



# CS109: Probability for Computer Scientists

# Chris Piech

My parents are interesting folks

I originally concentrated in graphics and worked at Pixar

- Childhood: Nairobi, Kenya
- High School: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Stanford University Ph.D. in Deep Learning
- Research lab on AI for Social Good

The problem I really want to solve is to make high quality more education accessible



# I Took the First CS109 Class



Back when I looked like this 😊



# Teaching Team



**Professor: Chris Piech**  
✉ piech@cs.stanford.edu  
⌚ Thurs 1-3pm  
🏡 Gates 202



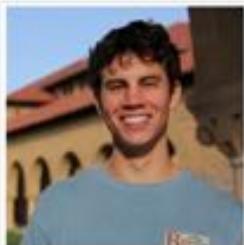
**TA: Julia Daniel**  
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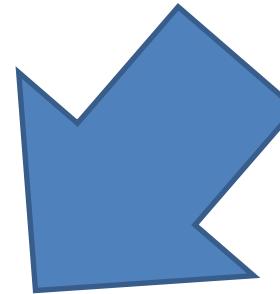
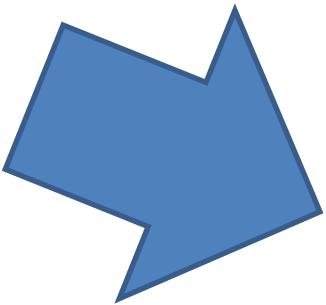
**TA: Sam Schwager**  
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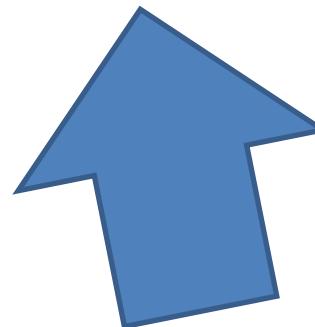
# Course mechanics

(this is a light version. Please read the handout  
for details).

# Essential Information



[cs109.stanford.edu](http://cs109.stanford.edu)



Are you in the right place?

# Prereqs

What you really need:

**CS106B/X (important):**

- Recursion
- Hash Tables
- Binary Trees
- Programming

**CS103 (ok as a corequisite):**

- Proof techniques (induction)
- Set theory
- Math maturity

**Math 51 or CME 100 (important)**

- Multivariate differentiation
- Multivariate integration
- Basic facility with linear algebra (vectors)



# Coding in CS109



Review session on Friday

Piech, CS106A, Stanford University

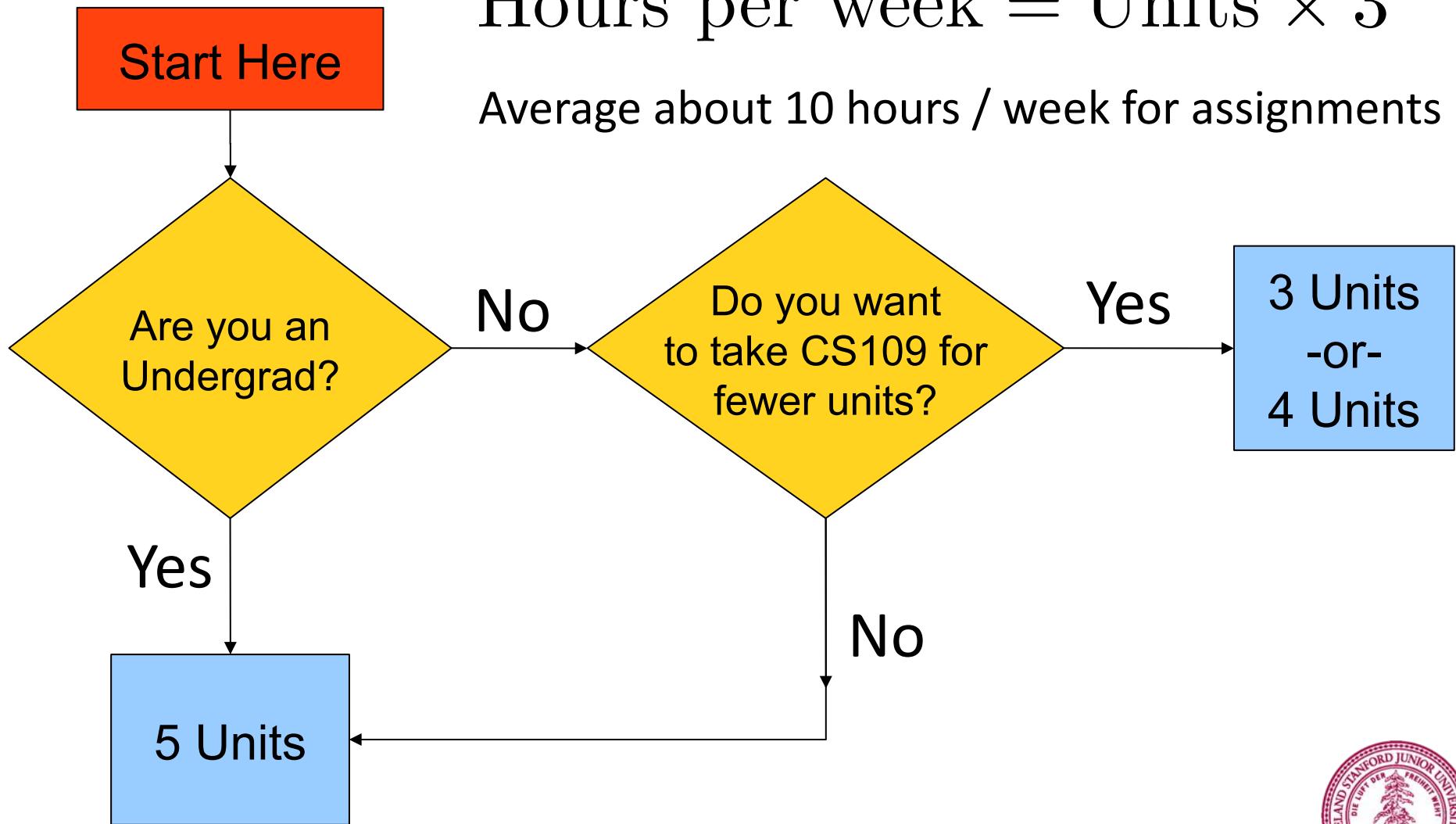


# Staff Contact

- Post to Piazza for clarification
- Go to Working Office Hours
- Email [cs109@cs.stanford.edu](mailto:cs109@cs.stanford.edu)
- Email Chris or go to his office for course level issues.



# CS109 Units



# Not Videotaped



\* And you should expect to learn more



# Class Breakdown

45%

**6 Assignments**

20%

**Midterm**

Tuesday Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm

30%

**Final**

Wed Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-6:30pm

5%

**Section Participation**



# Late Days

2



# The Student Honor Code



# Story of Modern AI

Modern AI  
or, How we learned to combine  
probability and programming

# Brief History



# Narrow Intelligence

Play Chess

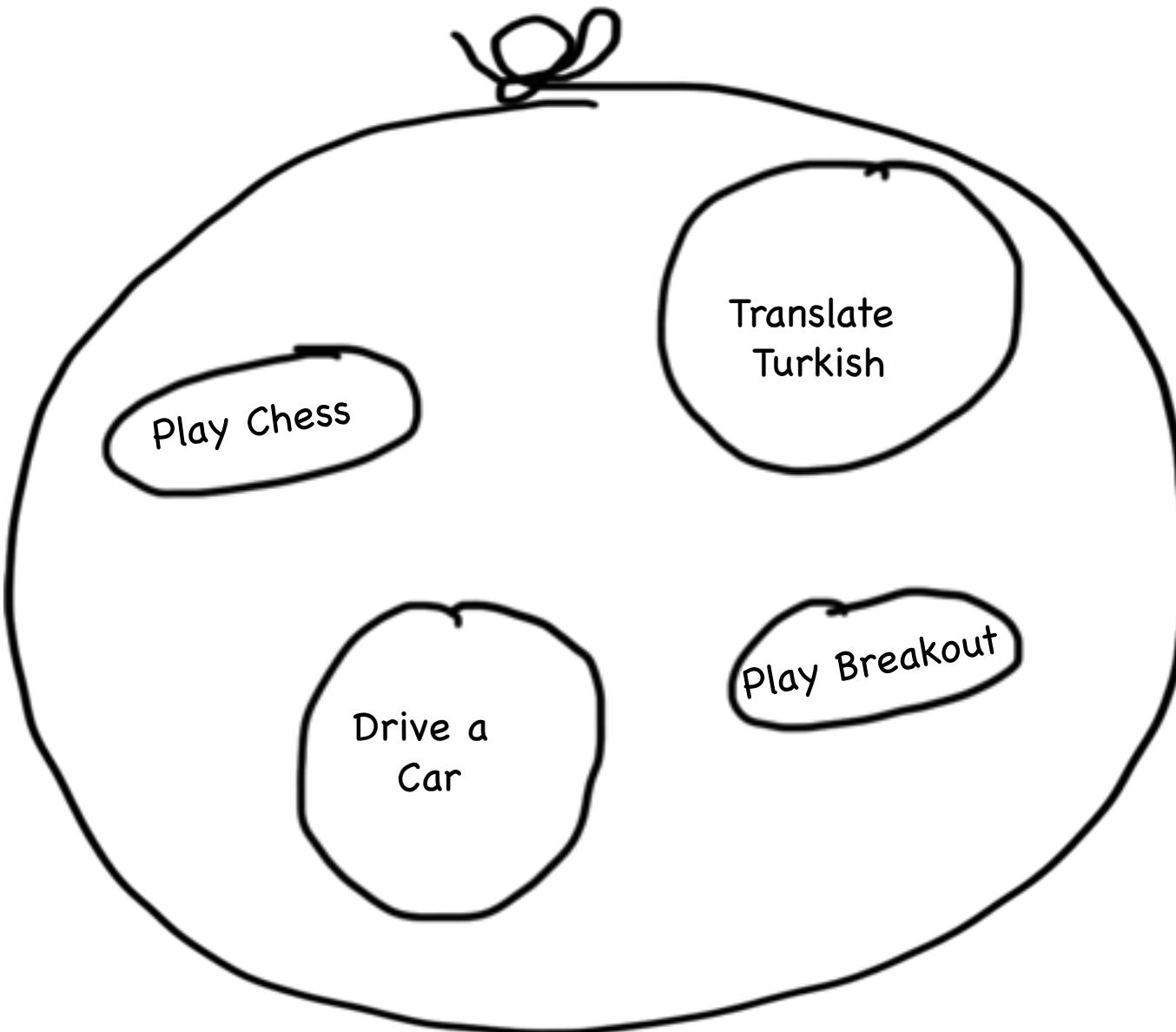
Translate  
Turkish

Drive a  
Car

Play Breakout



# General Intelligence

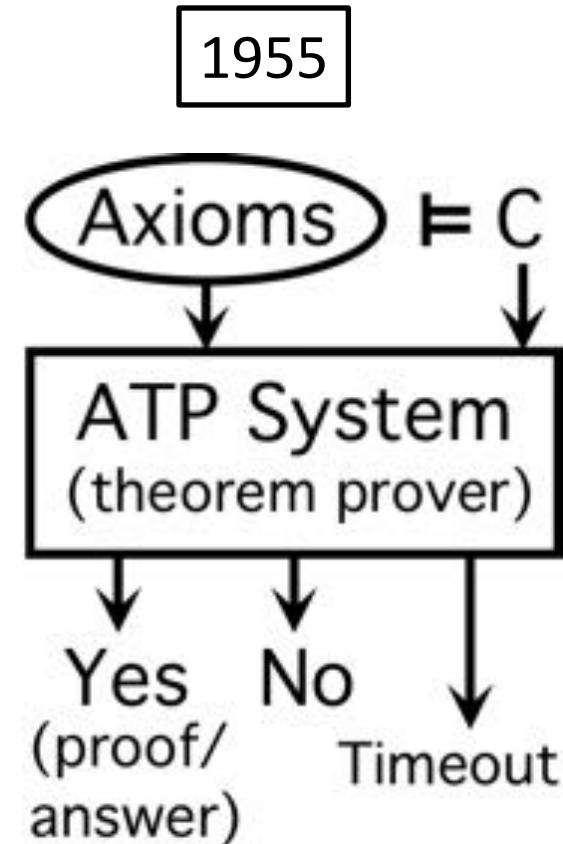


# Early Optimism 1950

1952



1955



# Early Optimism 1950

“Machines will be capable,  
within twenty years, of doing  
any work a man can do.”  
—Herbert Simon, 1952



# Underwhelming Results 1950s to 1980s

*The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.*



(Russian)



*The vodka is good but the meat is rotten.*

The world is too complex



**BRACE YOURSELVES**



**WINTER IS COMING**

Something is going on in the world of AI

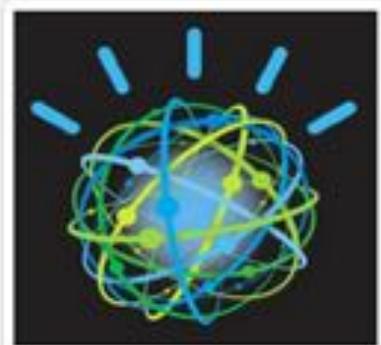
# Big Milestones Pt 1



1997 Deep Blue

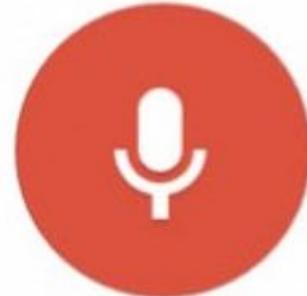


2005 Stanley



2011 Watson

# Told Speech Was 30 Years Out



Almost perfect...

Piech, CS106A, Stanford University



# The Last Remaining Board Game



# Computers Making Art



# Self Driving Cars



*What is going on?*

[suspense]

