



# Deep ReLU Networks as Local Linear Models

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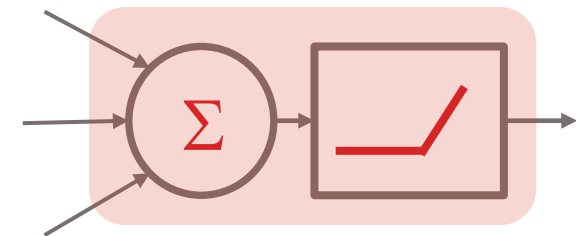
Machine Learning Model Validation Course, June 21-23 | Risk.net

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# Neural Network Playground <https://playground.tensorflow.org/>



- A network has one or more hidden layers
- A hidden layer has multiple neurons
- Each neuron is activated by an activation function
- ReLU (rectified linear unit) activation function



**Question:** How can we interpret deep neural networks (DNNs) with ReLU activation?

# Outline

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- **Deep ReLU Networks**
  - Begin with 2 hidden layers
  - Recursive oblique partitioning
- **Local Linear Models**
  - Activation pattern
  - Exact local interpretability
- **Network Simplification**
  - Merging method
  - L1-regularization
- **Examples using PiML Toolbox**
  - CoCircles Data
  - TaiwanCredit Data

# Deep ReLU Networks, illustrative with 2 hidden layers

## Each hidden layer:

- Linear: affine transformation

$$z_i^{(l)} = \mathbf{w}_i^{(l-1)} \boldsymbol{\chi}^{(l-1)} + b_i^{(l-1)}$$

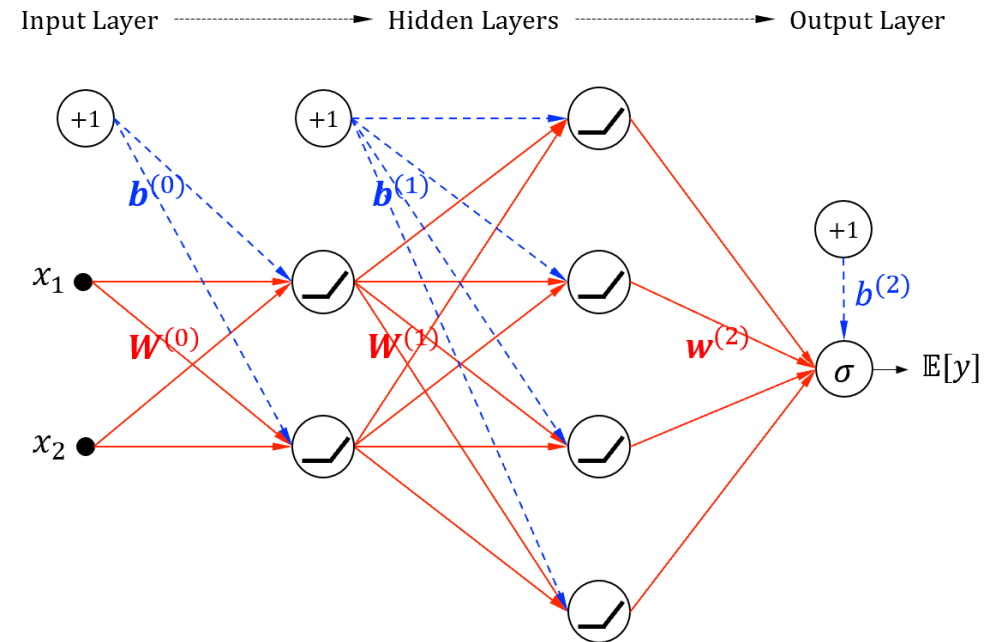
- Nonlinear: ReLU activation

$$\chi_i^{(l)} = \max\{0, z_i^{(l)}\}$$

## Output layer:

$$\mathbb{E}[y] = \sigma(\mathbf{w}^{(L)} \boldsymbol{\chi}^{(L)} + \mathbf{b}^{(L)})$$

