

# Introduction to Computer Vision and Image Classification

**Danna Gurari**

University of Colorado Boulder

Fall 2022



<https://home.cs.colorado.edu/~DrG/Courses/NeuralNetworksAndDeepLearning/AboutCourse.html>

# Review

- Last lecture:
  - Neural Networks for Spatial Data
  - History of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)
  - CNNs – Convolutional Layers
  - CNNs – Pooling Layers
- Assignments (Canvas)
  - Problem set 2 due Monday
- Questions?

# Today's Topics

- Computer vision
- Era of dataset challenges
- MNIST challenge winner: LeNet
- ImageNet challenge winners: deeper learning (AlexNet, VGG, ResNet)
- Programming tutorial

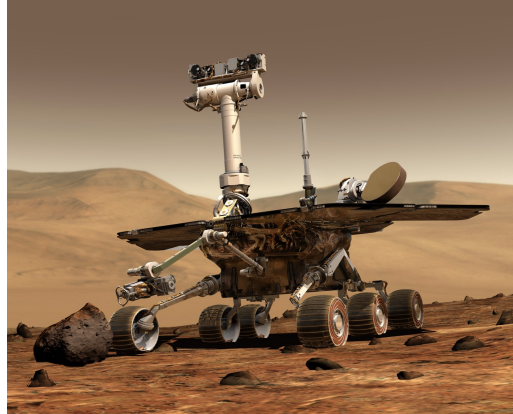
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# Computer Vision: Computers that “See”



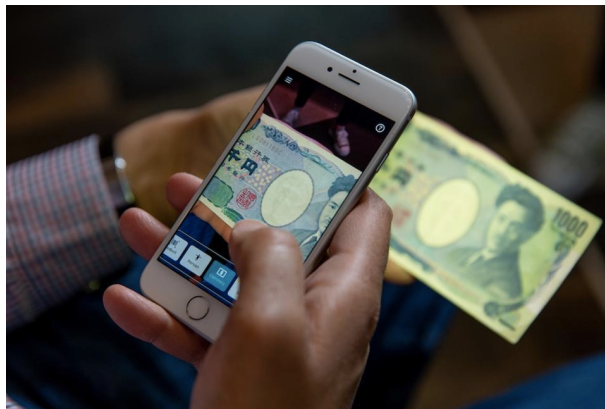
Self-driving cars



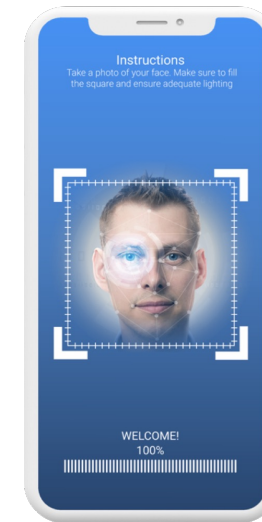
Exploration on Mars



Guided surgery



Visual assistance for people who are blind



Security

# Why Discuss Computer Vision With CNNs?

- CNNs have a strong track record for vision problems
- Visual data's representation (i.e., spatial data) is naturally suited for CNNs

157	153	174	168	150	152	129	151	172	161	155	156
155	182	163	74	75	62	33	17	110	210	180	154
180	180	50	14	34	6	10	33	48	106	159	181
206	109	5	124	131	111	120	204	166	15	56	180
194	68	137	251	237	239	239	228	227	87	71	201
172	105	207	233	233	214	220	239	228	98	74	206
188	88	179	209	185	215	211	158	139	75	20	169
189	97	165	84	10	168	134	11	31	62	22	148
199	168	191	193	158	227	178	143	182	106	36	190
205	174	155	252	236	231	149	178	228	43	95	234
190	216	116	149	236	187	86	150	79	38	218	241
190	224	147	108	227	210	127	102	36	101	255	224
190	214	173	66	103	143	96	50	2	109	249	215
187	196	235	75	1	81	47	0	6	217	255	211
183	202	237	145	0	0	12	108	200	138	243	236
195	206	123	207	177	121	123	200	175	13	96	218

Image:

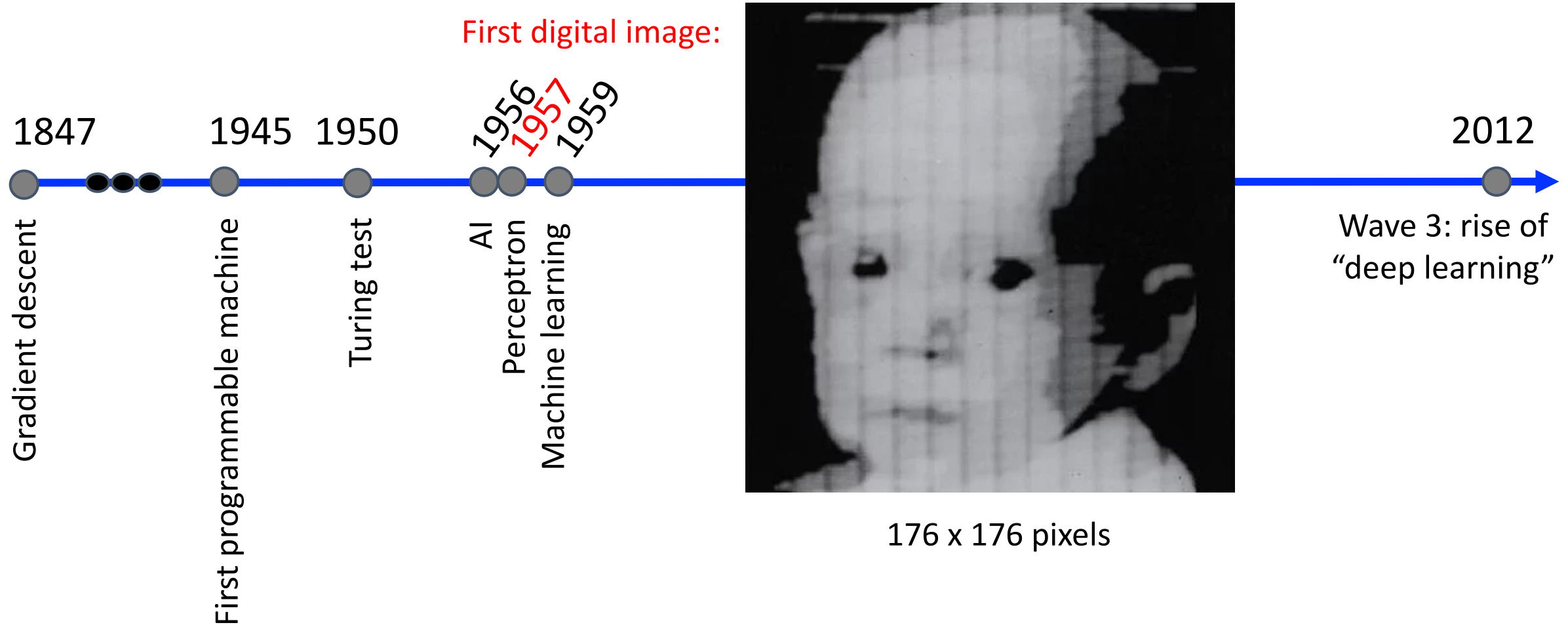
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## Video:

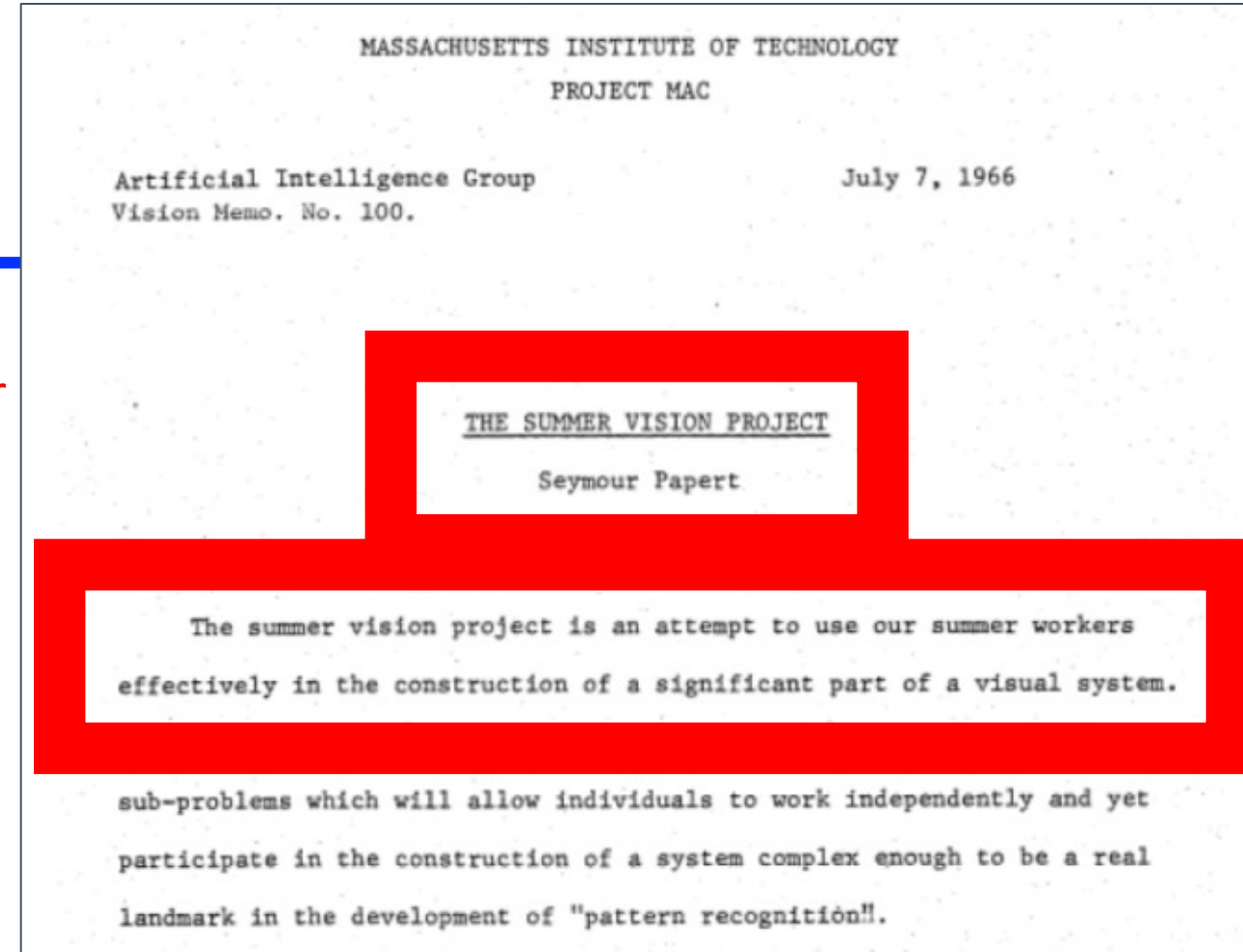
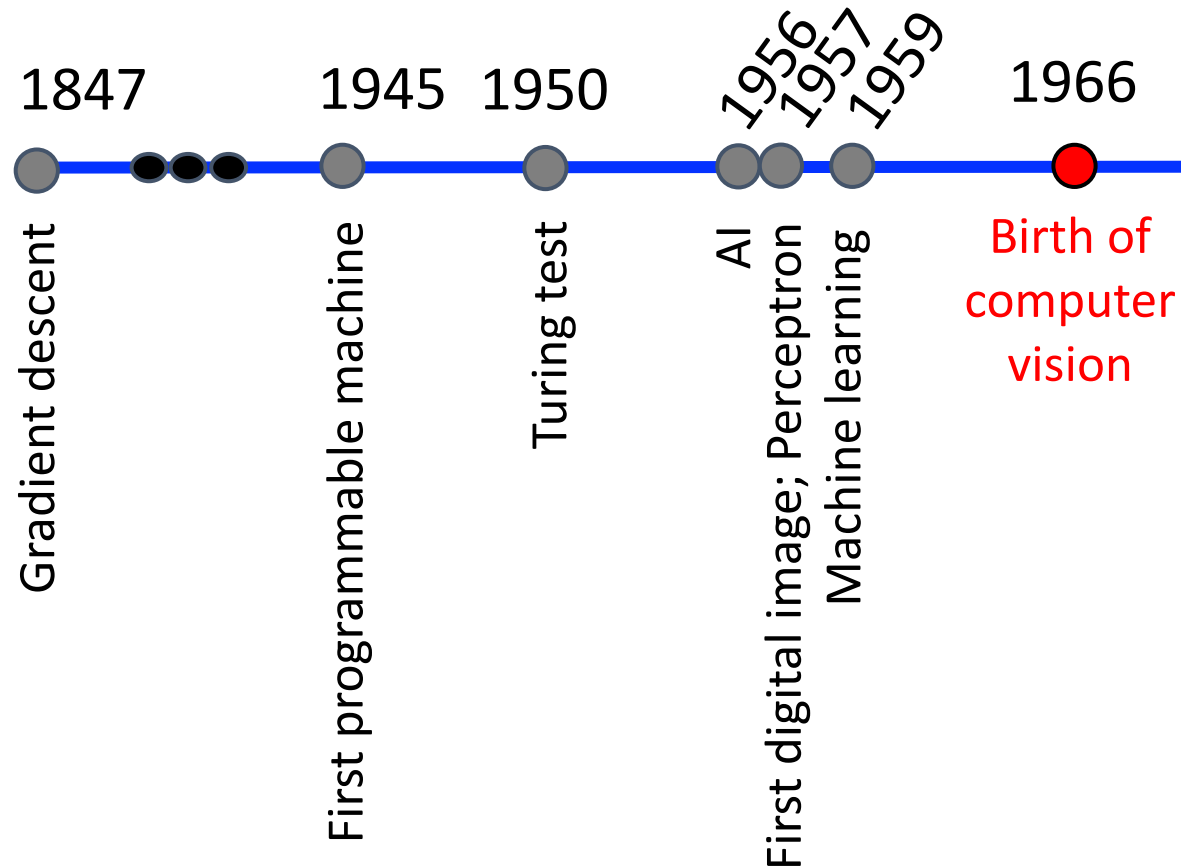
Time  $t$ 

Time 1

# Historical Context: Origins of Computer Vision

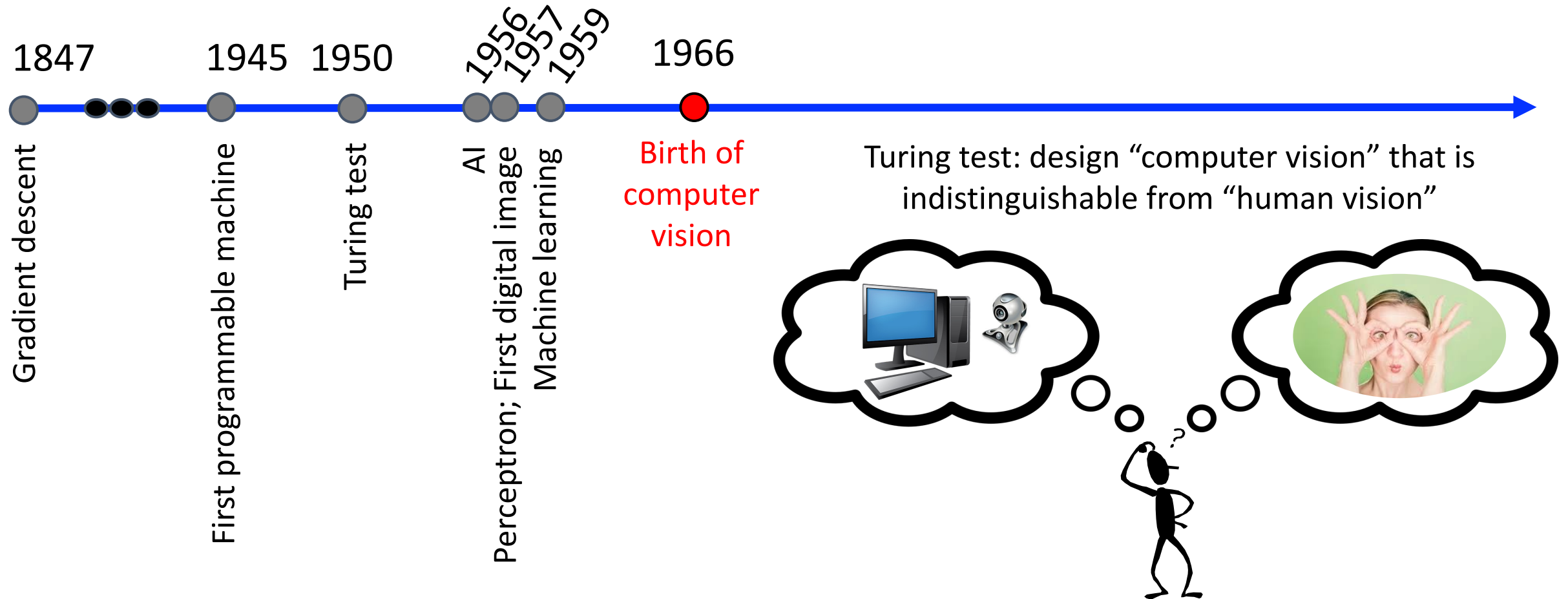


# Historical Context: Origins of Computer Vision

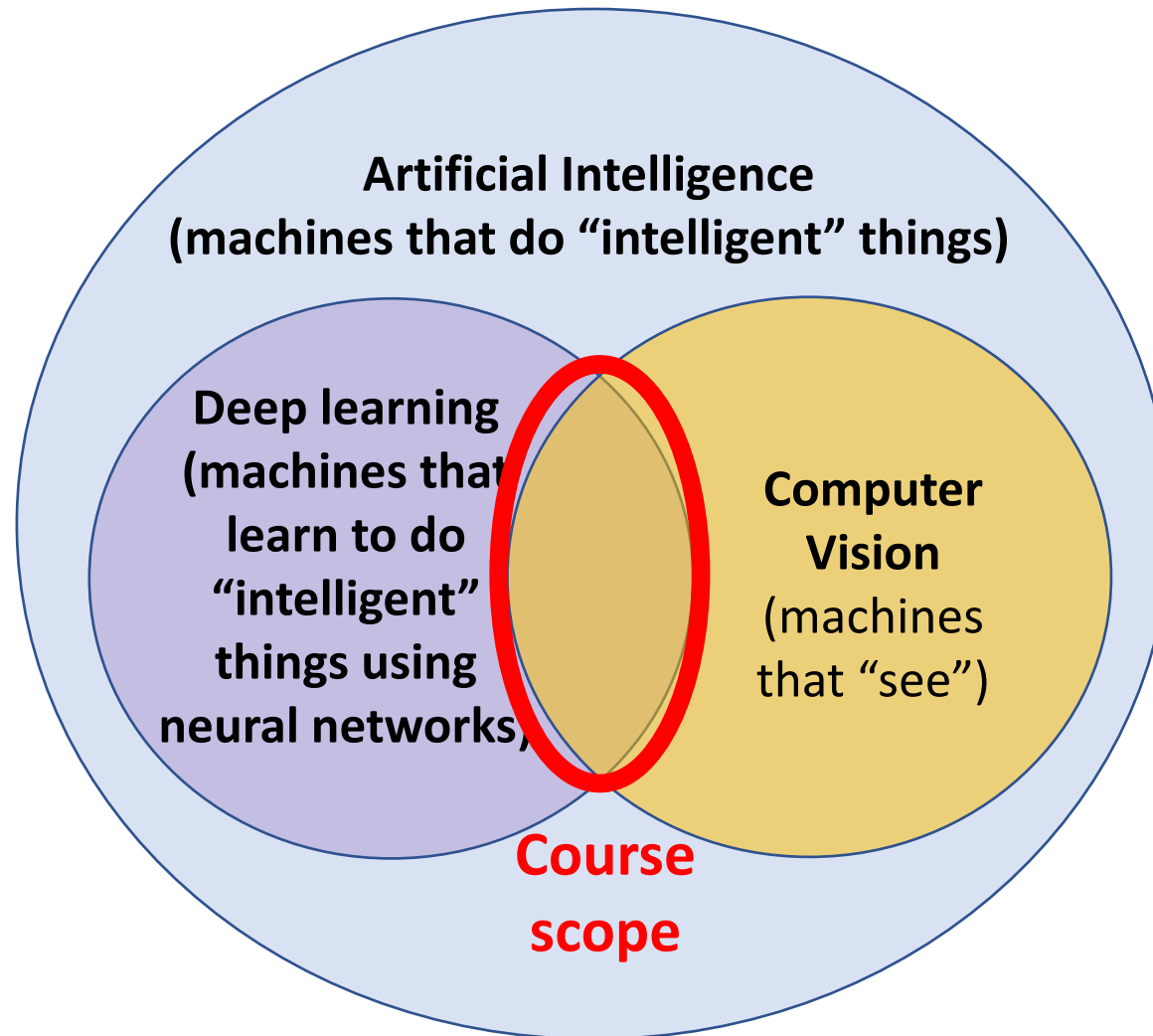




# Historical Context: Origins of Computer Vision



# Computer Vision in Context



# Key Challenge: Replicate Human Vision for So Much Variation for **So Many Tasks!**

- Object recognition
- Object detection
- Segmentation
- Image captioning
- Visual question answering
- Object tracking
- Subjective problems
- And more...

# Key Challenge: Replicate Human Vision for So Much Variation for So Many Tasks!

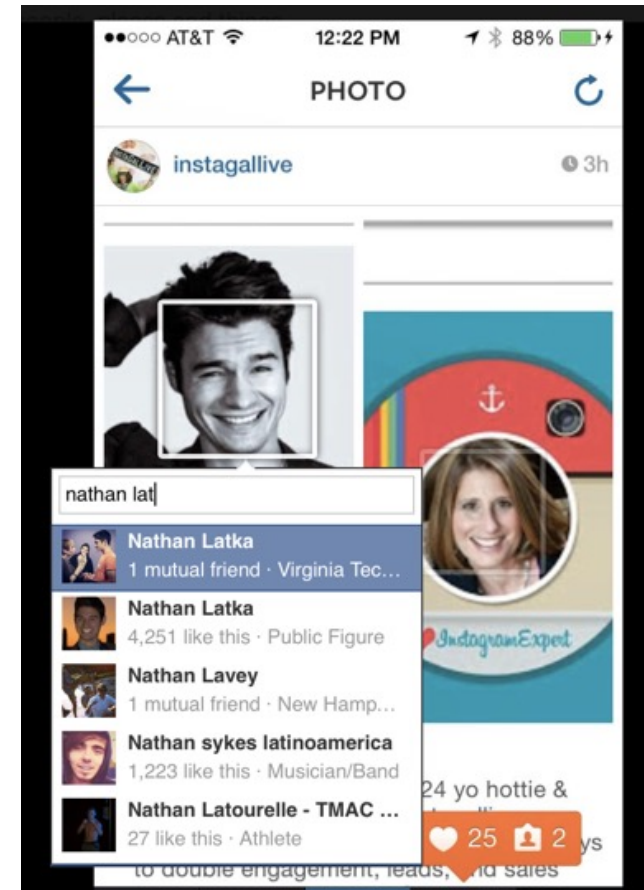
- Object recognition
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e.g., take a picture of an object and find where to buy it

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e.g., detect faces to tag

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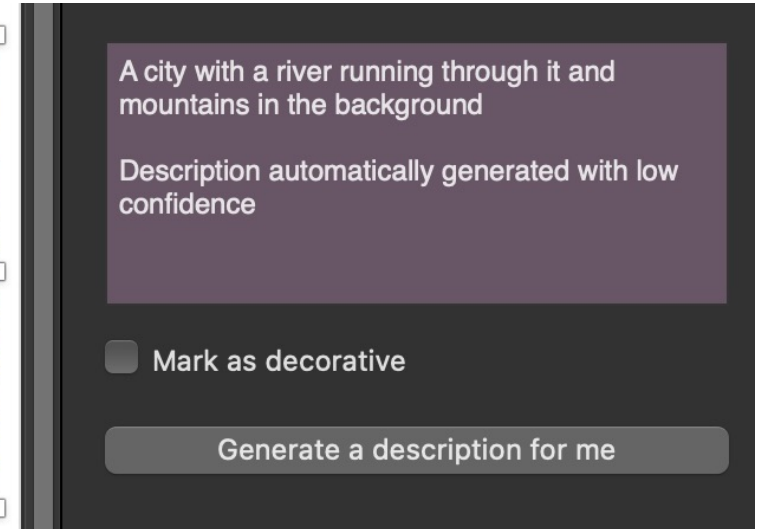
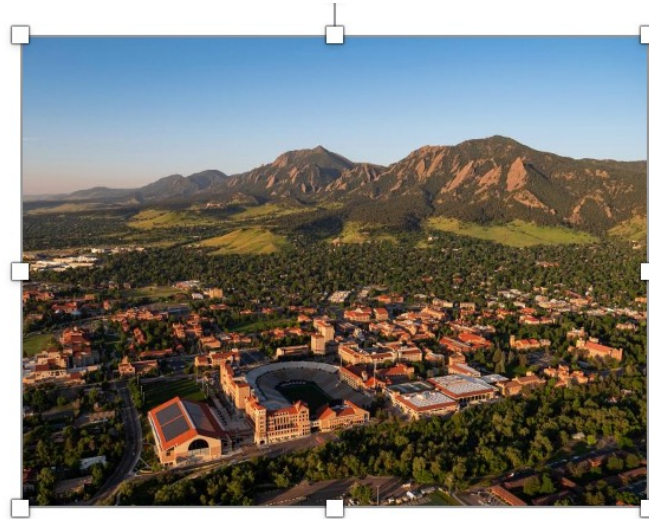


e.g., rotoscoping

<https://www.starnow.co.uk/ahmedmohammed1/photos/4650871/before-and-after-rotoscopinggreen-screening>

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- And more...



e.g., Microsoft Power Point



# Key Challenge: Replicate Human Vision for So Much Variation for So Many Tasks!

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- **Visual question answering**
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- And more...



Did the waiter  
serve the  
Cabernet I  
ordered? It  
tastes  
strange...

