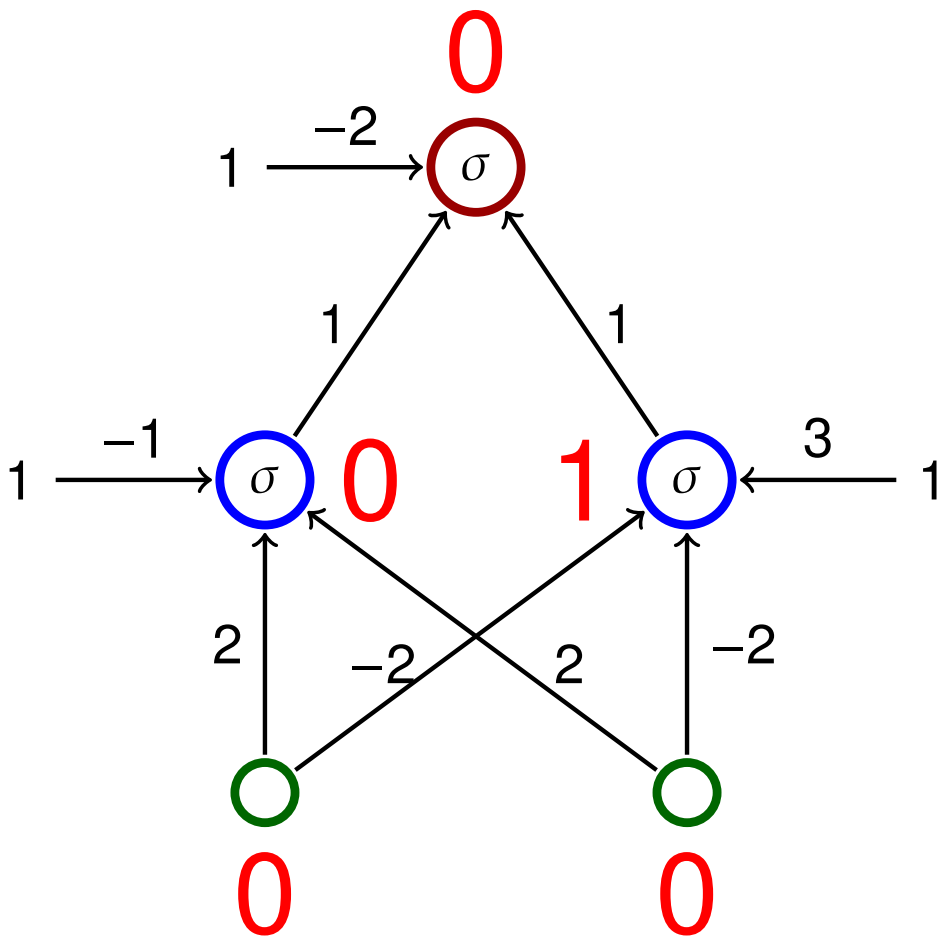

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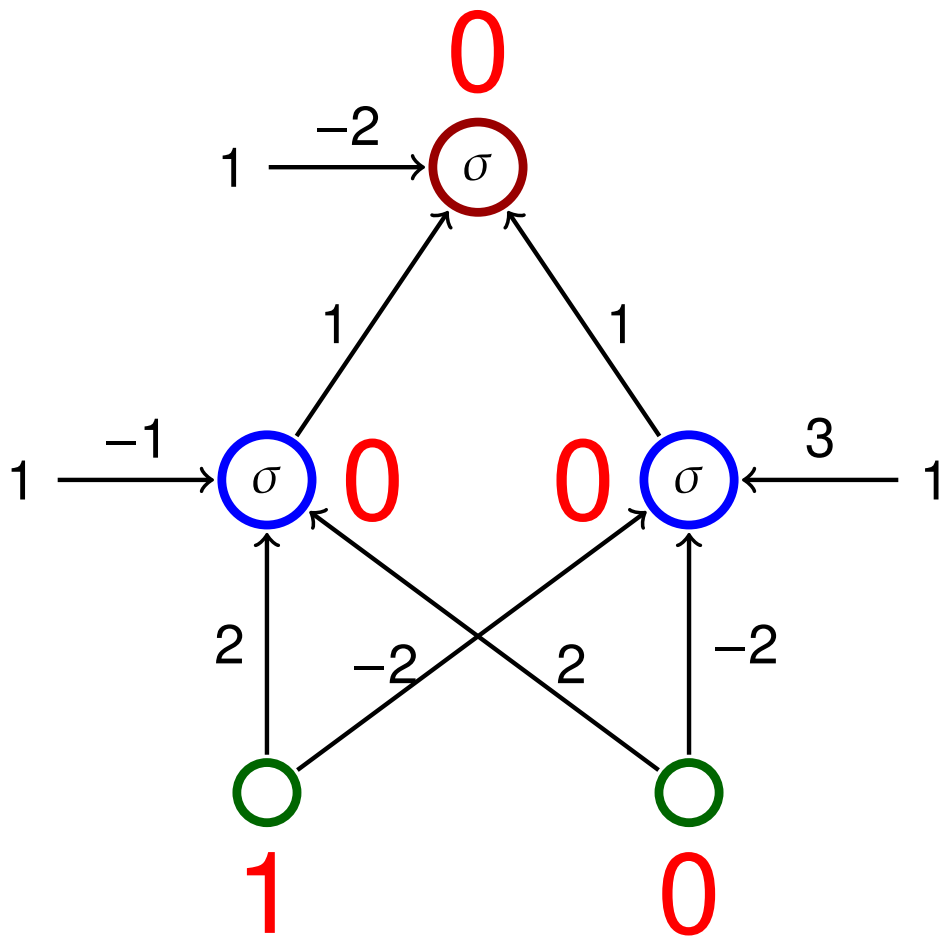

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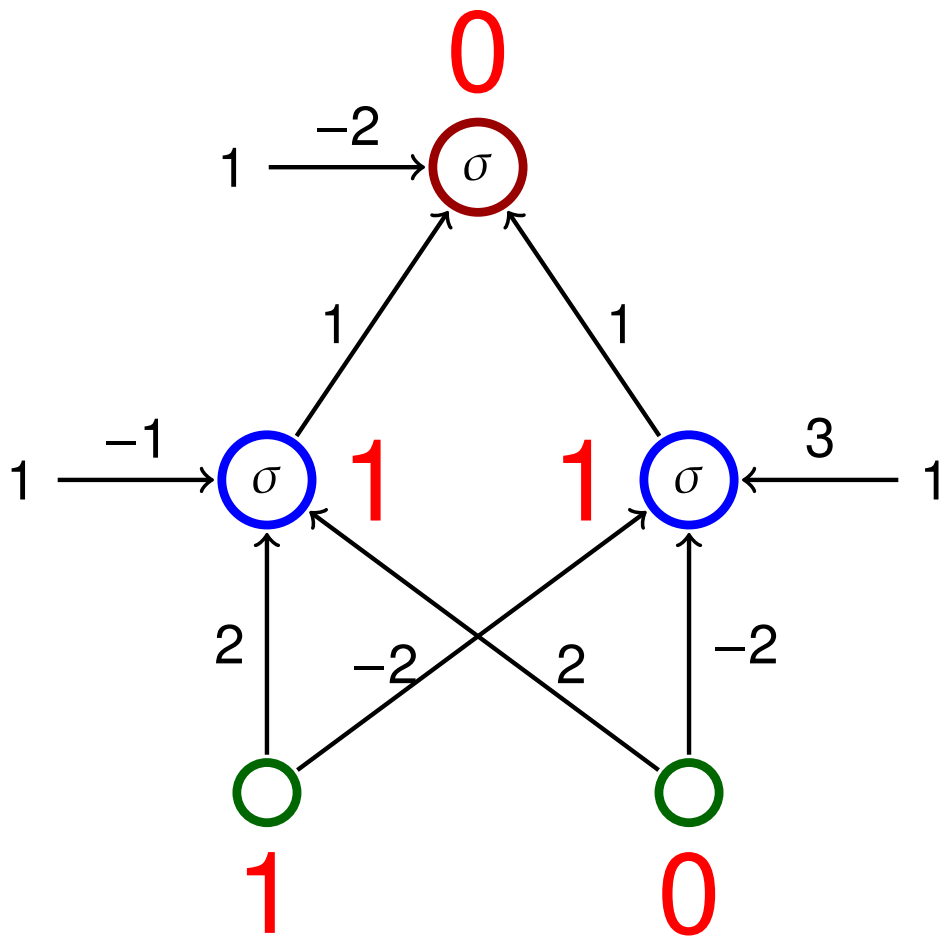

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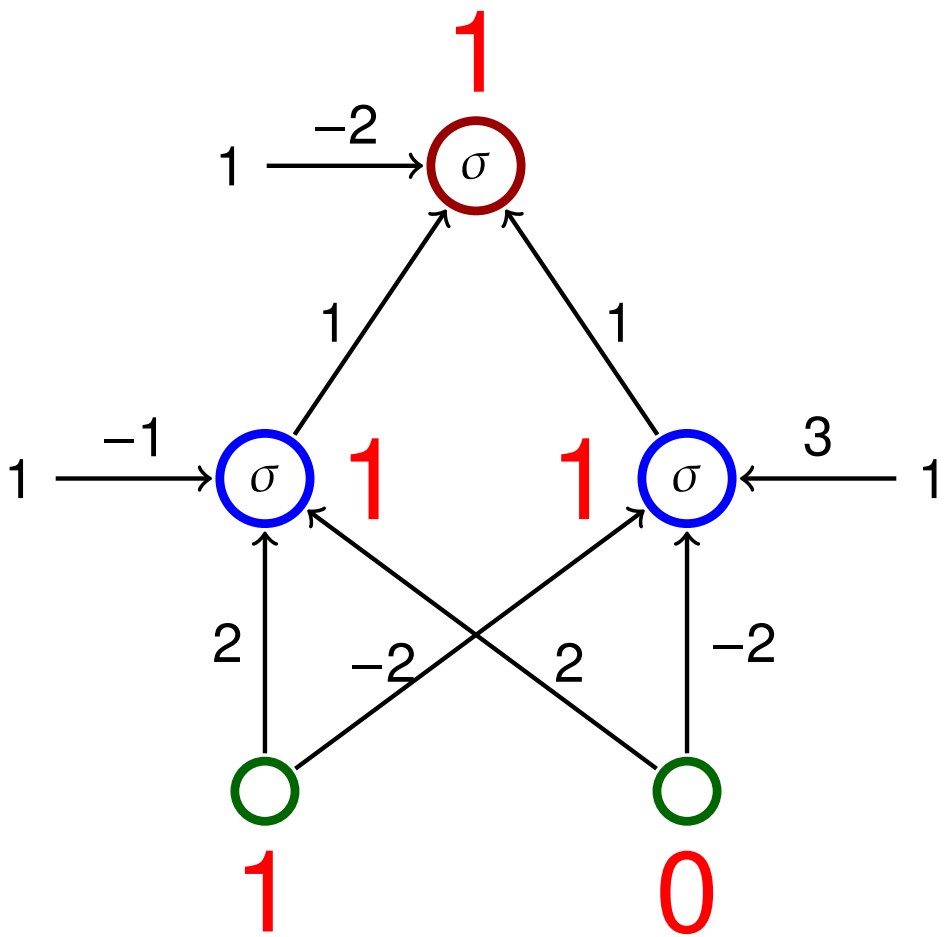

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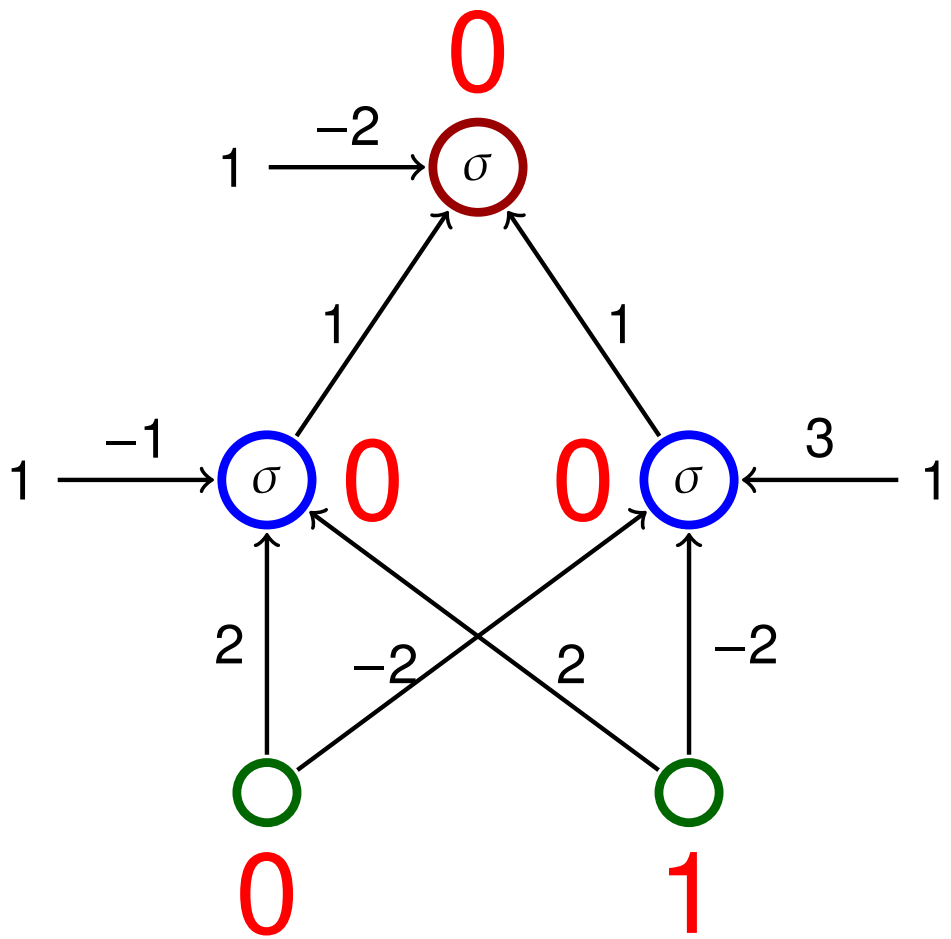

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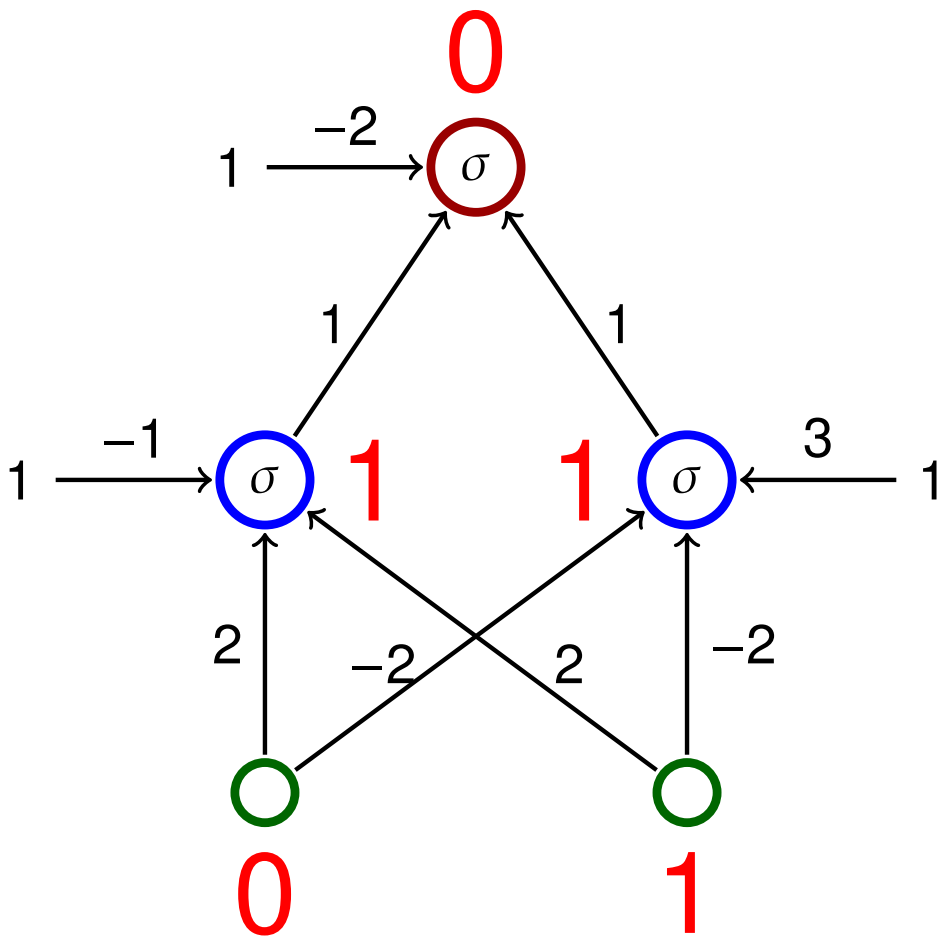

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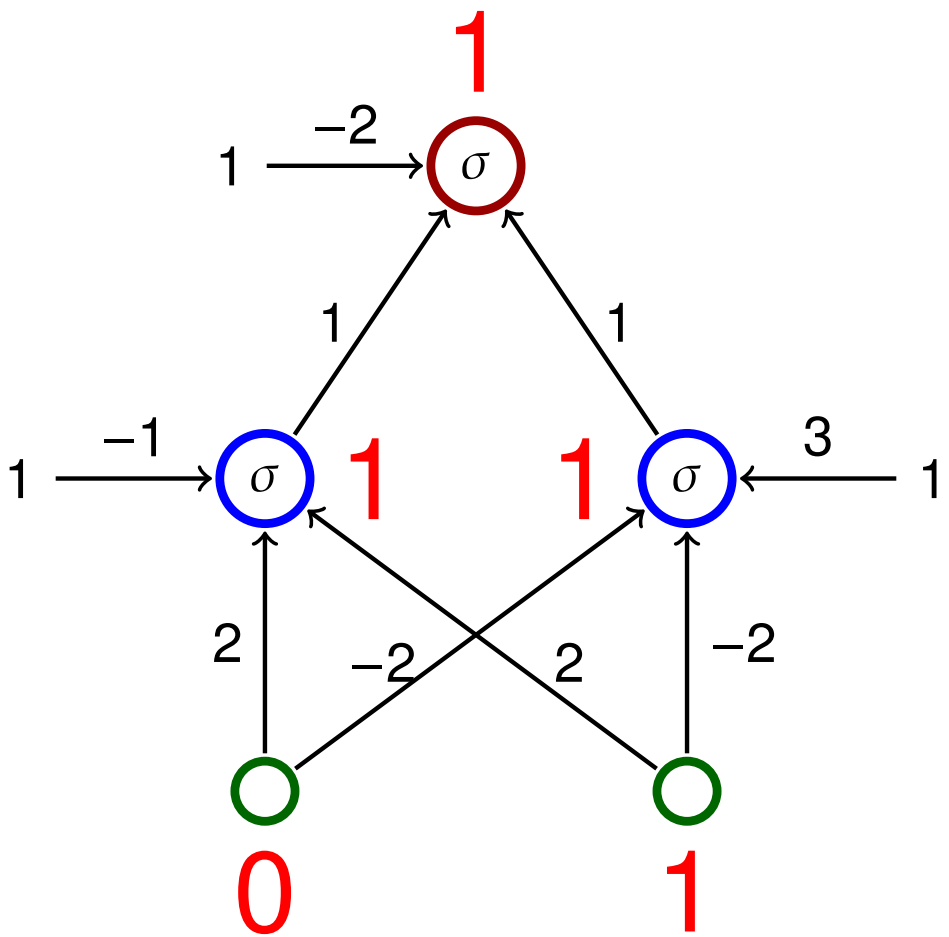

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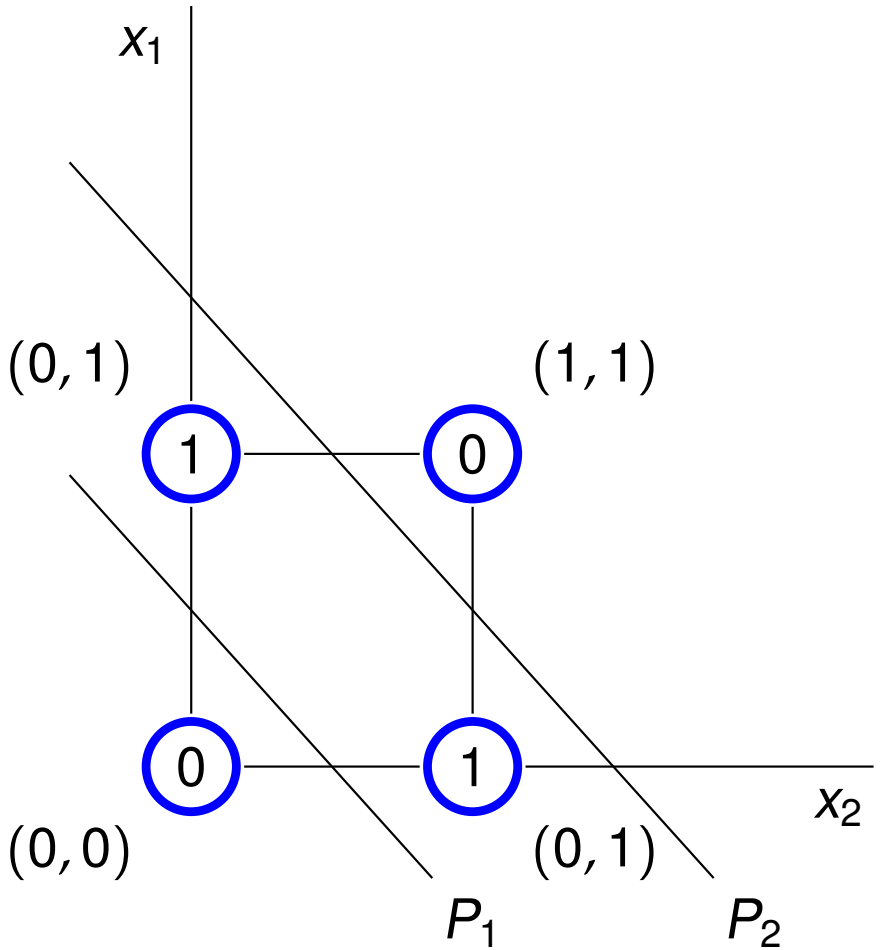
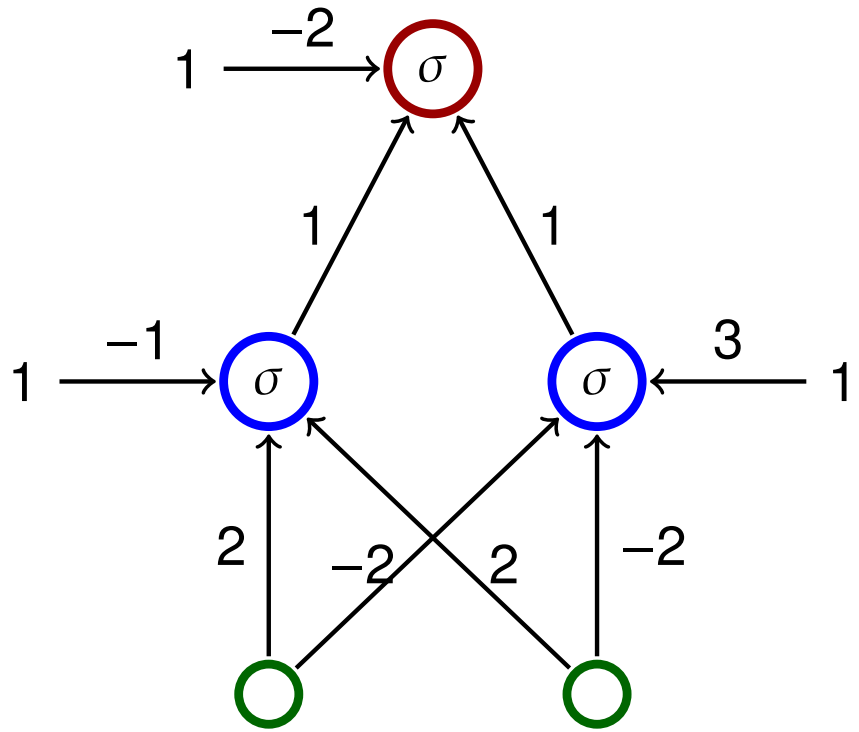
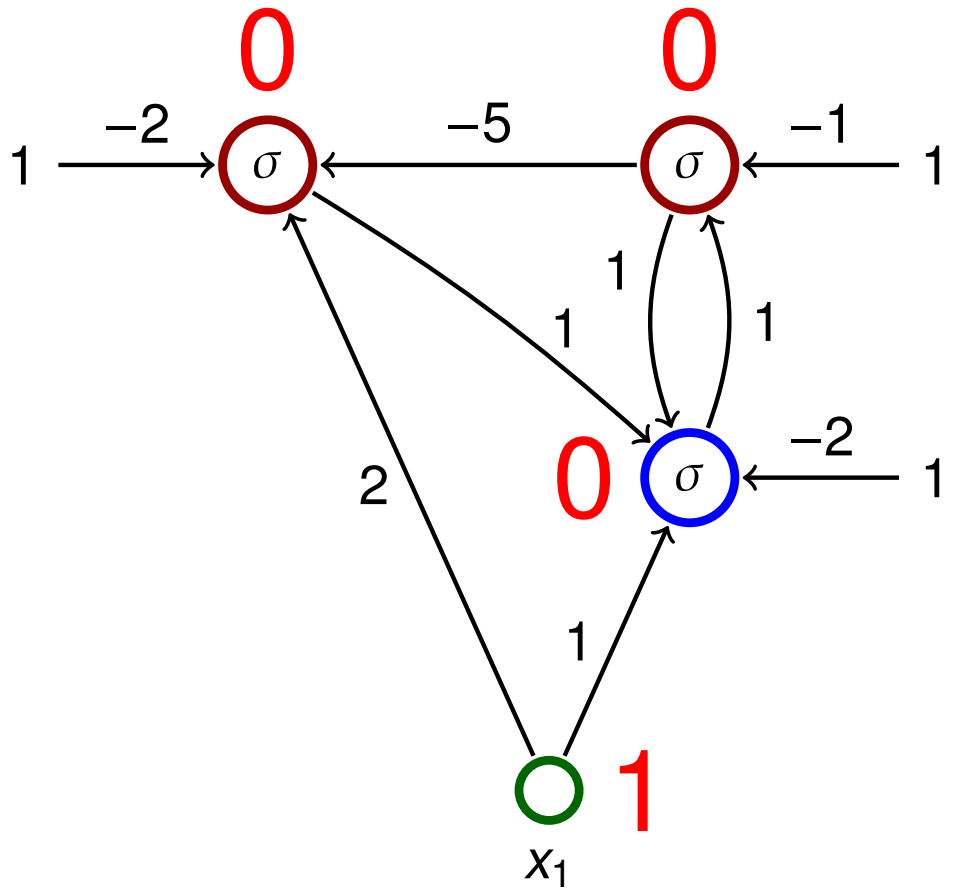
Activity – MLP and linear separation





- The line P_1 is given by $-1 + 2x_1 + 2x_2 = 0$
- The line P_2 is given by $3 - 2x_1 - 2x_2 = 0$

Activity – example



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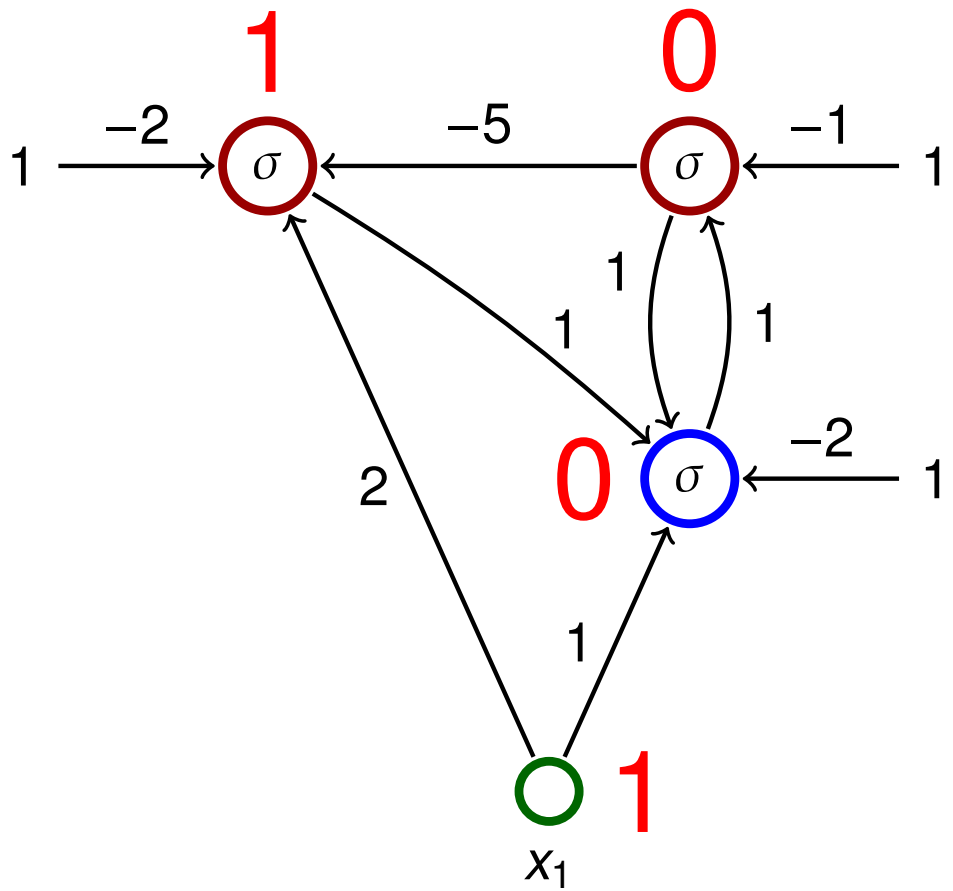

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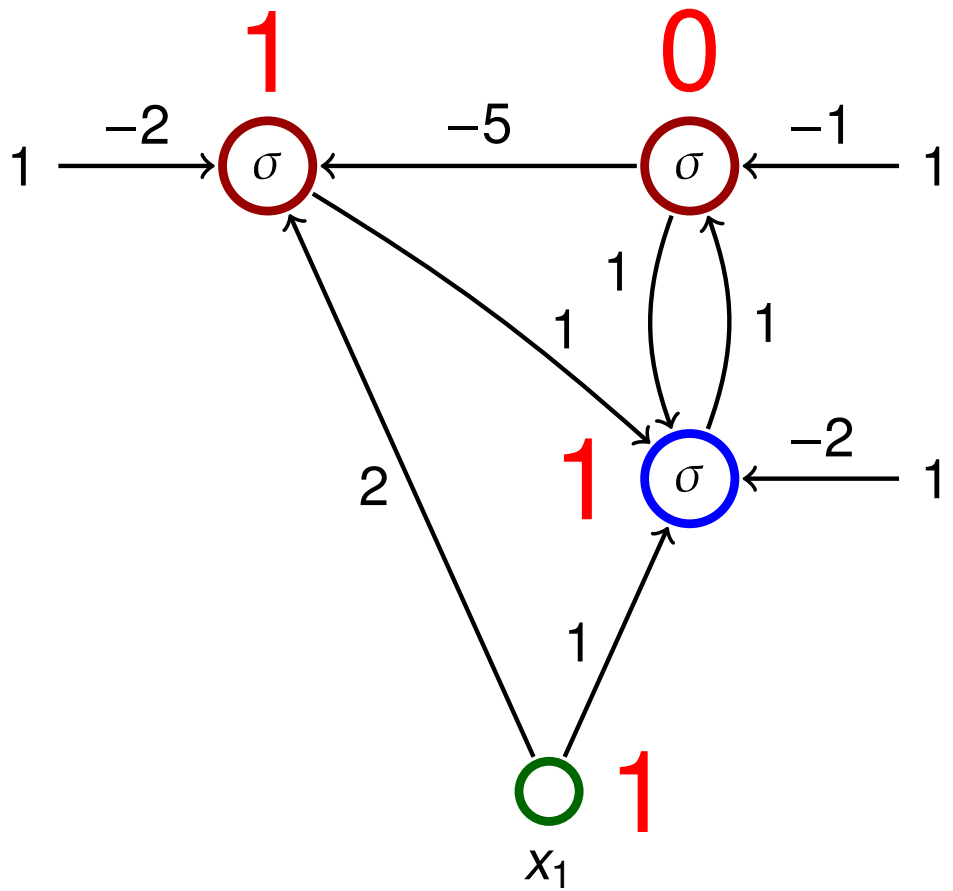

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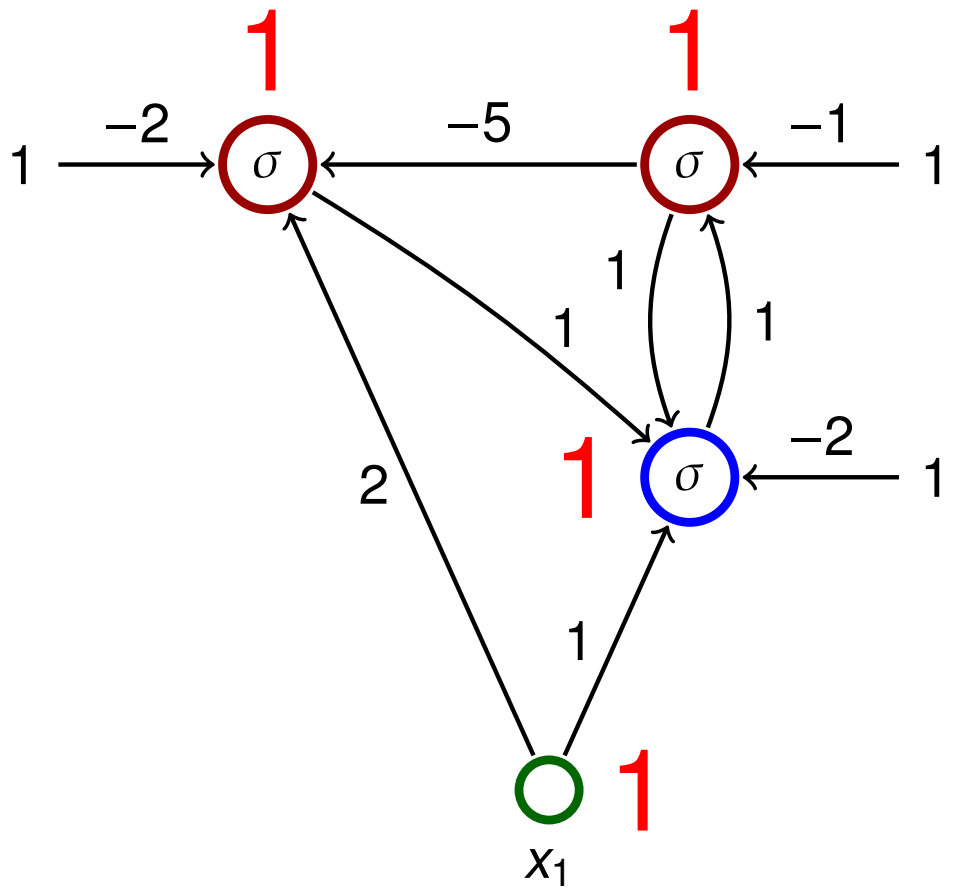

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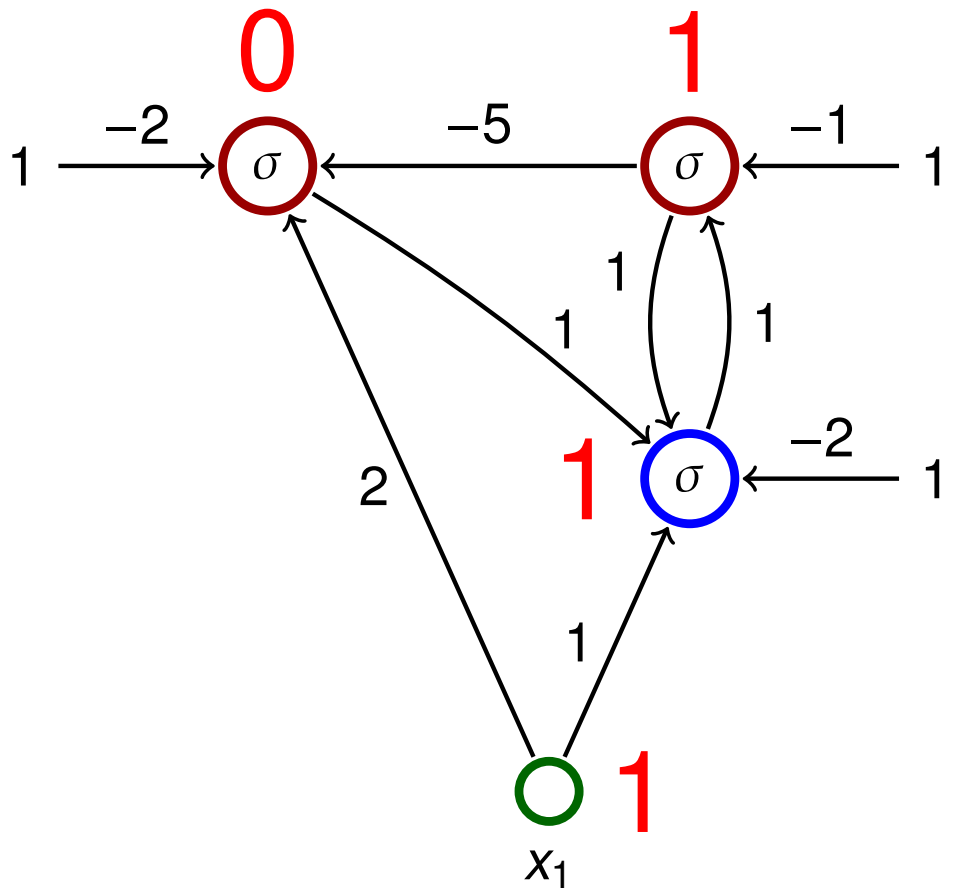

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- **initial configuration**
  weights can be initialized randomly or using some sophisticated algorithm

Learning algorithms

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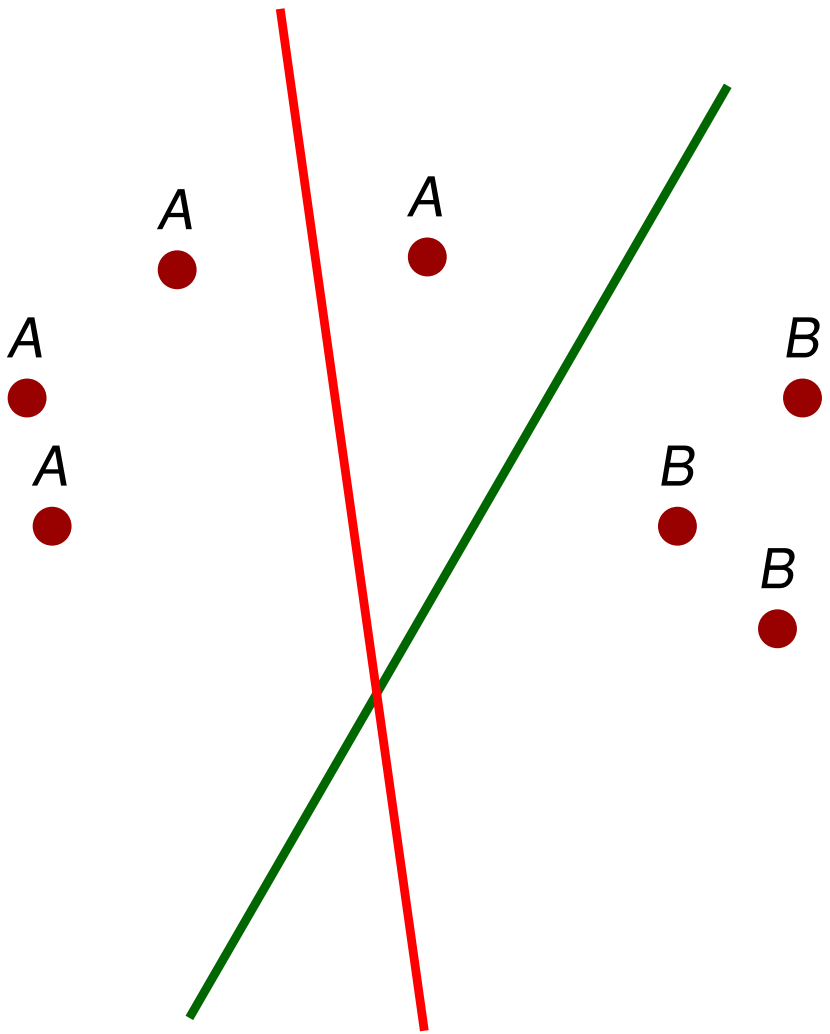
- Unsupervised learning
  - The training set contains only inputs.
  - The goal is to determine distribution of the inputs (clustering, deep belief networks, etc.)

