

# Supervised Learning

George Konidaris  
[gdk@cs.brown.edu](mailto:gdk@cs.brown.edu)

Fall 2021

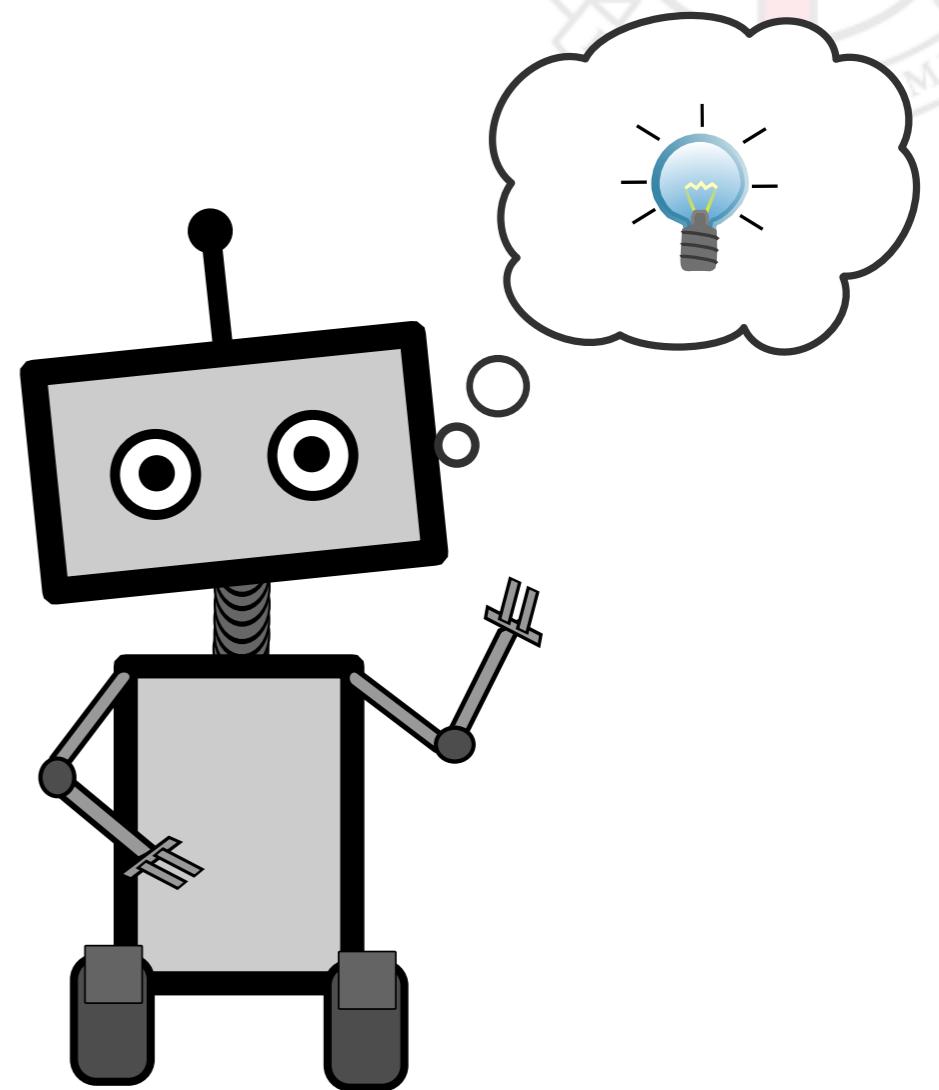
# Machine Learning

Subfield of AI concerned with *learning from data*.

Broadly, using:

- ***Experience***
- To Improve ***Performance***
- On Some ***Task***

(Tom Mitchell, 1997)

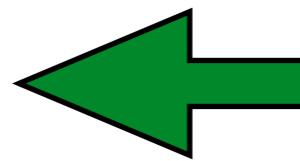


# Supervised Learning



Input:

$X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  inputs  
 $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$  labels



training data

Learn to predict new labels.

Given  $x$ :  $y$ ?

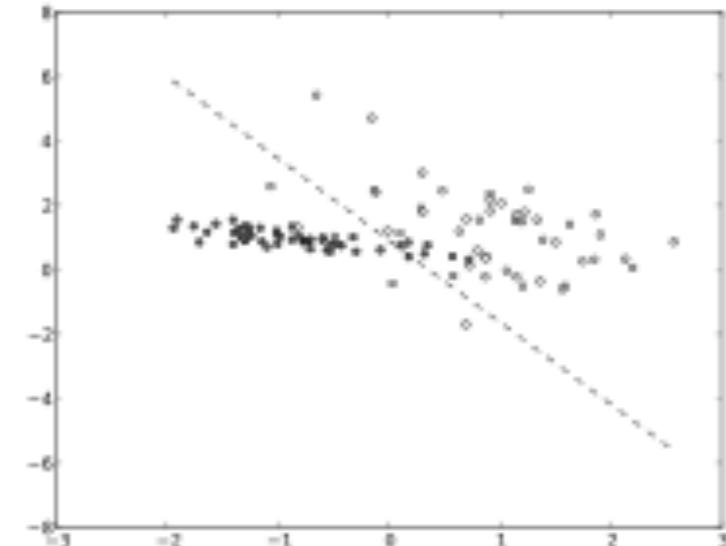




# Classification vs. Regression

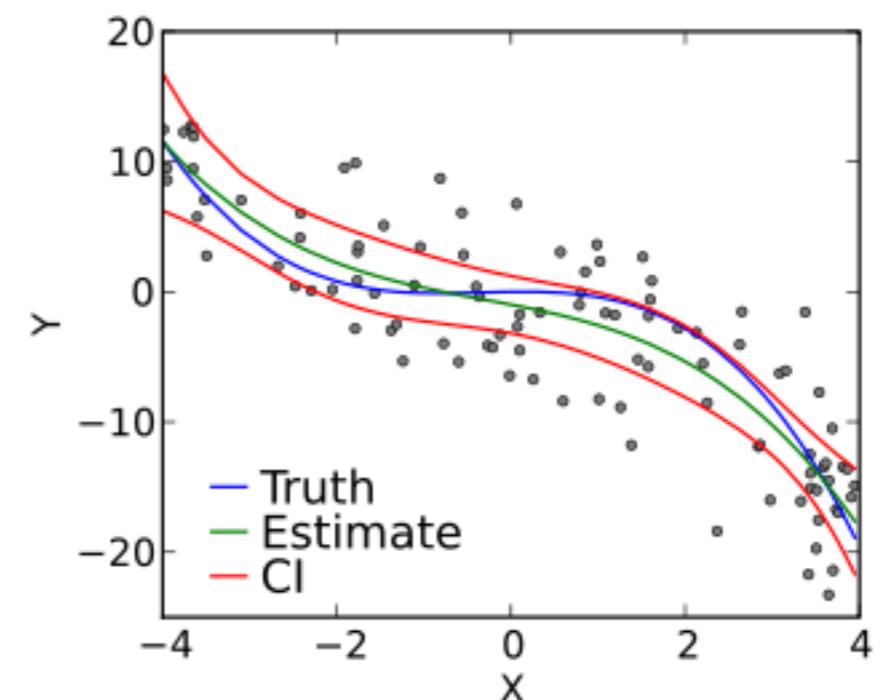
If the set of labels  $Y$  is discrete:

- Classification
- Minimize number of errors



If  $Y$  is real-valued:

- Regression
- Minimize sum squared error



Today we focus on classification.



# Supervised Learning

Formal definition:

Given training data:

$X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  **inputs**

$Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$  **labels**

Produce:

Decision function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$

That minimizes error:

$$\sum_i err(f(x_i), y_i)$$



# Test/Train Split

Minimize error measured on what?

- Don't get to see future data.
- Could use test data ... but! **may not generalize.**

General principle:

**Do not measure error on the data you train on!**



# Test/Train Split



Methodology:

- Split data into **training set** and **test set**.
- Fit  $f$  using *training* set.
- Measure error on *test* set.

**Always do this.**



# Test/Train Split

What if you choose unlucky?  
And aren't we wasting data?



**k-fold Cross Validation:**

- Common alternative
- Repeat  $k$  times:
  - Partition data into train ( $n - n/k$ ) and test ( $n/k$ ) data sets
  - Train on training set, test on test set
- Average results across  $k$  choices of test set.



# Key Idea: Hypothesis Space

Typically

- Fixed **representation** of classifier.
- Learning algorithm constructed to match.

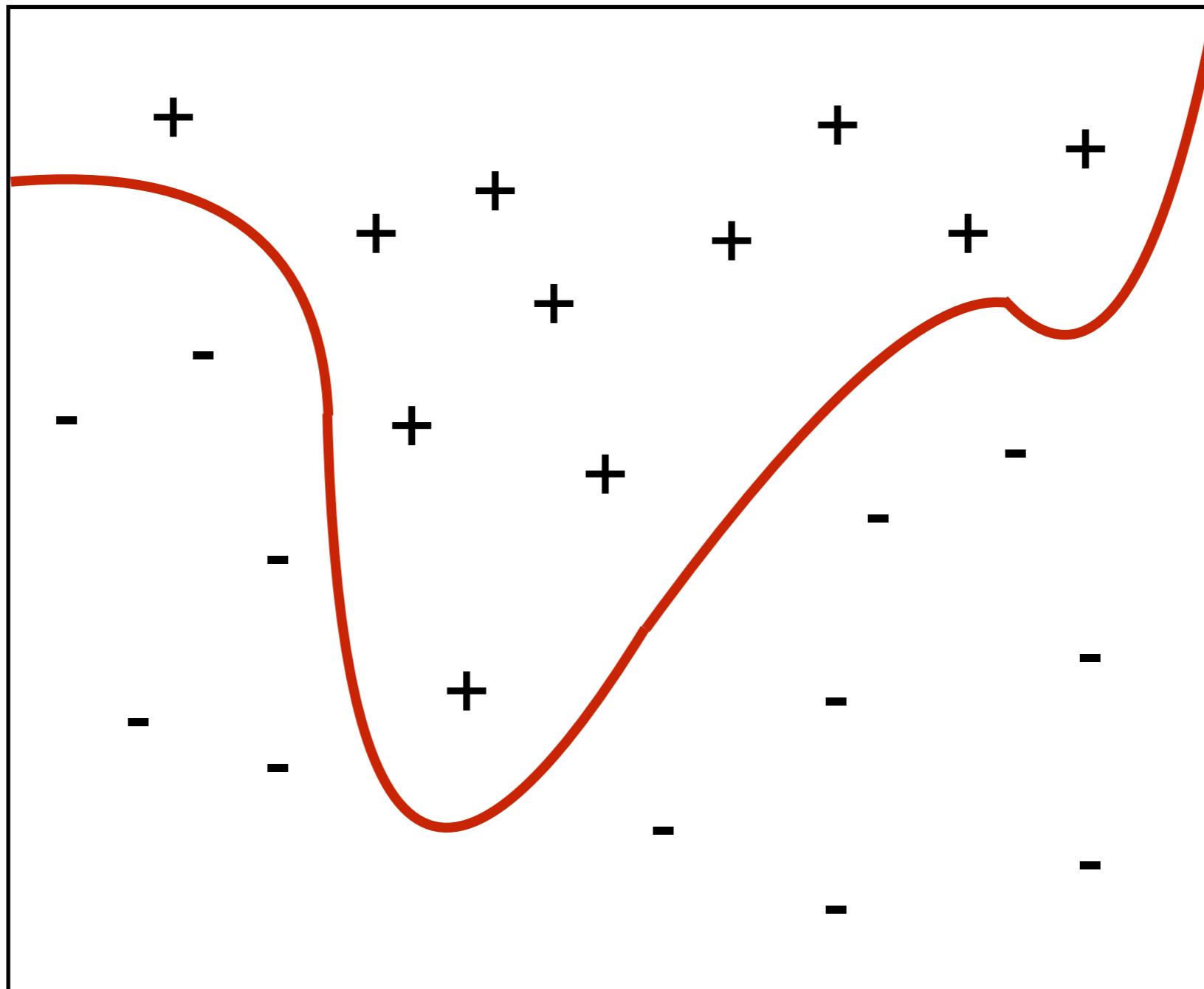
Representation induces class of functions  $F$ , from which to find  $f$ .

- $F$  is known as the **hypothesis space**.
- Tradeoff: power vs. expressibility vs. data efficiency.
- Not every  $F$  can represent every function.

$$F = \{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n\}$$

- Set of possible functions that can be returned
- Typically infinite set (not always)
- Learning is finding  $f_i \in F$  that minimizes error.

# Key Idea: Decision Boundary



Boundary at which label changes

# Decision Trees

Let's assume:

- Two classes (*true* and *false*).
- Input: vector of discrete values.

What's the simplest thing we could do?

