

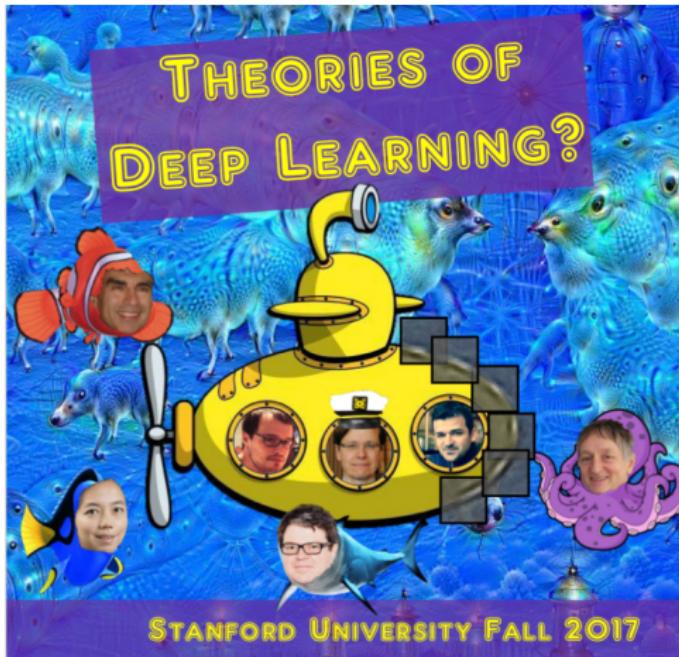
# Lecture 01: Deep Learning Challenge: Is There Theory?

D Donoho/ H Monajemi/ V Petyan  
Stats 385 Stanford

20170927

The Deep Learning Tsunami  
Why now?  
Where are the Intellectuals?  
Relevant Theoretical Approaches  
Course Structure

# Stats 385 Fall 2017



# Outline

## The Deep Learning Tsunami

- The Sudden Emergence of Deep Learning
- What's Driving the Tsunami?
- Intellectual Significance
- Human Impact

## Why now?

- Mobile is eating the world
- Mobile Drives IT Revolution
- IT Revolution enables massive computation
- Gaming Revolution Accelerates Computing Gains
- Exhaustive Trial and Error is now possible
- Emergence of the Common Task Framework

## Where are the Intellectuals?

- Deep learning is killing intellectual life
- Dark Secret
- Theory has failed
- Should/Can there be Theories of Deep Learning?
- Theorists are responding...
- Deep Learning as a Magic Mirror
- Theory

## Relevant Theoretical Approaches

- Neuroscience
- Harmonic Analysis
- Approximation Theory
- Statistics/ML

## Course Structure

## Disclaimer

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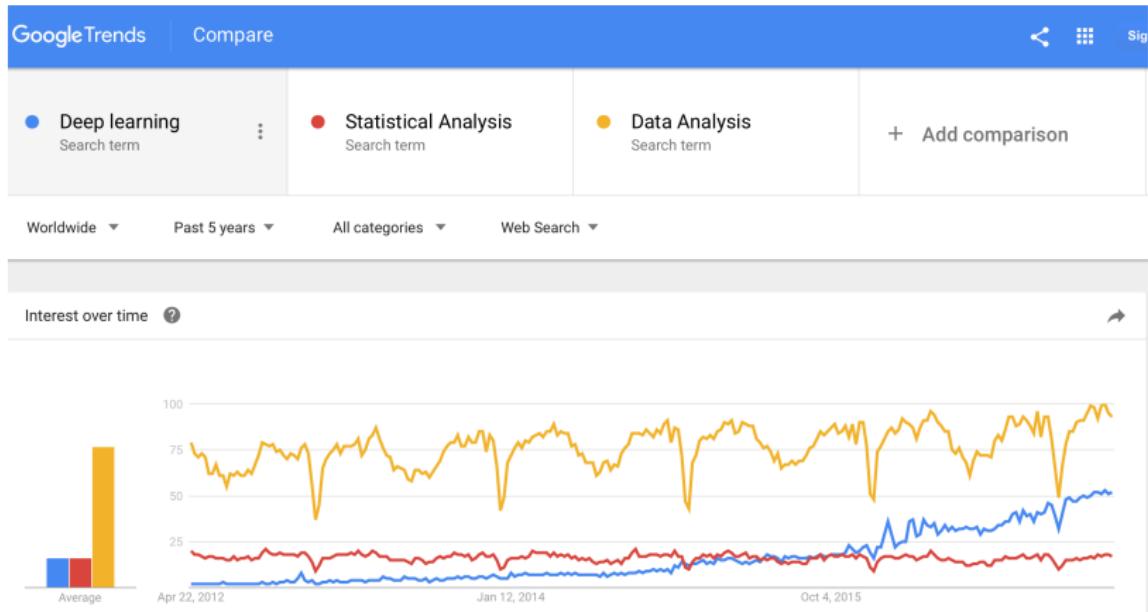
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## The Deep Learning Tsunami

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## The Sudden Emergence of Deep Learning

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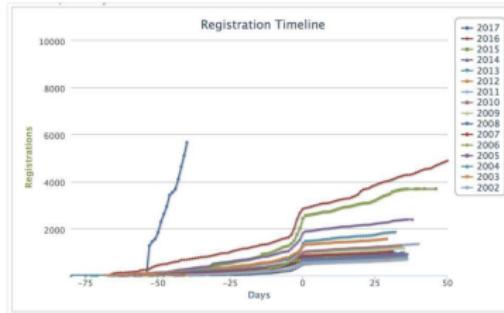
Alex Lebrun

@lxbrun

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Deep learning hype in one picture  
(NIPS conference registrations, 2002 through  
2017) [#nips2017](#)



8:20 AM - 15 Sep 2017

758 Retweets 1,005 Likes



20



758



1.0K

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## The Sudden Emergence of Deep Learning

What's Driving the Tsunami?

