

Logical Neural Networks

An Introduction - Dip our toes in LNN

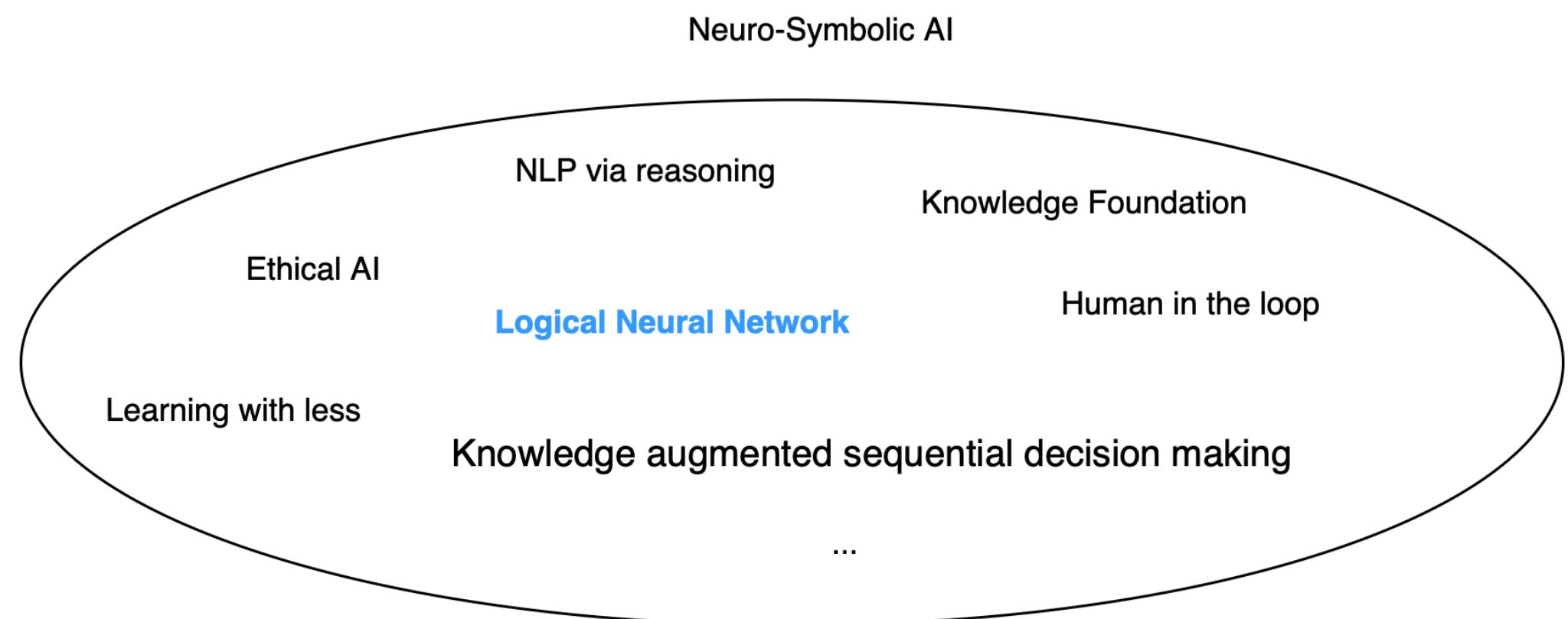
Jingren Wang, Oct 11th, 2025

Neural Symbolic AI

An overview-NS

A higher level of the purpose

- “In particular it is aimed at **augmenting (and retaining)** the strengths of statistical AI (machine learning) with the complementary capabilities of symbolic AI (knowledge and reasoning).”
- “...**revolution** rather than **evolution**.”



Ref: <https://ibm.github.io/neuro-symbolic-ai/>

An overview-NS

A higher level of the purpose

- *Solve harder problems.*
- *Learn with less data while maintain the ability to generalise to a large number of tasks.*
- *Provide white box reasoning on decision/action.*

An overview-NS News?

