

# Neural Networks for sequential data

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Alexey Zaytsev,

Assistant professor, Skoltech

# General attention idea

# Attention

We need a representation of an object.

A “coarse” description of an object is available.

For other objects we have more detailed stored information.

We use attention to extract these information

# Single-object key value interpretation

$q_i$  - query to a database

$k_j$  - keys in the database

$v_j$  - values in the database

We calculate attention scores

$$\alpha_j = e(q_i, k_j) = s_i^T k_j \text{ (other distances also possible)}$$

$$\alpha = \text{softmax}(\alpha)$$

Then we extract the information as weighted sum of values

$$a_i = \sum_{j=1}^{T_x} \alpha_j v_j$$

# Matrix key value interpretation

$q_i$  - query to a database

$k_j$  - keys in the database

$v_j$  - values in the database

We calculate correspondences

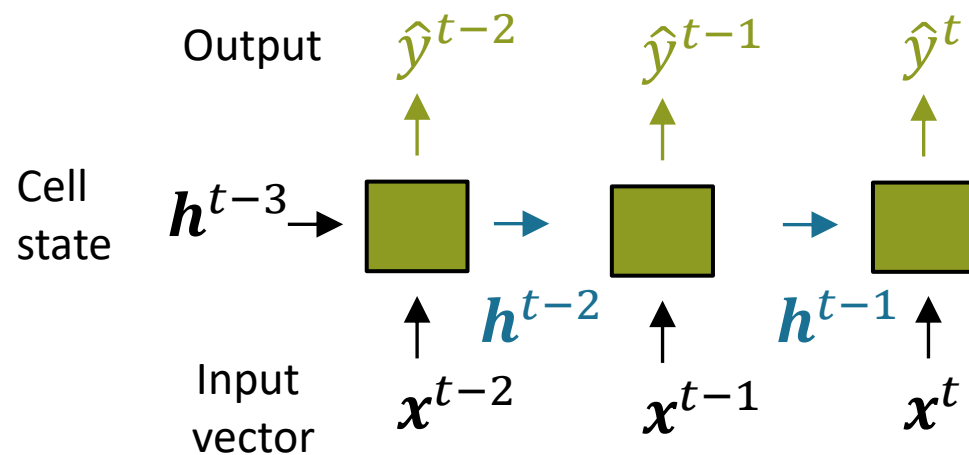
$$A(q, K, V) = \sum_j \frac{\exp(q_i^T k_j)}{\sum_l \exp(q_i^T k_l)} v_j$$

$$A(Q, K, V) = \text{softmax}(QK^T)V$$

# “Databases” for the attention

- Nodes in a graph
- Tokens in a sequence (we need to specify the position, as the order is important)
- Sets of objects

# An example: attention for recurrent neural network



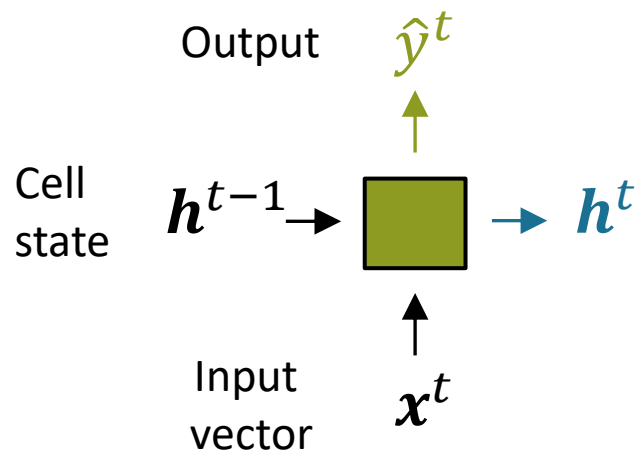
At each step:

$\hat{y}^t$  - output / model prediction

$x^t$  - input vector / new information

$h^t$  - cell / hidden state

# Simple RNN model block



$$\mathbf{h}^t = f_h(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{h}^{t-1})$$

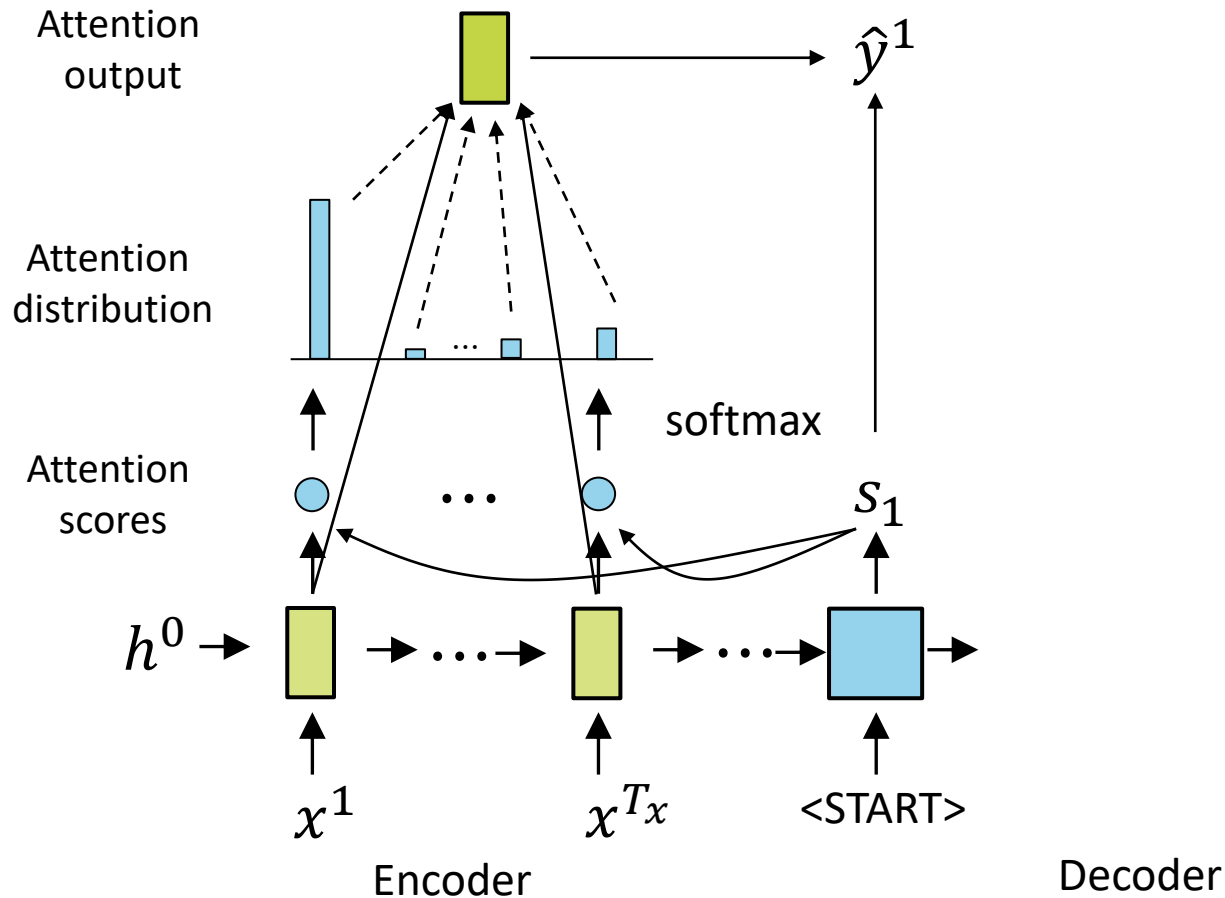
$$\mathbf{h}^t = \tanh(V\mathbf{x}^t + W\mathbf{h}^{t-1} + b_h)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}^t = f_y(\mathbf{h}^t)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}^t = \text{softmax}(U\mathbf{h}^t + b_y)$$



# Sequence 2 sequence with attention



# Single-object key value interpretation

$q_i$  - query to a database

Hidden state of the *decoder*

$k_j$  - keys in the database

Hidden state of the *encoder*

$v_j$  - values in the database

Hidden state of the *encoder*

We calculate attention scores

$$\alpha_j = e(q_i, k_j) = s_i^T k_j \text{ (other distances also possible)}$$

$$\alpha = \text{softmax}(\alpha)$$

Then we extract the information as weighted sum of values

$$a_i = \sum_{j=1}^{T_x} \alpha_j v_j$$

# Scaled attention values

For large dimension of the space of keys  $d_k$ :

- Large variances dot products  $\mathbf{q}_i^T \mathbf{k}_j$
- Softmax only pays attention to some keys
- Gradients are small, hard to learn

Old formula:

$$A(Q, K, V) = \text{softmax}(QK^T)V$$

New scaled formula:

$$A(Q, K, V) = \text{softmax}(QK^T/\sqrt{d_k})V$$



# Transformers with self-attention

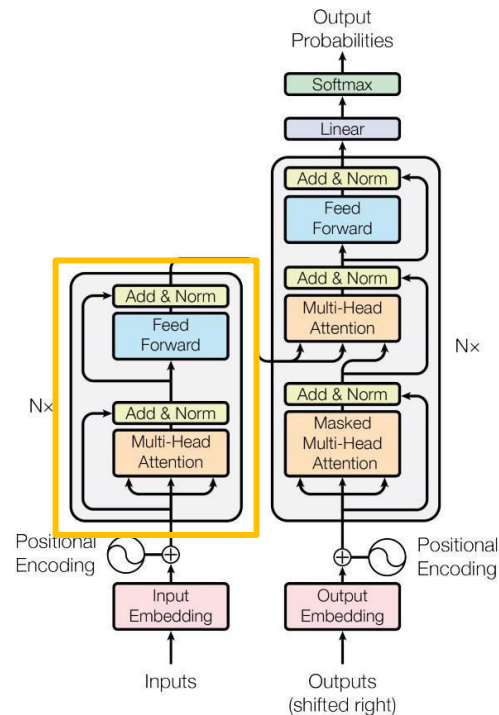
# Transformer is based on the same idea

Now we completely drop RNN part

Also we repeat *self-attention* many times

Further we'll consider separate parts:

- Multi-head attention
- Feed Forward



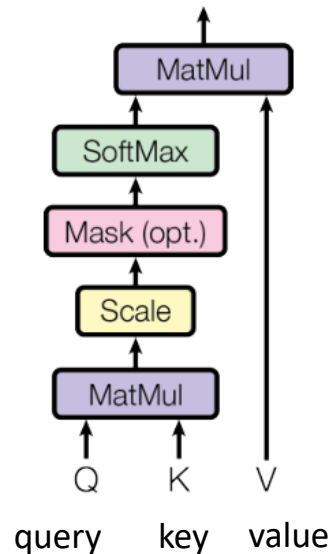
# Attention / Self-attention block

$$\text{Attention}(Q, K, V) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)V$$

$d_k$  is the dimension of query and key,  
we scale to take control of large values of dot-product in high dimensions

A possible option is to replace scaled dot-product used here with additive attention: a single-hidden layer neural network.

Scaled Dot-Product Attention



# Self-attention block

$$\text{Attention}(Q, K, V) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)V$$

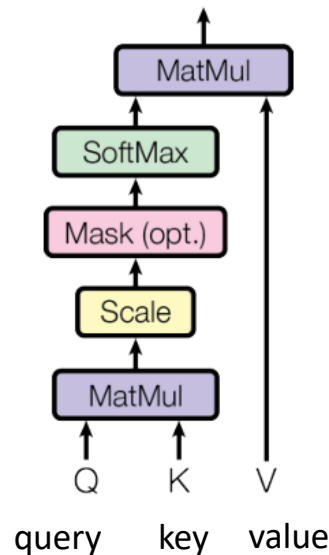
We produce queries, keys, and values using initial word embeddings

$$Q = XW^Q, \dim(W^Q) = d_x \times d_q,$$

$$K = XW^K, \dim(W^K) = d_x \times d_k,$$

$$V = XW^V, \dim(W^V) = d_x \times d_v,$$

Scaled Dot-Product Attention



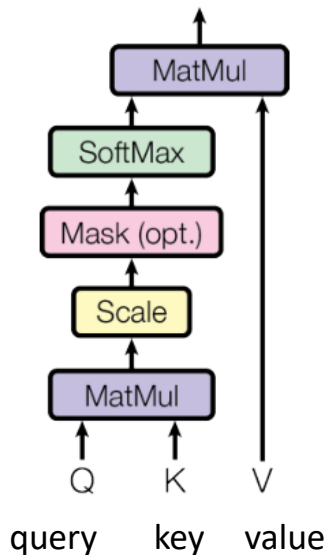
# Multi-Head attention

$$\text{MultiHead}(Q, K, V) = \text{Concat}(\text{head}_1, \dots, \text{head}_h)W^O$$

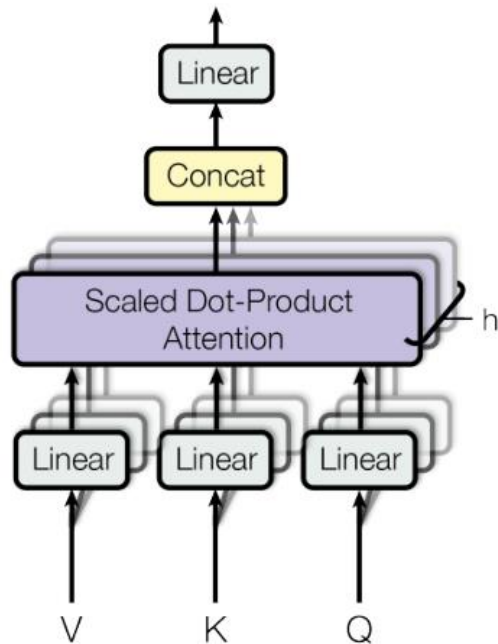
$$\text{where head}_i = \text{Attention}(QW_i^Q, KW_i^K, VW_i^V)$$

$h$  heads in total

Scaled Dot-Product Attention



Multi-Head Attention



"Attention is all you need" paper



# Full block

Two linear transformation with ReLU activation in between

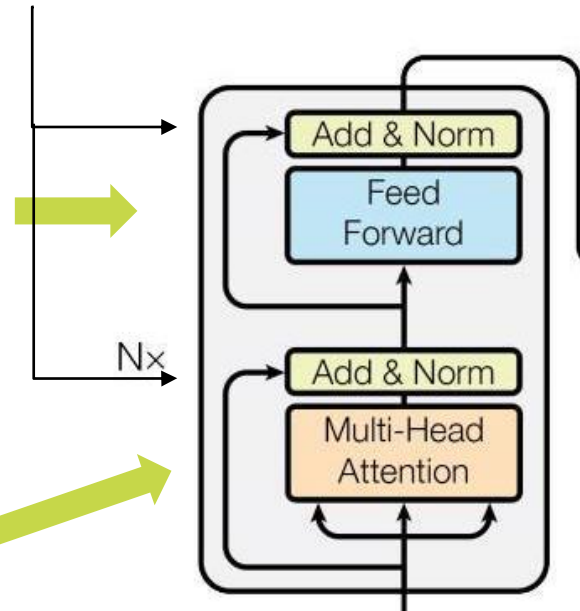
$$\text{FFN}(x) = \max(0, xW_1 + b_1)W_2 + b_2$$

Multi-head attention

$$\text{MultiHead}(Q, K, V) = \text{Concat}(\text{head}_1, \dots, \text{head}_h)W^O$$

where  $\text{head}_i = \text{Attention}(QW_i^Q, KW_i^K, VW_i^V)$

$$\text{LayerNorm}(x + \text{Sublayer}(x))$$



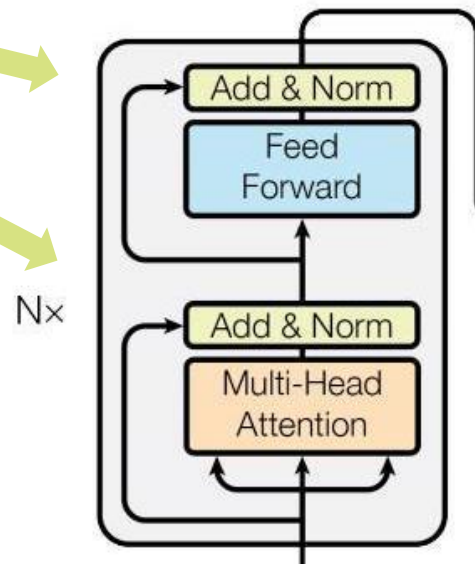
There are 6 consecutive *Full blocks* in the paper transformer architecture

# Full block: normalization and residual connection

$$\text{LayerNorm}(x + \text{Sublayer}(x))$$

Why? Speeds up training!

- Similar to Batch Normalization
- But can be used with batch size 1
- Can be used with RNNs and Transformers



$$\mu^l = \frac{1}{H} \sum_{i=1}^H a_i^l \quad \sigma^l = \sqrt{\frac{1}{H} \sum_{i=1}^H (a_i^l - \mu^l)^2}$$

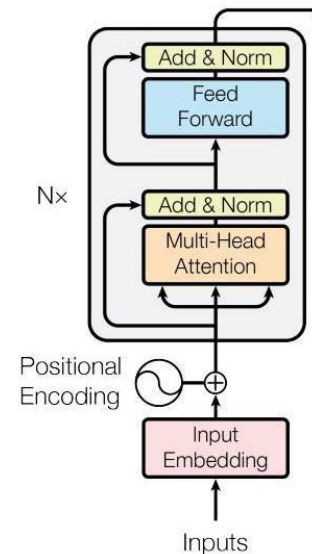
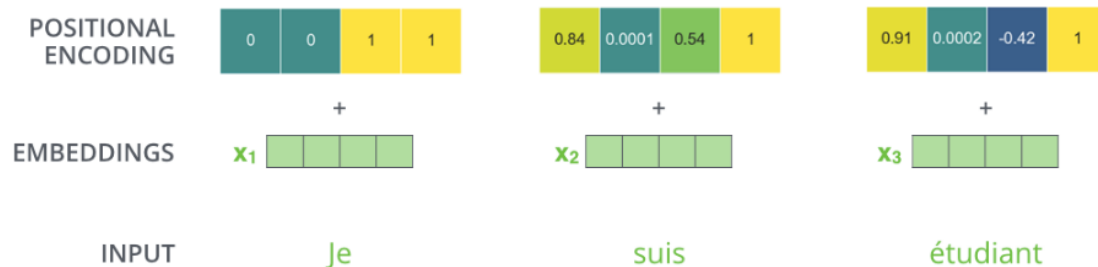
# Position encoding

In addition to usual embeddings of inputs we use position encoding to capture position

They are not one-hot vectors, as we want to handle various-length sequences

$$PE_{(pos, 2i)} = \sin(pos/10000^{2i/d_{\text{model}}})$$

$$PE_{(pos, 2i+1)} = \cos(pos/10000^{2i/d_{\text{model}}})$$



Real example of positional encoding with a toy embedding size of 4

# Transformer training

- Masked language model:

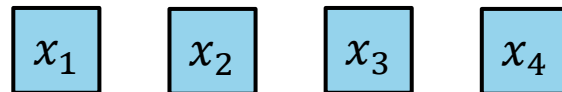
Replace random tokens with masks, try to reconstruct them using a Neural network

- Next token prediction

Predict next token

**Self-supervised learning:** We don't need labeled examples, we just create them

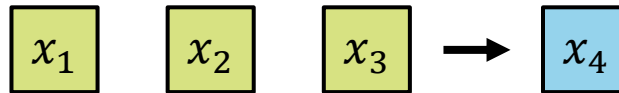
BERT



↑ Transformer



GPT



Transformer

# Efficiency of transformers

Brown, T. B., Mann, B., Ryder, N. et al. (2020). Language models are few-shot learners. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2005.14165*.

