



# Large Scale Deep Learning

Jeff Dean

Google Senior Fellow



Joint work with many colleagues at Google

# How Can We Build More Intelligent Computer Systems?

Need to perceive and understand the world

Basic speech and vision capabilities

Language understanding

User behavior prediction

Ability to interact with environment

...



# How can we do this?

- Cannot write algorithms for each task we want to accomplish separately
- Need to write general algorithms that learn from observations

Can we build systems that:

- Generate understanding from raw data
- Solve difficult problems to improve Google's products
- Minimize software engineering effort
- Advance state of the art in what is possible



# Plenty of Data

- **Text:** trillions of words of English + other languages
- **Visual:** billions of images and videos
- **Audio:** thousands of hours of speech per day
- **User activity:** queries, result page clicks, map requests, etc.
- **Knowledge graph:** billions of labelled relation triples
- ...



# Image Models

stone wall [ 0.95, [web](#) ]



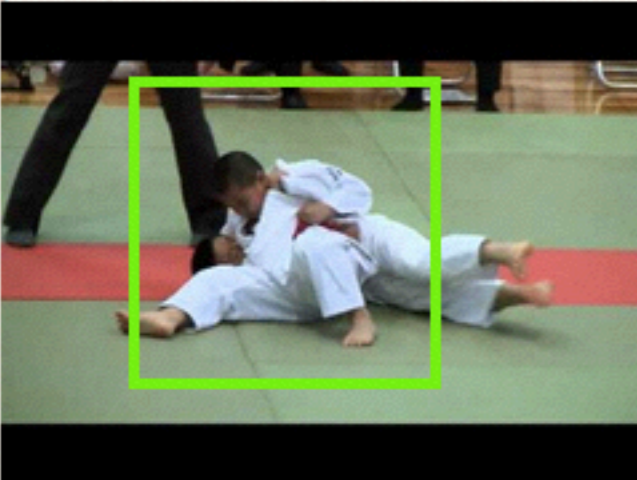
dishwasher [ 0.91, [web](#) ]



car show [ 0.99, [web](#) ]



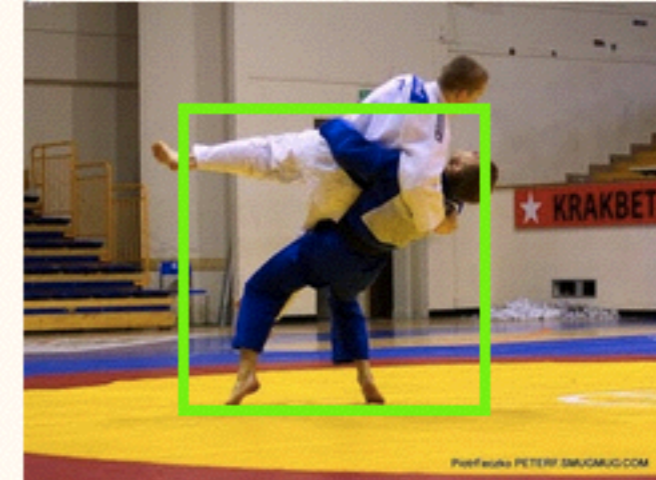
judo [ 0.96, [web](#) ]



judo [ 0.92, [web](#) ]



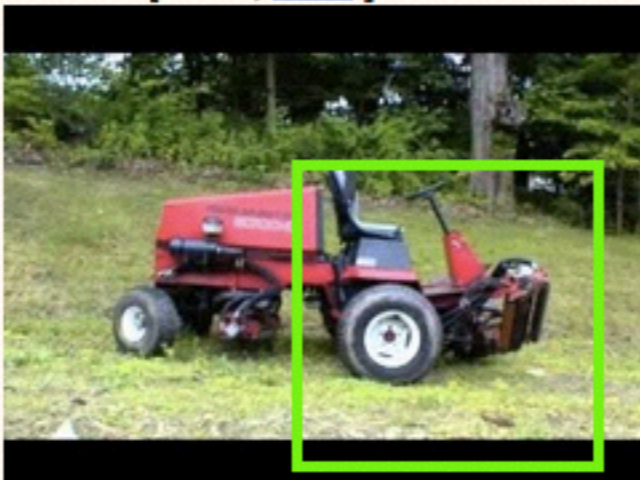
judo [ 0.91, [web](#) ]



tractor [ 0.91, [web](#) ]



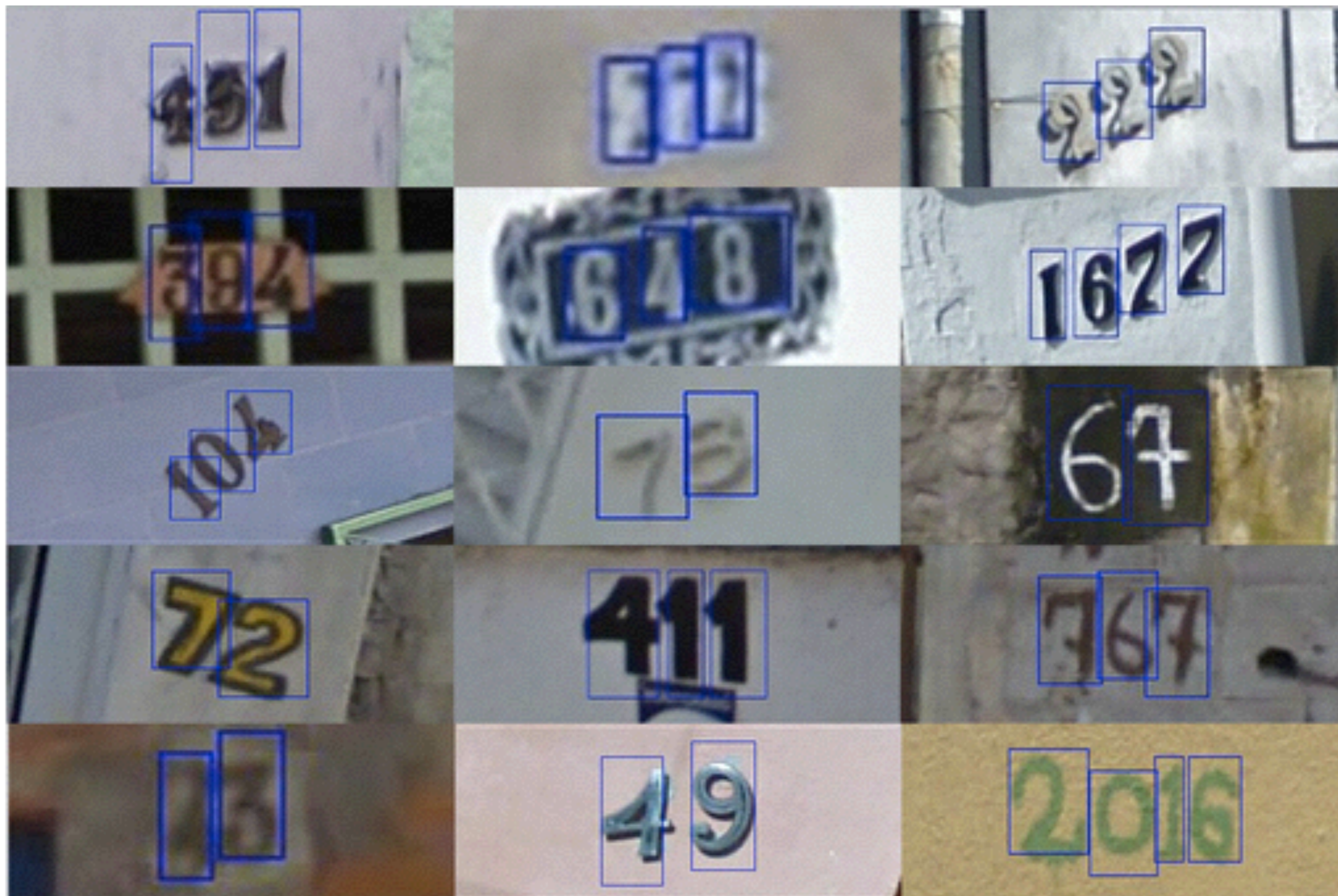
tractor [ 0.91, [web](#) ]



tractor [ 0.94, [web](#) ]



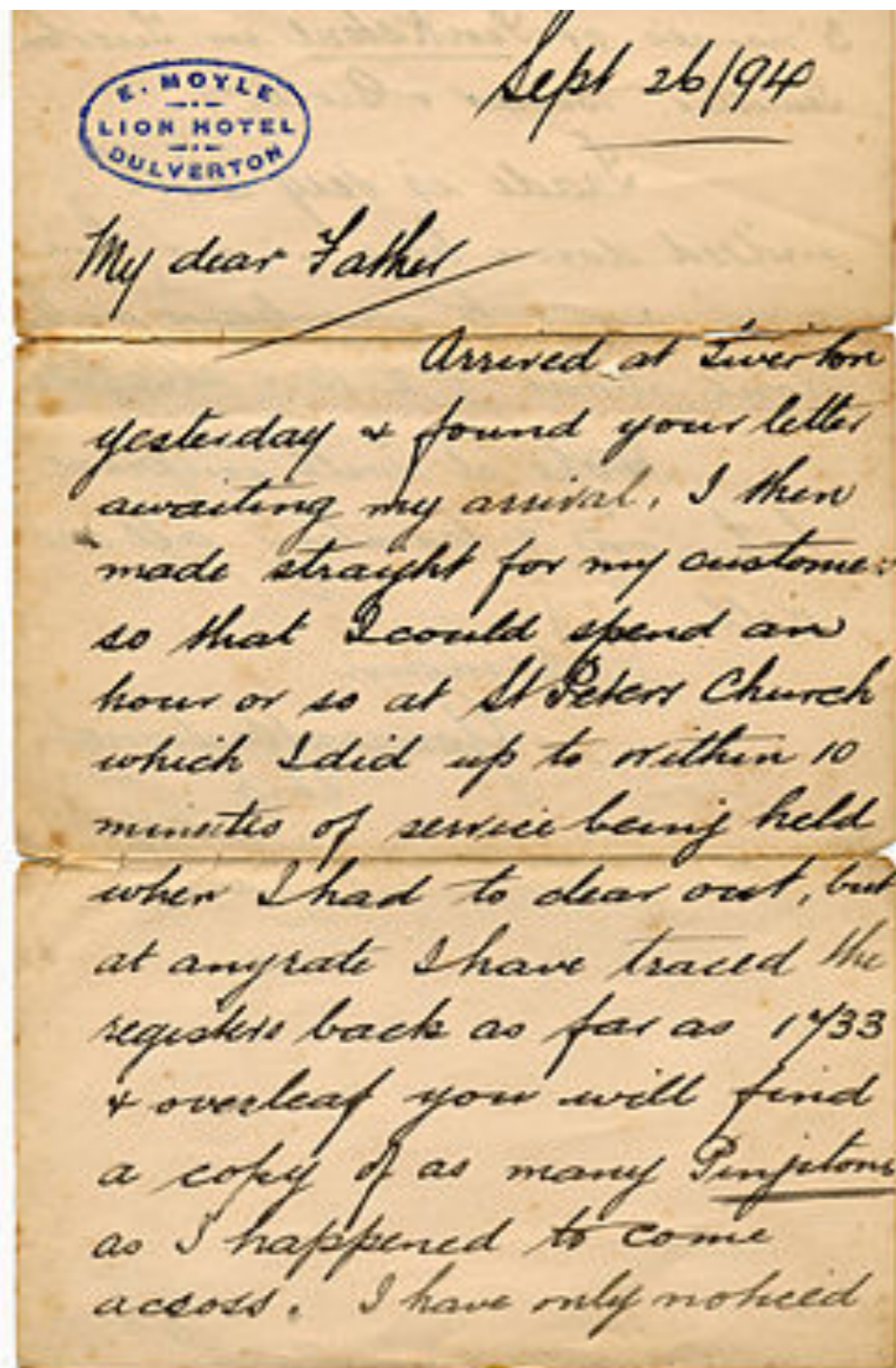
What are these numbers?



# What are all these words?



# How about these words?



เป็นมนุษย์สุดประเสริฐเลิศคุณค่า  
กว่าบรรดาฝูงสัตว์เดรัจฉาน  
จงฝ่าฟันพัฒนาวิชาการ  
อย่าลังเลลาญญาเช่นหมาป่าใคร  
ไม่ถือโทษโกรธแข่งชัคชัคชัคค่า  
ตัดอภัยเหมือนกีฬาอัชฌาสัย  
ปฏิบัติประพฤติกฏกำทอนใจ  
พูดจาใสจะ ๆ จ่า ๆ นำฟังเอ๋ย



# Textual understanding

Understand difference between:

Idea 1

*I was given a card by her in the garden.*

or

*She gave me a card in the garden.*

vs.

Idea 2

*I gave her a card in the garden.*

or

*In the garden, I gave her a card.*



# National Academy of Engineering Grand Challenges for 21st Century

Make solar energy economical

Provide energy from fusion

Develop carbon sequestration methods

Manage the nitrogen cycle

Provide access to clean water

Restore/improve urban infrastructure

Advance health informatics

Engineer better medicines

Reverse-engineer the brain

Prevent nuclear terror

Secure cyberspace

Enhance virtual reality

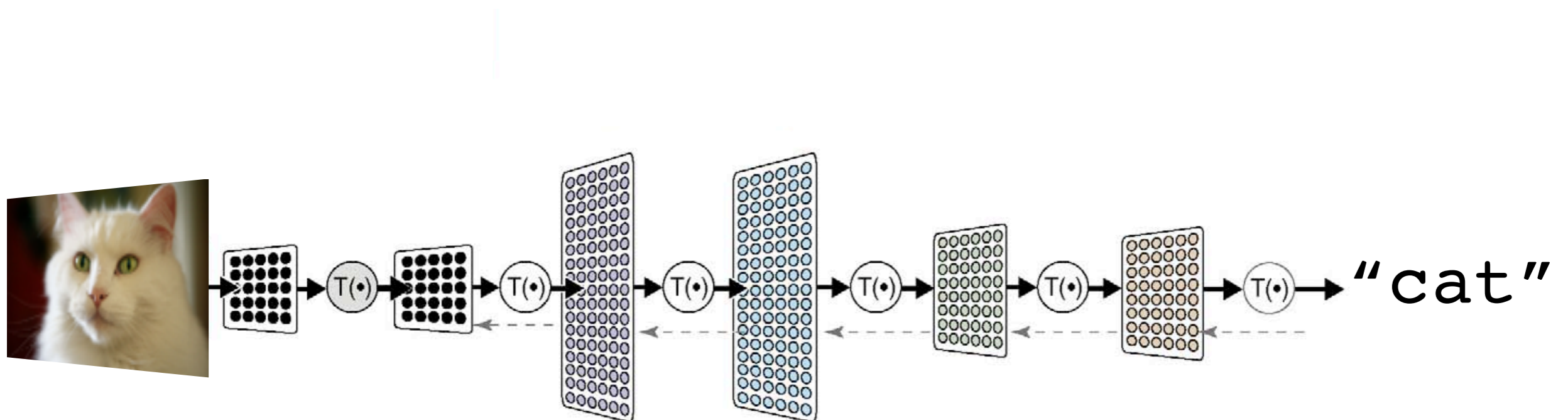
Advance personalized learning

Engineer tools of scientific discovery

<http://www.engineeringchallenges.org/cms/challenges.aspx>

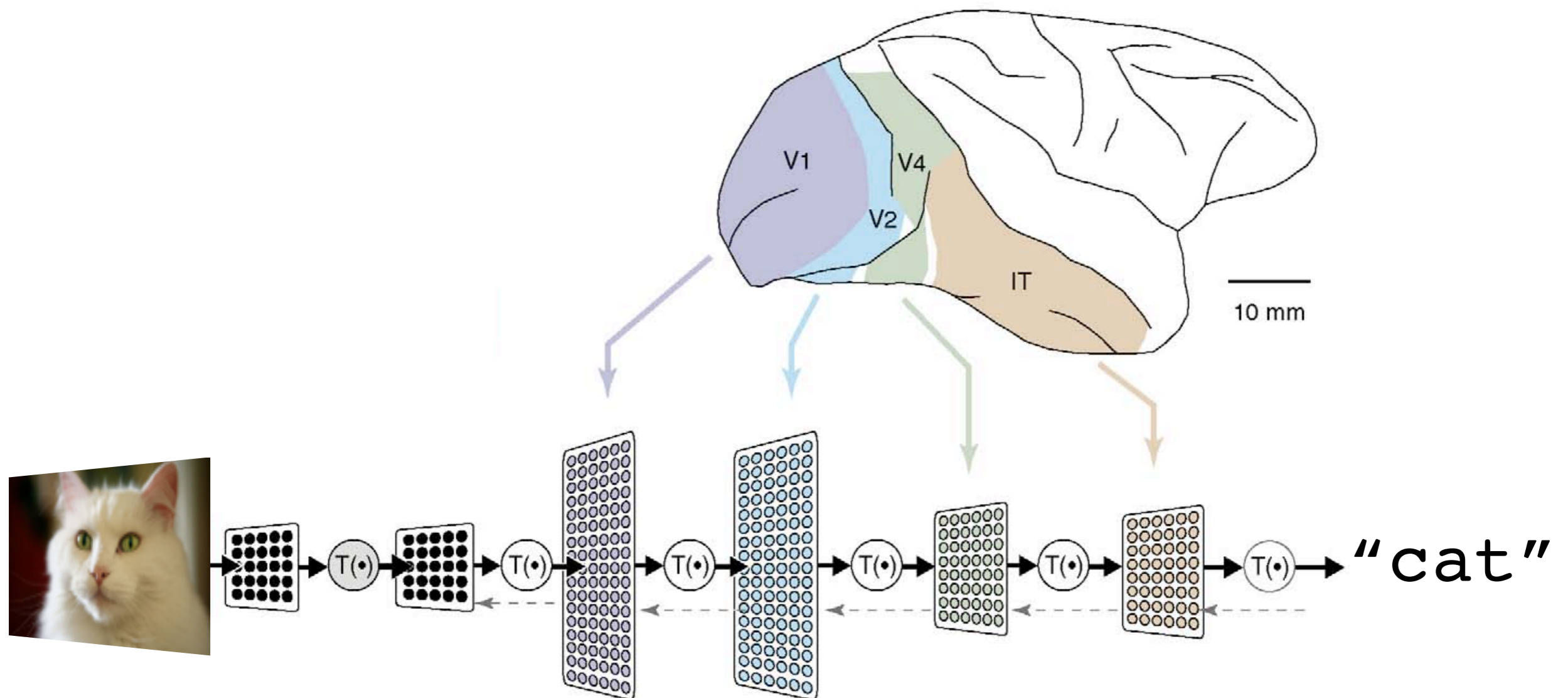
# What is Deep Learning?

- The modern reincarnation of Artificial Neural Networks from the 1980s and 90s.
- A collection of simple trainable mathematical units, which collaborate to compute a complicated function.
- Compatible with supervised, unsupervised, and reinforcement learning.



# What is Deep Learning?

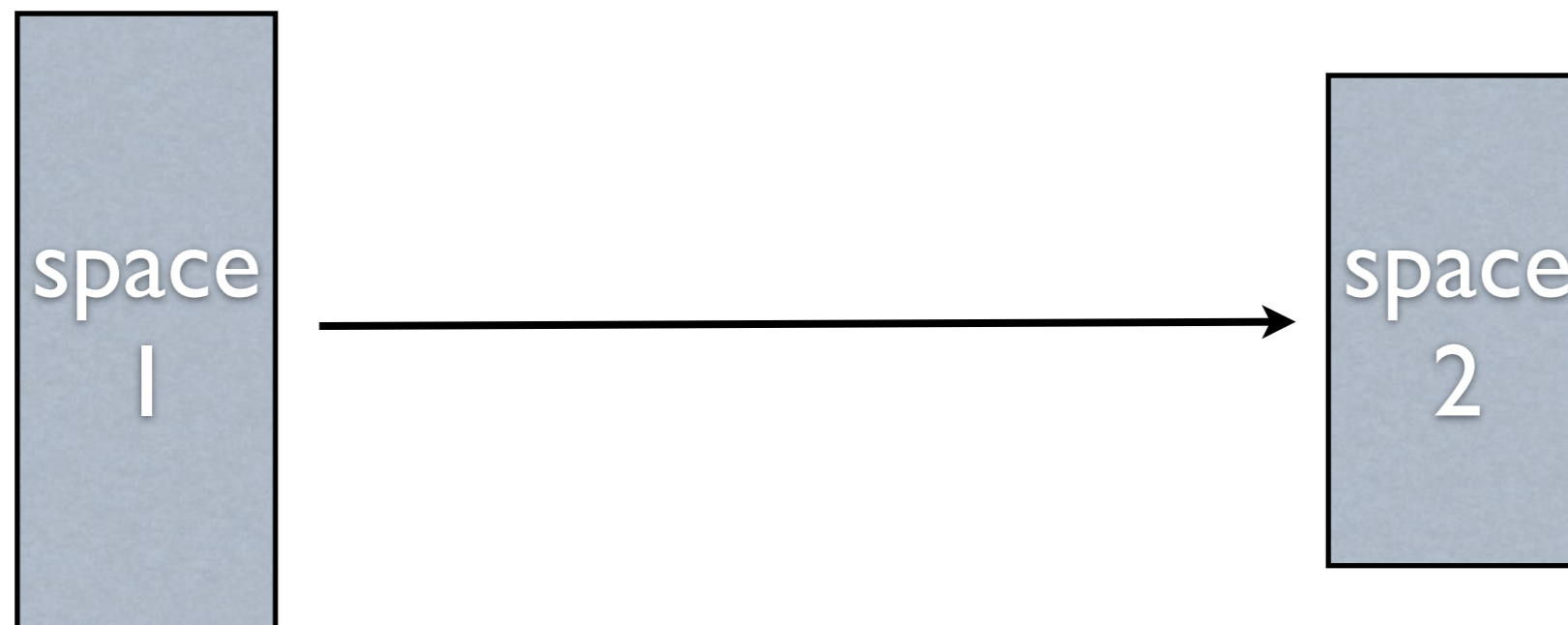
- Loosely inspired by what (little) we know about the biological brain.
- Higher layers form higher levels of abstraction



