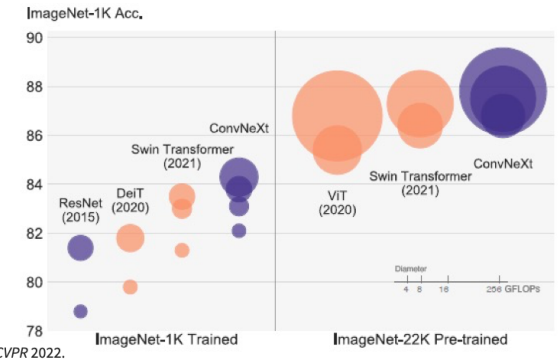
Lecture 7:
Recurrent Neural Networks

Training "Feedforward" Neural Networks

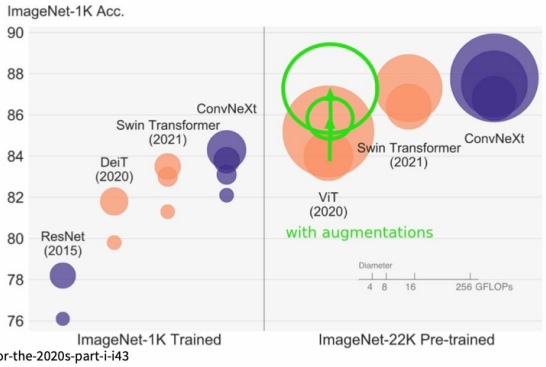
1. **One time setup:** activation functions, preprocessing, weight initialization, regularization, gradient checking
2. **Training dynamics:** babysitting the learning process, parameter updates, hyperparameter optimization
3. **Evaluation:** model ensembles, test-time augmentation, transfer learning

More complexity…



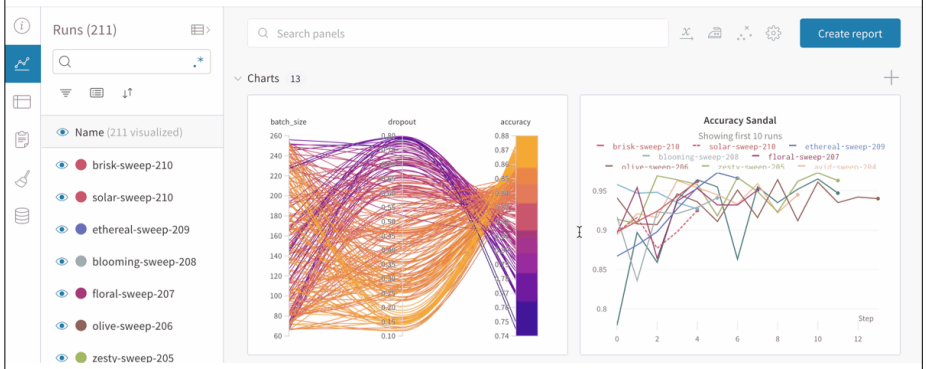
Liu, Zhuang, et al. "A convnet for the 2020s." *CVPR* 2022.

More complexity…



https://dev.to/rohitgupta24/convnext-a-convnet-for-the-2020s-part-i-i43

Evaluate models and tune hyperparameters

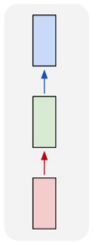


https://docs.wandb.ai/guides/track/app

Today: Recurrent Neural Networks

"Vanilla" Neural Network

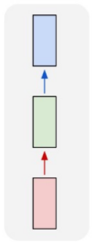
one to one



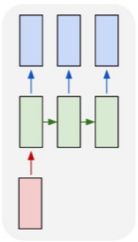
Vanilla Neural Networks

Recurrent Neural Networks: Process Sequences

one to one

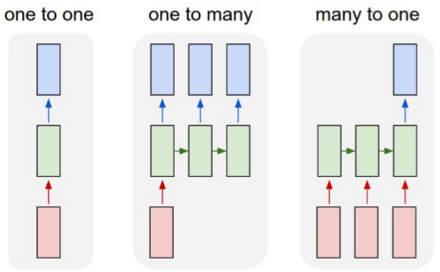


one to many



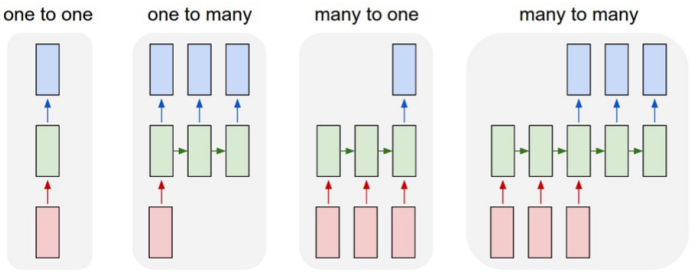
e.g. Image Captioning
image -> sequence of words

Recurrent Neural Networks: Process Sequences



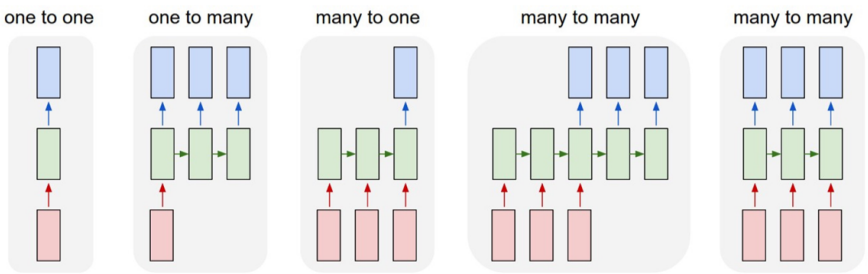
e.g. action prediction
sequence of video frames -> action class

Recurrent Neural Networks: Process Sequences



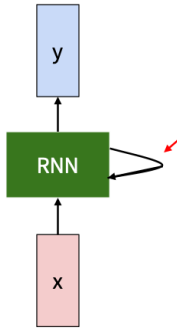
E.g. Video Captioning
Sequence of video frames -> caption

Recurrent Neural Networks: Process Sequences



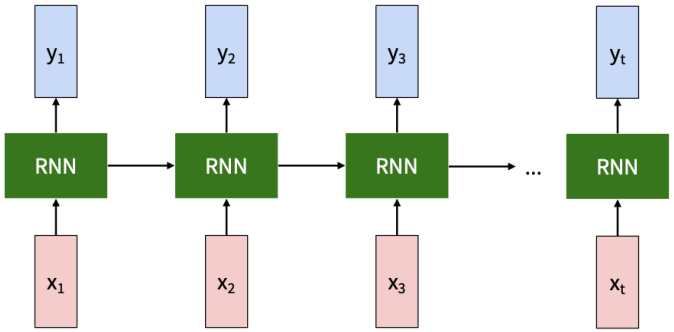
e.g. Video classification on frame level

Recurrent Neural Network



Key idea: RNNs have an "internal state" that is updated as a sequence is processed

Unrolled RNN



RNN hidden state update

We can process a sequence of vectors x by applying a recurrence formula at every time step:

