

CS447: Natural Language Processing

<http://courses.engr.illinois.edu/cs447>

# Lecture 13:

# Recurrent Neural Nets

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# briefer recap

# 1D CNNs for text

Text is a (variable-length) **sequence** of words (word vectors)

[#channels = dimensionality of word vectors]

We can use a **1D CNN** to slide a window of  $n$  tokens across:

- Filter size  $n = 3$ , stride = 1, no padding

The **quick brown** fox jumps over the lazy dog

The **quick brown fox** jumps over the lazy dog

The quick **brown fox jumps** over the lazy dog

The quick brown **fox jumps over** the lazy dog

The quick brown fox **jumps over the** lazy dog

The quick brown fox jumps **over the lazy** dog

- Filter size  $n = 2$ , stride = 2, no padding:

The **quick** brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

The quick **brown fox** jumps over the lazy dog

The quick brown fox **jumps over** the lazy dog

The quick brown fox jumps over **the lazy** dog

# Sequence Labeling

**Input:** a sequence of  $n$  tokens/words:

Pierre Vinken , 61 years old , will join IBM 's board as a nonexecutive director Nov. 29

**Output:** a sequence of  $n$  labels, such that each token/word is associated with a label:

**POS-tagging:** Pierre\_NNP Vinken\_NNP ,\_I-CD 61\_CD years\_NNS  
old\_JJ ,\_I-MD will\_MD join\_VB IBM\_NNP 's\_POS board\_NN as\_IN  
a\_DT nonexecutive\_JJ director\_NN Nov.\_NNP 29\_CD .\_O.

**Named Entity Recognition:** Pierre\_B-PERS Vinken\_I-PERS ,\_O 61\_O  
years\_O old\_O ,\_O will\_O join\_O IBM\_B-ORG 's\_O board\_O  
as\_O a\_O nonexecutive\_O director\_O Nov.\_B-DATE 29\_I-  
**DATE** .\_O

# Statistical POS tagging

She promised to back the bill

$w = w^{(1)} \quad w^{(2)} \quad w^{(3)} \quad w^{(4)} \quad w^{(5)} \quad w^{(6)}$



$t = t^{(1)} \quad t^{(2)} \quad t^{(3)} \quad t^{(4)} \quad t^{(5)} \quad t^{(6)}$

**PRP    VBD    TO    VB    DT    NN**

What is the most likely sequence of tags  $t = t^{(1)} \dots t^{(N)}$  for the given sequence of words  $w = w^{(1)} \dots w^{(N)}$  ?

$$t^* = \operatorname{argmax}_t P(t \mid w)$$

# Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)

HMMs are the most commonly used generative models for POS tagging (and other tasks, e.g. in speech recognition)

HMMs make specific **independence assumptions** in  $P(\mathbf{t})$  and  $P(\mathbf{w} \mid \mathbf{t})$ :

1)  $P(\mathbf{t})$  is an  $n$ -gram (typically **bigram** or **trigram**) model over tags:

$$P_{\text{bigram}}(\mathbf{t}) = \prod_i P(t^{(i)} \mid t^{(i-1)})$$

$$P_{\text{trigram}}(\mathbf{t}) = \prod_i P(t^{(i)} \mid t^{(i-1)}, t^{(i-2)})$$

$P(t^{(i)} \mid t^{(i-1)})$  and  $P(t^{(i)} \mid t^{(i-1)}, t^{(i-2)})$  are called **transition probabilities**

2) In  $P(\mathbf{w} \mid \mathbf{t})$ , each  $w^{(i)}$  depends only on [is generated by/conditioned on]  $t^{(i)}$ :

$$P(\mathbf{w} \mid \mathbf{t}) = \prod_i P(w^{(i)} \mid t^{(i)})$$

$P(w^{(i)} \mid t^{(i)})$  are called **emission probabilities**

These probabilities don't depend on the position in the sentence  $^{(i)}$ ,  
but are defined over word and tag types.

With subscripts  $i, j, k$ , to index word/tag types, they become  $P(t_i \mid t_j)$ ,  $P(t_i \mid t_j, t_k)$ ,  $P(w_i \mid t_j)$

# Today's lecture

Part 1: Recurrent Neural Nets for various NLP tasks

Part 2: Practicalities:

Training RNNs

Generating with RNNs

Using RNNs in complex networks

Part 3: Changing the recurrent architecture  
to go beyond vanilla RNNs:  
LSTMs, GRUs

# Part 1: Recurrent Neural nets for various NLP tasks

# Recurrent Neural Nets (RNNs)

**Feedforward nets** can only handle inputs and outputs that have a **fixed size**.

**Recurrent Neural Nets (RNNs)** handle **variable length sequences** (as **input** and as **output**)

There are 3 main variants of RNNs, which differ in their internal structure:

- Basic **RNNs** (Elman nets),
- Long Short-Term Memory cells (**LSTMs**)
- Gated Recurrent Units (**GRUs**)

# RNNs in NLP

RNNs are used for...

... **language modeling and generation**, including...

- ... auto-completion and...

- ... machine translation

... **sequence classification** (e.g. sentiment analysis)

... **sequence labeling** (e.g. POS tagging)

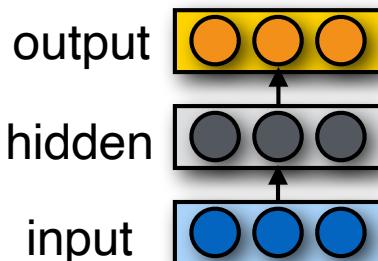
# Recurrent neural networks (RNNs)

**Basic RNN:** Process a **sequence of  $T$  inputs** and/or generate a **sequence of  $T$  outputs** by running a [variant of a feedforward] net  $T$  times.

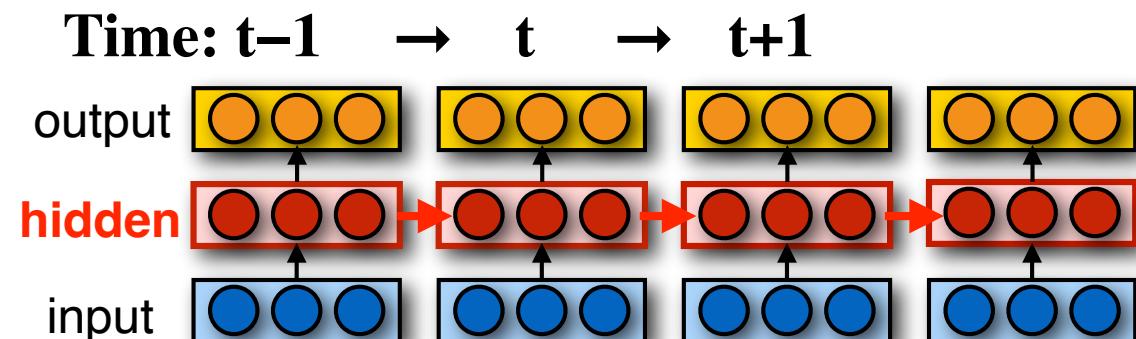
## Recurrence:

The **hidden state** computed at the **previous step ( $h^{(t-1)}$ )** is fed into the **hidden state** at the **current step ( $h^{(t)}$ )**

With  $H$  hidden units, this requires additional  $H^2$  parameters



Feedforward Net

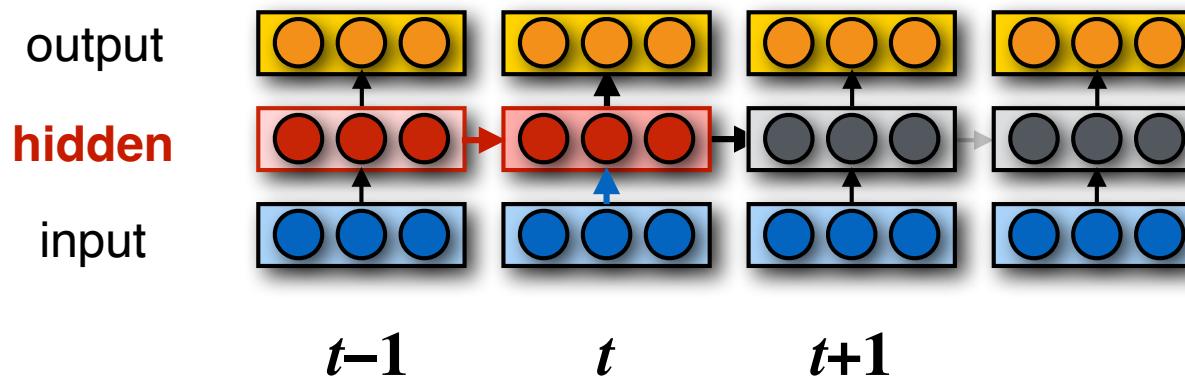


Recurrent Net

# Basic RNNs

Basic RNNs are feedforward nets where the **hidden layer** gets its input at **time  $t$** ...