Hello! Actually  
you are  
drinking a  
*Merlot!*

e.g., BeSpecular

<https://www.lionessesofafrica.com/blog/2015/2/15/the-startup-story-of-stephanie-cowper>



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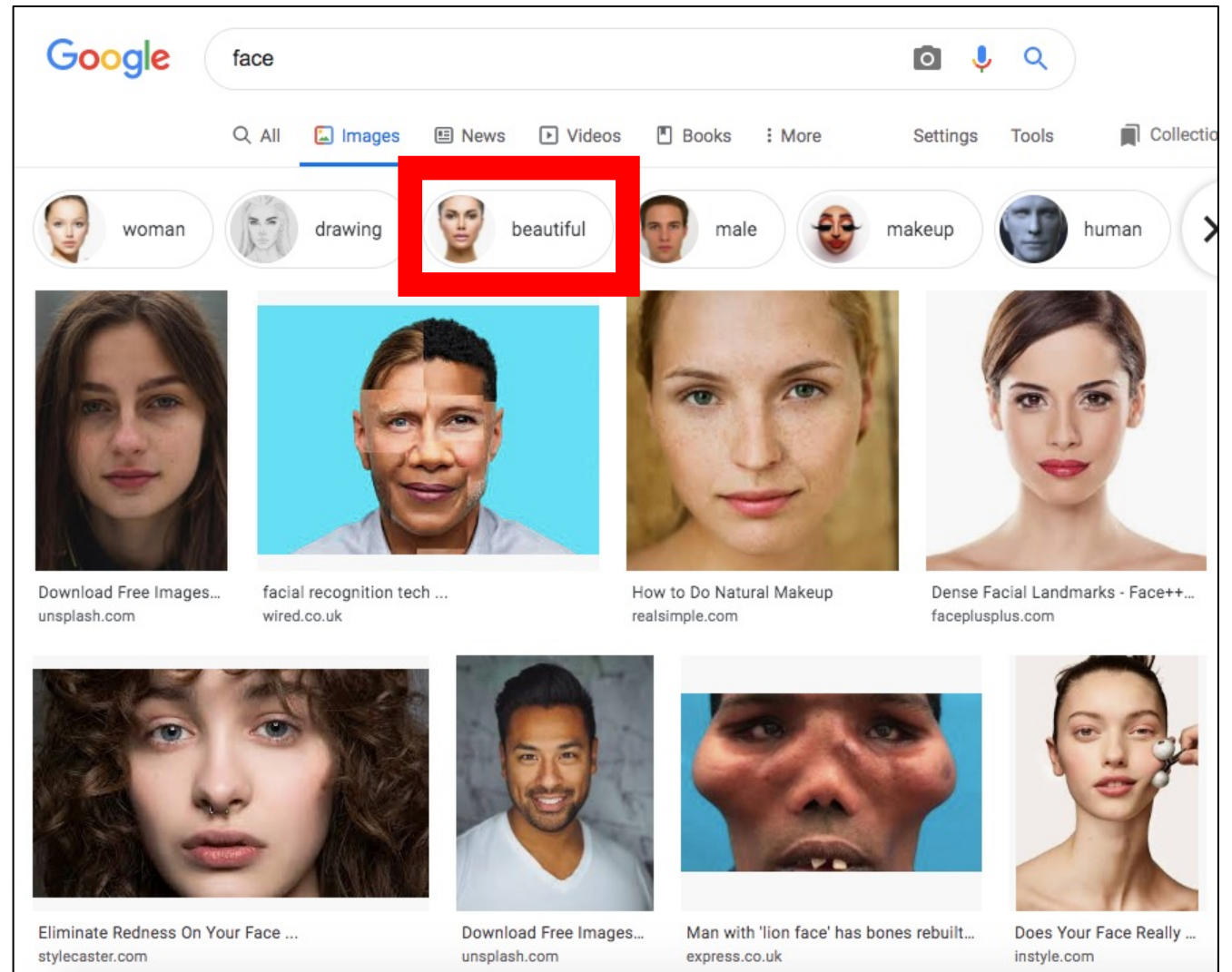
e.g., track bowling ball path



e.g., calculate bat speed

# Key Challenge: Replicate Human Vision for So Much Variation for So Many Tasks!

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# Key Challenge: Replicate Human Vision for So Much Variation for **So Many Tasks!**

- Object recognition
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- **And more...**

# Key Challenge: Replicate Human Vision for So Much Variation for So Many Tasks!



**Illumination**



**Object pose**



**Clutter**



**Occlusions**



**Intra-class  
appearance**



**Viewpoint**

# Today's Topics

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- MNIST challenge winner: LeNet
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# Through 1990s, Common Approach to Developing Computer Vision Models:

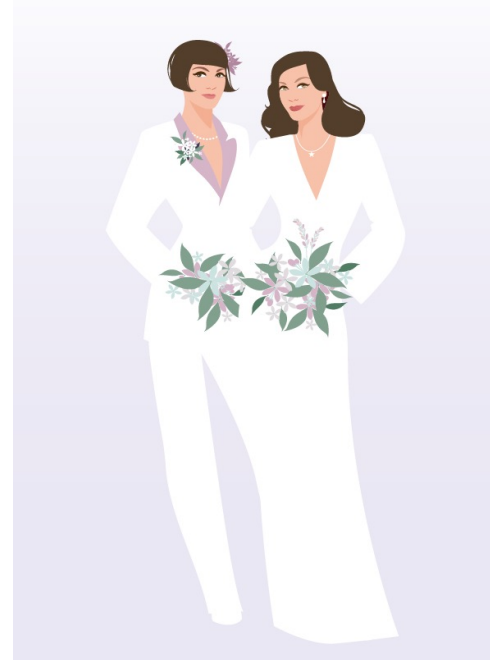
Algorithm Dataset



Algorithm Dataset



Algorithm Dataset

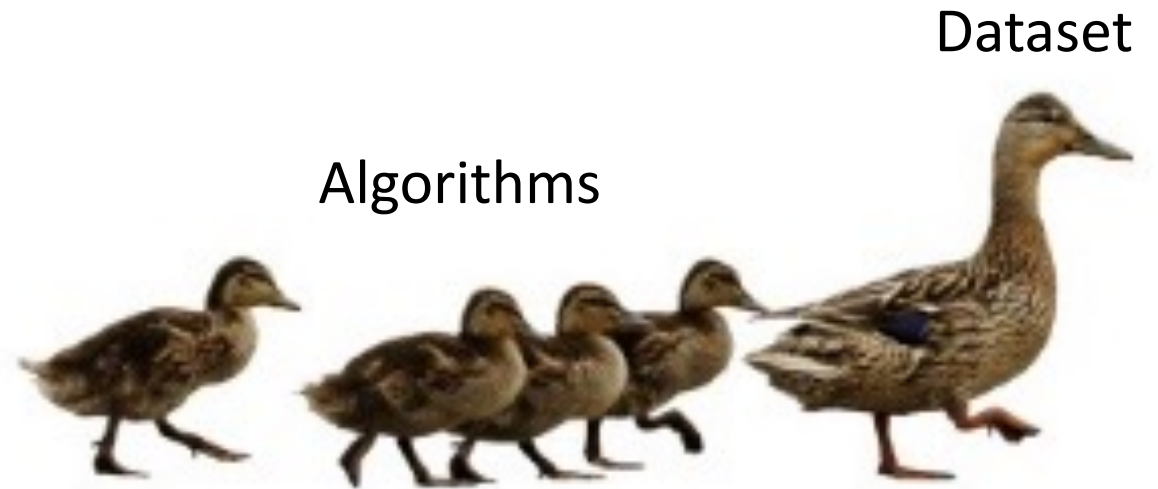


Algorithm Dataset



Datasets tended to be relatively small (e.g., 10s or 100s of examples)

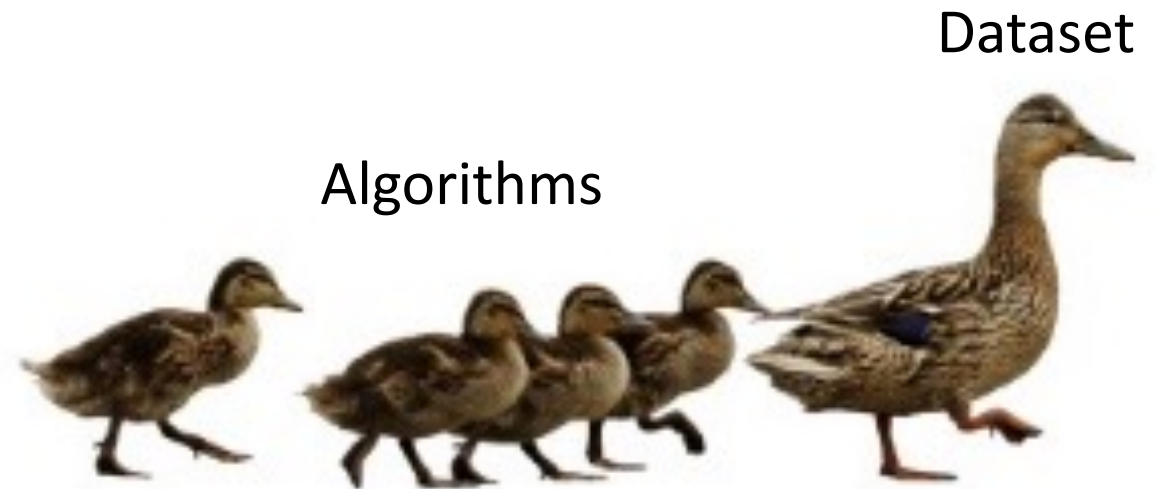
# Since 1990s, Common Approach to Developing Computer Vision Models:



Datasets tend to be large (i.e., thousands to millions of examples)

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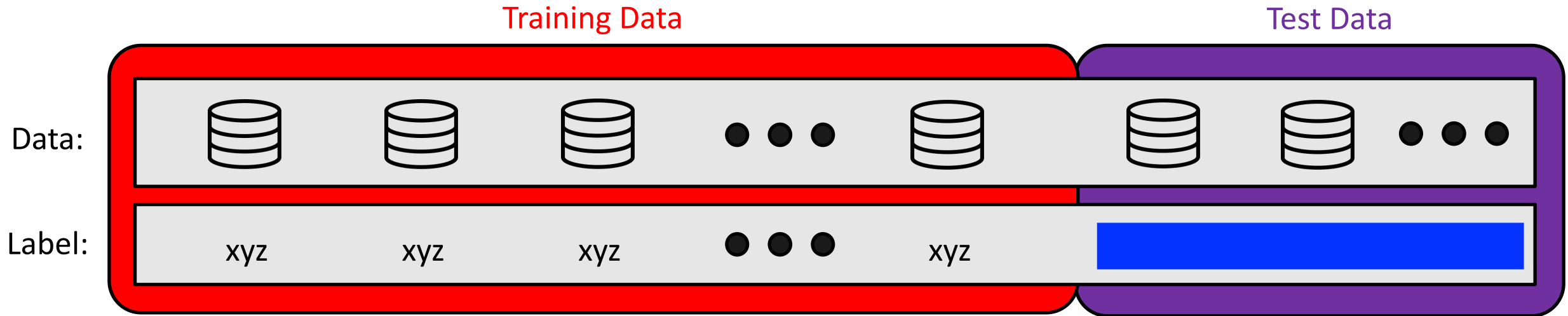
What do you think prompted this shift to large-scale datasets?



Datasets tend to be large (i.e., thousands to millions of examples)



# Progress Charted by Progress on Community Shared Dataset Challenges: How It Works



1. Dataset split into a “**training set**” and “**test set**” with the **labels for the “test set” hidden**
2. Teams design a model and submit its predictions on the test set to an evaluation server
3. A public leaderboard shows the ranking of performance for all teams’ submitted models

# Progress Charted by Progress on Community Shared Dataset Challenges: Why Challenges?

- Provide “fair” comparison between models
- Create a community around a shared goal

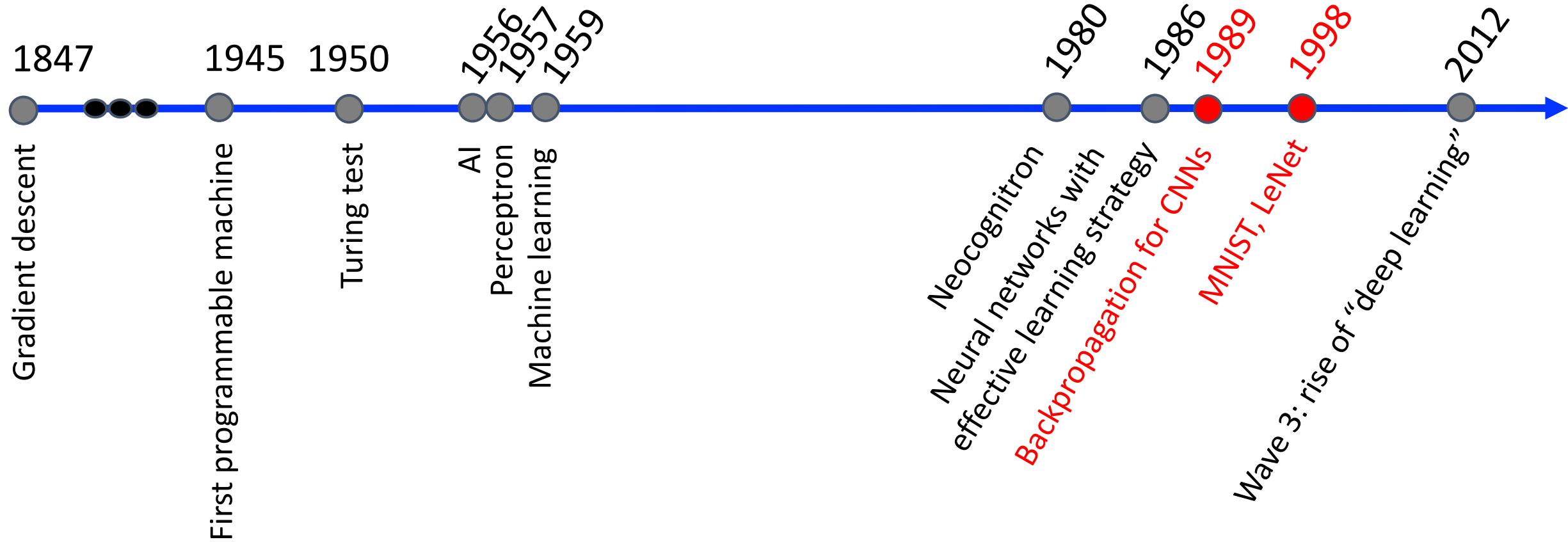
# Many Public Dataset Challenges Available; e.g.,

- [Google Dataset Search](#)
- [Amazon's AWS datasets](#)
- [Kaggle datasets](#)
- [Wikipedia's list](#)
- [UC Irvine Machine Learning Repository](#)
- Quora.com
- Reddit
- Dataportals.org
- Opendatamonitor.eu
- Quandl.com

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# Historical Context: Inspiration



**Key contribution:** showing how to perform backpropagation for CNNs to enable learning thereby eliminating the need for hand-crafted filters

# MNIST Dataset Challenge

- **Goal:** classify digit as 0, 1, ..., or 9
- **Evaluation metric:** accuracy (% correct)
- **Dataset:** 60,000 training and 10,000 test examples, pre-processed to be centered and same dimension; writers were different in the two sets
- **Source:** images collected by NIST from a total of 500 Census Bureau employees and high school students

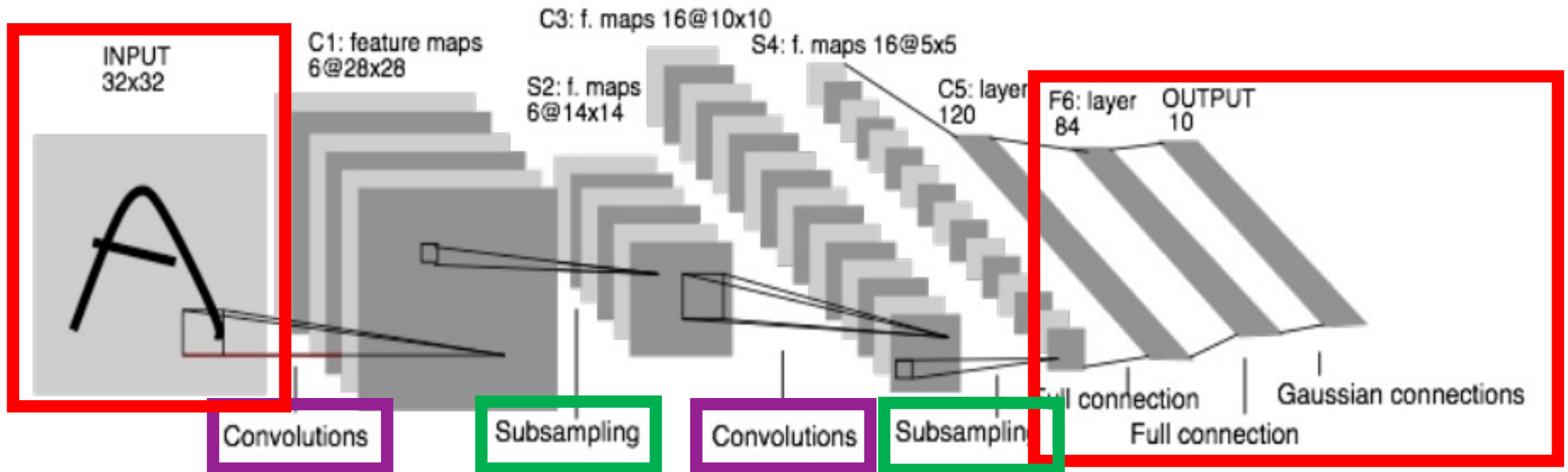


Dataset location: <http://yann.lecun.com/exdb/mnist/>

NIST dataset: <https://www.nist.gov/srd/nist-special-database-19>

Figure source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=64810040>

# LeNet: Architecture (like Neocognitron, has **convolutional** layers and **pooling** layers)

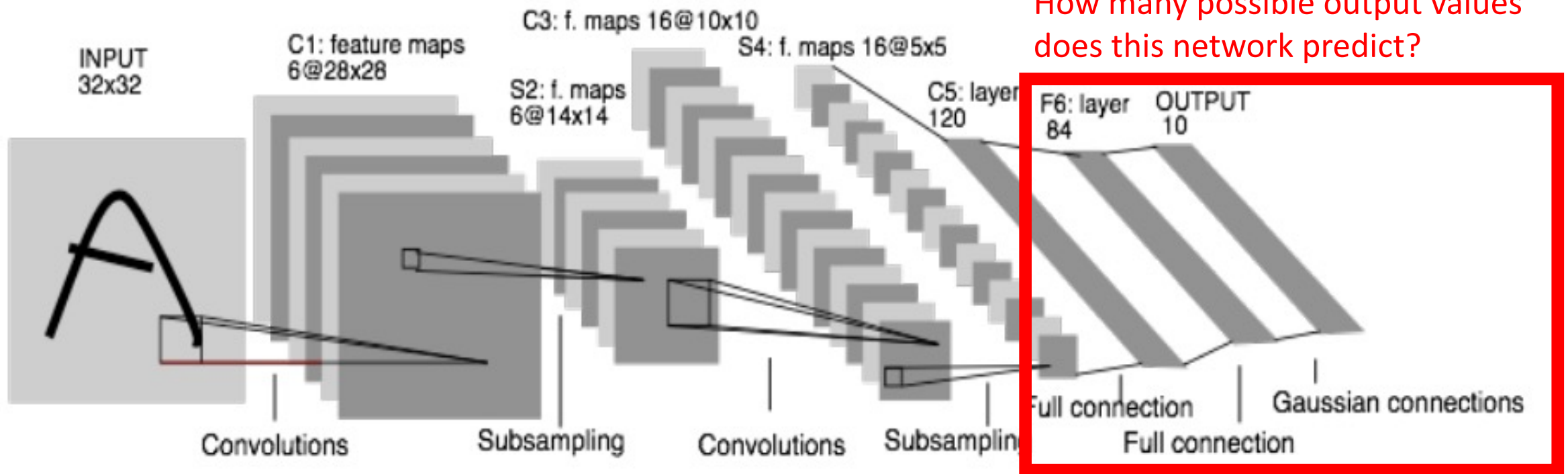


tanh is used as the activation function

Multi-layer neural network



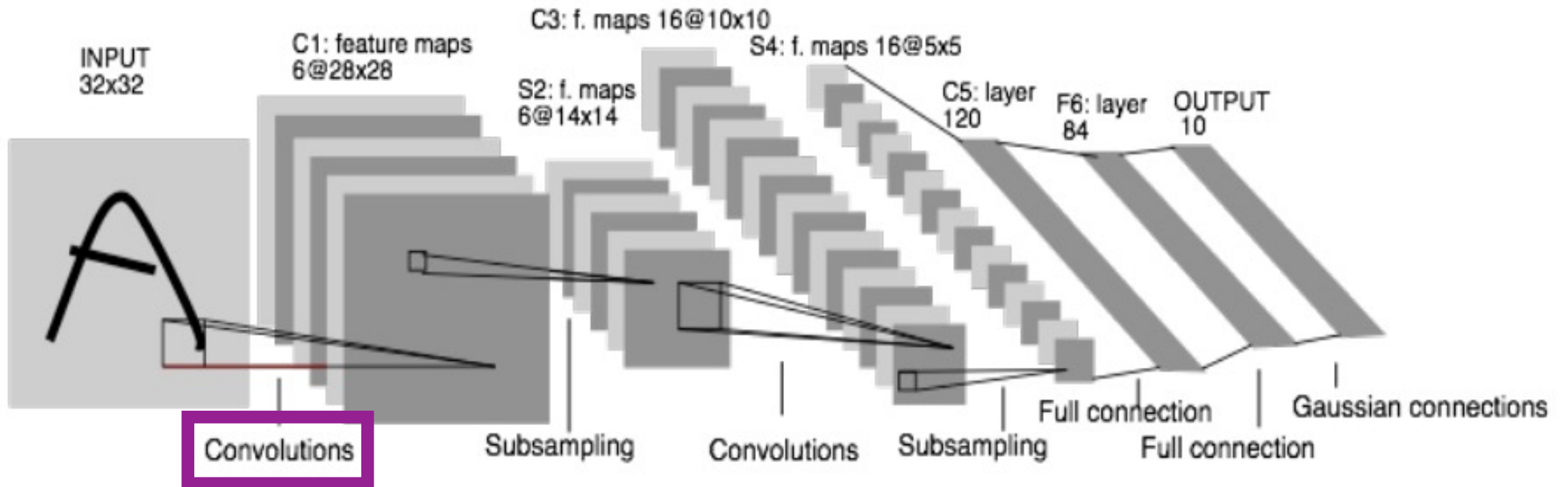
# LeNet: Architecture (like Neocognitron, has convolutional layers and pooling layers)



How many possible output values does this network predict?

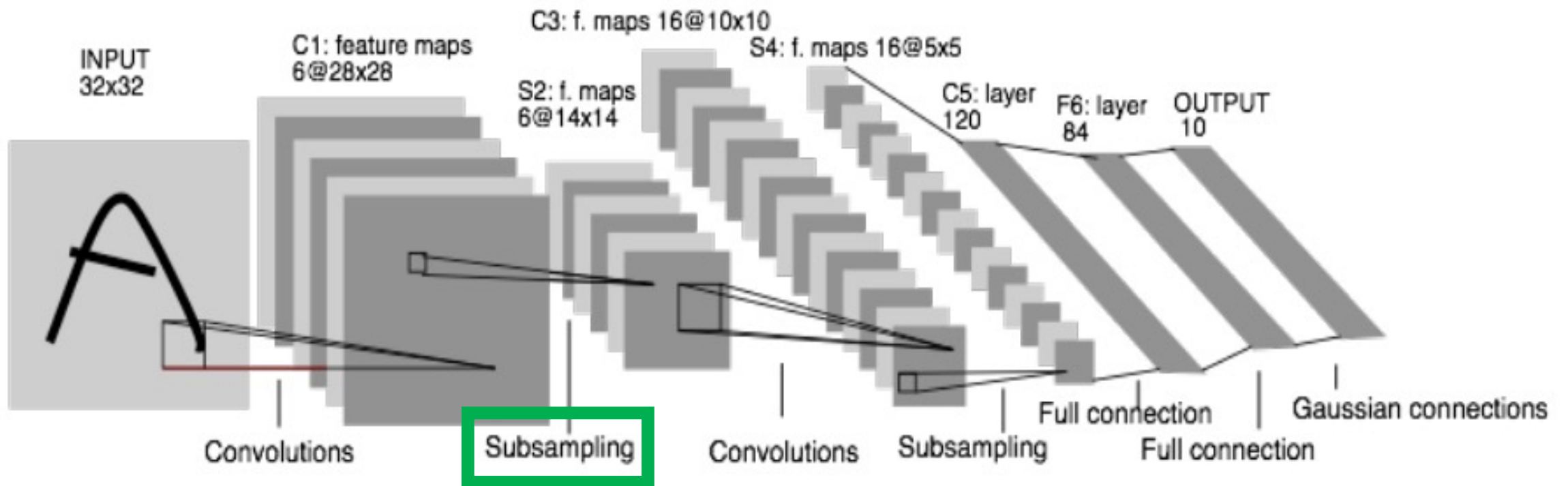
Multi-layer neural network

# LeNet: Architecture (like Neocognitron, has convolutional layers and pooling layers)



How many filters are between the input and hidden layer 1?

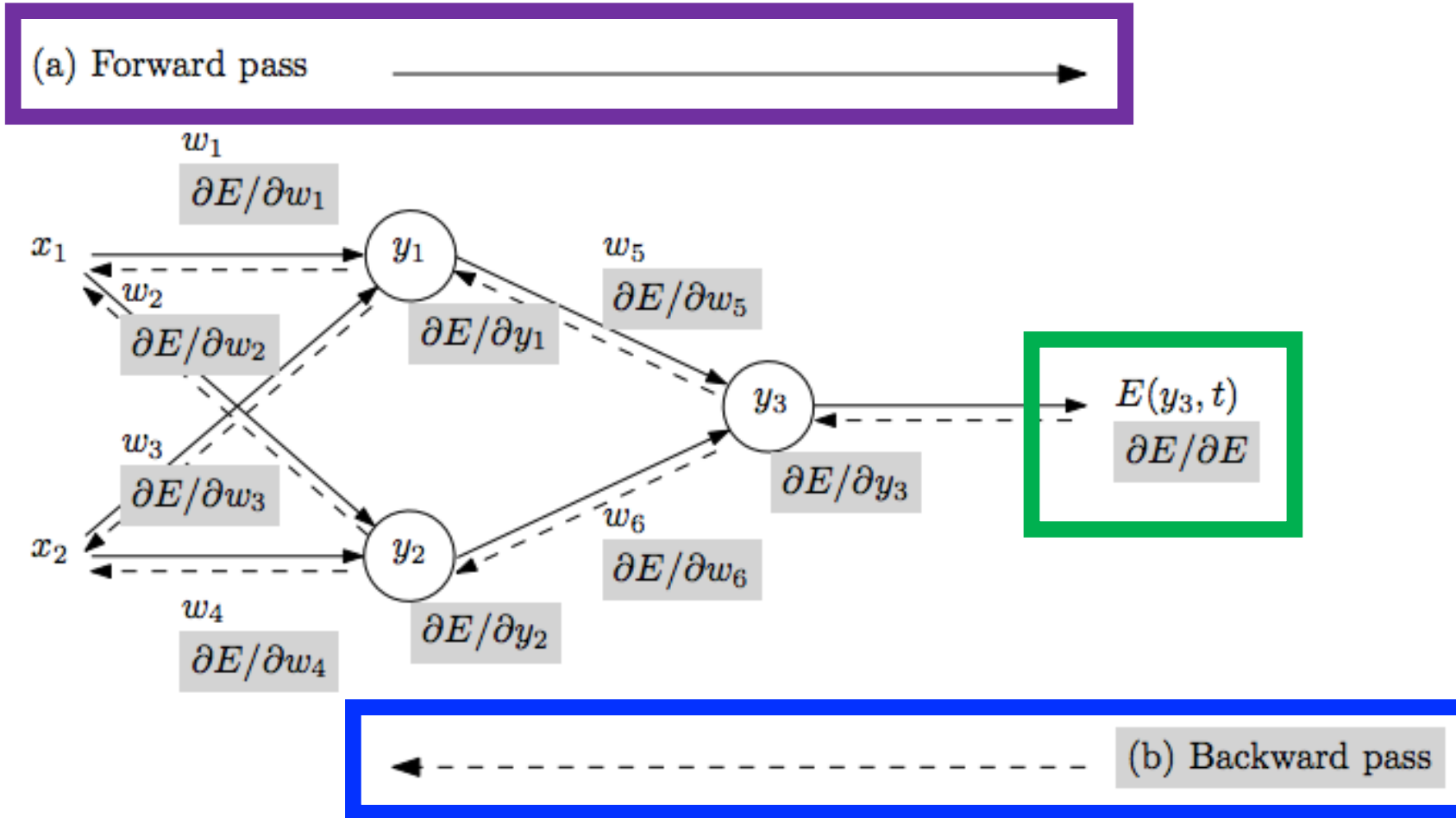
# LeNet: Architecture (like Neocognitron, has convolutional layers and pooling layers)



What size of a neighborhood  
is used for this pooling layer?