Supervised learning – illustration



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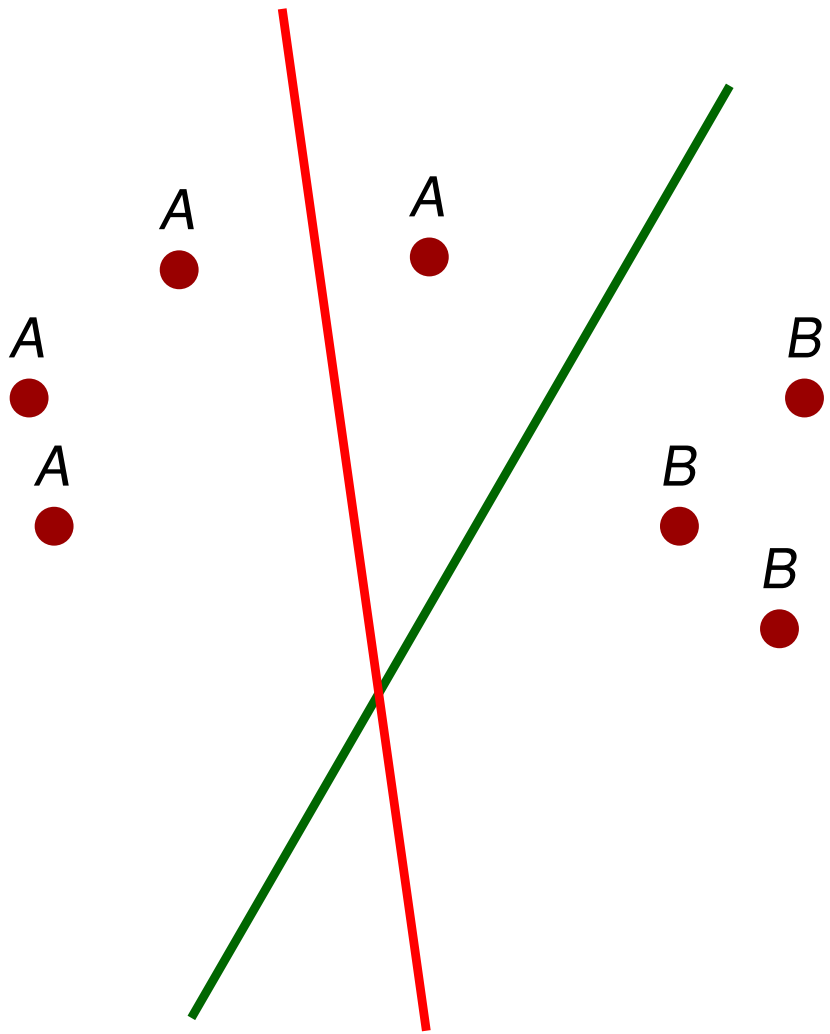

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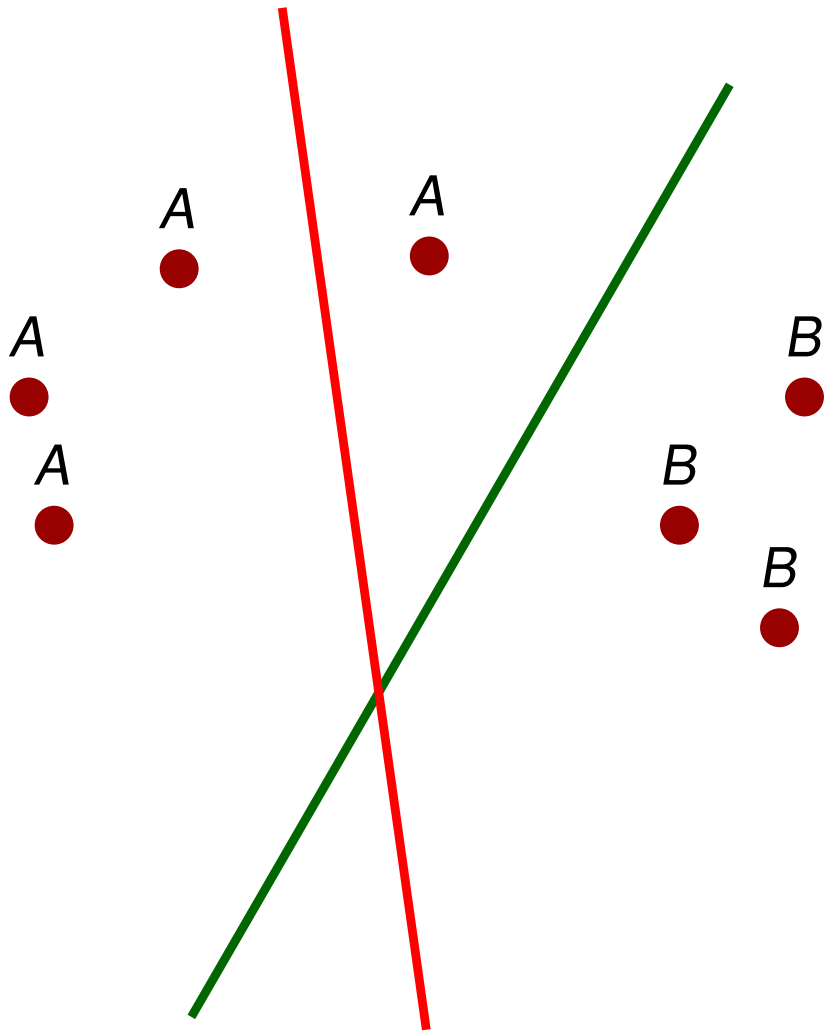

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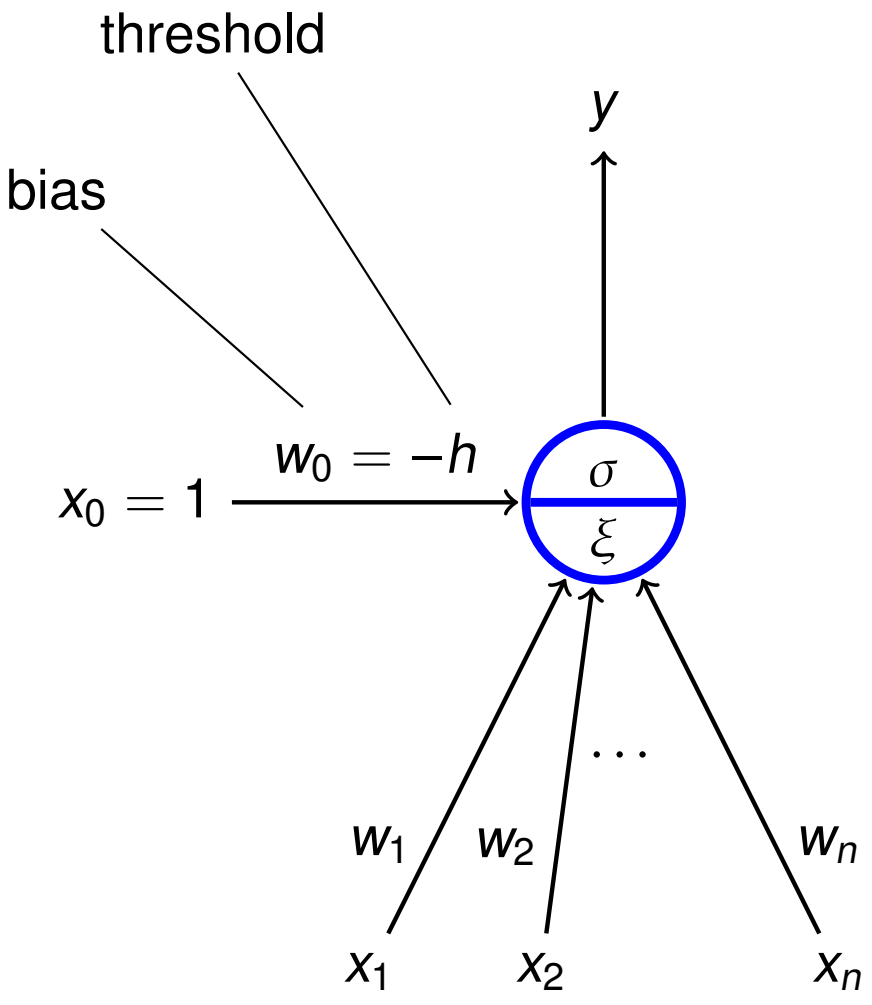
- Graceful degradation
  - damage typically causes only a decrease in precision of results

Expressive power of neural networks

Formal neuron (with bias)



- $x_0 = 1, x_1, \ldots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}$ are **inputs**
- $w_0, w_1, \ldots, w_n \in \mathbb{R}$ are **weights**
- ξ is an **inner potential**; almost always $\xi = w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i x_i$
- y is an **output** given by $y = \sigma(\xi)$ where σ is an **activation function**;

  e.g. a *unit step function*

$$\sigma(\xi) = \begin{cases} 1 & \xi \geq 0\,; \\ 0 & \xi < 0. \end{cases}$$

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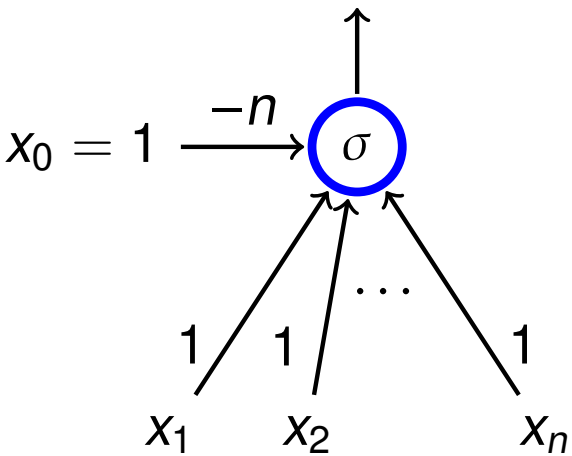
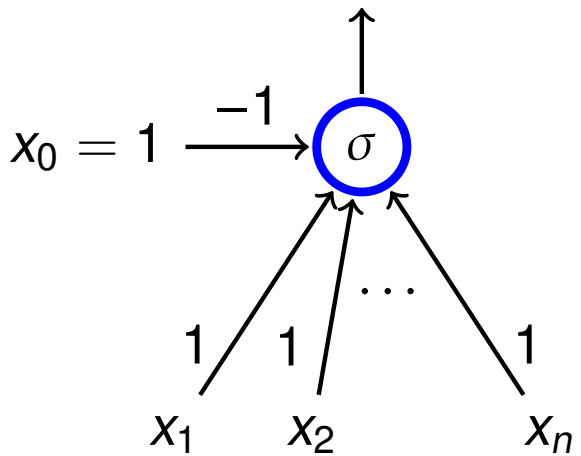
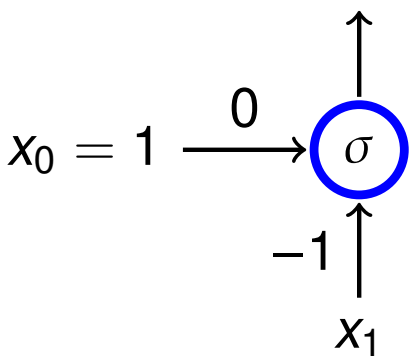


$y = OR(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$



$y = NOT(x_1)$



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Let σ be the unit step function. Two layer MLPs, where each neuron has σ as the activation function, are able to compute all functions of the form $F : \{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}$.

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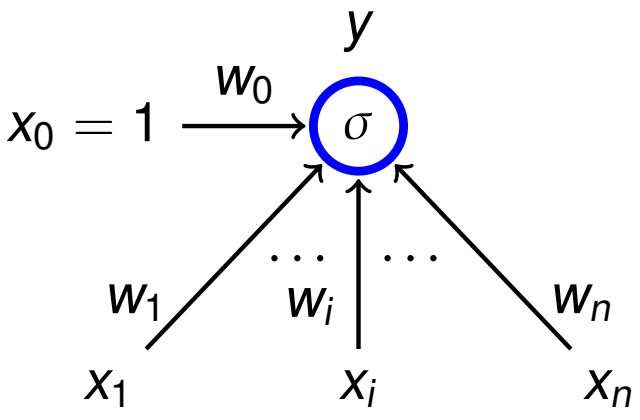
Proof.

- Given a vector $\vec{v} = (v_1, \ldots, v_n) \in \{0,1\}^n$, consider a neuron $N_{\vec{v}}$ whose output is 1 iff the input is $\vec{v}$:

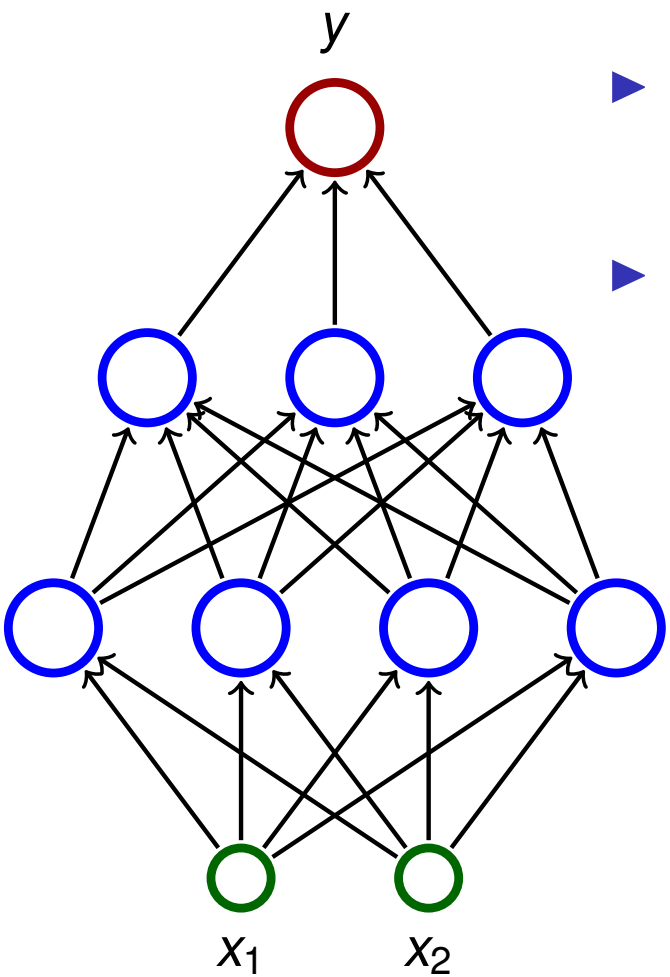


$$w_0 = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} v_i$$

$$w_i = \begin{cases} 1 & v_i = 1 \\ -1 & v_i = 0 \end{cases}$$

- Now let us connect all outputs of all neurons $N_{\vec{v}}$ satisfying $F(\vec{v}) = 1$ using a neuron implementing *OR*. □

Non-linear separation



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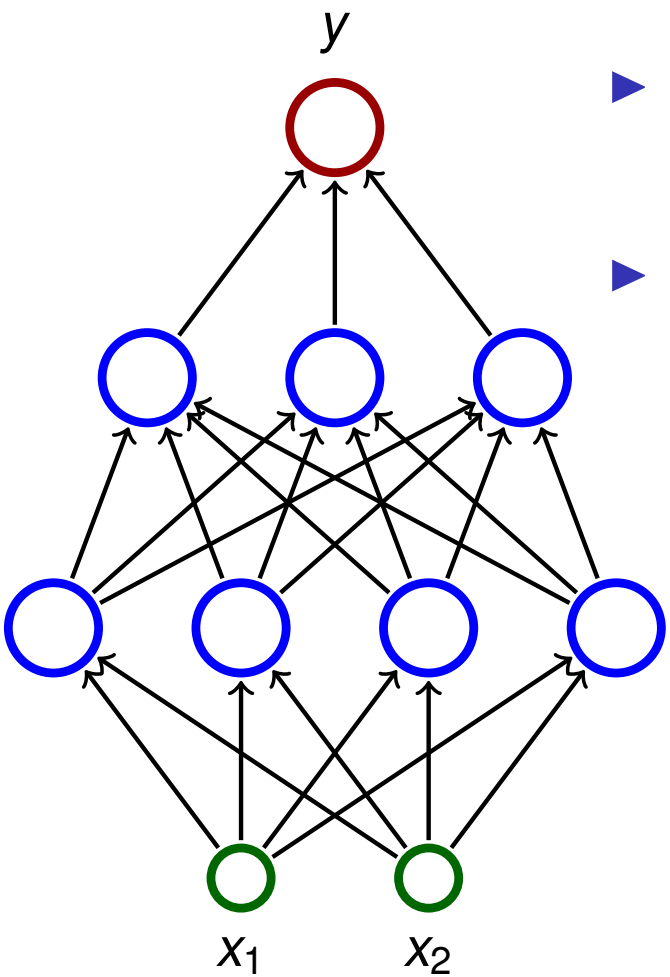

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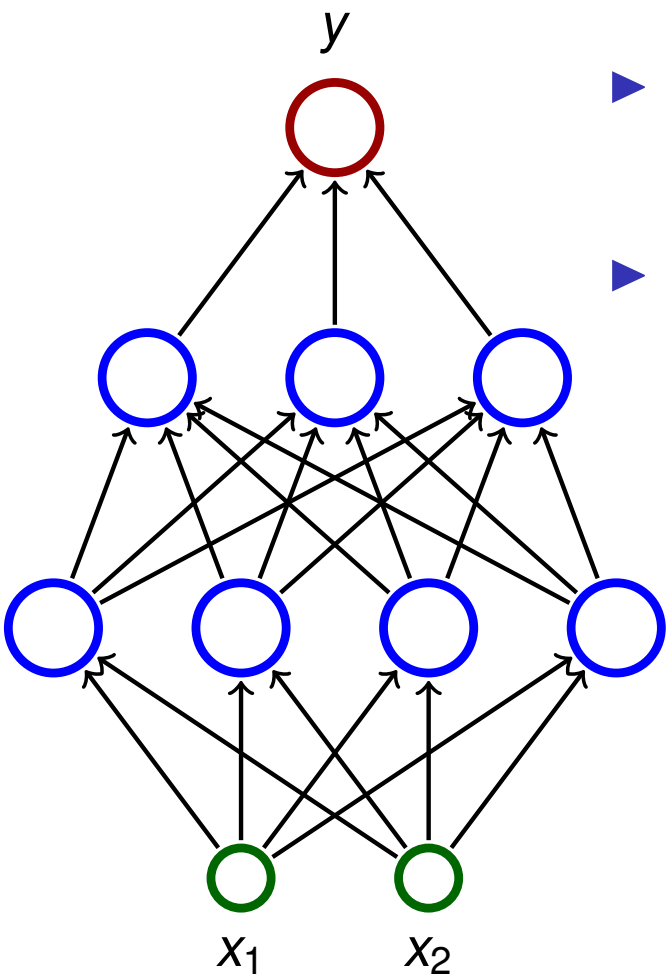

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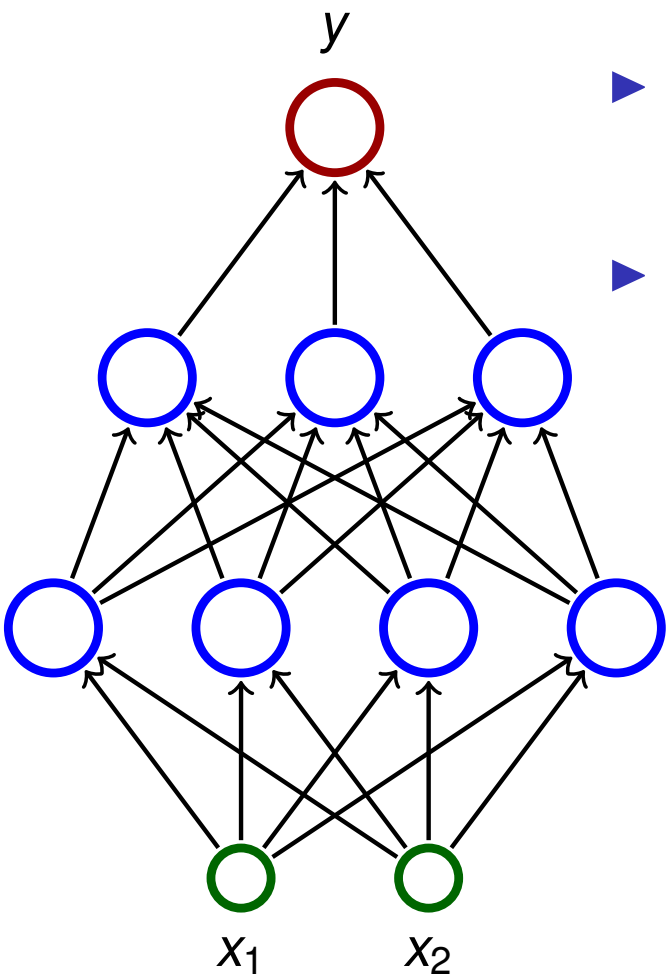

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  - The third layer may e.g. make unions of some convex sets.

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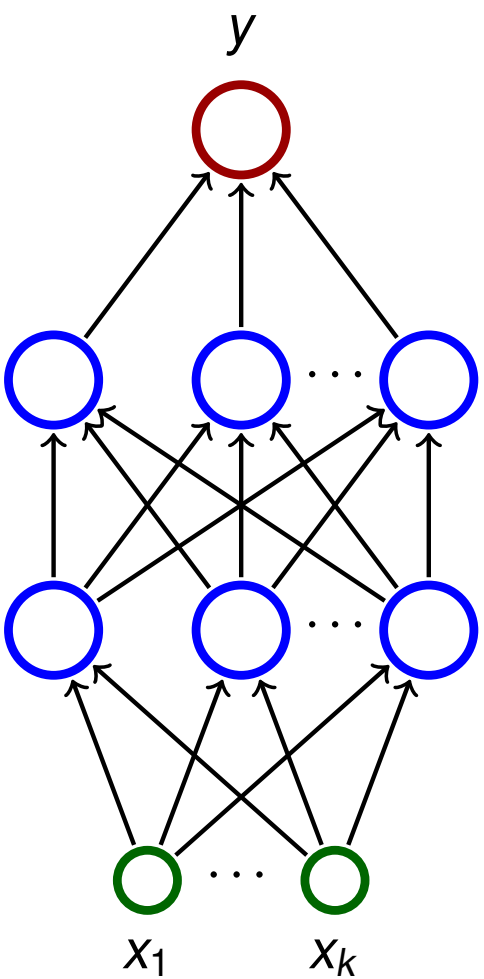

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- Three layer nets are capable of "approximating" any "reasonable" subset A of the input space $\mathbb{R}^k$.

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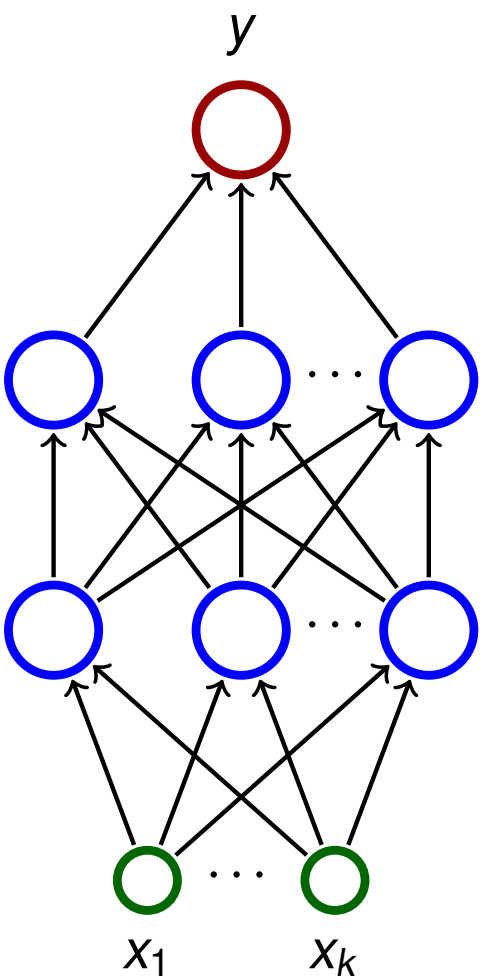

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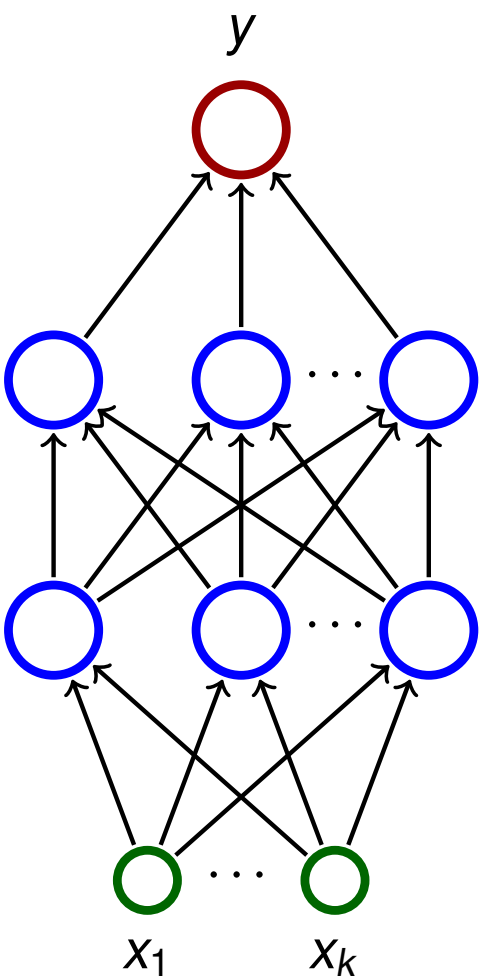

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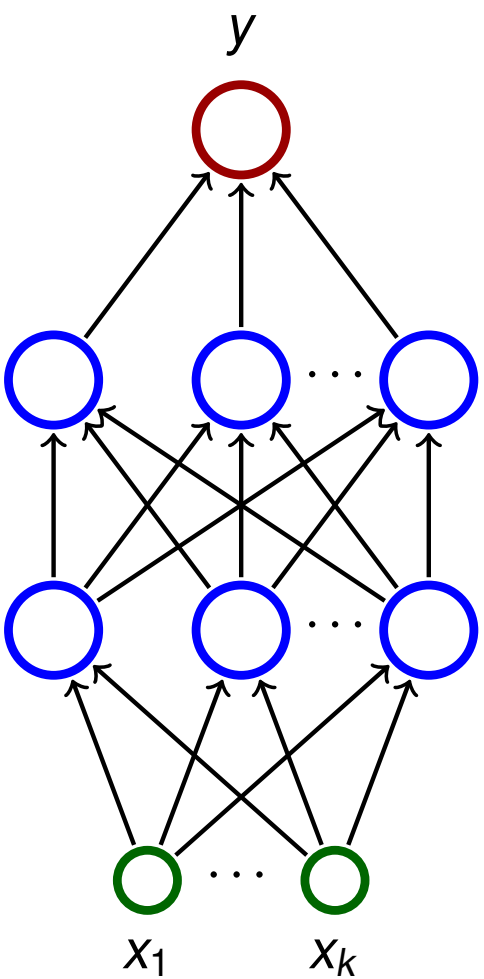

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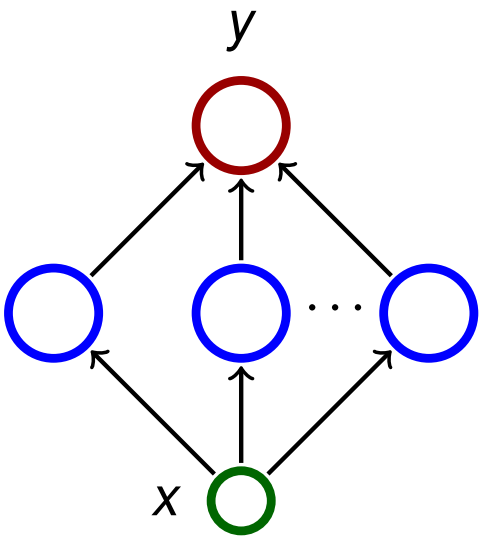
Power of ReLU



Consider a two layer network

- with a single input and single output;
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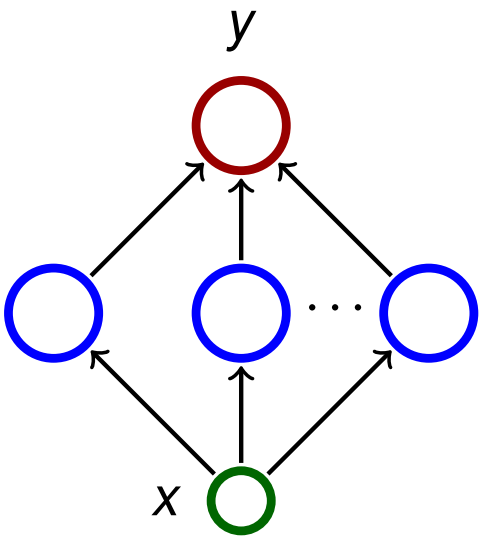

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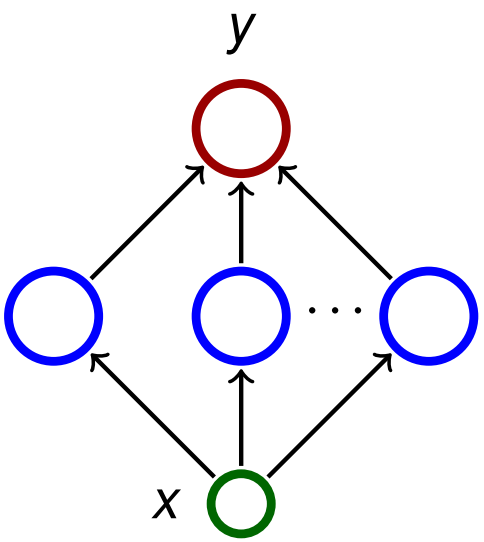

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For every open subset $A \subseteq [0,1]$ there is a network of the above type such that for "most" $x \in [0,1]$ we have that $x \in A$ iff the network's output is > 0 for the input x.

Just consider a continuous function f where $f(x)$ is the minimum difference between x and a point on the boundary of A. Then uniformly approximate f using the networks.

Non-linear separation - sigmoid

Theorem (Cybenko 1989 - informal version)

Let σ be a continuous function which is sigmoidal, i.e. satisfies

$$\sigma(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{pro } x \to +\infty \\ 0 & \text{pro } x \to -\infty \end{cases}$$

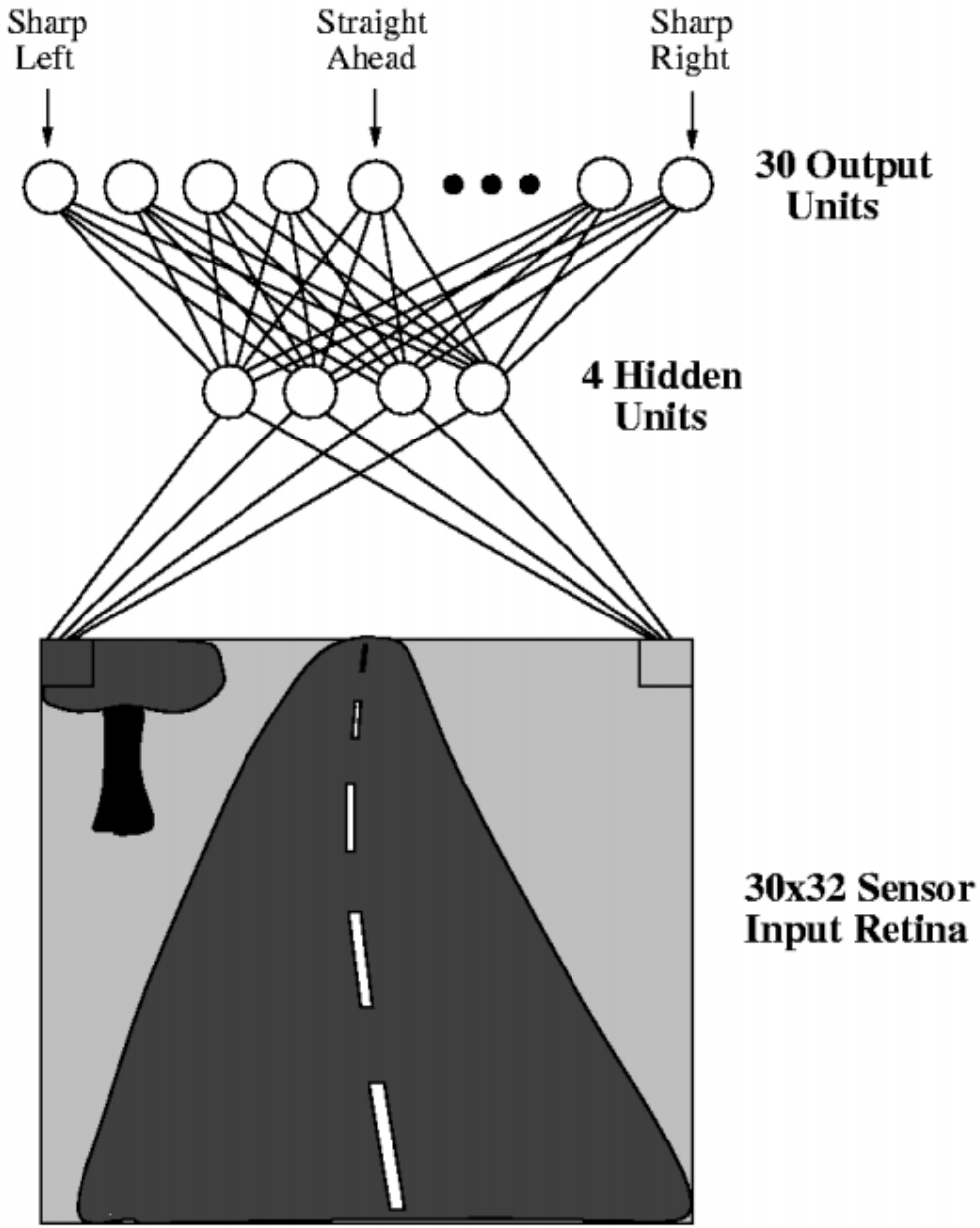
For every "reasonable" set $A \subseteq [0,1]^n$, there is a **two layer network** *where each hidden neuron has the activation function σ (output neurons are linear), that satisfies the following:*

For "most" vectors $\vec{v} \in [0,1]^n$ we have that $\vec{v} \in A$ iff the network output is > 0 for the input $\vec{v}$.

For mathematically oriented:

- "reasonable" means Lebesgue measurable
- "most" means that the set of incorrectly classified vectors has the Lebesgue measure smaller than a given $\varepsilon > 0$

Non-linear separation - practical illustration



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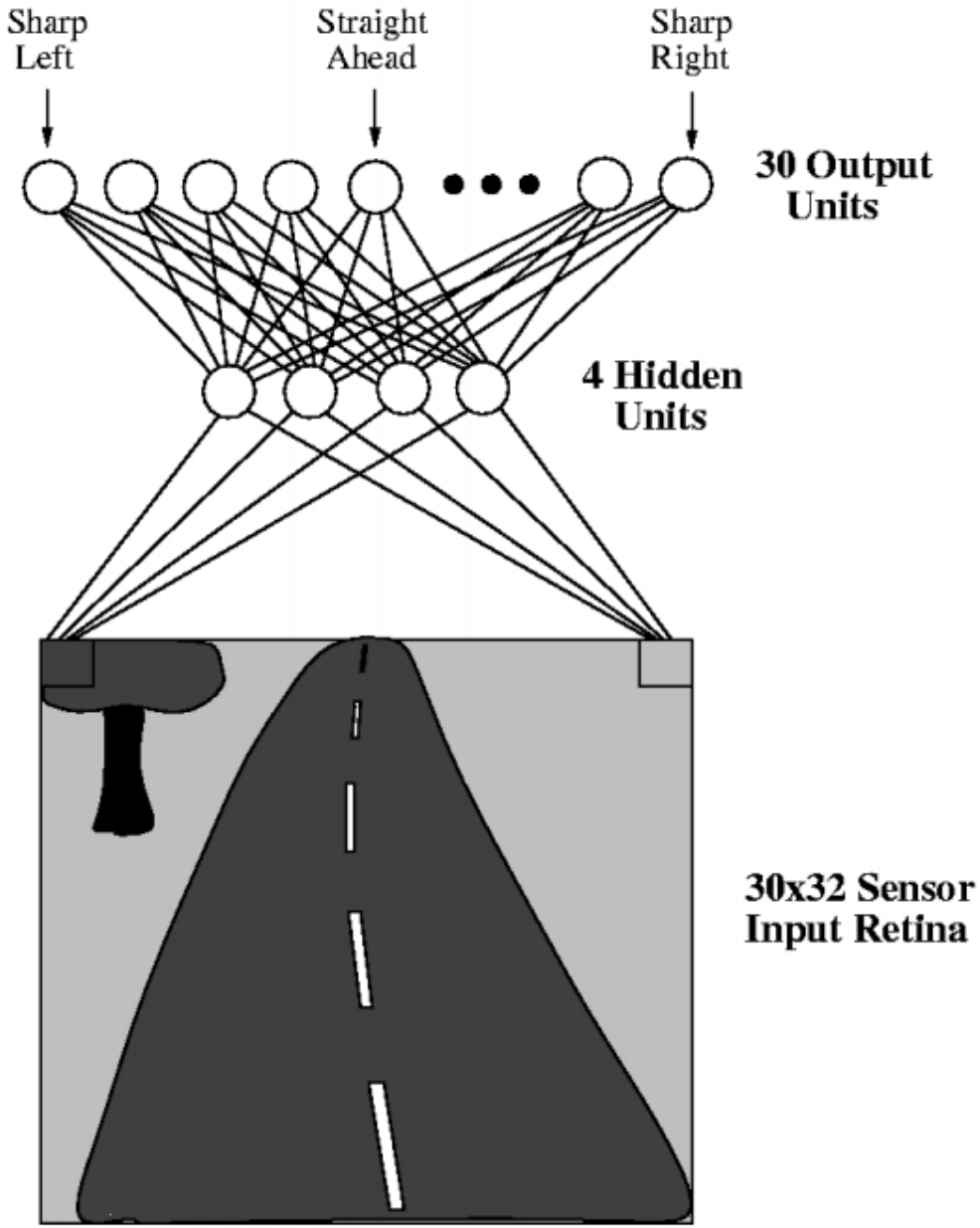

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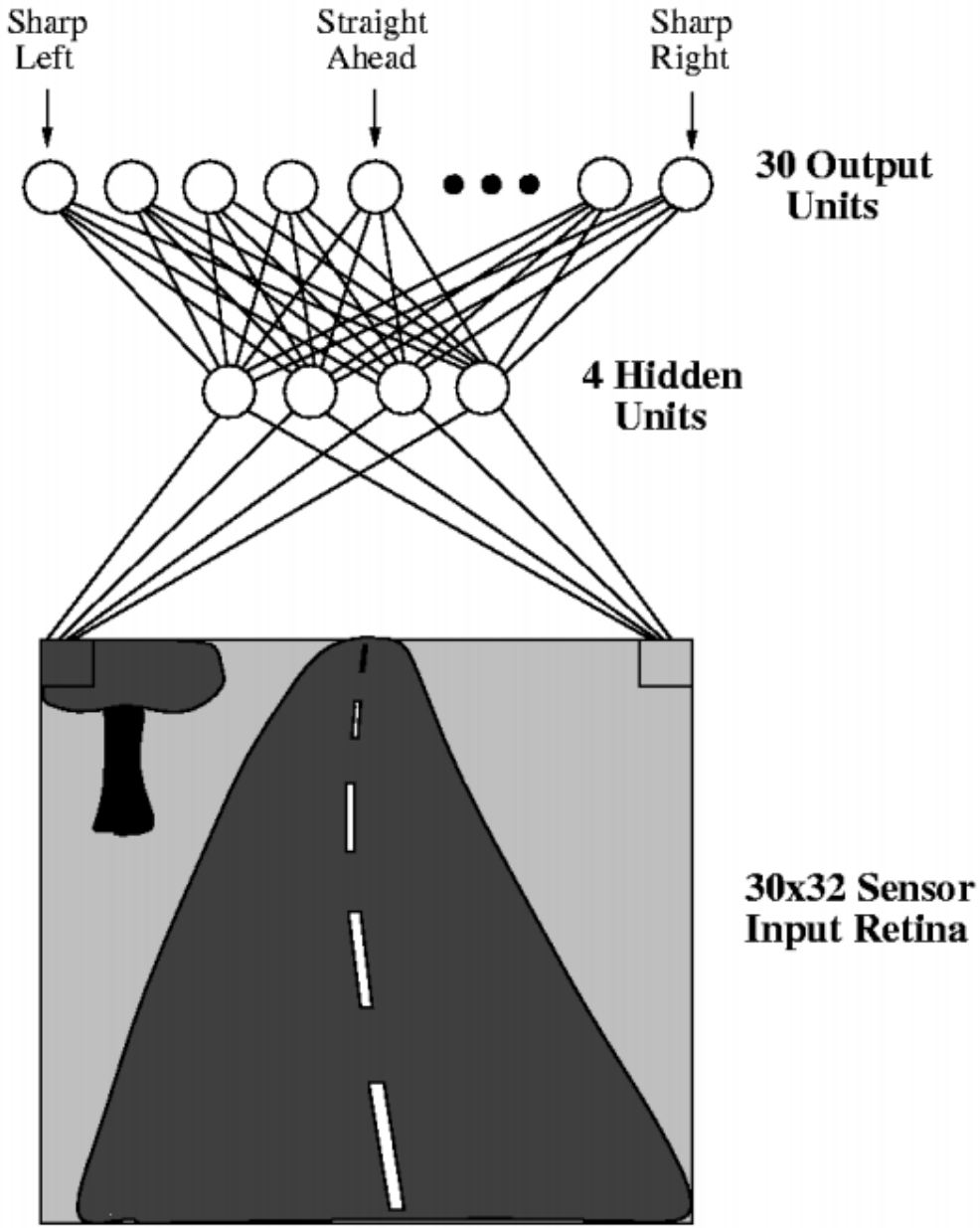

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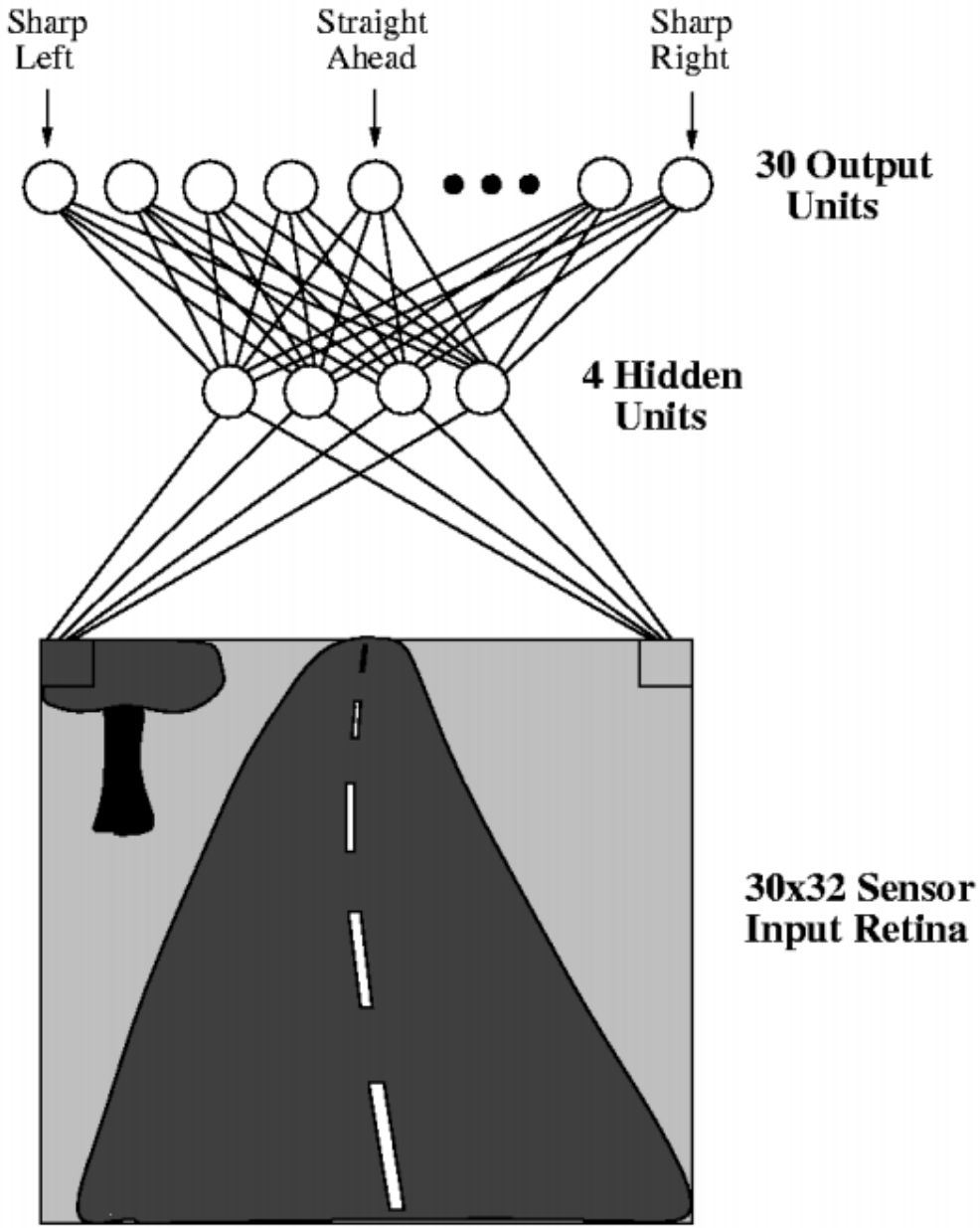

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- Output neurons "classify" images of the road based on their "curvature".

Zdroj obrázku: `http://jmvidal.cse.sc.edu/talks/ann/alvin.html`

Function approximation - two-layer networks

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$$|f(\vec{v}) - F(\vec{v})| < \varepsilon \qquad \text{pro každé } \vec{v} \in [0,1]^n.$$

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- We encode words $\omega \in \{0,1\}^+$ into numbers as follows:

$$\delta(\omega) = \sum_{i=1}^{|\omega|} \frac{\omega(i)}{2^i} + \frac{1}{2^{|\omega|+1}}$$

E.g. $\omega = 11001$ gives $\delta(\omega) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{2^5} + \frac{1}{2^6}$ ($= 0.110011$ in binary form).

Neural networks and computability

A network **recognizes** a language $L \subseteq \{0,1\}^+$ if it computes a function $F : A \to \mathbb{R}$ ($A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$) such that

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- Recurrent networks with rational weights are equivalent to Turing machines
  - For every recursively enumerable language $L \subseteq \{0,1\}^+$ there is a recurrent network with rational weights and less than 1000 neurons, which recognizes L.
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Summary of theoretical results

- Neural networks are very strong from the point of view of theory:
  - All Boolean functions can be expressed using two-layer networks.
  - Two-layer networks may approximate any continuous function.
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  - Two-layer networks may approximate any continuous function.
  - Recurrent networks are at least as strong as Turing machines.
- These results are purely theoretical!
  - "Theoretical" networks are extremely huge.
  - It is very difficult to handcraft them even for simplest problems.
- From practical point of view, the most important advantage of neural networks are: learning, generalization, robustness.

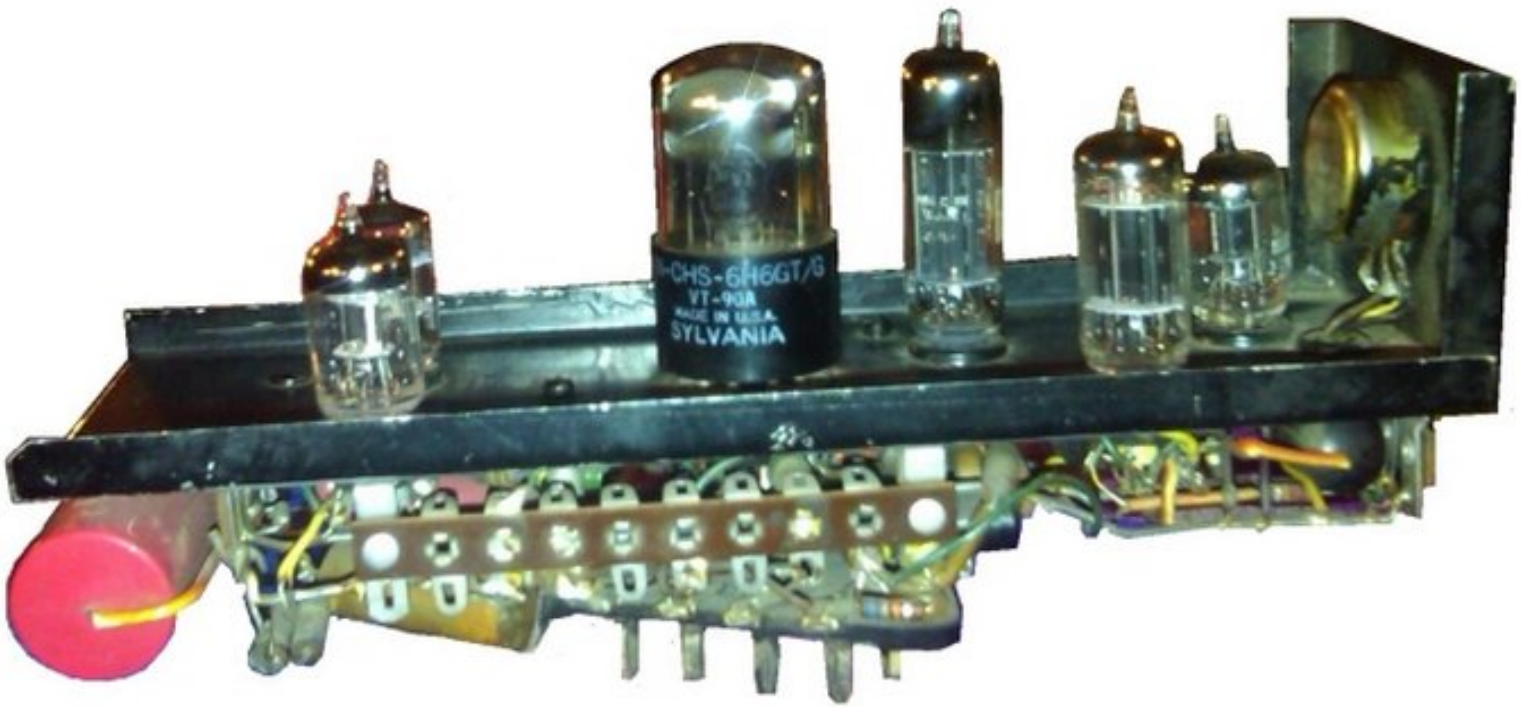
Neural networks vs classical computers

	Neural networks	"Classical" computers
Data	implicitly in weights	explicitly
Computation	naturally parallel	sequential, localized
Robustness	robust w.r.t. input corruption & damage	changing one bit may completely crash the computation
Precision	imprecise, network recalls a training example "similar" to the input	(typically) precise
Programming	learning	manual

History & implementations

History of neurocomputers

- 1951: SNARC (Minski et al)
  - the first implementation of neural network
  - a rat strives to exit a maze
  - 40 artificial neurons (300 vacuum tubes, engines, etc.)