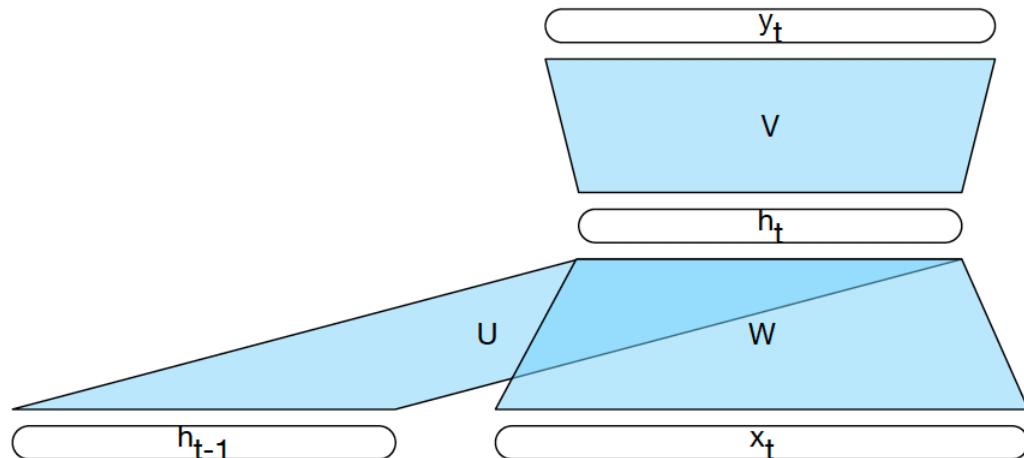
- ... from the activations of **the input layer** computed **at the same time  $t$** , and
- ... from the activations of **the same hidden layer** **at the previous time  $t-1$** :



The input may change at each time step  $t$ , but the feedforward net is the same at each time  $t$

# Basic RNNs

Each time step  $t$  corresponds to a **feedforward net** whose **hidden layer  $h^{(t)}$**  gets input from the **layer below ( $x^{(t)}$ )** and from the output of the **hidden layer at the previous time step  $h^{(t-1)}$**

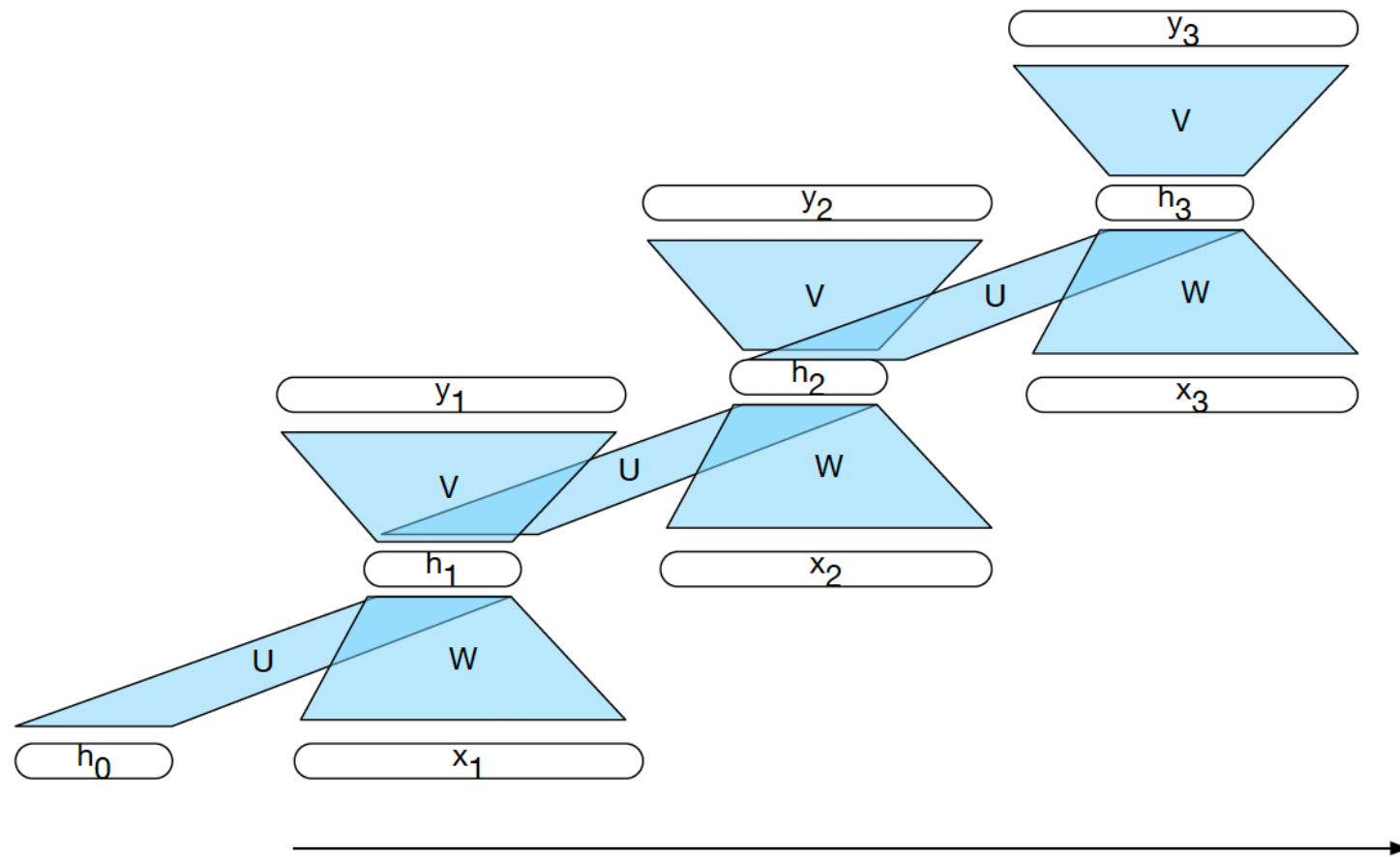


Computing the **vector of hidden states** at time  $t$

$$\mathbf{h}^{(t)} = g(\mathbf{U}\mathbf{h}^{(t-1)} + \mathbf{W}\mathbf{x}^{(t)})$$

The  **$i$ -th element** of  $\mathbf{h}_t$ :  $h_i^{(t)} = g\left(\sum_j U_{ji} h_j^{(t-1)} + \sum_k W_{ki} x_k^{(t)}\right)$

# A basic RNN unrolled in time



# RNNs for language modeling

If our vocabulary consists of  $V$  words, the output layer (at each time step) has  $V$  units, one for each word.

The softmax gives a distribution over the  $V$  words for the next word.

To compute the **probability of string**  $w^{(0)}w^{(1)}\dots w^{(n)}w^{(n+1)}$  (where  $w^{(0)} = \langle s \rangle$ , and  $w^{(n+1)} = \langle \backslash s \rangle$ ), feed in  $w^{(i-1)}$  as input at time step  $i$  and compute

$$\prod_{i=1}^{n+1} P(w^{(i)} | w^{(0)} \dots w^{(i-1)})$$

# RNNs for language generation

To **generate**  $w^{(0)}w^{(1)}\dots w^{(n)}w^{(n+1)}$   
(where  $w^{(0)} = \langle s \rangle$ , and  $w^{(n+1)} = \langle \backslash s \rangle$ )...

