



POLITECNICO
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lasar³

Laboratory of analysis of systems for the assessment of
reliability, risk and resilience



Fault Diagnostics Methods

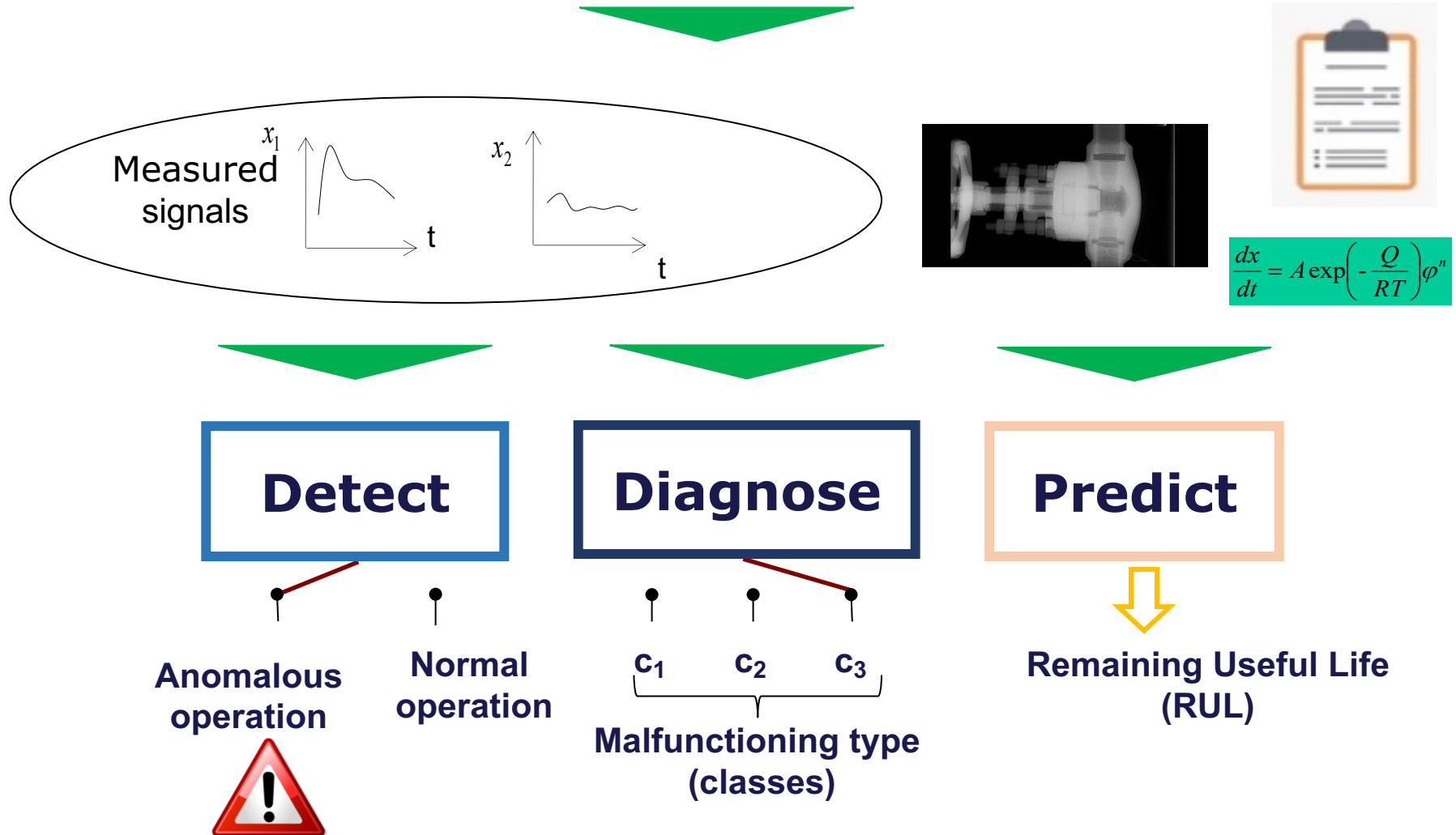
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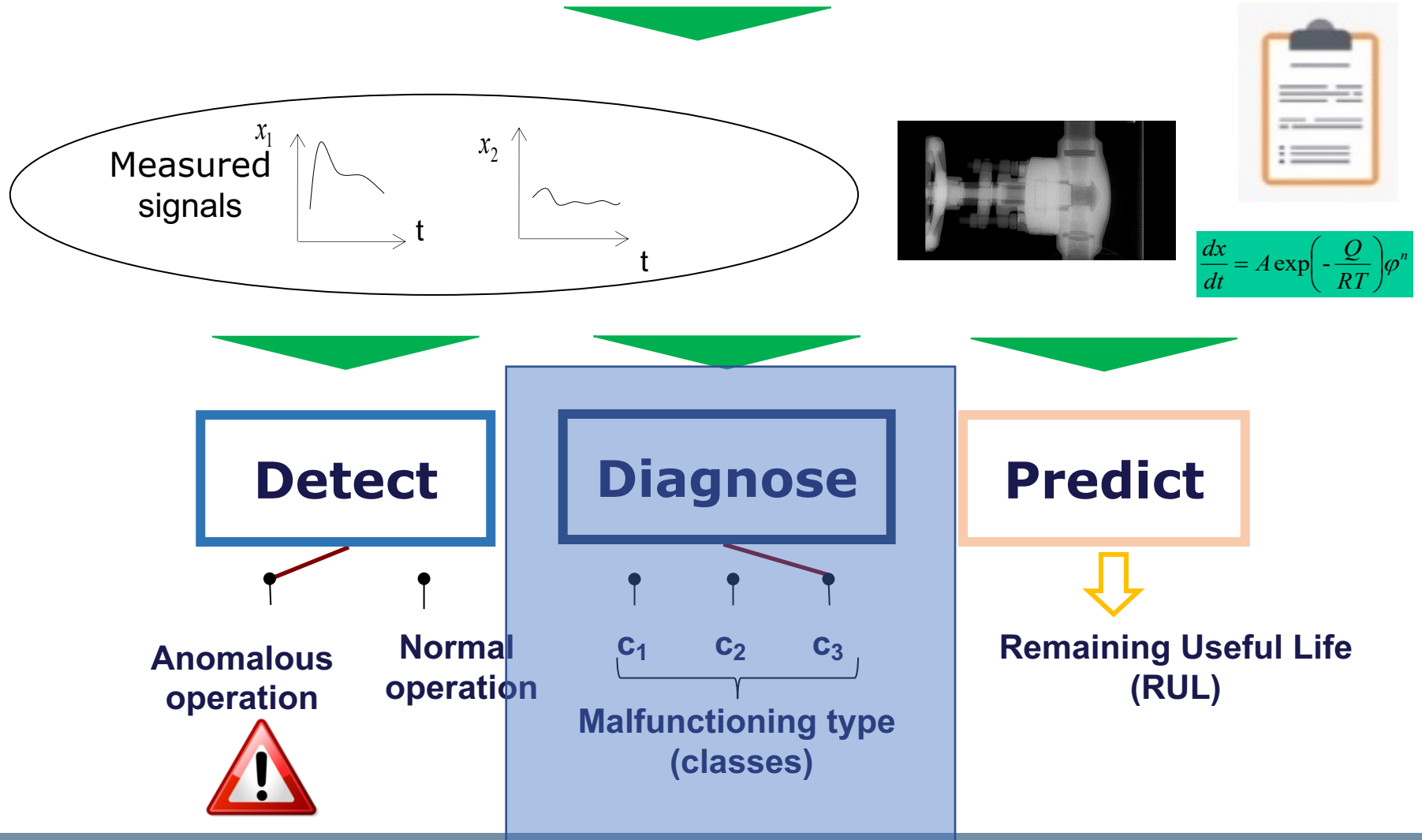
April 14th, 2025

Equipment (System, Structure or Component)



In This Lecture: Fault Diagnostics

Equipment (System, Structure or Component)



Fault Diagnostics: Objective

Measured signals

$x_1(t)$ →

$x_2(t)$ →

$x_3(t)$ →

Classifier

• Fault Class 1

• Fault Class 2

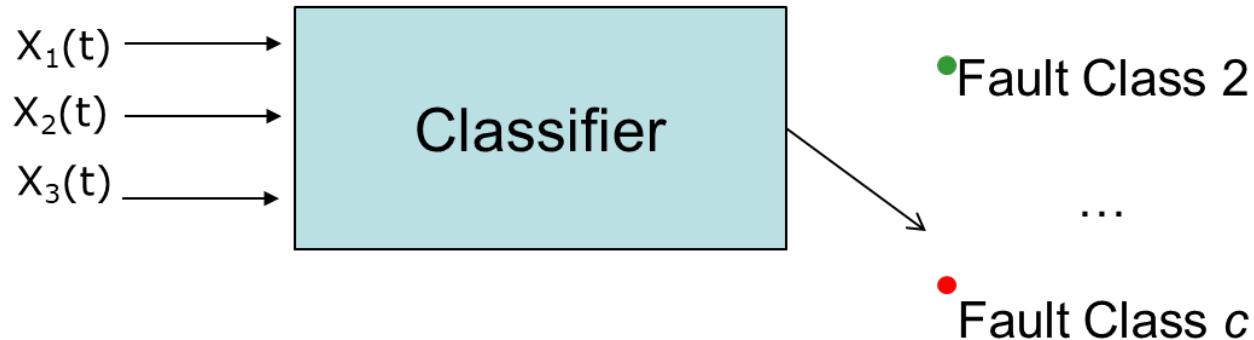
...

• Fault Class c

Fault Diagnostics: Approaches

- Model-Based Approaches
 - Inverse Problem → Difficult to develop
- Data-driven Approaches

Measured signals



In This Lecture

1. Procedural steps for developing a fault diagnostic system
2. Supervised classification methods for fault diagnostics

Procedural steps for developing a fault diagnostic system:

Step 1

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1. Identify fault/degradation classes:

- System Analysis (FMECA, Event Tree Analysis, ...)
- Good engineering sense of practice

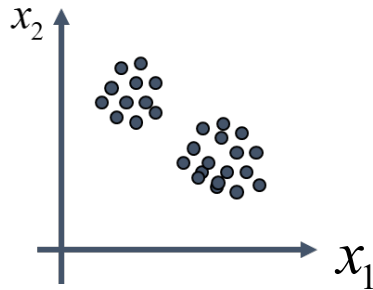
$\{C_1$ $C_2\}$
● ★

Procedural steps for developing a fault diagnostic system: Step 2

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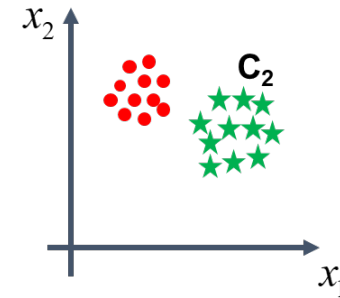
1. Identify fault/degradation classes
2. Analysis of the historical data

Case 1



$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \text{measurements}, \text{unknown class} \rangle \\ &= \\ &\langle x_1(k), x_2(k), ? \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Case 2



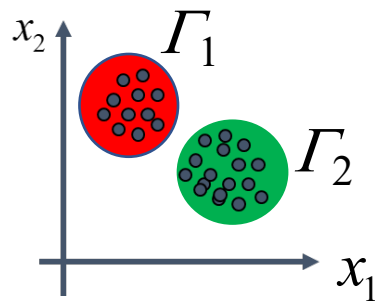
$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \text{measurements}, \text{class} \rangle \\ &= \\ &\langle x_1(k), x_2(k), c(k) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Procedural steps for developing a fault diagnostic system: Step 3

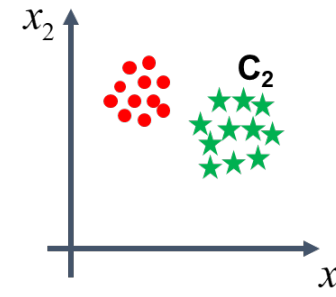
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1. Identify fault/degradation classes
2. Analysis of the historical data
3. Develop the clustering and/or classification methods :

Case 1: clustering



Case 2: classification



What is Γ_2 ?



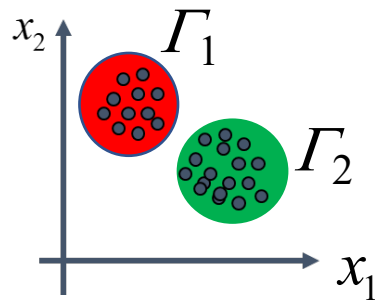
Expert

Procedural steps for developing a fault diagnostic system: Step 3

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1. Identify fault/degradation classes
2. Analysis of the historical data
3. Develop the clustering and/or classification methods :

Case 1: clustering

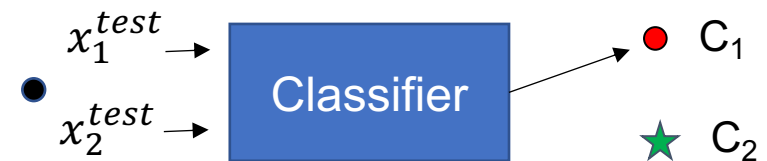
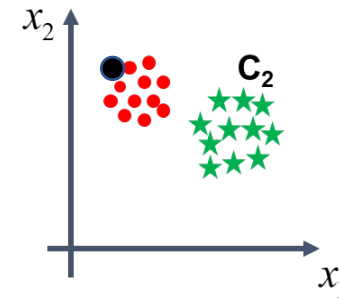


What is Γ_2 ?