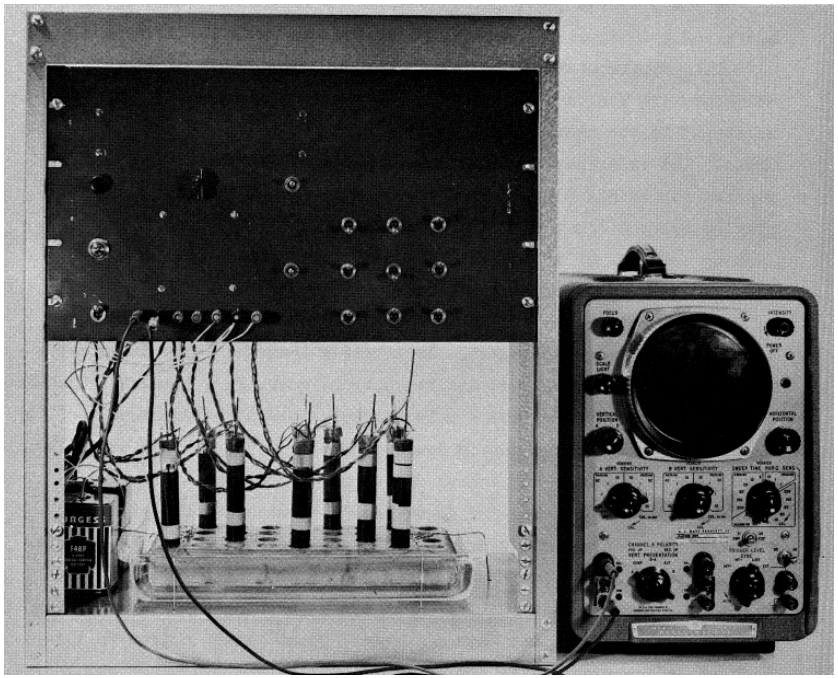
History of neurocomputers

- 1957: Mark I Perceptron (Rosenblatt et al) - the first successful network for image recognition

  - single layer network
  - image represented by 20×20 photocells
  - intensity of pixels was treated as the input to a perceptron (basically the formal neuron), which recognized figures
  - weights were implemented using potentiometers, each set by its own engine
  - it was possible to arbitrarily reconnect inputs to neurons to demonstrate adaptability

History of neurocomputers

- 1960: ADALINE (Widrow & Hof)



  - single layer neural network
  - weights stored in a newly invented electronic component **memistor**, which remembers history of electric current in the form of resistance.
  - Widrow founded a company Memistor Corporation, which sold implementations of neural networks.
- 1960-66: several companies concerned with neural networks were founded.

History of neurocomputers

- 1967-82: dead still after publication of a book by Minski & Papert (published 1969, title *Perceptrons*)
- 1983-end of 90s: revival of neural networks
  - many attempts at hardware implementations
    - application specific chips (ASIC)
    - programmable hardware (FPGA)
  - hw implementations typically not better than "software" implementations on universal computers (problems with weight storage, size, speed, cost of production etc.)

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- end of 90s-cca 2005: NN suppressed by other machine learning methods (support vector machines (SVM))
- 2006-now: The boom of neural networks!
  - deep networks – often better than any other method
  - GPU implementations
  - ... specialized hw implementations (Google's TPU)

Some highlights

- Breakthrough in image recognition.
  Accuracy of image recognition improved by an order of magnitude in 5 years.
- Breakthrough in game playing.
  Superhuman results in Go and Chess almost without any human intervention. Master level in Starcraft, poker, etc.
- Breakthrough in machine translation.
  Switching to deep learning produced a 60% increase in translation accuracy compared to the phrase-based approach previously used in Google Translate (in human evaluation)
- Breakthrough in speech processing.
- Breakthrough in text generation.
  GPT-3 generates pretty realistic articles, short plays (for a theatre) have been successfully generated, etc.

History in waves ...

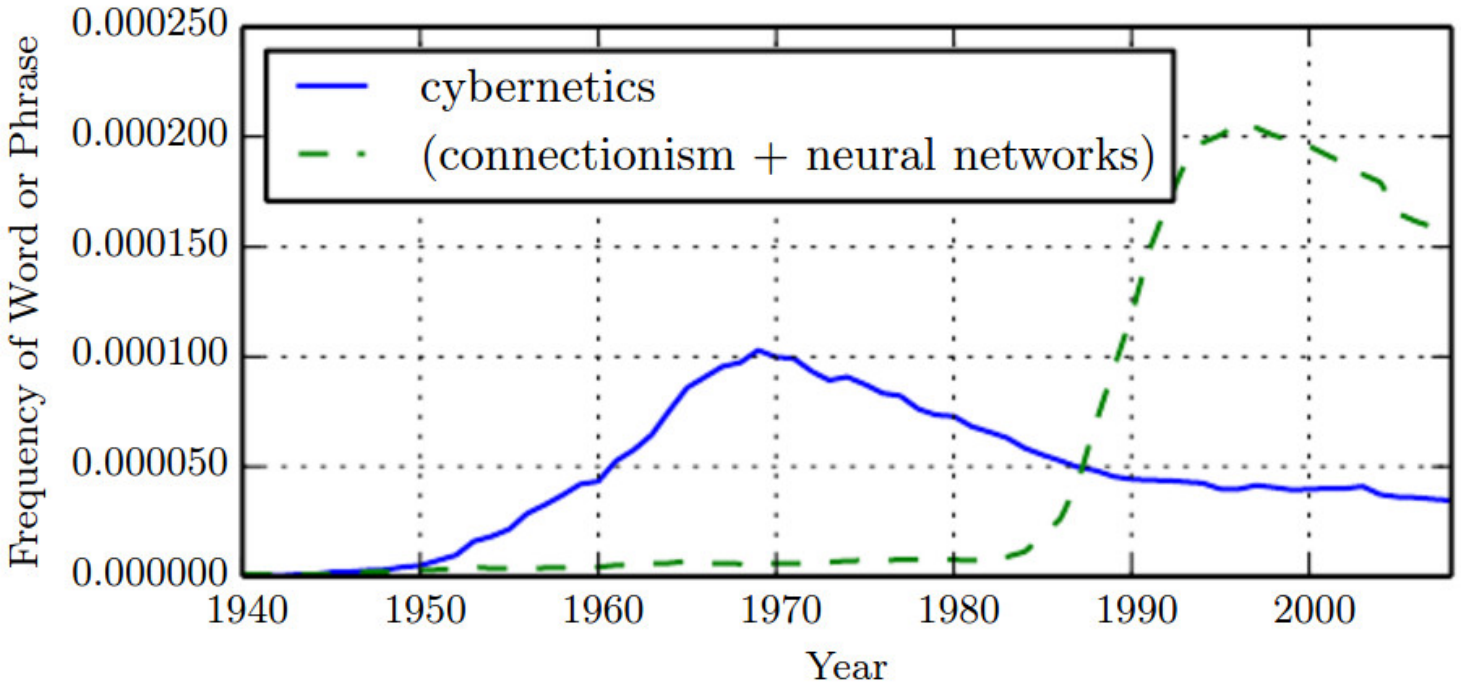
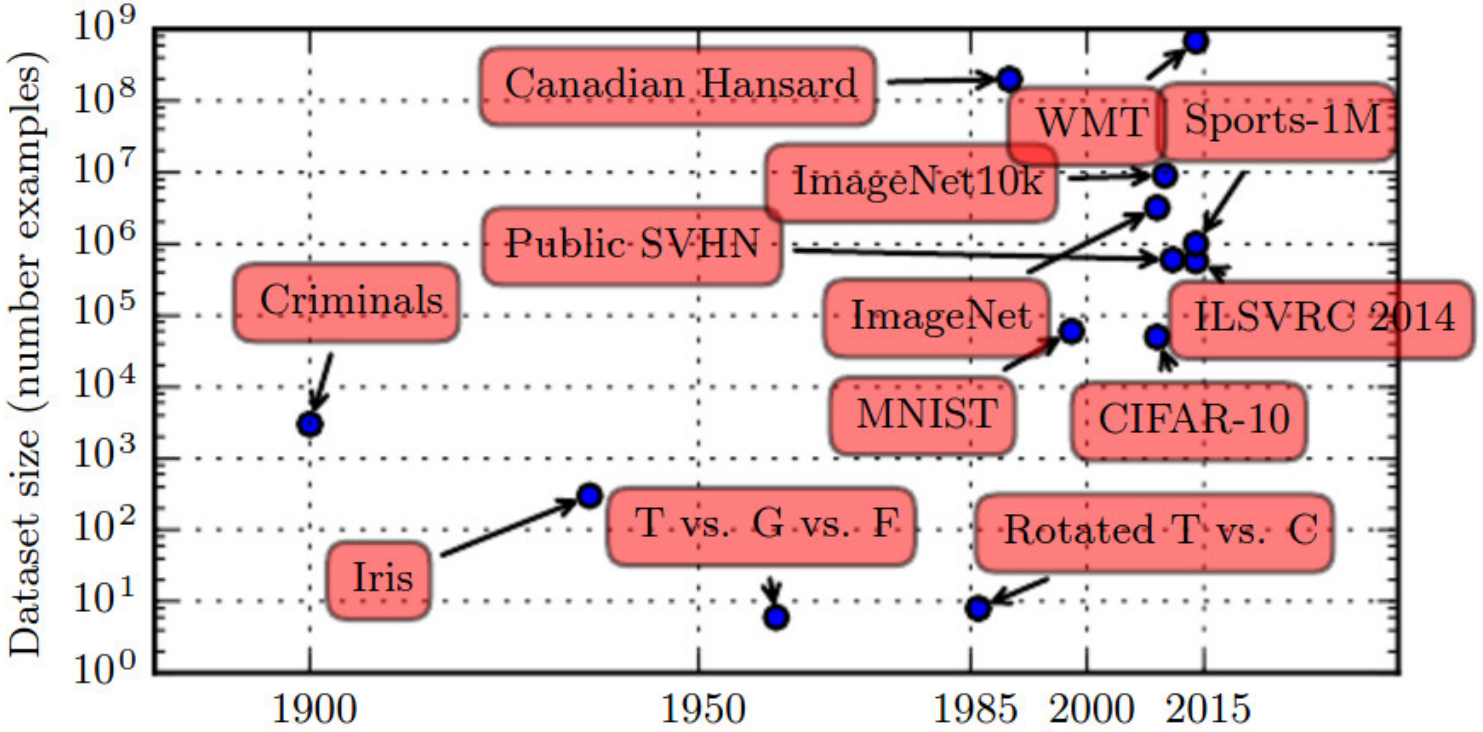


Figure: The figure shows two of the three historical waves of artificial neural nets research, as measured by the frequency of the phrases "cybernetics" and "connectionism" or "neural networks" according to Google Books (the third wave is too recent to appear).

Current hardware – What do we face?

Increasing dataset size ...



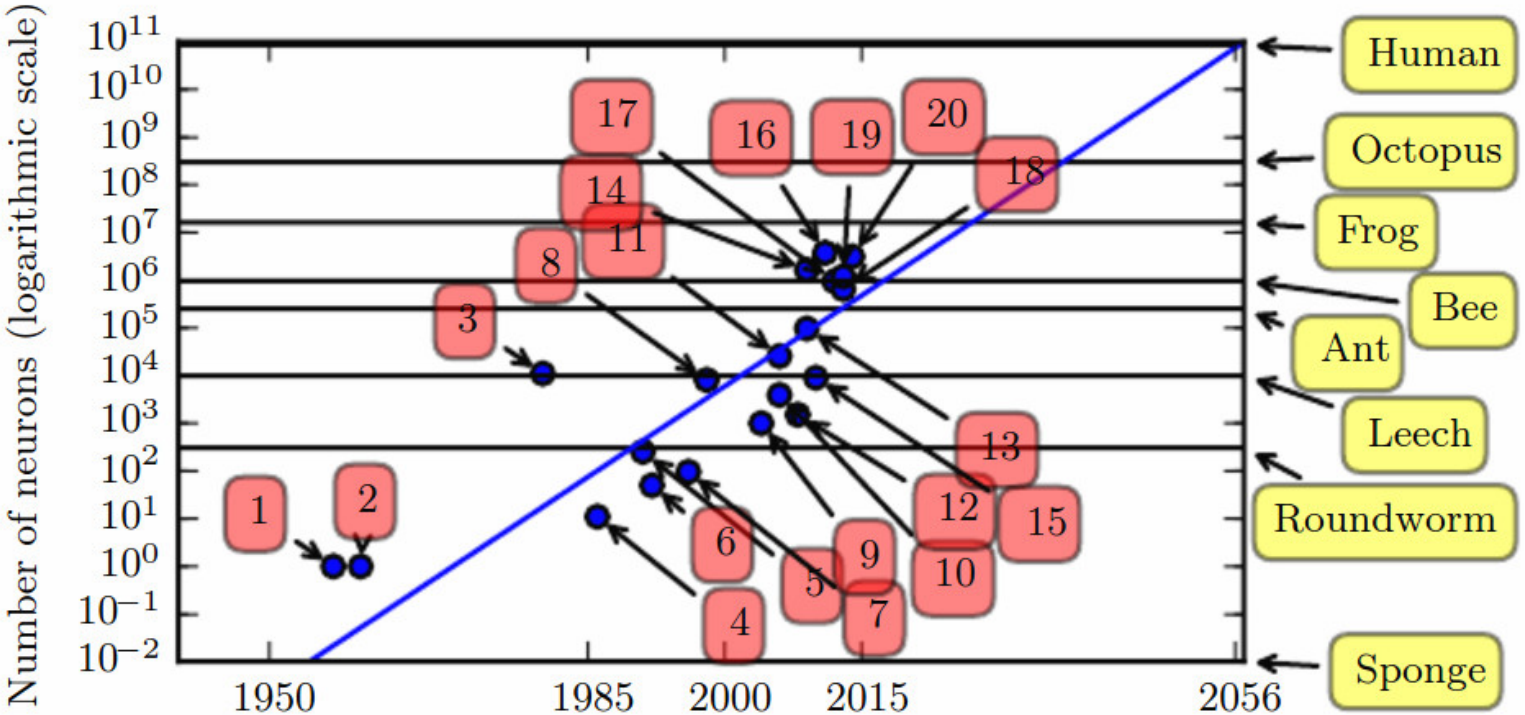
... weakly-supervised pre-training using hashtags from the Instagram uses $3.6 * 10^9$ images.

Revisiting Weakly Supervised Pre-Training of Visual Perception Models. Singh et al.

https://arxiv.org/pdf/2201.08371.pdf, 2022

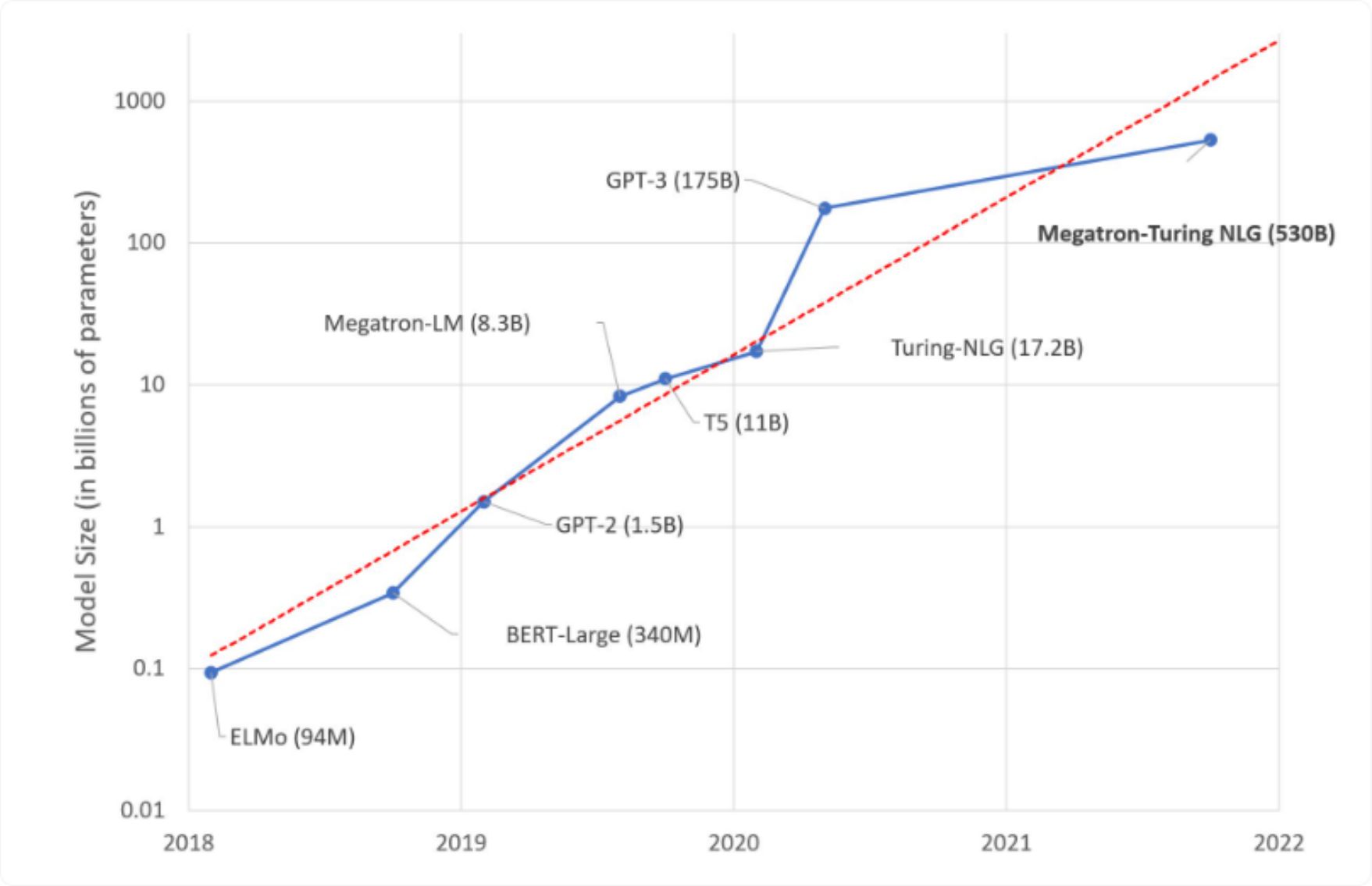
Current hardware – What do we face?

... and thus increasing size of neural networks ...



2. ADALINE
4. Early back-propagation network (Rumelhart et al., 1986b)
8. Image recognition: LeNet-5 (LeCun et al., 1998b)
10. Dimensionality reduction: Deep belief network (Hinton et al., 2006)
    ... here the third "wave" of neural networks started
15. Digit recognition: GPU-accelerated multilayer perceptron (Ciresan et al., 2010)
18. Image recognition (AlexNet): Multi-GPU convolutional network (Krizhevsky et al., 2012)
20. Image recognition: GoogLeNet (Szegedy et al., 2014a)

Current hardware - What do we face?



Current hardware – What do we face?

... as a reward we get this ...

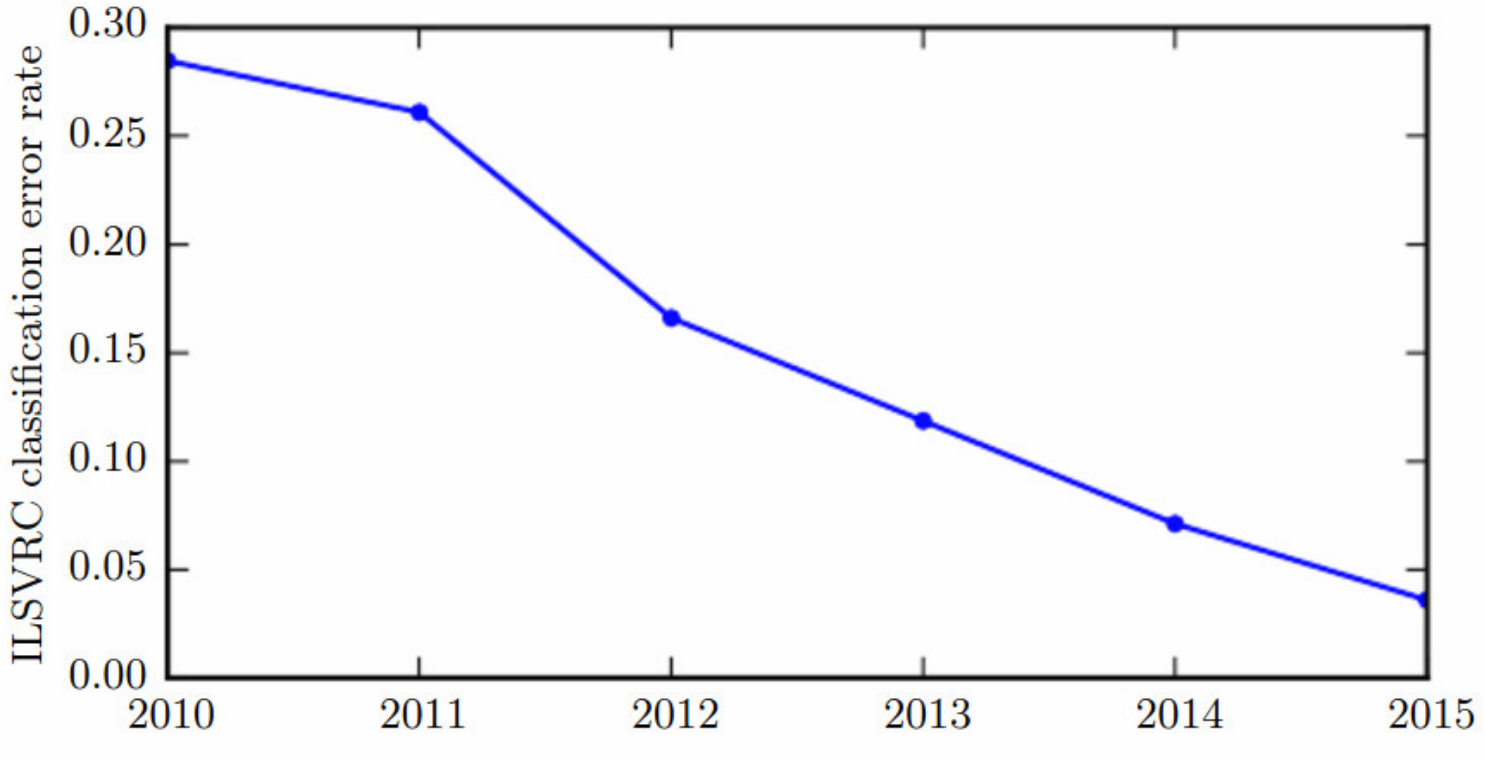


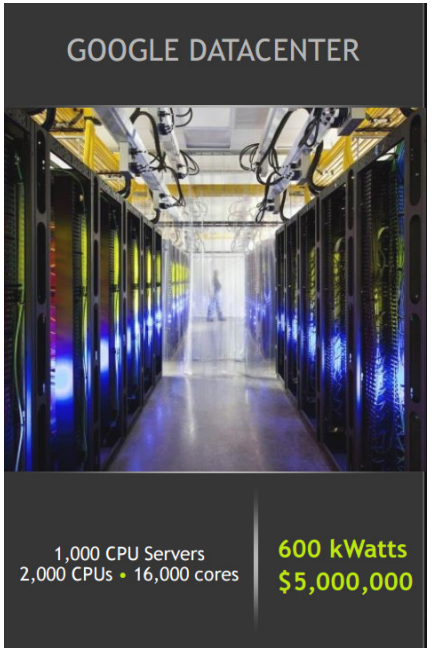
Figure: Since deep networks reached the scale necessary to compete in the ImageNetLarge Scale Visual Recognition Challenge, they have consistently won the competition every year, and yielded lower and lower error rates each time. Data from Russakovsky et al. (2014b) and He et al. (2015).

Current hardware

In 2012, Google trained a large network of 1.7 billion weights and 9 layers

The task was image recognition (10 million youtube video frames)

The hw comprised a 1000 computer network (16 000 cores), computation took three days.



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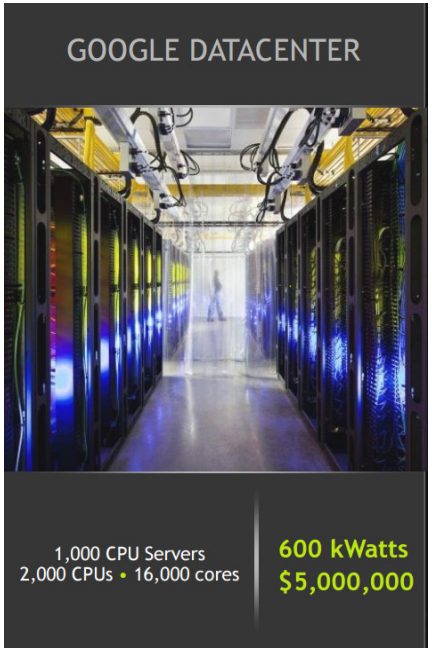
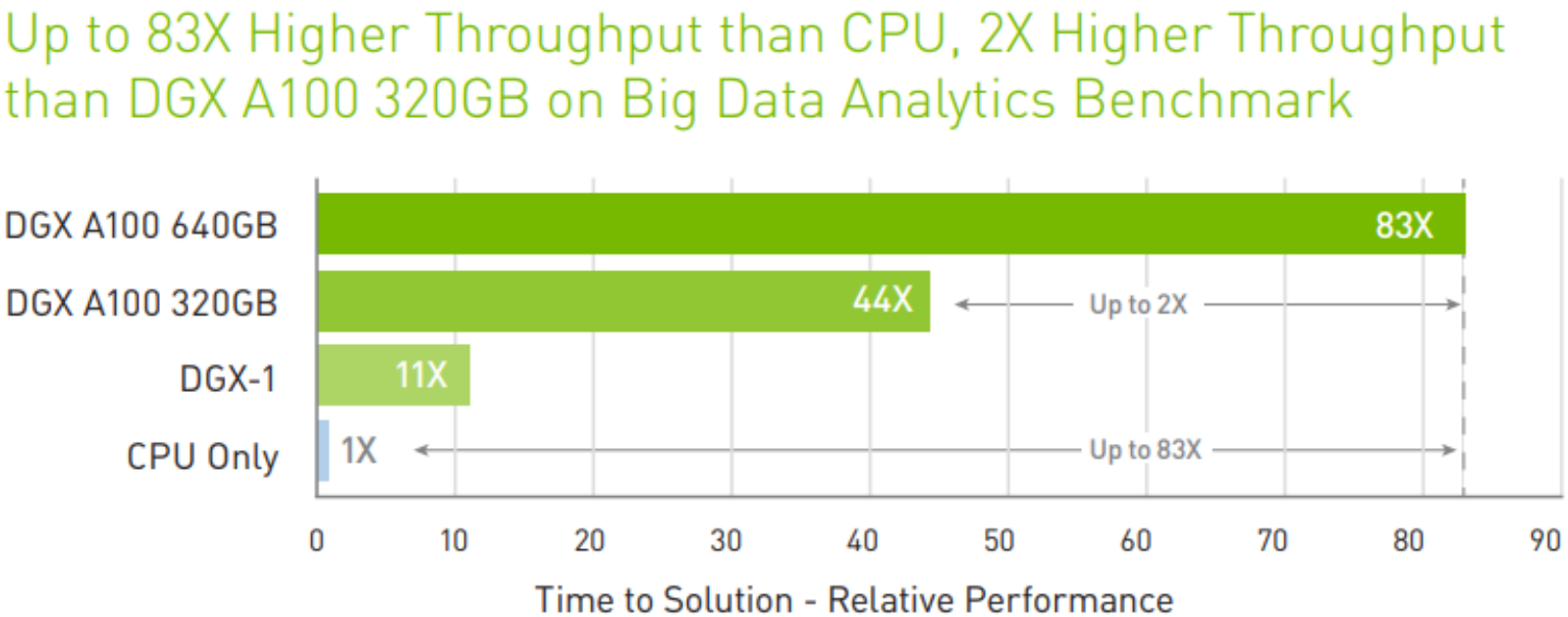
In 2014, similar task performed on Commodity Off-The-Shelf High Performance Computing (COTS HPC) technology: a cluster of GPU servers with Infiniband interconnects and MPI.

Able to train 1 billion parameter networks on just 3 machines in a couple of days.
Able to scale to 11 billion weights (approx. 6.5 times larger than the Google model) on 16 GPUs.



Current hardware – NVIDIA DGX Station

- 8x GPU (Nvidia A100 80GB Tensor Core)
- 5 petaFLOPS
- System memory: 2 TB
- Network: 200 Gb/s InfiniBand



Deep learning in clouds

Big companies offer cloud services for deep learning:

- Amazon Web Services
- Google Cloud
- Deep Cognition
- ...

Advantages:

- Do not have to care (too much) about technical problems.
- Do not have to buy and optimize highend hw/sw, networks etc.
- Scaling & virtually limitless storage.

Disadvatages:

- Do not have full control.
- Performance can vary, connectivity problems.
- Have to pay for services.
- Privacy issues.

Current software

- **TensorFlow** (Google)
  - open source software library for numerical computation using data flow graphs
  - allows implementation of most current neural networks
  - allows computation on multiple devices (CPUs, GPUs, ...)
  - Python API
  - **Keras**: a part of TensorFlow that allows easy description of most modern neural networks
- **PyTorch** (Facebook)
  - similar to TensorFlow
  - object oriented
  - ... majority of new models in research papers implemented in PyTorch

    https://www.cioinsight.com/big-data/pytorch-vs-tensorflow/
- **Theano (dead)**:
  - The "academic" grand-daddy of deep-learning frameworks, written in Python. Strongly inspired TensorFlow (some people developing Theano moved on to develop TensorFlow).
- There are others: Caffe, Deeplearning4j, ...

Current software – Keras

```
from keras.models import Sequential
from keras.layers import Dense, Dropout, Activation
from keras.optimizers import SGD

model = Sequential()
# Dense(64) is a fully-connected layer with 64 hidden units.
# in the first layer, you must specify the expected input data shape
# here, 20-dimensional vectors.
model.add(Dense(64, input_dim=20, init='uniform'))
model.add(Activation('tanh'))
model.add(Dropout(0.5))
model.add(Dense(64, init='uniform'))
model.add(Activation('tanh'))
model.add(Dropout(0.5))
model.add(Dense(10, init='uniform'))
model.add(Activation('softmax'))

sgd = SGD(lr=0.1, decay=1e-6, momentum=0.9, nesterov=True)
model.compile(loss='categorical_crossentropy',
              optimizer=sgd,
              metrics=['accuracy'])

model.fit(X_train, y_train,
          nb_epoch=20,
          batch_size=16)
score = model.evaluate(X_test, y_test, batch_size=16)
```

Current software – Keras functional API

```
from keras.layers import Input, Dense
from keras.models import Model

# This returns a tensor
inputs = Input(shape=(784,))

# a layer instance is callable on a tensor, and returns a tensor
output_1 = Dense(64, activation='relu')(inputs)
output_2 = Dense(64, activation='relu')(output_1)
predictions = Dense(10, activation='softmax')(output_2)

# This creates a model that includes
# the Input layer and three Dense layers
model = Model(inputs=inputs, outputs=predictions)
model.compile(optimizer='rmsprop',
              loss='categorical_crossentropy',
              metrics=['accuracy'])
model.fit(data, labels)  # starts training
```

Current software – TensorFlow

```
41  # tf Graph input
42  X = tf.placeholder("float", [None, n_input])
43  Y = tf.placeholder("float", [None, n_classes])
44
45  # Store layers weight & bias
46  weights = {
47      'h1': tf.Variable(tf.random_normal([n_input, n_hidden_1])),
48      'h2': tf.Variable(tf.random_normal([n_hidden_1, n_hidden_2])),
49      'out': tf.Variable(tf.random_normal([n_hidden_2, n_classes]))
50  }
51  biases = {
52      'b1': tf.Variable(tf.random_normal([n_hidden_1])),
53      'b2': tf.Variable(tf.random_normal([n_hidden_2])),
54      'out': tf.Variable(tf.random_normal([n_classes]))
55  }
```

Current software – TensorFlow

```
58  # Create model
59  def multilayer_perceptron(x):
60      # Hidden fully connected layer with 256 neurons
61      layer_1 = tf.add(tf.matmul(x, weights['h1']), biases['b1'])
62      # Hidden fully connected layer with 256 neurons
63      layer_2 = tf.add(tf.matmul(layer_1, weights['h2']), biases['b2'])
64      # Output fully connected layer with a neuron for each class
65      out_layer = tf.matmul(layer_2, weights['out']) + biases['out']
66      return out_layer
67
68  # Construct model
69  logits = multilayer_perceptron(X)
```

Current software – PyTorch

```
36  class Net(nn.Module):
37      def __init__(self, input_size, hidden_size, num_classes):
38          super(Net, self).__init__()
39          self.fc1 = nn.Linear(input_size, hidden_size)
40          self.relu = nn.ReLU()
41          self.fc2 = nn.Linear(hidden_size, num_classes)
42
43      def forward(self, x):
44          out = self.fc1(x)
45          out = self.relu(out)
46          out = self.fc2(out)
47          return out
48
49  net = Net(input_size, hidden_size, num_classes)
```

Other software implementations

Most "mathematical" software packages contain some support of neural networks:

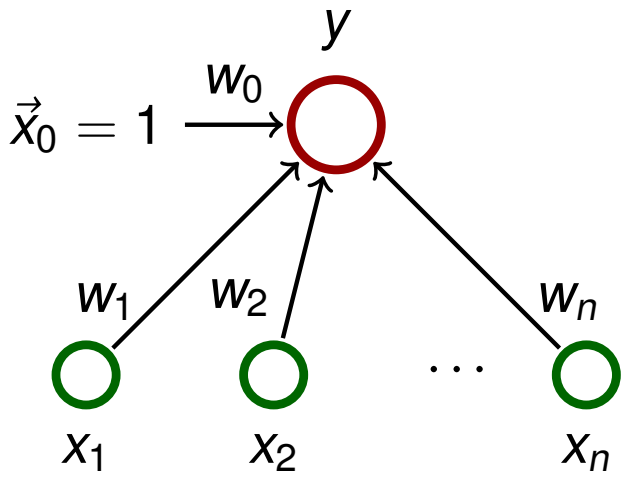
- MATLAB
- R
- STATISTICA
- Weka
- ...

The implementations are typically not on par with the previously mentioned dedicated deep-learning libraries.

Training linear models

Linear regression (ADALINE)

Architecture:



$\vec{w} = (w_0, w_1, \ldots, w_n)$ and $\vec{x} = (x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ where $x_0 = 1$.

Activity:

- inner potential: $\xi = w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i x_i = \sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_i = \vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}$
- activation function: $\sigma(\xi) = \xi$
- network function: $y[\vec{w}](\vec{x}) = \sigma(\xi) = \vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}$

Linear regression (ADALINE)

Learning:

- Given a **training dataset**

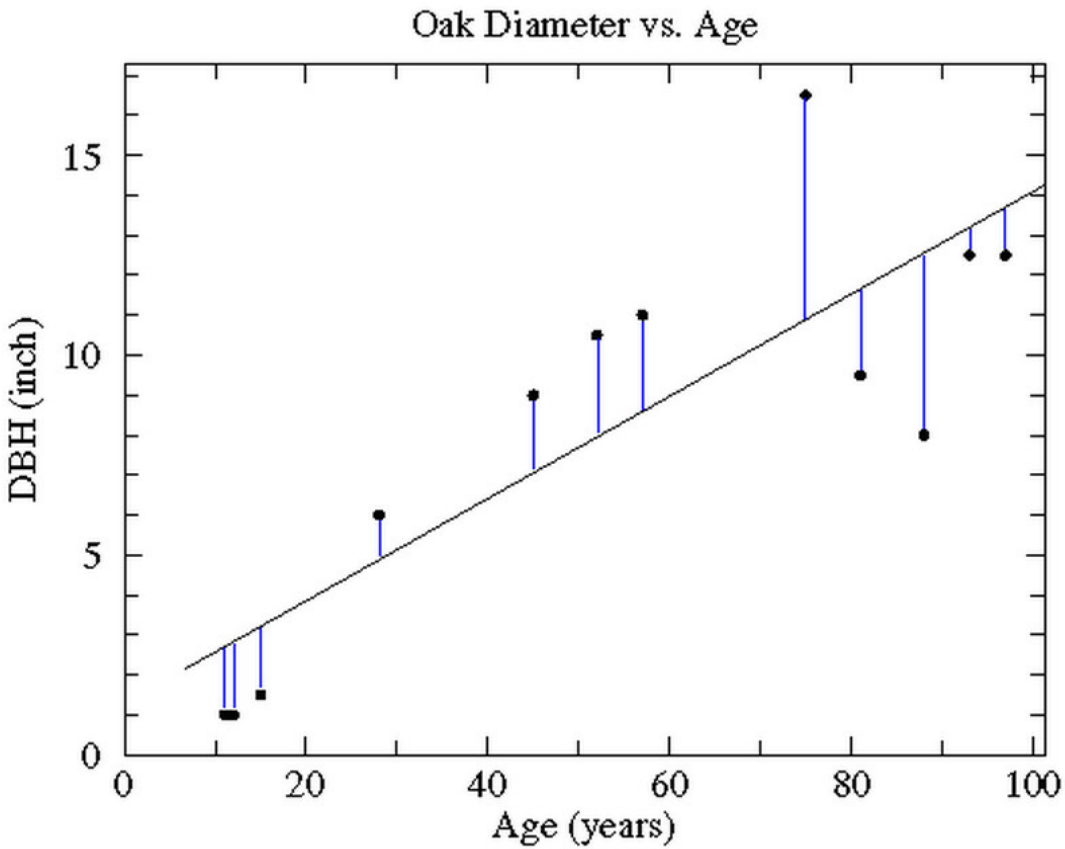
$$\mathcal{T} = \left\{\left(\vec{x}_1, d_1\right), \left(\vec{x}_2, d_2\right), \ldots, \left(\vec{x}_p, d_p\right)\right\}$$

  Here $\vec{x}_k = (x_{k0}, x_{k1} \ldots, x_{kn}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$, $x_{k0} = 1$, is the k-th input, and $d_k \in \mathbb{R}$ is the expected output.

Intuition: The network is supposed to compute an affine approximation of the function (some of) whose values are given in the training set.

Oaks in Wisconsin

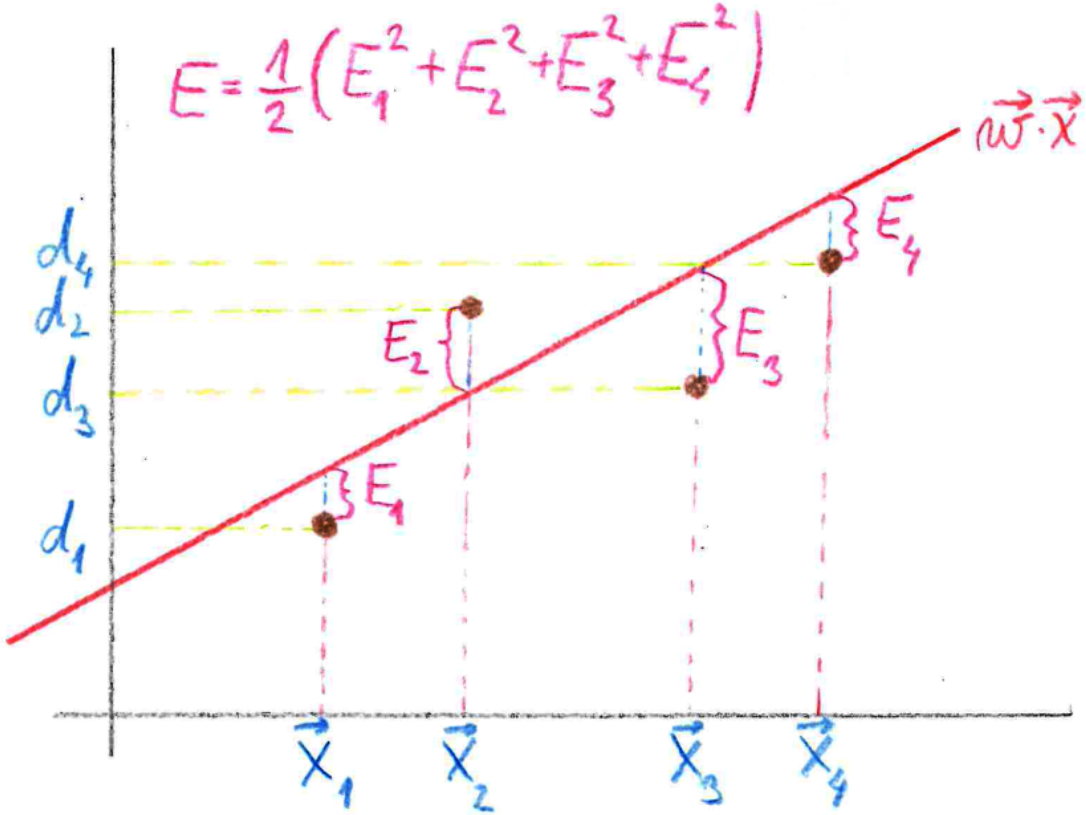
Age (years)	*DBH* (inch)
97	12.5
93	12.5
88	8.0
81	9.5
75	16.5
57	11.0
52	10.5
45	9.0
28	6.0
15	1.5
12	1.0
11	1.0



Linear regression (ADALINE)

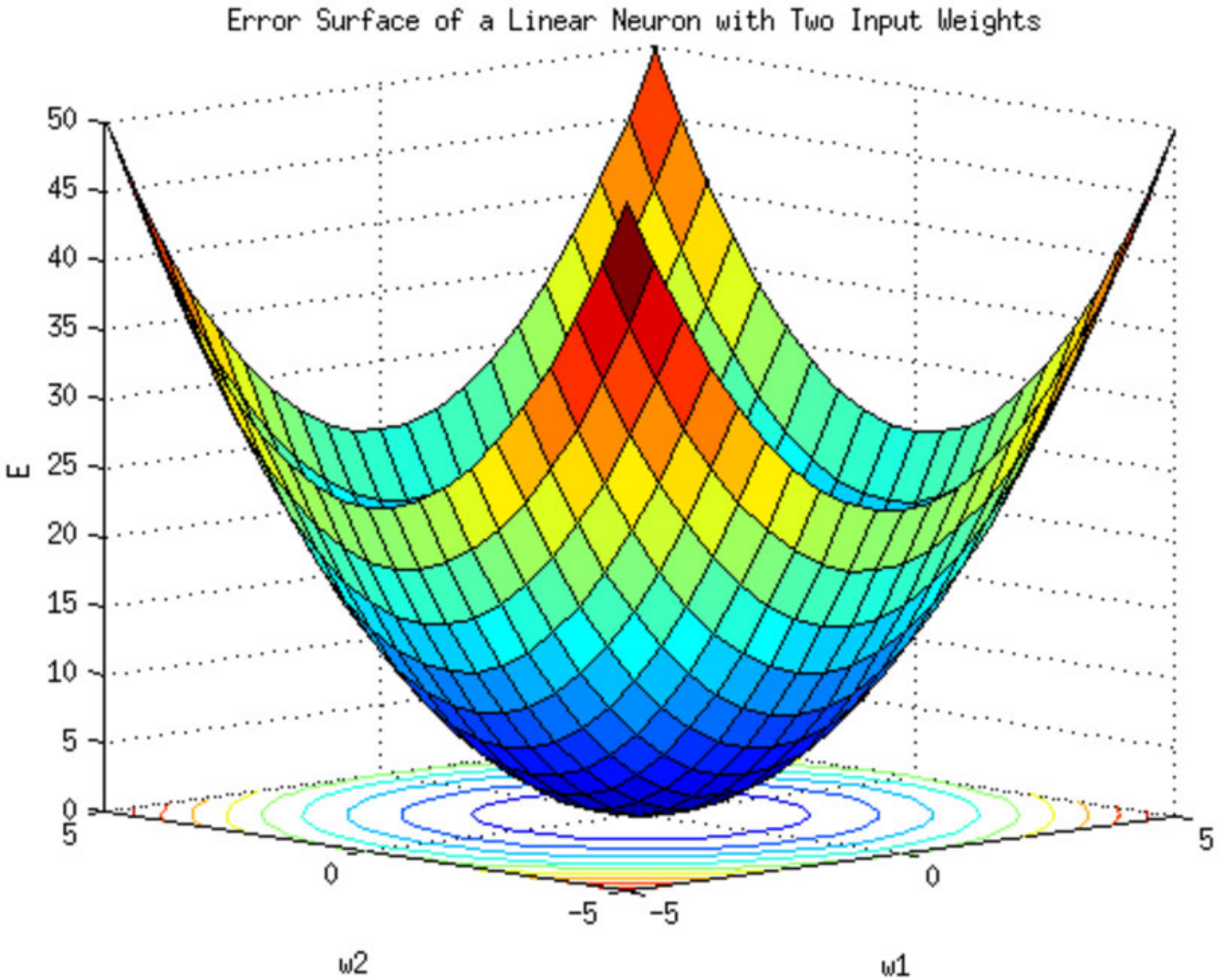
- **Error function:**

$$E(\vec{w}) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p}\left(\vec{w}\cdot\vec{x}_k - d_k\right)^2 = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p}\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)^2$$



- The goal is to find $\vec{w}$ which minimizes $E(\vec{w})$.

