



# Exploring Complexity Reduction in Deep Learning

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B. Tech, Instrumentation Engineering, IIT KGP, 2014

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**USC**  
**Viterbi**

School of Engineering  
*Ming Hsieh Department  
of Electrical and  
Computer Engineering*

# Outline

## Pre-Defined Sparsity

Reduce complexity of neural networks with minimal performance degradation

## Analysis and Applications

Deep dive into pre-defined sparsity for MLPs, and a corresponding application

## Model Search

Automate the design of CNNs with good performance and low complexity

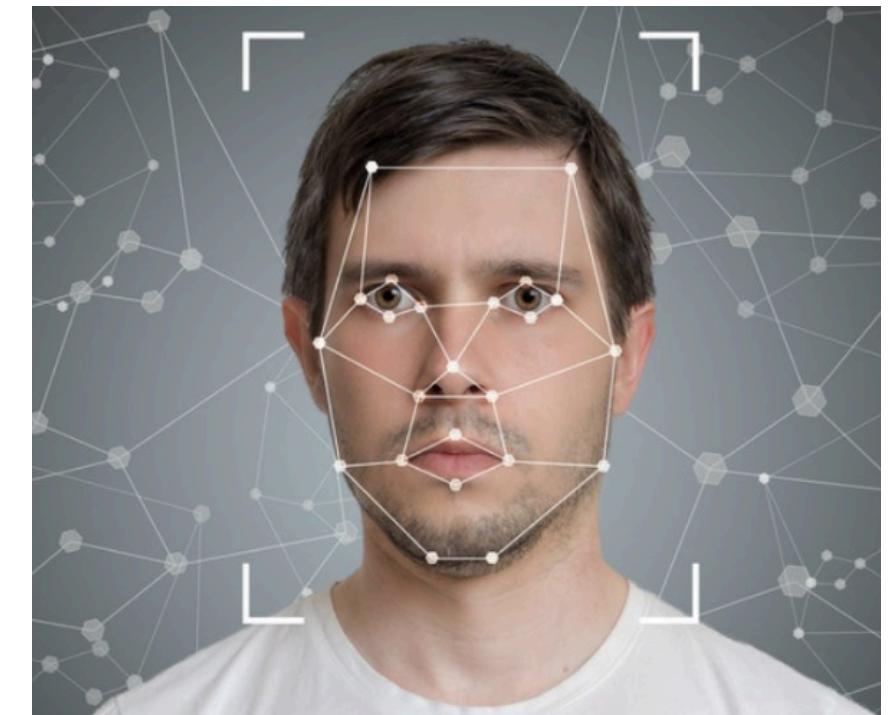
# Pre-Defined Sparsity

Reduce complexity of neural networks with minimal performance degradation

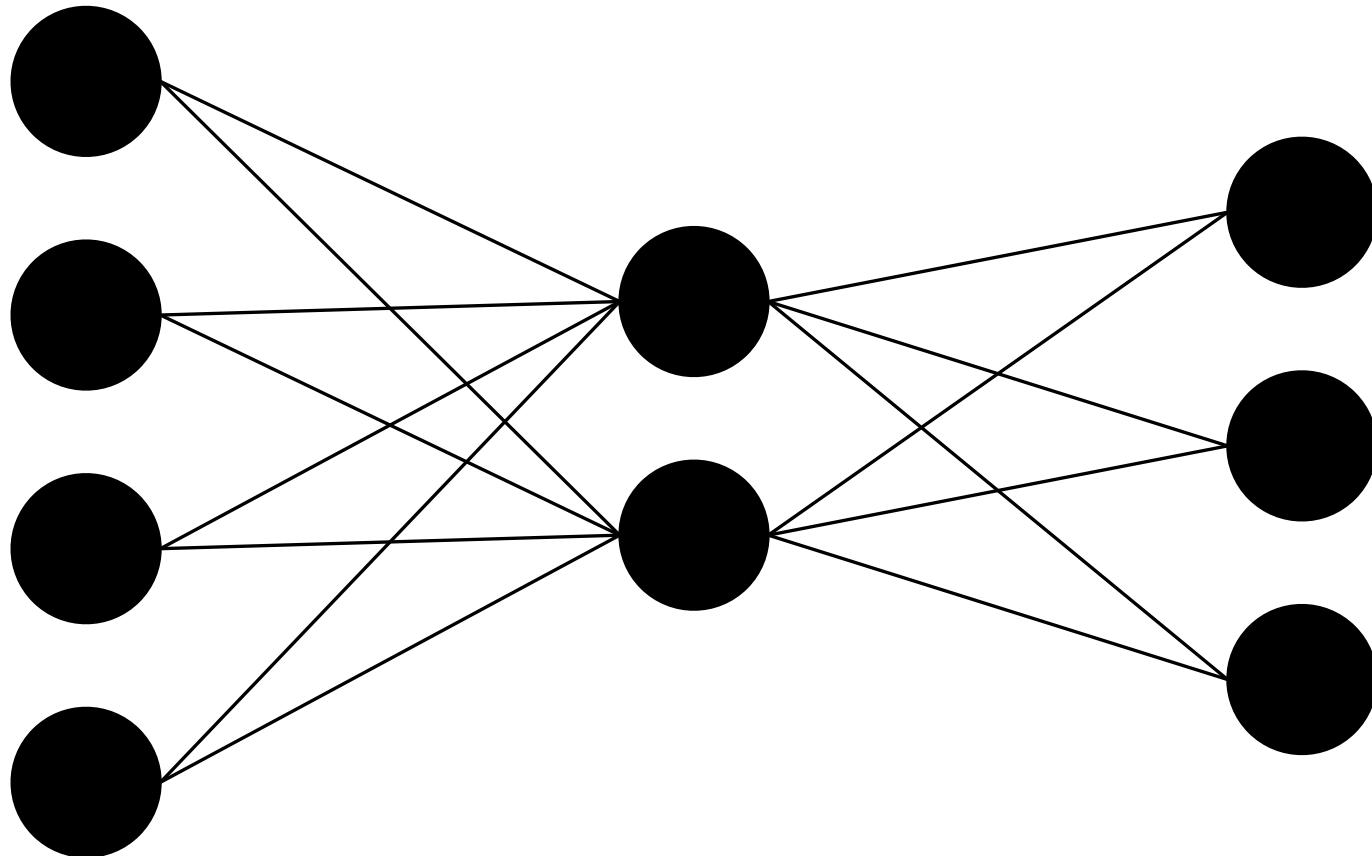
# Overview

*Neural networks (NNs) are key machine learning technologies*

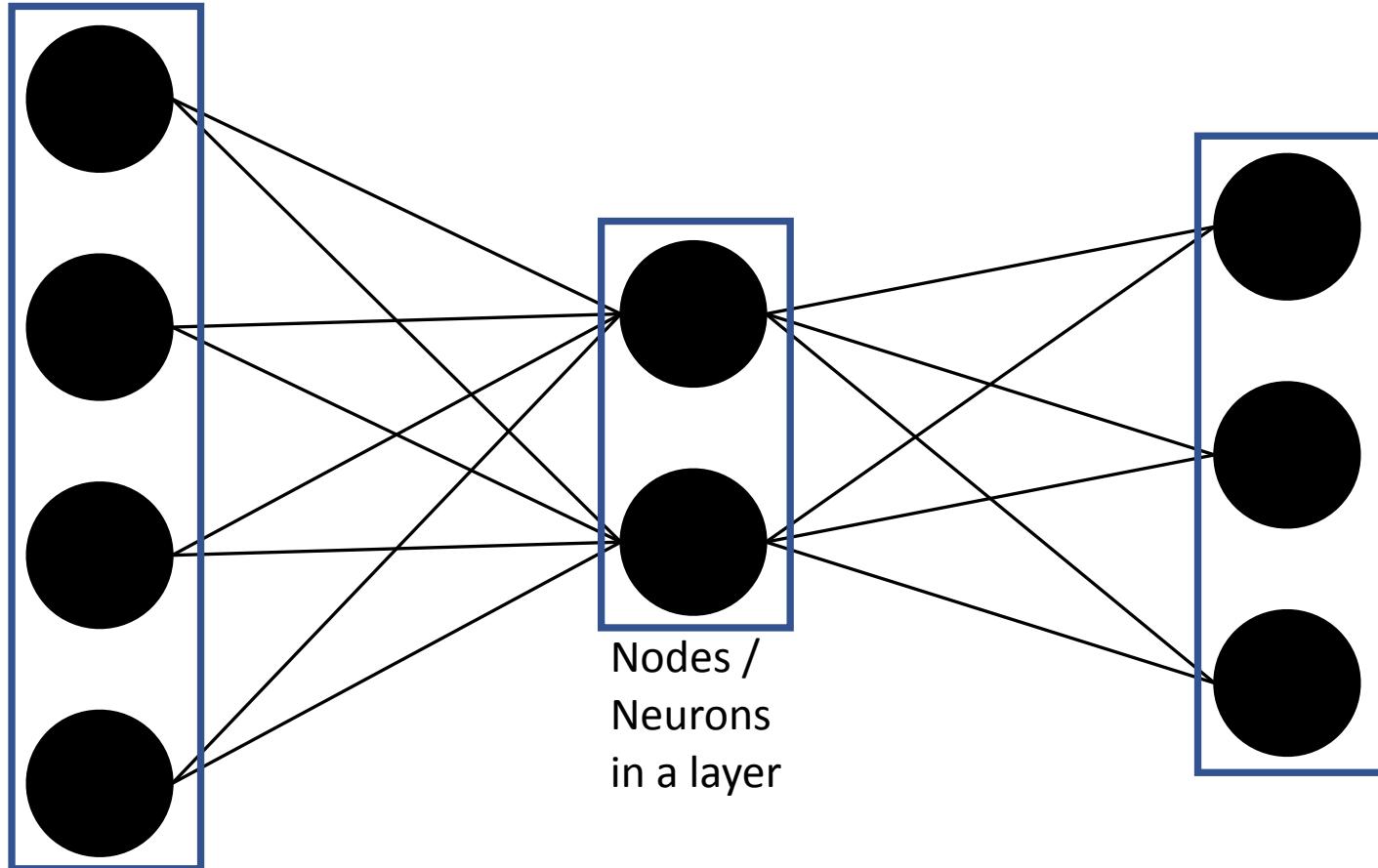
- Artificial intelligence
- Self-driving cars
- Speech recognition
- Face ID
- and more smart stuff ...



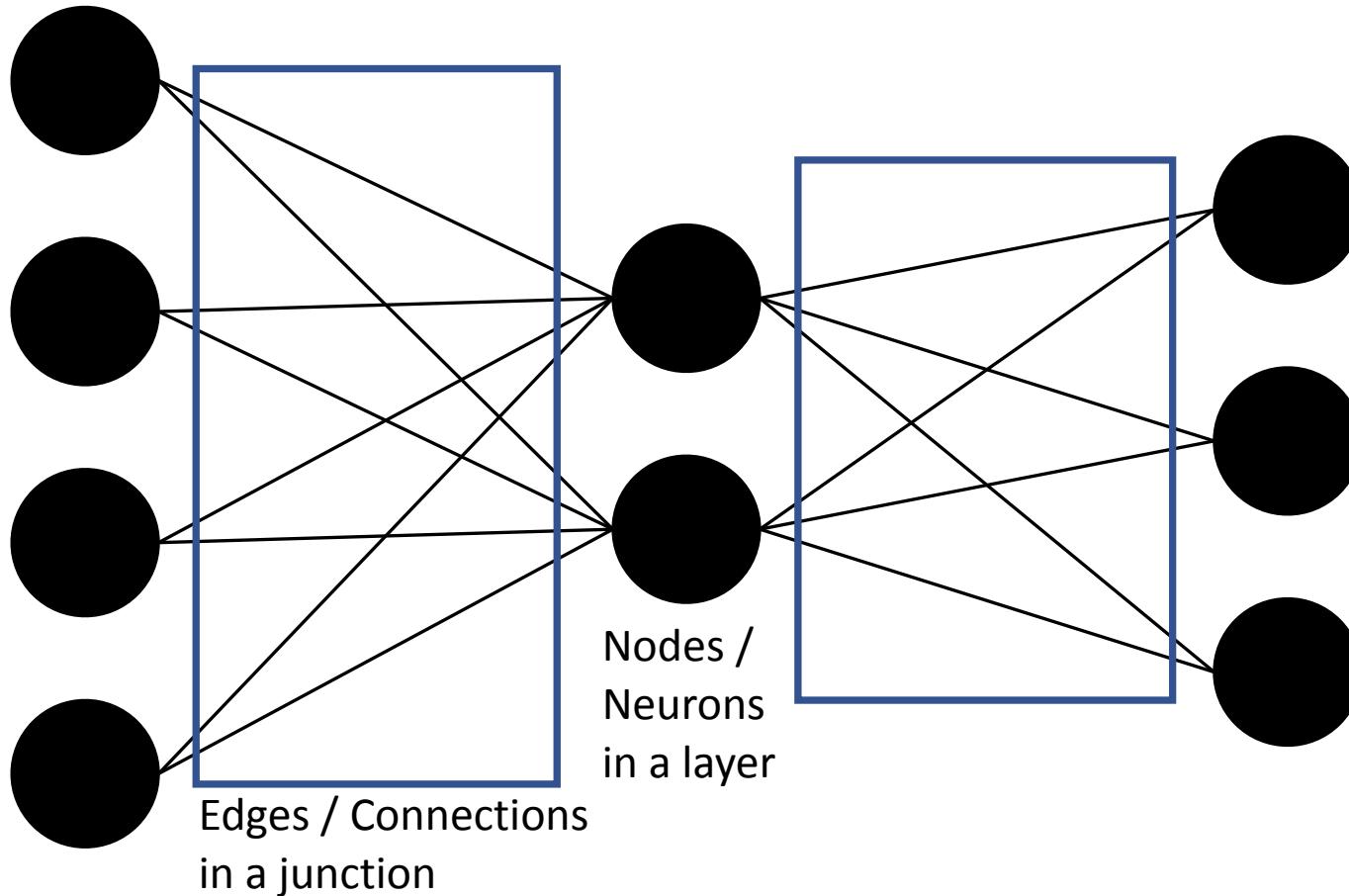
# Basic working of an artificial neural network



