



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

# Machine learning for medical imaging

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INFN Sezione di Bologna

# State of the art – “Big data” challenge

Many available **public data** (BIG, i.e. *at least* Tb-sized):

**Heterogeneous** types of **information**  
(imaging, omics, clinical)

Databases **connect and integrate** different data types  
(genic & metabolic **networks**, clinical trials, in vitro experiments,  
catalogues of drug effects and targets)

Increased **computing** and **storage power** (HPC, GPU , Cloud)

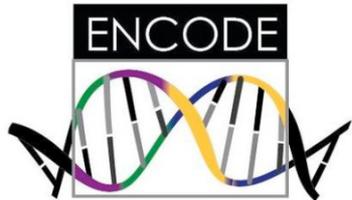
Rapid availability and **management** of data

# Public databases and repositories

Allow in silico meta-analyses and studies

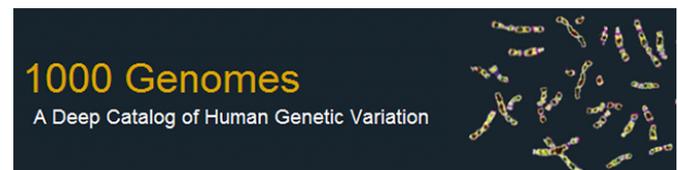
Provide preliminary information before new experiments

National Human Genome Research Institute



Genomics of Drug Sensitivity in Cancer

THE HUMAN PROTEIN ATLAS 



Transcriptome, Epigenomics, Drugs, Clinical trials, protein structure, ...

# Big Data for biomedical studies

## TCIA – the cancer imaging archive

TC, PET, NMR data

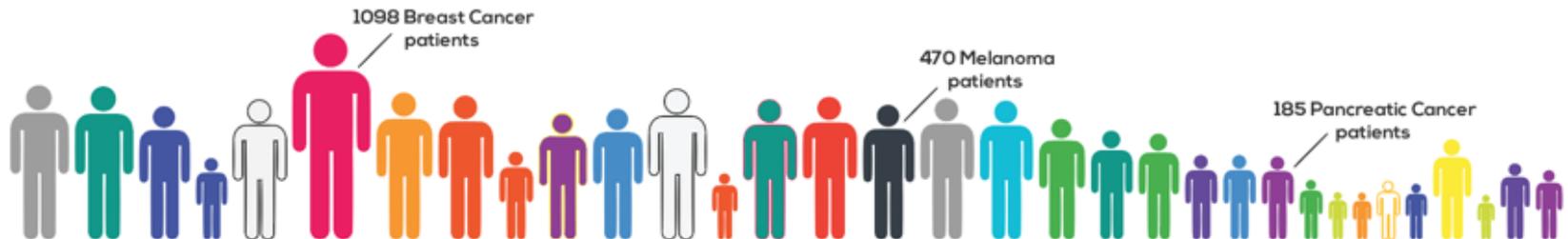


## TCGA – The Cancer Genetic Atlas

Omics (GEP, NGS, SNP, MET)



Matched tumor & normal tissues from more than **11,000** patients, representing **33** cancer types.



# TCIA-TCGA integrated imaging/omics databases



Collection	Cancer type	Modalities	#
<a href="#">TCGA-BLCA</a>	Bladder Endothelial Carcinoma	CT, CR, MR, PT	106
<a href="#">TCGA-BRCA</a>	Breast Cancer	MR, MG	139
<a href="#">TCGA-CESC</a>	Cervical Squamous Cell Carcinoma and Endocervical Adenocarcinoma	MR	54
<a href="#">TCGA-COAD</a>	Colon Adenocarcinoma	CT	25
<a href="#">TCGA-ESCA</a>	Esophageal Carcinoma	CT	16
<a href="#">TCGA-GBM</a>	Glioblastoma Multiforme	MR, CT, DX	262
<a href="#">TCGA-HNSC</a>	Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma	CT, MR, PT, RTSTRUCT, RTPLAN, RTDOSE	227
<a href="#">TCGA-KICH</a>	Kidney Chromophobe	CT, MR	15
<a href="#">TCGA-KIRC</a>	Kidney Renal Clear Cell Carcinoma	CT, MR, CR	267
<a href="#">TCGA-KIRP</a>	Kidney Renal Papillary Cell Carcinoma	CT, MR, PT	33
<a href="#">TCGA-LGG</a>	Low Grade Glioma	MR, CT	199
<a href="#">TCGA-LIHC</a>	Liver Hepatocellular Carcinoma	MR, CT, PT	97
<a href="#">TCGA-LUAD</a>	Lung Adenocarcinoma	CT, PT, NM	69
<a href="#">TCGA-LUSC</a>	Lung Squamous Cell Carcinoma	CT, NM, PT	37
<a href="#">TCGA-OV</a>	Ovarian Serous Cystadenocarcinoma	CT, MR	143
<a href="#">TCGA-PRAD</a>	Prostate Cancer	CT, PT, MR	14
<a href="#">TCGA-READ</a>	Rectum Adenocarcinoma	CT, MR	3
<a href="#">TCGA-SARC</a>	Sarcomas	CT, MR	5
<a href="#">TCGA-STAD</a>	Stomach Adenocarcinoma	CT	46
<a href="#">TCGA-THCA</a>	Thyroid Cancer	CT, PT	6
<a href="#">TCGA-UCEC</a>	Uterine Corpus Endometrial Carcinoma	CT, CR, MR, PT	58

