

# Neural Networks: Learning Parameters

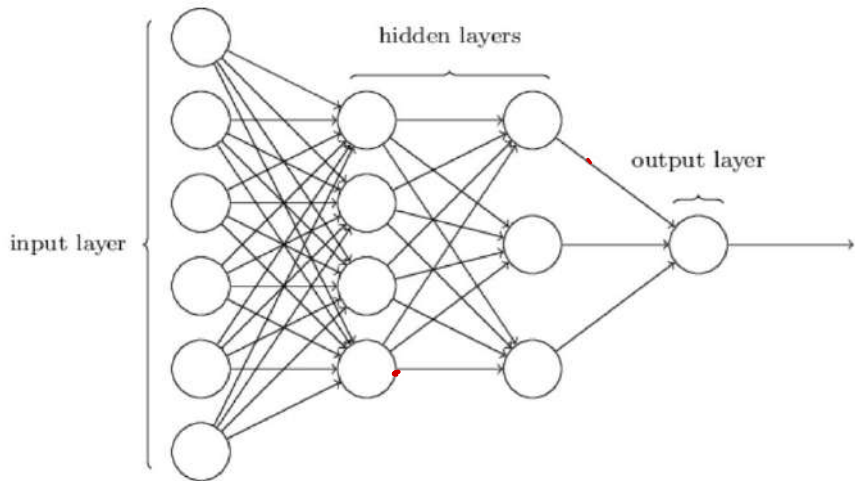
Madhavan Mukund

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Data Mining and Machine Learning  
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# Neural networks

- Acyclic network of perceptrons with non-linear activation functions

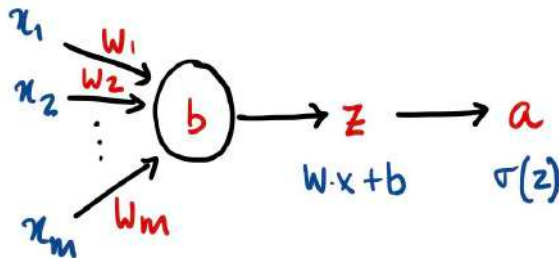


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- Without loss of generality,
  - Assume the network is layered
    - All paths from input to output have the same length
  - Each layer is fully connected to the previous one
    - Set weight to 0 if connection is not needed

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  - Assume the network is layered
    - All paths from input to output have the same length
  - Each layer is fully connected to the previous one
    - Set weight to 0 if connection is not needed
- Structure of an individual neuron
  - Input weights  $w_1, \dots, w_m$ , bias  $b$ , output  $z$ , activation value  $a$



# Notation

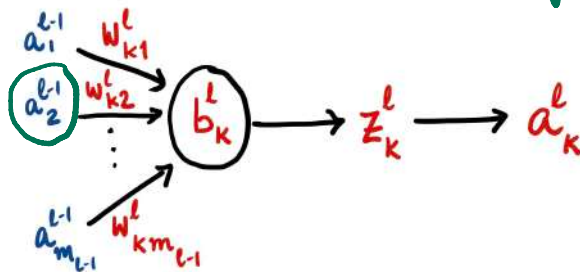
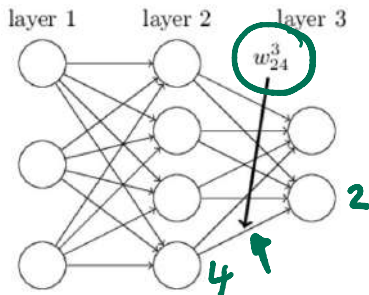
- Layers  $\ell \in \{1, 2, \dots, L\}$ 
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- Node  $k$  in layer  $\ell$  has bias  $b_k^\ell$ , output  $z_k^\ell$  and activation value  $a_k^\ell$
- Weight on edge from node  $j$  in level  $\ell-1$  to node  $k$  in level  $\ell$  is  $w_{kj}^\ell$

$\ell$   
 $k$

$w_{kj}^\ell$



- Why the inversion of indices in the subscript  $w_{kj}^\ell$ ?

