

# ROB 498/599: Deep Learning for Robot Perception (DeepRob)

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Lecture 5: Neural Networks



<https://deeprob.org/w25/>

# Today

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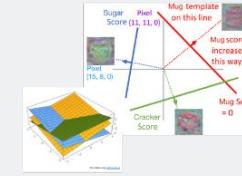
- Feedback and Recap (5min)
- Neural Networks
  - Image Features (15min)
  - Neural Networks, Activation Functions (20min)
  - Space Warping (10min)
  - Universal Approximation (10min)
  - Convex Function (10min)
- Summary and Takeaways (5min)

# Recap

P1 Deadline: Feb. 2, 2025

- Use **Linear Models** for image classification problems.
- Use **Loss Functions** to express preferences over different choices of weights.
- Use **Regularization** to prevent overfitting to training data.
- Use **Stochastic Gradient Descent** to minimize our loss functions and train the model.

$$s = f(x; W) = Wx$$

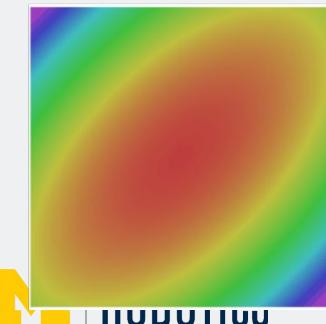


$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{\exp^{s_{y_i}}}{\sum_j \exp^{s_j}}\right) \quad \text{Softmax}$$

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1) \quad \text{SVM}$$

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i + R(W)$$

```
v = 0
for t in range(num_steps):
    dw = compute_gradient(w)
    v = rho * v + dw
    w -= learning_rate * v
```

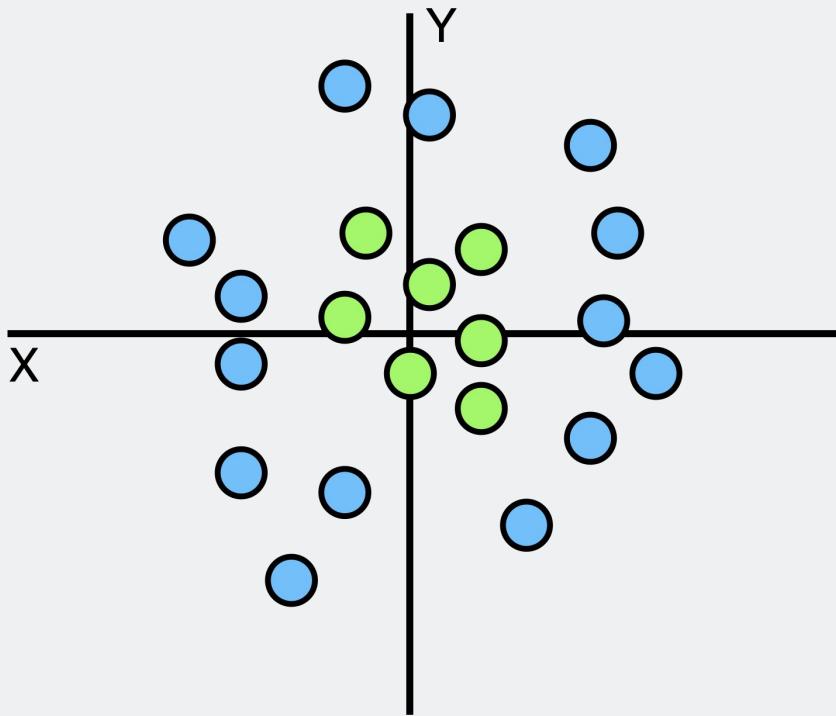


# Neural Networks

# Problem: Linear Classifiers aren't that powerful

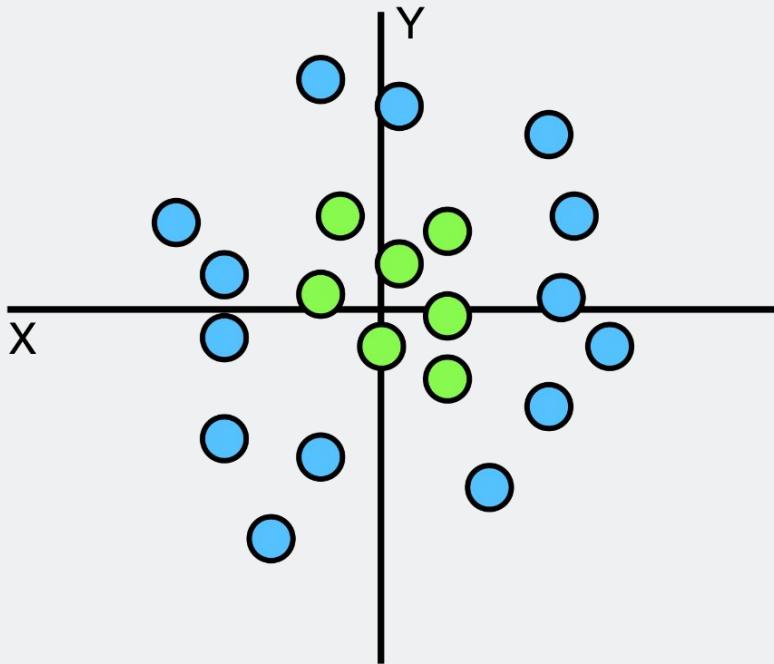
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## Geometric Viewpoint



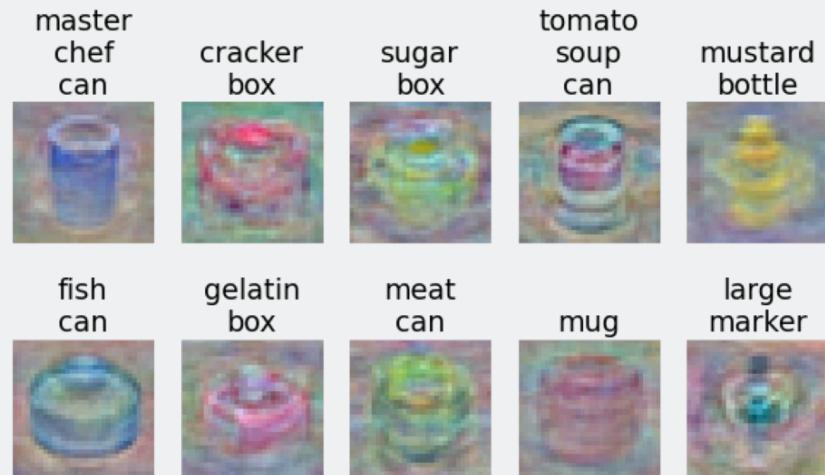
# Problem: Linear Classifiers aren't that powerful

## Geometric Viewpoint



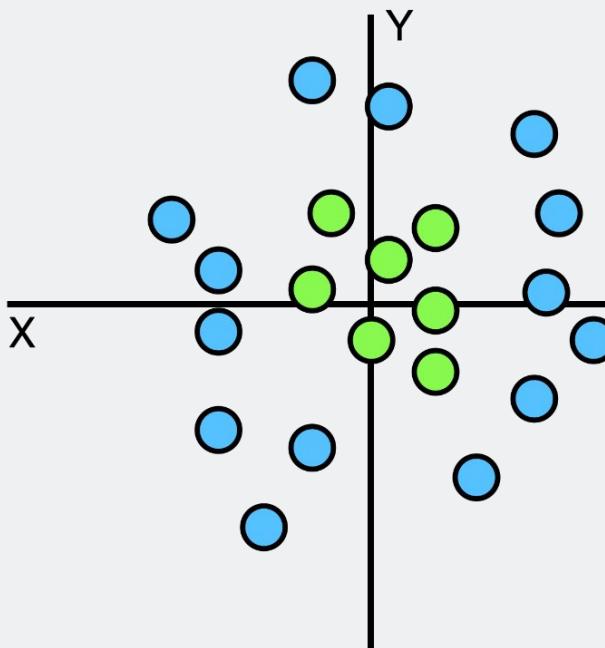
## Visual Viewpoint

One template per class:  
Can't recognize different modes of a class



# One Solution: Feature transforms

Original space

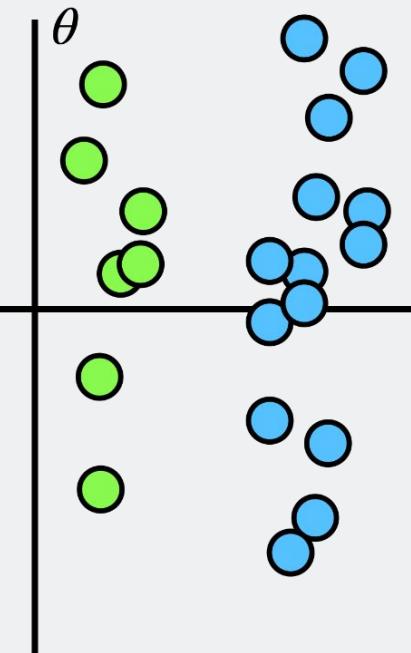


Feature space

$$r = (x^2 + y^2)^{1/2}$$

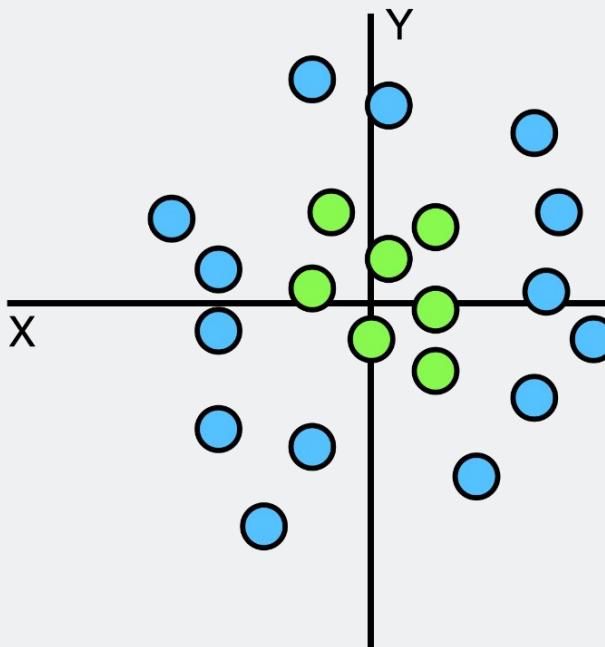
$$\theta = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$$

Feature  
Transform



# One Solution: Feature transforms

Original space

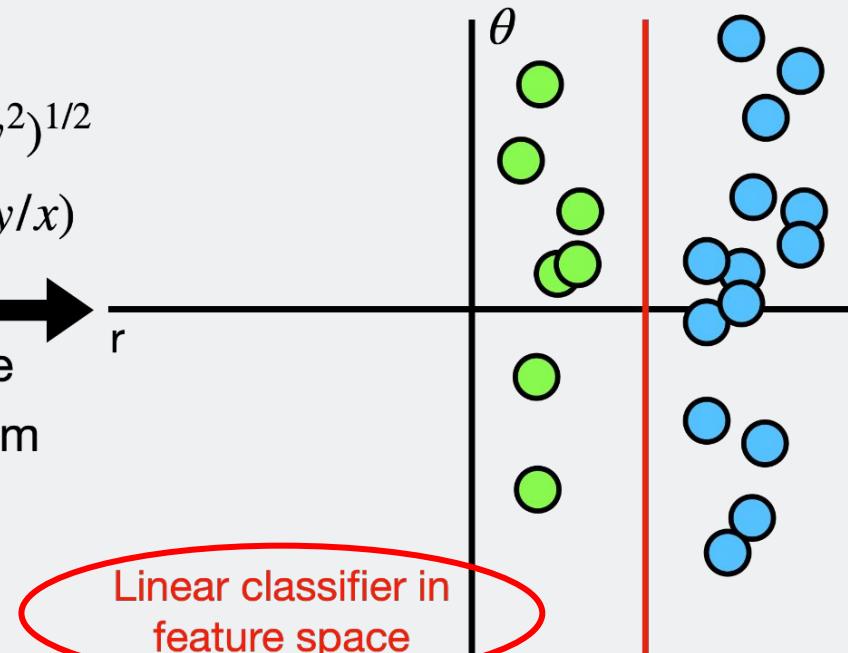


Feature space

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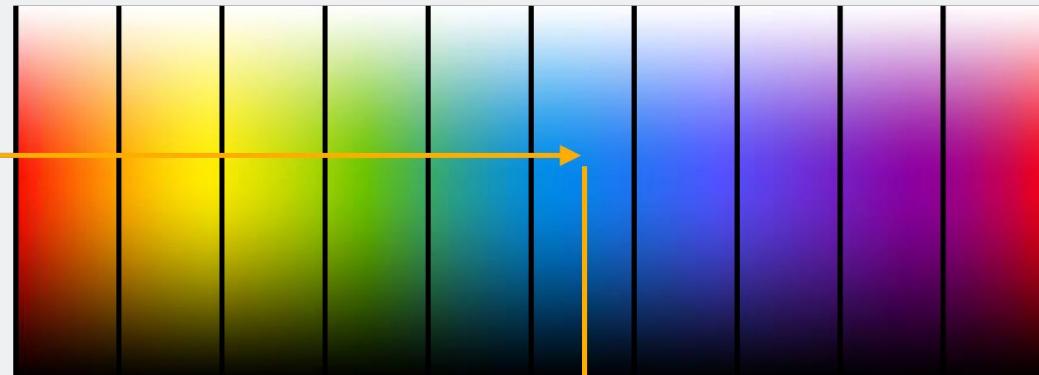
$$\theta = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$$

Feature  
Transform

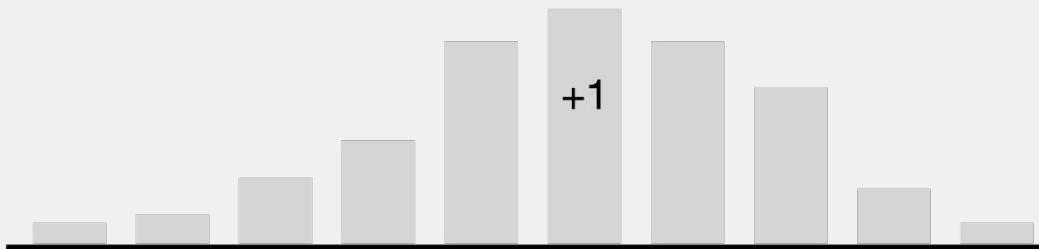


Linear classifier in  
feature space

# Image Feature: Color Histogram



Ignores texture,  
spatial positions



[Frog image](#) is in the public domain

# Image Feature: HoG (Histogram of Oriented Gradients)

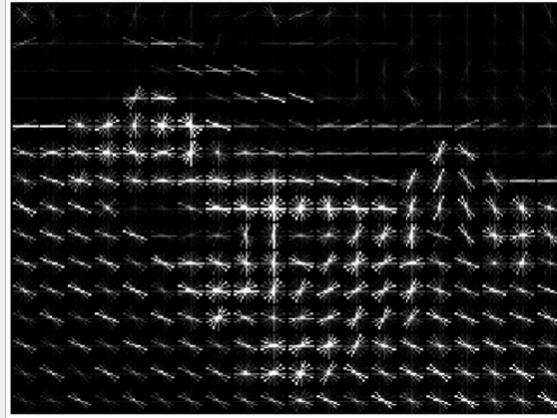
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1. Compute edge direction/strength at each pixel
2. Divide image into 8x8 regions
3. Within each region compute a histogram of edge direction weighted by edge strength

Lowe, "Object recognition from local scale-invariant features," ICCV 1999  
Dalal and Triggs, "Histograms of oriented gradients for human detection," CVPR 2005

# Image Feature: HoG (Histogram of Oriented Gradients)



Example: 320x240 image gets divided into 40x30 bins; 9 directions per bin; feature vector has  $30 \times 40 \times 9 = 10,800$  numbers

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# Image Feature: HoG (Histogram of Oriented Gradients)

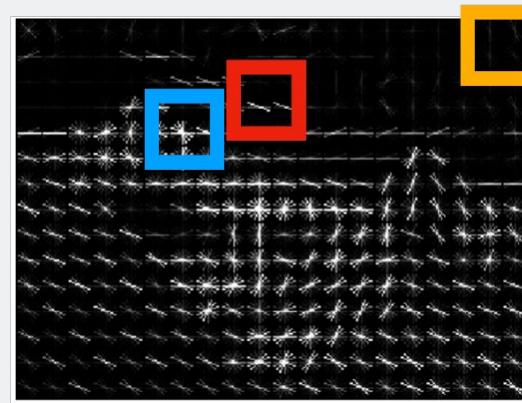


Weak edges  
Strong diagonal edges

Edges in all directions

1. Compute edge direction/strength at each pixel
2. Divide image into 8x8 regions
3. Within each region compute a histogram of edge direction weighted by edge strength

Capture texture and position, robust to small image changes



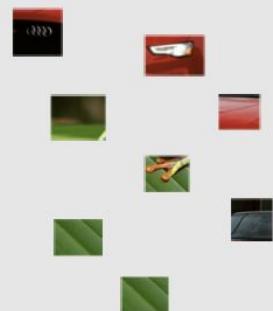
Example: 320x240 image gets divided into 40x30 bins; 9 directions per bin; feature vector has  $30 \times 40 \times 9 = 10,800$  numbers

# Image Feature: Bag of Words (Data Driven)

## Step 1: Build codebook



Extract random patches



Cluster patches to form “codebook” of “visual words”

