

# Machine Reading and Reasoning with Neural Program Interpreters

▶ Sebastian Riedel

 @riedelcastro

# Collaborators



**Johannes Welbl**  
(UCL)



**Pontus Stenetorp**  
(UCL)



**Matko Bosnjak**  
(UCL)



**Tim Rocktäschel**  
*(now at Oxford)*



**Jason Naradowsky**  
*(now Johns Hopkins University)*

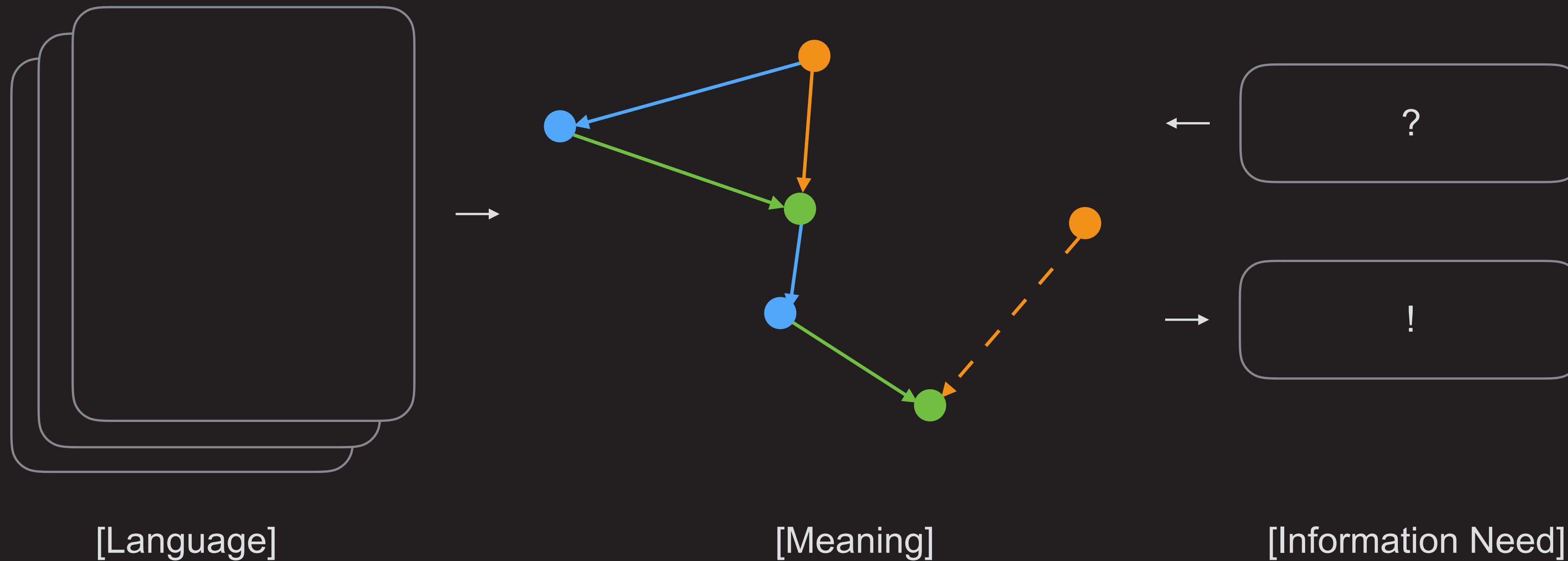


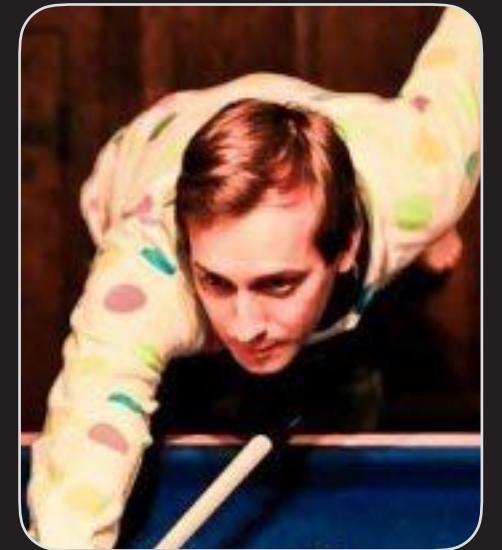
# “Should we separate language? The “Classic” NLP Paradigm [Maybe not?]”



Convolutional 2D Knowledge Graph  
Embeddings, **Tim Dettmers et al.**  
AAAI18, Mon 11:30-12:30, Room 8

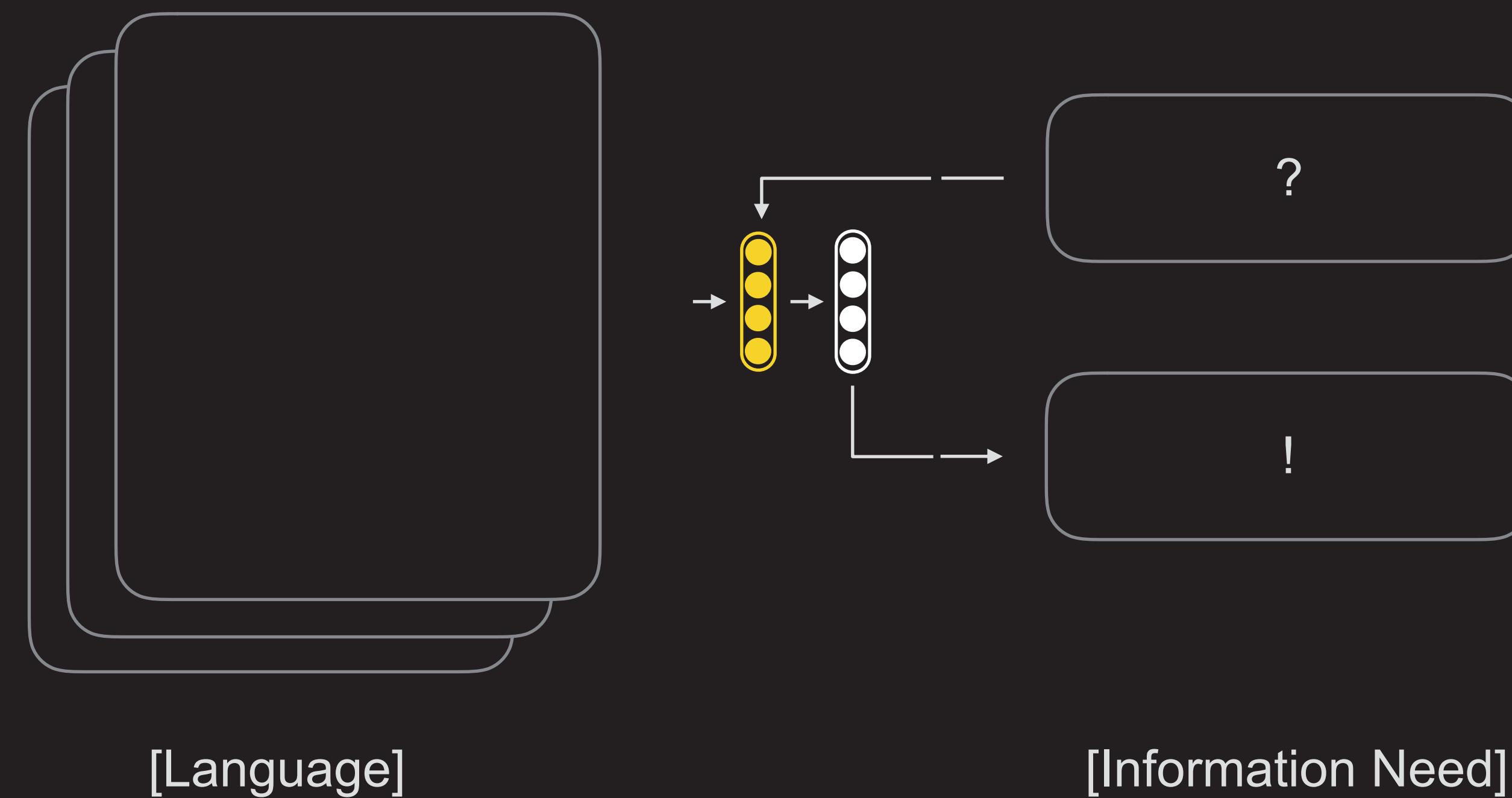
Chris Manning  
@AKBC 2013





# End-to-End Reading and Comprehension

(Hermann et. al 2015, Seo et al., 2016, Rajpurkar et al., 2016, Weissenborn 2016...)

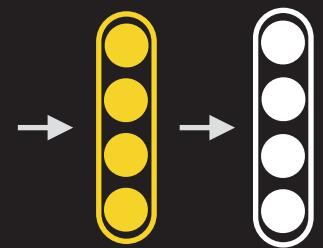


# Machine Reading



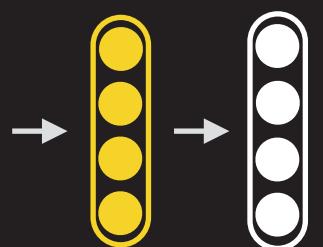
What city did Tesla move to in 1880?

Prague



Why was he unable to enroll at the university?

arrived too late to enroll



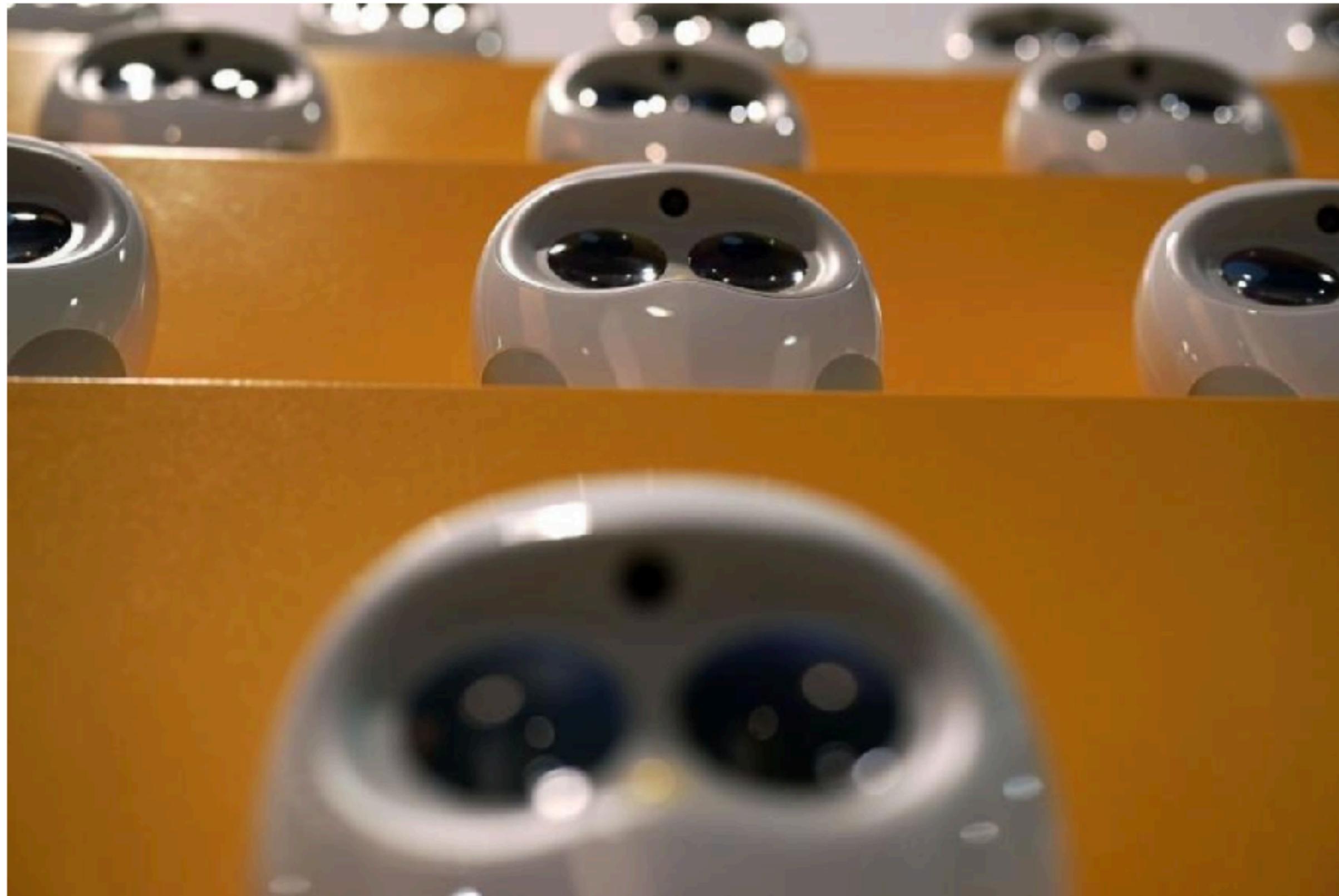
**Nicola Tesla**

...

In January 1880, two of Tesla's uncles put together enough money to help him leave Gospić for **Prague** where he was to study. Unfortunately, he arrived too late to enroll at Charles-Ferdinand University; he never studied Greek, a required subject; and he was illiterate in Czech, another required subject. Tesla did, however, attend lectures at the university, although, as an auditor, he did not receive grades for the courses.

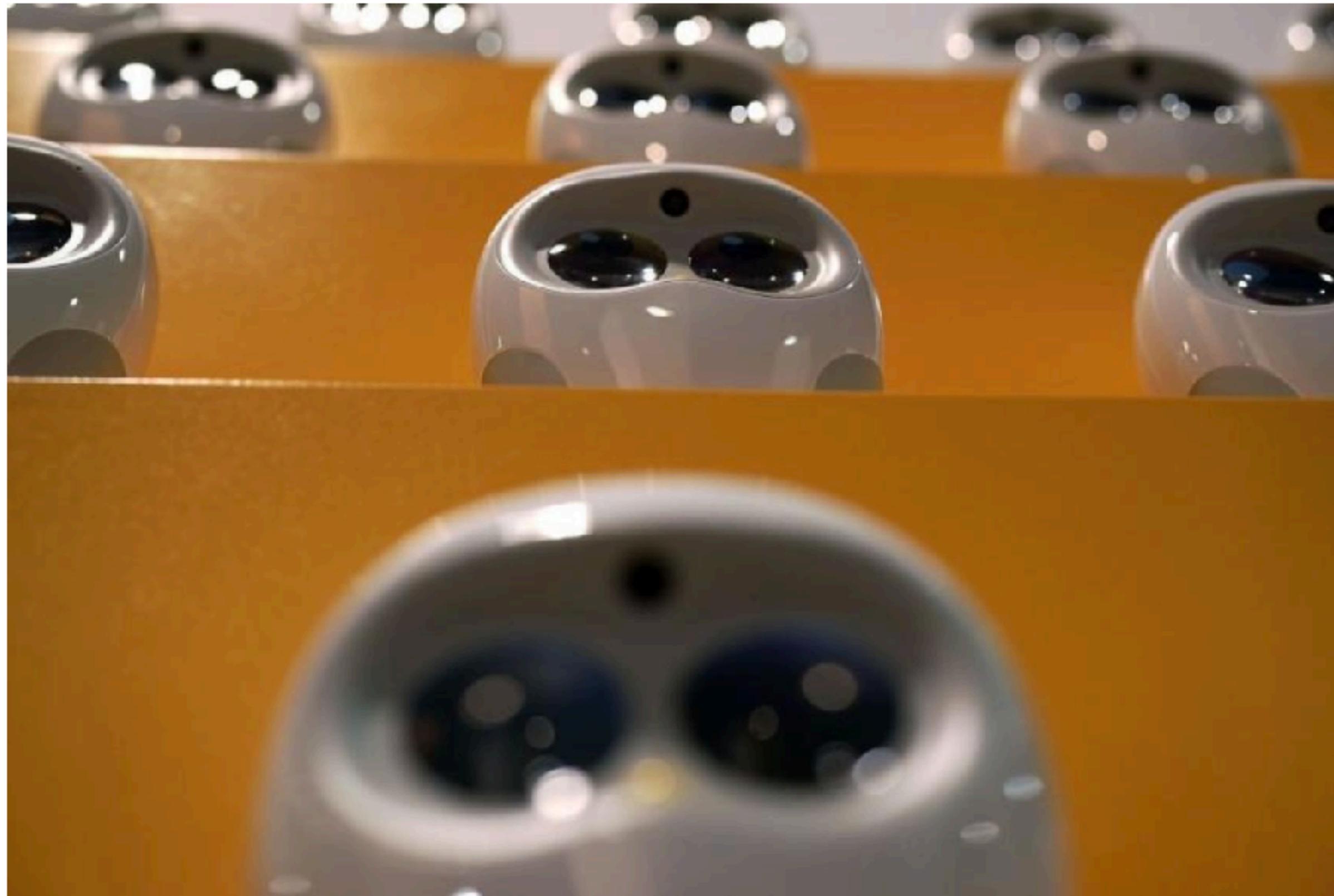
## ROBOTS CAN NOW READ BETTER THAN HUMANS, PUTTING MILLIONS OF JOBS AT RISK

BY ANTHONY CUTHBERTSON ON 1/15/18 AT 8:00 AM



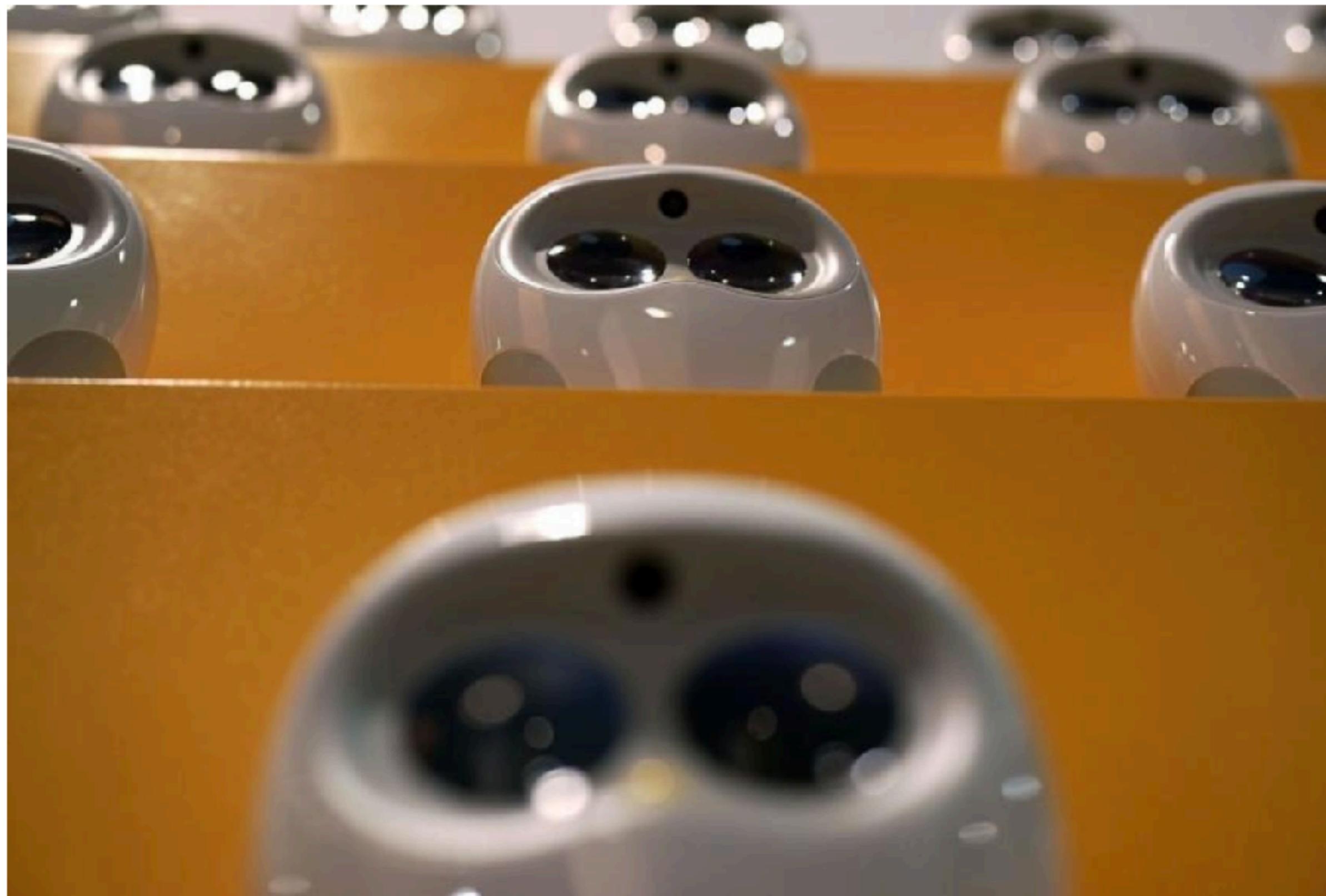
## DEEP LEARNING KILLED THE LINGUISTS BOSTON SCIENTIST CLAIMS

BY **ANTHONY CUTHBERTSON** ON 1/15/18 AT 8:00 AM



## BOSTON SCIENTIST IS COMPLETELY WRONG CLAIMS PHILADELPHIA PROFESSOR

BY **ANTHONY CUTHBERTSON** ON 1/15/18 AT 8:00 AM



# How to read and reason end-to-end?

# Machine Reading and Reasoning



Which medical specialty deals with pituitary ACTH hypersecretion?

