





# **Data Science Initiative for Africa (DSI-A) - Deep Learning Lecture 1**

**Course Introduction, History of Deep Learning,  
Neural Nets, and Perceptrons**

**Santiago Romero-Brufau  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health**



# Instructor Team

<b>Course Oversight University of KwaZulu-Natal:</b>	<b>Prof. Henry Mwambi</b> Co-Principal Investigator UKZN Associate Professor, School of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science  Visit <a href="#">Prof. Mwambi's website</a> for more information about his work. 
<b>Lead Facilitator Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health:</b>	<b>Dr. Santiago Romero-Brufau</b> Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard Chan Assistant Professor of Otorhinolaryngology and Healthcare Systems Engineering, Mayo Clinic  Visit <a href="#">Dr. Romero-Brufau's website</a> for more information about his work. 
<b>Co-lead Facilitator Heidelberg Institute of Global Health:</b>	<b>Dr. Sandra Barteit</b> Research Group Leader for Digital Global Health Heidelberg Institute of Global Health  Visit <a href="#">Dr. Barteit's website</a> for more information about her work. 
<b>Facilitator:</b>	<b>Dr. Mandlenkosi Gwetu</b> Senior Lecturer and Academic Leader for Computer Science University of KwaZulu-Natal  Visit <a href="#">Dr. Gwetu's website</a> for more information about his work. 

# Teaching Assistants

<b>Teaching Assistant:</b>	<b>Dr. Gabriel Kallah-Dagadu</b> WASHU Takwimu Postdoctoral Fellow University of KwaZulu-Natal 
<b>Teaching Assistant:</b>	<b>Dr. Mohanad Mohammed</b> WASHU Takwimu Postdoctoral Fellow University of KwaZulu-Natal 

# Daily schedule

9am-10:30am: First lecture session

10:30-11am: tea break

11am-12:30pm: Second lecture session

12:30-13:30: lunch break

13:30-14:30: First lab session (or group work)

14:30-14:45: tea break

14:45-16:00: Second lab session (or group work)

16:00-16:30: office hours

# Pearl of wisdom



**Adam Grant**  @AdamMGrant · Jan 30

The first principle of psychological safety:

The harder you make it to voice problems, the harder it becomes to solve them.

The issues people are most afraid to raise are the most likely to become thorns in your side. It's impossible to fix what you don't know is broken.



45



732



2,589



238.4K






# General suggestions box

<https://forms.gle/dcxysGxb9su4CCEP8>

Anonymous (or you can leave your name, too).

Issues, ideas for lecture topics, ideas for guest speakers, cool news or papers, etc.





# Course structure

## First week

Morning: lecture

Afternoon: labs

## Second week

Morning: lectures

Afternoon: group projects



# Course philosophy

Lectures are mainly focused on knowledge, logic and concepts that will be useful over your career


Socratic method whenever possible (in-class interaction)



# Course Content Overview

## Course content:

- ⦿ Computational and mathematical foundations of deep learning
- ⦿ Deep learning workflow
- ⦿ Bias/variance trade-off
- ⦿ Feedforward networks (Multilayer perceptrons - MLPs)
- ⦿ Convolutional neural networks (CNNs)
- ⦿ Recursive/Recurrent neural networks (RNNs)
- ⦿ Transformers / attention



“Any sufficiently advanced technology is  
indistinguishable from magic.”

Arthur C. Clarke



# Two ghosts, and a cool field



The Math  
(the conceptual ideas,  
really)



The Coding



The Cool and Beautiful  
Things One Can Do with  
Deep Learning

# Readings

- ◎ Most of the course content will come from these 2 books:
  - Deep Learning with Python. François Chollet. Manning Publications, 2017. Available at <https://www.manning.com/books/deep-learning-with-python>
  - Deep Learning. Ian Goodfellow, Yoshua Bengio, Aaron Courville. MIT Press, 2016. Book available at <http://www.deeplearningbook.org>
- ◎ Great explanations in [StatQuest Youtube channel](#)
- ◎ Also, journal articles: [\*\*from this list\*\*](#)



There's so many good courses online about  
deep learning...

this course add?



what can



# Things this course can add (versus just looking things up online)

## 1) Feedback on your work

- a) PSets, final project, and labs (!)

## 1) A schedule, and an in-person group

- a) Recommendation: work with classmates

## 1) Interactivity

- a) Recommendation: ask questions! Don't fall behind
- 



# Deep Learning

# What is *Deep Learning*?

- ◎ Computers can solve problems that are intellectually difficult for humans
  - Ex: multiplication with large numbers and decimals, chess, etc.
  - Problems that can be described by a list of formal, mathematical rules
- ◎ Humans can solve problems that are intuitive, but difficult to describe formally and thus difficult for computers to solve
  - Ex: handwriting recognition, speech recognition, etc.



# What is *Deep Learning*?

- ◎ Deep learning is a solution to allow computers to learn from experience and understand the world in terms of a hierarchy of concepts, with each concept defined through its relation to simpler concepts
- ◎ The hierarchy of concepts builds on itself, producing a deep graph with many layers, leading to the concept of ***deep learning***

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Any technique that enables  
computers to mimic  
human behavior



## MACHINE LEARNING

Ability to learn without  
explicitly being programmed

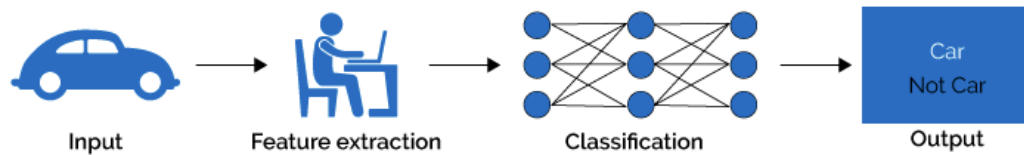


## DEEP LEARNING

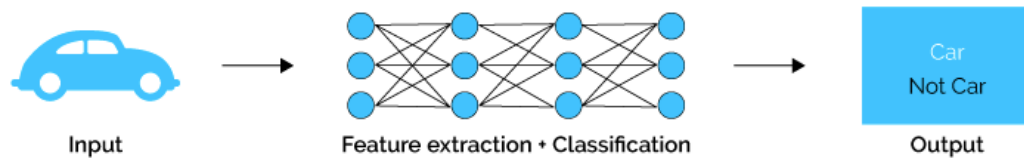
Extract patterns from data using  
neural networks