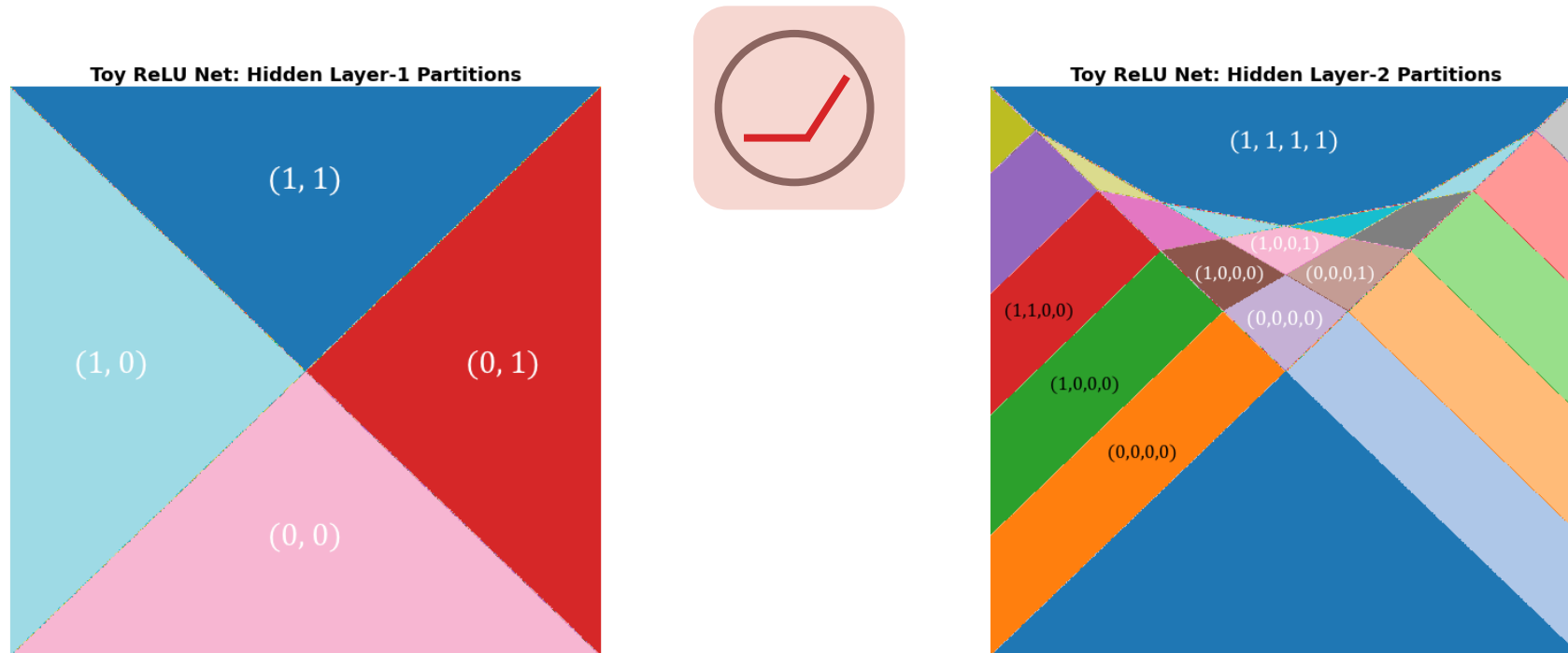
GLM (generalized linear model)



$$\mathbf{W}^{(0)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}^{(0)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}; \quad \mathbf{W}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1/4 \\ 1/2 & 1/3 \\ 1/3 & 1/2 \\ 1/4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}^{(1)} = \frac{3}{10} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

# Recursive Oblique Partitioning

Consider each ReLU activation node  $\chi_i^{(l)} = \max\{0, z_i^{(l)}\}$ : it is “on” if  $z_i^{(l)} \geq 0$  and “off” o.w.



Each activation pattern results in a **convex region partitioning** of the input domain.

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# Activation Pattern, and Activation Region

- Define the **activation pattern** as a binary vector with entries indicating the on/off state of each ReLU activation node in each hidden layer:

$$\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{P}^{(1)}; \dots; \mathbf{P}^{(L)}] \in \{0, 1\}^{\sum_{i=1}^L n_i}$$

- For a fitted ReLU DNN, each activation pattern defines a unique **activation region** in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .
- Convert each layerwise activation pattern to a binary diagonal matrix:

$$\mathbf{D}^{(l)} = \text{diag}(\mathbf{P}^{(l)}), \quad \text{for } l = 1, \dots, L.$$

- Then, we may derive the closed-form local linear representation for deep ReLU networks ...