Endocrinology



**Pituitary ACTH hypersecretion** ... is a form of hyperpituitarism characterized by an abnormally high level of ACTH produced by the **anterior pituitary** ...

A major organ of the **endocrine system**, the **anterior pituitary** is the glandular, anterior lobe that ...

The endocrine system is ... ... The field of study dealing with the **endocrine system** and its disorders is **endocrinology**, a branch of internal medicine.

# Machine Reading and Reasoning



How many pictures were in each of the albums?

2



Isabel uploaded **2 pictures from her phone** and **4 from her camera** to facebook. She sorted the pics into **3 different albums** with the same amount of pics in each album.

Can we learn this end-to-end?



**Matko Bosnjak**



**Tim Rocktäschel**



**Jason Naradowsky**

# Part 1: Learning to Read and Calculate

# Machine Reading and Reasoning: Math



How many pictures were in each of the albums?

2



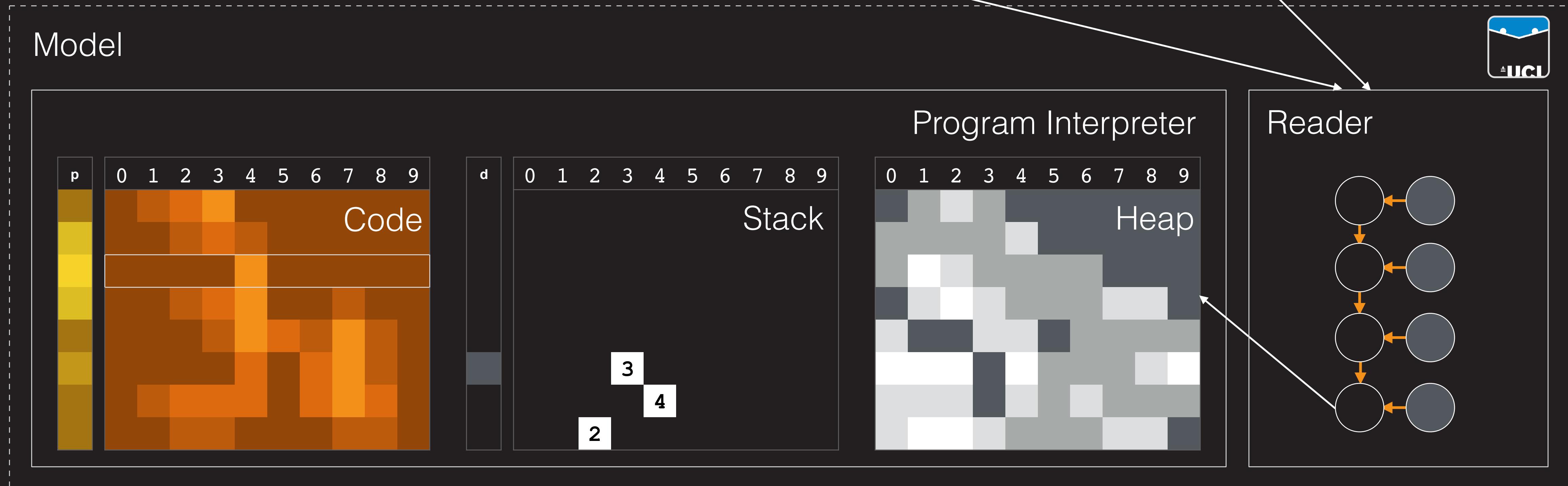
Isabel uploaded **2 pictures from her phone** and **4 from her camera** to facebook. She sorted the pics into **3 different albums** with the same amount of pics in each album.

# Differentiable Program Interpreters



How many pictures were in each of the albums?

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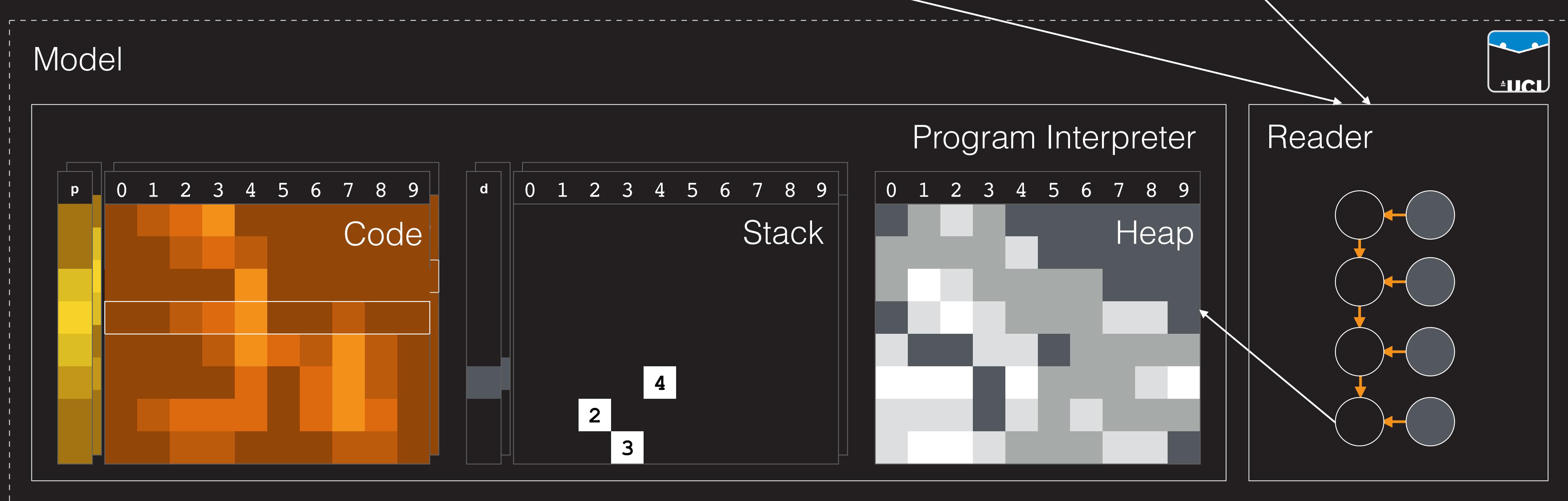


# Differentiable Program Interpreters



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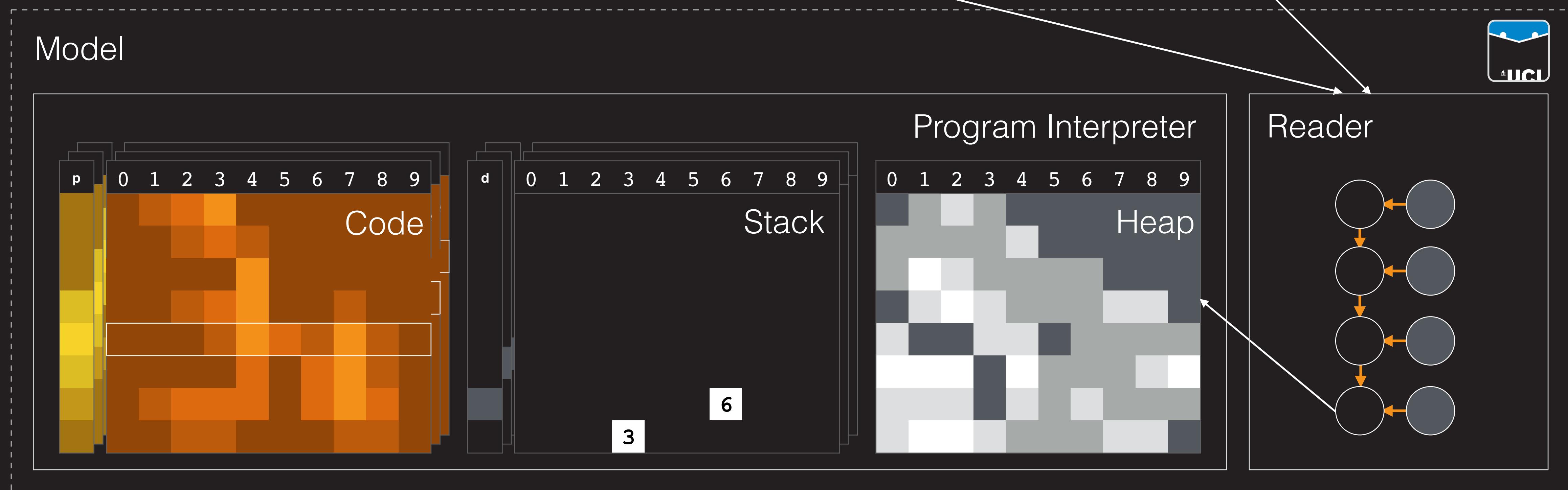


# Differentiable Program Interpreters



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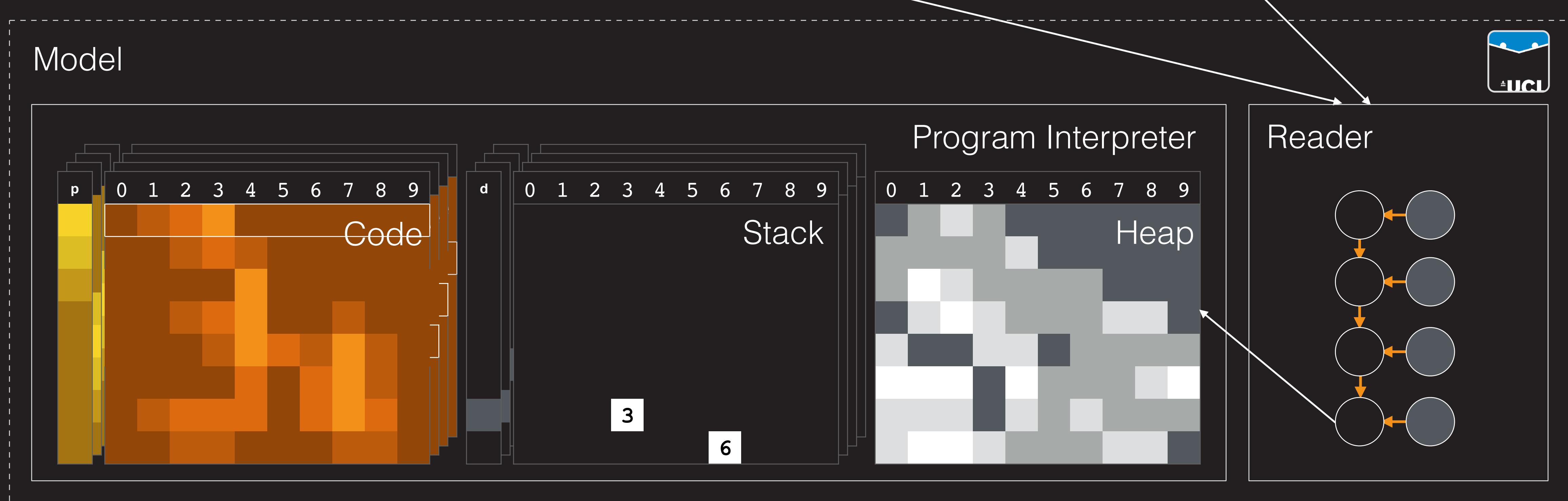


# Differentiable Program Interpreters



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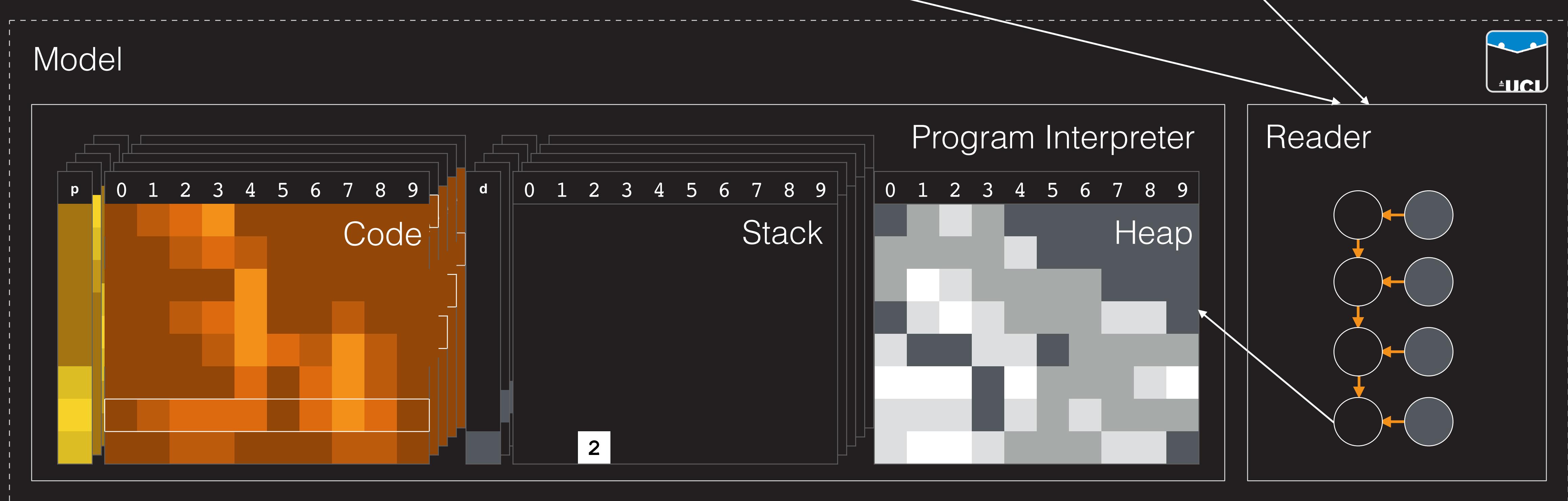


# Differentiable Program Interpreters



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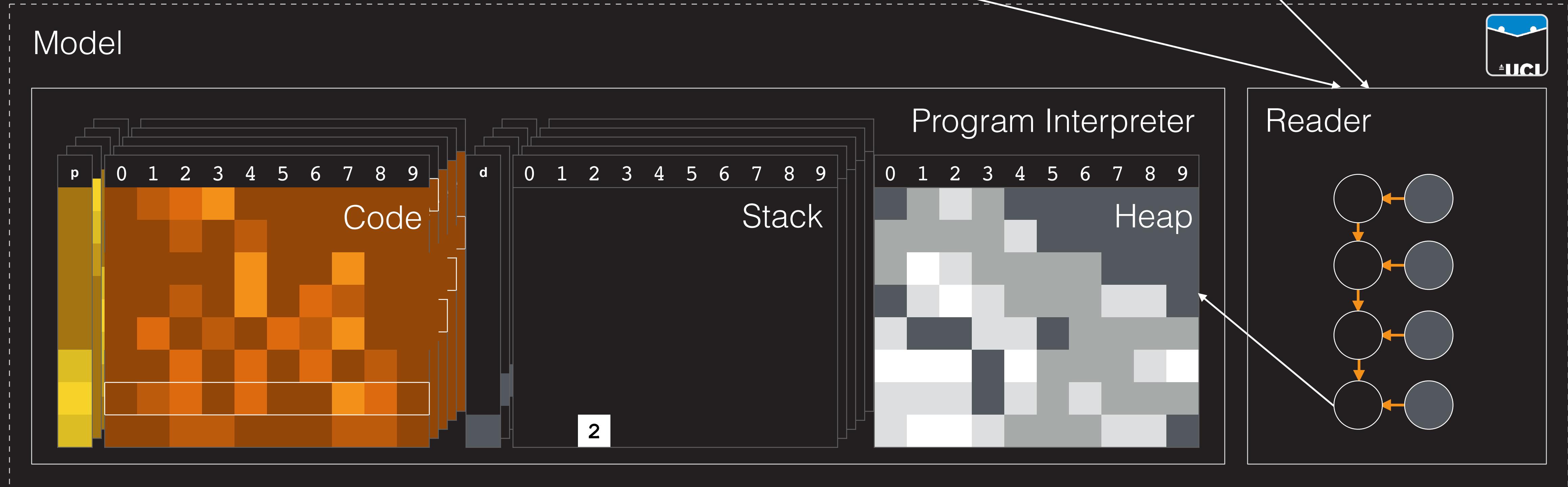


# Training



How many pictures were in each of the albums?

