

Sequence Modeling using RNN

DSE 3151 DEEP LEARNING

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Dept. of Data Science and Computer Applications

MIT Manipal

Examples of Sequence Data

- Speech Recognition



Mary had a little lamb

- Music Generation
- Sentiment Classification
- DNA Sequence Analysis
- Machine Translation
- Video Activity Recognition
- Name Entity Recognition

Examples of Sequence Data

- Speech Recognition
- **Music Generation**
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La



Examples of Sequence Data

- Speech Recognition
- Music Generation
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- Video Activity Recognition
- Name Entity Recognition

“Its an average movie”



Examples of Sequence Data

- Speech Recognition
- Music Generation
- Sentiment Classification
- DNA Sequence Analysis AGCCCCTGTGAGGAACTAG ➡ AGCCCCTGTGAGGAACTAG
- Machine Translation
- Video Activity Recognition
- Name Entity Recognition

Examples of Sequence Data

- Speech Recognition
- Music Generation
- Sentiment Classification
- DNA Sequence Analysis
- **Machine Translation** ARE YOU FEELING SLEEPY ➡ क्या आपको नींद आ रही है
- Video Activity Recognition
- Name Entity Recognition

Examples of Sequence Data

- Speech Recognition
- Music Generation
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WAVING

Examples of Sequence Data

- Speech Recognition
- Music Generation
- Sentiment Classification
- DNA Sequence Analysis
- Machine Translation
- Video Activity Recognition
- **Name Entity Recognition**

“Alice wants to discuss about
Deep Learning with Bob”



“**Alice** wants to discuss about
Deep Learning with **Bob**”

Issues with using ANN/CNN on sequential data

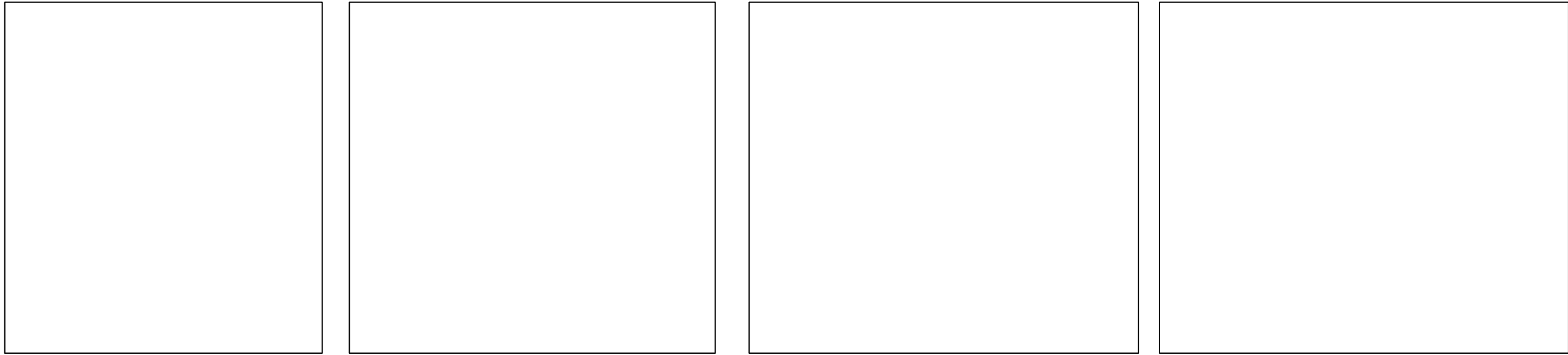
Issues with using ANN/CNN on sequential data

- In feedforward and convolutional neural networks, the size of the **input was always fixed**.
 - In many applications with **sequence data**, the **input is not of a fixed size**.

Issues with using ANN/CNN on sequential data

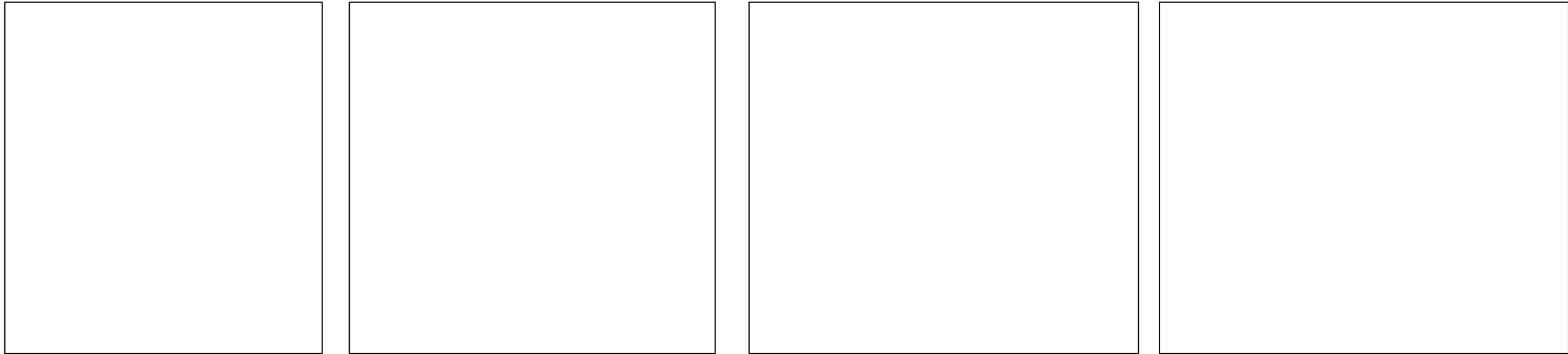
- In feedforward and convolutional neural networks, the size of the **input was always fixed**.
 - In many applications with **sequence data**, the **input is not of a fixed size**.
- Further, each input to the ANN/CNN network was **independent of the previous or future inputs**.
 - With sequence data, **successive inputs** may **not** be **independent** of each other.

Modelling Sequence Learning Problems: Introduction



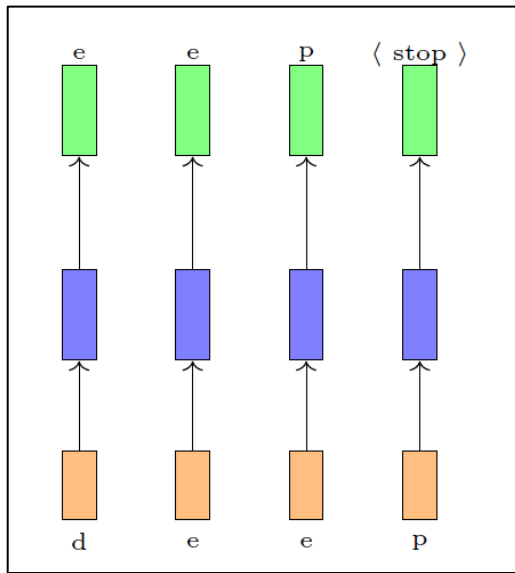
- The model needs to look at a sequence of inputs and produce an output (or outputs).

Modelling Sequence Learning Problems: Introduction

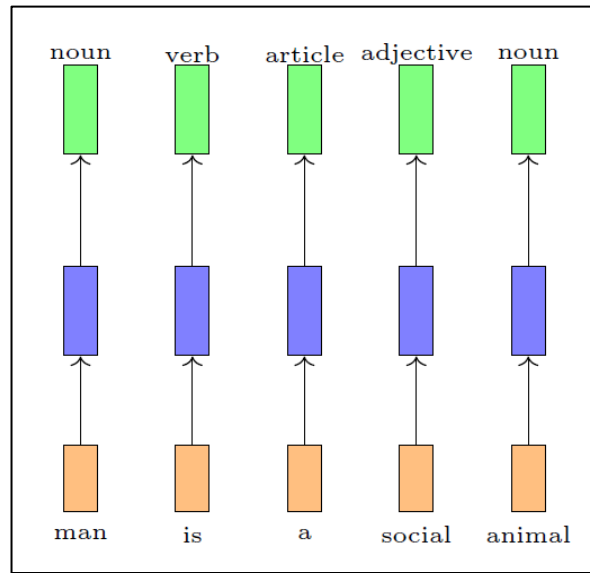


- The model needs to look at a sequence of inputs and produce an output (or outputs).
- For this purpose, let's consider each input to be corresponding to one time step.

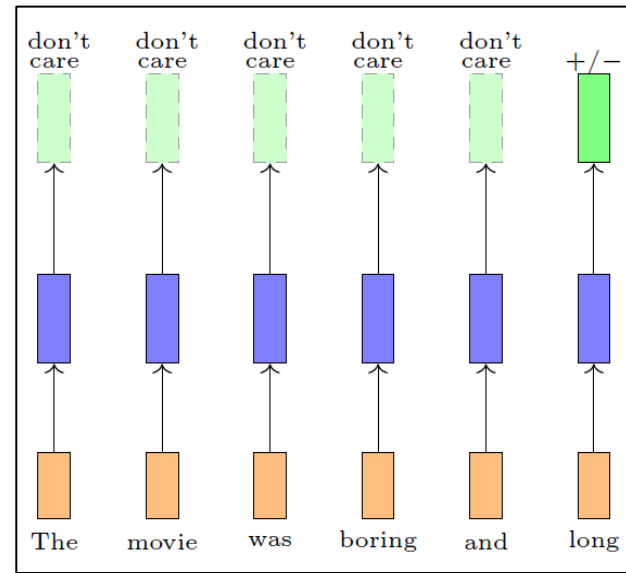
Modelling Sequence Learning Problems: Introduction



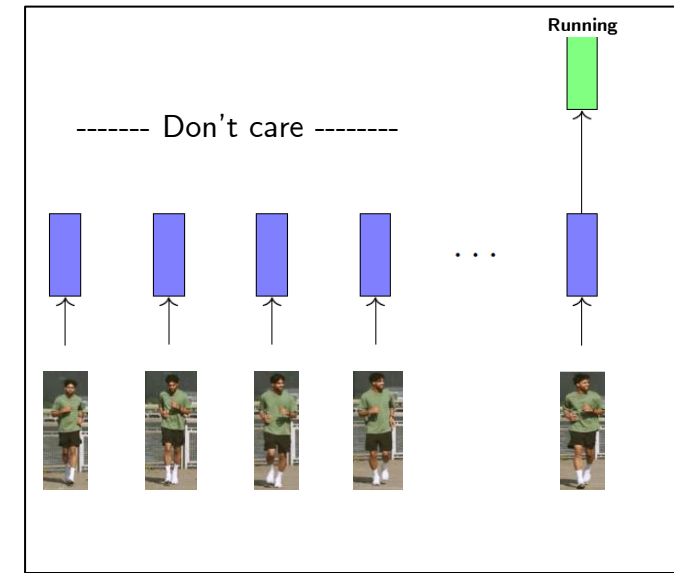
Task: Auto-complete



Task: P-o-S tagging

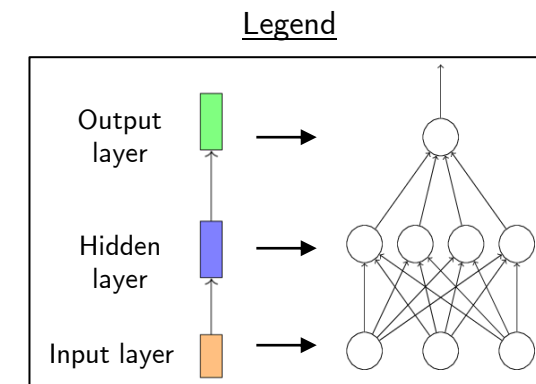


Task: Movie Review



Task: Action Recognition

- The model needs to look at a sequence of inputs and produce an output (or outputs).
- For this purpose, let's consider each input to be corresponding to one time step.
- Next, build a network for each time step/input, where each network performs the same task (eg: Auto complete: input=character, output=character)

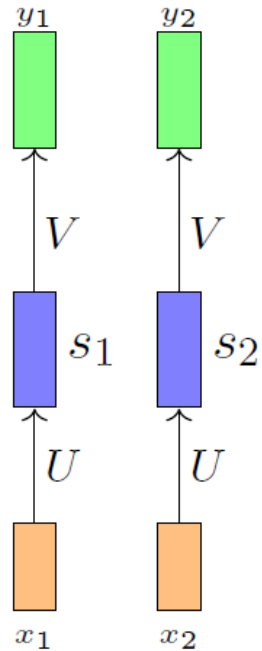


How to Model Sequence Learning Problems?

1. Model the dependence between inputs.
 - Eg: The next word after an 'adjective' is most probably a 'noun'.
2. Account for variable number of inputs.
 - A sentence can have arbitrary no. of words.
 - A video can have arbitrary no. of frames.
3. Make sure that the function executed at each time step is the same.
 - Because at each time step we are doing the same task.

Modelling Sequence Learning Problems using Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

Introduction



Considering the network at each time step to be a fully connected network, the general equation for the network at each time step is:

$$s_i = \sigma(Ux_i + b)$$

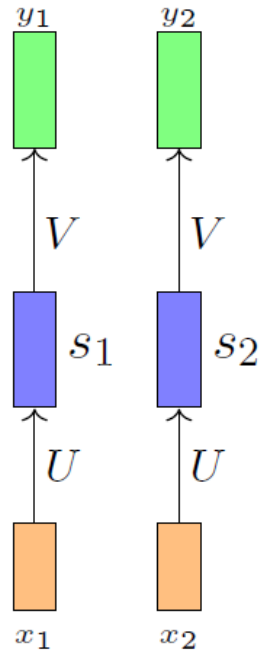
$$y_i = \mathcal{O}(Vs_i + c)$$

$$i = \text{timestep}$$

Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras

Modelling Sequence Learning Problems using Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

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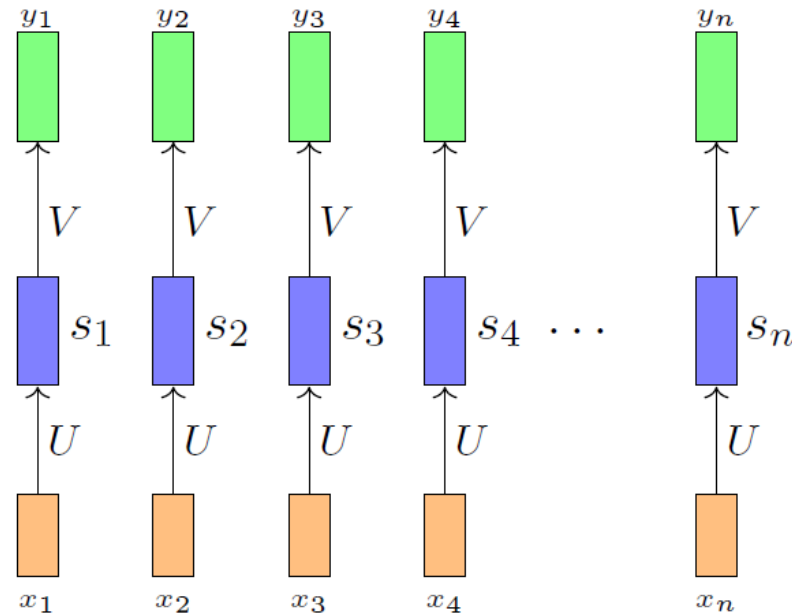
$$i = \text{timestep}$$

Since we want the same function to be executed at each timestep we should share the same network (i.e., **same parameters at each timestep**)

Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN): Introduction

- If the input sequence is of length 'n', we would create 'n' networks for each input, as seen previously.

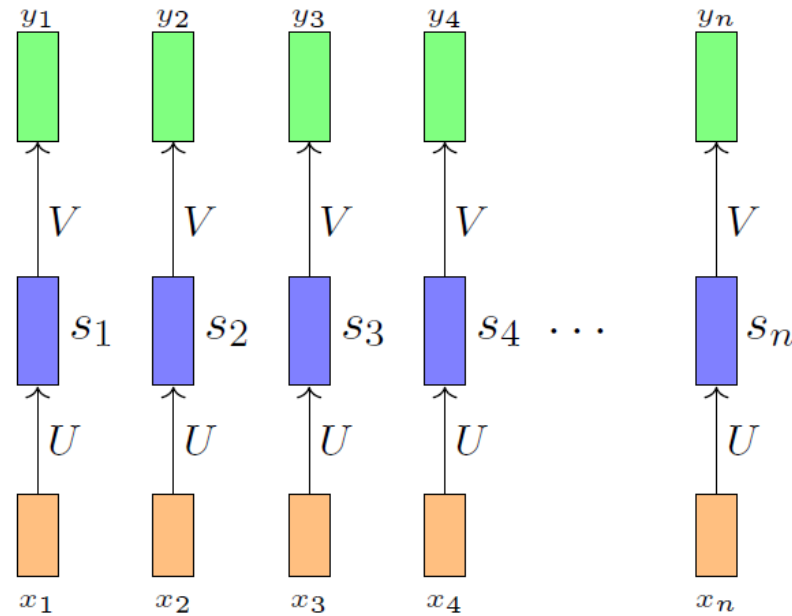


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By doing so, we have addressed the issue of variable input size!!

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN): Introduction

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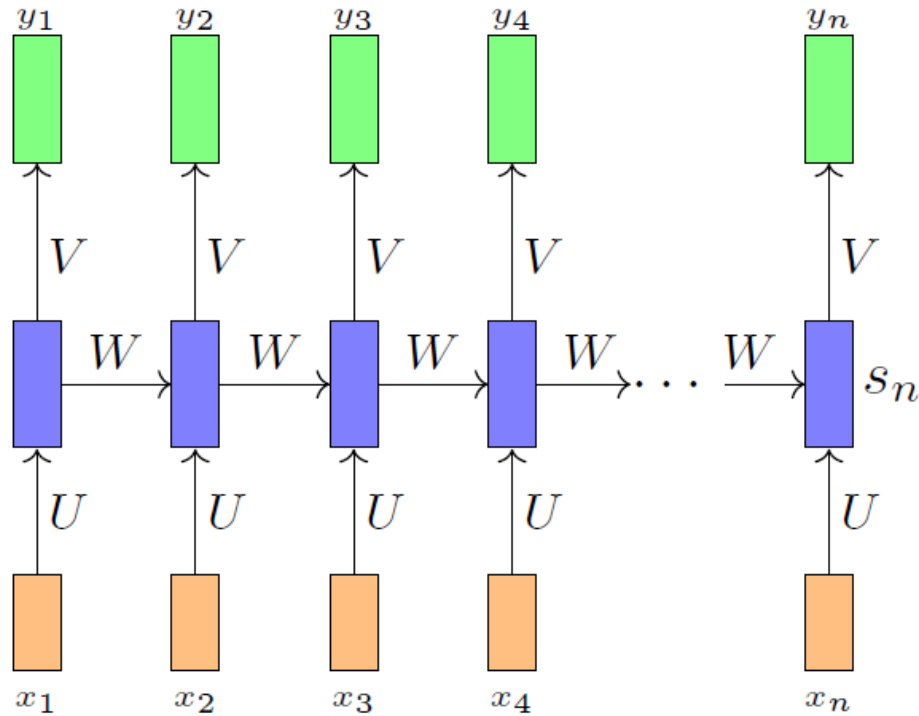
But, how to model the dependencies between the inputs ?

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

Solution: Add recurrent connection in the network.

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

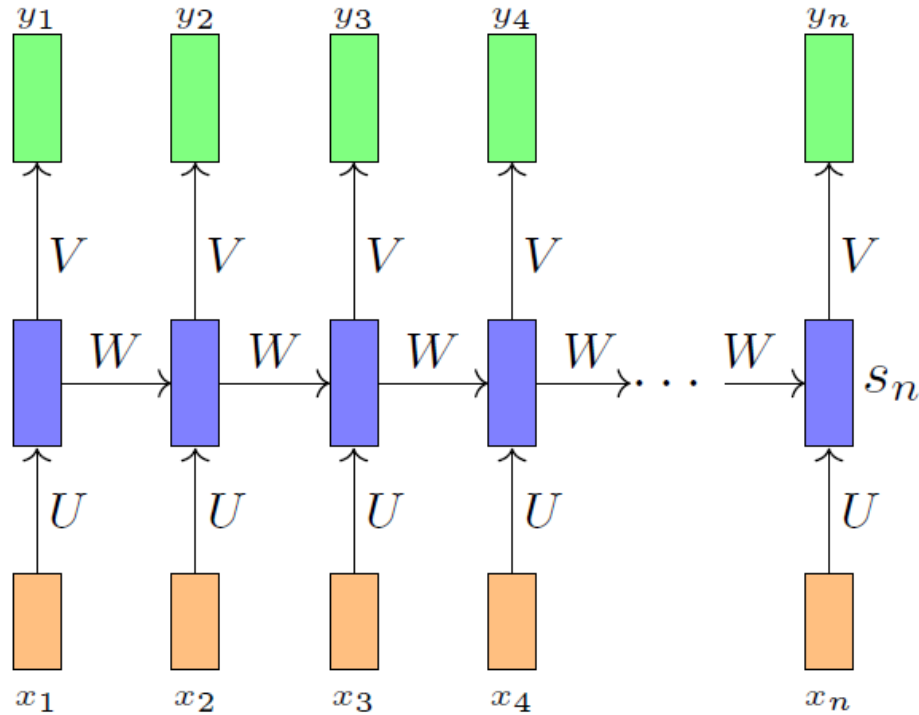
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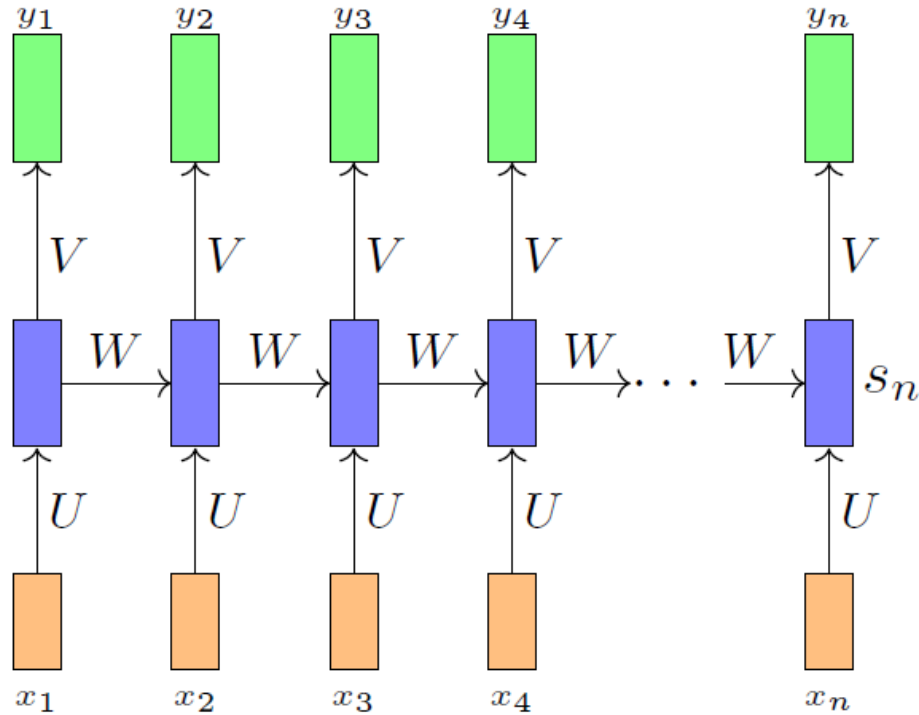
- So, the RNN equation:

$$s_i = \sigma(Ux_i + Ws_{i-1} + b)$$

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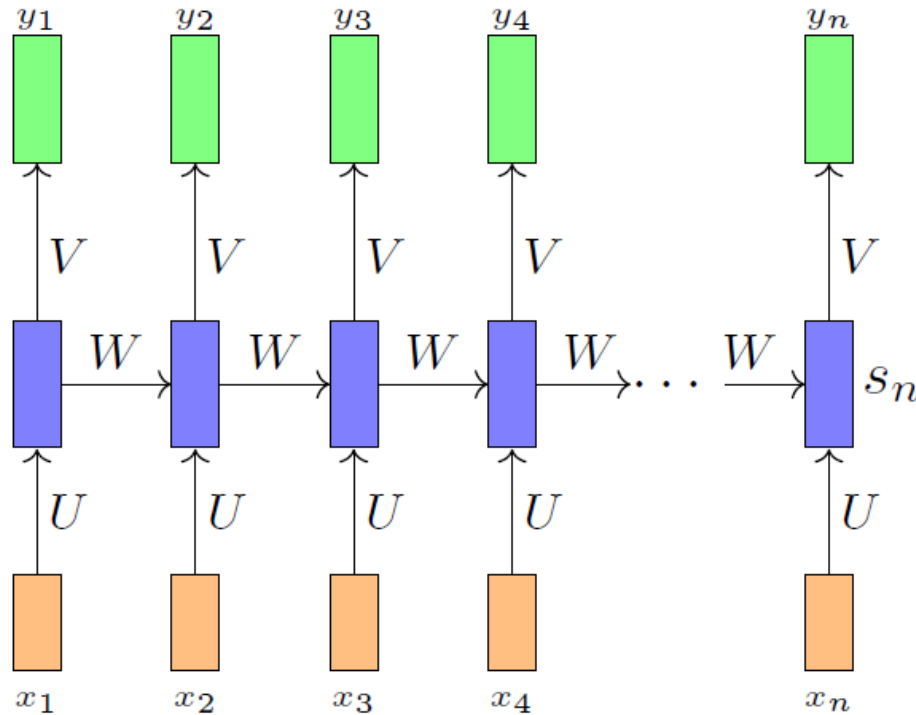
$$s_i = \sigma(Ux_i + Ws_{i-1} + b)$$

