

# Intro to ML II

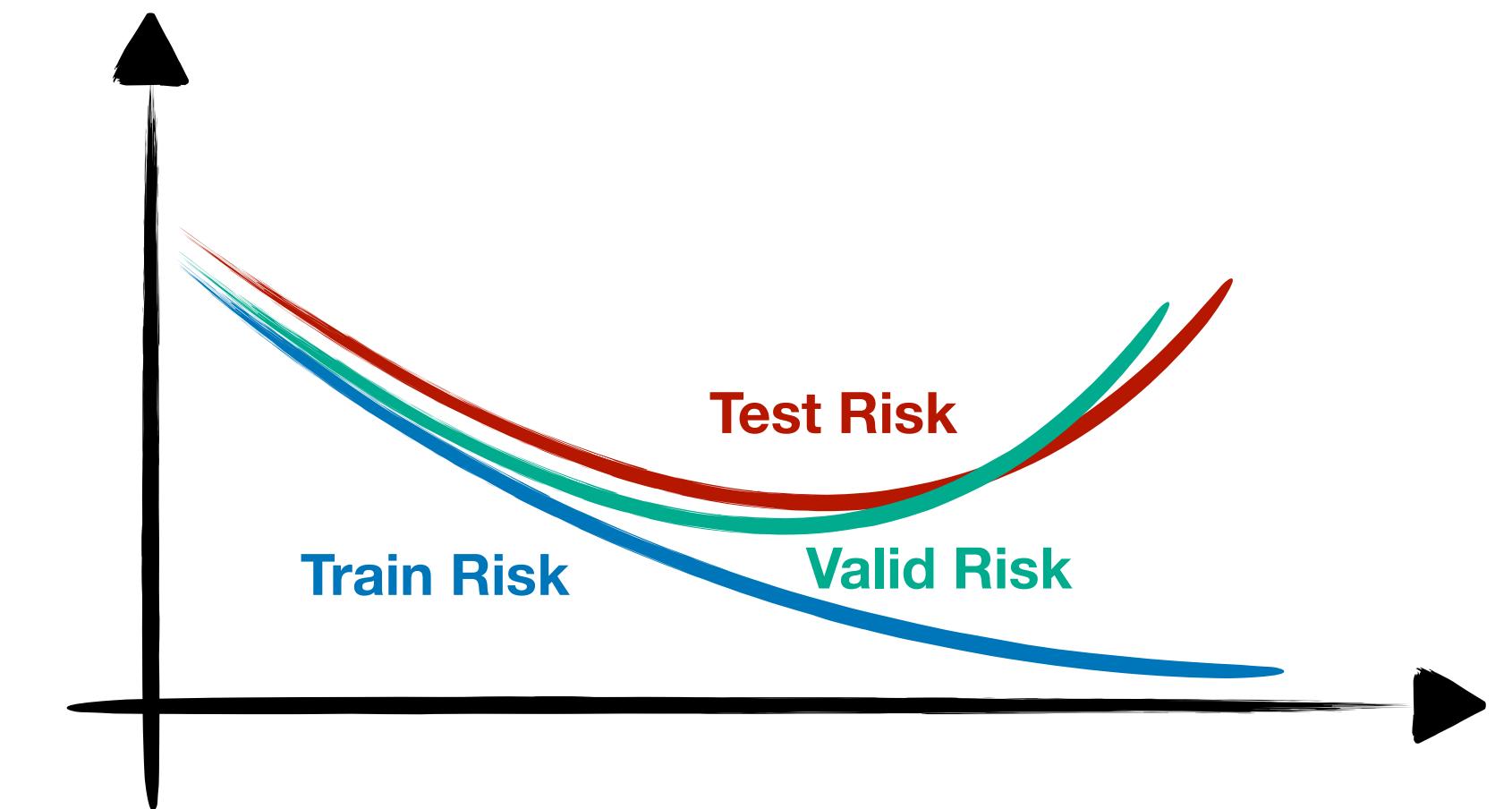
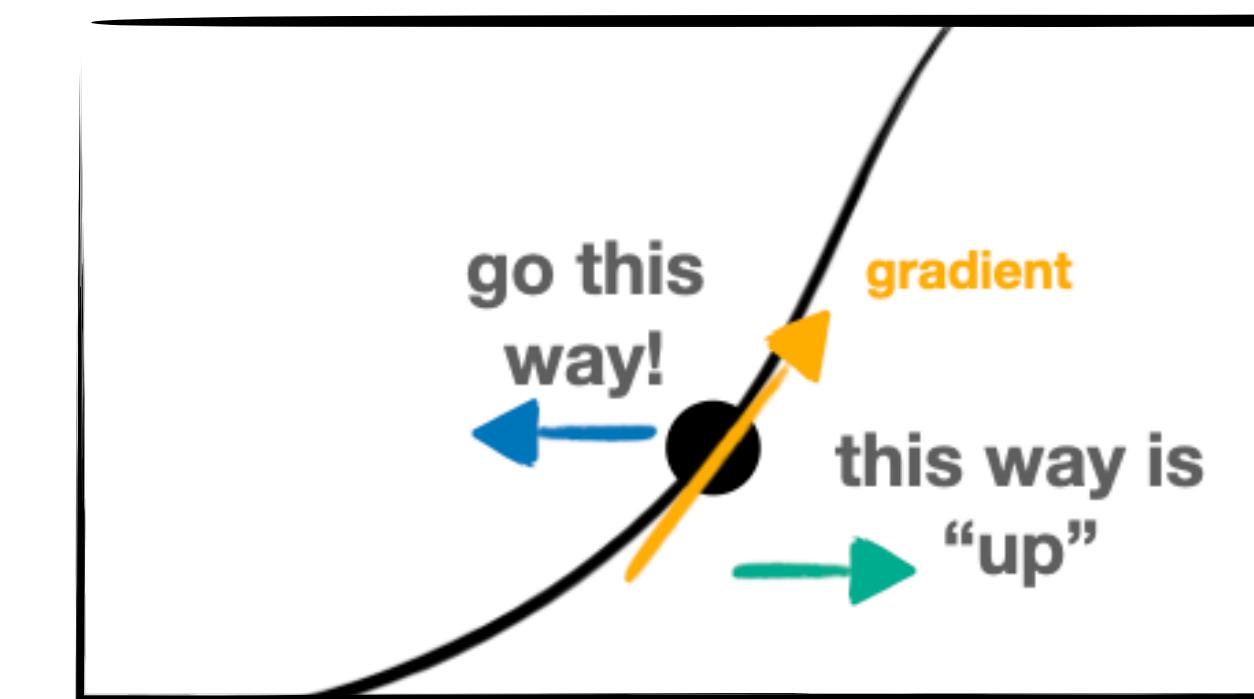
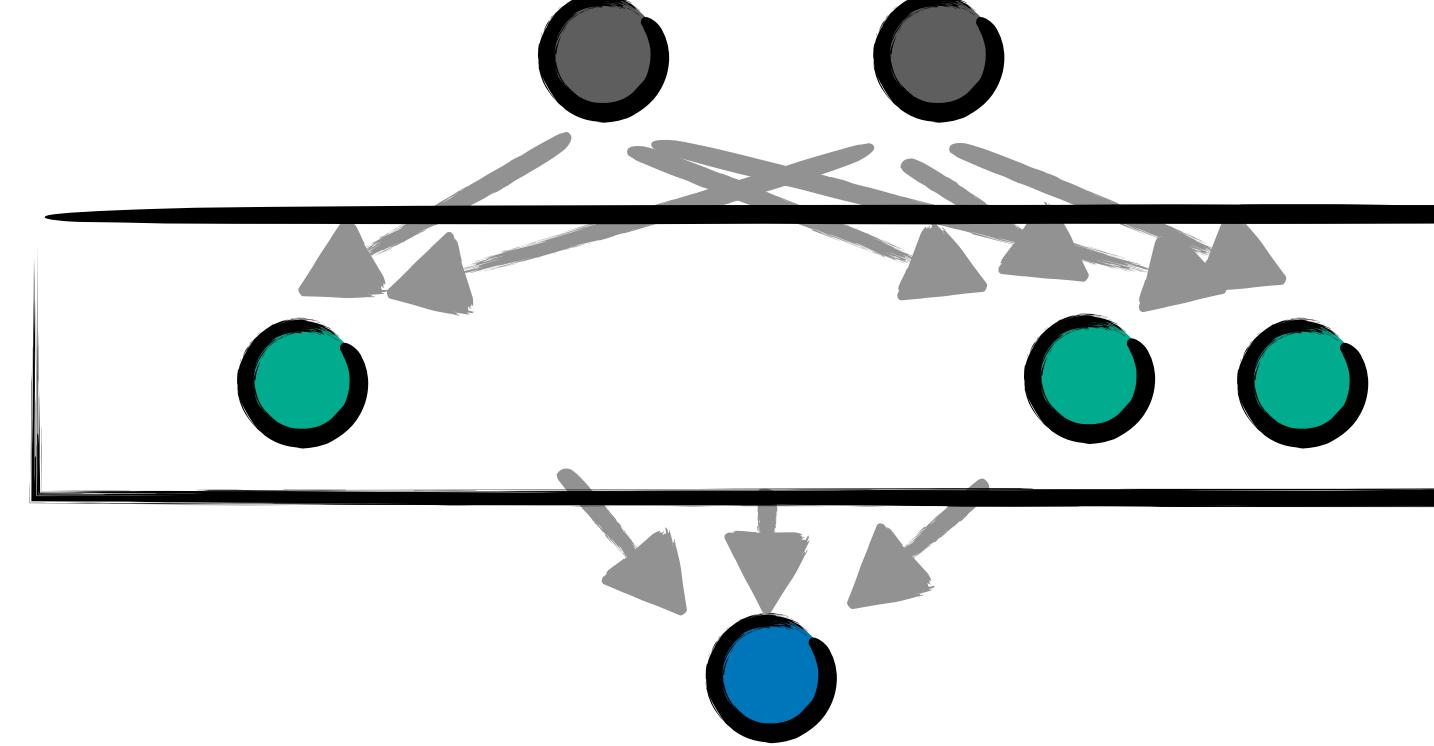
## CERN School of Computing 2023

Lukas Heinrich, TUM

# Supervised Learning

# What we need

We have the general ingredients for learning



We need to now formulate the actual objectives for the tasks we're interested in

**Let's start with supervised learning**

# Latent Concepts

We interpret the real world data we perceive / measure to be a realization of an “*underlying concept*”

***We observe the data but the concept is “latent”***

**latent** | 'leɪt(ə)nt |

**adjective**

(of a quality or state) existing but not yet developed or manifest; hidden or concealed: *they have a huge reserve of latent talent.*

# Latent Concepts

We interpret the real world data we perceive / measure to be a realization of an “*underlying concept*”



**concept:** “cat”

**realization:** pixel values in image

# Latent Concepts

We interpret the real world data we perceive / measure to be a realization of an “*underlying concept*” (or “*label*”)

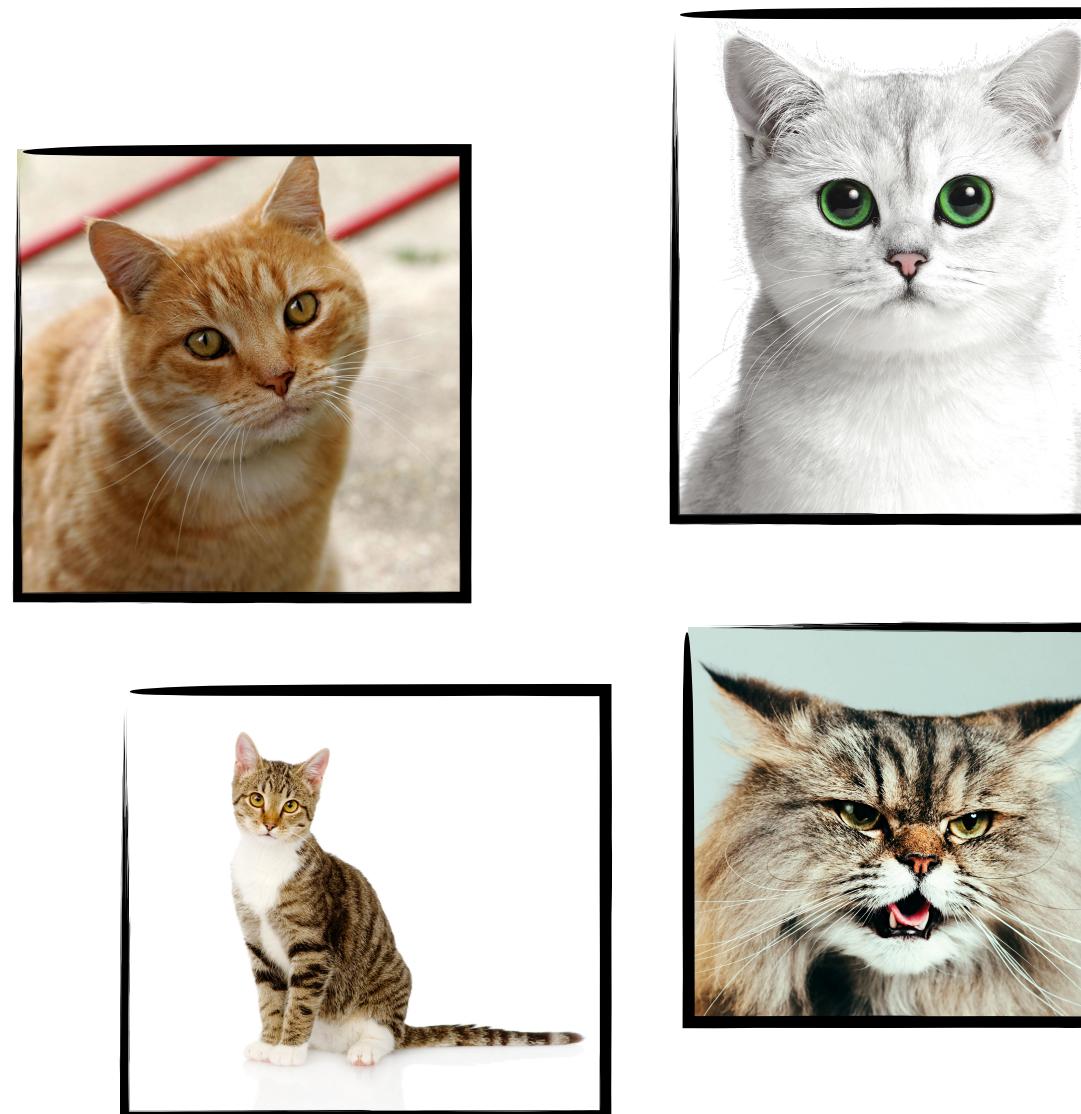


**concept:** “true weight”

**realization:** reading on the scale

# Latent Concepts

In statistical learning, we assume that concept  $z$  and realization  $x$  are linked through a **a conditional probability:**



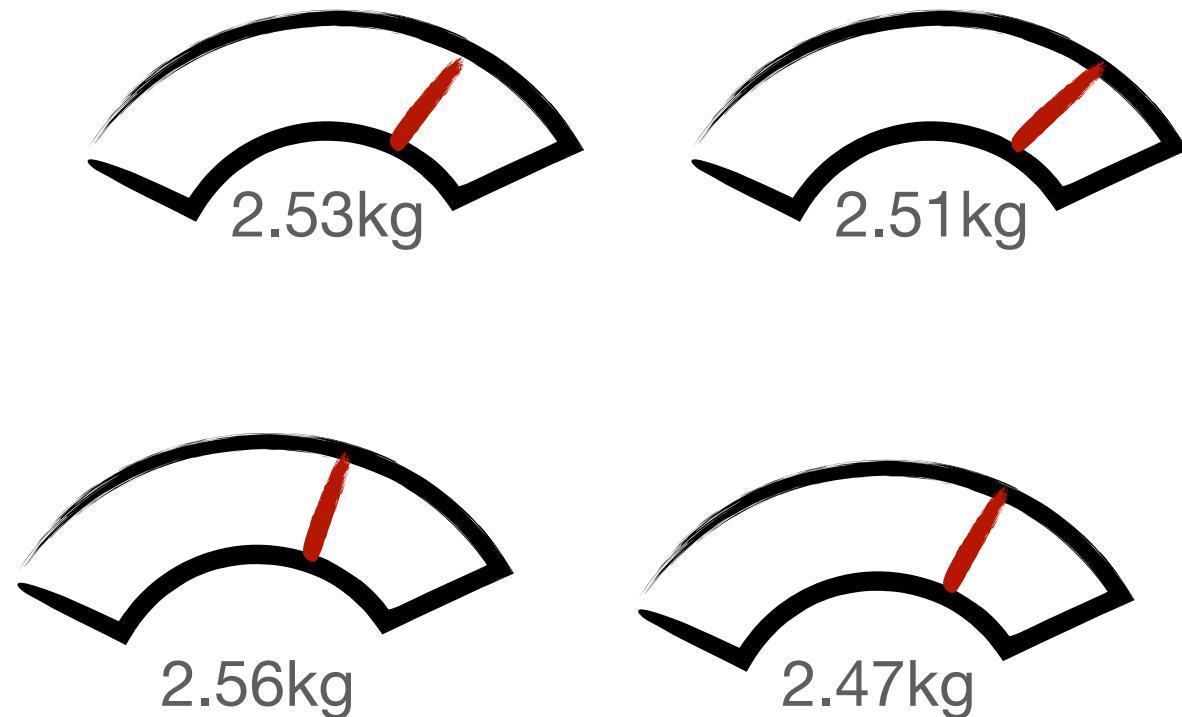
*many realizations*

$$x \sim p(x | z) \quad z = \text{cat}$$

*true value*

# Latent Concepts

In statistical learning, we assume that concept  $z$  and realization  $x$  are linked through a **a conditional probability:**



$$x \sim p(x | z)$$

$$z = 2.50 \text{ kg}$$

*many realizations*

*true value*

# Inference

Classic Goal in Statistics: try to find out (“infer”) the latent values given the observed values, i.e. the data  $x$



# Bayes' Theorem

$$p(z | x) = \frac{p(x | z)}{p(x)} p(z)$$

*posterior*      *likelihood*      *evidence*      *prior*

# Inference by another name

We name inference based on the **type** of the latent variable



“cat”

$$z \in \{z_0, z_1 \dots z_n\}$$

finite set = “Classification”



2.50

$$z \in \mathbb{R}$$

real values: “Regression”

# Statistics vs Machine Learning

To do **standard statistics**, we'd need to know what the true data-generating process is  $p(x | z), p(z)$ , but we don't!

$x$

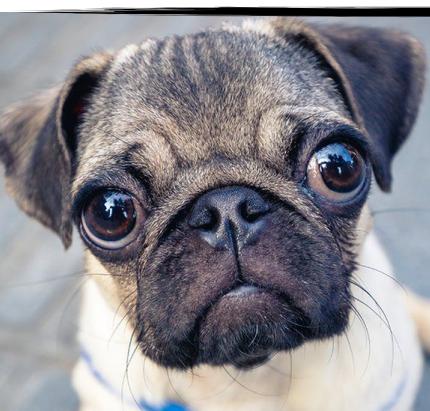


$z$

“cat”

**We want:**

$p(\text{animal} | \text{image})$



“dog”

**But we don't even have:**

$p(\text{image} | \text{animal}) = ?$

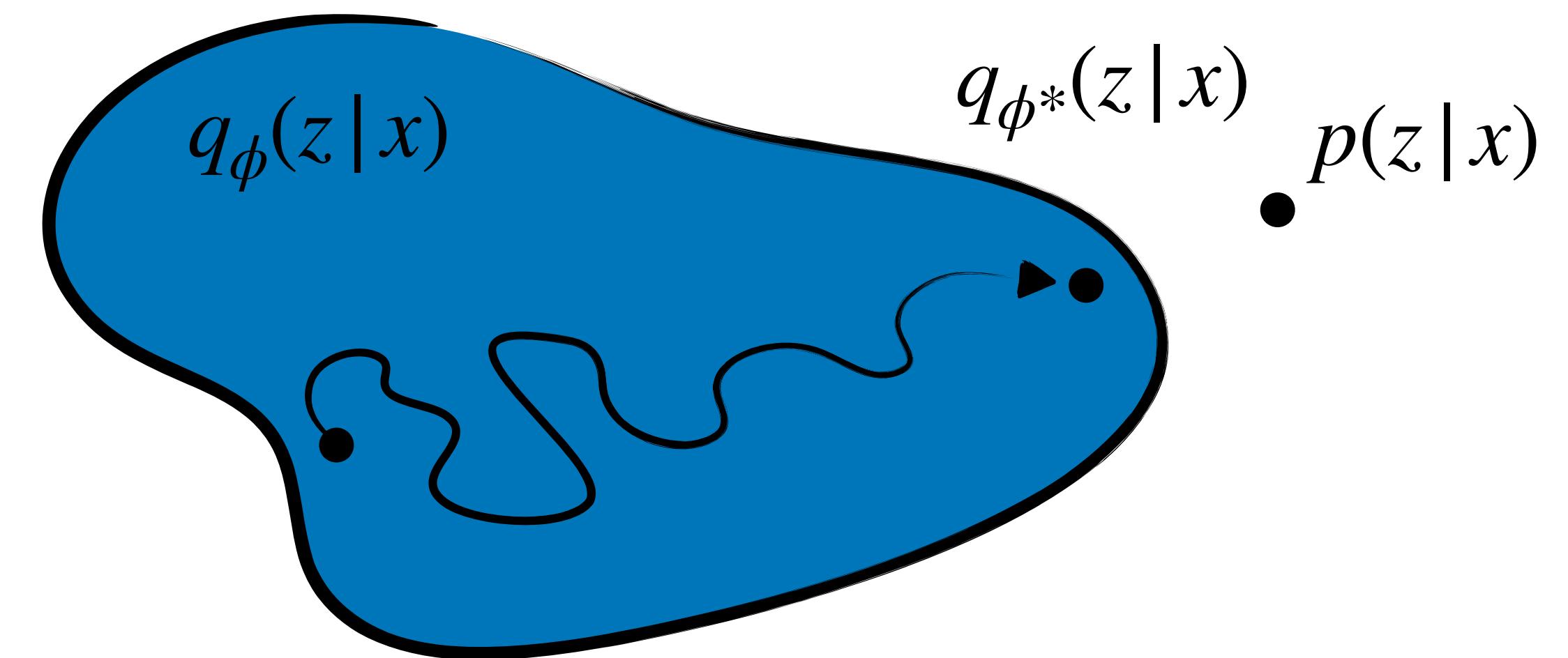
$p(\text{animal}) = ?$

# Solution

Apply “learning as search”. If we don’t know  $p(z | x)$  maybe we can approximate it?

Look for the best candidate **family of candidate distributions**  $q_\phi(z | x)$

**“Variational Inference”**

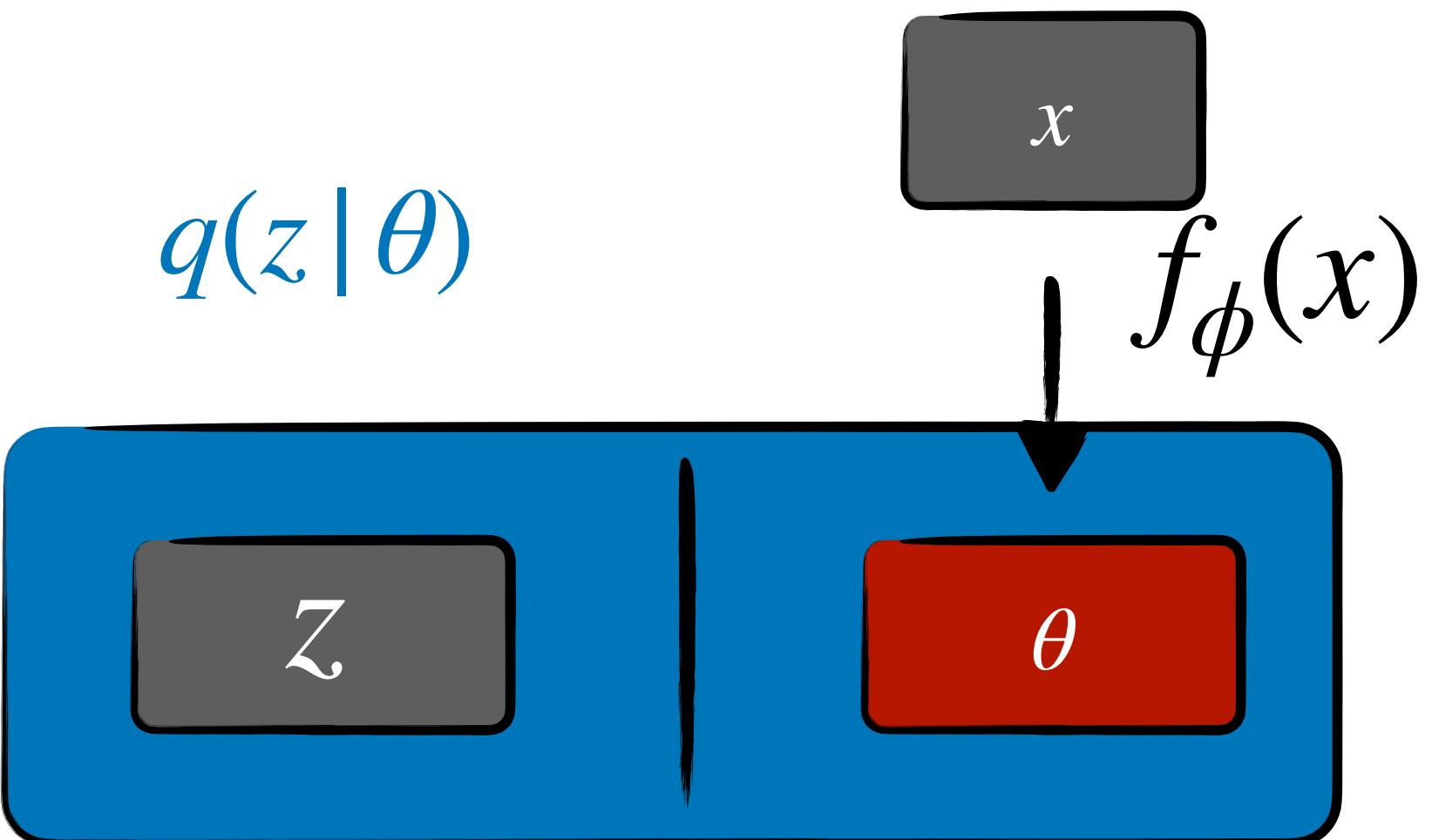


# From Functions to Densities

To define a family of distributions, we can use

- well-known densities (e.g. Gaussian, ...)
- compute parameters as functions of data:  $f_\phi(x)$

$$\rightarrow q_\phi(z|x) = q(z|\theta = f_\phi(x))$$



# Examples

## Distribution Type

Regression

**Gaussian**  
 $\mathcal{N}(z | \mu, \sigma)$

Classification

**Categorical**  
 $\text{Cat}(z | \{p_1 \dots p_n\})$

## Parameters as function of data

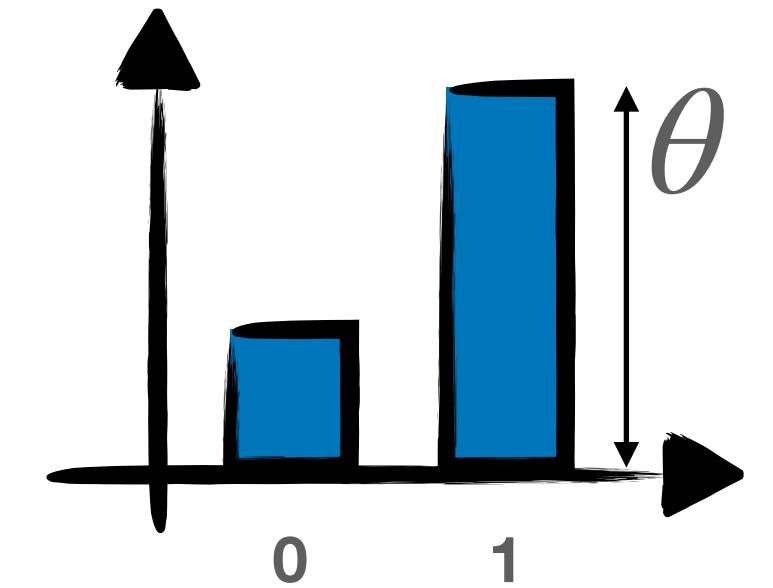
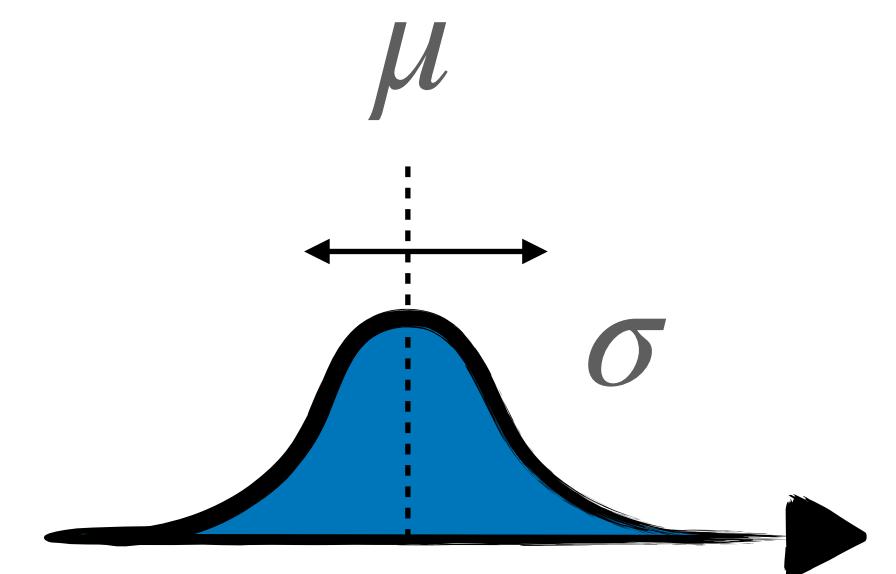
Mean

