



## 10-601 Introduction to Machine Learning

Machine Learning Department  
School of Computer Science  
Carnegie Mellon University

# Neural Networks

+

# Backpropagation

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Lecture 13  
Feb. 26, 2020

# **ARCHITECTURES**

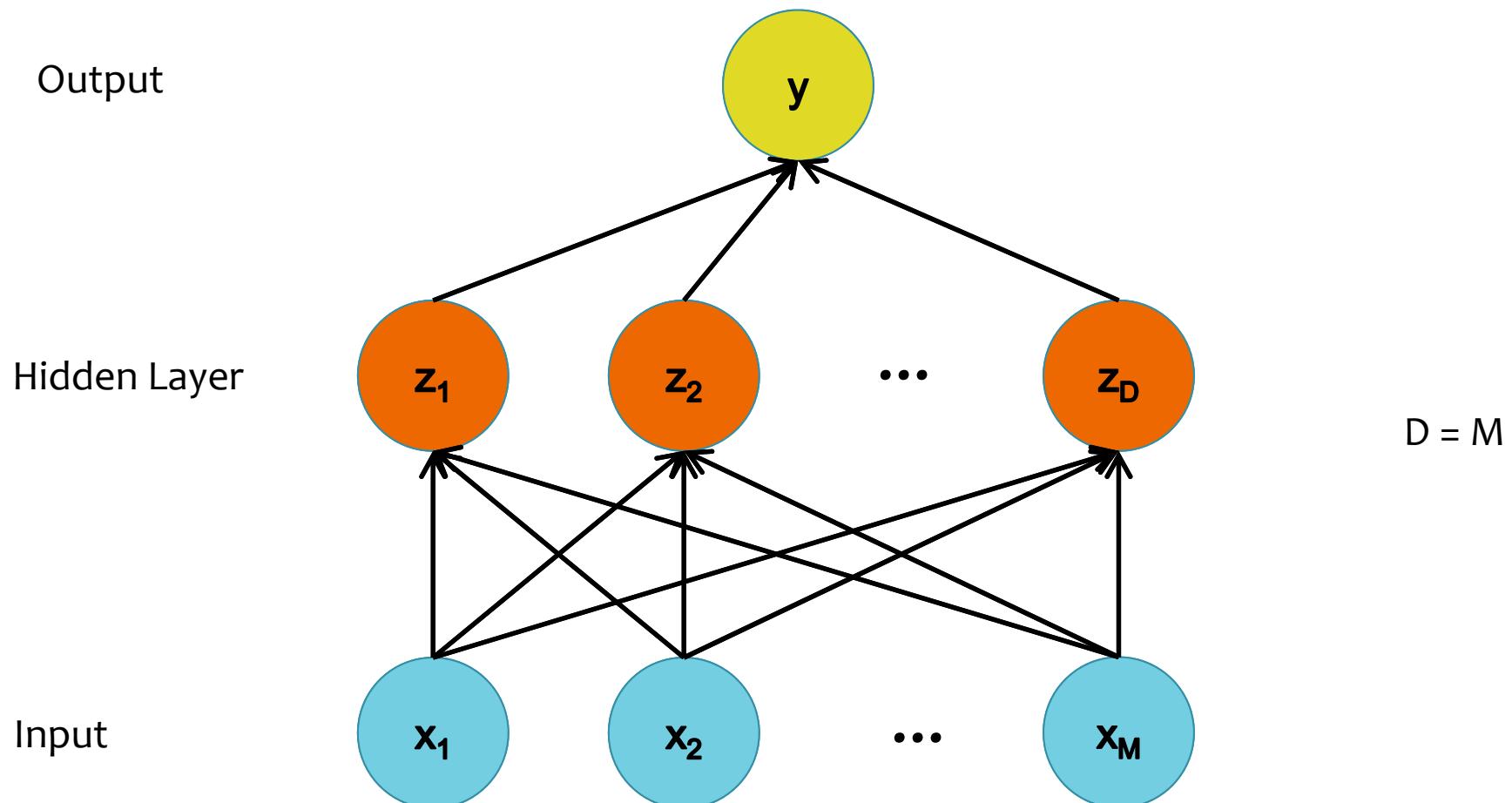
# Neural Network Architectures

Even for a basic Neural Network, there are many design decisions to make:

1. # of hidden layers (depth)
2. # of units per hidden layer (width)
3. Type of activation function (nonlinearity)
4. Form of objective function

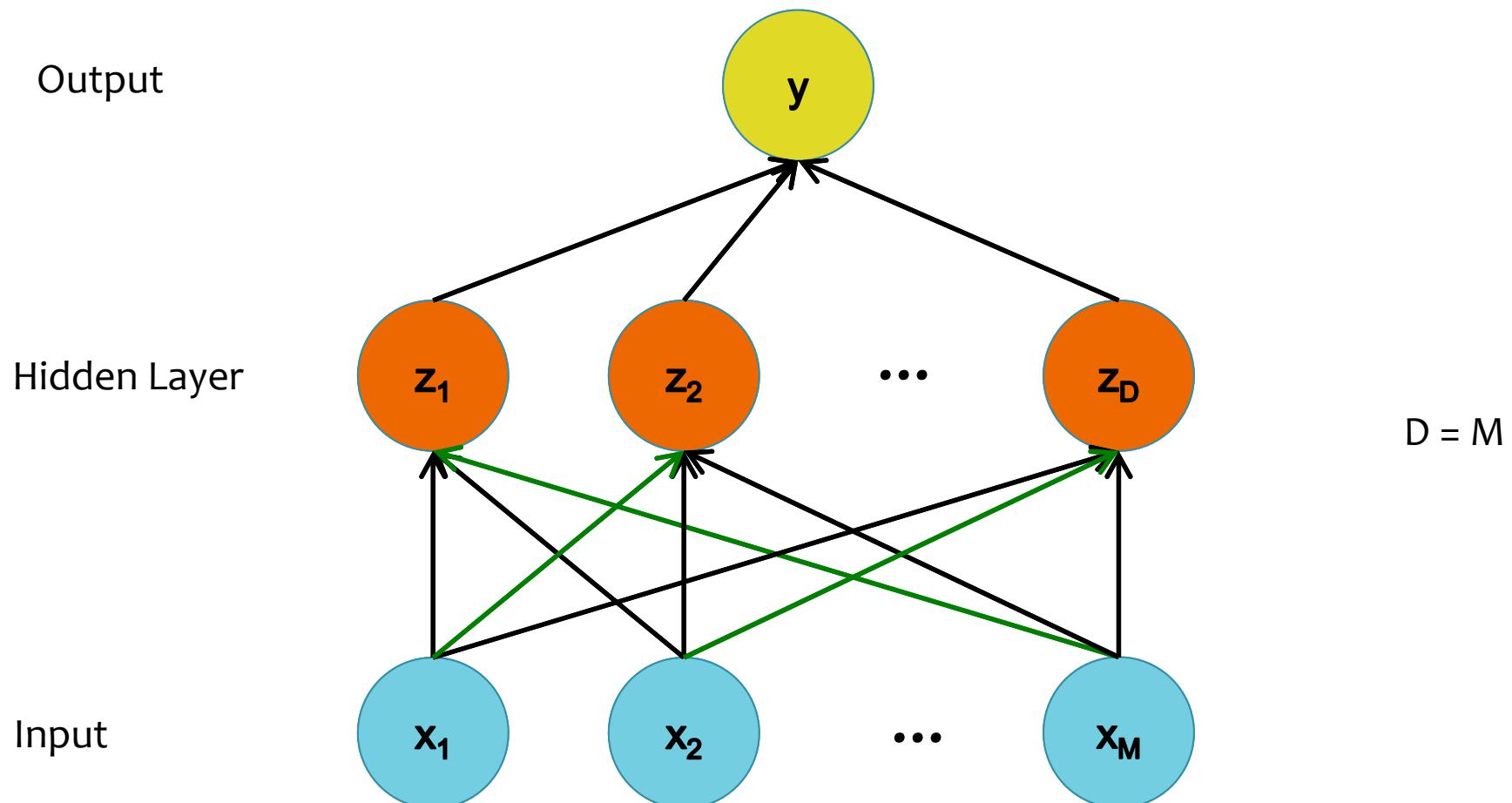
# Building a Neural Net

*Q: How many hidden units,  $D$ , should we use?*



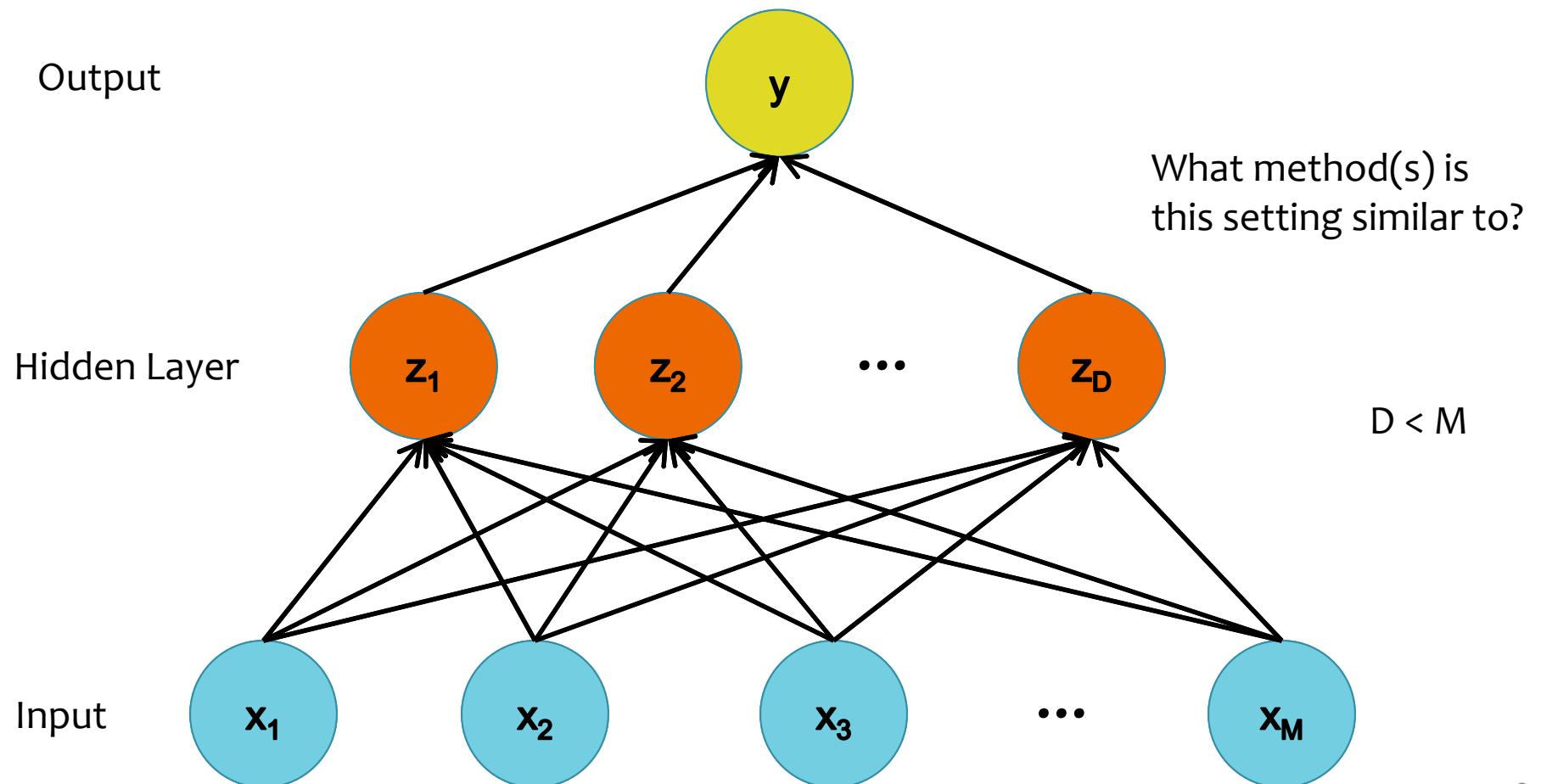
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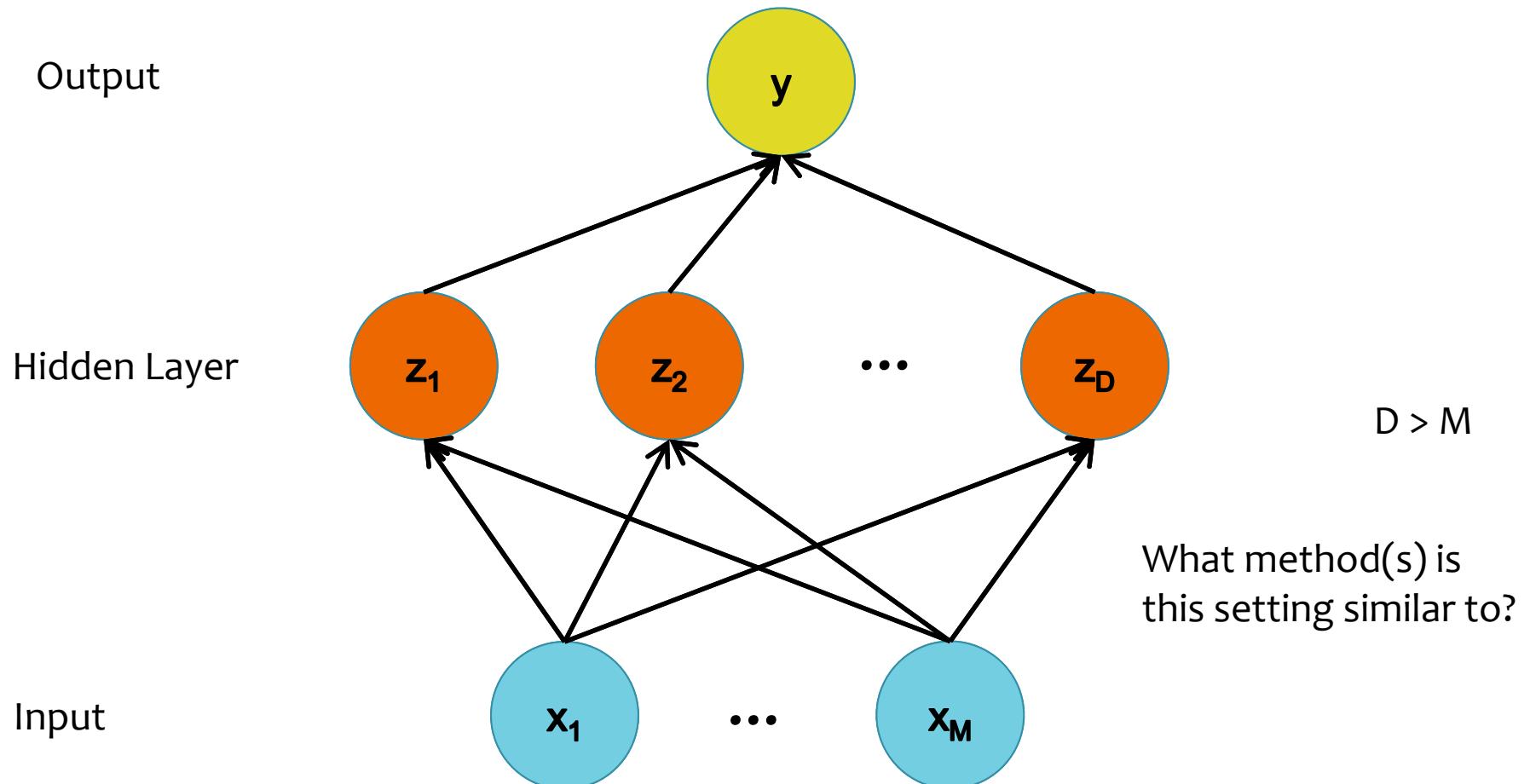
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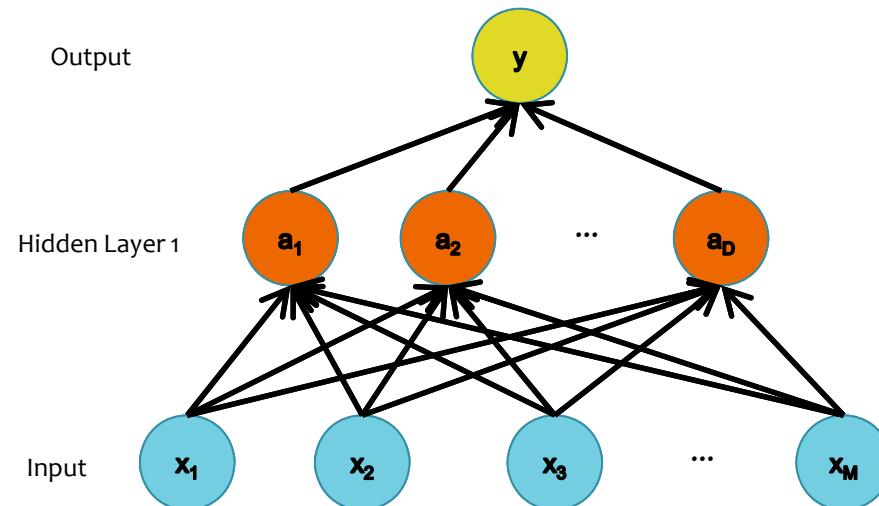
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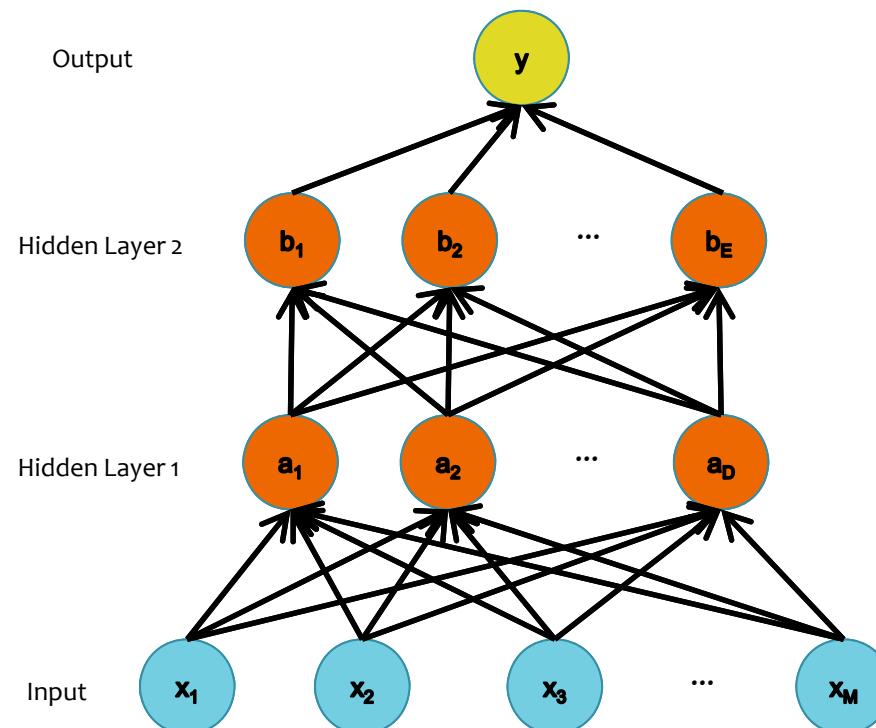
# Deeper Networks

Q: How many layers should we use?



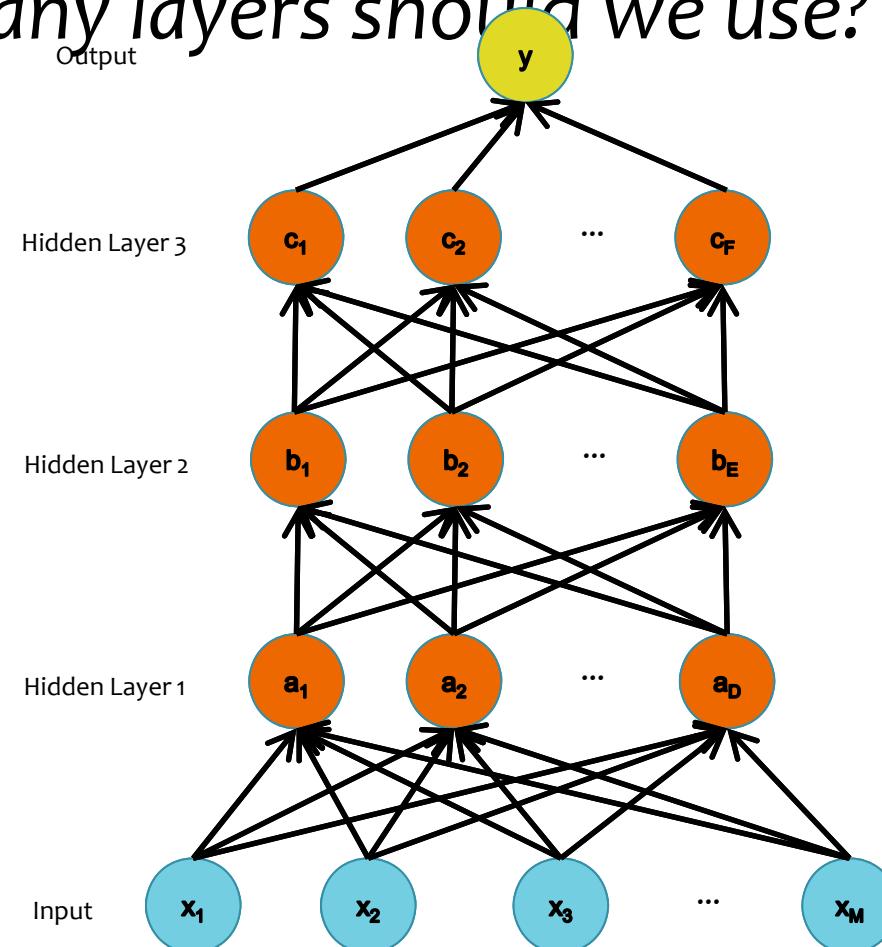
# Deeper Networks

Q: How many layers should we use?



# Deeper Networks

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# Deeper Networks

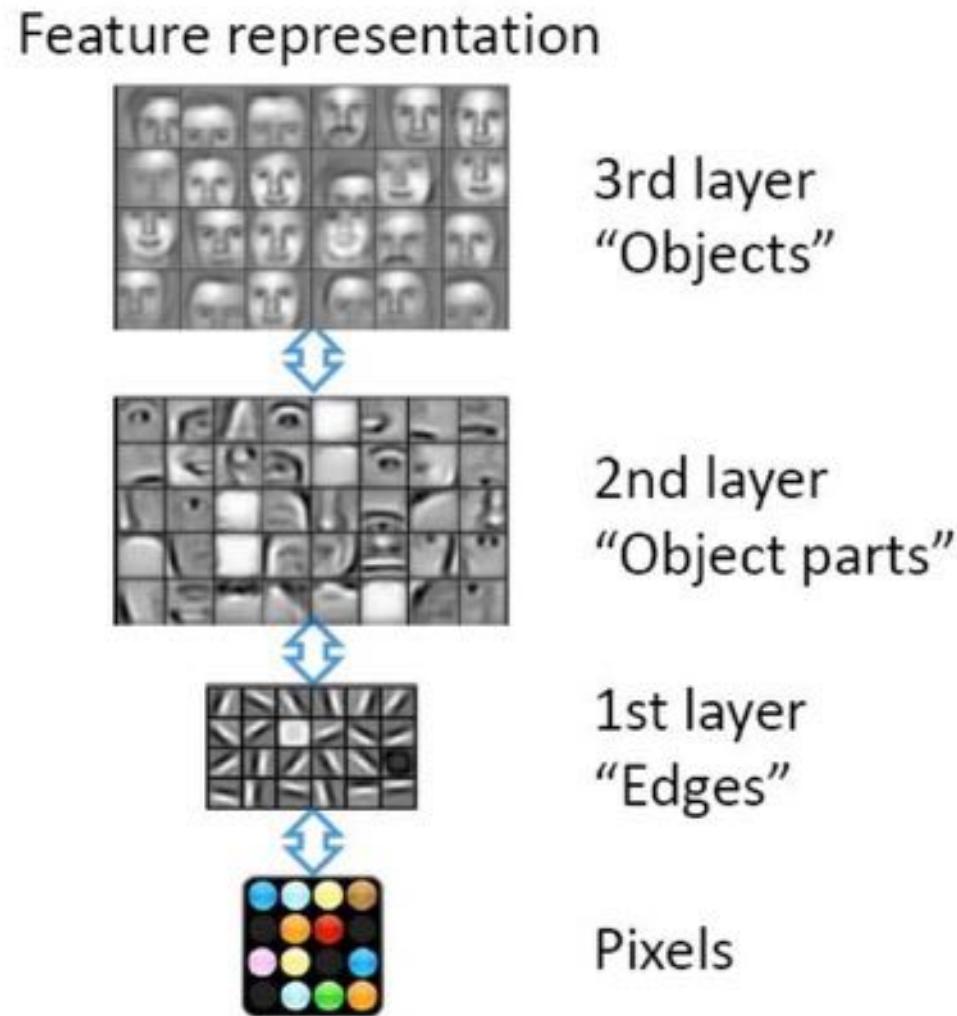
Q: How many layers should we use?

- **Theoretical answer:**
  - A neural network with 1 hidden layer is a **universal function approximator**
  - Cybenko (1989): For any continuous function  $g(\mathbf{x})$ , there exists a 1-hidden-layer neural net  $h_\theta(\mathbf{x})$  s.t.  $|h_\theta(\mathbf{x}) - g(\mathbf{x})| < \epsilon$  for all  $\mathbf{x}$ , assuming sigmoid activation functions
- **Empirical answer:**
  - Before 2006: “Deep networks (e.g. 3 or more hidden layers) are too hard to train”
  - After 2006: “Deep networks are easier to train than shallow networks (e.g. 2 or fewer layers) for many problems”

Big caveat: You need to know and use the right tricks.

# Different Levels of Abstraction

- We don't know the “right” levels of abstraction
- So let the model figure it out!



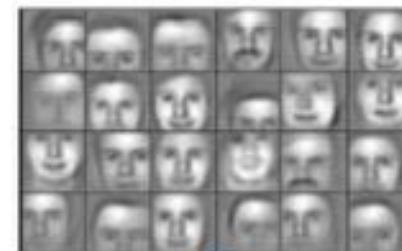
Example from Honglak Lee (NIPS 2010)

# Different Levels of Abstraction

## Face Recognition:

- Deep Network can build up increasingly higher levels of abstraction
- Lines, parts, regions

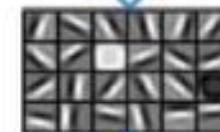
Feature representation



3rd layer  
“Objects”



2nd layer  
“Object parts”



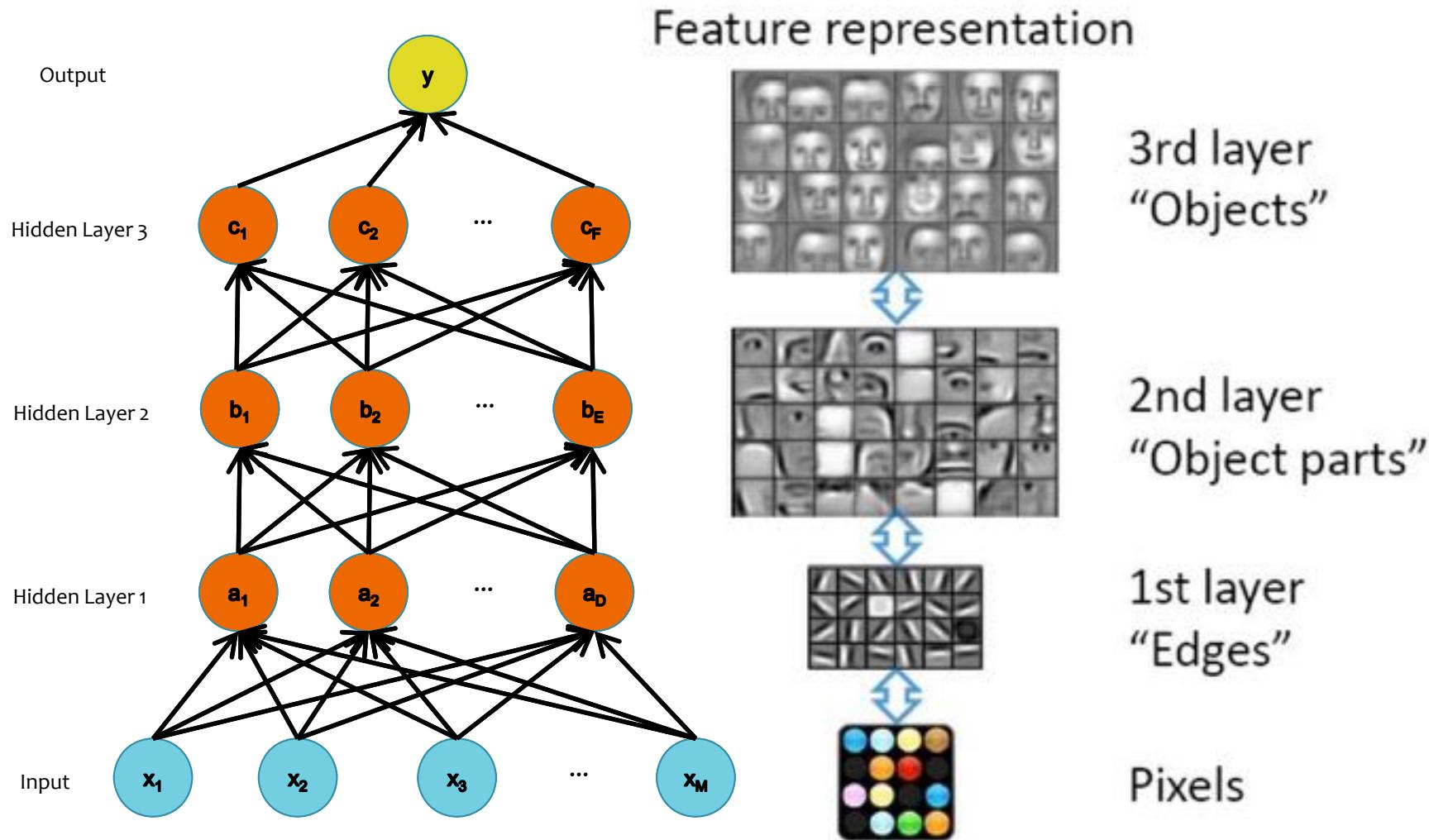
1st layer  
“Edges”