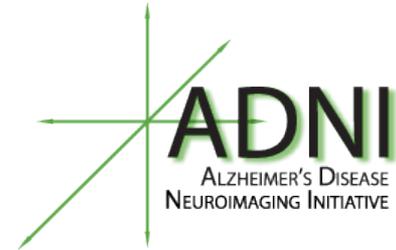
**TCIA – public database of biomedical imaging for many tumours**

For 21 tumours also omics data are available in TCGA (same samples)



# Big Data for clinical studies

**ADNI – Alzheimer Disease Neuroimaging Initiative**  
(imaging, omics, clinical, biospecimens)



**ABIDE – Autism Brain Imaging Data Exchange**  
(imaging data on control and autistic samples)



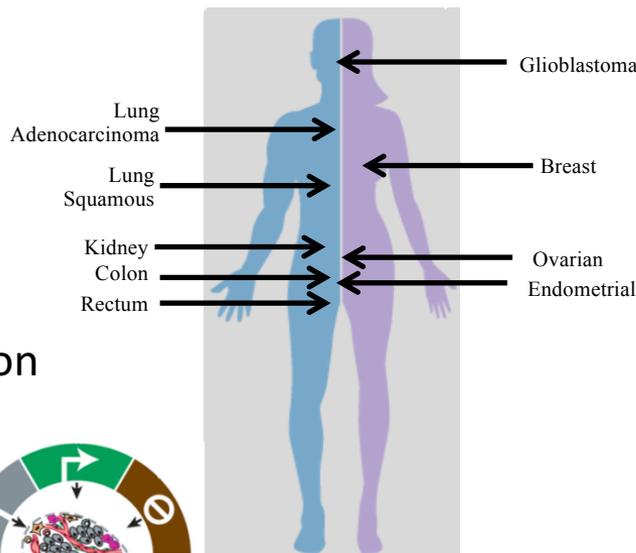
**IXI – Information eXtraction from Images**  
(600 normal healthy subjects MRI)



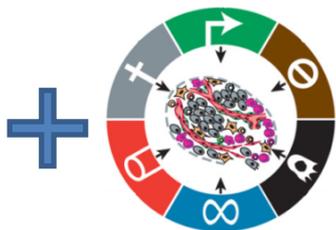
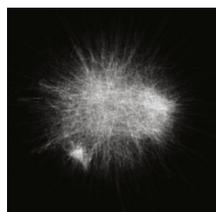
# Omics multivariate analysis: examples



TCGA database  
**11 Cancer types**  
**> 2000 samples**



**Drug repurposing**  
**Target identification**



**BioPlex**  
 Protein-Protein  
 Interaction  
 Network

**Ontocancro**  
 Genes annotated  
 in cancer-related  
 pathways



DOI: 10.1038/s41467-018-06992-7 **OPEN**

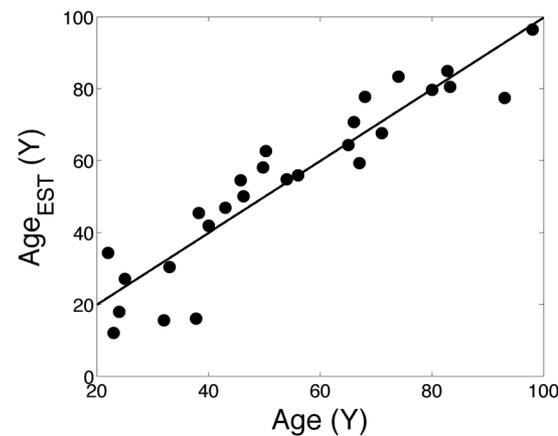
Network integration of multi-tumour omics data suggests novel targeting strategies

Ítalo Faria do Valle<sup>1,2</sup>, Giulia Menichetti<sup>3</sup>, Giorgia Simonetti<sup>4</sup>, Samantha Bruno<sup>4</sup>, Isabella Zironi<sup>1</sup>, Danielle Fernandes Durso<sup>4,5</sup>, José C.M. Mombach<sup>6</sup>, Giovanni Martinelli<sup>4,7</sup>, Gastone Castellani<sup>1</sup> & Daniel Remondini<sup>1</sup>

