

# Interpreting the Black Box: Explainable Neural Network Models

Marek Rei



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

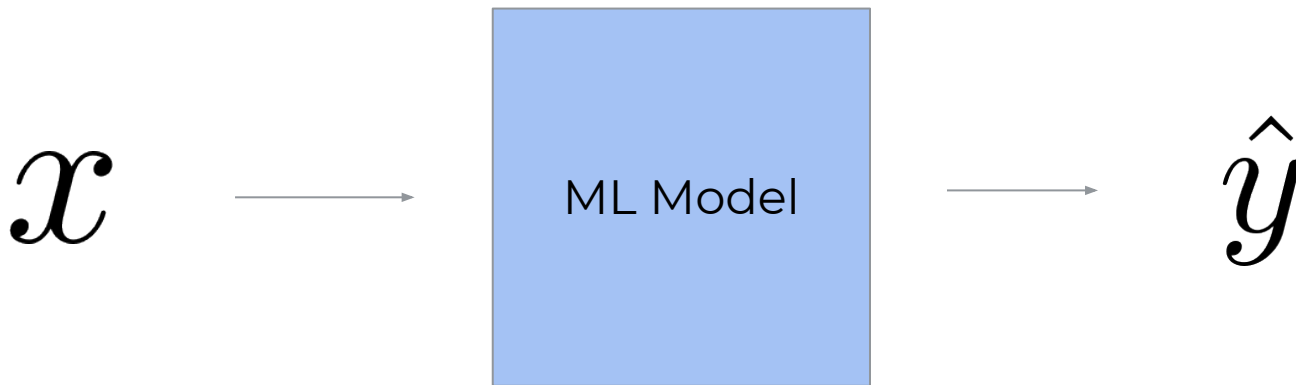
# Interpreting the Black Box

- 01 Introduction to interpretability
- 02 Motivation for explainable architectures
- 03 Methods of interpreting neural networks
- 04 Course logistics

**Interpretability**

# Machine Learning Models

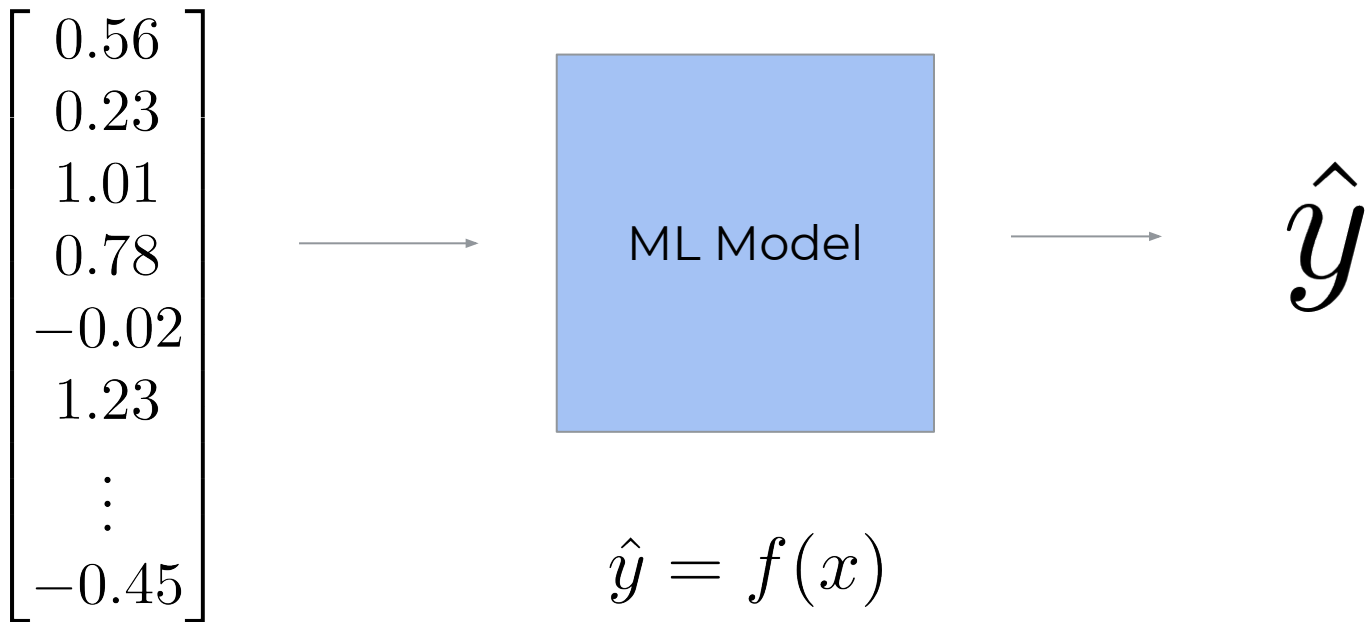
ML models take some **input  $x$  and transform it to some output  $y$** , such as a predicted label.



$$\hat{y} = f(x)$$

# Machine Learning Models

ML models take some **input x** and **transform it to some output y**, such as a predicted label.



