

# Intro to RNNs in Blocks

Anders Huss

[anders@watty.se](mailto:anders@watty.se)



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2015

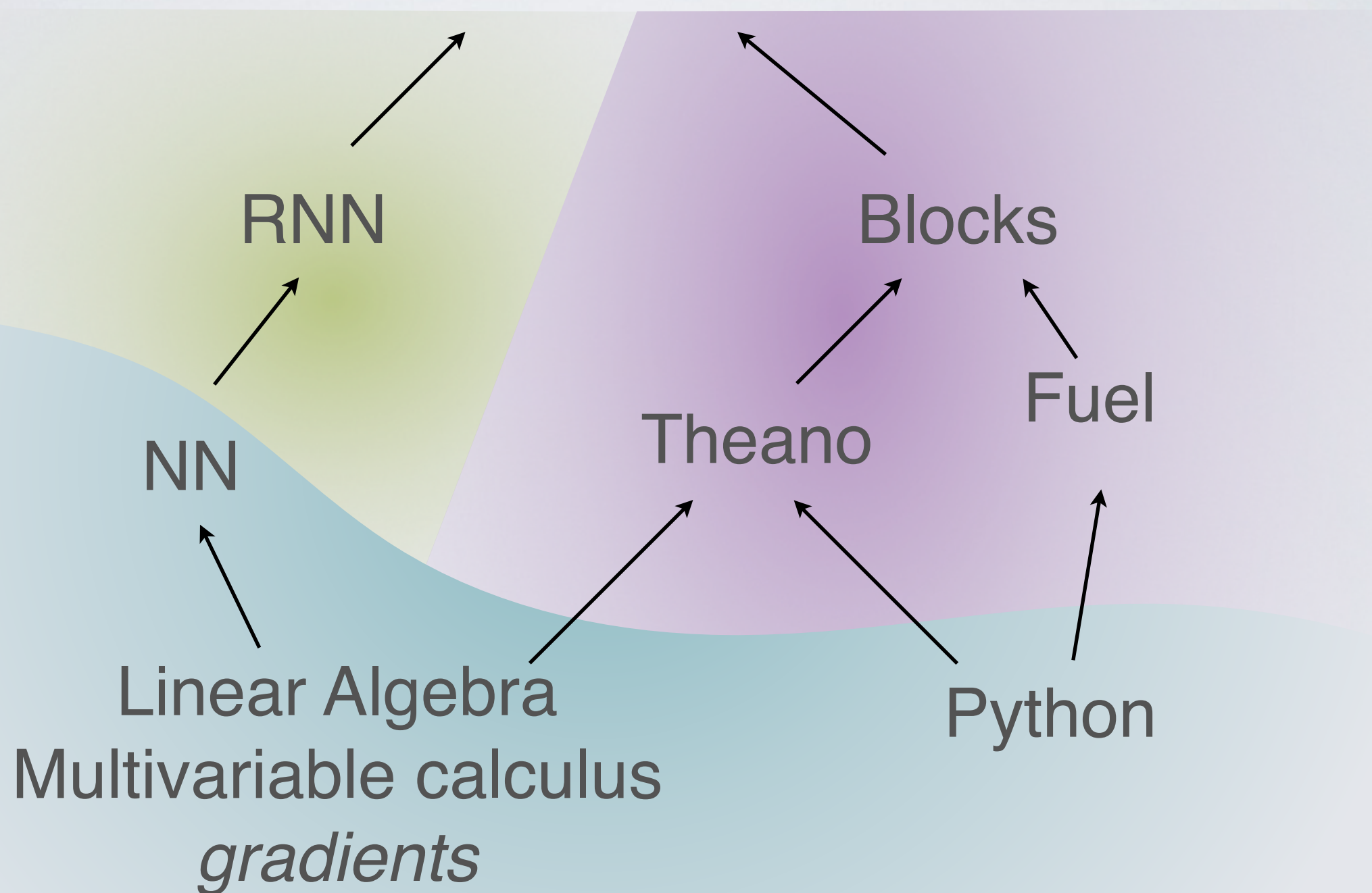
Stockholm Deep Learning Meetup

#3: Sequential Data  
Modeling with RNNs  
& Creative AI



# Overview

## RNNs in Blocks



# Overview

- Neural Networks (*the very basics*)
- Theano (*basics*)
- Blocks and Fuel
- Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)
- RNNs in Blocks
  - ★ notebook tutorial
- Discussion/Questions

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# Neural Networks

...Or any *differentiable parameterised function*?