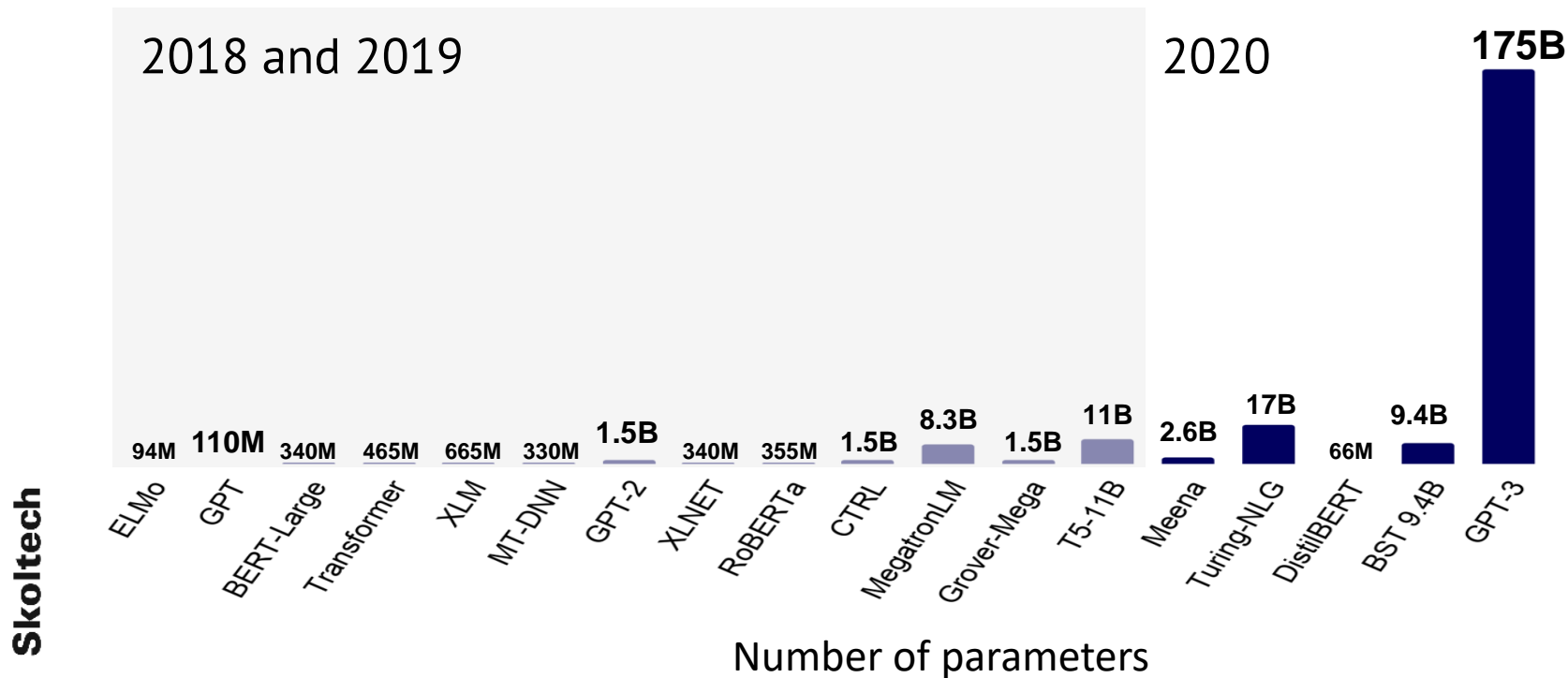
Model Name	$n_{\text{params}}$	$n_{\text{layers}}$	$d_{\text{model}}$	$n_{\text{heads}}$	$d_{\text{head}}$	Batch Size	Learning Rate
GPT-3 Small	125M	12	768	12	64	0.5M	$6.0 \times 10^{-4}$
GPT-3 Medium	350M	24	1024	16	64	0.5M	$3.0 \times 10^{-4}$
GPT-3 Large	760M	24	1536	16	96	0.5M	$2.5 \times 10^{-4}$
GPT-3 XL	1.3B	24	2048	24	128	1M	$2.0 \times 10^{-4}$
GPT-3 2.7B	2.7B	32	2560	32	80	1M	$1.6 \times 10^{-4}$
GPT-3 6.7B	6.7B	32	4096	32	128	2M	$1.2 \times 10^{-4}$
GPT-3 13B	13.0B	40	5140	40	128	2M	$1.0 \times 10^{-4}$
GPT-3 175B or “GPT-3”	175.0B	96	12288	96	128	3.2M	$0.6 \times 10^{-4}$

**Table 2.1:** Sizes, architectures, and learning hyper-parameters (batch size in tokens and learning rate) of the model: which we trained. All models were trained for a total of 300 billion tokens.

	Mean accuracy	95% Confidence Interval (low, hi)	$t$ compared to control ( $p$ -value)	“I don’t know” assignments
Control (deliberately bad model)	86%	83%–90%	-	3.6 %
GPT-3 Small	76%	72%–80%	3.9 ( $2e-4$ )	4.9%
GPT-3 Medium	61%	58%–65%	10.3 ( $7e-21$ )	6.0%
GPT-3 Large	68%	64%–72%	7.3 ( $3e-11$ )	8.7%
GPT-3 XL	62%	59%–65%	10.7 ( $1e-19$ )	7.5%
GPT-3 2.7B	62%	58%–65%	10.4 ( $5e-19$ )	7.1%
GPT-3 6.7B	60%	56%–63%	11.2 ( $3e-21$ )	6.2%
GPT-3 13B	55%	52%–58%	15.3 ( $1e-32$ )	7.1%
GPT-3 175B	52%	49%–54%	16.9 ( $1e-34$ )	7.8%

**Table 3.11: Human accuracy in identifying whether short (~200 word) news articles are model generated.** We find that human accuracy (measured by the ratio of correct assignments to non-neutral assignments) ranges from 86% on the control model to 52% on GPT-3 175B. This table compares mean accuracy between five different models, and shows the results of a two-sample T-Test for the difference in mean accuracy between each model and the control model (an unconditional GPT-3 Small model with increased output randomness).

# Transformer models are monstrous



Training cost estimation: 10-50 MLN US\$ for GPT-3

# Self-attention block complexity

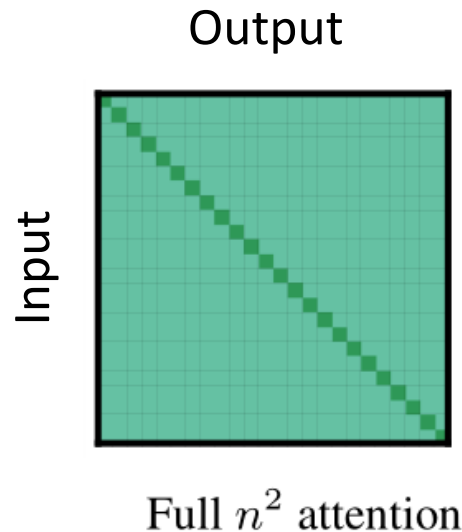
$$\text{Attention}(Q, K, V) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)V$$

Memory complexity is  $O(d_x^2)$

Computational complexity is  $O(d_x^2)$

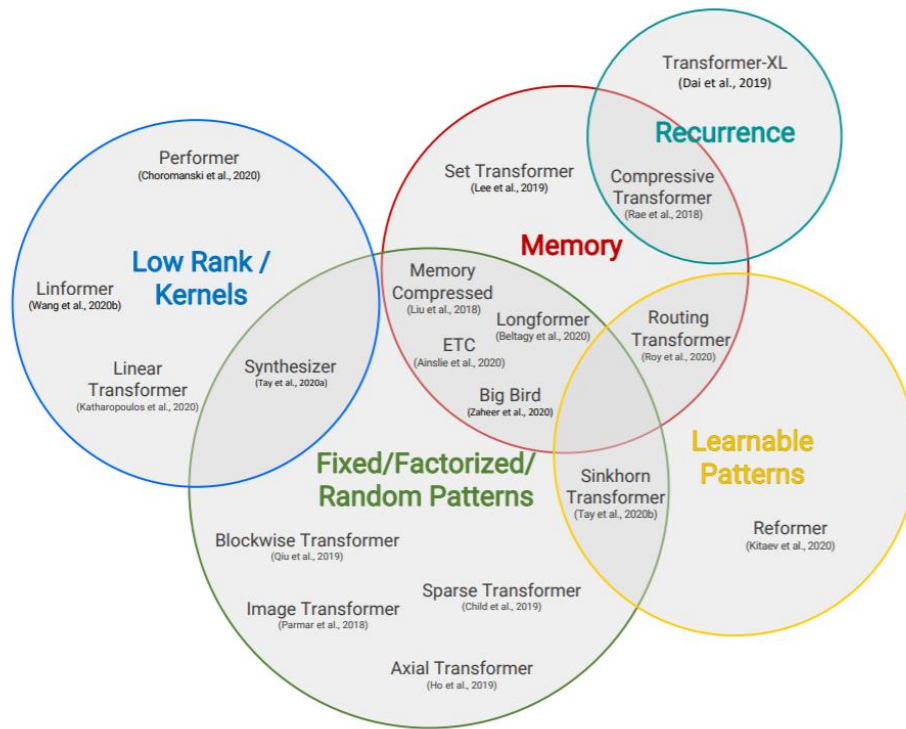
Max sequence size in popular models (e.g. BERT) is only  $n = d_x = 512$  tokens

In modern models tokens are parts of words



# Transformer for long sequences

To work with sequences with significant length we should decrease memory consumption and computation complexity  $O(n^2)$





# BigBird approach

Memory requirements,  $n$  is the sequence length:

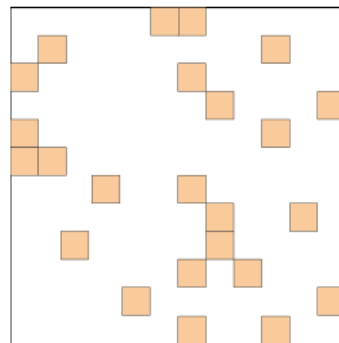
Random attention requires  $O(r \cdot n)$

Sliding window requires  $O(h \cdot n)$ ,  
 $h$  is the window size

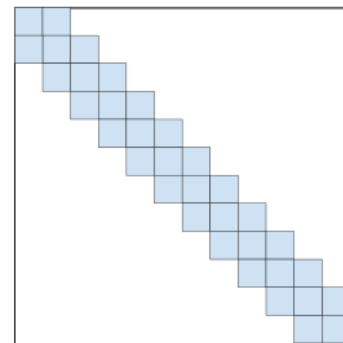
Global requires  $O(g \cdot n)$ ,  $g$  is the global tokens number

BigBird combines 3 types of attention mechanism. All of them have linear complexity.

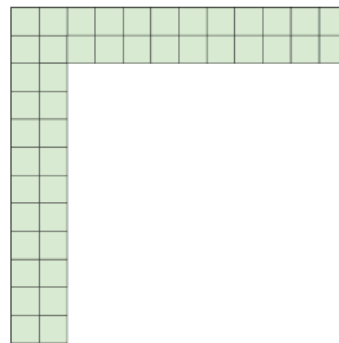
**Total:  $O((r + h + g) \cdot n)$**



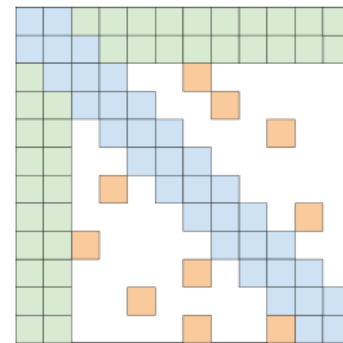
(a) Random attention



(b) Window attention



(c) Global Attention



(d) BIGBIRD

# Take-home messages

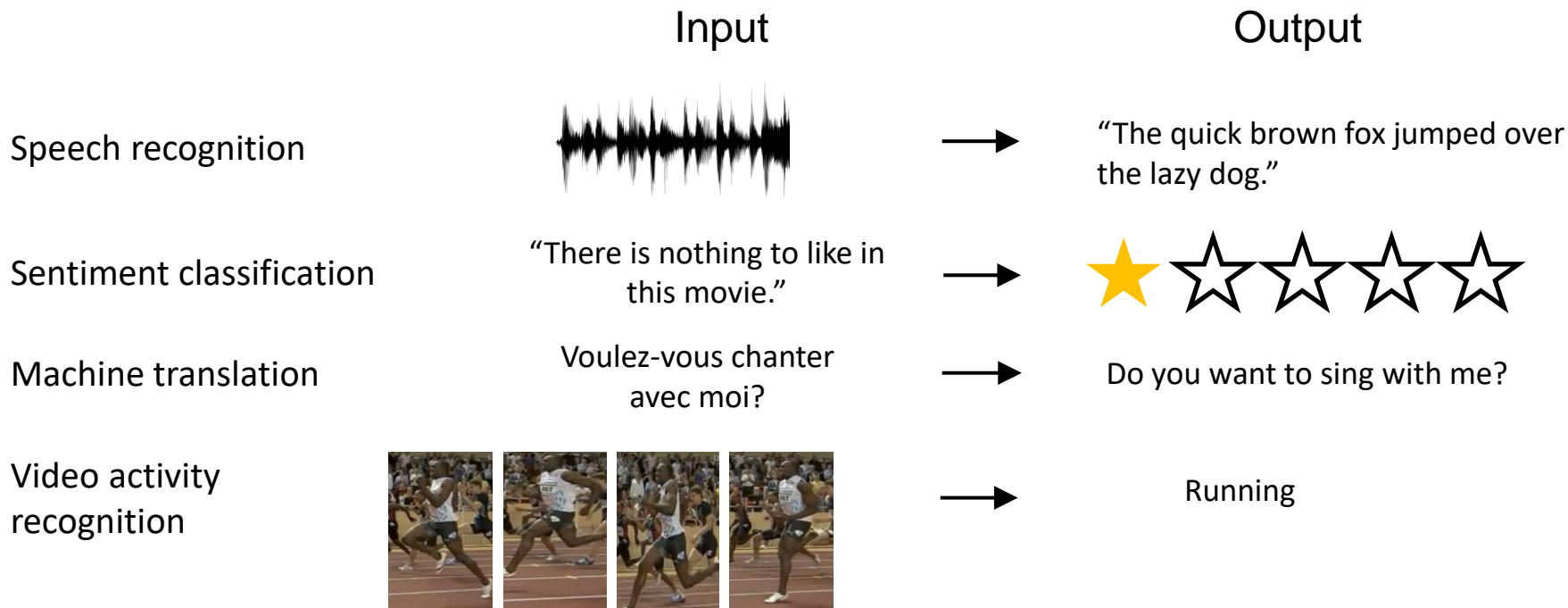
- Attention mechanism is for “information extraction”
- Transformer architecture is a multi-layer architecture based on the self attention layer

# Common ways for classic ML application for time series data

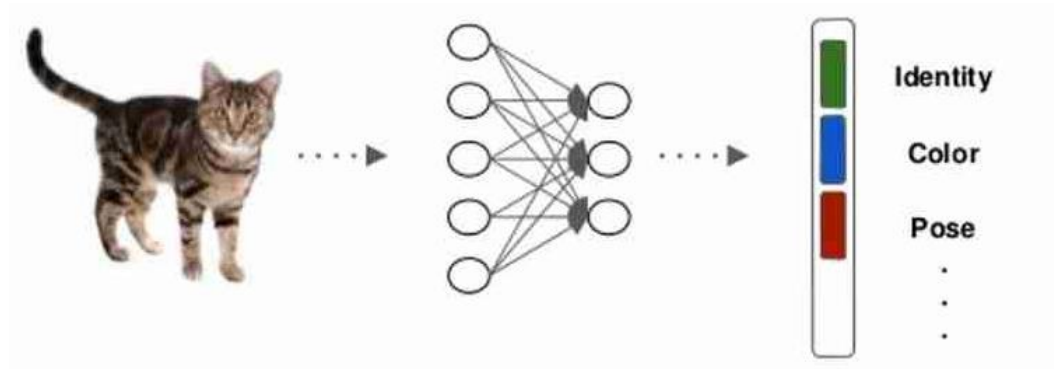
1. Take input data including history for the target variable
  2. Add differences, combinations, rolling means, medians, etc.
  3. Add one-hot-encoding for important categorical features (day of week, holiday or not)
- Now we have input features for all points
  - Let's apply our favorite ML regression algorithm

*dmlc*  
**XGBoost**

# Deep Learning problems with sequential data: we need representations



# Semi-structured data processing: why do we need NNs?



# Textbook example: next word prediction

The most complicated and difficult part of it was only just beginning.

# Textbook example: next word prediction

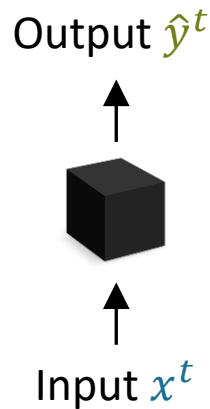
Idea 1: use previous word(s)

Problem 1: long-term dependencies

“**France** is where I grew up, but I now live in Boston. I speak fluent \_\_\_\_.”

The most complicated and difficult part of it was only just beginning.

Feature representation: [0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0]



# Textbook example: next word prediction

Idea 1: use previous word(s)

Problem 1: long-term dependencies

Idea 2: use bag of words model

The most complicated and difficult part of it was only just beginning.



Feature representation: [0, 3, 0, 2, 0, 0]

Bag of words: number of occurrences of each word



# Textbook example: next word prediction

Idea 1: use previous word(s)

Idea 2: use bag of words model

Problem 1: long-term dependencies

Problem 2: order preservation

The food was good, not bad at all.

vs.

The food was bad, not good at all.

The most complicated and difficult part of it was only just beginning.

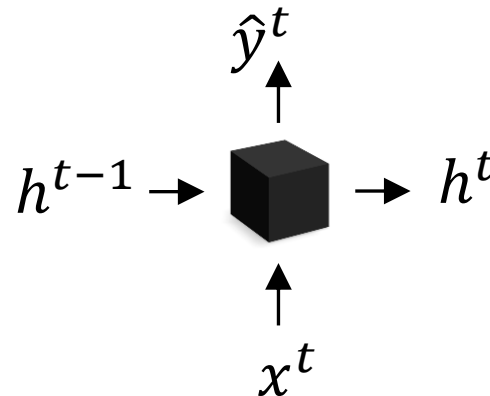


Feature representation: [0, 3, 0, 2, 0, 0]

Bag of words: number of occurrences of each word  
(see also TF-IDF features)

# Model Design Criteria

1. Variable-length sequences processing
2. Long-term memory
3. Maintain order information
4. Natural preprocessing



**Recurrent Neural Networks** are the solution!

# Sequence processing with classic ML models

1. Variable-length sequences processing

**YES (if one to one)**

2. Long-term memory

**NO** 

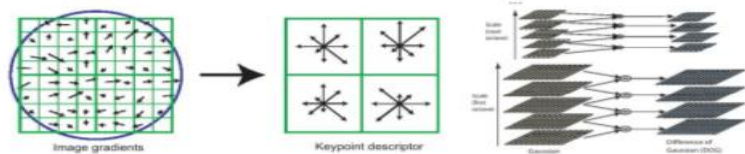
3. Maintain order information

**NO** 

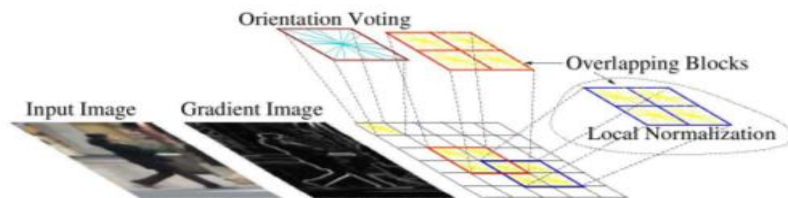
4. Natural preprocessing

**a kind of**

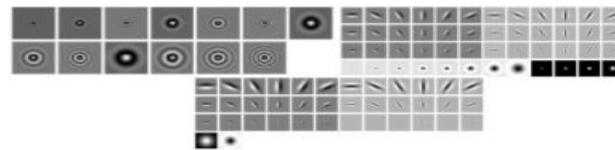
# An art of feature construction



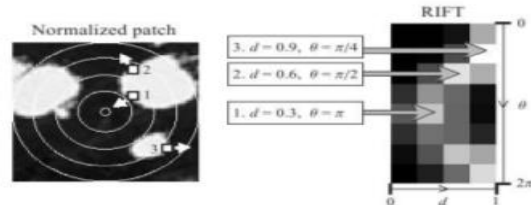
SIFT



HoG

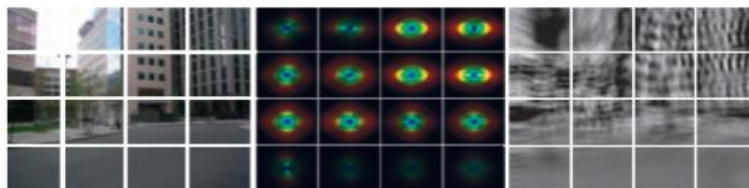


Textons

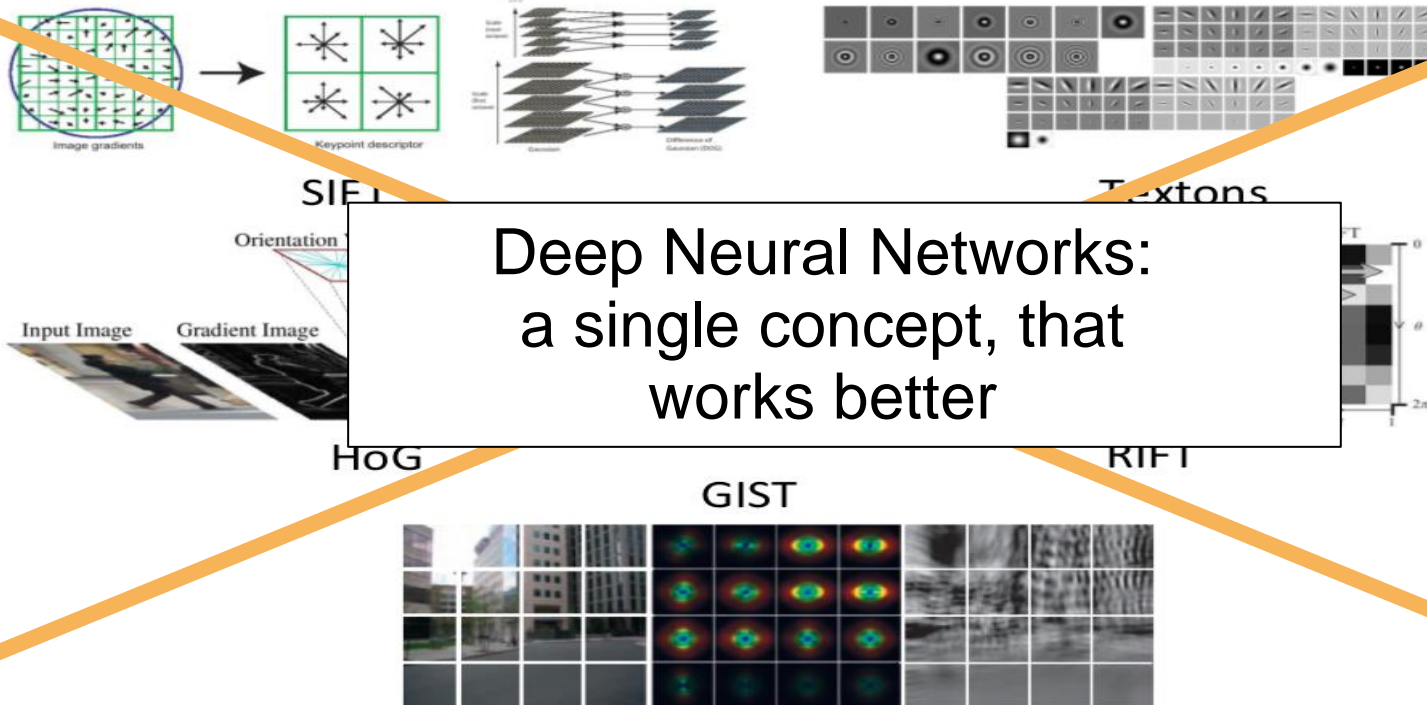


RIFT

GIST



# No art now, just engineering



# Why and how Deep learning works

- Availability of Graphical processing units (GPU)
- Large scale “big” data
- Open-source libraries
- Complex structured data



PYTORCH



## Sequence data examples

Speech recognition



Sentiment classification

“There is nothing to like in  
this movie.”