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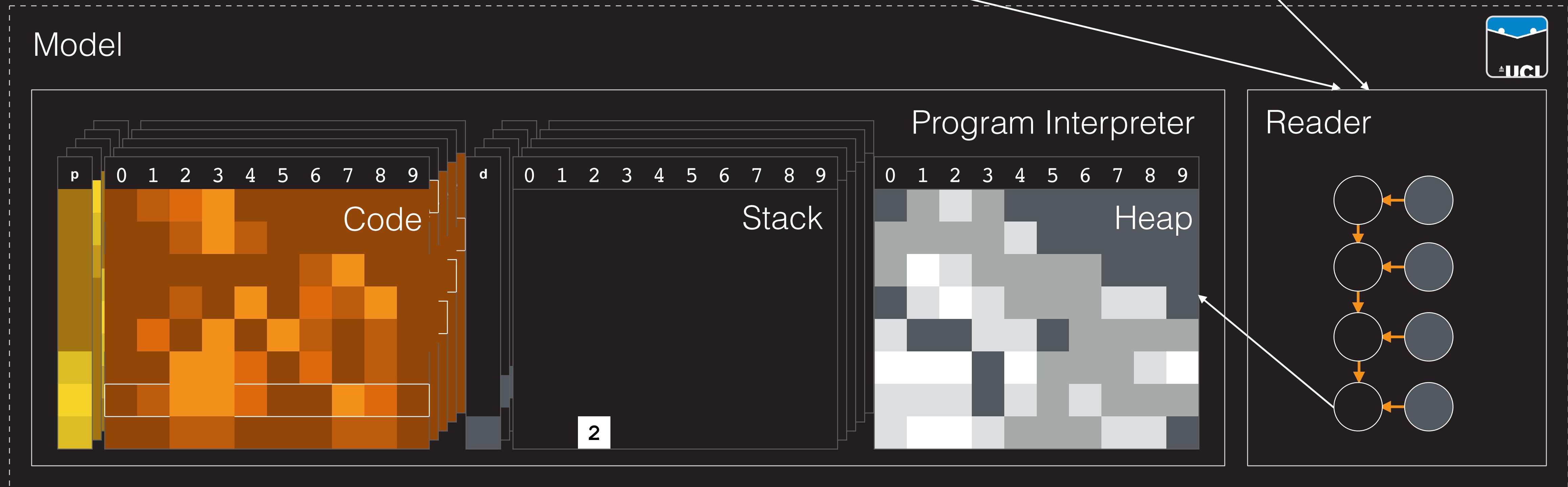


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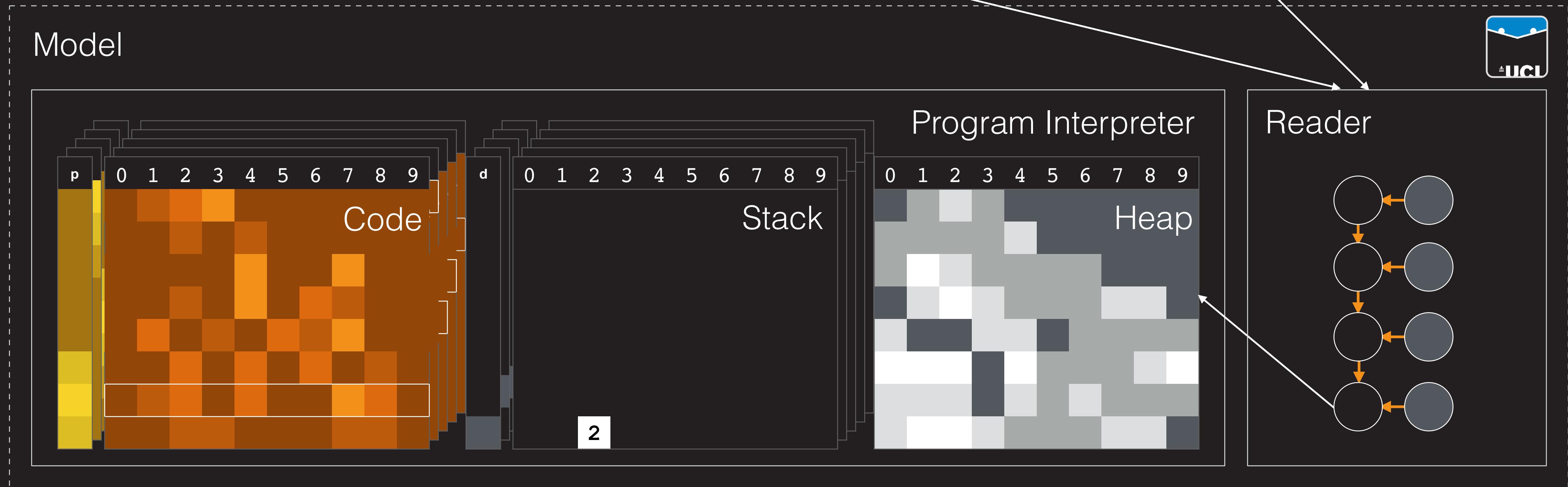


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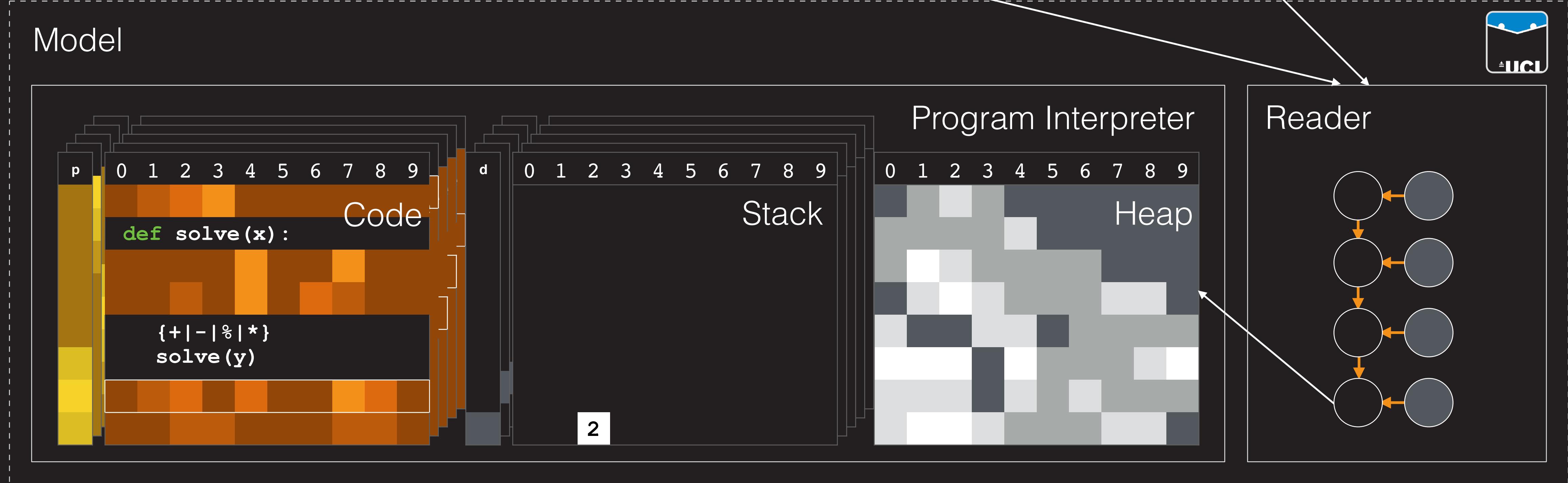


# Training



How many pictures were in each of the albums?

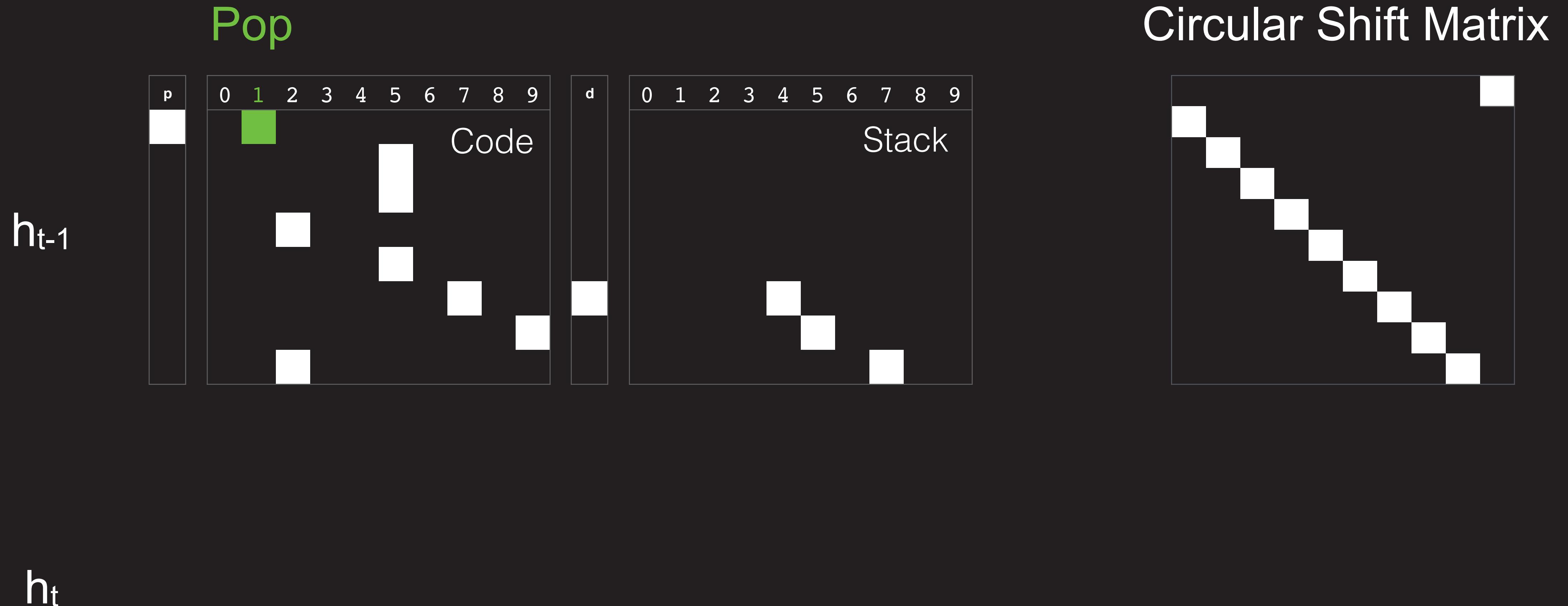
Isabel uploaded **2 pictures from her phone** and **4 from her camera** to facebook. She sorted the pics into **3 different albums** with the same amount of pics in each album.



# Zoom in: State Transitions

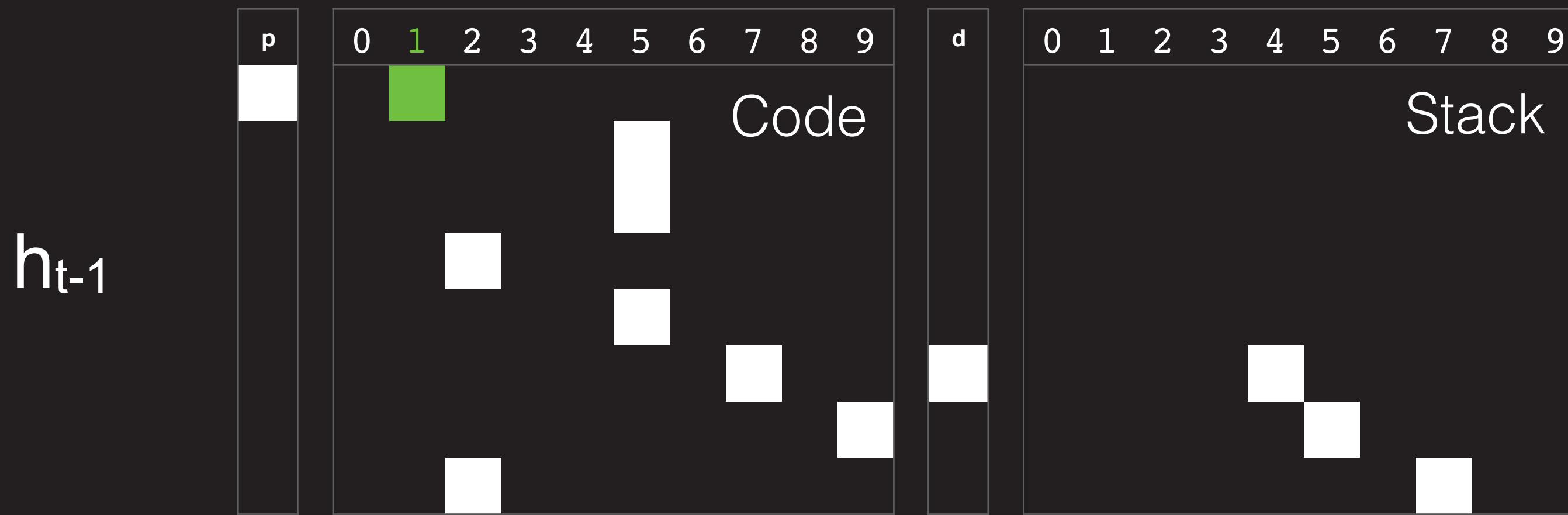


# Zoom in: Pop Operation

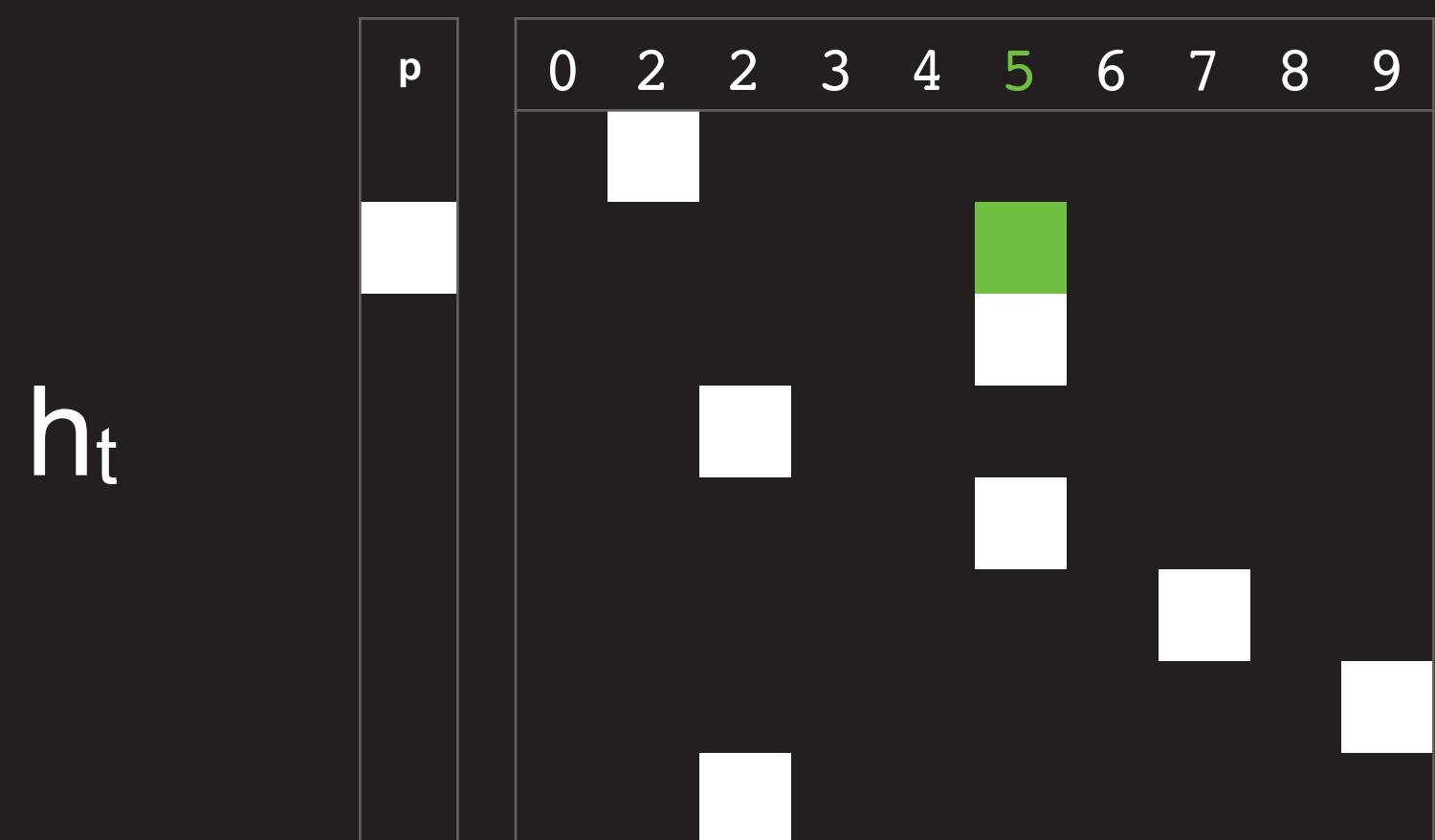
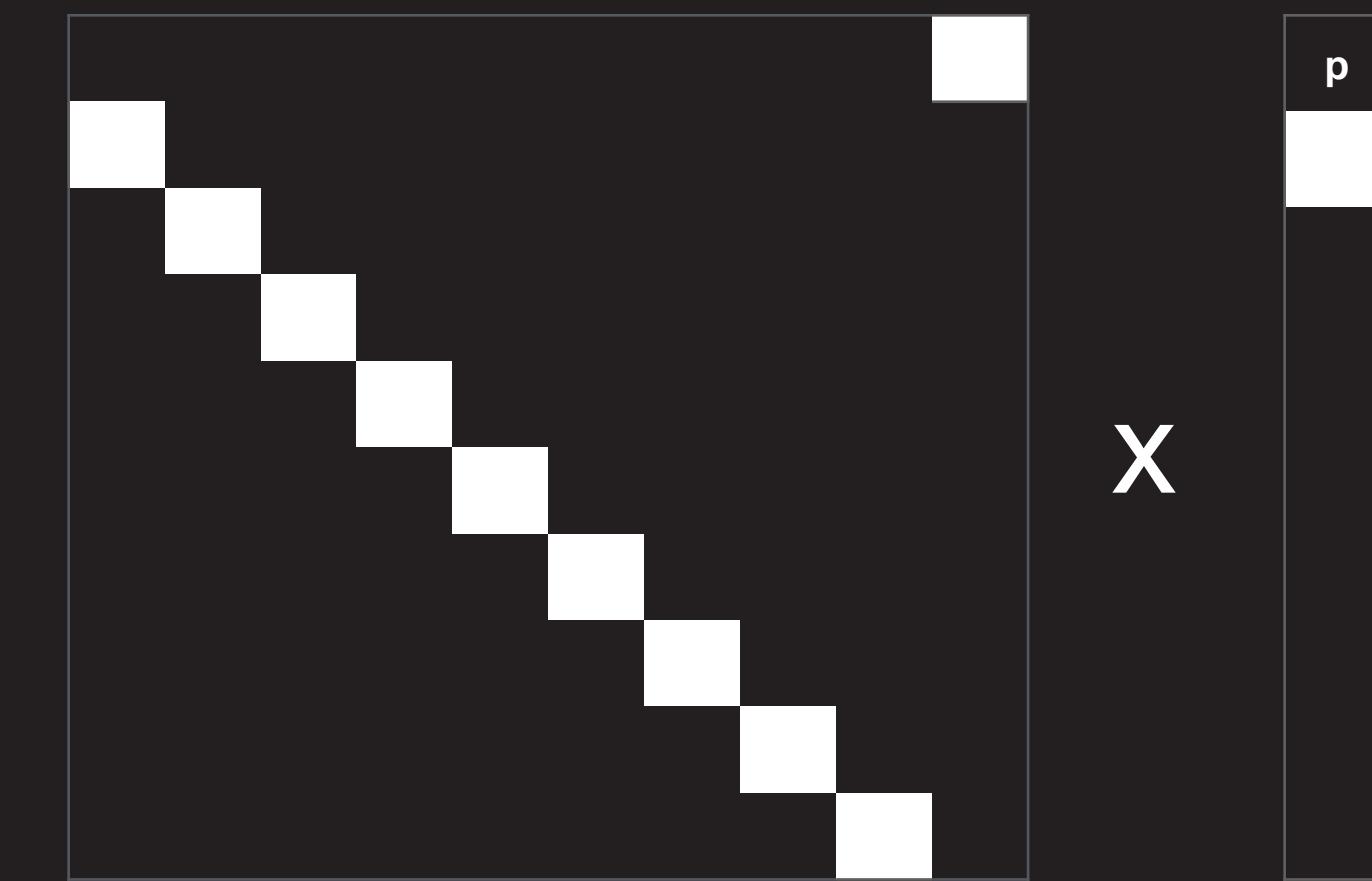


