



**MUDSS**  
Data Science Society

## Advanced Workshop 6: Recurrent Neural Network



# OVERVIEW

- Introduction to RNN
- RNN Model
- RNN Training
- Vanishing/Exploding Gradient & LSTM
- Shortcomings and Adaptations
- Code Example

# ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE

- Basic Neural Network (week 11 beginner)
  - Feedforward
  - Backpropagation
  - Gradient Descent (week 8)
- SoftMax function (multi-class classification)
- Cross-Entropy Loss (week 9)
- PyTorch fundamental (week 7)

# WHY RNN ?



# WHY RNN ?



“He grew up in **France**, and  
he can speak fluent \_\_\_\_\_”

Traditional NN



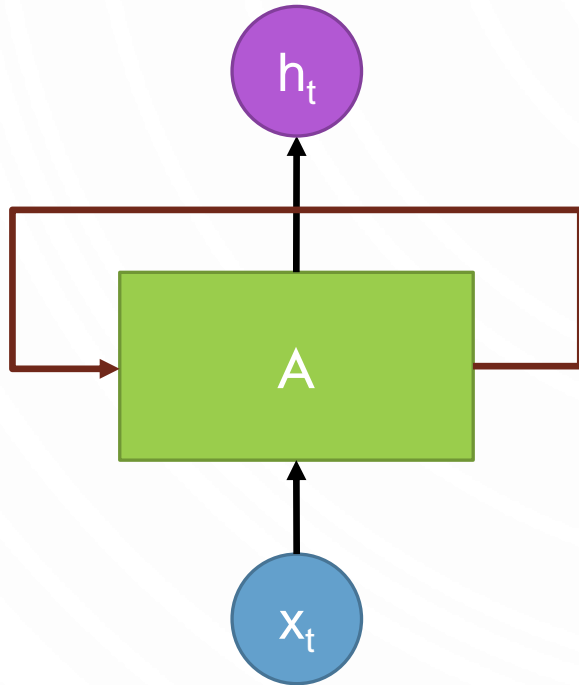
???

RNN



**French !**

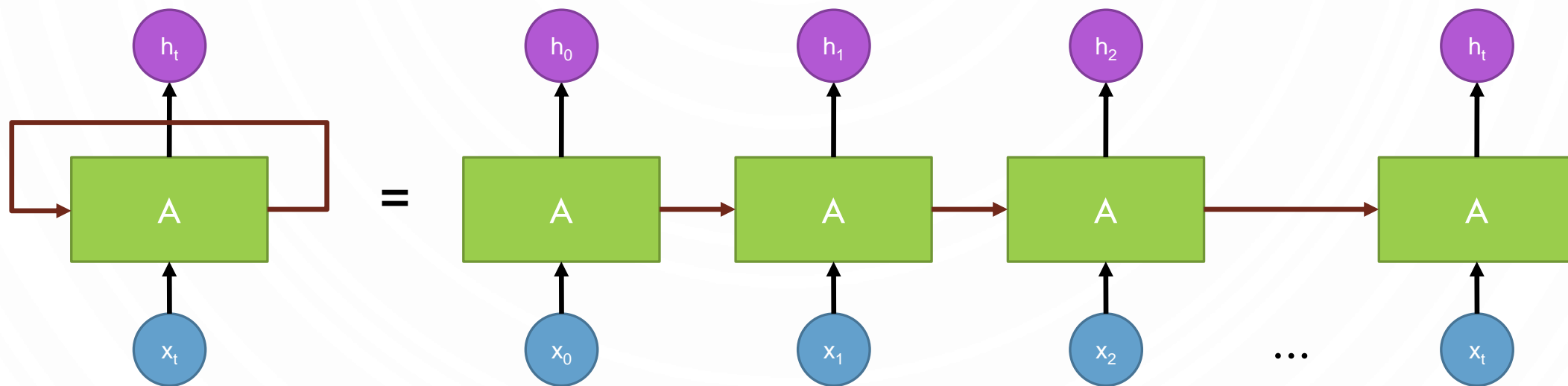
# WHAT IS A RNN ?



