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Scaling Deep Learning Interpretability by
Visualizing Activation & Attribution Summarizations

VAST 2019

Vancouver, Canada



Fred Hohman

[@fredhohman](#)

Georgia Tech



Haekyu Park

Georgia Tech



Caleb Robinson

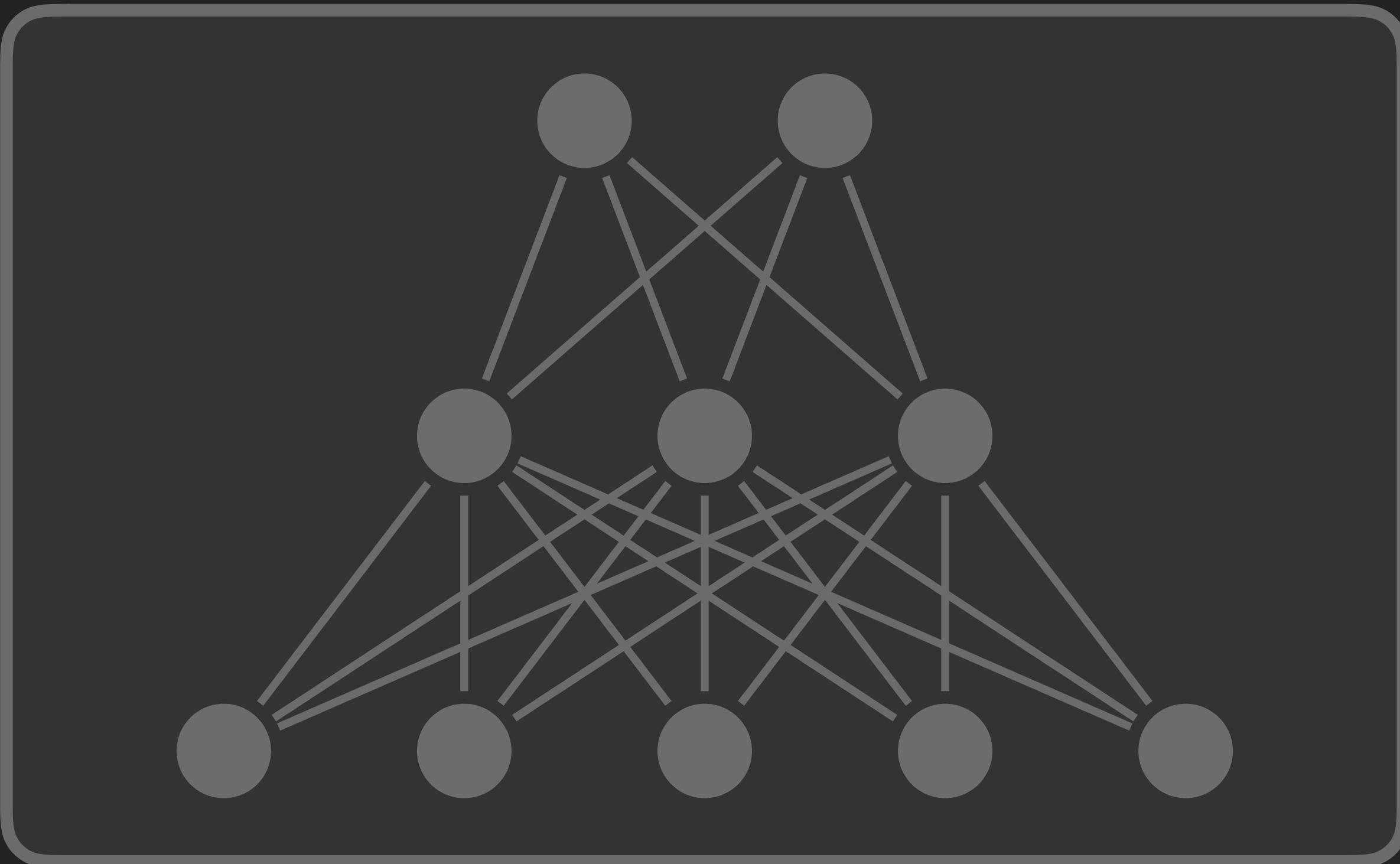
Georgia Tech



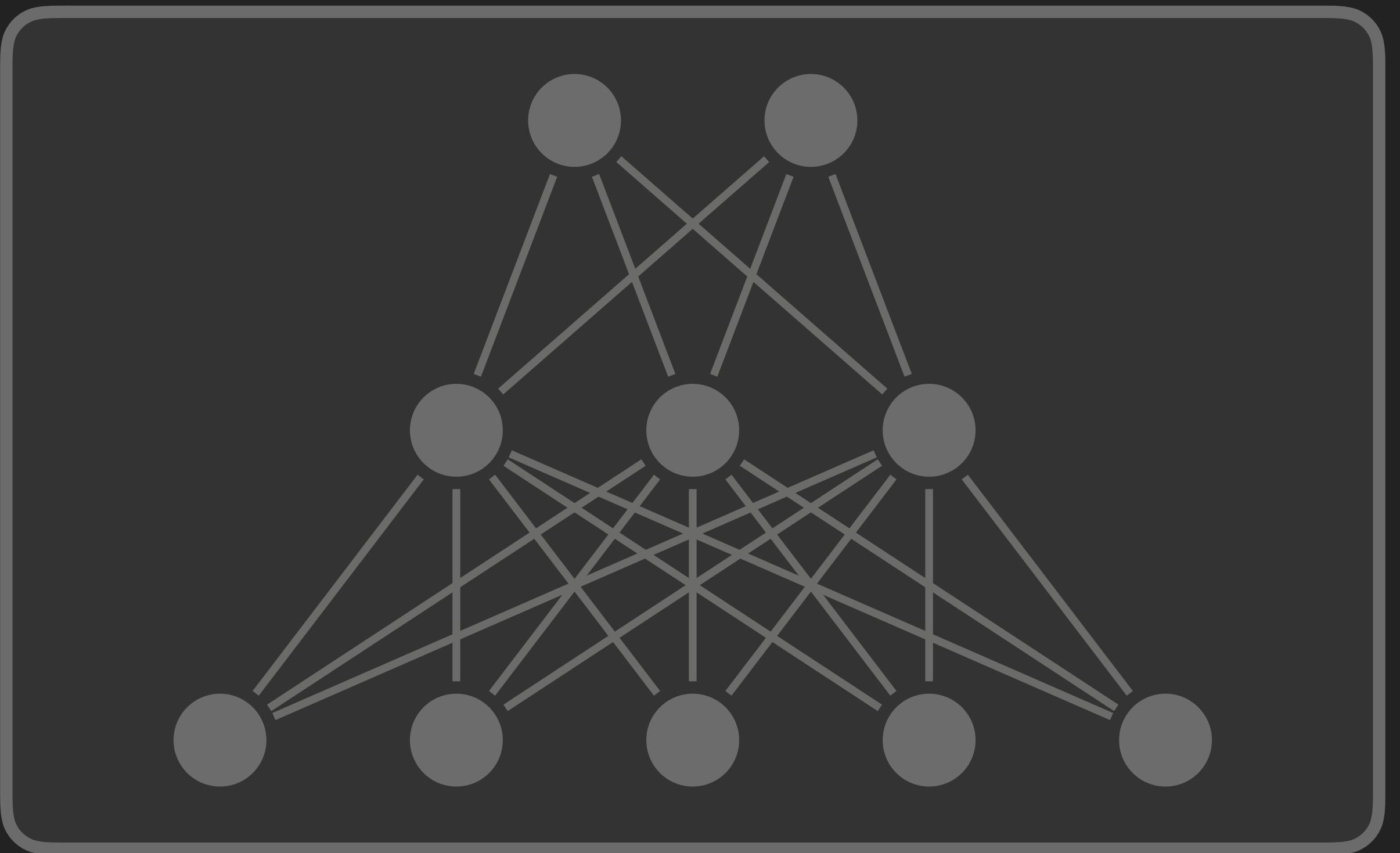
Polo Chau

Georgia Tech

Georgia
Tech 

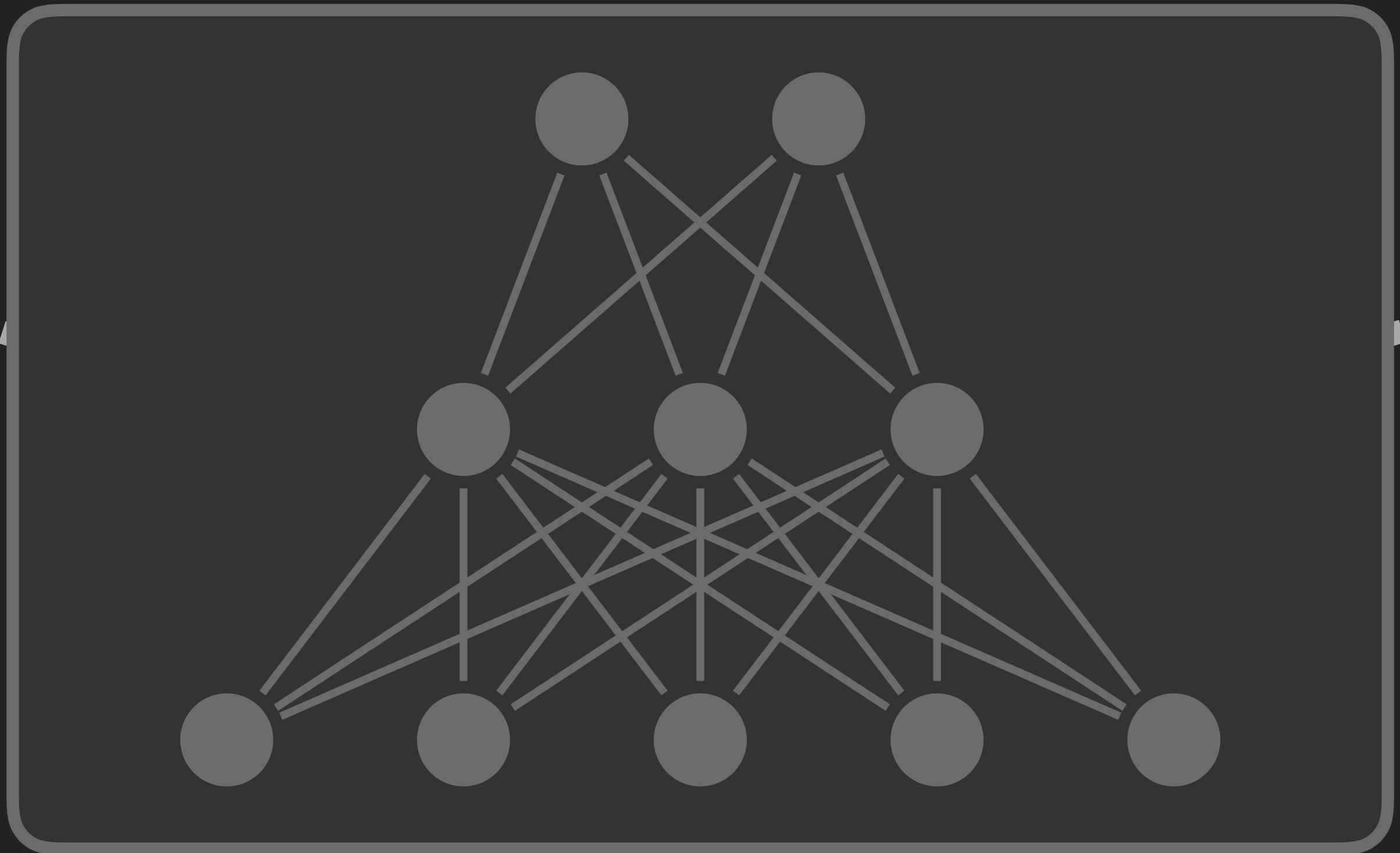


Neural Network



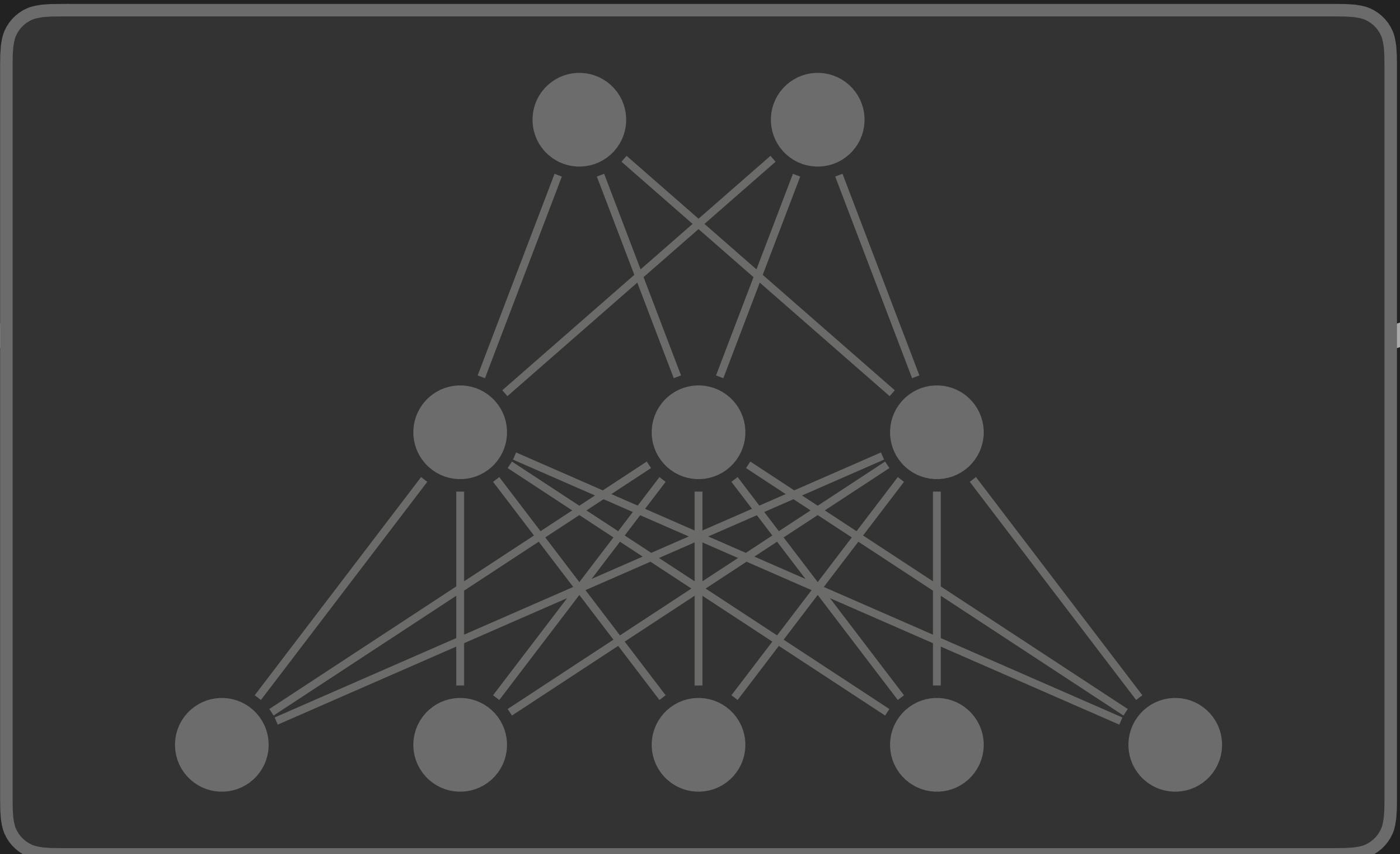
Neural Network

bike ✓



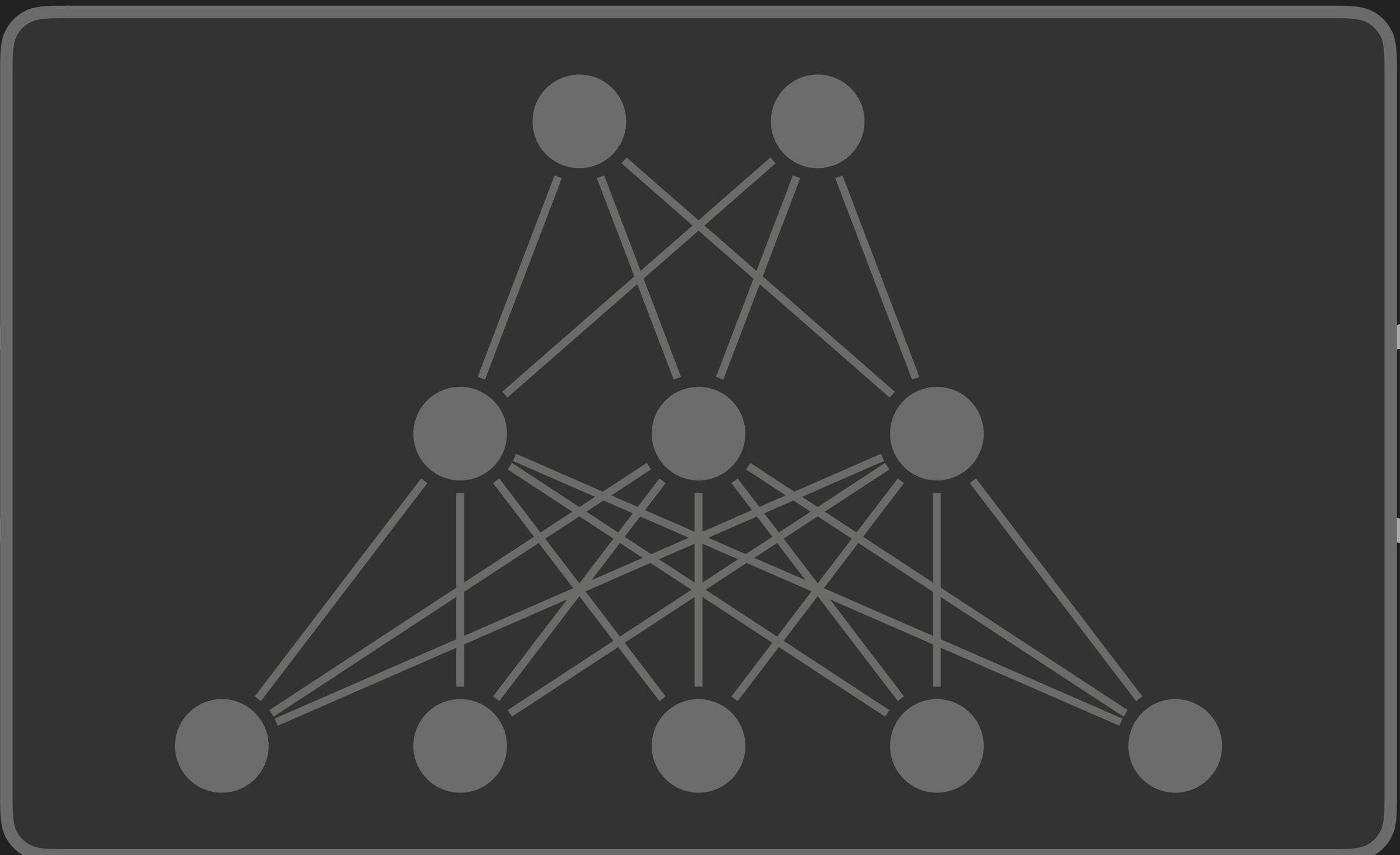
Neural Network

bike ✓



Neural Network

bike ✓



Neural Network

truck ✗

?

truck X



?

truck X



Attention



[Selvaraju, et al., ICCV, 2017]

?