# Zoom in: Pop Operation

Pop

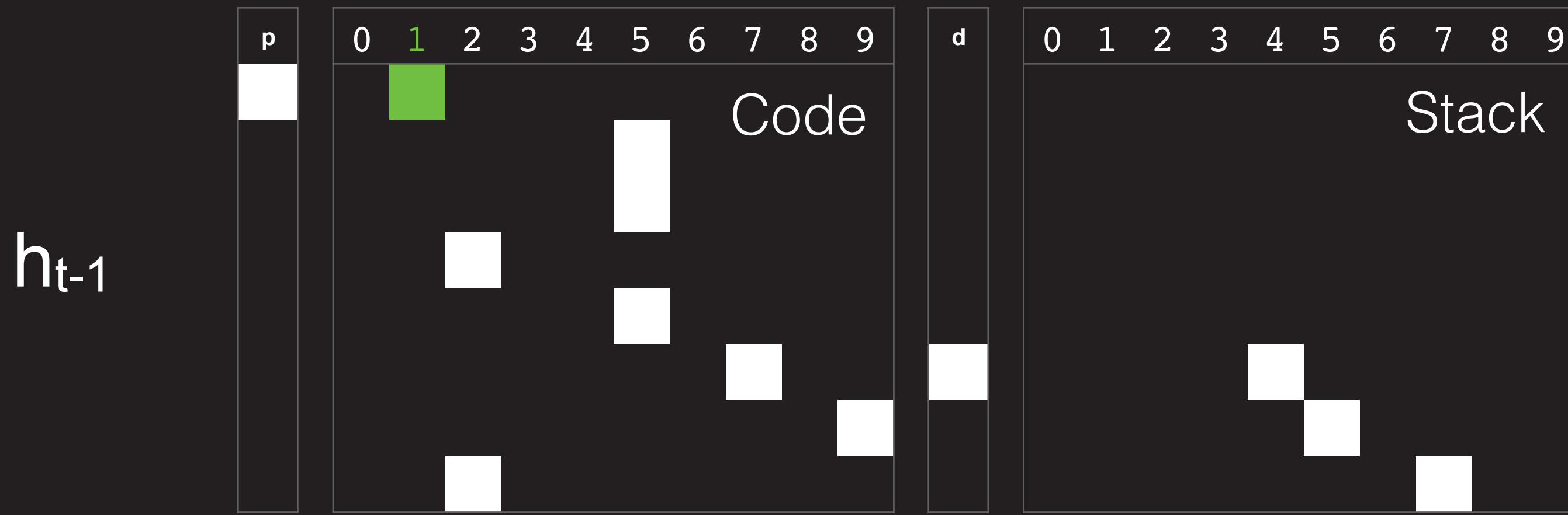


Circular Shift Matrix

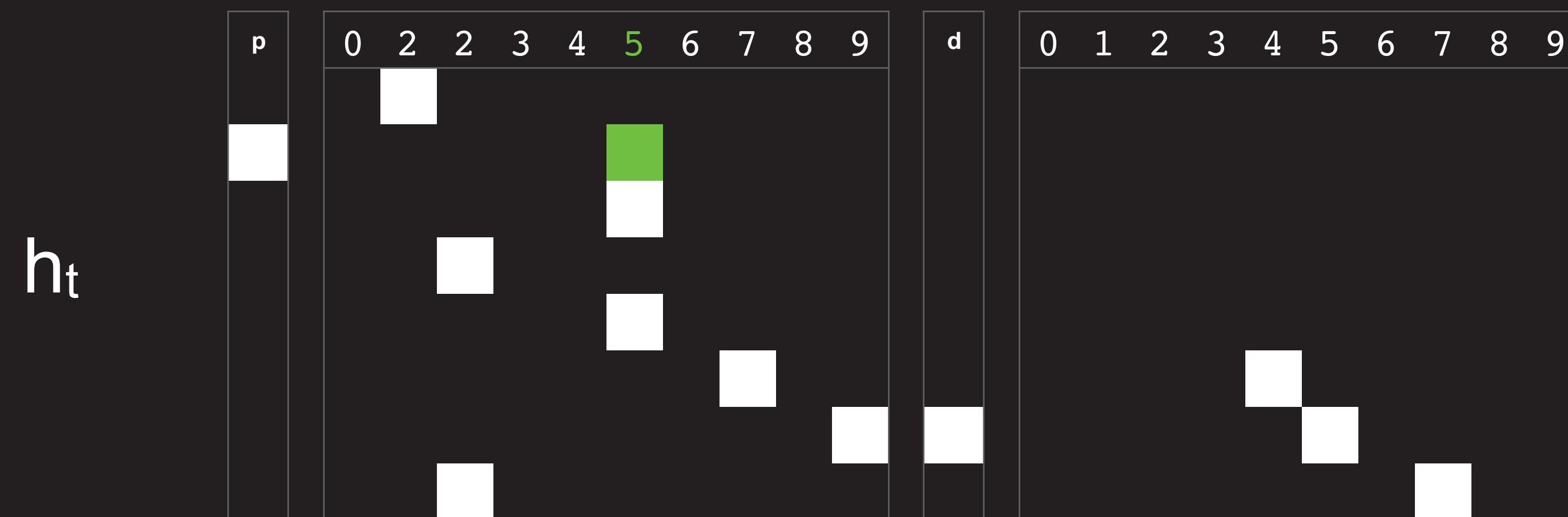
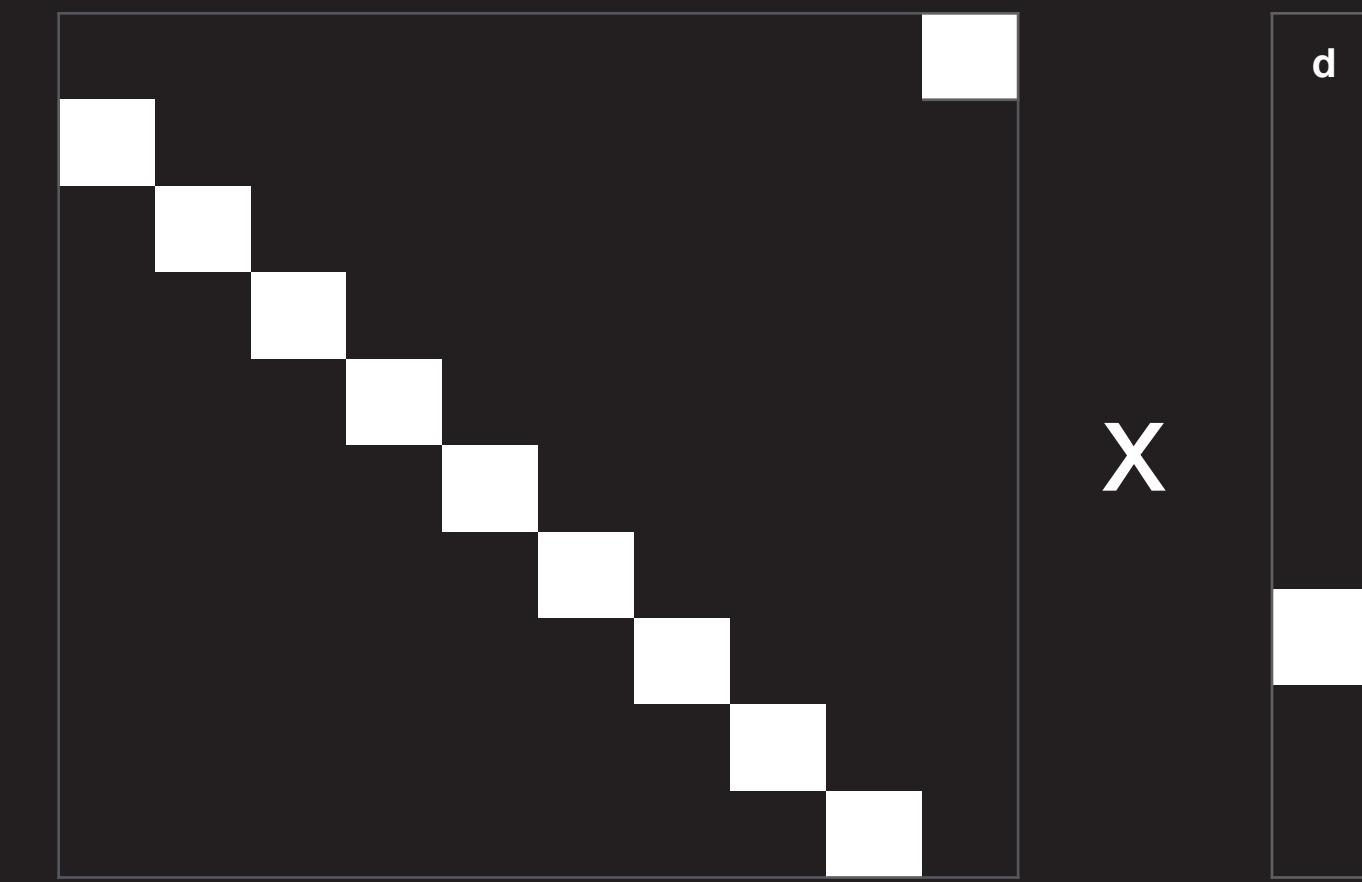


# Zoom in: Pop Operation

Pop



Circular Shift Matrix



# Zoom in: Add 1 Operation

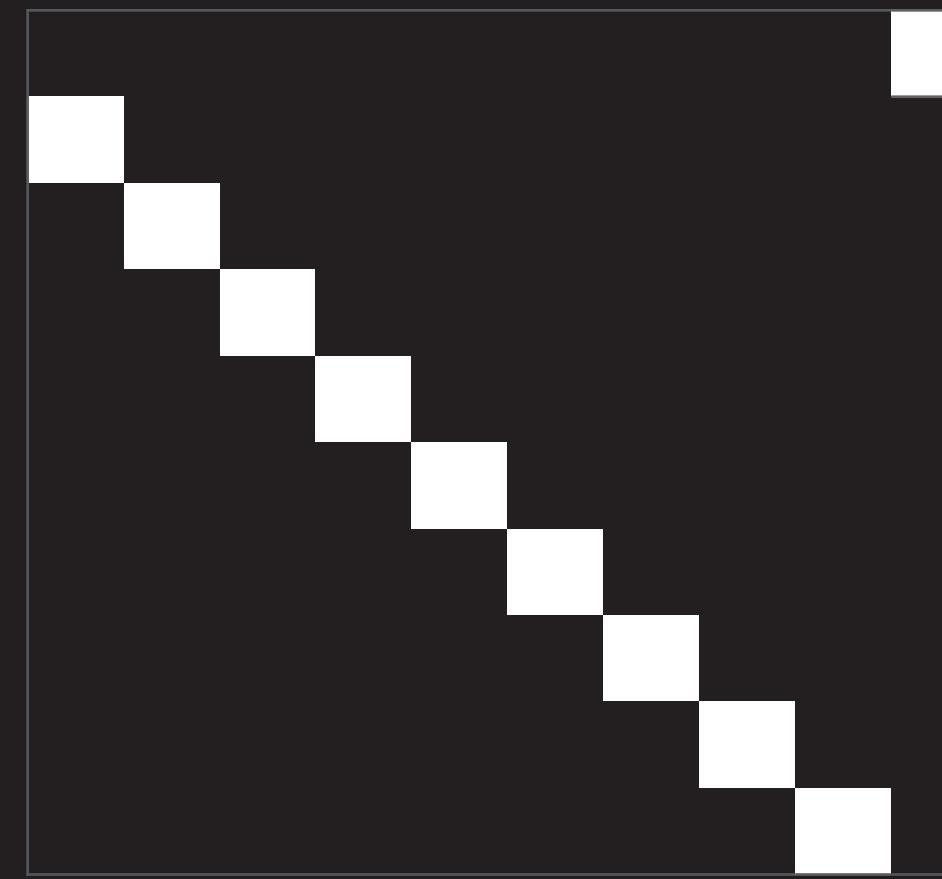
+1

$h_{t-1}$

$p$	0	2	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	$d$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

$h_t$

Circular Shift Matrix



# Zoom in: Add 1 Operation

+1

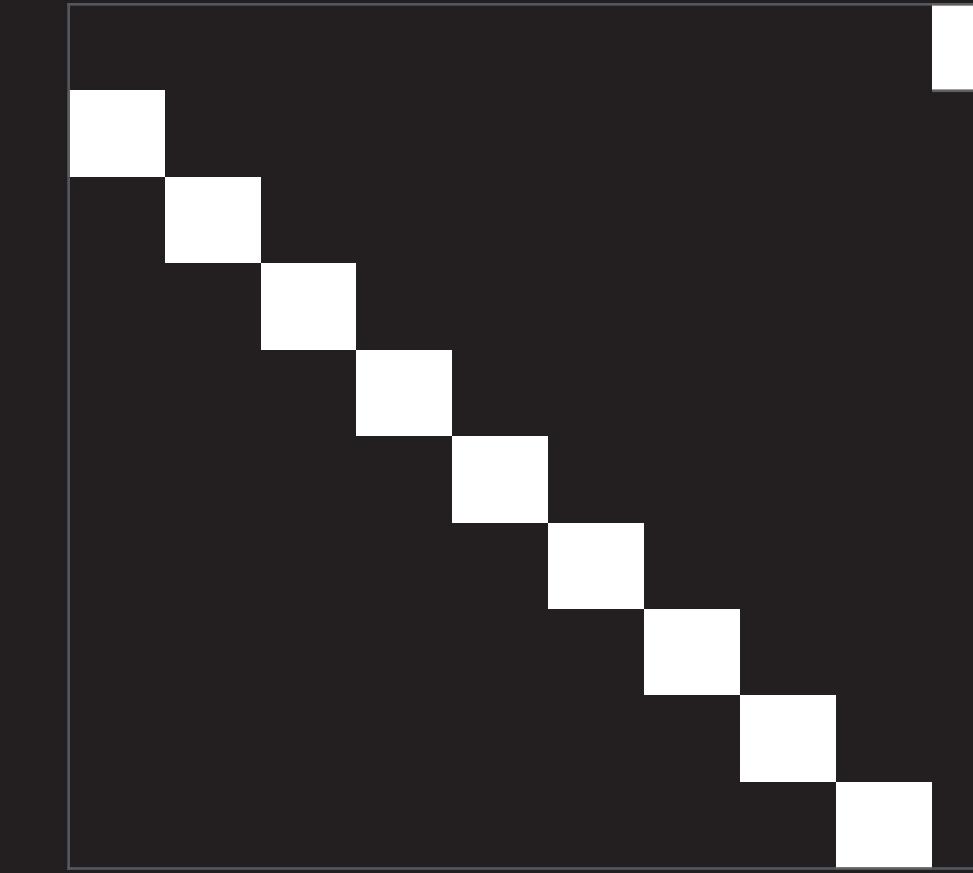
$h_{t-1}$

p	0	2	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
d	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

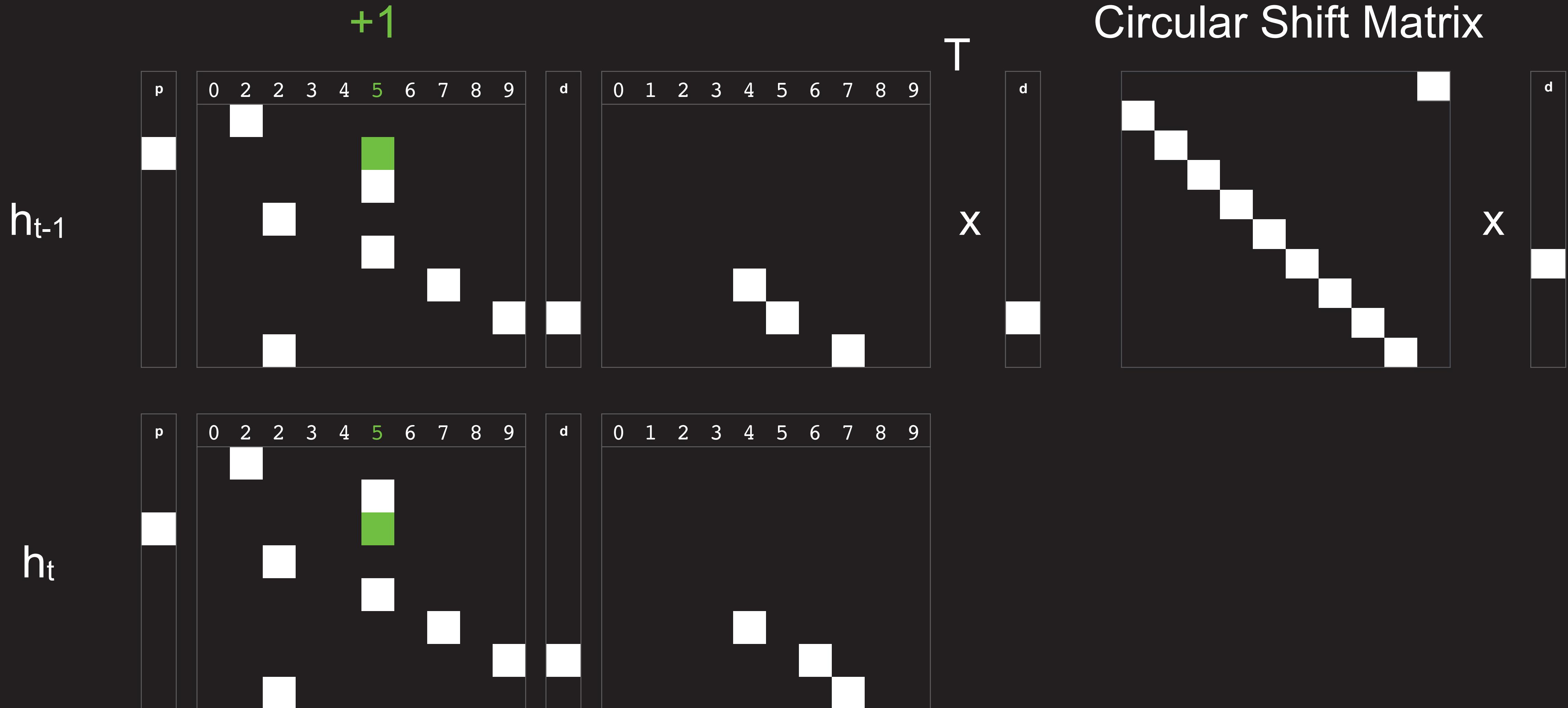
$h_t$

p	0	2	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
d	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Circular Shift Matrix

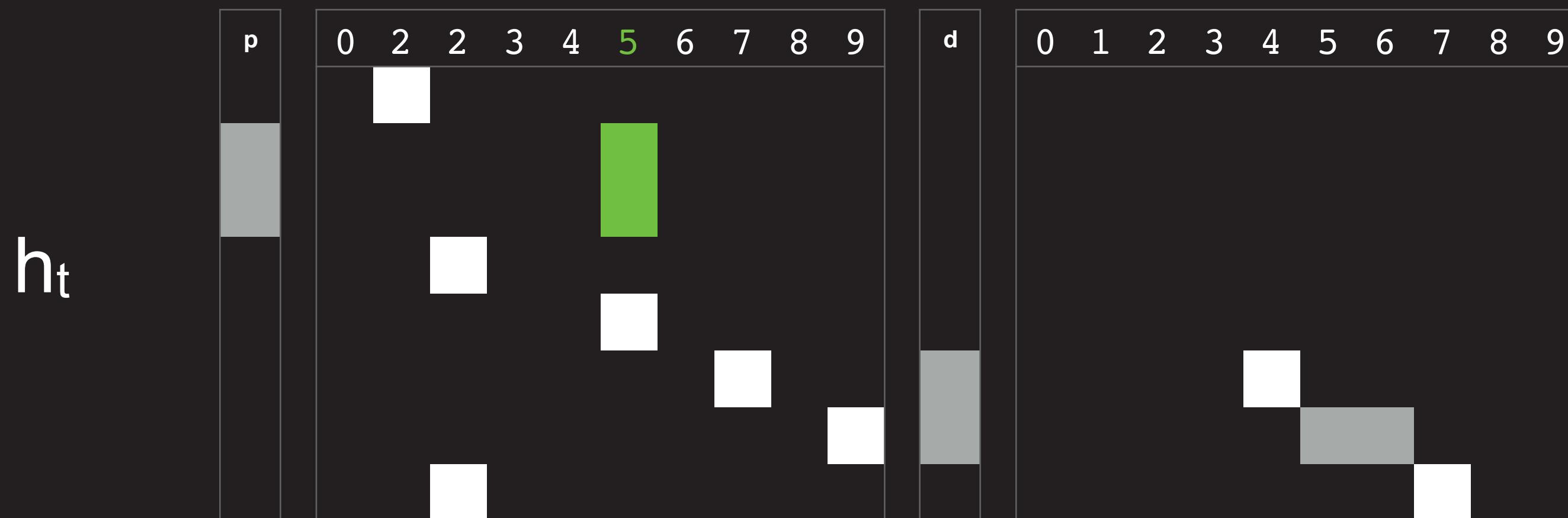
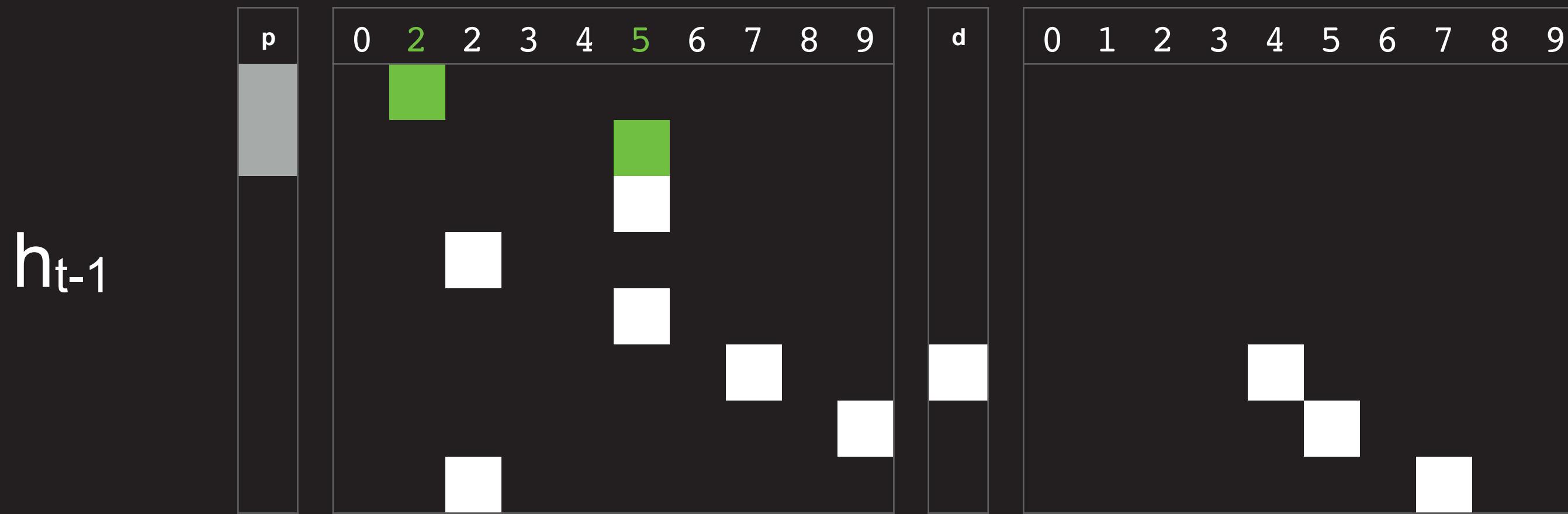