# Local Linear Models

**Theorem 1 (Local Linear Model)** *For a ReLU DNN and any of its expressible activation pattern  $\mathbf{P}$ , the local linear model on the activation region  $\mathcal{R}^{\mathbf{P}}$  is given by*

$$\eta^{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{x}) = \tilde{\mathbf{w}}^{\mathbf{P}} \mathbf{x} + \tilde{b}^{\mathbf{P}}, \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^{\mathbf{P}}$$

*with the following closed-form parameters*

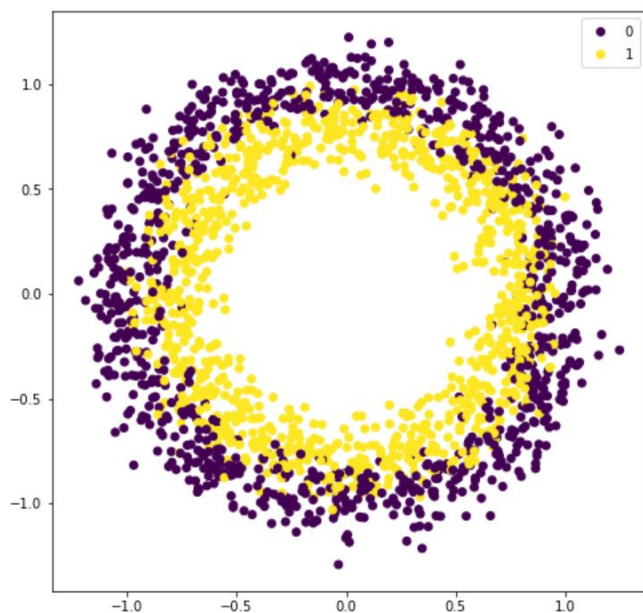
$$\tilde{\mathbf{w}}^{\mathbf{P}} = \prod_{h=1}^L \mathbf{W}^{(L+1-h)} \mathbf{D}^{(L+1-h)} \mathbf{W}^{(0)}, \quad \tilde{b}^{\mathbf{P}} = \sum_{l=1}^L \prod_{h=1}^{L+1-l} \mathbf{W}^{(L+1-h)} \mathbf{D}^{(L+1-h)} \mathbf{b}^{(l-1)} + b^{(L)}.$$

More details in **Sudjianto, et al. (2020)**: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.04041>