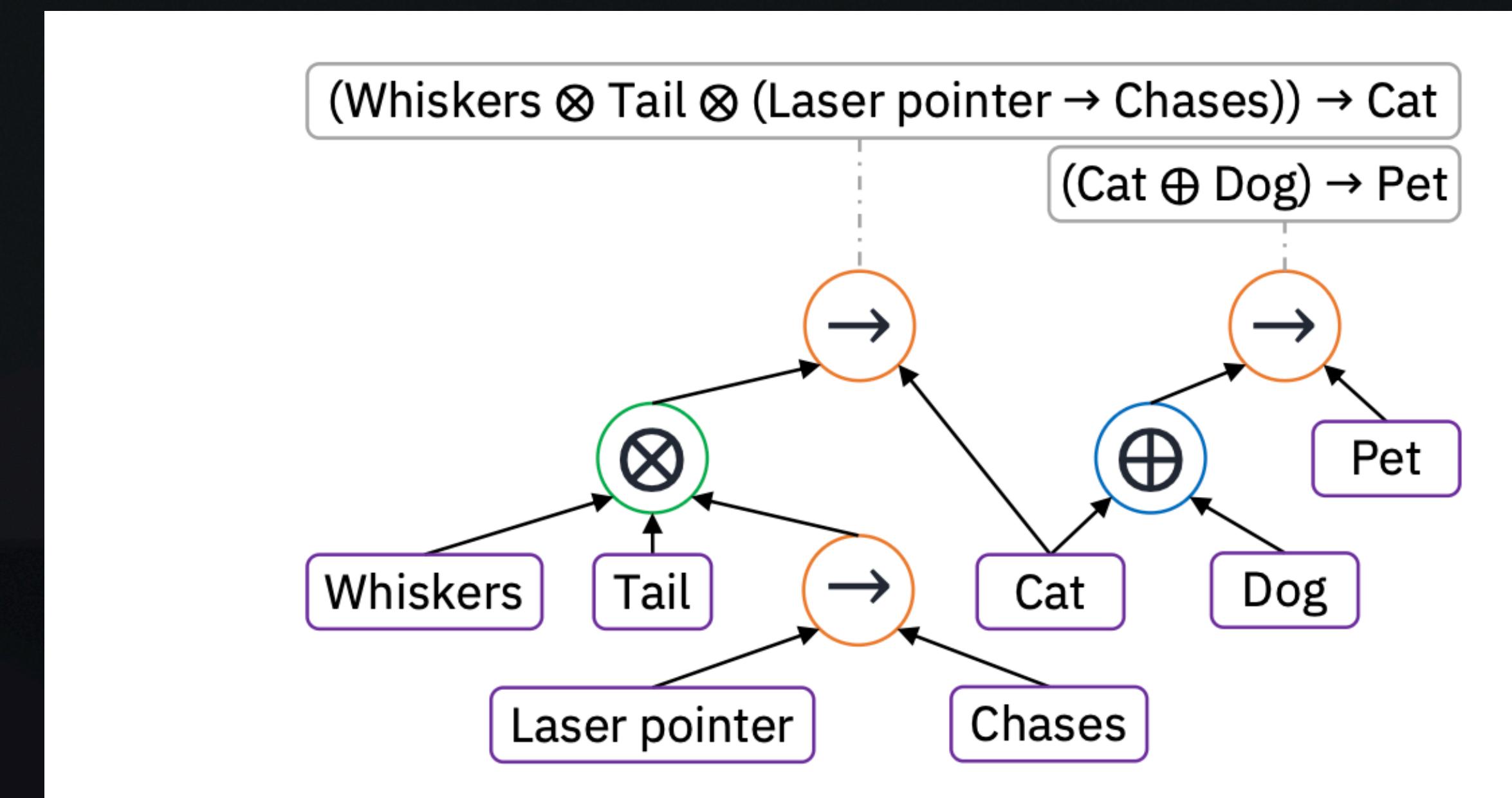
- *LLM Reasoning* -Denny Zhou
- *Teaching LLMs to Plan: Logical Chain-Of-Thought Instruction Tuning for Symbolic Planning*
MIT CSAIL
- ...

