



# 10-601 Introduction to Machine Learning

Machine Learning Department  
School of Computer Science  
Carnegie Mellon University

# Neural Networks + Backpropagation

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Lecture 13  
Oct. 7, 2019

# Reminders

- **Homework 4: Logistic Regression**
  - Out: Wed, Sep. 25
  - Due: Fri, Oct. 11 at 11:59pm
- **Homework 5: Neural Networks**
  - Out: Fri, Oct. 11
  - Due: Fri, Oct. 25 at 11:59pm
- **Today's In-Class Poll**
  - <http://p13.mlcourse.org>

# Q&A

**Q:** What is mini-batch SGD?

**A:** A variant of SGD...

# Mini-Batch SGD

- **Gradient Descent:**  
Compute true gradient exactly from all  $N$  examples
- **Mini-Batch SGD:**  
Approximate true gradient by the average gradient of  $K$  randomly chosen examples
- **Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD):**  
Approximate true gradient by the gradient of one randomly chosen example



# Mini-Batch SGD

**while not converged:  $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \lambda g$**

**Three variants of first-order optimization:**

Gradient Descent:  $g = \nabla J(\theta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \nabla J^{(i)}(\theta)$

SGD:  $g = \nabla J^{(i)}(\theta)$  where  $i$  sampled uniformly

Mini-batch SGD:  $g = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{s=1}^S \nabla J^{(i_s)}(\theta)$  where  $i_s$  sampled uniformly  $\forall s$

# NEURAL NETWORKS

# Neural Networks

## *Chalkboard*

- Example: Neural Network w/1 Hidden Layer
- Example: Neural Network w/2 Hidden Layers
- Example: Feed Forward Neural Network

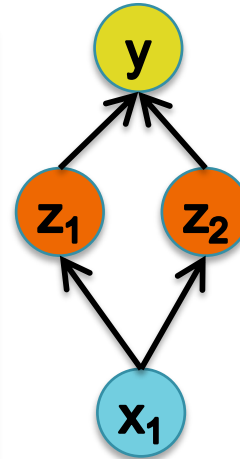
# Neural Network Parameters

## Question:

Suppose you are training a one-hidden layer neural network with sigmoid activations for binary classification.



**True or False:** There is a unique set of parameters that maximize the likelihood of the dataset above.



## Answer:

# **ARCHITECTURES**

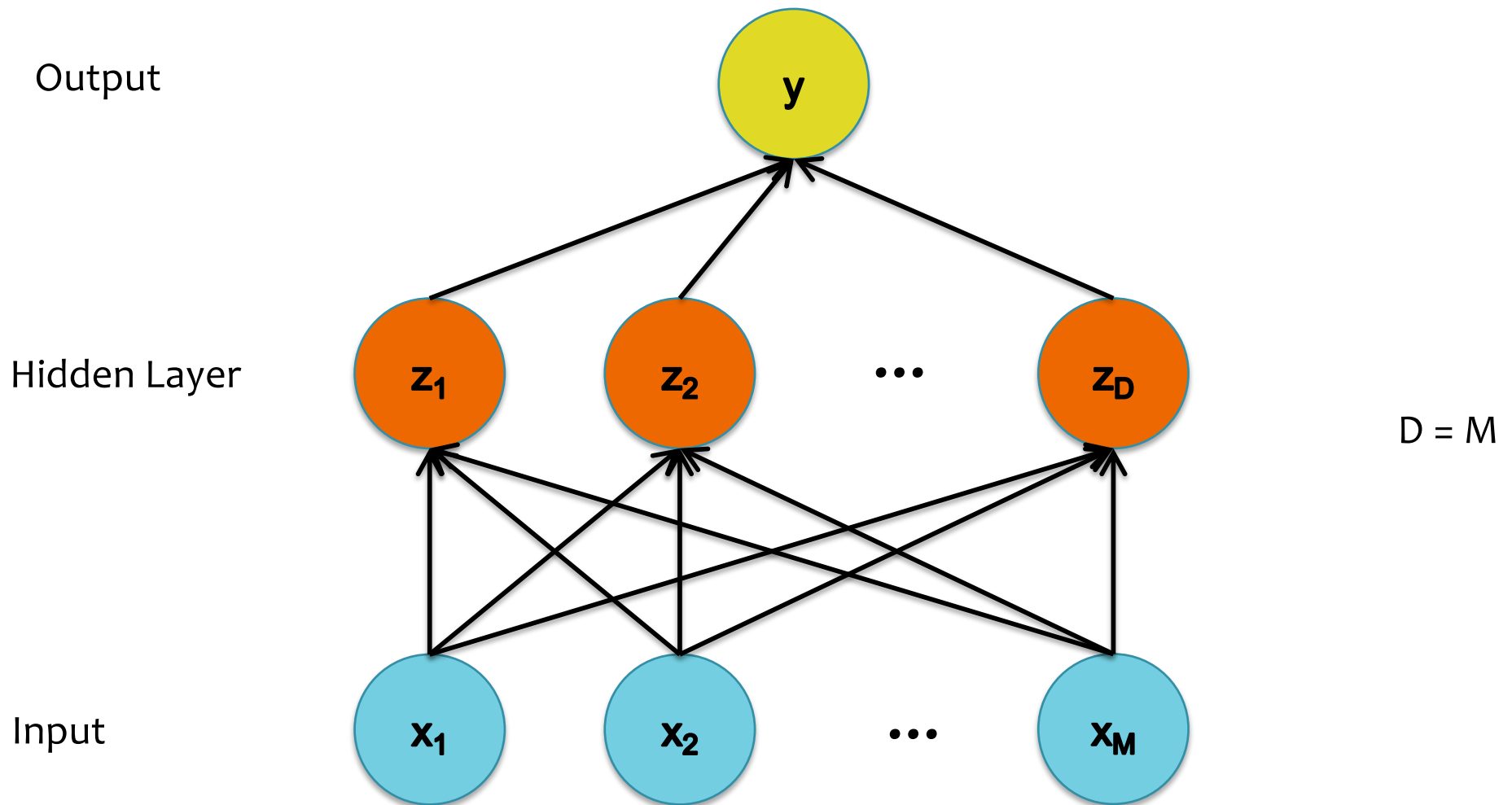
# Neural Network Architectures

Even for a basic Neural Network, there are many design decisions to make:

1. # of hidden layers (depth)
2. # of units per hidden layer (width)
3. Type of activation function (nonlinearity)
4. Form of objective function

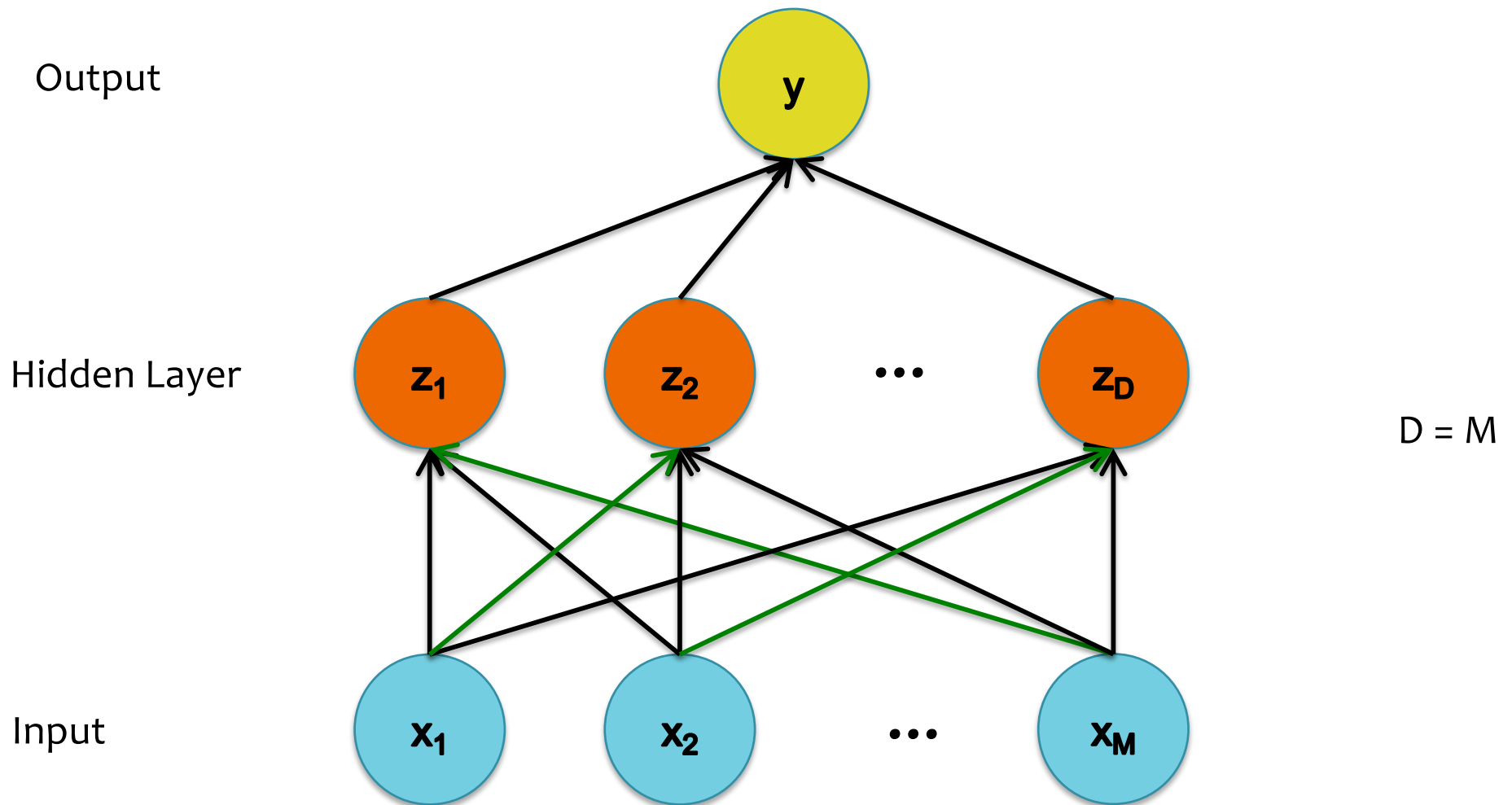
# Building a Neural Net

*Q: How many hidden units,  $D$ , should we use?*



# Building a Neural Net

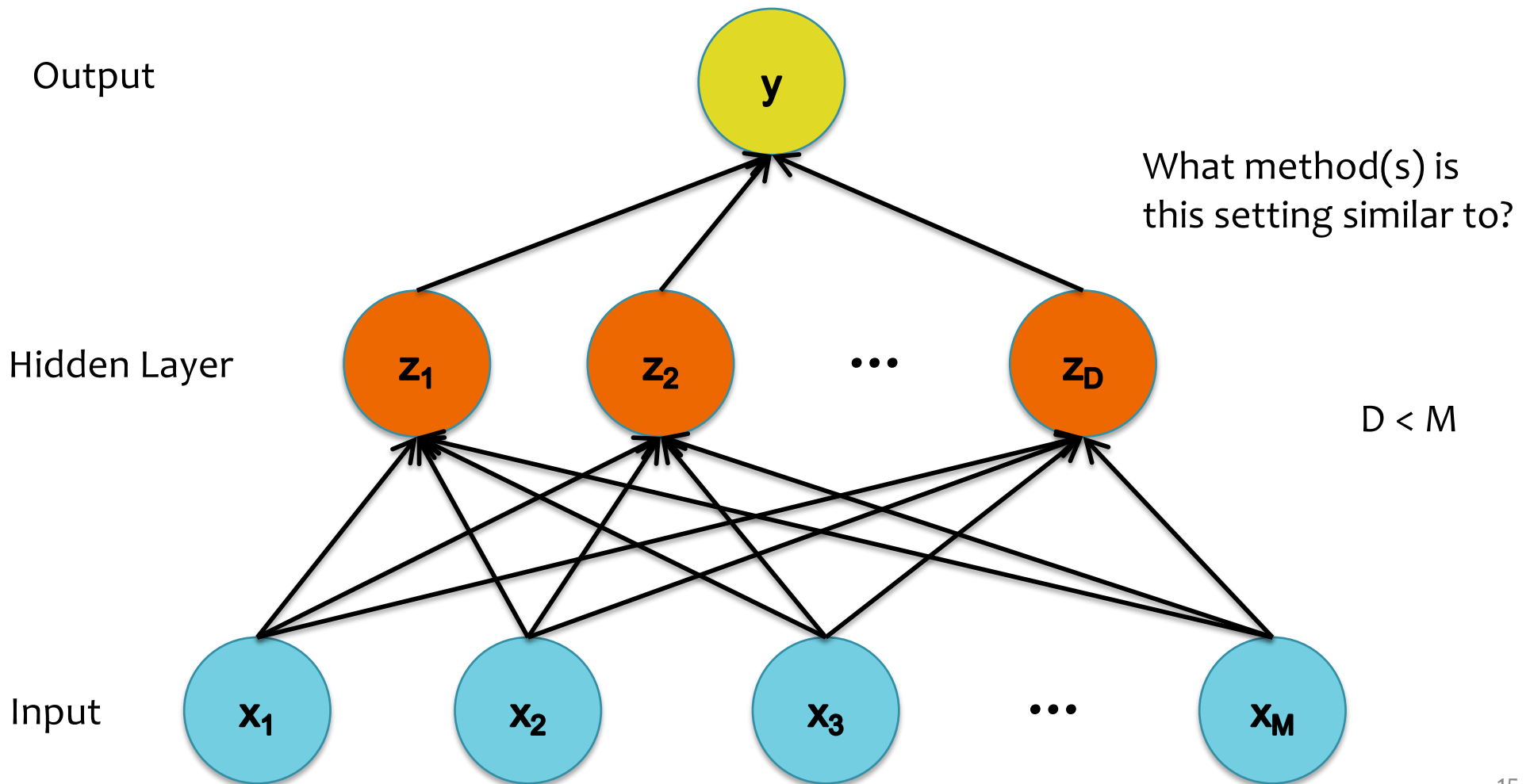
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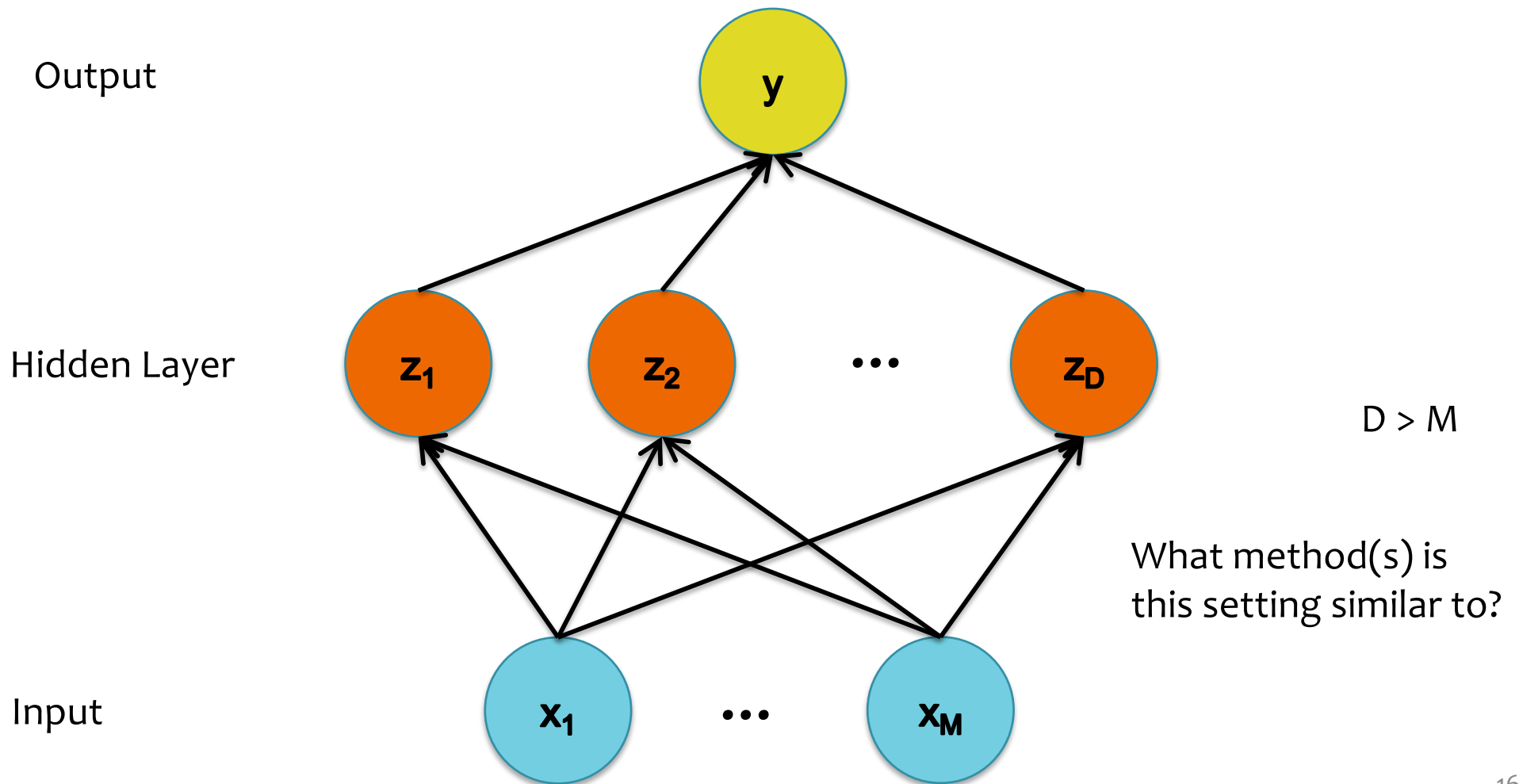
# Building a Neural Net

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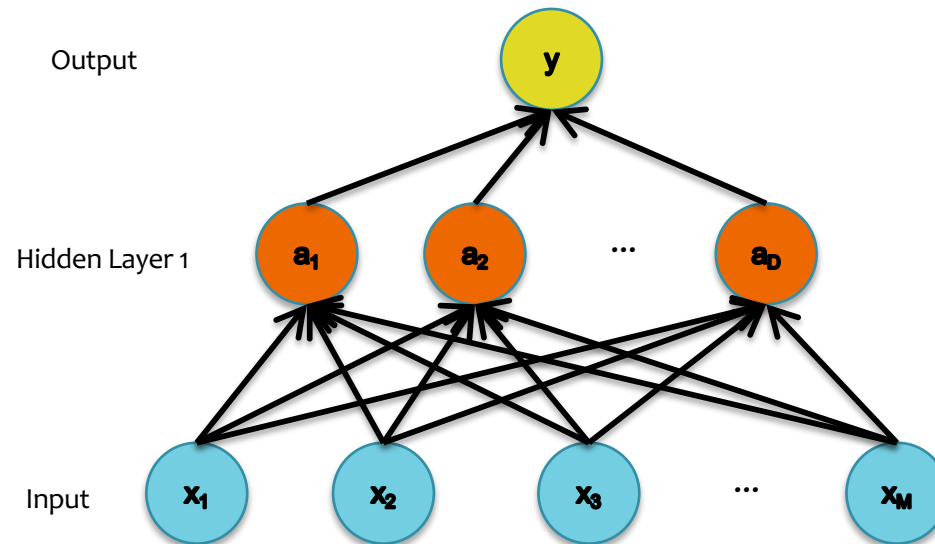
# Building a Neural Net

*Q: How many hidden units,  $D$ , should we use?*



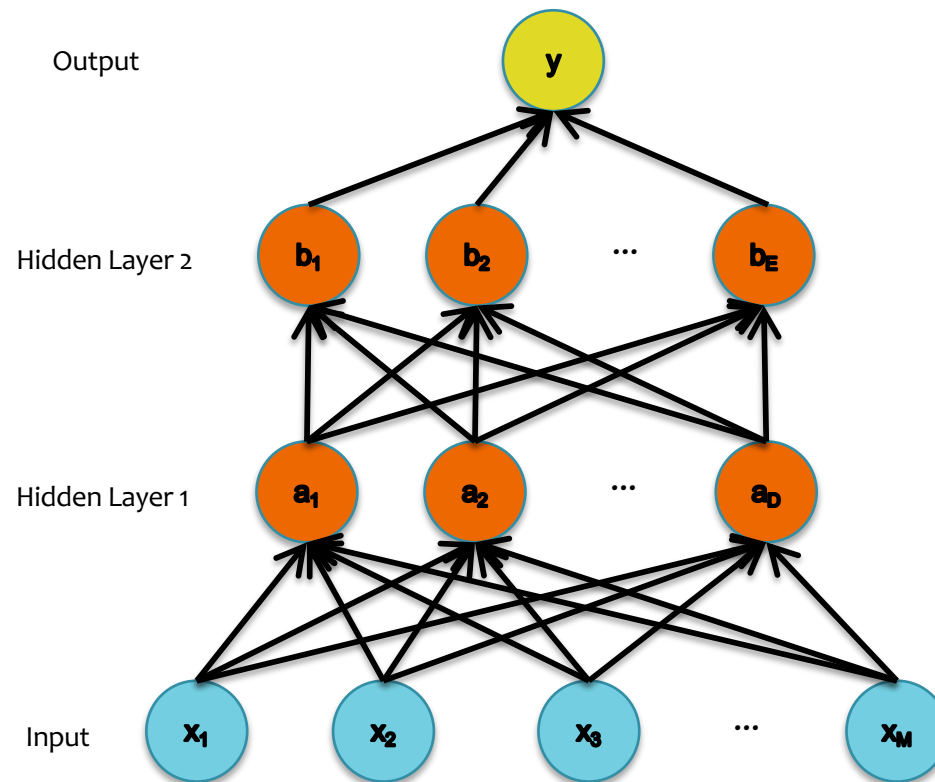
# Deeper Networks

*Q: How many layers should we use?*



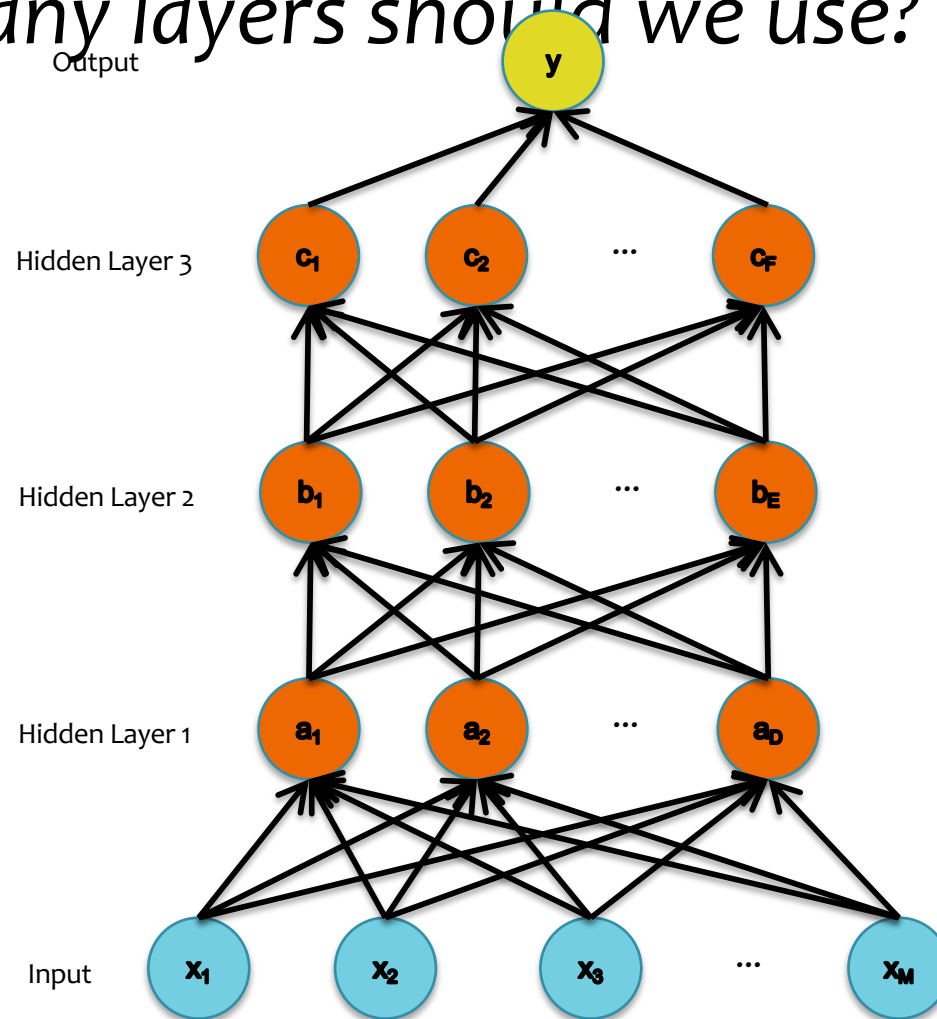
# Deeper Networks

*Q: How many layers should we use?*



# Deeper Networks

Q: *How many layers should we use?*



# Deeper Networks

*Q: How many layers should we use?*

- **Theoretical answer:**

- A neural network with 1 hidden layer is a **universal function approximator**
- Cybenko (1989): For any continuous function  $g(\mathbf{x})$ , there exists a 1-hidden-layer neural net  $h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$  s.t.  $|h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) - g(\mathbf{x})| < \epsilon$  for all  $\mathbf{x}$ , assuming sigmoid activation functions

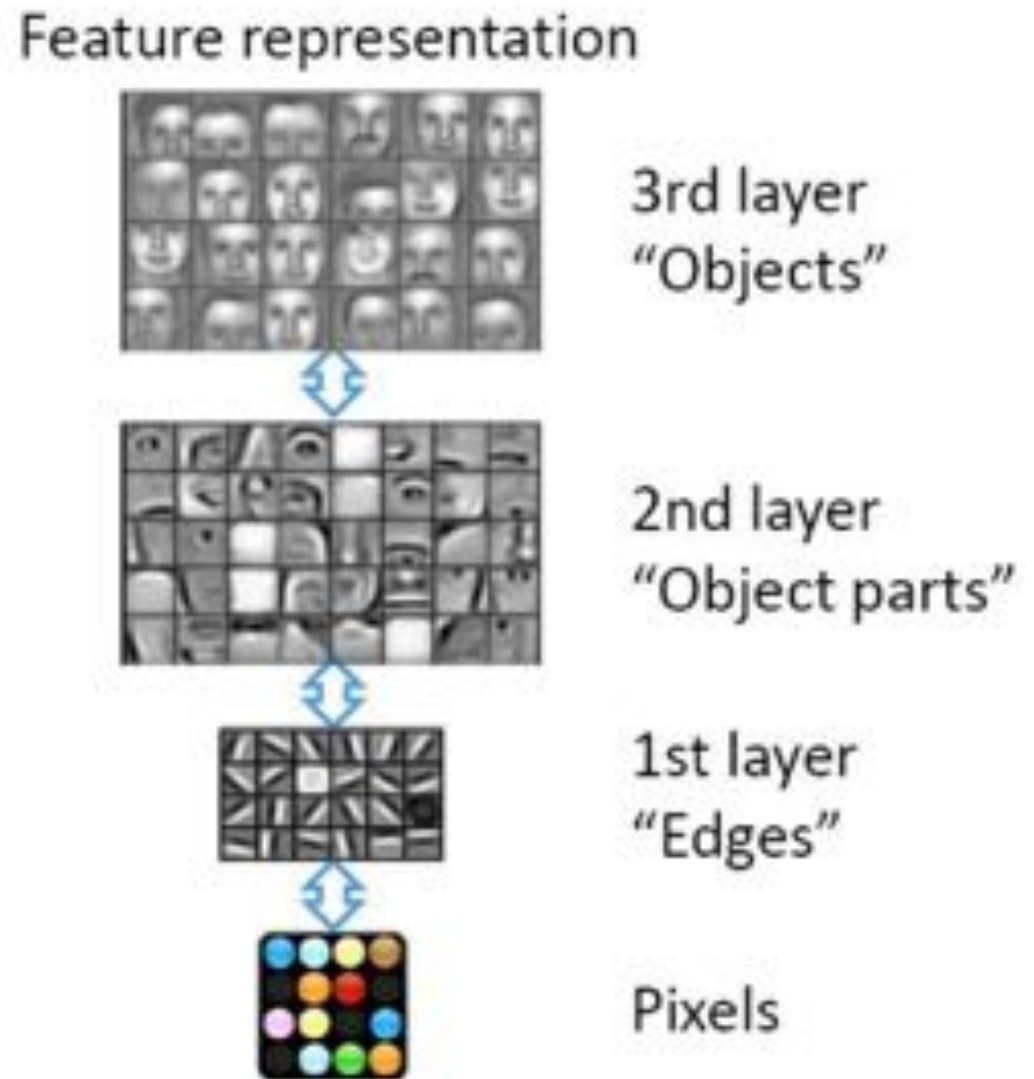
- **Empirical answer:**

- Before 2006: “Deep networks (e.g. 3 or more hidden layers) are too hard to train”
- After 2006: “Deep networks are easier to train than shallow networks (e.g. 2 or fewer layers) for many problems”

Big caveat: You need to know and use the right tricks.

# Different Levels of Abstraction

- We don't know the “right” levels of abstraction
- So let the model figure it out!