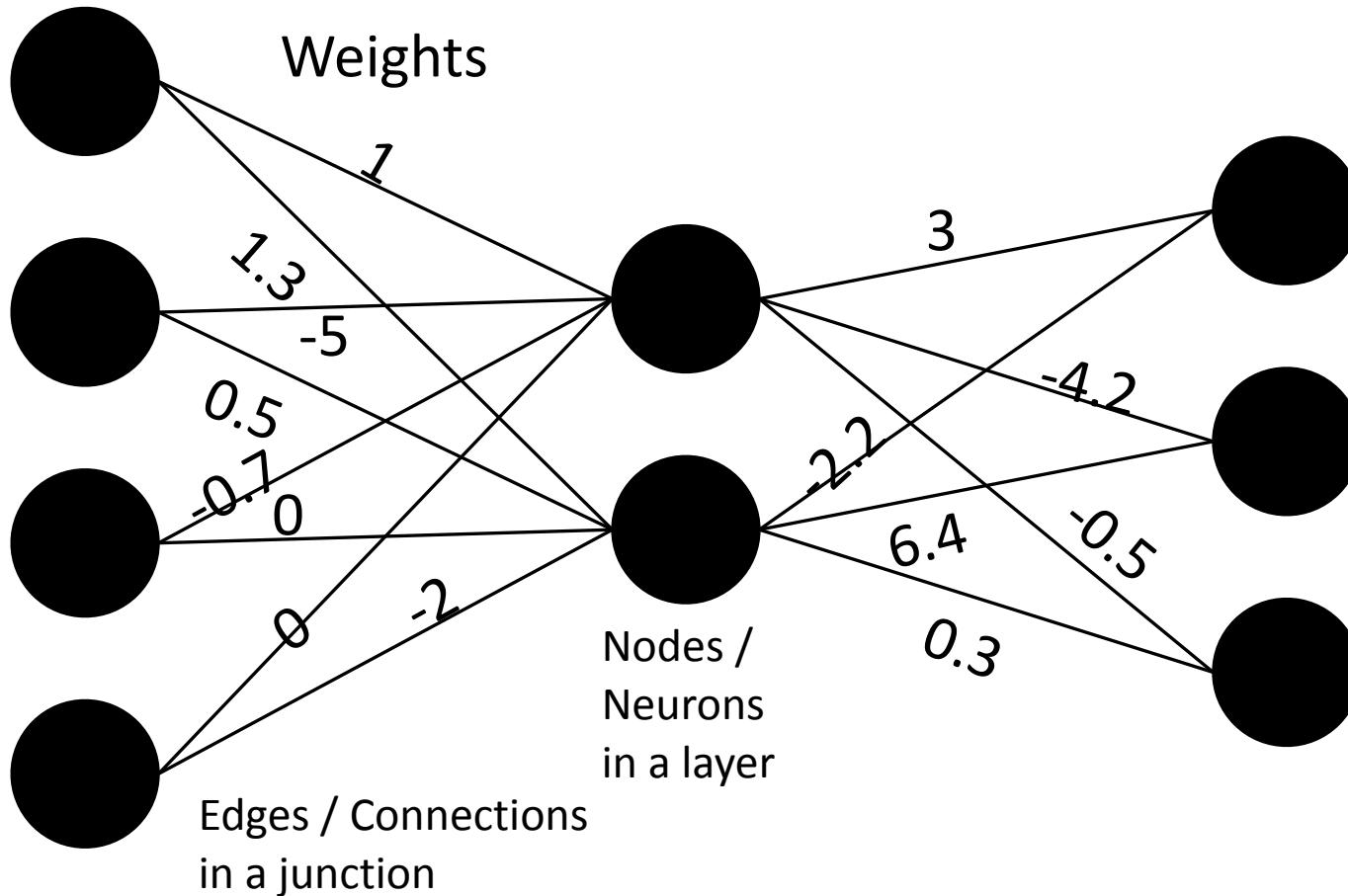
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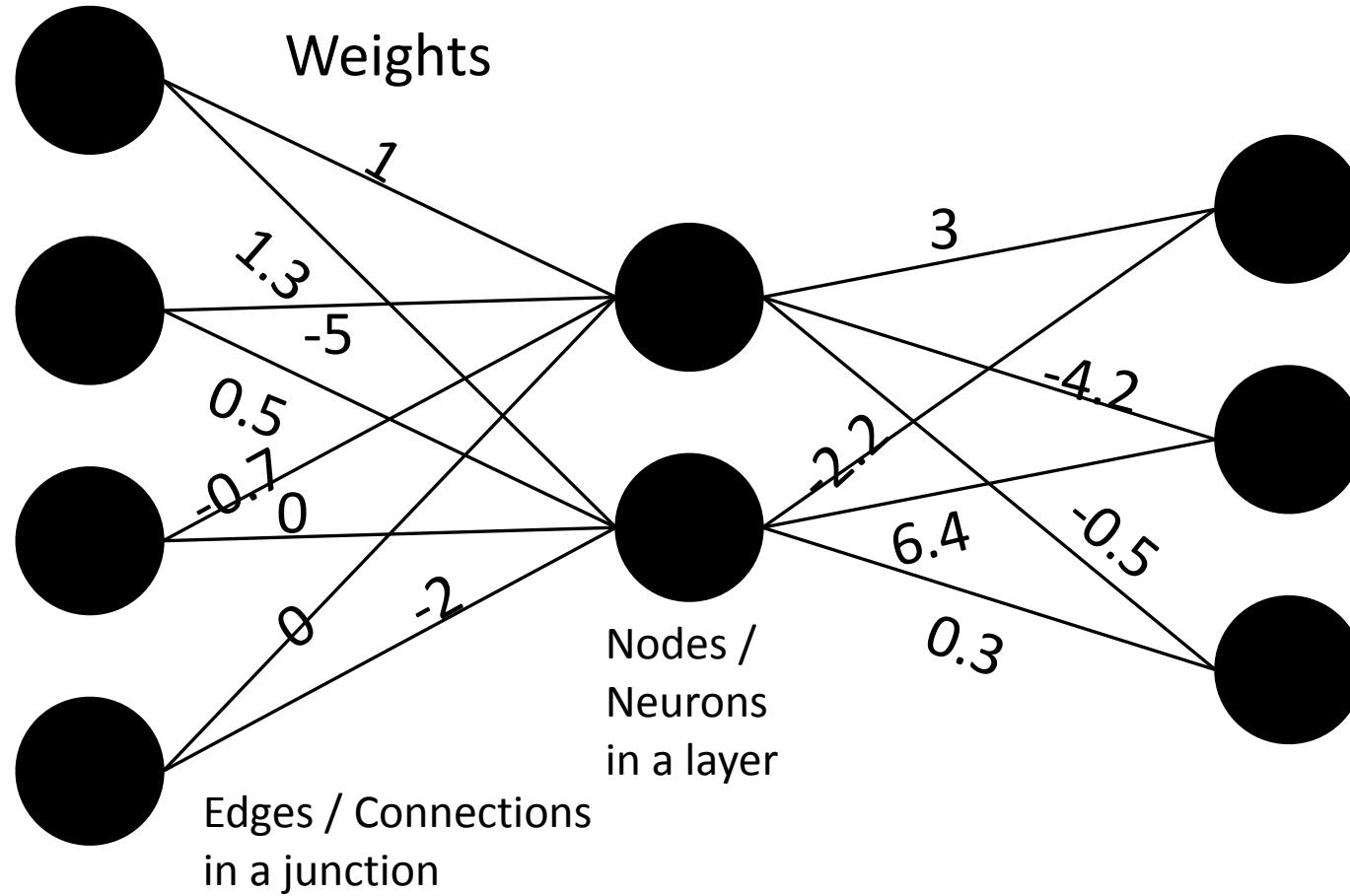
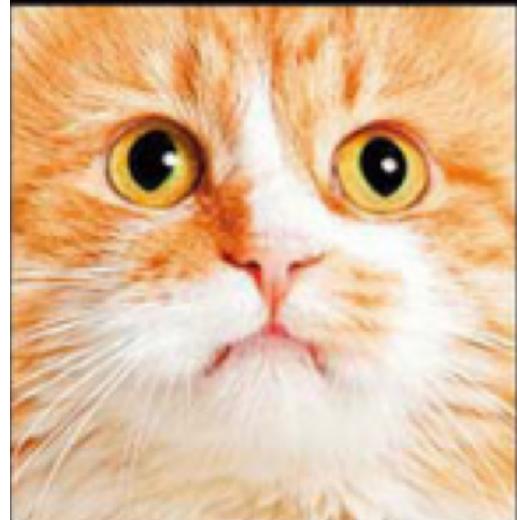
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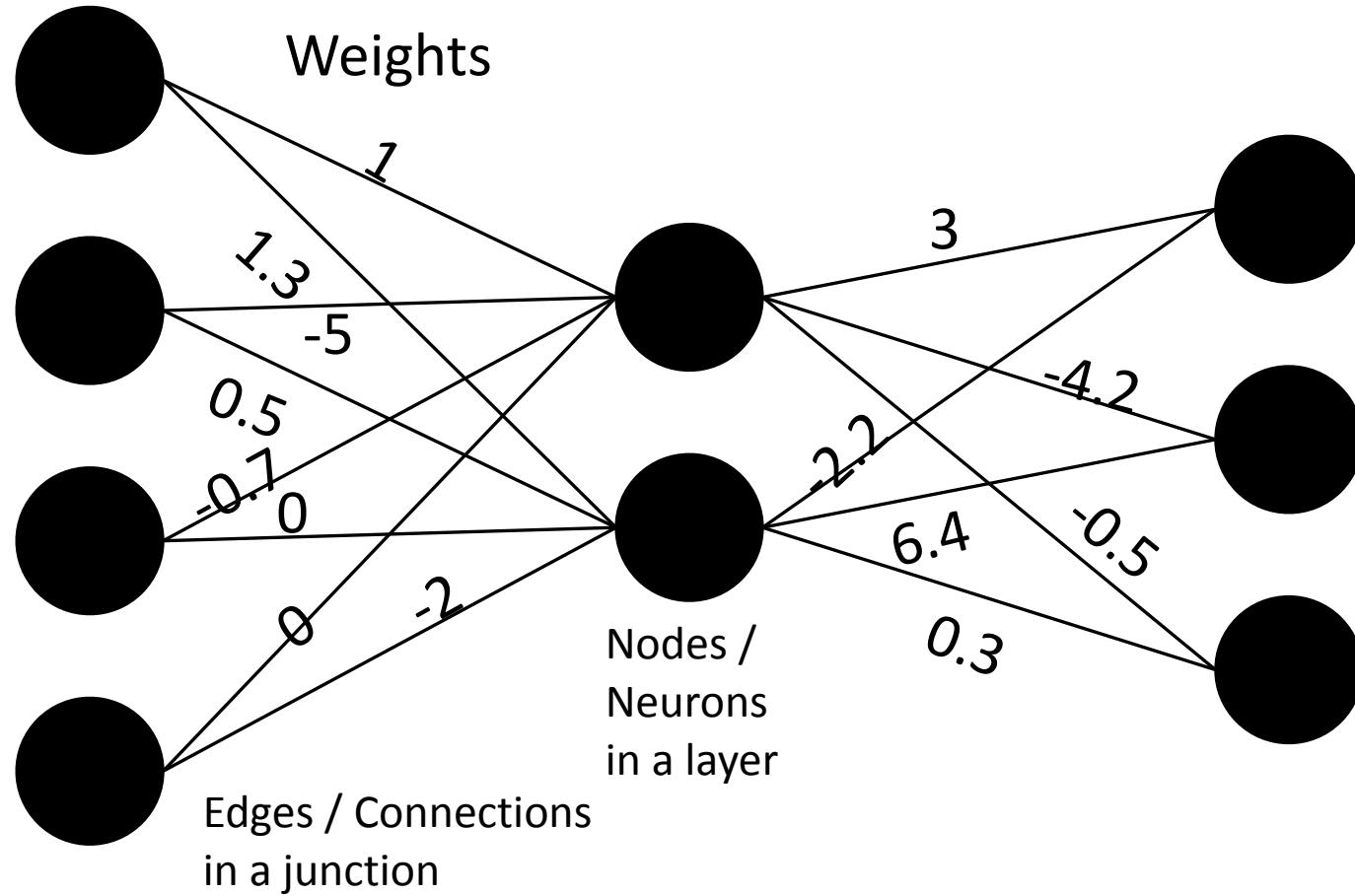
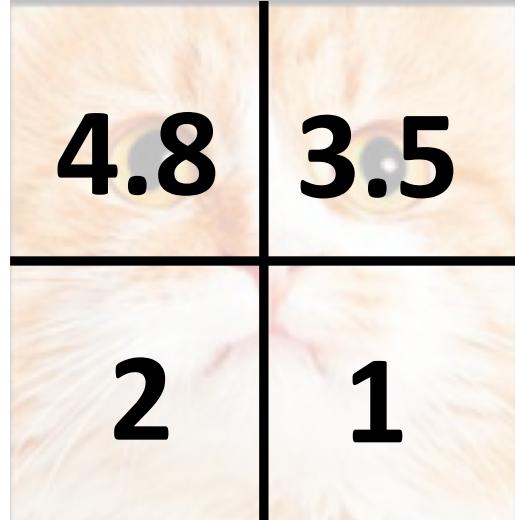
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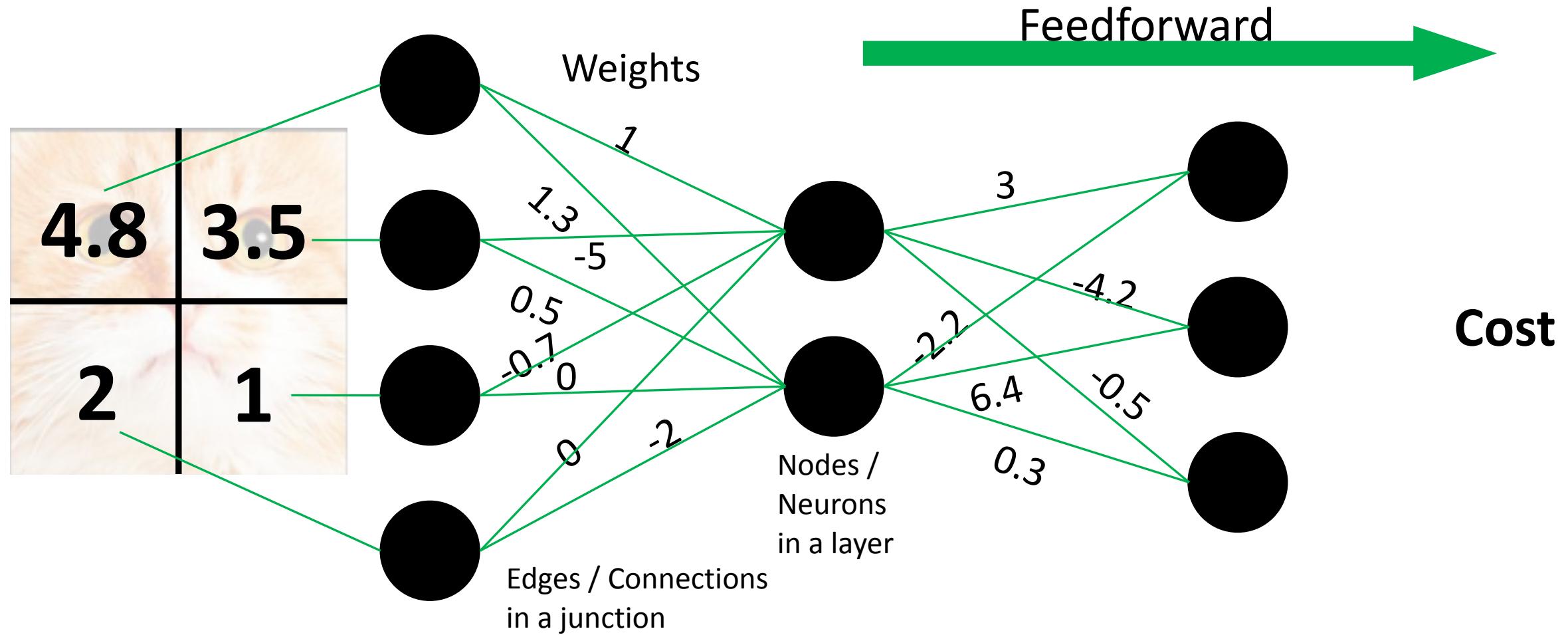
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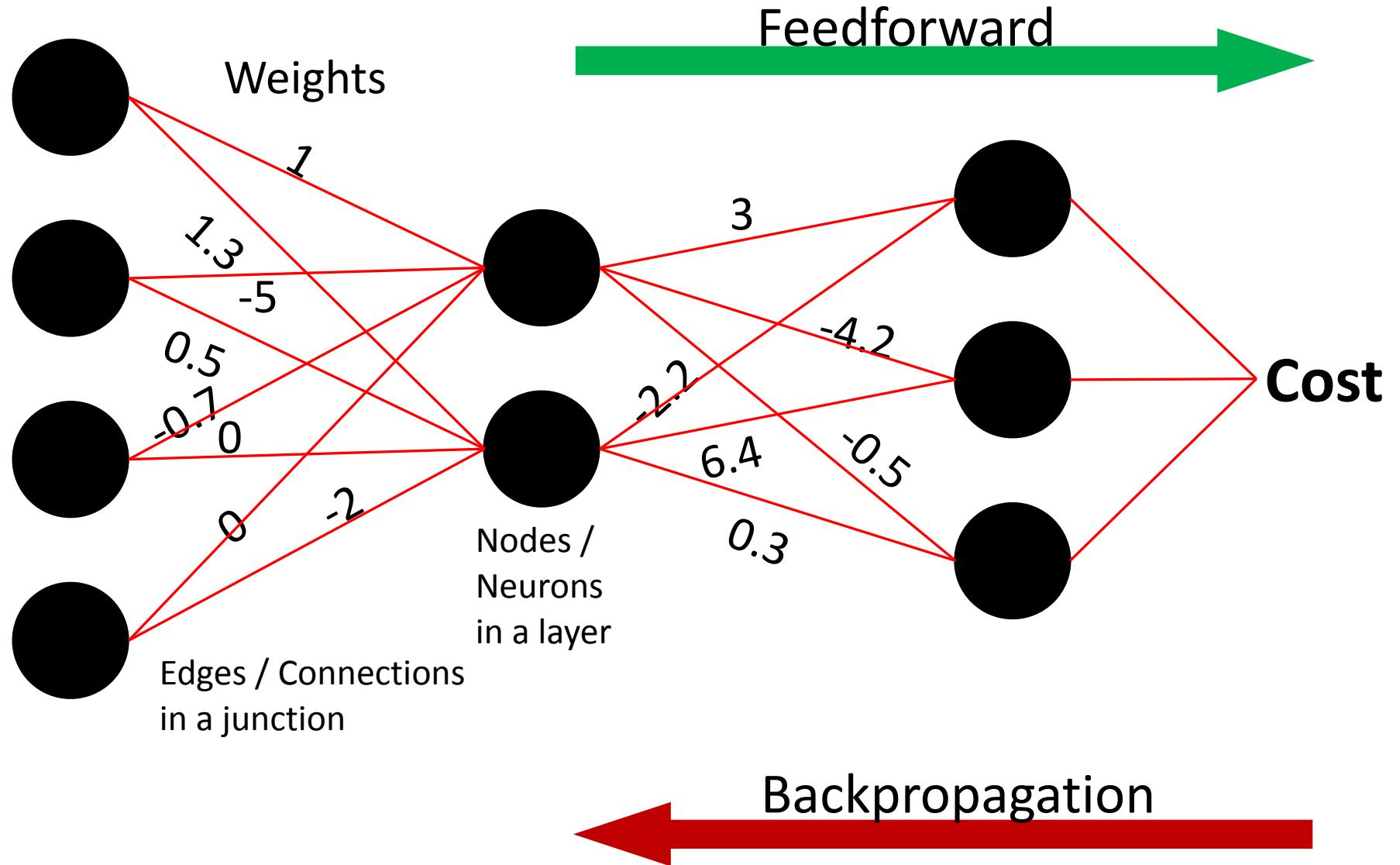
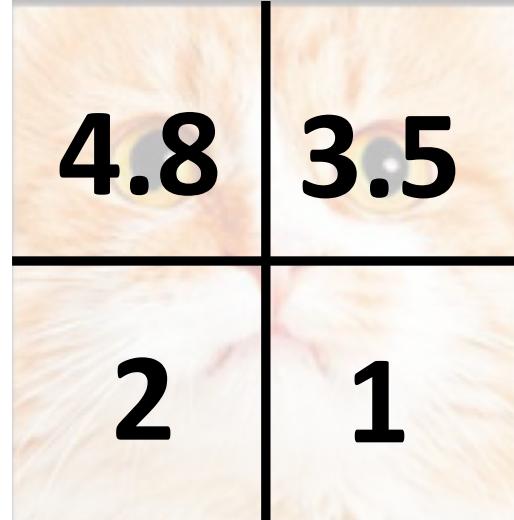
# Basic working of an artificial neural network