**Identification of a T cell gene expression clock obtained by exploiting a MZ twin design**

Daniel Remondini<sup>1,2</sup>, Nathan Intrator<sup>3</sup>, Claudia Sala<sup>1</sup>, Michela Pierini<sup>4,6</sup>, Paolo Garagnani<sup>2,4</sup>, Isabella Zironi<sup>1</sup>, Claudio Franceschi<sup>5</sup>, Stefano Salvioli<sup>2,4</sup> & Gastone Castellani<sup>1,2</sup>

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS 2017



**125-gene signature** to predict sample age from blood cells



Huge amount of data: **data-driven** approaches

**Machine Learning**: usage of **advanced algorithms** for data analysis (e.g. image analysis)

1) **Unsupervised methods**:

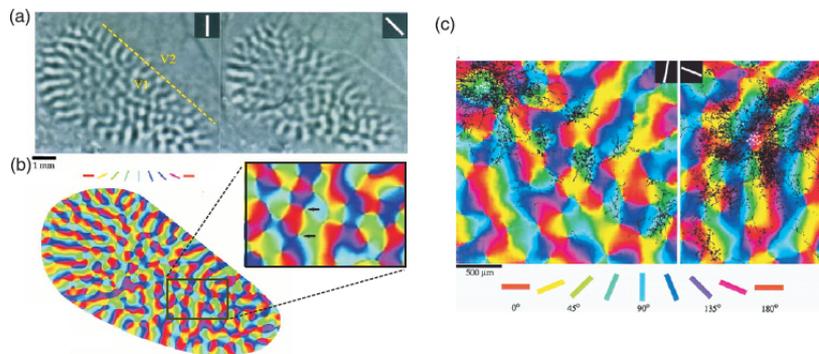
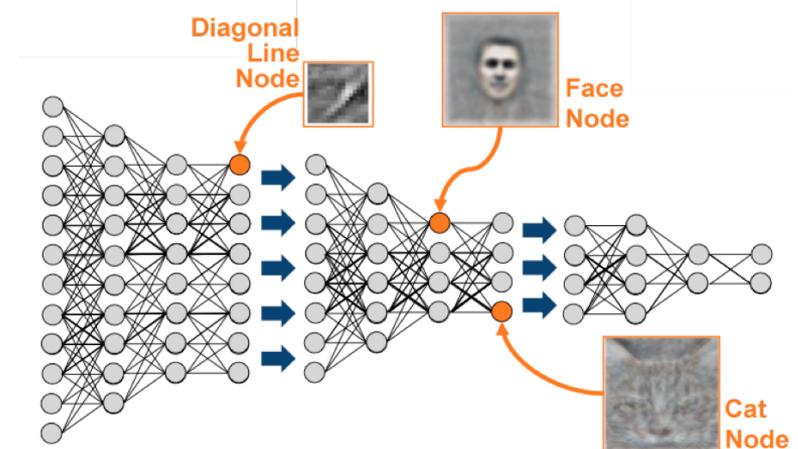
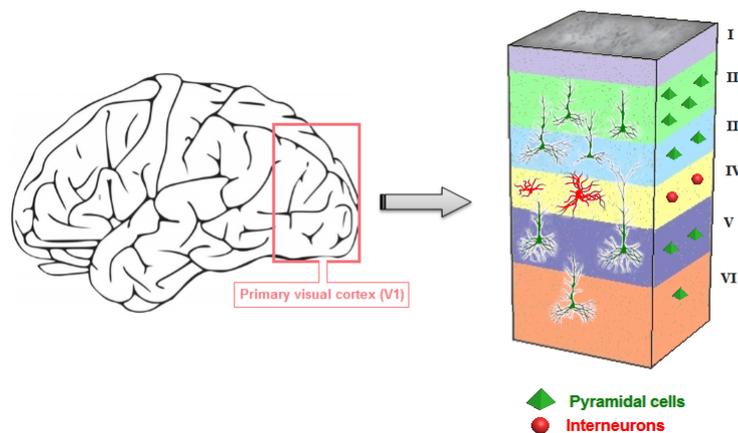
- a) data **clustering** (e.g. ROI segmentation)
- b) **feature extraction** (e.g. texture features)

2) **Supervised methods**: the algorithm uses known information (e.g. reference samples, standards) for

- a) sample **classification**
- b) parameter **regression** (e.g. risk score, age)

# Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning

Some machine learning techniques take inspiration from **anatomical** and **functional** structures of the **brain** (i.e. visual cortex, known since the '60s)