Focus on one problem

# Computer Vision



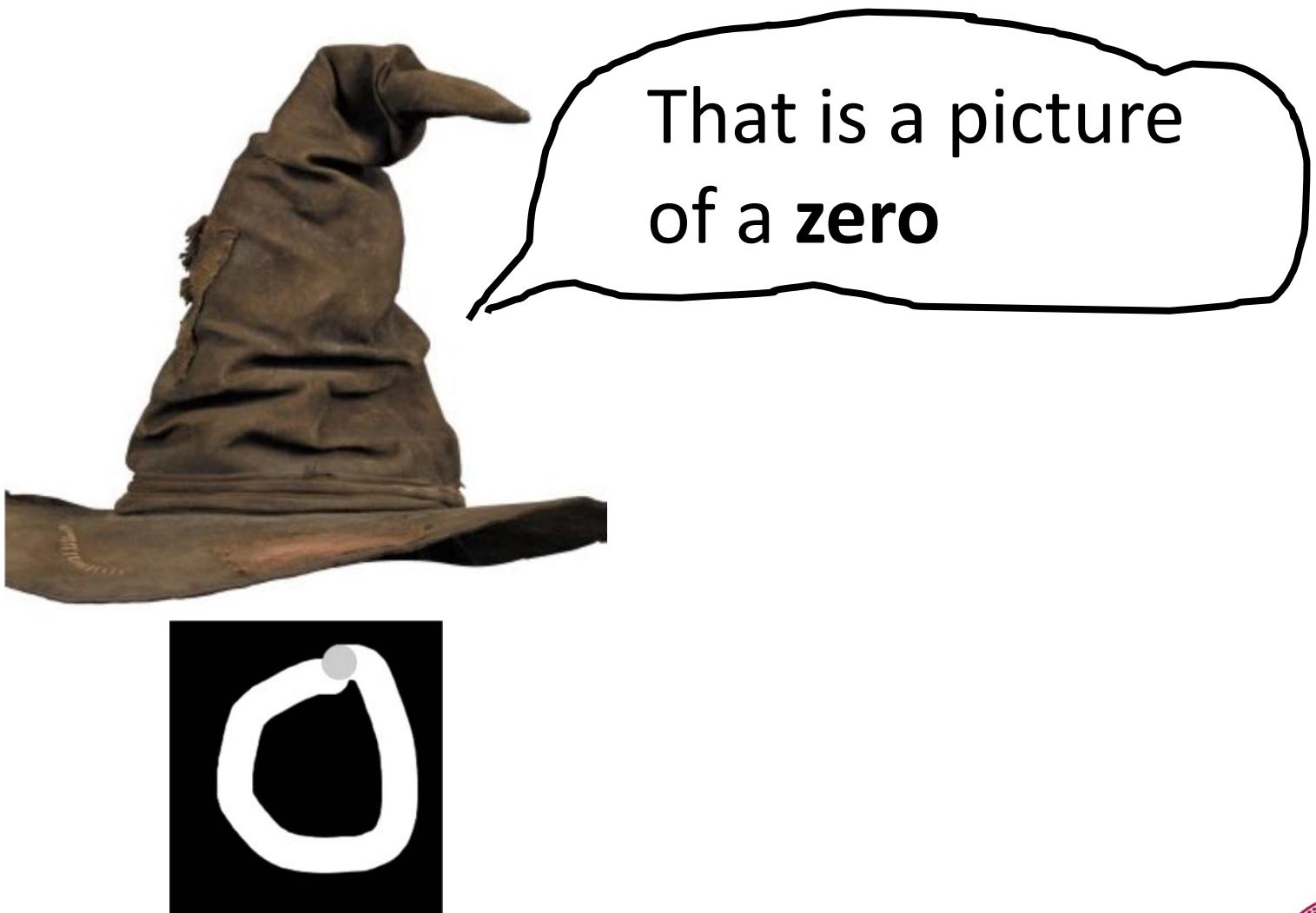
Piech, CS106A, Stanford University



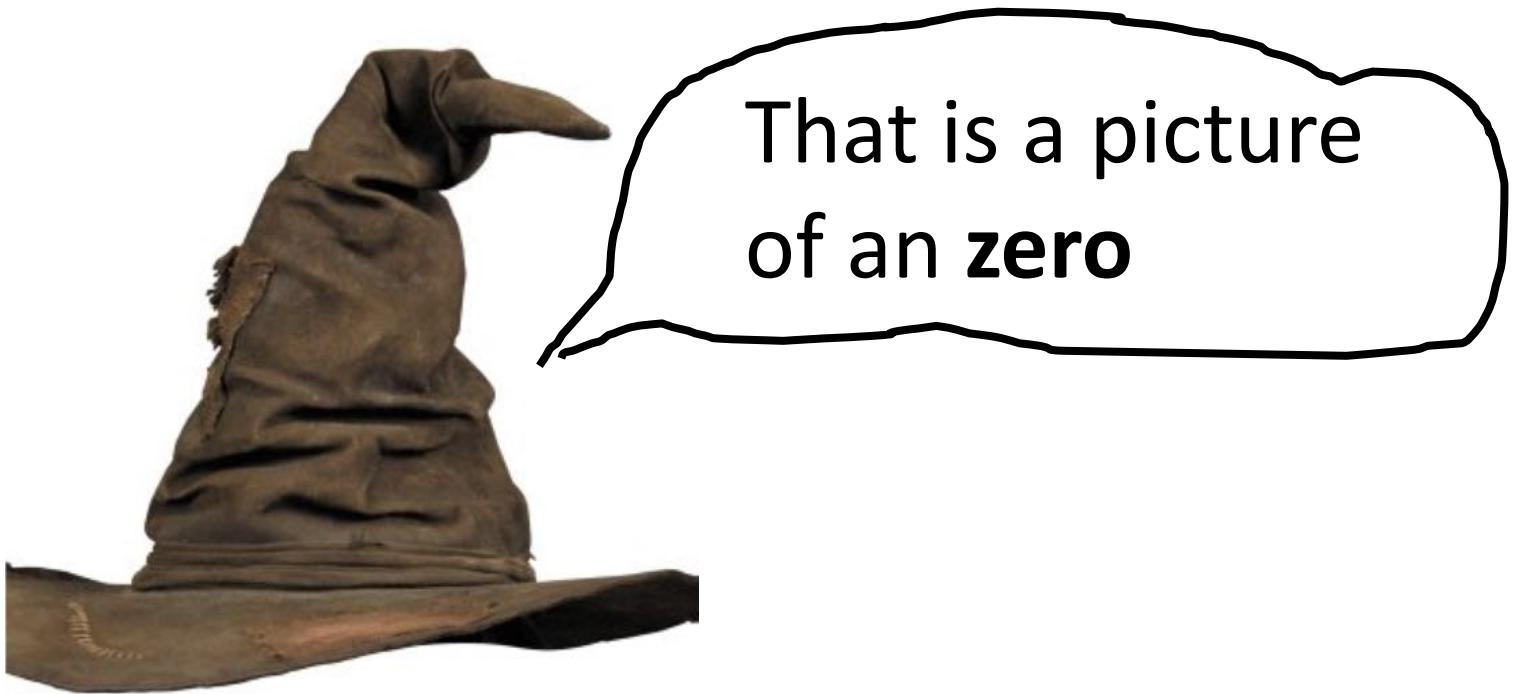
# Classification



# Classification



# Classification

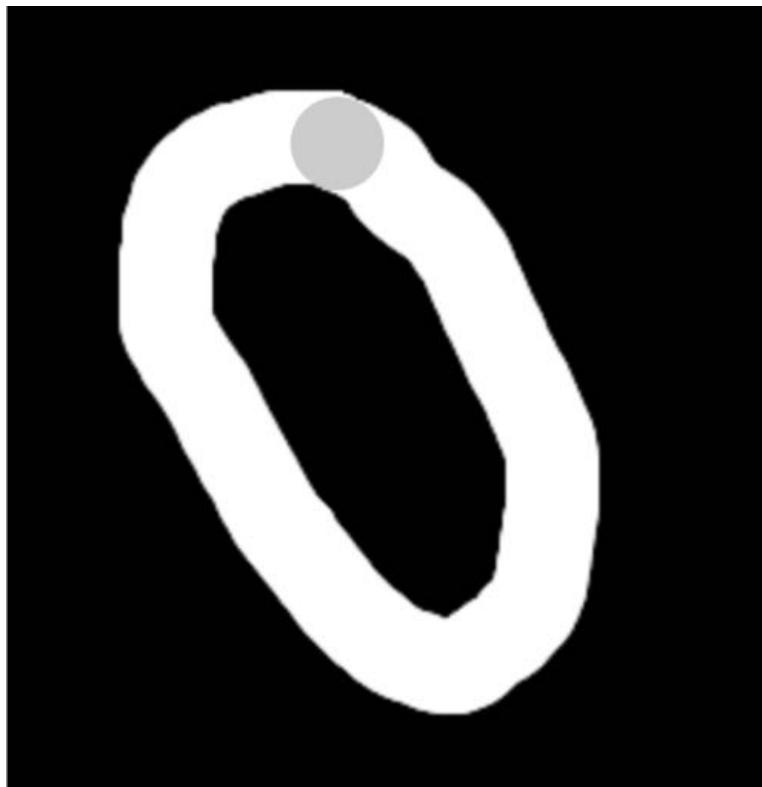


\* It doesn't have to be  
correct all of the time

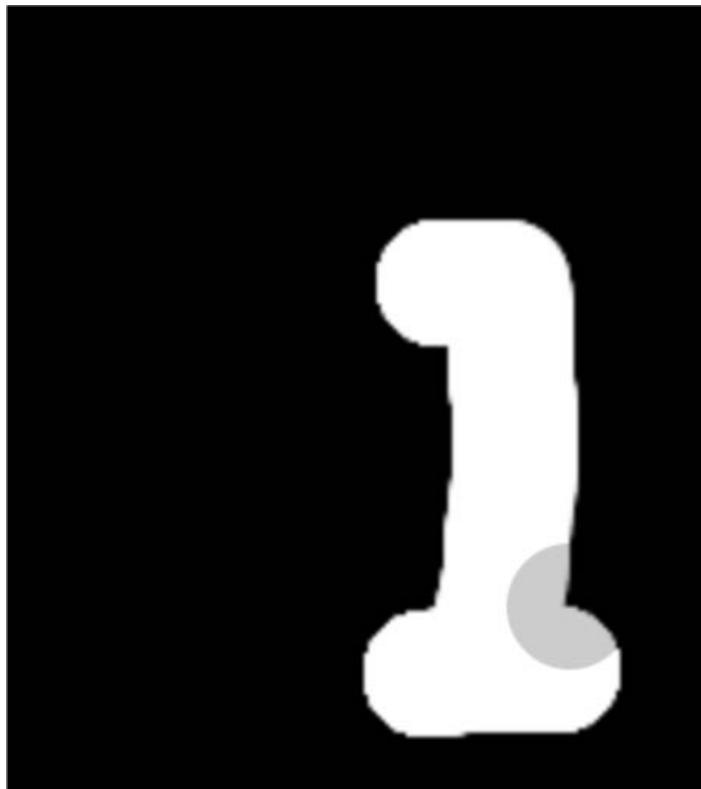


Can you do it?

# What number is this?



# What number is this?



# How about now?

What a computer sees

0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1



What a human sees



# Very hard to Program



```
public class HarryHat extends ConsoleProgram {  
  
    public void run() {  
        println("Todo: Write program");  
    }  
}
```



# Two Great Ideas

1. Probability from Examples

2. Artificial Neurons

# Two Great Ideas

**1. Probability from Examples**

**2. Artificial Neurons**

# 1. Probability From Examples



# When Does the Magic Happen?

Lots of  
Data + Sound  
Probability



# Machine Learning

Basically just a rebranding of statistics  
and probability.



# Vision is Hard

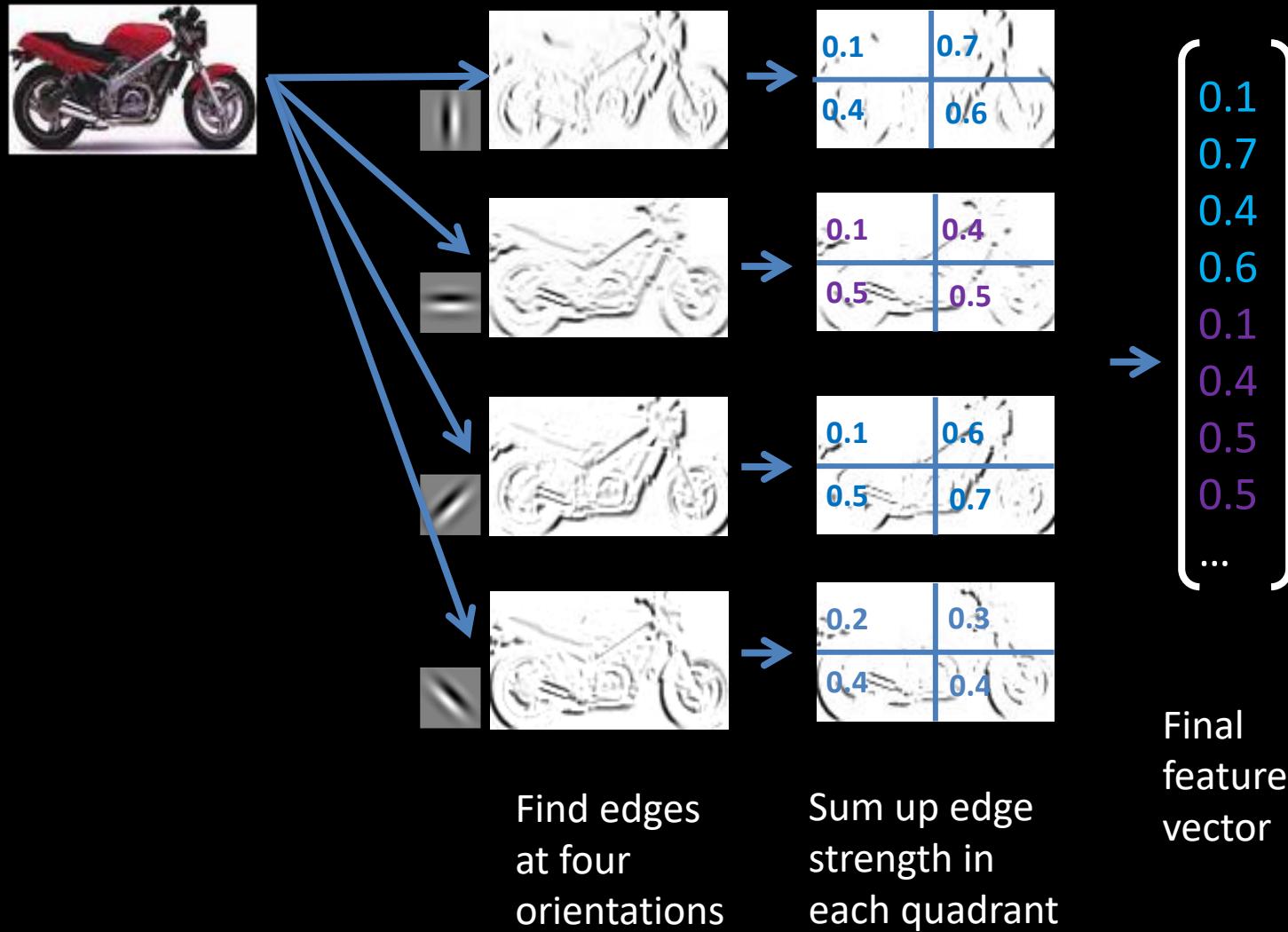
You see this:



But the camera sees this:

194	210	201	212	199	213	215	195	178	158	182	209
180	189	190	221	209	205	191	167	147	115	129	163
114	126	140	188	176	165	152	140	170	106	78	88
87	103	115	154	143	142	149	153	173	101	57	57
102	112	106	131	122	138	152	147	128	84	58	66
94	95	79	104	105	124	129	113	107	87	69	67
68	71	69	98	89	92	98	95	89	88	76	67
41	56	68	99	63	45	60	82	58	76	75	65
20	43	69	75	56	41	51	73	55	70	63	44
50	50	57	69	75	75	73	74	53	68	59	37
72	59	53	66	84	92	84	74	57	72	63	42
67	61	58	65	75	78	76	73	59	75	69	50