Pixels

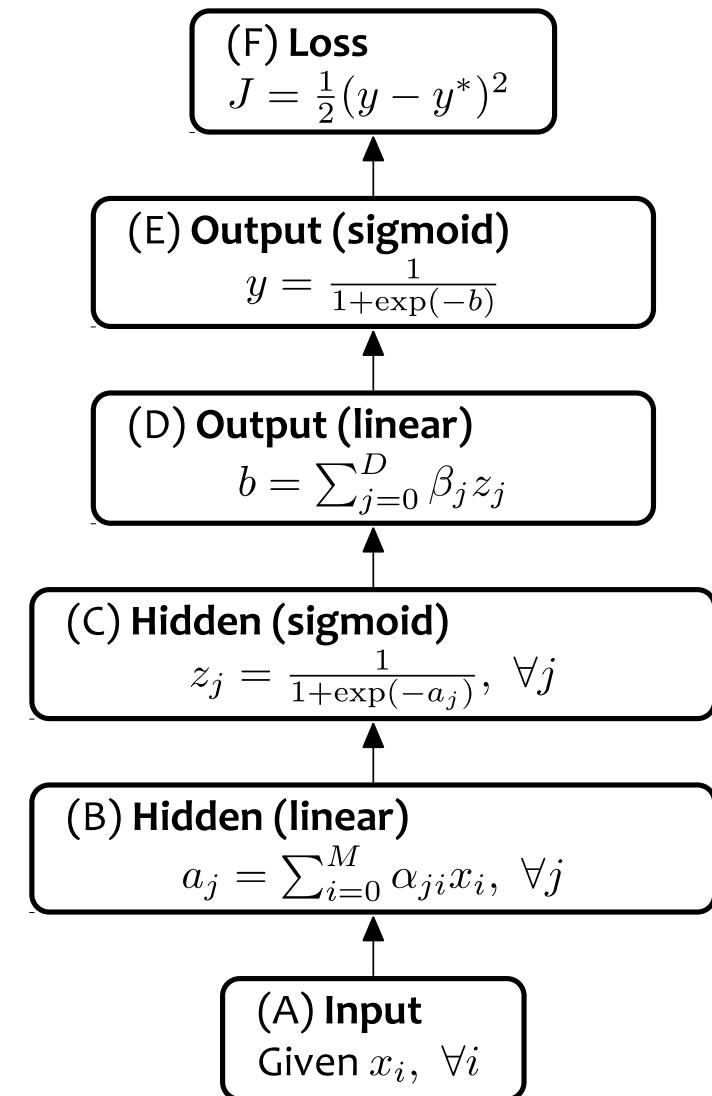
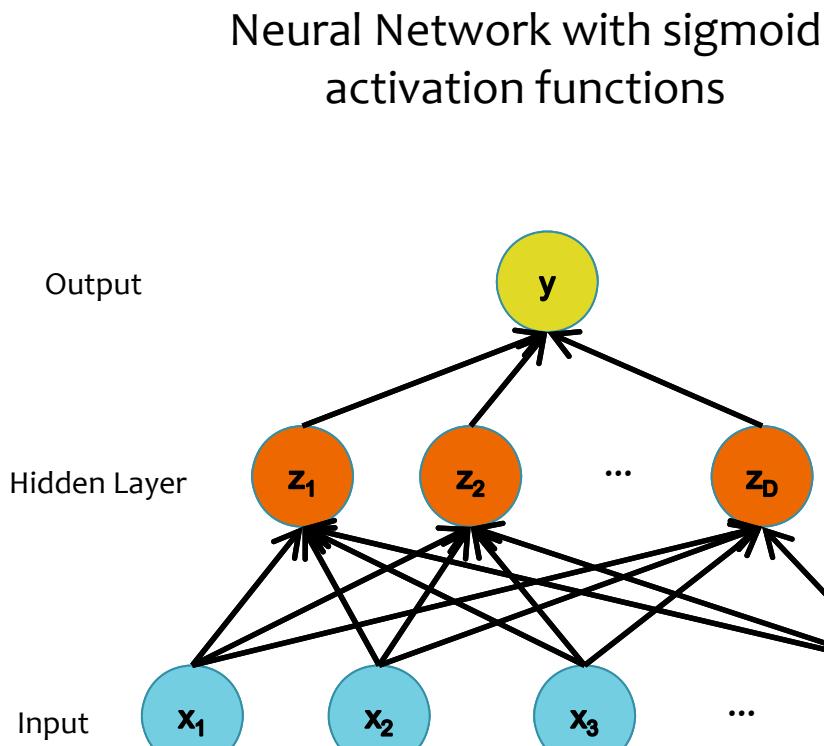
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# Different Levels of Abstraction

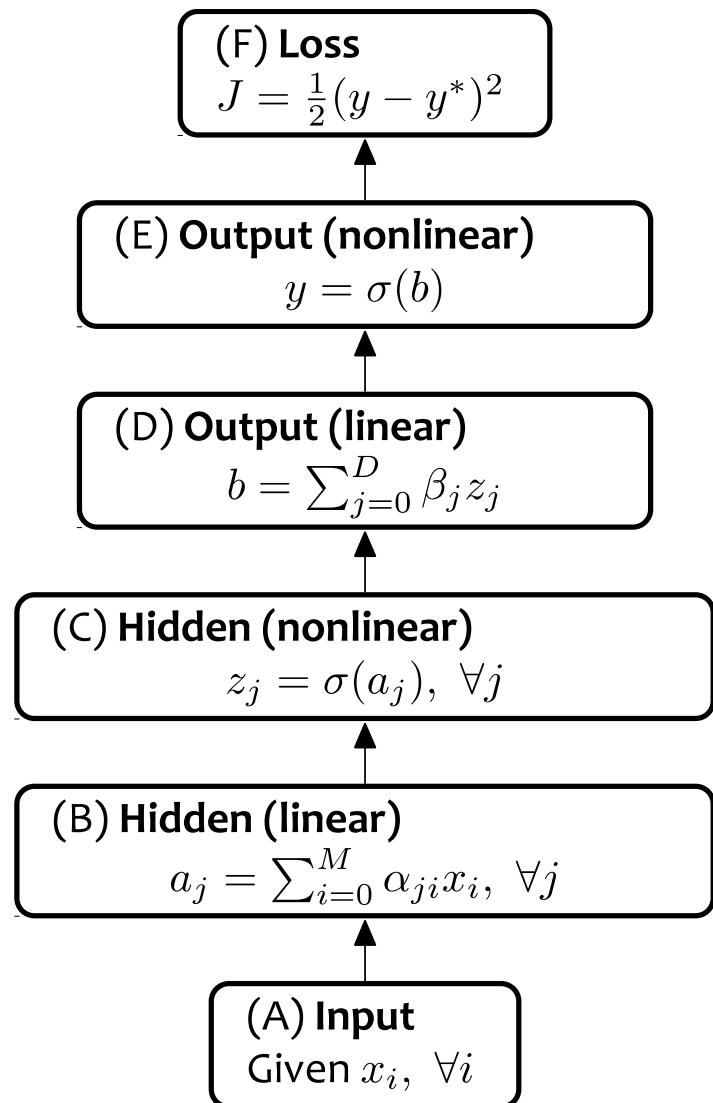
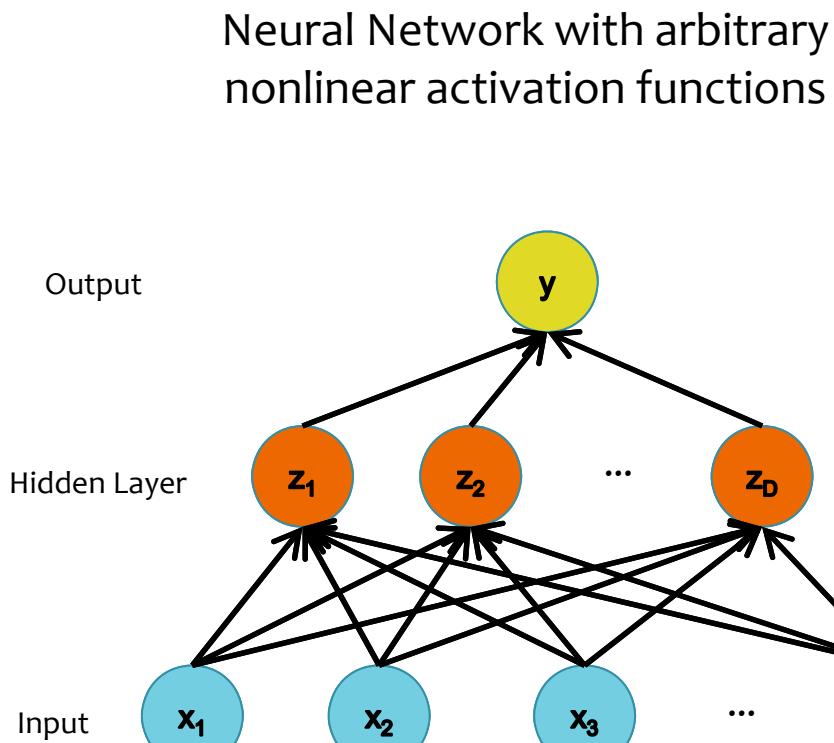


Example from Honglak Lee (NIPS 2010)

# Activation Functions



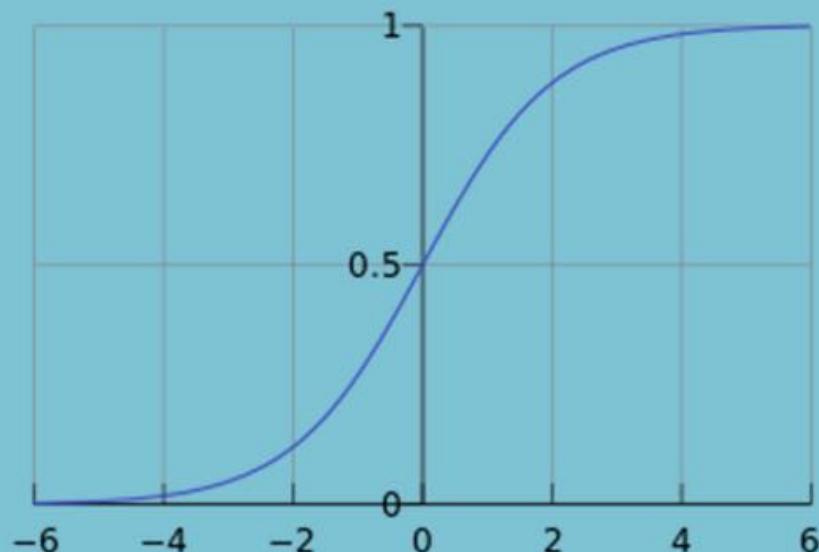
# Activation Functions



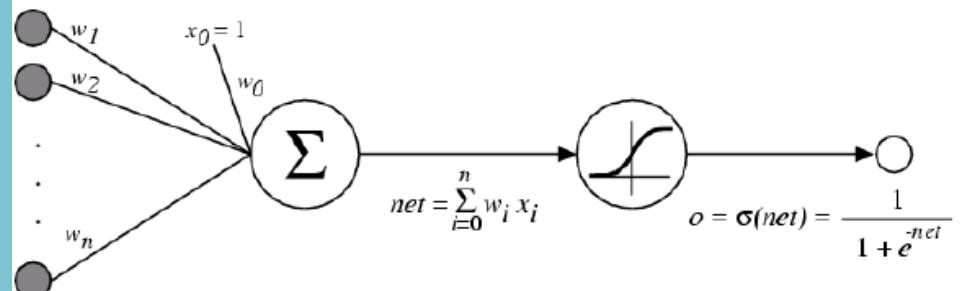
# Activation Functions

Sigmoid / Logistic Function

$$\text{logistic}(u) \equiv \frac{1}{1+e^{-u}}$$

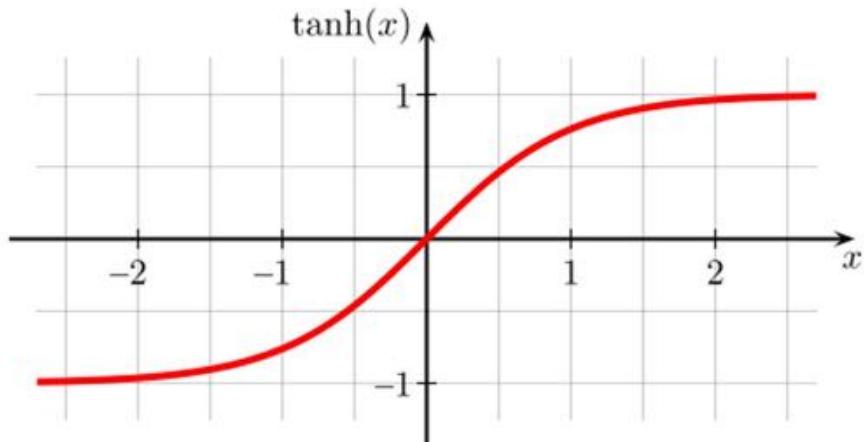


So far, we've assumed that the activation function (nonlinearity) is always the sigmoid function...



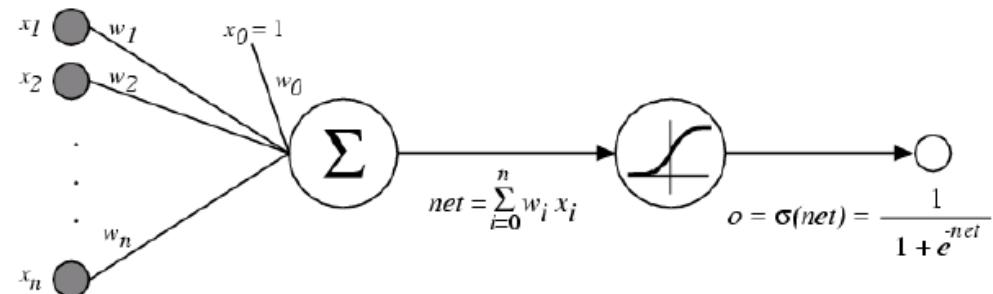
# Activation Functions

- A new change: modifying the nonlinearity
  - The logistic is not widely used in modern ANNs



Alternate 1:  
 $\tanh$

Like logistic function but  
shifted to range [-1, +1]



## Understanding the difficulty of training deep feedforward neural networks

AI Stats 2010

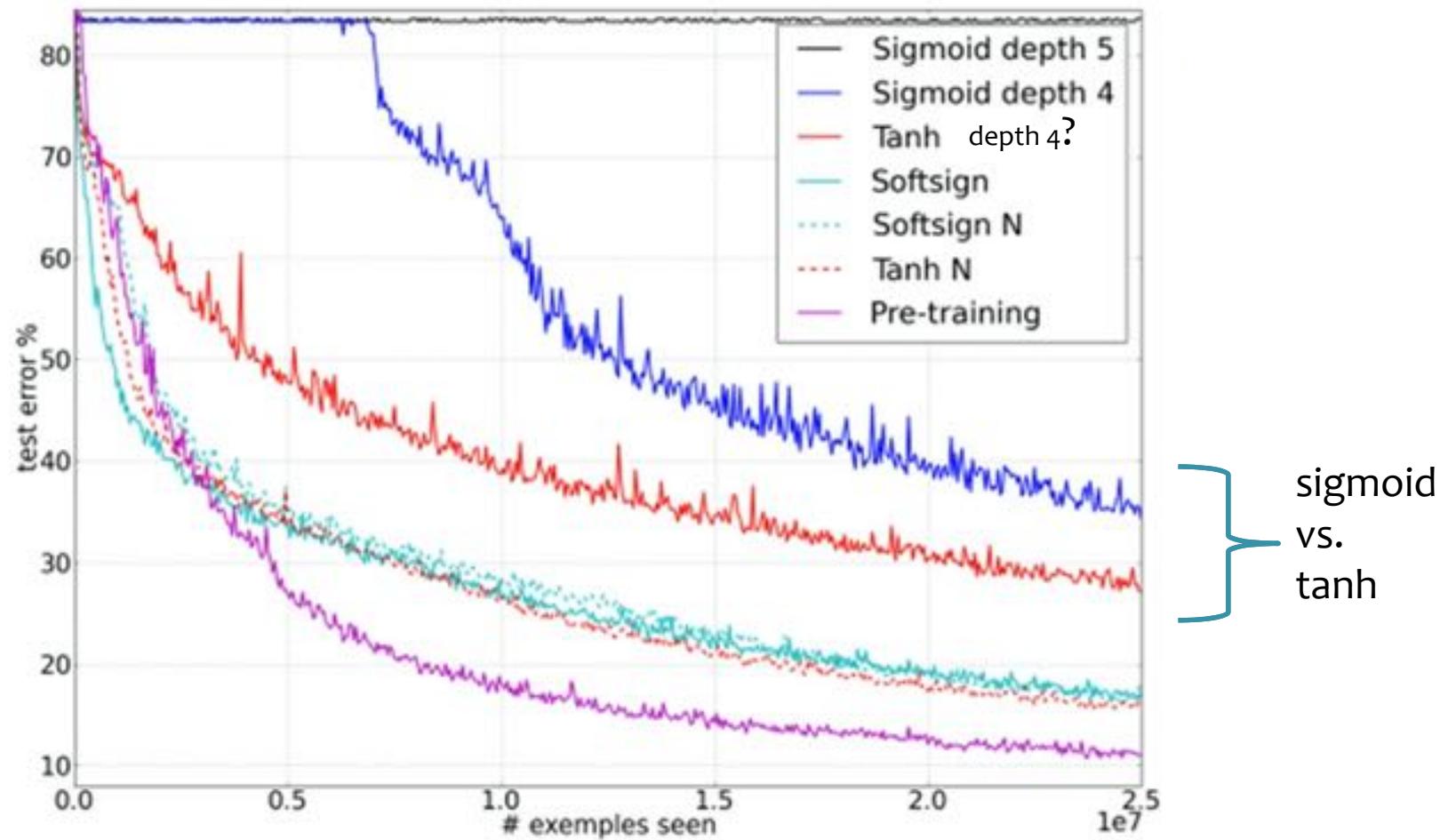
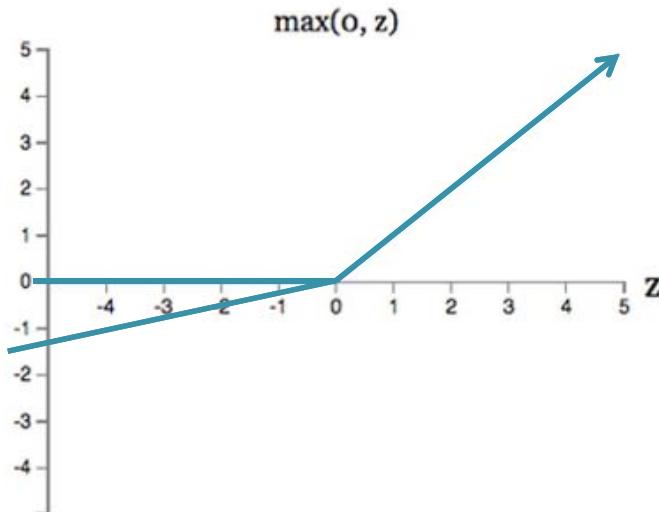


Figure from Glorot & Bentio (2010)

# Activation Functions

- A new change: modifying the nonlinearity
  - reLU often used in vision tasks

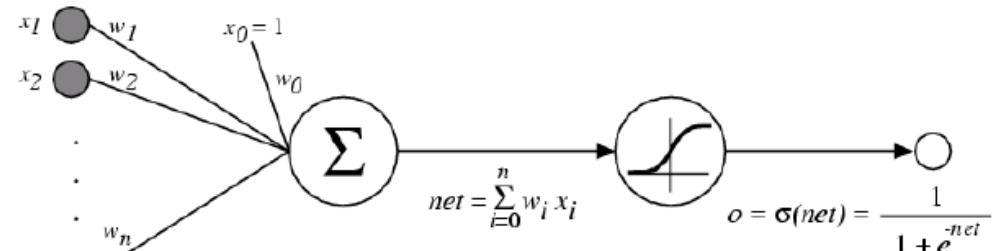


Alternate 2: rectified linear unit

Linear with a cutoff at zero

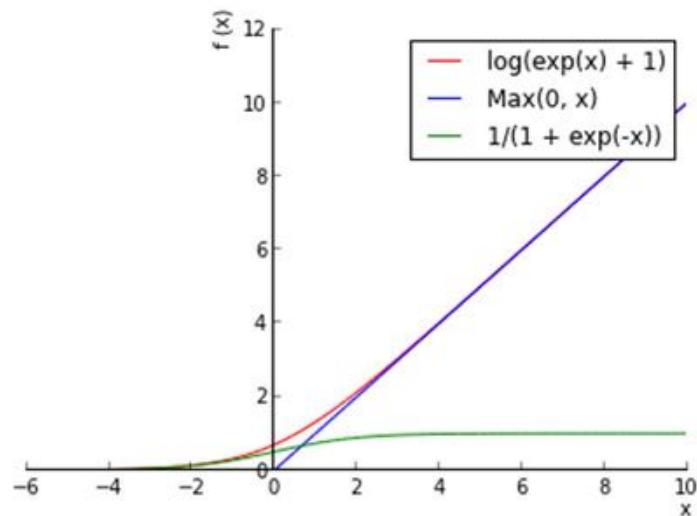
(Implementation: clip the gradient when you pass zero)

$$\max(0, w \cdot x + b).$$



# Activation Functions

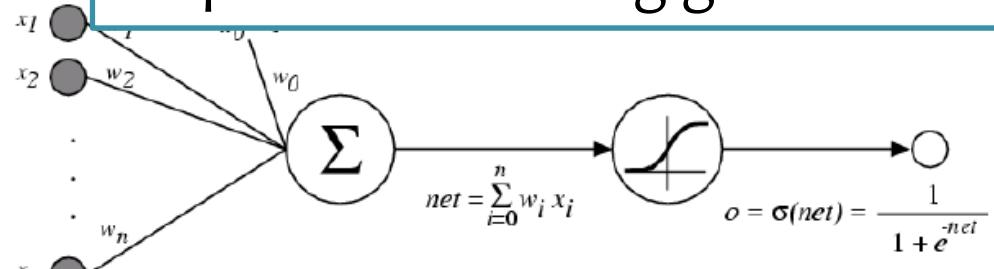
- A new change: modifying the nonlinearity
  - reLU often used in vision tasks



Alternate 2: rectified linear unit

Soft version:  $\log(\exp(x)+1)$

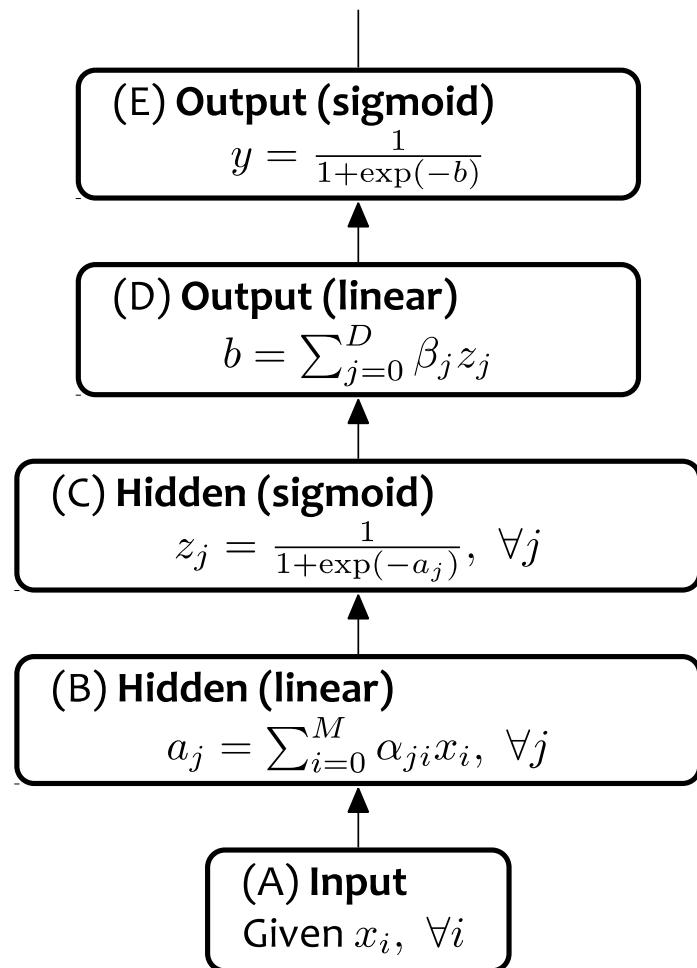
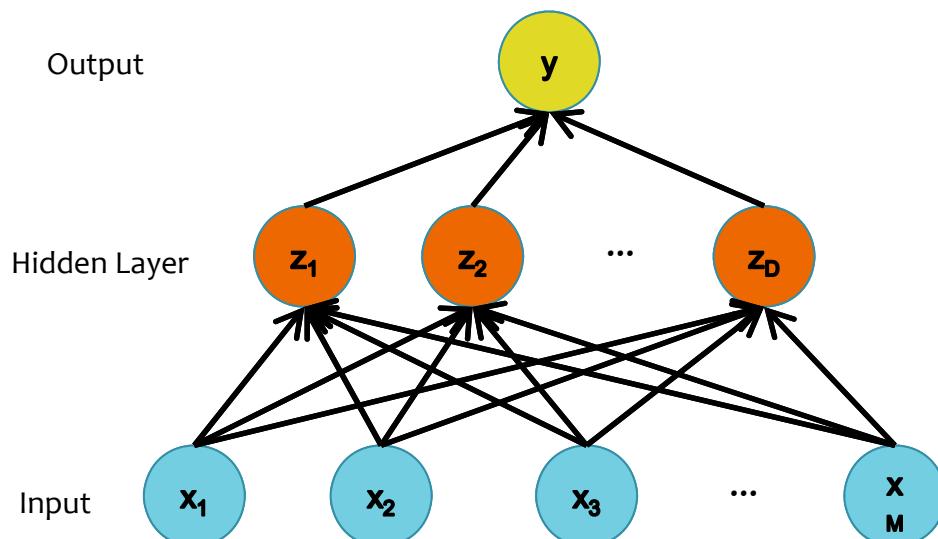
Doesn't saturate (at one end)  
Sparsifies outputs  
Helps with vanishing gradient



# Decision Functions

# Neural Network

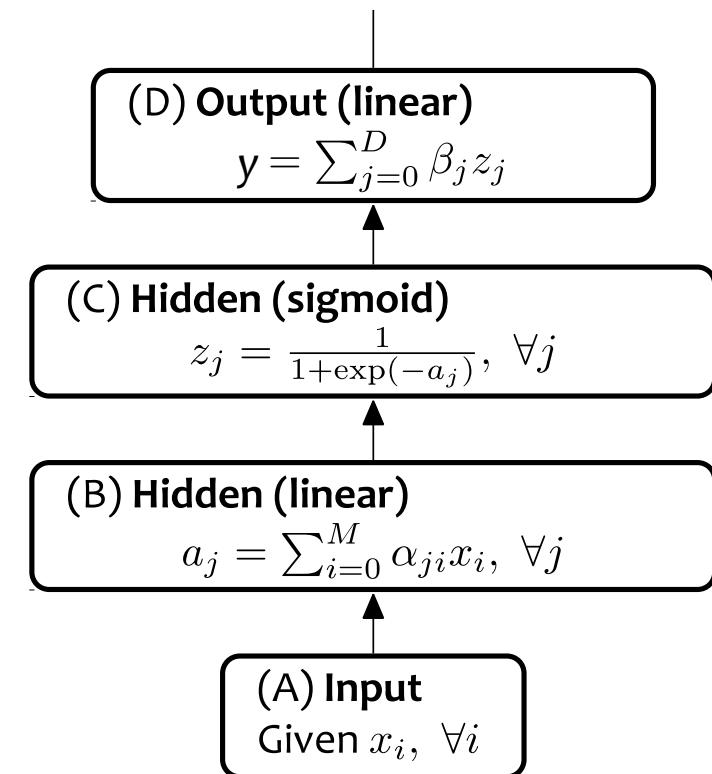
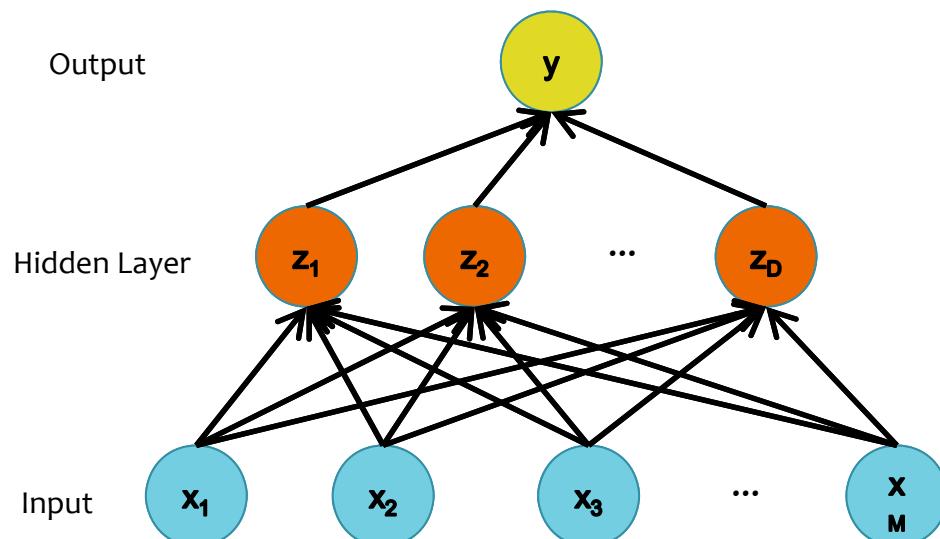
## Neural Network for Classification



# Decision Functions

# Neural Network

## Neural Network for Regression



# Objective Functions for NNs

## 1. Quadratic Loss:

- the same objective as Linear Regression
- i.e. mean squared error

## 2. Cross-Entropy:

- the same objective as Logistic Regression
- i.e. negative log likelihood
- This requires probabilities, so we add an additional “softmax” layer at the end of our network

### Forward

$$\text{Quadratic} \quad J = \frac{1}{2}(y - y^*)^2$$

### Backward

$$\frac{dJ}{dy} = y - y^*$$

$$\text{Cross Entropy} \quad J = y^* \log(y) + (1 - y^*) \log(1 - y)$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dy} = y^* \frac{1}{y} + (1 - y^*) \frac{1}{1 - y}$$