Logical Neural Networks

What

What's the definition?

- Syntax trees
- Formulae
- Neurons for logical operation/proposition



\otimes : Real value conjunction

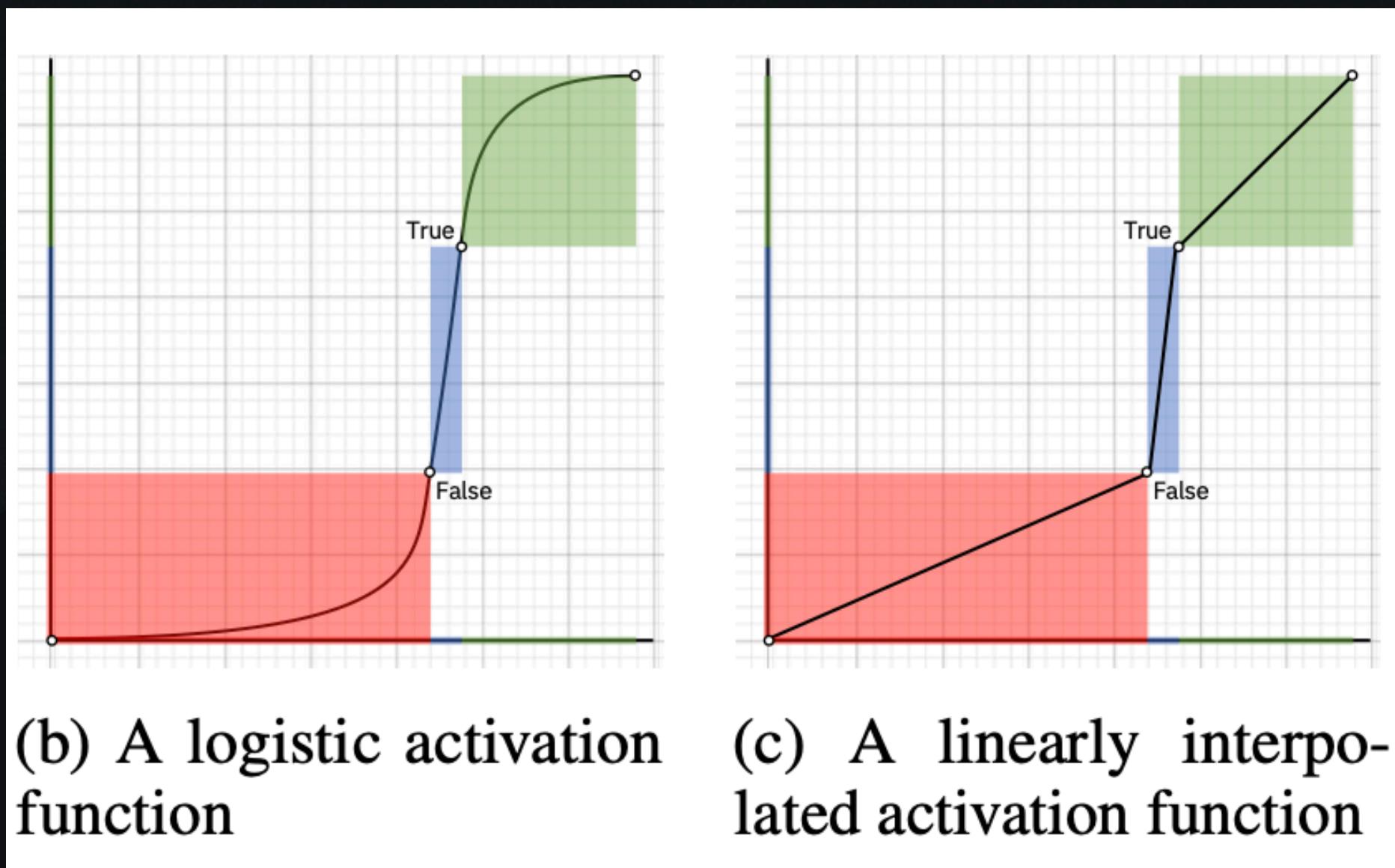
\oplus : Real value disjunction

Ref: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2006.13155>

What

What's the main difference? - Activation function

- Compare with classical activation function

