



**UiO** : **Department of Informatics**  
University of Oslo

**INF 5860 Machine learning for image classification**

**Lecture : Backpropagation – learning in  
neural nets**

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# Reading material

– Reading material:

- <http://cs231n.github.io/optimization-2/>
- Additional optional material:
- Lecture on backpropagation in Coursera Course on Machine Learning (Andrew Ng)  
CS 231n on youtube: lecture 4
- <http://yann.lecun.com/exdb/publis/pdf/lecun-98b.pdf>
- <http://colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Backprop/>
- <http://neuralnetworksanddeeplearning.com/chap2.html>

# Notation- forward propagation

Assume that the input is layer 0

$a_i^{(j)}$  - activation of unit  $i$  and layer  $j$

$\Theta^{(j)}$  - matrix of weights controlling function mapping from layer  $j-1$  to  $j$

$\Theta^{(j)}$  has dimension (nodes in layer  $(j)$ )  $\times$  (nodes in layer  $(j-1) + 1$ )

$s_{j-1}$  nodes in layer  $j-1$ ,  $s_j$  nodes in layer  $j$ :  $\Theta^{(j)}$  has size  $s_j \times (s_{j-1} + 1)$

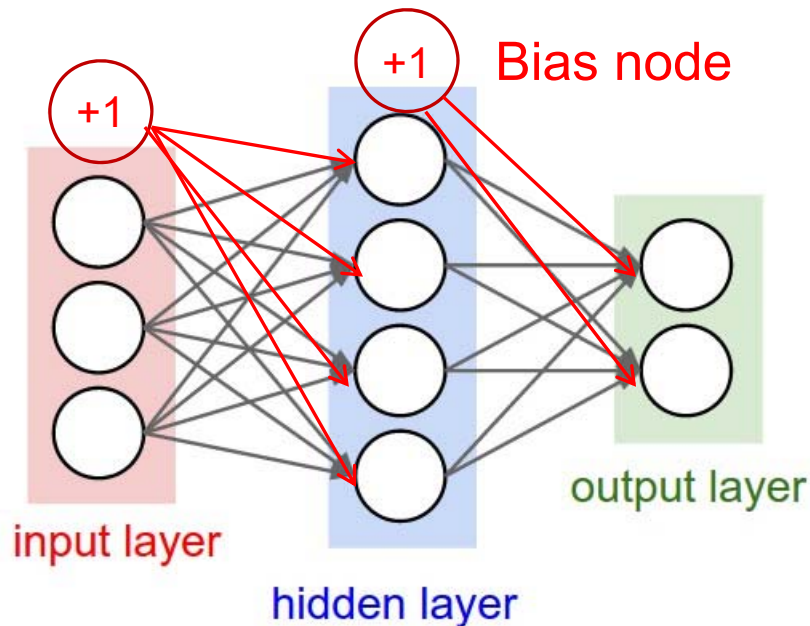
$$a_1^{(1)} = g\left(\Theta_{10}^{(1)}x_0 + \Theta_{11}^{(1)}x_1 + \Theta_{12}^{(1)}x_2 + \Theta_{13}^{(1)}x_3\right)$$

$$a_2^{(1)} = g\left(\Theta_{20}^{(1)}x_0 + \Theta_{21}^{(1)}x_1 + \Theta_{22}^{(1)}x_2 + \Theta_{23}^{(1)}x_3\right)$$

$$a_3^{(1)} = g\left(\Theta_{30}^{(1)}x_0 + \Theta_{31}^{(1)}x_1 + \Theta_{32}^{(1)}x_2 + \Theta_{33}^{(1)}x_3\right)$$

$$h_{\Theta}(x) = a_1^{(2)} = g\left(\Theta_{10}^{(2)}a_0^{(1)} + \Theta_{11}^{(2)}a_1^{(1)} + \Theta_{12}^{(2)}a_2^{(1)} + \Theta_{13}^{(2)}a_3^{(1)}\right)$$

# Example feed-forward computation



- Input  $x$ : 3x1 vector

$\Theta^{(1)}$  :  $4 \times 4$  (nof. hidden nodes in layer 1  $\times$  nof. inputs + 1)

$\Theta^{(2)}$  :  $2 \times 5$  (nof. classes  $\times$  nof. hidden nodes in layer 1 + 1)

If we have  $N$  training samples we can predict

all  $n = 1 \dots N$  at one time :

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_{pixel1}(n=1) & x_{pixel2}(1) & x_{pixel3}(1) \\ 1 & x_{pixel1}(n=2) & x_{pixel2}(2) & x_{pixel3}(2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{pixel1}(n=N) & x_{pixel2}(N) & x_{pixel3}(N) \end{bmatrix}$$

$z1 = \text{Theta1} \cdot \text{dot}(X)$

$a1 = \text{sigmoid}(z1)$

#Append 1 to  $a1$  before computing  $z2$

Continue with layer 2.....

# Cost function for one-vs-all neural networks

For a neural nets with one-vs-all :

Output :  $\mathbf{a}^L = \mathbf{h}_\Theta(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^K$

$$J(\Theta) = -\frac{1}{m} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{k=1}^K y_k(i) \log h_{\theta_k}(X(i,:)) + (1 - y_k(i)) \log(1 - h_{\theta_k}(X(i,:))) \right] + \frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{l=1}^{L-1} \sum_{i=1}^{s_l} \sum_{j=1}^{s_{j+1}} (\Theta_{ji}^{(l)})^2$$

L : number of layers

$s_1$  : Number of units (without bias) in layer 1

$J(\Theta) = \text{LossTerm} + \lambda * \text{RegularizationTerm}$

Remark: two variations are common:

- Regularize all weights including the bias terms (sum from 0)
- Avoid regularizing the bias terms (sum from 1)

In practise, this choice do not matter.

# Cost function for softmax neural networks

For a neural net with softmax loss function :

$$\text{Output : } a^L = h_{\Theta}(x) = \begin{bmatrix} P(y = 1 | x, \Theta) \\ P(y = 2 | x, \Theta) \\ \vdots \\ P(y = K | x, \Theta) \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^K e^{\Theta_k^T x}} \begin{bmatrix} e^{\Theta_1^T x} \\ e^{\Theta_2^T x} \\ \vdots \\ e^{\Theta_K^T x} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$J(\Theta) = -\frac{1}{m} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{k=1}^K 1\{y_i = k\} \log \left( \frac{e^{\Theta_k^T x_i}}{\sum_{k=1}^K e^{\Theta_k^T x_i}} \right) \right] + \frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{l=1}^{L-1} \sum_{i=1}^{s_l} \sum_{j=1}^{s_{j+1}} (\Theta_{ji}^{(l)})^2$$

$L$  : number of layers

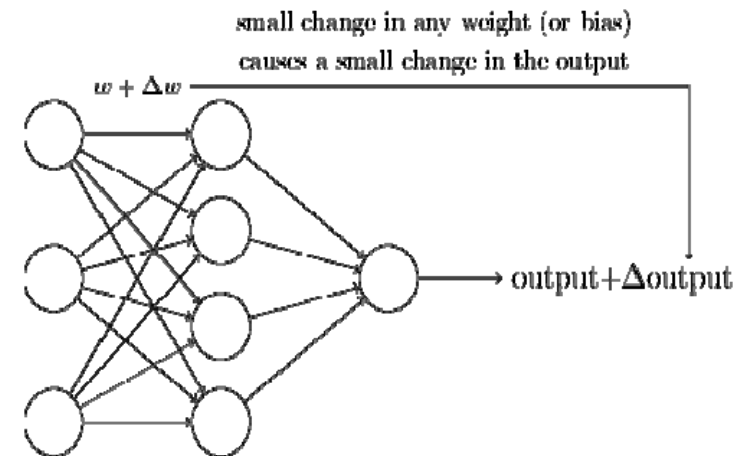
$s_l$  : Number of units (without bias) in layer  $l$