# Human Designed Features



# Some Great Thinkers



Daphne Koller

# Straight ML Not Perfect...

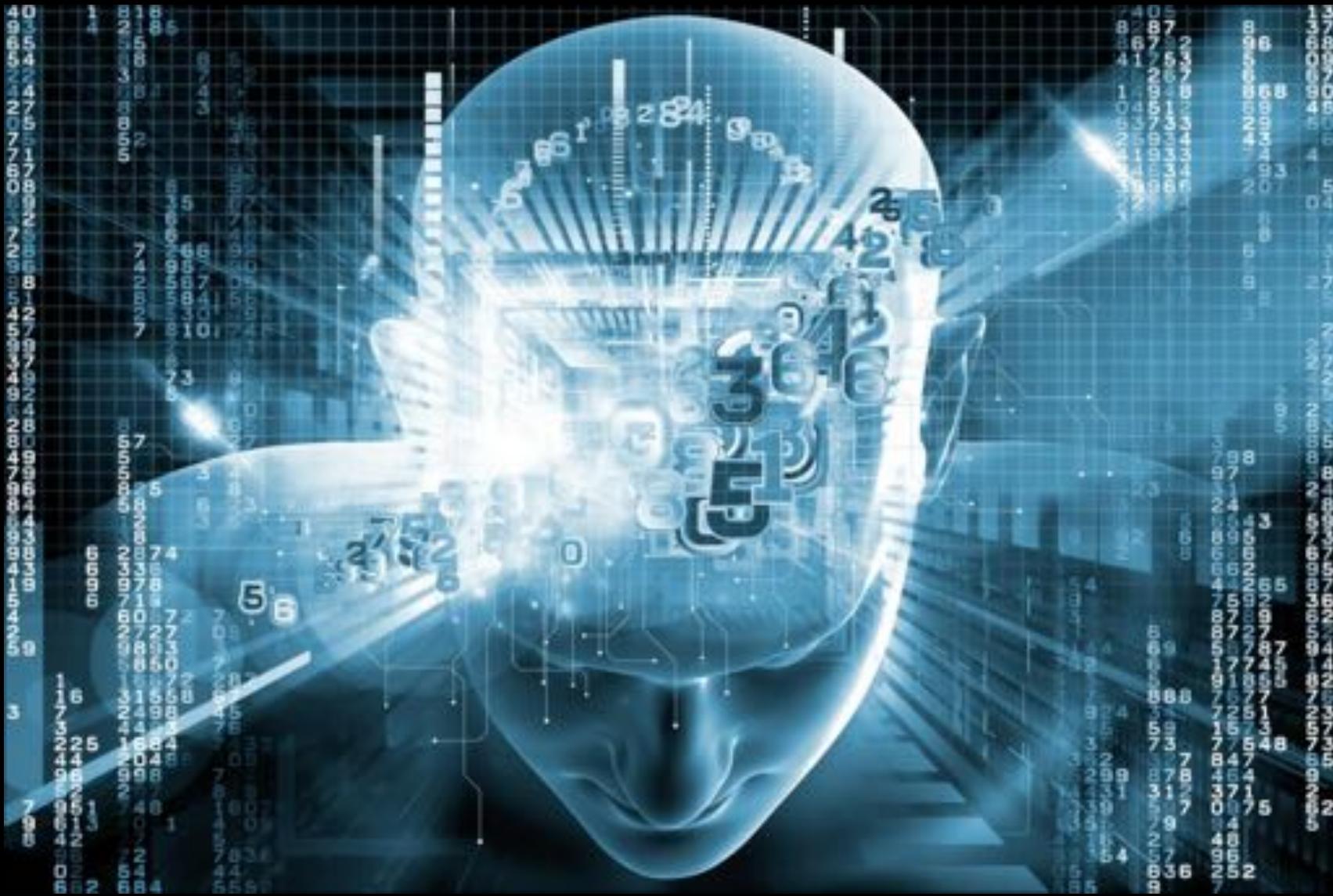


# Two Great Ideas

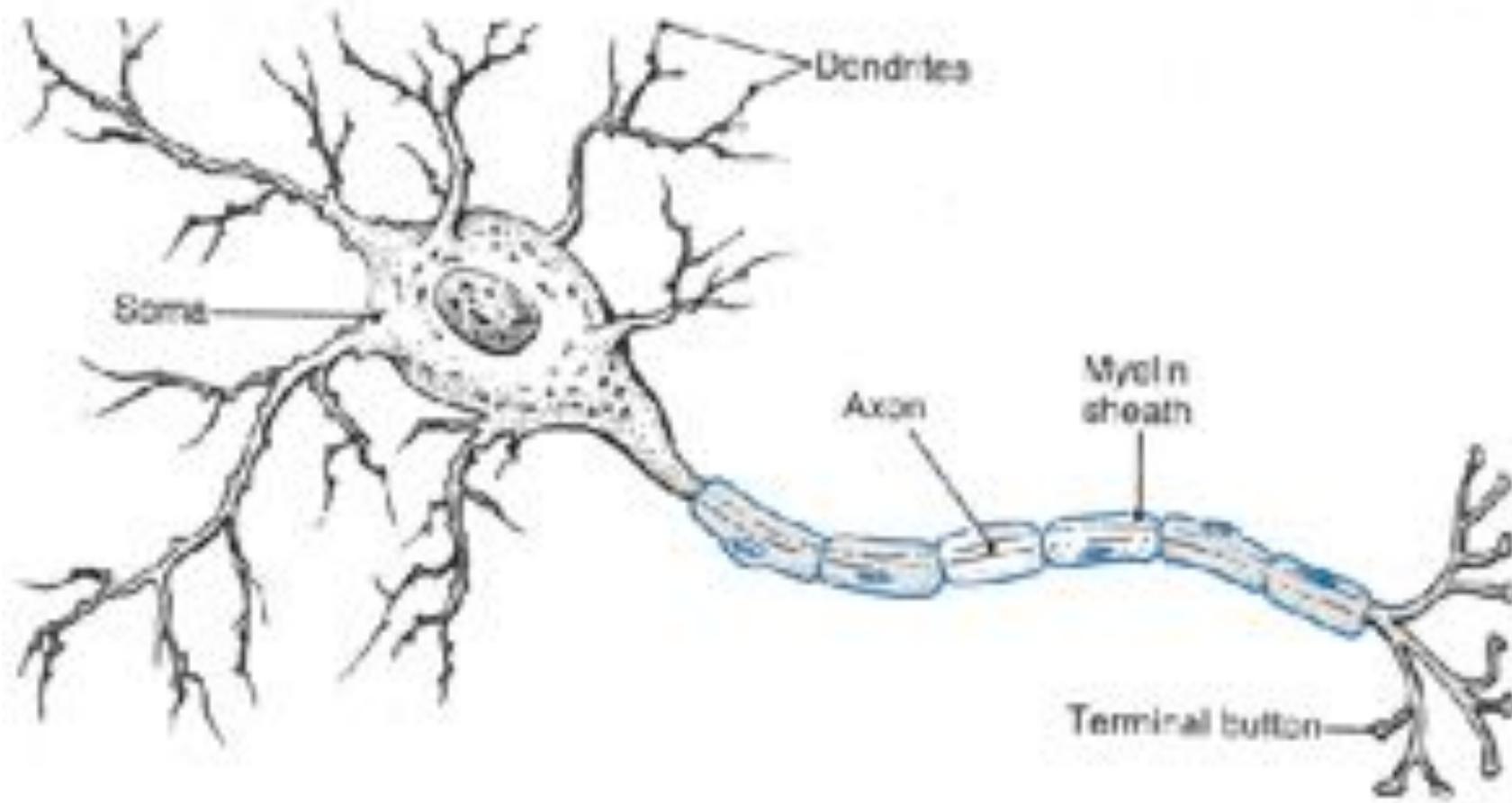
1. Probability from Examples

2. Artificial Neurons

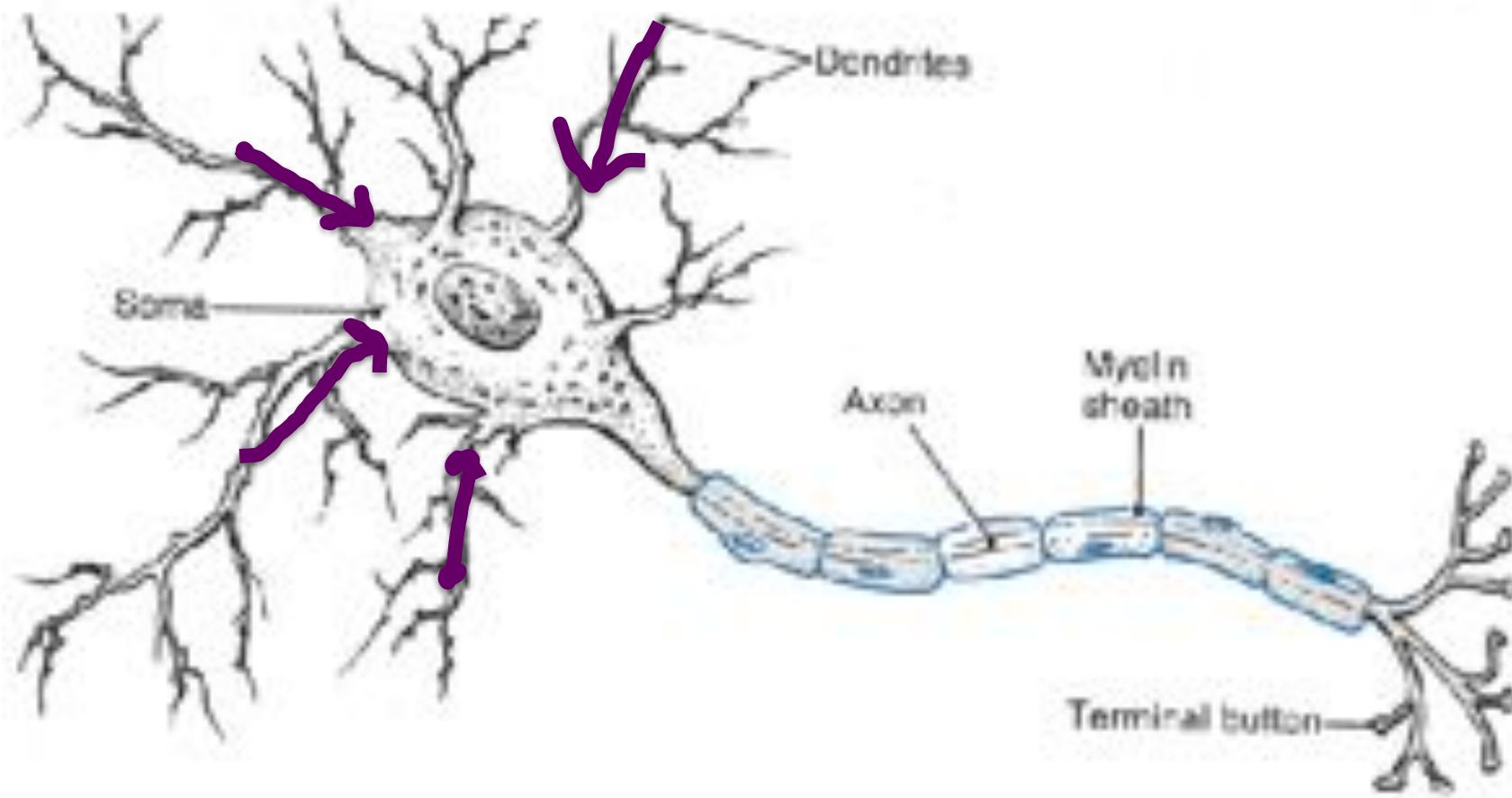
# 2. Artificial Neurons



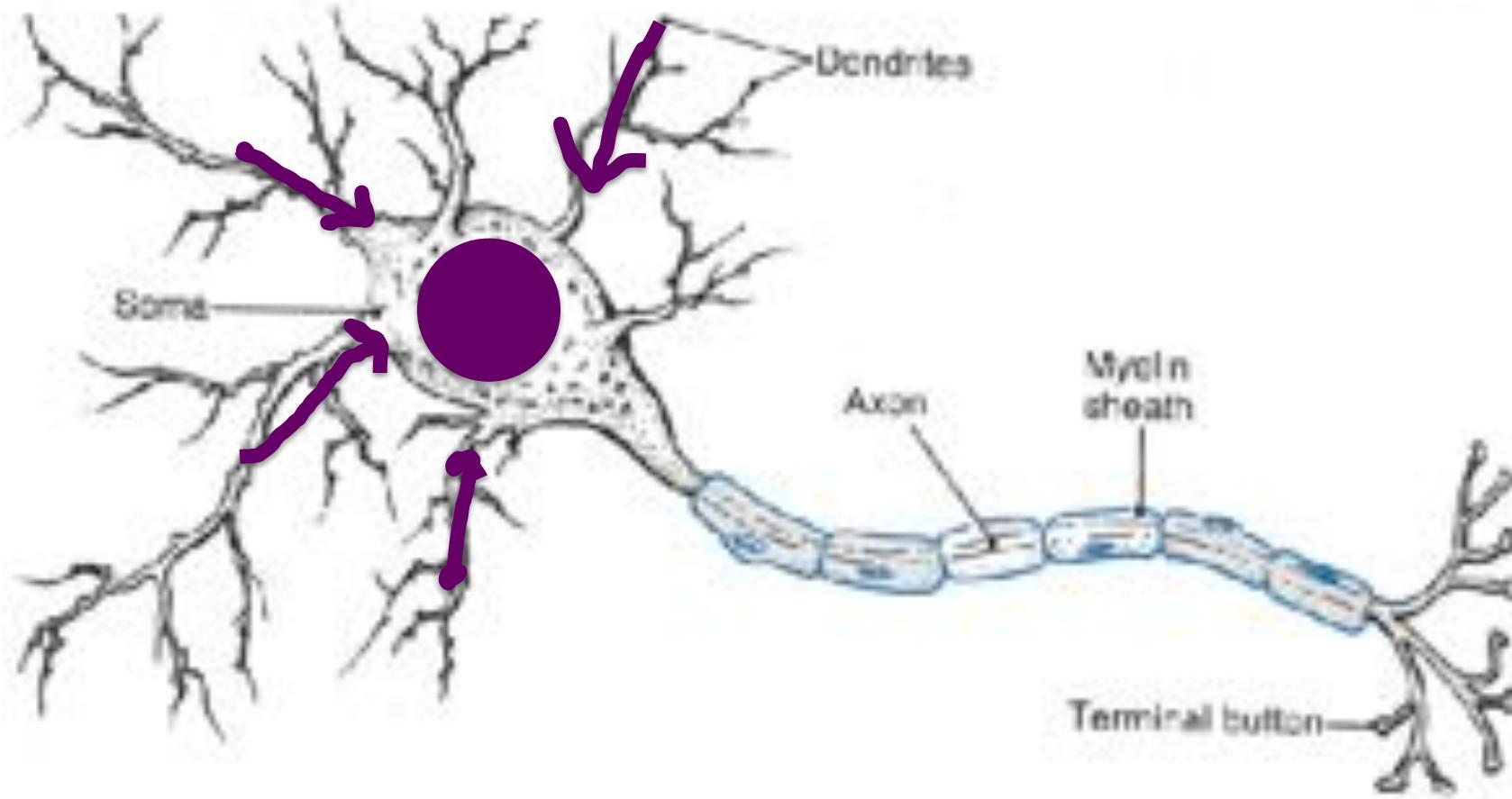
# Neuron



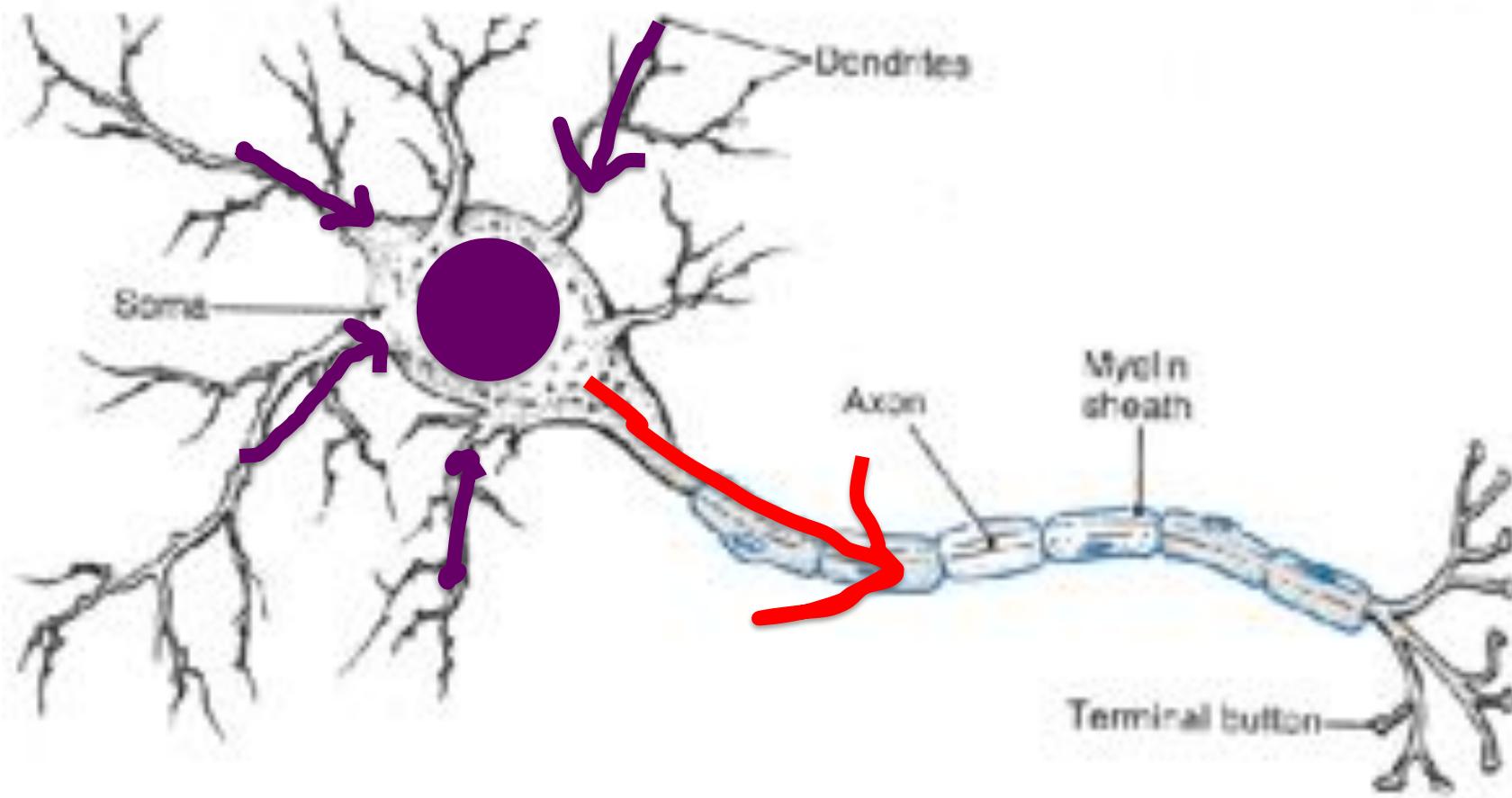
# Neuron



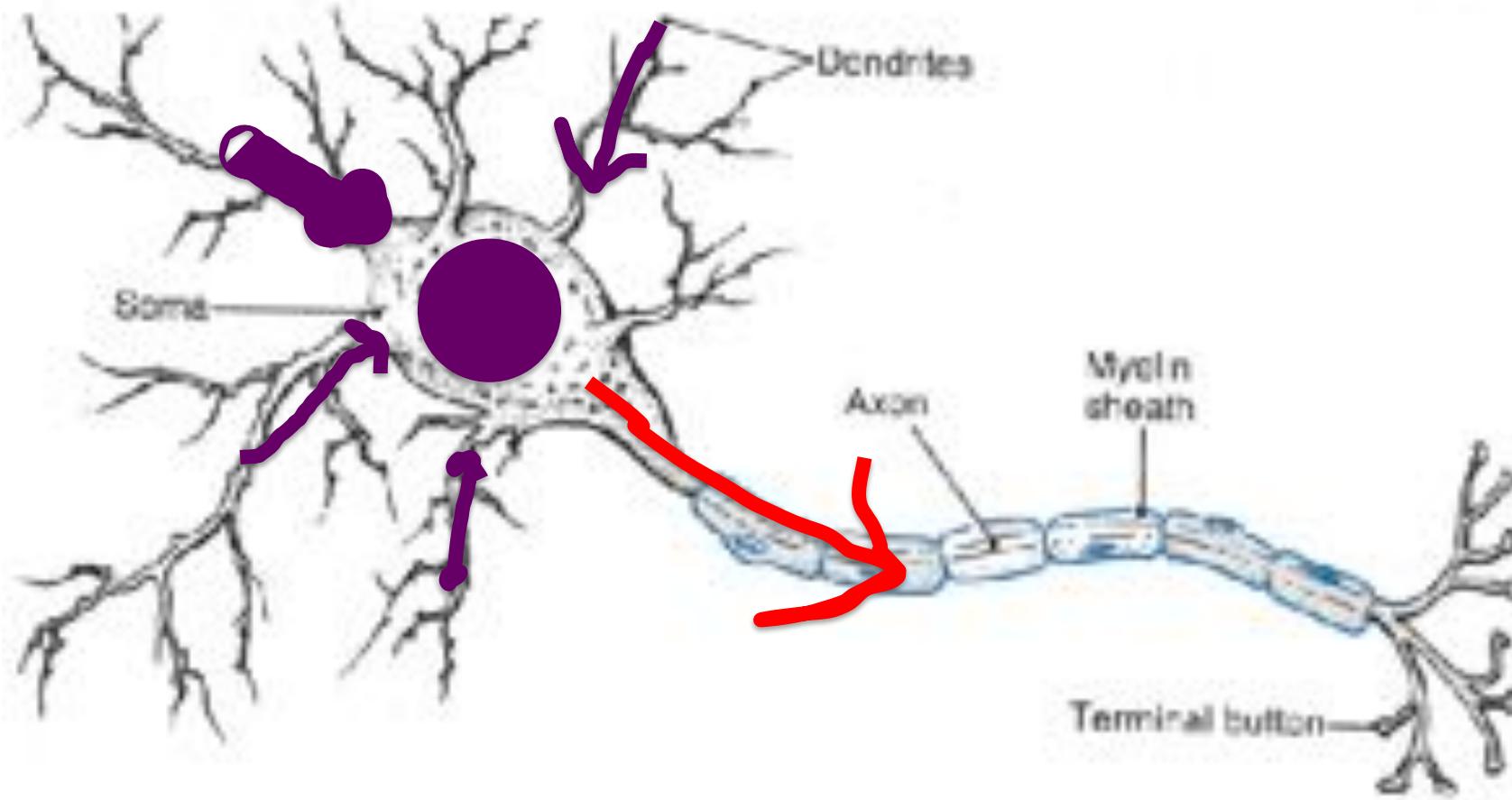
# Neuron



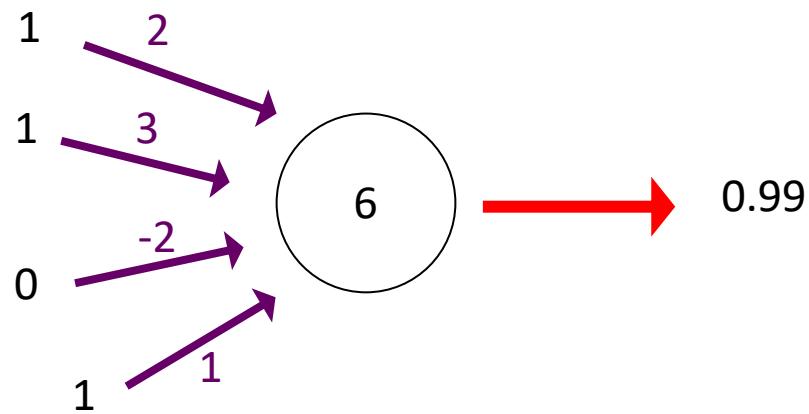