truck X

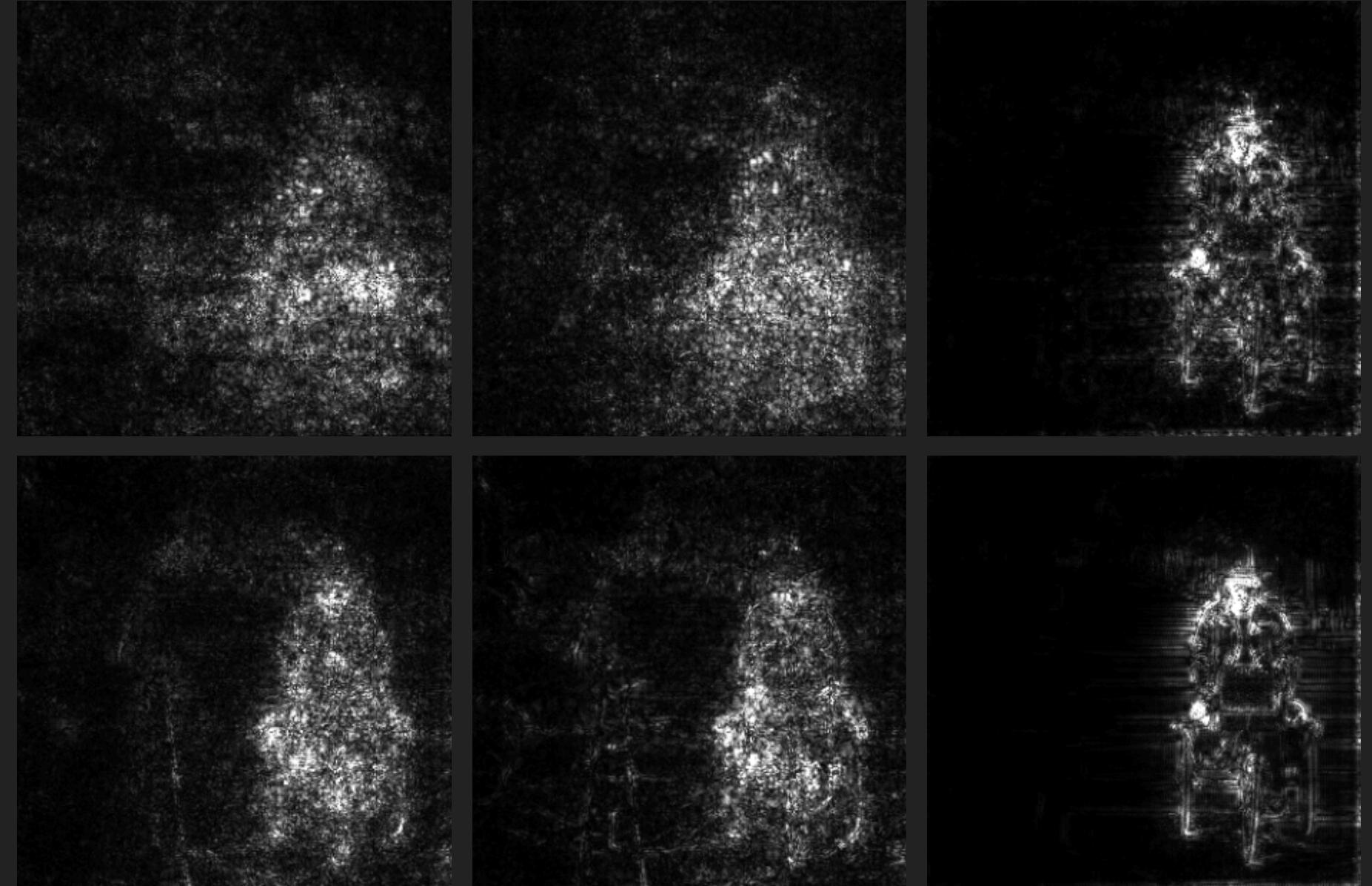


Attention

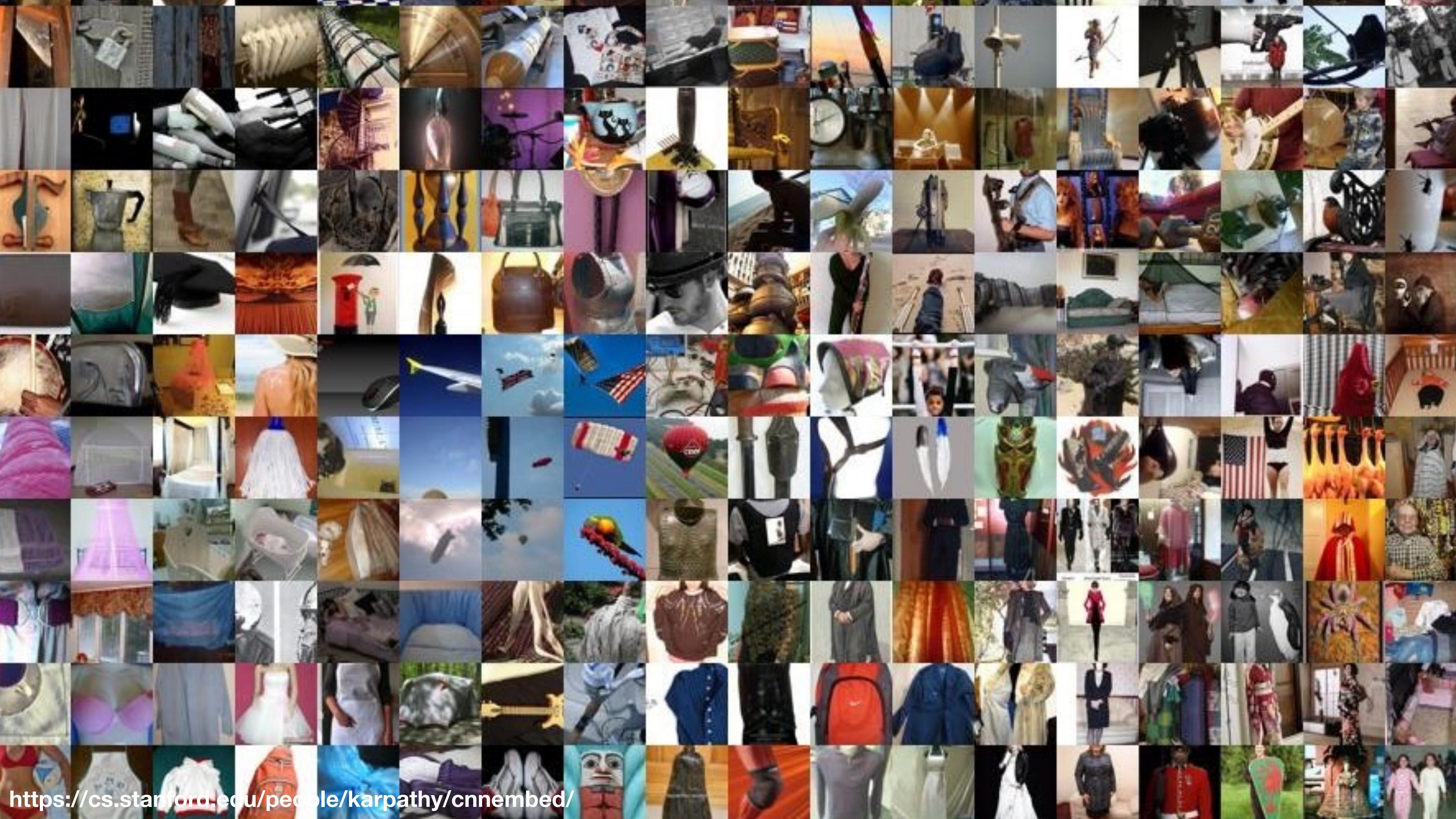


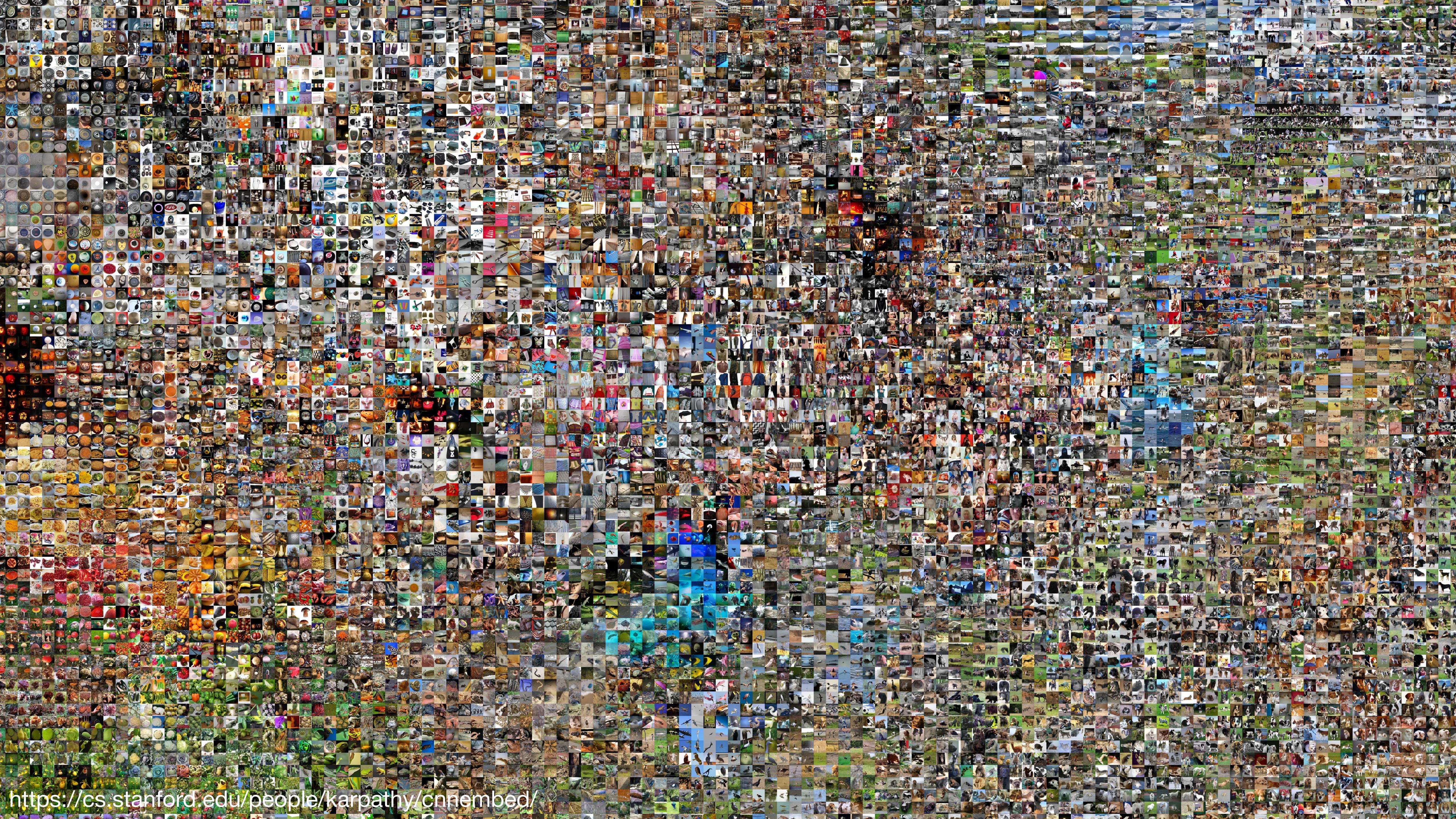
[Selvaraju, et al., ICCV, 2017]

Sensitivity



[Smilkov, et al., arXiv, 2017]





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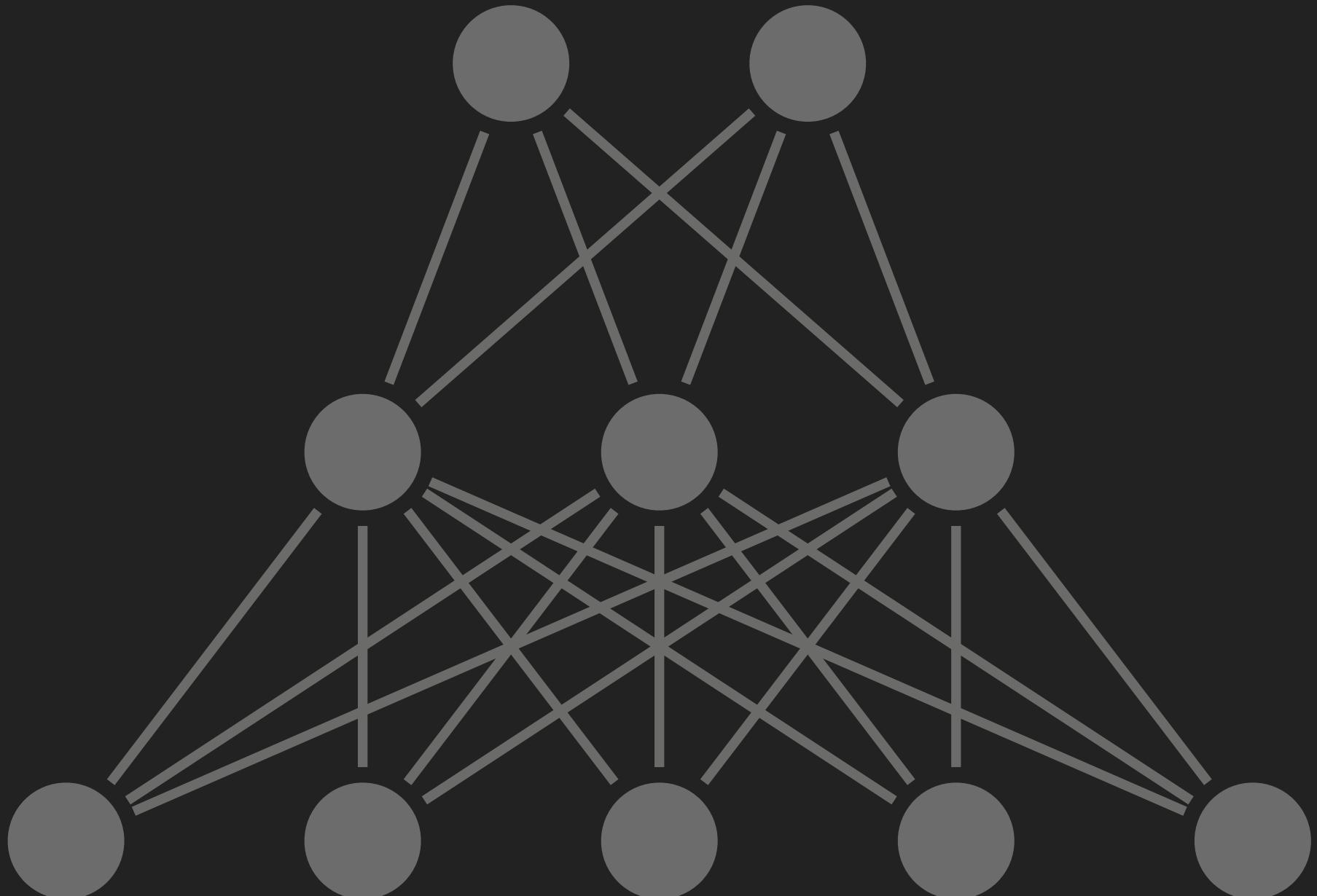
Scalably summarize and interactively visualize
neural network feature representations
for millions of images

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**Scalably summarize and interactively visualize
neural network feature representations
for millions of images**



white wolf

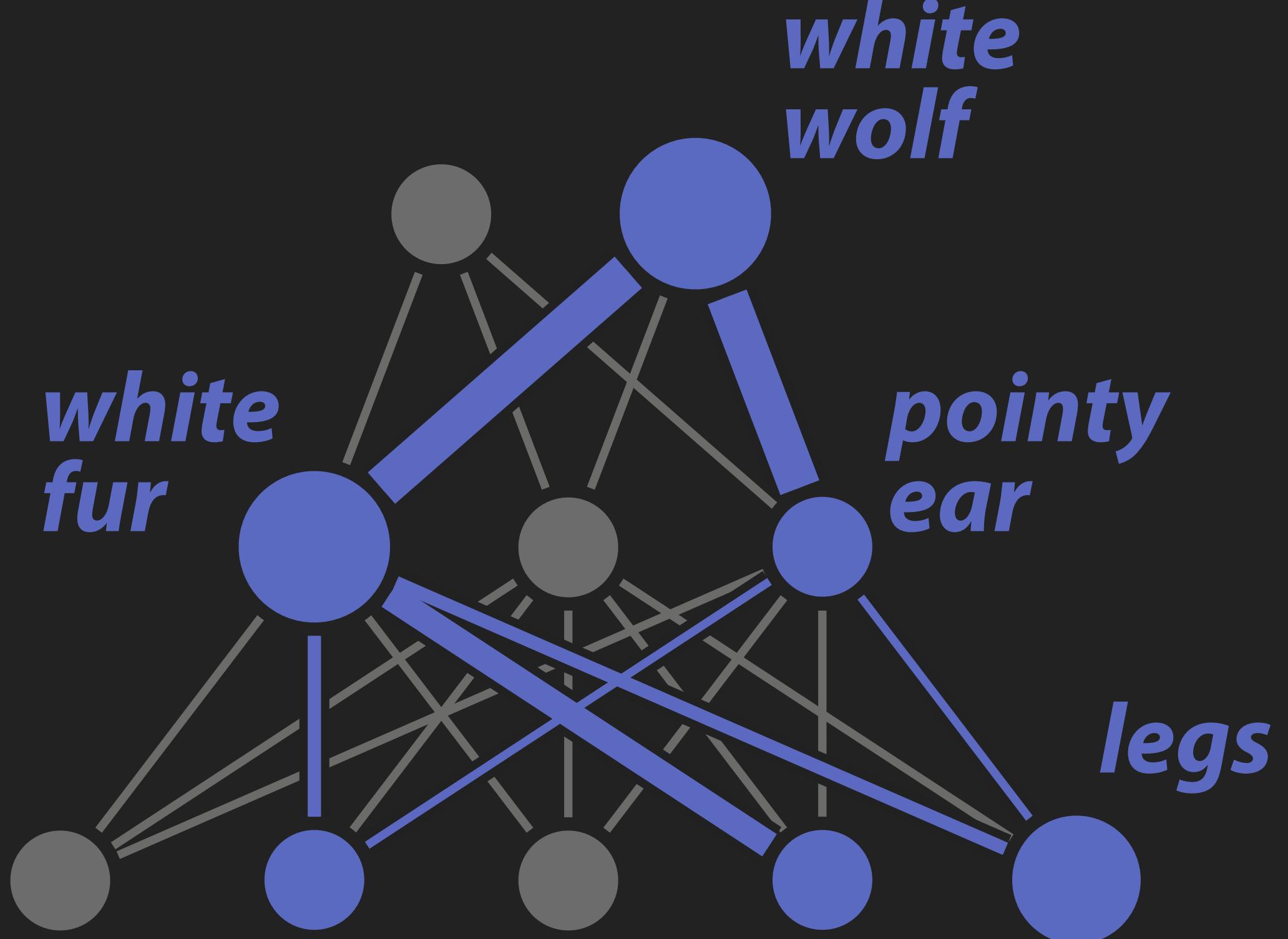


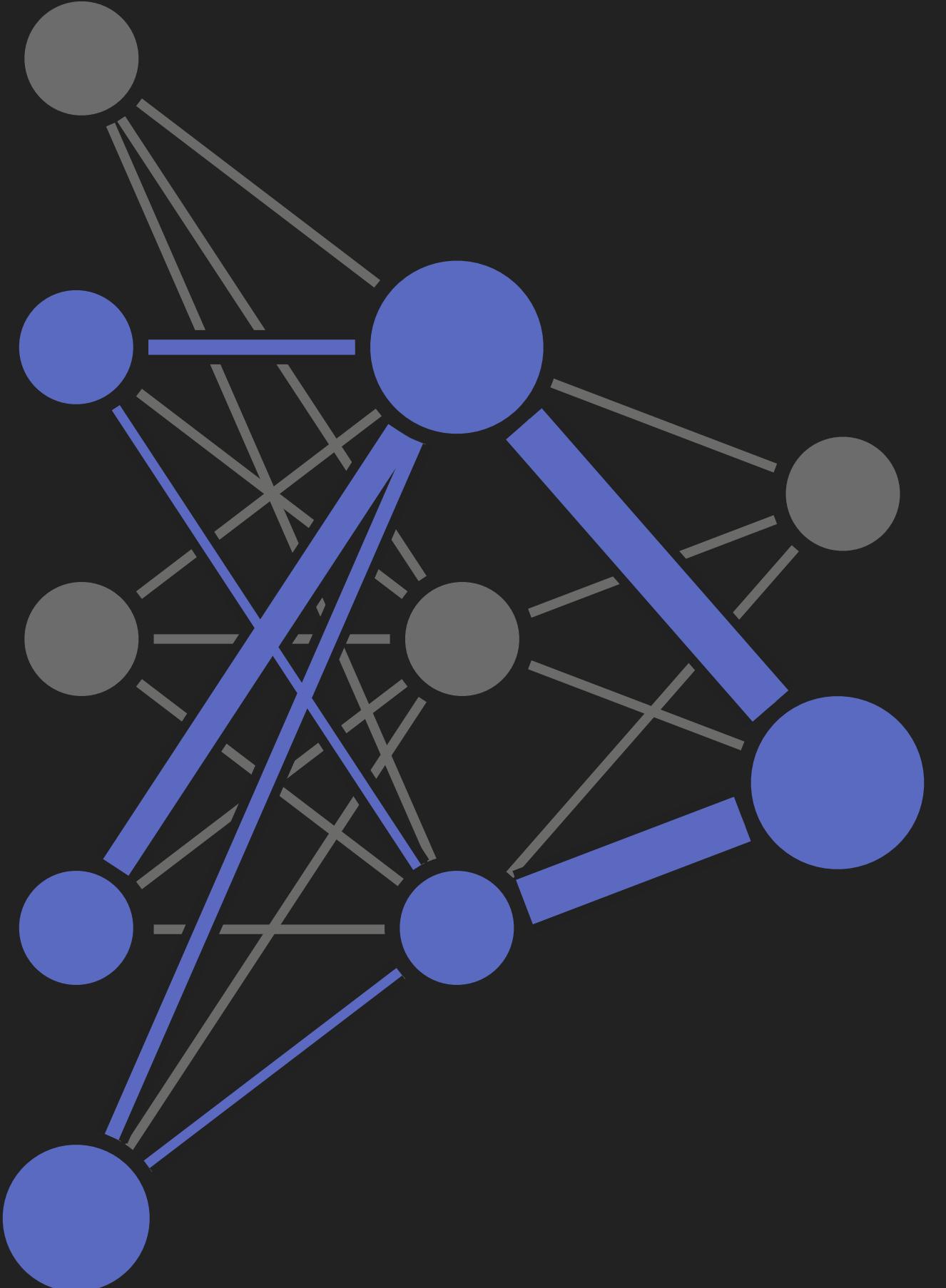
SUMMIT

Scalably summarize and interactively visualize
neural network feature representations
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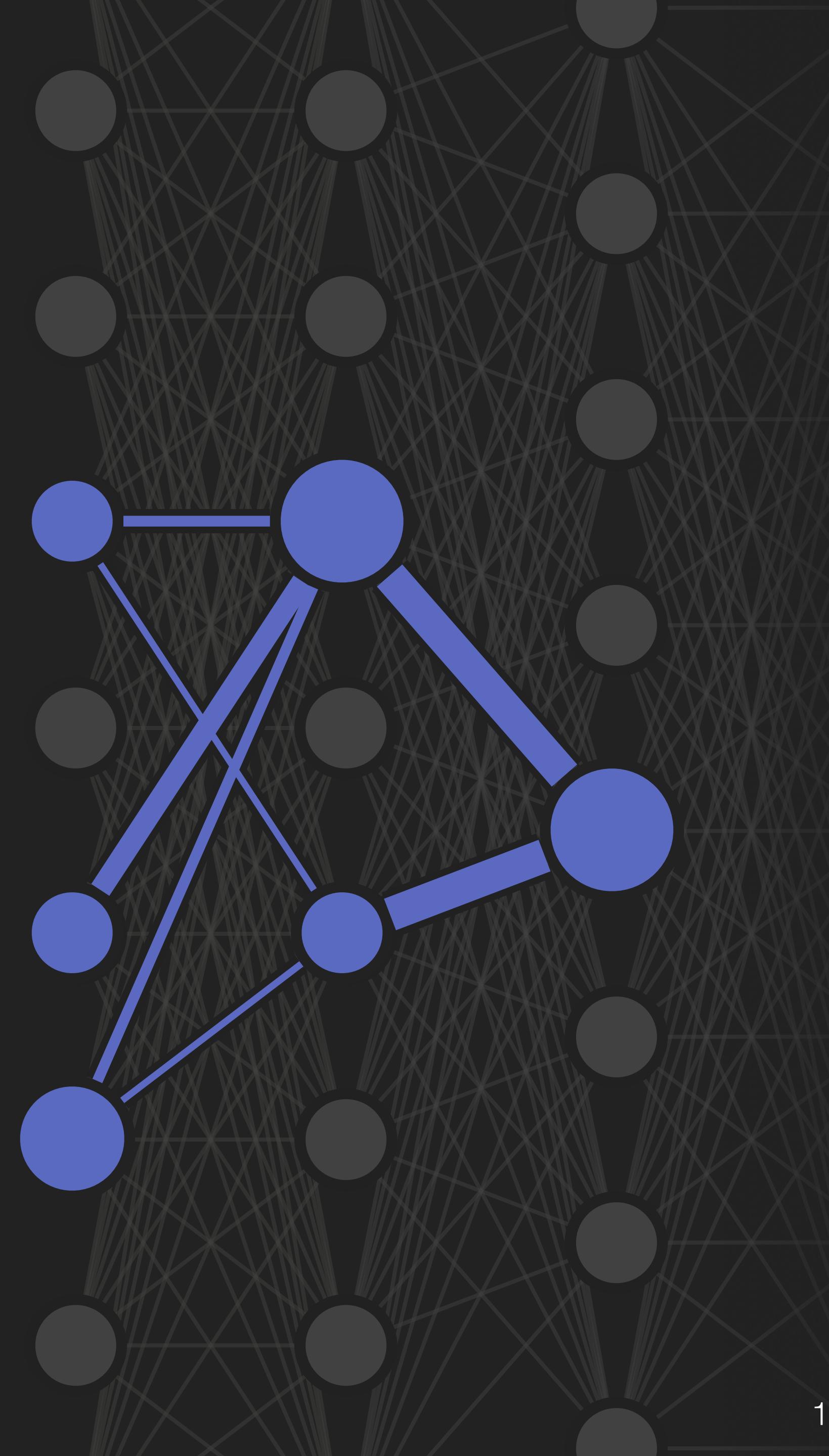


white wolf





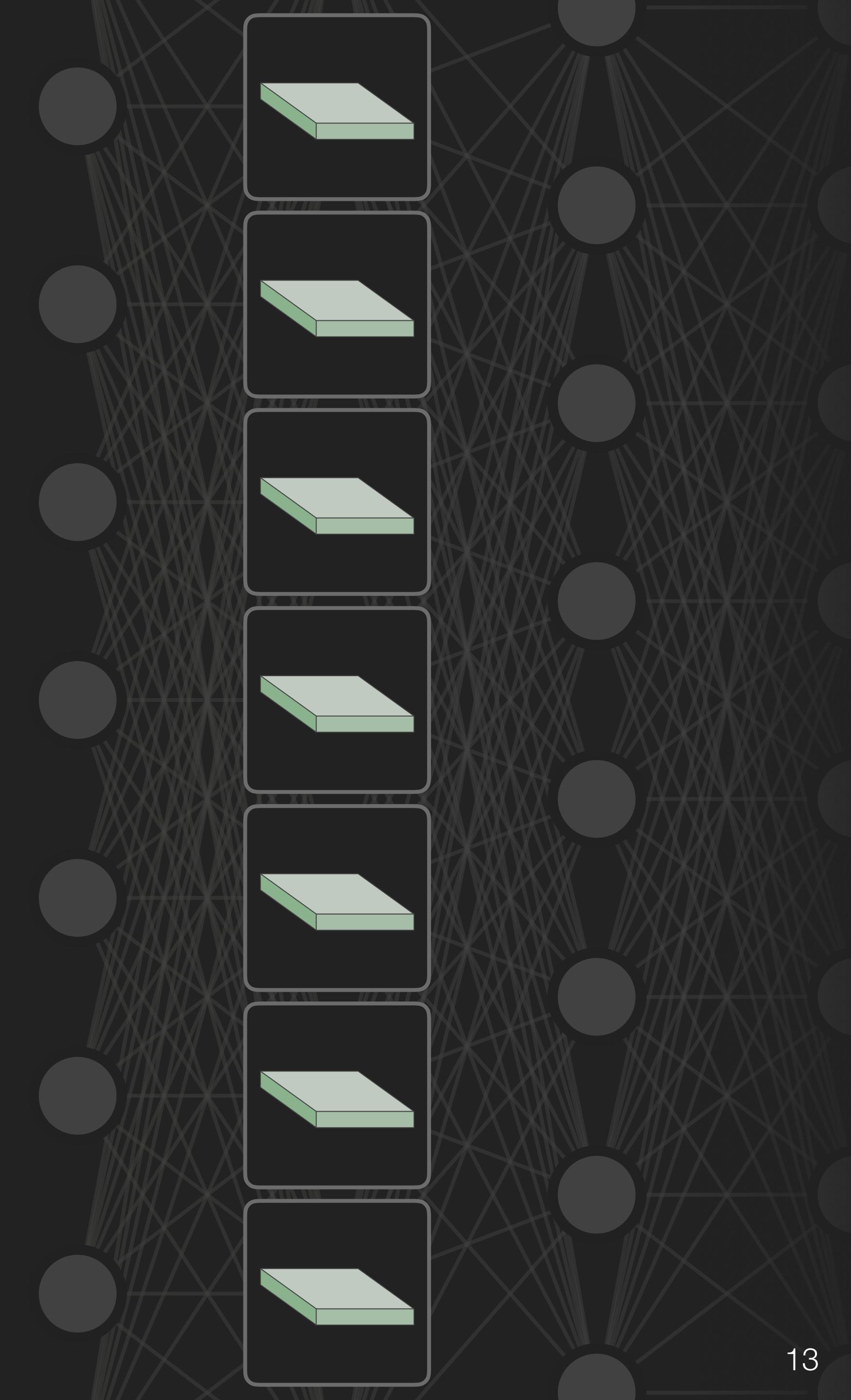
How do we make
attribution graphs?