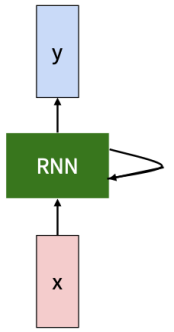
$$h_t = f_W(h_{t-1}, x_t)$$

new state

old state

input vector at some time step

some function with parameters W



RNN output generation

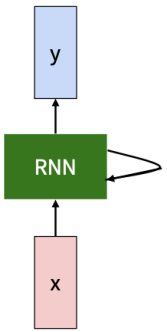
We can process a sequence of vectors x by applying a recurrence formula at every time step:

$$y_t = f_{W_{hy}}(h_t)$$

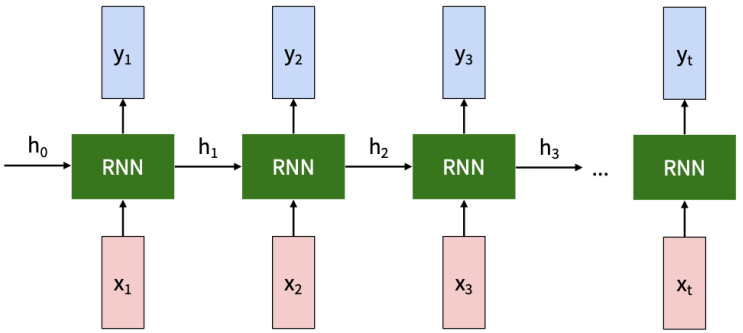
output

new state

another function with parameters W_{hy}



Recurrent Neural Network



Recurrent Neural Network

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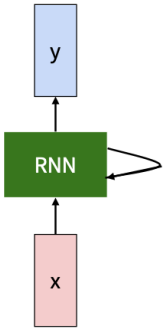
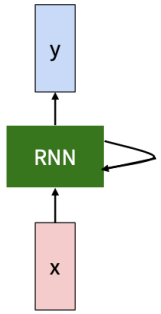
$$h_t = f_W(h_{t-1}, x_t)$$



Notice: the same function and the same set of parameters are used at every time step.

(Vanilla) Recurrent Neural Network

The state consists of a single "hidden" vector h:



$$h_t = f_W(h_{t-1}, x_t)$$

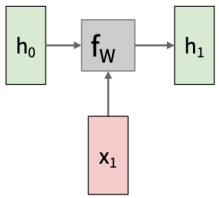
$$\downarrow$$

$$h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$

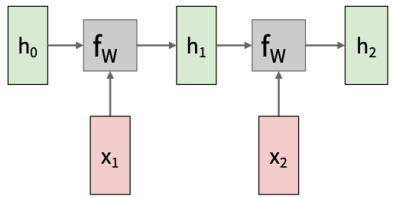
$$y_t = W_{hy}h_t$$

Sometimes called a "Vanilla RNN" or an "Elman RNN" after Prof. Jeffrey Elman

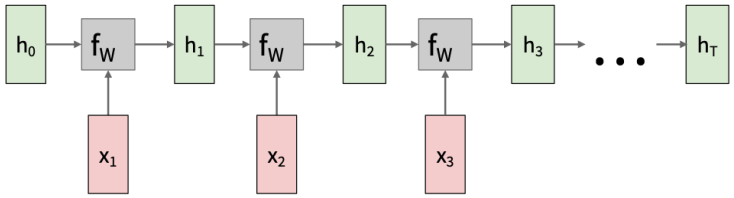
RNN: Computational Graph



RNN: Computational Graph

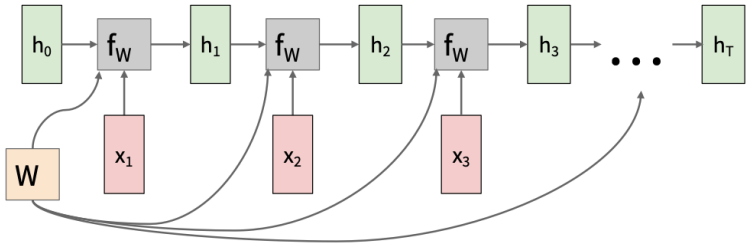


RNN: Computational Graph

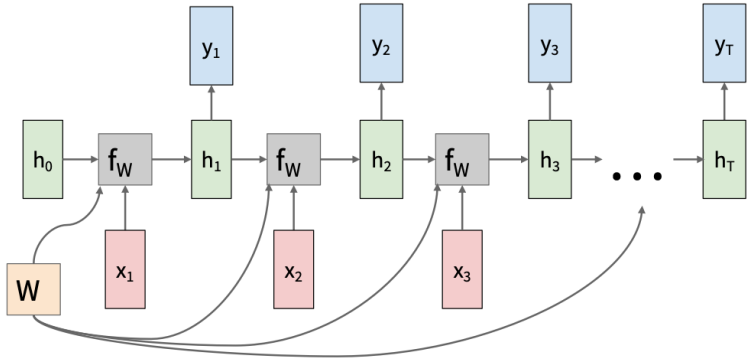


RNN: Computational Graph

Re-use the same weight matrix at every time-step



RNN: Computational Graph: Many to Many



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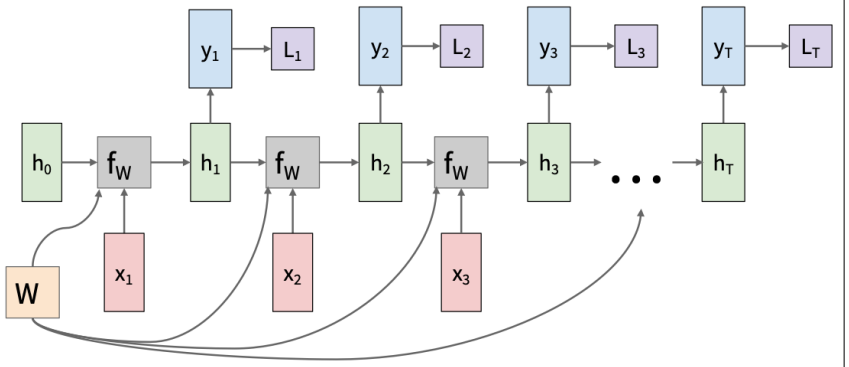

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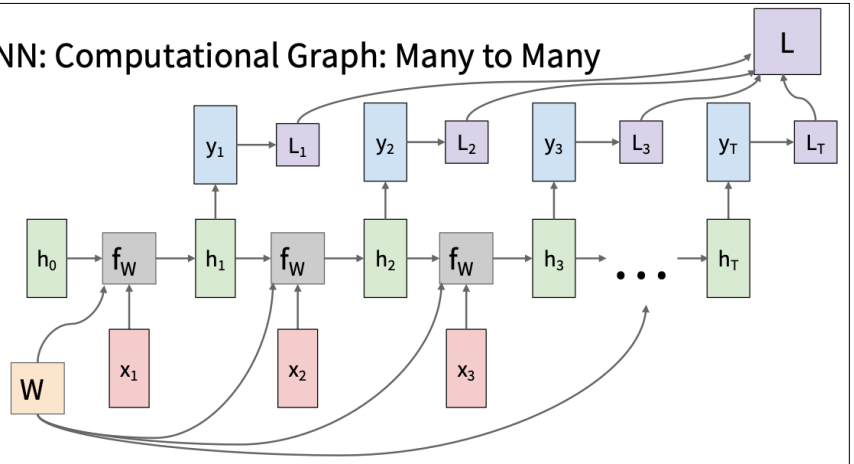
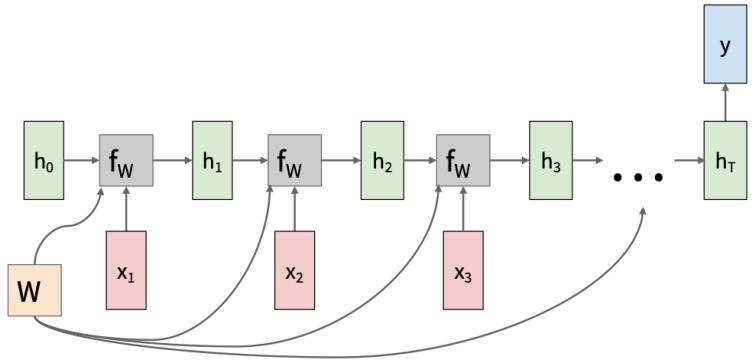