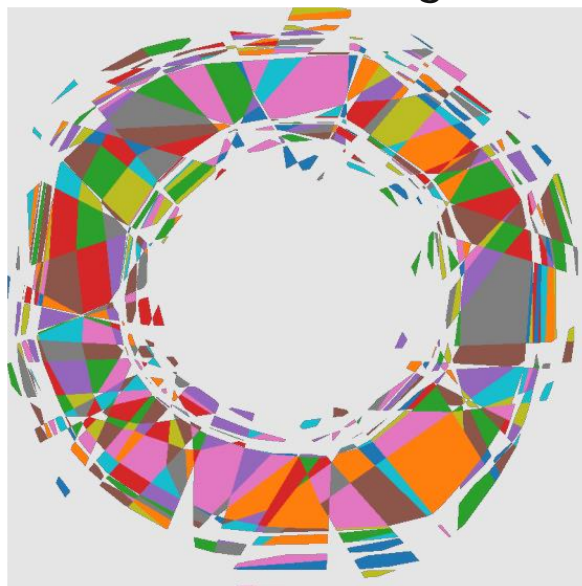


# Deep ReLU DNN: Data Segmentation and LLMs

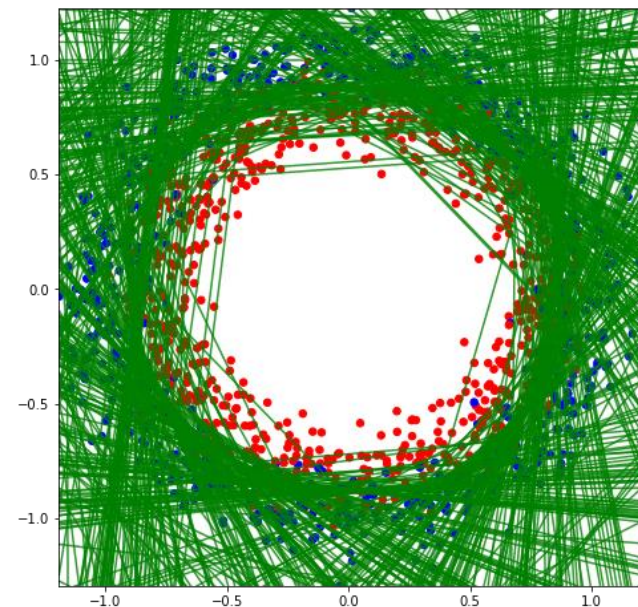
Simulated Data



Space Partitioning  
into activation regions



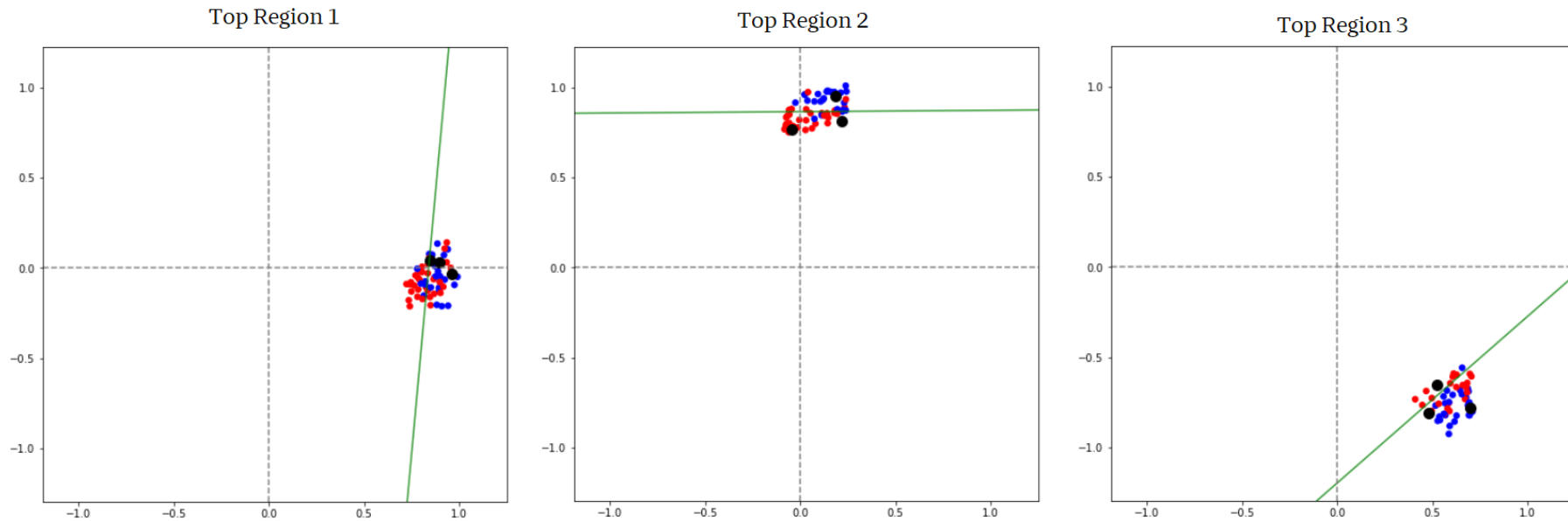
Local Linear Models



- ReLU DNN with 4 hidden layers (each 40 nodes): **high performance** (AUC  $\sim 0.93$ ) upon SGD training
- **Unwrapped transparency:** 530 regions/LLMs;  $\sim 85\%$  of regions have only a single instance per region
- **Transparency  $\neq$  Interpretability/Robustness:** overparameterized with lots of unreliable LLMs.