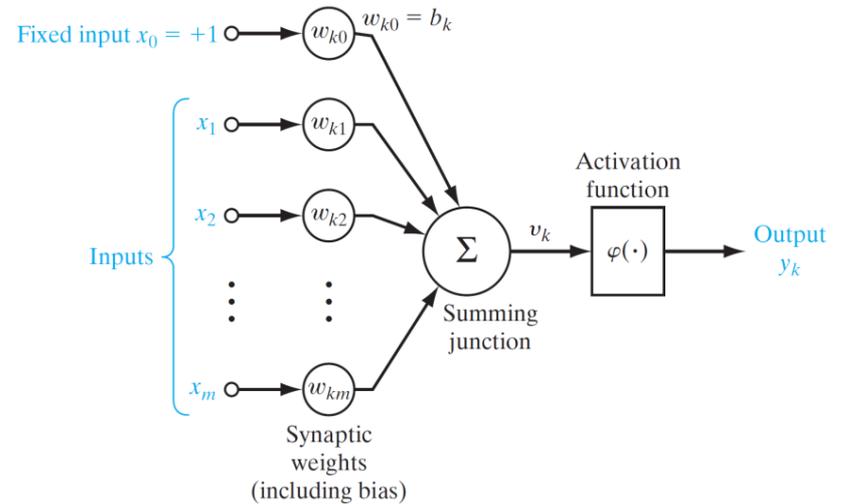
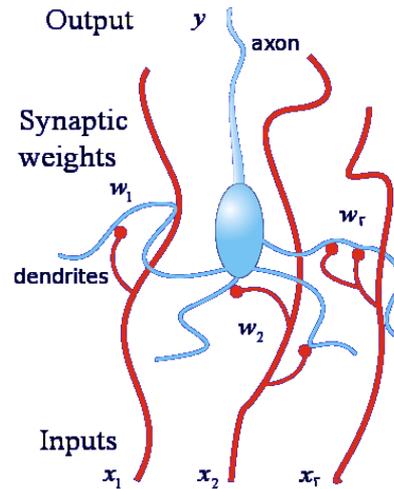
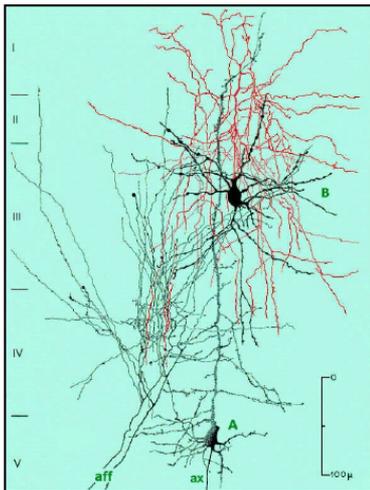


Layered (modular, organized)  
Hierarchical (from contours to shapes)  
Somatotopic (organization)

*Hubel & Wiesel J Physiol 160, 1962*

# Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning

The functional units of Neural Networks take inspiration from neurons (since 1957 Rosenblatt's *perceptron*)



# Deep Neural Network for Machine Learning - supervised

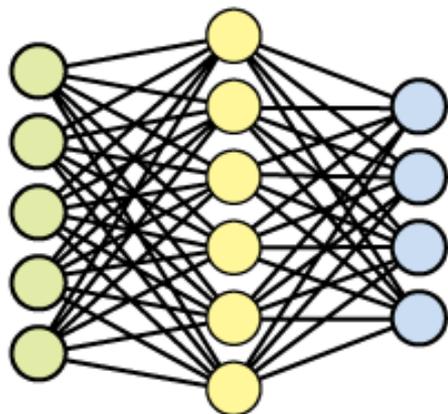
**Supervised** methods (classification, regression):

