

# Experiments with and Development of Neural Additive Models as an Interpretable ML Method

Seminar in AI  
Under the supervision of

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Presented by

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# Previous Presentation

- Interpretable ML and its Importance
- Generalized Additive Models (GAM)
- Explainable Boosting Machines (EBM)
- **Neural Additive Models (NAM)**

# Neural additive models (NAM) [1] Agarwal et al (2021)

as interpretable as Logistic regression, while achieving similar accuracy as standard DNNs.

Combination of Inherent intelligibility of GAMs and expressivity of DNNs

# NAM

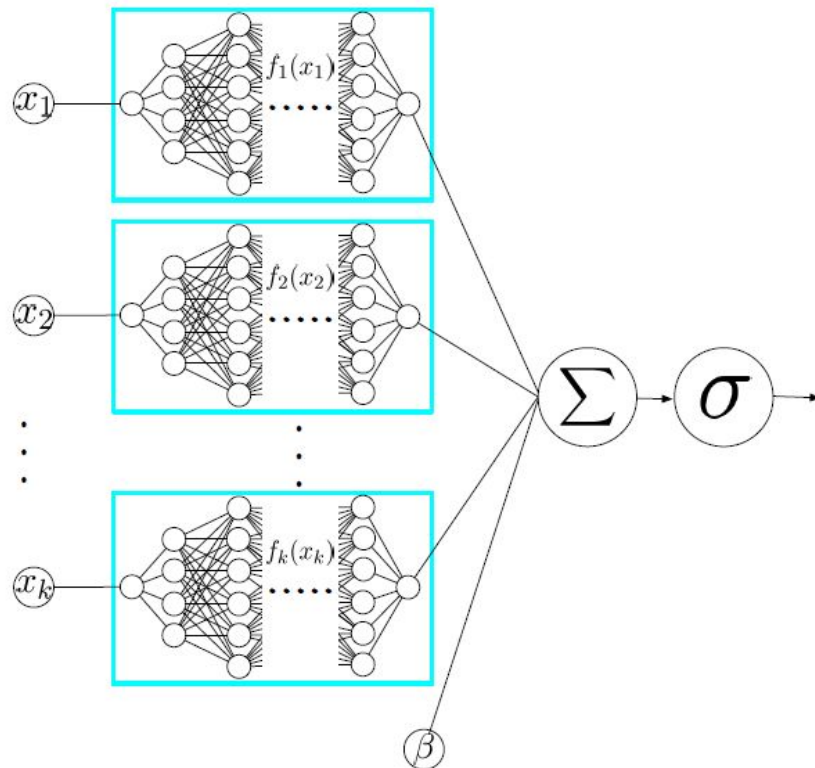
a NAM learns separate DNN subnets for each input feature

Learned in parallel and additively combined

Model is fully interpretable since each learned subnets can be visualized

Are differentiable and can be trained via backpropagation

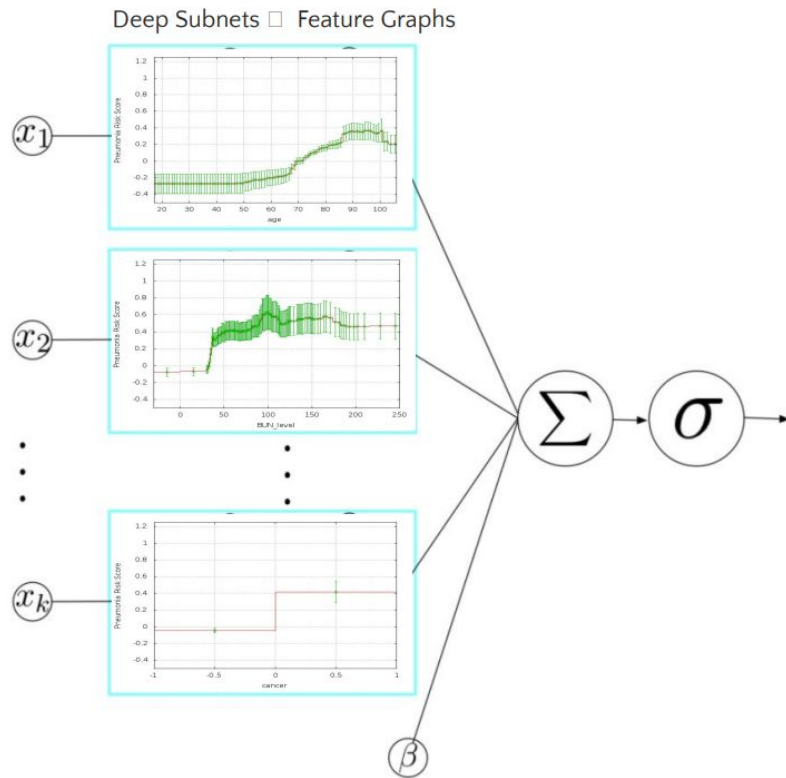
Sigmoid at output used for classification, not regression