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U, W, V, b, c are parameters of the network

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The dimensions of each term is as follows:

X_i -- [1 x no. of i/p neurons]

s_i -- [1 x no. of neurons in the hidden state]

W -- [no. of neurons in the hidden state x no. of neurons in the hidden state]

U -- [no. of i/p neurons x no. of neurons in the hidden state]

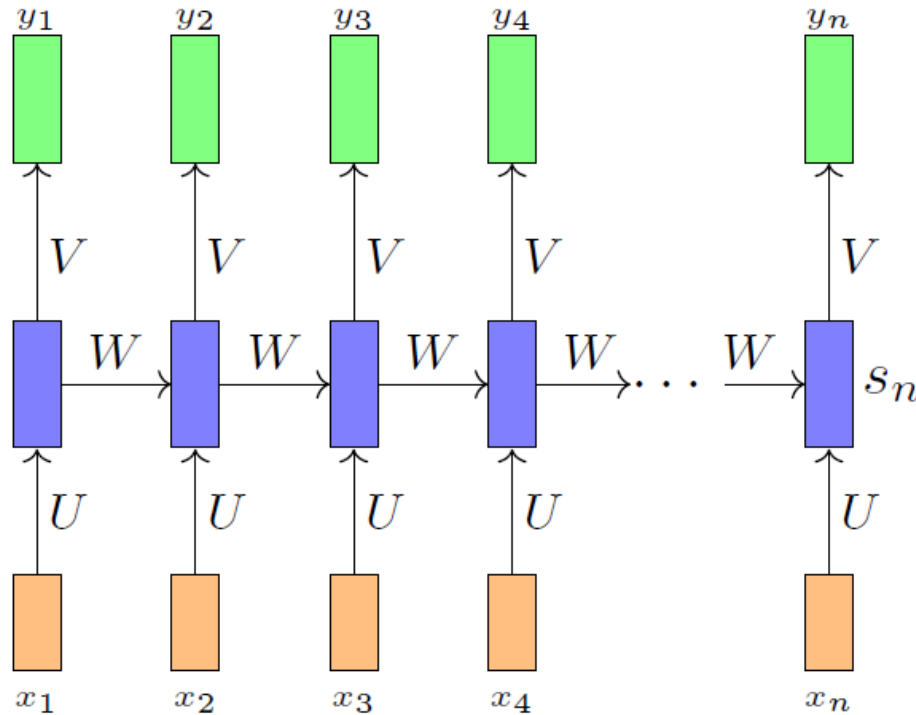
V -- [no. of neurons in the hidden state x no. of neurons in the o/p state]

b -- [1 x no. of neurons in the hidden state]

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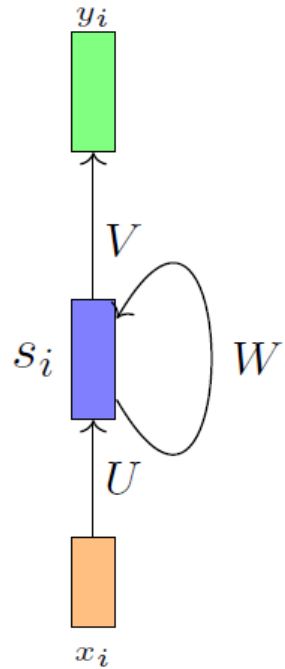
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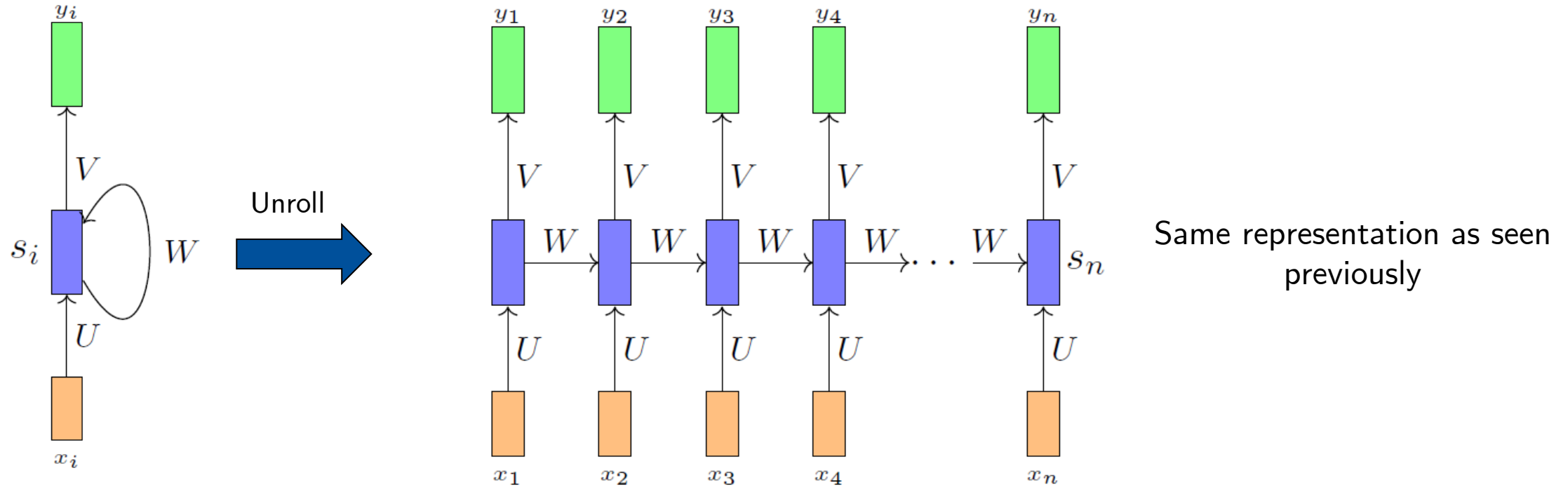
- At time step $i=0$ there are no previous inputs, so they are typically assumed to be all zeros.
- Since, the output of s_i at time step i is a function of all the inputs from previous time steps, we could say it has a form of **memory**.
- A part of a neural network that preserves some state across time steps is called a **memory cell** (or simply a **cell**)

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

Compact representation of a RNN:



Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

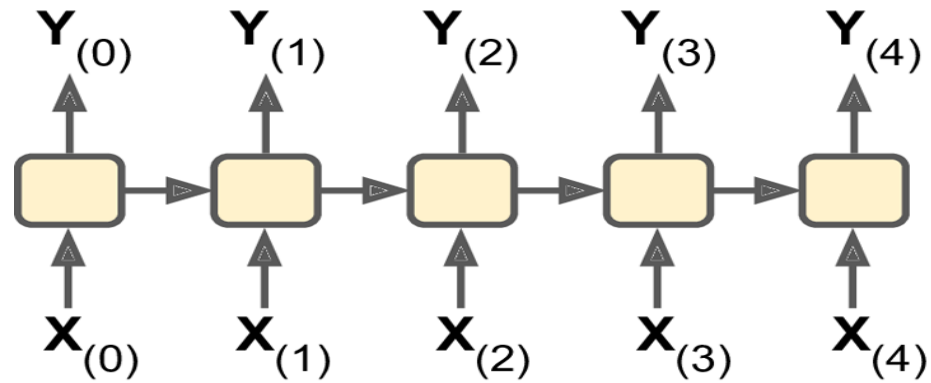


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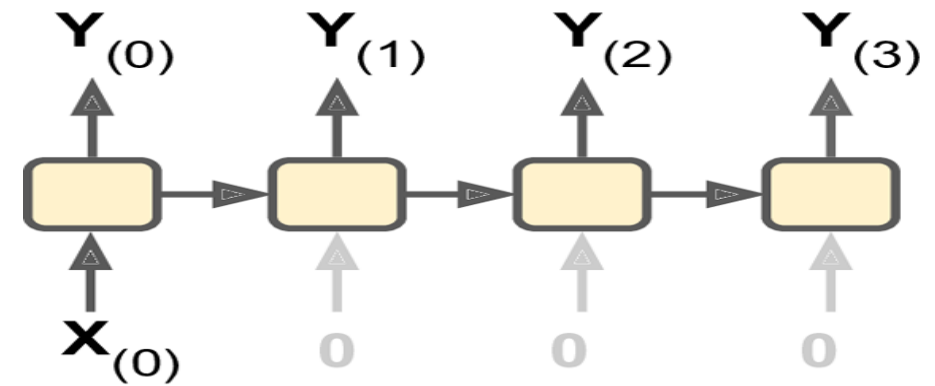
- Unrolling the network through time = representing network against time axis.
- At each time step t (also called a **frame**) RNN receives inputs x_t as well as output from previous step y_{t-1}

Input and Output Sequences

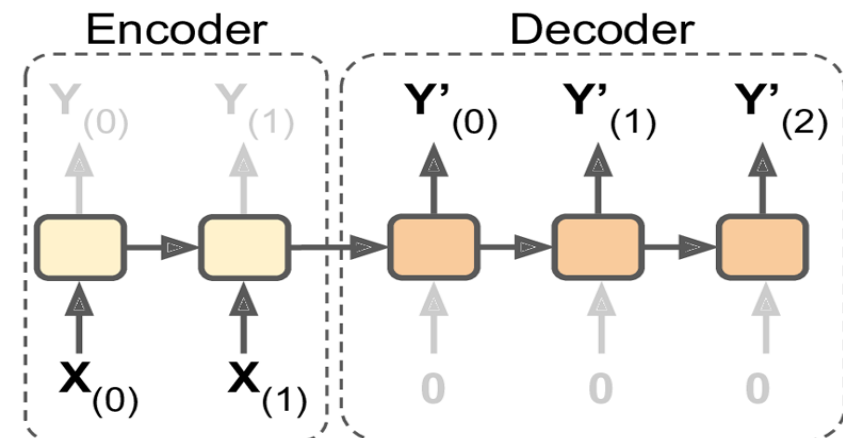
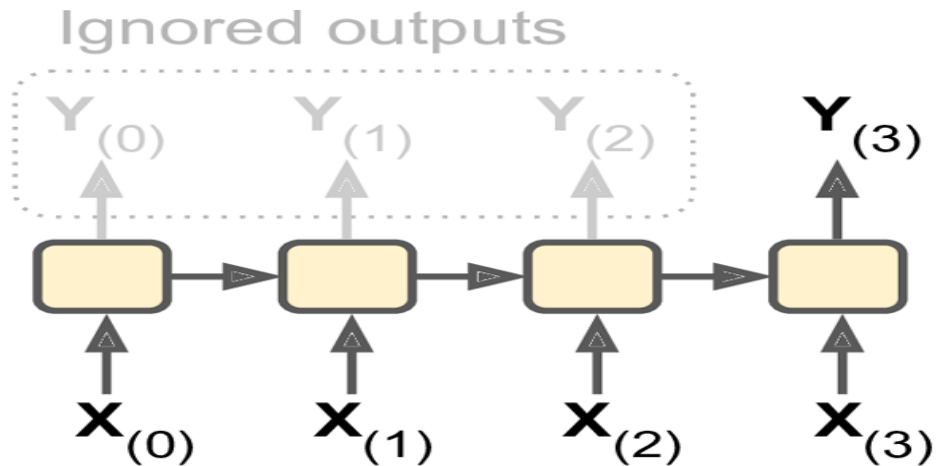
Seq-to-Seq



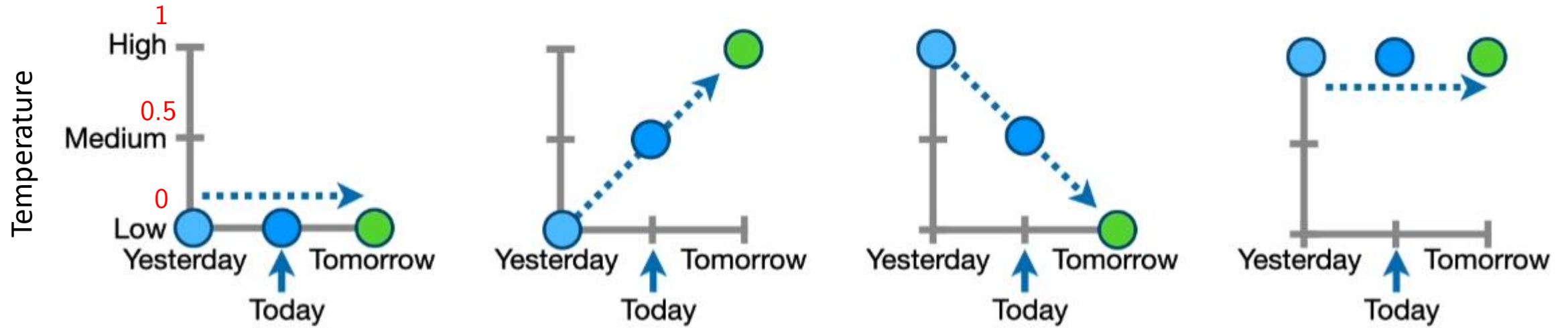
Vector-to-Seq



Seq-to-Vector

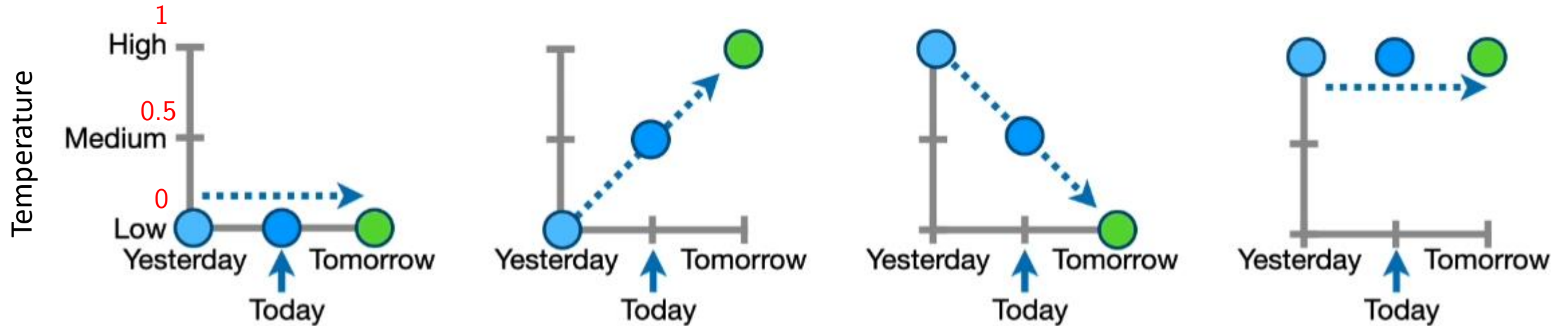


Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) : Example



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/c/joshstarmer>

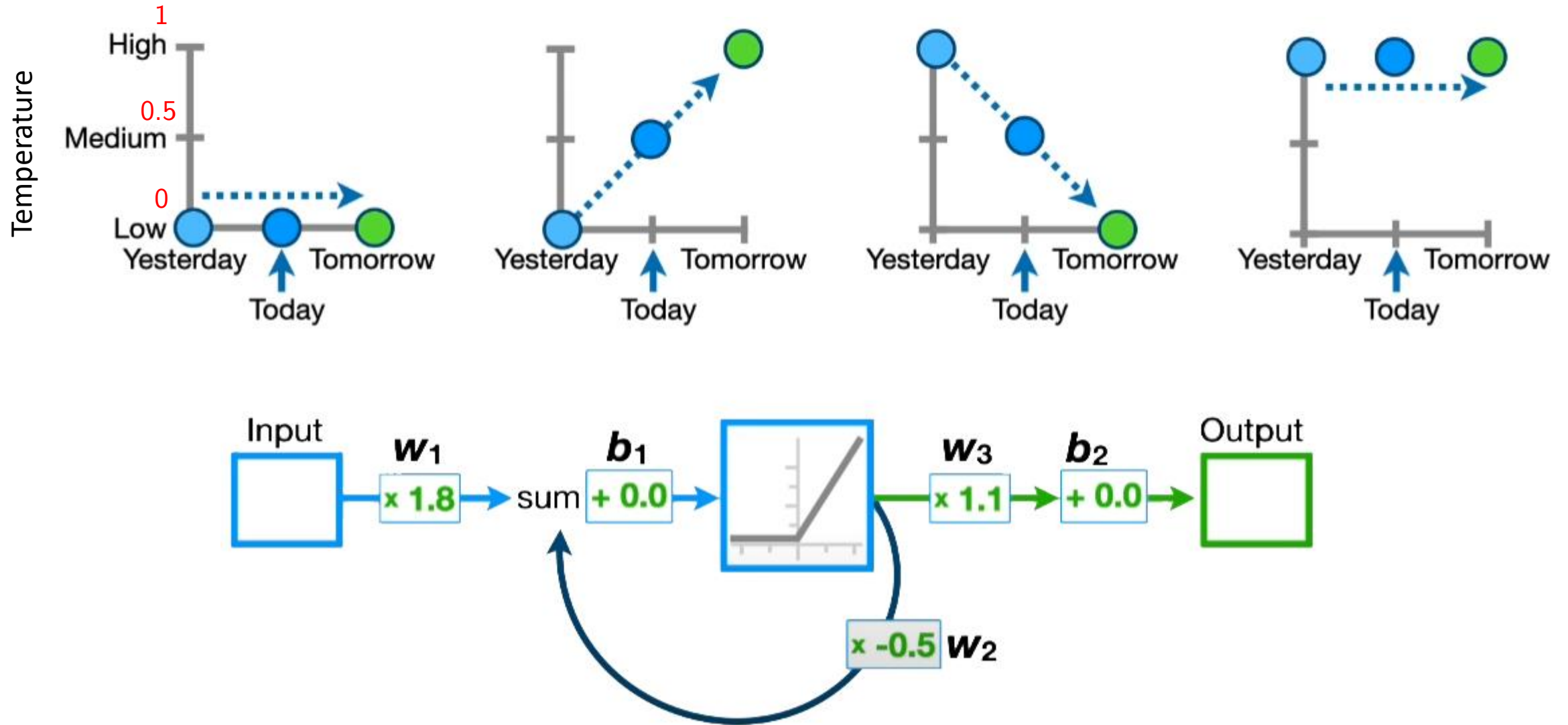
Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) : Example



Problem : Given the temperatures of yesterday and today predict tomorrow's temperature.