RNN: Computational Graph: Many to One



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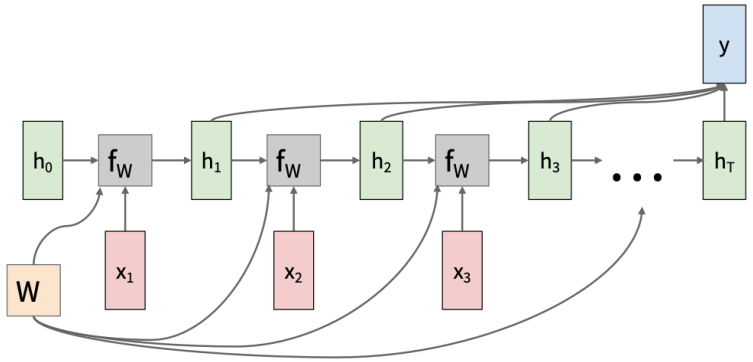
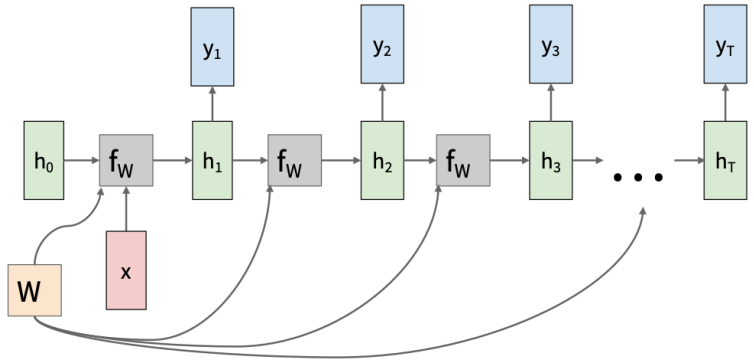


RNN: Computational Graph: One to Many



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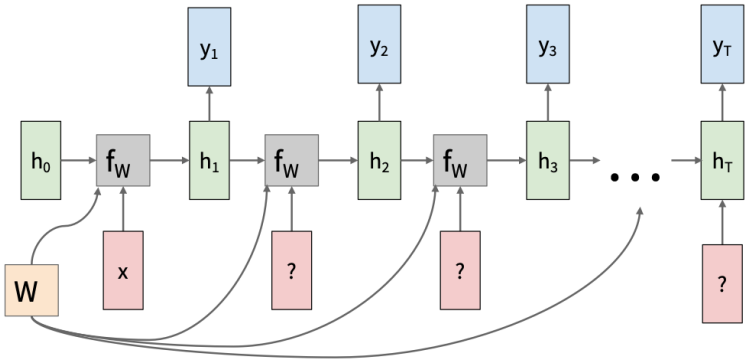

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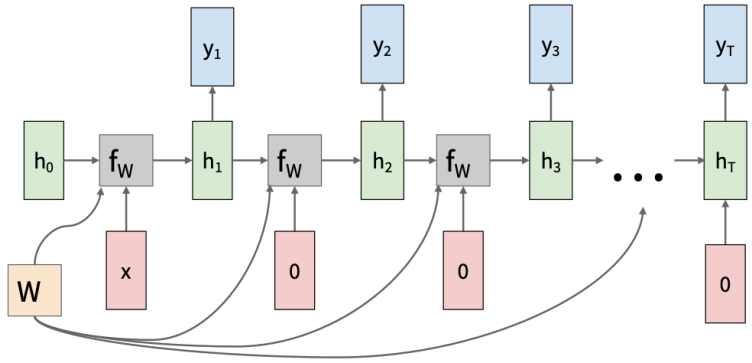

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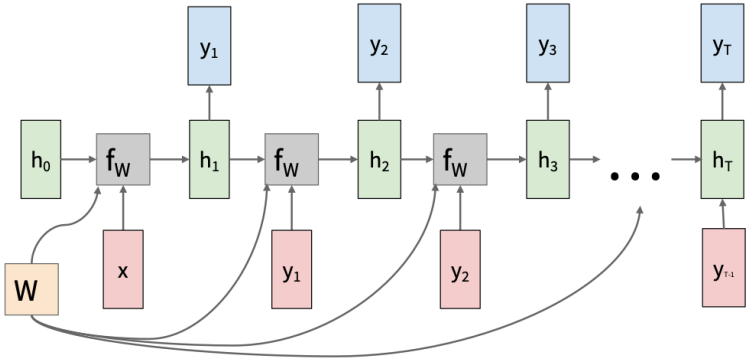
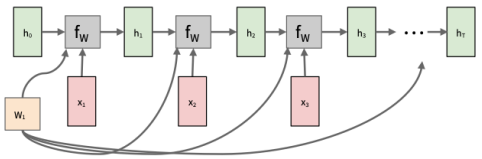


Sequence to Sequence: Many-to-one + one-to-many

Many to one: Encode input sequence
in a single vector

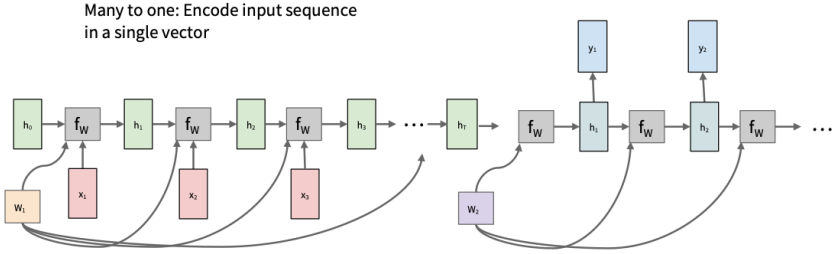


Sutskever et al, "Sequence to Sequence Learning with Neural Networks", NIPS 2014

Sequence to Sequence: Many-to-one + one-to-many

Many to one: Encode input sequence in a single vector

One to many: Produce output sequence from single input vector

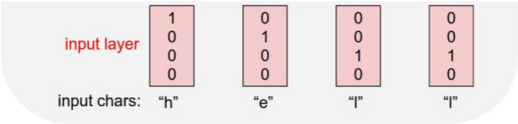


Sutskever et al, "Sequence to Sequence Learning with Neural Networks", NIPS 2014

Example:
Character-level
Language Model

Vocabulary:
[h,e,l,o]

Example training sequence:
"hello"



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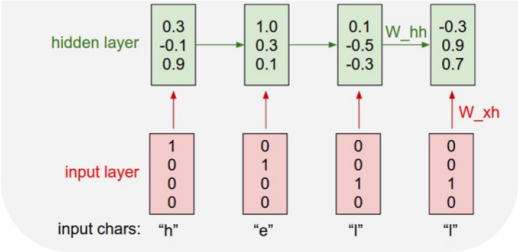