# Different Levels of Abstraction

## Face Recognition:

- Deep Network can build up increasingly higher levels of abstraction
- Lines, parts, regions

Feature representation



3rd layer  
“Objects”



2nd layer  
“Object parts”



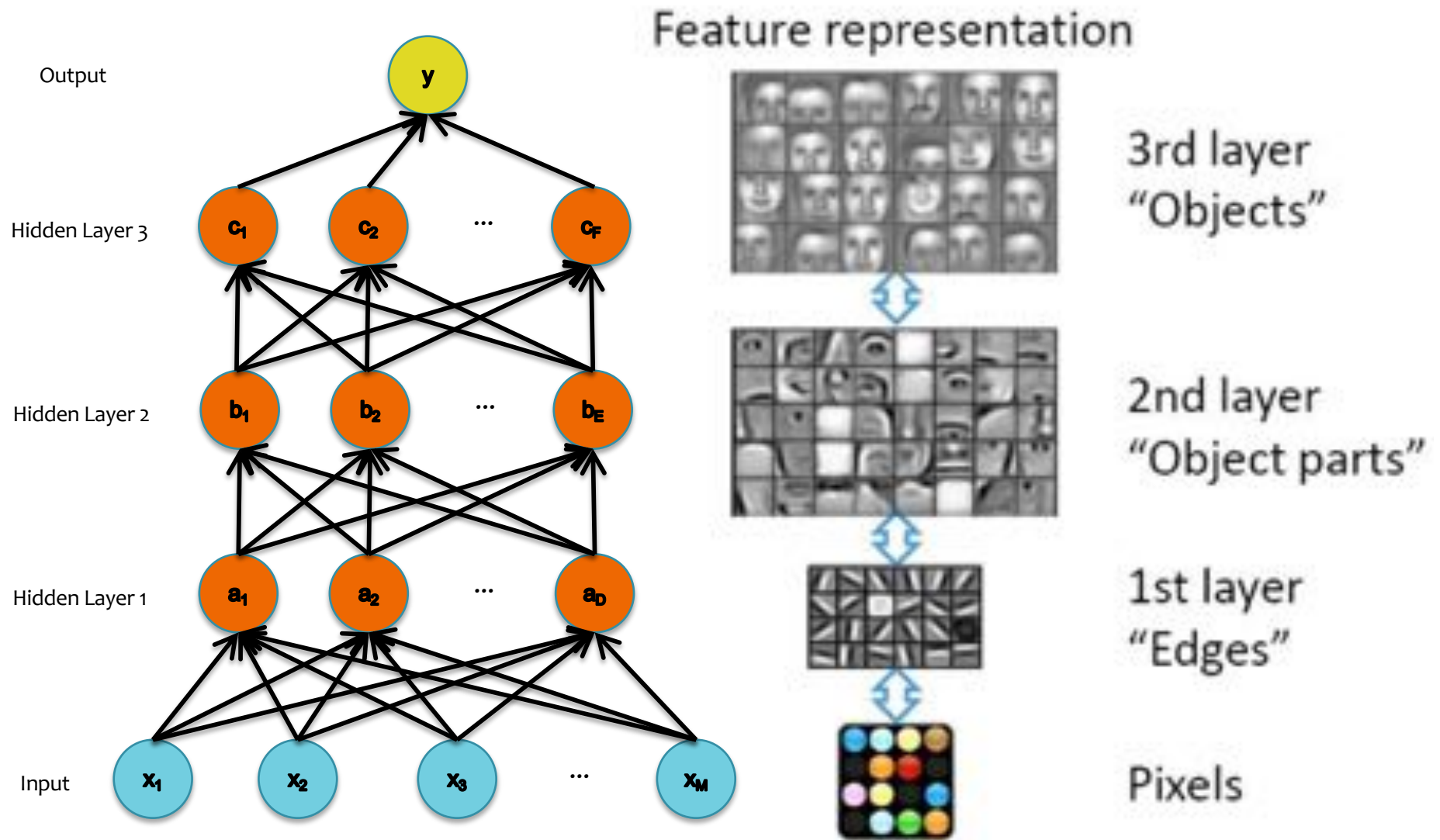
1st layer  
“Edges”



Pixels



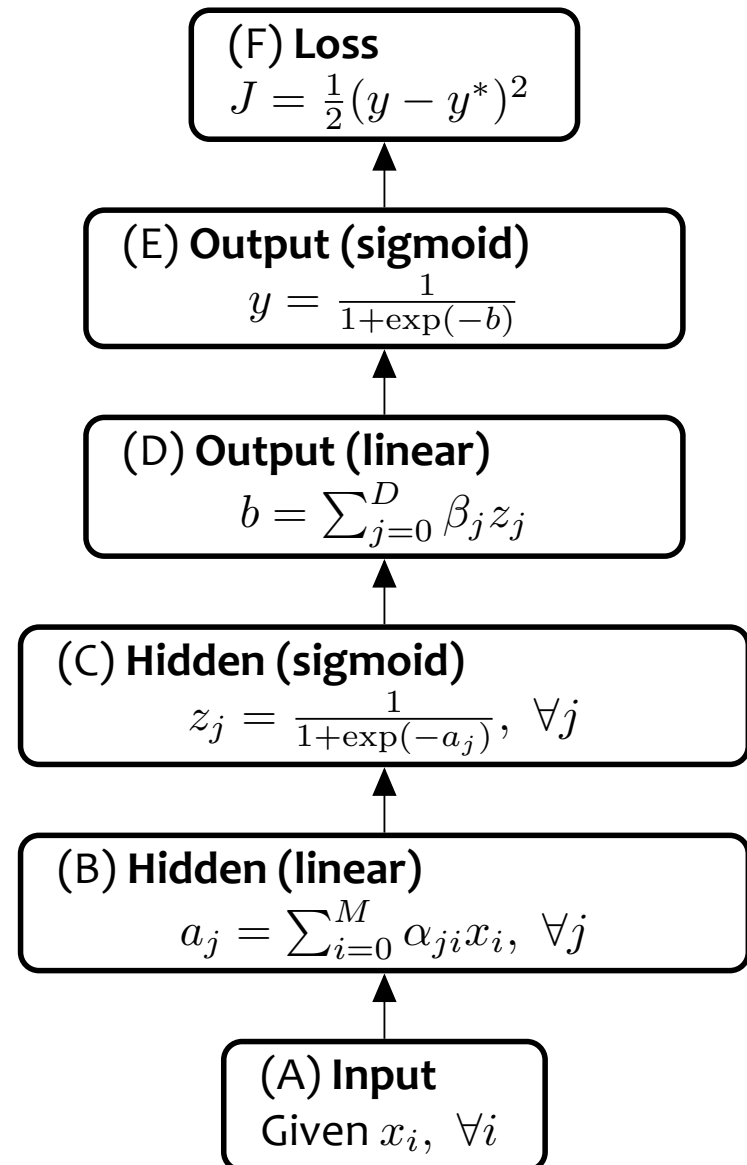
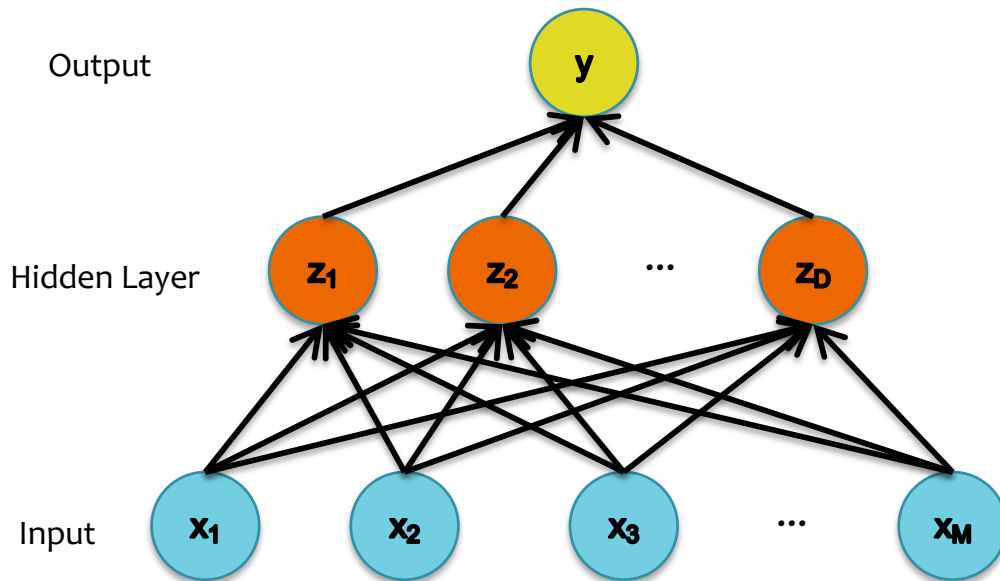
# Different Levels of Abstraction



Example from Honglak Lee (NIPS 2010)

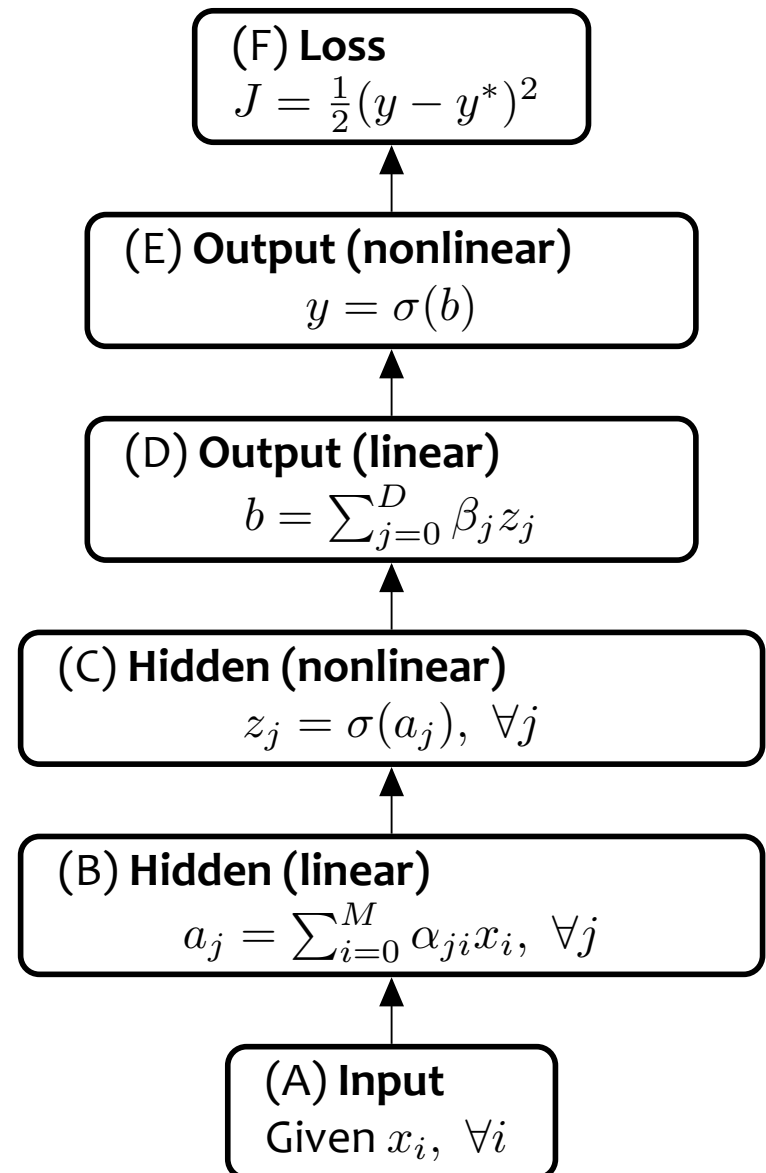
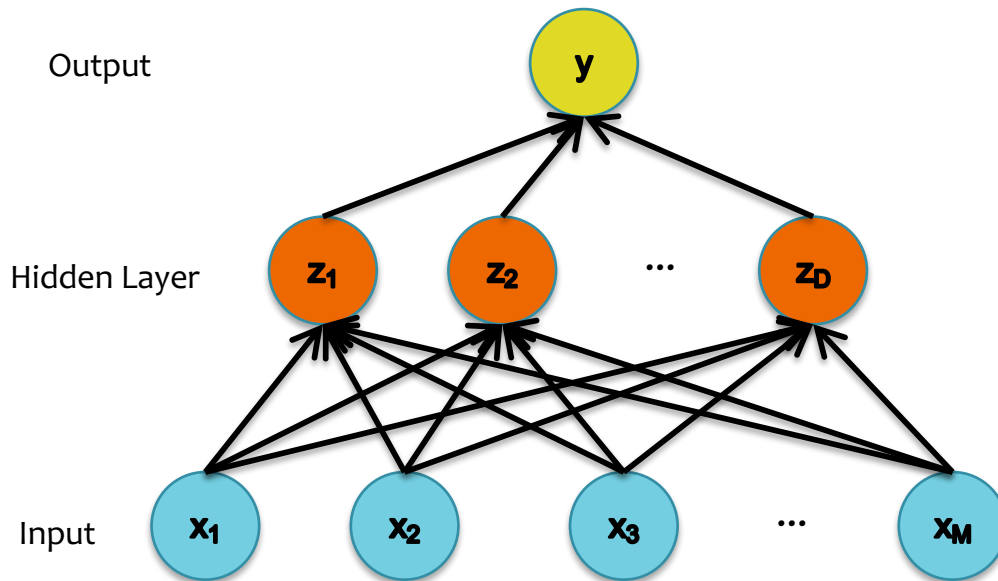
# Activation Functions

Neural Network with sigmoid  
activation functions



# Activation Functions

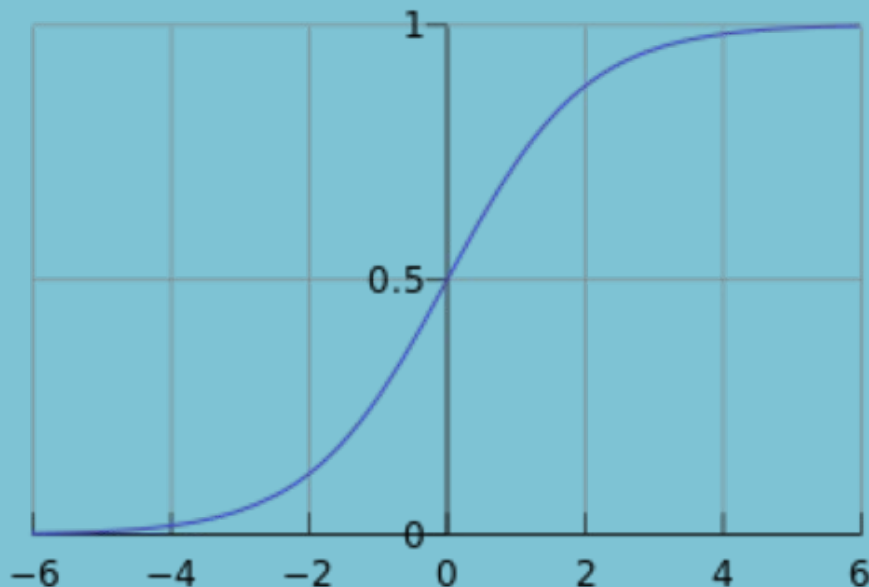
Neural Network with arbitrary nonlinear activation functions



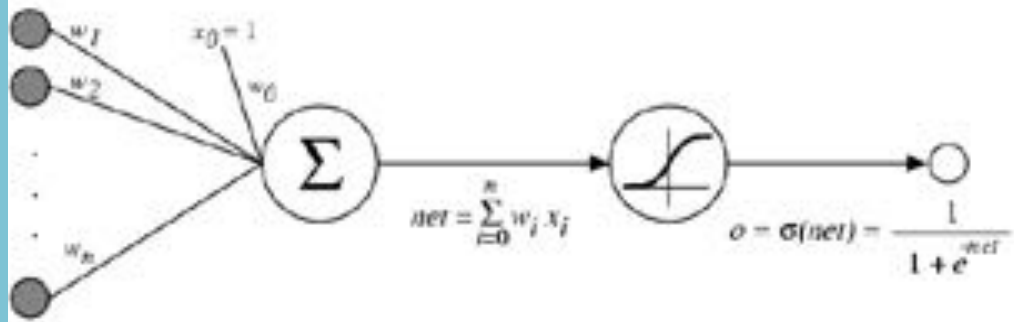
# Activation Functions

## Sigmoid / Logistic Function

$$\text{logistic}(u) \equiv \frac{1}{1 + e^{-u}}$$

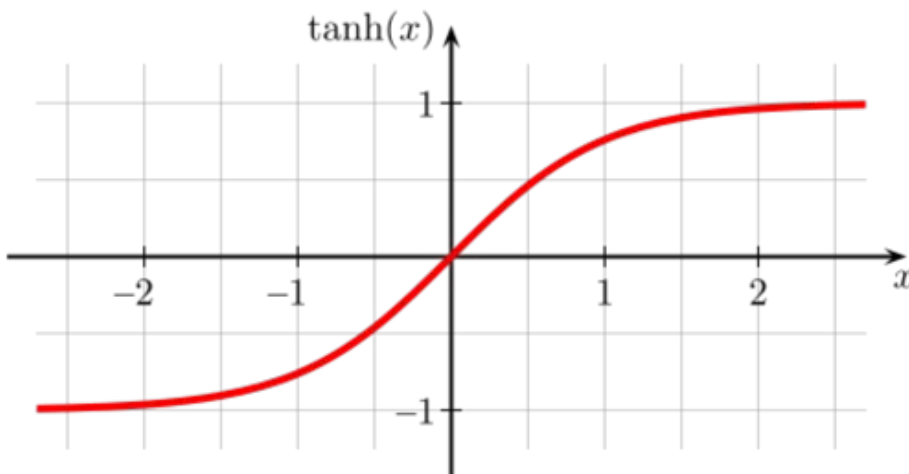


So far, we've assumed that the activation function (nonlinearity) is always the sigmoid function...



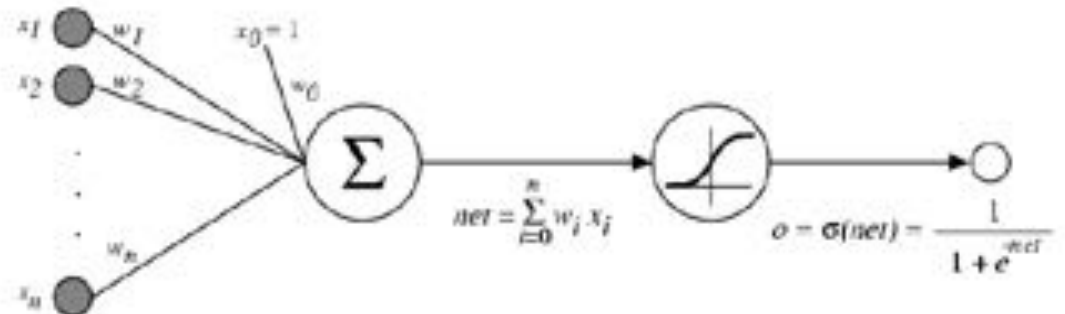
# Activation Functions

- A new change: modifying the nonlinearity
  - The logistic is not widely used in modern ANNs



Alternate 1:  
tanh

Like logistic function but  
shifted to range  $[-1, +1]$



# Understanding the difficulty of training deep feedforward neural networks

AI Stats 2010

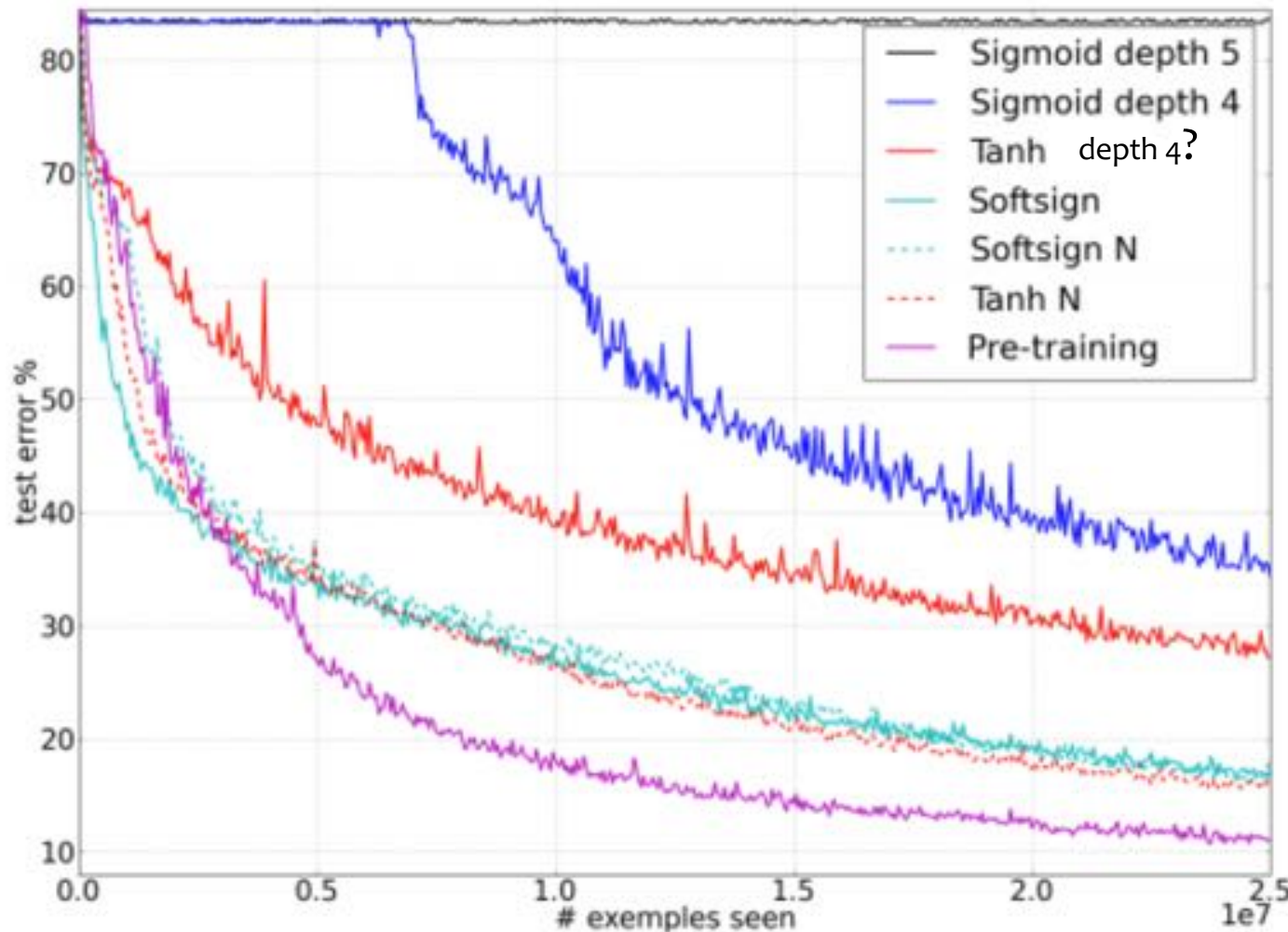
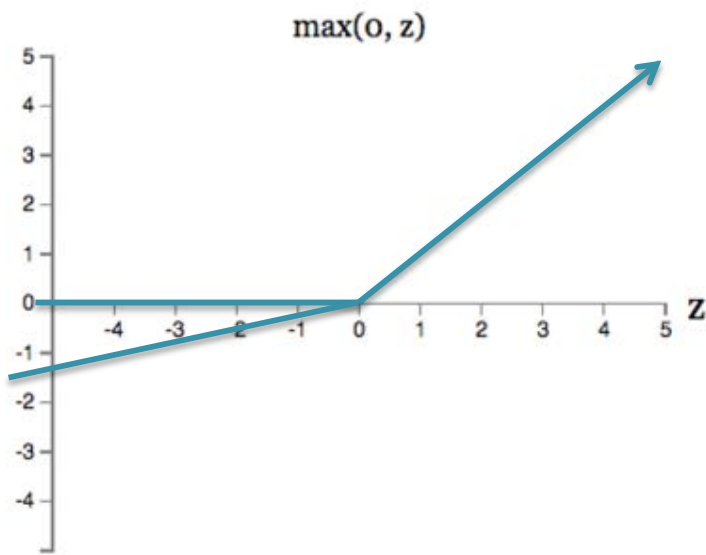


Figure from Glorot & Bentio (2010)

# Activation Functions

- A new change: modifying the nonlinearity
  - reLU often used in vision tasks

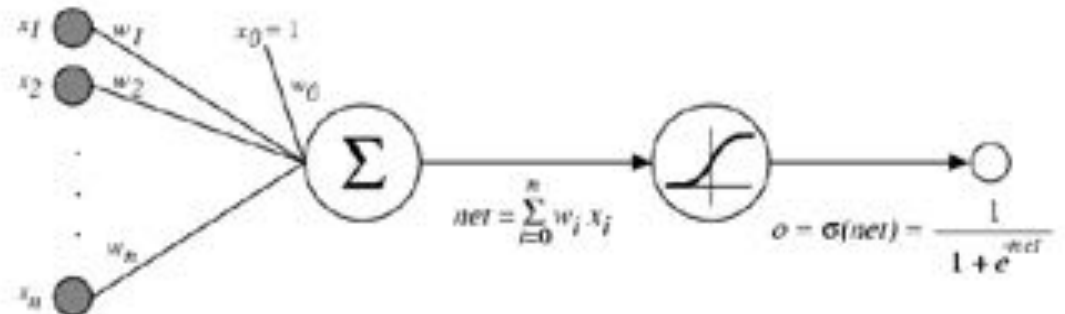


Alternate 2: rectified linear unit

Linear with a cutoff at zero

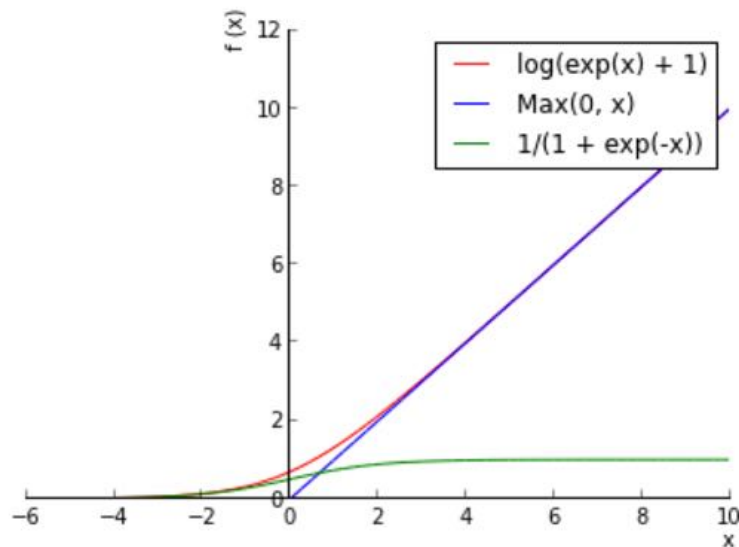
(Implementation: clip the gradient when you pass zero)

$$\max(0, w \cdot x + b).$$



# Activation Functions

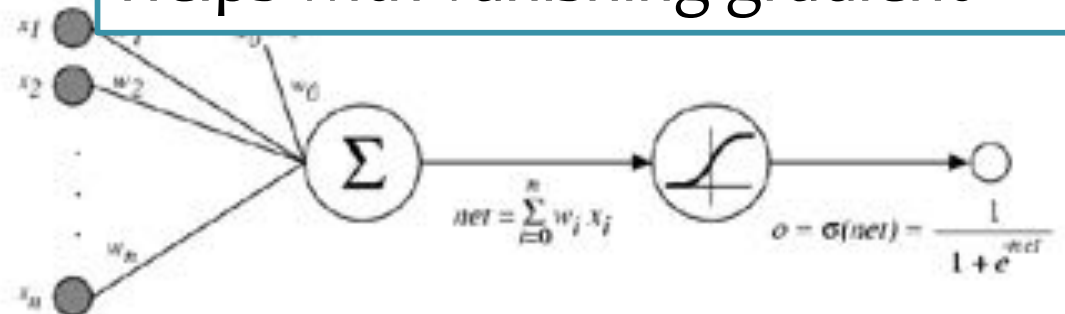
- A new change: modifying the nonlinearity
  - reLU often used in vision tasks



Alternate 2: rectified linear unit

Soft version:  $\log(\exp(x)+1)$

Doesn't saturate (at one end)  
Sparsifies outputs  
Helps with vanishing gradient

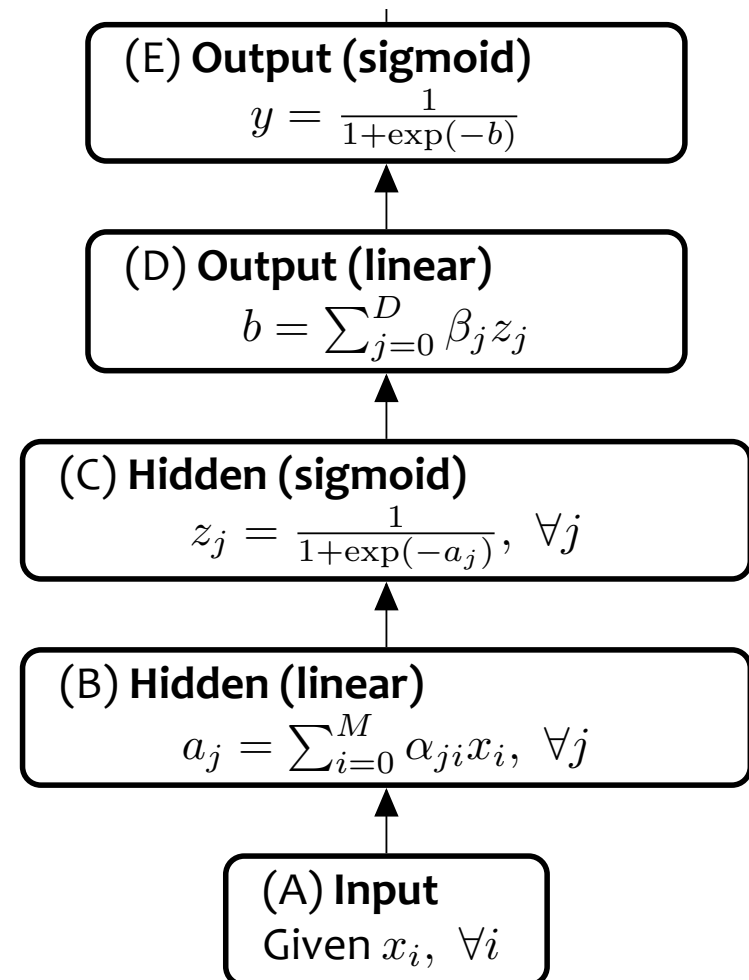
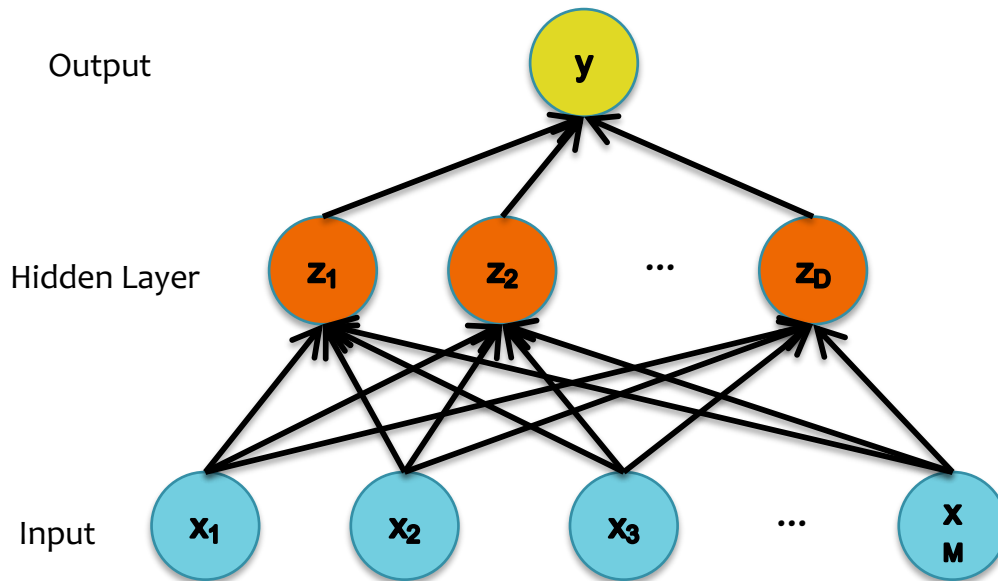