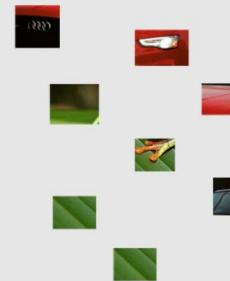


# Image Feature: Bag of Words (Data Driven)

## Step 1: Build codebook



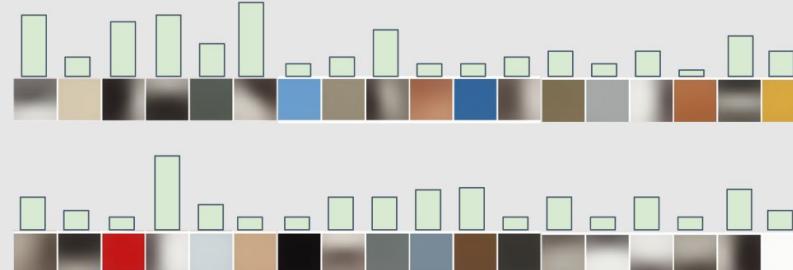
Extract random patches



Cluster patches to  
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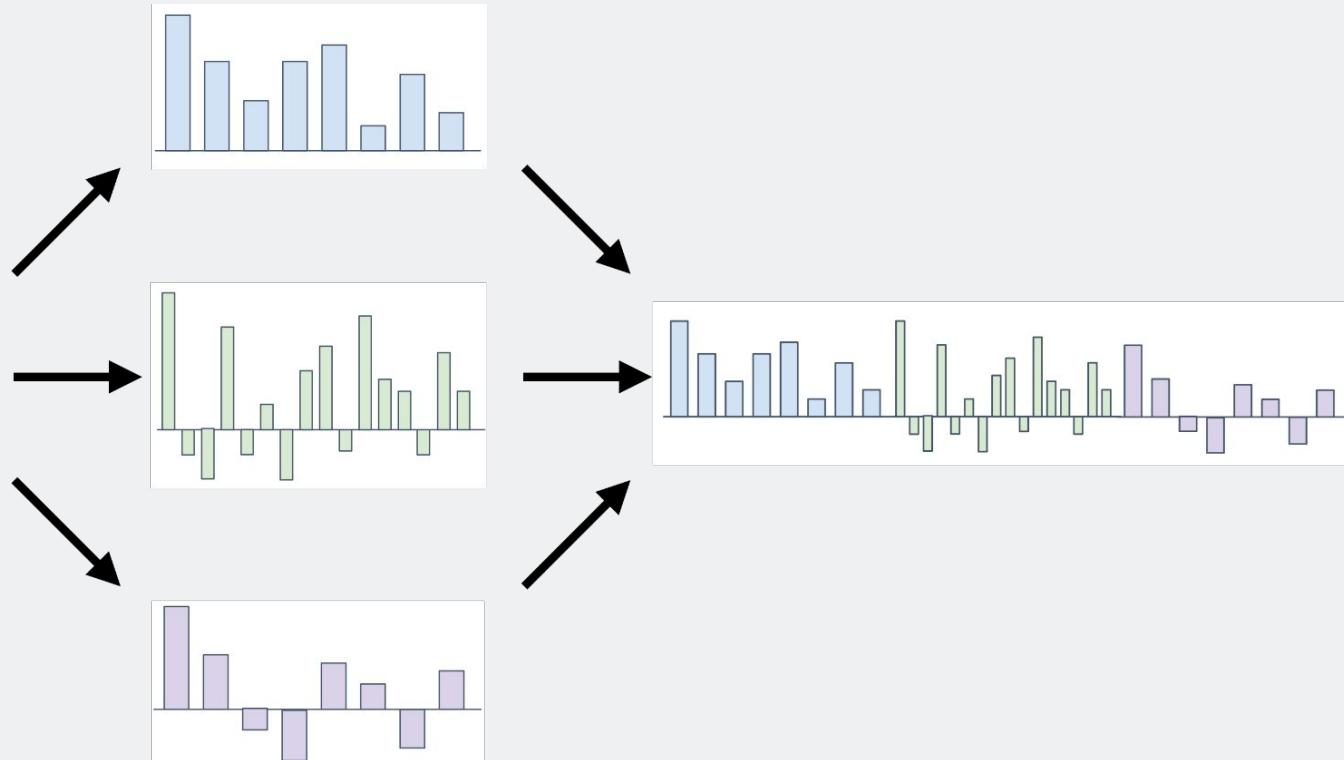


## Step 2: Encode images



# Image Features

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# Example: Winner of 2011 ImageNet Challenge

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Low-level feature extraction  $\approx$  10k patches per image

- SIFT: 128-dims
  - Color: 96-dim
- } Reduced to 64-dim with PCA

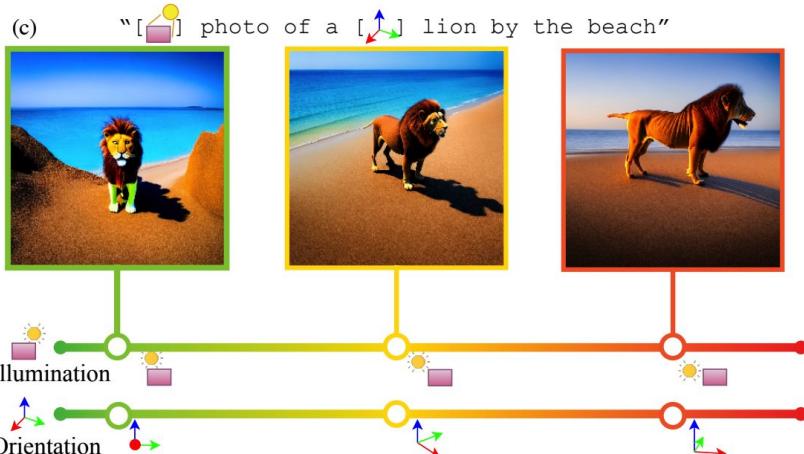
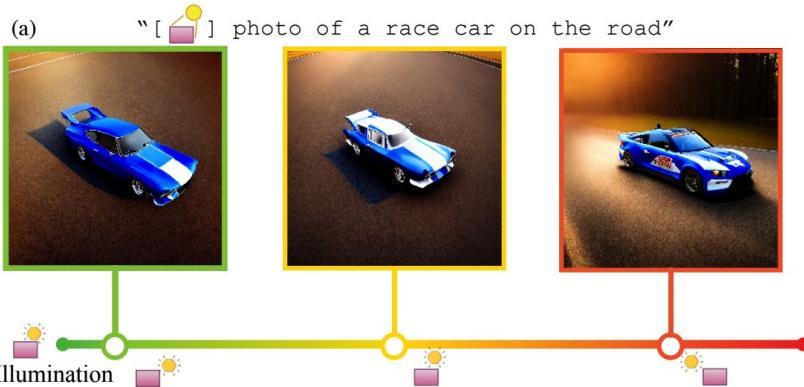
FV extraction and compression:

- $N=1024$  Gaussians,  $R=4$  regions  $\rightarrow$  520K dim  $\times$  2
- Compression:  $G=8$ ,  $b=1$  bit per dimension

One-vs-all SVM learning with SGD

Late fusion of SIFT and color systems

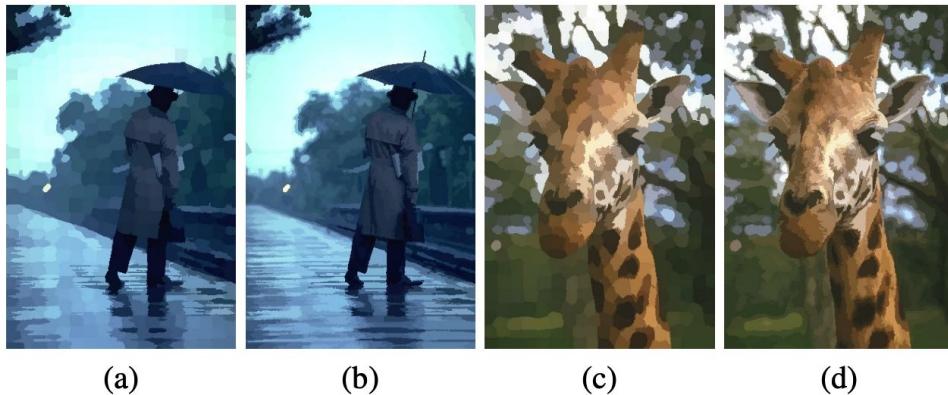
# Example: 2024 CVPR accepted paper



“Text-to-image” 3D Words

Cheng, T. Y., Gadelha, M., Groueix, T., Fisher, M., Mech, R., Markham, A., & Trigoni, N. (2024). Learning Continuous 3D Words for Text-to-Image Generation. In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (pp. 6753-6762).

# Example: 2024 CVPR accepted paper

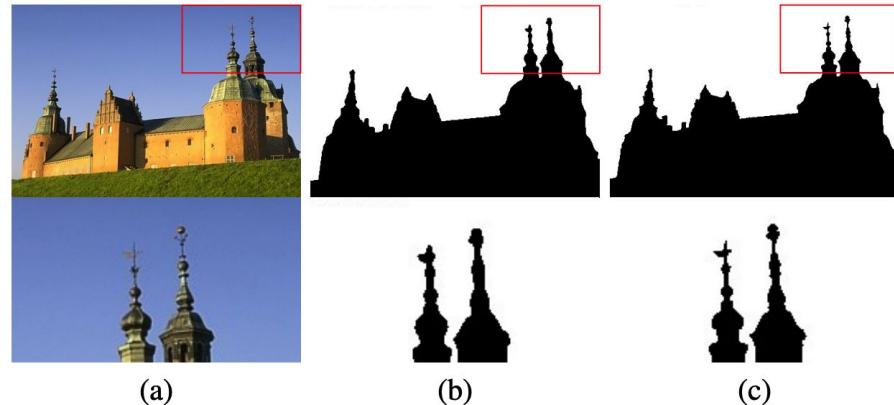


(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)



(a)

(b)

(c)

Figure 1. Visual comparison of 500 superpixels resulting from (a, c) ETPS [previous], (b, d) HHTS [proposed] segmentation.

Figure 2. Visual comparison of semantic segment masks (a) original image, (b) semantic segment (SAM ViT-H) [previous] and (c) refined semantic segment (SAM + HHTS) [proposed]

- Hierarchical Histogram Threshold Segmentation
- “Fine-tuning” segmentation masks

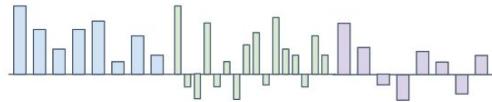
Chang, T. V., Seibt, S., & von Rydon Lipinski, B. (2024). Hierarchical Histogram Threshold Segmentation-Auto-terminating High-detail Oversegmentation. In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (pp. 3195-3204).

# Image Features

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Feature Extraction



$f$

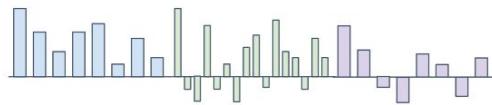
→  
←  
training

10 numbers giving  
scores for classes

# Image Features vs. Neural networks



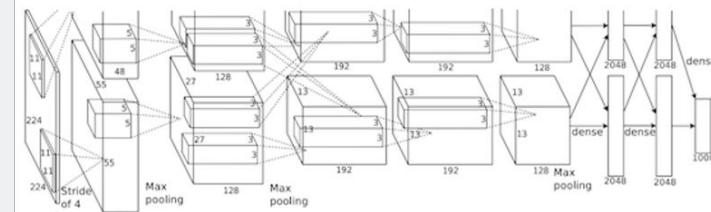
## Feature Extraction



$f$

training

10 numbers giving scores for classes



Krizhevsky, Sutskever, and Hinton, "Imagenet classification with deep convolutional neural networks", NIPS 2012.  
Figure copyright Krizhevsky, Sutskever, and Hinton, 2012.  
Reproduced with permission.



training

10 numbers giving scores for classes

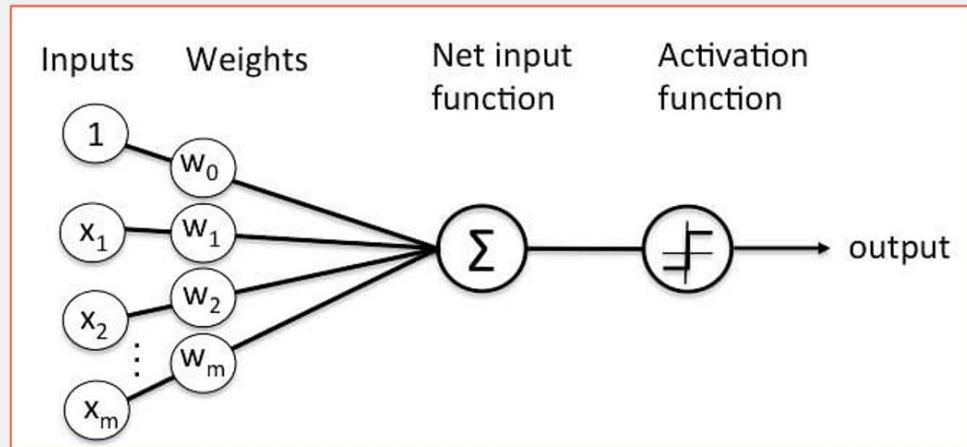
# Neural Networks (Overview)

**Input:**  $x \in \mathbb{R}^D$

**Output:**  $f(x) \in \mathbb{R}^C$

## Rosenblatt's Perceptron

- A set of *synapses* each of which is characterized by a *weight* (which includes a *bias*).
- An *adder*
- An *activation function* (e.g., Rectified Linear Unit/ReLU, Sigmoid function, etc.)



$$y_k = \phi \left( \sum_{j=1}^m w_{kj} x_j + b_k \right)$$

# Neural Networks

---

**Input:**  $x \in \mathbb{R}^D$       **Output:**  $f(x) \in \mathbb{R}^C$

**Before:** Linear Classifier:  $f(x) = Wx + b$

Learnable parameters:  $W \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times C}, b \in \mathbb{R}^C$

# Neural Networks

---

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**Output:**  $f(x) \in \mathbb{R}^C$

**Before:** Linear Classifier:  $f(x) = Wx + b$

Learnable parameters:  $W \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times C}, b \in \mathbb{R}^C$

Feature Extraction

Linear Classifier

→ **Now:** Two-Layer Neural Network:  $f(x) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$   
Learnable parameters:  $W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times D}, b_1 \in \mathbb{R}^H, W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H}, b_2 \in \mathbb{R}^C$

Or Three-Layer Neural Network:

$f(x) = W_3 \max(0, W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2) + b_3$

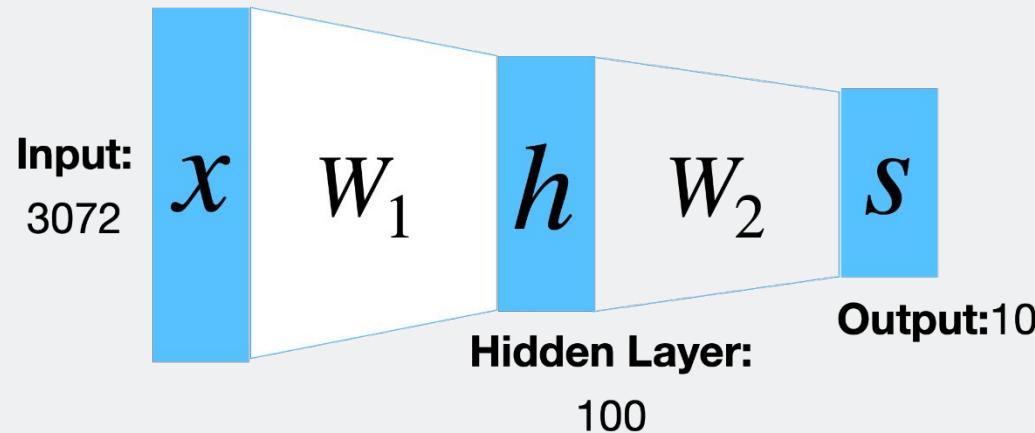
# Neural Networks

**Before:** Linear Classifier:

$$f(x) = Wx + b$$

→ **Now:** Two-Layer Neural Network:

$$f(x) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$



$$x \in \mathbb{R}^D, W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times D}, W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H}$$

# Neural Networks

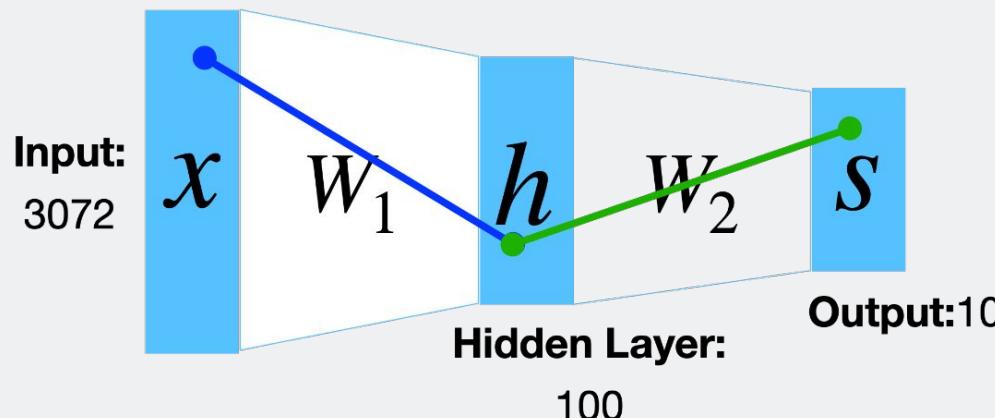
**Before:** Linear Classifier:

$$f(x) = Wx + b$$

**Now:** Two-Layer Neural Network:

$$f(x) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$

Element  $(i, j)$  of  $W_1$   
gives the effect on  
 $h_i$  from  $x_j$



Element  $(i, j)$  of  $W_2$   
gives the effect on  
 $s_i$  from  $h_j$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^D, W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times D}, W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H}$$

# Neural Networks

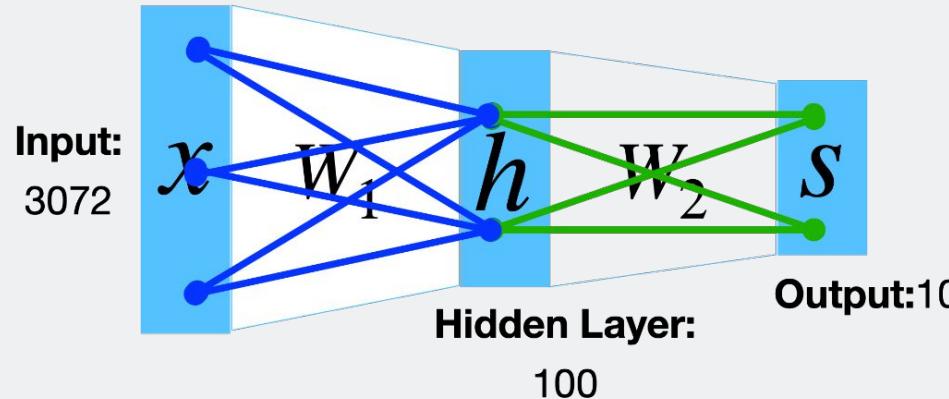
**Before:** Linear Classifier:

$$f(x) = Wx + b$$

**Now:** Two-Layer Neural Network:

$$f(x) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$

Element  $(i, j)$  of  $W_1$   
gives the effect on  
 $h_i$  from  $x_j$



Element  $(i, j)$  of  $W_2$   
gives the effect on  
 $s_i$  from  $h_j$

All elements of  $x$  affect  
all elements of  $h$

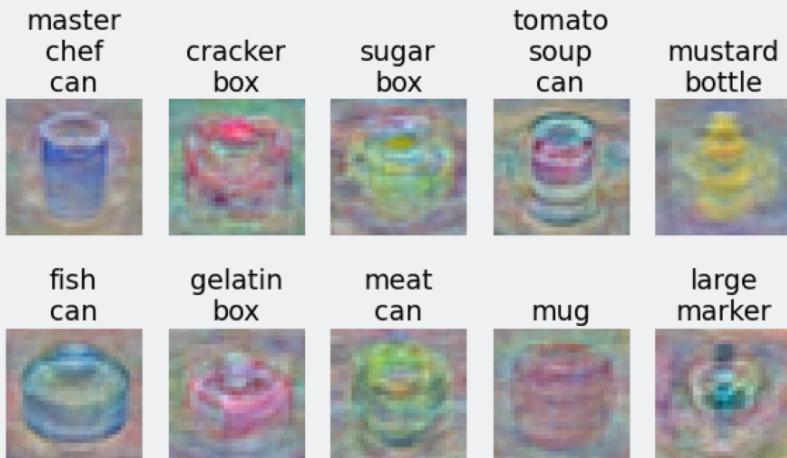
All elements of  $h$  affect  
all elements of  $s$