Intellectual Significance

Human Impact



Andrej Karpathy ✨

@karpathy

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Came to visit first class of @cs231n at Stanford. 2015: 150 students, 2016: 350, this year: 750. #aiinterestsingularity



12:11 PM - 4 Apr 2017

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19

155

623



michael\_nielsen @michael\_nielsen · Apr 4

Replying to @karpathy @cs231n

Faster than Moore's Law. At this rate - doubling each year - in 24 years everyone on Earth will be enrolled :-)

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# Reaching Human Level Performance

May 11th, 1997

Computer won world champion of chess  
(Deep Blue) (Garry Kasparov)



1997



2017

The DARPA Grand Challenge

Autonomous Robotic Ground Vehicles

Los Angeles – Las Vegas

March 13, 2004

[www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge](http://www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge)



The Challenge

\*Navigate 300 miles of rugged terrain  
between Los Angeles and Las Vegas

\*Winner of \$1 million cash prize is first  
to complete course in prescribed time

\*No drivers allowed – unmanned  
vehicles only

2004



## The Deep Learning Tsunami

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# Something DL Can't Do (per XKCD)



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# Landmark Applied Science – 20th century



Nuclear Power



Powered Flight



Antibiotics



Green Revolution

## The Deep Learning Tsunami

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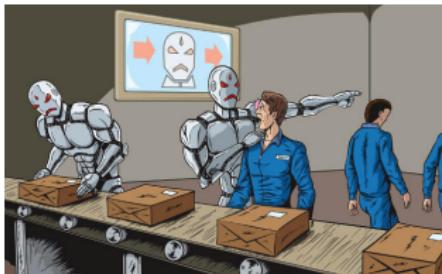
## The Sudden Emergence of Deep Learning

What's Driving the Tsunami?

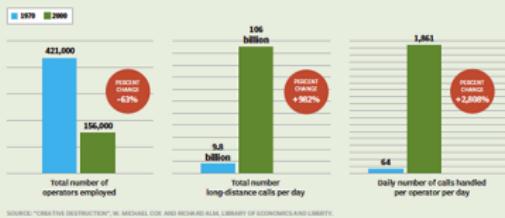
Intellectual Significance

Human Impact

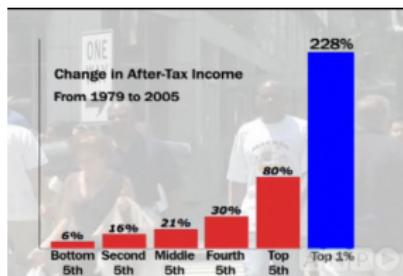
# Impact on Humanity



Creative Destruction Driven by Advances in Technology



Change in After-Tax Income  
From 1979 to 2005



## The Deep Learning Tsunami Why now?

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Mobile Drives IT Revolution  
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# Why this is happening now?

Key ingredients of DL have been in place for 25-30 years:

Landmark	Emblem	Epoch
Neocognitron	Fukushima	1980
CNN	Le Cun	mid 1980s'
Backprop	Hinton	mid 1980's
SGD	Le Cun, Bengio etc	mid 1990's
Various	Schmidhuber	mid 1980's

Some argue that no really new *ideas* were needed

## Synchronies

Over same timeframe – 2010-2014

- ▶ Instagram, Snapchat emerge to global prominence
- ▶ Deep Learning catapults to global attention

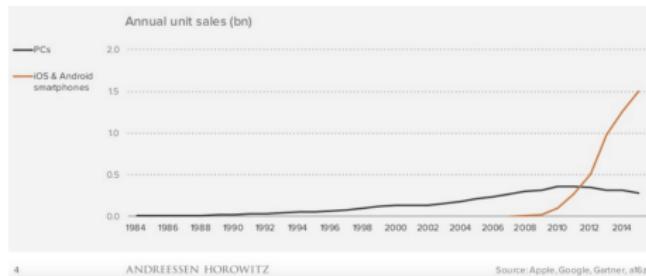
Coincides with emergence of

- ▶ Smartphone photography
- ▶ Cloud storage of selfie/smartphone photography

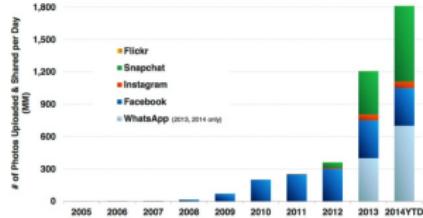
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# Happenings 2010-2014



Daily Number of Photos Uploaded & Shared on Select Platforms, 2005 – 2014YTD



Alex Lebrun  
@alexlebrun

Deep learning hype in one picture  
(NIPS conference registrations, 2002 through  
2017) #nips2017

Registrations (approximate values):

Year	Registrations (approx.)
2002	100
2003	150
2004	200
2005	250
2006	300
2007	400
2008	500
2009	600
2010	800
2011	1000
2012	1200
2013	1500
2014	1800
2015	2000
2016	2200
2017	2400

8,201,461 - 19 Sep 2017  
788 Retweets, 1,103 Likes

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# The Mobile Revolution



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## Mobile is eating the world

Mobile Drives IT Revolution

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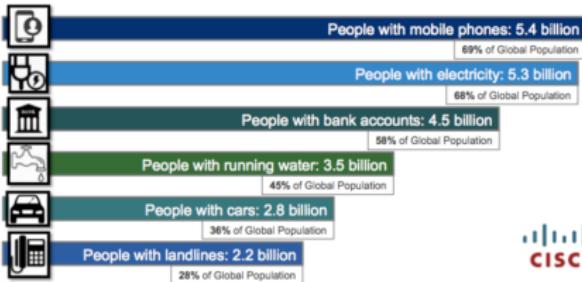
Exhaustive Trial and Error is now possible

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# Mobile Is Spreading Everywhere