# Machine Learning Models

For example, we could train a classifier to predict whether to accept or deny an insurance claim.

If our claim gets denied, we would want to know why.

Please ensure that all parts of the application are completed to BLOCK OFFERS.

What have you been studying? (List below your last 2 places of education / training, starting with the current or most recent.)

| Name & address of school or college | Qualification achieved or being studied |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| WILTSHIRE COLLEGE                   | LEVEL 2 Arts & Photography              |
| WILTSHIRE COLLEGE                   | LEVEL 3 Photography                     |

What have you been up to? List below your last 3 employers, starting with the current or most recent. Don't worry if this is your first job you will have a chance to show what you have been involved in further down the application.

| Name of employer and type of business | Position        | Rate of pay    | Dates of employment                |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| STIR RECORDS                          | Sales Assistant | £6.50 per hour | 2013 + PRESENT                     |
| STOCK CHECK                           | Sales Assistant | part time      | new experiences in different roles |

Manager's Name: Mrs Jones Telephone Number: 01254 623078 Email: JONES@STIRRECORDS.CO.UK

| Name of employer and type of business | Position  | Rate of pay | Dates of employment |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|
| CHERRY TREE                           | Food Prep | £5.40       | 2013 + PRESENT      |

What were your duties? housework - prep work

Reason for leaving: boss changed work and moved business

Manager's Name: ELEANOR WALKS Telephone Number: 01224 810492 Email: NA

| Name of employer and type of business | Position | Rate of pay | Dates of employment |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------|
|                                       |          |             |                     |

What were your duties?

Reason for leaving:

Manager's Name: Telephone Number: Email:

What else have you been involved in... (For example Community work/sports/other work experience)

photography courses which also involved art and graphics  
Martial Arts - Self defense lesson and confidence builder

Are you coming back to work? (If you have previously worked for us please tell us when, where and your reason for leaving)

NA

Continued Overleaf...

ML Model

ACCEPT /  
DENY

# Machine Learning Models

If we are using neural network models, interpretation can be very difficult.

Each decision is a combination of thousands of neurons and weights interacting with each other.

Please ensure that all parts of the application are completed to BLOCK OFFICES.

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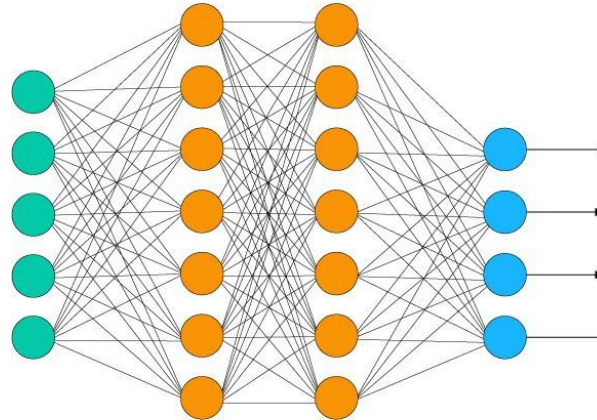
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martial arts - self defense lesson and confidence builder

Are you coming back to work? If you have previously worked for us please tell us when, where and your reason for leaving

N/A

Continued Overleaf...



ACCEPT /  
DENY

# Types of Interpretability

1. Why did the model make a specific decision about this datapoint?

Regardless of whether the prediction is correct, we want to know the reasons!



# Types of Interpretability

## 2. Why does the datapoint have a specific gold label?

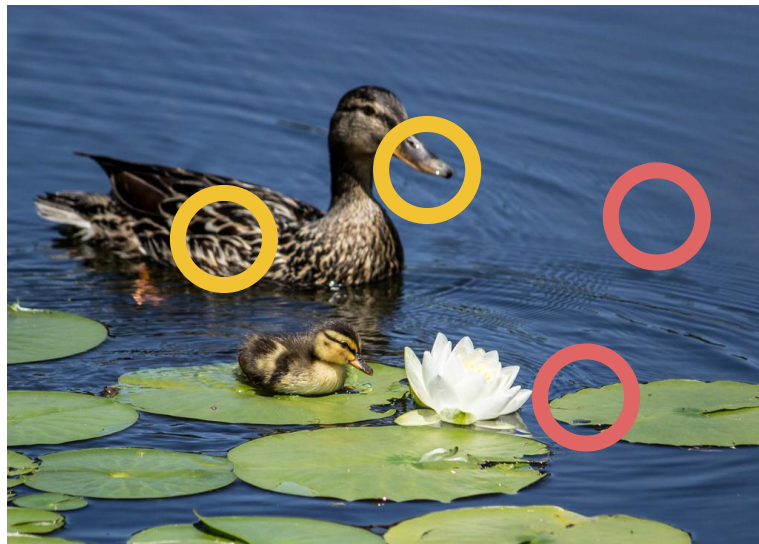
The same as previous ONLY if:

1) the model prediction is correct

AND

2) the prediction is made based on the correct reasons!