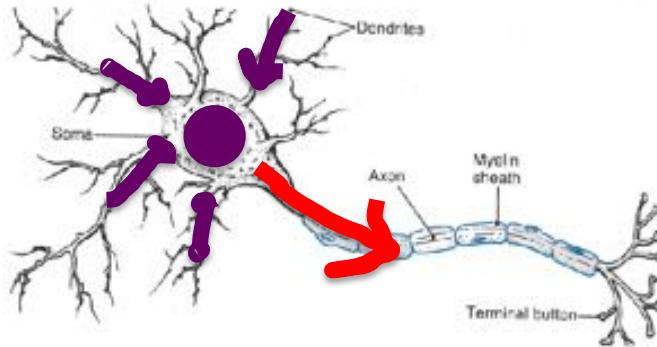
# Neuron



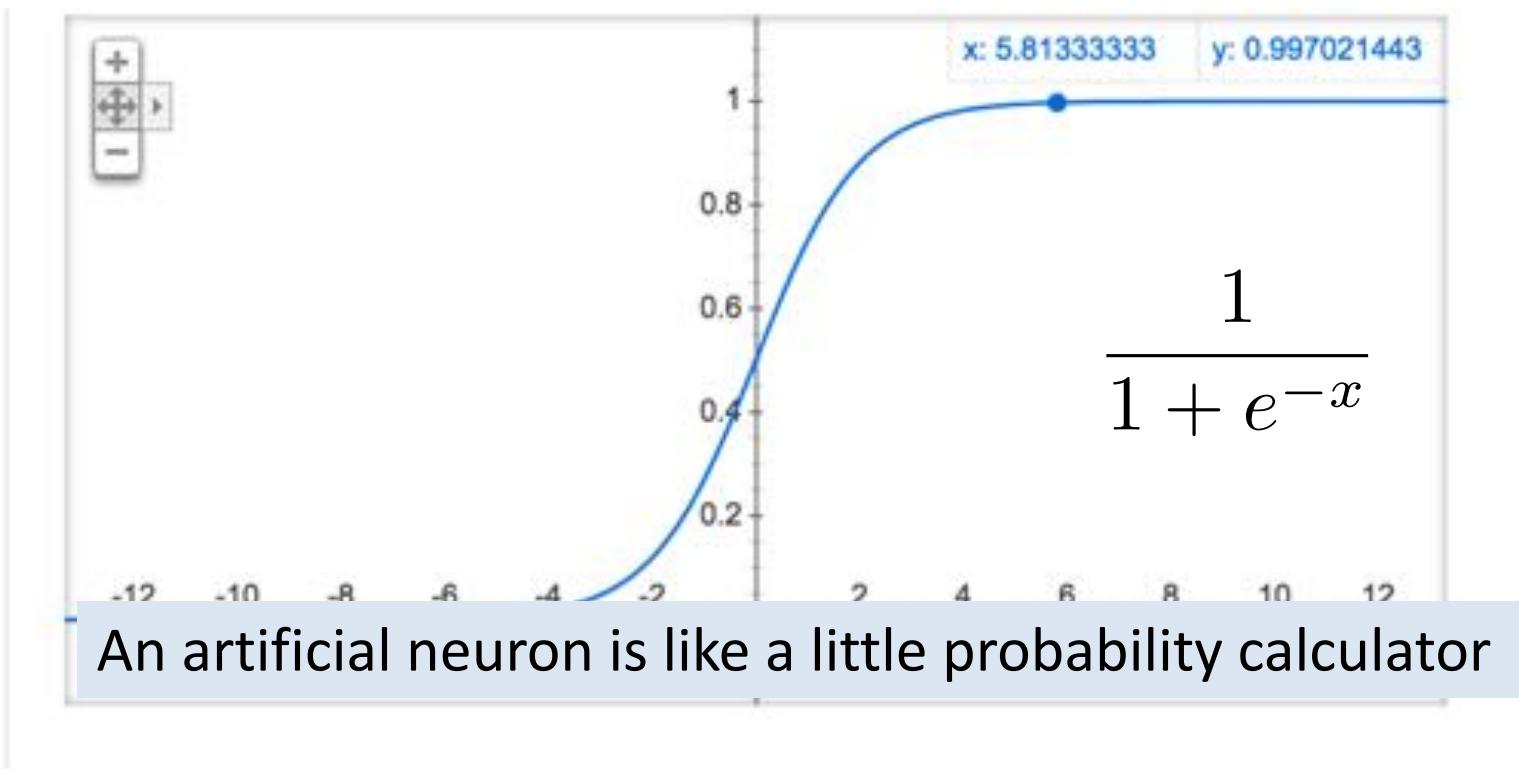
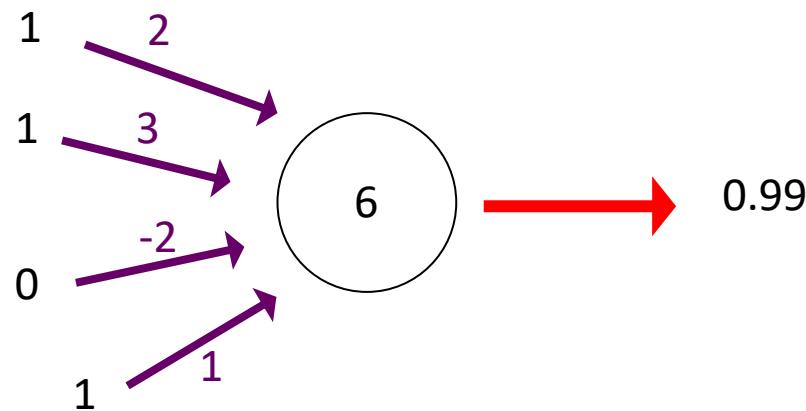
# Some Inputs are More Important



# Artificial Neuron



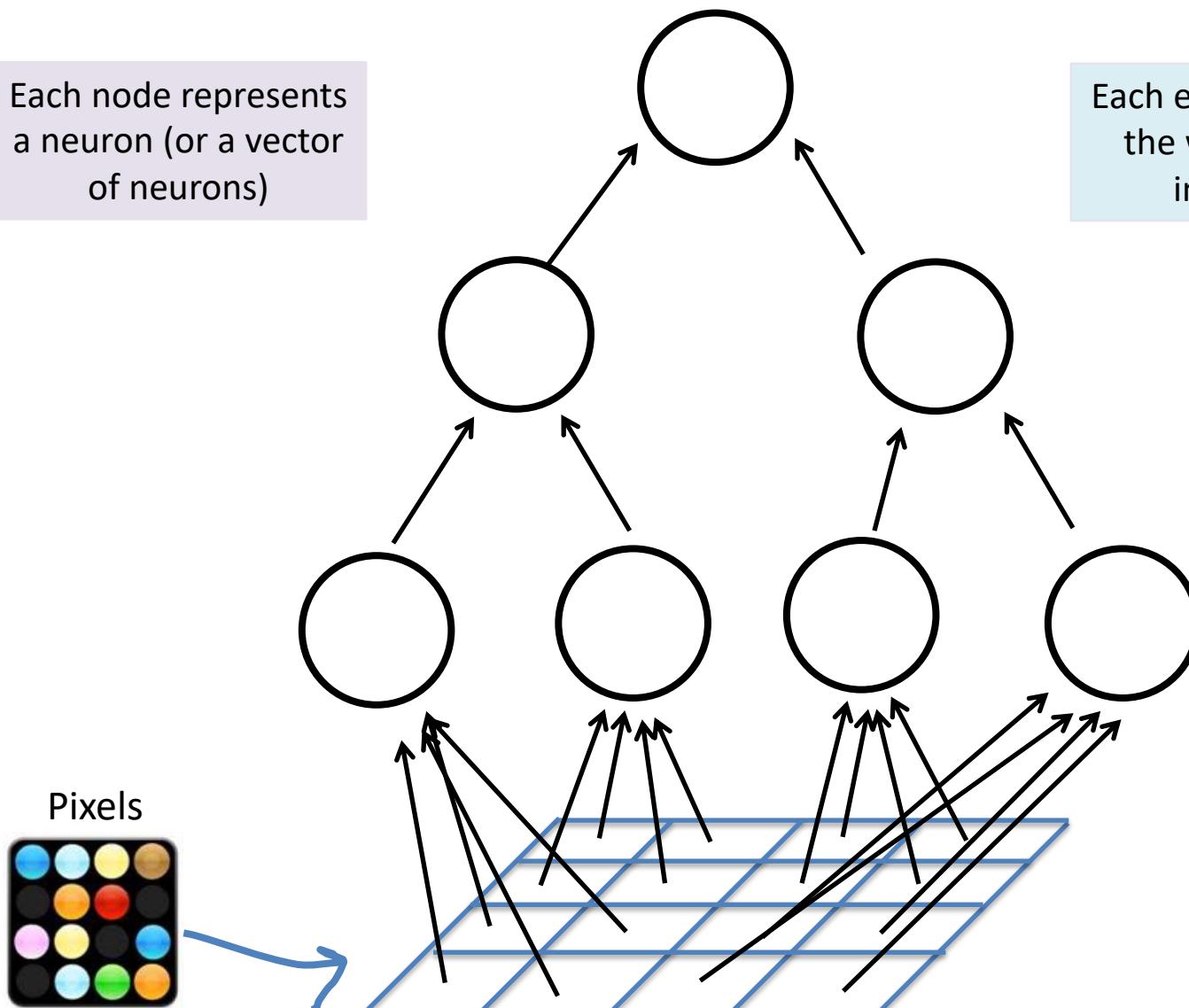
# Sigmoid Function



# Neural Network

Each node represents  
a neuron (or a vector  
of neurons)

Each edge represents  
the weight of the  
interaction



Piech, CS106A, Stanford University

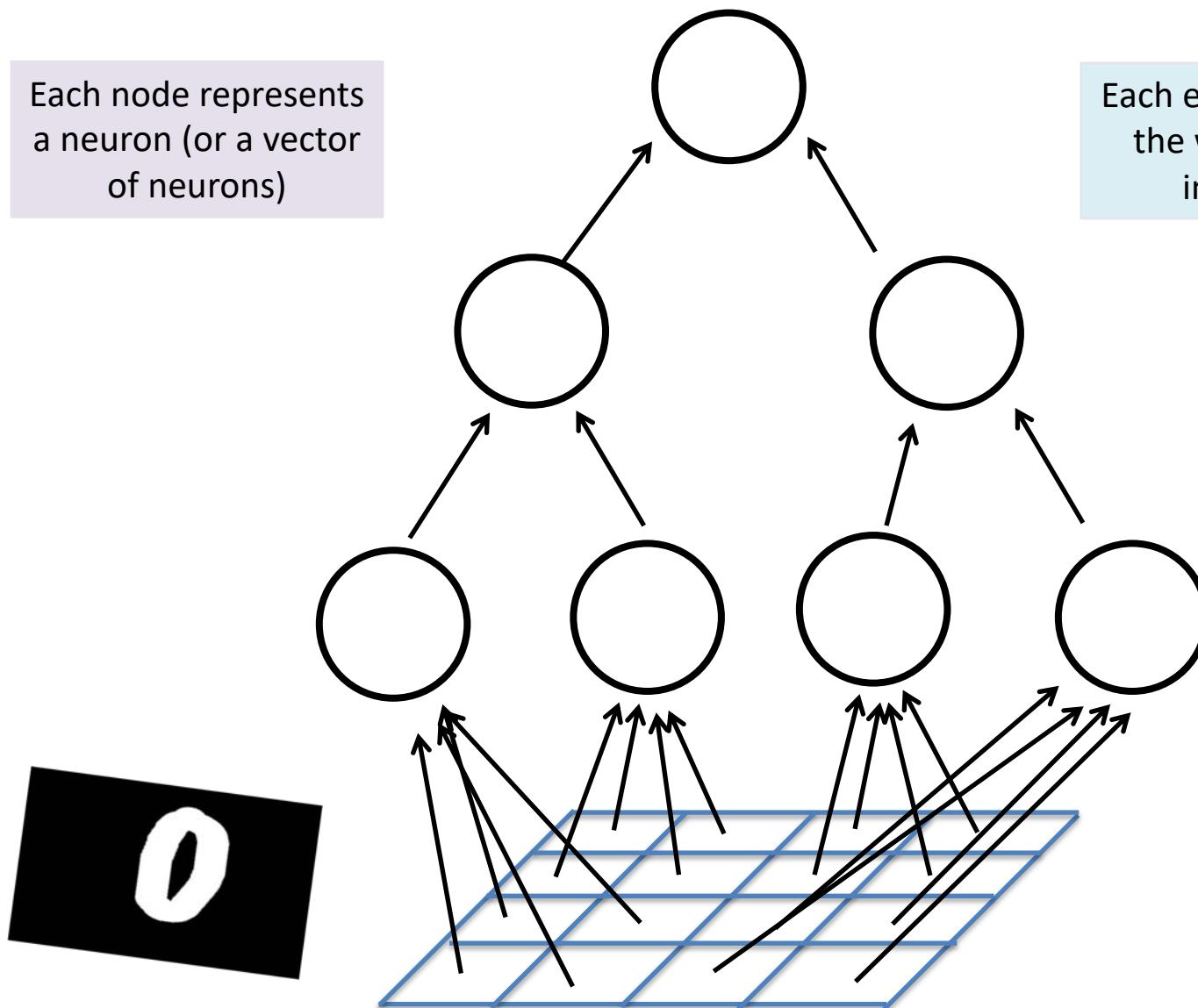


Forward Pass...