DNA sequence analysis

AGCCCCTGTGAGGAACTAG

Machine translation

Voulez-vous chanter  
avec moi?

Video activity  
recognition



Large data set

Semi-  
structured data

+

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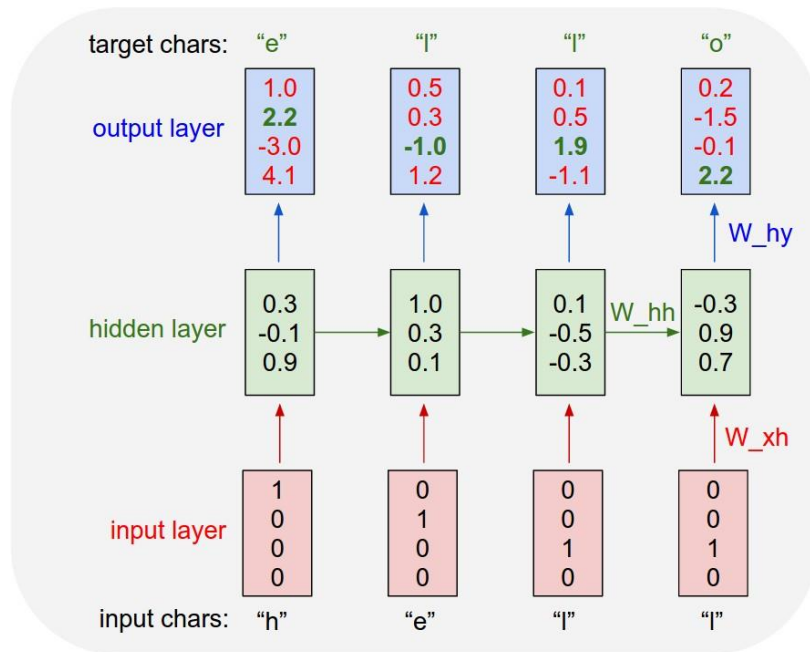
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# Examples of texts generated by LSTM (Long Short Term Memory NN)

- Shakespeare
- Wiki
- Algebraic geometrics articles
- Linux Source Code
- Dinosaurs names



For  $\bigoplus_{i=1}^n \mathcal{O}_{X_i}$  where  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{O}_X} = 0$ , hence we can find a closed subset  $\mathcal{H}$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  and any sets  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $X$ ,  $U$  is a closed immersion of  $S$ , then  $U \rightarrow T$  is a separated algebraic space.

*Proof.* Proof of (1). It also start we get

$$S = \text{Spec}(R) = U \times_X U \times_X U$$

and the comparably in the fibre product covering we have to prove the lemma generated by  $\prod \mathbb{Z} \times_U U \rightarrow V$ . Consider the maps  $M$  along the set of points  $\text{Sch}_{\text{aff}}$  and  $U \rightarrow U$  is the fibre category of  $S$  in  $U$  in Section, 77 and the fact that any  $U$  affine, we Morphisms, Lemma 77. Hence we obtain a scheme  $S$  and any open subset  $W \subset U$  in  $\text{Sch}(G)$  such that  $\text{Spec}(R) \rightarrow S$  is smooth or an

$$U = \bigcup U_i \times_S U_i$$

which has a nonzero morphism we may assume that  $f_i$  is of finite presentation over  $S$ . We claim that  $\mathcal{O}_{X_{\mathcal{F}}}$  is a scheme where  $x, x', x'' \in S'$  such that  $\mathcal{O}_{X_{\mathcal{F}}'} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X_{\mathcal{F}}''}$  is separated. By Algebra, Lemma 77 we can define a map of complexes  $\text{GL}_n(x'/S')$  and we win.  $\square$

To prove study we see that  $\mathcal{F}_i^j$  is a covering of  $X'$ , and  $T_i$  is an object of  $\mathcal{F}_{X'/S'}$  for  $i > 0$  and  $\mathcal{F}_i$  exists and let  $\mathcal{F}_i$  be a preleaf of  $\mathcal{O}_{X_{\mathcal{F}}}$ -modules on  $C$  as a  $\mathcal{F}$ -module. In particular  $\mathcal{F} = U/\mathcal{F}$  we have to show that

$$\hat{\mathcal{F}}^* = \mathcal{F}^* \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Spec}(S)}} \mathcal{O}_{X'} = \mathcal{F}_i^*(\mathcal{F})$$

is a unique morphism of algebraic stacks. Note that

$$\text{Atroves} = (\text{Sch}/S)^{\text{op}}_{\text{aff}} / (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{aff}}$$

and

$$V = \Gamma(S, \mathcal{O}) \rightarrow (U, \text{Spec}(A))$$

is an open subset of  $X$ . Thus  $U$  is affine. This is a continuous map of  $X$  is the inverse, the groupoid scheme  $S$ .

*Proof.* See discussion of sheaves of sets.  $\square$

The result for prove any open covering follows from the less of Example 77. It may replace  $S$  by  $X_{\text{pro-étale}}$  which gives an open subspace of  $X$  and  $T$  equal to  $S_{2\text{-étale}}$  see Descent, Lemma 77. Namely, by Lemma 77 we see that  $R$  is geometrically regular over  $S$ .

**Lemma 0.1.** Assume (1) and (2) by the construction in the description. Suppose  $X = \text{lim}[X]$  (by the formal open covering  $X$  and a single map  $\text{Proj}_X(A) = \text{Spec}(B)$  over  $U$  compatible with the complex

$$\text{Set}(A) = \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_{X, \mathcal{O}_{X, \mathcal{F}}})$$

When in this case of to show that  $Q \rightarrow G_{2, X}$  is stable under the following result in the second conditions of (1), and (2). This finishes the proof. By Definition 77 (without element is when the closed subschemes are categorical. If  $T$  is surjective we may assume that  $T$  is connected with residue fields of  $S$ . Moreover there exists a closed subspace  $Z \subset X$  of  $X$  where  $U$  is proper (some defining as a closed subset of the uniqueness it suffices to check the fact that the following theorem (1)  $I$  is locally of finite type. Since  $S = \text{Spec}(R)$  and  $Y = \text{Spec}(R)$ .

*Proof.* This is form all sheaves of sheaves on  $X$ . But given a scheme  $U$  and a surjective étale morphism  $U \rightarrow X$ . Let  $U \cap U_i = \prod_{i=1}^n U_i$  be the scheme  $X$  over  $S$  at the schemes  $X_i \rightarrow X$  and  $U = \text{lim}_i X_i$ .  $\square$

The following lemma surjective restrocomposes of this implies that  $\mathcal{F}_{X_i} = \mathcal{F}_{X_i} = \mathcal{F}_{X_i}$ .

**Lemma 0.2.** Let  $X$  be a locally Noetherian scheme over  $S$ ,  $E = \mathcal{F}_{X/S}$ . Set  $Z = \mathcal{F}_i \subset \mathcal{F}_i$ . Since  $\mathcal{F}^* \subset \mathcal{F}^*$  are nonzero over  $U_0 \leq p$  is a subset of  $\mathcal{F}_{i,0} \circ \mathcal{F}_i$  works.

**Lemma 0.3.** In Situation 77. Hence we may assume  $q = 0$ .

*Proof.* We will use the property we see that  $p$  is the next functor (77). On the other hand, by Lemma 77 we see that

$$D(\mathcal{O}_{X'}) = \mathcal{O}_X(D)$$

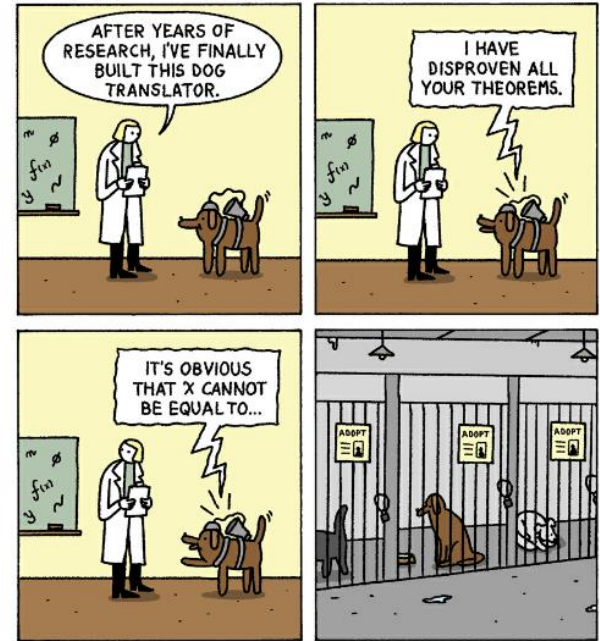
where  $K$  is an  $F$ -algebra where  $\delta_{i+1}$  is a scheme over  $S$ .  $\square$



# Conclusions

- Classic ML can't handle semi-structured data common in sequential data processing
- We can *learn representations* via Neural Networks
- Results are nice even for relatively simple models

# Machine translation: application example



War and Pao

Dog Translation Machine

# Machine translation, 50-s

## Cold war child: translator from Russian to English IBM 701 Translator

Doctor Dostert predicted that “five, perhaps three years hence, interlingual meaning conversion by electronic process in important functional areas of several languages may well be an accomplished fact.” (1954)

Rule-based approach that uses English-Russian dictionary

Project shut-down in 5 years: no significant progress

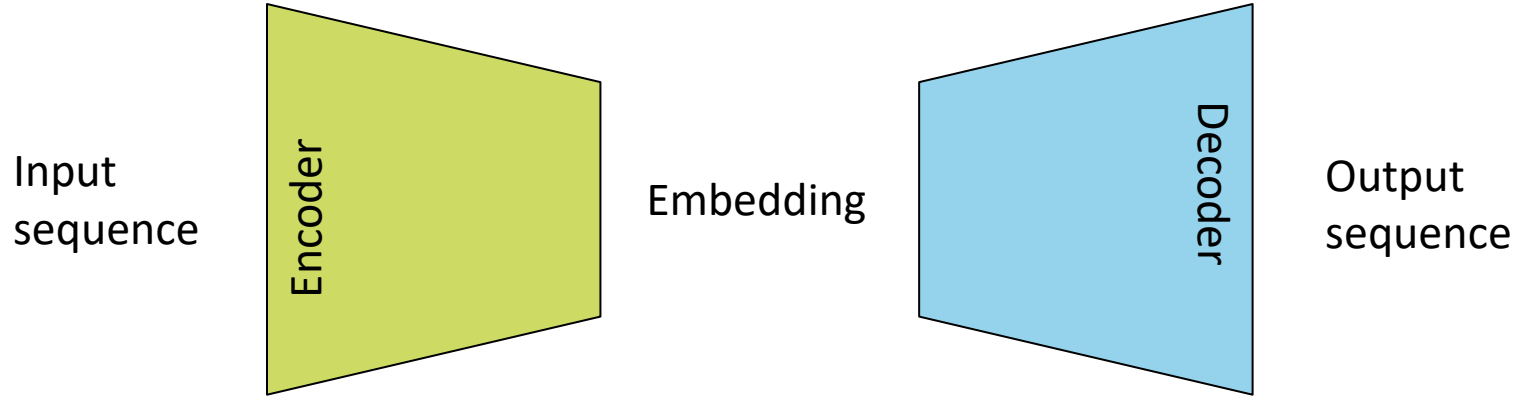


[https://www.ibm.com/ibm/history/exhibits/701/701\\_translator.html](https://www.ibm.com/ibm/history/exhibits/701/701_translator.html)  
<https://youtu.be/8ZtdVUB007A>

# Statistical approach – the leading one before 2014

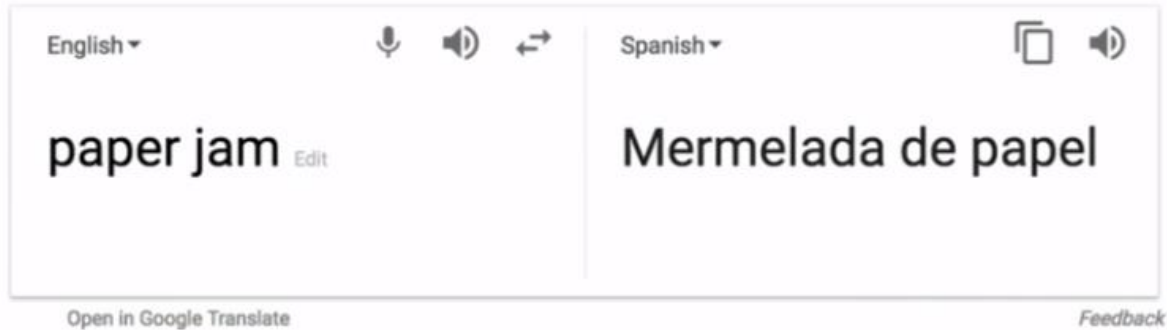
- Complicated and heavy model
- Many separate components
- Complex generation of inputs
- Support of a sophisticated system
- Quality is not great

# Neural network for machine translation

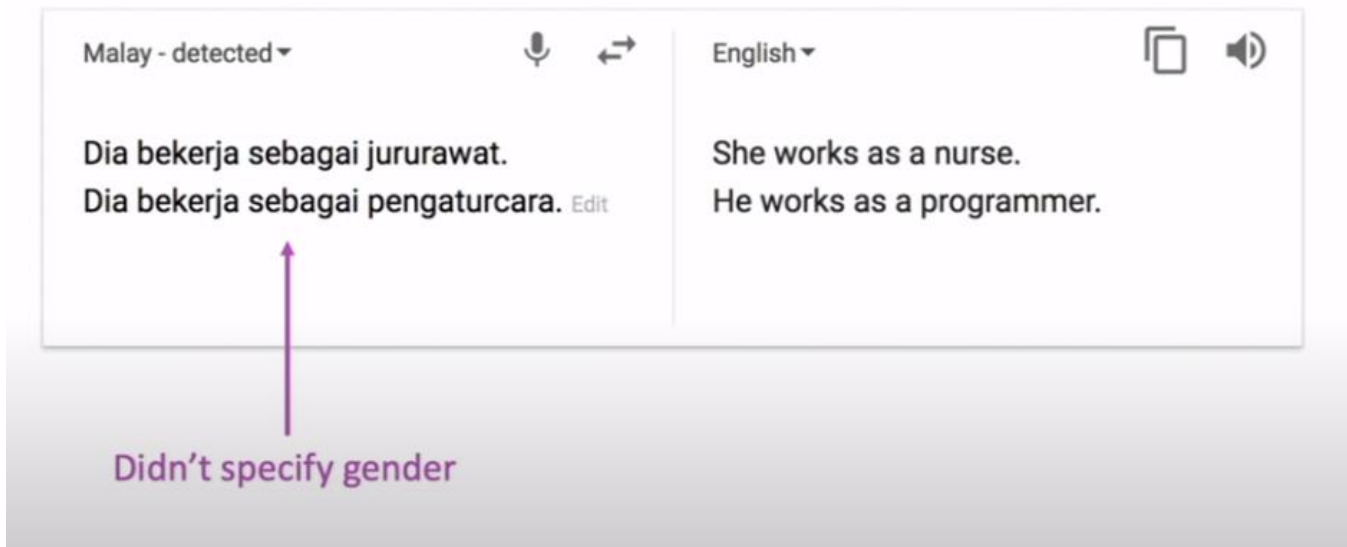


**seq2seq** (sequence to sequence) architecture

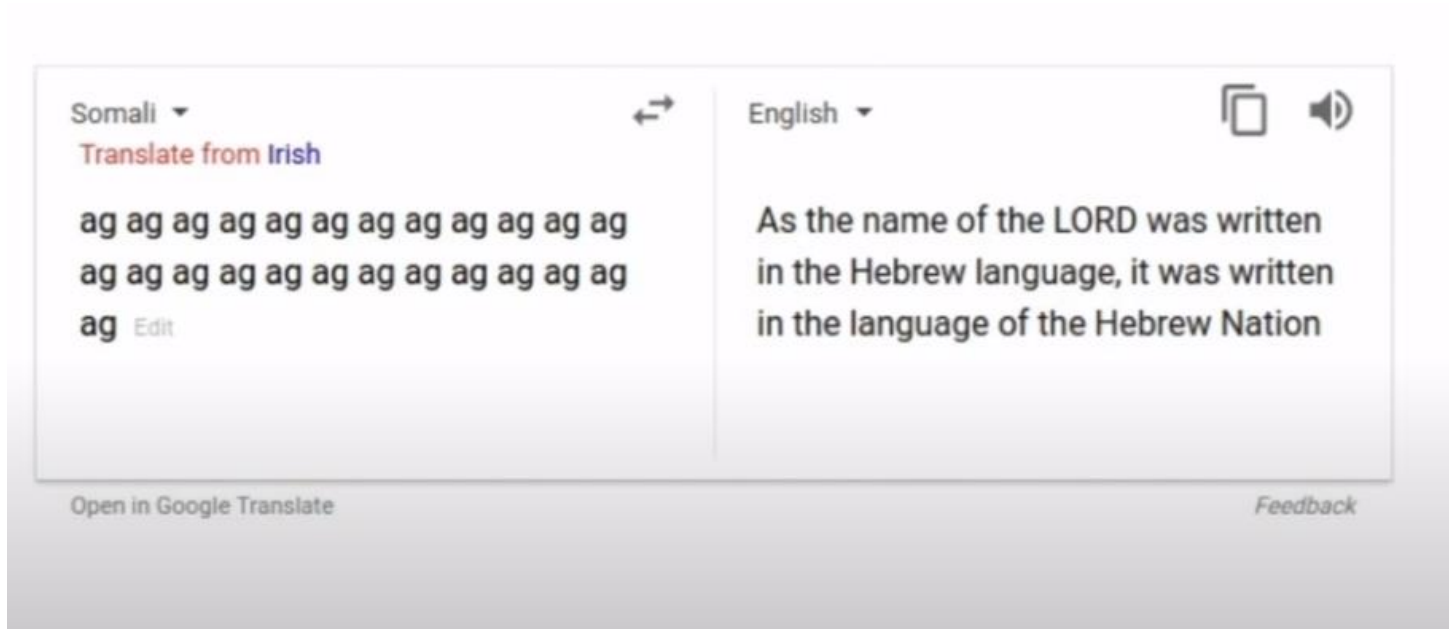
# Not a perfect solution with little control over result