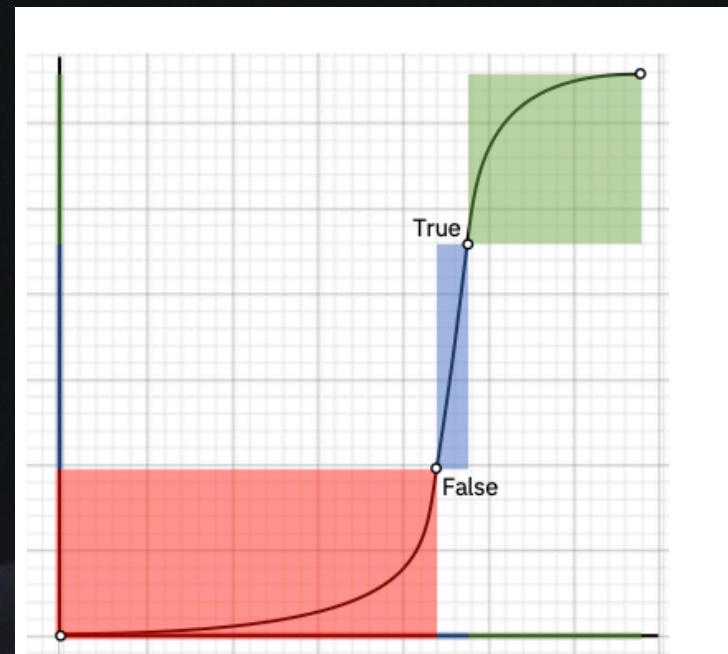


Ref: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2006.13155>

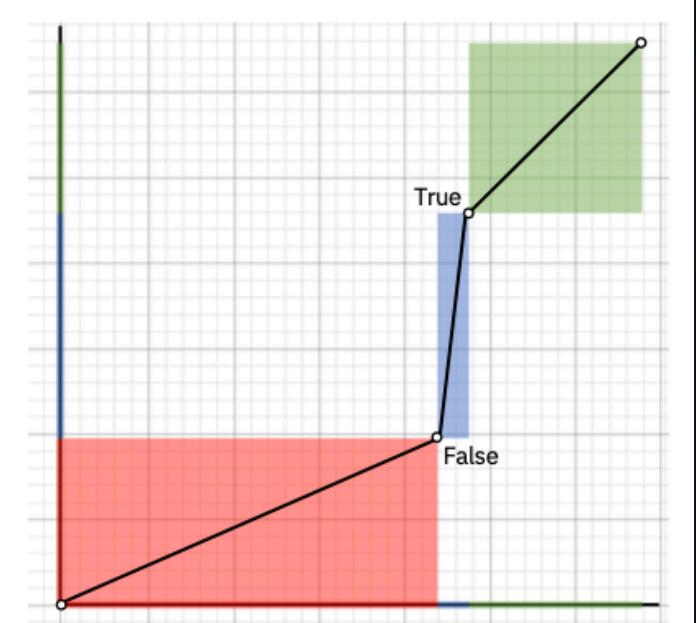
What

What's the main difference? - Activation function

- $\wedge, \vee, \neg, \rightarrow$ are implemented by constrained neural activation function
- Behaviours should be the same in classical exact inputs