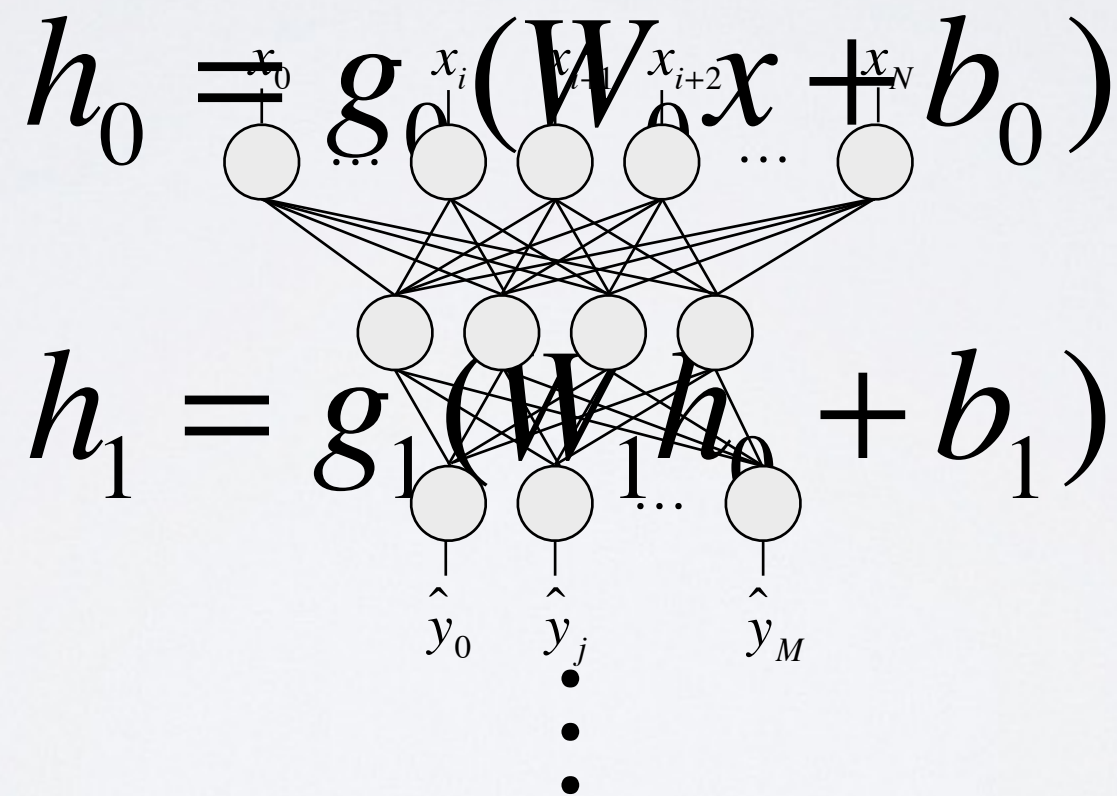
$$\hat{y} = f(x, \theta)$$

$$D = \{(x, y)\}$$

$$c = l(y, \hat{y})$$

# Neural Networks

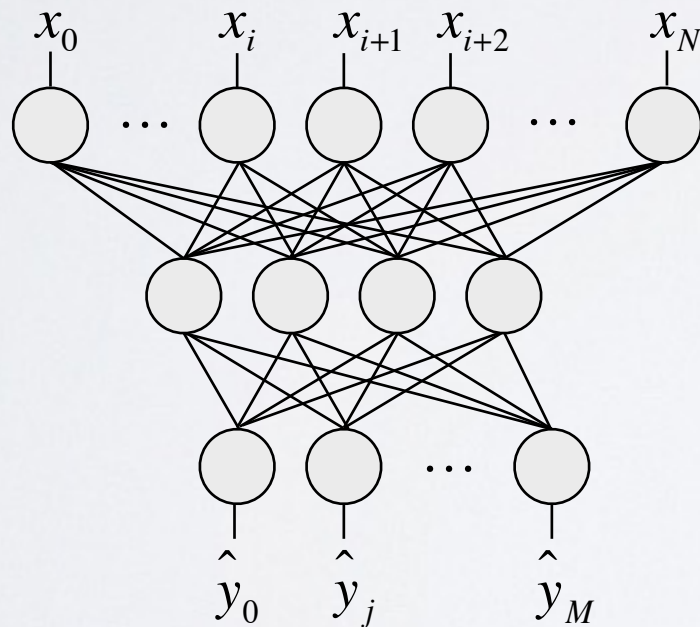
...Or any *differentiable parameterised function*?



# Neural Networks

Basically any function

- parameterised
- *differentiable*



$$\hat{y} = f(x, \theta)$$

# Neural Networks

What's needed to train a NN

- Compute gradients
- Update rule

$$\nabla f = \left( \frac{\partial f(\theta, D)}{\partial \theta_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f(\theta, D)}{\partial \theta_N} \right)$$

$$\theta^{i+1} = (\theta^i, \nabla f(\theta^i, D))$$