# Contains biases from learning sample



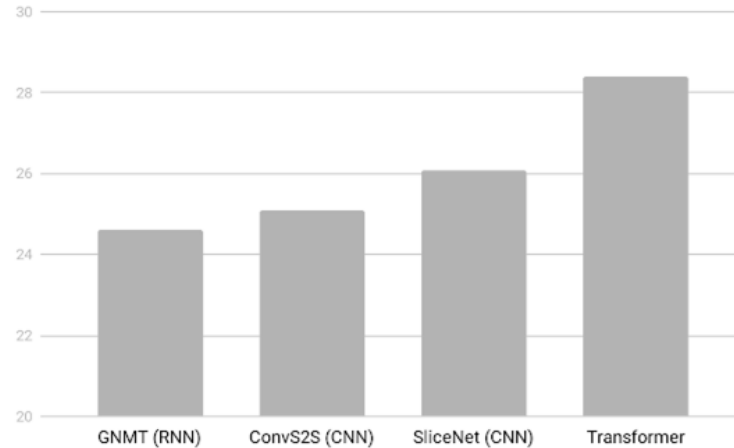
# Output strange results



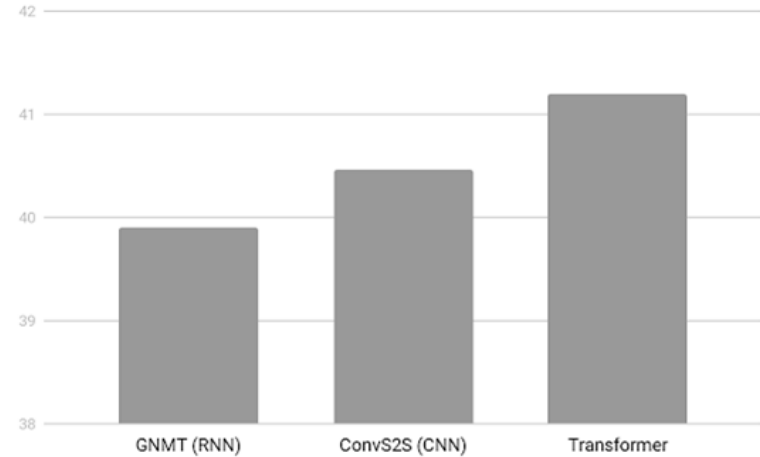


# Attention/transformer – new state-of-the art for Machine translation

English German Translation quality



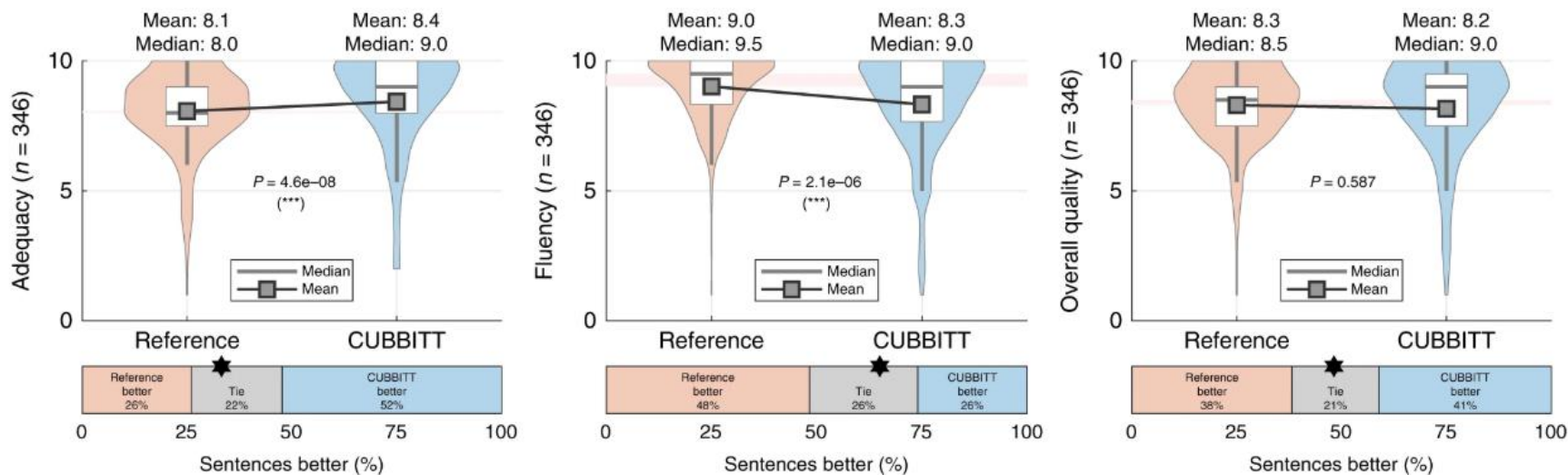
English French Translation Quality



- Maximize BLEU translation quality metric
- The best model is **Transformer**

# NLP deep learning models: CUBBITT is comparable to reference human translation for a selected dataset on News translation

Context-aware evaluation: 6 non-professionals



# Conclusions

- Machine translation problem was attacked by many problems during a long period of time
- Right now the state-of-the-art is Neural Networks Transformers
- They can even improve over human-translation

# Vanilla Recurrent Neural Network



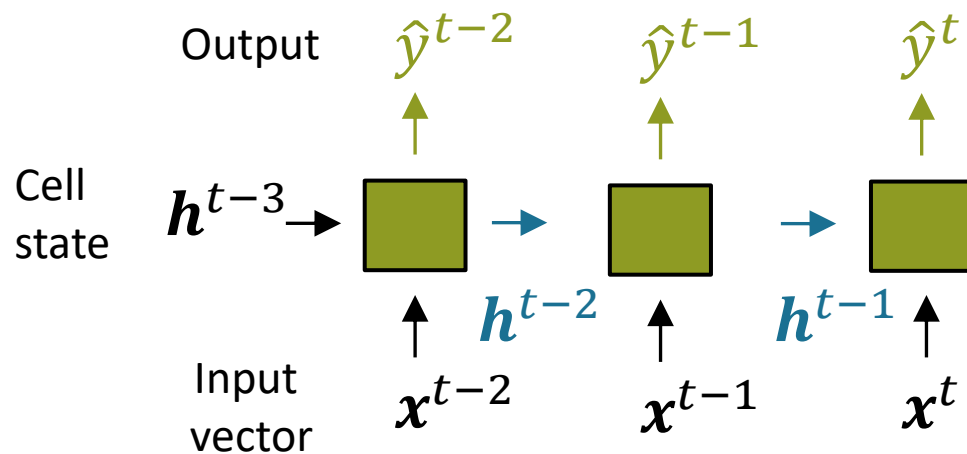
# Simple RNN model

At each step:

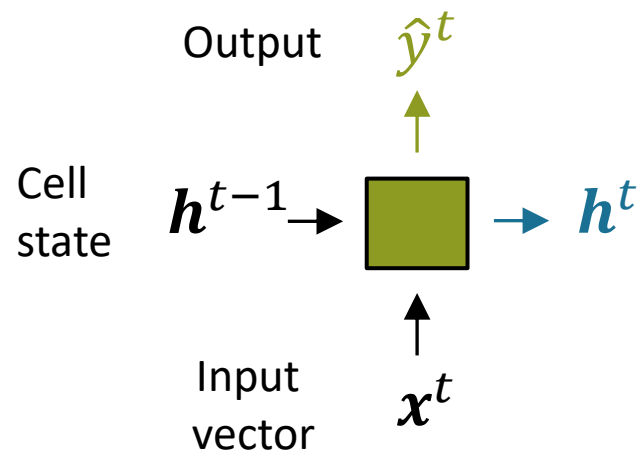
$\hat{y}^t$  - output / model prediction

$x^t$  - input vector / new information

$h^t$  - cell / hidden state



# Simple RNN model block



$$\mathbf{h}^t = f_h(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{h}^{t-1})$$

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

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}^t = f_y(\mathbf{h}^t)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}^t = \text{softmax}(U\mathbf{h}^t + b_y)$$

# Sequence processing with Vanilla RNN

- Long-term memory
- Maintain order information
- Natural preprocessing
- Variable-length sequences processing

NO



YES

a kind of

YES (if one to one)

# Another semi-structured data problems

Credit scoring:  
default prediction

Money  
Transactions data



Fraud detection  
in healthcare insurance

A history of visits



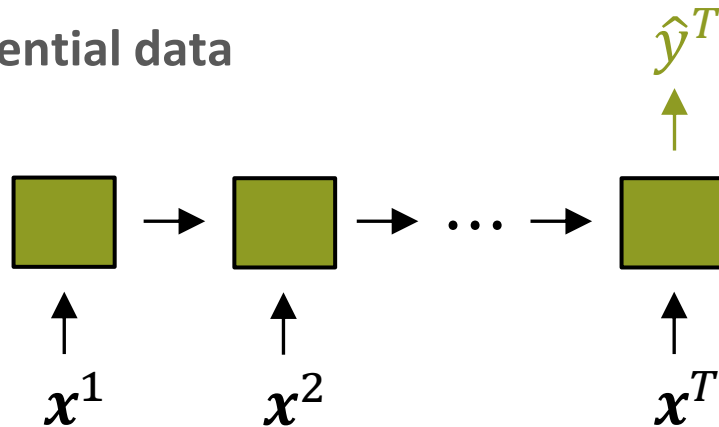
Is there a fraud?



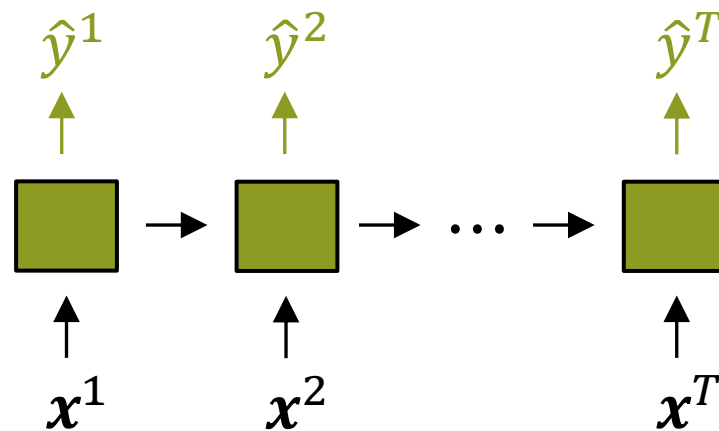
## Problem statements for sequential data