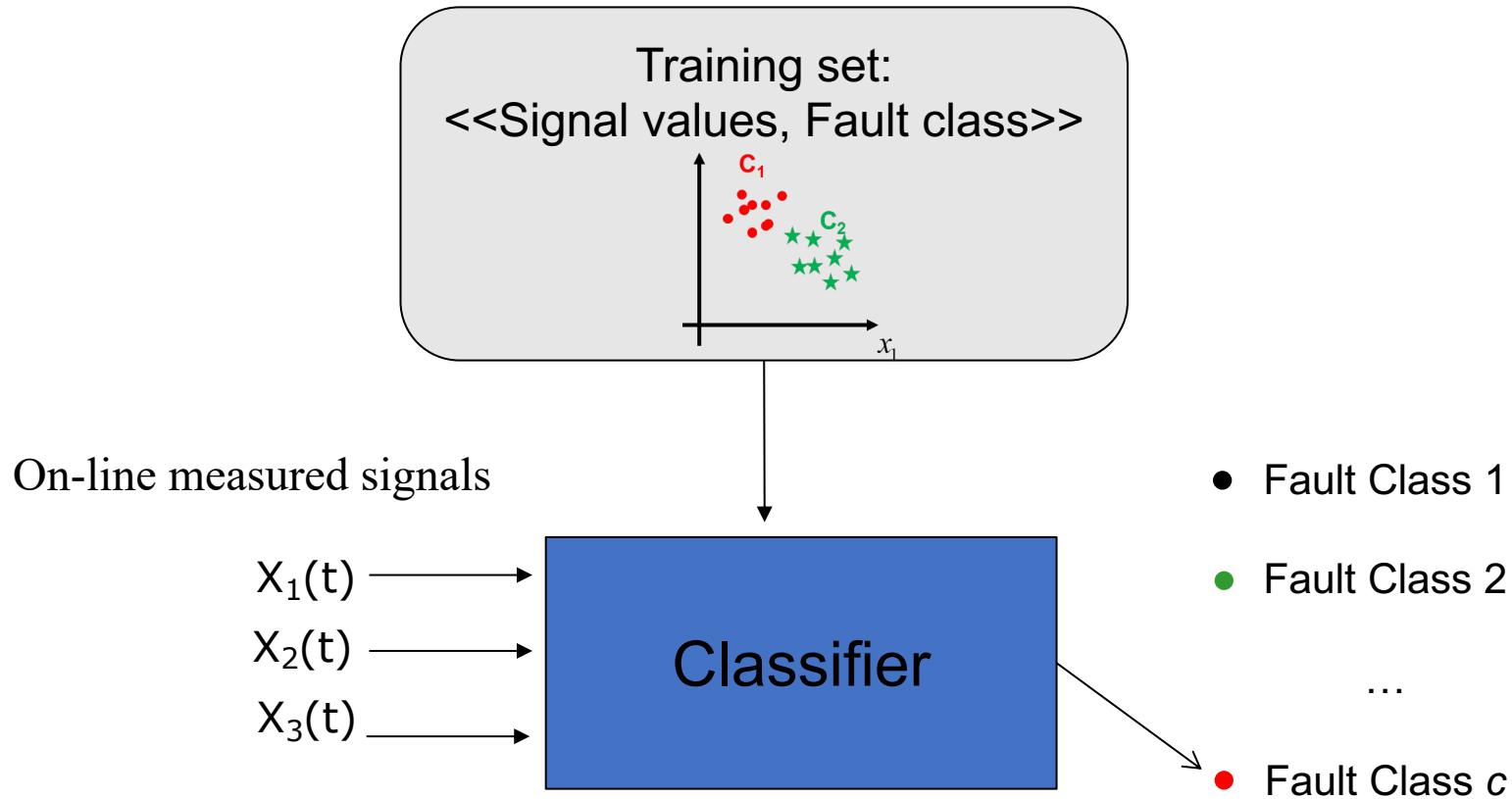
Expert

Case 2: classification



In This Lecture

1. Procedural steps for developing a fault diagnostic system
2. Supervised classification methods for fault diagnostics



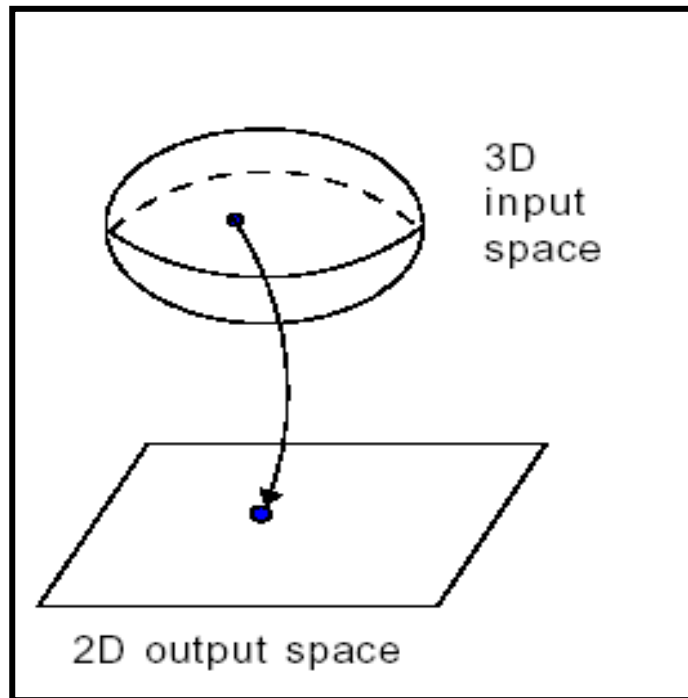
- K-Nearest Neighbor Classifier
- Support Vector Machines
- Fuzzy similarity-based approaches
- Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs)
 - Deep Neural Networks (DNNs)
 - Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)
 - Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)
- Neurofuzzy Systems
- Relevant Vector Machines
- Ensemble Systems
- ...

- K-Nearest Neighbor Classifier
- Support Vector Machines
- Fuzzy similarity-based approaches
- **Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs)**
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- Ensemble Systems
- ...

FAULT DIAGNOSTICS METHODS

- Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs)

$$t = g(x)$$



g is unknown!

- g is highly non linear
- g is complex



How to build an empirical
model
using input/output data?

$$x_1^{(1)}, x_2^{(1)}, x_3^{(1)} \mid t_1^{(1)}, t_2^{(1)}$$

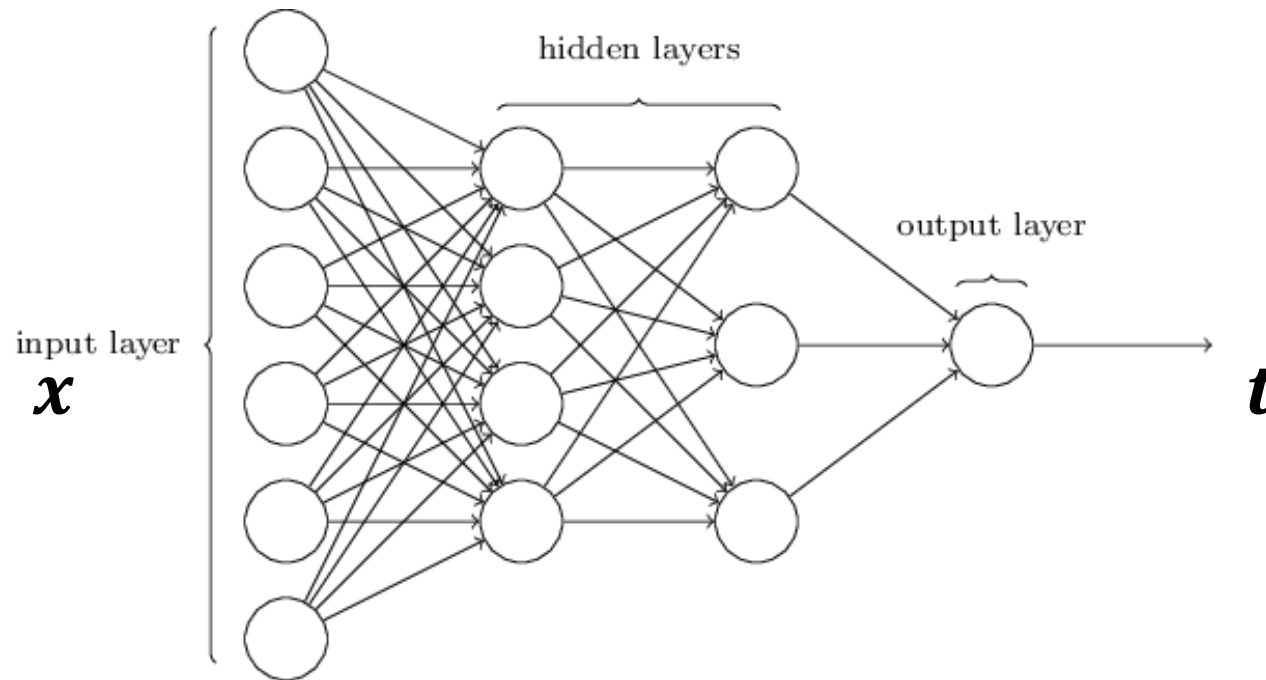
$$x_1^{(2)}, x_2^{(2)}, x_2^{(2)} \mid t_1^{(2)}, t_2^{(2)}$$

...

What Are (Artificial) Neural Networks?

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An artificial neural network is composed by several simple **computational units** (also called nodes or neurons) directionally connected by **weighted connections** organized in a proper architecture

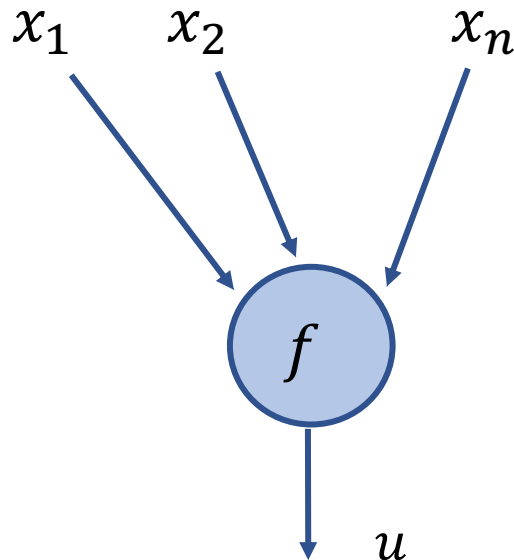


The computational unit

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Computational unit (node, neuron)

The output (u) of a node is the result of a (possibly nonlinear) transformation f on the input variables (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) transmitted along the links of the graph.



$$x^* = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

$$u = f(x^*)$$

Activation function f :

- Linear $f(x^*) = x^*$
- Sigmoid $f(x^*) = 1/(1 + e^{-x^*})$

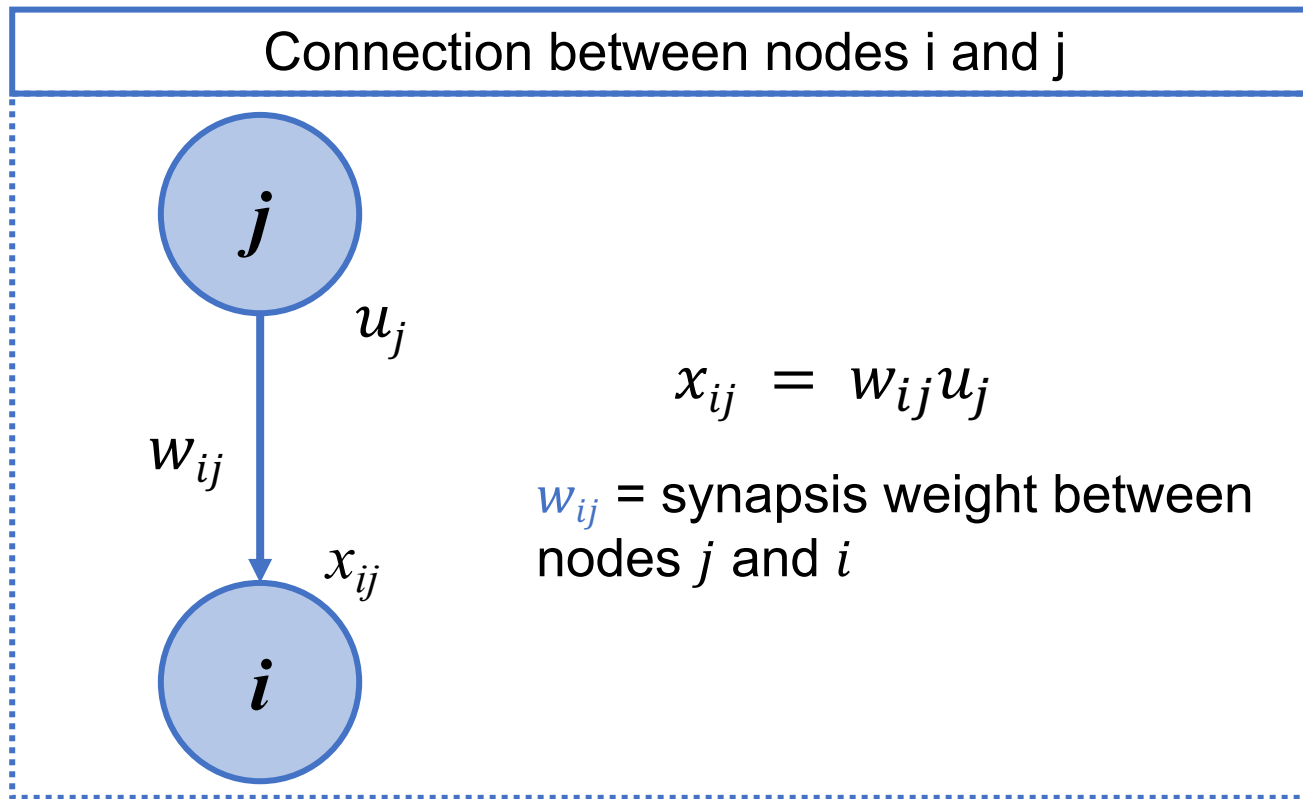
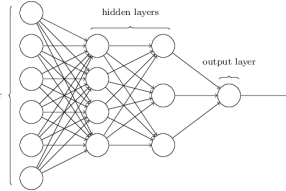
$$f' = f(1 - f)$$

- ReLU $f(x) = \max(0, x)$
- ...