- $z_k^\ell = w_{k1}^\ell a_1^{\ell-1} + w_{k2}^\ell a_2^{\ell-1} + \dots + w_{km_{\ell-1}}^\ell a_{m_{\ell-1}}^{\ell-1}$
- Let  $\overline{w}_k^\ell = (w_{k1}^\ell, w_{k2}^\ell, \dots, w_{km_{\ell-1}}^\ell)$   
and  $\overline{a}^{\ell-1} = (a_1^{\ell-1}, a_2^{\ell-1}, \dots, a_{m_{\ell-1}}^{\ell-1})$
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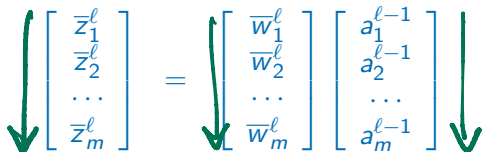
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- Assume all layers have same number of nodes

- Let  $m = \max_{\ell \in \{1, 2, \dots, L\}} m_\ell$
- For any layer  $i$ , for  $k > m_i$ , we set all of  $w_{kj}^\ell, b_k^\ell, z_k^\ell, a_k^\ell$  to 0

- Matrix formulation



The diagram illustrates the matrix formulation of the layer equation. It shows a vertical vector of  $\overline{z}_1^\ell, \overline{z}_2^\ell, \dots, \overline{z}_m^\ell$  on the left, followed by an equals sign, then a vertical vector of  $\overline{w}_1^\ell, \overline{w}_2^\ell, \dots, \overline{w}_m^\ell$  multiplied by a vertical vector of  $a_1^{\ell-1}, a_2^{\ell-1}, \dots, a_m^{\ell-1}$ . Green arrows point downwards from the first and third vectors, and a green arrow points downwards from the second vector.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \overline{z}_1^\ell \\ \overline{z}_2^\ell \\ \dots \\ \overline{z}_m^\ell \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \overline{w}_1^\ell \\ \overline{w}_2^\ell \\ \dots \\ \overline{w}_m^\ell \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_1^{\ell-1} \\ a_2^{\ell-1} \\ \dots \\ a_m^{\ell-1} \end{bmatrix}$$



# Learning the parameters

- Need to find optimum values for all weights  $w_{kj}^\ell$ ,  $b_k^\ell$
- Use gradient descent
  - Cost function  $C$ , partial derivatives  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{kj}^\ell}$ ,  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial b_k^\ell}$

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  - 1 For input  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $C(\mathbf{x})$  is a function of only the output layer activation,  $a^L$ 
    - For instance, for training input  $(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)$ , sum-squared error is  $(y_i - a_i^L)^2$
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    - Note that  $\mathbf{x}_i$ ,  $y_i$  are fixed values, only  $a_i^L$  is a variable
  - 2 Total cost is average of individual input costs
    - Each input  $\mathbf{x}_i$  incurs cost  $C(\mathbf{x}_i)$ , total cost is  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n C(\mathbf{x}_i)$
    - For instance, mean sum-squared error  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - a_i^L)^2$

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- With these assumptions:

- We can write  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{kj}^\ell}$ ,  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial b_k^\ell}$  in terms of individual  $\frac{\partial a_i^L}{\partial w_{kj}^\ell}$ ,  $\frac{\partial a_i^L}{\partial b_k^\ell}$
- Can extrapolate change in individual cost  $C(\mathbf{x})$  to change in overall cost  $C$  — stochastic gradient descent

$$\mathbf{X} = [x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n] \quad \mu = \text{mean}(\mathbf{x})$$

\   /   /

$$\mathbf{Y} = [x_1, x_3, x_7] \rightarrow \mu_Y \sim \mu$$

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- Complex dependency of  $C$  on  $w_{kj}^\ell$ ,  $b_k^\ell$

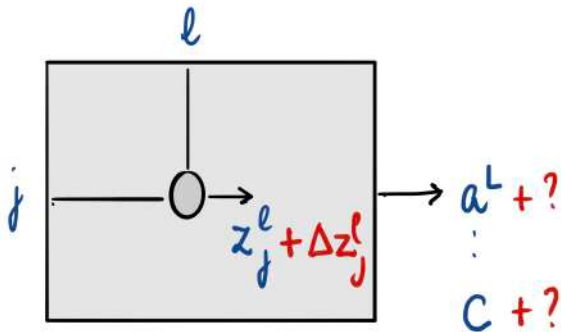
- Many intermediate layers
- Many paths through these layers

- Use chain rule to decompose into local dependencies

- $y = g(f(x)) \Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial g}{\partial f} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$

# Calculating dependencies

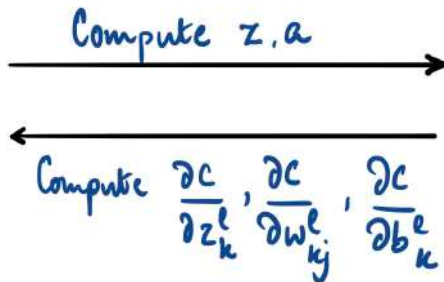
- If we perturb the output  $z_j^\ell$  at node  $j$  in layer  $\ell$ , what is the impact on final output, overall cost?



