

# A brief review of morphological neural networks

Samy Blusseau, CMM

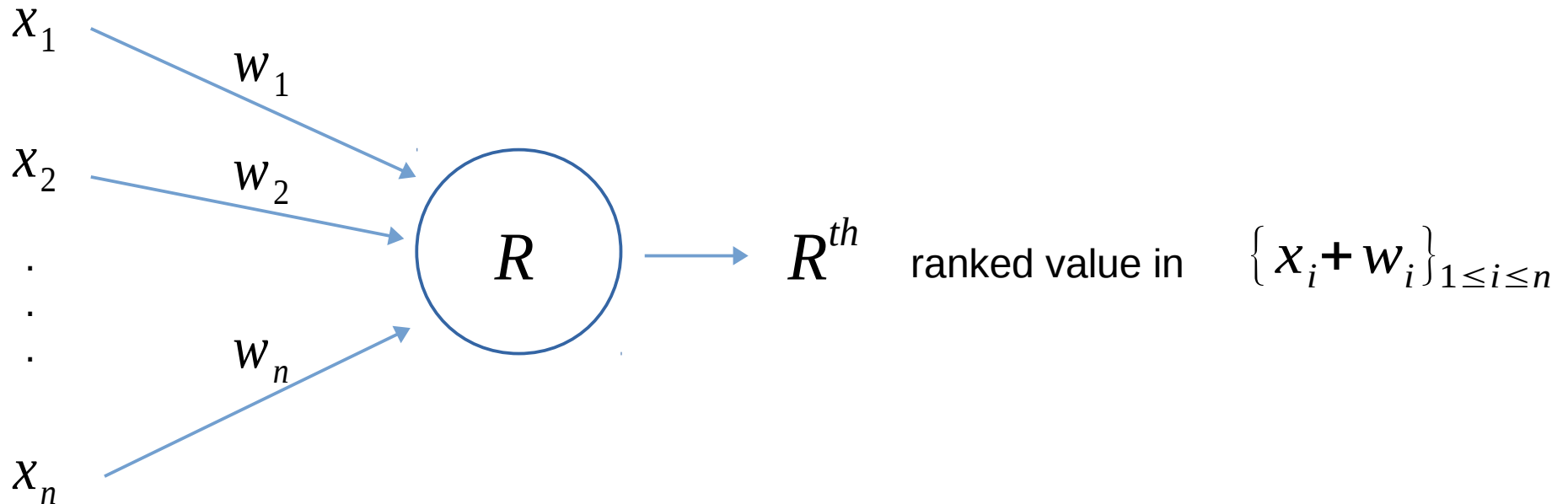
12 décembre 2018

Stephen S. Wilson, *Morphological networks*, 1989

Probably the first paper on the topic

### Weighted rank order filters

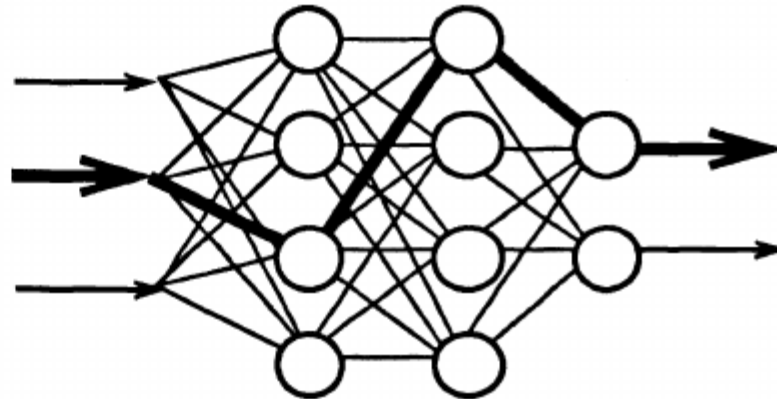
The weighted rank order filter will be defined informally as follows. The reference point of the structuring element is placed at an image pixel. That pixel value is changed by (a) adding the weights of the structuring elements to the corresponding pixels that the structuring element contacts, (b) ordering the resulting sums, and (c) choosing the  $R$ th element in the ordered list as the output. The same notation as election will be used where the symbol  $\Xi$  implies a three dimensional structuring element.



**Learning in single layer weighted rank networks.**

Figure 11.

Example of a rank trace  
in a multi-layer network.



J.L. Davidson & G. X. Ritter,  
*A theory of morphological neural networks*, 1990

Neural networks without learning

**1. Introduction.** The recent resurgence of interest in artificial neural networks has brought a deluge of publications to the field [4,9,15]. Applications of neural networks are appearing in a wider variety of fields each year. Recently, neural networks have been tied to a mathematical structure known as *image algebra* [14]. Image algebra was developed specifically for the concise expression and clear representation of image processing techniques and to provide a mathematical environment for image processing algorithm development, comparison, and optimization [5,12,13]. It has been shown that a subalgebra of the image algebra includes the mathematical formulations of currently popular neural network models [14], and image algebra expressions have been derived that represent some well-known algorithms designed for neural network computations. The neural network algorithms represented by these expressions look like their textbook formulations. These image algebra expressions are extremely simple and translucent, and the number of expressions representing each algorithm is very small. Furthermore, the image algebra has suggested a more general concept of neural computation than those that are currently used. In this paper we present a theory for a neural network that uses morphological operations. Several specific applications are given. In particular, we discuss networks that compute the morphological operations of opening and closing. We also give an example of a net that can perform the morphological operation of a sieve. A sieve is a morphological filter which filters out objects which are larger than a specified size [16].

We remark that an entirely different approach to a morphological network was presented in [17]. However, this particular model uses the usual operation of multiplication and summation at each node, a fundamental difference from the model presented here, which uses the operation of addition and maximum at each node.

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17. S.S. Wilson, "Morphological Networks," in *Proc. of the 1989 SPIE Visual Comm. and Image Proc. IV*, Phila., PA (Nov., 1989).



$$\tau = \mathbf{a} \oplus \mathbf{t}$$

$$\mathbf{b} = f(\tau - \theta)$$

$$\mathbf{a} \oplus \mathbf{t} \equiv \{(y, \mathbf{c}(y)) : \mathbf{c}(y) = \sum_{x \in X} \mathbf{a}(x) \cdot \mathbf{t}_y(x), y \in Y\}$$

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While in classical network models, the initial computation of  $\tau$  (Equation II) is a linear process, the computation of  $\tau$  in the model described by Equations VI and VIII is nonlinear. If the neural network model can be expressed using Equations VI and VII as the underlying equations of computation, we call it a *morphological neural network*. The remainder of this paper presents several specific morphological neural networks that can calculate openings, closings, and the boolean sieving filters as described by Serra [16].

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J.L. Davidson & F. Hummer,  
*Morphology neural networks: An introduction with applications*, 1993

Learning dilations on images

**Example 4. The Boolean Dilation Net with Learning.**

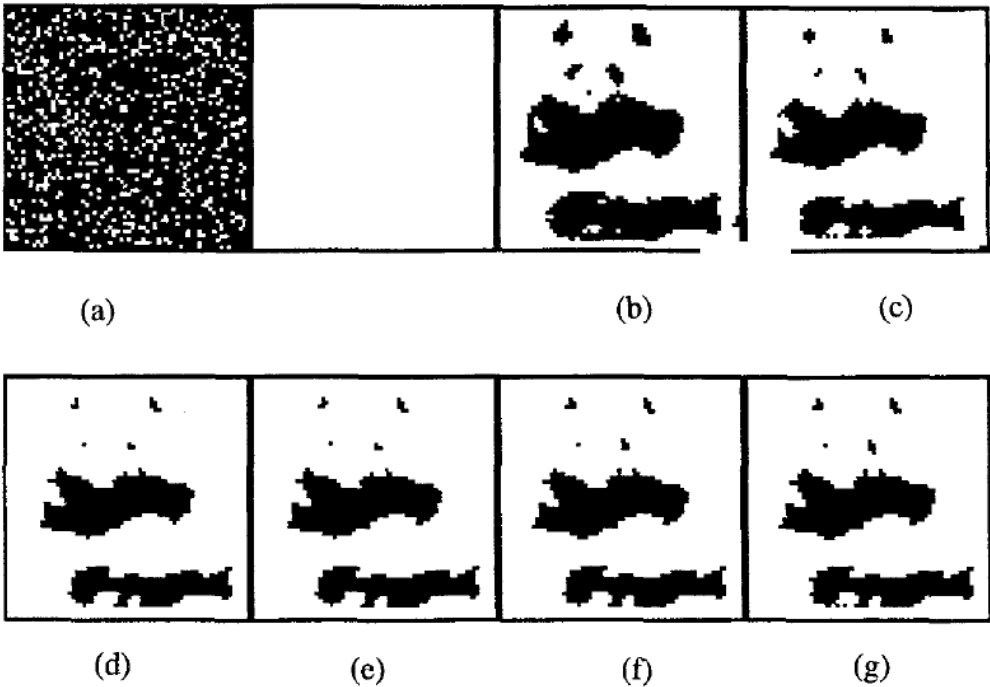
The set of training data for this network consists of  $P$  pairs of images,  $(\mathbf{a}^k, \mathbf{d}^k)$ ,  $k = 0, \dots, P - 1$ , where  $\mathbf{a}^k$  represents the input image and  $\mathbf{d}^k = \mathbf{a}^k \boxplus \mathbf{t}$  is the input image dilated with an ideal (invariant) template  $\mathbf{t}$ , which is the same for all images. In practical cases, the template  $\mathbf{t}$  is assumed to be unknown. The