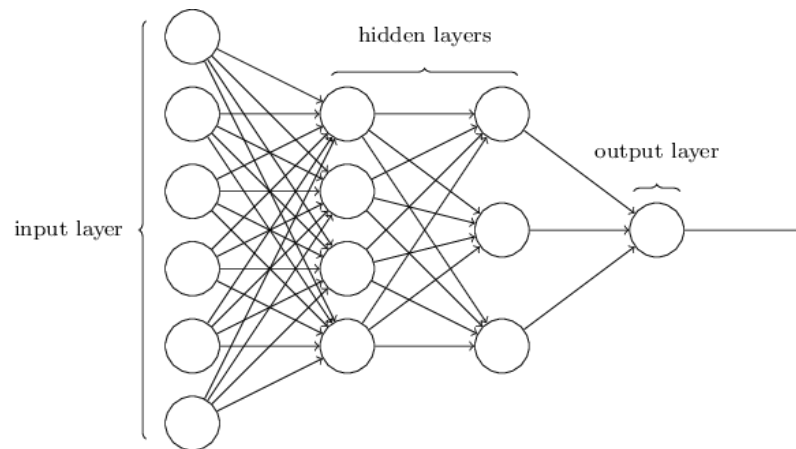
The weighted connection

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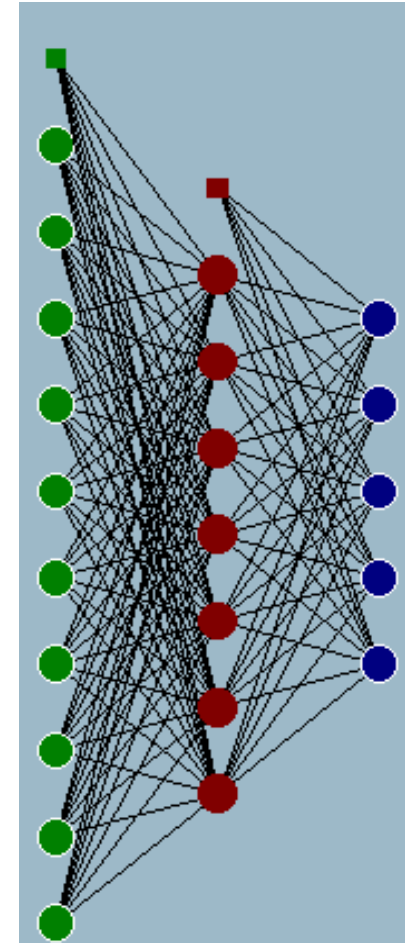
An artificial neural network is composed by several simple **computational units** (also called nodes or neurons) directionally connected by **weighted connections**



Multilayered Feedforward ANN

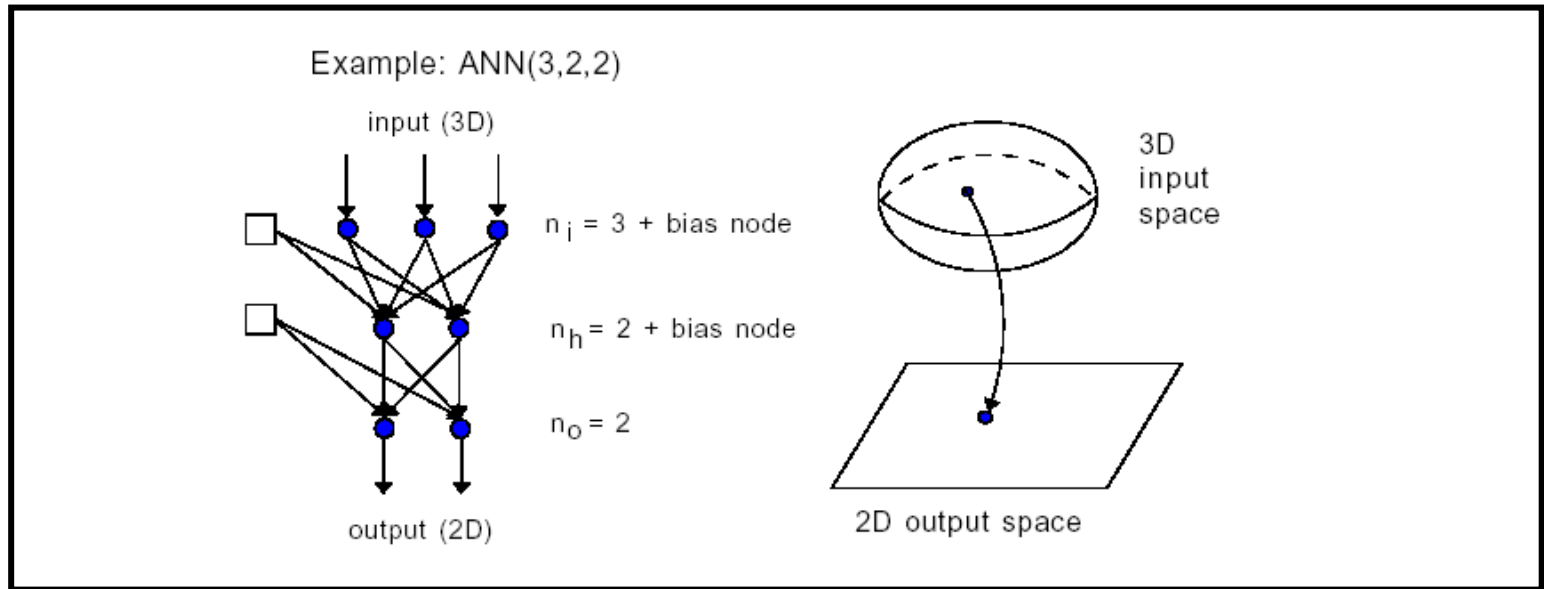


1 hidden layer feedforward ANN



1 Hidden Layer ANN: Forward Calculation (input-hidden)

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INPUT LAYER:

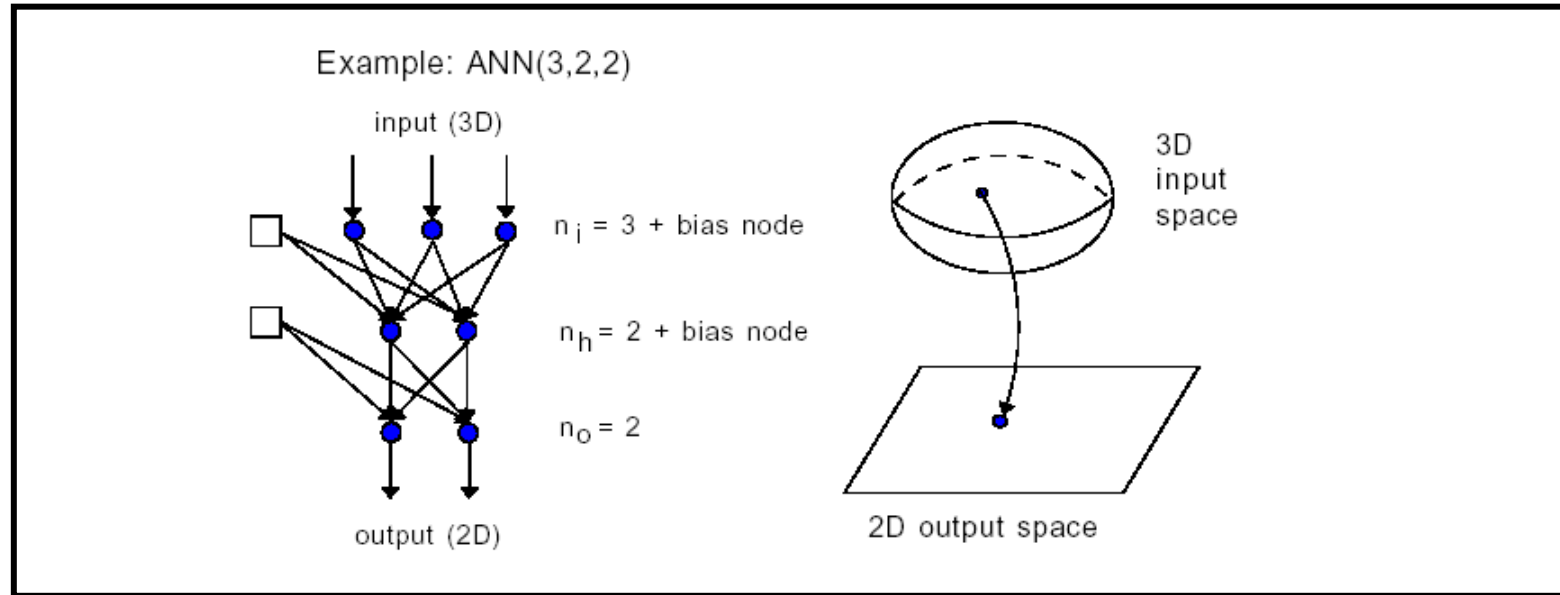
Each k -th node ($k = 1, 2, \dots, n_i$) receives the value of the k -th component of the input vector x and delivers the same value

HIDDEN LAYER:

Each j -th node ($j = 1, 2, \dots, n_h$) receives: $x_1 w_{j1}, \dots, x_i w_{ji}, \dots, x_{n_i} w_{jn_i}, w_{j0}$ and delivers $u_j^h = f^h(\sum_{k=1}^{n_i} x_k w_{jk} + w_{j0})$ with f^h typically sigmoidal/ReLU

1 Hidden Layer ANN: Forward Calculation (hidden-output)

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OUTPUT LAYER:

Each l -th node ($l=1, 2, \dots, n_o$) receives: $u_1^h w_{l1}, \dots, u_j^h w_{lj}, \dots, u_{n_h}^h w_{ln_h}, w_{l0}$
and delivers $u_l^o = f^o \left(\sum_{j=1}^{n_h} u_j^h w_{lj} + w_{l0} \right)$
 f^o typically linear or sigmoidal

**What are the mathematical bases
behind Artificial Neural Networks?**



Let $\sigma(\bullet)$ be a sigmoidal continuous function. The linear combinations:

$$\sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j \sigma \left(\sum_{k=1}^n x_k w_{kj} + \vartheta_{j0} \right)$$

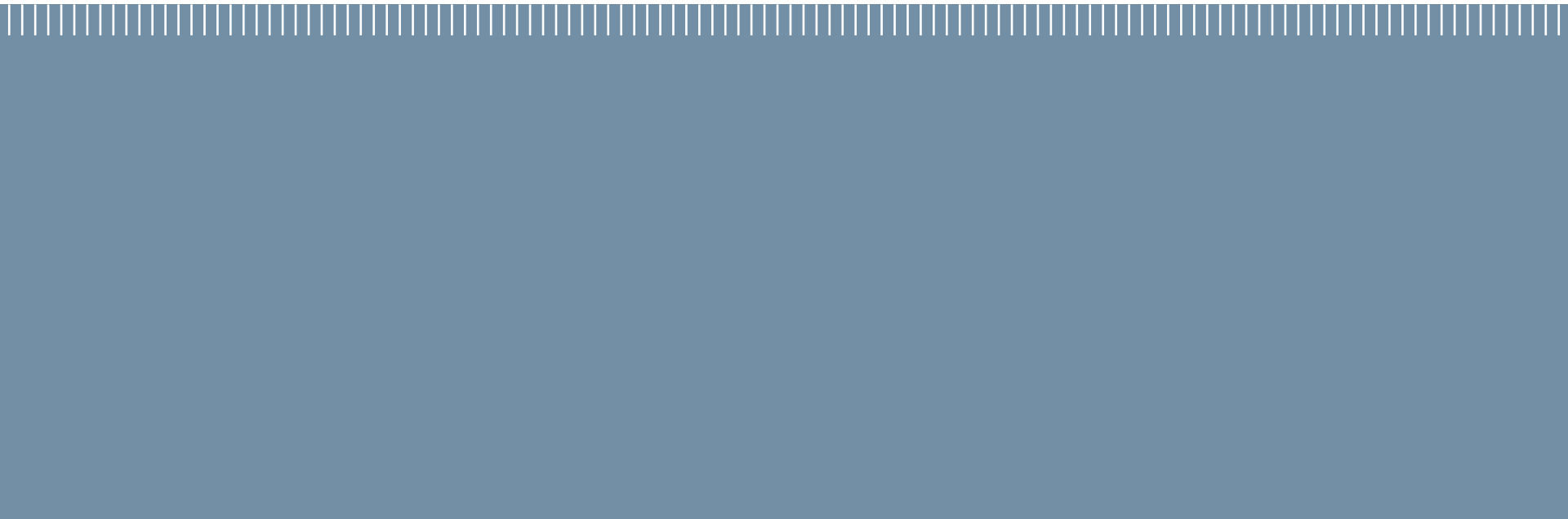
are dense in $[0,1]^n$



Any function $f: [0,1]^n \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ can be approximated by a linear combinations of sigmoidal functions

Notice that the theorem does not specify the values of N , w_{ij} and α_j !