3 1 3 4 7 2  
1 2 4 2 3 5

## Machine Learning

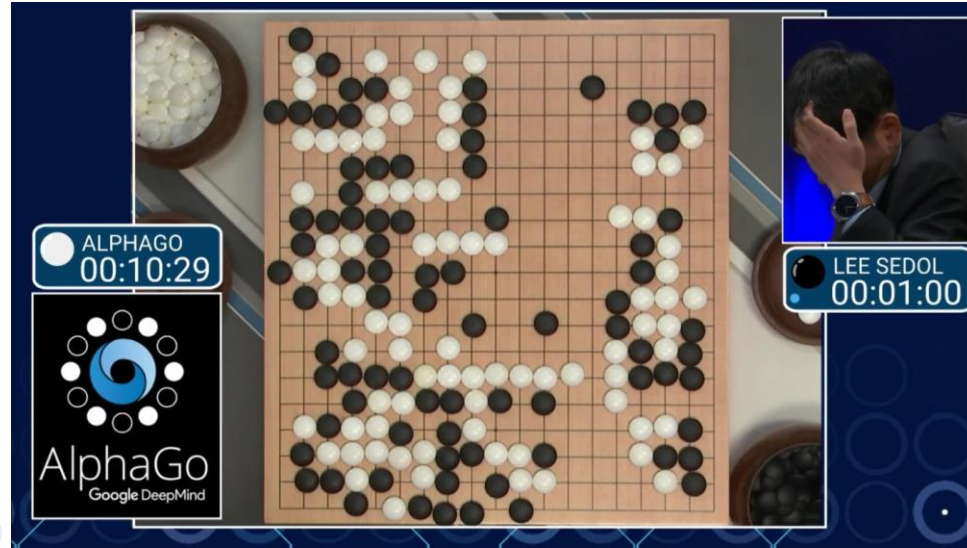


## Deep Learning



# Deep Learning Successes

## Games

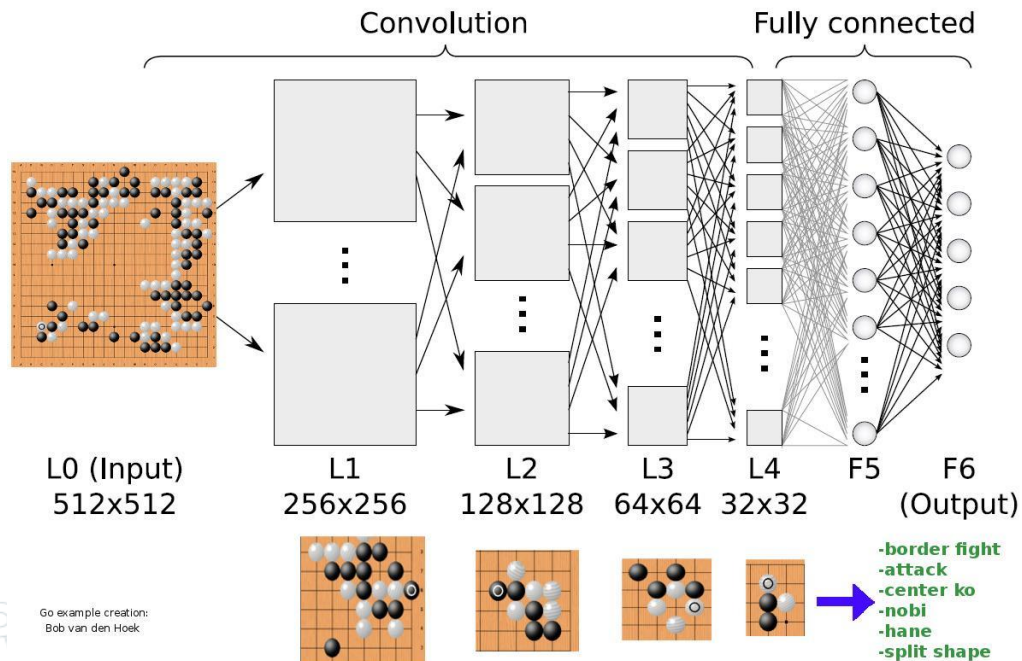


# Deep learning successes

ChatGPT!

# Deep Learning Successes

## Games



# Deep Learning Successes

## Art



# Deep Learning Successes

## Art



(a) *Input: a casual face photo*

(b) *Outputs: new headshots with the styles transferred from the examples. The insets show the examples.*



# Deep Learning Successes

## The AI-Art Gold Rush



AI-generated "faceless portraits" by Ahmed Elgammal and AICAN. Photo: Artrendex Inc./The Atlantic

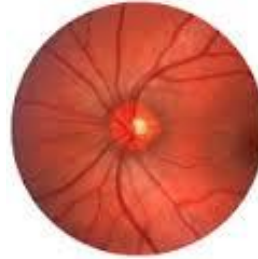
# Deep Learning Successes(?)

## DeepFake

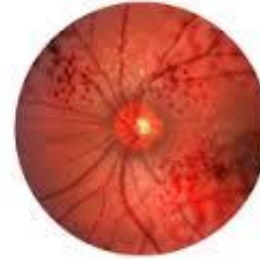
- ◎ [Papers and datasets](#)
- ◎ [One YouTube video](#)
- ◎ [Obama DeepFake video](#)
  - Warning - explicit language

# Deep Learning Successes

## Medicine



Normal  
Retina



Diabetic  
Retina

JAMA | **Original Investigation** | INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

## Development and Validation of a Deep Learning Algorithm for Detection of Diabetic Retinopathy in Retinal Fundus Photographs

Varun Gulshan, PhD; Lily Peng, MD, PhD; Marc Coram, PhD; Martin C. Stumpe, PhD; Derek Wu, BS; Arunachalam Narayanaswamy, PhD; Subhashini Venugopalan, MS; Kasumi Widner, MS; Tom Madams, MEng; Jorge Cuadros, OD, PhD; Ramasamy Kim, OD, DNB; Rajiv Raman, MS, DNB; Philip C. Nelson, BS; Jessica L. Mega, MD, MPH; Dale R. Webster, PhD