# Objective Functions for NNs

Cross-entropy vs. Quadratic loss

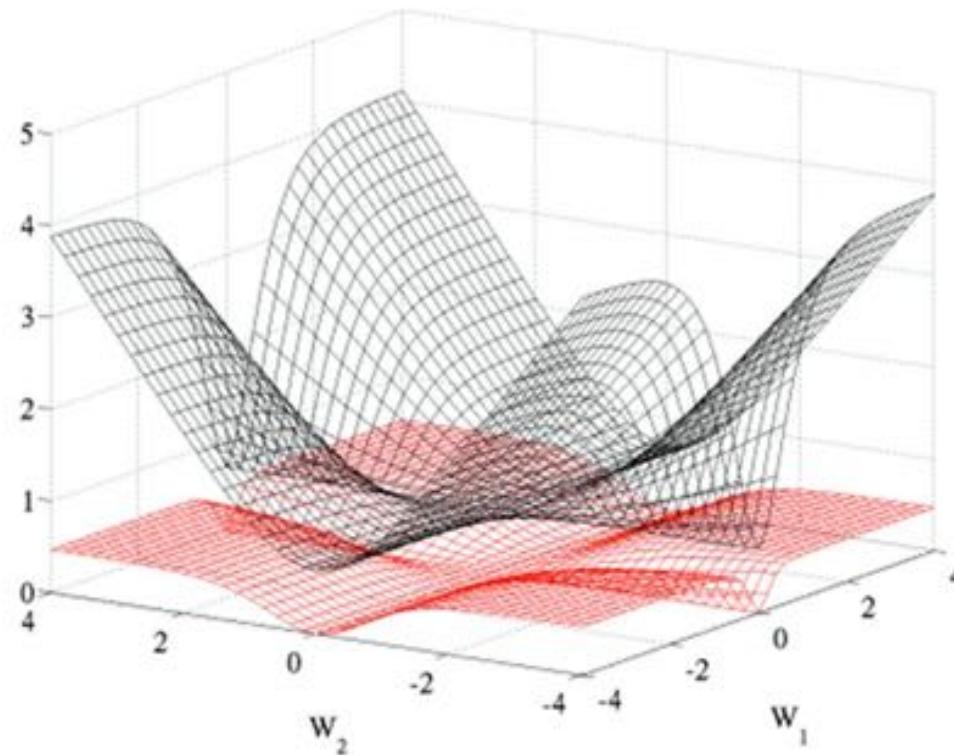
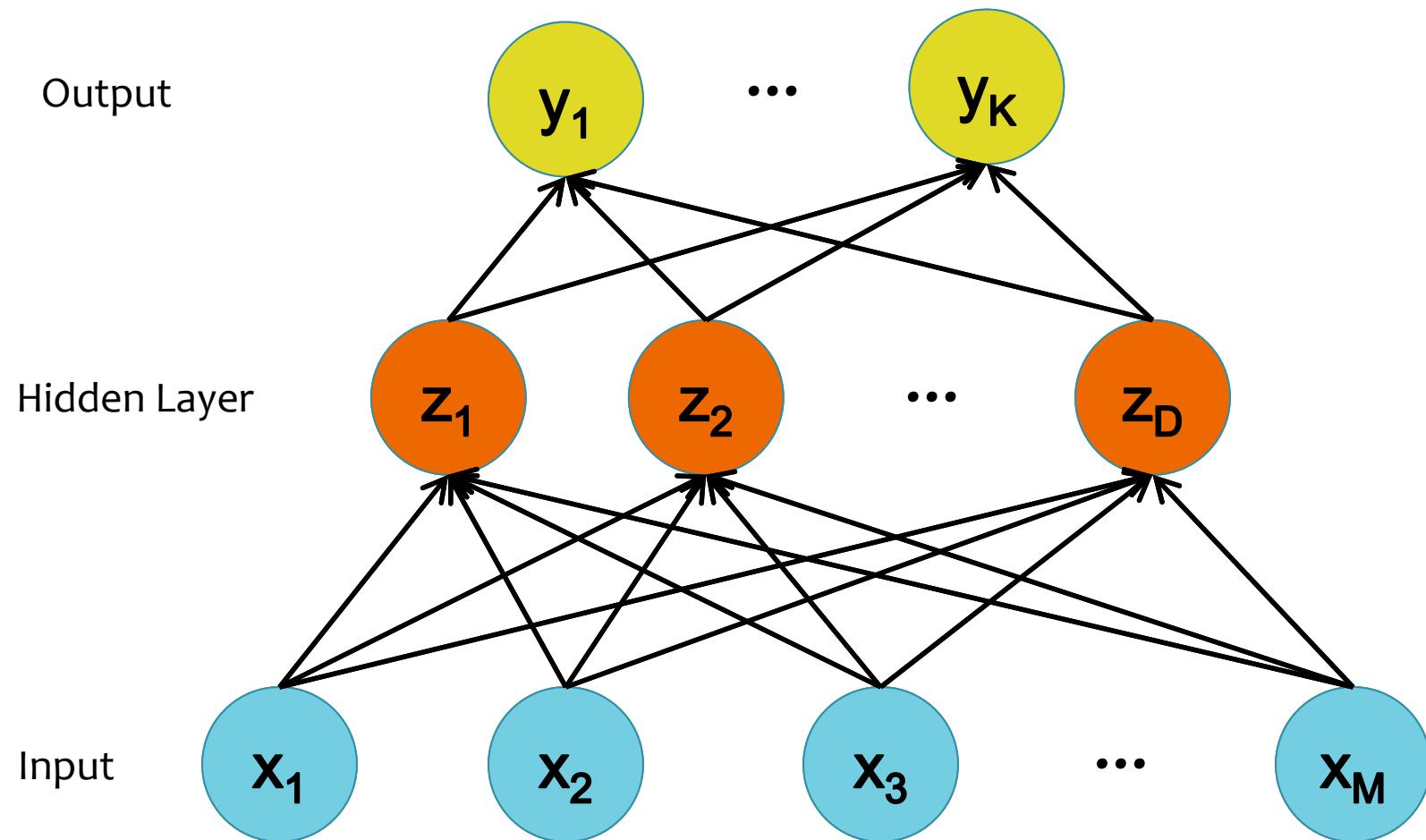


Figure 5: Cross entropy (black, surface on top) and quadratic (red, bottom surface) cost as a function of two weights (one at each layer) of a network with two layers,  $W_1$  respectively on the first layer and  $W_2$  on the second, output layer.

Figure from Glorot & Bentio (2010)

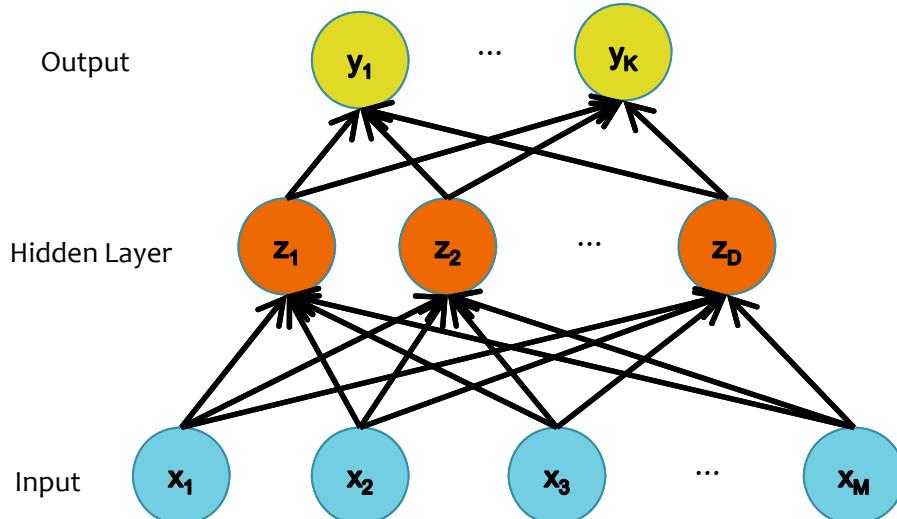
# Multi-Class Output



# Multi-Class Output

Softmax:

$$y_k = \frac{\exp(b_k)}{\sum_{l=1}^K \exp(b_l)}$$



(F) Loss  
 $J = \sum_{k=1}^K y_k^* \log(y_k)$

(E) Output (softmax)  
 $y_k = \frac{\exp(b_k)}{\sum_{l=1}^K \exp(b_l)}$

(D) Output (linear)  
 $b_k = \sum_{j=0}^D \beta_{kj} z_j \quad \forall k$

(C) Hidden (nonlinear)  
 $z_j = \sigma(a_j), \quad \forall j$

(B) Hidden (linear)  
 $a_j = \sum_{i=0}^M \alpha_{ji} x_i, \quad \forall j$

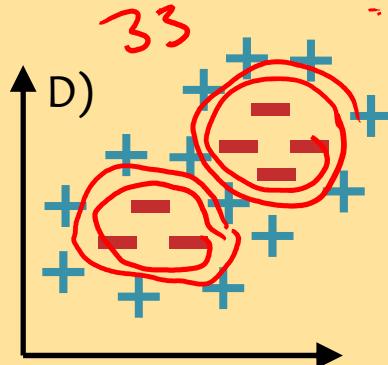
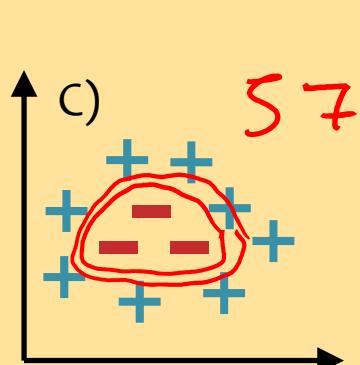
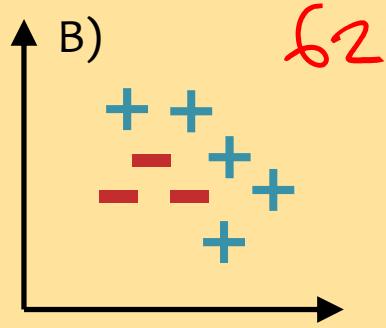
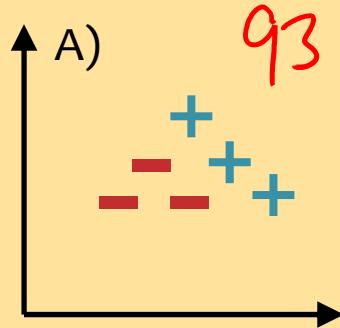
(A) Input  
 Given  $x_i, \quad \forall i$

$E = \text{calmity}$

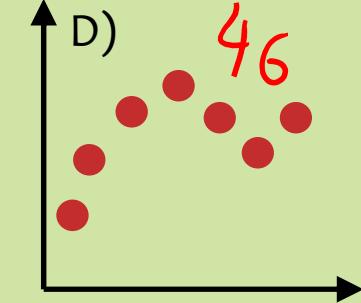
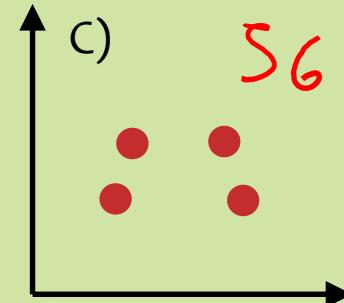
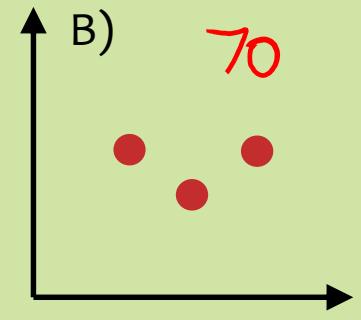
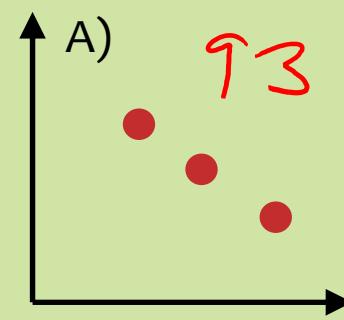
p13.mlclass6s

# Neural Network Errors

**Question A:** On which of the datasets below could a one-hidden layer neural network achieve zero classification error? **Select all that apply.**

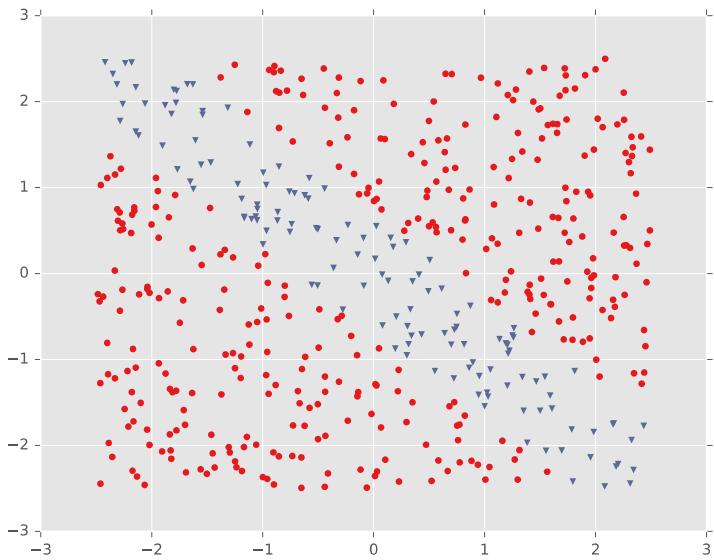


**Question B:** On which of the datasets below could a one-hidden layer neural network for regression achieve nearly zero MSE? **Select all that apply.**

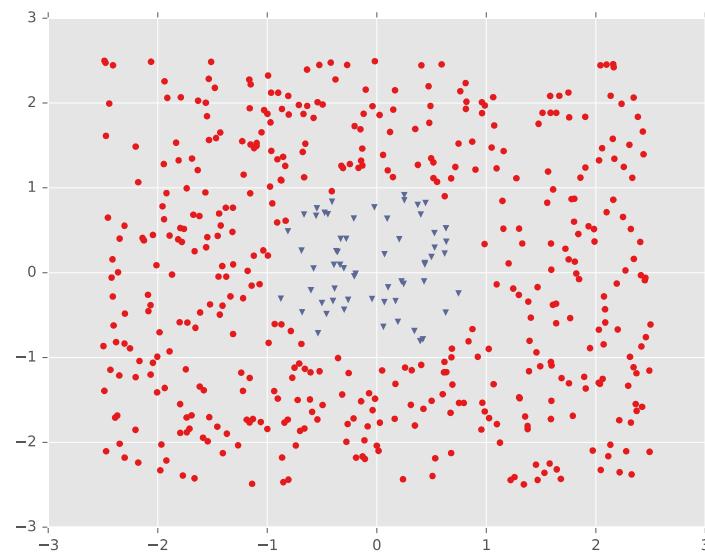


# **DECISION BOUNDARY EXAMPLES**

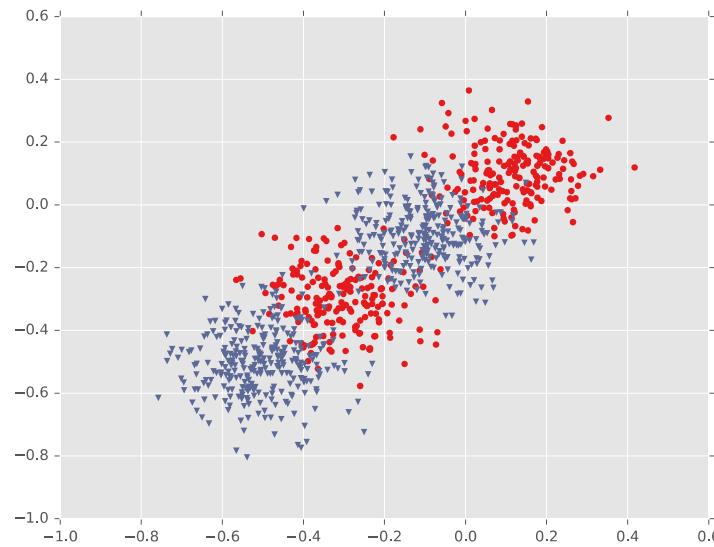
### Example #1: Diagonal Band



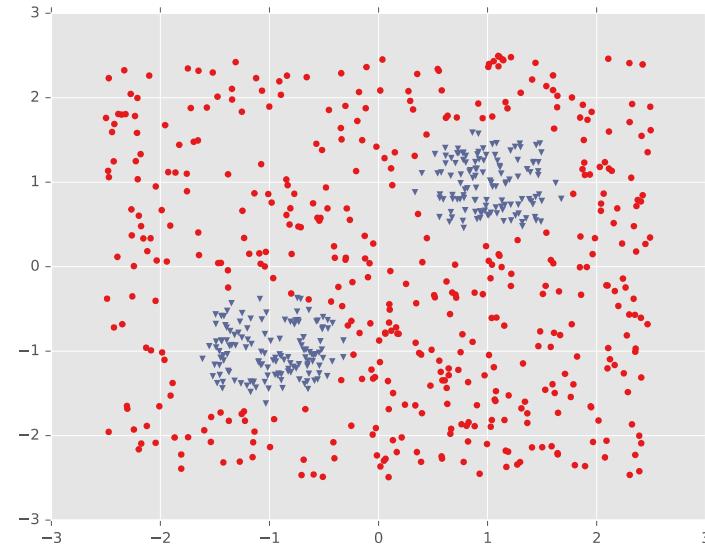
### Example #2: One Pocket



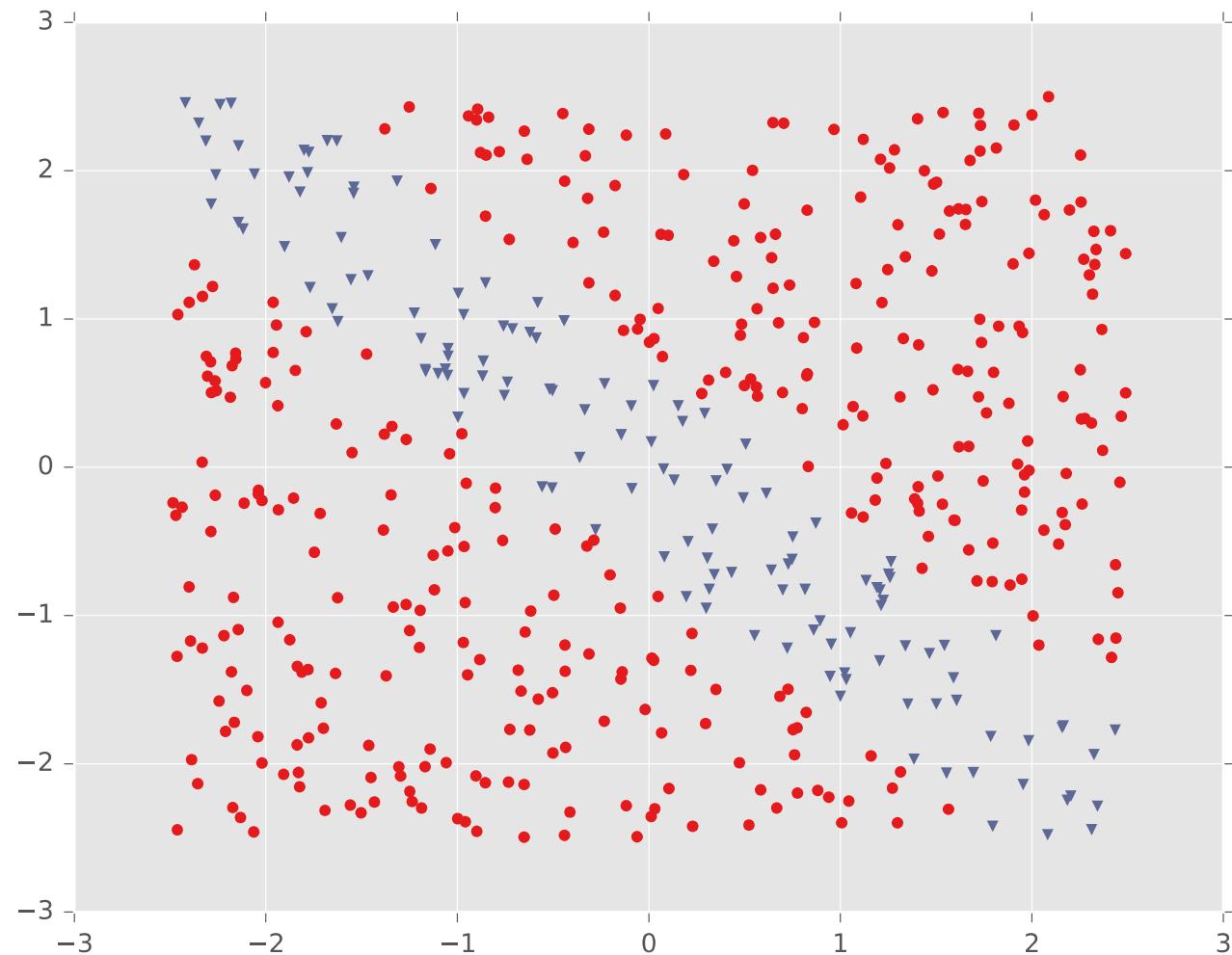
### Example #3: Four Gaussians



### Example #4: Two Pockets



# Example #1: Diagonal Band

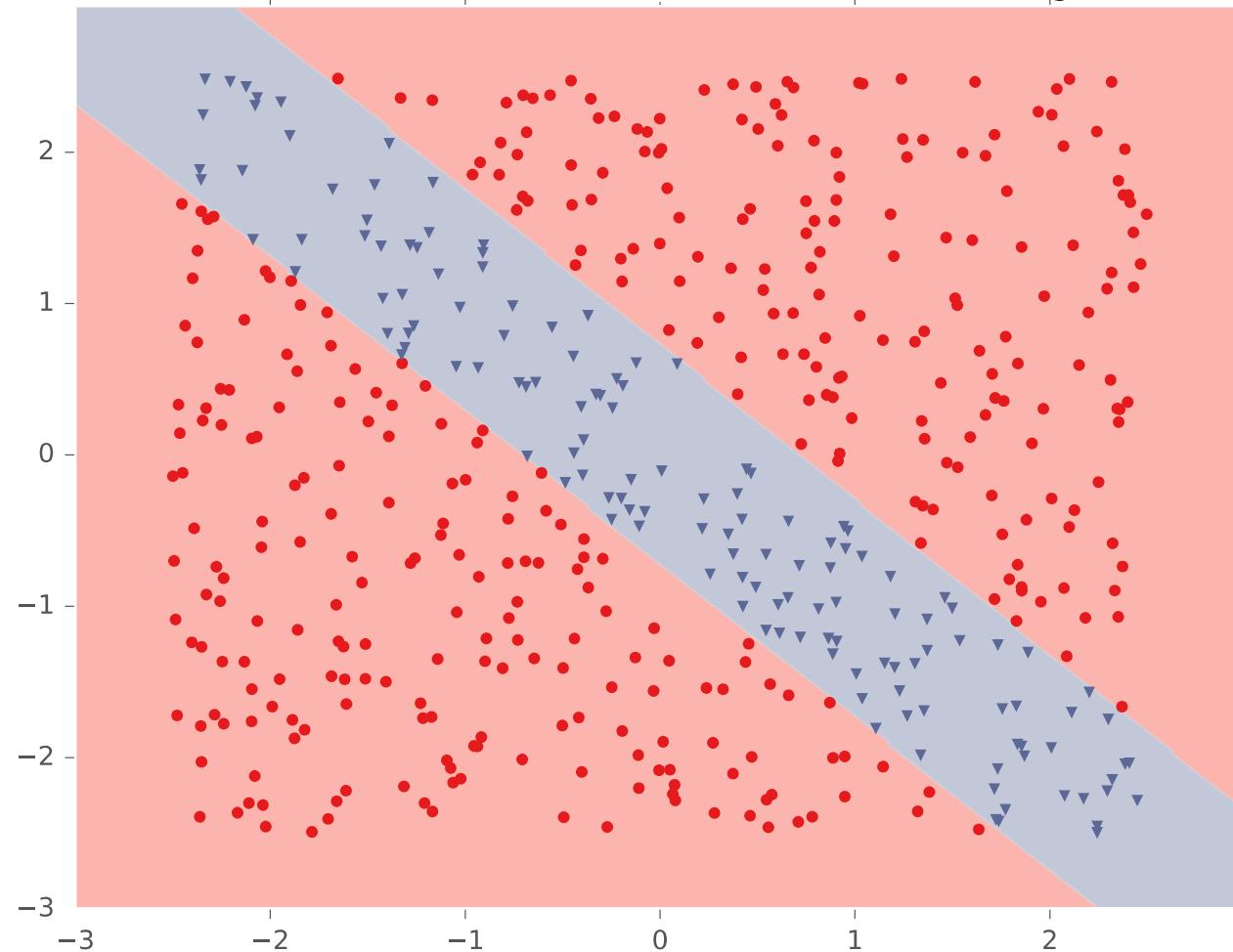


# Example #1: Diagonal Band



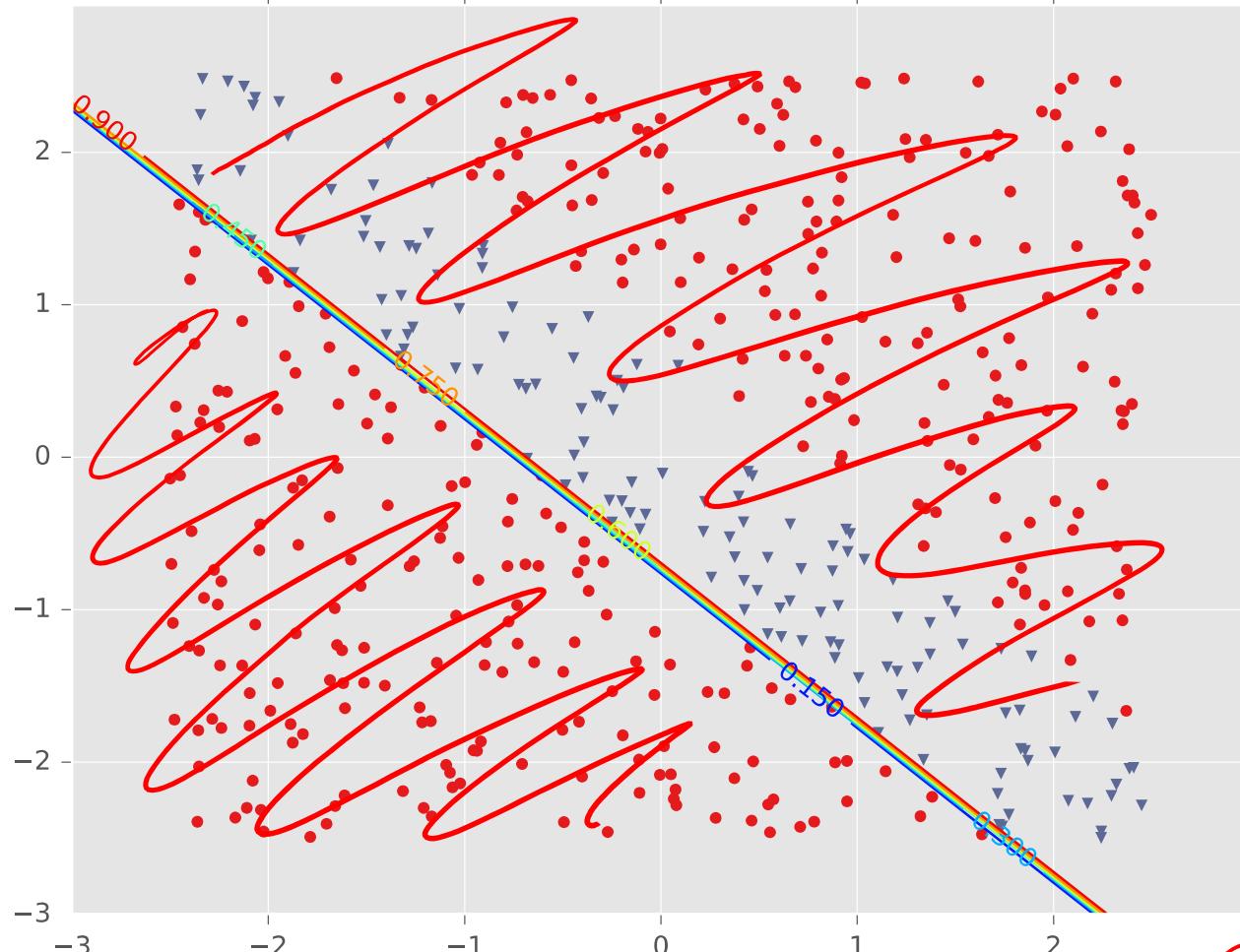
# Example #1: Diagonal Band

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)