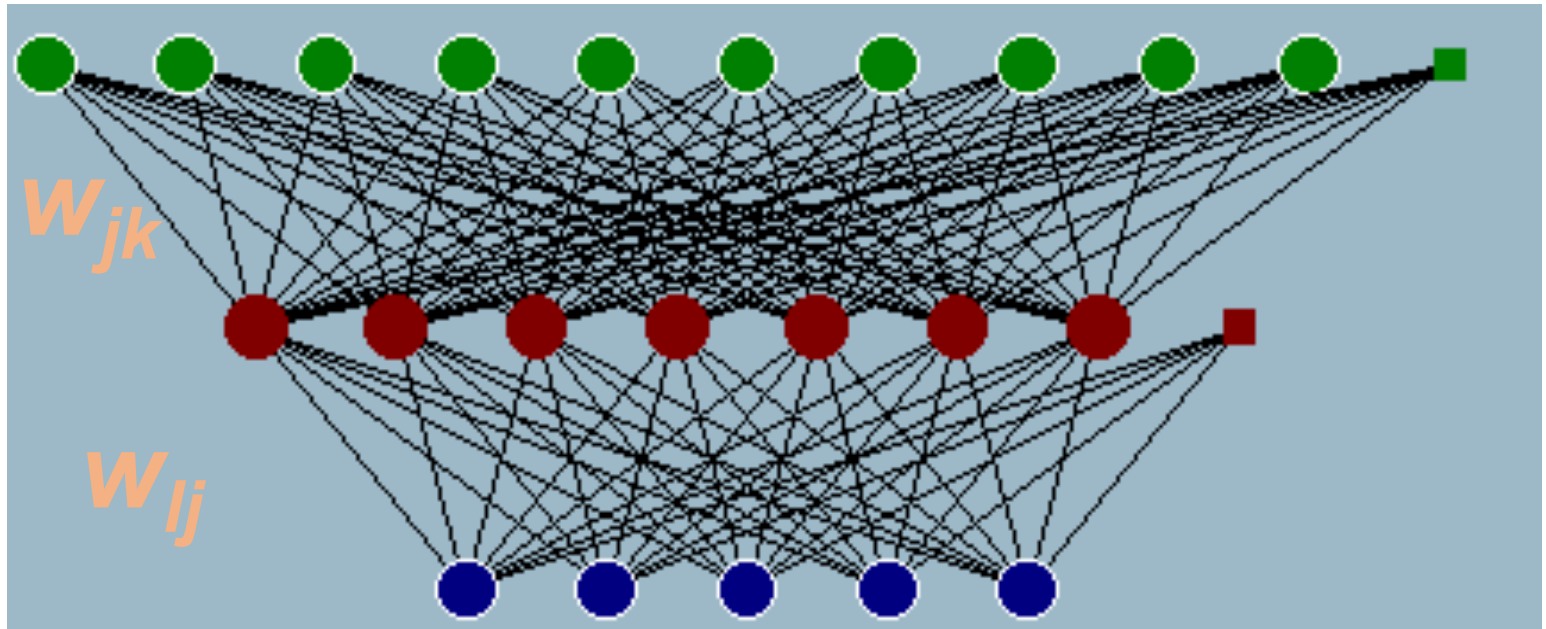
How to train an Artificial Neural Networks?



ANN Training: the ANN parameters to be estimated

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Once the ANN architecture has been fixed (number of layers, number of nodes for layer), the only parameters to be set are the **synapsis weights** (w_{jk} , w_{lj})



Available input/output patterns

$$x_1^{(1)}, x_2^{(1)} \mid t_{(1)}$$

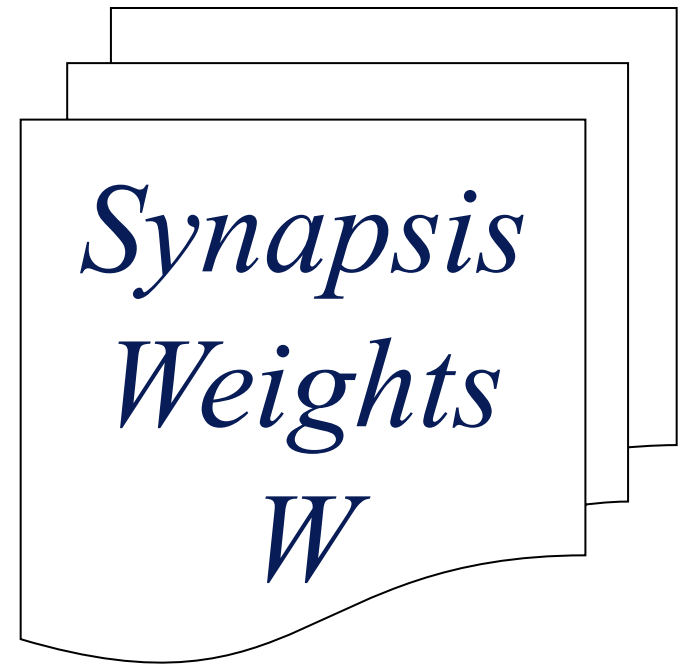
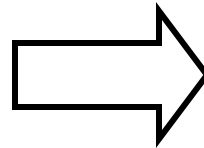
$$x_1^{(2)}, x_2^{(2)} \mid t_{(2)}$$

.....

$$x_1^{(p)}, x_2^{(p)} \mid t_{(p)}$$

.....

$$x_1^{(np)}, x_2^{(np)} \mid t_{(np)}$$



Training Objective: minimize the *average squared output deviation error* (also called Energy Function):

$$E = \frac{1}{2n_p n_o} \sum_{p=1}^{n_p} \sum_{l=1}^{n_o} (u_{pl}^o - t_{pl})^2$$

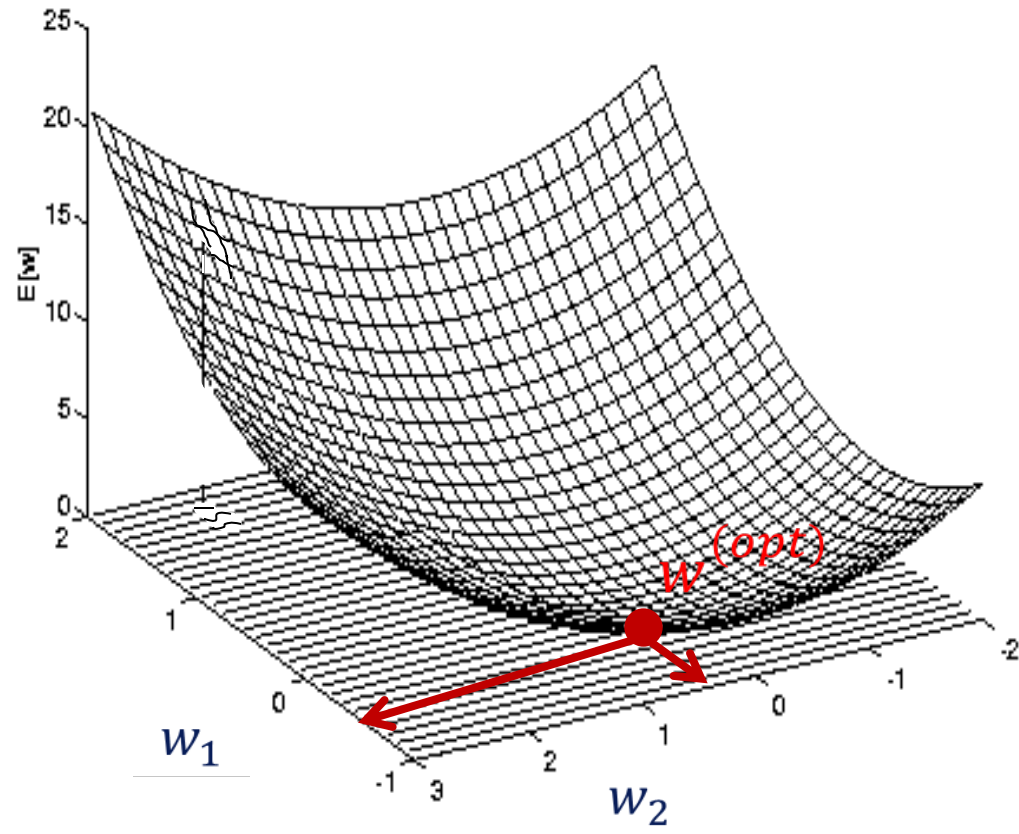
ANN l -th output of
the p -th training
pattern

TRUE l -th output of
the p -th training
pattern

E is a function of
the ANN outputs



E is a function of the
synapsis weights $[w_{jk}]$



The Error Backpropagation Algorithm

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1. Initialize weights to random values:

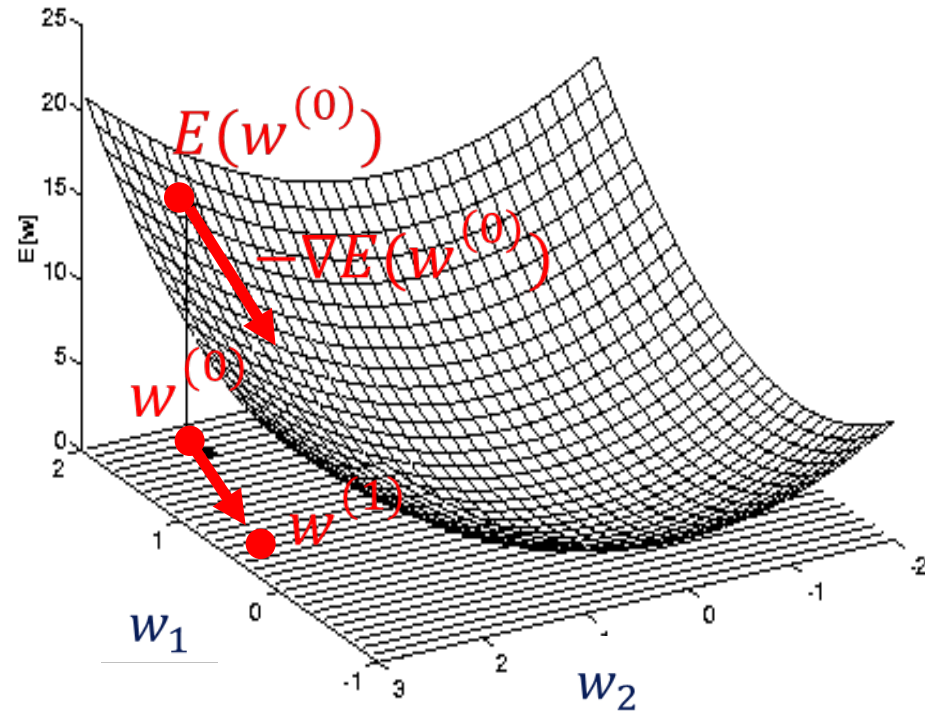
$$w_{jk}^{(0)} = rand$$

2. While E is small:

- Update $w_{jk}^{(i)}$ using the gradient descent method:

$$w_{jk}^{(i+1)} = w_{jk}^{(i)} - \eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{jk}}$$

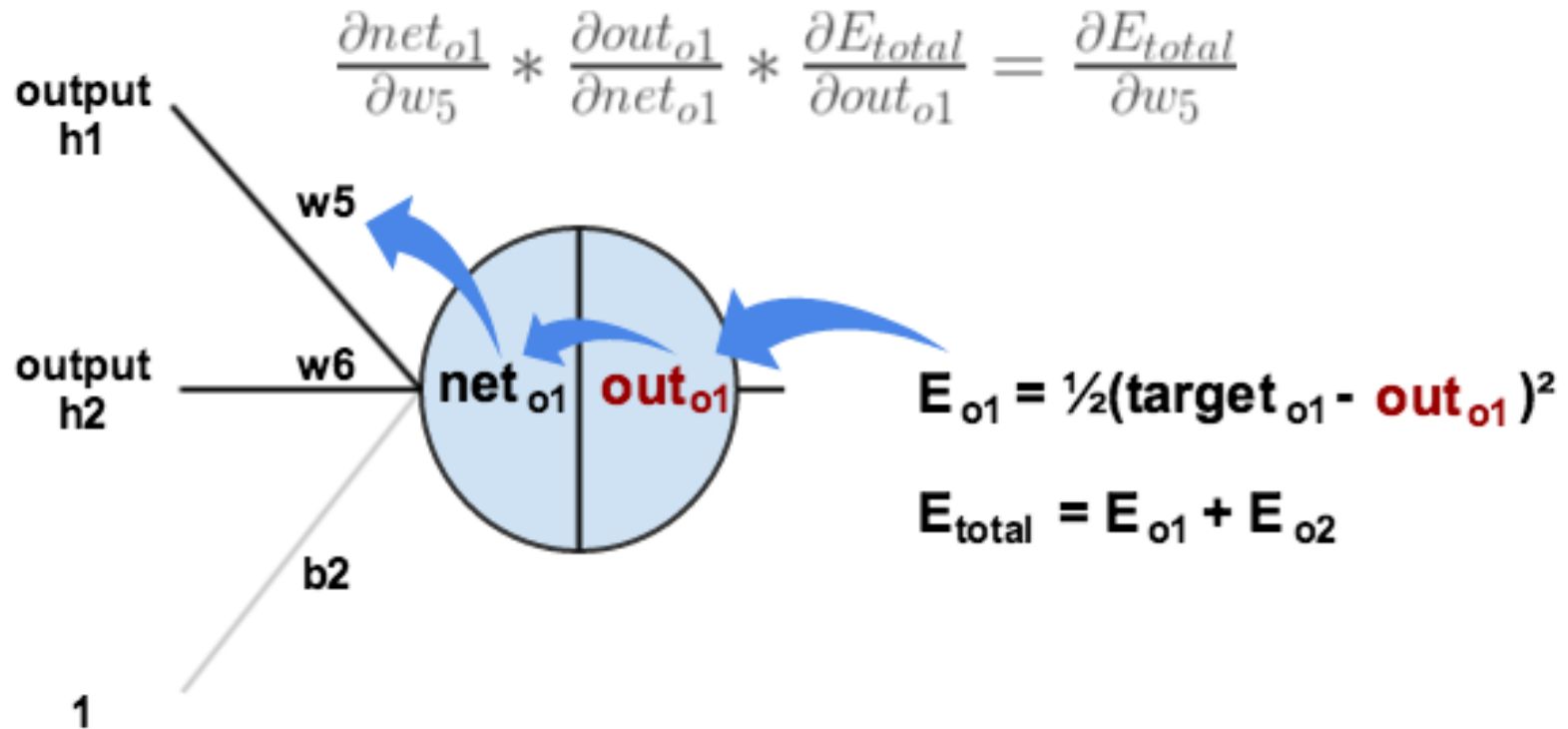
Learning coefficient



gradient $\nabla E(w) = \left(\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_1}, \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_2} \right)$