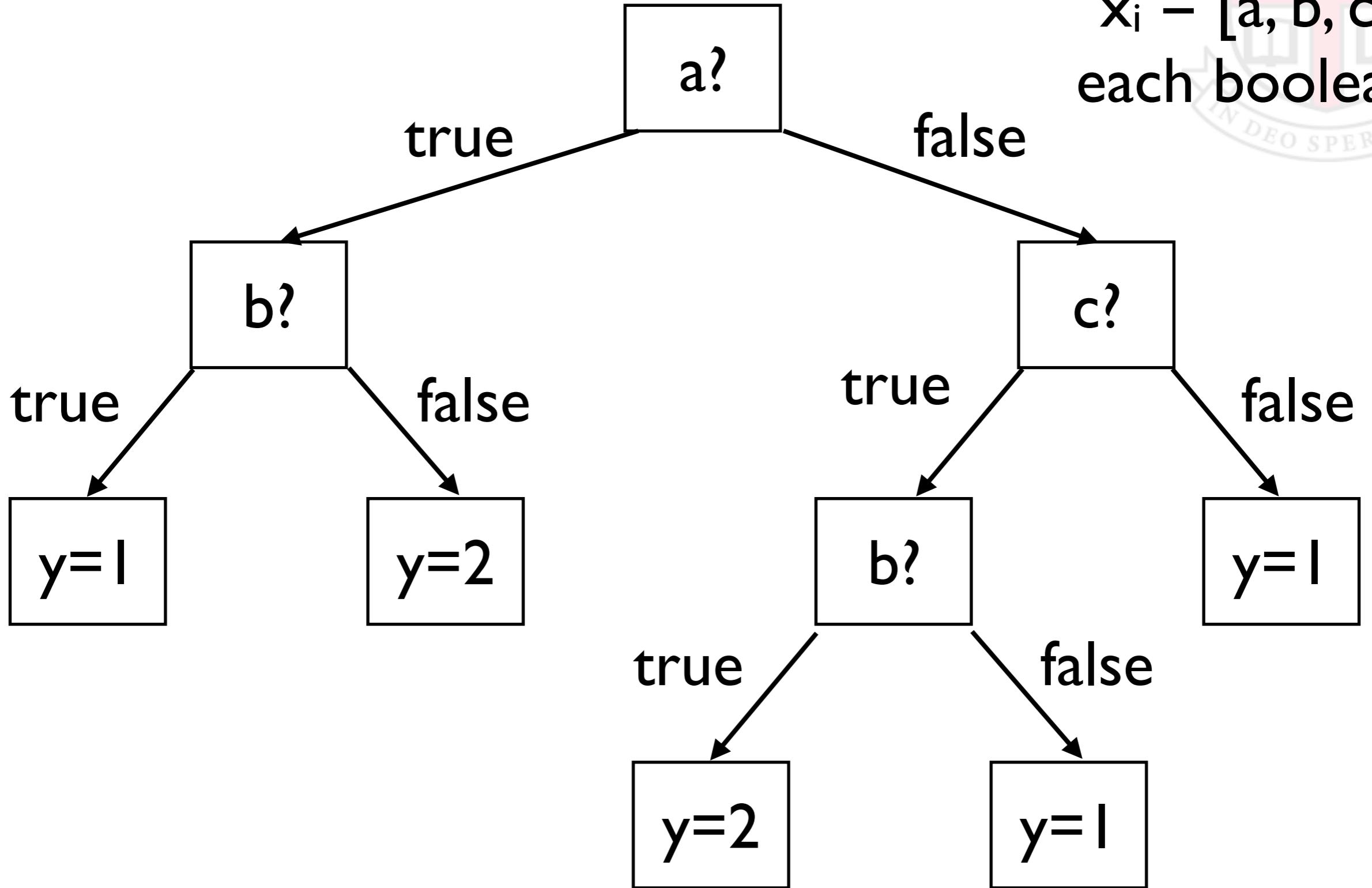
How about some if-then rules?

Relatively simple classifier:

- Tree of *tests*.
- Evaluate test for each  $x_i$ , follow branch.
- Leaves are class labels.



# Decision Trees



# Decision Trees

How to make one?

Given

$$X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$$

$$Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$$

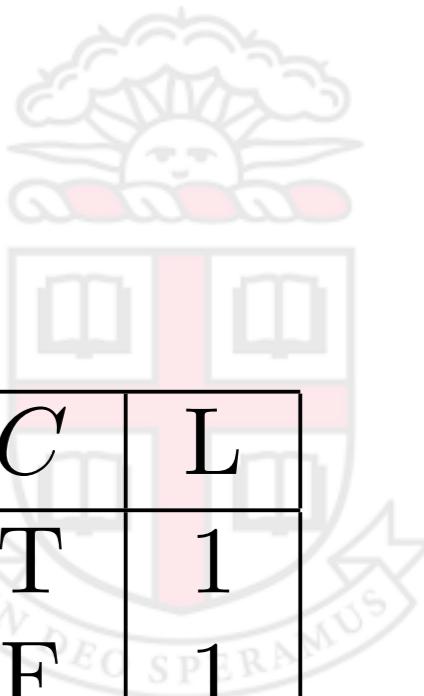
repeat:

- if all the labels are the same, we have a leaf node.
- pick an attribute and split data bases on its value.
- recurse on each half.

If we run out of splits, and data not perfectly in one class, then take a max.

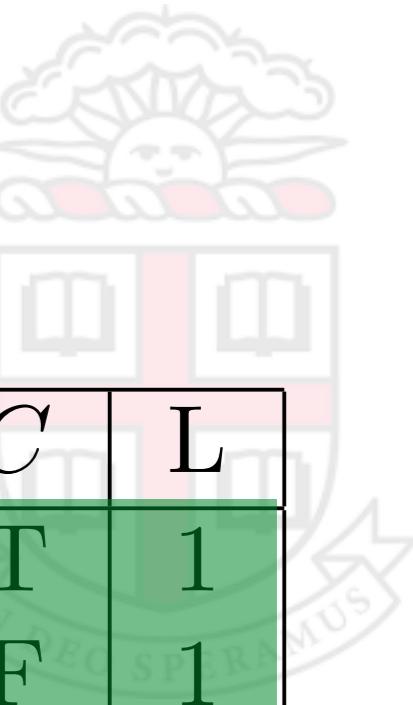


# Decision Trees

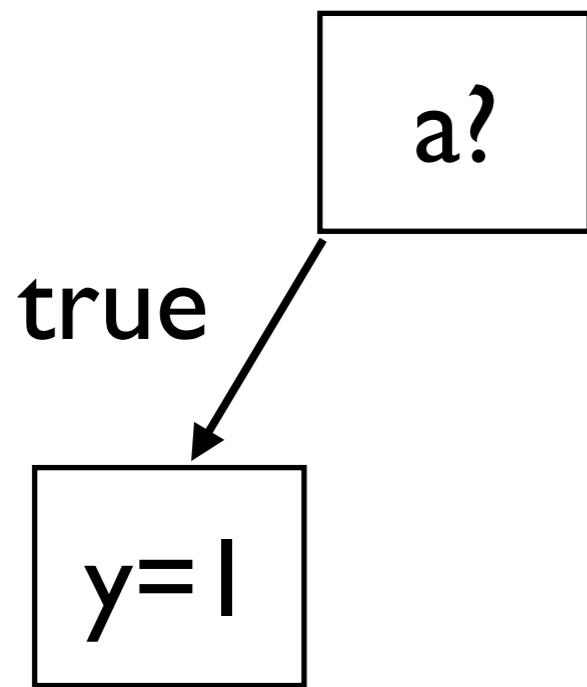


a?

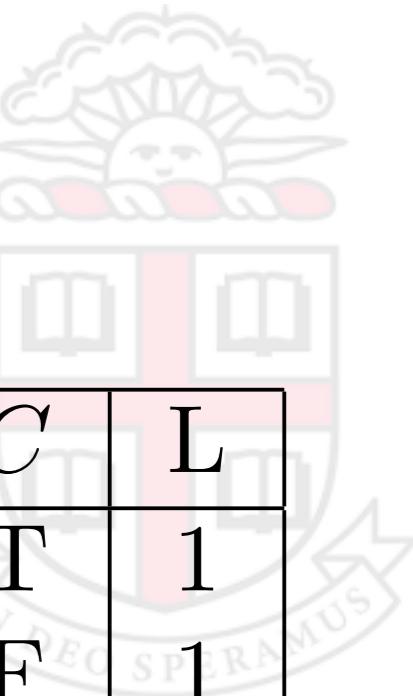
<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>L</i>
T	F	T	1
T	T	F	1
T	F	F	1
F	T	F	2
F	T	T	2
F	T	F	2
F	F	T	1
F	F	F	1



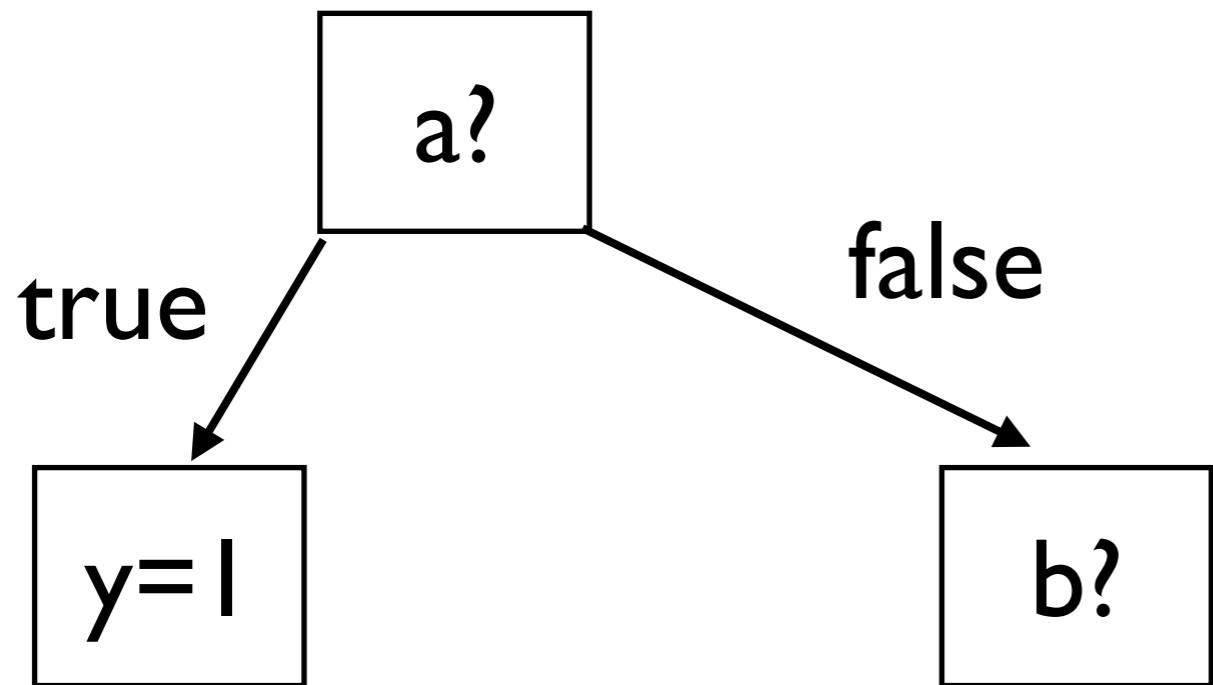
# Decision Trees



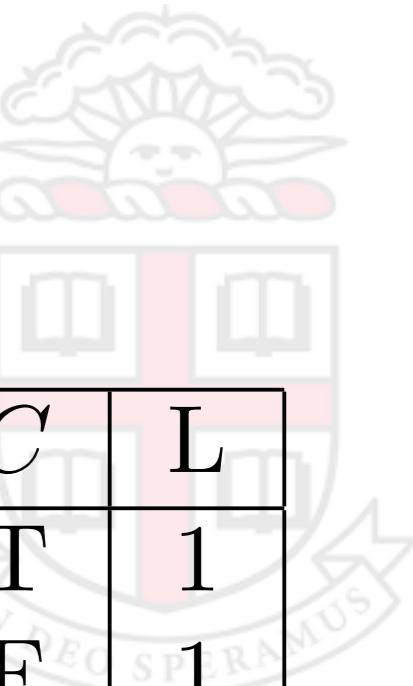
<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>L</i>
T	F	T	1
T	T	F	1
T	F	F	1
F	T	F	2
F	T	T	2
F	T	F	2
F	F	T	1
F	F	F	1