$J(\Theta) = \text{LossTerm} + \lambda * \text{RegularizationTerm}$

Remark: two variations are common,  
See previous slide:

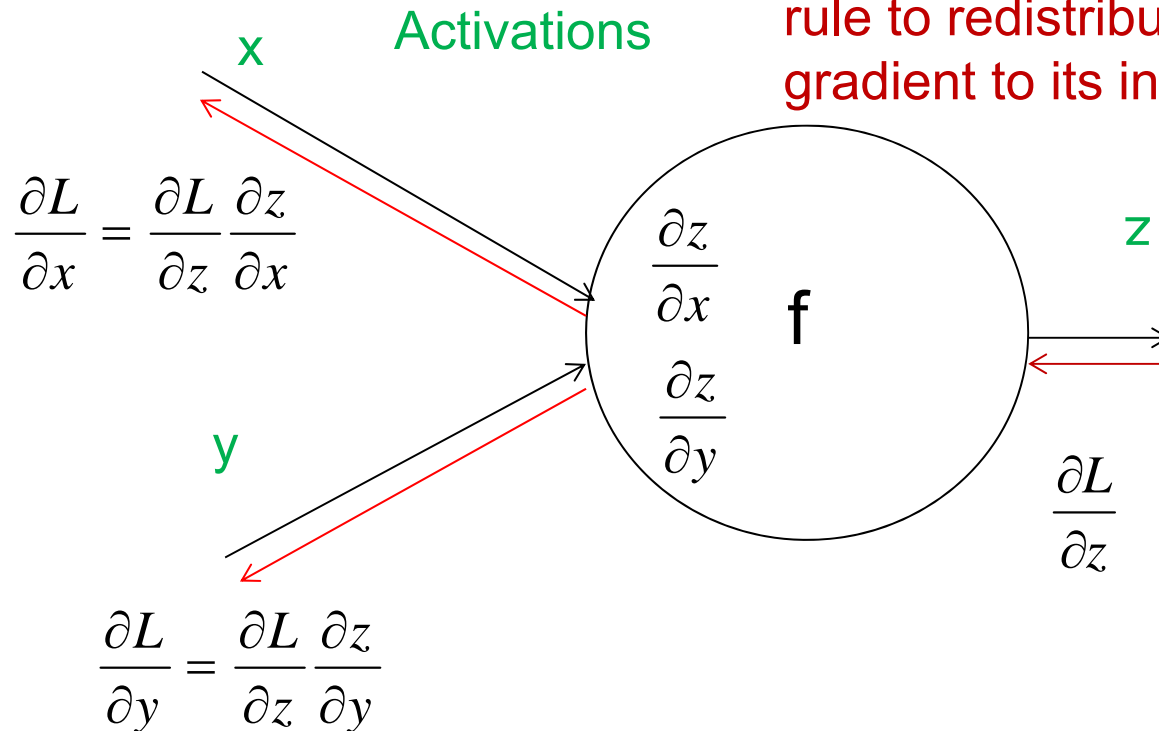
# Introduction to backpropagation and computational graphs

- We now have a network architecture and a cost function.
- A learning algorithm for the net should give us a way to change the weights in such a manner that the output is closer to the correct class labels.
- The activation function should assure that a small change in weights results in a small change in outputs.
- Backpropagation use partial derivatives to compute the derivative of the cost function  $J$  with respect to all the weights.



During backpropagation, the node will learn  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial z}$

The gate uses chain rule to redistribute this gradient to its inputs



Green numbers: forward propagation  
Red numbers: backwards propagation



## A more complicated graph example

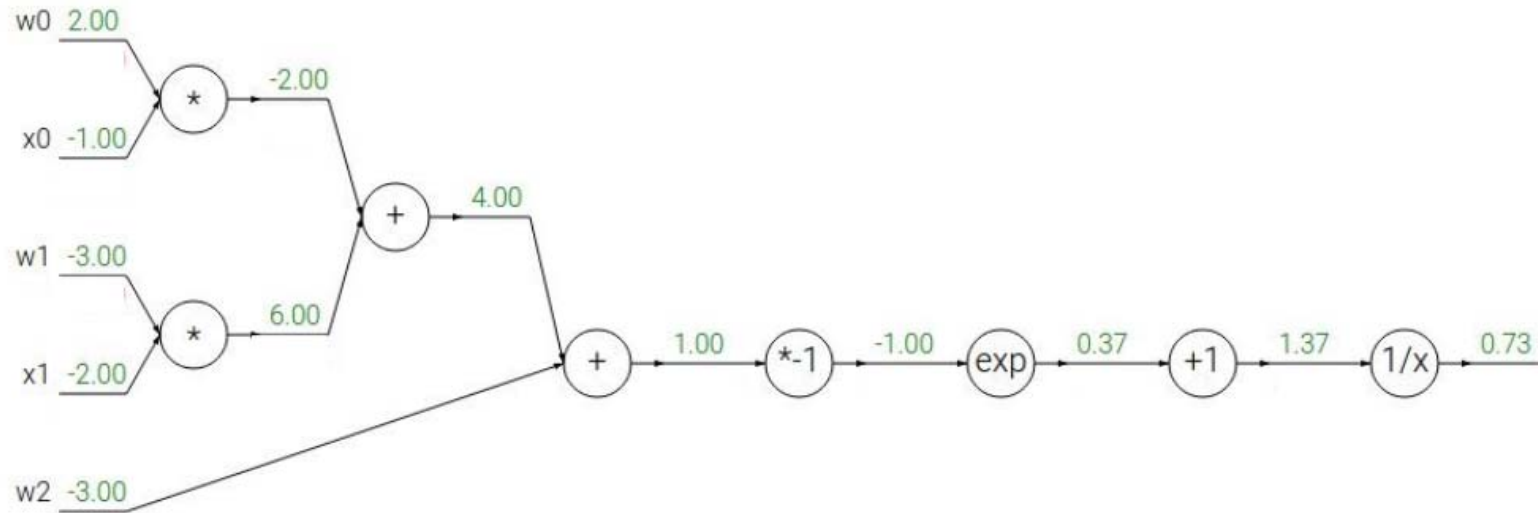
$$f(w, x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x} \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{df}{dx} = -1/x^2$$

$$f_c(x) = c + x \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{df}{dx} = 1$$

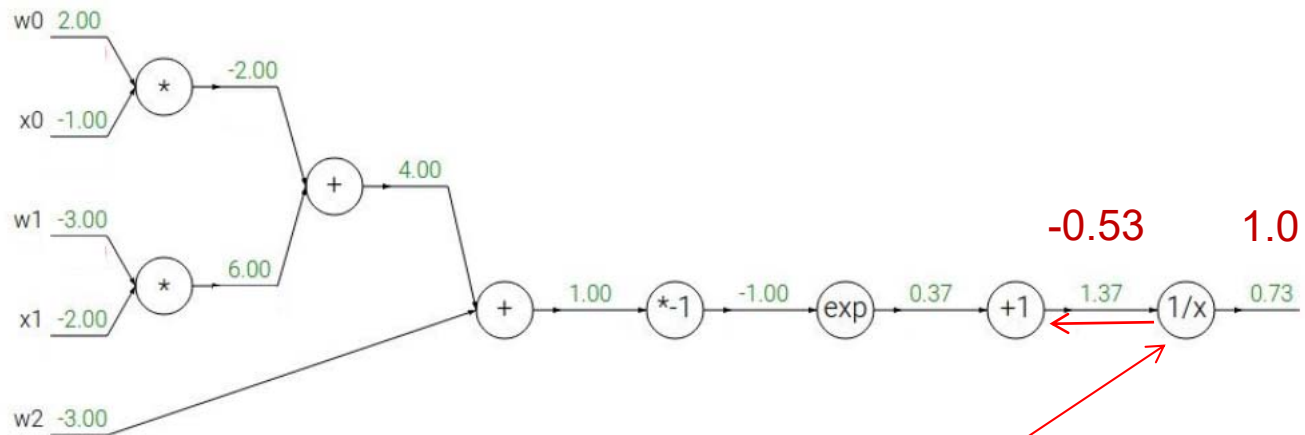
$$f(x) = e^x \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{df}{dx} = e^x$$

$$f_a(x) = ax \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{df}{dx} = a$$