The Error Backpropagation Algorithm

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- Updating of w_{lj} :

$$w_{lj}^{(i+1)} = w_{lj}^{(i)} - \eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{lj}}$$

with

$$E = \frac{1}{2n_p n_o} \sum_{p=1}^{n_p} \sum_{l=1}^{n_o} (u_{pl}^o - t_{pl})^2$$

- Without loss of generality, set $n_p=1$

$$E = \frac{1}{2n_o} \sum_{l=1}^{n_o} (u_l^o - t_l)^2 \quad \triangleright \quad \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{lj}} = ?$$

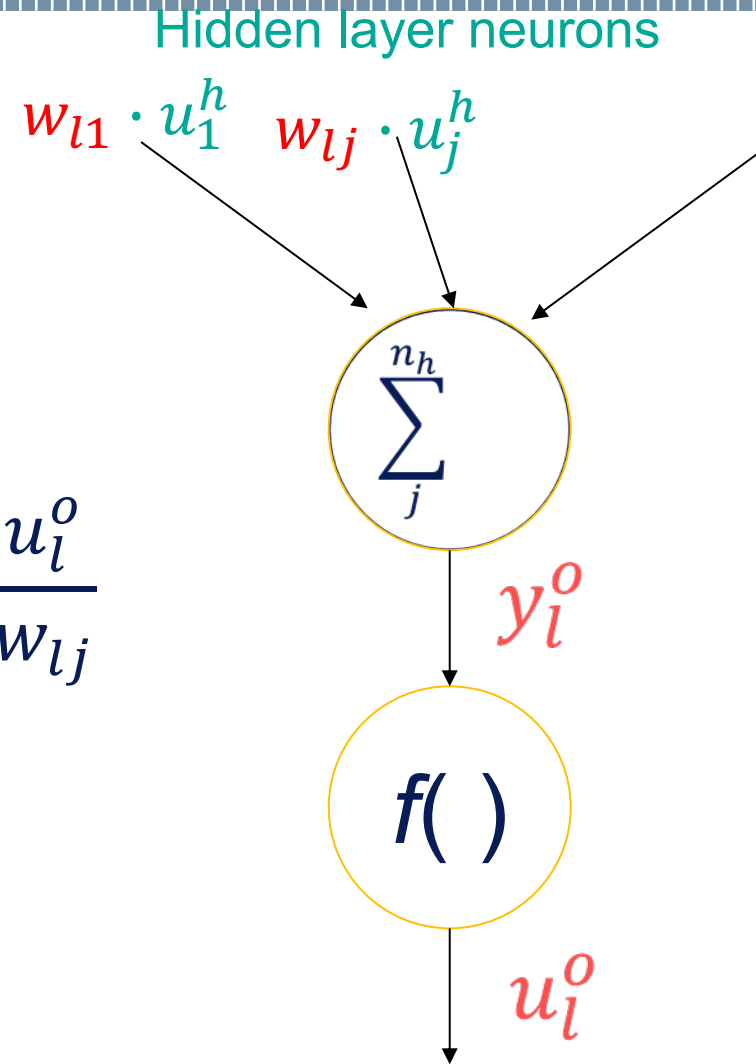
Error Backpropagation (hidden-output)

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$$E = \frac{1}{2n_o} \sum_{l'=1}^{n_o} (u_{l'}^o - t_{l'})^2$$



$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{lj}} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial u_l^o} \frac{\partial u_l^o}{\partial w_{lj}} = \frac{2(u_l^o - t_l)}{2n_o} \frac{\partial u_l^o}{\partial w_{lj}}$$

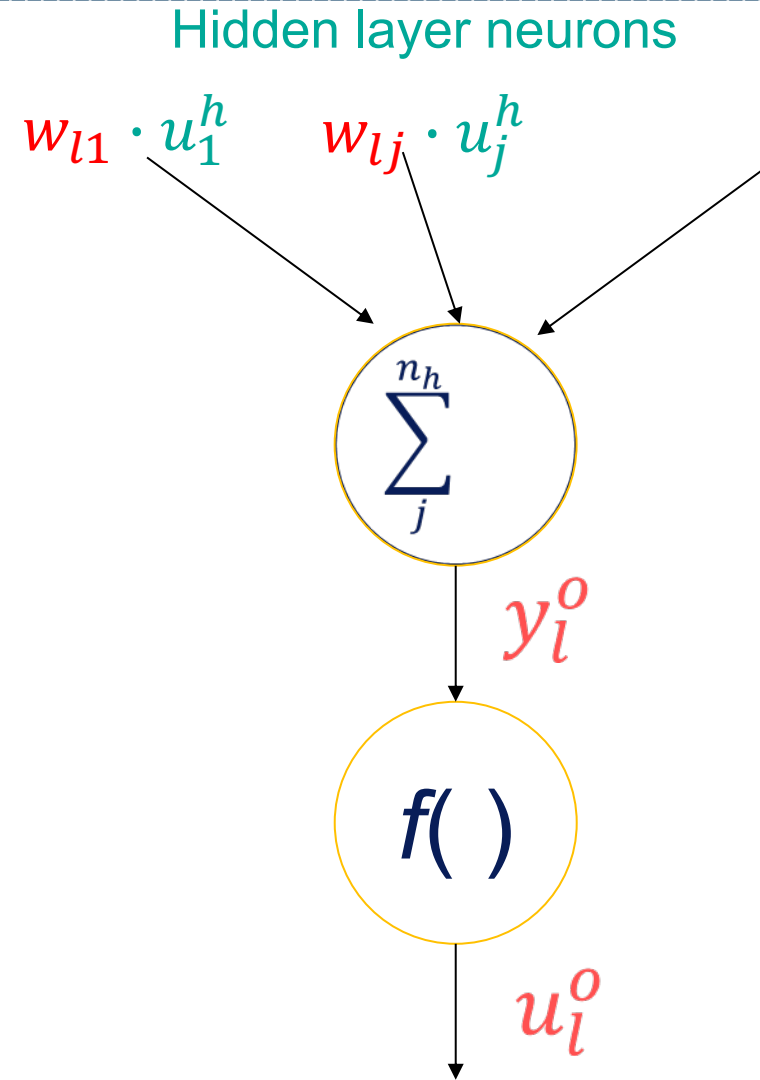


Error Backpropagation (hidden-output)

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$$E = \frac{1}{2n_o} \sum_{l'=1}^{n_o} (u_{l'}^o - t_{l'})^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{lj}} &= \frac{2(u_l^o - t_l)}{2n_o} \frac{\partial u_l^o}{\partial w_{lj}} \\ &= \frac{(u_l^o - t_l)}{n_o} \frac{\partial u_l^o}{\partial y_l^o} \frac{\partial y_l^o}{\partial w_{lj}} = \\ &= \frac{(u_l^o - t_l)}{n_o} f'(y_l^o) \frac{\partial (\sum_{j'=1}^{n_h} w_{lj'} \cdot u_{j'}^h + w_{l0})}{\partial w_{lj}} = \\ &= \frac{(u_l^o - t_l)}{n_o} f'(y_l^o) u_j^h \end{aligned}$$



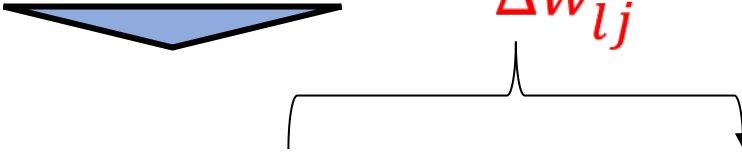
- Updating of w_{lj} :

$$w_{lj}^{(i+1)} = w_{lj}^{(i)} - \eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{lj}}$$

with

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{lj}} = \frac{(u_l^o - t_l)}{n_o} f'(y_l^o) u_j^h = \frac{1}{n_o} \delta_l u_j^h$$

$$\delta_l = (u_l^o - t_l) f'(y_l^o)$$


$$w_{lj}^{(i+1)} = w_{lj}^{(i)} - \eta \frac{1}{n_o} \delta_l u_j^h$$

- Updating of w_{lj} :

$$w_{lj}^{(i+1)} = w_{lj}^{(i+1)} - \eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{lj}}$$

with

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{lj}} = \frac{(u_l^o - t_l)}{n_o} f'(y_l^o) u_j^h = \frac{1}{n_o} \delta_l u_j^h$$



$$w_{lj}^{(i+1)} = w_{lj}^{(i)} + \Delta w_{lj}^{(i)} + \alpha \Delta w_{lj}^{(i-1)}$$

momentum

- Updating of w_{kj} :

$$w_{kj}^{(i+1)} = w_{kj}^{(i)} - \eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{kj}}$$

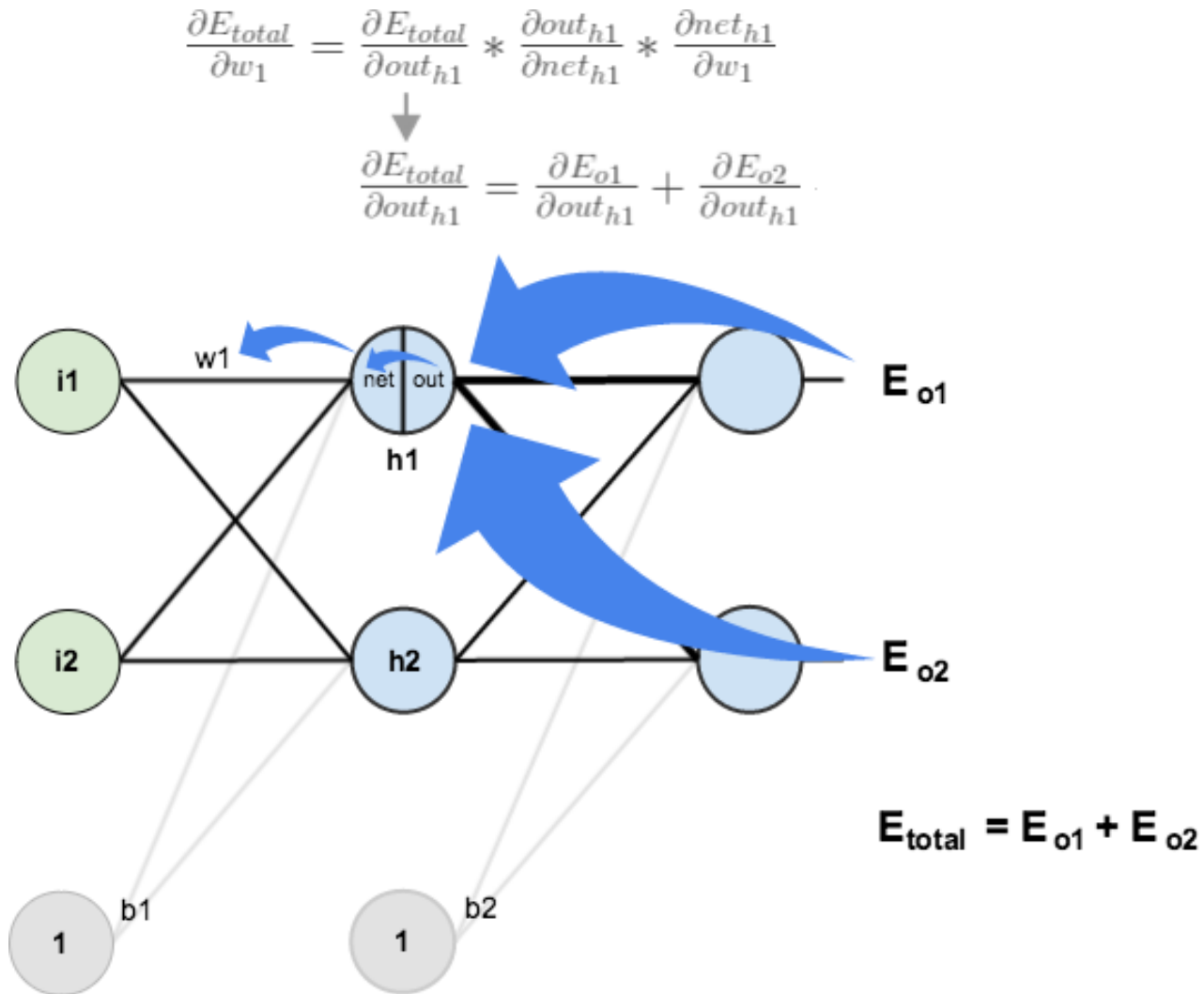
with

$$E = \frac{1}{2n_p n_o} \sum_{p=1}^{n_p} \sum_{l=1}^{n_o} (u_{pl}^o - t_{pl})^2$$

- Without loss of generality, set $n_p=1$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{kl}} &= \frac{1}{2n_o} \sum_{l=1}^{n_o} \frac{2(u_l^o - t_l)}{2n_o} \frac{\partial u_l^o}{\partial w_{kj}} = \frac{1}{n_o} \sum_{l=1}^{n_o} (u_l^o - t_l) \frac{\partial u_l^o}{\partial y_l^o} \frac{\partial y_l^o}{\partial u_j^h} \frac{\partial u_j^h}{\partial y_j^h} \frac{\partial y_j^h}{\partial w_{kj}} = \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^{n_o} \frac{(u_l^o - t_l)}{n_o} f'(y_l^o) w_{jl} f'(y_j^h) u_k^i = u_k^i f'(y_j^h) \end{aligned}$$

Error Backpropagation (input- hidden)



Error Backpropagation (hidden-input)

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Similarly to the updating of the output-hidden weights,

Updating weight w_{jk} (hidden-input connections) $\Delta \bar{w}_{jk} = -\eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial \bar{w}_{jk}}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial E}{\partial \bar{w}_{jk}} &= \frac{1}{n_o} \sum_{l=1}^{n_o} (u_l^o - t_l) \frac{\partial u_l^o}{\partial y_l^o} \frac{\partial y_l^o}{\partial u_j^h} \frac{\partial u_j^h}{\partial y_j^h} \frac{\partial y_j^h}{\partial \bar{w}_{jk}} \quad \text{being} \quad \begin{aligned} y_k^i &= x_k, \quad u_k^i = y_k^i \\ y_j^h &= \sum_{k=1}^{n_i} \bar{w}_{jk} u_k^i + \bar{w}_{jo}, \quad u_j^h = f(y_j^h) \end{aligned} \\ &= \frac{1}{n_o} \sum_{l=1}^{n_o} (u_l^o - t_l) f'(y_l^o) w_{lj} f'(y_j^h) u_k^i \\ &= -\frac{1}{n_o} \bar{\delta}_j u_k^i \end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{\delta}_j = f'(y_j^h) \sum_{l=1}^{n_o} \delta_l w_{lj}$$

$$\Delta \bar{w}_{jk} = \frac{1}{n_o} \eta \bar{\delta}_j u_k^i$$

$$\Delta \bar{w}_{jk}(n) = \frac{1}{n_o} \eta \bar{\delta}_j u_j^i + \alpha \Delta \bar{w}_{jk}(n-1)$$

Learning coefficient

Momentum

Advantages:

- No physical/mathematical modelling efforts
- Able to learn nonlinear mappings

Disadvantages:

- “black box” : difficulties in interpreting the underlying physical model.