# Neural Networks



- Learn a complicated function from data

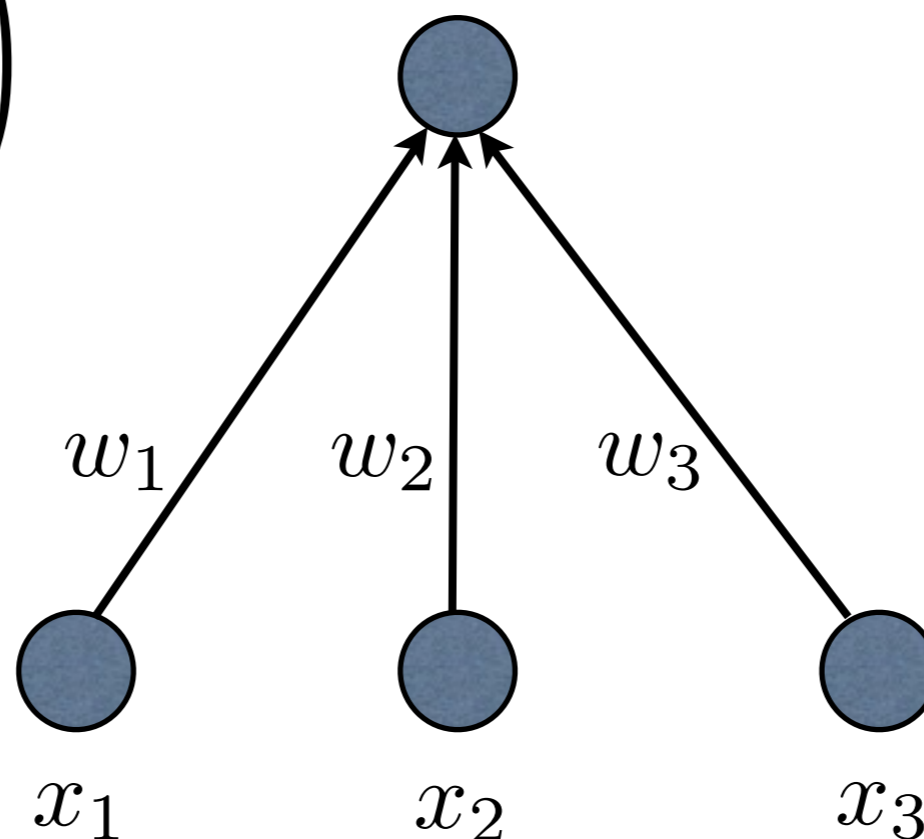




# The Neuron

- Different weights compute different functions

$$y_i = F \left( \sum_i w_i x_i \right)$$

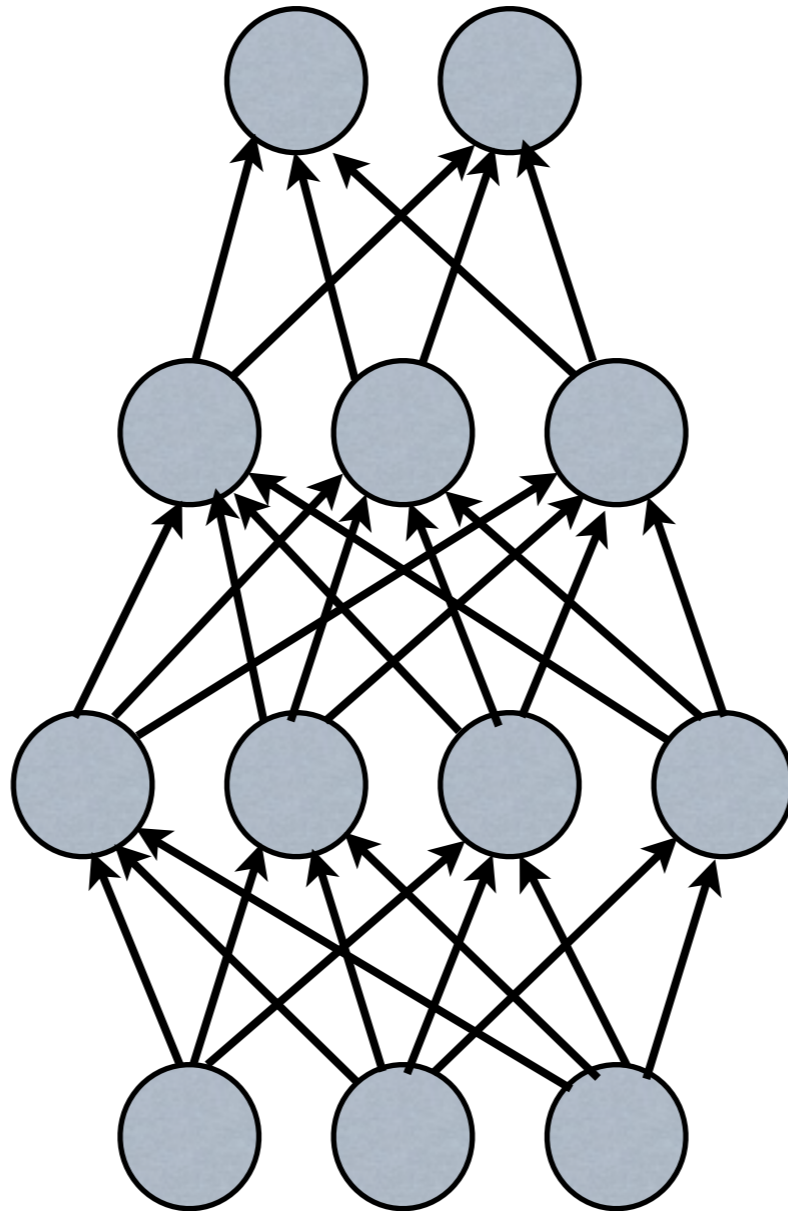


$$F(x) = \max(0, x)$$



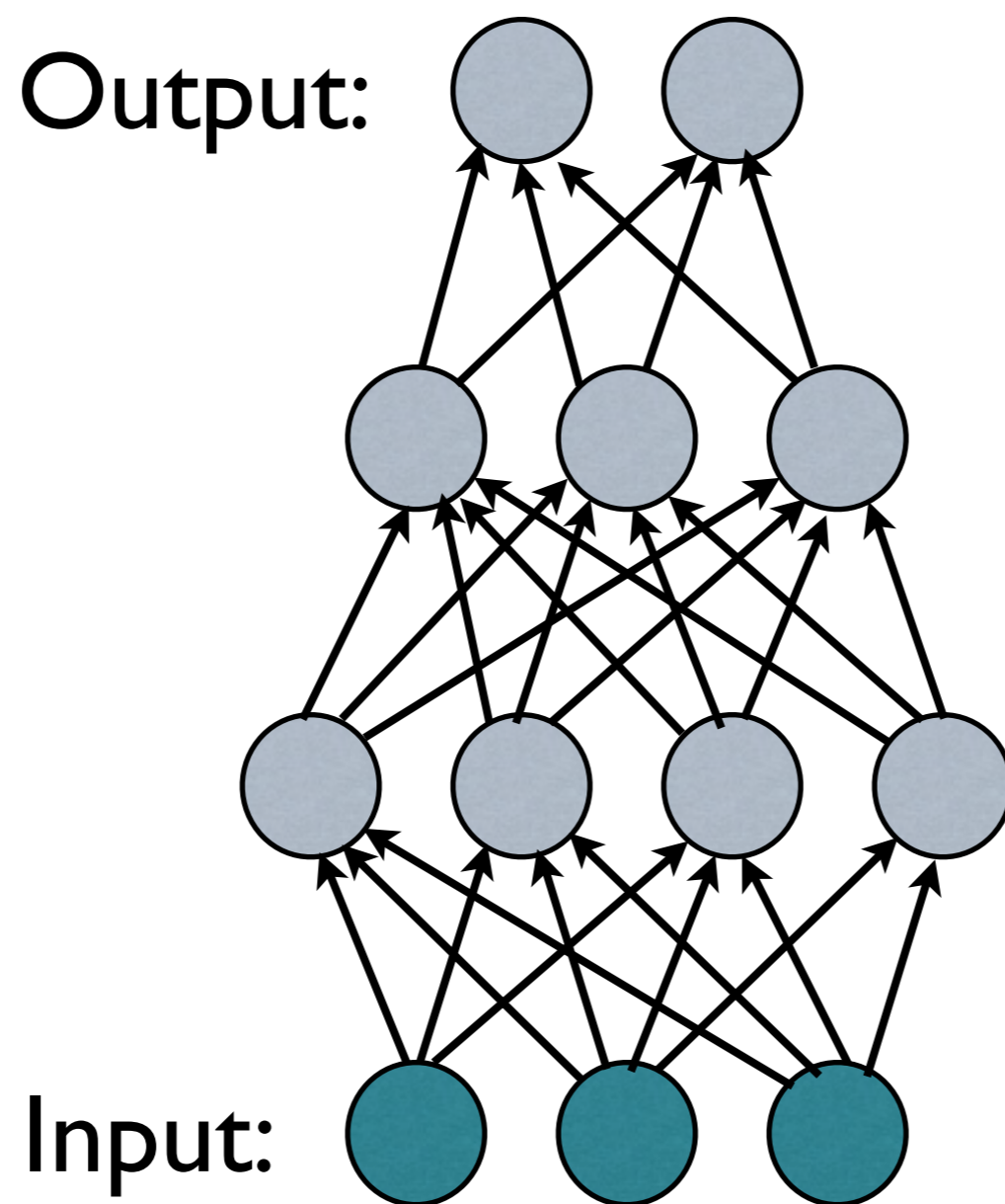
# Neural Networks

- Different weights compute different functions





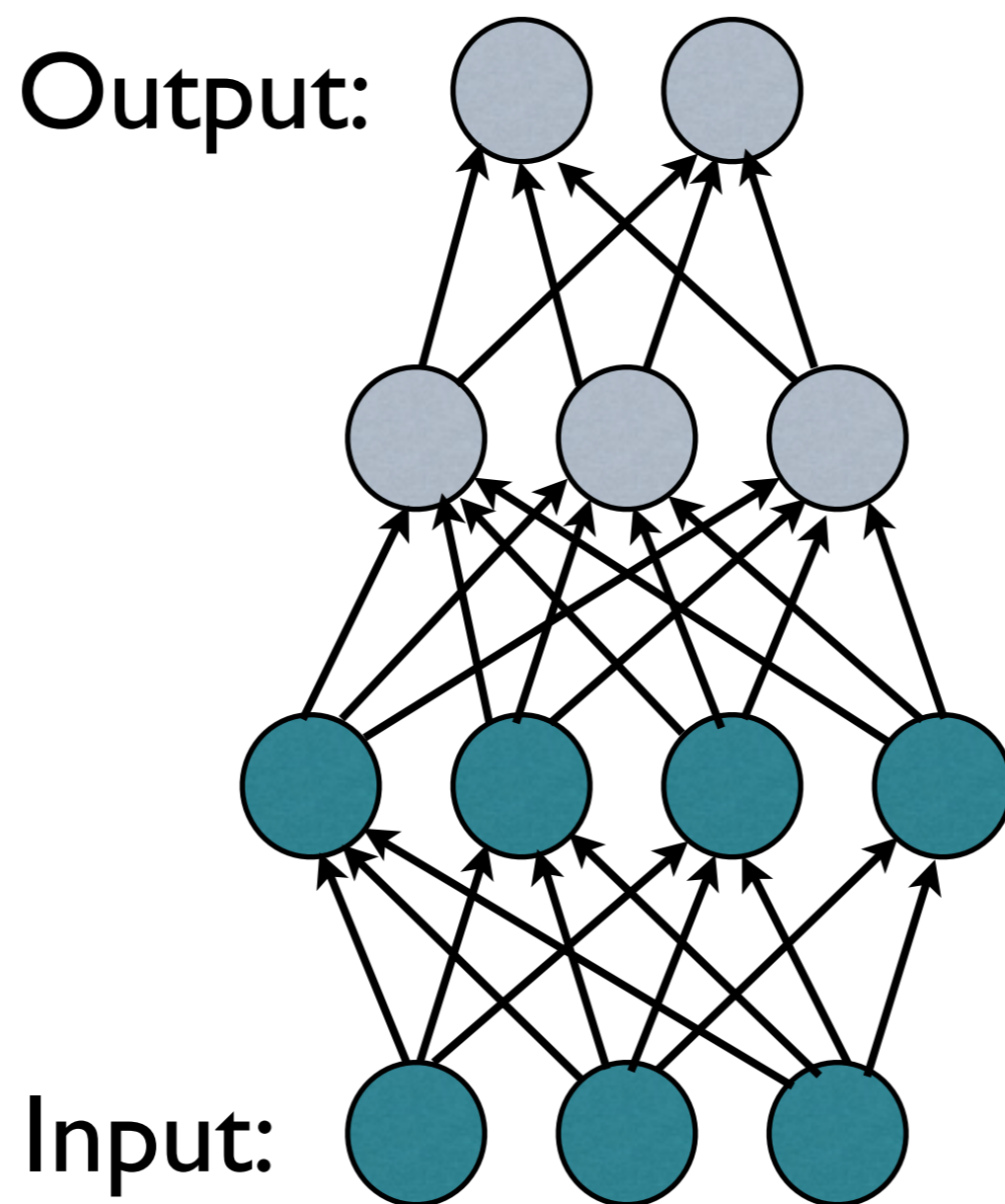
# Neural Networks





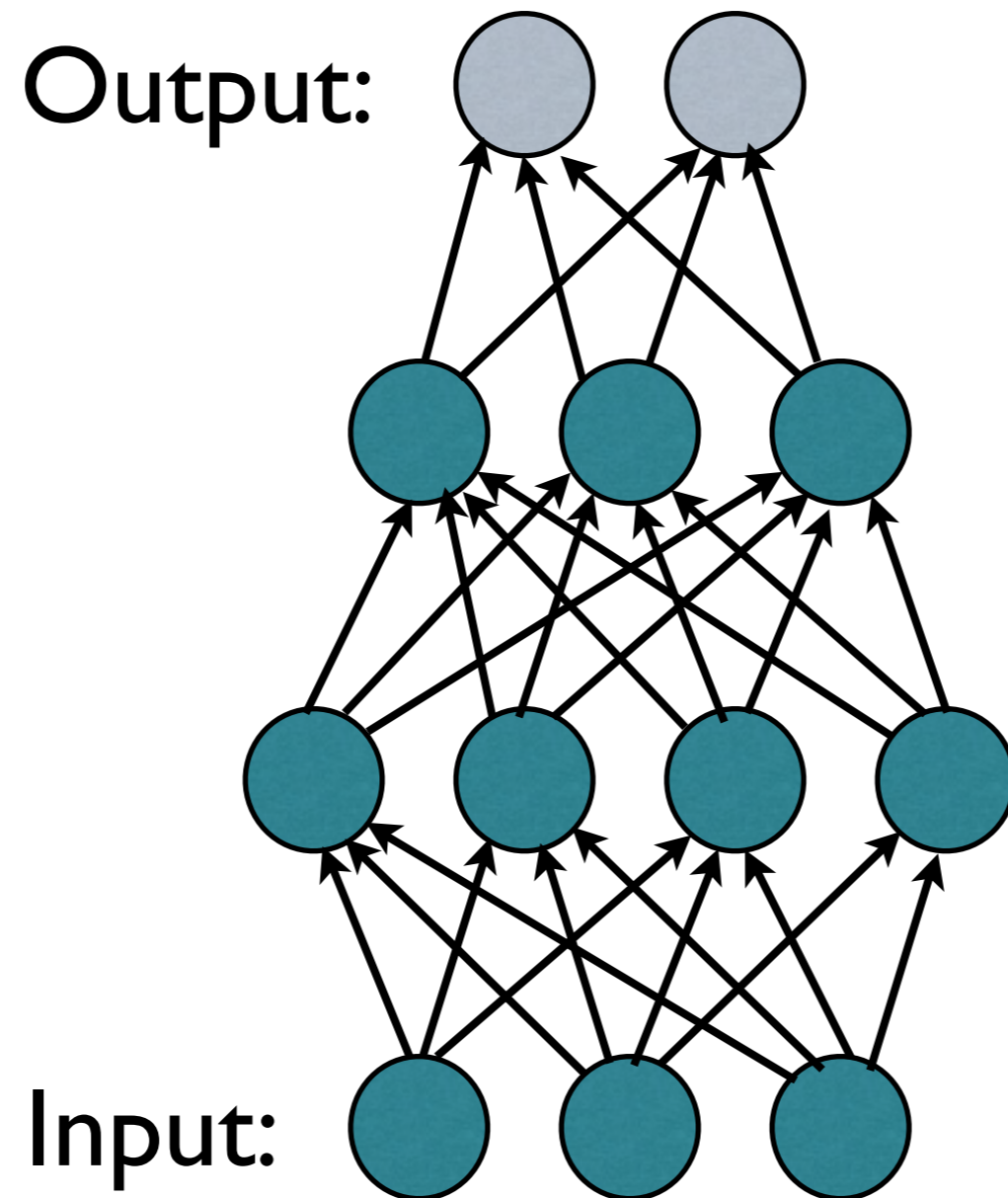


# Neural Networks



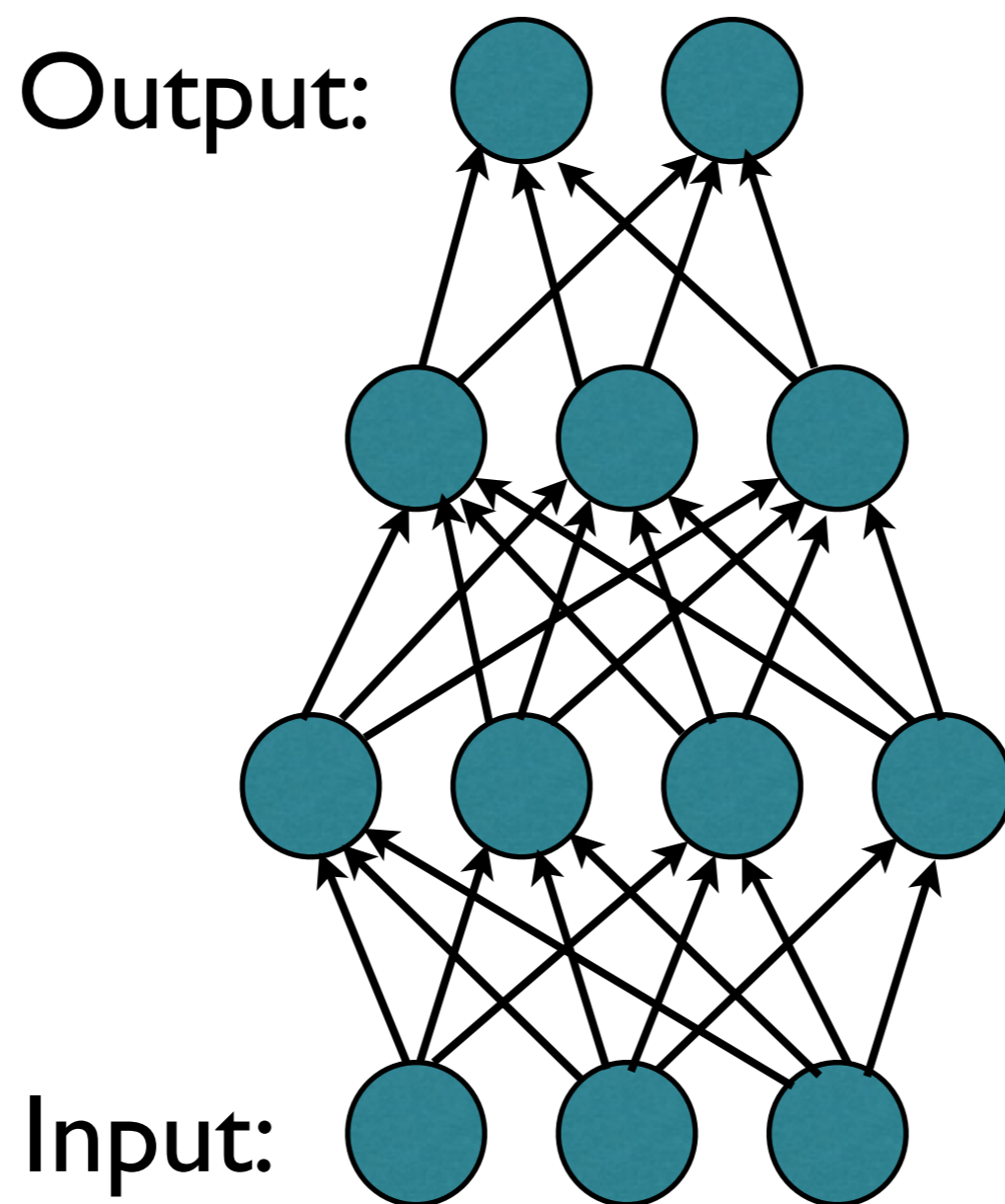


# Neural Networks





# Neural Networks





# Learning Algorithm

- **while not done**
  - pick a random training case  $(x, y)$
  - run neural network on input  $x$
  - modify connections to make prediction closer to  $y$



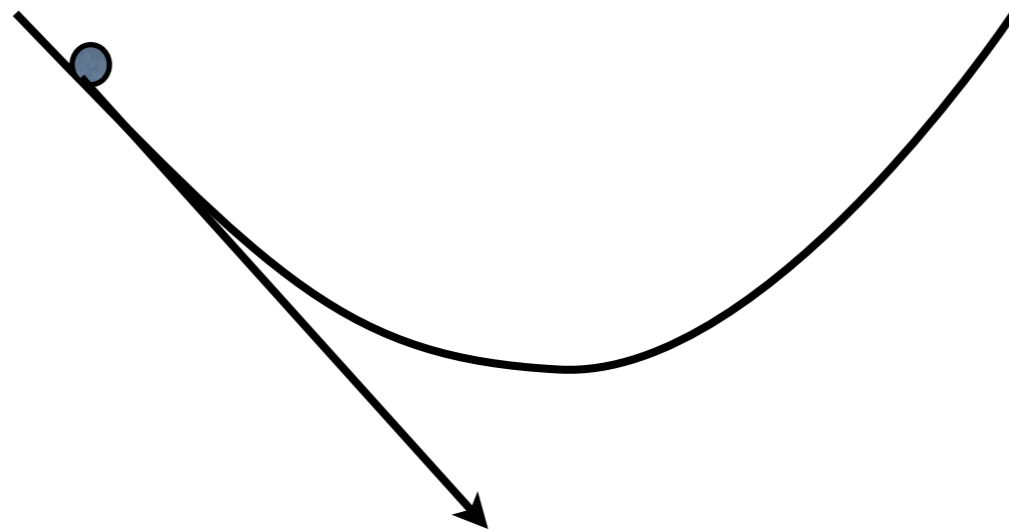
# Learning Algorithm

- while not done
  - pick a random training case  $(x, y)$
  - run neural network on input  $x$
  - modify connection weights to make prediction closer to  $y$

# How to modify connections?



- Follow the gradient of the error w.r.t. the connections



Gradient points in direction of improvement




# One Simple Scalability Aid



- Previous algorithm was a bit of a lie. We don't do one  $(x,y)$  example at a time.
- Rather, we do “mini-batches” of, say, 32 to 1024 different  $(x,y)$  pairs at a time, and average the gradient for all of these examples
- Turns matrix-vector operations into matrix-matrix operations
  - Nicely suited for GPUs

# What can neural nets compute?



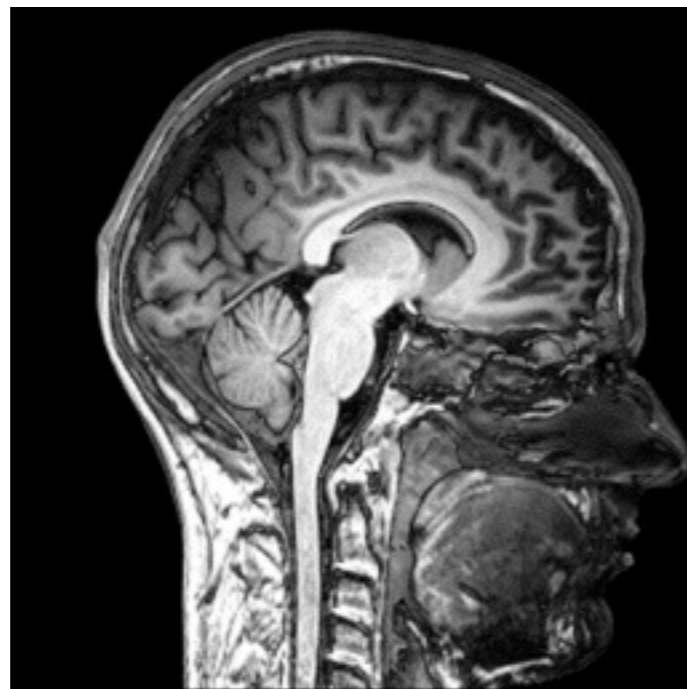
- Human perception is very fast (0.1 second)
  - Recognize objects (“see”) 
  - Recognize speech (“hear”) 
  - Recognize emotion 
  - Instantly see how to solve some problems
  - And many more!