# Forward Pass

Each node represents  
a neuron (or a vector  
of neurons)

Each edge represents  
the weight of the  
interaction



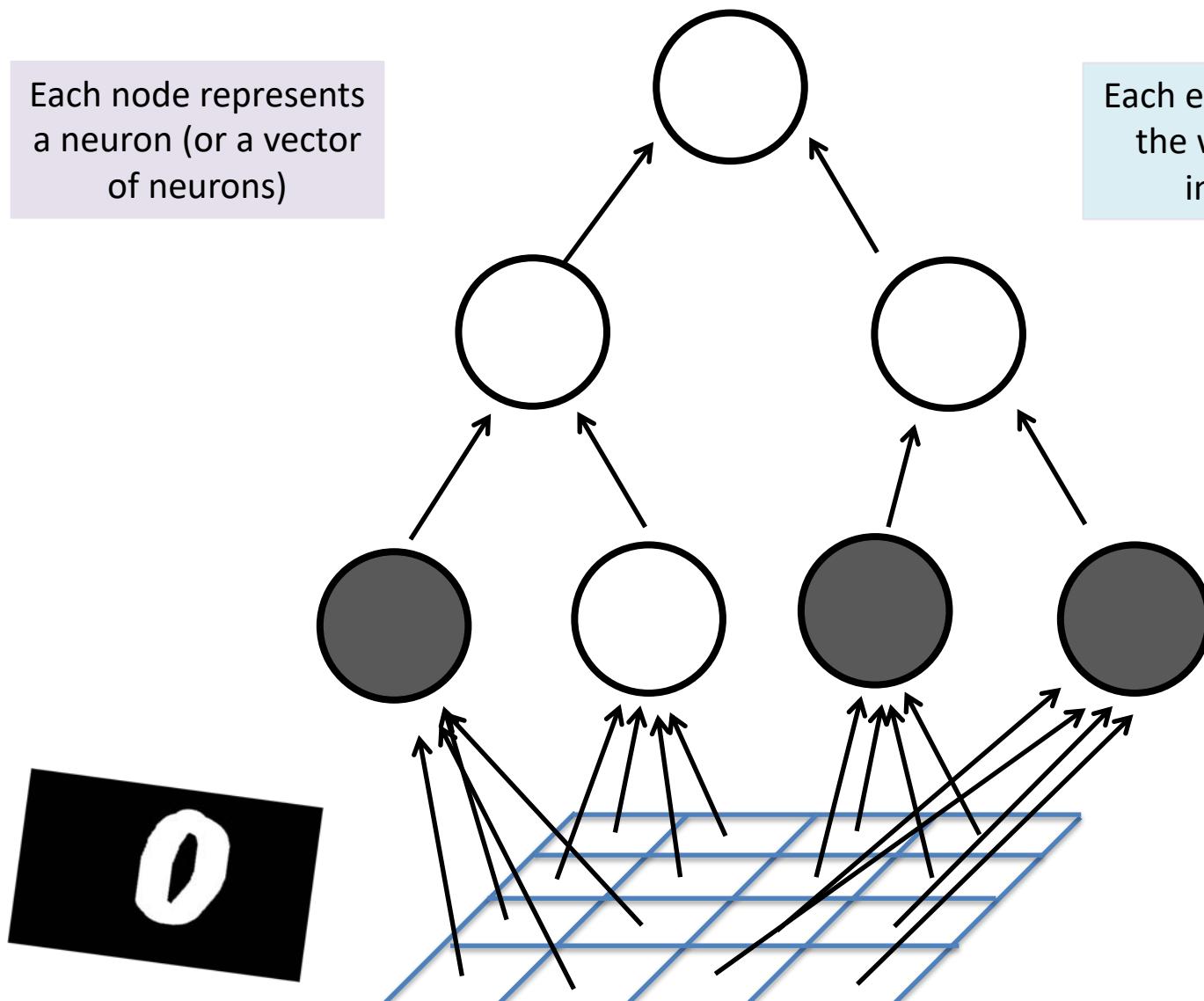
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# Forward Pass

Each node represents  
a neuron (or a vector  
of neurons)

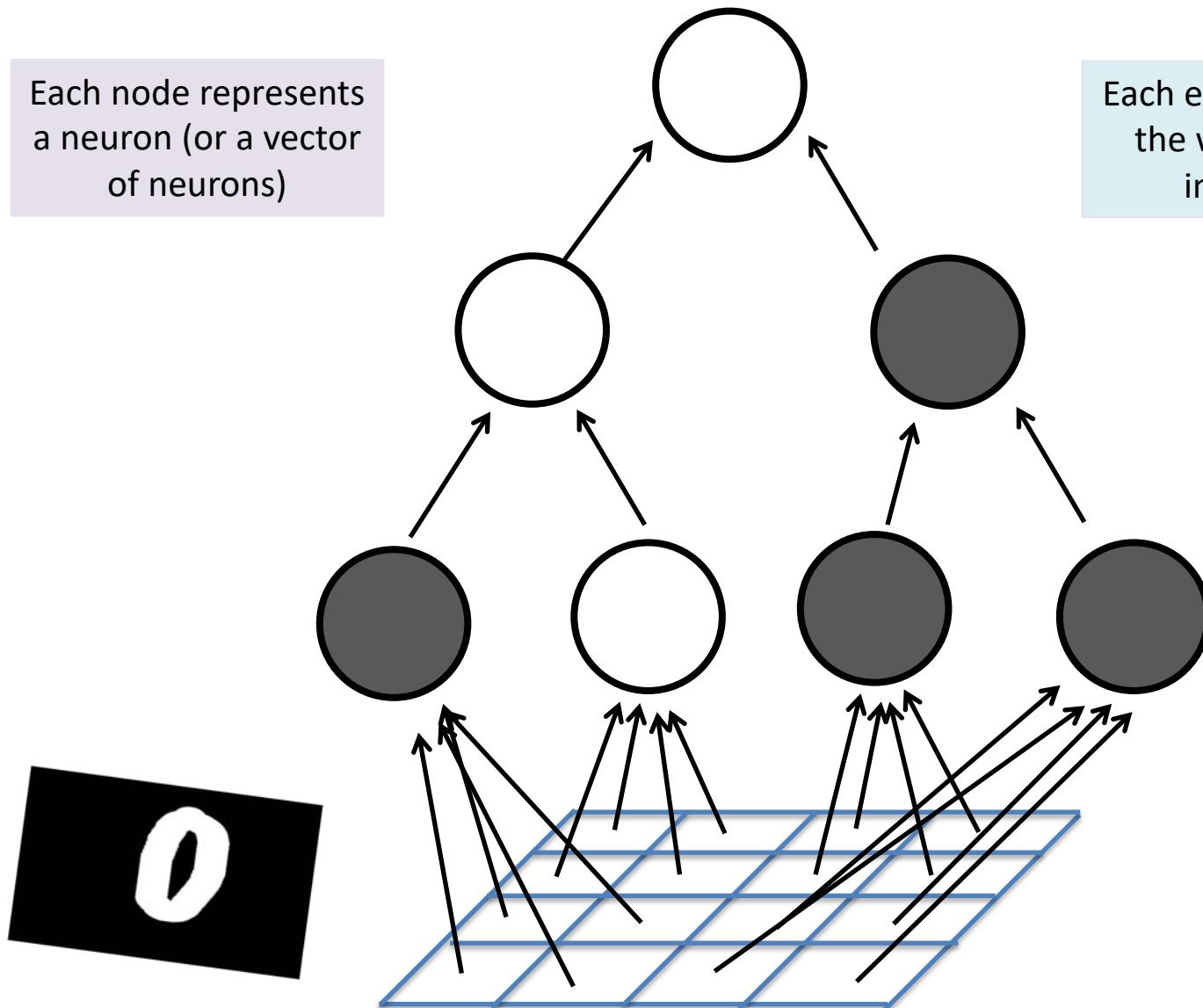
Each edge represents  
the weight of the  
interaction



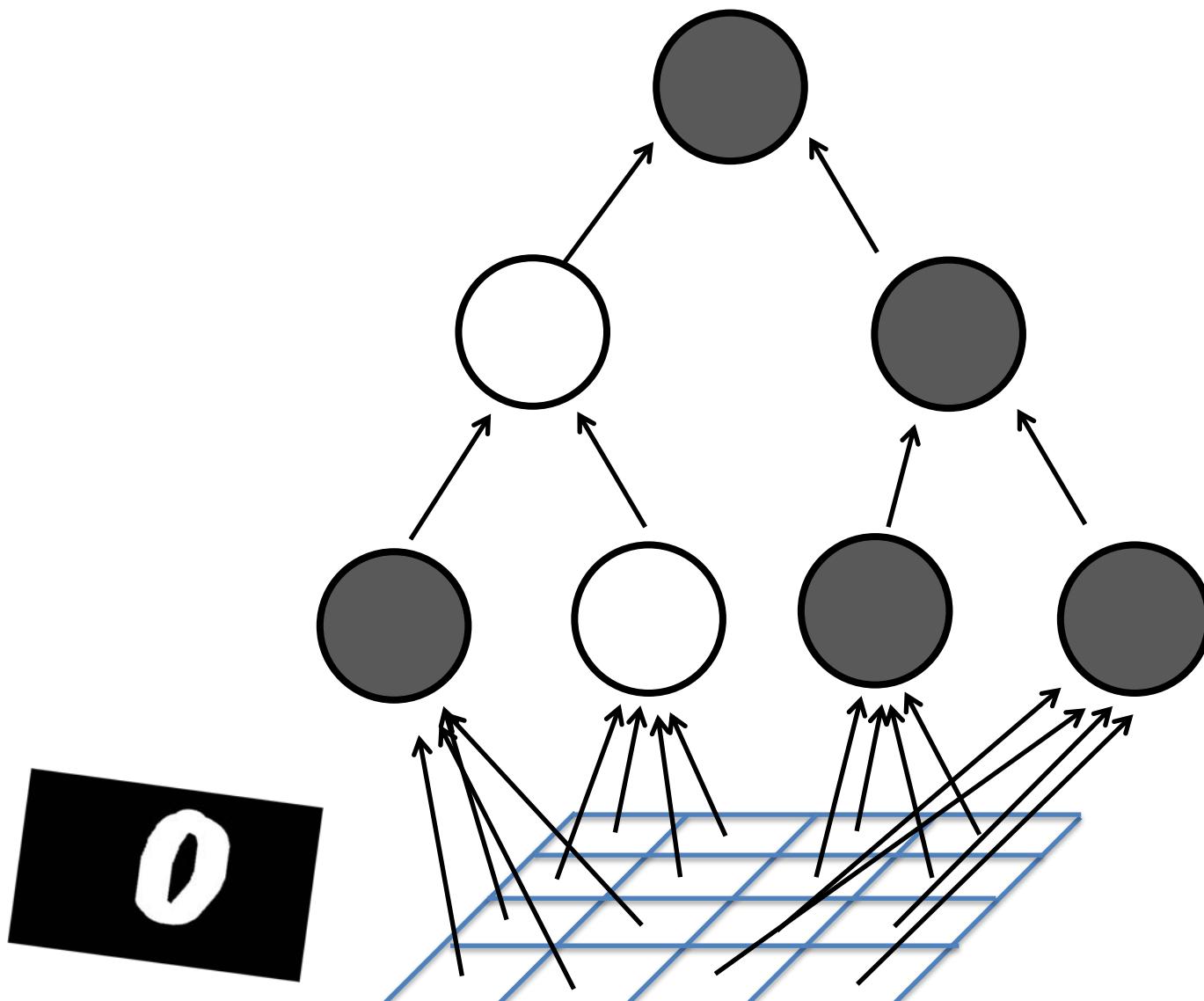
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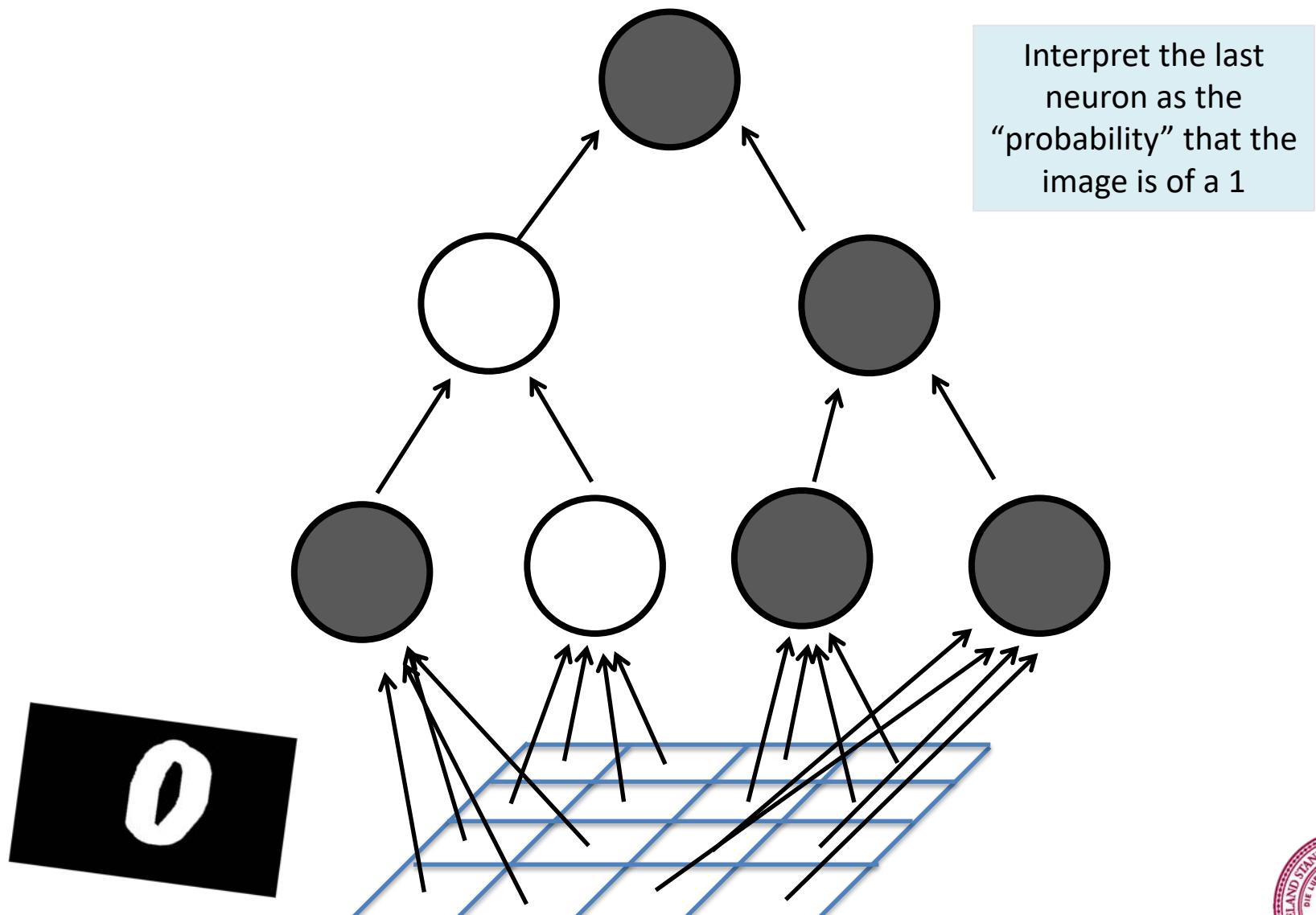
# Forward Pass