# Zoom in: Add 1 Operation



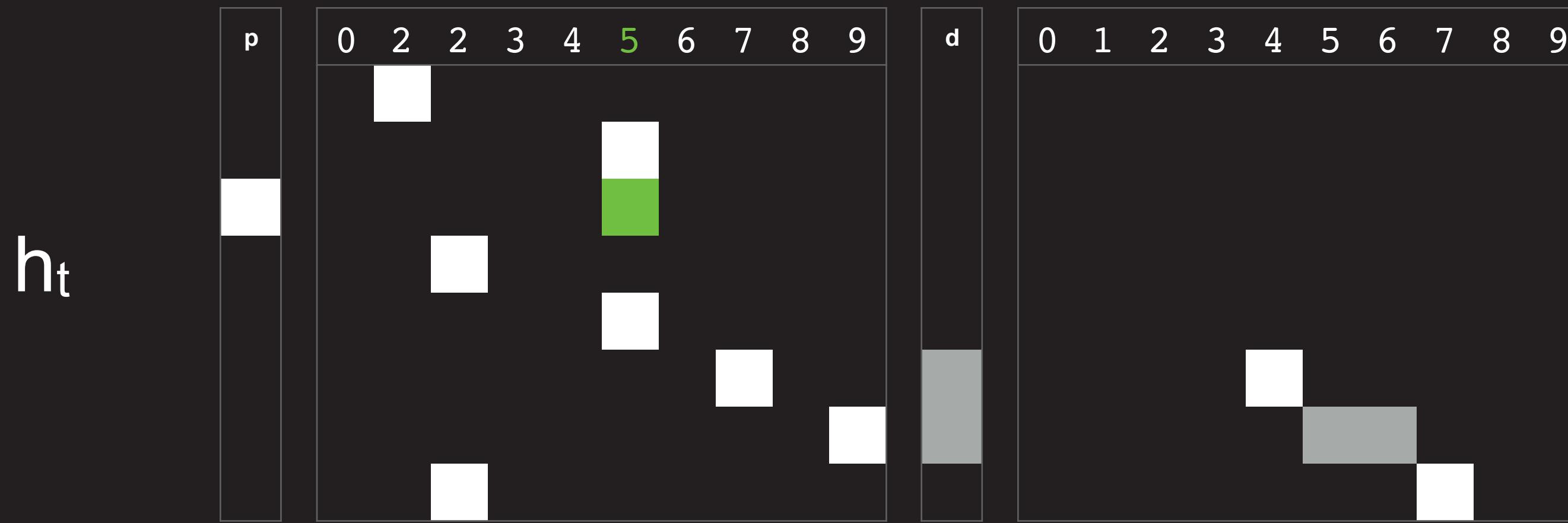
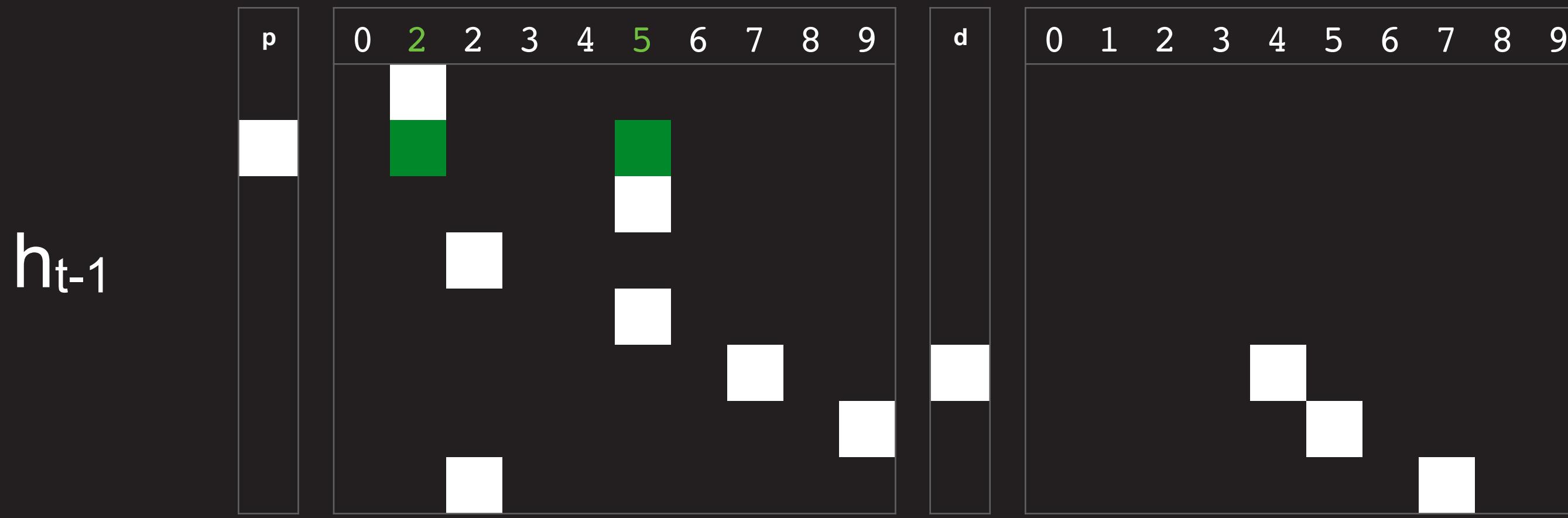
# Code Pointer Uncertainty