# Why do neural networks work?



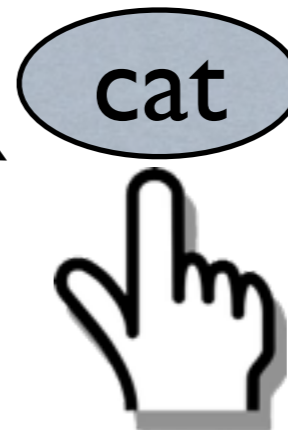
0.1 sec:  
neurons  
can fire  
only 10  
times!



see  
image



click  
if cat



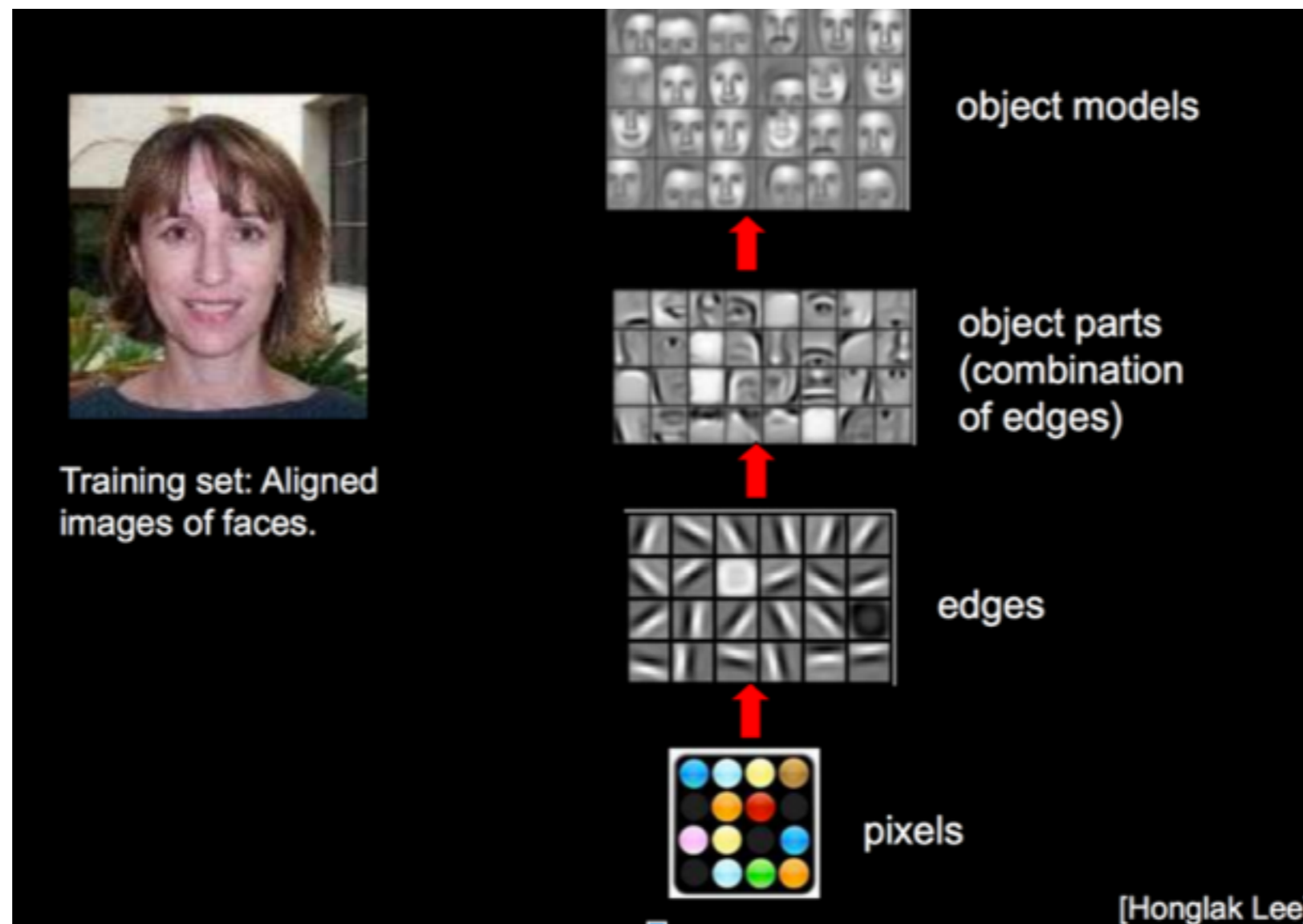
# Why do neural networks work?



- Anything humans can do in 0.1 sec, the right big 10-layer network can do too


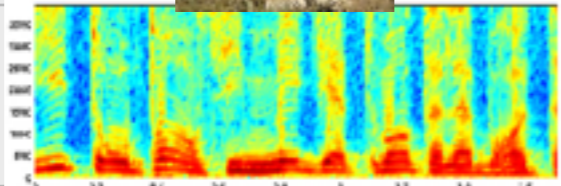
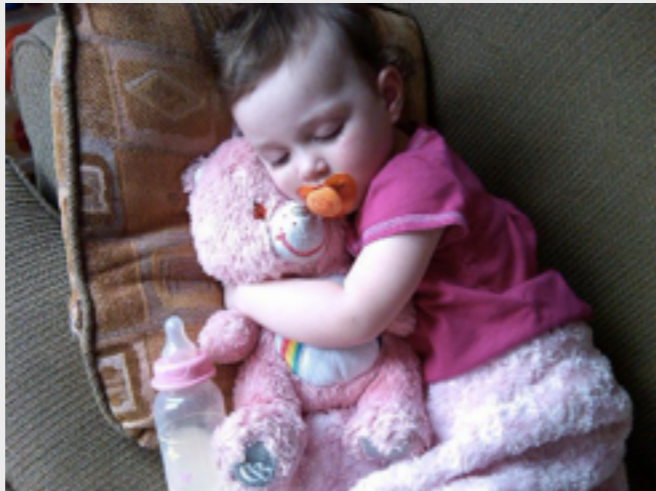
# Important Properties of Deep Neural Networks

- **Automatic:** features developed as part of learning process
    - very good at learning from raw data (pixels, audio waveforms, etc.)
  - **Hierarchical:** complex features built from simple features
- Together: Amazing pattern recognition ability



# Functions Artificial Neural Nets Can Learn



Input	Output
Pixels: 	"lion"
Audio: 	"see at tuhl res taur aun ts"
<query, doc>	P(click on doc)
"Hello, how are you?"	"Bonjour, comment allez-vous?"
Pixels: 	"A close up of a small child holding a stuffed animal"

# Research Objective: Make It Simple!

- Internal software framework usable by anyone at Google
  - Enable both research as well as training/use of models for products
  - Many dozens of production launches of neural nets for real problems
- Allows neural architectures and training procedures to be easily described
- Handles fault tolerance, recovery, parallelization, etc. with just a few simple hints from the user



# Research Objective: Make It Simple!

```
m = Model(num_partitions=4)
input = m.ImageInput("/dir/myimages", rows=256, cols=256)
hidden = m.NeuralRELULayer(input, 2000)
sm = m.Softmax(hidden, num_classes=10, labels=input.labels)
```



Dean, et al., *Large Scale Distributed Deep Networks*, NIPS, 2012.

# Time for Training & Its Effect on Research

Minutes, Hours:

- **Interactive research! Instant gratification!**
- Parameter exploration.

1-4 Days:

- Tolerable.
- Interactivity replaced by parallelization of experiments.

1-4 Weeks:

- High value experiments only.
- Progress stalls.

> 1 Month:

- Don't even try.



Train in a day what takes a single GPU card 6 weeks

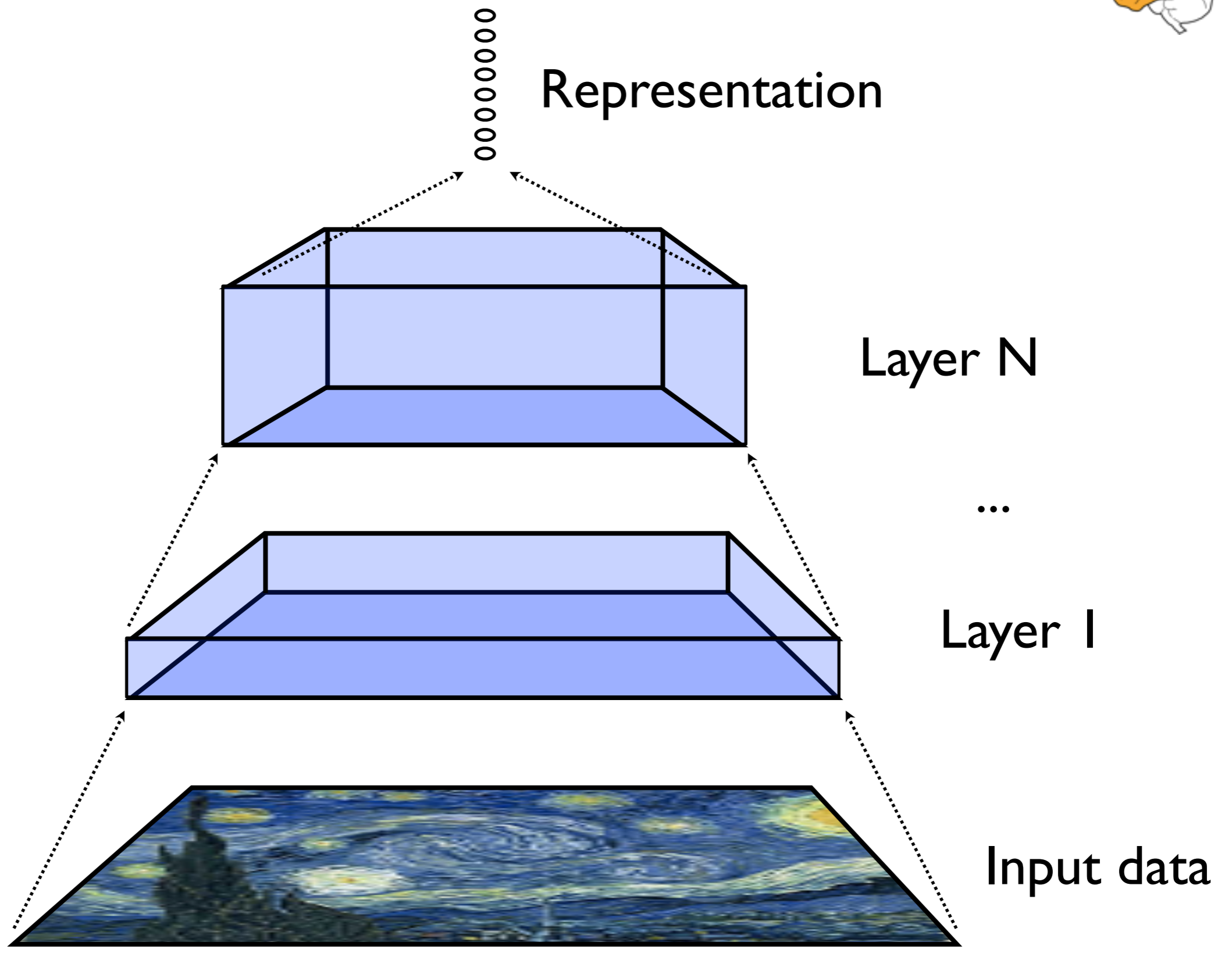


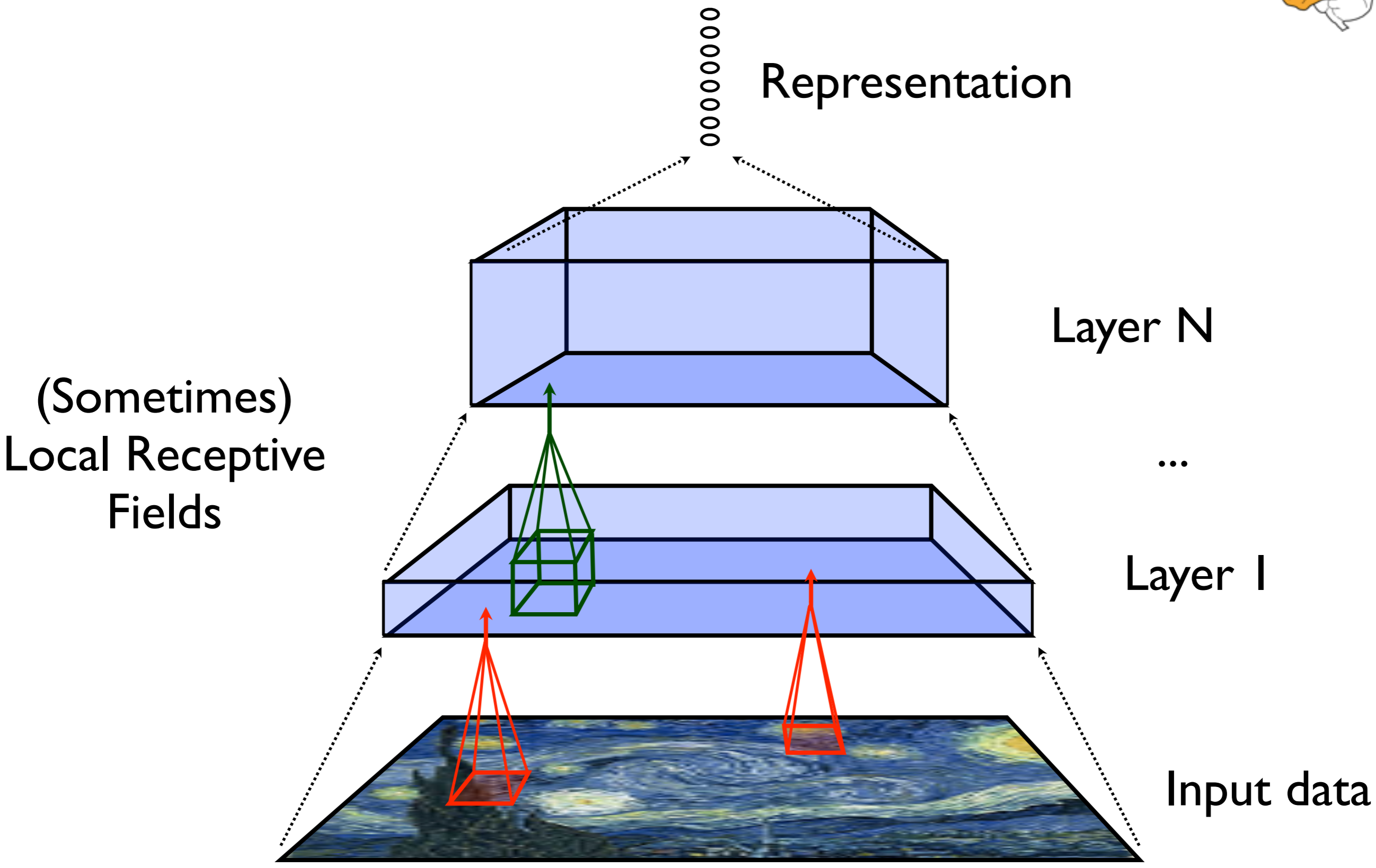


# How Can We Train Big Nets Quickly?

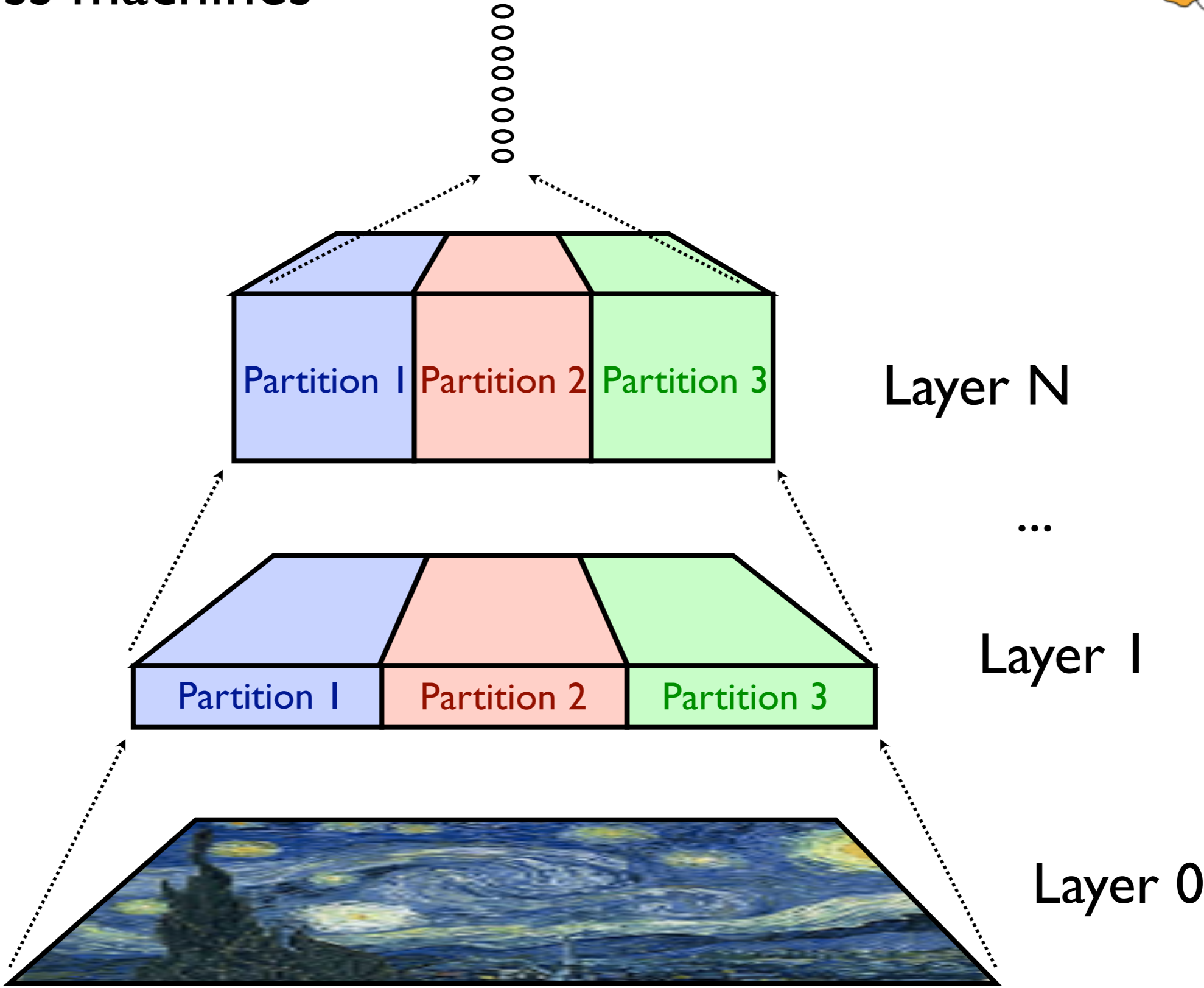
- Exploit many kinds of parallelism
- Model parallelism
- Data parallelism
- (Plus running many simultaneous experiments on top of these approaches)



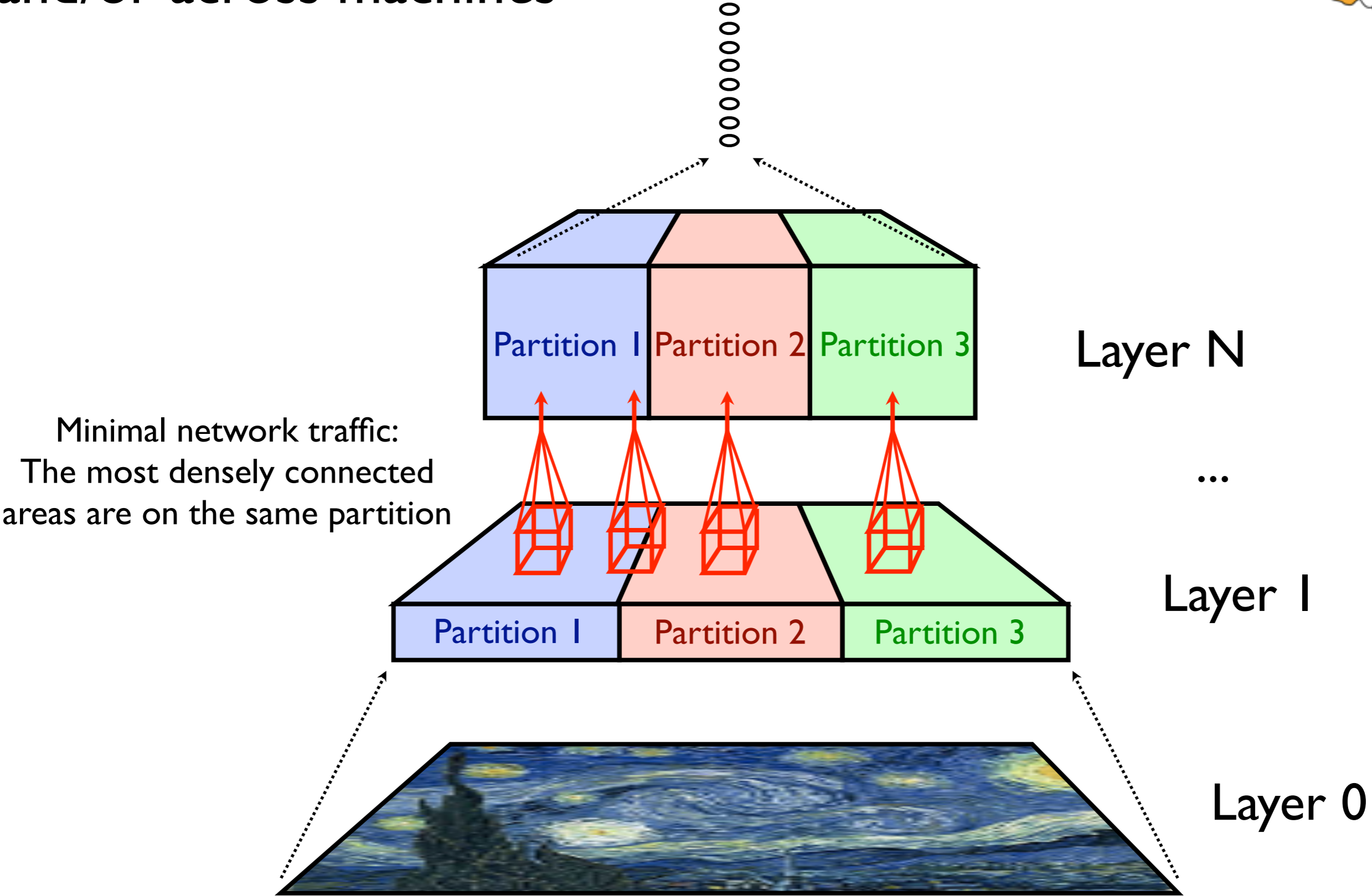




# Model Parallelism: Partition model across GPUs and/or across machines



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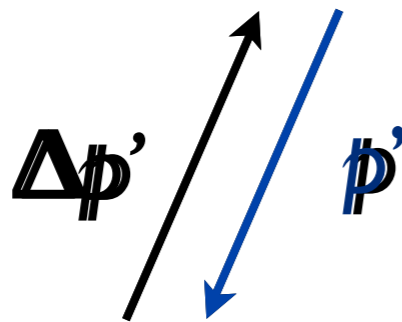
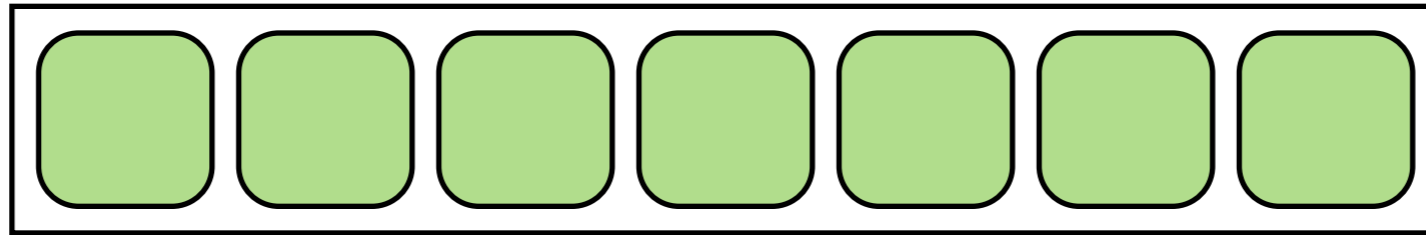