- Focus on  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^\ell}$  — from these, we can compute  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{kj}^\ell}$ ,  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial b_k^\ell}$

# Computing partial derivatives

- Use chain rule to run **backpropagation algorithm**
  - Given an input, execute the network from left to right to compute all outputs
  - Using the chain rule, work backwards from right to left to compute all values of  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^l}$





# Applying the chain rule

Let  $\delta_j^\ell$  denote  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^\ell}$

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Induction :  $\ell = L, L-1, \dots, 1$

Base Case

$$\ell = L, \delta_j^L$$

■ Chain rule:  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^L} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_j^L} \frac{\partial a_j^L}{\partial z_j^L}$

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MSE

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- $a_j^L = \sigma(z_j^L)$ , so  $\frac{\partial a_j^L}{\partial z_j^L} = \sigma'(z_j^L)$

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- $a_j^L = \sigma(z_j^L)$ , so  $\frac{\partial a_j^L}{\partial z_j^L} = \sigma'(z_j^L)$  ✓
  - $\sigma(u) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-u}}$ ,  $\sigma'(u) = \frac{\partial \sigma(u)}{\partial u} = \sigma(u)(1 - \sigma(u))$  Work this out!

# Applying the chain rule

## Induction step

From  $\delta_j^{\ell+1}$  to  $\delta_j^\ell$

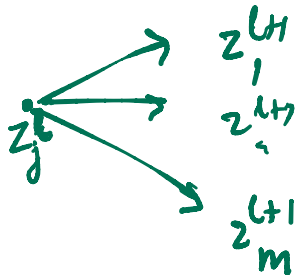
$$\delta_k^{\ell-1} \leftarrow \delta_j^\ell$$

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$$\blacksquare \delta_j^\ell = \frac{\partial \mathcal{C}}{\partial z_j^\ell} = \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{\partial \mathcal{C}}{\partial z_k^{\ell+1}} \frac{\partial z_k^{\ell+1}}{\partial z_j^\ell}$$



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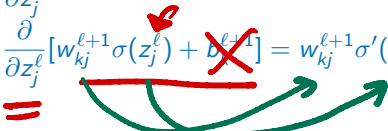
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  - For  $i \neq j$ ,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial z_j^\ell} [w_{ki}^{\ell+1} \sigma(z_i^\ell) + b_k^{\ell+1}] = 0$

$\uparrow$   
 $z_j^\ell$   
 $e$

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  - For  $i = j$ ,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial z_j^\ell} [w_{kj}^{\ell+1} \sigma(z_j^\ell) + b_k^{\ell+1}] = w_{kj}^{\ell+1} \sigma'(z_j^\ell)$ 

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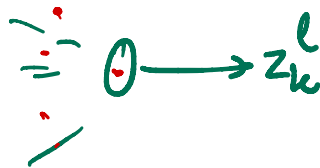
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■ So  $\frac{\partial z_k^{\ell+1}}{\partial z_j^\ell} = w_{kj}^{\ell+1} \sigma'(z_j^\ell)$

$\forall \ell, j \quad \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^\ell}$

# Finishing touches

What we actually need to compute are  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{kj}^\ell}$ ,  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial b_k^\ell}$



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# Finishing touches

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$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial b_k^l} = \delta_k^l \cdot 1$$

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- $\frac{\partial z_k^l}{\partial b_k^l} = 1$  — terms with  $i \neq j$  vanish

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{kj}^l} = \delta_k^l \cdot a_j^{l-1}$$

# Backpropagation

- In the forward pass, compute all  $z_k^\ell, a_k^\ell$
- In the backward pass, compute all  $\delta_k^\ell$ , from which we can get all  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{kj}^\ell}, \frac{\partial C}{\partial b_k^\ell}$
- Increment each parameter by a step  $\Delta$  in the direction opposite the gradient

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Typically, partition the training data into groups (**mini batches**)

- Update parameters after each mini batch — stochastic gradient descent
- **Epoch** — one pass through the entire training data



accuracy

Train for fixed no. of epochs & check

A hand-drawn black line graph on a white background. The line starts at a low point on the left and slopes upward to the right. At a certain point, the slope decreases significantly, forming a 'knee' shape. A red circle is drawn around this point. The word 'accuracy' is written in black above the line, with an arrow pointing towards the circled point.