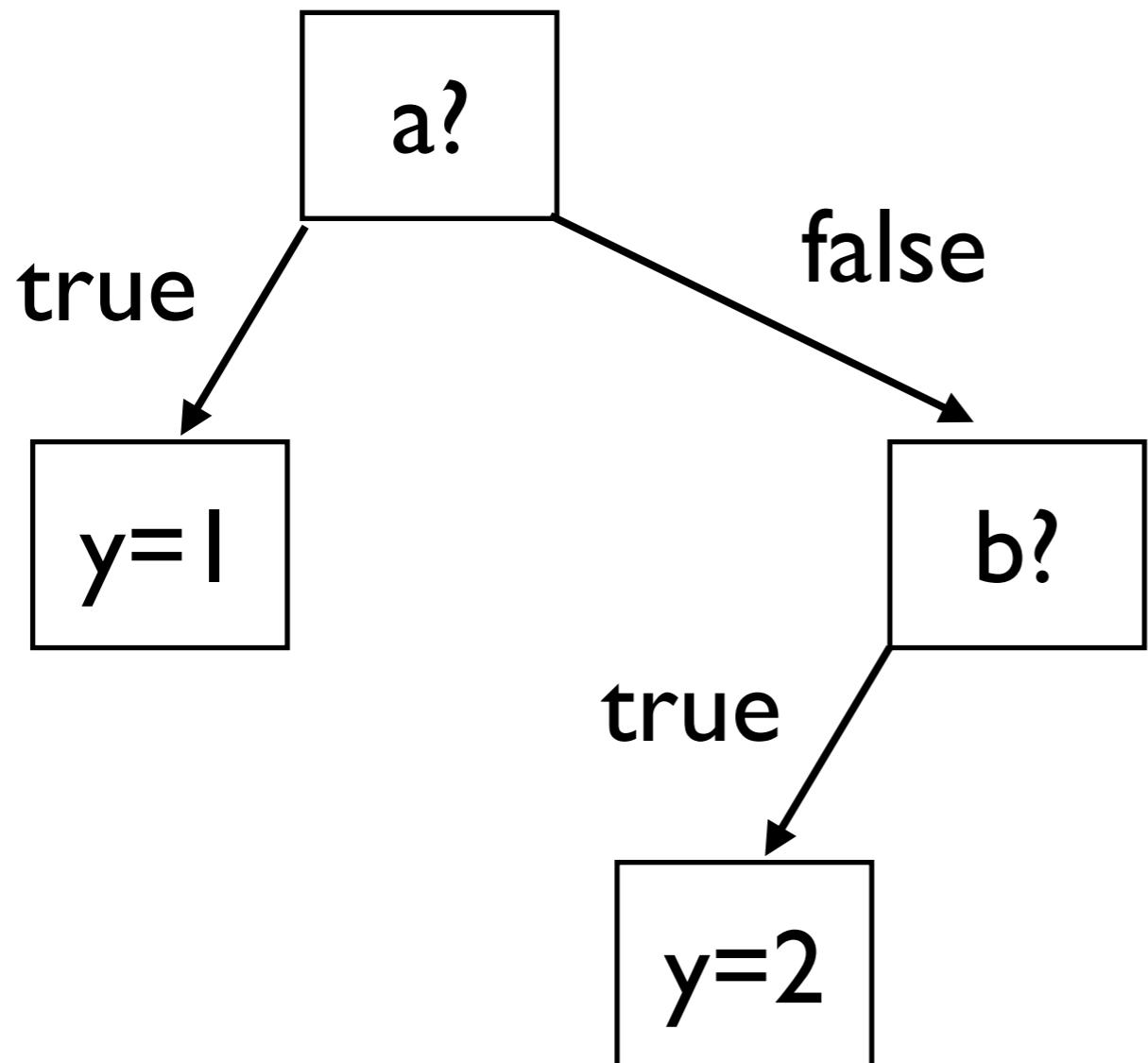
# Decision Trees



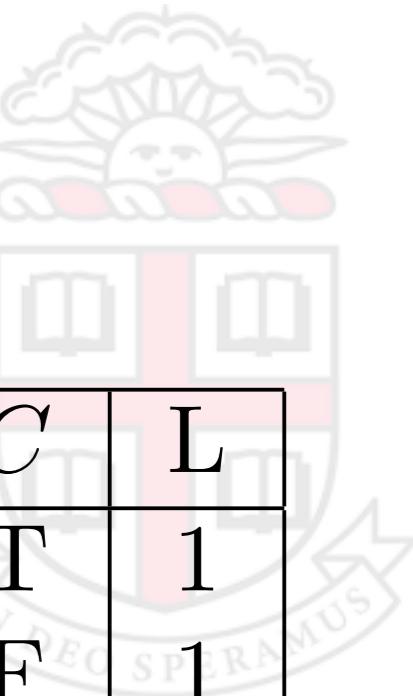
A	B	C	L
T	F	T	1
T	T	F	1
T	F	F	1
F	T	F	2
F	T	T	2
F	T	F	2
F	F	T	1
F	F	F	1



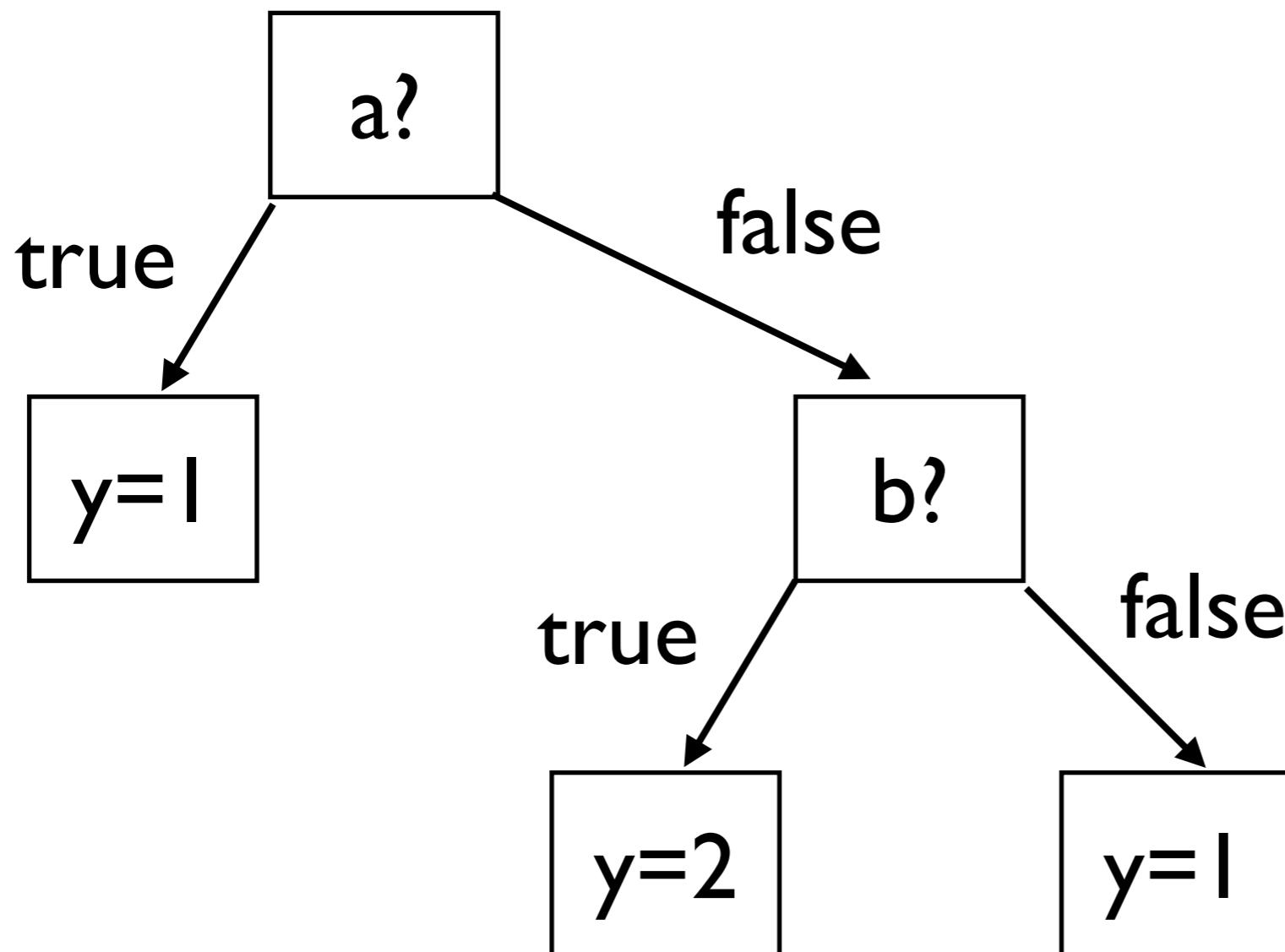
# Decision Trees



$A$	$B$	$C$	$L$
T	F	T	1
T	T	F	1
T	F	F	1
F	T	F	2
F	T	T	2
F	T	F	2
F	F	T	1
F	F	F	1



# Decision Trees



$A$	$B$	$C$	$L$
T	F	T	1
T	T	F	1
T	F	F	1
F	T	F	2
F	T	T	2
F	T	F	2
F	F	T	1
F	F	F	1



# Attribute Picking

Key question:

- Which attribute to split over?

Information contained in a data set:

$$I(D) = -f_1 \log_2 f_1 - f_2 \log_2 f_2$$

How many “bits” of information do we need to determine the label in a dataset?

Pick the attribute with the max information gain:

$$Gain(E) = I(D) - \sum_i f_i I(E_i)$$

# Example

$$Gain(E) = I(D) - \sum f_i I(E_i)$$
$$I(D) = -f_1 \log_2 f_1 - f_2 \log_2 f_2$$

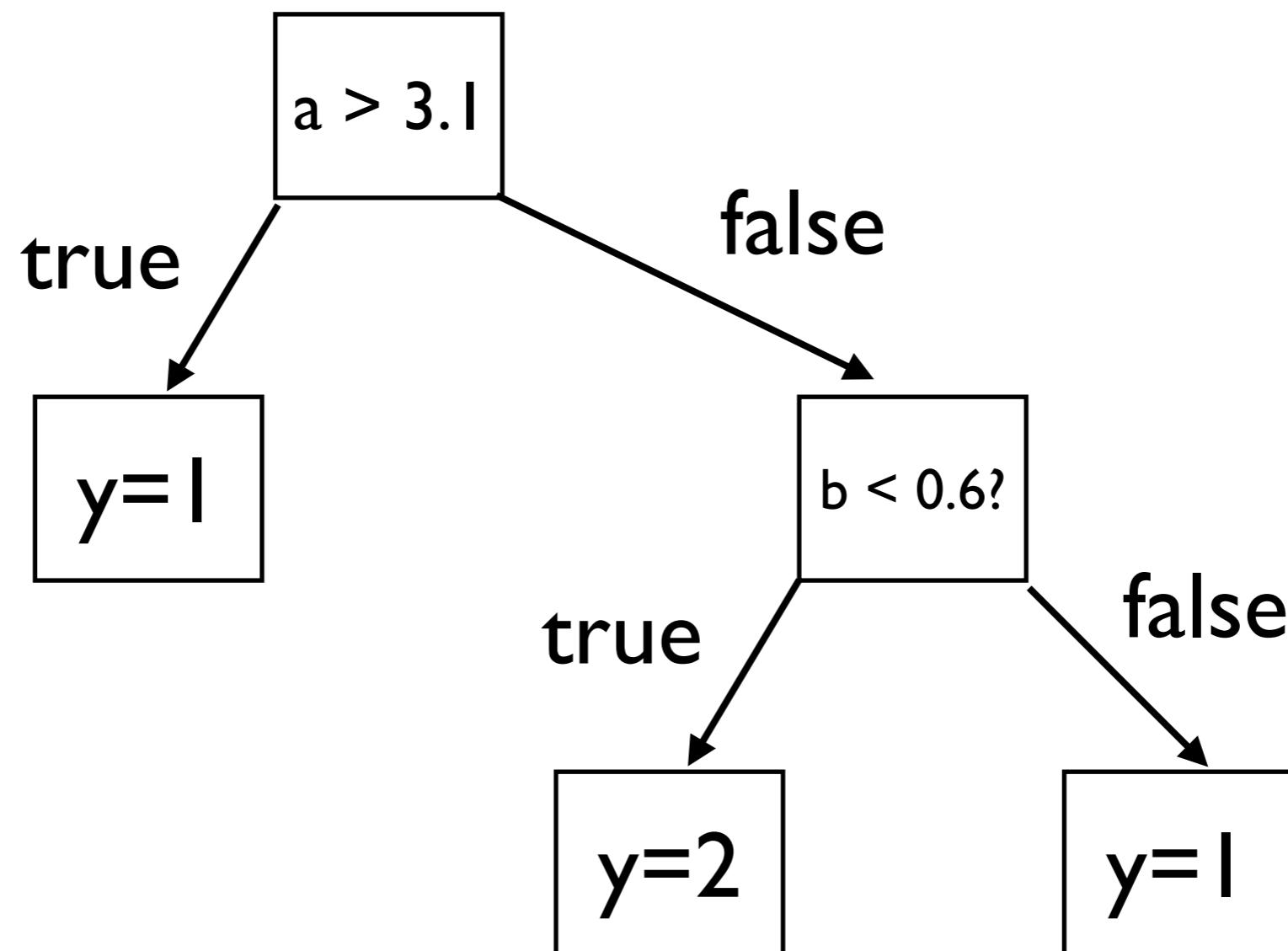
A	B	C	L
T	F	T	1
T	T	F	1
T	F	F	1
F	T	F	2
F	T	T	2
F	T	F	2
F	F	T	1
F	F	F	1

# Decision Trees



What if the inputs are real-valued?

- Have inequalities rather than equalities.
- Can repeat variables.



# Hypothesis Class

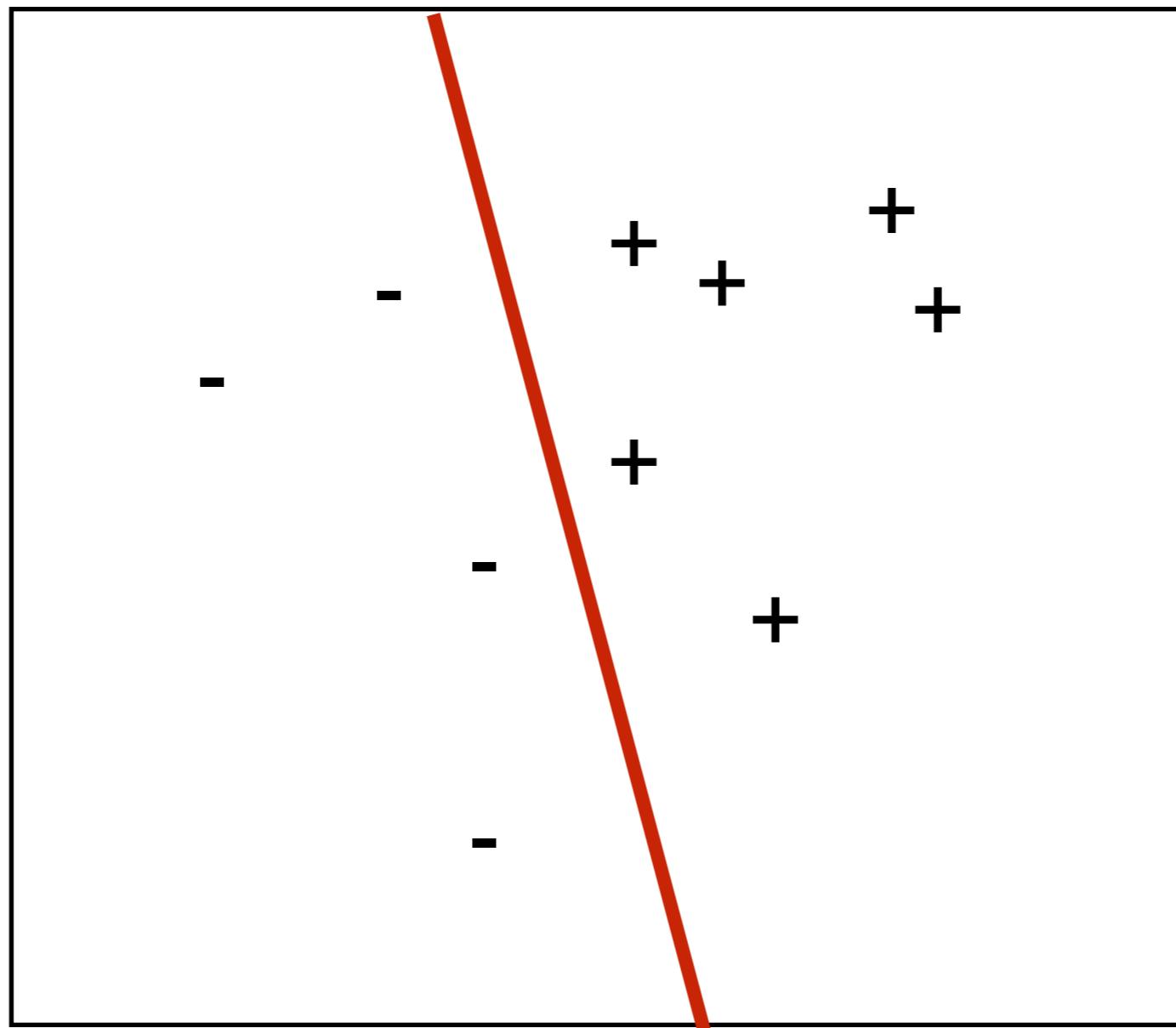
What is the hypothesis class for a decision tree?