Sequence to  
a single output

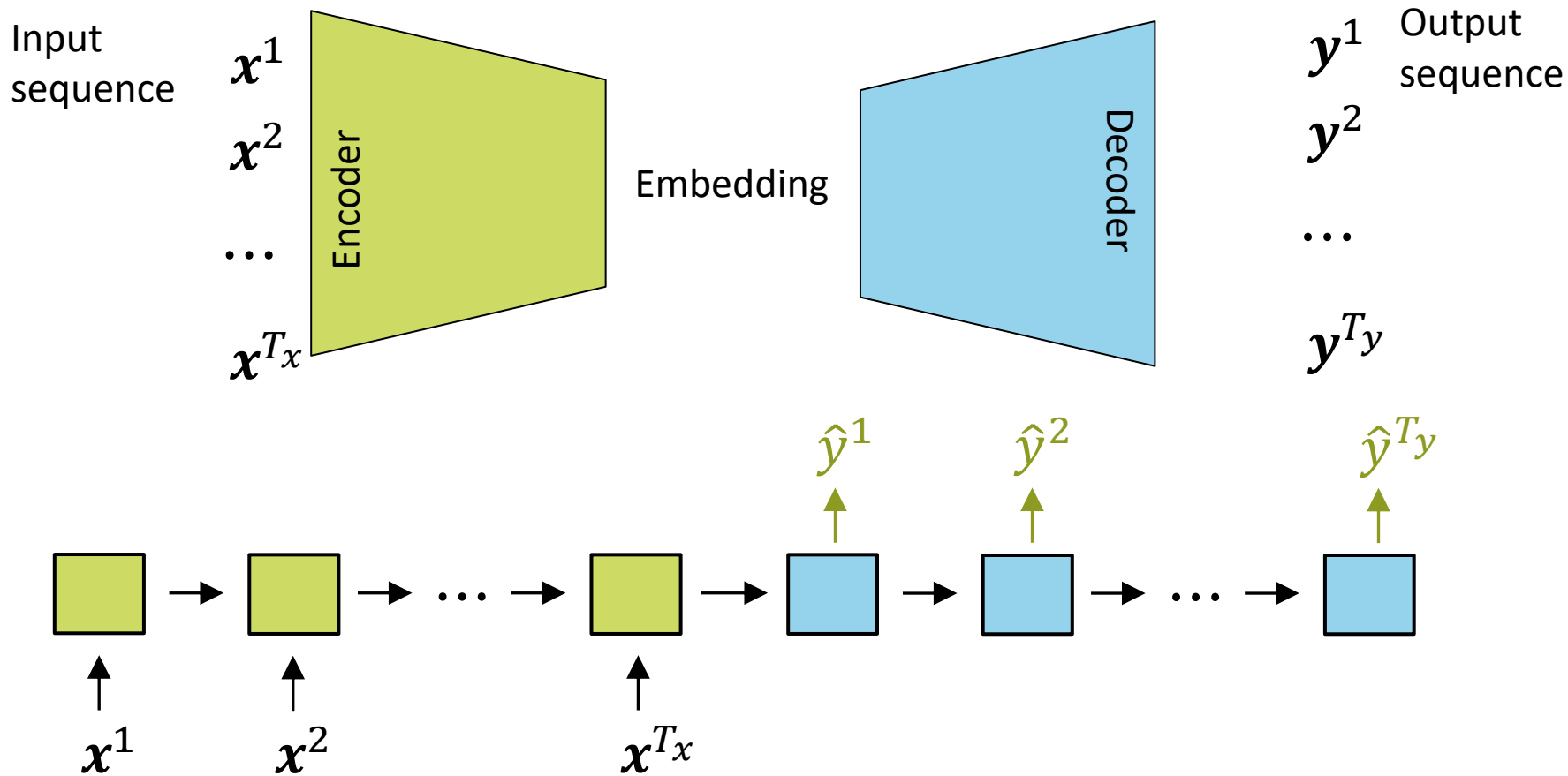


Sequence to  
a sequence of  
outputs



No recurrent  
structure

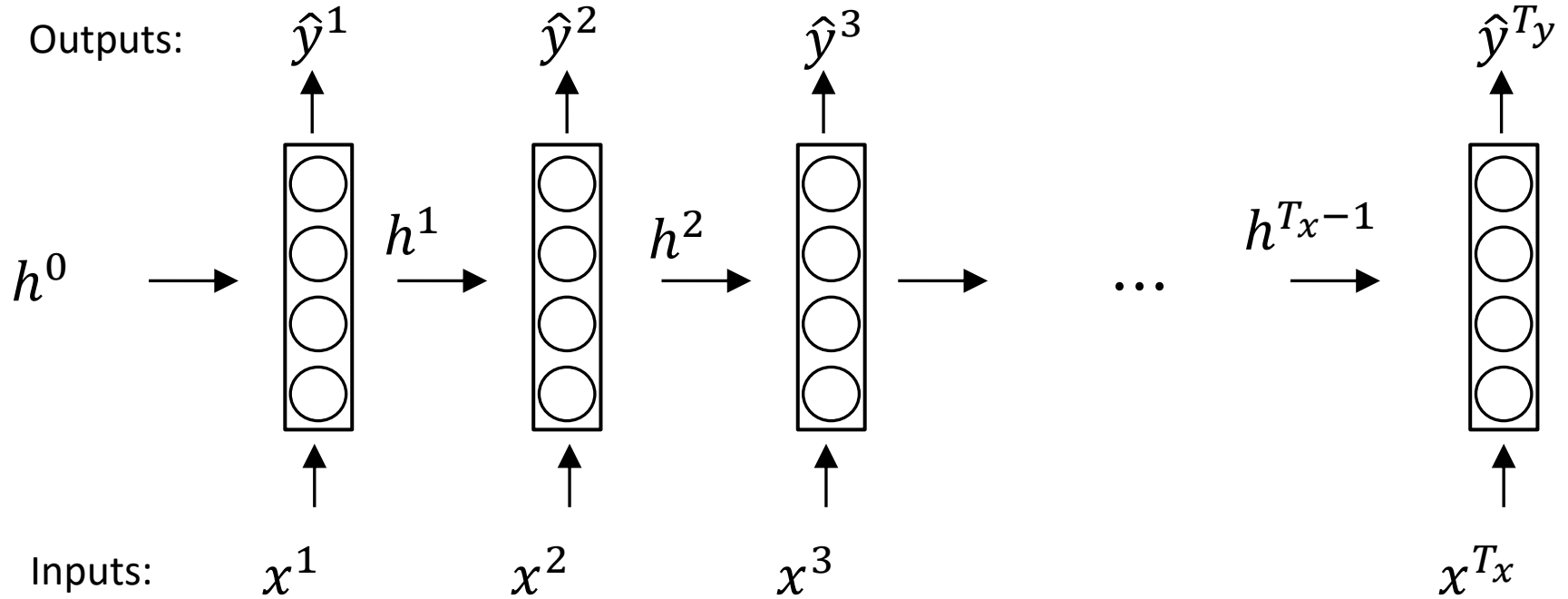
## A sequence to sequence problem



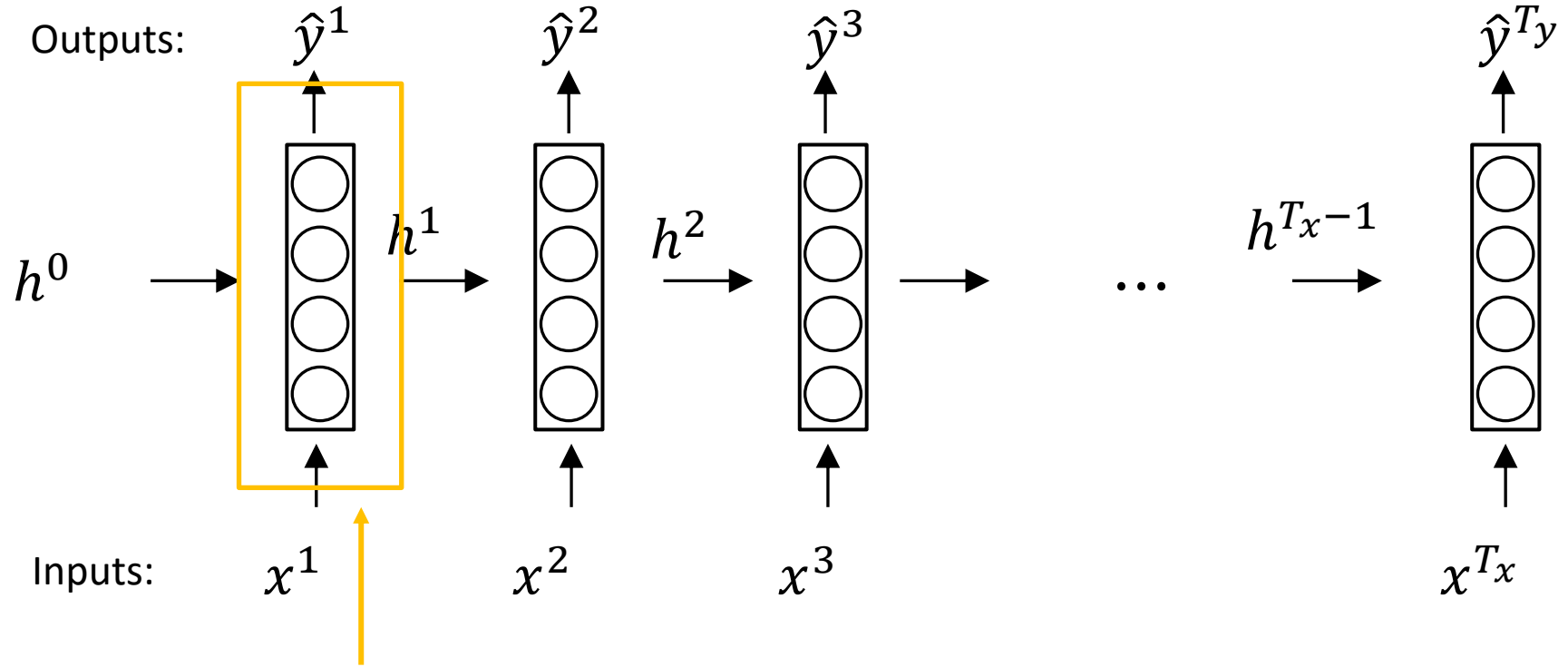


# More on Recurrent Neural Networks

## Forward propagation through Recurrent Neural Network

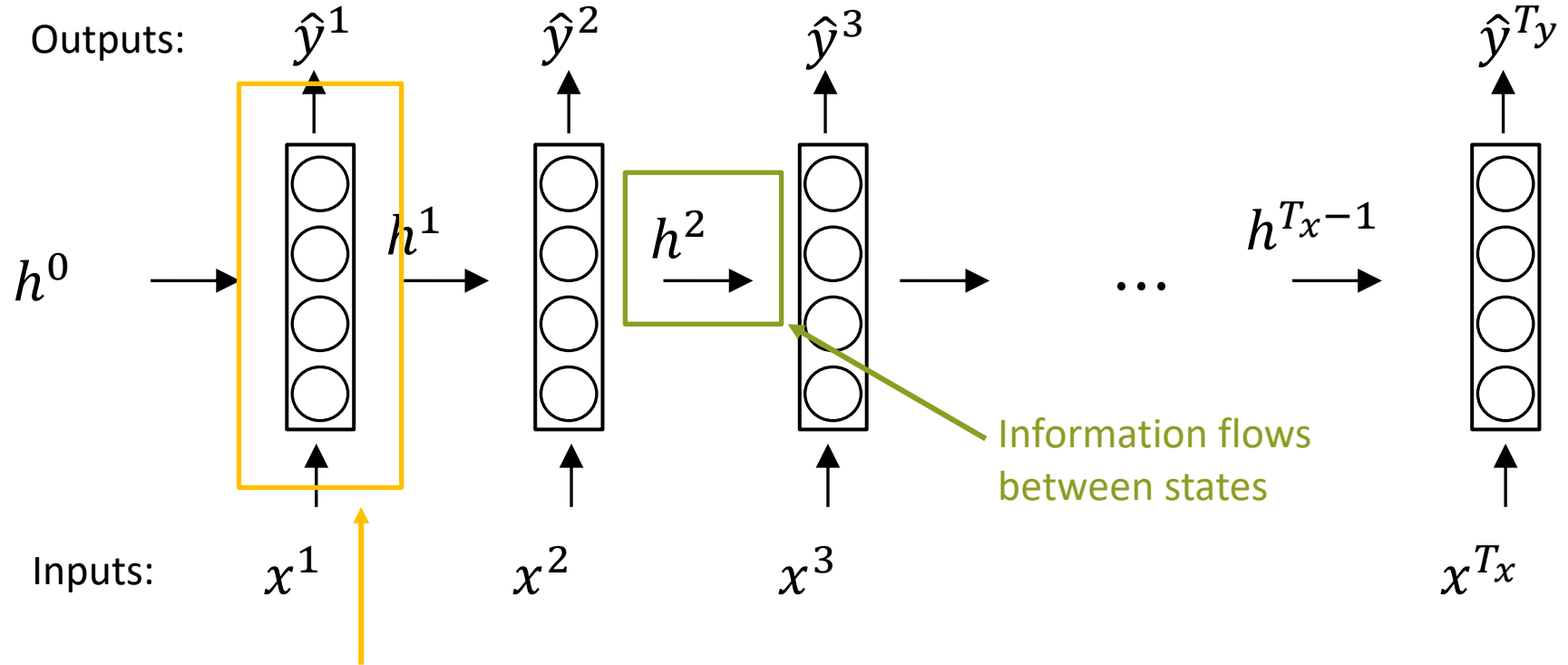


# Forward propagation through Recurrent Neural Network



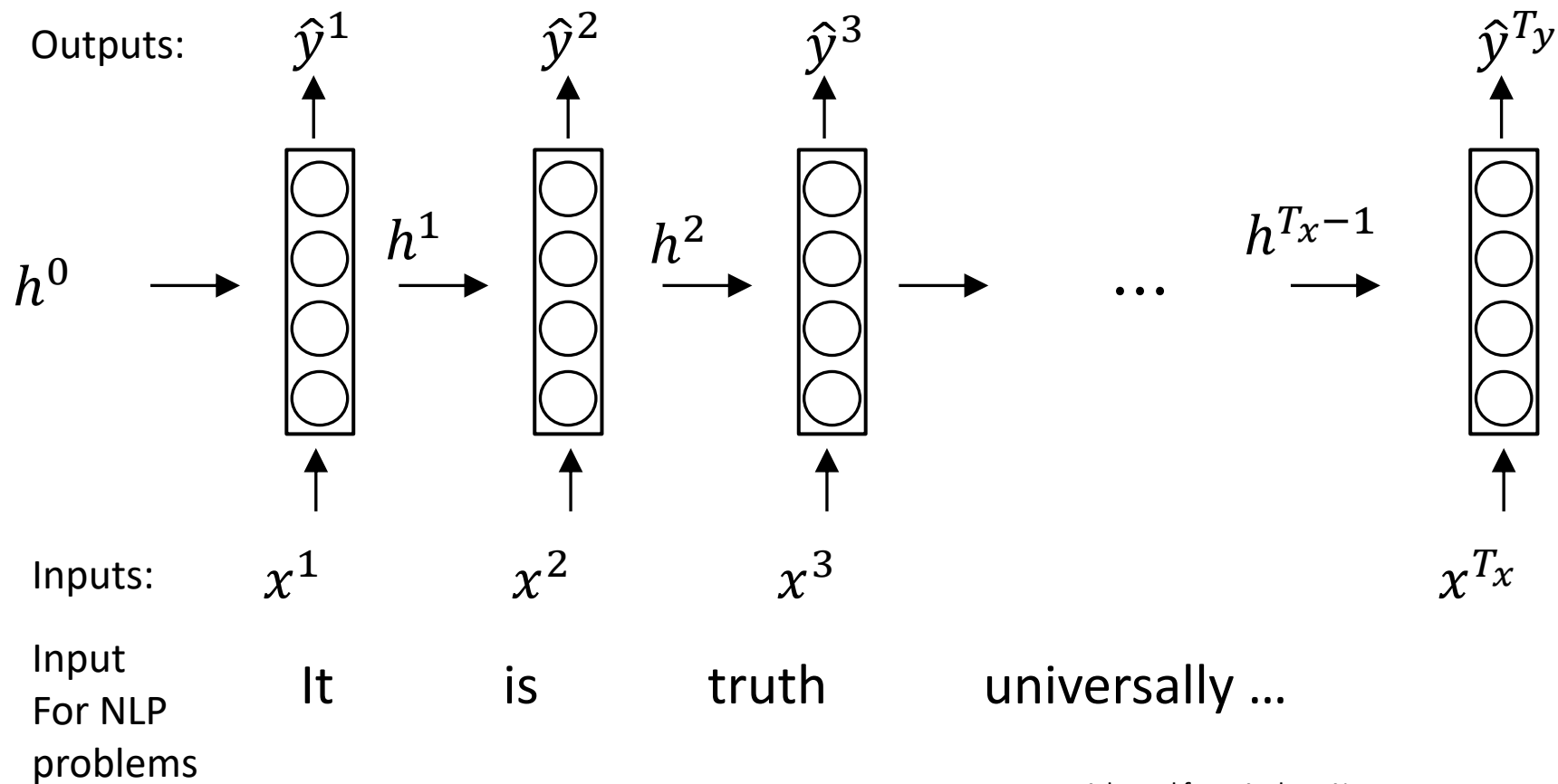
Processing unit is the same for all time moments.  
Units has parameters we want to learn!

# Forward propagation through Recurrent Neural Network



Processing unit is the same for all time moments.  
Units has parameters we want to learn!

## Forward propagation through Recurrent Neural Network



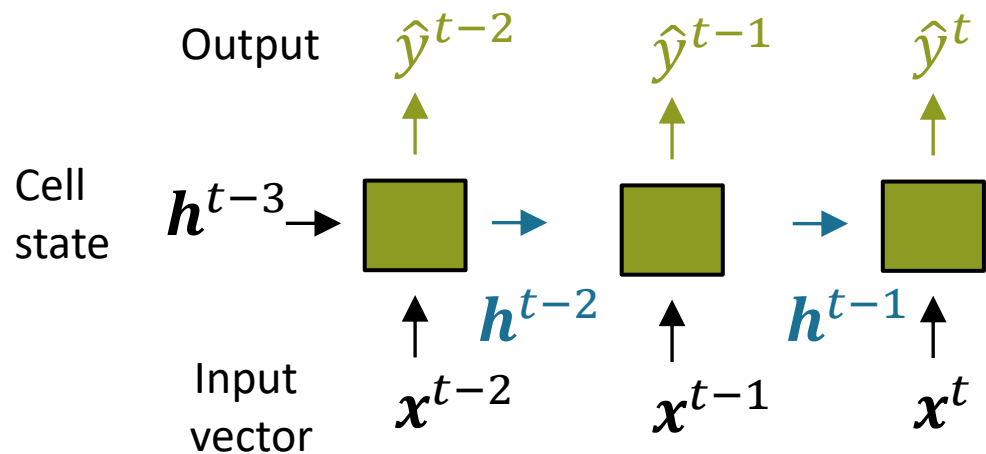
# Simple RNN model

At each step:

$\hat{y}^t$  - output / model prediction

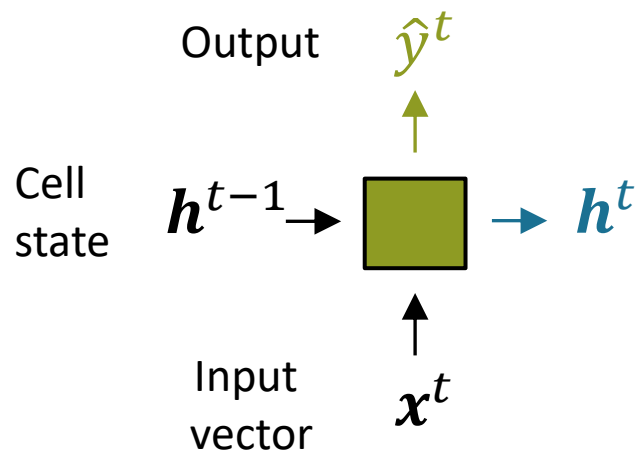
$x^t$  - input vector / new information

$h^t$  - cell / hidden state





# Simple RNN model block



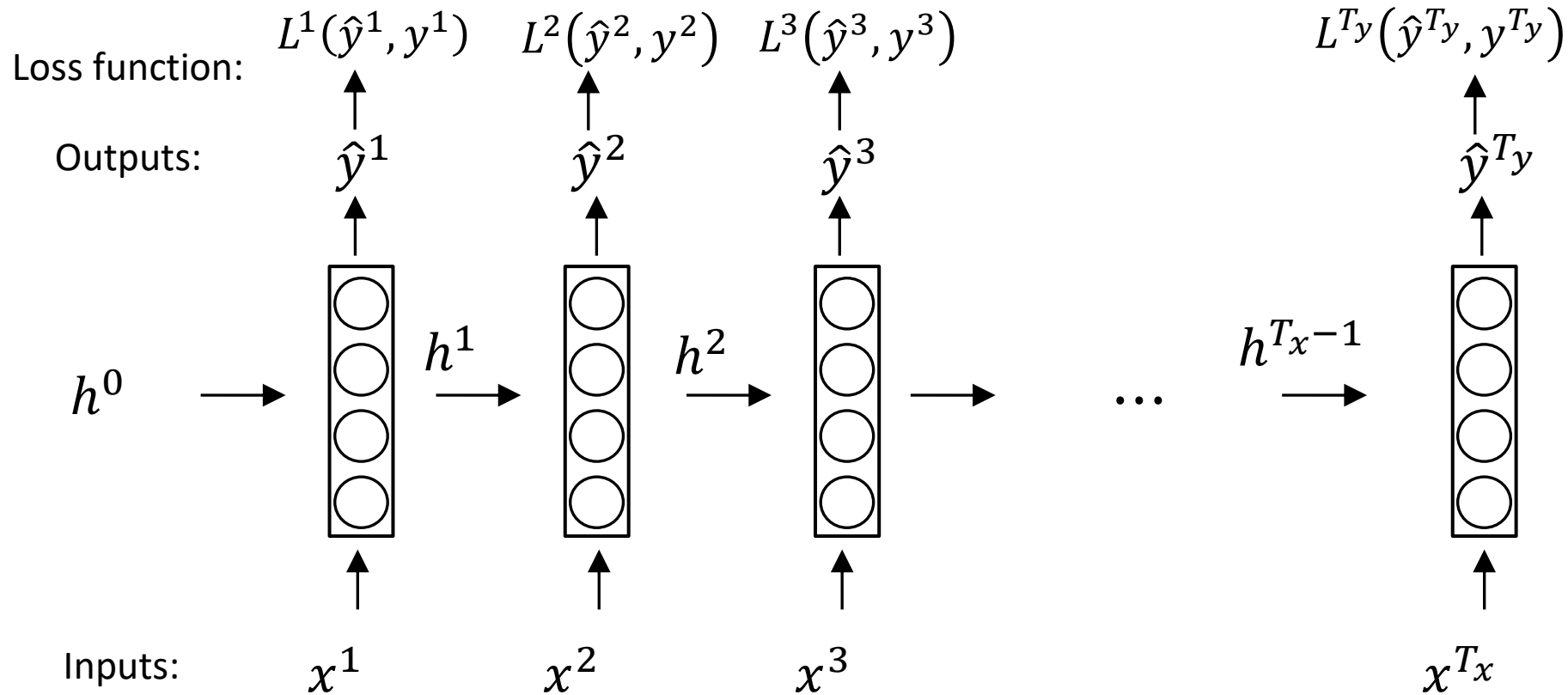
$$\mathbf{h}^t = f_h(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{h}^{t-1})$$

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

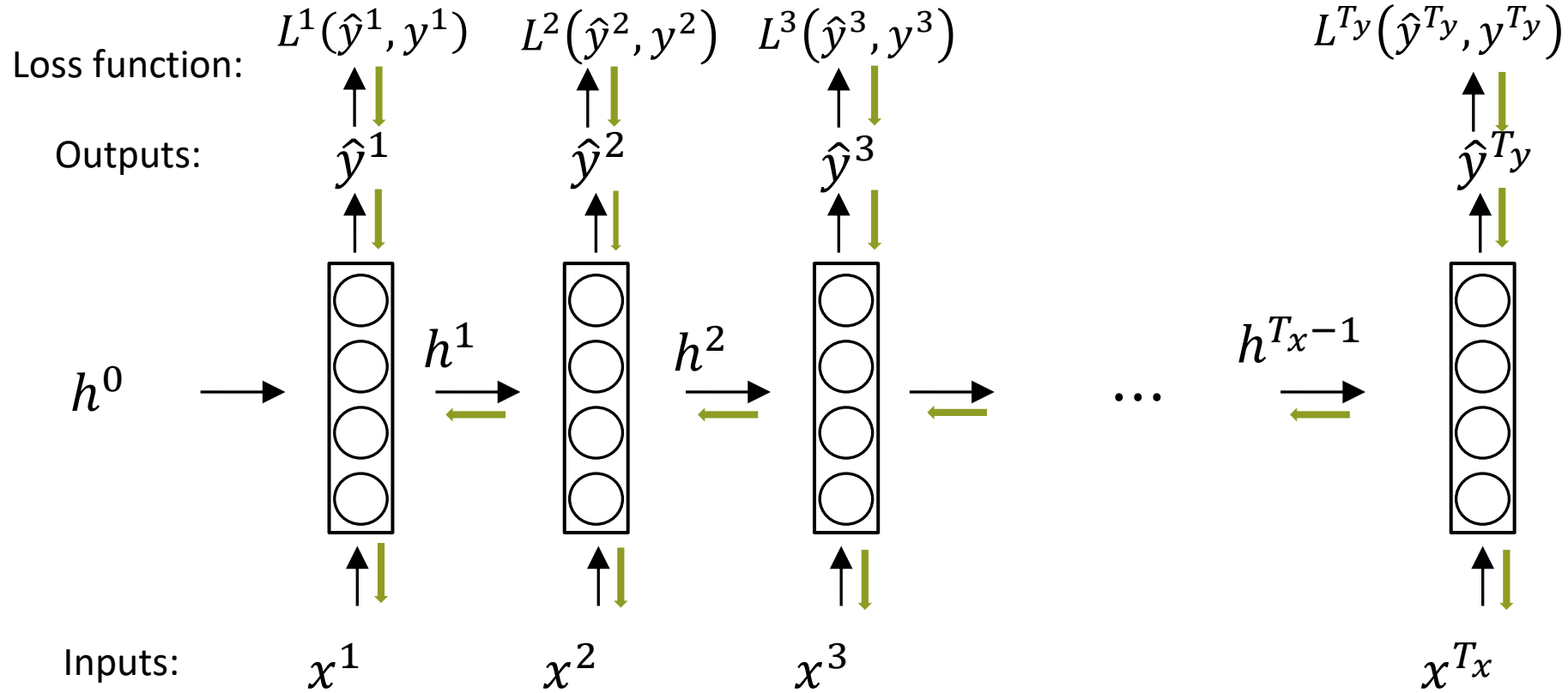
$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}^t = f_y(\mathbf{h}^t)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}^t = \text{softmax}(U\mathbf{h}^t + b_y)$$

# Backward propagation through Recurrent Neural Network



# Backward propagation through Recurrent Neural Network

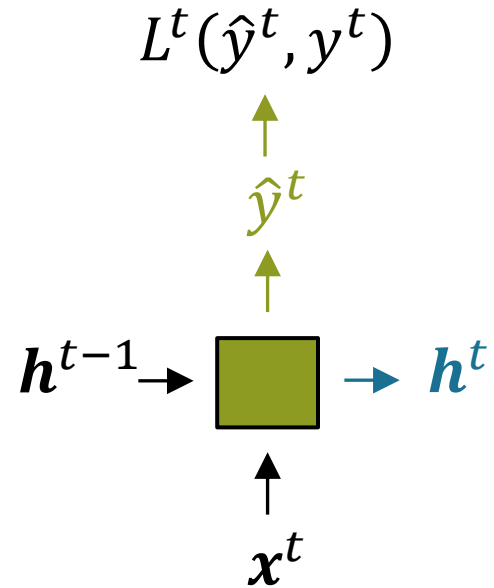


## Backpropagation w.r.t. $U$

$$L = \sum_{i=1}^{T_y} L^i(\hat{y}^i, y^i)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial U} = \sum_{i=1}^{T_y} \frac{\partial L_i}{\partial U} = \sum_{i=1}^{T_y} \frac{\partial L_i}{\partial \hat{y}^i} \frac{\partial \hat{y}^i}{\partial U}$$

$$\hat{y}^t = \text{softmax}(U\mathbf{h}^t + b_y)$$



# Backpropagation w.r.t. $W$

$$L = \sum_{i=1}^{T_y} L^i(\hat{y}^i, y^i)$$

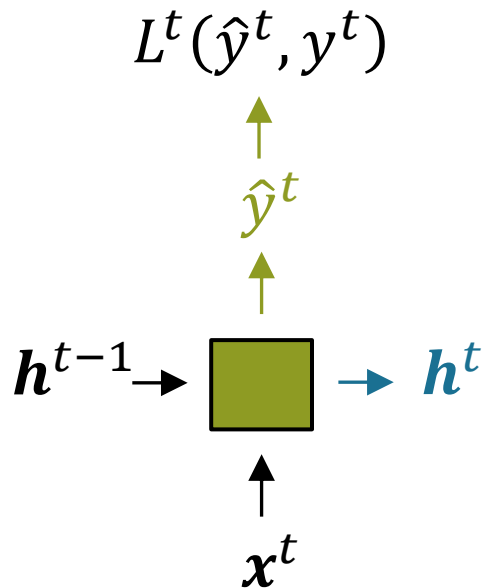
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{i=1}^{T_y} \frac{\partial L_i}{\partial W} = \sum_{i=1}^{T_y} \frac{\partial L_i}{\partial \hat{y}^i} \frac{\partial \hat{y}^i}{\partial W}$$