# Example #1: Diagonal Band

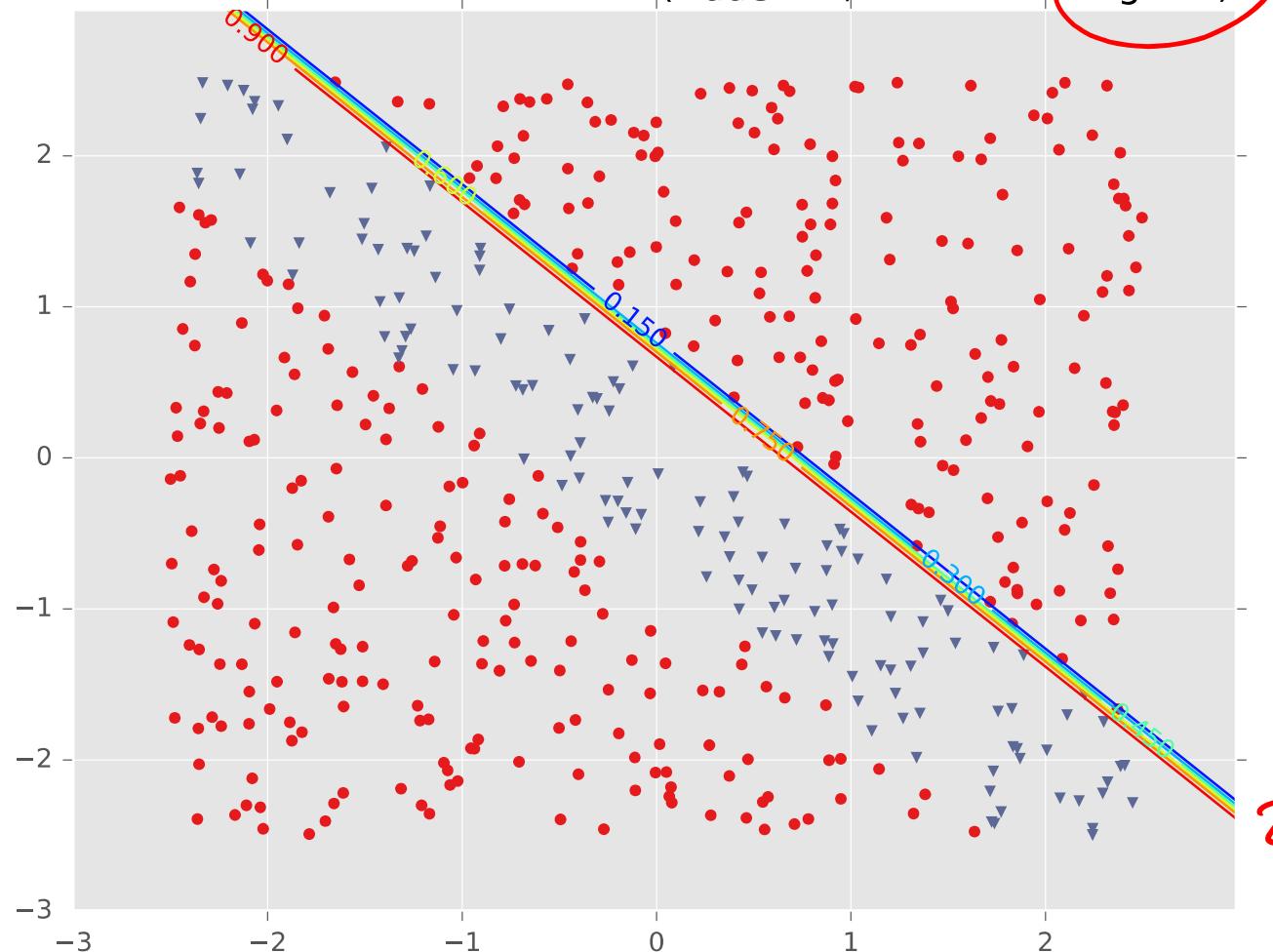
LR1 for Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)



$$z_1(x_1, x_2)$$

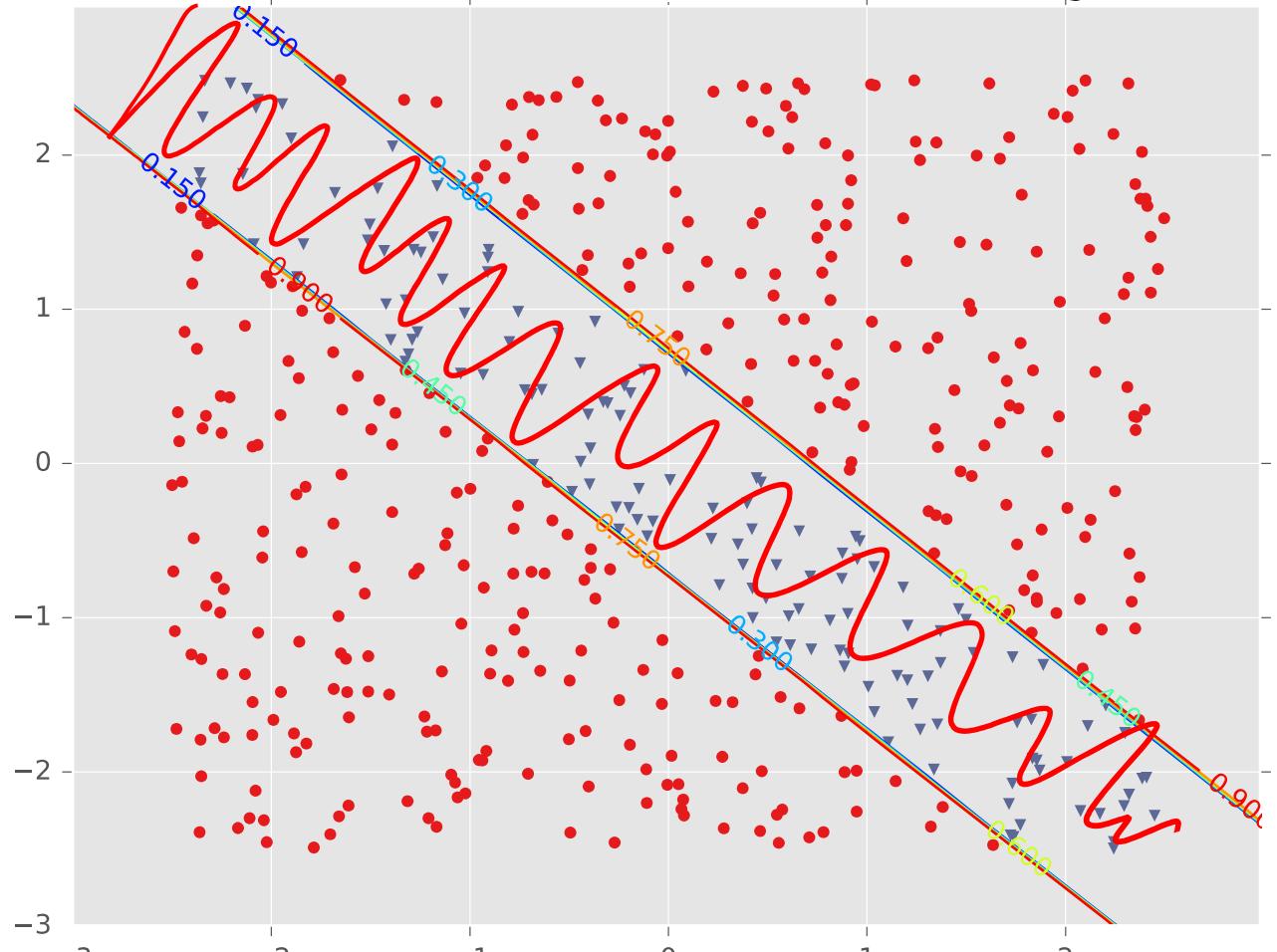
# Example #1: Diagonal Band

LR2 for Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)



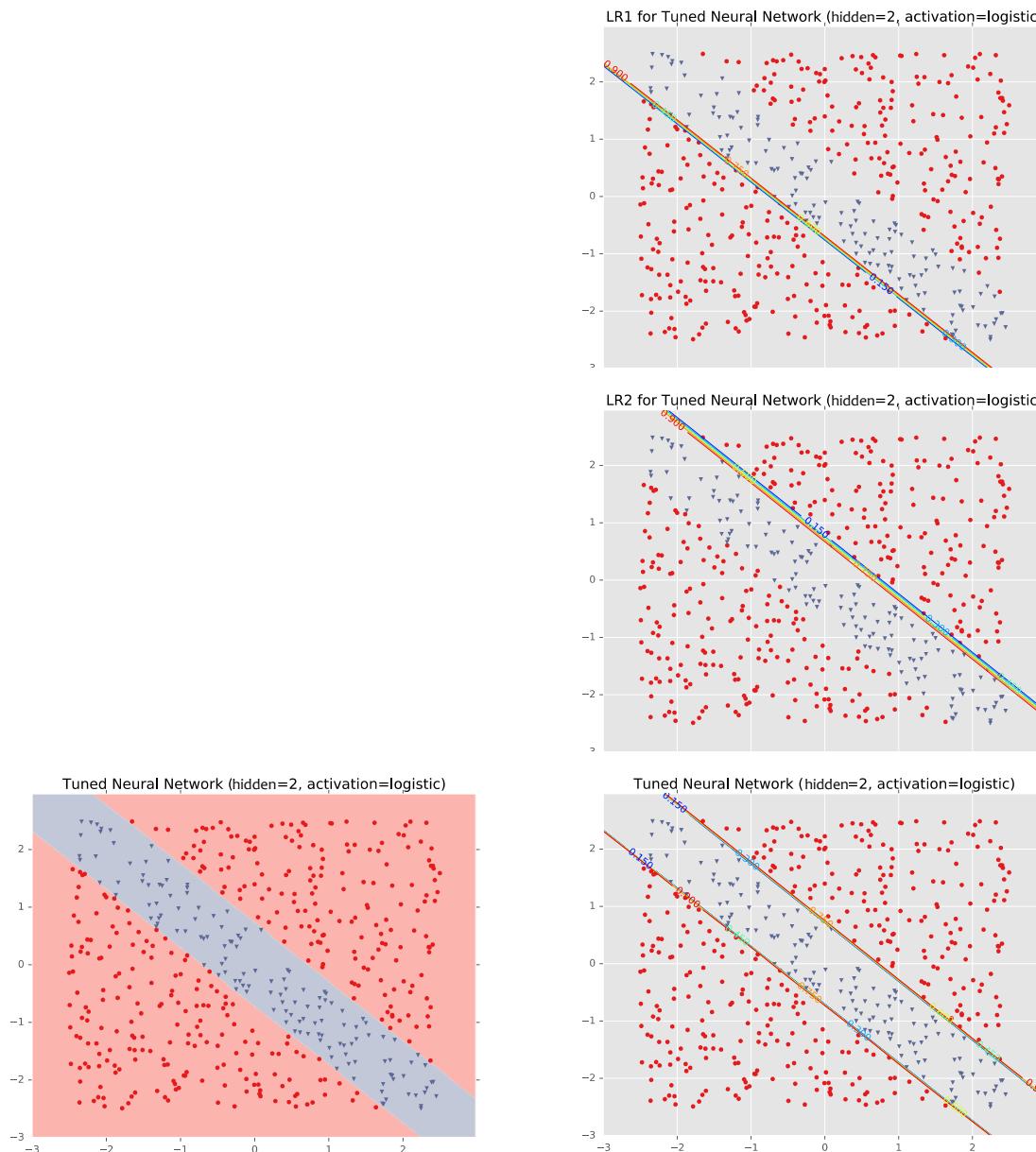
# Example #1: Diagonal Band

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)

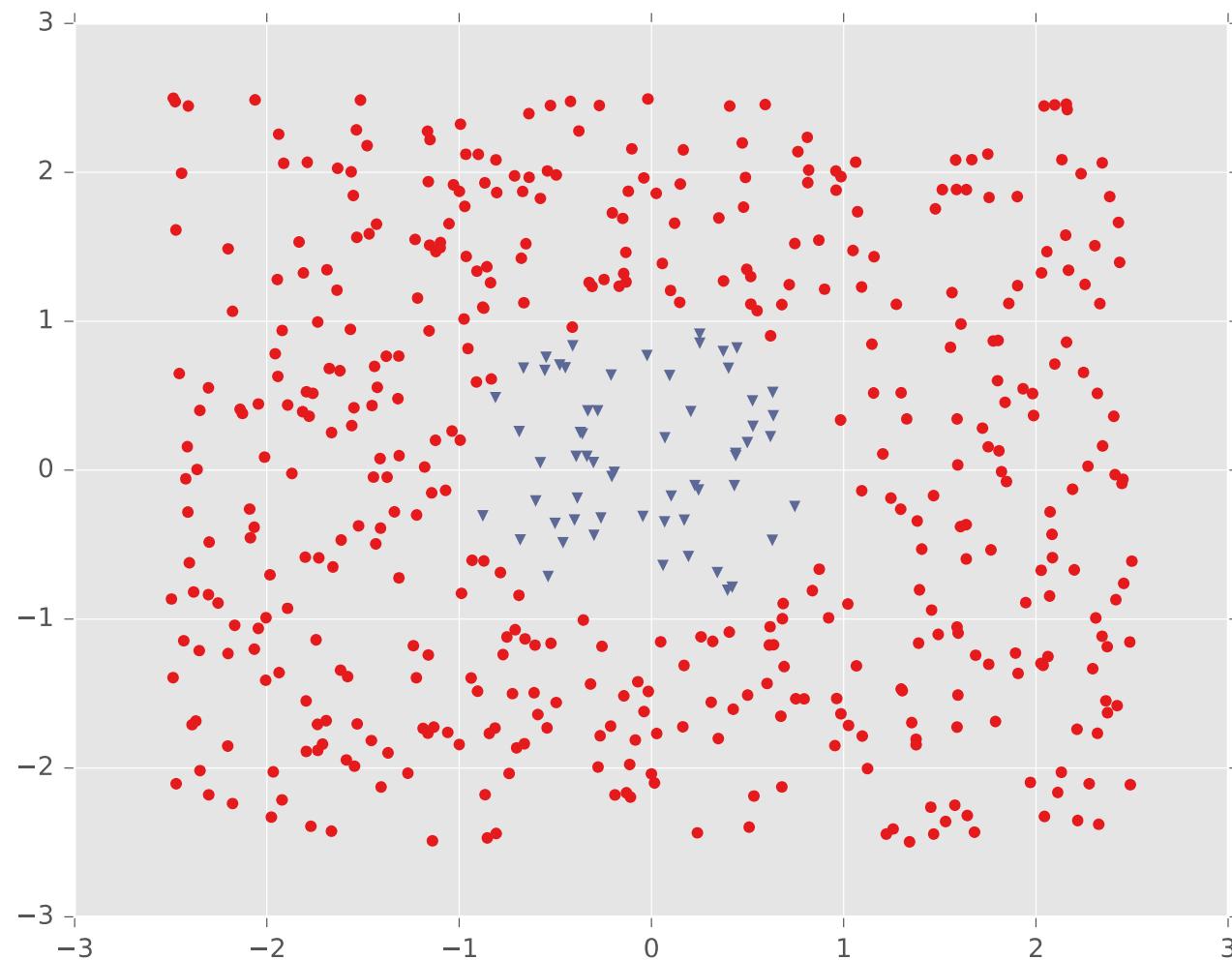


$y(x)$

# Example #1: Diagonal Band



## Example #2: One Pocket

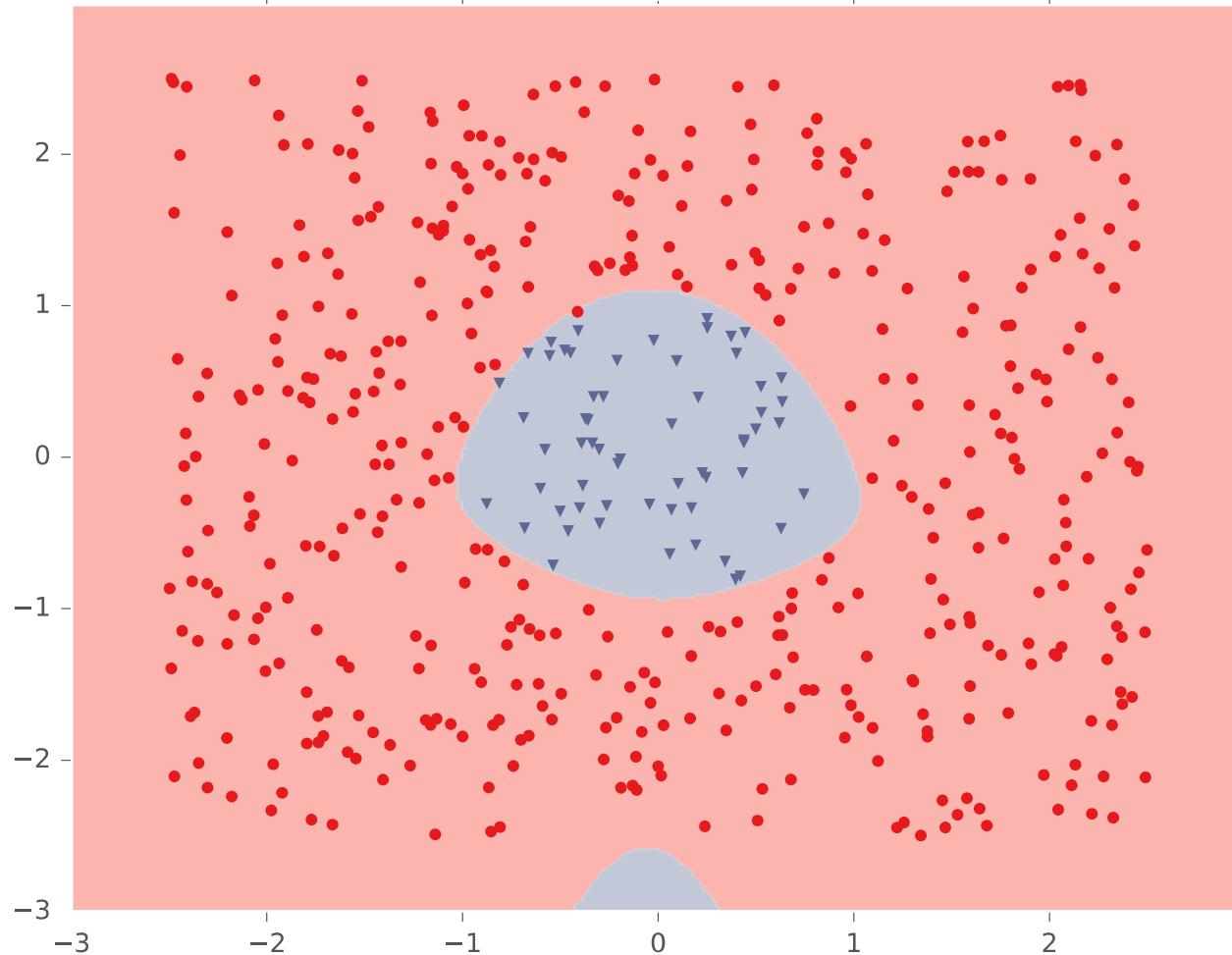


# Example #2: One Pocket



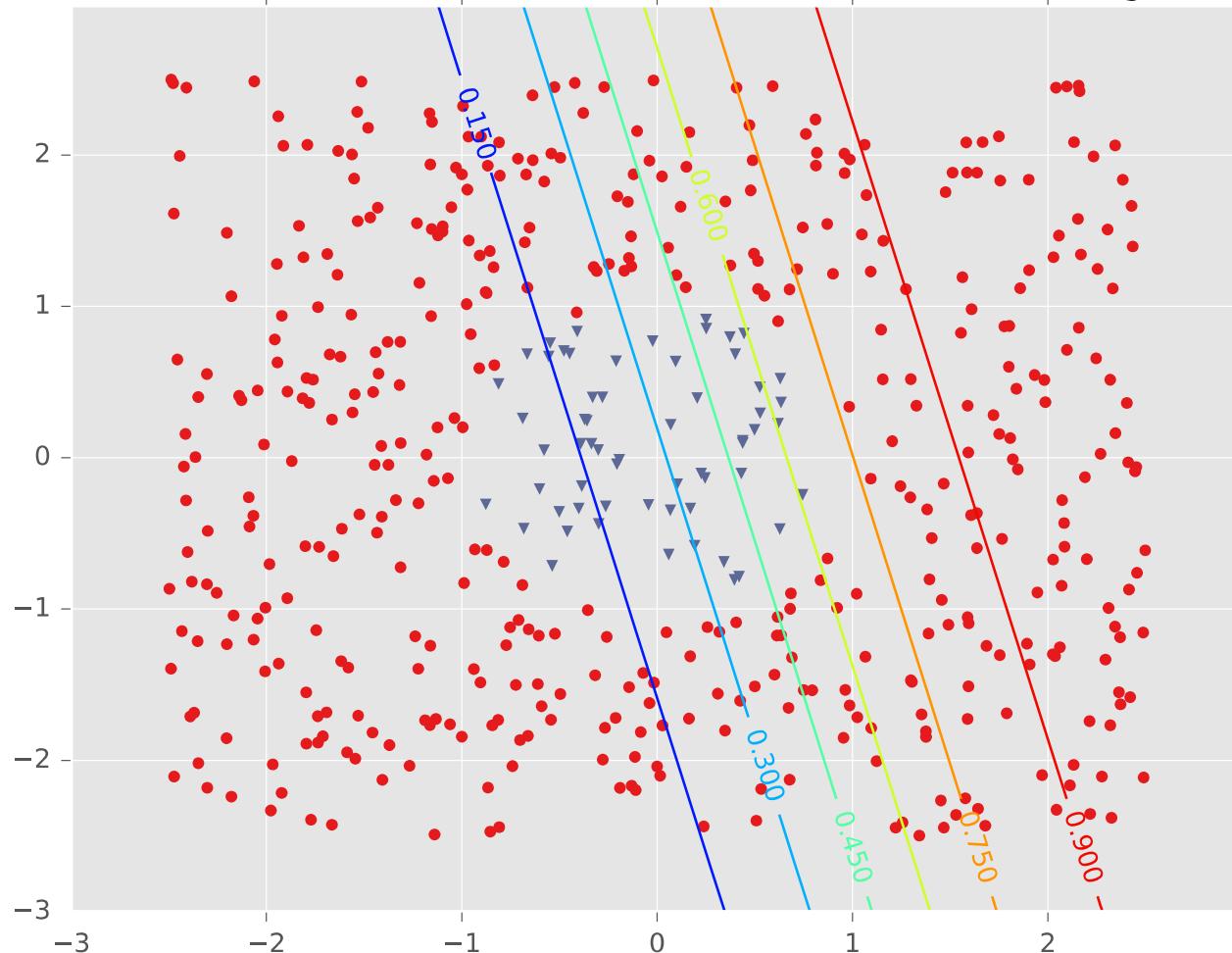
# Example #2: One Pocket

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=3, activation=logistic)



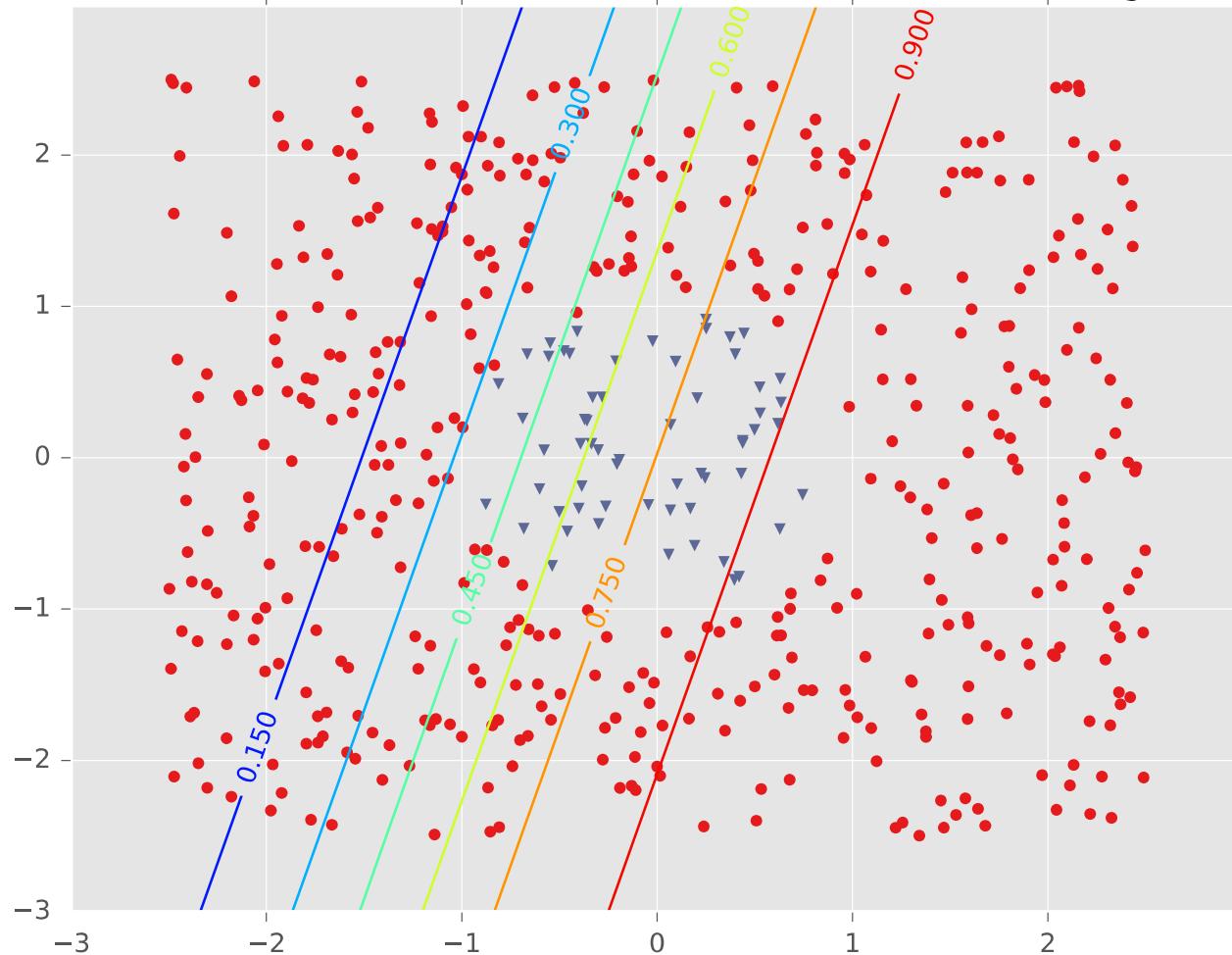
# Example #2: One Pocket

LR1 for Tuned Neural Network (hidden=3, activation=logistic)



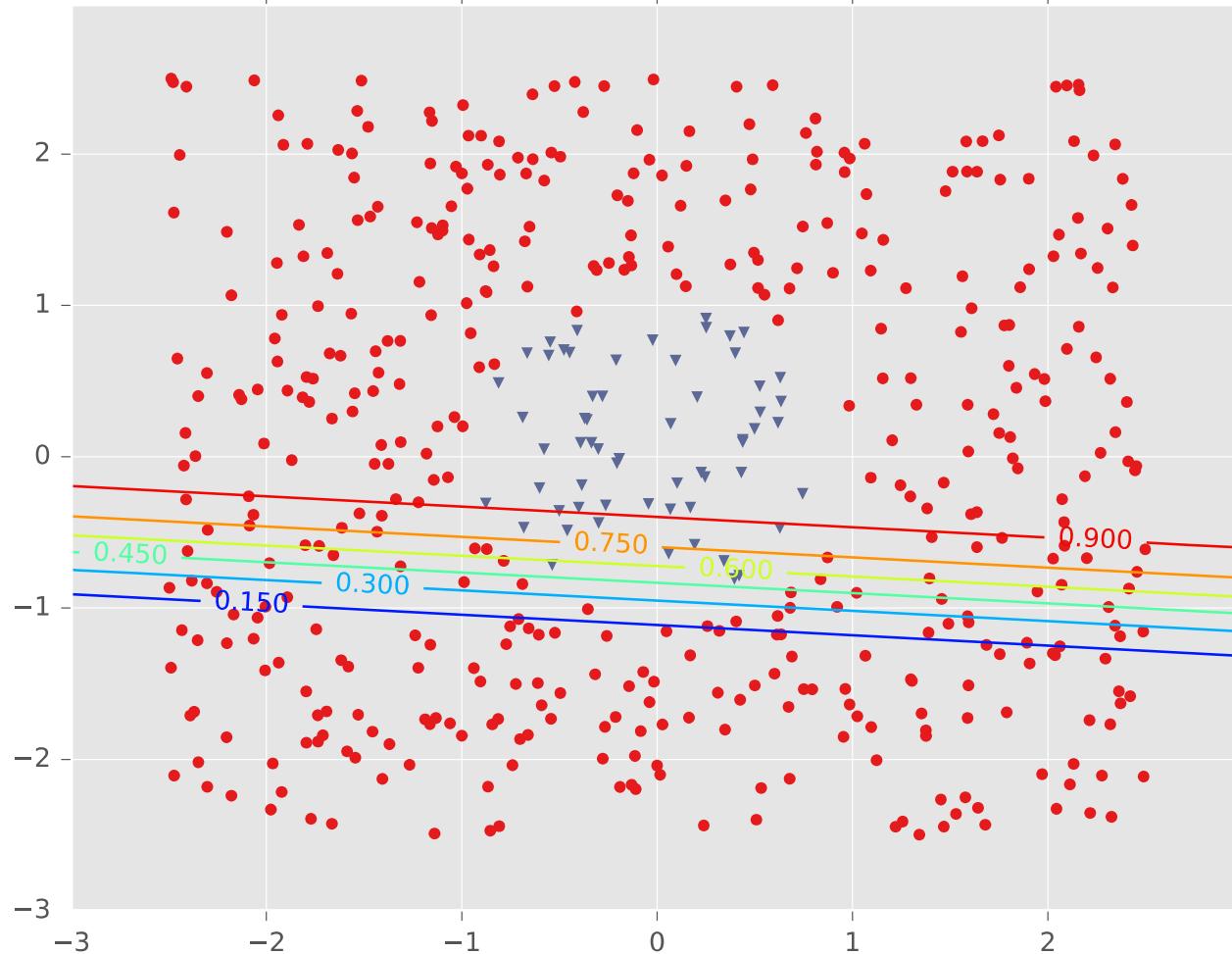
# Example #2: One Pocket

LR2 for Tuned Neural Network (hidden=3, activation=logistic)



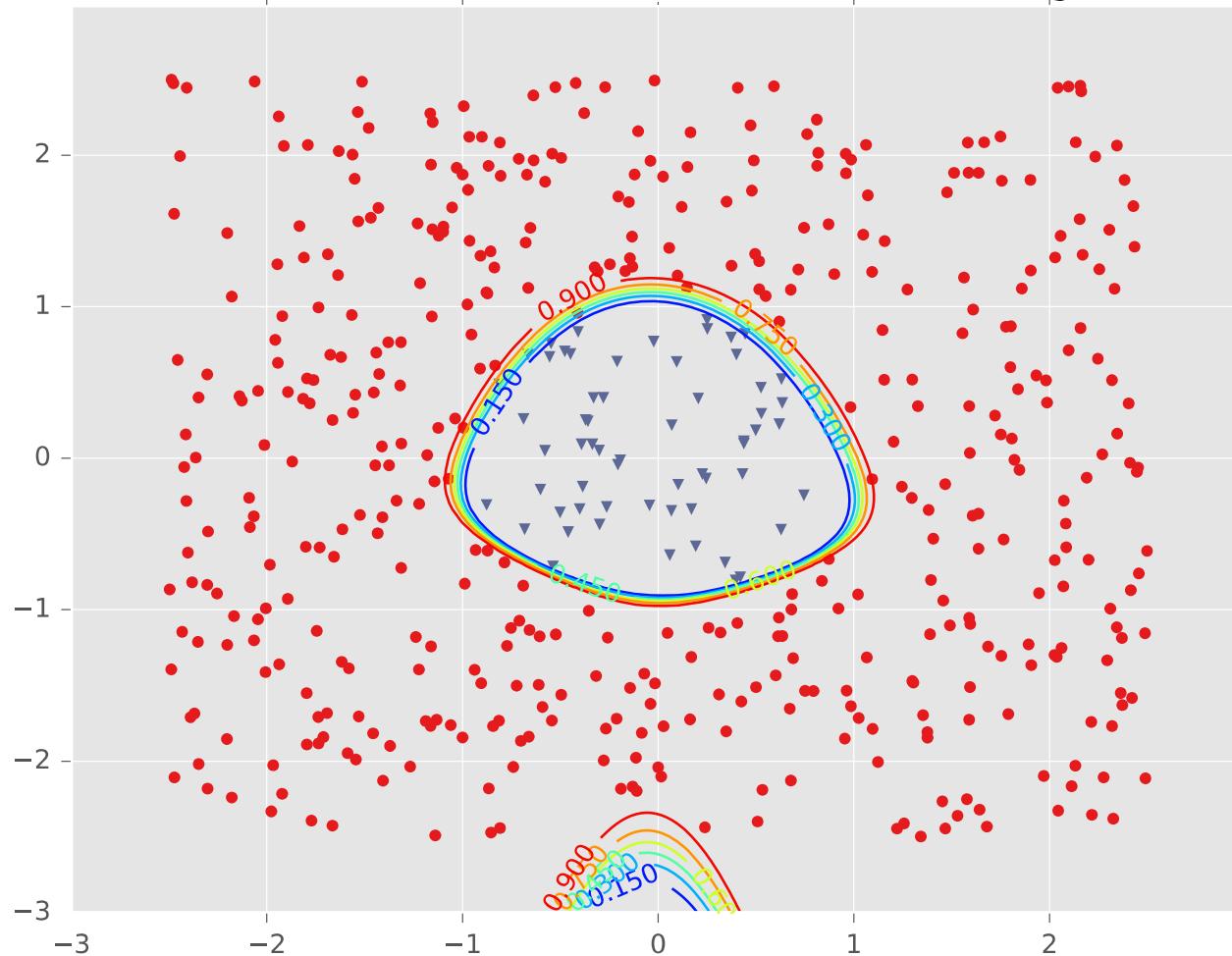
# Example #2: One Pocket

LR3 for Tuned Neural Network (hidden=3, activation=logistic)