$$\mu = f_\phi(x) \quad \log \sigma = g_\phi(x)$$

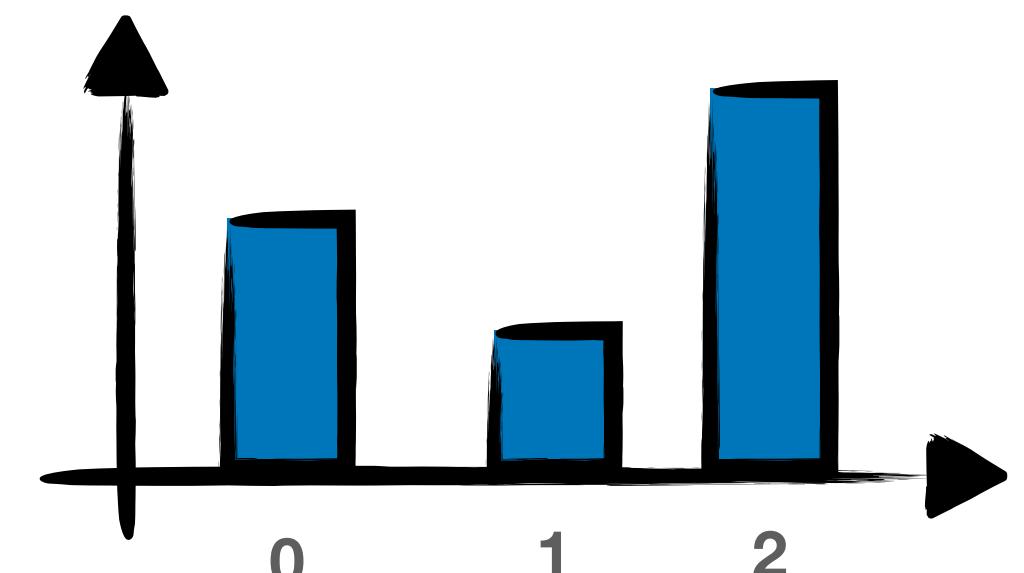
Variance

Probability of  $z=1$

$$\theta = f_\phi(x)$$

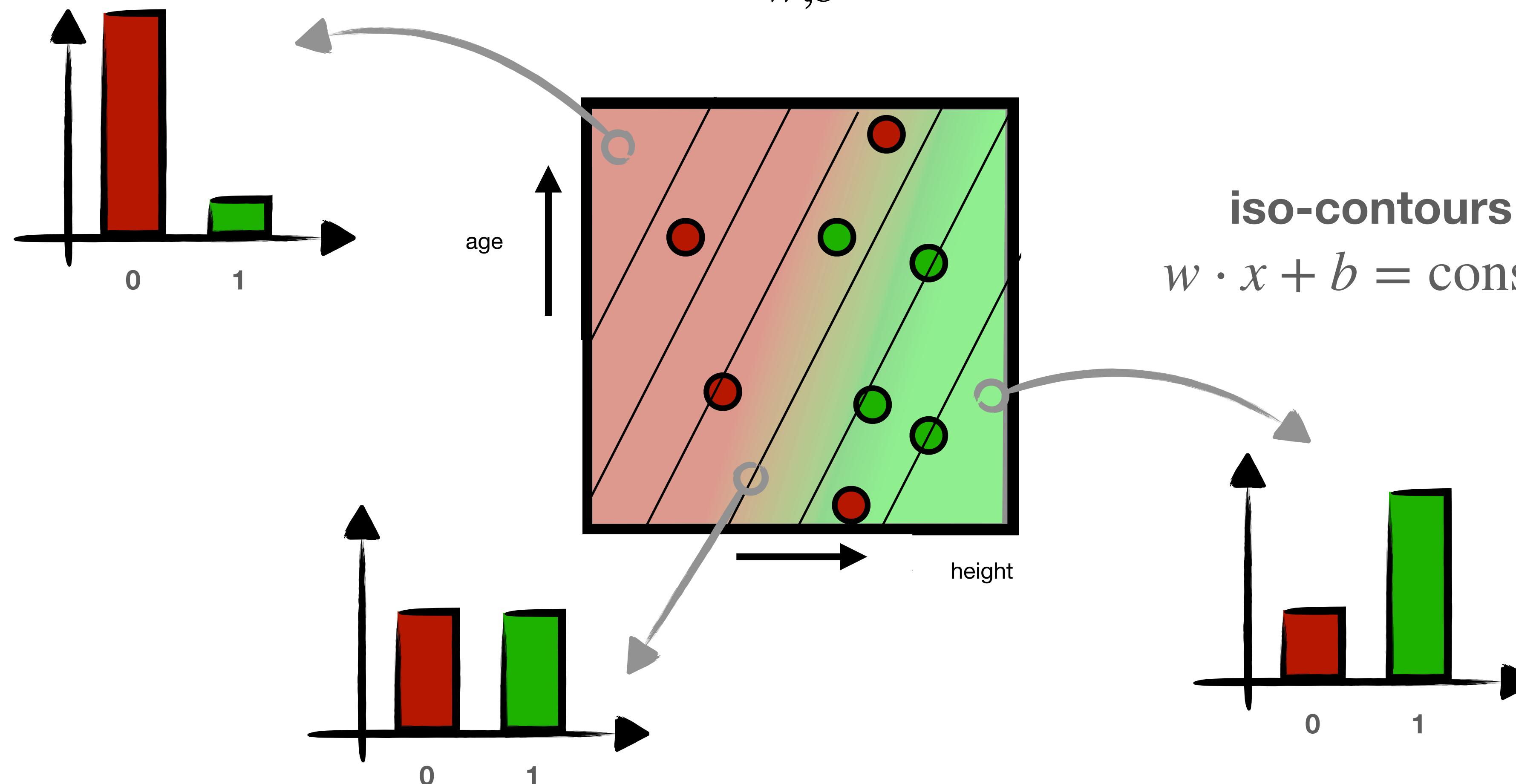


$$\{p_i\}, \text{ s.t. } \sum_i p_i = 1$$



# Soft Perceptron was our first example

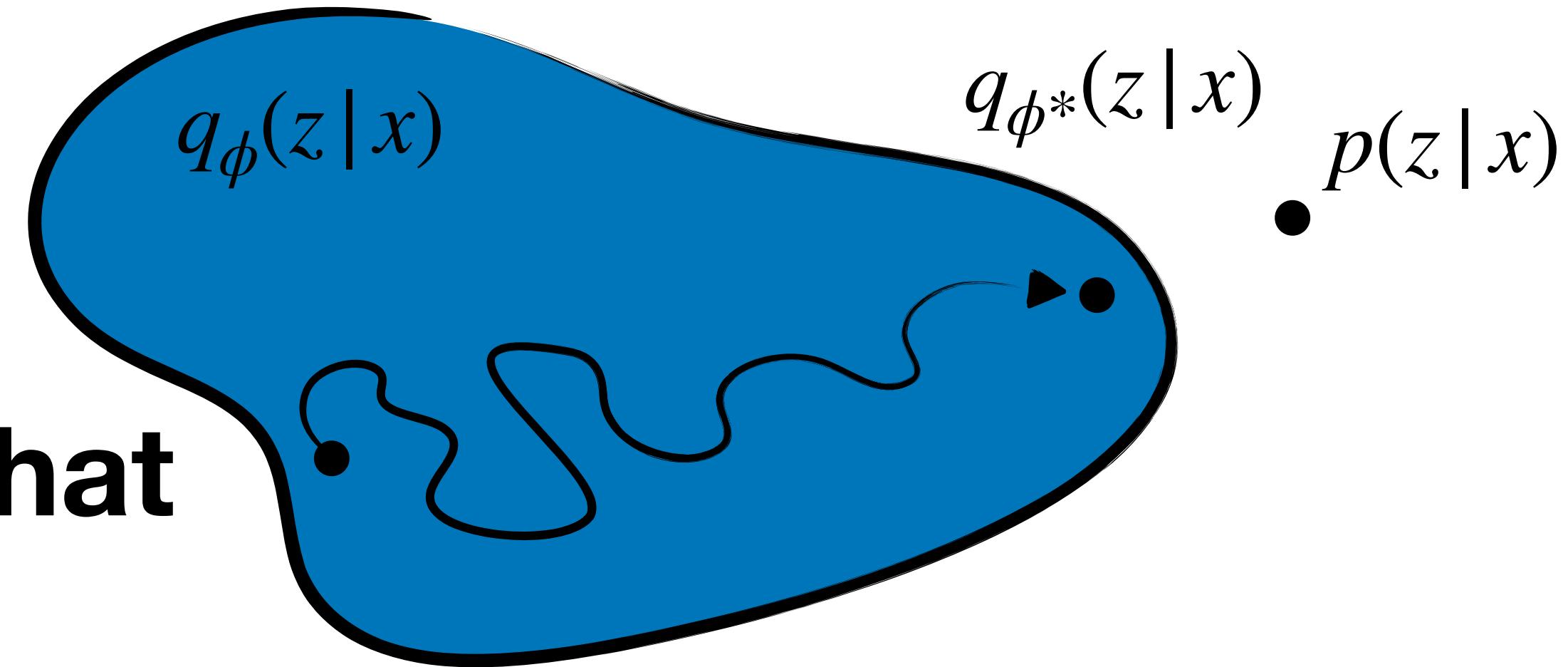
$$q_{w,b}(z | x) = \text{Ber}(z | \sigma(wx + b))$$



# Defining an Objective

Our goal is to approximate  $p(z | x)$ . Intuitively, we some notion of **distance between distributions**  $d(p, q_\phi)$

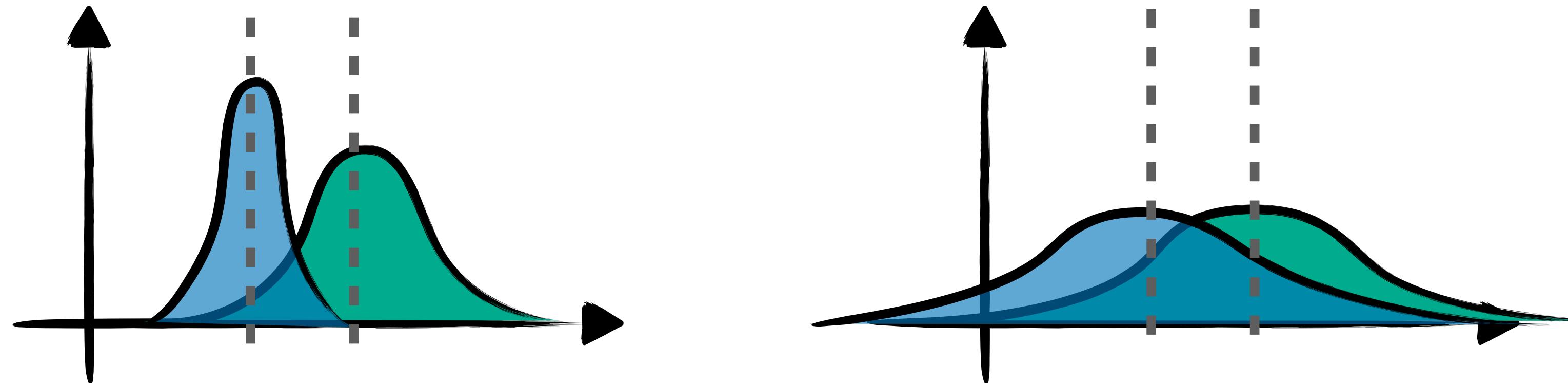
Learning as  
minimization of that  
distance



$$\phi^* = \operatorname{argmin}_\phi d(p, q_\phi)$$

# Distances between Distributions

Distributions are extended objects, not single point



*same distance in means but which pair is “closer”?*

A common choice:  
“KL Distance”

$$D_{\text{KL}}(p \parallel q) = \int dx p(x) \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$$

*Kullback-Leibler Divergence*

# A natural objective

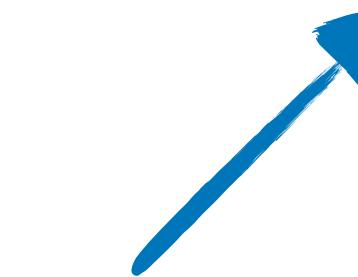
**So a Natural Objective:** get good inference performance across all the possible data we might encounter.

I.e. minimize:

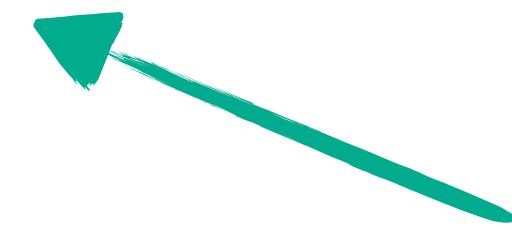
$$L(\phi) = \mathbb{E}_p(x) D_{\text{KL}}(p(z|x) \parallel q_\phi(z|x))$$



Average over  
all (likely) data



True Inference  
Solution



Our Approximation

# A natural objective

Ok, but it seems like to compute the objective we already need to know the answer?

$$\begin{aligned} L(\phi) &= \mathbb{E}_{p(x)} D_{\text{KL}}(p(z|x) \parallel q_\phi(z|x)) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{p(x)} \mathbb{E}_{p(z|x)} \log \frac{p(z|x)}{q_\phi(z|x)} \end{aligned}$$

# A natural objective

Amazingly it all drops out! In the end, we get something we can estimate purely from data pairs  $(x_i, z_i)$  - which we have

$$L(\phi) = \mathbb{E}_x \mathbb{E}_{p(z|x)} \log \frac{p(z|x)}{q_\phi(z|x)} = -\mathbb{E}_{p(x,z)} \log q_\phi(z|x)$$

**This is called the “Cross-Entropy” Loss and is most used for supervised learning**

# Alternative Names

CE sometimes hides under another name / formula:

**Gaussians:** “Mean Squared Error” (MSE)

$$\mathbb{E}_{p(x,z)}(z - \mu_{\phi}(x))^2$$

**Binary Classification:** “Binary Cross Entropy” (BCE)

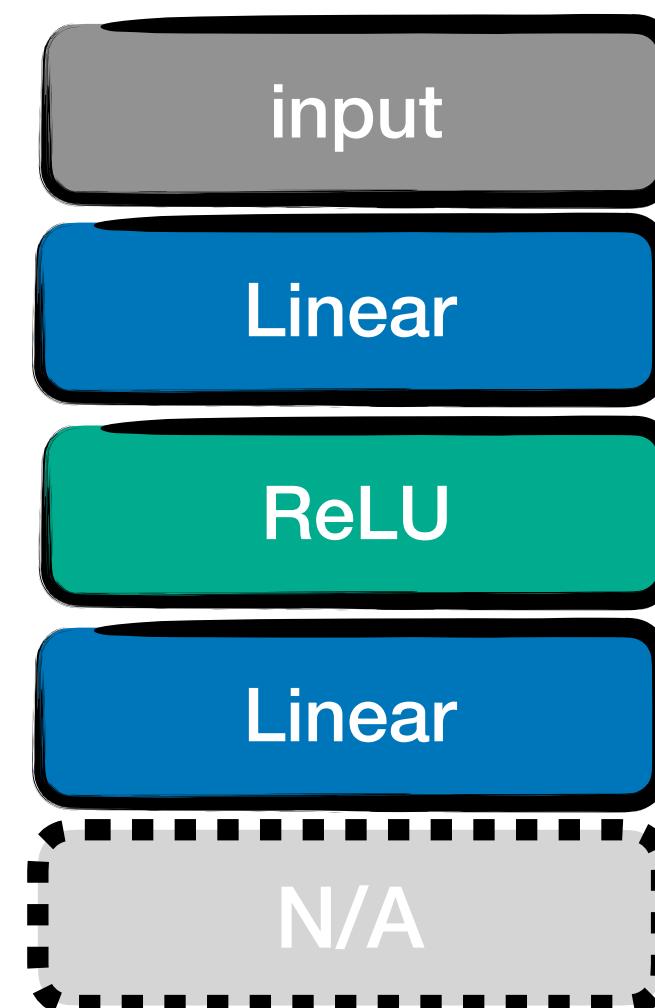
$$\mathbb{E}_{p(x,z)}[z \log \theta_{\phi}(x) + (1 - z) \log(1 - \theta_{\phi}(x))]$$

# Output Activations

For UFA the type of non-linearity was irrelevant, now we need to at least be careful with the **output activation**

Regression

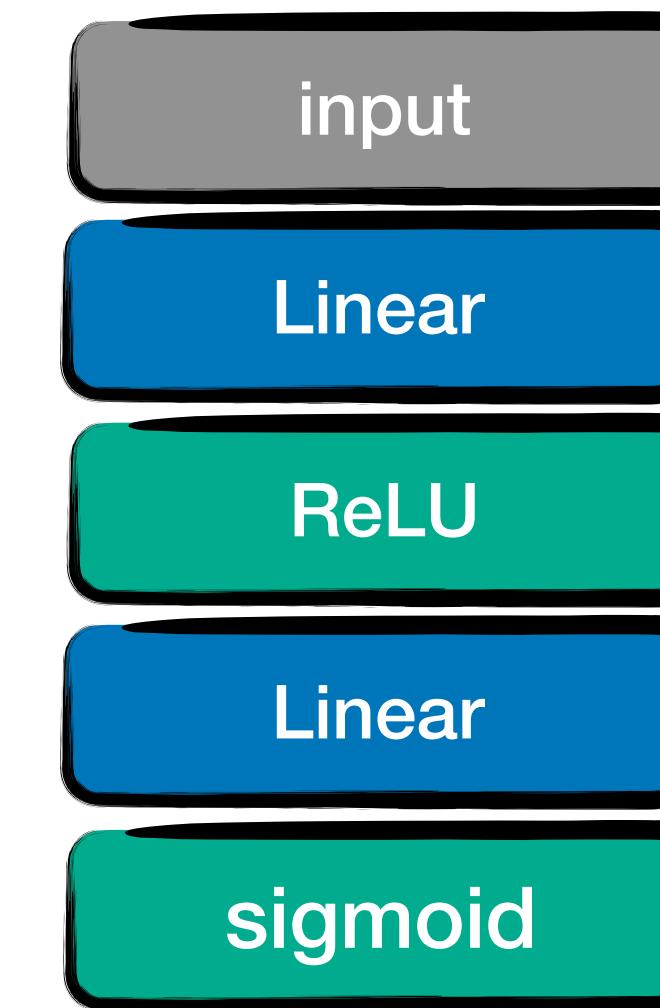
$$\mu_\phi(x) \in \mathbb{R}$$



No activation!

Binary Classification

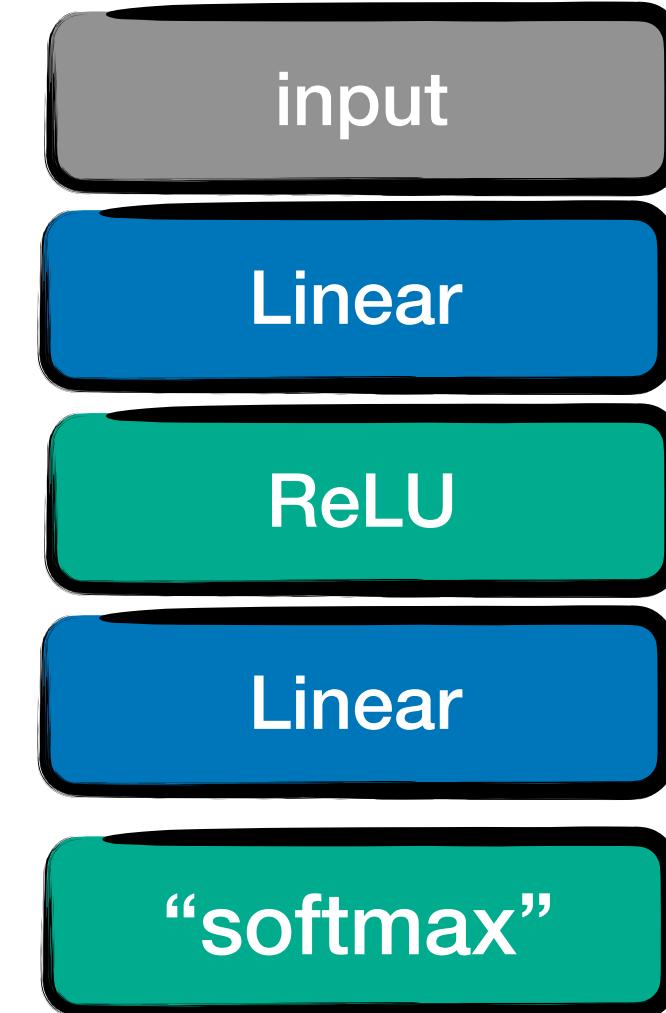
$$\theta(x) \in [0,1]$$



$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

Multi-class Classification

$$p_i(x) \geq 0 \text{ s.t. } \sum p_i = 1$$



$$\text{softmax}(x) = \frac{e^{x_i}}{\sum_i e^{x_i}}$$

# Deep Learning Inductive Bias & Friends

# Two issues with shallow networks

Shallow Networks are great (universal, even!),  
but there are two issues:

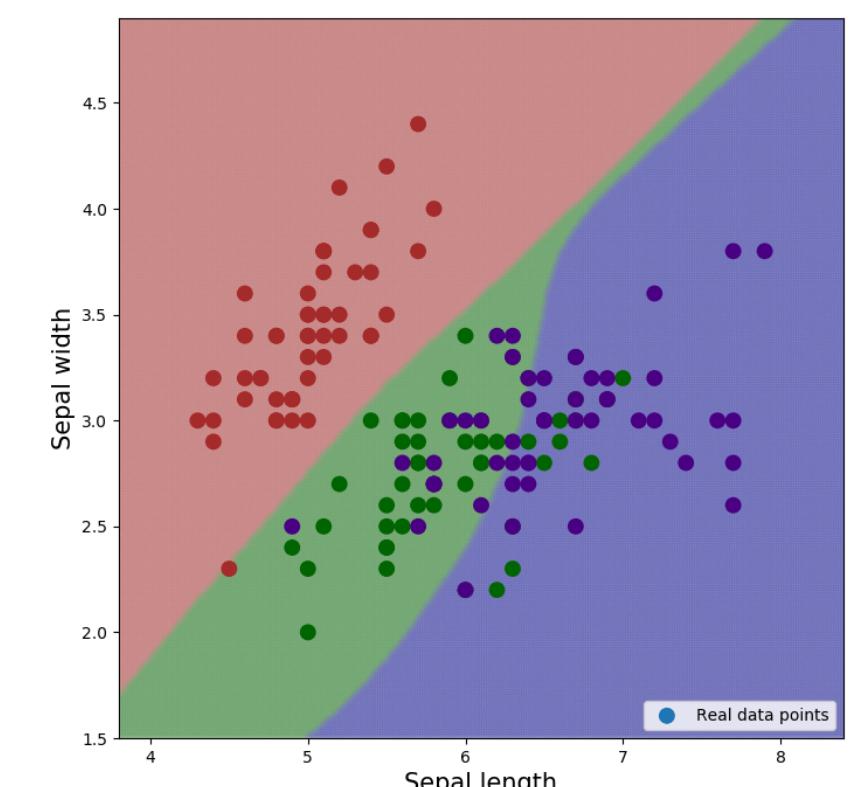
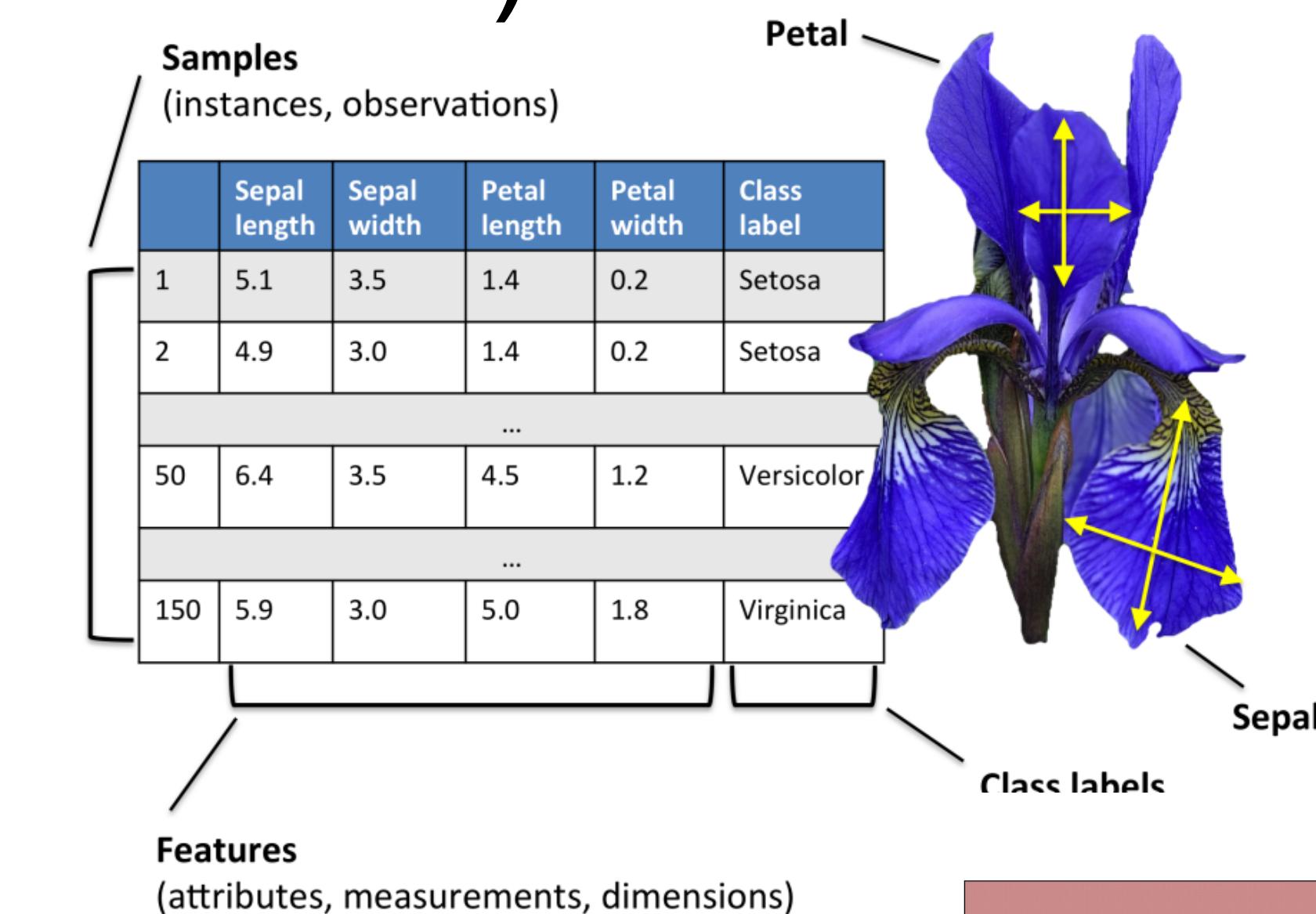
- to *actually* model complex functions you need a lot of neurons, and i.e. parameters
- sometimes **we know quite a bit** about our target function, should we really search in a **universal space**?

# Deep Learning

A lot of classic machine learning was done on highly preprocessed data (“engineered features”)

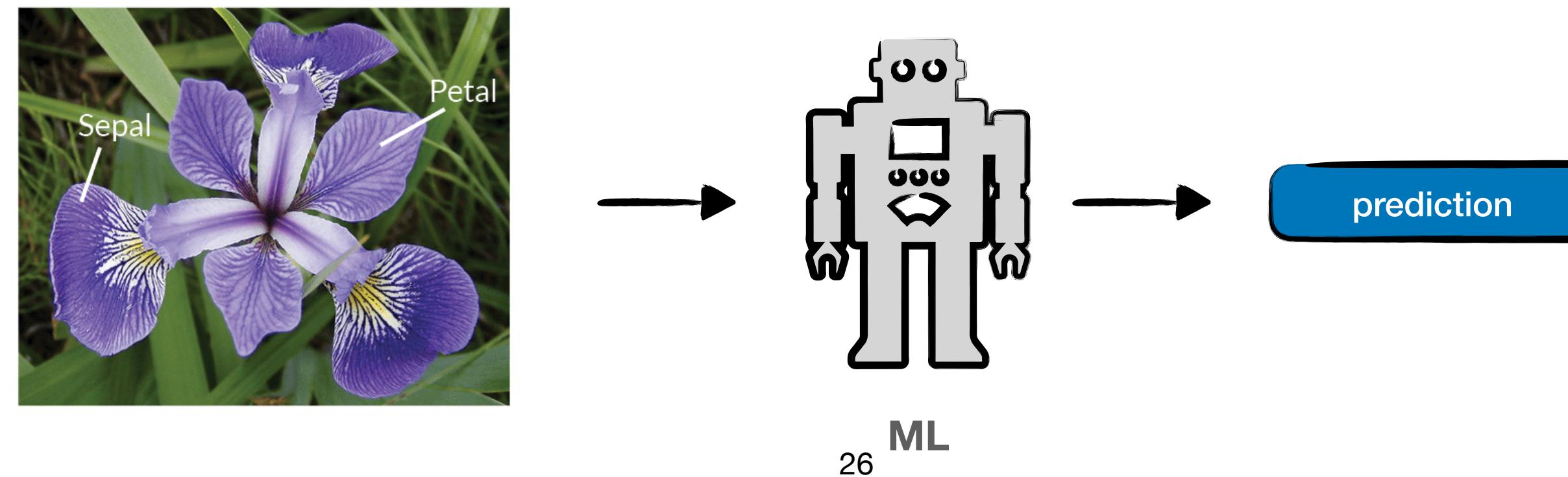
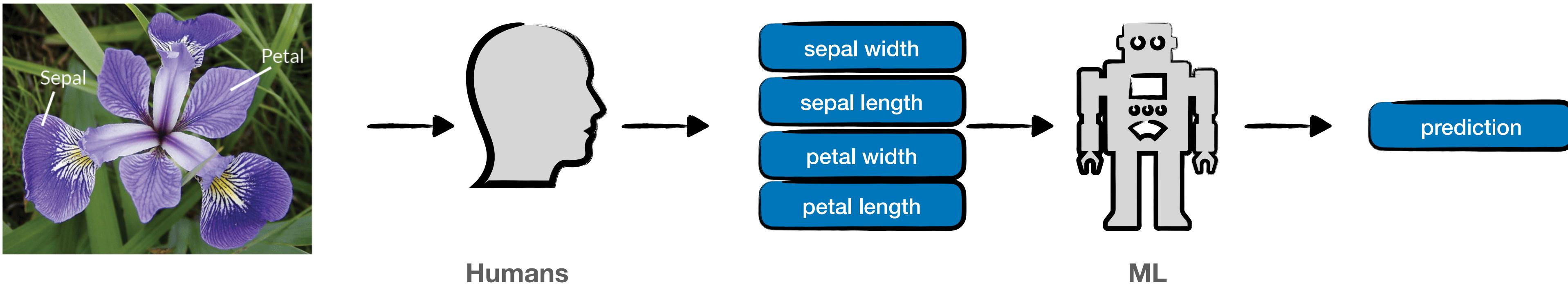


didn't require (and couldn't afford)  
very complex hypothesis spaces



# Deep Learning

More ambitious: Can we learn the features as well?