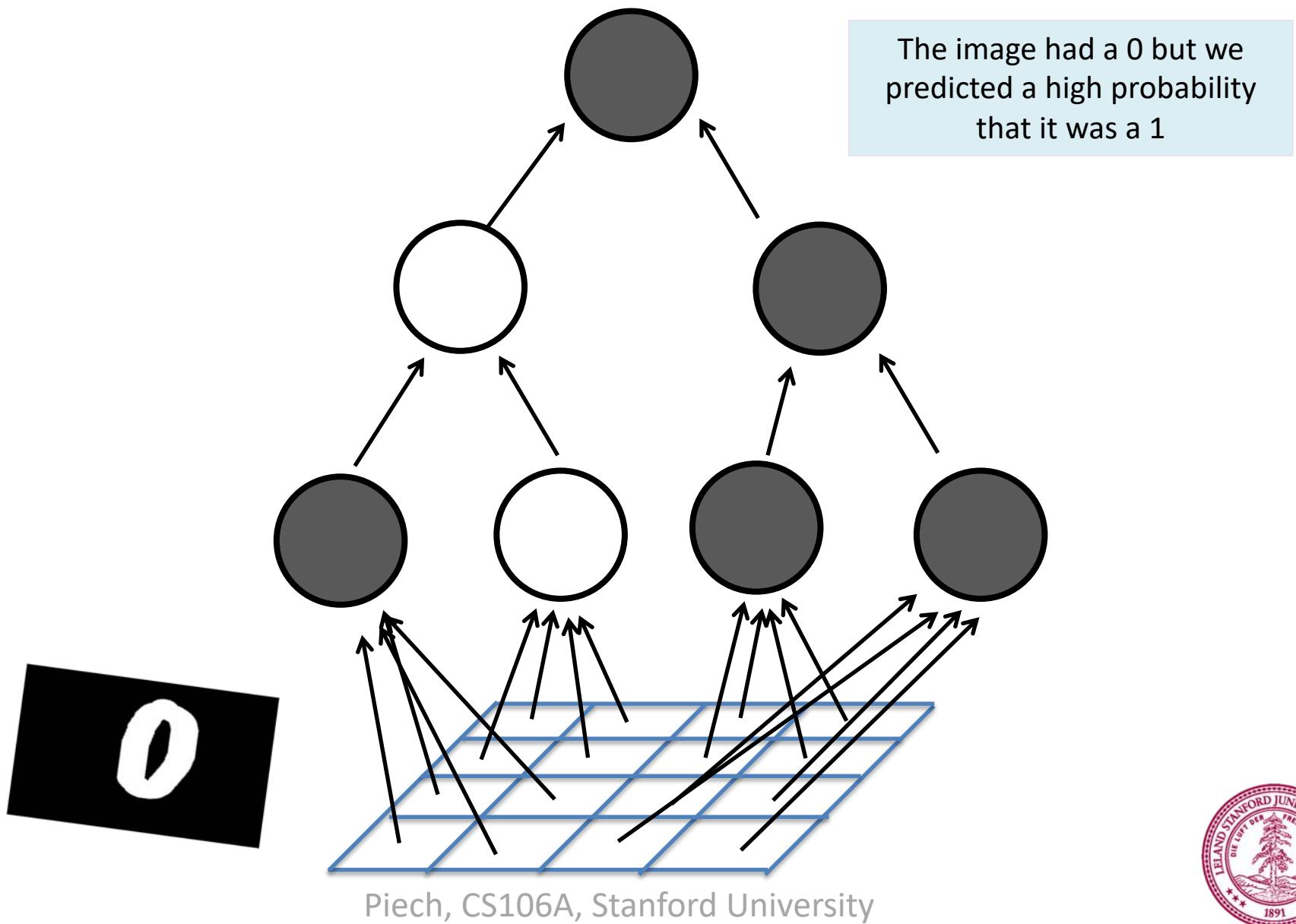
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# Forward Pass



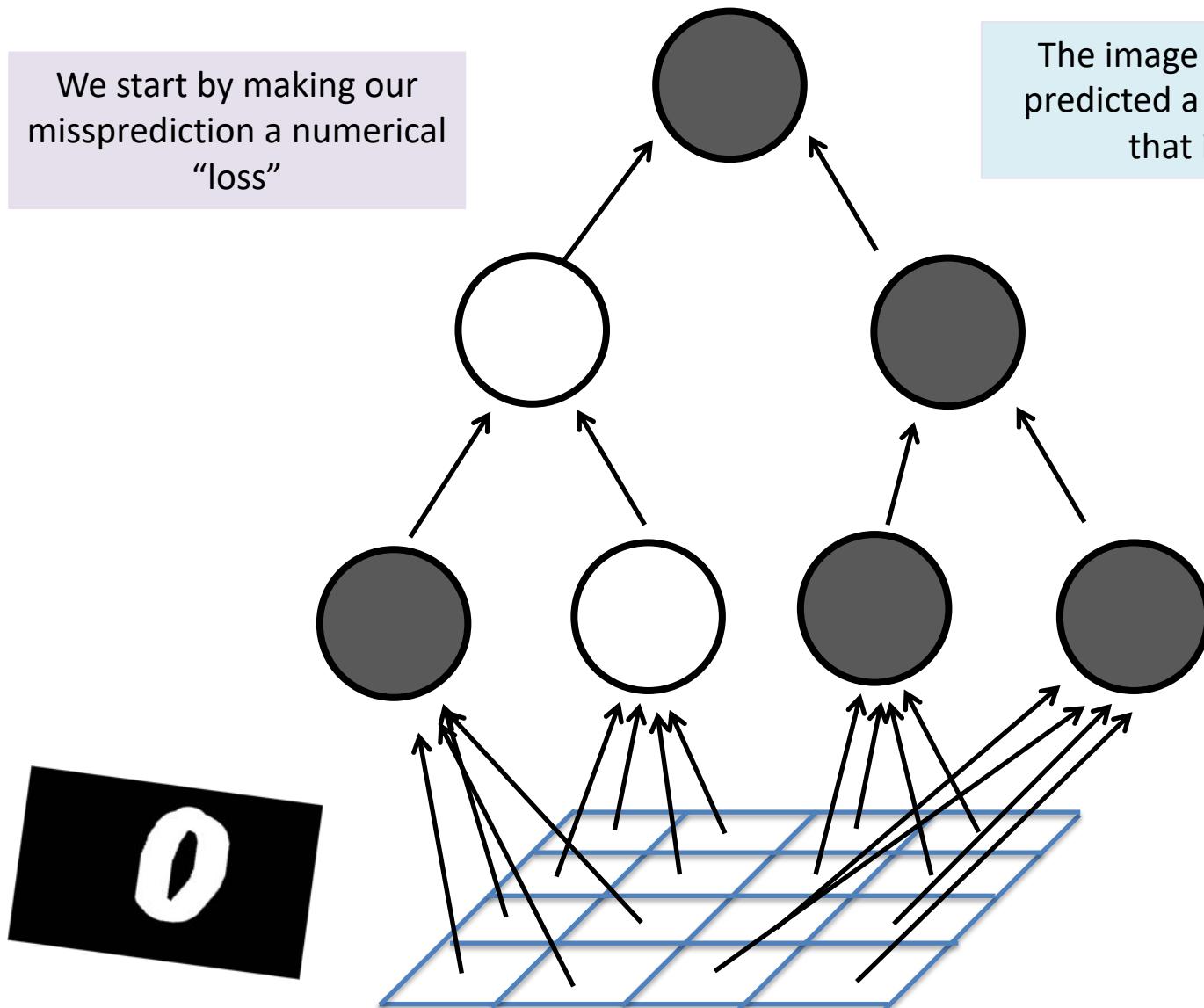
# Backward Pass



# Backward Pass

We start by making our missprediction a numerical “loss”

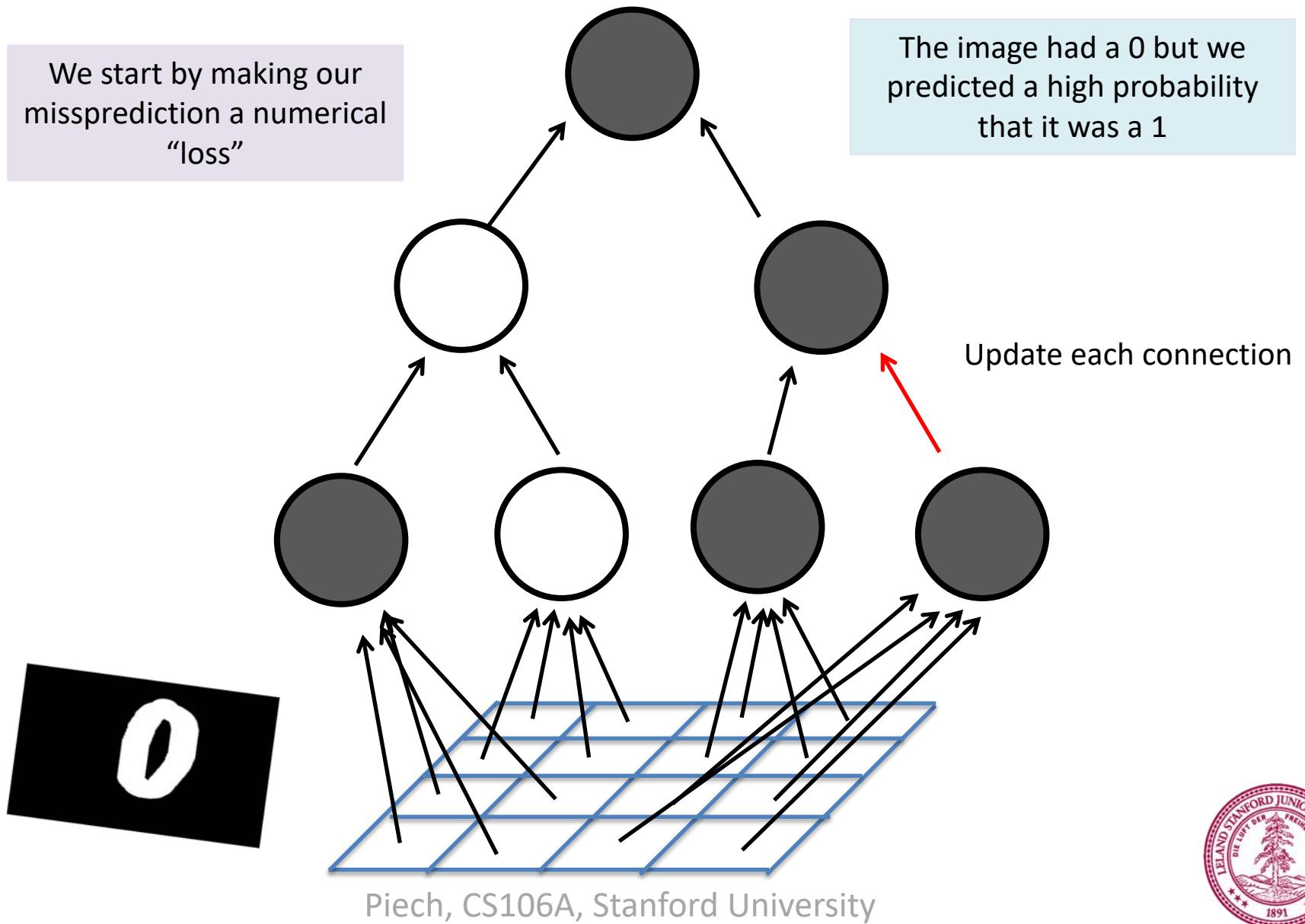
The image had a 0 but we predicted a high probability that it was a 1



# Backward Pass

We start by making our missprediction a numerical “loss”

The image had a 0 but we predicted a high probability that it was a 1



# Chose weights that maximize the probability of the right answers

$$P(Y = 1 | X = \mathbf{x}) = \hat{y}$$
$$\hat{y} = \sigma \left( \sum_{j=0}^{m_h} \mathbf{h}_j \theta_j^{(\hat{y})} \right)$$

---

For one datum

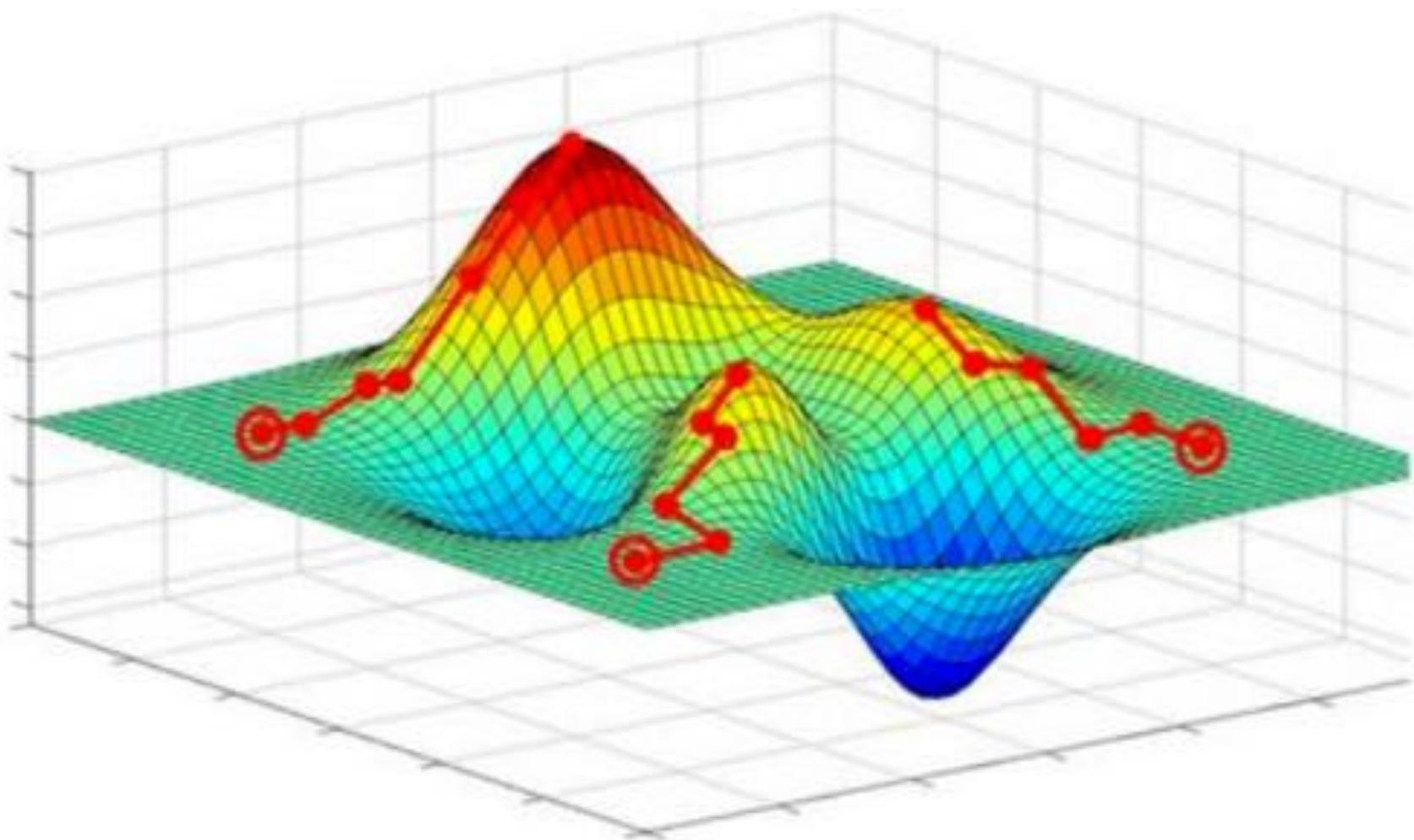
$$P(Y = y | X = \mathbf{X}) = (\hat{y})^y (1 - \hat{y})^{1-y}$$

For IID data

$$L(\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(Y = y^{(i)} | X = \mathbf{x}^{(i)})$$
$$= \prod_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}^{(i)})^{y^{(i)}} \cdot [1 - (\hat{y}^{(i)})]^{(1-y^{(i)})}$$



# Gradient Ascent



Walk uphill and you will find a local maxima  
(if your step size is small enough)  
Piech, CS106A, Stanford University



# Gradient of output layer params

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta_i^{(\hat{y})}} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \hat{y}} \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{y}}{\partial \theta_i^{(\hat{y})}}$$

---

$$\hat{y} = \sigma \left( \sum_{j=0}^{m_h} \mathbf{h}_j \theta_j^{(\hat{y})} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial \hat{y}}{\partial \theta_i^{(\hat{y})}} = \sigma \left( \sum_{j=0}^{m_h} \mathbf{h}_j \theta_j^{(\hat{y})} \right) \left[ 1 - \sigma \left( \sum_{j=0}^{m_h} \mathbf{h}_j \theta_j^{(\hat{y})} \right) \right] \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i^{(\hat{y})}} \sum_{j=0}^{m_h} \mathbf{h}_j \theta_j^{(\hat{y})}$$

$$= \hat{y}[1 - \hat{y}] \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i^{(\hat{y})}} \sum_{j=0}^{m_h} \mathbf{h}_j \theta_j^{(\hat{y})}$$

$$= \hat{y}[1 - \hat{y}] \cdot h_i$$

That looks scarier than it is



# Chain Rule Down the Network

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} = \frac{d}{d\theta} \times \frac{d}{d\theta}$$



Where you will be by the end of class

When you train,  
something really neat happens

# Visualize the Weights



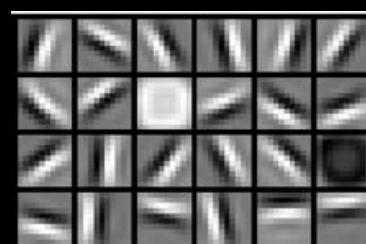
Training set: Aligned images of faces.