(b) A logistic activation function



(c) A linearly interpolated activation function

t-norm logic

$$T_G(a, b) = \min(a, b) = b, \text{ if } b < a$$

$$T_P(a, b) = a \times b$$

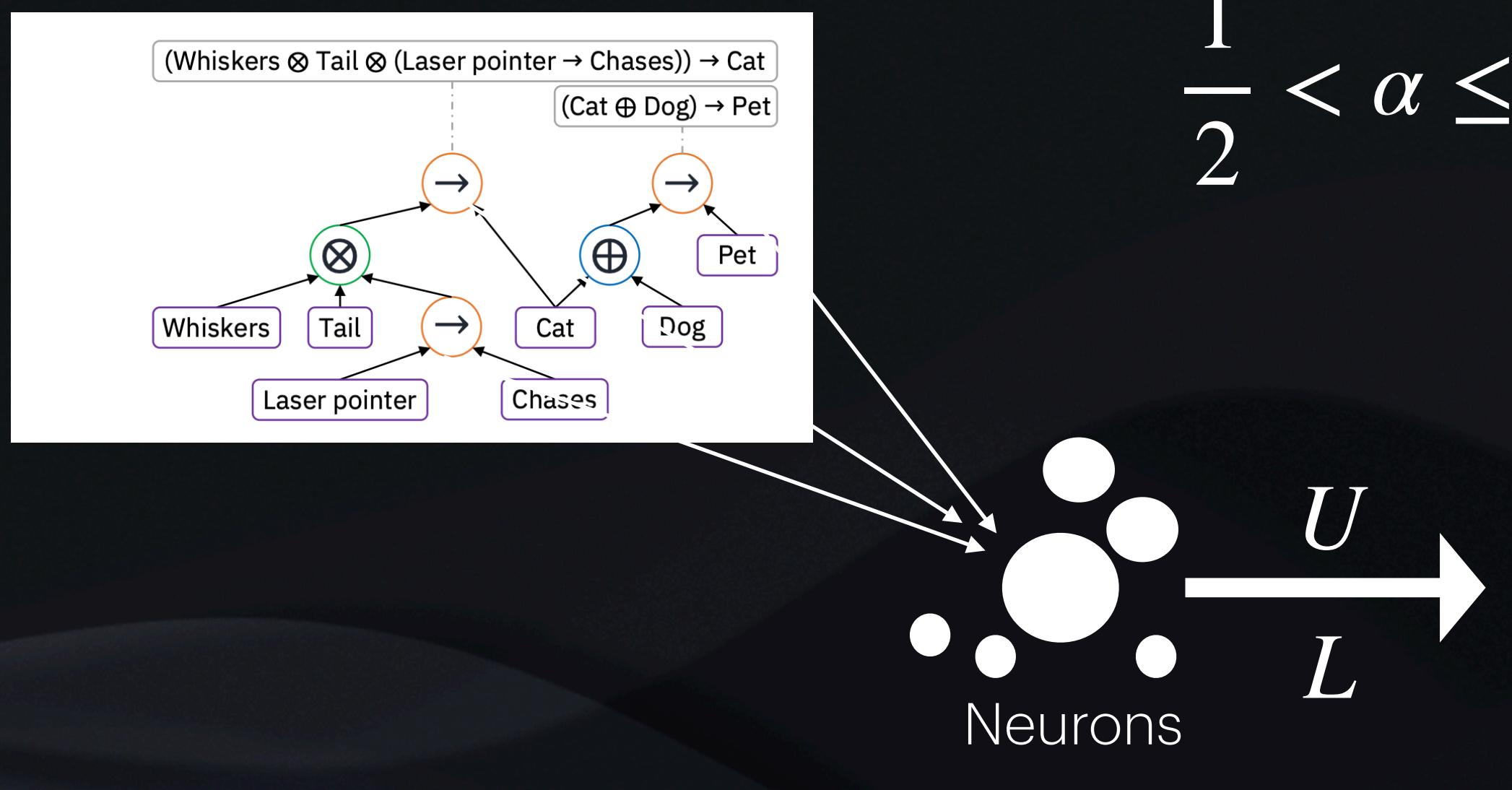
$$T_L(a, b) = \max(0, a + b - 1)$$



What

What's the main difference? - Bounds on results

- Truth values can be known/approximately known/unknown/contradictory states.



$\frac{1}{2} < \alpha \leq 1$ is a threshold value aided in evaluating the “truth”.