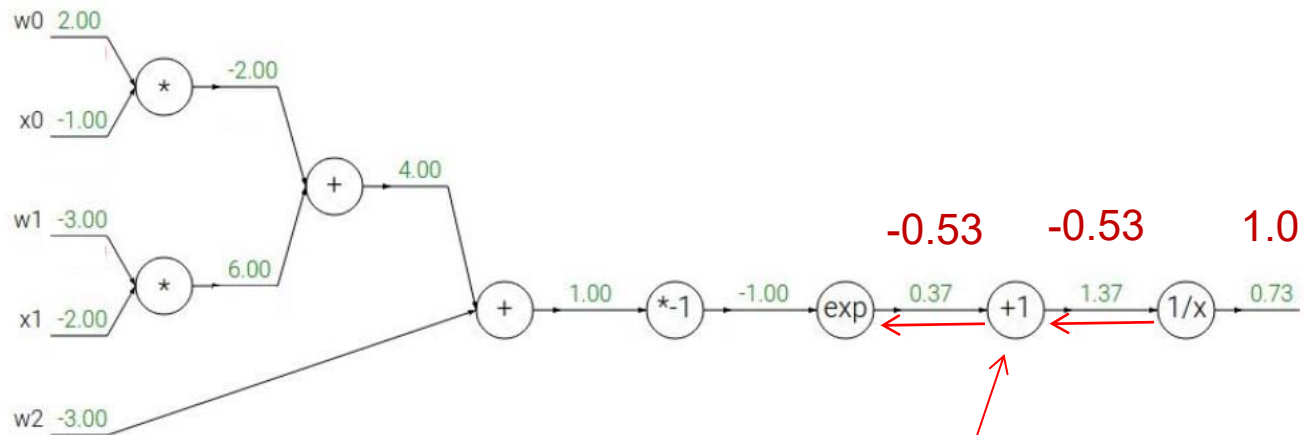
1.0

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) = \frac{1}{x} &\quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{df}{dx} = -1/x^2 \\
 f_c(x) = c + x &\quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{df}{dx} = 1 \\
 f(x) = e^x &\quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{df}{dx} = e^x \\
 f_a(x) = ax &\quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{df}{dx} = a
 \end{aligned}$$

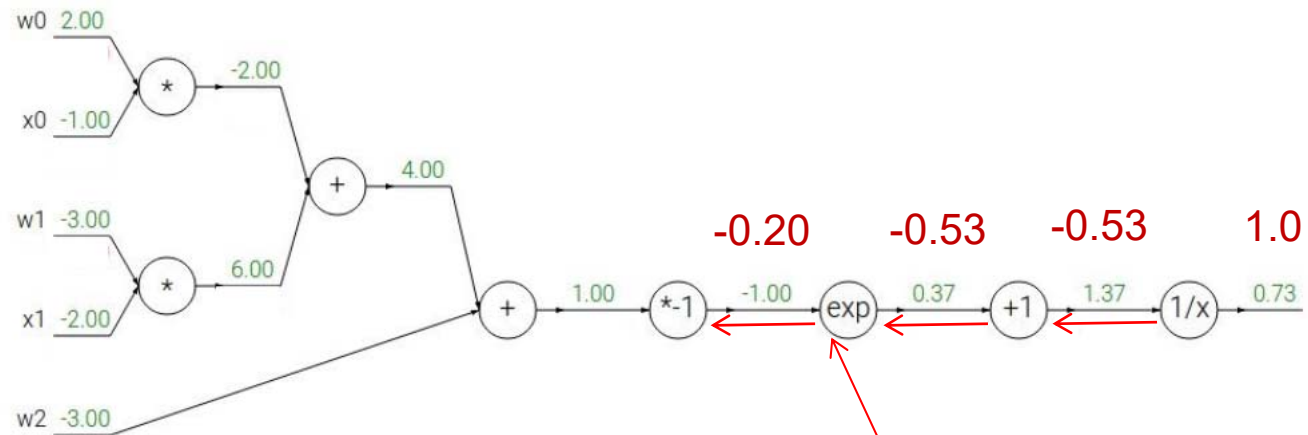


$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 f(x) = \frac{1}{x} & \rightarrow & \frac{df}{dx} = -1/x^2 \\
 f_c(x) = c + x & \rightarrow & \frac{df}{dx} = 1 \\
 f(x) = e^x & \rightarrow & \frac{df}{dx} = e^x \\
 f_a(x) = ax & \rightarrow & \frac{df}{dx} = a
 \end{array}$$

-1/(1.37)<sup>2</sup>\*1.0

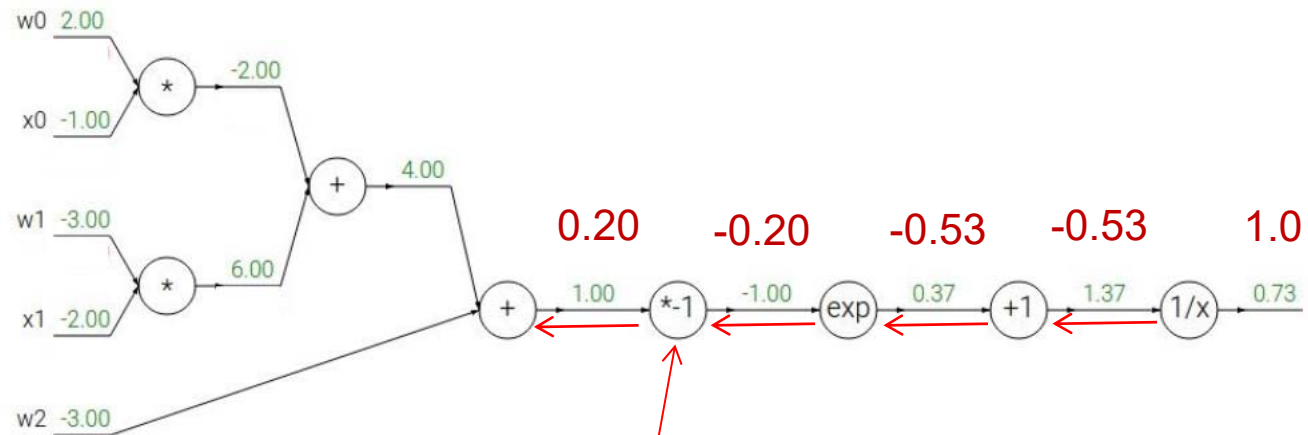


$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = -1/x^2$	
$f_c(x) = c + x$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = 1$	$1 * -0.53 = -0.53$
$f(x) = e^x$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = e^x$	
$f_a(x) = ax$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = a$	