# Decision Functions

# Neural Network

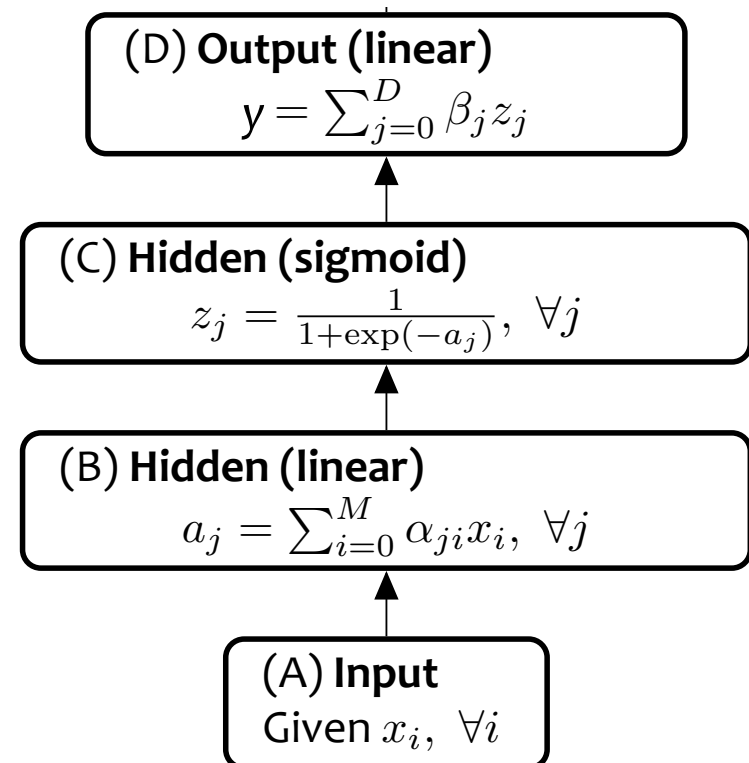
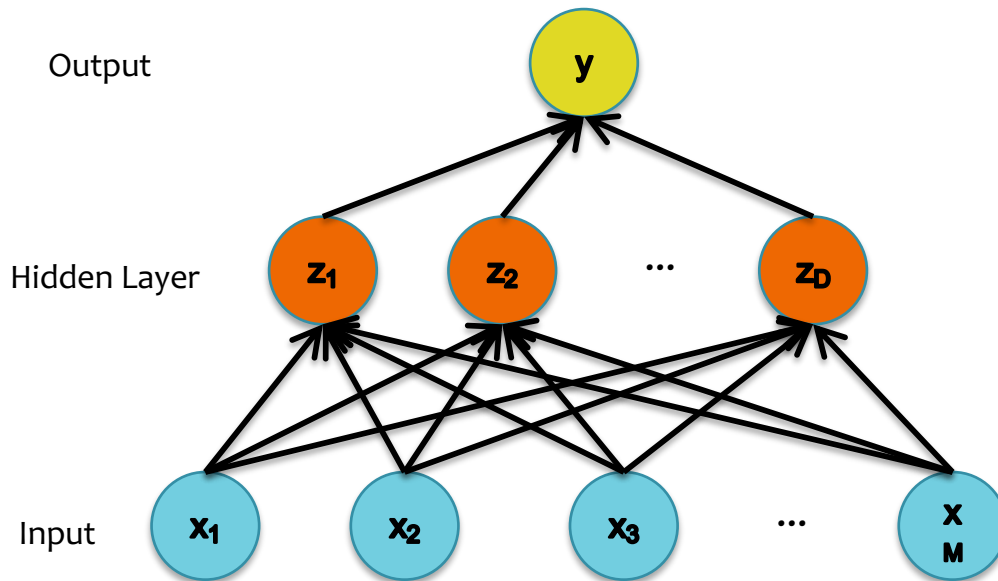
## Neural Network for **Classification**



# Decision Functions

# Neural Network

## Neural Network for **Regression**



# Objective Functions for NNs

1. Quadratic Loss:
  - the same objective as Linear Regression
  - i.e. mean squared error
2. Cross-Entropy:
  - the same objective as Logistic Regression
  - i.e. negative log likelihood
  - This requires probabilities, so we add an additional “softmax” layer at the end of our network

Forward

Quadratic  $J = \frac{1}{2}(y - y^*)^2$

Cross Entropy  $J = y^* \log(y) + (1 - y^*) \log(1 - y)$

Backward

$$\frac{dJ}{dy} = y - y^*$$

$$\frac{dJ}{dy} = y^* \frac{1}{y} + (1 - y^*) \frac{1}{y - 1}$$

# Objective Functions for NNs

## Cross-entropy vs. Quadratic loss

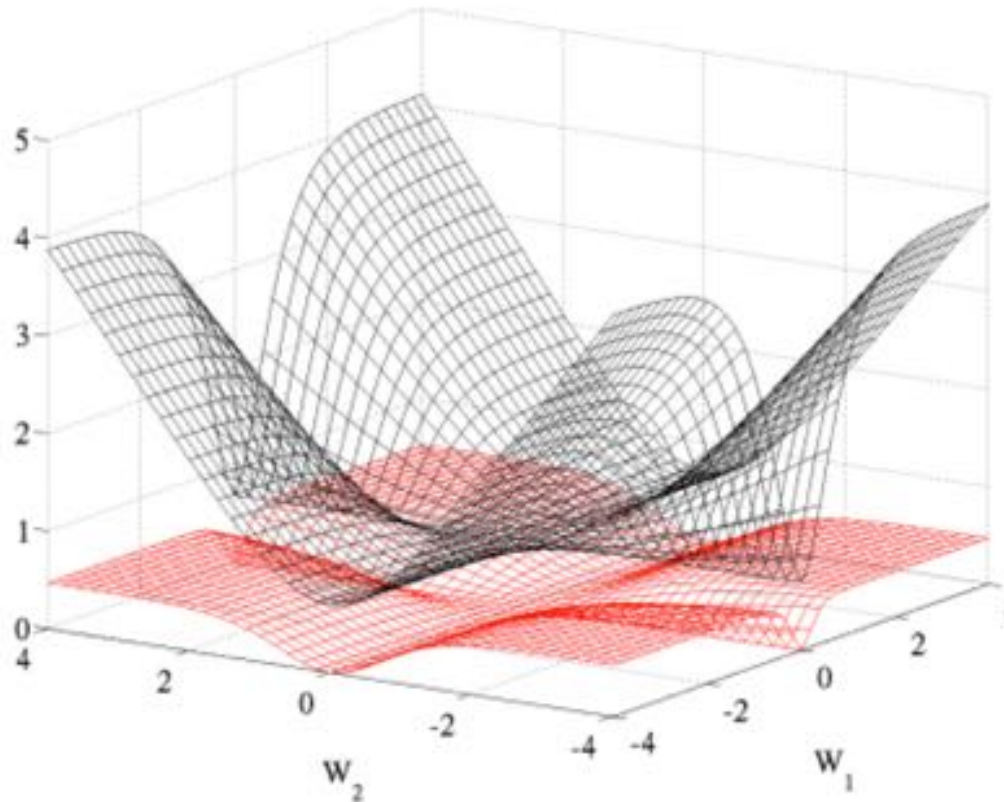
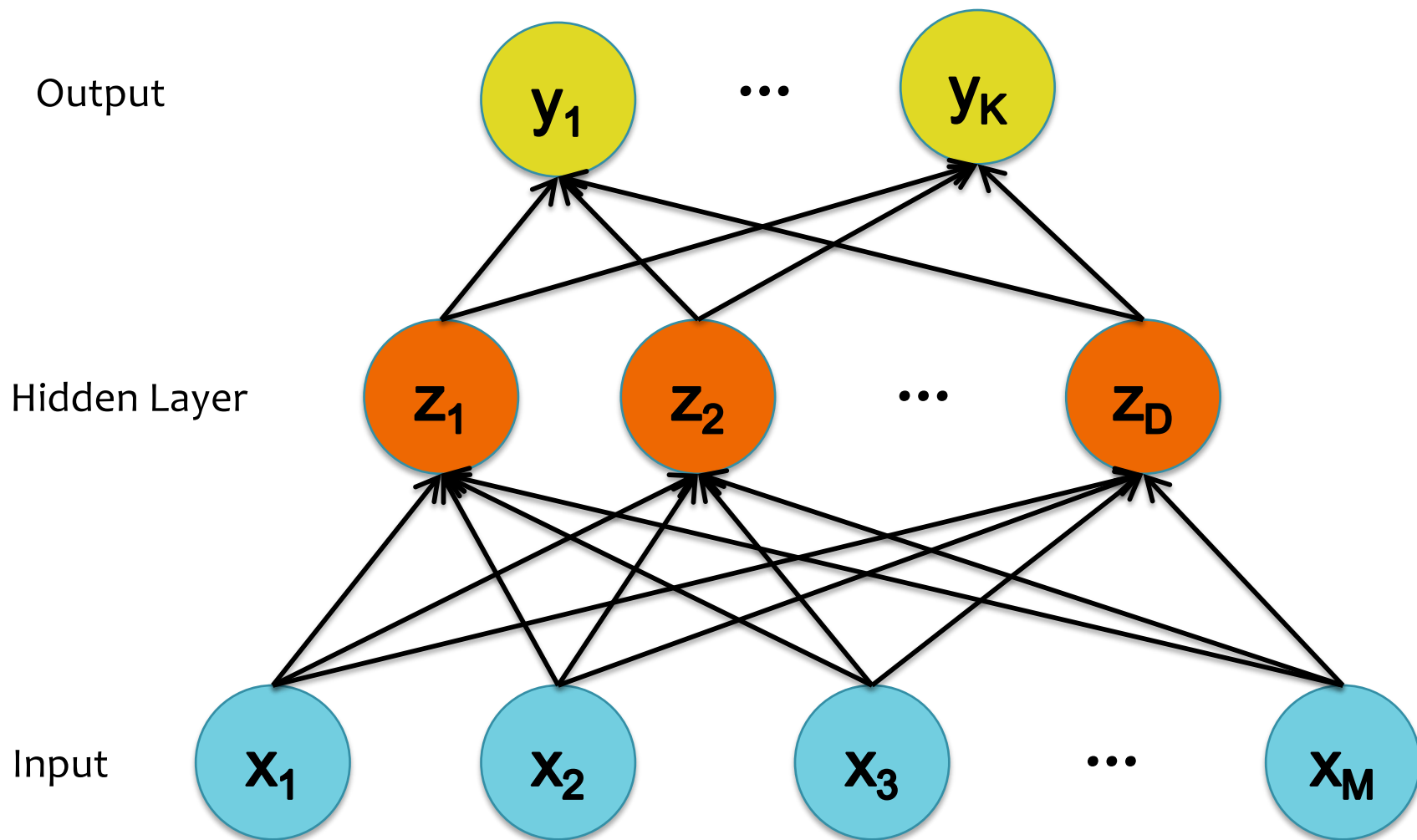


Figure 5: Cross entropy (black, surface on top) and quadratic (red, bottom surface) cost as a function of two weights (one at each layer) of a network with two layers,  $W_1$  respectively on the first layer and  $W_2$  on the second, output layer.

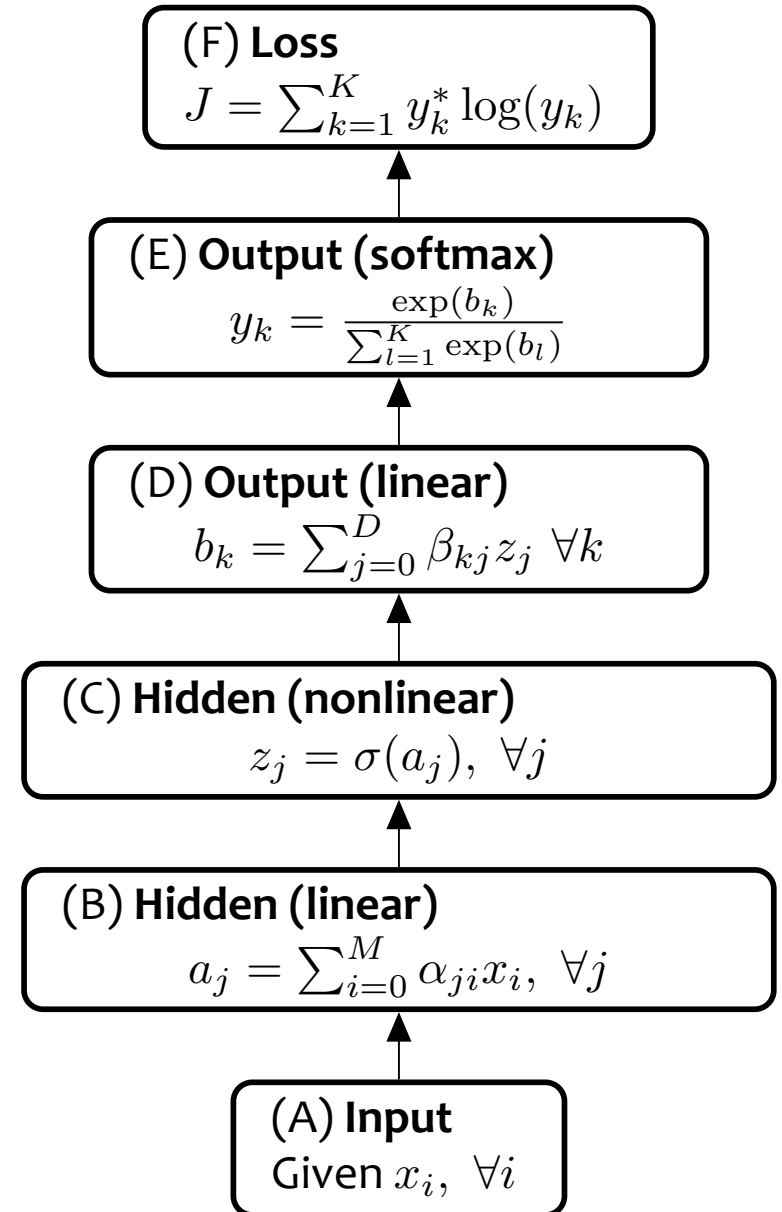
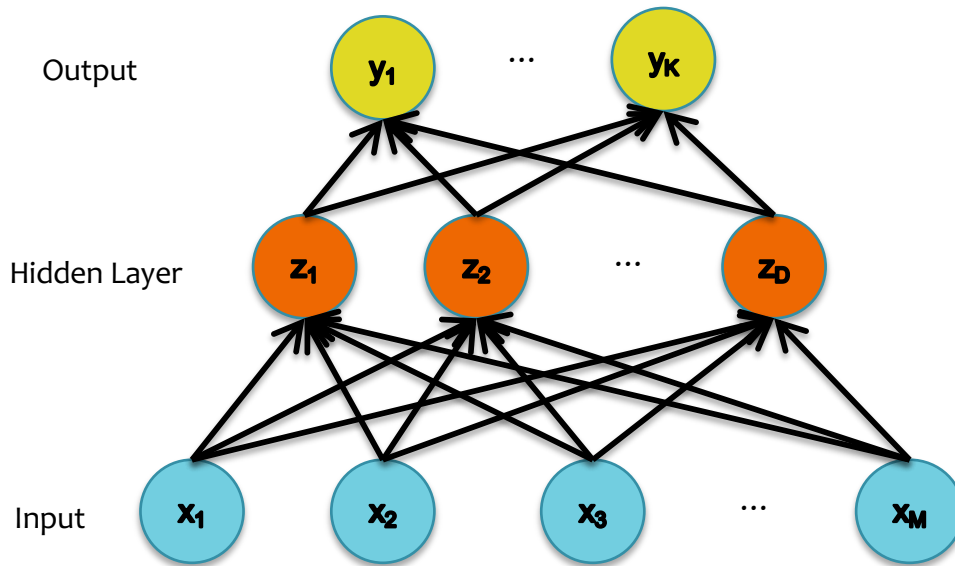
# Multi-Class Output



# Multi-Class Output

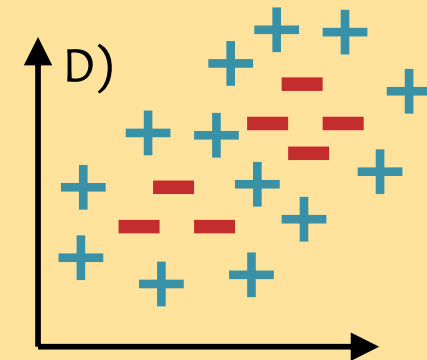
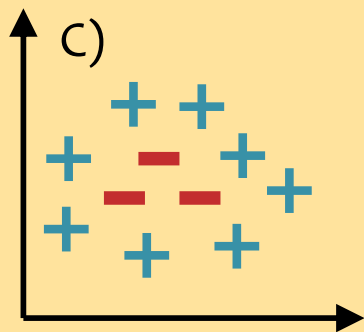
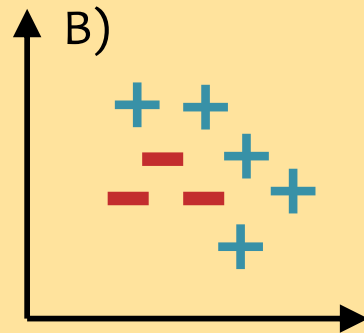
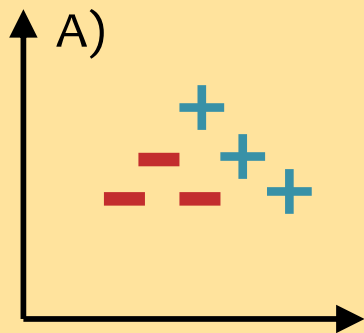
Softmax:

$$y_k = \frac{\exp(b_k)}{\sum_{l=1}^K \exp(b_l)}$$

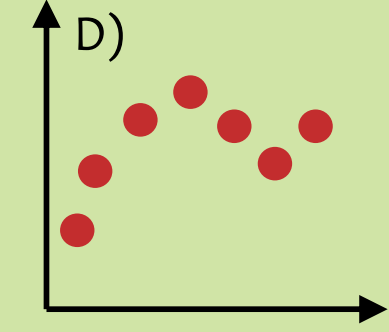
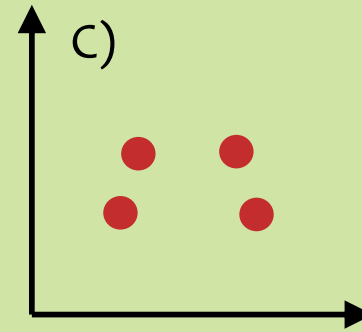
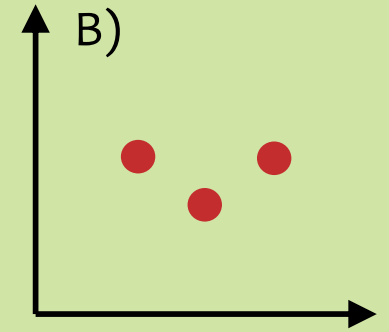
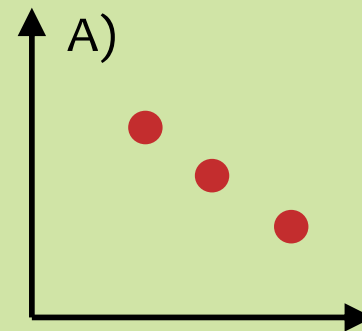


# Neural Network Errors

**Question A:** On which of the datasets below could a one-hidden layer neural network achieve zero *classification* error? **Select all that apply.**



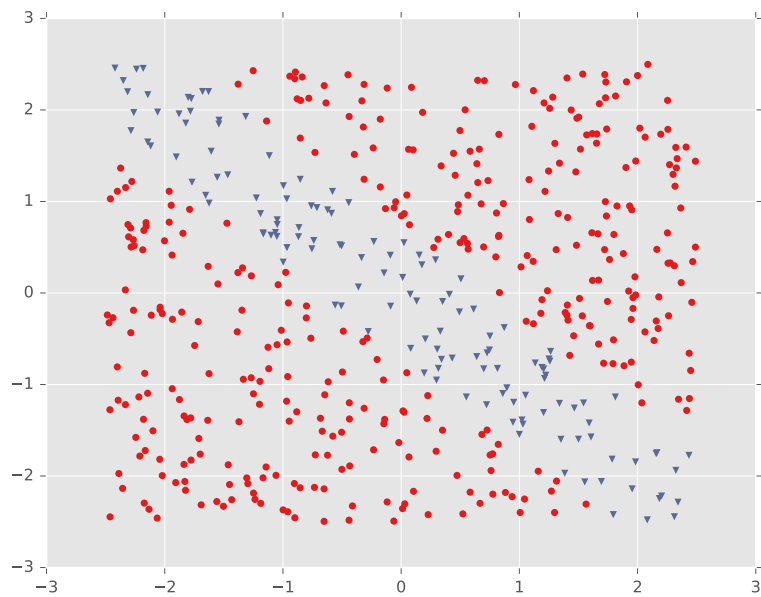
**Question B:** On which of the datasets below could a one-hidden layer neural network for *regression* achieve *nearly* zero MSE? **Select all that apply.**