Pop      +1



# Code Uncertainty

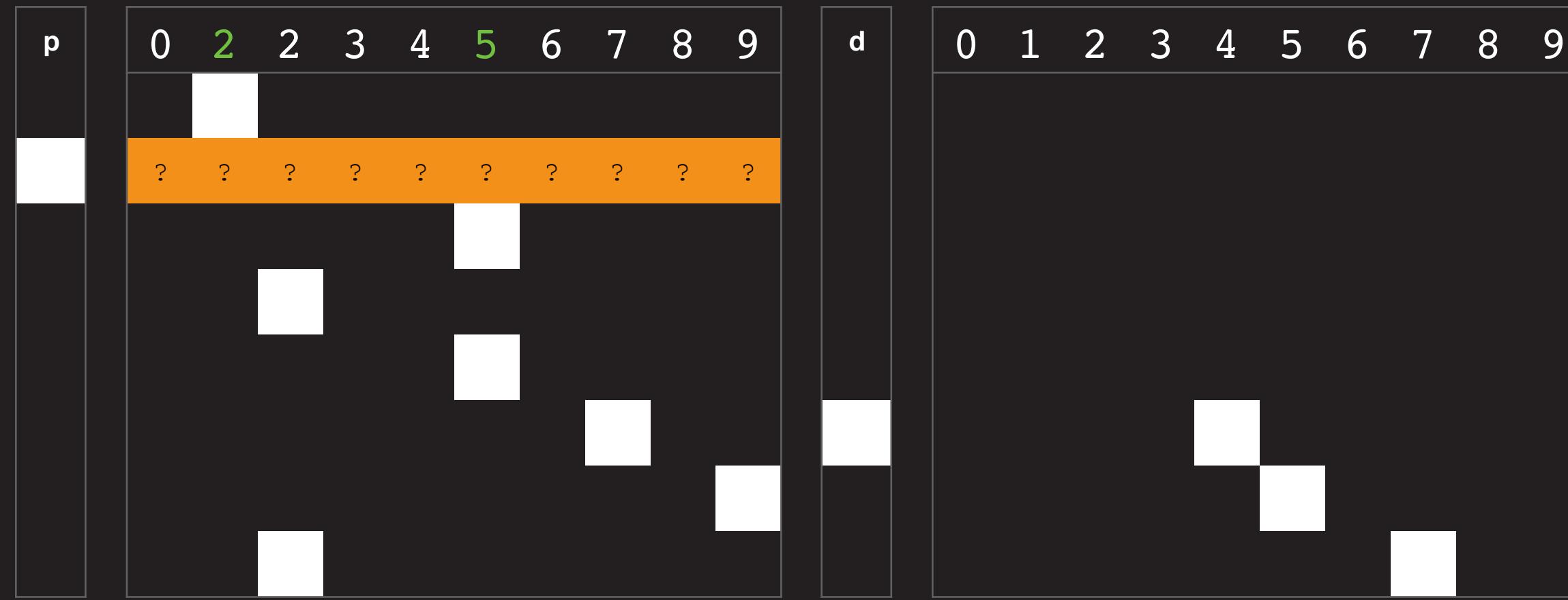
Pop +1



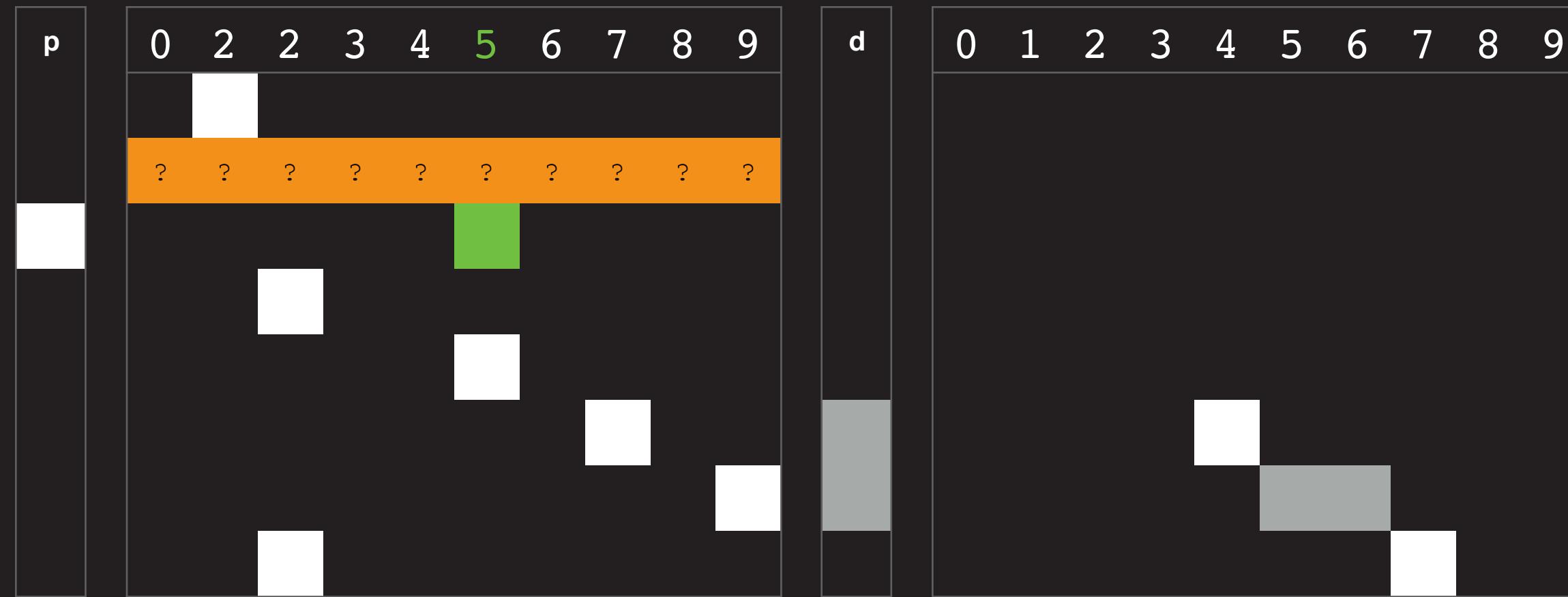
# Code Learning

Pop +1

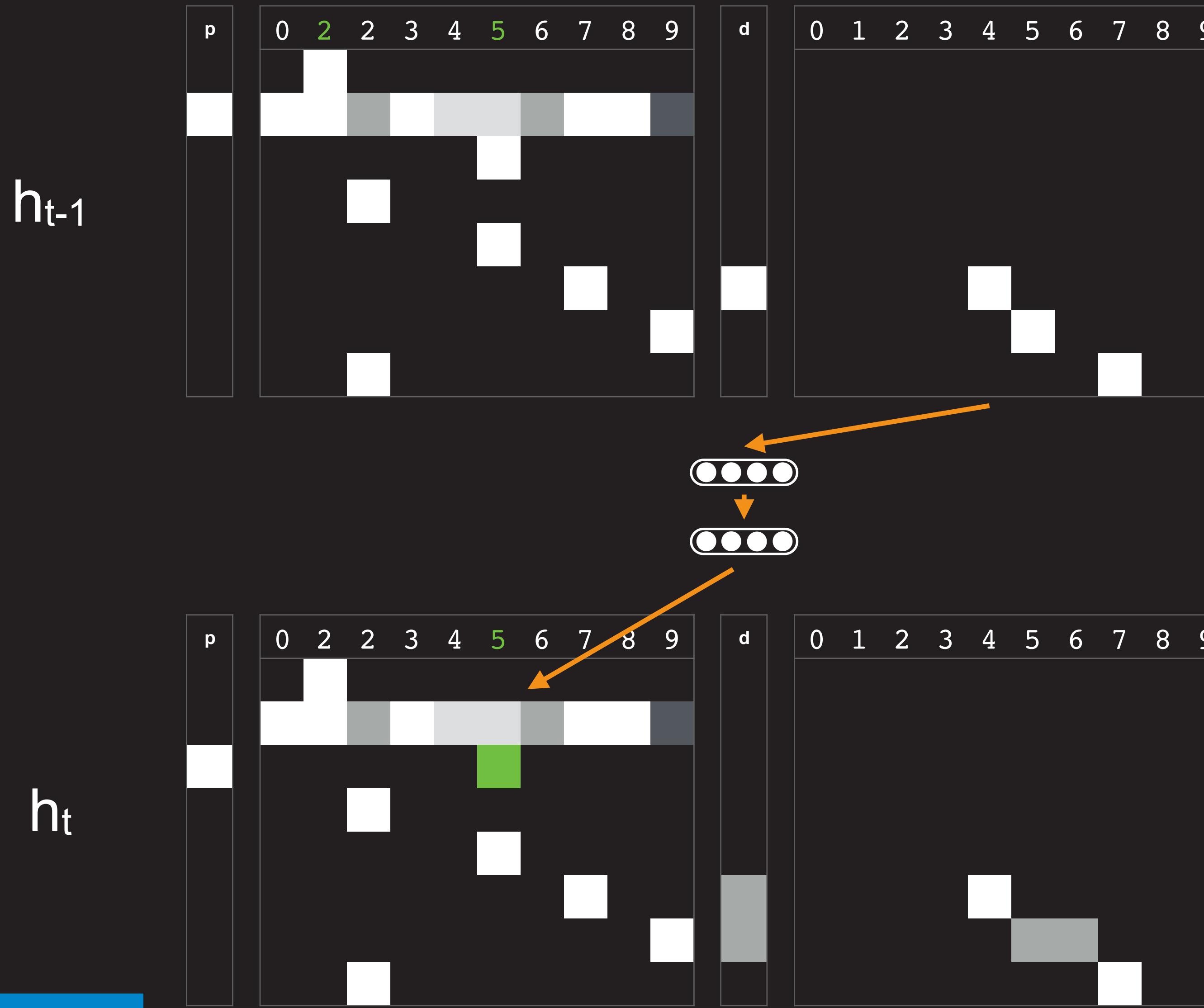
$h_{t-1}$



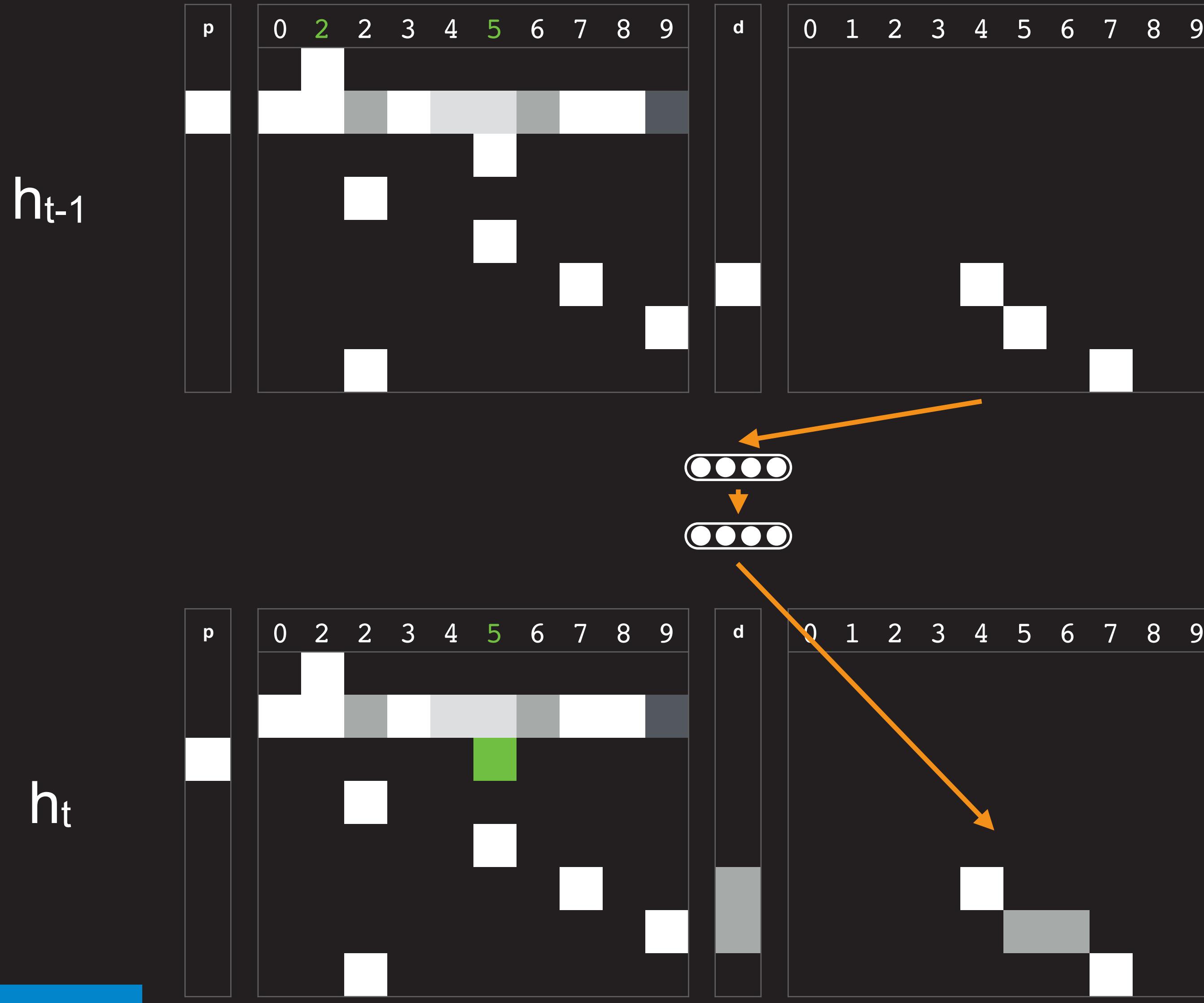
$h_t$



# Dynamic Code



# Direct Data Manipulation

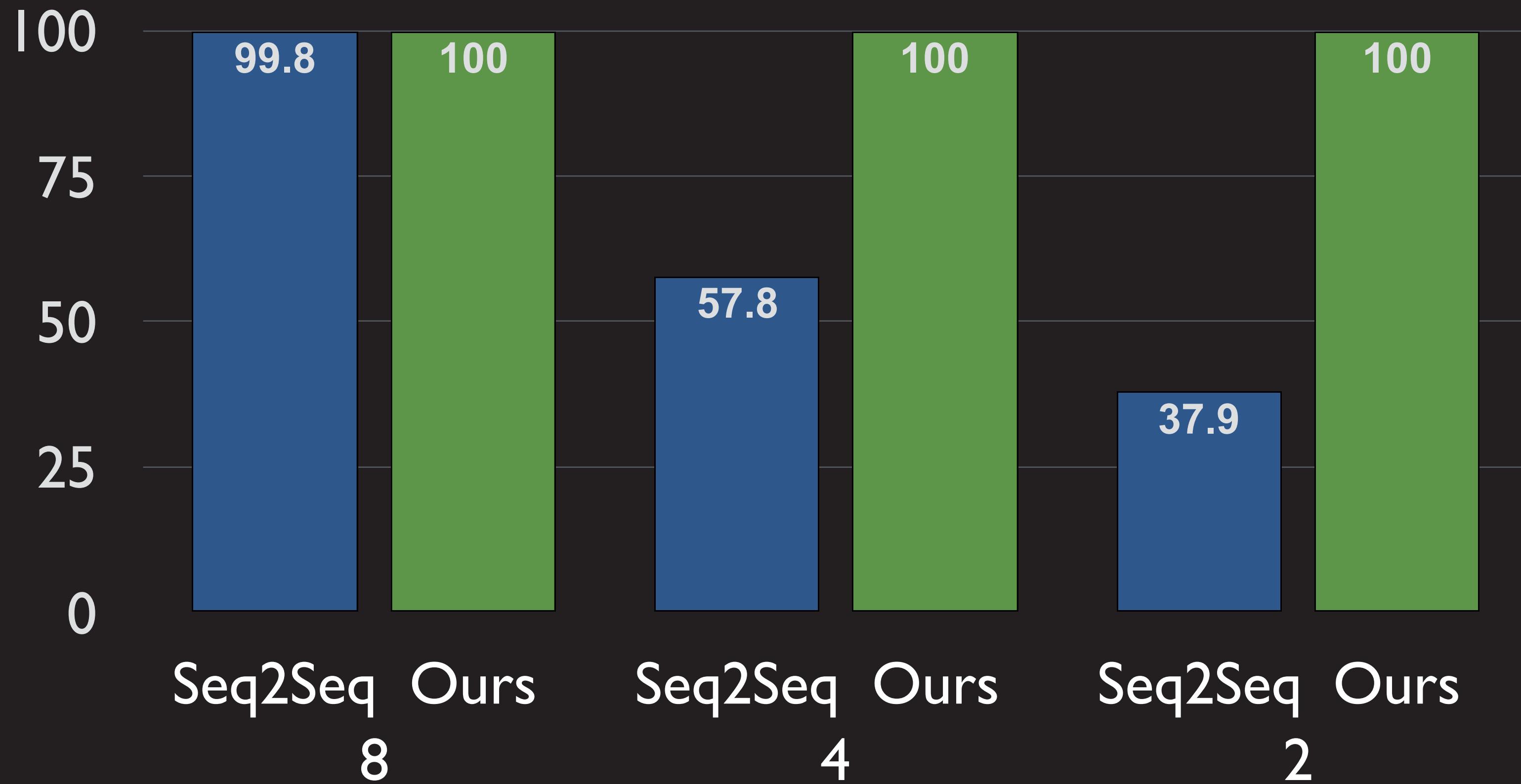


# Related Work

- ▶ Program Synthesis (Manna & Waldinger 71, Koza 92, Nordin 97, ...)
  - ▶ We learn via SGD, allow dynamic code outside the host language
- ▶ Probabilistic Programming (Goodman 08, Pfeffer 01, Milch 05, De Raedt 07)
  - ▶ We use procedural language, *discriminative*, easy to integrate into end-to-end neural architectures
- ▶ Neural Program Induction (Graves et al. 14, Reed & Freitas 15, ...)
  - ▶ We enable program sketches, host language is proper 3rd generation language

# Results on Learning To Sort

*Test Length: 8*

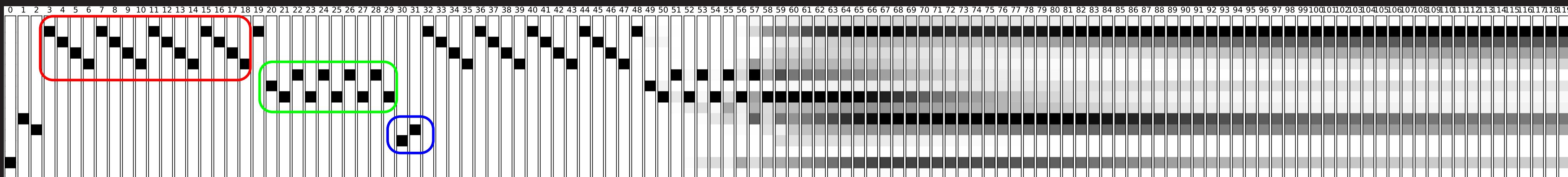


```
def bubble(list):
    if len(list) == 1:
        return list
    else:
        return slot1(bubble(slot2(list)))

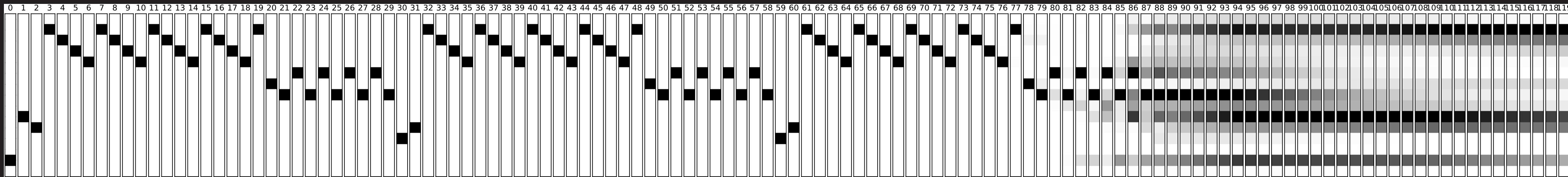
def sort(list):
    for i in range(0, len(list)):
        list = bubble(list)
    return list
```

# Program Trace During Learning

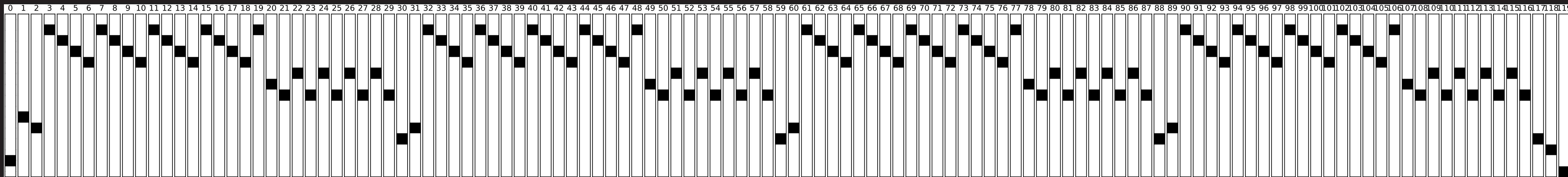
Early Stage of Training



(a) Program Counter trace in early stages of training.  
Middle of Training

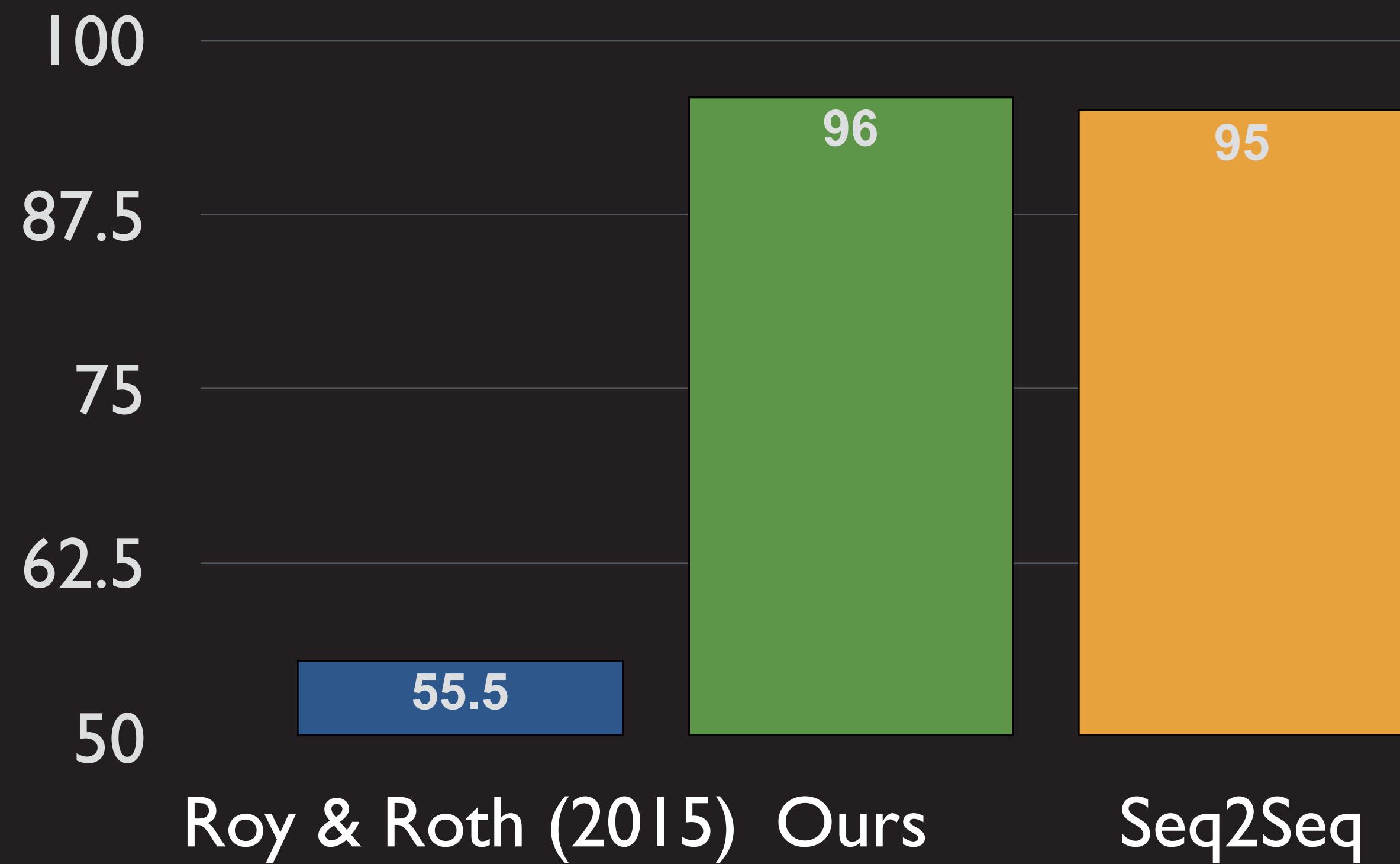


(b) Program Counter trace in the middle of training.  
End of training



(c) Program Counter trace at the end of training.

# Results on Math Problems (Accuracy)



*Seq2Seq solves simpler problem*



How many pictures were in each of the albums?

$$(2 + 4) / 3$$

# Limitations

- ▶ Continuous relaxations difficult to train
- ▶ Hard to learn long programs
- ▶ Hard to learn with recursive function calls
- ▶ Need better gradients in presence of discrete variables



**Tim Rocktäschel**

# Part 2: Learning to Aggregate

# Neural Theorem Provers



Which medical specialty deals with pituitary ACTH hypersecretion?

**Pituitary ACTH hypersecretion** ... is a form of hyperpituitarism characterized by an abnormally high level of ACTH produced by the **anterior pituitary** ...

A major organ of the **endocrine system**, the **anterior pituitary** is the glandular, anterior lobe that ...

The endocrine system is ... ... The field of study dealing with the **endocrine system** and its disorders is **endocrinology**, a branch of internal medicine.

# Neural Theorem Provers



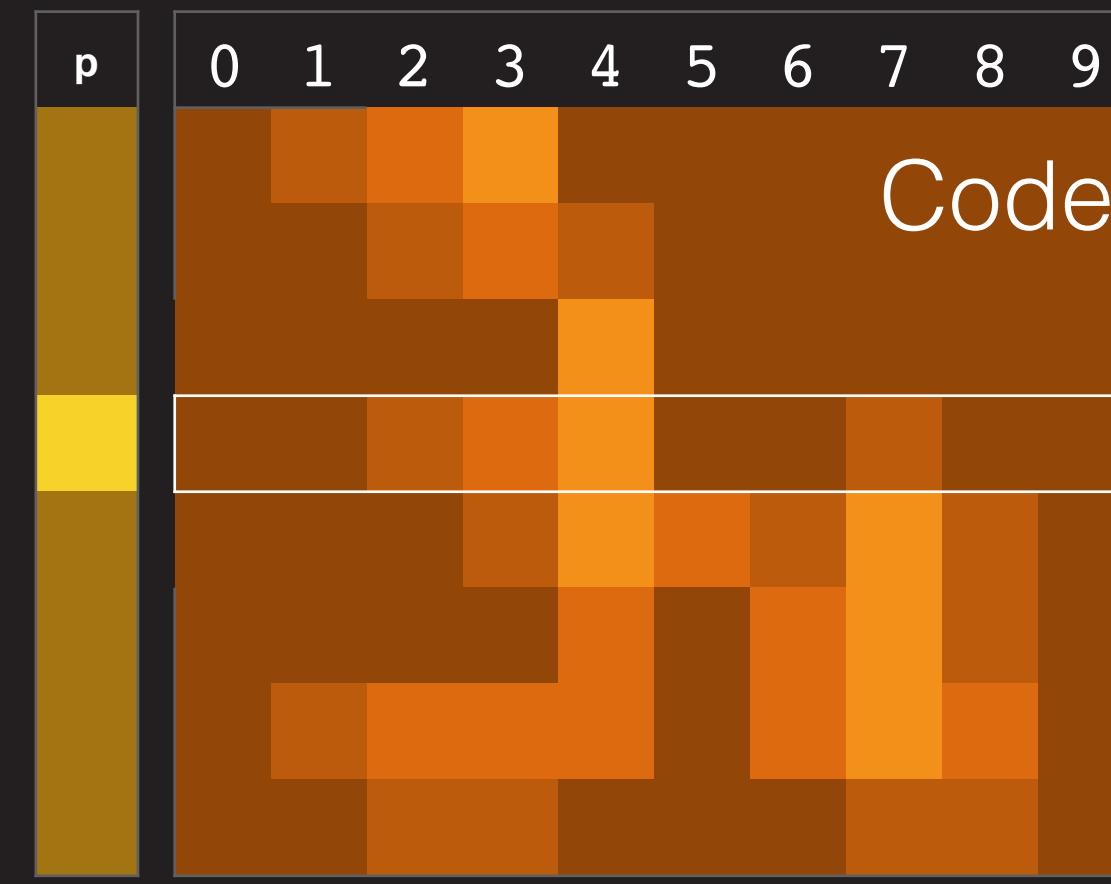
Which medical specialty deals with pituitary ACTH hypersecretion?



**Pituitary ACTH hypersecretion** ... is a form of hyperpituitarism characterized by an abnormally high level of ACTH produced by the **anterior pituitary** ...

Agent

Program Interpreter



Question

Which specialty deals with pituitary ACTH hypersecretion?



A major organ of the **endocrine system**, the **anterior pituitary** is the glandular, anterior lobe that ...

The endocrine system is ... ... The field of study dealing with the **endocrine system** and its disorders is **endocrinology**, a branch of internal medicine.

Reader

# Neural Theorem Provers



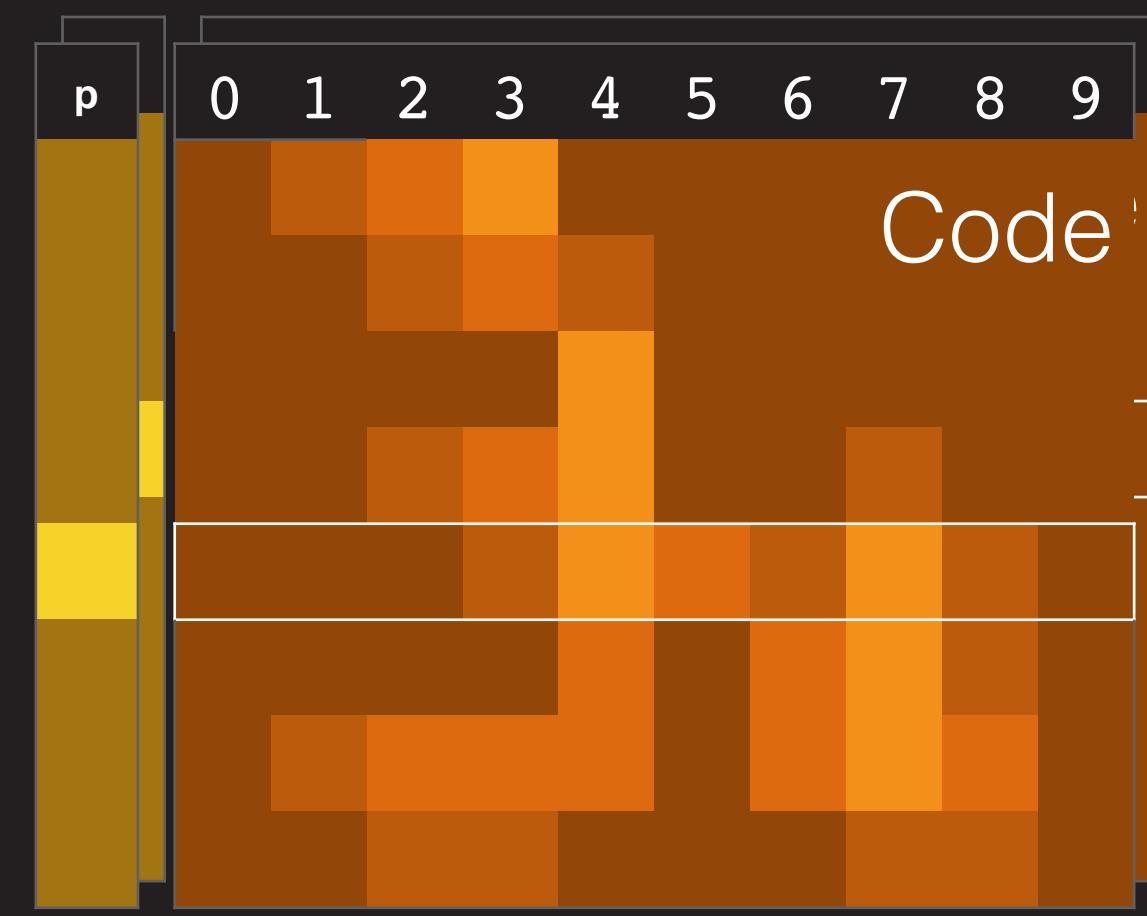
Which medical specialty deals with pituitary ACTH hypersecretion?