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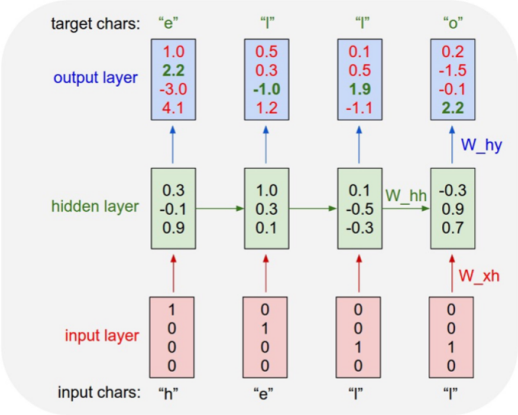
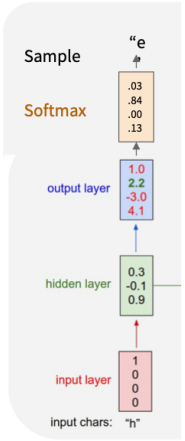


Example: Character-level Language Model
Sampling

Vocabulary:
[h,e,l,o]

At test-time sample characters one at a time, feed back to model



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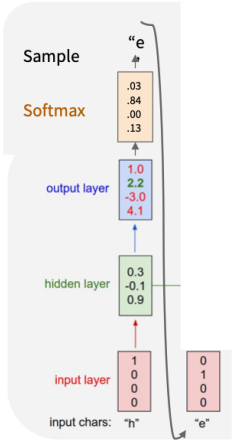

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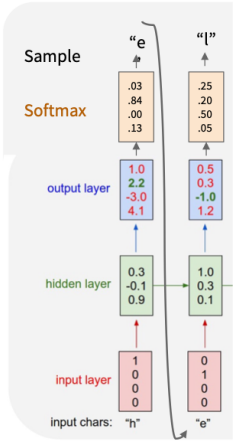

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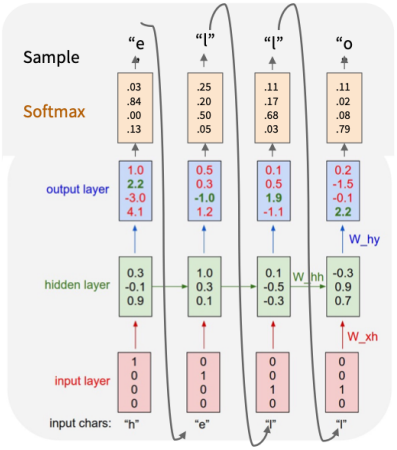
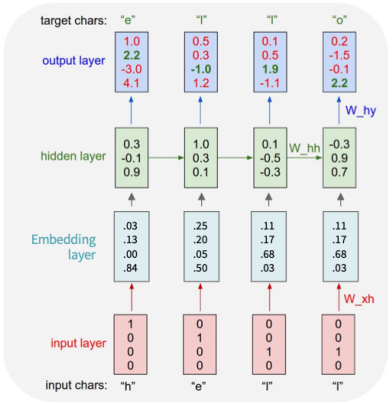


Example: Character-level Language Model Sampling

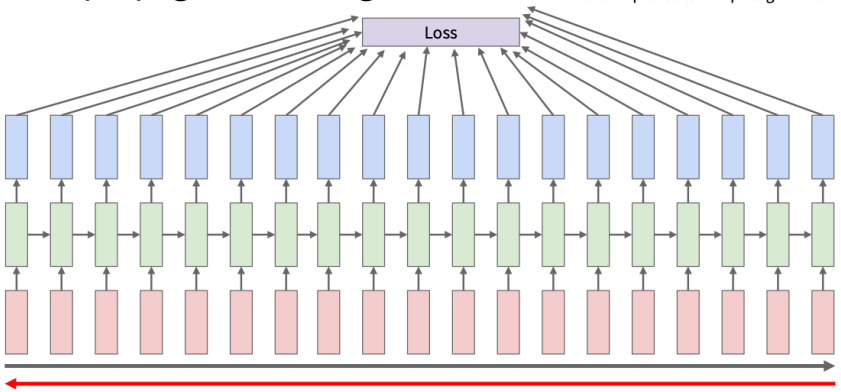
$$\begin{bmatrix} w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} & w_{14} \\ w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} & w_{14} \\ w_{31} & w_{32} & w_{33} & w_{14} \\ w_{41} & w_{42} & w_{43} & w_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_{11} \\ w_{21} \\ w_{31} \\ w_{41} \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix multiplication with a one-hot vector just extracts a column from the weight matrix. We often put a separate embedding layer between the input and hidden layers.

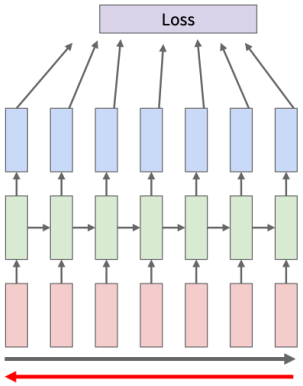


Backpropagation through time

Forward through entire sequence to compute loss, then backward through entire sequence to compute gradient

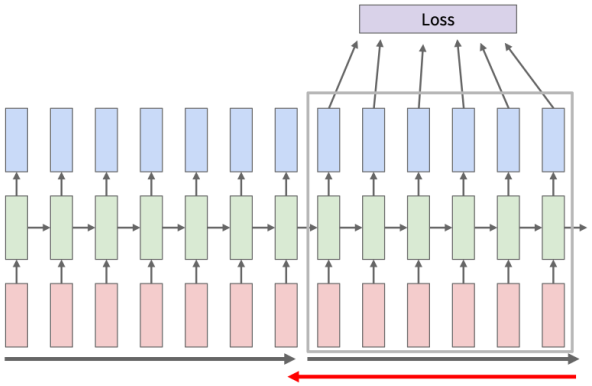


Truncated Backpropagation through time



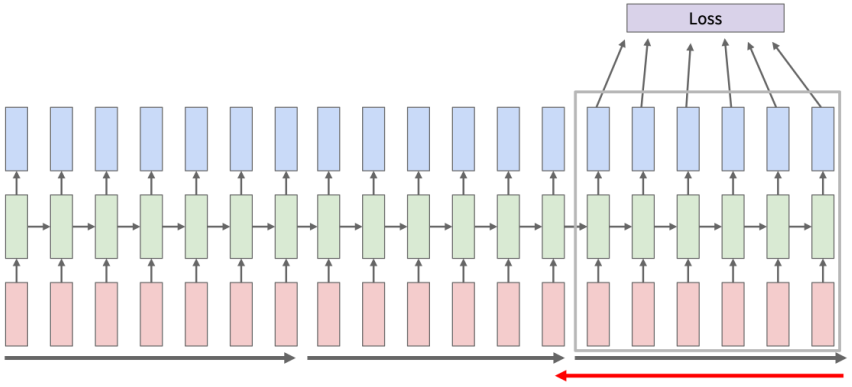
Run forward and backward through chunks of the sequence instead of whole sequence

Truncated Backpropagation through time



Carry hidden states forward in time forever, but only backpropagate for some smaller number of steps

Truncated Backpropagation through time



min-char-rnn.py gist: 112 lines of Python

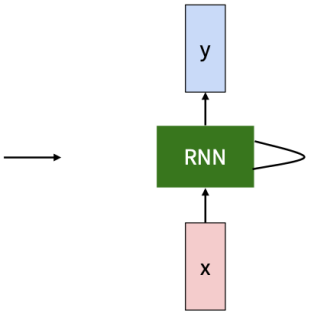
(https://gist.github.com/karpathy/d4dee566867f8291f086)

THE SONNETS

by William Shakespeare

From fairest creatures we desire increase,
That thereby beauty's rose might never die,
But as the riper should by time decease,
His tender heir might bear his memory:
But thou, contracted to thine own bright eyes,
Feed'st thy light's flame with self-substantial fuel,
Making a famine where abundance lies,
Thyself thy foe, to thy sweet self too cruel:
Thou that art now the world's fresh ornament,
And only herald to the gaudy spring,
Within thine own bud buriest thy content,
And tender churl mak'st waste in niggarding:
Pity the world, or else this glutton be,
To eat the world's due, by the grave and thee.