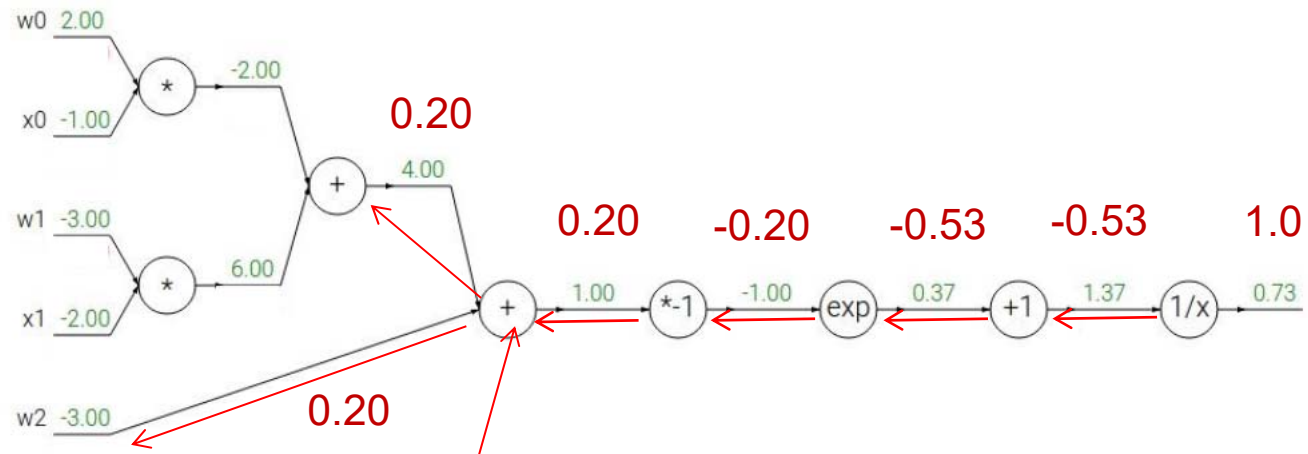
$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = -1/x^2$
$f_c(x) = c + x$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = 1$
$f(x) = e^x$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = e^x$
$f_a(x) = ax$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = a$

$e^{-1} * -0.53 = -0.20$



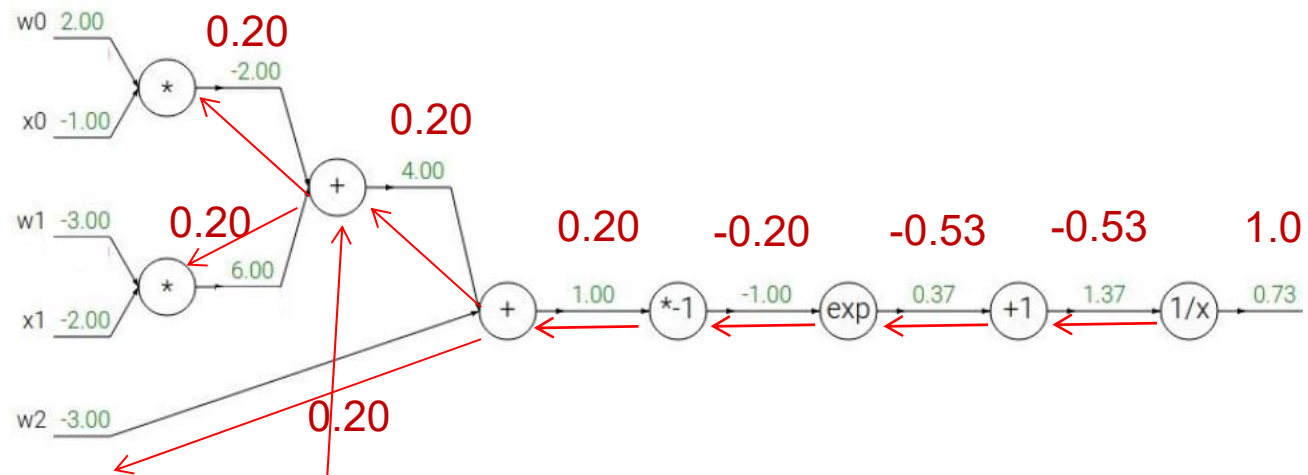
$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$	→	$\frac{df}{dx} = -1/x^2$
$f_c(x) = c + x$	→	$\frac{df}{dx} = 1$
$f(x) = e^x$	→	$\frac{df}{dx} = e^x$
$f_a(x) = ax$	→	$\frac{df}{dx} = a$

$(-1) * -0.20 = 0.20$



(1)\*0.20=0.20  
Distribute to both inputs

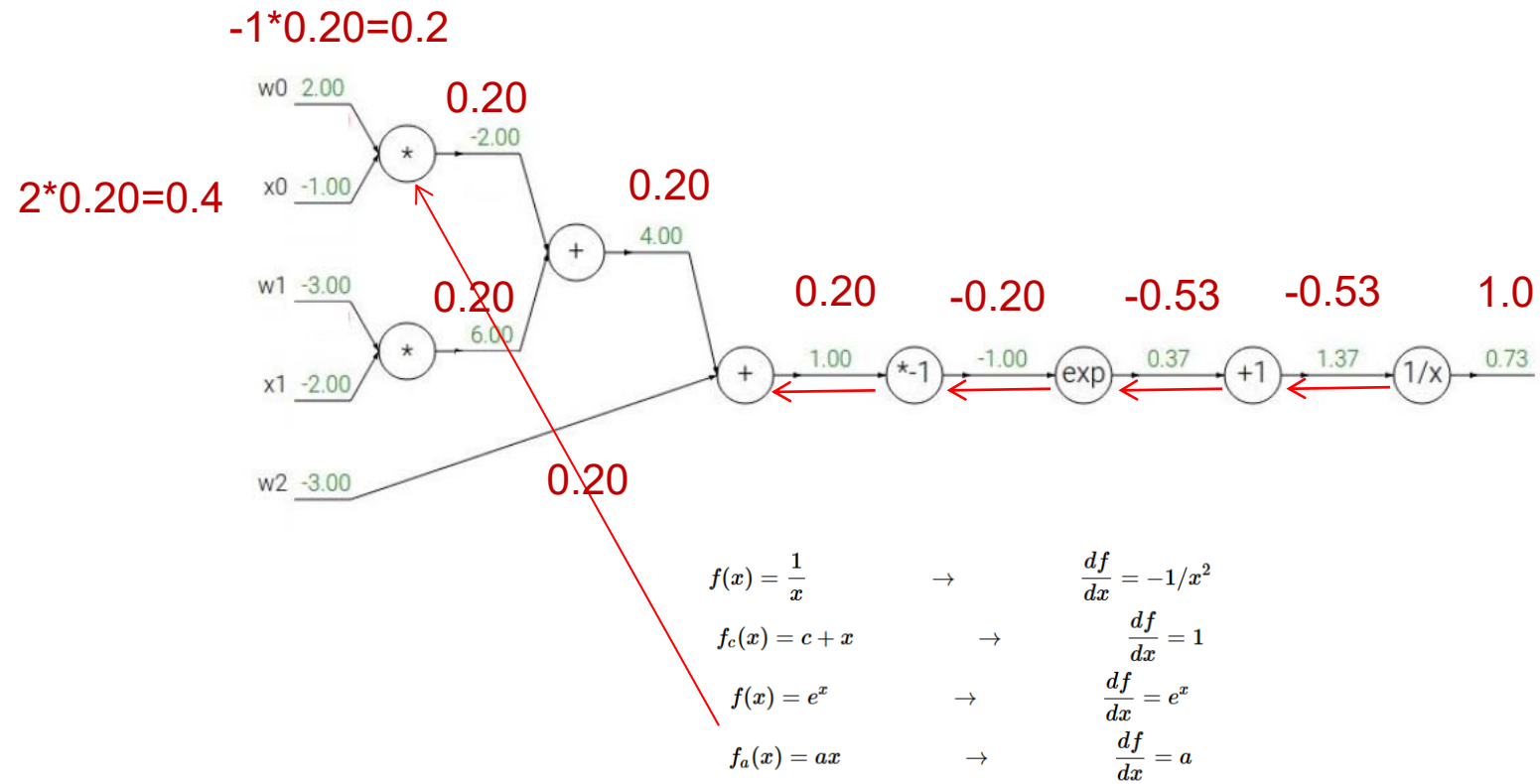
$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = -1/x^2$
$f_c(x) = c + x$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = 1$
$f(x) = e^x$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = e^x$
$f_a(x) = ax$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = a$