NAM architecture for Binary Classification  
[1] Agarwal et al. (2021)

# NAM

After training, subnets can be replaced with feature graphs

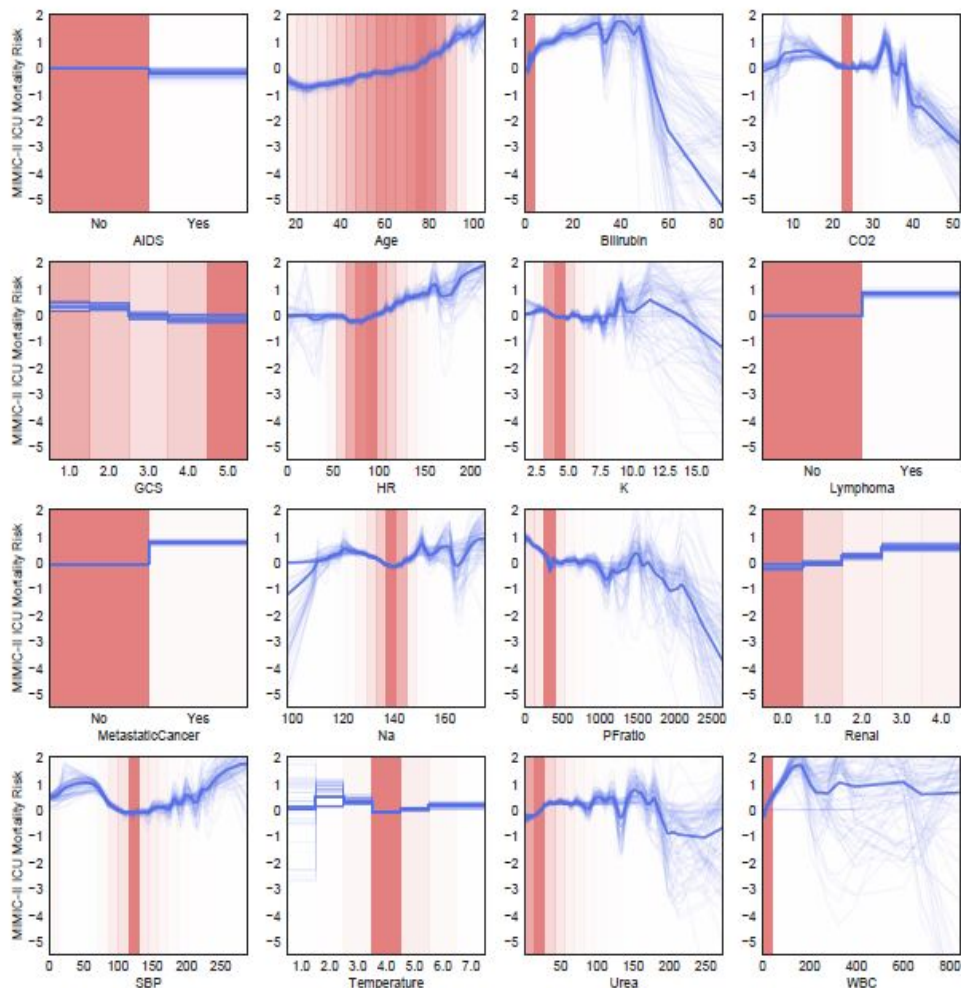


# NAM

**Self-interpretable** - plotting the individual independent shape function which parametrizes individual feature

The plots are an exact description of how NAMs compute a prediction

Note: NAMs are not causal models



# NAM

an competitive edge to EBM with its differentiability and composability.