**Example 6. Grayscale Dilation with Learning for Variant Templates.** This network is a generalization of nets in Examples 4 and 5, and is a more general form of the network in [5]. The additive maximum transform that this net attempts to learn can be any arbitrary grayscale one, including a variant transform. For a given set of  $P$  training data pairs, the learning rule needs about three passes through the data set to guarantee perfect recall of the  $P$  training images.

**Example 4. The Boolean Dilation Net with Learning.**

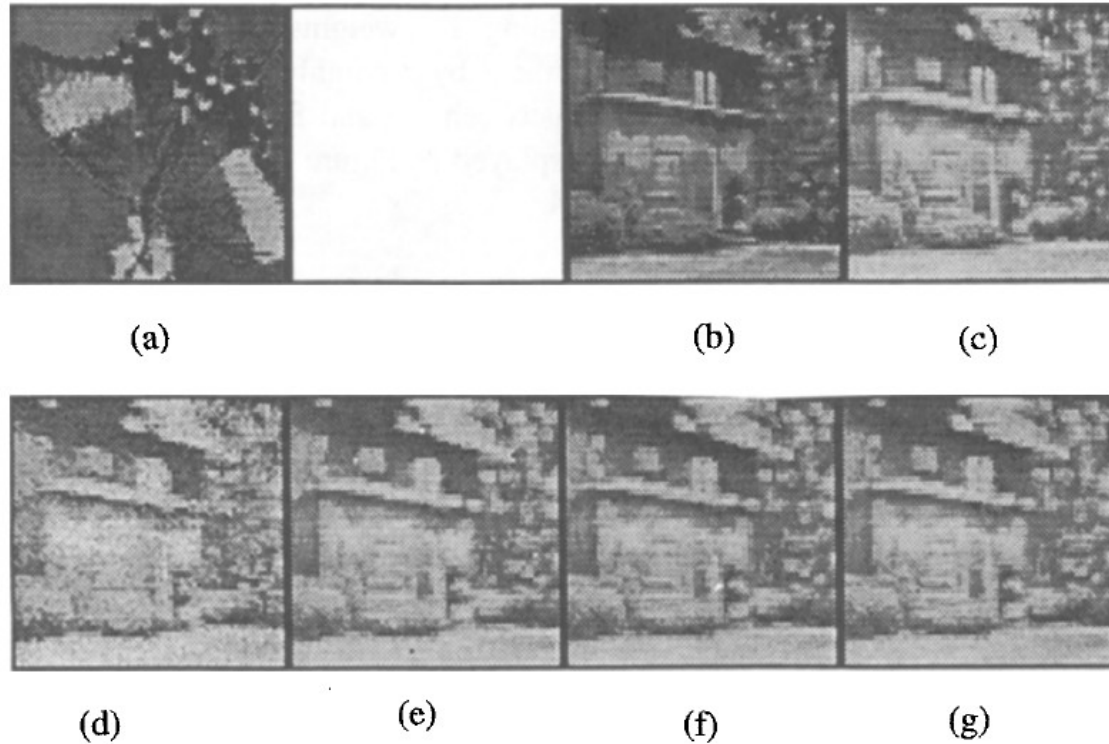
case	$a_i^k$	$d_j^k$	$c_j^k$	new value for $w_{ji}$ is
1	0	0	1	current value
2	0	1	0	current value
3	1 or 0	1	1	current value
4	1 or 0	0	0	current value
5	1	0	1	$-\infty$
6	1	1	0	0

**Figure 5.** Table of change-of-weight rules for boolean dilation network.



**Figure 6.** (a) Sample input training data; (b) sample natural scene (panda); (c) image in (b) dilated with von Neumann template; (d) output of net after  $X = 5$  training images applied, for input of (b); (e) output of net after  $X = 10$ , for input of (b); (f) output of net after  $X = 15$ , for input of (b); (g) output of net after  $X = 20$ , for input of (b).

**Example 6. Grayscale Dilation with Learning for Variant Templates.**



**Figure 12.** (a) One of the 13 training input images. (b) Test image. (c) Dilation of the test image by  $\mathbf{t}$ . (d) Dilation of the test image by  $\mathbf{w}(0)$ . (e) Dilation of the test image by  $\mathbf{w}(13)$ . (f) Dilation of the test image by  $\mathbf{w}(26)$ . (g) Dilation of the test image by  $\mathbf{w}(37) = \mathbf{w}(3P - 2)$ .



G. X. Ritter & P. Sussner,  
*An introduction to morphological neural networks*, 1996

Learning *some* decision surfaces (two classes)

G. X. Ritter & P. Sussner, *An introduction to morphological neural networks*, 1996

- Computing capabilities of Morphological Neural networks (can represent any boolean function)
- Morphological Associative Memories
- Single Layer Morphological Perceptron (SLMP): learning in finite steps but limited class of decision surfaces

$$\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n \quad W = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\pm\infty}^n$$

$$g(\mathbf{p}) = \bigvee_{i=1}^n [p_i + w_i] \quad f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x > 0 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

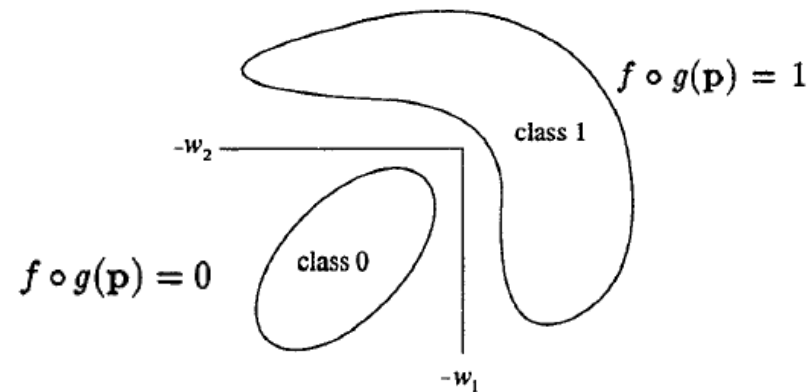


Fig. 3. Decision boundary for a single layer morphological perceptron.

P. Sussner, *Morphological perceptron learning*, 1998

Learning *any* decision surfaces (two classes)

- Generalized Single Layer Morphological Perceptron (SLMP)

$$f\left(\bigvee_{i=1}^n a_i (p_i + w_i)\right)$$

parameters  $a_i \in \{1, -1\}$  are responsible for changing the signs of the sums  $p_i + w_i$ .

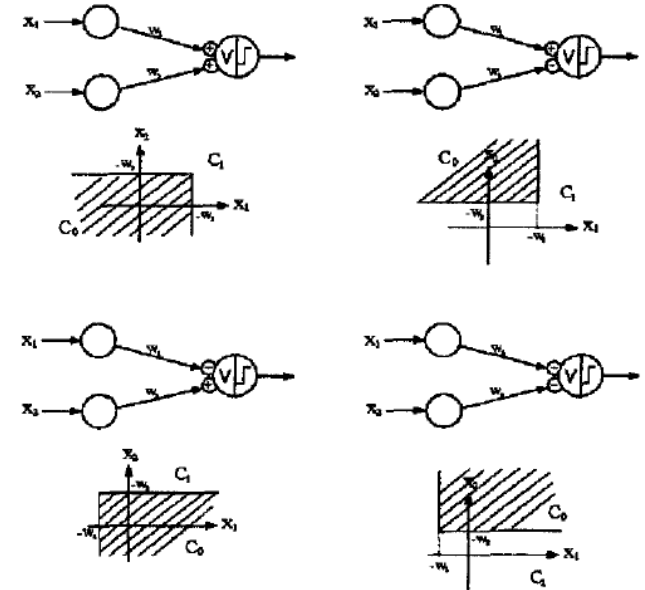


Figure 2:  
Decision boundaries for different types of generalized single layer morphological perceptrons in the two-dimensional case.