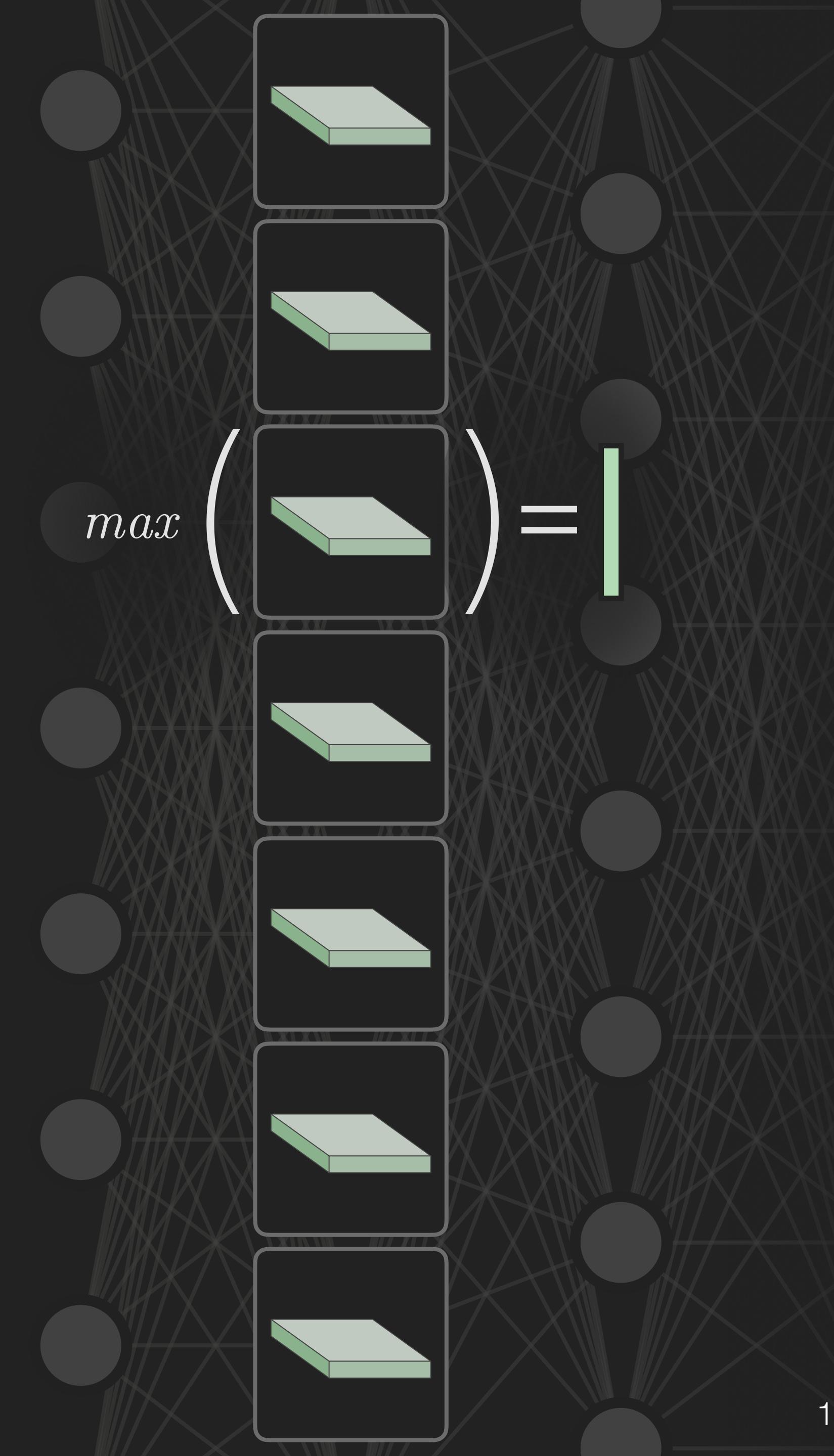
How do we make
attribution graphs?



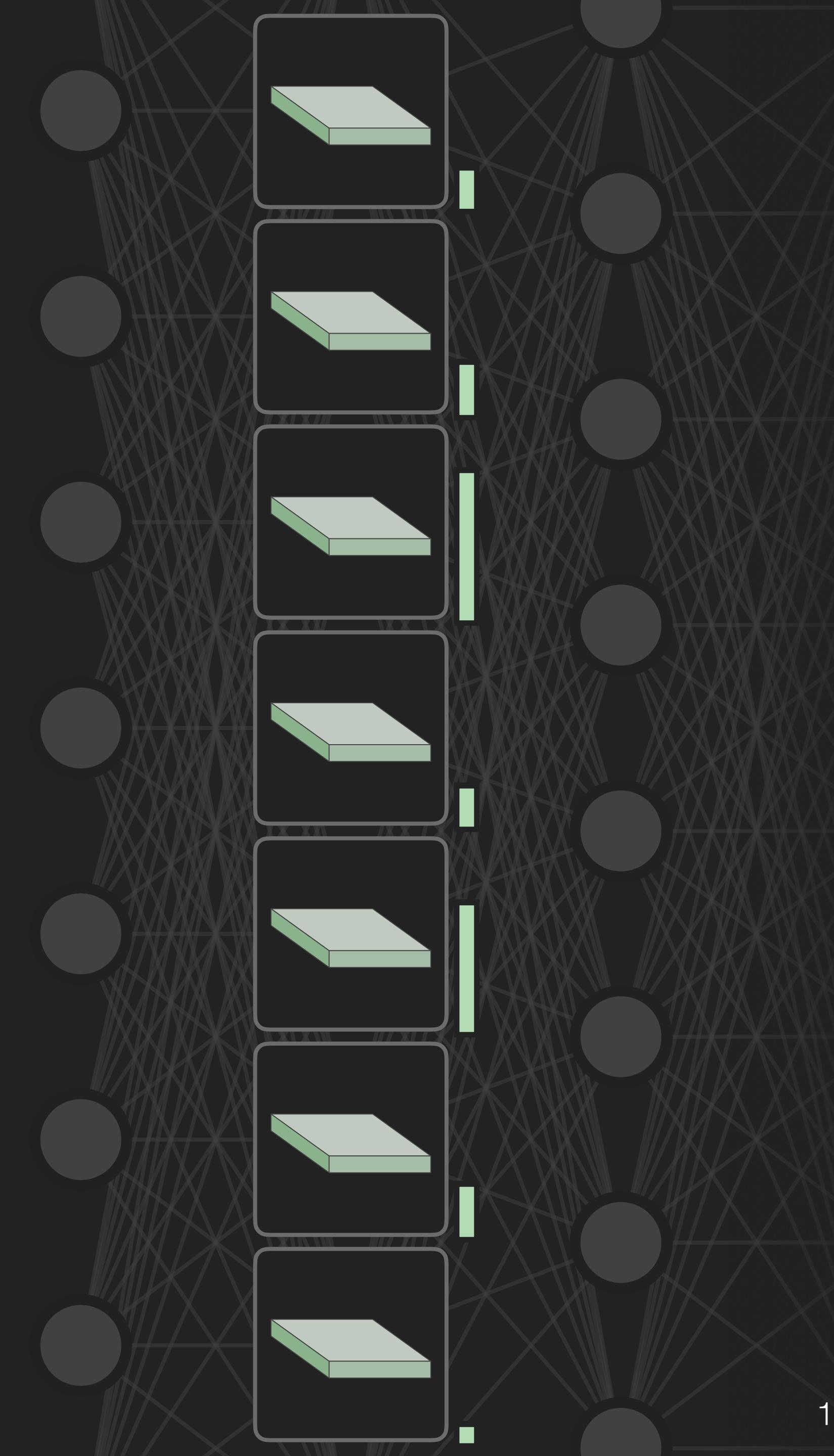
How do we make
attribution graphs?



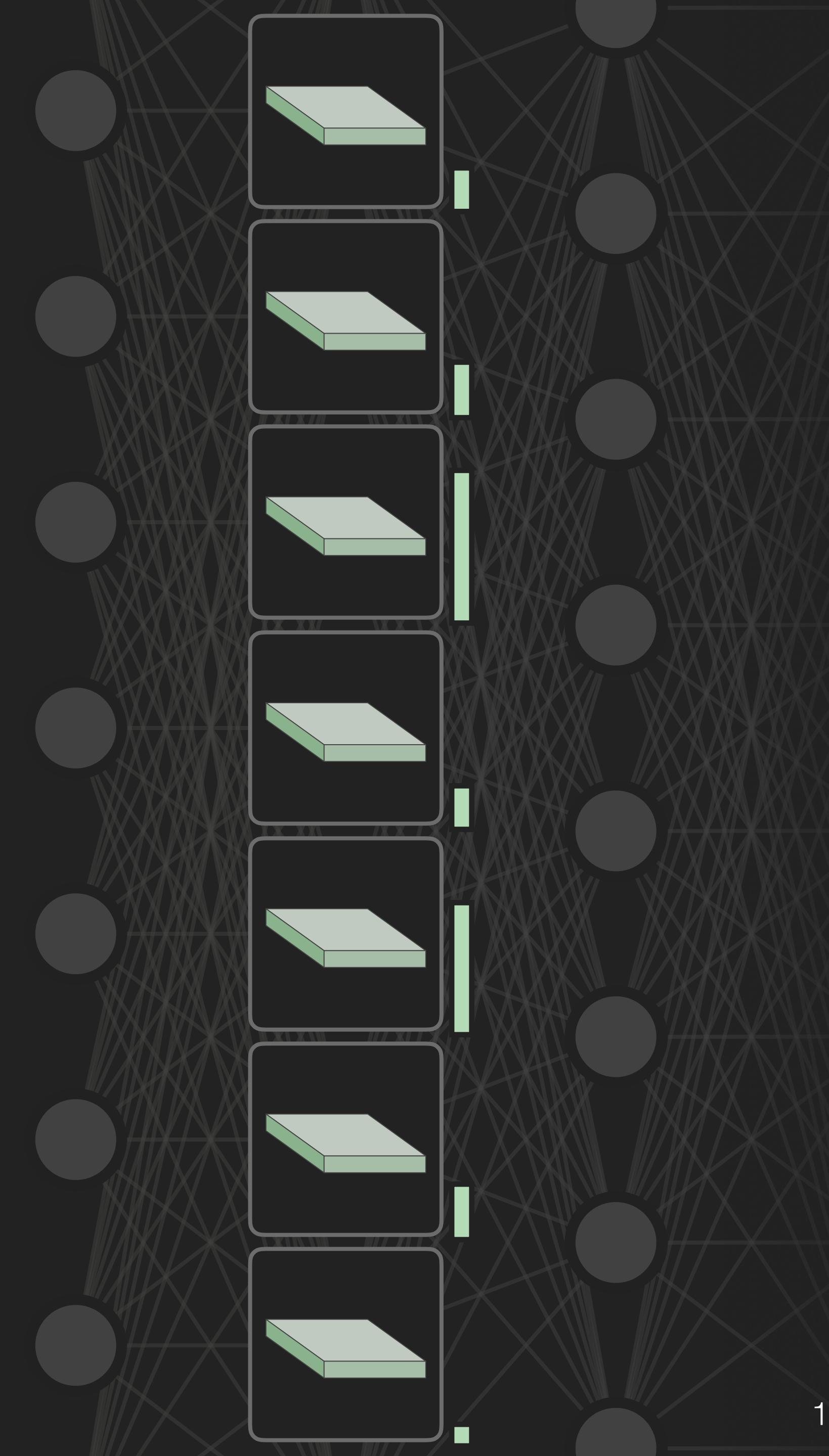
Aggregate network **activations** (nodes)



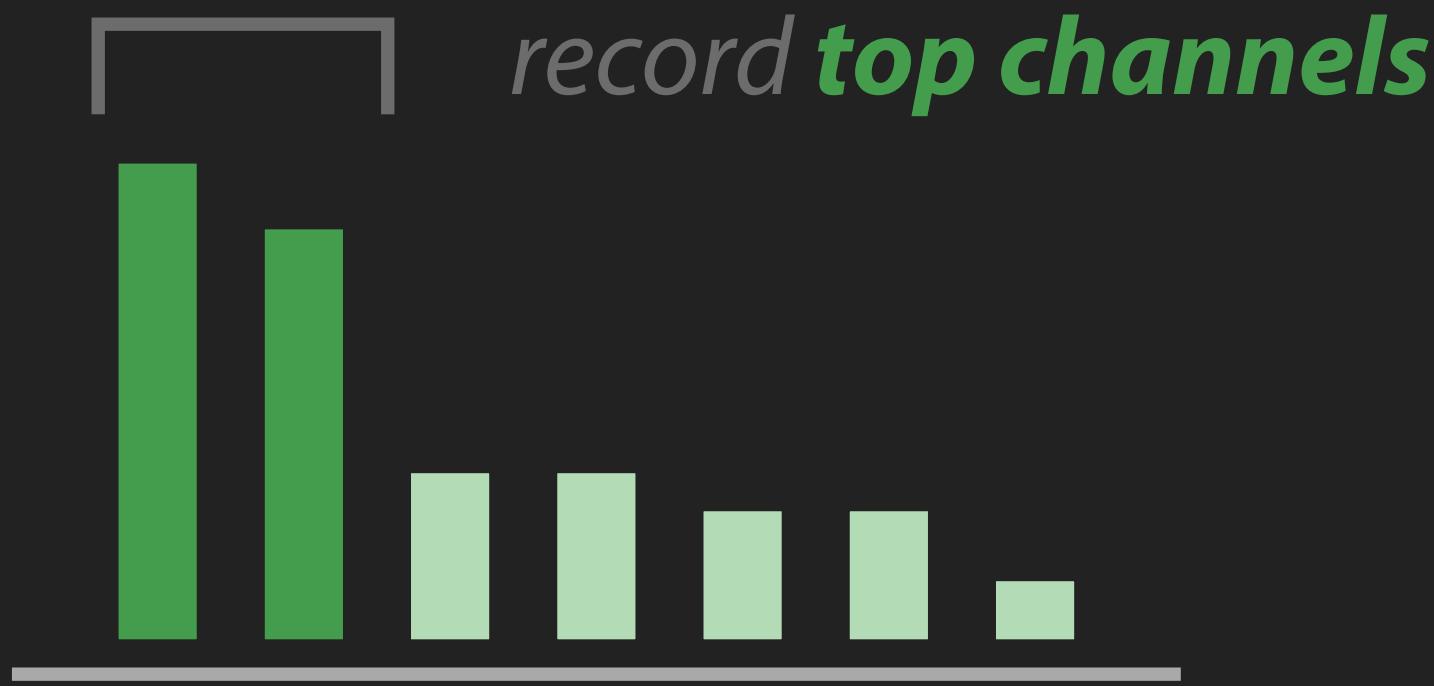
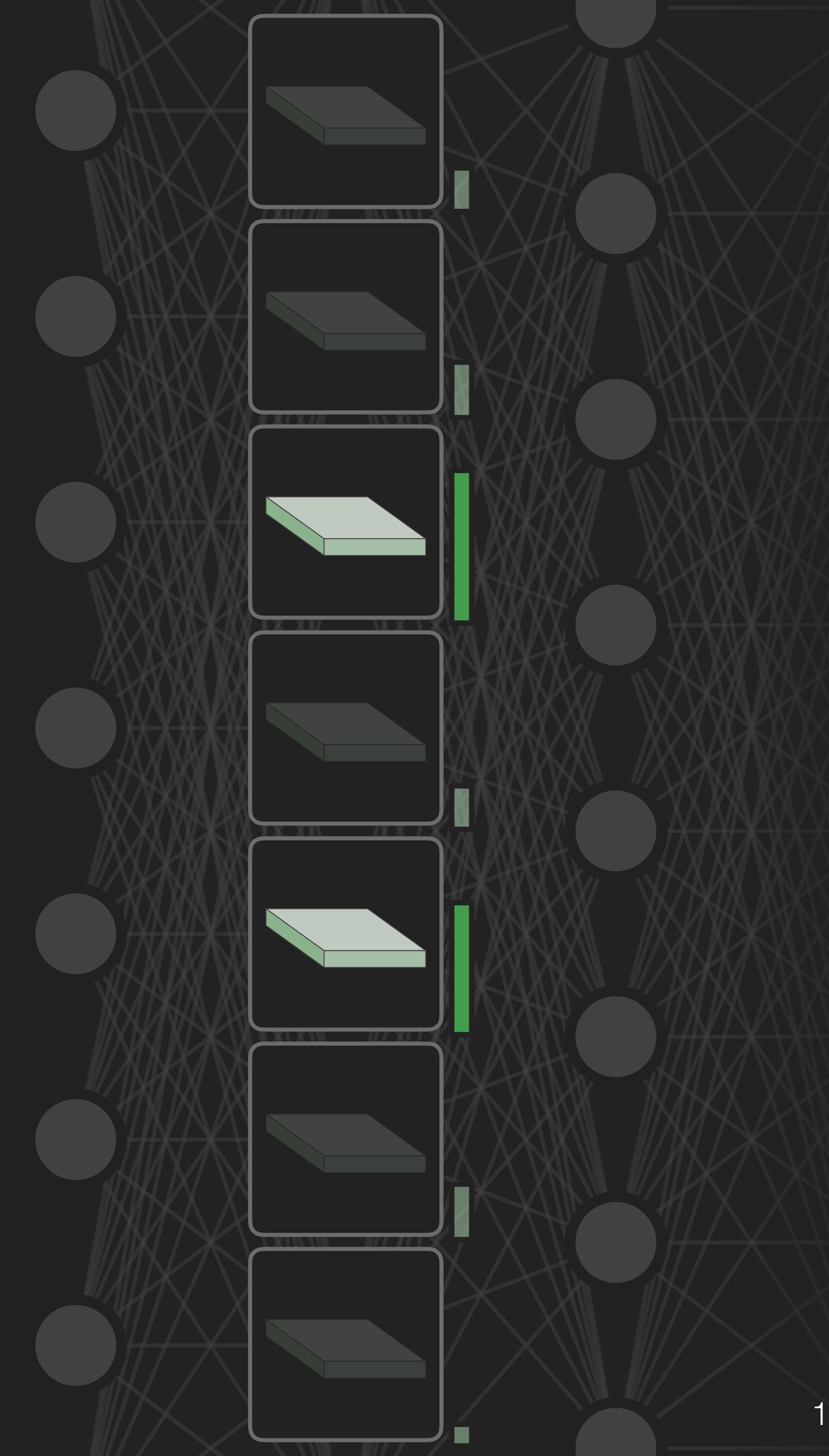
Aggregate network
activations (nodes)



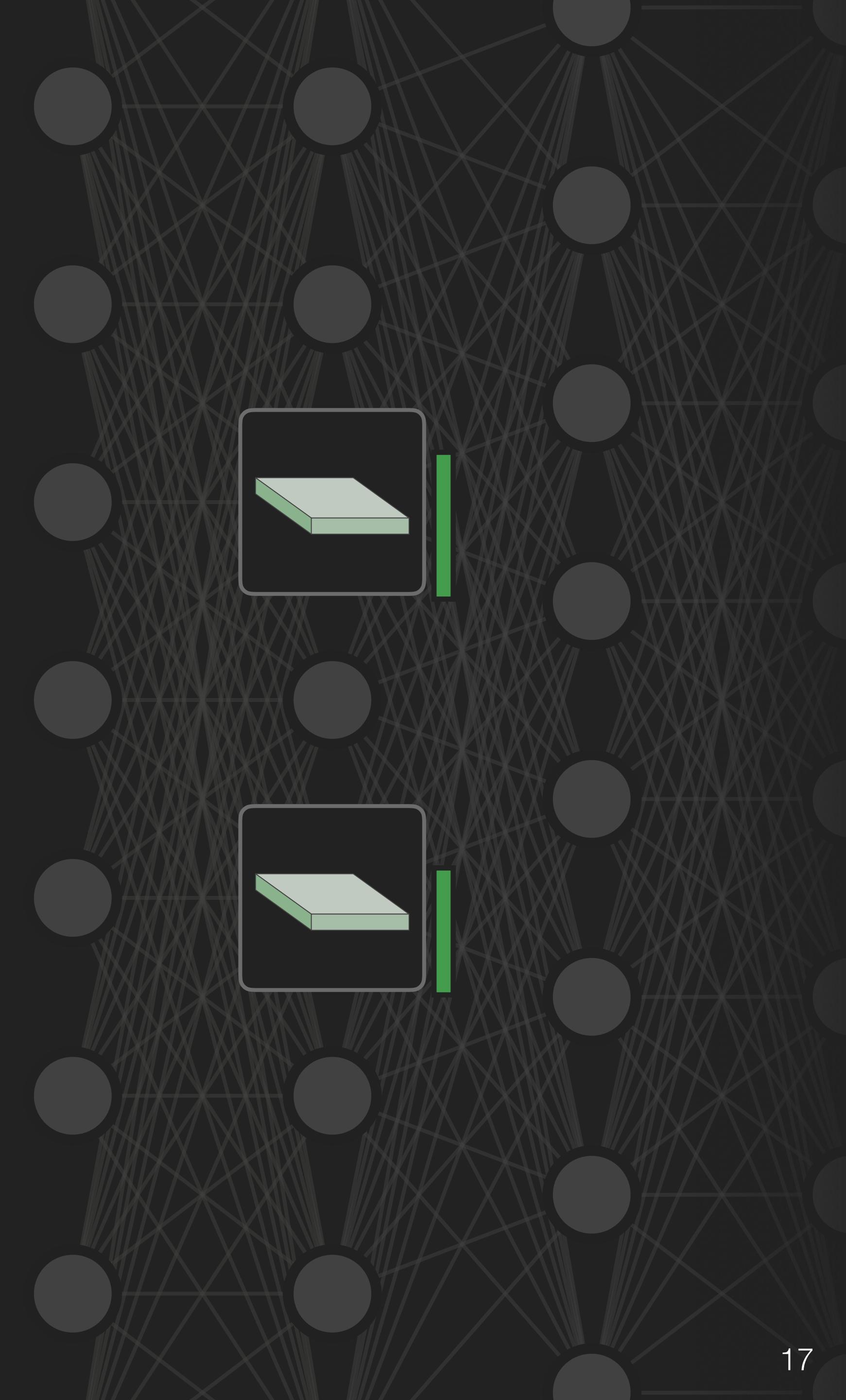
Aggregate network
activations (nodes)



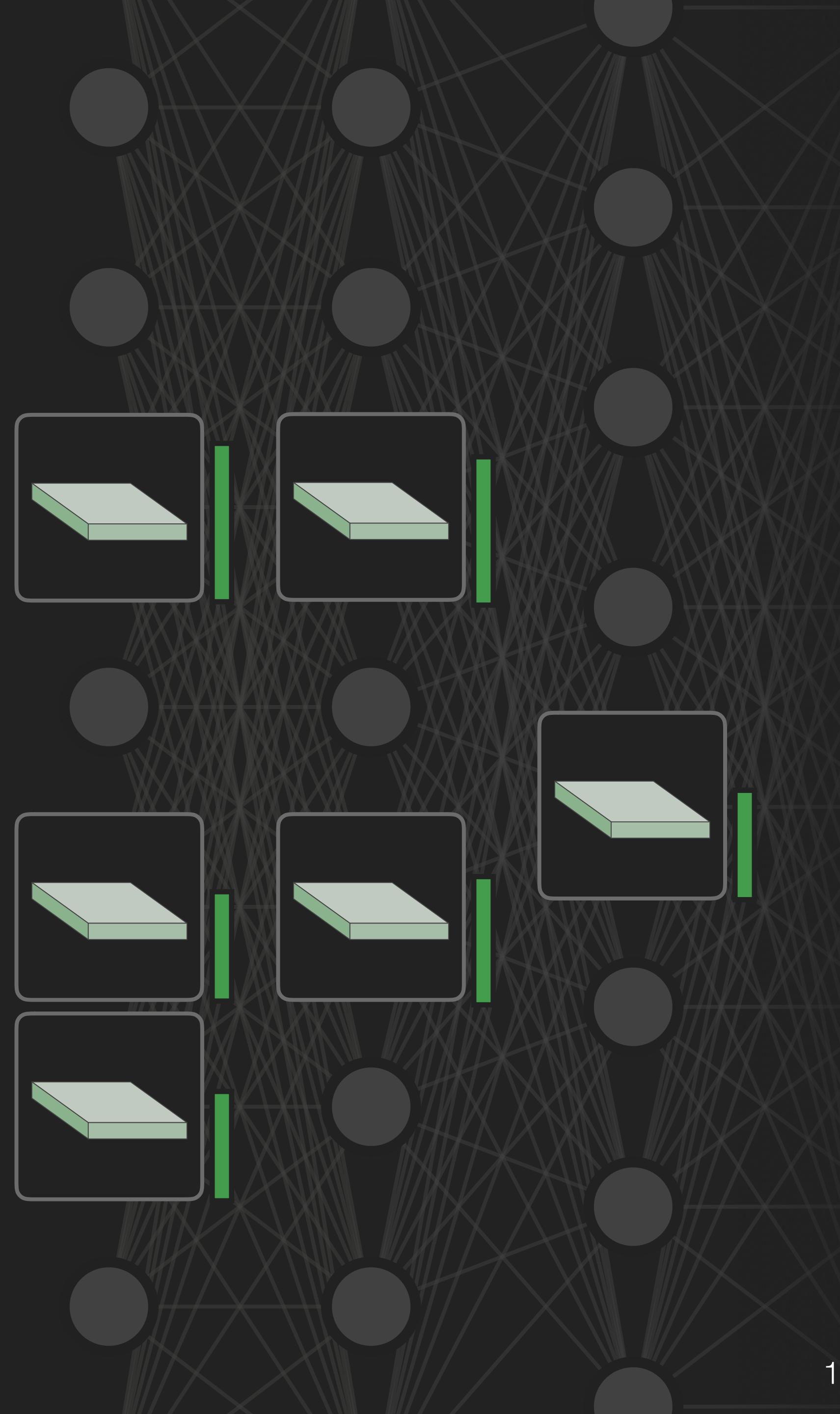
Aggregate network
activations (nodes)