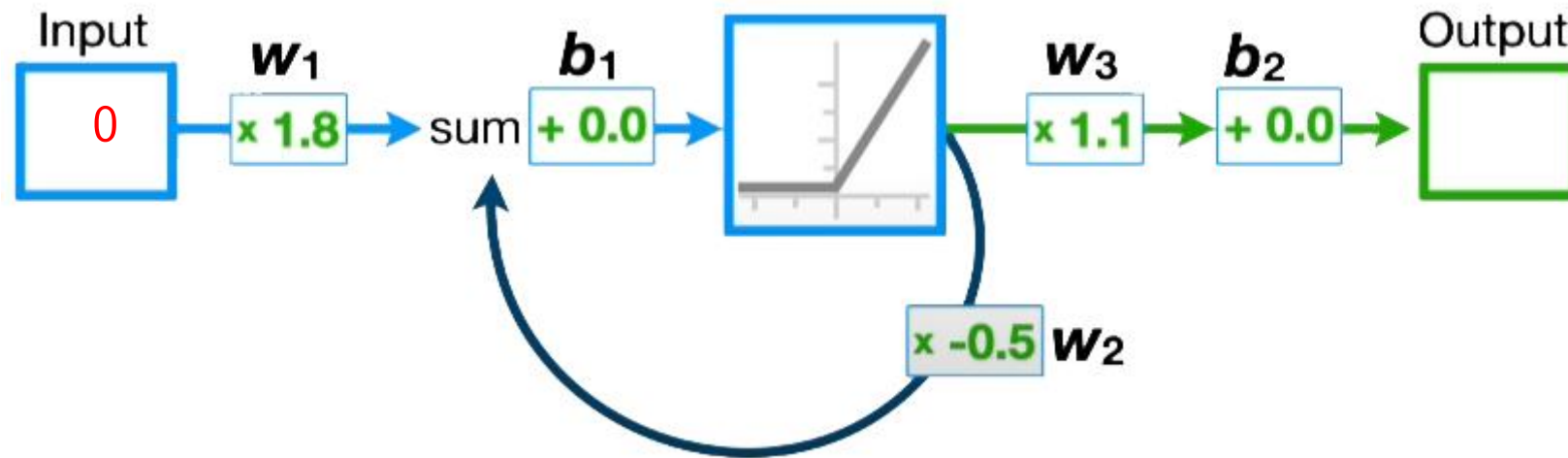
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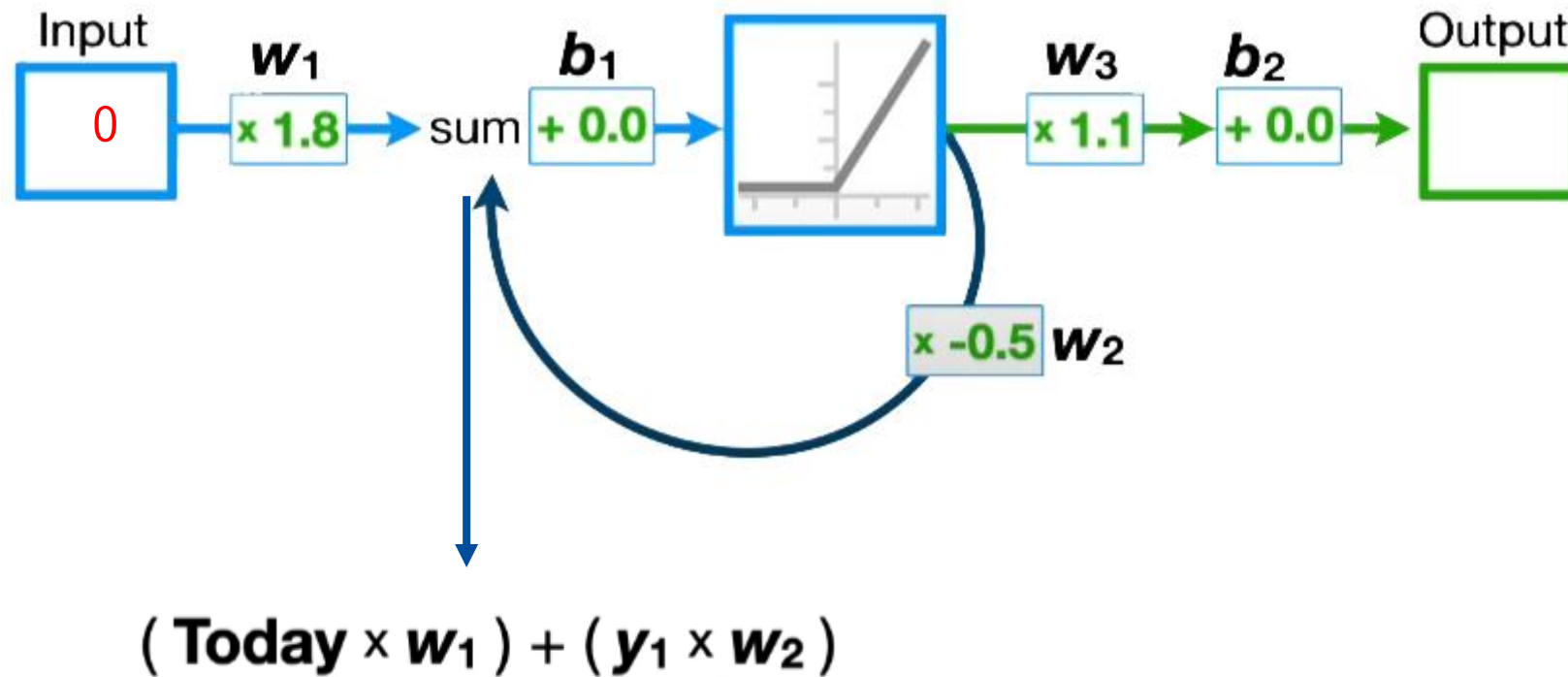
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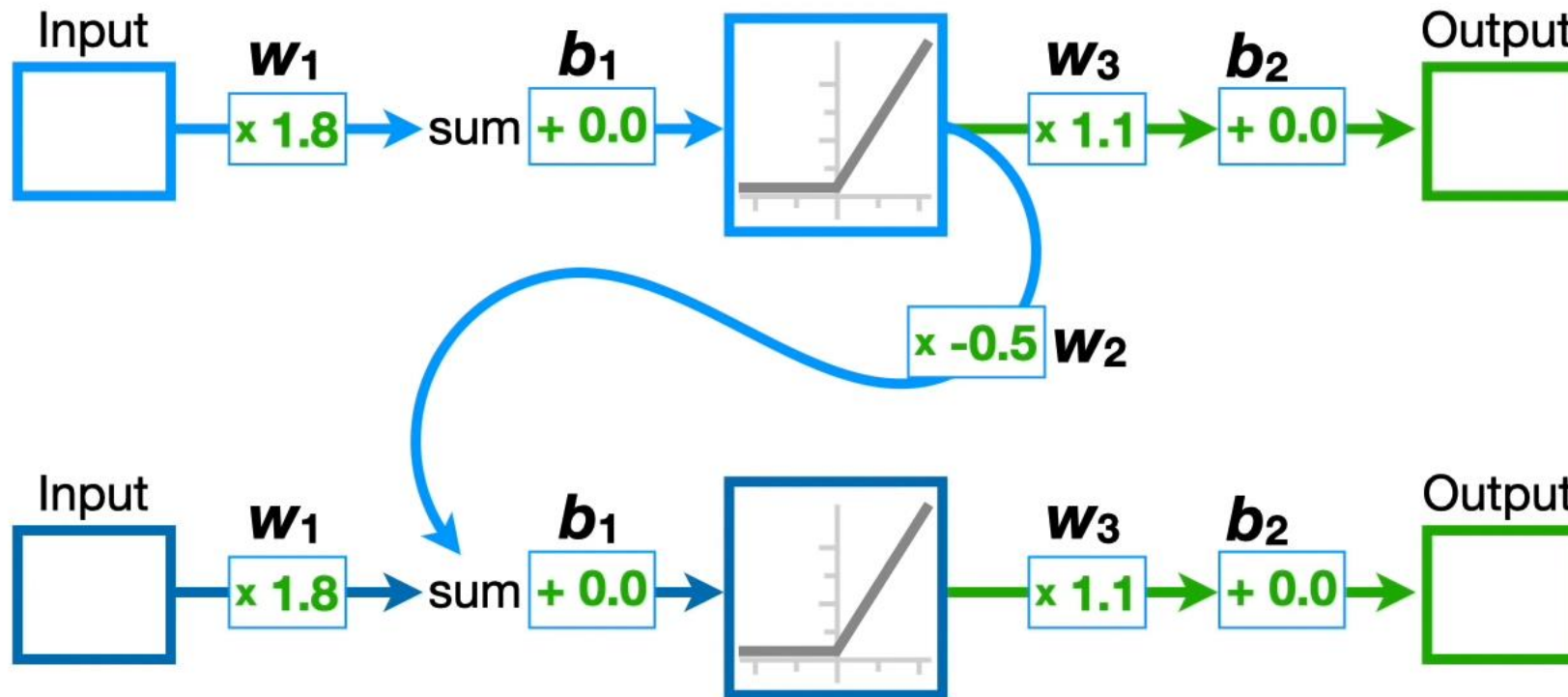
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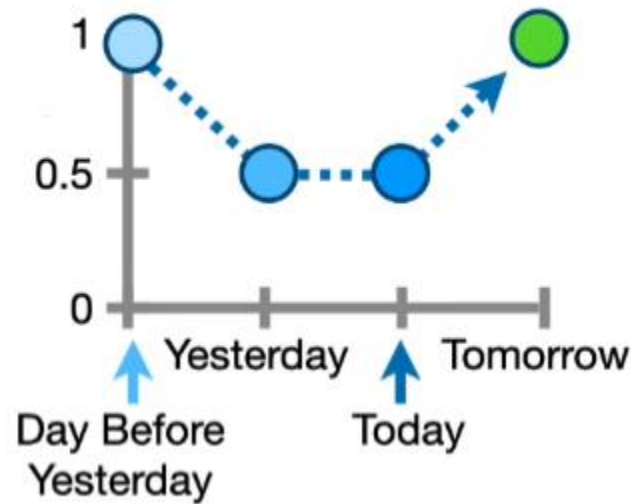
Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) : Example



Unrolling the feedback loop by making a copy of NN for each input value

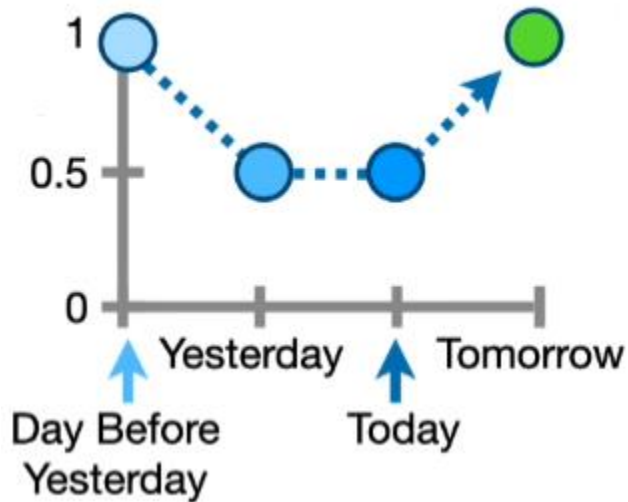
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Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) : Example



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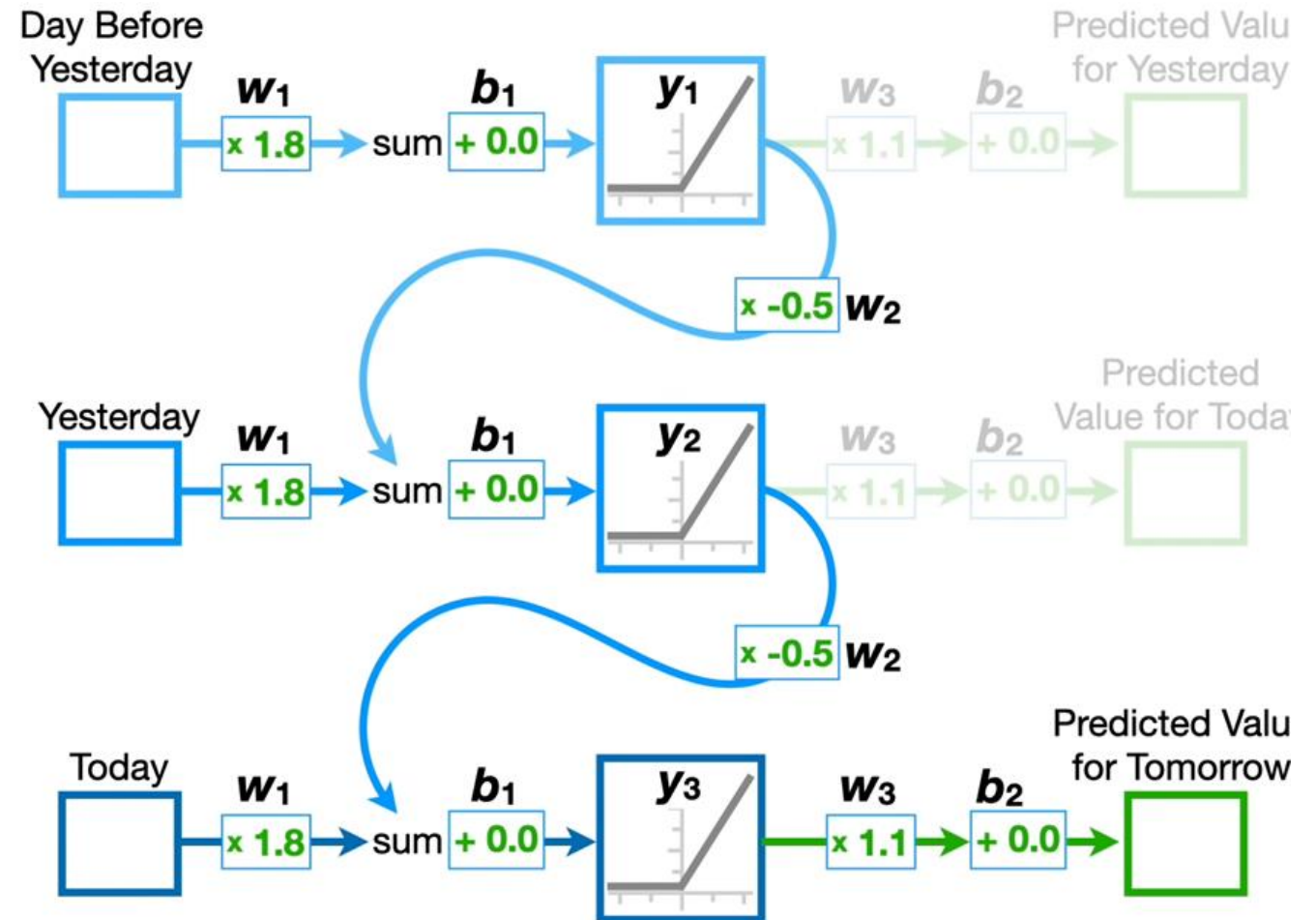
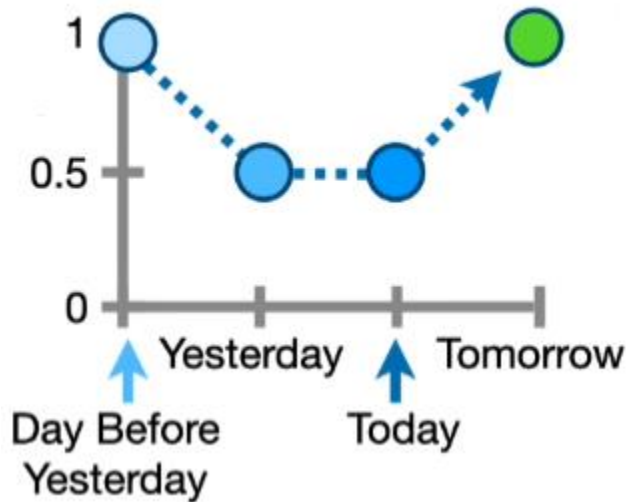
Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) : Example



Problem : Given the temperature of 3 days (today, yesterday and day before yesterday), Predict tomorrow's temperature?

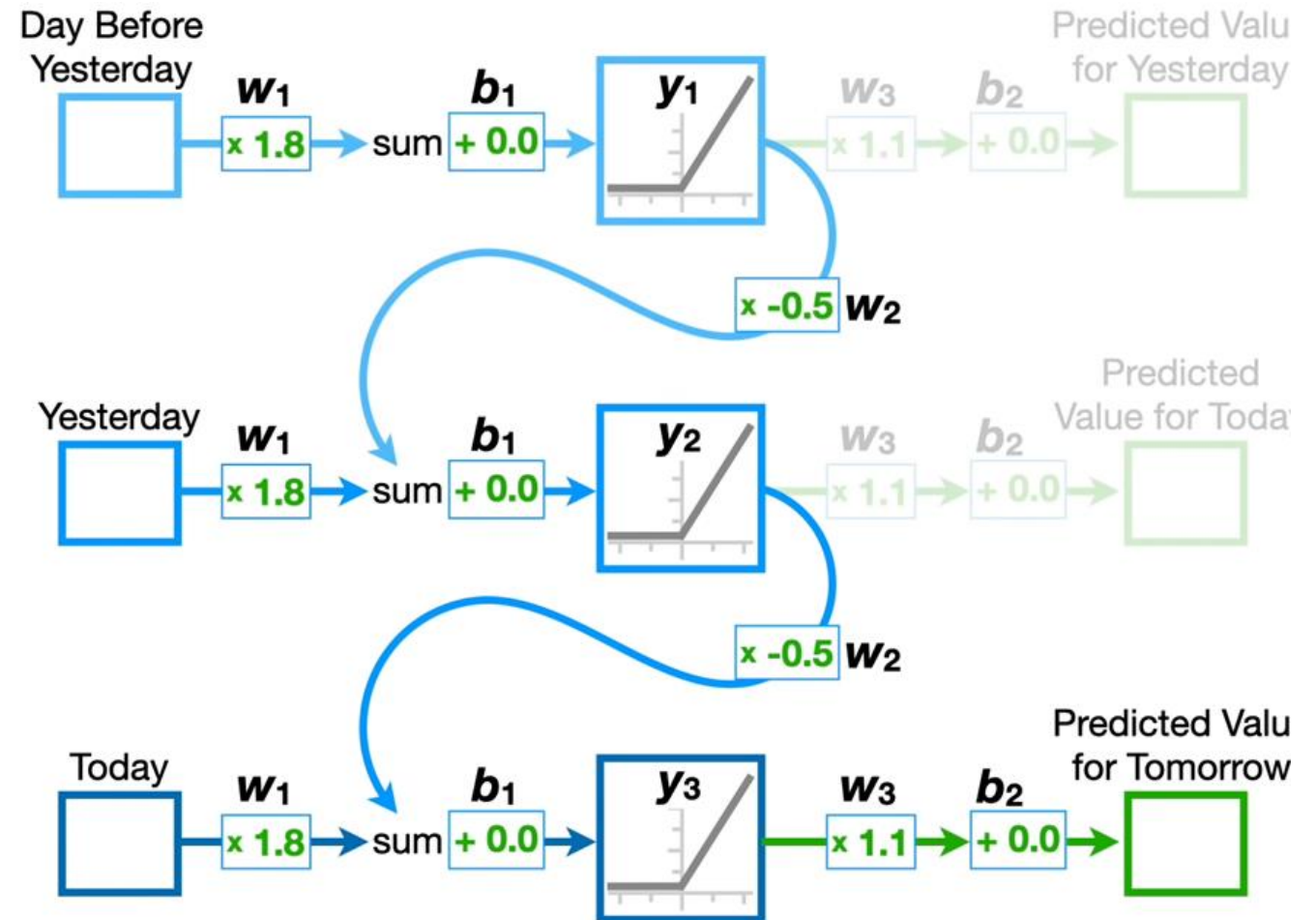
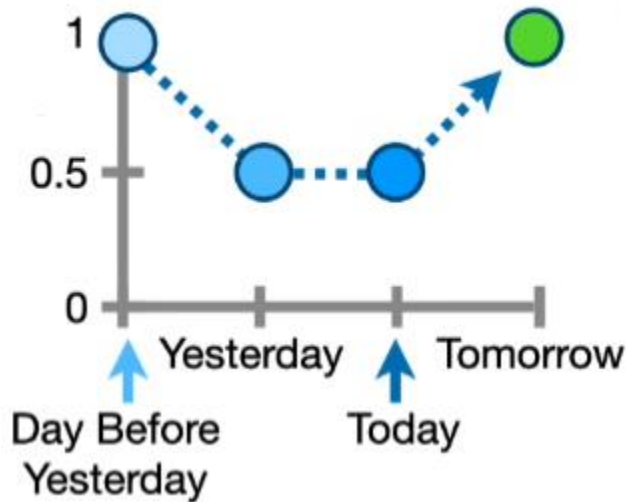
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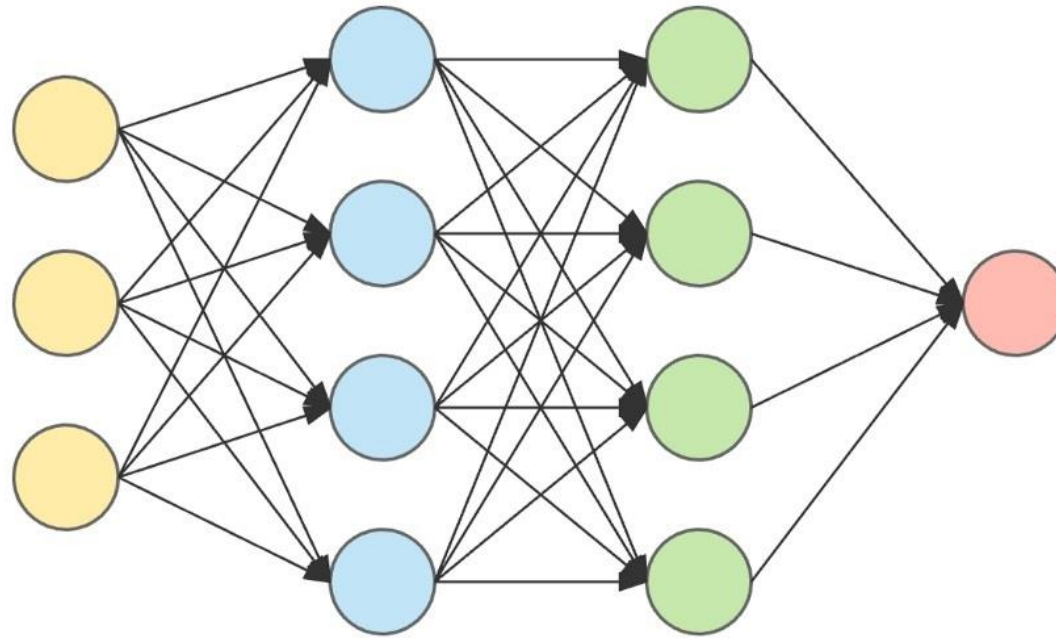
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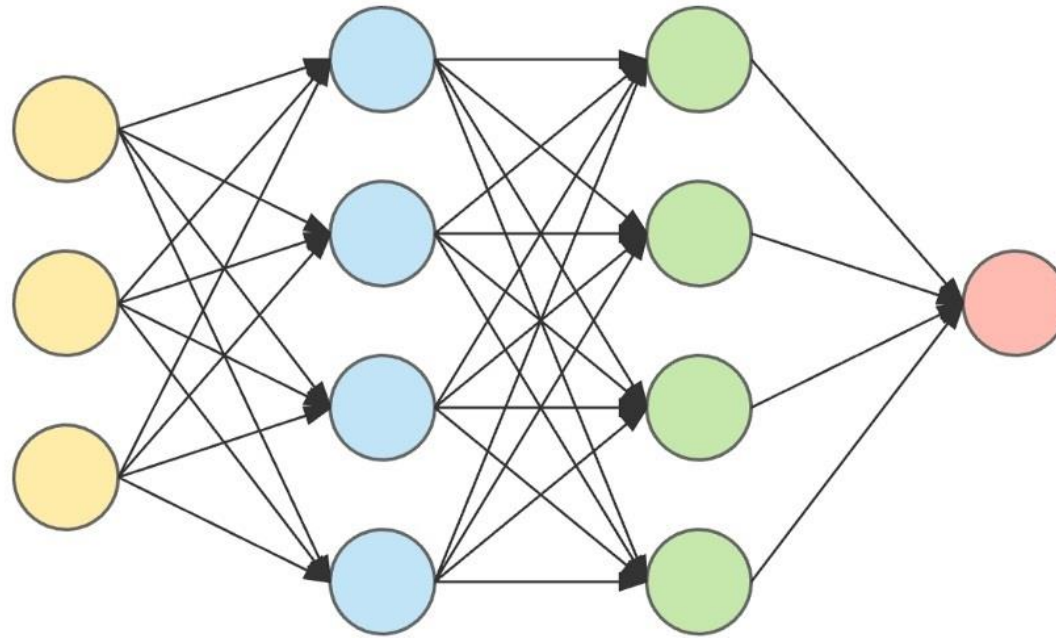
So, the no. of networks = no. of inputs

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Backpropagation in ANN : Recap

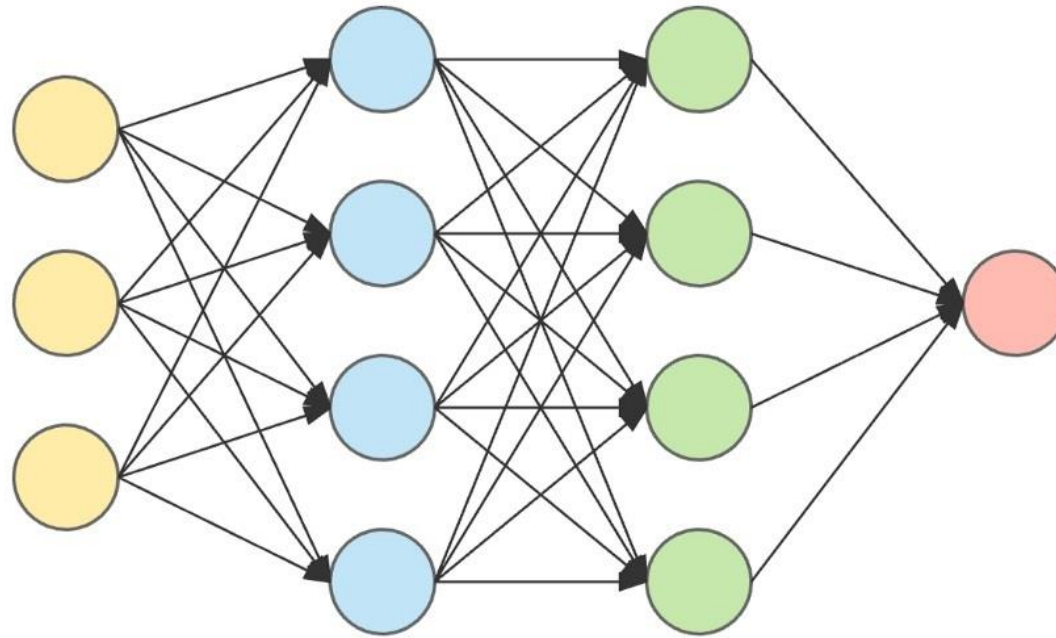


Backpropagation in ANN : Recap



For simplicity, let's represent the above network as follows:

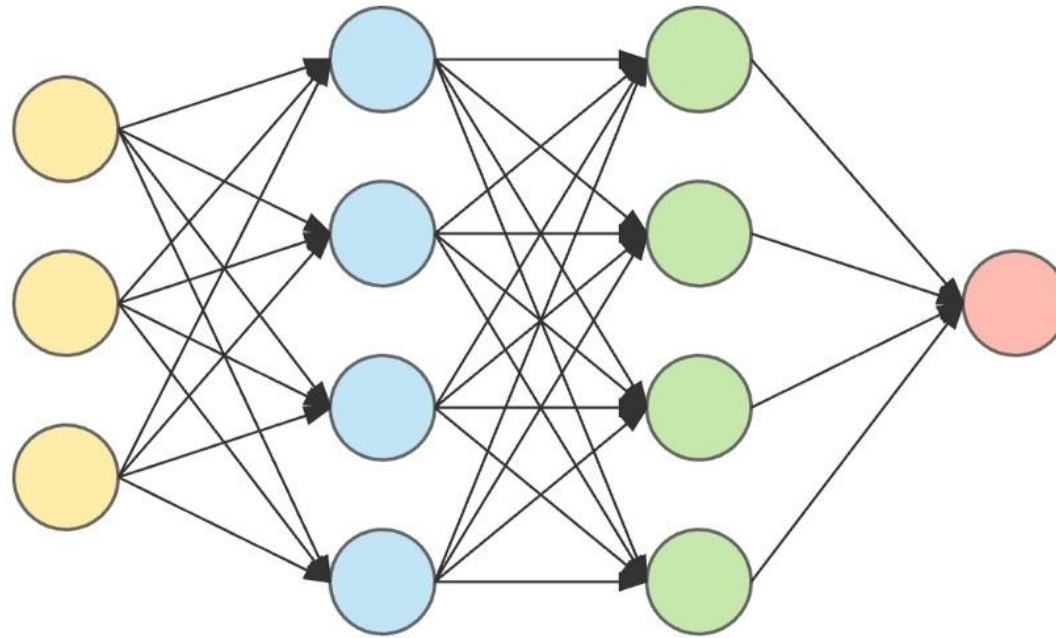
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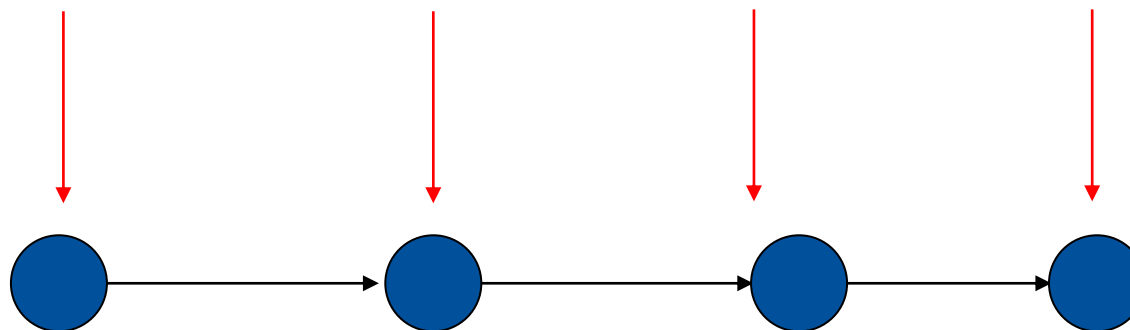
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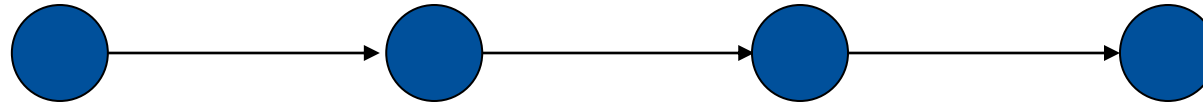
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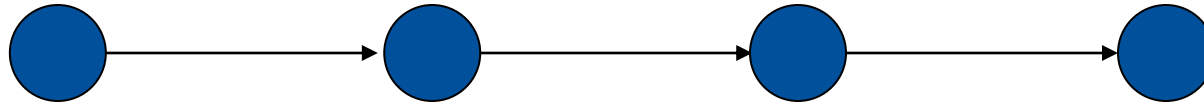


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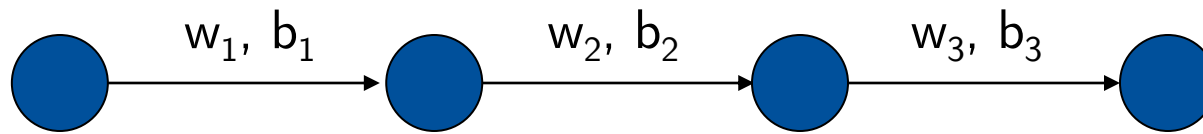
Backpropagation in ANN : Recap

The Loss function: $L(w_1, b_1, w_2, b_2, w_3, b_3)$



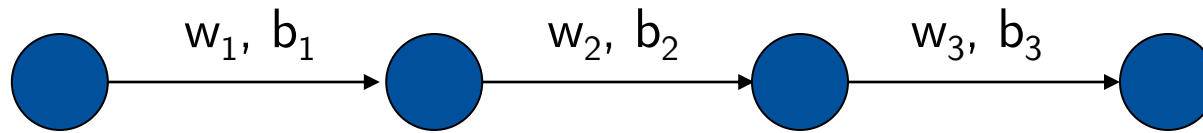
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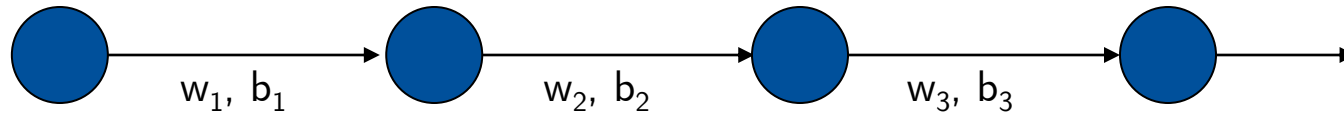
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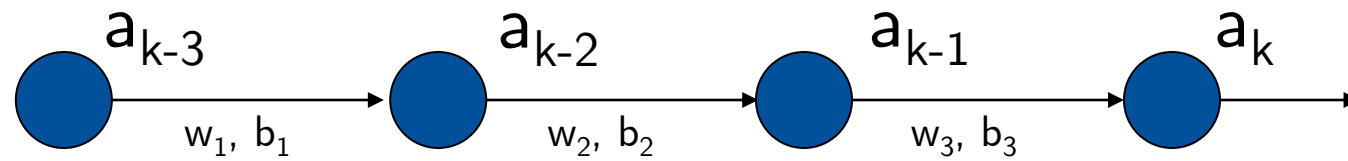


By how much should the parameters be changed to make an efficient decrease in the loss L ?

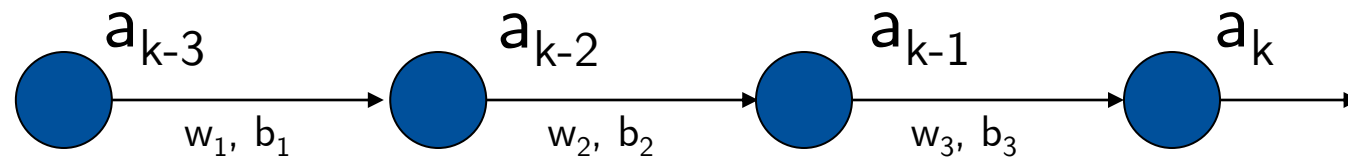
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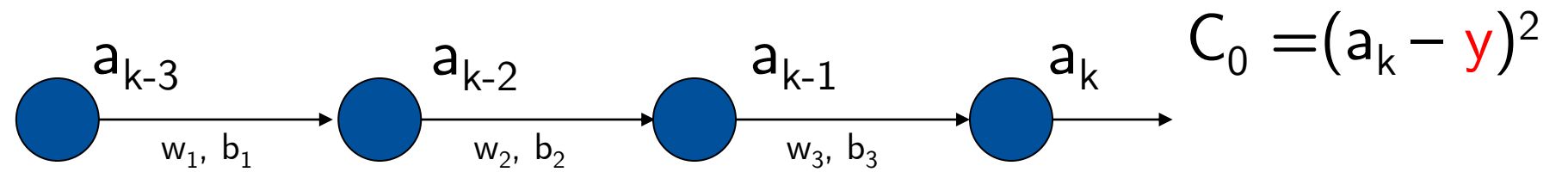


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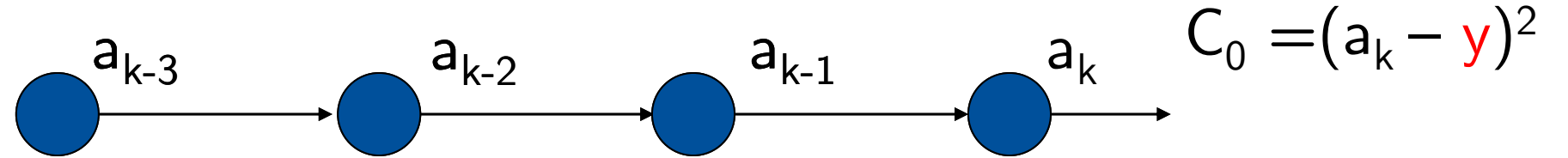
$$a_k = \sigma(w_k a_{k-1} + b_k)$$

Backpropagation in ANN : Recap



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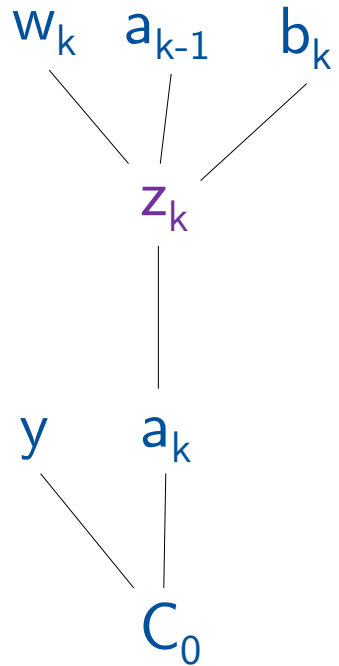


$$a_k = \sigma(w_k a_{k-1} + b_k)$$

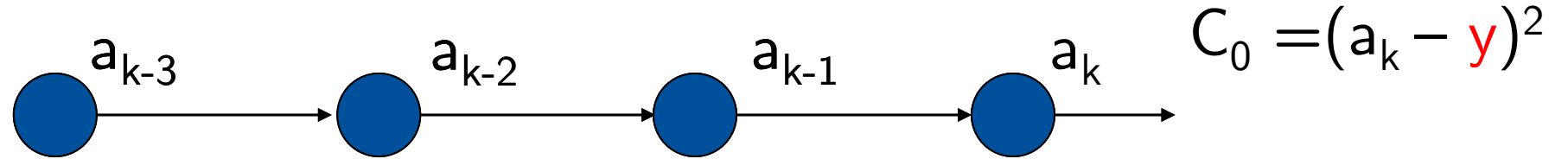
$$\text{Now, if } z_k = w_k a_{k-1} + b_k$$

$$\text{Then, } a_k = \sigma(z_k)$$

Backpropagation in ANN : Recap



Dependency graph



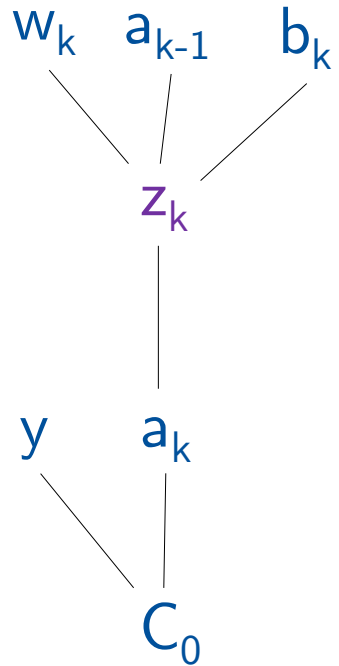
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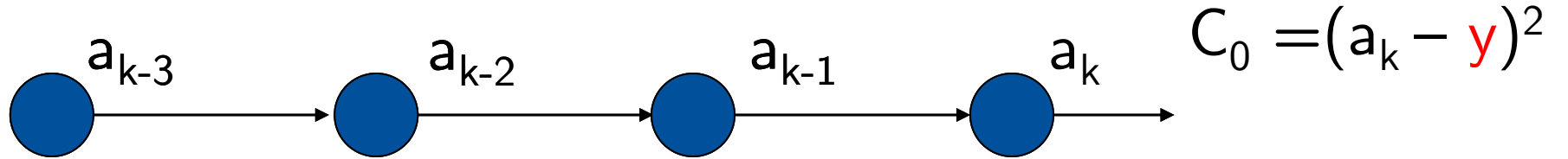
Then, $a_k = \sigma(z_k)$

Backpropagation in ANN : Recap

Aim is to compute : $\frac{\partial C_0}{\partial w_k}$



Dependency graph



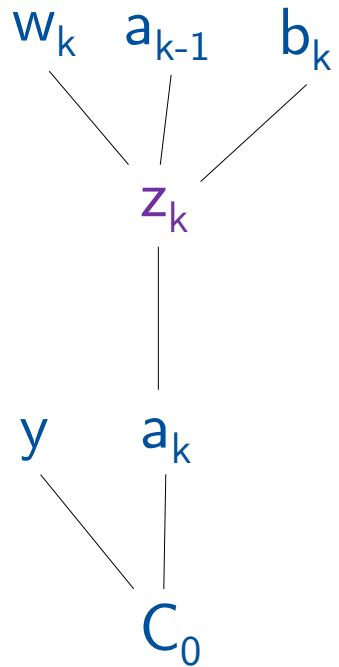
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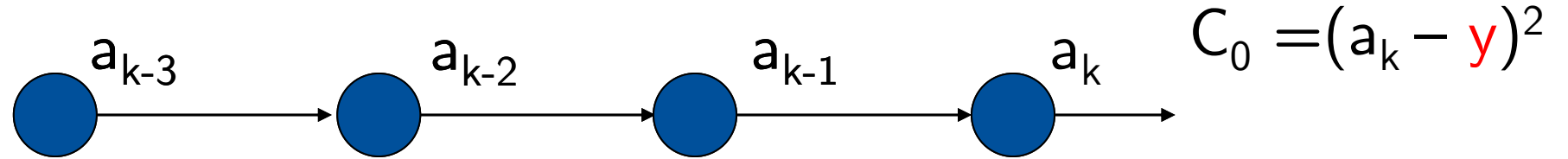
$$\text{Then, } a_k = \sigma(z_k)$$

Backpropagation in ANN : Recap

As there is a dependency, we need to apply chain rule $\Rightarrow \frac{\partial C_0}{\partial w_k} = \frac{\partial z_k}{\partial w_k} \frac{\partial a_k}{\partial z_k} \frac{\partial C_0}{\partial a_k}$



Dependency graph



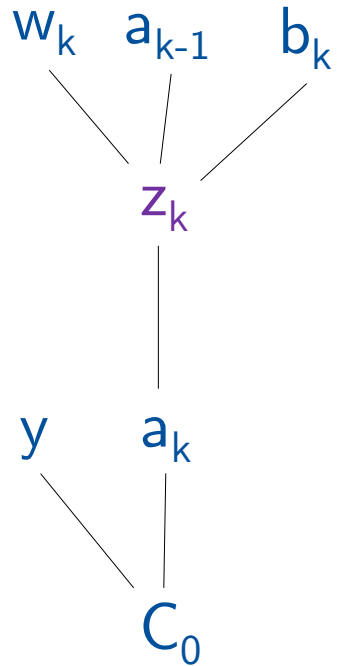
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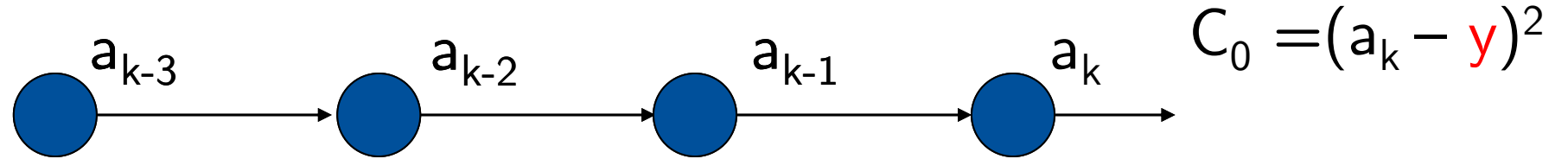
$$\text{Then, } a_k = \sigma(z_k)$$

Backpropagation in ANN : Recap

$$\frac{\partial C_0}{\partial w_k} = \frac{\partial z_k}{\partial w_k} \frac{\partial a_k}{\partial z_k} \frac{\partial C_0}{\partial a_k} = a_{k-1} \sigma'(z_k) * 2*(a_k - y)$$



Dependency graph

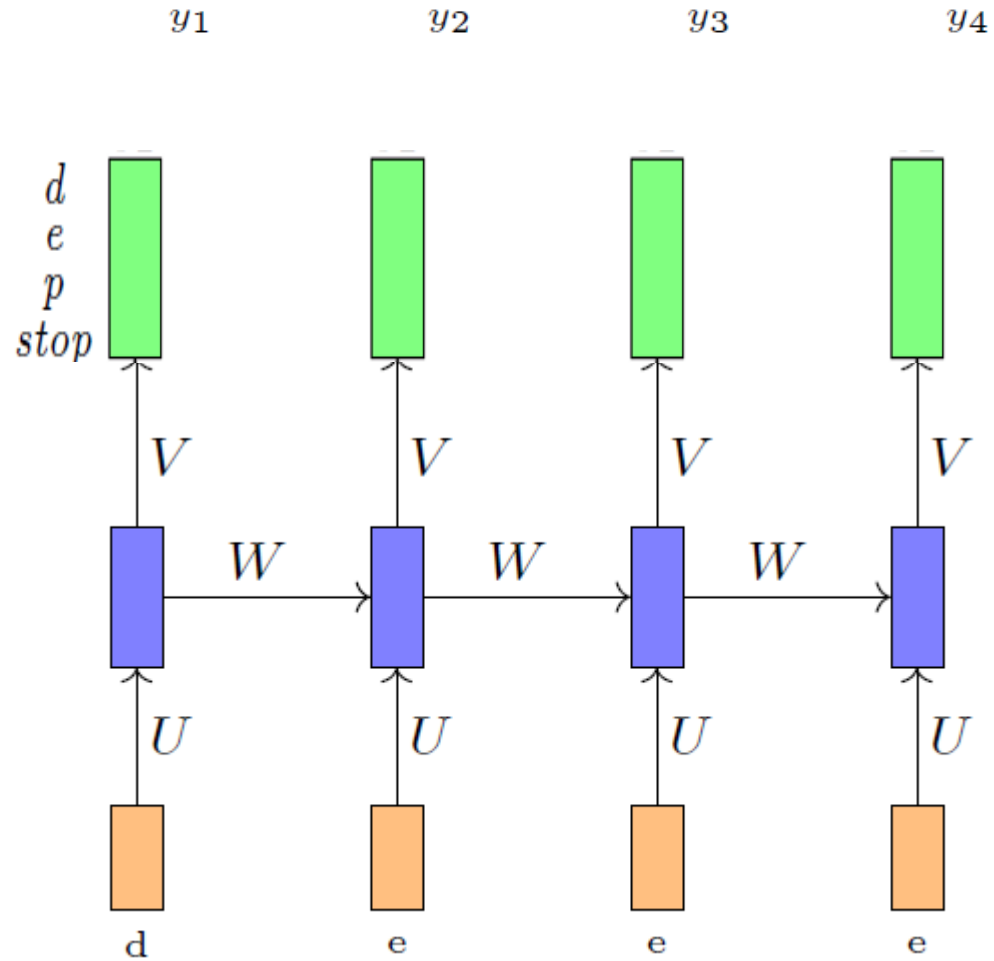


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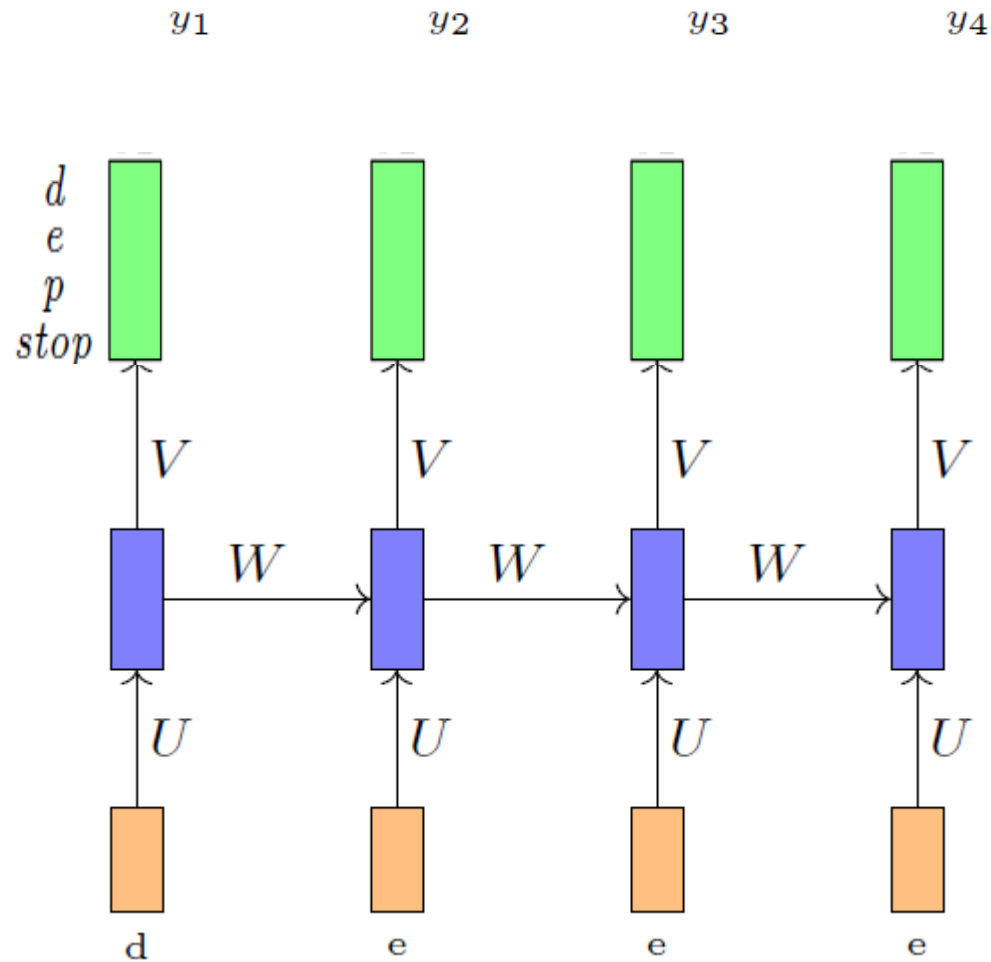
Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras

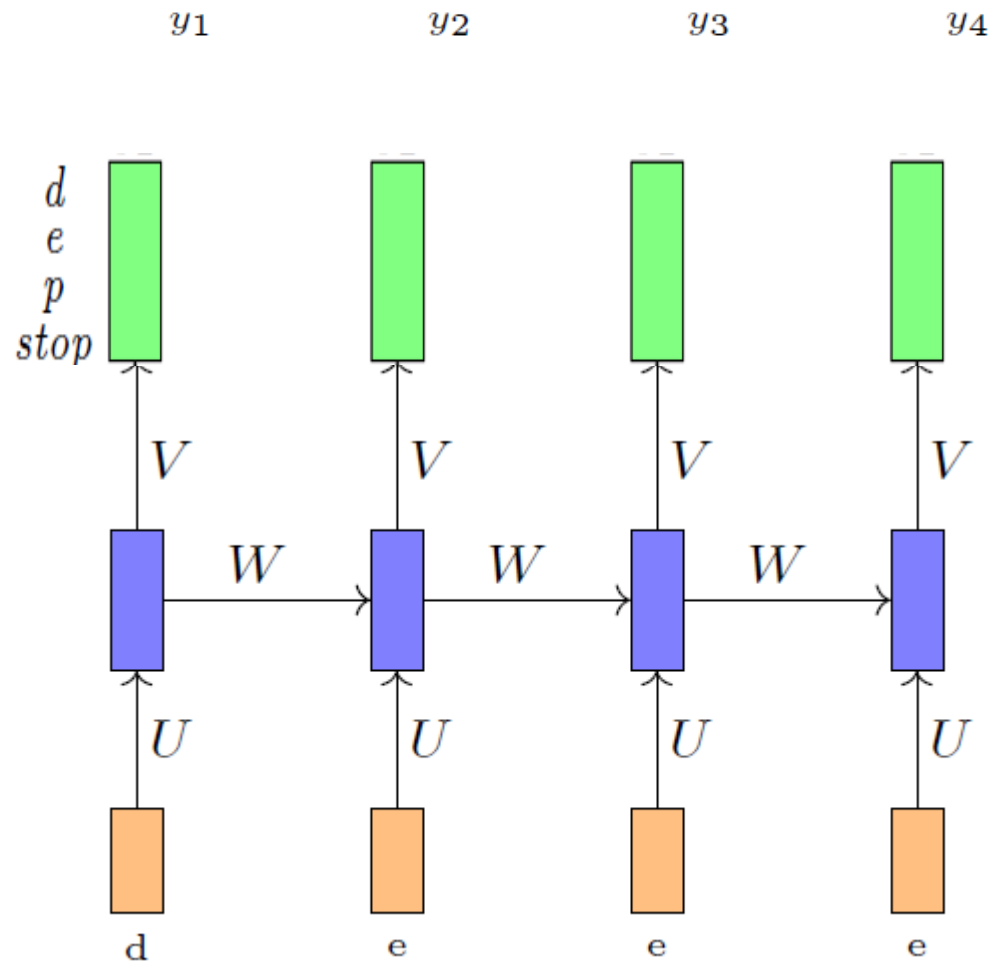
Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)

- For instance, consider the task of auto-completion (predicting the next character).



Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras

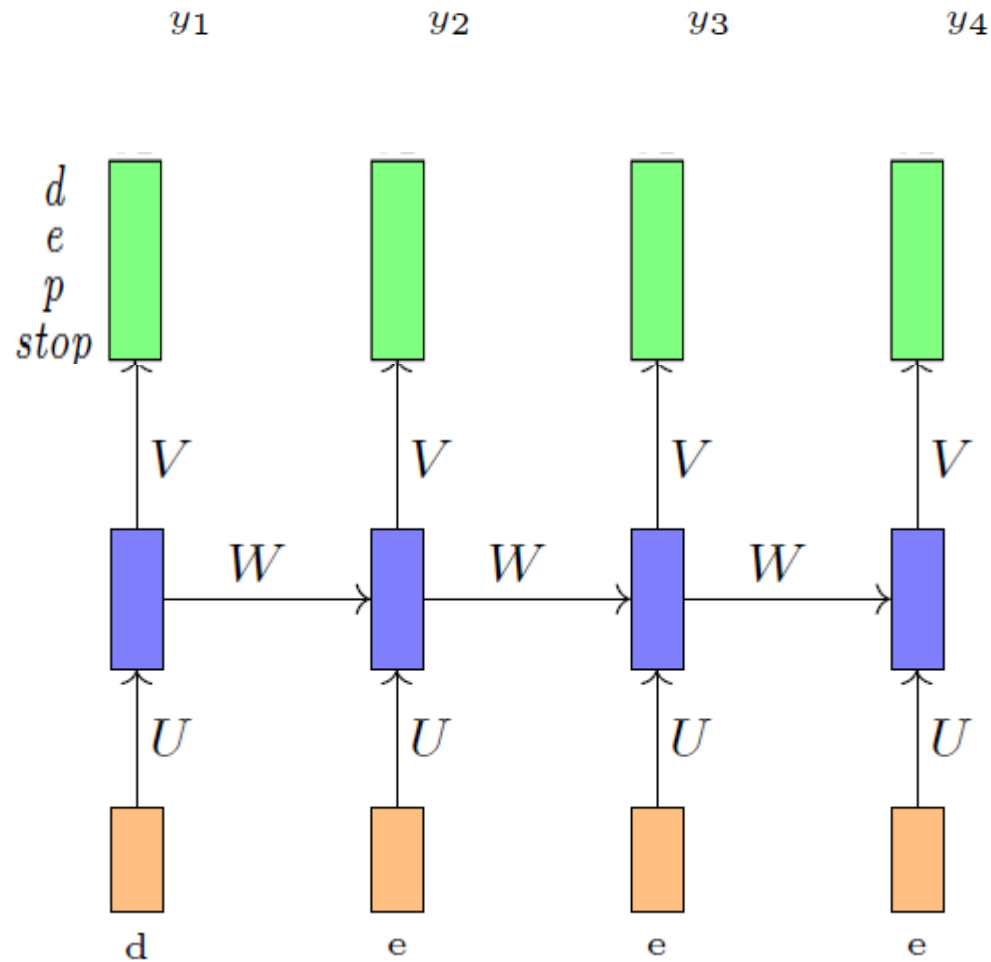
Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



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- For instance, consider the task of auto-completion (predicting the next character).
- For simplicity we assume that there are only 4 characters in our vocabulary (d, e, p, <stop>).

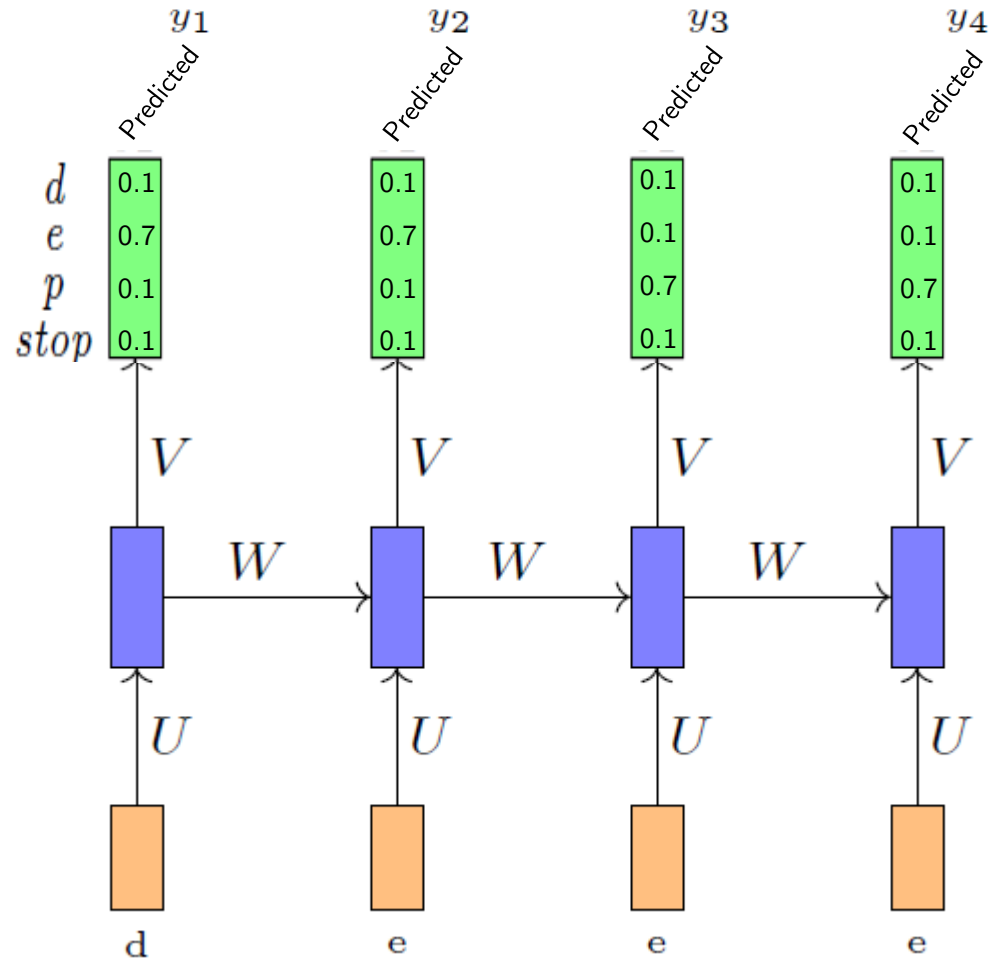
Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras

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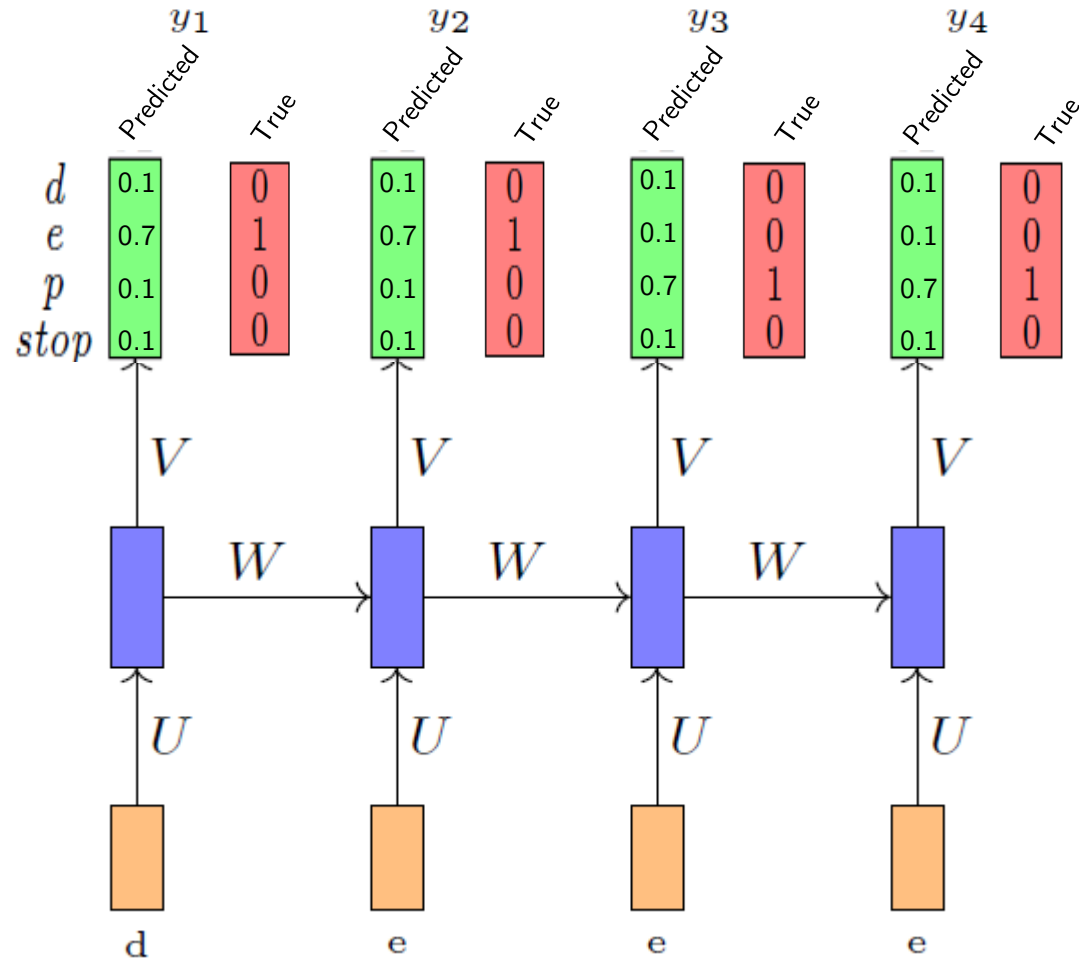
Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras

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- Suppose we initialize U , V , W randomly and the network predicts the probabilities (green block)

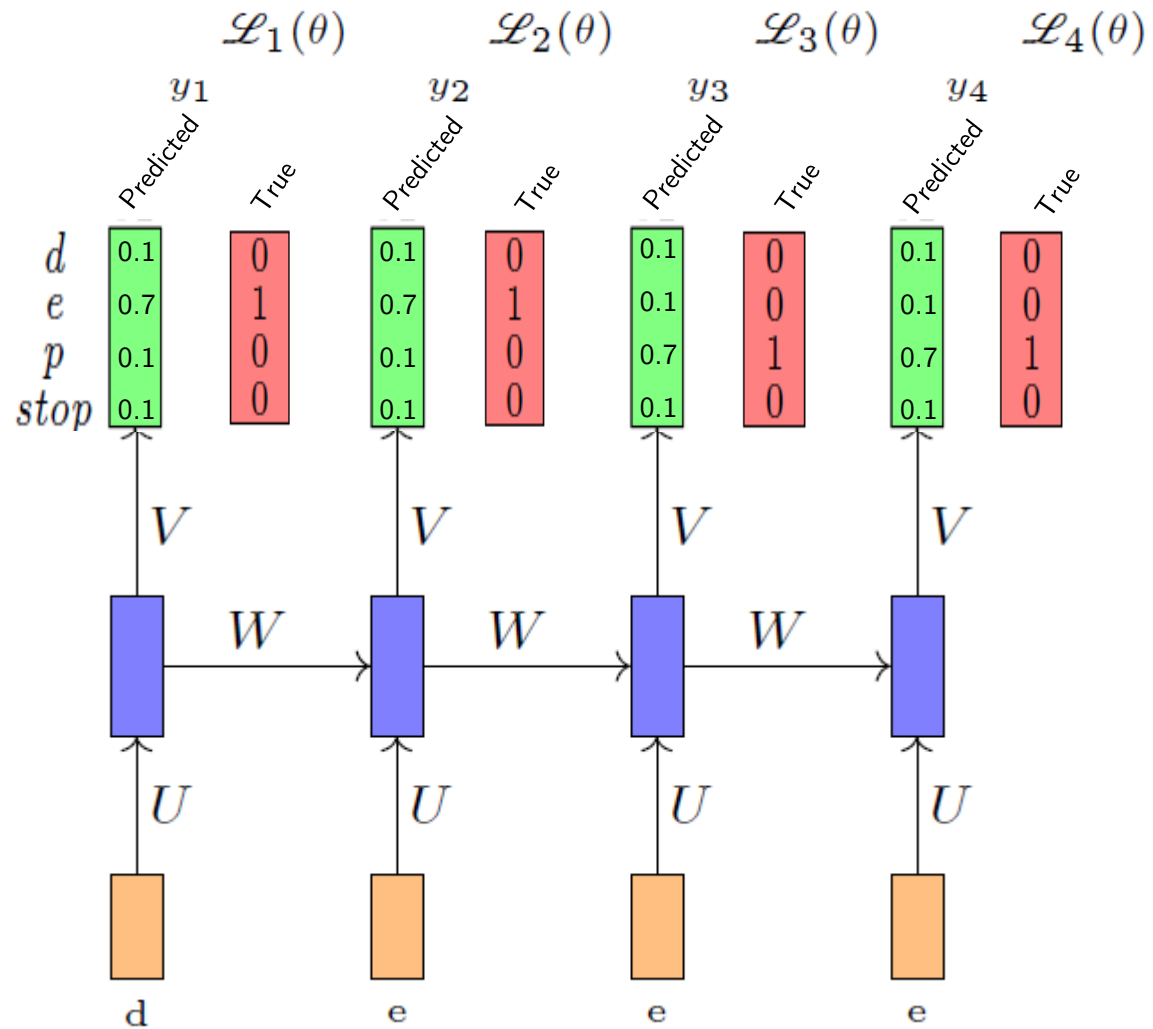
Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



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- For instance, consider the task of auto-completion (predicting the next character).
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- And the true probabilities are as shown (red block).

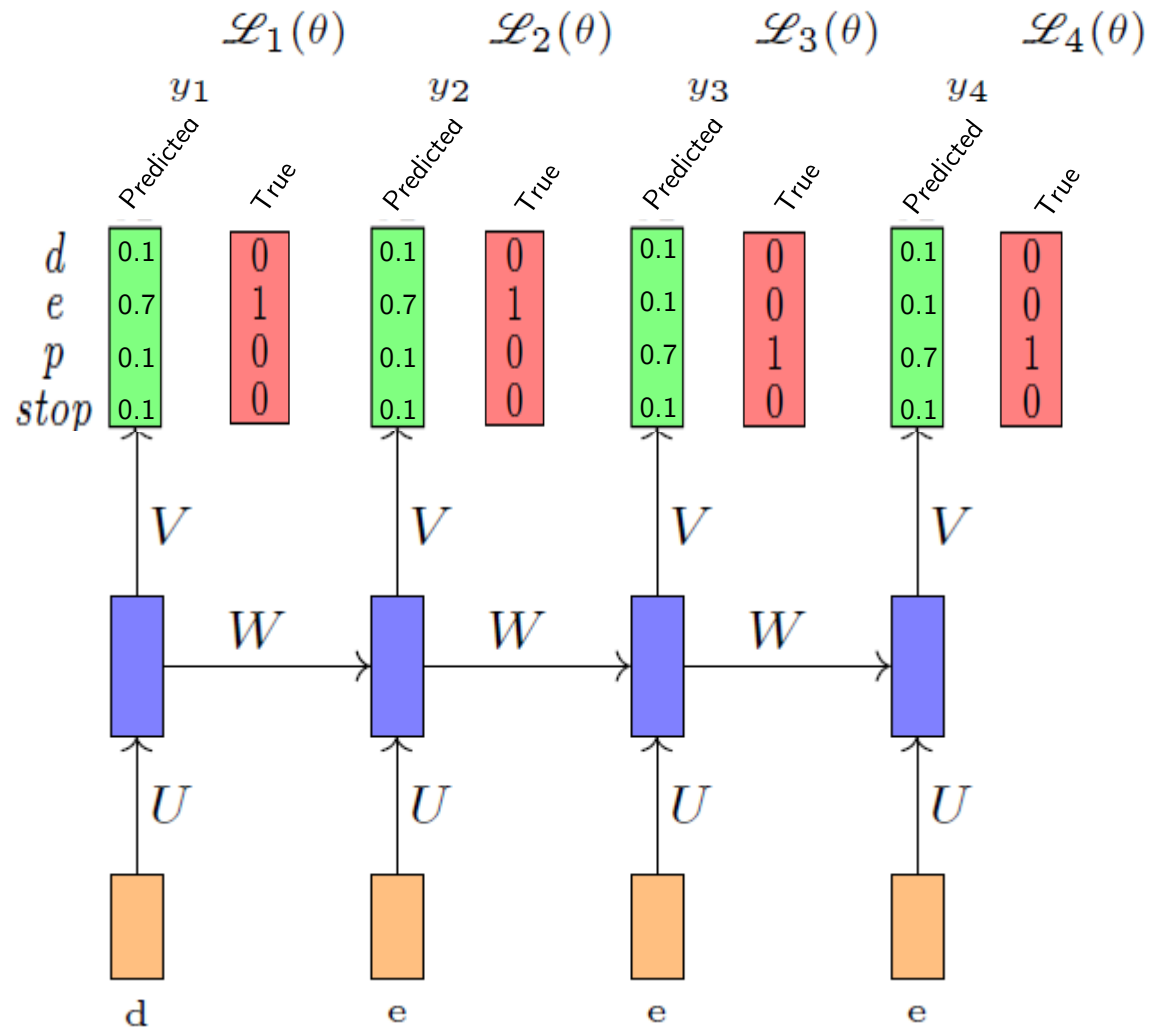
Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



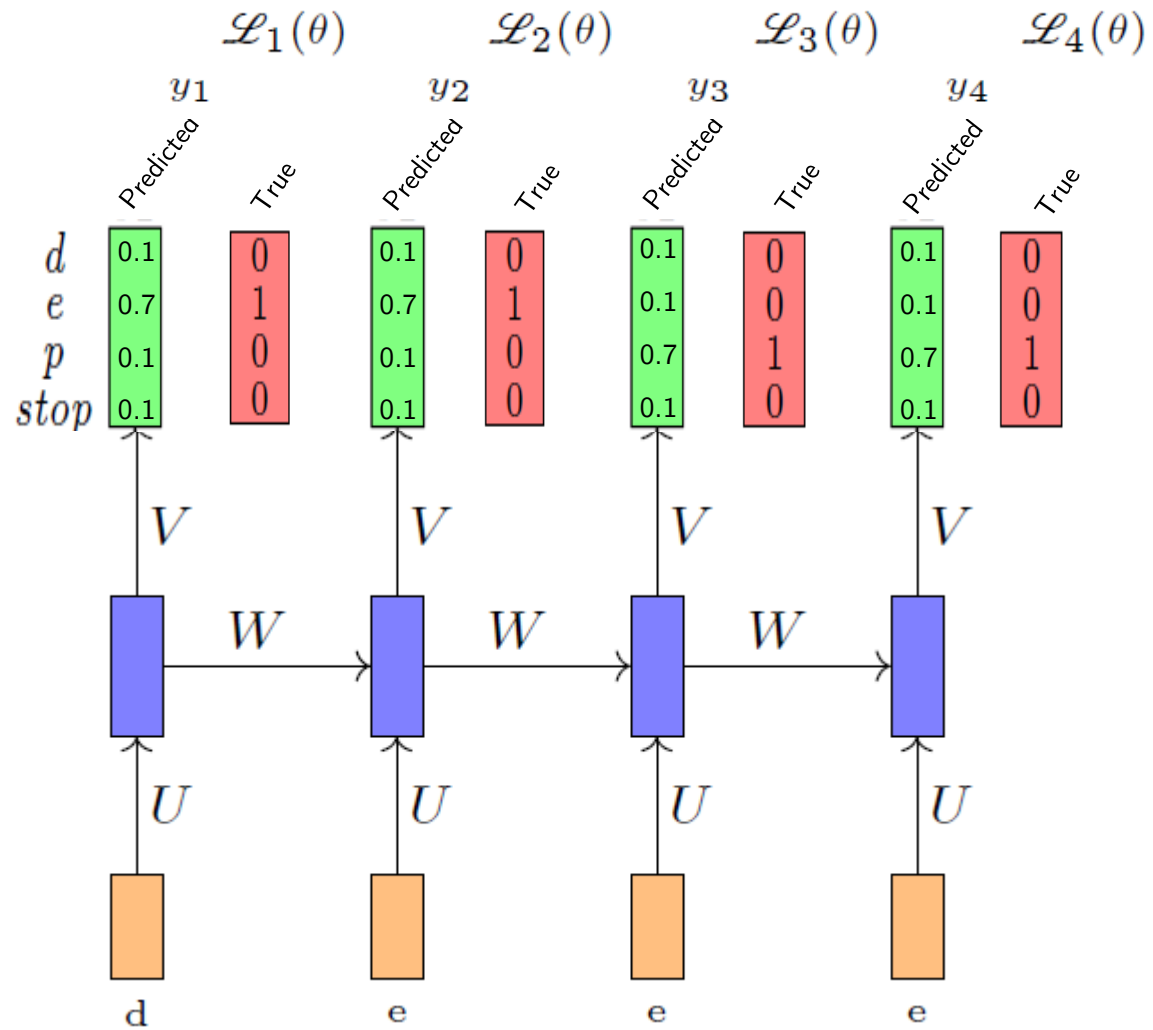
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- For instance, consider the task of auto-completion (predicting the next character).
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- At each timestep we want to predict one of these 4 characters.
- Suppose we initialize U, V, W randomly and the network predicts the probabilities (green block)
- And the true probabilities are as shown (red block).
- At each time step, the loss $\mathcal{L}_i(\theta)$ is calculated, where $\theta = \{U, V, W, b, c\}$ is the set of parameters.