# Exact Local Interpretability

Take 3 random instances in each top region unwrapper from pre-trained ReLU DNN:



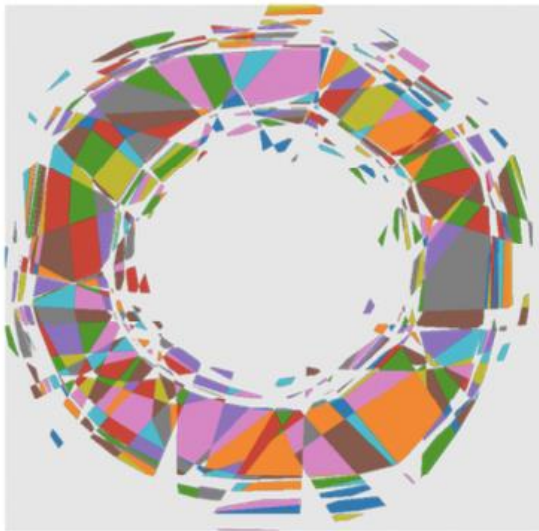
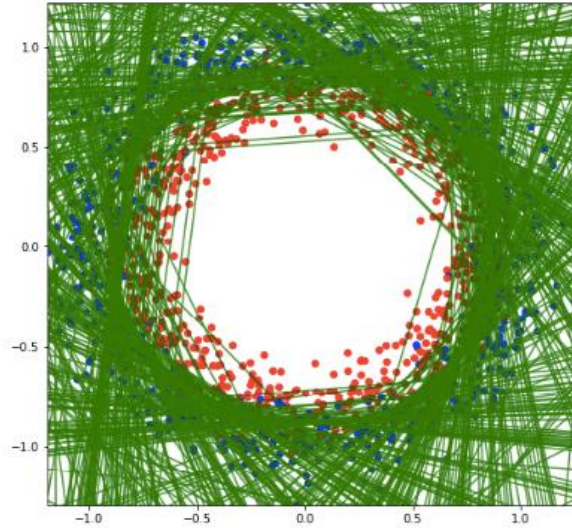
- ReLU DNN (unwrapped by Aletheia) predicts each region by a local linear model, which provides **exact characterization** of **local feature importance**.
- Indeed, each local linear model (green) approximates well the circle trajectory.

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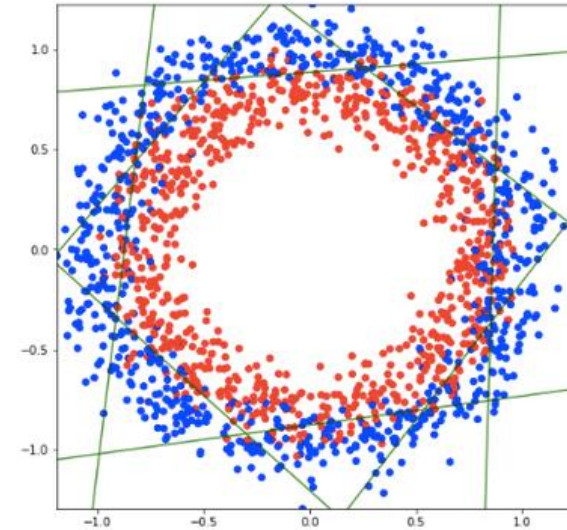
# Simplification by the Merging Method