Model	MIMIC-II (AUC)	Credit (AUC)	CA Housing (RMSE)	FICO (RMSE)
Log./Linear Reg. CART	$0.791 \pm 0.007$	$0.975 \pm 0.010$	$0.728 \pm 0.015$	$4.344 \pm 0.056$
	$0.768 \pm 0.008$	$0.956 \pm 0.004$	$0.720 \pm 0.006$	$4.900 \pm 0.113$
NAMs	$0.830 \pm 0.008$	$0.980 \pm 0.002$	$0.562 \pm 0.007$	$3.490 \pm 0.081$
EBMs	$0.835 \pm 0.007$	$0.976 \pm 0.009$	$0.557 \pm 0.009$	$3.512 \pm 0.095$
XGBoost	$0.844 \pm 0.006$	$0.981 \pm 0.008$	$0.532 \pm 0.014$	$3.345 \pm 0.071$
DNNs	$0.832 \pm 0.009$	$0.978 \pm 0.003$	$0.492 \pm 0.009$	$3.324 \pm 0.092$

Single-task learning NAM results.  
High AUCs and lower RMSEs are better

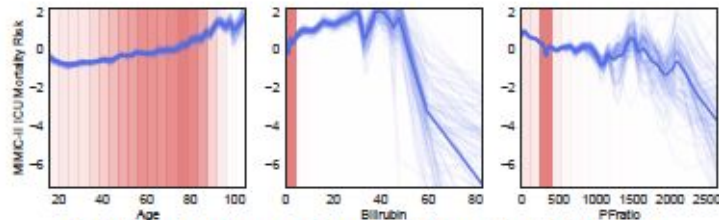
# NAM

Modeling jagged shape functions is required to learn accurate additive models

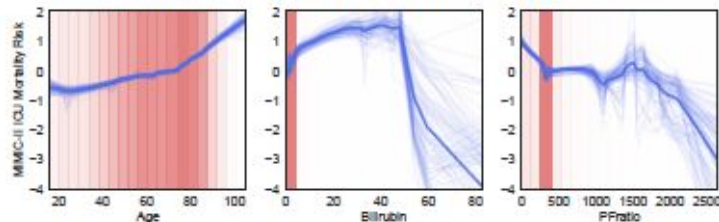
A special activation function, exp-centered (ExU) hidden units

$$h(x) = f(e^w * (x - b))$$

slope of activation function can be very steep  
so small changes in input => large changes in output



(a) Graphs learned by NAMs with ExU units



(b) Graphs learned by NAMs with standard units

Experiments on MIMIC II Dataset  
[1] Agarwal et al. (2021)