Can be difficult to keep separate!



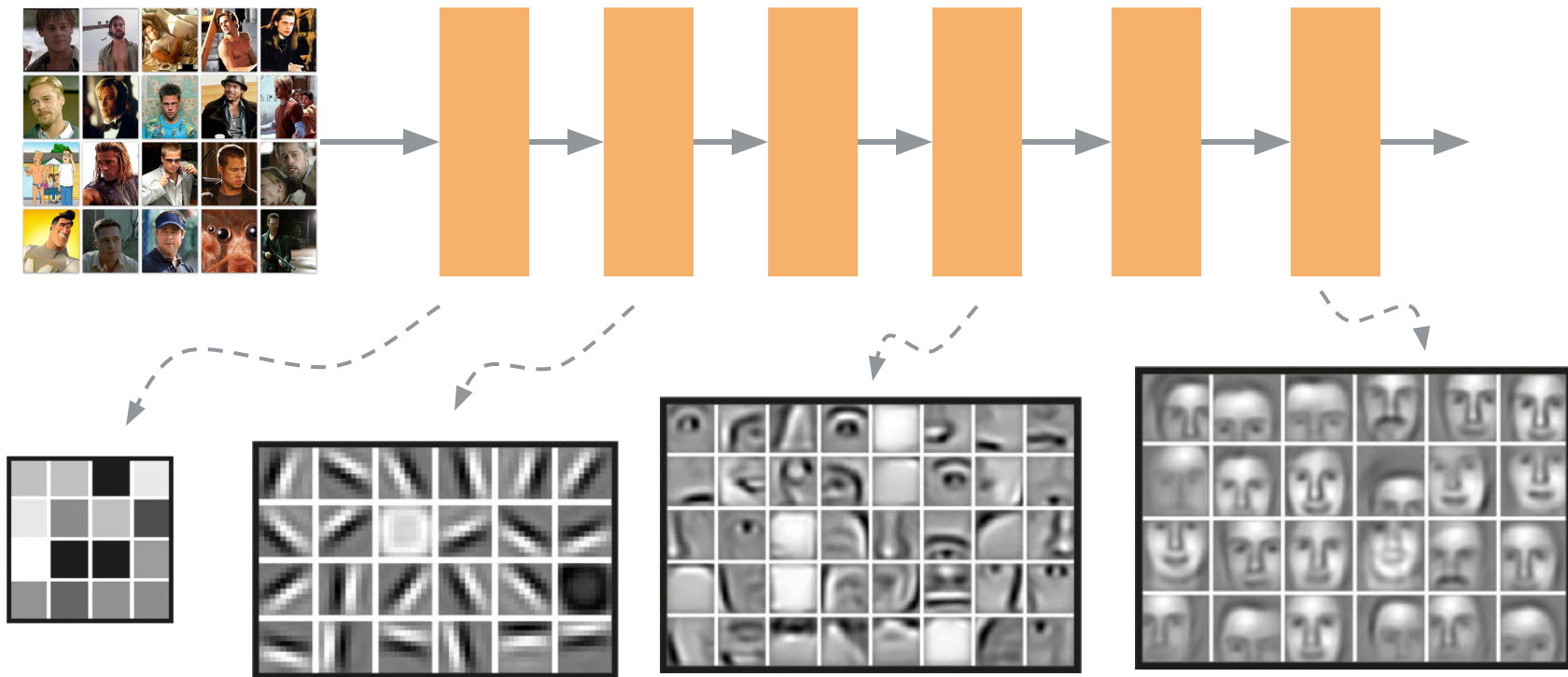
# Types of Interpretability

## 3. What has the model learned?

Visualizing the internal weights and feature detectors of the model.  
Helps analyze the model as a whole

# Types of Interpretability

## 3. What has the model learned?



# Motivation

# Model selection and analysis

- Understand whether our model is learning what we think it's learning
- Find why it makes mistakes and use that to improve the model
- Reveal hidden biases in the data



# Model selection and analysis

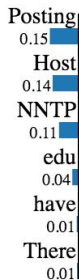
- **Understand** whether our model is learning what we think it's learning
- **Find why it makes mistakes** and use that to improve the model
- **Reveal hidden biases** in the data