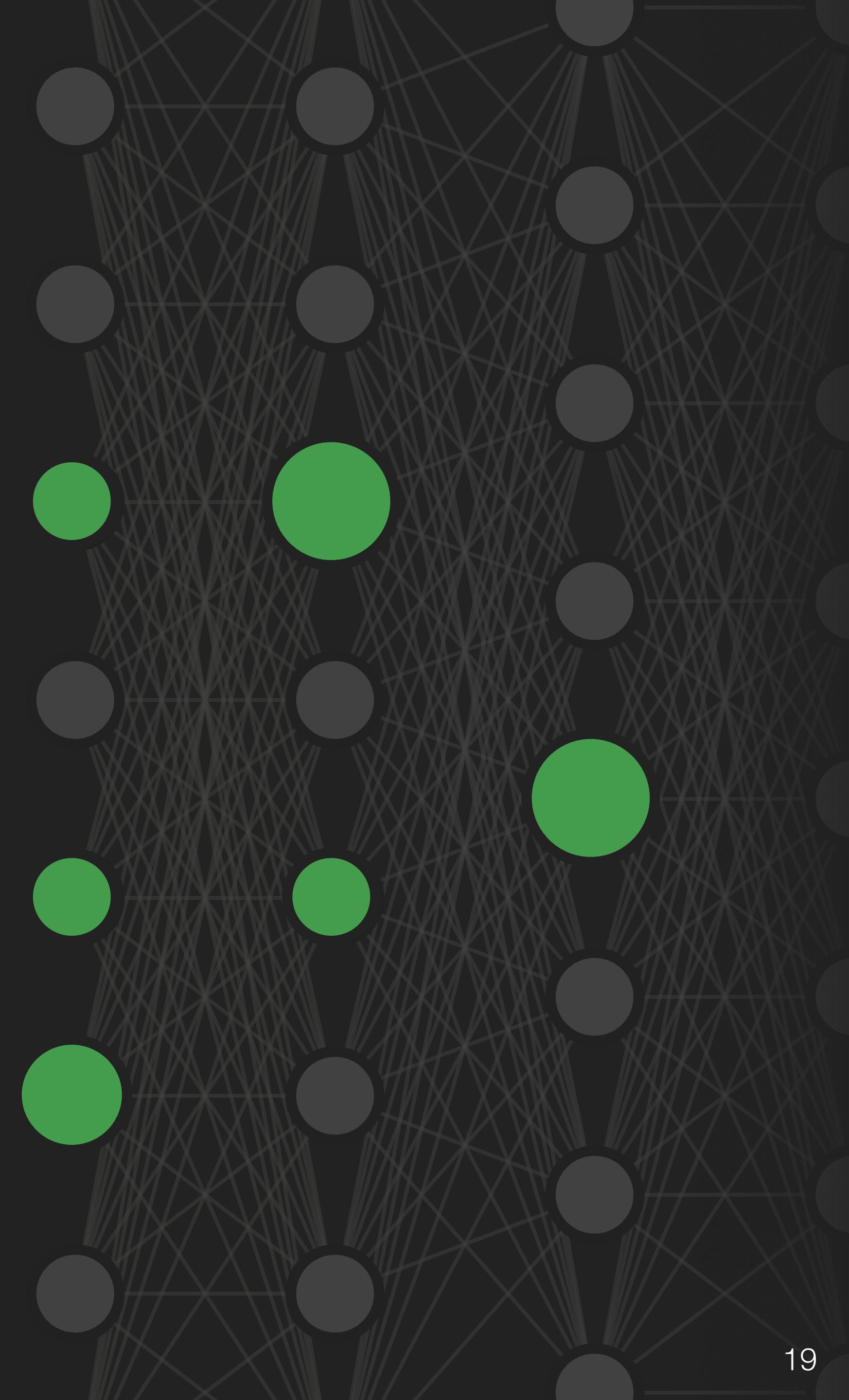
Aggregate network
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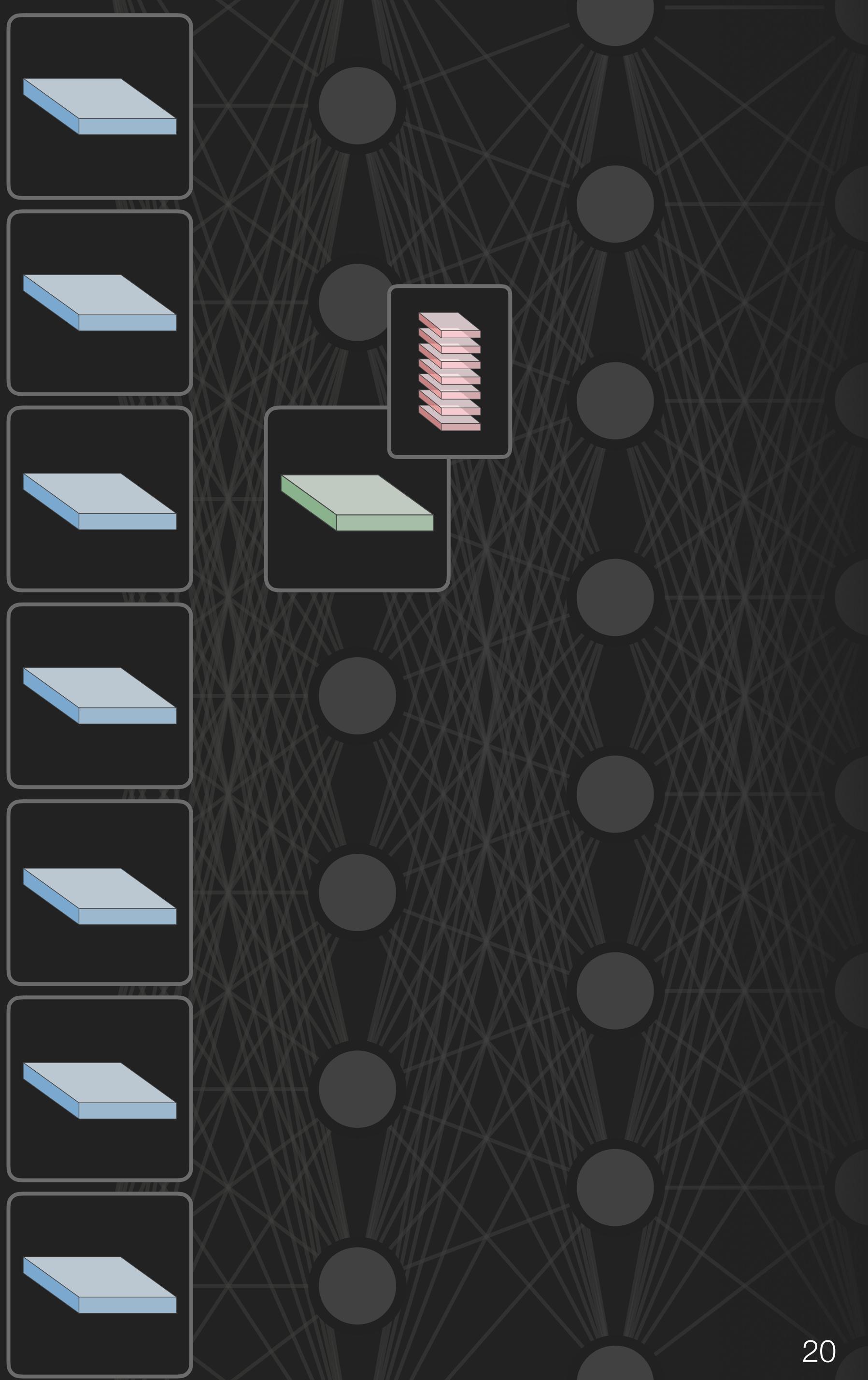
Aggregate network
activations (nodes)



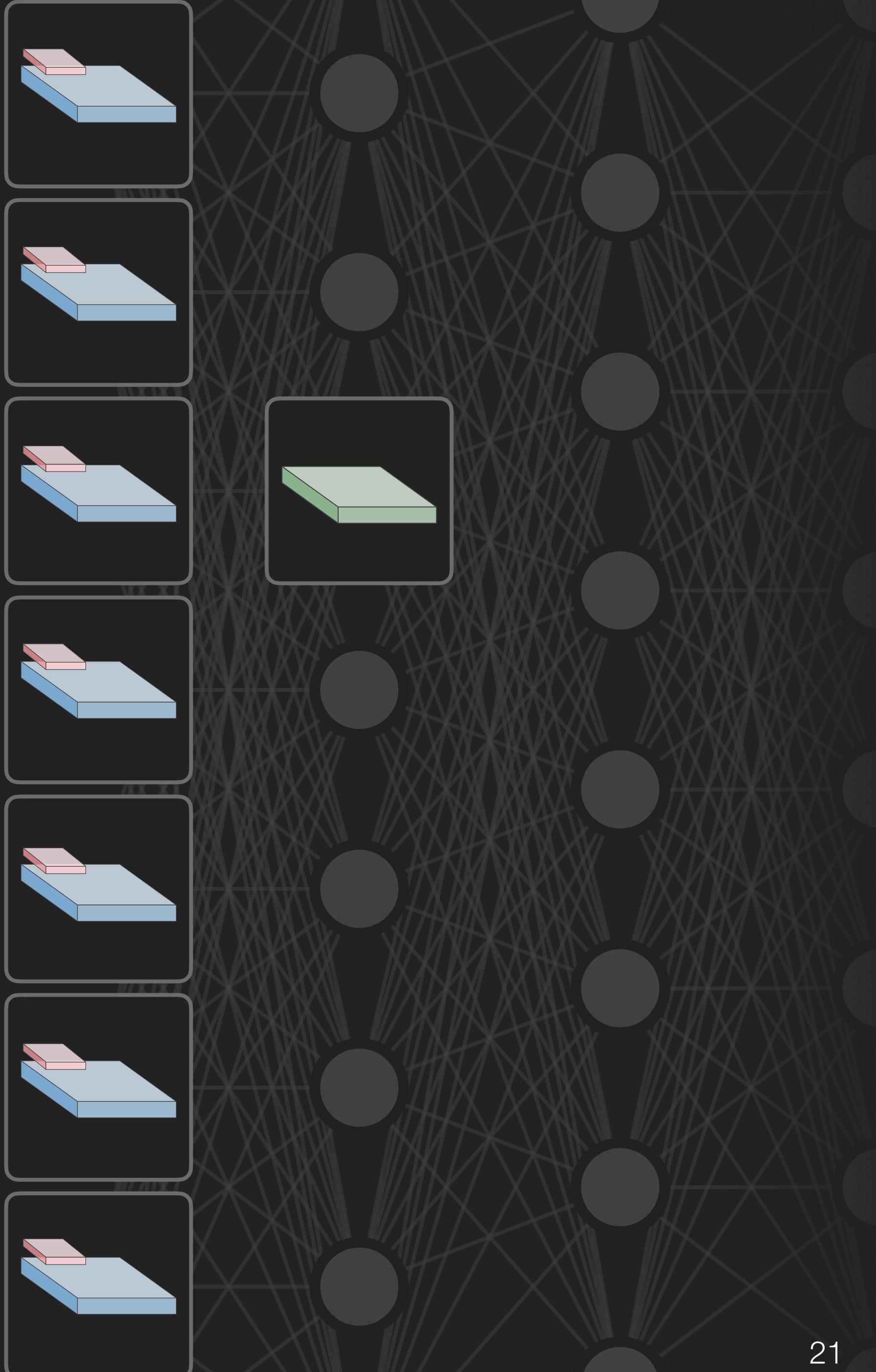
Aggregate network
activations (nodes)



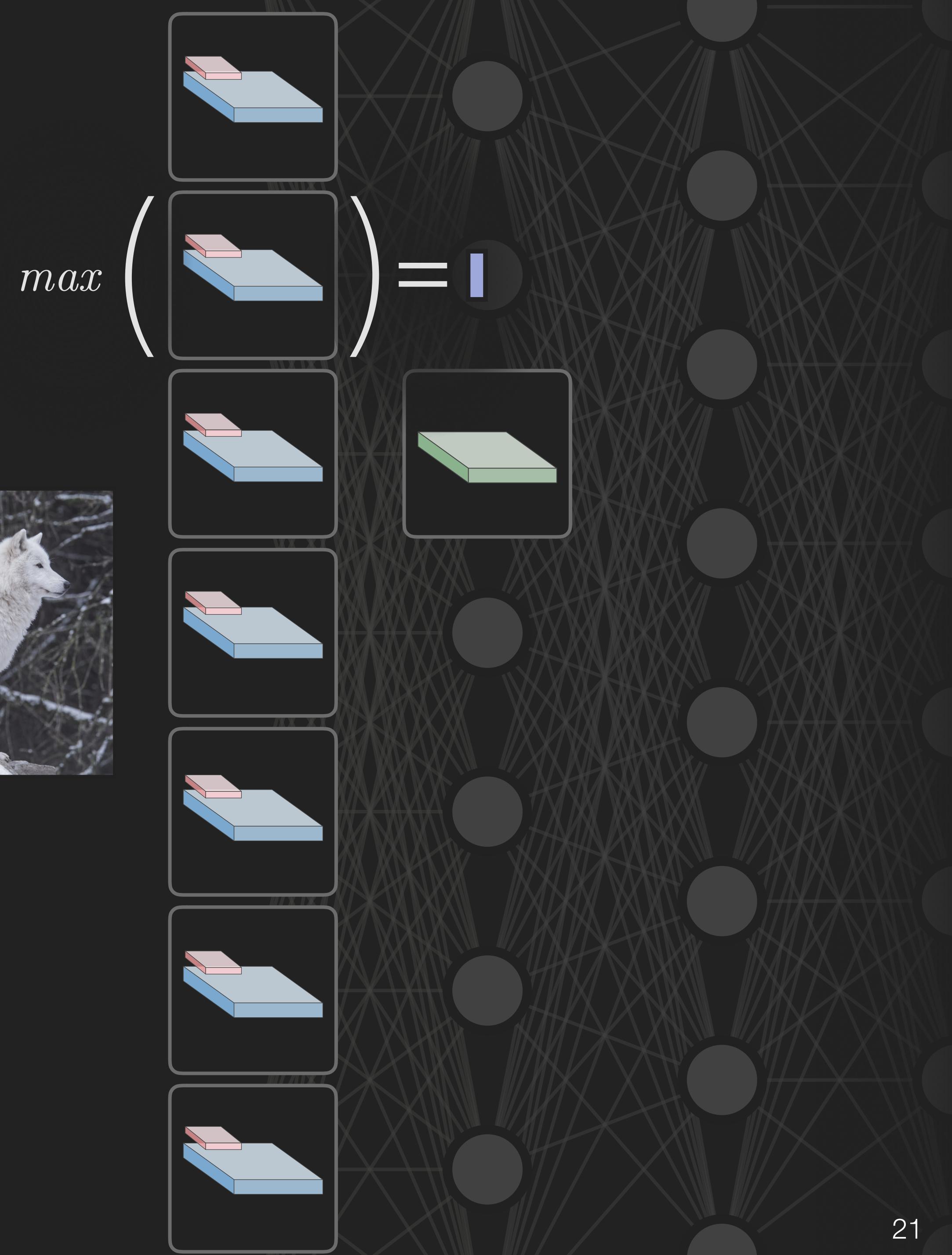
Aggregate network
activations (nodes)



Aggregate network
influences (edges)



Aggregate network
influences (edges)



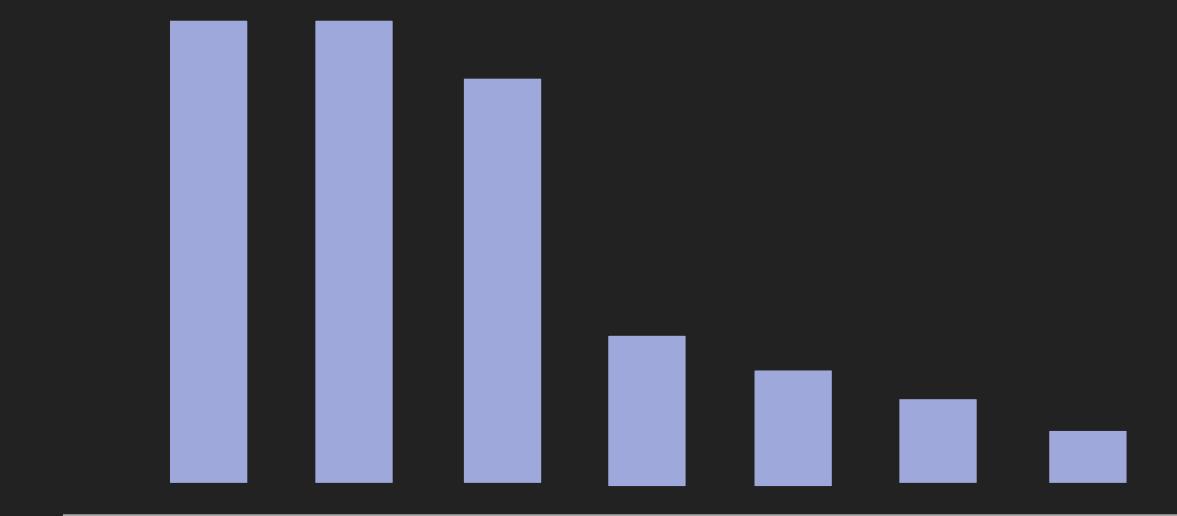
Aggregate network
influences (edges)

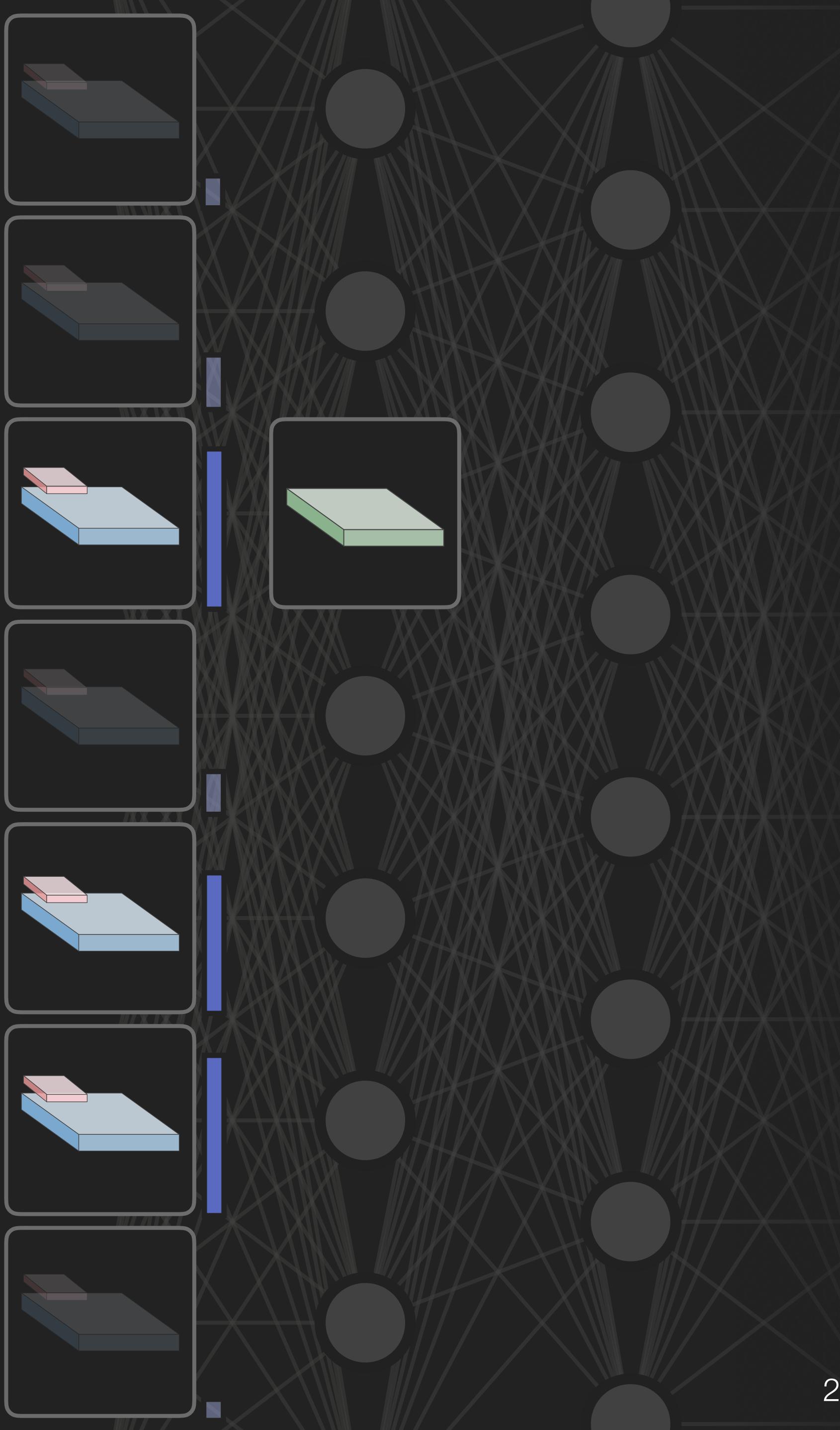


Aggregate network
influences (edges)

