

# **Transformer Model (1/2): Attention without RNN**

**Shusen Wang**

# Transformer Model

- **Original paper:** Vaswani et al. [Attention Is All You Need](#). In *NIPS*, 2017.

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## Attention Is All You Need

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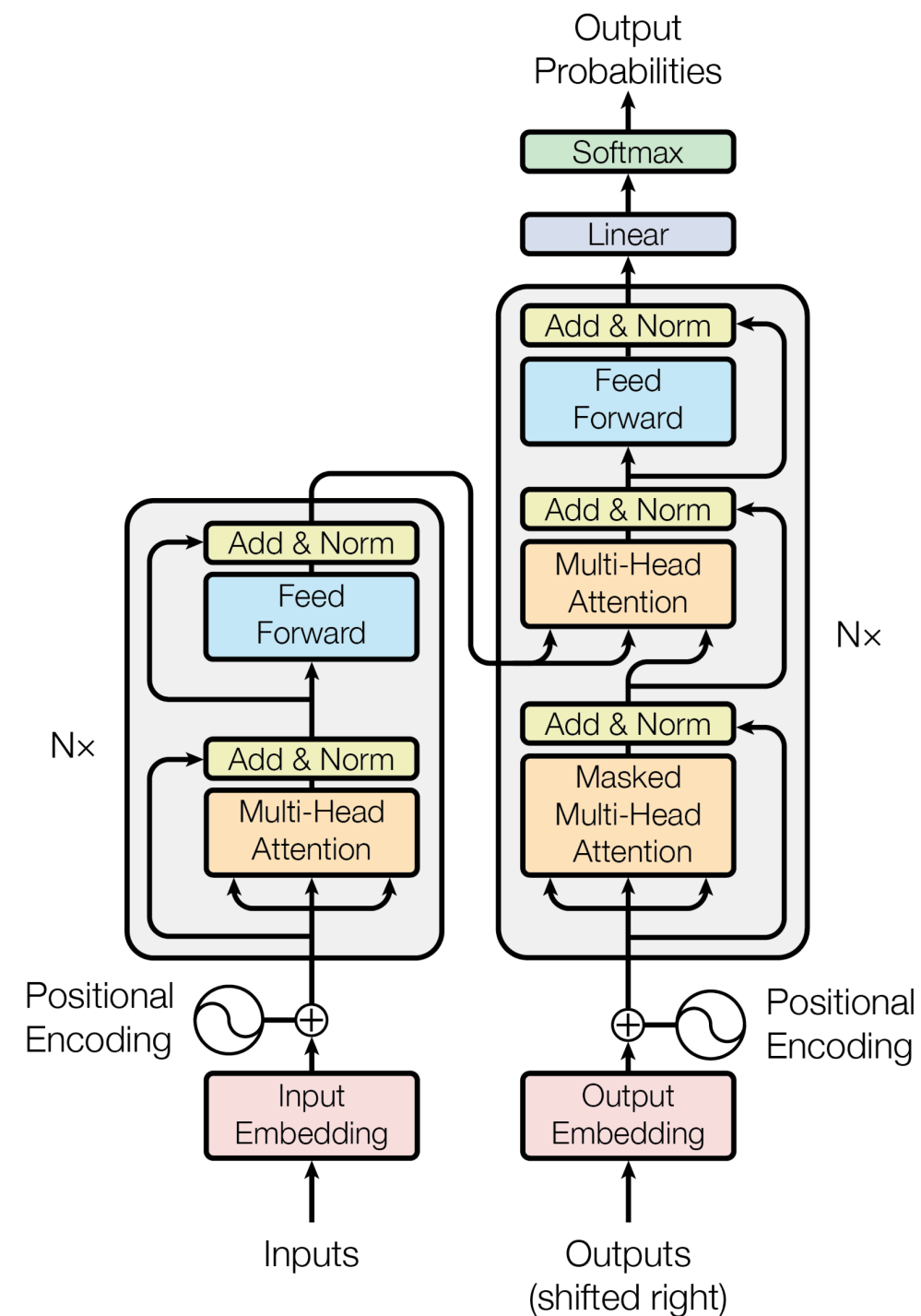
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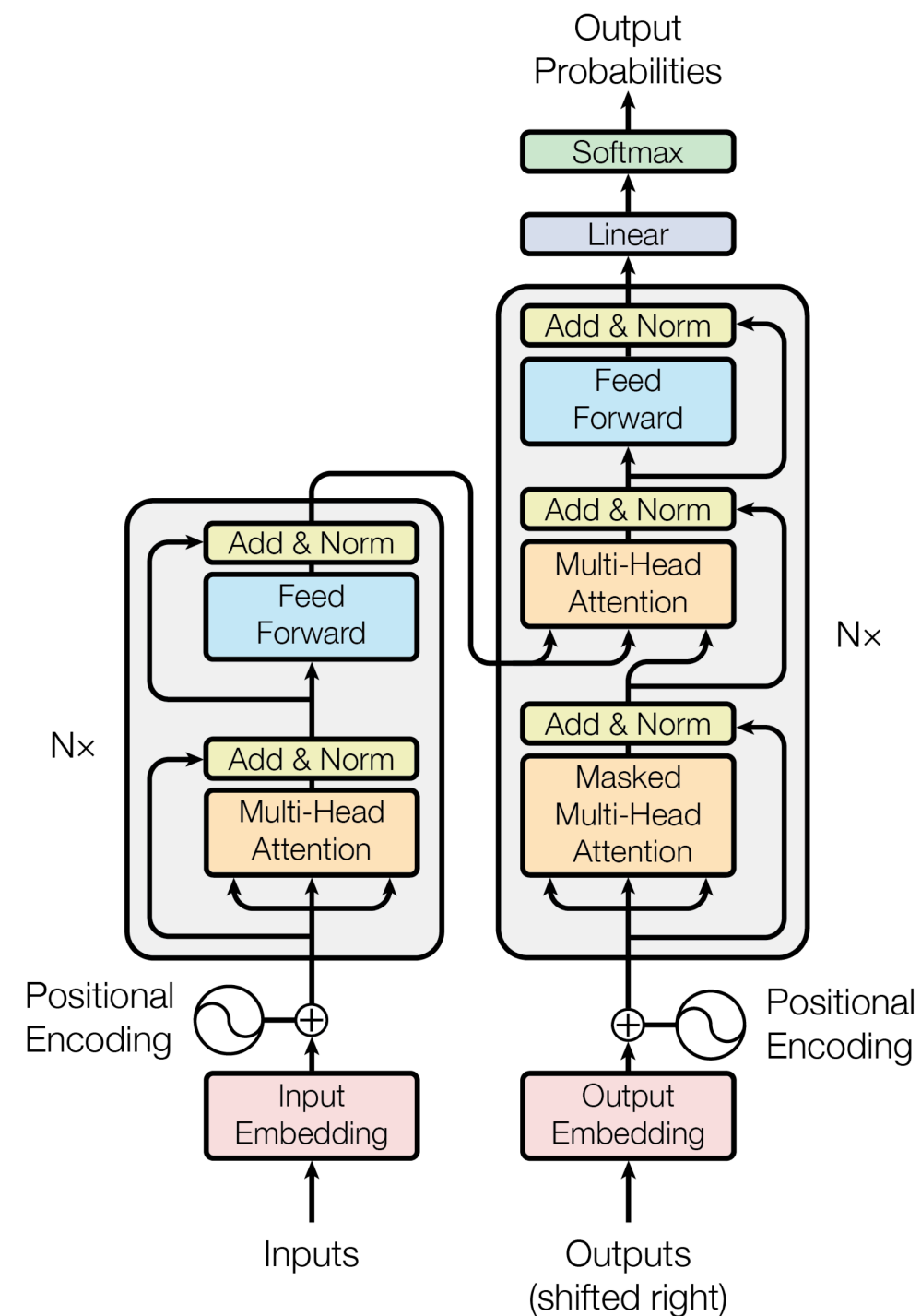
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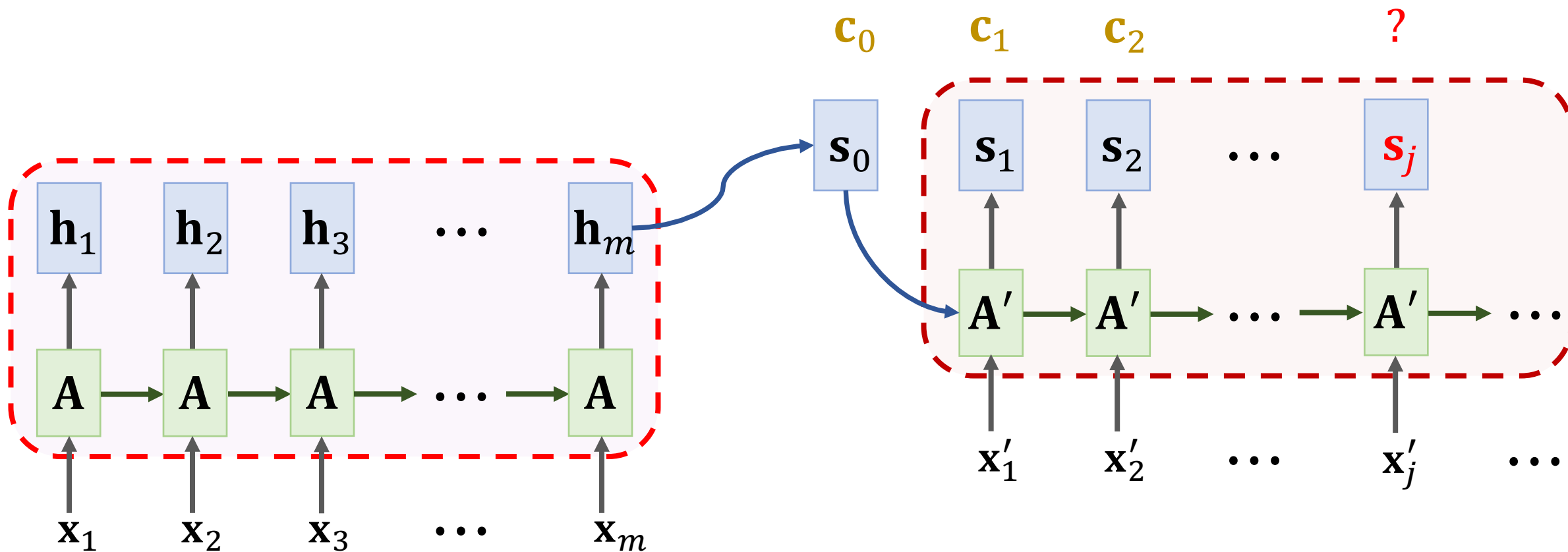
# Transformer Model

- Transformer is a Seq2Seq model.
- Transformer is not RNN.
- Purely based attention and dense layers.
- Much more computation than RNNs.
- Higher accuracy than RNNs on large datasets.