Prediction probabilities



atheism

christian



## Text with highlighted words

From: johnchad@triton.unm.edu (jchadwic)  
Subject: Another request for Darwin Fish  
Organization: University of New Mexico, Albuquerque  
Lines: 11  
NNTP-Posting-Host: triton.unm.edu

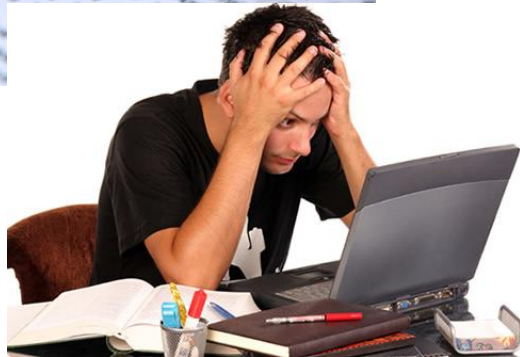
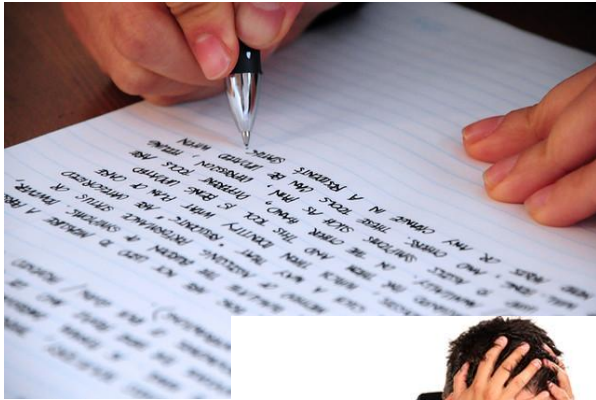
Hello Gang,

There have been some notes recently asking where to obtain the DARWIN fish.  
This is the same question I have and I have not seen an answer on the net. If anyone has a contact please post on the net or email me.

Ribeiro et al (2016)

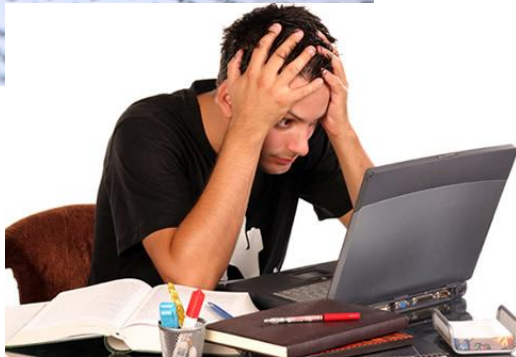
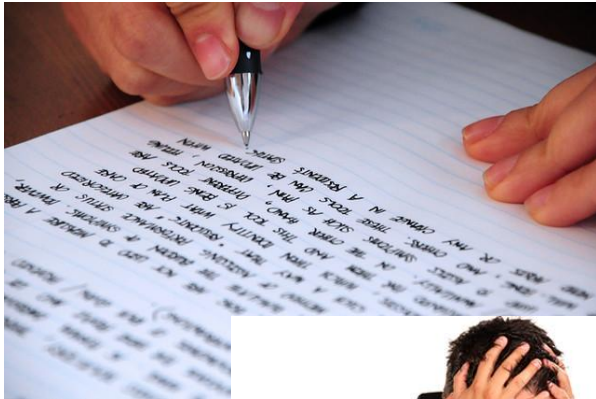
# Actionable information for the users

## Automated essay scoring



# Actionable information for the users

## Automated essay scoring

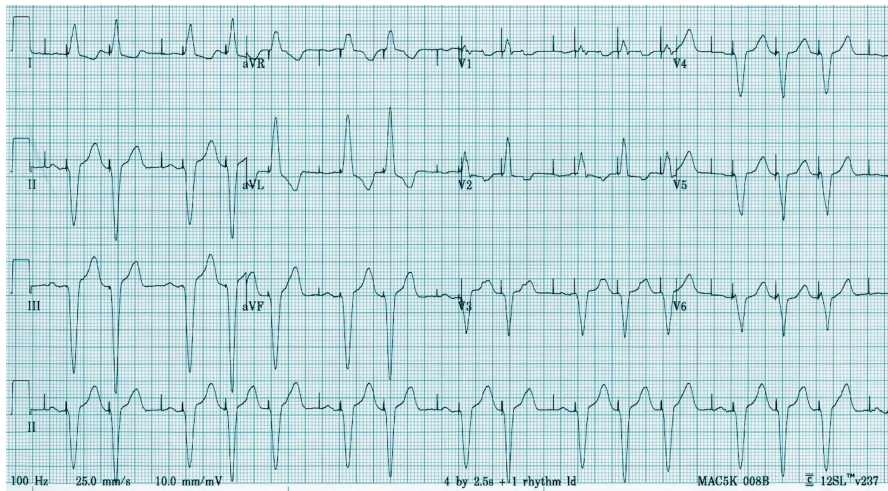


## Medical imaging analysis



# Learn about the data

- **Scientists want to know** how the model achieves high accuracy
- **Revealing novel informative features** in the data can advance our understanding of the field



Neuroscience  
Biology  
Cardiology  
Sociology  
Linguistics  
Economics  
...