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)

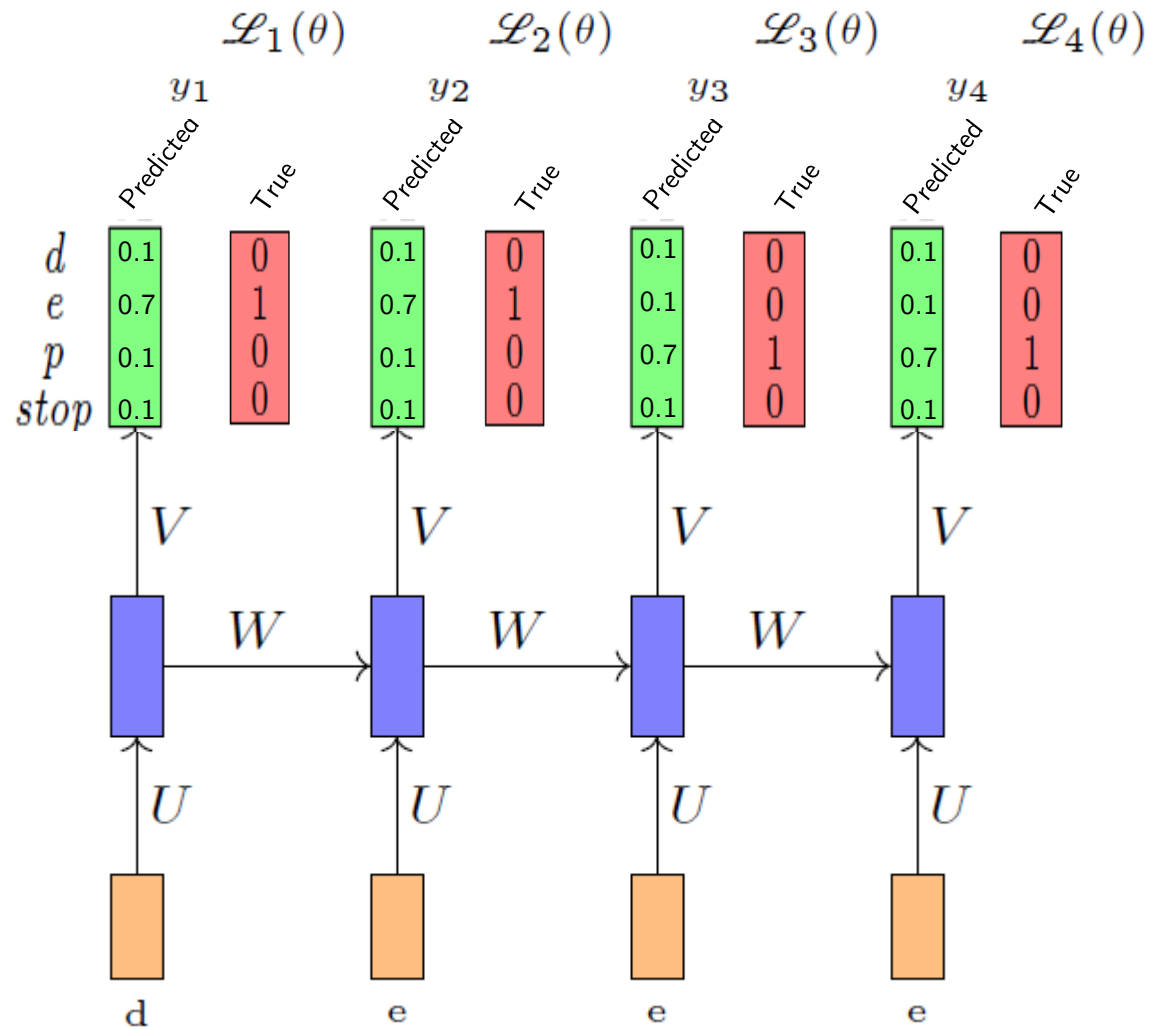


Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



To train the RNNs we need to answer two questions:

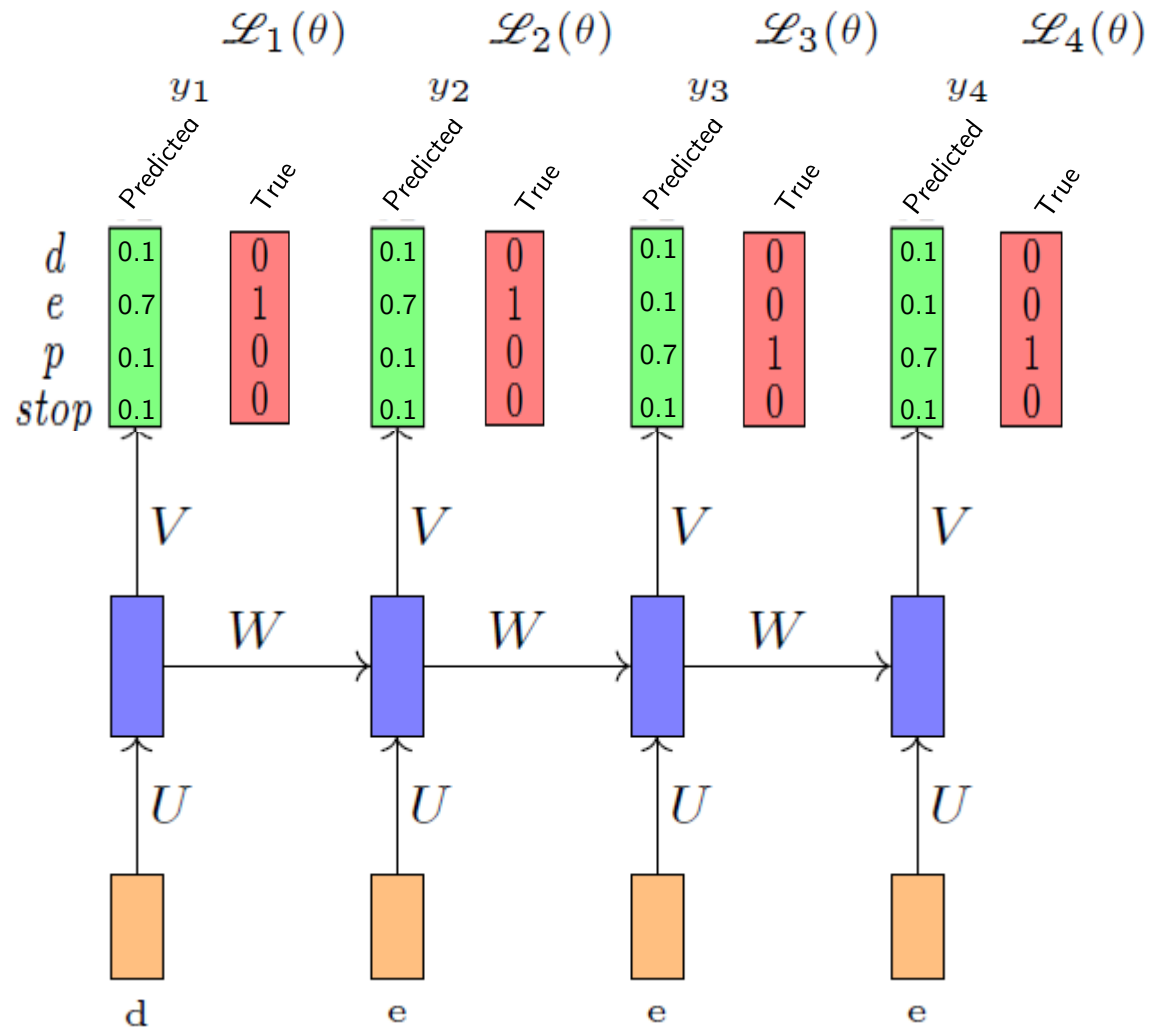
Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



To train the RNNs we need to answer two questions:

- 1) What is the total loss made by the model ?

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)

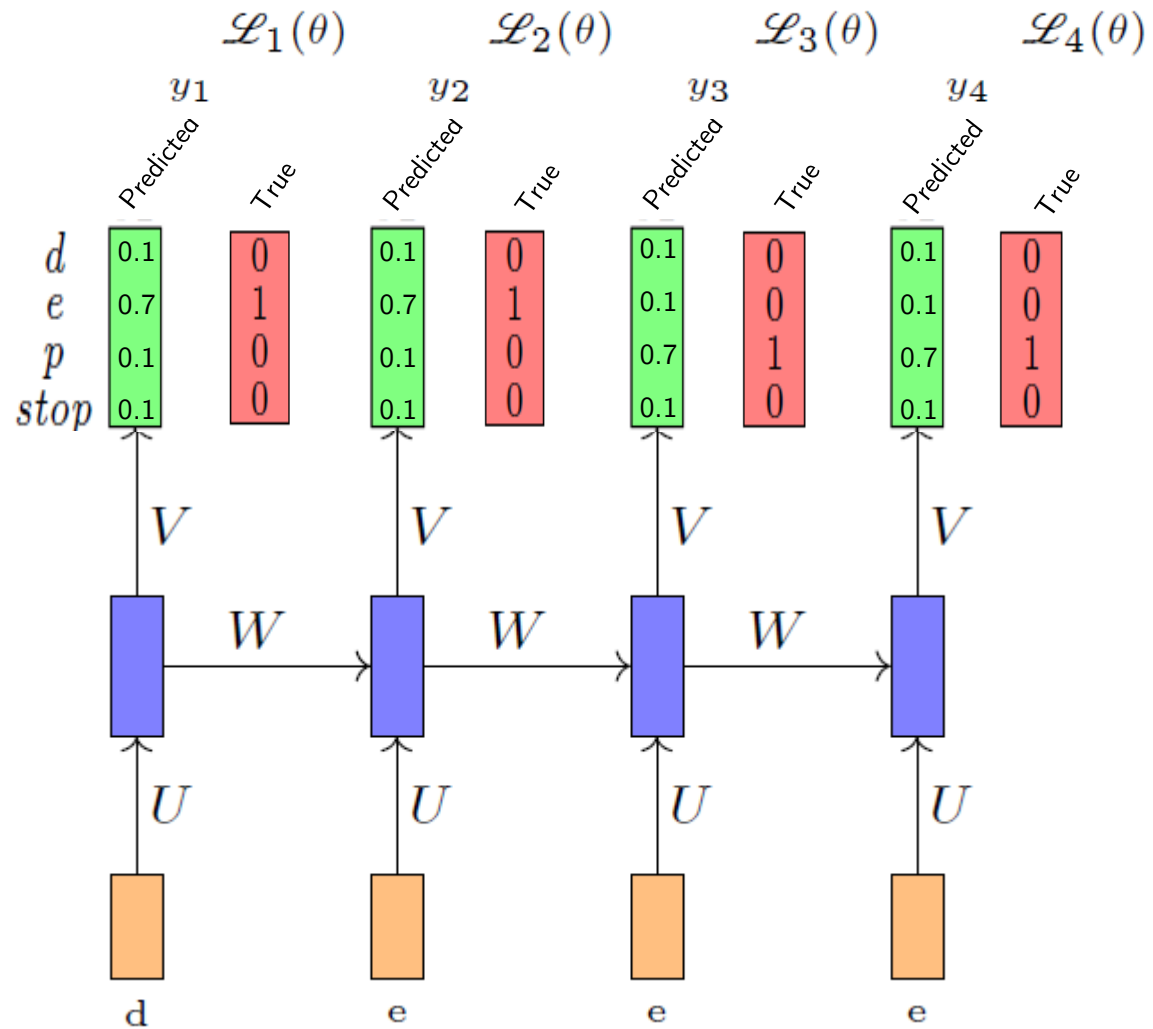


To train the RNNs we need to answer two questions:

1) What is the total loss made by the model ?

2) How do we backpropagate this loss and update the parameters of the network ?

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



To train the RNNs we need to answer two questions:

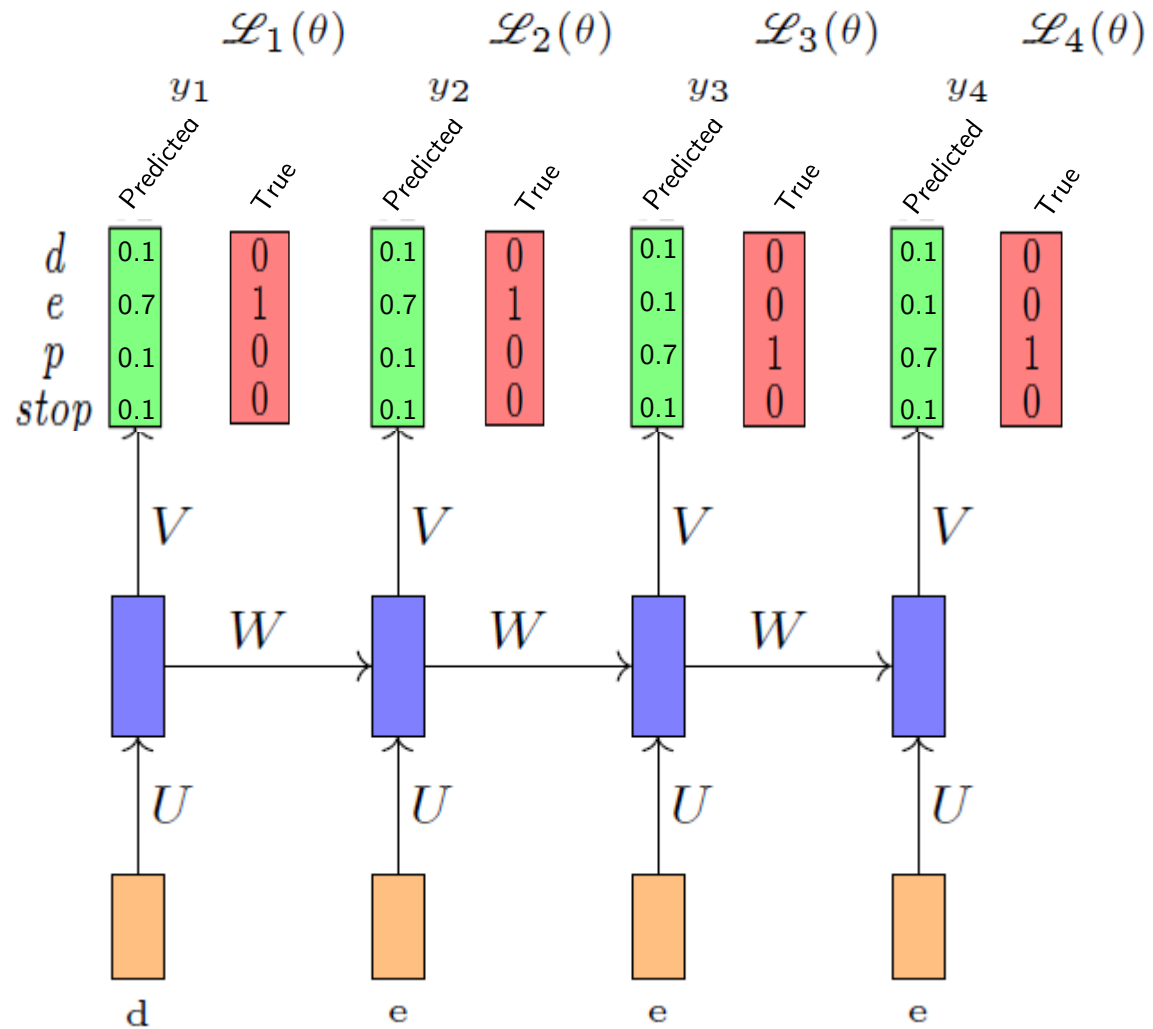
1) What is the total loss made by the model ?

Ans: the Sum of individual losses

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \sum_{t=1}^T \mathcal{L}_t(\theta)$$

2) How do we backpropagate this loss and update the parameters of the network ?

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



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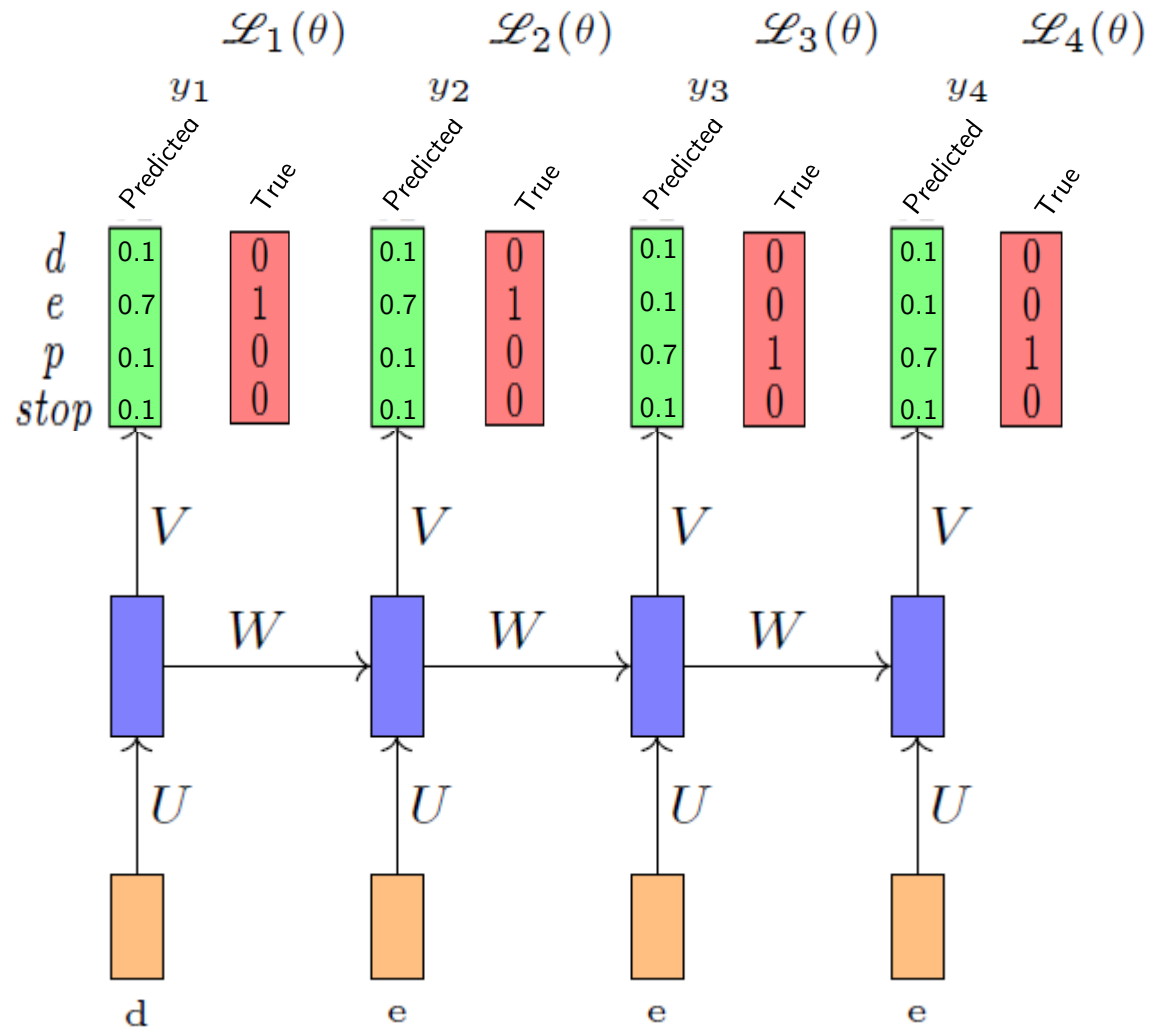
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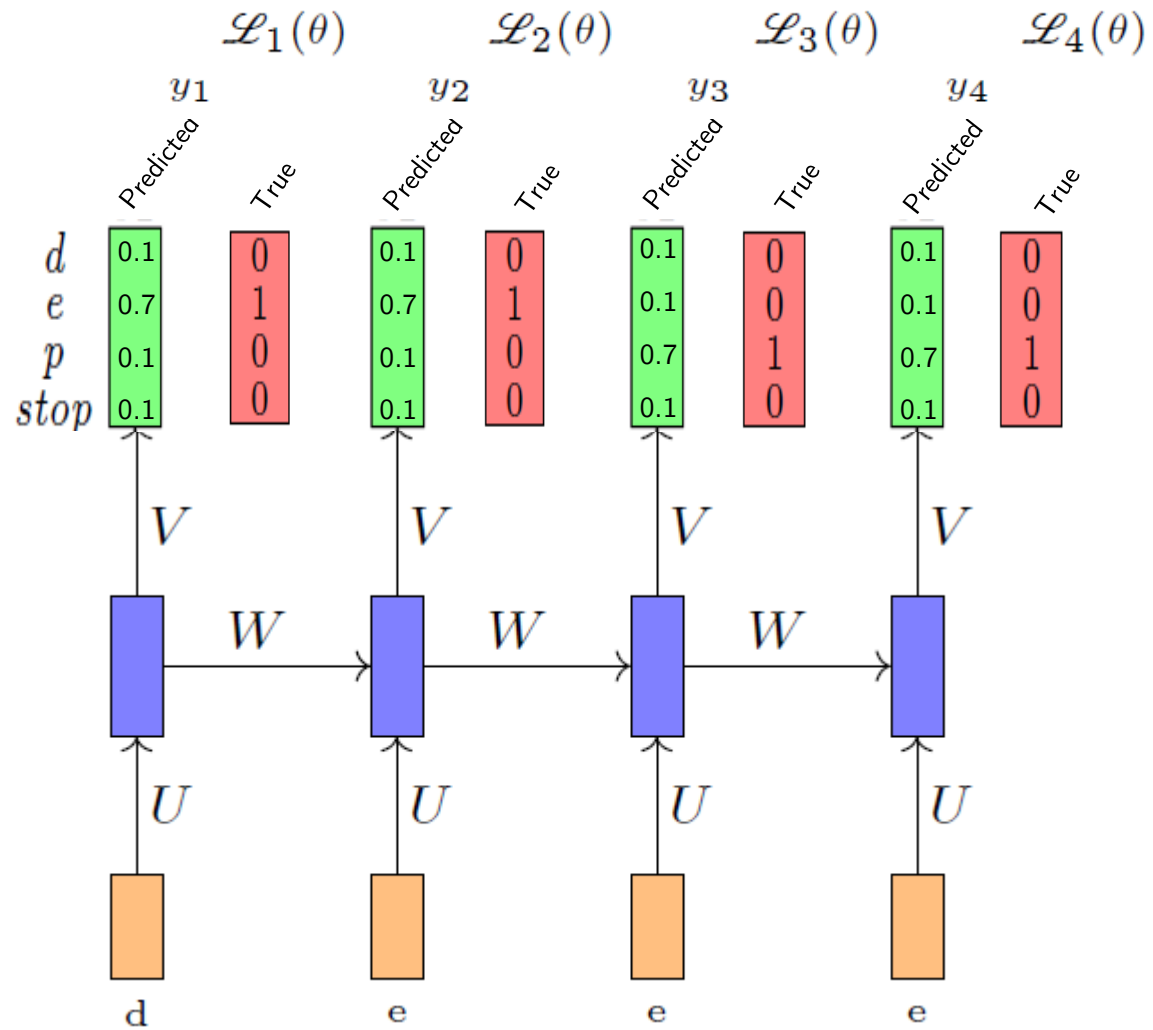
Ans: BPTT by computing the partial derivative of L w.r.t U , V , W , b , c