# Deep Learning Successes

## CheXNet: Radiologist-Level Pneumonia Detection on Chest X-Rays with Deep Learning

Pranav Rajpurkar<sup>\*1</sup> Jeremy Irvin<sup>\*1</sup> Kaylie Zhu<sup>1</sup> Brandon Yang<sup>1</sup> Hershel Mehta<sup>1</sup>  
Tony Duan<sup>1</sup> Daisy Ding<sup>1</sup> Aarti Bagul<sup>1</sup> Robyn L. Ball<sup>2</sup> Curtis Langlotz<sup>3</sup> Katie Shpanskaya<sup>3</sup>  
Matthew P. Lungren<sup>3</sup> Andrew Y. Ng<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

We develop an algorithm that can detect pneumonia from chest X-rays at a level exceeding practicing radiologists. Our algorithm, CheXNet, is a 121-layer convolutional neural network trained on ChestX-ray14, currently the largest publicly available chest X-ray dataset, containing over 100,000 frontal-view X-ray images with 14 diseases. Four practicing academic radiologists annotate a test set, on which we compare the performance of CheXNet to that of radiologists. We find that CheXNet exceeds average radiologist performance on the F1 metric. We extend CheXNet to detect all 14 diseases in ChestX-ray14 and achieve state of the art results on all 14 diseases.



**Input**  
Chest X-Ray Image

**CheXNet**  
121-layer CNN

**Output**  
Pneumonia Positive (85%)



### 1. Introduction

More than 1 million adults are hospitalized with pneumonia and around 50,000 die from the disease every year in the US alone (CDC, 2017). Chest X-rays

# Deep Learning Successes

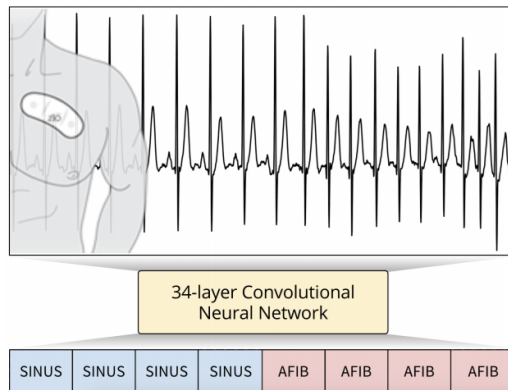
## Cardiologist-Level Arrhythmia Detection with Convolutional Neural Networks

**Pranav Rajpurkar\***  
**Awni Y. Hannun\***  
**Masoumeh Haghighpanahi**  
**Codie Bourn**  
**Andrew Y. Ng**

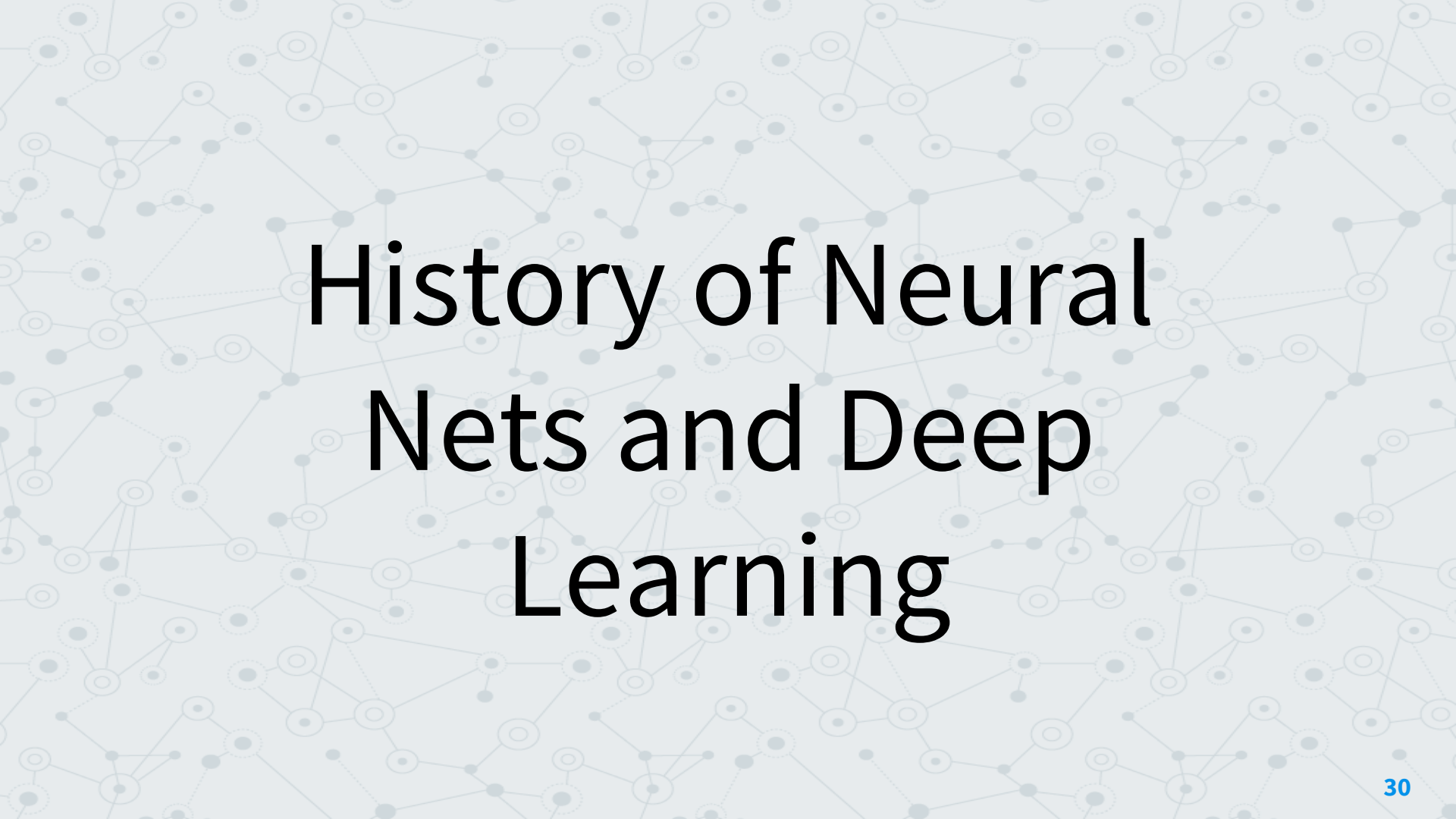
PRANAVSR@CS.STANFORD.EDU  
AWN1@CS.STANFORD.EDU  
MHAGHPANAHI@IRHYTHMTECH.COM  
CBOURN@IRHYTHMTECH.COM  
ANG@CS.STANFORD.EDU

### Abstract

We develop an algorithm which exceeds the performance of board certified cardiologists in detecting a wide range of heart arrhythmias from electrocardiograms recorded with a single-lead wearable monitor. We build a dataset with more than 500 times the number of unique patients than previously studied corpora. On this dataset, we train a 34-layer convolutional neural network which maps a sequence of ECG samples to a sequence of rhythm classes. Committees of board-certified cardiologists annotate a gold standard test set on which we compare the performance of our model to that of 6 other individual cardiologists. We exceed the average cardiologist performance in both recall (sensitivity) and precision (positive predictive value).