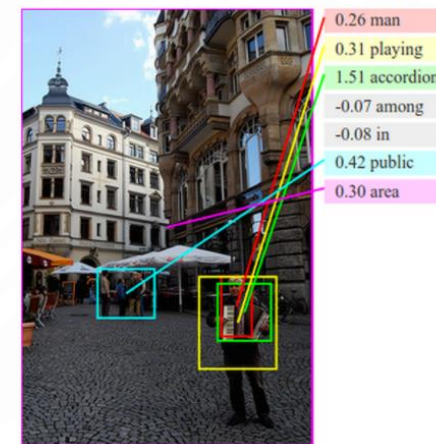
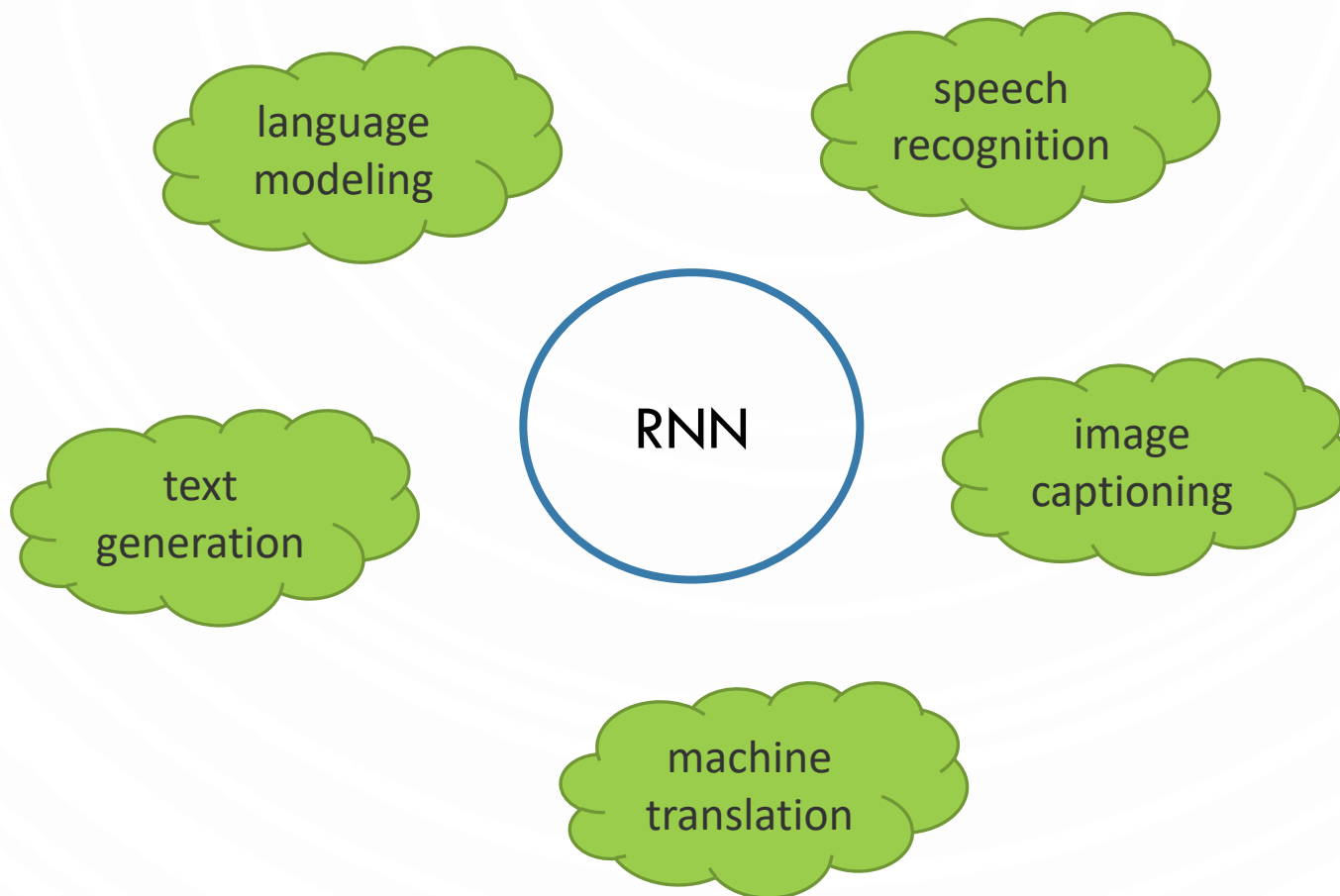
## Recurrent Neural Network