Feedforward Deep Networks FDN

FDN is **trained** with examples, and **generalizes** to unseen data

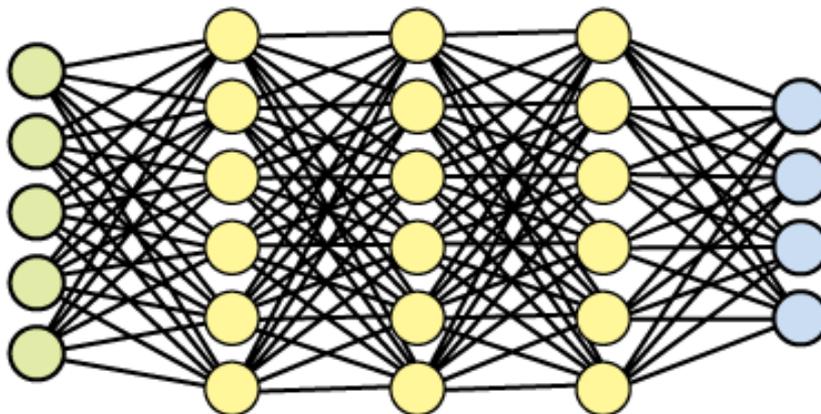
Neural network

Input Hidden Output



Deep neural network

Input Hidden Hidden Hidden Output



My thesis (1996): 4 neurons, 386 Intel CPU, 20 Mb HD

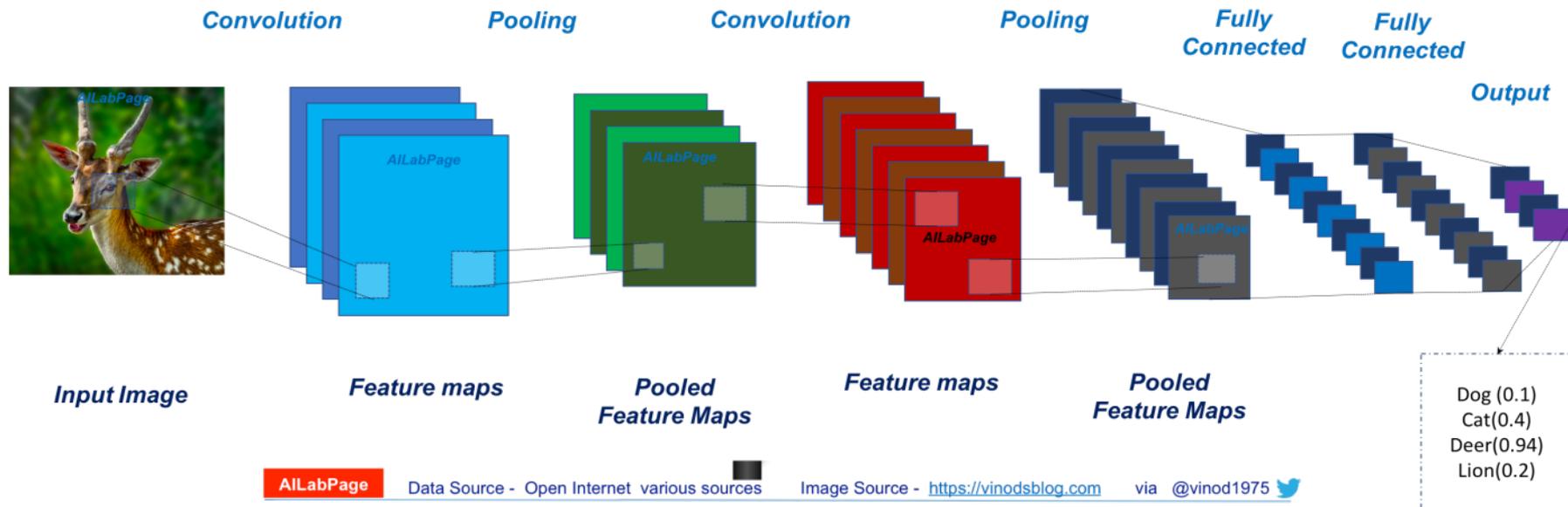
Actual FDN:  $10^5$ - $10^6$  neurons, multi-core CPU & GPU, Tb HD (& RAM)