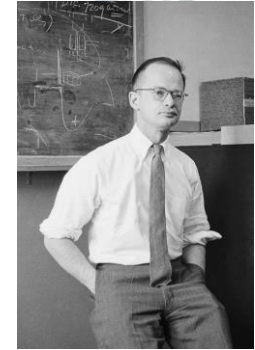
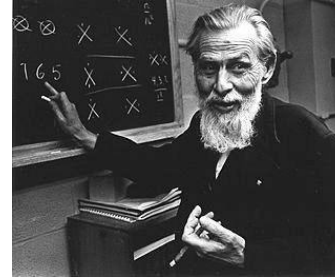
*Figure 1.* Our trained convolutional neural network correctly detecting the sinus rhythm (SINUS) and Atrial Fibrillation (AFIB) from this ECG recorded with a single-lead wearable heart monitor.



# History of Neural Nets and Deep Learning

# Neural Nets and Deep Learning Not New

- ◎ Date back to the 1940s
- ◎ Walter Pitts and Warren McCulloch
  - First notion of an artificial neuron
  - Designed to mimic the way a neuron was thought to work
  - [1943 paper](#)
- ◎ Frank Rosenblatt
  - “Perceptron” algorithm 1950s
  - Could recognize letters and numbers



# AI Winter

- ◎ Many cycles of boom and bust
- ◎ Repeated promises of “true AI” that were unfulfilled and followed by “AI winters” - the first in 1969
- ◎ Marvin Minsky and Seymour Papert write book about shortcomings of perceptrons and effectively kill all research on neural nets