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# Theano

- Symbolic math
  - Built in standard operators (Ops)
- Symbolic differentiation
- Compiles code for us to efficiently carry out “updates” of parameters of a function (gradient descent)

[https://github.com/andhus/DLMeetupSept2015/blob/master/  
notebook\\_tutorials/theano\\_basics\\_tutorial.ipynb](https://github.com/andhus/DLMeetupSept2015/blob/master/notebook_tutorials/theano_basics_tutorial.ipynb)

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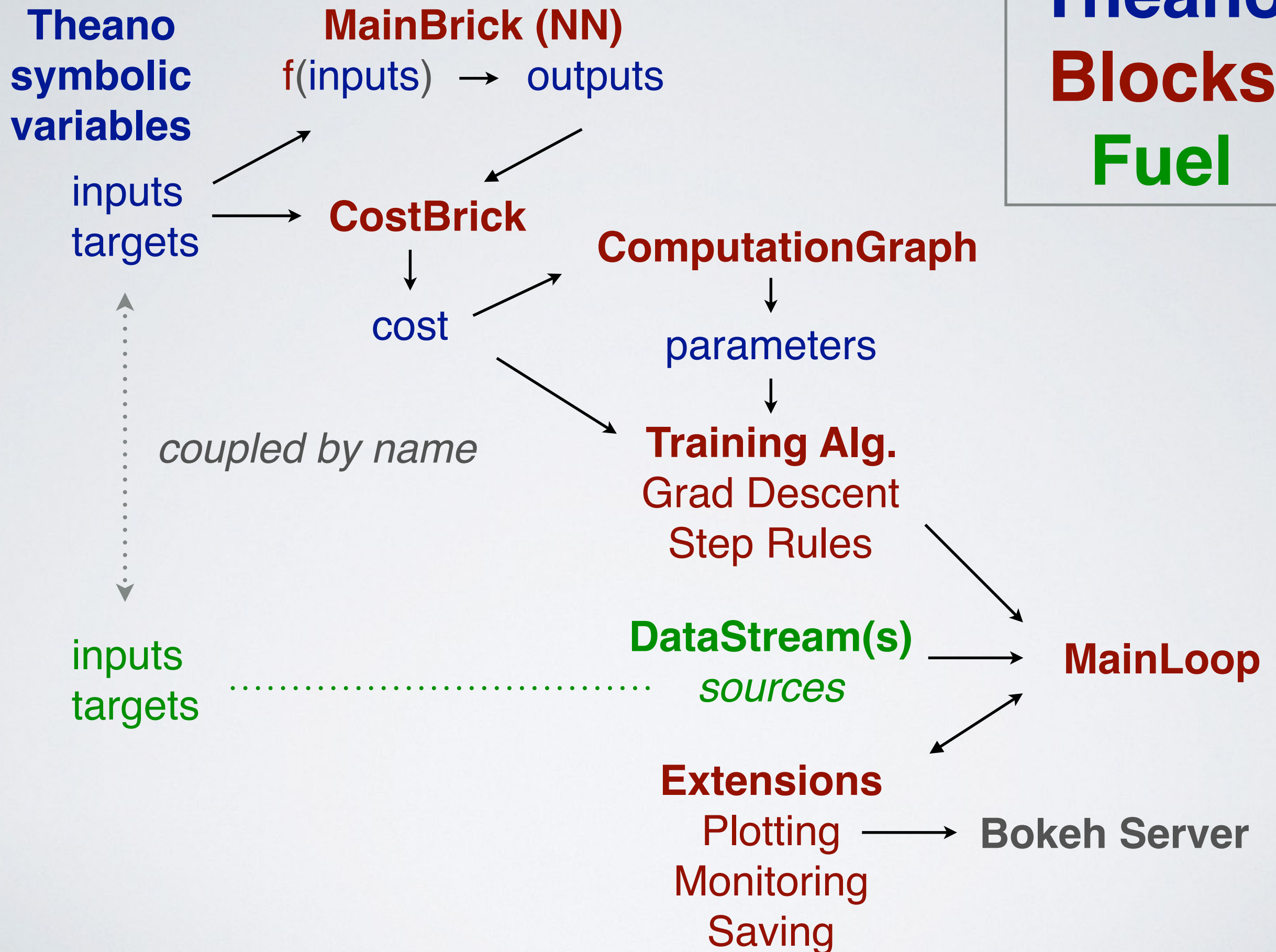
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# Blocks