# NAM

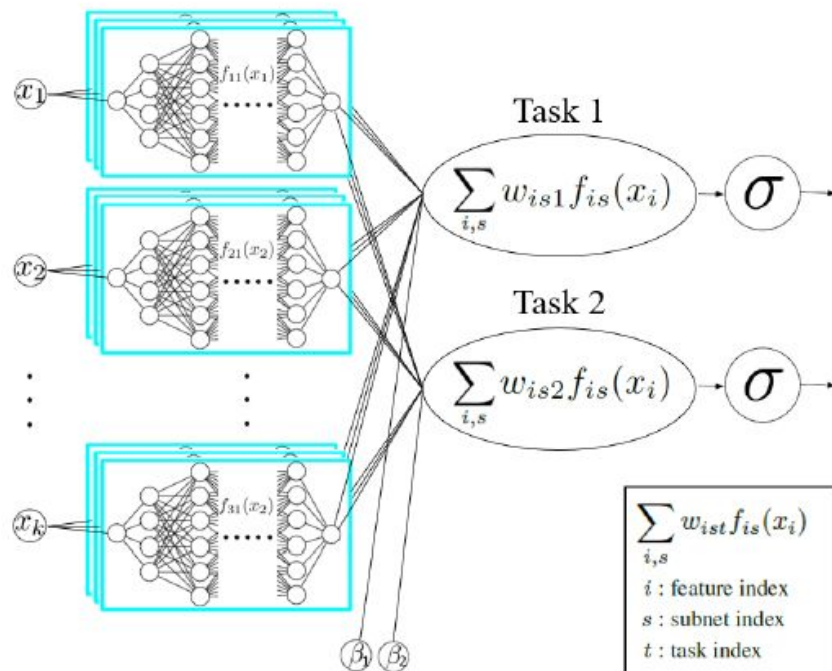
## Multitask Learning

the composability of NNs makes it easy to train multiple subnets per feature

The model jointly learns a task specific weighted sum over their outputs

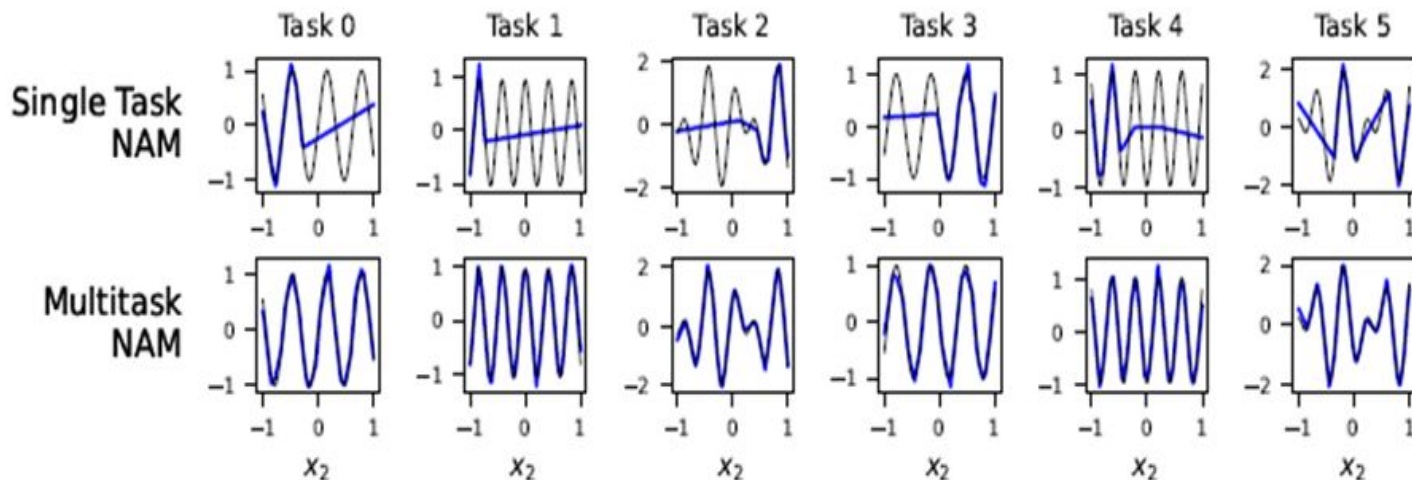
The outputs corresponding to each task are summed and a bias is added to obtain the final prediction score

learn different feature representations for each task while preserving the intelligibility and modularity



# Multitask Learning on Synthetic Data

Model	Task 0	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Mean
Single Task NAM	0.965	1.116	1.347	0.944	1.058	1.066	1.083
Multitask NAM	0.710	0.715	0.709	0.711	0.717	0.709	0.712