- Multilayer Morphological perceptrons (MLMP): learning in finite steps and arbitrary decision surfaces (for 2 classes)

Finally, we present an algorithm for solving arbitrary instances of the 2-class problems by means of a two-layer morphological perceptron. Given a set of  $k$  training patterns in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , this algorithm finds appropriate weights for a two-layer morphological perceptron such that each of the training patterns is correctly classified by the two-layer morphological perceptron. This algorithm also determines how many nodes in the hidden layer are necessary in order to solve the given problem.

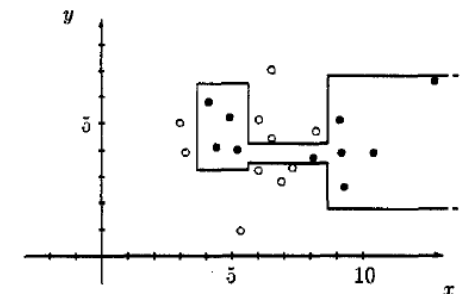


Figure 6:  
Decision surface found by learning algorithm.

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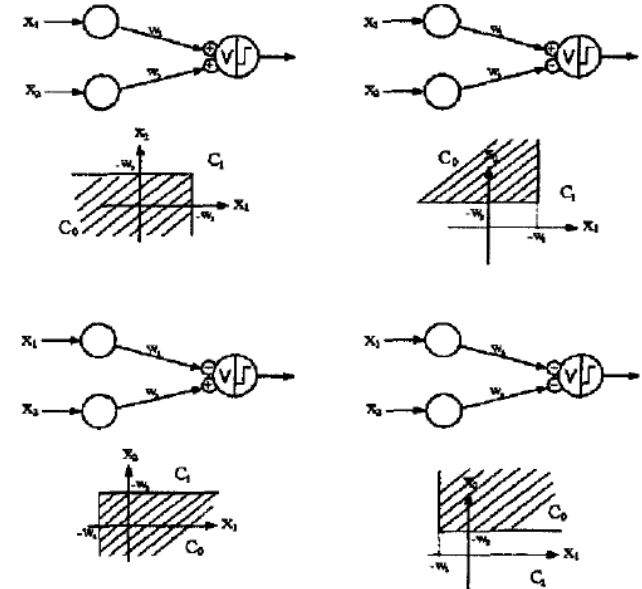


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Decision boundaries for different types of generalized single layer morphological perceptrons in the two-dimensional case.

- Multilayer Morphological perceptrons (MLMP): learning in finite steps and arbitrary decision surfaces (for 2 classes)

Learning in conventional multilayer perceptrons can be achieved by minimizing a certain error function which depends on the weights. Finding the global minimum of this error function is a very difficult task, and is not always possible. Weight training in multilayer morphological perceptrons does not encounter such limitations.

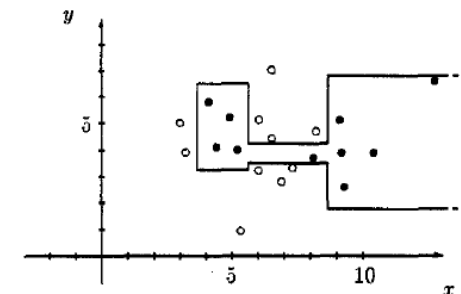
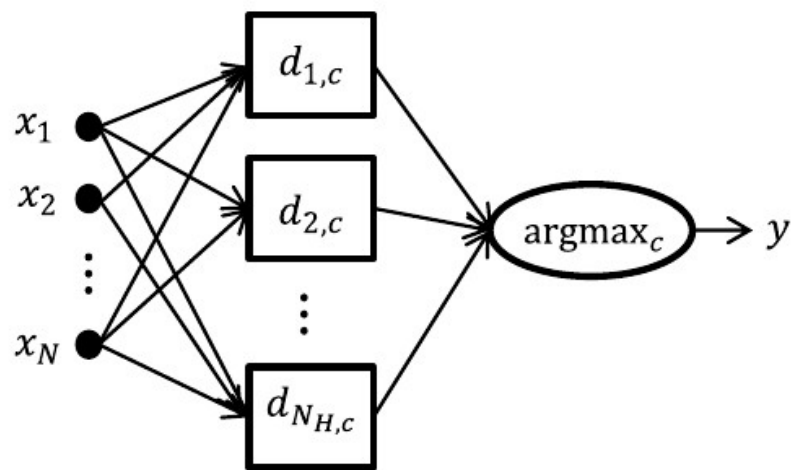


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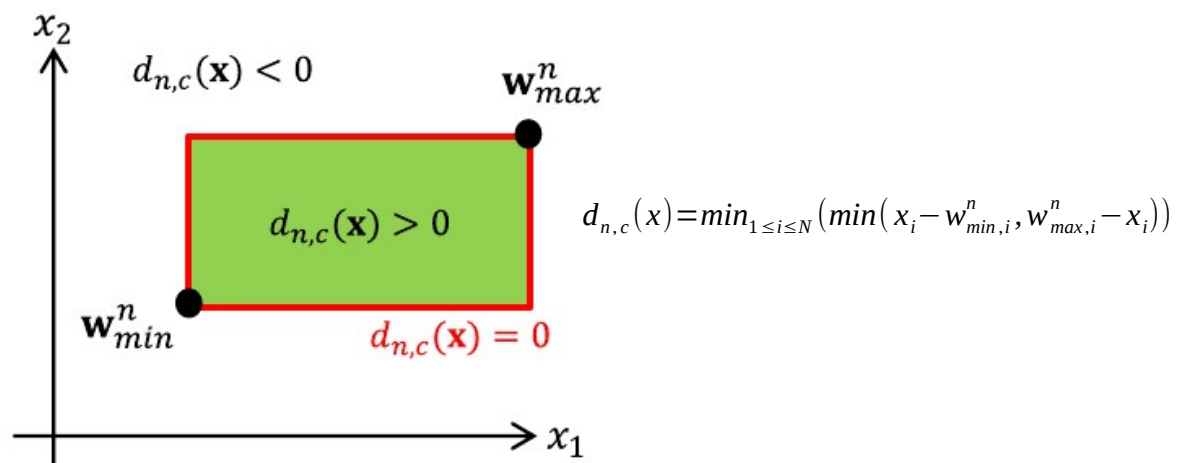
E. Zamora, H. Sossa,

*Dendrite morphological neurons trained by stochastic gradient descent,*  
2017

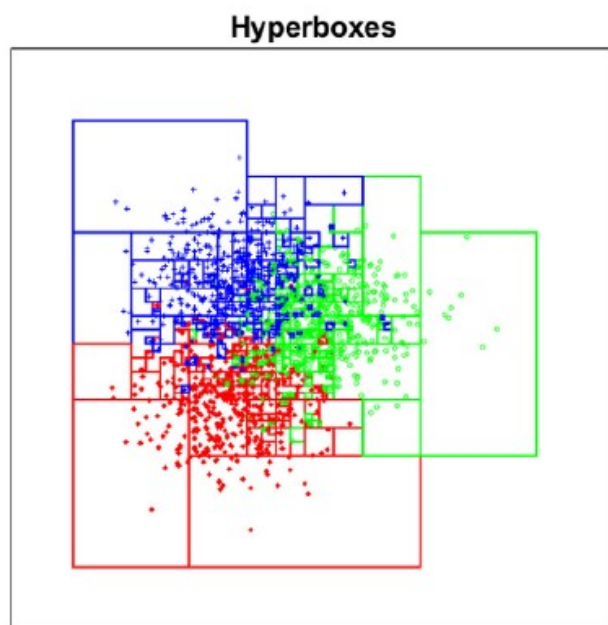
Improving the learning of hyperboxes with SGD