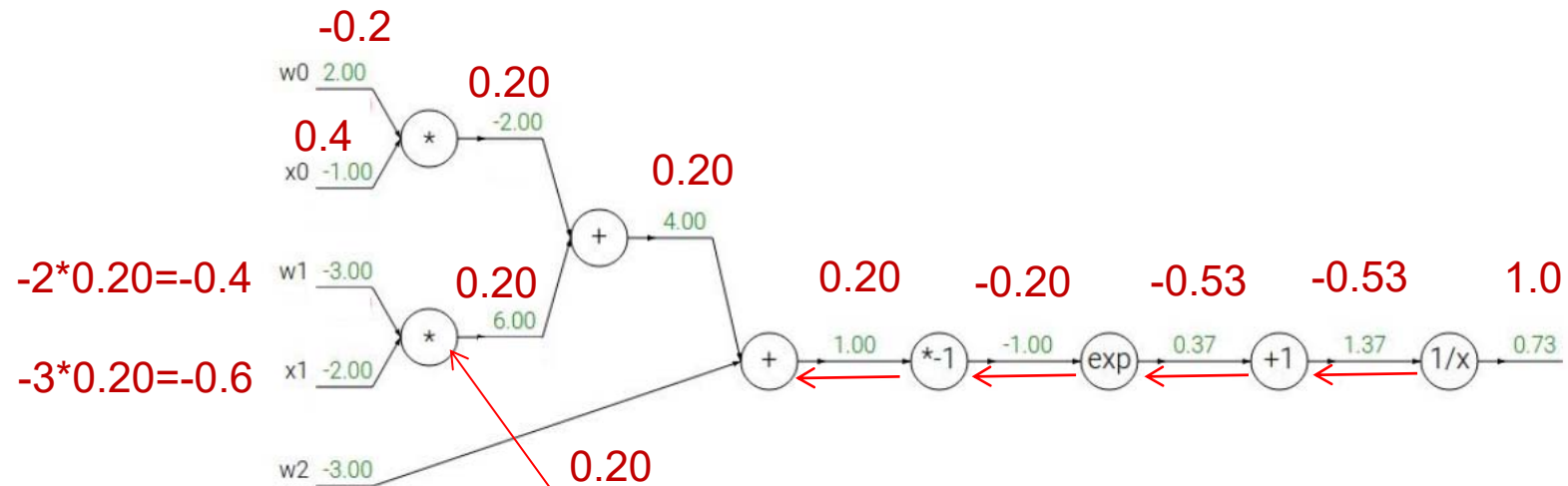


(1)\*0.20=0.20  
Distribute to both inputs

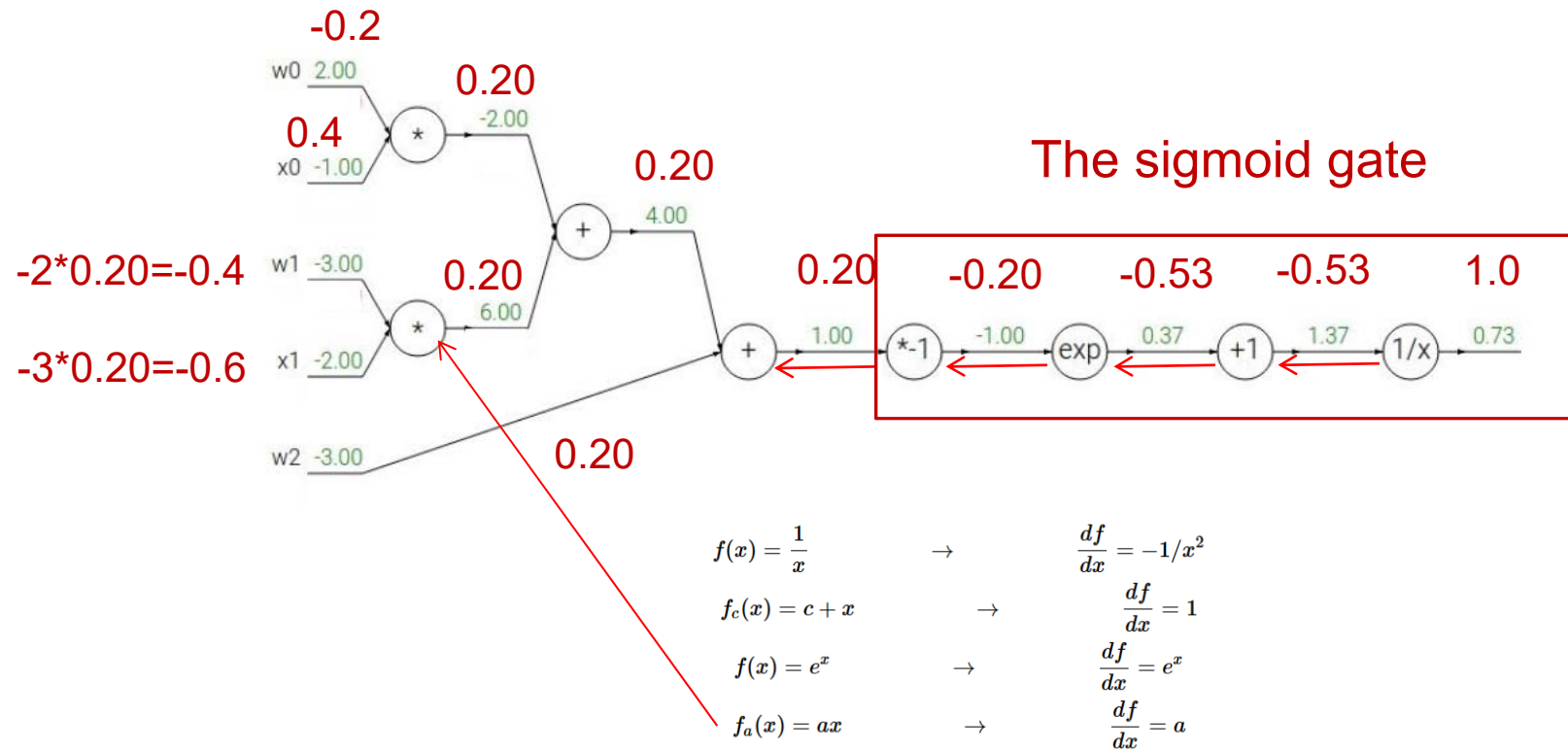
$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = -1/x^2$
$f_c(x) = c + x$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = 1$
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$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = -1/x^2$
$f_c(x) = c + x$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = 1$
$f(x) = e^x$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = e^x$
$f_a(x) = ax$	$\rightarrow$	$\frac{df}{dx} = a$



# The sigmoid gate

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$
$$\frac{d\sigma(x)}{dx} = \frac{e^{-x}}{(1 + e^{-x})^2} = \left( \frac{1 + e^{-x} - 1}{1 + e^{-x}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}} \right) = (1 - \sigma(x)) \sigma(x)$$

Output: 0.73

Derivative of the sigmoid gate:  $(1-0.73)0.73=0.20$

This is the same result as above.