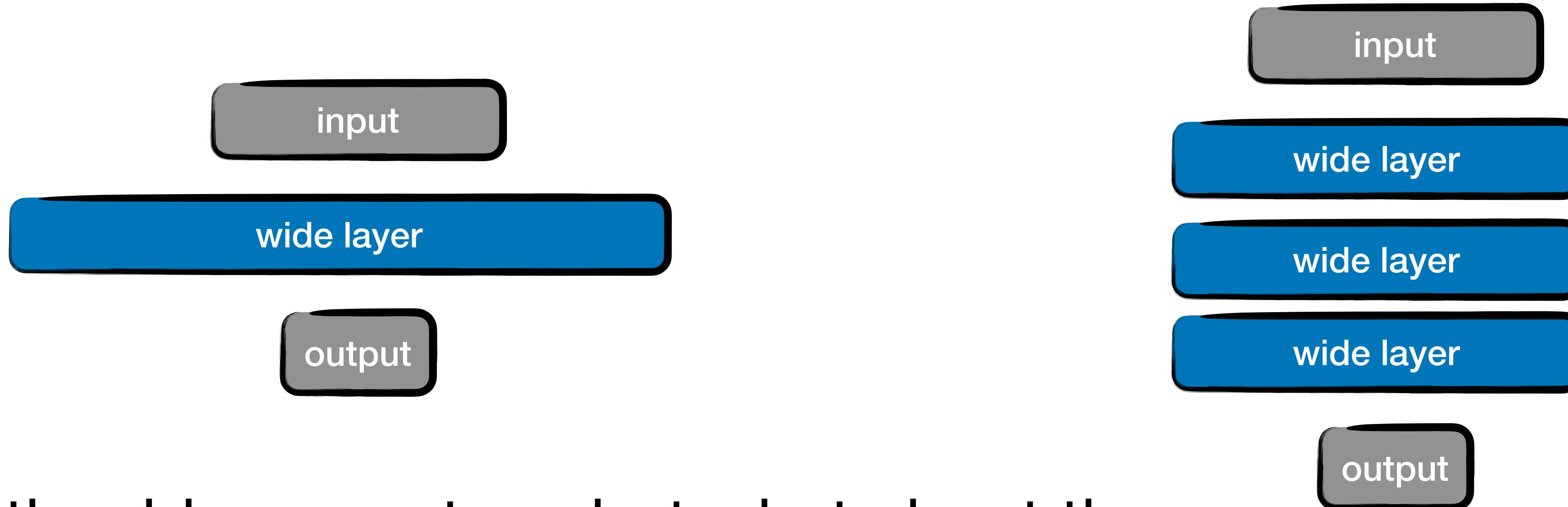
# Deep Learning Considerations

To pull this off you will need

- **much more complex functions** for e.g. pixels → cat|  
→ bigger hypothesis sets
- sufficient amount of data to be able to afford them  
→ remember bias variance tradeoff
- ... or an affective way too constrain the search space  
→ inductive bias

# Growing Neural Networks

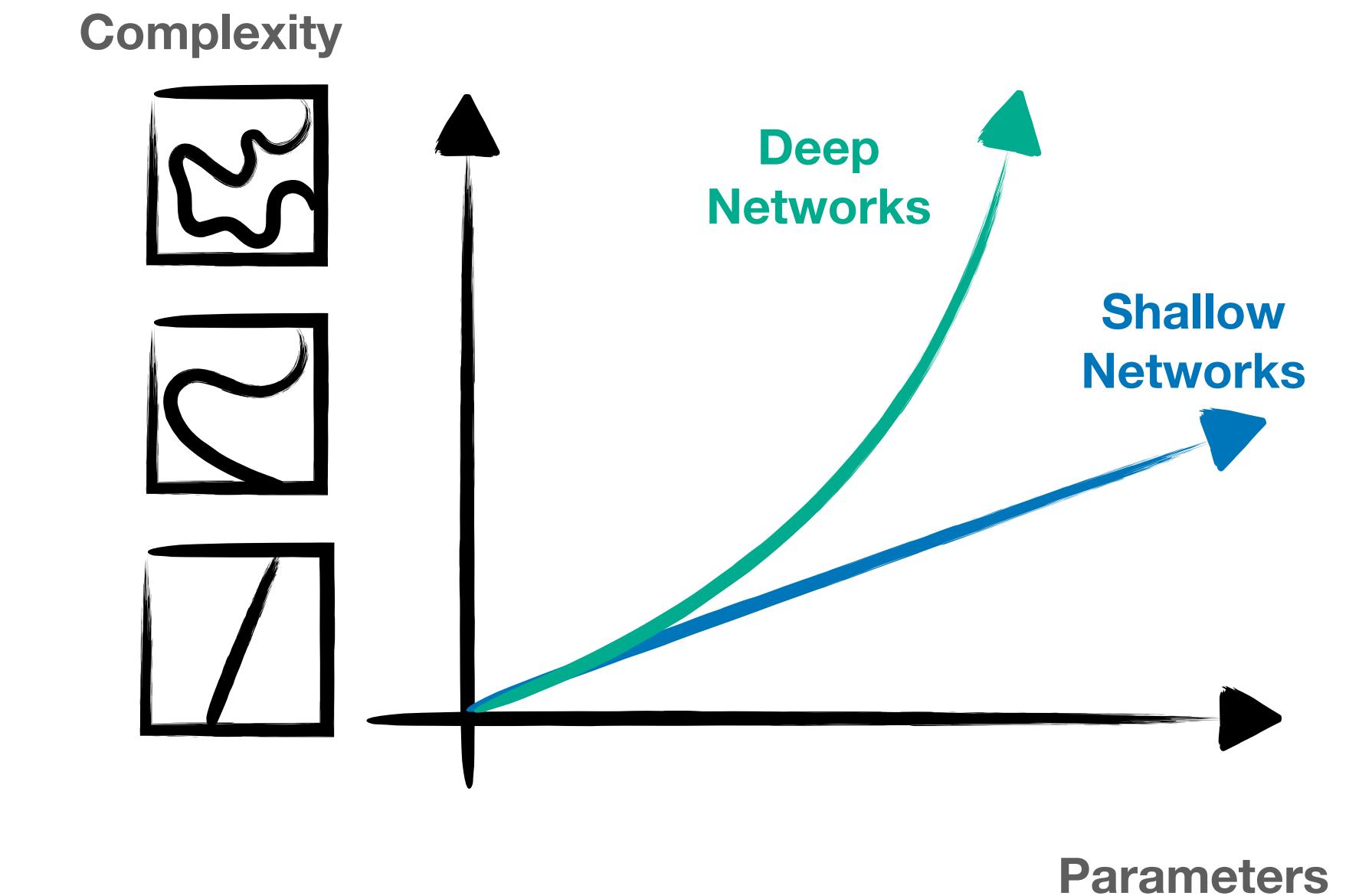
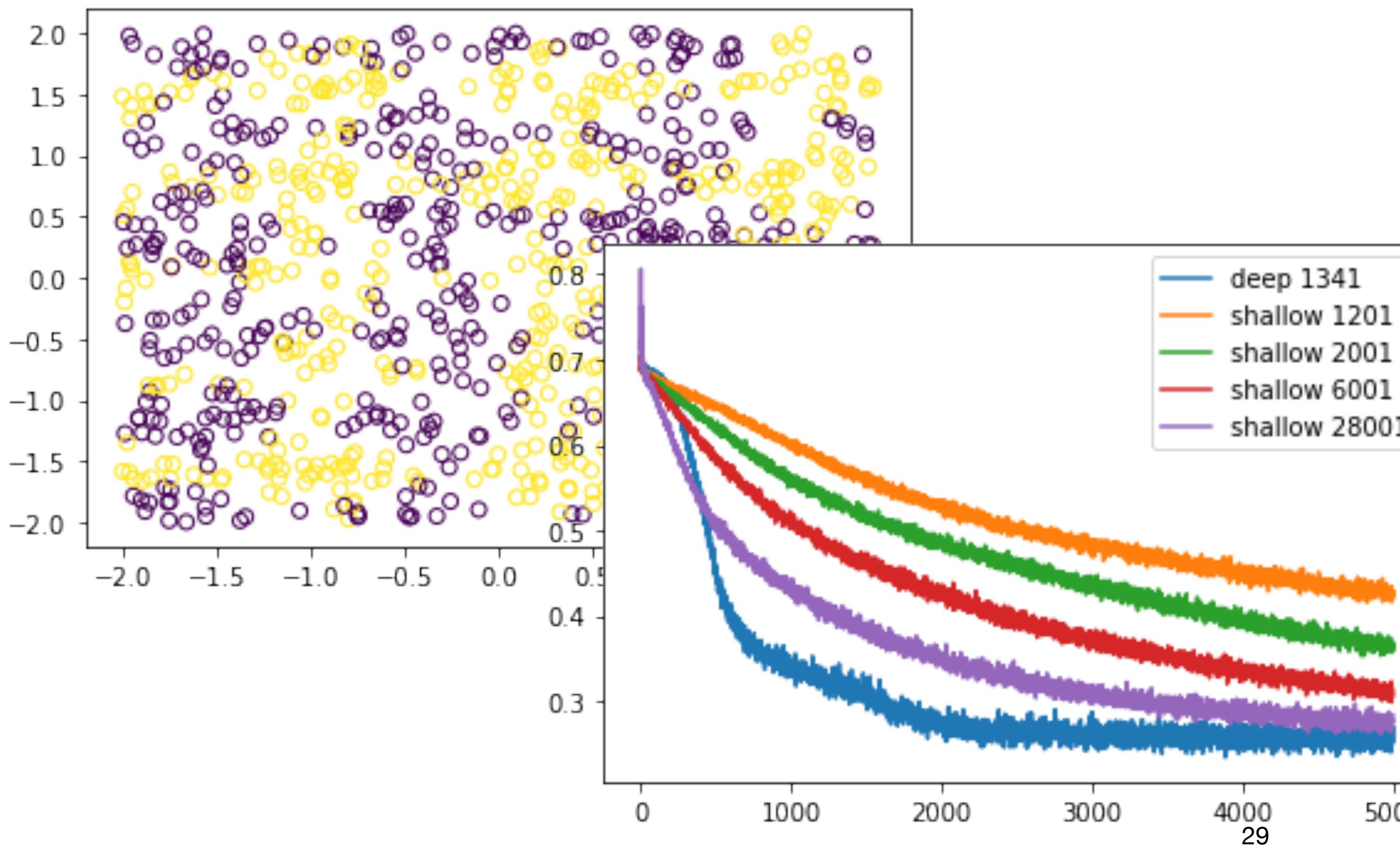
How should we grow our neural networks? Wide or Deep?



Both add parameters, but what about the actual functions they can approximate?

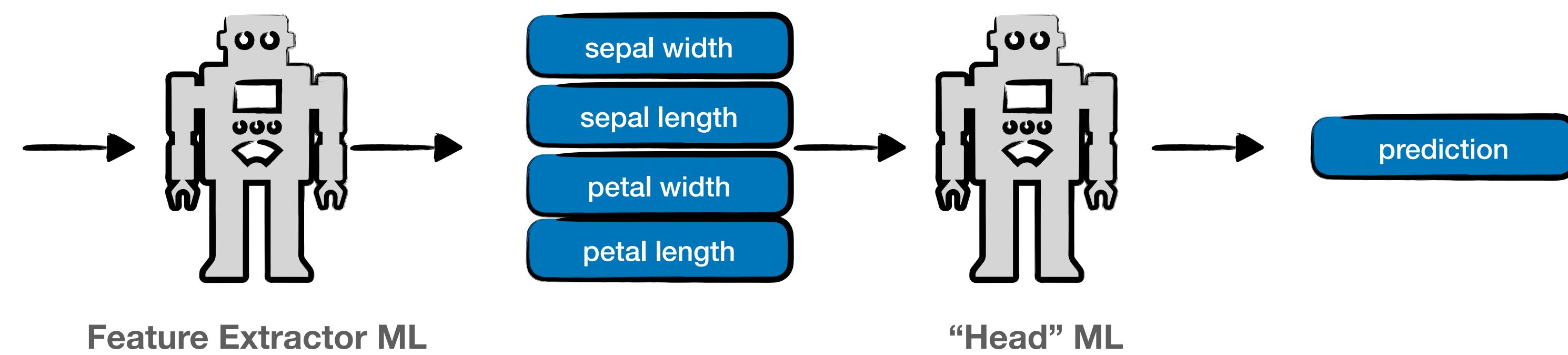
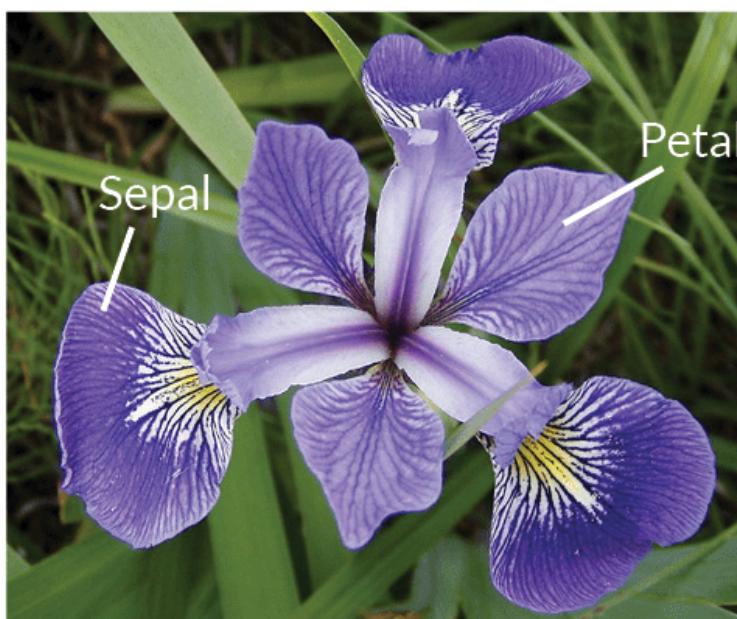
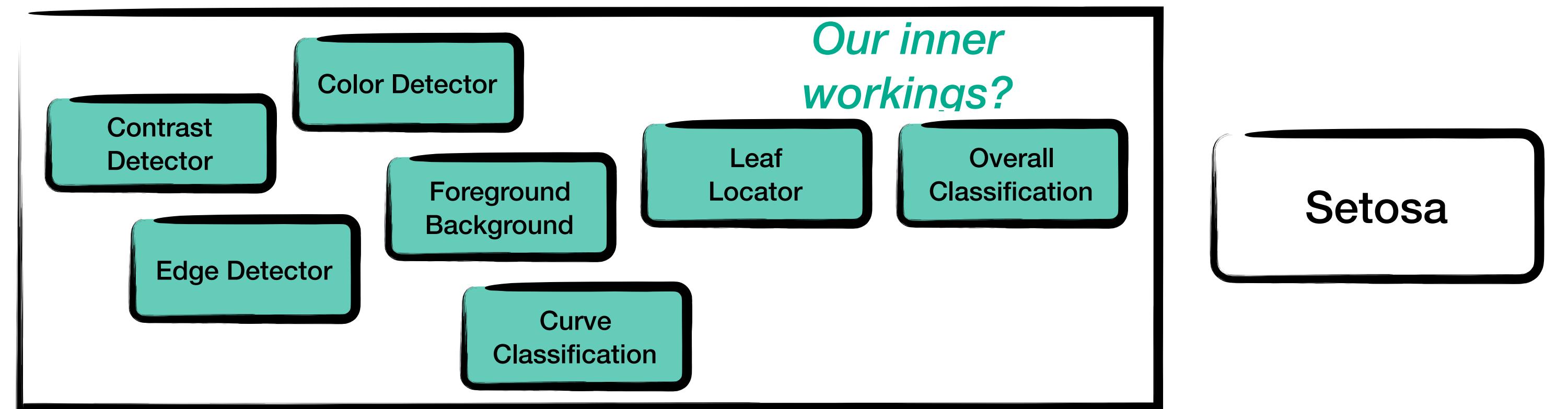
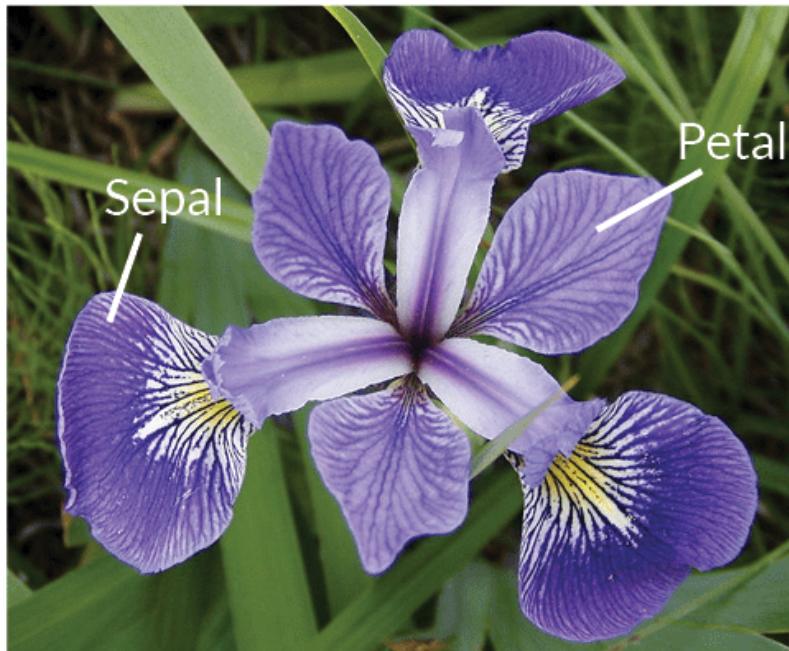
# Benefits of Depth

Deep Networks are much more effective at approximating complex functions.



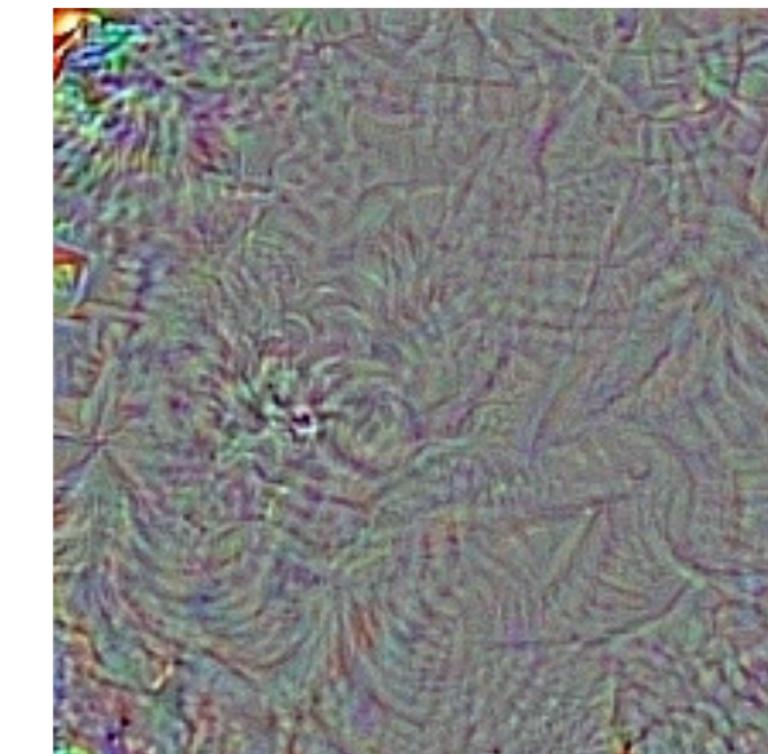
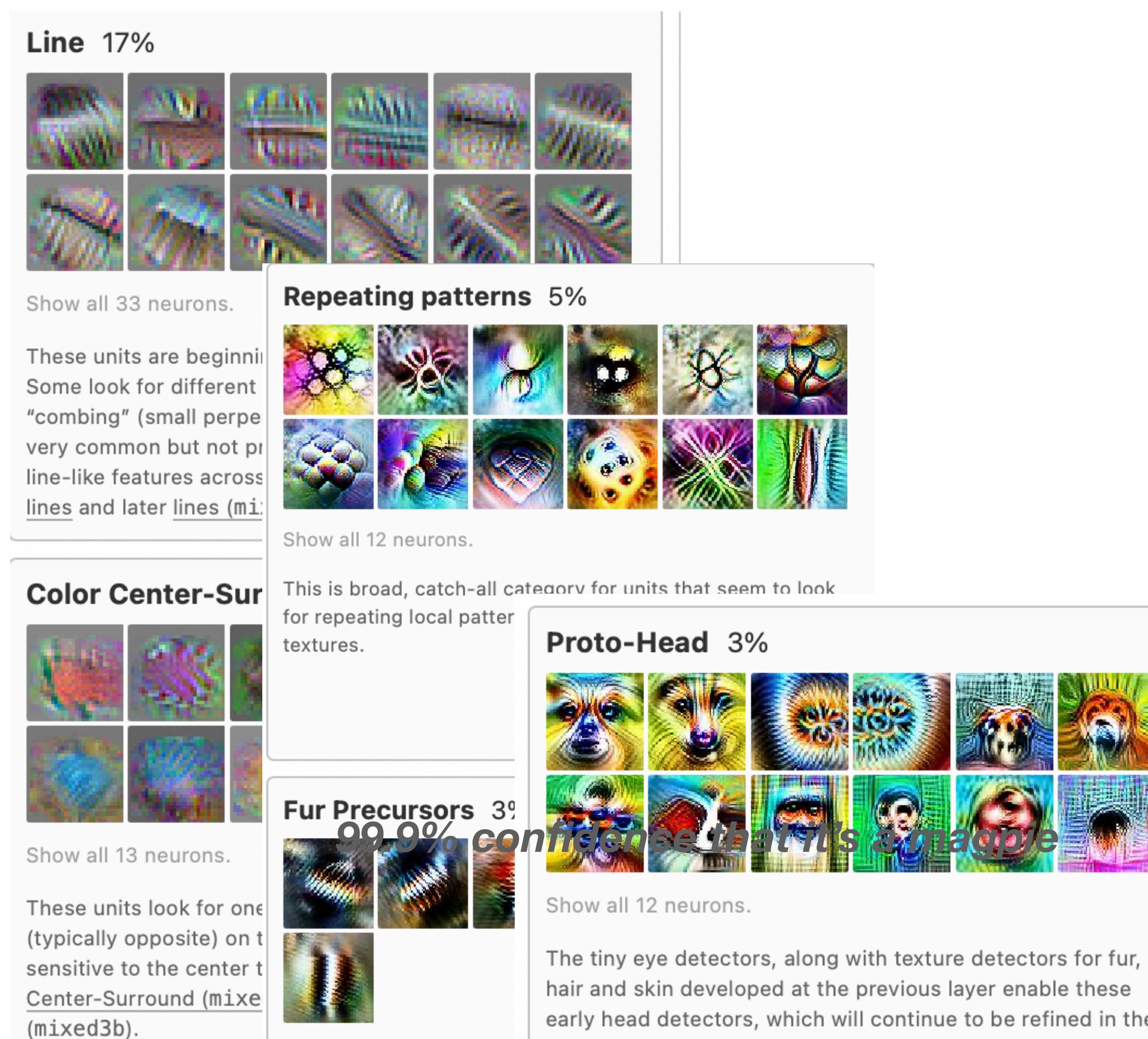
# Deep Learning

The assumption is that similar to us, effective machine-learned reasoning should go through layers of abstraction



# Deep Learning

We do see this, but care is needed to not overinterpret this



ML system has 99% confidence that this is a magpie

... an actual magpie

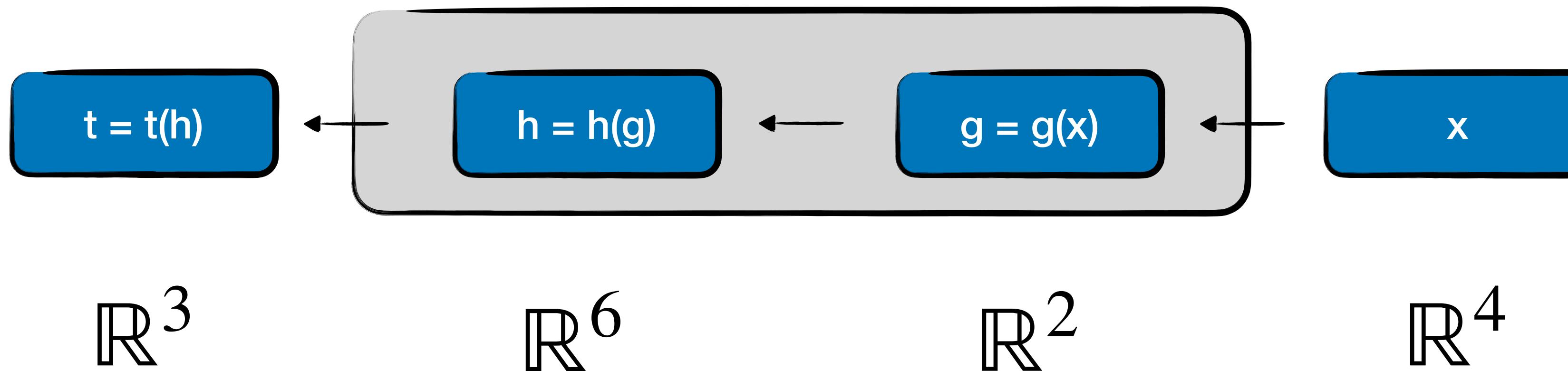
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# Gradients of Deep Programs

# Gradient Descent needs... Gradients!

As neural networks become bigger & deeper, need to find a way to compute them efficiently

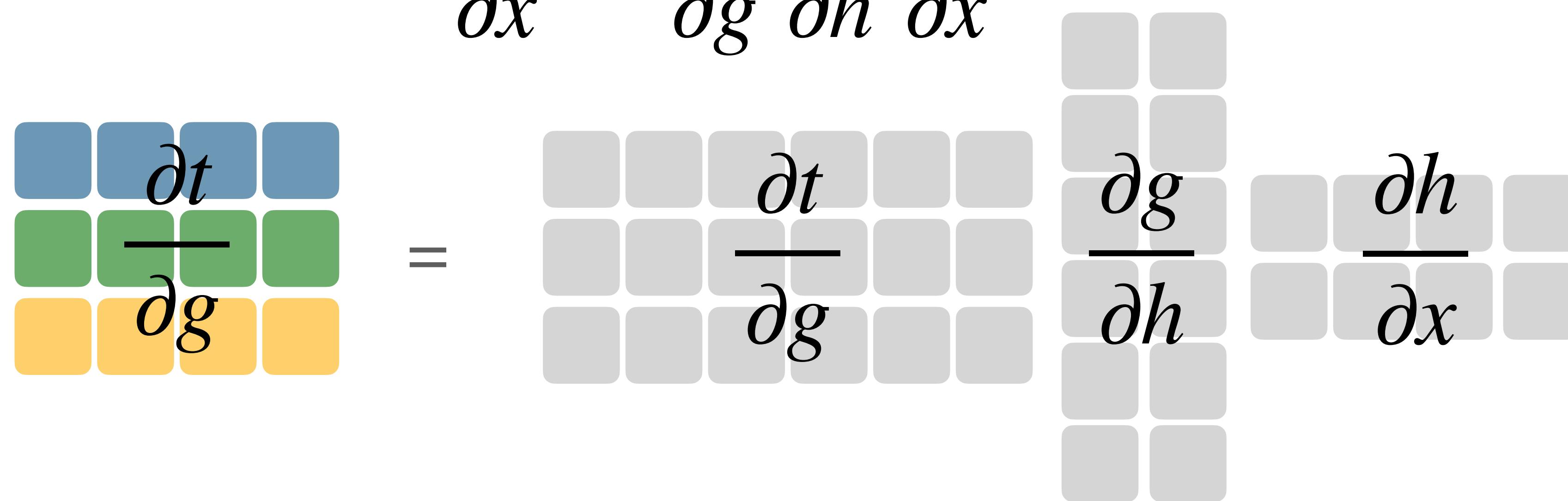
$$f(x) = (t \circ h \circ g)(x) = t(h(g(x))) : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$



# Gradient Descent needs... Gradients!

We want to compute the Jacobian of the deep composition of functions. **But a naive approach scales badly**