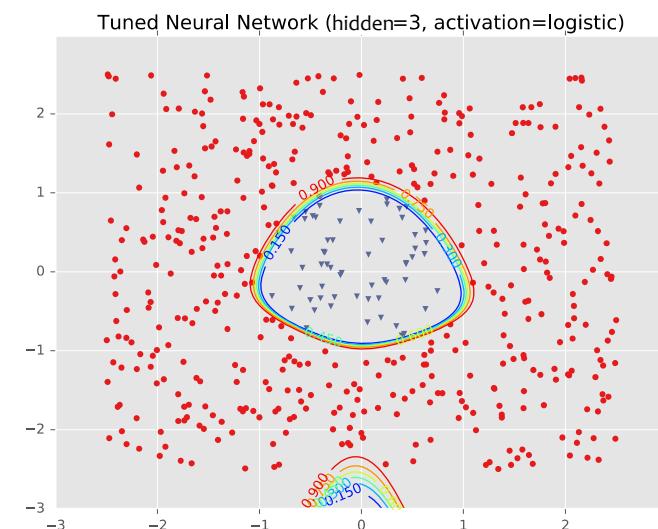
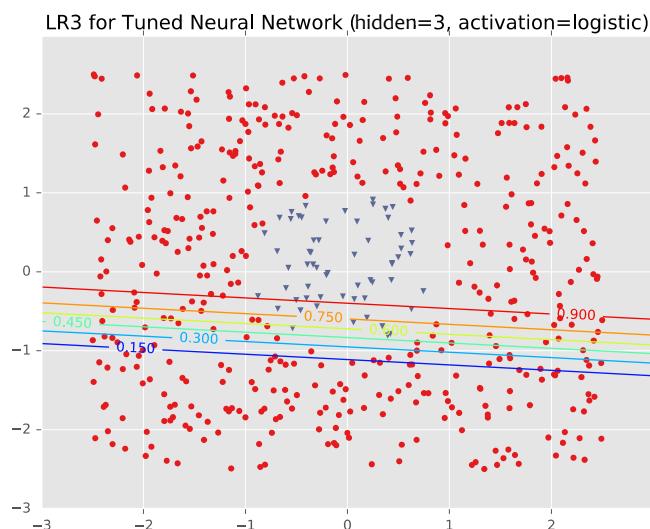
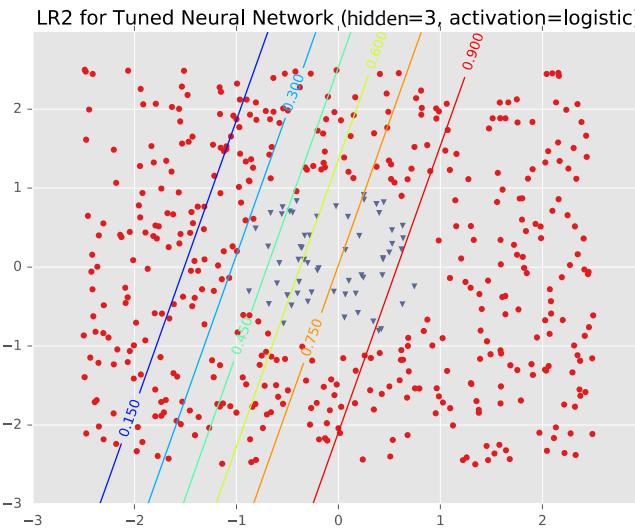
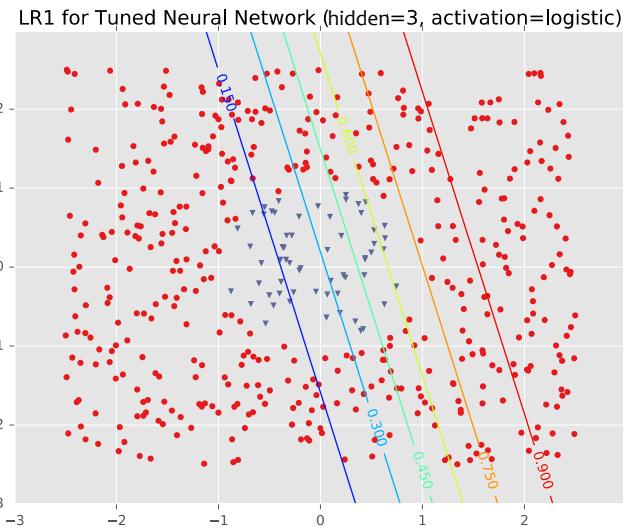


# Example #2: One Pocket

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=3, activation=logistic)



# Example #2: One Pocket



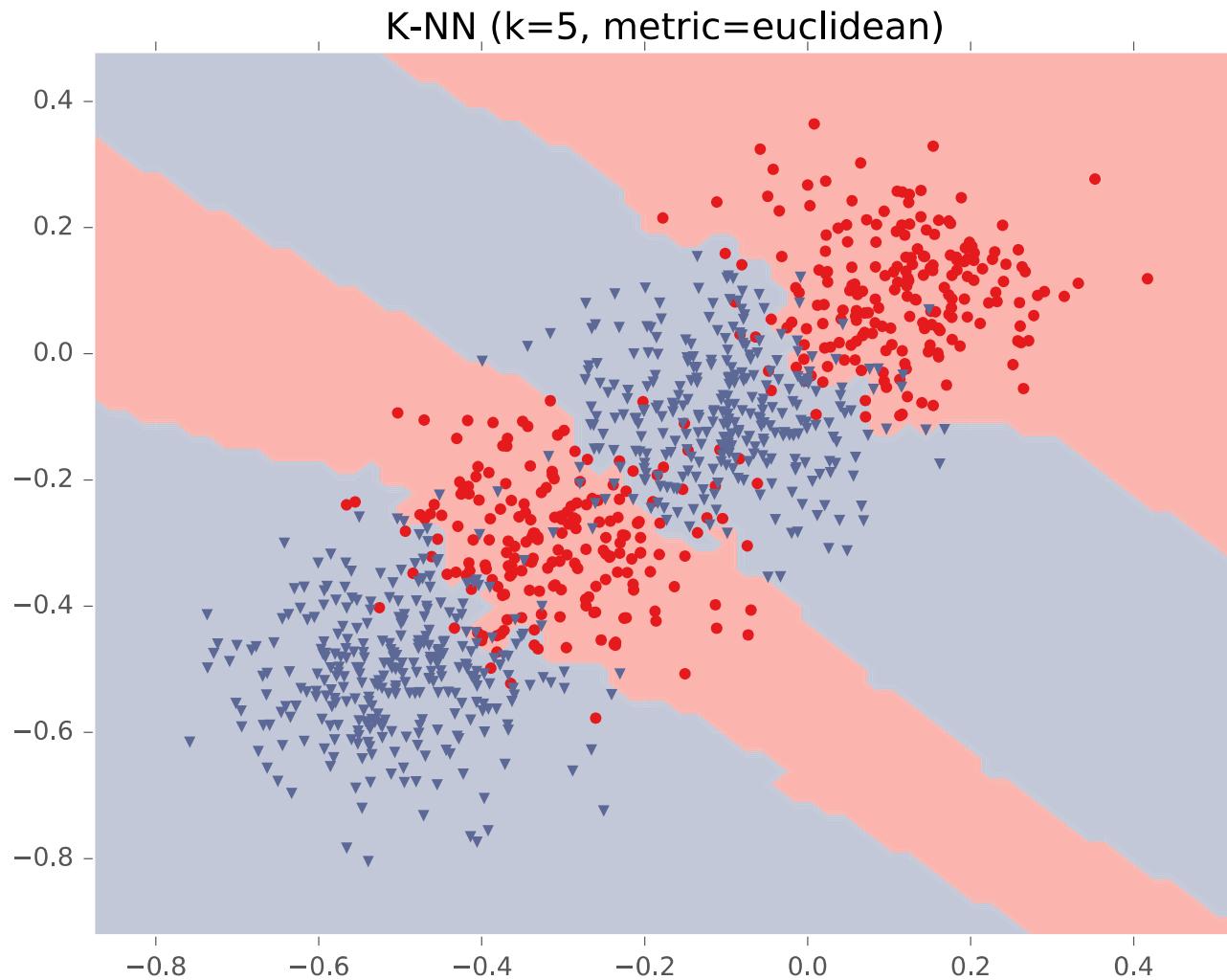
# Example #3: Four Gaussians



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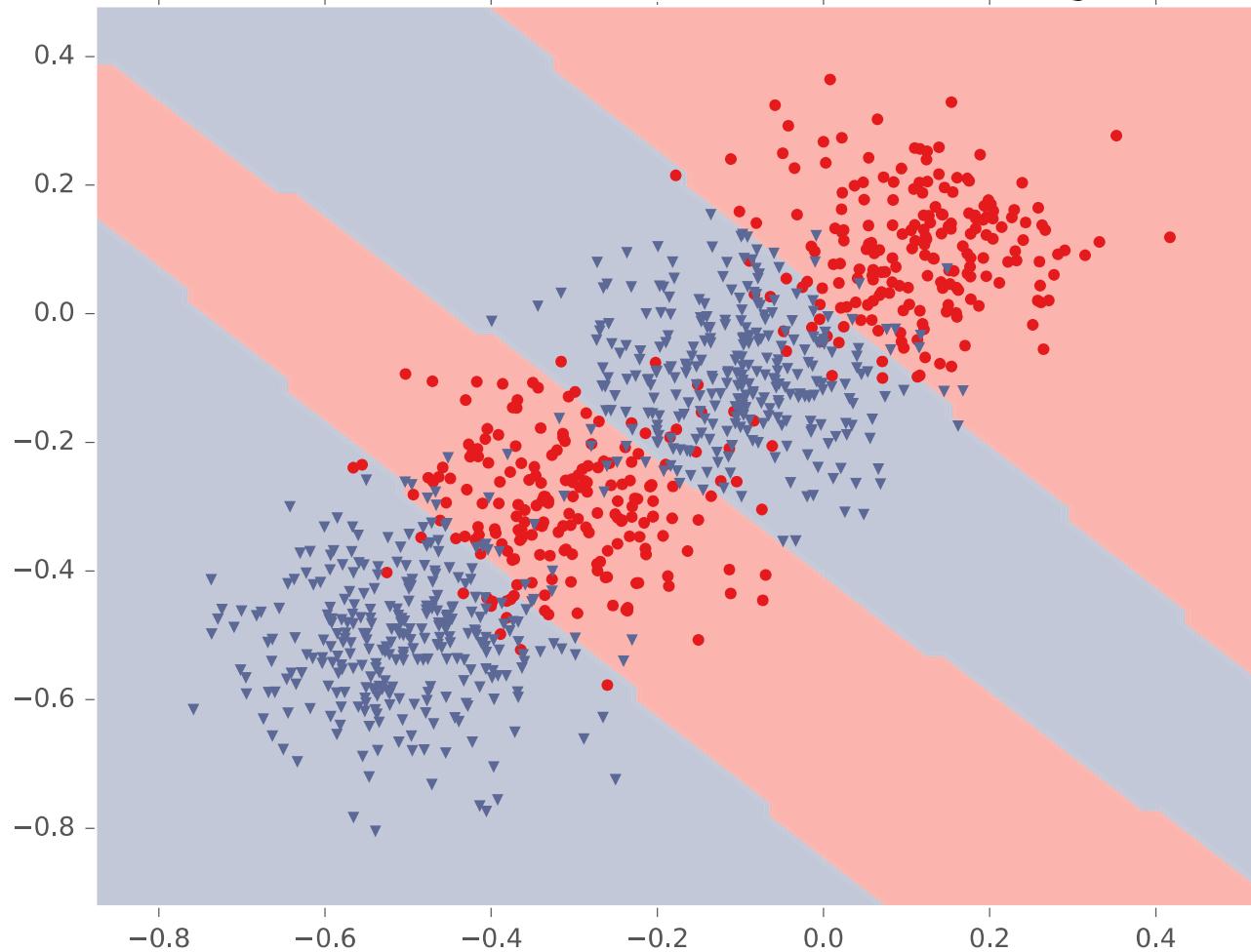


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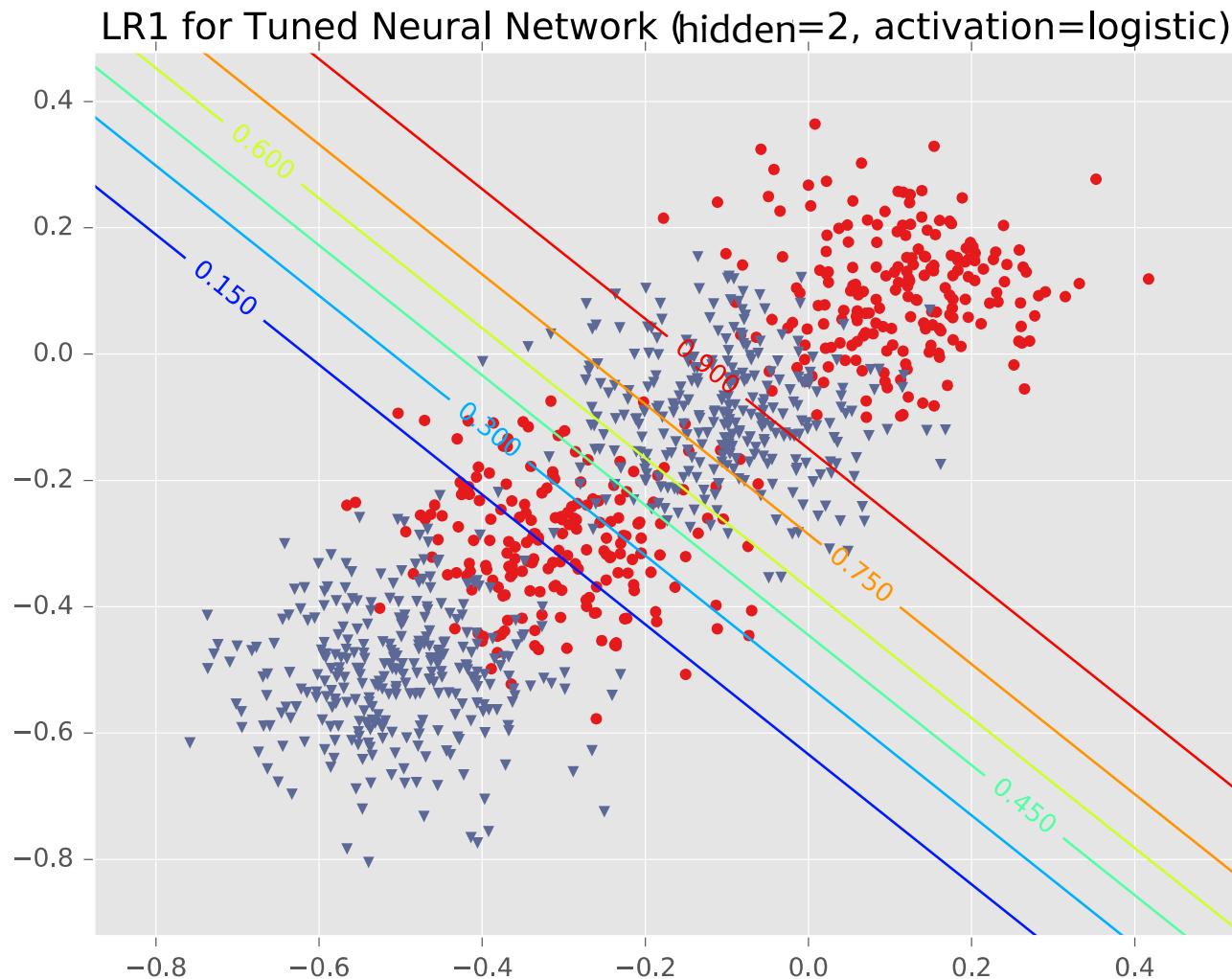


# Example #3: Four Gaussians

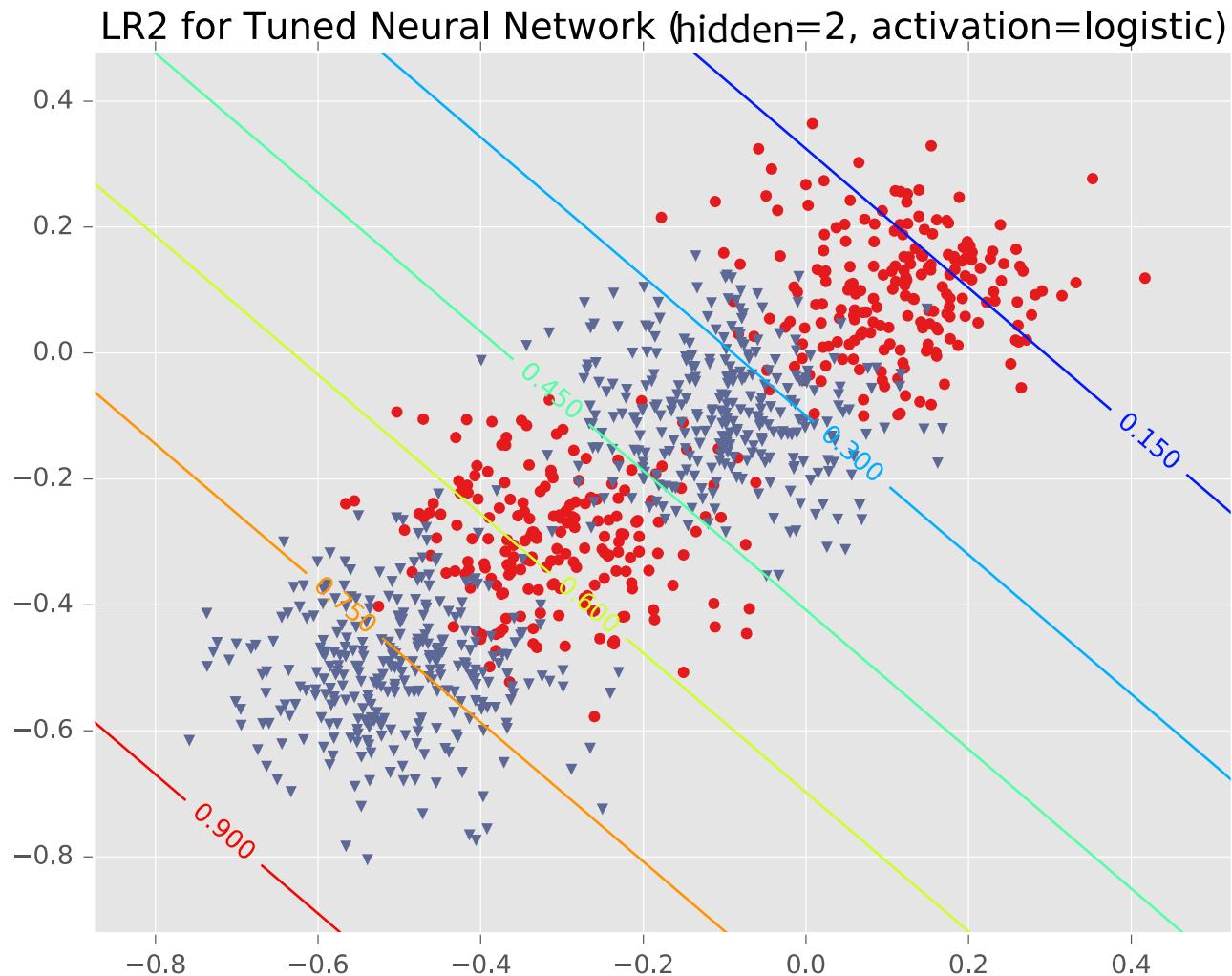
Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)



# Example #3: Four Gaussians

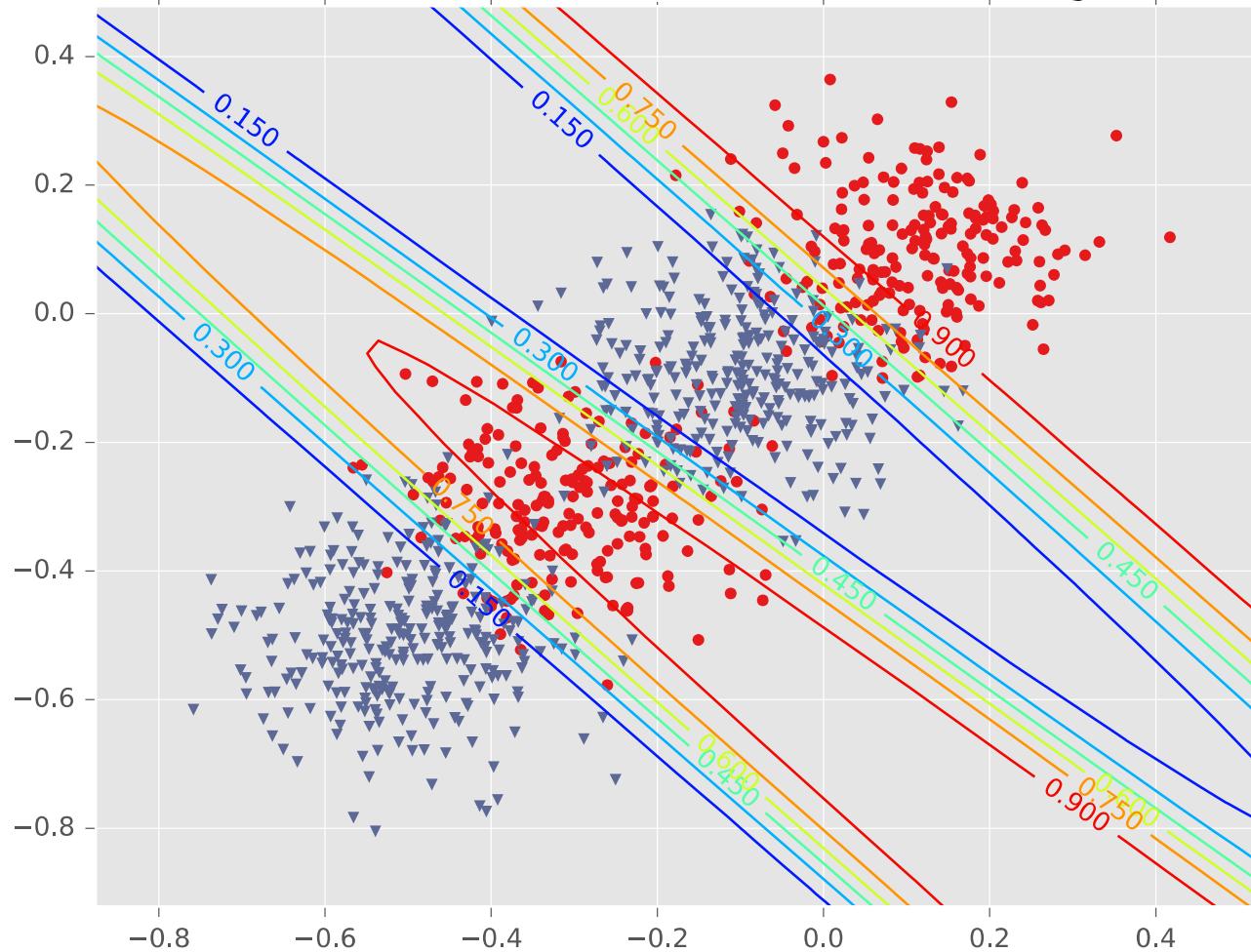


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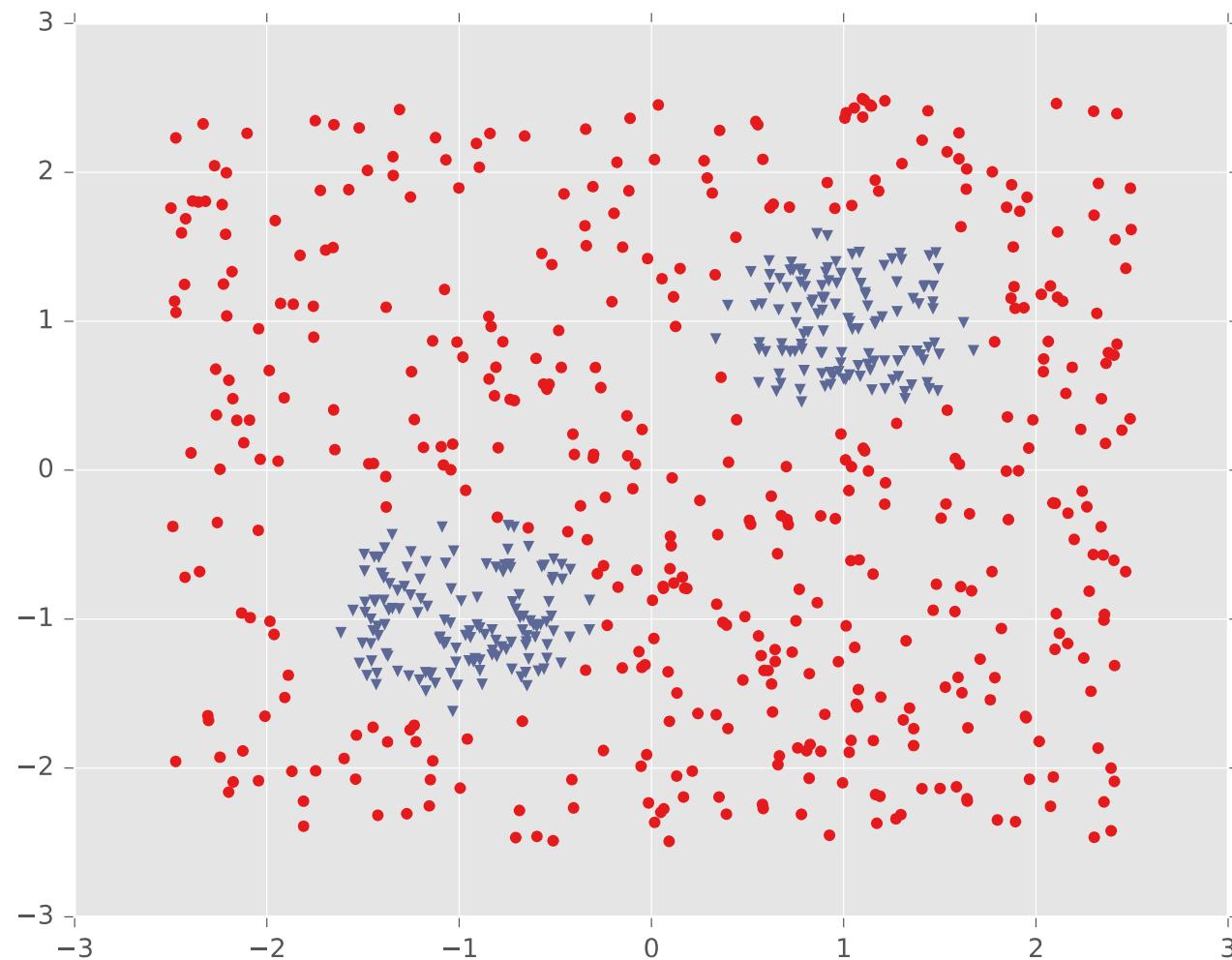


# Example #3: Four Gaussians

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)