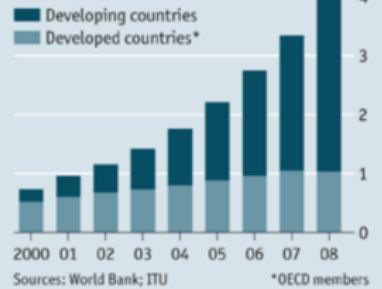
## Mobile Growth Continues Through 2020

By 2020, more people will have mobile phones than electricity at home

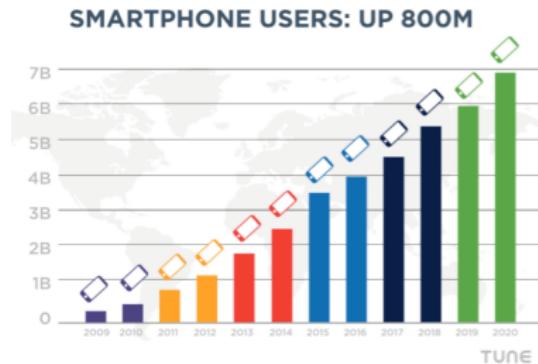


## Where to look for growth

Mobile-phone subscriptions, bn

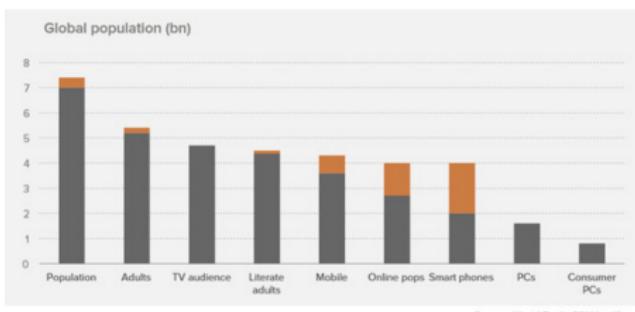


# Smartphones are Spreading Everywhere



## The world in 2020

By 2020 80% of the adults on earth will have a smartphone



Source: World Bank, GSMA, afEz

# The Deep Learning Tsunami

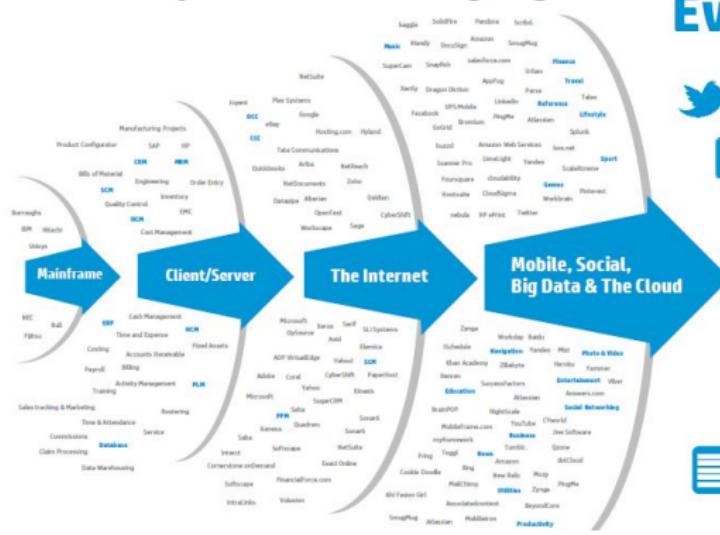
## Why now?

### Where are the Intellectuals? Relevant Theoretical Approaches Course Structure

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# Mobile Creates 24/7 Data Deluge

## **A new style of IT emerging**



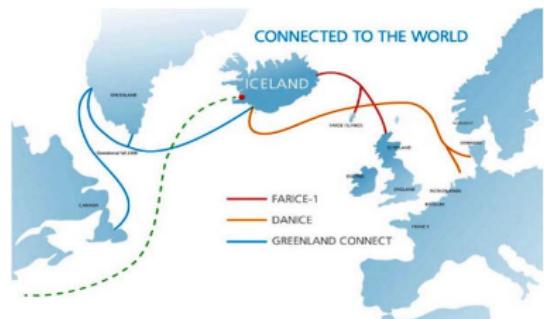
## **Every 60 seconds**

-  **98,000+** tweets
  -  **695,000** status updates
  -  **11million** instant messages
  -  **698,445** Google searches
  -  **168 million+** emails sent
  -  **1,820TB** of data created
  -  **217** new mobile web users

The Deep Learning Tsunami  
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## 24/7 Deluge Spawns Global Computational Services



## The Deep Learning Tsunami Why now?

Where are the Intellectuals?  
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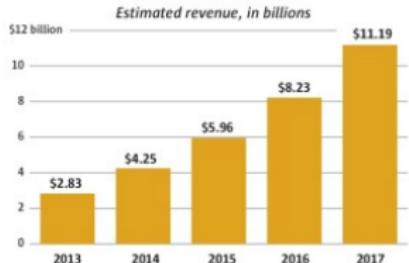
## Mobile is eating the world Mobile Drives IT Revolution

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# Emergence of Cloud Services

## Amazon Web Services sales

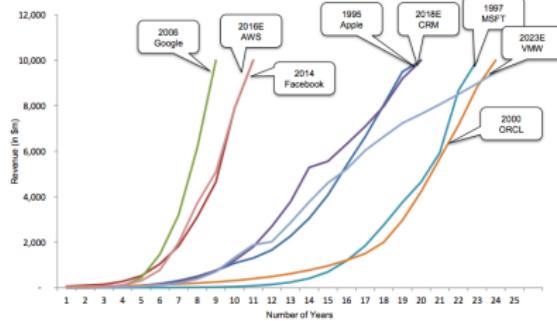
Amazon will break out specific sales data for AWS on Thursday for the first time. Here's Robert W. Baird & Co. analyst Colin Sebastian estimates.



Source: Robert W. Baird & Co.

KELLY SHEA / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Figure 9: AWS is the Fastest-Growing Enterprise Technology Company Ever



Source: Deutsche Bank Estimates, Public Company Filings

## Explosion of Computational Resources

Cloud Paradigm:

- ▶ Billions of smart devices each drive queries to cloud servers
- ▶ Millions of business relying on cloud for all needs

Symbiosis of cloud and economy is *lasting* and *disruptive*.

Cloud provides *any user same-day* delivery:

- ▶ Tens to hundreds of thousands of hours of CPU
- ▶ Pennies per CPU hour

Any user can consume *1 Million CPU hours* over a few days for a few \$10K's.

The Deep Learning Tsunami  
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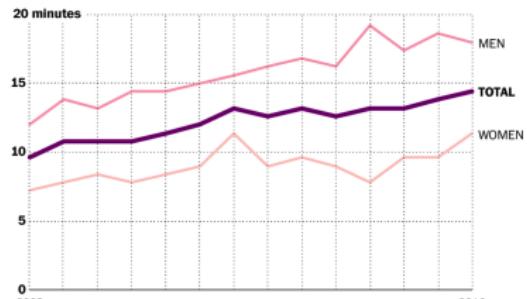
Mobile is eating the world  
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# Games Have *Increasing* Popularity



## Gaming time rises by 50 percent

Average time spent playing video or board games on an average day by an average American



WAPO.ST/WONKBLOG

Source: American Time Use Survey, US Census Bureau

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## Games Have *Absurd* Popularity



"My phone ... is a constant reminder that there is life out there somewhere."  
Austin H., Field Technician, Australian Antarctic Division



"If we can spend the last day of our lives in happiness, we will do so."  
- Hadeel Ball (young Syrian gamer)

'Scientists in Antarctica are downloading mobile games. Parents in Syria worry about kids using too much tech.'