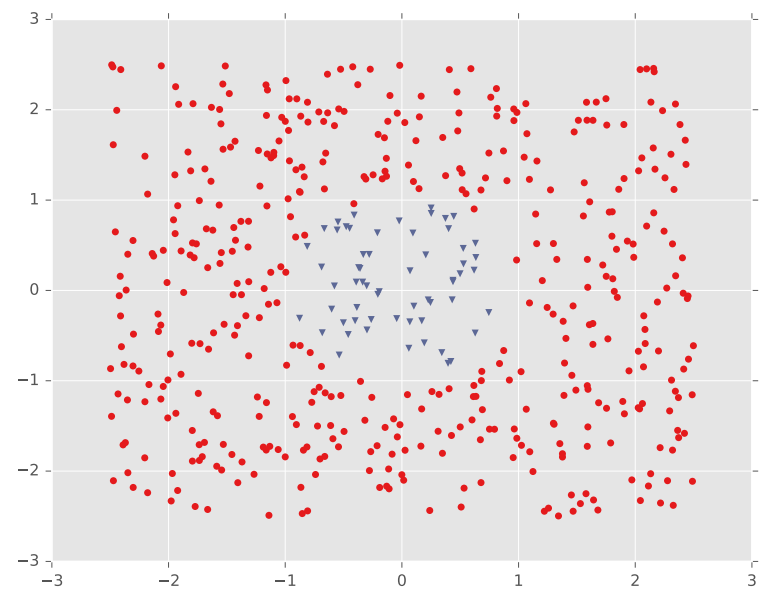
# **DECISION BOUNDARY EXAMPLES**



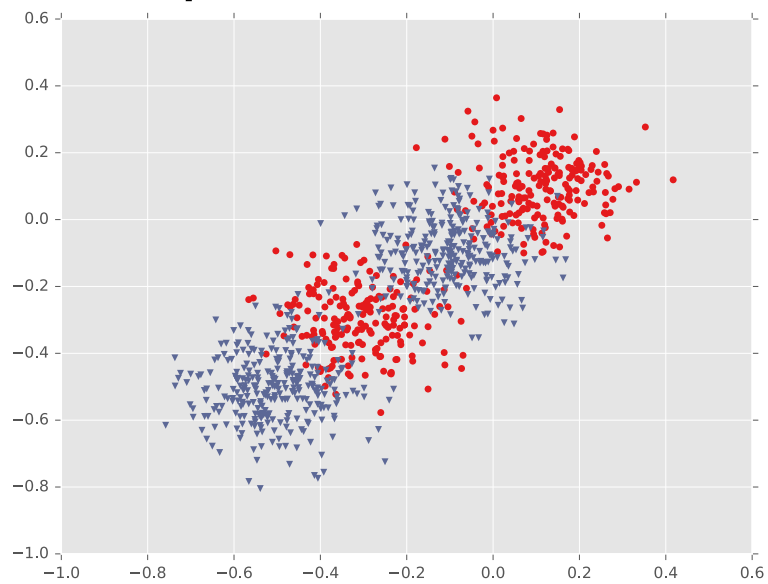
### Example #1: Diagonal Band



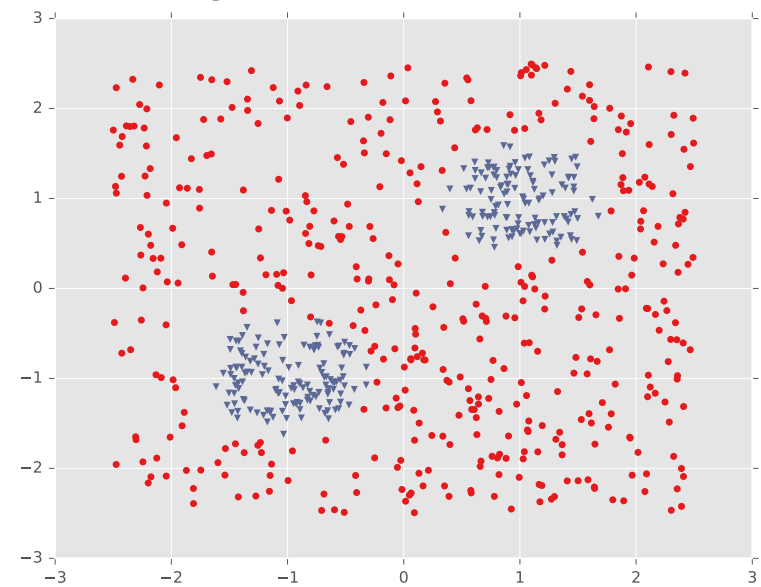
### Example #2: One Pocket



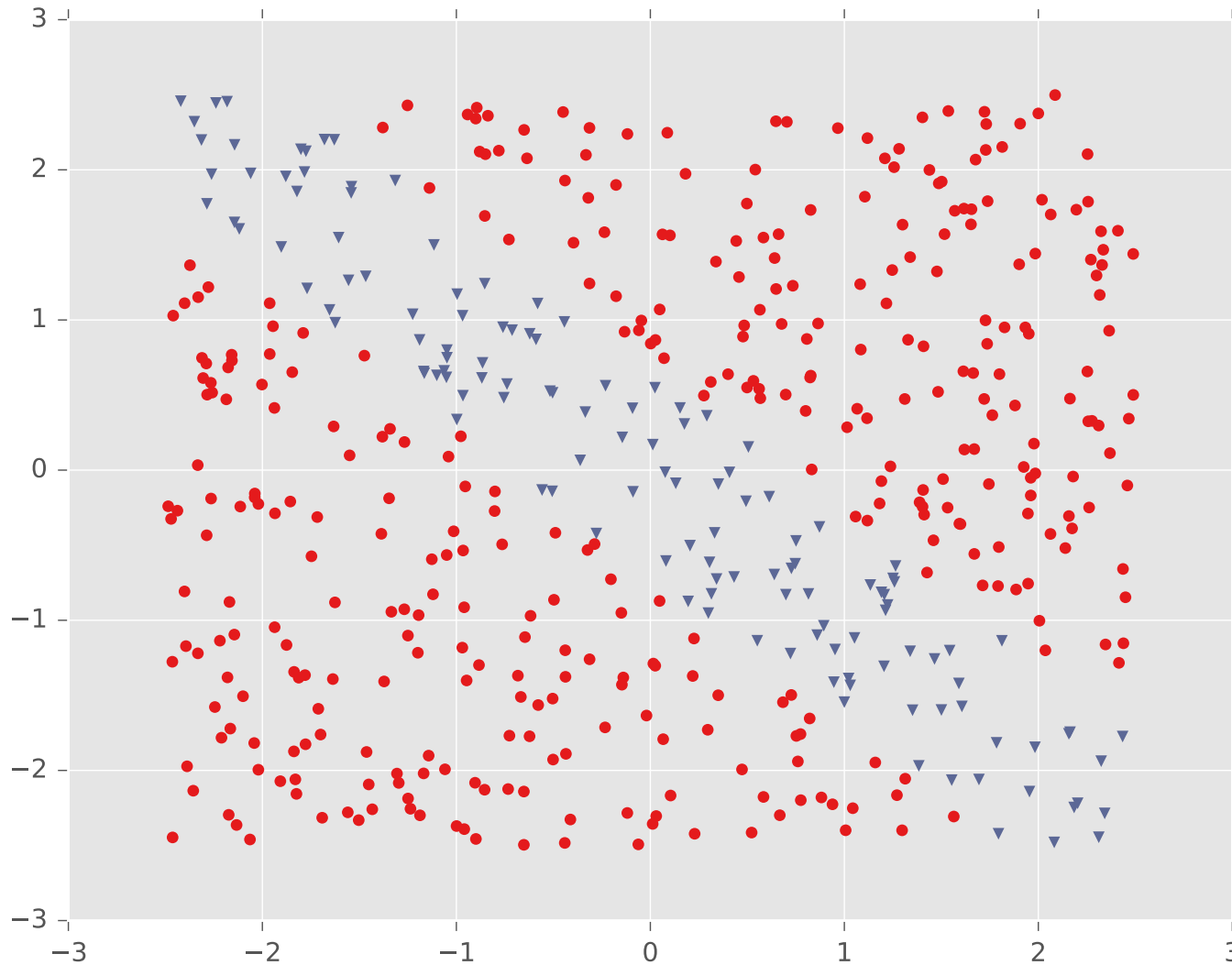
### Example #3: Four Gaussians



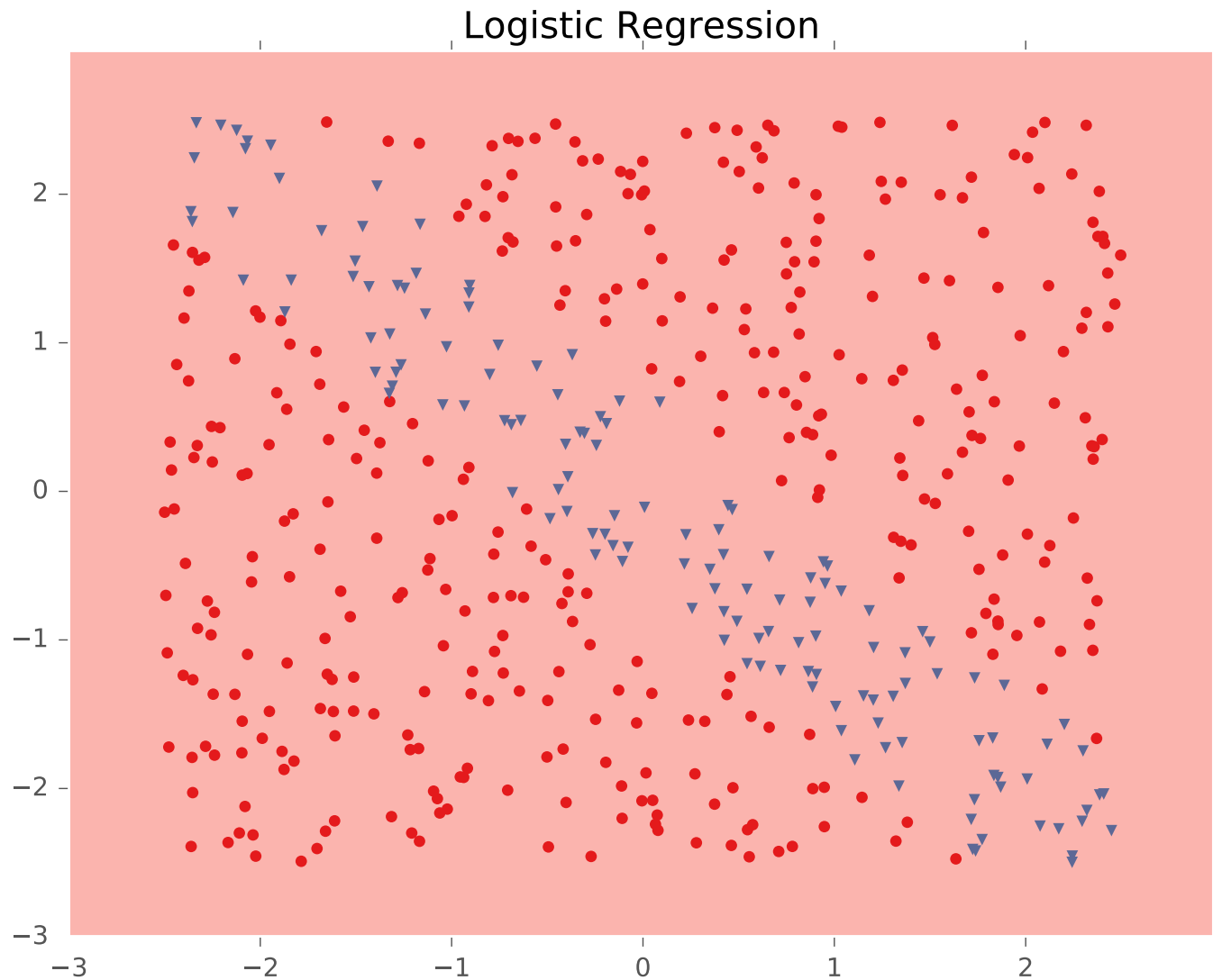
### Example #4: Two Pockets



# Example #1: Diagonal Band

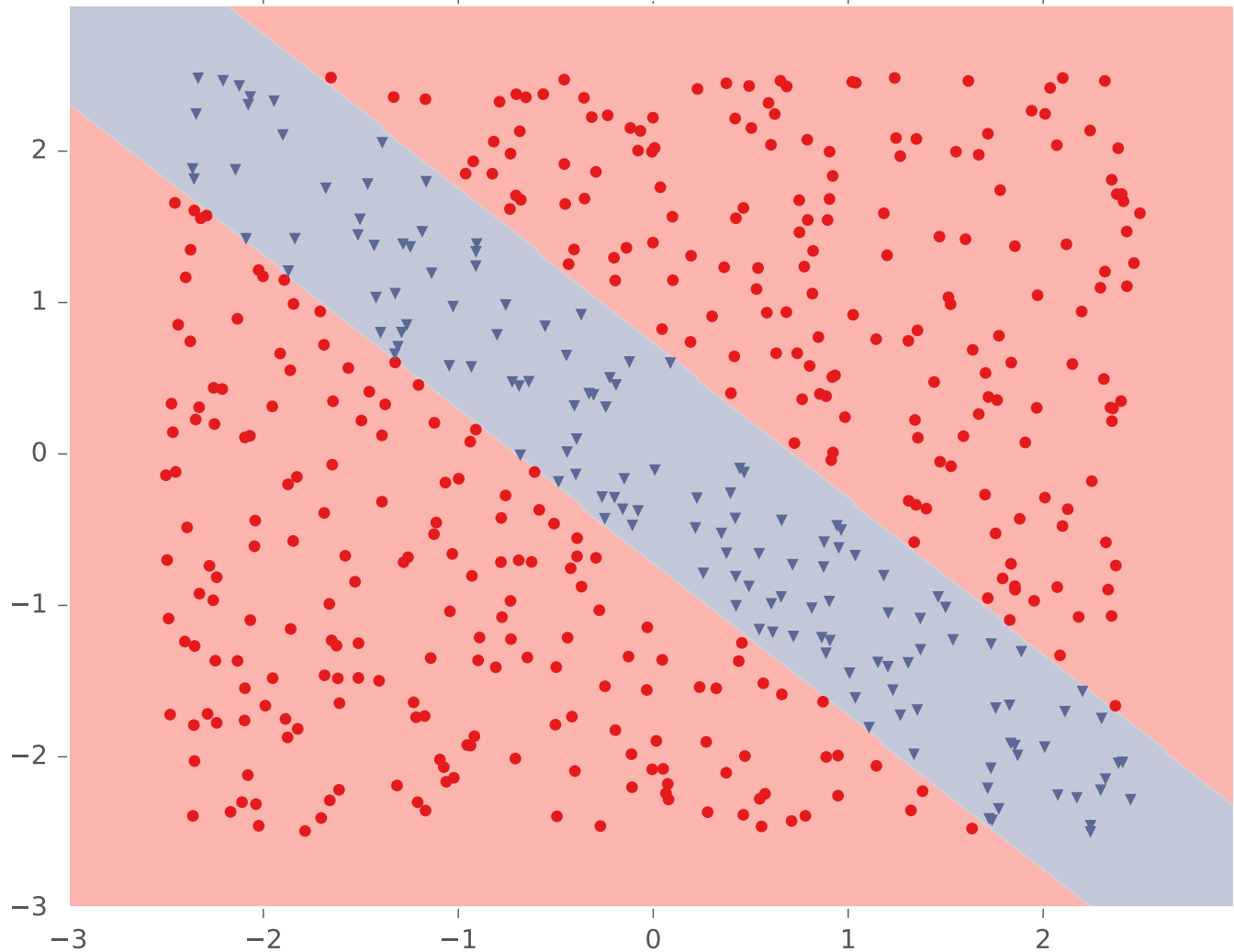


# Example #1: Diagonal Band



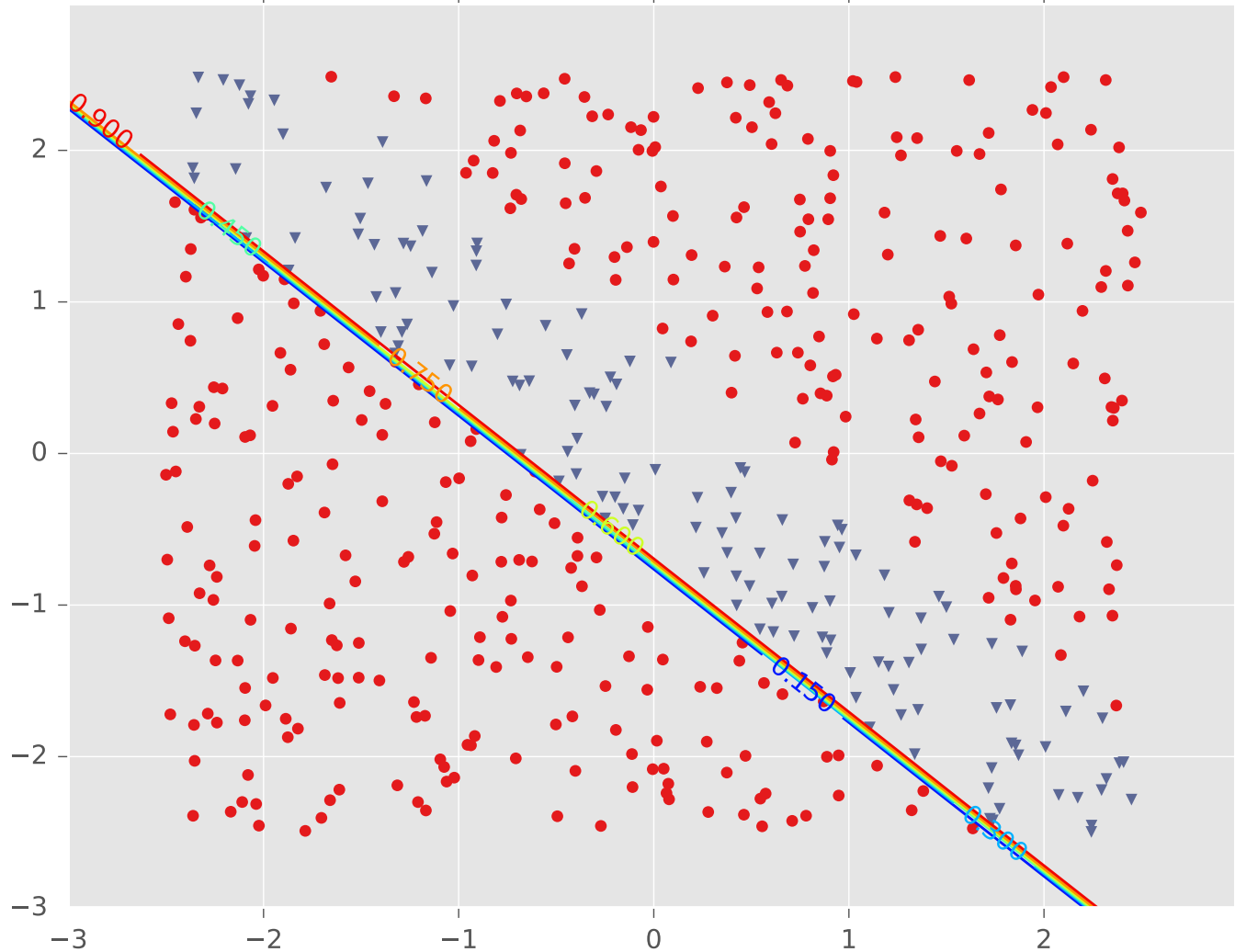
# Example #1: Diagonal Band

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)



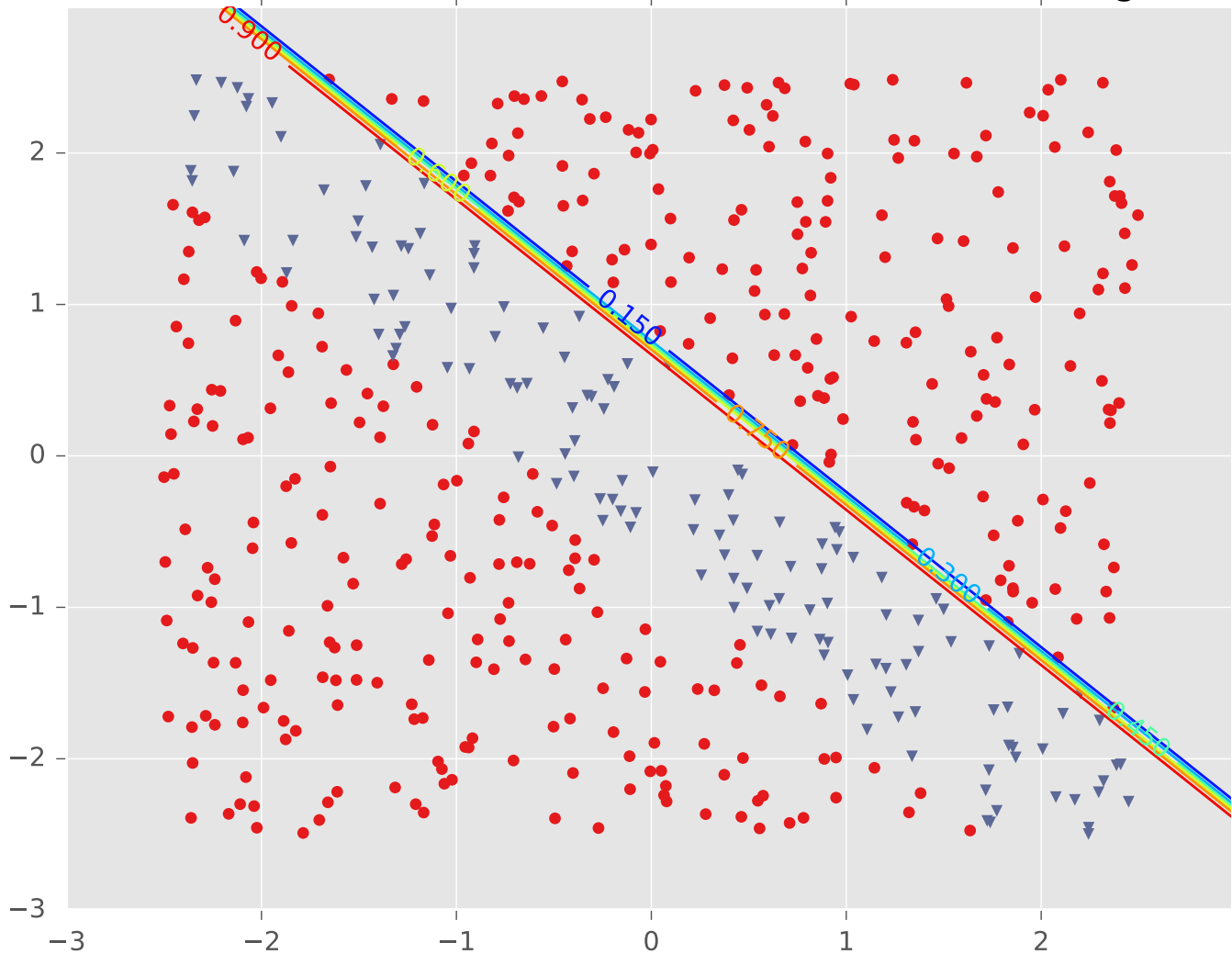
# Example #1: Diagonal Band

LR1 for Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)



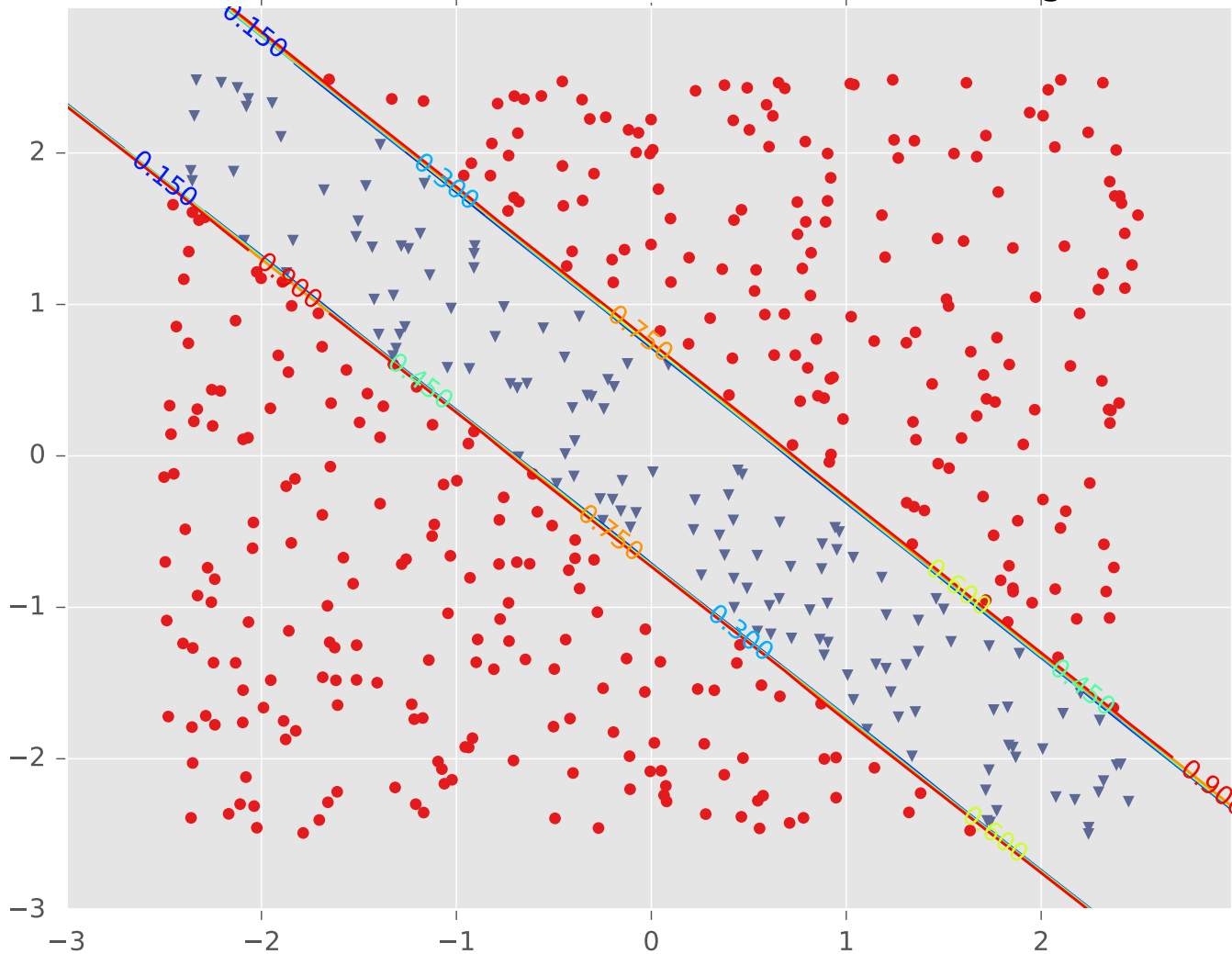
# Example #1: Diagonal Band

LR2 for Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)



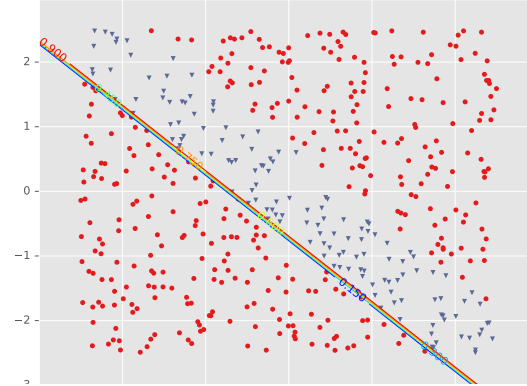
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Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)

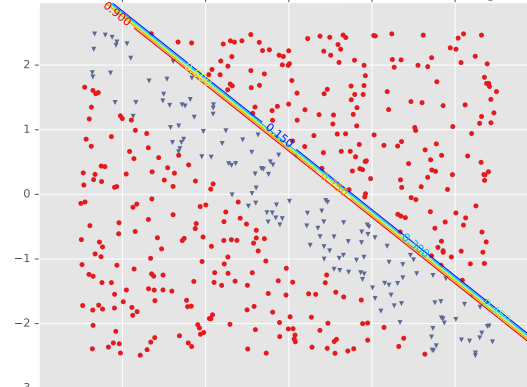


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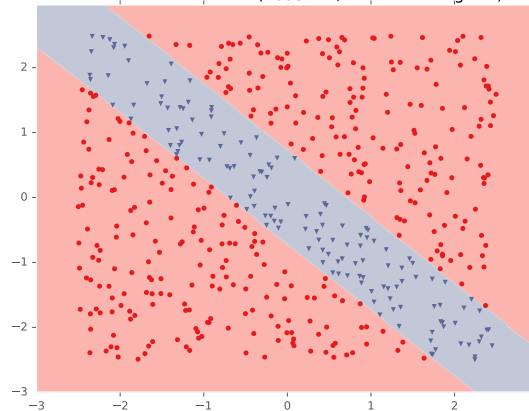
LR1 for Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)



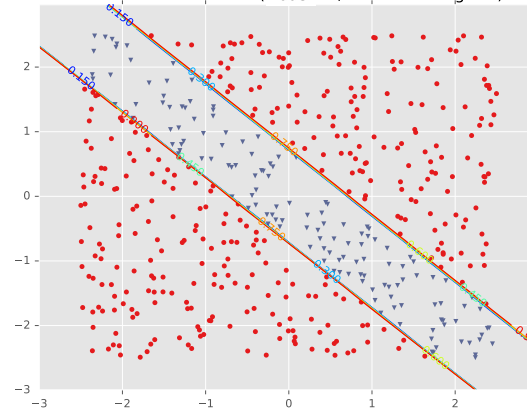
LR2 for Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)



Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)

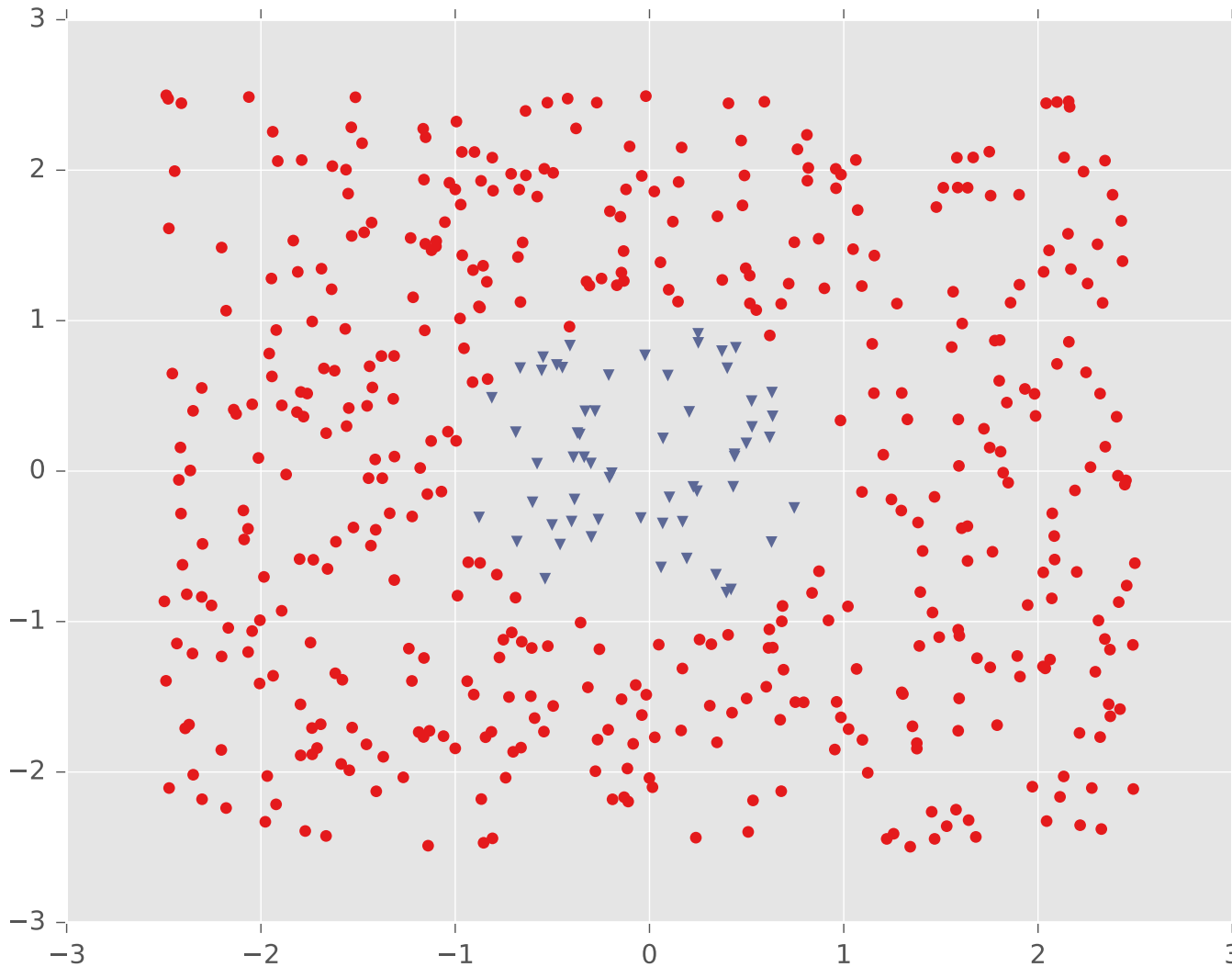


Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)





