



SPEAKER'S  
CORNER

SEPTEMBER, 21

18:00 (EEST)

ZOOM

ENGLISH

# NEURAL NETWORK THAT CAN LEARN: CREATING FROM SCRATCH



**LUCIAN GRUIA**

PRINCIPAL JAVA  
DEVELOPER AT CIKLUM

# Meet Ciklum



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professionals

**20+**  
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**300+**  
clients

## Leading companies choose us:




Speaker:

# Lucian Gruia

Principal Java Developer at Ciklum

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- Romania, Bucharest
- 4 years @Ciklum
- 11+ years in software engineering
- Telecom, Fintech, Aerospace

 [luciangruia.ro](http://luciangruia.ro)



# Agenda

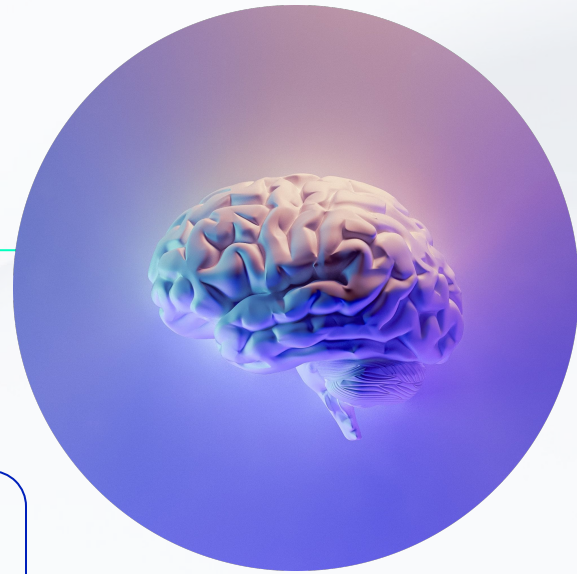
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- We will understand:
  - What is **Learning**
  - How **Neurons** work
  - How to design a **Neural Network**
  
- We will code:
  - A **Neuron**
  - A **Neural Network**
  - **Train** the Neural Network
  - **Test** and **Visualise** our Neural Network

# Neural Networks

Human brain contains ~ **86 bln neurons**, connected by **synapses**. ([source](#))

**Synapses** transmit electrochemical **signals** between neurons.



All of our thoughts, memories, reasoning, understanding, learning are the result of a **neural network** activity.

It's fascinating that today's electronics engineering enables us to replicate this processes on machines.

# Neural Networks on machines

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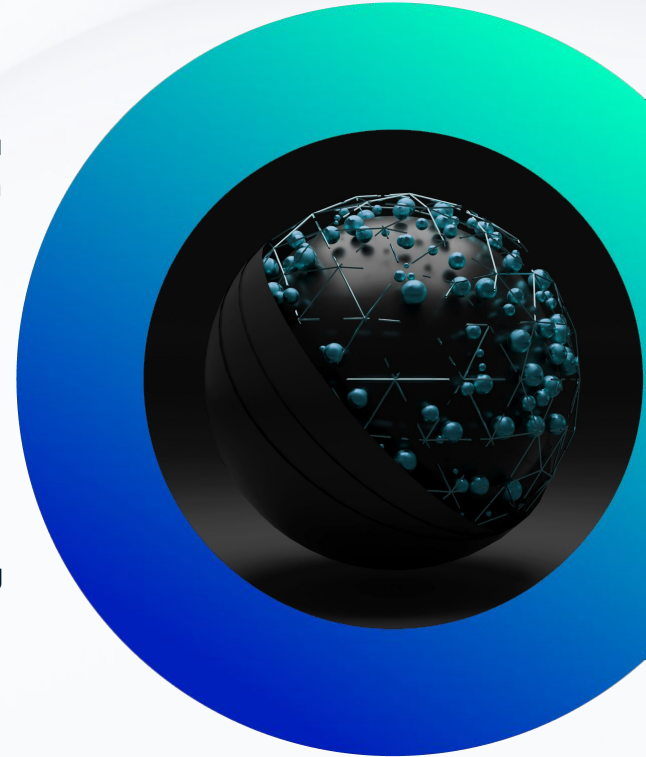
## NNs are at the very heart of AI

Foundational to machine learning, neural networks enable unprecedented data processing sophistication & transform **artificial intelligence** by mimicking human brain structures.