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



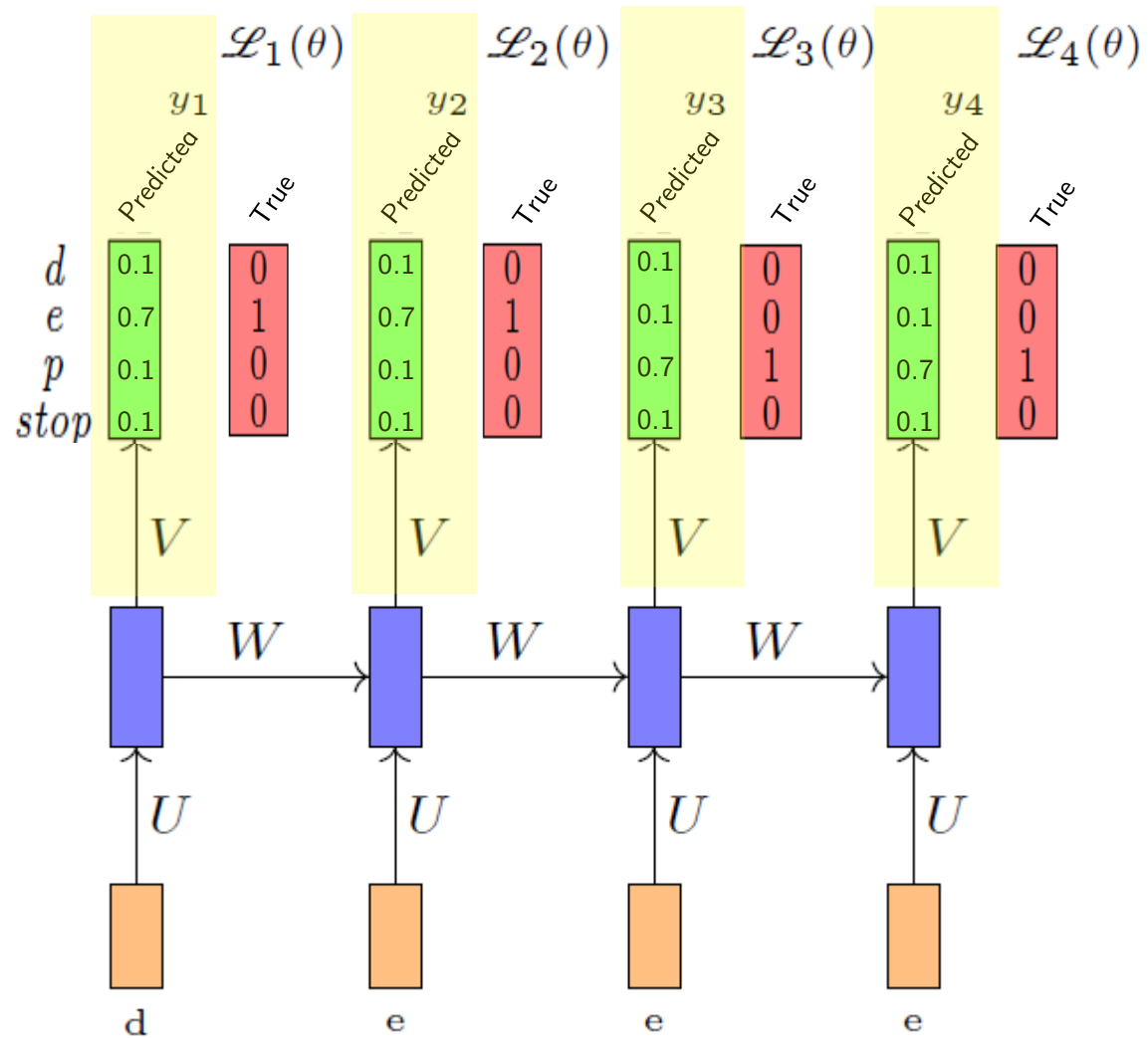
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Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras

Let us consider $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\theta)}{\partial V}$ (V is a matrix so ideally we should write $\nabla_v \mathcal{L}(\theta)$)

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\theta)}{\partial V} = \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_t(\theta)}{\partial V}$$

For example, if:

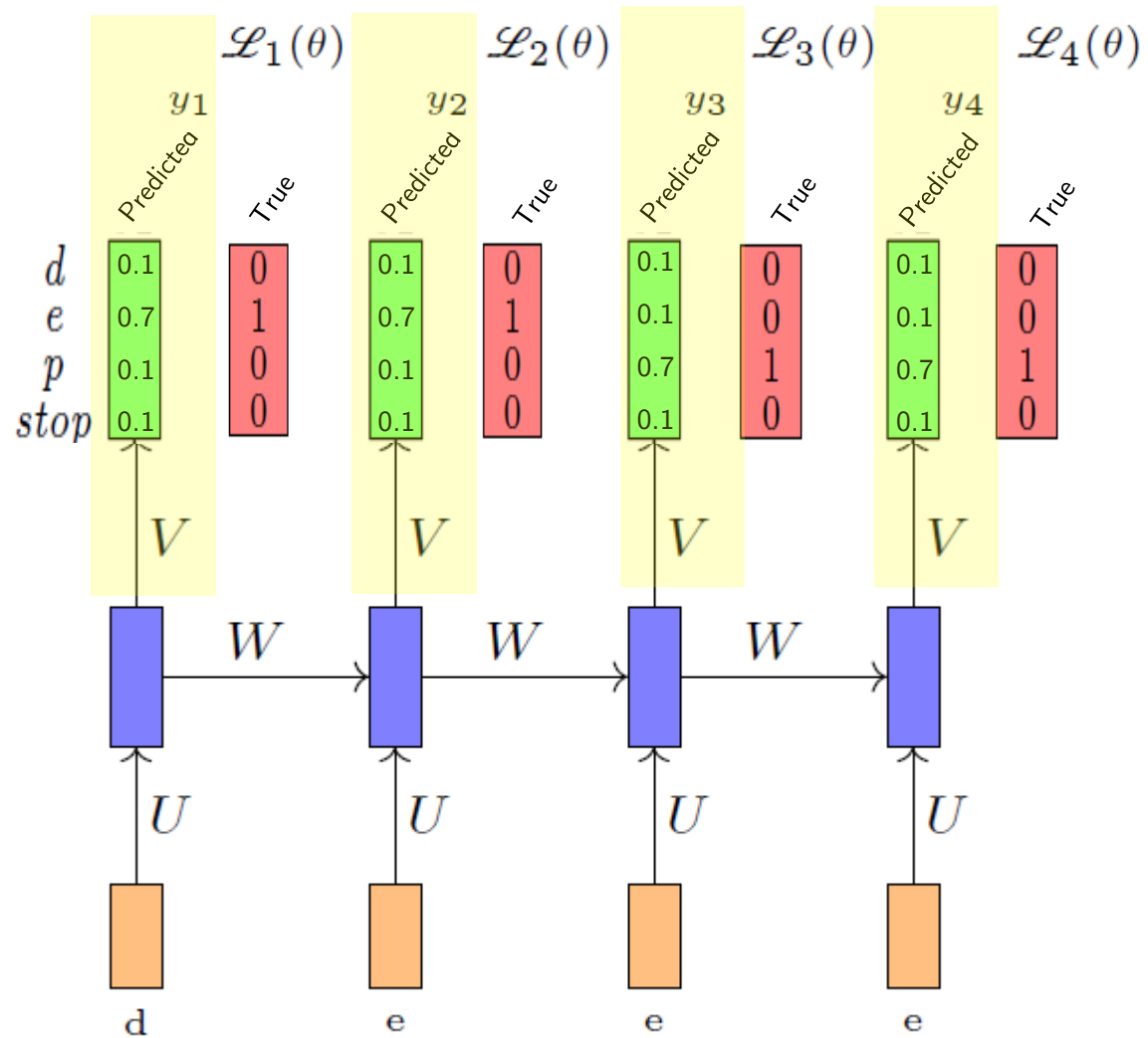
$$\hat{y}_4 = O(VS_4 + c) \quad \text{and} \quad L_4 = \frac{1}{2}(y_4 - \hat{y}_4)^2$$

Ignoring bias and considering O as linear:

$$\frac{\partial L_4}{\partial V} = \frac{\partial L_4}{\partial \hat{y}_4} \frac{\partial \hat{y}_4}{\partial V}$$

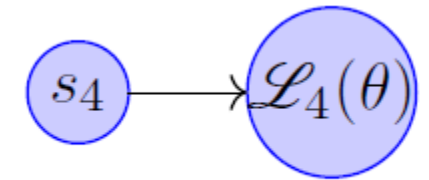
$$\frac{\partial L_4}{\partial V} = -(y_4 - \hat{y}_4) \cdot s_4$$

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



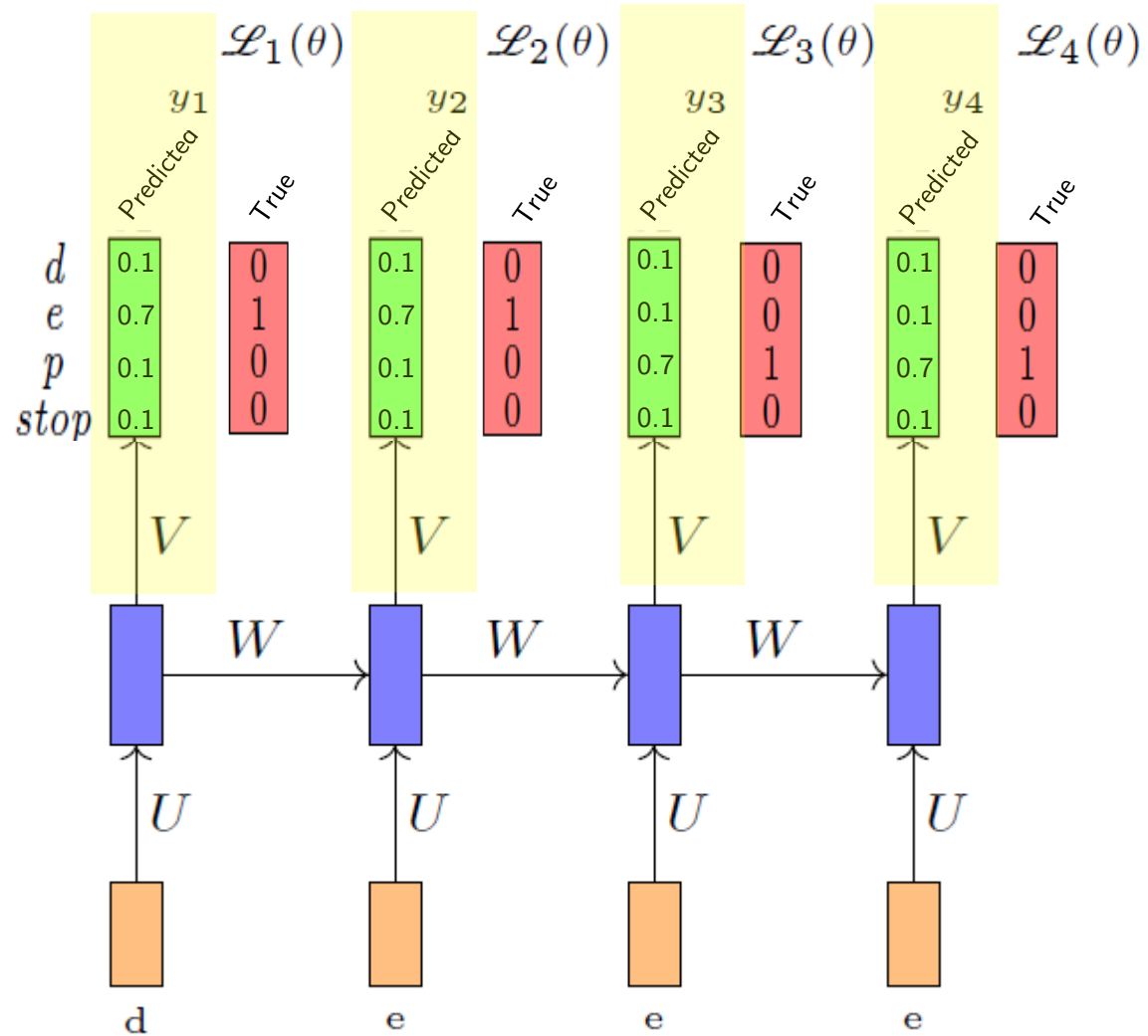
Let us consider the derivative $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\theta)}{\partial W}$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\theta)}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_t(\theta)}{\partial W}$$



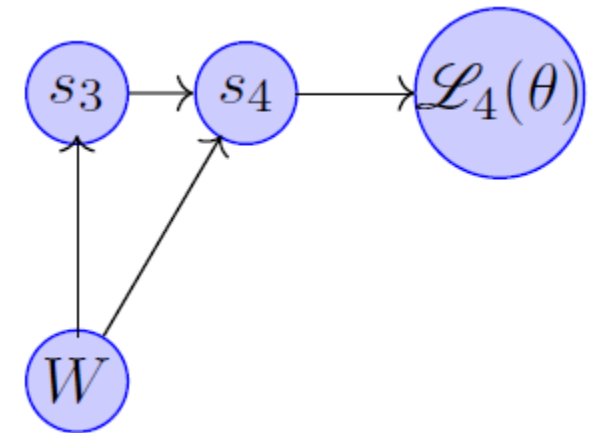
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Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



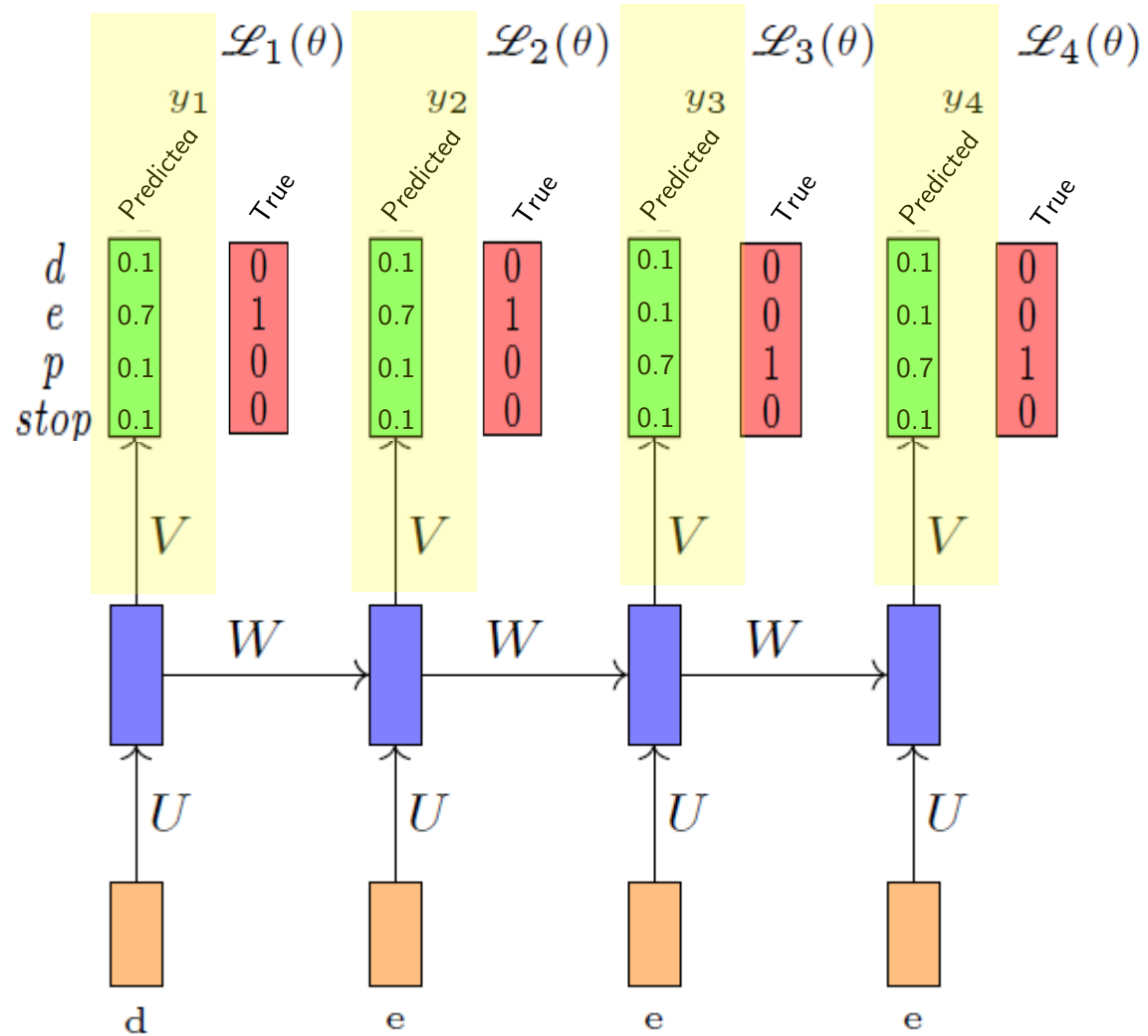
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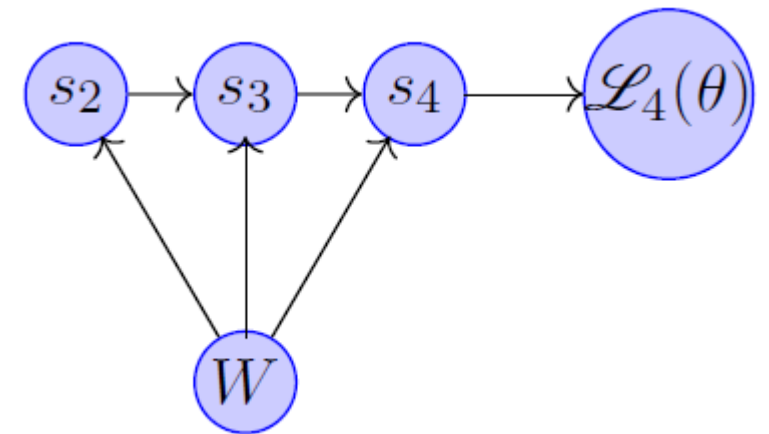
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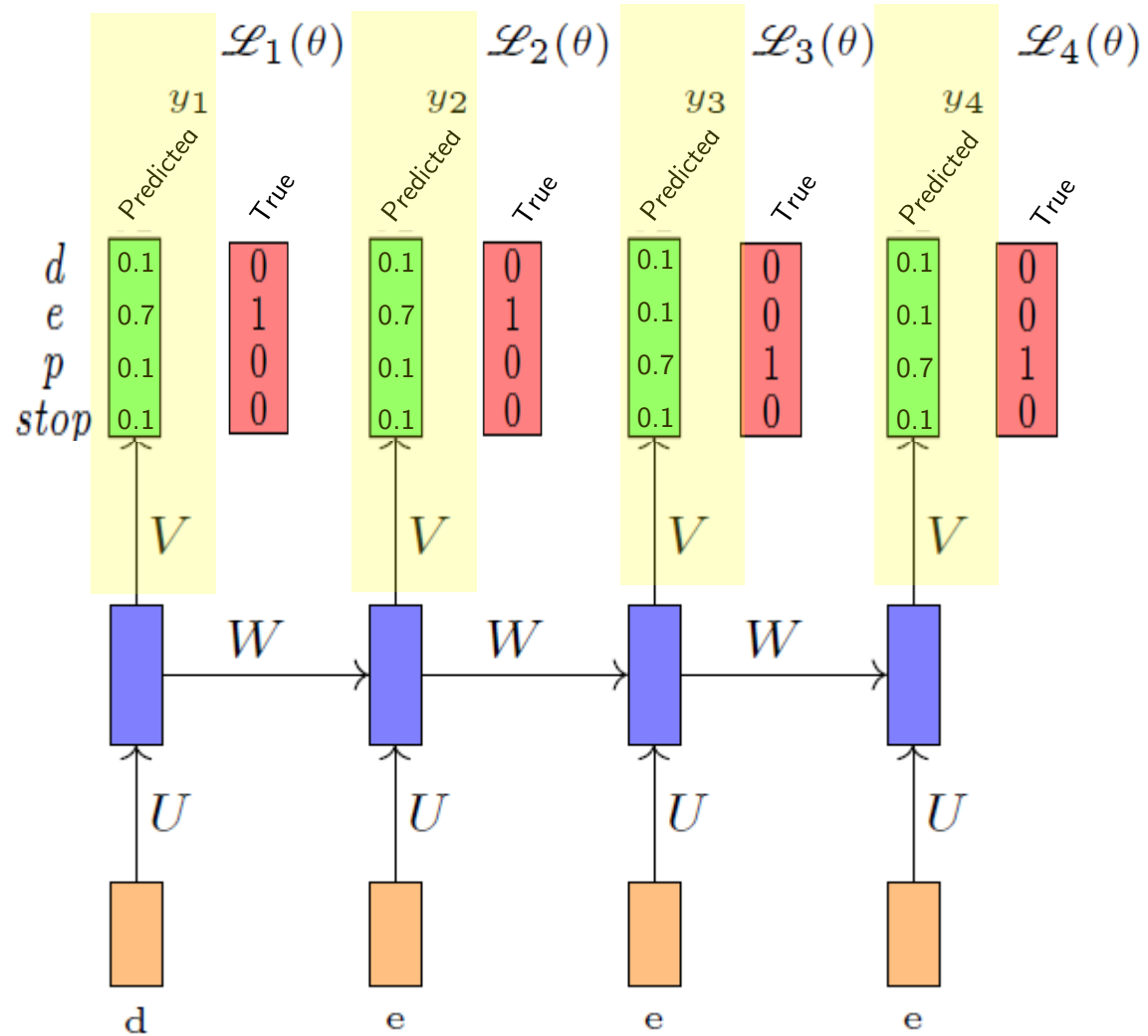
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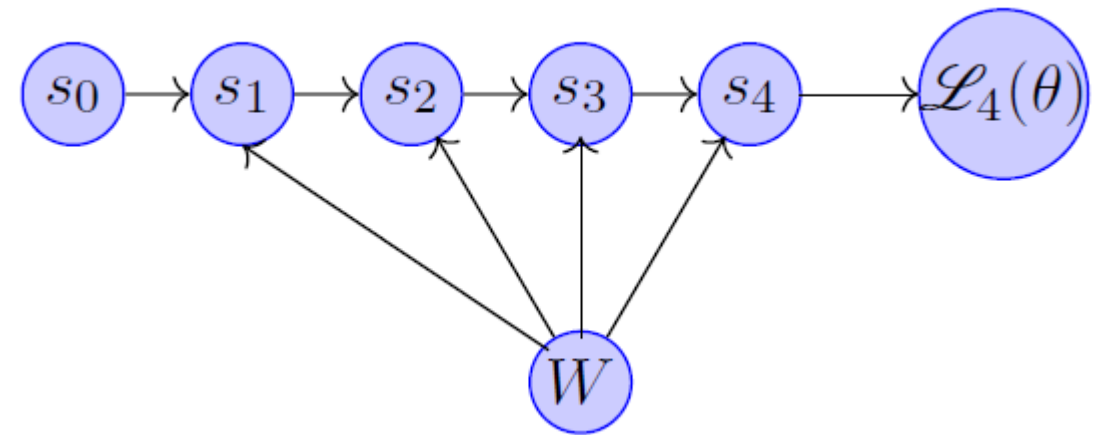
Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