# Example #2: One Pocket

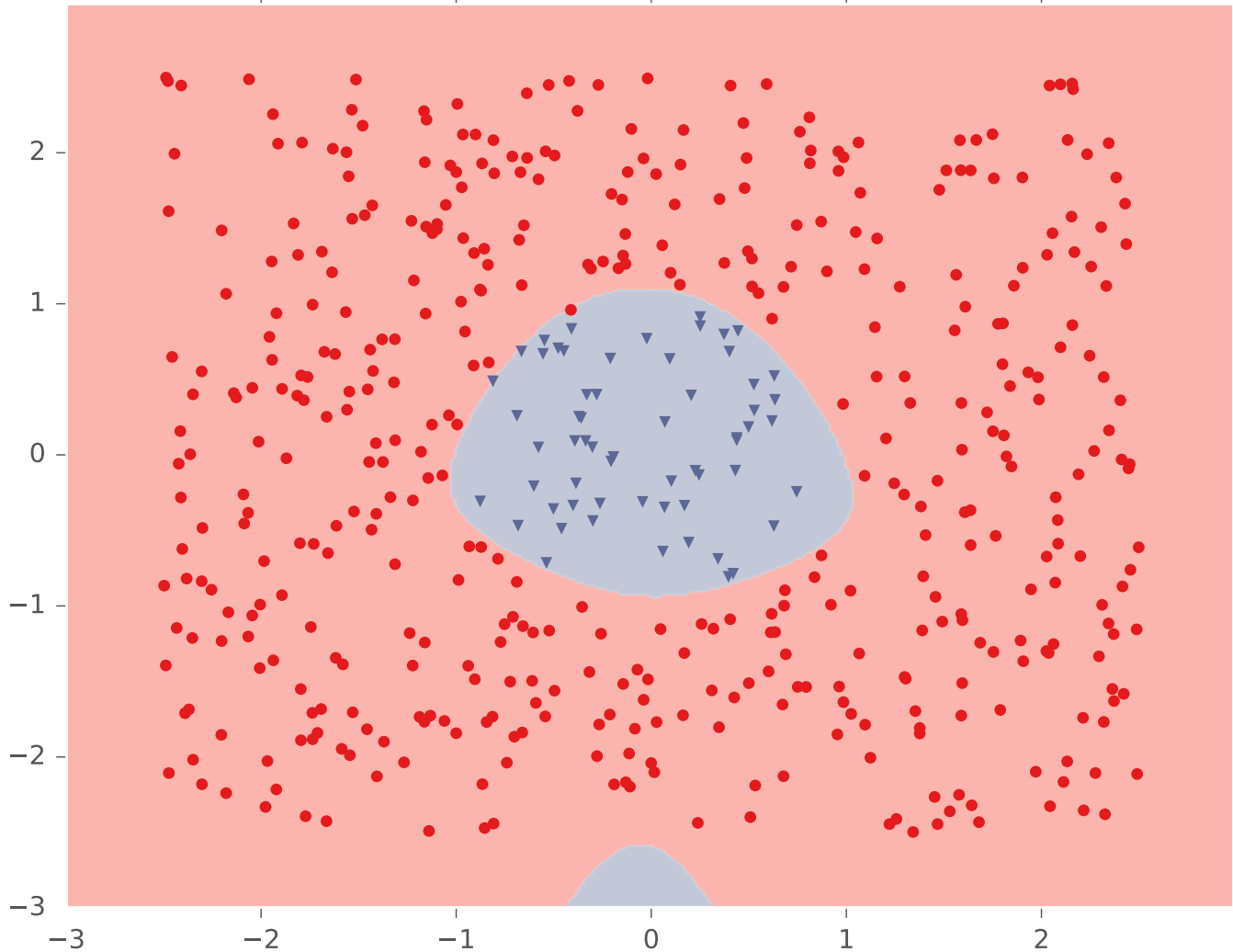


# Example #2: One Pocket



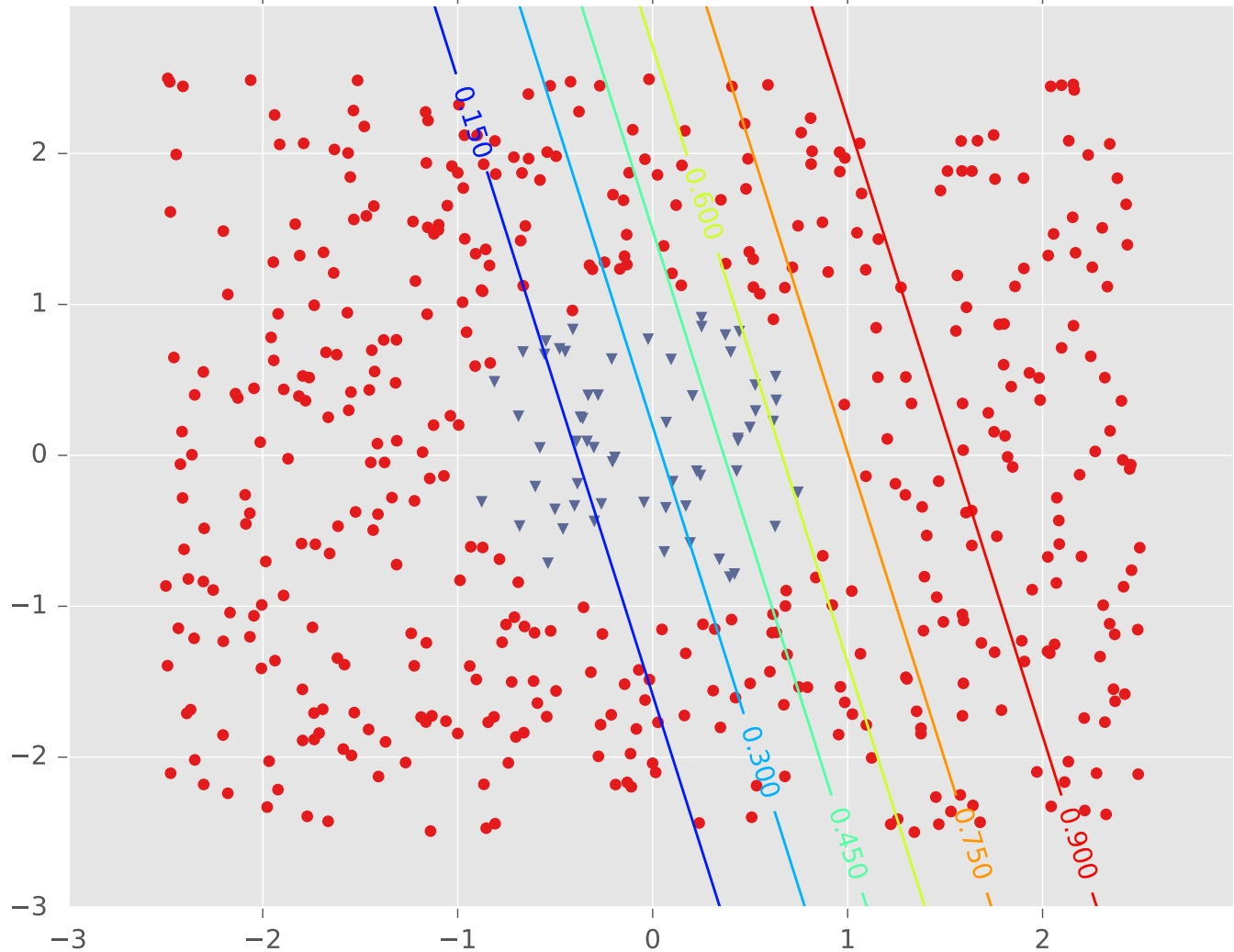
# Example #2: One Pocket

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=3, activation=logistic)



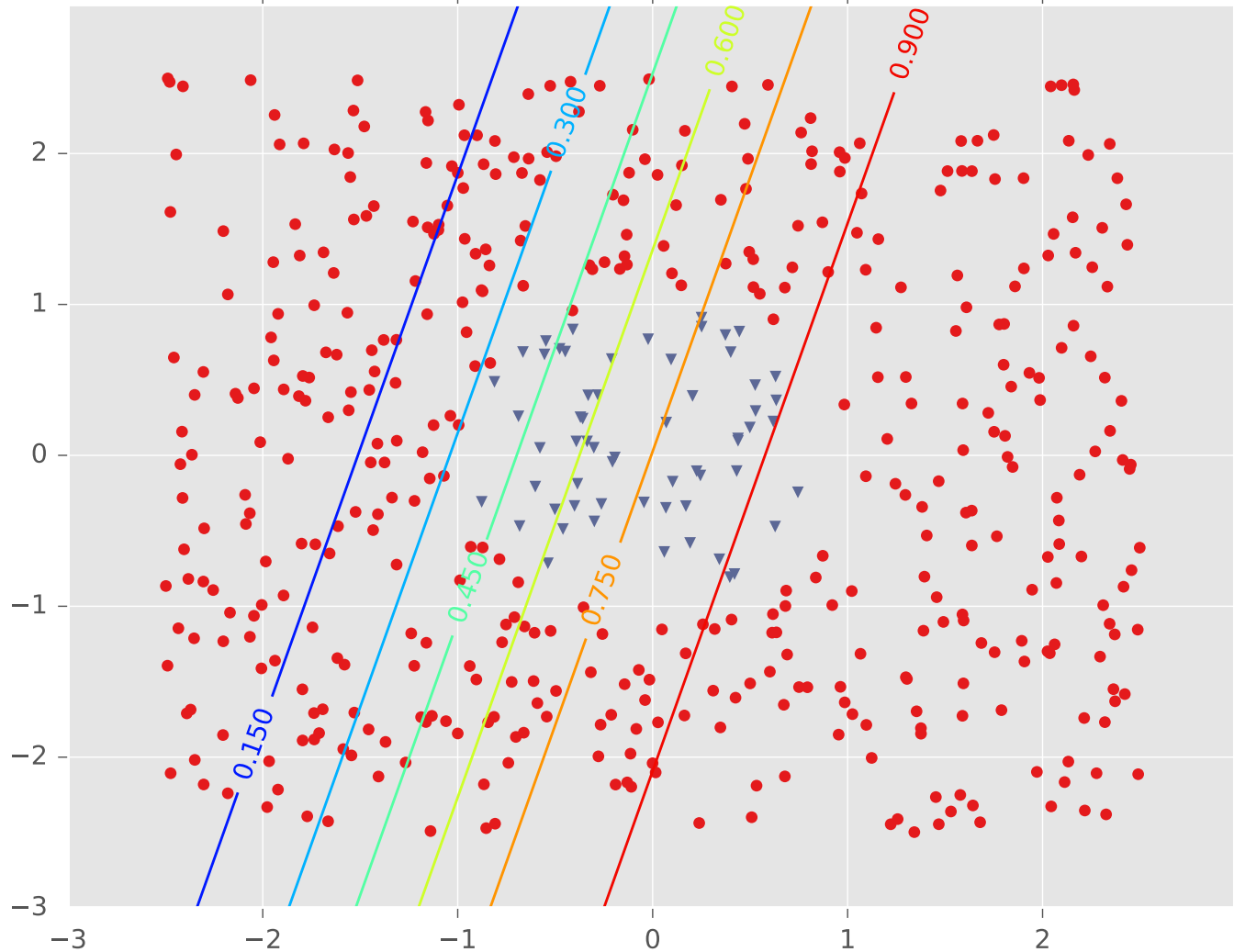
# Example #2: One Pocket

LR1 for Tuned Neural Network (hidden=3, activation=logistic)



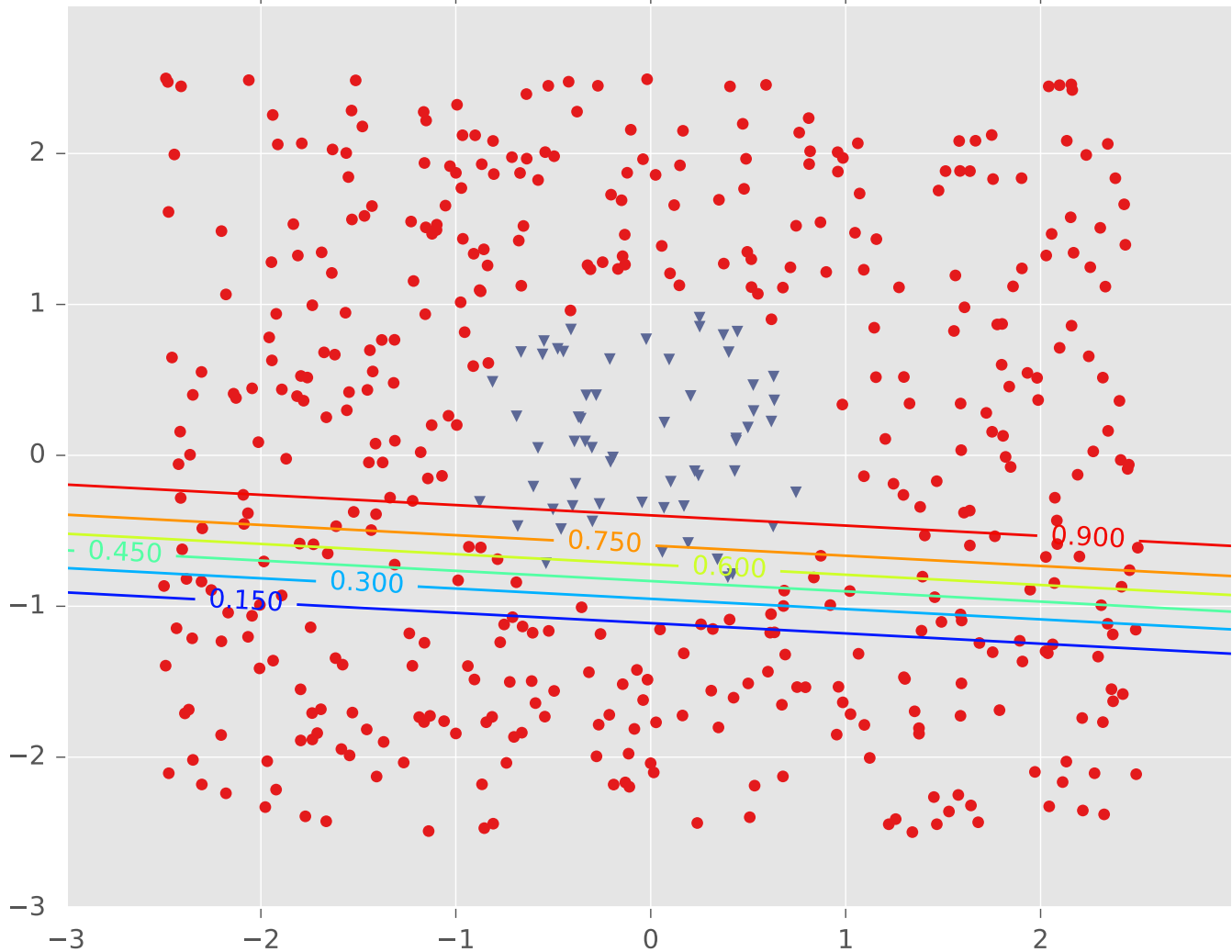
# Example #2: One Pocket

LR2 for Tuned Neural Network (hidden=3, activation=logistic)



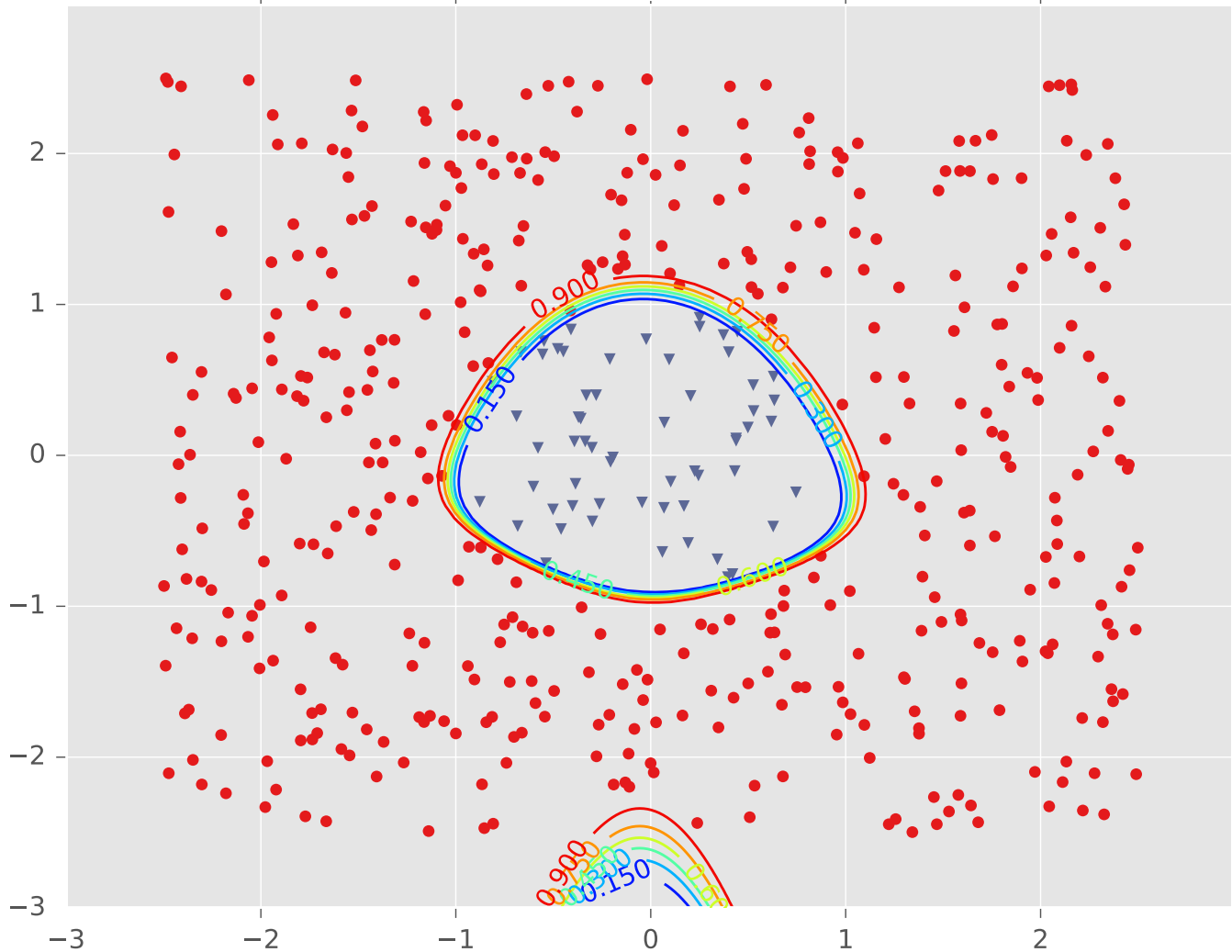
# Example #2: One Pocket

LR3 for Tuned Neural Network (hidden=3, activation=logistic)

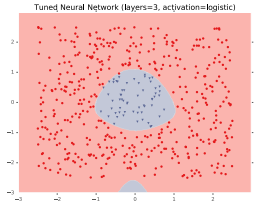
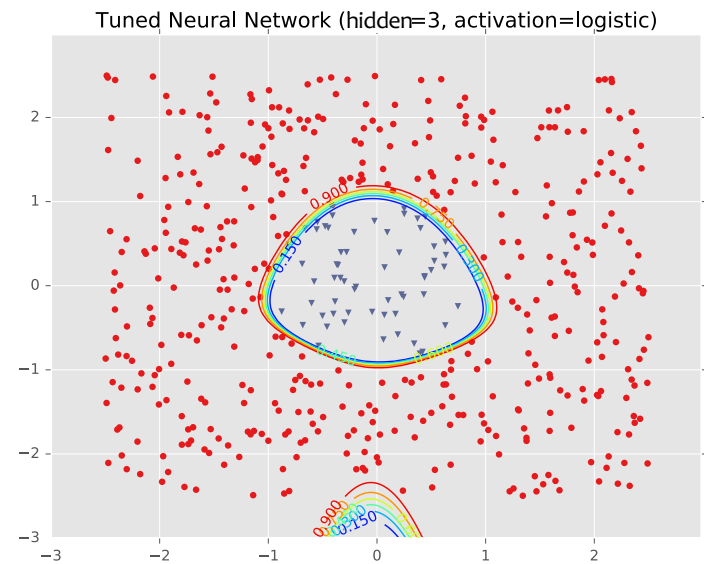
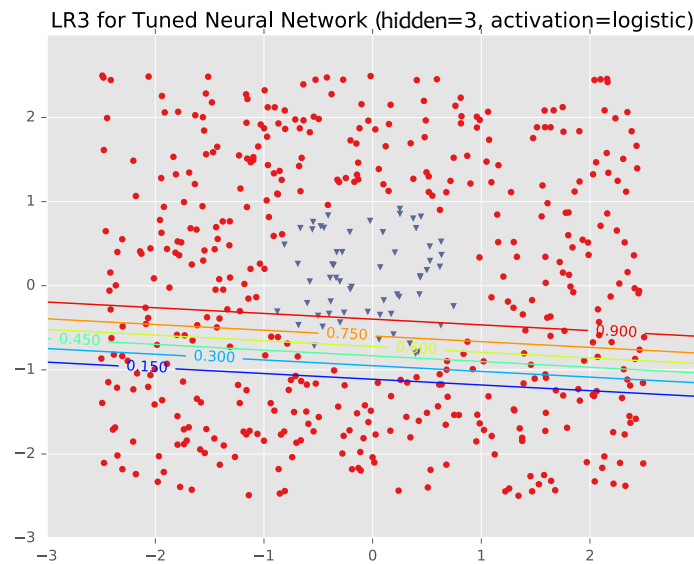
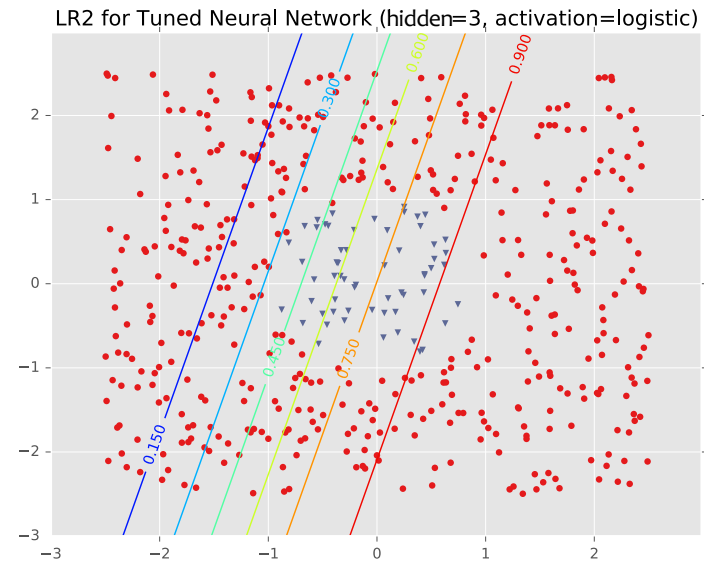
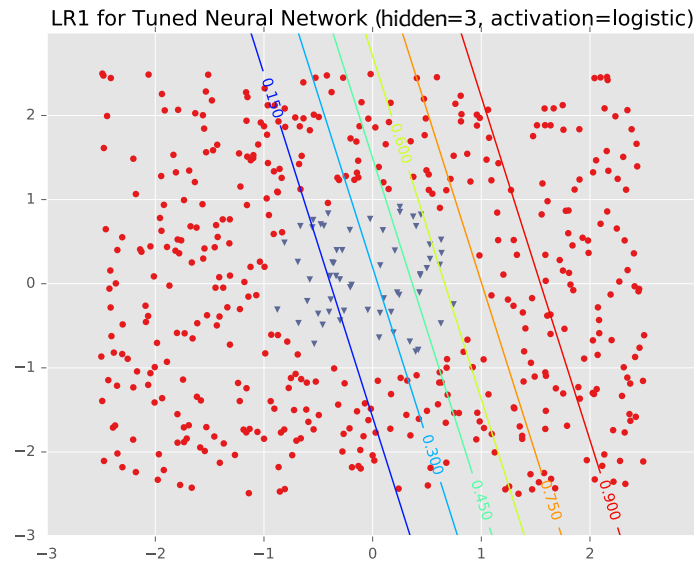


# Example #2: One Pocket

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=3, activation=logistic)