Regularly use models that are spread across dozens of machines

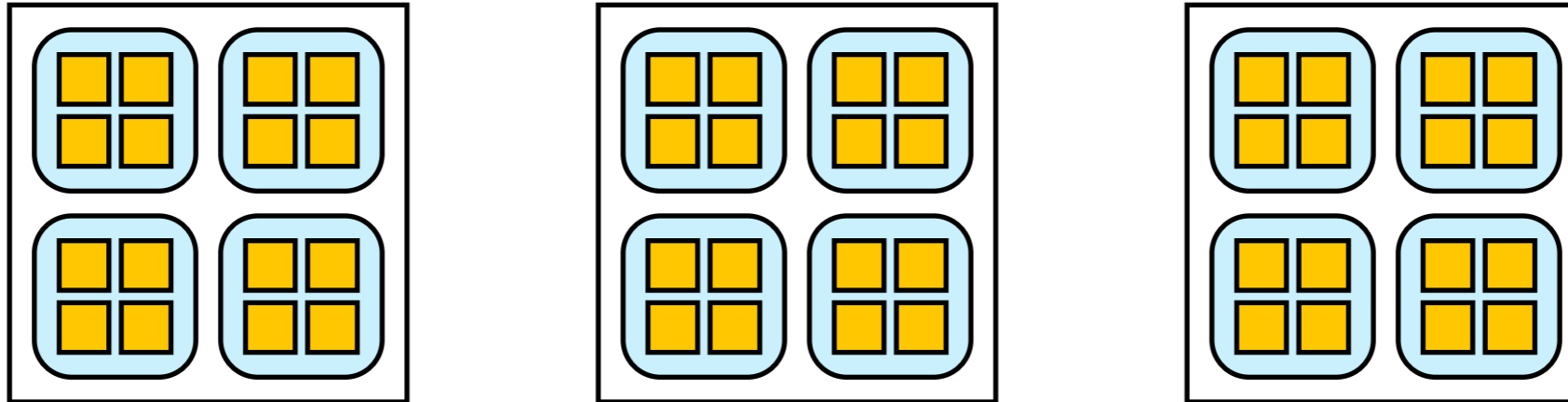
# Data Parallelism:

## Asynchronous Distributed Stochastic Gradient Descent

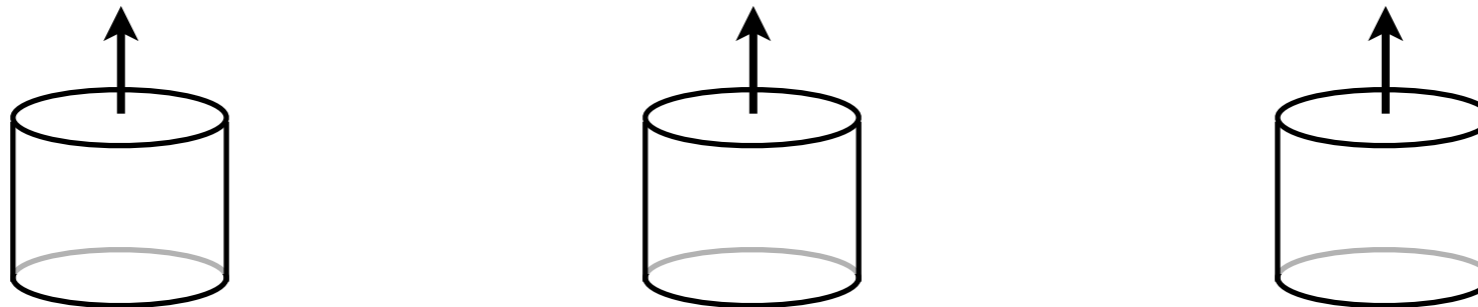
Parameter Server  $\mathbf{p}'' = \mathbf{p}' + \Delta\mathbf{p}'$



Model

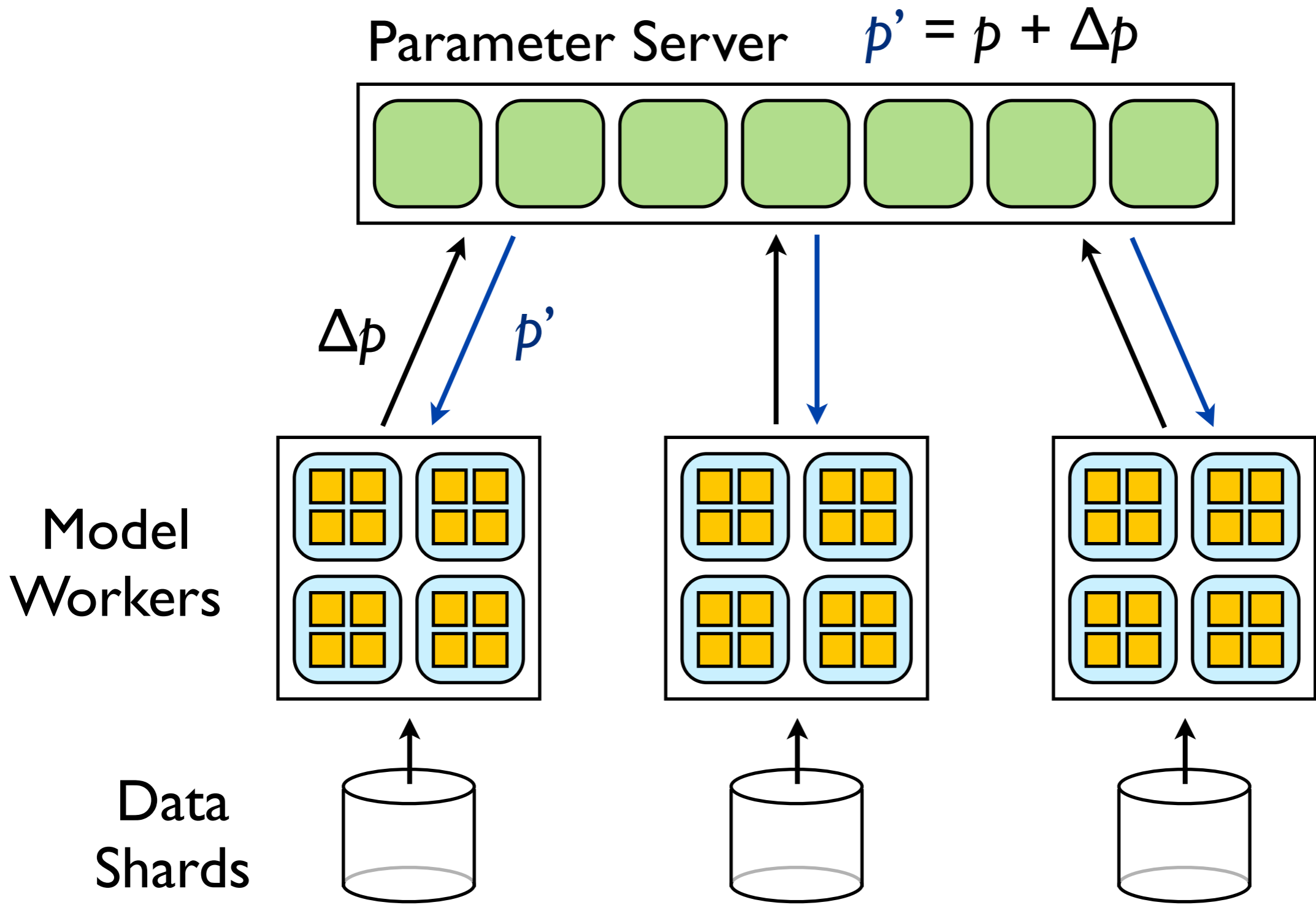


Data



# Data Parallelism:

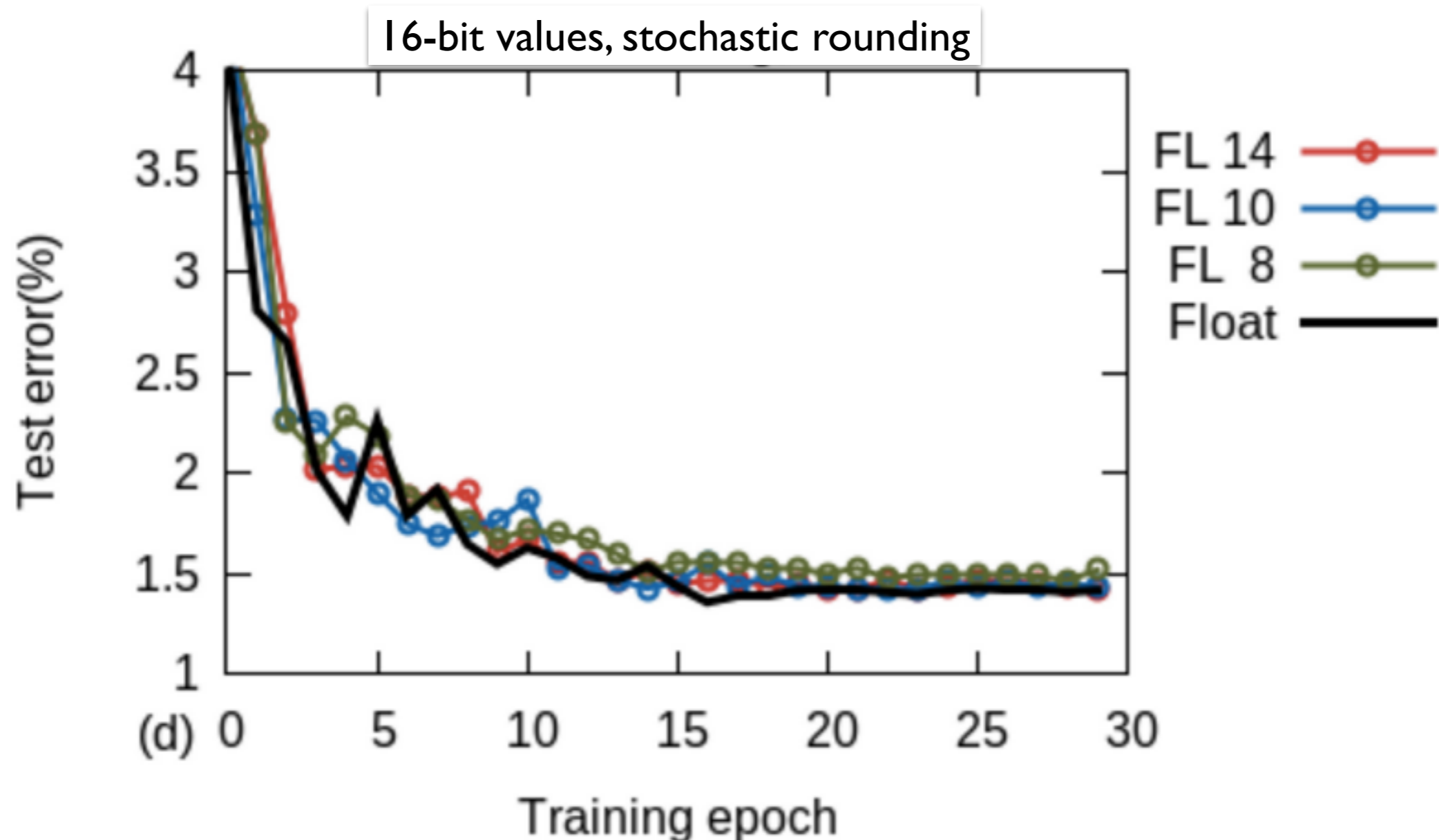
## Asynchronous Distributed Stochastic Gradient Descent



Regularly use hundreds of model replicas (each of which might be dozens of machines)

# Other Scalability Aids

- Neural nets very tolerant of reduced precision arithmetic
  - e.g. chop 32-bit floats to 16 bits for network transfers
- Can even use 16-bit arithmetic. From Arxiv paper *Deep Learning with Limited Numerical Precision*, Gupta et al. (IBM):





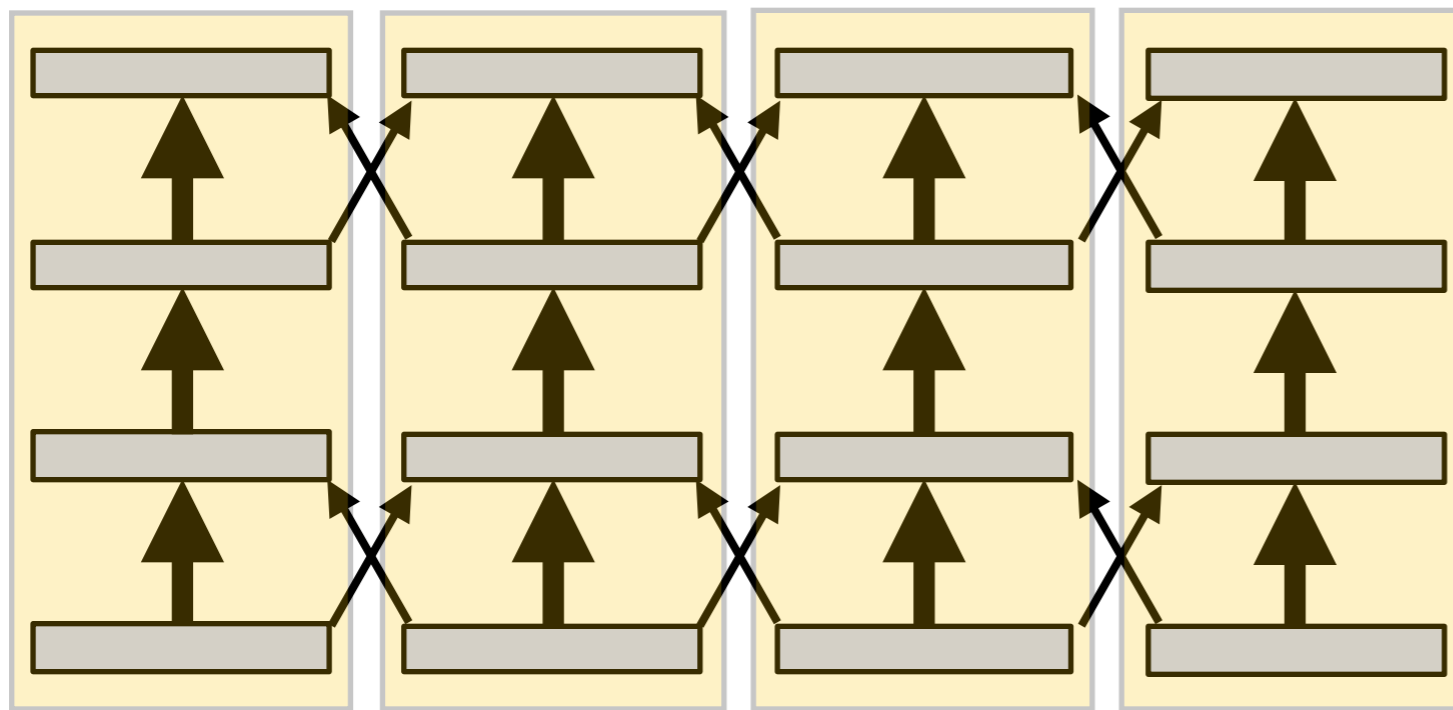
# Other Scalability Aids

- ReLU activation functions produce “true zero values”
  - these are quite compressible
- “Concurrent steps”: pipelining overlaps computation and communication

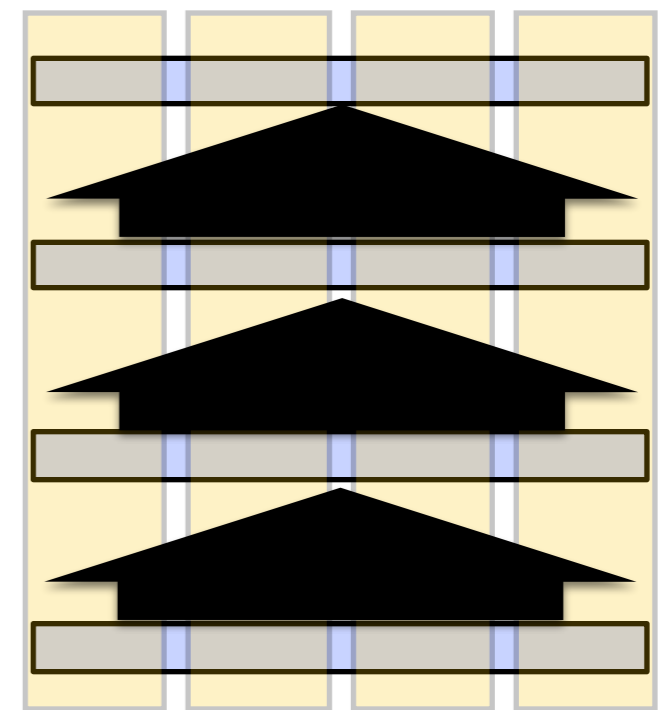


# Other Scalability Aids

- Use model connectivity structures that are adapted to the underlying communication channel capacities



vs.



# Deep Learning @ Google



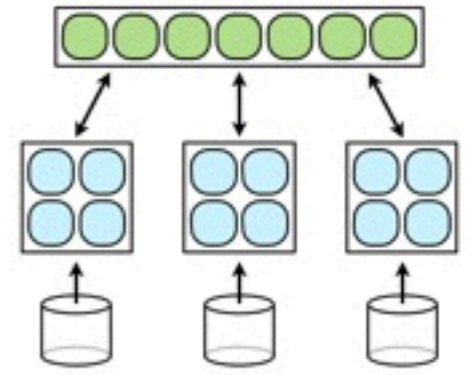
- Google has invested decades of person-years of systems engineers and artificial intelligence researchers in building the state-of-the-art infrastructure.
- We often leverage thousands of CPUs and GPUs to learn from billions of data samples in parallel.  
*Dean et al., Large Scale Distributed Deep Networks. NIPS 2012*
- We publish frequently, and often place first in academic challenges in image recognition, speech recognition, etc.  
*Szegedy et al., GoogLeNet: Going Deeper with Convolutions. ILSVRC 2014*
- Extensive and accelerating experience in using deep learning in real products: 47 production launches in the last 2 years.  
e.g. Photo search, Android speech recognition, StreetView, Ads placement...

# Widely Applicable



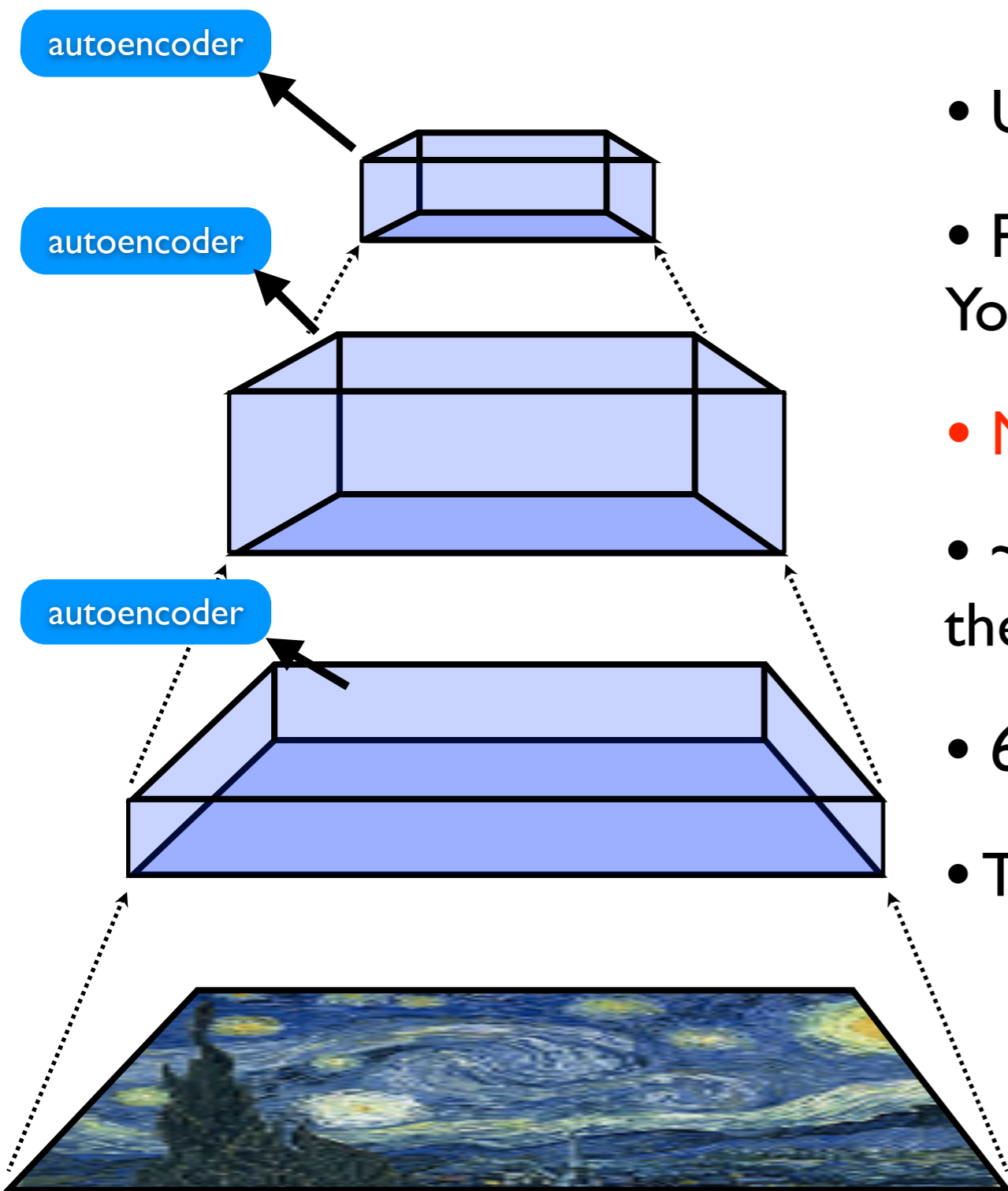
Some areas we've published in:

- Distributed training of large neural nets (Dean *et al.*, NIPS 2012)
- Object recognition in images (Erhan *et al.*, 2014)
- Object category discovery in video (Le *et al.*, ICML 2012)
- Speech recognition (Vanhoucke *et al.*, NIPS Workshop 2011)
- Annotating images with text (Vinyals *et al.*, arXiv 2014)
- OCR: reading text from images (Goodfellow *et al.*, ICLR 2014)
- Natural language understanding (Mikolov *et al.*, NIPS 2013)
- Machine translation (Sutskever *et al.*, NIPS 2014)
- Online advertising (Corrado *et al.*, ICML Workshop 2012)



# Applications

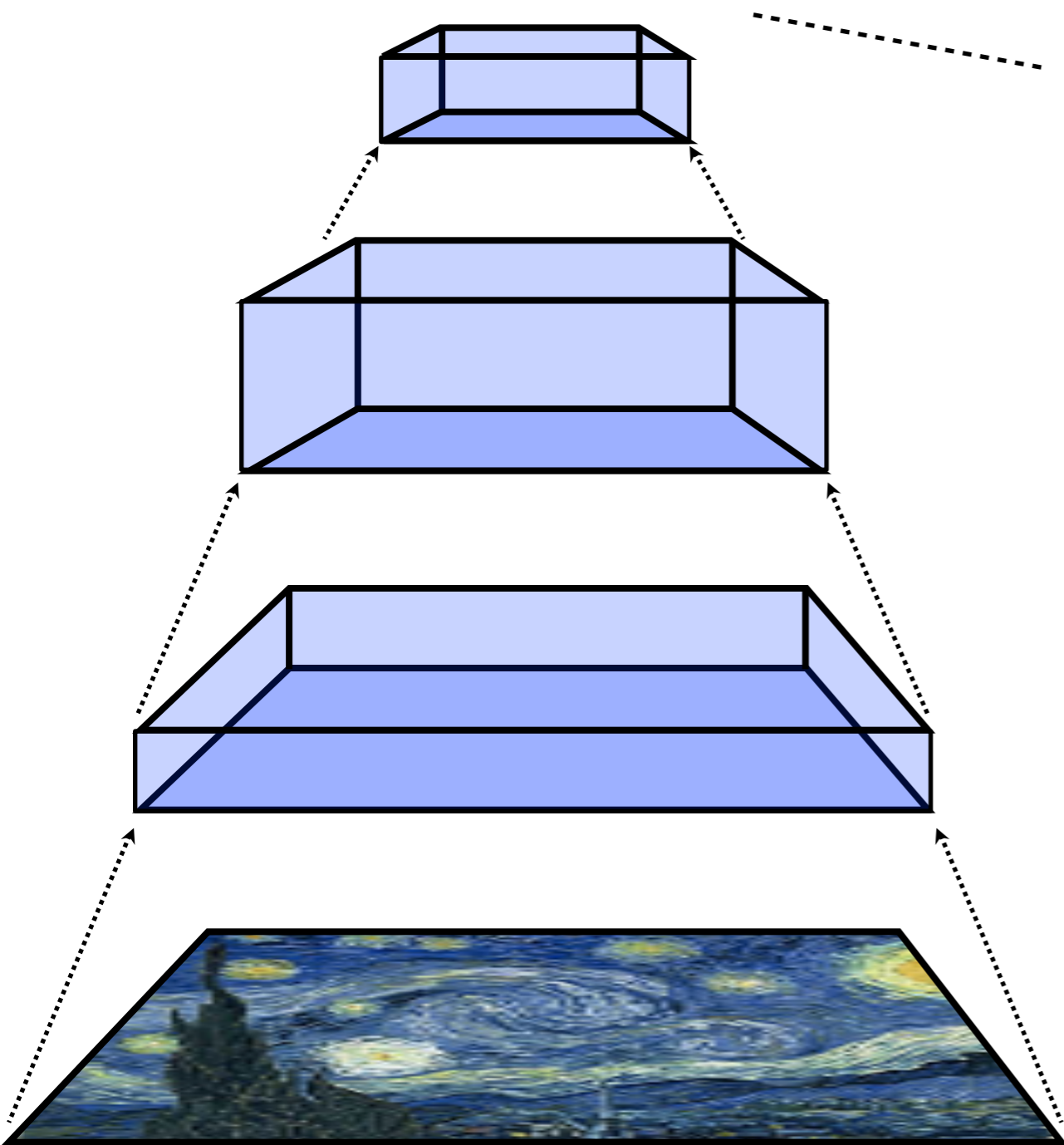
# Newborn Baby+YouTube = ???