# *Training*

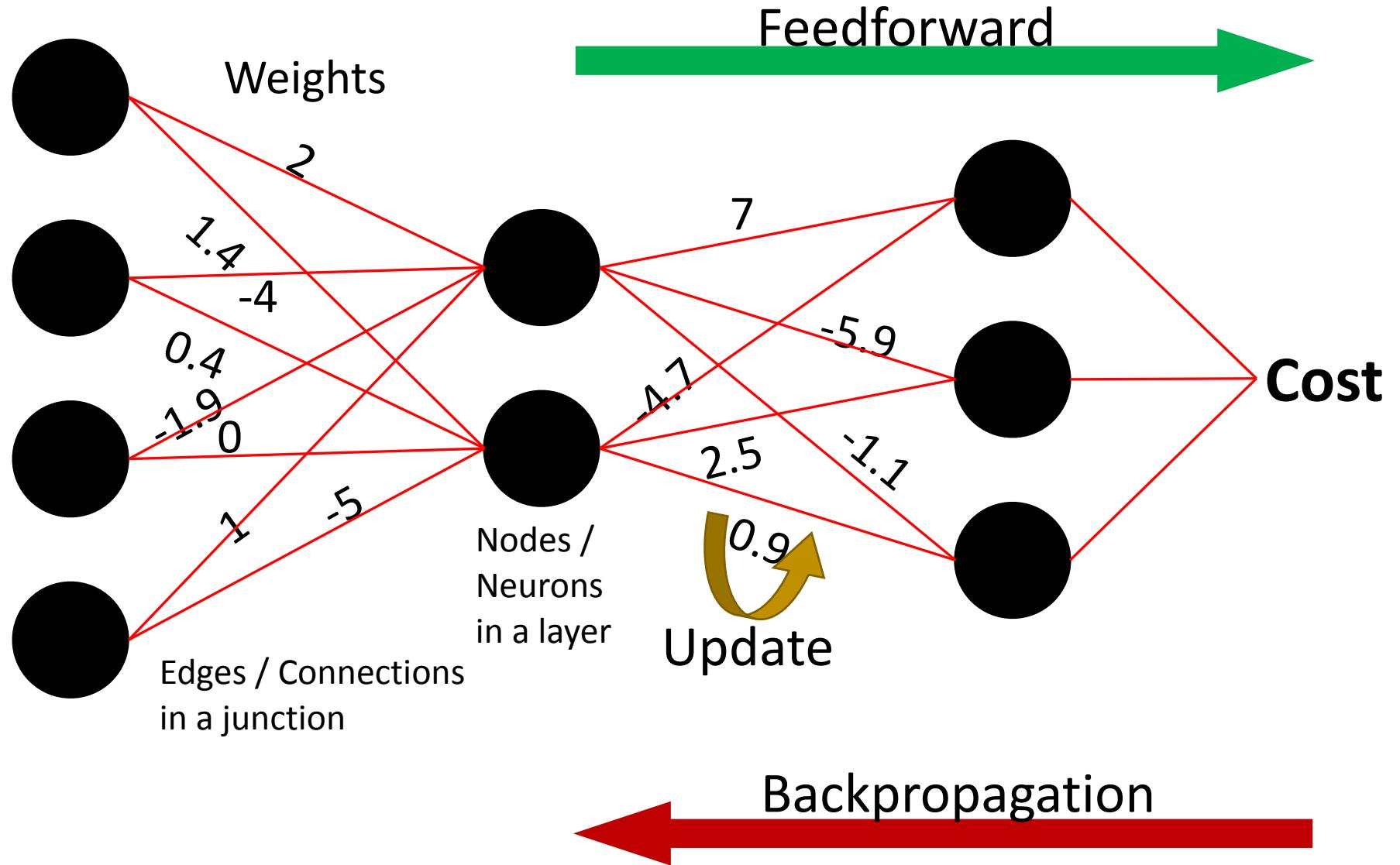
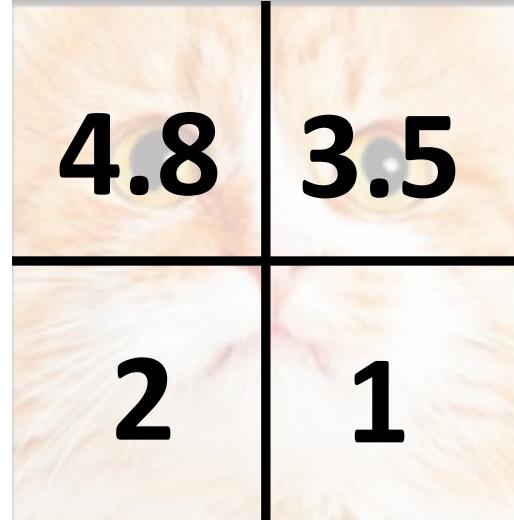
# Inference

# Basic working of an artificial neural network



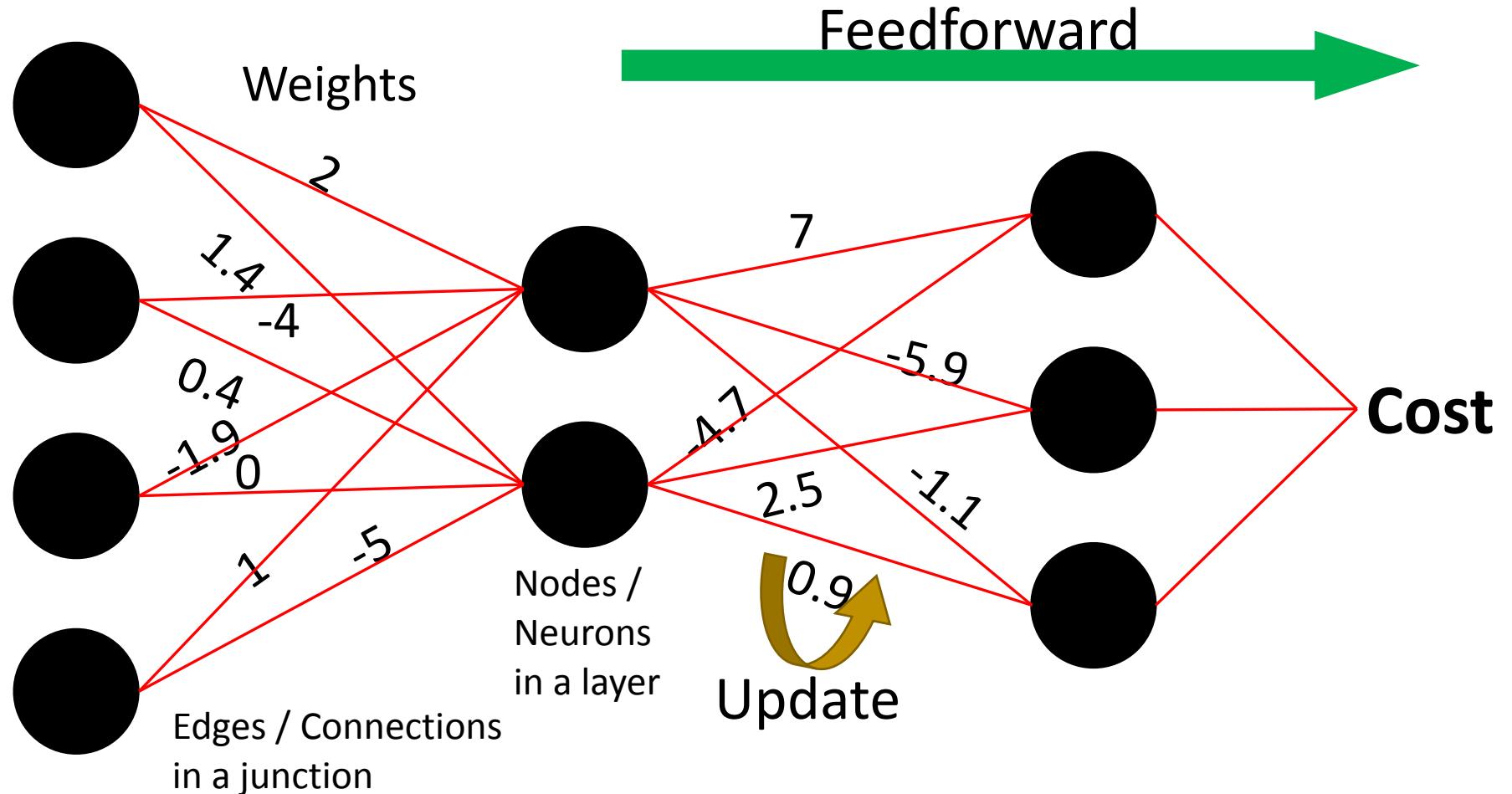
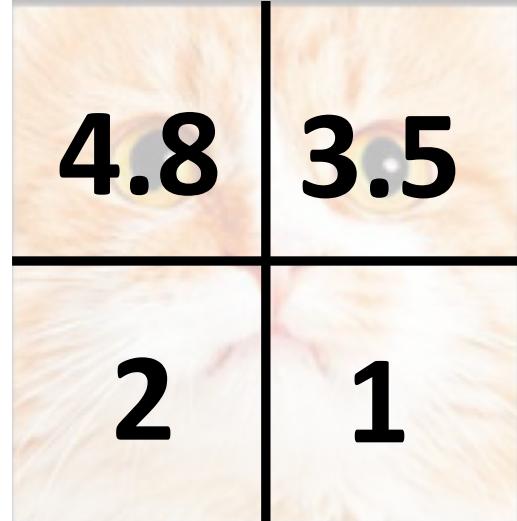
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# Basic working of an artificial neural network



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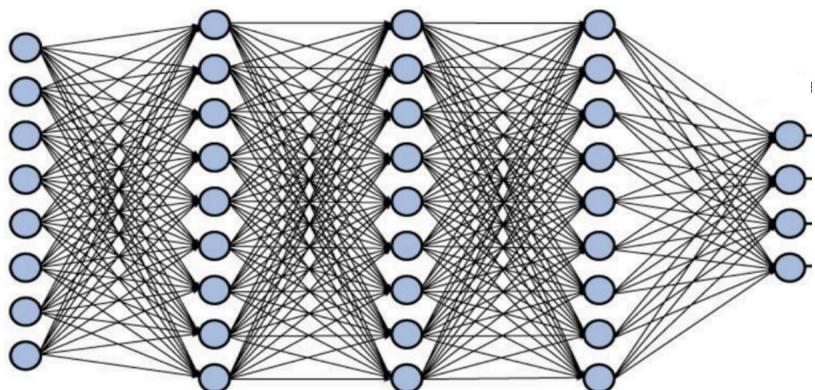
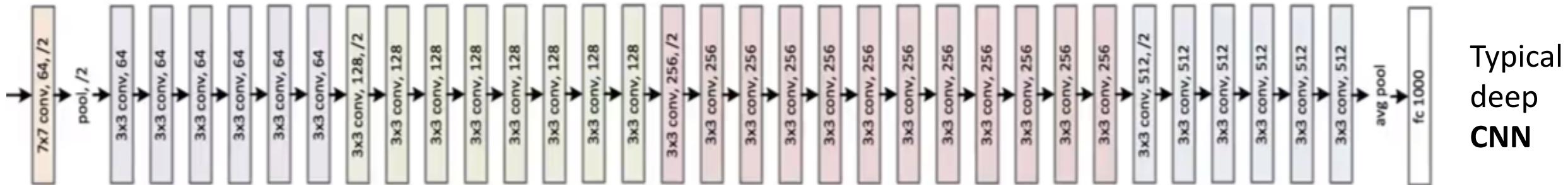
# Basic working of an artificial neural network



*Weights dominate complexity –  
they are all used in all 3 operations*

# Motivation behind our work

*Modern neural networks suffer from parameter explosion*



Fully connected (**FC**) Multilayer Perceptron (**MLP**)