# Ensuring transparency

The **General Data Protection Regulation** (GDPR) came into effect on 25 May 2018.

Requires machine learning algorithms to be able to **explain their decisions**.

Replaces the former Data Protection Directive **across the EU**, with **global effects**.

**Maximum fine:** 20M euros or 4% of global revenue, whichever is greater.

## Is Deep Learning Going To Be Illegal In Europe?

RICHA BHATIA - 1 MONTH AGO

25 SHARES



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**Pedro Domingos**  
@pmdomingos

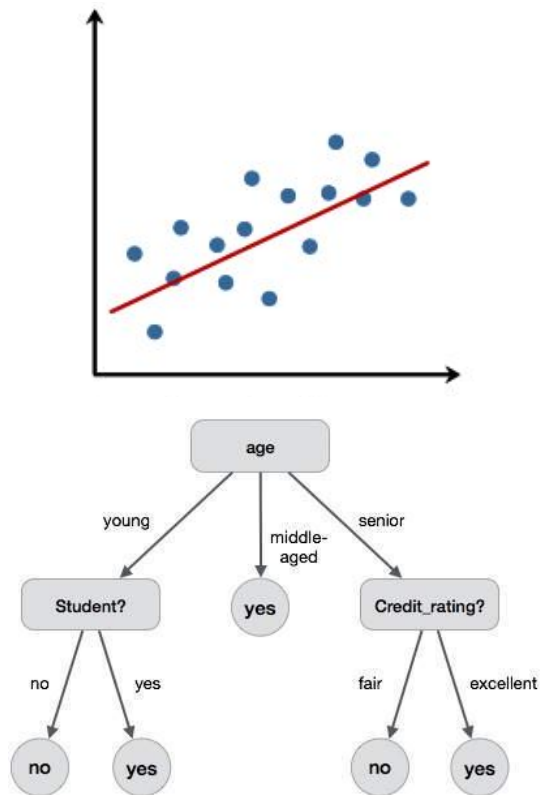
Following

Starting May 25, the European Union will require algorithms to explain their output, making deep learning illegal.

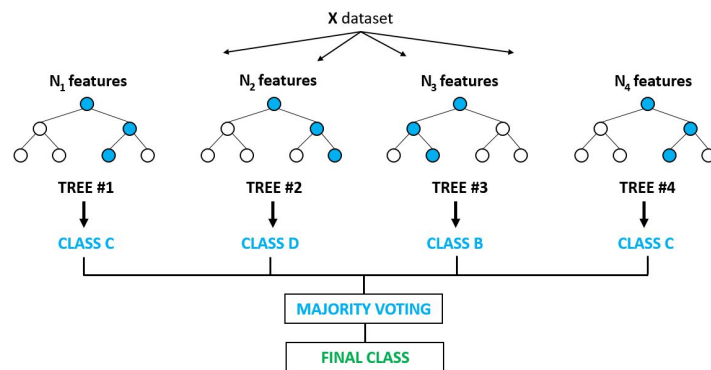
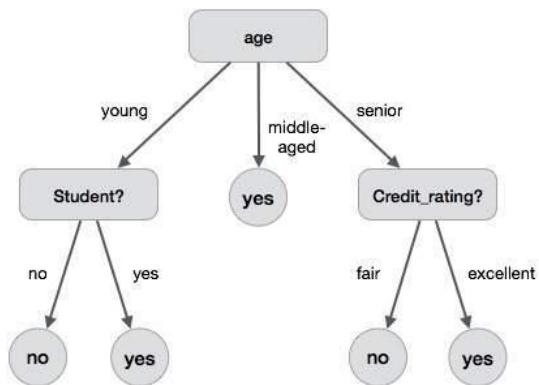
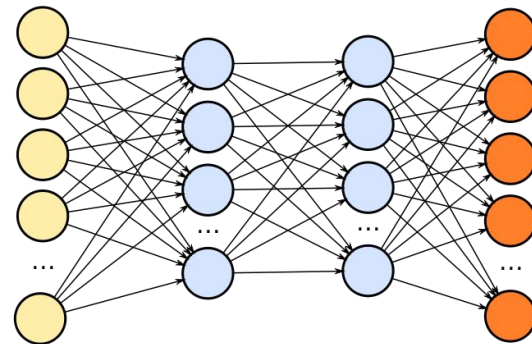
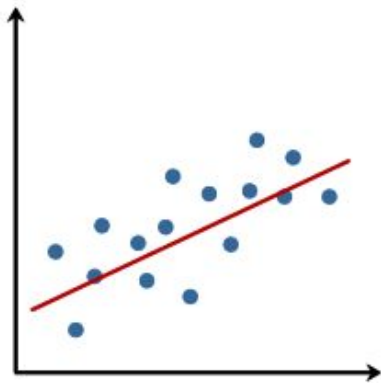
7:59 PM - 28 Jan 2018