JOHN KOETSIER TUNE 12/29/2015

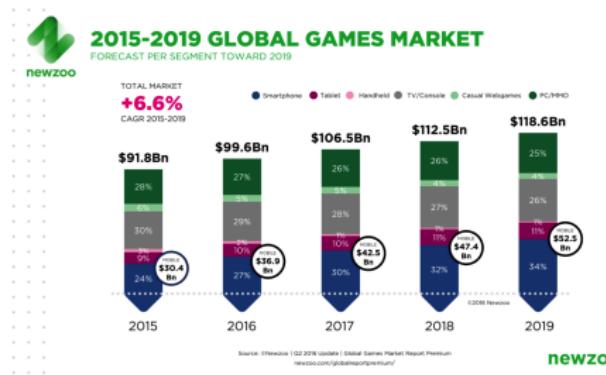
<https://www.tune.com/blog/global-mobile-why-2016-is-the-global-tipping-point-for-the-mobile-economy/>

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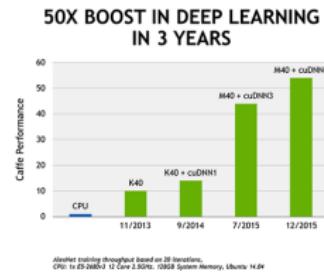
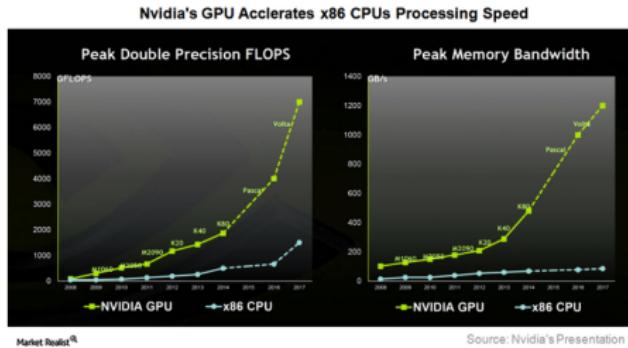
# Gaming became a Massive Market



The Deep Learning Tsunami  
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# Games → GPUs → Learning Speed



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Key ingredients of DL have been in place for 25-30 years:

Landmark	Emblem	Epoch
Neocognitron	Fukushima	1980
CNN	Le Cun	mid 1980's
Backprop	Hinton	mid 1980's
SGD	Le Cun, Bengio etc	mid 1990's
Various	Schmidhuber	mid 1980's
CTF	DARPA etc	mid 1980's

*Ubiquitous massive computation now makes it possible for thousands of researchers to build, train, tear apart and rebuilt DeepNets.*

*Extensive Trial and Error has been necessary.*

## Common Task Framework (1980's)

Under CTF we have the following ingredients

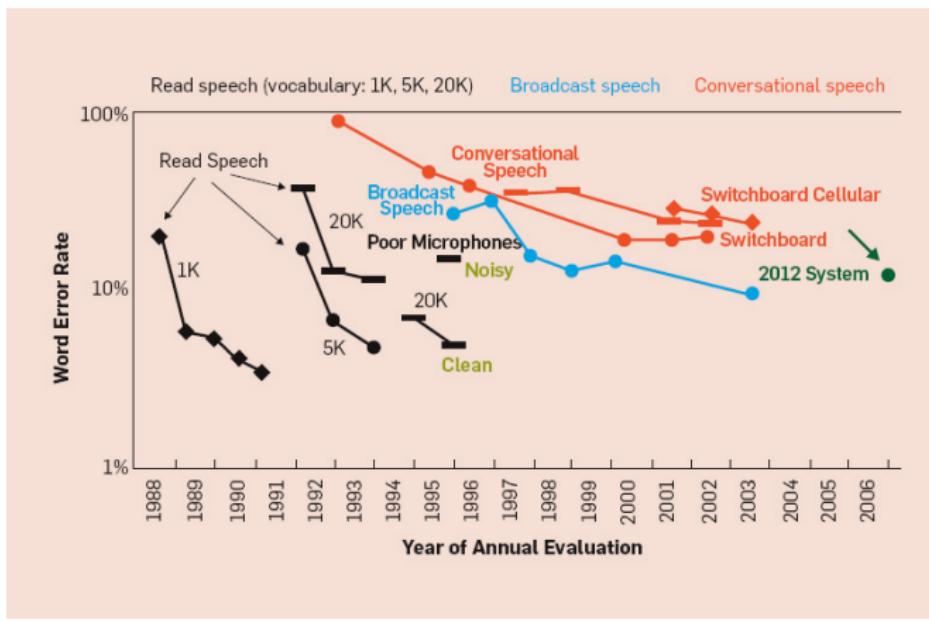
- (a) A **publicly available training dataset** involving, for each observation, a list of (possibly many) feature measurements, and a class label for that observation.
- (b) A set of **enrolled competitors** whose **common task** is to **infer** a class **prediction rule from the training data**.
- (c) A **scoring referee**, to which competitors can submit their prediction rule. The referee runs the prediction rule against a testing dataset which is sequestered behind a Chinese wall. The referee objectively and automatically reports the score achieved by the submitted rule.

See Mark Liberman's description (Liberman, 2009).

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## CTF *Really* Works!



## CTF Lifestyle – 1

1. Researchers set up local copies of Challenge
  - ▶ Data – Training, Test carved out of public dataset
  - ▶ Scoring – same as challenge scoring rule
2. Researcher's job: '*tuning models*'
  - ▶ Think up a family of model variations – '*tweak's*
  - ▶ Run a full '*experiment*' – suite of tweaks – '*grid*'
  - ▶ Score each tweak
  - ▶ Submit best-scoring result to central authority
3. Successful researchers perpetually motivated by  
*Game-ification*: tweaking, scoring, winning.
4. Researchers who tweak more often, win more often!.
5. If easier to implement tweaks and faster to evaluate them,  
more likely to win!.