# Training Procedure Approach (Key Novelty)

- Repeat until stopping criterion met:



- Forward pass:** propagate training data through model to make prediction
- Quantify the dissatisfaction with a model's results on the training data
- Backward pass:** using predicted output, calculate gradients backward to assign blame to each model parameter
- Account for weight sharing by using average of all connections for a parameter
- Update each parameter using calculated gradients

Figure from: Atilim Gunes Baydin, Barak A. Pearlmutter, Alexey Andreyevich Radul, Jeffrey Mark Siskind; Automatic Differentiation in Machine Learning: a Survey; 2018

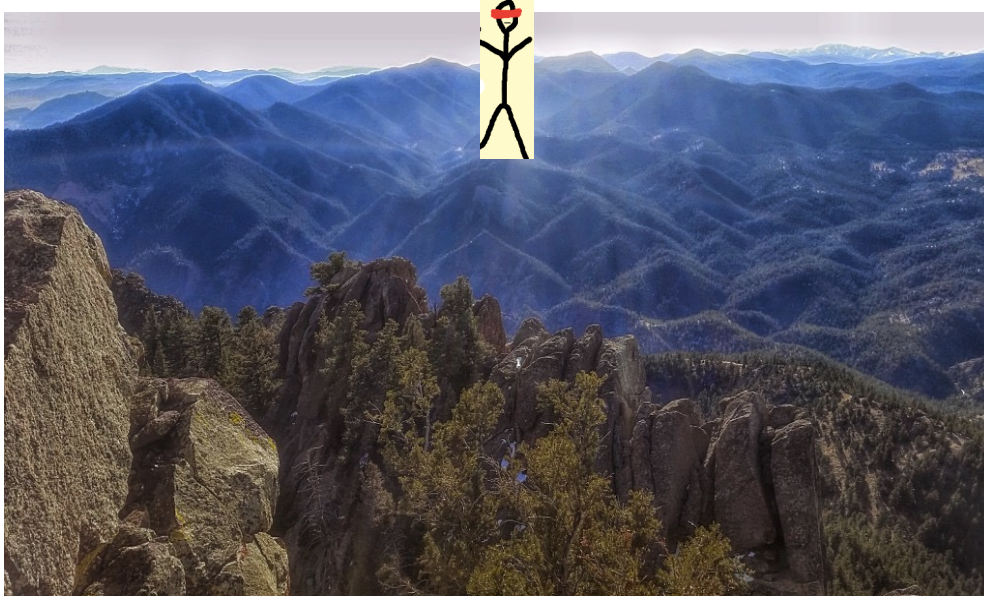
# Training Procedure Approach (Key Novelty)

- Repeat until stopping criterion met:

Still obtain an error surface,  $E$ , based on the chosen objective function (e.g., using mean squared error, cross entropy loss)



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Still decide how to adjust model parameters (weights, biases) to push the predictions closer to the corresponding ground truth; a different gradient derivation used to tweak each value in each convolutional filter



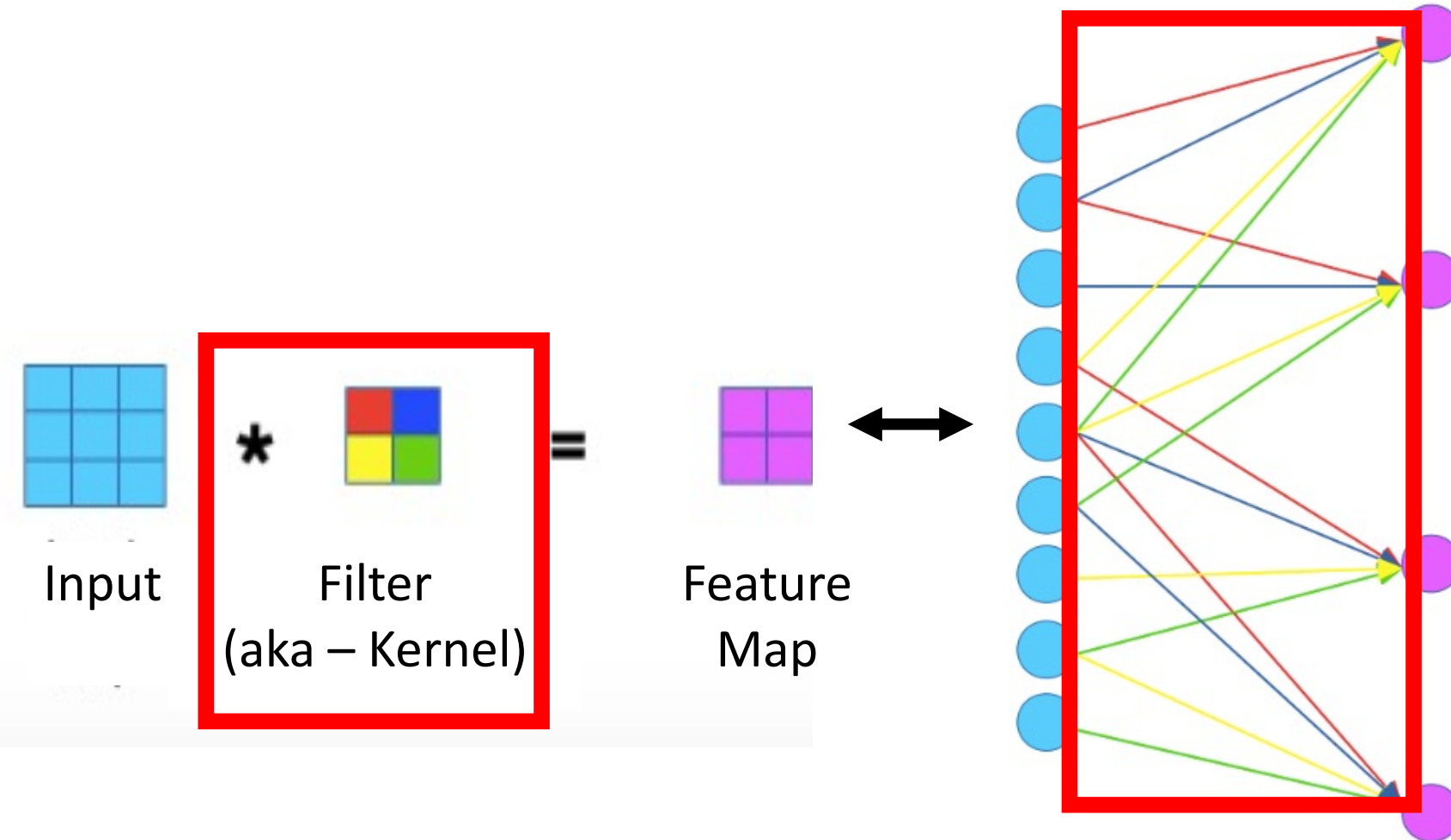
(covered in Section 6.3 of Kamath book and <https://www.jefkine.com/general/2016/09/05/backpropagation-in-convolutional-neural-networks/>)



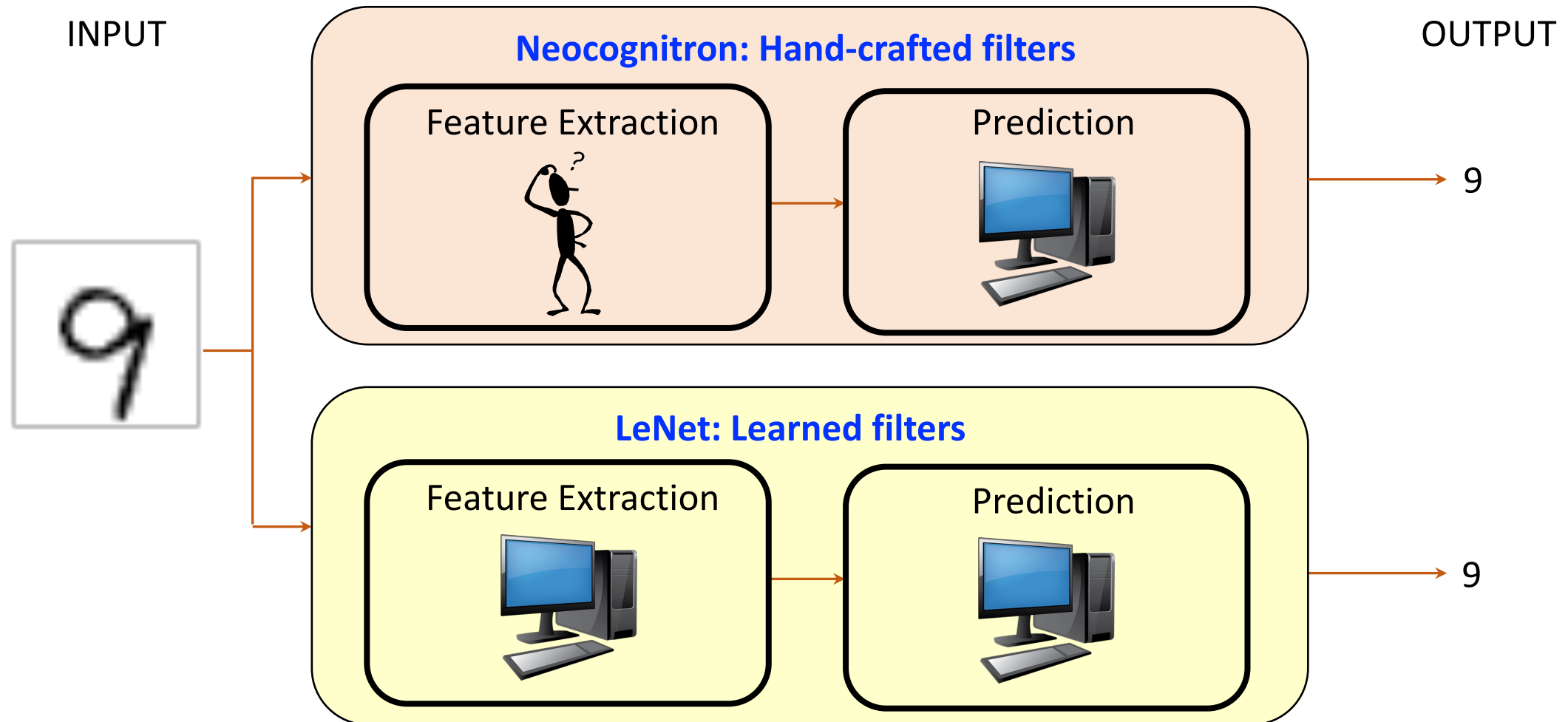
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# LeNet vs Neocognitron



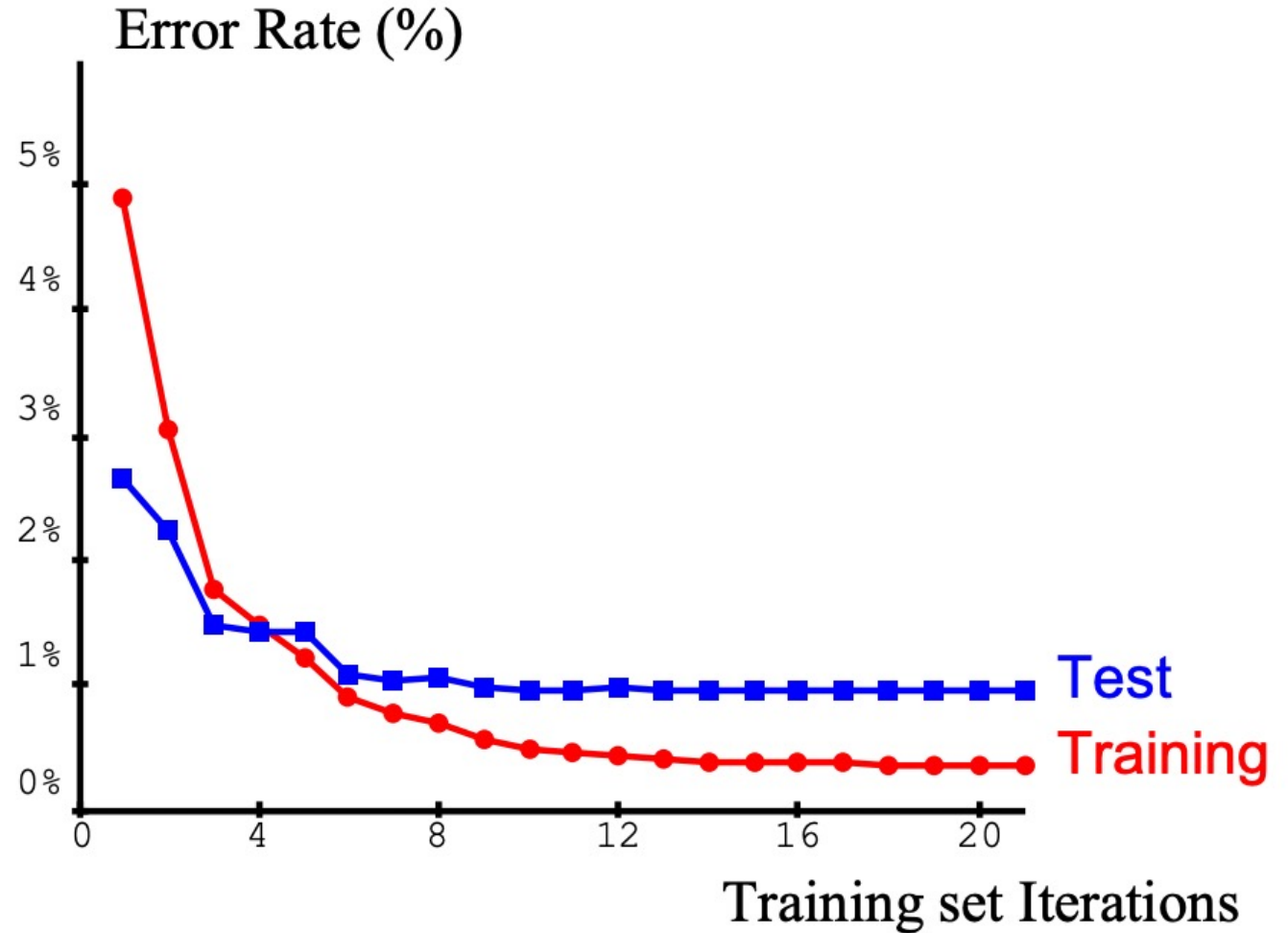


# LeNet Analysis

How many epochs are needed for training to converge?

Why might overfitting not arise with more training?

- Learning rate was too large for the model to settle in a local minimum but rather oscillated randomly



# LeNet Analysis

All 82 mislabeled examples  
(correct answer on left,  
predicted answer on right):

Why might the model be  
making mistakes?

- Insufficient representation  
in the training data
- Ambiguity

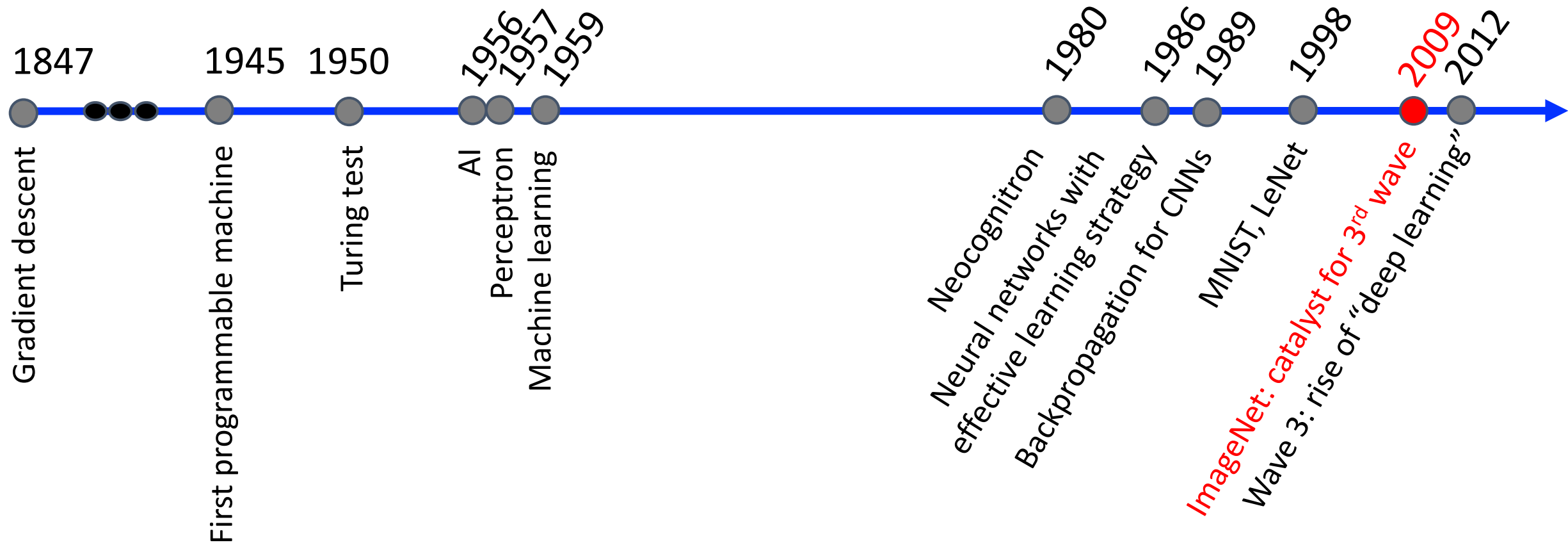


LeNet, designed on the MNIST Challenge, was used to read over 10% of checks in North America in the 1990s, reading millions of checks every month

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# Historical Context



# ImageNet: Predict Category from 1000 Options

- **Evaluation metric:** % correct (top-1 and top-5 predictions)
- **Dataset:** ~1.5 million images
- **Source:** images scraped from search engines, such as Flickr, and labeled by crowdworkers





# ImageNet vs MNIST

- 3D objects in natural backgrounds
- Many more categories



# Rise of “Deep Learning”

## Progress of models on ImageNet (Top 5 Error)

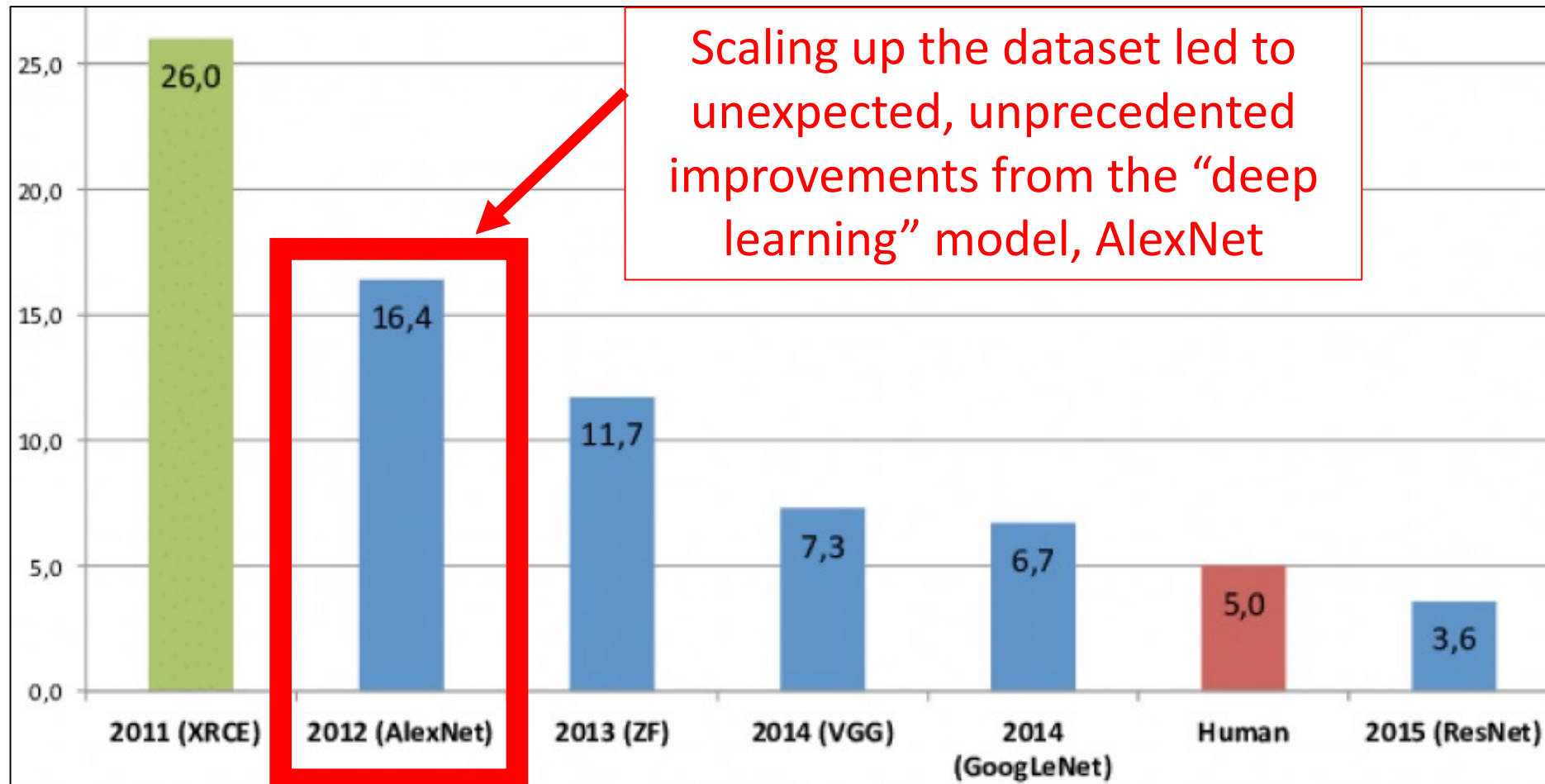
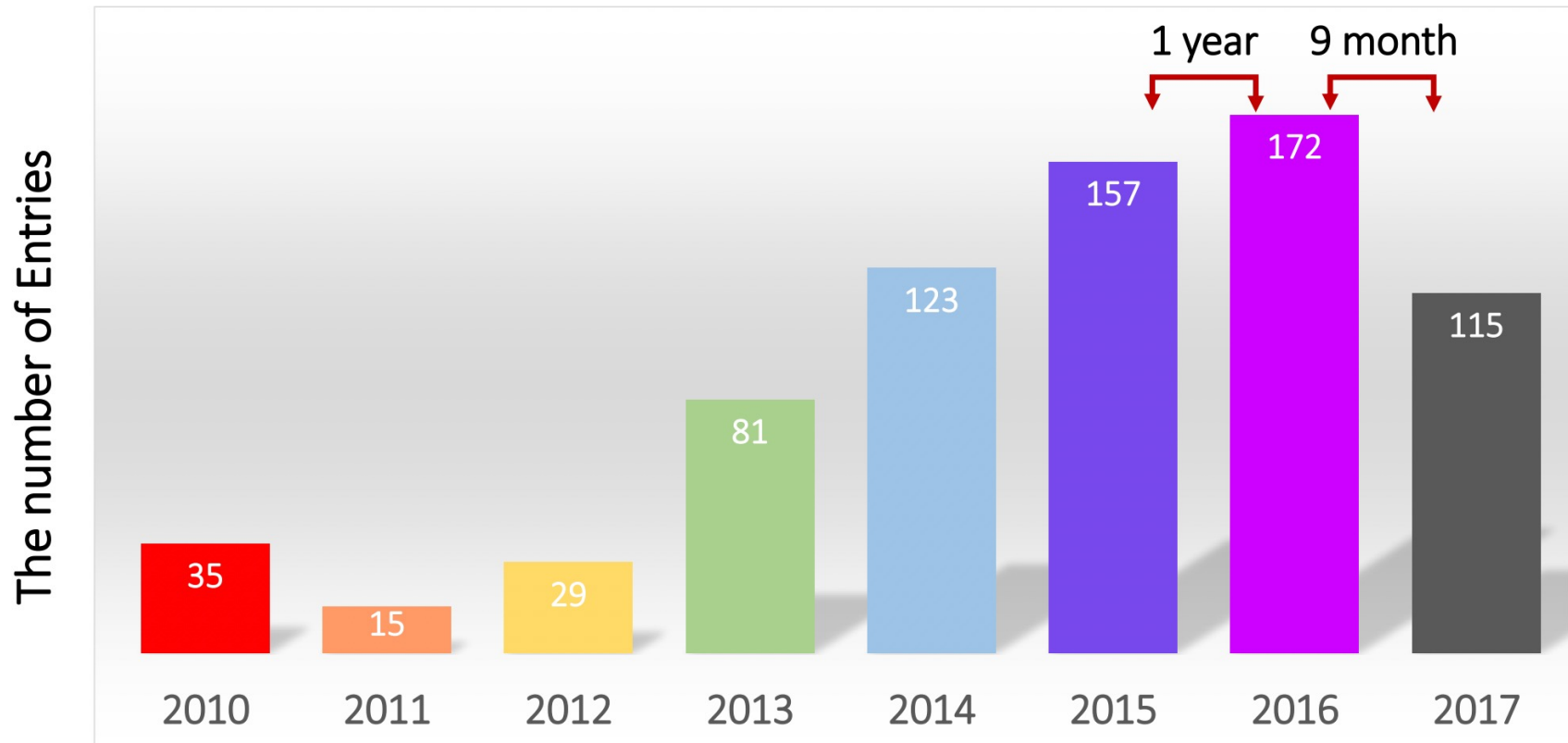