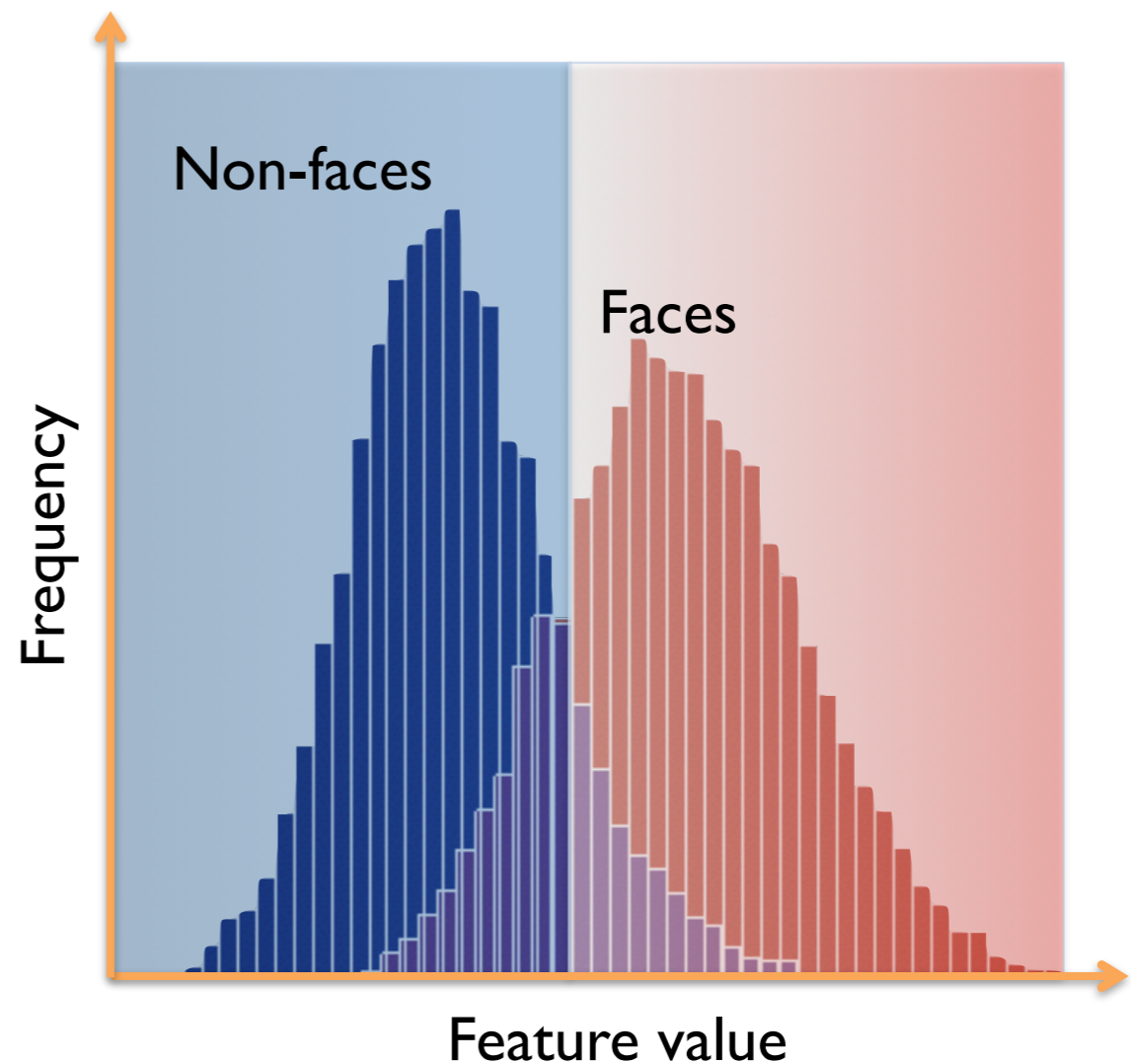
- Unsupervised training
- Pick one frame from each of 10 million YouTube videos & train model
- **No labels!**
- ~50x larger than largest deep network in the literature at the time
- 60,000 neurons at top level
- Trained on 16,000 CPU cores for 1 week

• Le, Ranzato, Monga, Devin, Chen, Corrado, Dean, & Ng. *Building High-Level Features Using Large Scale Unsupervised Learning*, ICML 2012.

# Newborn Baby+YouTube = ???



Top level neurons seem to discover high-level concepts. For example, one neuron is a decent face detector:



- Le, Ranzato, Monga, Devin, Chen, Corrado, Dean, & Ng. *Building High-Level Features Using Large Scale Unsupervised Learning*, ICML 2012.

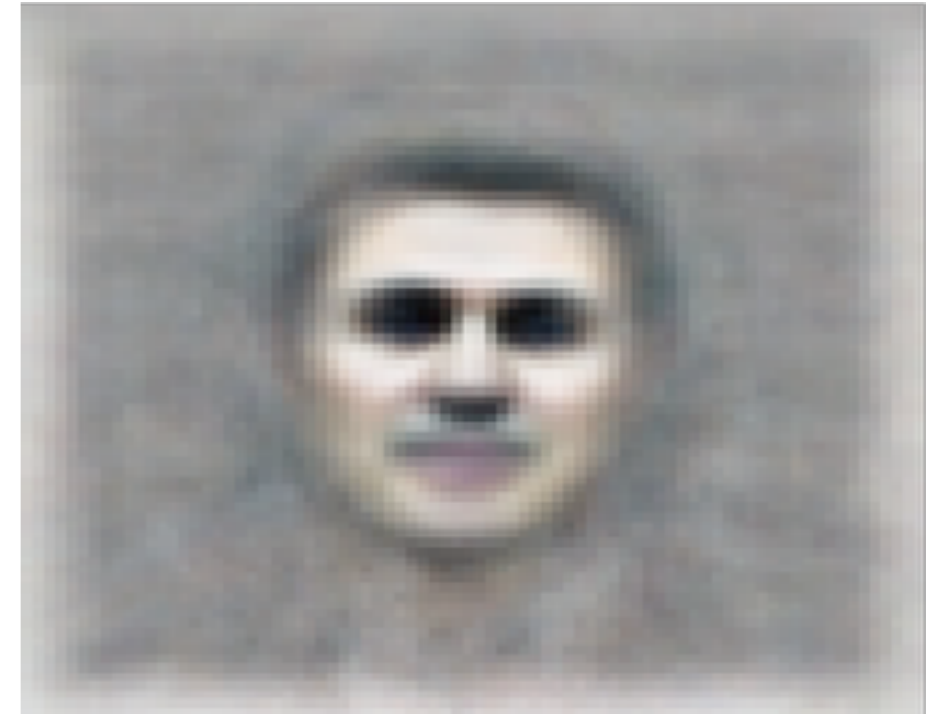
# Purely Unsupervised Feature Learning in Images

Most face-selective neuron

Top 48 stimuli from the test set



Optimal stimulus  
by numerical optimization





# Purely Unsupervised Feature Learning in Images

It is YouTube... We also have a cat neuron!

Top stimuli from the test set



Optimal stimulus

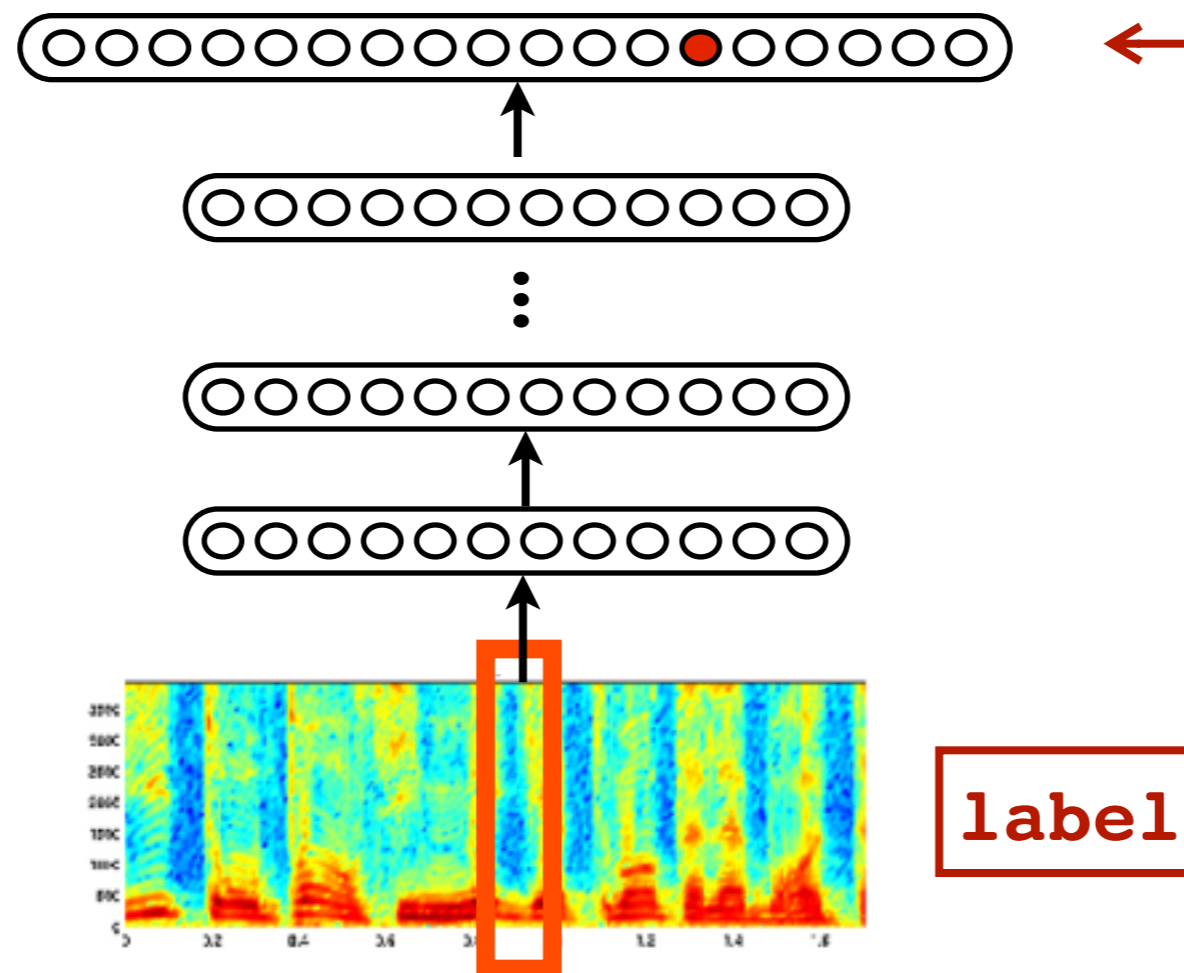


A photograph of a server room with multiple rows of server racks. The racks are filled with server units, and there are many cables visible. The lighting is somewhat dim, and the perspective is from a slightly elevated angle looking down the aisles.

**We made a cat detector!**

**It uses a few CPUs!**

# Acoustic Modeling for Speech Recognition



Close collaboration with Google Speech team

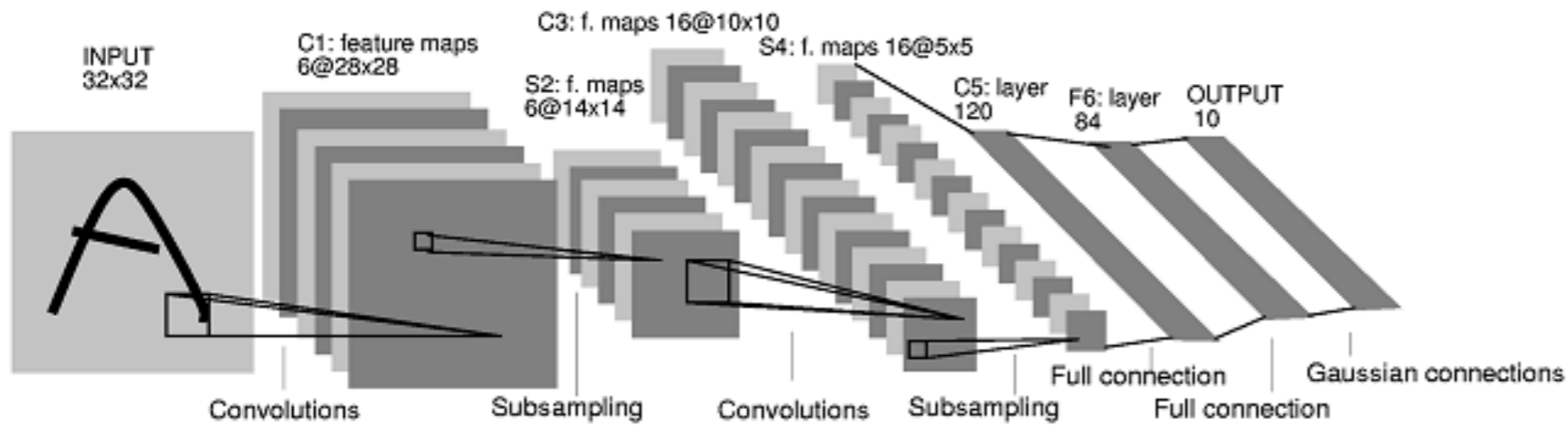
Trained in <5 days on cluster of 800 machines

30% reduction in Word Error Rate for English

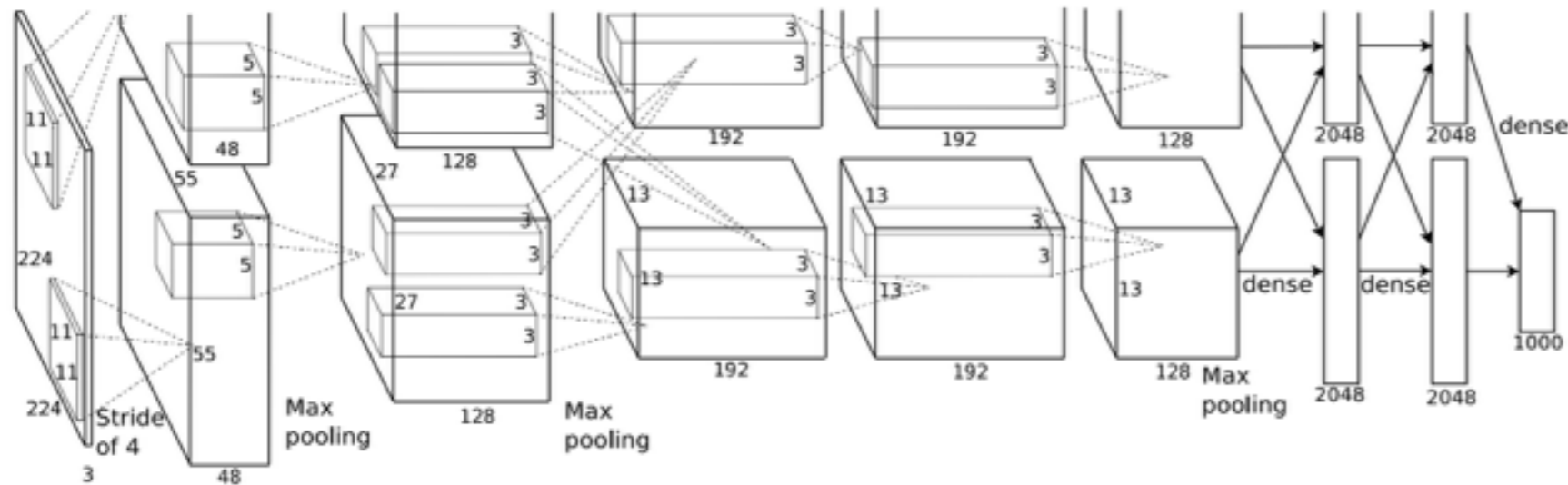
(“biggest single improvement in 20 years of speech research”)

Launched in 2012 at time of Jellybean release of Android

# Convolutional Models for Image Classification



LeCun *et al.*, 1989



Krizhevsky *et al.*, NIPS 2012

2012 ImageNet winner: 16.4% top-5 error rate



GoogLeNet

2014 ImageNet winner:  
6.66% top-5 error rate

# Improvement Happening Rapidly

## Top 5 error

Imagenet 2011 winner (not CNN)

25.7%

Imagenet 2012 winner

16.4% (Krizhesvky et al.)

Imagenet 2013 winner

11.7% (Zeiler/Clarifai)

Imagenet 2014 winner

6.7% (GoogLeNet)

Human: Andrej Karpathy

5.1%

Baidu Arxiv paper: 3 Jan '15

6.0%

MS Research Arxiv paper: 6 Feb '15

4.9%

Google Arxiv paper: 2 Mar '15

4.8%

# Good Fine-grained Classification



“hibiscus”



“dahlia”



# Good Generalization



Both recognized as a  
“meal”



# Sensible Errors



“snake”



“dog”



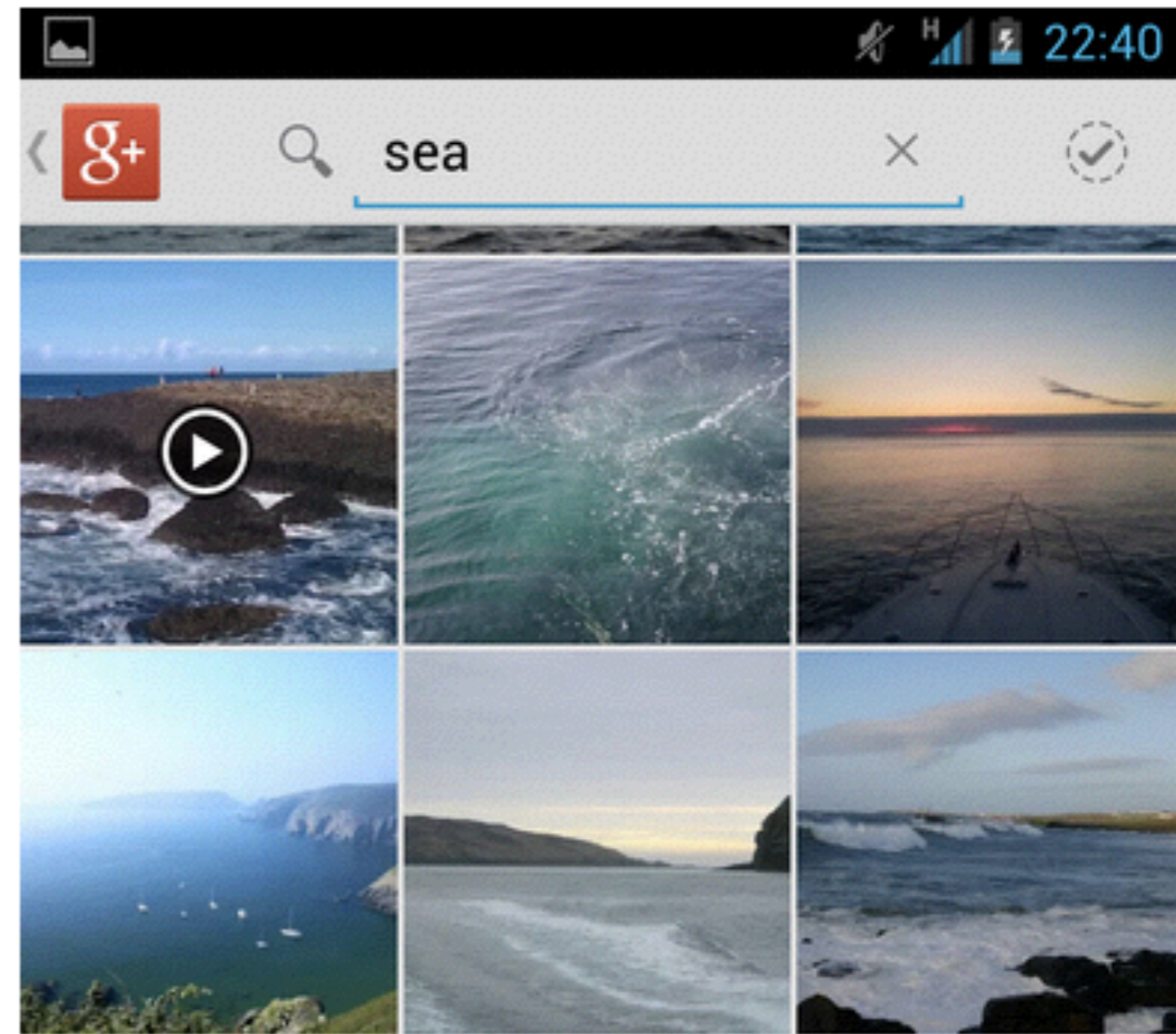
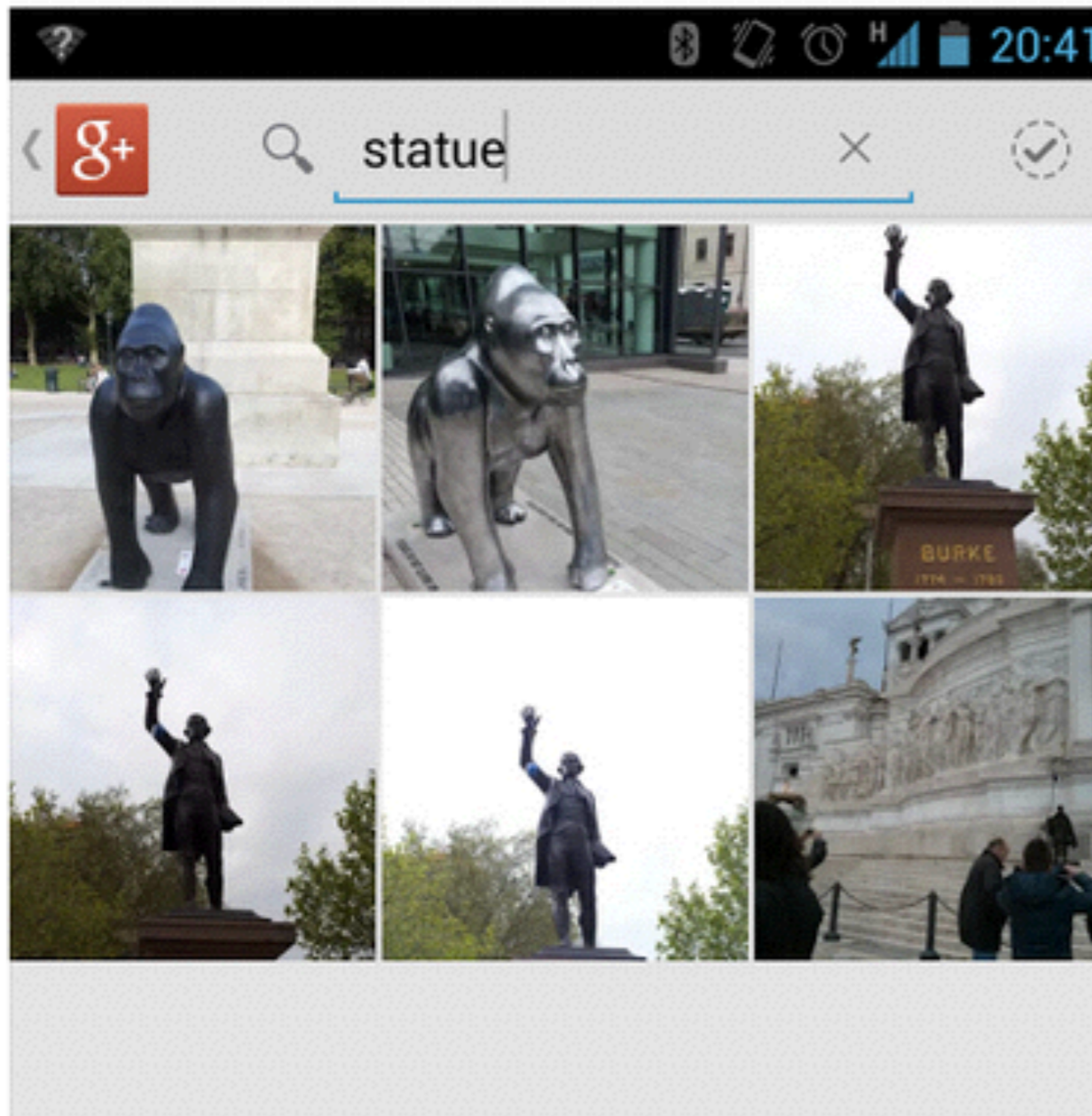


# Works in practice for real users.

Wow.