- Recurrent: perform the same task for each element in sequence
- Neuron: copies of the same network
- Network: self-connected
- Memory: hidden nodes
- Arbitrary long? Just in theory

# WHAT IS A RNN ?

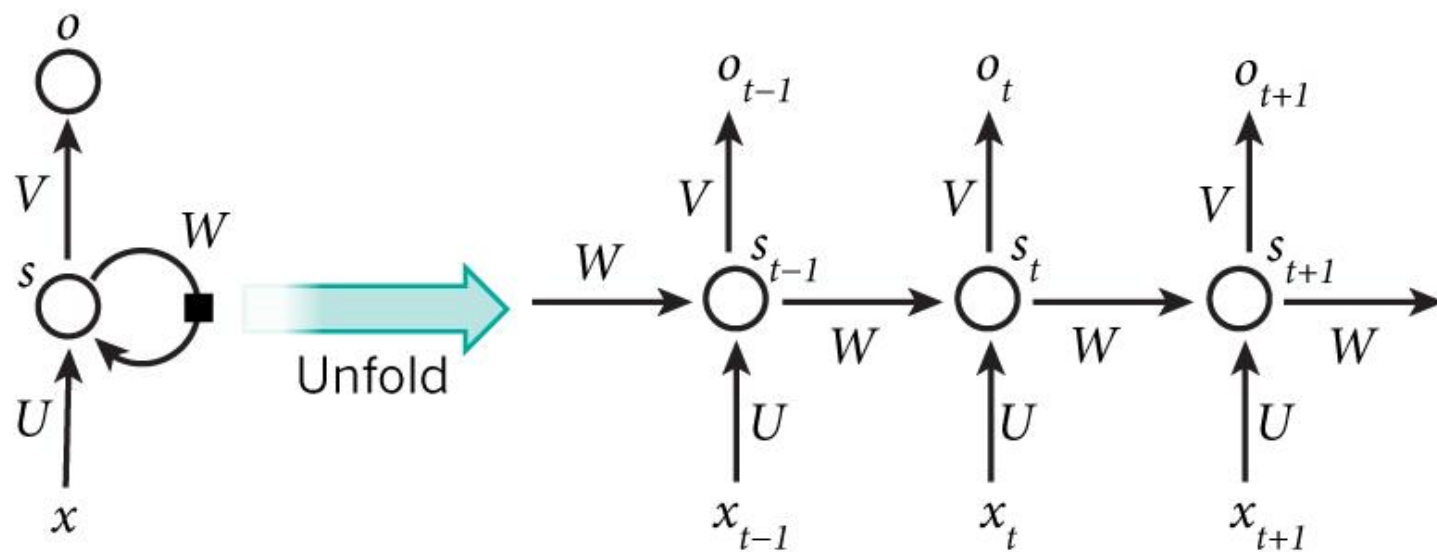


# RNN APPLICATIONS



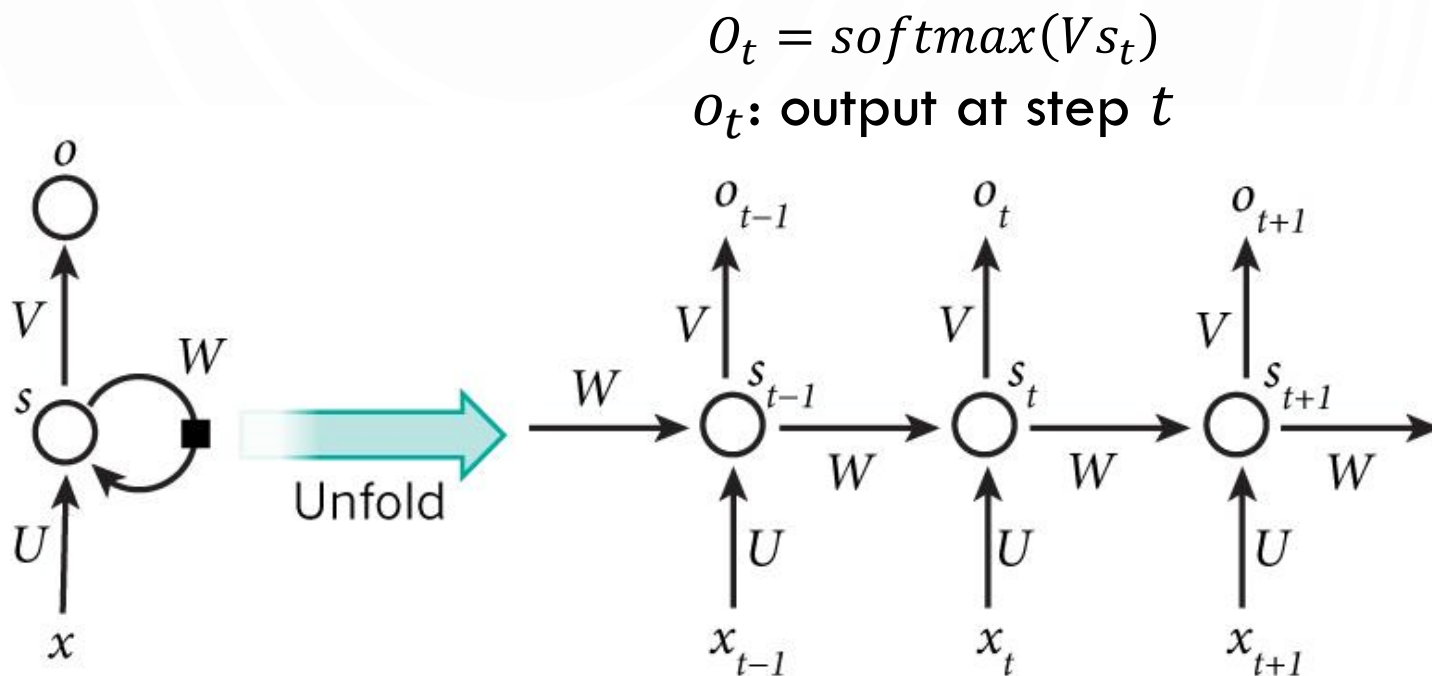


# RNN MODEL



# RNN MODEL

$U, V, W$ :  
weight matrix



$x_t$ : input at time step  $t$  (one-hot vector)