	0	$1 - \alpha$	α	1	
L	U				Unknown
		L	U		True
L	U				False
	U		L		Contradiction

What

What's the main difference? - Bidirectional inference

- Upwards: Normal propagate
- Downwards:

$x, x \rightarrow y \vdash y$	<i>(modus ponens)</i>	$x, \neg(x \wedge y) \vdash \neg y$	<i>(conjunctive syllogism)</i>
$\neg y, x \rightarrow y \vdash \neg x$	<i>(modus tollens)</i>	$\neg x, x \vee y \vdash y$	<i>(disjunctive syllogism)</i>

Ref: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2006.13155>

What

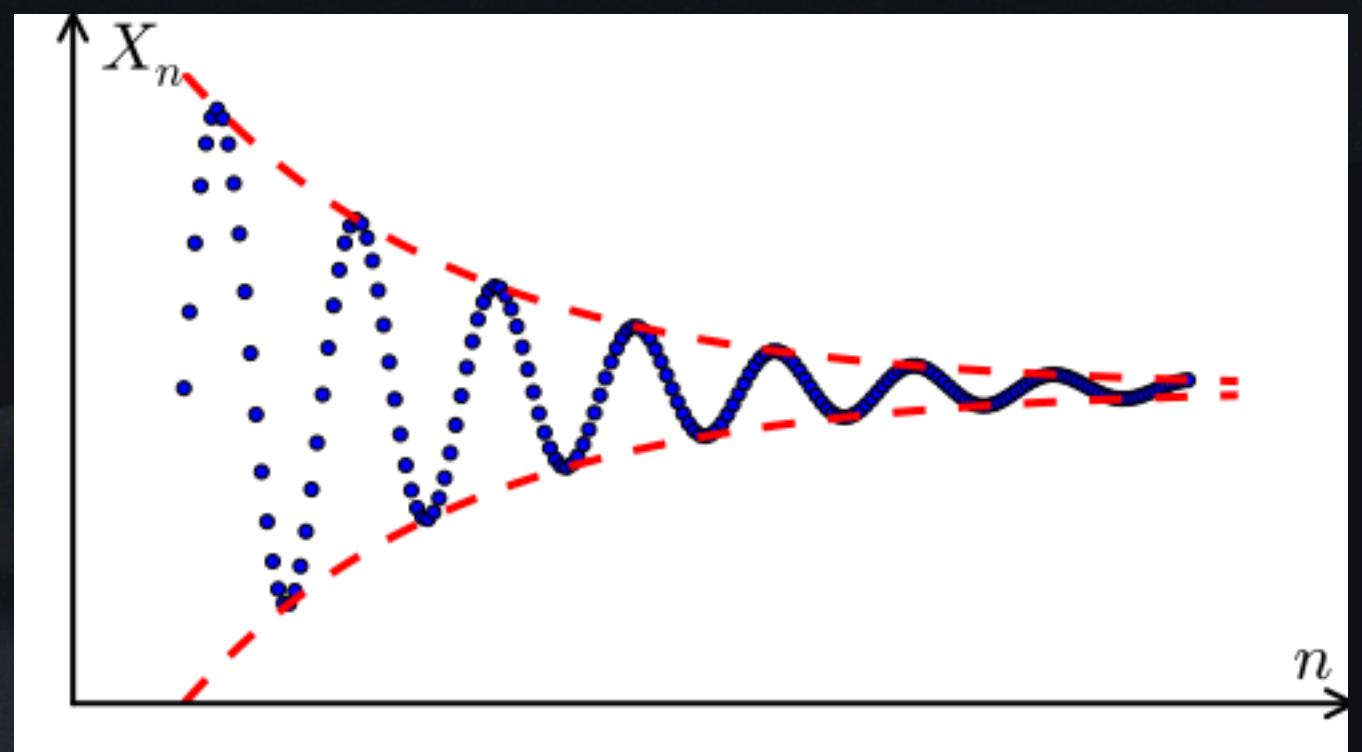
What's the main difference? - Bidirectional inference

- The Upward-Downward algorithm.
- Propagates truth value upwards and downwards, **tightening** the truth bounds.
 - Q: What if it drops into an infinite loop? Input becomes more true, output becomes less true? Will this happen?