Fully-connected neural network also  
“Multi-Layer Perceptron” (MLP)

# Neural Networks

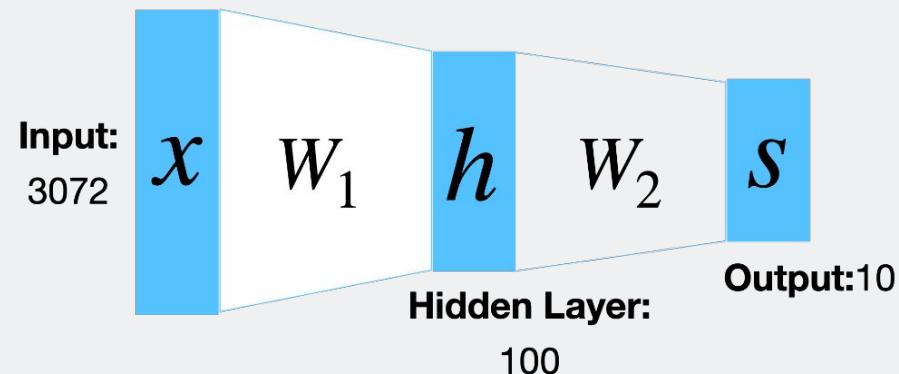
Recall:

Linear classifier: One template per class



**Before:** Linear score function

**Now:** Two-Layer Neural Network:



$$x \in \mathbb{R}^D, W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times D}, W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H}$$

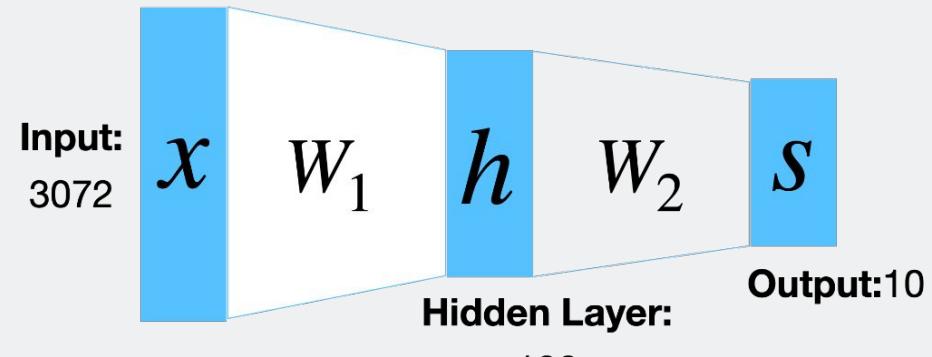
# Neural Networks

Neural net: first layer is bank of templates;  
Second layer recombines templates



**Before:** Linear score function

**Now:** Two-Layer Neural Network:



$$x \in \mathbb{R}^D, W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times D}, W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H}$$

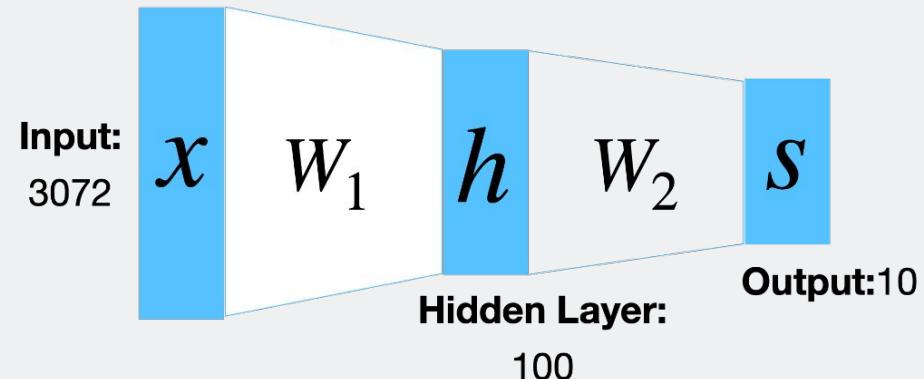
# Neural Networks

Can use different templates to cover  
multiple modes of a class!



**Before:** Linear score function

**Now:** Two-Layer Neural Network:



$$x \in \mathbb{R}^D, W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times D}, W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H}$$

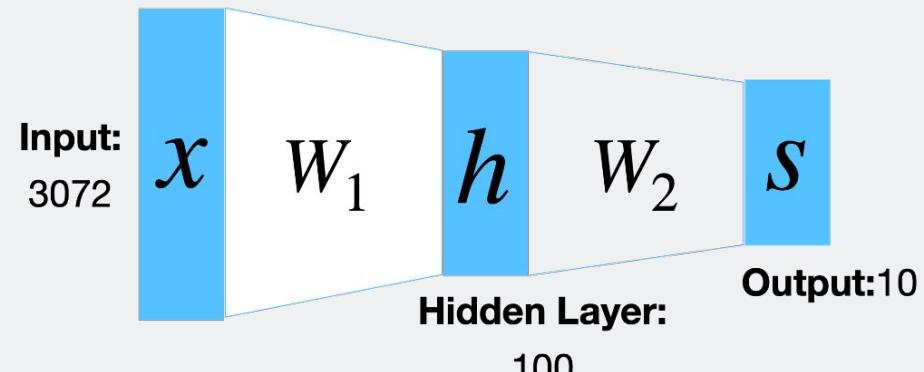
# Neural Networks

Can use different templates to cover  
multiple modes of a class!



**Before:** Linear score function

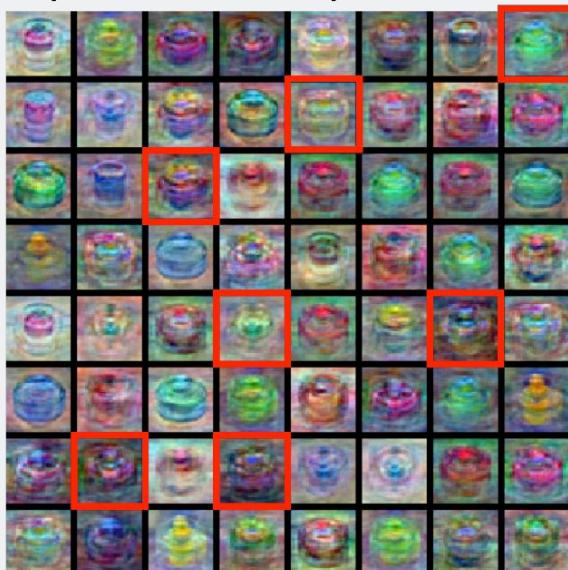
**Now:** Two-Layer Neural Network:



$$x \in \mathbb{R}^D, W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times D}, W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H}$$

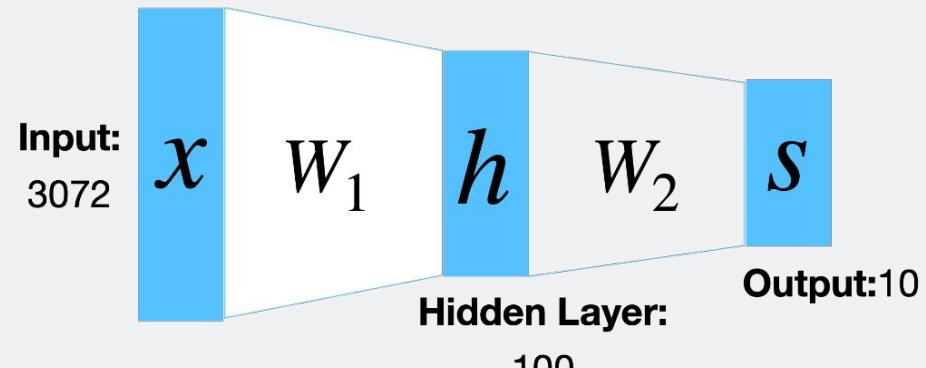
# Neural Networks

“Distributed representation”: Most templates not interpretable!



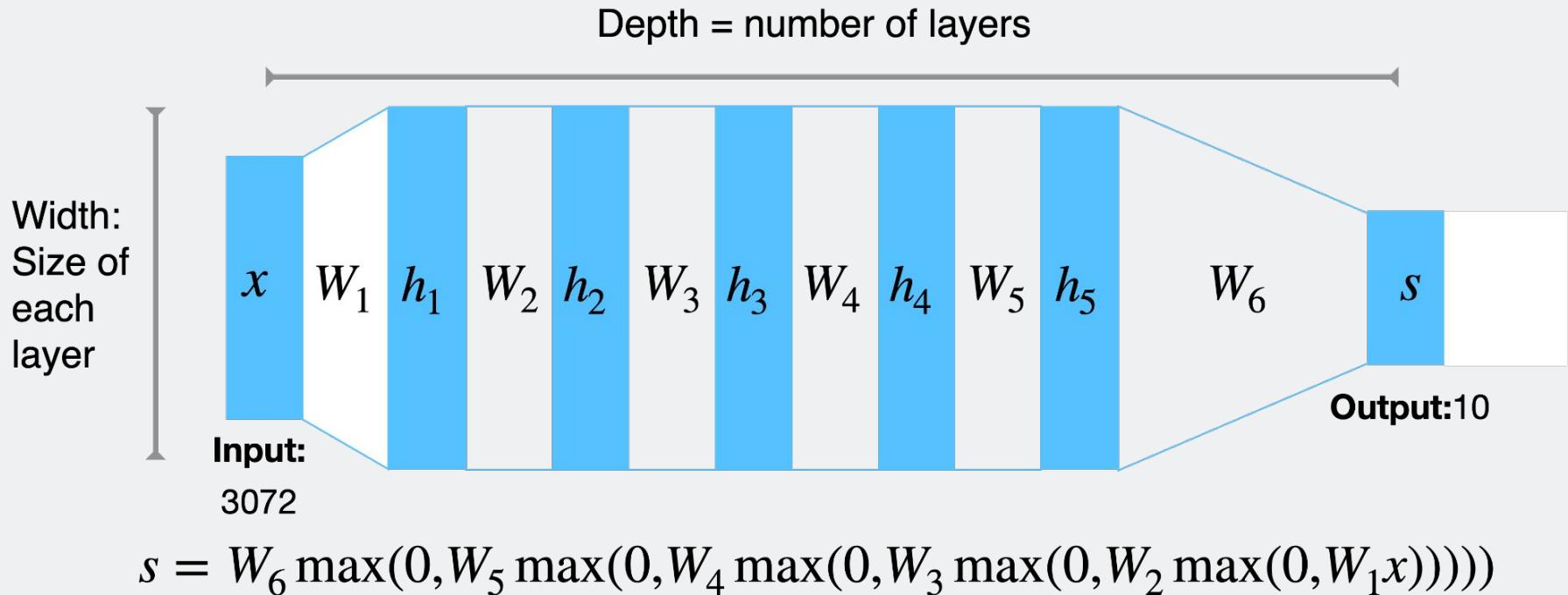
**Before:** Linear score function

**Now:** Two-Layer Neural Network:



$$x \in \mathbb{R}^D, W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times D}, W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times H}$$

# Deep Neural Networks



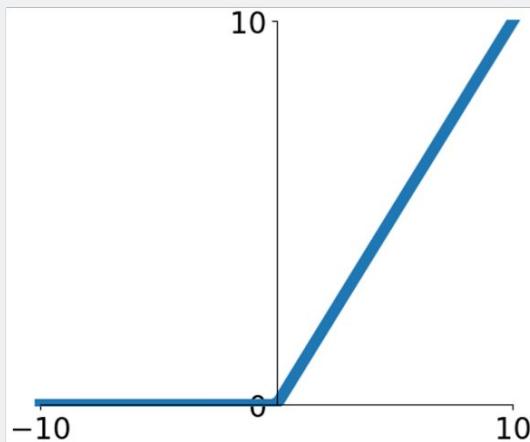
# Neural Networks: Activation Functions

2-Layer Neural Network

$$f(x) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$

The auction  $ReLU(z) = \max(0, z)$   
is called “Rectified Linear Unit”

This is called the **activation function**  
of the neural network



Q: What happens if we build a neural network with no activation function?

# Aha Slides (In-class participation)

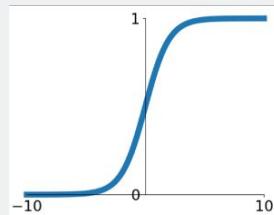
<https://ahaslides.com/0Z9LZ>



# Activation Functions

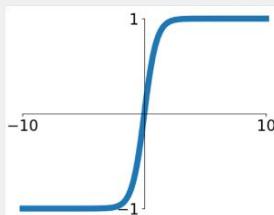
## Sigmoid

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



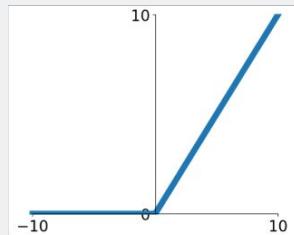
## tanh

$$\tanh(x) = \frac{e^{2x} - 1}{e^{2x} + 1}$$



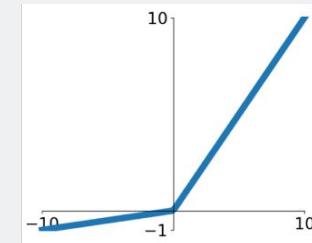
## ReLU

$$\max(0, x)$$



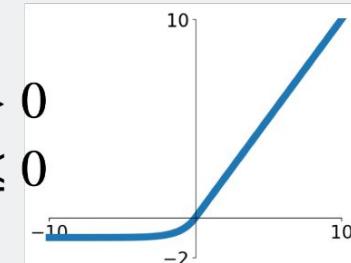
## Leaky ReLU

$$\max(0.2x, x)$$



## ELU

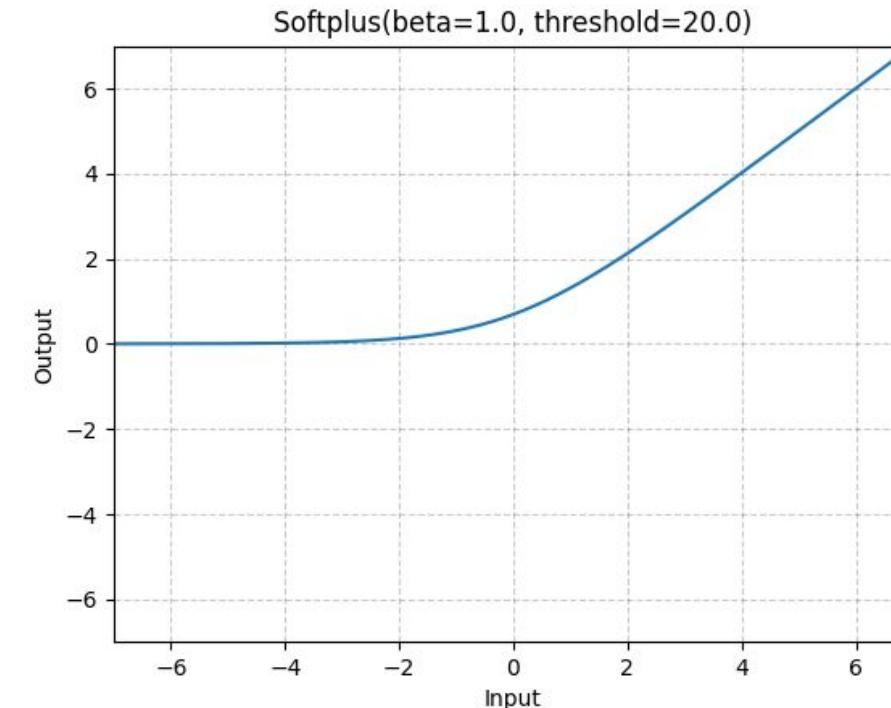
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & x > 0 \\ \alpha(\exp(x) - 1), & x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$



# Activation Functions

## Softplus

$$\log(1 + \exp(x))$$

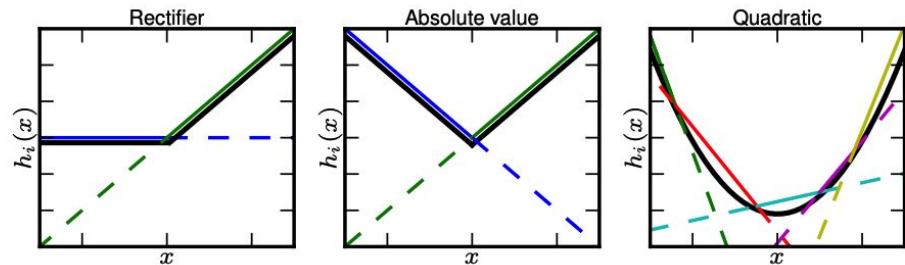


<https://pytorch.org/docs/stable/generators/torch.nn.Softplus.html>

# Activation Functions

## Maxout

$$\max(w_1^T x + b_1, w_2^T x + b_2)$$



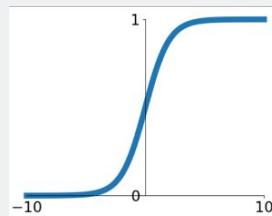
*Figure 1.* Graphical depiction of how the maxout activation function can implement the rectified linear, absolute value rectifier, and approximate the quadratic activation function. This diagram is 2D and only shows how maxout behaves with a 1D input, but in multiple dimensions a maxout unit can approximate arbitrary convex functions.