Training can take weeks on CPU  
Cloud GPU resources are expensive



Google Cloud Platform



# Our Work: Pre-defined Sparsity

Pre-define a sparse connection  
pattern **prior to training**

Use this sparse network for both  
training and inference

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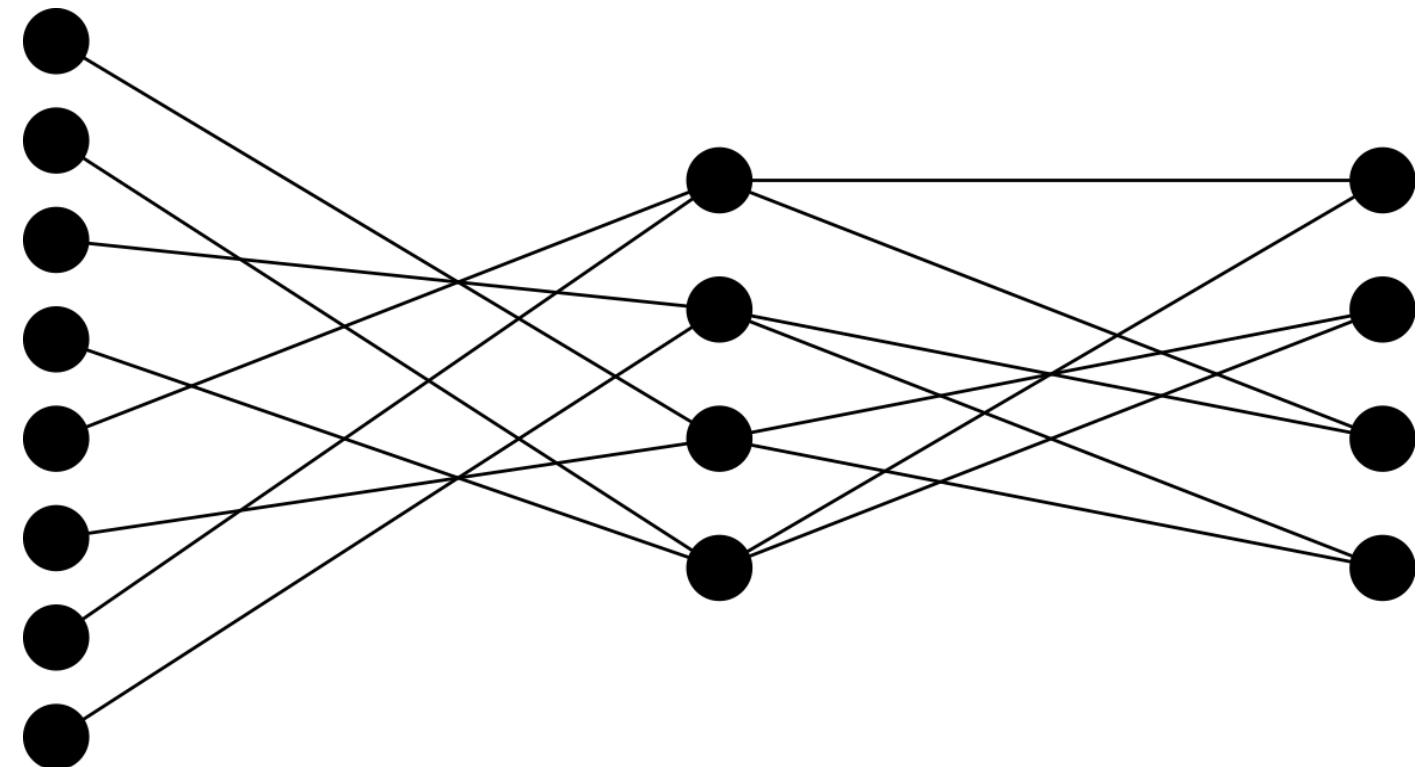
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$$\mathbf{N}_{\text{net}} = (8, 4, 4)$$

$$\mathbf{d}_{\text{net}}^{\text{out}} = (1, 2)$$

$$\mathbf{d}_{\text{net}}^{\text{in}} = (2, 2)$$



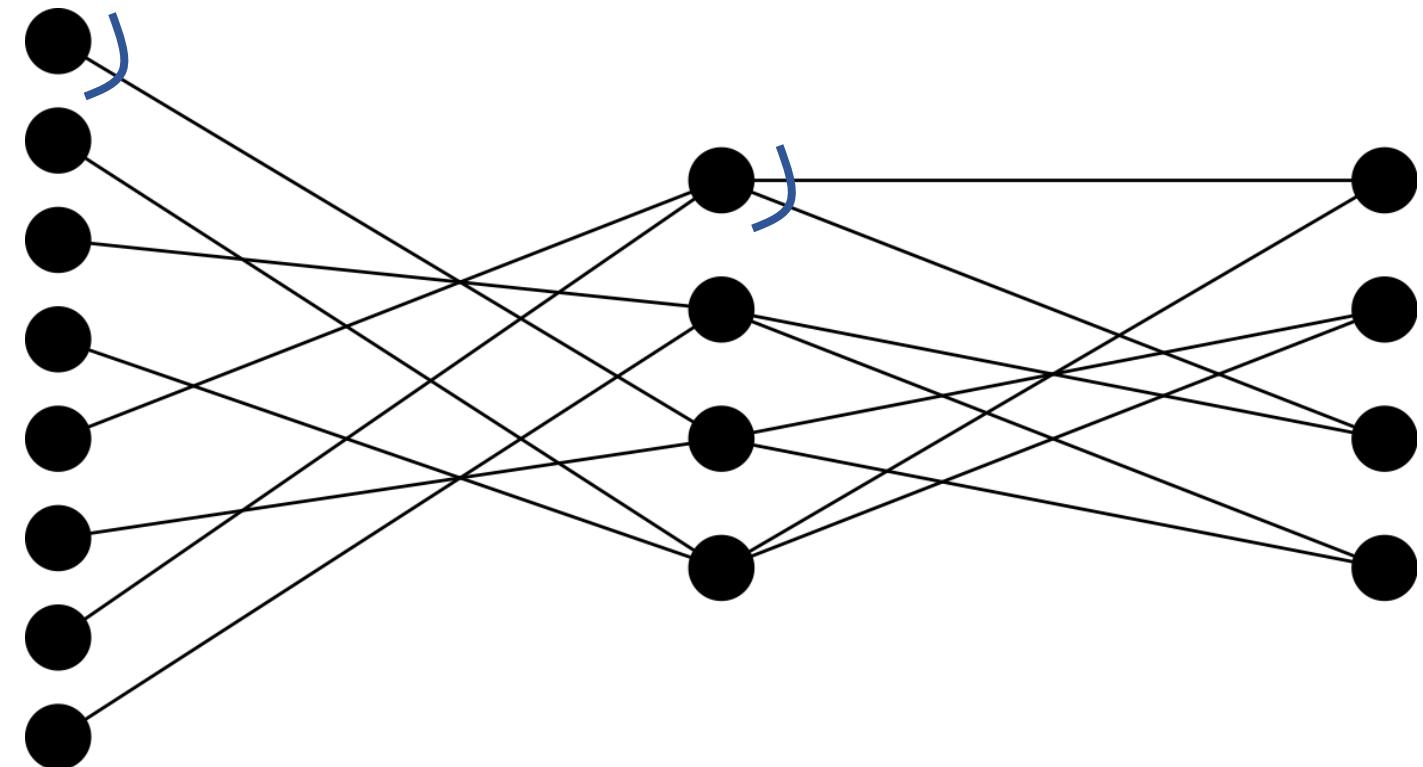
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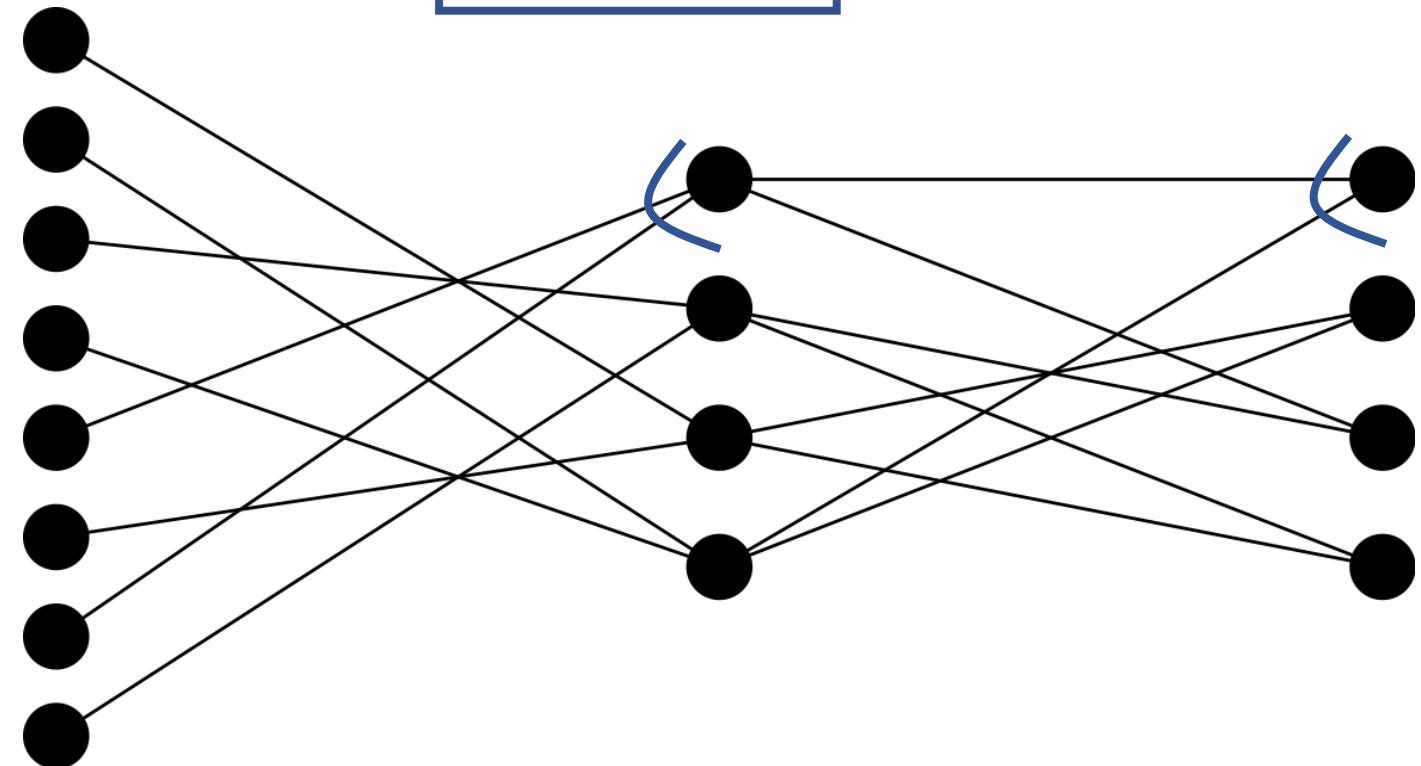
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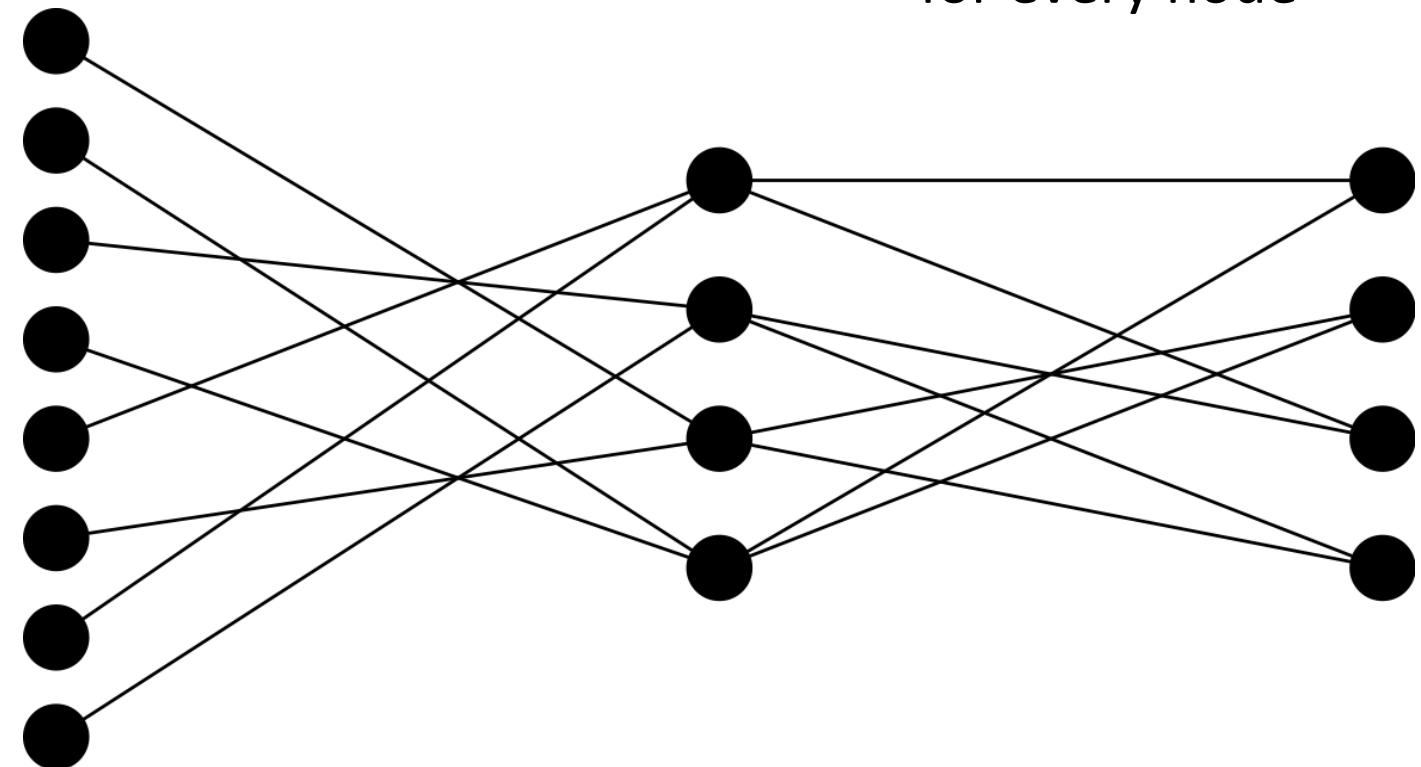
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Structured Constraints:  
Fixed in-, out-degrees  
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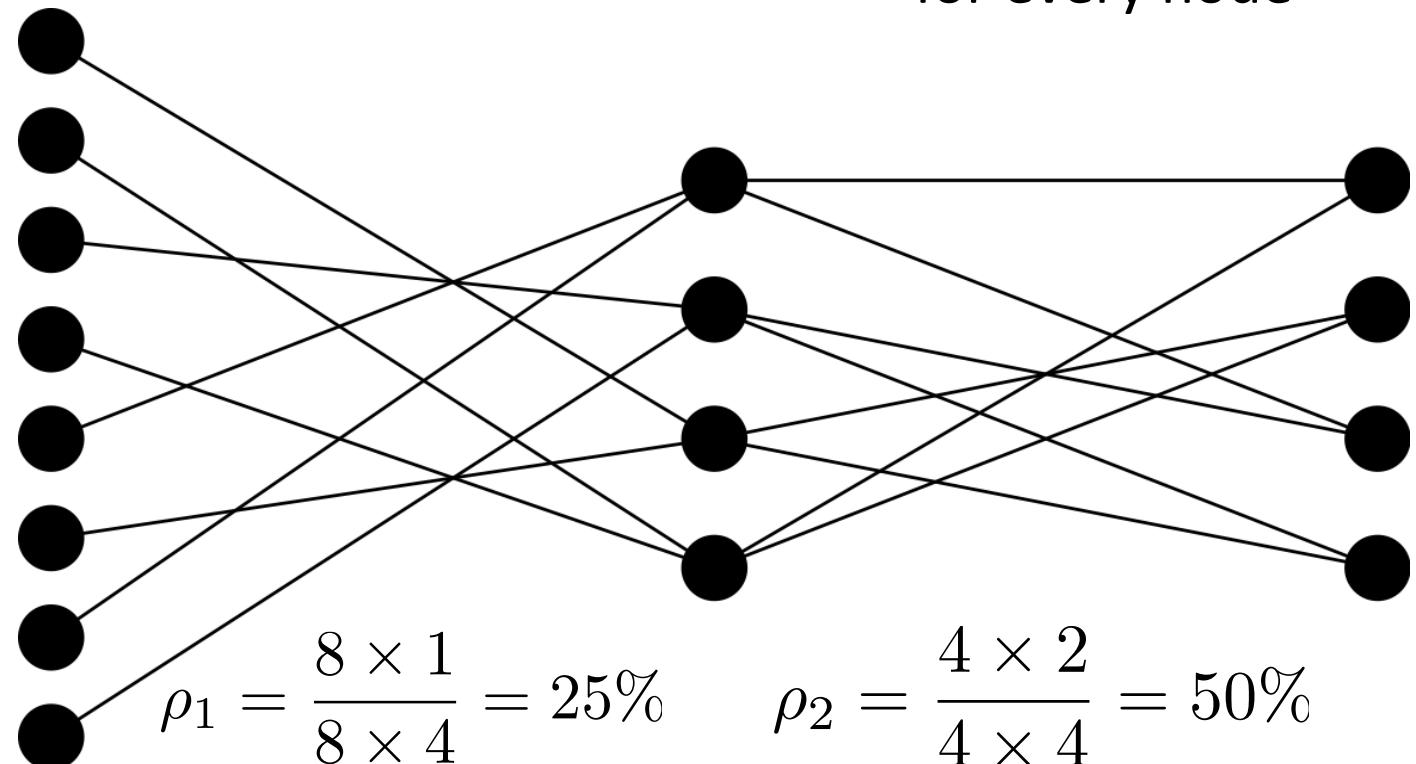
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$$\rho_{\text{net}} = \frac{8 + 8}{32 + 16} = 33\%$$