# Methods

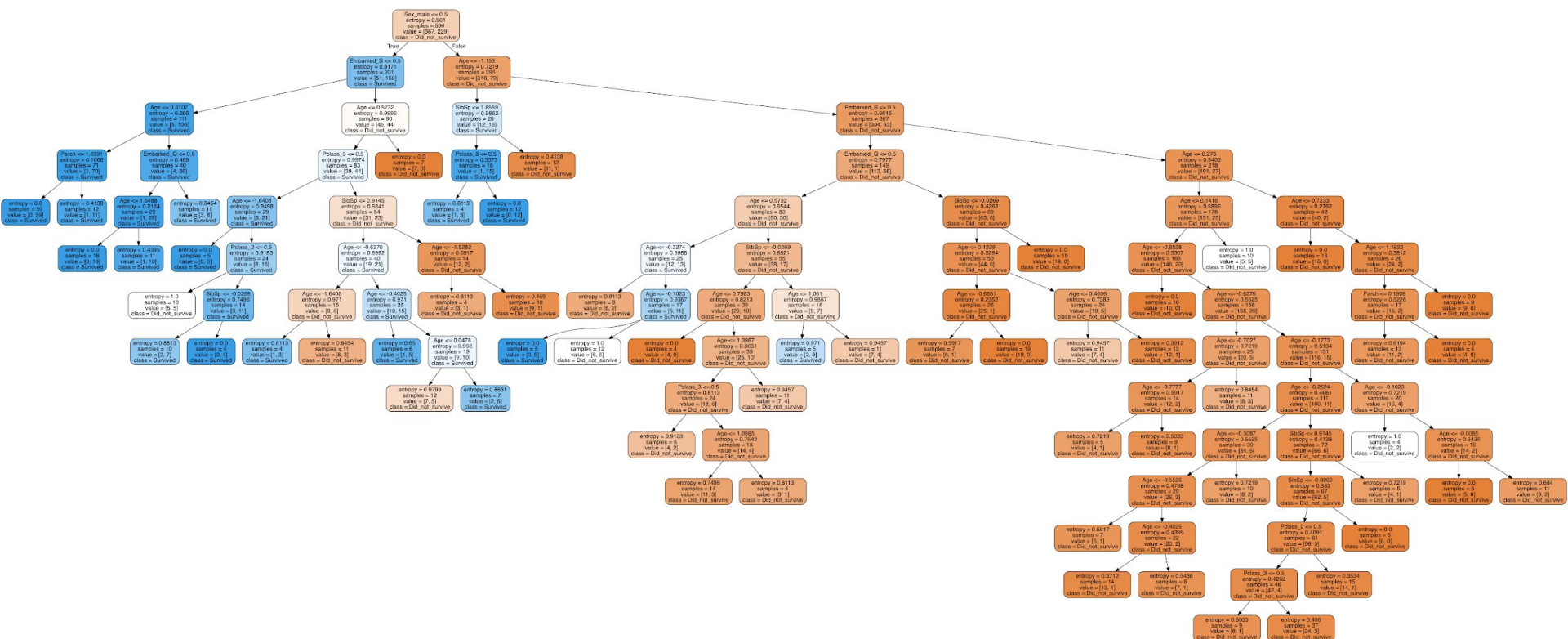
# 1. Use simple models



# 1. Use simple models



# 1. Use simple models



## 2. Measure the gradient

- **Calculate the gradient** of each input feature with respect to a certain label.
- **The magnitude of that gradient** shows the importance of the feature.

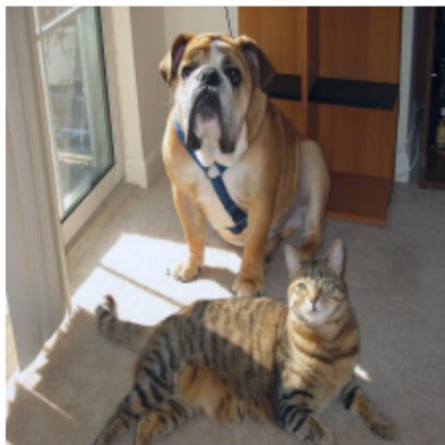
$$\hat{y} = f(x)$$

$$f'(x) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x + \Delta x) - x}{\Delta x}$$

The derivative shows how much the prediction would change if we changed the input feature by a small amount.