<https://proceedings.mlr.press/v28/goodfellow13.pdf>

# Activation Functions

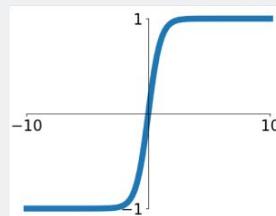
## Sigmoid

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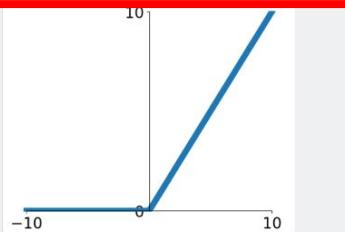
## tanh

$$\tanh(x) = \frac{e^{2x} - 1}{e^{2x} + 1}$$



## ReLU

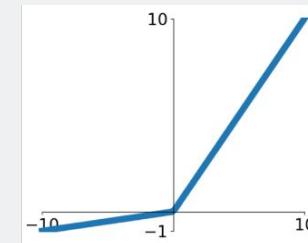
$$\max(0, x)$$



ReLU is a good default choice for most problems

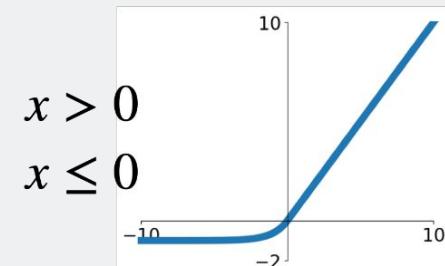
## Leaky ReLU

$$\max(0.2x, x)$$

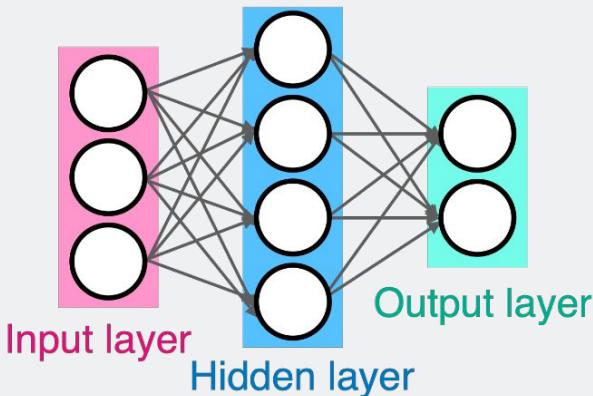


## ELU

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & x > 0 \\ \alpha(\exp(x) - 1), & x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$



# Neural Network in 20 Lines



Initialize weights  
and data

Compute loss (Sigmoid  
activation, L2 loss)

Compute gradients

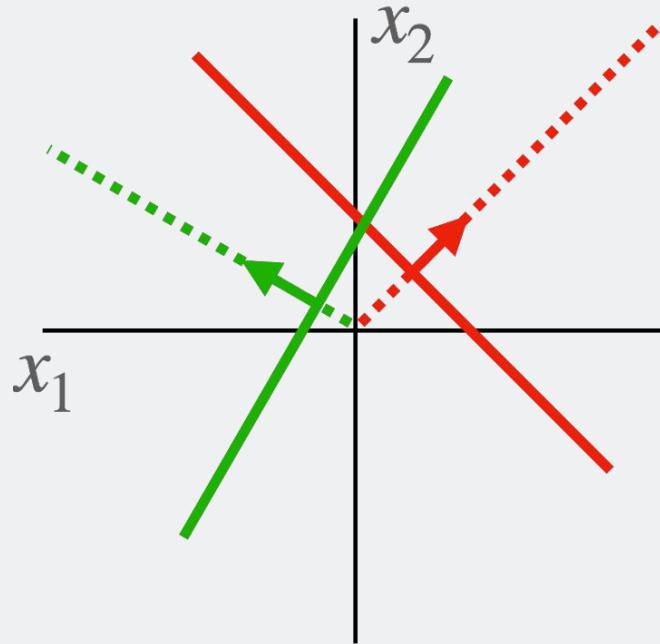
SGD step

```
1 import numpy as np
2 from numpy.random import randn
3
4 N, Din, H, Dout = 64, 1000, 100, 10
5 x, y = randn(N, Din), randn(N, Dout)
6 w1, w2 = randn(Din, H), randn(H, Dout)
7 for t in range(10000):
8     h = 1.0 / (1.0 + np.exp(-x.dot(w1)))
9     y_pred = h.dot(w2)
10    loss = np.square(y_pred - y).sum()
11    dy_pred = 2.0 * (y_pred - y)
12    dw2 = h.T.dot(dy_pred)
13    dh = dy_pred.dot(w2.T)
14    dw1 = x.T.dot(dh * h * (1 - h))
15    w1 -= 1e-4 * dw1
16    w2 -= 1e-4 * dw2
```

# Space Warping

# Space Warping

---

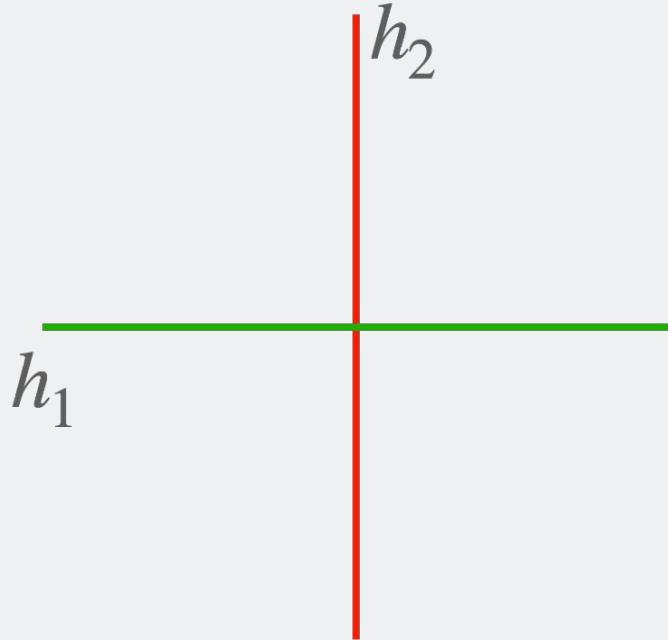


Feature transform:

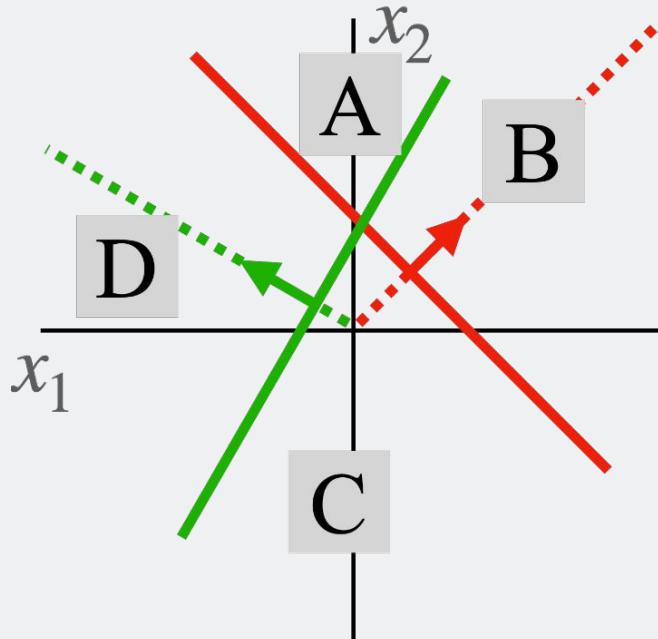
$$h = Wx + b$$



Consider a linear transform:  $h = Wx + b$   
where  $x, b, h$  are each 2-dimensional



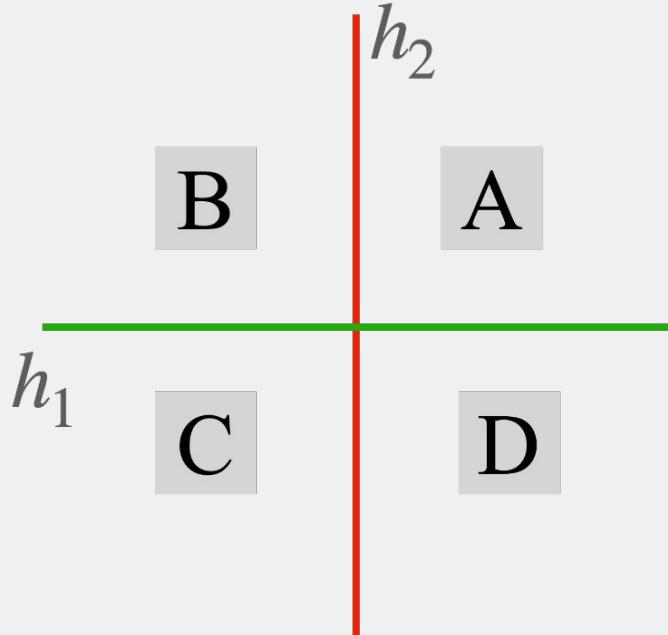
# Space Warping



Feature transform:

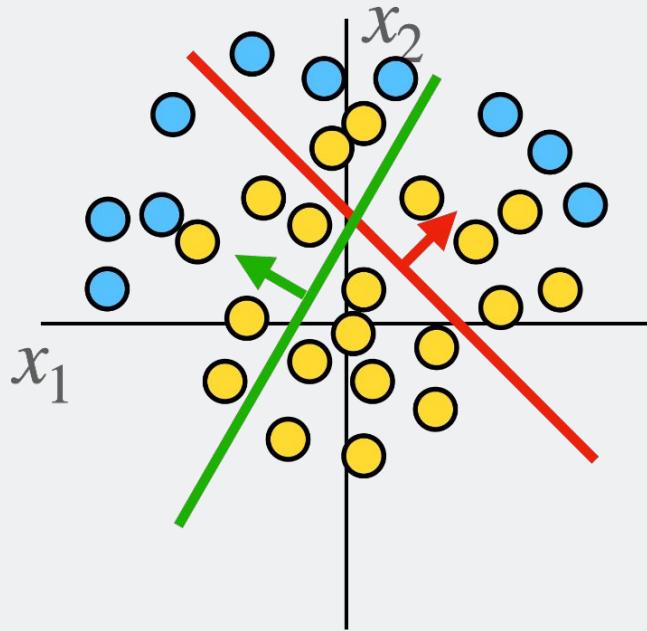
$$h = Wx + b$$

Consider a linear transform:  $h = Wx + b$   
where  $x, b, h$  are each 2-dimensional



# Space Warping

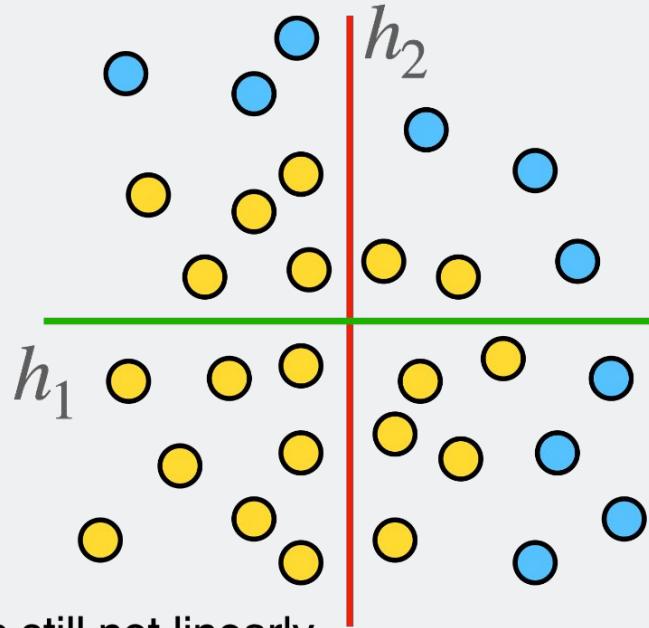
Points not linearly separable  
in original space



Feature transform:

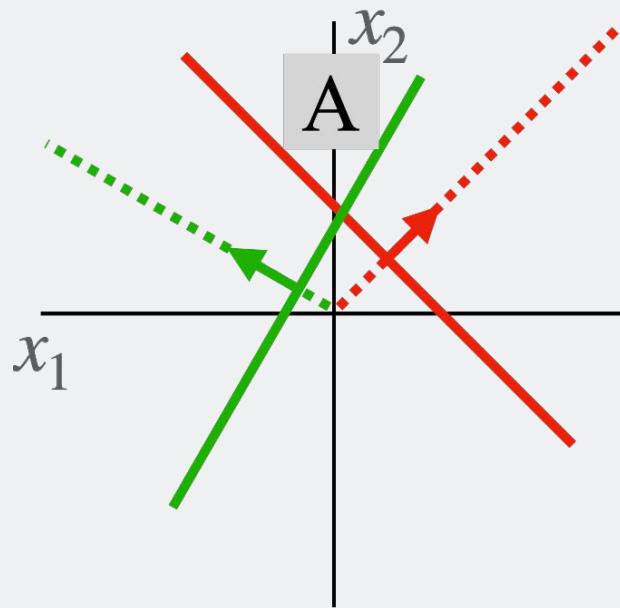
$$h = Wx + b$$

Consider a linear transform:  $h = Wx + b$   
where  $x, b, h$  are each 2-dimensional



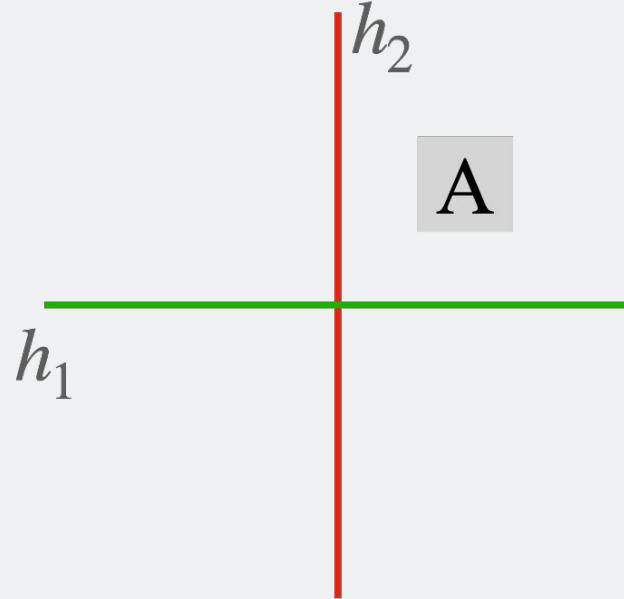
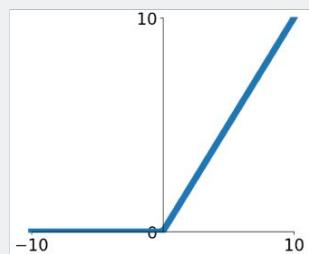
Points still not linearly  
separable in feature space

# Space Warping

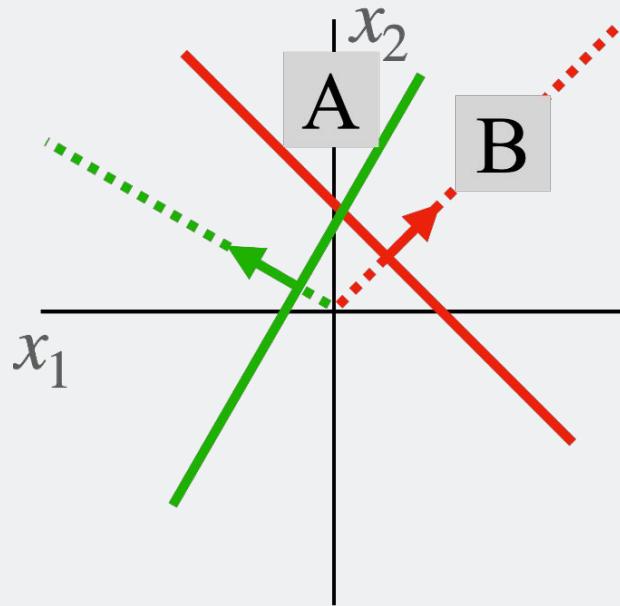


Consider a neural net hidden layer:  $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$   
 $= \max(0, Wx + b)$  where  $x, b, h$  are each 2-dimensional

Feature transform:  
 $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$

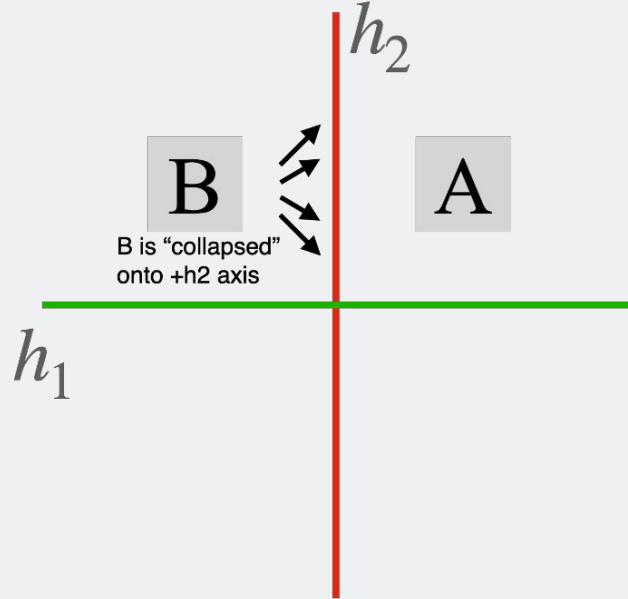
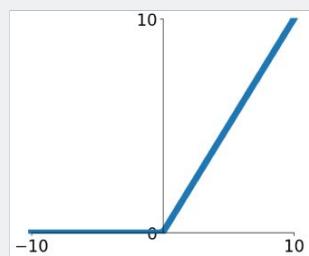


# Space Warping

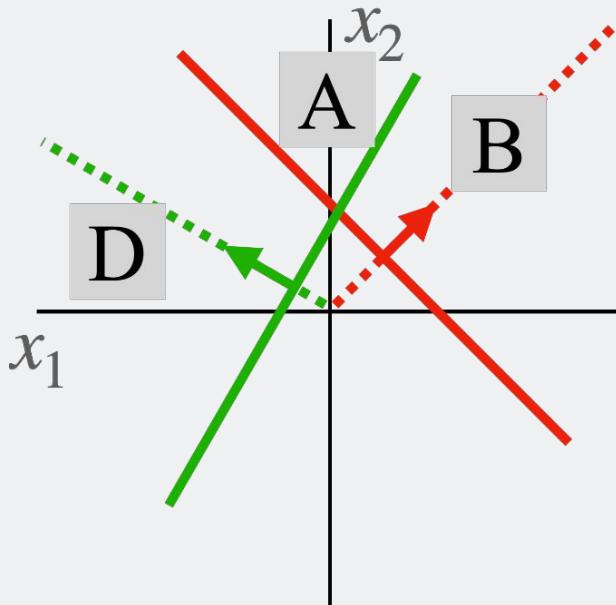


Consider a neural net hidden layer:  $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$   
 $= \max(0, Wx + b)$  where  $x, b, h$  are each 2-dimensional