- Library and framework for putting together parameterised theano expressions
- Bricks
  - functions (parameterised)
- Annotated graph
- Update Algorithms
- Main Loop
  - Datastreams - Fuel
  - Extensions

# Theano Blocks Fuel



[https://github.com/andhus/DLMeetupSept2015/blob/master/  
notebook\\_tutorials/blocks\\_fuel\\_basics\\_tutorial.ipynb](https://github.com/andhus/DLMeetupSept2015/blob/master/notebook_tutorials/blocks_fuel_basics_tutorial.ipynb)

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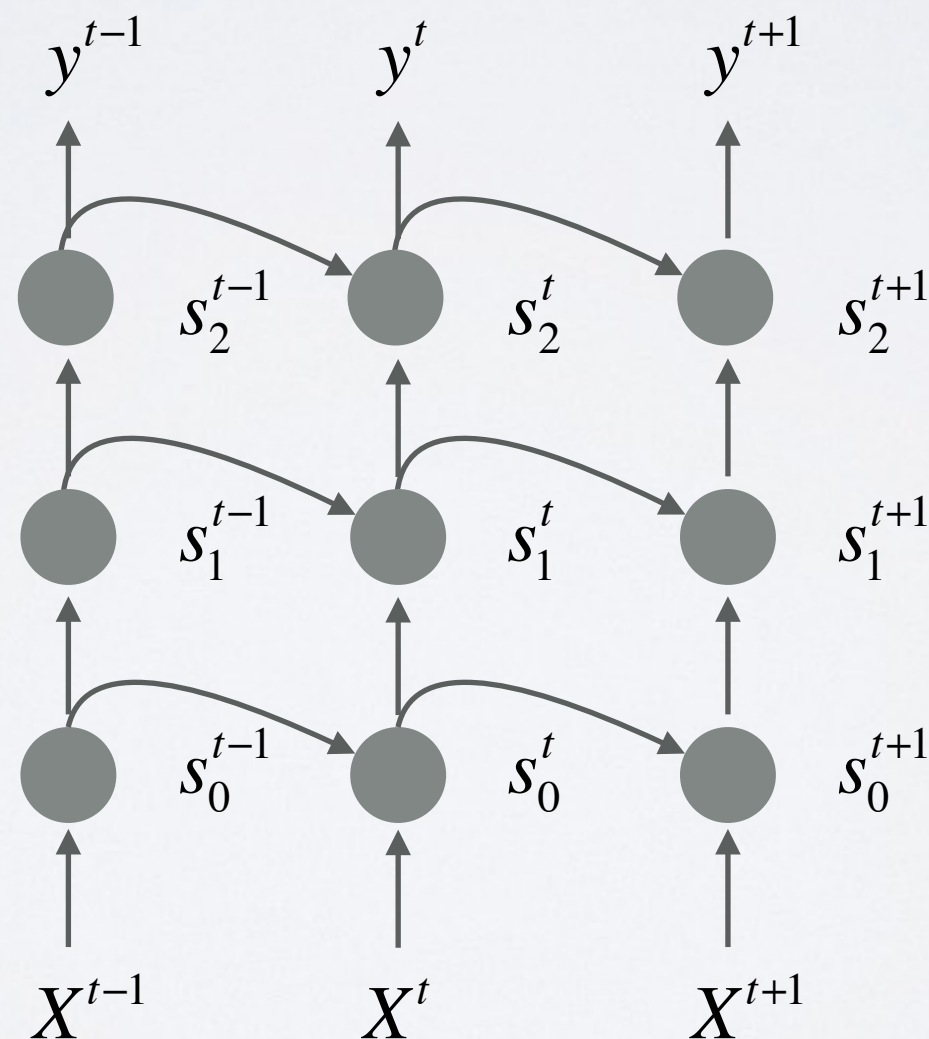
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# Recurrent NN