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial t}{\partial g} \frac{\partial g}{\partial h} \frac{\partial h}{\partial x}$$



# Matrix-Free Computation

Instead of Matrix-Matrix products, we can compute more **cheap vector-Matrix products** and compute a row at a time

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{blue square} \\ \text{blue square} \\ \text{blue square} \\ \text{blue square} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{blue square} \\ \text{blue square} \\ \text{blue square} \\ \text{blue square} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{green square} \\ \text{green square} \\ \text{green square} \\ \text{green square} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{yellow square} \\ \text{yellow square} \\ \text{yellow square} \\ \text{yellow square} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{blue square} \\ \text{blue square} \\ \text{blue square} \\ \text{blue square} \end{array} = \boxed{\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \frac{\partial t}{\partial g} \\ \text{gray square} \\ \text{gray square} \\ \text{gray square} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \frac{\partial g}{\partial h} \\ \text{gray square} \\ \text{gray square} \\ \text{gray square} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \\ \text{gray square} \\ \text{gray square} \\ \text{gray square} \end{array}}$$

# Matrix-Free Computation

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$$\begin{array}{c} \text{blue squares} \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 0 \quad 0 \\ \text{green squares} \\ \text{yellow squares} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{blue squares} \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{red box} \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \frac{\partial g}{\partial h} \\ \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{c} \text{blue squares} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{blue squares} \end{array} = \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \text{teal squares} \\ \text{---} \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial h} \\ \text{---} \\ \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \end{array}}$$

# Matrix-Free Computation

Instead of Matrix-Matrix products, we can compute more **cheap vector-Matrix products** and compute a row at a time

$$\begin{matrix} \text{blue square} & \text{blue square} & \text{blue square} & \text{blue square} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{blue square} & \text{blue square} & \text{blue square} & \text{blue square} \\ \text{green square} & \text{green square} & \text{green square} & \text{green square} \\ \text{yellow square} & \text{yellow square} & \text{yellow square} & \text{yellow square} \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} \text{blue square} & \text{blue square} & \text{blue square} & \text{blue square} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} \text{red box} & \text{red box} \\ \text{red box} & \text{red box} \end{matrix} \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \begin{matrix} \text{grey square} & \text{grey square} & \text{grey square} & \text{grey square} \\ \text{grey square} & \text{grey square} & \text{grey square} & \text{grey square} \end{matrix}$$

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# Matrix-Free Computation

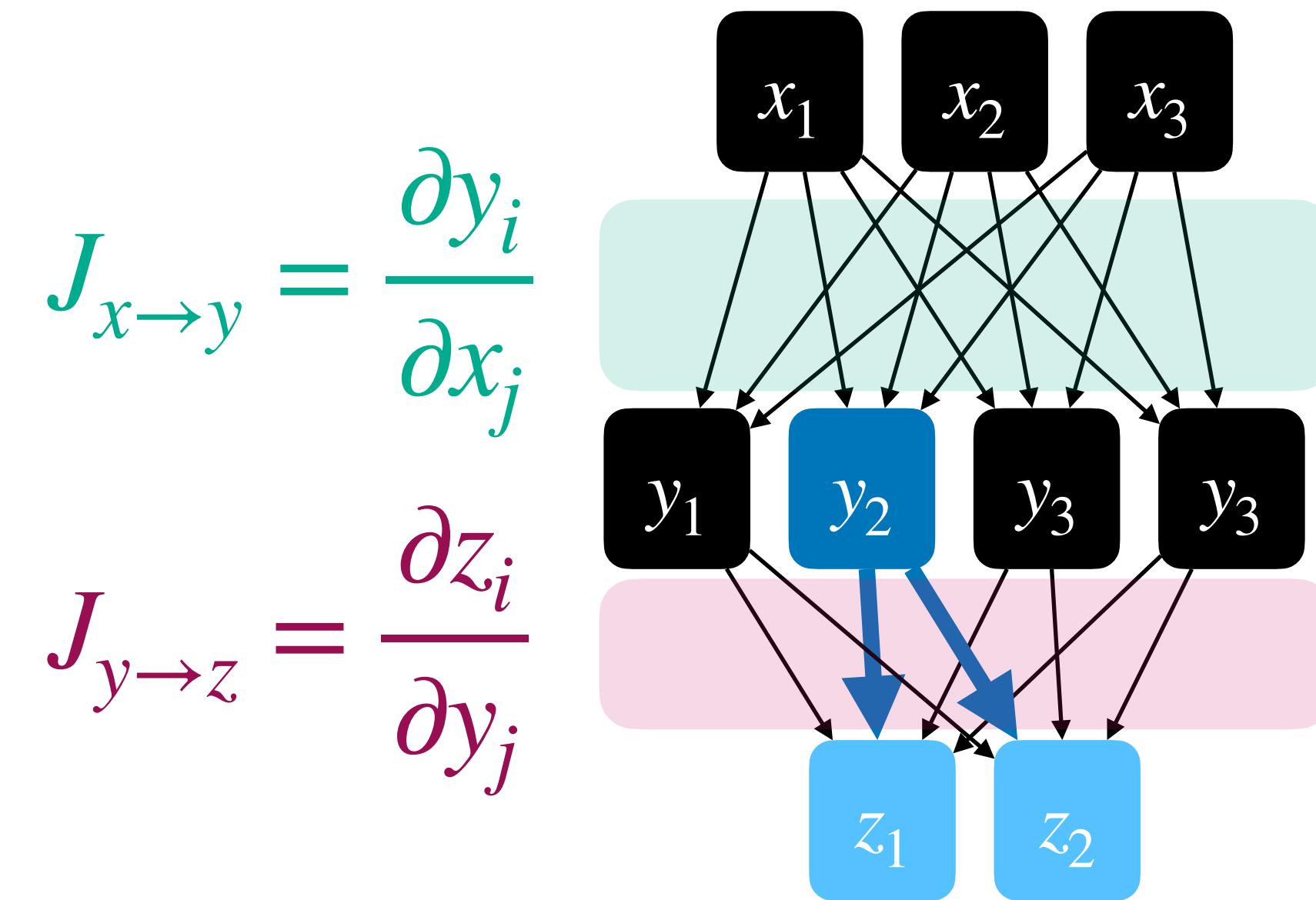
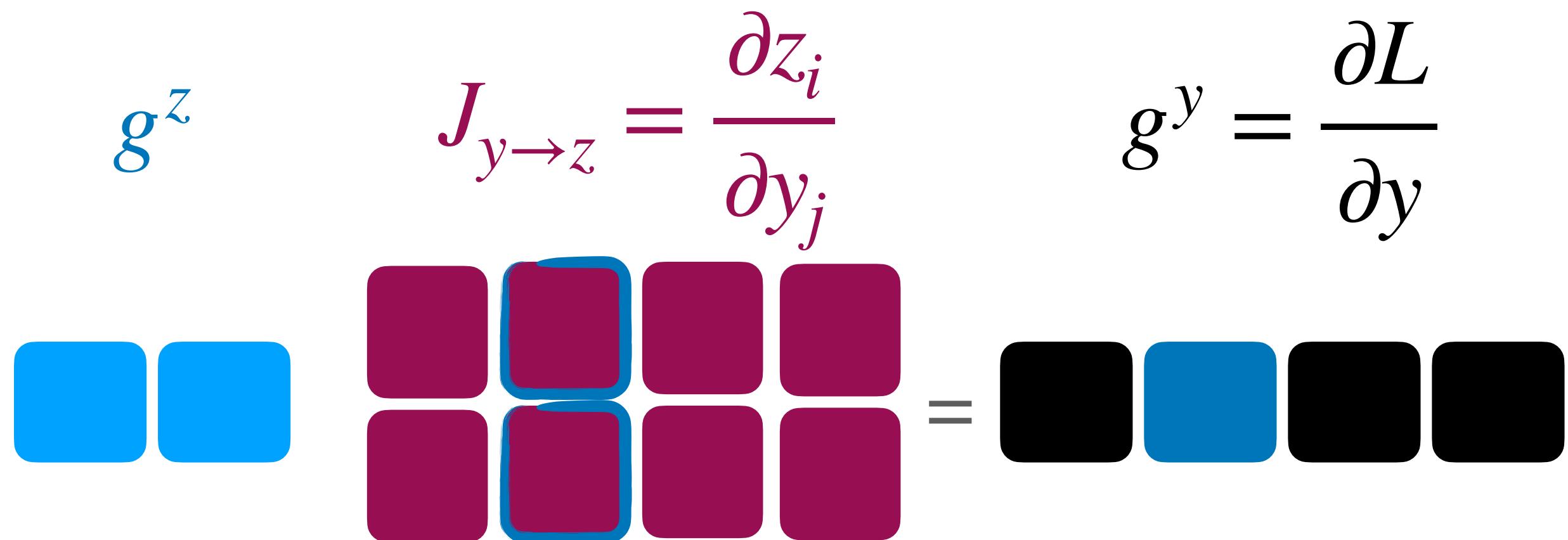
Instead of Matrix-Matrix products, we can compute more **cheap vector-Matrix products** and compute a row at a time

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{[4 blue squares]} \\ \times \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{[1 black, 2 grey]} \\ \times \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{[4 blue]} \\ \text{[4 green]} \\ \text{[4 yellow]} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{[4 blue squares]} \\ \times \end{array} = \boxed{\text{[4 teal squares]}}$$

# Automatic Differentiation

The approach can be generalized to arbitrary computational graphs: **The Backpropagation Algorithm**



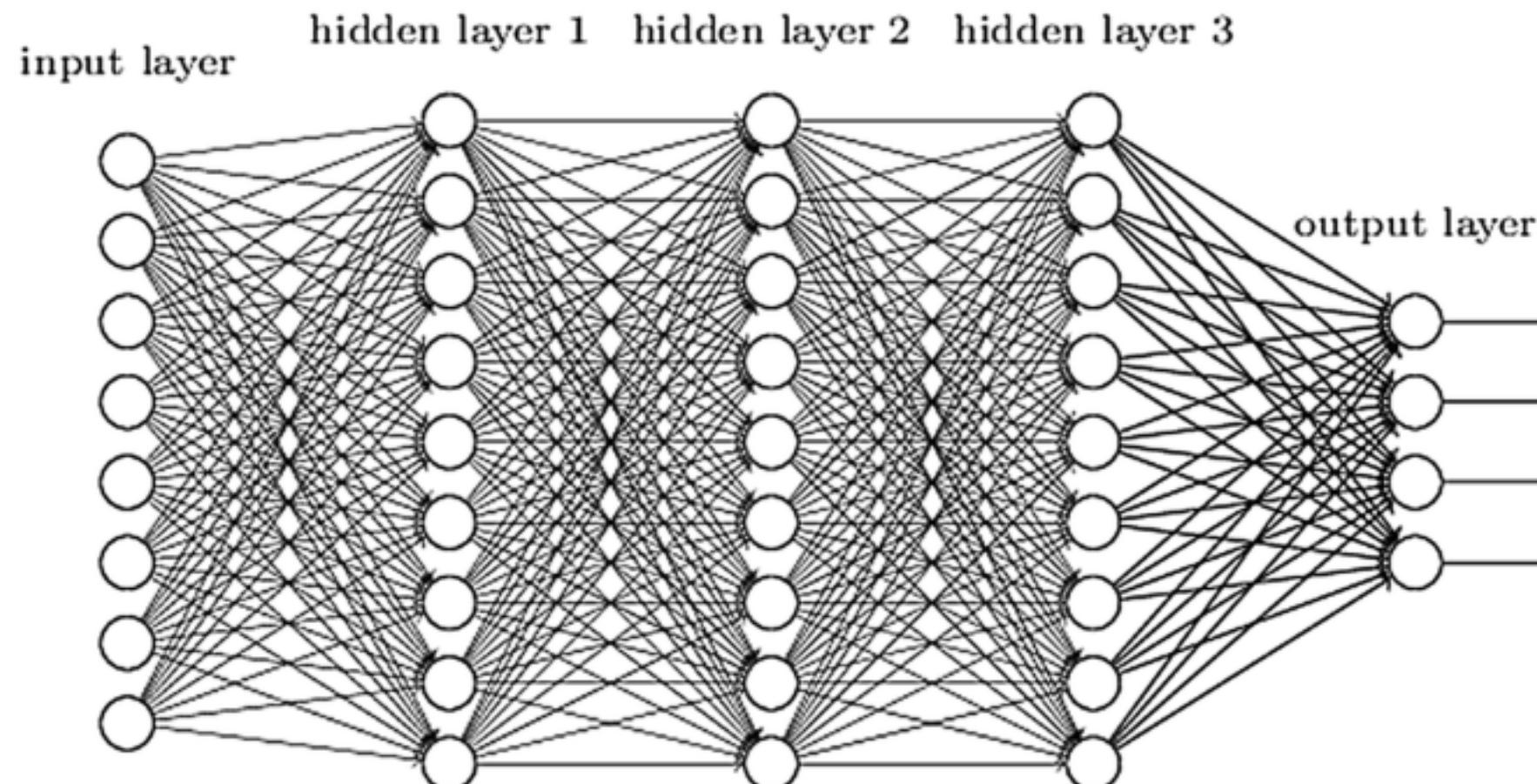
$$g^y = (g^z J)_i = \sum_k g_k^z J_{ki}$$

$$g_i^y = (g^z J)_i = \sum_{c \in \text{children}(y_i)} g_c^z \frac{\partial z_c}{\partial z_i}$$

# Putting it all Together

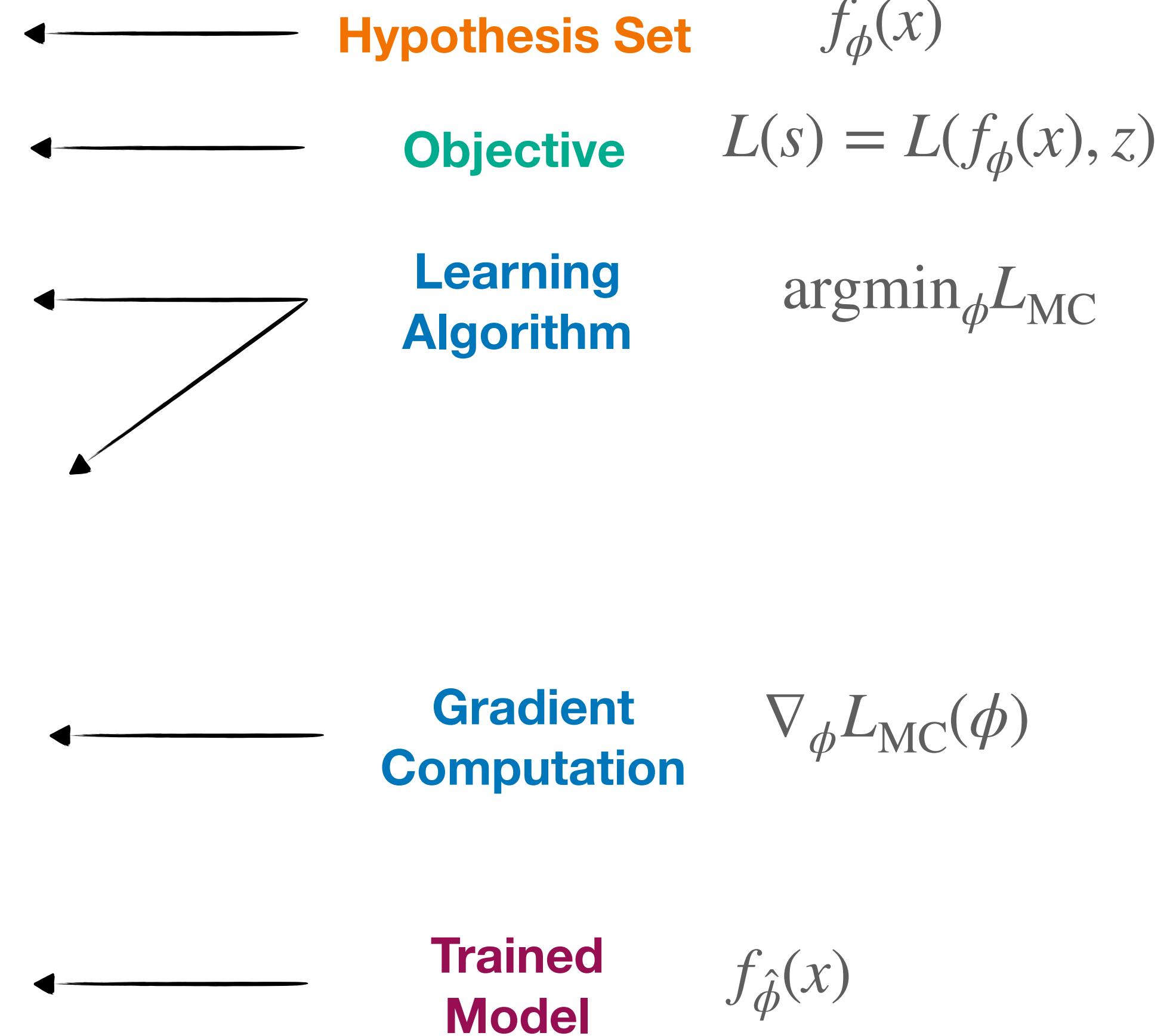
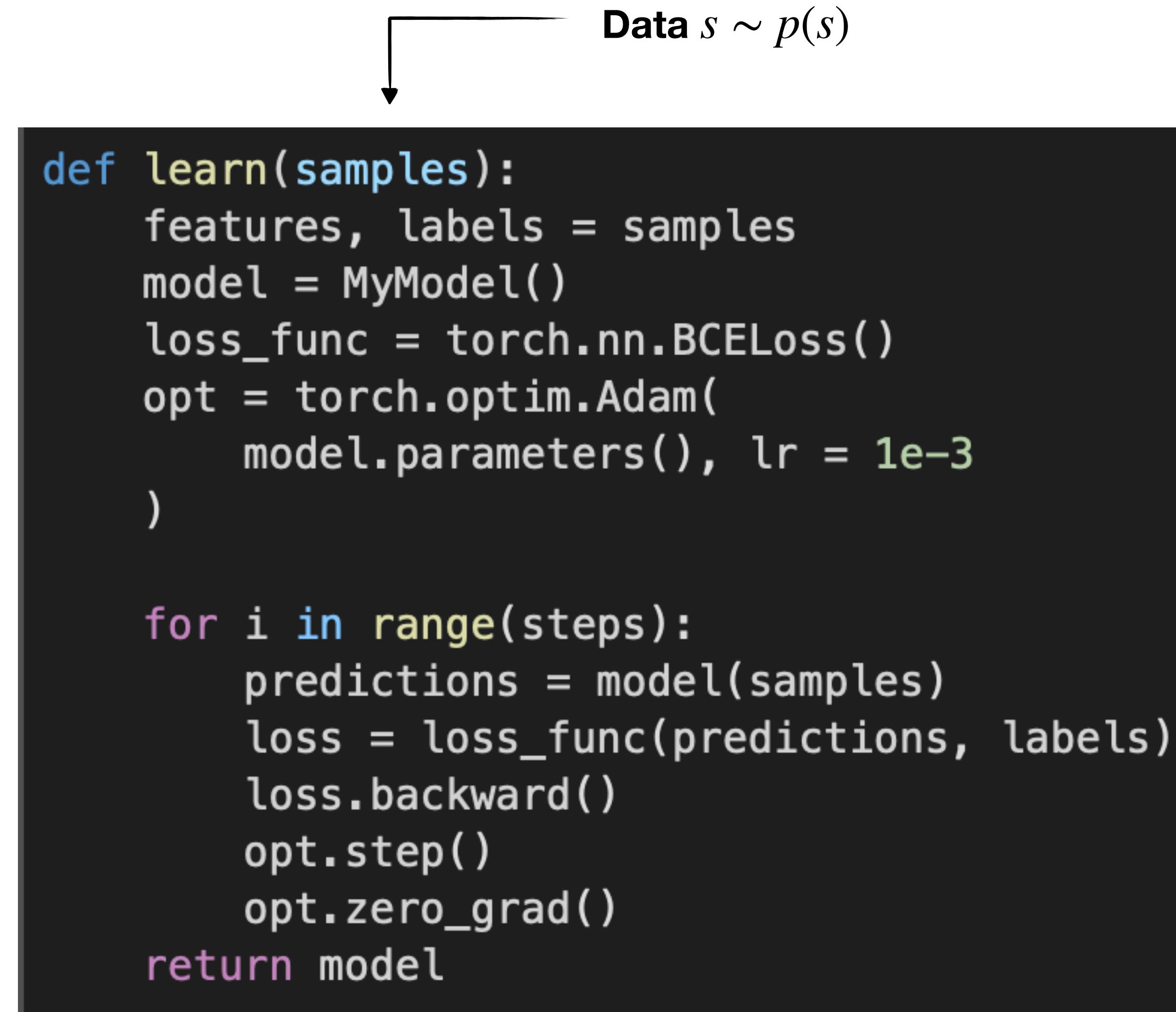
# ML Frameworks

ML Frameworks like PyTorch, Tensorflow, JAX put a lot of the pieces together to provide a performance setup



```
def create_model(input_dim, output_dim):
    return torch.nn.Sequential(
        torch.nn.Linear(input_dim, 9),
        torch.nn.ReLU(),
        torch.nn.Linear(9, 9),
        torch.nn.ReLU(),
        torch.nn.Linear(9, 9),
        torch.nn.ReLU(),
        torch.nn.Linear(9, output_dim),
        torch.nn.Sigmoid()
    )
```

# A full training Loop



# Inductive Bias & Architectures

# Beyond Depth

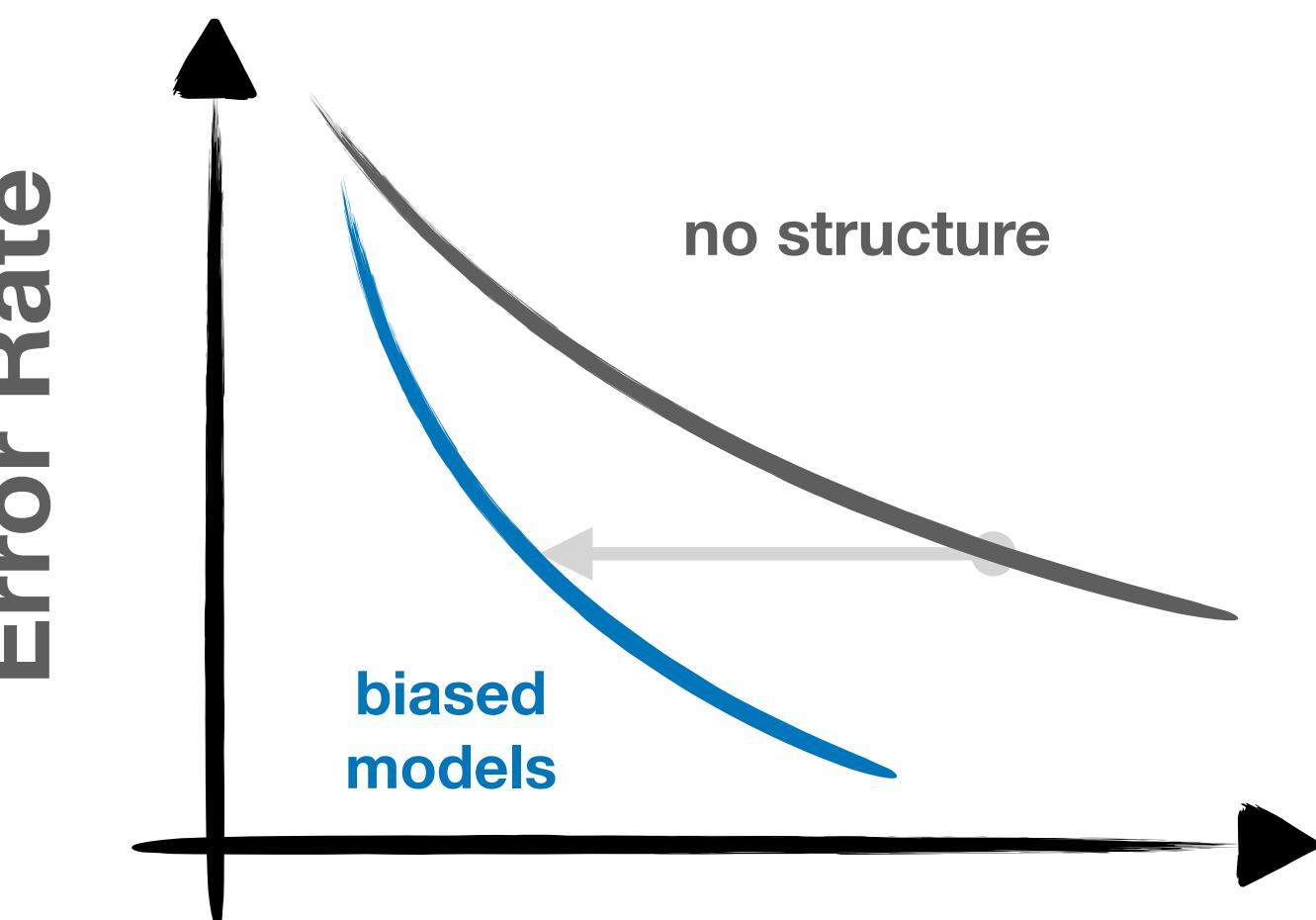
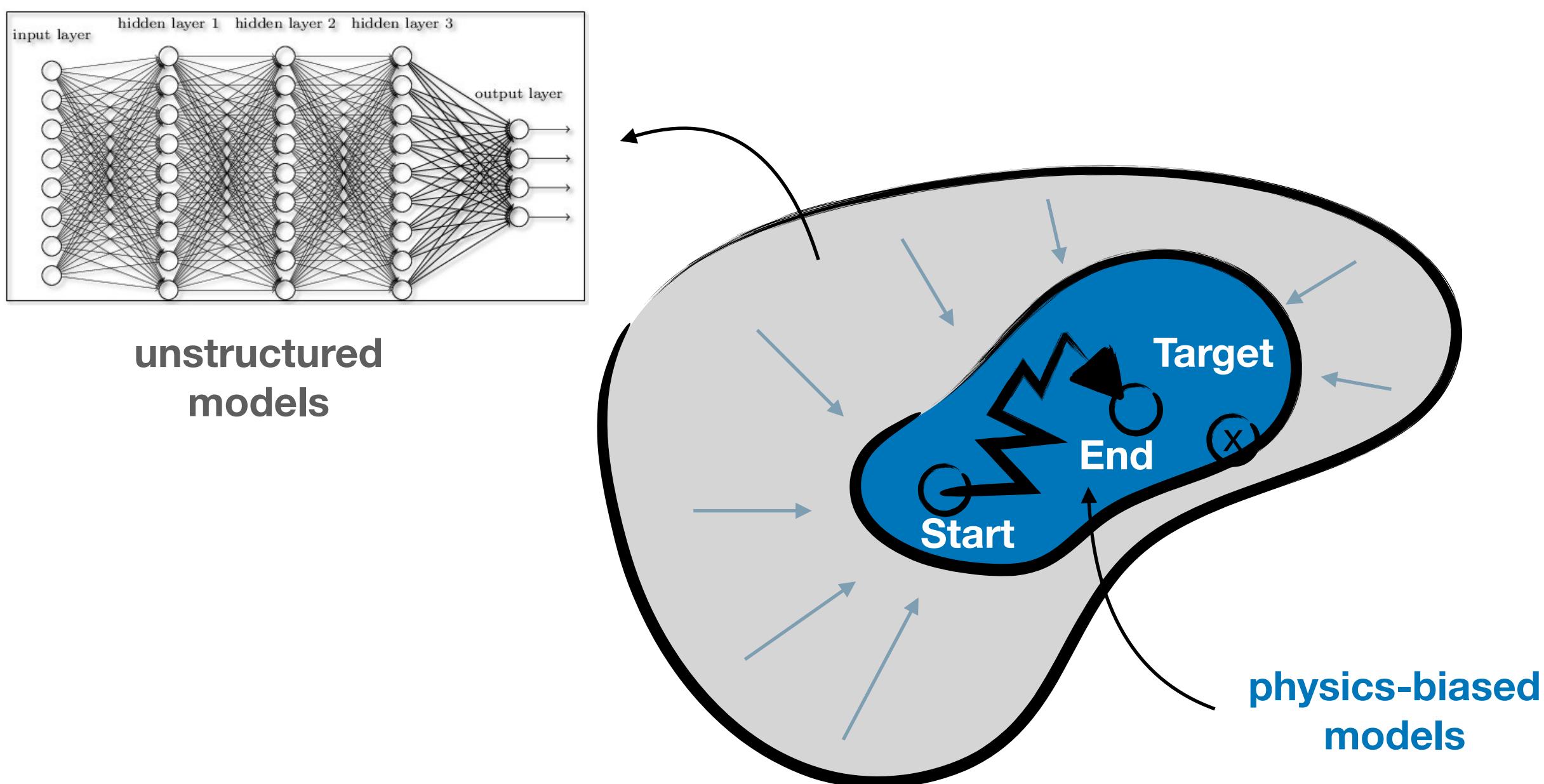
Can we push this further, should we move away from universal function approximators?