## Forward and backward for a single neuron

```
w = [2,-3,-3] # assume some random weights and data
x = [-1, -2]

# forward pass
dot = w[0]*x[0] + w[1]*x[1] + w[2]
f = 1.0 / (1 + math.exp(-dot)) # sigmoid function

# backward pass through the neuron (backpropagation)
ddot = (1 - f) * f # gradient on dot variable, using the sigmoid gradient derivation
dx = [w[0] * ddot, w[1] * ddot] # backprop into x
dw = [x[0] * ddot, x[1] * ddot, 1.0 * ddot] # backprop into w
# we're done! we have the gradients on the inputs to the circuit
```

Remark: an efficient implementation will store inputs and intermediates during forward, so that they are available for backprop.

## A more tricky example

$$f(x, y) = \frac{x + \sigma(y)}{\sigma(x) + (x + y)^2}$$

- Stage the forward pass into simple operations that we now the derivative of:

```
x = 3 # example values
y = -4

# forward pass
sigy = 1.0 / (1 + math.exp(-y)) # sigmoid in numerator # (1)
num = x + sigy # numerator # (2)
sigx = 1.0 / (1 + math.exp(-x)) # sigmoid in denominator # (3)
xpy = x + y # (4)
xpysqr = xpy**2 # (5)
den = sigx + xpysqr # denominator # (6)
invden = 1.0 / den # (7)
f = num * invden # done! # (8)
```

# A more tricky example

$$f(x, y) = \frac{x + \sigma(y)}{\sigma(x) + (x + y)^2}$$

- In the backwards pass: compute the derivative of all these terms:

```
# backprop f = num * invden
dnum = invden # gradient on numerator # (8)
dinven = num # (8)
# backprop invden = 1.0 / den
dden = (-1.0 / (den**2)) * dinven # (7)
# backprop den = sigx + xpysqr
dsigx = (1) * dden # (6)
d xpysqr = (1) * dden # (6)
# backprop xpysqr = xpy**2
d xpy = (2 * xpy) * d xpysqr # (5)
# backprop xpy = x + y
dx = (1) * d xpy # (4)
dy = (1) * d xpy # (4)
# backprop sigx = 1.0 / (1 + math.exp(-x))
dx += ((1 - sigx) * sigx) * dsigx # Notice += !! See notes below # (3)
# backprop num = x + sigy
dx += (1) * dnum # (2)
dsigy = (1) * dnum # (2)
# backprop sigy = 1.0 / (1 + math.exp(-y))
dy += ((1 - sigy) * sigy) * dsigy # (1)
```

# Patterns in backward flow

add gate: gradient distributor

max gate: gradient router

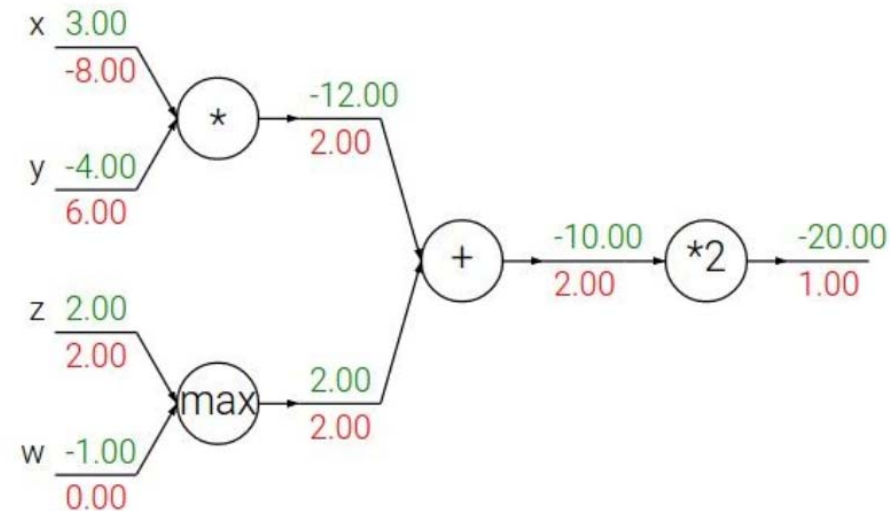
mul gate: **be careful**

$f=x*y$  means that  
 $df/dx=y$  and  $df/dy=x$

Remark on multiplier gate:

If a gate get one large and one small input, backprop will use the big input to cause a large change on the small input, and vice versa.

This is partly why feature scaling is important





# The optimization problem

Given a loss function  $J$  and a feed - forward net with  $L$  layers  
with weights  $\Theta^{(l)}$

We want to minimize  $J$  using gradient descent

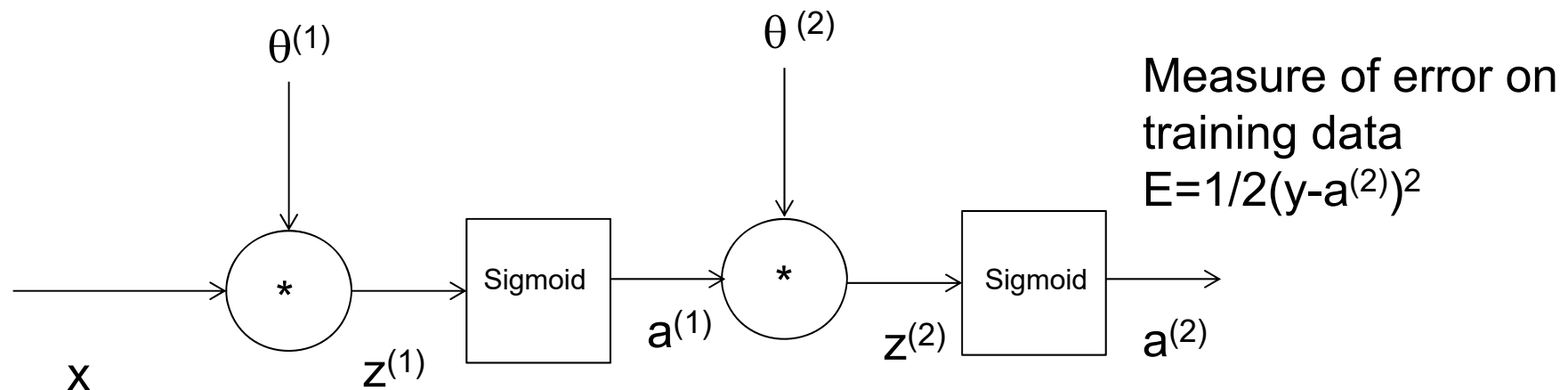
Need the derivatives of  $J$  with respect to every  $\Theta_{m,n}^{(l)}$

Backpropagation: recursive application of the chain rule on a  
computational graph to compute the gradients of all  
input/parameters/intermediates

Implementation:

- Forward: compute the result of the node operation and save the intermediates needed for gradient computation
- Backwards: apply the chain rule to compute the gradients of the loss function with respect to the input of each node.