When forty winters shall besiege thy brow,
And dig deep trenches in thy beauty's field,
Thy youth's proud livery so gazed on now,
Will be a tatter'd weed of small worth held:
Then being asked, where all thy beauty lies,
Where all the treasure of thy lusty days;
To say, within thine own deep sunken eyes,
Were an all-eating shame, and thriftless praise.
How much more praise deserv'd thy beauty's use,
If thou couldst answer 'This fair child of mine
Shall sum my count, and make my old excuse,'
Proving his beauty by succession thine!
This were to be new made when thou art old,
And see thy blood warm when thou feel'st it cold.



at first:

```
tyntd-iafhatawiaoihrdemot  lytdws  e ,tfti, astai f ogoh eoase rrranbyne 'nhthnee e
plia tklrgd t o idoe ns,smtt   h ne etie h,hregtrs nigtike,aoaenns lng
```

train more

```
"Tmont thithey" fomesscerliund
Keushey. Thom here
sheulke, anmerenith ol sivh I lalterthend Bleipile shuwy fil on aseterlome
coaniogennc Phe lism thond hon at. MeiDimorotion in ther thize."
```

train more

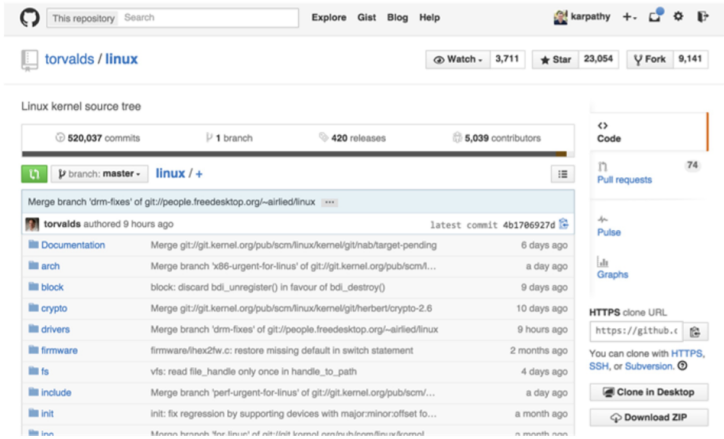
```
Aftair fall unsuch that the hall for Prince Velzonski's that me of
her hearly, and behs to so arwage fiving were to it beloge, pavu say falling misfort
how, and Gogition is so overelical and ofter.
```

train more

```
"Why do what that day," replied Natasha, and wishing to himself the fact the
princess, Princess Mary was easier, fed in had oftened him.
Pierre aking his soul came to the packs and drove up his father-in-law women.
```

```
PANDARUS:
Alas, I think he shall be come approached and the day
When little srain would be attain'd into being never fed,
And who is but a chain and subjects of his death,
I should not sleep.

Second Senator:
They are away this miseries, produced upon my soul,
Breaking and strongly should be buried, when I perish
The earth and thoughts of many states.

DUKE VINCENTIO:
Well, your wit is in the care of side and that.

Second Lord:
They would be ruled after this chamber, and
my fair nues begun out of the fact, to be conveyed,
Whose noble souls I'll have the heart of the wars.

Clown:
Come, sir, I will make did behold your worship.

VIOLA:
I'll drink it.
```

```
VIOLA:
Why, Salisbury must find his flesh and thought
That which I am not aps, not a man and in fire,
To show the reining of the raven and the wars
To grace my hand reproach within, and not a fair are hand,
That Caesar and my goodly father's world;
When I was heaven of presence and our fleets,
We spare with hours, but cut thy council I am great,
Murdered and by thy master's ready there
My power to give thee but so much as hell:
Some service in the noble bondman here,
Would show him to her wine.

KING LEAR:
O, if you were a feeble sight, the courtesy of your law,
Your sight and several breath, will wear the gods
With his heads, and my hands are wonder'd at the deeds,
So drop upon your lordship's head, and your opinion
Shall be against your honour.
```


```c
static void do_command(struct seq_file *m, void *v)
{
  int column = 32 << (cmd[2] & 0x80);
  if (state)
    cmd = (int)(int_state ^ (in_8(&ch->ch_flags) & Cmd) ? 2 : 1);
  else
    seq = 1;
  for (i = 0; i < 16; i++) {
    if (k & (1 << 1))
      pipe = (in_use & UMXTHREAD_UNCCA) +
        ((count & 0x00000000fffffff8) & 0x000000f) << 8;
    if (count == 0)
      sub(pid, ppc_md.kexec_handle, 0x20000000);
    pipe_set_bytes(i, 0);
  }
  /* Free our user pages pointer to place camera if all dash */
  subsystem_info = &of_changes[PAGE_SIZE];
  rek_controls(offset, idx, &soffset);
  /* Now we want to deliberately put it to device */
  control_check_polarity(&context, val, 0);
  for (i = 0; i < COUNTER; i++)
    seq_puts(s, "policy ");
}
```

Generated C code


```c
/*
 *  Copyright (c) 2006-2010, Intel Mobile Communications.  All rights reserved.
 *
 *   This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it
 * under the terms of the GNU General Public License version 2 as published by
 * the Free Software Foundation.
 *
 *       This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful,
 * but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of
 *   MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.  See the
 *
 *  GNU General Public License for more details.
 *
 *   You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License
 *    along with this program; if not, write to the Free Software Foundation,
 *  Inc., 675 Mass Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA.
 */

#include <linux/kexec.h>
#include <linux/errno.h>
#include <linux/io.h>
#include <linux/platform_device.h>
#include <linux/multi.h>
#include <linux/ckevent.h>

#include <asm/io.h>
#include <asm/prom.h>
#include <asm/e820.h>
#include <asm/system_info.h>
#include <asm/setew.h>
#include <asm/pgproto.h>
```

```
#include <asm/io.h>
#include <asm/prom.h>
#include <asm/e820.h>
#include <asm/system_info.h>
#include <asm/setew.h>
#include <asm/pgproto.h>

#define REG_PG    vesa_slot_addr_pack
#define PFM_NOCOMP  AFSR(0, load)
#define STACK_DDR(type)     (func)

#define SWAP_ALLOCATE(nr)     (e)
#define emulate_sigs()  arch_get_unaligned_child()
#define access_rw(TST)  asm volatile("movd %%esp, %0, %3" : : "r" (0));   \
  if (__type & DO_READ)

static void stat_PC_SEC __read_mostly offsetof(struct seq_argsqueue, \
         pC>[1]);

static void
os_prefix(unsigned long sys)
{
#ifdef CONFIG_PREEMPT
  PUT_PARAM_RAID(2, sel) = get_state_state();
  set_pid_sum((unsigned long)state, current_state_str(),
           (unsigned long)-1->lr_full; low;
}
```


RNN tradeoffs

RNN Advantages:
- Can process any length of the input
- Computation for step *t* can (in theory) use information from many steps back
- Model size does not increase for longer input
- The same weights are applied on every timestep, so there is symmetry in how inputs are processed.