Error function



Gradient of the error function

Consider **gradient** of the error function:

$$\nabla E(\vec{w}) = \left(\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_0}(\vec{w}), \ldots, \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_n}(\vec{w}) \right)$$

Intuition: $\nabla E(\vec{w})$ is a vector in the **weight space** which points in the direction of the *steepest ascent* of the error function.

Note that the vectors $\vec{x}_k$ are just parameters of the function E, and are thus fixed!

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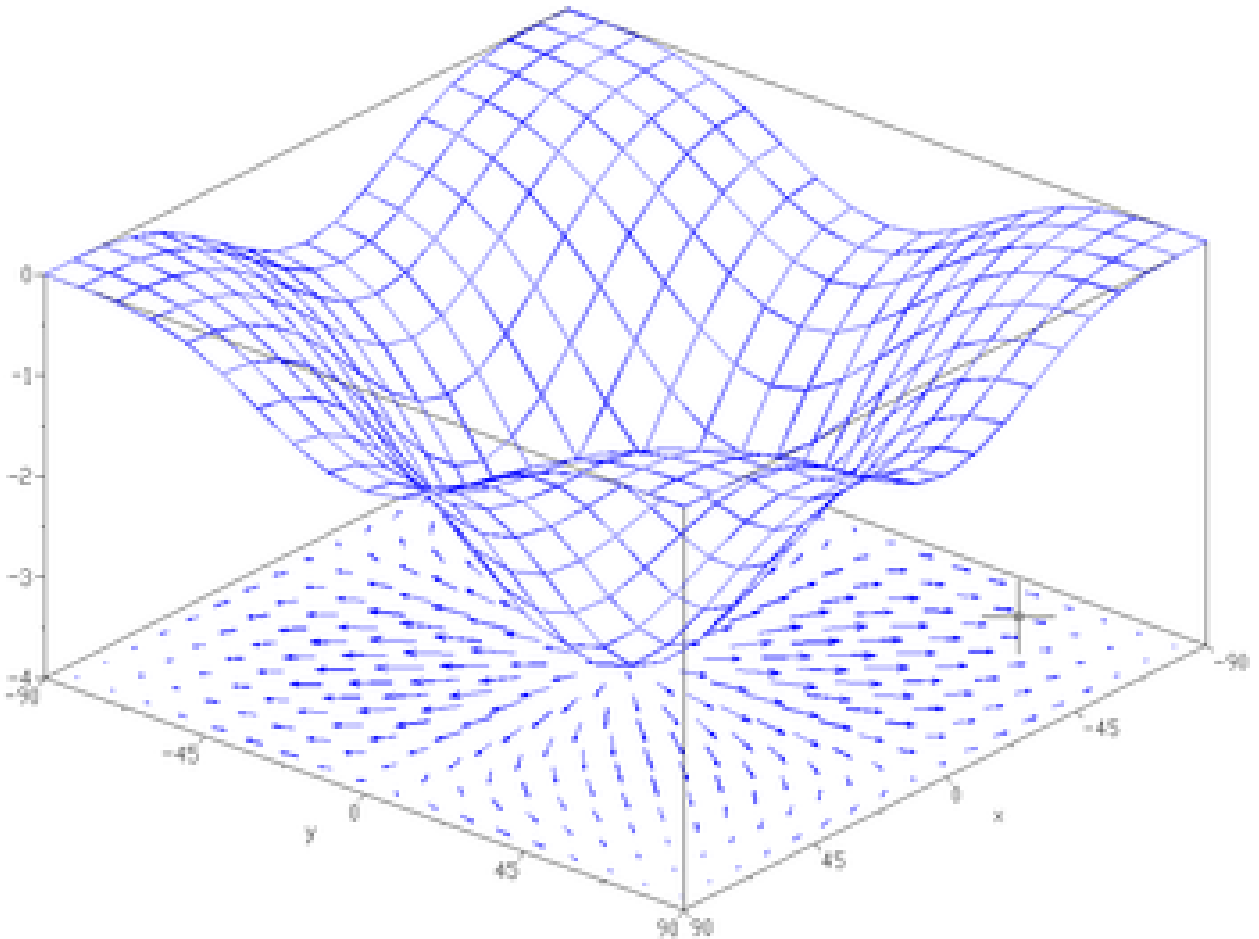
Fact

If $\nabla E(\vec{w}) = \vec{0} = (0, \ldots, 0)$, *then* $\vec{w}$ *is a global minimum of* E.

For ADALINE, the error function $E(\vec{w})$ is a convex paraboloid and thus has the unique global minimum.

Gradient - illustration



Caution! This picture just illustrates the notion of gradient ... it is not the convex paraboloid $E(\vec{w})$!

Gradient of the error function

First, consider $n = 1$.

Then the model is $y = w_0 + w_1 \cdot x$.

Gradient of the error function

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Consider a concrete training set:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T} &= \{((1,2),1),((1,3),2),((1,4),5)\} \\ &= ((x_{10},x_{11}),d_1),((x_{20},x_{21}),d_2),((x_{30},x_{31}),d_3) \end{aligned}$$

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$$E(w_0,w_1) = \tfrac{1}{2}[(w_0+w_1\cdot 2-1)^2+(w_0+w_1\cdot 3-2)^2+(w_0+w_1\cdot 4-5)^2]$$

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$$\frac{\delta E}{\delta w_0}$$

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$$\frac{\delta E}{\delta w_0} = (w_0+w_1\cdot 2-1)\cdot 1+(w_0+w_1\cdot 3-2)\cdot 1+(w_0+w_1\cdot 4-5)\cdot 1$$

$$\frac{\delta E}{\delta w_1} = (w_0+w_1\cdot 2-1)\cdot 2+(w_0+w_1\cdot 3-2)\cdot 3+(w_0+w_1\cdot 4-5)\cdot 4$$

Gradient of the error function

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_\ell}(\vec{w}) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p}\frac{\delta}{\delta w_\ell}\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)^2$$

Gradient of the error function

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_\ell}(\vec{w}) &= \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p}\frac{\delta}{\delta w_\ell}\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p} 2\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)\frac{\delta}{\delta w_\ell}\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)
\end{aligned}$$

Gradient of the error function

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_\ell}(\vec{w}) &= \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p}\frac{\delta}{\delta w_\ell}\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)^2 \\
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&= \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p} 2\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n}\left(\frac{\delta}{\delta w_\ell} w_i x_{ki}\right) - \frac{\delta E}{\delta w_\ell} d_k\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

Gradient of the error function

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_\ell}(\vec{w}) &= \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p}\frac{\delta}{\delta w_\ell}\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p} 2\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)\frac{\delta}{\delta w_\ell}\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p} 2\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n}\left(\frac{\delta}{\delta w_\ell} w_i x_{ki}\right) - \frac{\delta E}{\delta w_\ell} d_k\right) \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^{p}\left(\vec{w}\cdot\vec{x}_k - d_k\right) x_{k\ell}
\end{aligned}
$$

Gradient of the error function

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_\ell}(\vec{w}) &= \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p}\frac{\delta}{\delta w_\ell}\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p} 2\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)\frac{\delta}{\delta w_\ell}\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^{p} 2\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_{ki} - d_k\right)\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n}\left(\frac{\delta}{\delta w_\ell} w_i x_{ki}\right) - \frac{\delta E}{\delta w_\ell} d_k\right) \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^{p}\left(\vec{w}\cdot\vec{x}_k - d_k\right) x_{k\ell}
\end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\nabla E(\vec{w}) = \left(\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_0}(\vec{w}), \ldots, \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_n}(\vec{w})\right) = \sum_{k=1}^{p}\left(\vec{w}\cdot\vec{x}_k - d_k\right)\vec{x}_k$$

Linear regression - learning

Batch algorithm (gradient descent):

Idea: In every step "move" the weights in the direction *opposite* to the gradient.

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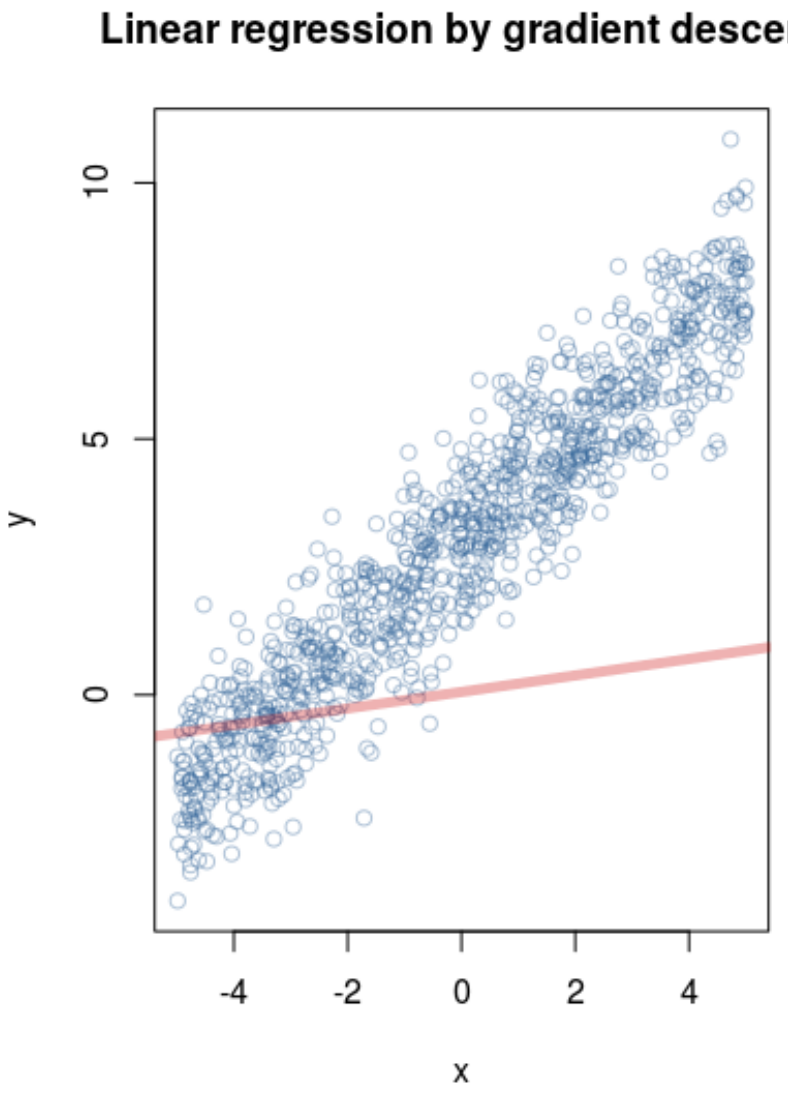
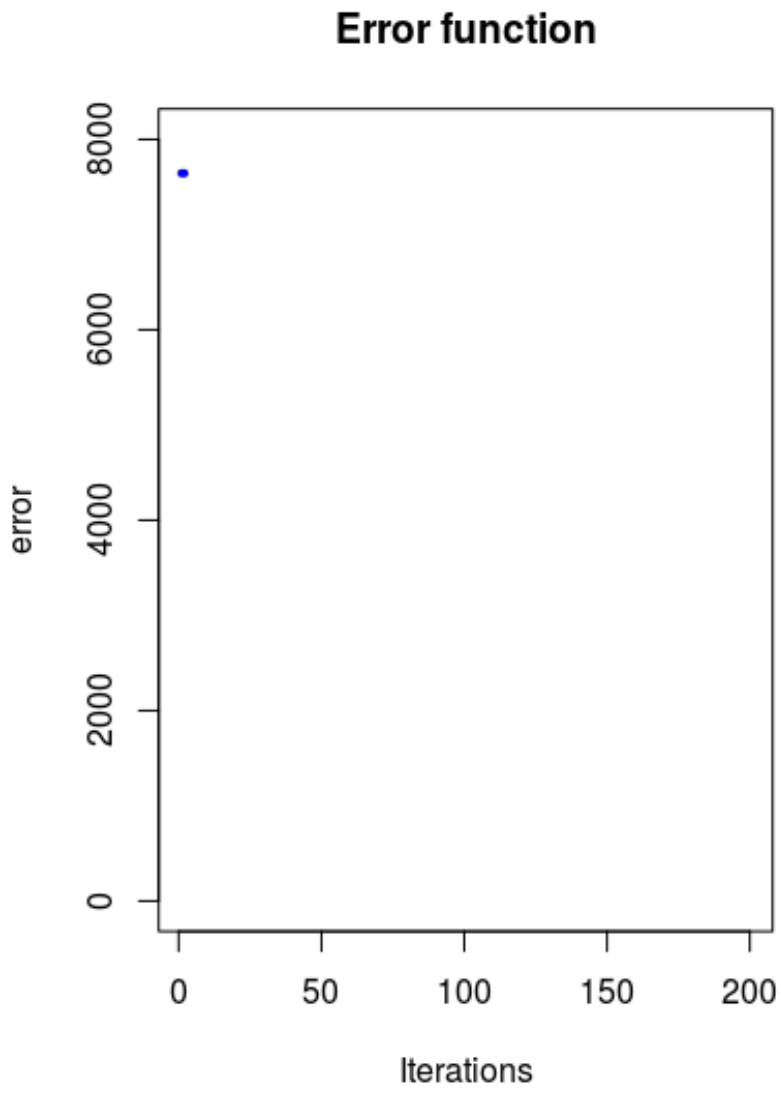
Proposition

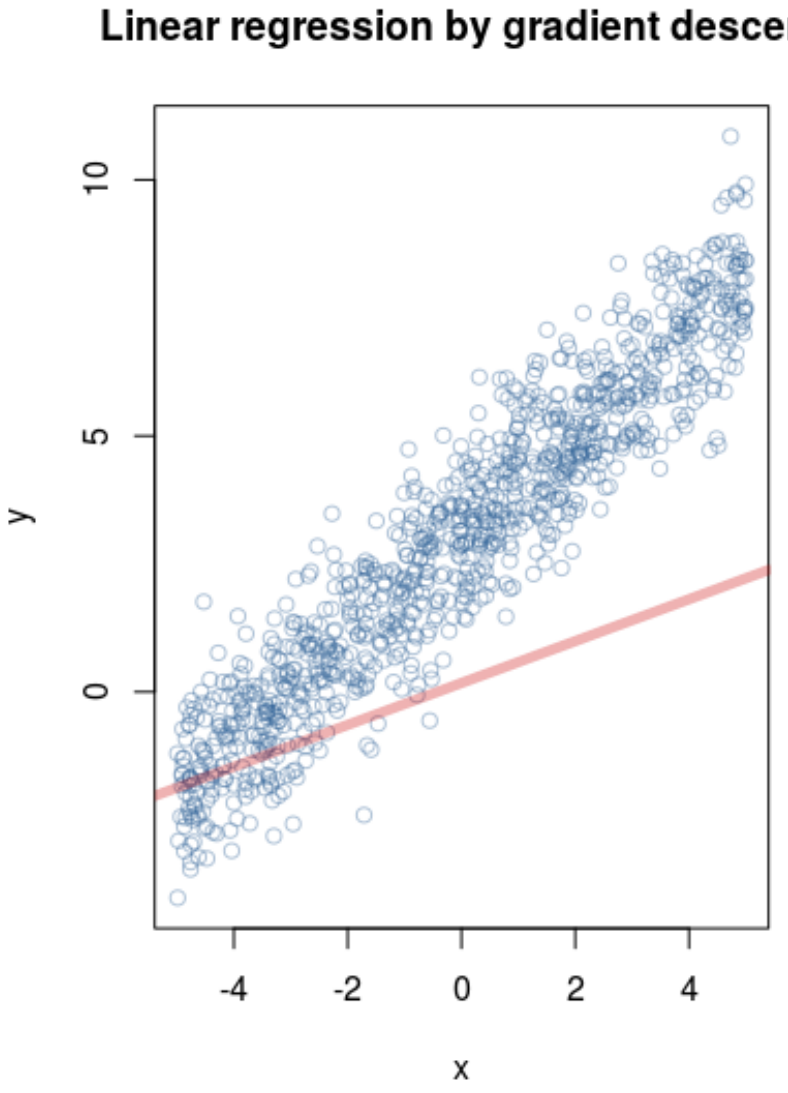
For sufficiently small $\varepsilon > 0$ the sequence $\vec{w}^{(0)}, \vec{w}^{(1)}, \vec{w}^{(2)}, \ldots$ converges (componentwise) to the global minimum of E (i.e. to the vector $\vec{w}$ satisfying $\nabla E(\vec{w}) = \vec{0}$).

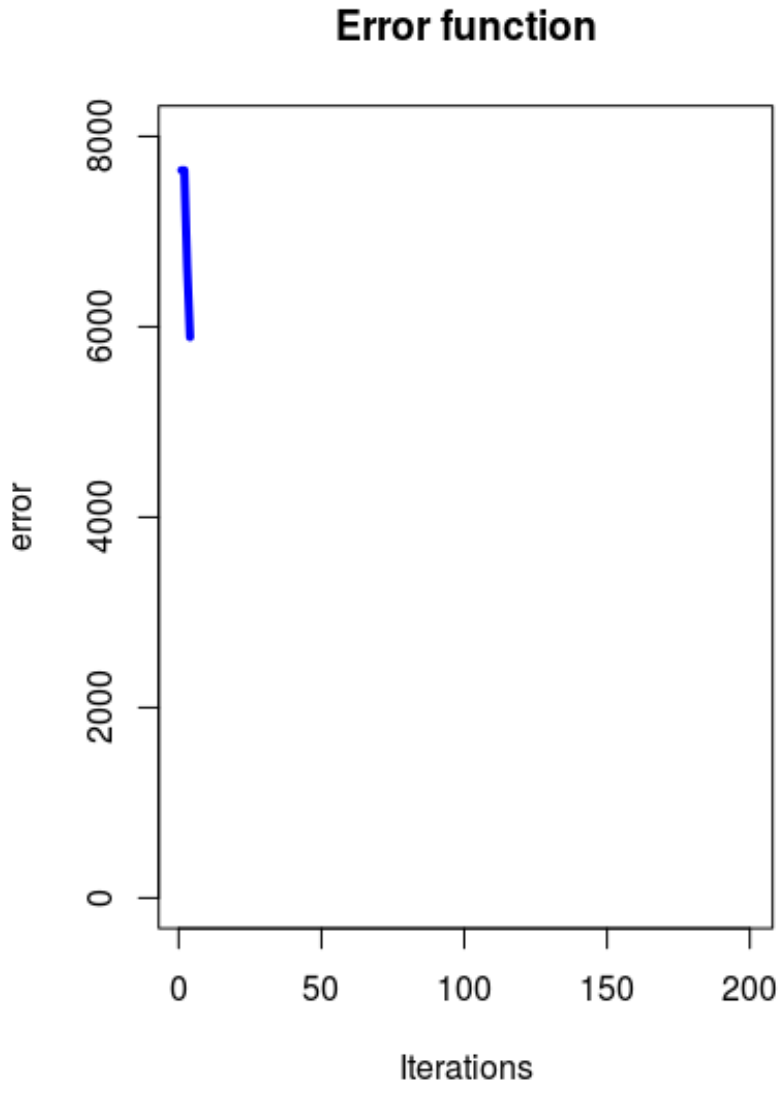
Linear regression - animation



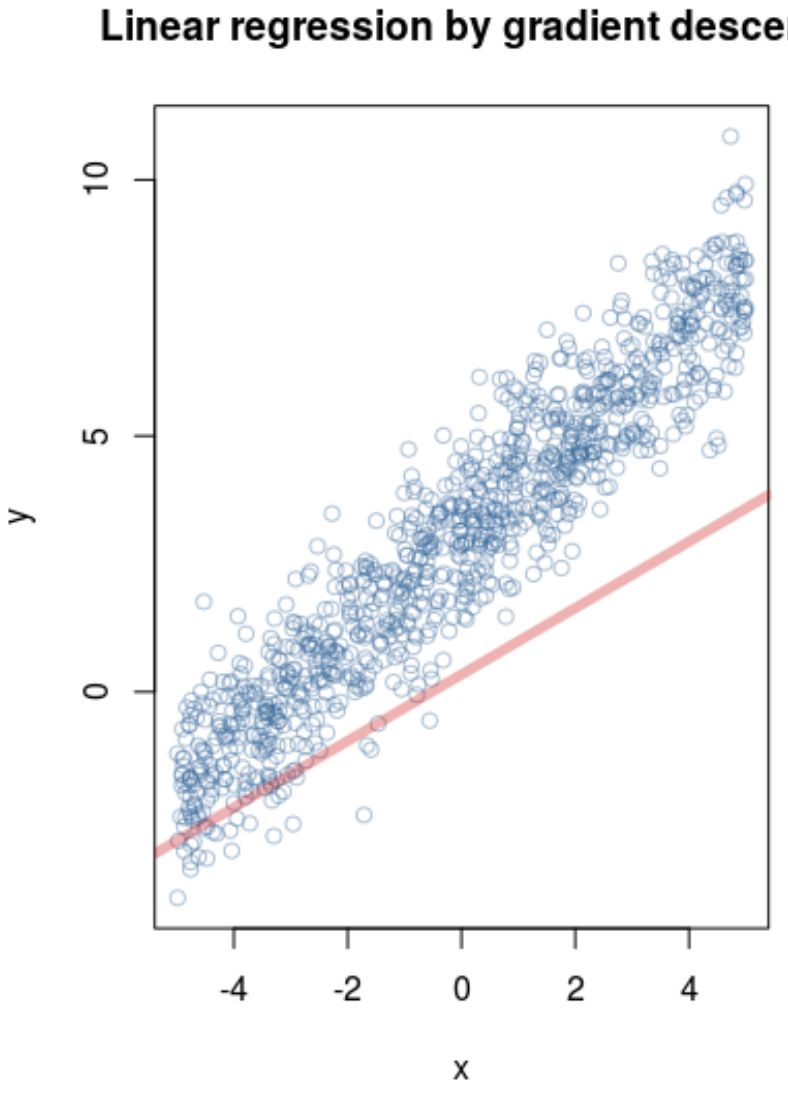


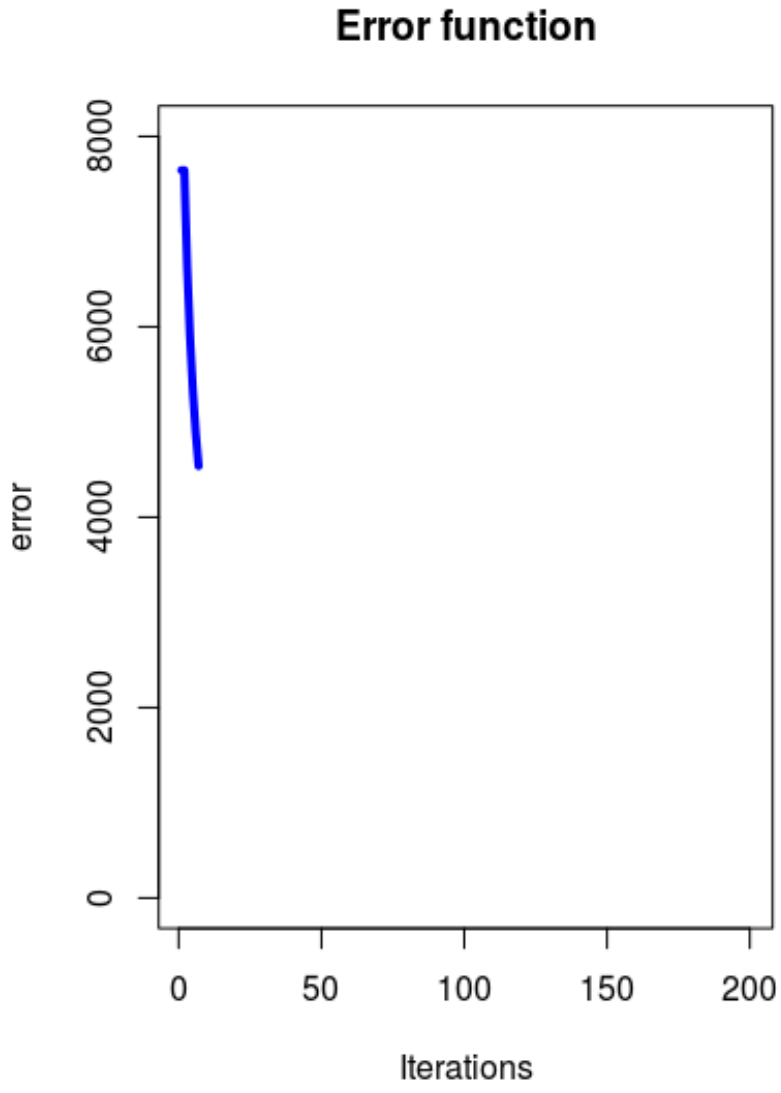
Linear regression - animation





Linear regression - animation





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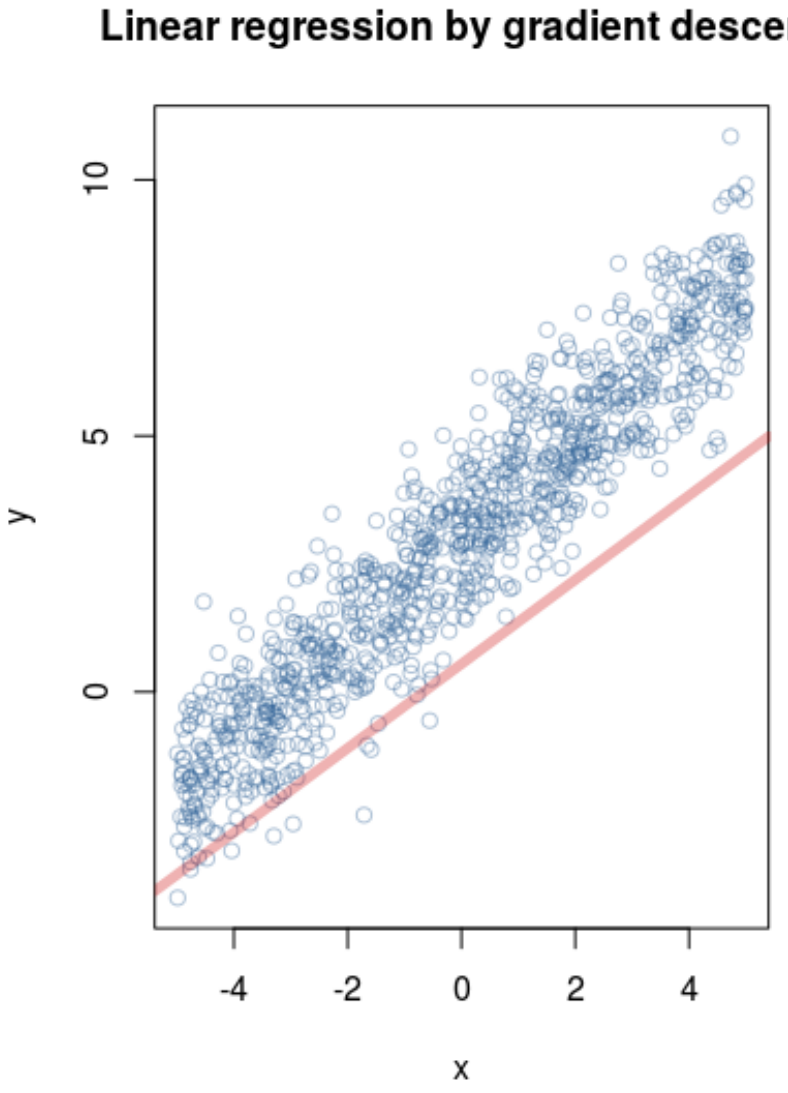

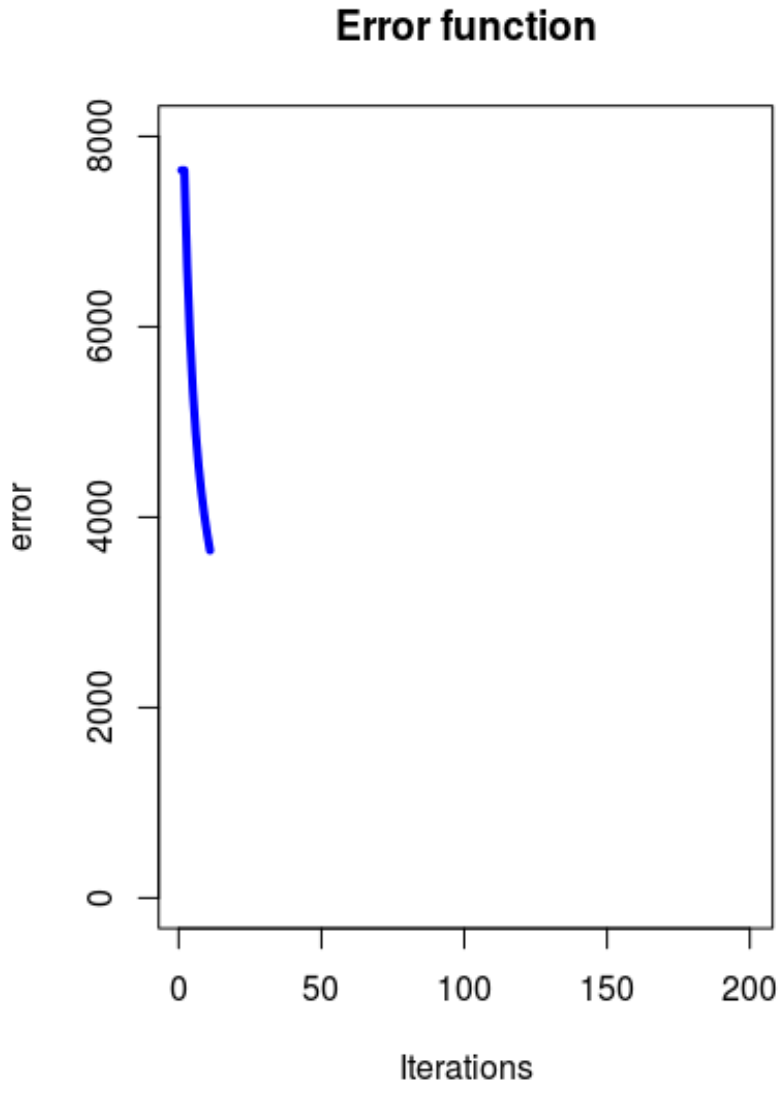

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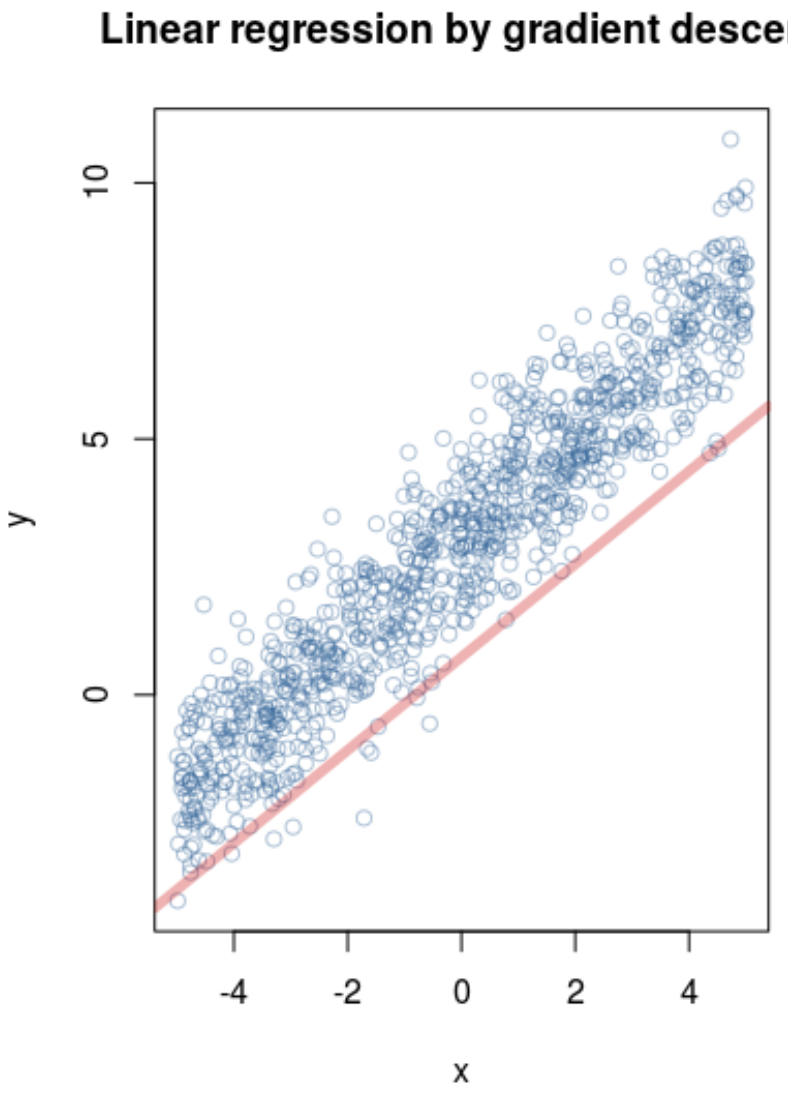

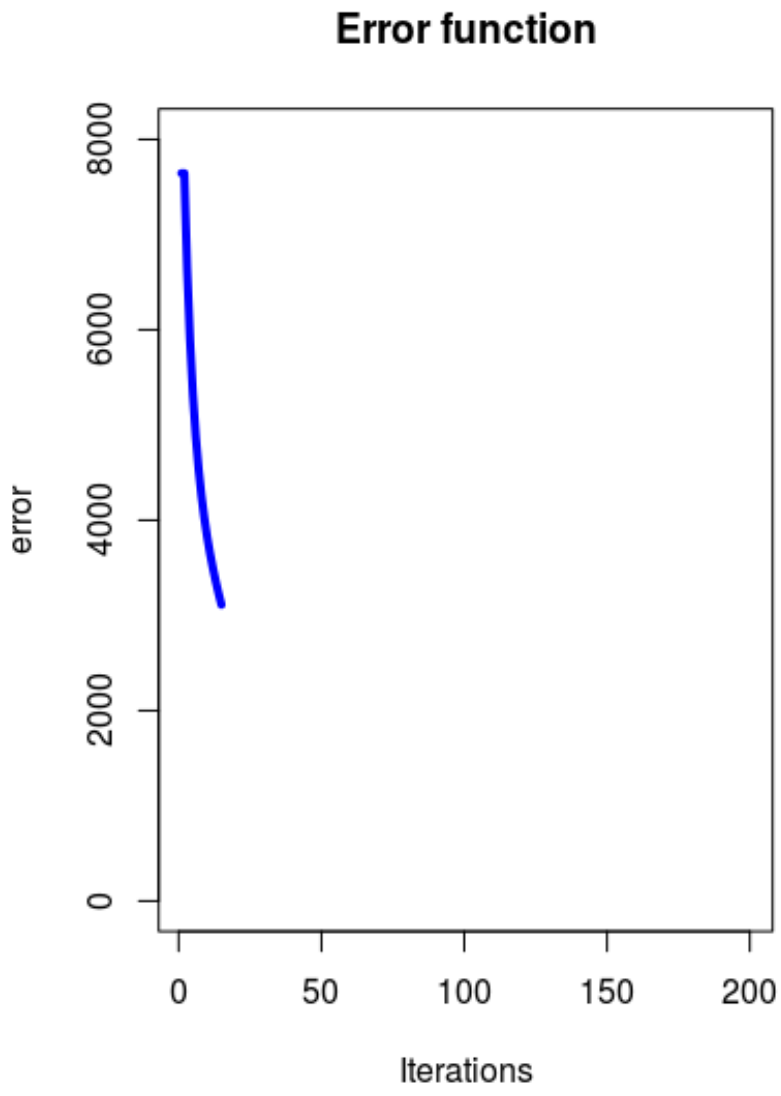

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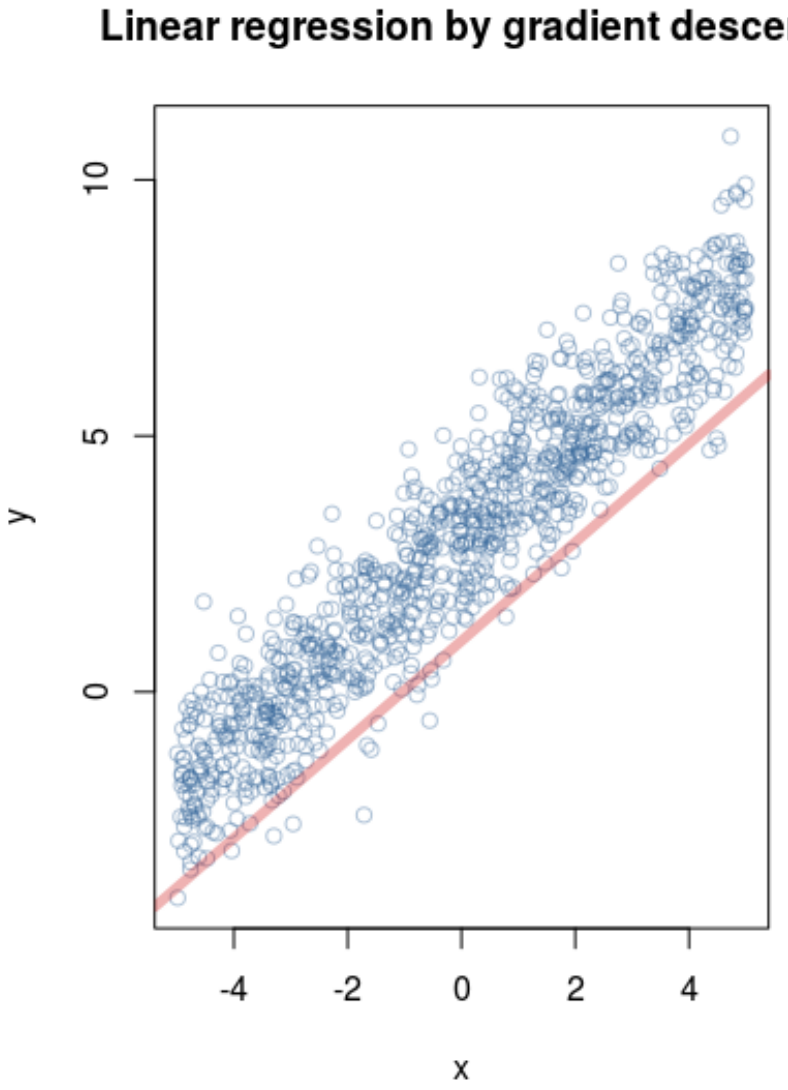
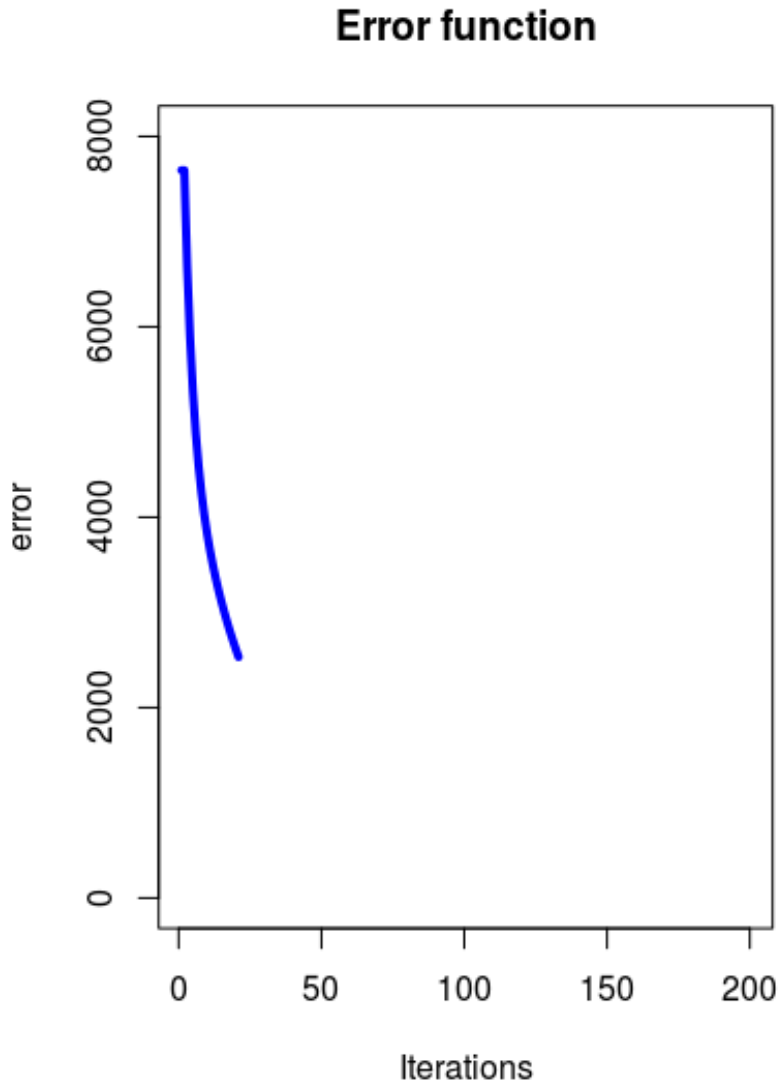
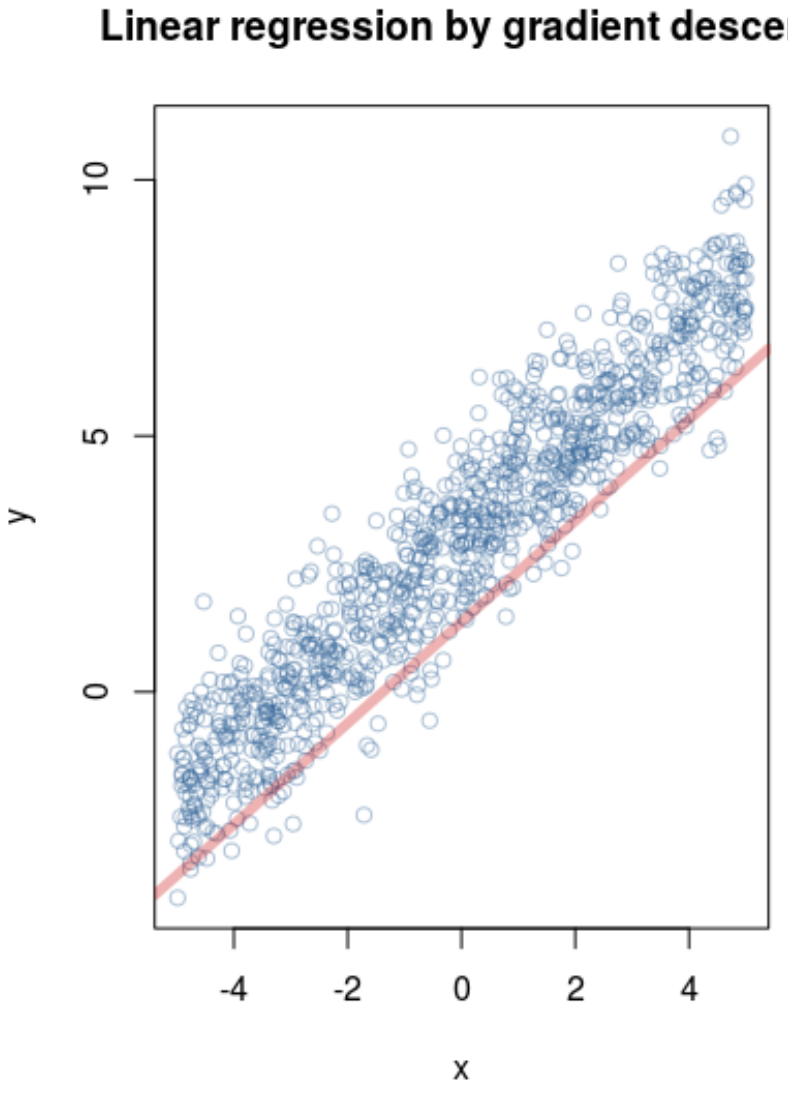
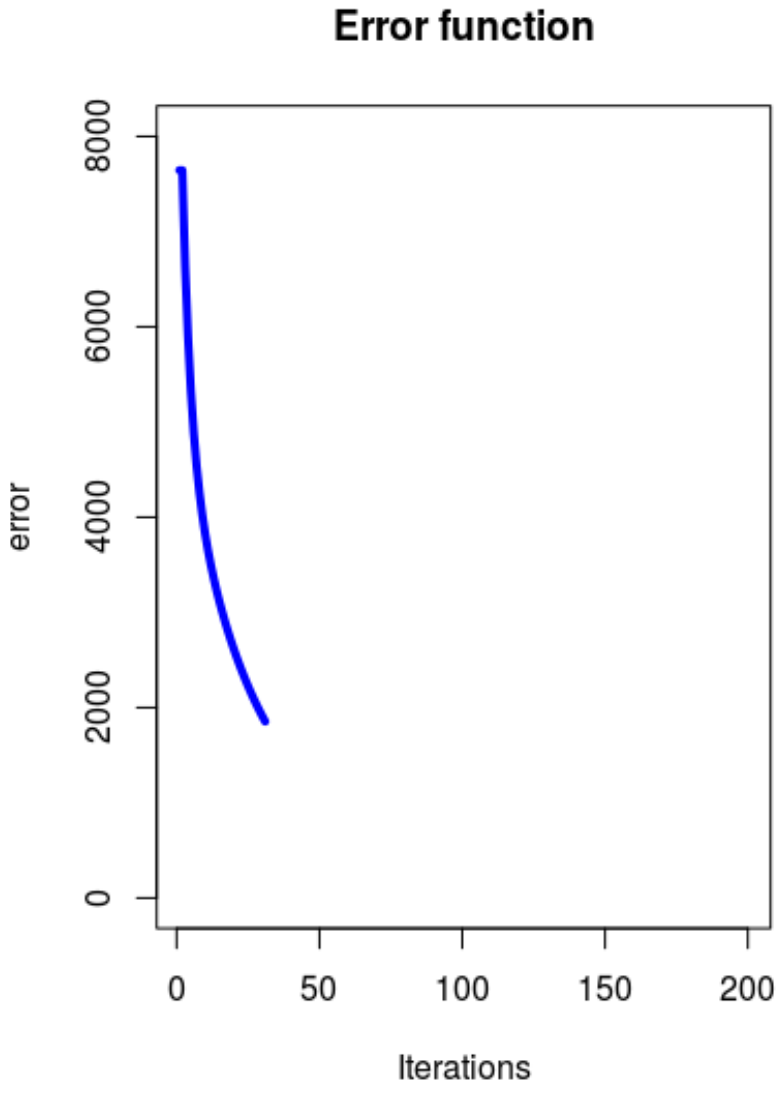