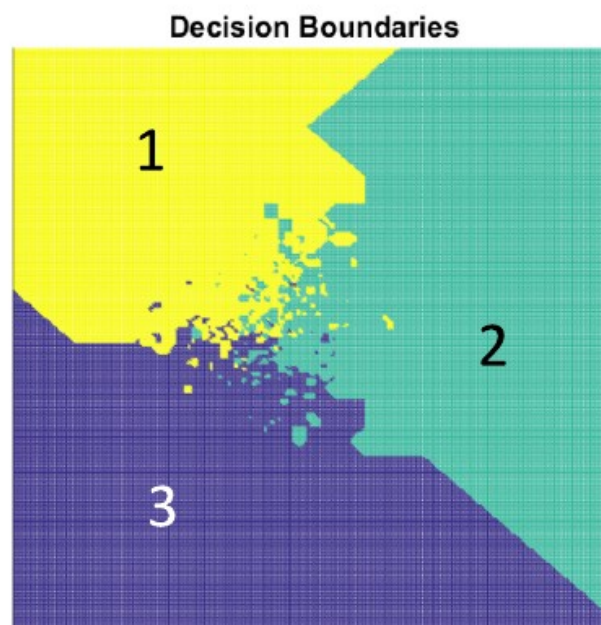
(a)



(b)

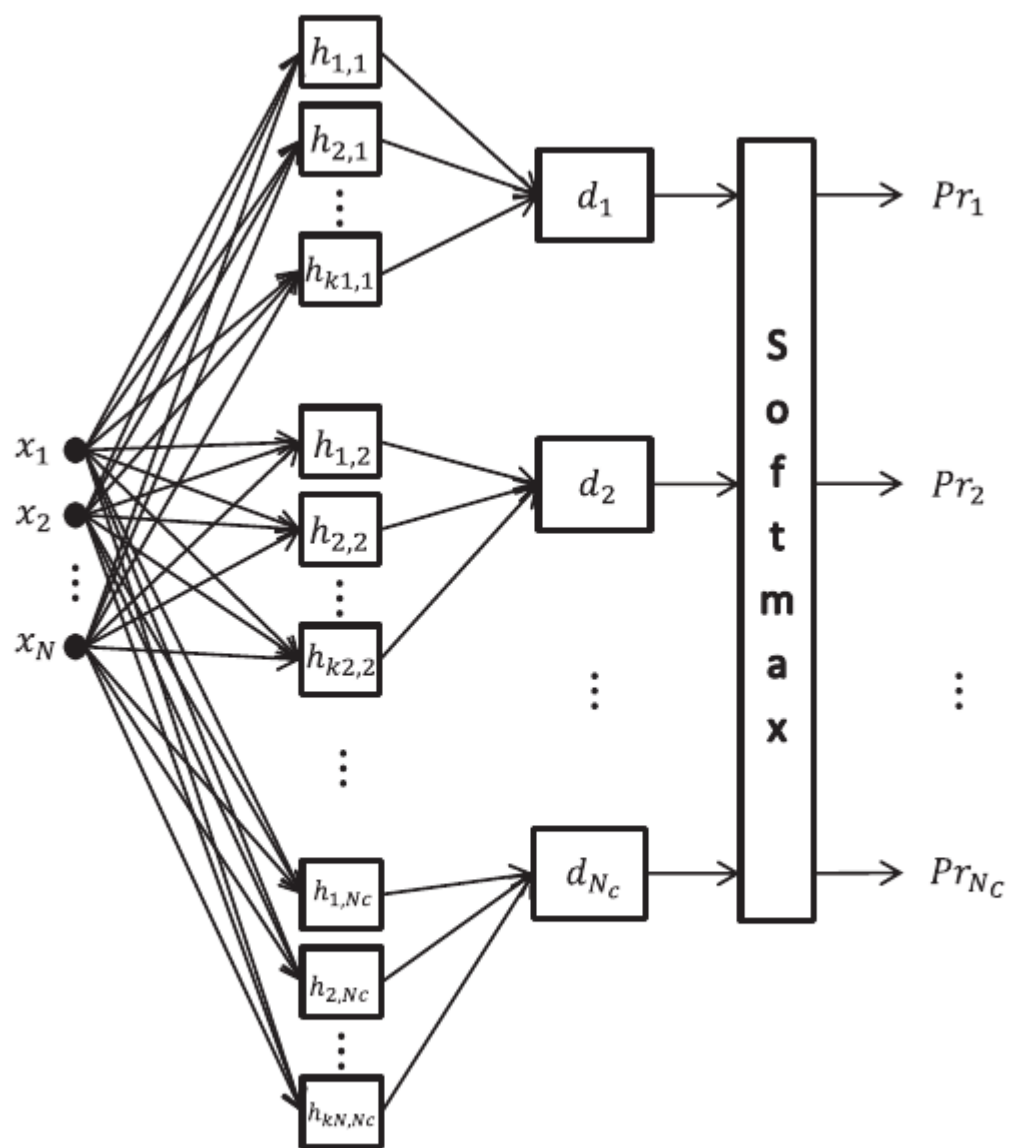


(c)



(d)





$$h_{k,c}(\mathbf{x}) = \min \left( \min (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{w}_{k,c}, \mathbf{w}_{k,c} + \mathbf{b}_{k,c} - \mathbf{x}) \right)$$

$$d_c(\mathbf{x}) = \max_k (h_{k,c}(\mathbf{x}))$$

$$Pr_c(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\exp(d_c(\mathbf{x}))}{\sum_{k=1}^{Nc} \exp(d_k(\mathbf{x}))}$$

$$y = \arg \max_c (Pr_c(\mathbf{x}))$$

**Fig. 3.** Neural architecture for a DMN with a softmax layer. Each class corresponds to one dendrite cluster  $d_c$ .

L. Pessoa, P. Maragos,  
*Neural networks with hybrid morphological/rank/linear nodes:  
a unifying framework with applications to handwritten  
character recognition, 2000*

Between linear and morphological networks

L. Pessoa, P. Maragos, *Neural networks with hybrid morphological/rank/linear nodes: a unifying framework with applications to handwritten character recognition*, 2000

$$z_n^{(l)} \equiv \lambda_n^{(l)} \alpha_n^{(l)} + (1 - \lambda_n^{(l)}) \beta_n^{(l)},$$

$$\alpha_n^{(l)} = \mathcal{R}_{r_n^{(l)}}(\mathbf{y}^{(l-1)} + \mathbf{a}_n^{(l)}),$$

$$\beta_n^{(l)} = \mathbf{y}^{(l-1)} \cdot (\mathbf{b}_n^{(l)})' + \tau_n^{(l)},$$

where  $\lambda_n^{(l)}, \tau_n^{(l)} \in \mathbb{R}$ ;  $\mathbf{a}_n^{(l)}, \mathbf{b}_n^{(l)} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{l-1}}$ .