Application



- **Objective:**

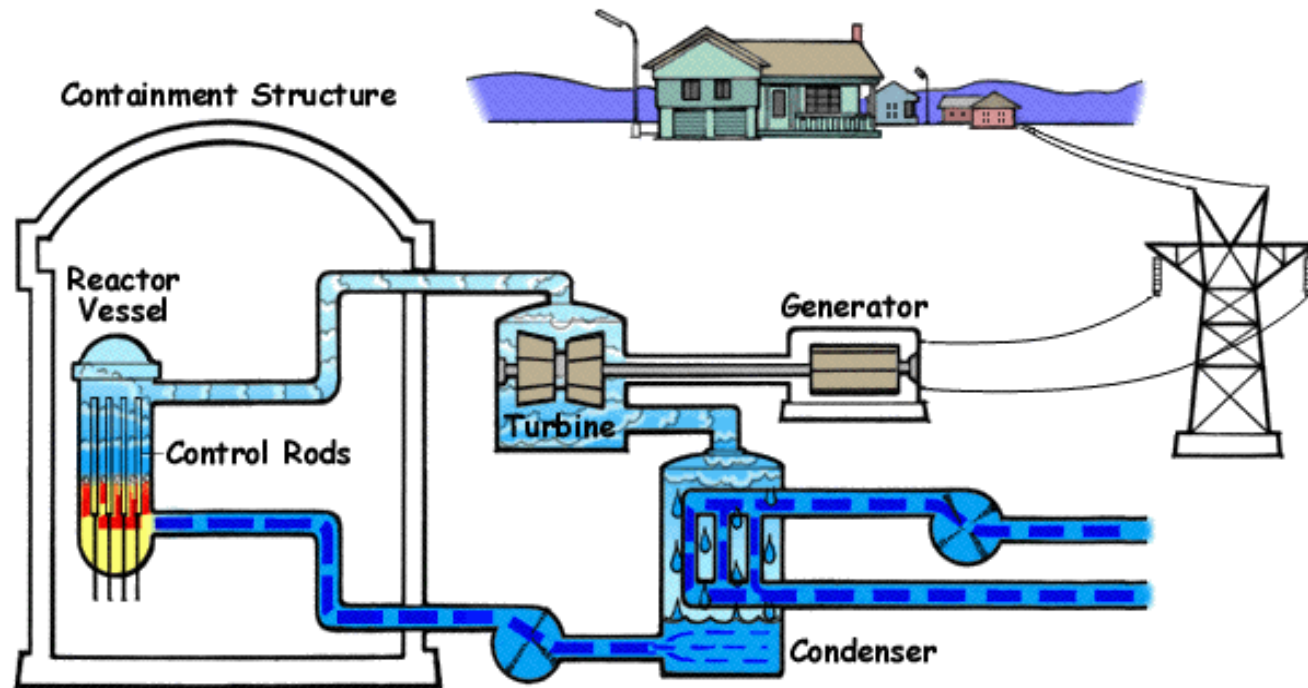
Build and train a neural network to classify different types of malfunctions of plant components

- **Input/Output patterns**

Input: signal measurements

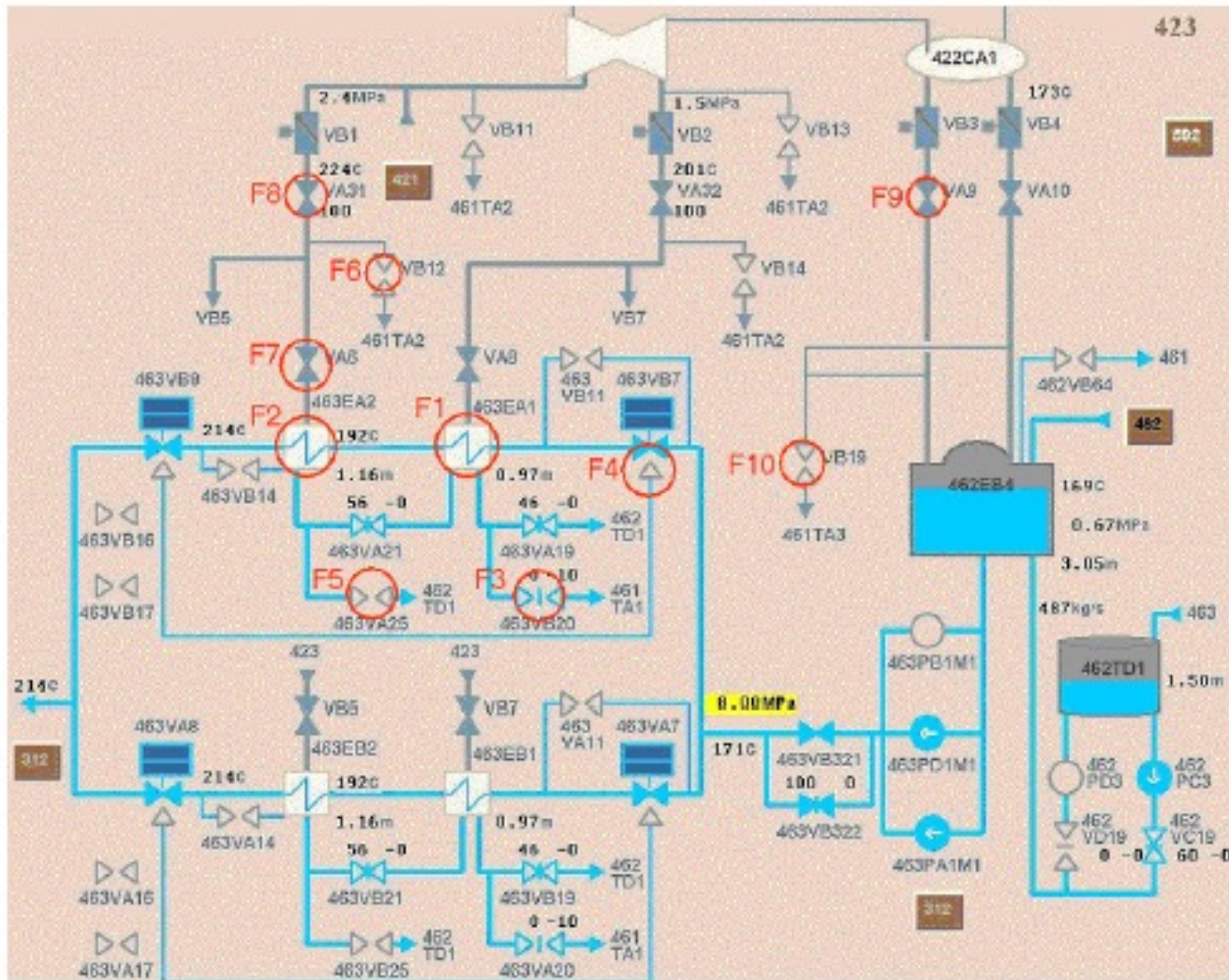
Output: number (label) of the class of the failure

Transient classification in a Feedwater System of a Boiling Water Reactor (BWR)



ANN Example: Secondary System

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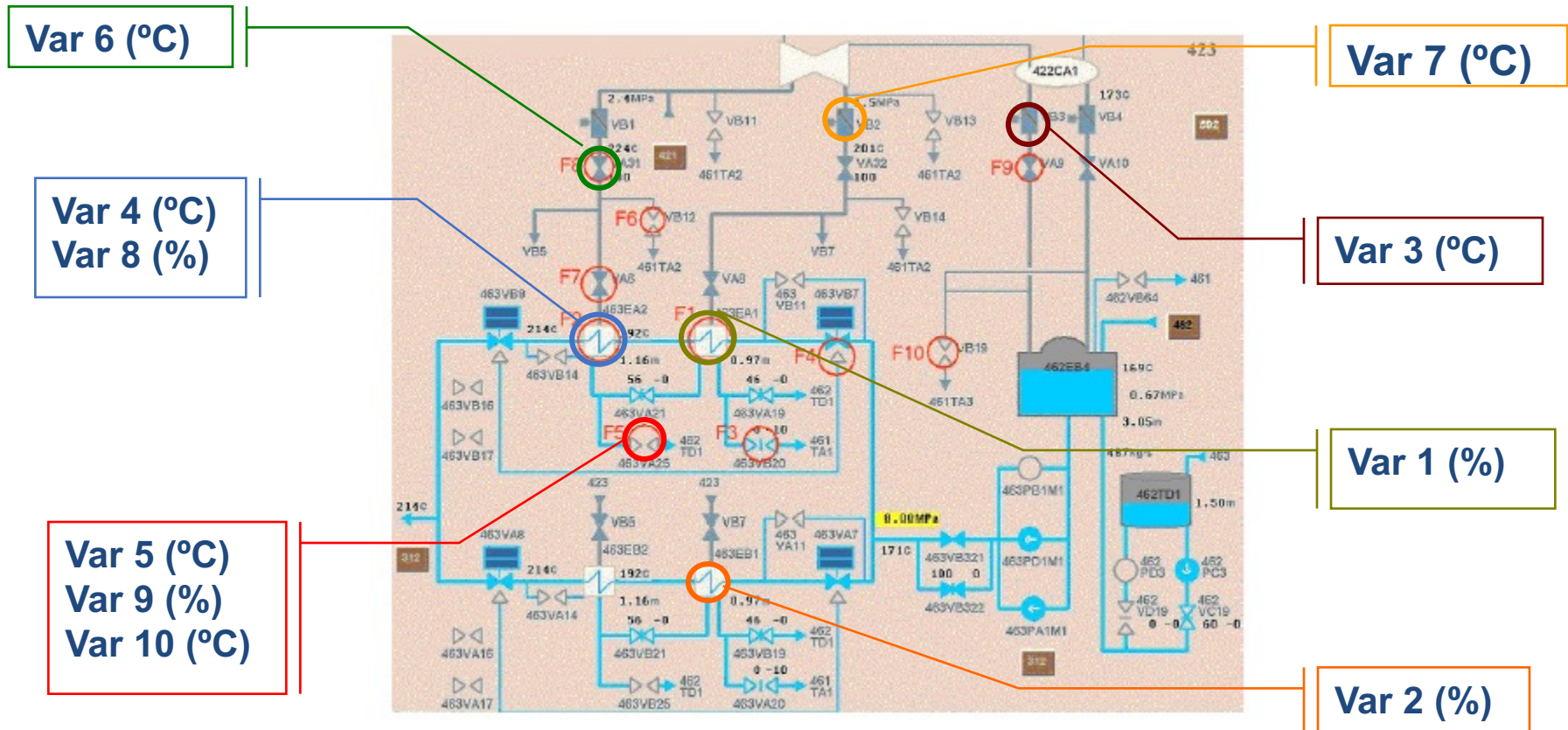
- Class 1: Leakage through the second high-pressure preheater
- Class 2: Leakage in the first high-pressure preheater to the drain tank
- Class 3: Leakage through the first high-pressure preheater drain back-up valve to the condenser
- Class 4: Leakage through high-pressure preheaters bypass valve
- Class 5: Leakage through the second high-pressure preheater drain back-up valve to the feedwater tank

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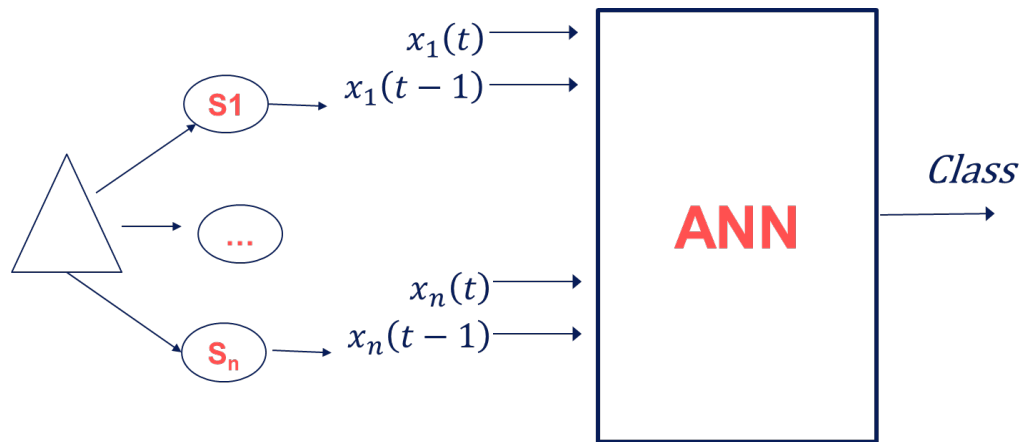


Variable	Signal	Unit
1	Position level for control valve EA1	%
2	Position level for control valve EB1	%
3	Temperature drain before VB3	°C
4	Temperature feedwater after EA2 train A	°C
5	Temperature feedwater after EB2 train B	°C
6	Temperature drain 6 after VB1	°C
7	Temperature drain 5 after VB2	°C
8	Position level control valve before EA2	%
9	Position level control valve before EB2	%
10	Temperature feedwater before EB2 train B	°C

36 sampling instants in [80, 290]s, one each 6s.