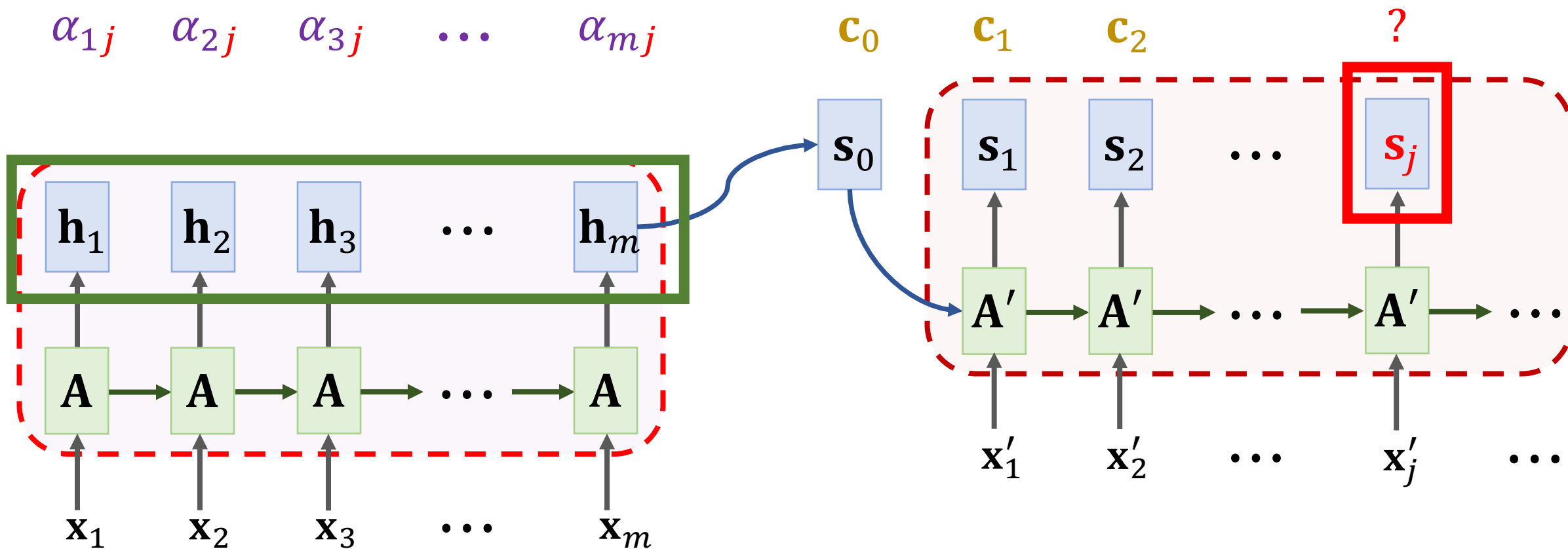
# Revisiting **Attention** for RNN

# Attention for Seq2Seq Model



# Attention for Seq2Seq Model

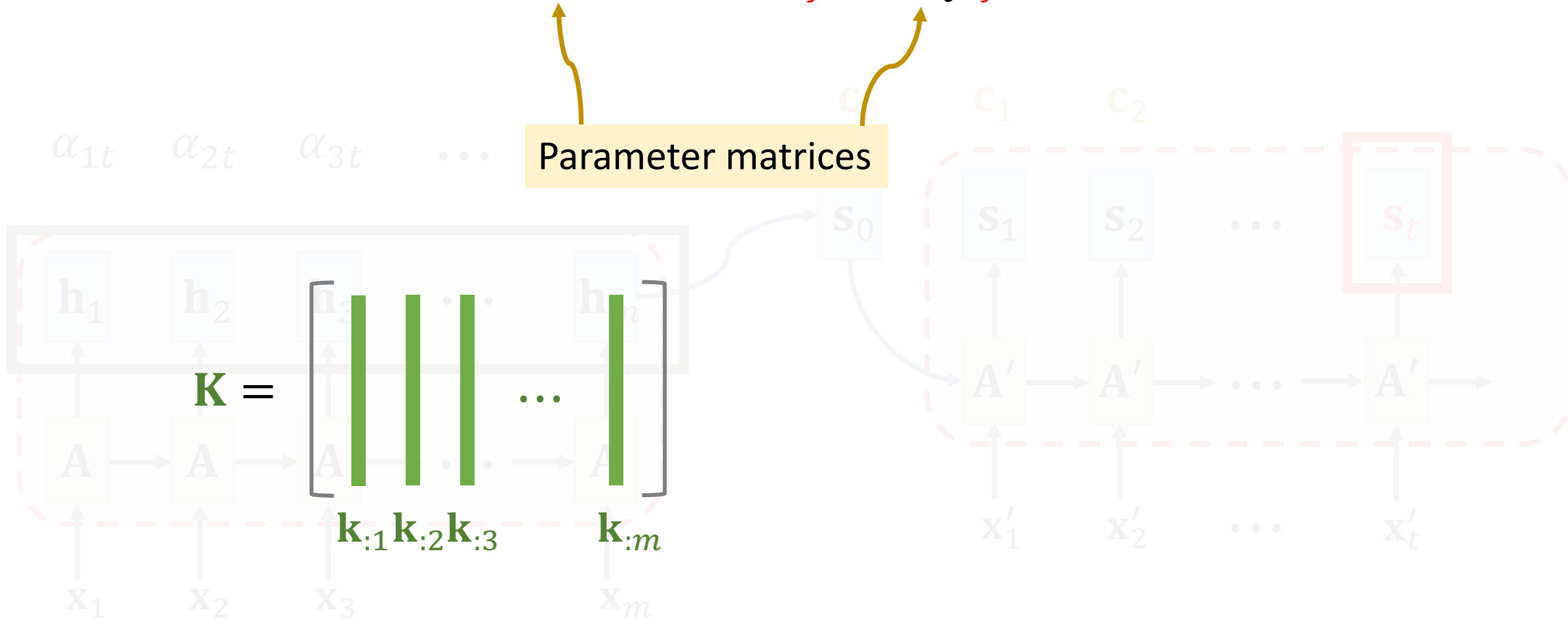
Weights:  $\alpha_{ij} = \text{align}(\mathbf{h}_i, \mathbf{s}_j)$ .



# Attention for Seq2Seq Model

**Weights:**  $\alpha_{ij} = \text{align}(\mathbf{h}_i, \mathbf{s}_j)$ .

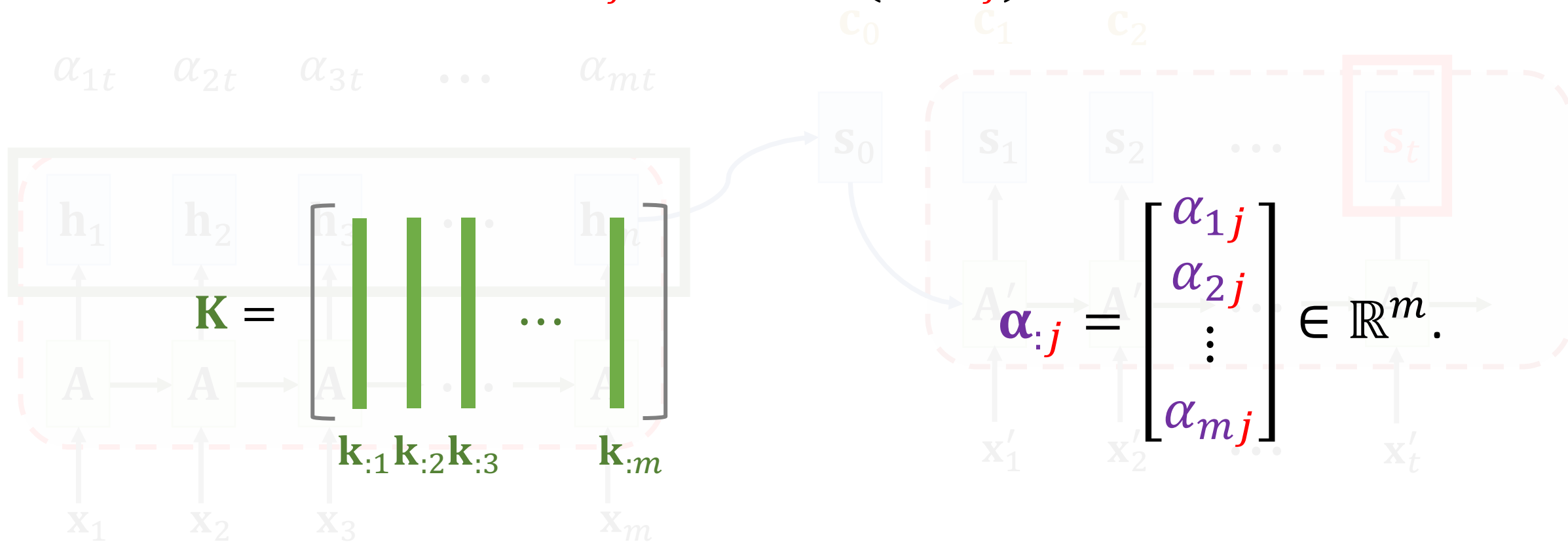
- Compute  $\mathbf{k}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_K \mathbf{h}_i$  and  $\mathbf{q}_{:j} = \mathbf{W}_Q \mathbf{s}_j$ .



# Attention for Seq2Seq Model

**Weights:**  $\alpha_{ij} = \text{align}(\mathbf{h}_i, \mathbf{s}_j)$ .

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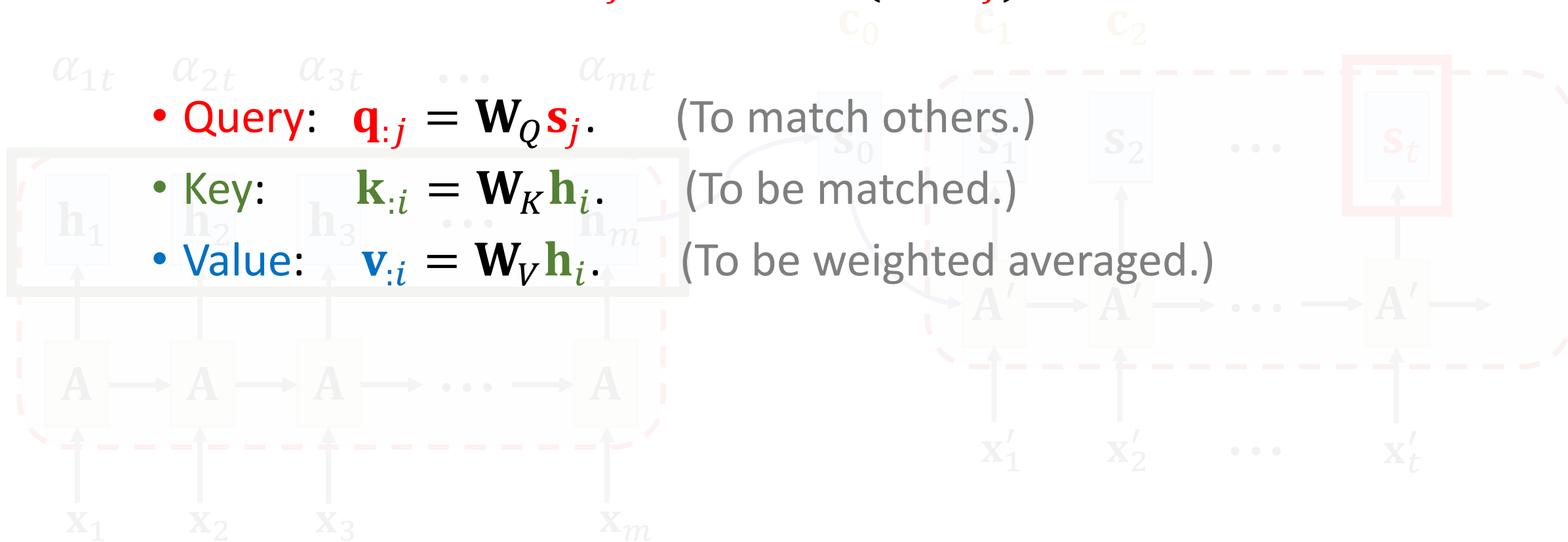




# Attention for Seq2Seq Model

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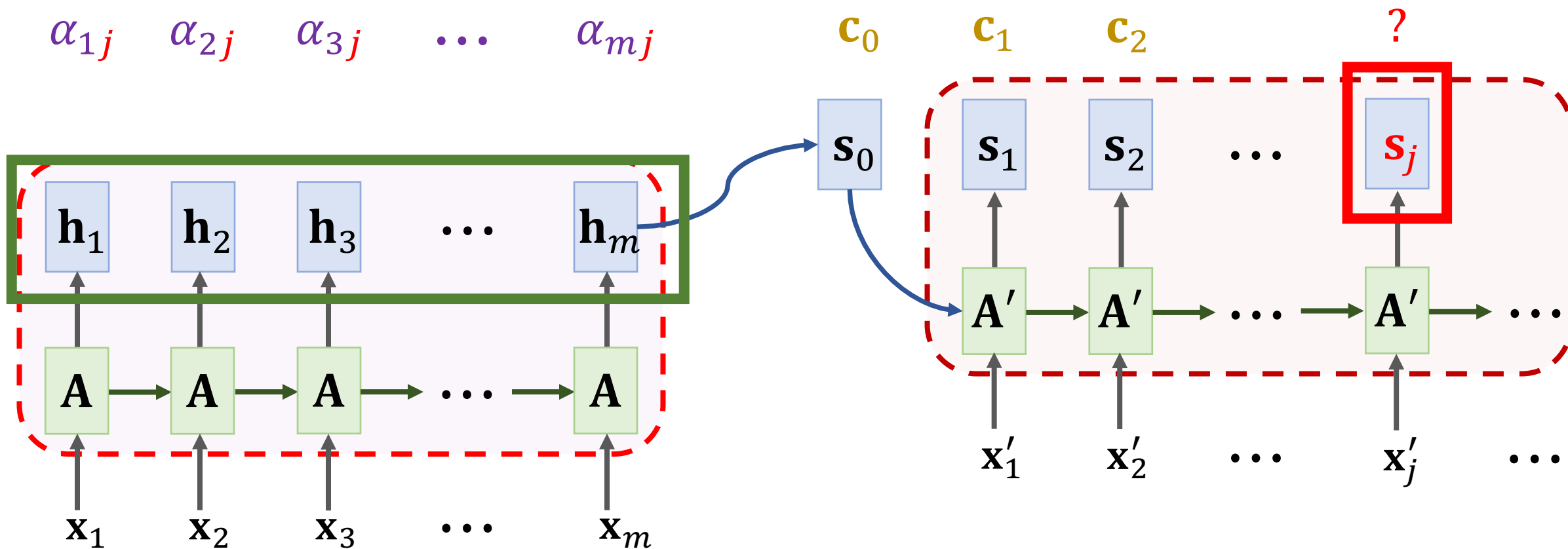
- Compute  $\mathbf{k}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_K \mathbf{h}_i$  and  $\mathbf{q}_{:j} = \mathbf{W}_Q \mathbf{s}_j$ .
- Compute weights:  $\alpha_{:j} = \text{Softmax}(\mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{q}_{:j}) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .



# Attention for Seq2Seq Model

Query:  $\mathbf{q}_{:j} = \mathbf{W}_Q \mathbf{s}_j$ ,      Key:  $\mathbf{k}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_K \mathbf{h}_i$ ,      Value:  $\mathbf{v}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_V \mathbf{h}_i$ .

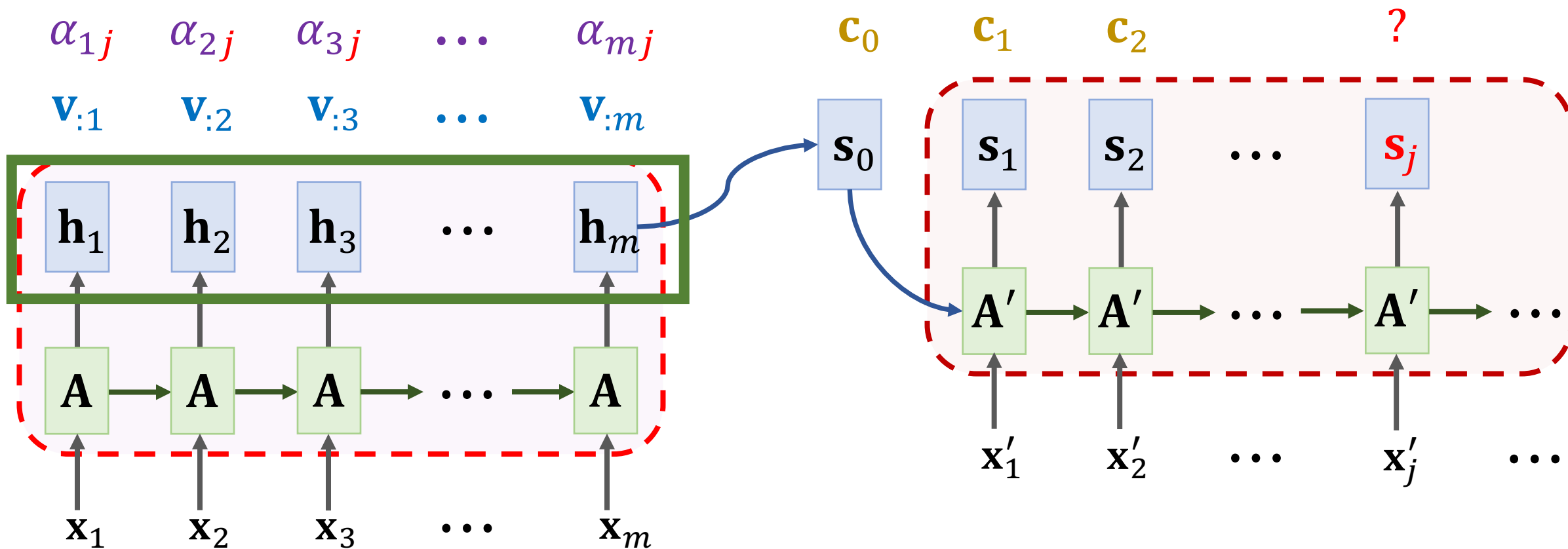
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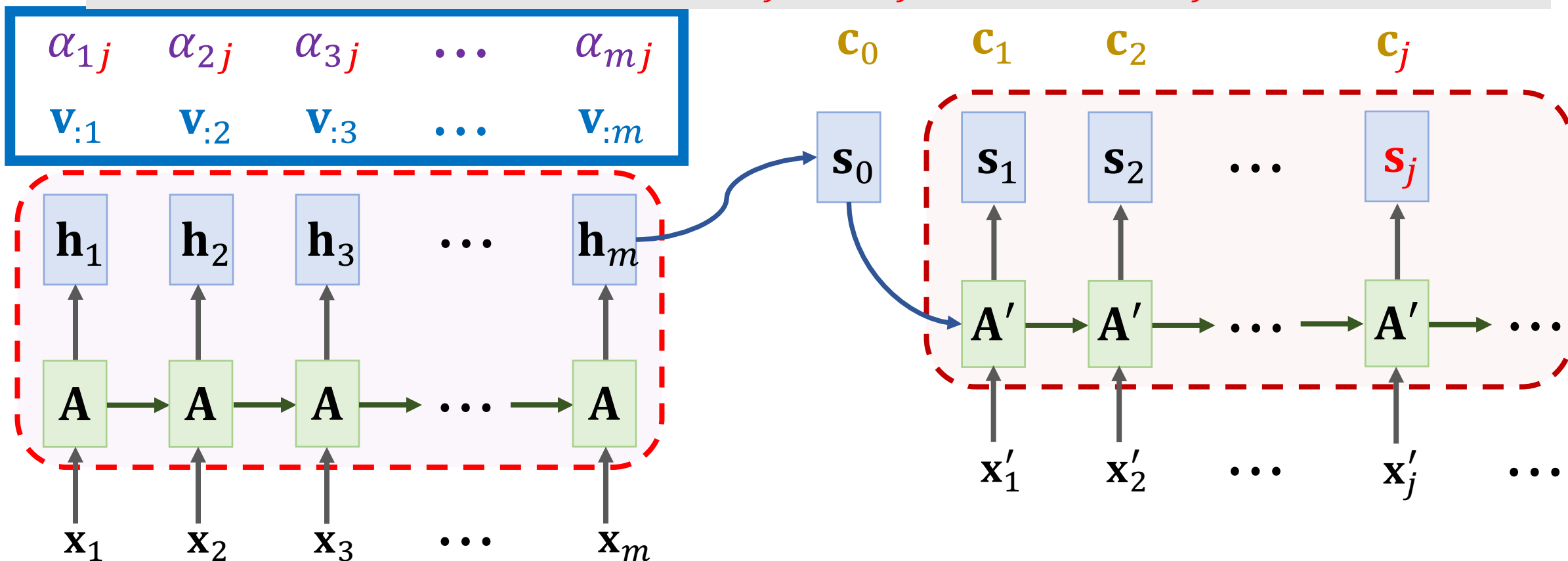


# Attention for Seq2Seq Model

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Weights:  $\alpha_{:j} = \text{Softmax}(\mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{q}_{:j}) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .

Context vector:  $\mathbf{c}_j = \alpha_{1j} \mathbf{v}_{:1} + \cdots + \alpha_{mj} \mathbf{v}_{:m}$ .



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**Question:** Can we remove RNN while keep attention?

# **Attention without RNN**

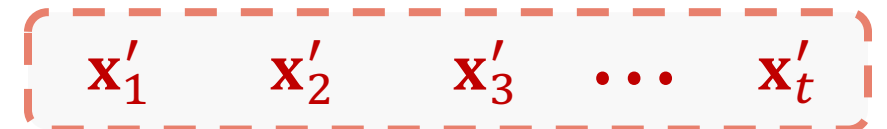
# Attention Layer

- We study Seq2Seq model (encoder + decoder).
- Encoder's inputs are vectors  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m$ .
- Decoder's inputs are vectors  $\mathbf{x}'_1, \mathbf{x}'_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}'_t$ .

Encoder's inputs:

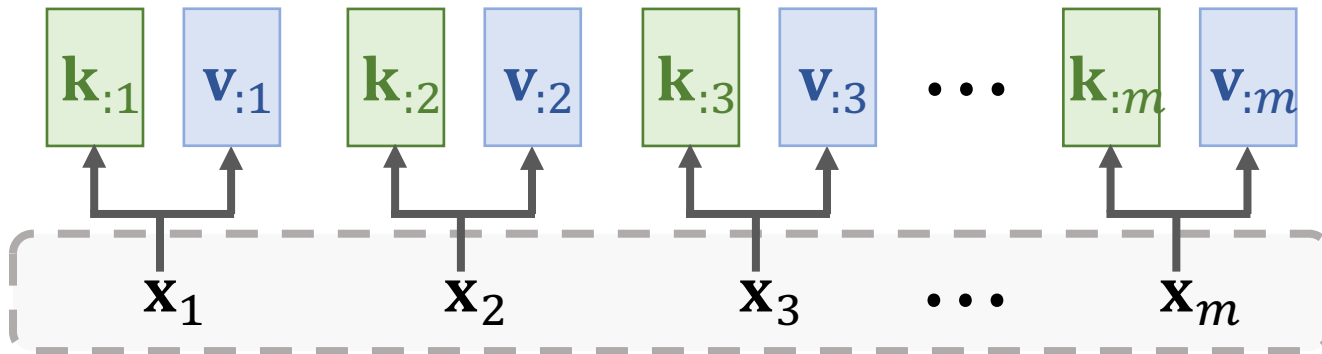


Decoder's inputs:



# Attention Layer

- **Keys** and **values** are based on encoder's inputs  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m$ .
- **Key:**  $\mathbf{k}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_K \mathbf{x}_i$ .
- **Value:**  $\mathbf{v}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_V \mathbf{x}_i$ .