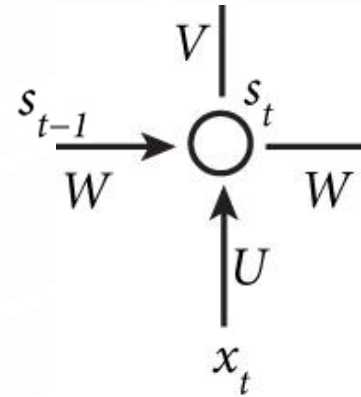
# RNN MODEL

$s_t$ : hidden state at time step  $t$

$$s_t = f(Ux_t + Ws_{t-1})$$

$f$  can be *tanh* or *ReLU*

$s_{-1}$  is typically initialised to all zeroes

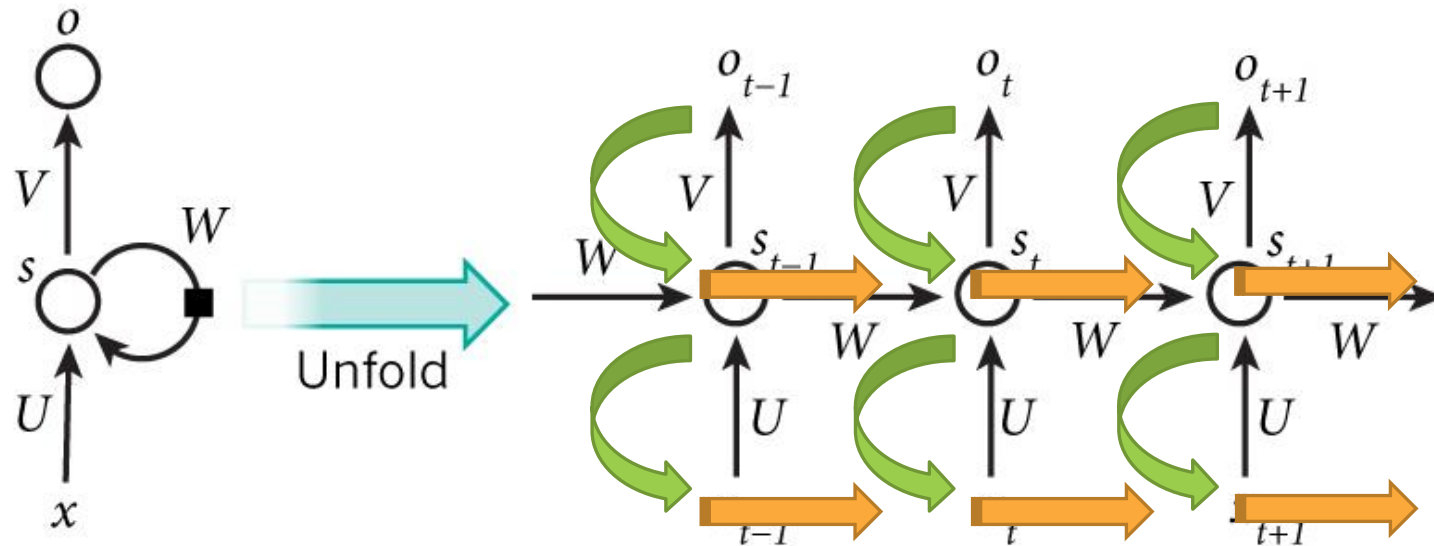


Memory of network

Vanishing/Exploding  
gradient

# RNN TRAINING - BPTT

*Backpropagation + Gradient Descent*



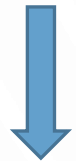
*Backpropagation Through Time*

# RNN TRAINING - BPTT

$$L_t = g(O_t)$$

$$L = \sum_{t=0}^T L_t$$

Loss Function  $g$ : cross-entropy Loss



Take derivative on  $V, W, U$  respectively

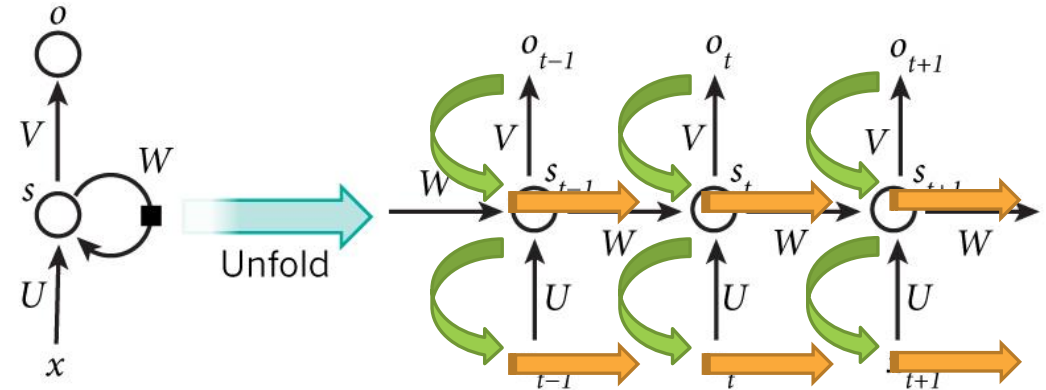
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial V} = \sum_{t=0}^T \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial V}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=0}^T \sum_{k=0}^t \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial s_t} \left( \prod_{j=k+1}^t \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial s_{j-1}} \right) \frac{\partial s_k}{\partial W}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial U} = \sum_{t=0}^T \sum_{k=0}^t \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial s_t} \left( \prod_{j=k+1}^t \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial s_{j-1}} \right) \frac{\partial s_k}{\partial U}$$