Figure Source: <https://www.edge-ai-vision.com/2018/07/deep-learning-in-five-and-a-half-minutes/>

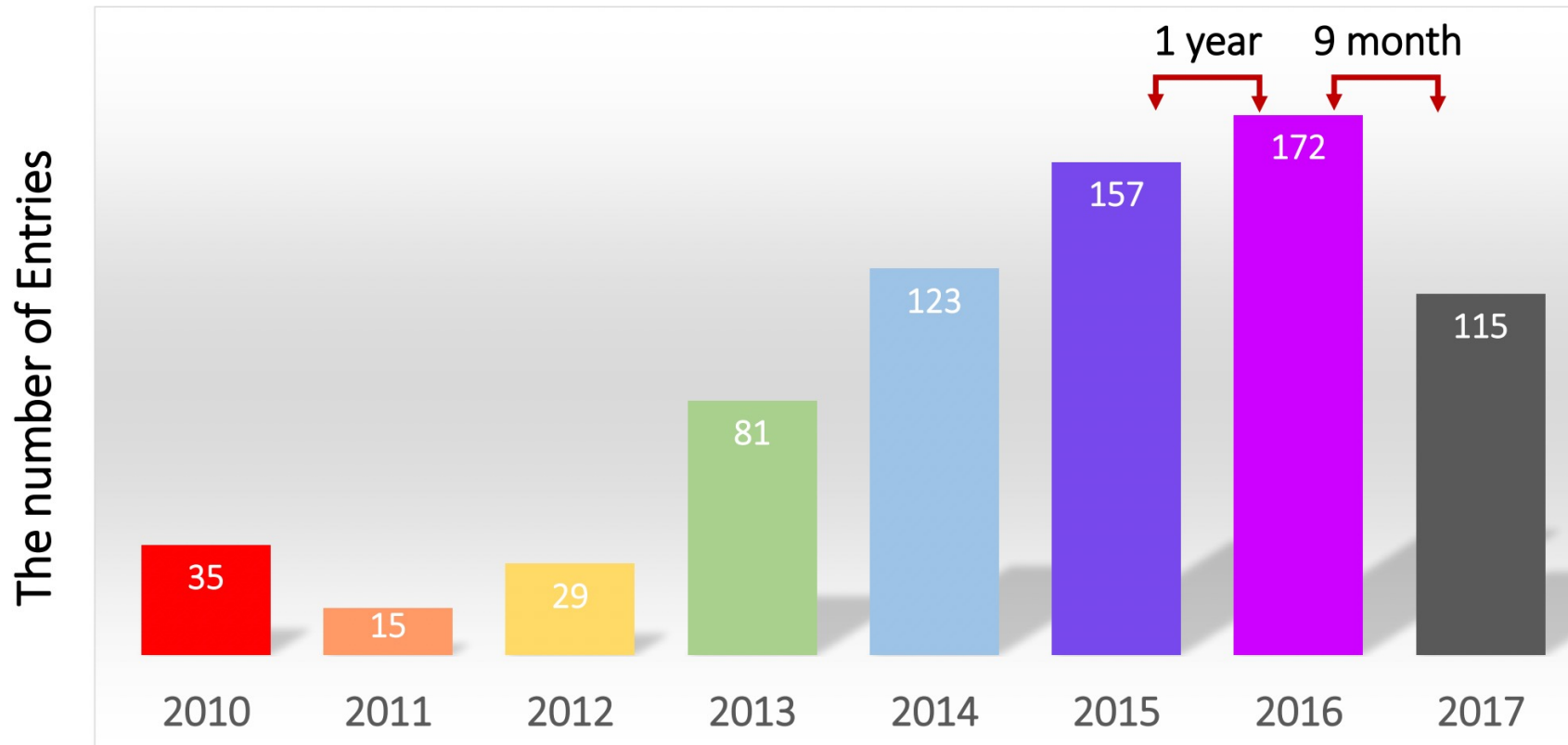


# Rise of “Deep Learning” Following AlexNet



Inspired by AlexNet, many more researchers in the computer vision community proposed neural networks and showed how to make further progress over the years!

# Rise of “Deep Learning” Following AlexNet



- 727 entries (plus an entry that famously was kicked out in 2015 for cheating from Baidu)
- Labor cost ~\$110 million: assuming 3 people contribute to each entry and \$50k cost per person

# Secret Sauce for State-of-Art: Deeper CNNs

Progress of models on ImageNet (Top 5 Error)

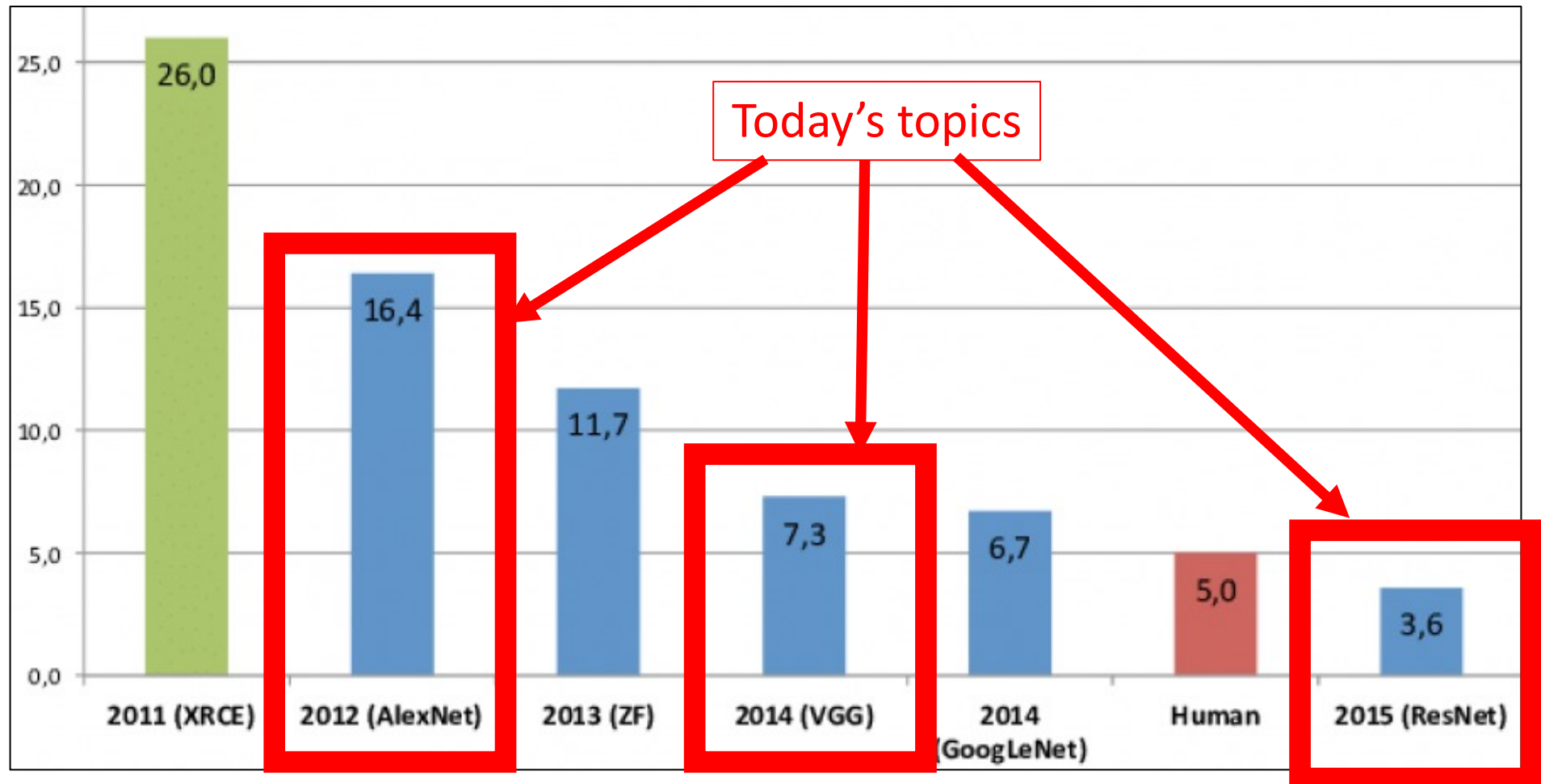
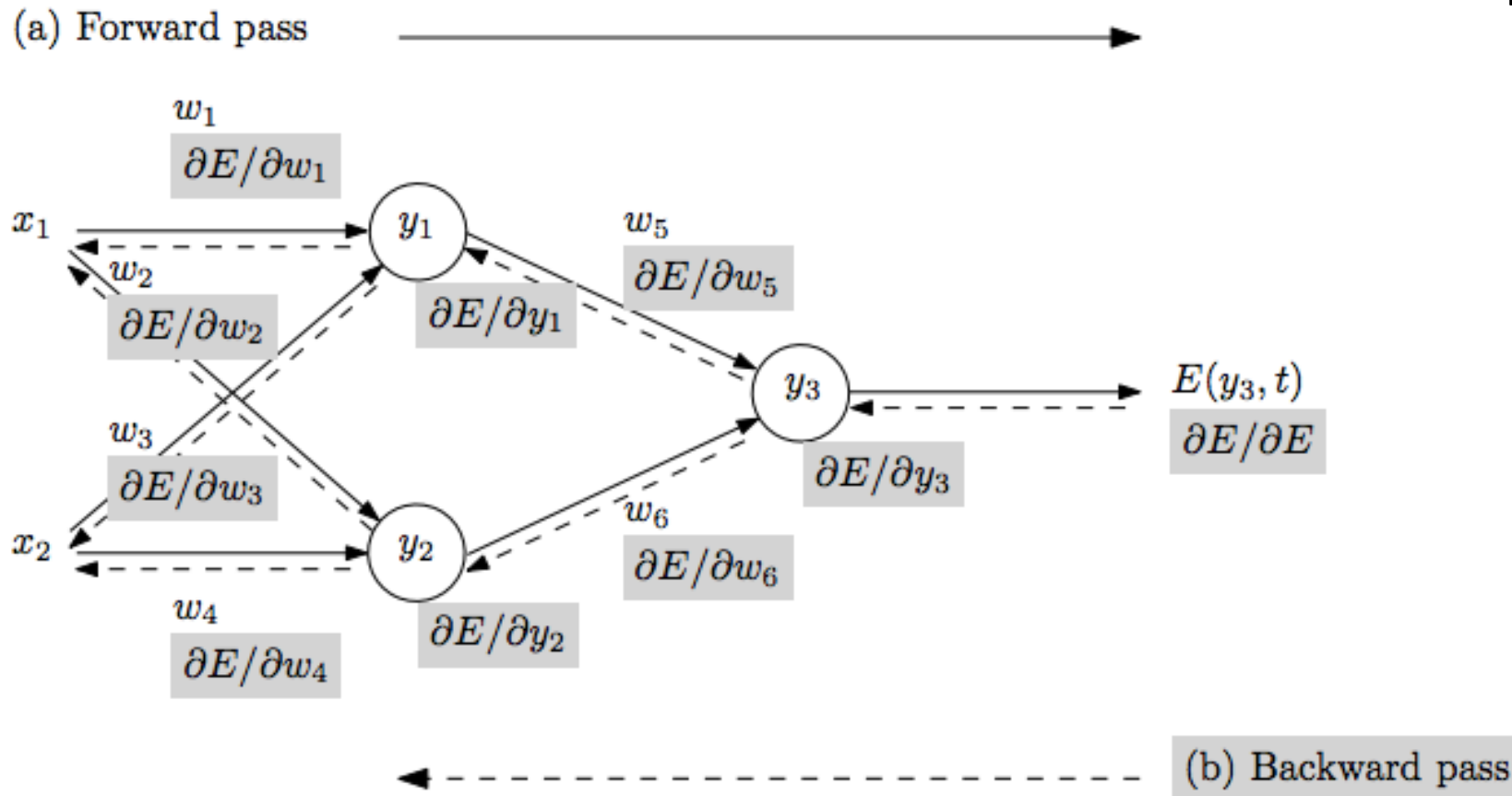


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# Why It Is Difficult to Achieve Better Performance with CNNs That Are Deeper: Vanishing Gradients



- Repeat until stopping criterion met:

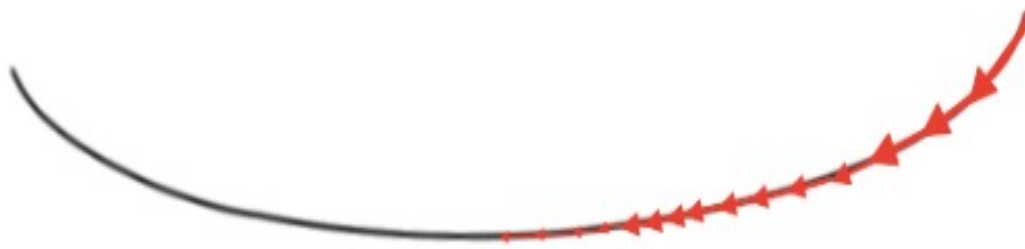
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$$W_x = W_x - \alpha \left( \frac{\partial \text{Error}}{\partial W_x} \right)$$

Figure from: Atilim Gunes Baydin, Barak A. Pearlmutter, Alexey Andreyevich Radul, Jeffrey Mark Siskind; Automatic Differentiation in Machine Learning: a Survey; 2018

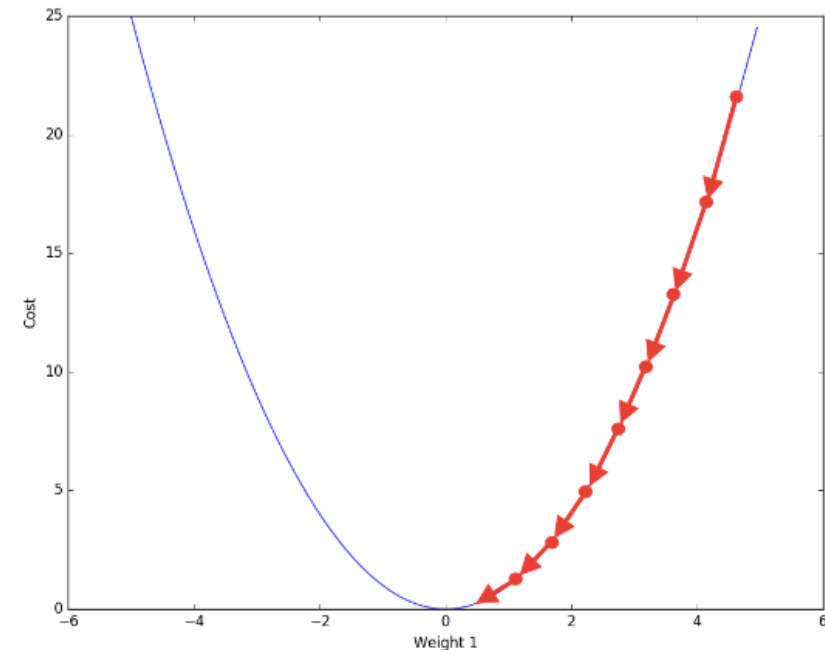
# Why It Is Difficult to Achieve Better Performance with CNNs That Are Deeper: Vanishing Gradients

Cost Function 1



Small gradients so weights change slowly

Cost Function 2

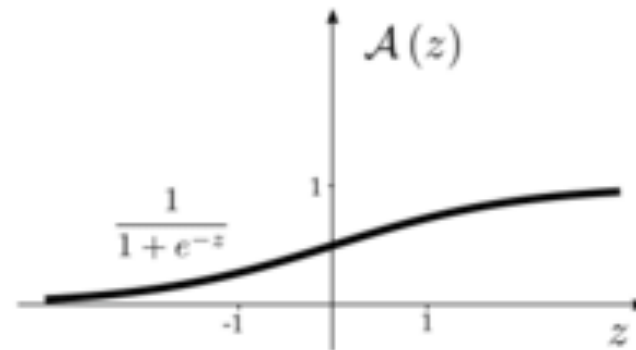


Large gradients so weights change quickly

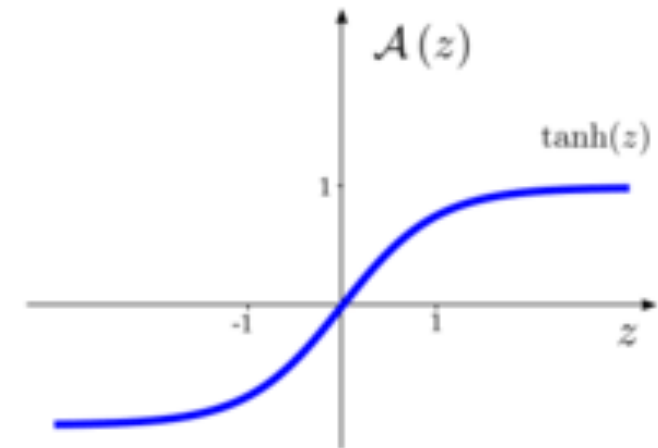
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Recall activation functions and their derivatives:

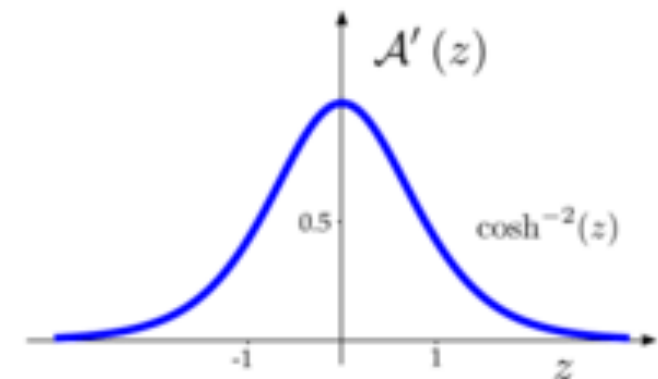
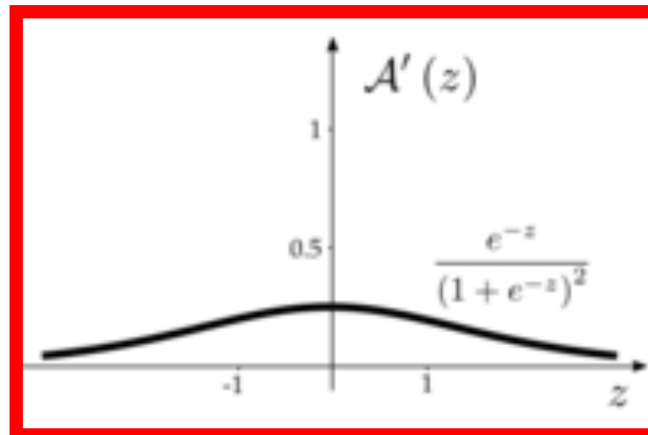
Sigmoid



Tanh

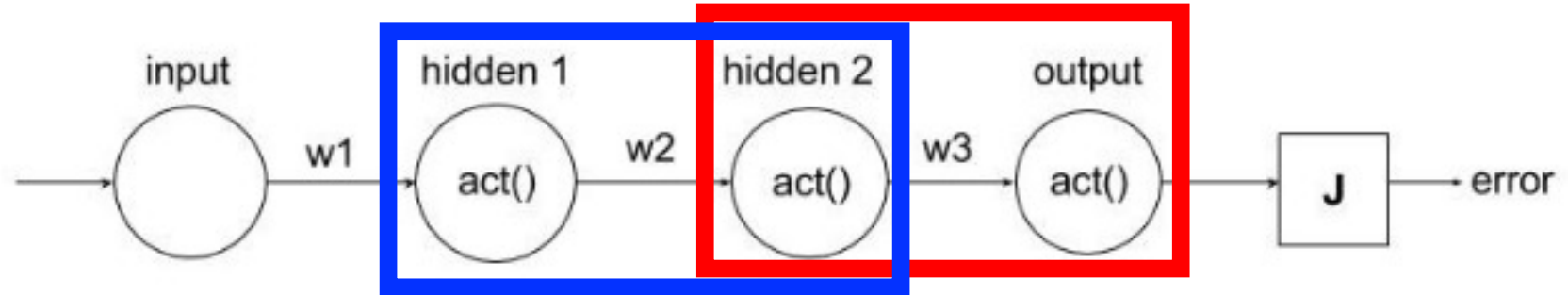


Ranges from 0 to 0.25



# Vanishing Gradient Problem (e.g., sigmoid)

- Toy example:



- Error Derivative with respect to weight w1:

$$\frac{\partial error}{\partial w1} = \frac{\partial error}{\partial output} \cdot \frac{\partial output}{\partial hidden2} \cdot \frac{\partial hidden2}{\partial hidden1} \cdot \frac{\partial hidden1}{\partial w1}$$

Derivative of sigmoid  
activation function: (0 to 1/4]

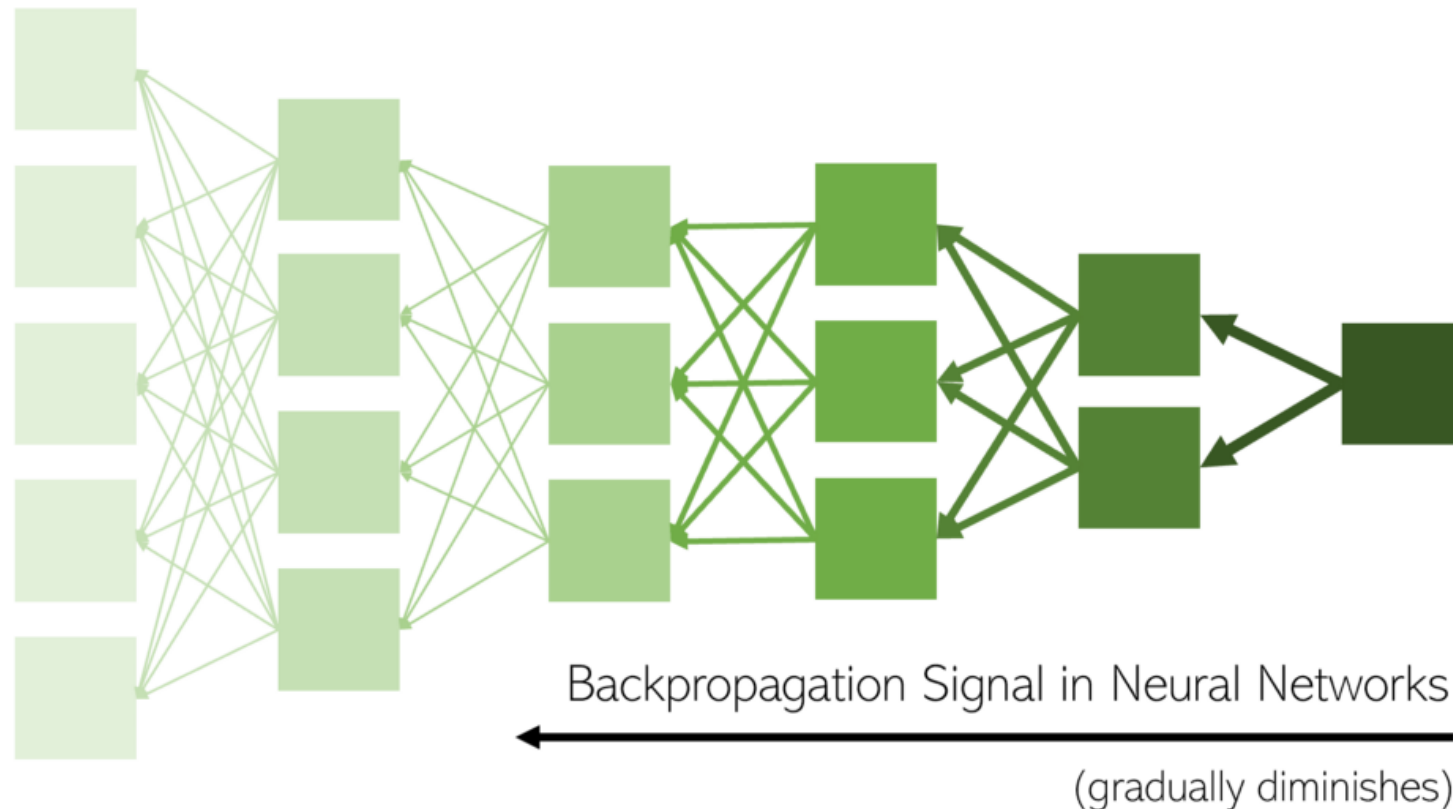
Derivative of sigmoid  
activation function: (0 to 1/4]

Problem: What happens as you multiply more numbers smaller than 1?

Gradient decreases as further from the last layer... and so weights barely change at training!

# Vanishing Gradient Problem (e.g., sigmoid)

Smallest gradients at **earliest layers** make them **slowest to train**, yet later layers depend on those earlier layers to do something useful; consequently, NNs struggle with garbage in means garbage out





How can we avoid the vanishing gradient problem?

