

Deep learning

3.4. Multi-Layer Perceptrons

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A linear classifier of the form

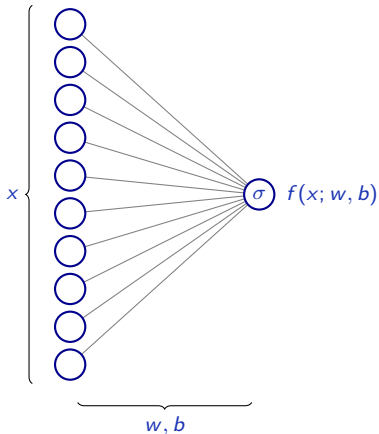
$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{R}^D &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ x &\mapsto \sigma(w \cdot x + b),\end{aligned}$$

with $w \in \mathbb{R}^D$, $b \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\sigma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, can naturally be extended to a multi-dimension output by applying a similar transformation to every output

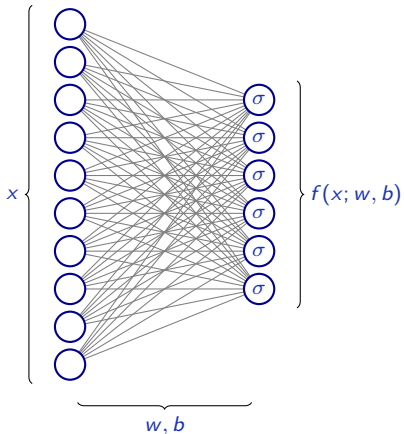
$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{R}^D &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^C \\ x &\mapsto \sigma(wx + b),\end{aligned}$$

with $w \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times D}$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^C$, and σ is applied component-wise.

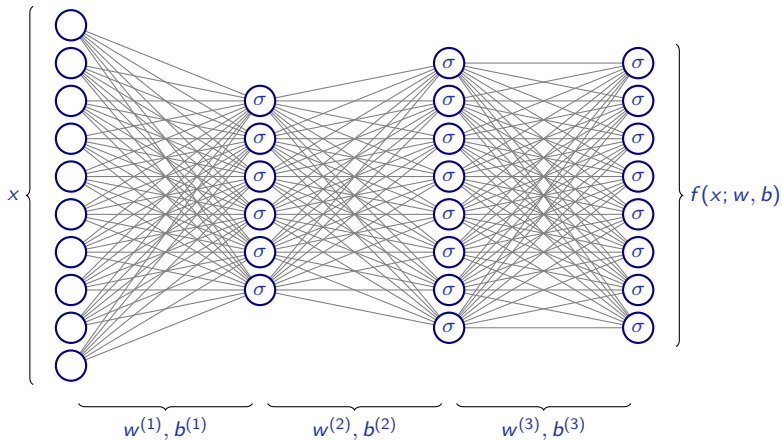
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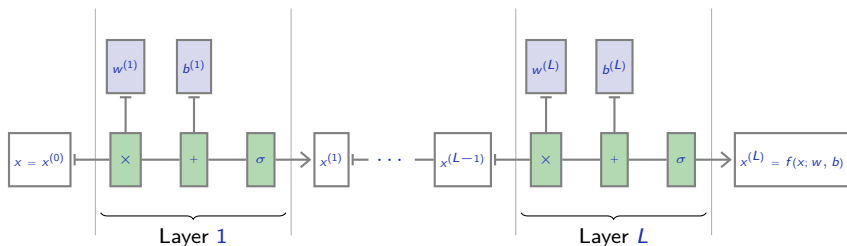
$$\forall l = 1, \dots, L, x^{(l)} = \sigma \left(w^{(l)} x^{(l-1)} + b^{(l)} \right)$$

and $f(x; w, b) = x^{(L)}$.

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Such a model is a **Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)**.

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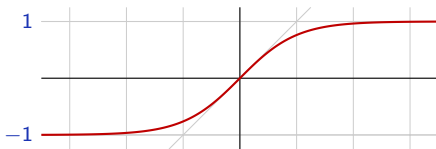
Consequently:



The activation function σ should be non-linear, or the resulting MLP is an affine mapping with a peculiar parametrization.

The two classical activation functions are the hyperbolic tangent

$$x \mapsto \frac{2}{1 + e^{-2x}} - 1$$



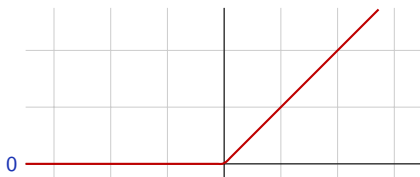
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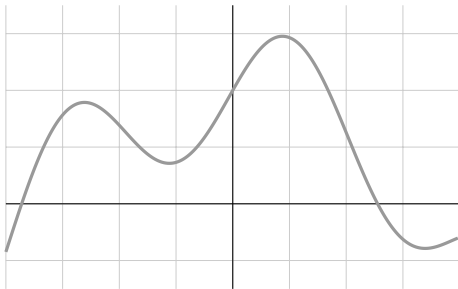
and the rectified linear unit (ReLU)

$$x \mapsto \max(0, x)$$



Universal approximation

We can approximate any $\psi \in \mathcal{C}([a, b], \mathbb{R})$ with a linear combination of translated/scaled ReLU functions.