...Or just a certain type of weight sharing?

*A recurrent nn is a DAG!*



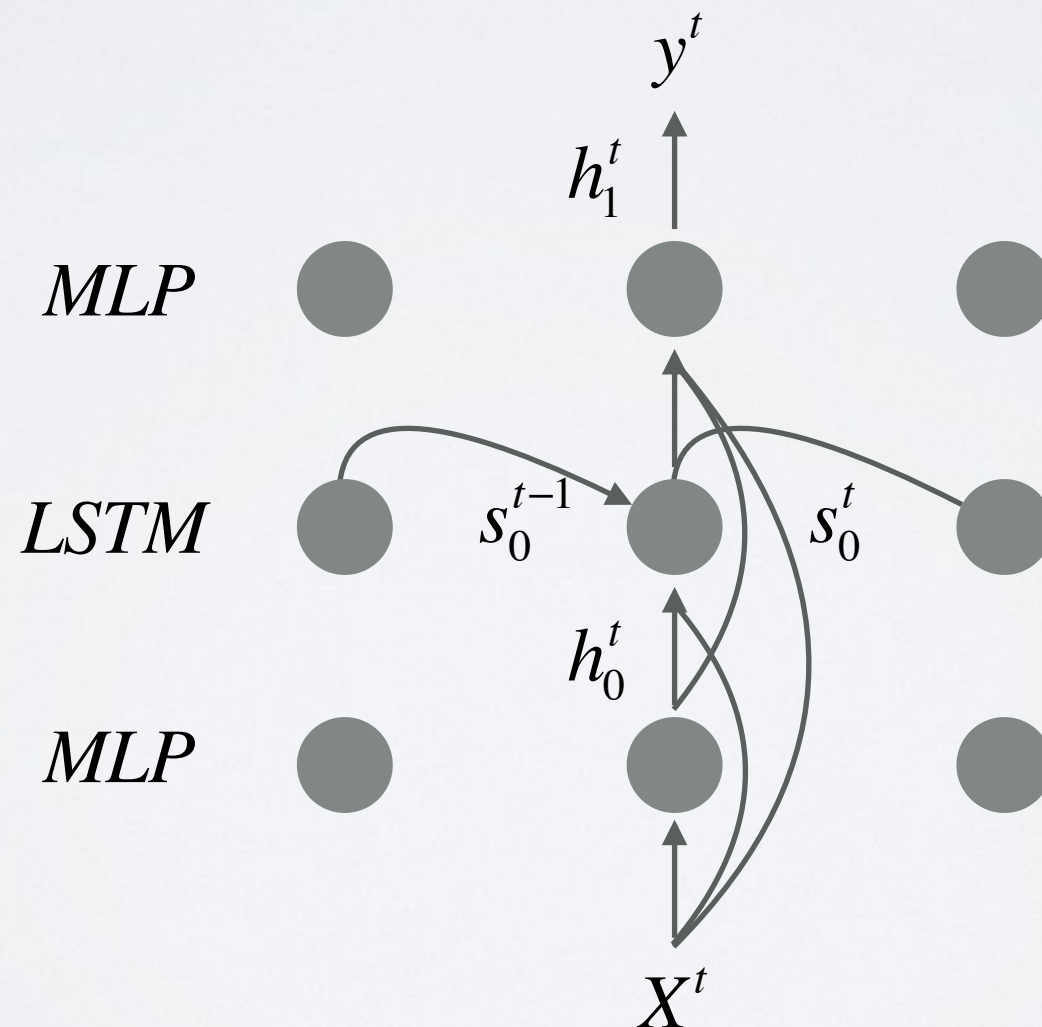
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