**Pituitary ACTH hypersecretion** ... is a form of hyperpituitarism characterized by an abnormally high level of ACTH produced by the **anterior pituitary** ...

Agent

Program Interpreter



Code



What is ACTH hypersecretion created by?

Question

A major organ of the **endocrine system**, the **anterior pituitary** is the glandular, anterior lobe that ...

The endocrine system is ... ... The field of study dealing with the **endocrine system** and its disorders is **endocrinology**, a branch of internal medicine.

Reader

# Neural Theorem Provers



Which medical specialty deals with pituitary ACTH hypersecretion?

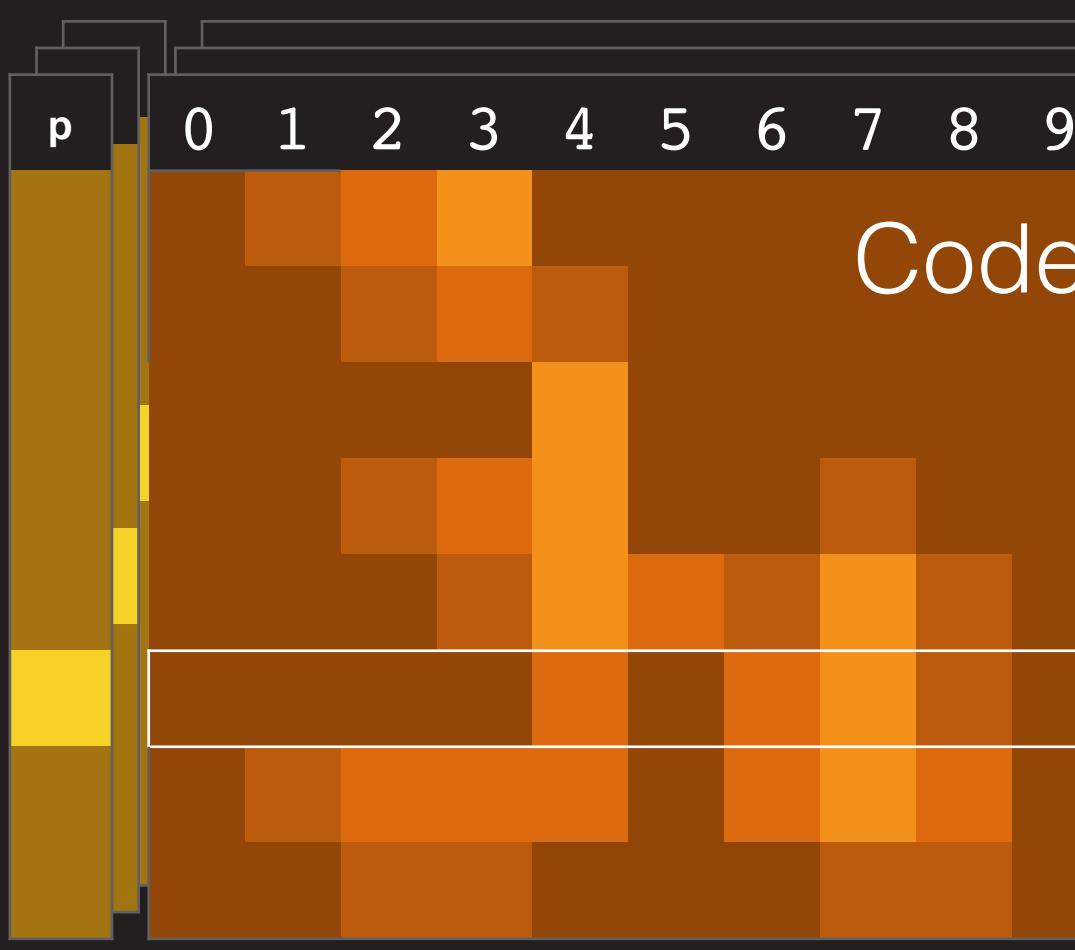


**Pituitary ACTH hypersecretion** ... is a form of hyperpituitarism characterized by an abnormally high level of ACTH produced by the **anterior pituitary** ...

Agent



Program Interpreter



Question

What is the pituitary a part of?

Code

A major organ of the **endocrine system**, the **anterior pituitary** is the glandular, anterior lobe that ...

The endocrine system is ... ... The field of study dealing with the **endocrine system** and its disorders is **endocrinology**, a branch of internal medicine.

Reader

# Neural Theorem Provers



Which medical specialty deals with pituitary ACTH hypersecretion?



**Pituitary ACTH hypersecretion** ... is a form of hyperpituitarism characterized by an abnormally high level of ACTH produced by the **anterior pituitary** ...

Agent



Program Interpreter



Question

What topic covers the endocrine system?

Code

A major organ of the **endocrine system**, the **anterior pituitary** is the glandular, anterior lobe that ...

The endocrine system is ... . The field of study dealing with the **endocrine system** and its disorders is **endocrinology**, a branch of internal medicine.

Reader

# Vectors Correspond to Interpretable Rules



Which medical specialty deals with pituitary ACTH hypersecretion?



Pituitary ACTH hypersecretion ... is a form of hyperpituitarism characterized by an abnormally high level of ACTH produced by the anterior pituitary ...

Agent



Program Interpreter

p 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Code

x deals with y if  
y produced by z  
z is a part of u  
x deals with u

Question

What topic covers the endocrine system?

A major organ of the endocrine system, the anterior pituitary is the glandular, anterior lobe that ...

The endocrine system is ... The field of study dealing with the endocrine system and its disorders is endocrinology, a branch of internal medicine.

Reader

# Catch: Currently only Works on Relational Data



dealsWith(hypersecretion, X)



createdBy(hypersecretion, anterior pituitary)

Agent

Program Interpreter

p 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Code

X deals with Y if  
Y produced by Z  
Z is a part of U  
X deals with U



Question

covers(endocrine system, X)

partOf(endocrine system, anterior pituitary)

dealsWith(endocrine system, endocrinology)

Reader

# Catch: Currently only Works on Relational Data



dealsWith(**hypersecretion**, X)



createdBy(**hypersecretion**, **anterior pituitary**)

Agent



partOf(**endocrine system**, **anterior pituitary**)

*Amounts to Differentiable  
Version of the **Backward  
Chaining** algorithm used  
in **Prolog***

dealsWith(**endocrine system**, **endocrinology**)

# Supports Soft Unification



dealsWith(hypersecretion, X)



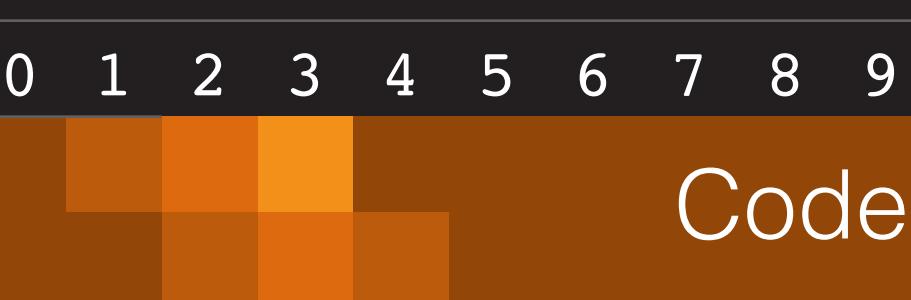
createdBy(hypersecretion, anterior pituitary)

Agent

Program Interpreter



partOf(endocrine system, anterior pituitary)



X deals with Y if  
Y produced by Z  
Z is a part of U  
X deals with U

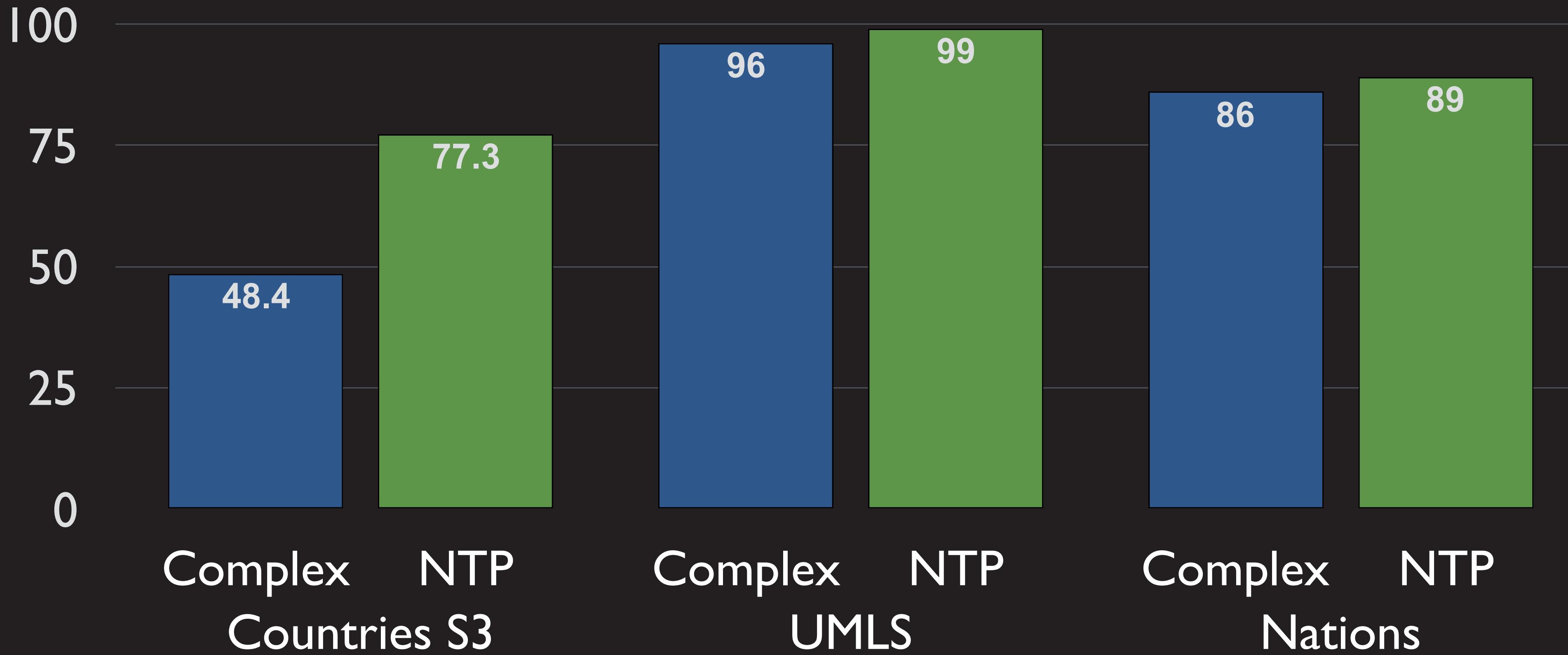
Question

covers(endocrine  
system, X)

dealsWith(endocrine system, endocrinology)

Reader

# Results on Benchmark (Rank of Correct Answer)



*Comparable or Better than Baselines, and interpretable*

# Interpretability: Learnt Rules

- ▶ if **X** is located in **Y** and **Y** is located in **Z** then **X** is located in **Z**
- ▶ if **X** expels diplomats of **Y** then **X** shows negative behaviour towards **Y**
- ▶ if **X** interacts with **Y** and **Y** interacts with **Z** then **X** interacts with **Z**

# Related Work

- ▶ **Probabilistic Logic Programming:** IBAL (Pfeffer, 2001), BLOG (Milch et al., 2005), Markov Logic Networks (Richardson and Domingos, 2006), ProbLog (De Raedt et al., 2007), BLP (Kersting, De Raedt, 2007)
- ▶ **Inductive Logic Programming:** Plotkin (1970), Shapiro (1991), Muggleton (1991), De Raedt (1999) . . . Statistical Predicate Invention (Kok and Domingos, 2007)
- ▶ **Neural-symbolic Connectionism**
  - ▶ *Propositional* rules: EBL-ANN (Shavlik and Towell, 1989), KBANN (Towell and Shavlik, 1994), C-LIP (Garcez and Zaverucha, 1999)
  - ▶ First-order inference (*no training of symbol representations*): Unification Neural Networks (Holldobler, 1990; Komendantskaya 2011), SHRUTI (Shastri, 1992), Neural Prolog (Ding, 1995), CLIP++ (Franca et al. 2014), Lifted Relational Networks (Sourek et al. 2015), TensorLog (Cohen 46)

# Limitations

- ▶ Scalability
  - ▶ Currently only works for KBs with < 10k facts
  - ▶ Small proof depth
- ▶ Still requires relational representation



**Johannes Welbl**



**Pontus Stenetorp**

# Part 3: A Read & Reason Dataset

The background of the image is a photograph of several kangaroos in a green, grassy field. In the foreground, two kangaroos are clearly visible, facing the camera. Behind them, several more kangaroos are blurred, creating a sense of depth.

# QAngaroo

## Reading Comprehension with Multiple Hops

---

[!\[\]\(f02dd4fbd63775cd68de9741c4834ec6\_img.jpg\) Paper](#)[!\[\]\(b4bd3f4fab3c8f2dc09c326217109a88\_img.jpg\) Dataset Download](#)

Dataset Distribution under [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

# A Single Instance

What is the nationality of Jamie Burnett?

▶ Candidates:

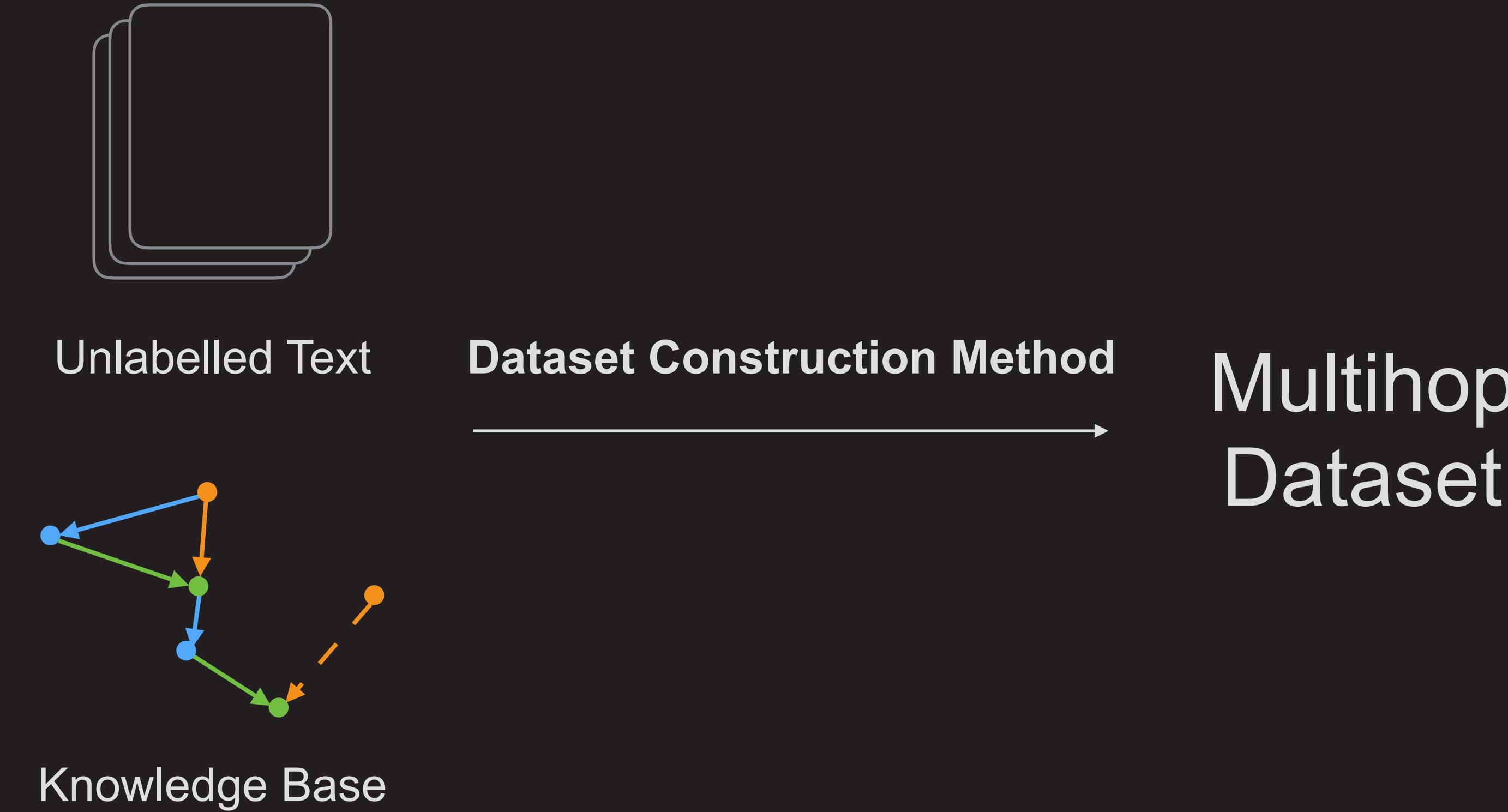
- ▶ Scotland (correct)
- ▶ China (incorrect)
- ▶ ...

Jamie Burnett (born 16 September 1975 ) is a professional snooker player from Hamilton, South Lanarkshire...He began the 2014/2015 season with a quarter-final showing at the Yixing Open...

...Hamilton is a town in South Lanarkshire, in the central Lowlands of Scotland...

The Yixing Open was a professional minor-ranking snooker tournament that took place at the Yixing Sports Centre in Yixing, China.