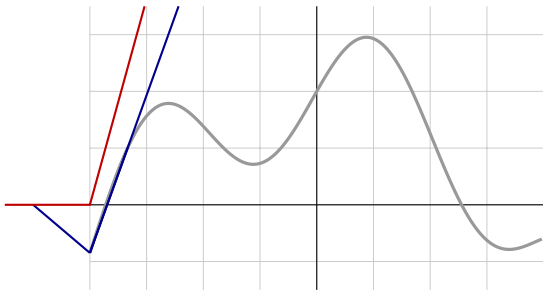
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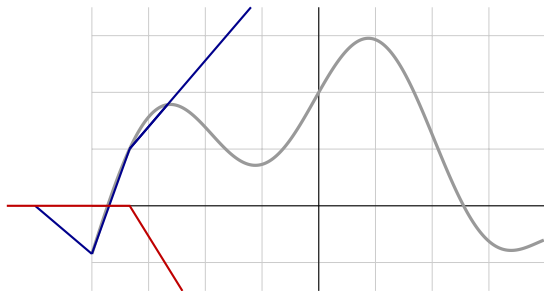
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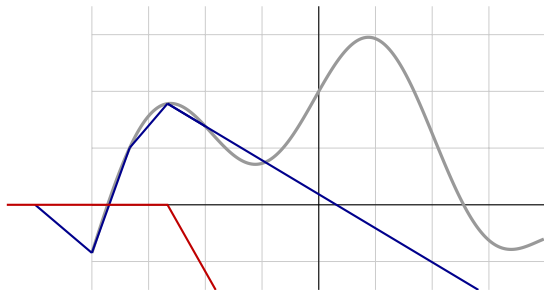
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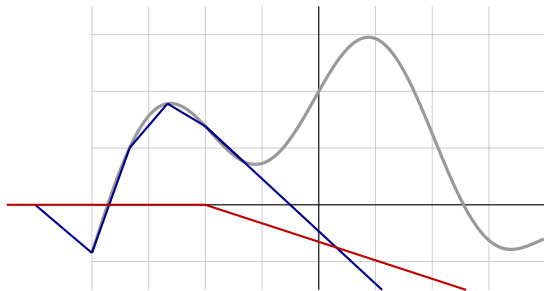
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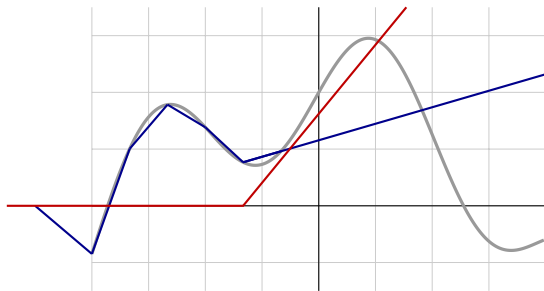
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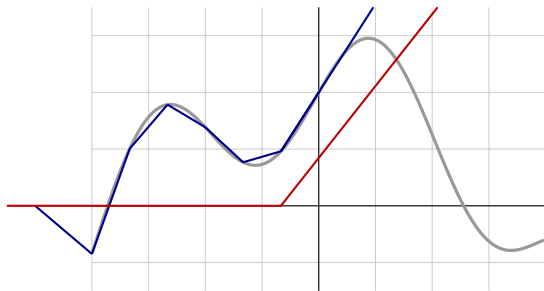
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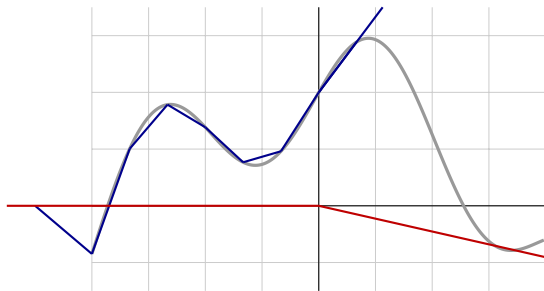
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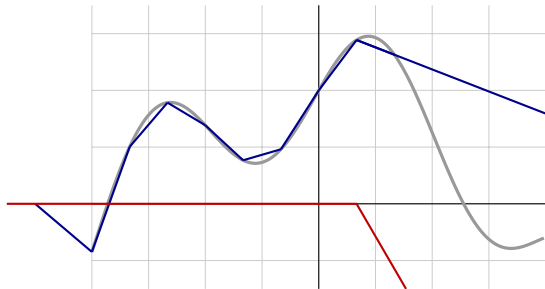
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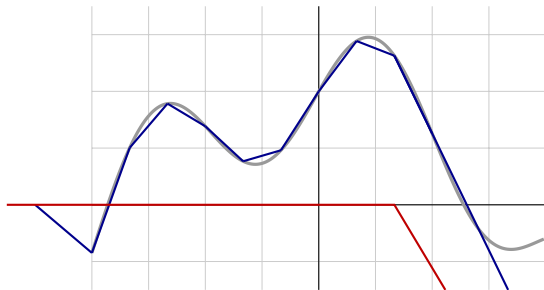
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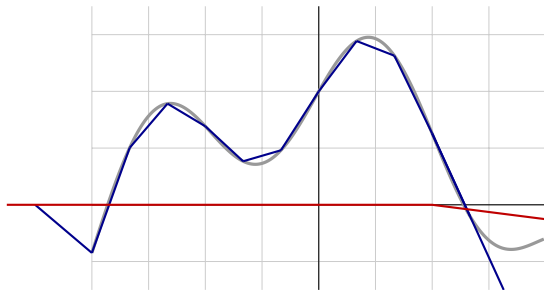
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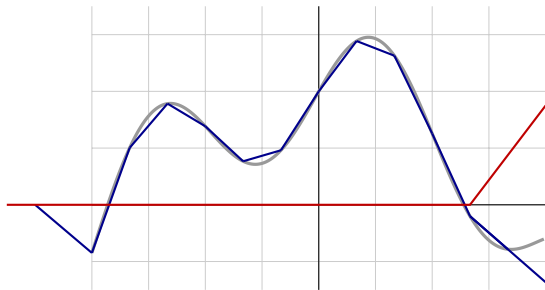
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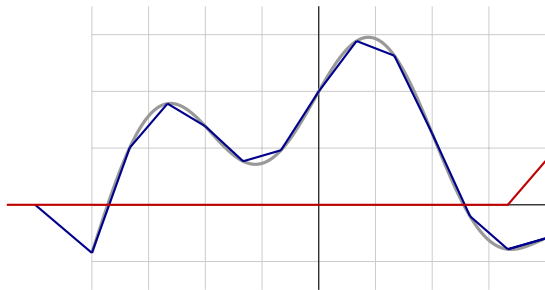
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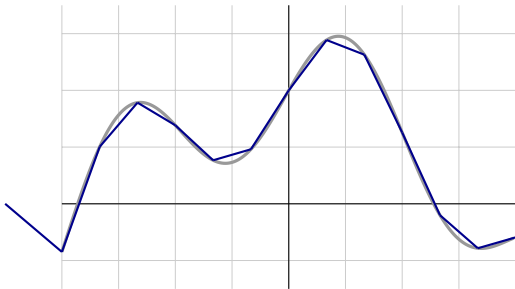
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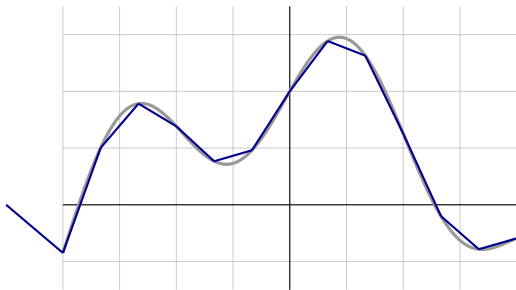
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This is true for other activation functions under mild assumptions.