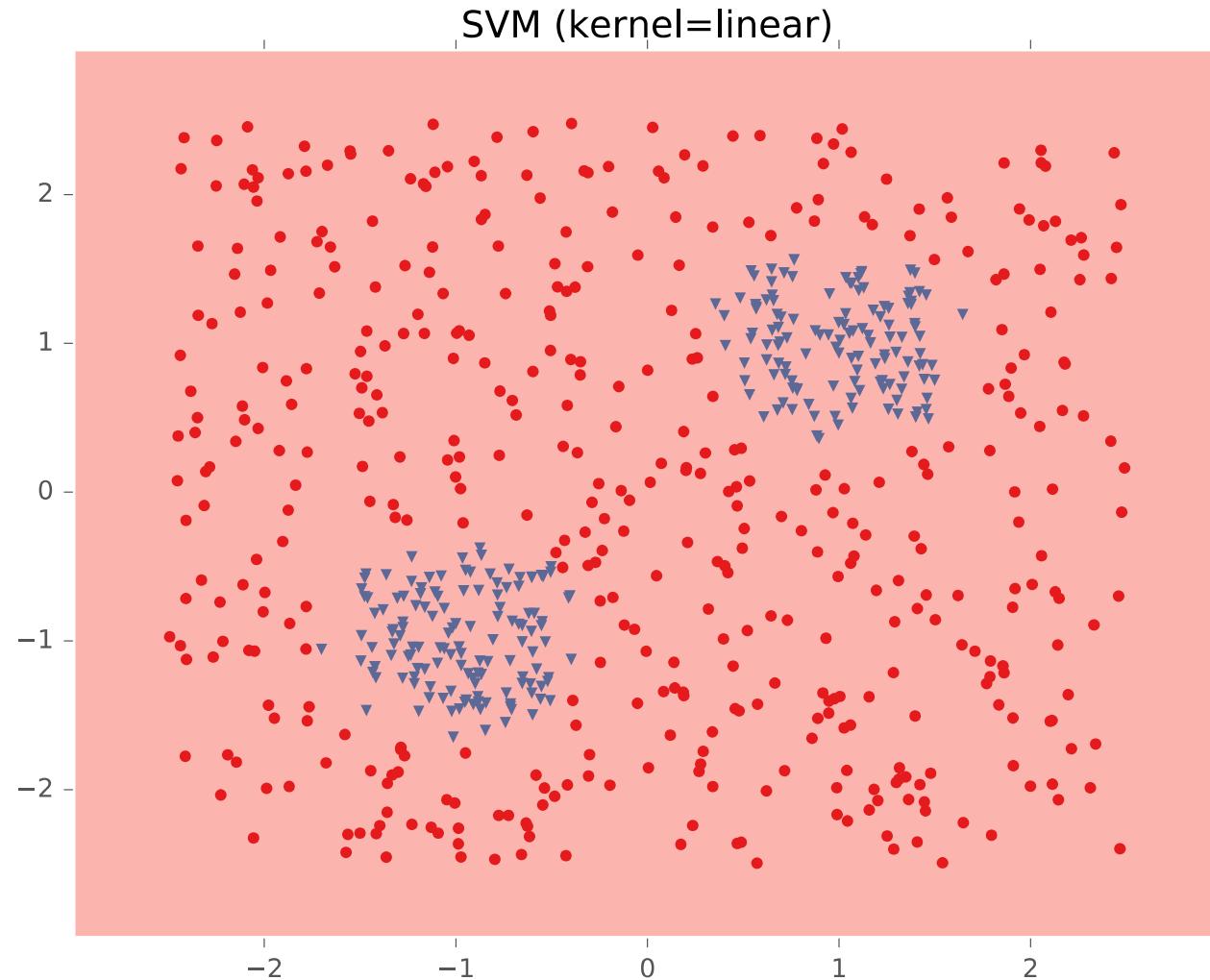
# Example #4: Two Pockets



# Example #4: Two Pockets

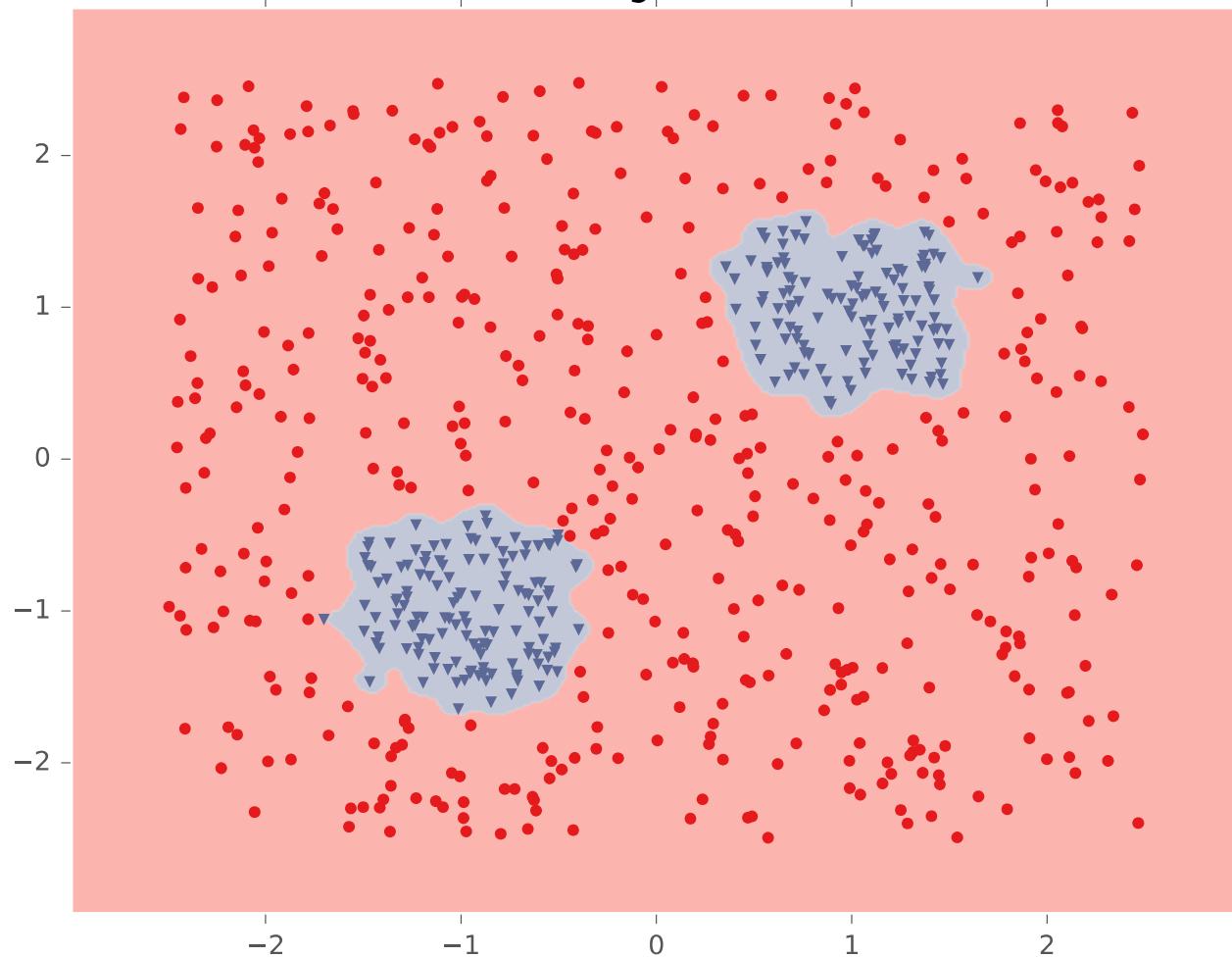


# Example #4: Two Pockets

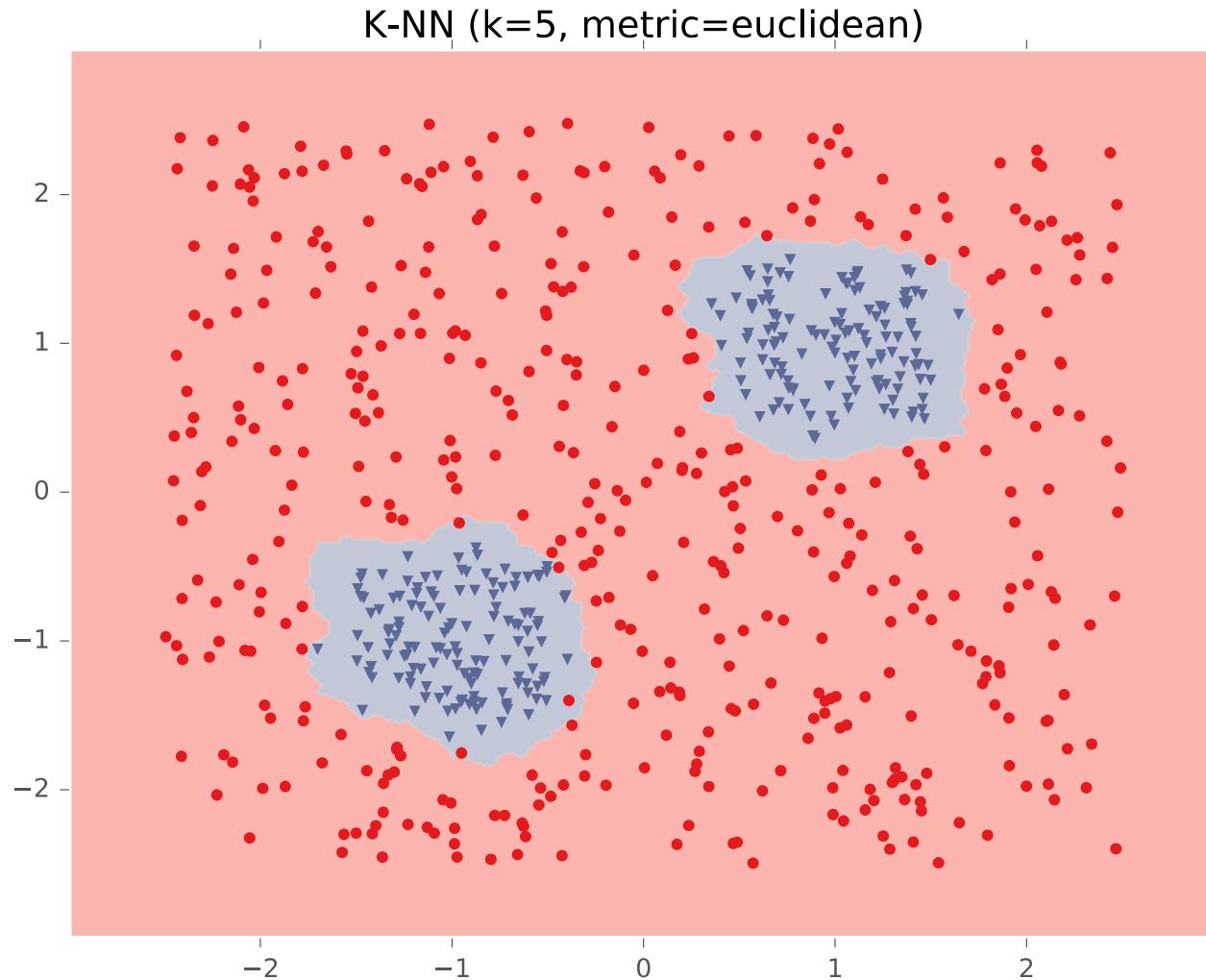


# Example #4: Two Pockets

SVM (kernel=rbf, gamma=80,000000)

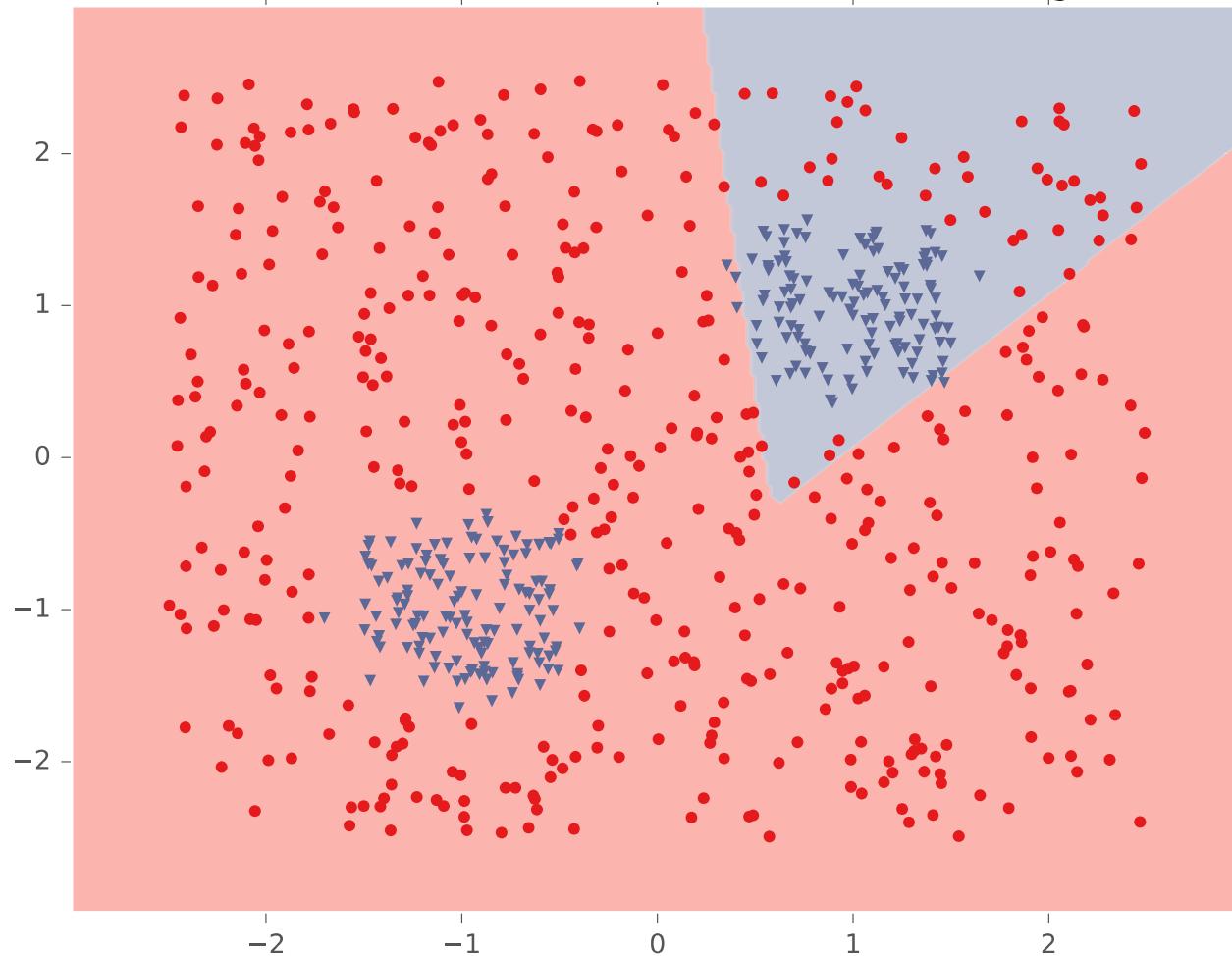


# Example #4: Two Pockets



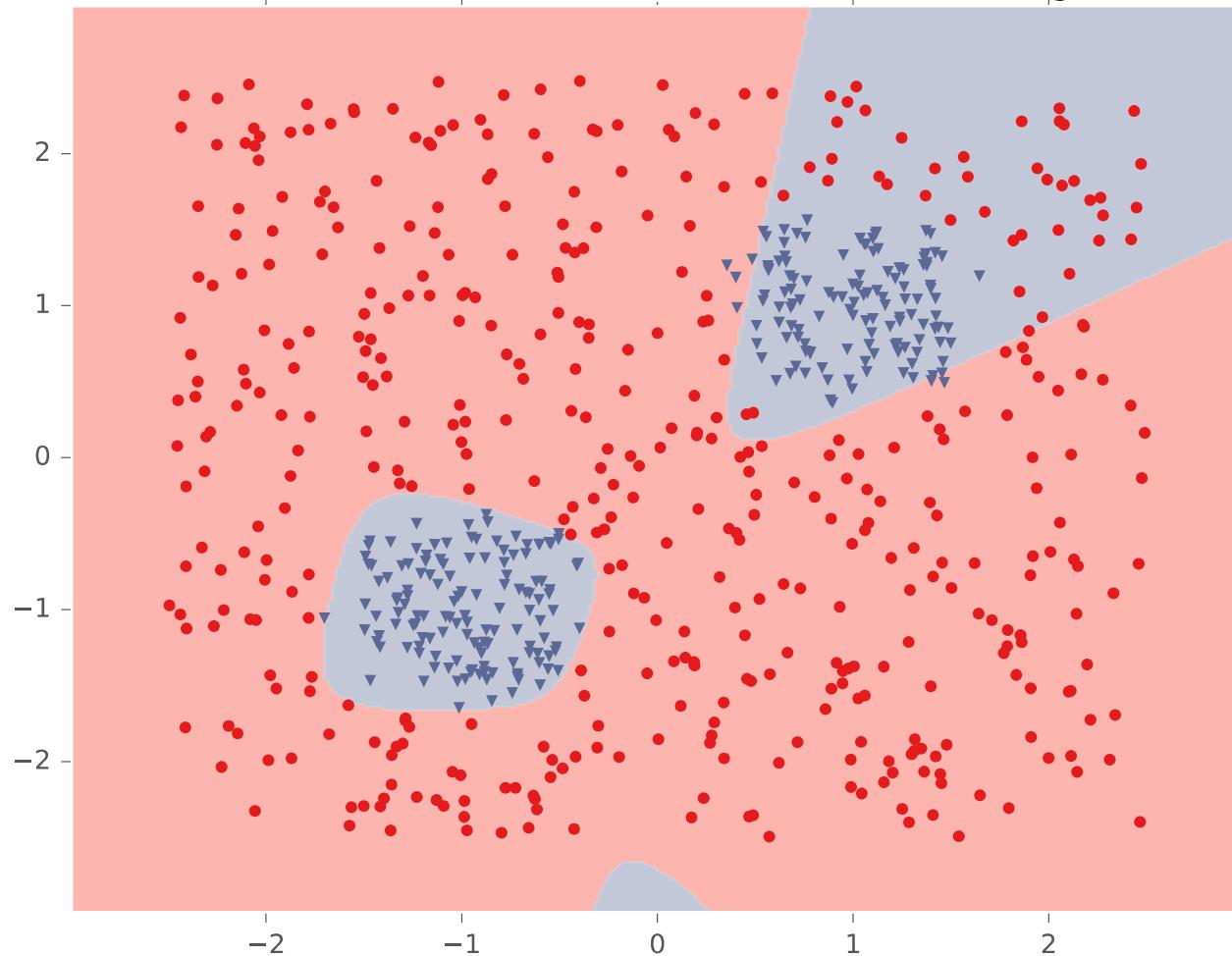
# Example #4: Two Pockets

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)



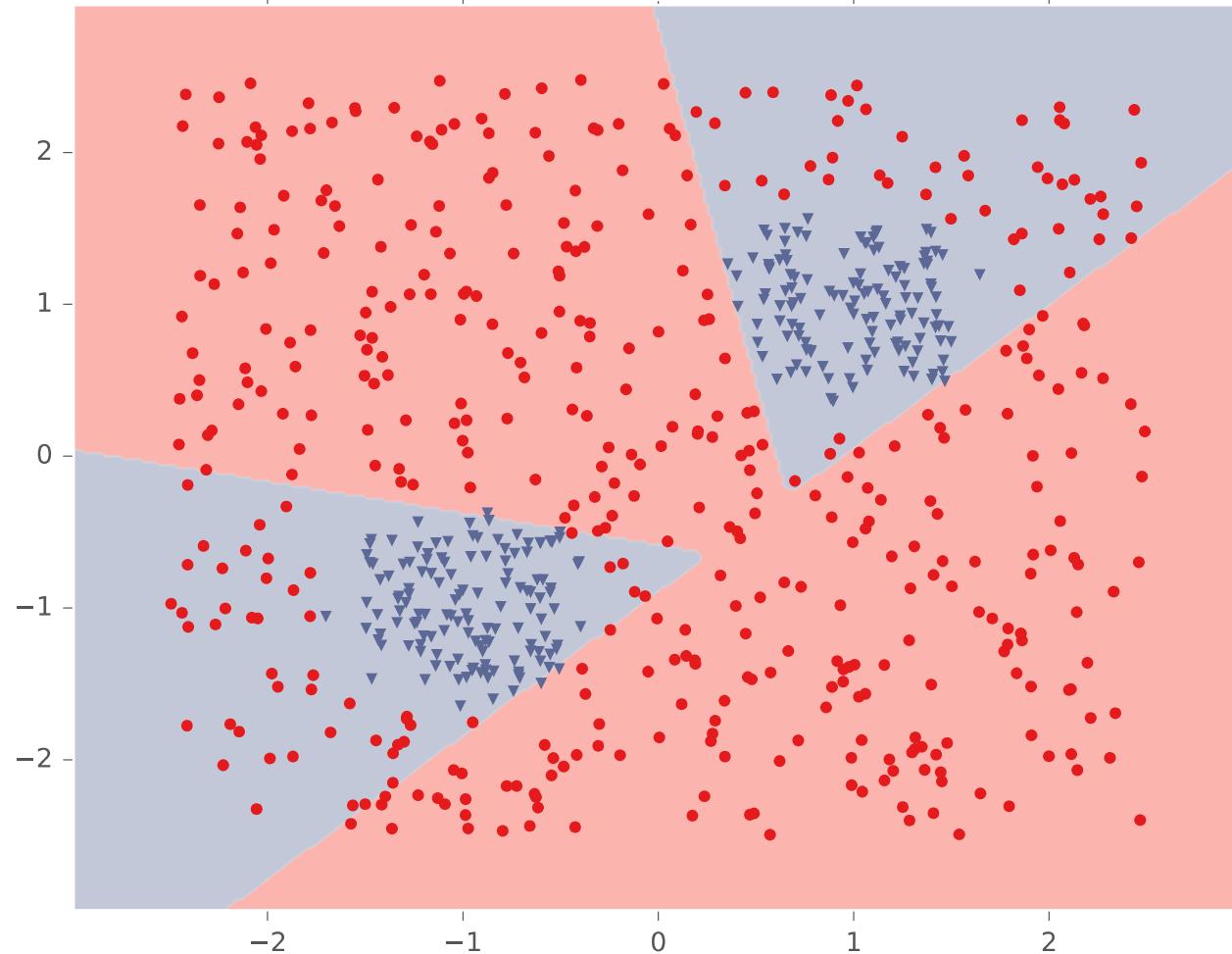
# Example #4: Two Pockets

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=3, activation=logistic)



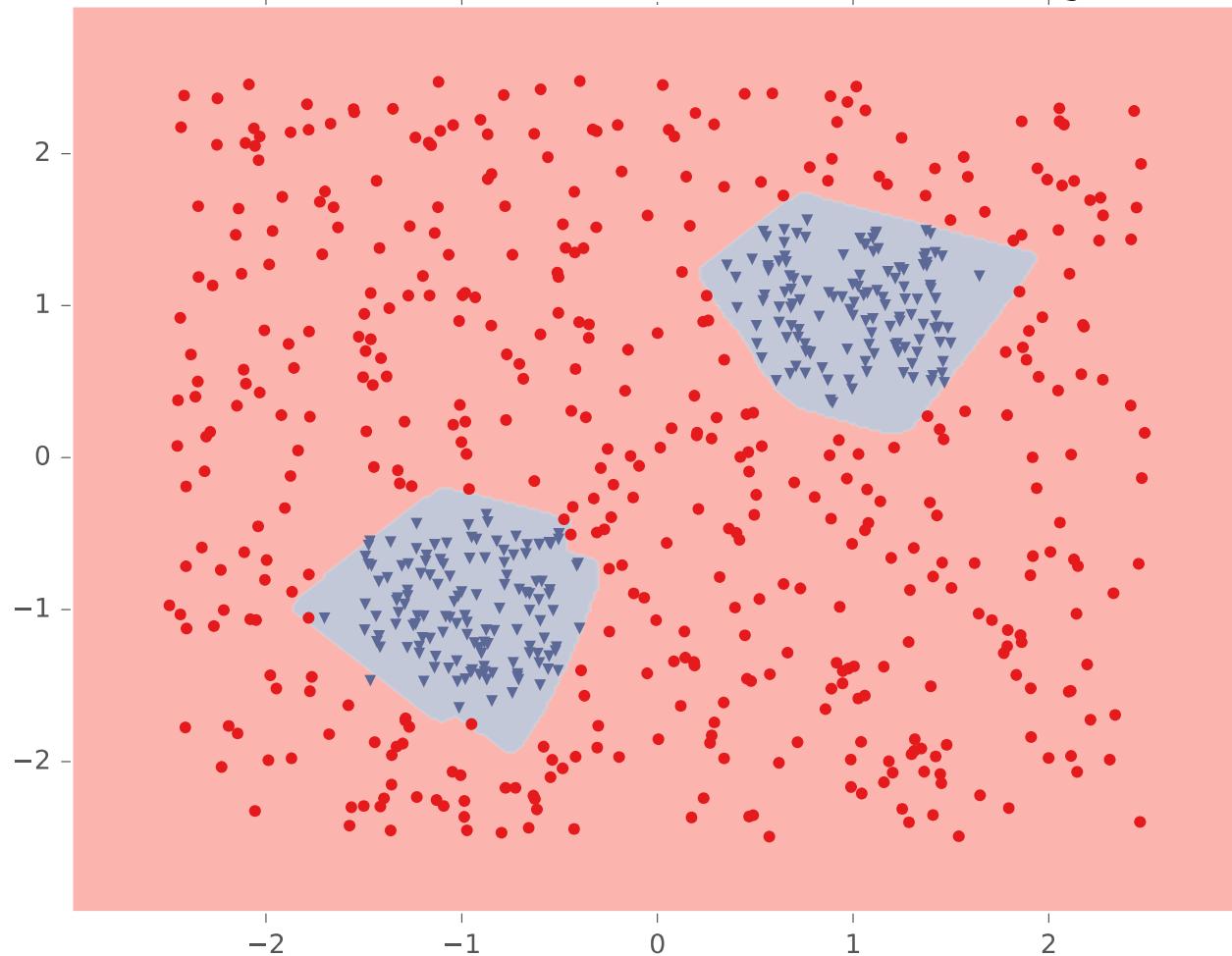
# Example #4: Two Pockets

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=4, activation=logistic)



# Example #4: Two Pockets

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=10, activation=logistic)



# Neural Networks Objectives

You should be able to...

- Explain the biological motivations for a neural network
- Combine simpler models (e.g. linear regression, binary logistic regression, multinomial logistic regression) as components to build up feed-forward neural network architectures
- Explain the reasons why a neural network can model nonlinear decision boundaries for classification
- Compare and contrast feature engineering with learning features
- Identify (some of) the options available when designing the architecture of a neural network
- Implement a feed-forward neural network

Computing Gradients

# **DIFFERENTIATION**

## Background

# A Recipe for Machine Learning

1. Given training data:

$$\{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{i=1}^N$$

2. Choose each of these:

- Decision function

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

- Loss function

$$\ell(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \mathbf{y}_i) \in \mathbb{R}$$

3. Define goal:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^* = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \sum_{i=1}^N \ell(f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_i), \mathbf{y}_i)$$

4. Train with SGD:

(take small steps  
opposite the gradient)

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t+1)} = \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t)} - \eta_t \nabla \ell(f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_i), \mathbf{y}_i)$$

- **Question 1:**  
When can we compute the gradients for an arbitrary neural network?
- **Question 2:**  
When can we make the gradient computation efficient?

# Training

# Approaches to Differentiation

1. Finite Difference Method
  - Pro: Great for testing implementations of backpropagation
  - Con: Slow for high dimensional inputs / outputs
  - Required: Ability to call the function  $f(\mathbf{x})$  on any input  $\mathbf{x}$
2. Symbolic Differentiation
  - Note: The method you learned in high-school
  - Note: Used by Mathematica / Wolfram Alpha / Maple
  - Pro: Yields easily interpretable derivatives
  - Con: Leads to exponential computation time if not carefully implemented
  - Required: Mathematical expression that defines  $f(\mathbf{x})$
3. Automatic Differentiation - Reverse Mode
  - Note: Called Backpropagation when applied to Neural Nets
  - Pro: Computes partial derivatives of one output  $f(\mathbf{x})_i$  with respect to all inputs  $x_j$  in time proportional to computation of  $f(\mathbf{x})$
  - Con: Slow for high dimensional outputs (e.g. vector-valued functions)
  - Required: Algorithm for computing  $f(\mathbf{x})$
4. Automatic Differentiation - Forward Mode
  - Note: Easy to implement. Uses dual numbers.
  - Pro: Computes partial derivatives of all outputs  $f(\mathbf{x})_i$  with respect to one input  $x_j$  in time proportional to computation of  $f(\mathbf{x})$
  - Con: Slow for high dimensional inputs (e.g. vector-valued  $\mathbf{x}$ )
  - Required: Algorithm for computing  $f(\mathbf{x})$

Given  $f : \mathbb{R}^A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^B, f(\mathbf{x})$   
Compute  $\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})_i}{\partial x_j} \forall i, j$

# **CHAIN RULE**

Training

# Chain Rule

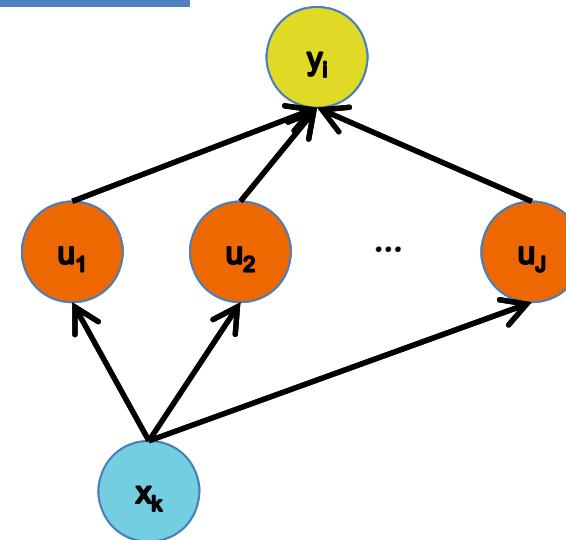
*Chalkboard*

- Chain Rule of Calculus

**Given:**  $y = g(u)$  and  $u = h(x)$

**Chain Rule:**

$$\frac{dy_i}{dx_k} = \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{dy_i}{du_j} \frac{du_j}{dx_k}, \quad \forall i, k$$



# Training

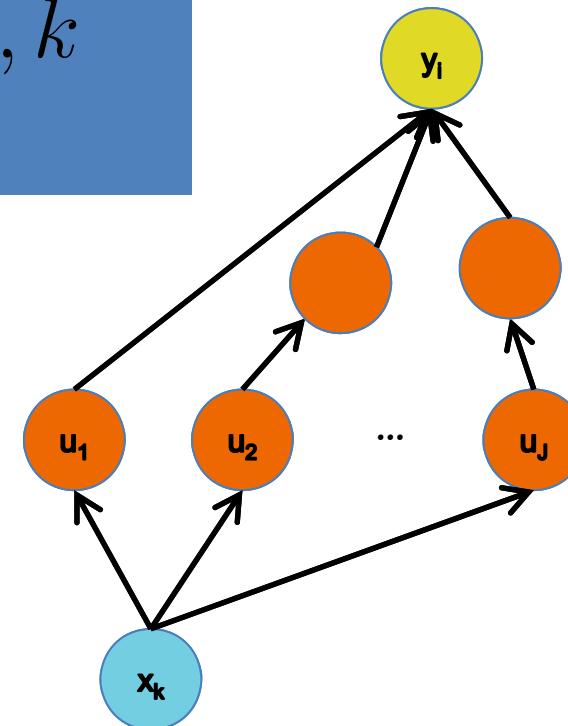
# Chain Rule

**Given:**  $y = g(u)$  and  $u = h(x)$

**Chain Rule:**

$$\frac{dy_i}{dx_k} = \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{dy_i}{du_j} \frac{du_j}{dx_k}, \quad \forall i, k$$

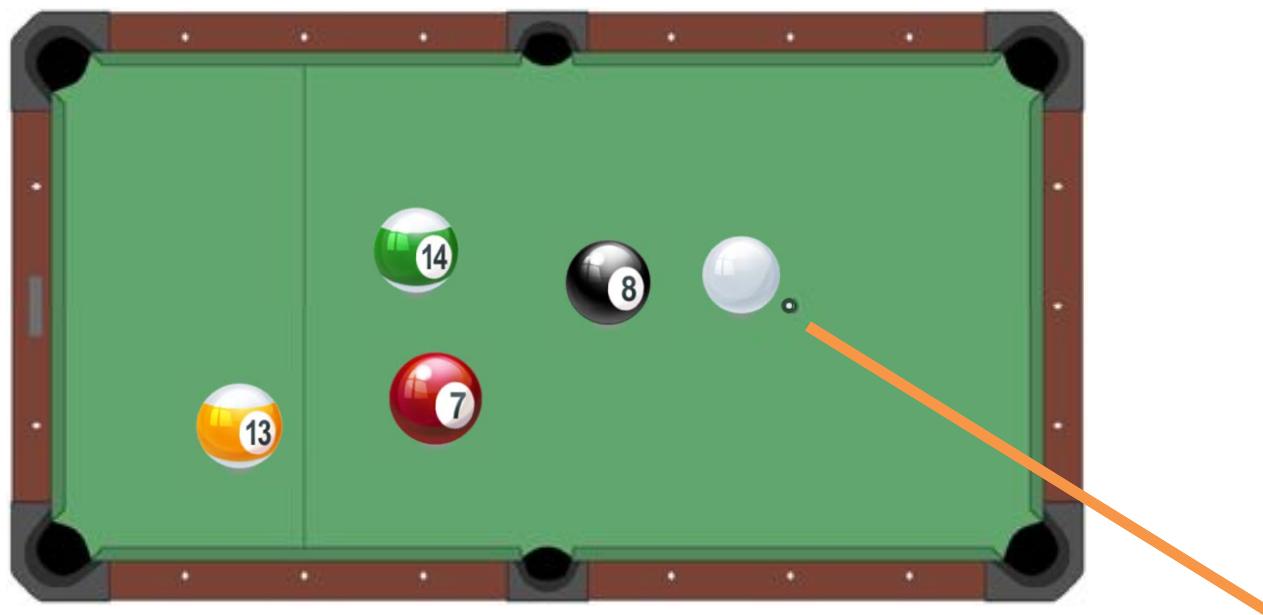
**Backpropagation**  
is just repeated  
application of the  
**chain rule** from  
Calculus 101.