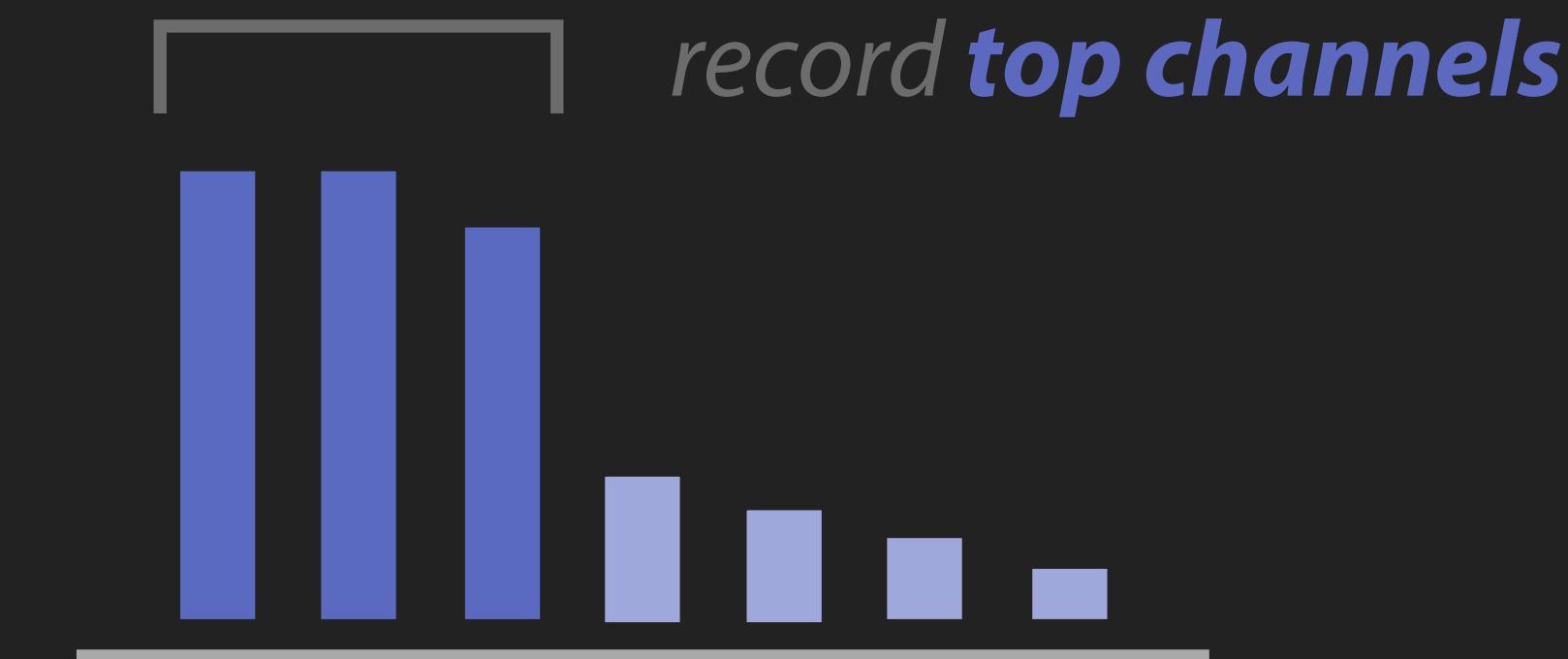


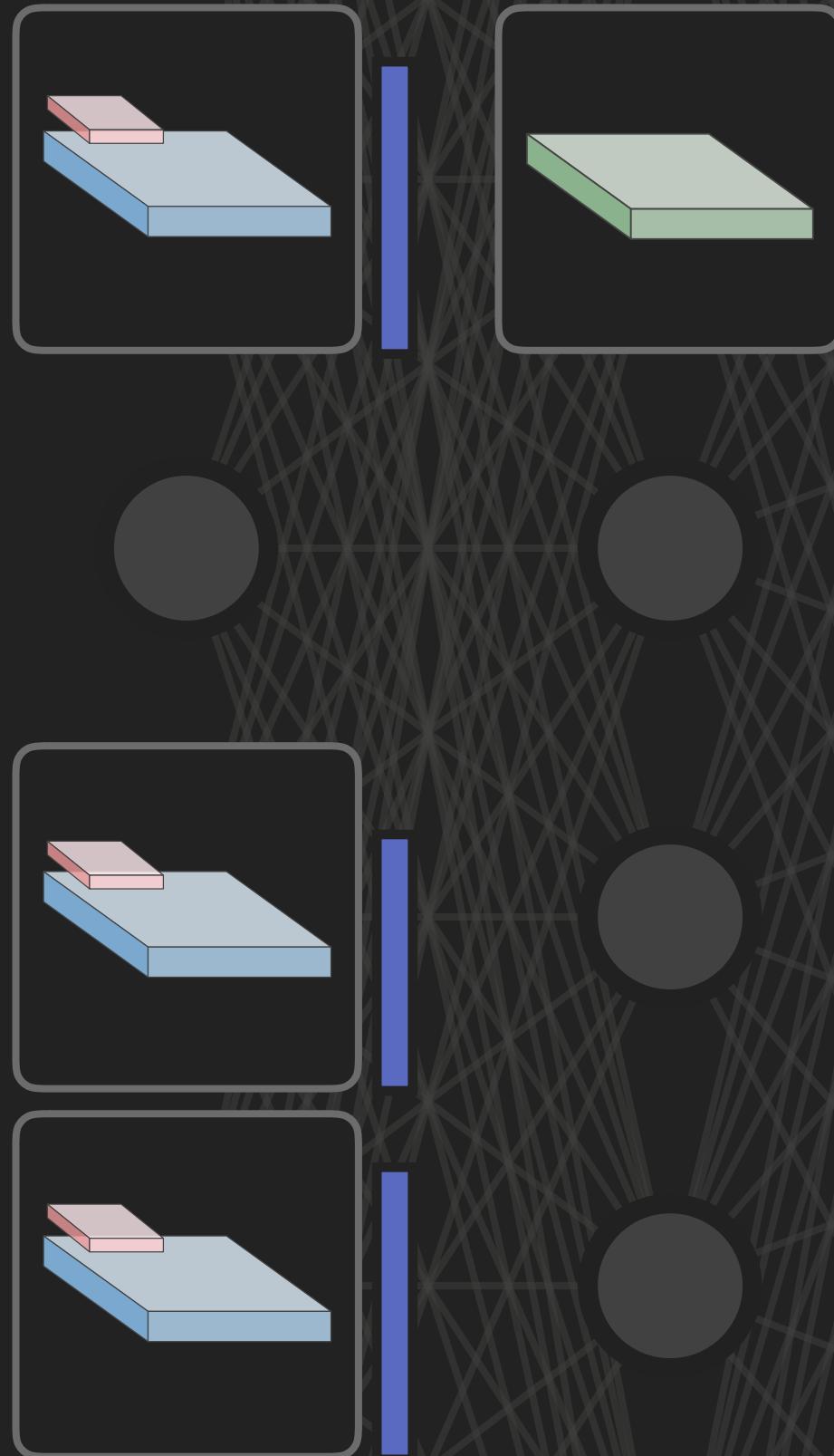
Aggregate network
influences (edges)



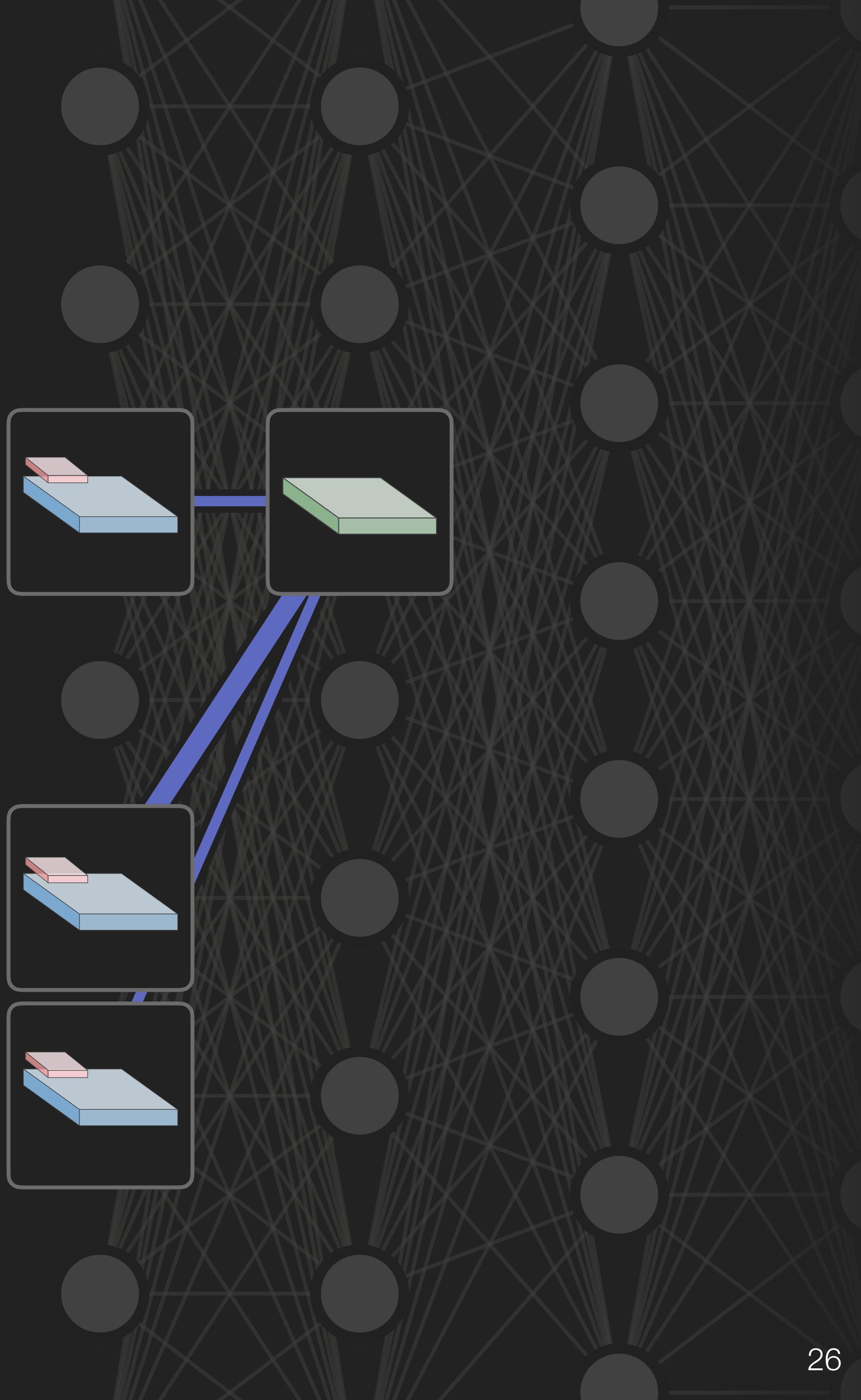


Aggregate network **influences** (edges)

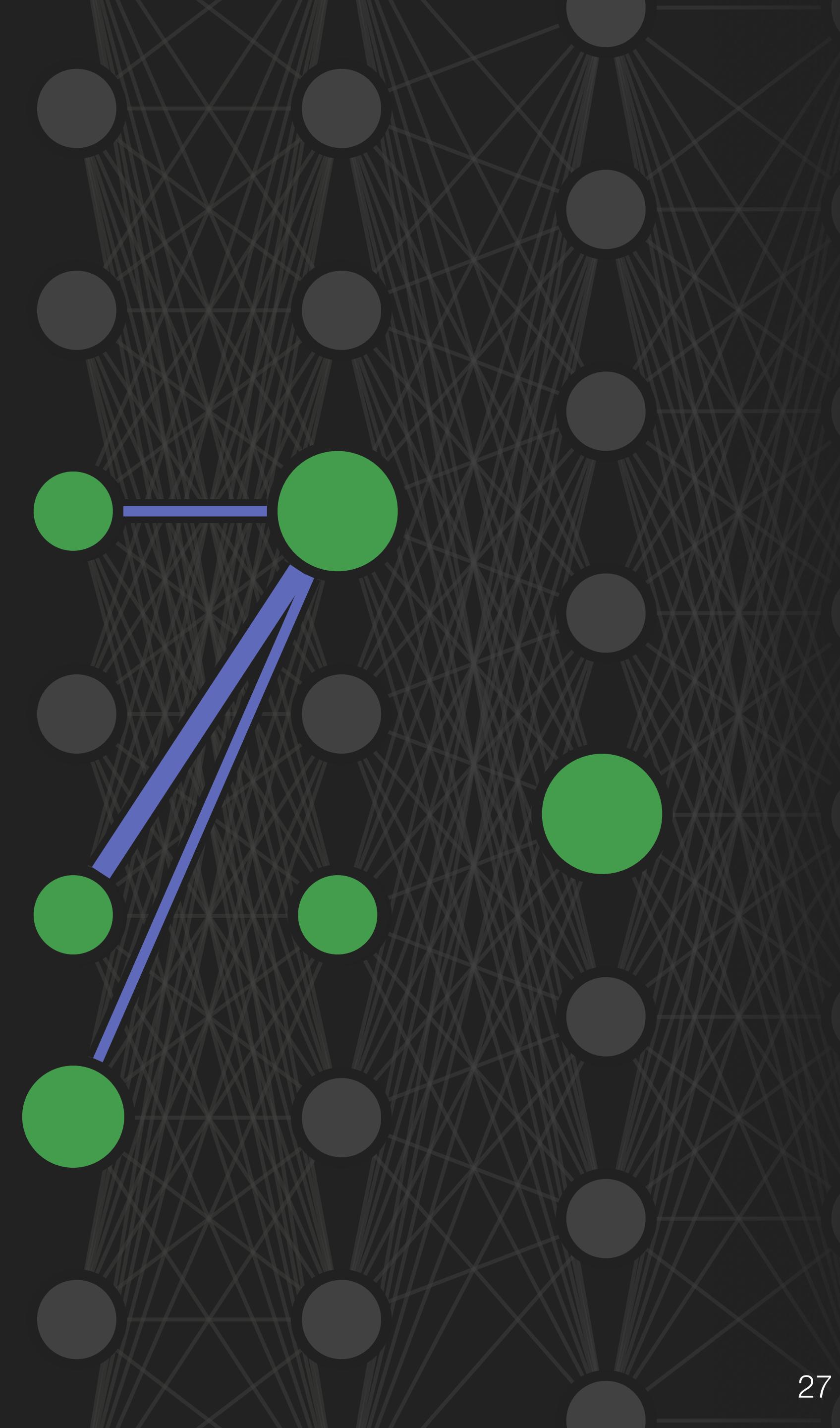




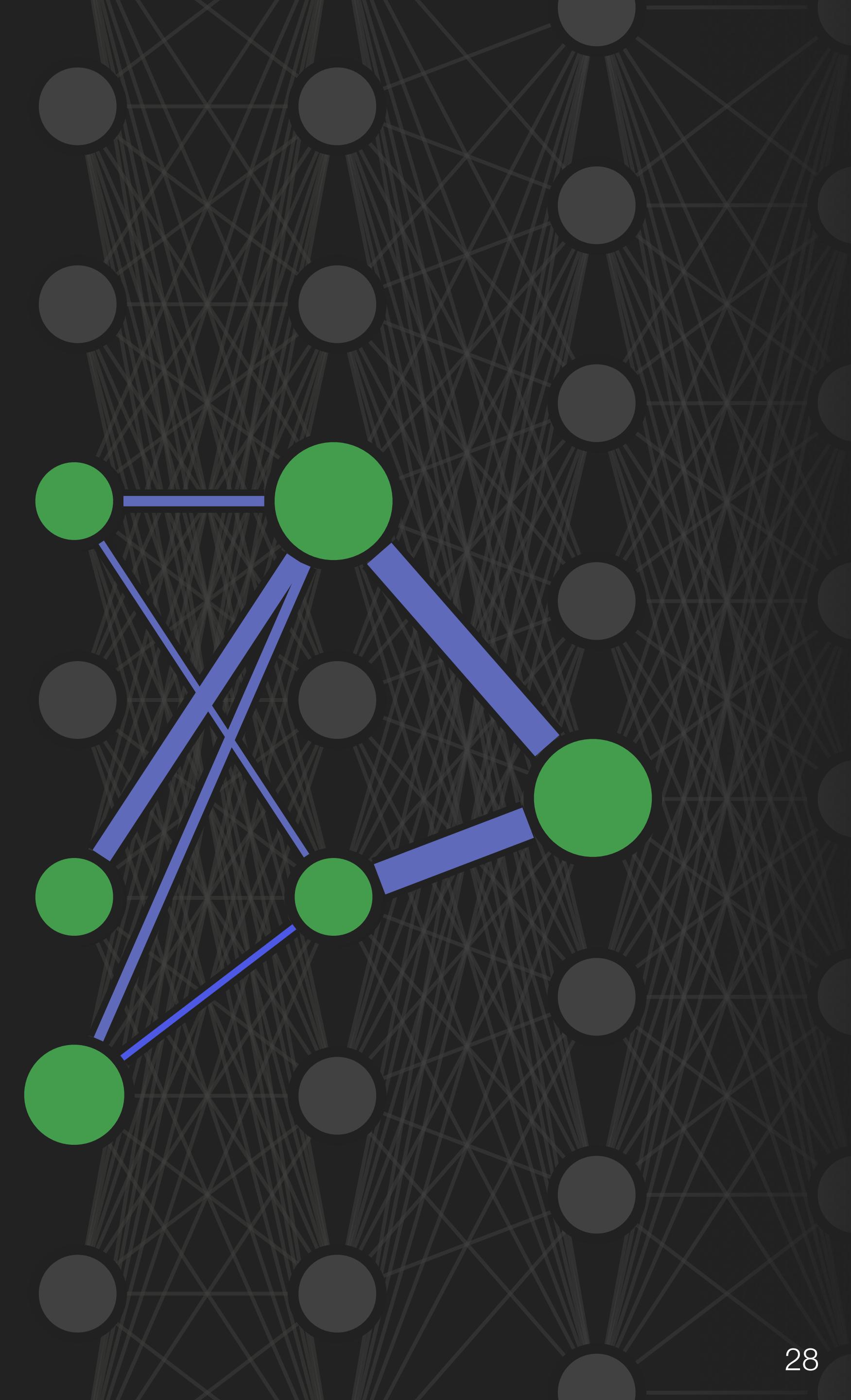
Aggregate network
influences (edges)



Aggregate network
influences (edges)



Combine **activations**
and **influences**



Combine **activations**
and **influences**

Further summarize graph
personalized PageRank

ivations
es
narize graph
d PageRank

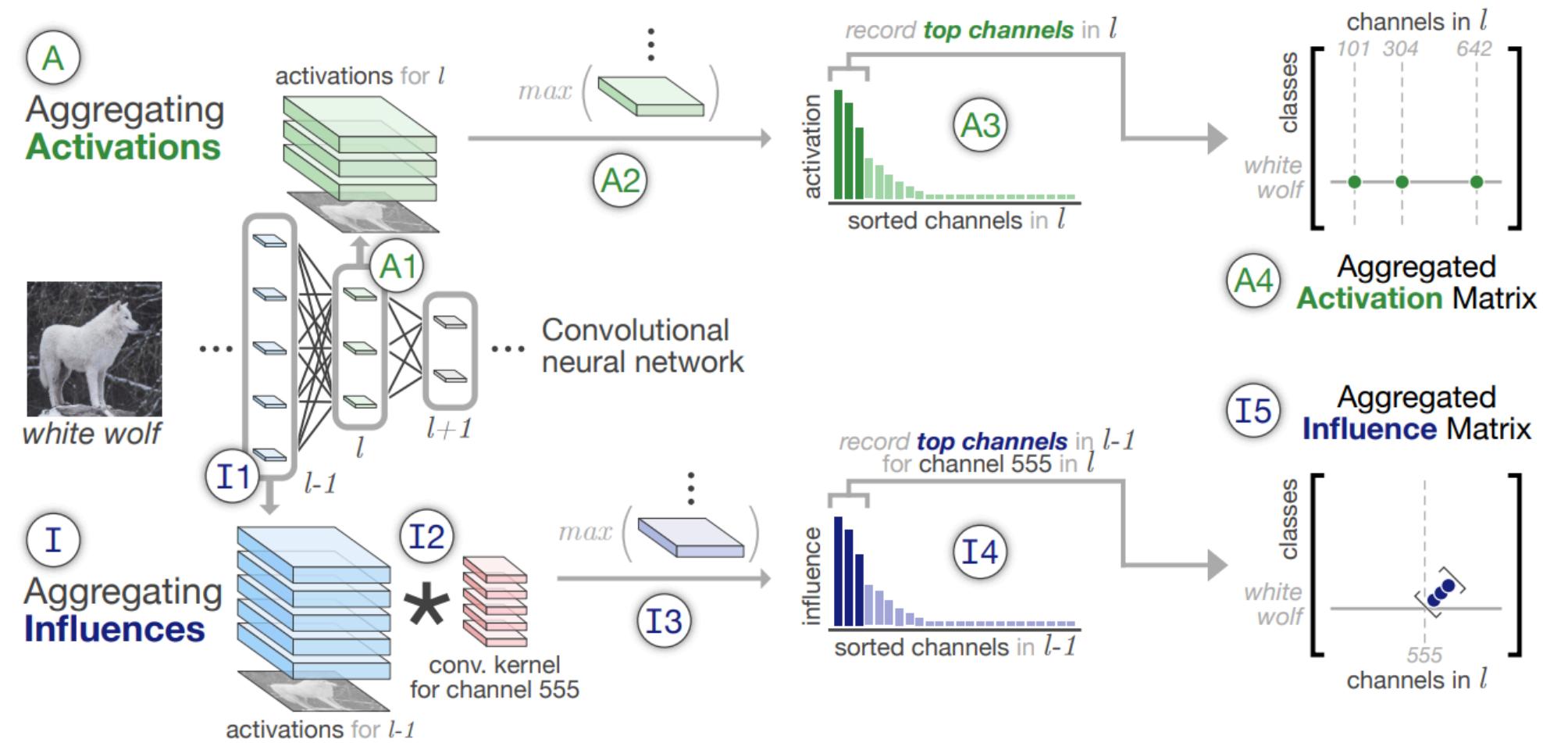


Fig. 4. Our approach for aggregating activations and influences for a layer l . **Aggregating Activations:** (A1) given activations at layer l , (A2) compute the max of each 2D channel, and (A3) record the top activated channels into an (A4) aggregated activation matrix, which tells us which channels in a layer most activate and represent every class in the model. **Aggregating Influences:** (I1) given activations at layer $l - 1$, (I2) convolve them with a convolutional kernel from layer l , (I3) compute the max of each resulting 2D activation map, and (I4) record the top most influential channels from layer $l - 1$ that impact channels in layer l into an (I5) aggregated influence matrix, which tells us which channels in the previous layer most influence a particular channel in the next layer.

6.2 Aggregating Inter-layer Influences

Aggregating activations at each convolutional layer in a network will only give a local description of which channels are important for each class, i.e., from examining A^l we will not know *how* certain channels come to be the most representative for a given class. Thus, we need a way to calculate how the activations from the channels of a previous layer, $l - 1$, **influence** the activations at the current layer, l . In dense layers, this influence is trivial to compute: the activation at a neuron in l is computed as the weighted sum of activations from neurons in $l - 1$. The influence of a single neuron from $l - 1$ is then proportional to the activation of that neuron multiplied by the associated weight to the neuron being examined from l . In convolutional layers, calculating this influence is more complicated: the activations at a channel in l are computed as the 3D convolution of all of the channels from $l - 1$ with a learned kernel tensor. This operation can be broken down (shown formally later in this section) as a summation of the 2D convolutions of each channel in $l - 1$ with a corresponding slice of the appropriate kernel. The summations of 2D convolutions are similar in structure to the weighted-summations performed by dense layers, however the corresponding “influence” of a single channel from $l - 1$ on the output of a particular channel in l is a 2D feature map. We can summarize this feature map into a scalar influence value by using any type of reduce operation, which we discuss further below.

We propose a method for (1) quantifying the *influence* a channel from a previous layer has on the activations of a channel in a following layer, and (2) computing influence matrices I^l that can be interpreted

the j^{th} kernel, and the resulting maps are summed to produce a single channel in Y . We care about the 2D quantity $X_{\cdot,\cdot,i} * K_{\cdot,\cdot,i}^{(j)}$ as it contains exactly the contributions of a *single* channel from the previous layer to a channel in the current layer.

Second, we must summarize the quantity $X_{\cdot,\cdot,i} * K_{\cdot,\cdot,i}^{(j)}$ into a scalar influence value. Similarly discussed in Sect. 6.1, this can be done in many ways, e.g., by summing all values, applying the Frobenius norm, or taking the maximum value. Each of these summarization methods (i.e., 2D to 1D reduce operations) may lend itself well to exposing interesting connections between channels later in our pipeline. We chose to (I3) take the maximum value of $X_{\cdot,\cdot,i} * K_{\cdot,\cdot,i}^{(j)}$ as our measure of influence for the image classification task, since this task intuitively considers the largest magnitude of a feature, e.g., how strongly a “dog ear” or “car wheel” feature is expressed, instead of summing values for example, which might indicate how many places in the image a “dog ear” or “car wheel” is being expressed. Also, this mirrors our approach for aggregating activations above.

Lastly, we must aggregate these influence values between channel pairs in consecutive layers, for all images in a given class, i.e., create the proposed I^l matrix from the pairwise channel influence values. This process mirrors the aggregation described previously (Sect. 6.1), and we follow the same framework. Let L_{ij}^l be the scalar influence value computed by the previous step for a *single image in class c*, between channel i in layer $l - 1$ and channel j in layer l . We increment an entry

Feature Visualization

Feature Visualization

What kind of input would cause a neuron to maximally activate?

Feature Visualization

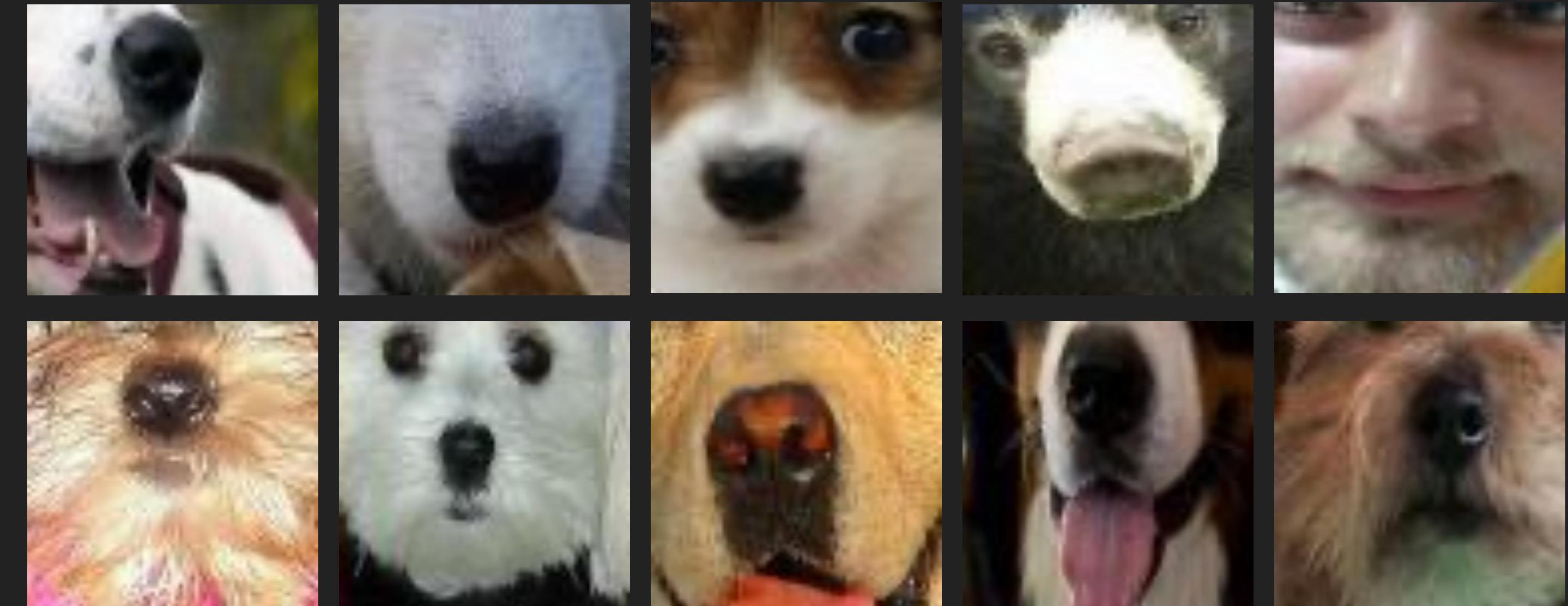
What kind of input would cause a neuron to maximally activate?