# AlexNet: A Deeper CNN

Progress of models on ImageNet (Top 5 Error)

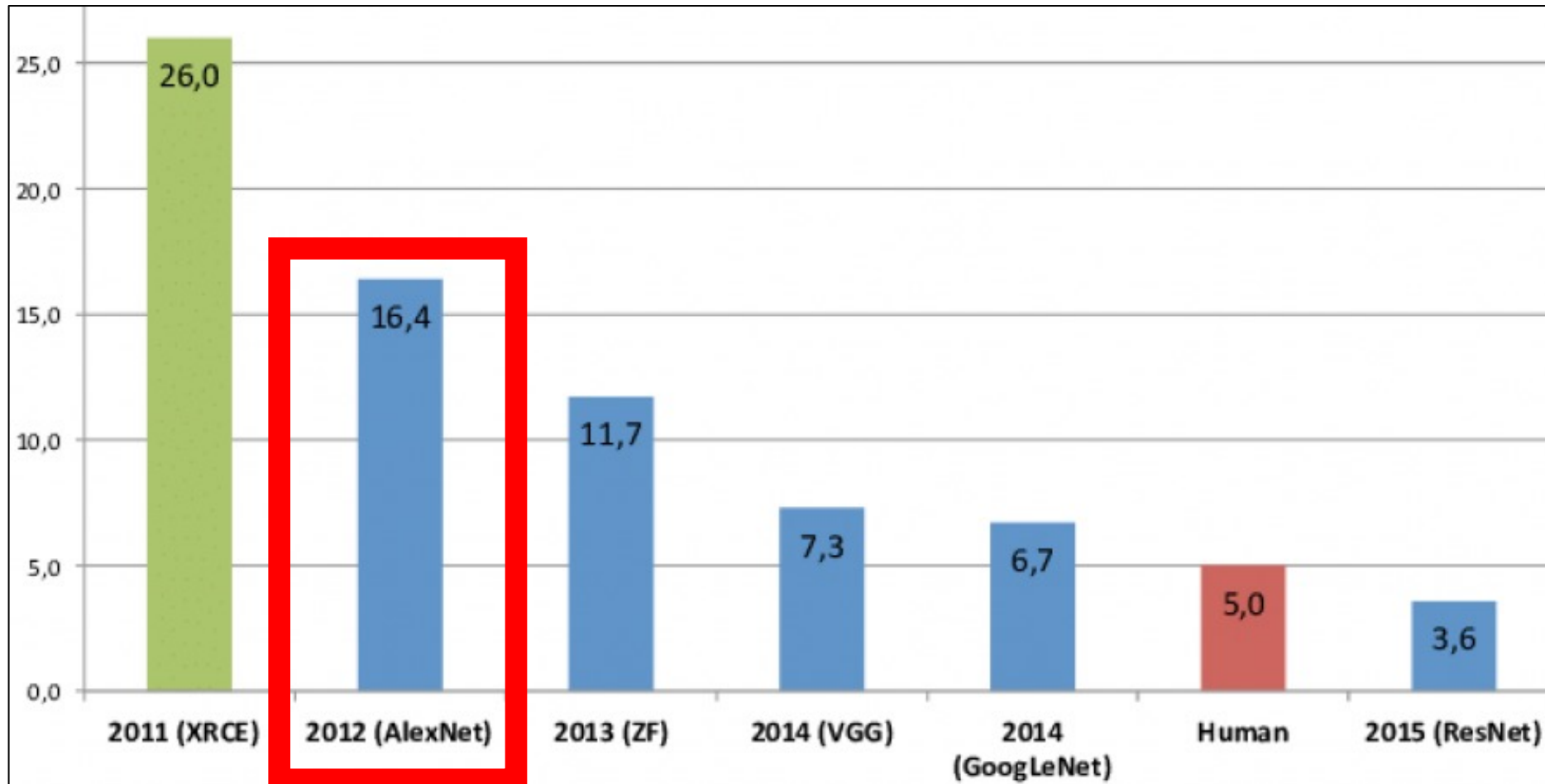
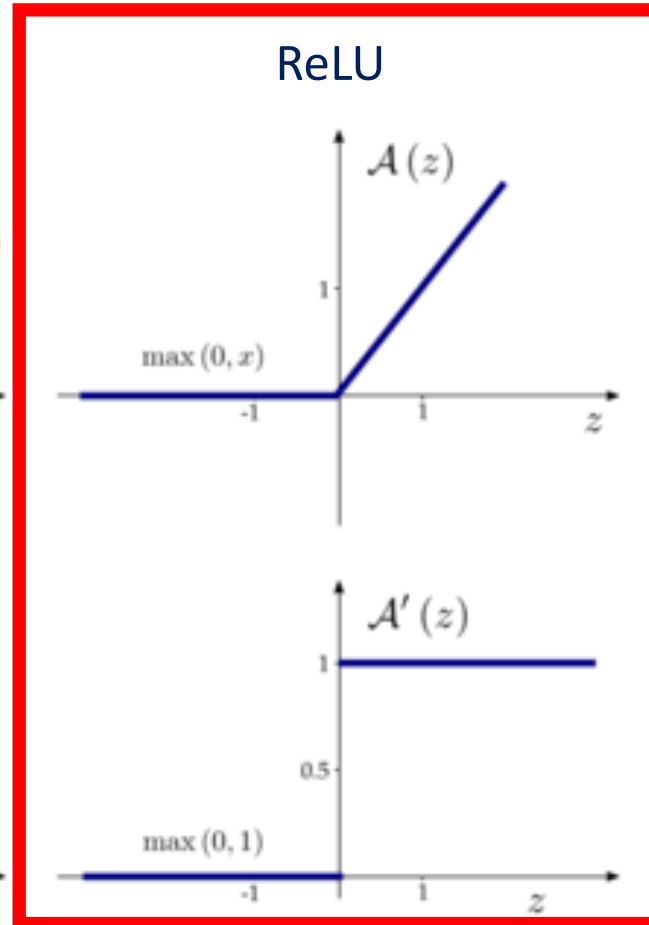
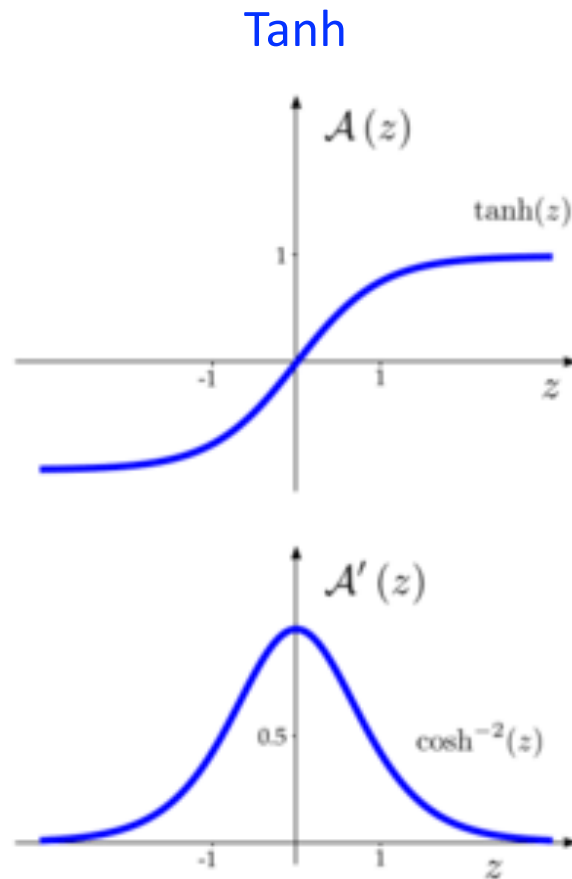
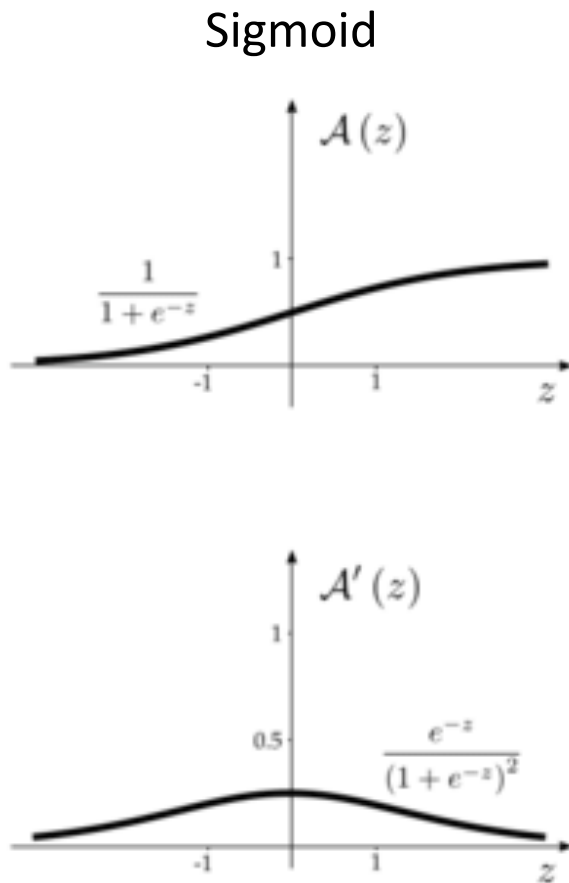


Figure Source: <https://www.edge-ai-vision.com/2018/07/deep-learning-in-five-and-a-half-minutes/>

# Key Idea: Non-Saturating Activation Functions

Use activation functions with derivative value equal to 1 (i.e., 1x1x1... doesn't vanish)

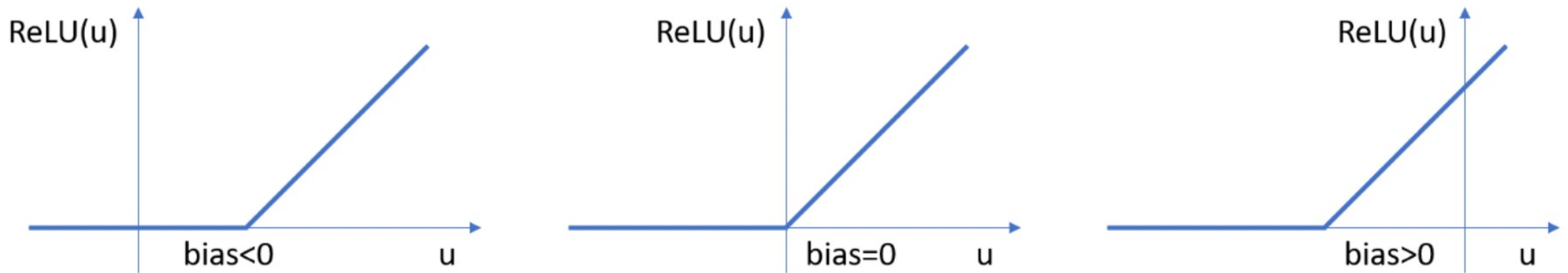


Benefits:

- Can preserve gradient
- Fast to compute
- “Dying neurons” contribute to network sparsity and so reduced model complexity

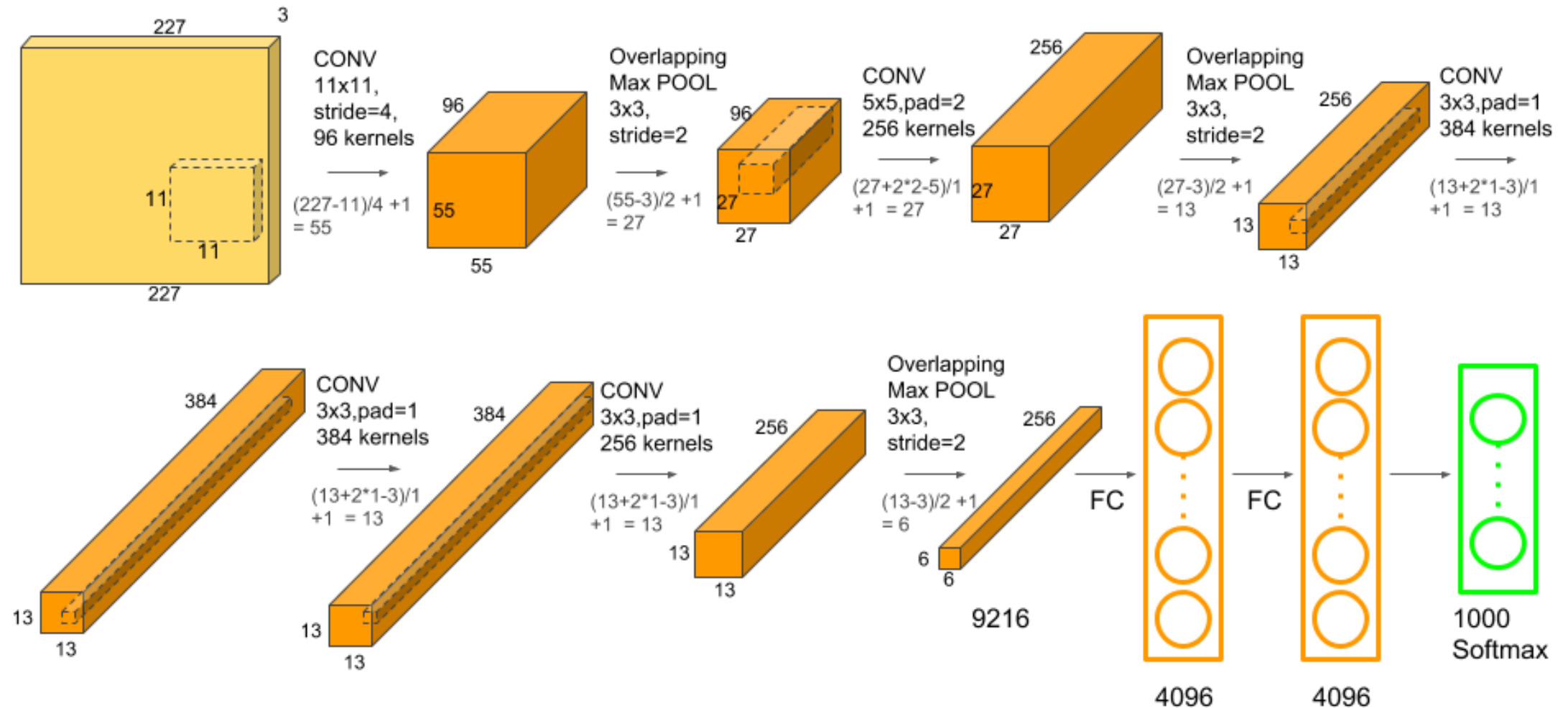
# Key Idea: Non-Saturating Activation Functions

- Influence of bias term with ReLU



- What is the impact of a positive bias value?
- What is the impact of a negative bias value?

# AlexNet Architecture: Similar to LeNet But With More Convolutional and Pooling Layers



# AlexNet Architecture

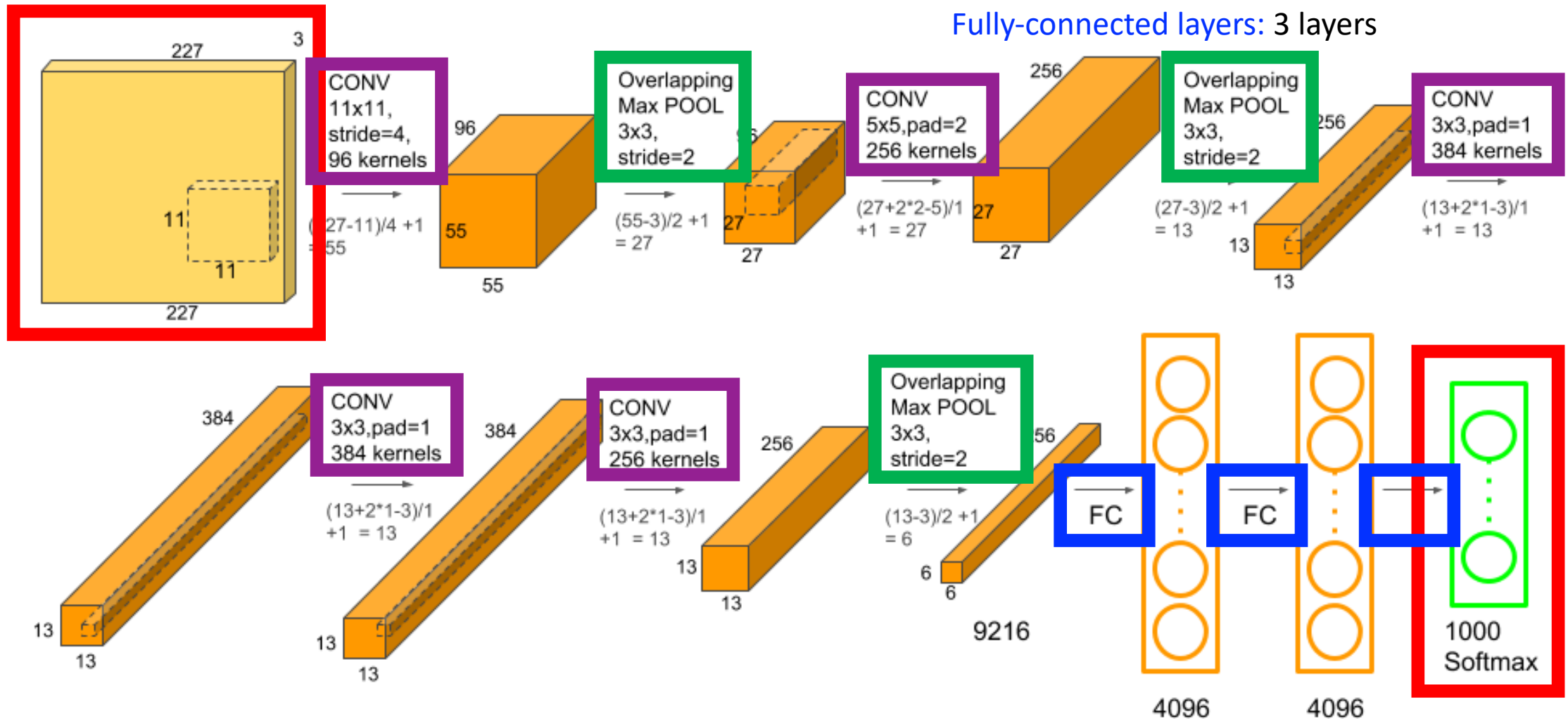
**Input:** RGB image resized to fixed input size

**Output:** 1000 class probabilities (sums to 1)

**Convolutional layers:** 5 layers

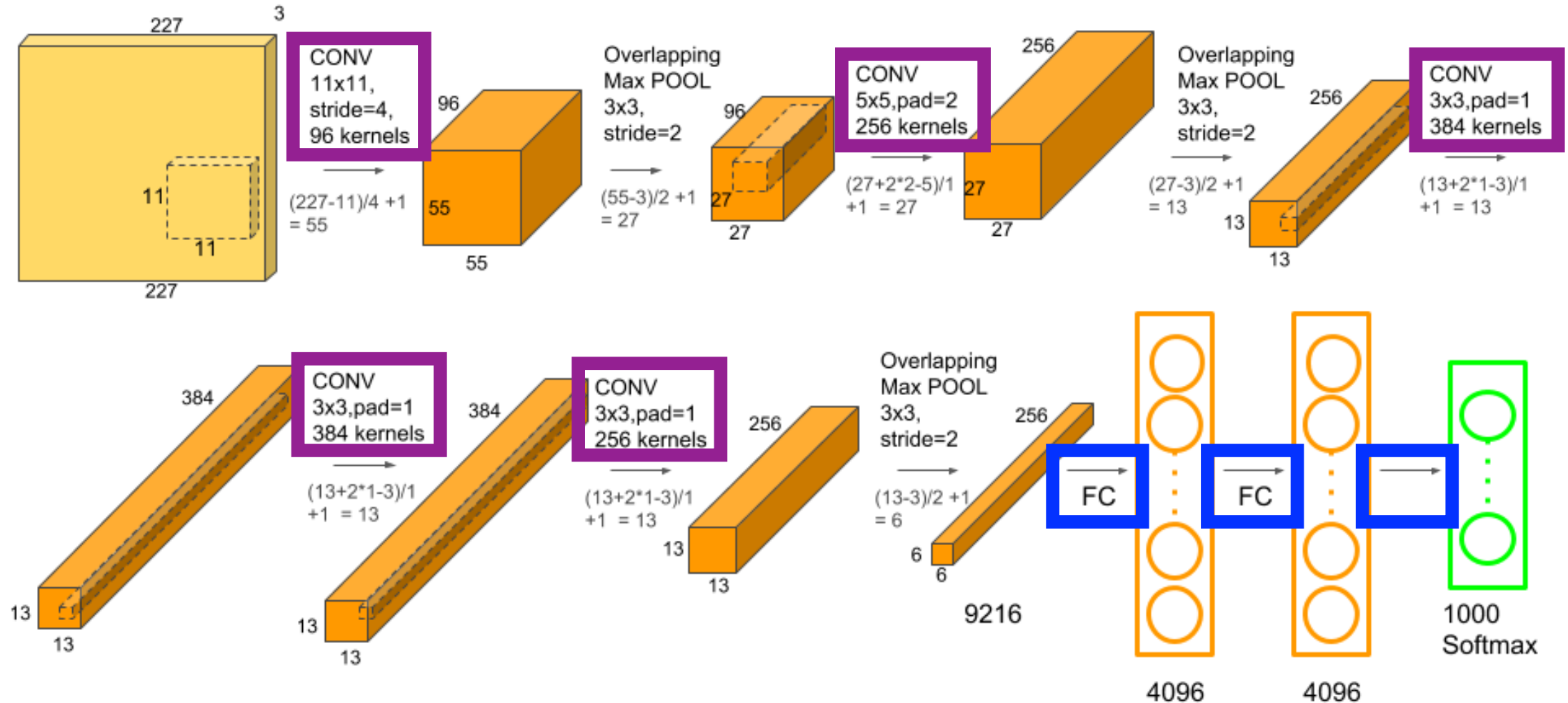
**Pooling Layers:** 3 layers

**Fully-connected layers:** 3 layers



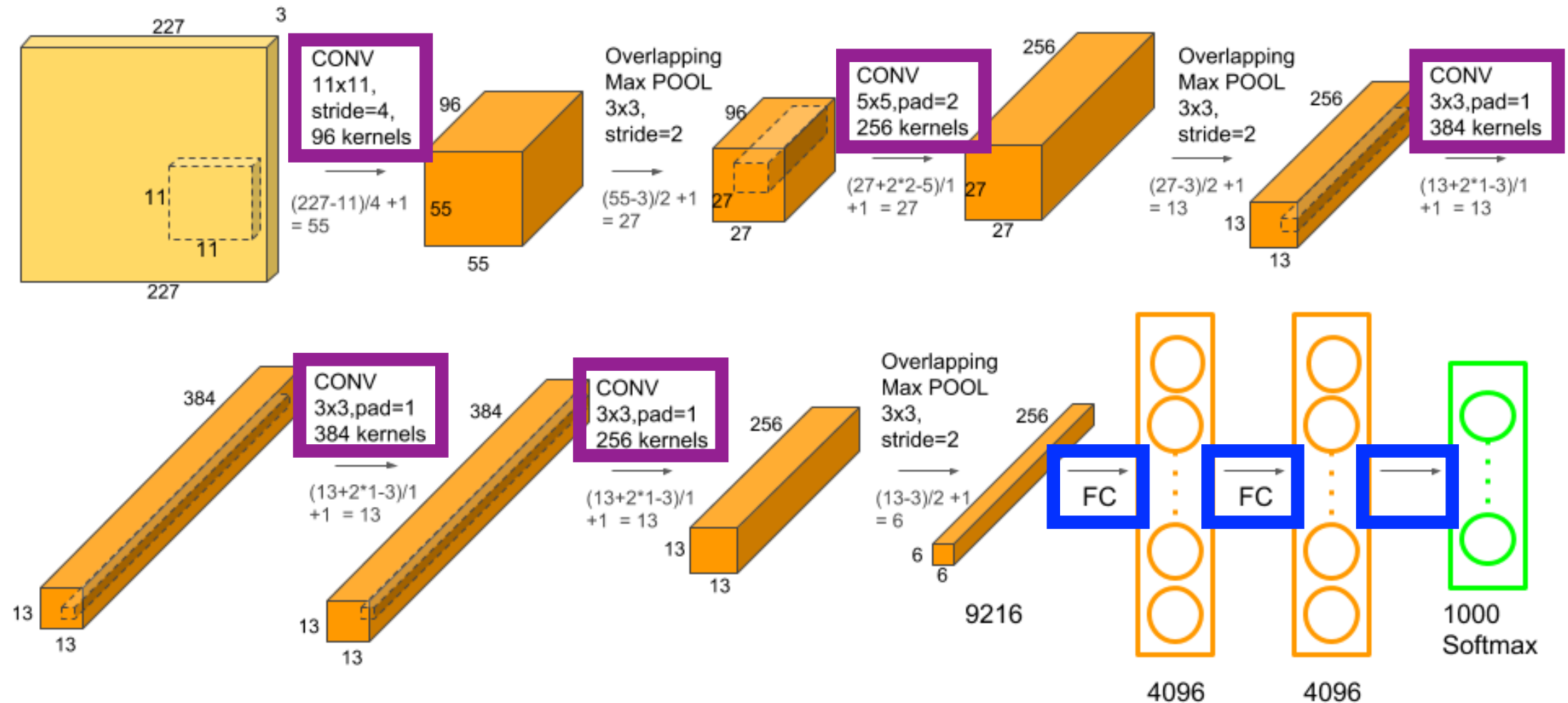
# AlexNet Architecture

How many layers have model parameters that need to be learned?



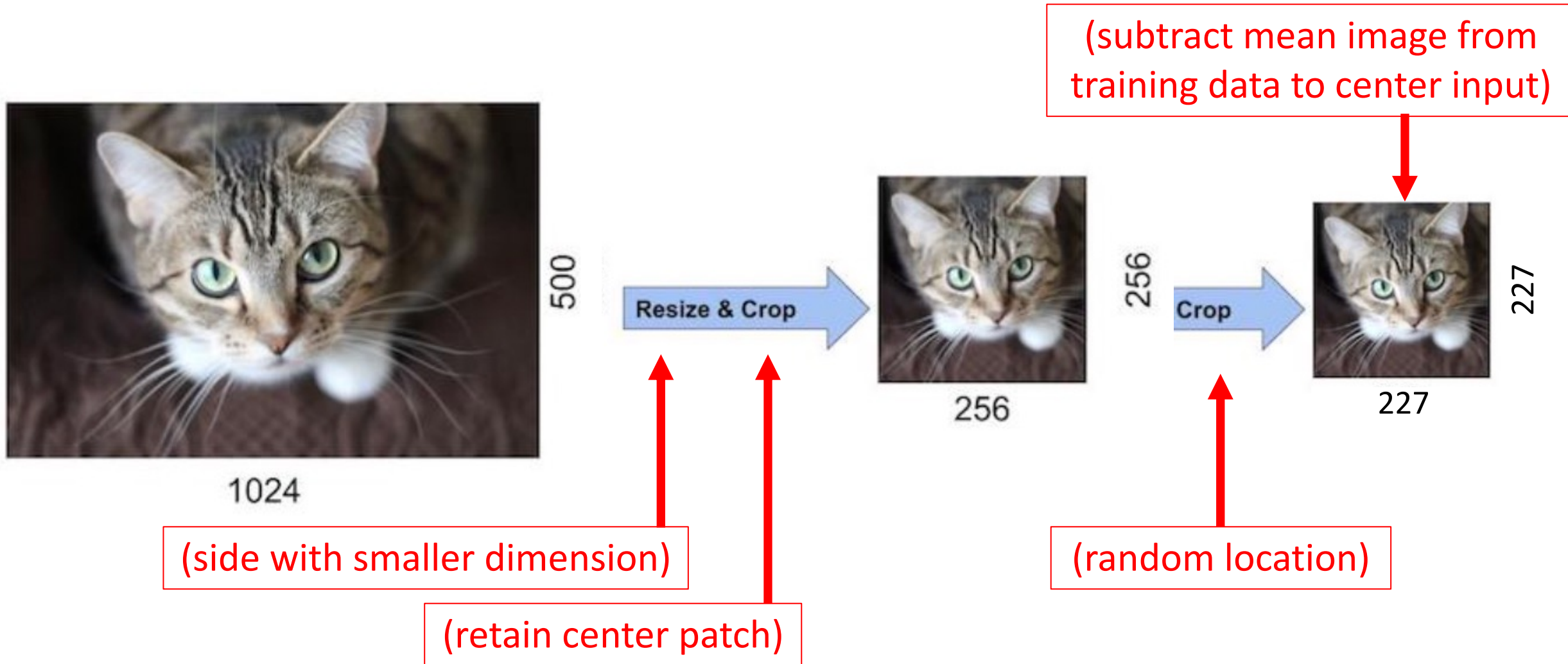
# AlexNet Architecture

Altogether, 60 million model parameters must be learned!