# A very simple net with one input



Assume that we want to minimize the square error between the output  $a^{(2)}$  and the true class  $y$

$E = 1/2(y - a^{(2)})^2$  (Mean square error in this example)

Compute the partial derivatives with respect to  $\theta^{(1)}$  and  $\theta^{(2)}$ ,  $\frac{\partial E}{\partial \theta^{(1)}_1}$  and  $\frac{\partial E}{\partial \theta^{(2)}}$  and use gradient descent to update  $\theta^{(1)}$  and  $\theta^{(2)}$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial E}{\partial \theta^{(2)}} &= \frac{\partial E}{\partial a^{(2)}} \frac{\partial a_2^{(2)}}{\partial \theta^{(2)}} = (a^{(2)} - y) \frac{\partial a^{(2)}}{\partial z^{(2)}} \frac{\partial z_2^{(2)}}{\partial \theta^{(2)}} \\ &= (a^{(2)} - y) \frac{\partial a_2^{(2)}}{\partial z^{(2)}} a^{(1)}\end{aligned}$$

$a^{(2)}$  applies the sigmoid function  $g(z)$  so  $\frac{\partial a^{(2)}}{\partial z^{(2)}} = g'(z^{(2)}) = g(z^{(2)})(1 - g(z^{(2)}))$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial E}{\partial \theta^{(1)}} &= \frac{\partial E}{\partial a^{(2)}} \frac{\partial a^{(2)}}{\partial \theta^{(1)}} = (a^{(2)} - y) \frac{\partial a^{(2)}}{\partial z^{(2)}} \frac{\partial z^{(2)}}{\partial \theta^{(1)}} \\
 &= (a^{(2)} - y) g(z^{(2)}) (1 - g(z^{(2)})) \frac{\partial z^{(2)}}{\partial a^{(1)}} \frac{\partial a^{(1)}}{\partial \theta^{(1)}} \\
 &= (a^{(2)} - y) g(z^{(2)}) (1 - g(z^{(2)})) \theta^{(2)} \frac{\partial a^{(1)}}{\partial z^{(1)}} \frac{\partial z^{(1)}}{\partial \theta^{(1)}} \\
 &= (a^{(2)} - y) g(z^{(2)}) (1 - g(z^{(2)})) \theta^{(2)} g(z^{(1)}) (1 - g(z^{(1)})) \frac{\partial z^{(1)}}{\partial \theta^{(1)}} \\
 &= (a^{(2)} - y) g(z^{(2)}) (1 - g(z^{(2)})) \theta^{(2)} g(z^{(1)}) (1 - g(z^{(1)})) x \\
 a^{(1)} &\text{ applies the sigmoid function } g(z) \text{ so } \frac{\partial a^{(1)}}{\partial z^{(1)}} = g'(z^{(1)}) = g(z^{(1)}) (1 - g(z^{(1)}))
 \end{aligned}$$

# From scalars to vectors

- In the example  $x$  was a scalar, and  $\frac{\partial E}{\partial \theta}$  was a vector with one element pr. weight.
- When working with vector input, for each layer  $\frac{\partial E}{\partial \Theta^l}$  will be a matrix.
- Deriving the vector/matrix version of backpropagation is more tedious, but follows the same principle.
- A good source is  
<http://neuralnetworksanddeeplearning.com/chap2.html>
- We now present the vector algorithm

# Backpropagation algorithm for a single training sample $(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)$

For now, ignore the regularization (set  $\lambda = 0$ )

For a 3 - layer net :

$$\text{Let } \delta_j^{(3)} = a_j^{(3)} - y_j$$

Let  $\delta^{(3)} = a^{(3)} - y$  be the vector of  $\delta_j^{(3)}$   $j = 1, \dots, s_j$ , where  $s_j$  is the number of nodes in layer  $j$

$$\text{Compute } \delta^{(2)} = \left( \left( \Theta^{(3)} \right)^T \delta^{(3)} \right) \cdot * g'(z^{(2)})$$
$$\delta^{(1)} = \left( \left( \Theta^{(2)} \right)^T \delta^{(2)} \right) \cdot * g'(z^{(1)})$$

Note that this is the elementwise product, or Hadamard-product of two vectors

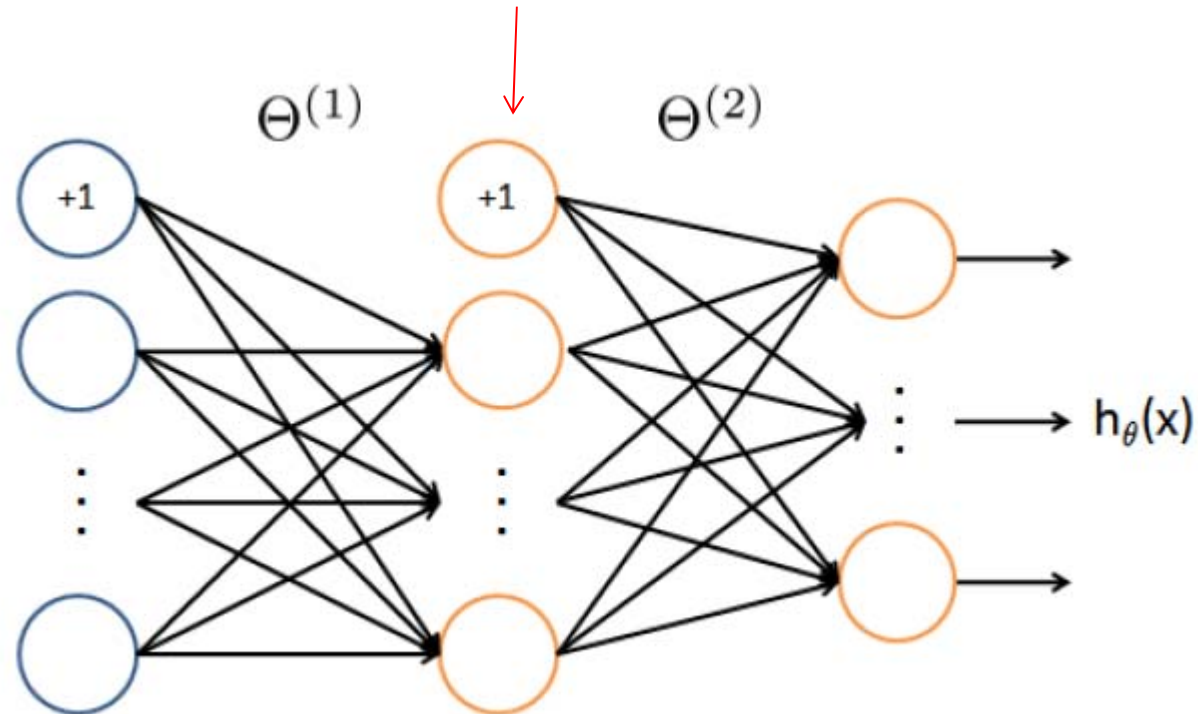
$$\text{With this notation, } \frac{\partial J}{\partial \Theta_{ij}^{(l)}} = a_j^{(l)} \delta_i^{l+1}$$

# Derivative of loss function

- In backpropagation, we need the derivative of the loss functions with respect to the activation of the output layer  $a_i^L$ .
- If we ignore the regularization term, the derivative of the logistic loss function for sample  $i$  can be shown to be  $(a_i^L - y_i)$ 
  - See <http://stats.stackexchange.com/questions/219241/gradient-for-logistic-loss-function>
- For softmax, ignoring the regularization term, the derivative of the softmax loss is also  $(a_i^L - y_i)$ 
  - See <http://math.stackexchange.com/questions/945871/derivative-of-softmax-loss-function>

NOTE:  $a_i^L$  is computed differently

Notice that the bias nodes do not receive input from previous layer.  
Thus, they should NOT be used in backpropagation



$$\delta^{(1)} = \left( \left( \Theta^{(2)} \right)^T \delta^{(2)} \right) \cdot *g'(z^{(1)}) \quad \delta_k^{(2)} = a_k^{(2)} - y_{ind(k)}$$



## Including the regularization term

$$J(\Theta) = -\frac{1}{m} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{k=1}^K y_k(i) \log h_{\theta_k}(X(i,:)) + (1 - y_k(i)) \log(1 - h_{\theta_k}(X(i,:))) \right] + \frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{l=1}^{L-1} \sum_{i=1}^{s_l} \sum_{j=1}^{s_{j+1}} (\Theta_{ji}^{(l)})^2$$

$$J(\Theta) = \text{LossTerm} + \lambda * \text{RegularizationTerm}$$

Backpropagation update including the regularization :