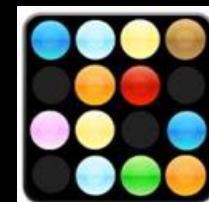
object models



object parts  
(combination  
of edges)

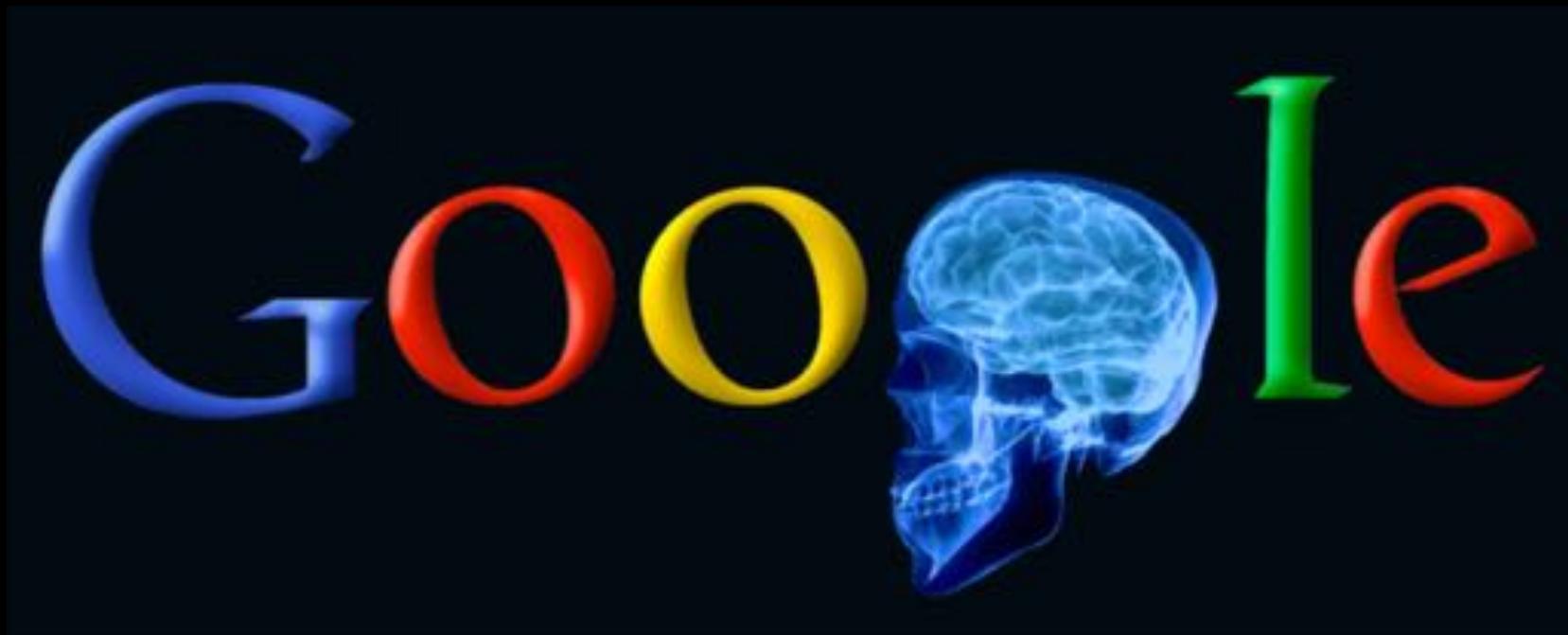


edges

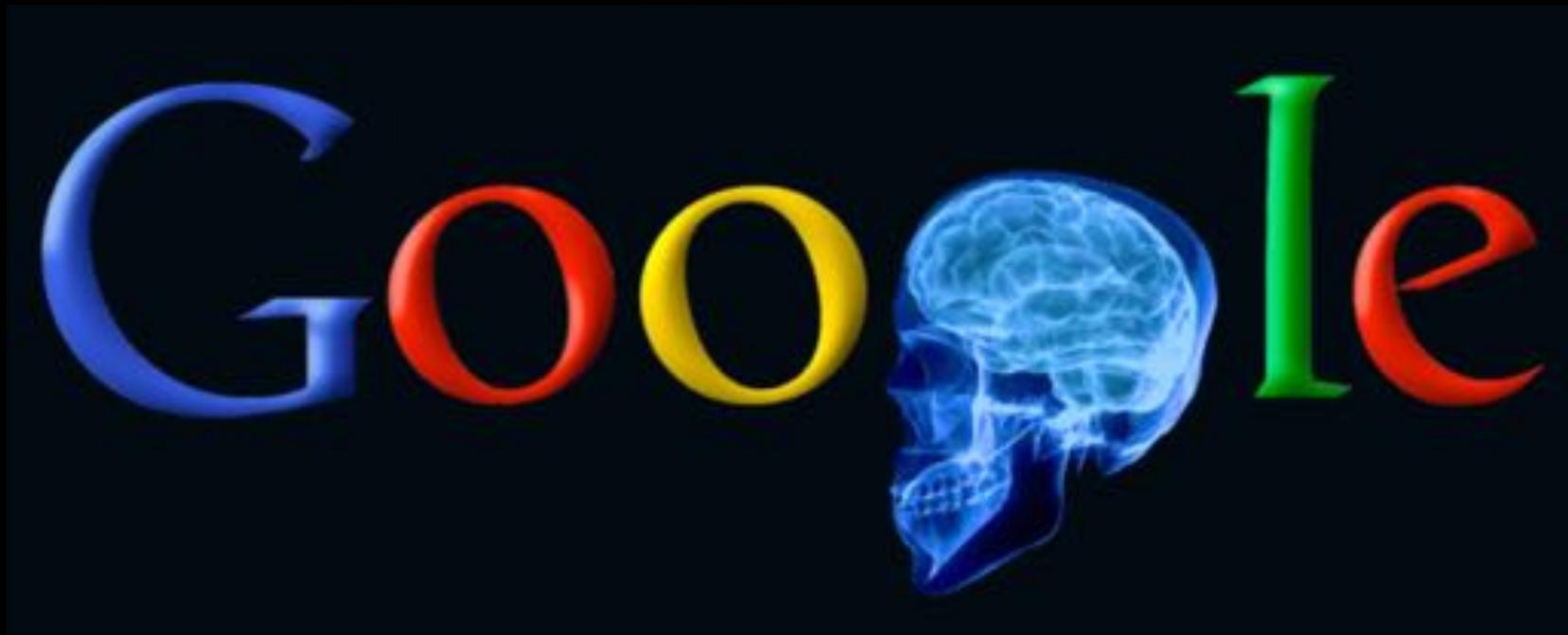


pixels

# Google Brain



# Google Brain



1 Trillion Artificial Neurons

# A Neuron That Fires When It Sees Cats



Top stimuli from the test set



Optimal stimulus  
by numerical optimization



**We're essentially**

**a cat detection company**

# Other Neurons

Neuron 1



Neuron 2



Neuron 3



Neuron 4



Neuron 5



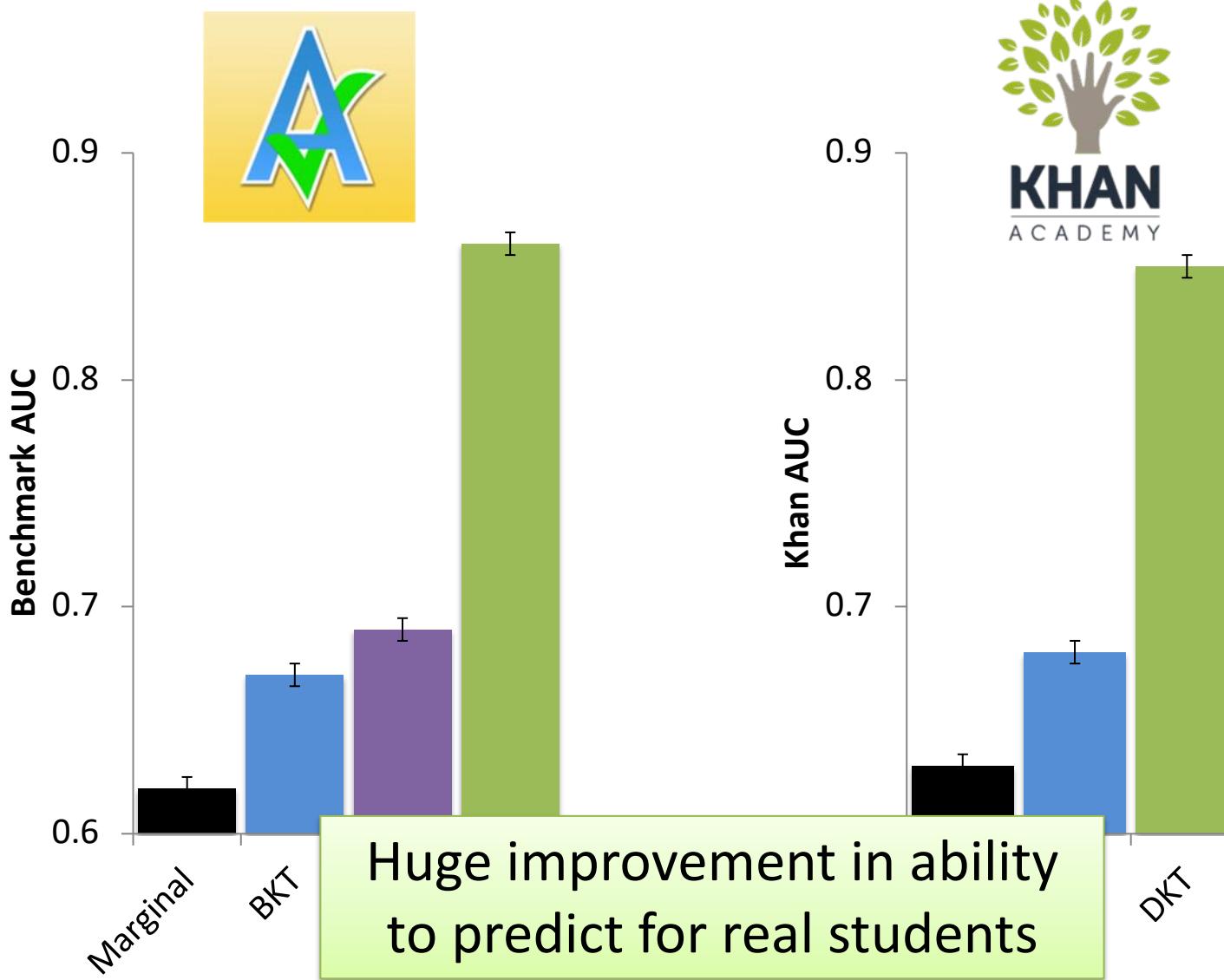
# Autonomous Tutor



Piech, CS106A, Stanford University



# Prediction Results



Not once, but twice, AI was revolutionized by people who understood probability theory.

End of Story

Except it isn't the end of the story...

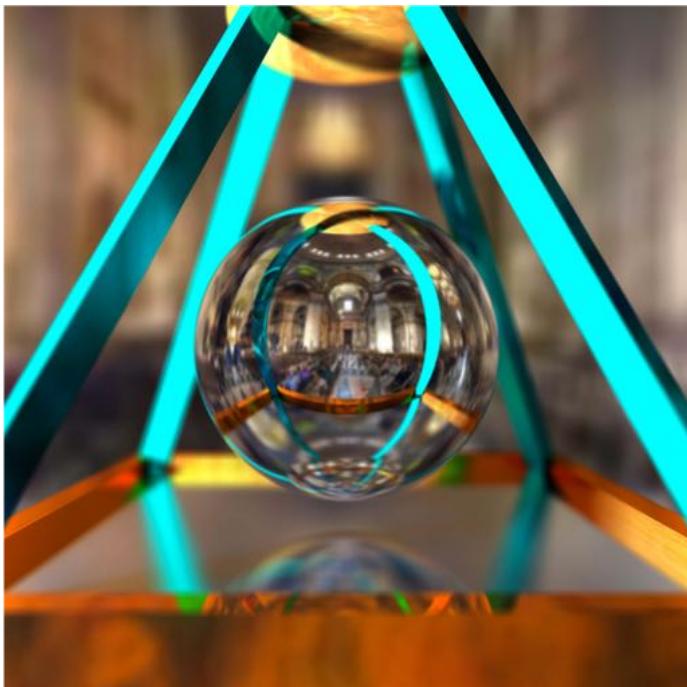
Probability is more than just machine learning