Overall Density  
compared to FC

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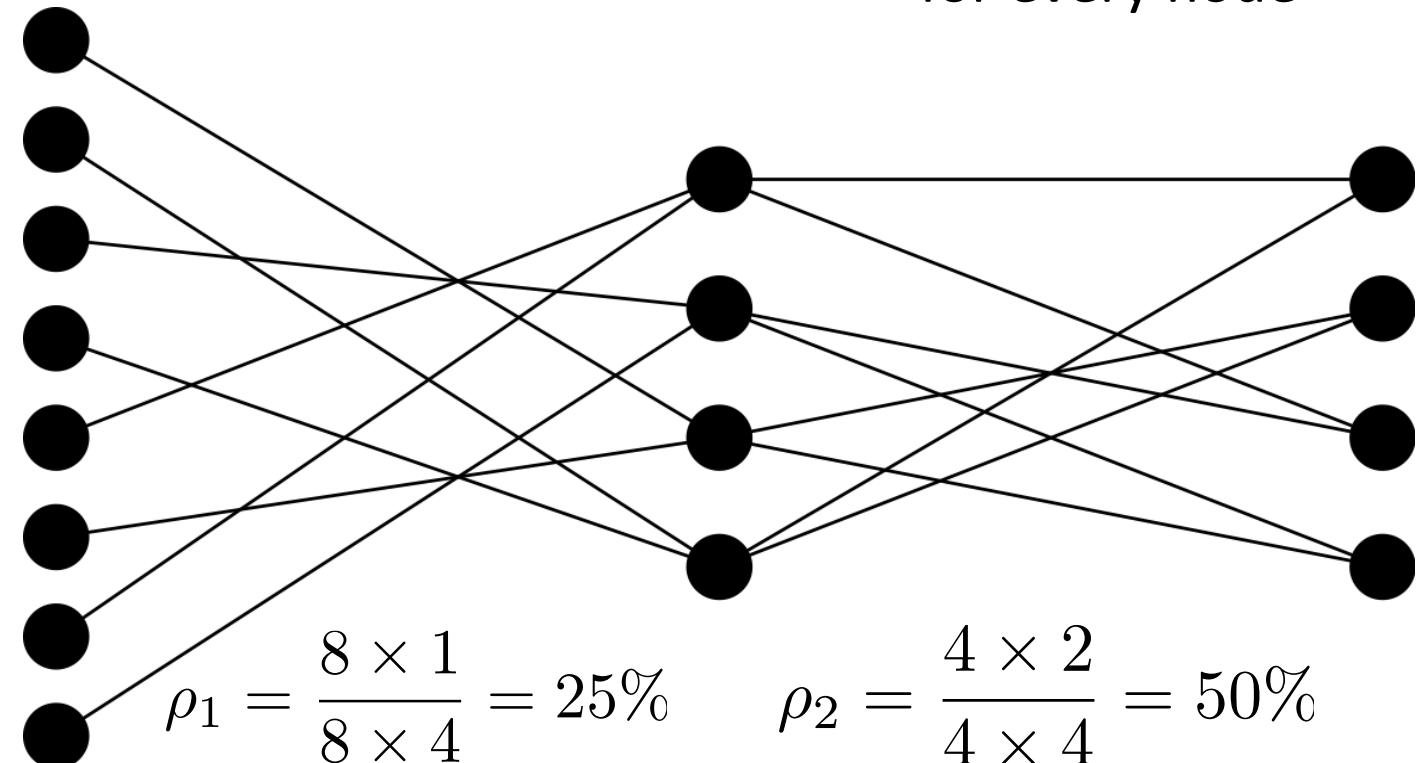
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Reduced training  
*and* inference  
complexity

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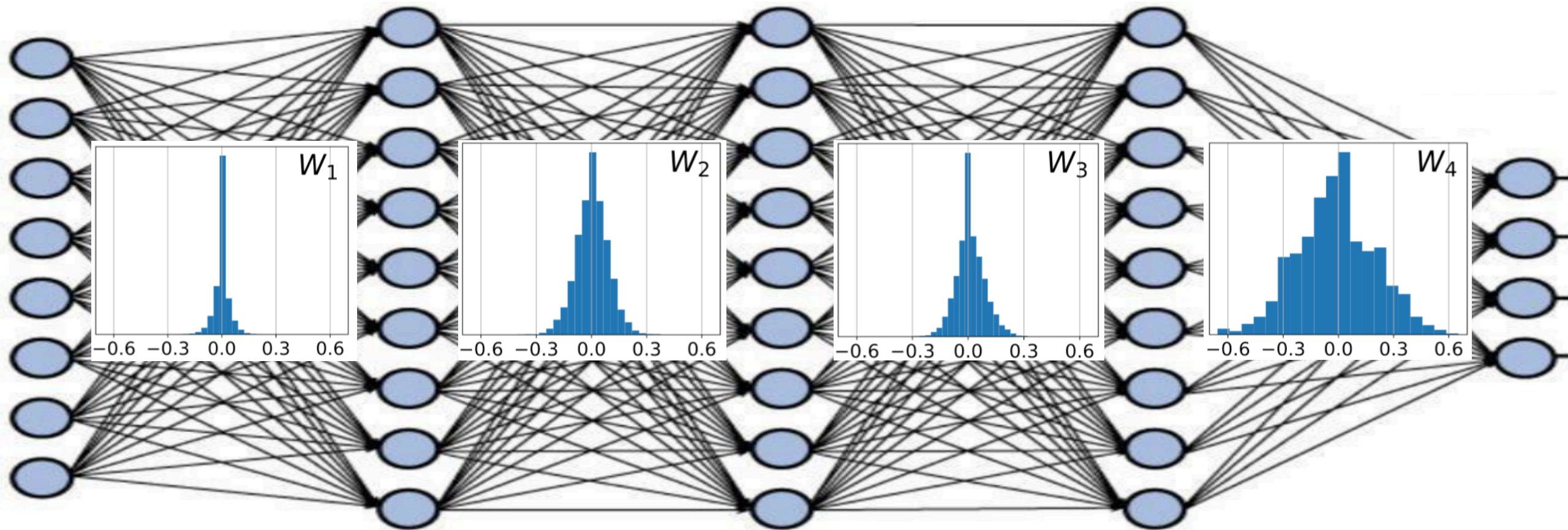
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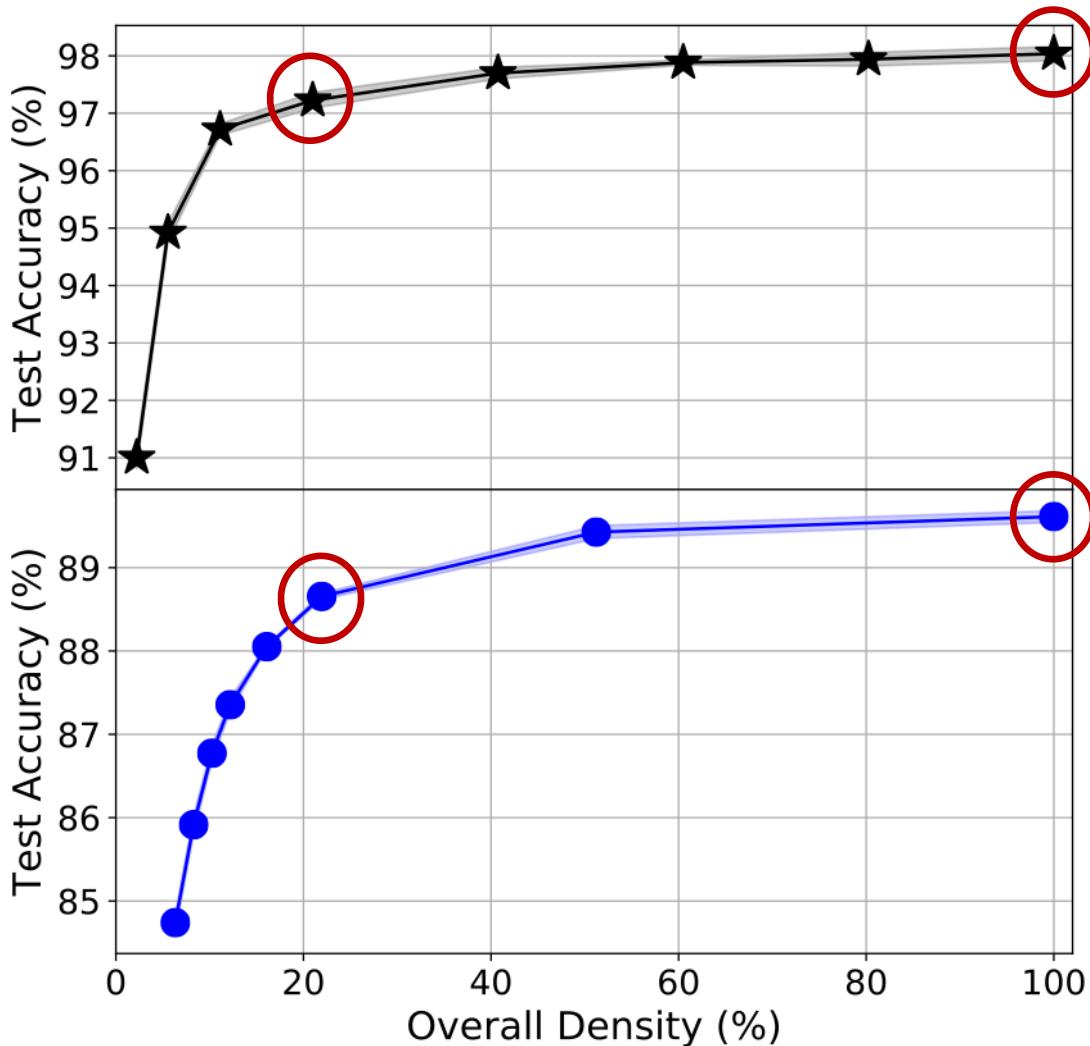
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# Motivation behind pre-defined sparsity



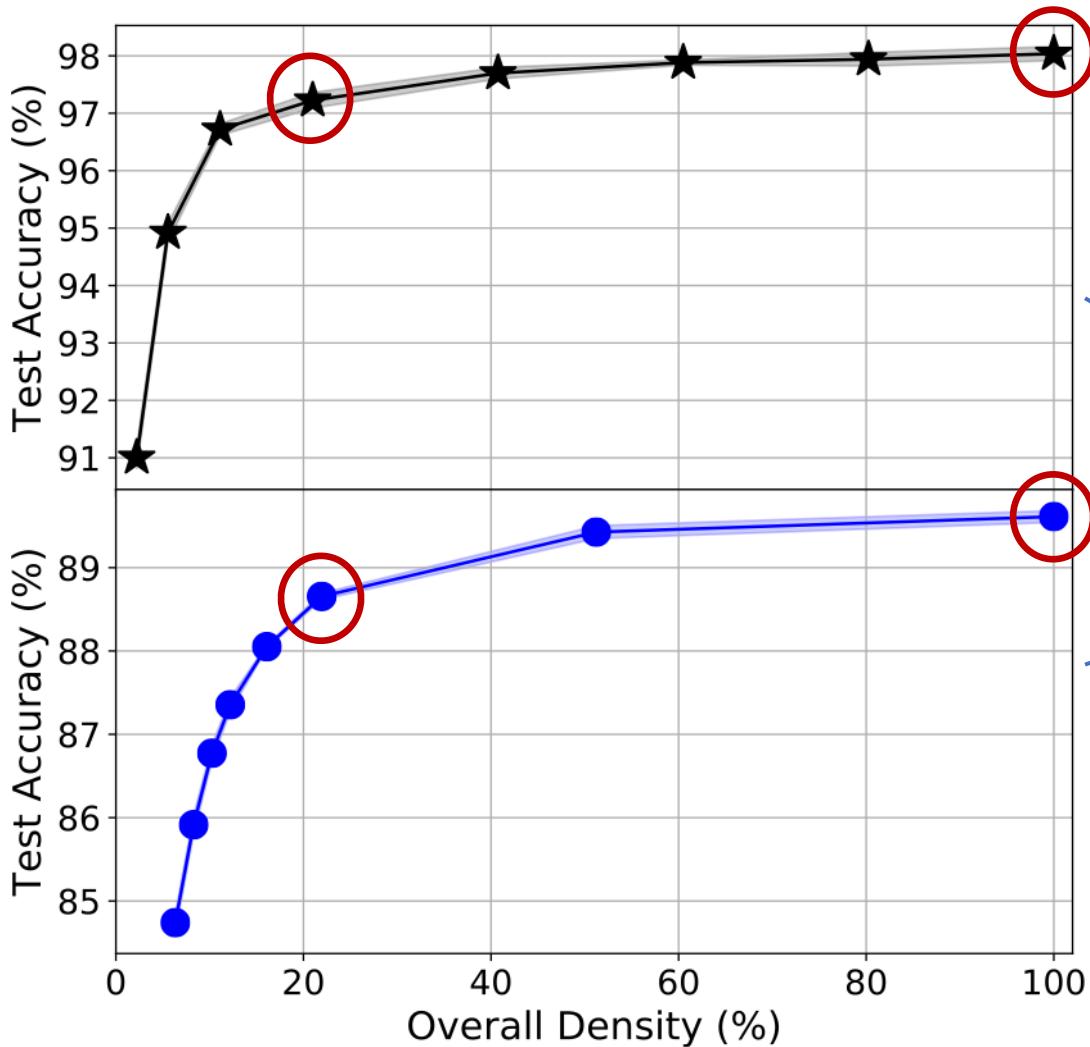
*In a FC network, most weights are very small in magnitude after training*

# Pre-defined sparsity performance on MLPs



*Starting with only 20%  
of parameters reduces  
test accuracy by just 1%*

# Pre-defined sparsity performance on MLPs



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MNIST handwritten digits

Reuters news articles

TIMIT phonemes

CIFAR images

Morse symbols

S. Dey, K. M. Chugg and P. A. Beerel, "Morse Code Datasets for Machine Learning," in ICCCNT 2018.  
Won Best Paper award.  
<https://github.com/usc-hal/morse-dataset>