The new Google plus photo search is a bit insane.

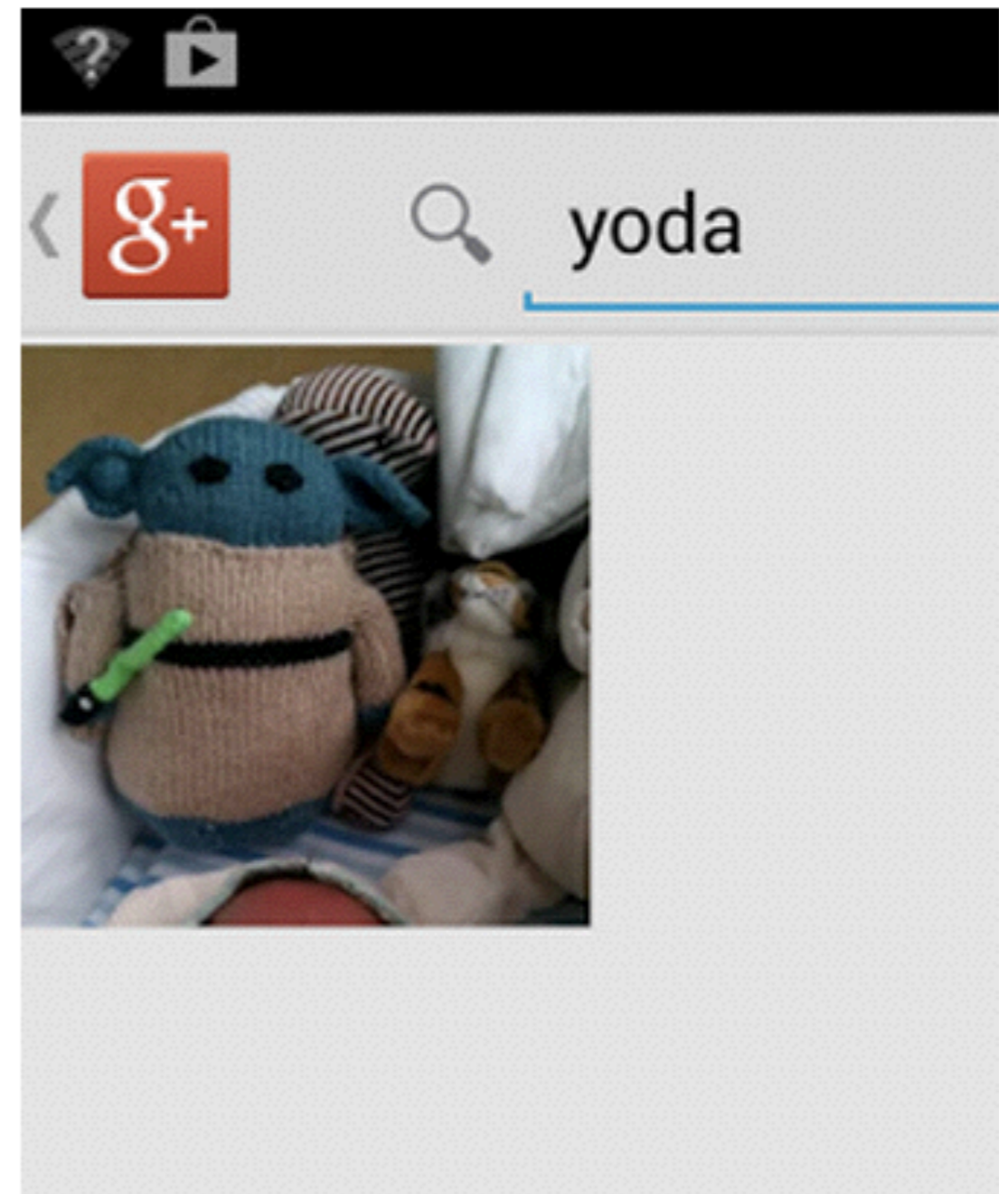
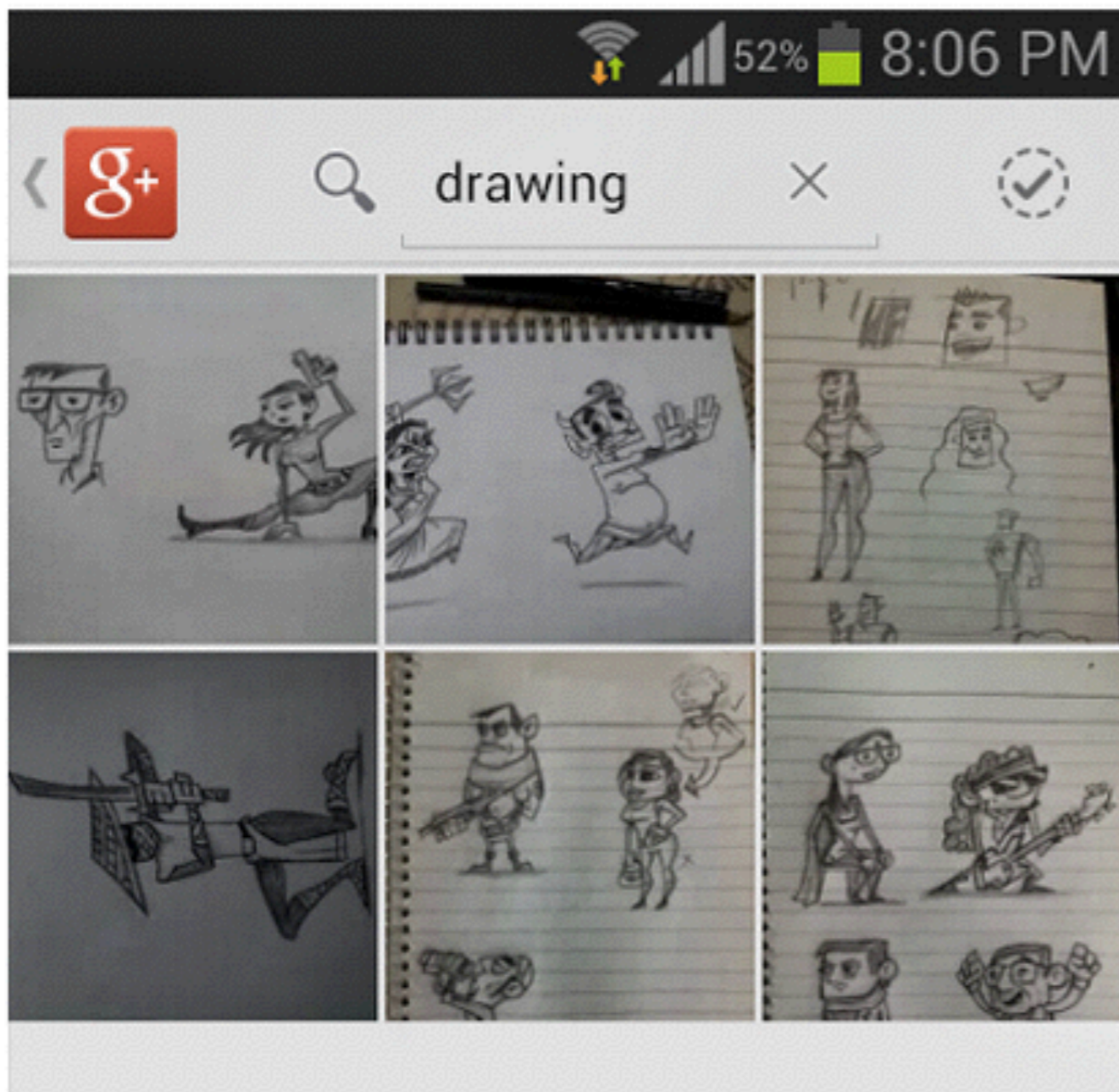
I didn't tag those... ;)



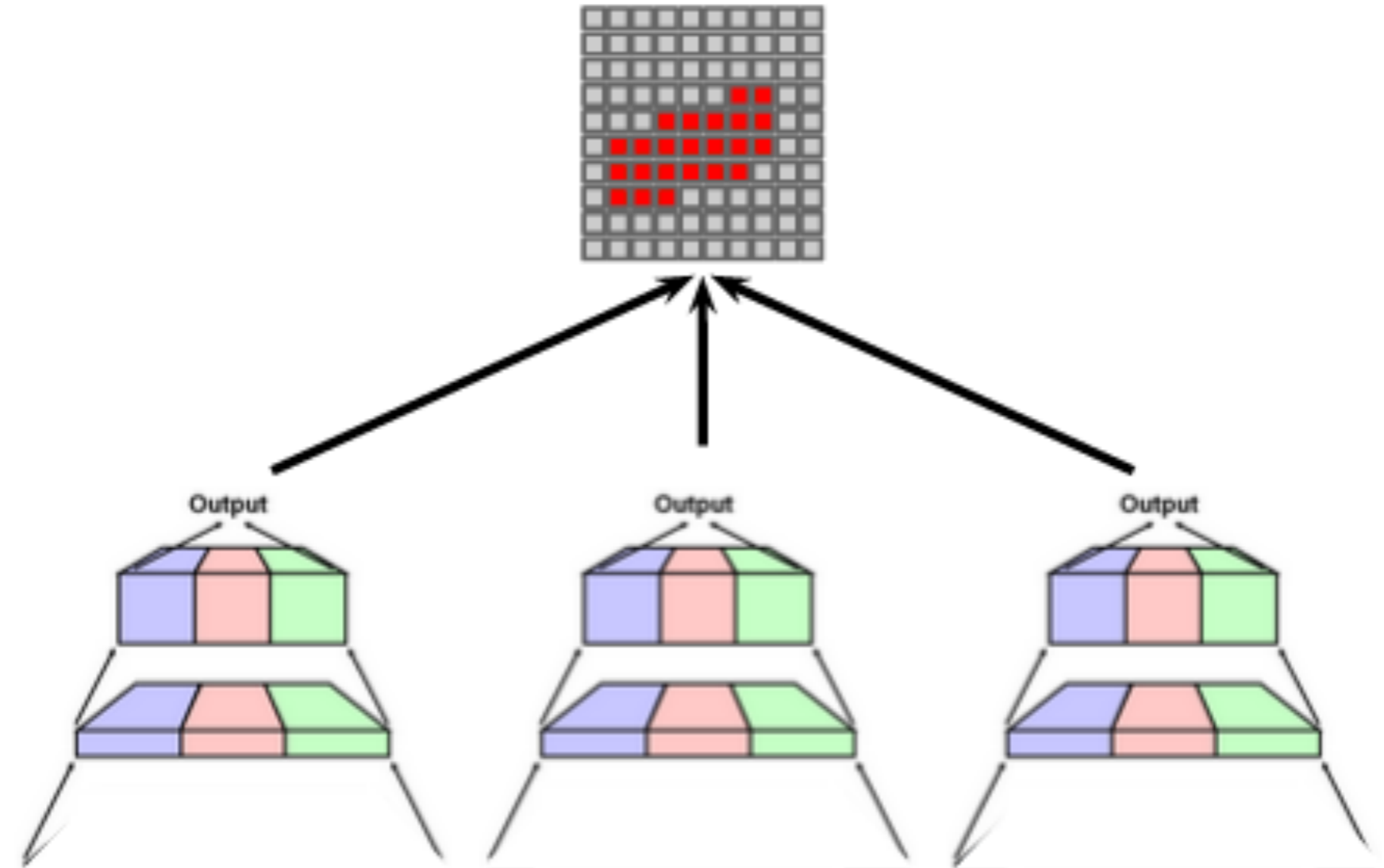
# Works in practice

for real users.

Google Plus photo search is awesome. Searched with keyword 'Drawing' to find all my scribbles at once :D



# Text?



Work by Matt Zeiler (summer intern), Julian Ibarz and Jeff Dean

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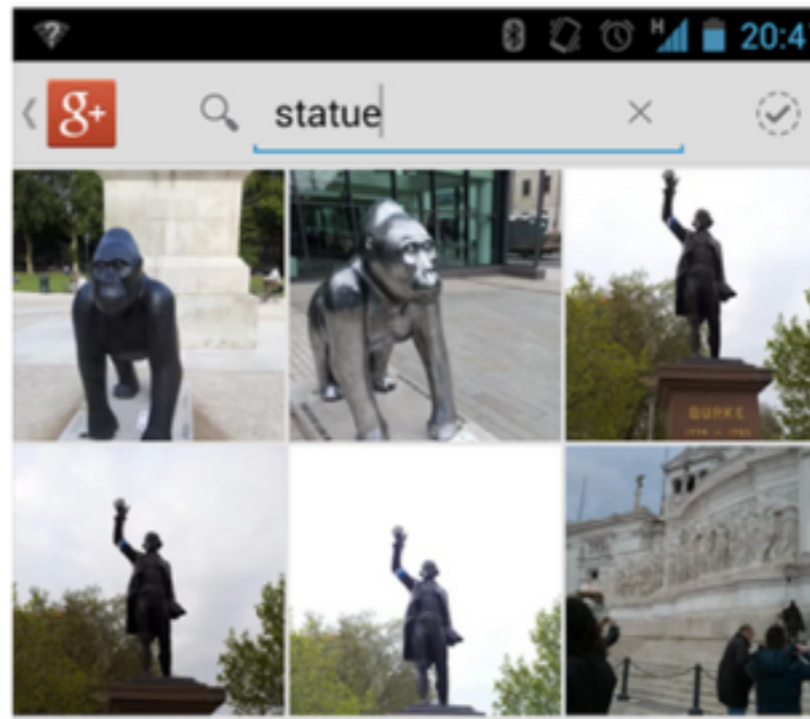
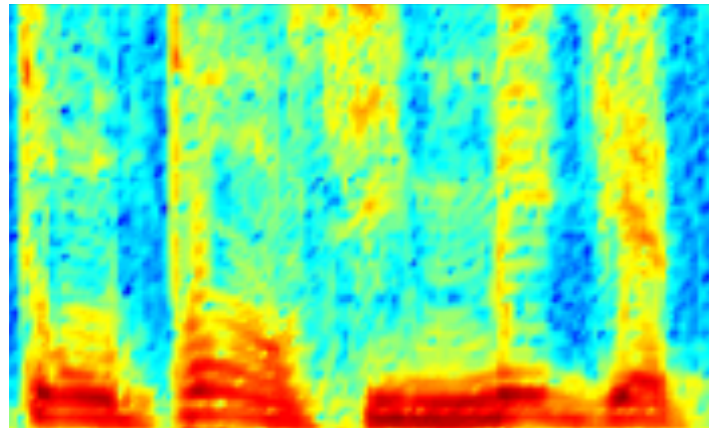
*Factory Trained Technicians*



50



Deep neural networks have proven themselves across a range of supervised learning tasks involve dense input features.

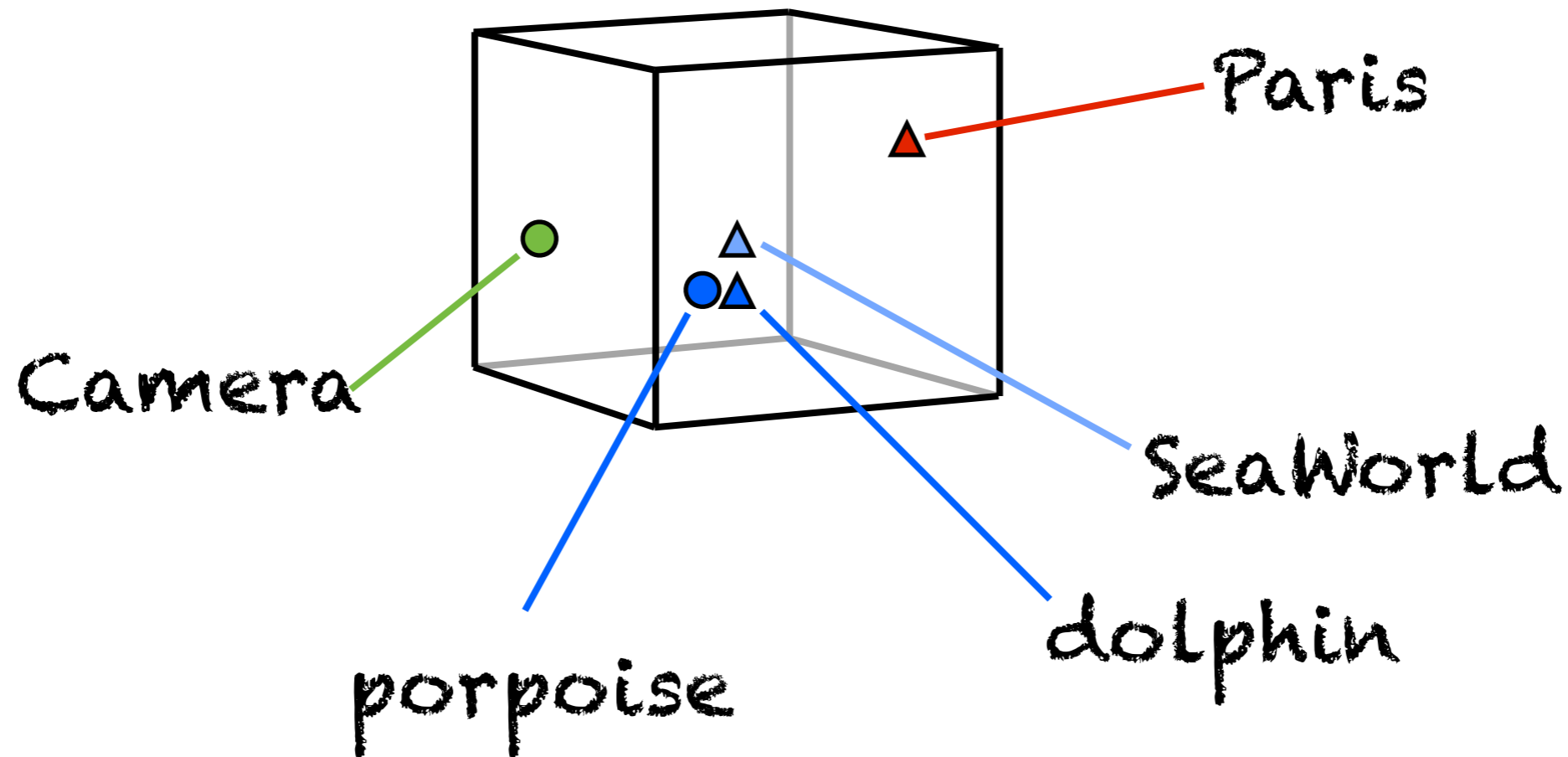


What about domains with sparse input data?

# How can DNNs possibly deal with sparse data?

## Answer: Embeddings

~1000-D joint embedding space

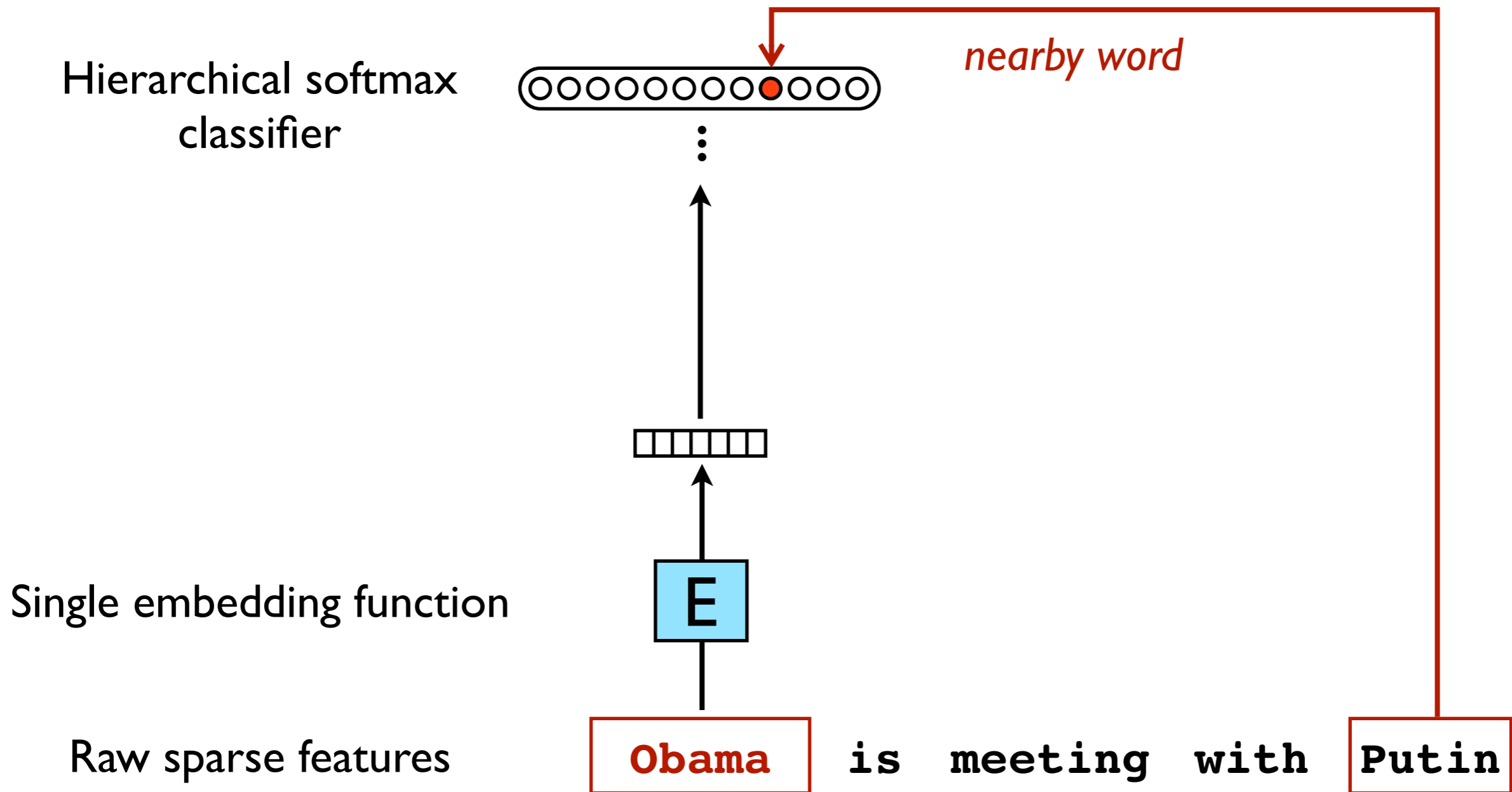






# How Can We Learn the Embeddings?

## Skipgram Text Model



Mikolov, Chen, Corrado and Dean. *Efficient Estimation of Word Representations in Vector Space*, <http://arxiv.org/abs/1301.3781>.