Beyond their vast applications, as engineer we still should ask ourselves:

- **Who** develops AI?
- **How** do engineers/scientists design Neural Networks' architecture?
- **What** are the outstanding challenges in Neural Networks?

Understanding Neural Networks isn't merely academic - it's about understanding **the essence** of our digital future.



# Software Development

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## Traditional

- Rule-based
- Explicit
- Algorithmic
- Deterministic
- Hand-coded
- Procedural
- Imperative
- Conventional

## Machine Learning

- Data-Driven
- Generalistic
- Adaptive
- Probabilistic
- Implicit logic
- High dimensionality
- Feature engineering
- Black-box

# Understanding Learning (\_P1)

## Binary Blitz

	Input			Output
Example 1	0	0	1	0
Example 2	1	1	1	1
Example 3	1	0	1	1
Example 4	0	1	1	0
Example 5	1	0	0	?



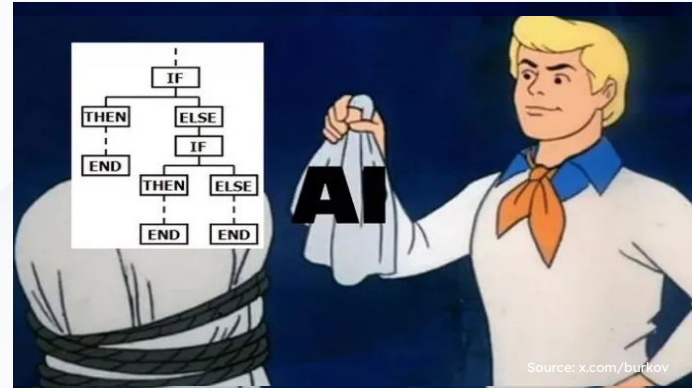
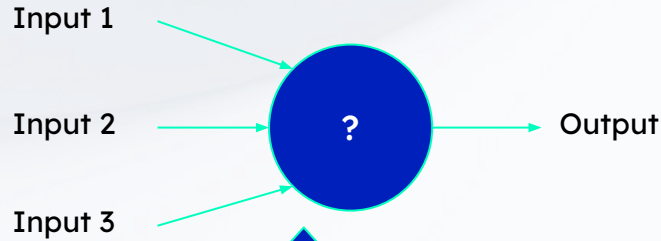
Supervised Learning

### Other types of learning (in ML):

- Unsupervised Learning
- Semi-supervised Learning
- Reinforcement Learning
- Self-supervised Learning
- Transfer Learning
- Few-shot, One-shot, and Zero-shot Learning



# Traditional software development



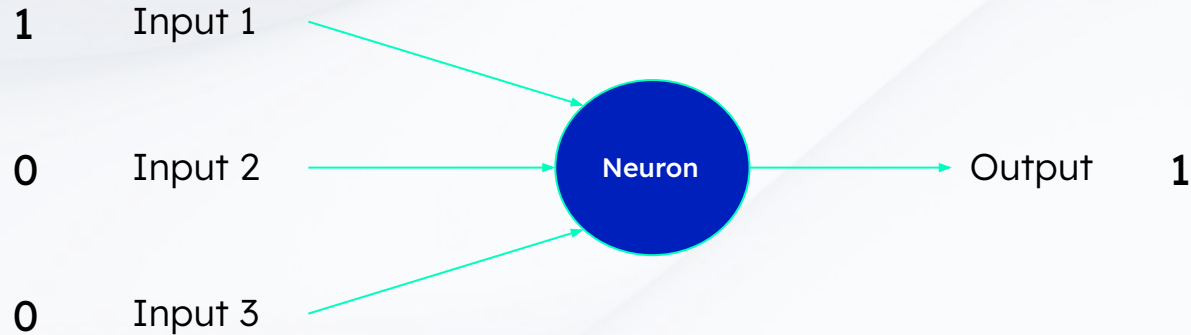
```

/**
 * A method example that takes 3 int parameters, test them if they are 1 or 0 and return the first one.
 * If any input value is different from 1 and 0, return -1.
 */
no usages  Lucian Gruiã *
public int myMethod(int a, int b, int c) {
    if ((a == 0 || a == 1) && (b == 0 || b == 1) && (c == 0 || c == 1)) {
        return a;
    } else {
        return -1;
    }
}

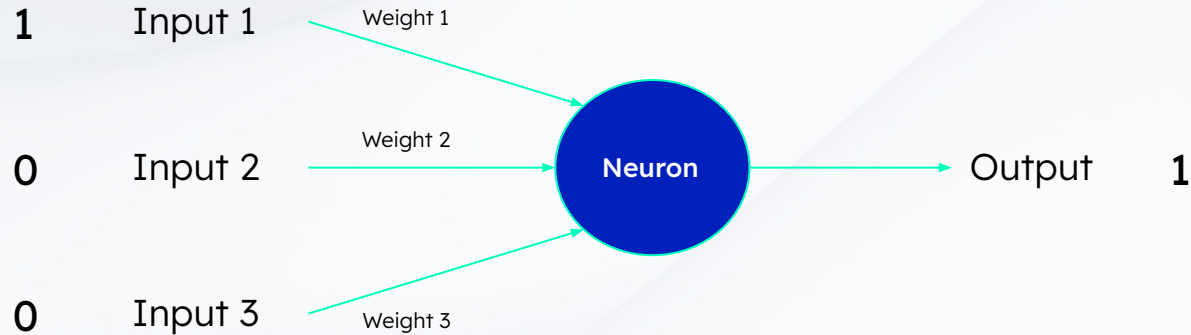
```