# Deep Neural Network for Machine Learning - unsupervised

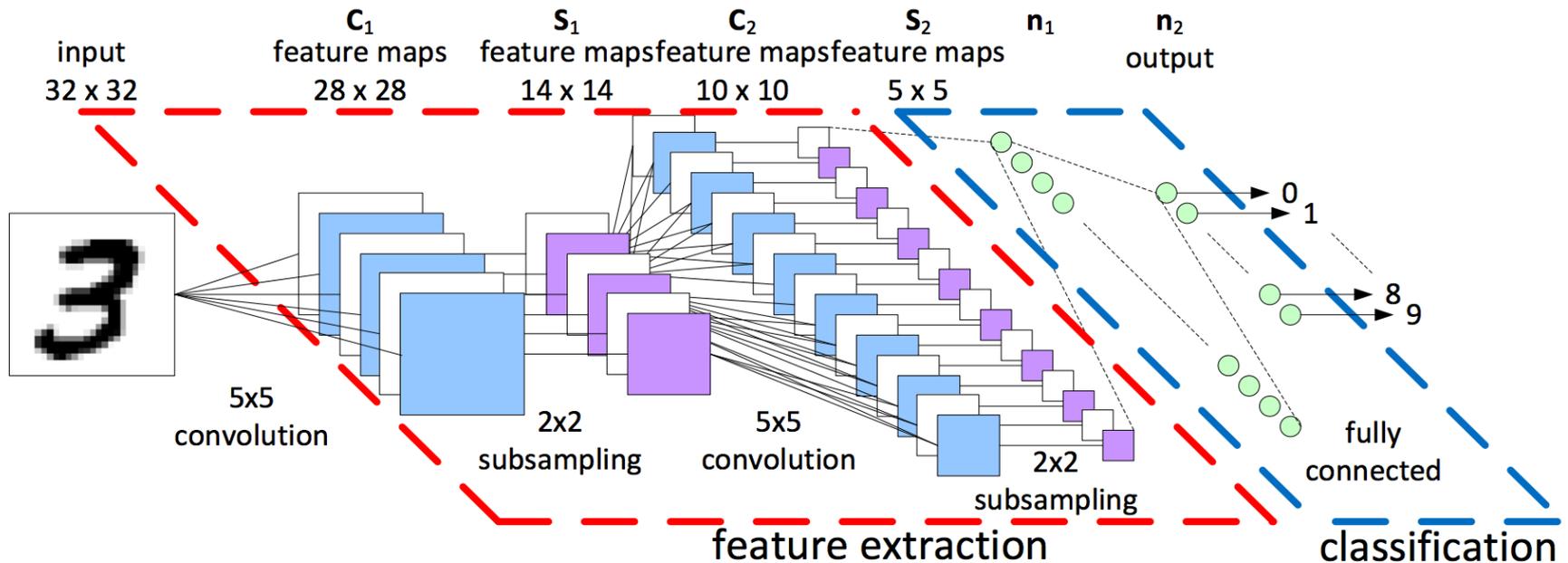
**Unsupervised** feature extraction: Convolutional Neural Networks CNN  
CNN layers extract a **hierarchy** of **features** (from contours to shapes)

## Convolution Neural Network



# Deep Neural Network for Machine Learning

Typical DNN architecture: encoding (CNN) + task (FDN)



# Machine Learning for NMR data: examples

## Data processing:

- 1) NMR fingerprinting
- 2) QSM processing

## Image analysis:

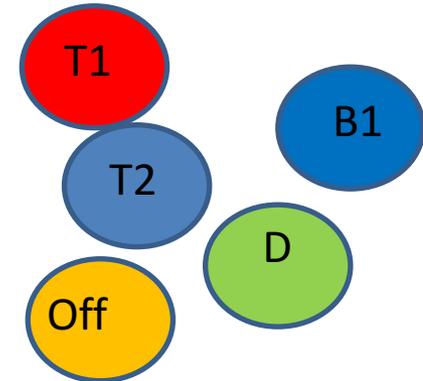
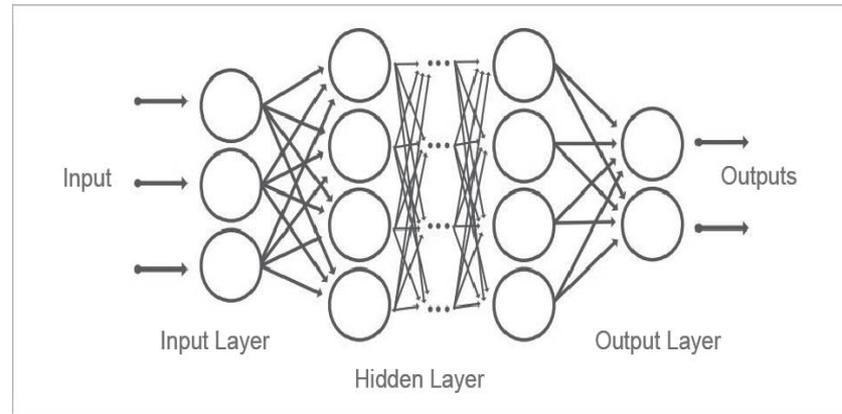
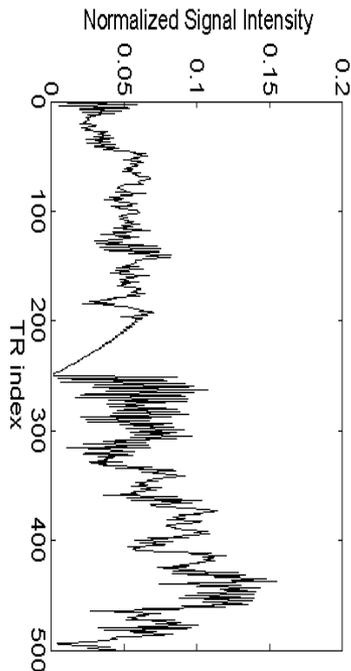
- 1) Automated segmentation
- 2) Quantification (feature & texture analysis)
- 3) Image quality enhancement (super-resolution)

# Fingerprinting

Associate vectors of features for each MRI "pixel" (training set) with specific values (B, T1, T2, ...)