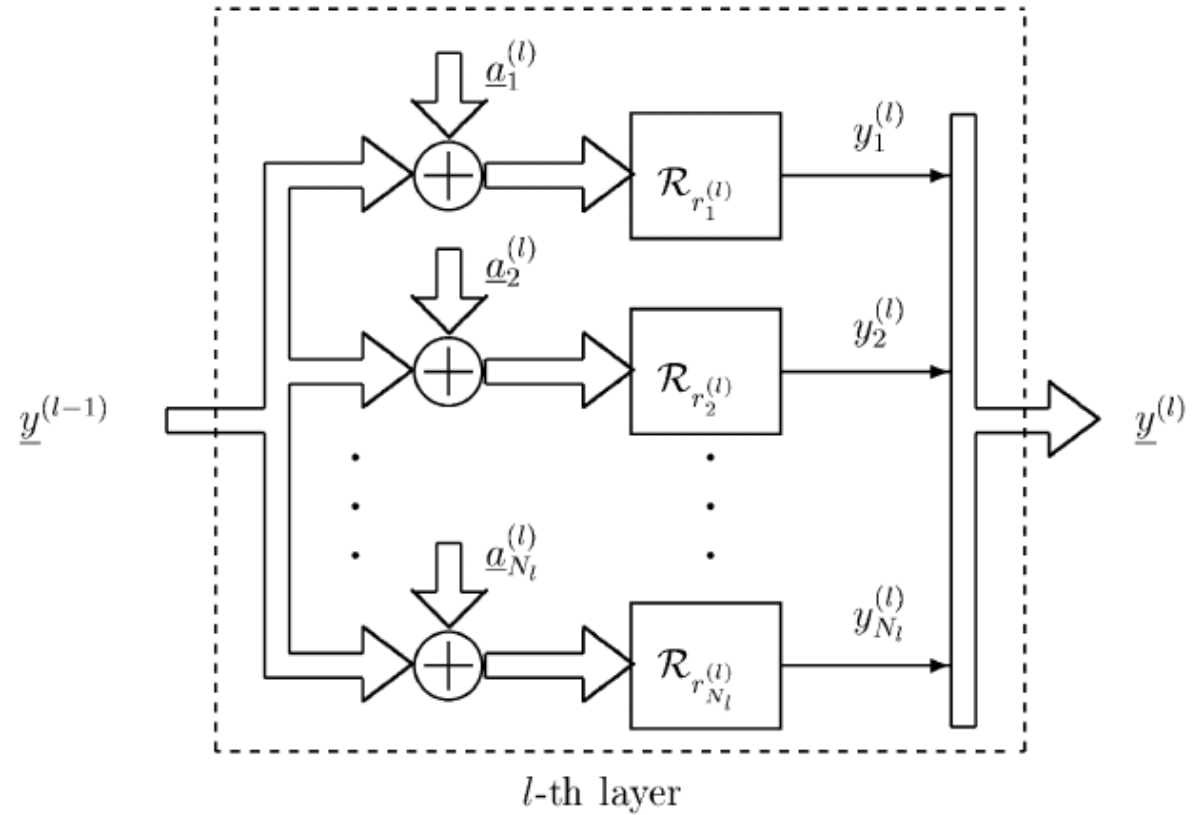
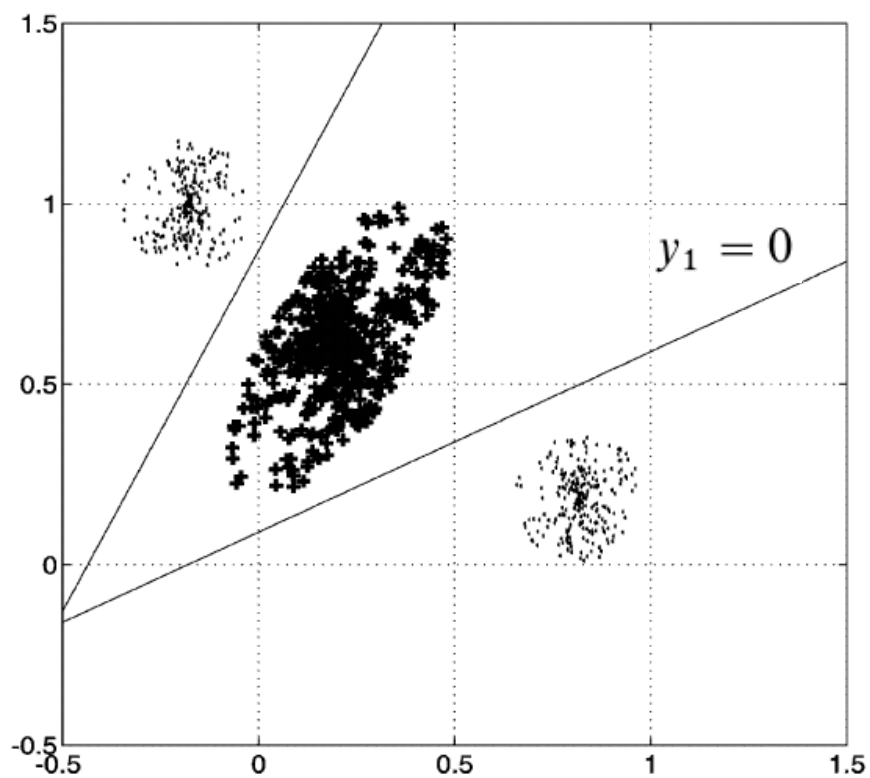


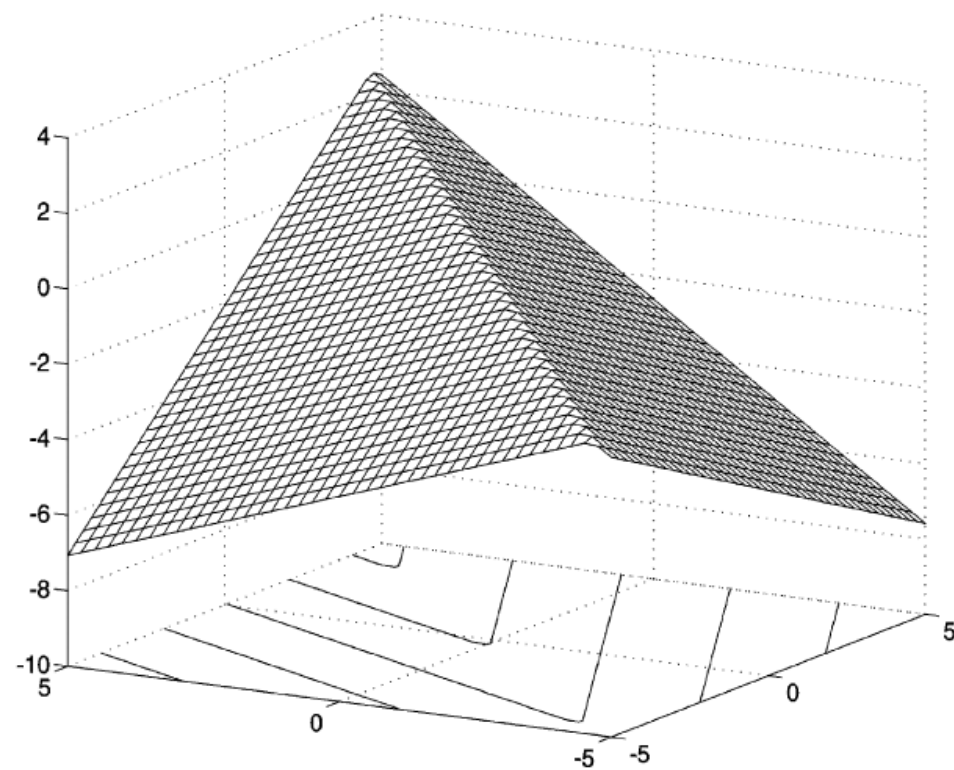
Fig. 2. Structure of the  $l$ th layer in an MRNN.

Example:

$$y_1 = \lambda \min\{x_1 + a_1, x_2 + a_2\} \\ + (1 - \lambda)(x_1 b_1 + x_2 b_2 + \tau_1).$$

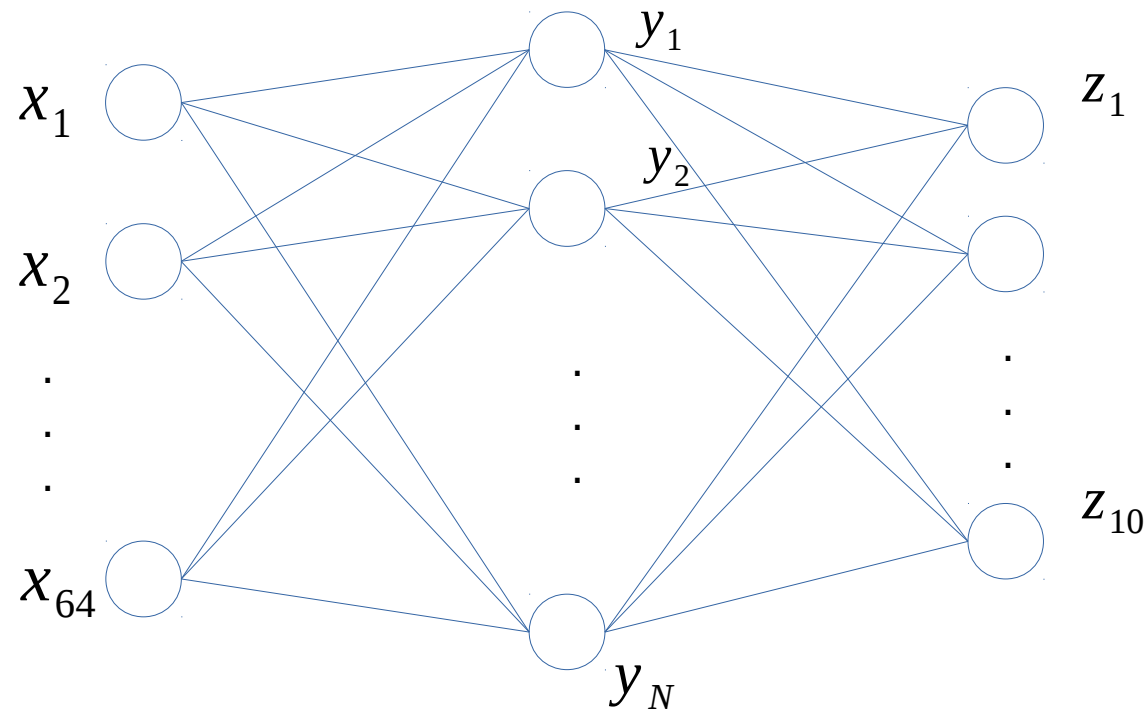


(a)