- Input: a two-step time window of the measured signals at times $t-1$ and t
- Output: label of the class to which the transient belongs



- A training set was constructed containing 8 transients for each class.
- For a transient of a given class the 35 patterns used to train the network take the following form

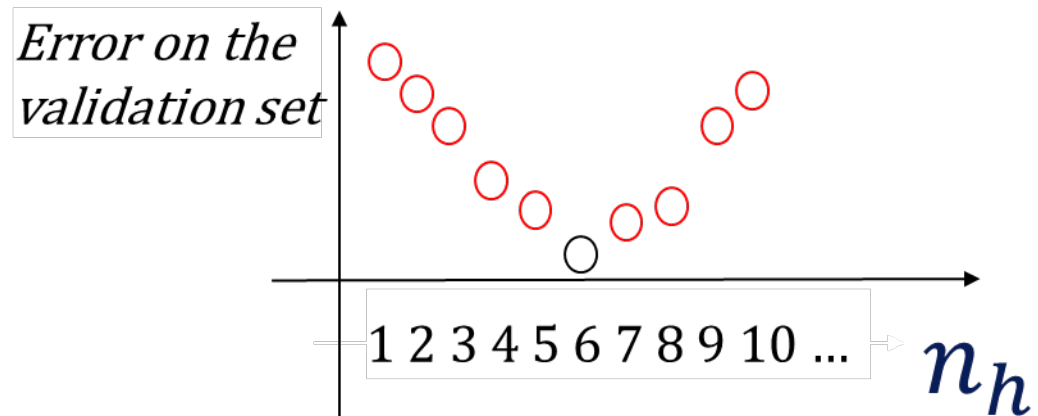
$x_1(2)$	$x_1(1)$	$x_2(2)$	$x_2(1)$	...	$x_{10}(2)$	$x_{10}(1)$	<i>class</i>
\vdots							\vdots
$x_1(t)$	$x_1(t-1)$	$x_2(t)$	$x_2(t-1)$	...	$x_{10}(t)$	$x_{10}(t-1)$	<i>class</i>
$x_1(t+1)$	$x_1(t)$	$x_2(t+1)$	$x_2(t)$	...	$x_{10}(t+1)$	$x_{10}(t)$	<i>class</i>
\vdots							\vdots
$x_1(36)$	$x_1(35)$	$x_2(36)$	$x_2(35)$	...	$x_{10}(36)$	$x_{10}(35)$	<i>class</i>

❑ Paramers to be set:

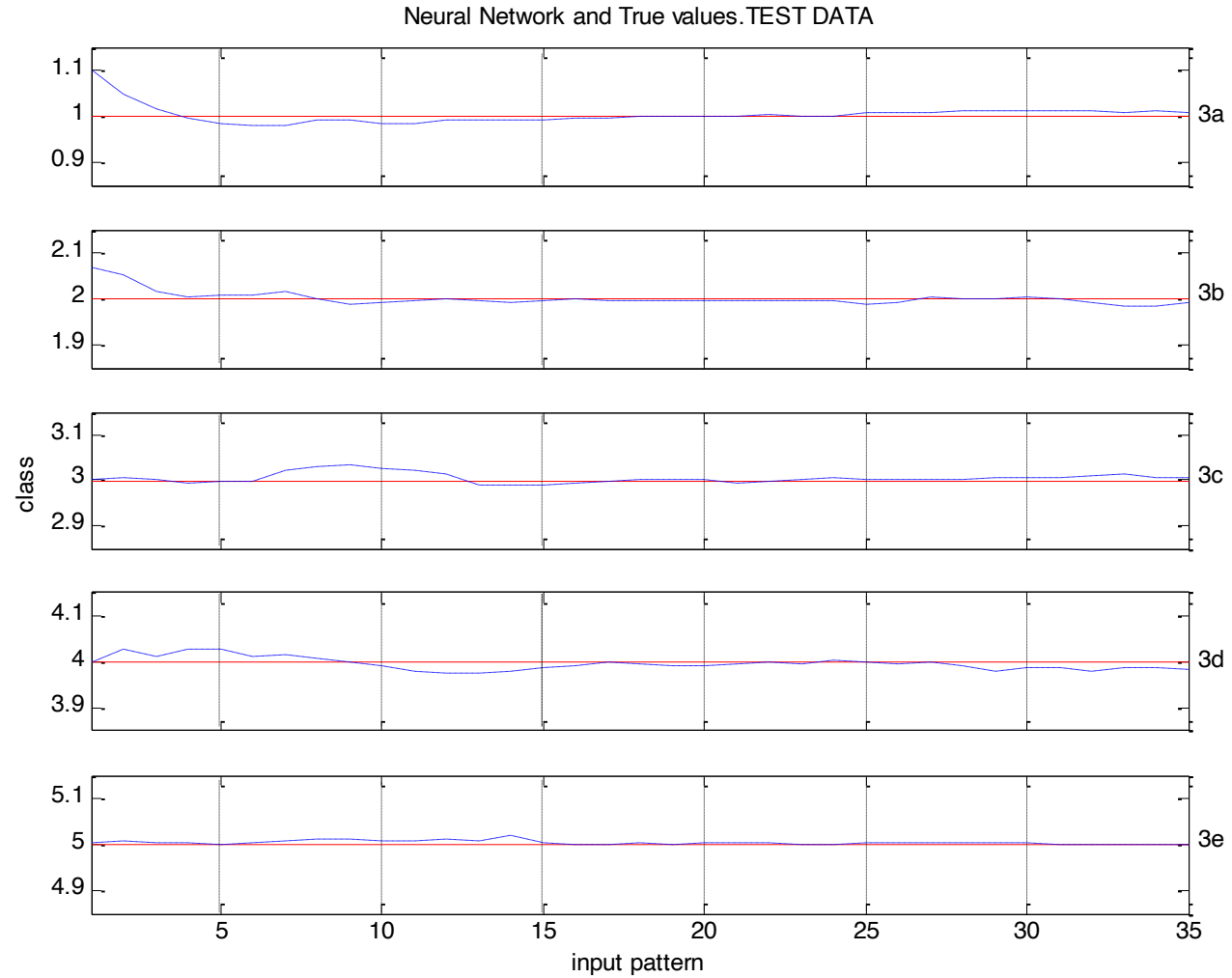
- ❖ Number of neurons in the hidden layer (n_h)
- ❖ Learning coefficient
- ❖ Momentum

❑ Method:

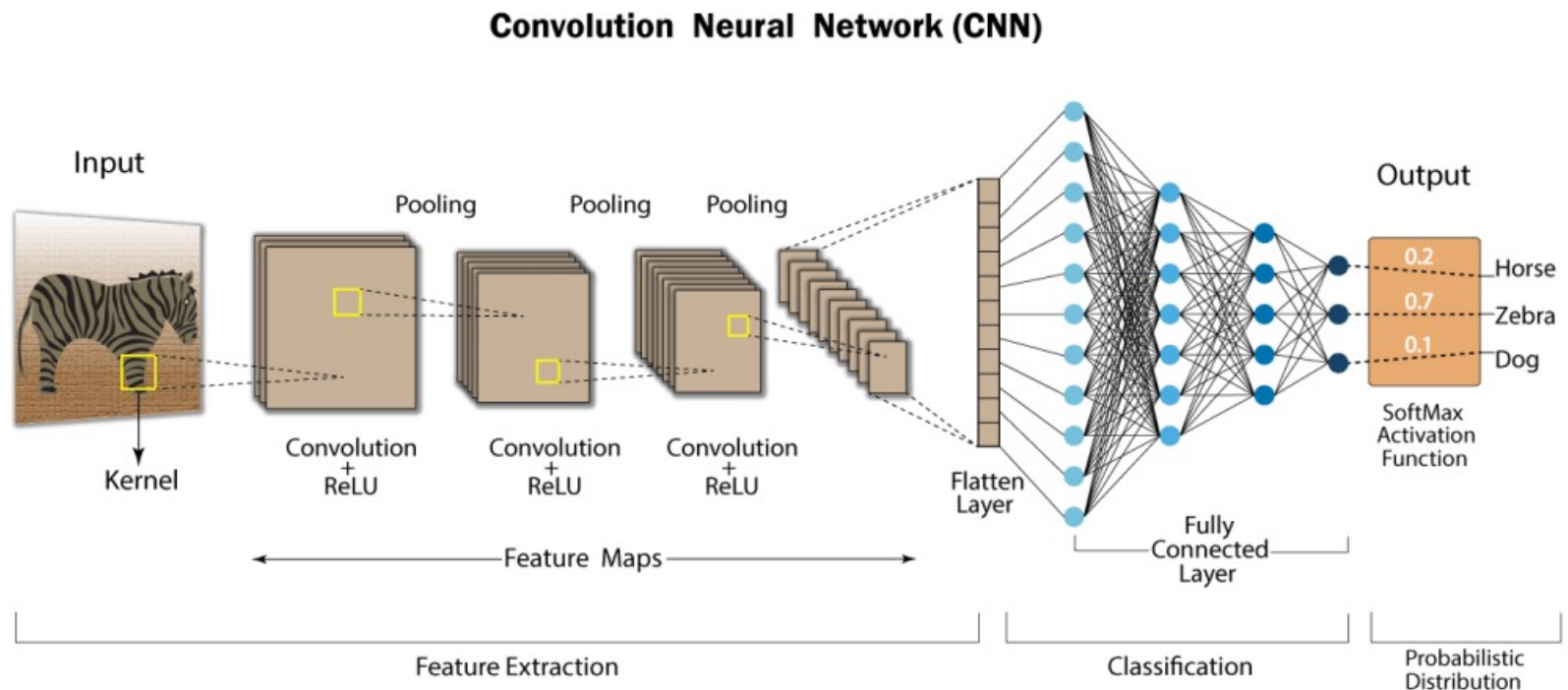
- ❖ Divide the training data into:
 - A training set (it will be used to find the synapsis weight)
 - A validation set (it will be used to find the optimal value of the parameters)
- ❖ Proceed by trial-and-error



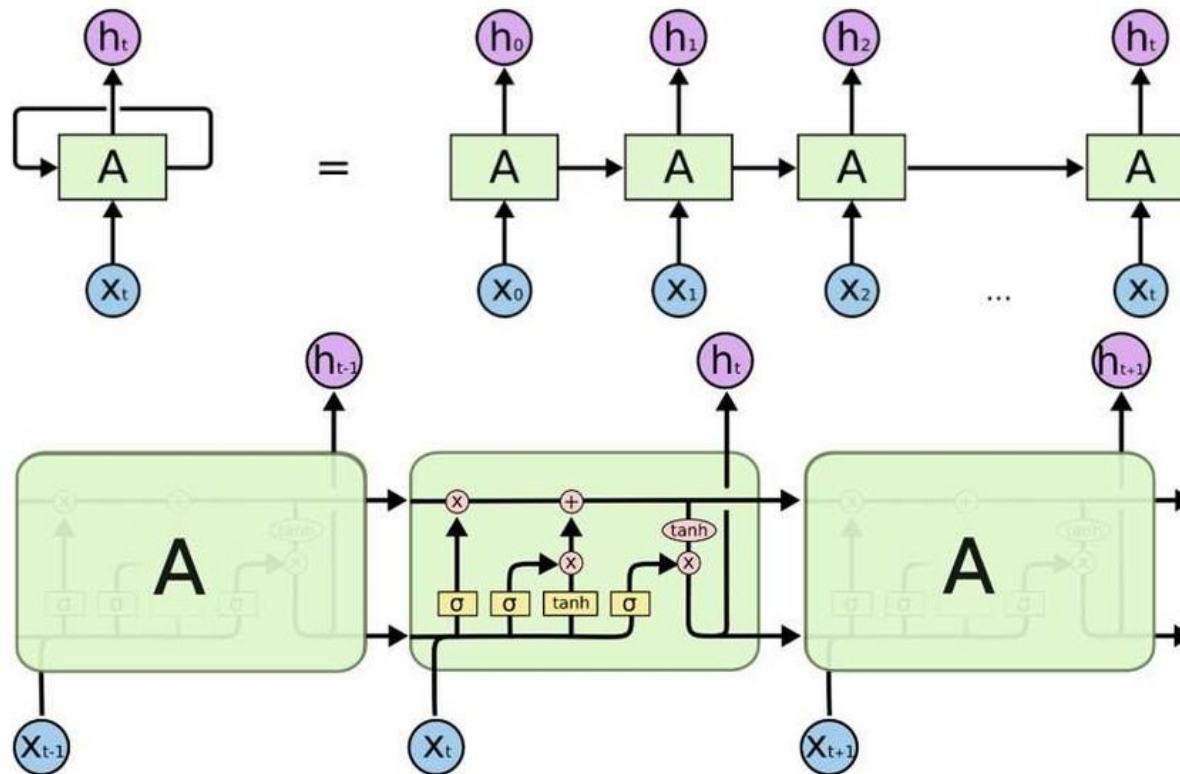
- $N_h, \eta, \alpha \rightarrow$ grid optimization
- Optimal values
 - $N_h : 17$
 - $\eta : 0.55$
 - $\alpha : 0.6$