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## CTF Lifestyle – 2



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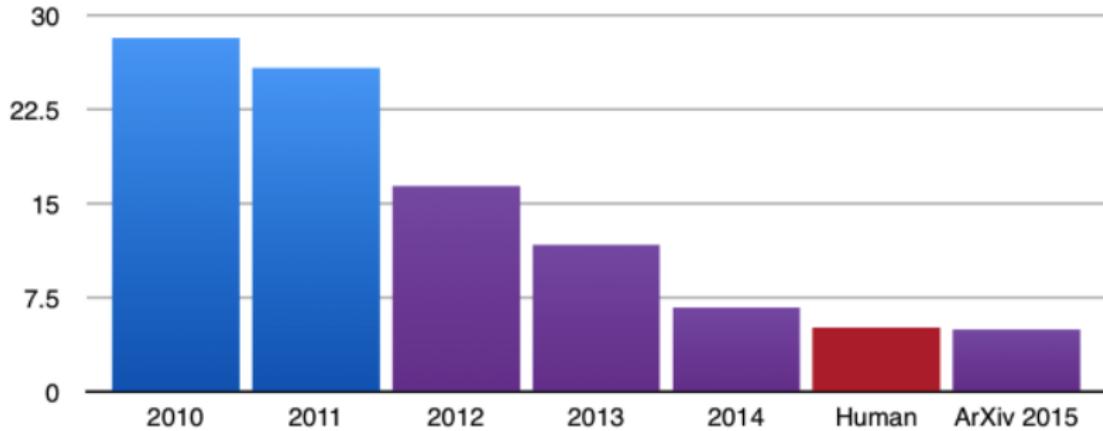
## CTF Goes Mainstream

1. Netflix Challenge (2009)  
\$1 Million Prize
2. Kaggle (2010)  
1 Million'th competitor expected Sept. 2017
3. Fei-Fei Li masterminds ImageNet 2008-2010
4. Hinton's Deep Learning Team wins ImageNet 2012

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## ILSVRC top-5 error on ImageNet



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**Andrej Karpathy**

@karpathy

Follow



You can now understand state of the art AI with before high school math. You forward a neural net and repeat guess&check. works well enough.

12:53 PM - 14 Mar 2017

50 Retweets 207 Likes



12

50

207

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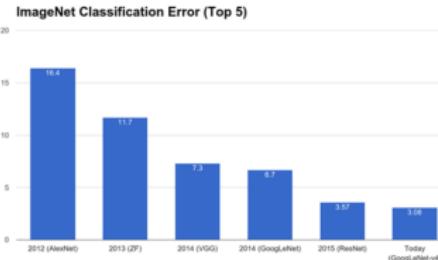
## Graduate Students Preparing for NIPS 2017



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# Global Economy → Computing → Deep Learning





## Deep, Deep Trouble

Deep Learning's Impact on Image Processing, Mathematics, and Humanity

By Michael Elad

I am really confused. I keep changing my opinion on a daily basis, and I cannot seem to settle on one solid view of this puzzle. No, I am not talking about world politics or the current U.S. president, but rather something far more critical to humankind, and more specifically to our existence and work as engineers and researchers. I am talking about...deep learning.

While you might find the above statement rather bombastic and overstated, deep learning indeed raises several critical questions we must address. In the following paragraphs, I hope to expose one key conflict related to the emergence of this field, which is relevant to researchers in the image processing community.

First, a few words about deep learning to put our discussion into perspective. Neural networks have been around for decades, proposing a universal learning mechanism that could, in principle, fit to any learnable data source. In its feed-forward architecture, layers of perceptrons—also referred to as neurons—first perform weighted averaging of their inputs, followed by nonlinearities such as a sigmoid or rectified-linear curves. One can train this surprisingly simple system to fit a given input set to its desired output, serving various supervised regression and classification problems.

## “Deep Learning is killing intellectual life” – various

Quotes (Professors at U Wash, Princeton, MIT, ...)

- ▶ “Deep Learning is killing  $X$ ”,  $X \in \{ \text{SP} , \text{IT} , \text{NLP} , \dots \}$
- ▶ “Graduate Students only will work on deep learning”
- ▶ “One Time Extinction event” – Graduate students won’t know the fundamental tools

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Theorists are responding...  
Deep Learning as a Magic Mirror  
Theory



Signal Processing Stack Exchange is a question and answer site for practitioners of the art and science of signal, image and video processing. Join them; it only takes a minute:

[Sign up](#)

Here's how it works:

Anybody can ask a question      Anybody can answer

Is deep learning killing image processing/computer vision?

1 I'm looking forward to enroll in an MSc in Signal and Image processing, or maybe Computer Vision (I have not decided yet), and this question emerged.

34 My concern is, since deep learning doesn't need feature extraction and almost no input pre-processing, is it killing image processing (or signal processing in general)?

1 I'm not an expert in deep learning, but it seems to work very well in recognition and classification tasks taking images directly instead of a feature vector like other techniques.

10 Is there any case in which a traditional feature extraction + classification approach would be better, making use of image processing techniques, or is this dying because of deep learning?

image-processing signal-analysis computervision machine-learning deep-learning

share improve this question asked Aug 25 at 13:46 edited Oct 27 '15 at 17:33 by VBaZ 6,622 13 0 11 0 26 Tony 173 0 2 0 6

1 Reopening this because it has a high number of upvotes and the top-voted answer has a very high number of upvotes. — Peter K. • Oct 28 '15 at 9:57

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19-July-2017 | Digital Economy | Hyperconnectivity



## Are AI And Machine Learning Killing Analytics As We Know It?

Joerg Koesters



According to IDC, artificial intelligence (AI) is expected to become pervasive across customer journeys, supply networks, merchandizing, and marketing and commerce because it provides better insights to optimize retail execution. For example, in the next two years:

- 40% of digital transformation initiatives will be supported by cognitive computing and AI capabilities to provide critical, on-time insights for new operating and monetization models.
- 30% of major retailers will adopt a retail omnichannel commerce platform that integrates a data analytics layer that centrally orchestrates omnichannel capabilities.