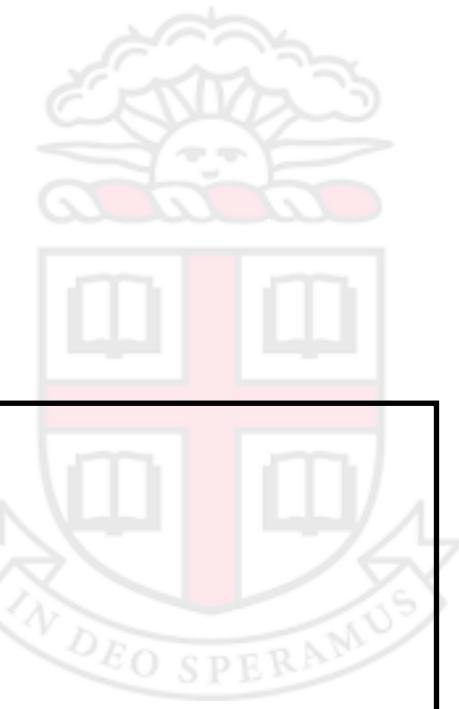
- Discrete inputs?
- Real-valued inputs?



# The Perceptron

If your input ( $x_i$ ) is real-valued ... *explicit decision boundary?*





# The Perceptron

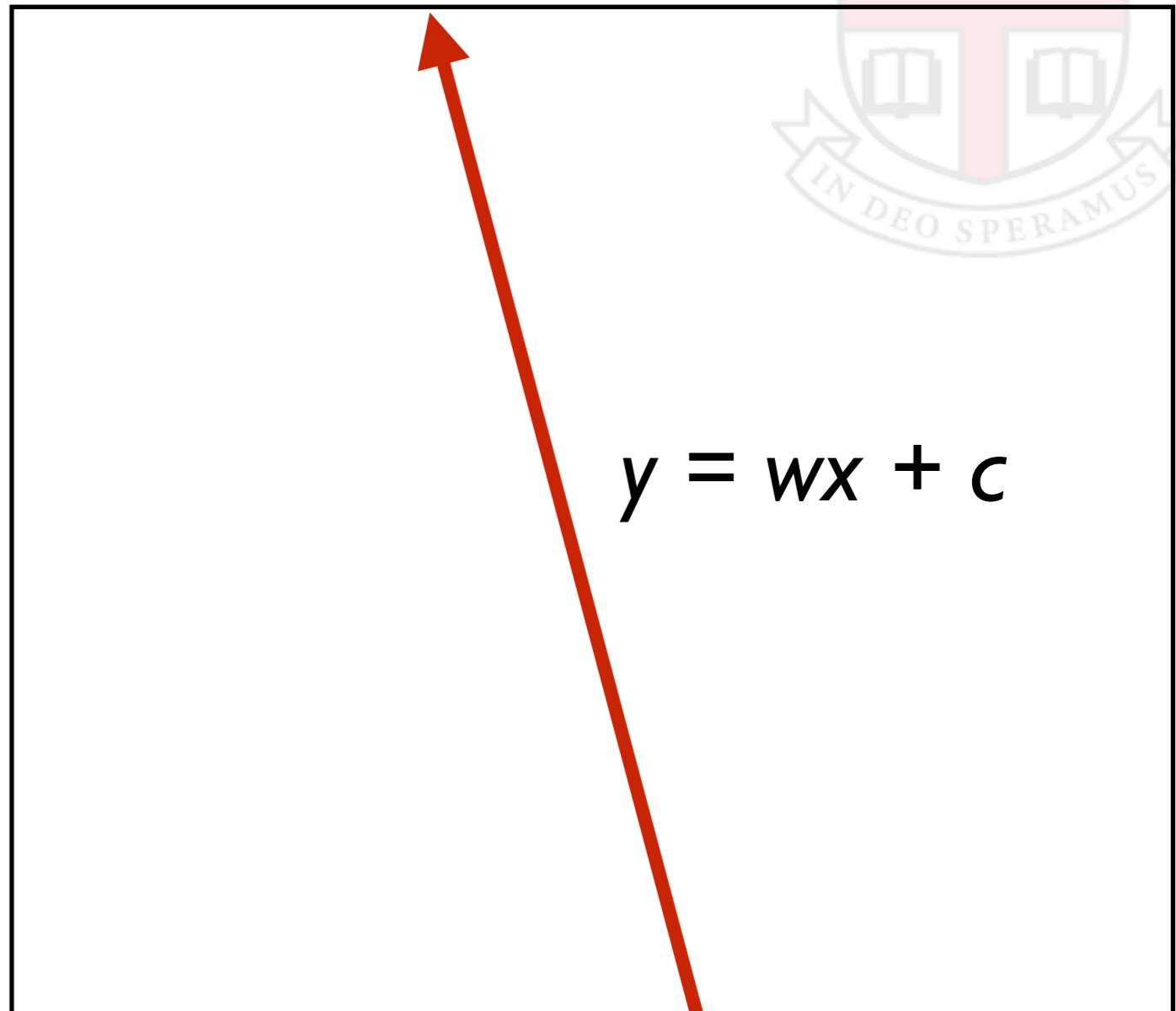
If  $x = [x(1), \dots, x(n)]$ :

- Create an  $n$ -d line
- Slope for each  $x(i)$
- Constant offset

$$f(x) = \text{sign}(w \cdot x - c)$$

gradient      offset

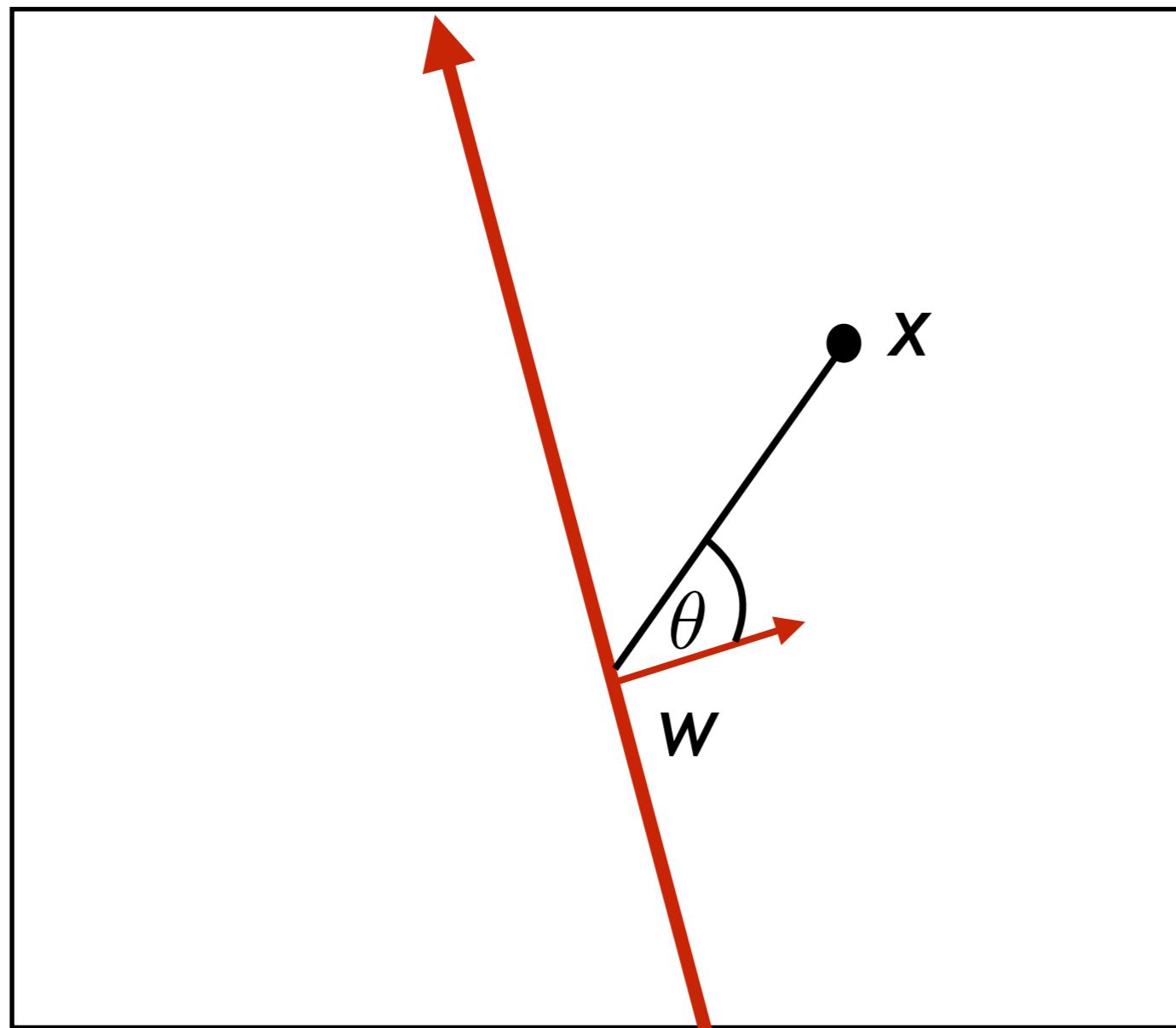
A diagram illustrating the components of a perceptron's output function. The equation  $f(x) = \text{sign}(w \cdot x - c)$  is shown. Two parts are highlighted with circles: the term  $w \cdot x$  is circled in green and labeled 'gradient', and the term  $-c$  is circled in red and labeled 'offset'. Arrows point from the labels to their respective circled terms.



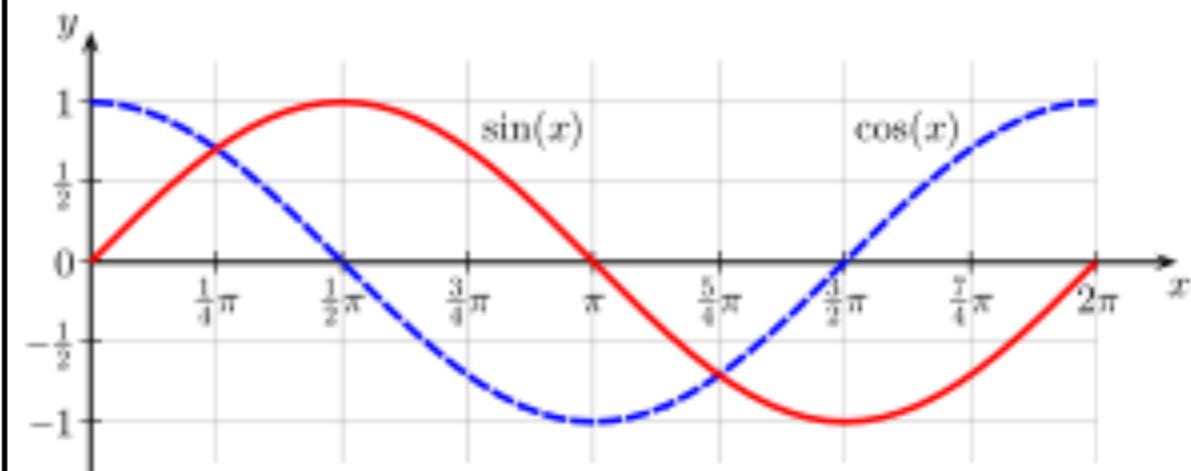


# The Perceptron

Which side of a line are you on?