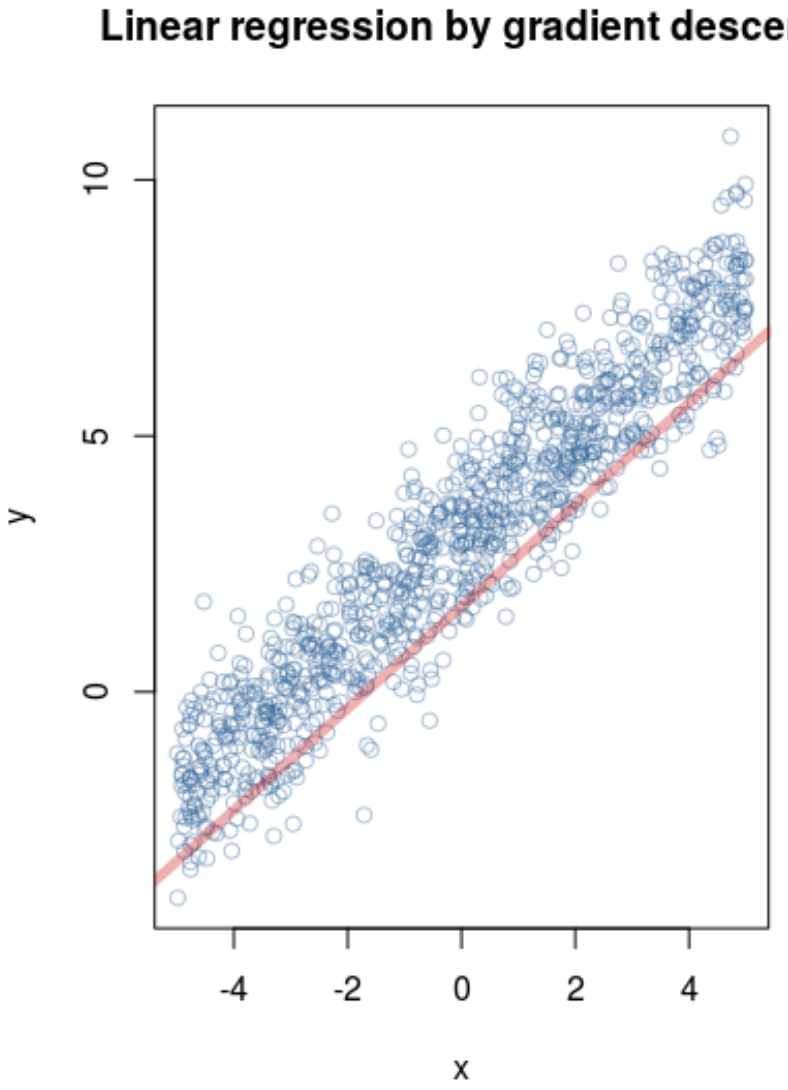


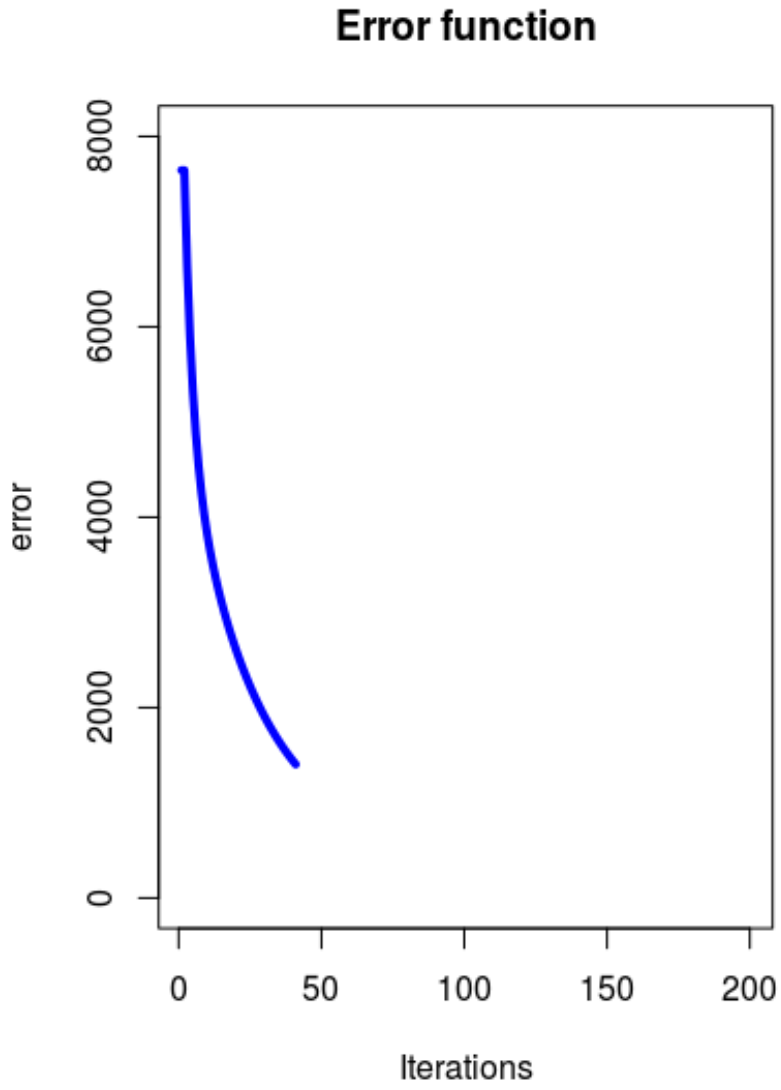
Linear regression - animation





Linear regression - animation





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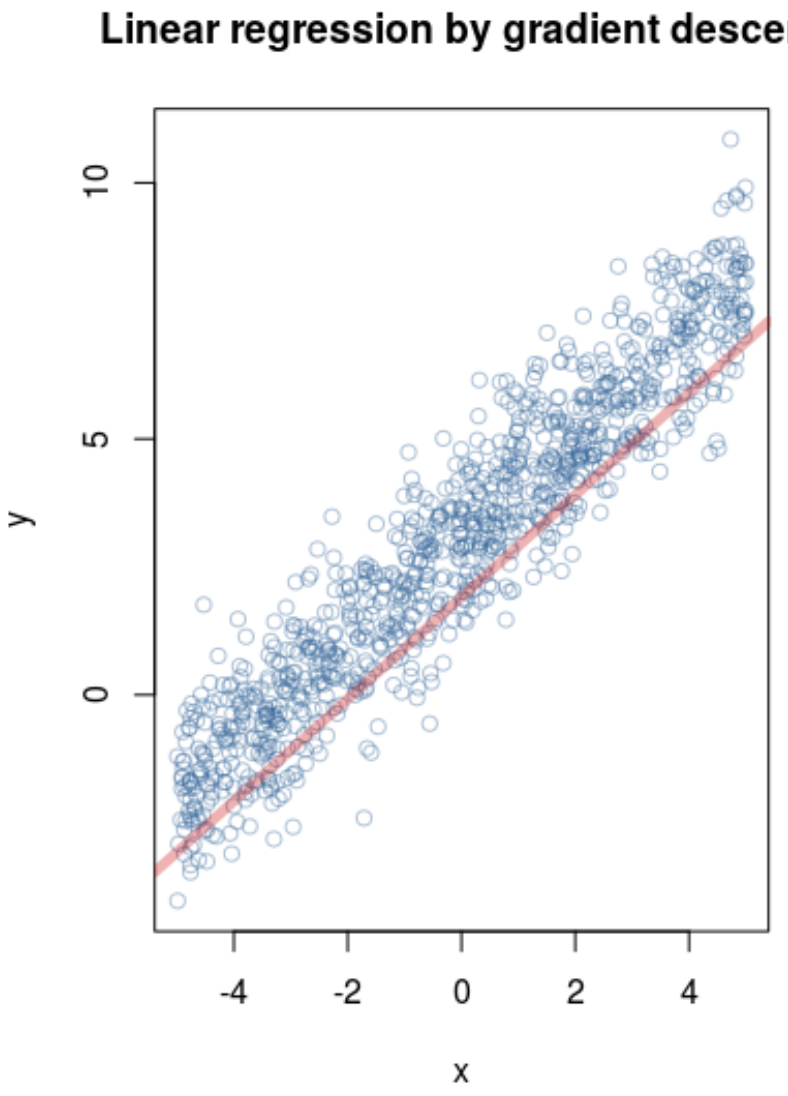
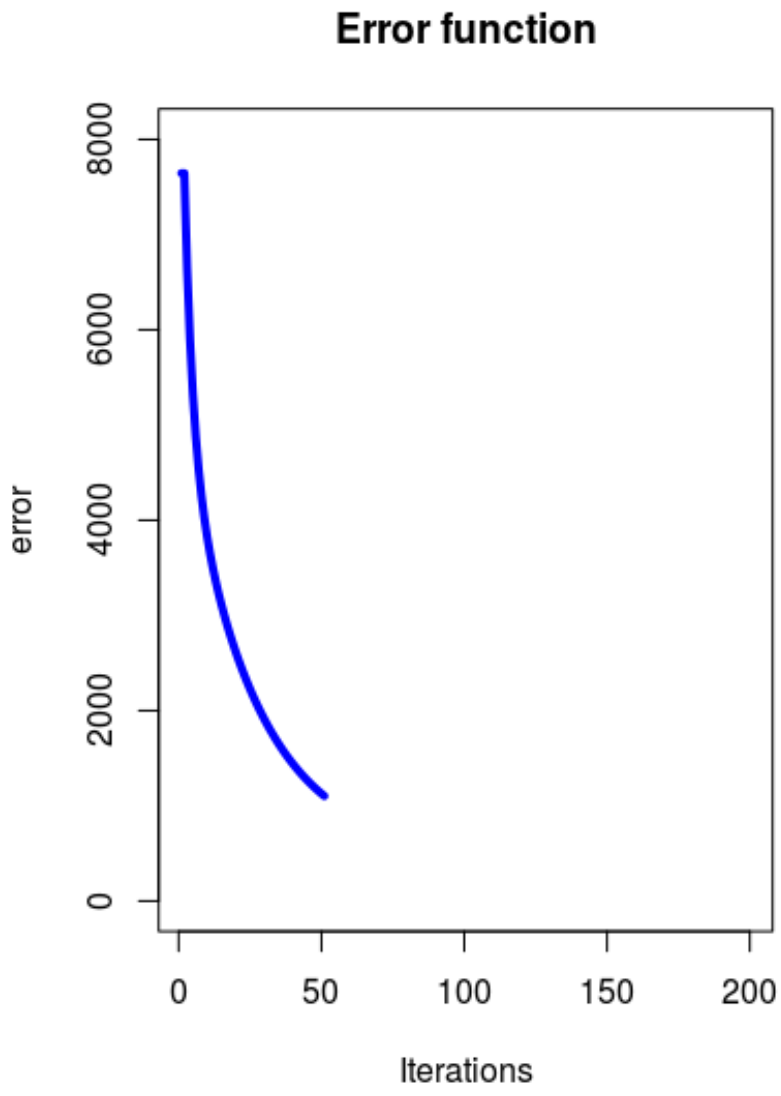
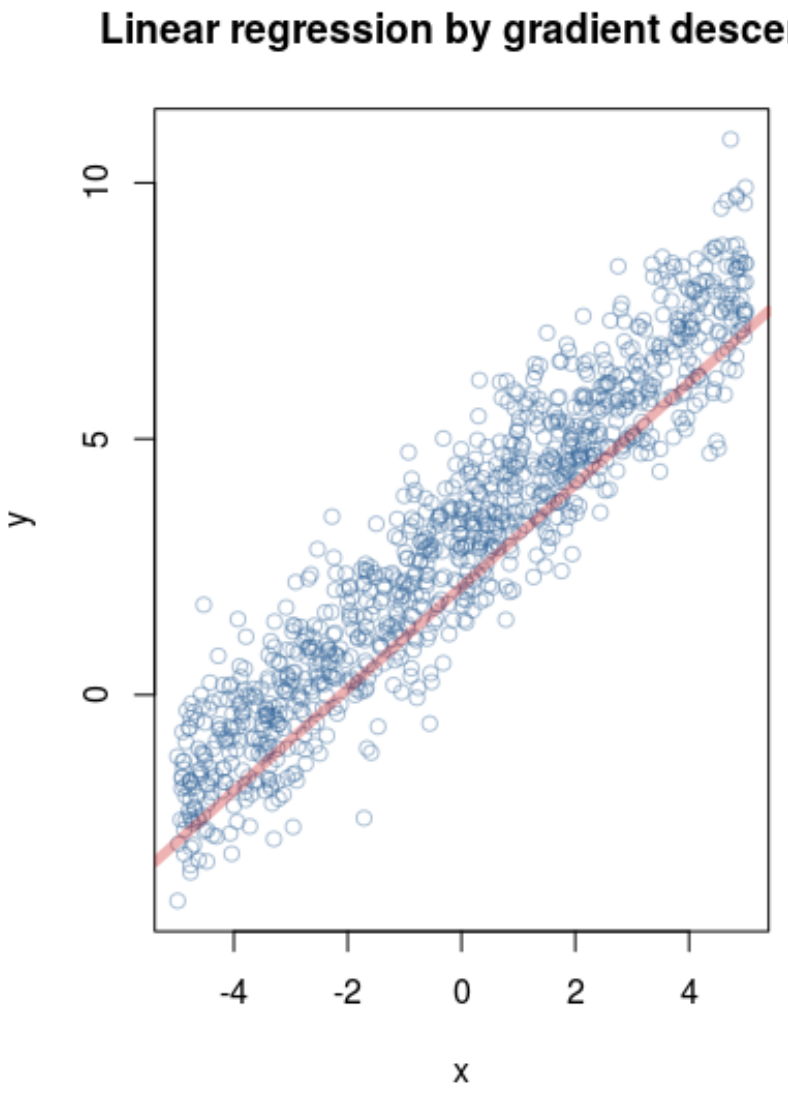
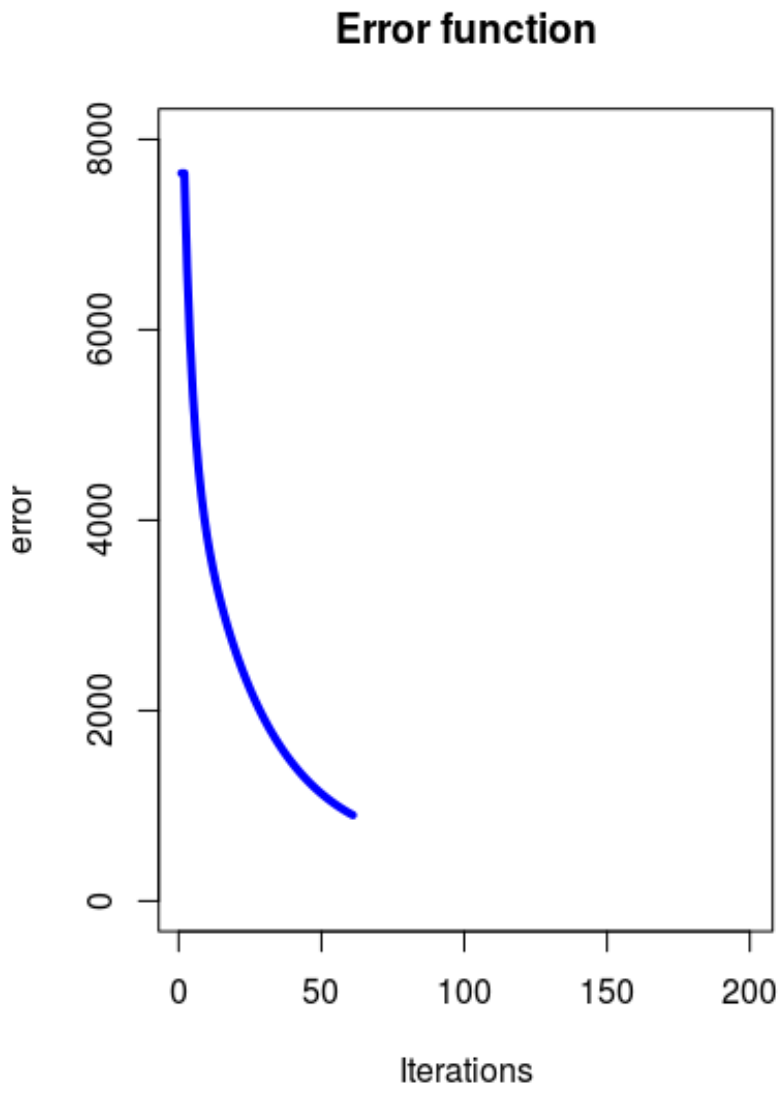




Linear regression - animation





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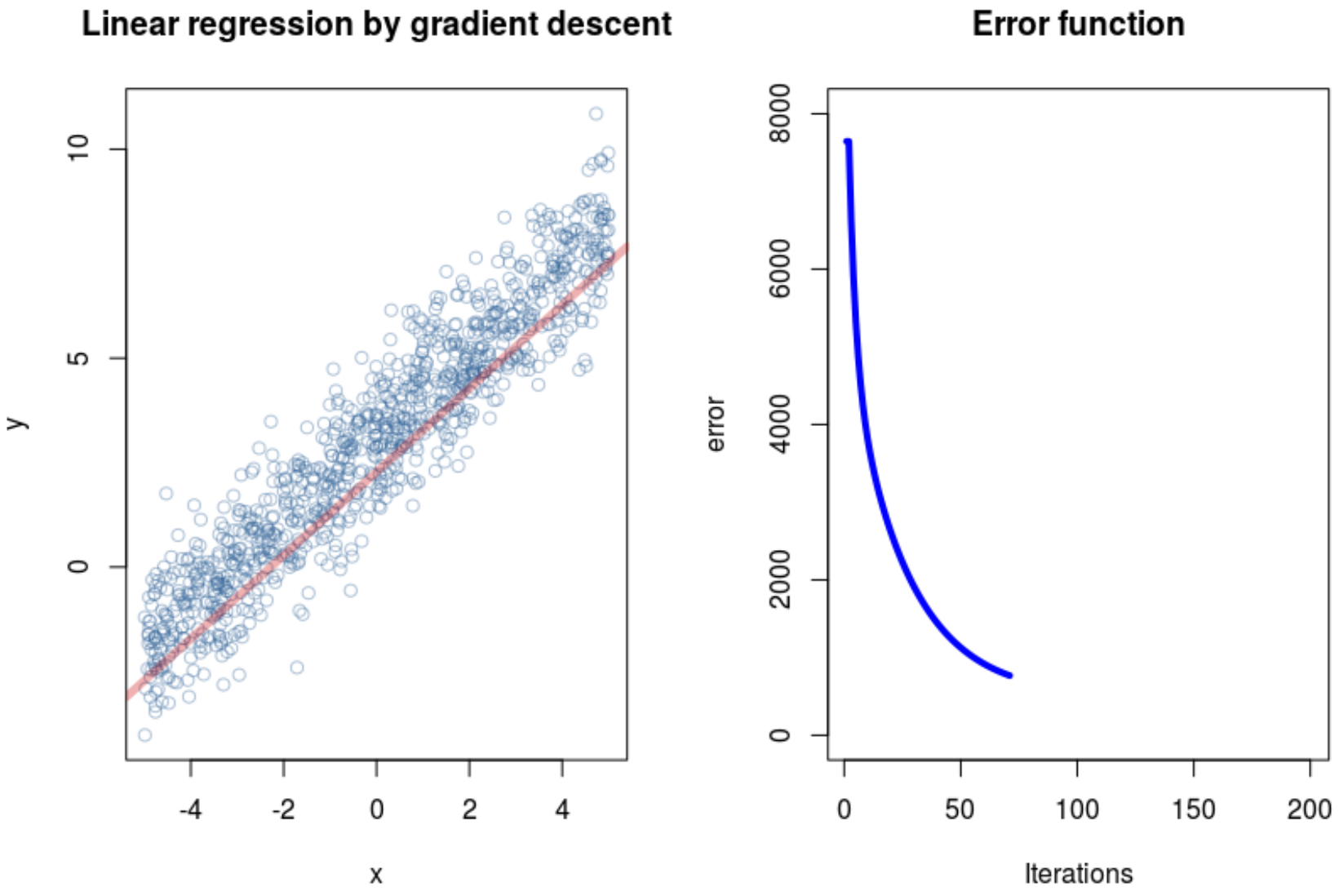

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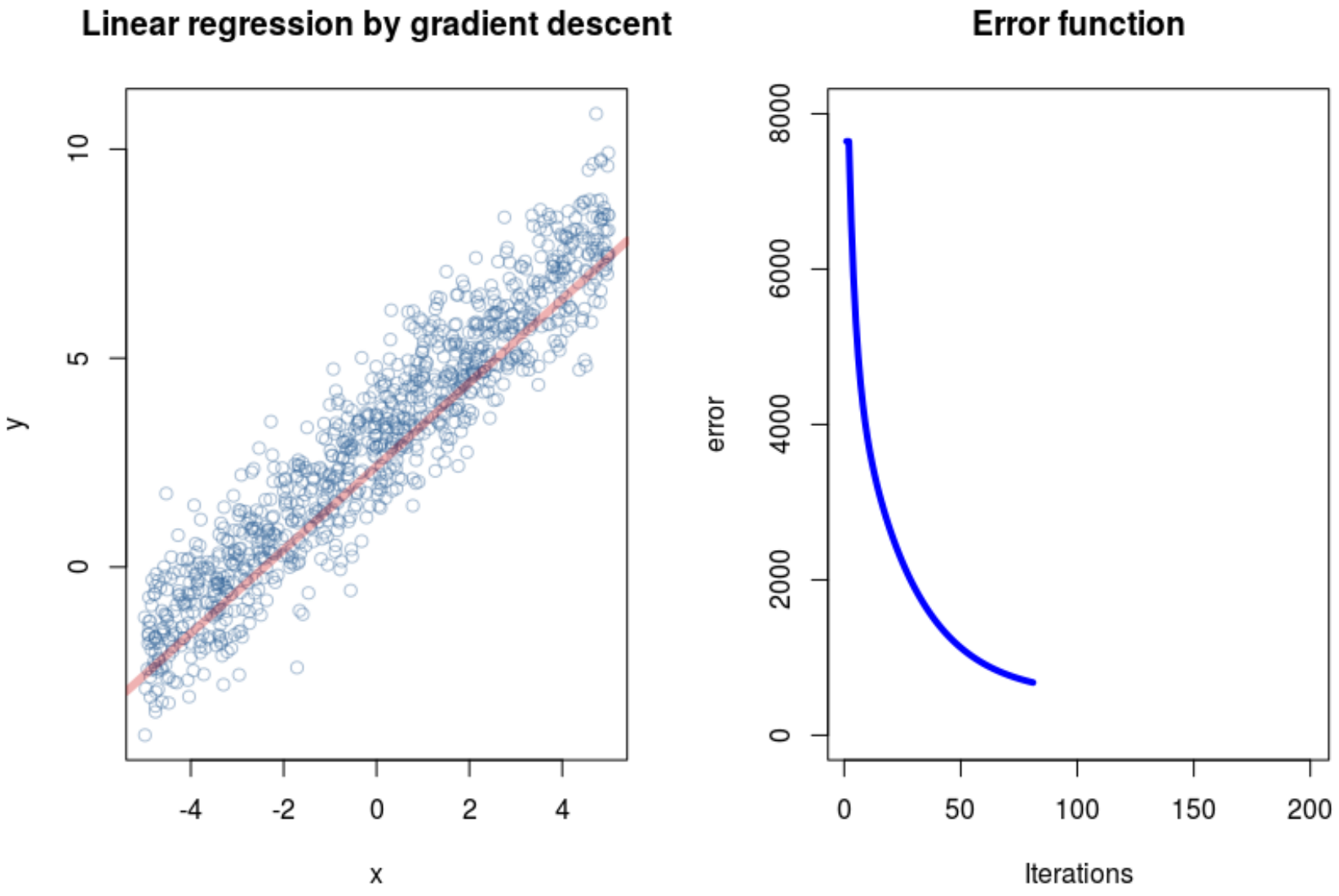

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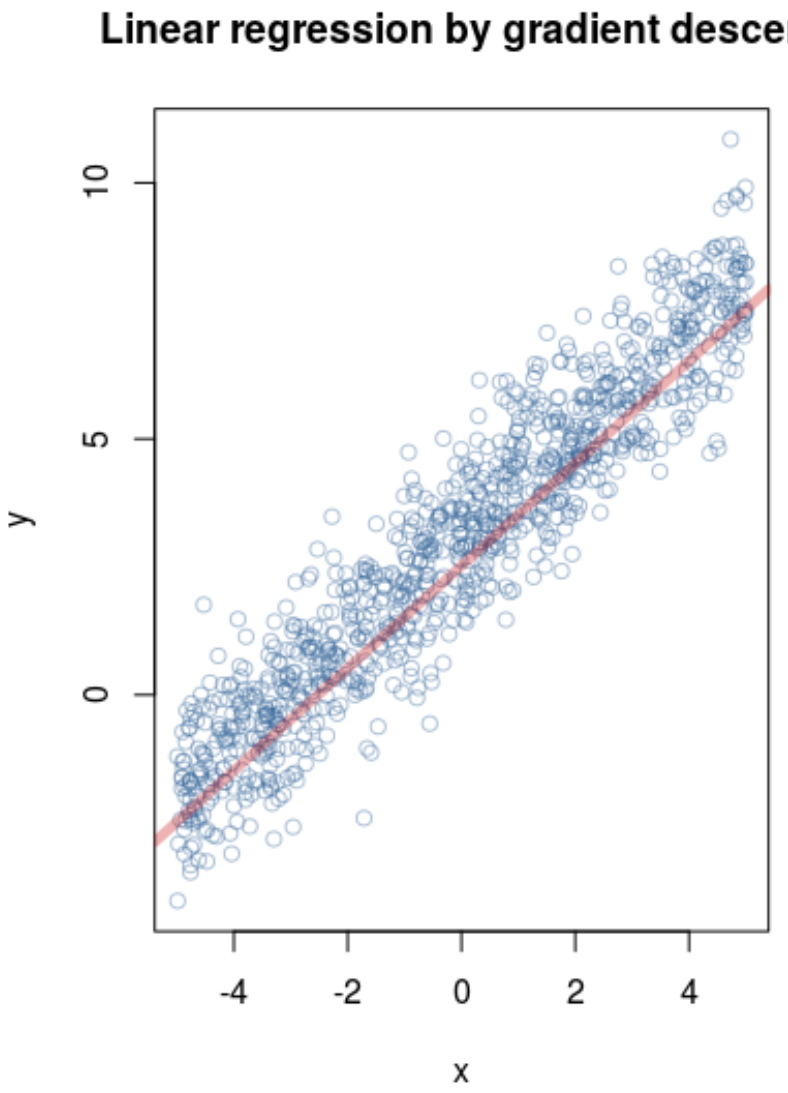

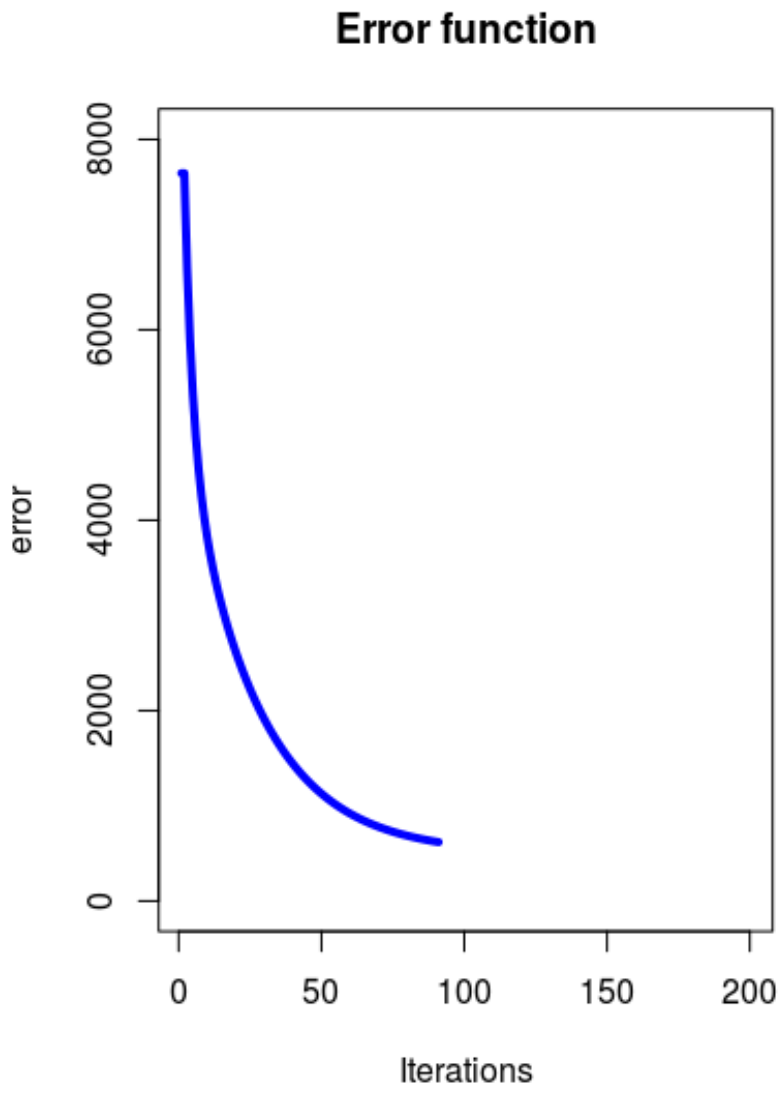

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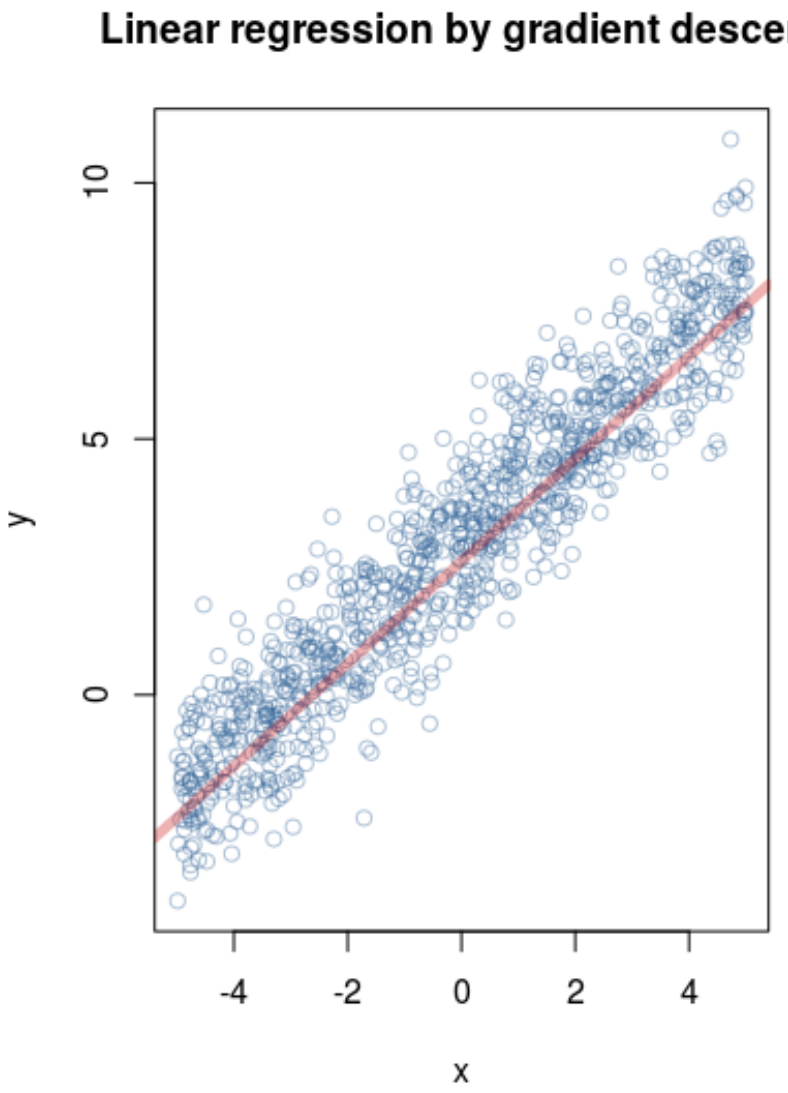

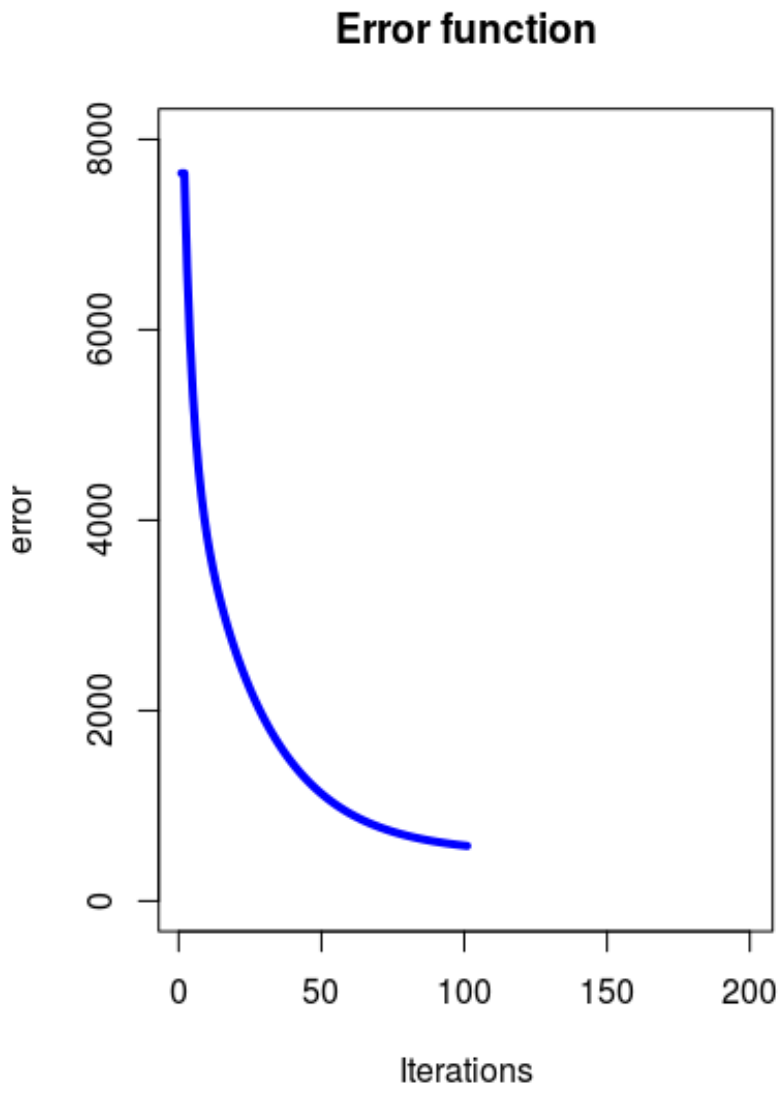

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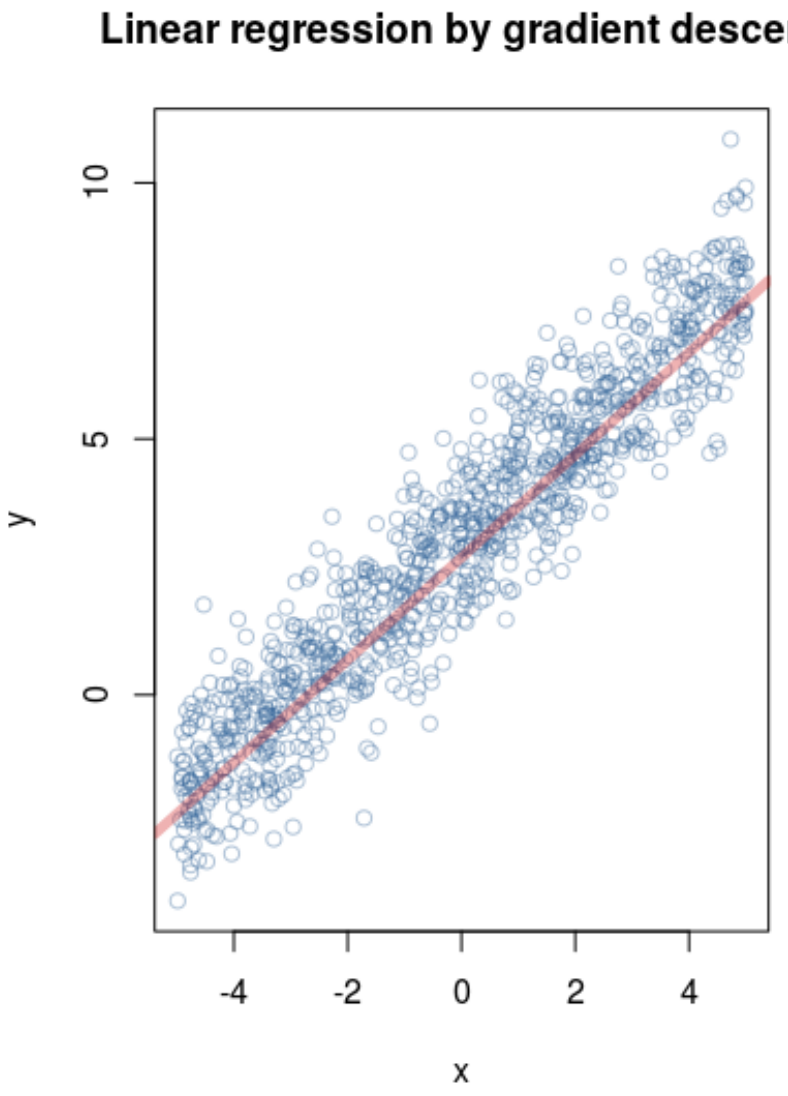
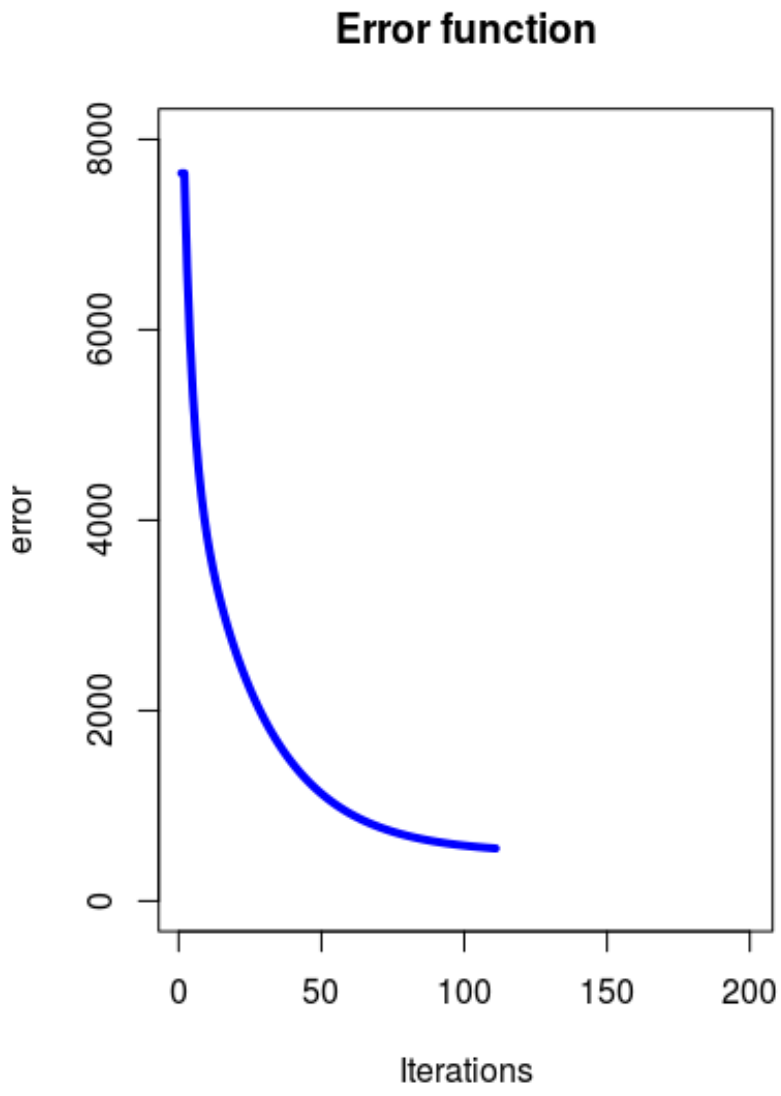
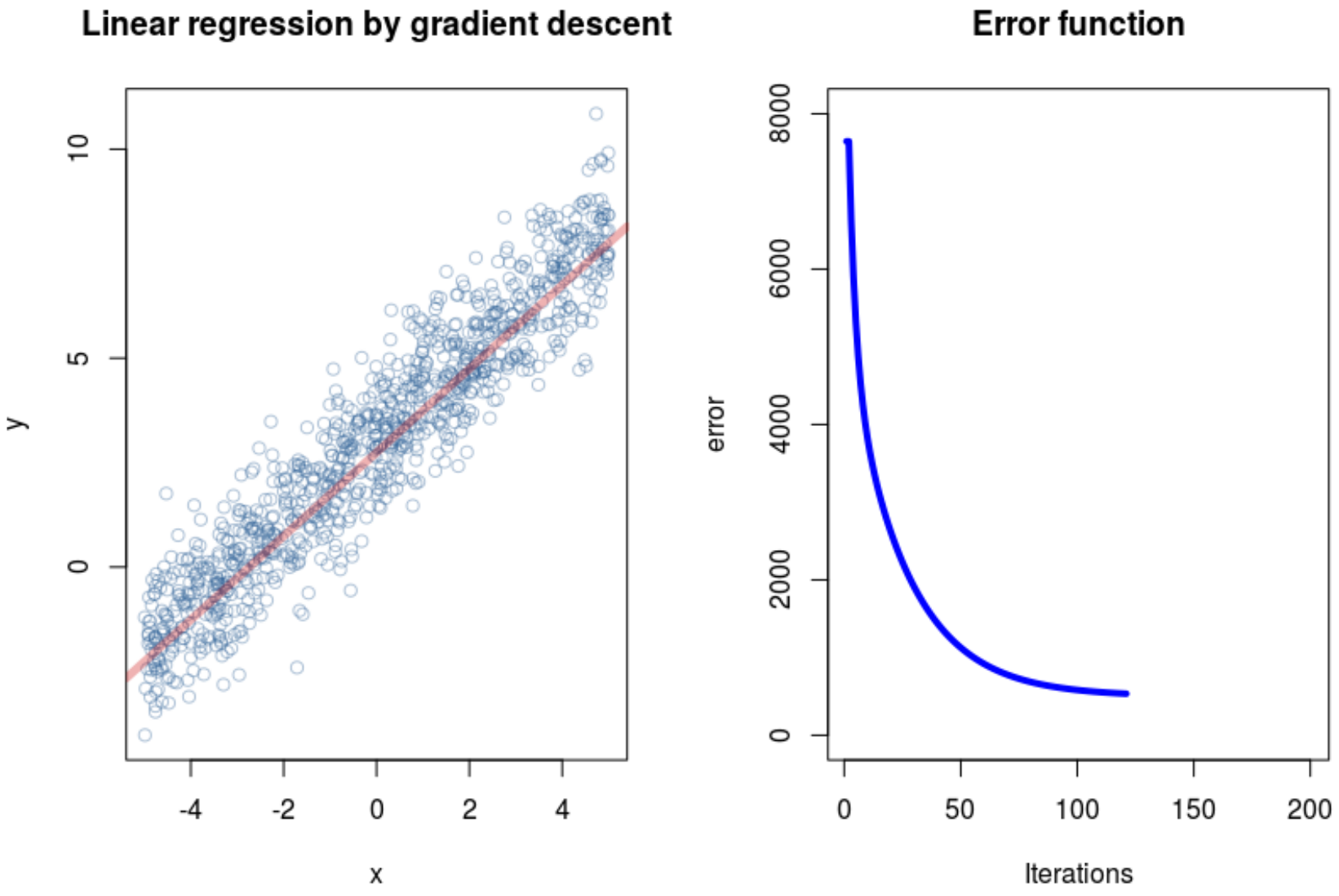
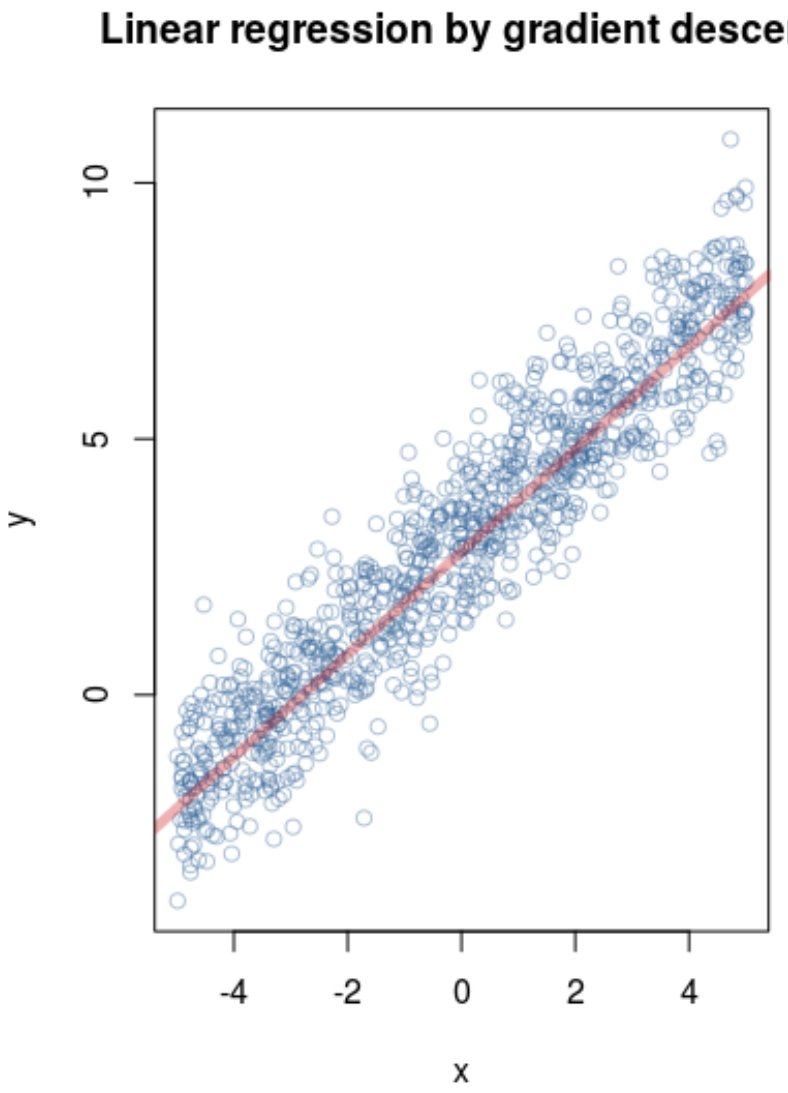