(b)

### Application to OCR (MNIST)

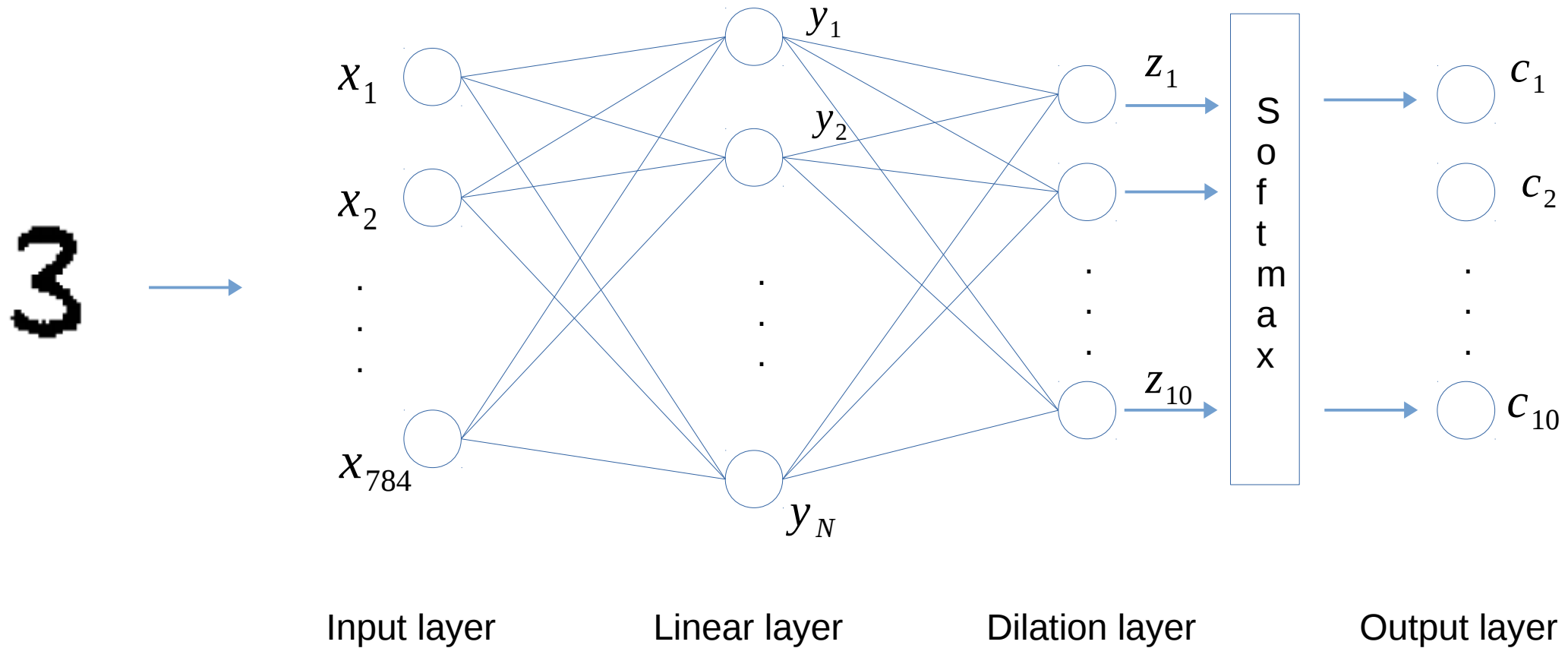


$N = 5, 10, 20$

MLP and MRL nets compared: similar performance with faster convergence for MRLs.

V. Charisopoulos, P. Maragos,  
*Morphological perceptrons: Geometry and Training Algorithms*, 2017

A new method to prune networks?

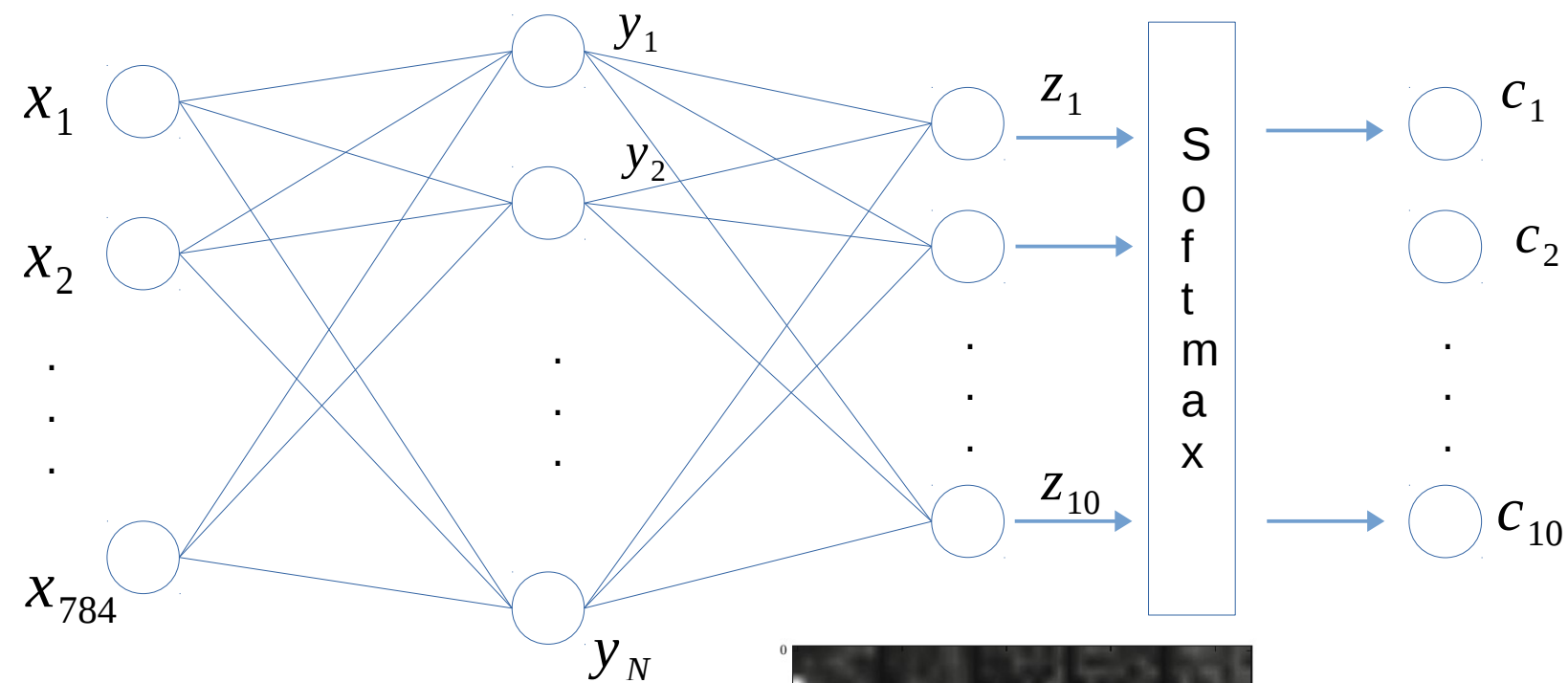


$$y_i = \sum_{j=1}^{784} w_{ij} x_j$$

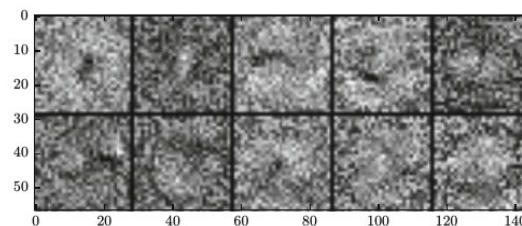
$$z_k = \max_{1 \leq i \leq N} \{\alpha_{ik} + y_i\}$$