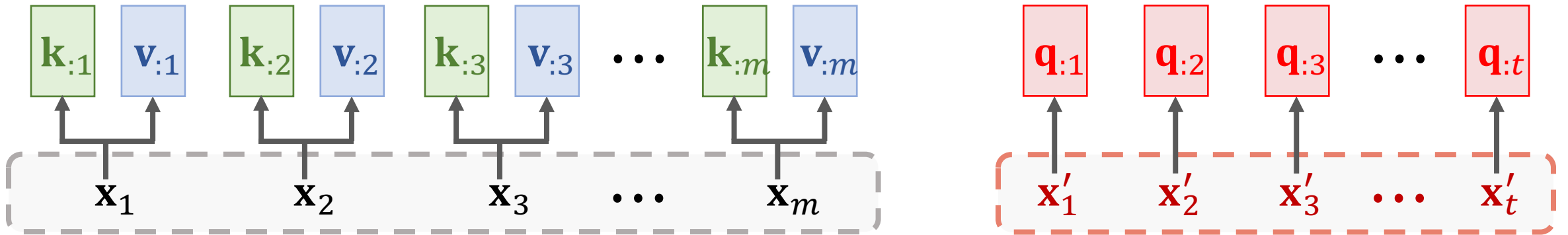
**Decoder's inputs:**





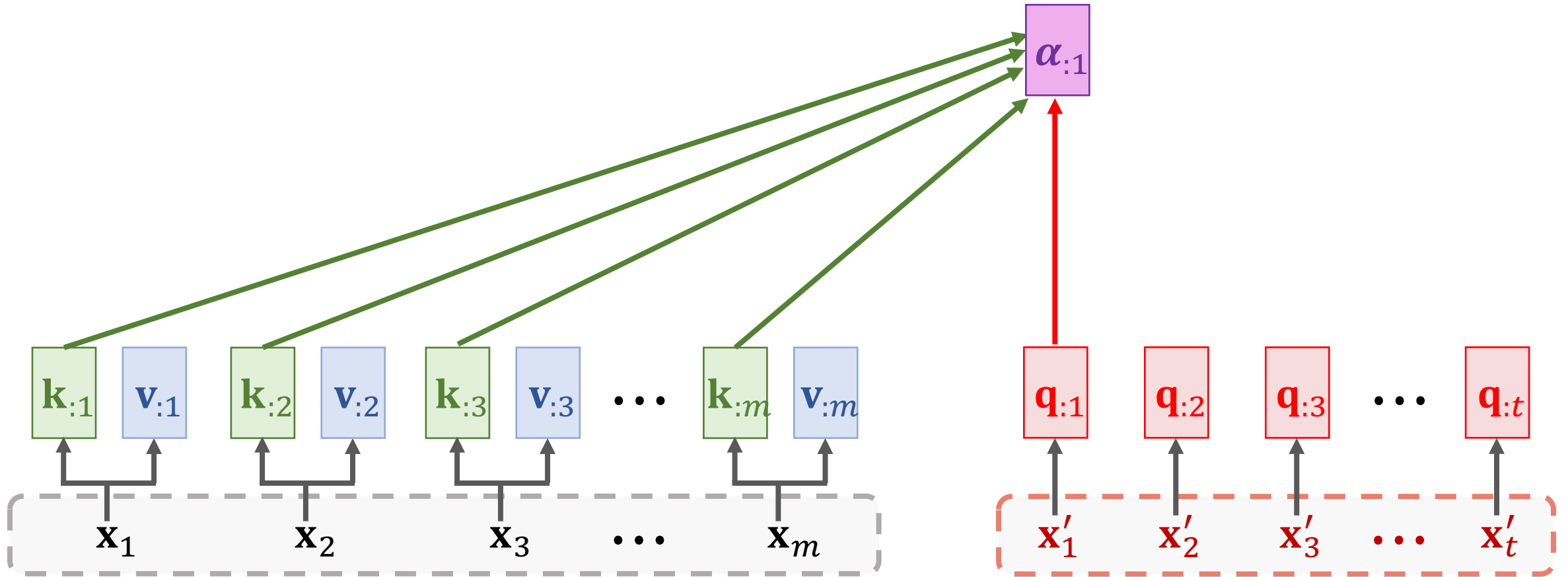
# Attention Layer

- **Keys** and **values** are based on encoder's inputs  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m$ .
- **Key:**  $\mathbf{k}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_K \mathbf{x}_i$ .
- **Value:**  $\mathbf{v}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_V \mathbf{x}_i$ .
- **Queries** are based on decoder's inputs  $\mathbf{x}'_1, \mathbf{x}'_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}'_t$ .
- **Query:**  $\mathbf{q}_{:j} = \mathbf{W}_Q \mathbf{x}'_j$ .



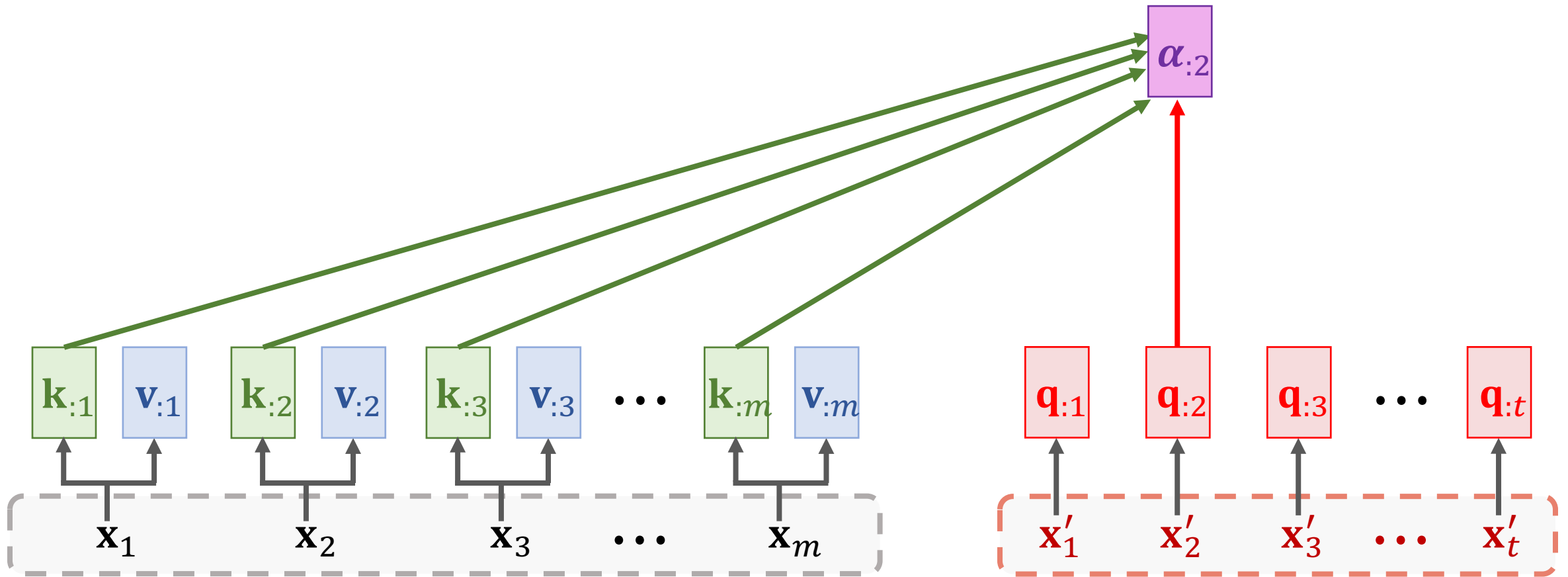
# Attention Layer

- Compute weights:  $\alpha_{:j} = \text{Softmax}(\mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{q}_{:j}) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .



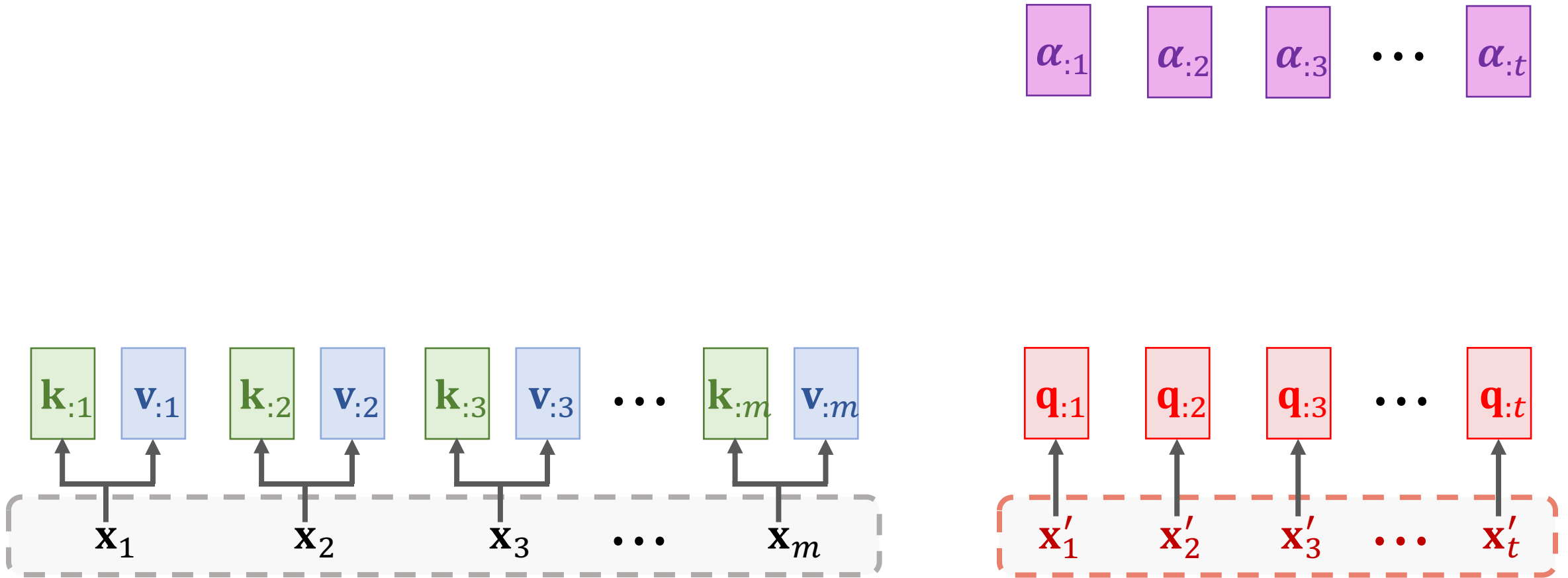
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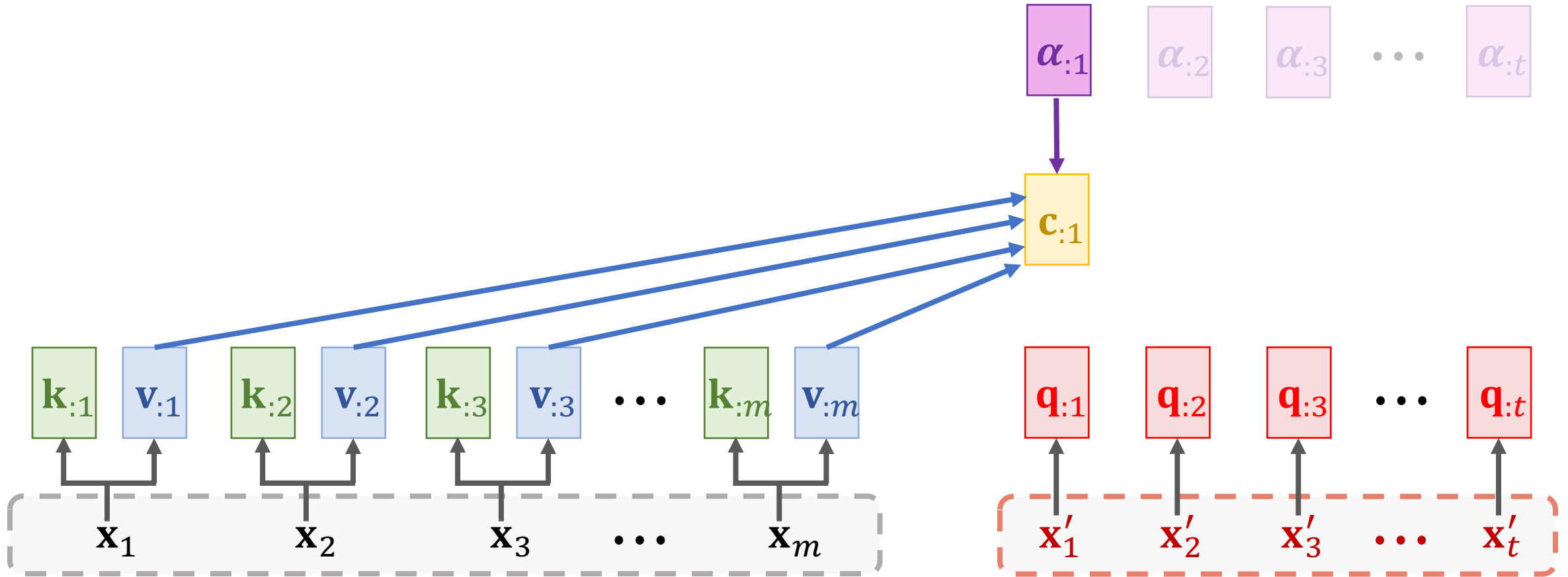
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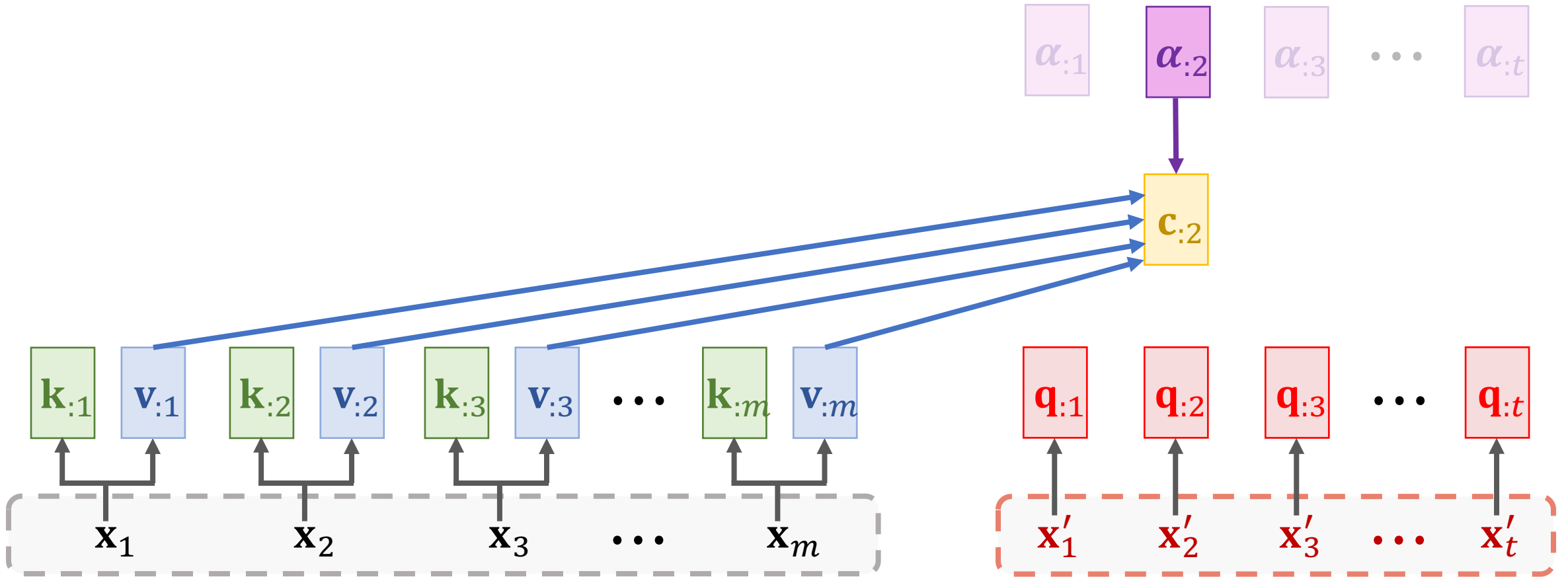
# Attention Layer