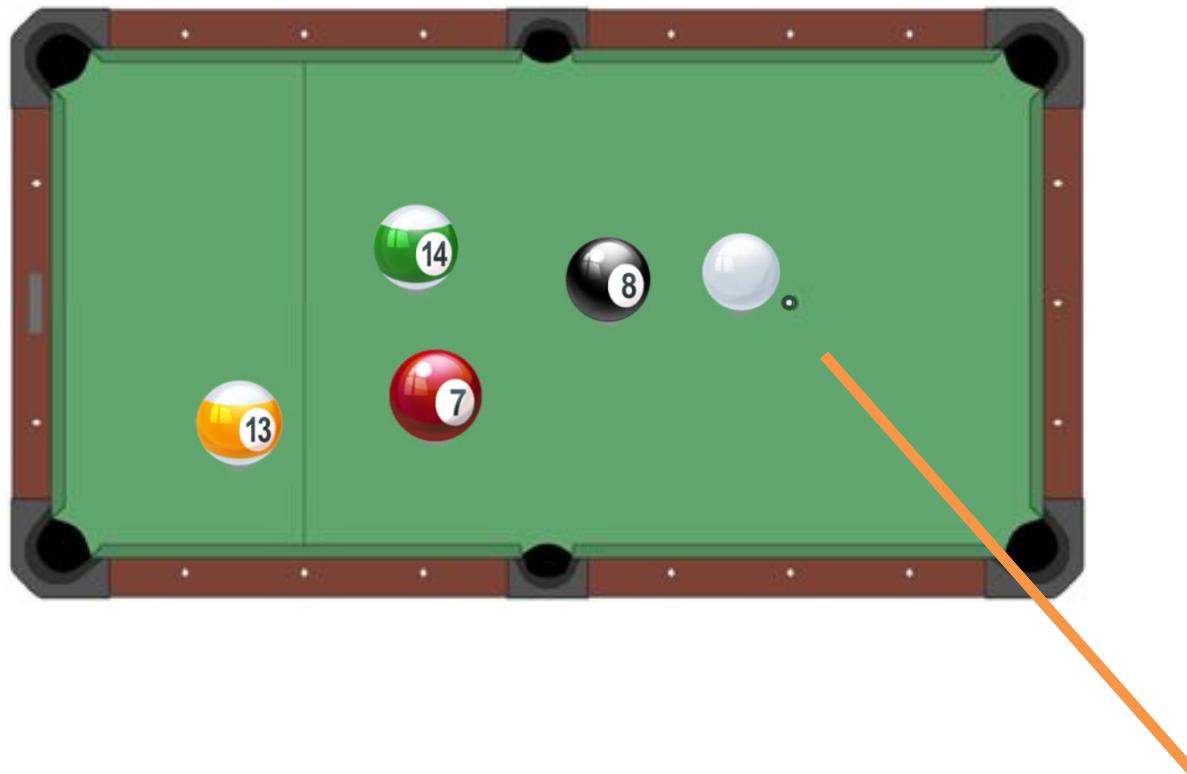
Intuitions

# **BACKPROPAGATION**

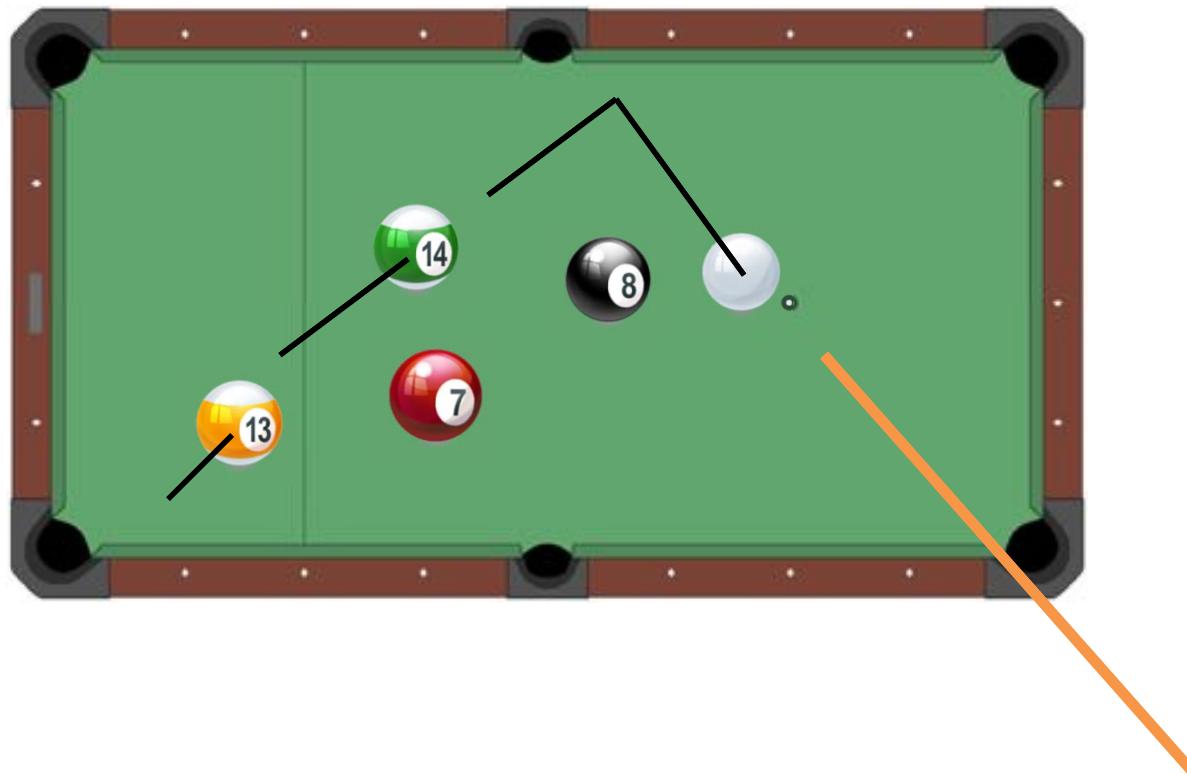
# Error Back-Propagation



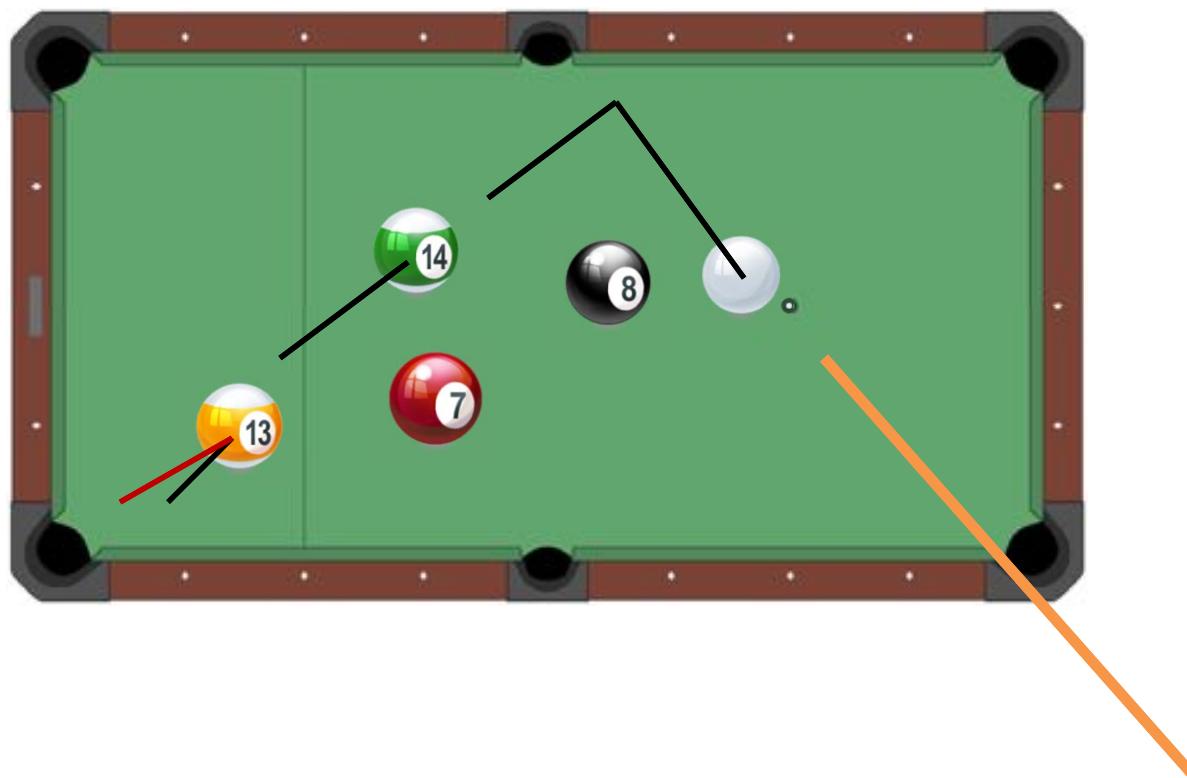
# Error Back-Propagation



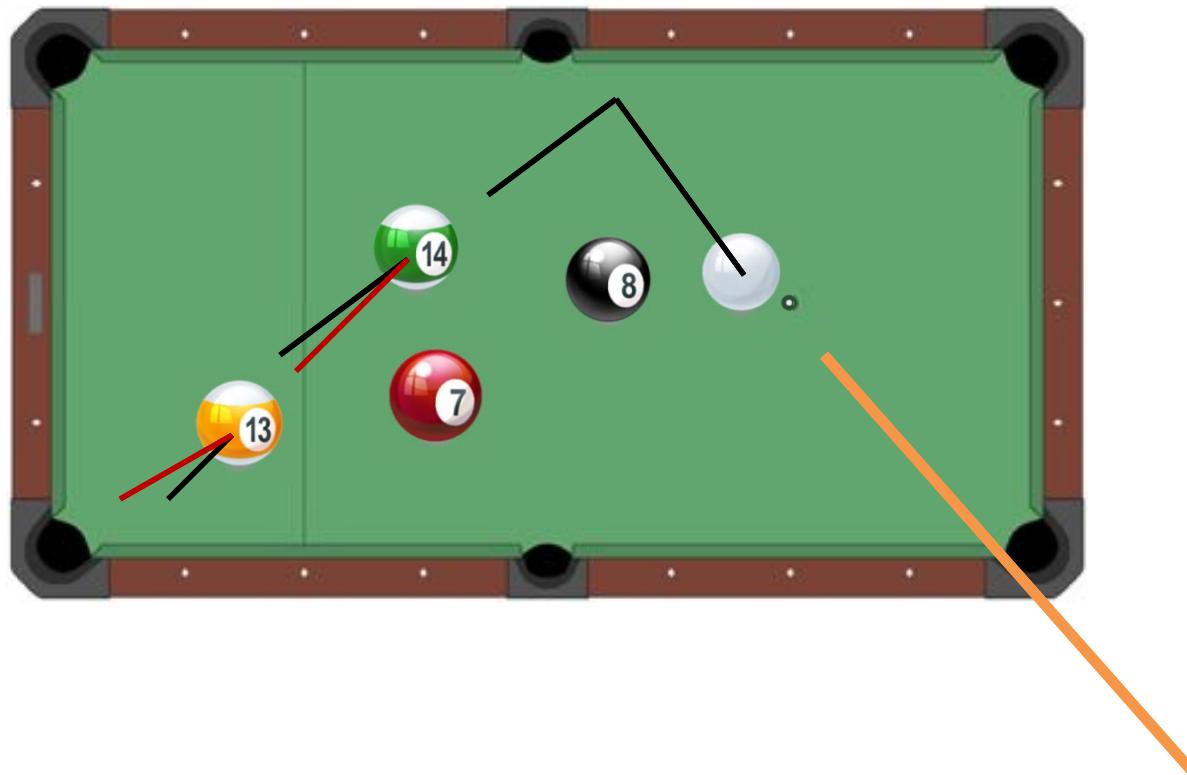
# Error Back-Propagation



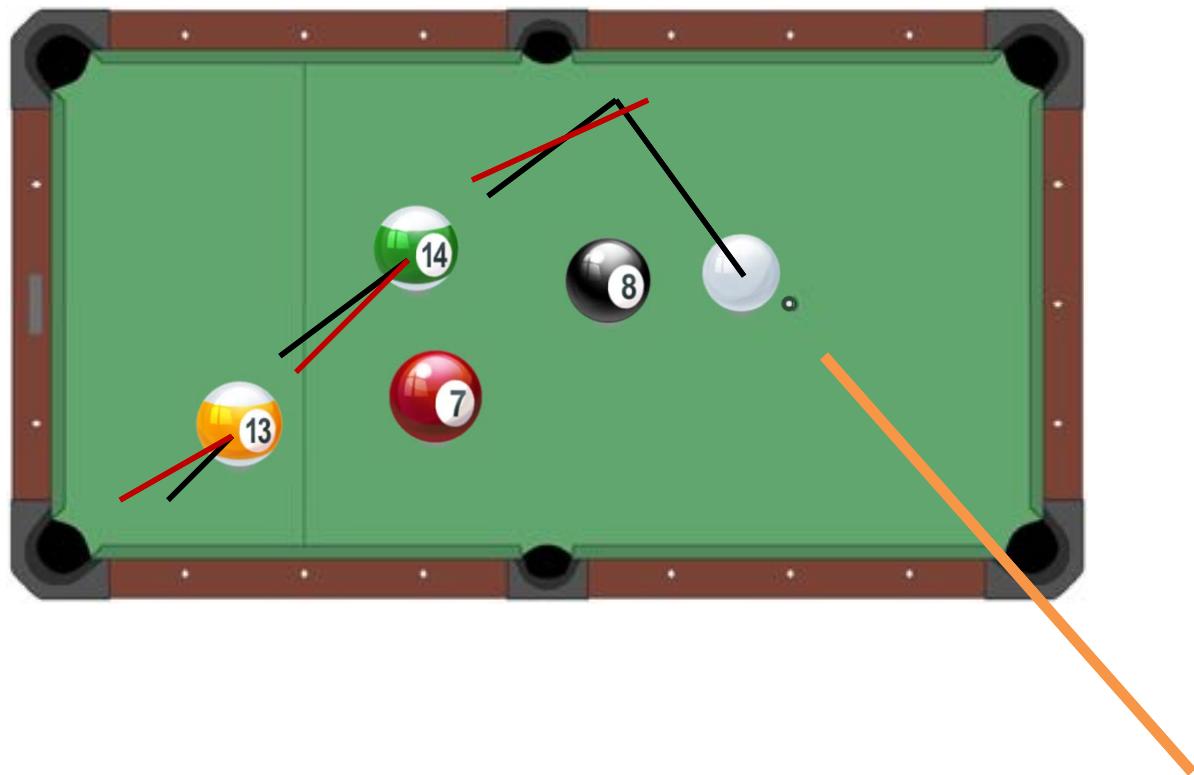
# Error Back-Propagation



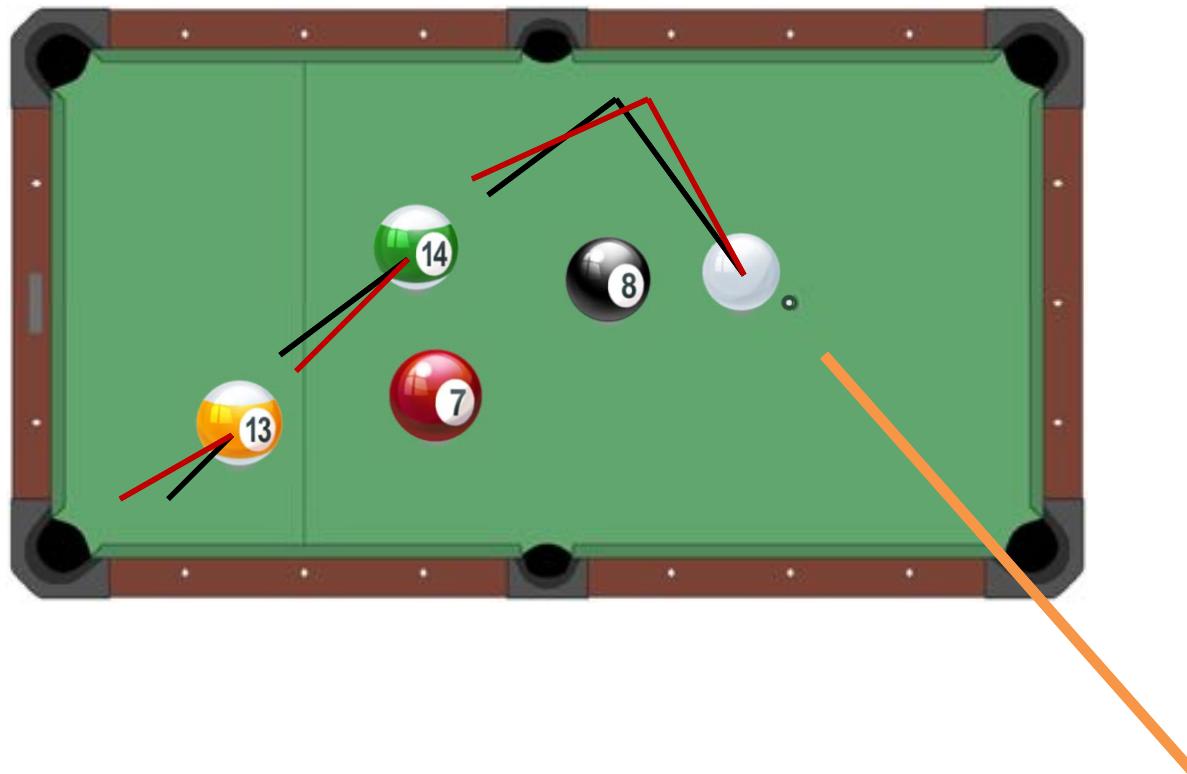
# Error Back-Propagation



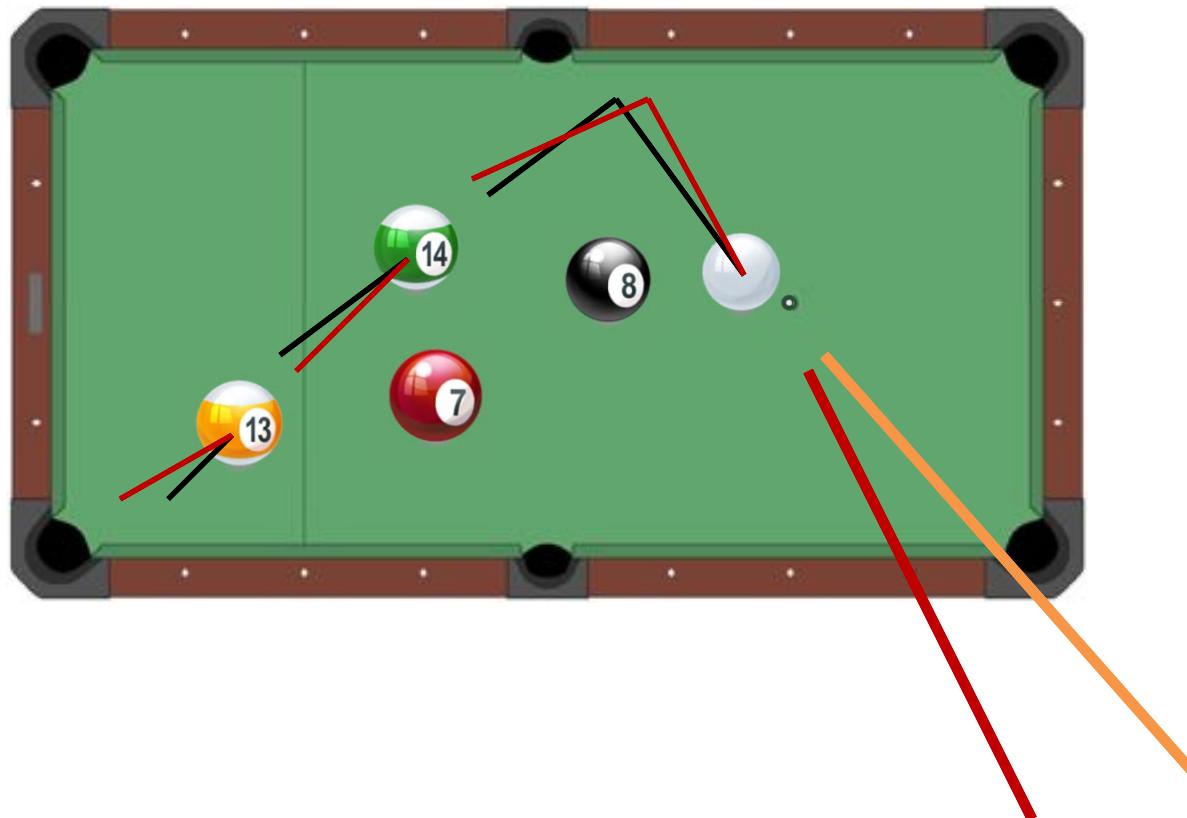
# Error Back-Propagation



# Error Back-Propagation

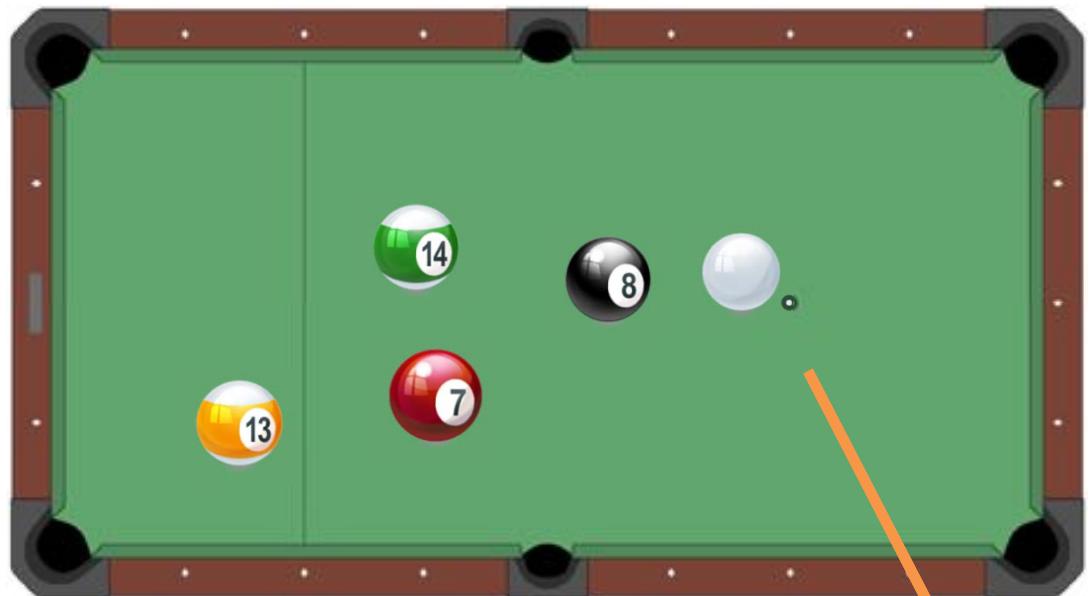


# Error Back-Propagation

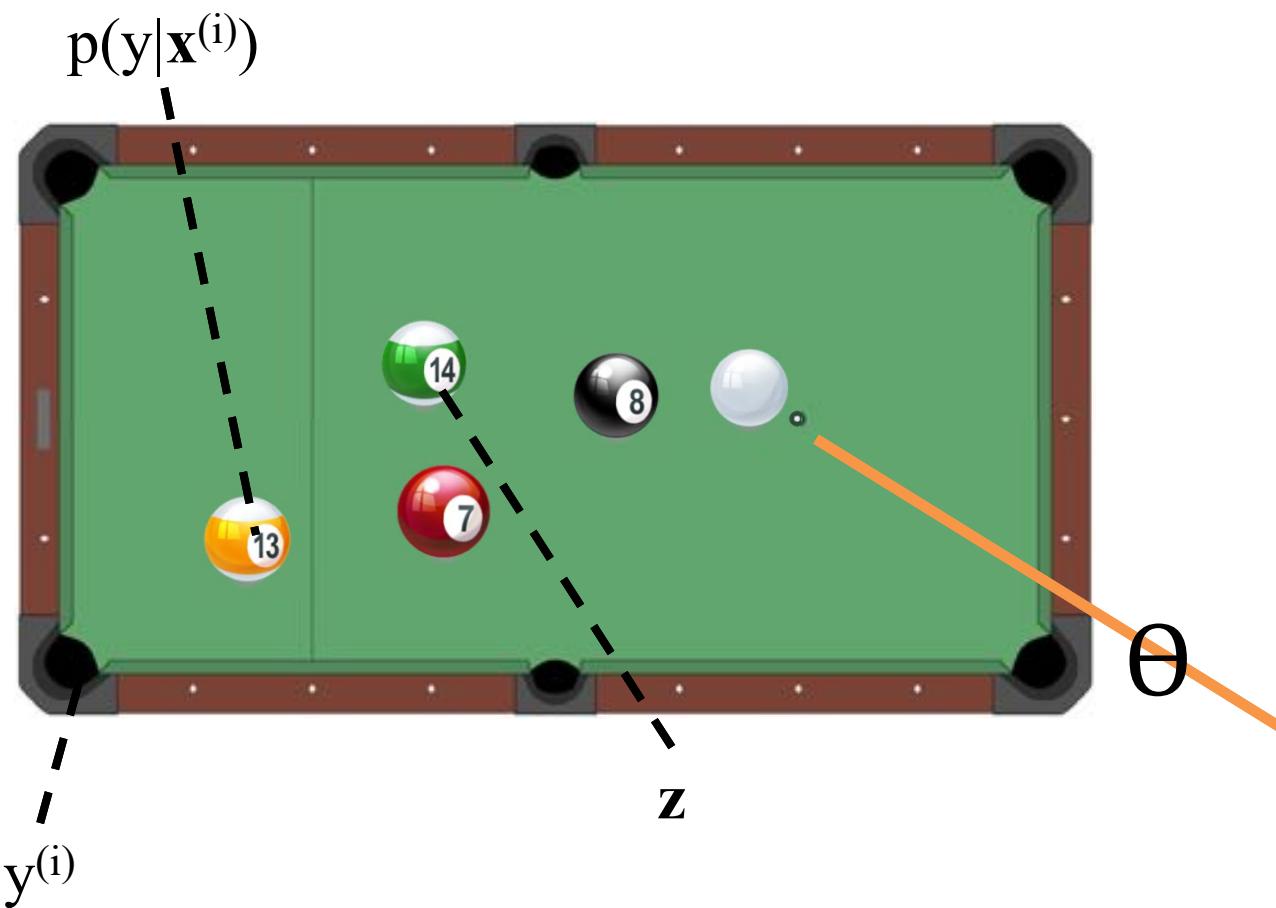


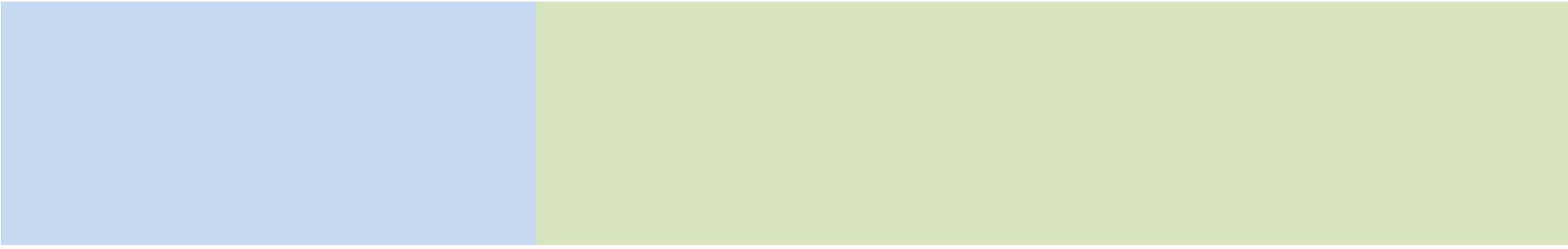
Slide from (Stoyanov & Eisner, 2012)

# Error Back-Propagation



# Error Back-Propagation





Algorithm

# **BACKPROPAGATION**

*Chalkboard*

- Example: Backpropagation for Chain Rule #1

**Differentiation Quiz #1:**

Suppose  $x = 2$  and  $z = 3$ , what are  $dy/dx$  and  $dy/dz$  for the function below? Round your answer to the nearest integer.

$$y = \exp(xz) + \frac{xz}{\log(x)} + \frac{\sin(\log(x))}{xz}$$

## *Chalkboard*

- SGD for Neural Network
- Example: Backpropagation for Neural Network

## Automatic Differentiation – Reverse Mode (aka. Backpropagation)

### Forward Computation

1. Write an **algorithm** for evaluating the function  $y = f(x)$ . The algorithm defines a **directed acyclic graph**, where each variable is a node (i.e. the “**computation graph**”)
2. Visit each node in **topological order**.  
For variable  $u_i$  with inputs  $v_1, \dots, v_N$ 
  - a. Compute  $u_i = g_i(v_1, \dots, v_N)$
  - b. Store the result at the node

### Backward Computation (Version A)

1. **Initialize**  $dy/dy = 1$ .
2. Visit each node  $v_j$  in **reverse topological order**.  
Let  $u_1, \dots, u_M$  denote all the nodes with  $v_j$  as an input  
Assuming that  $y = h(\mathbf{u}) = h(u_1, \dots, u_M)$   
and  $\mathbf{u} = g(\mathbf{v})$  or equivalently  $u_i = g_i(v_1, \dots, v_j, \dots, v_N)$  for all  $i$ 
  - a. We already know  $dy/du_i$  for all  $i$
  - b. Compute  $dy/dv_j$  as below (Choice of algorithm ensures computing  $(du_i/dv_j)$  is easy)

$$\frac{dy}{dv_j} = \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{dy}{du_i} \frac{du_i}{dv_j}$$

Return partial derivatives  $dy/du_i$  for all variables

## Automatic Differentiation – Reverse Mode (aka. Backpropagation)

### Forward Computation

1. Write an **algorithm** for evaluating the function  $y = f(x)$ . The algorithm defines a **directed acyclic graph**, where each variable is a node (i.e. the “**computation graph**”)
2. Visit each node in **topological order**.  
For variable  $u_i$  with inputs  $v_1, \dots, v_N$ 
  - a. Compute  $u_i = g_i(v_1, \dots, v_N)$
  - b. Store the result at the node

### Backward Computation (Version B)

1. **Initialize** all partial derivatives  $dy/du_j$  to 0 and  $dy/dy = 1$ .
2. Visit each node in **reverse topological order**.  
For variable  $u_i = g_i(v_1, \dots, v_N)$ 
  - a. We already know  $dy/du_i$
  - b. Increment  $dy/dv_j$  by  $(dy/du_i)(du_i/dv_j)$   
*(Choice of algorithm ensures computing  $(du_i/dv_j)$  is easy)*

Return partial derivatives  $dy/du_i$  for all variables

# Backpropagation

*Why is the backpropagation algorithm efficient?*

1. Reuses **computation from the forward pass** in the backward pass
2. Reuses **partial derivatives** throughout the backward pass (*but only if the algorithm reuses shared computation in the forward pass*)

(Key idea: partial derivatives in the backward pass should be thought of as variables stored for reuse)

Example: 1-Hidden Layer Neural Network

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**Algorithm 1** Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

```
1: procedure SGD(Training data  $\mathcal{D}$ , test data  $\mathcal{D}_t$ )
2:   Initialize parameters  $\alpha, \beta$ 
3:   for  $e \in \{1, 2, \dots, E\}$  do
4:     for  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathcal{D}$  do
5:       Compute neural network layers:
6:        $\mathbf{o} = \text{object}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{z}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}, J) = \text{NNFORWARD}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \alpha, \beta)$ 
7:       Compute gradients via backprop:
8:        $\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{g}_\alpha = \nabla_\alpha J \\ \mathbf{g}_\beta = \nabla_\beta J \end{array} \right\} = \text{NNBACKWARD}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \alpha, \beta, \mathbf{o})$ 
9:       Update parameters:
10:       $\alpha \leftarrow \alpha - \gamma \mathbf{g}_\alpha$ 
11:       $\beta \leftarrow \beta - \gamma \mathbf{g}_\beta$ 
12:      Evaluate training mean cross-entropy  $J_{\mathcal{D}}(\alpha, \beta)$ 
13:      Evaluate test mean cross-entropy  $J_{\mathcal{D}_t}(\alpha, \beta)$ 
14:    return parameters  $\alpha, \beta$ 
```

---

## Training

# Backpropagation

**Simple Example:** The goal is to compute  $J = \cos(\sin(x^2) + 3x^2)$  on the forward pass and the derivative  $\frac{dJ}{dx}$  on the backward pass.