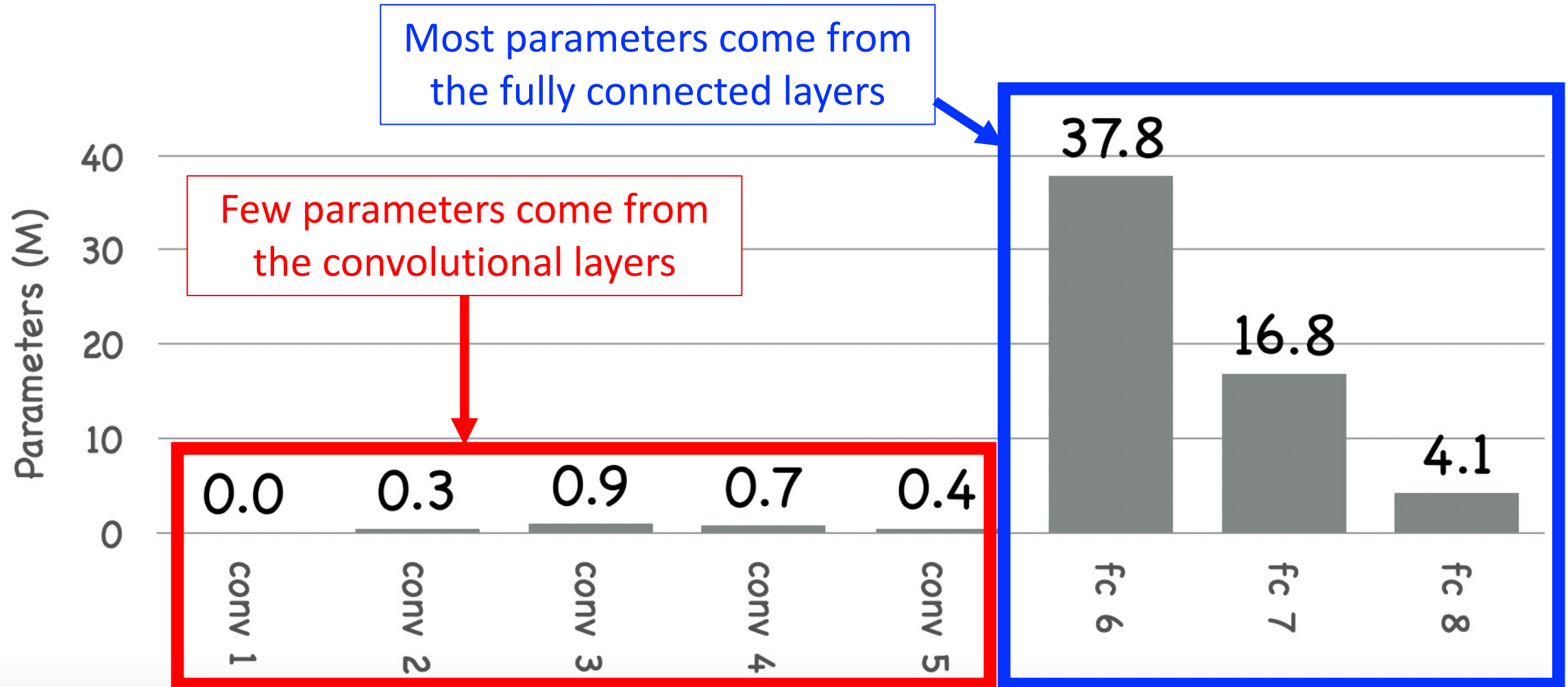


# Implementation Detail: Input Preprocessing

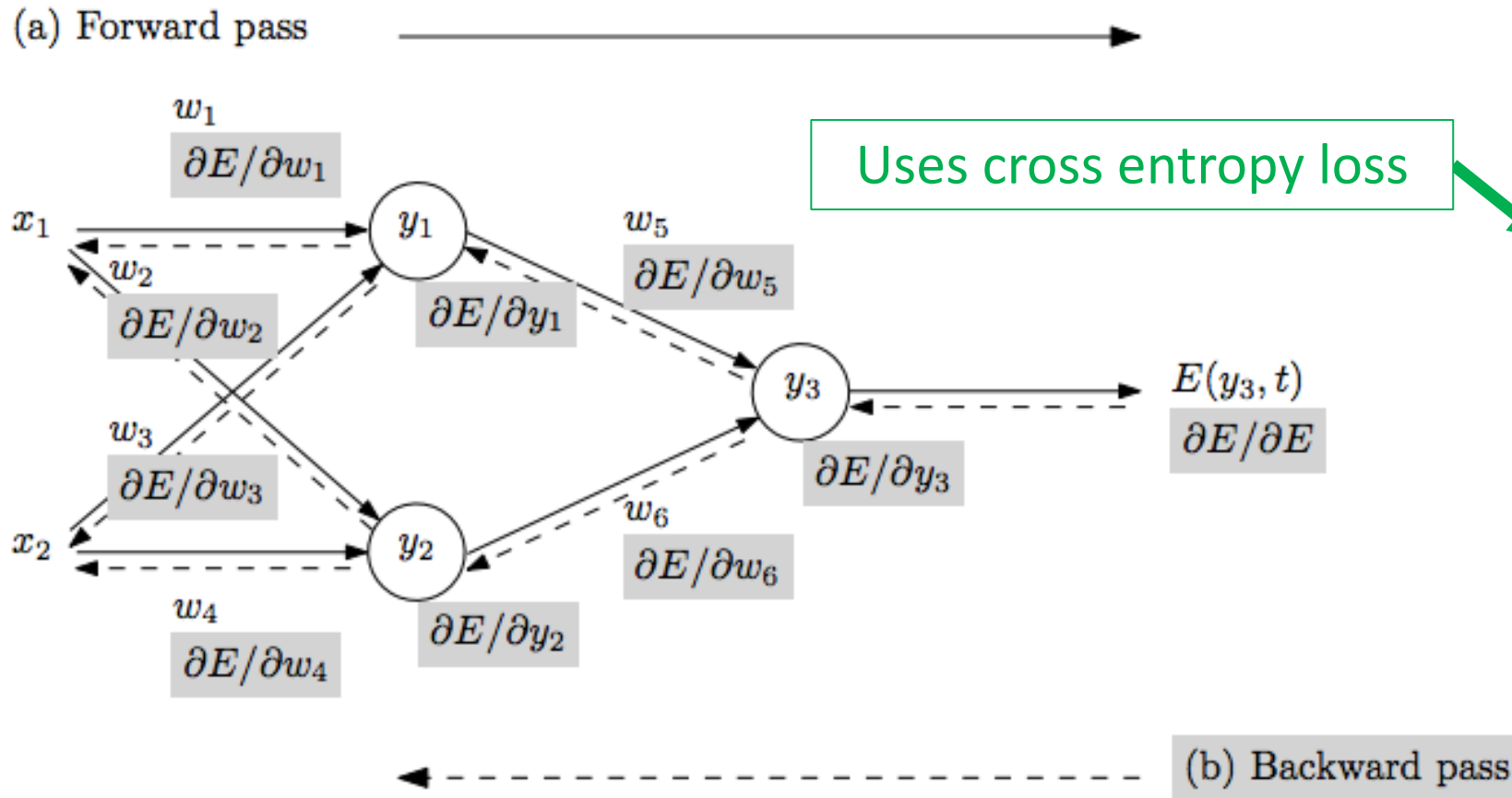


# AlexNet Architecture

Altogether, 60 million model parameters must be learned!



# AlexNet Training: 90 Epochs



- Repeat until stopping criterion met:

1. **Forward pass:** propagate training data through model to make prediction

2. Quantify the dissatisfaction with a model's results on the training data

3. **Backward pass:** using predicted output, calculate gradients backward to assign blame to each model parameter

4. Update each parameter using calculated gradients

# AlexNet: Key Tricks for Going Deeper

- ReLU instead of sigmoid or tanh activation functions
- Regularization techniques: to be covered next lecture
  1. Data augmentation
  2. Dropout in fully connected layers
  3. L2 parameter norm penalty
- Trained across two GPUs

# AlexNet Analysis

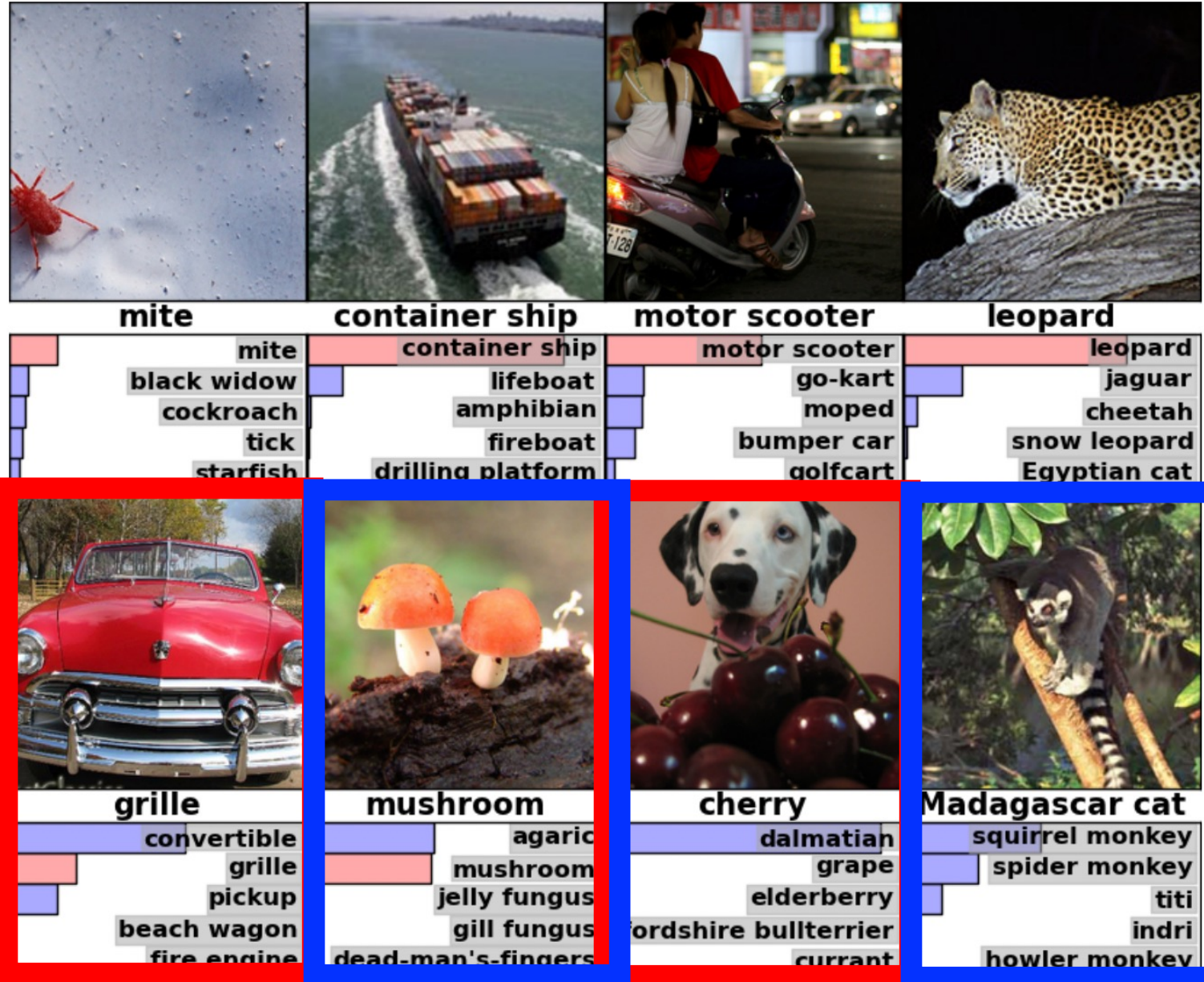
8 examples of predictions,  
correct and incorrect

When/why might the model  
succeed?

- Single well-defined object  
(even if off-centered)

When/why might the model  
fail?

- Ambiguity
- Similar categories



# VGG: A Deeper CNN

Progress of models on ImageNet (Top 5 Error)

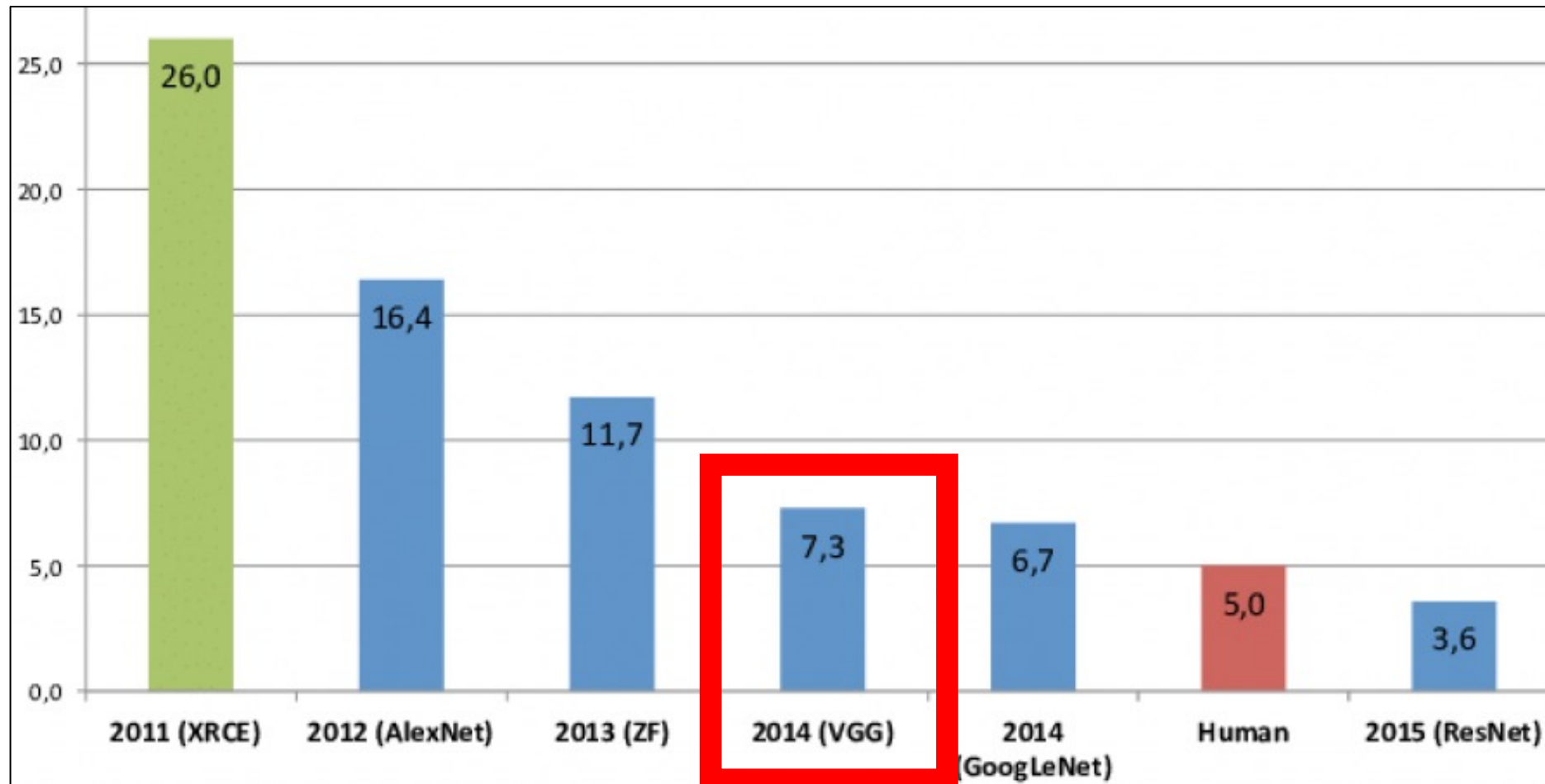


Figure Source: <https://www.edge-ai-vision.com/2018/07/deep-learning-in-five-and-a-half-minutes/>



# Key Novelty: Deeper Does Better

*\* Number of layers with learnable model parameters between input and output layer (i.e., exclude pooling layers)*

## Layers with differences

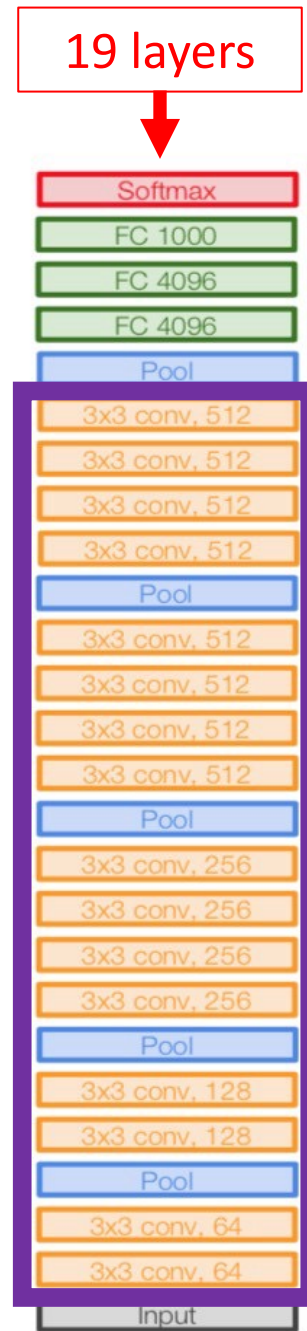
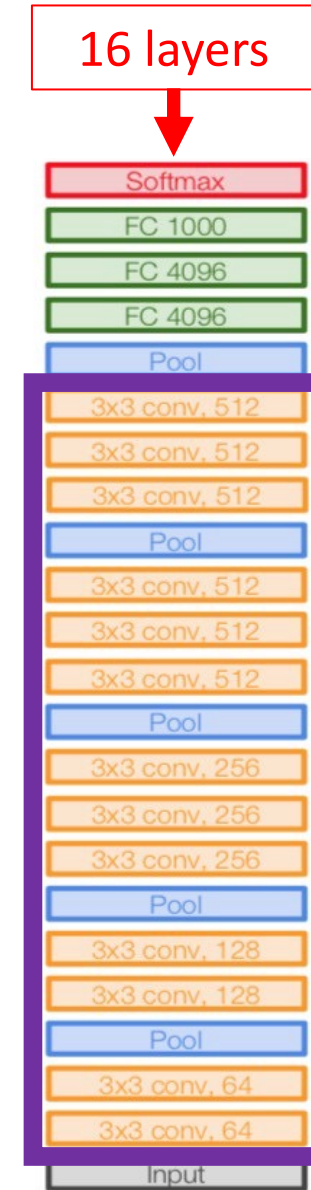
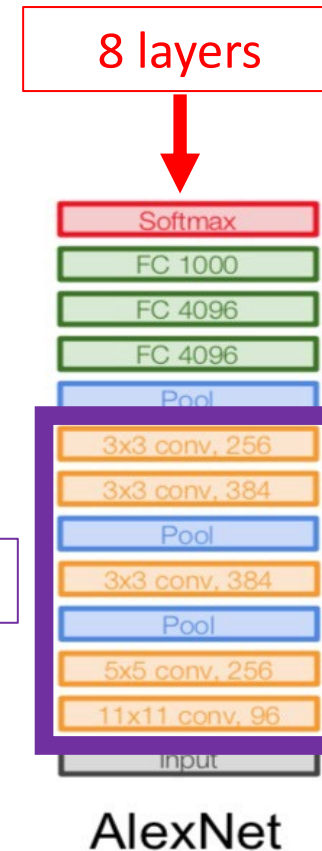
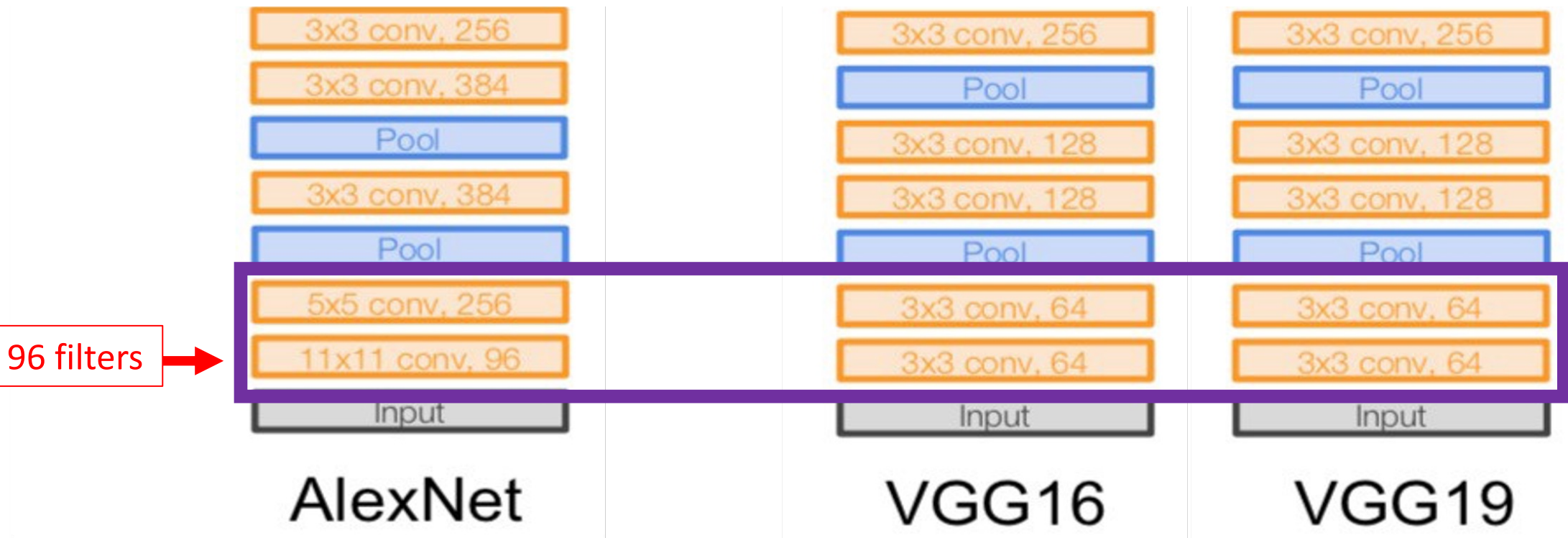


Figure Source (edited to fix mistakes): <https://medium.com/deep-learning-g/cnn-architectures-vggnet-e09d7fe79c45>

# Key Idea: Smaller Convolutional Filters

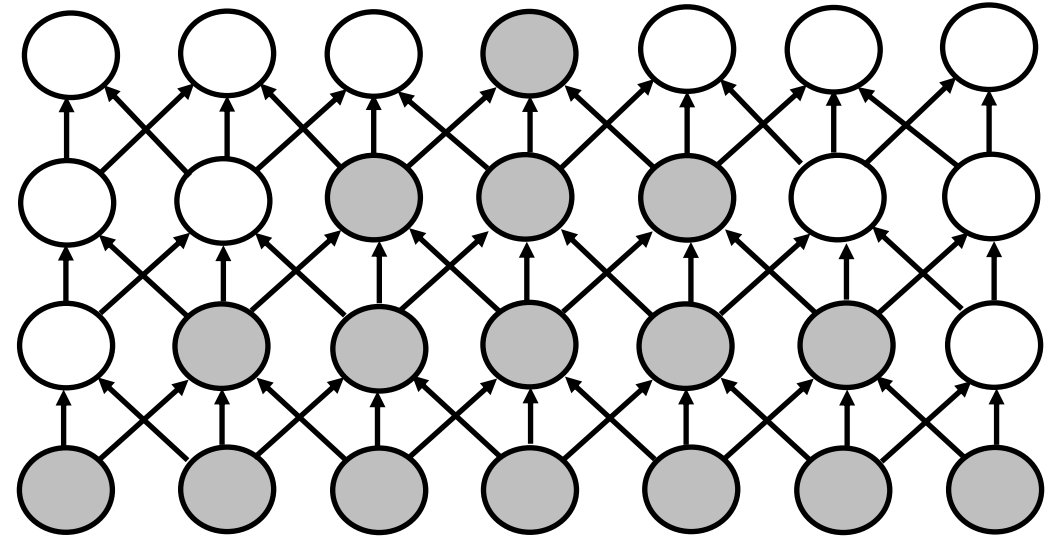
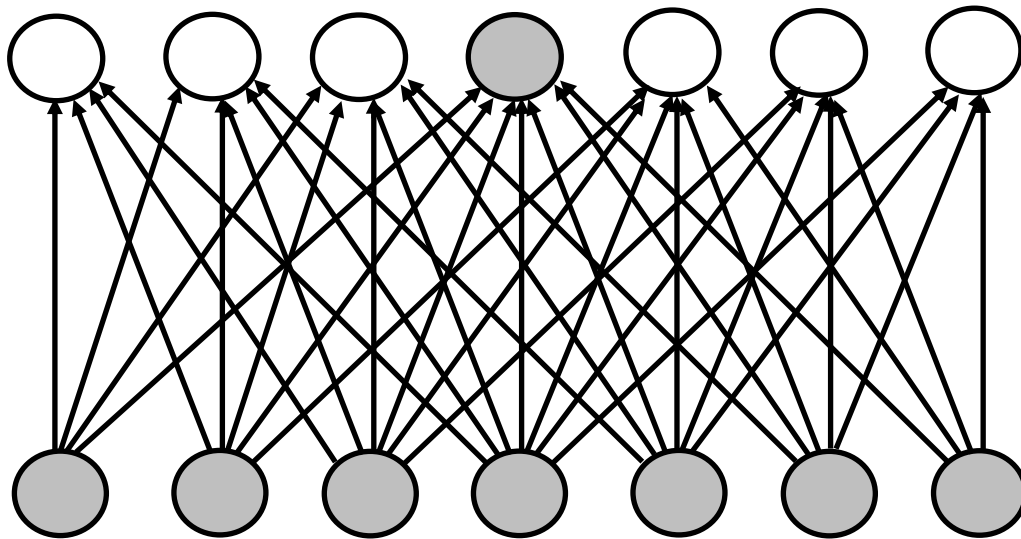
- Replace larger filter with stack of smaller filters