- Compute context vector:  $\mathbf{c}_{:j} = \alpha_{1j}\mathbf{v}_{:1} + \cdots + \alpha_{mj}\mathbf{v}_{:m} = \mathbf{V}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{:j}$ .



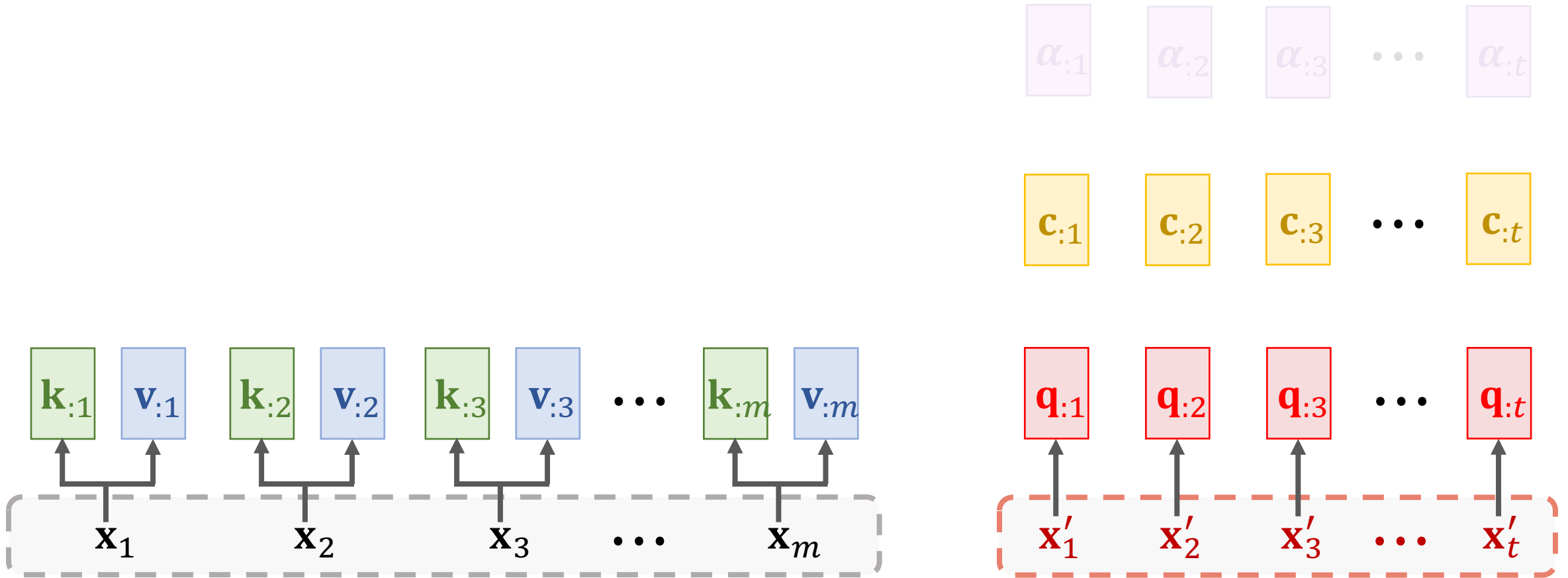
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# Attention Layer

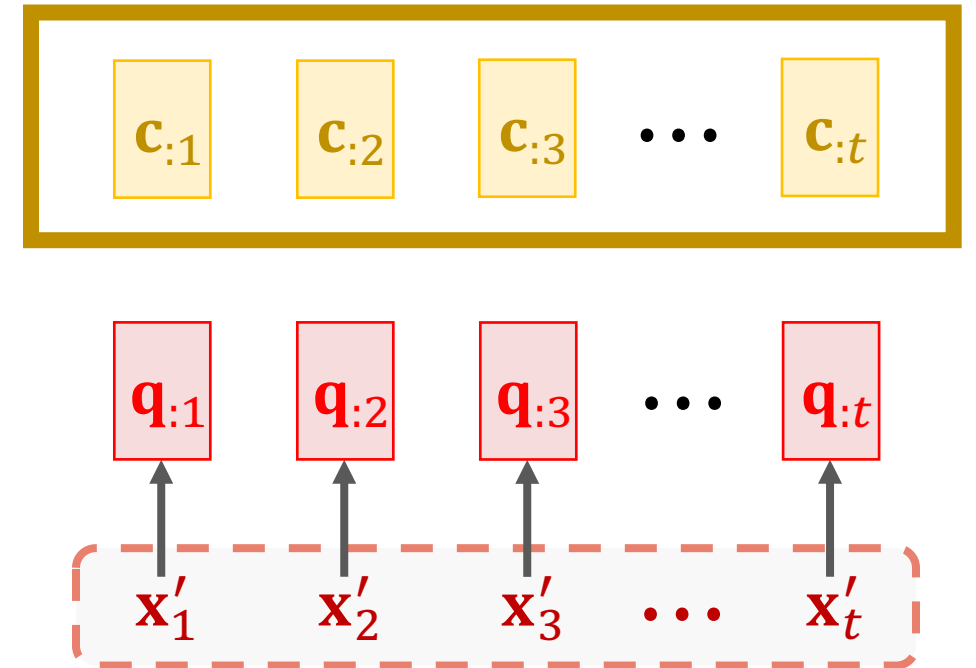
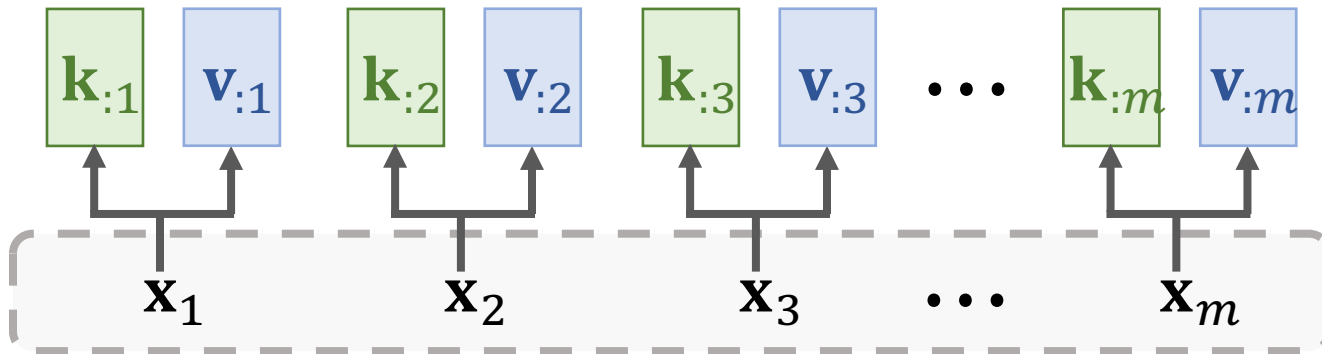
- Compute context vector:  $\mathbf{c}_{:j} = \alpha_{1j}\mathbf{v}_{:1} + \cdots + \alpha_{mj}\mathbf{v}_{:m} = \mathbf{V}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{:j}$ .



# Attention Layer

- Output of attention layer:  $\mathbf{C} = [\mathbf{c}_{:1}, \mathbf{c}_{:2}, \mathbf{c}_{:3}, \dots, \mathbf{c}_{:t}]$ .
- Here,  $\mathbf{c}_{:j} = \mathbf{V} \cdot \text{Softmax}(\mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{q}_{:j})$ .
- Thus,  $\mathbf{c}_{:j}$  is a function of  $\mathbf{x}'_j$  and  $[\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m]$ .

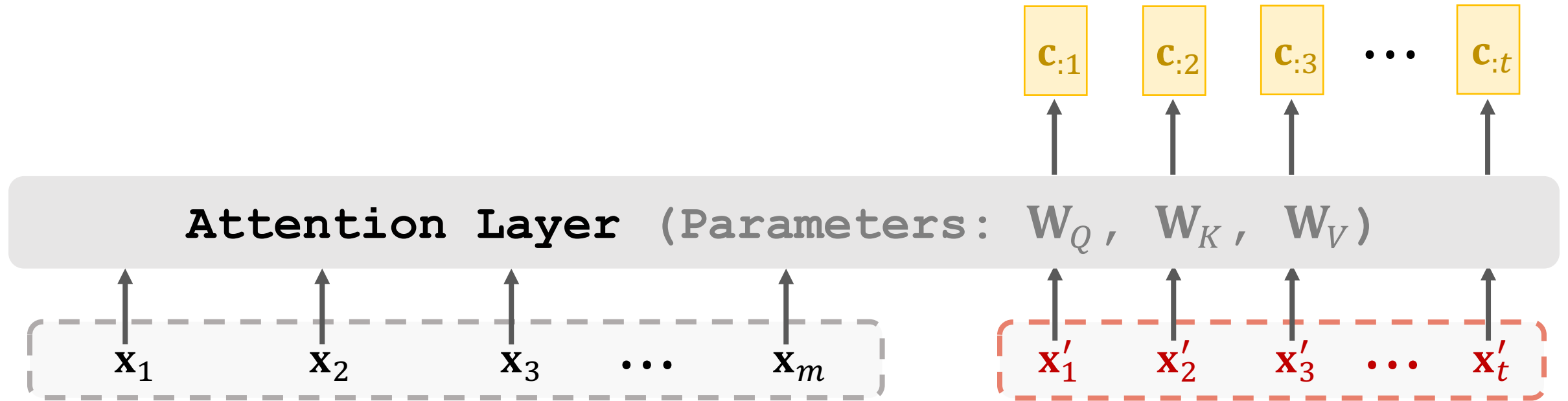
Output of attention layer:





# Attention Layer

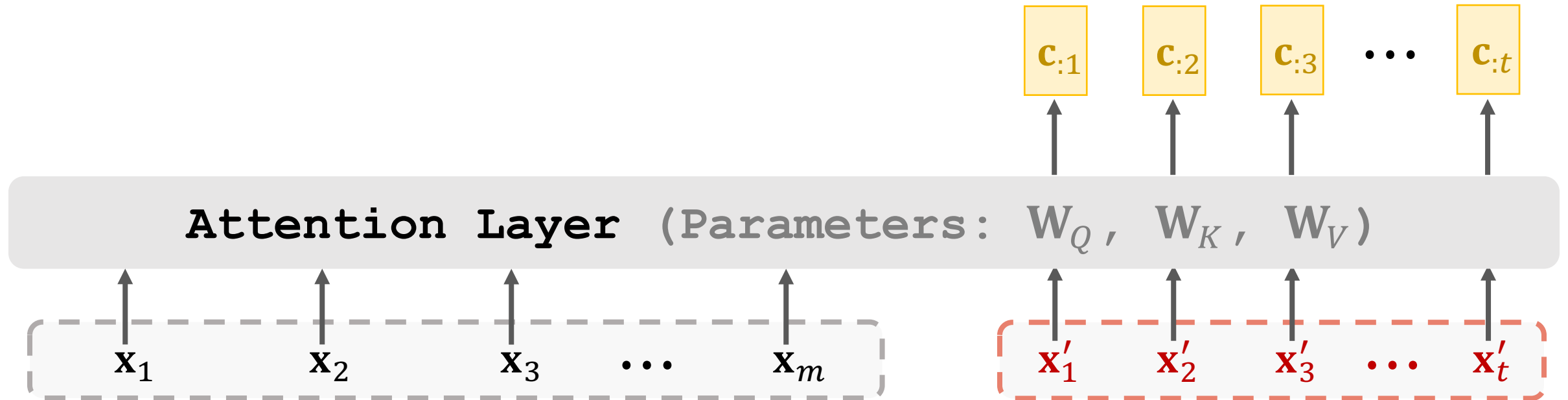
- Attention layer:  $\mathbf{C} = \text{Attn}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}')$ .
  - Encoder's inputs:  $\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m]$ .
  - Decoder's inputs:  $\mathbf{X}' = [\mathbf{x}'_1, \mathbf{x}'_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}'_m]$ .
  - Parameters:  $\mathbf{W}_Q$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_K$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_V$ .