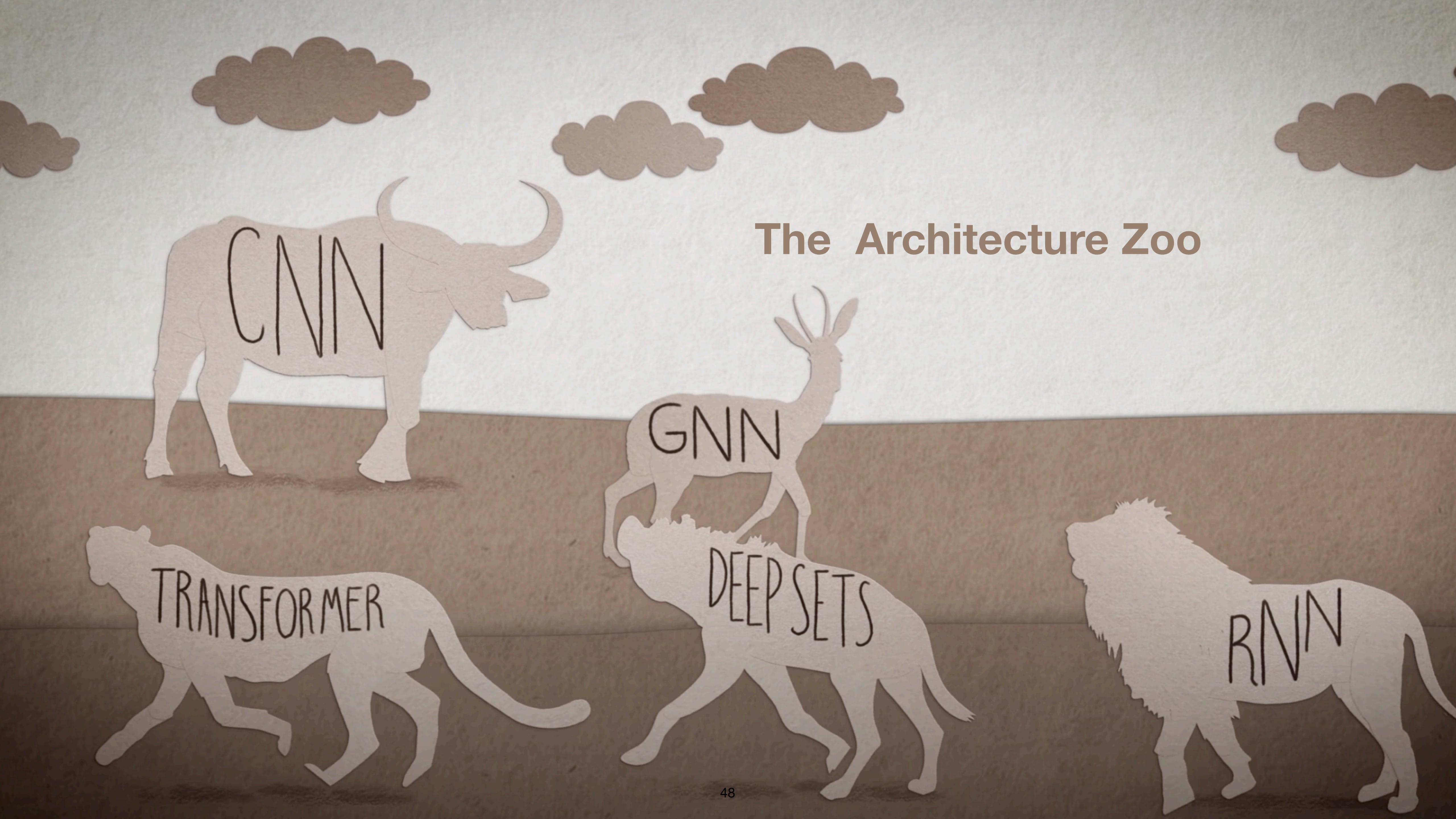
- bias variance tradeoff: reduce  $\mathcal{H}$  as much as you can

General Idea:  $\mathcal{H}$  should match **data modality & task**

# Inductive Bias

If we can throw out irrelevant functions, which we know can't be the solution, we **bias** our inductive process towards good solution (here: bias is good)





# The Architecture Zoo

CNN

GNN

TRANSFORMER

DEEP SETS

RNN

# Convolutional Neural Nets

Convolutional Neural Networks are (approximately)  
**translationally invariant**

Is there a cat in the picture?



How about now?

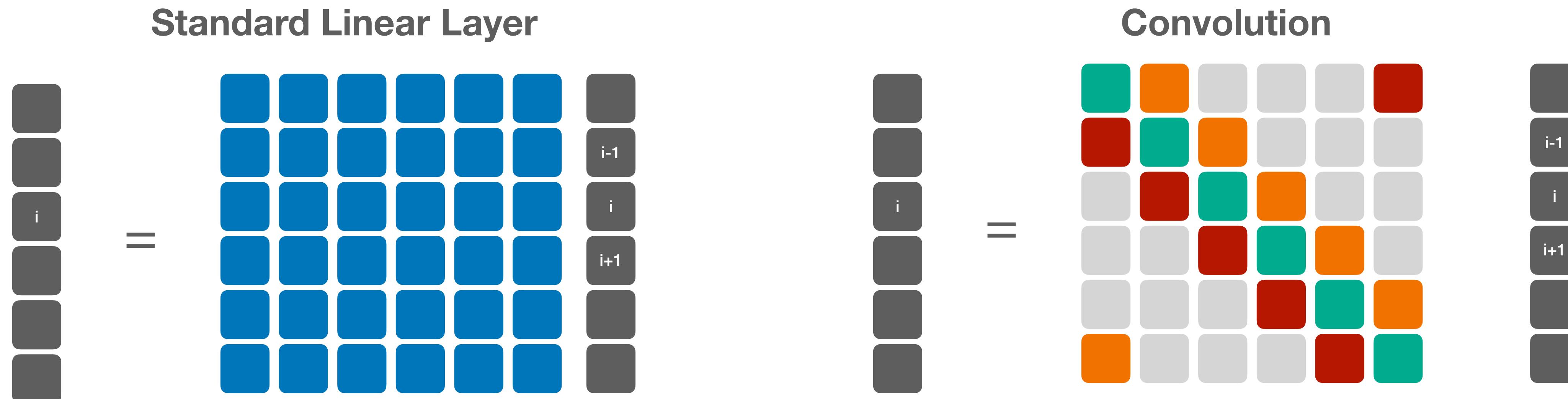


One of the early successes of deep learning in the 80s

# Convolutions

Two key ideas lead to convolutions as a building block

- local connectivity and weight sharing

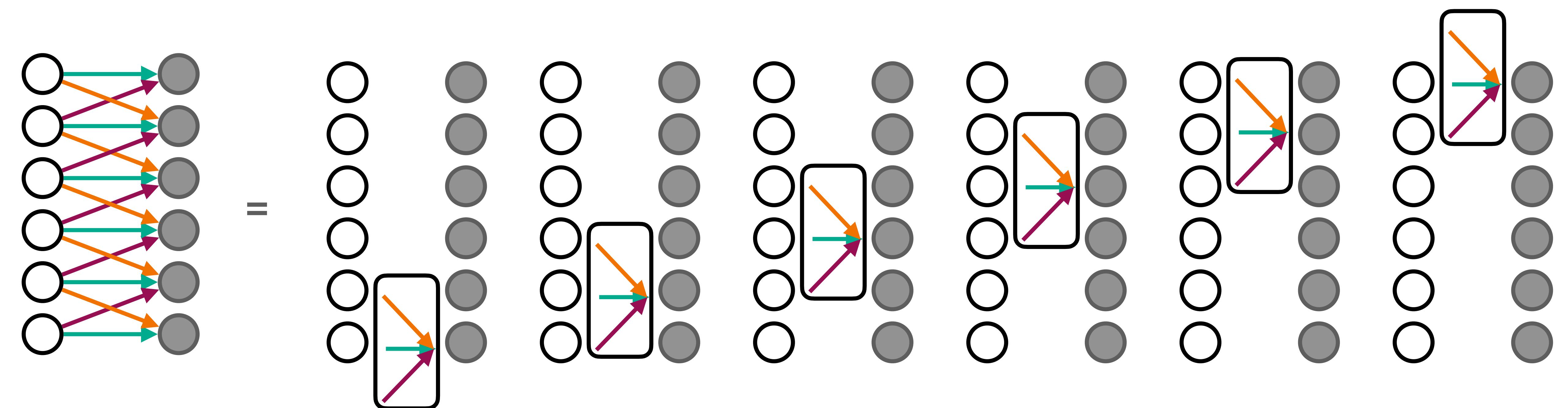


$$y_i = \sum_{j=0\dots N} w_{ij} x_j$$

$$y_i = \sum_{o=-1,0,1} w_o x_{i+o}$$

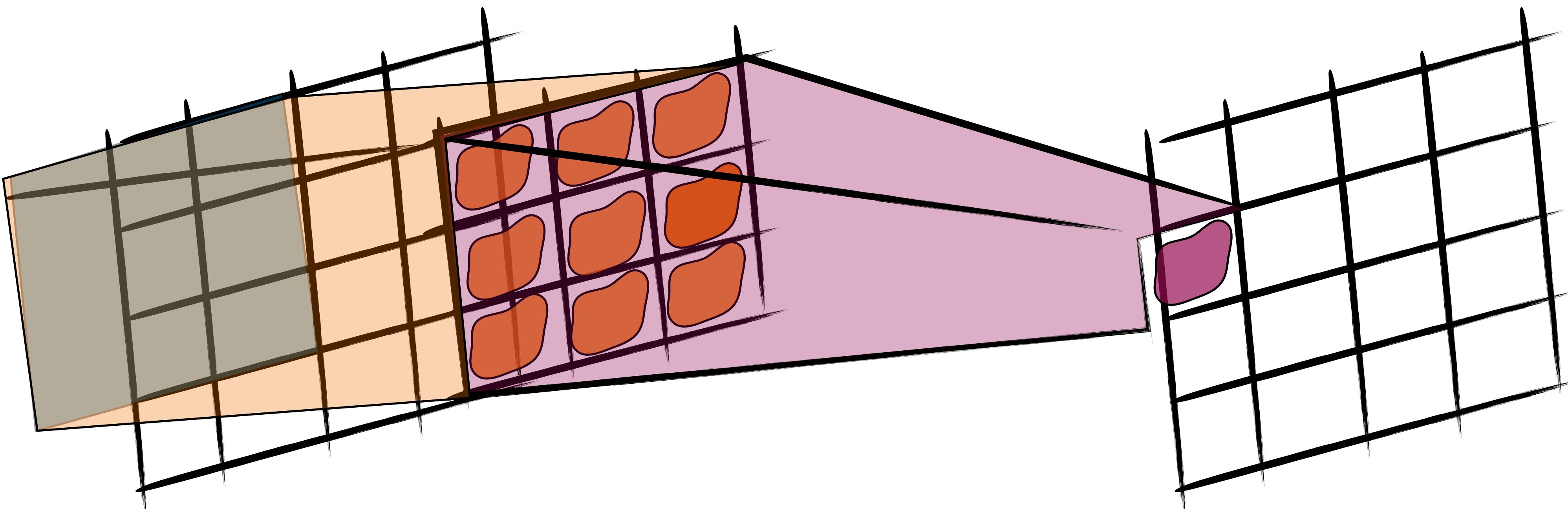
# Convolutions

Equivalent to a filter that slides across the input



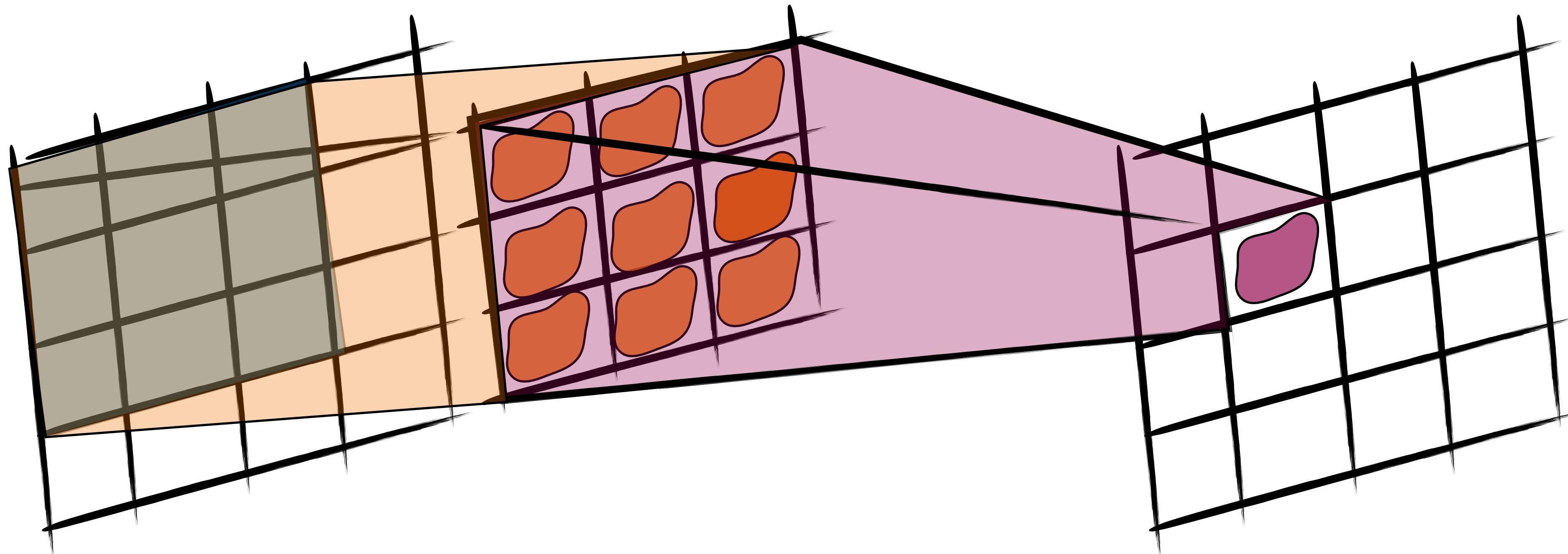
# 2D Convolutions

We can extend this idea to higher dimensions:



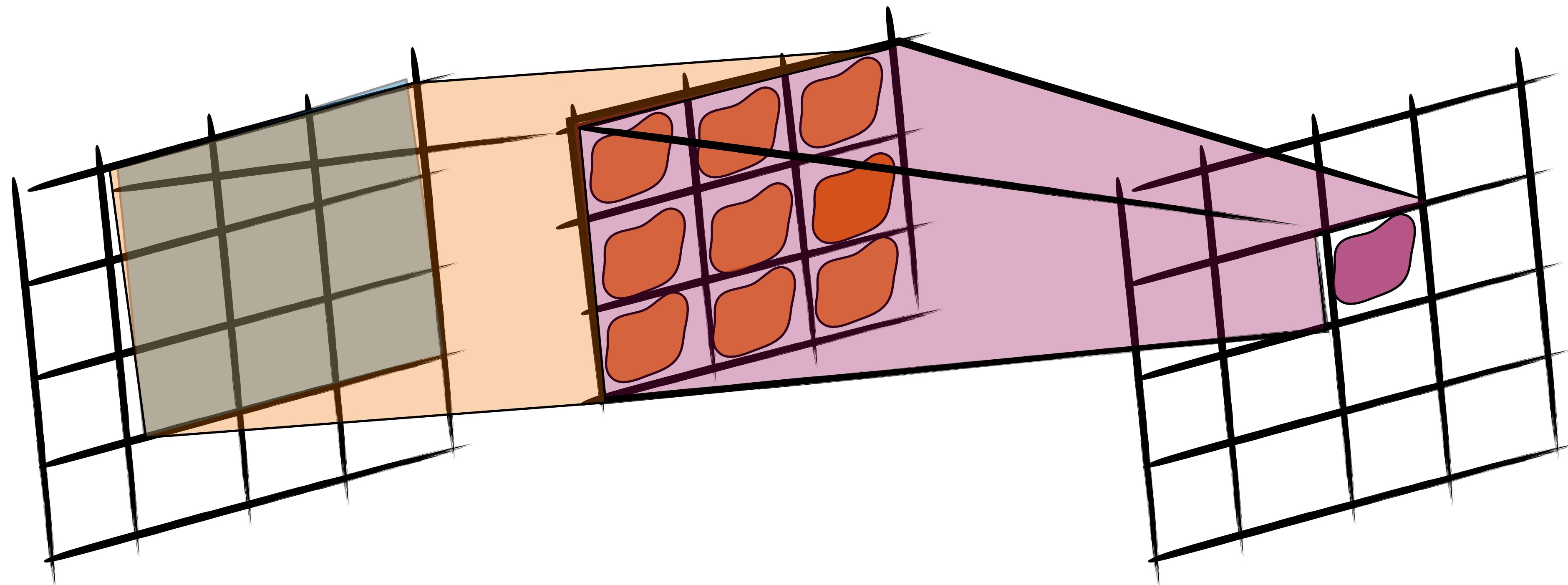
# 2D Convolutions

We can extend this idea to higher dimensions:



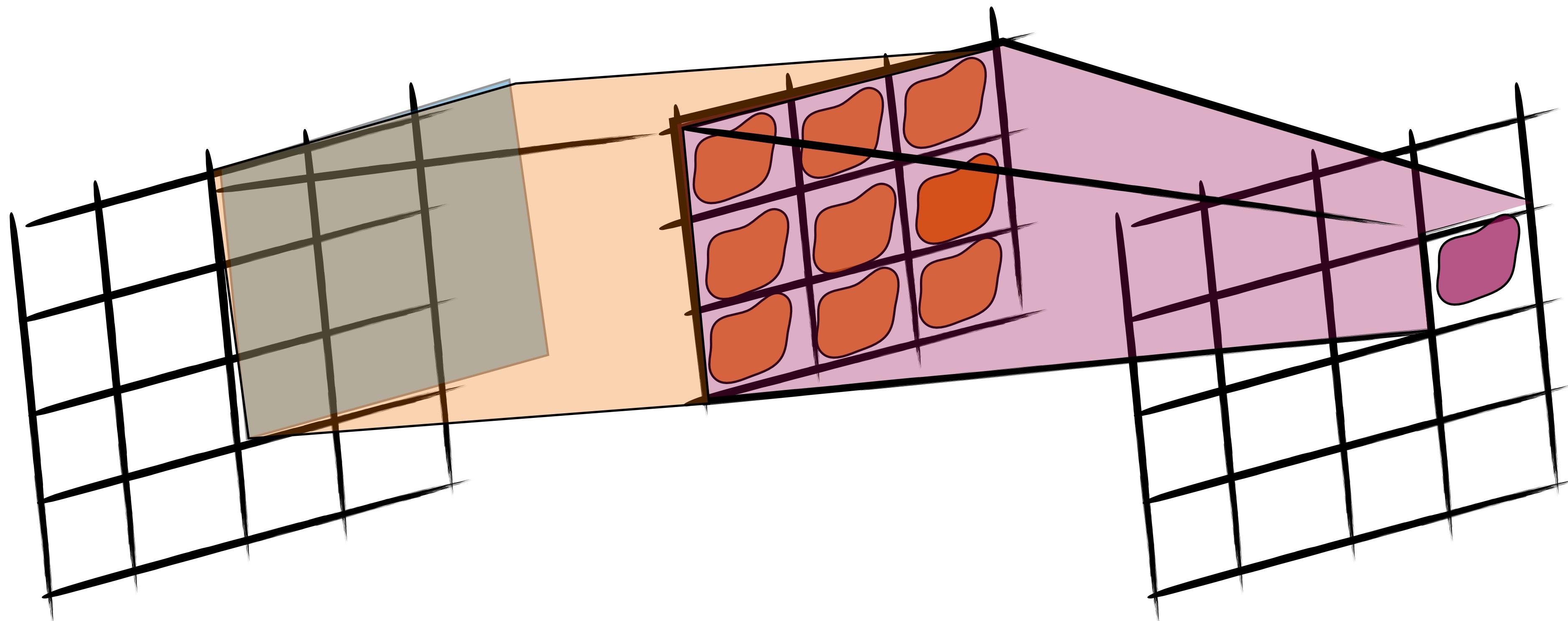
# 2D Convolutions

We can extend this idea to higher dimensions:



# 2D Convolutions

We can extend this idea to higher dimensions:

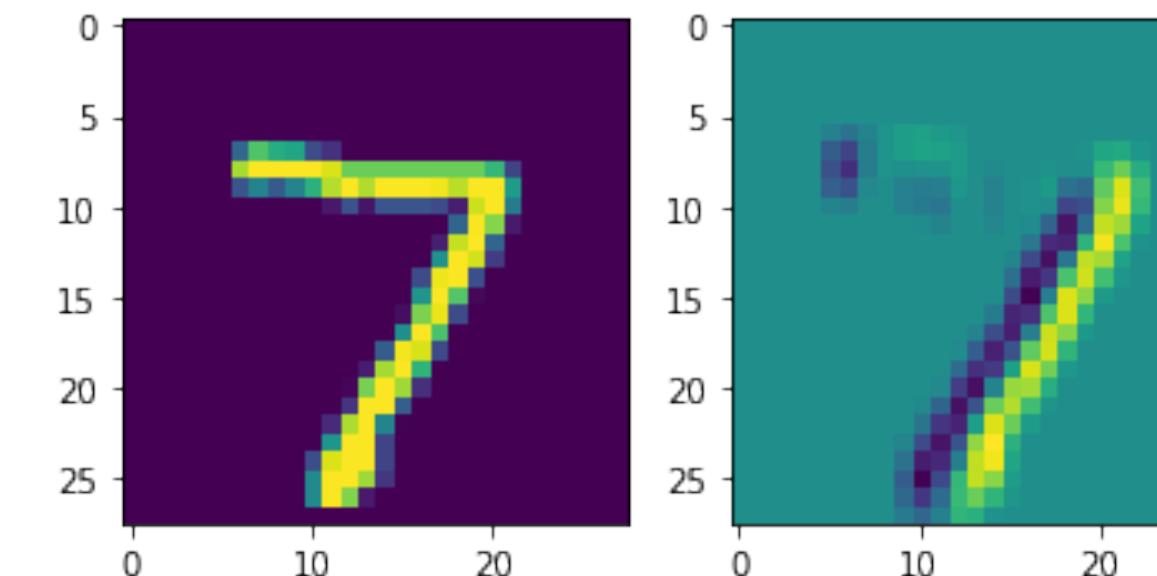


# Local Pattern Detectors

The filters are like mini-neural nets extracting features for a local patch: e.g. edges, curves, texture, ...

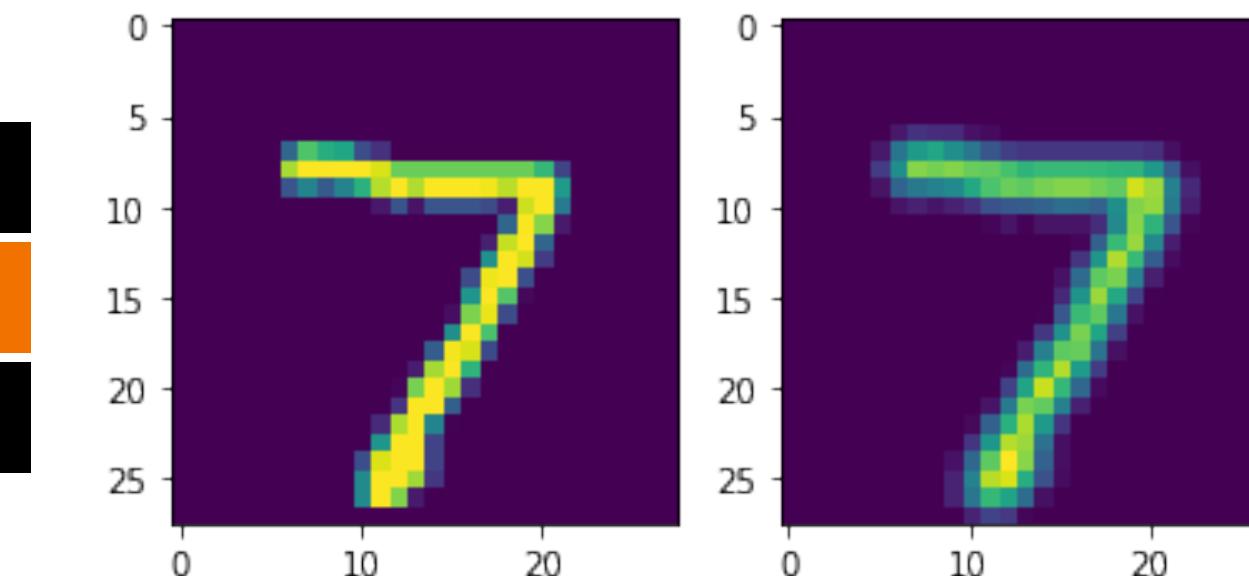
Vertical Edges

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



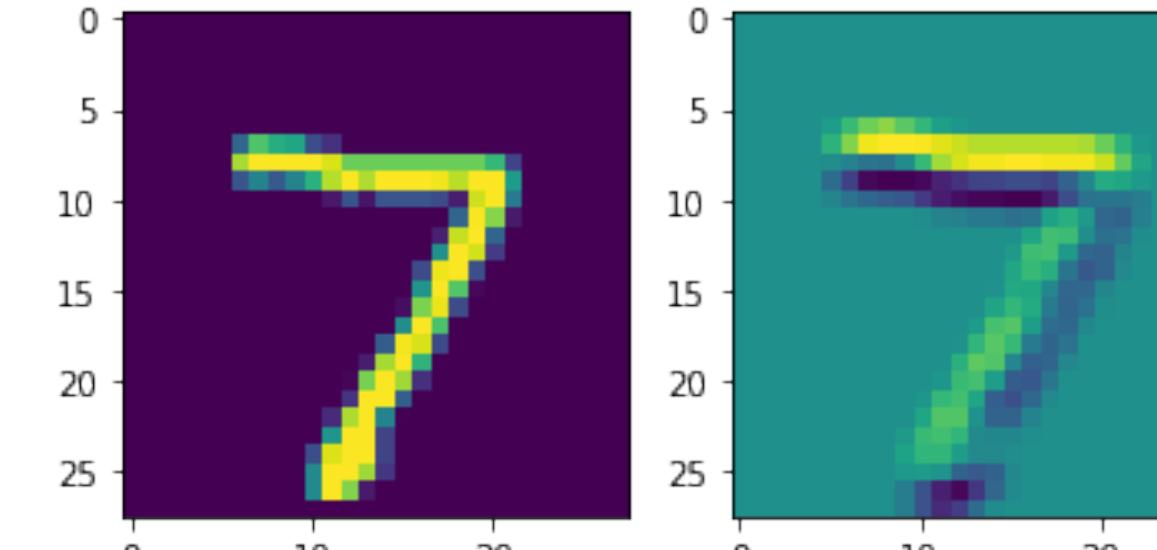
Blurring

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



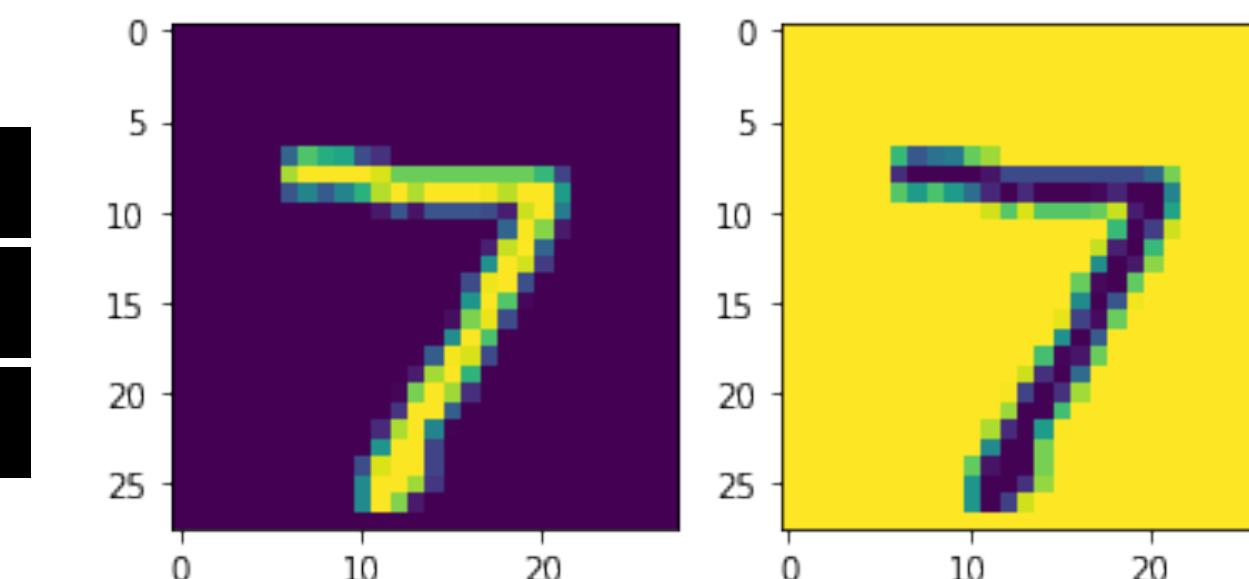
Horizontal Edges

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



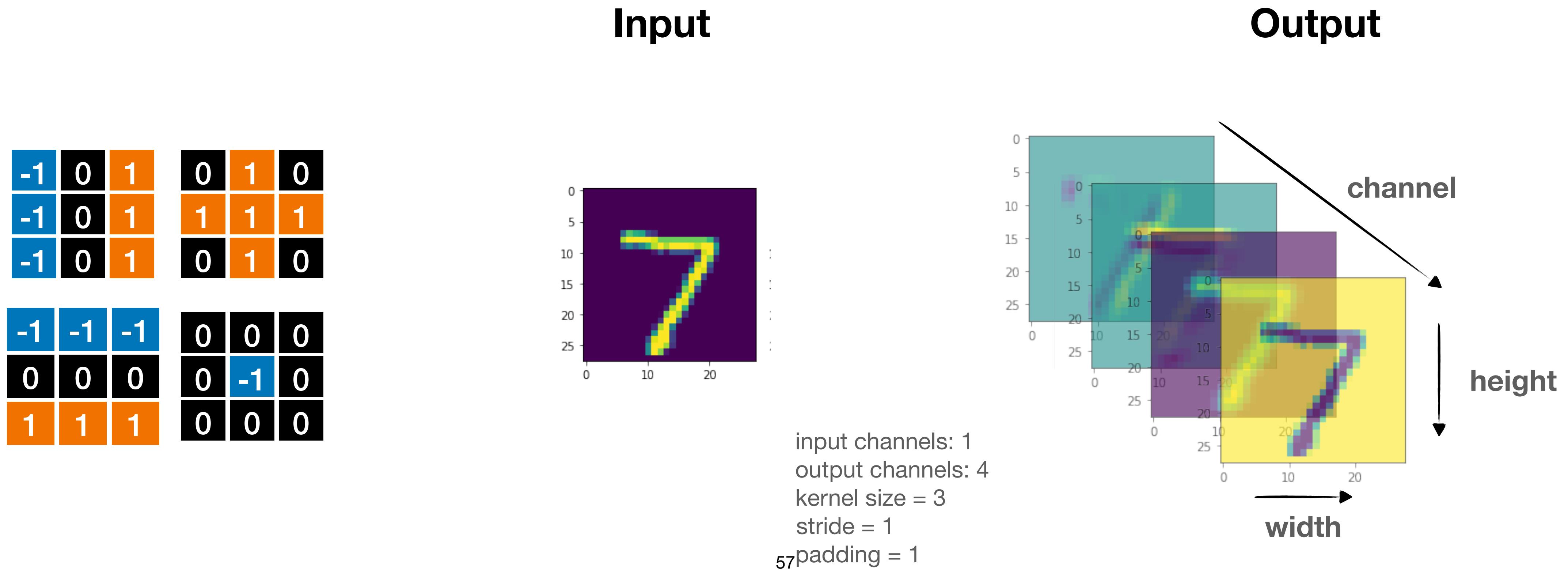
Inversion

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Convolutional Layers

To build up networks, we can extract many features with multiple kernels:

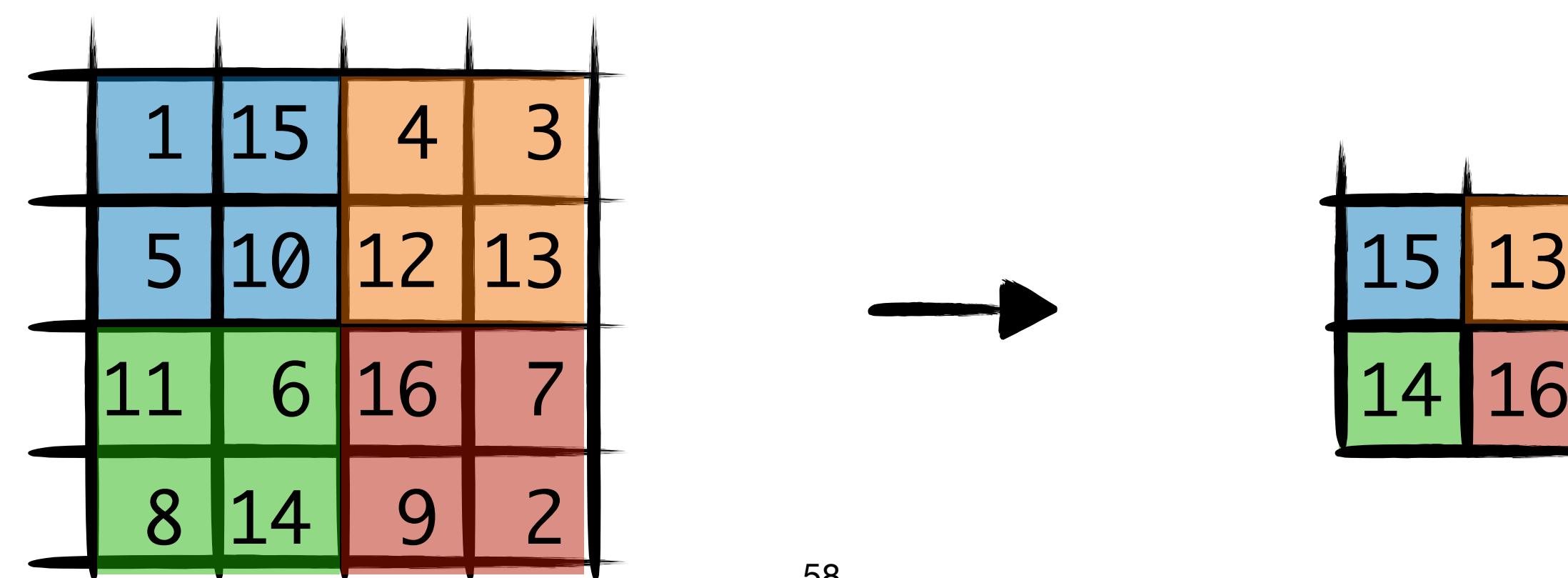


# Pooling

Role of convolutions is to **extract local features**. Pooling **summarizes a local patch** in terms of those features

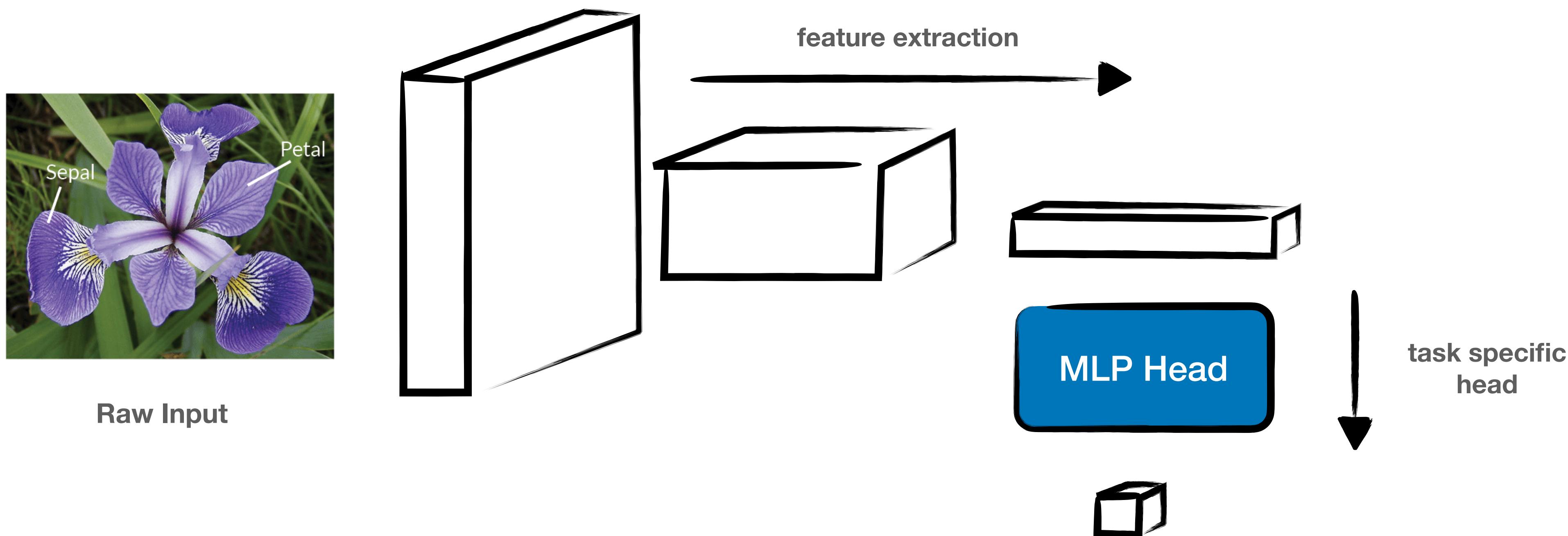
Average Pooling  $y = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{v \in \text{view}(y)} x_v$

Maximum Pooling  $y = \text{argmax}_{v \in \text{view}(y)} x_v$



# Building CNNs

The full CNN then implements the Deep Learning idea:  
learned feature extraction, followed by simple MLP head

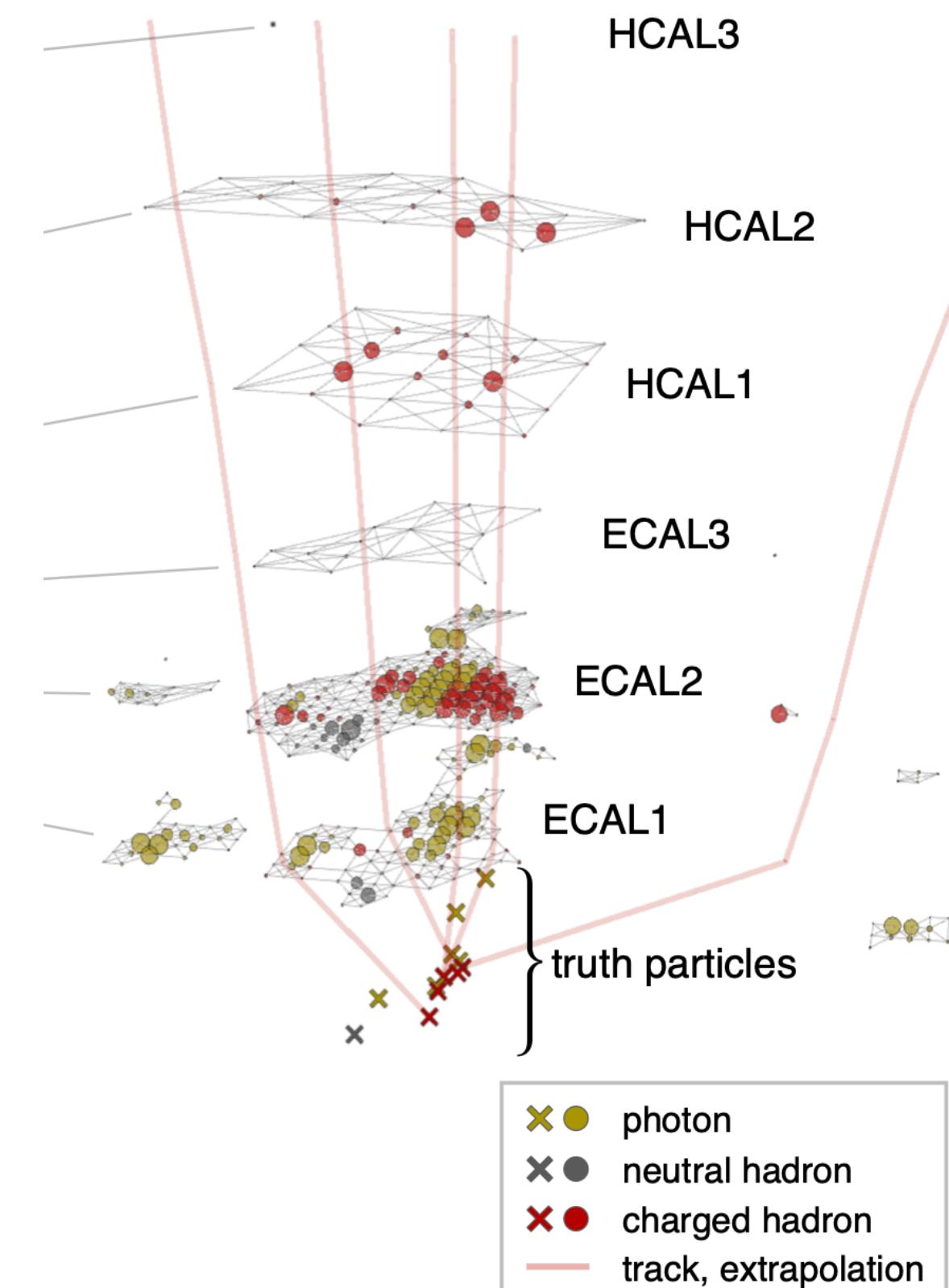


# Graph Neural Nets

CNNs excel at data that “lives” on a regular grid. Feature extraction by **combining information from neighborhood**.

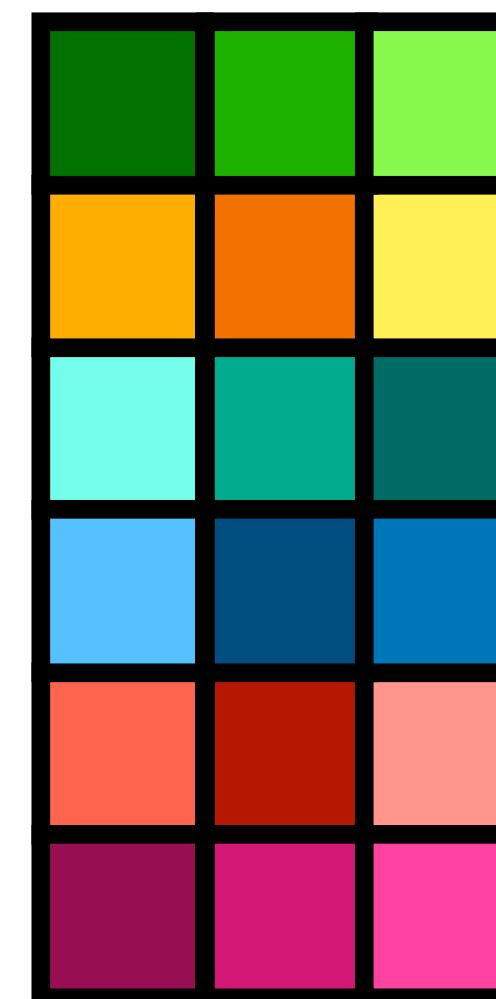
But a lot of data is more irregular.

A local neighborhood defined  
more by relationships than a grid

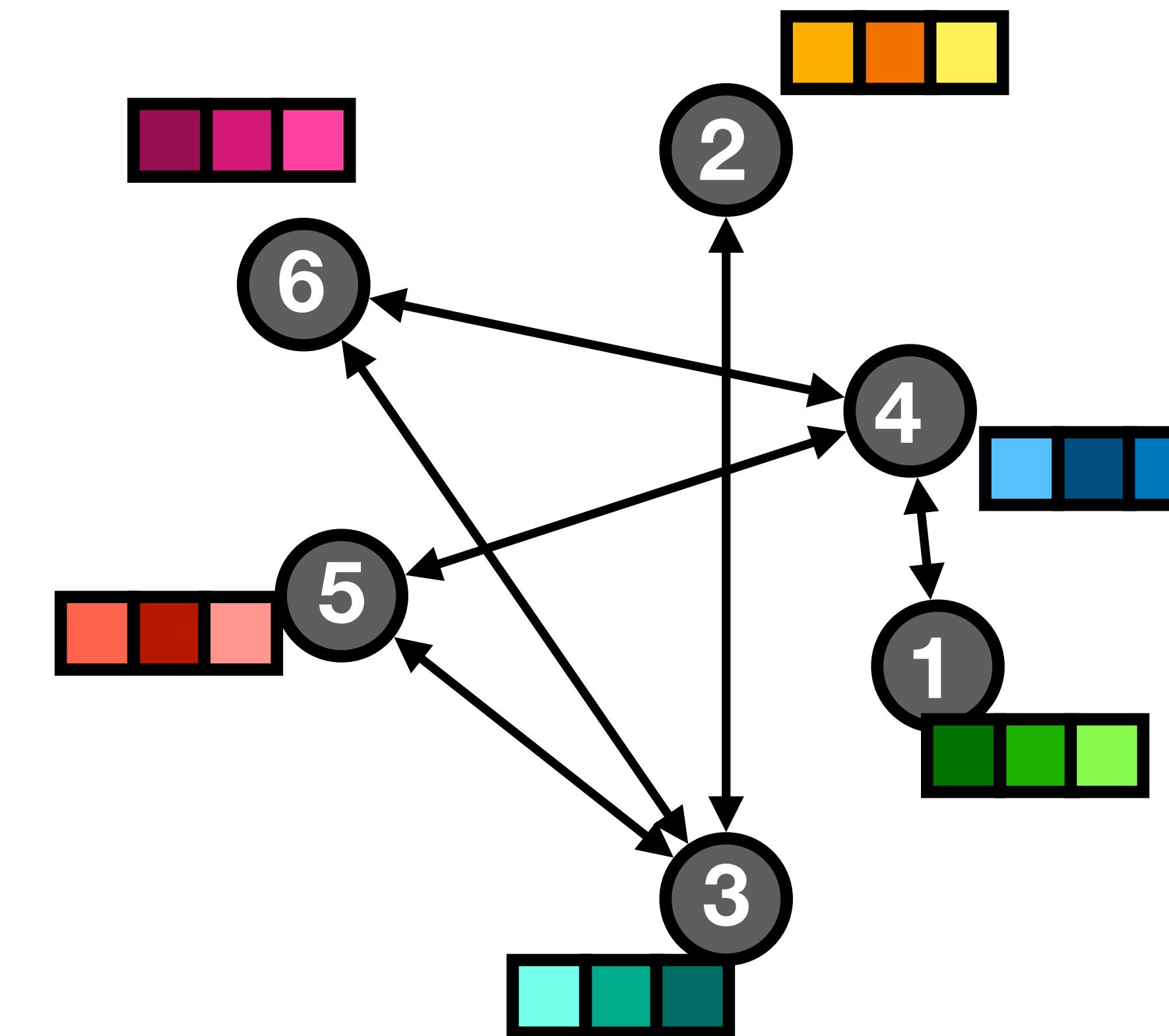


# Graph Data

Graphs can still be represented by Matrices, but the processing of graphs must not rely on (arbitrary) order



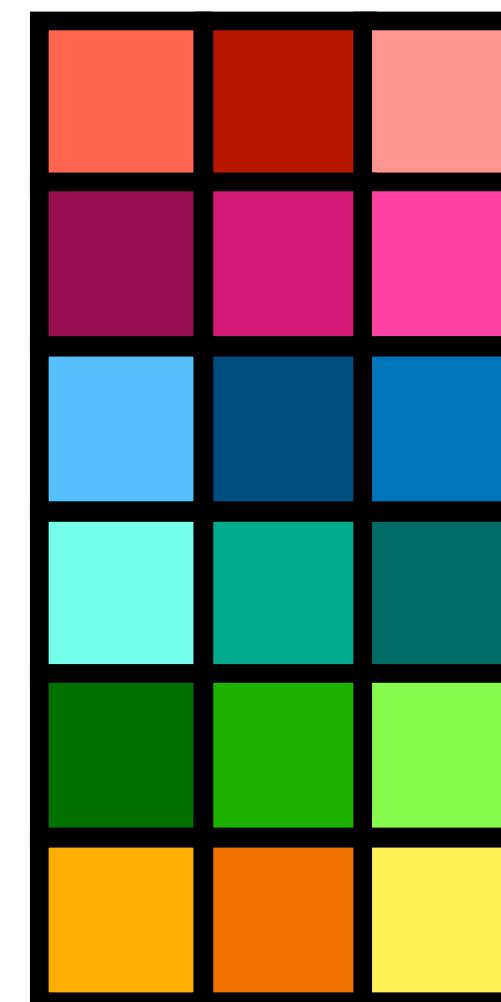
$$X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times f}$$



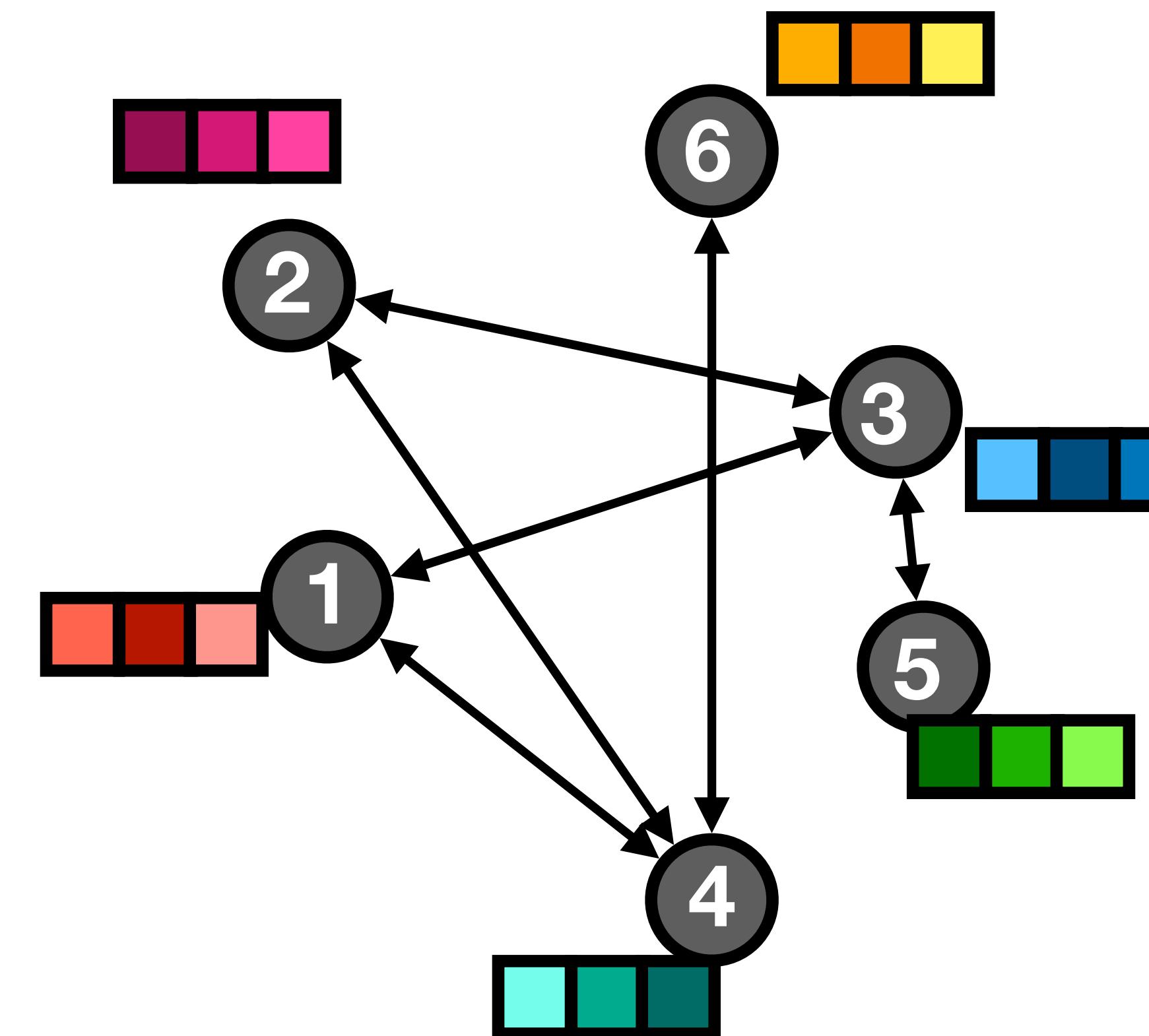
Permutation Invariance

# Graph Data

Graphs can still be represented by Matrices, but the processing of graphs must not rely on (arbitrary) order



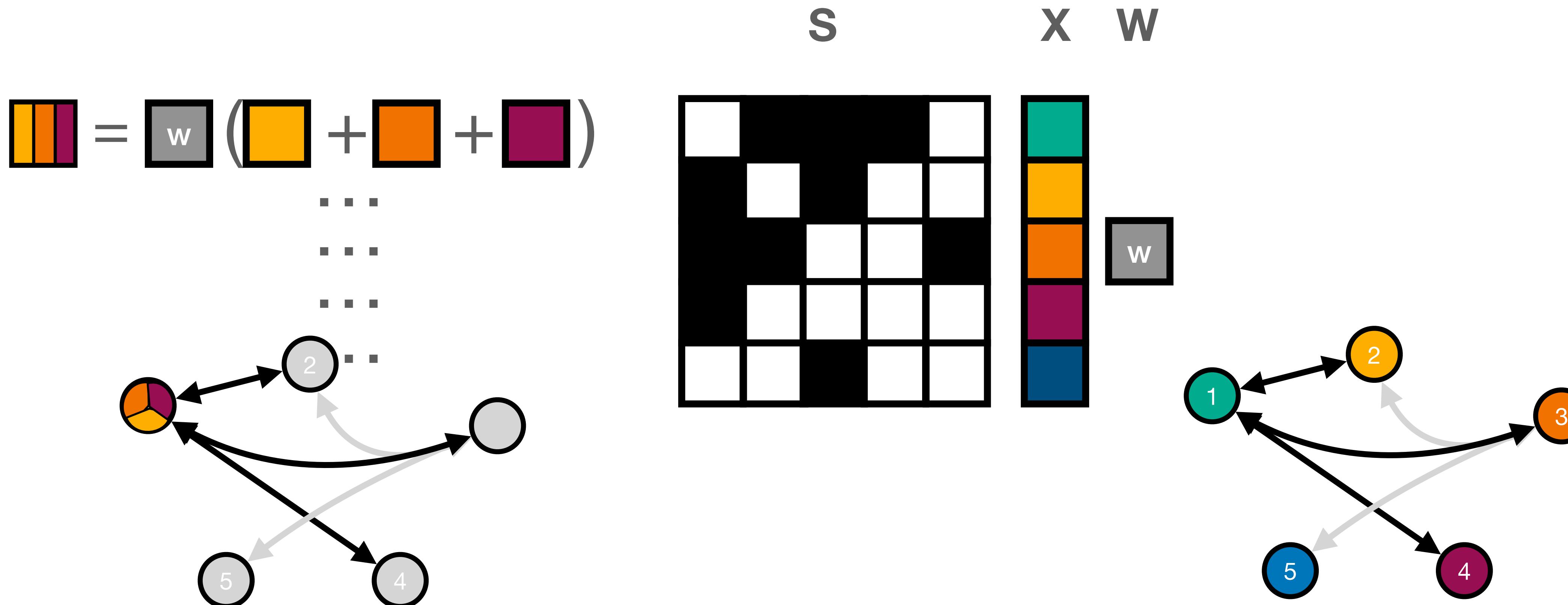
$$X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times f}$$



Permutation Invariance

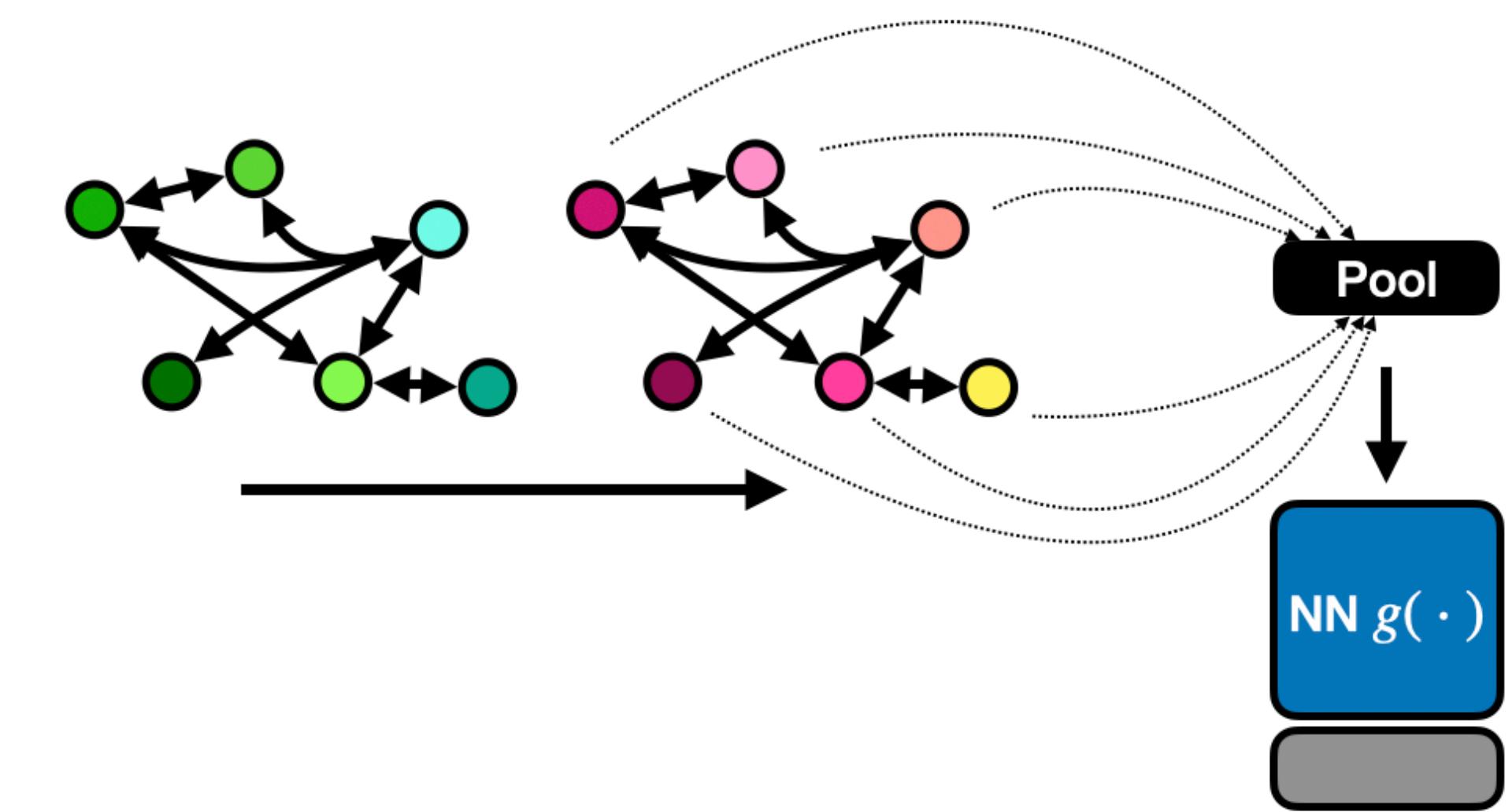
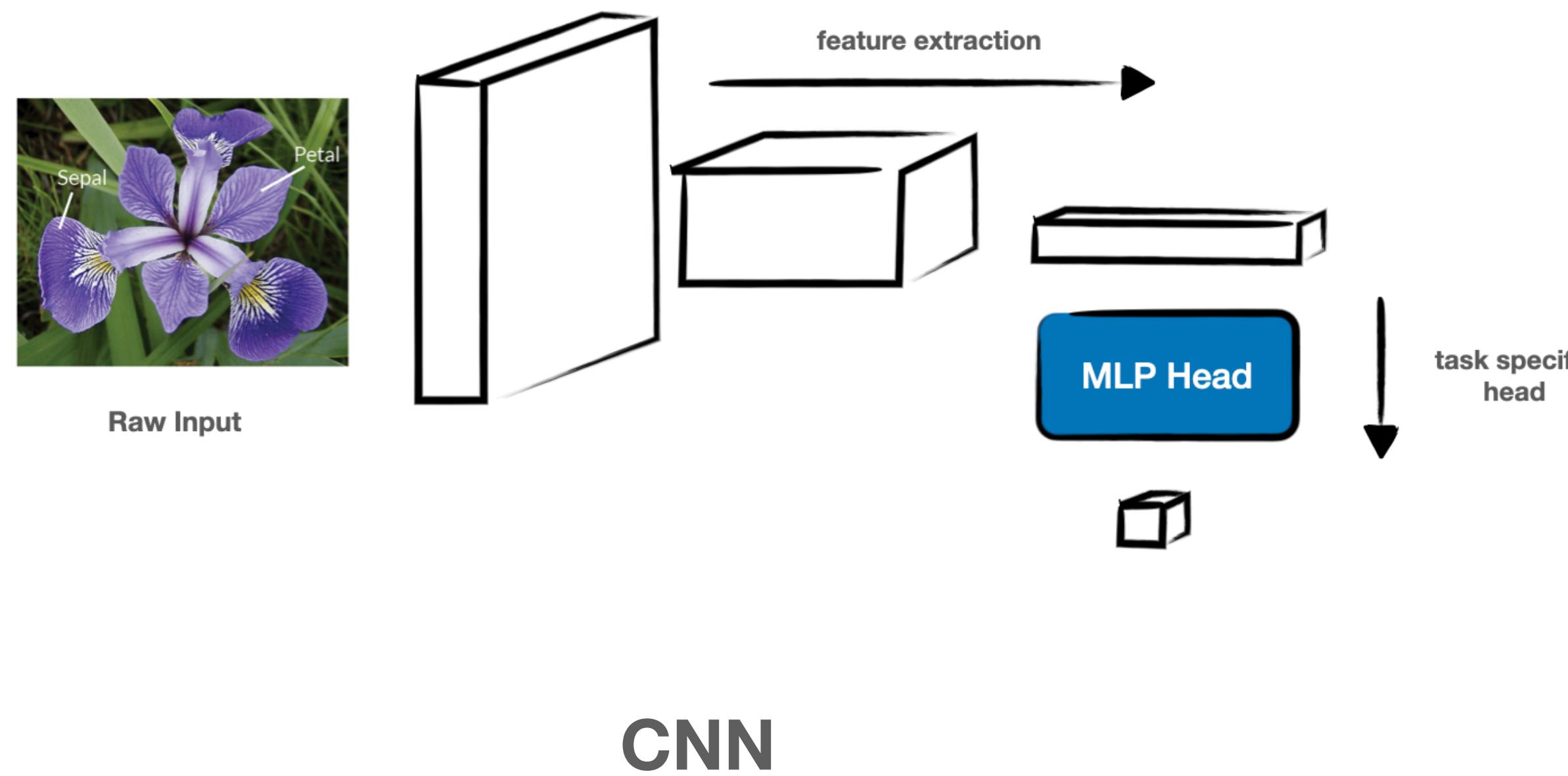
# Graph Convolutions