# Nearest neighbors in language embeddings space are closely related semantically.

---

- Trained skip-gram model on Wikipedia corpus.

## tiger\_shark

bull\_shark  
blacktip\_shark  
shark  
oceanic\_whitetip\_shark  
sandbar\_shark  
dusky\_shark  
blue\_shark  
requiem\_shark  
great\_white\_shark  
lemon\_shark

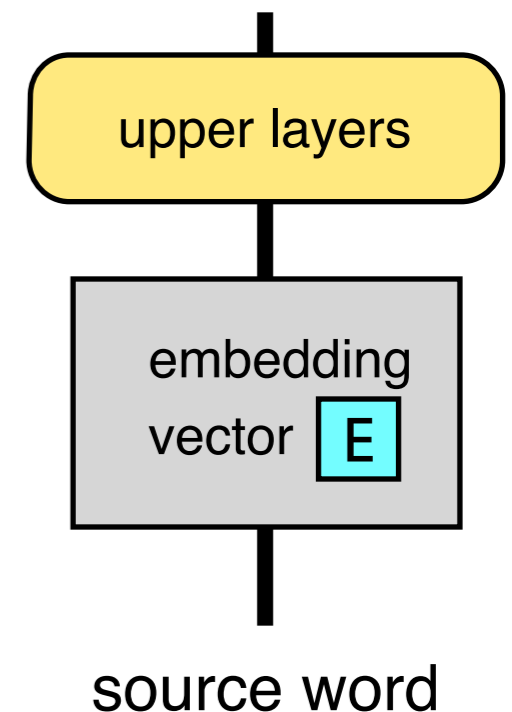
## car

cars  
muscle\_car  
sports\_car  
compact\_car  
autocar  
automobile  
pickup\_truck  
racing\_car  
passenger\_car  
dealership

## new\_york

new\_york\_city  
brooklyn  
long\_island  
syracuse  
manhattan  
washington  
bronx  
yonkers  
poughkeepsie  
new\_york\_state

nearby words





# Solving Analogies

- Embedding vectors trained for the language modeling task have very interesting properties (especially the skip-gram model).

$$E(\textit{hotter}) - E(\textit{hot}) \approx E(\textit{bigger}) - E(\textit{big})$$

$$E(\textit{Rome}) - E(\textit{Italy}) \approx E(\textit{Berlin}) - E(\textit{Germany})$$



# Solving Analogies

- Embedding vectors trained for the language modeling task have very interesting properties (especially the skip-gram model).

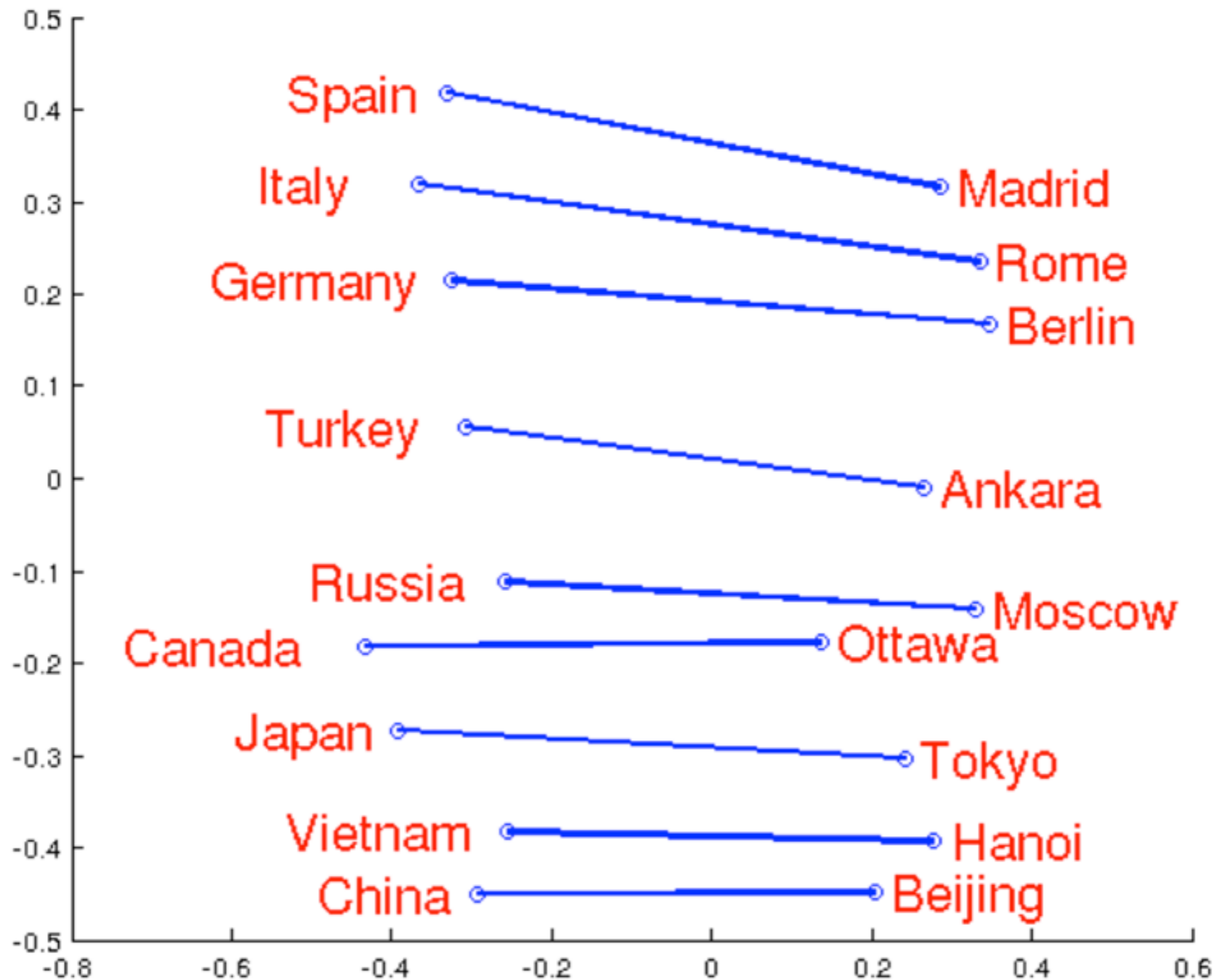
$$E(\textit{hotter}) - E(\textit{hot}) + E(\textit{big}) \approx E(\textit{bigger})$$

$$E(\textit{Rome}) - E(\textit{Italy}) + E(\textit{Germany}) \approx E(\textit{Berlin})$$

Skip-gram model w/ 640 dimensions trained on 6B words of news text achieves 57% accuracy for analogy-solving test set.

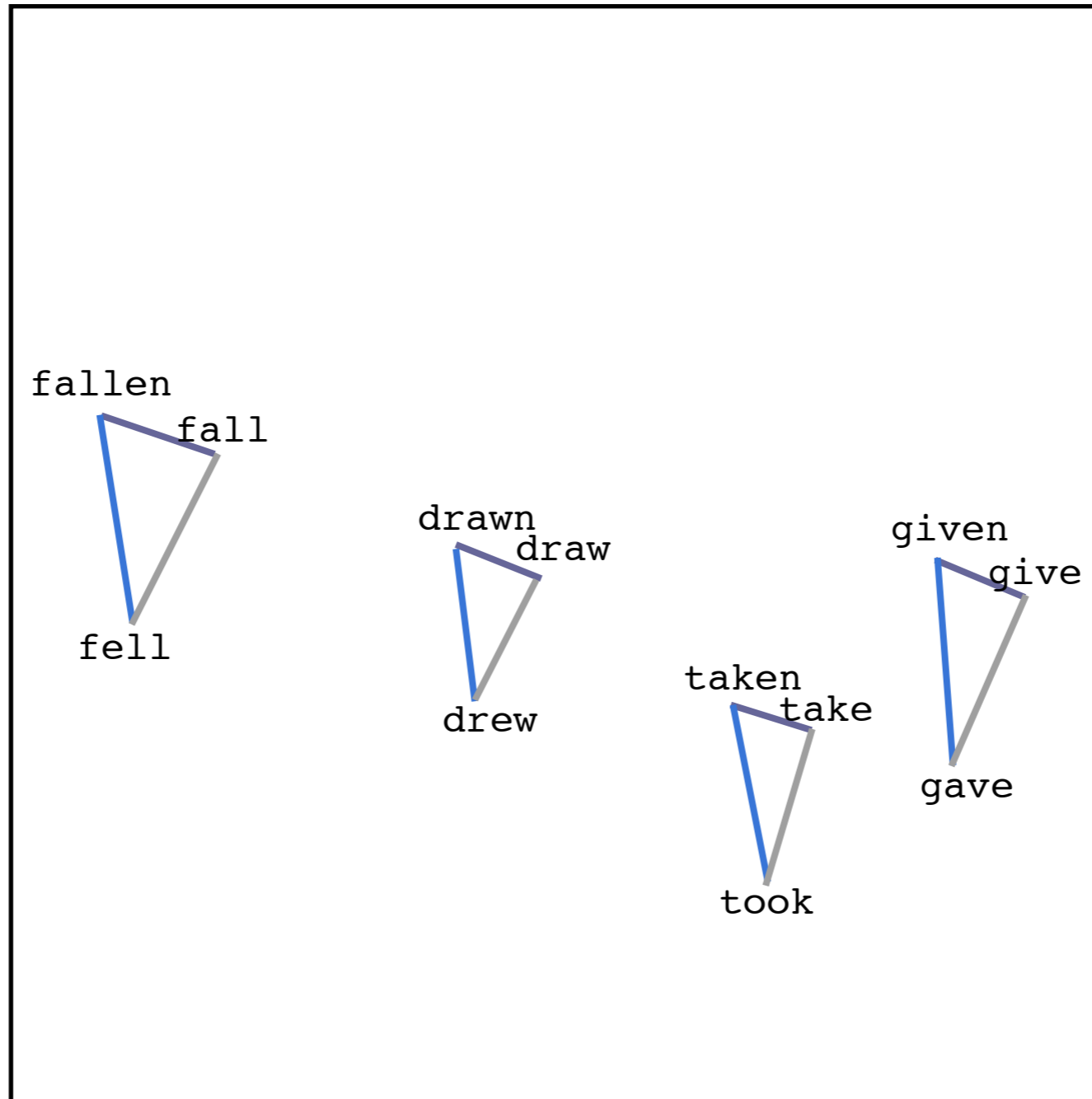
# Visualizing the Embedding Space

Projected down from 640 dimensions to 2 dimensions via Principal Components Analysis (PCA)



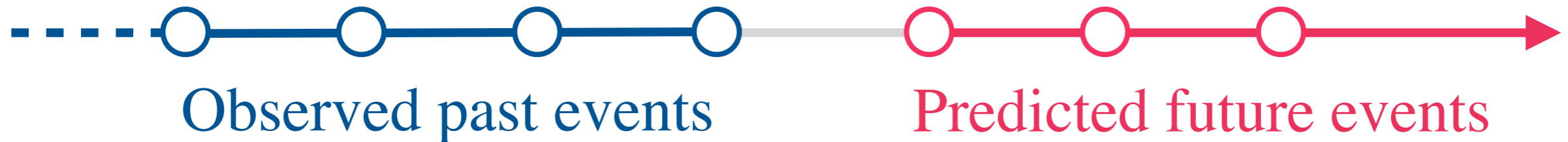
# Embeddings are Powerful

Projected down from 640 dimensions to 2 dimensions via Principal Components Analysis (PCA)



# Sequence Prediction

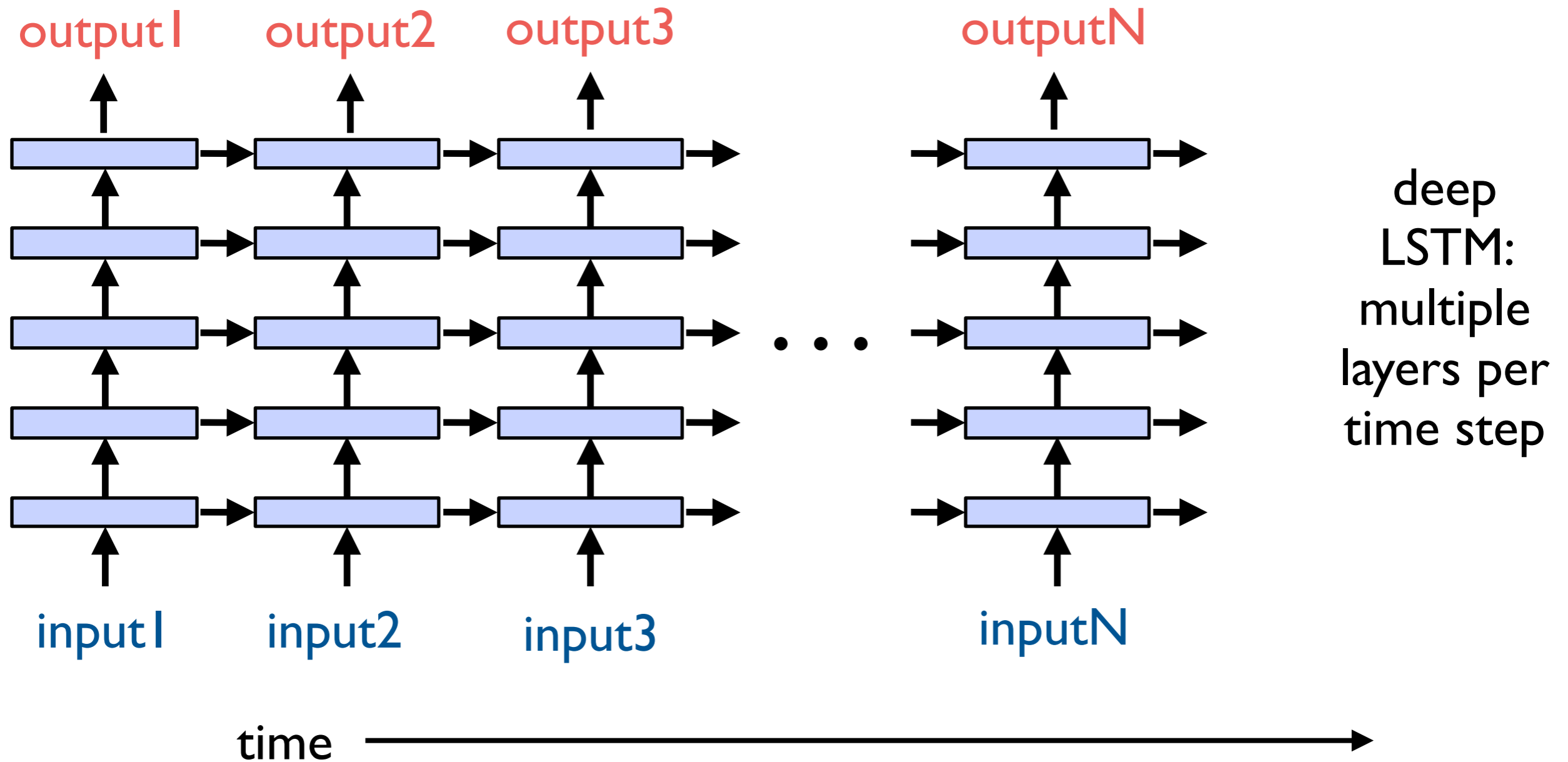
Given a sequence of events so far, guess what will follow.



Seems simple. But a surprisingly broad problem framing.

# Sequence Prediction Model

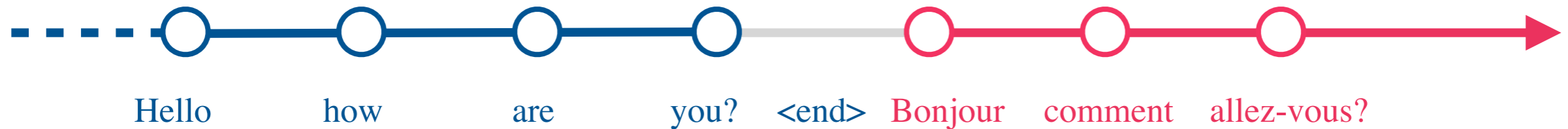
Recurrent neural network (LSTM)



deep  
LSTM:  
multiple  
layers per  
time step



# Translation with Sequence Prediction



Approach gives state-of-the-art results on public WMT translation task/  
dataset

# Conversation with Sequence Prediction

Given a conversation with computer tech support so far, model can complete the tech support rep's sentence.

**Customer:** Hi.

**TechSupport:** Hi, this is Andrew from  
Techstop Connect, how can I help?

**Customer:** I cannot connect to VPN.

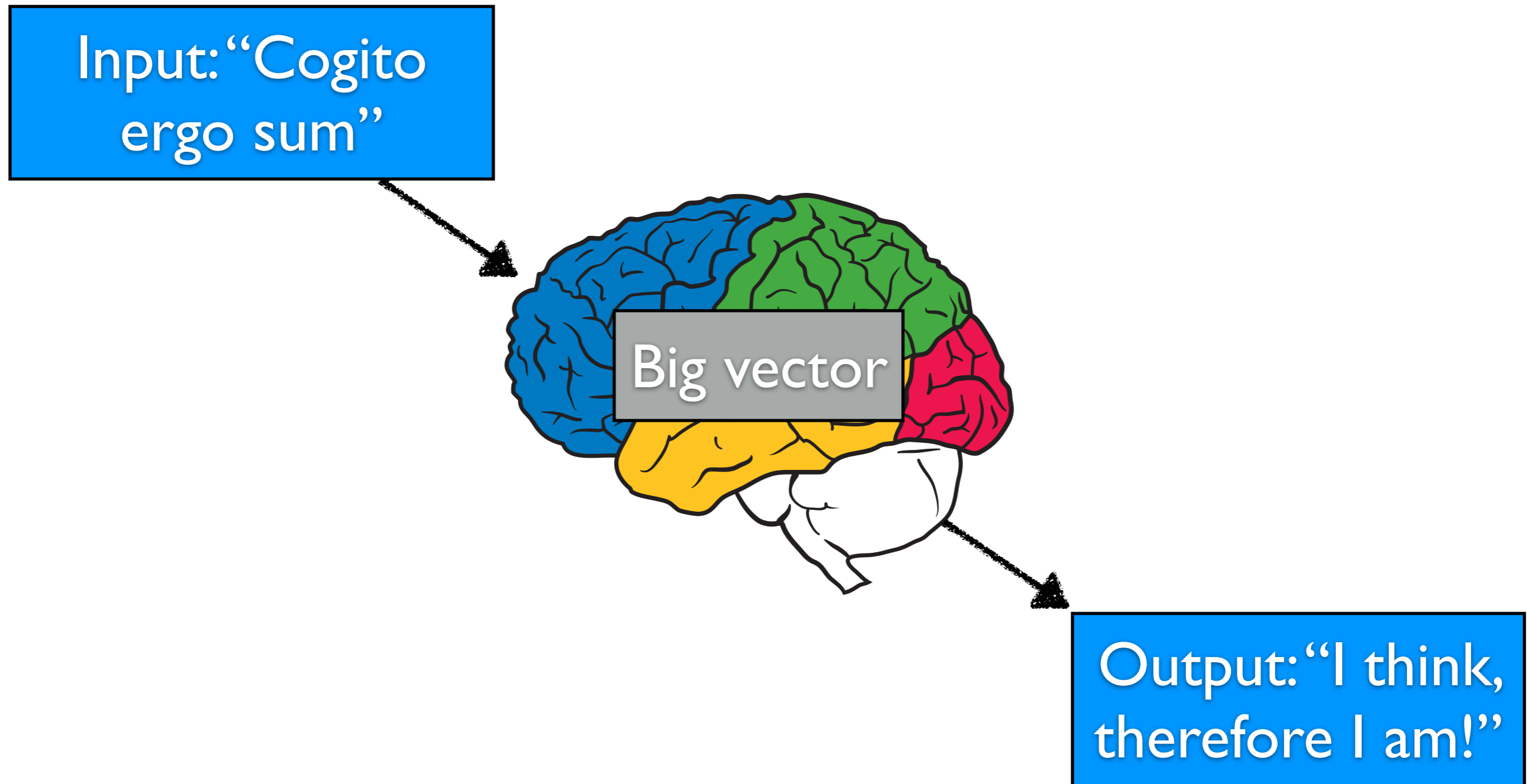
**TechSupport:** When did...



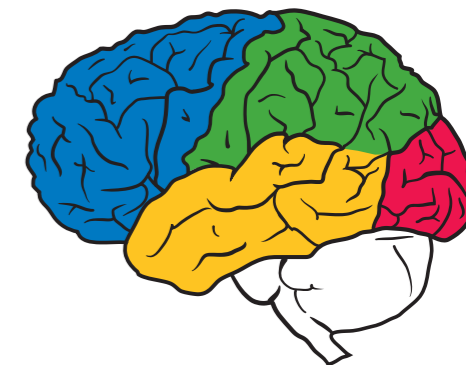
... you last successfully  
connect to VPN?

Predictions reflect situational context.