# **Self-Attention** without RNN

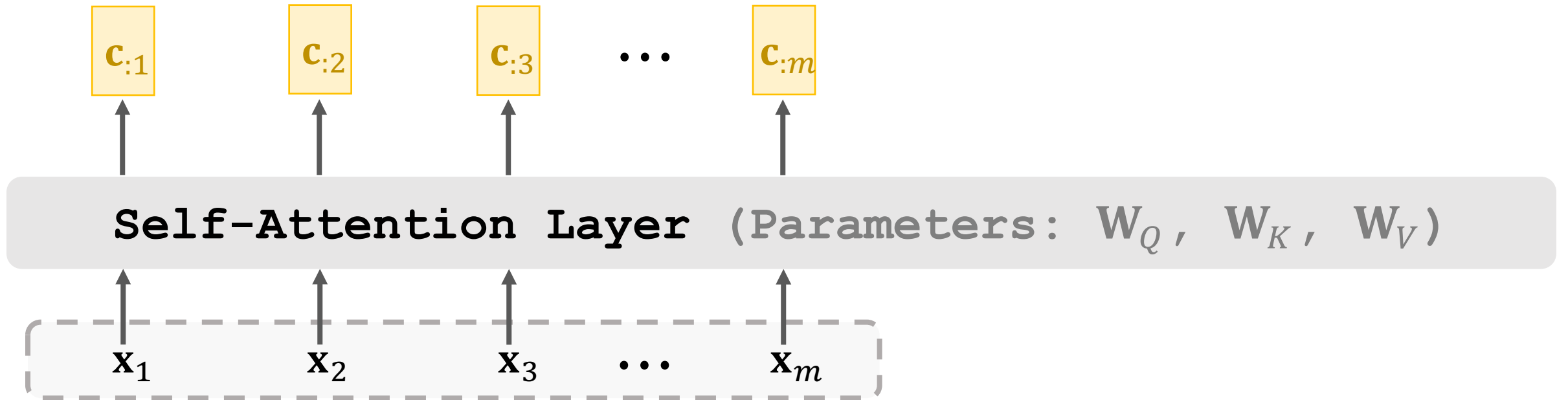
# Attention Layer

- Attention layer:  $\mathbf{C} = \text{Attn}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}')$ .
  - Encoder's inputs:  $\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m]$ .
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  - Parameters:  $\mathbf{W}_Q$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_K$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_V$ .



# Self-Attention Layer

- Self-attention layer:  $\mathbf{C} = \text{Attn}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X})$ .
  - RNN's inputs:  $\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m]$ .
  - Parameters:  $\mathbf{W}_Q$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_K$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_V$ .



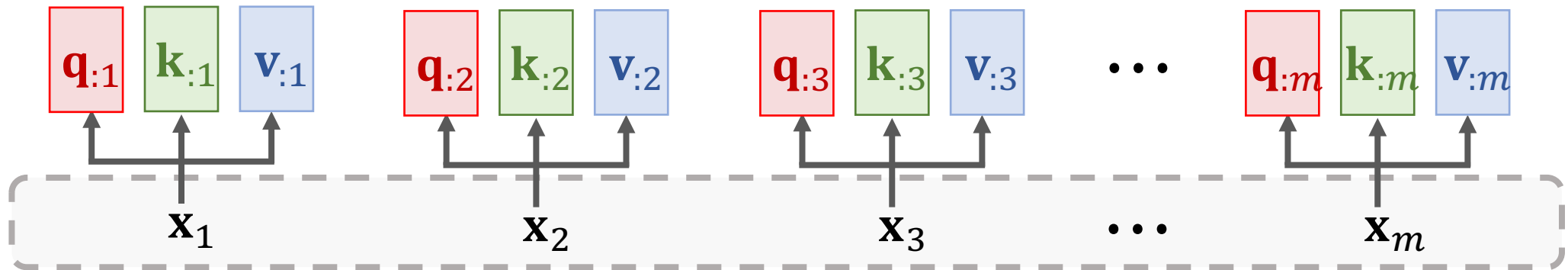
# Self-Attention Layer

**RNN's Inputs:**



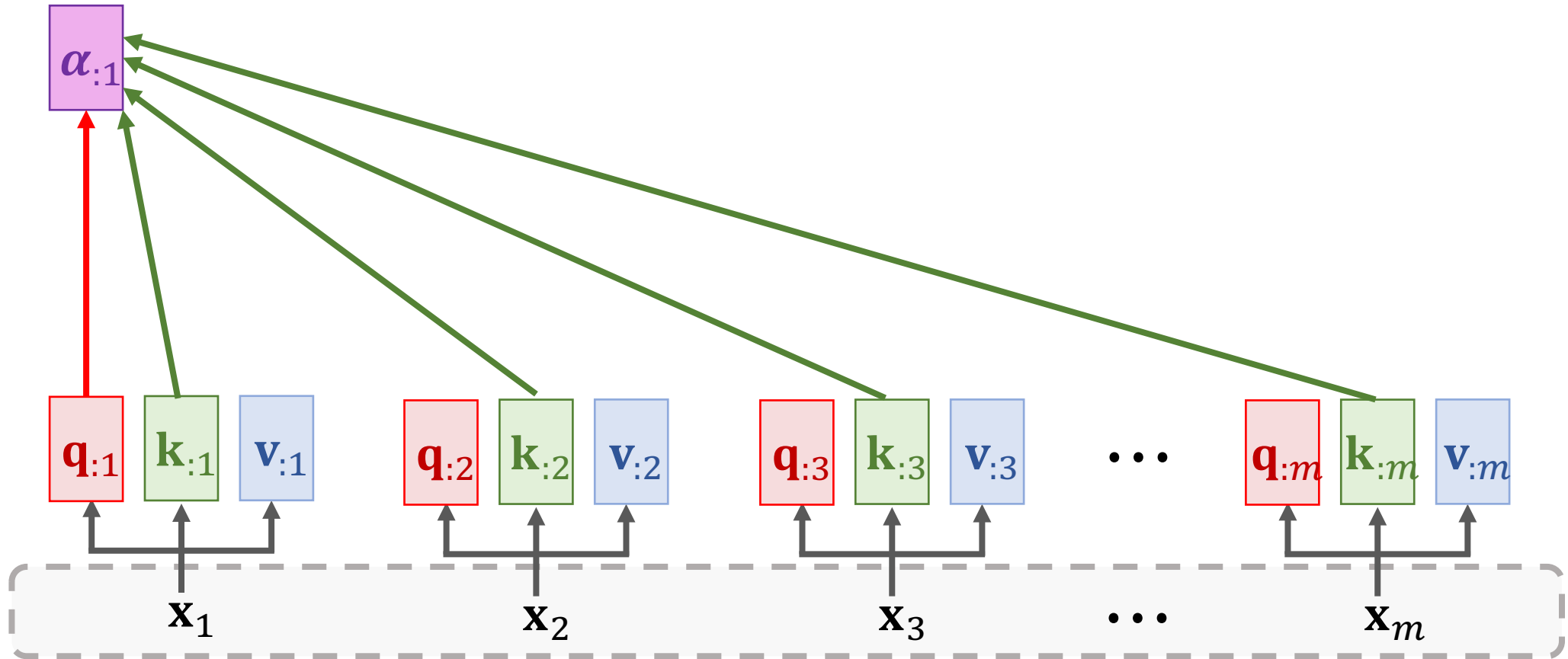
# Self-Attention Layer

Query:  $\mathbf{q}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_Q \mathbf{x}_i$ ,      Key:  $\mathbf{k}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_K \mathbf{x}_i$ ,      Value:  $\mathbf{v}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_V \mathbf{x}_i$ .



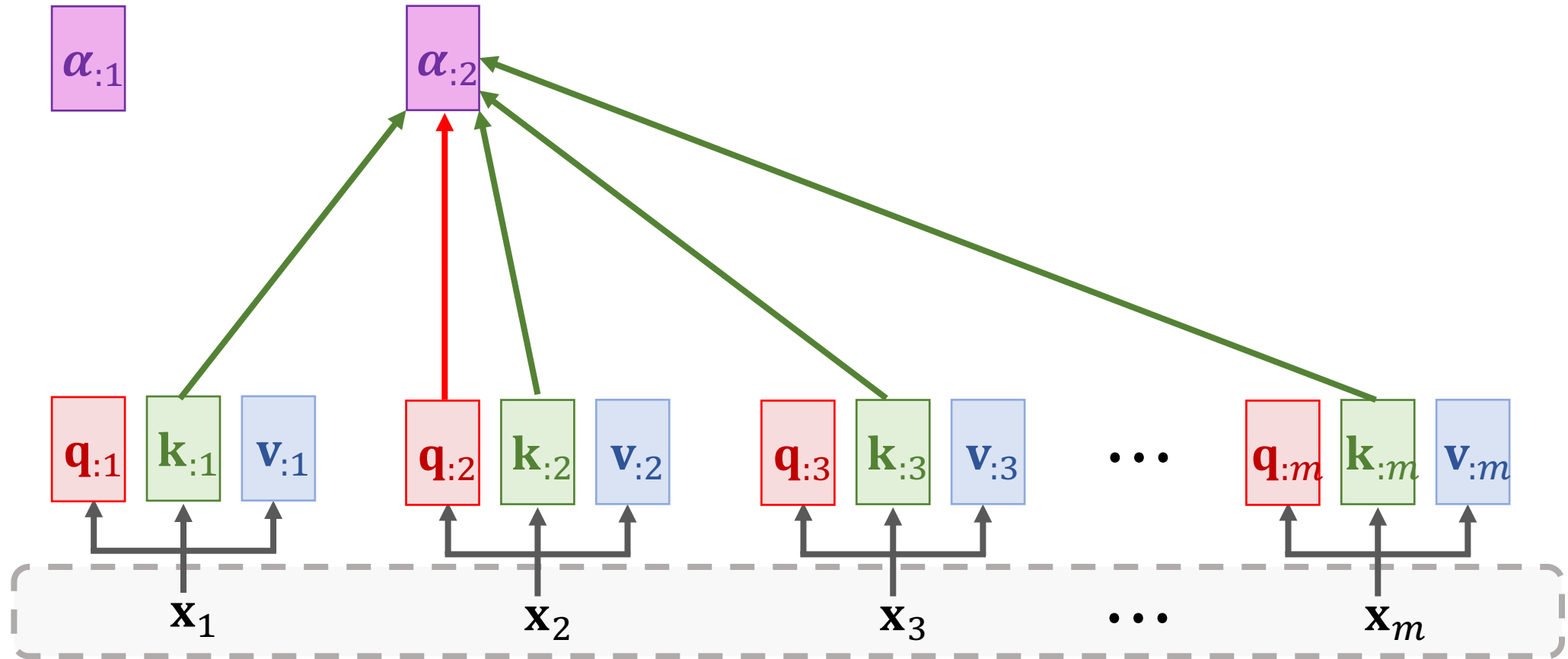
# Self-Attention Layer

Weights:  $\alpha_{:j} = \text{Softmax}(\mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{q}_{:j}) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .



# Self-Attention Layer

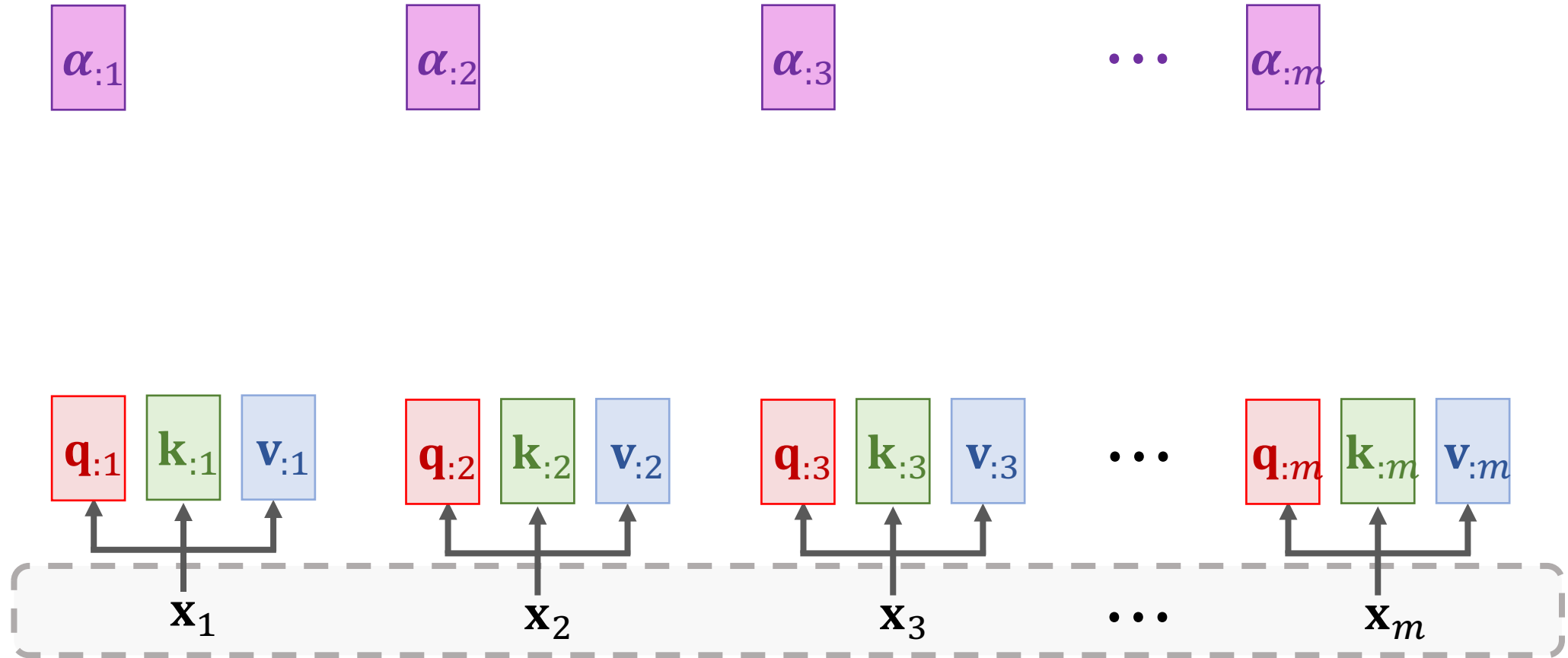
Weights:  $\alpha_{:j} = \text{Softmax}(\mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{q}_{:j}) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .





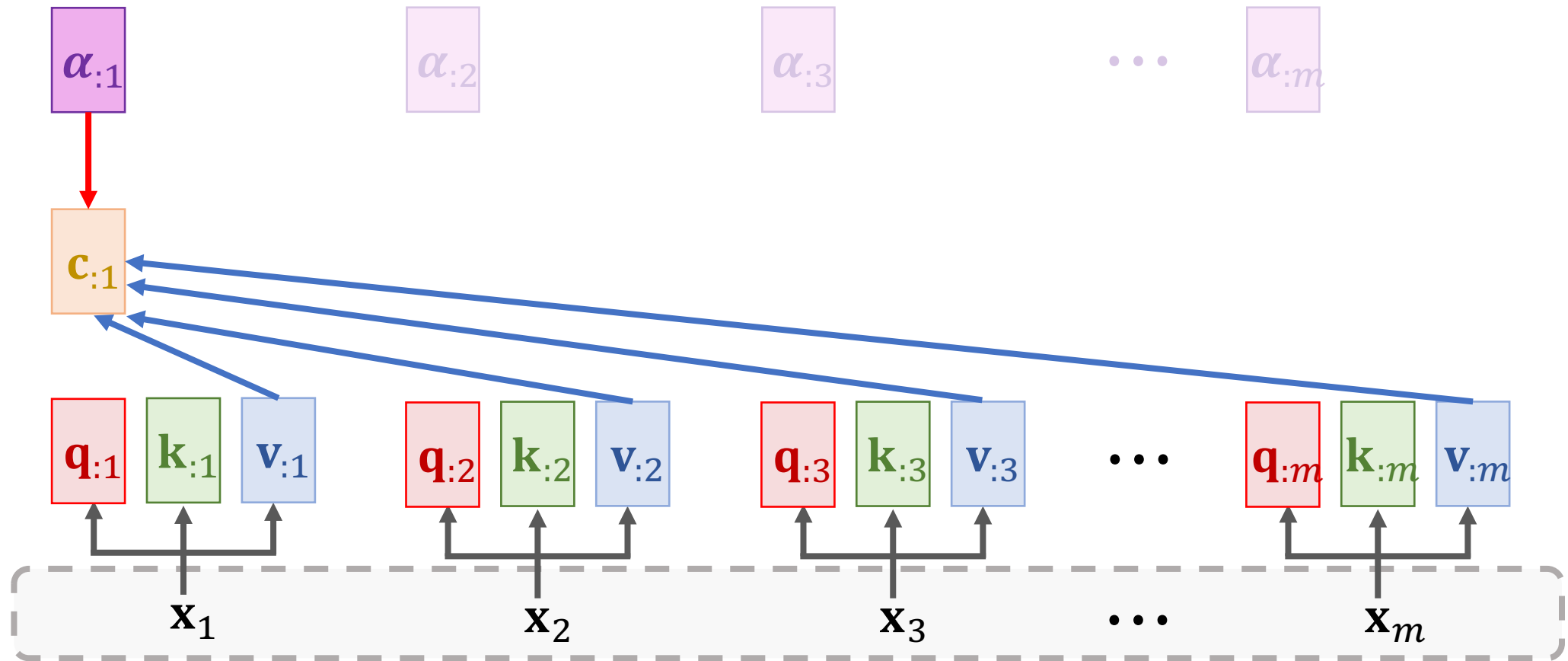
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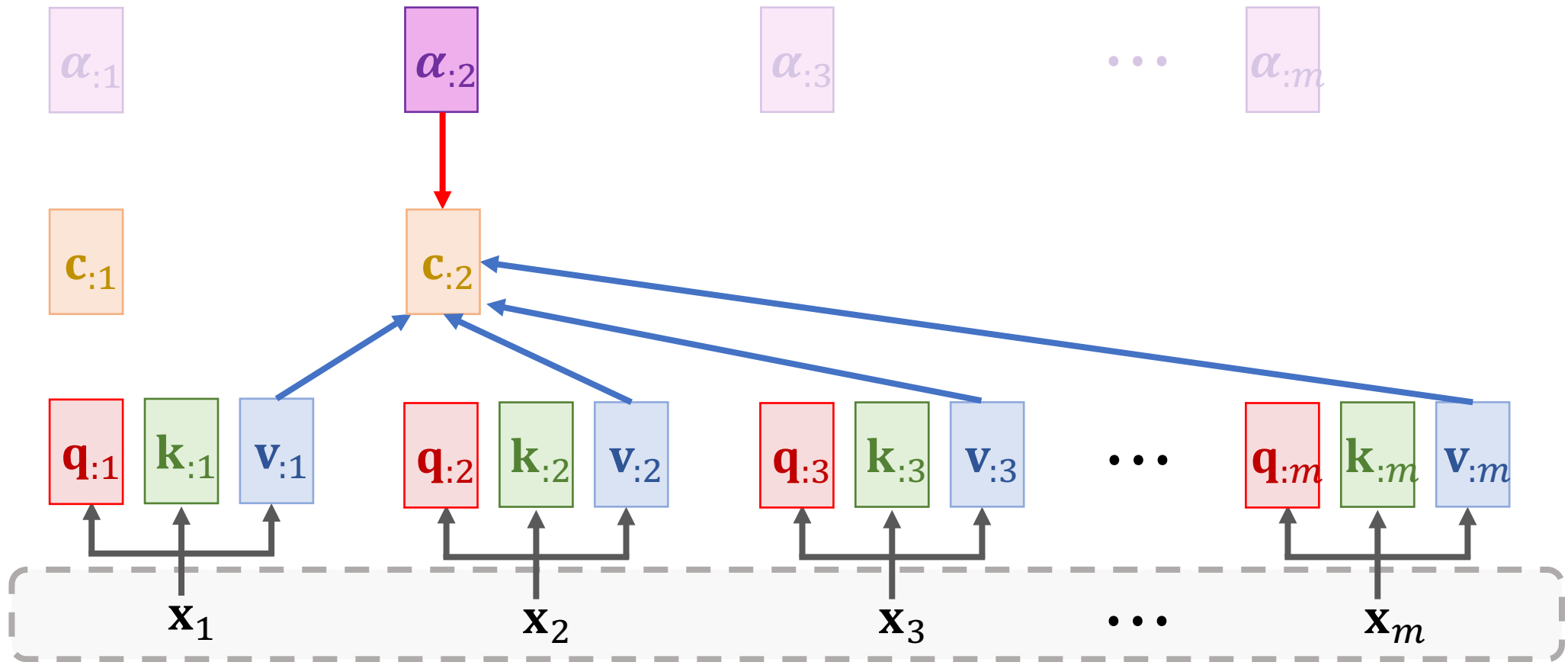
# Self-Attention Layer

**Context vector:**  $\mathbf{c}_{:j} = \alpha_{1j}\mathbf{v}_{:1} + \cdots + \alpha_{mj}\mathbf{v}_{:m} = \mathbf{V}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{:j}.$



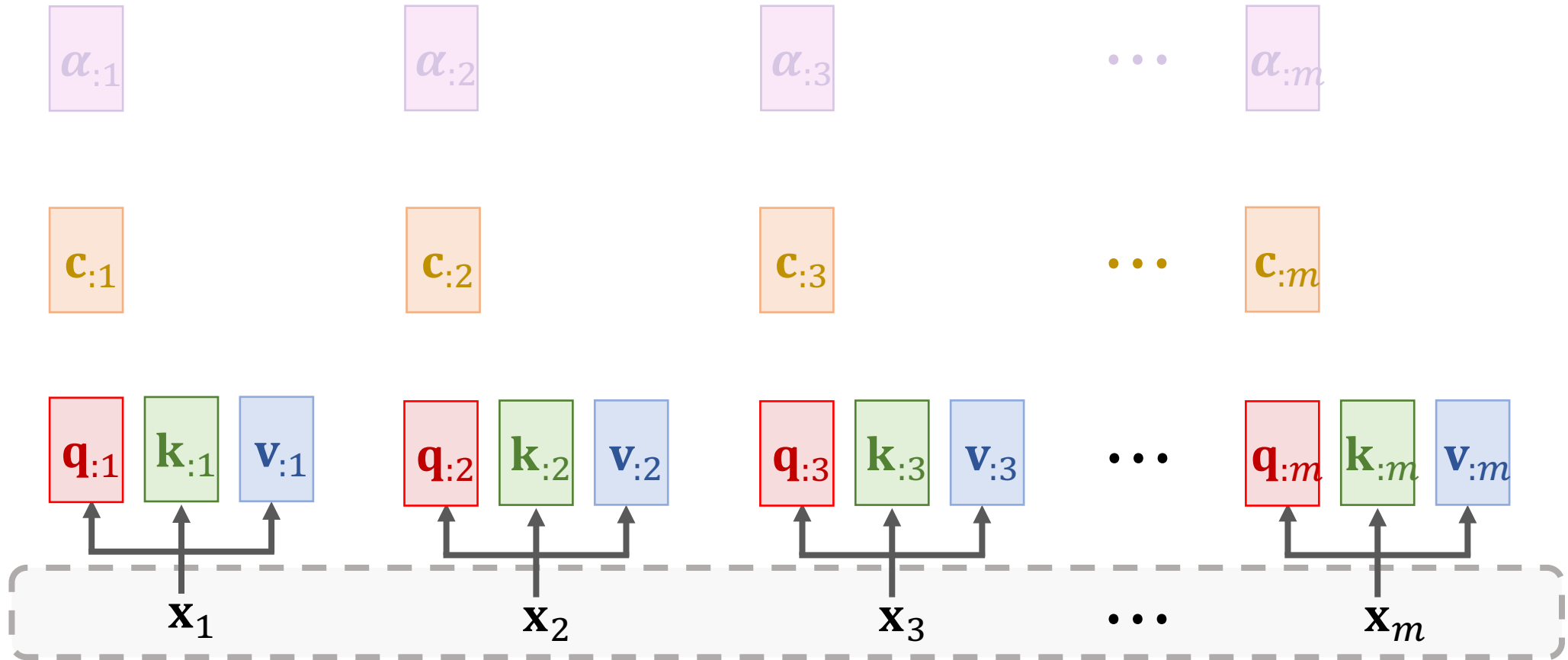
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# Self-Attention Layer