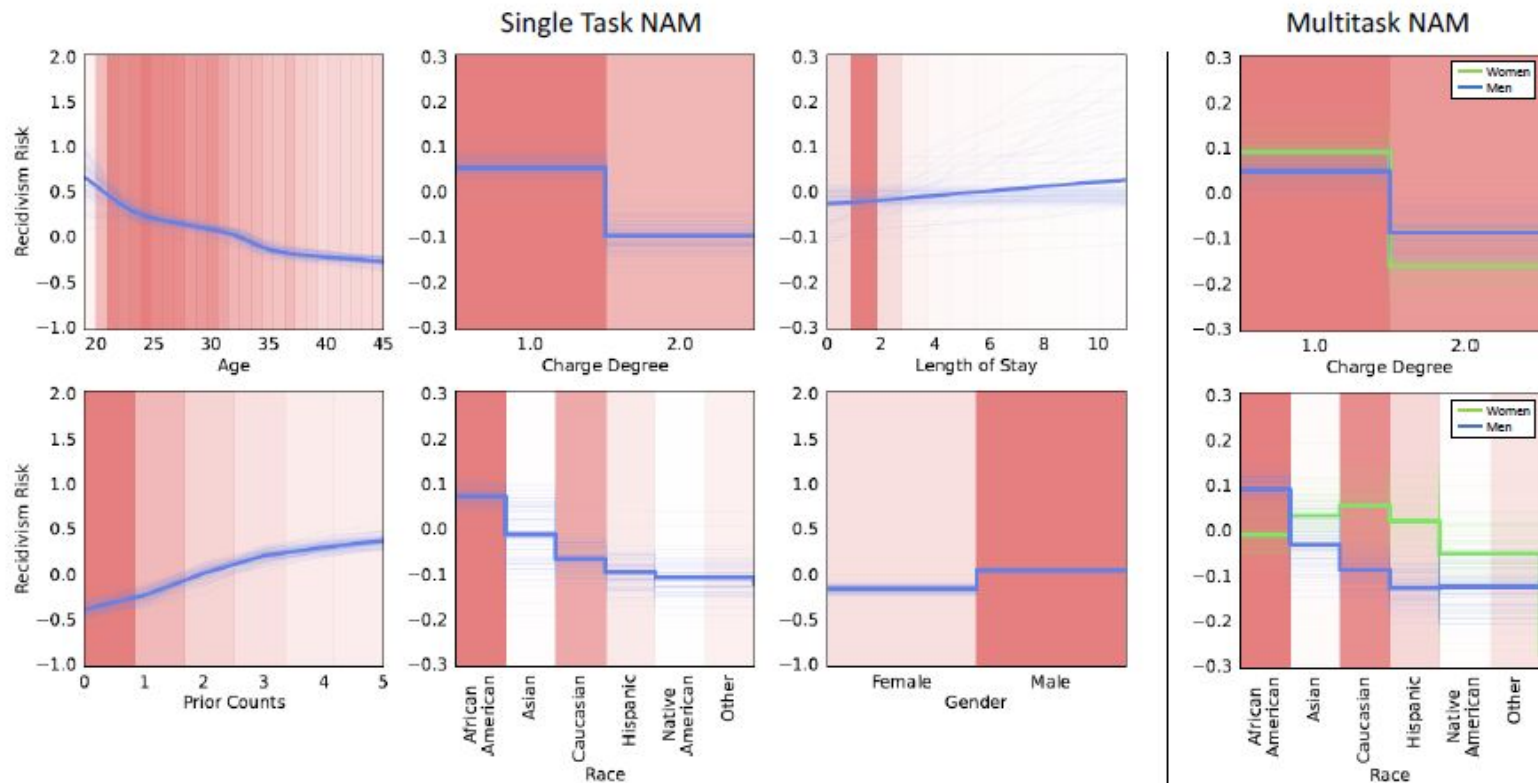


MSE for STL and MTL NAMs on synthetic data. Average of 20 runs. Lower MSEs are better. [1] Agarwal et al. (2021)

MLT NAMs achieve MSE 34% lower than SLT, and at least 25% lower on each individual task

# Multitask Learning on COMPAS Recidivism Data

(COMPAS is a proprietary score developed to predict recidivism risk, which is used to inform bail, sentencing and parole decisions and has been the subject of scrutiny for racial bias)



## Multitask Learning on COMPAS Recidivism Data

Model	COMPAS Women	COMPAS Men	COMPAS Combined
Single Task NAM	$0.716 \pm 0.026$	$0.735 \pm 0.009$	$0.737 \pm 0.010$
Multitask NAM	$0.723 \pm 0.019$	$0.737 \pm 0.009$	$0.739 \pm 0.010$

ROC AUC for multi task and single task NAMs on COMPAS dataset, broken down by gender. Higher AUCs are better.