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

$$\frac{\partial L_i}{\partial \hat{y}^i} \frac{\partial \hat{y}^i}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_i}{\partial \hat{y}^i} \frac{\partial \hat{y}^i}{\partial h_t} \left( \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial W} + \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} \frac{\partial h_{t-1}}{\partial W} + \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial L_i}{\partial \hat{y}^i} \frac{\partial \hat{y}^i}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_i}{\partial \hat{y}^i} \frac{\partial \hat{y}^i}{\partial h_t} \sum_{i=0}^{T_y} \left( \prod_{j=i+1}^{T_y} \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial h_{j-1}} \right) \frac{\partial h_i}{\partial W}$$

$$\hat{y}^t = \text{softmax}(U\mathbf{h}^t + b_y)$$



# Problems of classic RNN

## Solution:

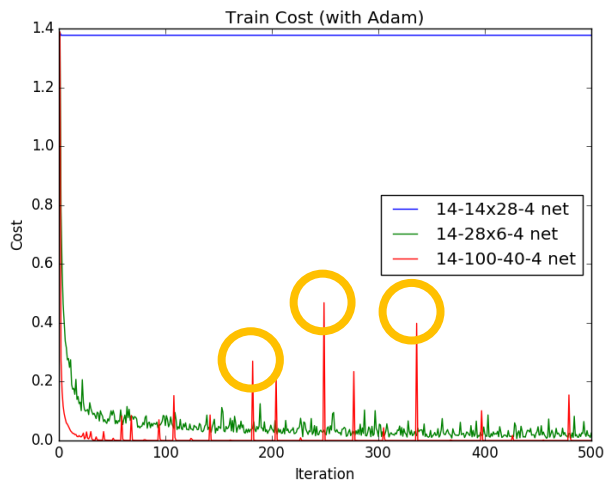
- Gradient clipping to scale big gradients

$$1. g = \frac{\partial L}{\partial W}$$

2. If  $g > t$  for some threshold  $t$ :

$$g = \frac{t}{\|g\|} g$$

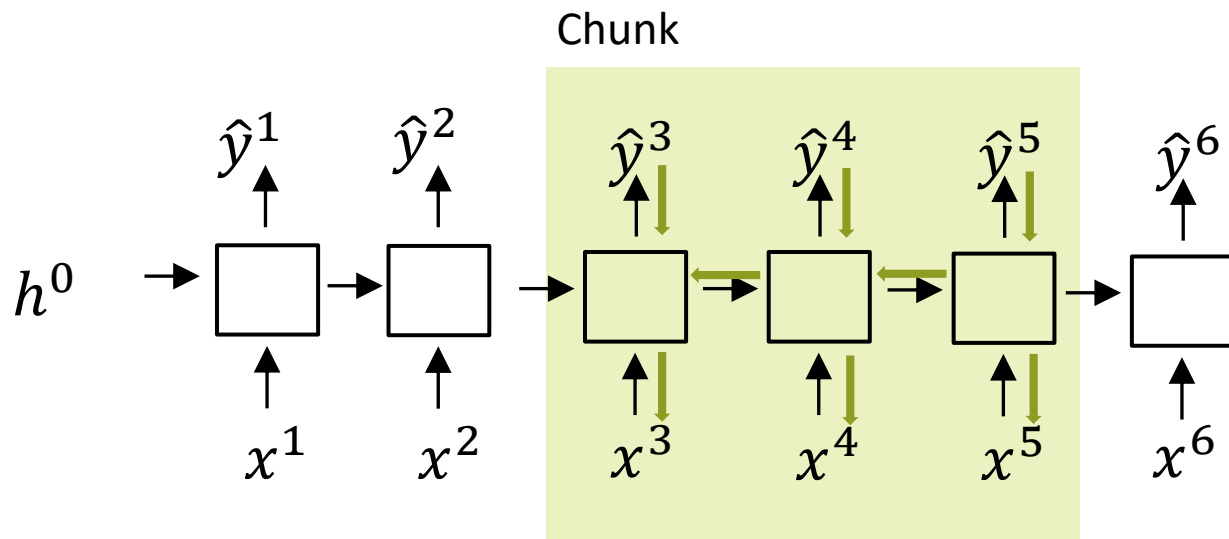
Threshold  $t$  is selected given the dynamic of loss function over iterations



# Problems of classic RNN

Solution:

- Gradient clipping to scale big gradients
- Truncated backpropagation through time



# Problems of classic RNN

Gradients vanishing is a more  
serious problem

Many values  $< 1$

Product  $\ll 1$

Bias parameters to capture  
long-term dependencies

Hard to detect!

Tricks:

Activation functions

- Use ReLU

Parameter initialization

- Initialize weights to identity matrix
- Initialize biases to zero



## Another big problem of classic RNN

**Problem: Neural networks forget fast, and it is hard to learn long-term dependencies**

## **Solution: Gated architectures**

More complex recurrent units with gates to control what information is passed through

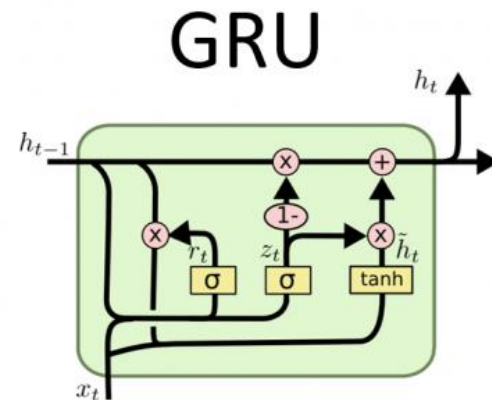
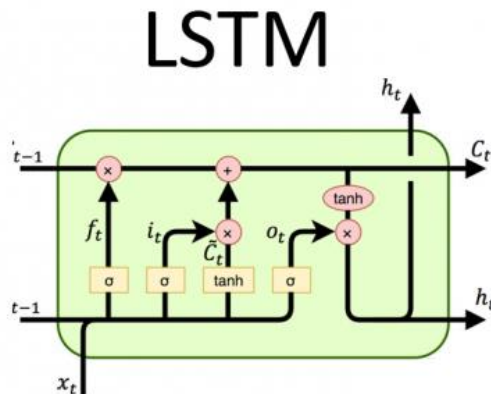
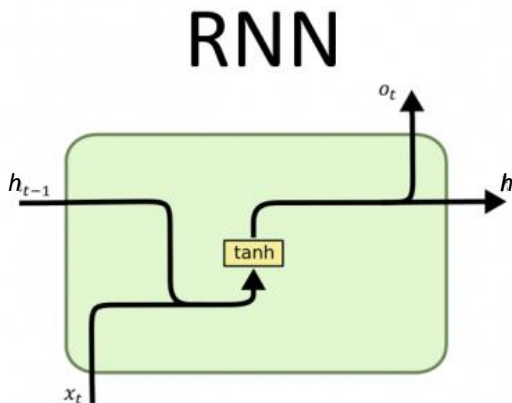
- GRU (Gated Recurrent Unit)
- LSTM (Long-Short Term Memory)

# Selection of RNN architecture



## Better RNN units: LSTM and GRU

- LSTM: long short term memory [1]
- GRU: Gated recurrent unit [2]



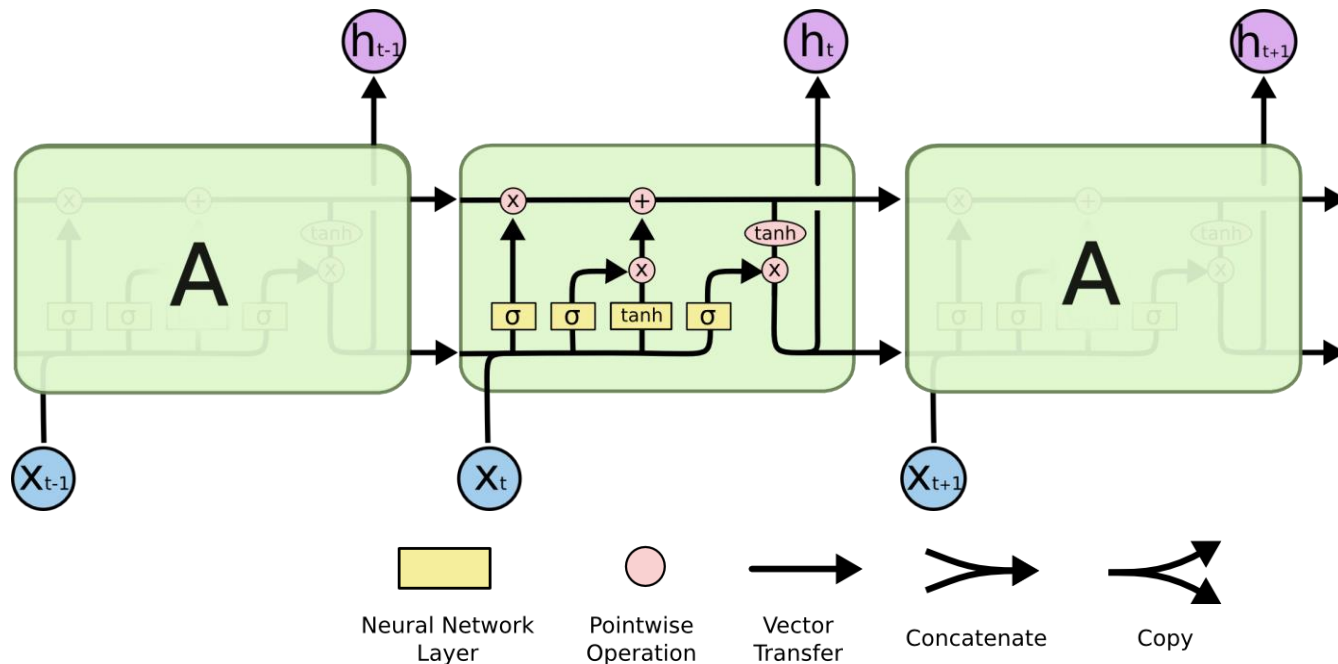
1. Schmidhuber, J., & Hochreiter, S. (1997). Long short-term memory. *Neural Comput*, 9(8), 1735-1780.
2. Cho, K., Van Merriënboer et al. (2014). Learning phrase representations using RNN encoder-decoder for statistical machine translation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1406.1078*.

## Details on how LSTM works

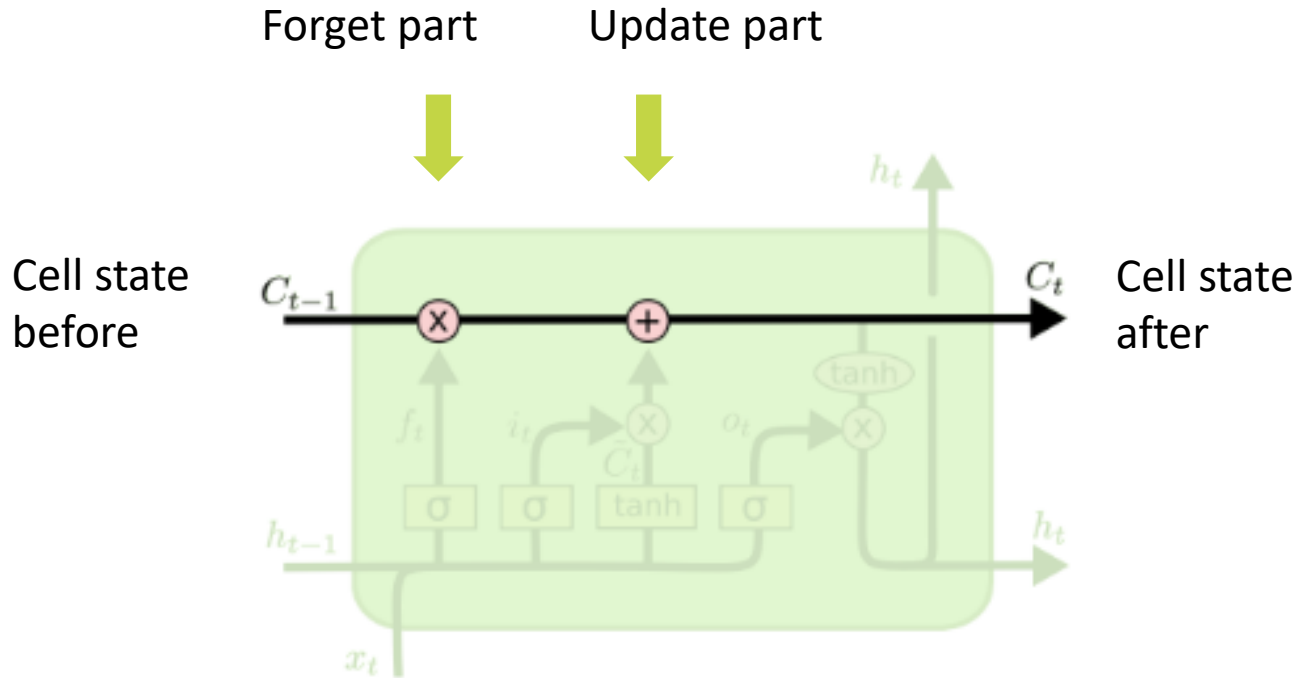
Remembering information for long periods of time is practically the default behavior of LSTM



LSTM was proposed by J. Schmidhuber group in 1991

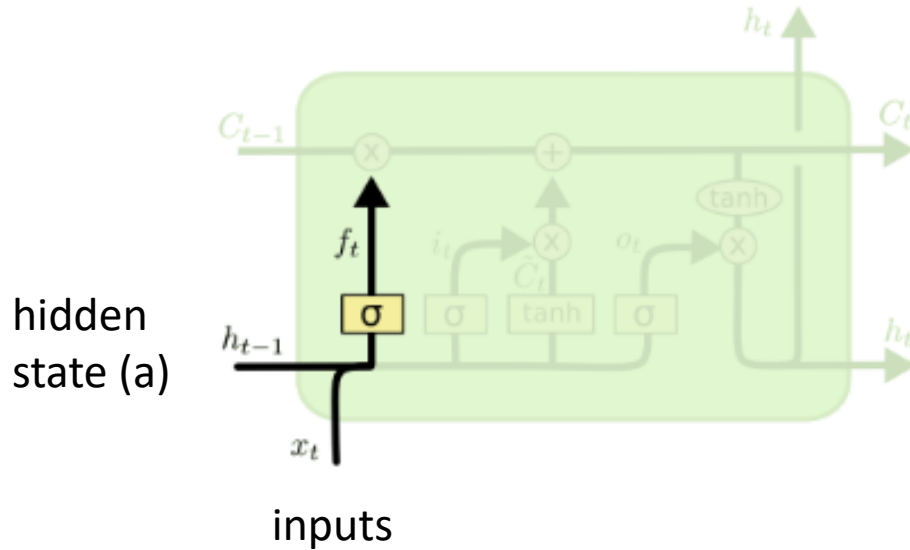


## Long term memory part – Cell state



## Forget part

Identify how much should we forget: sigmoid returns value between 0 and 1

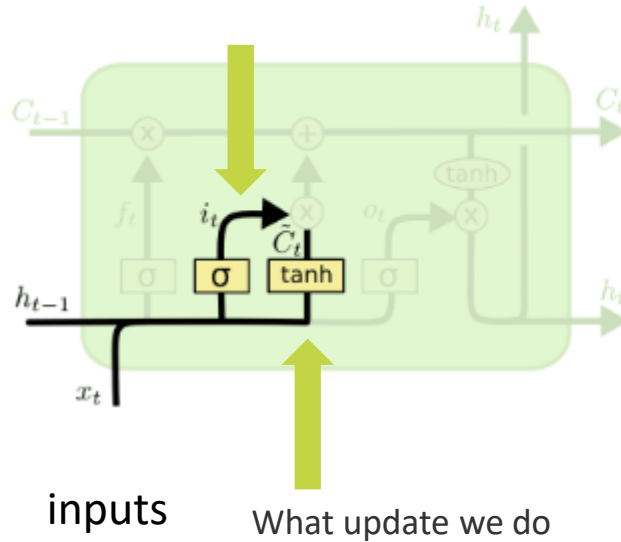


$$f_t = \sigma (W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f)$$

# Update part

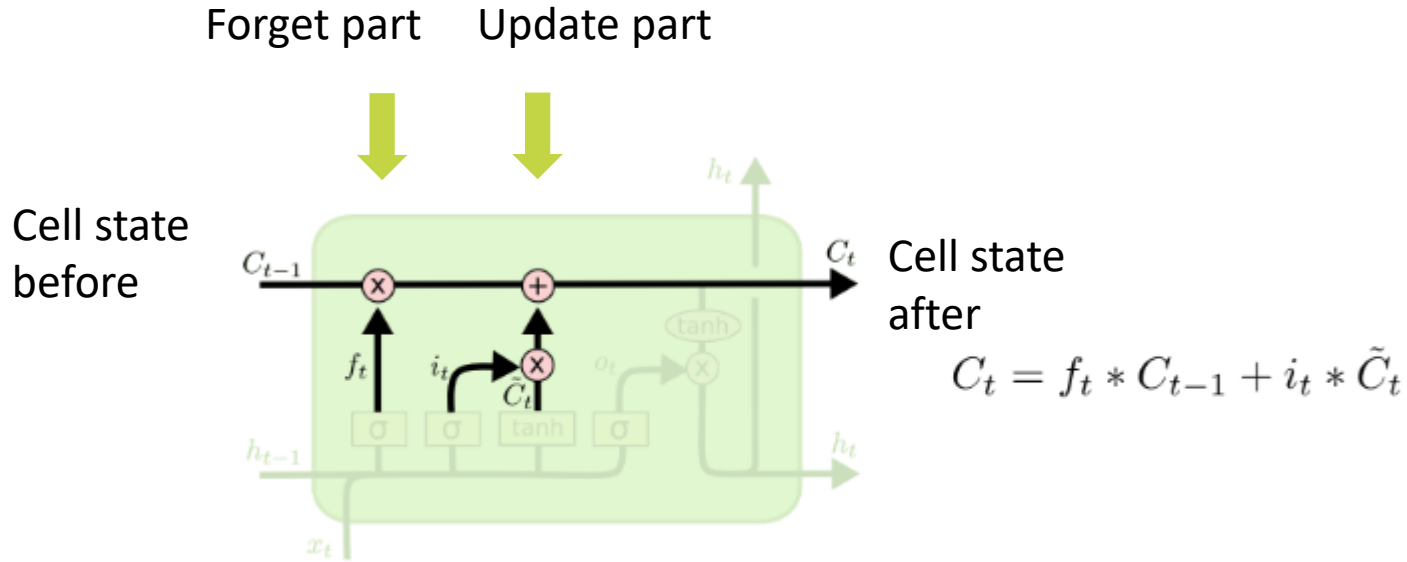
Identify how much should we update:  
sigmoid returns value between 0 and 1

hidden  
state (a)



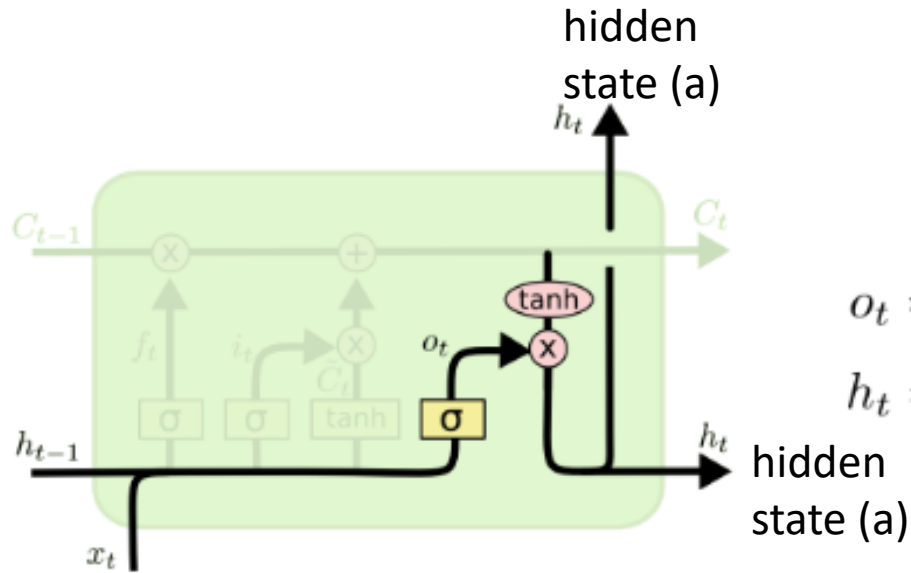
$$i_t = \sigma (W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i)$$
$$\tilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_C \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_C)$$