What

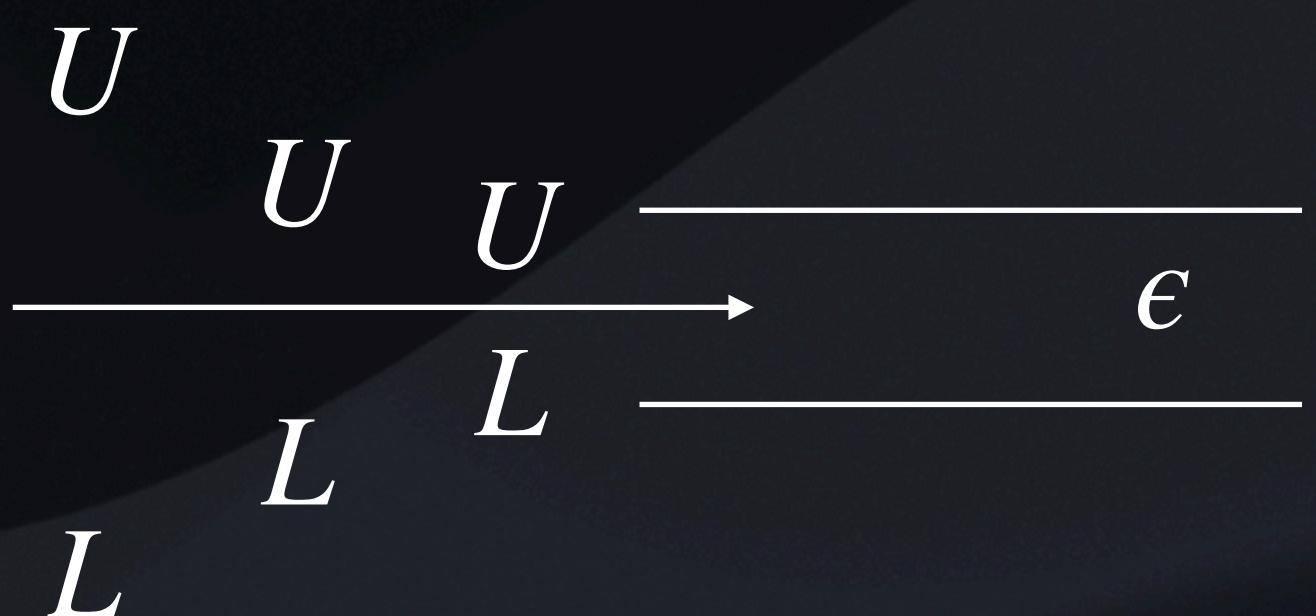
What's the main difference? - Bidirectional inference

- Theorem 1. Given monotonic \neg , \oplus , and f , the upward pass and downward pass converges within ϵ in **finite time**.
- Q: Does this hold in FOL?



Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cauchy_sequence

Reason under the hood: Cauchy sequence



What

What's the main difference? - Bidirectional inference

- Q: *Does this hold in FOL?* No.
But LNN works in FOL, how does it do? (Skip)