[1] Agarwal et al. (2021)

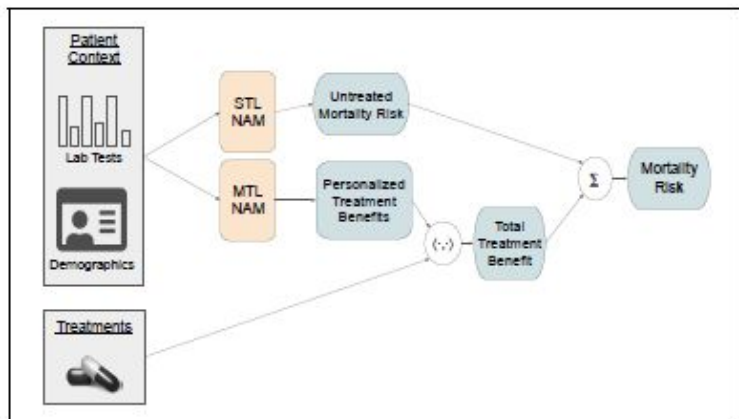
**Transparency and modularity** of NAM allows to detect unanticipated biases in data

makes it easier to correct the bias in the learned model

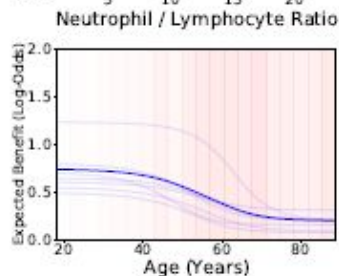
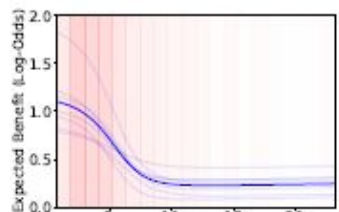
# Differentiability of NAM

Allows to train more complex interpretable models

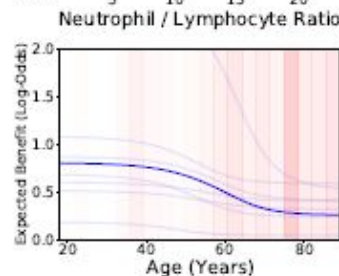
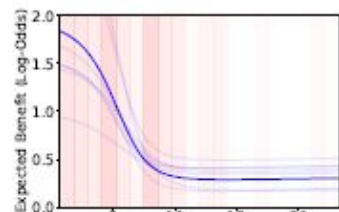
NAMs are the only nonlinear GAM suitable for this application because of their differentiability



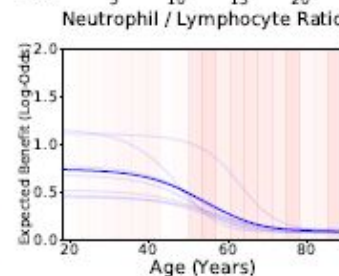
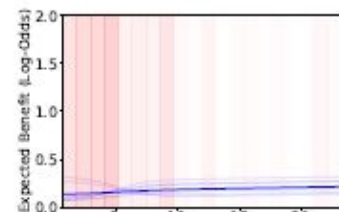
(a) Architecture



(b) Anti-Coagulants



(c) NSAIDs



(d) Glucocorticoids

Estimating personalized treatment benefits for Covid19 patients

[1] Agarwal et al. (2021)

# NAM

Globally & intrinsically interpretable

Model-specific (Linear Regression, Splines, Random Forests, and NNs)