One thing is clear: new analytic technologies are expected to radically change analytics –

---

### Intelligent Machines

---

## The Dark Secret at the Heart of AI

No one really knows how the most advanced algorithms do what they do. That could be a problem.

by Will Knight April 11, 2017

**L**ast year, a strange self-driving car was released onto the quiet roads of Monmouth County, New Jersey. The experimental vehicle, developed by researchers at the chip maker Nvidia, didn't look different from other autonomous cars, but it was unlike anything demonstrated by Google, Tesla, or General Motors, and it showed the rising power of artificial intelligence. The car didn't follow a single instruction provided by an engineer or programmer. Instead, it relied entirely on an algorithm that had taught itself to drive by watching a human do it.

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# AI Learns Racism/Sexism



FaceApp apologizes for building a racist AI

Posted Apr 25, 2017 by Natasha Lomas (@natashalomas)



See:

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/aug/10/faceapp-forced-to-pull-racist-filters-digital-blackface>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/ai-robots-artificial-intelligence-racism-sexism/>

## Where are the Intellectuals?

Common reactions...

- ▶ Meh....
- ▶ “This is not happening”
- ▶ “This is a Crisis”
- ▶ “This is what I’ve been telling you for years”

# Theory in Crisis

Some Theory “Lessons”:

- ▶ “There’s no magic method”
- ▶ “Curse of Dimensionality”
  - ▶ ... Approximation Theory
  - ▶ ... Statistical Modelling
  - ▶ ... Optimization Theory

If those are the “Lessons”, Theory Fails  
Recent “Student Insurrections”

## Theorists are responding

That's this course!

Field	Example
Neuroscience	Bruno Olshausen
Harmonic Analysis	Joan Bruna and Stephane Mallat Helmut Boelcskei and co-authors Vardan Petyan, Jeremias Sulam, Yaniv Romano and Michael Elad
Approximation Theory	Tomaso Poggio and Hrushikesh Mhaskar
Statistics	Zaid Harchaoui
Information Theory	Naftali Tishby

The Deep Learning Tsunami  
Why now?  
**Where are the Intellectuals?**  
Relevant Theoretical Approaches  
Course Structure

Deep learning is killing intellectual life  
Dark Secret  
Theory has failed  
Theorists are responding...  
**Deep Learning as a Magic Mirror**  
Theory

## Deep Learning as a Magic Mirror



Figure : Every theorist who looks at it see what they wish

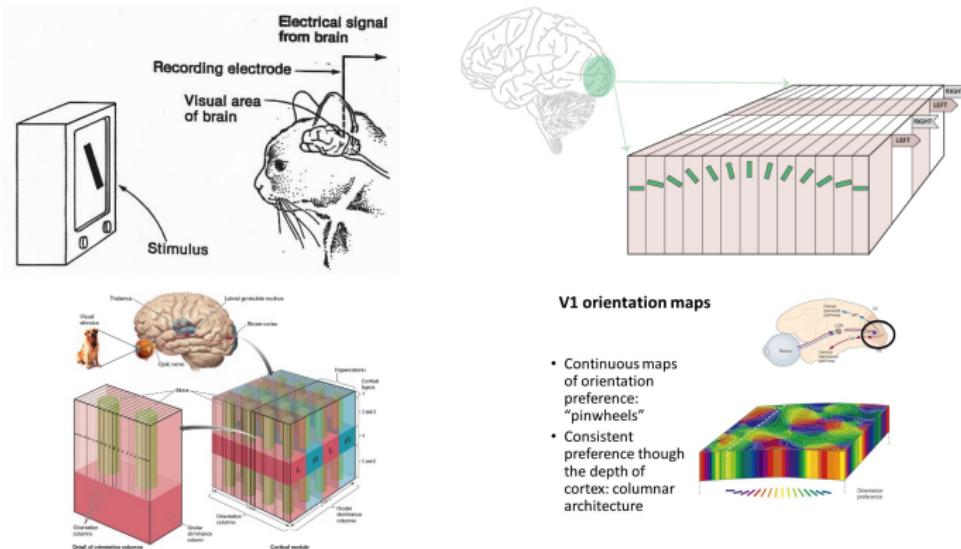
## Goal of Theory

- ▶ What is a Theory?
  - ▶ Vulgar meaning – any model, any set of formal arguments.
  - ▶ Precise meaning – models that explain and that predict.
- ▶ What can Theory contribute?
  - ▶ Analysis
  - ▶ Prediction
- ▶ Should/Can there be Theories of Deep Learning?

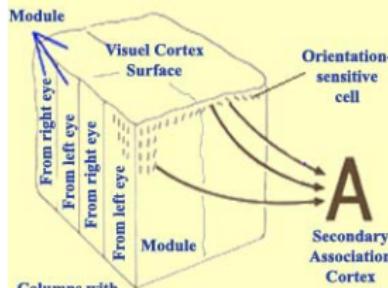
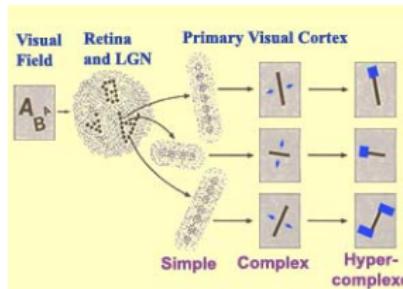
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Visual Neuroscience – Hubel/Wiesel et seq.



# Simple Cells/Complex Cells



## Grandmother Cells

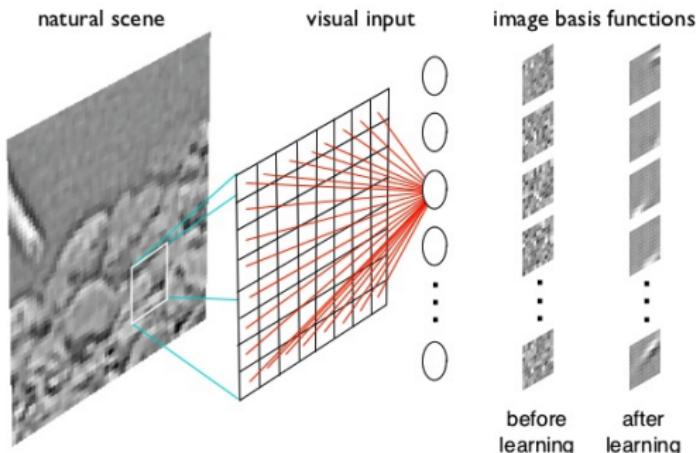
Four years ago, **Rodrigo Quiroga** from Leicester University showed that **single neurons in the brain** react selectively to the faces of specific people, including celebrities like Halle Berry, Jennifer Aniston and Bill Clinton. Now, he's back, describing single neurons that respond selectively to the concept of Saddam Hussein or Oprah Winfrey. This time, Quiroga has found that these neurons work across different senses, firing to images of Oprah or Saddam as well as their written and spoken names.