Original strategy [Ma et al, Nature 495, 2013]: define a "dictionary" of feature/value associations

Our strategy: train a DL network to discriminate the feature vectors and reliably associate the physical NMR parameters



Barbieri, ... Remondini arXiv:1811.11477

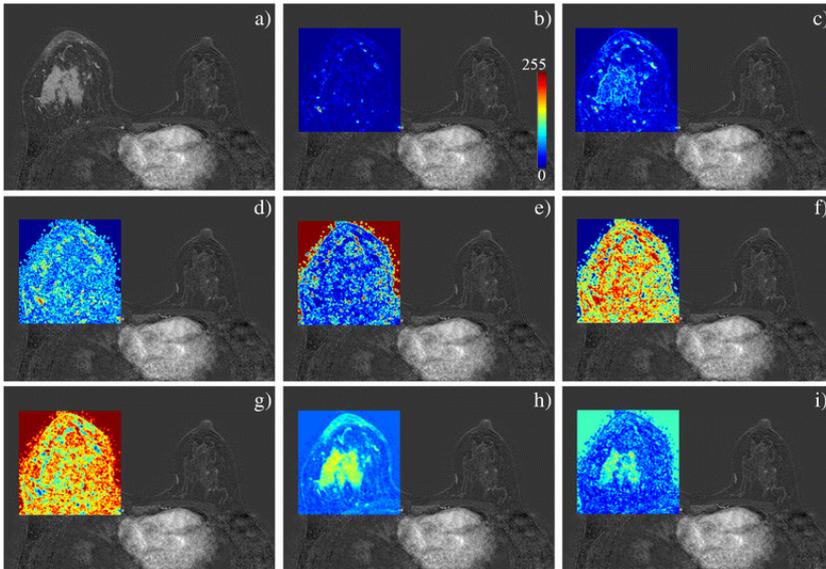


# Feature extraction & analysis

Many observables can be extracted from single pixels (or larger patches) of MRI images

- Graylevel histogram
- Texture features (based on spatial and intensity proximity)
- Segmented region parameters (eccentricity, complexity, fractal dim, ...)

Each sample is mapped into a high-dimensional feature space



$$N = 10^2 - 10^3$$

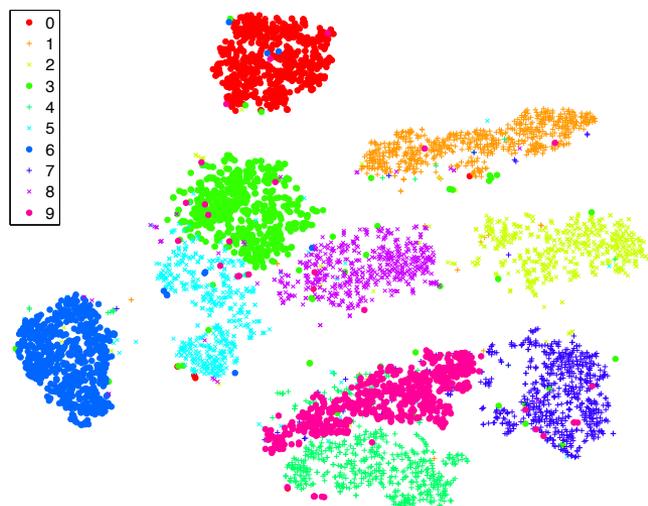
- Feature vectors can be used for
- low-dimensional visualization
  - Supervised and unsupervised machine learning

# Visualization

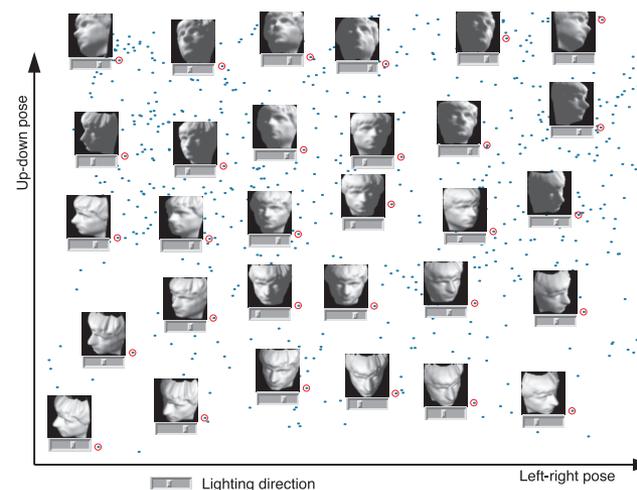
Several techniques can be used for low-dimensional reduction and visualization (in 2-3 dim)