Feature transform:  
 $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$

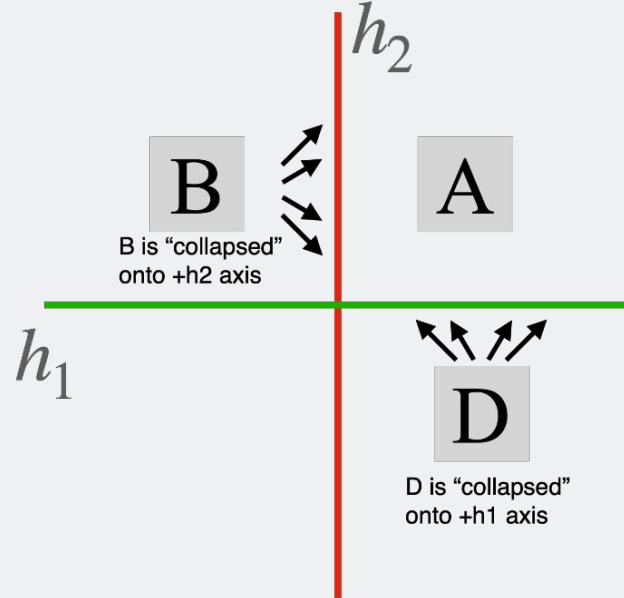
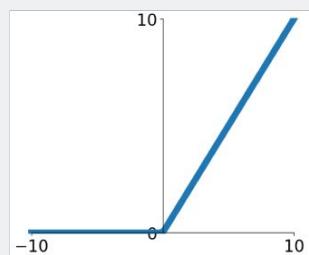


# Space Warping

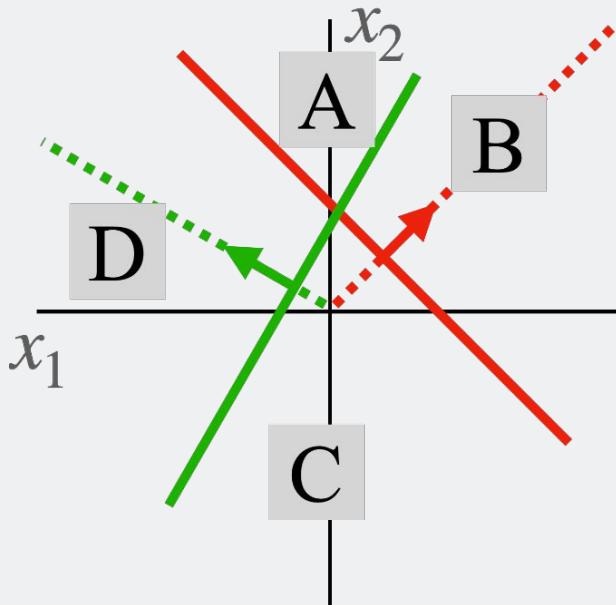


Consider a neural net hidden layer:  $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$   
 $= \max(0, Wx + b)$  where  $x, b, h$  are each 2-dimensional

Feature transform:  
 $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$

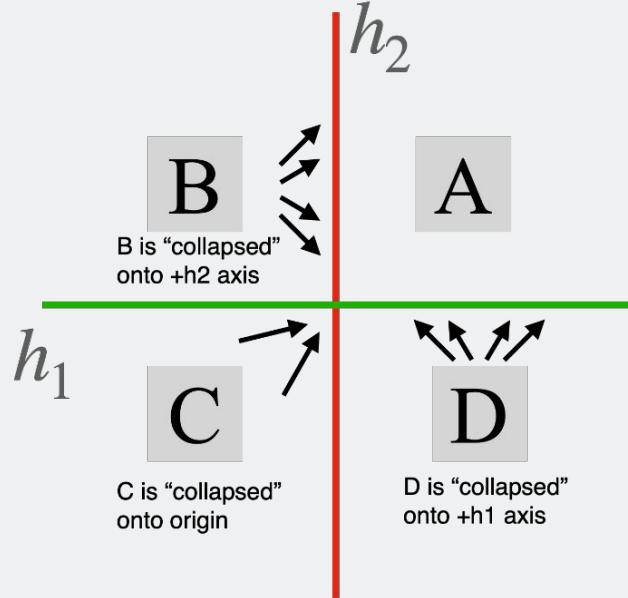
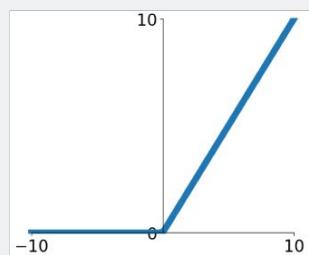


# Space Warping



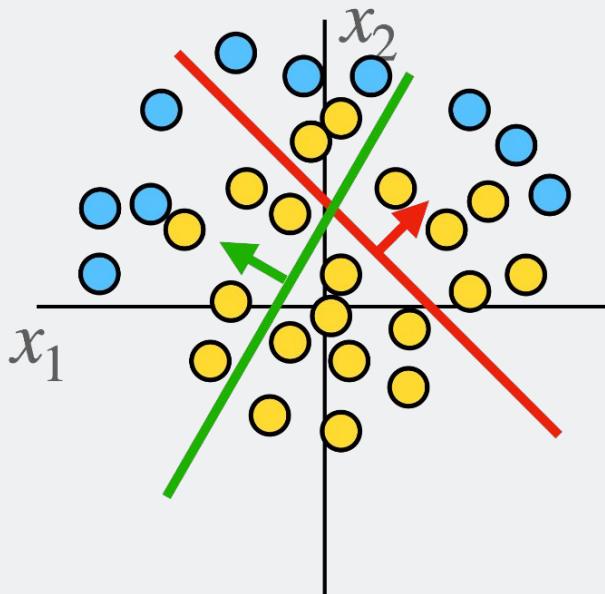
Consider a neural net hidden layer:  $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$   
 $= \max(0, Wx + b)$  where  $x, b, h$  are each 2-dimensional

Feature transform:  
 $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$



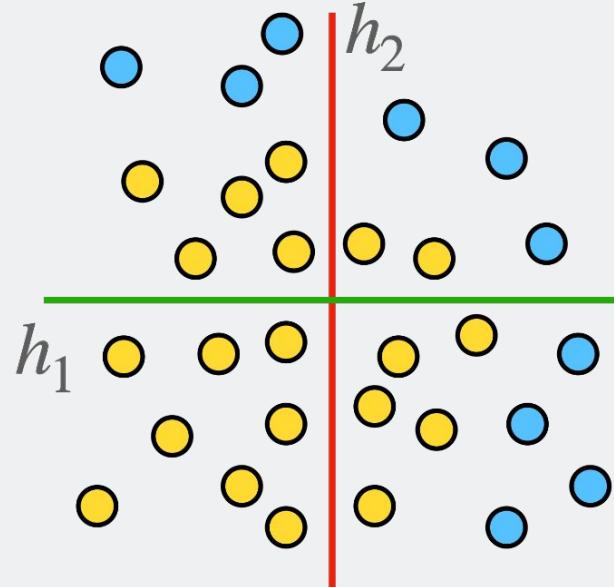
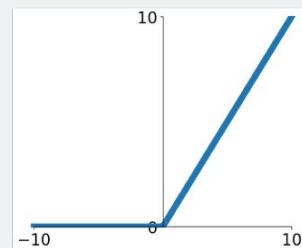
# Space Warping

Points not linearly separable  
in original space



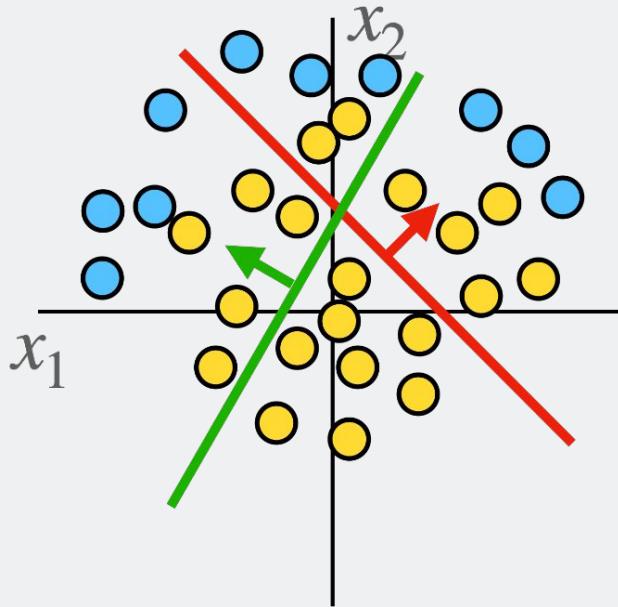
Consider a neural net hidden layer:  $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$   
 $= \max(0, Wx + b)$  where  $x, b, h$  are each 2-dimensional

Feature transform:  
 $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$



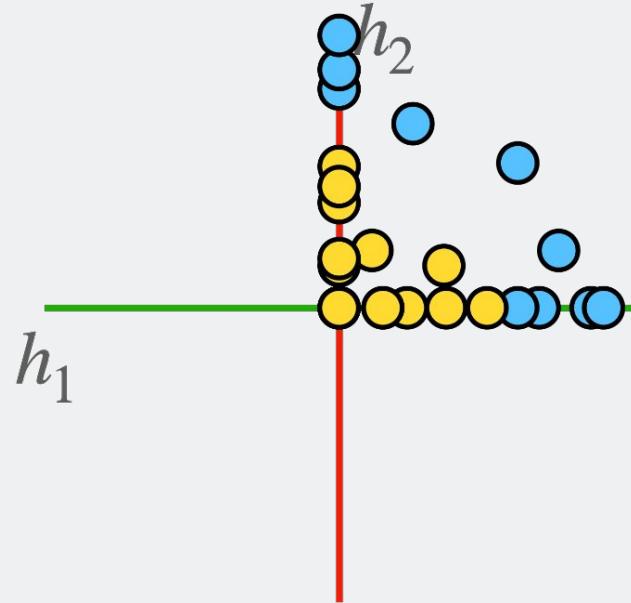
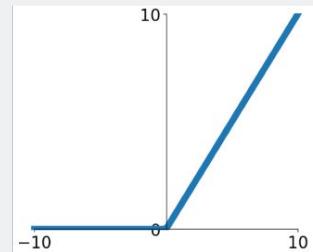
# Space Warping

Points not linearly separable  
in original space



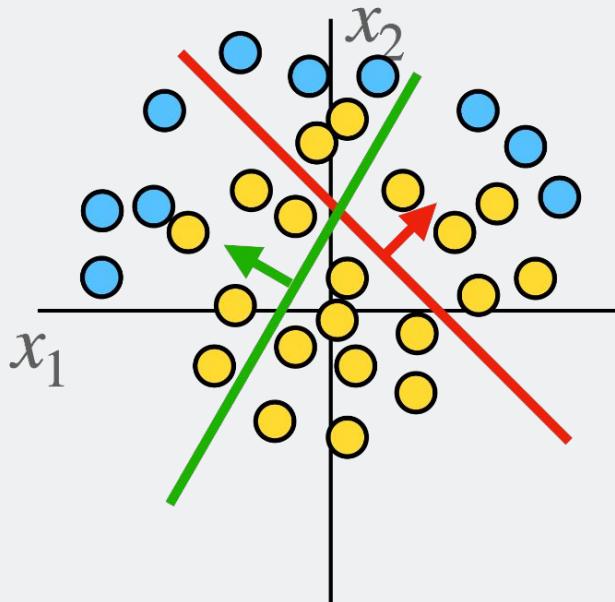
Consider a neural net hidden layer:  $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$   
 $= \max(0, Wx + b)$  where  $x, b, h$  are each 2-dimensional

Feature transform:  
 $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$



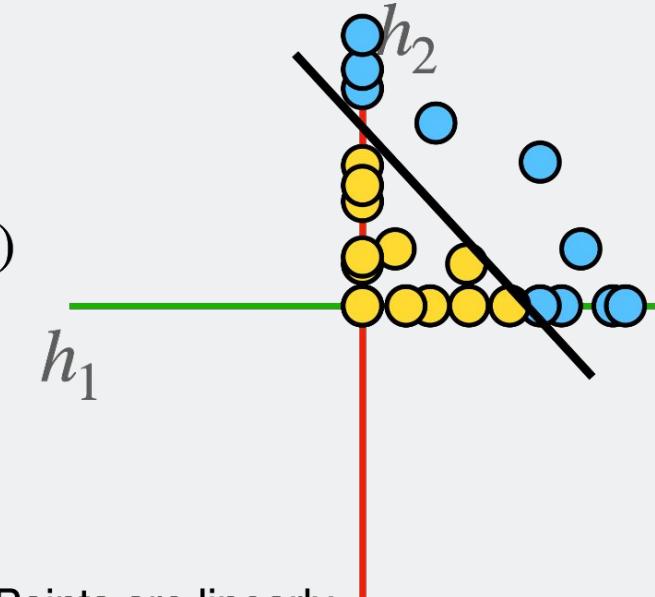
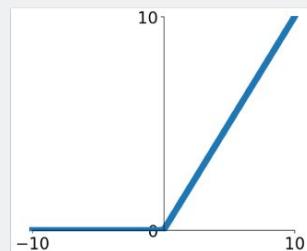
# Space Warping

Points not linearly separable  
in original space



Consider a neural net hidden layer:  $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$   
 $= \max(0, Wx + b)$  where  $x, b, h$  are each 2-dimensional

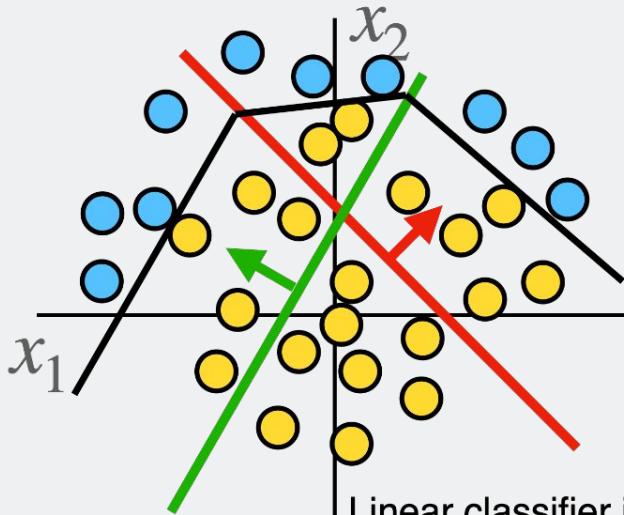
Feature transform:  
 $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$



Points are linearly  
separable in feature space!

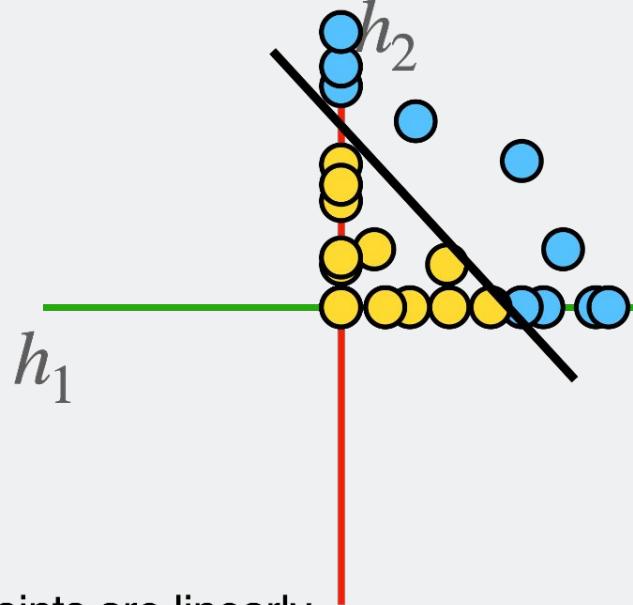
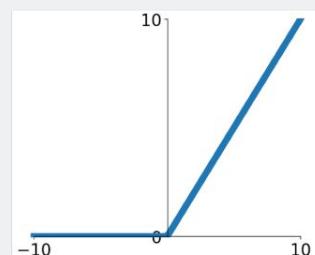
# Space Warping

Points not linearly separable  
in original space



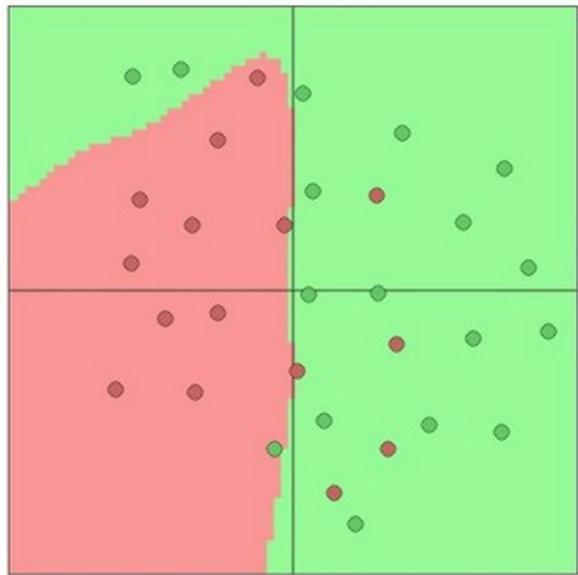
Consider a neural net hidden layer:  $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$   
 $= \max(0, Wx + b)$  where  $x, b, h$  are each 2-dimensional