# Analysis and Applications

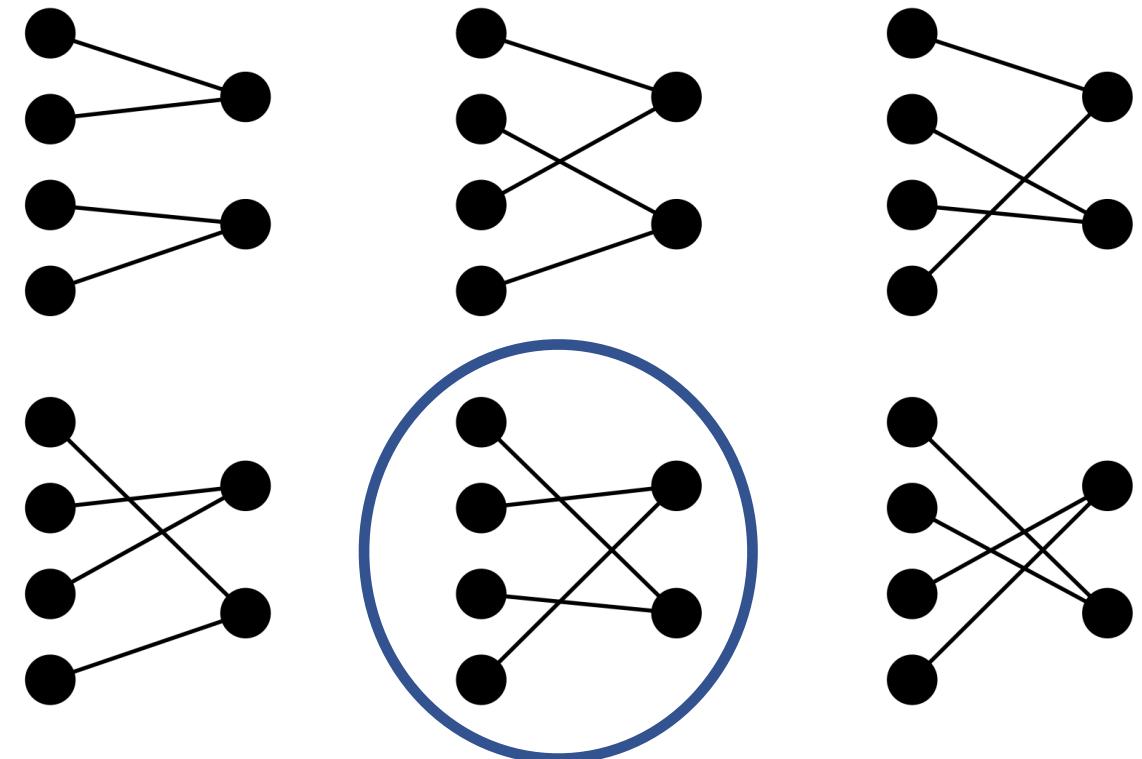
Deep dive into pre-defined sparsity  
for MLPs, and a corresponding  
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# Designing pre-defined sparse networks

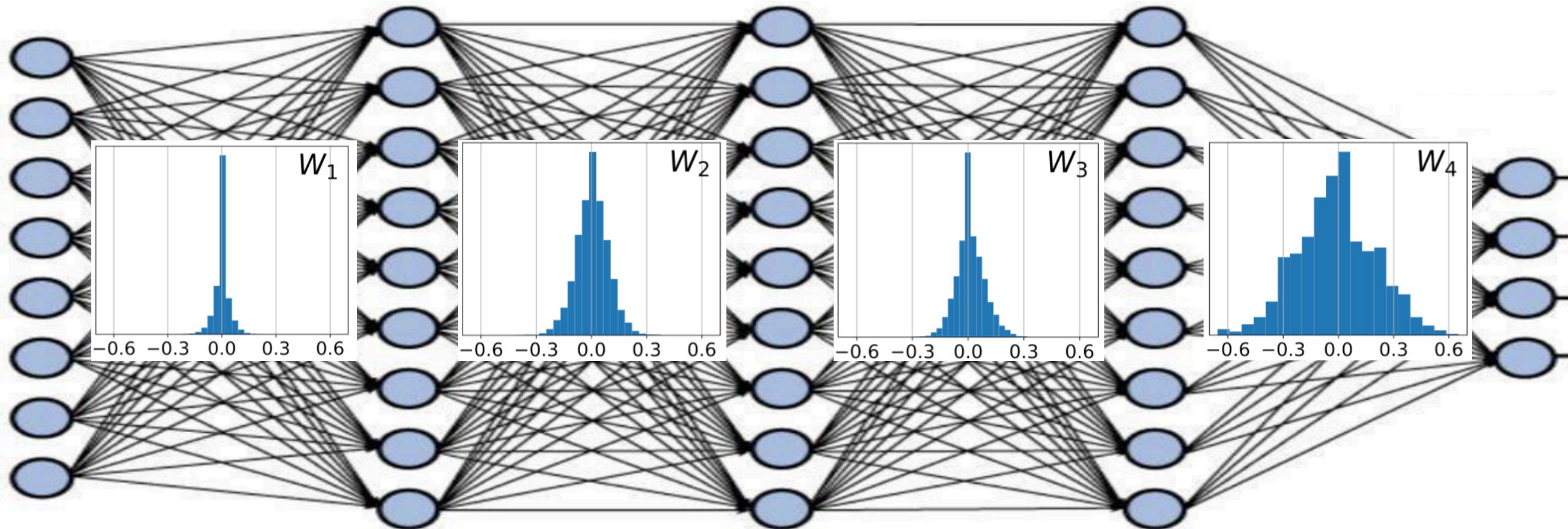
*A pre-defined sparse connection pattern is a **hyperparameter** to be set prior to training*

Find trends and guidelines to optimize pre-defined sparse patterns

S. Dey, K. Huang, P. A. Beerel and K. M. Chugg, "Pre-Defined Sparse Neural Networks with Hardware Acceleration," in *IEEE Journal on Emerging and Selected Topics in Circuits and Systems*, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 332-345, June 2019.



# Individual junction densities



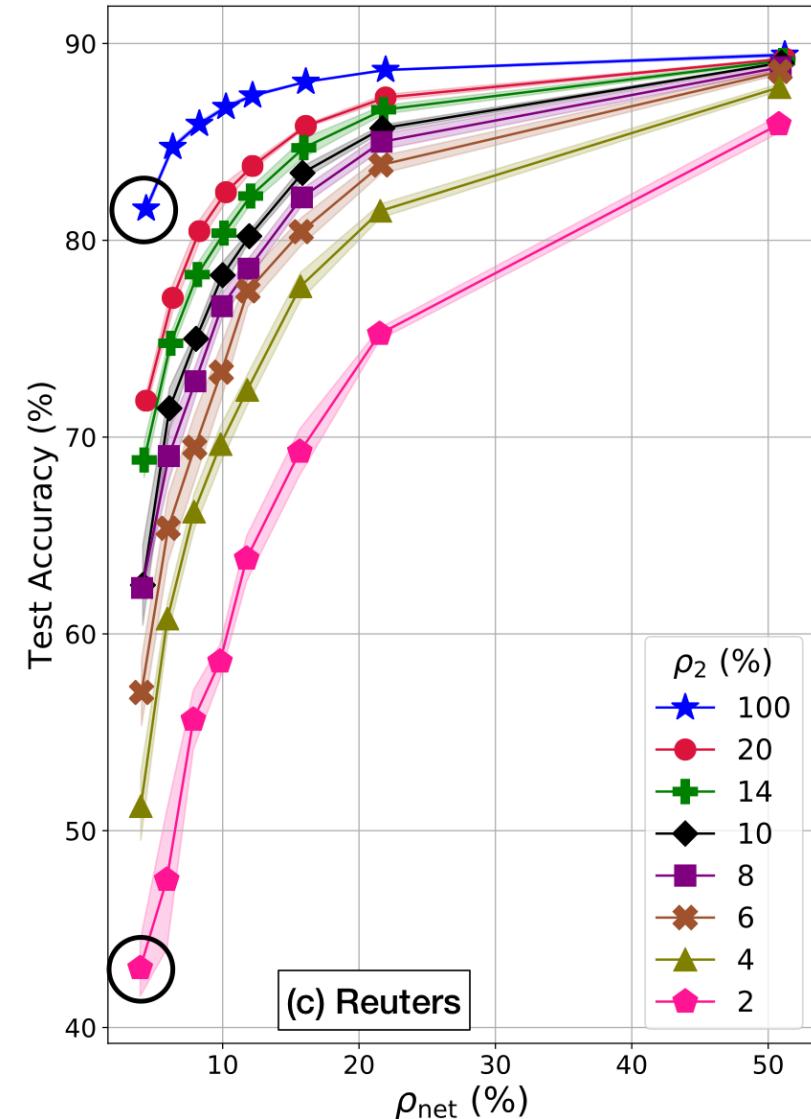
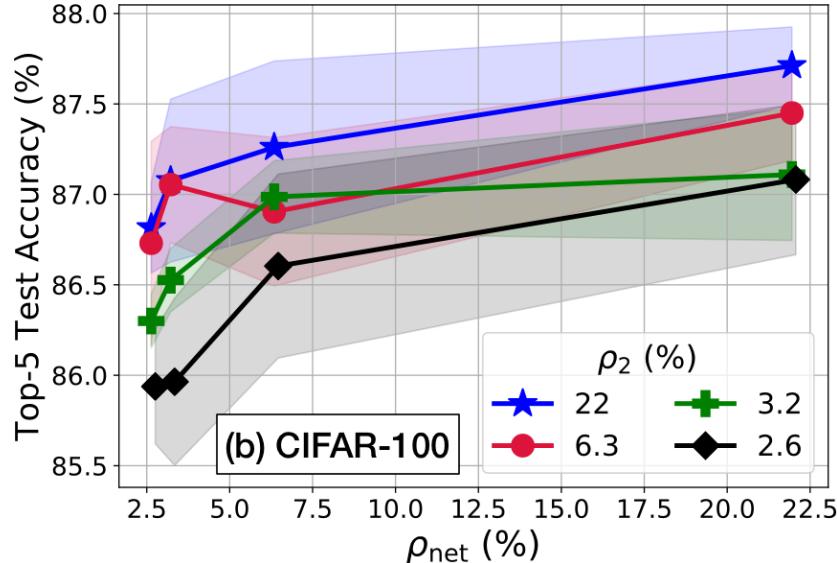
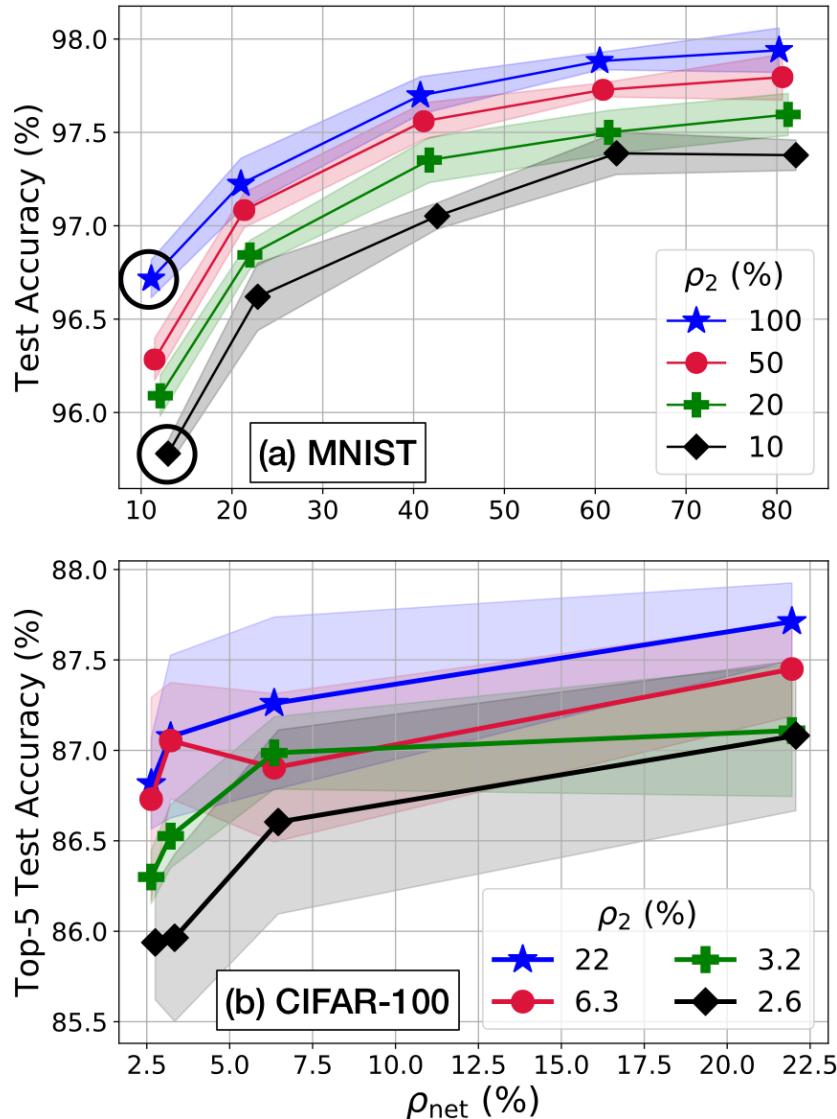
*Latter junctions (closer to the output) need to be denser*

# Individual junction densities

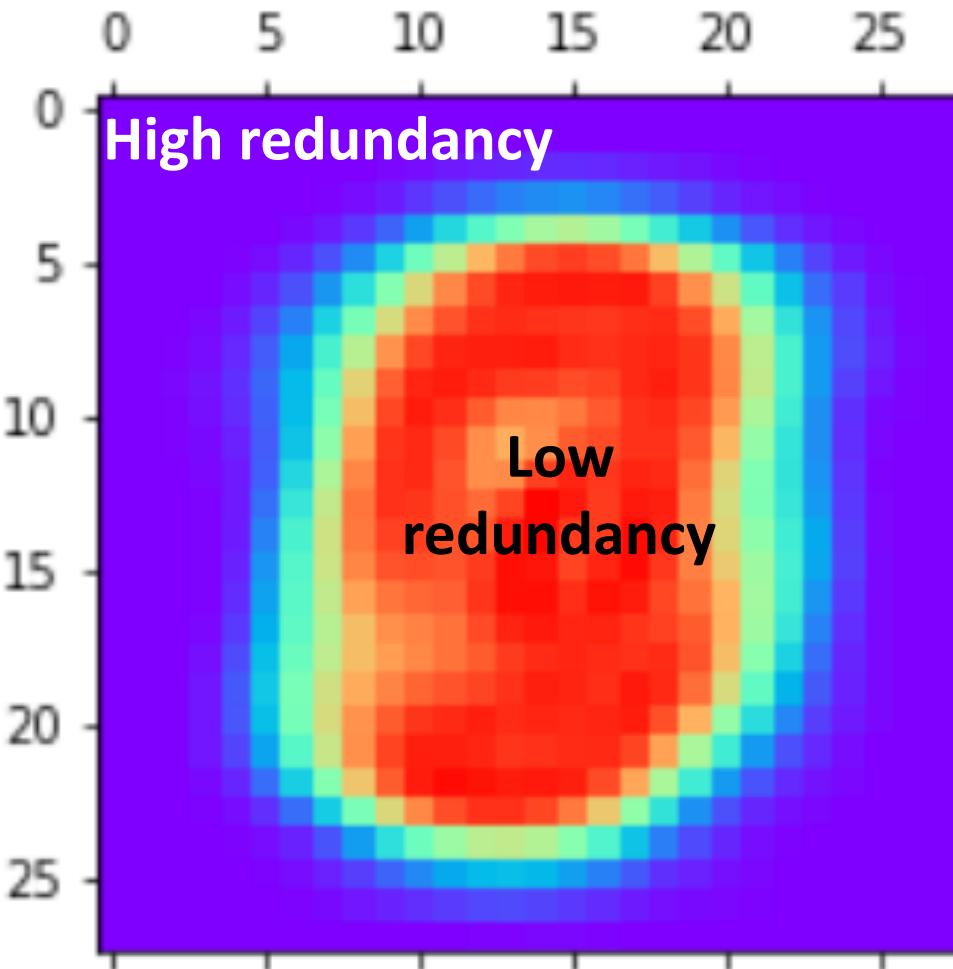
Each curve keeps  $\rho_2$  fixed and varies  $\rho_{\text{net}}$  by varying  $\rho_1$