**BRACE YOURSELVES**

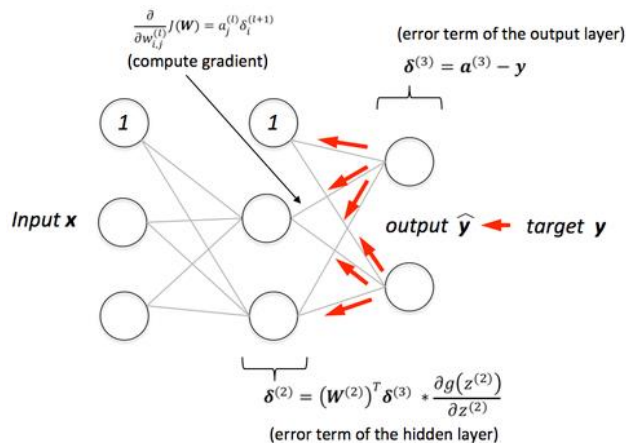
**AI WINTER IS  
COMING**

memegenerator.net

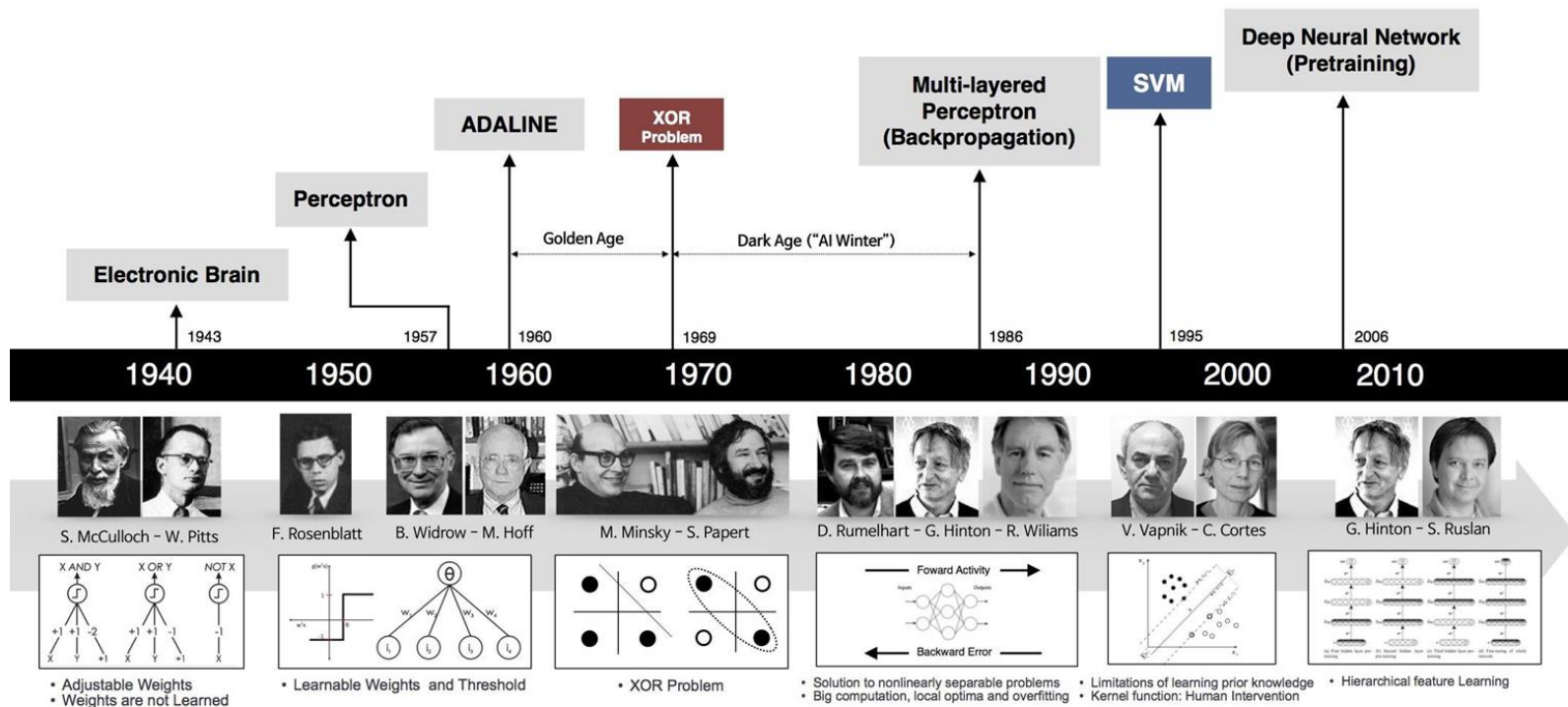


# Return of the Neural Net

- Geoff Hinton, David Rumelhart and Ronald Williams discover back-propagation (1980s)
  - Allows neural nets to move past the limitations of perceptrons
  - Lead to convolutional neural nets (CNNs) and handwritten digits recognition
  - Problem: didn't scale → another 10-15 year AI winter
- Rebranding as “Deep Learning” (2006)
  - Unsupervised pretraining and deep belief networks
  - Could create “deeper” neural nets → “deep” learning
- Great AI Awakening (where we are now!)
  - Alexnet (2012)
  - Availability of GPUs (and TPUs) and larger data sets
  - Neural nets start surpassing humans



# Deep Learning Timeline



# Deep Learning Timeline

## THE RISE OF AI

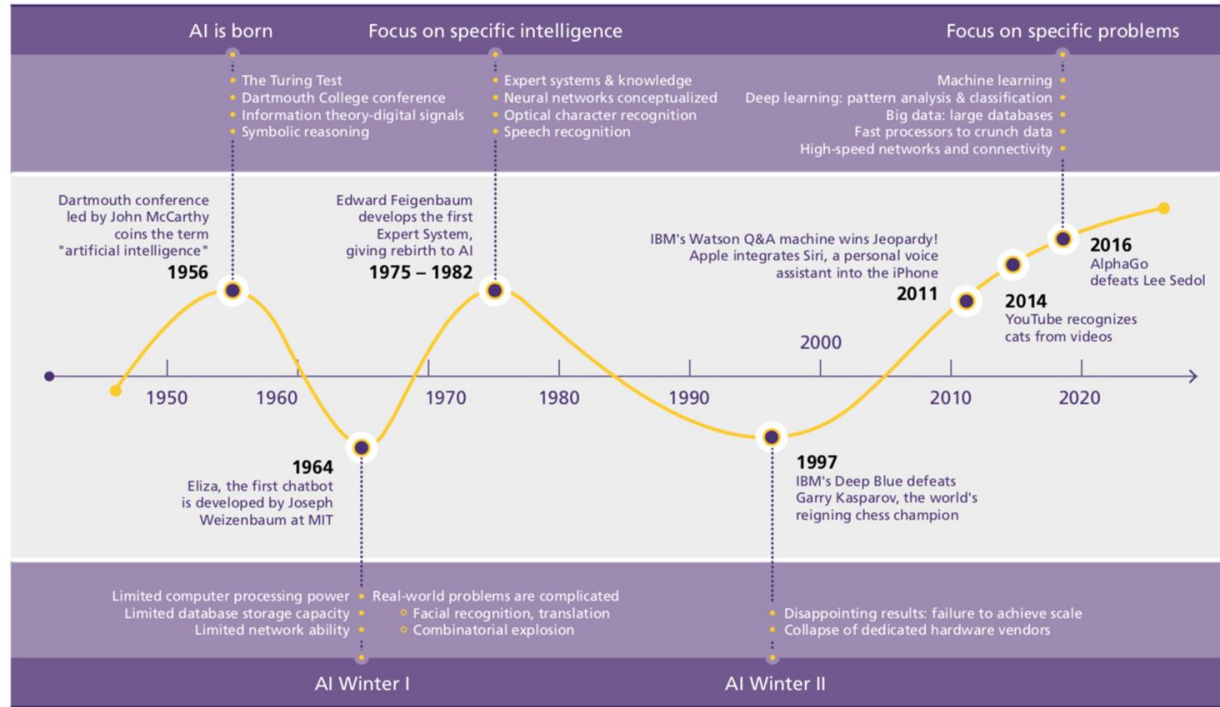
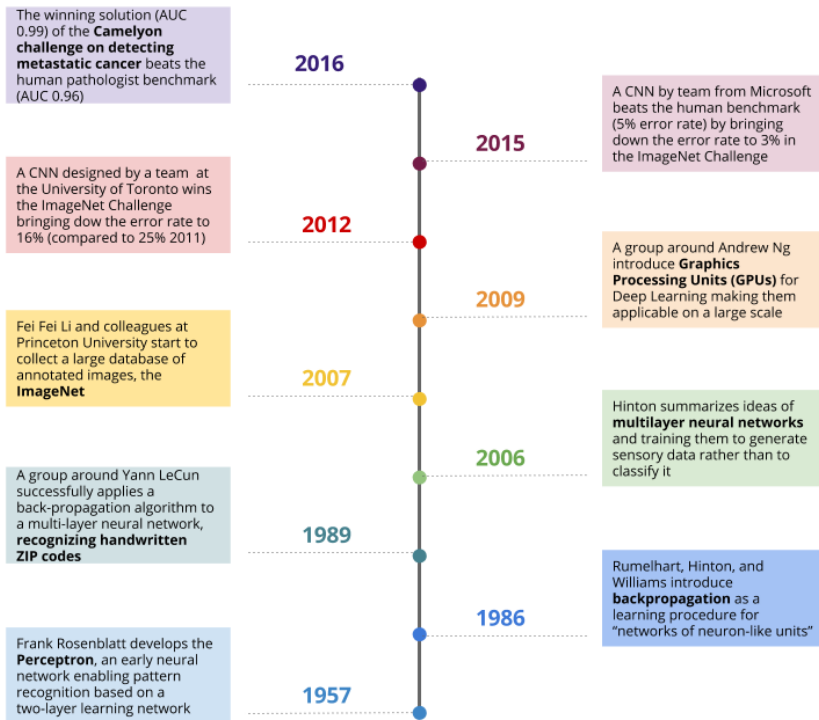


Figure 1: An AI timeline; Source: Lavenda, D./Marsden, P.