Merging

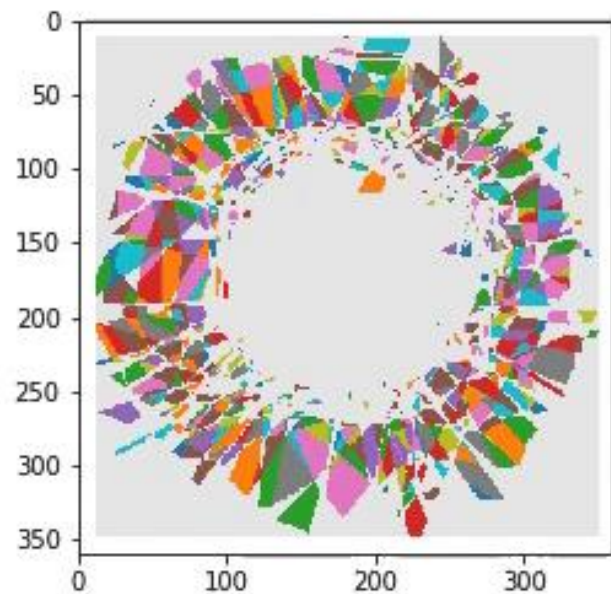
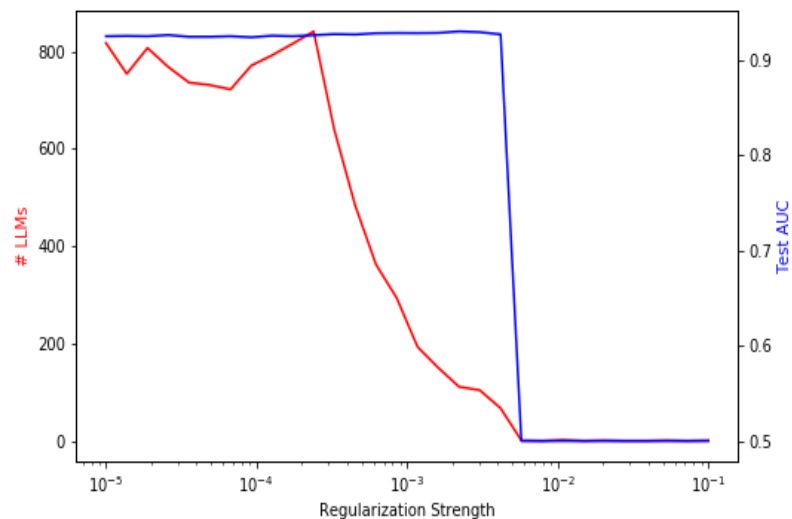


with cross-validated  
number of clusters

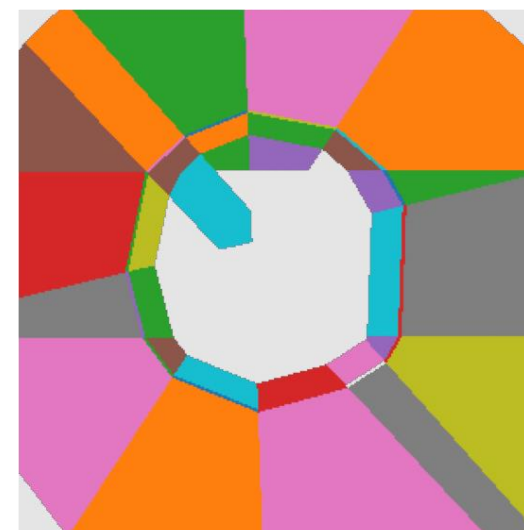
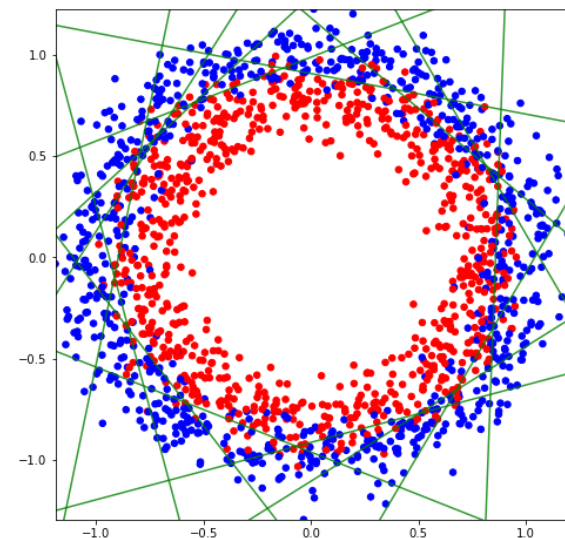




# Simplification by L1-Regularization



via an appropriate  
L1-hyperparameter



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# Examples using the PiML Toolbox

- Example 1: CoCircles Data
- Example 2: TaiwanCredit Data
- PiML Demo Examples based on Google Colab
- <https://github.com/SelfExplainML/PiML-Toolbox/tree/main/docs/Workshop/202306-RiskLearning>
- See also:
  - PiML User Guide: <https://selfexplainml.github.io/PiML-Toolbox/>
  - [https://selfexplainml.github.io/PiML-Toolbox/\\_build/html/guides/cases/Example\\_TaiwanCredit.html](https://selfexplainml.github.io/PiML-Toolbox/_build/html/guides/cases/Example_TaiwanCredit.html)



Thank you

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