The video outlining the workings on the perceptron was interesting. I was introduced to the concept of the perceptron initially a few years ago with my own research into neural networks – but it was nice to have a refresher and a new way of explaining the inner workings. We haven’t gotten to it yet in class but I hope we will dive into how nodes in a network can be considered as “features” that have been discovered in your data. I find this concept to be a little abstract – but perhaps it will become clear to me with more material. I also find it interesting how different activation functions can affect the performance of a neural net. As a rule-of-thumb I’ve been using relu or tanh, but I would love to hear an explanation as to why certain activation functions would be preferred in certain contexts.

As always excited for next class,

Oliver