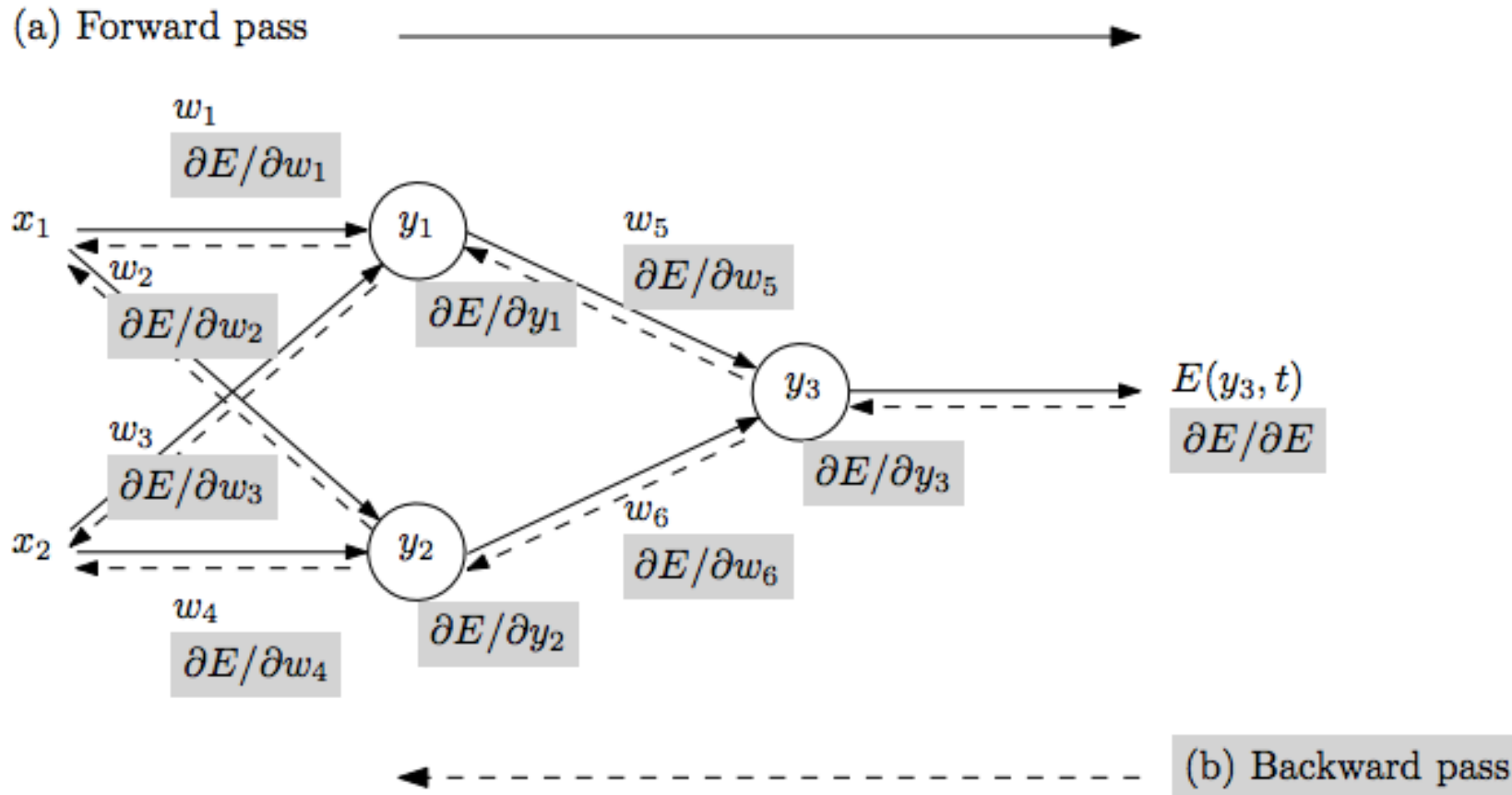
# Key Idea: Smaller Convolutional Filters

- Replace larger filter with stack of smaller filters; e.g., replace 7x7 with three 3x3s



- Benefits:
  - More discriminative classifier since more non-linear rectifications: 3 vs 1
  - Reduces # of parameters: multiple of 27 ( $3 \times 3^2$ ) parameters vs 49 ( $7 \times 7$ ) parameters

# VGG Training (follows AlexNet): 74 Epochs



- Repeat until stopping criterion met:

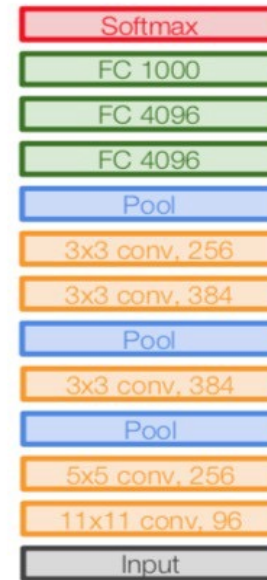
1. **Forward pass:** propagate training data through model to make prediction
2. Quantify the dissatisfaction with a model's results on the training data
3. **Backward pass:** using predicted output, calculate gradients backward to assign blame to each model parameter
4. Update each parameter using calculated gradients

$$W_x = W_x - \alpha \left( \frac{\partial \text{Error}}{\partial W_x} \right)$$

Figure from: Atilim Gunes Baydin, Barak A. Pearlmutter, Alexey Andreyevich Radul, Jeffrey Mark Siskind; Automatic Differentiation in Machine Learning: a Survey; 2018

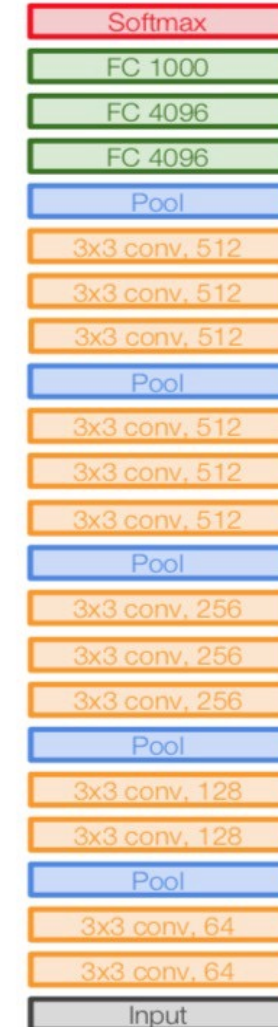
# VGG Limitation: Models Are Large!

60 million  
parameters



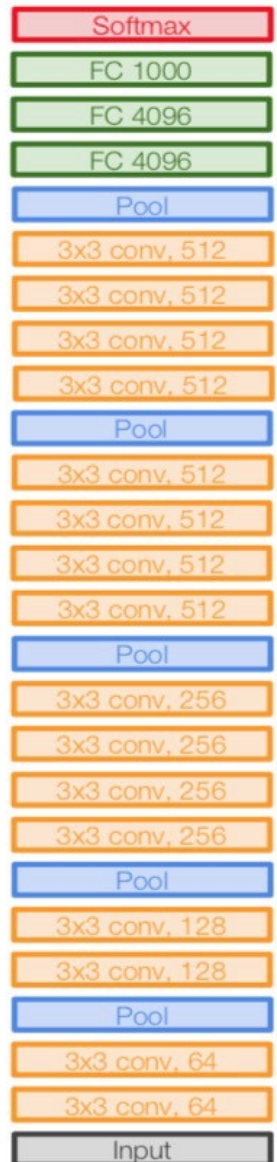
AlexNet

138 million  
parameters



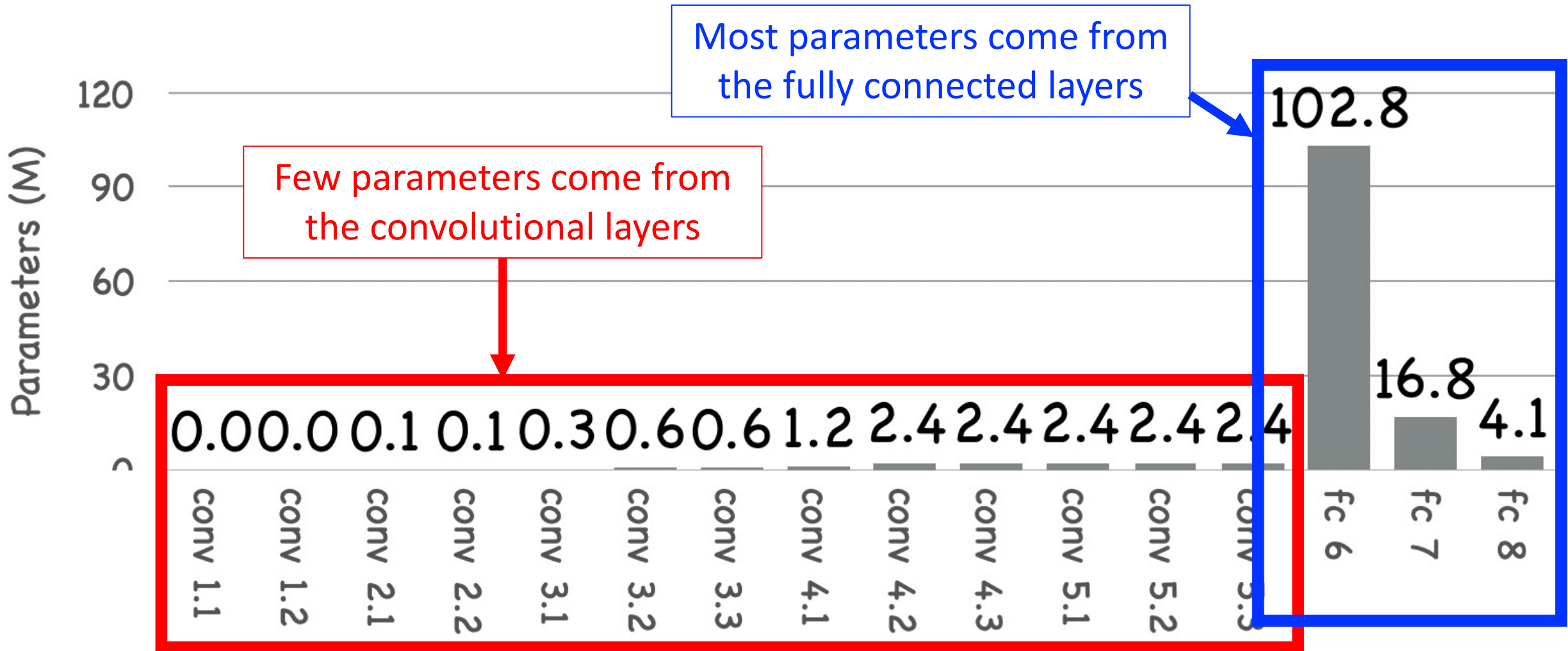
VGG16

144 million  
parameters



VGG19

# VGG Limitation: Models Are Large (e.g., VGG16)



# VGG: Key Tricks for Going Deeper

- 3x3 filters instead of larger filters
- Regularization techniques: to be covered next lecture
  1. Data augmentation
  2. Dropout in fully connected layers
  3. L2 parameter norm penalty
- Trained across multiple GPUs

# ResNet: A Deeper CNN

Progress of models on ImageNet (Top 5 Error)

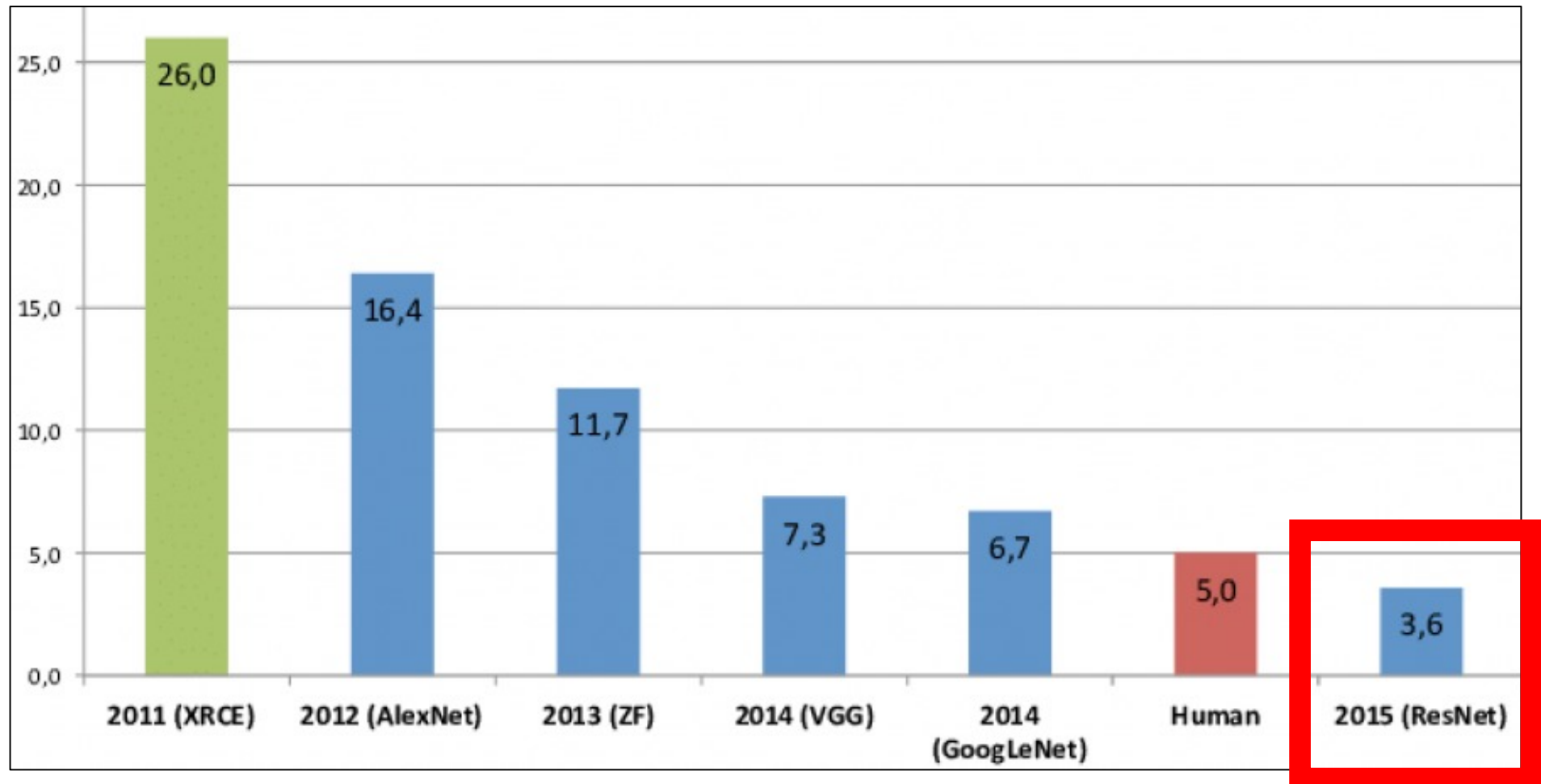


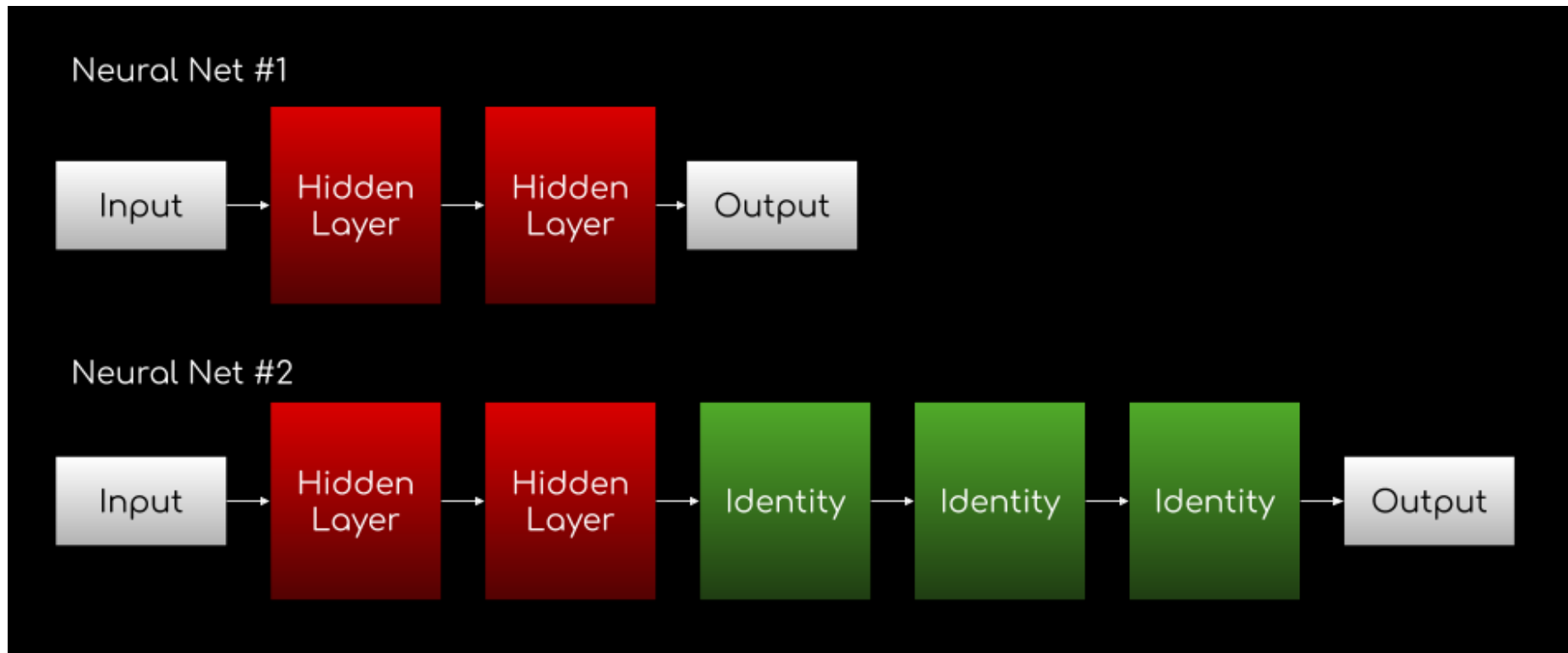
Figure Source: <https://www.edge-ai-vision.com/2018/07/deep-learning-in-five-and-a-half-minutes/>

# Motivating Observation

**Idea:** a deeper network should perform as good if not better than shallower networks since they can learn the shallower function by simply learning “identity” functions for later layers

**Observation:** adding more layers leads to WORSE results!

**Is the problem overfitting?**

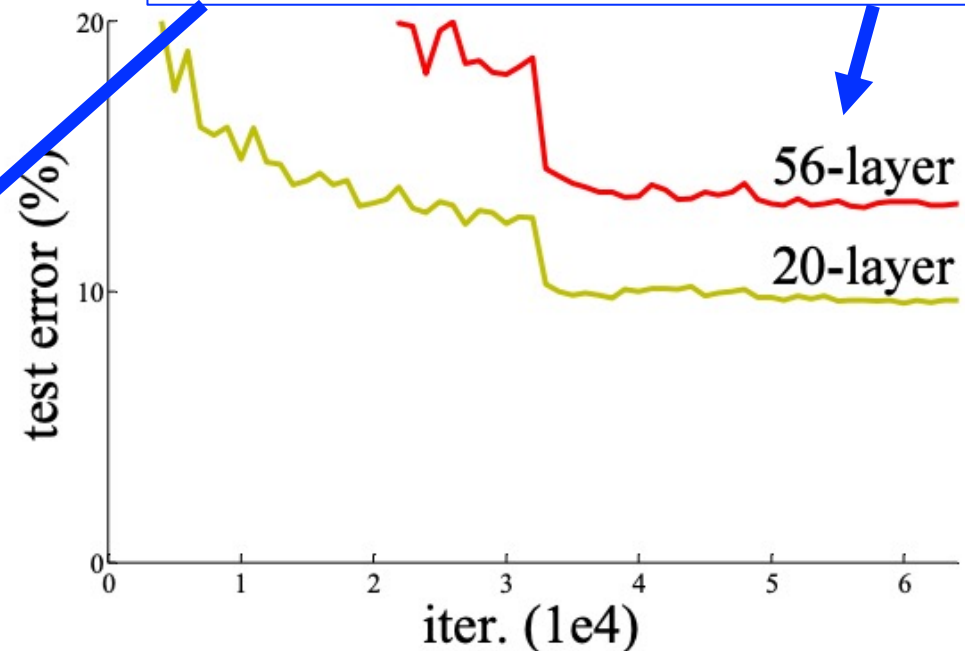
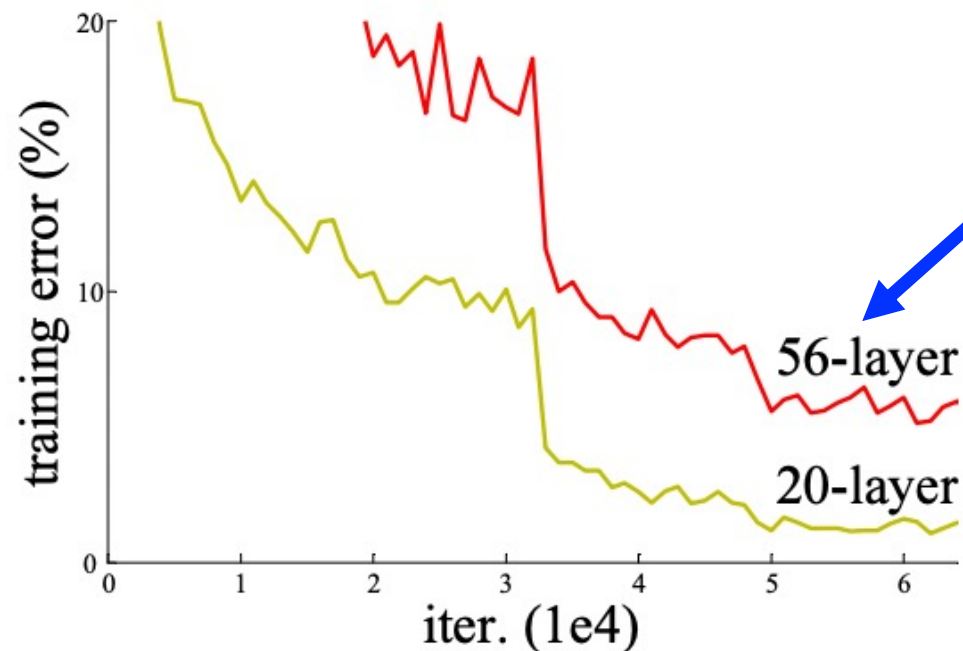


# Motivating Observation

**Idea:** a deeper network should perform as good if not better than shallower networks since they can learn the shallower function by simply learning “identity” functions for later layers

**Observation:** adding more layers leads to WORSE results!

Is the problem overfitting? **NO**



Training data error (and test error)  
is greater with more layers



# Motivating Observation

**Idea:** a deeper network should perform as good if not better than shallower networks since they can learn the shallower function by simply learning “identity” functions for later layers

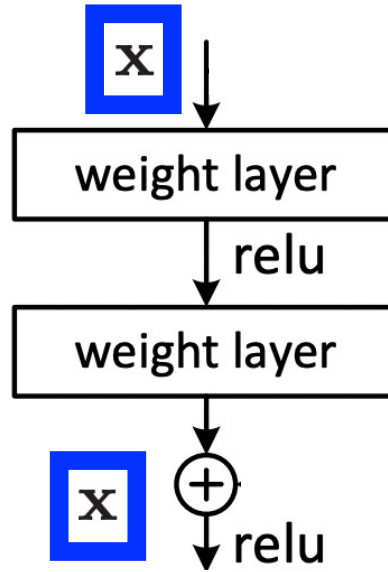
**Observation:** adding more layers leads to WORSE results!