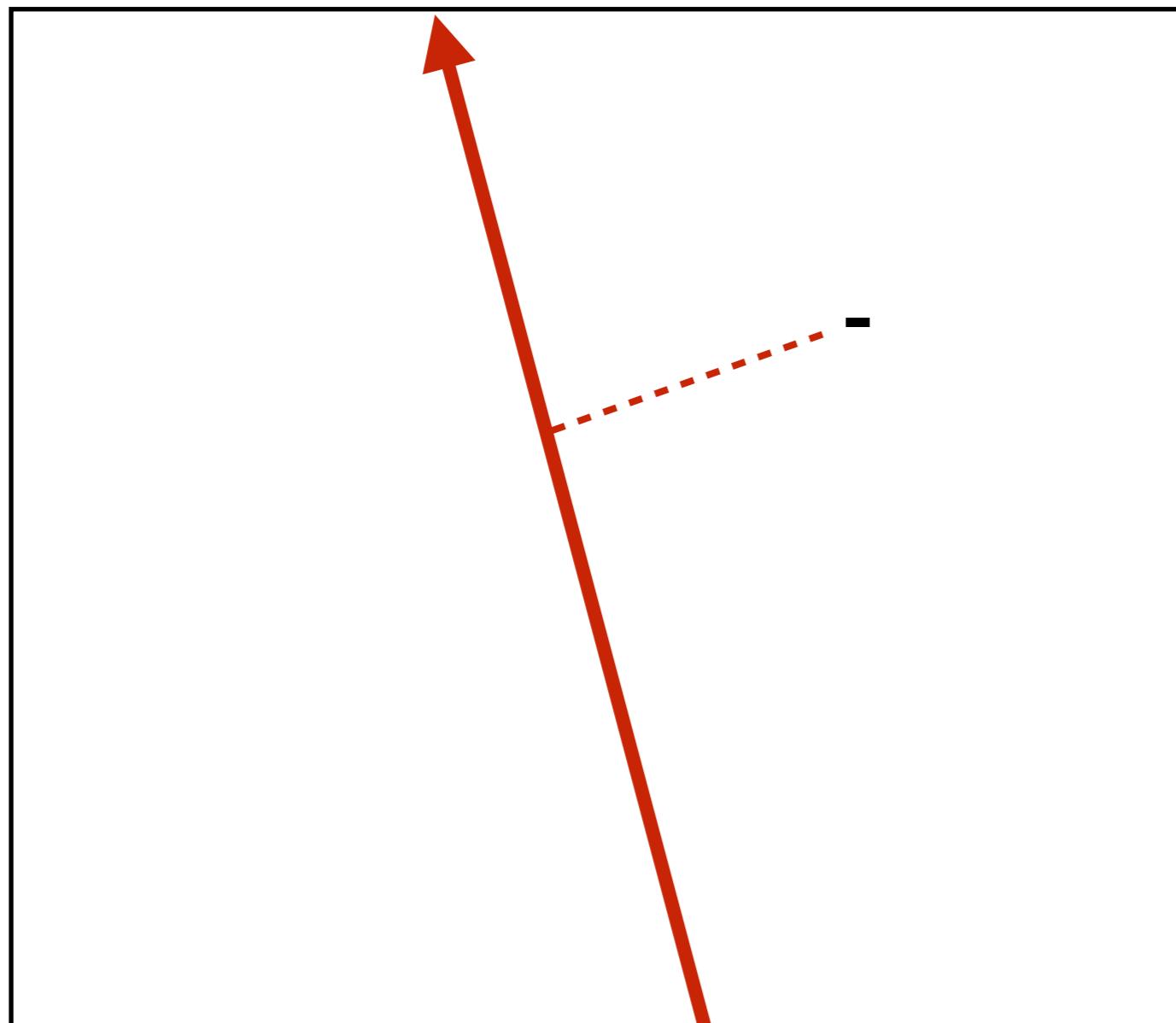
$$w \cdot x = ||w|| ||x|| \cos(\theta)$$





# The Perceptron

How do you reduce error?



$$e = (y_i - (w \cdot x_i + c))^2$$
$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial w_j} = -2(y_i - (w_i \cdot x_i + c))x_i(j)$$

descend this gradient  
to reduce error



# The Perceptron Algorithm

Assume you have a *batch* of data:

$$X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$$

$$Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$$

set  $w, c$  to 0.

for each  $x_i$ :

**predict**  $z_i = \text{sign}(w \cdot x_i + c)$

if  $z_i \neq y_i$ :

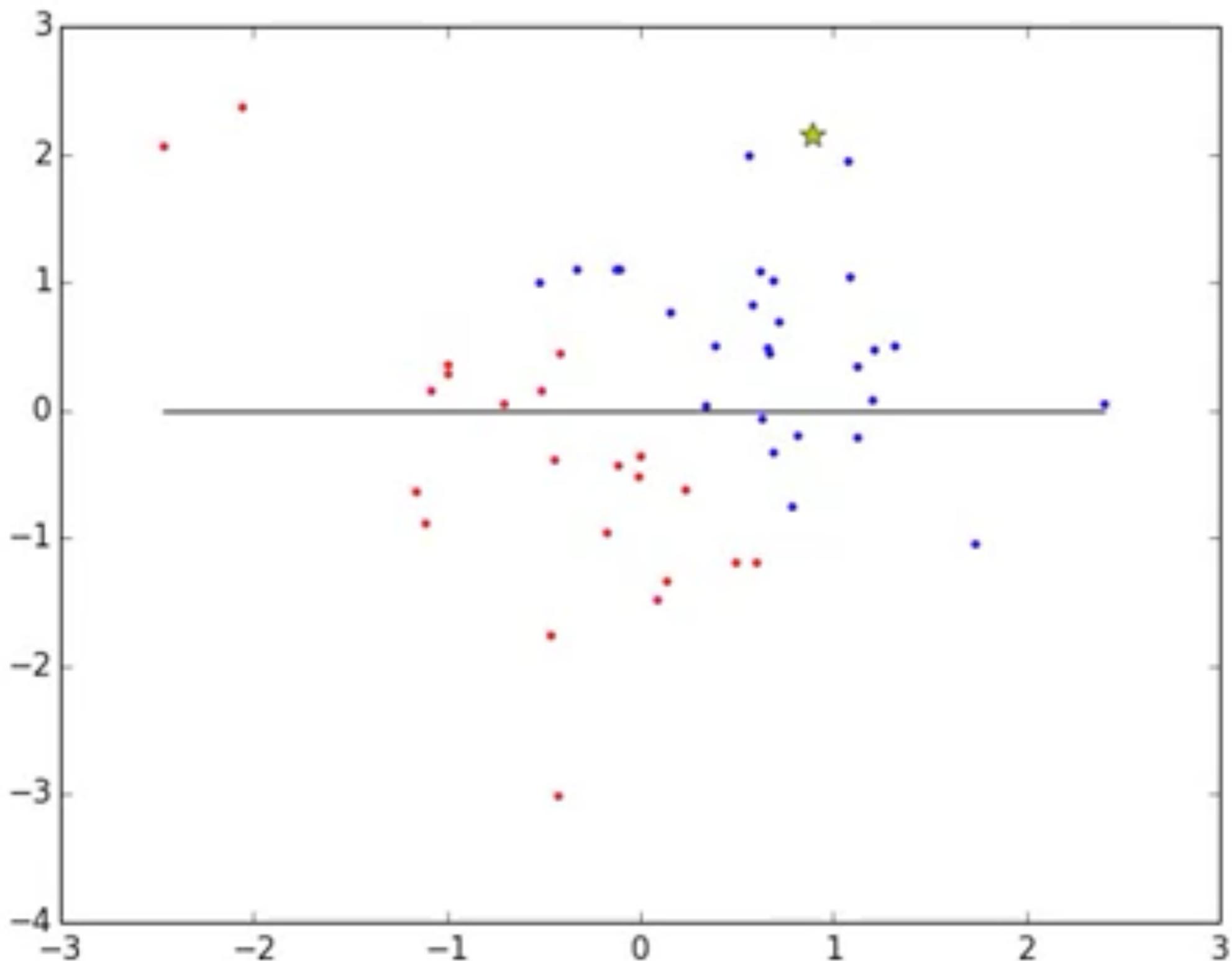
$$w = w + a(y_i - z_i)x_i$$

converges if data  
is linearly separate

learning rate



*a*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcmIQ3zWYro>

credit: Ambuj Tewari



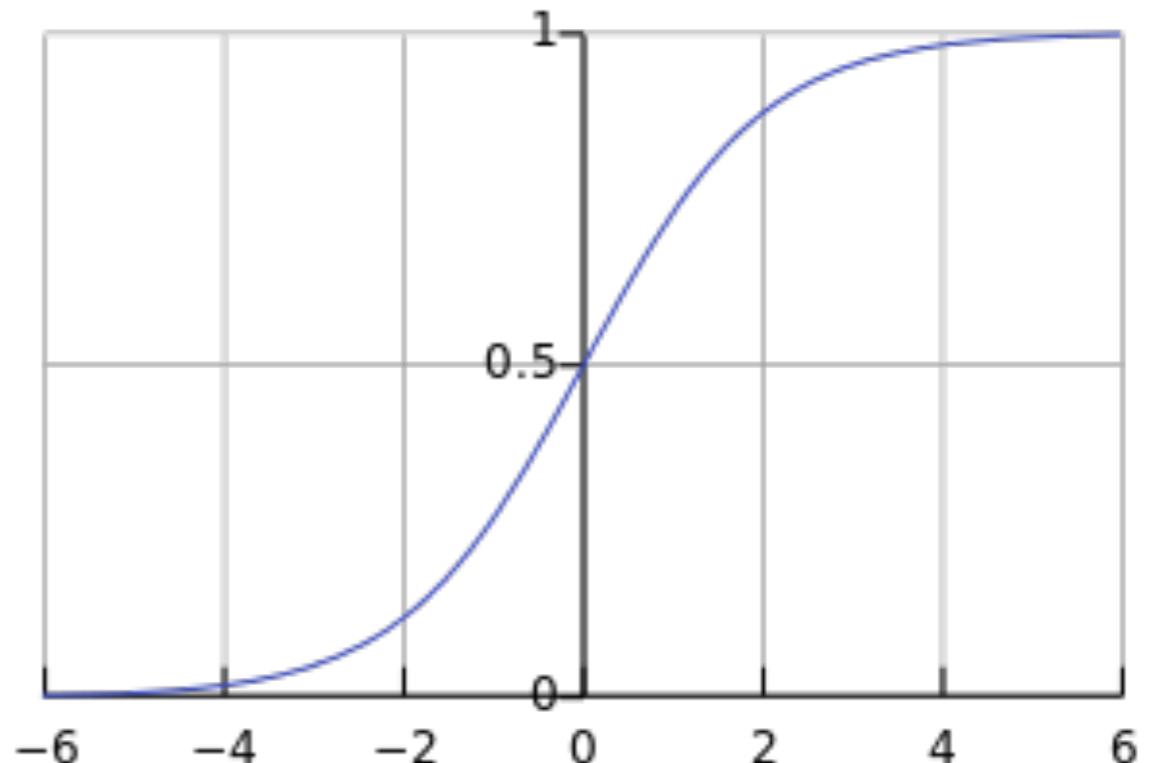
# Probabilities

What if you want a *probabilistic classifier*?

Instead of *sign*, squash output of linear sum down to [0, 1]:

$$\sigma(w \cdot x + c)$$

Resulting algorithm:  
**logistic regression.**



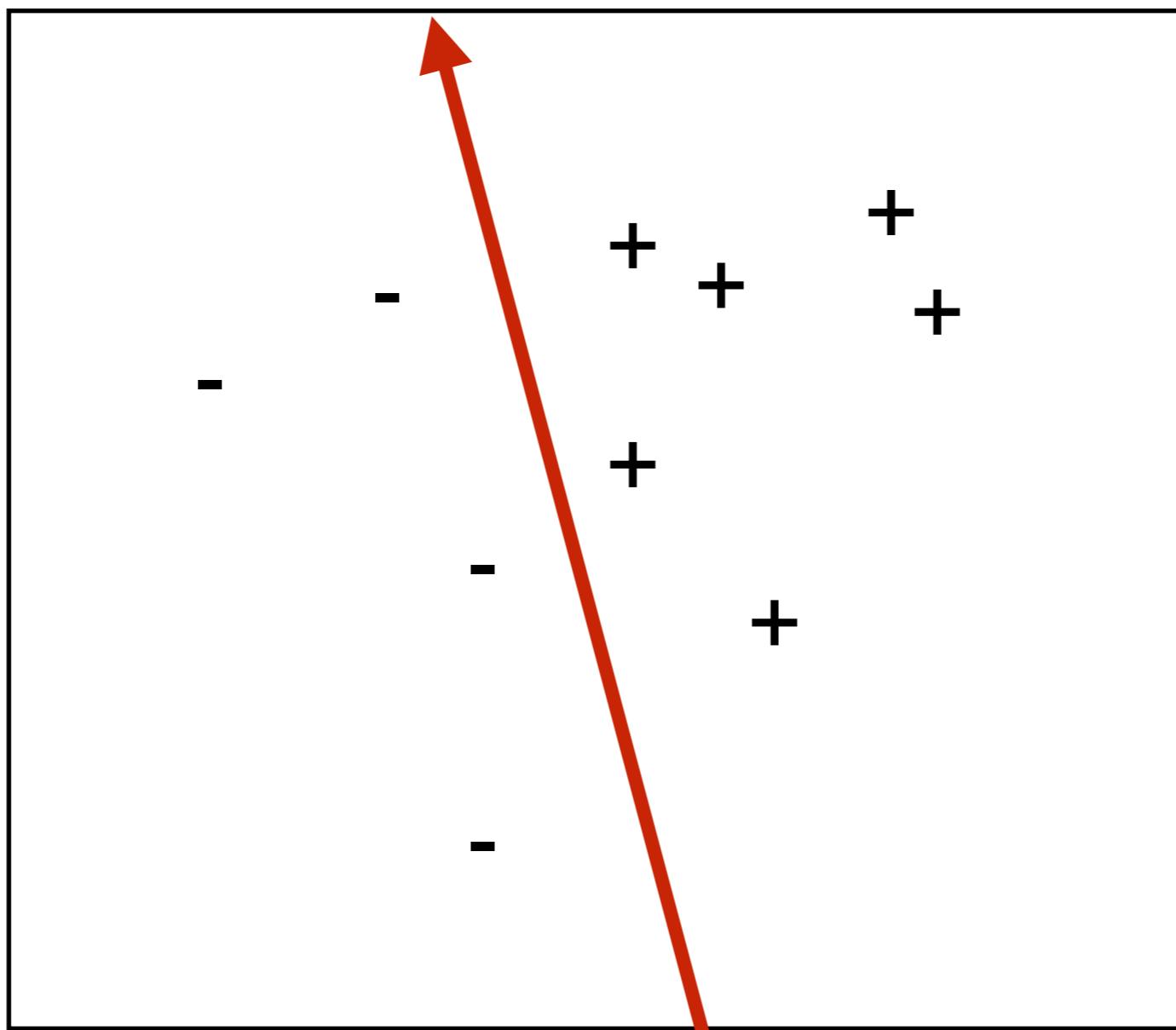
# Frank Rosenblatt

Built the Mark I in 1960.