RNN Disadvantages:
- Recurrent computation is slow
- In practice, difficult to access information from many steps back

Image Captioning

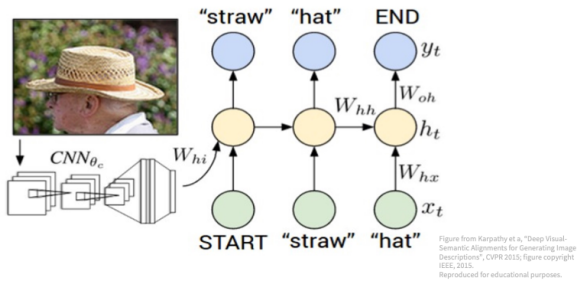
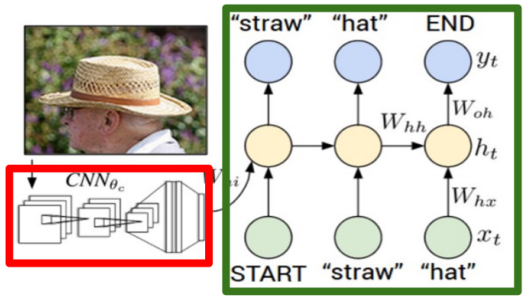


Figure from Karpathy et a, "Deep Visual-Semantic Alignments for Generating Image Descriptions", CVPR 2015; figure copyright IEEE, 2015. Reproduced for educational purposes.

Explain Images with Multimodal Recurrent Neural Networks, Mao et al.
Deep Visual-Semantic Alignments for Generating Image Descriptions, Karpathy and Fei-Fei
Show and Tell: A Neural Image Caption Generator, Vinyals et al.
Long-term Recurrent Convolutional Networks for Visual Recognition and Description, Donahue et al.
Learning a Recurrent Visual Representation for Image Caption Generation, Chen and Zitnick

Recurrent Neural Network



Convolutional Neural Network

test image

This image is CC0 public domain

image

conv-64
conv-64
maxpool

conv-128
conv-128
maxpool

conv-256
conv-256
maxpool

conv-512
conv-512
maxpool

conv-512
conv-512
maxpool

FC-4096
FC-4096
FC-1000
softmax

test image

image

conv-64
conv-64
maxpool

conv-128
conv-128
maxpool

conv-256
conv-256
maxpool

conv-512
conv-512
maxpool

conv-512
conv-512
maxpool

FC-4096
FC-4096
FC-1000
softmax

X

test image

image

conv-64
conv-64
maxpool

conv-128
conv-128
maxpool

conv-256
conv-256
maxpool

conv-512
conv-512
maxpool

conv-512
conv-512
maxpool

FC-4096
FC-4096

x0
<START>

test image

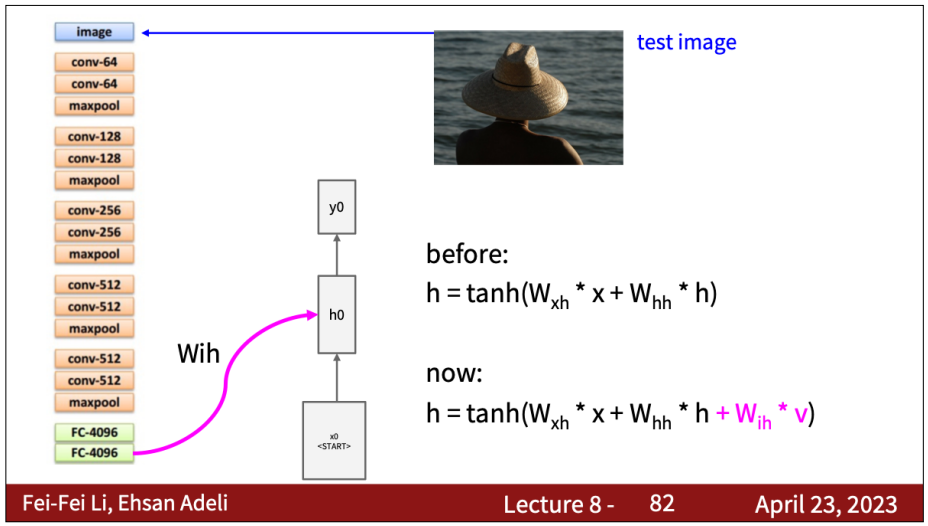


image
conv-64
conv-64
maxpool
conv-128
conv-128
maxpool
conv-256
conv-256
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
FC-4096
FC-4096
test image
y0
h0
x0
<START>
Wih
before:
h = tanh(W_xh * x + W_hh * h)
now:
h = tanh(W_xh * x + W_hh * h + W_ih * v)

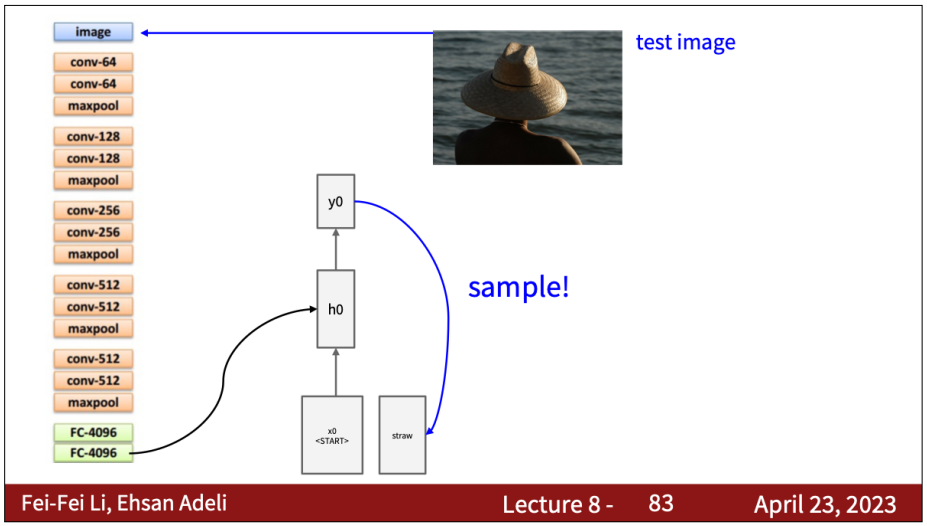


image
conv-64
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maxpool
conv-128
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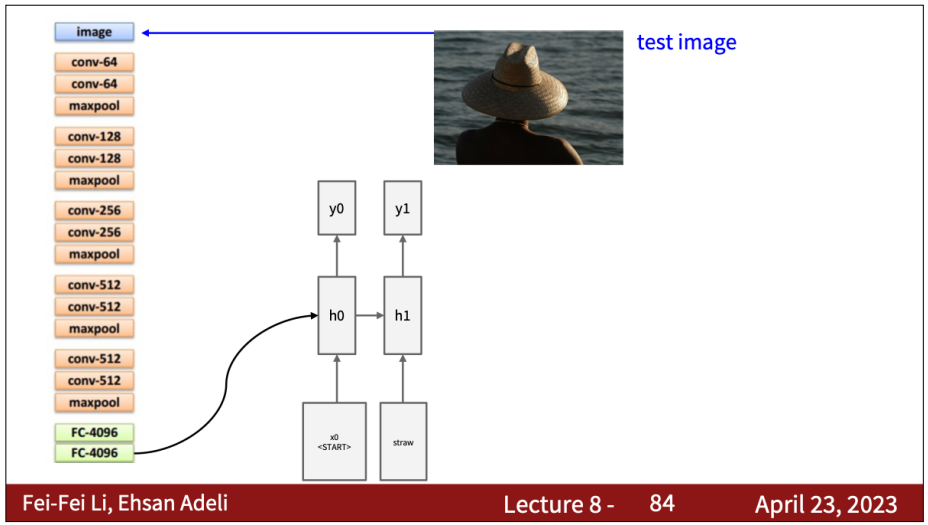
conv-256
conv-256
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
FC-4096
FC-4096
test image
y0
h0
x0
<START>
straw
sample!