*For the same  $\rho_{\text{net}}$ ,  $\rho_2 > \rho_1$  improves performance*

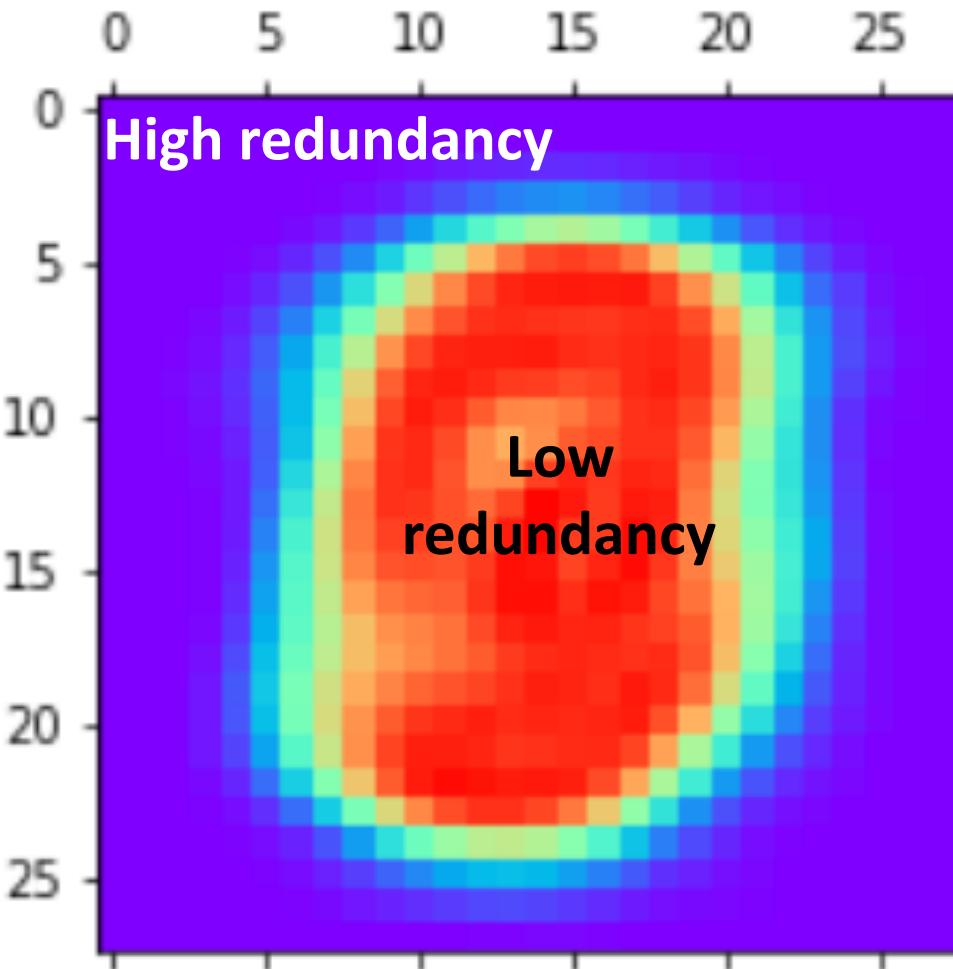
Mostly similar trends observed for deeper networks



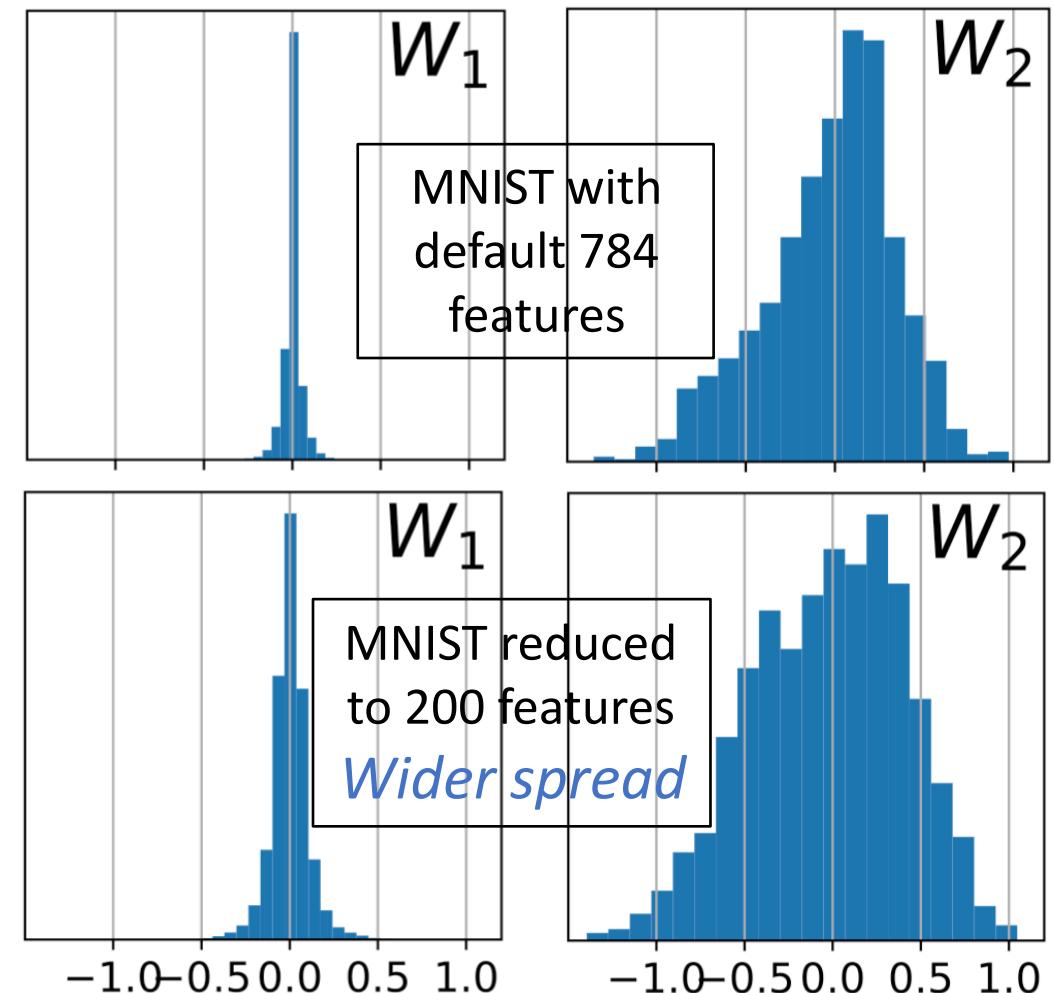
# Dataset redundancy



# Dataset redundancy



Sourya Dey



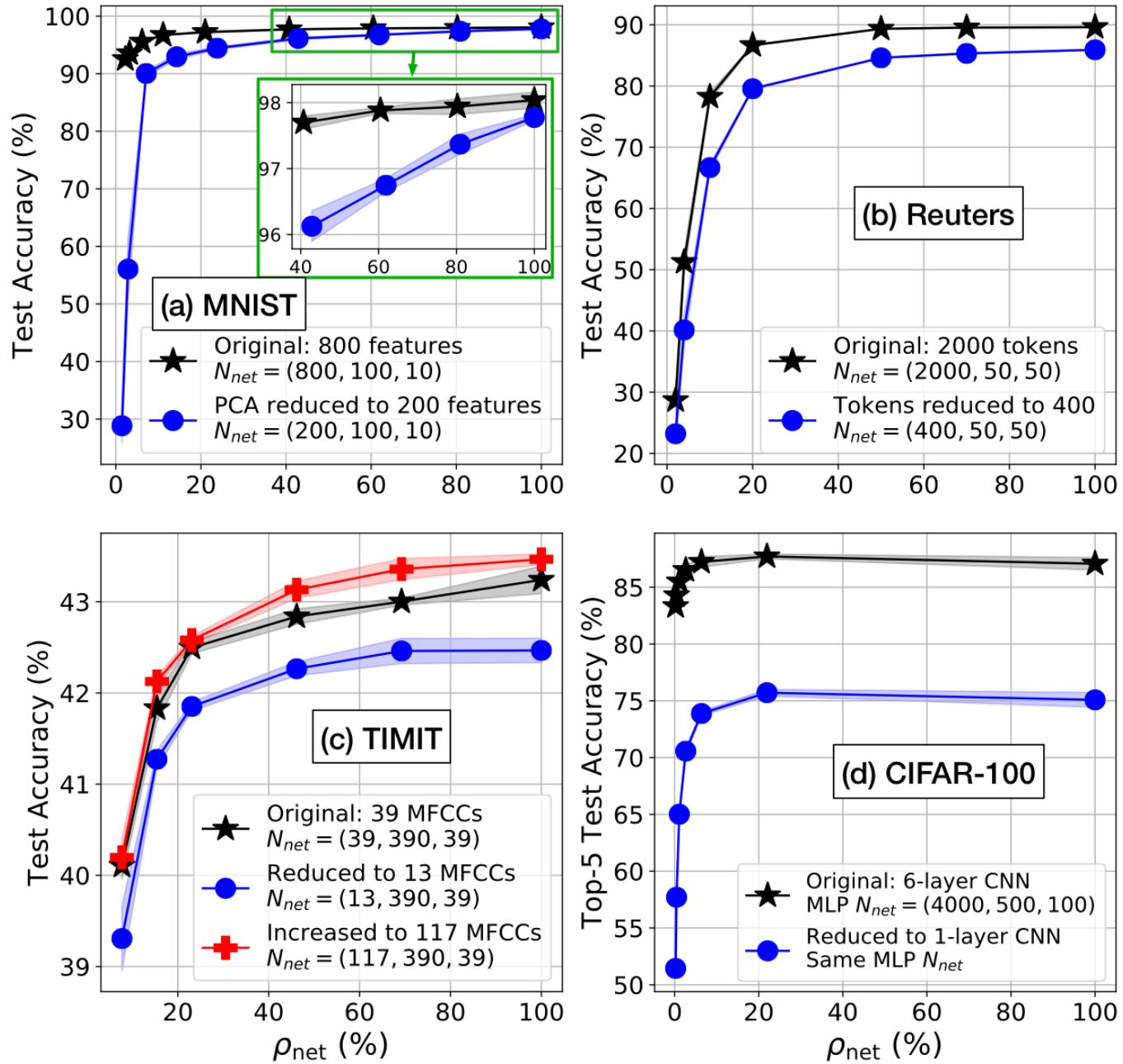
*Less redundancy => Less  
sparsification possible*

ifornia

14

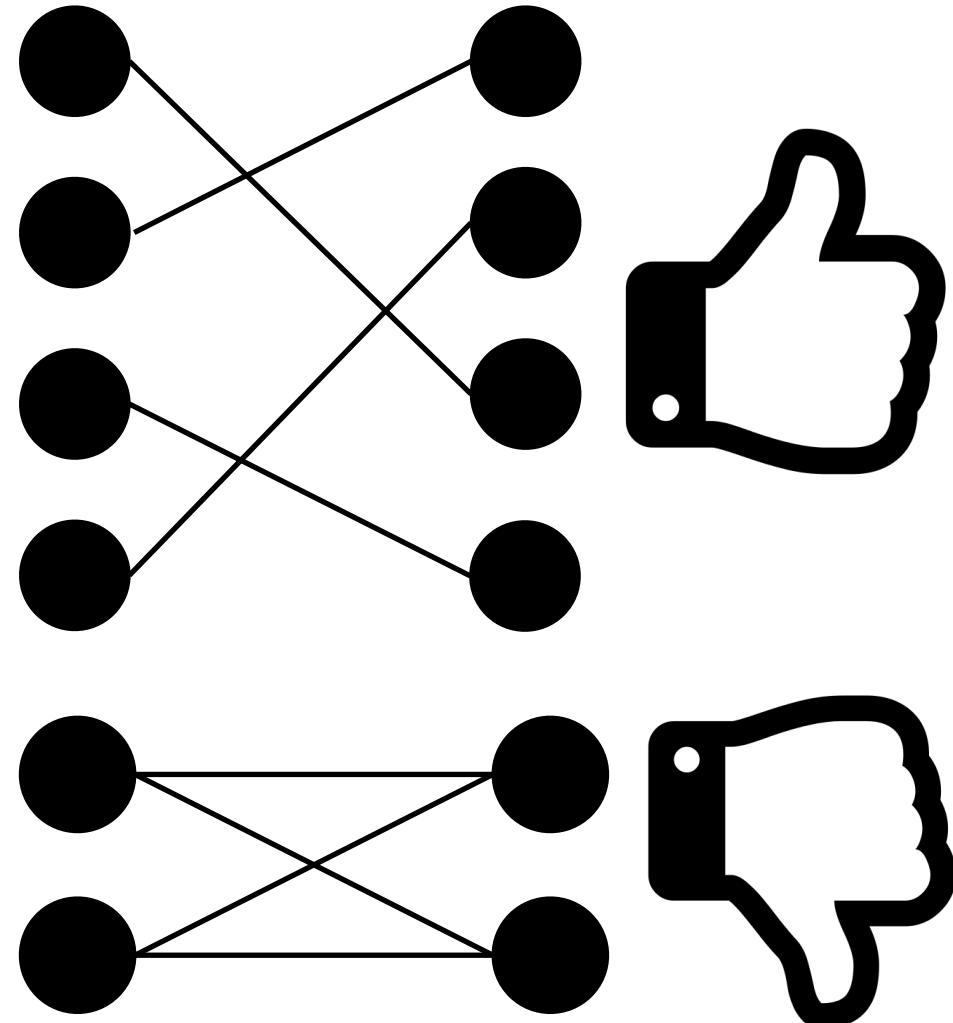
# Effect of redundancy on sparsity

*Reducing redundancy leads to increased performance degradation on sparsification*