... Give  $w^{(0)}$  as first input, and

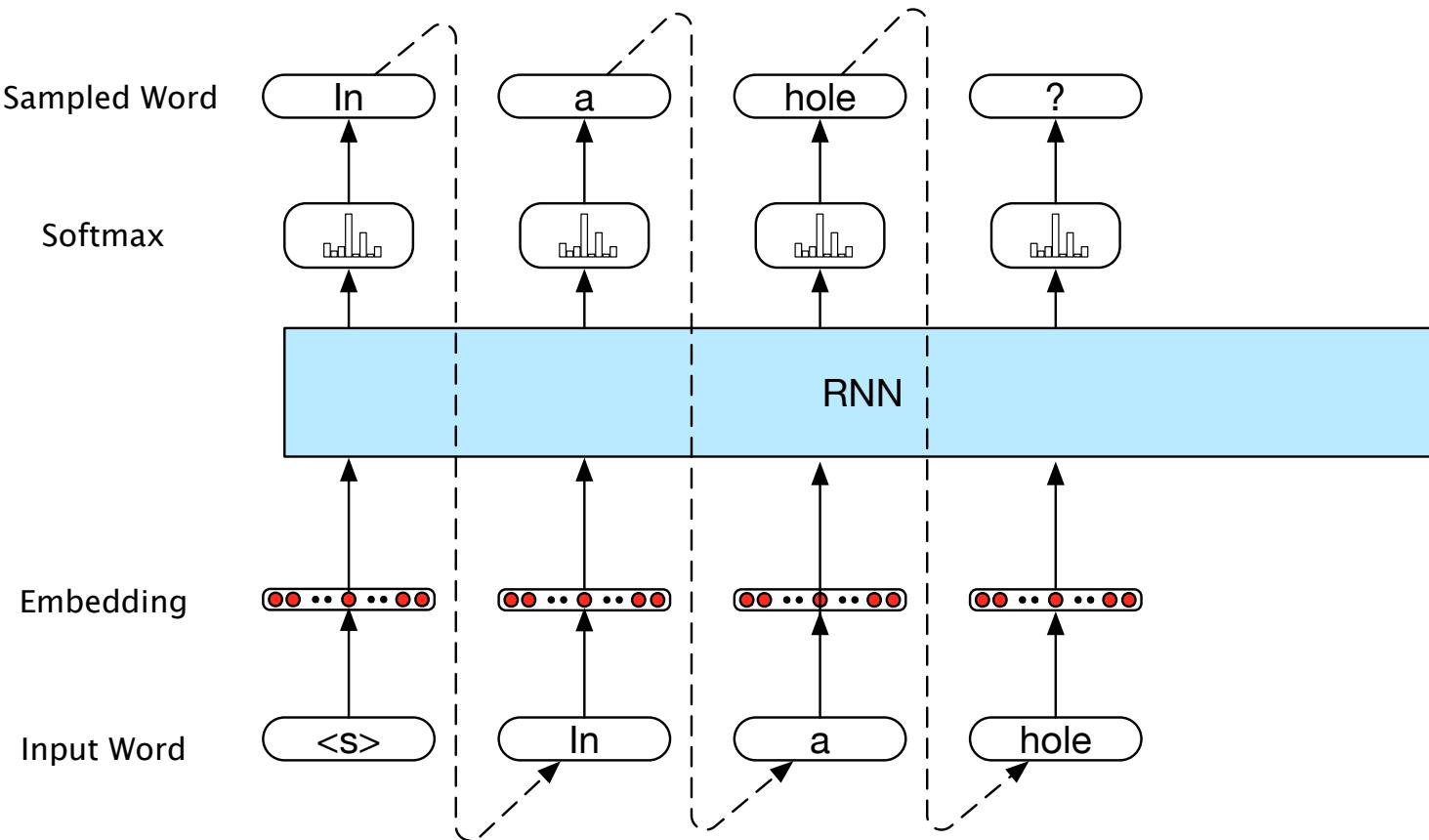
... Choose the next word  $w^{(i)}$  according to the probability  
 $P(w^{(i)} | w^{(0)}\dots w^{(i-1)})$

... Feed the predicted word  $w^{(i)}$  in as input  
at the next time step.

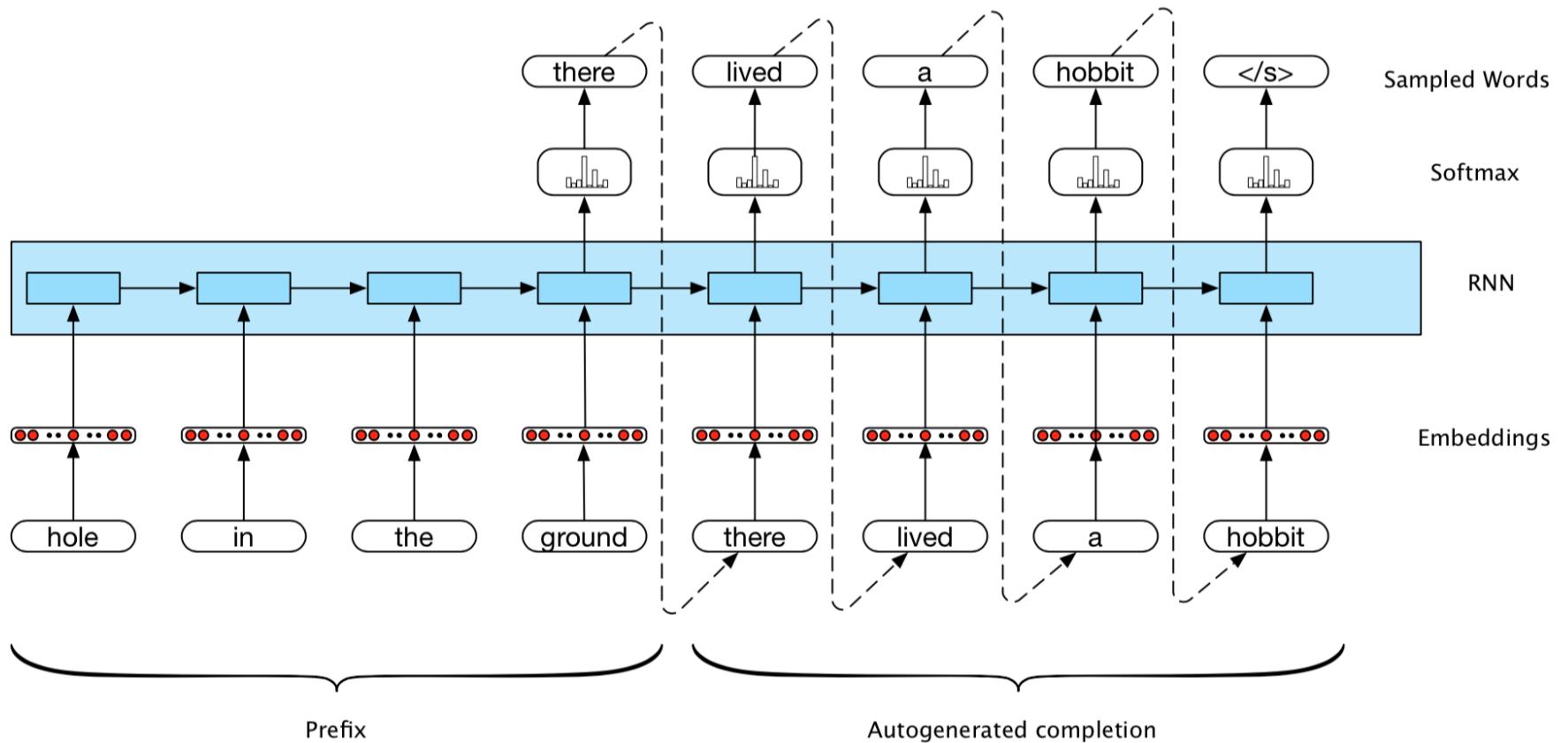
... Repeat until you generate  $\langle \backslash s \rangle$