Feature transform:  
 $h = \text{ReLU}(Wx + b)$

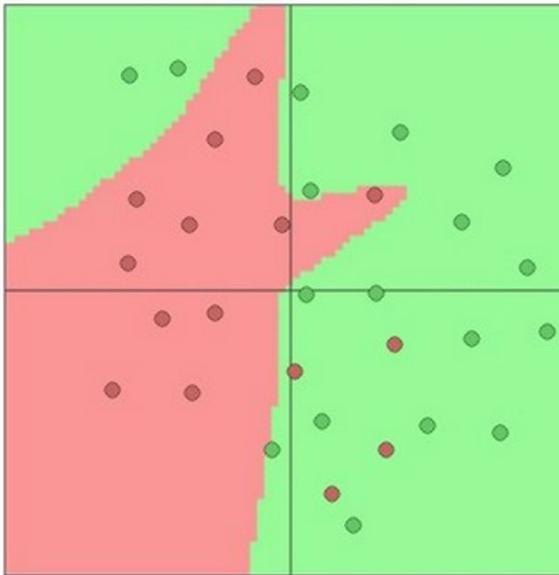


# Setting the number of layers and their sizes

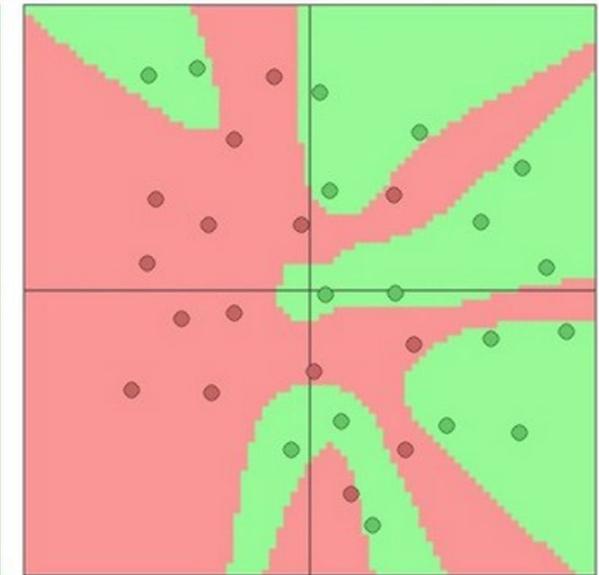
3 hidden units



6 hidden units



20 hidden units



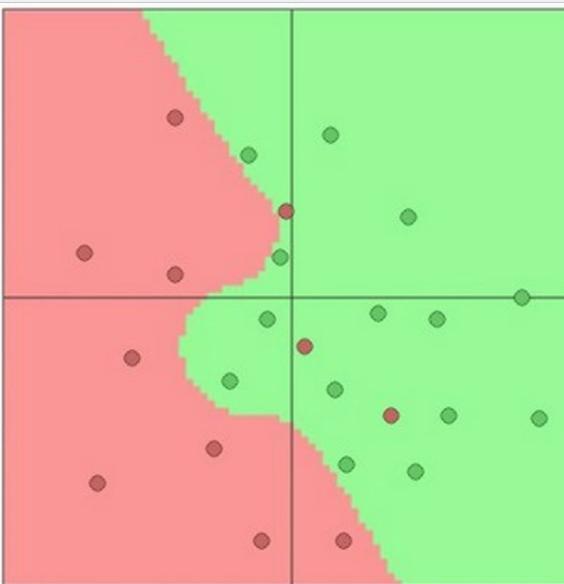
More hidden units = more capacity

# Don't regularize with size; instead use stronger L2

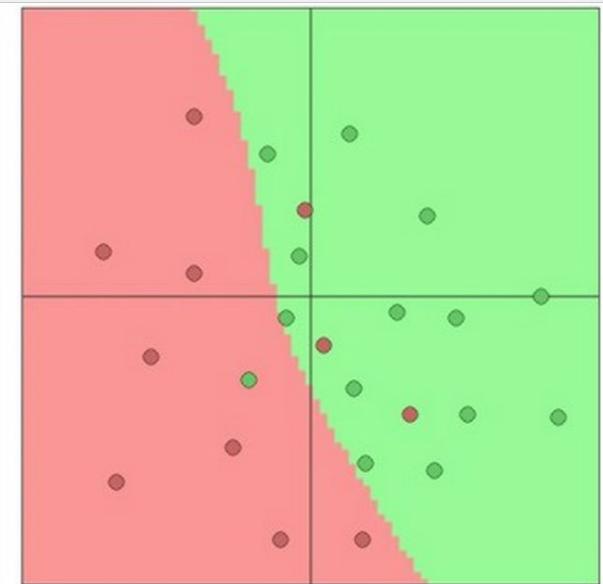
$\lambda = 0.001$



$\lambda = 0.01$



$\lambda = 0.1$



Web demo with ConvNetJS: <https://cs.stanford.edu/people/karpathy/convnetjs/demo/classify2d.html>

# Universal Approximation

# Universal Approximation

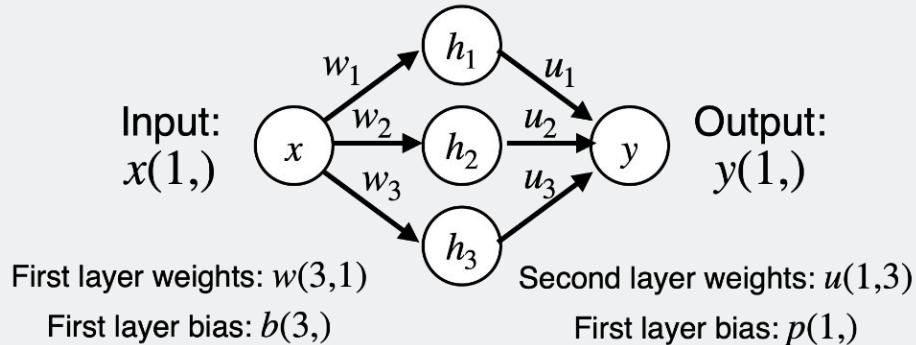
---

A neural network with one hidden layer can approximate any function  $f: \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^M$  with arbitrary precision\*

\*Many technical conditions: Only holds on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ; function must be continuous; need to define "arbitrary precision"; etc.

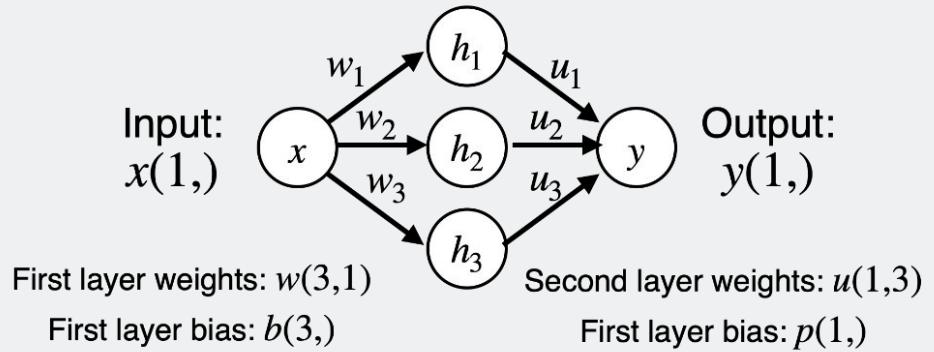
# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network



# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network



$$h_1 = \max(0, w_1 x + b_1)$$

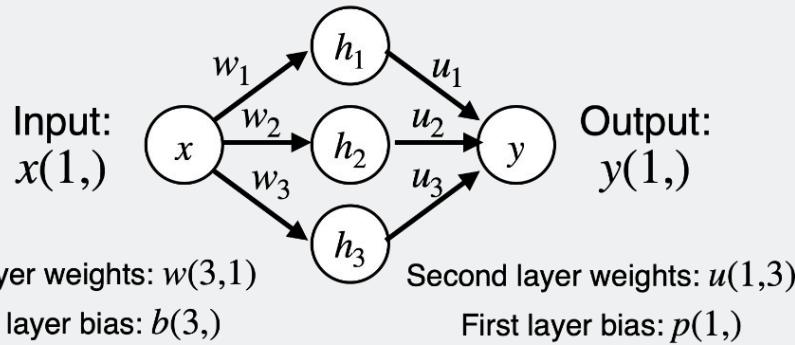
$$h_2 = \max(0, w_2 x + b_2)$$

$$h_3 = \max(0, w_3 x + b_3)$$

$$y = u_1 h_1 + u_2 h_2 + u_3 h_3 + p$$

# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network



$$h_1 = \max(0, w_1 x + b_1) \quad y = u_1 \max(0, w_1 x + b_1)$$

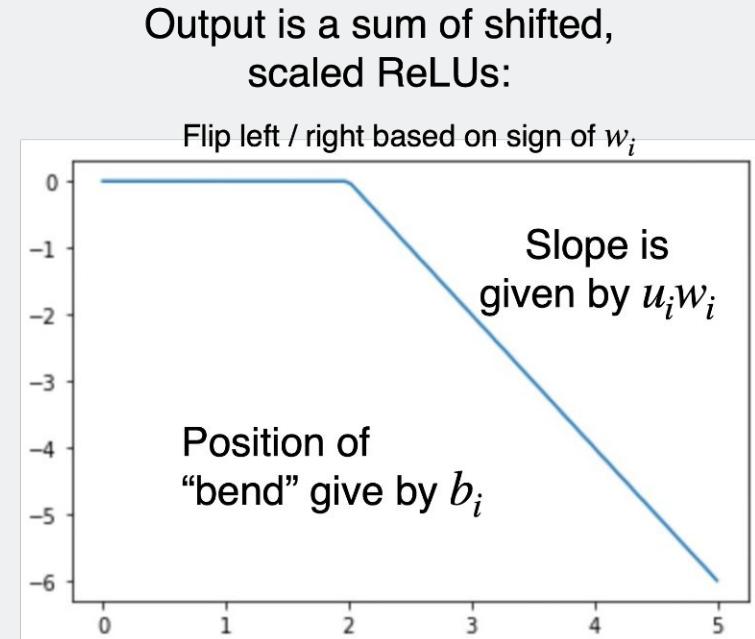
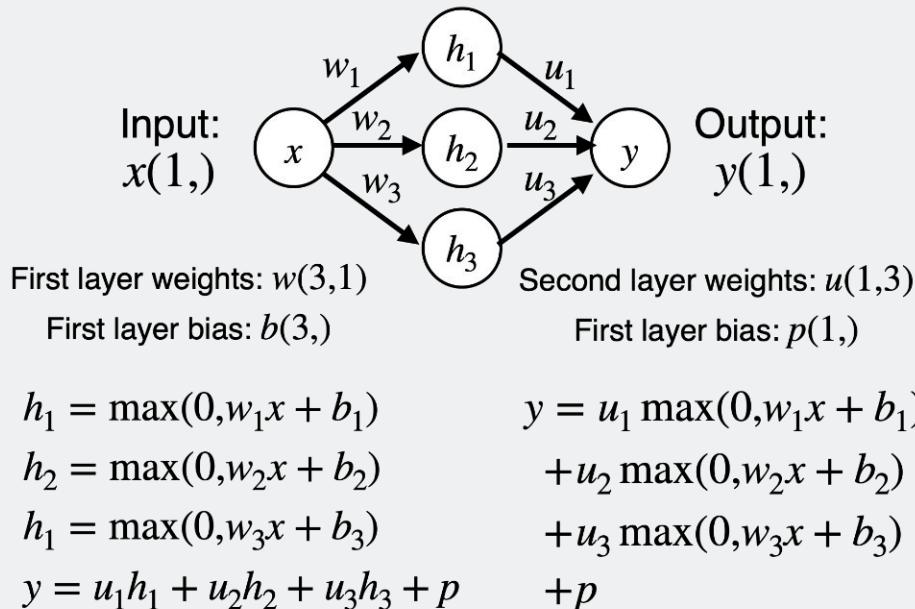
$$h_2 = \max(0, w_2 x + b_2) \quad + u_2 \max(0, w_2 x + b_2)$$

$$h_3 = \max(0, w_3 x + b_3) \quad + u_3 \max(0, w_3 x + b_3)$$

$$y = u_1 h_1 + u_2 h_2 + u_3 h_3 + p \quad + p$$

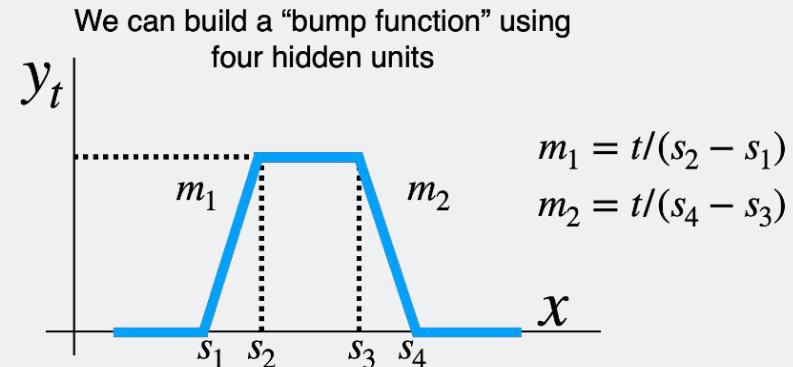
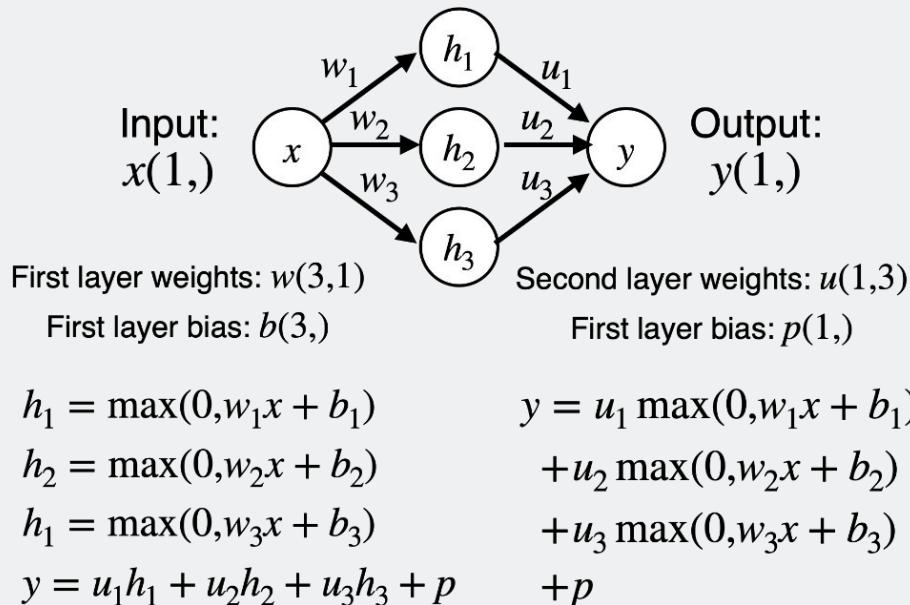
# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network



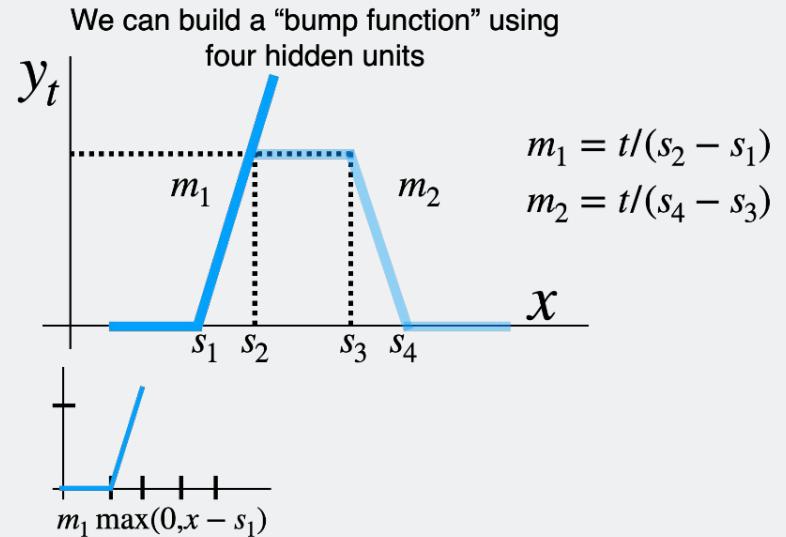
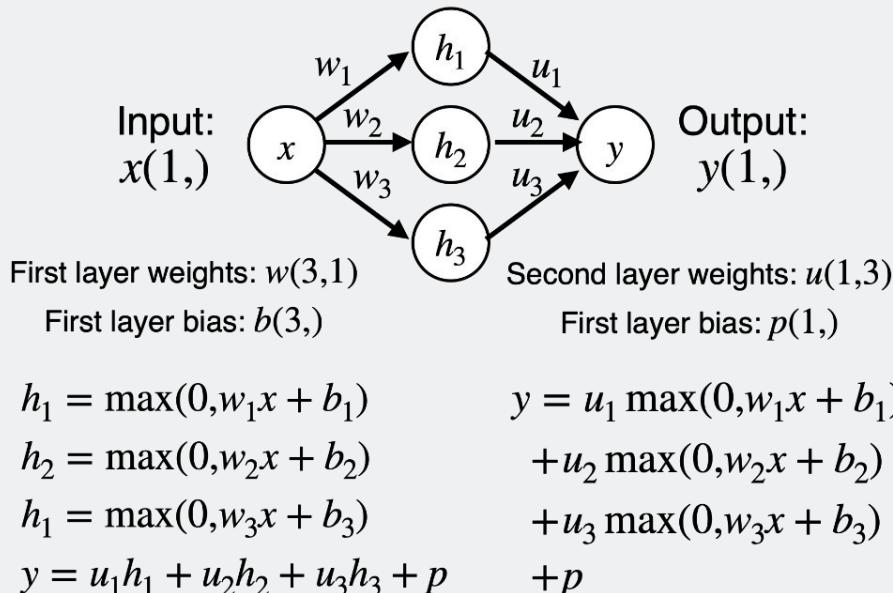
# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network



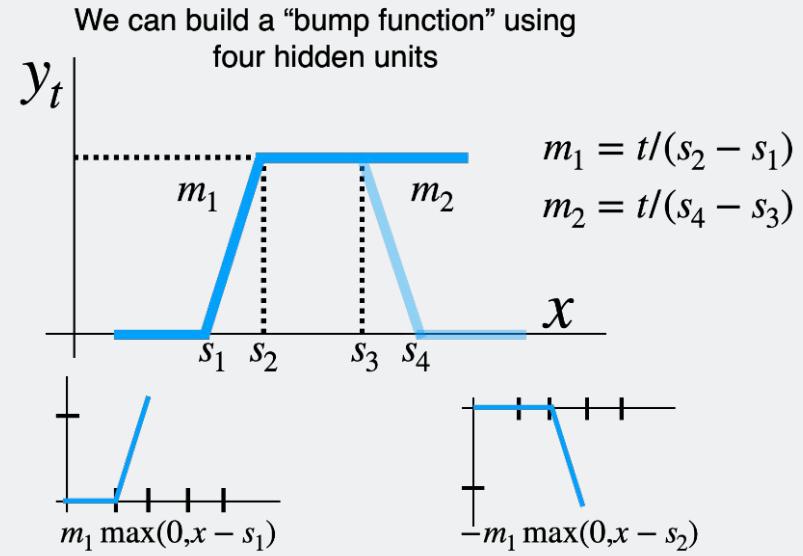
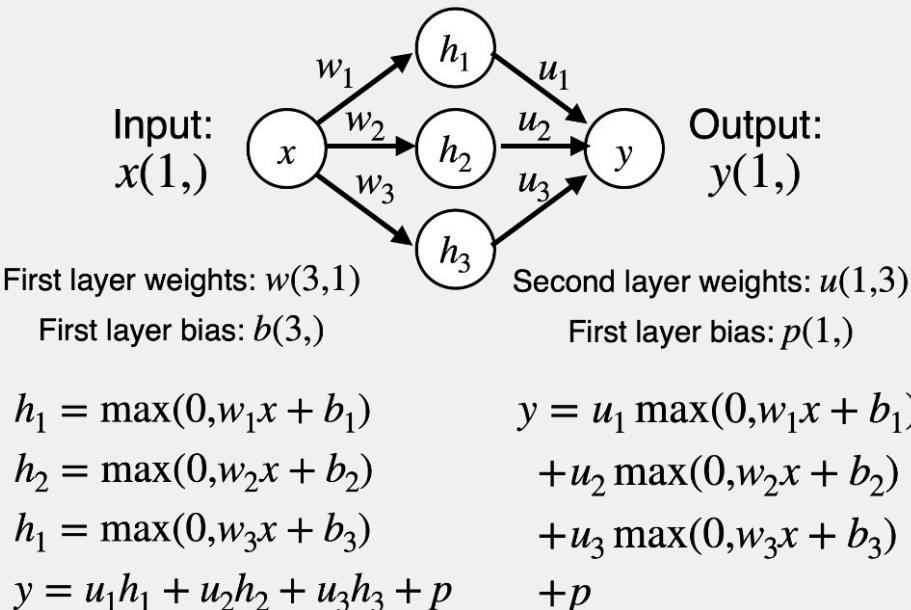
# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network