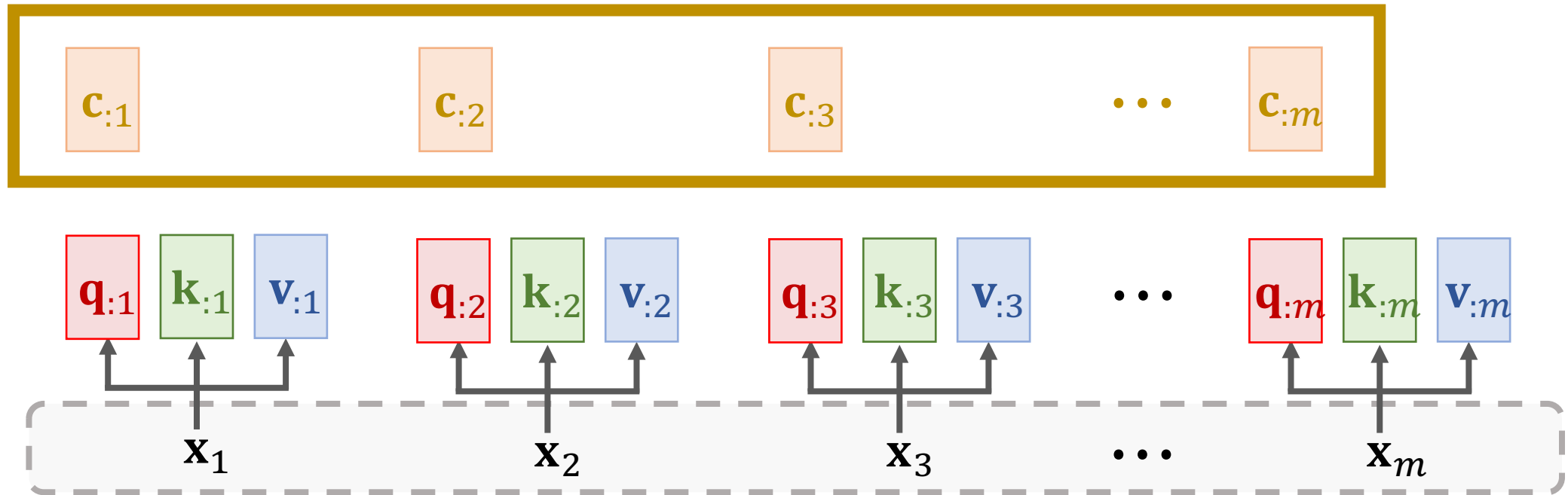
**Context vector:**  $\mathbf{c}_{:j} = \alpha_{1j}\mathbf{v}_{:1} + \cdots + \alpha_{mj}\mathbf{v}_{:m} = \mathbf{V}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{:j}.$



# Self-Attention Layer

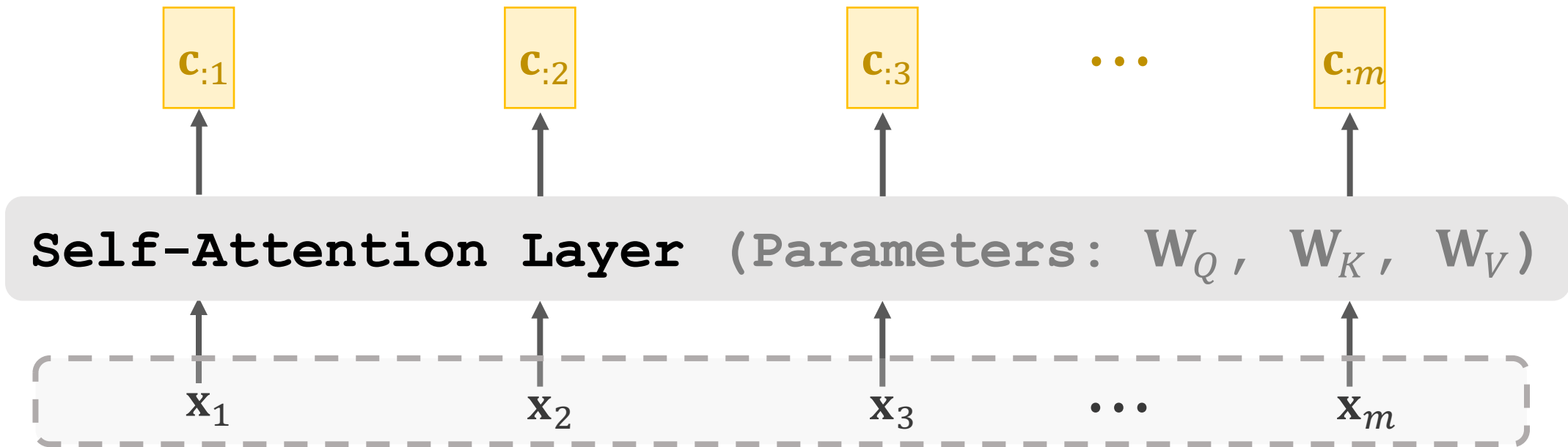
- Here,  $\mathbf{c}_{:j} = \mathbf{V} \cdot \text{Softmax}(\mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{q}_{:j})$ .
- Thus,  $\mathbf{c}_{:j}$  is a function of all the  $m$  vectors  $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m$ .

Output of self-attention layer:



# Self-Attention Layer

- Self-attention layer:  $\mathbf{C} = \text{Attn}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X})$ .
  - RNN's inputs:  $\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m]$ .
  - Parameters:  $\mathbf{W}_Q$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_K$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_V$ .



# Summary

# Summary

- Attention was originally developed for Seq2Seq RNN models [1].
- Self-attention: attention for all the RNN models (not necessarily Seq2Seq models [2]).
- Attention can be used without RNN [3].
- We learned how to build attention layer and self-attention layer.

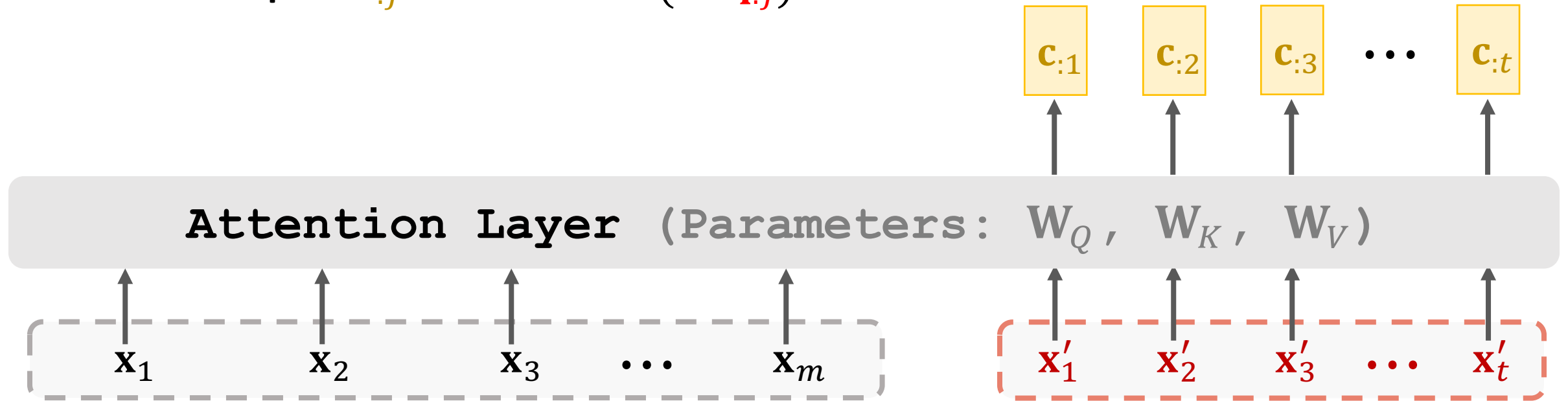
## Reference:

1. Bahdanau, Cho, & Bengio. [Neural machine translation by jointly learning to align and translate](#). In *ICLR*, 2015.
2. Cheng, Dong, & Lapata. [Long Short-Term Memory-Networks for Machine Reading](#). In *EMNLP*, 2016.
3. Vaswani et al. [Attention Is All You Need](#). In *NIPS*, 2017.



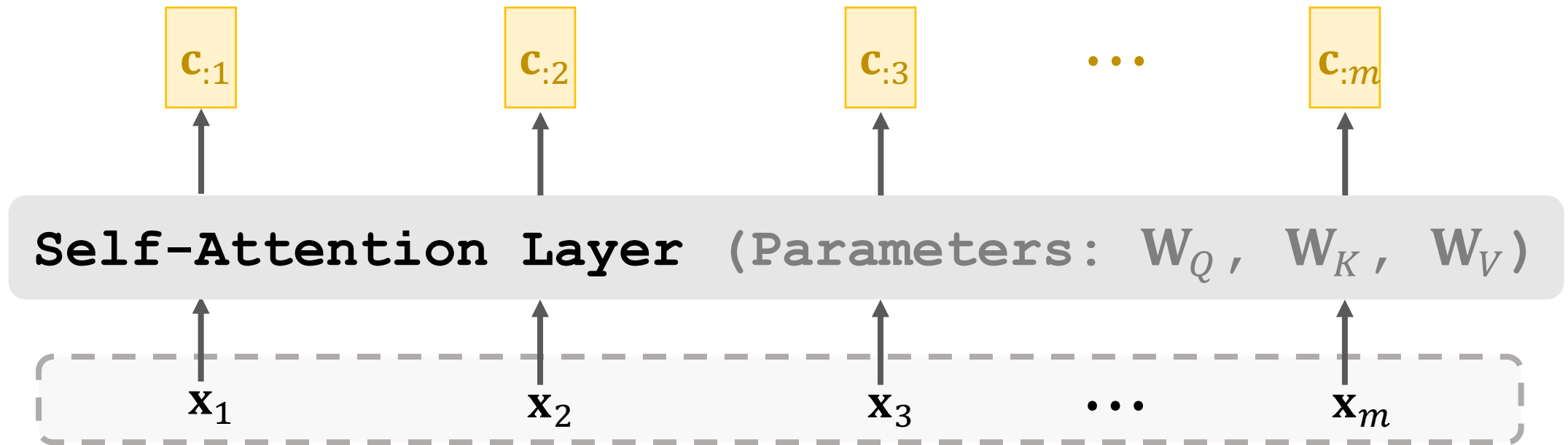
# Attention Layer

- Attention layer:  $\mathbf{C} = \text{Attn}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}')$ .
  - Query:  $\mathbf{q}_{:j} = \mathbf{W}_Q \mathbf{x}'_j$ ,
  - Key:  $\mathbf{k}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_K \mathbf{x}_i$ ,
  - Value:  $\mathbf{v}_{:i} = \mathbf{W}_V \mathbf{x}_i$ .
  - Output:  $\mathbf{c}_{:j} = \mathbf{V} \cdot \text{Softmax}(\mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{q}_{:j})$ .



# Self-Attention Layer

- Attention layer:  $\mathbf{C} = \text{Attn}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}')$ .
- Self-Attention layer:  $\mathbf{C} = \text{Attn}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X})$ .



**Thank you!**