# RNNs for language generation

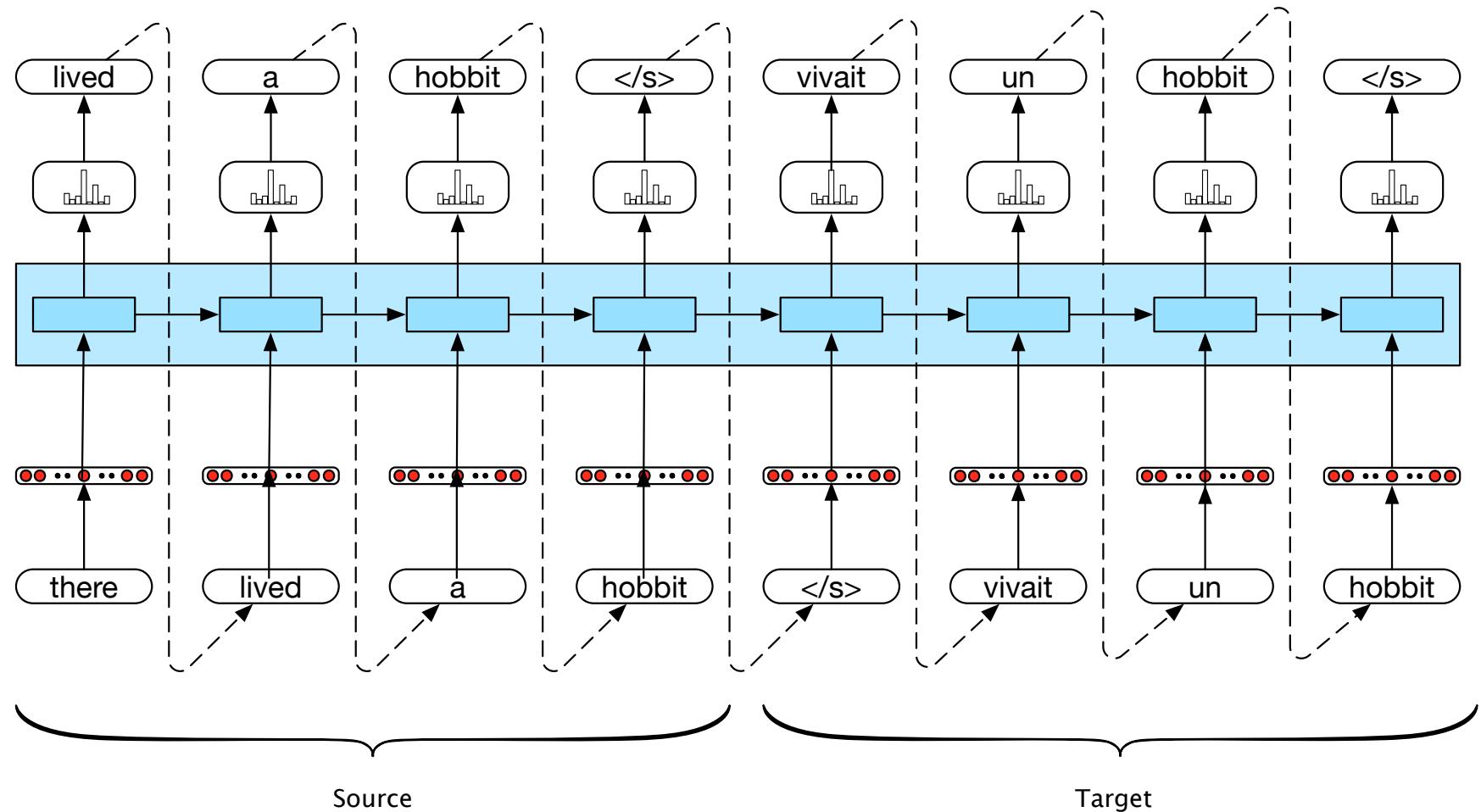
AKA “autoregressive generation”



# RNN for Autocompletion



# An RNN for Machine Translation



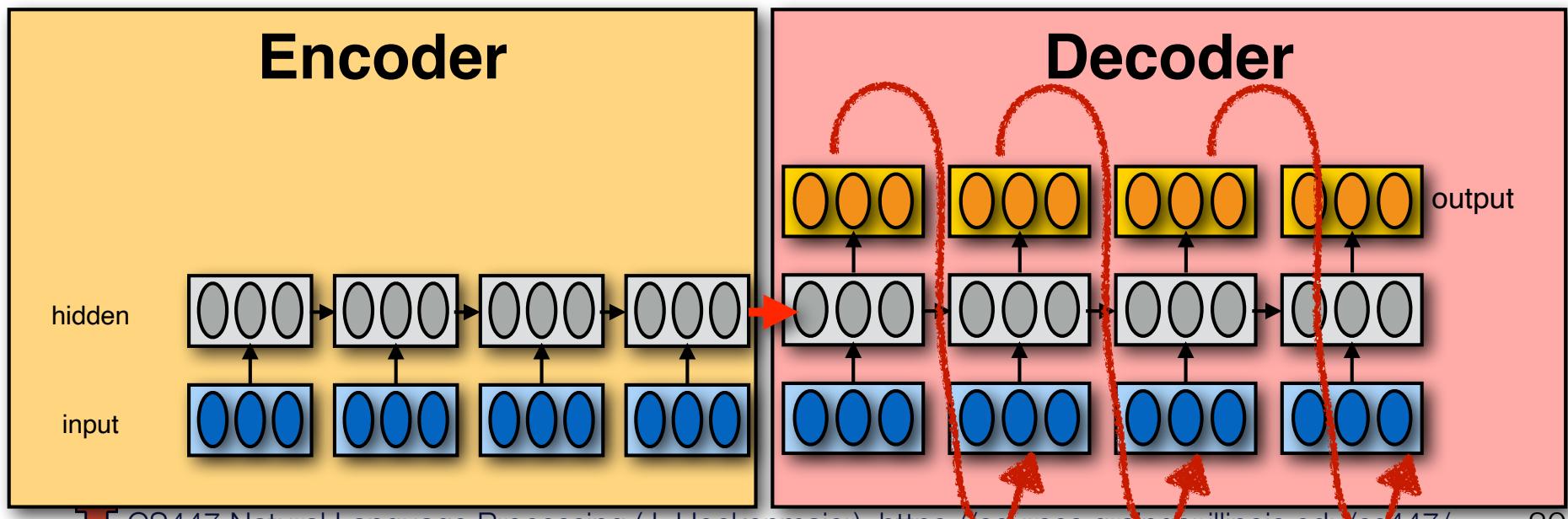
# Encoder-Decoder (seq2seq) model

Task: Read an input sequence  
and return an output sequence

- Machine translation: translate source into target language
- Dialog system/chatbot: generate a response

Reading the input sequence: **RNN Encoder**

Generating the output sequence: **RNN Decoder**



# Encoder-Decoder (seq2seq) model

## Encoder RNN:

reads in the input sequence  
passes its last hidden state to the initial hidden state  
of the decoder

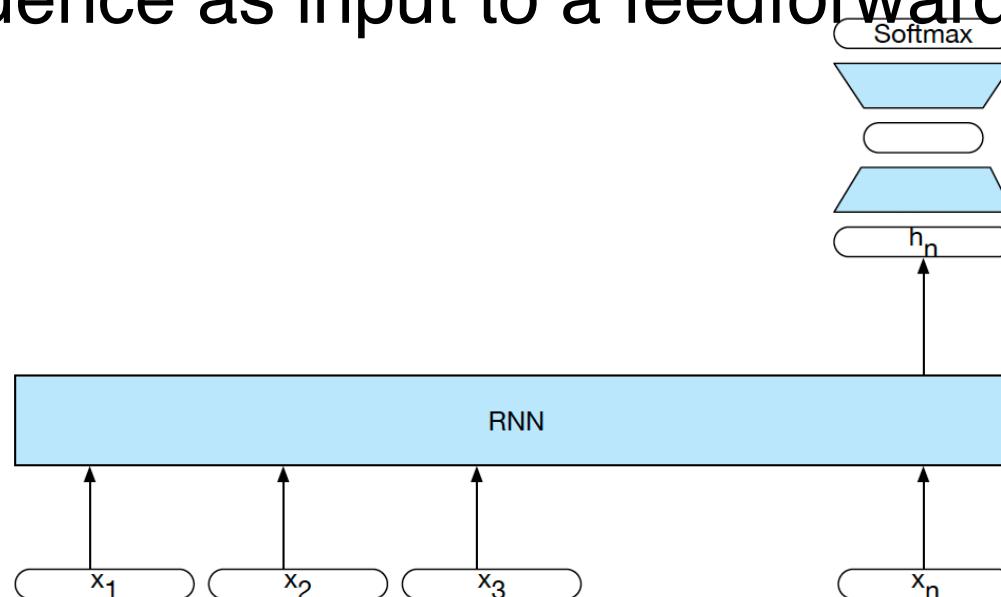
## Decoder RNN:

generates the output sequence  
typically uses different parameters from the encoder  
may also use different input embeddings

# RNNs for sequence classification

If we just want to assign **one label** to the entire sequence, we don't need to produce output at each time step, so we can use a simpler architecture.