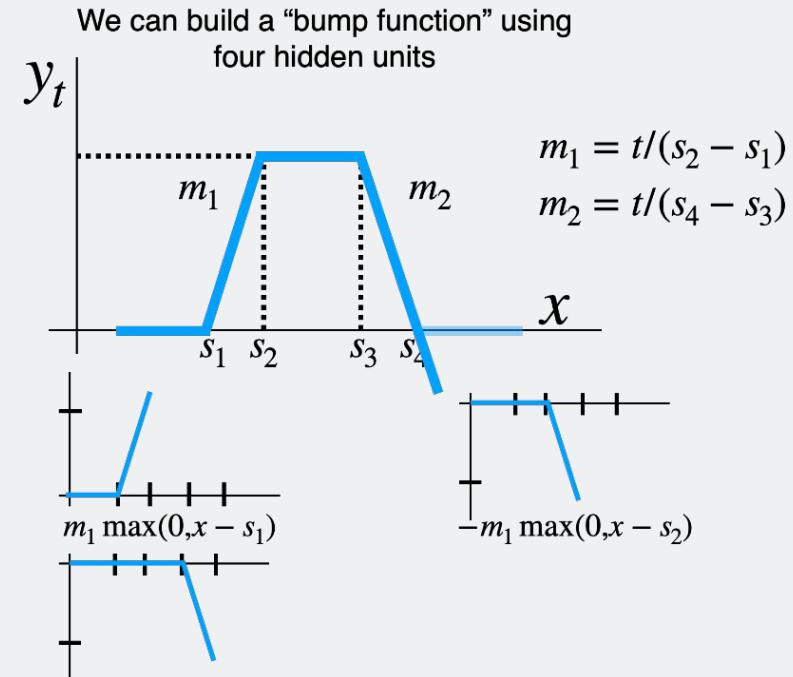
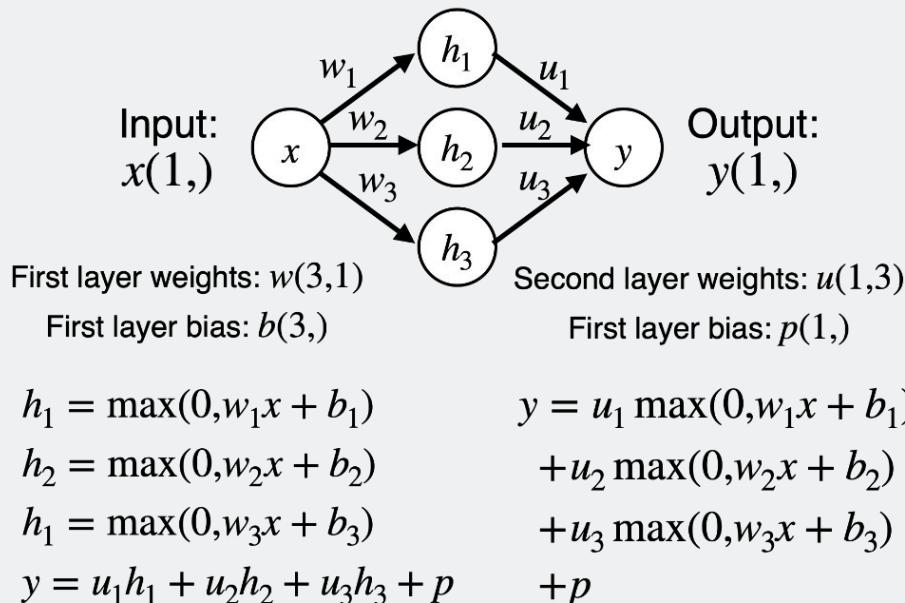
# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network



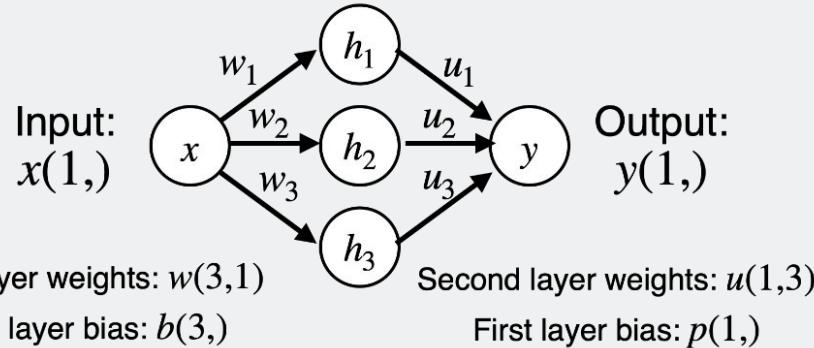
# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network

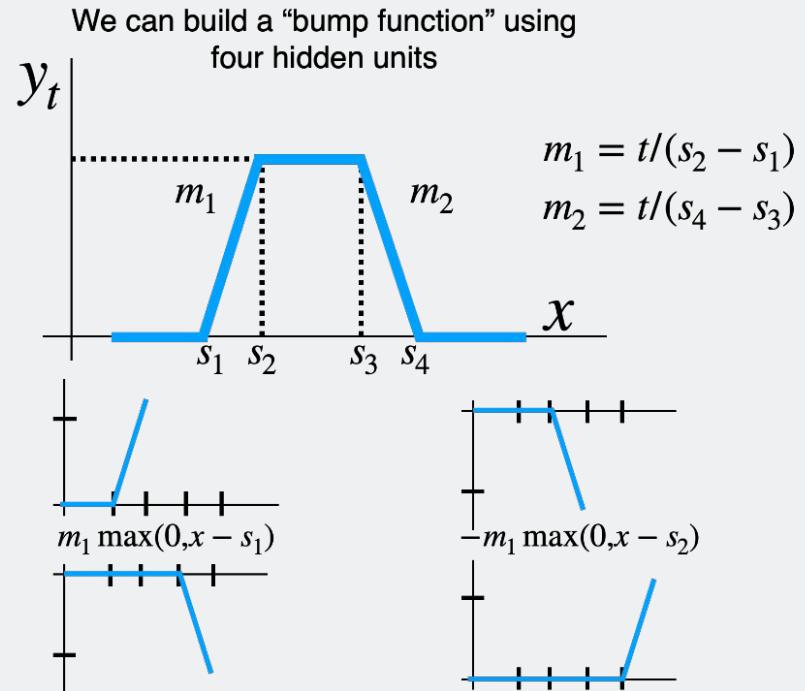


# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network

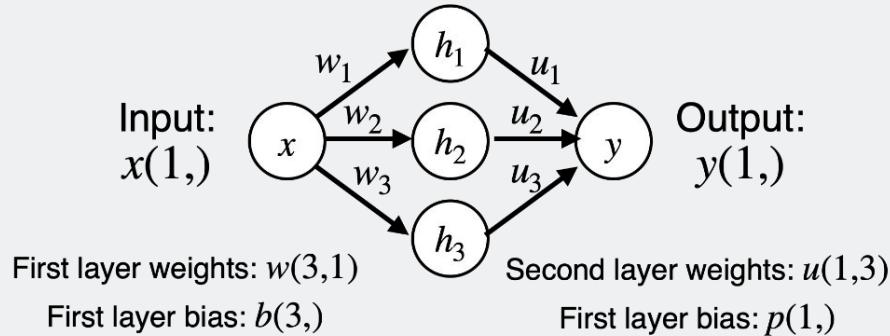


$$\begin{aligned}h_1 &= \max(0, w_1 x + b_1) & y &= u_1 \max(0, w_1 x + b_1) \\h_2 &= \max(0, w_2 x + b_2) & &+ u_2 \max(0, w_2 x + b_2) \\h_3 &= \max(0, w_3 x + b_3) & &+ u_3 \max(0, w_3 x + b_3) \\y &= u_1 h_1 + u_2 h_2 + u_3 h_3 + p & &+ p\end{aligned}$$



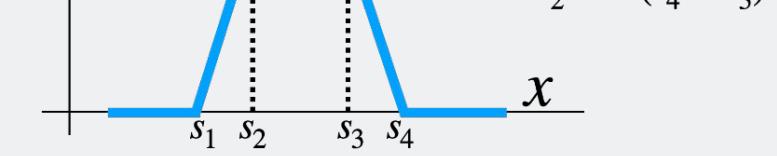
# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network



$$\begin{aligned} h_1 &= \max(0, w_1 x + b_1) & y &= u_1 \max(0, w_1 x + b_1) \\ h_2 &= \max(0, w_2 x + b_2) & &+ u_2 \max(0, w_2 x + b_2) \\ h_3 &= \max(0, w_3 x + b_3) & &+ u_3 \max(0, w_3 x + b_3) \\ y &= u_1 h_1 + u_2 h_2 + u_3 h_3 + p & &+ p \end{aligned}$$

We can build a “bump function” using four hidden units

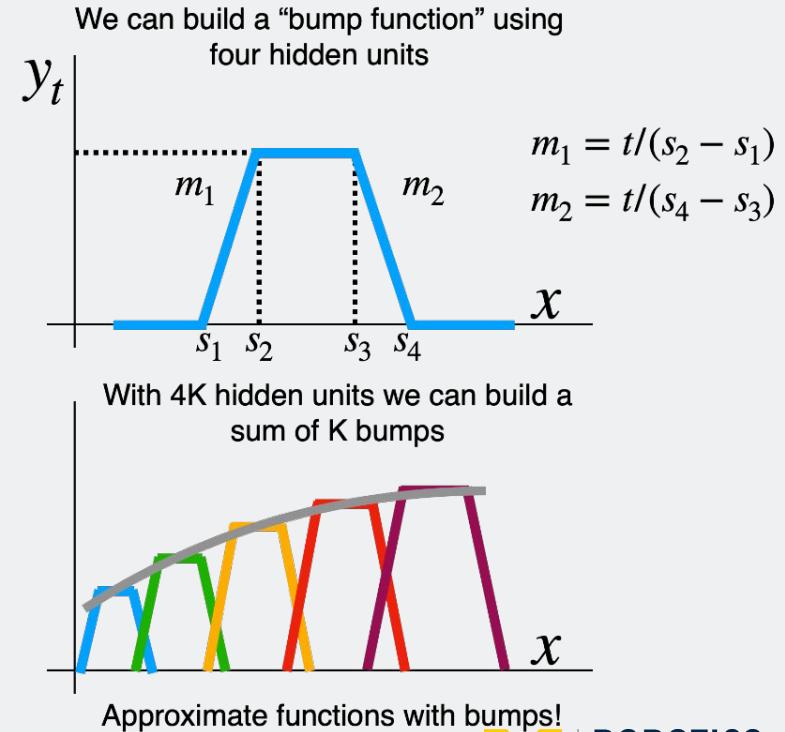
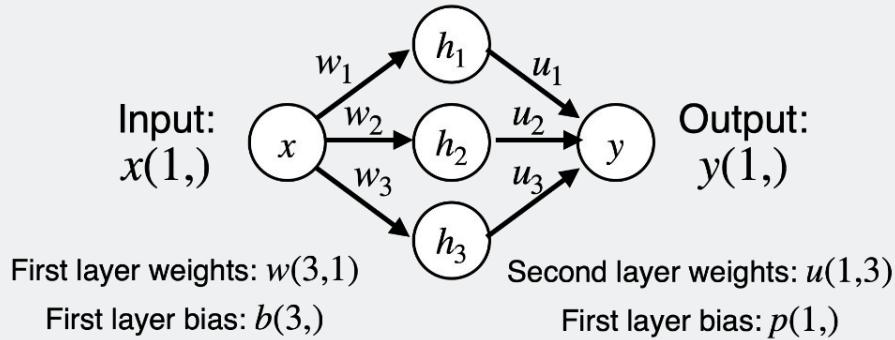
$$m_1 = t/(s_2 - s_1)$$
$$m_2 = t/(s_4 - s_3)$$


Approximate functions with bumps!

M | ROBOTICS

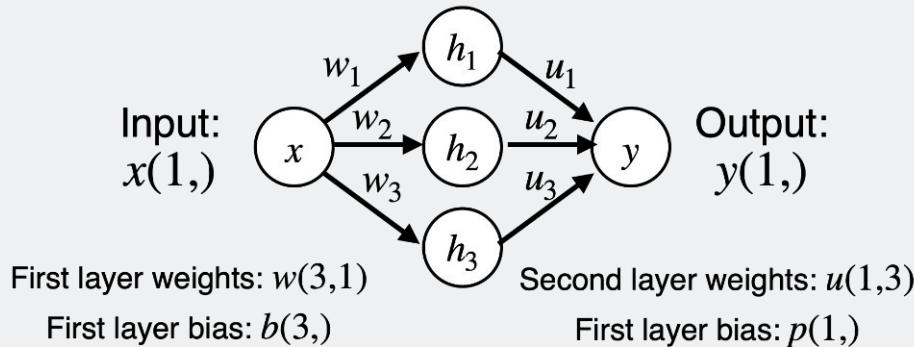
# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network



# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network



$$h_1 = \max(0, w_1 x + b_1)$$

$$h_2 = \max(0, w_2 x + b_2)$$

$$h_3 = \max(0, w_3 x + b_3)$$

$$y = u_1 h_1 + u_2 h_2 + u_3 h_3 + p$$

$$y = u_1 \max(0, w_1 x + b_1)$$

$$+ u_2 \max(0, w_2 x + b_2)$$

$$+ u_3 \max(0, w_3 x + b_3)$$

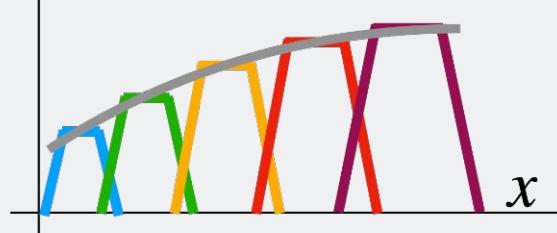
$$+ p$$

What about ...

- Gaps between bumps?
- Other nonlinearities?
- Higher-dimensional functions?

See [Nielsen, Chapter 4](#)

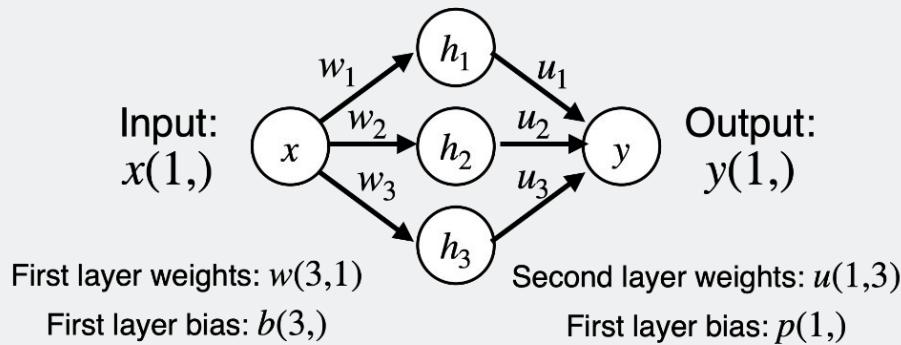
With 4K hidden units we can build a sum of K bumps



Approximate functions with bumps!

# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network



$$h_1 = \max(0, w_1 x + b_1)$$

$$y = u_1 \max(0, w_1 x + b_1)$$

$$h_2 = \max(0, w_2 x + b_2)$$

$$+ u_2 \max(0, w_2 x + b_2)$$

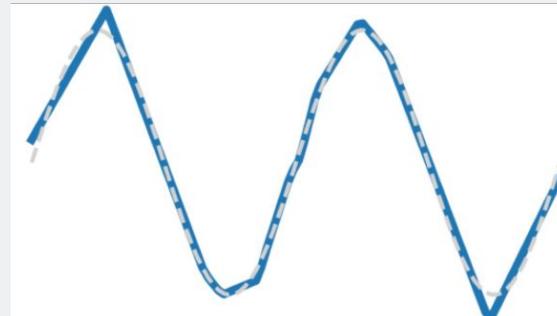
$$h_3 = \max(0, w_3 x + b_3)$$

$$+ u_3 \max(0, w_3 x + b_3)$$

$$y = u_1 h_1 + u_2 h_2 + u_3 h_3 + p$$

$$+ p$$

Reality check: Networks don't really learn bumps!



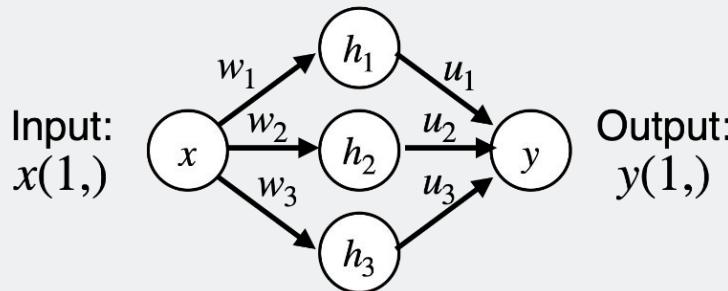
With 4K hidden units we can build a sum of K bumps



Approximate functions with bumps!