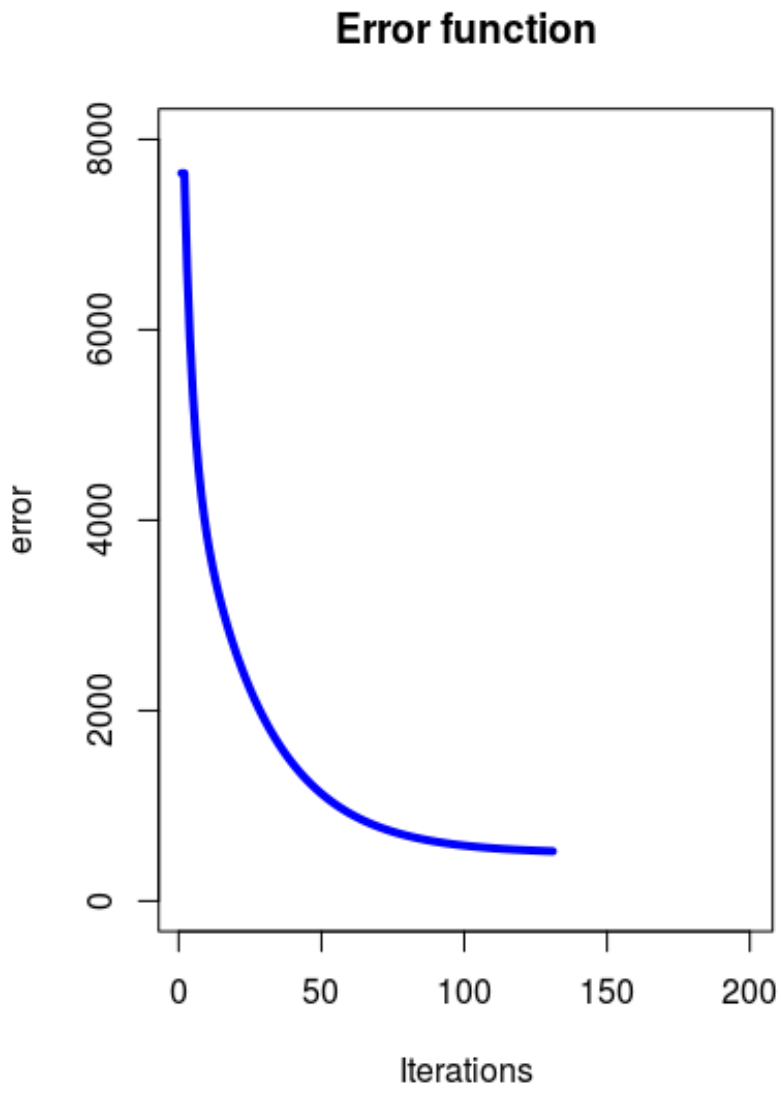


Linear regression - animation



Linear regression - animation





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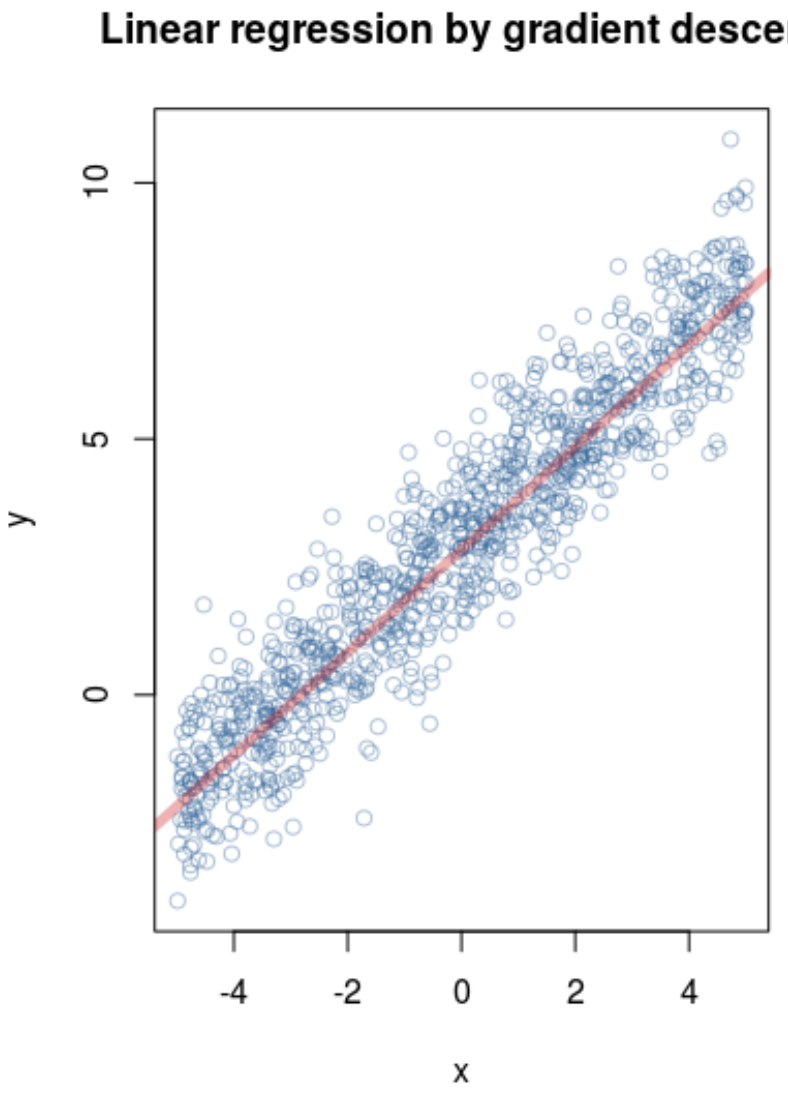
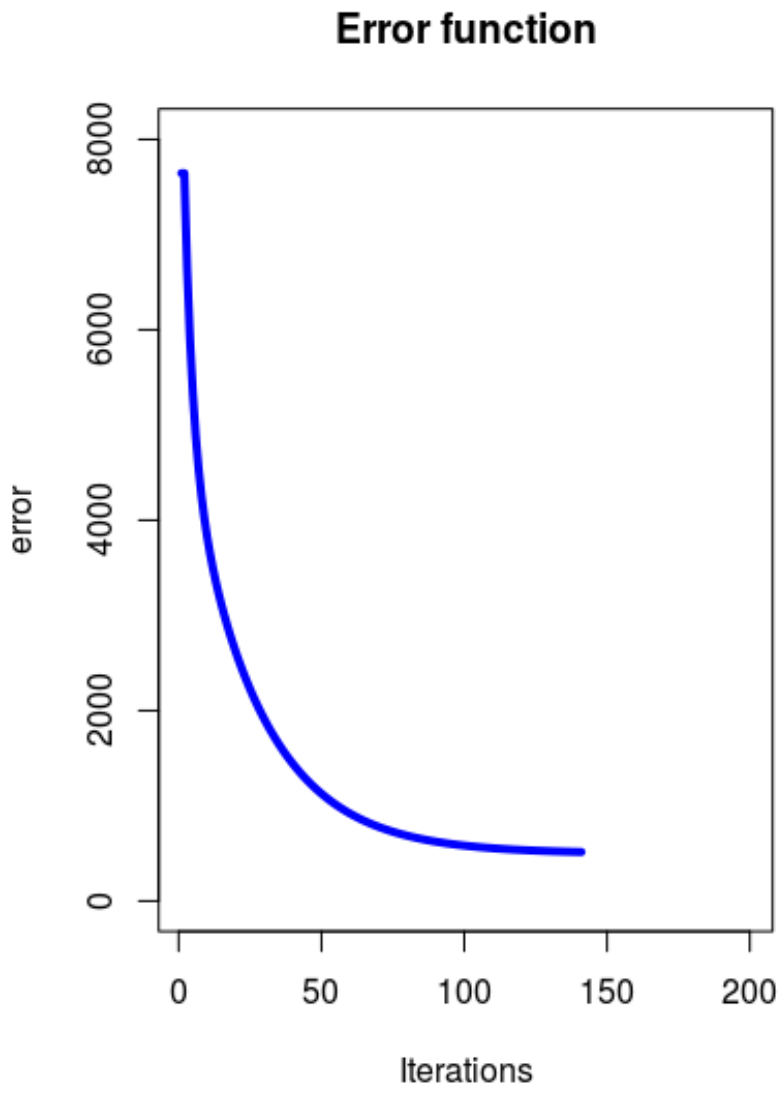
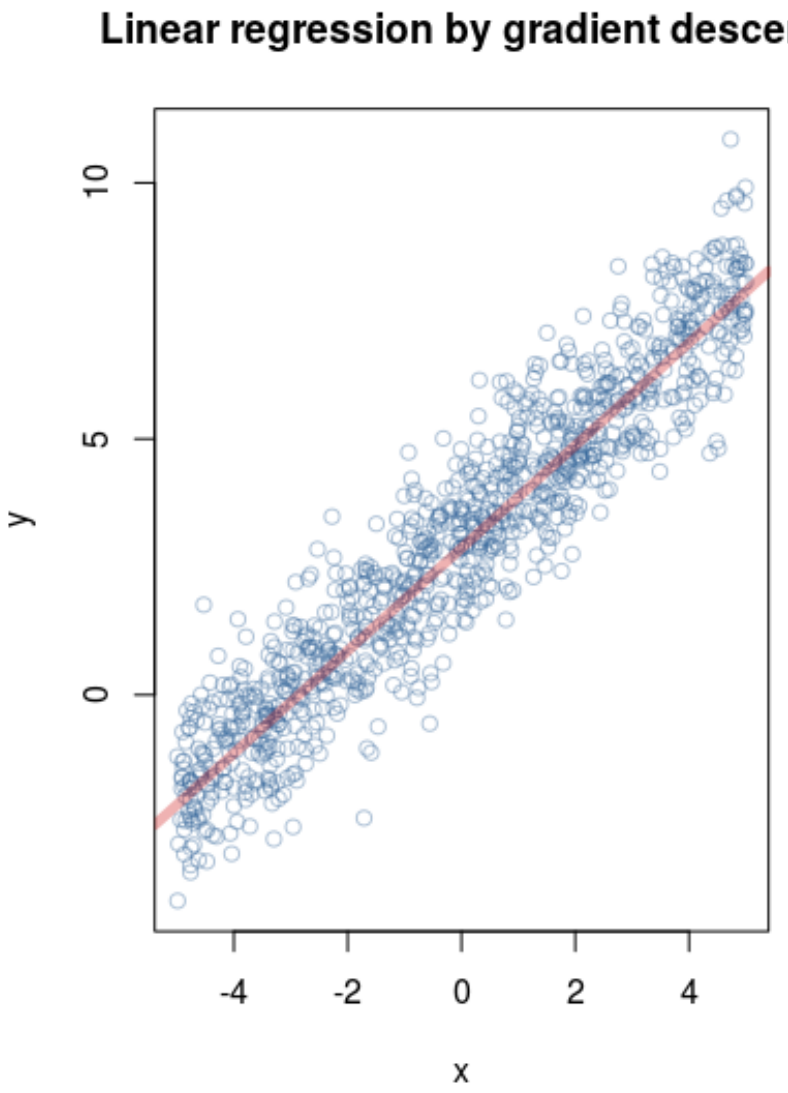
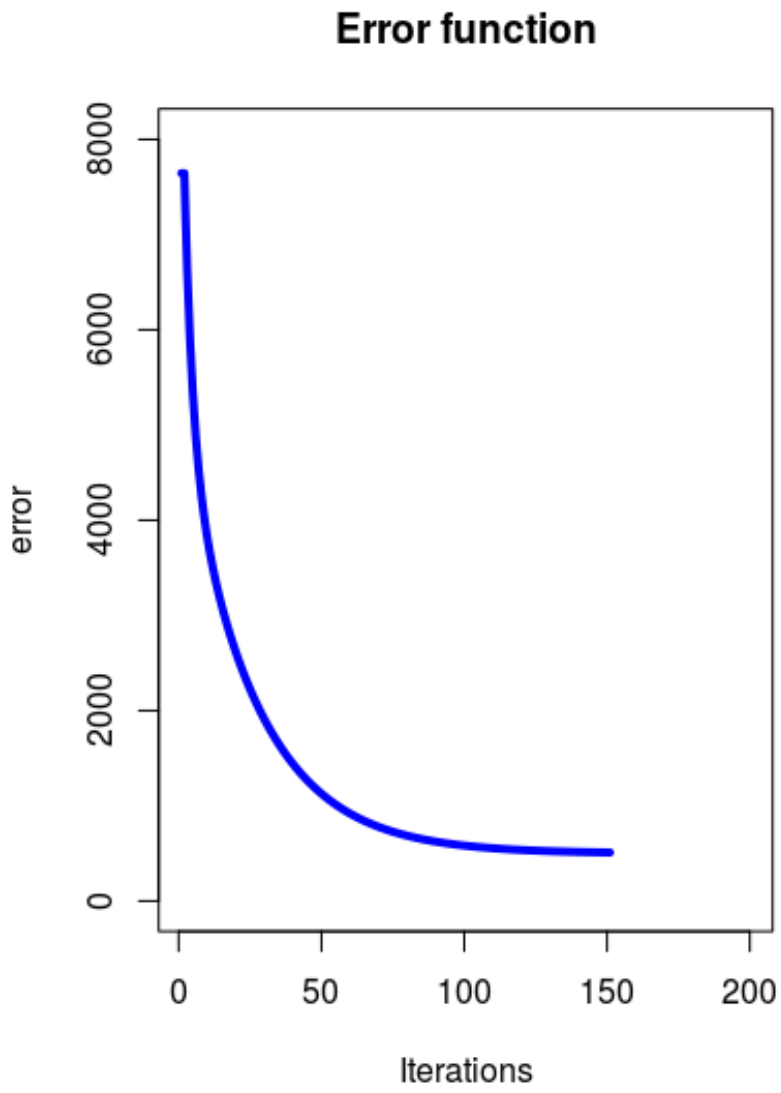




Linear regression - animation





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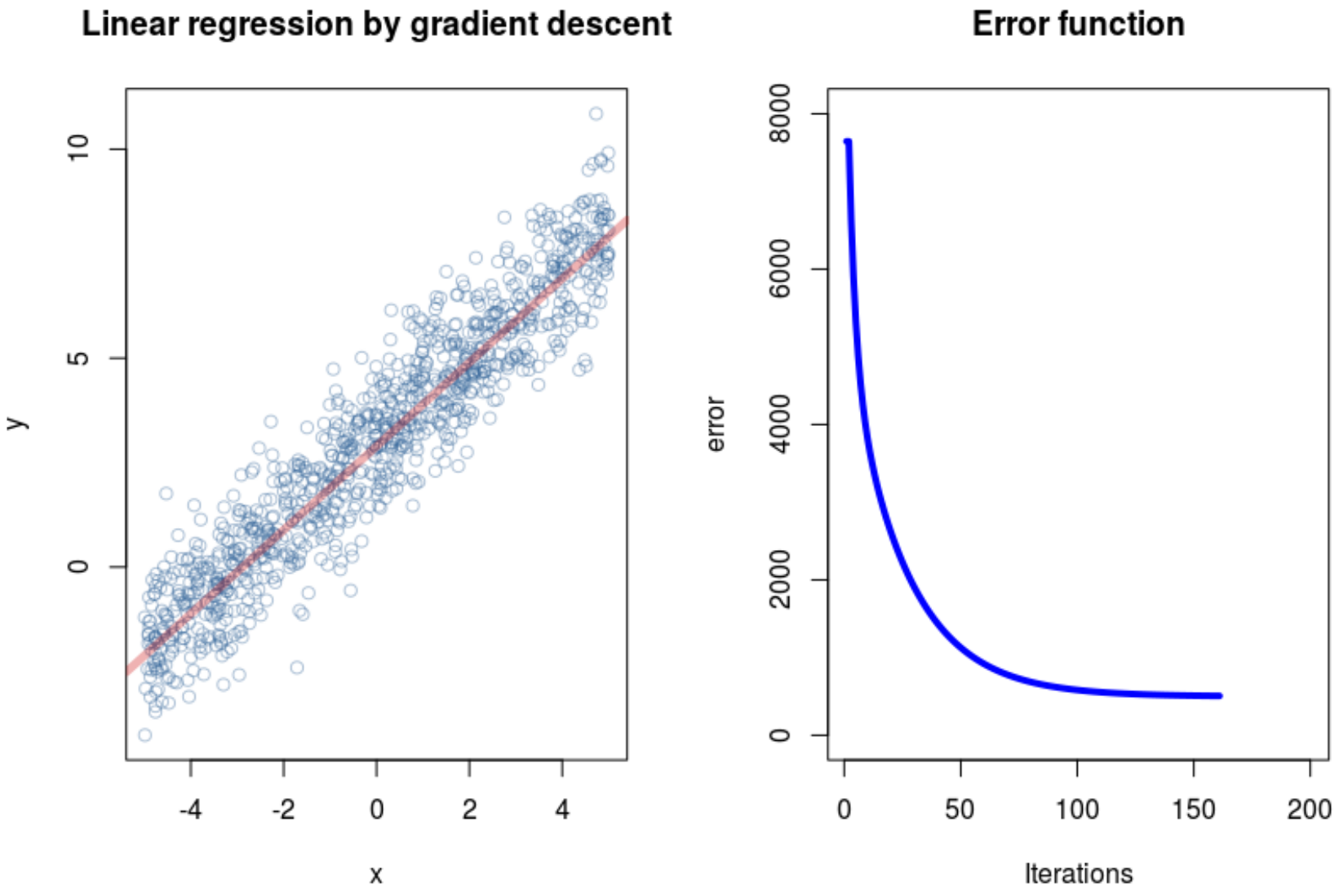

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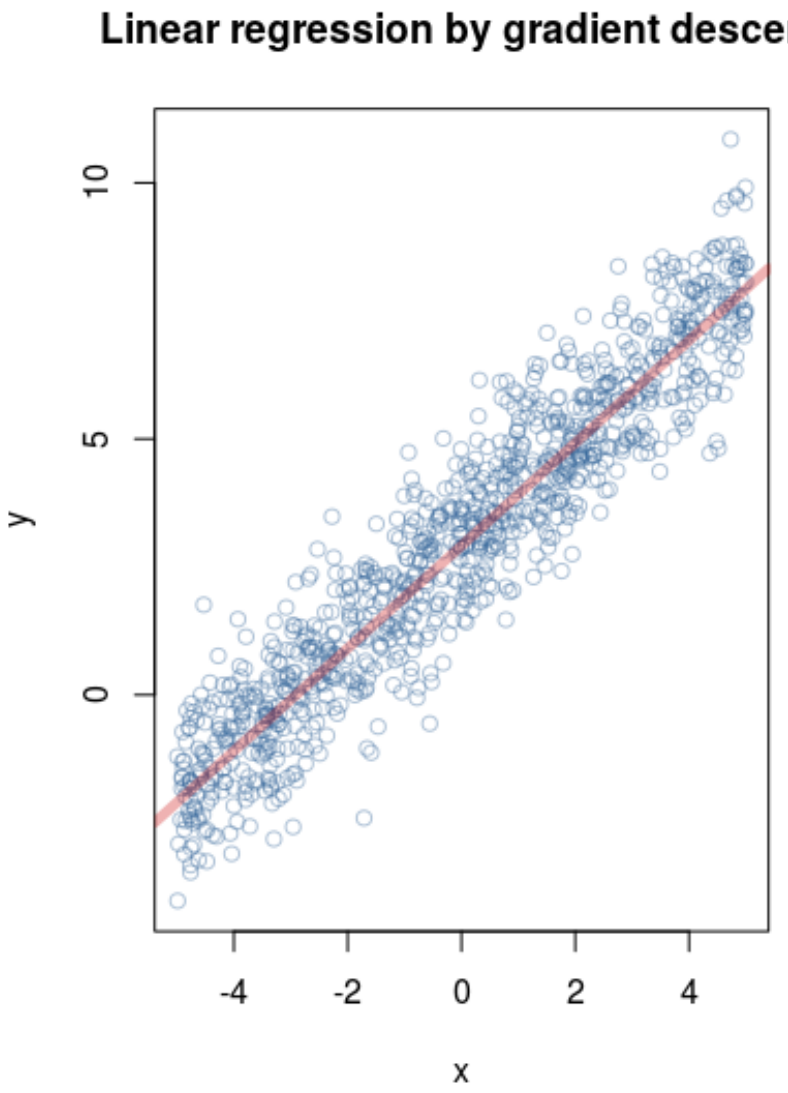
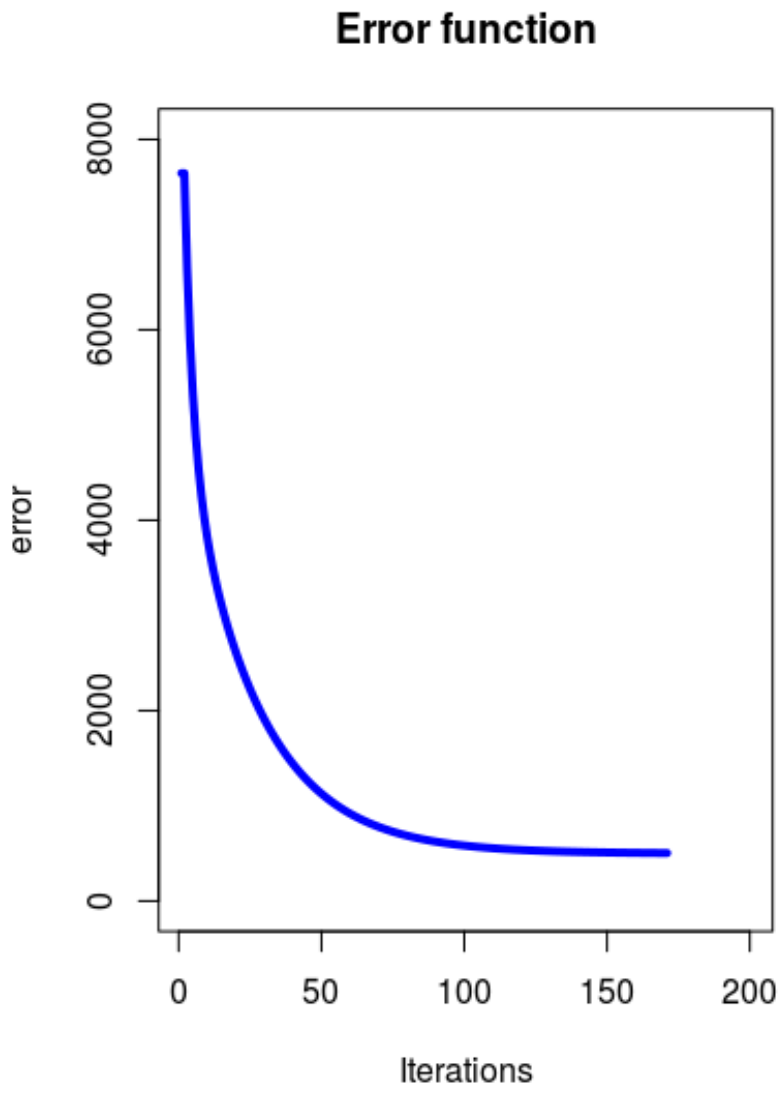
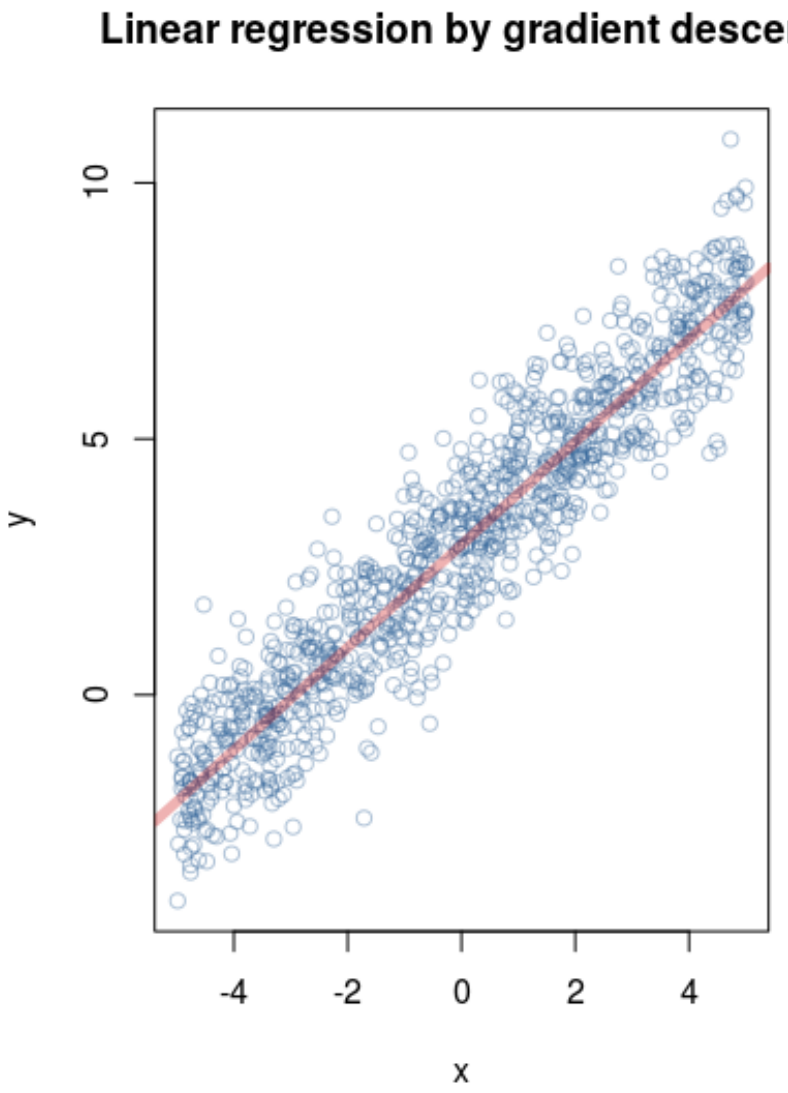
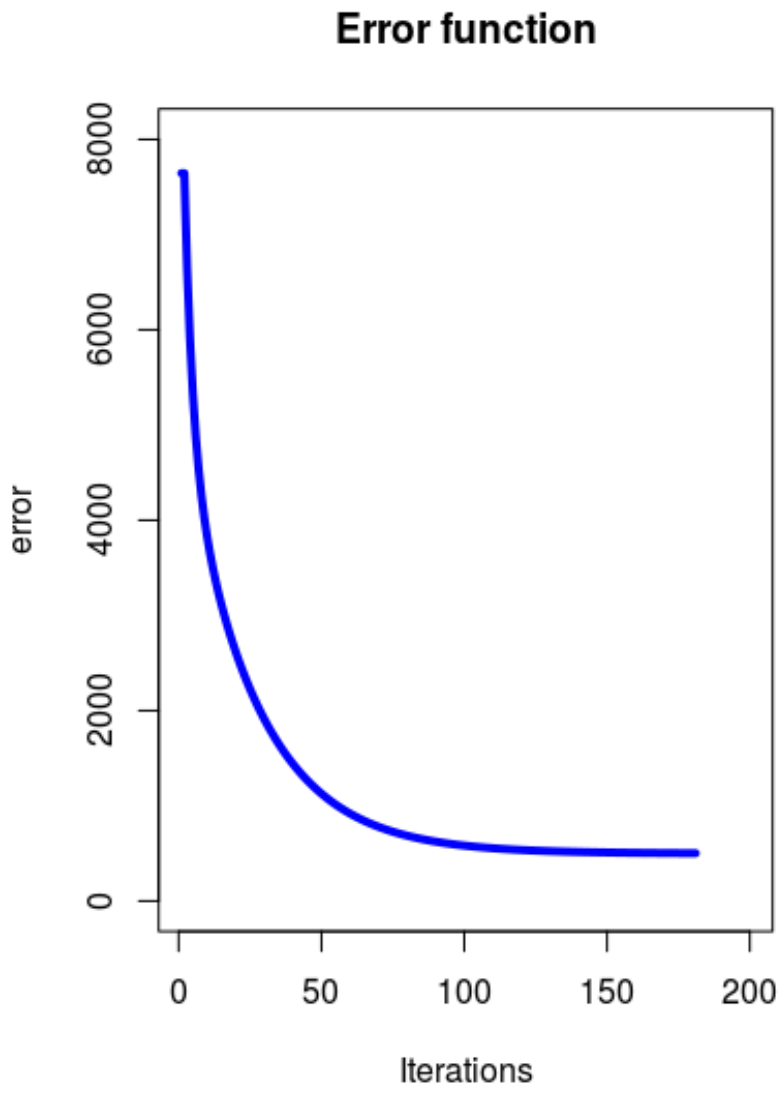




Linear regression - animation





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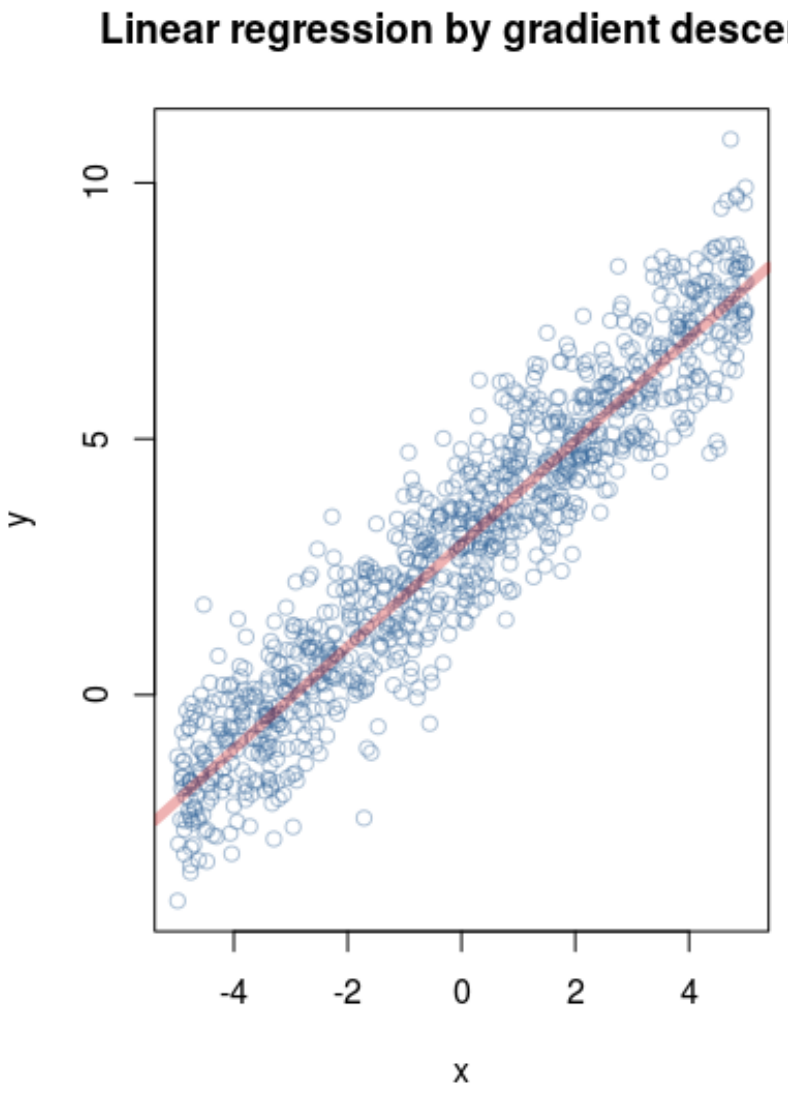

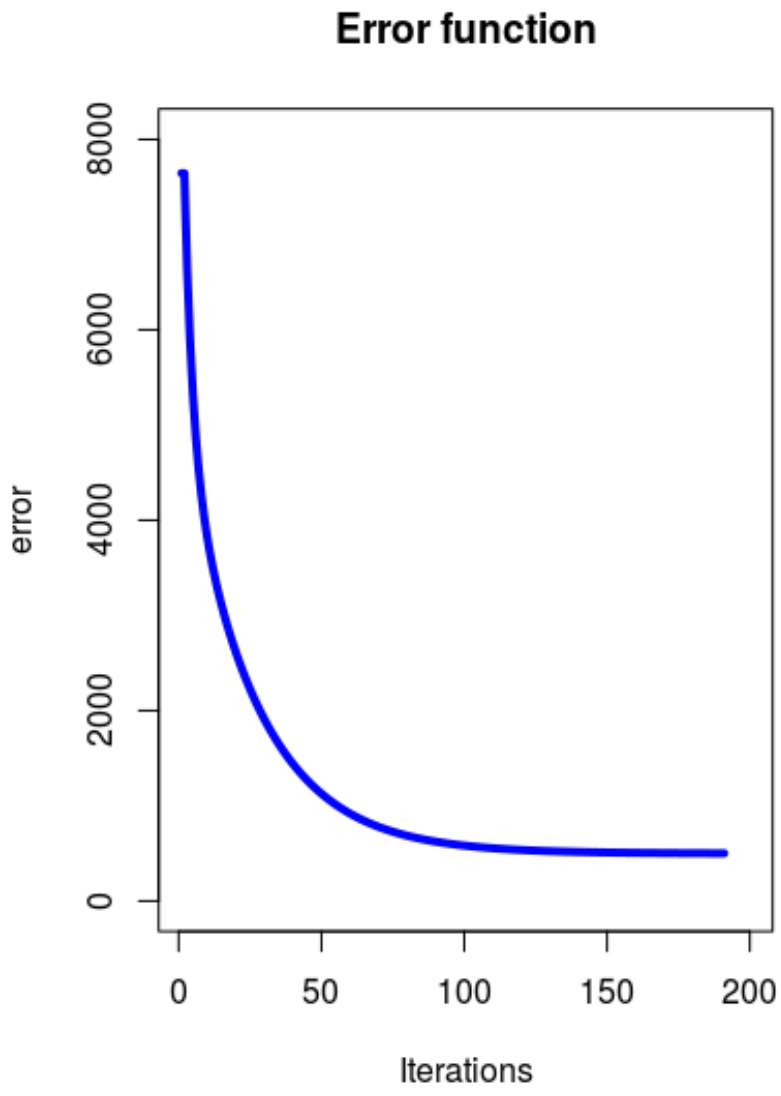

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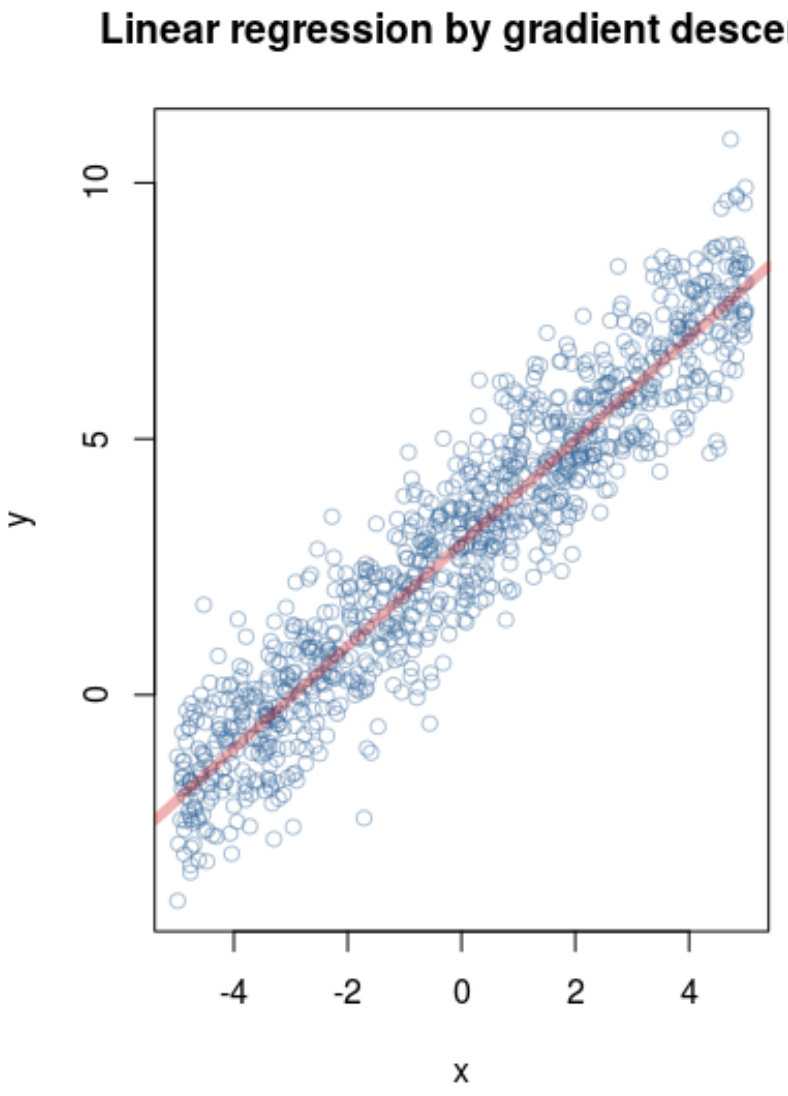
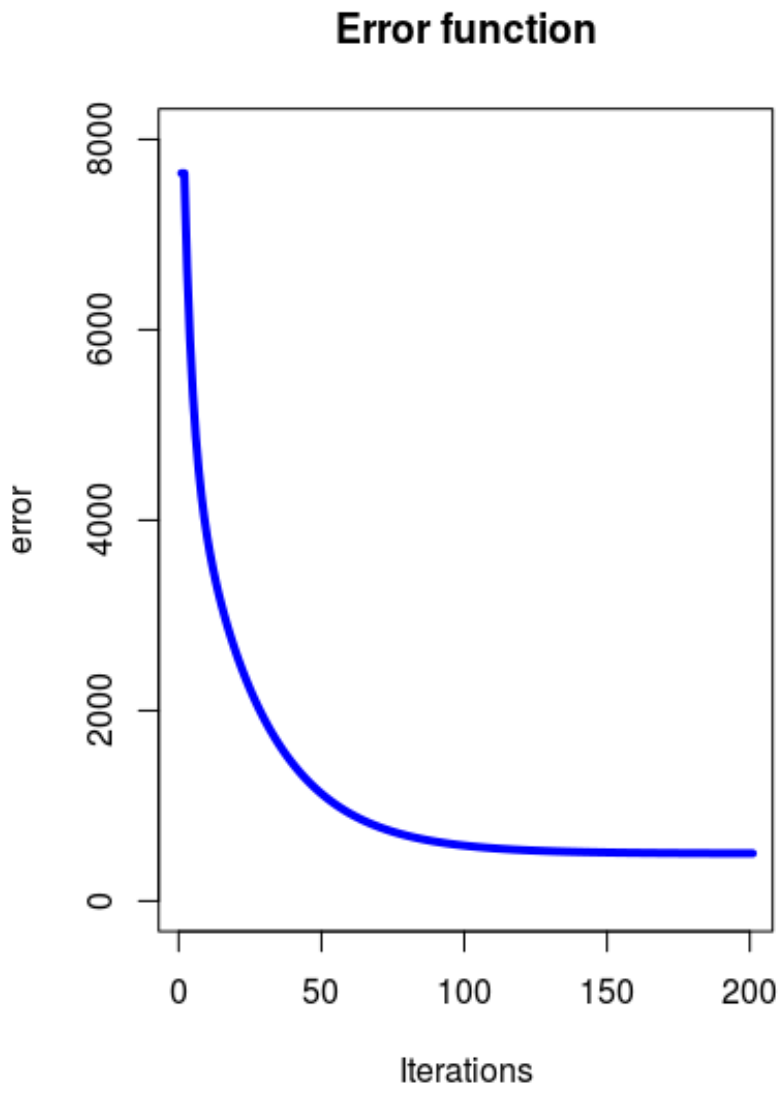
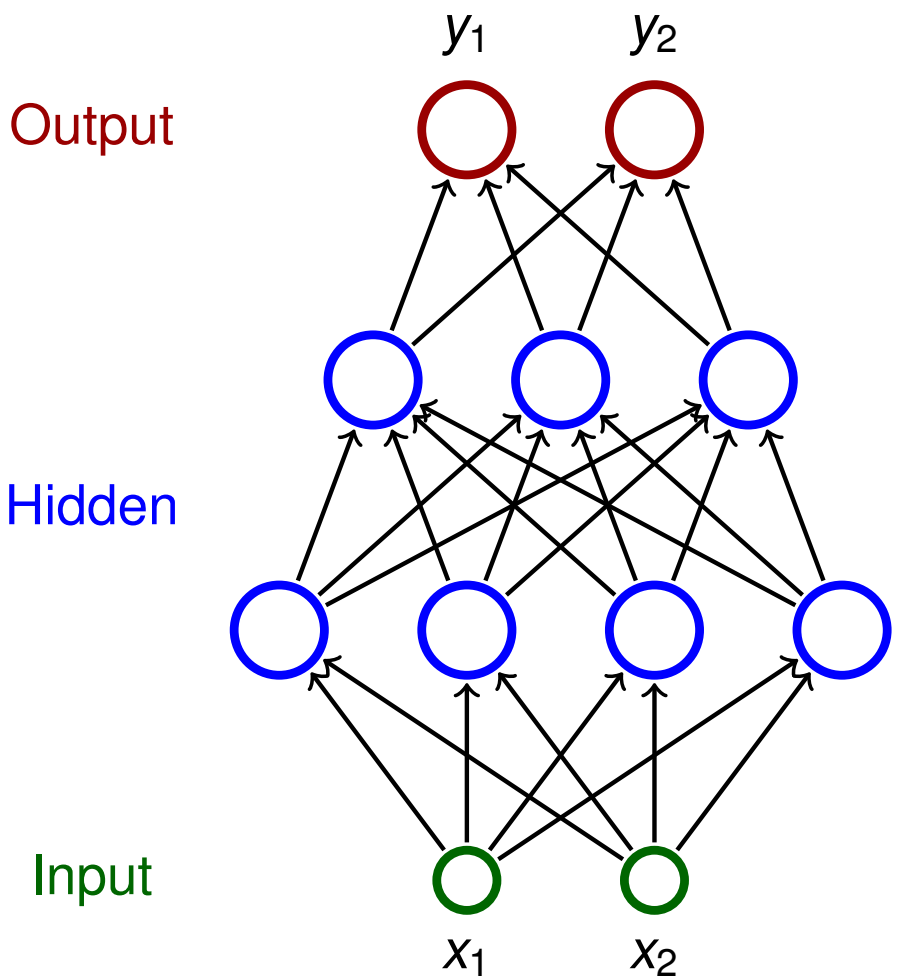




MLP training – theory

Architecture – Multilayer Perceptron (MLP)



- Neurons partitioned into **layers**; one input layer, one output layer, possibly several hidden layers
- layers numbered from 0; the input layer has number 0
  - E.g. three-layer network has two hidden layers and one output layer
- Neurons in the i-th layer are connected with all neurons in the $i + 1$-st layer
- Architecture of a MLP is typically described by numbers of neurons in individual layers (e.g. 2-4-3-2)

MLP – architecture

Notation:

- Denote
  - X a set of *input* neurons
  - Y a set of *output* neurons
  - Z a set of *all* neurons ($X, Y \subseteq Z$)

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  (define $y_0 = 1$ is the value of the formal unit input)
- w_{ji} is the weight of the connection **from** i **to** j

  (in particular, w_{j0} is the weight of the connection from the formal unit input, i.e. $w_{j0} = -b_j$ where b_j is the bias of the neuron j)

MLP – architecture

Notation:

- Denote
  - X a set of *input* neurons
  - Y a set of *output* neurons
  - Z a set of *all* neurons ($X, Y \subseteq Z$)
- individual neurons denoted by indices i, j etc.
  - ξ_j is the inner potential of the neuron j *after the computation stops*
  - y_j is the output of the neuron j *after the computation stops*

  (define $y_0 = 1$ is the value of the formal unit input)
- w_{ji} is the weight of the connection **from** i **to** j

  (in particular, w_{j0} is the weight of the connection from the formal unit input, i.e. $w_{j0} = -b_j$ where b_j is the bias of the neuron j)
- $j_{\leftarrow}$ is a set of all i such that j is adjacent from i
  (i.e. there is an arc **to** j from i)

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MLP – activity

Activity:

- inner potential of neuron j:

$$\xi_j = \sum_{i \in j_{\leftarrow}} w_{ji} y_i$$

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$$y_j = \sigma_j(\xi_j)$$

(y_j depends on the configuration $\vec{w}$ and the input $\vec{x}$, so we sometimes write $y_j(\vec{w}, \vec{x})$)

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- The network computes a function $\mathbb{R}^{|X|}$ do $\mathbb{R}^{|Y|}$. Layer-wise computation: First, all input neurons are assigned values of the input. In the ℓ-th step, all neurons of the ℓ-th layer are evaluated.