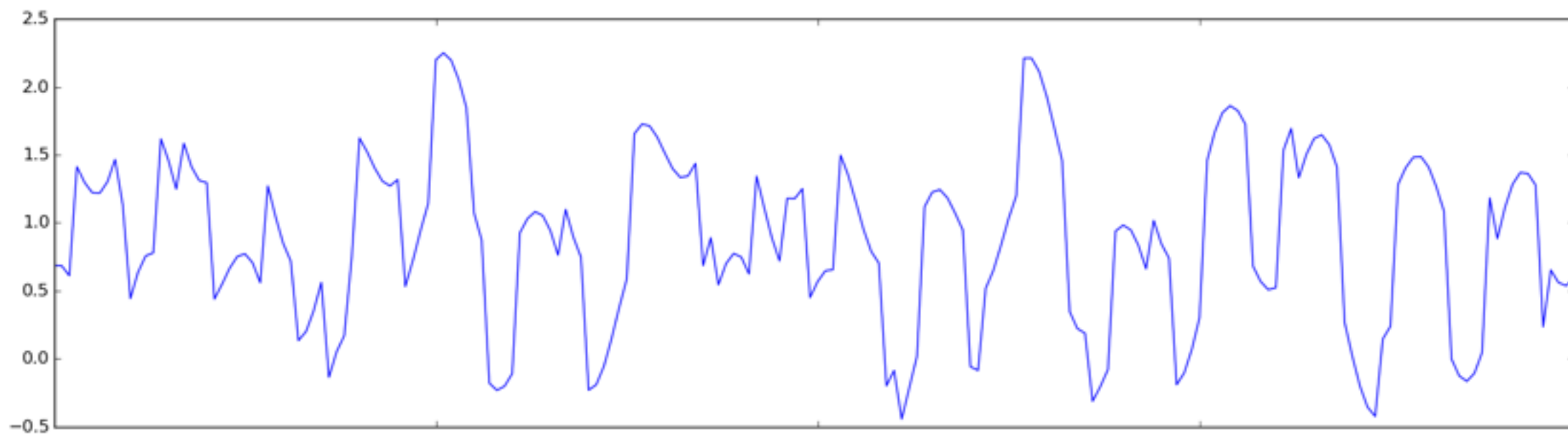
# Recurrent NN

Cascading Structure with additional input and output transformations.