# Example #2: One Pocket

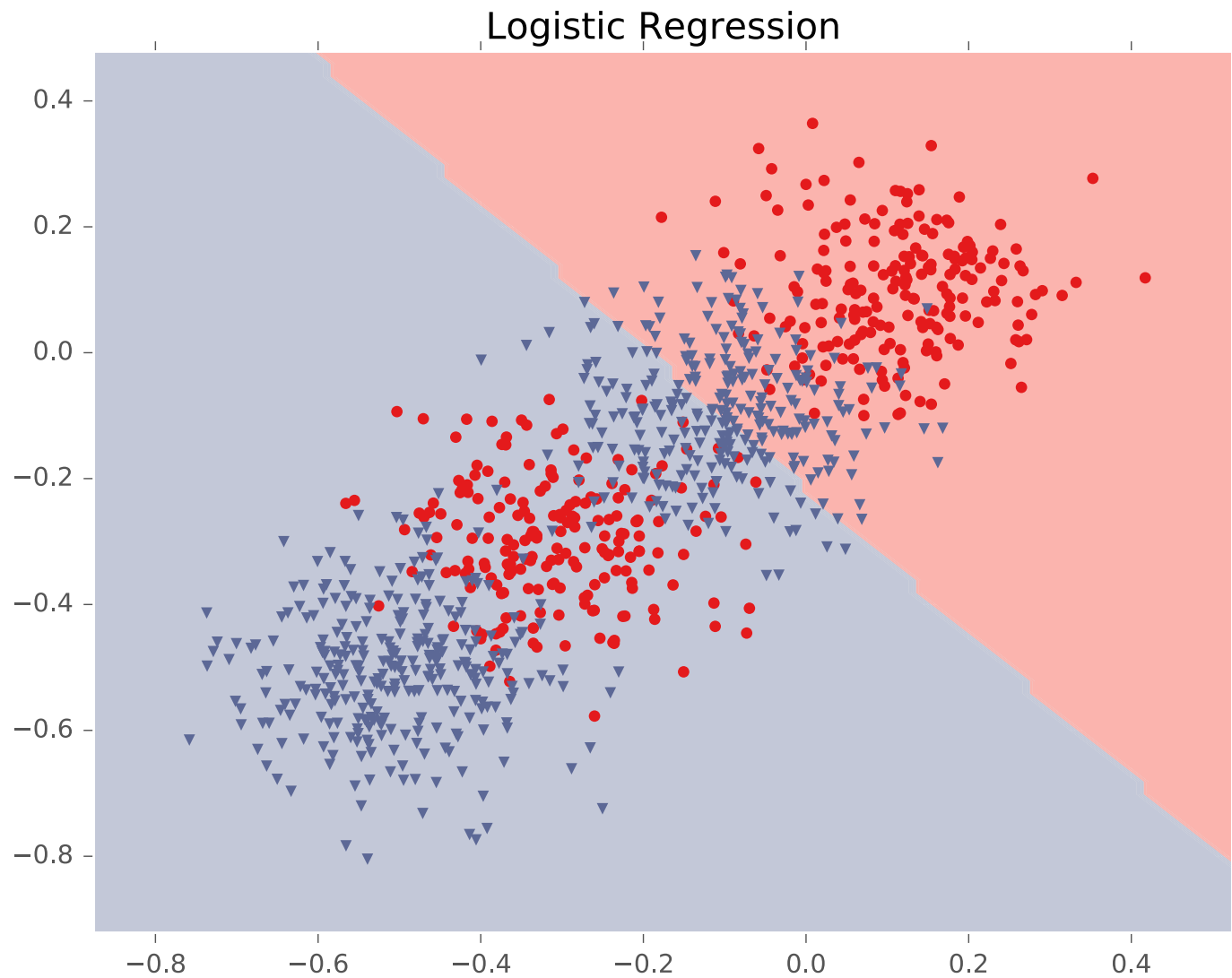




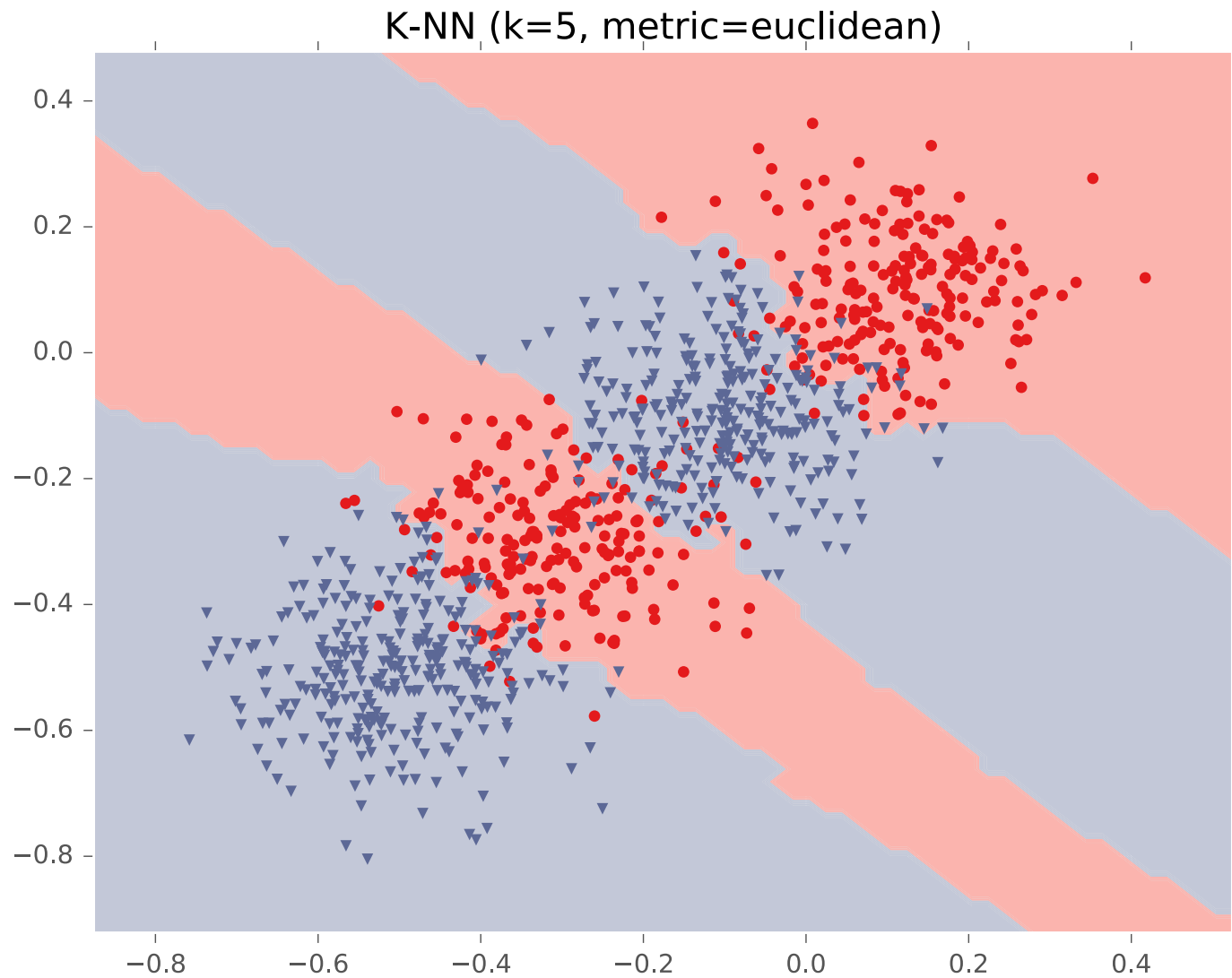
# Example #3: Four Gaussians



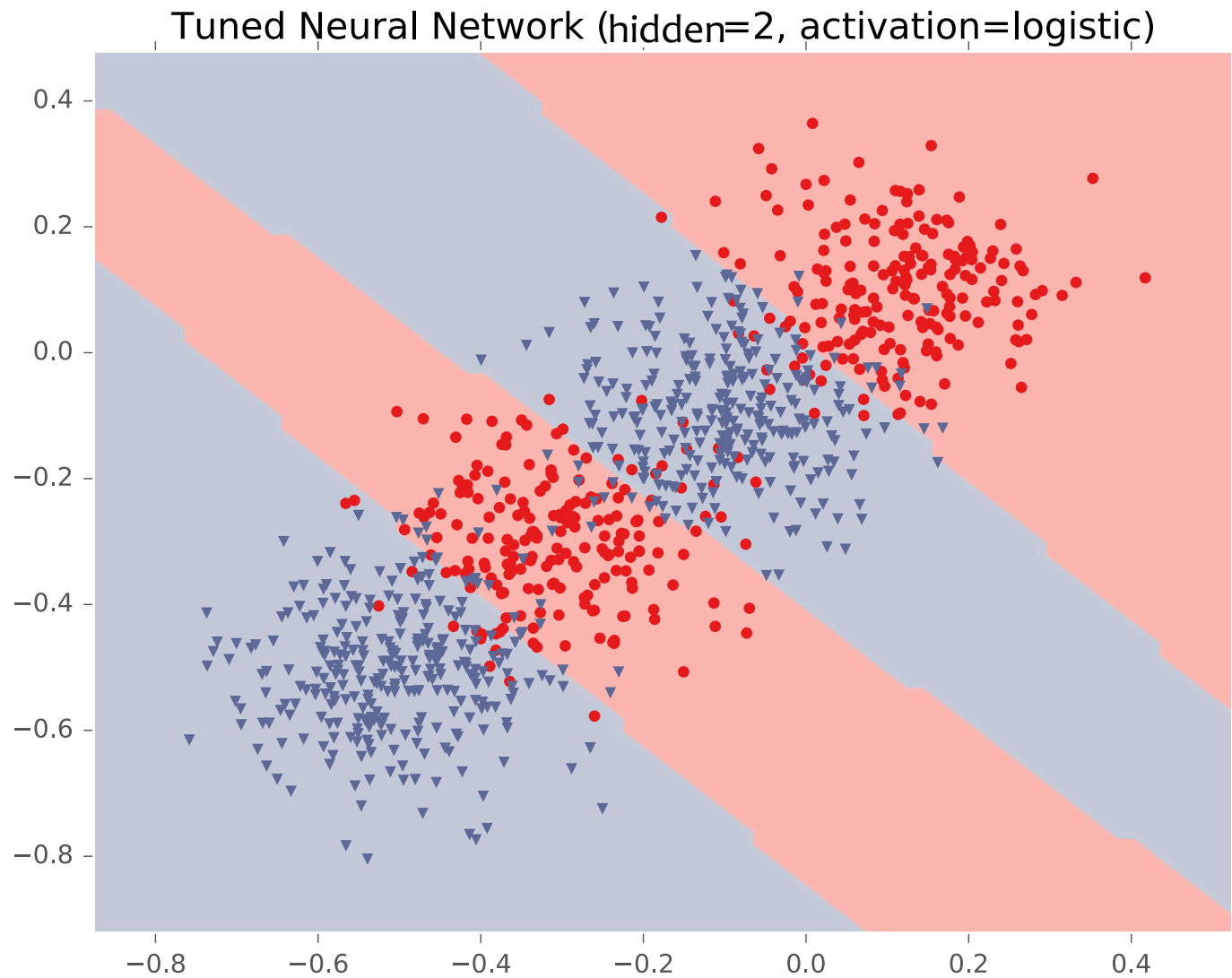
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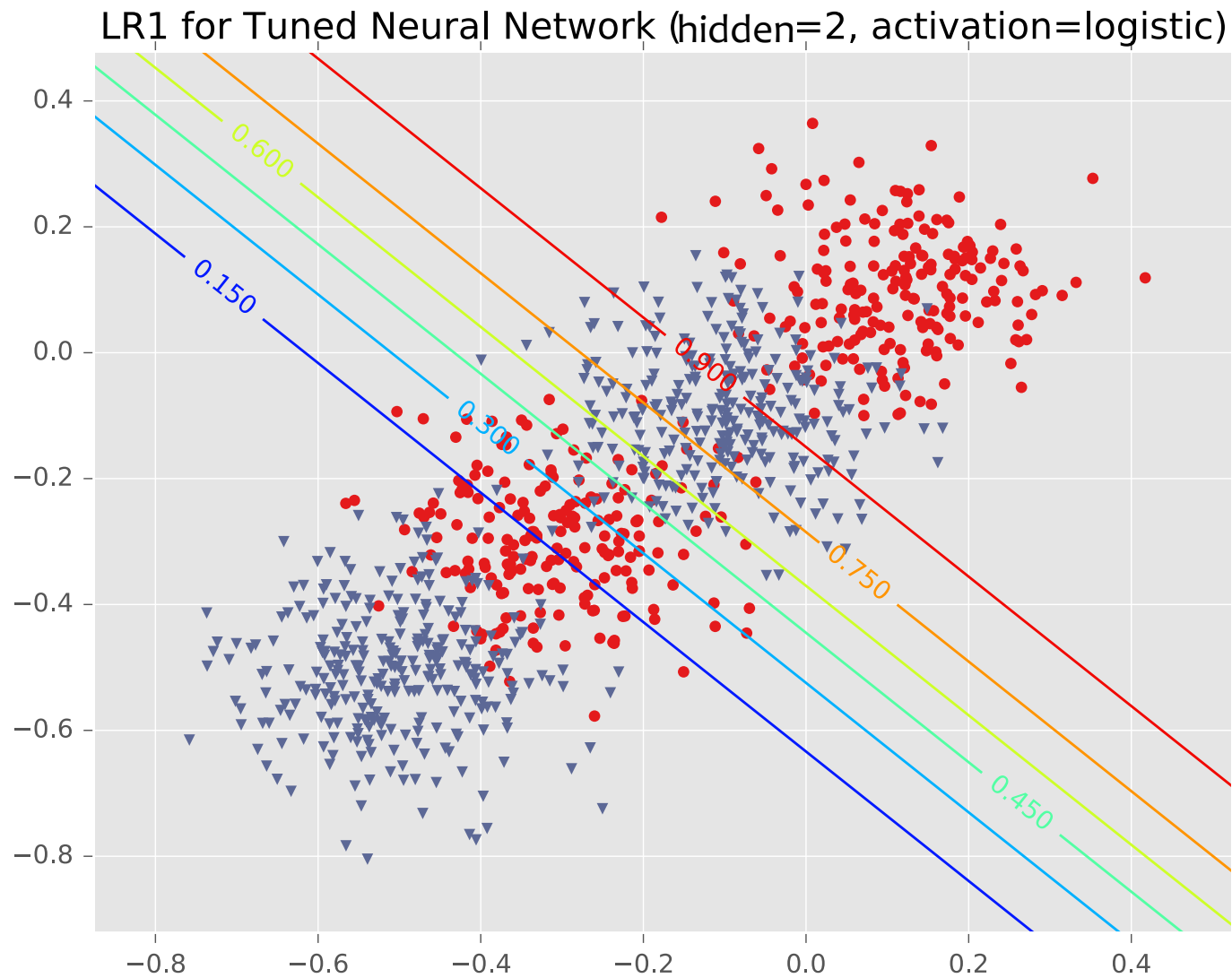
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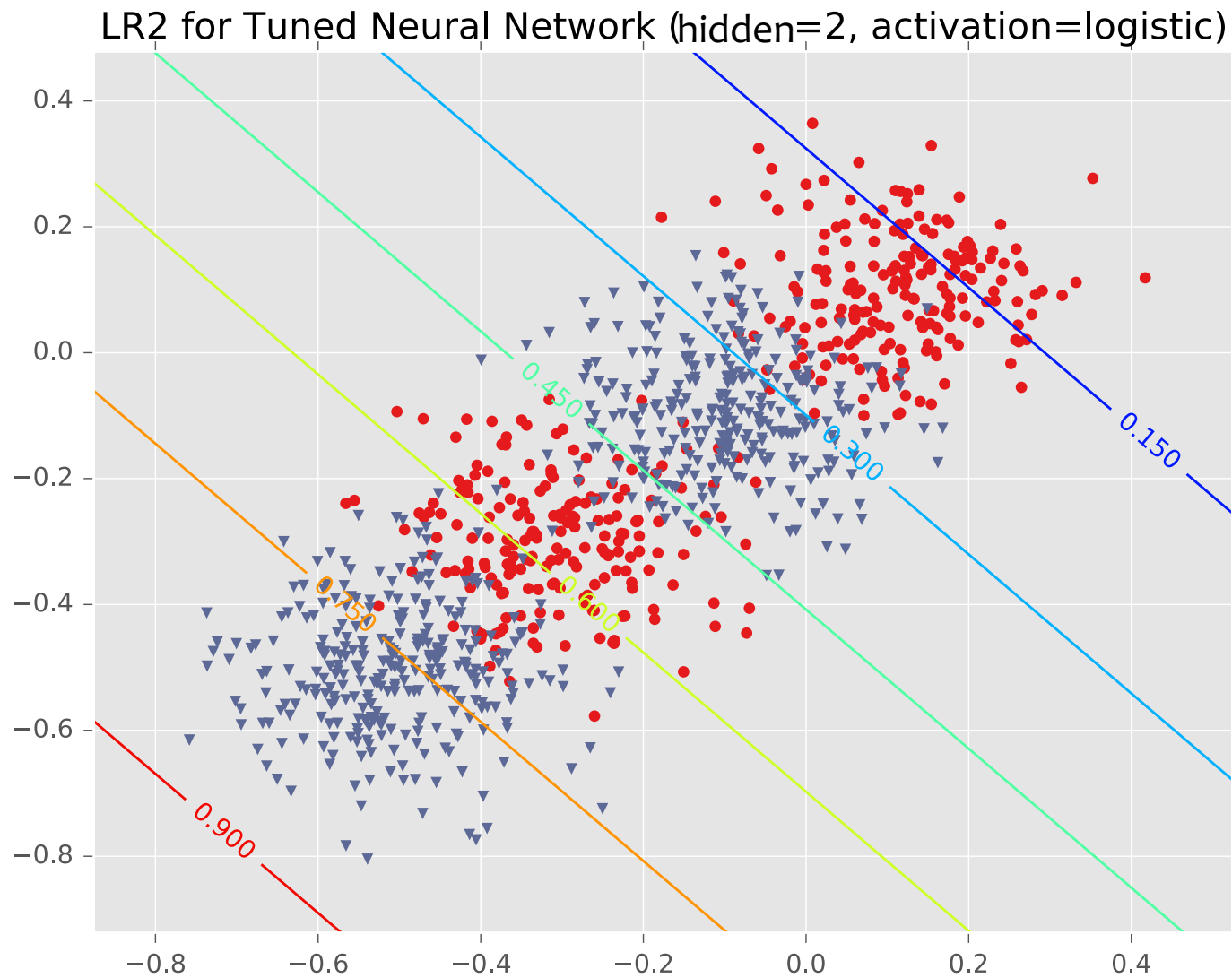
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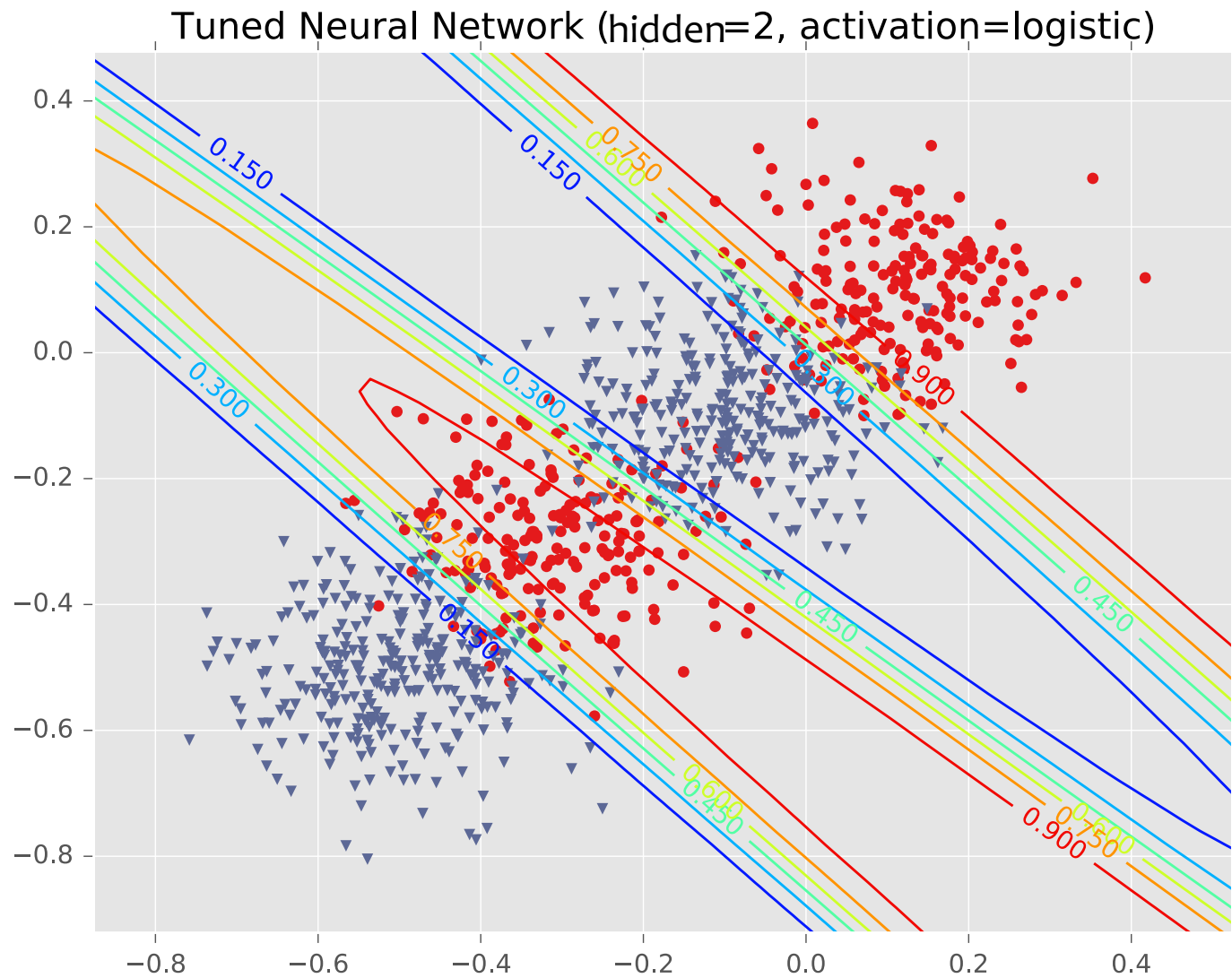
# Example #3: Four Gaussians