What

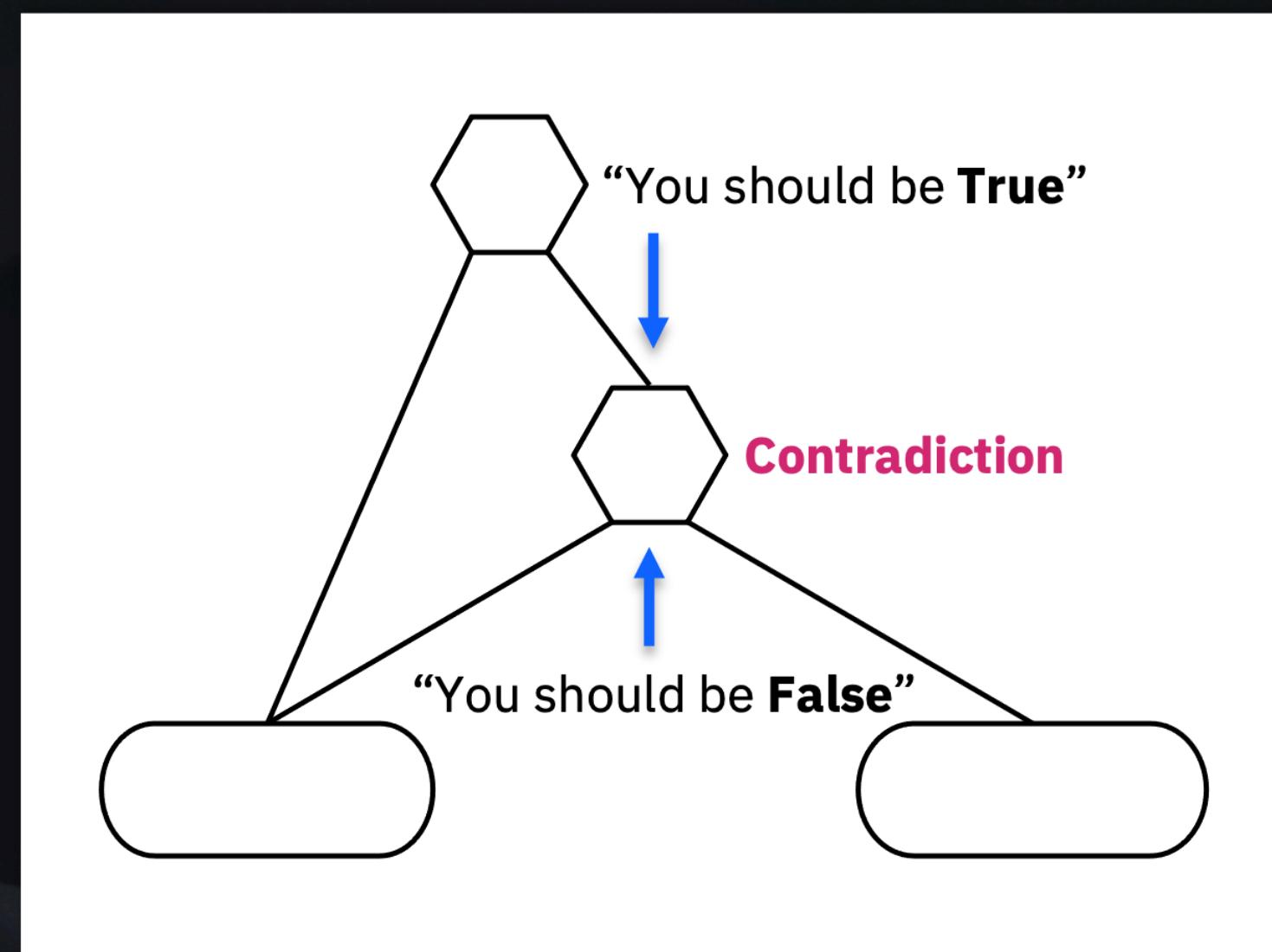
What's the main difference? - Bidirectional inference

- *Theorem 2 (Modified). The L and U on any formulae are concrete/sound bounds on **possibility** based on all the previous acquired knowledge.*
- A sound and probabilistic reasoner.
Shows the adaptive ability to **open-word assumptions** with incomplete knowledge compared to classical Markov Logic Networks. ("unknown"!)

Learning

A bit of the power on leaning

- Allows for contradiction (Logic inconsistency) $L_x > U_x, T_x > L_x, T_x < U_x$
- In propositional logic, what is the representation of the logic inconsistency?



Ref: <https://github.com/IBM/LNN/tree/tutorials/tutorials>

Learning & Showcase

Wait, weights?! Live coding!

- 🐾 See how it works in the Cat-Dog case.
- ✎ See how it works with example of conjunction.

Resources

IBM's archive

- An overview of all related projects. (Some of them are not properly archived)
- NSTK

Thank you