# Design the Architecture \_P1

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# Weights

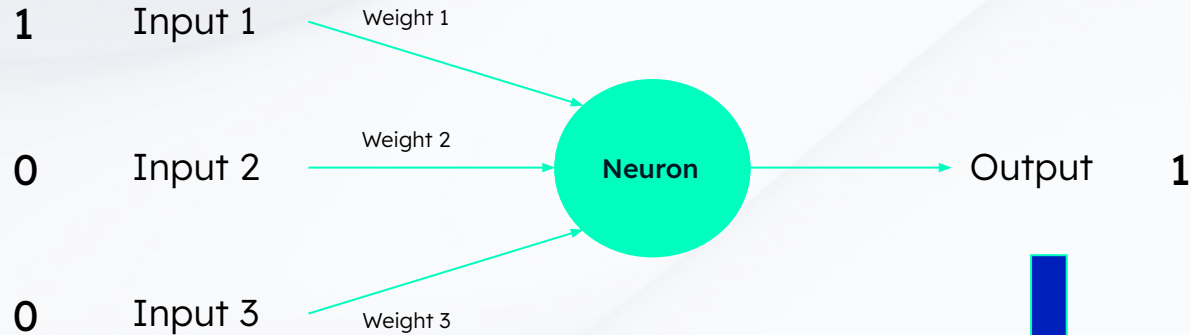


Input signal to the neuron:  
 $Input_1 \cdot Weight_1 + Input_2 \cdot Weight_2 + Input_3 \cdot Weight_3$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (Input_i \cdot Weight_i) + b$$

bias

# Activation Function

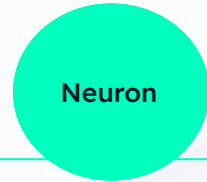


Input signal to the neuron:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (Input_i \cdot Weight_i) + b$$

*ActivationFunction(IncomingSignal)*

# Activation Function



Activation function **translates** the **input** signal **to** the **output**.

For this problem, we will use **Sigmoid** function.

- It has codomain in **(0;1)** -> asymptotic.
- It helps us to estimate the **probability** of an event.

$$\frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$



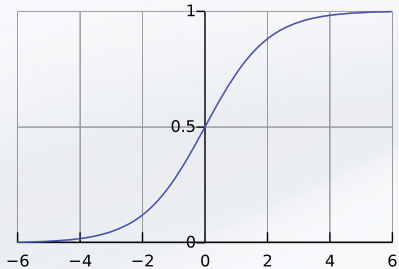
$$\frac{1}{1 + e^{-(NeuronInput)}}$$

Neuron Input:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (Input_i \cdot Weight_i) + b$$

Neuron Output:

$$\frac{1}{1 + e^{-(\sum_{i=1}^n (Input_i \cdot Weight_i) + b)}}$$



# Activation Functions

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Common Activation functions in NN:

- **Sigmoid**
- Hyperbolic Tangent (tanh)
- Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU)
- Exponential Linear Unit (ELU)
- **Softmax**
- Swish
- Mish

# Loss function

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**Loss** (also known as error/cost) function measures the deviation between the **Predicted** Output and the **Expected** (Correct) Output values.