BPTT

Vanishing/Exploding Gradient Problem



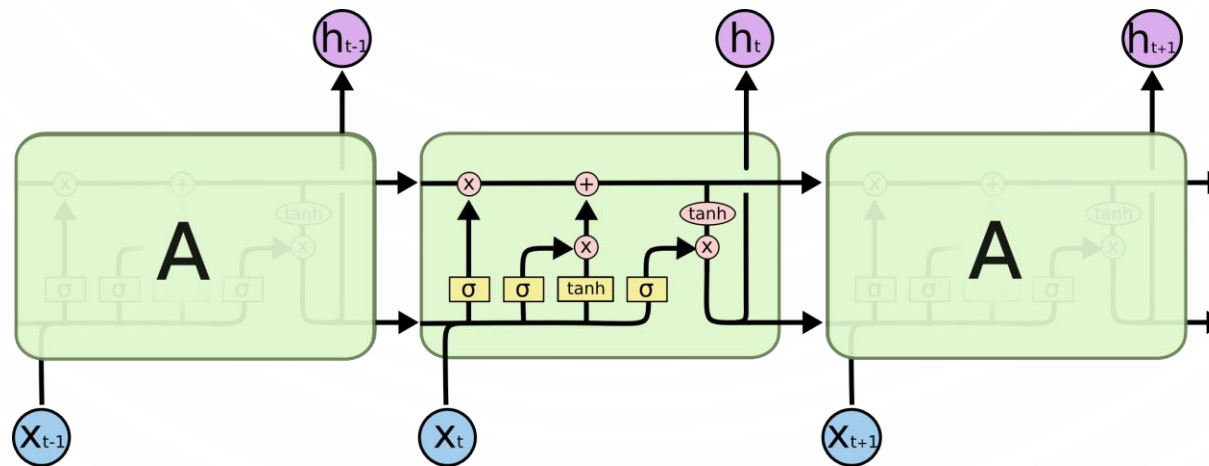
$$s_t = \tanh(Ux_t + Ws_{t-1})$$

$$O_t = \text{softmax}(Vs_t)$$

# LSTM - LONG SHORT TERM MEMORY NETWORK

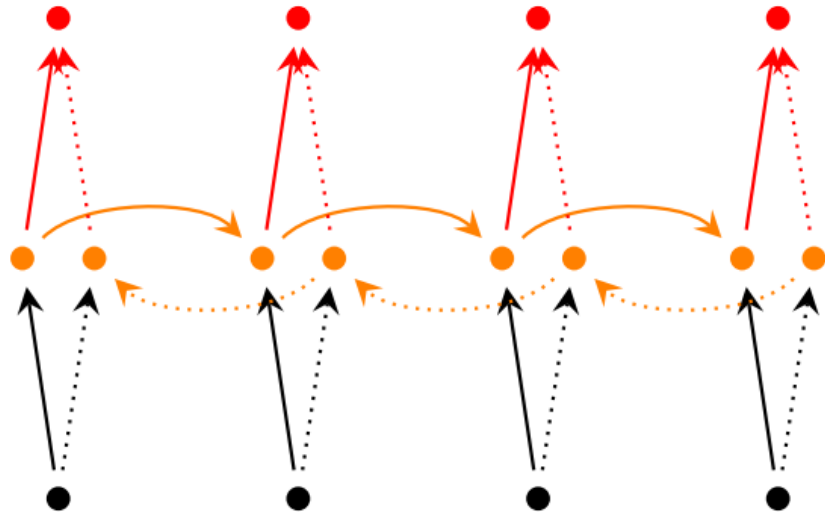
In theory, RNNs are absolutely capable of handling “long-term dependencies.”  
Sadly, in practice, RNNs don’t seem to be able to learn them.

\* [Hochreiter \(1991\) \[German\]](#) and [Bengio, et al. \(1994\)](#)

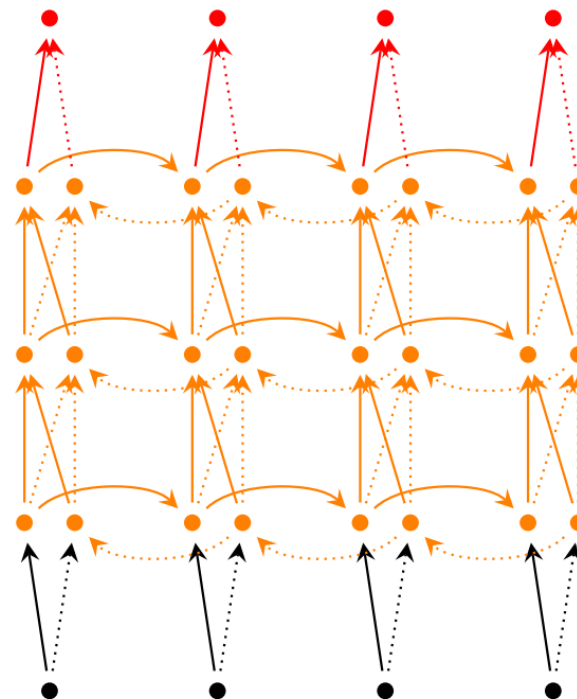


<http://colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/>

# SHORTCOMINGS & ADAPTATIONS



Bidirectional RNN



Deep Bidirectional RNN

# CODE EXAMPLE







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**THANK YOU!**