## 2. Measure the gradient

- **Calculate the gradient** of each input feature with respect to a certain label.
- **The magnitude of that gradient** shows the importance of the feature.



(a) Original Image



(c) Grad-CAM 'Cat'

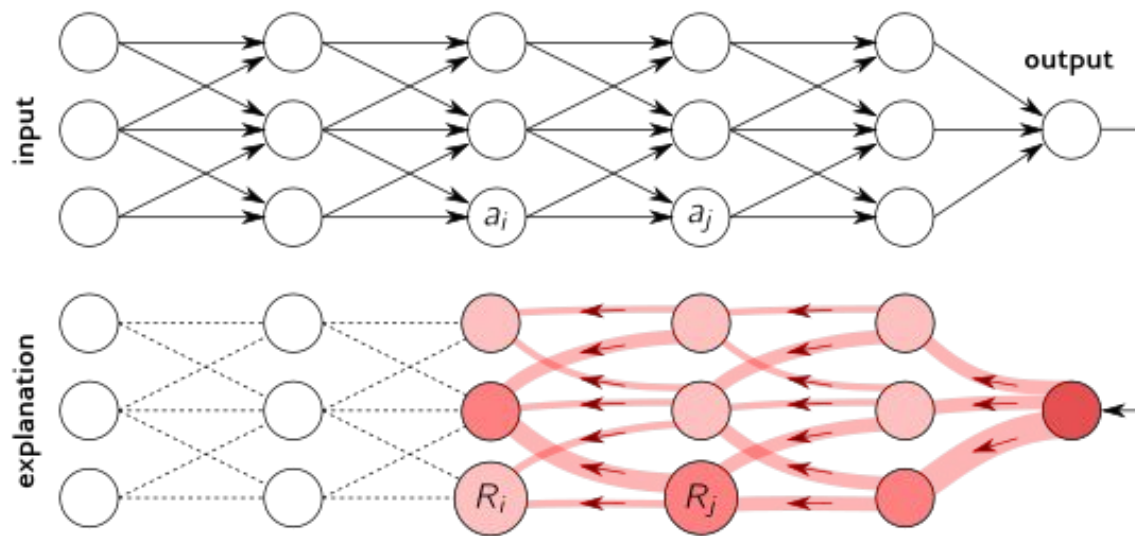


(i) Grad-CAM 'Dog'

Selvaraju et al (2016)

### 3. Layer-wise relevance propagation

- Very similar method to the gradient calculation
- Redistributes the prediction confidence in the opposite direction, based on the connecting weights



$$R_i = \sum_j \frac{a_i w_{ij}^+}{\sum_k a_k w_{kj}^+} R_j$$

## 4. Explain using examples

- Show examples that the model finds most similar or useful
- Can essentially calculate the gradient with respect to each training image to find its usefulness

Test image



Most helpful images of the same class



Most helpful image of a different class

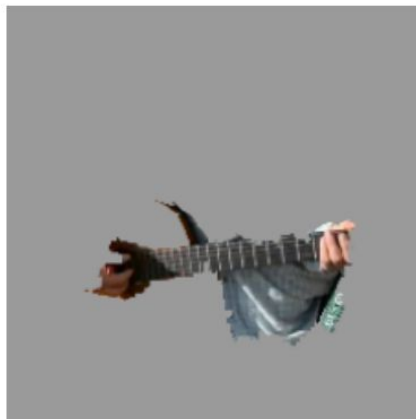


## 5. Train surrogate models

- Train a **simple model** to predict the output of the complex model
- **Block out parts** of the input space for training and visualisation.



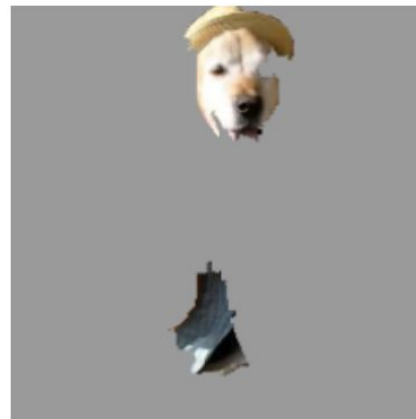
(a) Original Image



(b) Explaining *Electric guitar*



(c) Explaining *Acoustic guitar*



(d) Explaining *Labrador*

Ribeiro et al (2016)