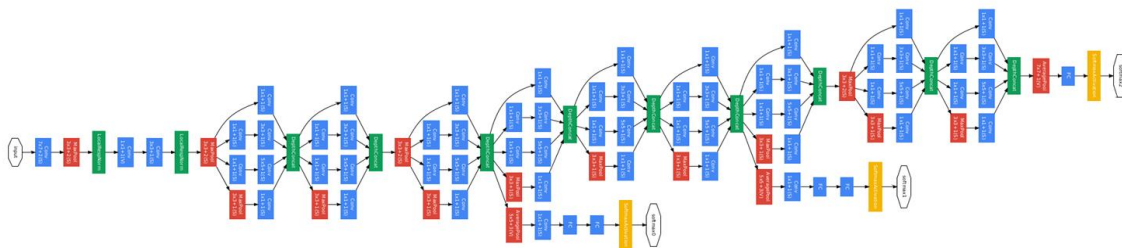
source dhl via @mikequindazzi

# Deep Learning Timeline



# AI winters are probably over

- ◎ We now have large, high-quality, labeled data sets
- ◎ GPUs and TPUs abound
  - Allows for deeper models and an increase in accuracy
- ◎ Improved functions needed for learning
  - ReLU
  - tanh
- ◎ Improved architectures
  - Resnets
  - Inception modules
- ◎ New regularization techniques
  - Dropout
  - Batch normalization
- ◎ Robust optimizers
- ◎ Software platforms
  - Tensorflow
  - Theano



# How to stay current

- ◎ Advances in deep learning, and AI in general, are happening every day - it isn't possible to keep track of everything, but below are some good sources to check out
- ◎ Read papers on [arXiv](#)
- ◎ Subscribe to [Medium](#)
- ◎ [Google AI Blog](#)
- ◎ [Keras Blog](#)
- ◎ [OpenAI Blog](#)
- ◎ Twitter
  - Follow deep learning gods like Ian Goodfellow, Yann Lecun, Fei-Fei Li, Francois Chollet and our own HSPH professor Andrew Beam
- ◎ [Talking machines podcast](#)

# Takeaways

- ◎ Deep learning is real and probably here to stay
- ◎ Could potentially impact many fields → understand concepts so you have deep learning "insurance"
- ◎ Long history and connections to other models and fields
- ◎ Prereqs: Data (lots) + GPUs/TPUs (more = better)
- ◎ Deep learning models are like legos, but you need to know what blocks you have and how they fit together
- ◎ Need to have a sense of sensible default parameter values to get started
- ◎ "Babysitting" the learning process is a skill

The background of the slide is a light gray pattern of interconnected nodes and lines, resembling a neural network or a complex graph. The nodes are represented by small circles, some of which are outlined with a dashed line, and they are connected by thin, light gray lines. The overall effect is a dense, web-like structure that fills the entire background.

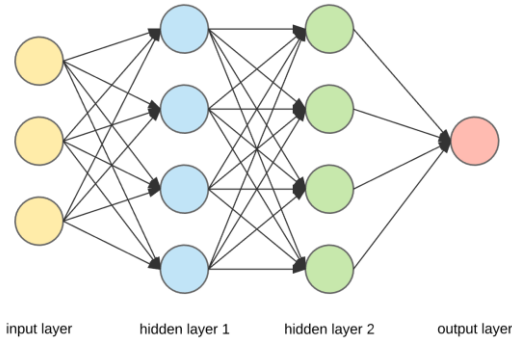
# Neural Nets



# What is a neural net?

A neural net is composed of 3 things:

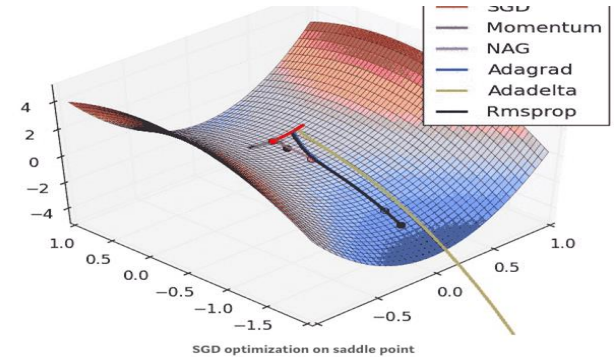
The network structure



The loss function

$$-y_i * \log(p_i) - (1 - y_i) * \log(1 - p_i)$$

The optimizer



<https://towardsdatascience.com/types-of-optimization-algorithms-used-in-neural-networks-and-ways-to-optimize-gradient-95ae5d39529f>

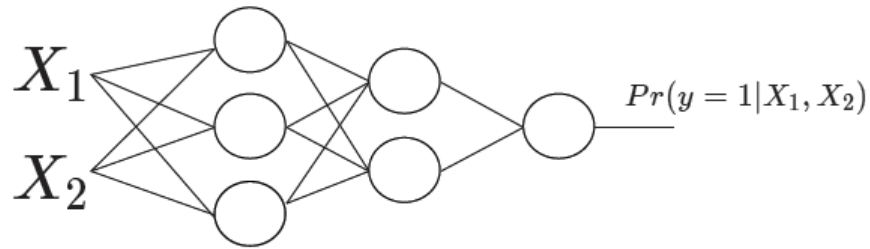
<https://towardsdatascience.com/applied-deep-learning-part-1-artificial-neural-networks-d7834f67a4f6>

# Neural Net Structure

- © A neural net is a modular way to build a classifier

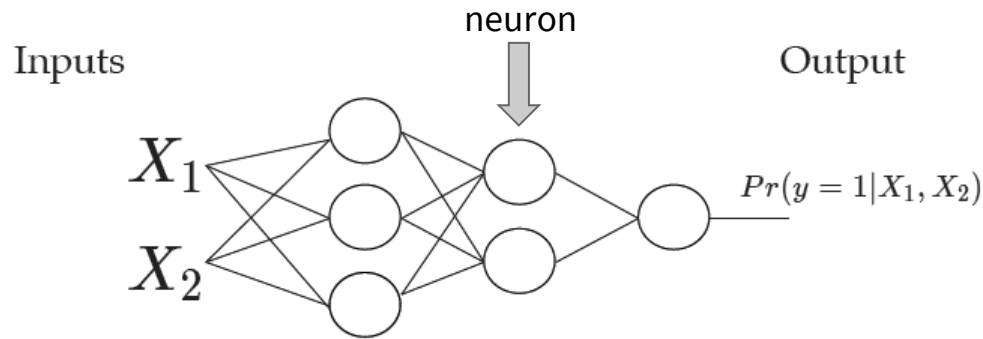
Inputs

Output



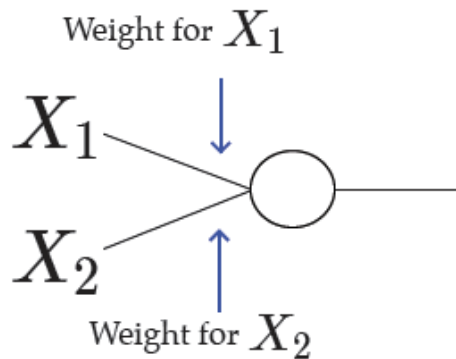
# Neural Net Structure

- ⊙ A neural net is a modular way to build a classifier
- ⊙ The neuron is the basic functional unit in a neural network