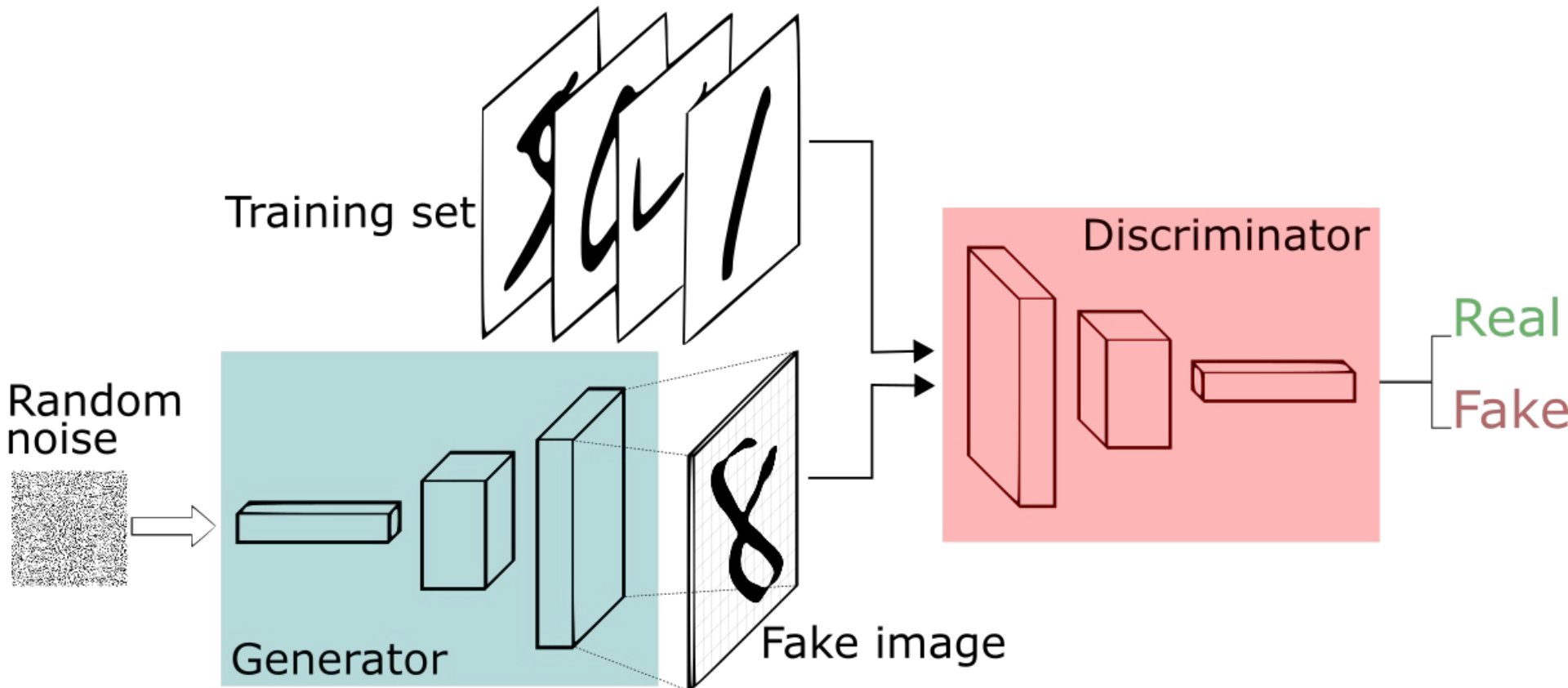
- Convolutional Neural Networks



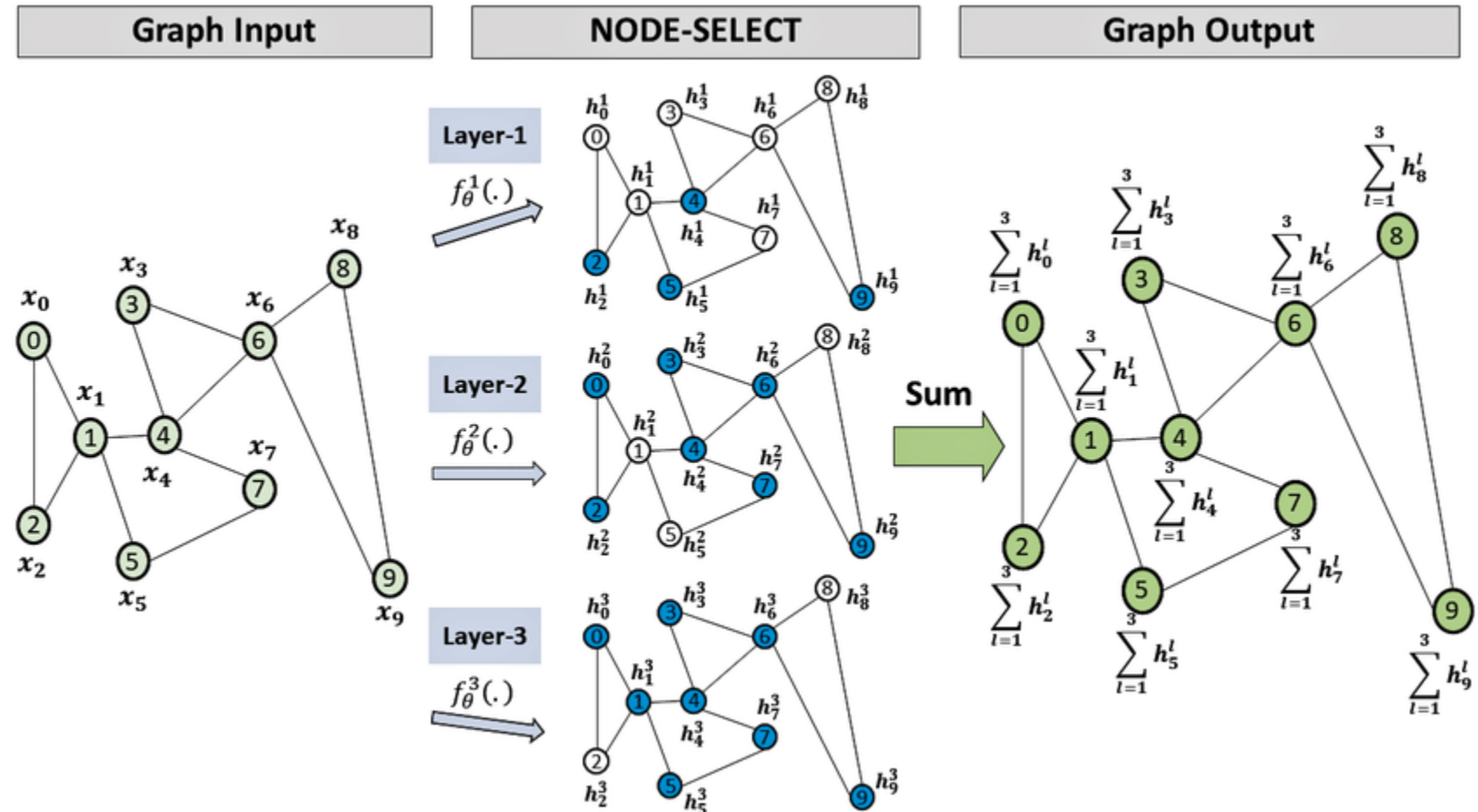
- Recurrent Neural Networks



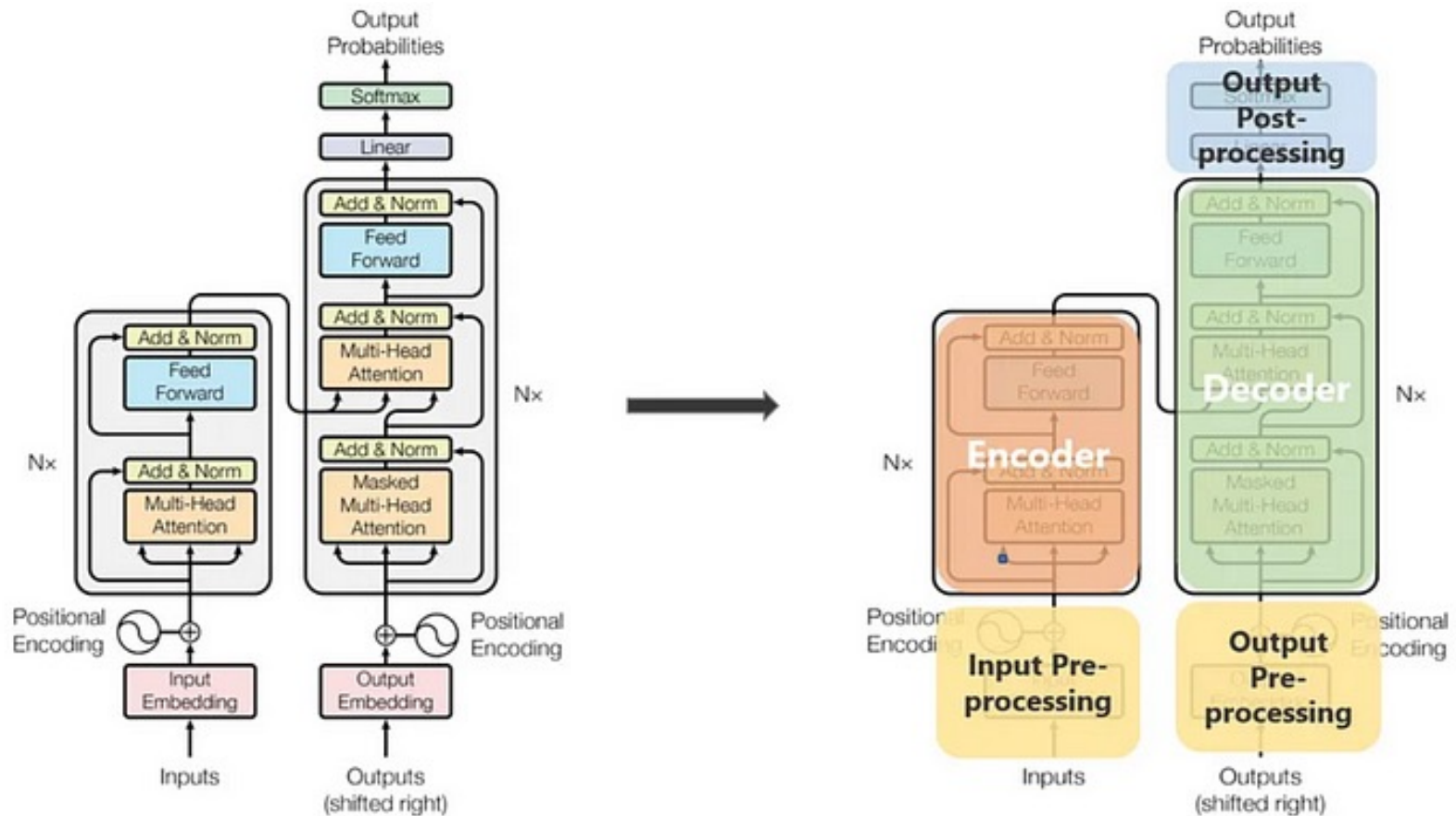
- Generative Adversarial Networks



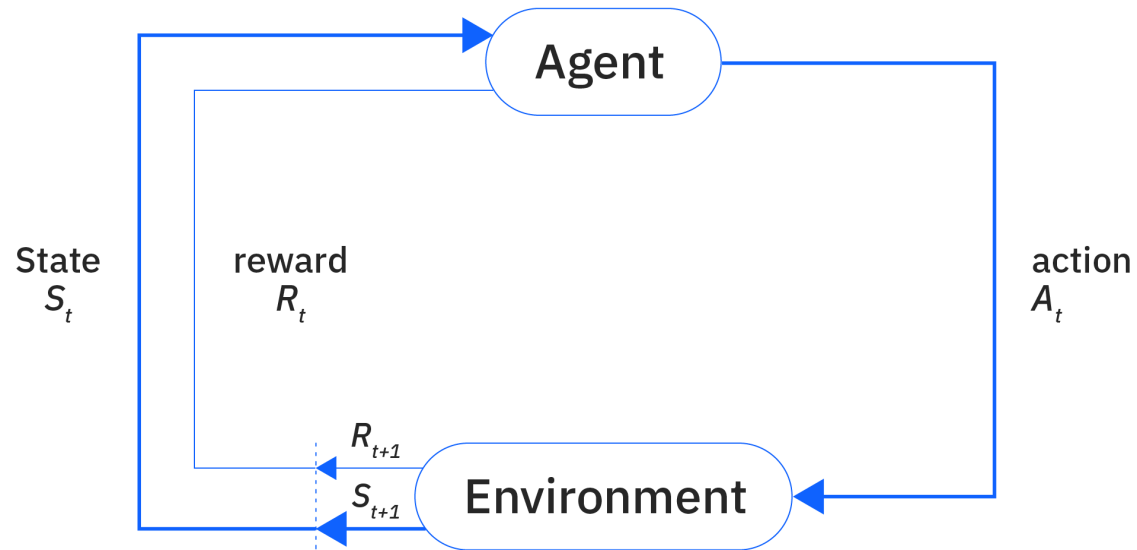
- Graph Neural Networks



- Transformers



- Reinforcement Learning





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Fault Diagnostics Methods

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