**Graph Convolutions** generalize CNN convolutions to pass messages from neighbors as defined in the graph



# GNNs

As in CNNs, we can stack Graph processing into a stack of feature extraction, and then follow up high-level “head”



**GNN**

# Dynamic Networks

Neural Nets are functions of the input & network parameters

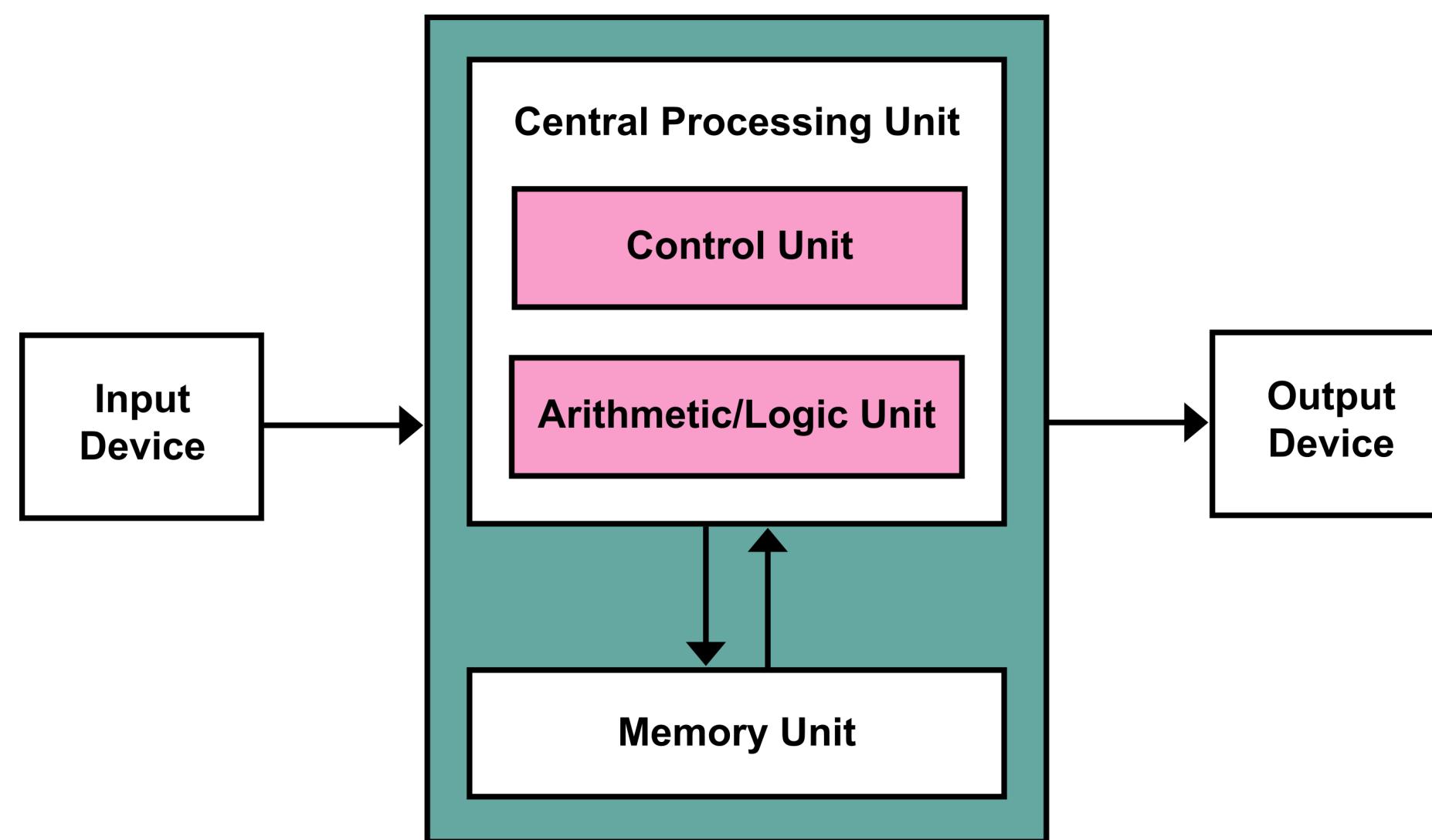
$$f(x, \phi)$$

In their most basic form, both inputs **are static**, but some of the most powerful architectures allow them to be **dynamic**

# Recurrent Neural Networks

Often data is variable in size. Recurrent neural networks deal with it like a computer:

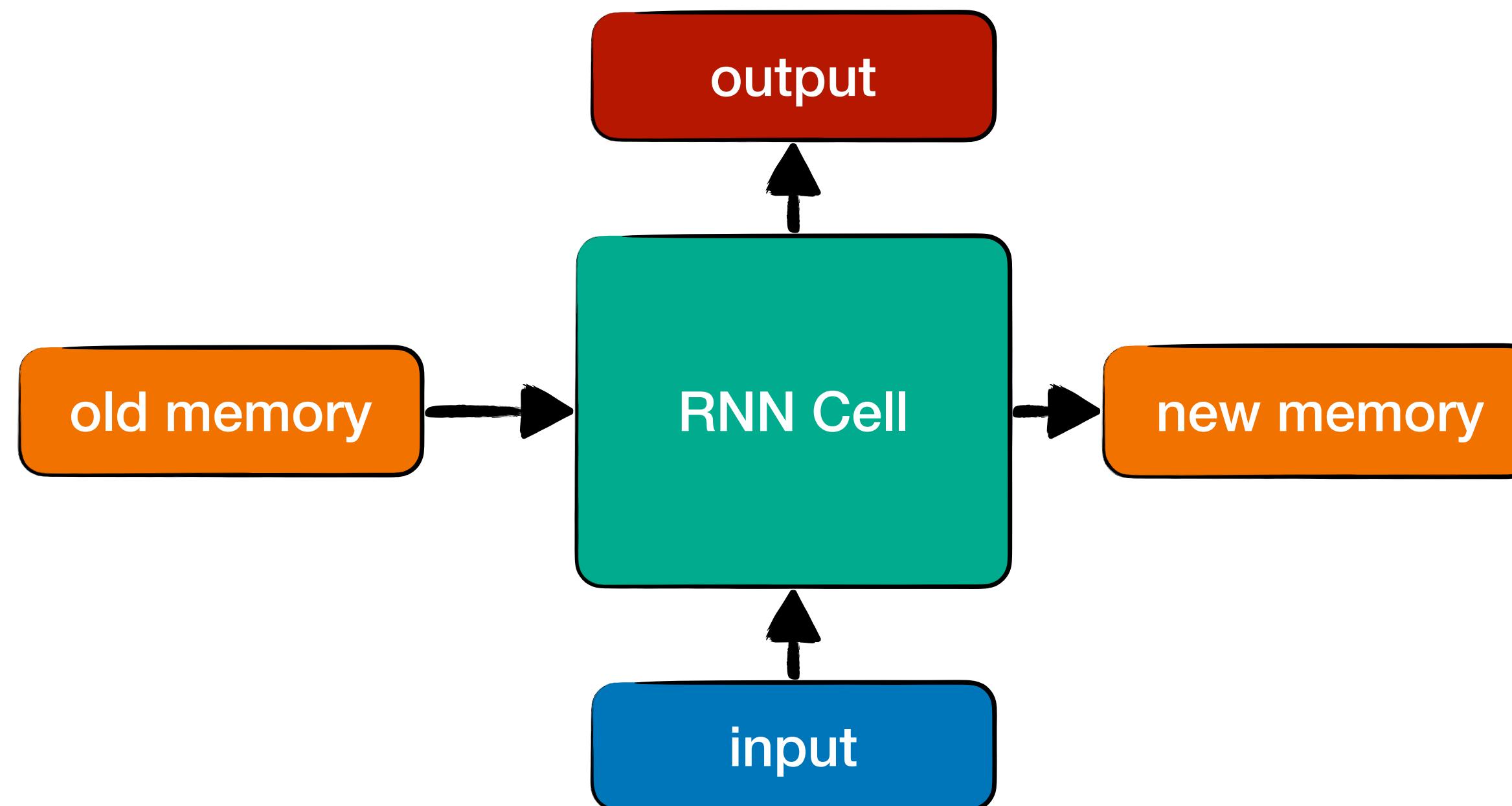
Consume data **step-by-step** and keeping the information within a memory component



von Neuman

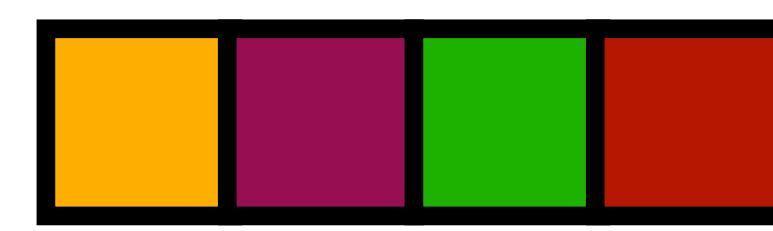
# Recurrent Neural Networks

RNNs learn an update function for a memory vector, which can be applied many times until the inputs are exhausted

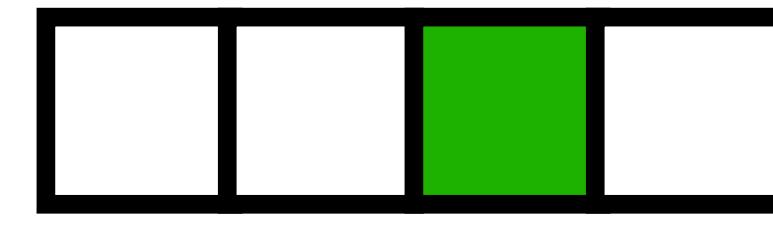


# Active Neurons and Gates

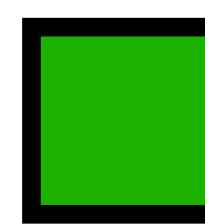
RNNs interact with memory like a “soft” computer reading and writing to memory via “gates”, i.e. multiplicative masks



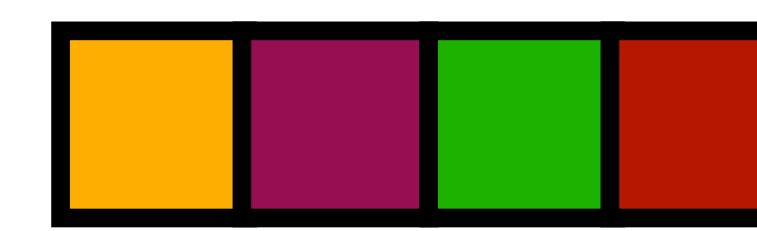
=



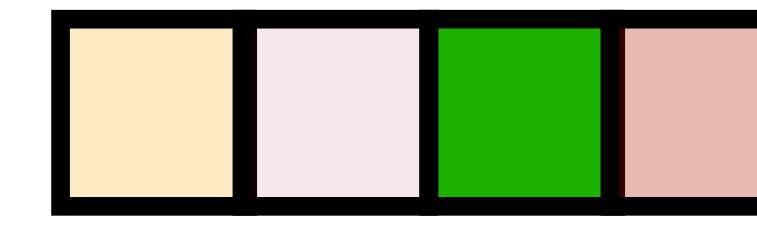
$\sum$



Hard Read



=



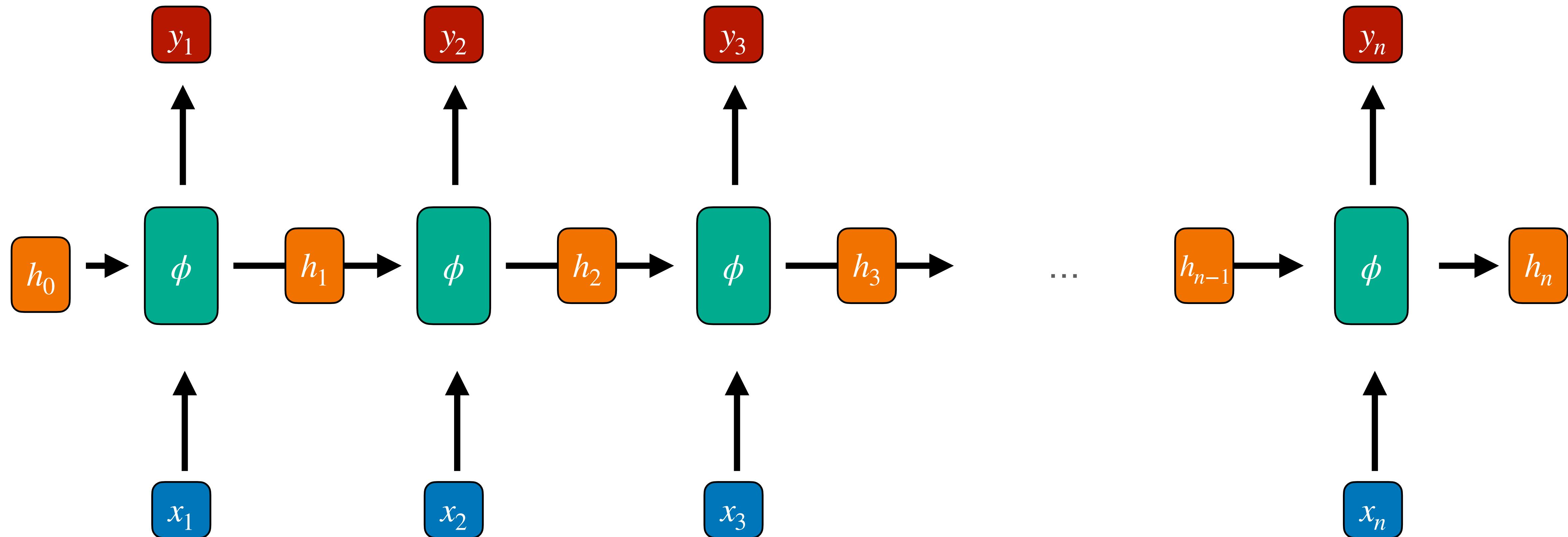
$\sum$



Soft Read

# Recurrent Neural Networks

Can be applied to arbitrary length sequences



# RNN in a time before ChatGPT

Cell sensitive to position in line:

```
The sole importance of the crossing of the Berezina lies in the fact  
that it plainly and indubitably proved the fallacy of all the plans for  
cutting off the enemy's retreat and the soundness of the only possible  
line of action--the one Kutuzov and the general mass of the army  
demanded--namely, simply to follow the enemy up. The French crowd fled  
at a continually increasing speed and all its energy was directed to  
reaching its goal. It fled like a wounded animal and it was impossible  
to block its path. This was shown not so much by the arrangements it  
made for crossing as by what took place at the bridges. When the bridges  
broke down, unarmed soldiers, people from Moscow and women with children  
who were with the French transport, all--carried on by vis inertiae--  
pressed forward into boats and into the ice-covered water and  
surrender.
```

Cell that turns on inside quotes:

```
"You mean to imply that I have nothing to eat out of.... On the  
contrary, I can supply you with everything even if you want to  
dinner parties," warmly replied Chichagov, who tried by every  
spoke to prove his own rectitude and therefore imagined Kutuzov  
animated by the same desire.
```

```
Kutuzov, shrugging his shoulders, replied with his subtle pen-  
smile: "I meant merely to say what I said."
```

Cell that robustly activates inside if statements:

```
static int __dequeue_signal(struct sigpending *pending, sigset(SIGPOLL)  
    siginfo_t *info)  
{  
    int sig = next_signal(pending, mask);  
    if (sig) {  
        if (current->notifier) {  
            if (sigismember(current->notifier_mask, sig)) {  
                if (!(current->notifier)(current->notifier_data)) {  
                    clear_thread_flag(TIF_SIGPENDING);  
                    return 0;  
                }  
            }  
        }  
        collect_signal(sig, pending, info);  
    }  
    return sig;
```



Andrej Karpathy blog

About

## The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Recurrent Neural Networks

May 21, 2015

There's something magical about Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs). I still remember when I trained my first recurrent network for [Image Captioning](#). Within a few dozen minutes of training my first baby model (with rather arbitrarily-chosen hyperparameters) started to generate very nice looking descriptions of images that were on the edge of making sense. Sometimes the ratio of how simple your model is to the quality of the results you get out of it blows past your expectations, and this was one of those times. What made this result so shocking at the time was that the common wisdom was that RNNs were supposed to be difficult to train (with more experience I've in fact reached the opposite conclusion). Fast forward about a year: I'm training RNNs all the time and I've witnessed their power and robustness many times, and yet their magical outputs still find ways of amusing me. This post is about sharing some of that magic with you.

*We'll train RNNs to generate text character by character and ponder the question "how is that even possible?"*

By the way, together with this post I am also releasing [code on Github](#) that allows you to train character-level

<http://karpathy.github.io/2015/05/21/rnn-effectiveness/>

# Attention Mechanism

The notion of gating / dynamically controlling the flow of information is also key to one of the most impactful ideas in Deep Learning: **Attention**

Figure 3. Examples of attending to the correct object (*white* indicates the attended regions, *underlines* indicate the corresponding word)



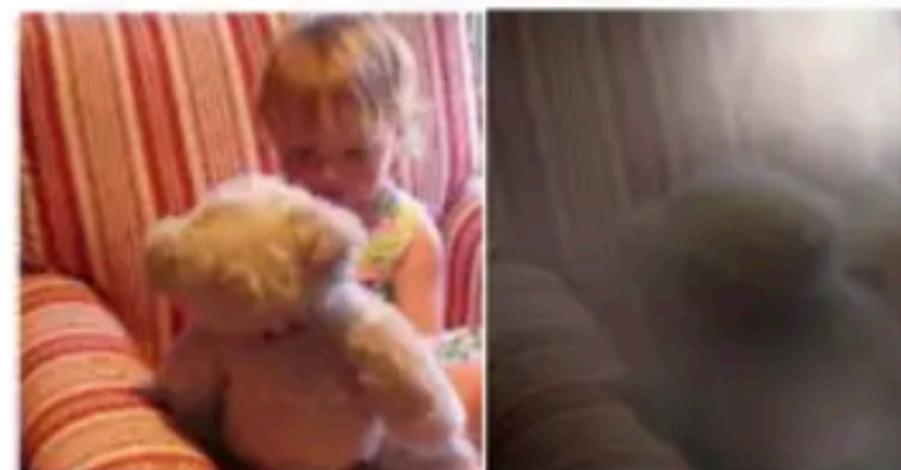
A woman is throwing a frisbee in a park.



A dog is standing on a hardwood floor.



A stop sign is on a road with a mountain in the background.



A little girl sitting on a bed with a teddy bear.



A group of people sitting on a boat in the water.



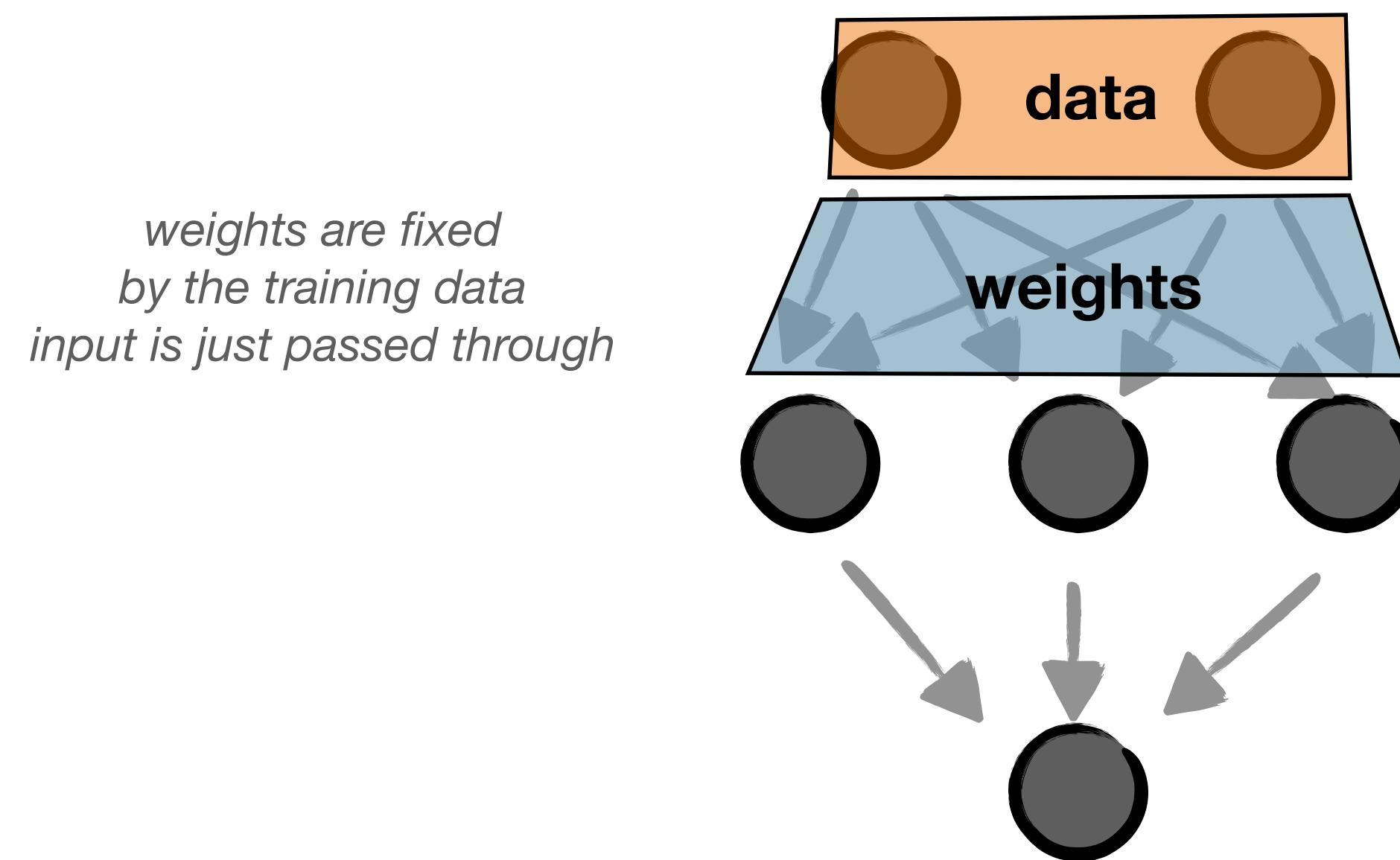
A giraffe standing in a forest with trees in the background.