# Neurons

- ◎ A neuron does 2 things:



- 1) Weighted sum of inputs

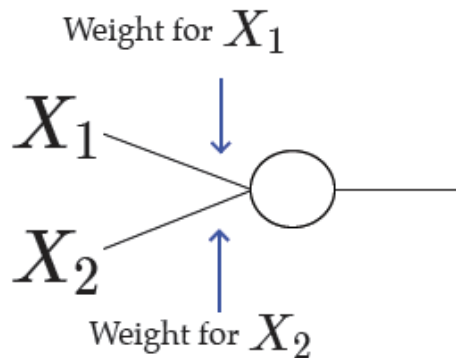
$$w_1 * X_1 + w_2 * X_2$$

- 2) Nonlinear transformation

$$\phi(w_1 * X_1 + w_2 * X_2)$$

# Neurons

- ◎ A neuron does 2 things:



- 1) Weighted sum of inputs

$$w_1 * X_1 + w_2 * X_2$$

- 2) Nonlinear transformation

$$\phi(w_1 * X_1 + w_2 * X_2)$$

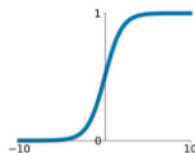


Activation function - a non-linear transformation

# Activation Functions

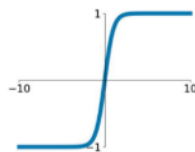
**Sigmoid**

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



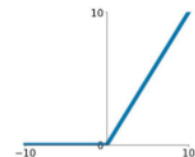
**tanh**

$$\tanh(x)$$



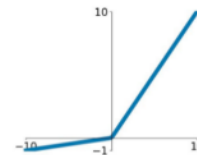
**ReLU**

$$\max(0, x)$$



**Leaky ReLU**

$$\max(0.1x, x)$$

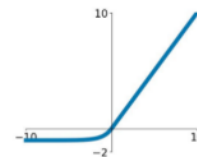


**Maxout**

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

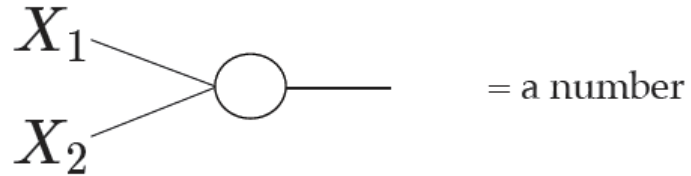
**ELU**

$$\begin{cases} x & x \geq 0 \\ \alpha(e^x - 1) & x < 0 \end{cases}$$



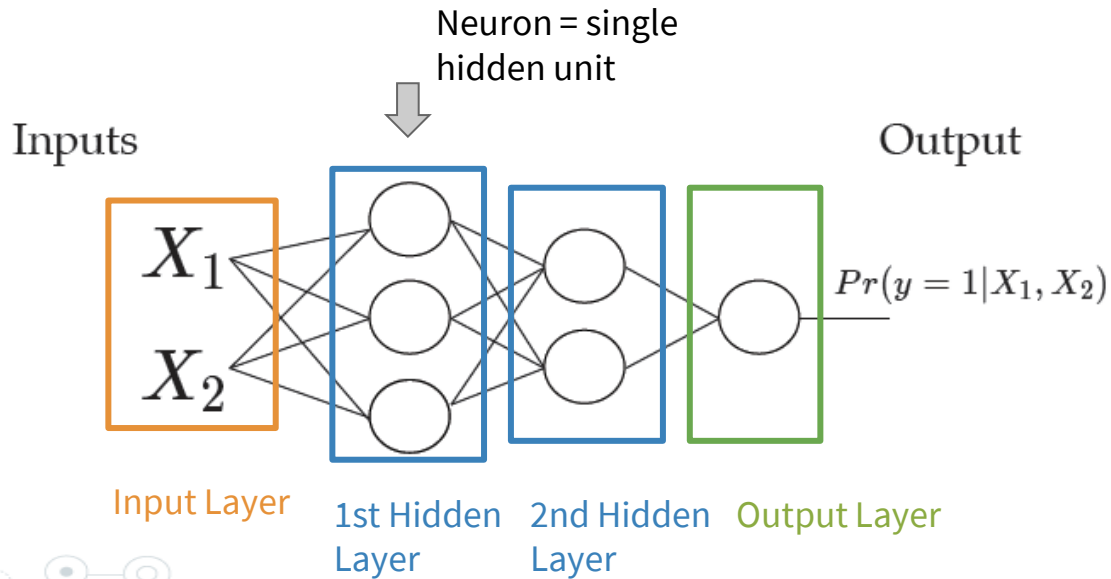
# Neuron

- ◎ A neuron produces a single number that is a nonlinear transformation of its input connections