- PCA/SVD "family" of methods
- ISOMAP (network-geodetics)
- SNE (Stochastic Neighbor Embedding)

SNE 2-d representation of hand-written digit images



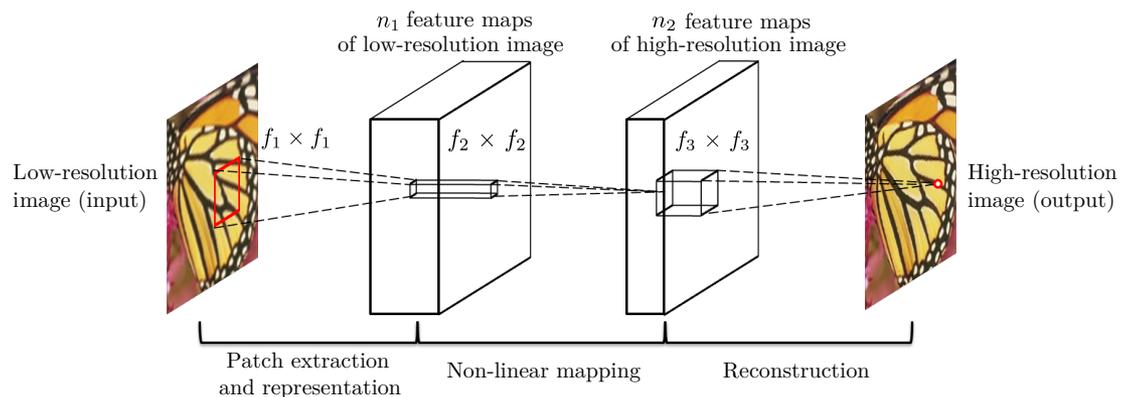
ISOMAP 2-d representation of face images



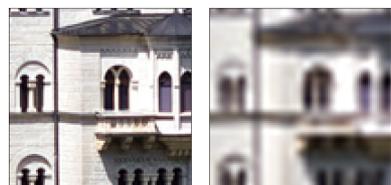
# Super resolution

A DNN can learn to "improve" image quality (resolution)  
from an adequate training set

Results of a DNN trained on natural images



Original image 0887 from DIV2K



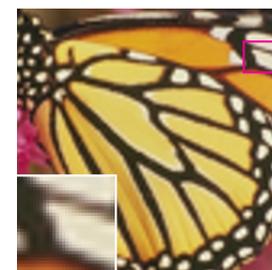
HR (PSNR/SSIM)    Bicubic (23.93 dB/0.729)



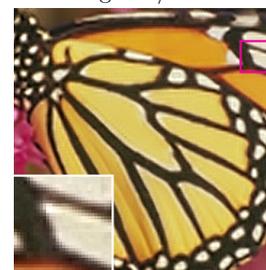
WDSR (25.31 dB/0.788)    EDSR (25.37 dB/0.791)



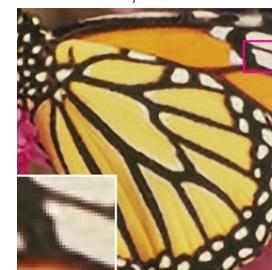
Original / PSNR



Bicubic / 24.04 dB



SC / 25.58 dB



SRCNN / 27.95 dB

*Dong et al., arXiv:1501.00092v3*

# Classification & regression

Machine learning techniques (including DL) can be used to **classify** samples or to **regress** parameters (e.g. tumour grade, age):

- Partial Least Squares
- Support Vector Machine
- Discriminant Analysis
- K-Nearest Neighbour
- Ridge regression
- LASSO
- ...



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*Per quanto concerne i moderatori, relatori, formatori, tutor, docenti è richiesta dall'Accordo Stato-Regioni vigente apposita dichiarazione esplicita dell'interessato, di trasparenza delle fonti di finanziamento e dei rapporti con soggetti portatori di interessi commerciali relativi agli ultimi due anni dalla data dell'evento.*

*La documentazione deve essere disponibile presso il Provider e conservata per almeno 5 anni.*

## Dichiarazione sul Conflitto di Interessi

Il sottoscritto DANIEL REMONDINI in qualità di:

relatore

dell'evento "X CONGRESSO AIRMM - RISONANZA MAGNETICA IN MEDICINA 2019:  
DALLA RICERCA TECNOLOGICA AVANZATA ALLA PRATICA CLINICA"  
Milano, 28-29 marzo 2019

da tenersi per conto di **Biomedica srl Provider n. 148,**

ai sensi dell'Accordo Stato-Regione in materia di formazione continua nel settore "Salute" (Formazione ECM) vigente,

### **Dichiara**

X che negli ultimi due anni NON ha avuto rapporti anche di finanziamento con soggetti portatori di interessi commerciali in campo sanitario