We can use the hidden state of the last word in the sequence as input to a feedforward net:



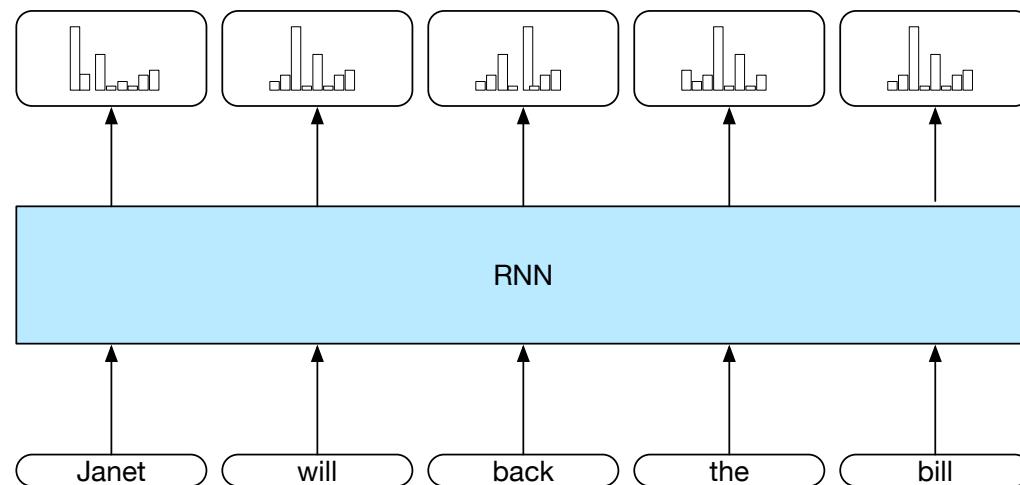
# Basic RNNs for sequence labeling

**Sequence labeling (e.g. POS tagging):**

Assign **one label to each element** in the sequence.

RNN Architecture:

Each time step has a distribution over output classes



Extension: add a CRF layer to capture dependencies among labels of adjacent tokens.



# RNNs for sequence labeling

In sequence labeling, we want to assign a label or tag  $t^{(i)}$  to each word  $w^{(i)}$

Now the output layer gives a (softmax) distribution over the  $T$  possible tags, and the hidden layer contains information about the previous words and the previous tags.

To compute the probability of a tag sequence  $t^{(1)} \dots t^{(n)}$  for a given string  $w^{(1)} \dots w^{(n)}$ , feed in  $w^{(i)}$  (and possibly  $t^{(i-1)}$ ) as input at time step  $i$  and compute  
 $P(t^{(i)} | w^{(1)} \dots w^{(i-1)}, t^{(1)} \dots t^{(i-1)})$

# Part 2: recurrent Neural net practicalities

# RNN Practicalities

This part will discuss how to train and use RNNs.  
We will also discuss how to go beyond basic RNNs.

The last part used a simple RNN with one layer to illustrate how RNNs can be used for different NLP tasks.

In practice, more complex architectures are common.

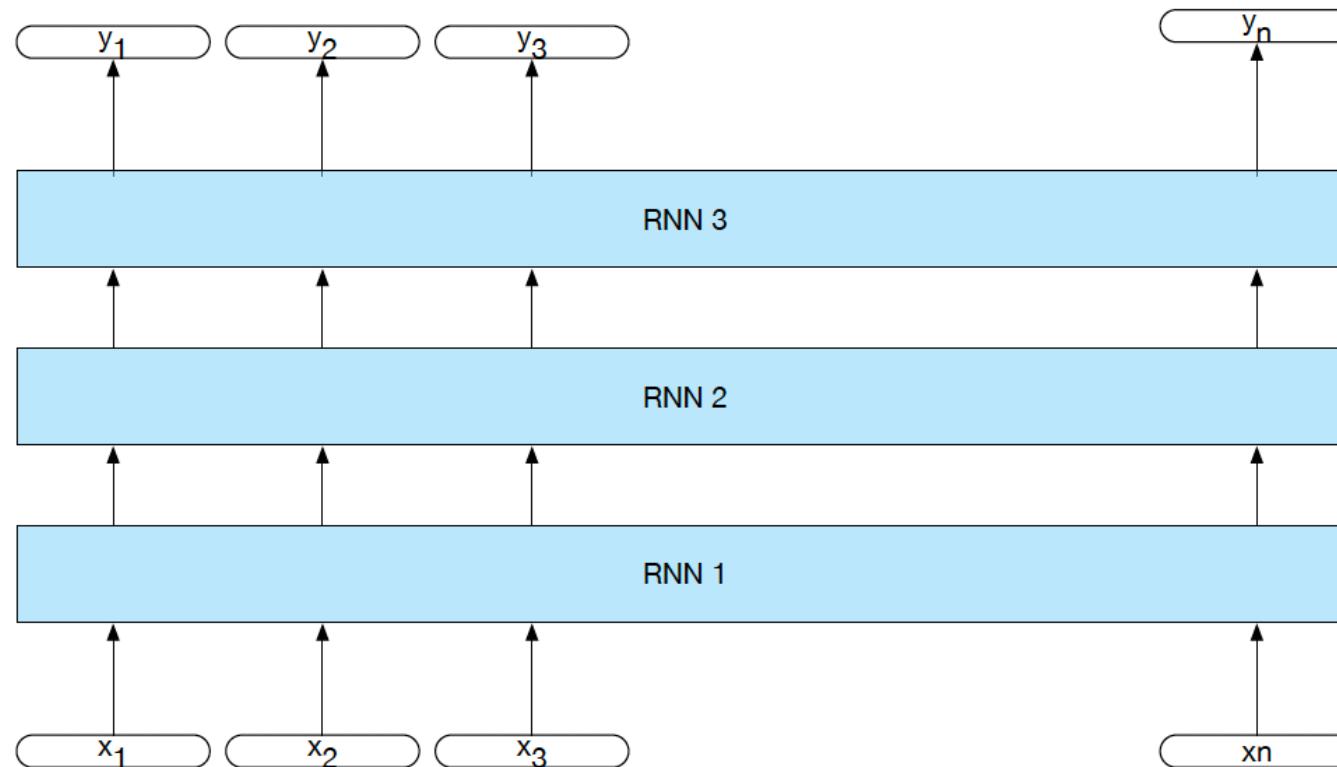
Three complementary ways to extend basic RNNs:

- Using RNNs in more complex networks  
(bidirectional RNNs, stacked RNNs) [This Part]
- Modifying the recurrent architecture  
(LSTMs, GRUs) [Part 3]
- Adding attention mechanisms [Next Lecture]

# Using RNNs in more complex architectures

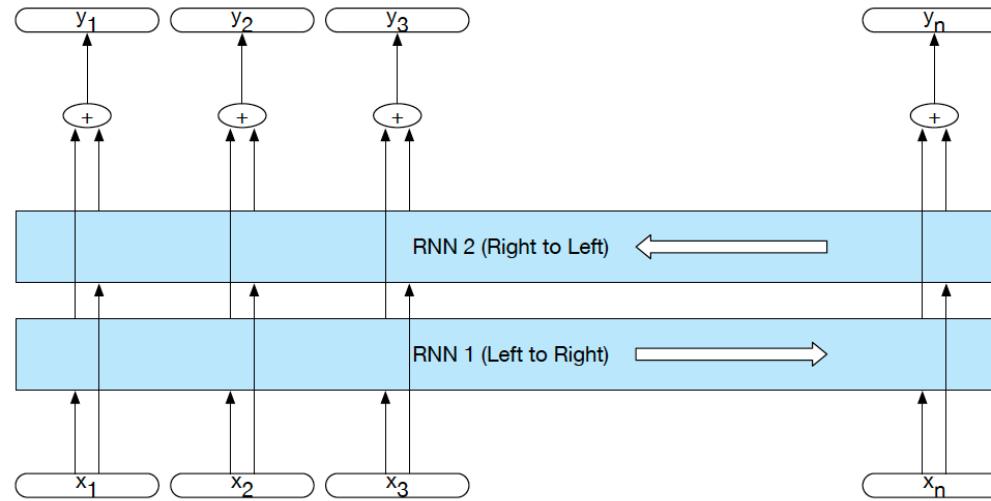
# Stacked RNNs

We can create an RNN that has “**vertical**” depth (at each time step) by stacking multiple RNNs:



# Bidirectional RNNs

Unless we need to generate a sequence, we can run **two RNNs over the input sequence**, one in the **forward** direction, and one in the **backward** direction. Their hidden states will capture **different context** information

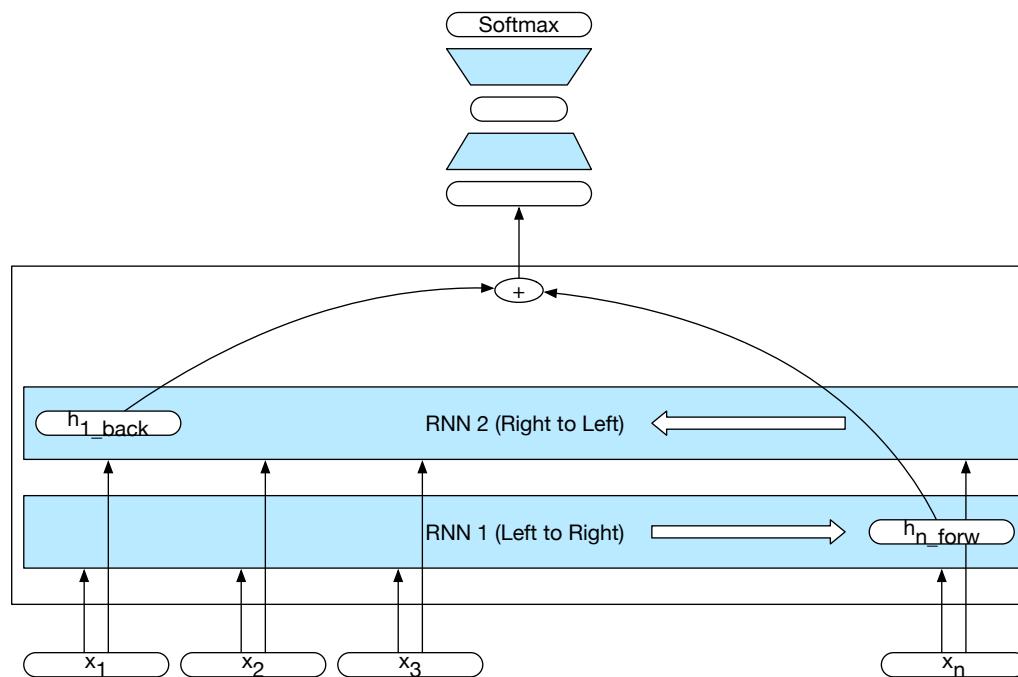


To obtain a **single hidden state** at time  $t$ :  $h_{bi}^{(t)} = h_{fw}^{(t)} \oplus h_{bw}^{(t)}$   
where  $\oplus$  is typically concatenation

# Bidirectional RNNs for sequence classification

Combine...

...the forward RNN's hidden state for the last word, and  
...the backward RNN's hidden state for the first word  
into a single vector



# Training and Generating Sequences with RNNs

# How to generate with an RNN

## Greedy decoding:

Always pick the word with the highest probability  
(if you start from <s>, this only generates a single sentence)

## Sampling:

Sample a word according to the given distribution

## Beam search decoding:

Keep a number of hypotheses after each time step

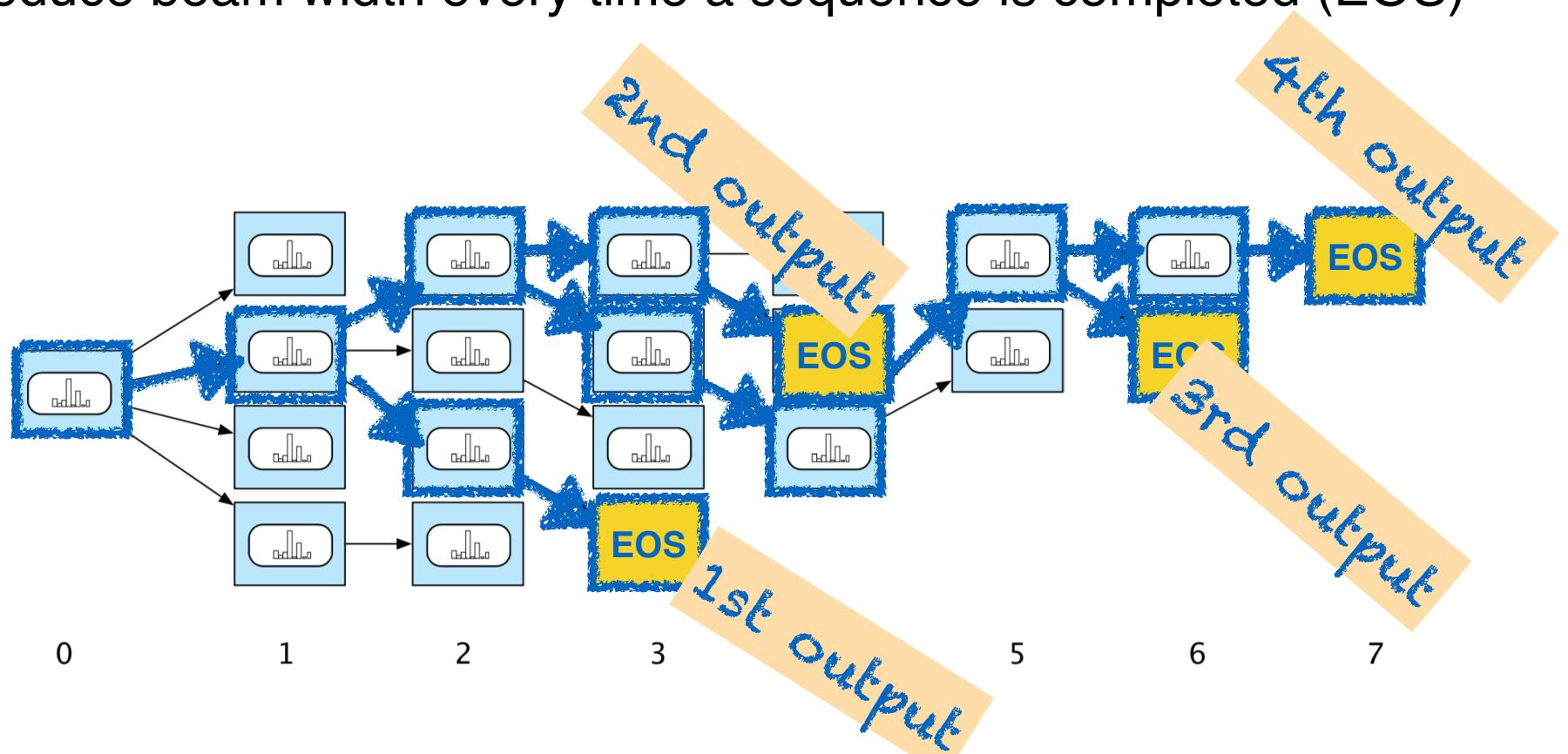
- **Fixed-width beam**: keep the top  $k$  hypotheses
- **Variable-width beam**: keep all hypotheses whose score is within a certain factor of the best score

# Beam Decoding (fixed width $k=4$ )

Keep the  $k$  best options around at each time step.

Operate breadth-first: keep the  $k$  best next hypotheses among the best continuations for each of the current  $k$  hypotheses.