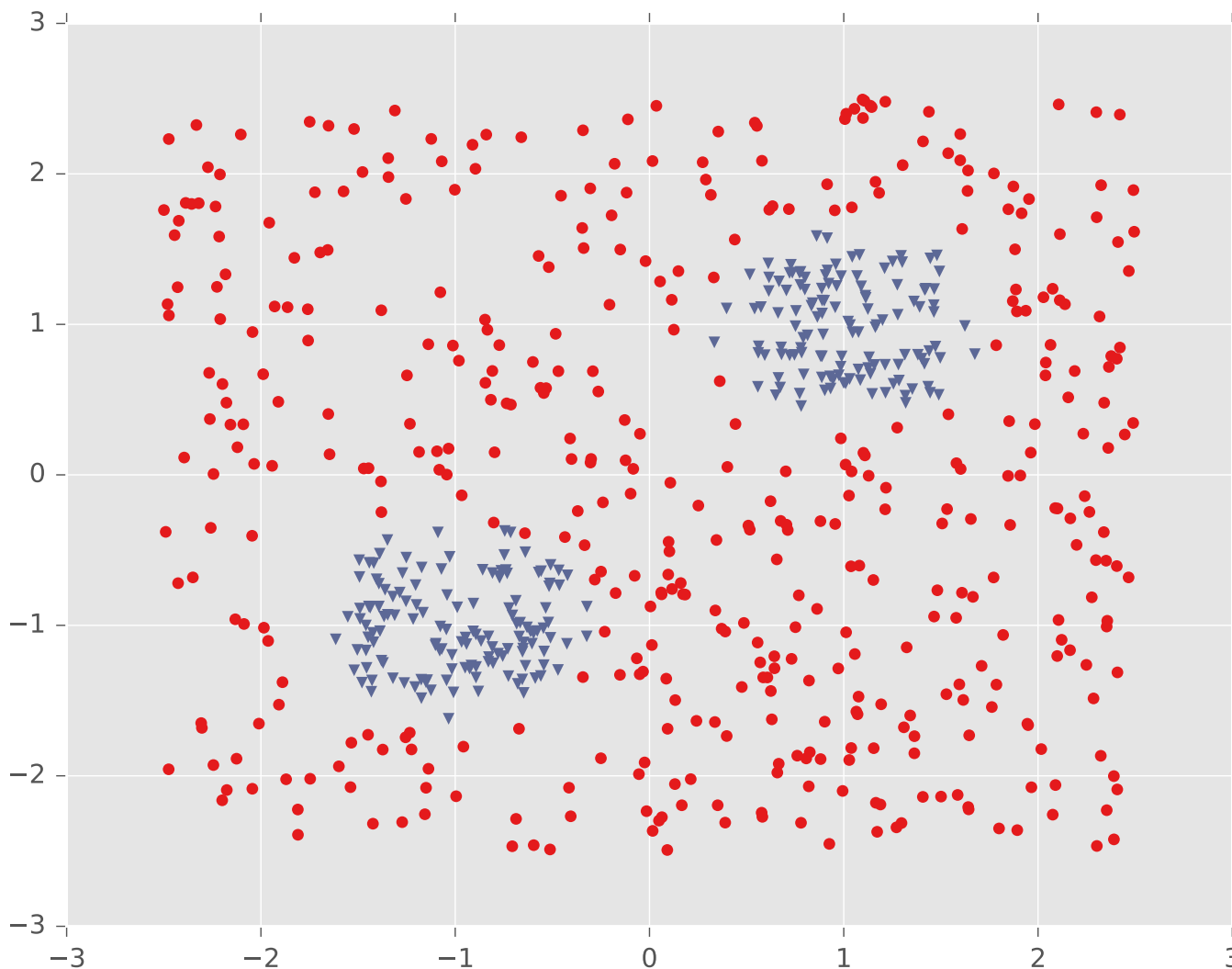
# Example #3: Four Gaussians



# Example #3: Four Gaussians

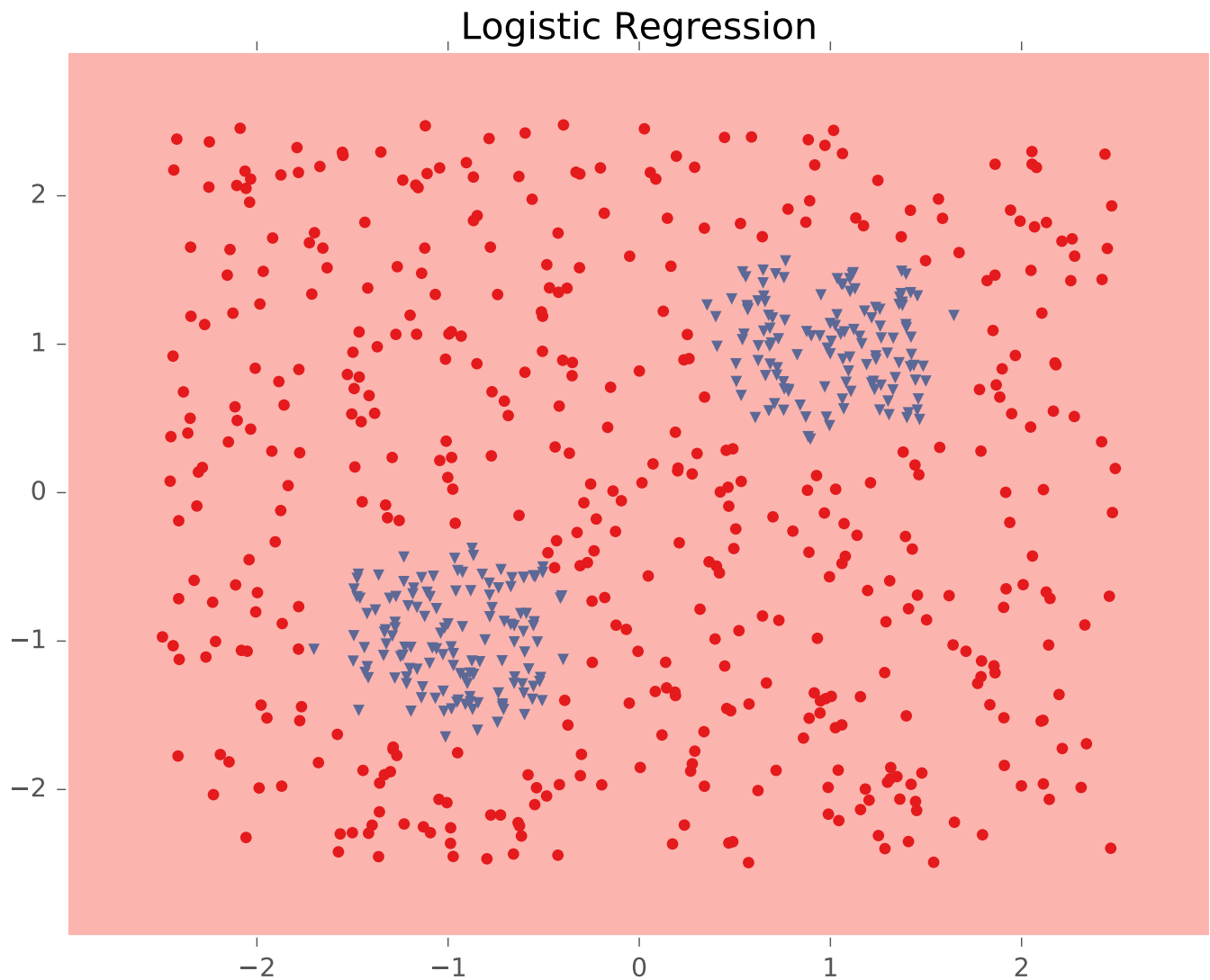


# Example #4: Two Pockets

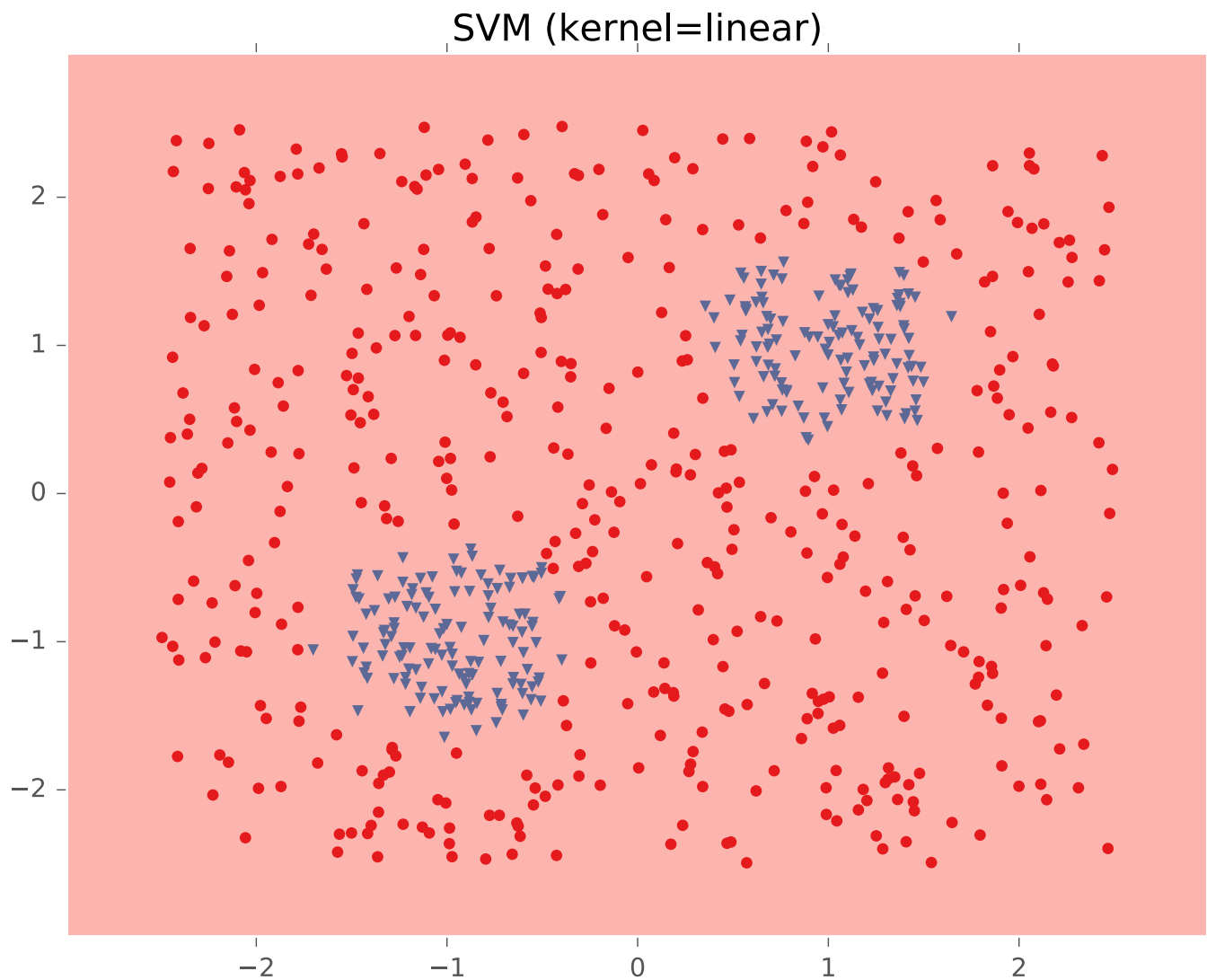




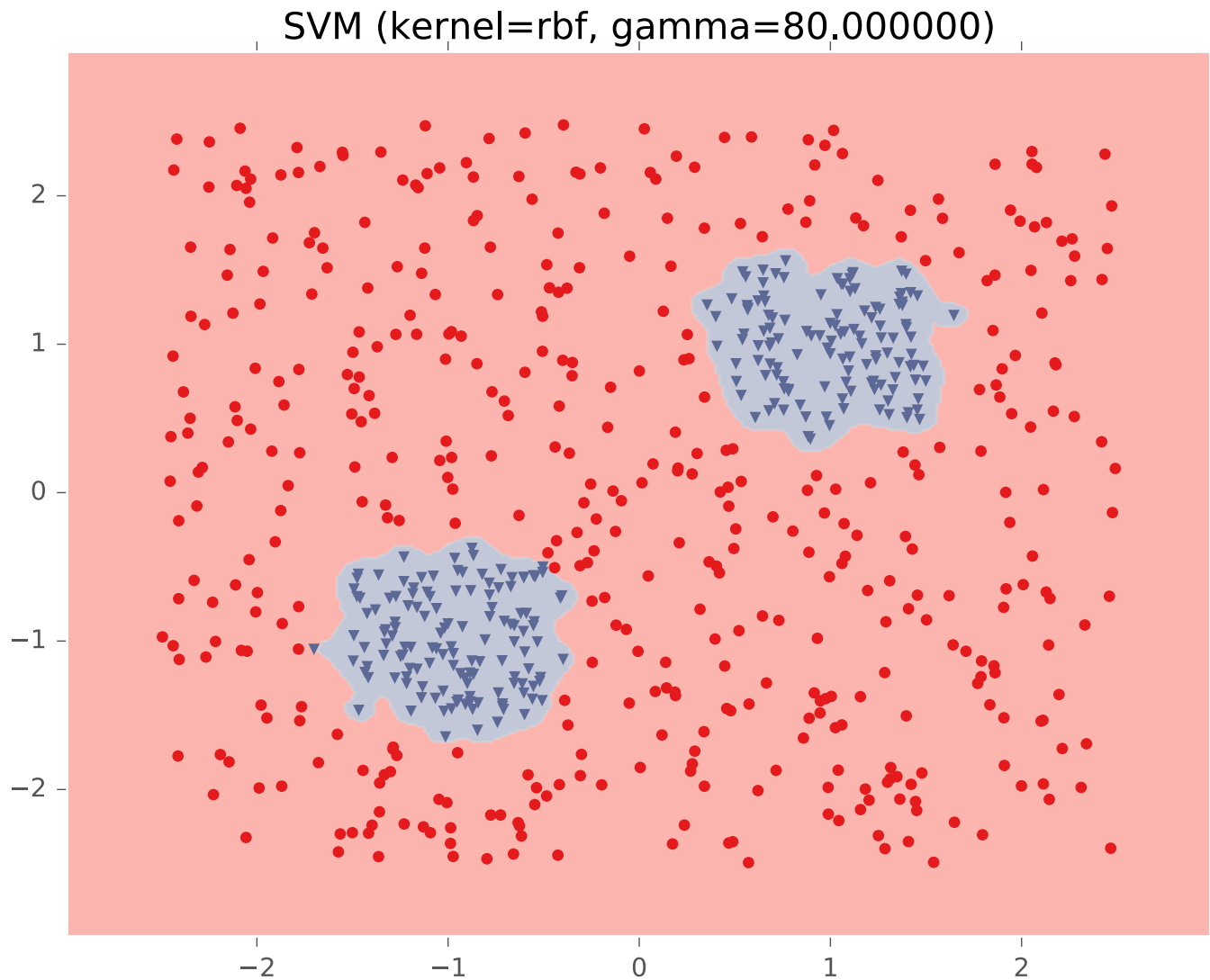
# Example #4: Two Pockets



# Example #4: Two Pockets

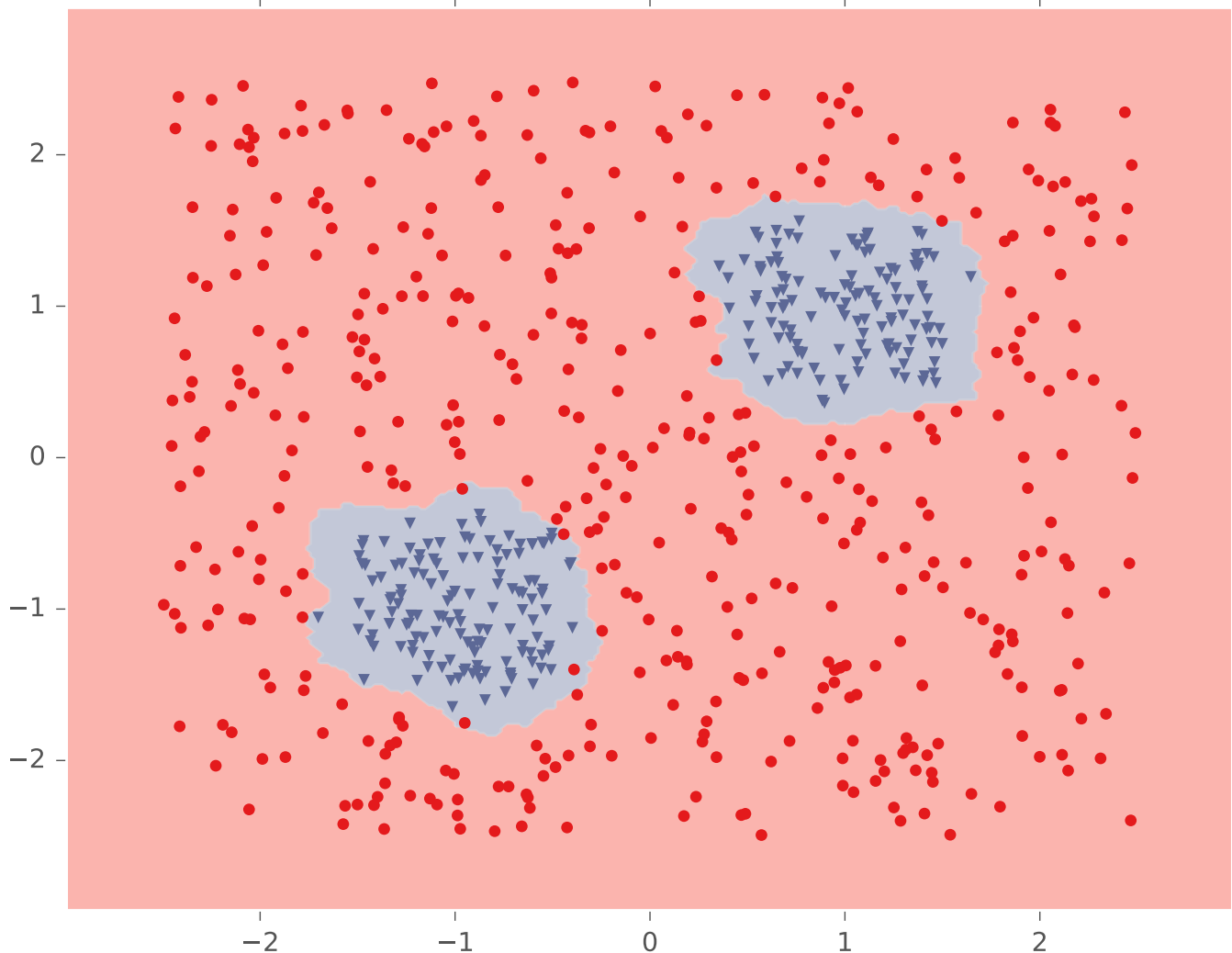


# Example #4: Two Pockets



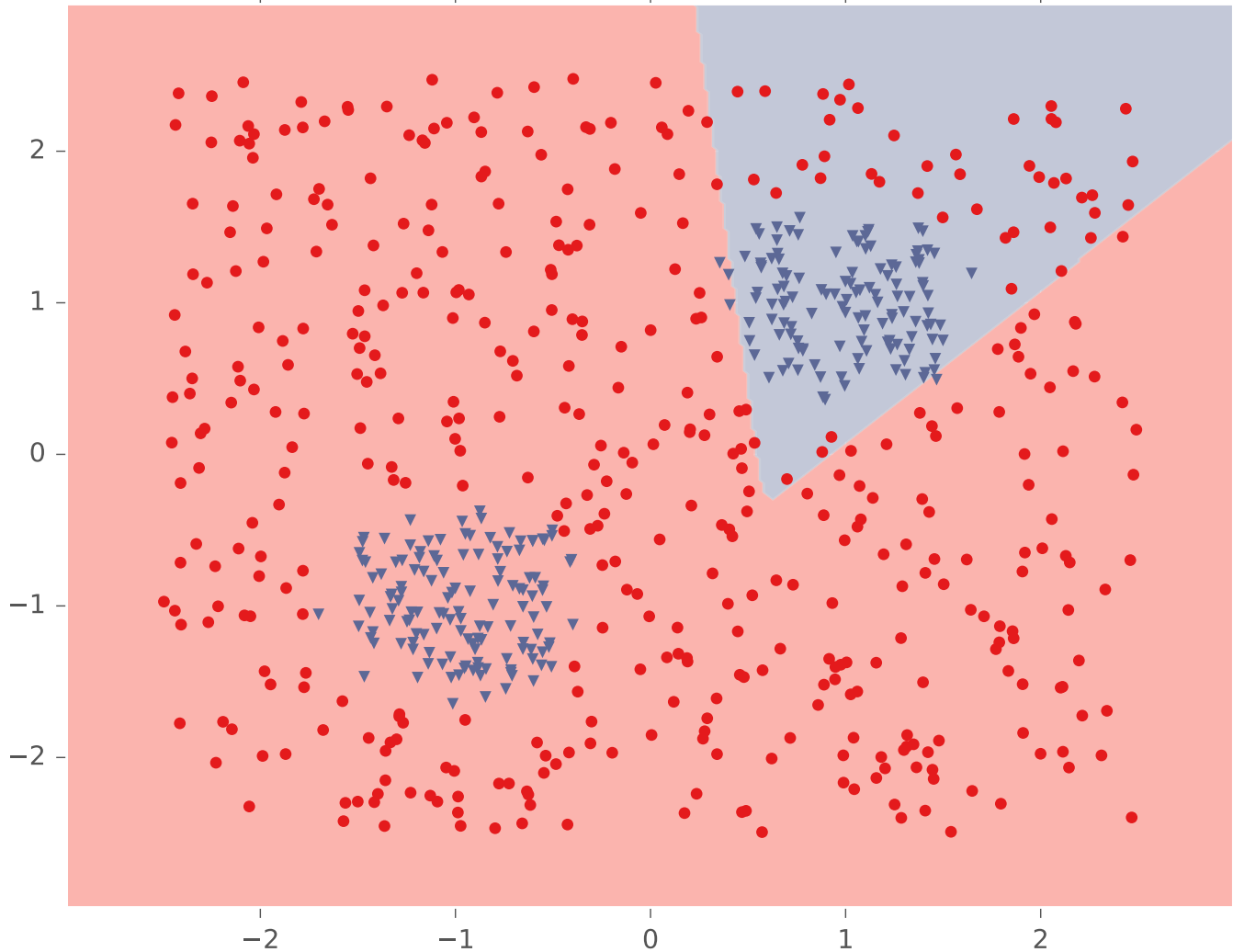
# Example #4: Two Pockets

K-NN (k=5, metric=euclidean)



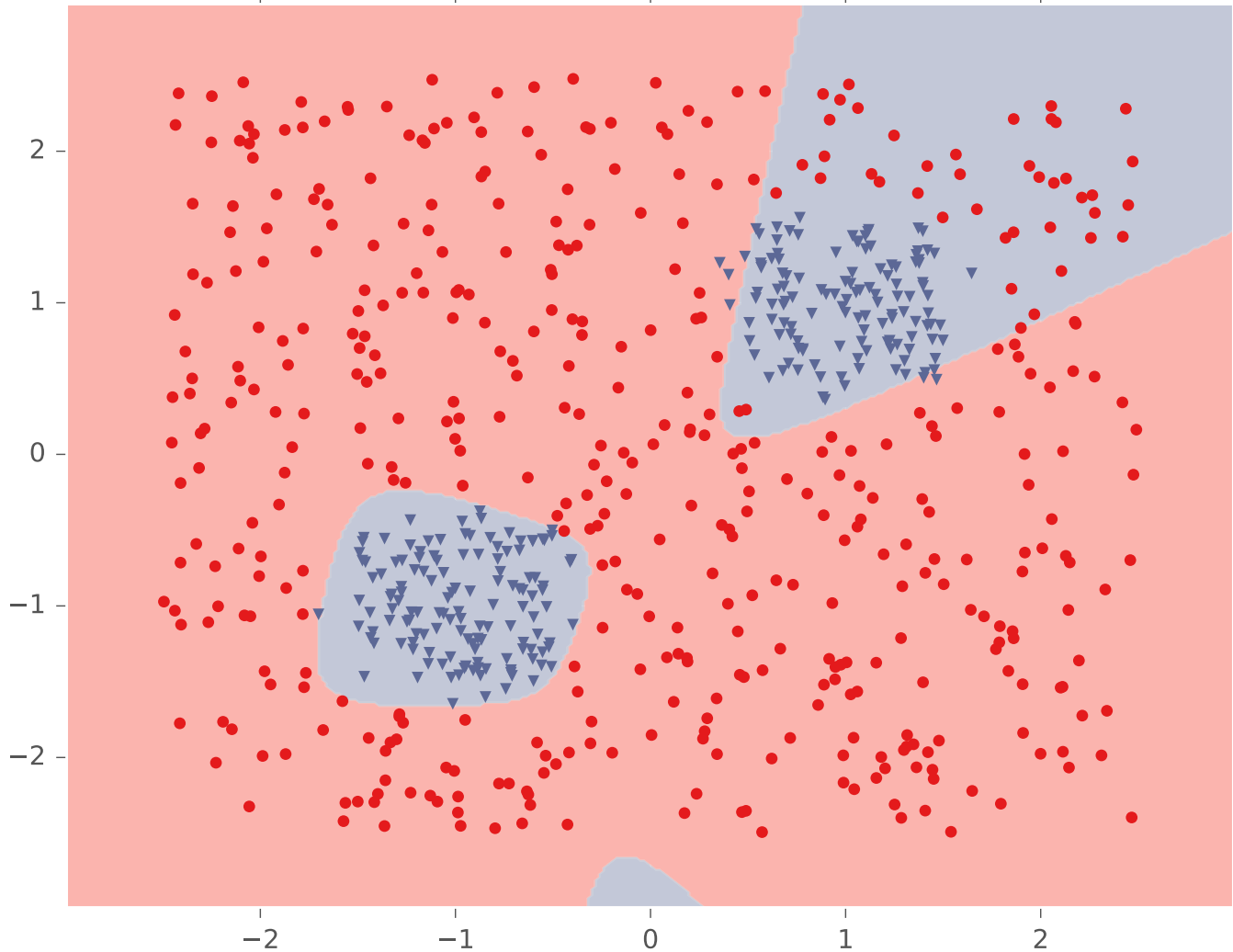
# Example #4: Two Pockets

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=2, activation=logistic)



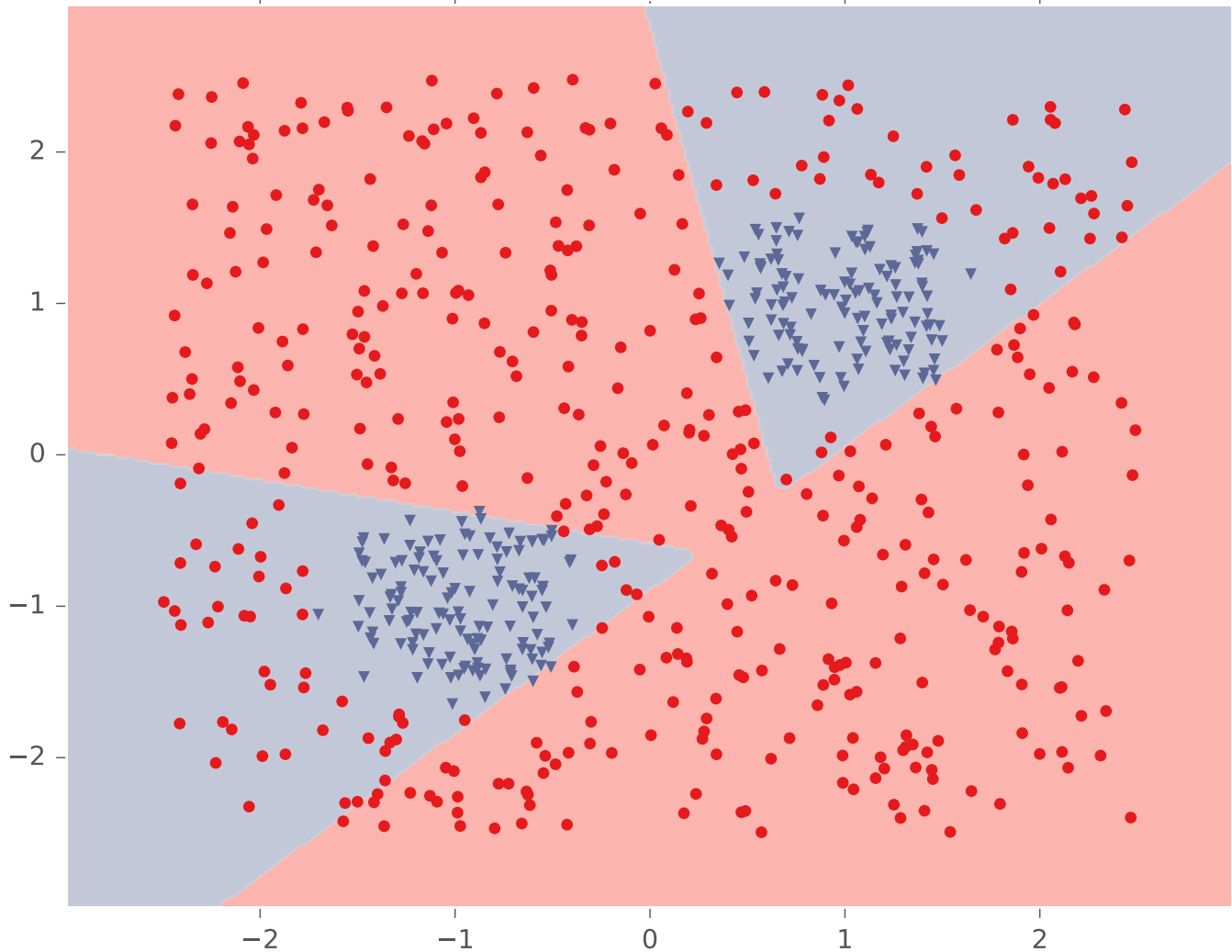
# Example #4: Two Pockets

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=3, activation=logistic)



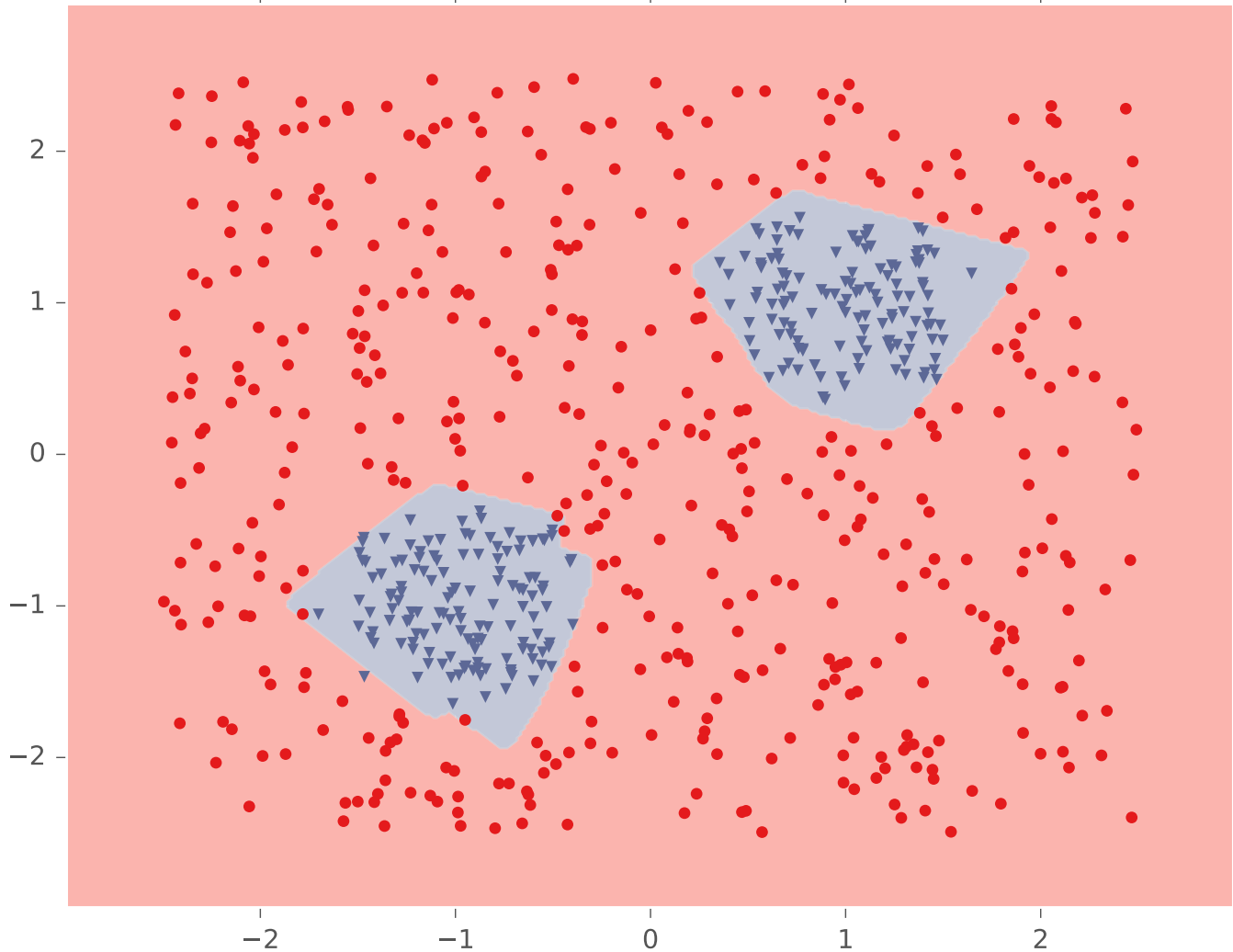
# Example #4: Two Pockets

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=4, activation=logistic)



# Example #4: Two Pockets

Tuned Neural Network (hidden=10, activation=logistic)





# Neural Networks Objectives

*You should be able to...*

- Explain the biological motivations for a neural network
- Combine simpler models (e.g. linear regression, binary logistic regression, multinomial logistic regression) as components to build up feed-forward neural network architectures
- Explain the reasons why a neural network can model nonlinear decision boundaries for classification
- Compare and contrast feature engineering with learning features
- Identify (some of) the options available when designing the architecture of a neural network
- Implement a feed-forward neural network

Computing Gradients

# **DIFFERENTIATION**

## Background

# A Recipe for Machine Learning

1. Given training data:

$$\{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i\}_{i=1}^N$$

2. Choose each of these:

- Decision function

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

- Loss function

$$\ell(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \mathbf{y}_i) \in \mathbb{R}$$

3. Define goal:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^* = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \sum_{i=1}^N \ell(f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_i), \mathbf{y}_i)$$

4. Train with SGD:

(take small steps  
opposite the gradient)

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t+1)} = \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t)} - \eta_t \nabla \ell(f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_i), \mathbf{y}_i)$$

- **Question 1:**  
When can we compute the gradients for an arbitrary neural network?
- **Question 2:**  
When can we make the gradient computation efficient?

# Training

# Approaches to Differentiation

## 1. Finite Difference Method

- Pro: Great for testing implementations of backpropagation
- Con: Slow for high dimensional inputs / outputs
- Required: Ability to call the function  $f(\mathbf{x})$  on any input  $\mathbf{x}$

## 2. Symbolic Differentiation

- Note: The method you learned in high-school
- Note: Used by Mathematica / Wolfram Alpha / Maple
- Pro: Yields easily interpretable derivatives
- Con: Leads to exponential computation time if not carefully implemented
- Required: Mathematical expression that defines  $f(\mathbf{x})$

## 3. Automatic Differentiation - Reverse Mode

- Note: Called *Backpropagation* when applied to Neural Nets
- Pro: Computes partial derivatives of one output  $f(\mathbf{x})_i$  with respect to all inputs  $x_j$  in time proportional to computation of  $f(\mathbf{x})$
- Con: Slow for high dimensional outputs (e.g. vector-valued functions)
- Required: Algorithm for computing  $f(\mathbf{x})$

## 4. Automatic Differentiation - Forward Mode

- Note: Easy to implement. Uses dual numbers.
- Pro: Computes partial derivatives of all outputs  $f(\mathbf{x})_i$  with respect to one input  $x_j$  in time proportional to computation of  $f(\mathbf{x})$
- Con: Slow for high dimensional inputs (e.g. vector-valued  $\mathbf{x}$ )
- Required: Algorithm for computing  $f(\mathbf{x})$

Given  $f : \mathbb{R}^A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^B, f(\mathbf{x})$   
Compute  $\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})_i}{\partial x_j} \forall i, j$

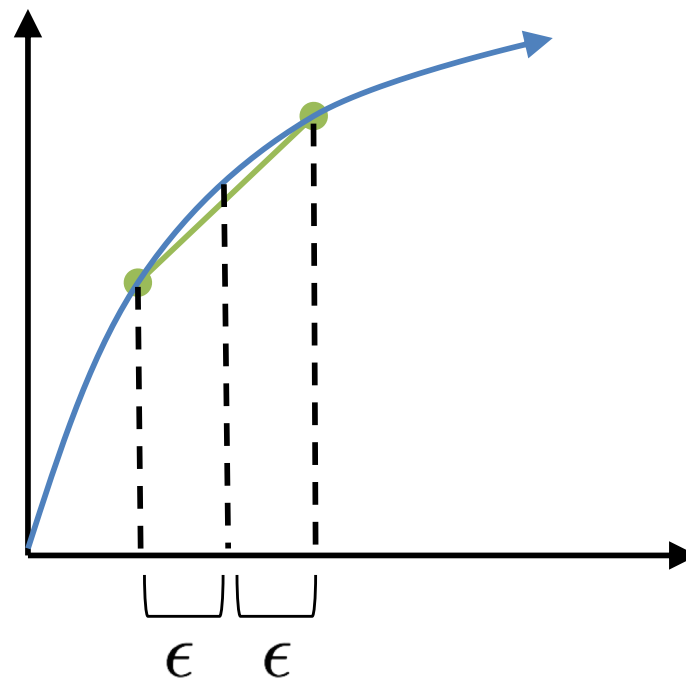
The centered finite difference approximation is:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \approx \frac{(J(\boldsymbol{\theta} + \epsilon \cdot \mathbf{d}_i) - J(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \epsilon \cdot \mathbf{d}_i))}{2\epsilon} \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathbf{d}_i$  is a 1-hot vector consisting of all zeros except for the  $i$ th entry of  $\mathbf{d}_i$ , which has value 1.

**Notes:**

- Suffers from issues of floating point precision, in practice
- Typically only appropriate to use on small examples with an appropriately chosen epsilon



Speed Quiz:  
2 minute time limit.

**Differentiation Quiz #1:**

Suppose  $x = 2$  and  $z = 3$ , what are  $dy/dx$  and  $dy/dz$  for the function below? **Round your answer to the nearest integer.**

$$y = \exp(xz) + \frac{xz}{\log(x)} + \frac{\sin(\log(x))}{xz}$$

**Answer:** Answers below are in the form  $[dy/dx, dy/dz]$

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| A. [42, -72]  | E. [1208, 810] |
| B. [72, -42]  | F. [810, 1208] |
| C. [100, 127] | G. [1505, 94]  |
| D. [127, 100] | H. [94, 1505]  |

## Differentiation Quiz #2:

A neural network with 2 hidden layers can be written as:

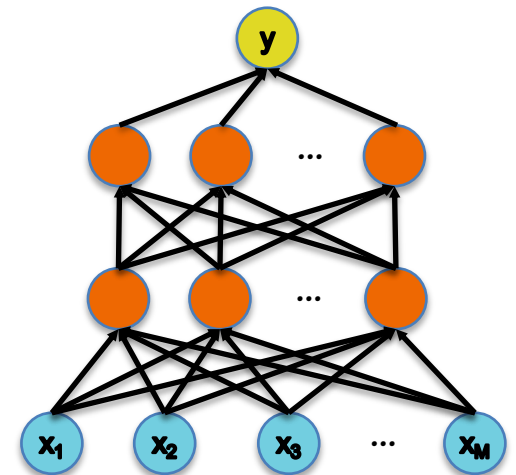
$$y = \sigma(\beta^T \sigma((\alpha^{(2)})^T \sigma((\alpha^{(1)})^T \mathbf{x})))$$

where  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{D^{(0)}}$ ,  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^{D^{(2)}}$  and  $\alpha^{(i)}$  is a  $D^{(i)} \times D^{(i-1)}$  matrix. Nonlinear functions are applied elementwise:

$$\sigma(\mathbf{a}) = [\sigma(a_1), \dots, \sigma(a_K)]^T$$

Let  $\sigma$  be sigmoid:  $\sigma(a) = \frac{1}{1+\exp(-a)}$

What is  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial \beta_j}$  and  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial \alpha_j^{(i)}}$  for all  $i, j$ .





# CHAIN RULE

Training

Chain Rule

*Chalkboard*

– Chain Rule of Calculus

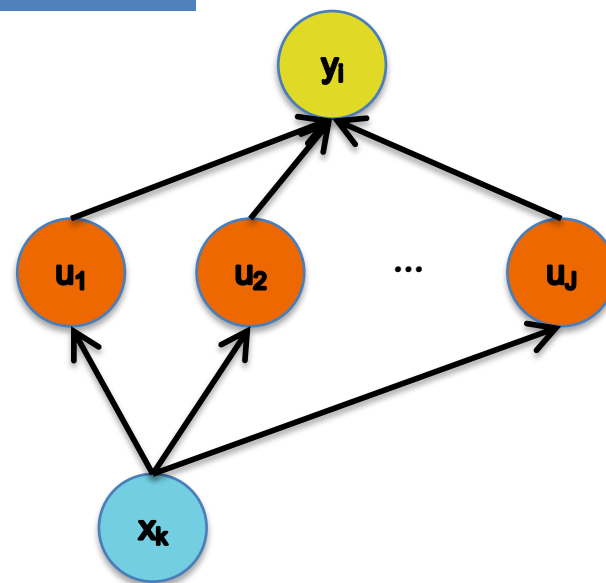
# Training

# Chain Rule

**Given:**  $y = g(u)$  and  $u = h(x)$ .

**Chain Rule:**

$$\frac{dy_i}{dx_k} = \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{dy_i}{du_j} \frac{du_j}{dx_k}, \quad \forall i, k$$



# Training

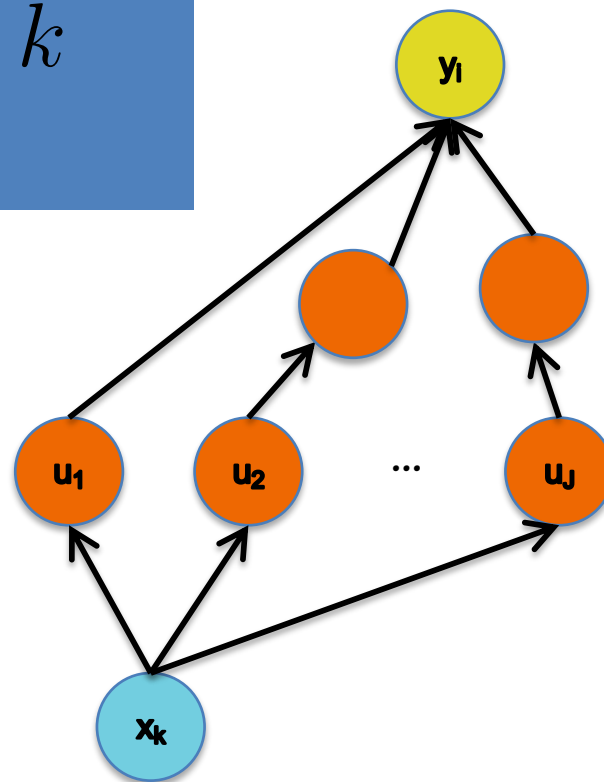
# Chain Rule

**Given:**  $y = g(u)$  and  $u = h(x)$ .

**Chain Rule:**

$$\frac{dy_i}{dx_k} = \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{dy_i}{du_j} \frac{du_j}{dx_k}, \quad \forall i, k$$

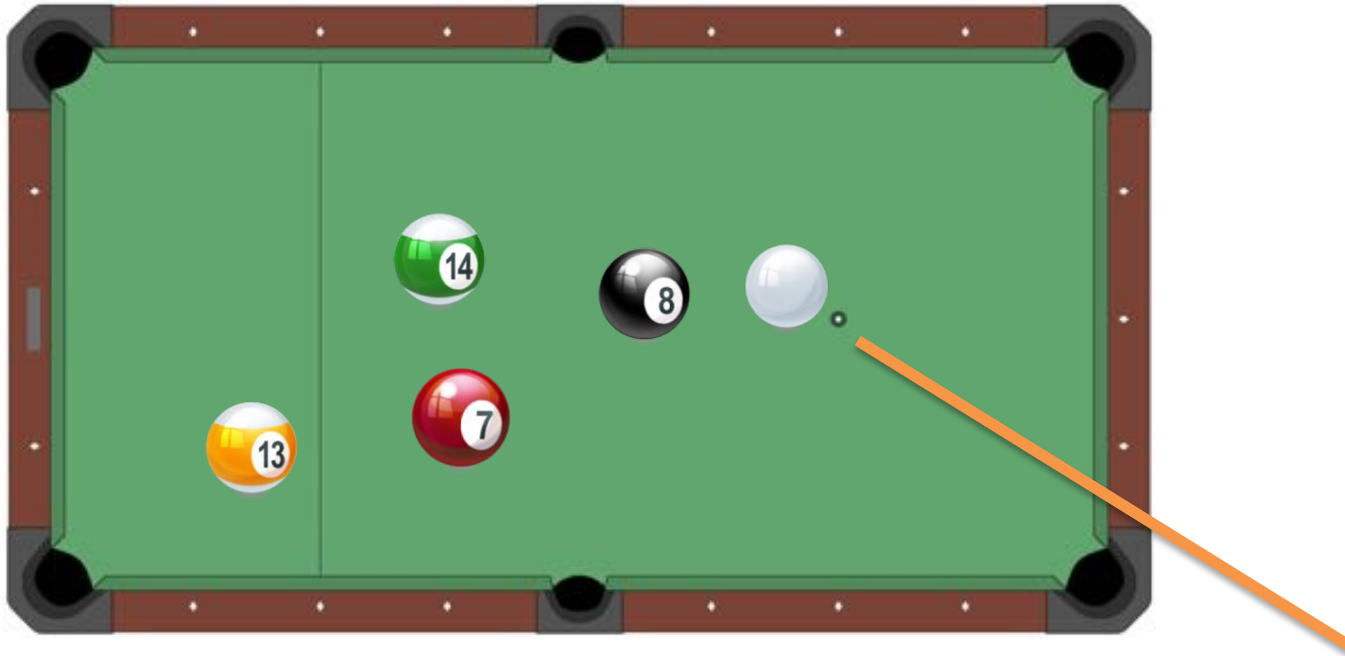
**Backpropagation**  
is just repeated  
application of the  
**chain rule** from  
Calculus 101.