Generate examples: starting from random noise, optimize an image to activate a particular neuron

Feature Visualization

What kind of input would cause a neuron to maximally activate?

Generate examples: starting from random noise, optimize an image to activate a particular neuron



mixed4b, 409

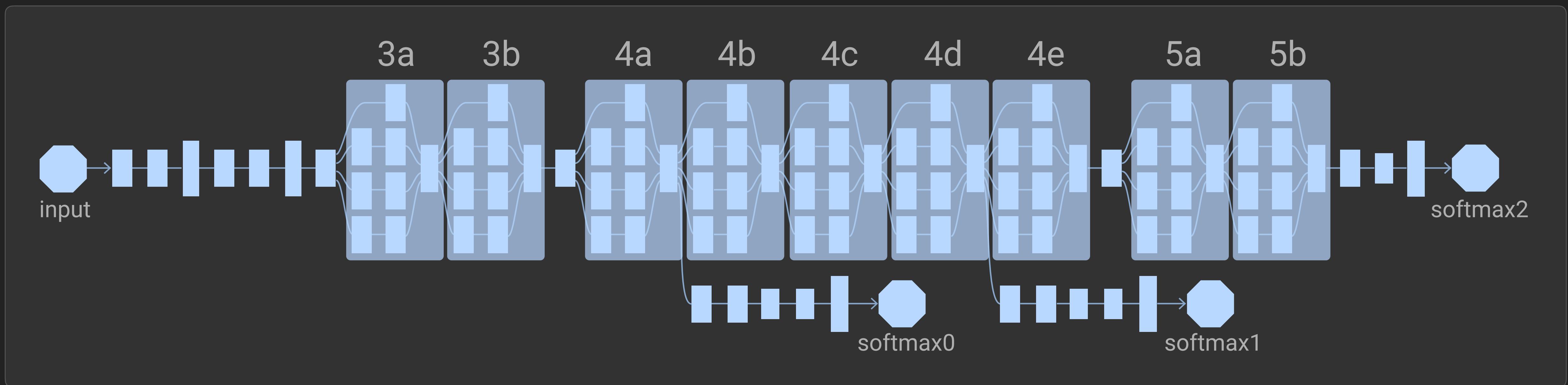
[Olah, et al., Distill, 2017]

Demo

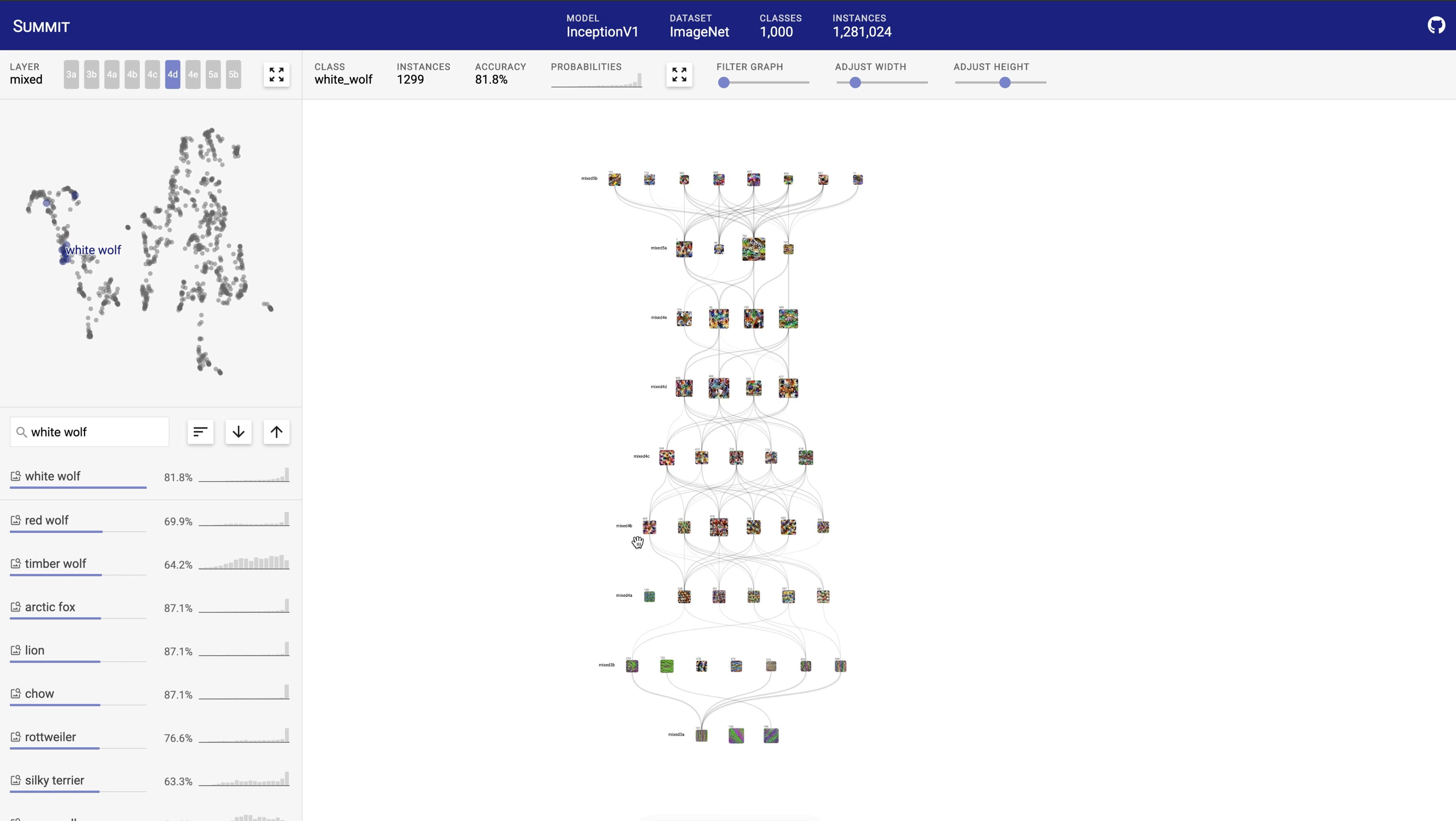
Demo

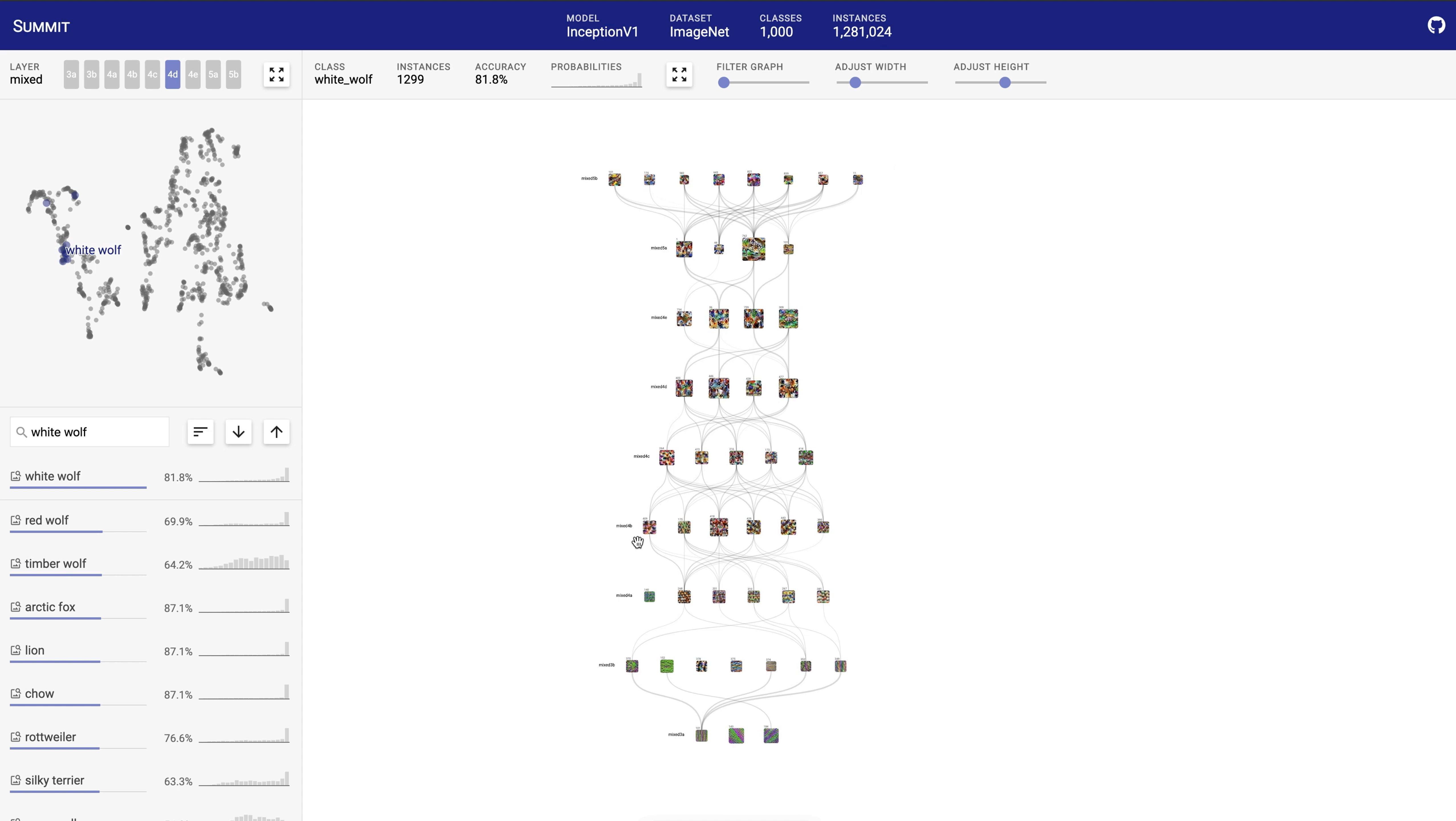
InceptionV1
Large-scale,
prevalent CNN

ImageNet (ILSVRC)
~1.3M images
1,000 classes



[Olah, et al., Distill, 2017]





Unexpected Features

Unexpected Features



tench



Unexpected Features

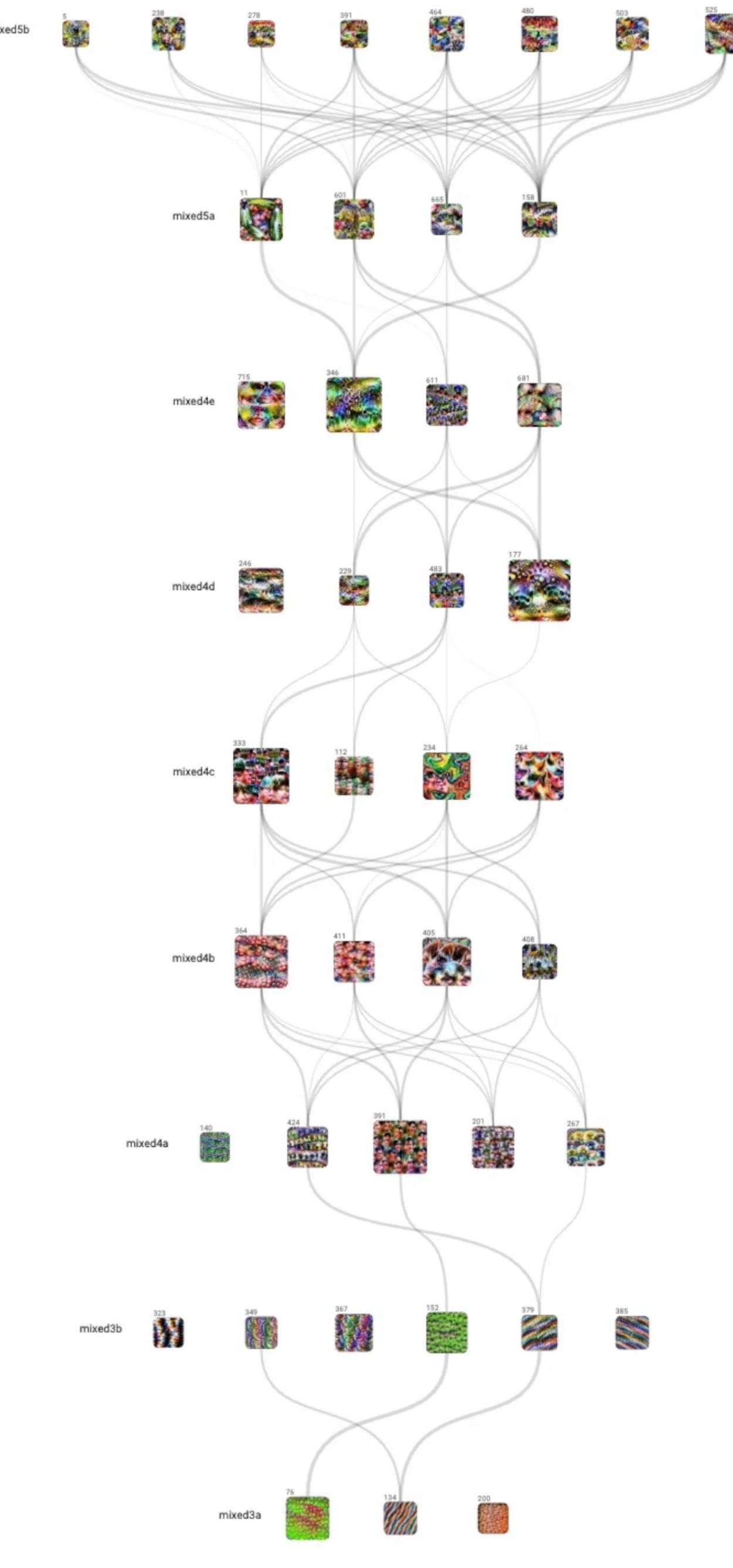


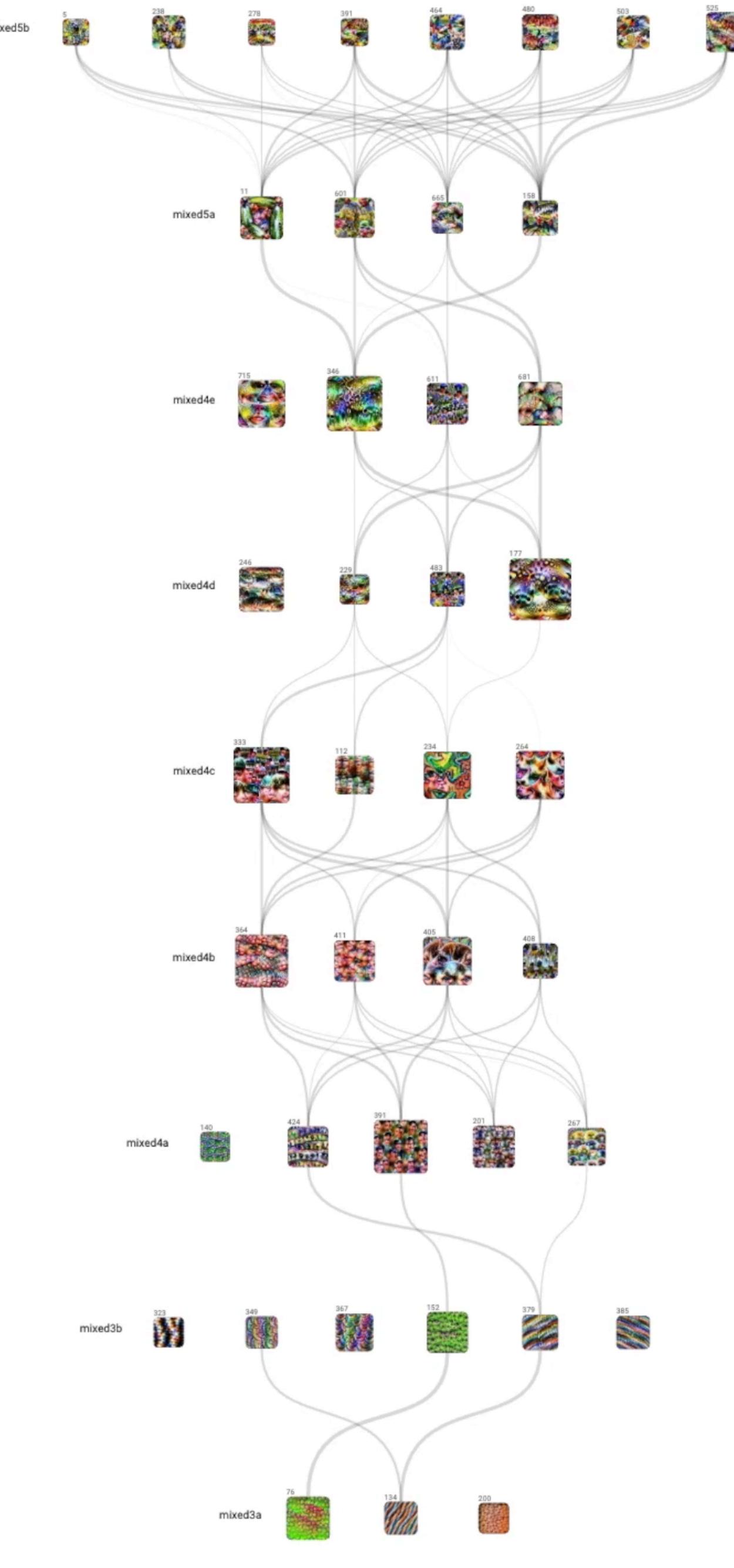
tench



What features has a neural network learned for ***tench***?

How are those features related?







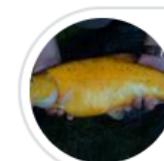




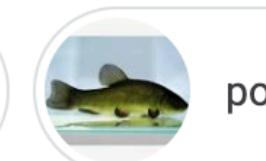
Data is important too!

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world record



golden



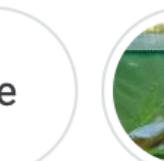
pond



fish



male



float fi >

[Tench - Wikipedia](#)en.wikipedia.org[Top Tench Fishing Baits & Tactics...](#)dynamitebaits.com[Tench Fishing Guide - What Is Tench ...](#)badangling.com[Early season tench fishing tips ...](#)dynamitebaits.com[SPRING SPECIMENS Article | Korum ...](#)korum.co.uk[Boilie Approach For Tench | Drennan ...](#)drennattackle.com

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tench



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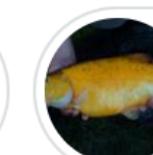
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Settings

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world record



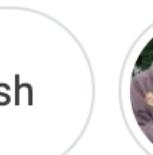
golden



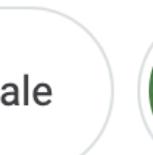
pond



fish



male



float fi >



Tench - Wikipedia

en.wikipedia.org



Top Tench Fishing Baits & Tactics...

dynamitebaits.com



Tench Fishing Guide - What Is Tench ...

badangling.com



Early season tench fishing tips ...

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Boilie Approach For Tench | Drennan ...

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lionfish



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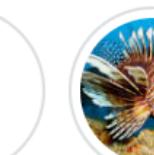
mermaid



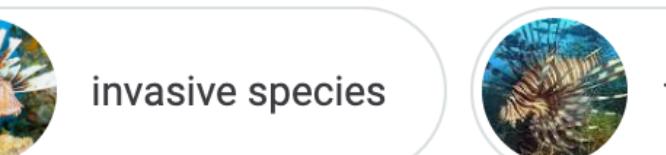
invasive



aquarium



invasive species



florida



Pterois - Wikipedia

en.wikipedia.org



Invasive lionfish are delicious – but ...

oceana.org



Invasive lionfish are delicious – but ...

oceana.org



Lionfish: The Beautiful and Dange...

livescience.com



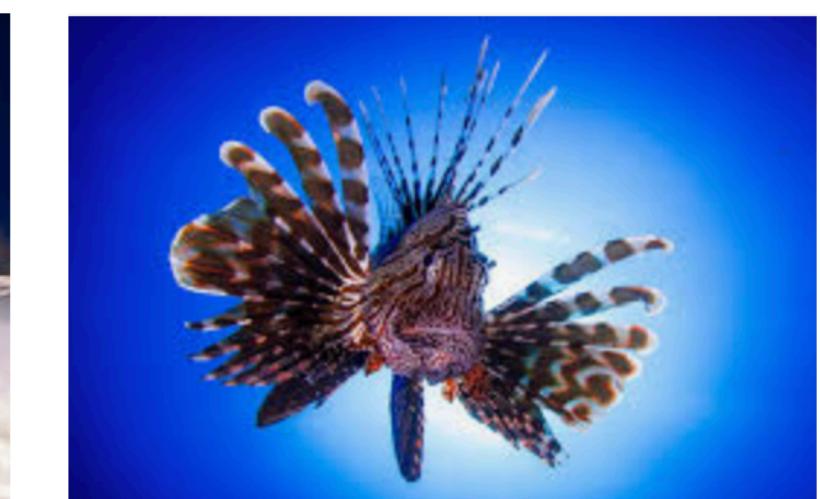
What is a lionfish?

oceanservice.noaa.gov

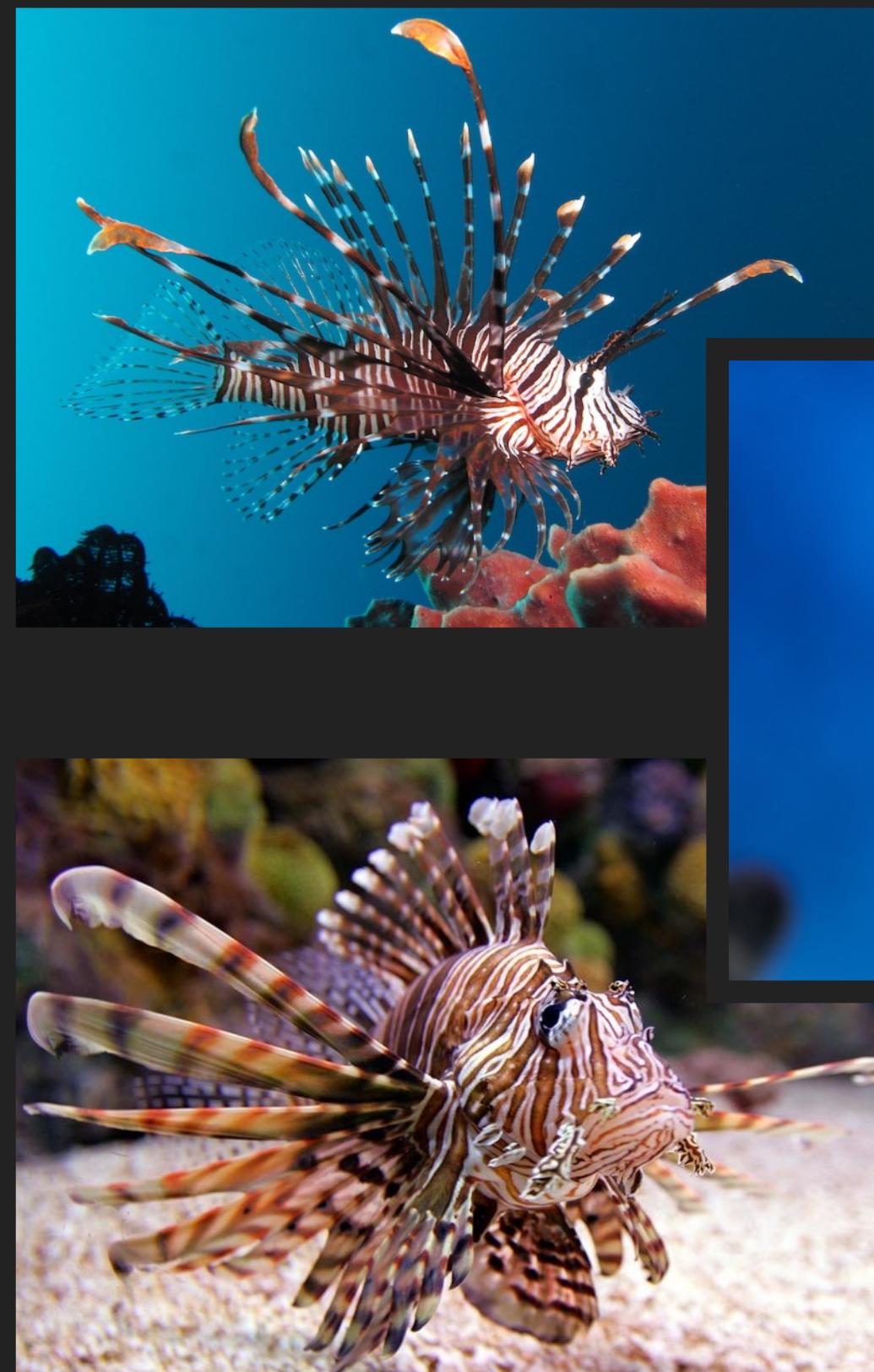


lionfish | Invasive Species, Sting ...

britannica.com

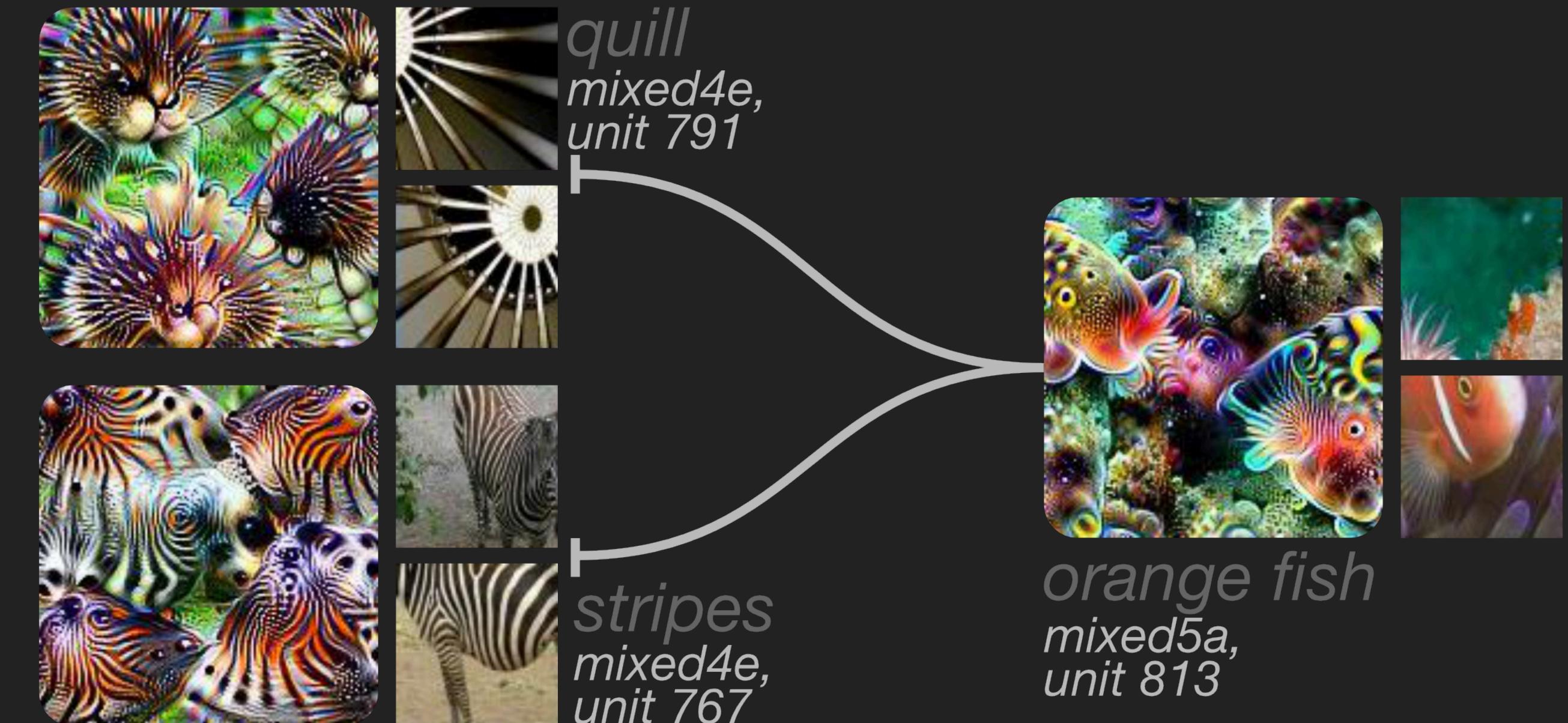


Unexpected Features



lionfish

No more people features.
But few "fish" features! Mostly textures.



