First, we will see what neural network is-

So, the neural networks are inspired from the structure of human brain, they take in data , train themselves to recognize the pattern in the data and predict the output for new set of similar data.

The network starts with bunch of neurons corresponding each of the 28time 28 pixels of the input image (784neurons in total ), each of them hold a number that represents grey scale value of the corresponding pixel ranges from 0 to 1.

Here , they have used the feedforward artificial neural network with hyperbolic tangent function as the activation function in the hidden layers. And SoftMax function in the result layer.