# Example of LSTM-based representation: Machine Translation



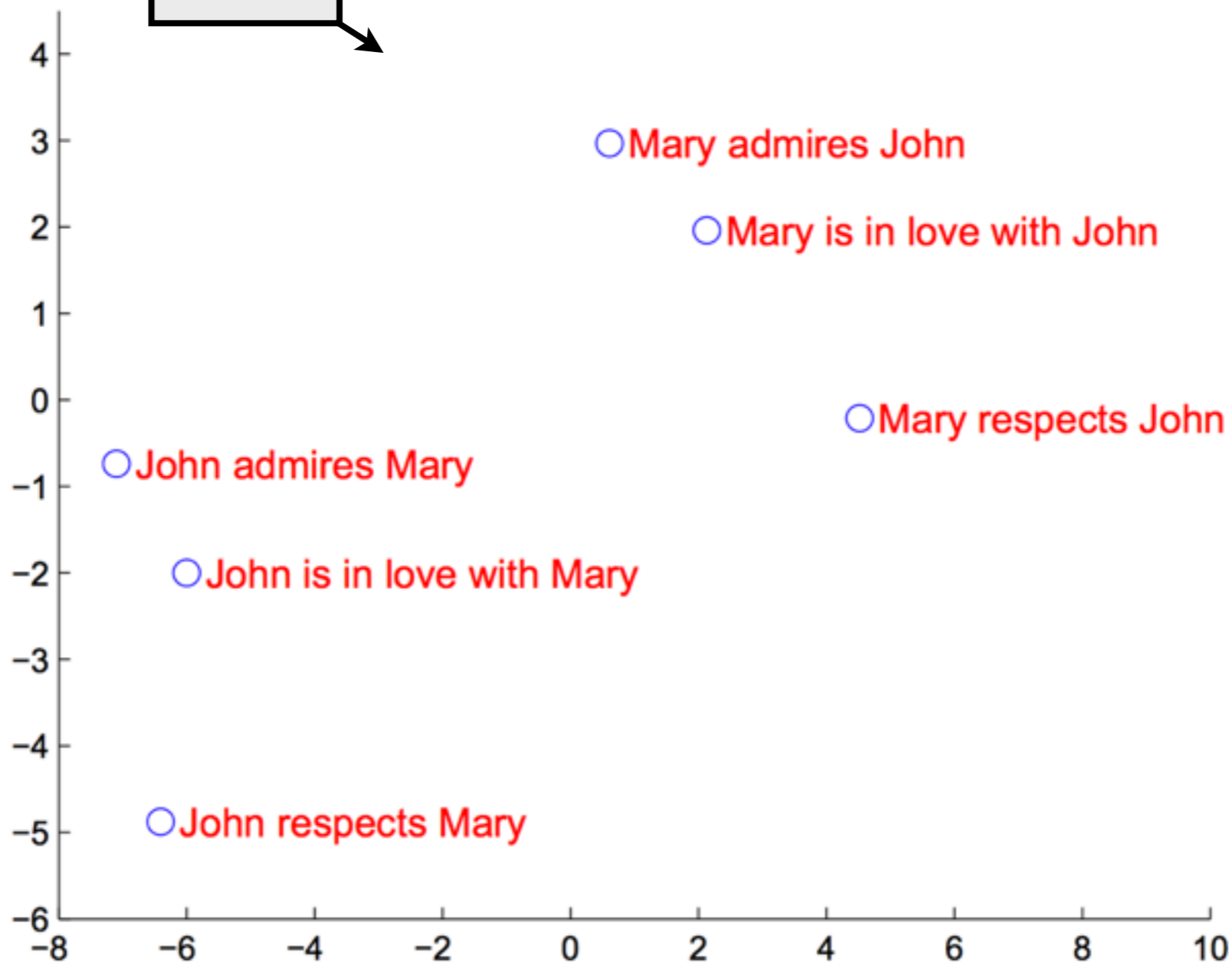
# LSTM for End to End Translation



sentence rep

PCA

*linearly separable  
wrt subject vs object*



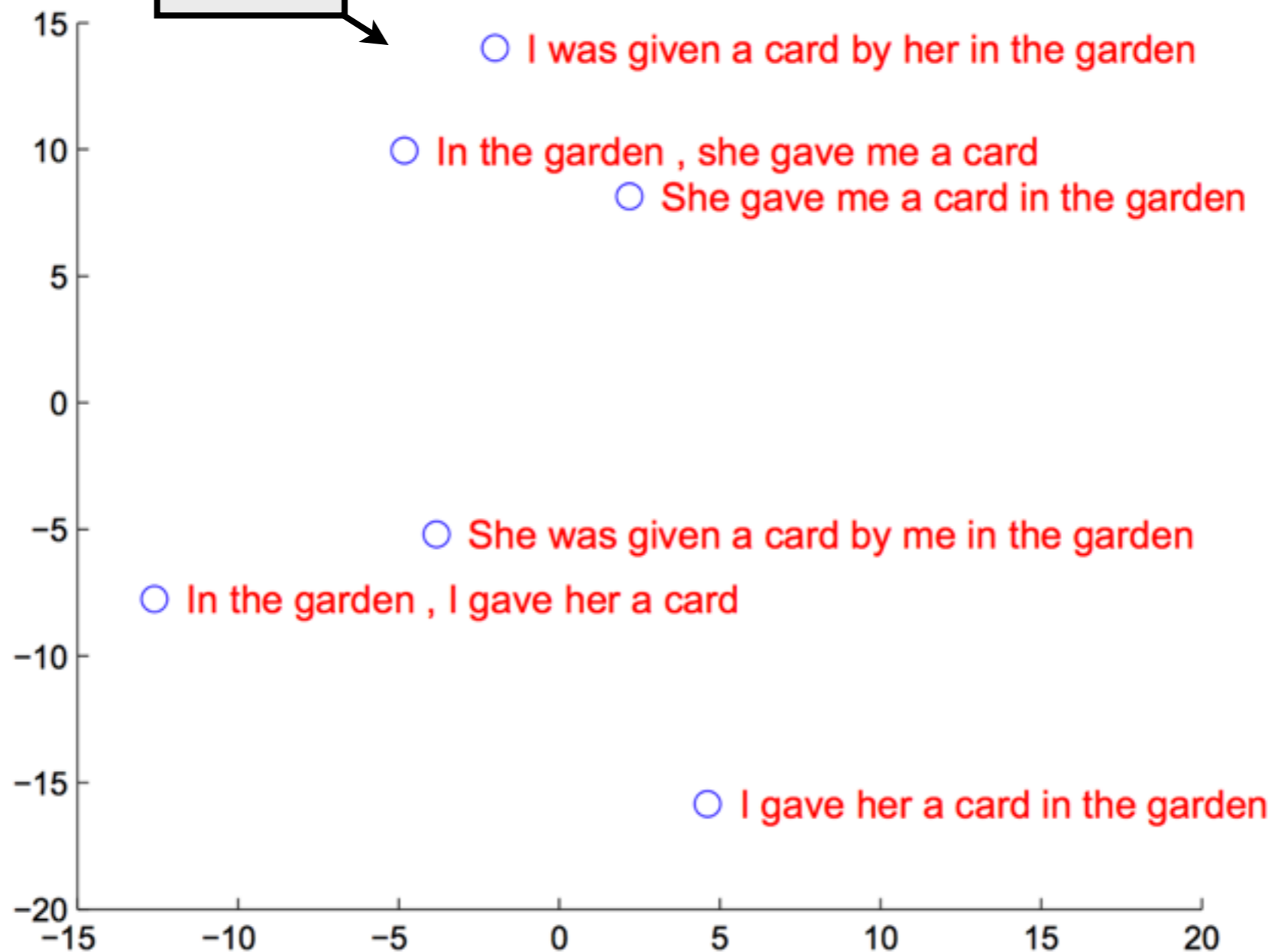
# LSTM for End to End Translation



sentence rep

PCA

*mostly invariant to paraphrasing*



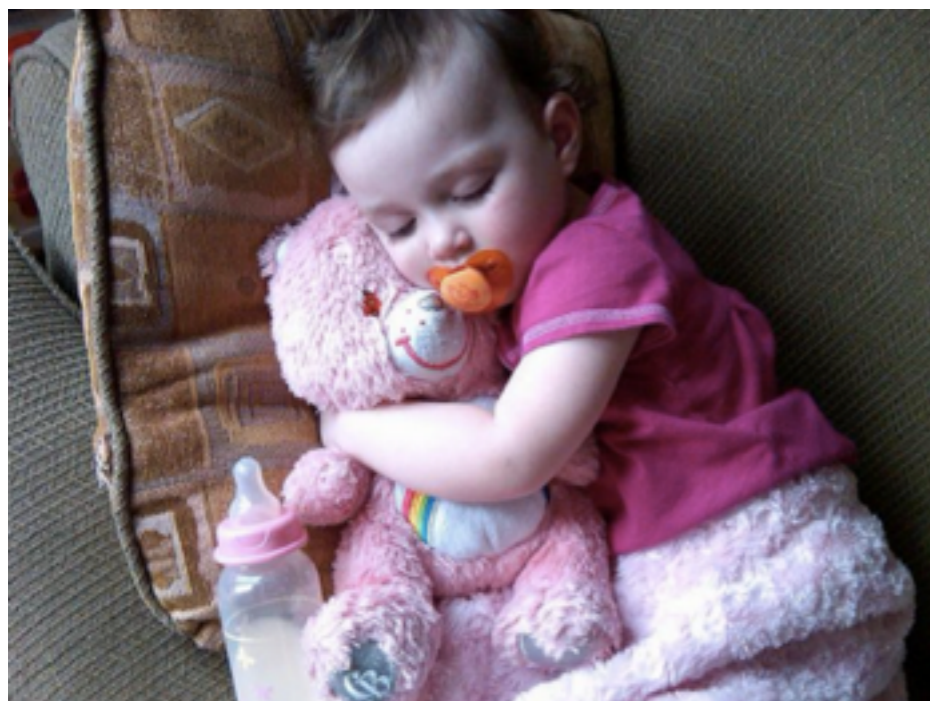


**Combining modalities**  
e.g. vision and language

# Captions with Sequence Prediction

Initial state can also come from non-sequence data.

Given a photograph, generate a caption.



Two captions Brain suggests:

“A close up of a child holding a stuffed animal.”

“A baby is asleep next to a teddy bear.”

This example highlights that these models:

- (1) Can handle very complex inputs, and inputs other than text.
- (2) Works even in settings with multiple plausible future sequences.

# Captions with Sequence Prediction

Given a photograph, we can automatically generate a text caption.



A man holding a tennis racquet on a tennis court.



Two pizzas sitting on top of a stove top oven



A group of young people playing a game of Frisbee



A man flying through the air while riding a snowboard

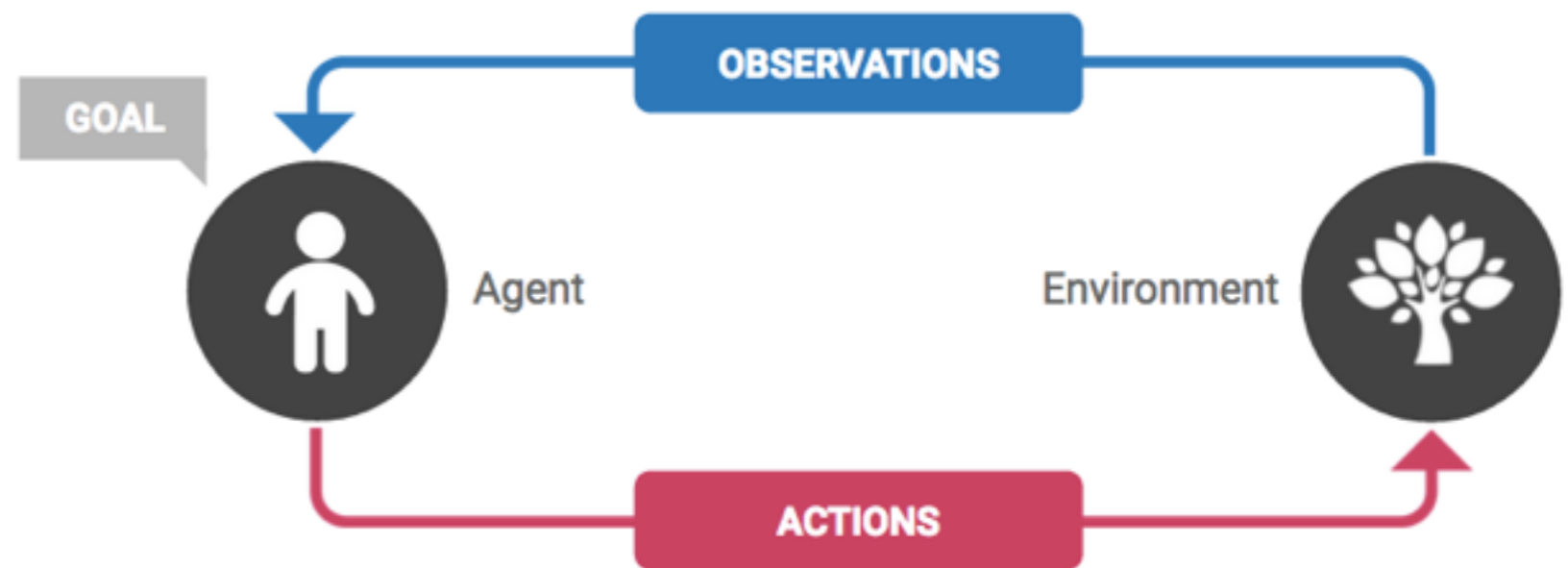


# Learning to Play Atari

- Work done in Google's DeepMind research group in London
- Cover article in *Nature* a couple of weeks ago



- Instead of just classifying, learn to take actions in some environment, and learn from observing the results of those actions



# Deep Networks and Reinforcement Learning

Learn automatically from raw inputs, not pre-programmed

Atari 2600 games used as proving ground:

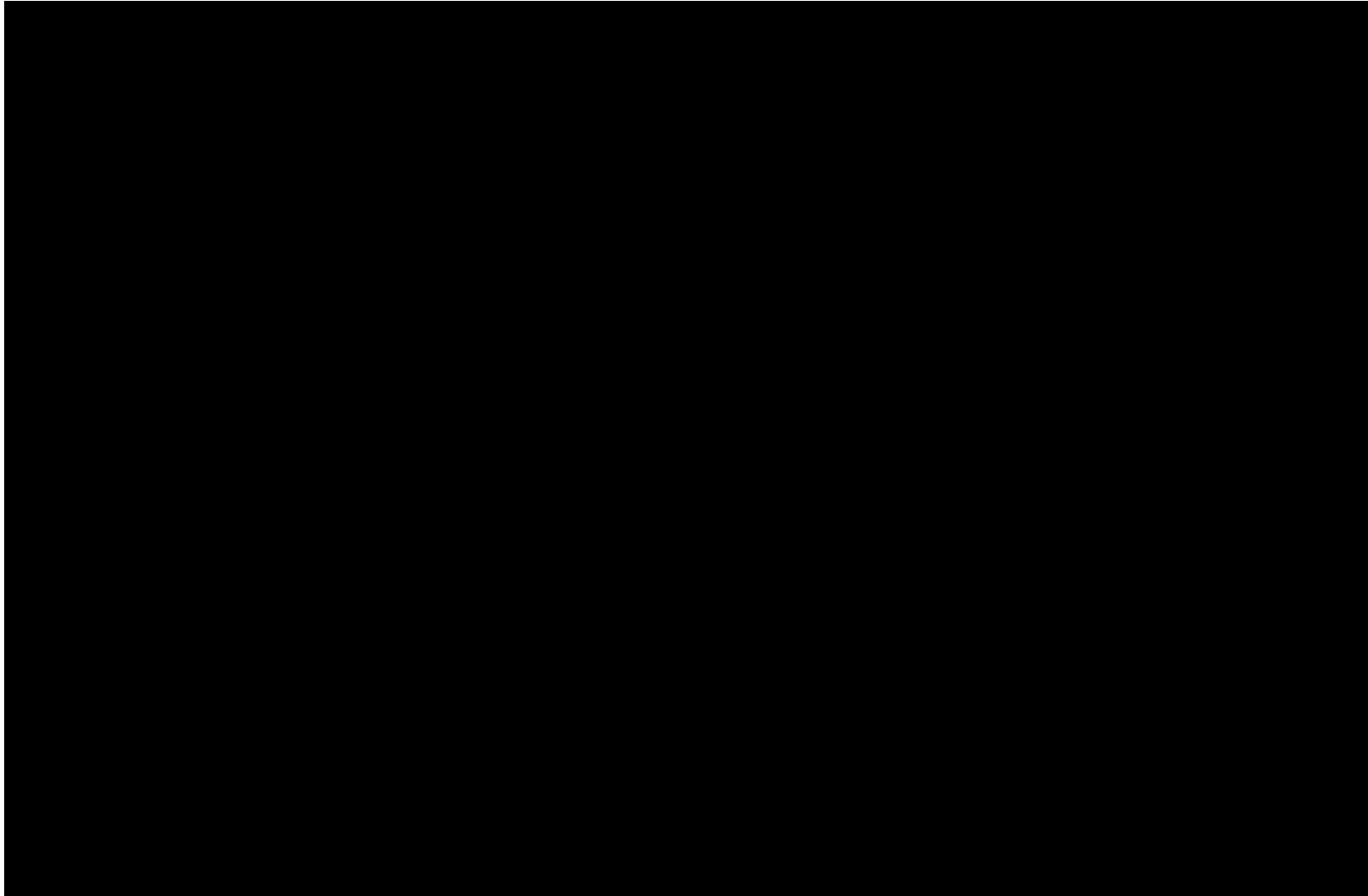
- Agents just get raw pixels+score as inputs (~30k inputs)
- Wired up to action buttons but NOT told what they do
- Goal is simply to maximize the score

Everything learnt from scratch, ZERO prior knowledge

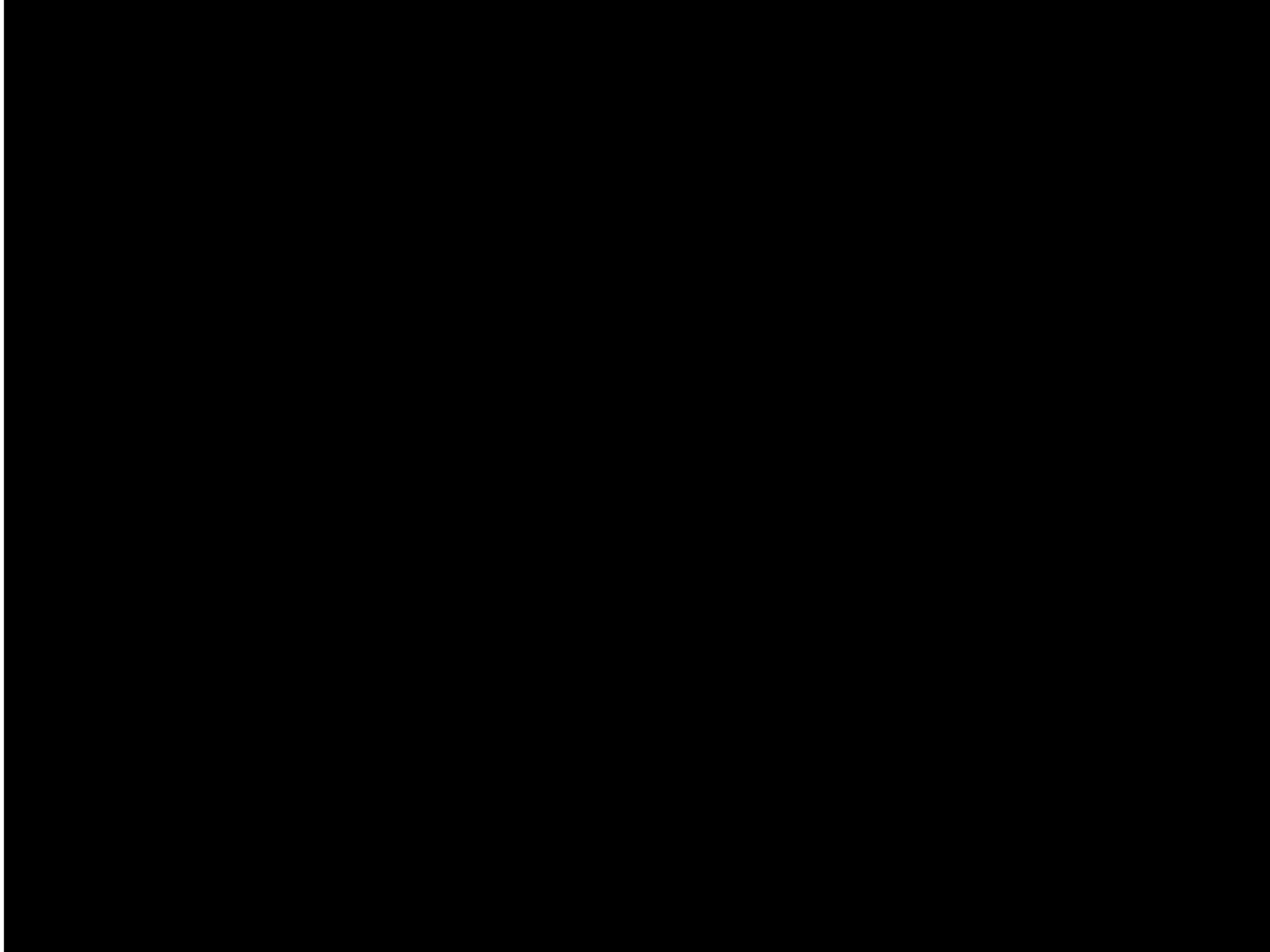
Single system has to master 100s of different games



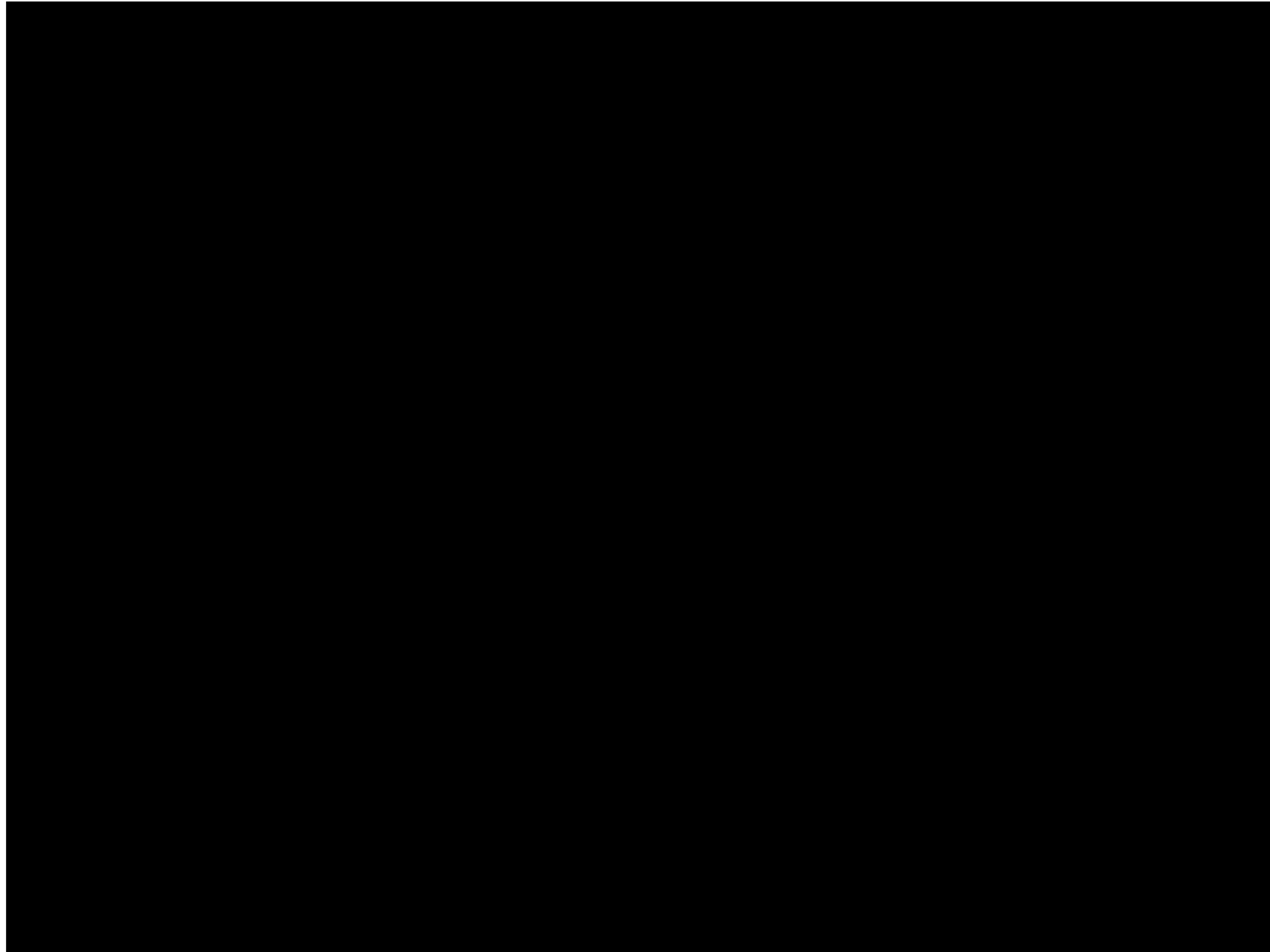
# Space Invaders



# Breakout



# General Atari Player



# Conclusions

- Deep neural networks are very effective for wide range of tasks
- By using **several kinds of parallelism**, we can quickly train very large and effective deep neural models on very large datasets
- **Automatically build high-level representations** to solve desired tasks
- By using **embeddings**, can work with sparse data
- **Reinforcement learning** can be used to teach agents to **perform complex tasks** that are learned from scratch
- **Effective in many domains:** speech, vision, language modeling, user prediction, language understanding, translation, advertising, ...

**An important tool in building  
intelligent systems.**

# Questions?

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## Joint work with many collaborators! Further reading:

- Le, Ranzato, Monga, Devin, Chen, Corrado, Dean, & Ng. *Building High-Level Features Using Large Scale Unsupervised Learning*, ICML 2012.
- Dean, et al., *Large Scale Distributed Deep Networks*, NIPS, 2012.
- Mikolov, Sutskever, Chen, Corrado and Dean. *Distributed Representations of Words and Phrases and their Compositionality*, <http://arxiv.org/abs/1310.4546>. NIPS, 2013.
- Zeiler, Ranzato, Monga, Mao, Yang, Le, Nguyen, Senior, Vanhoucke, Dean, Hinton. *On Rectified Units for Speech Processing*. ICASSP 2013.
- Heigold, Vanhoucke, Senior, Nguyen, Ranzato, Devin and Dean. *Multilingual Acoustic Models using Distributed Deep Neural Networks*, ICASSP 2013.
- Sutskever, Vinyals, and Le. *Sequence to Sequence Learning with Neural Networks*, <http://arxiv.org/abs/1409.3215>. NIPS, 2014.
- Vinyals, Toshev, Bengio, and Erhan. *Show and Tell: A Neural Image Caption Generator*. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1411.4555>

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