In one of his volunteers, Quiroga even found a neuron that selectively responded to photos of himself! Before the study began, he had never met the volunteers in the study, which shows that these representations form very quickly, at least within a day or so.



# Olshausen and Field (1996)

Efficient coding of natural images: Olshausen and Field, 1996

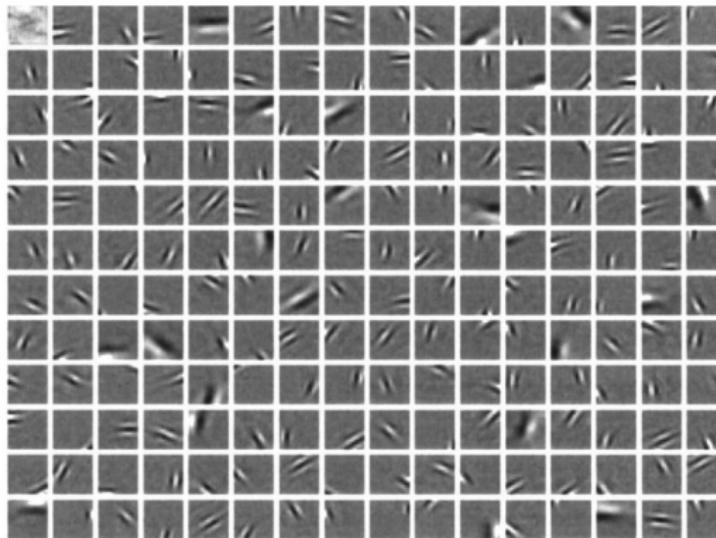


Network weights are adapted to maximize coding efficiency:  
minimizes redundancy and maximizes the independence of the outputs

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## Olshausen and Field



## Prediction/Inspiration by Neuroscience

Experimental Neuroscience uncovered the

- ▶ ... neural architecture of Retina/LGN/V1/V2/V3/ etc
- ▶ ... existence of neurons with weights and activation functions (simple cells)
- ▶ ... pooling neurons (complex cells)

All these features are somehow present in today's sucessful Deep Learning systems

Neuroscience	Deep Network
Simple cells	First layer
Complex cells	Pooling Layer
Grandmother cells	Last layer

Theorists Olshausen and Field (Nature, 1996) demonstrated that receptive fields learned from image patches

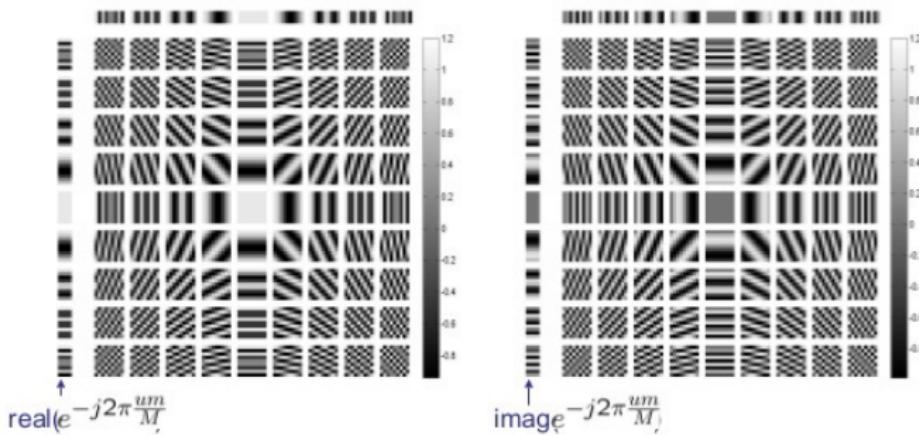
- ▶ Olshausen and Field showed that optimization process can drive learning image representations
- ▶ Olshausen-Field representations bear strong resemblance to defined mathematical objects from harmonic analysis wavelets, ridgelets, curvelets
- ▶ Harmonic analysis: long history of developing optimal representations via optimization
- ▶ Research in 1990's: Wavelets etc are optimal sparsifying transforms for certain classes of images
- ▶ Relevant Talks:

Speaker	Institution	Date
Helmut Boelscke	ETHZ	October 11
Joan Bruna	Courant/NY	) November 15

# Optimal Representations – eigenfunctions – fourier

real  $e^{-j2\pi(\frac{um}{N} + \frac{vn}{N})}$

imag  $e^{-j2\pi(\frac{um}{N} + \frac{vn}{N})}$



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# Multiscale Representations

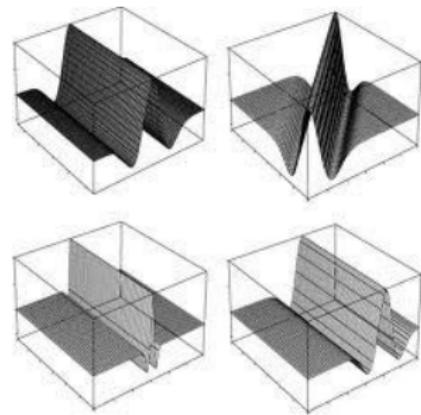
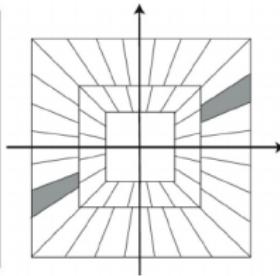
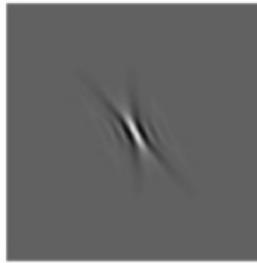
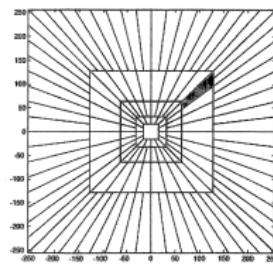
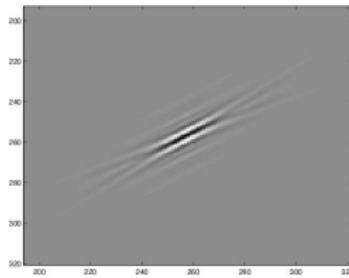
## Wavelets – Almost Eigenfunctions