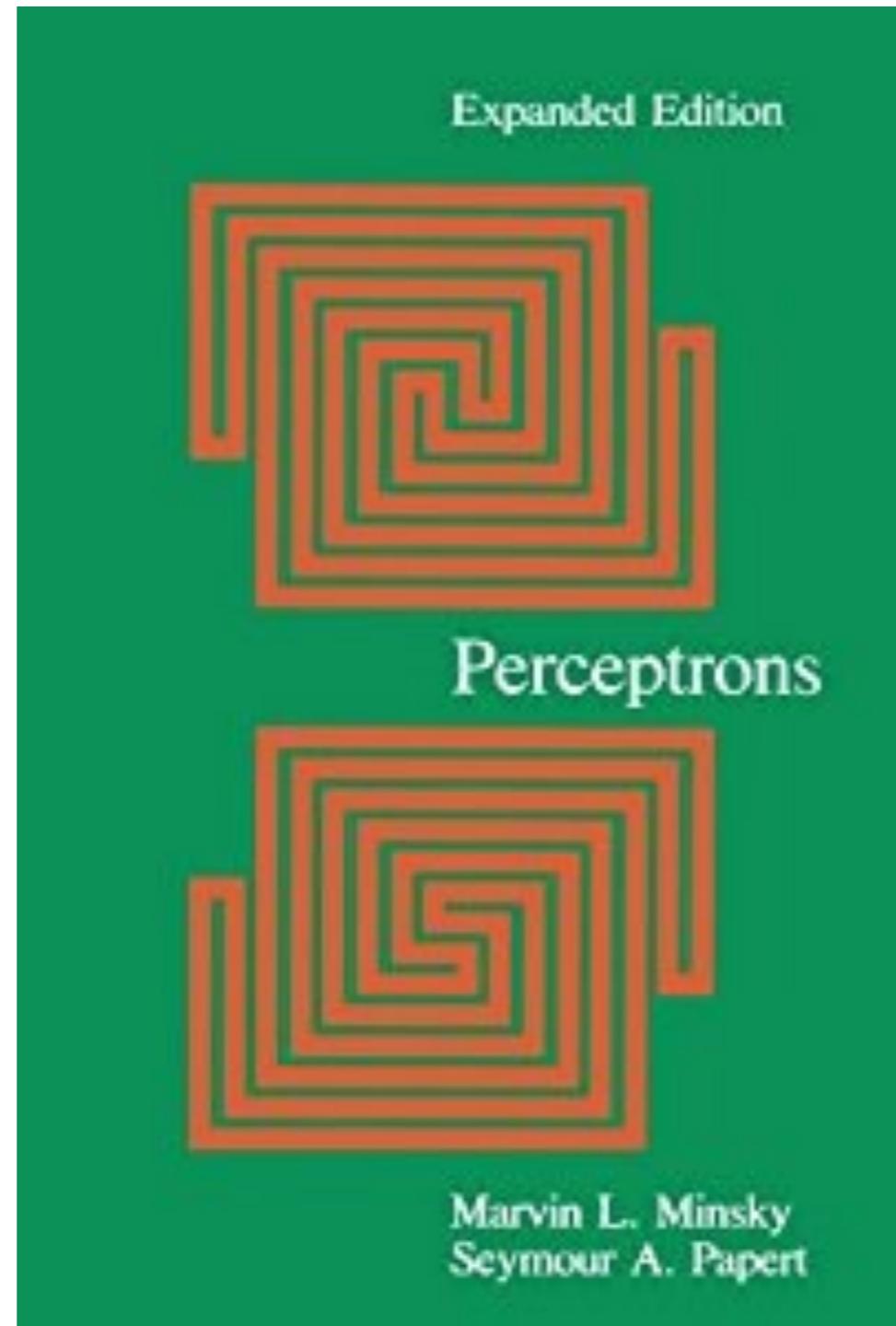


# Perceptrons

What can't you do?