In other words, it measures the **accuracy** of neural network's reasoning.

Mean Squared Error (MSE)

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\text{CorrectOutput}_i - \text{PredictedOutput}_i)^2$$

**Common Loss functions in NN:**

- **MSE**
- Cross-Entropy Loss (Log Loss)
- Hinge Loss
- Huber Loss

# Training

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- Assign **random** weights. (It is important to be random.)

Loop:

1. **Predict** the Output for a Training Set example.  
[Pass The Inputs to the Activation Function to get the Output.]
2. **Calculate the loss.**  
[The difference between the Predicted Output and the Training Set Output.]
3. **Adjust the weights** to reduce the loss.  
[This is where *the magic* happens!]





# Adjusting the weights

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Adjusting the weights is the process of **fine-tuning the parameters** of a neural network to **minimize the loss**.

Weights are updated iteratively using optimization algorithms that rely on calculated **gradients** - in our case, gradient descent.

We need to compute the **gradient** of the loss function with respect to each weight. This indicates the direction and magnitude of change needed.

**Learning rate** determines the size of the steps we take based on the gradient, balancing between fast convergence and the risk of overshooting the minimum.

**Gradient descent** moves in the direction opposite to the gradient to minimize the loss, with the step size determined by the learning rate.



# Recap

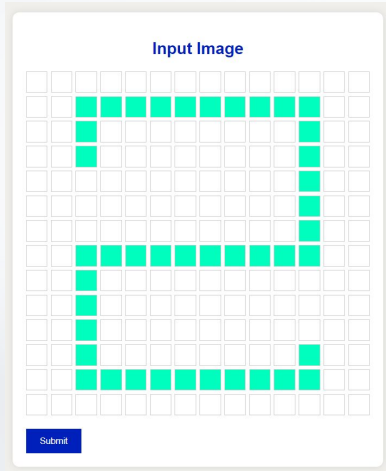
# Recap

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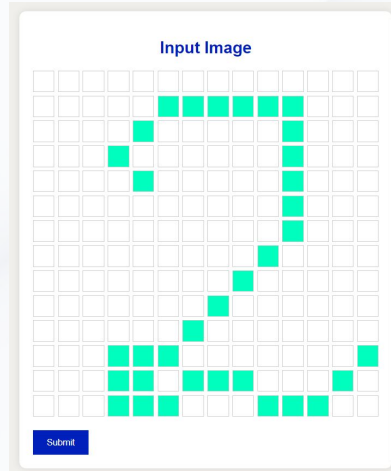
1. Understand the problem -> Design the Architecture (there is no one fits all here)
2. Initialize Weights with random values (important)
3. Choose and implement the Activation Function (decides if the neuron *fires* forward)
4. Choose and implement the Loss Function (checking how wrong is the prediction)
5. Make a Prediction (this returns *output(input)*)
6. Calculate the Loss (evaluate the current state of the NN)
7. Calculate the Gradient (derivative of the loss)
8. Adjust the Weights to minimize the Loss (here the learning emerges)
9. Make another Prediction ...

# Recognizing complex patterns (\_P2)

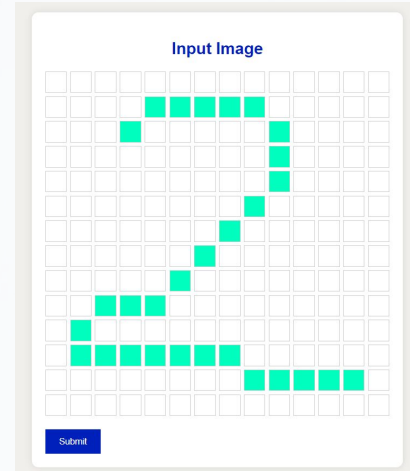
*Handwriting*  
*Handwriting*



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# NN Architectures

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Common architectures:

- Feedforward Neural Networks (**FNN**) or Multi-Layer Perceptrons (MLP)
- Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN)
- Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)
- Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) Networks
- Gated Recurrent Units (GRU)
- Radial Basis Function Neural Networks (RBFNN)
- Self Organizing Maps (SOM)
- Deep Belief Networks (DBN)
- Autoencoders
- Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN)
- **Transformer Architectures**
- Neural Turing Machines (NTM) and Differentiable Neural Computers (DNC)
- Capsule Networks
- Sequence-to-Sequence Models
- Hybrid Models