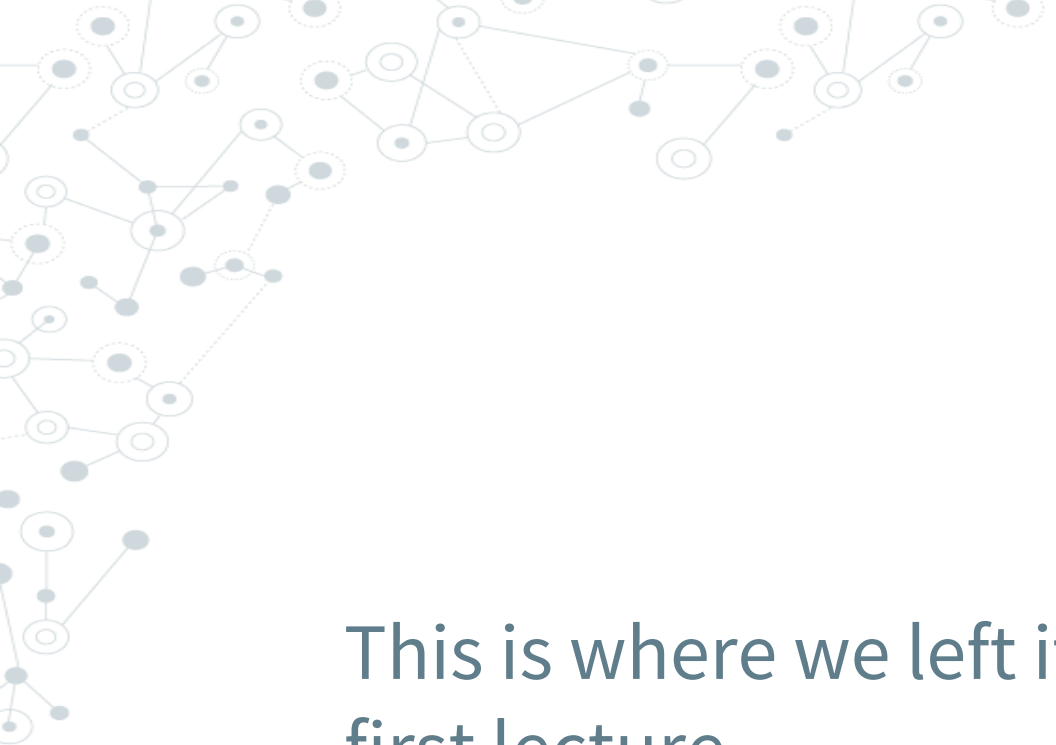


# Neural Net Structure


- Neural nets are organized into **layers**





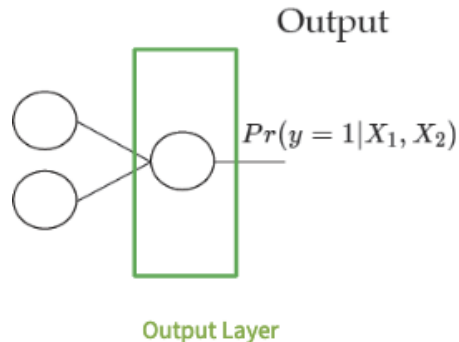
A decorative network diagram in the top-left corner, consisting of various sized circles (nodes) connected by thin lines (edges). Some nodes are solid grey, while others are hollow with a grey outline. The connections form a complex, branching structure.

This is where we left it during the  
first lecture

A decorative network diagram in the bottom-right corner, similar to the one in the top-left. It features a cluster of nodes connected by lines, with some nodes being solid grey and others hollow with a grey outline.

# Loss Functions

- ◎ We need a way to measure how well the network is performing
  - Is it making good predictions?
- ◎ A **loss function** is a function that returns a single number which indicates how closely a prediction matches the ground truth, i.e. the actual label
  - We want to minimize the loss to achieve more accurate predictions
  - Also known as the objective function, cost function, loss, etc.



# Loss Functions

One of the simplest loss functions is **binary cross-entropy** which is used for binary classification

$y_i$  is the true label

$$p_i = P(y_i = 1 | X_1, X_2)$$

$$l(y_i, p_i) = -y_i * \log(p_i) - (1 - y_i) * \log(1 - p_i)$$

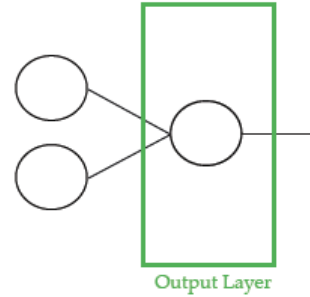
y	p	Loss
0	0.1	0.1
0	0.9	2.3
1	0.1	2.3
1	0.9	0.1

# Output Layer and Loss

- ◎ The output layer needs to “match” the loss function
- ◎ Correct shape
- ◎ Correct scale
- ◎ For binary cross-entropy, the network needs to produce a single probability:

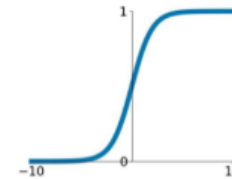
$$p_i = P(y_i = 1 | X_1, X_2)$$

- ◎ One unit in the output layer represents this probability
- ◎ Activation function must “squash” the output to be between 0 and 1



## Sigmoid

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



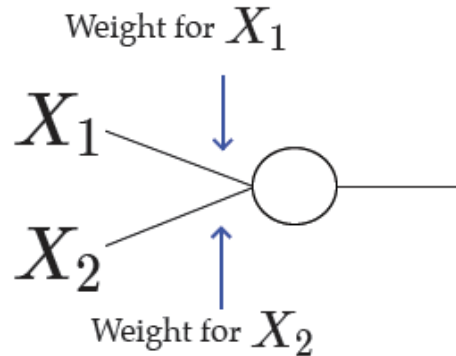
# Output Layer and Loss

- ◎ We can change the output layer and loss to model many different kinds of data

Task	Last-layer activation	Loss function
Binary classification	sigmoid	Binary cross-entropy
Multiclass, single-label classification	softmax	Categorical cross-entropy
Multiclass, multilabel classification	sigmoid	Binary cross-entropy
Regression to arbitrary values	None	Mean square error (MSE)
Regression to values between 0 and 1	sigmoid	MSE or binary cross-entropy

# The Optimizer

Remember this?



1) Weighted sum of inputs

$$w_1 * X_1 + w_2 * X_2$$

2) Nonlinear transformation

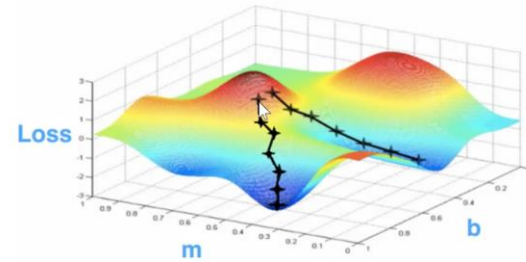
$$\phi(w_1 * X_1 + w_2 * X_2)$$

We have specified the network and the loss function, but what about values for the weights? We want weights that minimize the loss function - how do we calculate them?

# The Optimizer

## Gradient Descent

$f(x) = \text{nonlinear function of } x$



Q: How do we minimize the loss function?

A: Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

1. Give weights random initial values
2. Evaluate the partial derivative of the loss function with respect to each weight at the current weight value on a mini-batch
3. Take a step in the direction opposite the gradient
4. Repeat

# The Optimizer

- ◎ Many variations on the basic idea of SGD are available
  - Rmsprop
  - Adagrad
  - Adadelata
  - Momentum
  - NAG
  - etc.



# Workflow