Reduce beam width every time a sequence is completed (EOS)



# Training RNNs for generation

## Maximum likelihood estimation (MLE):

Given training samples  $w^{(1)}w^{(2)}\dots w^{(T)}$ , find the parameters  $\theta^*$  that assign **the largest probability to these training samples:**

$$\theta^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} P_{\theta}(w^{(1)}w^{(2)}\dots w^{(T)}) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \prod_{t=1..T} P_{\theta}(w^{(t)} | w^{(1)}\dots w^{(t-1)})$$

Since  $P_{\theta}(w^{(1)}w^{(2)}\dots w^{(T)})$  is factored into  $P_{\theta}(w^{(t)} | w^{(1)}\dots w^{(t-1)})$ , we can train models to assign a higher probability to the word  $w^{(t)}$  that occurs in the training data after  $w^{(1)}\dots w^{(t-1)}$  than any other word  $w_i \in V$ :

$$\forall_{i=1\dots|V|} P_{\theta}(w^{(t)} | w^{(1)}\dots w^{(t-1)}) \geq P_{\theta}(w_i | w^{(1)}\dots w^{(t-1)})$$

This is also called **teacher forcing**.

# Teacher forcing

Each training sequence  $w^{(1)}w^{(2)}\dots w^{(T)}$  turns into  $T$  training items:

Give  $w^{(1)}w^{(2)}\dots w^{(t-1)}$  as input to the RNN, and train it to maximize the probability of  $w^{(t)}$

(as you would in standard classification, or when training an n-gram language model).

# Problems with teacher forcing

## Exposure bias:

When we *train* an RNN for sequence generation, the prefix  $y^{(1)} \dots y^{(t-1)}$  that we condition on comes from the original data

When we *use* an RNN for sequence generation, the prefix  $y^{(1)} \dots y^{(t-1)}$  that we condition on is also generated by the RNN,

- The model is used on data that may look quite different from the data it was trained on.
- The model is not trained to predict the best next token within a generated sequence, or to predict the best sequence
- Errors at earlier time-steps propagate through the sequence.

# Remedies

## Minimum risk training:

(Shen et al. 2016, <https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/P16-1159.pdf>)

- define a loss function (e.g. negative BLEU) to compare generated sequences against gold sequences
- Minimize risk (expected loss on training data) such that candidates outputs with a smaller loss (higher BLEU score) have higher probability.

## Reinforcement learning-based approaches:

(Ranzato et al. 2016 <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1511.06732.pdf>)

- use BLEU as a reward (i.e. like MRT)
- perhaps pre-train model first with standard teacher forcing.

## GAN-based approaches (“professor forcing”)

(Goyal et al. 2016, <http://papers.nips.cc/paper/6099-professor-forcing-a-new-algorithm-for-training-recurrent-networks.pdf>)

- combine standard RNN with an adversarial model that aims to distinguish original from generated sequences

# Part 3: Penn Variants

# RNN variants: LSTMs, GRUs

**Long Short-Term Memory networks (LSTMs)**  
are RNNs with a more complex recurrent architecture

**Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs)**  
are a simplification of LSTMs

Both contain “**Gates**” to control how much of the input or previous hidden state to forget or remember

# From RNNs to LSTMs

In **Vanilla (Elman) RNNs**, the current hidden state  $\mathbf{h}^{(t)}$  is a nonlinear function of the previous hidden state  $\mathbf{h}^{(t-1)}$  and the current input  $\mathbf{x}^{(t)}$ :

$$\mathbf{h}^{(t)} = g(\mathbf{U}\mathbf{h}^{(t-1)} + \mathbf{W}\mathbf{x}^{(t)} + b_h)$$

With  **$g=\text{tanh}$**  (the original definition):

⇒ Models suffer from the *vanishing gradient* problem:  
they can't be trained effectively on long sequences.

With  **$g=\text{ReLU}$**

⇒ Models suffer from the *exploding gradient* problem:  
they can't be trained effectively on long sequences.

# From RNNs to LSTMs

**LSTMs (Long Short-Term Memory networks)**  
were introduced to overcome the vanishing gradient problem.

Hochreiter and Schmidhuber, Neural Computation 9(8), 1997

<https://www.bioinf.jku.at/publications/older/2604.pdf>

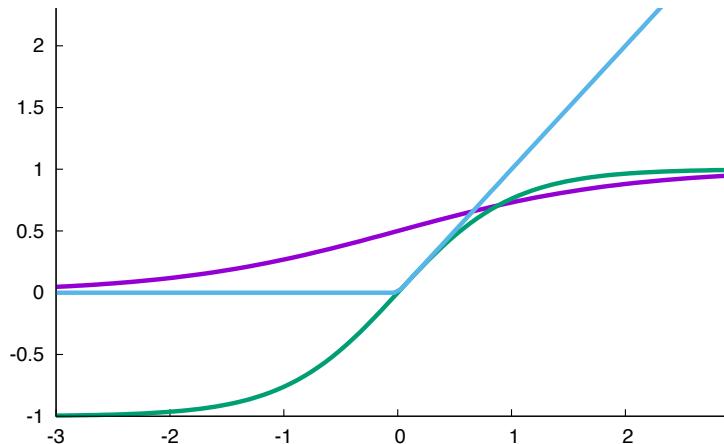
Like RNNs, LSTMs contain **a hidden state** that gets passed through the network and updated at each time step

LSTMs contain **an additional cell state** that also gets passed through the network and updated at each time step

LSTMs contain **three different gates (input/forget/output)** that read in the previous hidden state and current input to decide how much of the past hidden and cell states to keep.

These gates mitigate the vanishing/exploding gradient problem

# Recap: Activation functions



**Hyperbolic Tangent:**  $\tanh(x) = \frac{\exp(2x) - 1}{\exp(2x) + 1} \in [-1, +1]$

**Rectified Linear Unit:**  $\text{ReLU}(x) = \max(0, x) \in [0, +\infty]$

**Sigmoid (logistic function):**  $\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-x)} \in [0, 1]$

# RNN variants: LSTMs, GRUs

**Long Short-Term Memory networks (LSTMs)** are RNNs with a more complex recurrent architecture

**Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs)** are a simplification of LSTMs

Both contain “**Gates**” to control how much of the input or past hidden state to forget or remember

A **gate** performs **element-wise multiplication** of

- a) a  $d$ -dimensional **sigmoid layer  $g$**   
(all elements between 0 and 1), and
- b) a  $d$ -dimensional **input vector  $u$**

**Result:**  $d$ -dimensional **output vector  $v$**  which is like the input  $u$ , but **elements** where  $g_i \approx 0$  are (partially) “**forgotten**”

# Gating: element-wise product

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{g} \otimes \mathbf{u} = [g_1 u_1, g_2 u_2, \dots, g_d u_d]$$

A **gate** performs **element-wise multiplication** of

- a) a  $d$ -dimensional **sigmoid layer**  $\mathbf{g}$   
(all elements between 0 and 1), and
- b) a  $d$ -dimensional **input vector**  $\mathbf{u}$

**Result:**  $d$ -dimensional **output vector**  $\mathbf{v}$  which is like the input  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  
but **elements** where  $g_i \approx 0$  are (partially) “forgotten”

# Gating mechanisms

**Gates** are trainable layers with a **sigmoid** activation function often determined by the current input  $\mathbf{x}^{(t)}$  and the (last) hidden state  $\mathbf{h}^{(t-1)}$  eg.:

$$\mathbf{g}_k^{(t)} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_k \mathbf{x}^{(t)} + \mathbf{U}_k \mathbf{h}^{(t-1)} + b_k)$$

$\mathbf{g}$  is a vector of (Bernoulli) probabilities ( $\forall i : 0 \leq g_i \leq 1$ )

Unlike traditional (0,1) gates, neural gates are differentiable (we can train them)

$\mathbf{g}$  is combined with another vector  $\mathbf{u}$  (of the same dimensionality) by **element-wise multiplication** (Hadamard product):  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{g} \otimes \mathbf{u}$

If  $g_i \approx 0$ ,  $v_i \approx 0$ , and if  $g_i \approx 1$ ,  $v_i \approx u_i$