Attribution graph substructure from **lionfish** class.

Discriminable Features

Discriminable Features

Do neural network feature representations align with people's expectations?

Discriminable Features

Do neural network feature representations align with people's expectations?

brown bear



Discriminable Features

Do neural network feature representations align with people's expectations?

brown bear



black bear



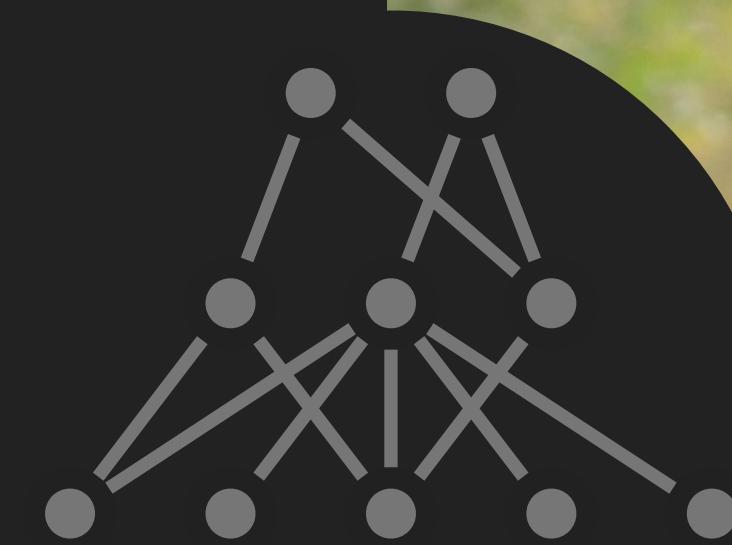
Discriminable Features

Do neural network feature representations align with people's expectations?

brown bear



black bear



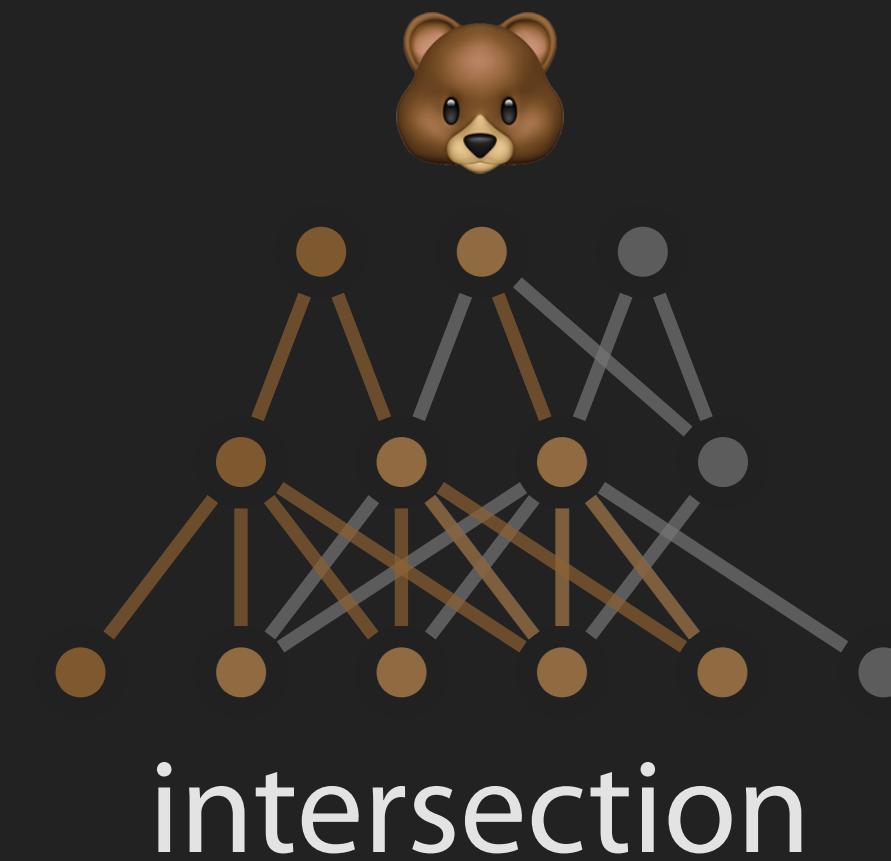
Discriminable Features

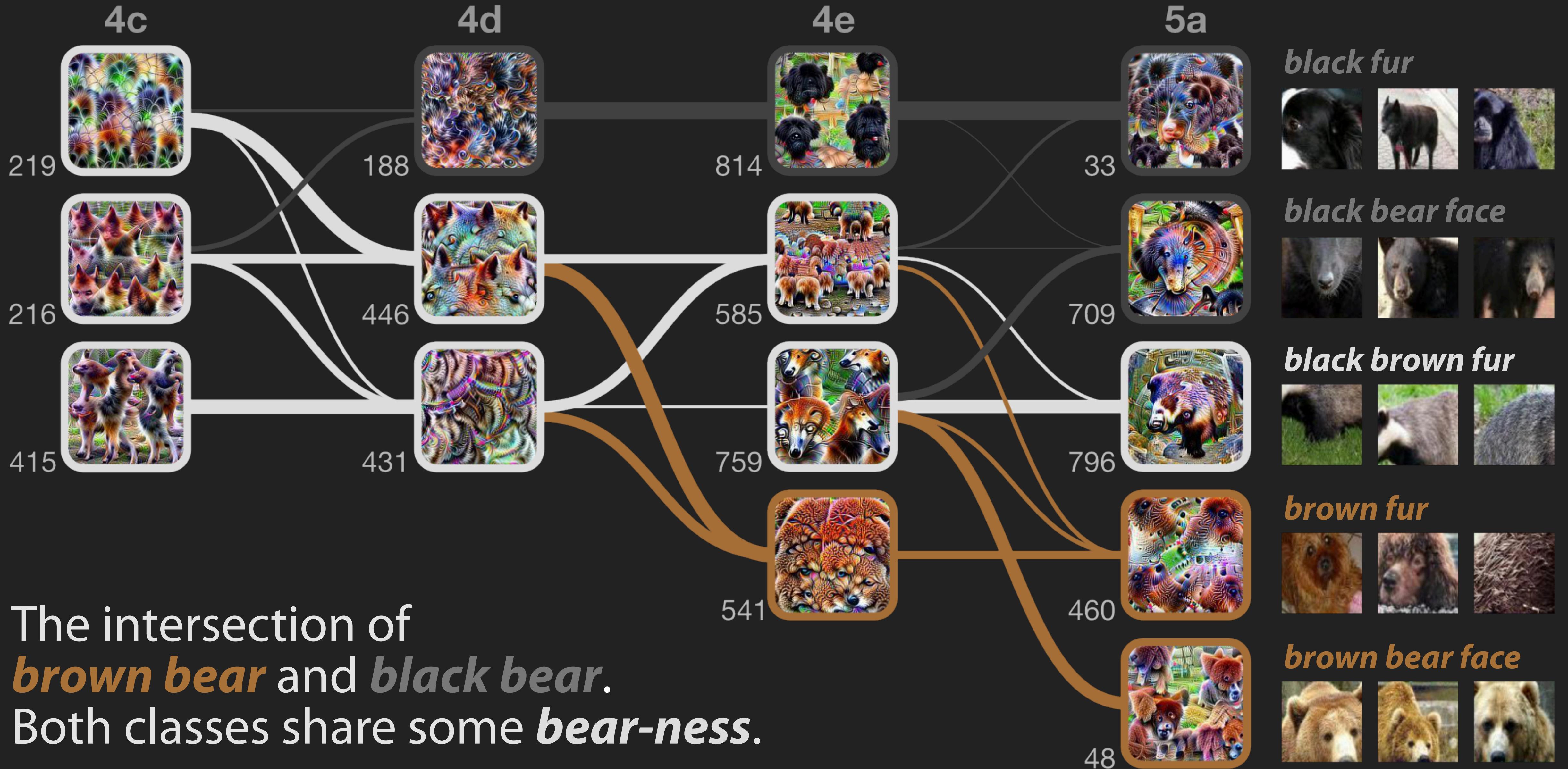
Do neural network feature representations align with people's expectations?

brown bear



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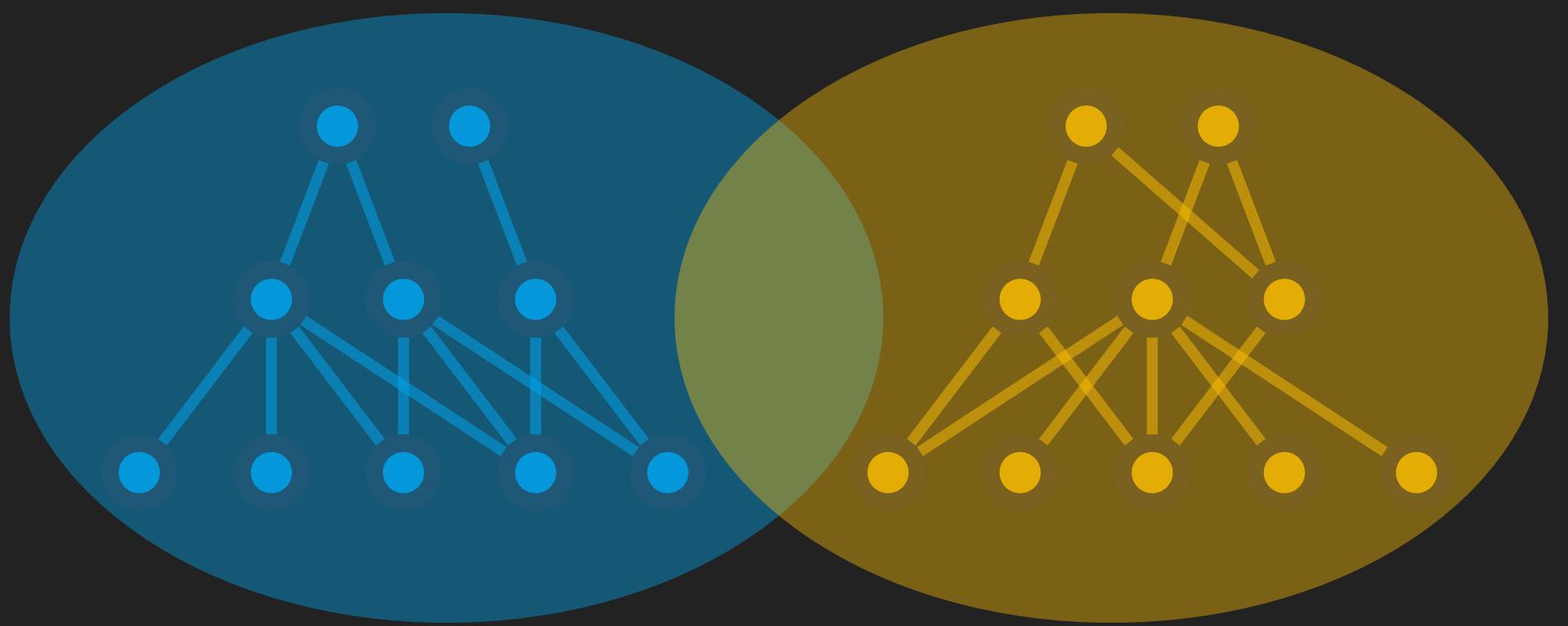




Future Work

Future Work

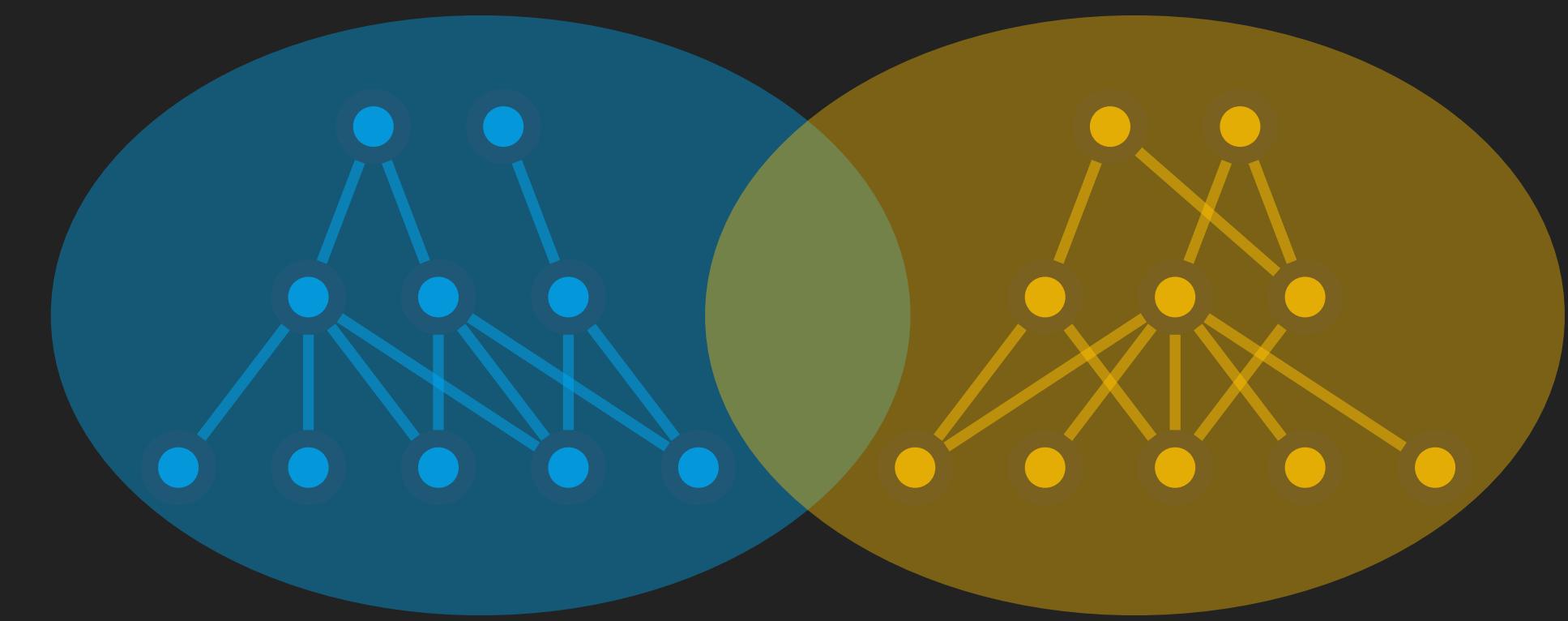
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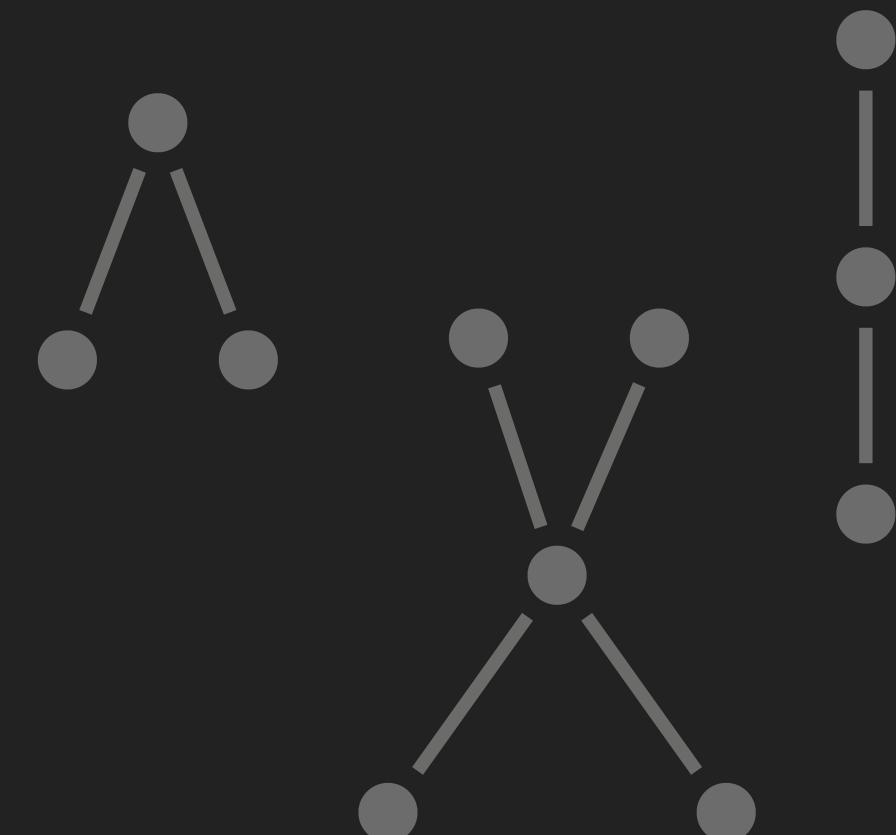
Interactive attribution
graph comparison

Future Work

-/U/n



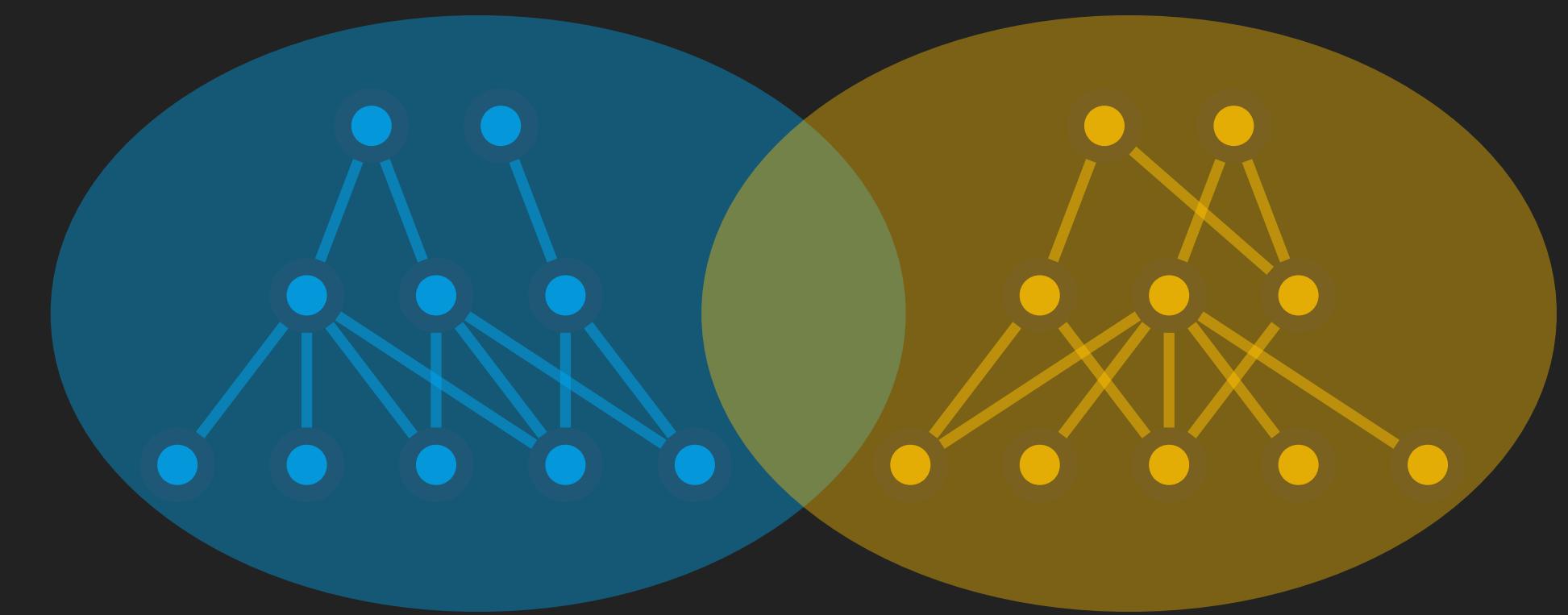
Interactive attribution
graph comparison