# Challenges

- Backpropagation dates from mid-1980's

## Learning representations by back-propagating errors

David E. Rumelhart, Geoffrey E. Hinton and Ronald J. Williams

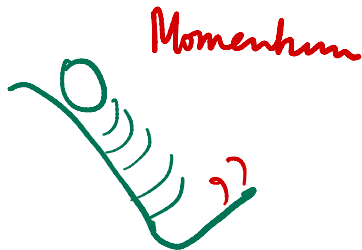
*Nature*, **323**, 533–536 (1986)

- Computationally infeasible till advent of modern parallel hardware, GPUs for vector (tensor) calculations
- **Vanishing gradient problem** — cascading derivatives make gradients in initial layers very small, convergence is slow
  - In rare cases, **exploding gradient** also occurs



# Pragmatics

- Many heuristics to speed up gradient descent
  - Dynamically vary step size
  - Dampen positive-negative oscillations ...
- Libraries implementing neural networks have several **hyperparameters** that can be tuned
  - Network structure: Number of layers, type of activation function
  - Training: Mini-batch size, number of epochs
  - Heuristics: Choice of optimizer for gradient descent



# Loss functions (costs) for neural networks

- So far, we have assumed mean sum-squared error as the loss function.
- Consider single neuron, two inputs  $x = (x_1, x_2)$

$$C = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - a_i)^2, \text{ where } a_i = \sigma(z_i) = \sigma(w_1 x_1^i + w_2 x_2^i + b)$$

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- For gradient descent, we compute  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_1}$ ,  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_2}$ ,  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial b}$



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- So far, we have assumed mean sum-squared error as the loss function.
- Consider single neuron, two inputs  $x = (x_1, x_2)$

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## Loss functions ...

- $\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_j} = \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (a_i - y_i) \sigma'(z_i) x_j^i$ ,  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial b} = \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (a_i - y_i) \sigma'(z_i)$
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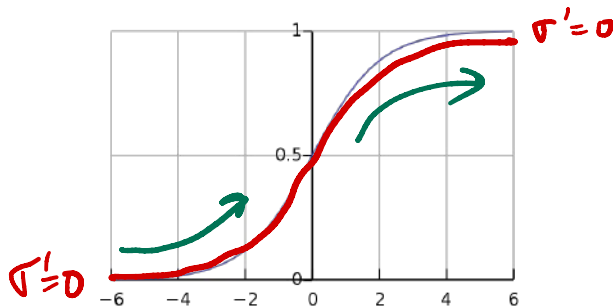
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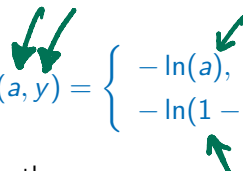
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- $\sigma(z)$  is flat at both extremes
- If  $a$  is completely wrong,  
 $a \approx (1 - y)$ , we still have  $\sigma'(z) \approx 0$
- Learning is slow even when current model is far from optimal



# Cross entropy

- A better loss function

$$C(a, y) = \begin{cases} -\ln(a), & \text{if } \underline{y = 1} \\ -\ln(1 - a), & \text{if } \underline{y = 0} \end{cases}$$


- If  $a \approx y$ ,  $C(a, y) \approx 0$  in both cases
- If  $a \approx 1 - y$ ,  $C(a, y) \rightarrow \infty$  in both cases



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- This is called **cross entropy**

Informant:  $p_i$   
Coding:  $q_i$

$$-\sum p_i \log p_i$$

Min # bits for  
encoding  
values distribute  
by  $p_i$

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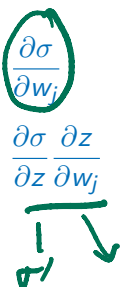
- $\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_j} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial \sigma} \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial w_j}$

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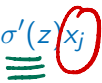
$z = \sum w_i x_i + b$