# Our NN Architecture

- 28 x 28, input image                   => 784 neurons  
 [0..9]  $\cap$   $\mathbb{N}$ , 10 possible results   => 10 neurons
- 2 hidden layers                           => 2 x 16 neurons  
 They increase depth of the neural network.  
 That's why we call it "*deep learning*"!
- Fully-connected FNN, total 826 neurons  
 (only 42 have activation function)
- Input Layer -> First Hidden  
 $784 \times 16 = 12\,544$  weights + 16 biases = **12 560 parameters**
- First -> Second Hidden Layer  
 $16 \times 16 = 256$  weights + 16 biases = **272 parameters**
- Second Hidden Layer -> Output Layer  
 $16 \times 10 = 160$  weights + 10 biases = **170 parameters**

Total trainable parameters

**13 002**

# Facts about NNs

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- LLMs' ability to learn how to learn to use tools emerges at ~ **775 M** parameters and not before. ([source](#))
- Popular LLM models by number of parameters ([source](#)):

BERT	340 M	(Google, 2018)
GPT-3	175 B	(OpenAI, 2020)
Claude	50 B	(Anthropic, Dec 2021)
Bloom	176 B	(Hugging Face, July 2022)
GPT-4	1.76 T	(OpenAI, March 2023)
Falcon	180 B	(TII, March 2023)
PanGu- $\Sigma$	1,085 T	(Huawei, March 2023)
Llama2	70 B	(Meta, July 2023)

- Human brain, **very rough** estimate. 86 B neurons, 7000 synapses each => > 600 T
- Just to emphasize, the number of parameters is not the only measure of a neural network. Its architecture is actually very important.

# Future

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- **Energy-Efficient Models:** Reducing the power consumption of training and inference.
- **Improved Generalization:** Models that can perform well across diverse tasks.
- **General AI:** Deep learning and neural networks will likely play a significant role in the pursuit of an AI that can perform any intellectual task that a human can do.
- **Neuromorphic Computing:** Researchers are developing neuromorphic chips that imitate the brain's architecture.
- **Continual Learning:** Instead of static models, future networks might continuously learn and adapt throughout their lifecycle, much like humans do.
- **Brain-Computer Interfaces:** Several companies now aim to directly interface the brain with computers. Such technology, combined with advanced neural networks, could lead to direct communication between the human brains and machines.
- **Quantum Neural Networks:** Computational NN models which are based on the principles of quantum mechanics.



# History

**McCulloch & Pitts:** Warren McCulloch and Walter Pitts introduced a simplified computational model of a **neuron** that was binary and deterministic.

**Perceptron:** Frank Rosenblatt introduced the perceptron, a type of artificial neuron, and an associated learning algorithm.

**Deep Learning:** With the advent of more powerful computing hardware & the availability of large datasets, neural networks have seen a resurgence.

1748



Leonhard Euler's work on "*Introductio in analysin infinitorum*"

1943



1949



**Hebbian Learning:** Donald Hebb proposed a learning mechanism based on the idea that when two **neurons fire together**, the connection between them strengthens.

1957



1970s-1980s



**Backpropagation** algorithm, was introduced by researchers like Rumelhart, Hinton, and Williams

2000s - present



# Learn more

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## Some nice books

- [Sequence to Sequence Learning with Neural Networks](#)  
[Google 2014]
- [Understanding Machine Learning: From Theory to Algorithms](#)  
[Cambridge University Press 2014]
- [Attention is all you need](#)  
[Google 2017]
- [Mastering Chess and Shogi by Self-Play with a General Reinforcement Learning Algorithm](#)  
[DeepMind 2017]

## Online resources:

- <https://github.com/mrsaheeddev/free-ai-resources>
- <https://www.deeplearning.ai/courses/>

# Let's talk about NN and AI

# Why am I interested in NN

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- They exhibit superior abilities, such as **Learning**. These abilities emerge only when neural networks' components are combined.
- Then more complex philosophical questions arise:
  - Can neural networks truly **understand**?
  - Are neural networks **simulating** or **replicating** human cognition?
  - Can machines become **conscious** or sentient one day?
  - Can we build **free will**?
  - **How do we know** what a neural network knows?
  - How do we handle the problems of **ethics, accountability, morality, rights** in AI?

# Any questions?

Share your feedback!



# Thank you!



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