## Long term memory part – Cell state





## Update everything else

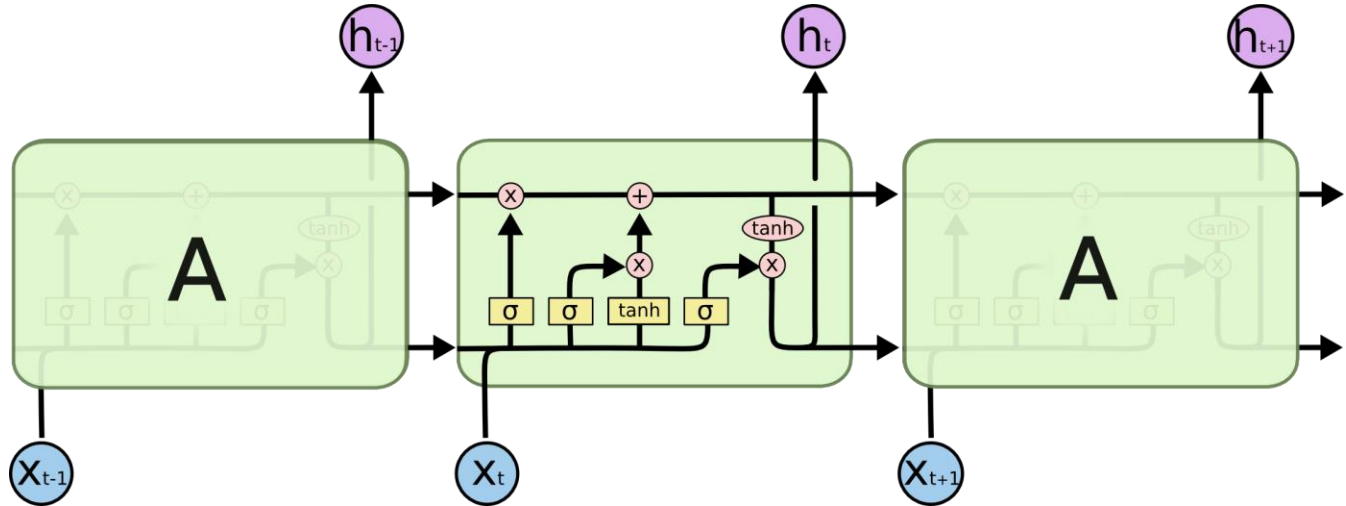


$$o_t = \sigma (W_o [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_o)$$

$$h_t = o_t * \tanh (C_t)$$

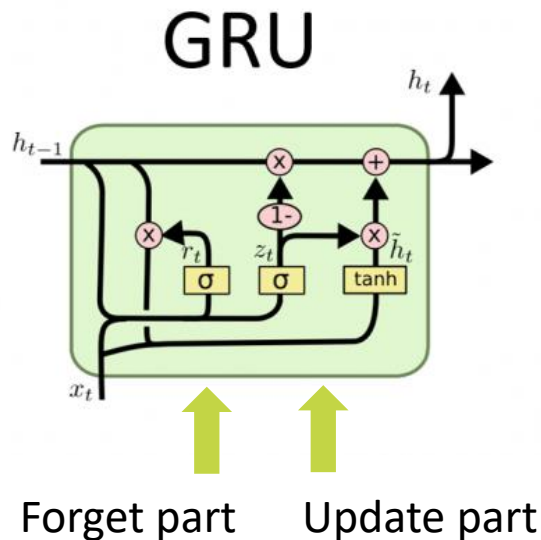
## Details on how LSTM works

- There are cell and hidden (activation) states
- LSTM block forgets and updates cell state during processing at one block



## GRU – Gated Recurrent Unit

- Update gate – what to pay attention to
- Reset gate – what to forget



$$\mathbf{r}^t = \sigma(W_{xr}\mathbf{x}^t + W_{hr}\mathbf{h}^{t-1} + b_r)$$

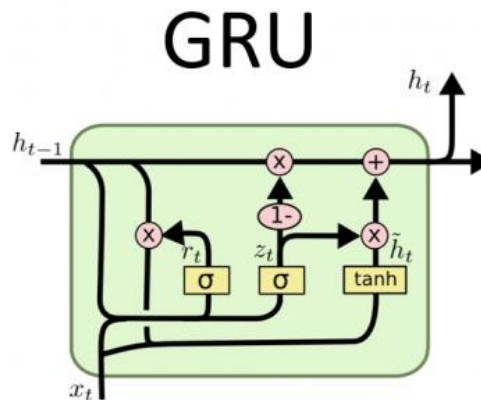
$$\mathbf{z}^t = \sigma(W_{xz}\mathbf{x}^t + W_{hz}\mathbf{h}^{t-1} + b_z)$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{h}}^t = \tanh(W_{xh}\mathbf{x}^t + W_{hr}(\mathbf{r}^t \odot \mathbf{h}^{t-1}) + b_h)$$

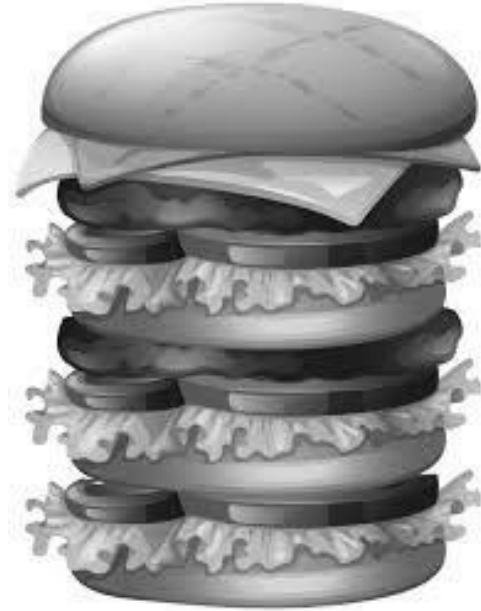
$$\mathbf{h}^t = \mathbf{z}^t \odot \mathbf{h}^{t-1} + (1 - \mathbf{z}^t) \odot \tilde{\mathbf{h}}^t$$

## GRU – Gated Recurrent Unit

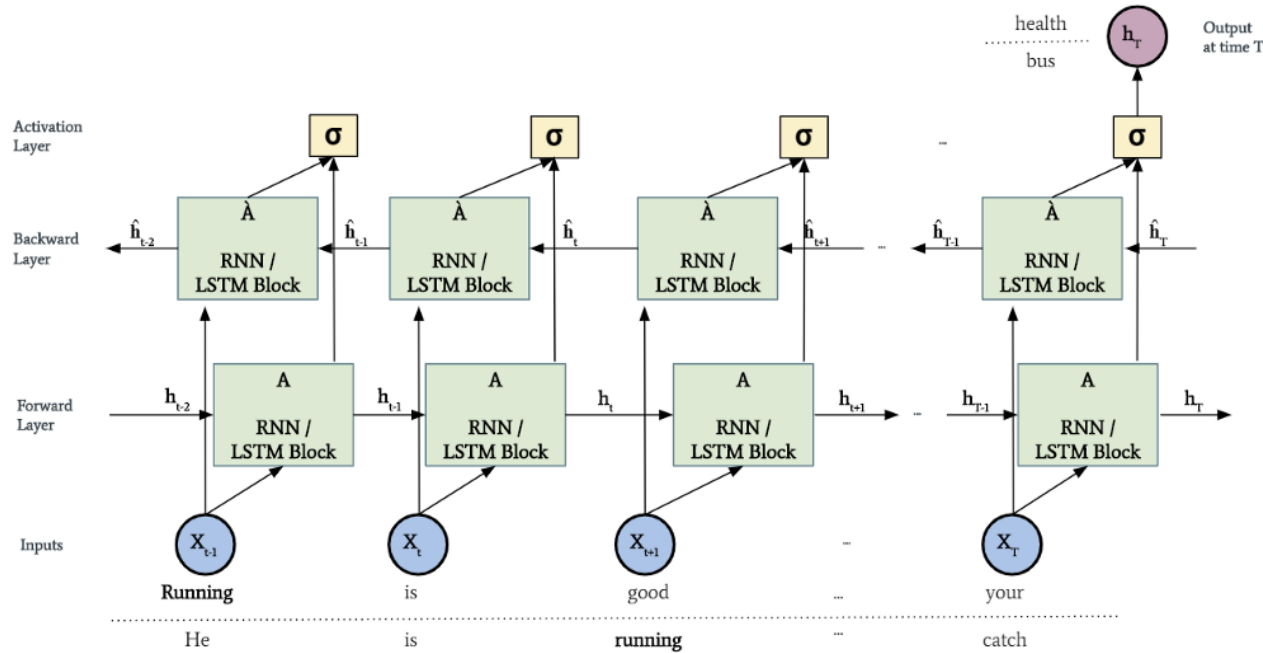
- Update gate – what to pay attention to
- Reset gate – what to forget
- Slightly worse than LSTM for NLP – but not in all problems
- Simpler and cheaper than LSTM



# Multilayer architectures



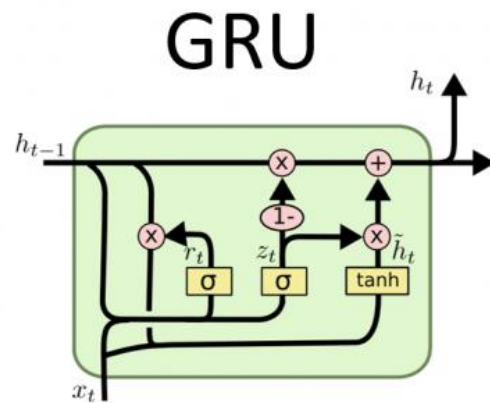
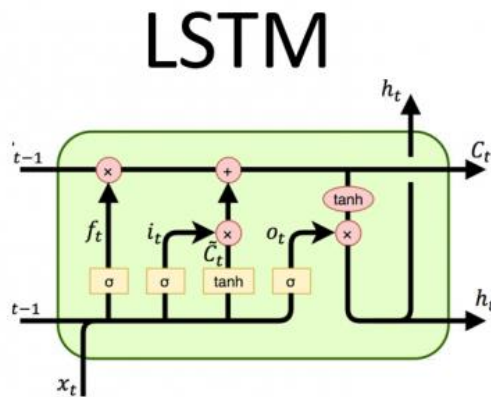
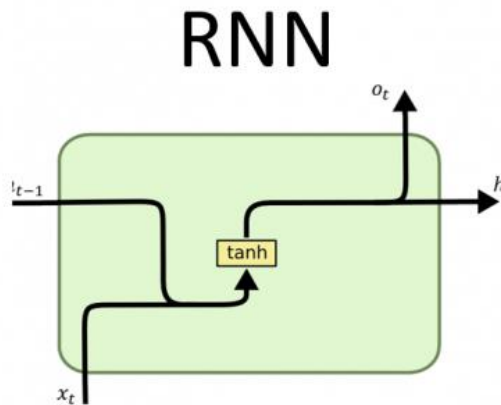
# Other architectures: bidirectional LSTM



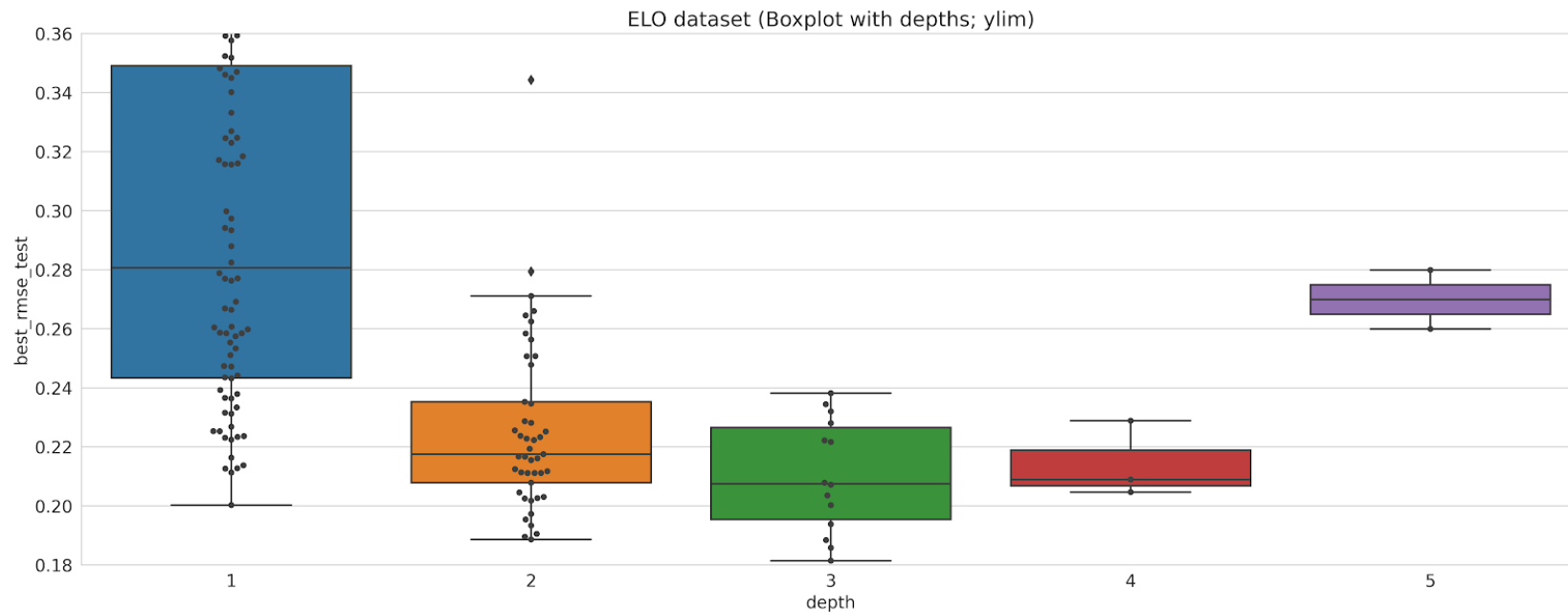
## Other architectures: bidirectional LSTM

Bidirectional LSTM are useful when we benefit from the future data or can use it:

- Handwriting Recognition
- Speech Recognition
- Protein Structure Prediction (Bioinformatics)

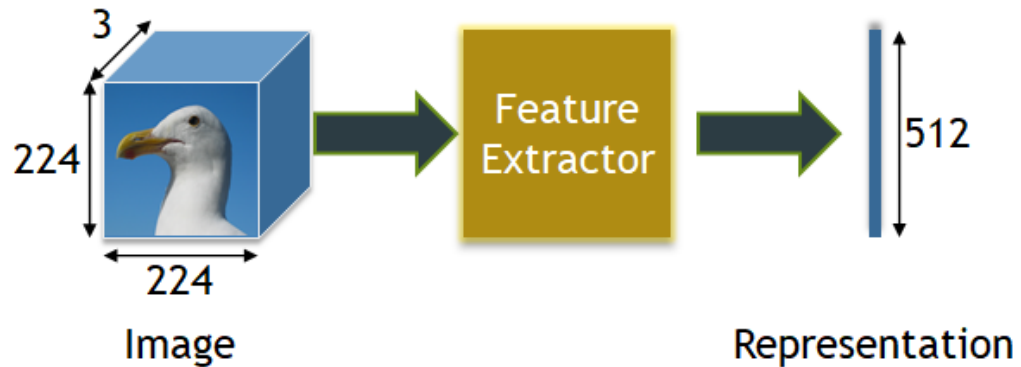


# Multiple layers RNN performance

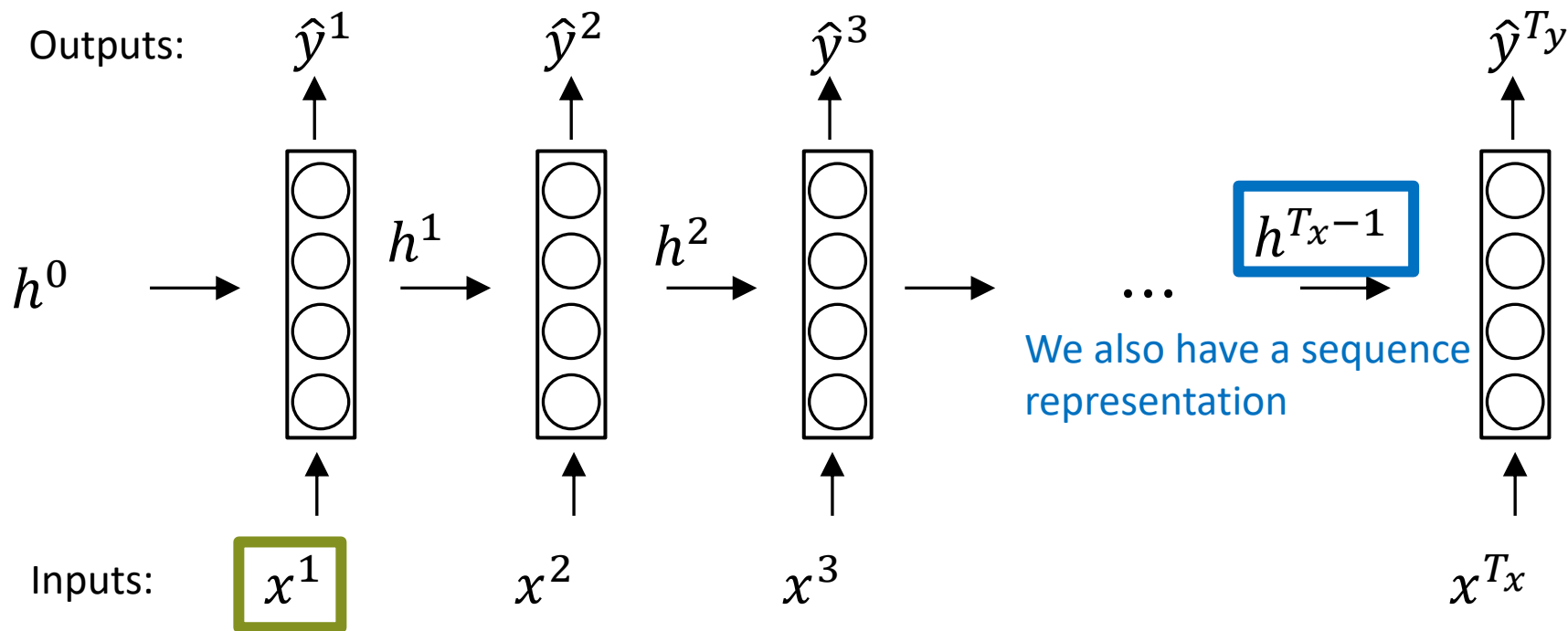




# Representation learning is the core feature of Neural Networks



## Representation learning is still here for Recurrent Neural Networks



Most of the time we also learn representations of objects in an end2end manner with backpropagation

# Attention mechanism

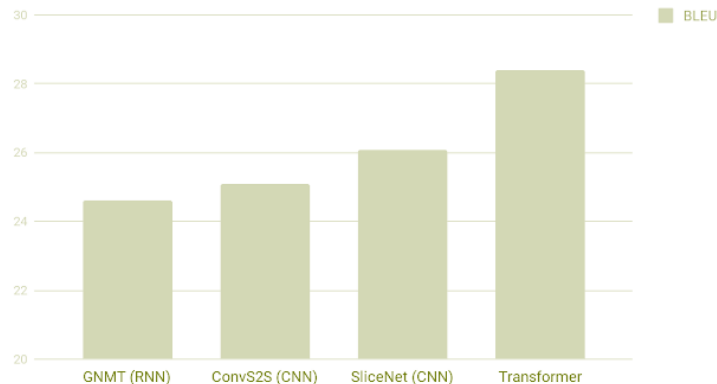
# New state of the art: **attention** is all we need