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \Theta_{ij}^{(l)}} = D_{ij}^{(l)} = \frac{1}{m} \Delta_{ij}^{(l)} \quad \text{for } j = 0, \text{ here the convention is that we do not regularize the bias terms}$$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \Theta_{ij}^{(l)}} = D_{ij}^{(l)} = \frac{1}{m} \Delta_{ij}^{(l)} + \frac{\lambda}{m} \Theta_{ij}^{(l)} \quad \text{for } j \geq 1$$

Note that i is indexed from 1, and j from 0 (it gets input from the bias in the previous layer)

**Remark: softmax will have the same regularization term**

# Backpropagation with a loop over training data

Training set  $\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_m, y_m)\}$

Set  $\Delta_{ij}^{(l)} = 0$  for all  $i, j, l$

for  $i = 1 : m$

Set  $a^{(0)} = x_i$

Do forward propagation to compute  $a^{(l)}, l = 1, \dots, L-1$

Compute  $\delta_k^{(L-1)} = a_k^{(L-1)} - \text{yind}(k)_i$ , yind is an indicator function, = 1 if  $y_i = k$  and 0 otherwise

Compute  $\delta^{(L-2)}, \dots, \delta^{(1)}$  as  $\delta^{(l)} = \left( \Theta^{(l+1)} \right)^T \delta^{(l+1)} \cdot g'(z^{(l)})$

Set  $\Delta_{ij}^{(l)} = \Delta_{ij}^{(l)} + a_j^{(l)} \delta_i^{(l+1)}$

$$D_{ij}^{(l)} = \frac{1}{m} \Delta_{ij}^{(l)} + \lambda \Theta_{ij}^{(l)}, \text{ if } j \neq 0$$

$$D_{ij}^{(l)} = \frac{1}{m} \Delta_{ij}^{(l)}, \quad \text{if } j = 0$$

$$\text{Here, } \frac{\partial J}{\partial \Theta_{ij}^{(l)}} = D_{ij}^{(l)}$$

# Checking dimensions

$$\delta^{(2)} = \left( (\Theta^{(2)})^T \delta^{(3)} \right) .* g'(z^{(2)})$$

- Note that in backpropagation, we use  $\Theta^T$
- When implementing this `shape()` is your best friend 😊
- Think of a net with one hidden layer (layer 1) with 25 nodes + bias, and output layer with 10 nodes (10 classes)
- $\Theta^{(2)}$  has dimension 10x26 including bias, and  $(\Theta^{(2)})^T$  is 26x10
- $\delta^{(2)}$  has dimension 10x1
- REMARK: we can either ignore the bias terms in backpropagation, or compute  $\delta_0^{(1)}$  also (resulting in a 26x1 vector), but later ignore the  $\delta_0^{(1)}$  values
  - When doing backpropagation from layer 2 to layer 1, ignore the bias in (index 0 of layer 2) and backpropagate  $(\Theta^{(2)})^T(1:25,0:9)$
- $\delta^{(1)}$  then has dimension  $[(25 \times 10) \times (10 \times 1)] .* (25 \times 1) = 25 \times 1$

# Assumptions behind backpropagation

1. The loss function should be expressed as a sum or average over all training samples.
  - This is true for all the functions we have studied so far
  - We will be able to compute  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial \Theta_{ij}^l}$  for a single training example, and then average over all samples.

Output :  $h_{\Theta}(x) \in \mathbb{R}^K$

$$J(\Theta) = -\frac{1}{m} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{k=1}^K y_k(i) \log h_{\Theta_k}(X(i,:)) + (1 - y_k(i)) \log(1 - h_{\Theta_k}(X(i,:))) \right] + \frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{l=1}^{L-1} \sum_{i=1}^{s_l} \sum_{j=1}^{s_{j+1}} (\Theta_{ji}^{(l)})^2$$

L : number of layers

$s_l$  : Number of units (without bias) in layer l

# Assumptions behind backpropagation

2. The loss function must be expressed as a function of the outputs of the net.
  - This allows us to change the weights and measure how similar  $y_i$  and the output  $h_{\Theta}(x)$  is.

Output :  $h_{\Theta}(x) \in \mathbb{R}^K$

$$L(\Theta) = -\frac{1}{m} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{k=1}^K y_k(i) \log h_{\theta_k}(X(i,:)) + (1 - y_k(i)) \log(1 - h_{\theta_k}(X(i,:))) \right] + \frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{l=1}^{L-1} \sum_{i=1}^{s_l} \sum_{j=1}^{s_{j+1}} (\Theta_{ji}^{(l)})^2$$

L : number of layers

$s_l$  : Number of units (without bias) in layer l

# Gradient checking

- When implementing backpropagation, we use gradient checking to verify the implementation.
- When the code works, we turn off gradient checking.
- But what is it?

# Gradient checking: numerical estimation of the gradient

- The gradient of a function is defined as:

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} J(\theta) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{J(\theta + \varepsilon) - J(\theta - \varepsilon)}{2\varepsilon}$$

- When we have the cost function implemented, we can easily approximate the gradient  $\theta$  as

$$\frac{J(\theta + \varepsilon) - J(\theta - \varepsilon)}{2\varepsilon}$$

# Procedure for gradient checking

- ‘Unroll’  $\Theta_1, \Theta_2, \dots$  into a 1-d vector  $\theta = [\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n]$
- Approximate

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta_1} = \frac{J(\theta_1 + \varepsilon, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n) - J(\theta_1 - \varepsilon, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n)}{2\varepsilon}$$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta_2} = \frac{J(\theta_1, \theta_2 + \varepsilon, \dots, \theta_n) - J(\theta_1, \theta_2 - \varepsilon, \dots, \theta_n)}{2\varepsilon}$$

⋮

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta_n} = \frac{J(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n + \varepsilon) - J(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n - \varepsilon)}{2\varepsilon}$$

- Check that the difference between this partial derivative and the one from backpropagation is smaller than a threshold.



## Regarding gradient checking:

- Computing the approximated gradient is computationally much slower than backpropagation:
  - Use gradient checking for a small example when debugging the backpropagation code.
  - Once it works, turn off gradient checking and proceed with training the entire data set.

# Random initialization of weights

- All weights must be initialized to small, but different random numbers.
  - More on why next week.

# Training a neural network

- Choose an architecture:
  - Number of inputs: dimension of feature vector or image
  - Number of outputs: number of classes
  - 1-2 hidden layers.
    - For simplicity: use the same number of nodes in each hidden layer
  - More on practical details in the next two lectures.

# Training a network

1. Randomly initialize each weight to small numbers
2. Implement forward propagation to get the output
3. Implement code to compute the cost function  $J(\theta)$
4. Implement backprop to compute the partial derivatives  
for  $i=1:m$ 
  - Perform forward propagation and backpropagation for  
sample  $x_i, y_i$
5. Use gradient checking to compute numerical estimates and  
backpropagation gradients. Afterward, disable gradient  
checking.
6. Use gradient descent (or optimization methods) with  
backpropagation to minimize  $J$ .

## Weekly exercise:

- A detailed programming exercise, with descriptions on the operations, will be available.
- Implementing backpropagation is central to Mandatory exercise 1
  - No solution in python will be given, but test data with known results.

## Next weeks:

- Training in practice, useful tricks.
- Babysitting the training process
- Parameter updates
- Activation functions
- Weight initialization
- Preprocessing
- Evaluation

Main reading material: <http://cs231n.github.io/neural-networks-3/>