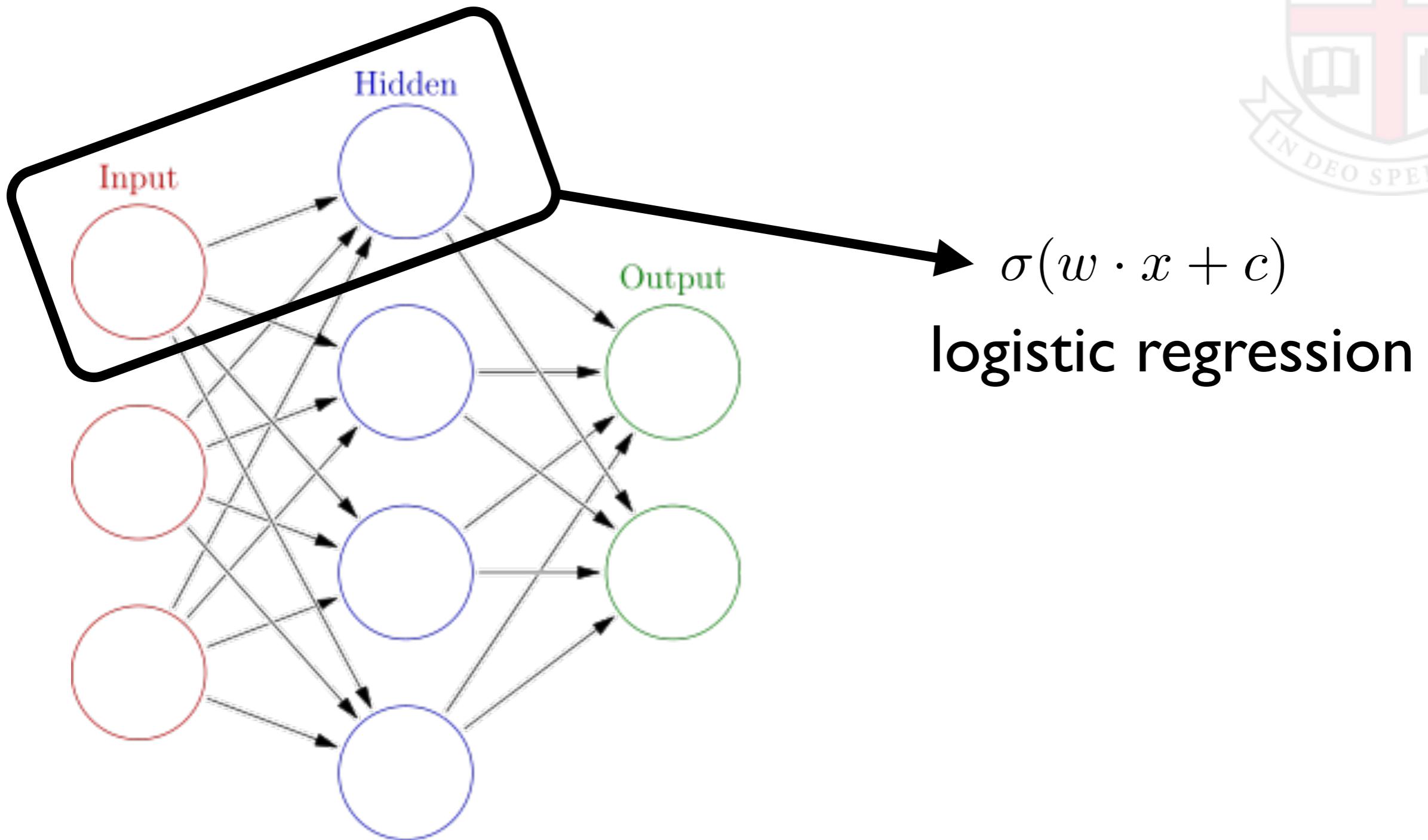


# Perceptrons

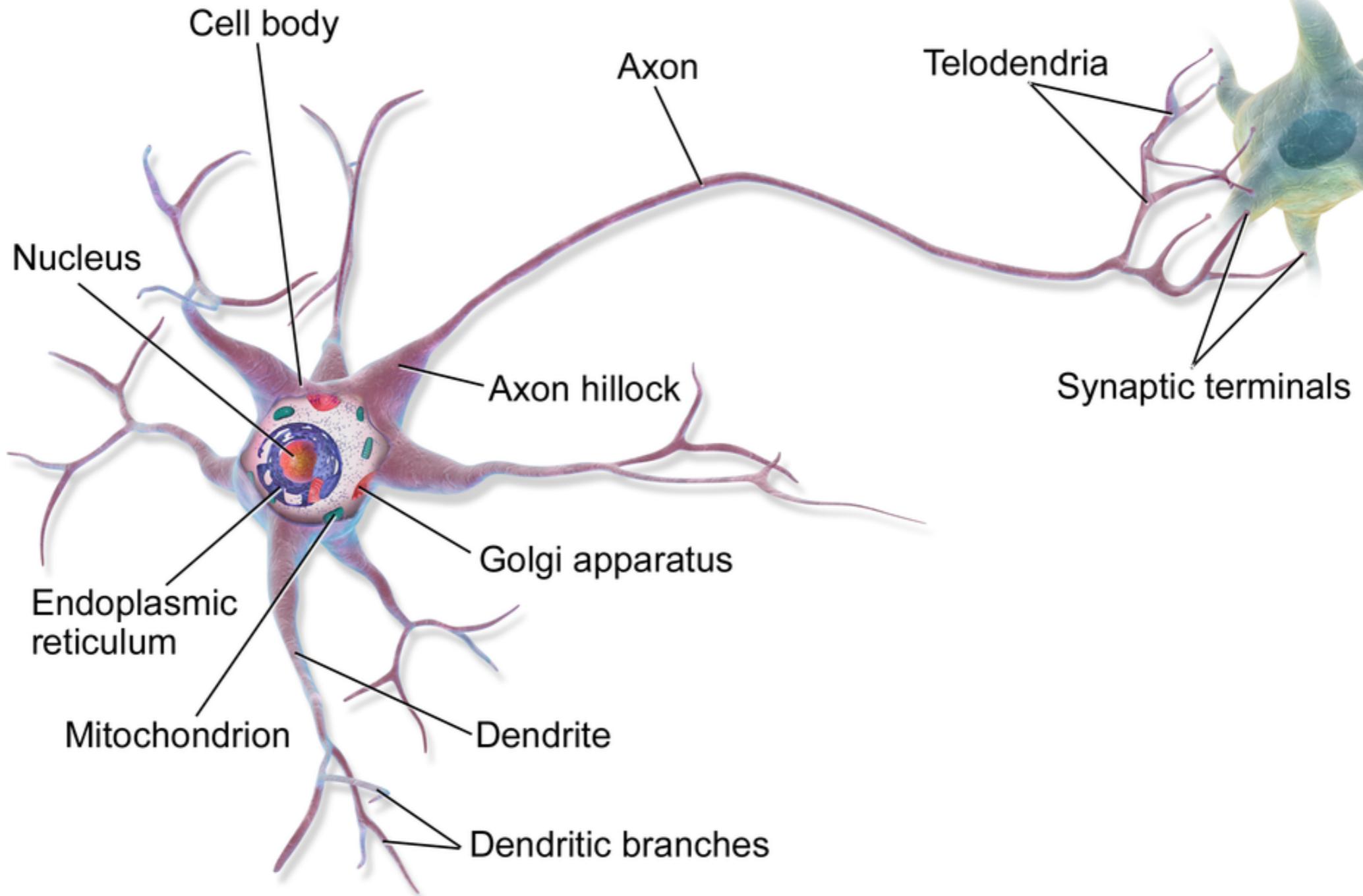


1969

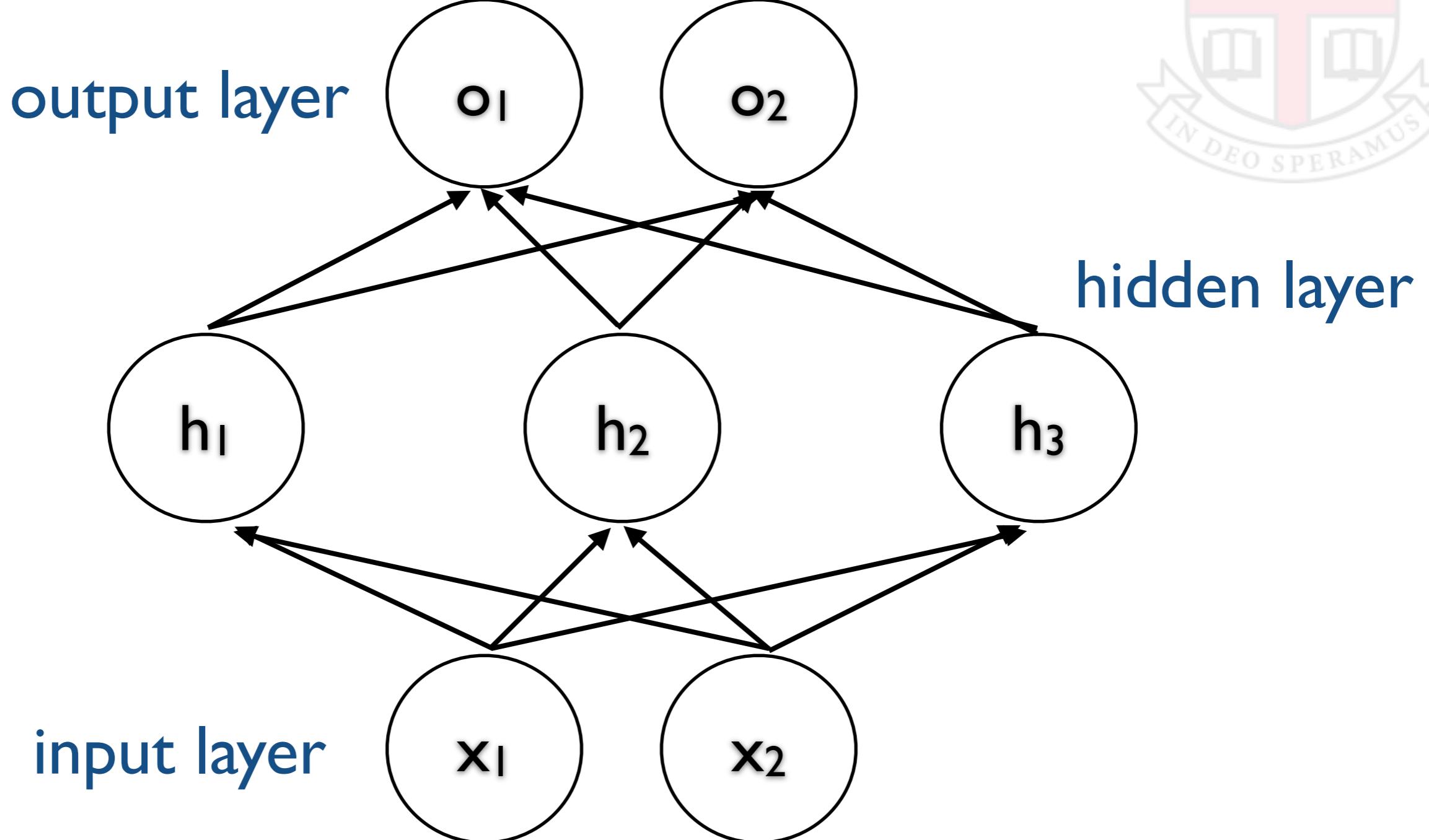
# Neural Networks

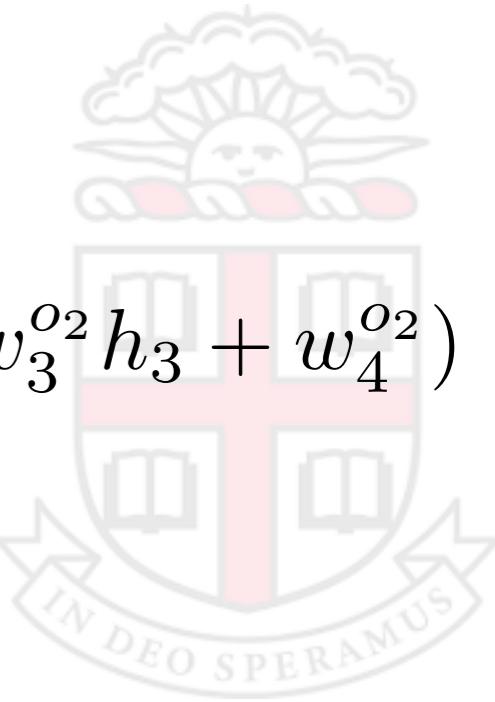


# Neurons



# Neural Networks



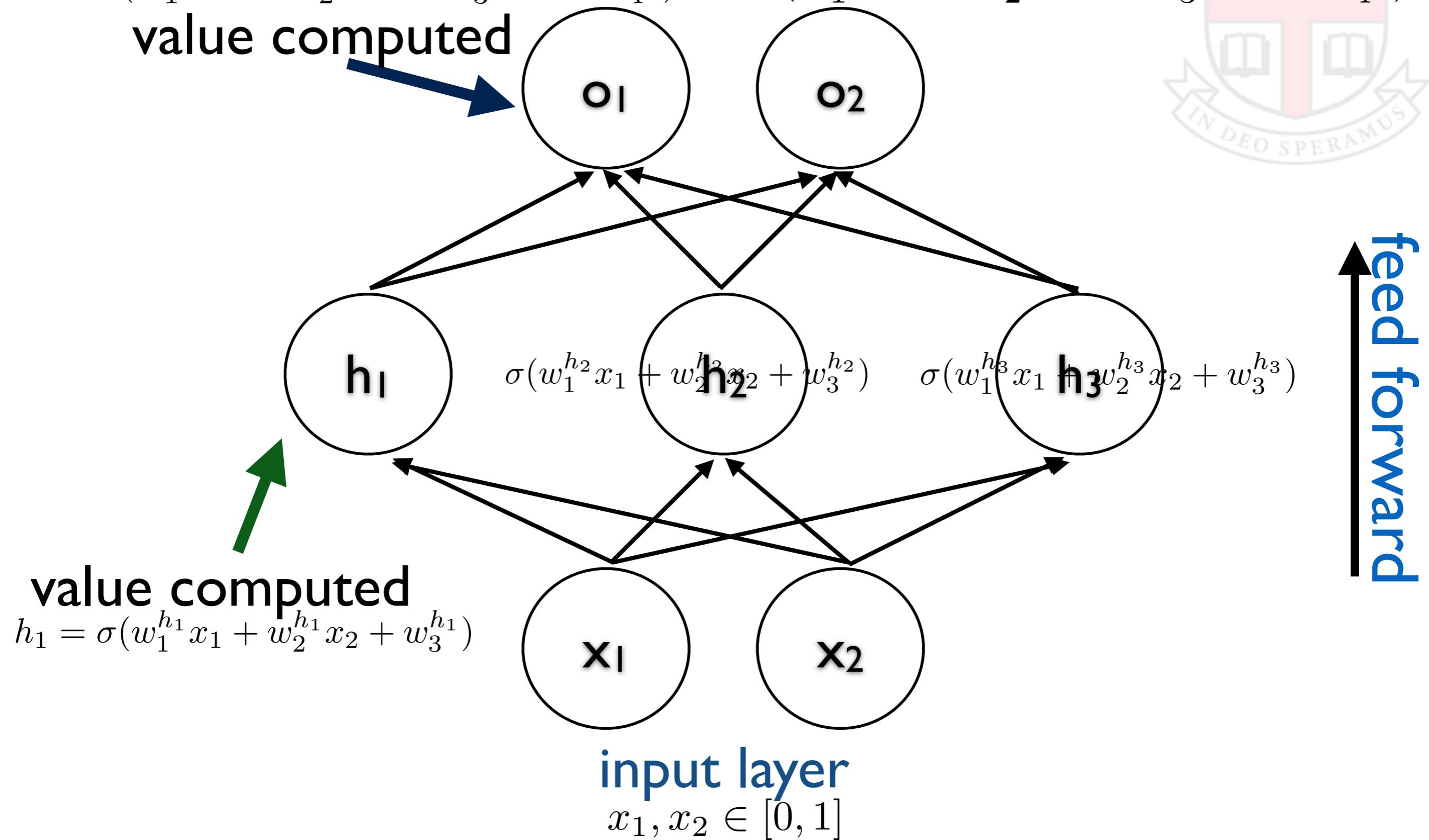


# Neural Networks

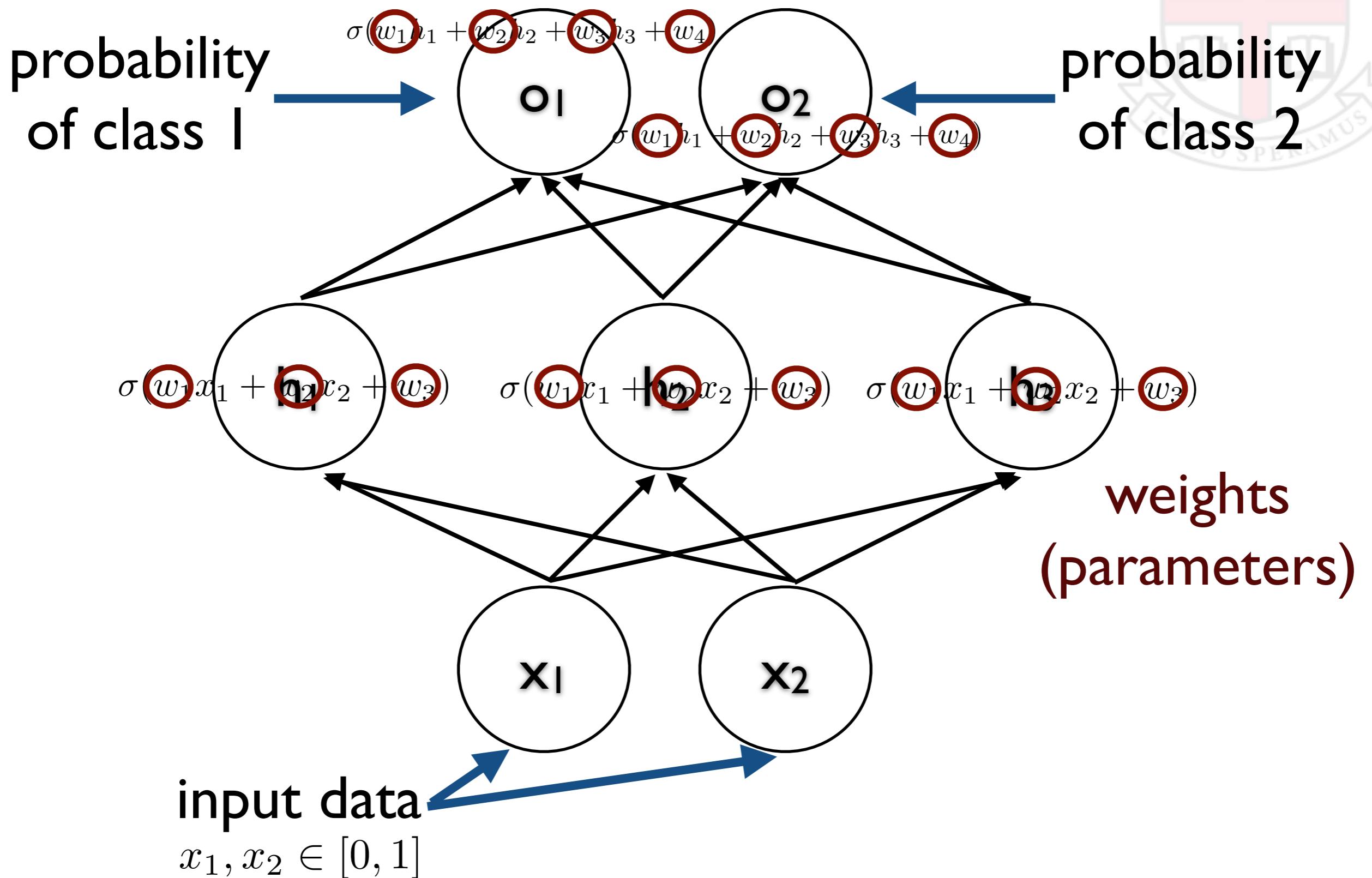
$$\sigma(w_1^{o_1} h_1 + w_2^{o_1} h_2 + w_3^{o_1} h_3 + w_4^{o_1})$$

value computed

$$\sigma(w_1^{o_2} h_1 + w_2^{o_2} h_2 + w_3^{o_2} h_3 + w_4^{o_2})$$



# Neural Networks



# Neural Classification

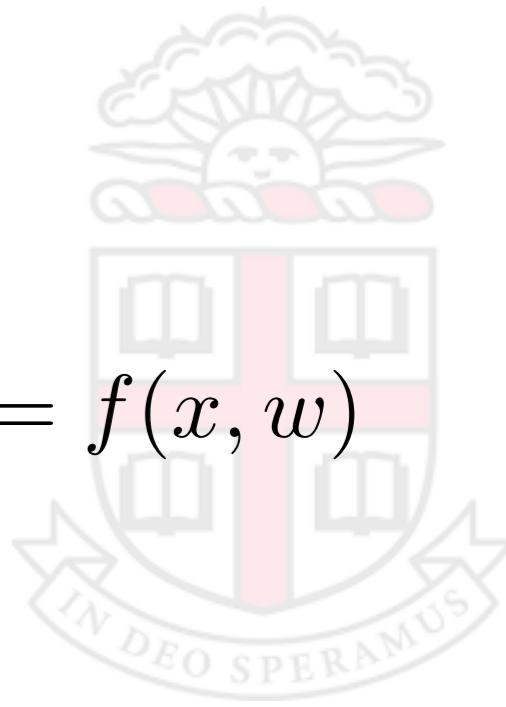
A neural network is just a parametrized function:  $y = f(x, w)$

How to *train* it?