MLP – learning

Learning:

- Given a **training dataset** $\mathcal{T}$ of the form

$$\left\{ \left(\vec{x}_k, \vec{d}_k \right) \quad \middle| \quad k = 1, \ldots, p \right\}$$

Here, every $\vec{x}_k \in \mathbb{R}^{|X|}$ is an *input vector* end every $\vec{d}_k \in \mathbb{R}^{|Y|}$ is the desired network output. For every $j \in Y$, denote by d_{kj} the desired output of the neuron j for a given network input $\vec{x}_k$ (the vector $\vec{d}_k$ can be written as $\left(d_{kj}\right)_{j \in Y}$).

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- **Error function:**

$$E(\vec{w}) = \sum_{k=1}^{p} E_k(\vec{w})$$

where

$$E_k(\vec{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in Y} \left(y_j(\vec{w}, \vec{x}_k) - d_{kj} \right)^2$$

MLP – learning algorithm

Batch algorithm (gradient descent):

The algorithm computes a sequence of weight vectors $\vec{w}^{(0)}, \vec{w}^{(1)}, \vec{w}^{(2)}, \ldots$.

- weights in $\vec{w}^{(0)}$ are randomly initialized to values close to 0
- in the step $t+1$ (here $t = 0, 1, 2 \ldots$), weights $\vec{w}^{(t+1)}$ are computed as follows:

$$w_{ji}^{(t+1)} = w_{ji}^{(t)} + \Delta w_{ji}^{(t)}$$

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$$\Delta w_{ji}^{(t)} = -\varepsilon(t) \cdot \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ji}}(\vec{w}^{(t)})$$

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Note that $\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ji}}(\vec{w}^{(t)})$ is a component of the gradient ∇E, i.e. the weight update can be written as $\vec{w}^{(t+1)} = \vec{w}^{(t)} - \varepsilon(t) \cdot \nabla E(\vec{w}^{(t)})$.

MLP – error function gradient

For every w_{ji} we have

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ji}} = \sum_{k=1}^{p} \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial w_{ji}}$$

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$$\frac{\partial E_k}{\partial y_j} = y_j - d_{kj} \qquad \text{for } j \in Y$$

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(Here all y_j are in fact $y_j(\vec{w}, \vec{x}_k)$).

MLP – error function gradient (history)

- If $\sigma_j(\xi) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-\lambda_j \xi}}$ for all $j \in Z$, then

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- If $\sigma_j(\xi) = a \cdot \tanh(b \cdot \xi_j)$ for all $j \in Z$, then

$$\sigma_j'(\xi_j) = \frac{b}{a}(a - y_j)(a + y_j)$$

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4. $\mathcal{E}_{ji} := \mathcal{E}_{ji} + \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial w_{ji}}$

The resulting $\mathcal{E}_{ji}$ equals $\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ji}}$.

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- if $j \in Y$, then $\frac{\partial E_k}{\partial y_j} = y_j - d_{kj}$
- if $j \in Z \setminus Y \cup X$, then assuming that j is in the ℓ-th layer and assuming that $\frac{\partial E_k}{\partial y_r}$ has already been computed for all neurons in the $\ell + 1$-st layer, compute

$$\frac{\partial E_k}{\partial y_j} = \sum_{r \in j^{\rightarrow}} \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial y_r} \cdot \sigma_r'(\xi_r) \cdot w_{rj}$$

(This works because all neurons of $r \in j^{\rightarrow}$ belong to the $\ell + 1$-st layer.)

Complexity of the batch algorithm

Computation of $\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{ji}}(\vec{w}^{(t-1)})$ stops in time linear in the size of the network plus the size of the training set.

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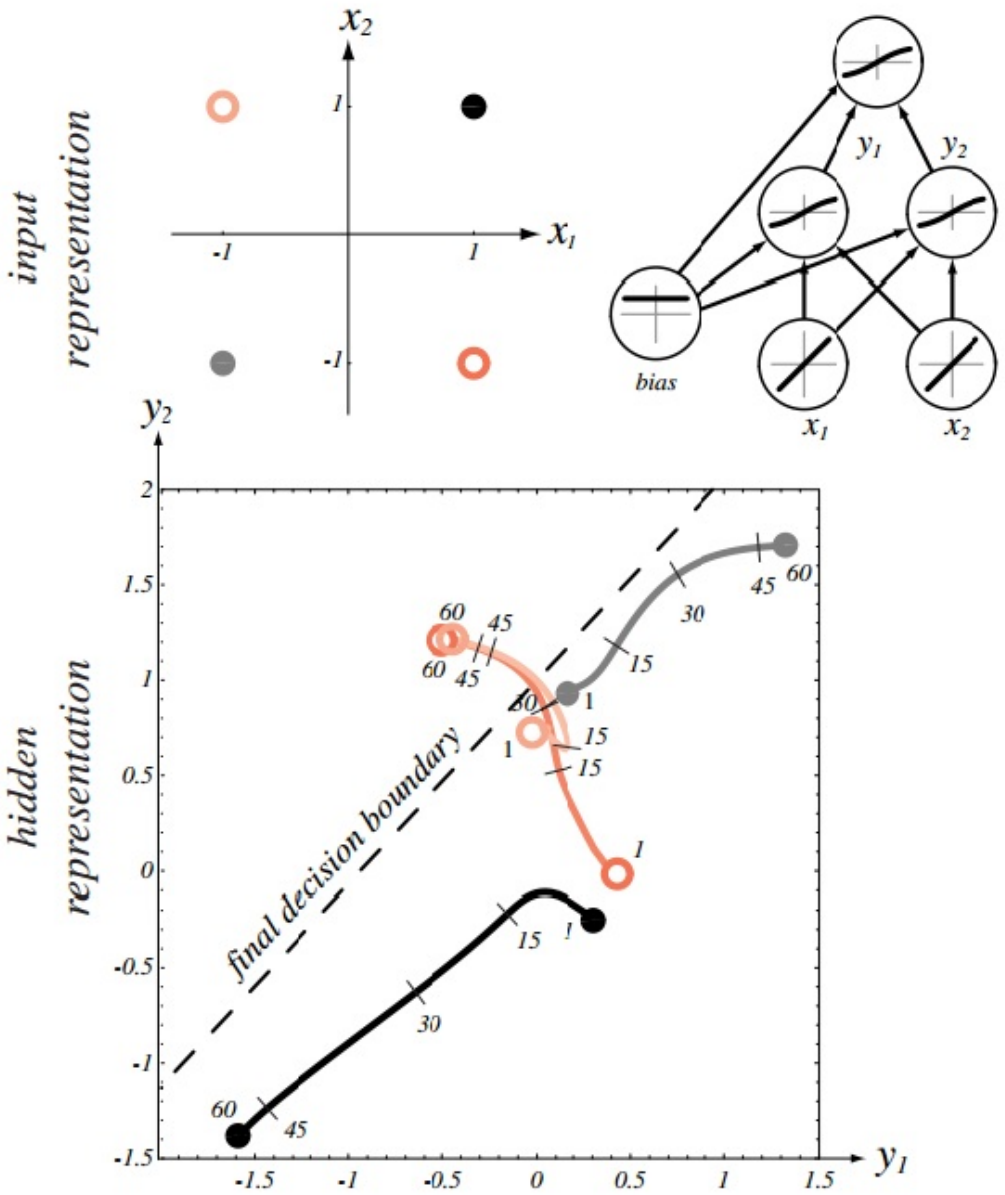
The steps 1. - 3. take linear time.

Note that the speed of convergence of the gradient descent cannot be estimated ...

Illustration of the gradient descent – XOR



Source: Pattern Classification (2nd Edition); Richard O. Duda, Peter E. Hart, David G. Stork

MLP – learning algorithm

Online algorithm:

The algorithm computes a sequence of weight vectors $\vec{w}^{(0)}, \vec{w}^{(1)}, \vec{w}^{(2)}, \ldots$.

- weights in $\vec{w}^{(0)}$ are randomly initialized to values close to 0
- in the step $t+1$ (here $t = 0, 1, 2 \ldots$), weights $\vec{w}^{(t+1)}$ are computed as follows:

$$w_{ji}^{(t+1)} = w_{ji}^{(t)} + \Delta w_{ji}^{(t)}$$

where

$$\Delta w_{ji}^{(t)} = -\varepsilon(t) \cdot \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial w_{ji}}(w_{ji}^{(t)})$$

is the *weight update* of w_{ji} in the step $t+1$ and $0 < \varepsilon(t) \leq 1$ is the *learning rate* in the step $t+1$.

There are other variants determined by selection of the training examples used for the error computation (more on this later).

SGD

- weights in $\vec{w}^{(0)}$ are randomly initialized to values close to 0
- in the step $t+1$ (here $t = 0, 1, 2 \ldots$), weights $\vec{w}^{(t+1)}$ are computed as follows:
  - Choose (randomly) a set of training examples $T \subseteq \{1, \ldots, p\}$
  - Compute

$$\vec{w}^{(t+1)} = \vec{w}^{(t)} + \Delta\vec{w}^{(t)}$$

where

$$\Delta\vec{w}^{(t)} = -\varepsilon(t) \cdot \sum_{k \in T} \nabla E_k(\vec{w}^{(t)})$$

- $0 < \varepsilon(t) \leq 1$ is a *learning rate* in step $t+1$
- $\nabla E_k(\vec{w}^{(t)})$ is the gradient of the error of the example k

Note that the random choice of the minibatch is typically implemented by randomly shuffling all data and then choosing minibatches sequentially.

Output activations and error functions

Regression:

- The output activation is typically the identity $\sigma(\xi) = \xi$.
- A **training dataset**

$$\left\{ \left(\vec{x}_k, \vec{d}_k \right) \quad \middle| \quad k = 1, \ldots, p \right\}$$

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- The error function *mean squared error (mse):*

$$E(\vec{w}) = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{k=1}^{p} E_k(\vec{w})$$

where

$$E_k(\vec{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in Y} \left(y_j(\vec{w}, \vec{x}_k) - d_{kj} \right)^2$$

Output activations and error functions

Classification

- The output activation function *softmax*:

$$\sigma_i(\xi_i) = \frac{e^{\xi_i}}{\sum_{j \in Y} e^{\xi_j}}$$

- A **training dataset**

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Here, every $\vec{x}_k \in \mathbb{R}^{|X|}$ is an *input vector* end every $\vec{d}_k \in \{0,1\}^{|Y|}$ is the desired network output. For every $j \in Y$, denote by d_{kj} the desired output of the neuron j for a given network input $\vec{x}_k$ (the vector $\vec{d}_k$ can be written as $\left(d_{kj}\right)_{j \in Y}$).

- The error function *(categorical) cross entropy:*

$$E(\vec{w}) = -\frac{1}{p} \sum_{k=1}^{p} \sum_{j \in Y} d_{kj} \ln(y_j(\vec{w}, \vec{x}_k))$$

Output activations and error functions

Binary classification

Assume a single output neuron $i \in Y = \{i\}$.

- The output activation function *logistic sigmoid*:

$$\sigma_i(\xi_i) = \frac{e^{\xi_i}}{e^{\xi_j} + 1} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\xi_i}}$$

- A **training dataset**

$$\mathcal{T} = \left\{\left(\vec{x}_1, d_1\right), \left(\vec{x}_2, d_2\right), \ldots, \left(\vec{x}_p, d_p\right)\right\}$$

  Here $\vec{x}_k = (x_{k0}, x_{k1} \ldots, x_{kn}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$, $x_{k0} = 1$, is the k-th input, and $d_k \in \{0, 1\}$ is the expected output.

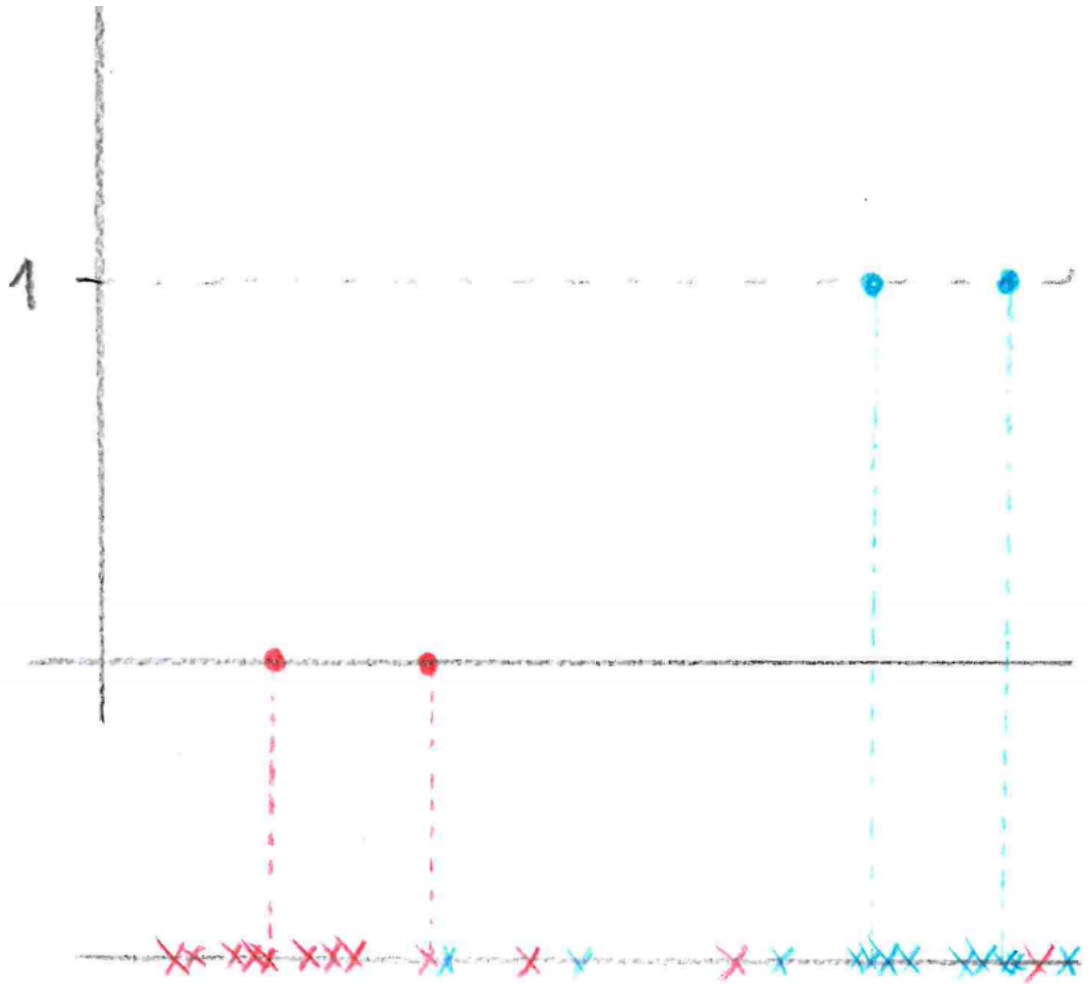
- The error function *(Binary) cross-entropy:*

$$E(\vec{w}) = \sum_{k=1}^{p} -(d_k \log(\hat{y}_k) + (1 - d_k) \log(1 - \hat{y}_k))$$

  Here $\hat{y}_k = y_i(\vec{w}, \vec{x}_k)$ for every $k = 1, \ldots, p$.

What about classification?

Binary classification: Desired outputs 0 and 1.



Ideally, capture the probability distribution of classes.

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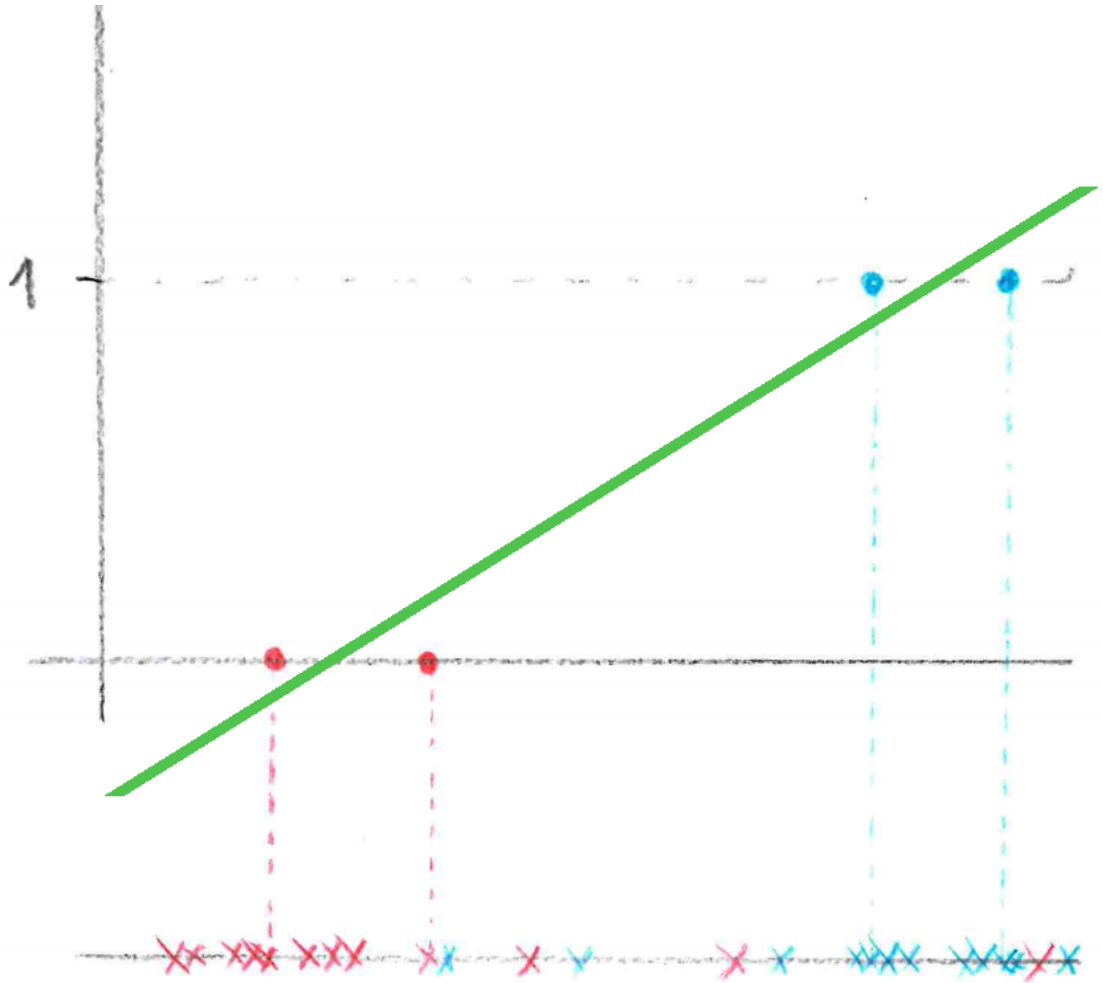

... does not capture probability well (it is not a probability at all)

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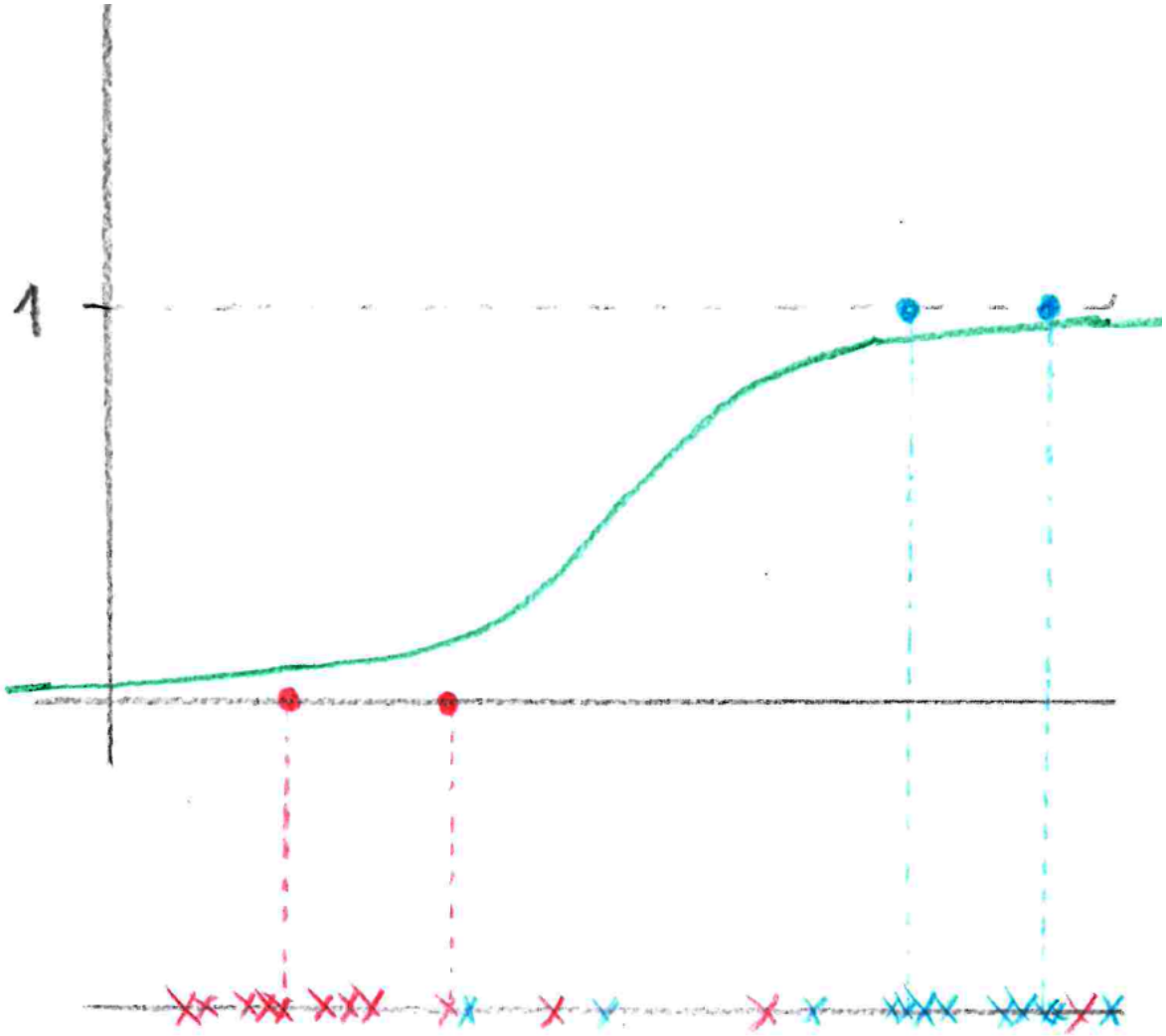
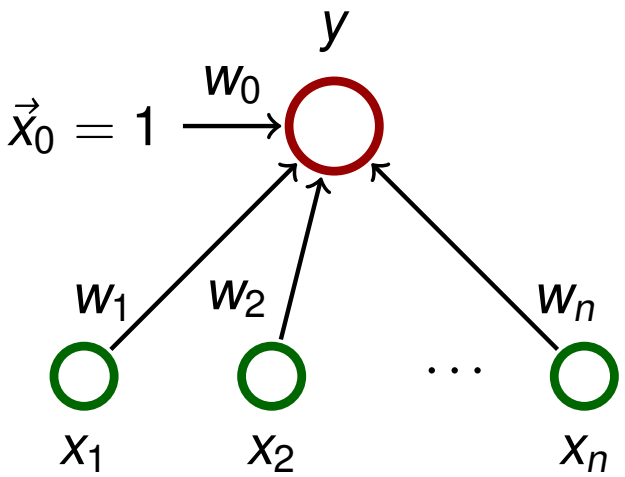


... logistic sigmoid $\frac{1}{1+e^{-(\vec{w}\cdot\vec{x})}}$ is much better!

Logistic regression



$\vec{w} = (w_0, w_1, \ldots, w_n)$ and $\vec{x} = (x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ where $x_0 = 1$.

Activity:

- inner potential: $\xi = w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i x_i = \sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i x_i = \vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}$
- activation function: $\sigma(\xi) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-\xi}}$
- network function: $y[\vec{w}](\vec{x}) = \sigma(\xi) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-(\vec{w}\cdot\vec{x})}}$

Intuition: The output y is now interpreted as the probability of the class 1 given the input $\vec{x}$.

But what is the meaning of the sigmoid?

The model gives a probability y of the class 1 given an input $\vec{x}$.
But why we model such a probability using $1/(1 + e^{-\vec{w}\cdot\vec{x}})$??

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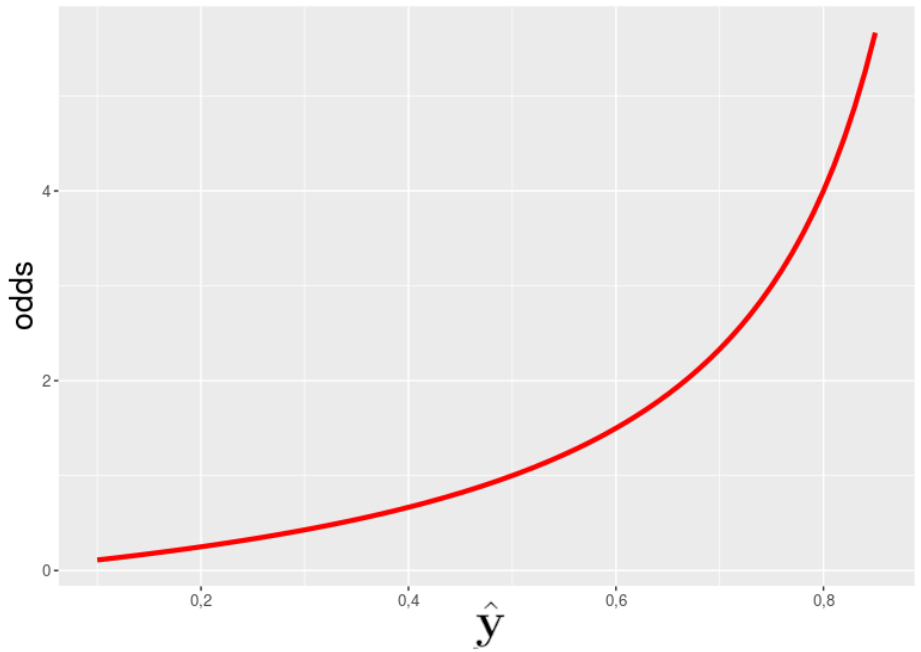
Let $\hat{y}$ be the "true" probability of the class 1 to be modeled.
What about odds of the class 1?

$$odds(\hat{y}) = \hat{y}/1 - \hat{y}$$



Resembles an exponential function ...

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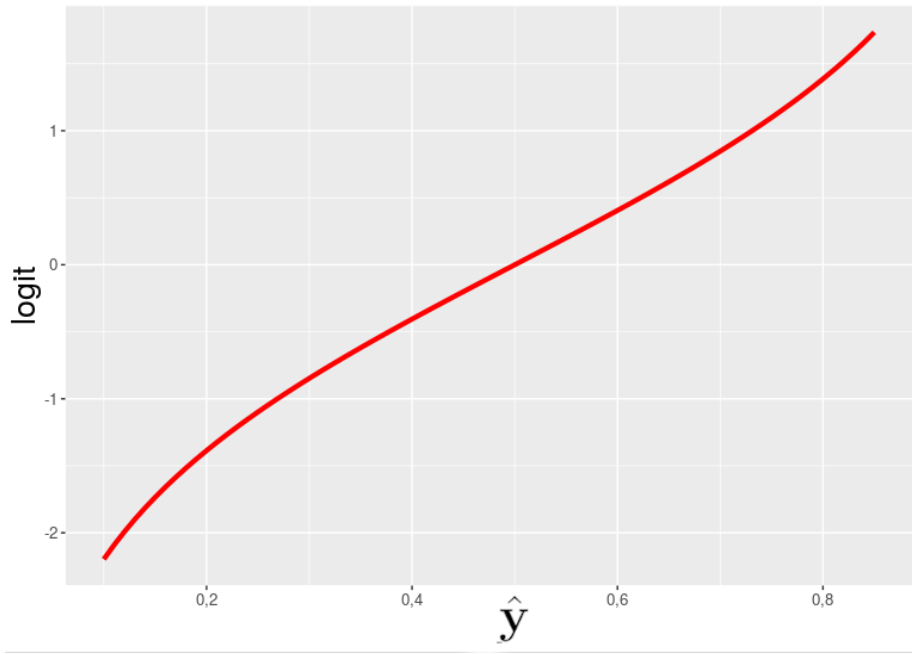
But why we model such a probability using $1/(1+e^{-\vec{w}\cdot\vec{x}})$??

Let $\hat{y}$ be the "true" probability of the class 1 to be modeled.
What about log odds (aka logit) of the class 1?

$$logit(\hat{y}) = \log(\hat{y}/(1-\hat{y}))$$



Looks almost linear ...

But what is the meaning of the sigmoid?

Assume that $\hat{y}$ is the probability of the class 1. Put

$$\log(\hat{y}/(1-\hat{y})) = \vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}$$

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and

$$\hat{y} = \frac{1}{1+e^{-\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}}}$$

That is, if we model log odds using a linear function, the probability is obtained by applying the logistic sigmoid on the result of the linear function.

Logistic regression

Learning:

- Given a **training dataset**

$$\mathcal{T} = \left\{\left(\vec{x}_1, d_1\right), \left(\vec{x}_2, d_2\right), \ldots, \left(\vec{x}_p, d_p\right)\right\}$$

Here $\vec{x}_k = (x_{k0}, x_{k1} \ldots, x_{kn}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$, $x_{k0} = 1$, is the k-th input, and $d_k \in \{0, 1\}$ is the expected output.

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What error function?

(Binary) cross-entropy:

$$E(\vec{w}) = \sum_{k=1}^{p} -(d_k \log(y_k) + (1 - d_k) \log(1 - y_k))$$

What?!?

Log likelihood is your friend!

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Answer: The one that generates the data with maximum probability!

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$$L = y \cdot y \cdot (1 - y) \cdot (1 - y) \cdot y$$

How to maximize this w.r.t. y?

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$$LL = log(L) = \log(y) + \log(y) + \log(1-y) + \log(1-y) + \log(y)$$

But then

$$-LL = -1 \cdot log(y) - 1 \cdot log(y) - (1-0) \cdot log(1-y) - (1-0) \cdot \log(1-y) - 1 \cdot \log(y)$$

i.e. $-LL$ is the cross-entropy.

Let the coin depend on the input

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The likelihood:

$$L = \prod_{k=1}^{p} y_k^{d_k} \cdot (1 - y_k)^{(1-d_k)}$$

and $LL = \log(L) = \sum_{k=1}^{p} (d_k \log(y_k) + (1 - d_k) \log(1 - y_k))$
and thus $-LL$ = the cross-entropy.

Minimizing the cross-netropy maximizes the log-likelihood (and vice versa).

Normal Distribution

Distribution of continuous random variables.

Density (one dimensional, that is over $\mathbb{R}$):

$$p(x) \quad = \quad \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left\{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\} \quad =: \quad N[\mu, \sigma^2](x)$$

μ is the expected value (the mean), σ^2 is the variance.

Maximum Likelihood vs Least Squares (Dim 1)

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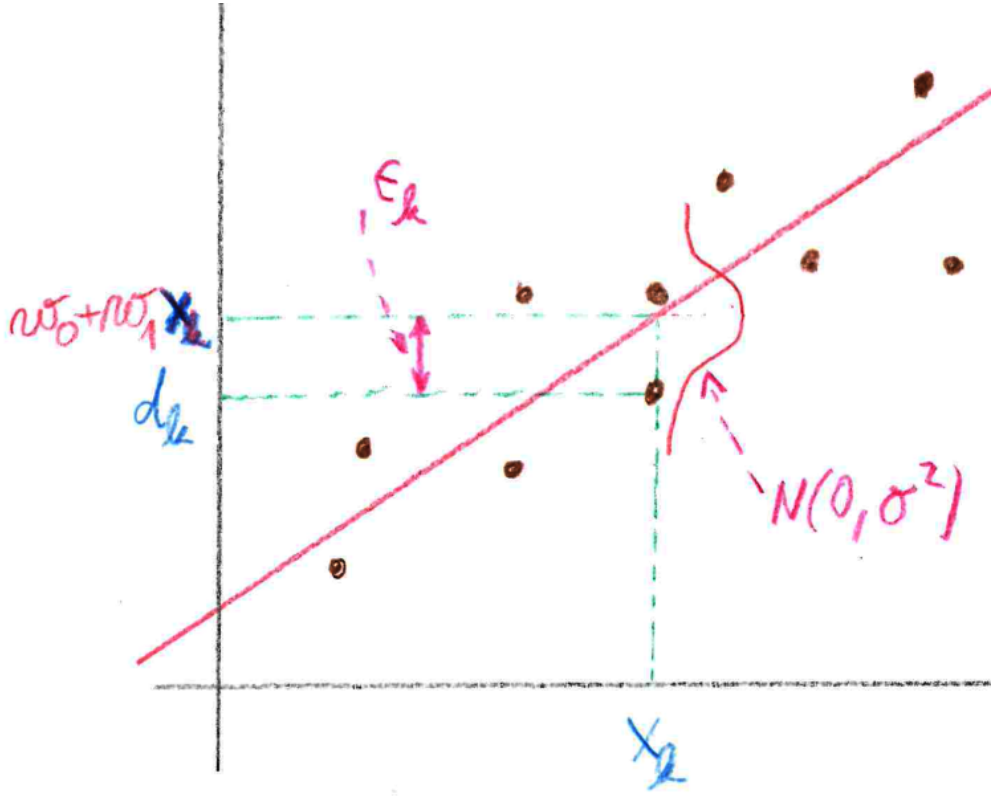
Assume that each d_k has been generated randomly by

$$d_k = (w_0 + w_1 \cdot x_k) + \epsilon_k$$

- w_0, w_1 are **unknown numbers**
- ϵ_k are normally distributed with mean 0 and an unknown variance σ^2



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Denote by $p(d_1, \ldots, d_p \mid w_0, w_1, \sigma^2)$ the probability density according to which the values $d_1, \ldots, d_n$ were generated assuming fixed $w_0, w_1, \sigma^2, x_1, \ldots, x_p$.

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The independence and normality imply

$$\begin{aligned} p(d_1, \ldots, d_p \mid w_0, w_1, \sigma^2) &= \prod_{k=1}^{p} N[w_0 + w_1 x_k, \sigma^2](d_k) \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^{p} \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left\{-\frac{(d_k - w_0 - w_1 x_k)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\} \end{aligned}$$

Maximum Likelihood vs Least Squares

Our goal is to find (w_0, w_1) that maximizes the likelihood that the training set D with **fixed** values $d_1, \ldots, d_n$ has been generated:

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(w_0, w_1) maximizes $L(w_0, w_1, \sigma^2)$ for arbitrary σ^2 **iff** *(w_0, w_1) minimizes squared error $E(w_0, w_1) = \sum_{k=1}^{p} (d_k - w_0 - w_1 x_k)^2$.*

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Maximizing σ^2 satisfies $\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{k=1}^{p} (d_k - w_0 - w_1 \cdot x_k)^2$.

MLP training – practical issues

Practical issues of gradient descent

- Training efficiency:
  - What size of a minibatch?
  - How to choose the learning rate $\varepsilon(t)$ and control SGD ?
  - How to pre-process the inputs?
  - How to initialize weights?
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- Quality of the resulting model:
  - When to stop training?
  - Regularization techniques.
  - How large network?

For simplicity, I will illustrate the reasoning on MLP + mse. Later we will see other topologies and error functions with different but always somewhat related issues.

Issues in gradient descent

- Small networks: Lots of local minima where the descent gets stuck.
- The model identifiability problem: Swapping incoming weights of neurons *i* and *j* leaves the same network topology – **weight space symmetry**.
- Recent studies show that for sufficiently large networks all local minima have low values of the error function.

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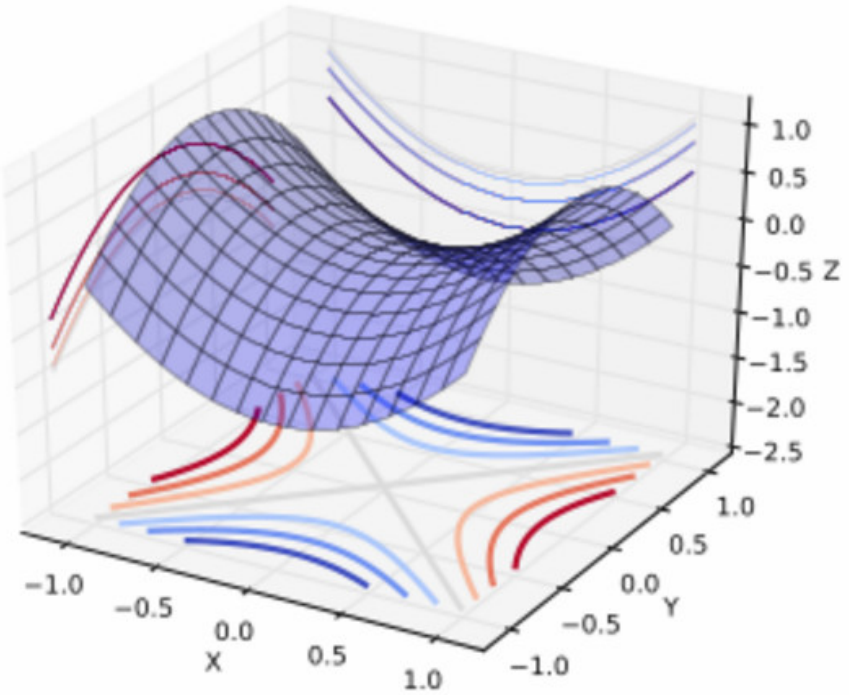
Saddle points

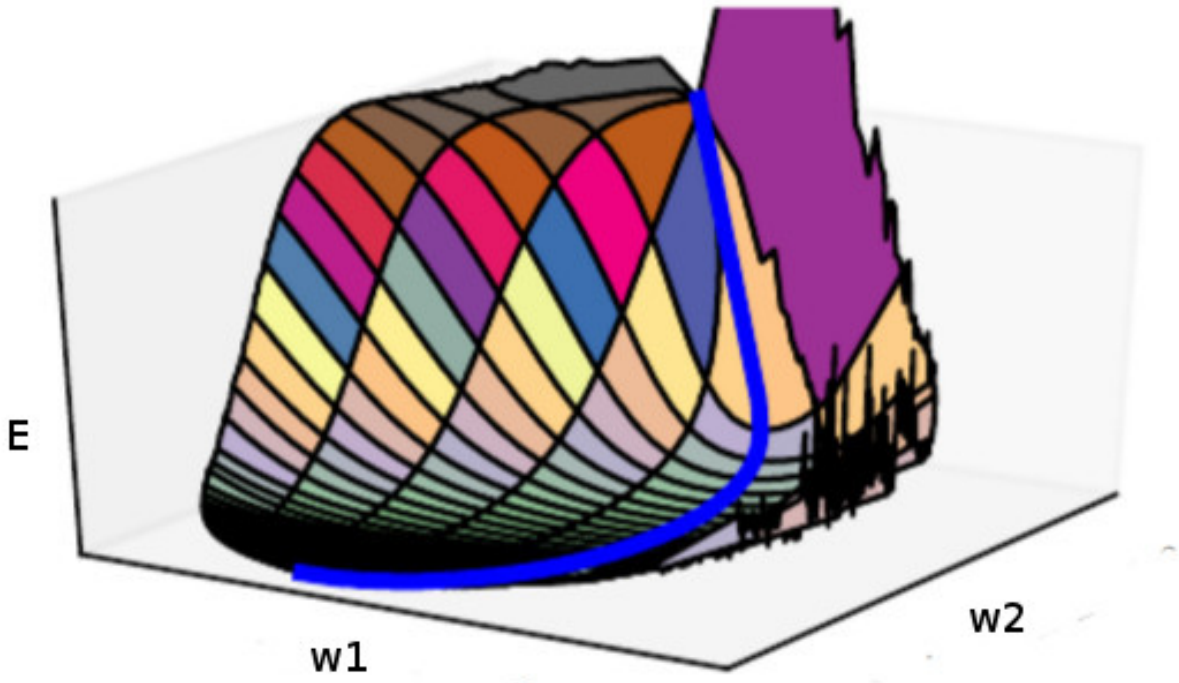
One can show (by a combinatorial argument) that larger networks have exponentially more saddle points than local minima.



Issues in gradient descent – too slow descent

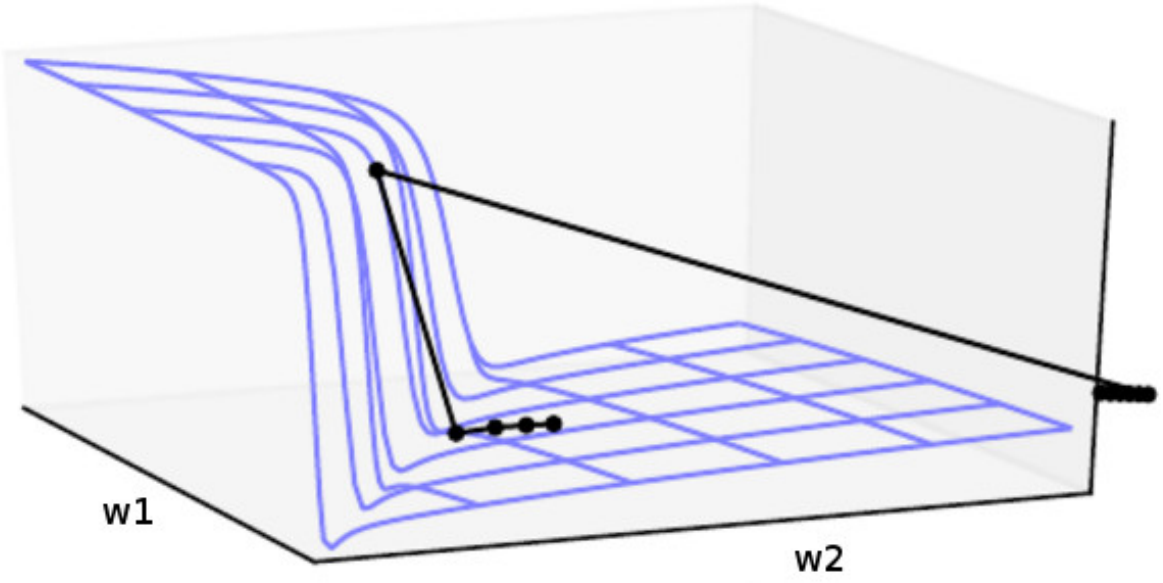
- flat regions

  E.g. if the inner potentials are too large (in abs. value), then their derivative is extremely small.