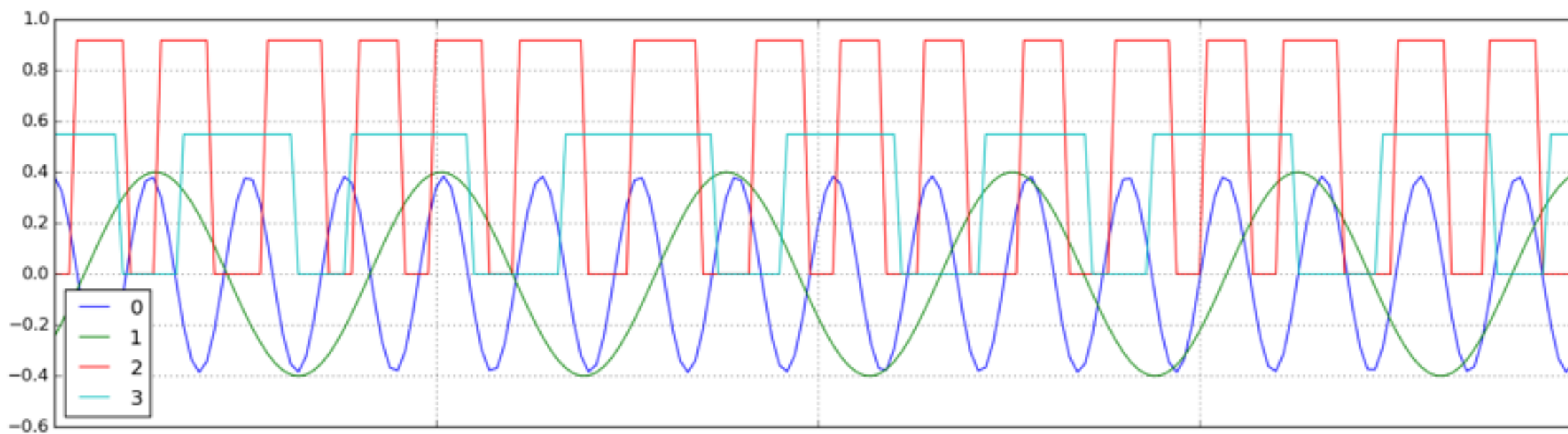




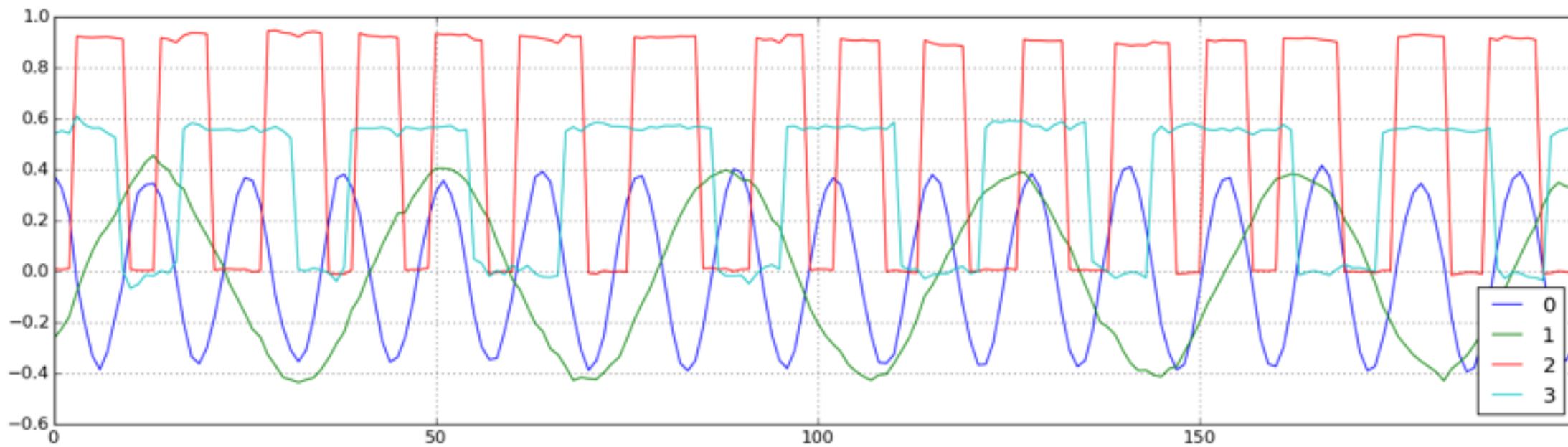
*Input*



*Target*



*Prediction*



# Recurrent NN

So what makes them so powerful?

- Sequential Problems
  - handle inputs without fixed length
  - memory - *learning during prediction*
- *Time and causality* is something fundamental
  - Are all problems sequential?
    - Touring Complete
    - Concept of *Attention*

# Recommended Reading

<http://jiwonkim.org/awesome-rnn/>

Alex Graves (2008)

- Supervised Sequence Labelling with Recurrent Neural Networks

# Q&A



[anders@watty.se](mailto:anders@watty.se)

[info@watty.se](mailto:info@watty.se)