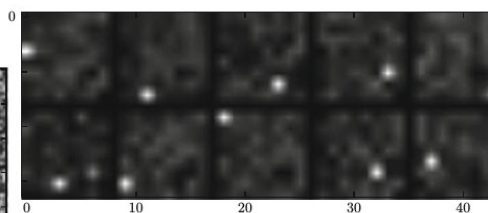
3



Input layer

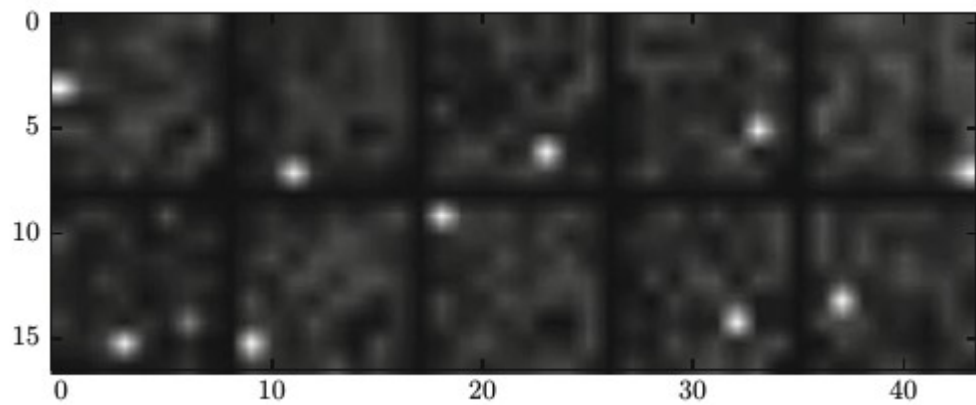


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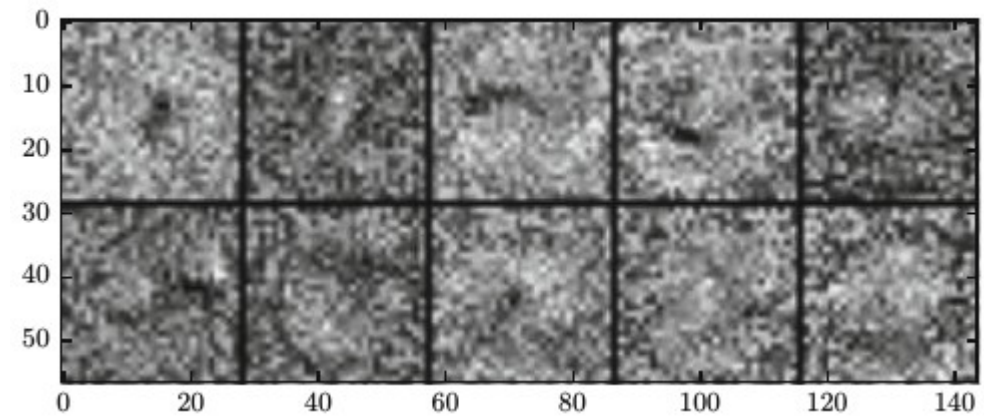