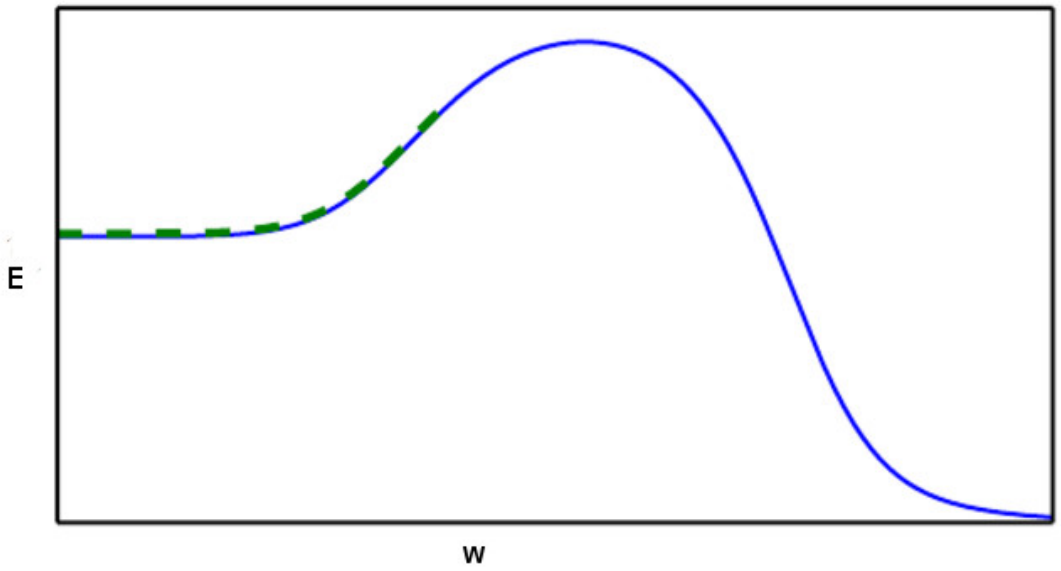


Issues in gradient descent – too fast descent

- steep cliffs: the gradient is extremely large, descent skips important weight vectors



Issues in gradient descent – local vs global structure



What if we initialize on the left?

Gradient Descent in Large Networks

Theorem

Assume (roughly),

- *activation functions: "smooth" ReLU (softplus)*

$$\sigma(z) = \log(1 + \exp(z))$$

  In general: Smooth, non-polynomial, analytic, Lipschitzs.

- *inputs $\vec{x}_k$ of Euclidean norm equal to 1, desired values d_k satisfying $|d_k| \in O(1)$,*
- *the number of hidden neurons per layer sufficiently large (polynomial in certain numerical characteristics of inputs roughly measuring their similarity, and exponential in the depth of the network),*
- *the learning rate constant and sufficiently small.*

The gradient descent converges (with high probability) to a global minimum with zero error at linear rate.

Later we get to a special type of networks called ResNet where the above result demands only polynomially many neurons per layer (w.r.t. depth).

Issues in computing the gradient

- vanishing and exploding gradients

$$\frac{\partial E_k}{\partial y_j} = y_j - d_{kj} \qquad \text{for } j \in Y$$

$$\frac{\partial E_k}{\partial y_j} = \sum_{r \in j^{\rightarrow}} \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial y_r} \cdot \sigma_r'(\xi_r) \cdot w_{rj} \qquad \text{for } j \in Z \setminus (Y \cup X)$$

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- inexact gradient computation:
  - Minibatch gradient is only an estimate of the true gradient.
  - Note that the variance of the estimate is (roughly) $\sigma / \sqrt{m}$ where m is the size of the minibatch and σ is the variance of the gradient estimate for a single training example.
    (E.g. minibatch size 10 000 means 100 times more computation than the size 100 but gives only 10 times less variance.)

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- It is common (especially when using GPUs) for power of 2 batch sizes to offer better runtime. Typical power of 2 batch sizes range from 32 to 256, with 16 sometimes being attempted for large models.
- Small batches can offer a regularizing effect, perhaps due to the noise they add to the learning process.

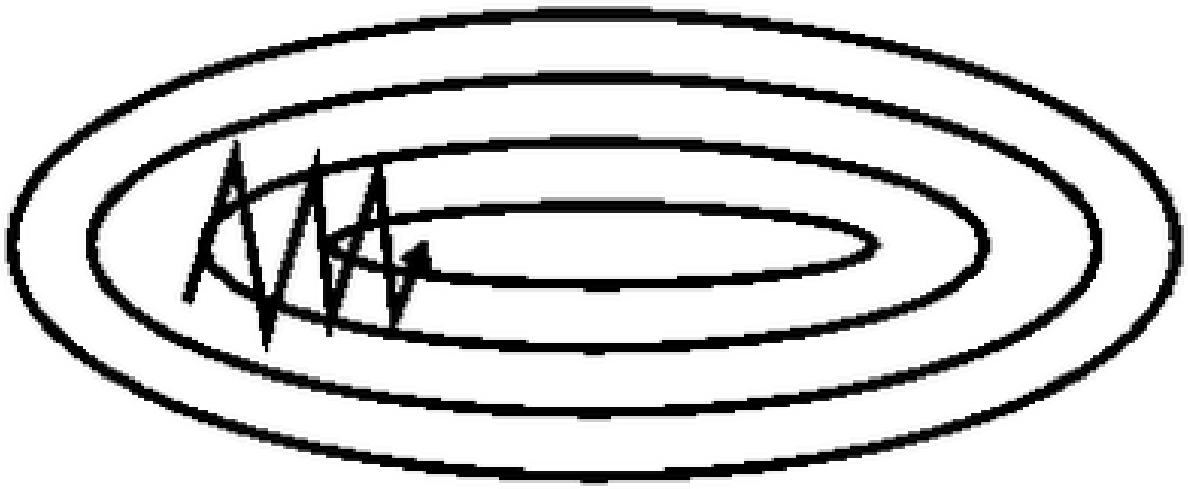
  It has been observed in practice that when using a larger batch there is a degradation in the quality of the model, as measured by its ability to generalize.

("On Large-Batch Training for Deep Learning: Generalization Gap and Sharp Minima". Keskar et al, ICLR'17)

Momentum

Issue in the gradient descent:

- $\nabla E(\vec{w}^{(t)})$ constantly changes direction (but the error steadily decreases).



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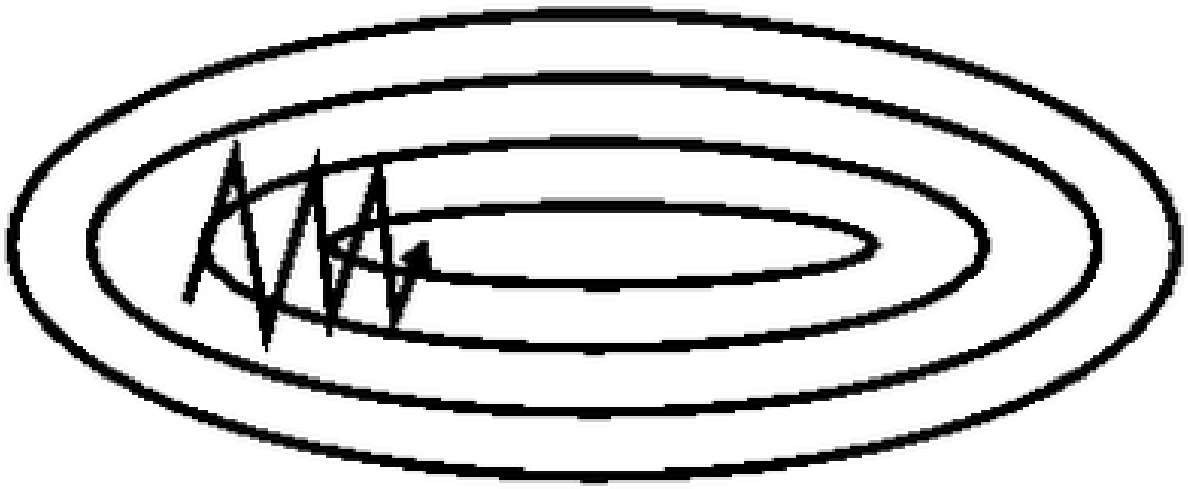
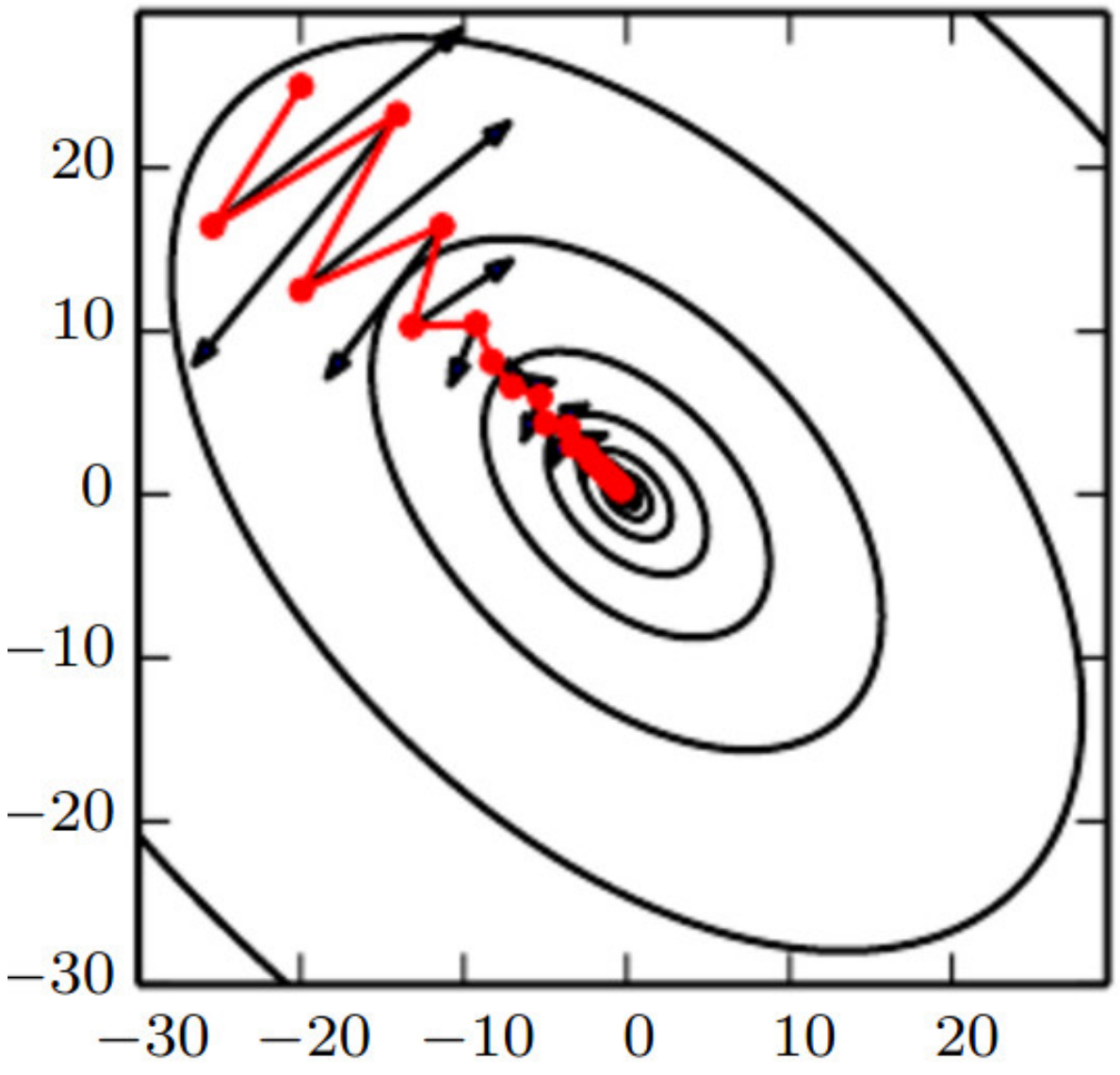


Solution: In every step add the change made in the previous step (weighted by a factor α):

$$\Delta \vec{w}^{(t)} = -\varepsilon(t) \cdot \sum_{k \in T} \nabla E_k(\vec{w}^{(t)}) + \alpha \cdot \Delta w_{ji}^{(t-1)}$$

where $0 < \alpha < 1$.

Momentum – illustration



SGD with momentum

- weights in $\vec{w}^{(0)}$ are randomly initialized to values close to 0
- in the step $t+1$ (here $t = 0, 1, 2 \ldots$), weights $\vec{w}^{(t+1)}$ are computed as follows:
  - Choose (randomly) a set of training examples $T \subseteq \{1, \ldots, p\}$
  - Compute

$$\vec{w}^{(t+1)} = \vec{w}^{(t)} + \Delta\vec{w}^{(t)}$$

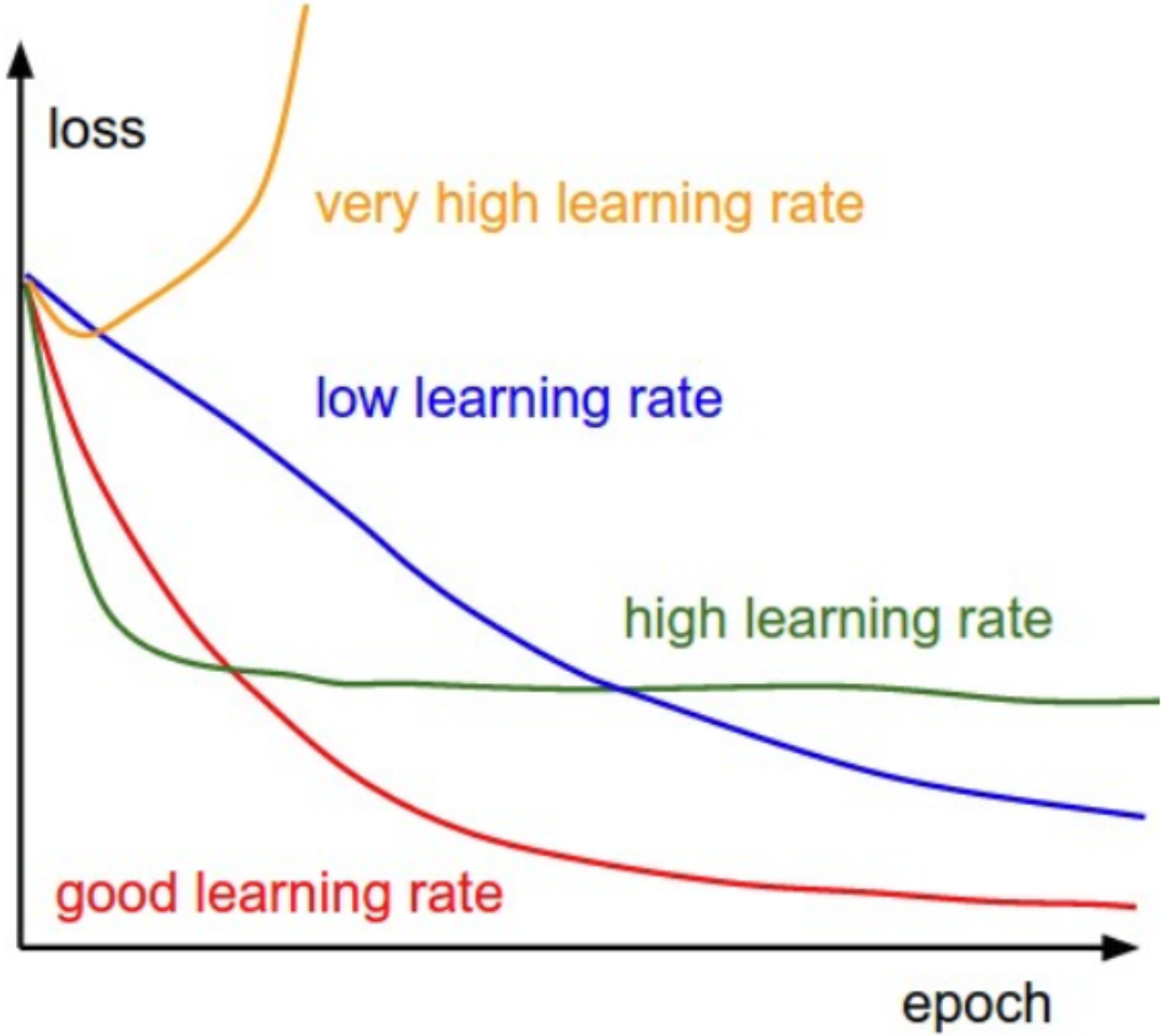
where

$$\Delta\vec{w}^{(t)} = -\varepsilon(t) \cdot \sum_{k \in T} \nabla E_k(\vec{w}^{(t)}) + \alpha \Delta\vec{w}^{(t-1)}$$

- $0 < \varepsilon(t) \leq 1$ is a *learning rate* in step $t+1$
- $0 < \alpha < 1$ measures the "influence" of the momentum
- $\nabla E_k(\vec{w}^{(t)})$ is the gradient of the error of the example k

Note that the random choice of the minibatch is typically implemented by randomly shuffling all data and then choosing minibatches sequentially.

Learning rate



Search for the learning rate

- Use settings from a successful solution of a similar problem as a baseline.
- Search for the learning rate using the learning monitoring:
  - Search through values from small (e.g. 0.001) to (0.1), possibly multiplying by 2.
  - Train for several epochs, observe the learning curves (see cross-validation later).

Adaptive learning rate

- Power scheduling: Set $\epsilon(t) = \epsilon_0/(1 + t/s)$ where ϵ_0 is an initial learning rate and s a number of steps

  (after s steps the learning rate is $\epsilon_0/2$, after $2s$ it is $\epsilon_0/3$ etc.)

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- 1cycle scheduling: Start by increasing the initial learning rate from ϵ_0 linearly to ϵ_1 (approx. $\epsilon_1 = 10\epsilon_0$) halfway through training. Then decrease from ϵ_1 linearly to ϵ_0. Finish by dropping the learning rate by several orders of magnitude (still linearly).

  According to a 2018 paper by Leslie Smith this may converge much faster (100 epochs vs 800 epochs on CIFAR10 dataset).

For comparison of some methods see: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF LEARNING RATES IN DEEP NEURAL NETWORKS FOR SPEECH RECOGNITION, Senior et al

AdaGrad

So far we have considered fixed schedules for learning rates.

It is better to have

- larger rates for weights with smaller updates,
- smaller rates for weights with larger updates.

AdaGrad uses individually adapting learning rate for each weight.

SGD with AdaGrad

- weights in $\vec{w}^{(0)}$ are randomly initialized to values close to 0
- in the step $t+1$ (here $t = 0, 1, 2 \ldots$), compute $\vec{w}^{(t+1)}$:
  - Choose (randomly) a minibatch $T \subseteq \{1, \ldots, p\}$
  - Compute

$$w_{ji}^{(t+1)} = w_{ji}^{(t)} + \Delta w_{ji}^{(t)}$$

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where

$$\Delta w_{ji}^{(t)} = -\frac{\eta}{\sqrt{r_{ji}^{(t)} + \delta}} \cdot \sum_{k \in T} \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial w_{ji}}(\vec{w}^{(t)})$$

and

$$r_{ji}^{(t)} = r_{ji}^{(t-1)} + \left(\sum_{k \in T} \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial w_{ji}}(\vec{w}^{(t)}) \right)^2$$

- η is a constant expressing the influence of the learning rate, typically 0.01.
- $\delta > 0$ is a smoothing term (typically 1e-8) avoiding division by 0.

RMSProp

The main disadvantage of AdaGrad is the accumulation of the gradient throughout the whole learning process.

In case the learning needs to get over several "hills" before settling in a deep "valley", the weight updates get far too small before getting to it.

RMSProp uses an exponentially decaying average to discard history from the extreme past so that it can converge rapidly after finding a convex bowl, as if it were an instance of the AdaGrad algorithm initialized within that bowl.

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and

$$r_{ji}^{(t)} = \rho r_{ji}^{(t-1)} + (1 - \rho) \left(\sum_{k \in T} \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial w_{ji}}(\vec{w}^{(t)}) \right)^2$$

- η is a constant expressing the influence of the learning rate (Hinton suggests $\rho = 0.9$ and $\eta = 0.001$).
- $\delta > 0$ is a smoothing term (typically 1e-8) avoiding division by 0.

Other optimization methods

There are more methods such as AdaDelta, Adam (roughly RMSProp combined with momentum), etc.

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Unfortunately, there is currently no consensus on this point.

According to a recent study, the family of algorithms with adaptive learning rates (represented by RMSProp and AdaDelta) performed fairly robustly, no single best algorithm has emerged.

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According to a recent study, the family of algorithms with adaptive learning rates (represented by RMSProp and AdaDelta) performed fairly robustly, no single best algorithm has emerged.

Currently, the most popular optimization algorithms actively in use include SGD, SGD with momentum, RMSProp, RMSProp with momentum, AdaDelta and Adam.

The choice of which algorithm to use, at this point, seems to depend largely on the user's familiarity with the algorithm.

Choice of (hidden) activations

Generic requirements imposed on activation functions:

1. differentiability

   (to do gradient descent)

2. non-linearity

   (linear multi-layer networks are equivalent to single-layer)

3. monotonicity

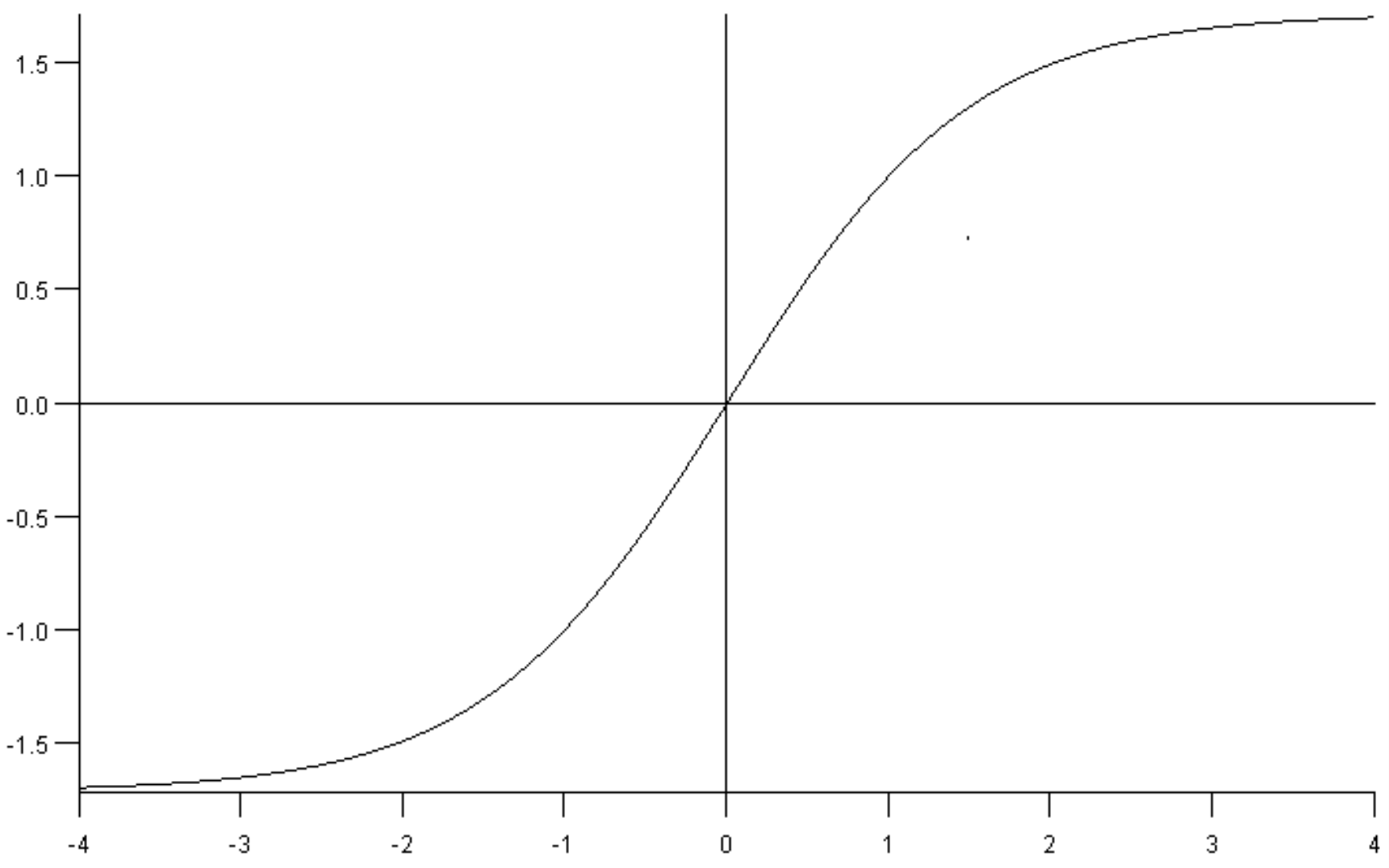
   (local extrema of activation functions induce local extrema of the error function)

4. "linearity"

   (i.e. preserve as much linearity as possible; linear models are easiest to fit; find the "minimum" non-linearity needed to solve a given task)

The choice of activation functions is closely related to input preprocessing and the initial choice of weights. I will illustrate the reasoning on sigmoidal functions; say few words about other activation functions later.

Activation functions – tanh



$\sigma(\xi) = 1.7159 \cdot \tanh(\frac{2}{3} \cdot \xi)$, we have $\lim_{\xi \to \infty} \sigma(\xi) = 1.7159$ and $\lim_{\xi \to -\infty} \sigma(\xi) = -1.7159$

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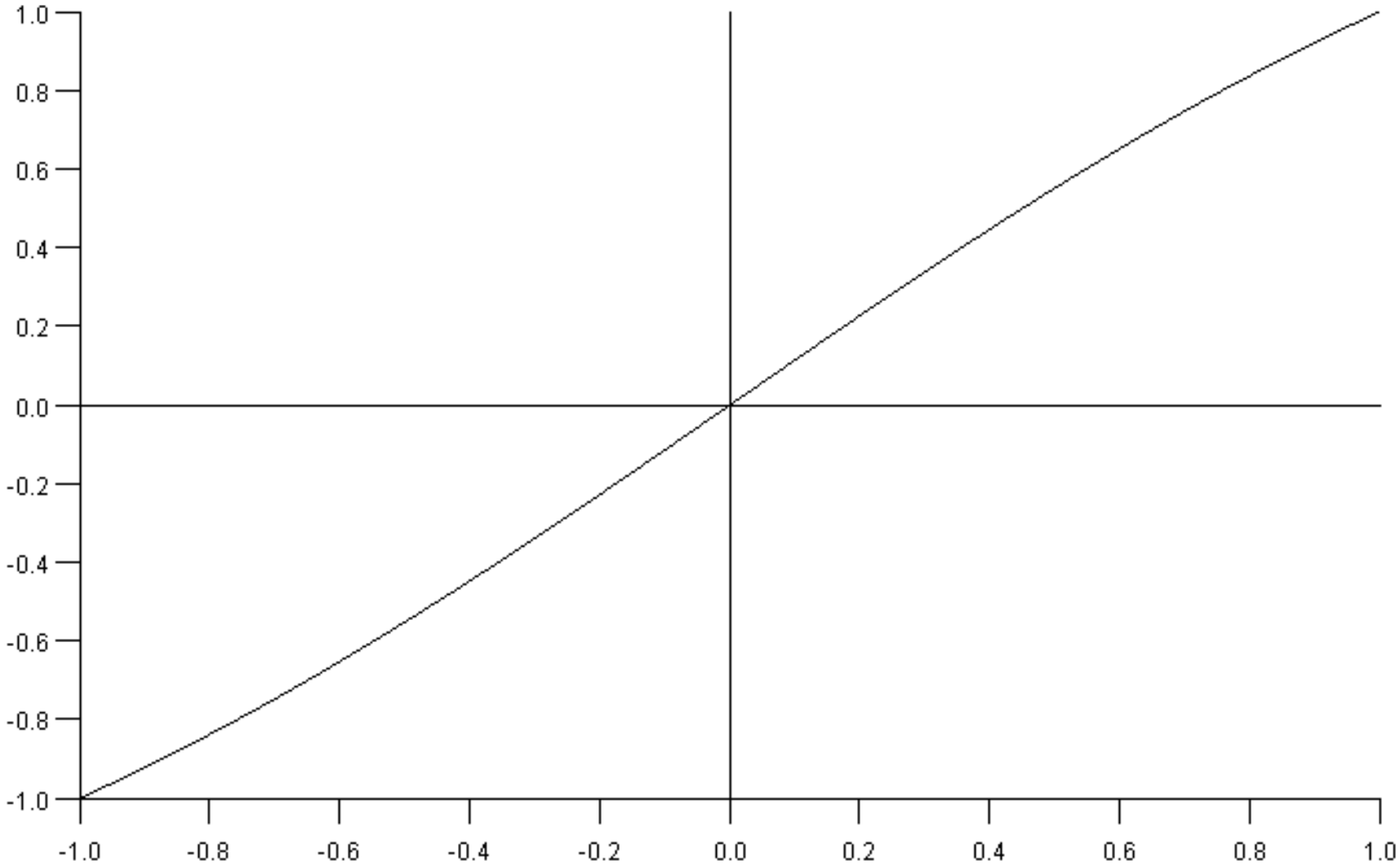

$\sigma(\xi) = 1.7159 \cdot \tanh(\frac{2}{3} \cdot \xi)$ is almost linear on $[-1, 1]$

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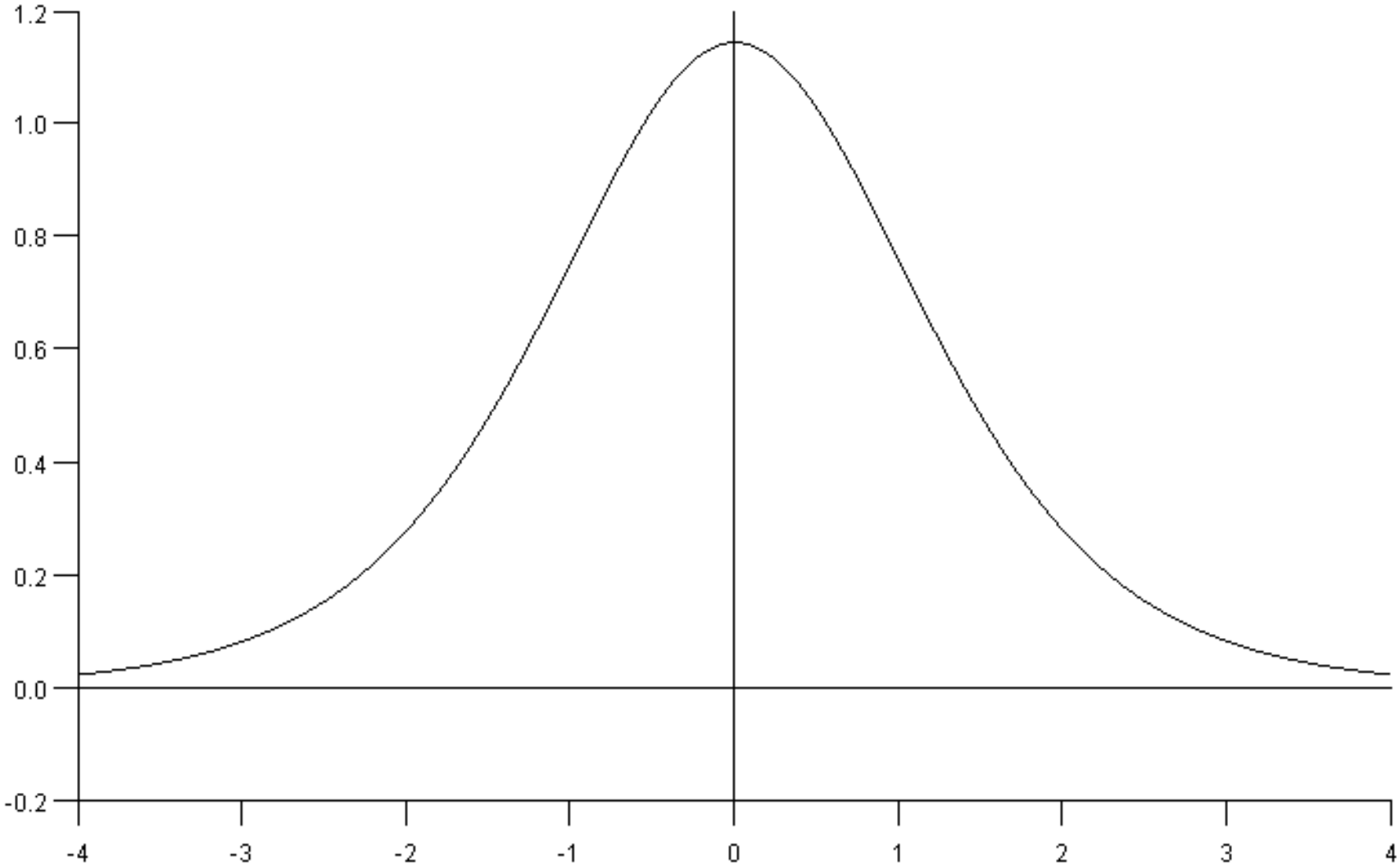

first derivative: $\sigma(\xi) = 1.7159 \cdot \tanh(\frac{2}{3} \cdot \xi)$

Input preprocessing

- Some inputs may be much larger than others.

  E.g..: Height vs weight of a person, maximum speed of a car (in km/h) vs its price (in CZK), etc.

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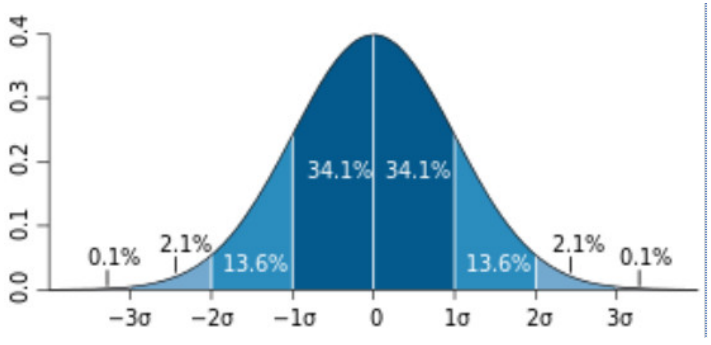
- Large inputs have greater influence on the training than the small ones. In addition, too large inputs may slow down learning (saturation of activation functions).
- Typical standardization:
  - average $= 0$ (subtract the mean)
  - variance $= 1$ (divide by the standard deviation)

  Here the mean and standard deviation may be estimated from data (the training set).



(illustration of standard deviation)

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  Thus
  - for too small w we may get (almost) linear model.
  - for too large w (i.e. much larger than 1) the activations may get saturated and the learning will be very slow.

  Hence, we want to choose w so that the inner potentials of neurons will be roughly in the interval $[-1, 1]$.

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- The same works for higher layers, n corresponds to the number of neurons in the layer one level lower.

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Glorot & Bengio (2010) presented a **normalized initialization** by choosing w uniformly from the interval:

$$\left(-\sqrt{\frac{6}{m+n}}, \sqrt{\frac{6}{m+n}}\right) = \left(-\sqrt{\frac{3}{(m+n)/2}}, \sqrt{\frac{3}{(m+n)/2}}\right)$$

Here n is the number of inputs to the layer, m is the number of outputs of the layer (i.e. the number of neurons in the layer).

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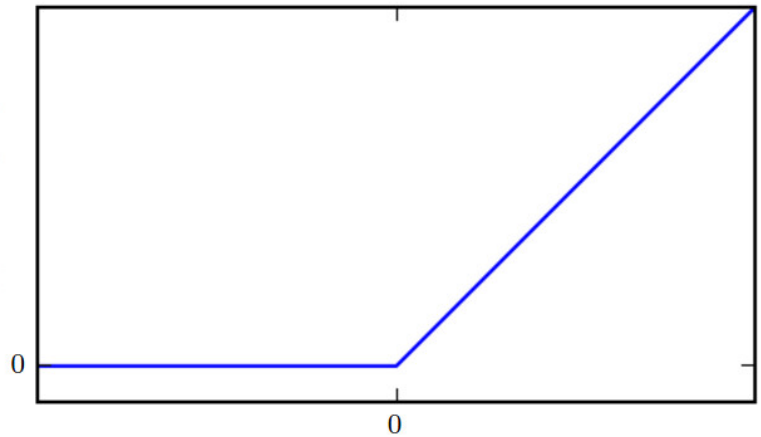
This is designed to compromise between the goal of initializing all layers to have the same activation variance and the goal of initializing all layers to have the same gradient variance.

The formula is derived using the assumption that the network consists only of a chain of matrix multiplications, with no non-linearities. Real neural networks obviously violate this assumption, but many strategies designed for the linear model perform reasonably well on its non-linear counterparts.

Modern activation functions

For hidden neurons sigmoidal functions are often substituted with piece-wise linear activations functions. Most prominent is ReLU:



$$\sigma(\xi) = \max\{0, \xi\}$$

- THE default activation function recommended for use with most feedforward neural networks.
- As close to linear function as possible; very simple; does not saturate for large potentials.
- Dead for negative potentials.

More modern activation functions

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- SELU: Scaled variant of ELU: :

$$\sigma(\xi) = \lambda \begin{cases} \alpha(\exp(\xi) - 1) & \text{for } \xi < 0 \\ \xi & \text{for } \xi \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

  Self-normalizing, i.e. output of each layer will tend to preserve a mean (close to) 0 and a standard deviation (close to) 1 for $\lambda \approx 1.050$ and $\alpha \approx 1.673$, properly initialized weights (see below) and normalized inputs (zero mean, standard deviation 1).

Initializing with Normal Distribution

Denote by n the number of inputs to the initialized layer, and m the number of neurons in the layer.

- Glorot & Bengio (2010): Choose weights randomly from the normal distribution with mean 0 and variance $2/(n+m)$

  Suitable for activation functions: None, tanh, logistic, softmax

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- He (2015): Choose weights randomly from the normal distribution with mean 0 and variance $2/n$
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- LeCun (1990): Choose weights randomly from the normal distribution with mean 0 and variance $1/n$
  Suitable for SELU

How to choose activation of hidden neurons

- Default is ReLU.
- According to Aurélien Géron:

$$SELU > ELU > leakyReLU > ReLU > tanh > logistic$$

For discussion see: Hands-On Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn, Keras, and TensorFlow: Concepts, Tools, and Techniques to Build Intelligent Systems, Aurélien Géron

Output neurons

The choice of activation functions for output units depends on the concrete applications.

For regression (function approximation) the output is typically linear.

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For classification, the current activation functions of choice are

- logistic sigmoid – binary classification
- softmax: Given an output neuron $j \in Y$

$$y_j = \sigma_j(\xi_j) = \frac{e^{\xi_j}}{\sum_{i \in Y} e^{\xi_i}}$$

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The error function used with softmax (assuming that the target values d_{kj} are from $\{0, 1\}$) is typically **cross-entropy**:

$$-\frac{1}{p} \sum_{k=1}^{p} \sum_{j \in Y} d_{kj} \ln(y_j)$$

... which somewhat corresponds to the maximum likelihood principle.

Sigmoidal outputs with cross-entropy – in detail

Consider

- Binary classification, two classes $\{0, 1\}$
- One output neuron j, its activation logistic sigmoid

$$\sigma_j(\xi_j) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\xi_j}}$$

The output of the network is $y = \sigma_j(\xi_j)$.

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The output of the network is $y = \sigma_j(\xi_j)$.

- For a training set

$$\mathcal{T} = \left\{ \left(\vec{x}_k, d_k \right) \quad \middle| \quad k = 1, \ldots, p \right\}$$

(here $\vec{x}_k \in \mathbb{R}^{|X|}$ and $d_k \in \mathbb{R}$), the cross-entropy looks like this:

$$E^{cross} = -\frac{1}{p} \sum_{k=1}^{p} \left[d_k \ln(y_k) + (1 - d_k) \ln(1 - y_k) \right]$$

where y_k is the output of the network for the k-th training input $\vec{x}_k$, and d_k is the k-th desired output.

Generalization

Intuition: Generalization = ability to cope with new unseen instances.

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More formally: It is typically assumed that the training set has been generated as follows:

$$d_{kj} = g_j(\vec{x}_k) + \Theta_{kj}$$

where g_j is the "underlying" function corresponding to the output neuron $j \in Y$ and Θ_{kj} is random noise.

The network should fit g_j not the noise.

Methods improving generalization are called **regularization methods**.

Regularization

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von Neumann: **"With four parameters I can fit an elephant, and with five I can make him wiggle his trunk."**

... and I ask you prof. Neumann:

What can you fit with 40GB of parameters??

Early stopping

Early stopping means that we stop learning before it reaches a minimum of the error E.

When to stop?

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In many applications the error function is not the main thing we want to optimize.

E.g. in the case of a trading system, we typically want to maximize our profit not to minimize (strange) error functions designed to be easily differentiable.

Also, as noted before, minimizing E completely is not good for generalization.

For start: We may employ standard approach of training on one set and stopping on another one.

Early stopping

Divide your dataset into several subsets:

- **training set** (e.g. 60%) – train the network here
- **validation set** (e.g. 20%) – use to stop the training
- (possibly) **test set** (e.g. 20%) – use to compare trained models

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What to use as a stopping rule?

You may observe E (or any other function of interest) on the validation set, if it does not improve for last k steps, stop.

Alternatively, you may observe the gradient, if it is small for some time, stop.

(recent studies shown that this traditional rule is not too good: it may happen that the gradient is larger close to minimum values; on the other hand, E does not have to be evaluated which saves time.

To compare models you may use ML techniques such as various types of cross-validation etc.

Size of the network

Similar problem as in the case of the training duration:

- Too small network is not able to capture intrinsic properties of the training set.
- Large networks overfit faster.

Solution: Optimal number of neurons :-)

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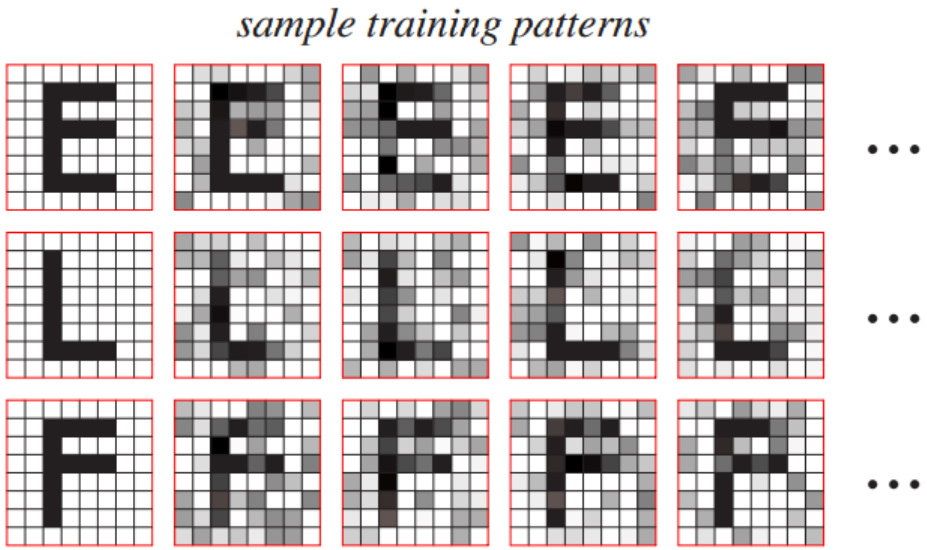
Solution: Optimal number of neurons :-)

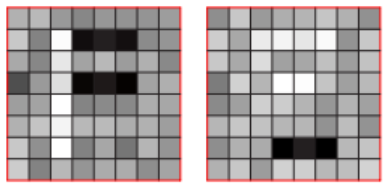
- there are some (useless) theoretical bounds
- there are algorithms dynamically adding/removing neurons (not much use nowadays)
- In practice:
  - start using a rule of thumb: the number of neurons $\approx$ ten times less than the number of training instances.
  - experiment, experiment, experiment.

Feature extraction

Consider a two layer network. Hidden neurons are supposed to represent "patterns" in the inputs.

Example: Network 64-2-3 for letter classification:





Ensemble methods

Techniques for reducing generalization error by combining several models.

The reason that ensemble methods work is that different models will usually not make all the same errors on the test set.

Idea: Train several different models separately, then have all of the models vote on the output for test examples.

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Bagging:

- Generate k training sets $T_1, ..., T_k$ by *sampling from* $\mathcal{T}$ *uniformly with replacement*.

  If the number of samples is $|\mathcal{T}|$, then on average $|T_i| = (1 - 1/e)|\mathcal{T}|$.
- For each i, train a model M_i on T_i.
- Combine outputs of the models: for regression by averaging, for classification by (majority) voting.

Dropout

The algorithm: In every step of the gradient descent

- choose randomly a set N of neurons, each neuron is included in N independently with probability $1/2$,

  (in practice, different probabilities are used as well).

- do forward and backward propagations only using the selected neurons

  (i.e. leave weights of the other neurons unchanged)

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- choose randomly a set N of neurons, each neuron is included in N independently with probability $1/2$,

  (in practice, different probabilities are used as well).

- do forward and backward propagations only using the selected neurons

  (i.e. leave weights of the other neurons unchanged)

Dropout resembles bagging: Large ensemble of neural networks is trained "at once" on parts of the data.

Dropout is not exactly the same as bagging: The models share parameters, with each model inheriting a different subset of parameters from the parent neural network. This parameter sharing makes it possible to represent an exponential number of models with a tractable amount of memory.

In the case of bagging, each model is trained to convergence on its respective training set. This would be infeasible for large networks/training sets.

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Weight decay is equivalent to the gradient descent with a constant learning rate ε and the following error function:

$$E'(\vec{w}) = E(\vec{w}) + \frac{2\zeta}{\varepsilon}(\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w})$$

Here $\frac{2\zeta}{\varepsilon}(\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w})$ is the L2 regularization that penalizes large weights.

More optimization, regularization ...

There are many more practical tips, optimization methods, regularization methods, etc.

For a very nice survey see

`http://www.deeplearningbook.org/`

... and also all other infinitely many urls concerned with deep learning.