**Is the problem overfitting?** NO

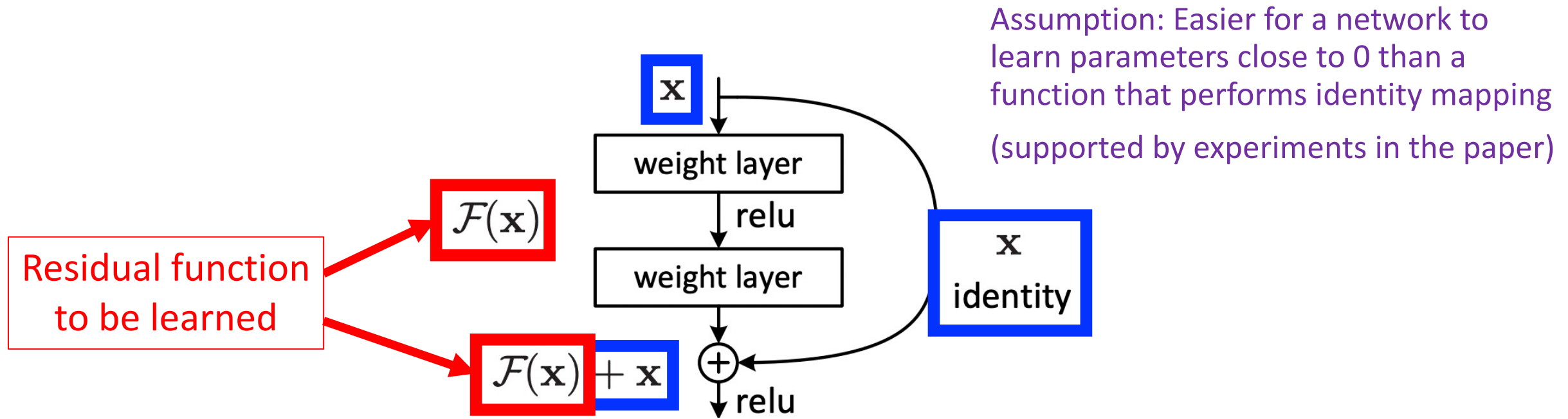
**Problem:** It is difficult to learn for the algorithm to learn layers of identity mappings

# Problem: Difficult to Perform Identity Mapping

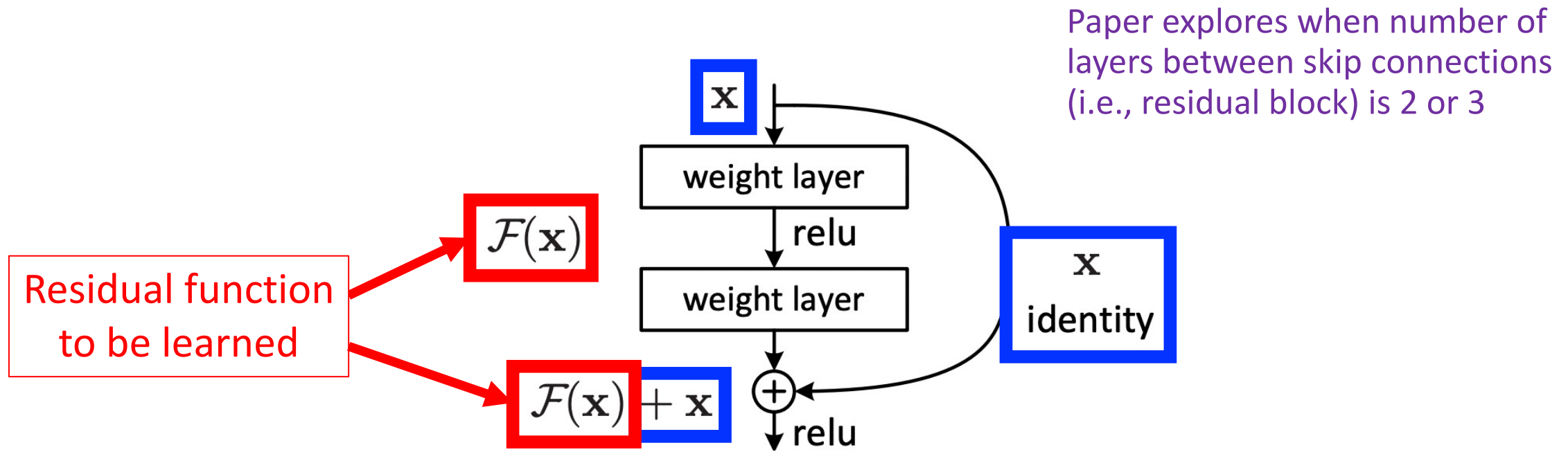
e.g.,



# Key Idea: Skip Connections that Perform Identity Mapping



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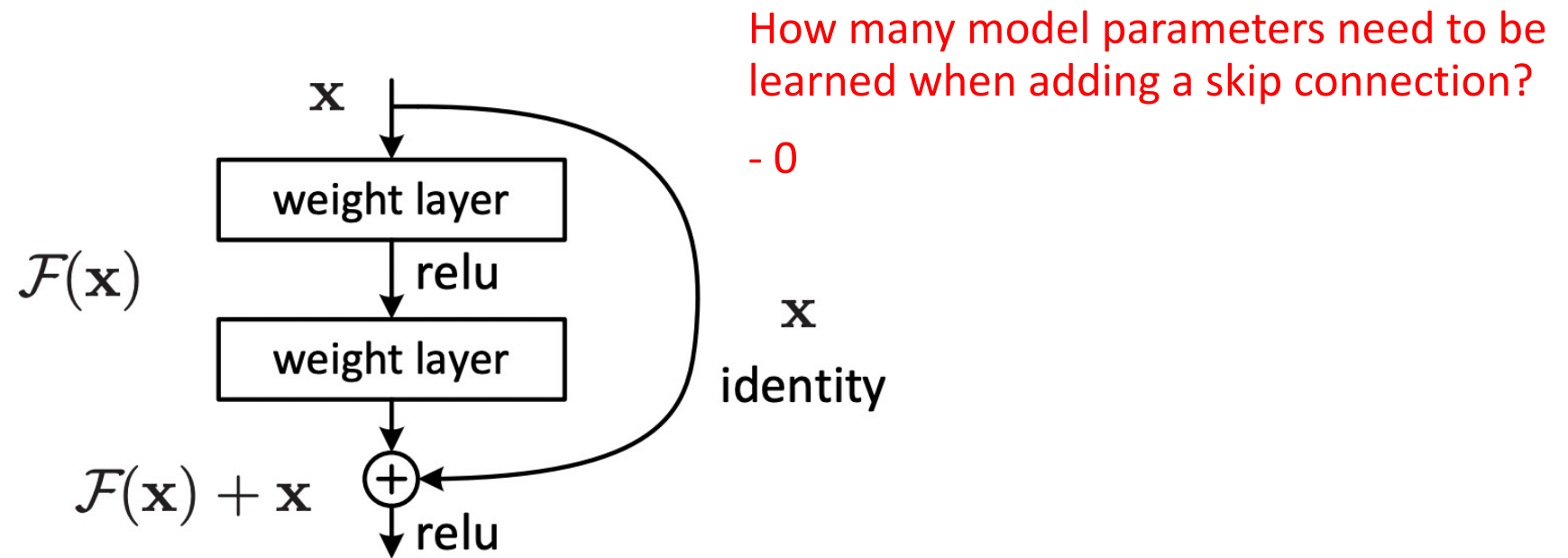
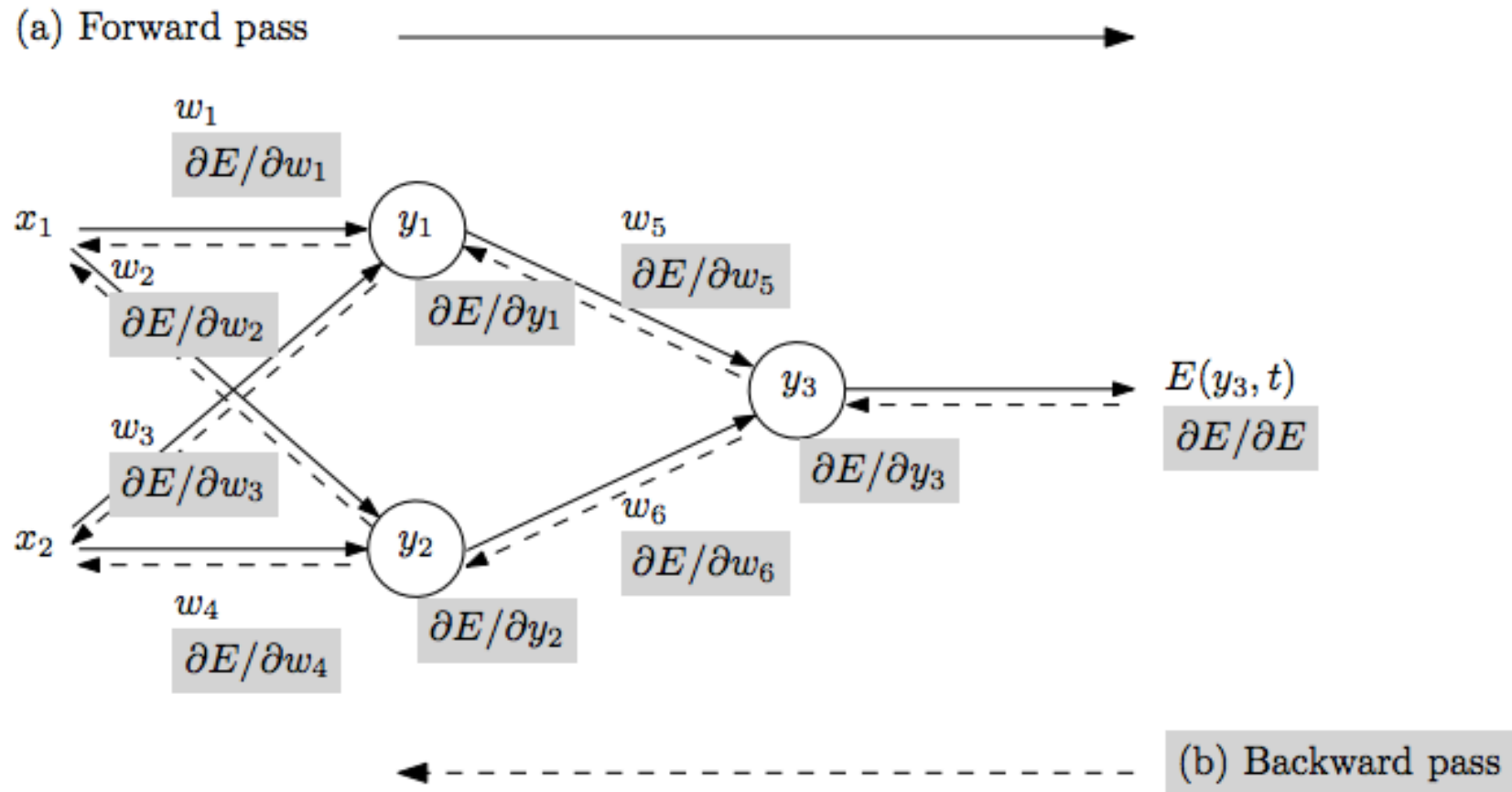


Figure 2. Residual learning: a building block.

# ResNet Training (follows AlexNet)

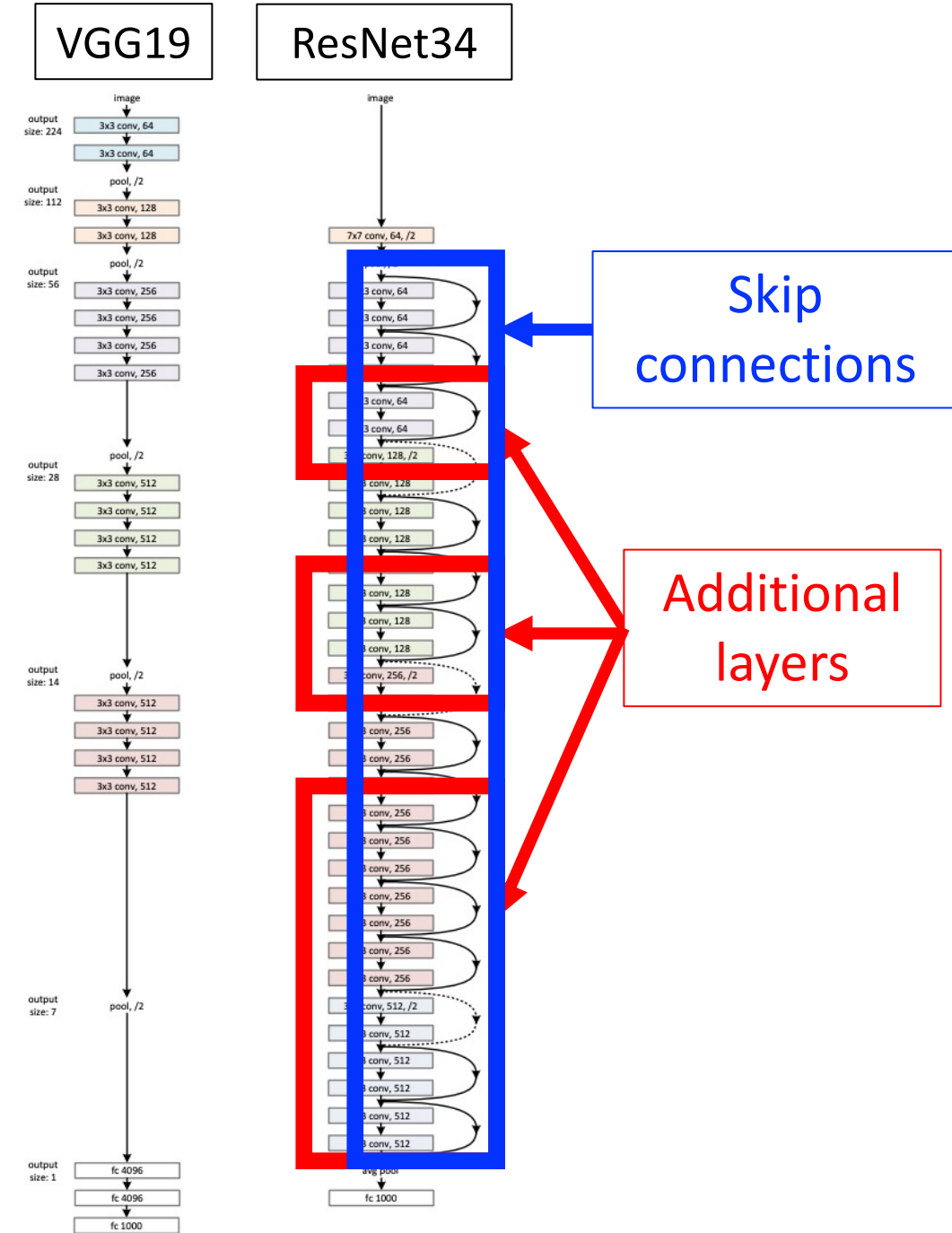


- Repeat until stopping criterion met:
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Figure from: Atilim Gunes Baydin, Barak A. Pearlmutter, Alexey Andreyevich Radul, Jeffrey Mark Siskind; Automatic Differentiation in Machine Learning: a Survey; 2018

# Experimental Results

Deep residual learning framework using **skip connections** obtains state-of-art performance for the ImageNet object recognition challenge and other challenges by learning **deeper models** than prior work (18, 34, 50, 101, & 152 layers!)



# Experimental Results on Validation Set

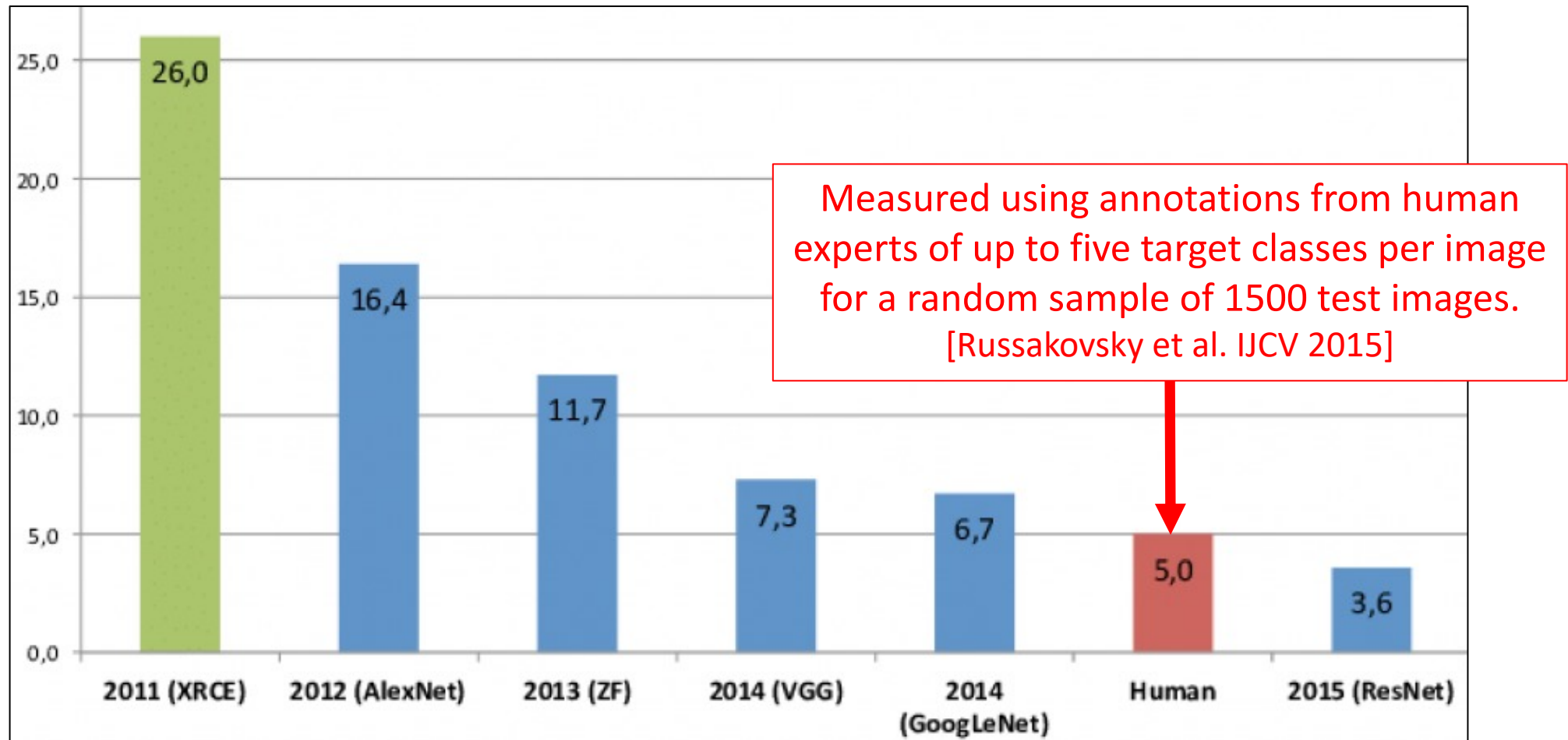
model	top-1 err.	top-5 err.
VGG-16 [40]	28.07	9.33
GoogLeNet [43]	-	9.15
PReLU-net [12]	24.27	7.38
ResNet-50	22.85	6.71
ResNet-101	21.75	6.05
ResNet-152	<b>21.43</b>	<b>5.71</b>

Performance improves with more layers



# ResNet Exceeds Human Performance!

## Progress of models on ImageNet (Top 5 Error)



# ResNet: Key Tricks for Going Deeper

- Skip connections with residual learning

# “Deeper” Models Perform Better

Progress of models on ImageNet (Top 5 Error)

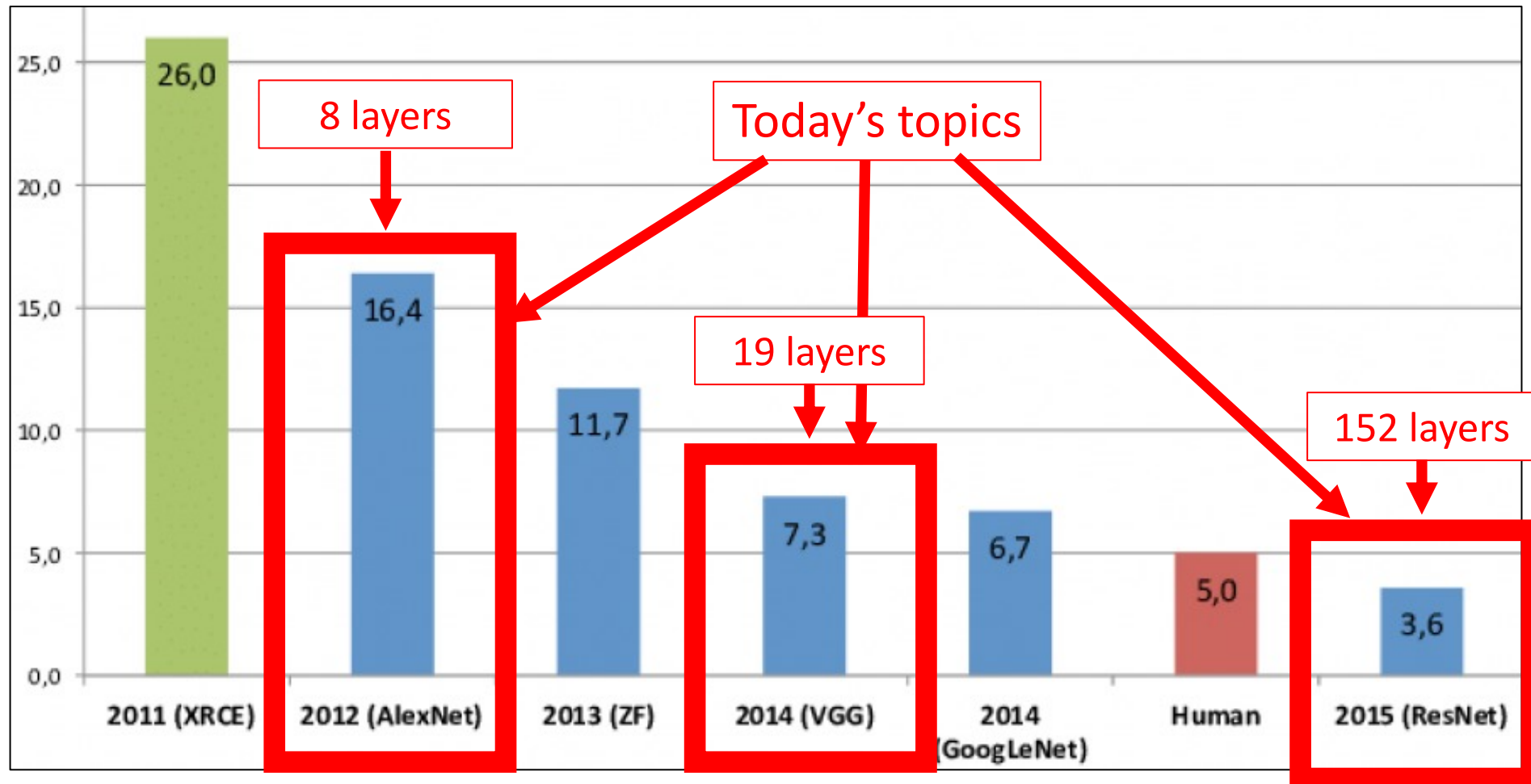


Figure Source: <https://www.edge-ai-vision.com/2018/07/deep-learning-in-five-and-a-half-minutes/>

# ImageNet Impact Recognized in 2019

## PAMI Longuet-Higgins Prize

Retrospective Most Impactful Paper from CVPR 2009

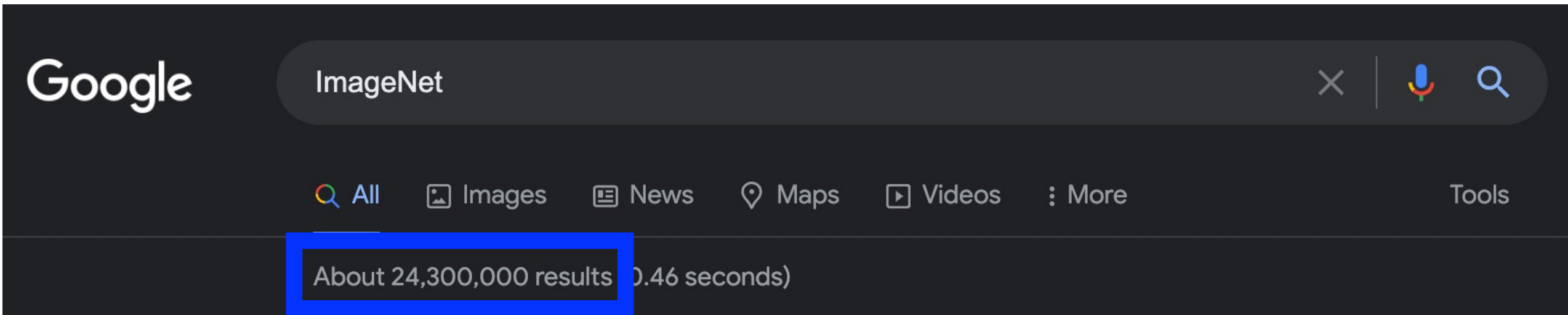
*ImageNet: A large-scale hierarchical image database*

Jia Deng, Wei Dong, Richard Socher,  
Li-Jia Li, Kai Li, and Li Fei-Fei



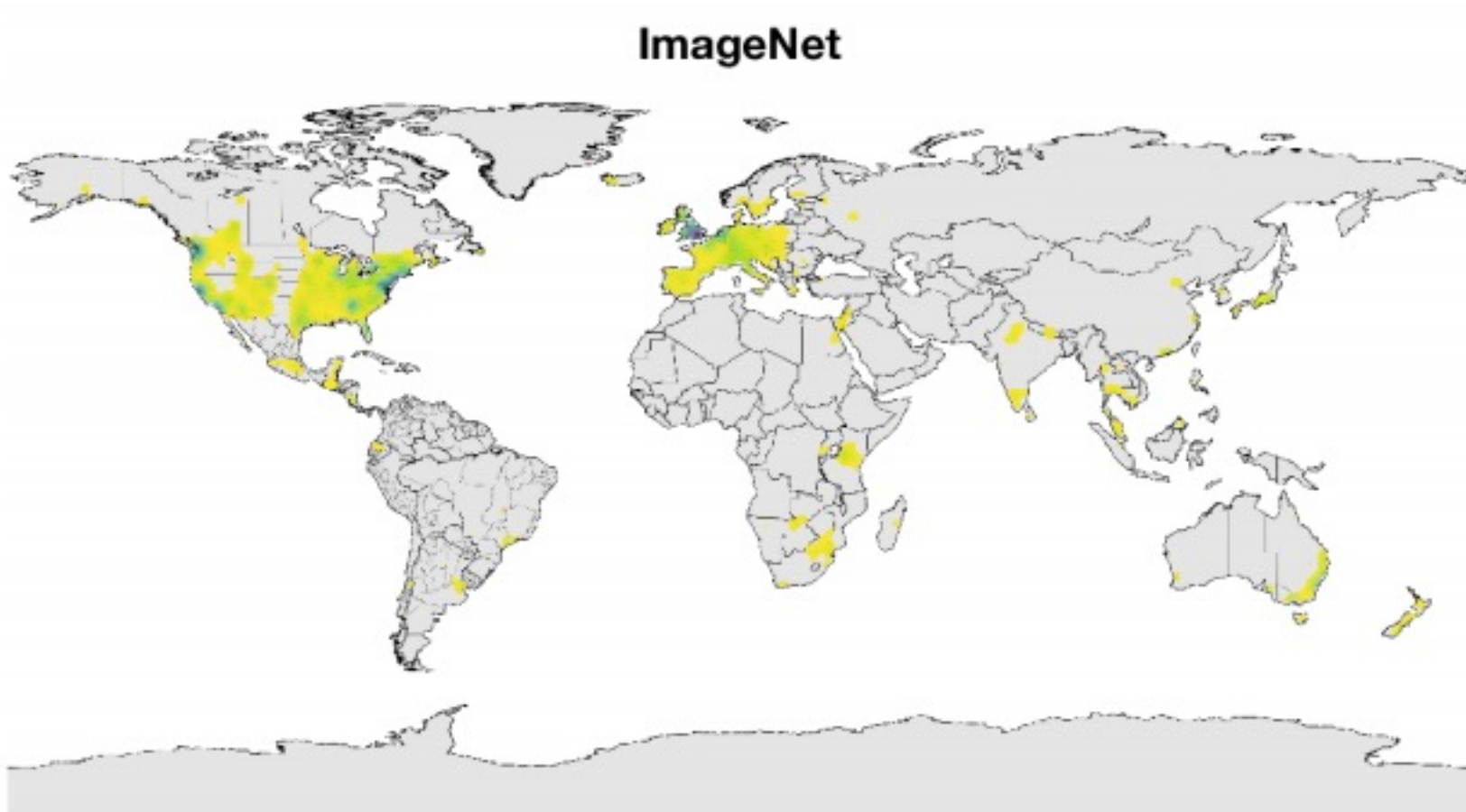
<https://syncedreview.com/2019/06/18/cvpr-2019-attracts-9k-attendees-best-papers-announced-imagenet-honoured-10-years-later/>

# ImageNet Impact Recognized



# ImageNet: Great Start...

Geographical distribution of images in the ImageNet using Flickr metadata:



Jieyu Zhao et al. Men also like shopping: Reducing gender bias amplification using corpus-level constraints. 2017.

# Today's Topics

- Computer vision
- Era of dataset challenges
- MNIST challenge winner: LeNet
- ImageNet challenge winners: deeper learning (AlexNet, VGG, ResNet)
- Programming tutorial

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*The End*