Extending this result to any $\psi \in \mathcal{C}([0, 1]^D, \mathbb{R})$ requires a bit of work.

We can approximate the [sin](#) function with the previous scheme, and use the density of Fourier series to get the final result:

$$\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists K, w \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times D}, b \in \mathbb{R}^K, \omega \in \mathbb{R}^K, \text{ s.t.} \\ \max_{x \in [0, 1]^D} |\psi(x) - \omega \cdot \sigma(wx + b)| \leq \epsilon.$$

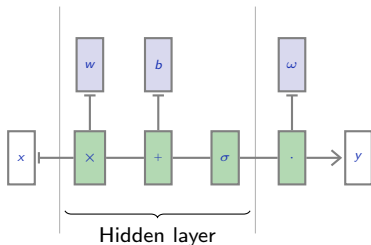
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$$\psi : [0, 1]^D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

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where $b \in \mathbb{R}^K$, $w \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times D}$, and $\omega \in \mathbb{R}^K$.



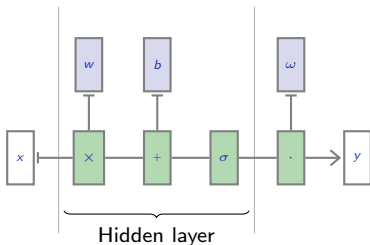
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This is the **universal approximation theorem**.



A better approximation requires a larger hidden layer (larger K), and this theorem says nothing about the relation between the two.

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Deploying MLP in practice is often a balancing act between under-fitting and over-fitting.

The end