Output layer

$$z_k = \max_{1 \leq i \leq N} \{ \alpha_{ik} + y_i \}$$



*Weights  $\alpha_{jk}$  for  $N=64$*

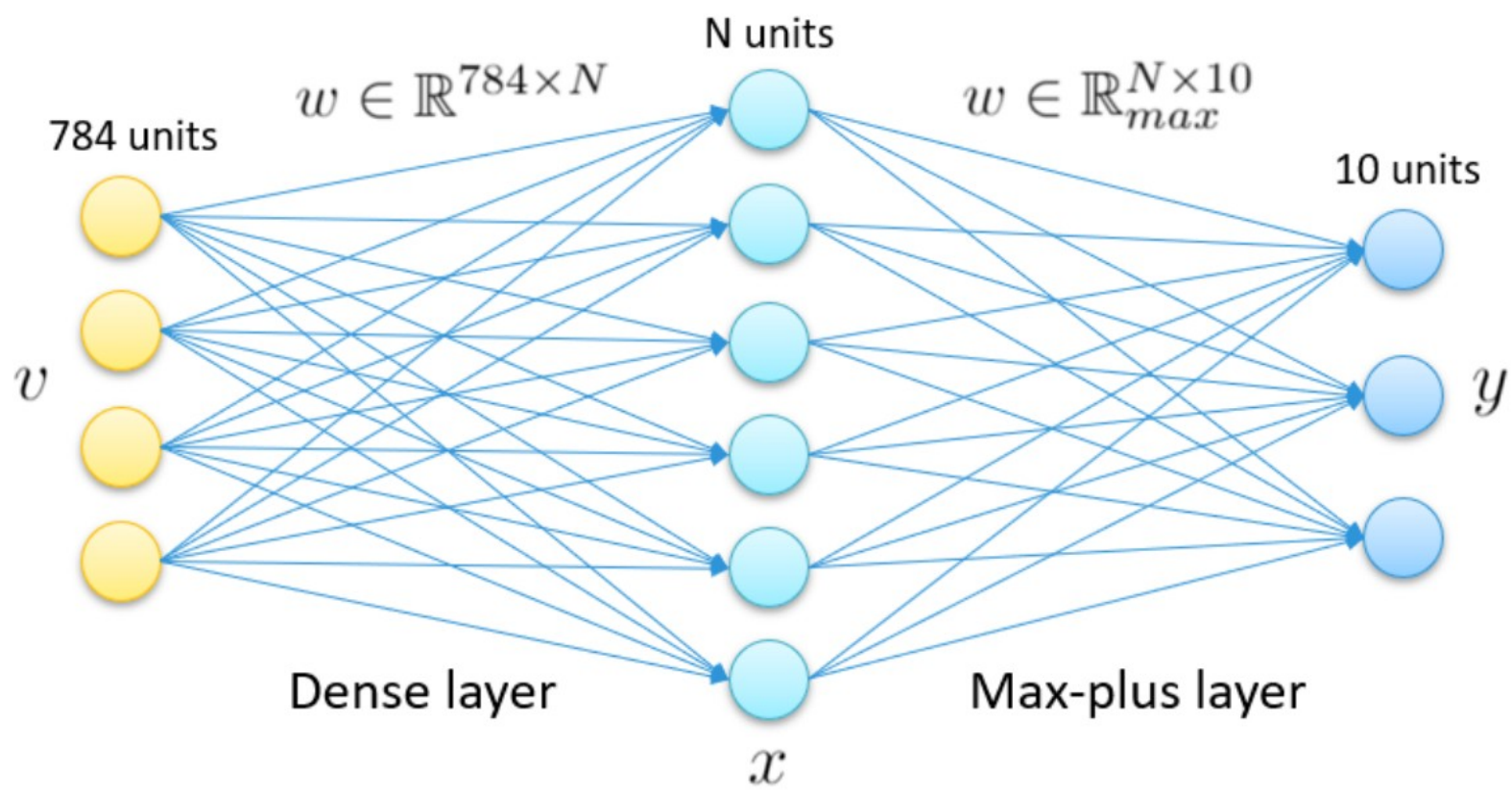


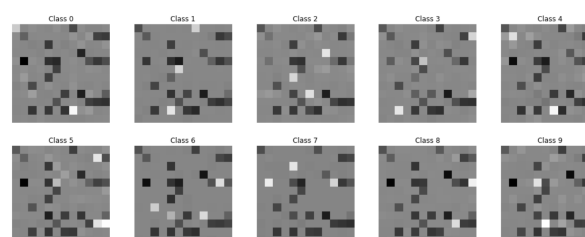
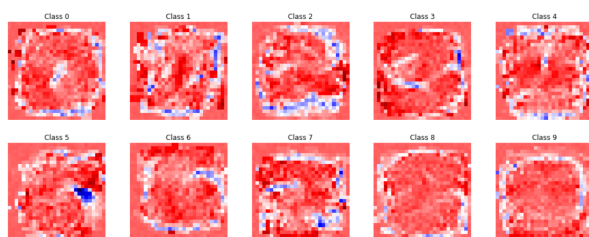
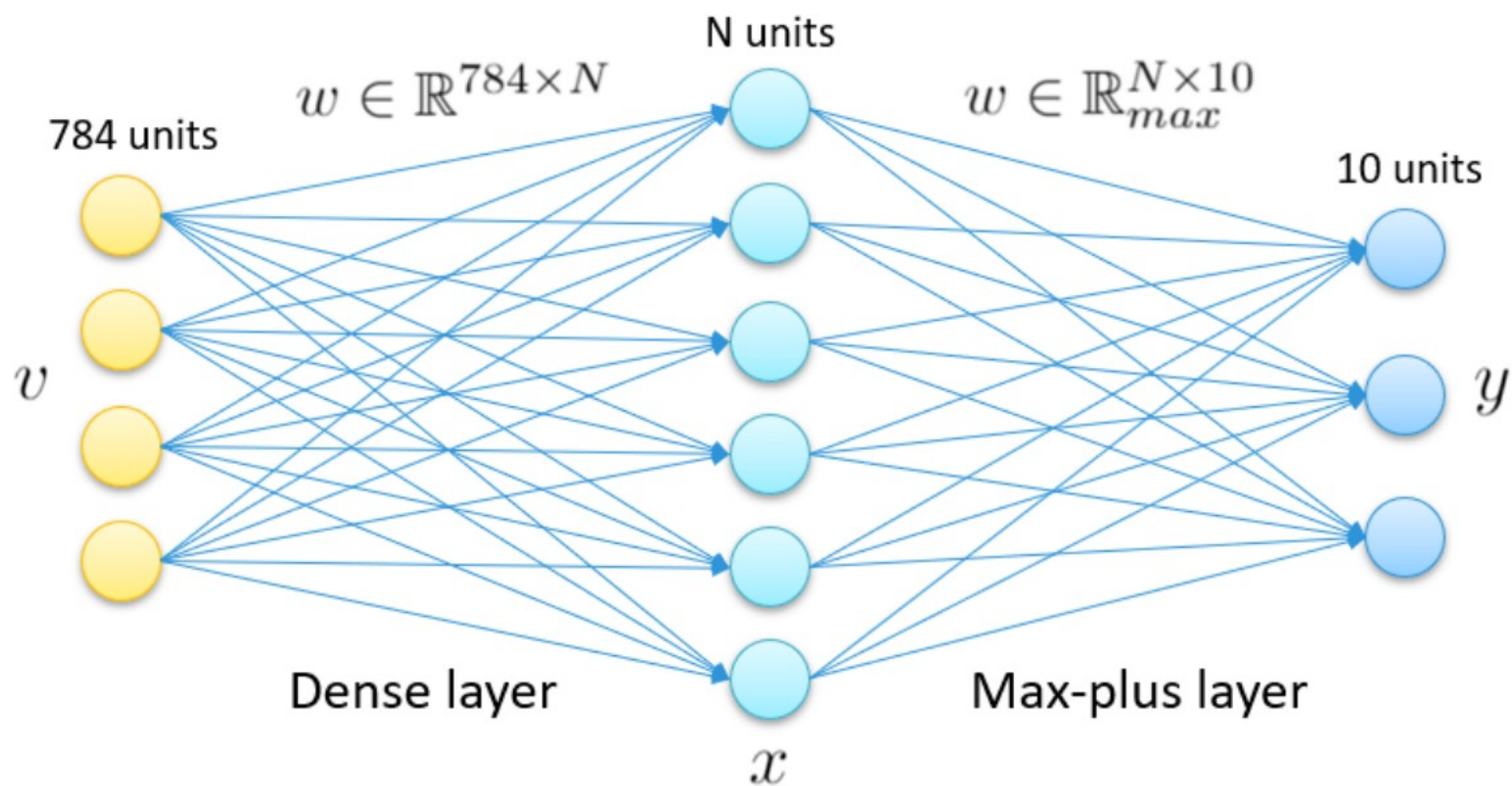
*Weights  $w_{ij}$  for the 10 active filters*

**Table 2.** MNIST results

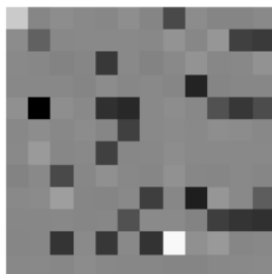
Layer $n_1$	Accuracy	Accuracy without “dead” units	# Active filters
24	84.29%	84.28%	17
32	84.84%	84.85%	15
48	84.63%	84.61%	18
64	92.1%	92.07%	10

Yunxiang ZHANG,  
*Travaux de stage, 2018*





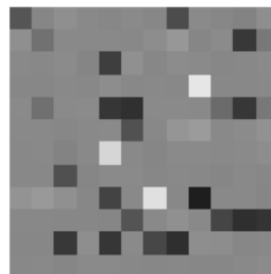
Class 0



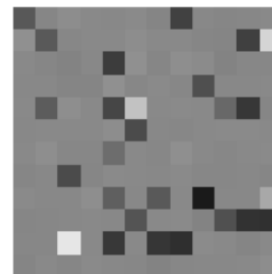
Class 1



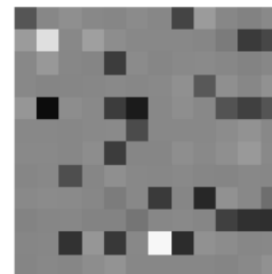
Class 2



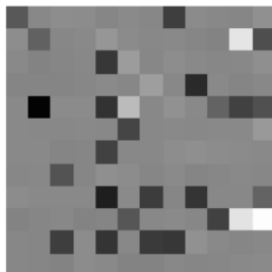
Class 3



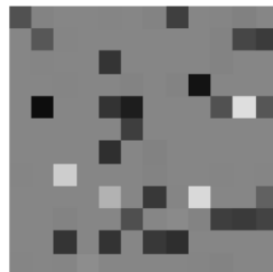
Class 4



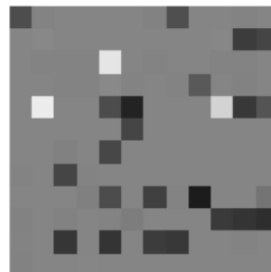
Class 5



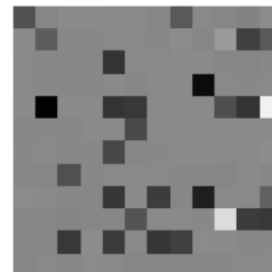
Class 6



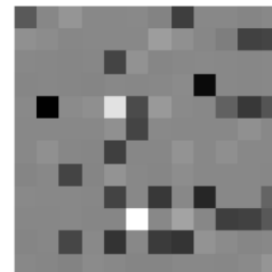
Class 7



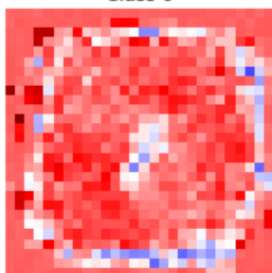
Class 8



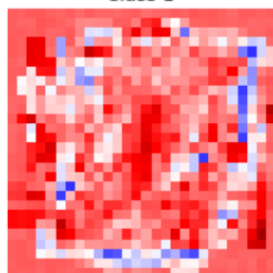
Class 9



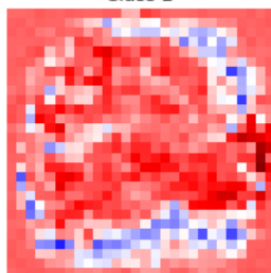
Class 0



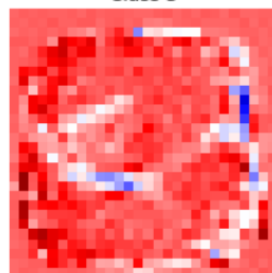
Class 1



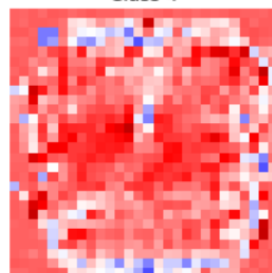
Class 2



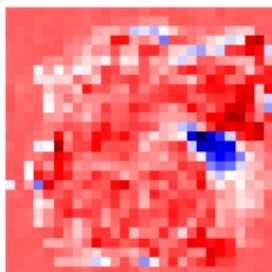
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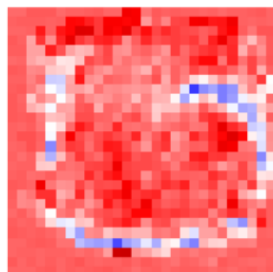
Class 4



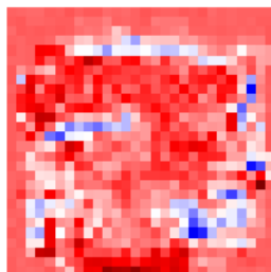
Class 5



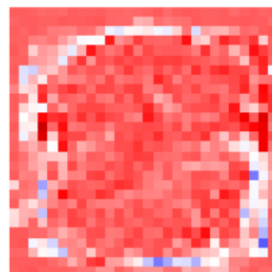
Class 6



Class 7



Class 8



Class 9