# Dataset Construction Method



# Dataset Construction Method

KB Triple

Jamie Burnett, citizenship, Scotland

Entities

Jamie Burnett

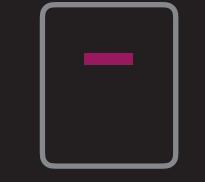
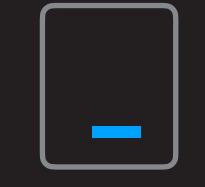
Hamilton

Scotland

Yixing Open

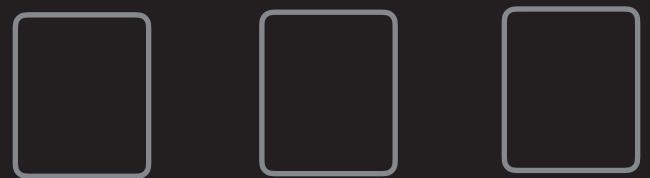
China

Documents



Instance

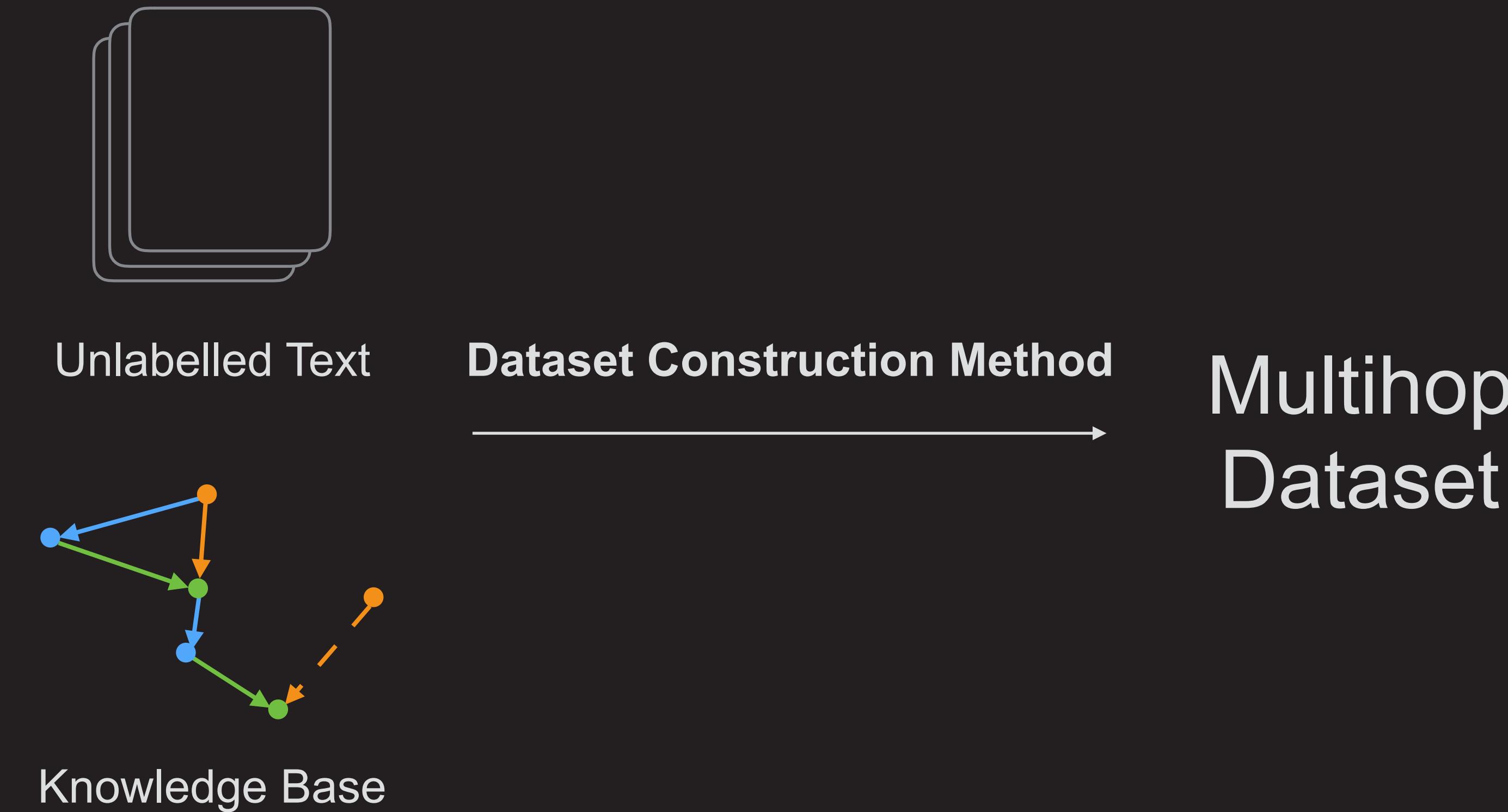
What is the nationality of Jamie Burnett?



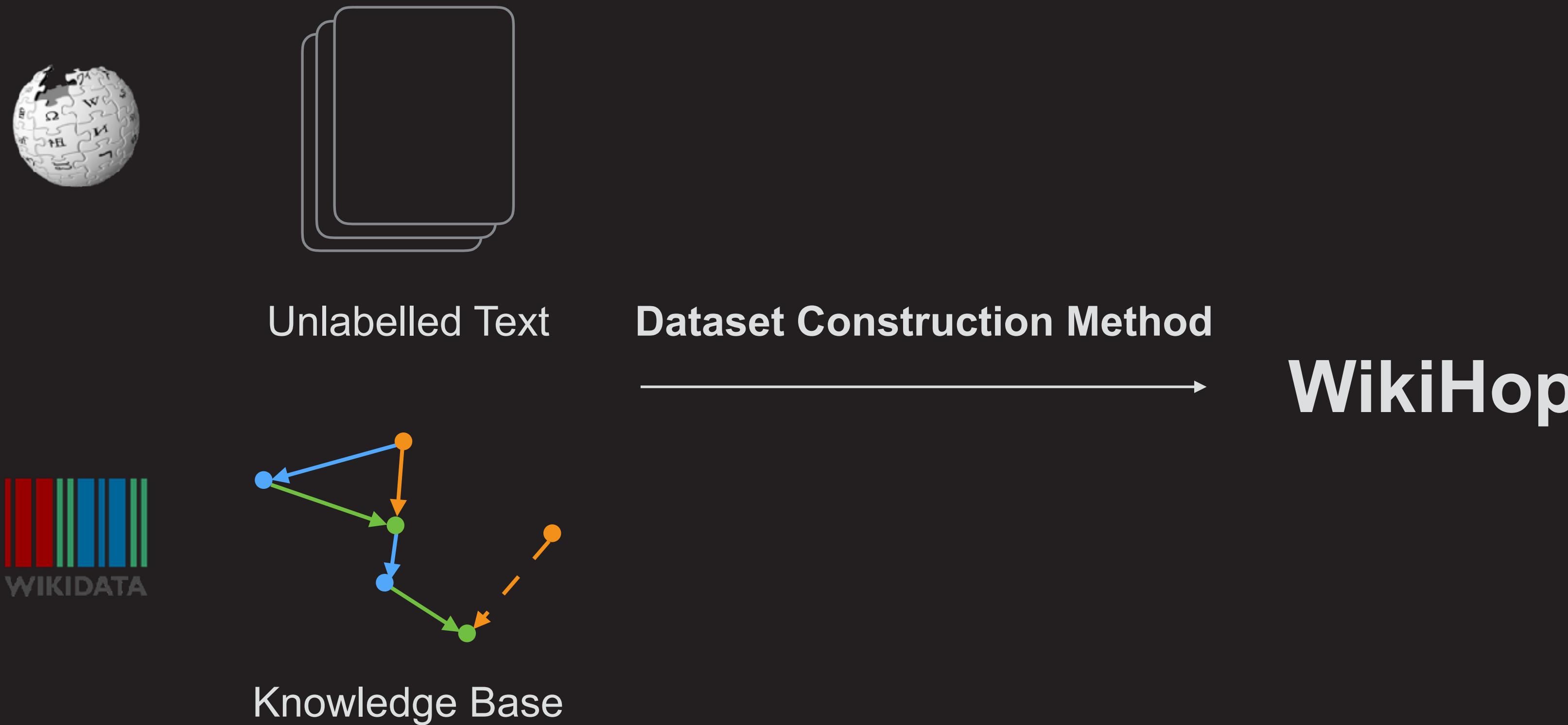
Scotland

China

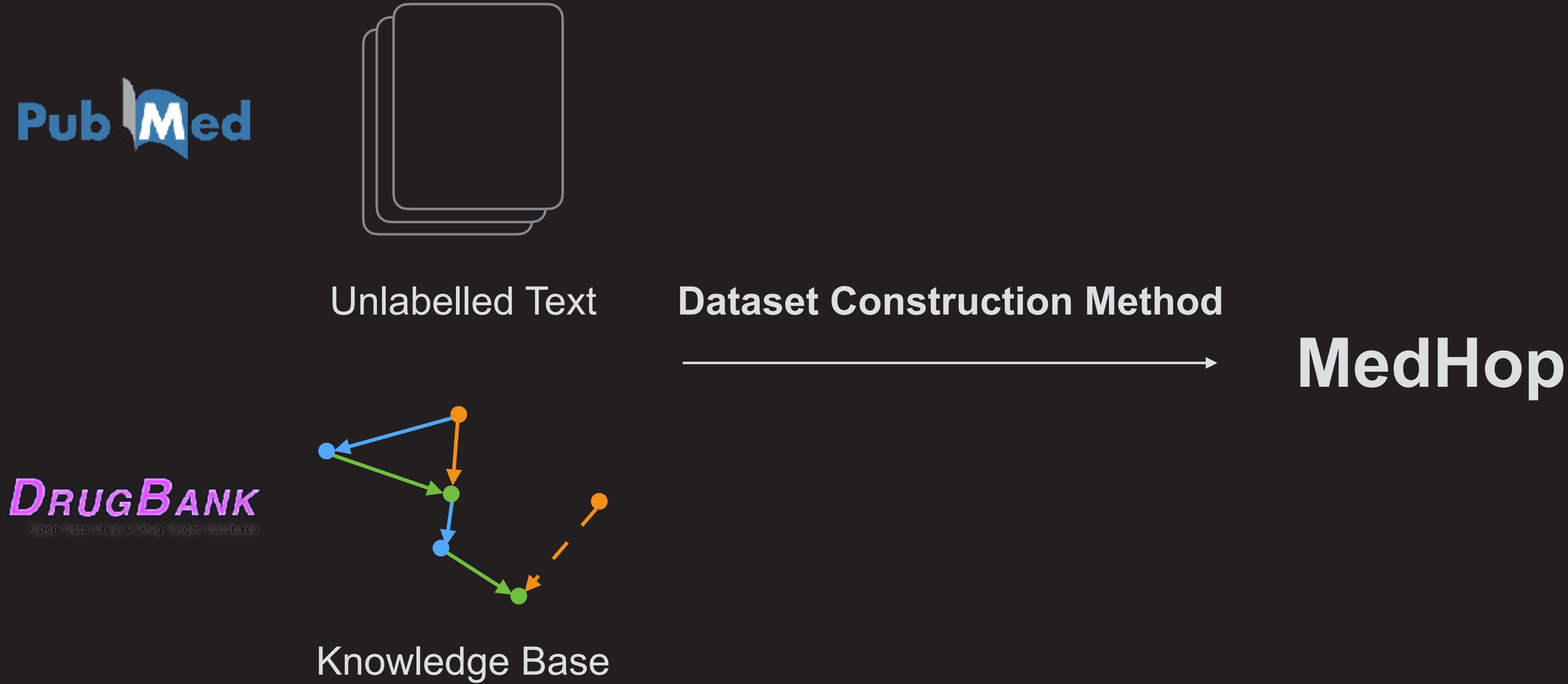
# Dataset Construction Method



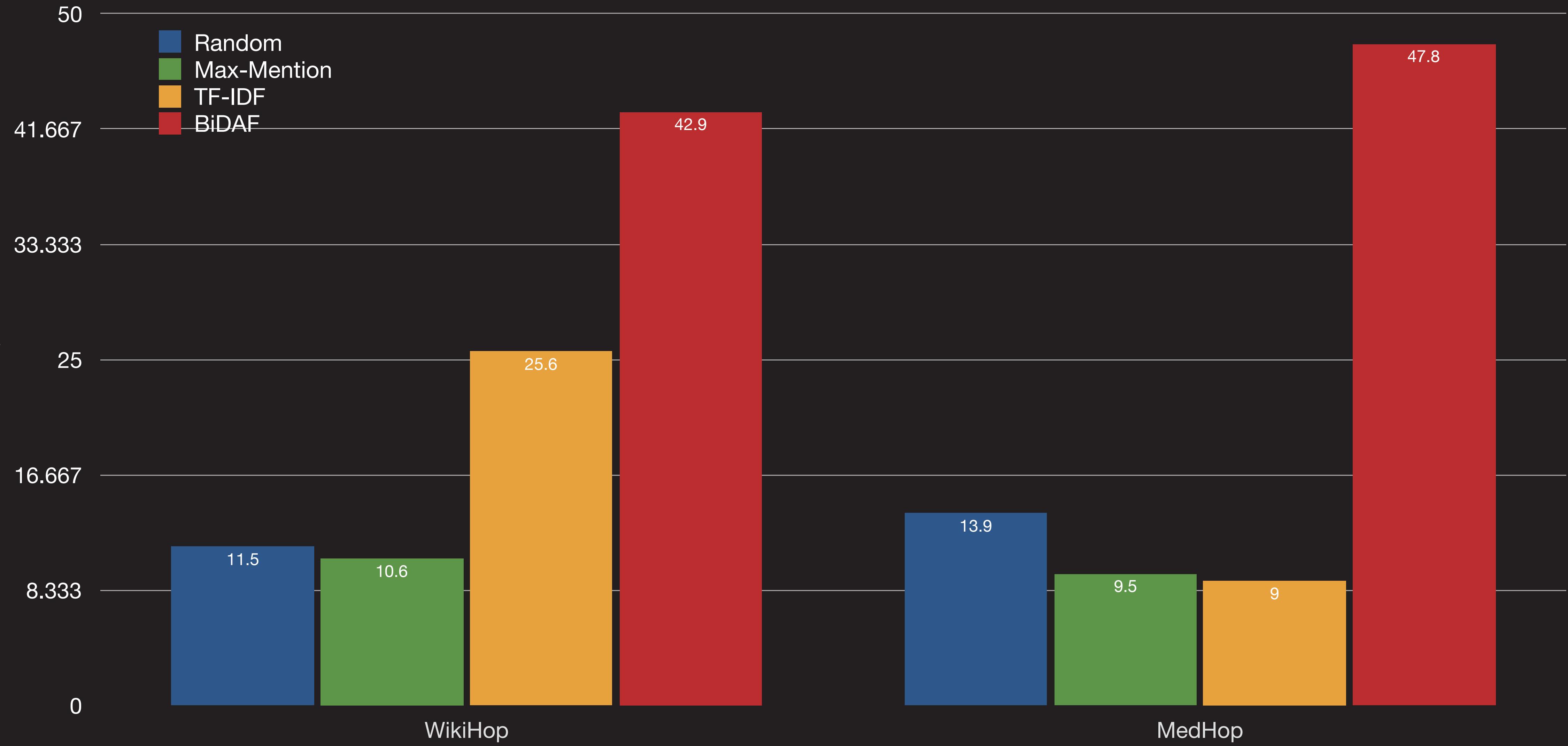
# Dataset Construction Method



# Dataset Construction Method



# Baseline Results

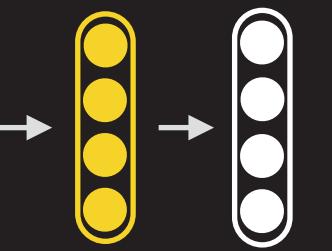


# Reduction to Traditional Machine Comprehension



Which medical specialty deals with pituitary ACTH hypersecretion?

Endocrinology



**Pituitary ACTH hypersecretion** ... is a form of hyperpituitarism characterized by an abnormally high level of ACTH produced by the **anterior pituitary** ...

A major organ of the **endocrine system**, the **anterior pituitary** is the glandular, anterior lobe that ...

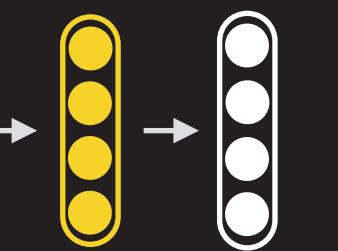
The endocrine system is ... The field of study dealing with the **endocrine system** and its disorders is **endocrinology**, a branch of internal medicine.

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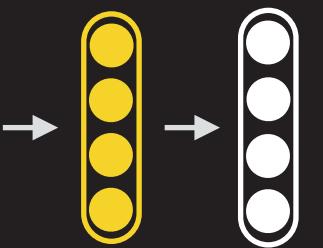
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# Do Neural Reading Models Aggregate?



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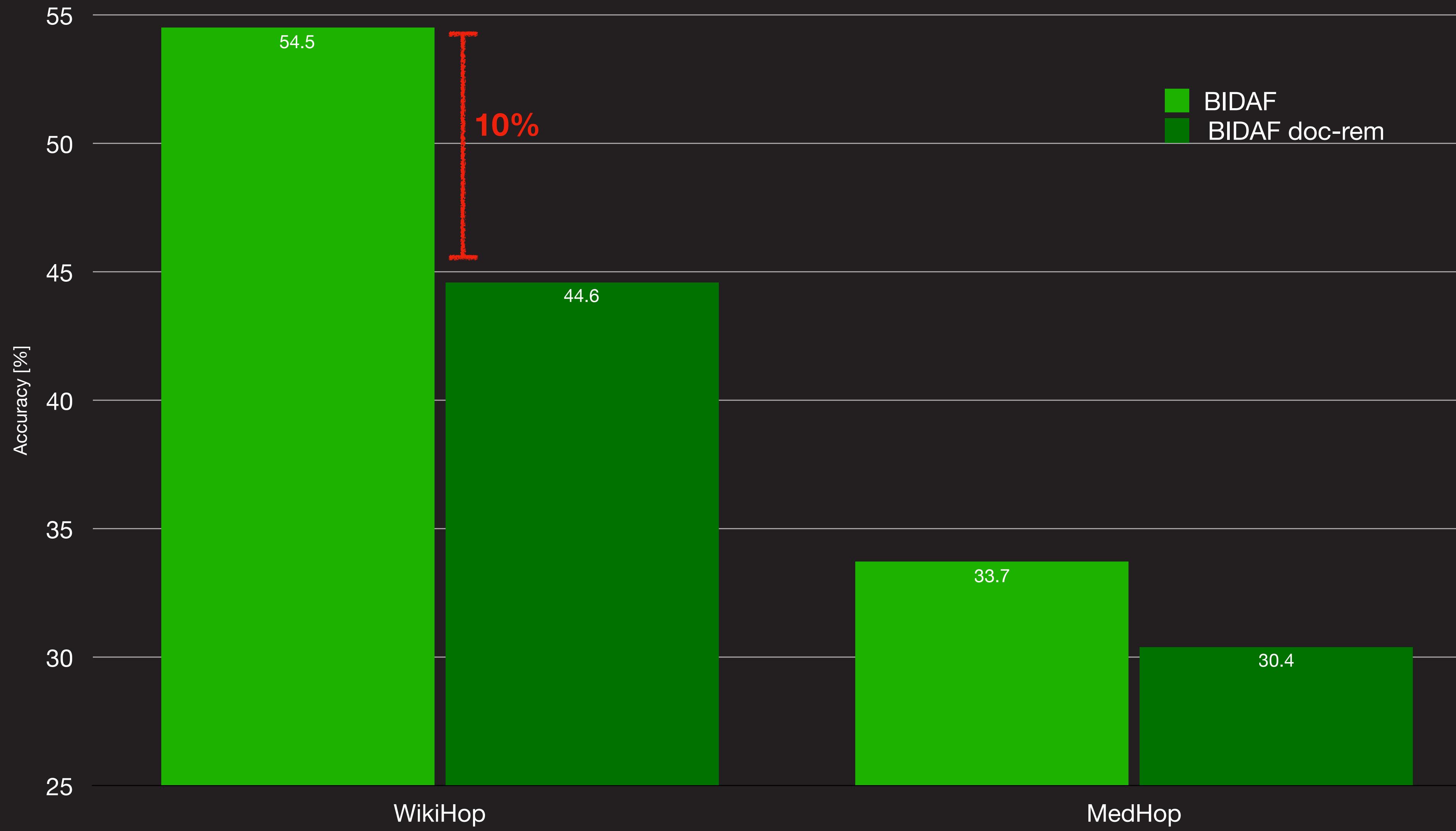
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# Removing Relevant Documents, Keep Answer Documents



# Conclusion

- ▶ Great Progress in End-to-End Reading Comprehension
- ▶ **Reasoning** (aggregation, calculation etc.) end-to-end is still very challenging
- ▶ Our Approaches
  - ▶ create datasets
  - ▶ cast reasoning as **program learning** and **execution**
  - ▶ are **end-to-end differentiable** (can be trained on downstream loss)
  - ▶ are inspired and tied to **traditional symbolic formalisms** (Forth, Prolog/Datalog)
  - ▶ are learnt models are **interpretable**
  - ▶ allow injection of **prior knowledge**