## Cross entropy and gradient descent ...

- $\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_j} = - \left[ \frac{y(1 - \sigma(z)) - (1 - y)\sigma(z)}{\sigma(z)(1 - \sigma(z))} \right] \sigma'(z)x_j$
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- Similarly,  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial b} = (a - y)$
- Thus, as we wanted, the gradient is proportional to  $a - y$
- The greater the error, the faster the learning rate



# Cross entropy ...

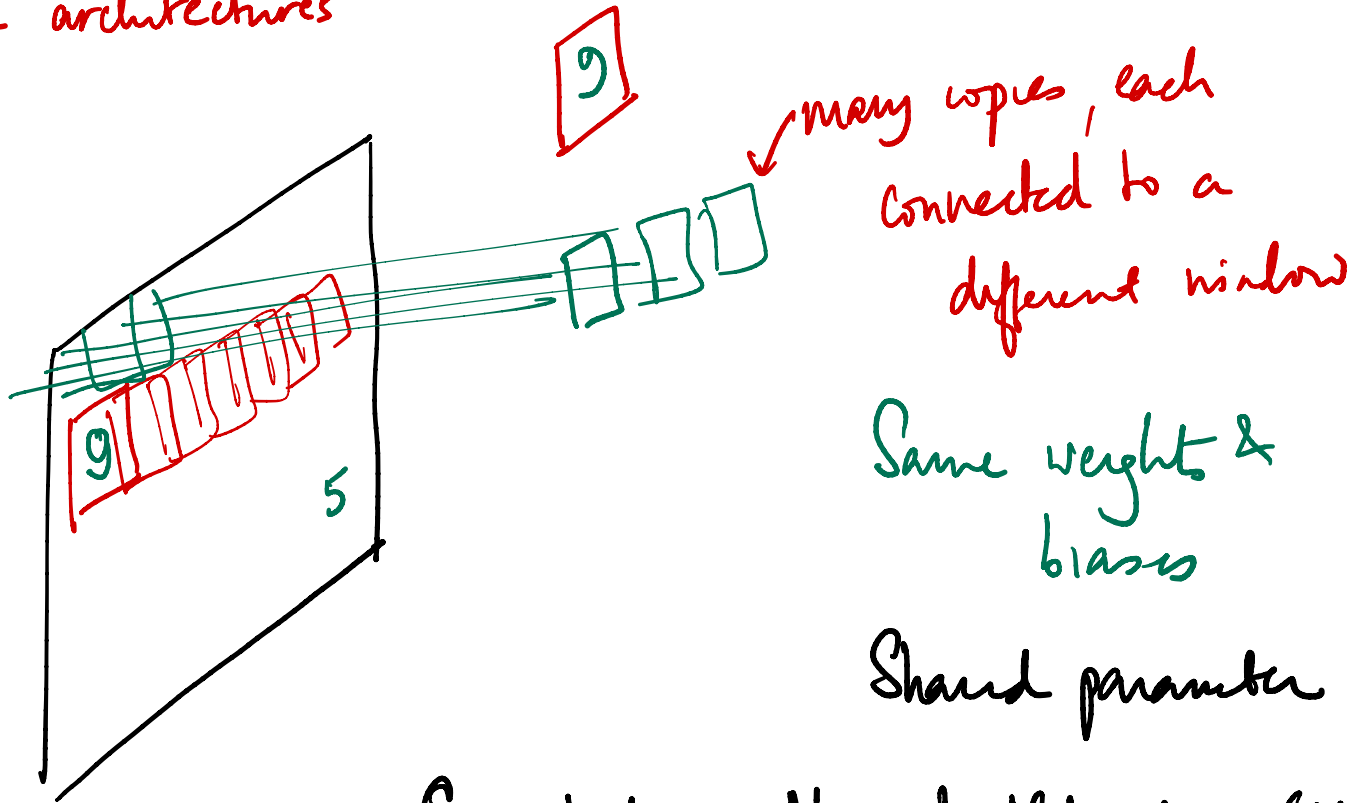
- Overall,

- $\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_j} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (a_i - y_i) x_j^i$

- $\frac{\partial C}{\partial b} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (a_i - y_i)$

- Cross entropy allows the network to learn faster when the model is far from the true one
- Other theoretical justifications to justify using cross entropy
  - Derive from goal of maximizing log-likelihood of model

Specialized architectures



Same weights &  
biases

Shared parameter

Convolution Neural Network - CNN

2012 - AlexNet