## Advantages

Complete description of the model

Allows the application of any NN architecture

Multitask prediction

Differentiability

## Disadvantages

No Feature Interactions, even if, interpretation becomes difficult

Suffering a little loss in prediction accuracy when applied to tabular data

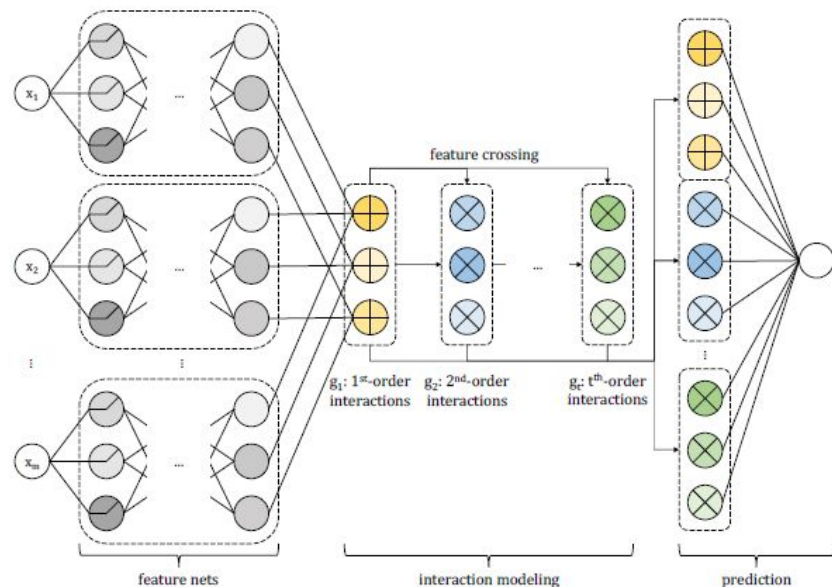
# Higher-order Neural Additive Models (HONAM)

Can model arbitrary orders of feature interactions

redefined the existing NAM and applied CrossNet model high-order feature interactions

proposed the ExpDive unit, which overcomes the limitations of the ExU unit, to effectively learn shape functions

$$h(x) = \sigma((x - b) * (\exp(W) - \exp(-W)))$$



Architecture of HONAM  
[3] Minkyu et al. (2022)

# Current Research

**SurvNAM: The machine learning survival model explanation**  
[Lev V. Utkin, Egor D. Satyukov, Andrei V. Konstantinov] (December 2021)

**Neural Additive Models for Nowcasting**  
[Wonkeun Jo, Dongil Kim] (May 2022)

**Neural Additive Models for Explainable Heart Attack Prediction**  
[Ksenia Balabaeva, Sergey Kovalchuk] (June 2022)

**Higher-order Neural Additive Models: An Interpretable Machine Learning Model with Feature Interactions**  
[Minkyu Kim, Hyun-Soo Choi, Jinho Kim] (Sep 2022)



# Next Steps

- Gathering more insights on higher order NAMs
- Practical Work in AI: Experimentation on NAM with Image data and further integration

# References

- [1] Agarwal, R., Melnick, L., Frosst, N., Zhang, X., Lengerich, B., Caruana, R., & Hinton, G. (2021, October 24). *Neural Additive Models: Interpretable machine learning with neural nets*. arXiv.org. Retrieved from <https://arxiv.org/abs/2004.13912>
  
- [2] Agarwal et al. NAMs, GAMs discussed in Molnar Chapter 5.3, (2021)
  
- [3] Kim, M., Choi, H.-S., & Kim, J. (2022, September 30). *Higher-order Neural Additive Models: An interpretable machine learning model with feature interactions*. arXiv.org. Retrieved from <https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.15409v1>
  
- [4] Nori, H., Jenkins, S., Koch, P., & Caruana, R. (2019, September 19). *InterpretML: A unified framework for machine learning interpretability*. arXiv.org., from <https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.09223v1>
  
- [5] Oleszak, M. (2022, January 27). *Explainable boosting machines*. Medium. Retrieved, from <https://pub.towardsai.net/explainable-boosting-machines-c71b207231b5>
  
- [6] Molnar Christoph “Interpretable Machine Learning” (2022) <https://christophm.github.io/interpretable-ml-book/>
  
- [7] Dallanocce, F. (2022, August 20). *Explainable AI: A comprehensive review of the main methods*. Medium. Retrieved from <https://medium.com/mllearning-ai/explainable-ai-a-complete-summary-of-the-main-methods-a28f9ab132f7>

# Thank you for your attention!