image
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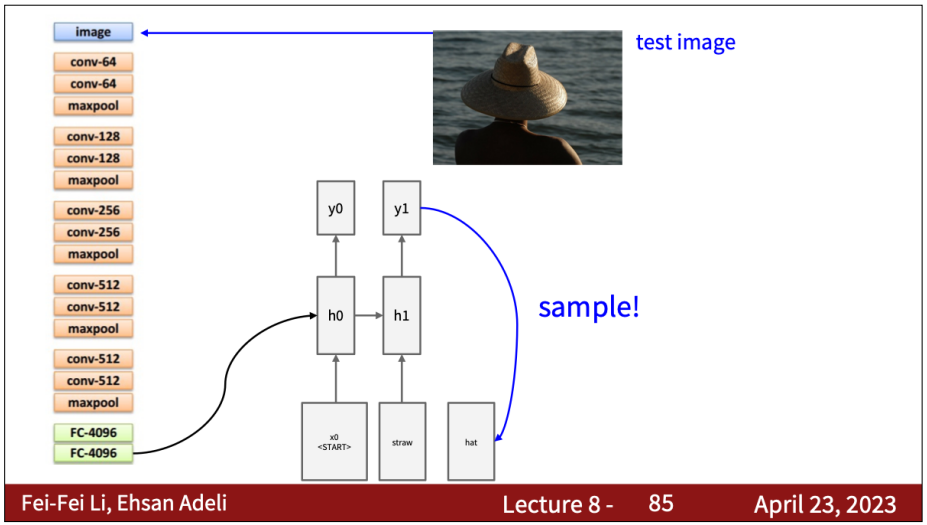
maxpool
FC-4096
FC-4096
test image
y0
y1
h0
h1
x0
<START>
straw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FC-4096
FC-4096
test image
y0
y1
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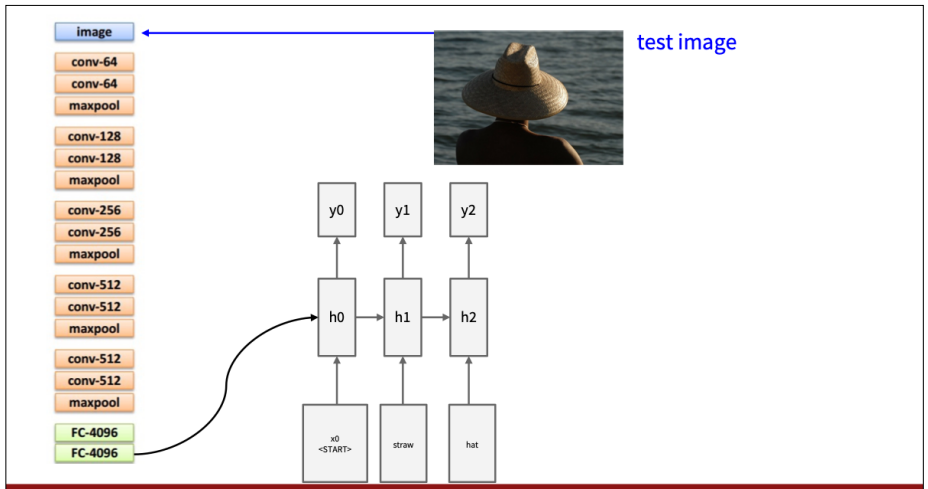
h1
x0
<START>
straw
hat
sample!



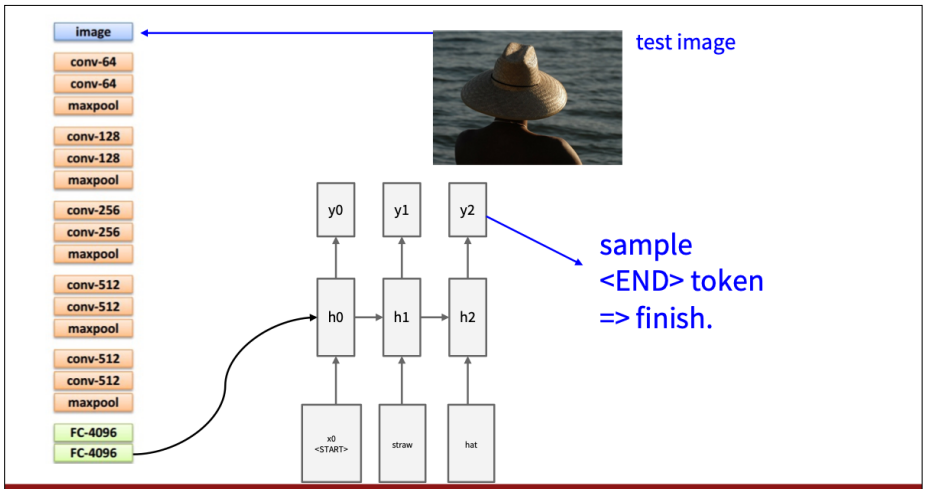


Image Captioning: Example Results


A cat sitting on a suitcase on the floor


A cat is sitting on a tree branch


A dog is running in the grass with a frisbee


A white teddy bear sitting in the grass

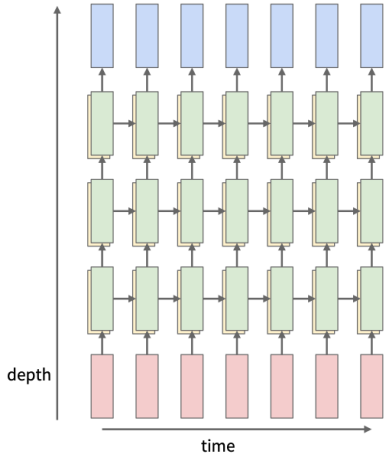

Two people walking on the beach with surfboards


A tennis player in action on the court


Two giraffes standing in a grassy field

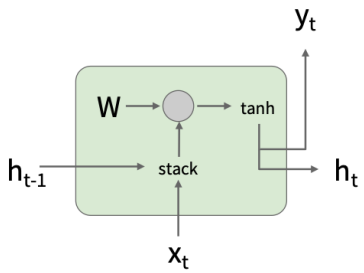

A man riding a dirt bike on a dirt track

Multilayer RNNs



Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

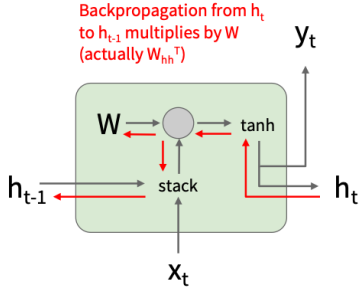


$$h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$
$$= \tanh\left((W_{hh} \quad W_{hx})\begin{pmatrix}h_{t-1}\\x_t\end{pmatrix}\right)$$
$$= \tanh\left(W\begin{pmatrix}h_{t-1}\\x_t\end{pmatrix}\right)$$

Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Backpropagation from h_t to h_{t-1} multiplies by W (actually W_{hh}^T)



$$h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$
$$= \tanh\left((W_{hh} \quad W_{hx})\begin{pmatrix}h_{t-1}\\x_t\end{pmatrix}\right)$$
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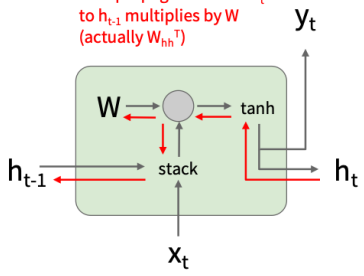
Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Backpropagation from h_t to h_{t-1} multiplies by W (actually W_{hh}^T)

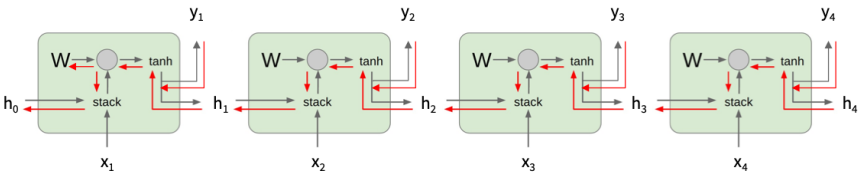


$$h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$
$$= \tanh\left((W_{hh} \quad W_{hx})\begin{pmatrix}h_{t-1}\\x_t\end{pmatrix}\right)$$
$$= \tanh\left(W\begin{pmatrix}h_{t-1}\\x_t\end{pmatrix}\right)$$

$$\frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} = tanh'(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)W_{hh}$$

Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

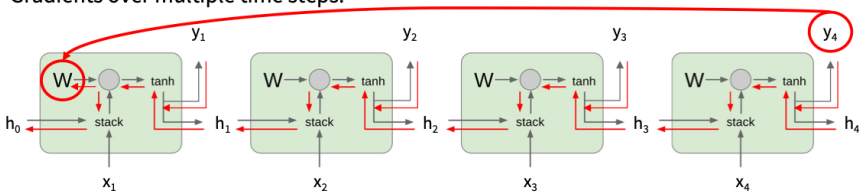


$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Gradients over multiple time steps:



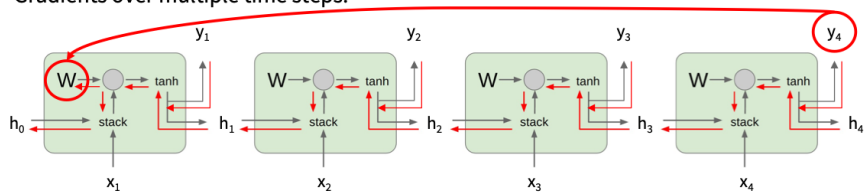
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

$$\frac{\partial L_T}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} \cdots \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W}$$

Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Gradients over multiple time steps:



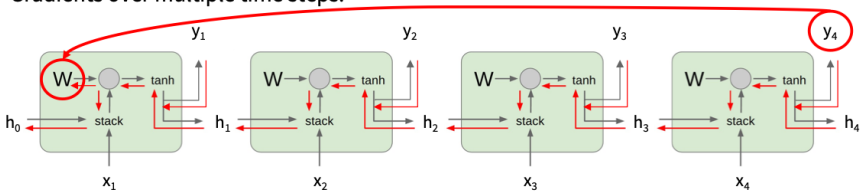
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

$$\frac{\partial L_T}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} \cdots \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} \left(\prod_{t=2}^{T} \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}}\right) \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W}$$

Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Gradients over multiple time steps:



$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

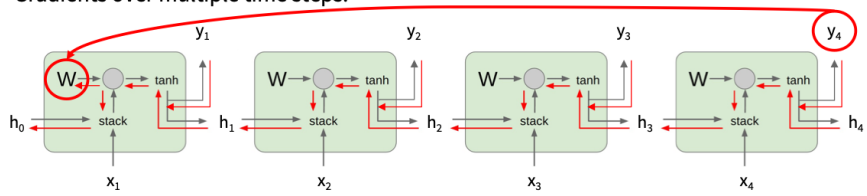
$$\frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} = tanh'(W_{hh} h_{t-1} + W_{xh} x_t) W_{hh}$$

$$\frac{\partial L_T}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} \cdots \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} \left(\prod_{t=2}^{T} \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}}\right) \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W}$$

Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Gradients over multiple time steps:



$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

Almost always < 1
Vanishing gradients

$$\frac{\partial L_T}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} \left(\prod_{t=2}^{T} tanh'(W_{hh} h_{t-1} + W_{xh} x_t)\right) W_{hh}^{T-1} \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W}$$

Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

Vanilla RNN

$$h_t = \tanh\left(W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

LSTM

Four gates

$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \tanh \end{pmatrix} W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$$

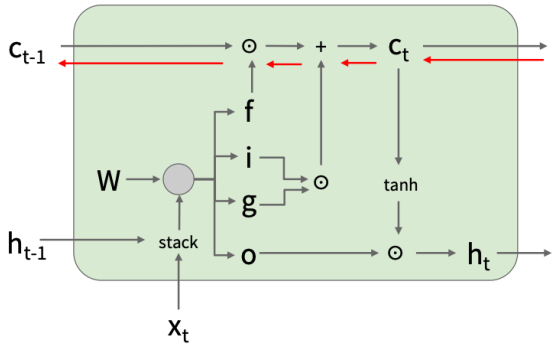
Cell state: $c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$

Hidden state: $h_t = o \odot \tanh(c_t)$

Hochreiter and Schmidhuber, "Long Short Term Memory", Neural Computation 1997

Long Short Term Memory (LSTM): Gradient Flow

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]



Backpropagation from c_t to c_{t-1} only elementwise multiplication by f, no matrix multiply by W

$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \tanh \end{pmatrix} W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$$

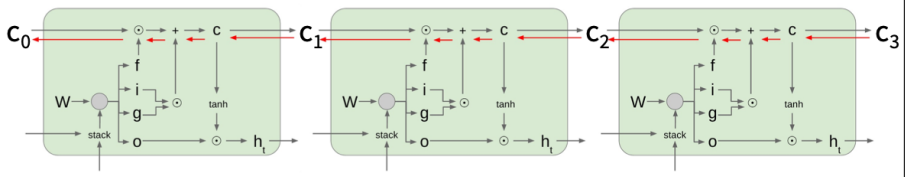
$$c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$$

$$h_t = o \odot \tanh(c_t)$$

Long Short Term Memory (LSTM): Gradient Flow

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]

Uninterrupted gradient flow!



Do LSTMs solve the vanishing gradient problem?

The LSTM architecture makes it easier for the RNN to preserve information over many timesteps

- e.g. if the f = 1 and the i = 0, then the information of that cell is preserved indefinitely.
- By contrast, it's harder for vanilla RNN to learn a recurrent weight matrix Wh that preserves info in hidden state

LSTM doesn't guarantee that there is no vanishing/exploding gradient, but it does provide an easier way for the model to learn long-distance dependencies

Summary

- RNNs allow a lot of flexibility in architecture design
- Vanilla RNNs are simple but don't work very well
- Common to use LSTM or GRU: their additive interactions improve gradient flow
- Backward flow of gradients in RNN can explode or vanish. Exploding is controlled with gradient clipping. Vanishing is controlled with additive interactions (LSTM)
- Better/simpler architectures are a hot topic of current research, as well as new paradigms for reasoning over sequences
- Better understanding (both theoretical and empirical) is needed.