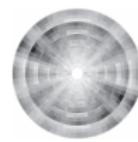
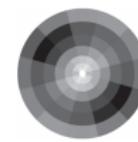
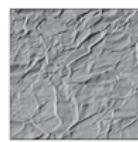
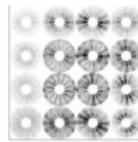
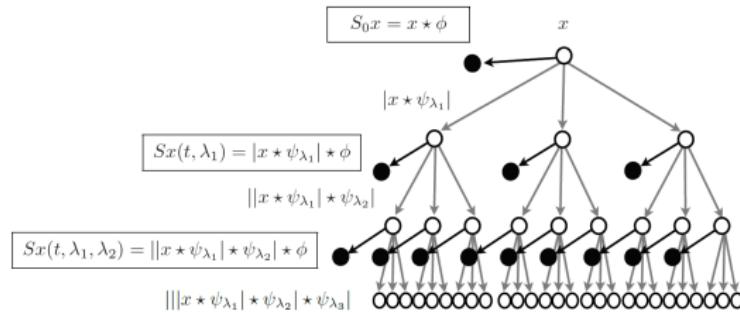
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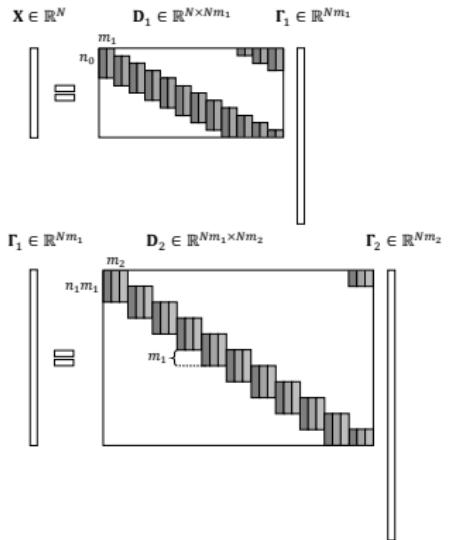
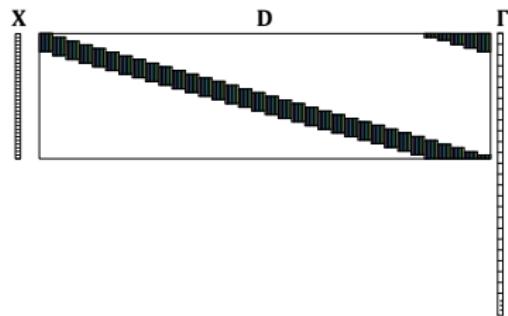
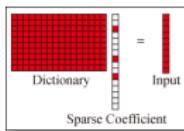
# Geometric Multiscale – Ridgelets, Curvelets and Shearlets



# Scattering Transform; Mallat (2012), Bruna and Mallat (2014)



# Sparse Representations



# Approximation Theory, I

- ▶ Class prediction rule can be viewed as function  $f(x)$  of high-dimensional argument
- ▶ *Curse of Dimensionality*
  - ▶ Traditional theoretical obstacle to high-dimensional approximation
  - ▶ “*Functions of high dimensional  $x$  can wiggle in too many dimensions to be learned from finite datasets*”

## Approximation Theory, II

- ▶ Ridge Functions  $\rho(u'x)$  mathematically same as deep learning first layer outputs.
- ▶ Sums of Ridge Functions mathematically same as input to second layer.
- ▶ Approximation by Sums of Ridge Functions  $f \approx \sum_i \rho_i(u'_i x)$  studied for decades
- ▶ Theorists (1990's-Today): certain functions  $f(x)$  approximated by ridge sums with no curse of dimensionality

## Approximation Theory, III

- ▶ Compositional functions  $f(x) = h(g_1(x_{i_1,1}, \dots, x_{i_1,k}), g_2(x_{i_2,1}, \dots, x_{i_2,k}), \dots, g_\ell(x_{i_\ell,1}, \dots, x_{i_\ell,k}))$  are functions of small number of functions;  $\ell, k \ll d$ .
- ▶ VGG Nets are deep compositions
- ▶ Approximation by Compositional Functions studied for decades
- ▶ Theorists (1990's-Today): certain functions  $f(x)$  avoid curse of dimensionality using multilayer compositions
- ▶ T. Poggio (MIT) and Hrushikesh Mhaskar (Caltech) have several papers analyzing deepnets as deep compositions.
- ▶ Poggio will speak to us October 25.

# Modern Statistical Theory

Interactions with key themes in modern statistical theory

- ▶ Estimation of functions in high dimensions
- ▶ VC Classes/Generalization Bound
- ▶ Statistical Models
  - ▶ Projection Pursuit
  - ▶ Compositional Models
  - ▶ Generalized Additive Models
- ▶ Regularization/Overfitting/Model Selection
- ▶ Experimental Design
- ▶ Observational vs Experimental Data
- ▶ Ecological Correlation/Correlation vs Causation

# A Look Ahead: <https://stats385.github.io>

## Guest Lectures



Wednesday, 10/11/2017  
Helmut Boelcskei  
ETH Zurich



Wednesday, 10/18/2017  
Bruno Olshausen  
UC Berkeley



Wednesday, 10/25/2017  
Tomaso Poggio  
MIT



Wednesday, 11/01/2017  
Zaid Harchaoui  
University of Washington



Wednesday, 11/08/2017  
Jeffrey Pennington  
Google, NY



Wednesday, 11/15/2017  
Joan Bruna  
Courant Institute, NYU

Helmut Boelcskei  
Bruno Olshausen  
Tomaso Poggio  
Zaid Harchaoui  
Jeffrey Pennington  
Joan Bruna

ETH Zuerich  
Redwood Center for Theoretical Neuroscience  
MIT  
Univ Wash Seattle  
Google  
NYU

## Course Structure

1. Review DL concepts
2. Review Theoretical Approaches
3. Specific Theoretical Contributions – Mostly guest lectures
4. Postmortem, last 3 lectures.

# Global Economy → Computing → Deep Learning



ImageNet Classification Error (Top 5)