Intuitions

# **BACKPROPAGATION**

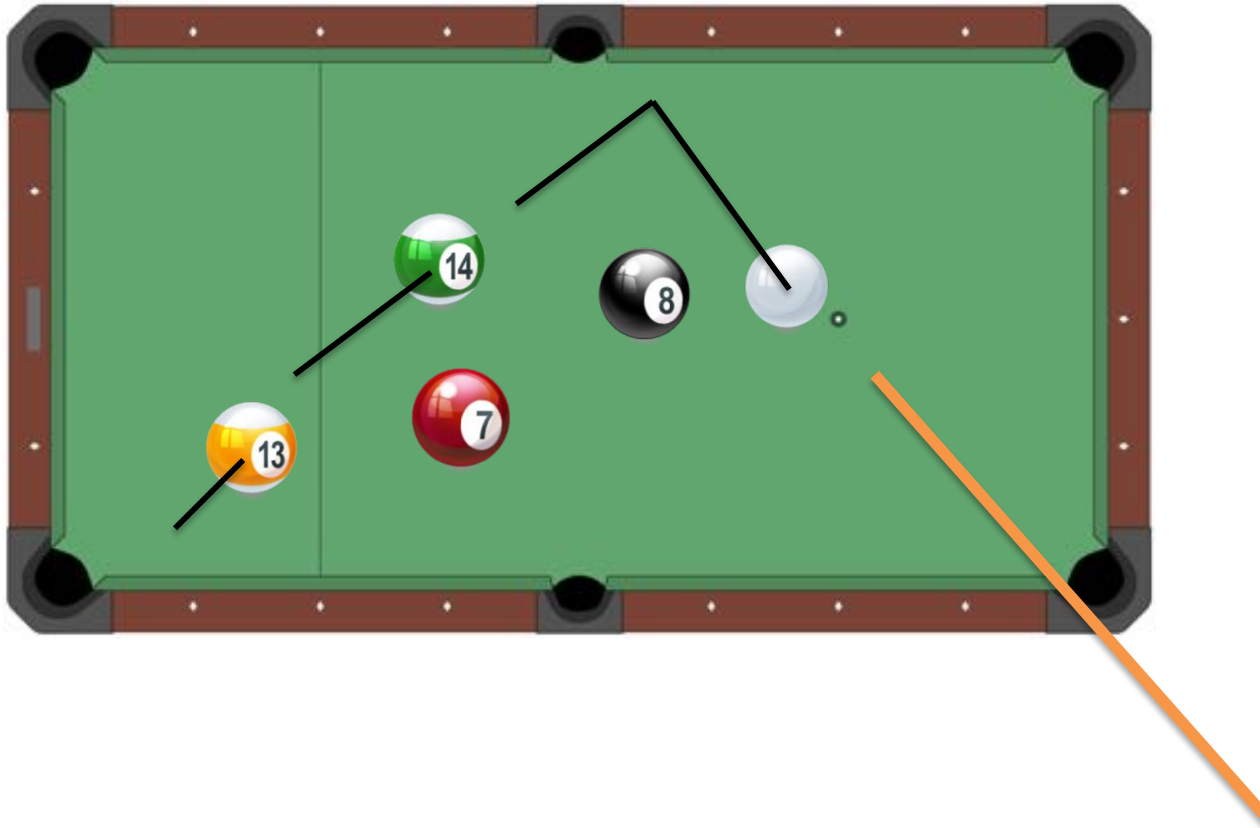
# Error Back-Propagation



# Error Back-Propagation

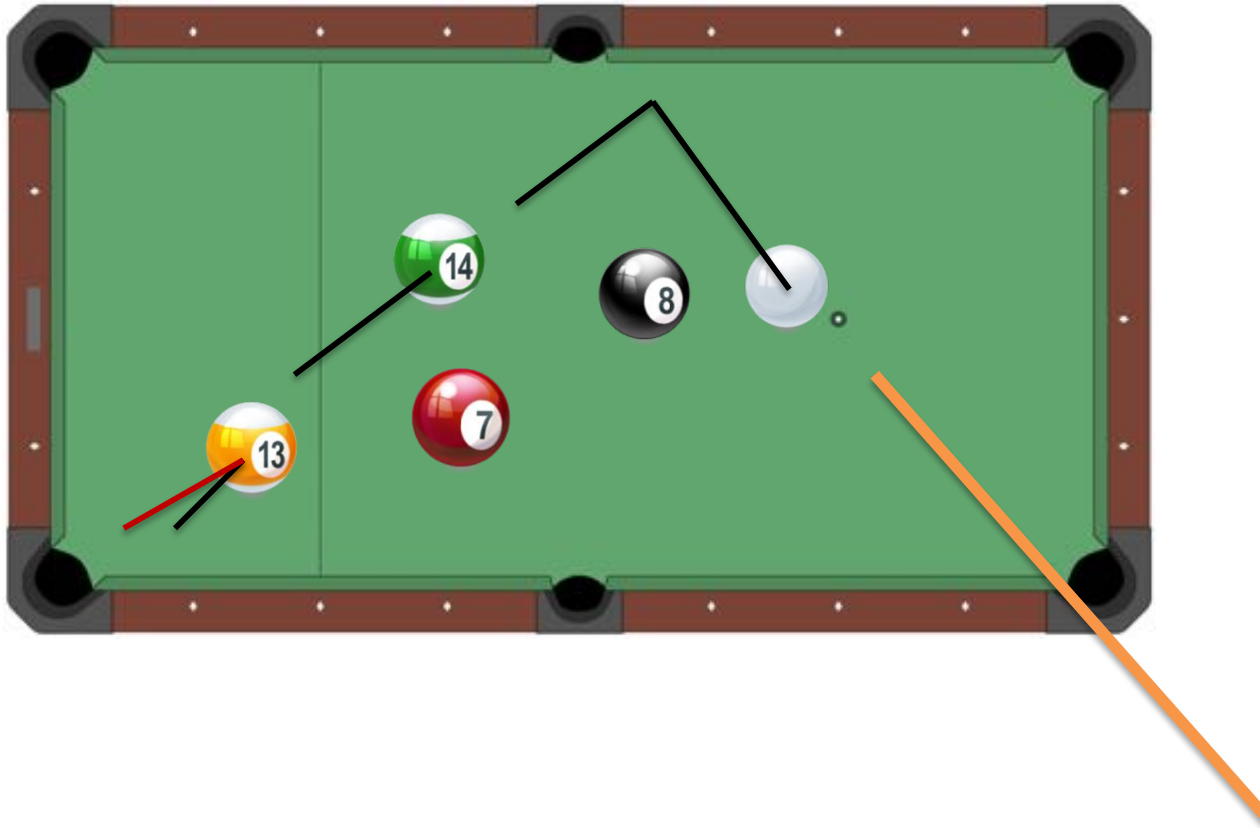


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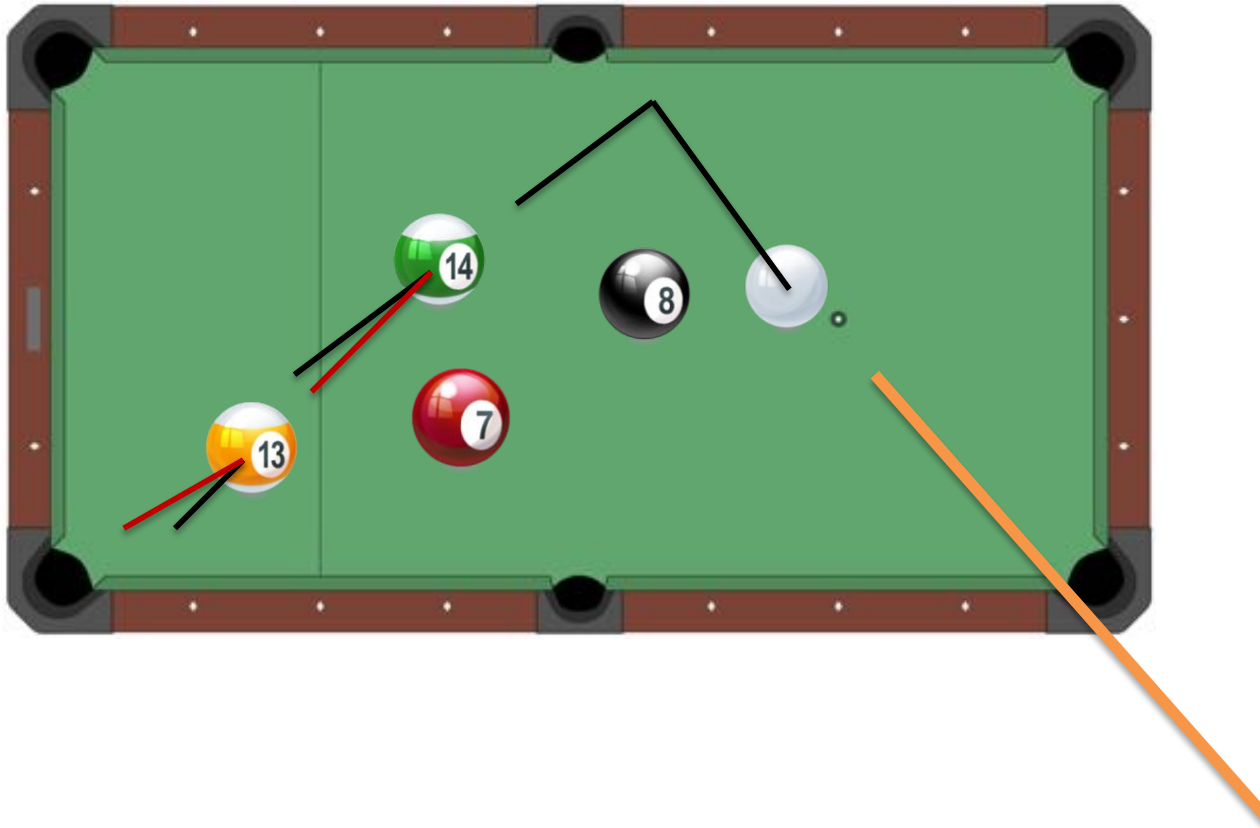




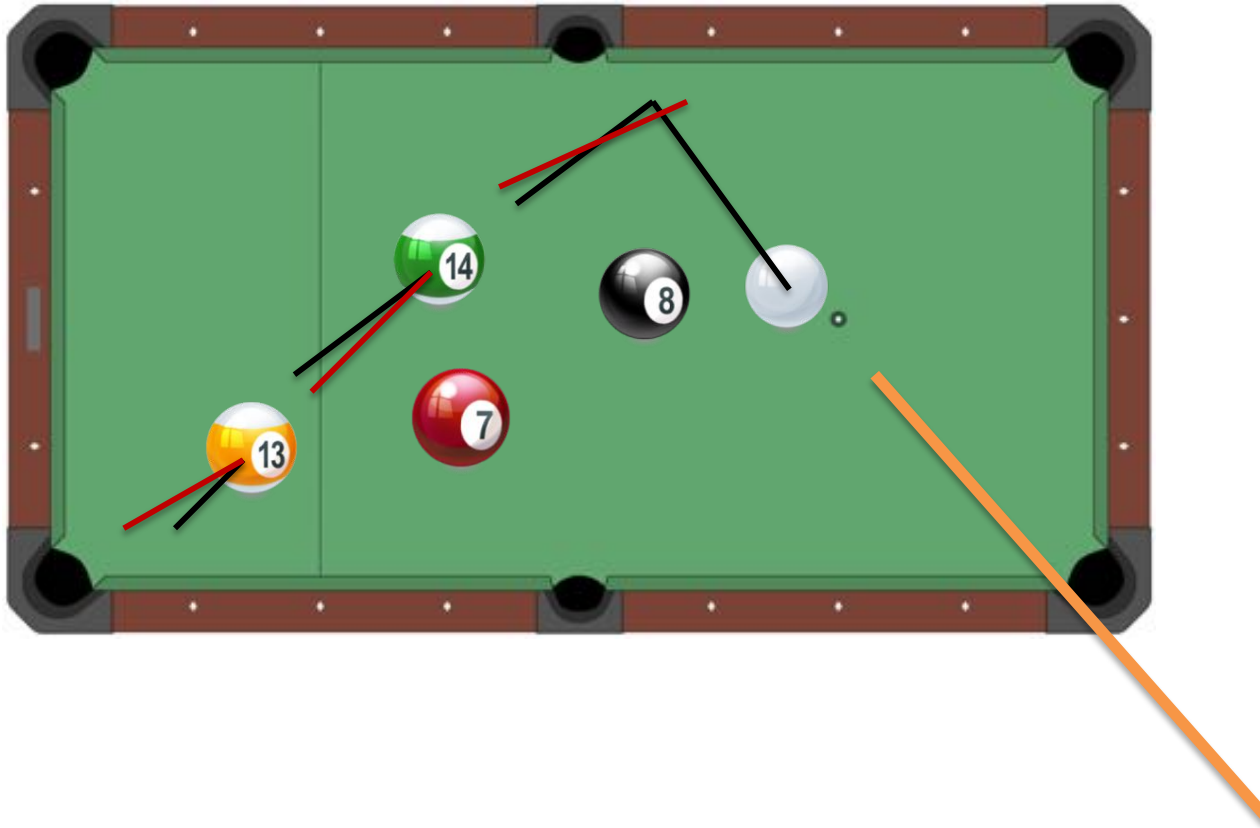
# Error Back-Propagation



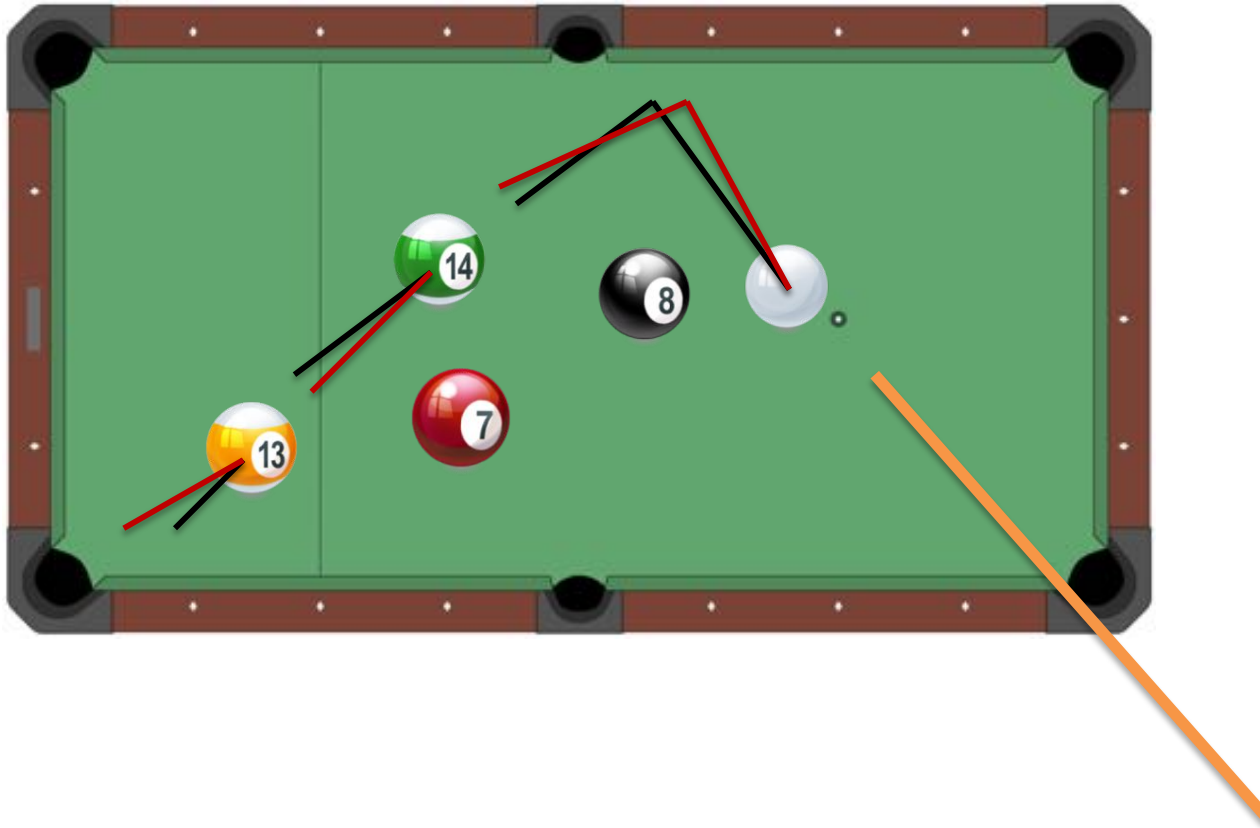
# Error Back-Propagation



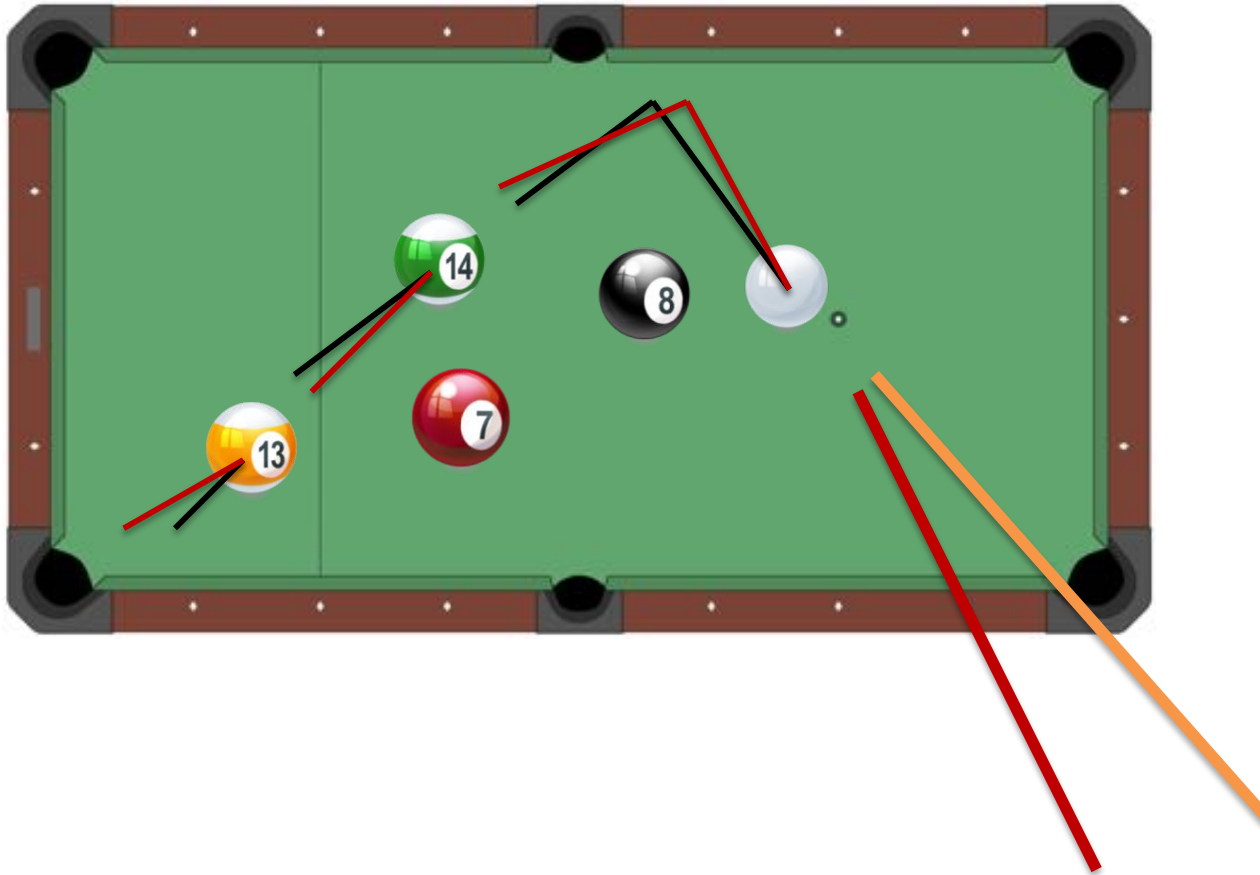
# Error Back-Propagation



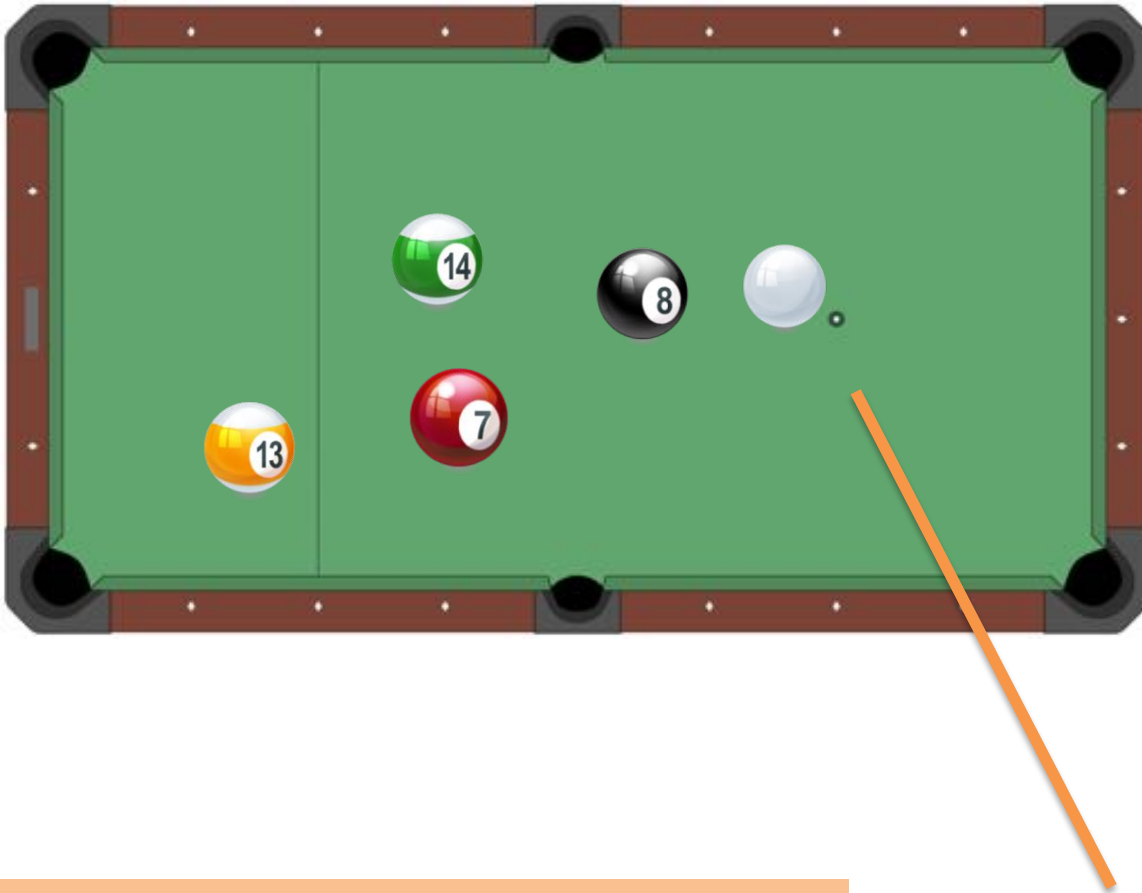
# Error Back-Propagation



# Error Back-Propagation

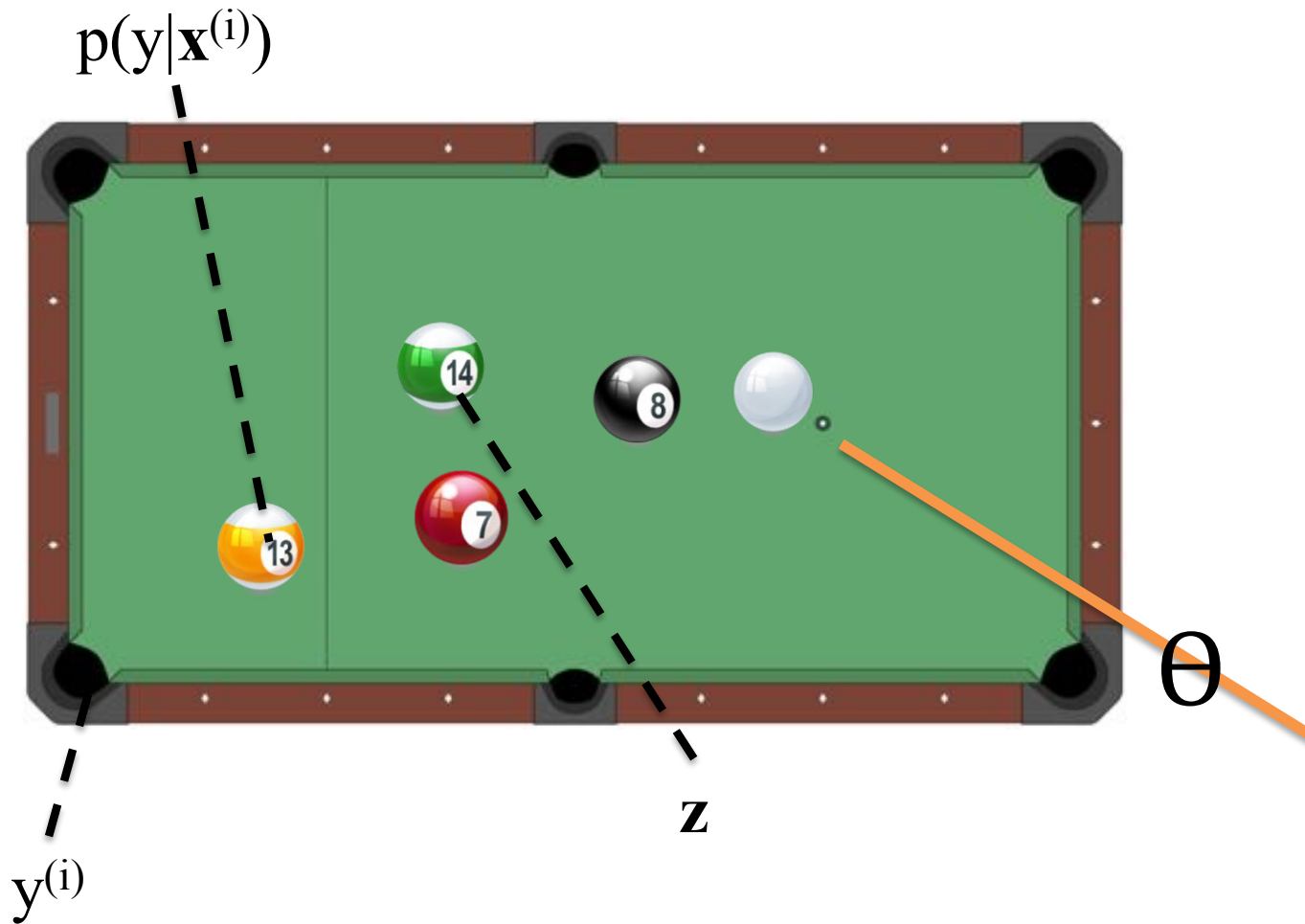


# Error Back-Propagation



Slide from (Stoyanov & Eisner, 2012)

# Error Back-Propagation



Algorithm

# **BACKPROPAGATION**



## Chalkboard

- Example: Backpropagation for Chain Rule #1

### Differentiation Quiz #1:

Suppose  $x = 2$  and  $z = 3$ , what are  $dy/dx$  and  $dy/dz$  for the function below? **Round your answer to the nearest integer.**

$$y = \exp(xz) + \frac{xz}{\log(x)} + \frac{\sin(\log(x))}{xz}$$

Training

# Backpropagation

## *Chalkboard*

- SGD for Neural Network
- Example: Backpropagation for Neural Network

## Automatic Differentiation – Reverse Mode (aka. Backpropagation)

### Forward Computation

1. Write an **algorithm** for evaluating the function  $y = f(\mathbf{x})$ . The algorithm defines a **directed acyclic graph**, where each variable is a node (i.e. the “**computation graph**”)
2. Visit each node in **topological order**.  
For variable  $u_i$  with inputs  $v_1, \dots, v_N$ 
  - a. Compute  $u_i = g_i(v_1, \dots, v_N)$
  - b. Store the result at the node

### Backward Computation

1. **Initialize** all partial derivatives  $dy/du_j$  to 0 and  $dy/dy = 1$ .
2. Visit each node in **reverse topological order**.  
For variable  $u_i = g_i(v_1, \dots, v_N)$ 
  - a. We already know  $dy/du_i$
  - b. Increment  $dy/dv_j$  by  $(dy/du_i)(du_i/dv_j)$   
(Choice of algorithm ensures computing  $(du_i/dv_j)$  is easy)

**Return** partial derivatives  $dy/du_i$  for all variables