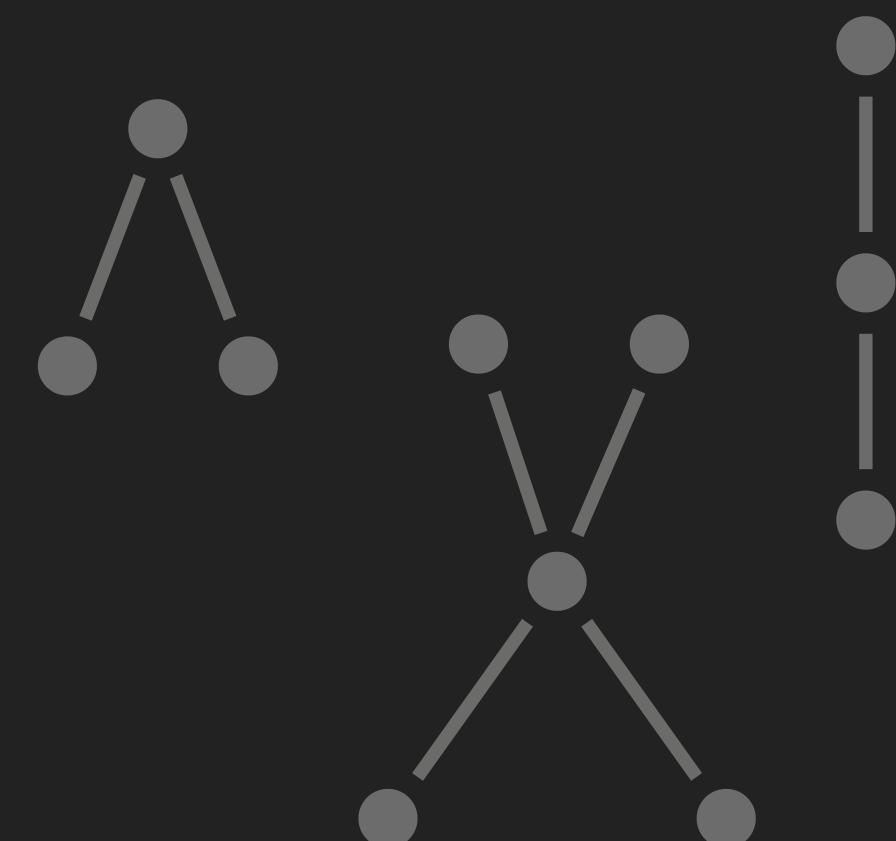
Mining for
subgraphs motifs

Future Work

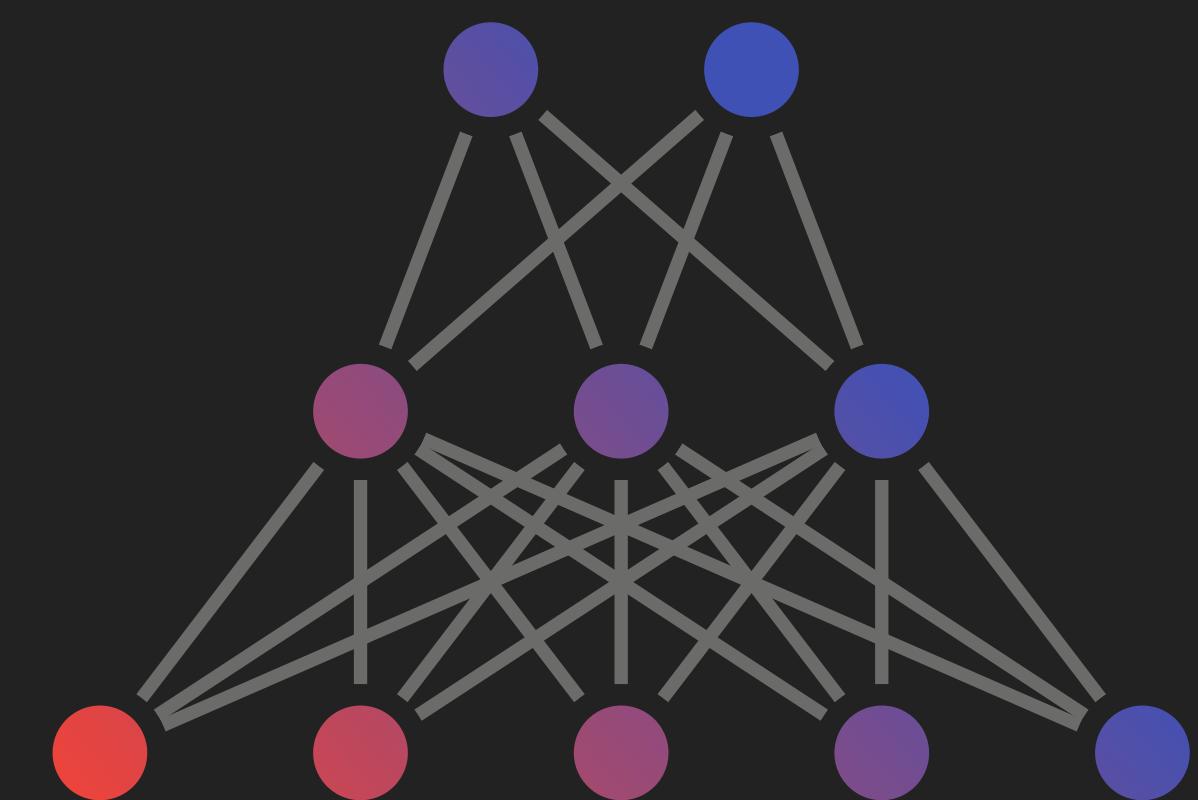
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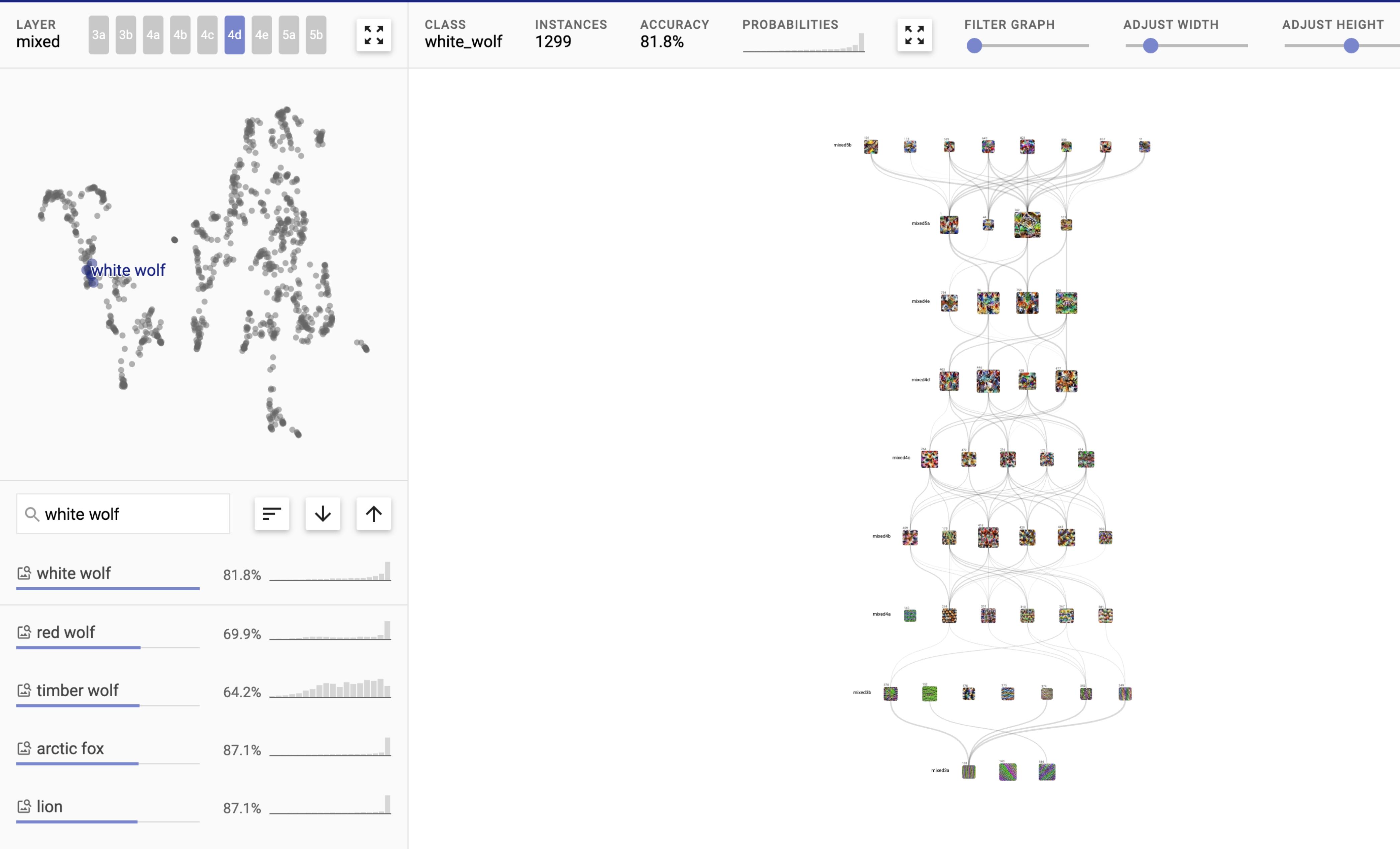
Interactive attribution
graph comparison

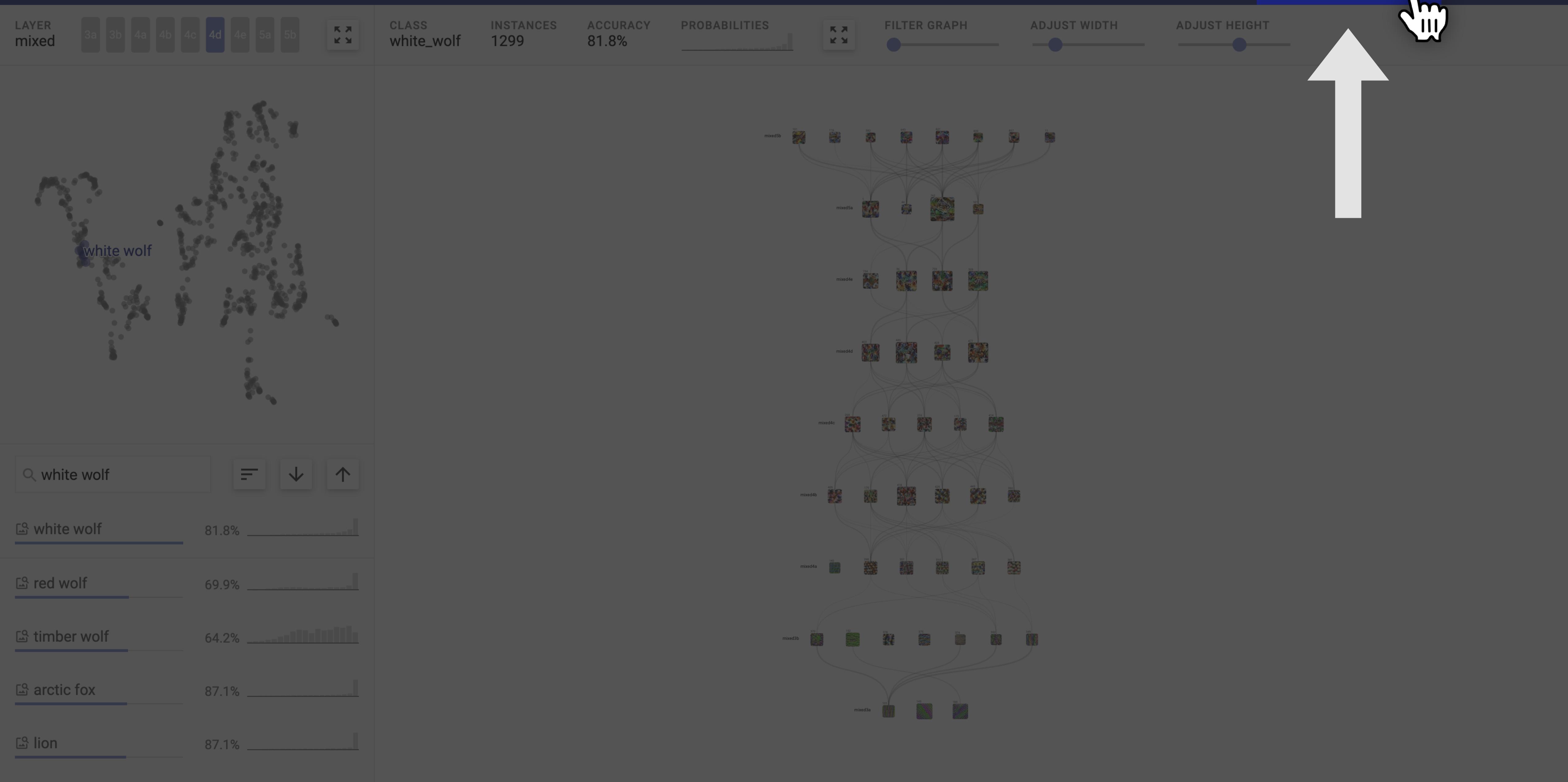


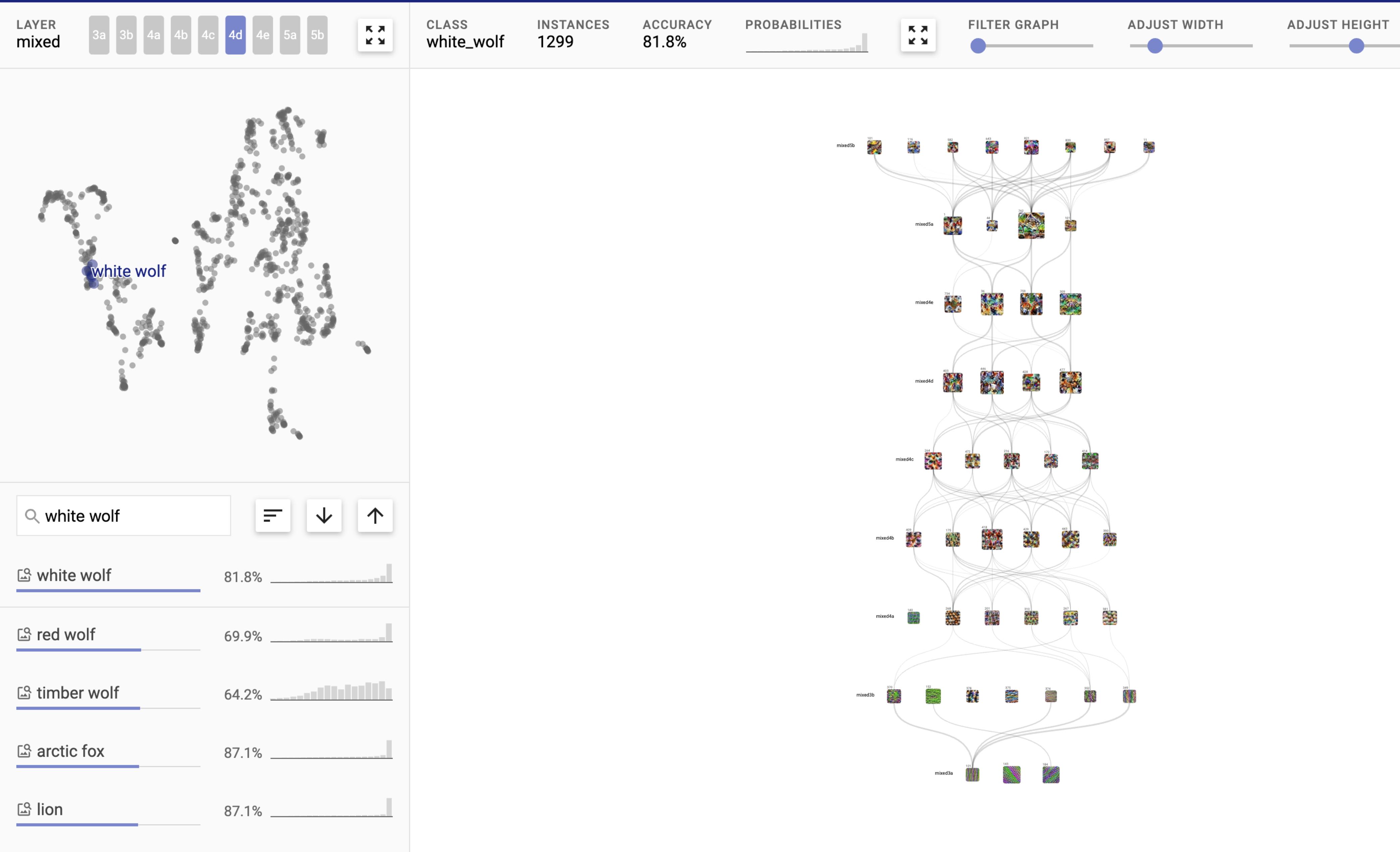
Mining for
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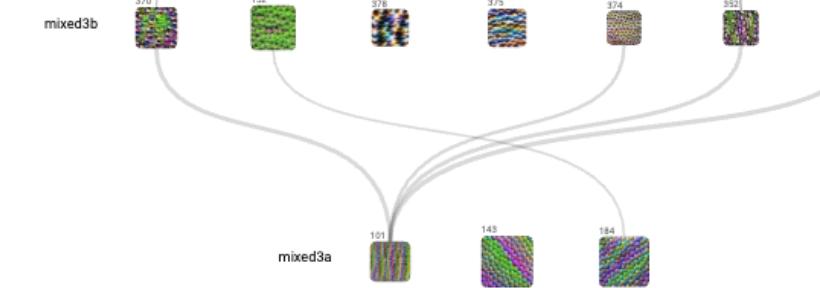
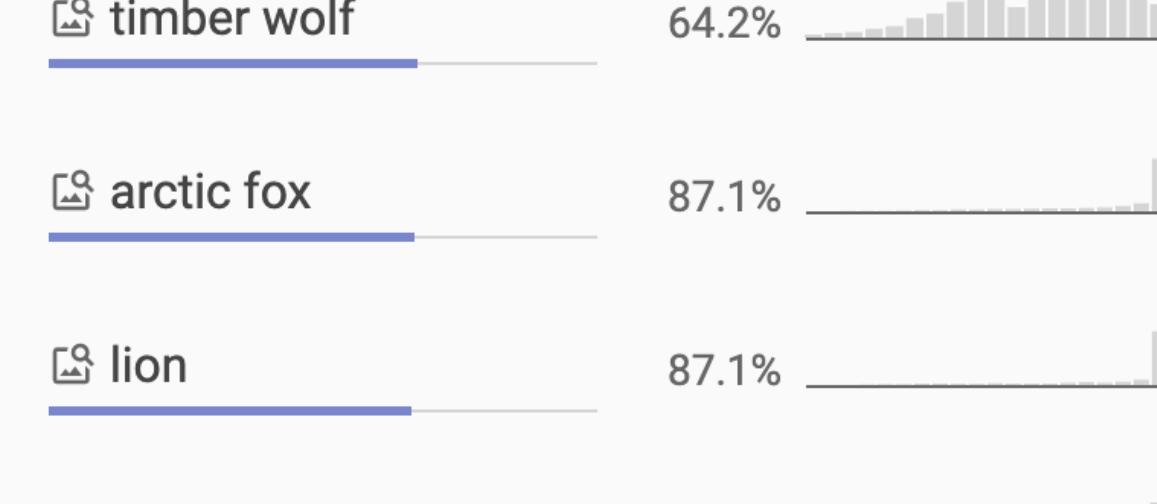


Adversarial
attacks









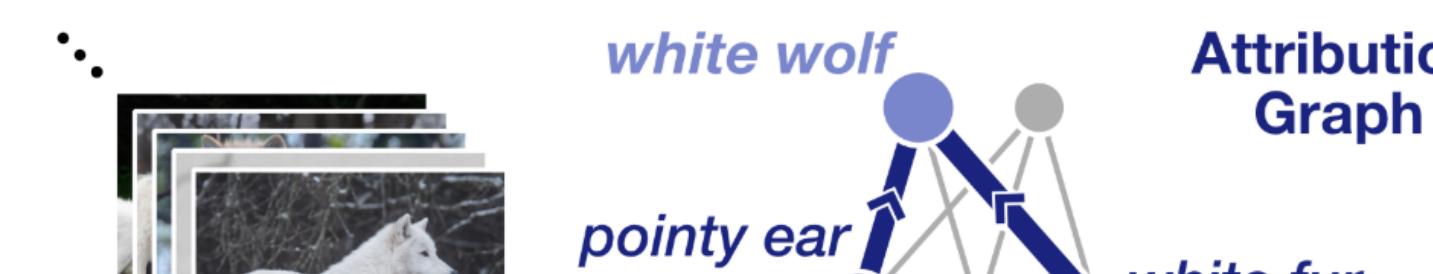
What is **SUMMIT**?

Understanding how neural networks make predictions remains a fundamental challenge. Existing work on interpreting neural network predictions for images often focuses on explaining predictions for single images or neurons, yet predictions are computed from millions of weights optimized over millions of images—such explanations can easily miss a bigger picture.

We present **SUMMIT**, an interactive visualization that scalably summarizes what features a deep learning model has learned and how those features interact to make predictions.

How does it work?

SUMMIT introduces two new scalable summarization techniques that aggregate activations and neuron-influences to create *attribution graphs*: a class-specific visualization that simultaneously highlights *what* features a neural network detects and *how* they are related.



Our work joins a growing body of open-access research that aims to use interactive visualization to explain complex inner workings of modern machine learning techniques. We believe our summarization approach that builds entire class representations is an important step for developing higher-level explanations for neural networks. We hope our work will inspire deeper engagement from both the information visualization and machine learning communities to further develop human-centered tools for artificial intelligence.

Credits

SUMMIT was created by [Fred Hohman](#), [Haekyu Park](#), [Caleb Robinson](#), and [Polo Chau](#) at Georgia Tech. We also thank Nilaksh Das and the Georgia Tech Visualization Lab for their support and constructive feedback. This work is supported by a NASA Space Technology Research Fellowship and NSF grants IIS-1563816, CNS-1704701, and TWC-1526254.



Summit: Scaling Deep Learning Interpretability by Visualizing Activation and Attribution Summarizations
[Fred Hohman](#), [Haekyu Park](#), [Caleb Robinson](#), and [Duen Horng \(Polo\) Chau](#).
IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG, Proc. VAST'19). 2020.

⚠ **Live demo:** fredhohman.com/summit

📘 **Paper:** <https://fredhohman.com/papers/19-summit-vast.pdf>

🎥 **Video:** <https://youtu.be/J4GMLvoH1ZU>

💻 **Code:** <https://github.com/fredhohman/summit>

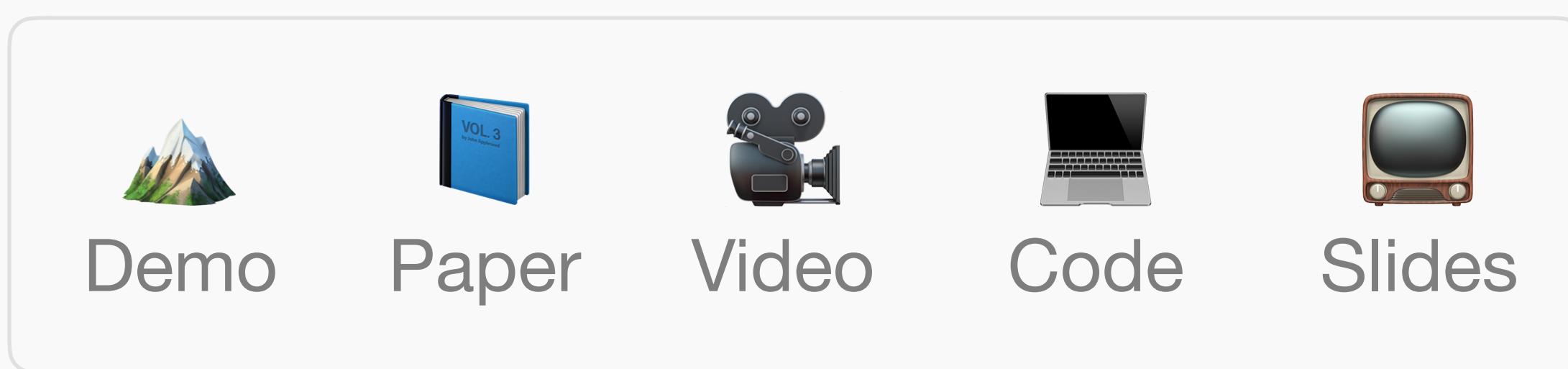
📺 **Slides:** coming October 2019!

Thanks!

SUMMIT

Visualizing Activation and Attribution Summarizations

fredhohman.com/summit



SUMMIT

What is SUMMIT? Understanding how neural network models predictions makes it fundamental to improving them. In this work we present **SUMMIT**, an interactive visualization for images often focuses on exploring predictions for single images or neurons, yet summarization techniques can help us better understand the overall behavior of a model across many images. We present **SUMMIT**, an interactive visualization that stability summarizes what features are being modeled in terms of how few neurons need to be present to make predictions.

How does it work? **SUMMIT** provides two available summarization techniques that aggregate activations and neuron influences to create attribution graphs of class specific visualizations. These visualizations highlight which features and neurons are related.

Scaling neural network interpretability **SUMMIT** scales to large and average neural network visualizations and handles large, complex neural network models into compact, interpretable visualizations.

Example 1: Unexpected semantics within a class

Given a class, **SUMMIT** provides a way to explore the unexpected semantics that a model has learned. For example consider the **tench** class (type of fish drawn fish). Drawing from the **Attribution Graph View** we can see that the **tenth** class is not only contained in water features but instead many other features like "Tiger" "head" and "Scales" are also present. This is interesting because we know that **tenth** is a fish and scale detectors are even. However, even these detectors focus mostly on the body of the fish than on the head, or scales. This is an example of unexpected semantics where people focus holding fish, presumably after catching them. This prompted us to inspect the size of the **tenth** class, where the **tenth** class has many more features than the **head** and **scales** detectors. Below we show the **Attribution Graph View** for the **tenth** class. Note that there are no people detector detectors in this class. Interestingly, we can see that the **tenth** class detectors are in combination with brown fish and scale detectors to recognize fish. Generally, we want to expect **tenth** as an essential feature for classifying fish.

Attribution graph visualization in **tenth** class.

Example 2: Describable features in similar classes

Given two classes that are visually similar, it is interesting to understand how the model's machine learning features there are interested in determining decision regions in these two classes. For example, consider the **black bear** and **brown bear** classes. A person would want to understand what features are shared between these two classes. By looking at the intersection of these ambiguous parts, we can see what features are shared between the classes, as well as any discriminative features and parameters.

Attribution Graph View

Class Sidebar

Embedding View

Attribution Graph View



Fred Hohman
@fredhohman
Georgia Tech



Haekyu Park
Georgia Tech



Caleb Robinson
Georgia Tech



Polo Chau
Georgia Tech



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