Write down an error function:

$$(y_i - f(x_i, w))^2$$

Minimize it! (w.r.t.  $w$ )



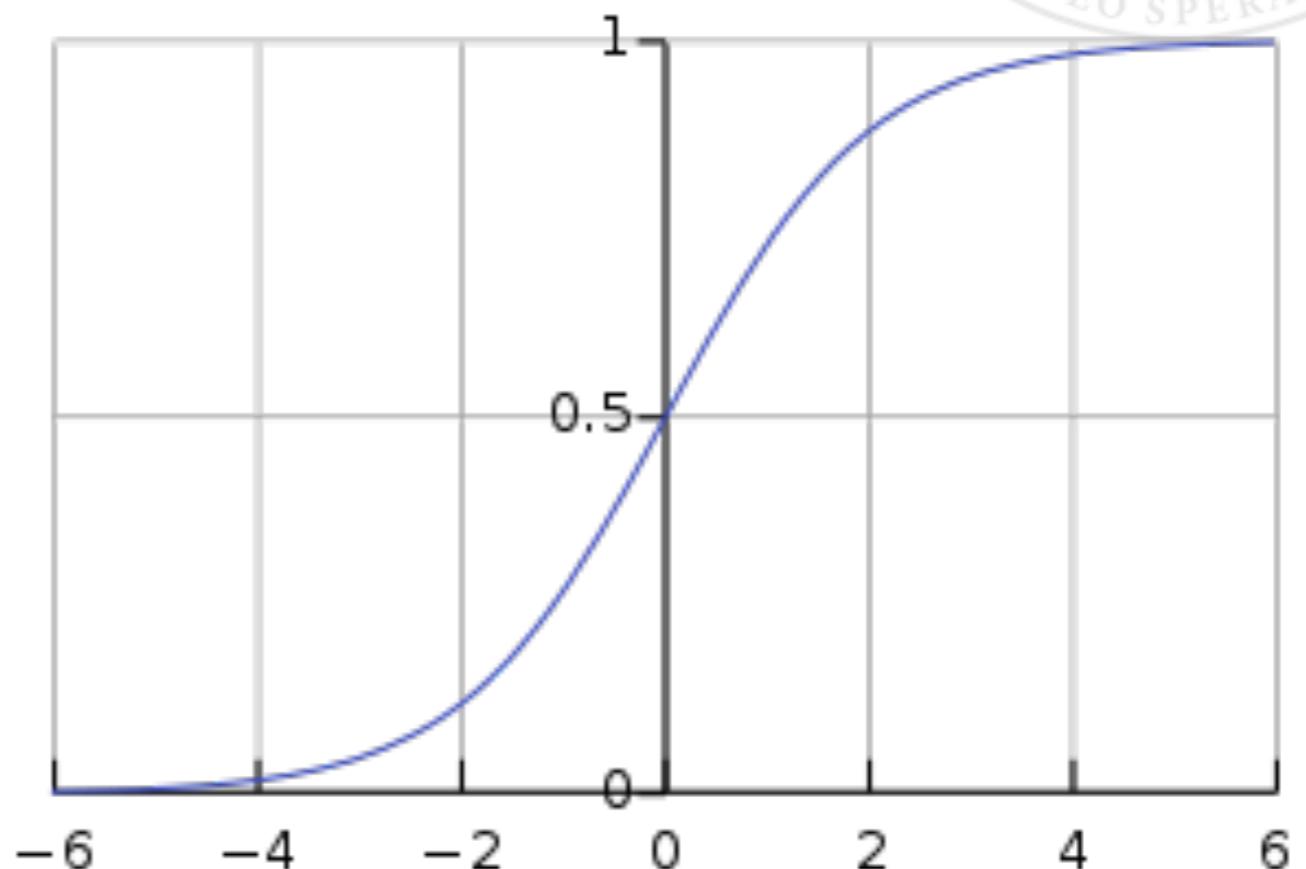


# Neural Classification

Recall that the *squashing function* is defined as:

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

$$\frac{\partial \sigma(t)}{\partial t} = \sigma(t)(1 - \sigma(t))$$



# Neural Classification

OK, so we can minimize error using gradient descent.

To do so, we must calculate  $\frac{\partial e}{\partial w_i}$  for each  $w_i$ .

How to do so? Easy for output layers:

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial w_i} = \frac{\partial(y_i - o_i)^2}{\partial w_i} = 2(y_i - o_i) \frac{\partial(y_i - o_i)}{\partial w_i} = 2(o_i - y_i)o_i(1 - o_i)$$

chain rule

Interior weights: repeat chain rule application.

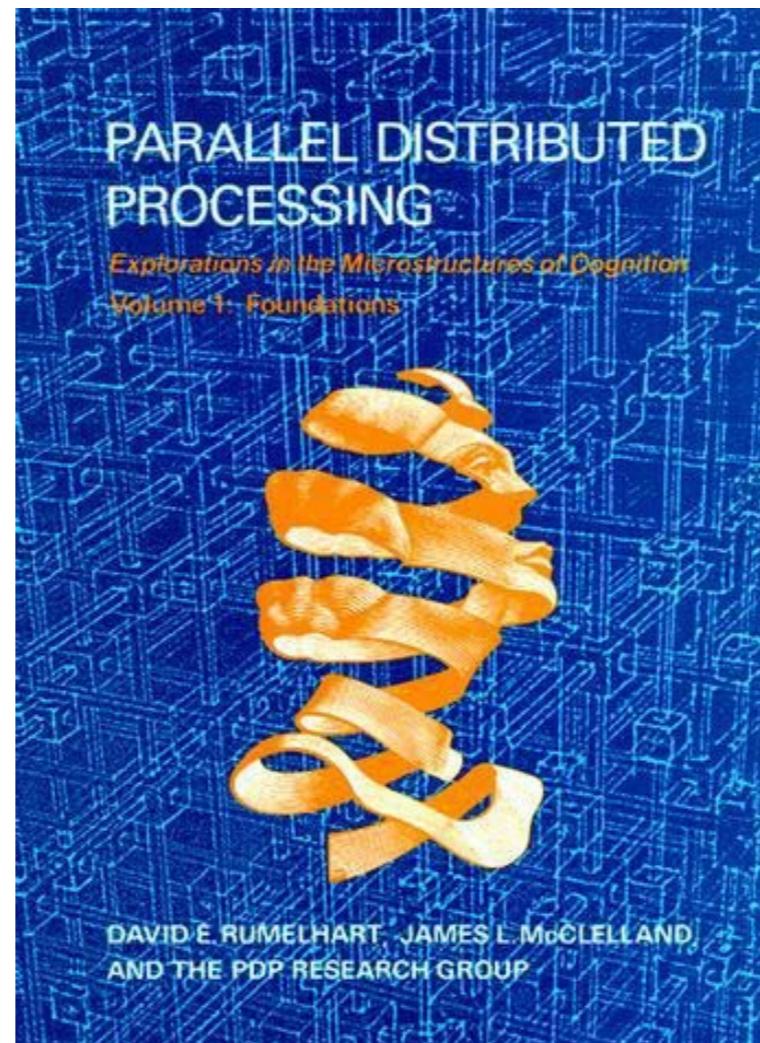


# Backpropagation

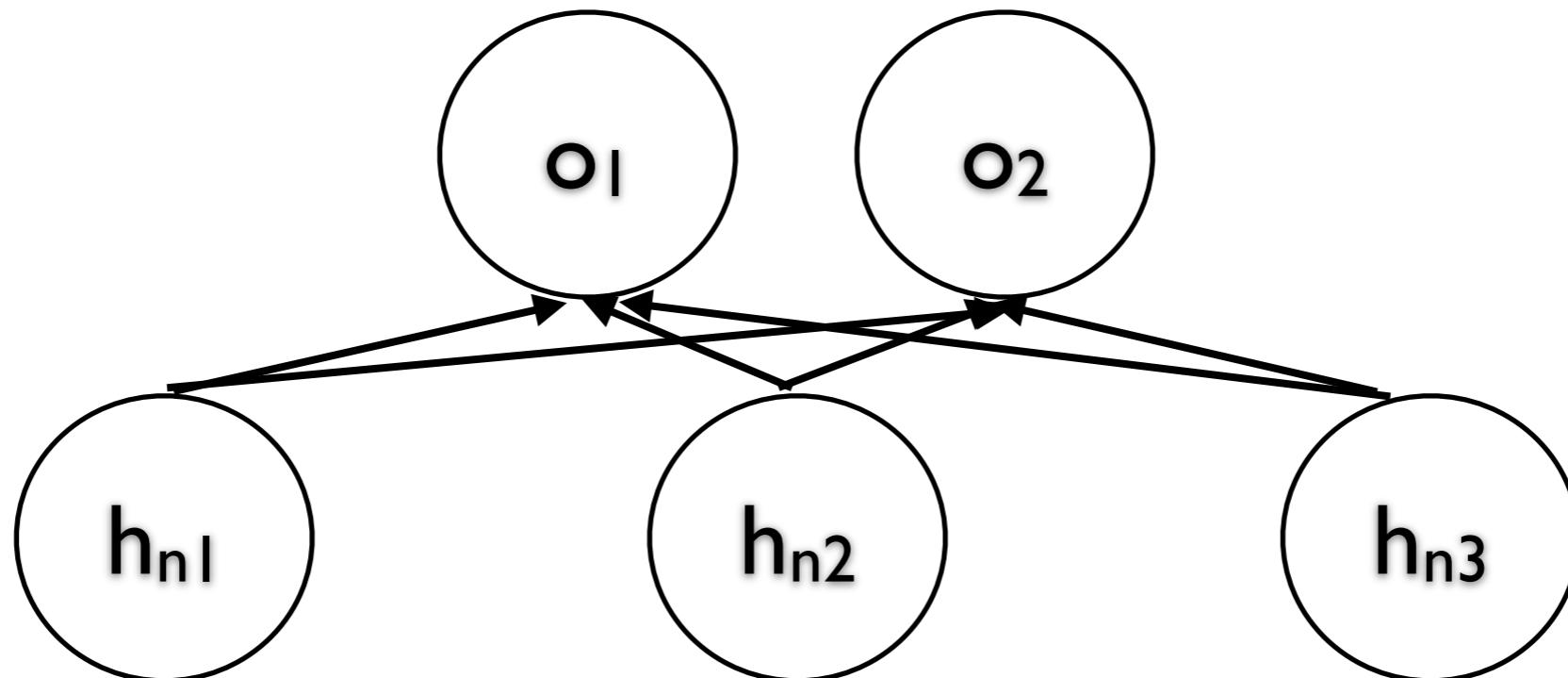
This algorithm is called *backpropagation*.

Bryson and Ho, 1969

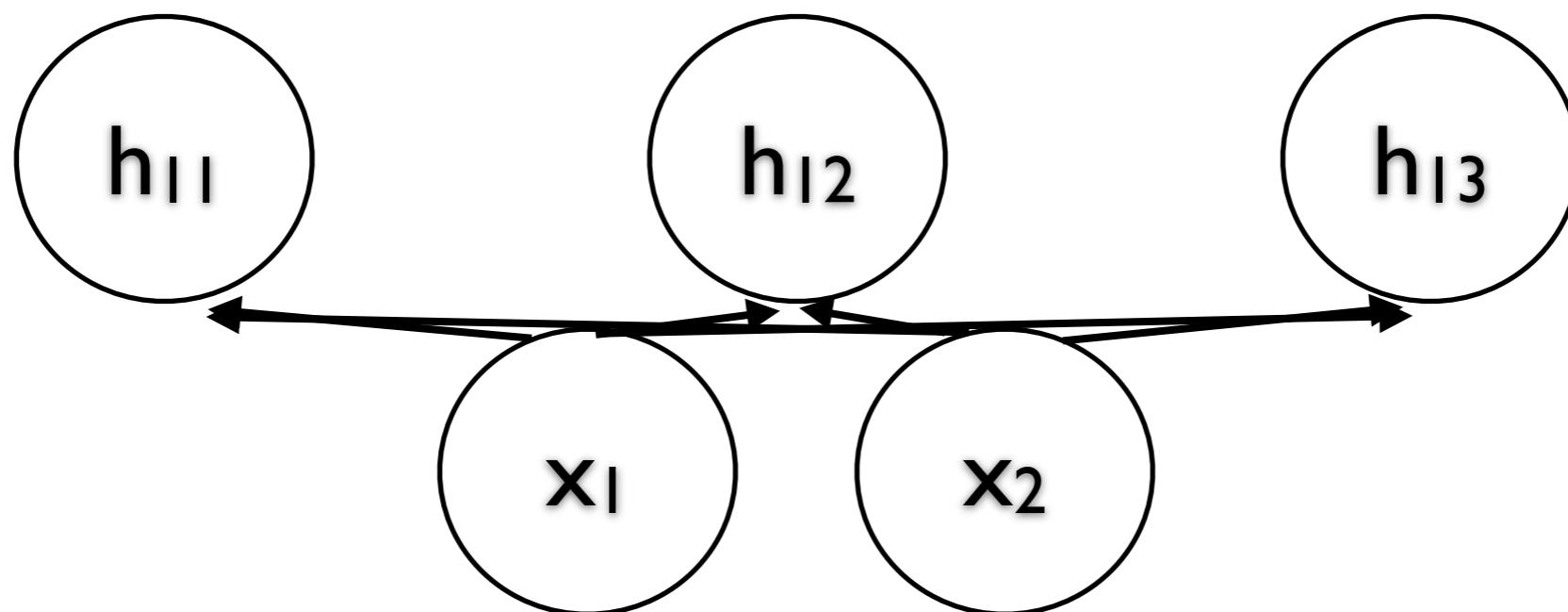
Rumelhart, Hinton, and Williams, 1986.



# Deep Neural Networks



....



# Applications

- Fraud detection
- Internet advertising
- Friend or link prediction
- Sentiment analysis
- Face recognition
- Spam filtering





# Applications

MNIST Data Set

Training set: 60k digits

Test set: 10k digits

3	4	2	1	9	5	6	2	1	8
8	9	1	2	5	0	0	6	6	4
6	7	0	1	6	3	6	3	7	0
3	7	7	9	4	6	6	1	8	2
2	9	3	4	3	9	8	7	2	5
1	5	9	8	3	6	5	7	2	3
9	3	1	9	1	5	8	0	8	4
5	6	2	6	8	5	8	8	9	9
3	7	7	0	9	4	8	5	4	3
7	9	6	8	7	0	6	9	2	3