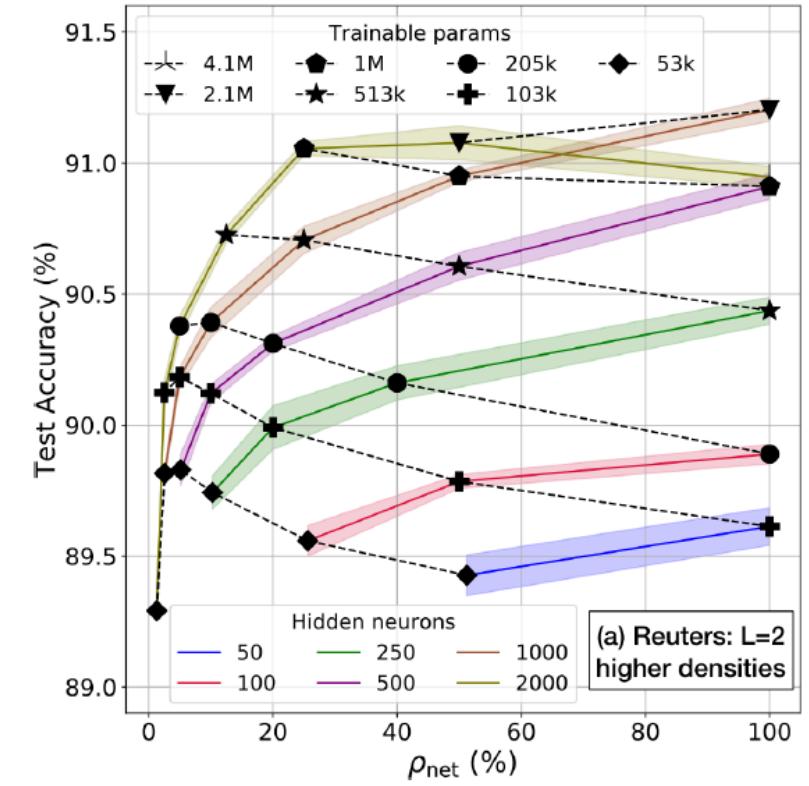
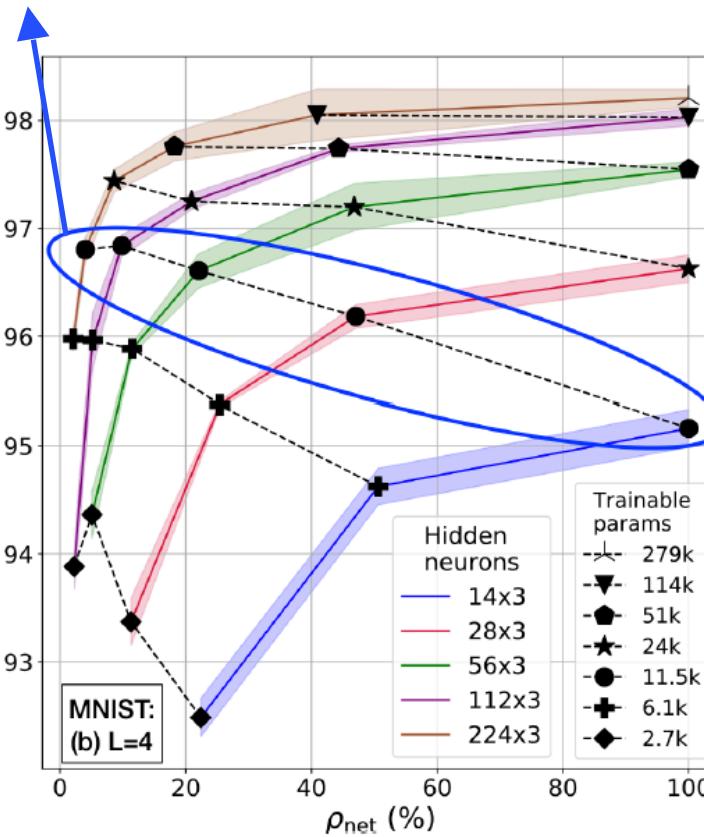
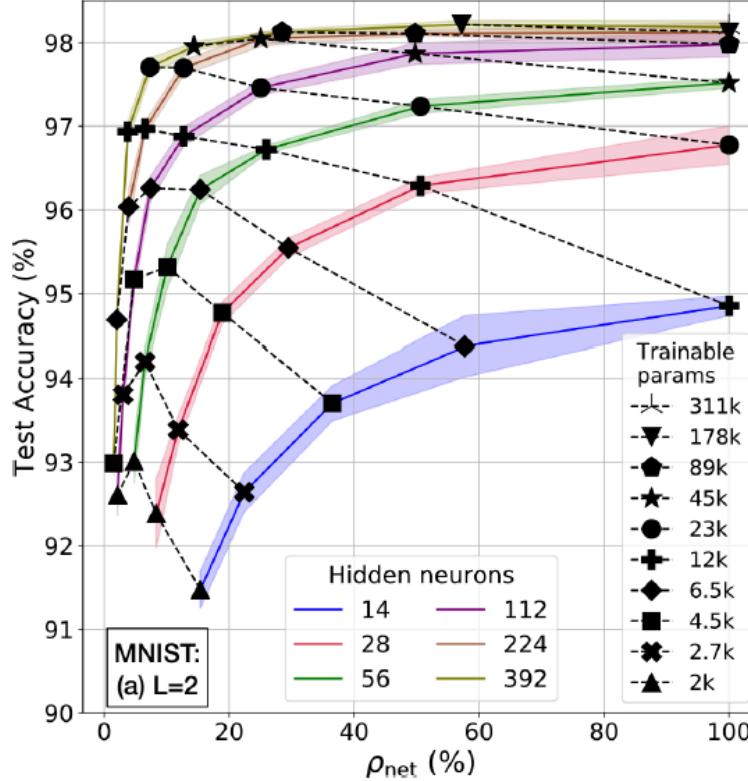
# 'Large sparse' vs 'small dense' networks

*A sparser network with more hidden nodes will outperform a denser network with less hidden nodes, when both have same number of weights*



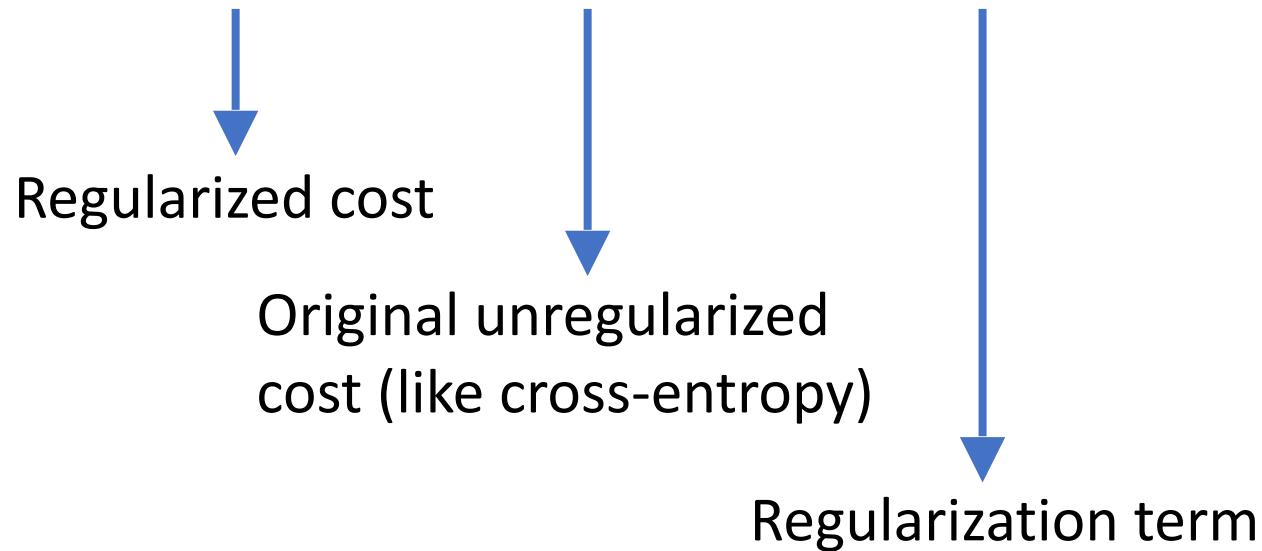
# ‘Large sparse’ vs ‘small dense’ networks

Networks with same number of parameters go from bad to good as #nodes in hidden layers is increased



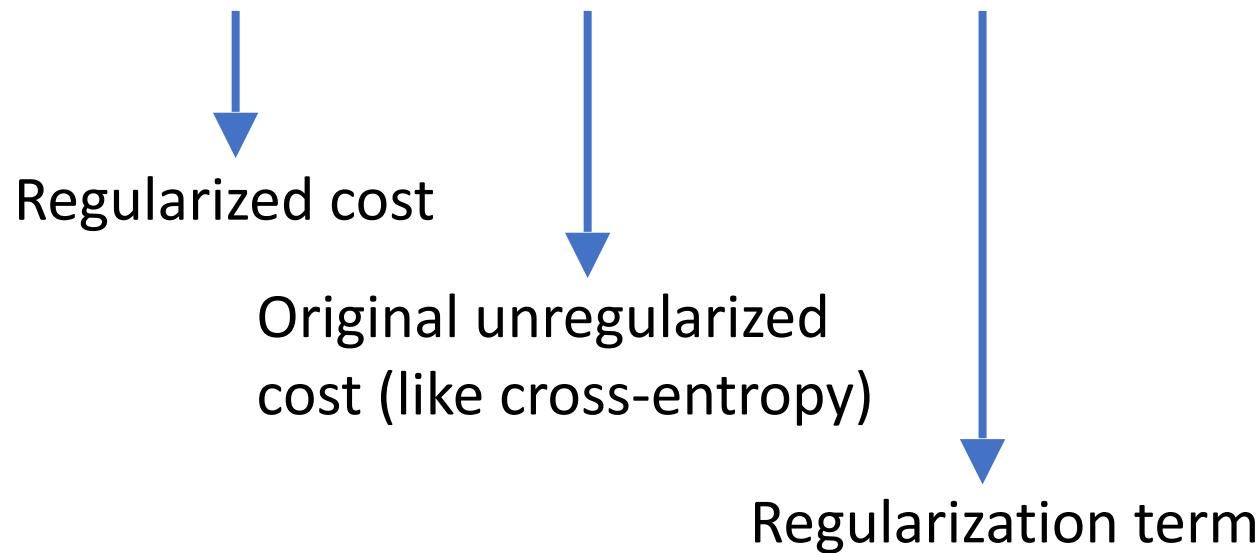
# Regularization

$$C(\mathbf{w}) = C_0(\mathbf{w}) + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$$



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Pre-defined sparse networks need smaller  $\lambda$  (as determined by validation)

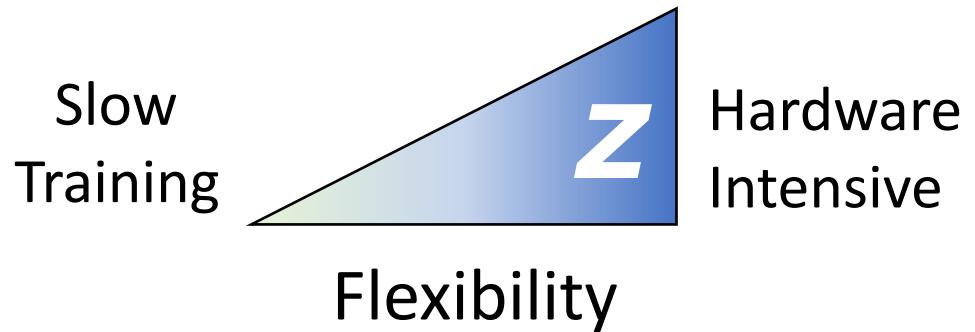
Overall Density	$\lambda$
100 %	$1.1 \times 10^{-4}$
40 %	$5.5 \times 10^{-5}$
11 %	0

Example for MNIST 2-junction networks

*Pre-defined sparsity reduces the overfitting problem stemming from over-parametrization in big networks*

# Application: A hardware architecture for on-device training and inference

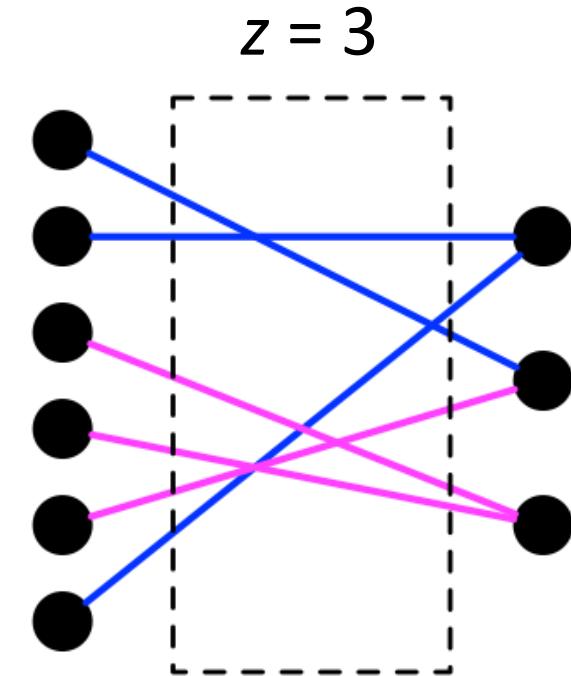
Degree of parallelism ( $z$ ) = Number of weights processed in parallel in a junction



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Connections designed for clash-free memory accesses to prevent stalling

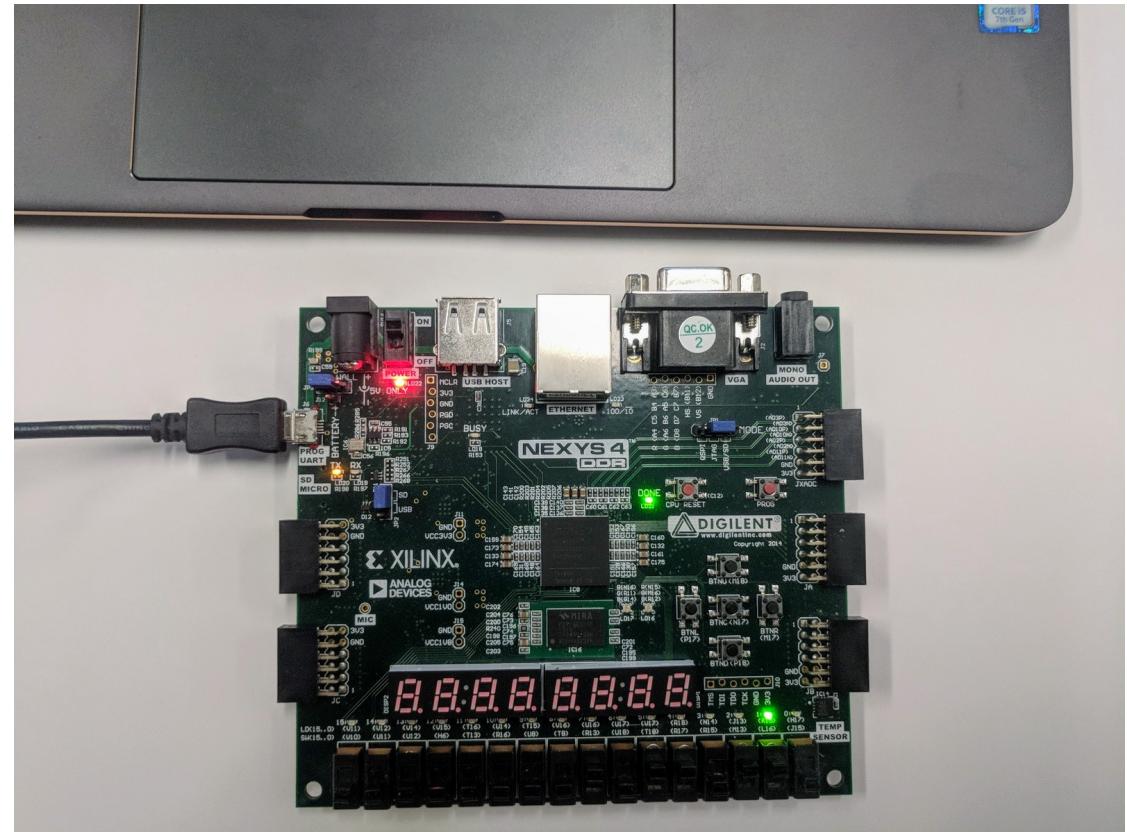


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Prototype implemented on FPGA



S. Dey, D. Chen, Z. Li, S. Kundu, K. Huang, K. M. Chugg and P. A. Beerel, "A Highly Parallel FPGA Implementation of Sparse Neural Network Training," in 2018 International Conference on Reconfigurable Computing and FPGAs (ReConFig), pp.1-4, Dec 2018. Expanded pre-print version available at arXiv:1806.01087.

# Model Search

Automate the design of CNNs  
with good performance and  
low complexity

Model search is ongoing  
research, hence currently  
not available publicly

Thank you!

<https://souryadey.github.io/>