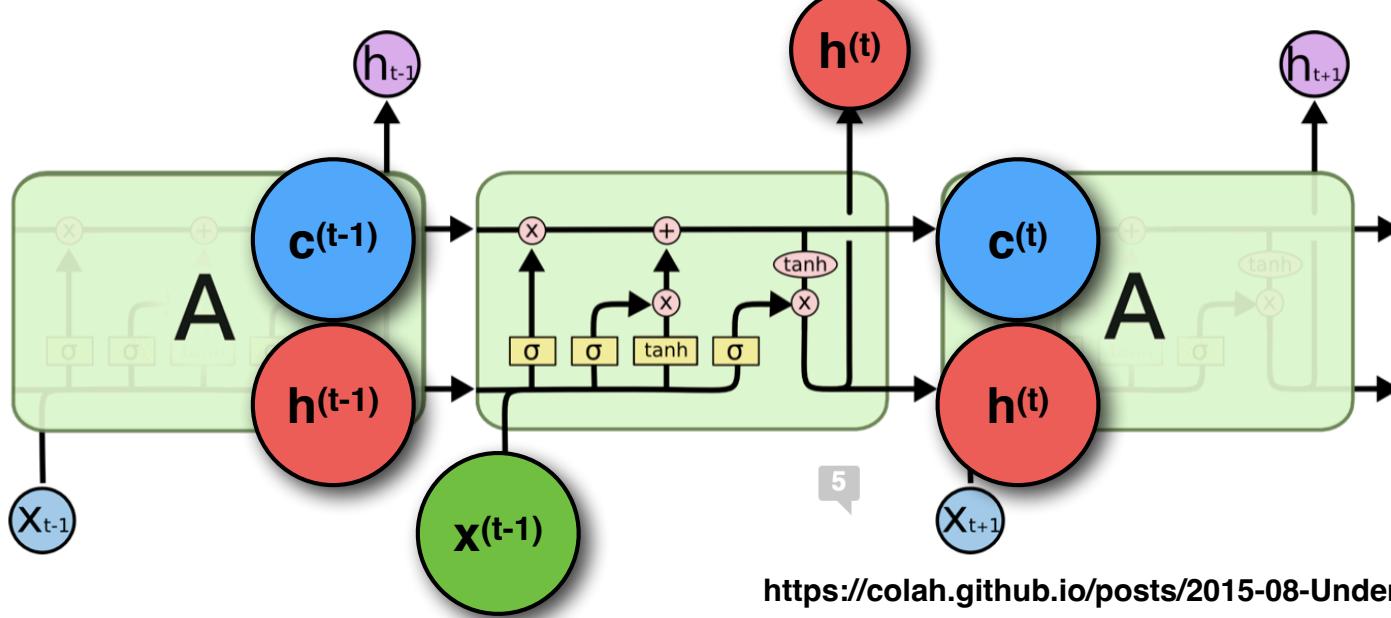
Each  $g_i$  has its own set of trainable parameters to determine how much of  $u_i$  to keep

Gates can also be used to form

**linear combinations of two input vectors  $\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{u}$ :**

- **Addition of two independent gates:**  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{g}_1 \otimes \mathbf{t} + \mathbf{g}_2 \otimes \mathbf{u}$
- **Linear interpolation (coupled gates):**  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{g} \otimes \mathbf{t} + (1 - \mathbf{g}) \otimes \mathbf{u}$

# Long Short-Term Memory Networks (LSTMs)



<https://colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/>

At time  $t$ , the LSTM cell reads in

- a  $c$ -dimensional **previous cell state vector**  $c^{(t-1)}$
- an  $h$ -dimensional **previous hidden state vector**  $h^{(t-1)}$
- a  $d$ -dimensional **current input vector**  $x^{(t)}$

At time  $t$ , the LSTM cell returns

- a  $c$ -dimensional **new cell state vector**  $c^{(t)}$
- an  $h$ -dimensional **new hidden state vector**  $h^{(t)}$   
(which may also be passed to an **output layer**)

# LSTM operations

Based on the previous cell state  $\mathbf{c}^{(t-1)}$ , previous hidden state  $\mathbf{h}^{(t-1)}$  and the current input  $\mathbf{x}^{(t)}$ , the LSTM computes:

... A new **intermediate cell state**  $\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{(t)}$  that depends on  $\mathbf{h}^{(t-1)}$  and  $\mathbf{x}^{(t)}$ :

$$\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{(t)} = \tanh(\mathbf{W}_c \mathbf{x}^{(t)} + \mathbf{U}_c \mathbf{h}^{(t-1)} + b_c)$$

... **Three gates**  $\mathbf{f}^{(t)}, \mathbf{i}^{(t)}, \mathbf{o}^{(t)}$ , which each depend on  $\mathbf{h}^{(t-1)}$  and  $\mathbf{x}^{(t)}$ :

- The **forget gate**  $\mathbf{f}^{(t)} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_f \mathbf{x}^{(t)} + \mathbf{U}_f \mathbf{h}^{(t-1)} + b_f)$  decides how much of the **last**  $\mathbf{c}^{(t-1)}$  to remember in the new cell state:  $\mathbf{f}^{(t)} \otimes \mathbf{c}^{(t-1)}$
- The **input gate**  $\mathbf{i}^{(t)} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_i \mathbf{x}^{(t)} + \mathbf{U}_i \mathbf{h}^{(t-1)} + b_i)$  decides how much of the **intermediate**  $\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{(t)}$  to use in the new cell state:  $\mathbf{i}^{(t)} \otimes \tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{(t)}$
- The **output gate**  $\mathbf{o}^{(t)} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_o \mathbf{x}^{(t)} + \mathbf{U}_o \mathbf{h}^{(t-1)} + b_o)$  decides how much of the **new**  $\mathbf{c}^{(t)}$  to use in the next hidden state:  $\mathbf{h}^{(t)} = \mathbf{o}^{(t)} \otimes \mathbf{c}^{(t)}$

The new **cell state**  $\mathbf{c}^{(t)} = \tanh(\mathbf{f}^{(t)} \otimes \mathbf{c}^{(t-1)} + \mathbf{i}^{(t)} \otimes \tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{(t)})$  is a **linear combination of cell states**  $\mathbf{c}^{(t-1)}$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{(t)}$  that depends on forget gate  $\mathbf{f}^{(t)}$  and input gate  $\mathbf{i}^{(t)}$

The new **hidden state**  $\mathbf{h}^{(t)} = \mathbf{o}^{(t)} \otimes \mathbf{c}^{(t)}$  depends on  $\mathbf{c}^{(t)}$  and the output gate  $\mathbf{o}^{(t)}$

# Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs)

Based on  $\mathbf{h}^{(t-1)}$  and  $\mathbf{x}^{(t)}$ , a GRU computes:

- a **reset gate**  $\mathbf{r}^{(t)}$  to determine how much of  $\mathbf{h}^{(t-1)}$  to keep in  $\tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(t)}$

$$\mathbf{r}^{(t)} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_r \mathbf{x}^{(t)} + \mathbf{U}_r \mathbf{h}^{(t-1)} + b_r)$$

- an intermediate **hidden state**  $\tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(t)}$  that depends on  $\mathbf{x}^{(t)}$  and  $\mathbf{r}^{(t)} \otimes \mathbf{h}^{(t-1)}$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(t)} = \phi(\mathbf{W}_h \mathbf{x}^{(t)} + \mathbf{U}_h (\mathbf{r}^{(t)} \otimes \mathbf{h}^{(t-1)}) + b_r) \quad [\phi = \tanh \text{ or ReLU}]$$

- an **update gate**  $\mathbf{z}^{(t)}$  to determine how much of  $\mathbf{h}^{(t-1)}$  to keep in  $\mathbf{h}^{(t)}$

$$\mathbf{z}^{(t)} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_z \mathbf{x}^{(t)} + \mathbf{U}_z \mathbf{h}^{(t-1)} + b_z)$$

- a **new hidden state**  $\mathbf{h}^{(t)}$  as a linear interpolation of  $\mathbf{h}^{(t-1)}$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(t)}$

with weights determined by the (coupled) update gate  $\mathbf{z}^{(t)}$

$$\mathbf{h}^{(t)} = \mathbf{z}^{(t)} \otimes \mathbf{h}^{(t-1)} + (1 - \mathbf{z}^{(t)}) \otimes \tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(t)}$$

Cho et al. (2014) Learning Phrase Representations using RNN Encoder-Decoder for Statistical Machine Translation  
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1406.1078.pdf>

# LSTMs vs GRUs

LSTMs are more expressive than GRUs and basic RNNs (they're better at learning long-range dependencies)

But GRUs are easier to train than LSTMs (useful when training data is limited)