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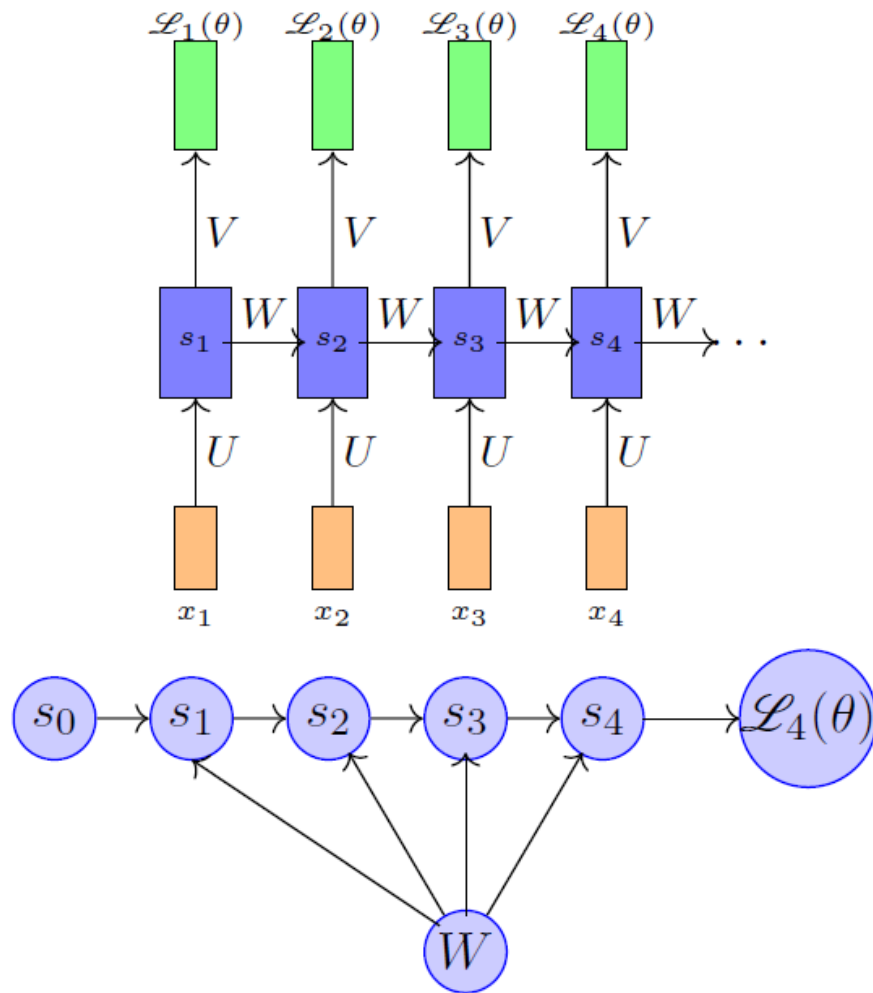
Let us consider the derivative $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\theta)}{\partial W}$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\theta)}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_t(\theta)}{\partial W}$$



Ordered network

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_4(\theta)}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_4(\theta)}{\partial s_4} \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial W}$$

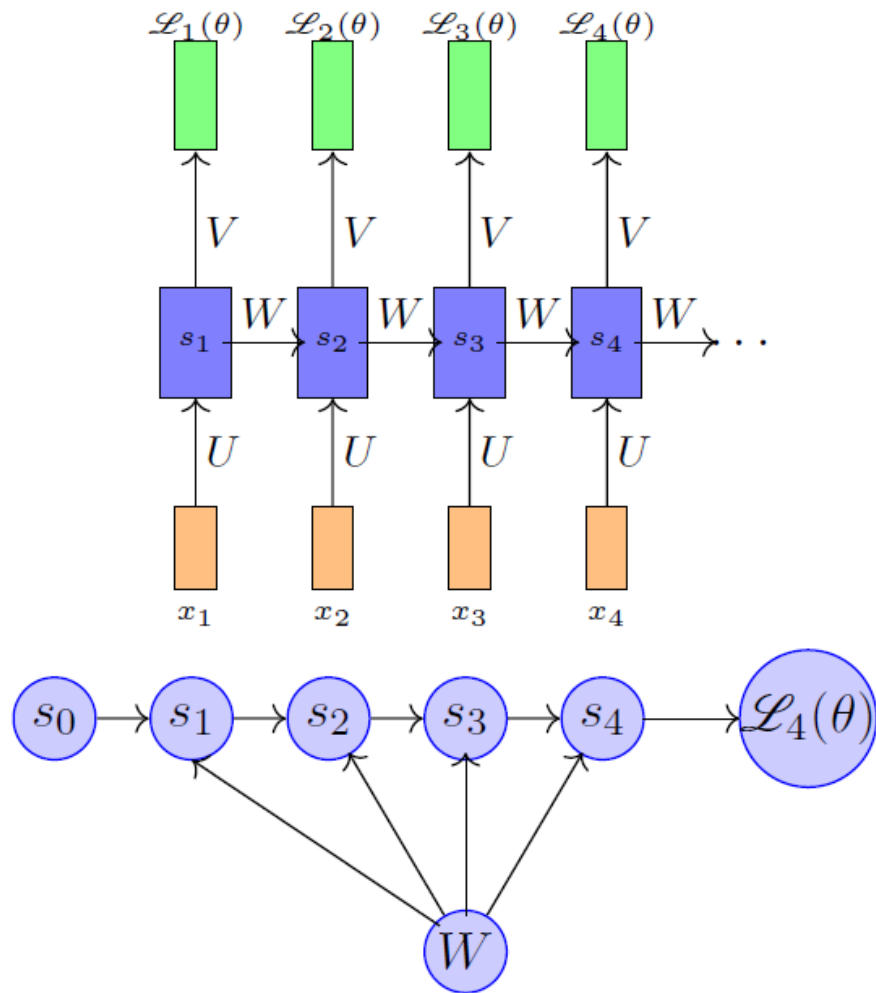
$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_4(\theta)}{\partial s_4}$ computation is straight forward

But how do we compute $\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial W}$

$$s_4 = \sigma(W s_3 + b)$$

In such an ordered network, we can't compute $\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial W}$ by simply treating s_3 as a constant (because it also depends on W)

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



But how do we compute $\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial W}$

In such networks the total derivative $\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial W}$ has two parts

Explicit : $\frac{\partial^+ s_4}{\partial W}$, treating all other inputs as constant

Implicit : Summing over all indirect paths from s_4 to W

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)

$$\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial W} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial^+ s_4}{\partial W}}_{\text{explicit}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \frac{\partial s_3}{\partial W}}_{\text{implicit}}$$

Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial W} &= \underbrace{\frac{\partial^+ s_4}{\partial W}}_{\text{explicit}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \frac{\partial s_3}{\partial W}}_{\text{implicit}} \\ &= \frac{\partial^+ s_4}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \left[\underbrace{\frac{\partial^+ s_3}{\partial W}}_{\text{explicit}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial s_3}{\partial s_2} \frac{\partial s_2}{\partial W}}_{\text{implicit}} \right]\end{aligned}$$

Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial W} &= \underbrace{\frac{\partial^+ s_4}{\partial W}}_{\text{explicit}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \frac{\partial s_3}{\partial W}}_{\text{implicit}} \\ &= \frac{\partial^+ s_4}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \left[\underbrace{\frac{\partial^+ s_3}{\partial W}}_{\text{explicit}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial s_3}{\partial s_2} \frac{\partial s_2}{\partial W}}_{\text{implicit}} \right] \\ &= \frac{\partial^+ s_4}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \frac{\partial^+ s_3}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \frac{\partial s_3}{\partial s_2} \left[\frac{\partial^+ s_2}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_2}{\partial s_1} \frac{\partial s_1}{\partial W} \right]\end{aligned}$$

Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)

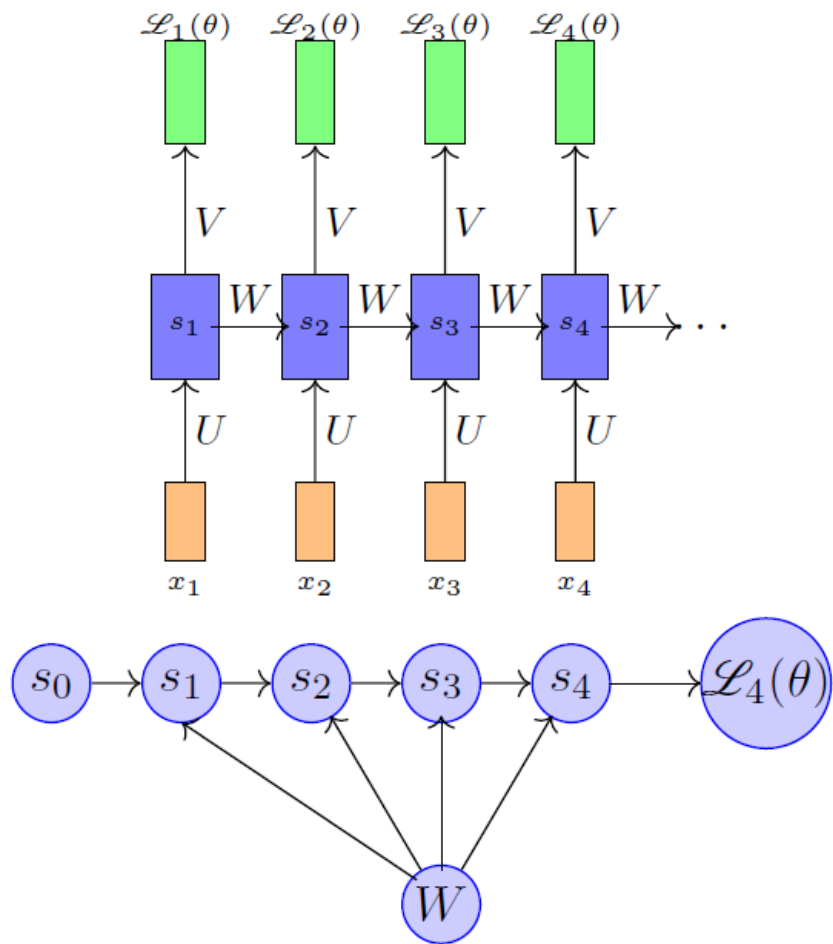
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial W} &= \underbrace{\frac{\partial^+ s_4}{\partial W}}_{\text{explicit}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \frac{\partial s_3}{\partial W}}_{\text{implicit}} \\ &= \frac{\partial^+ s_4}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \left[\underbrace{\frac{\partial^+ s_3}{\partial W}}_{\text{explicit}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial s_3}{\partial s_2} \frac{\partial s_2}{\partial W}}_{\text{implicit}} \right] \\ &= \frac{\partial^+ s_4}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \frac{\partial^+ s_3}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \frac{\partial s_3}{\partial s_2} \left[\frac{\partial^+ s_2}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_2}{\partial s_1} \frac{\partial s_1}{\partial W} \right] \\ &= \frac{\partial^+ s_4}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \frac{\partial^+ s_3}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \frac{\partial s_3}{\partial s_2} \frac{\partial^+ s_2}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \frac{\partial s_3}{\partial s_2} \frac{\partial s_2}{\partial s_1} \left[\frac{\partial^+ s_1}{\partial W} \right]\end{aligned}$$

For simplicity we will short-circuit some of the paths

$$\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_4} \frac{\partial^+ s_4}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_3} \frac{\partial^+ s_3}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_2} \frac{\partial^+ s_2}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_1} \frac{\partial^+ s_1}{\partial W} = \sum_{k=1}^4 \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_k} \frac{\partial^+ s_k}{\partial W}$$

Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras

Training RNNs : Backpropagation through time (BPTT)



Finally we have

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_4(\theta)}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_4(\theta)}{\partial s_4} \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial W}$$

$$\frac{\partial s_4}{\partial W} = \sum_{k=1}^4 \frac{\partial s_4}{\partial s_k} \frac{\partial^+ s_k}{\partial W}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_t(\theta)}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_t(\theta)}{\partial s_t} \sum_{k=1}^t \frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_k} \frac{\partial^+ s_k}{\partial W}$$

This algorithm is called backpropagation through time (BPTT) as we backpropagate over all previous time steps

Back Propagation through time – Vanishing & Exploding gradient

We will now focus on $\frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_k}$ and highlight an important problem in training RNN's using BPTT

$$a_j = [a_{j1}, a_{j2}, a_{j3}, \dots, a_{jd},]$$
$$s_j = [\sigma(a_{j1}), \sigma(a_{j2}), \dots, \sigma(a_{jd})]$$

$$\frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_k} = \frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_{t-1}} \frac{\partial s_{t-1}}{\partial s_{t-2}} \cdots \frac{\partial s_{k+1}}{\partial s_k} = \prod_{j=k}^{t-1} \frac{\partial s_{j+1}}{\partial s_j}$$

Let us look at one such term in the product (i.e., $\frac{\partial s_{j+1}}{\partial s_j}$)

Recall that:

$$a_j = W s_{j-1} + b$$
$$s_j = \sigma(a_j)$$

Therefore:

$$\frac{\partial s_{j+1}}{\partial s_j} = \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial s_{j-1}} = \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial a_j} \frac{\partial a_j}{\partial s_{j-1}}$$

$$\frac{\partial s_j}{\partial a_j} = \begin{bmatrix} \phantom{\frac{\partial s_j}{\partial a_j}} \end{bmatrix}$$

Back Propagation through time – Vanishing & Exploding gradient

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$$\frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_k} = \frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_{t-1}} \frac{\partial s_{t-1}}{\partial s_{t-2}} \cdots \frac{\partial s_{k+1}}{\partial s_k}$$

Let us look at one such term in the product (i.e., $\frac{\partial s_{j+1}}{\partial s_j}$)

$$\begin{aligned} a_j &= W s_{j-1} + b \\ s_j &= \sigma(a_j) \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial s_j}{\partial s_{j-1}} = \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial a_j} \frac{\partial a_j}{\partial s_{j-1}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_j &= [a_{j1}, a_{j2}, a_{j3}, \dots, a_{jd},] \\ s_j &= [\sigma(a_{j1}), \sigma(a_{j2}), \dots, \sigma(a_{jd})] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial a_j} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial s_{j1}}{\partial a_{j1}} & \frac{\partial s_{j2}}{\partial a_{j1}} & \frac{\partial s_{j3}}{\partial a_{j1}} & \cdots \\ \frac{\partial s_{j1}}{\partial a_{j2}} & \frac{\partial s_{j2}}{\partial a_{j2}} & \ddots & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \frac{\partial s_{jd}}{\partial a_{jd}} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \sigma'(a_{j1}) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma'(a_{j2}) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \sigma'(a_{jd}) \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Back Propagation through time – Vanishing & Exploding gradient

We will now focus on $\frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_k}$ and highlight an important problem in training RNN's using BPTT

$$\frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_k} = \frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_{t-1}} \frac{\partial s_{t-1}}{\partial s_{t-2}} \cdots \frac{\partial s_{k+1}}{\partial s_k}$$

Let us look at one such term in the product (i.e., $\frac{\partial s_{j+1}}{\partial s_j}$)

$$\begin{aligned} a_j &= W s_{j-1} + b \\ s_j &= \sigma(a_j) \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial s_j}{\partial s_{j-1}} = \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial a_j} \frac{\partial a_j}{\partial s_{j-1}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_j &= [a_{j1}, a_{j2}, a_{j3}, \dots, a_{jd},] \\ s_j &= [\sigma(a_{j1}), \sigma(a_{j2}), \dots, \sigma(a_{jd})] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial a_j} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial s_{j1}}{\partial a_{j1}} & \frac{\partial s_{j2}}{\partial a_{j1}} & \frac{\partial s_{j3}}{\partial a_{j1}} & \cdots \\ \frac{\partial s_{j1}}{\partial a_{j2}} & \frac{\partial s_{j2}}{\partial a_{j2}} & \ddots & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \frac{\partial s_{jd}}{\partial a_{jd}} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \sigma'(a_{j1}) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma'(a_{j2}) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \sigma'(a_{jd}) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \text{diag}(\sigma'(a_j)) \end{aligned}$$

Back Propagation through time – Vanishing & Exploding gradient

We will now focus on $\frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_k}$ and highlight an important problem in training RNN's using BPTT

$$\frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_k} = \frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_{t-1}} \frac{\partial s_{t-1}}{\partial s_{t-2}} \cdots \frac{\partial s_{k+1}}{\partial s_k}$$

Let us look at one such term in the product (i.e., $\frac{\partial s_{j+1}}{\partial s_j}$)

$$a_j = W s_{j-1} + b$$
$$s_j = \sigma(a_j)$$

$$\frac{\partial s_j}{\partial s_{j-1}} = \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial a_j} \frac{\partial a_j}{\partial s_{j-1}}$$

We are interested in the magnitude of $\frac{\partial s_j}{\partial s_{j-1}} \leftarrow$ if it is small (large) $\frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_k}$ and hence $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_t}{\partial W}$ will vanish (explode)

$$a_j = [a_{j1}, a_{j2}, a_{j3}, \dots, a_{jd},]$$
$$s_j = [\sigma(a_{j1}), \sigma(a_{j2}), \dots, \sigma(a_{jd})]$$

$$\frac{\partial s_j}{\partial a_j} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial s_{j1}}{\partial a_{j1}} & \frac{\partial s_{j2}}{\partial a_{j1}} & \frac{\partial s_{j3}}{\partial a_{j1}} & \cdots \\ \frac{\partial s_{j1}}{\partial a_{j2}} & \frac{\partial s_{j2}}{\partial a_{j2}} & \ddots & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \frac{\partial s_{jd}}{\partial a_{jd}} \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} \sigma'(a_{j1}) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma'(a_{j2}) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \sigma'(a_{jd}) \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \text{diag}(\sigma'(a_j))$$

Back Propagation through time – Vanishing & Exploding gradient

$$\begin{aligned}\left\| \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial s_{j-1}} \right\| &= \left\| \text{diag}(\sigma'(a_j)) W \right\| \\ &\leq \left\| \text{diag}(\sigma'(a_j)) \right\| \|W\|\end{aligned}$$

$\because \sigma(a_j)$ is a bounded function (sigmoid, tanh) $\sigma'(a_j)$ is bounded

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma'(a_j) &\leq \frac{1}{4} = \gamma \text{ [if } \sigma \text{ is logistic]} \\ &\leq 1 = \gamma \text{ [if } \sigma \text{ is tanh]}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\left\| \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial s_{j-1}} \right\| &\leq \gamma \|W\| \\ &\leq \gamma \lambda\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\left\| \frac{\partial s_t}{\partial s_k} \right\| &= \left\| \prod_{j=k+1}^t \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial s_{j-1}} \right\| \\ &\leq \prod_{j=k+1}^t \gamma \lambda \\ &\leq (\gamma \lambda)^{t-k}\end{aligned}$$

If $\gamma \lambda < 1$ the gradient will vanish

If $\gamma \lambda > 1$ the gradient could explode

Back Propagation through time – Vanishing & Exploding gradient

input value is amplified
16 times before it gets
to the final copy of the
network.

$$\text{Input}_1 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2$$

$$= \text{Input}_1 \times 2^4$$

$$= \text{Input}_1 \times w_2^{\text{Num. Unroll}}$$

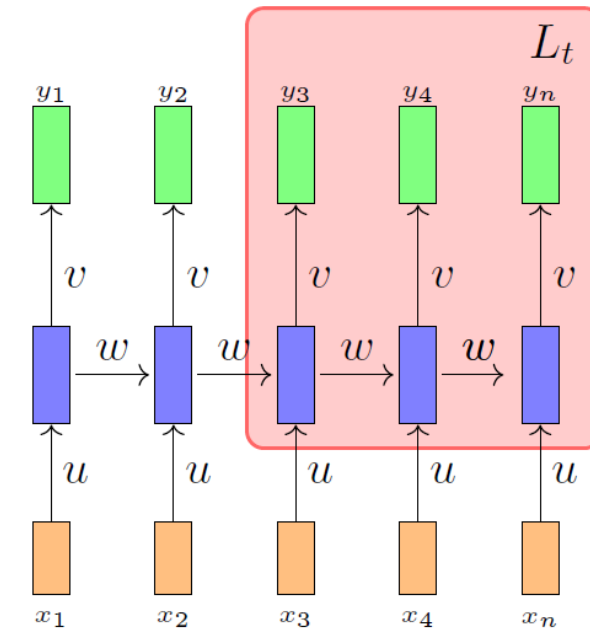


A gist of the exploding gradient (same case with vanishing gradient if instead of 2 the value is less than 1)

Back Propagation through time in RNNs : Issues & Solutions

1. Gradient calculations are expensive
(slow training for long sequences)
 - Solution: Truncated BPTT
2. Exploding gradients (long sequences)
3. Vanishing gradients (long sequences)

Source: CS7015 Deep Learning, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras



- Instead of looking at all 'n' time steps, we would look at lesser time steps allowing us to estimate rather than calculate the gradient used to update the weights.

Back Propagation through time in RNNs : Issues & Solutions

1. Gradient calculations are expensive
(slow training for long sequences)
 - Solution: Truncated BPTT
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 - Solution: Gradient Clipping
3. Vanishing gradients (long sequences)

$$\text{Let } g = \frac{\partial L}{\partial W}$$

I. Clipping by value:

if $\|g\| \geq \text{max_threshold}$ then:

$g \leftarrow \text{threshold}$

end if

II. Clipping by norm:

if $\|g\| \geq \text{threshold}$ then:

$g \leftarrow \text{threshold} * g / \|g\|$

end if

Back Propagation through time in RNNs : Issues & Solutions

1. Gradient calculations are expensive
(slow training for long sequences)
 - Solution: Truncated BPTT
2. Exploding gradients (long sequences)
 - Solution: Gradient Clipping
3. Vanishing gradients (long sequences)
 - Solution: Use alternate RNN architectures such as LSTM and GRU.