# Abundance of Important Problems

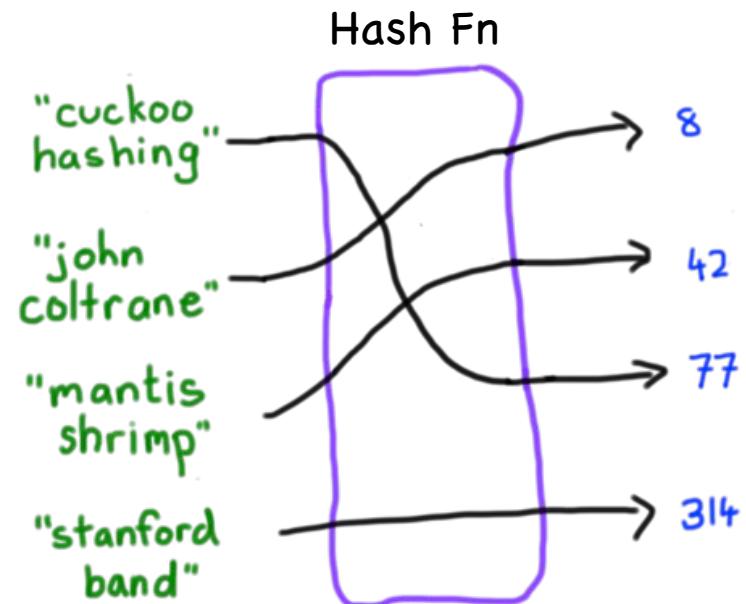


# Algorithms and Probability

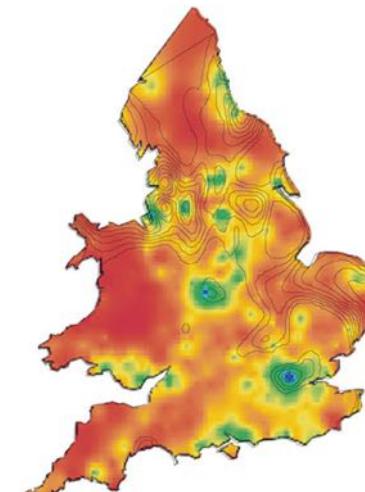
Eg Raytracing



Eg HashMaps



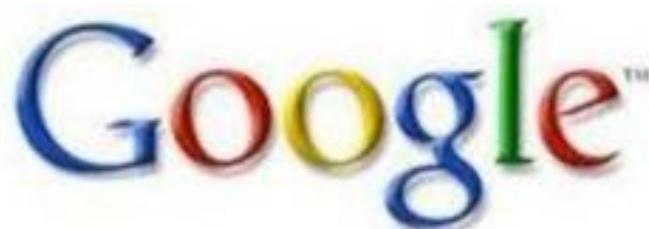
# Medicine and Probability



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# Autocomplete



dinosaurs we

[Advanced Search](#)  
[Language Tools](#)

dinosaurs websites for kids

dinosaurs we're back

dinosaurs webcomic

dinosaurs webquest

dinosaurs were made up by the cia to discourage time travel

dinosaurs website

dinosaurs went extinct

dinosaurs weight

dinosaurs we are scientists

dinosaurs weed episode

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky



# Probability in Practice

amazon.com

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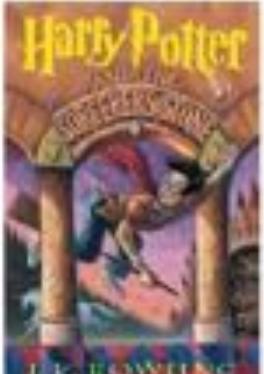
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 Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (Book 1) (Hardcover)  
by J.K. Rowling (Author), Mary GrandPré (Illustrator)  
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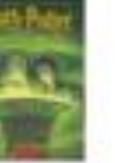
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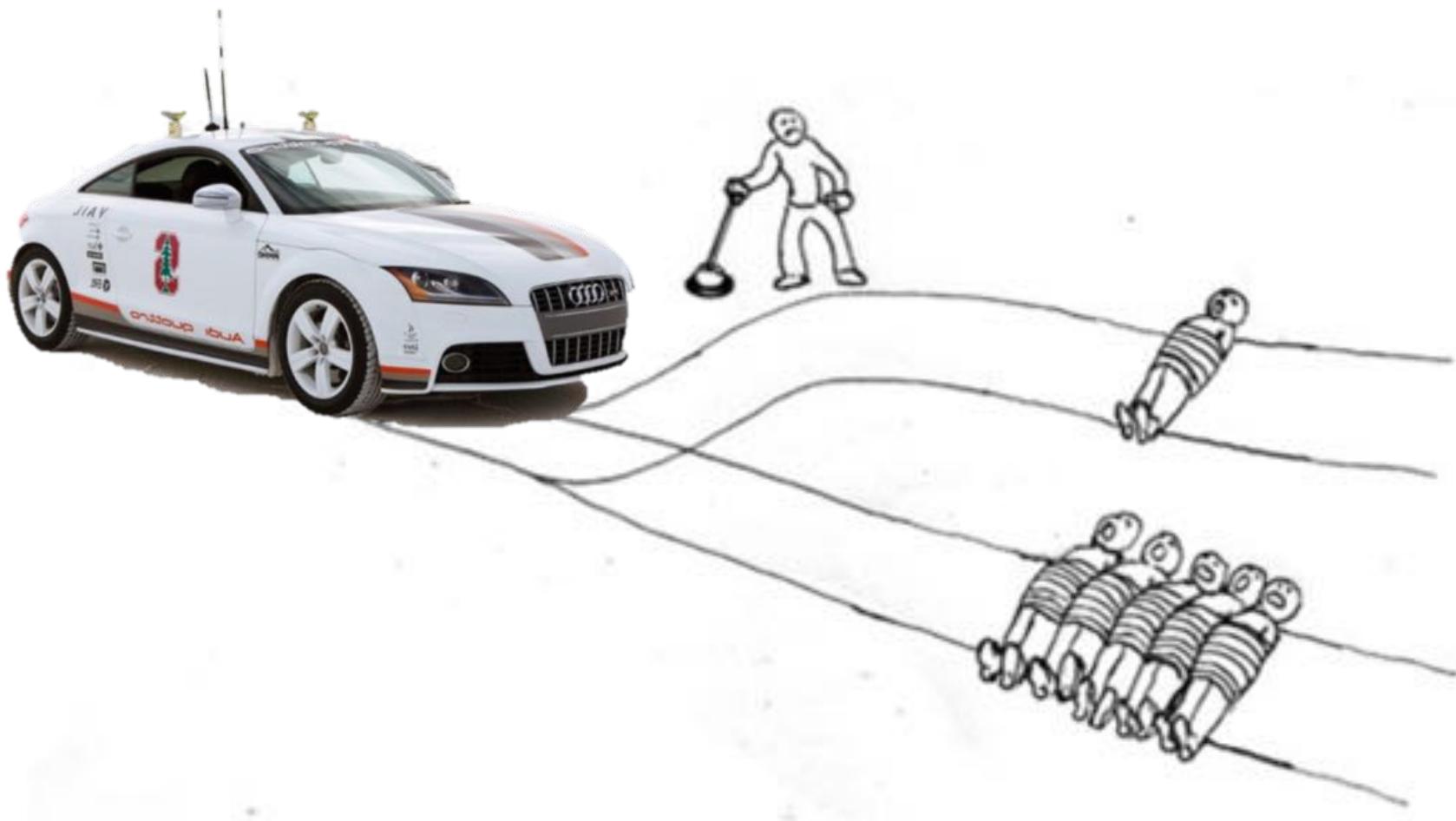
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Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Book 4) by J.K. Rowling  
  
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (Book 5) by J. K. Rowling  
  
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (Book 6) by J.K. Rowling  
  
The Tales of Beedle the Bard, Collector's Ed... by J. K. Rowling

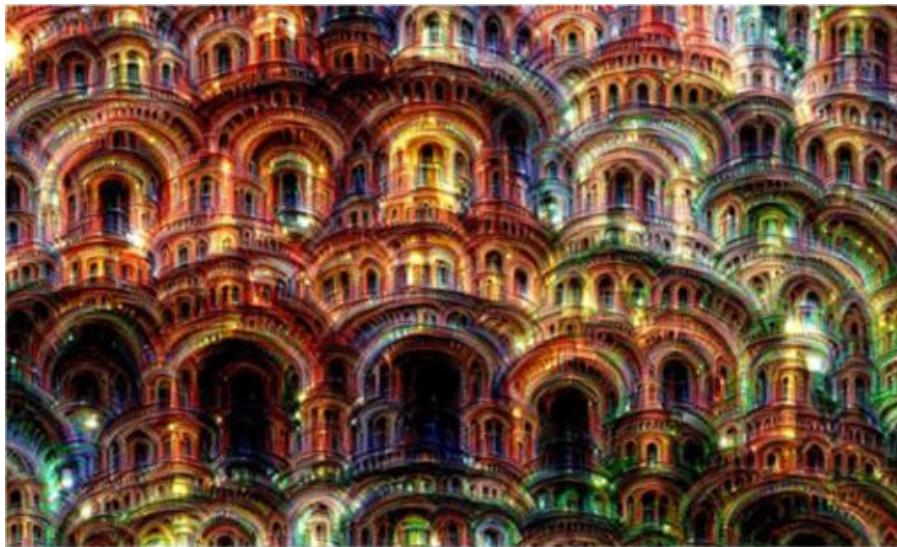
Page 1 of 20



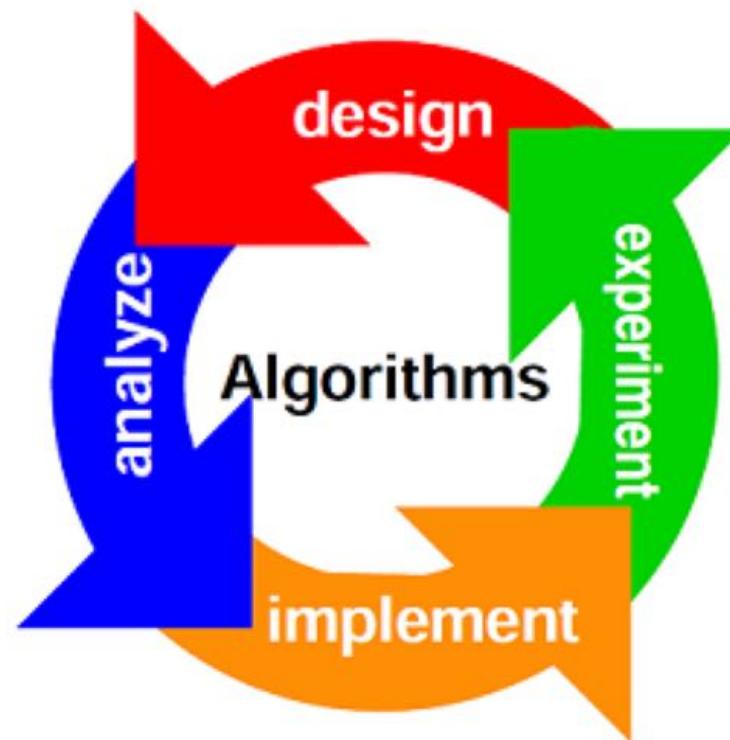
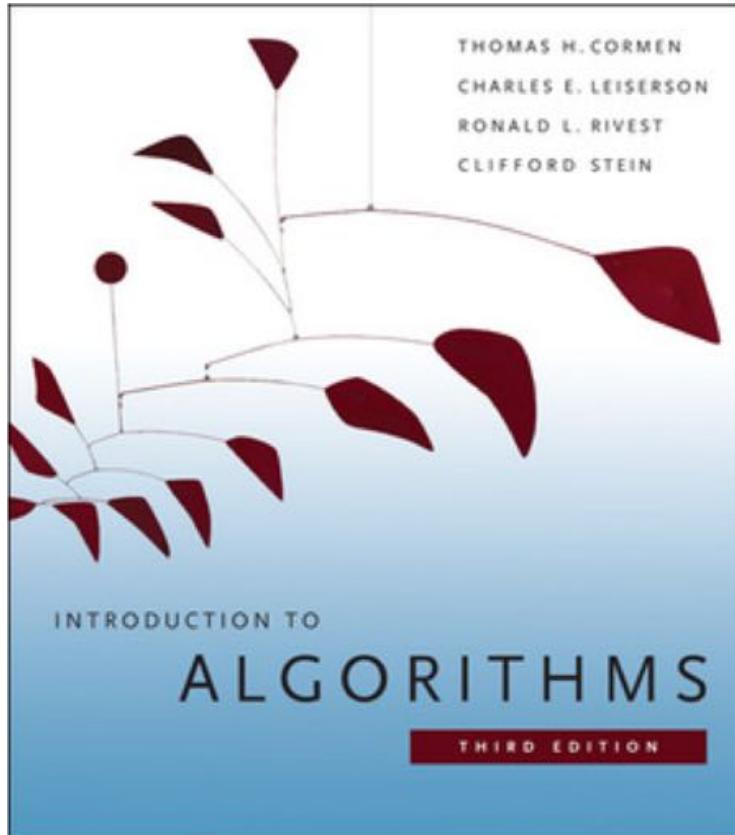
# Philosophy and Probability



# Art and Probability



# Probabilistic Analysis of Algorithms



# #1 Most Desired Skill in Industry

*Microsoft's competitive advantage, [Bill Gates] responded, was its expertise in "Bayesian [probabilistic] networks."*

(from Los Angeles Times, Oct. 28, 1996)

*"The sexy job in the next 10 years will be statisticians."*

-Hal Varian, Chief Economist at Google  
(from New York Times, August 6, 2009)



# #1 Most Desired Skill in Industry

*“I believe over the next decade computing will become even more ubiquitous and intelligence will become ambient. The coevolution of software and new hardware form factors will intermediate and digitize — many of the things we do and experience in business, life and our world. This will be made possible by an ever-growing network of connected devices, incredible computing capacity from the cloud, insights from big data, and intelligence from machine learning.”*

-- Satya Nadella (CEO, Microsoft)

Email to all employees on first day as CEO (Feb. 04, 2014)



# #1 Most Desired Skill in Academia

Most CS PhD students list their highest desiderata upon graduation as:

“Better understanding of probability”



Foundation for your future

But its not always intuitive

# Zika Test



Positive Zika.

*What is the probability of zika?*

- 
- *0.08% of people have zika*
  - *90% positive rate for people with zika*
  - *7% positive rate for people without zika*

The right answer is 1%

Probability = Important + Needs Study

*Delayed gratification*

# What is CS109?

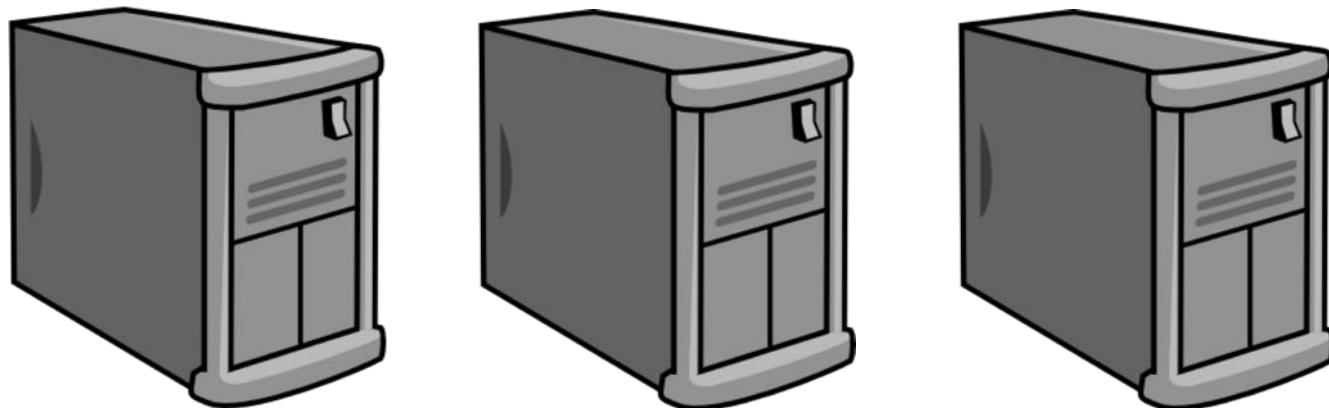
# Traditional View of Probability



# CS View of Probability

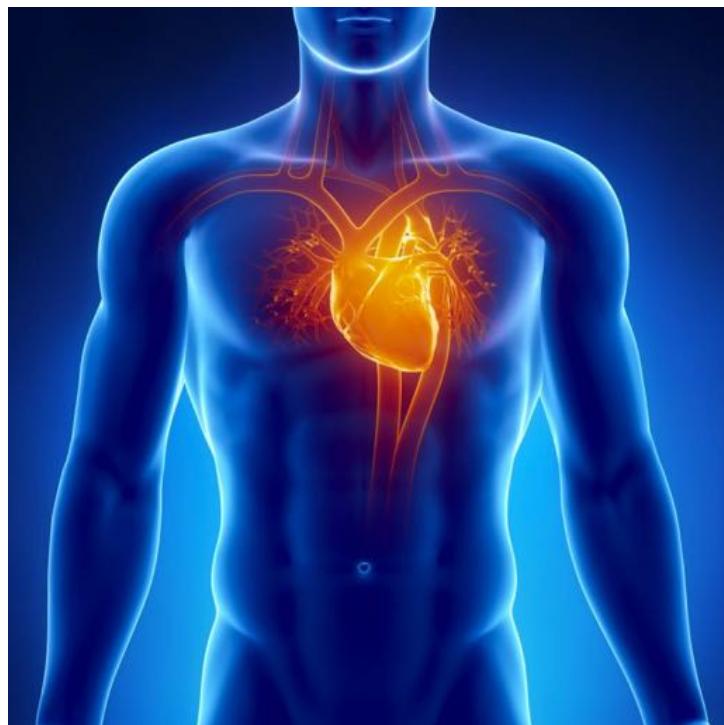
<http://www.site.com>

Give you the tools necessary to build and understand probabilistic CS algorithms.



# CS View of Probability

Heart



Ancestry



Netflix



# CS View of Probability



Piech, CS106A, Stanford University



# CS View of Probability

Teach you how to write programs  
that most people are not able to write.

Lets dive in...

# Counting



# Our Route