# Attention Mechanism

Standard Neural Nets, have globally fixed data processing  
Attention Mechanisms add a **data-dependent** processing

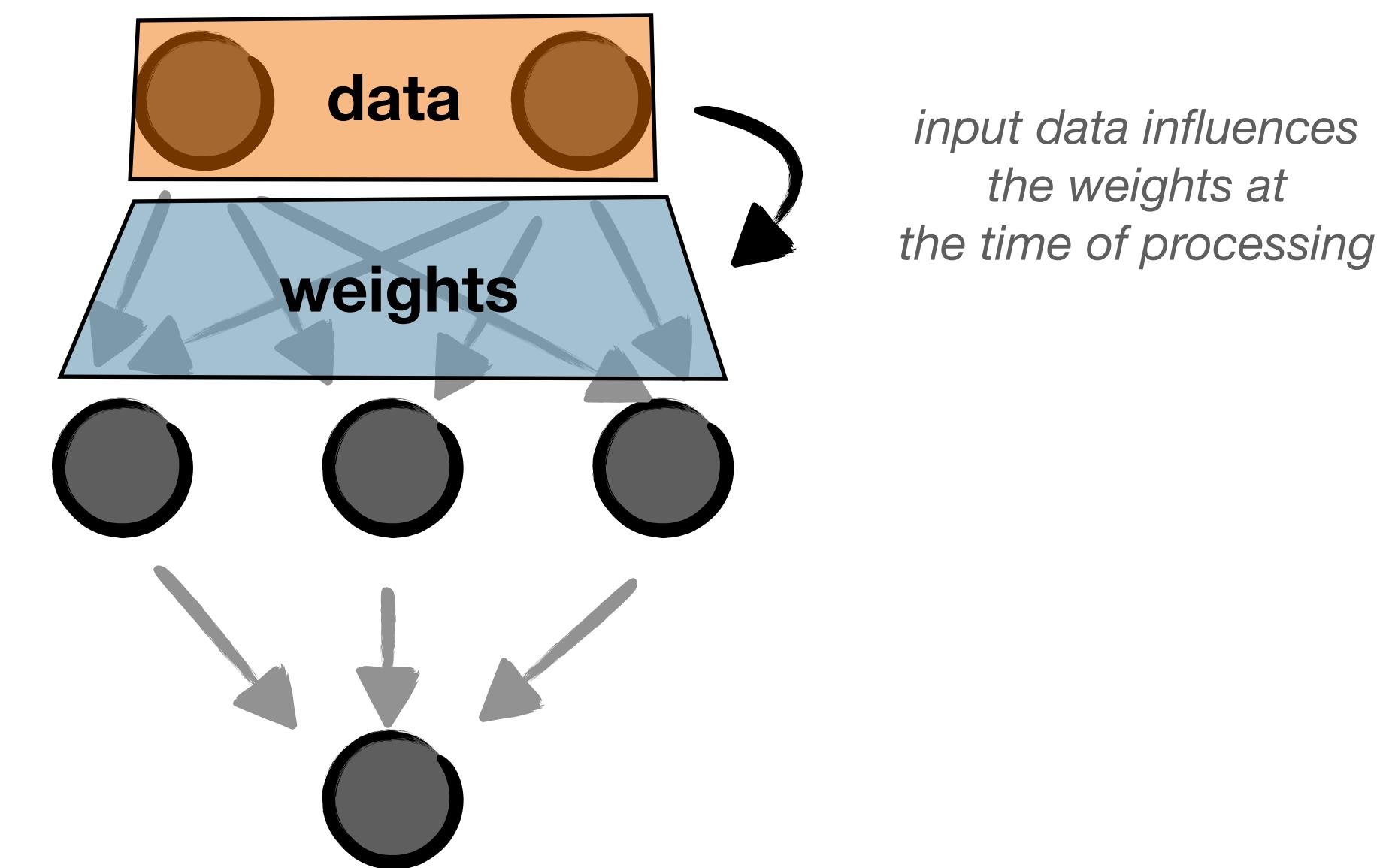
$$y = Wx \rightarrow y = A(x)x$$

Standard Neural Net



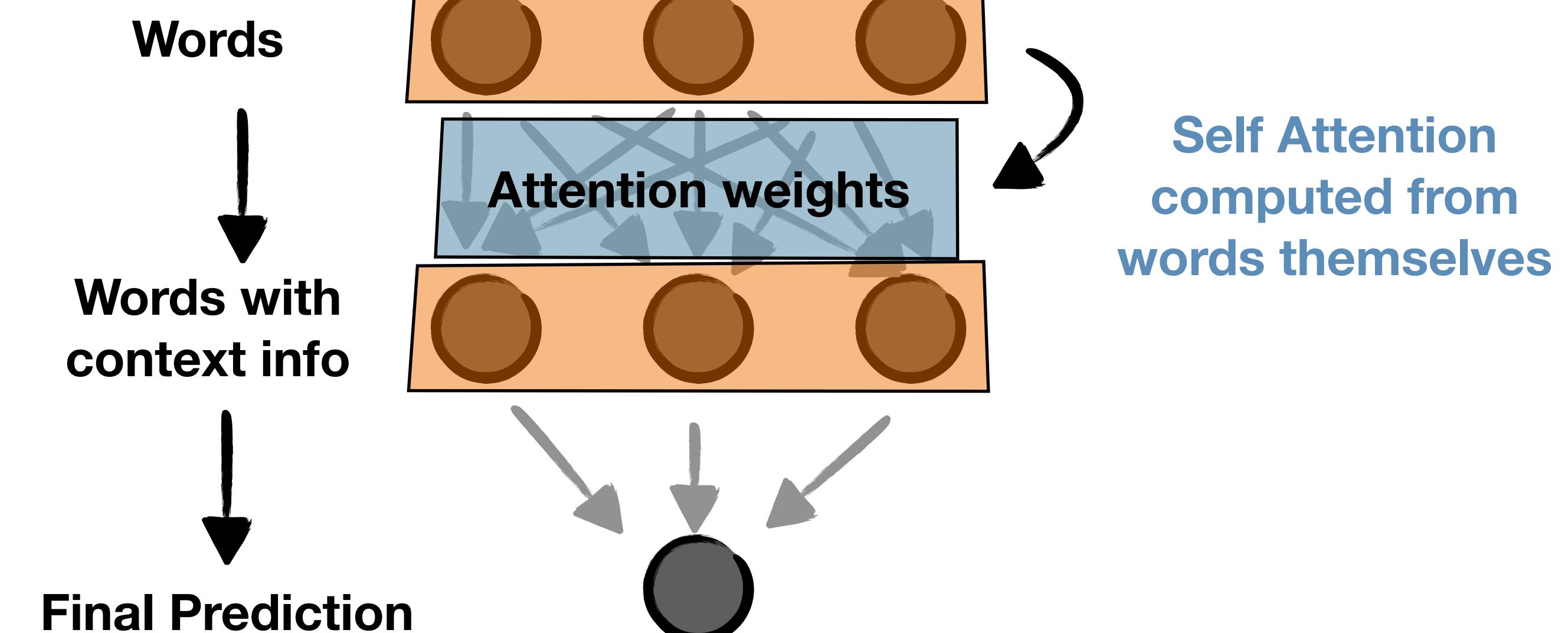
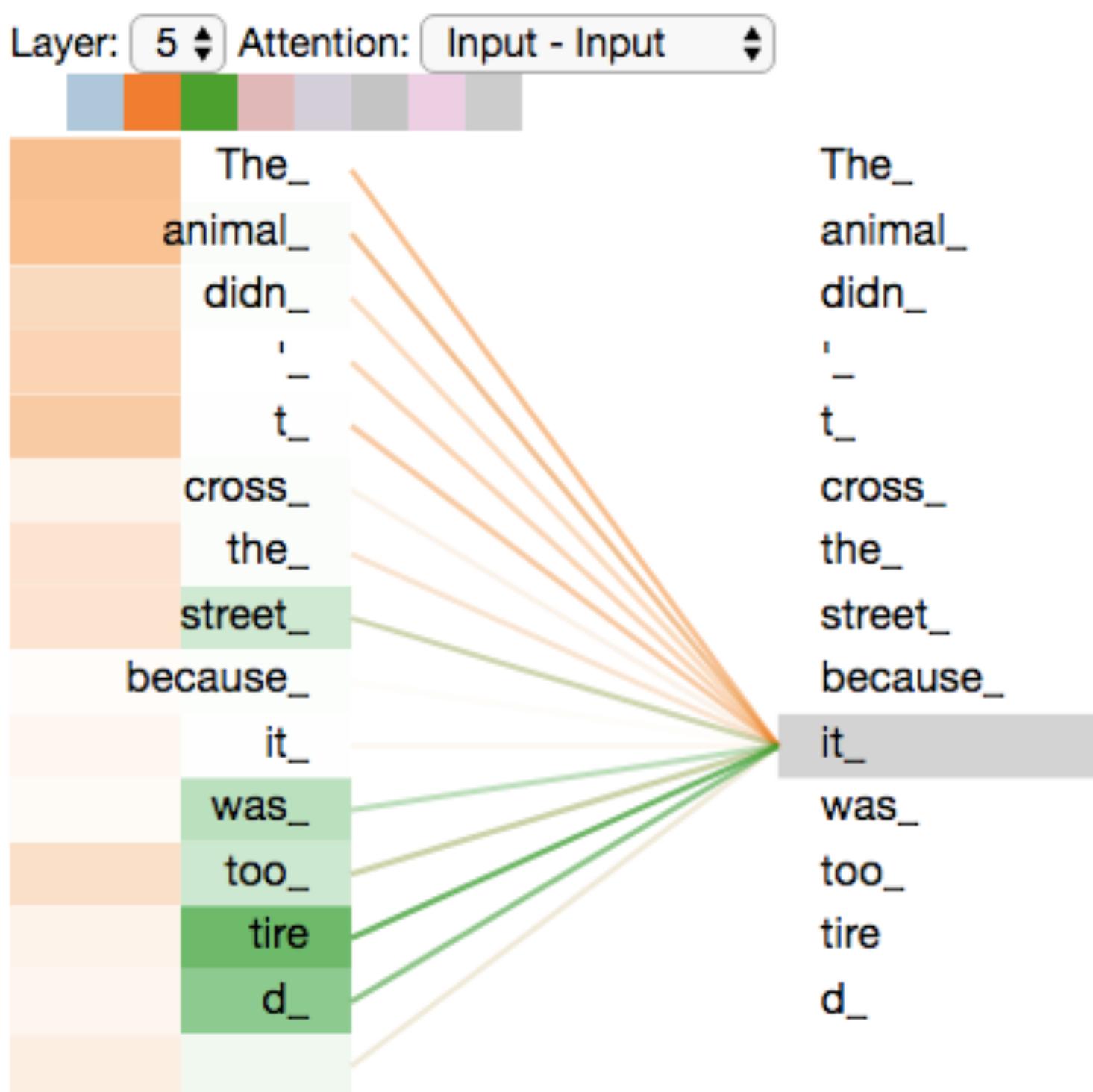
$$y = A(x)x$$

Network with attention



# Attention in Language

Example: when representing words with added context, decide dynamically which other words are relevant



# Transformers

Attention is *the* key idea in transformer networks that have e.g. largely replaced RNN-based models for text



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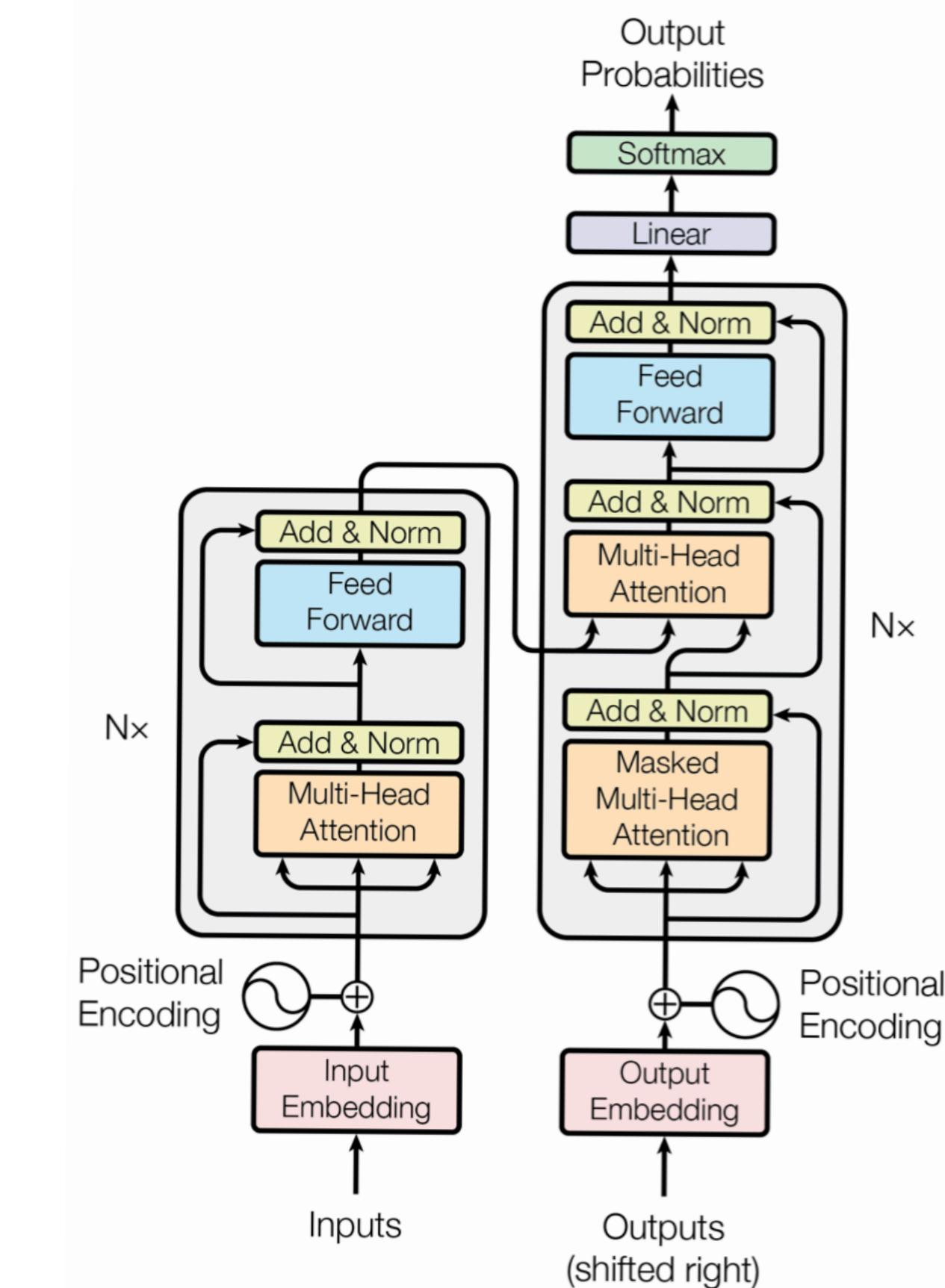
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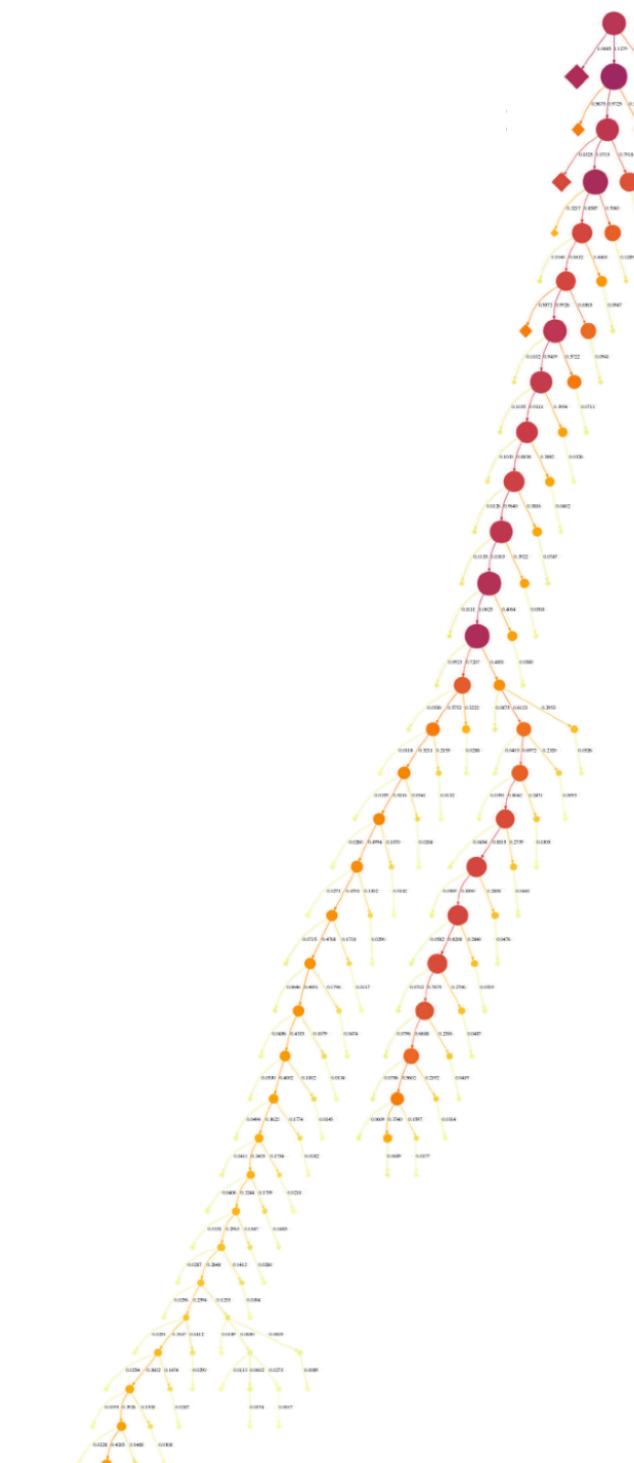
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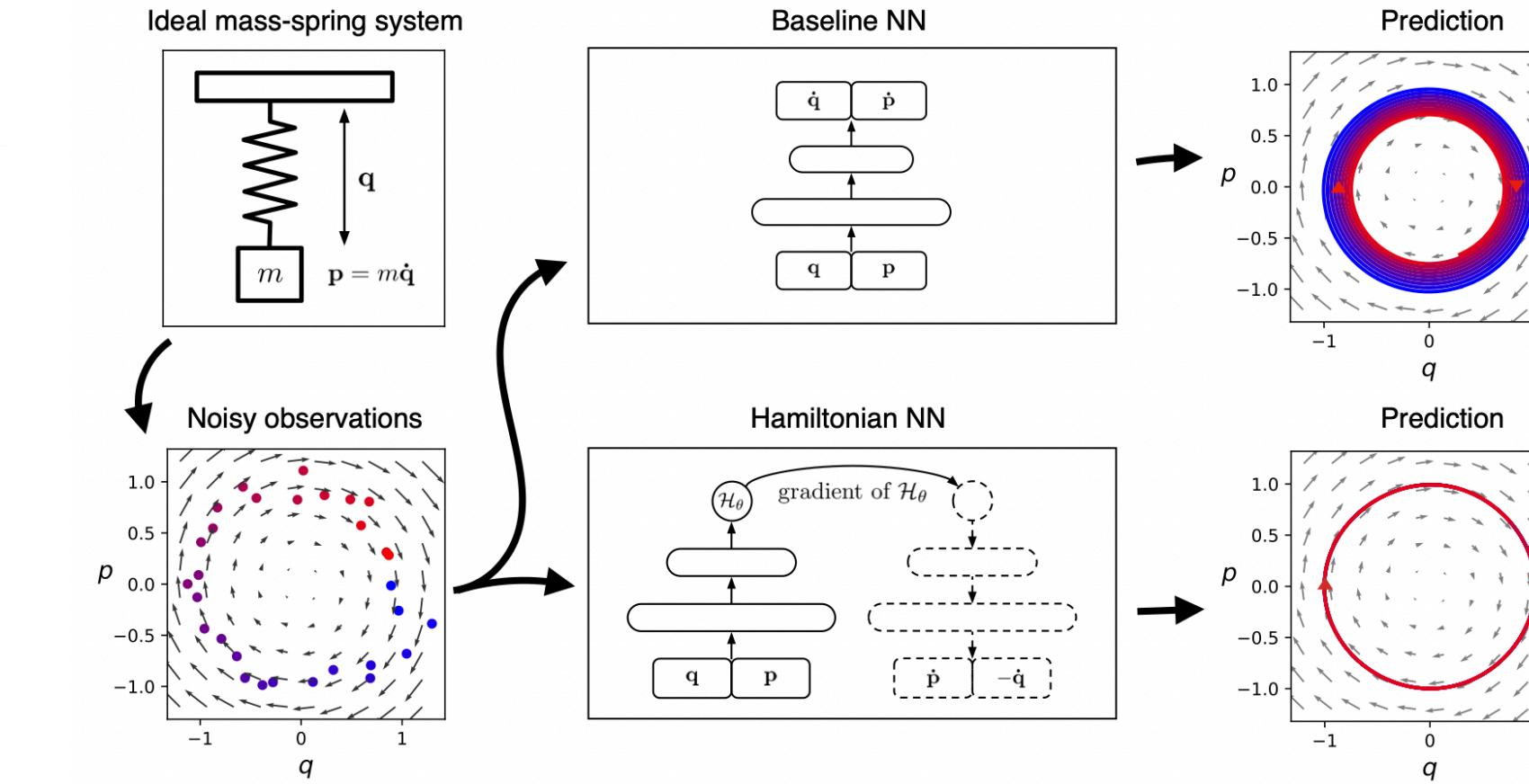
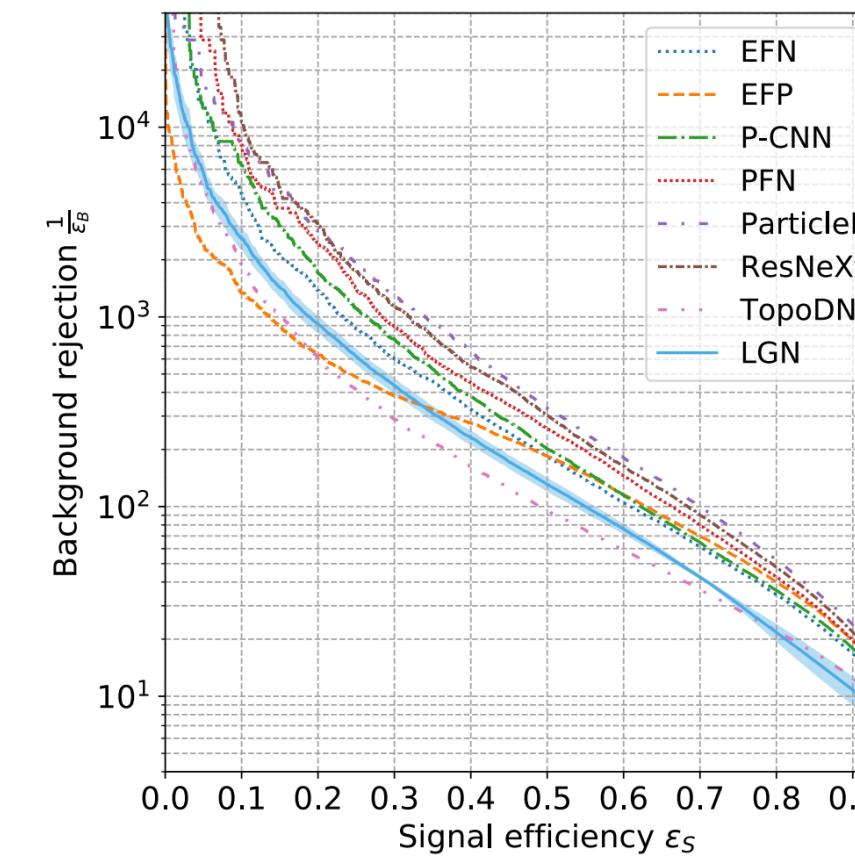


# Physics Inspired Architectures

Physicists were quick to add their own symmetries to inject physics inductive bias to neural networks



Architecture	Accuracy	AUC	$1/\epsilon_B$	#Param
ParticleNet	0.938	0.985	$1298 \pm 46$	498k
P-CNN	0.930	0.980	$732 \pm 24$	348k
ResNeXt	0.936	0.984	$1122 \pm 47$	1.46M
EFP	0.932	0.980	384	1k
EFN	0.927	0.979	$633 \pm 31$	82k
PFN	0.932	0.982	$891 \pm 18$	82k
TopoDNN	0.916	0.972	$295 \pm 5$	59k
LGN	0.929 ± .001	0.964 ± 0.018	$435 \pm 95$	4.5k



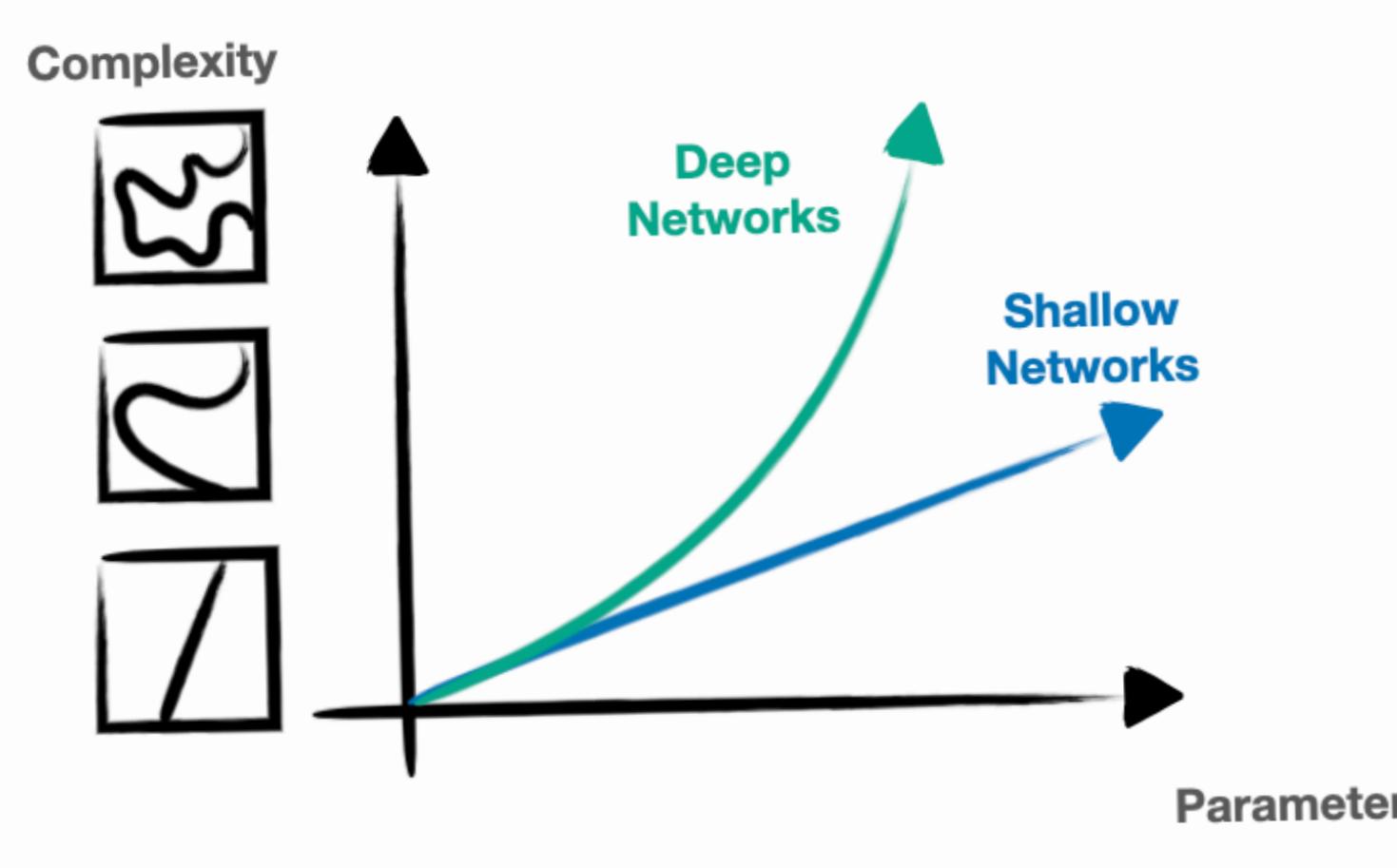
arXiv:1702.00748

arXiv:2006.04780

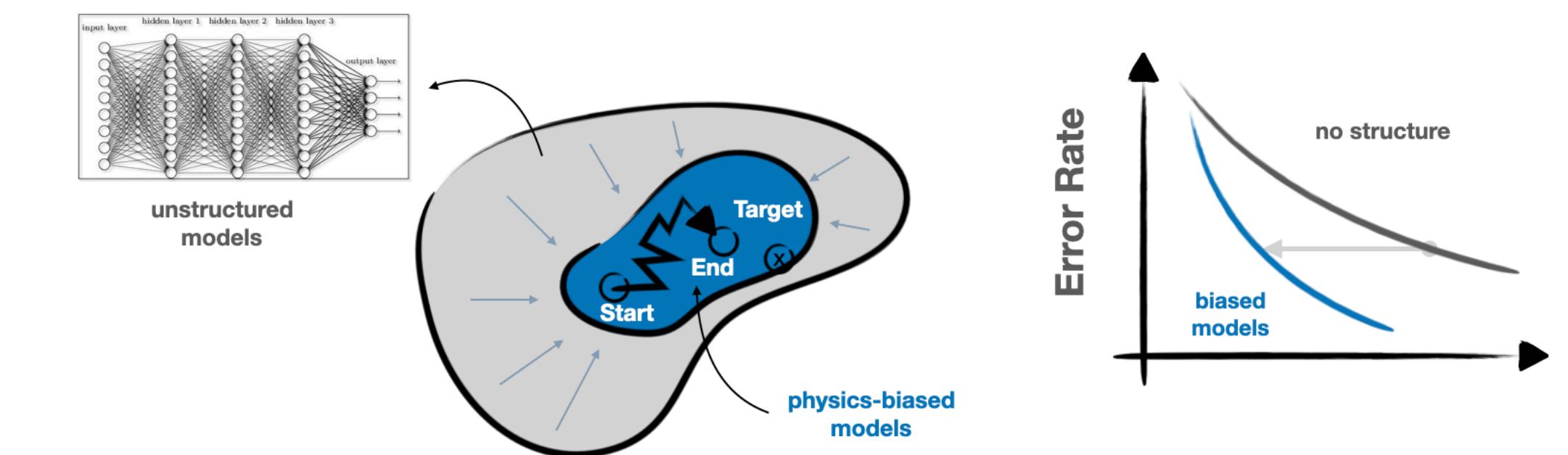
arXiv:1906.01563

# Summary

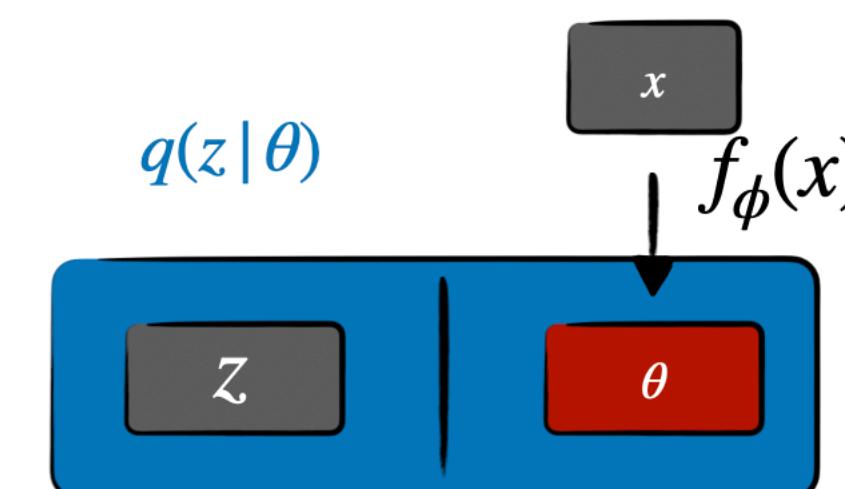
## Benefits of Depth



Inductive bias

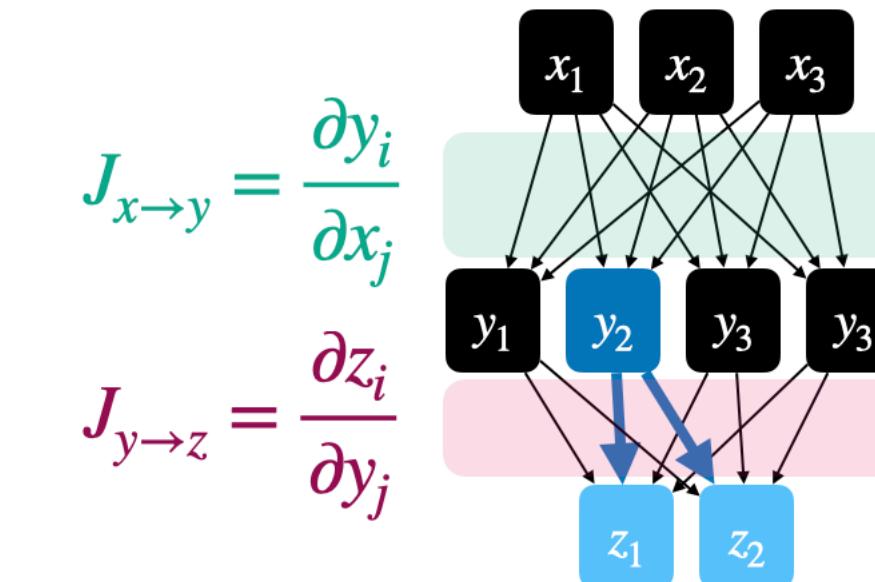


Cross Entropy Loss



$$L(\phi) = - \mathbb{E}_{p(x,z)} \log q_\phi(z|x)$$

Gradients via  
Backprop



$$g_i^y = (g^z J)_i = \sum_{c \in \text{children}(y_i)} g_c^z \frac{\partial z_c}{\partial z_i}$$