Forward

$$J = \cos(u)$$

$$u = u_1 + u_2$$

$$u_1 = \sin(t)$$

$$u_2 = 3t$$

$$t = x^2$$

# Training

# Backpropagation

**Simple Example:** The goal is to compute  $J = \cos(\sin(x^2) + 3x^2)$  on the forward pass and the derivative  $\frac{dJ}{dx}$  on the backward pass.

Forward

$$J = \cos(u)$$

$$u = u_1 + u_2$$

$$u_1 = \sin(t)$$

$$u_2 = 3t$$

$$t = x^2$$

Backward

$$\frac{dJ}{du} += -\sin(u)$$

$$\frac{dJ}{du_1} += \frac{dJ}{du} \frac{du}{du_1}, \quad \frac{du}{du_1} = 1$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dt} += \frac{dJ}{du_1} \frac{du_1}{dt}, \quad \frac{du_1}{dt} = \cos(t)$$

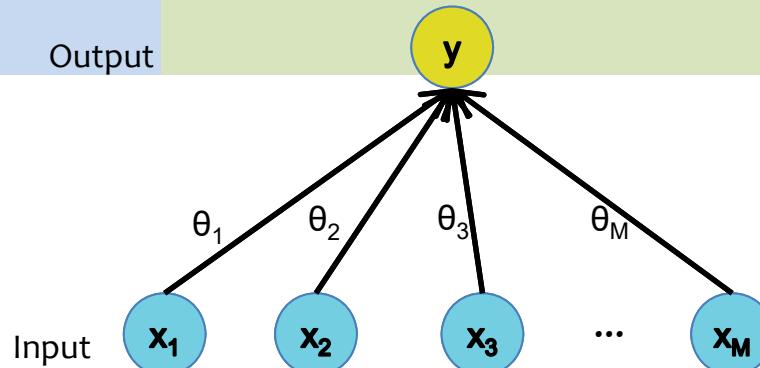
$$\frac{dJ}{dt} += \frac{dJ}{du_2} \frac{du_2}{dt}, \quad \frac{du_2}{dt} = 3$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dx} += \frac{dJ}{dt} \frac{dt}{dx}, \quad \frac{dt}{dx} = 2x$$

# Training

# Backpropagation

**Case 1:**  
**Logistic  
Regression**



## Forward

$$J = y^* \log y + (1 - y^*) \log(1 - y)$$

$$y = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a)}$$

$$a = \sum_{j=0}^D \theta_j x_j$$

## Backward

$$\frac{dJ}{dy} = \frac{y^*}{y} + \frac{(1 - y^*)}{y - 1}$$

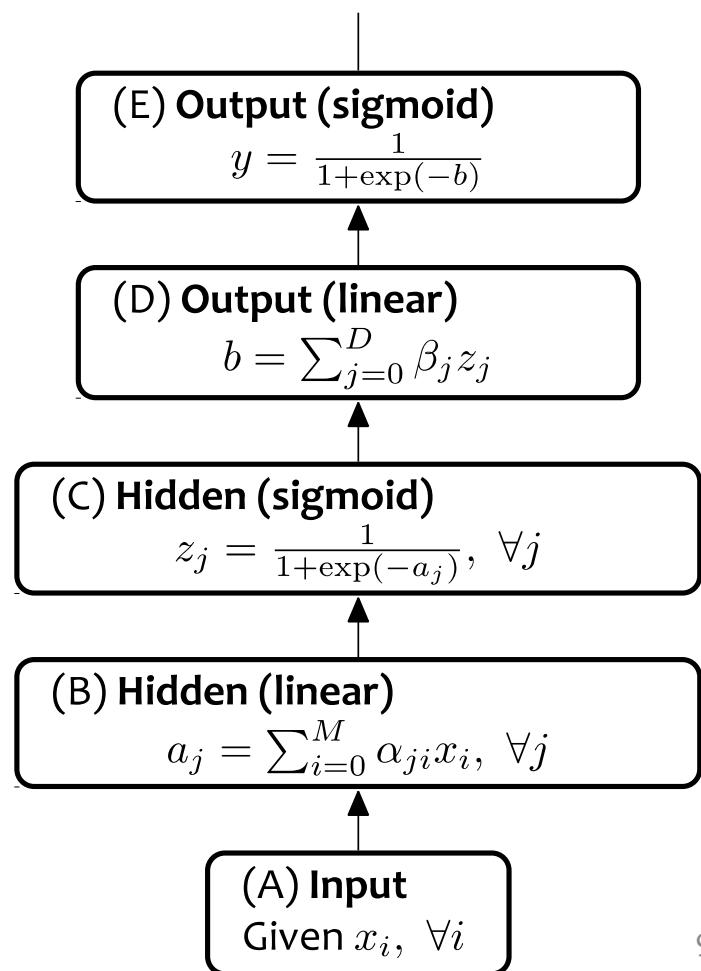
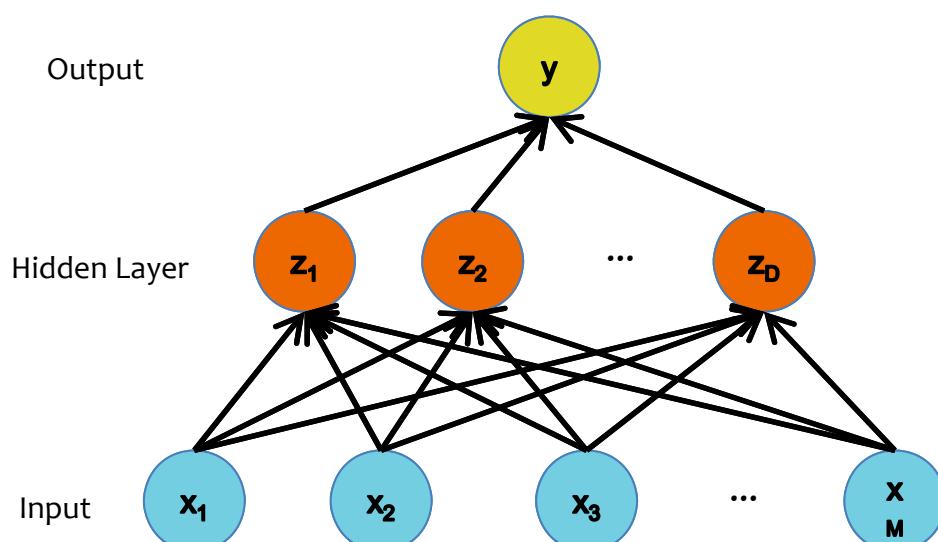
$$\frac{dJ}{da} = \frac{dJ}{dy} \frac{dy}{da}, \quad \frac{dy}{da} = \frac{\exp(-a)}{(\exp(-a) + 1)^2}$$

$$\frac{dJ}{d\theta_j} = \frac{dJ}{da} \frac{da}{d\theta_j}, \quad \frac{da}{d\theta_j} = x_j$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dx_j} = \frac{dJ}{da} \frac{da}{dx_j}, \quad \frac{da}{dx_j} = \theta_j$$

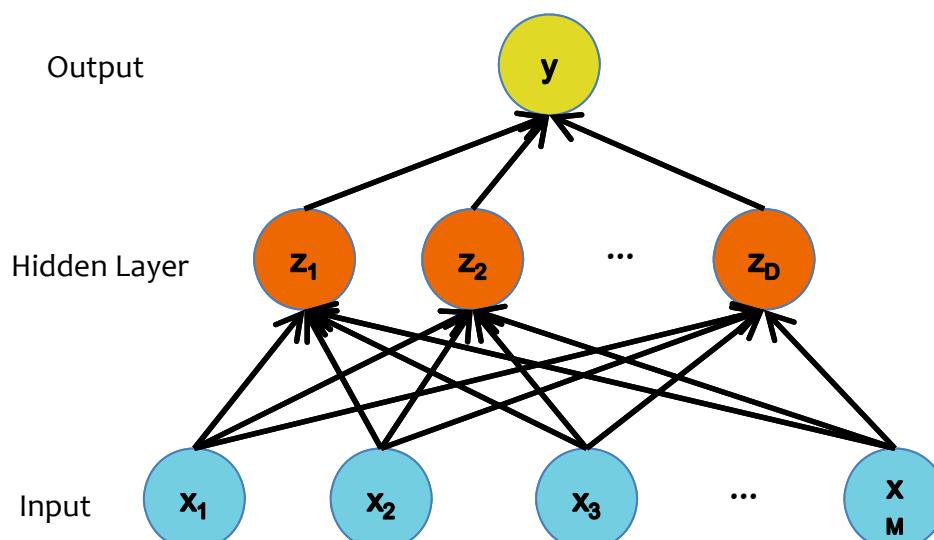
# Training

# Backpropagation



# Training

# Backpropagation



(F) **Loss**  
 $J = \frac{1}{2}(y - y^*)^2$

(E) **Output (sigmoid)**  
 $y = \frac{1}{1+\exp(-b)}$

(D) **Output (linear)**  
 $b = \sum_{j=0}^D \beta_j z_j$

(C) **Hidden (sigmoid)**  
 $z_j = \frac{1}{1+\exp(-a_j)}, \forall j$

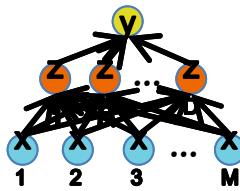
(B) **Hidden (linear)**  
 $a_j = \sum_{i=0}^M \alpha_{ji} x_i, \forall j$

(A) **Input**  
Given  $x_i, \forall i$

# Training

# Backpropagation

**Case 2:**  
**Neural  
Network**



## Forward

$$J = y^* \log y + (1 - y^*) \log(1 - y)$$

$$y = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-b)}$$

$$b = \sum_{j=0}^D \beta_j z_j$$

$$z_j = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a_j)}$$

$$a_j = \sum_{i=0}^M \alpha_{ji} x_i$$

## Backward

$$\frac{dJ}{dy} = \frac{y^*}{y} + \frac{(1 - y^*)}{1 - y}$$

$$\frac{dJ}{db} = \frac{dJ}{dy} \frac{dy}{db}, \quad \frac{dy}{db} = \frac{\exp(-b)}{(\exp(-b) + 1)^2}$$

$$\frac{dJ}{d\beta_j} = \frac{dJ}{db} \frac{db}{d\beta_j}, \quad \frac{db}{d\beta_j} = z_j$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dz_j} = \frac{dJ}{db} \frac{db}{dz_j}, \quad \frac{db}{dz_j} = \beta_j$$

$$\frac{dJ}{da_j} = \frac{dJ}{dz_j} \frac{dz_j}{da_j}, \quad \frac{dz_j}{da_j} = \frac{\exp(-a_j)}{(\exp(-a_j) + 1)^2}$$

$$\frac{dJ}{d\alpha_{ji}} = \frac{dJ}{da_j} \frac{da_j}{d\alpha_{ji}}, \quad \frac{da_j}{d\alpha_{ji}} = x_i$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dx_i} = \sum_{j=0}^D \frac{dJ}{da_j} \frac{da_j}{dx_i}, \quad \frac{da_j}{dx_i} = \alpha_{ji}$$

# Training

# Backpropagation

Case 2:

Forward

Loss

$$J = y^* \log y + (1 - y^*) \log(1 - y)$$

Backward

$$\frac{dJ}{dy} = \frac{y^*}{y} + \frac{(1 - y^*)}{1 - y}$$

Sigmoid

$$y = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-b)}$$

$$\frac{dJ}{db} = \frac{dJ}{dy} \frac{dy}{db}, \quad \frac{dy}{db} = \frac{\exp(-b)}{(\exp(-b) + 1)^2}$$

Linear

$$b = \sum_{j=0}^D \beta_j z_j$$

$$\frac{dJ}{d\beta_j} = \frac{dJ}{db} \frac{db}{d\beta_j}, \quad \frac{db}{d\beta_j} = z_j$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dz_j} = \frac{dJ}{db} \frac{db}{dz_j}, \quad \frac{db}{dz_j} = \beta_j$$

Sigmoid

$$z_j = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a_j)}$$

$$\frac{dJ}{da_j} = \frac{dJ}{dz_j} \frac{dz_j}{da_j}, \quad \frac{dz_j}{da_j} = \frac{\exp(-a_j)}{(\exp(-a_j) + 1)^2}$$

Linear

$$a_j = \sum_{i=0}^M \alpha_{ji} x_i$$

$$\frac{dJ}{d\alpha_{ji}} = \frac{dJ}{da_j} \frac{da_j}{d\alpha_{ji}}, \quad \frac{da_j}{d\alpha_{ji}} = x_i$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dx_i} = \sum_{j=0}^D \frac{dJ}{da_j} \frac{da_j}{dx_i}, \quad \frac{da_j}{dx_i} = \alpha_{ji}$$

# Derivative of a Sigmoid

First suppose that

$$s = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-b)} \quad (1)$$

To obtain the simplified form of the derivative of a sigmoid.

$$\frac{ds}{db} = \frac{\exp(-b)}{(\exp(-b) + 1)^2} \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{\exp(-b) + 1 - 1}{(\exp(-b) + 1 + 1 - 1)^2} \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{\exp(-b) + 1 - 1}{(\exp(-b) + 1)^2} \quad (4)$$

$$= \frac{\exp(-b) + 1}{(\exp(-b) + 1)^2} - \frac{1}{(\exp(-b) + 1)^2} \quad (5)$$

$$= \frac{1}{(\exp(-b) + 1)} - \frac{1}{(\exp(-b) + 1)^2} \quad (6)$$

$$= \frac{1}{(\exp(-b) + 1)} - \left( \frac{1}{(\exp(-b) + 1)} \frac{1}{(\exp(-b) + 1)} \right) \quad (7)$$

$$= \frac{1}{(\exp(-b) + 1)} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{(\exp(-b) + 1)} \right) \quad (8)$$

$$= s(1 - s) \quad (9)$$

# Training

# Backpropagation

Case 2:

Forward

Loss

$$J = y^* \log y + (1 - y^*) \log(1 - y)$$

Backward

$$\frac{dJ}{dy} = \frac{y^*}{y} + \frac{(1 - y^*)}{1 - y}$$

Sigmoid

$$y = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-b)}$$

$$\frac{dJ}{db} = \frac{dJ}{dy} \frac{dy}{db}, \quad \frac{dy}{db} = \frac{\exp(-b)}{(\exp(-b) + 1)^2}$$

Linear

$$b = \sum_{j=0}^D \beta_j z_j$$

$$\frac{dJ}{d\beta_j} = \frac{dJ}{db} \frac{db}{d\beta_j}, \quad \frac{db}{d\beta_j} = z_j$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dz_j} = \frac{dJ}{db} \frac{db}{dz_j}, \quad \frac{db}{dz_j} = \beta_j$$

Sigmoid

$$z_j = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a_j)}$$

$$\frac{dJ}{da_j} = \frac{dJ}{dz_j} \frac{dz_j}{da_j}, \quad \frac{dz_j}{da_j} = \frac{\exp(-a_j)}{(\exp(-a_j) + 1)^2}$$

Linear

$$a_j = \sum_{i=0}^M \alpha_{ji} x_i$$

$$\frac{dJ}{d\alpha_{ji}} = \frac{dJ}{da_j} \frac{da_j}{d\alpha_{ji}}, \quad \frac{da_j}{d\alpha_{ji}} = x_i$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dx_i} = \sum_{j=0}^D \frac{dJ}{da_j} \frac{da_j}{dx_i}, \quad \frac{da_j}{dx_i} = \alpha_{ji}$$

# Training

# Backpropagation

Case 2:

Forward

Loss

$$J = y^* \log y + (1 - y^*) \log(1 - y)$$

Backward

$$\frac{dJ}{dy} = \frac{y^*}{y} + \frac{(1 - y^*)}{1 - y}$$

Sigmoid

$$y = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-b)}$$

$$\frac{dJ}{db} = \frac{dJ}{dy} \frac{dy}{db}, \quad \frac{dy}{db} = y(1 - y)$$

Linear

$$b = \sum_{j=0}^D \beta_j z_j$$

$$\frac{dJ}{d\beta_j} = \frac{dJ}{db} \frac{db}{d\beta_j}, \quad \frac{db}{d\beta_j} = z_j$$

Sigmoid

$$z_j = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a_j)}$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dz_j} = \frac{dJ}{db} \frac{db}{dz_j}, \quad \frac{db}{dz_j} = \beta_j$$

Linear

$$a_j = \sum_{i=0}^M \alpha_{ji} x_i$$

$$\frac{dJ}{da_j} = \frac{dJ}{dz_j} \frac{dz_j}{da_j}, \quad \frac{dz_j}{da_j} = z_j(1 - z_j)$$

$$\frac{dJ}{d\alpha_{ji}} = \frac{dJ}{da_j} \frac{da_j}{d\alpha_{ji}}, \quad \frac{da_j}{d\alpha_{ji}} = x_i$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dx_i} = \sum_{j=0}^D \frac{dJ}{da_j} \frac{da_j}{dx_i}, \quad \frac{da_j}{dx_i} = \alpha_{ji}$$

## Automatic Differentiation – Reverse Mode (aka. Backpropagation)

### Forward Computation

1. Write an **algorithm** for evaluating the function  $y = f(x)$ . The algorithm defines a **directed acyclic graph**, where each variable is a node (i.e. the “**computation graph**”)
2. Visit each node in **topological order**.  
For variable  $u_i$  with inputs  $v_1, \dots, v_N$ 
  - a. Compute  $u_i = g_i(v_1, \dots, v_N)$
  - b. Store the result at the node

### Backward Computation (Version A)

1. **Initialize**  $dy/dy = 1$ .
2. Visit each node  $v_j$  in **reverse topological order**.  
Let  $u_1, \dots, u_M$  denote all the nodes with  $v_j$  as an input  
Assuming that  $y = h(\mathbf{u}) = h(u_1, \dots, u_M)$   
and  $\mathbf{u} = g(\mathbf{v})$  or equivalently  $u_i = g_i(v_1, \dots, v_j, \dots, v_N)$  for all  $i$ 
  - a. We already know  $dy/du_i$  for all  $i$
  - b. Compute  $dy/dv_j$  as below (Choice of algorithm ensures computing  $(du_i/dv_j)$  is easy)

$$\frac{dy}{dv_j} = \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{dy}{du_i} \frac{du_i}{dv_j}$$

Return partial derivatives  $dy/du_i$  for all variables

## Automatic Differentiation – Reverse Mode (aka. Backpropagation)

### Forward Computation

1. Write an **algorithm** for evaluating the function  $y = f(x)$ . The algorithm defines a **directed acyclic graph**, where each variable is a node (i.e. the “**computation graph**”)
2. Visit each node in **topological order**.  
For variable  $u_i$  with inputs  $v_1, \dots, v_N$ 
  - a. Compute  $u_i = g_i(v_1, \dots, v_N)$
  - b. Store the result at the node

### Backward Computation (Version B)

1. **Initialize** all partial derivatives  $dy/du_j$  to 0 and  $dy/dy = 1$ .
2. Visit each node in **reverse topological order**.  
For variable  $u_i = g_i(v_1, \dots, v_N)$ 
  - a. We already know  $dy/du_i$
  - b. Increment  $dy/dv_j$  by  $(dy/du_i)(du_i/dv_j)$   
*(Choice of algorithm ensures computing  $(du_i/dv_j)$  is easy)*

Return partial derivatives  $dy/du_i$  for all variables

Example: 1-Hidden Layer Neural Network

---

**Algorithm 1** Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

```
1: procedure SGD(Training data  $\mathcal{D}$ , test data  $\mathcal{D}_t$ )
2:   Initialize parameters  $\alpha, \beta$ 
3:   for  $e \in \{1, 2, \dots, E\}$  do
4:     for  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathcal{D}$  do
5:       Compute neural network layers:
6:        $\mathbf{o} = \text{object}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{z}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}, J) = \text{NNFORWARD}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \alpha, \beta)$ 
7:       Compute gradients via backprop:
8:        $\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{g}_\alpha = \nabla_\alpha J \\ \mathbf{g}_\beta = \nabla_\beta J \end{array} \right\} = \text{NNBACKWARD}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \alpha, \beta, \mathbf{o})$ 
9:       Update parameters:
10:       $\alpha \leftarrow \alpha - \gamma \mathbf{g}_\alpha$ 
11:       $\beta \leftarrow \beta - \gamma \mathbf{g}_\beta$ 
12:      Evaluate training mean cross-entropy  $J_{\mathcal{D}}(\alpha, \beta)$ 
13:      Evaluate test mean cross-entropy  $J_{\mathcal{D}_t}(\alpha, \beta)$ 
14:   return parameters  $\alpha, \beta$ 
```

---

## Background

1. Given training data

$$\{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{i=1}^N$$

2. Choose each of the

– Decision function

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

– Loss function

$$\ell(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \mathbf{y}_i) \in \mathbb{R}$$

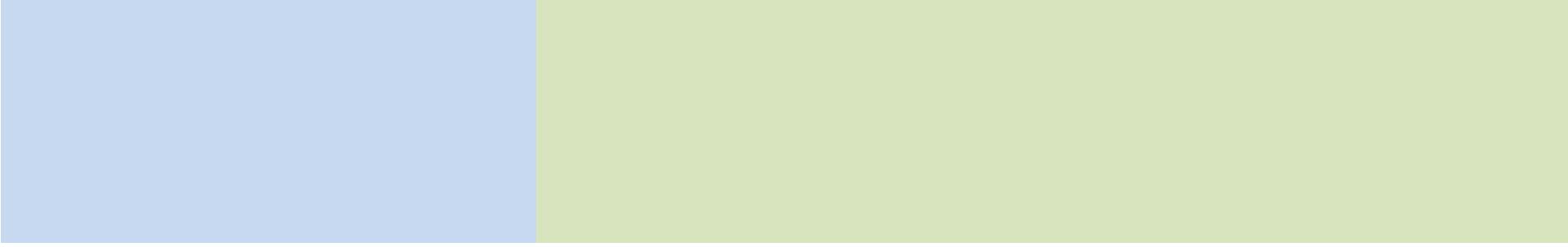
## A Recipe for

# Gradients

**Backpropagation** can compute this gradient!

And it's a **special case of a more general algorithm** called reverse-mode automatic differentiation that can compute the gradient of any differentiable function efficiently!

$$\theta^{(t+1)} = \theta^{(t)} - \eta_t \nabla \ell(f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_i), \mathbf{y}_i)$$



# **OTHER APPROACHES TO DIFFERENTIATION**

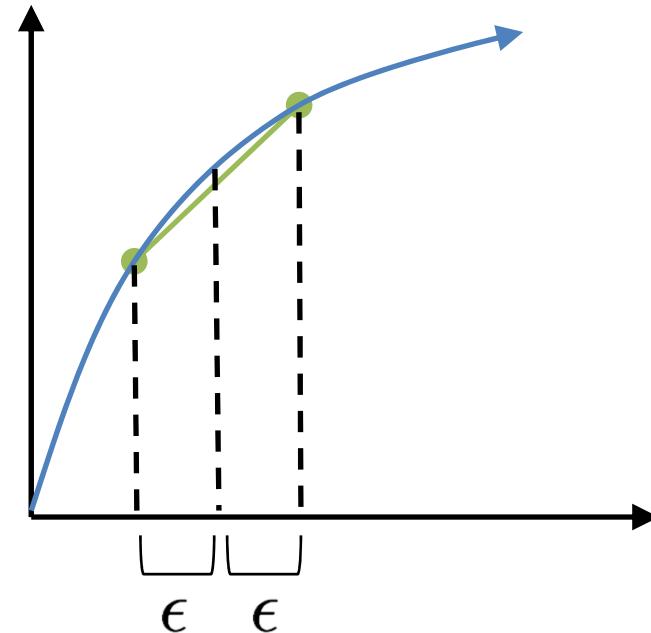
The centered finite difference approximation is:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \approx \frac{(J(\boldsymbol{\theta} + \epsilon \cdot \mathbf{d}_i) - J(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \epsilon \cdot \mathbf{d}_i))}{2\epsilon} \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathbf{d}_i$  is a 1-hot vector consisting of all zeros except for the  $i$ th entry of  $\mathbf{d}_i$ , which has value 1.

**Notes:**

- Suffers from issues of floating point precision, in practice
- Typically only appropriate to use on small examples with an appropriately chosen epsilon



Speed Quiz:  
2 minute time limit.

## Differentiation Quiz #1:

Suppose  $x = 2$  and  $z = 3$ , what are  $dy/dx$  and  $dy/dz$  for the function below? **Round your answer to the nearest integer.**

$$y = \exp(xz) + \frac{xz}{\log(x)} + \frac{\sin(\log(x))}{xz}$$

**Answer:** Answers below are in the form  $[dy/dx, dy/dz]$

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| A. [42, -72]  | E. [1208, 810] |
| B. [72, -42]  | F. [810, 1208] |
| C. [100, 127] | G. [1505, 94]  |
| D. [127, 100] | H. [94, 1505]  |

## Differentiation Quiz #2:

A neural network with 2 hidden layers can be written as:

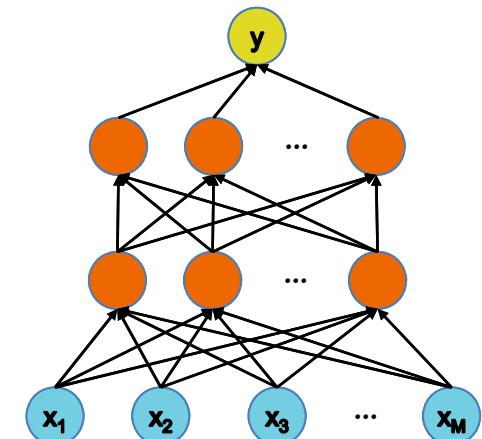
$$y = \sigma(\beta^T \sigma((\alpha^{(2)})^T \sigma((\alpha^{(1)})^T \mathbf{x})))$$

where  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{D^{(0)}}$ ,  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^{D^{(2)}}$  and  $\alpha^{(i)}$  is a  $D^{(i)} \times D^{(i-1)}$  matrix. Nonlinear functions are applied elementwise:

$$\sigma(\mathbf{a}) = [\sigma(a_1), \dots, \sigma(a_K)]^T$$

Let  $\sigma$  be sigmoid:  $\sigma(a) = \frac{1}{1+exp-a}$

What is  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial \beta_j}$  and  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial \alpha_j^{(i)}}$  for all  $i, j$ .



# Summary

## 1. Neural Networks...

- provide a way of learning features
- are highly nonlinear prediction functions
- (can be) a highly parallel network of logistic regression classifiers
- discover useful hidden representations of the input

## 2. Backpropagation...

- provides an efficient way to compute gradients
- is a special case of reverse-mode automatic differentiation

# Backprop Objectives

*You should be able to...*

- Construct a computation graph for a function as specified by an algorithm
- Carry out the backpropagation on an arbitrary computation graph
- Construct a computation graph for a neural network, identifying all the given and intermediate quantities that are relevant
- Instantiate the backpropagation algorithm for a neural network
- Instantiate an optimization method (e.g. SGD) and a regularizer (e.g. L<sub>2</sub>) when the parameters of a model are comprised of several matrices corresponding to different layers of a neural network
- Apply the empirical risk minimization framework to learn a neural network
- Use the finite difference method to evaluate the gradient of a function
- Identify when the gradient of a function can be computed at all and when it can be computed efficiently