## 6. Generate explanations

- Can train a supervised component to generate explanations
- The output can easily end up explaining the data, as opposed to the model



*This is a **Baltimore Oriole** because this is a small bird with a black head and orange body with black wings and tail.*  
*This is a **Cliff Swallow** because this bird has a black crown a black throat and a white belly.*  
*This is a **Painted Bunting** because this is a colorful bird with a red belly green head and a yellow throat.*



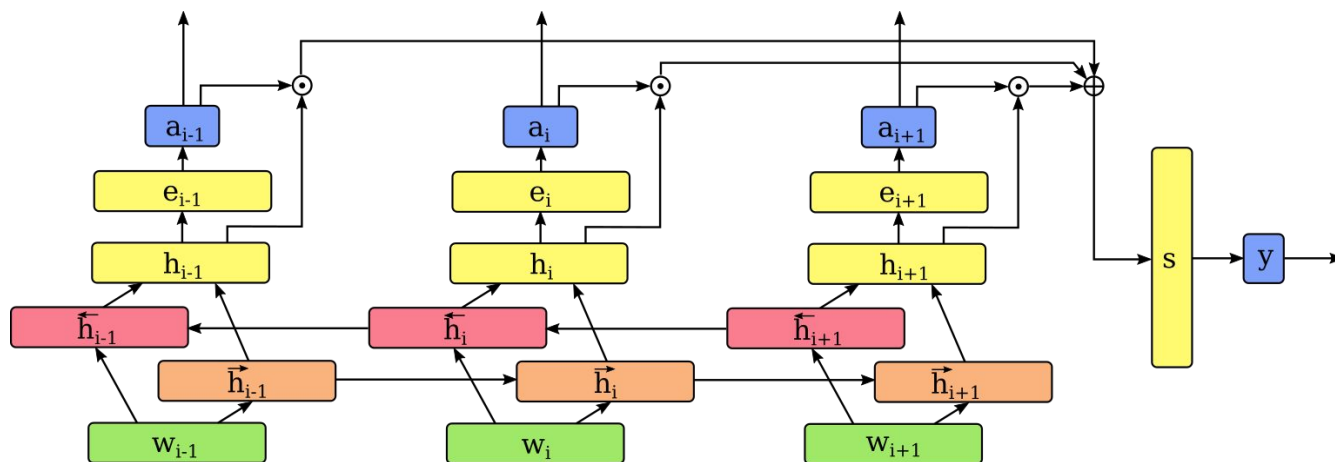
*This is a **Baltimore Oriole** because this is a small bird with a black head and a small beak.*  
*This is a **Cliff Swallow** because this bird has a black crown a brown wing and a white breast.*  
*This is a **Painted Bunting** because this is a small bird with a red belly and a blue head.*



*This is a **Baltimore Oriole** because this is a small orange bird with a black head and a small orange beak.*  
*This is a **Cliff Swallow** because this is a black bird with a red throat and a white belly.*  
*This is a **Painted Bunting** because this is a colorful bird with a red belly green head and a yellow throat.*

## 7. Design explainable models

- **Design the model to make finer-grained decisions**, which it uses to make the overall prediction.
- **Provides an inherent explainability** in the architecture.



Rei & Søgaard (2018)

## 7. Design explainable models

- **Design the model to make finer-grained decisions**, which it uses to make the overall prediction.
- **Provides an inherent explainability** in the architecture.



# Course Logistics

# Course structure

1 introductory lecture

3 sessions of paper presentations

6 papers to present, 15-20 min each

Everybody is expected to read all the papers and participate in the discussion

Assessment:

- Paper presentation (5%)

- Attendance and contribution to discussion (5%)

- Project report or essay (90%)

# Course structure

Everybody does a project in one of their chosen topics.

This could be:

- Replication of a method from previous work
- Small novel experiment
- A survey of existing methods

Report length up to 5000 words.

Deadline for sending me a 500 word project proposal:  
11 March

Deadline for submitting the report to the graduate education office:  
24 April 16:00

# Presentation schedule

| Date             | Presenter | Title                                                                                              |
|------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 25 Feb    | dk525     | Why should i trust you?: Explaining the predictions of any classifier (*)                          |
| Monday 25 Feb    | jbb50     | Generating visual explanations                                                                     |
| Wednesday 27 Feb | el476     | Show, attend and tell: Neural image caption generation with visual attention                       |
| Wednesday 27 Feb | ktwo2     | Grad-CAM: Visual Explanations from Deep Networks via Gradient-Based Localization                   |
| Monday 4 March   | acs207    | Explainable Prediction of Medical Codes from Clinical Text                                         |
| Monday 4 March   | jv401     | Evaluating neural network explanation methods using hybrid documents and morphosyntactic agreement |



**Any questions?**