# Universal Approximation

Example: Approximating a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a two-layer ReLU network



Universal approximation tells us:

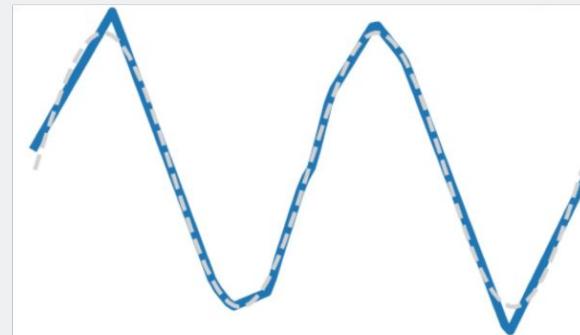
- Neural nets can represent any function

Universal approximation **DOES NOT** tell us:

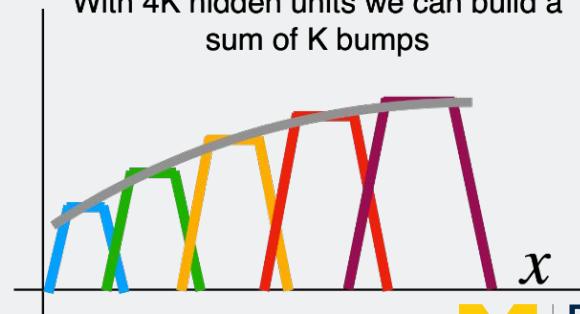
- Whether we can actually learn any function with SGD
- How much data we need to learn a function

Remember: kNN is also a universal approximator!

Reality check: Networks don't really learn bumps!



With 4K hidden units we can build a sum of K bumps



Approximate functions with bumps!

# Convex Functions

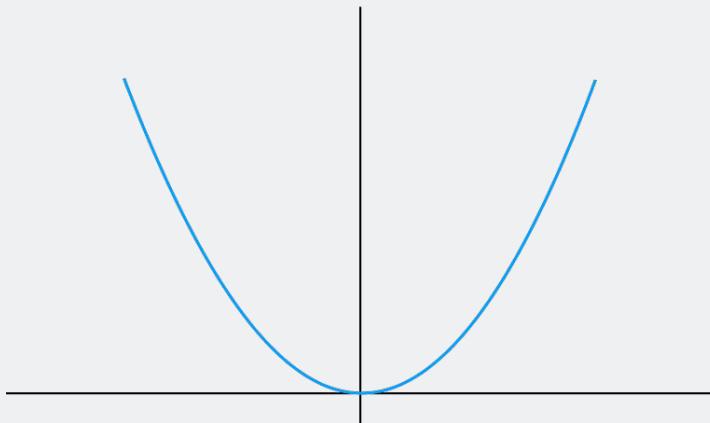
# Convex Functions

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A function  $f: X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is **convex** if for all  $x_1, x_2 \in X, t \in [0,1]$ ,

$$f(tx_1 + (1 - t)x_2) \leq tf(x_1) + (1 - t)f(x_2)$$

Example:  $f(x) = x^2$  is convex:

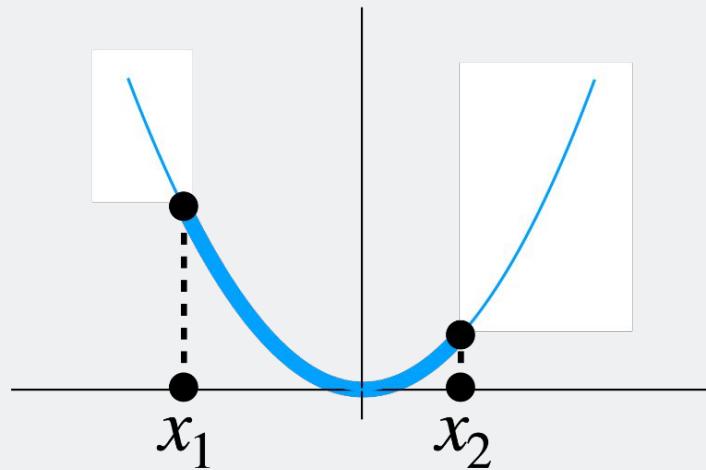


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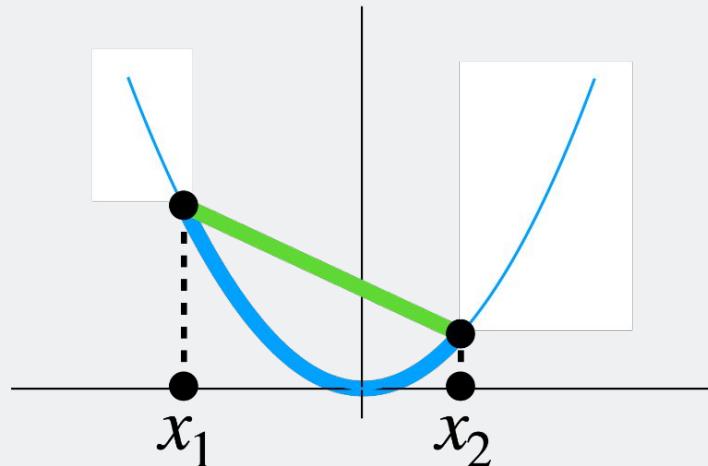


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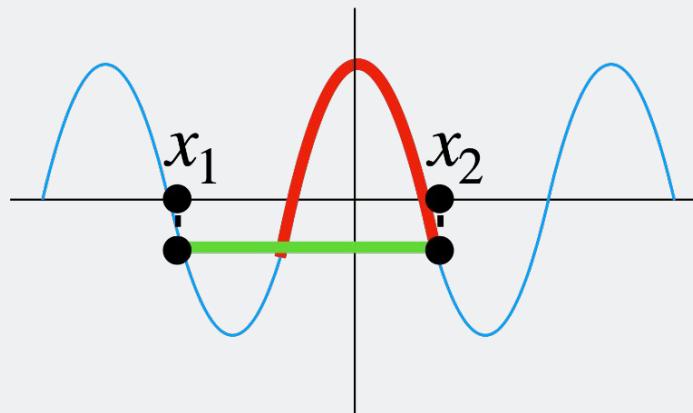
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Example:  $f(x) = \cos(x)$  is **not** convex:



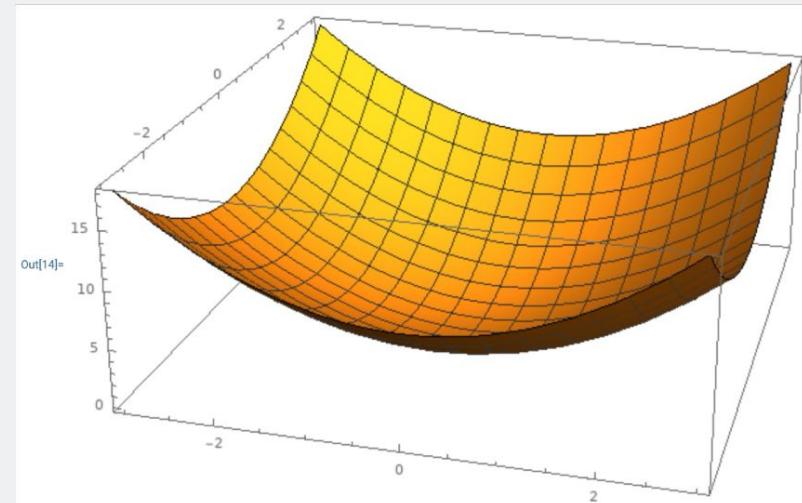
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**Intuition:** A convex function is a (multidimensional) bowl

Generally speaking, convex functions are **easy to optimize**: can derive theoretical guarantees about **converging to global minimum\***



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Linear classifiers optimize a **convex function!**

$$s = f(x; W) = Wx$$

$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{s_{y_i}}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}\right) \quad \text{Softmax}$$

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1) \quad \text{SVM}$$

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i + R(W) \quad \text{where } R(W) \text{ is L2 or L1 regularization}$$

# Convex Functions

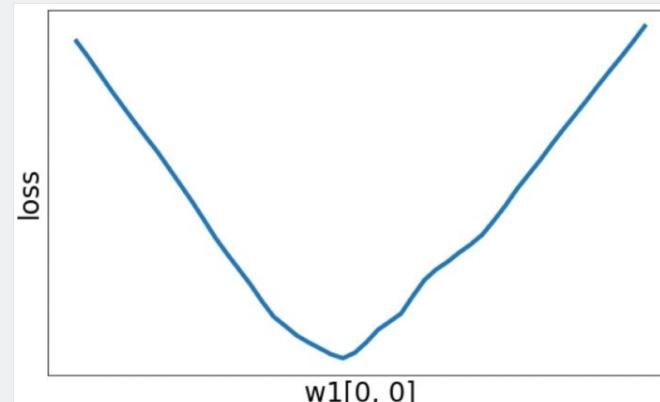
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Neural net losses sometimes look convex-ish:



# Convex Functions

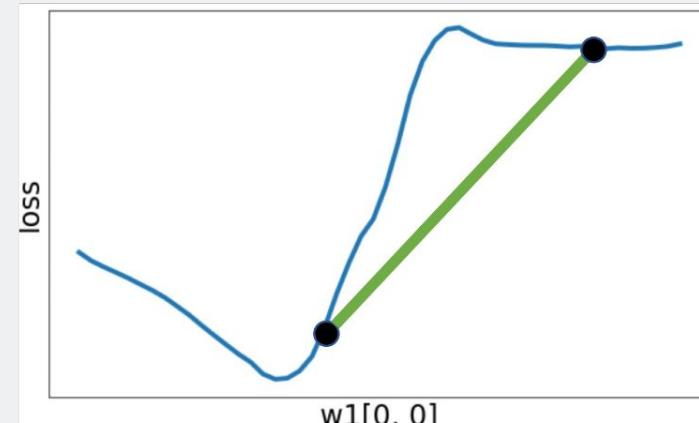
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**Intuition:** A convex function is a (multidimensional) bowl

Generally speaking, convex functions are **easy to optimize**: can derive theoretical guarantees about **converging to global minimum\***

But often clearly nonconvex:



1D slice of loss landscape for a 4-layer ReLU network with 10 input features, 32 units per hidden layer, 10 categories, with softmax loss

# Convex Functions

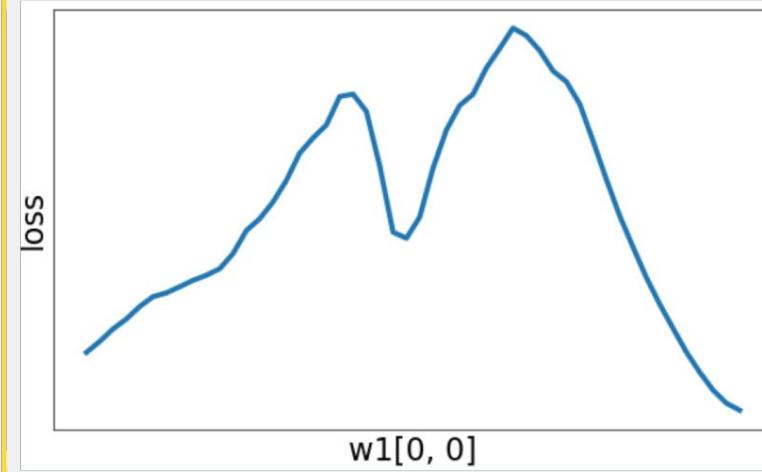
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With local minima:



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# Convex Functions

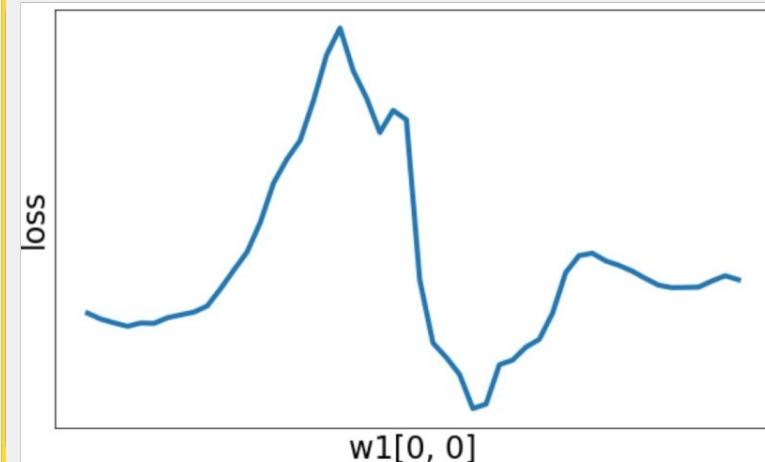
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Can get very wild!



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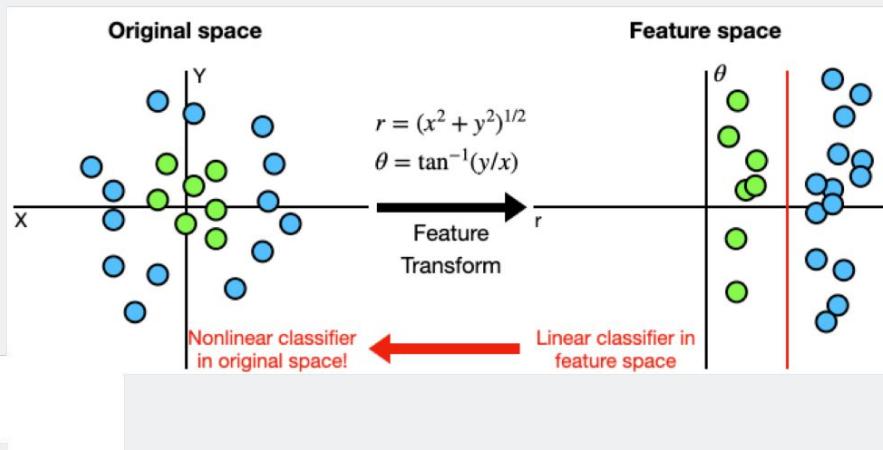
Most neural networks need **nonconvex optimization**

- Few or no guarantees about convergence
- Empirically it seems to work anyway
- Active area of research

# Summary

# Summary

Feature transform + Linear classifier allows nonlinear decision boundaries



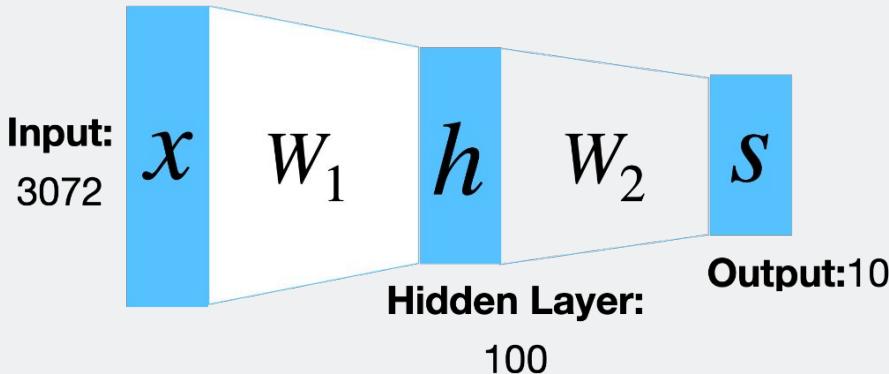
Neural Networks as learnable feature transforms



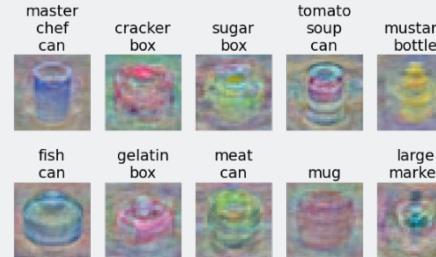
# Summary

From linear classifiers to  
fully-connected networks

$$f(x) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$



Linear classifier: One template per class



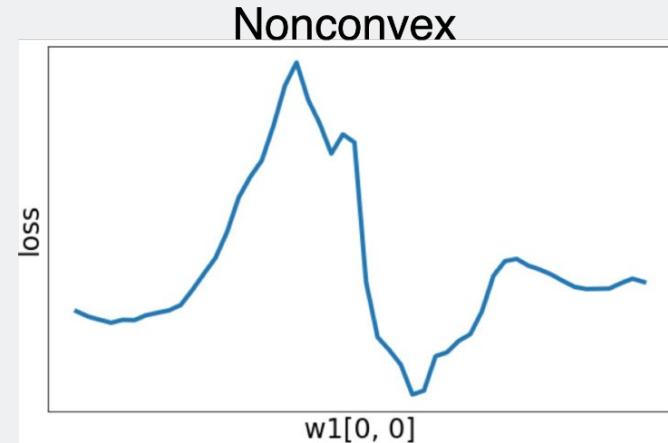
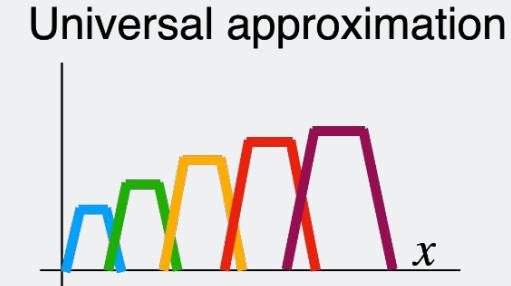
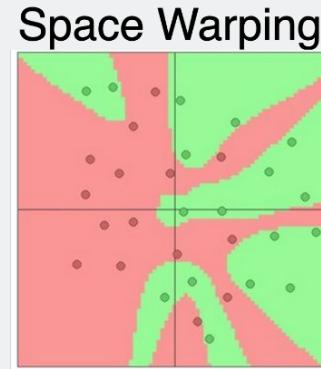
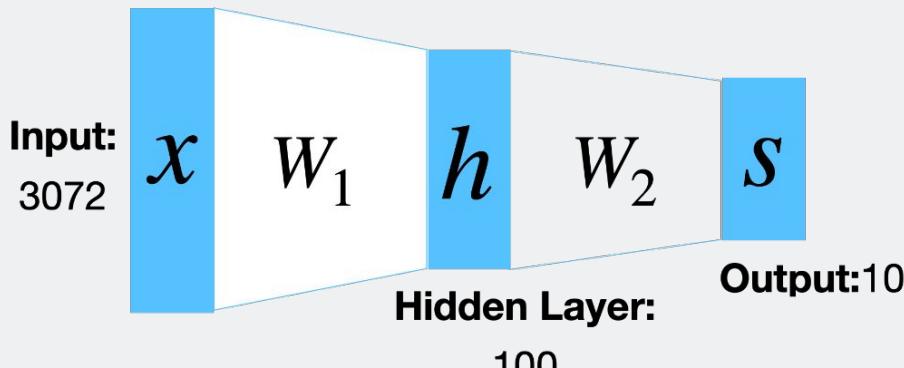
Neural networks: Many reusable templates



# Summary

From linear classifiers to  
fully-connected networks

$$f(x) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$



# Problem: How to compute gradients?

$$s = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$

Nonlinear score function

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

Per-element data loss

$$R(W) = \sum_k W_k^2$$

L2 regularization

$$L(W_1, W_2, b_1, b_2) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i + \lambda R(W_1) + \lambda R(W_2) \text{ Total loss}$$

If we can compute  $\frac{\delta L}{\delta W_1}, \frac{\delta L}{\delta W_2}, \frac{\delta L}{\delta b_1}, \frac{\delta L}{\delta b_2}$  then we can optimize with SGD

Next up: Backpropagation