*all you  
need is  
love.*

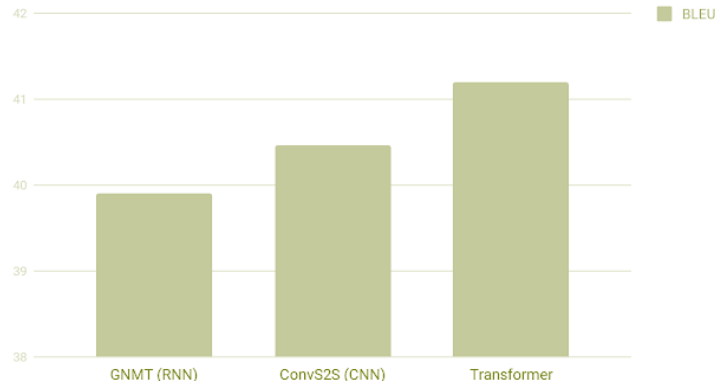
attention

Higher BLEU scores are better

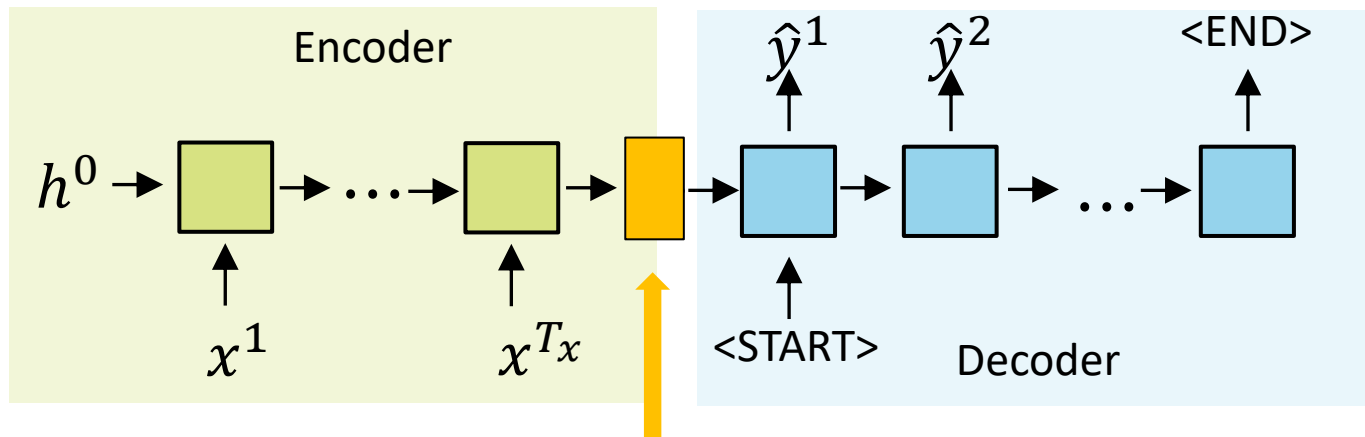
English German Translation quality



English French Translation Quality



## Bottleneck in seq2seq models



All information about the sequence is in this vector

# Attention

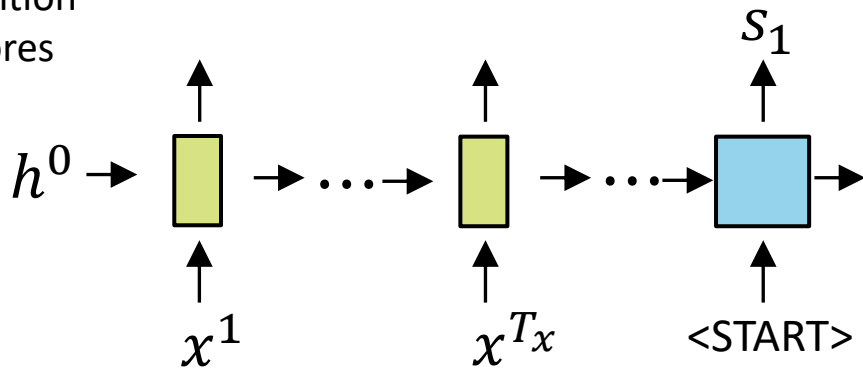
- Solution to the bottleneck problem
- Direction connection between parts of input and output sequence

# Sequence 2 sequence with attention

Attention  
output

Attention  
distribution

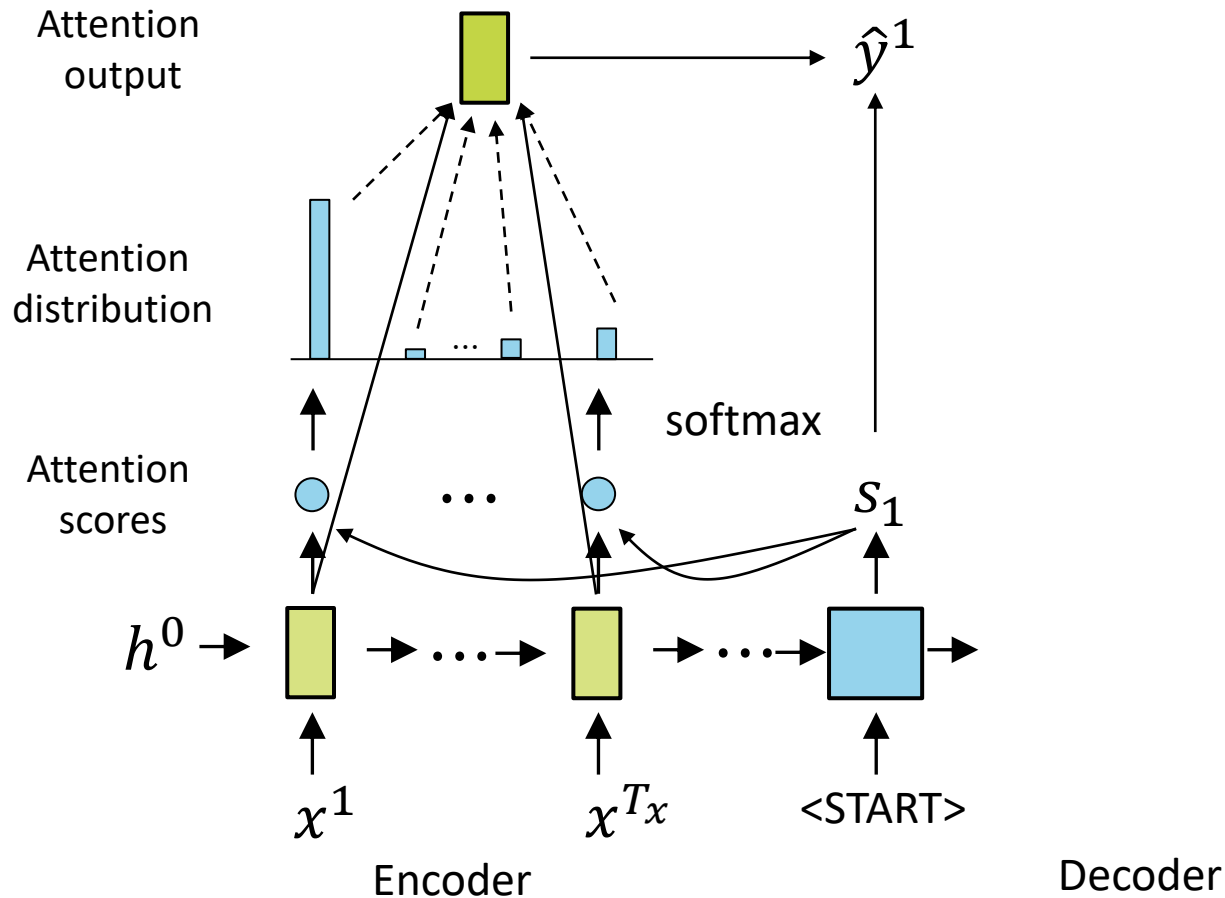
Attention  
scores



Encoder

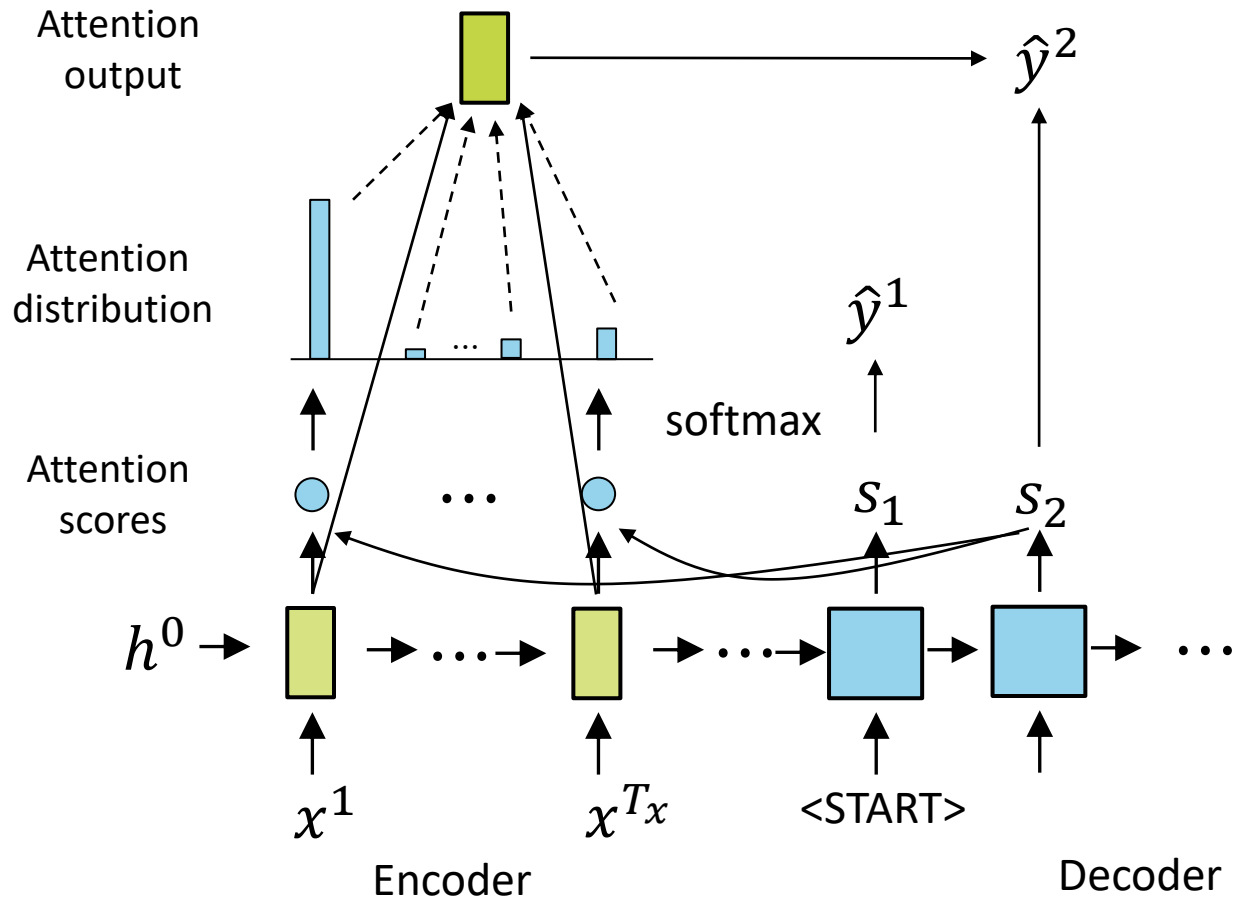
Decoder

# Sequence 2 sequence with attention





# Sequence 2 sequence with attention



# Attention: formulas

- First RNN produces encoder hidden states  $\mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{h}_{T_x} \in \mathbb{R}^h$
- Decoder hidden state  $\mathbf{s}_t \in \mathbb{R}^h$  at time step  $t$
- Attention scores for step  $t$ :  
 $\mathbf{e}^t = [\mathbf{s}_t^T \mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_t^T \mathbf{h}_{T_x}] \in \mathbb{R}^{T_x}$
- Softmax to get attention distribution: all values are positive, sum of all values is 1:

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}^t = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{e}^t) \in \mathbb{R}^{T_x}$$

- Attention output  $\mathbf{a}_t$  is a weighted sum of hidden states:

$$\mathbf{a}_t = \sum_{i=1}^{T_x} \alpha_i^t \mathbf{h}_i \in \mathbb{R}^h$$

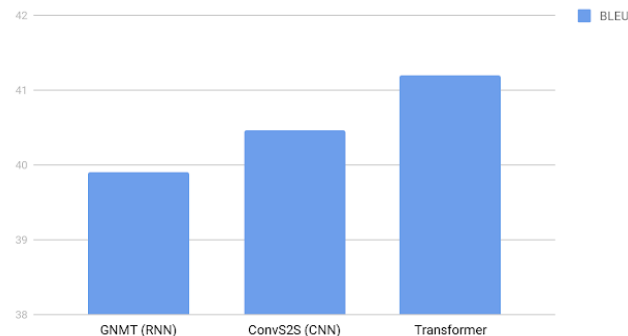
- We concatenate the attention output  $\mathbf{a}_t$  with the decoder hidden state  $\mathbf{s}_t$  and proceed to the non-attention part of our seq2seq model

$$[\mathbf{a}_t, \mathbf{s}_t] \in \mathbb{R}^{2h}$$

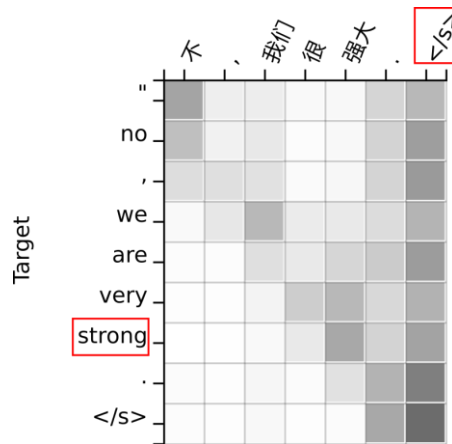
# Attention is just great

- Significantly improves performance of NMT
- Solves the bottleneck problem
  - All encoder tokens are connected to all decoder tokens
- No more vanishing gradients
  - All to All connection
- Provides some interpretability
  - see alignment figure
- Similar to RNN seq2seq, but greater!

English French Translation Quality



BLEU scores (higher is better) of single models on the standard WMT newstest2014 English to French translation benchmark.



# Attention is a general deep learning idea

We can use attention in many architectures and many tasks

- Other NLP problems
- Sequential data processing
- Graph Neural Networks

Key value interpretation:

$s_i$  - query to a database

Hidden state of the decoder

$k_i$  - keys in the database

Hidden state of the encoder

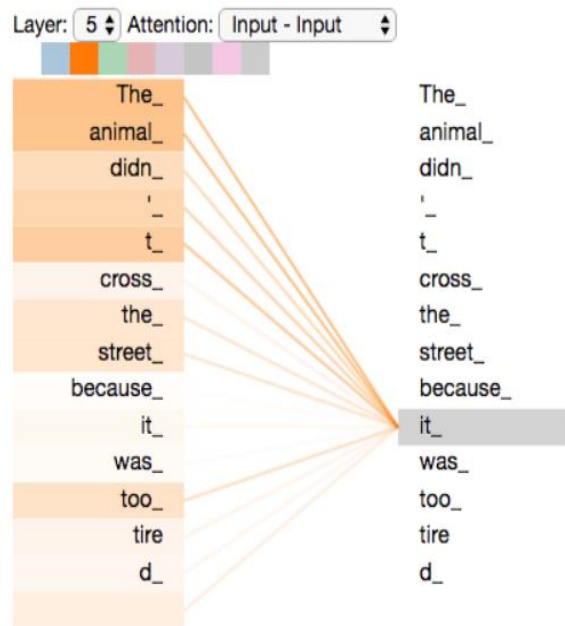
$h_i$  - values in the database

Hidden state of the encoder

- Calculate correspondence  $e(s_i, k_i)$
- Calculate weights on the base of correspondence values
- Extract information as weighted sum of values  $\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \mathbf{h}_i$

# Interpretability of attention

Remove a token  $i^*$  with max attention...



## Remove random: Decision flip?

Remove  $i^*$ : Decision flip?

Yahoo

	Yes	No
Yes	0.5	8.7
No	1.3	89.6

IMDB

	Yes	No
Yes	2.2	12.2
No	1.4	84.2

Amazon

	Yes	No
Yes	2.7	7.6
No	2.7	87.1

Yelp

	Yes	No
Yes	1.5	8.9
No	1.9	87.7

Figure source:

<https://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-transformer/>,

<https://github.com/jessevig/bertviz>

Serrano, Sofia, and Noah A. Smith. "Is attention interpretable?." arXiv preprint arXiv:1906.03731 (2019). ACL 2019.

**Does a better  
recurrent block exist?**

## Towards a better recurrent block

- LSTM architecture is ad-hoc and has a substantial number of components whose purpose is not immediately apparent
- Like the LSTM, it is hard to tell, at a glance, which part of the GRU is essential for its functioning.
- Let's compare 10 000 different architectures on 3 problems with 1 000 of them pass the initial filtering stage: genetic algorithm
- Each architecture has been evaluated on about 220 hyperparameter settings.
- 230 000 hyperparameter configurations in total!



# Best found architectures MUTx are close to GRU

GRU:

$$\begin{aligned}
 r_t &= \text{sigm}(W_{\text{xr}}x_t + W_{\text{hr}}h_{t-1} + b_r) \\
 z_t &= \text{sigm}(W_{\text{xz}}x_t + W_{\text{hz}}h_{t-1} + b_z) \\
 \tilde{h}_t &= \tanh(W_{\text{xh}}x_t + W_{\text{hh}}(r_t \odot h_{t-1}) + b_h) \\
 h_t &= z_t \odot h_{t-1} + (1 - z_t) \odot \tilde{h}_t
 \end{aligned}$$

Arch.	N	N-dropout	P
Tanh	3.612	3.267	6.809
LSTM	3.492	3.403	6.866
LSTM-f	3.732	3.420	6.813
LSTM-i	3.426	<b>3.252</b>	6.856
LSTM-o	3.406	<b>3.253</b>	6.870
LSTM-b	3.419	3.345	6.820
GRU	3.410	3.427	6.876
MUT1	<b>3.254</b>	3.376	<b>6.792</b>
MUT2	3.372	3.429	6.852
MUT3	3.337	3.505	6.840

Table 2. Negative Log Likelihood on the music datasets. N stands for Nottingham, N-dropout stands for Nottingham with nonzero dropout, and P stands for Piano-Midi.

MUT1:

$$\begin{aligned}
 z &= \text{sigm}(W_{\text{xz}}x_t + b_z) \\
 r &= \text{sigm}(W_{\text{xr}}x_t + W_{\text{hr}}h_t + b_r) \\
 h_{t+1} &= \tanh(W_{\text{hh}}(r \odot h_t) + \tanh(x_t) + b_h) \odot z \\
 &+ h_t \odot (1 - z)
 \end{aligned}$$

MUT2:

$$\begin{aligned}
 z &= \text{sigm}(W_{\text{xz}}x_t + W_{\text{hz}}h_t + b_z) \\
 r &= \text{sigm}(x_t + W_{\text{hr}}h_t + b_r) \\
 h_{t+1} &= \tanh(W_{\text{hh}}(r \odot h_t) + W_{\text{xh}}x_t + b_h) \odot z \\
 &+ h_t \odot (1 - z)
 \end{aligned}$$

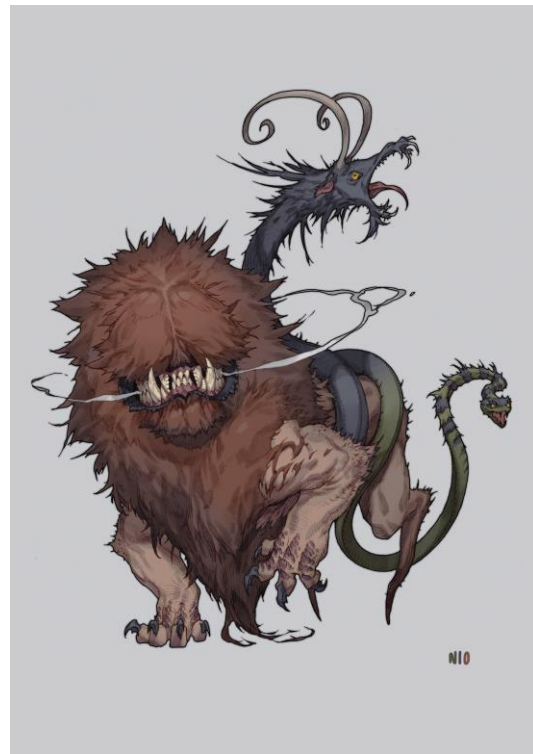
MUT3:

$$\begin{aligned}
 z &= \text{sigm}(W_{\text{xz}}x_t + W_{\text{hz}}\tanh(h_t) + b_z) \\
 r &= \text{sigm}(W_{\text{xr}}x_t + W_{\text{hr}}h_t + b_r) \\
 h_{t+1} &= \tanh(W_{\text{hh}}(r \odot h_t) + W_{\text{xh}}x_t + b_h) \odot z \\
 &+ h_t \odot (1 - z)
 \end{aligned}$$



## Towards a better recurrent block

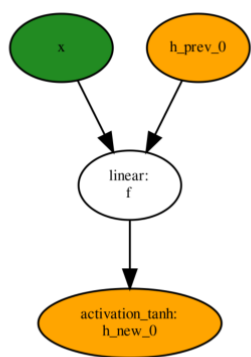
- LSTM architecture is ad-hoc and has a substantial number of components whose purpose is not immediately apparent
- Like the LSTM, it is hard to tell, at a glance, which part of the GRU is essential for its functioning.
- Let's compare 8 LSTM variants and hope for the best by search over the space of hyperparameters with 5400 runs in total
- No significant improvement over the common LSTM
- Some advices on hyperparameters selection



# Neural architecture search for a better Recurrent block

- Linear:  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = W_1x_1 + \dots + W_nx_n + b$ ,
- Blending (element wise):  $f(z, x, y) = z \odot x + (1 - z) \odot y$ ,
- Element wise product and sum,
- Activations: Tanh, Sigmoid, and LeakyReLU.

- Number of nodes < 25
- Number of hidden states < 4
- Number of linear input vectors < 4



(a) Simple RNN Cell



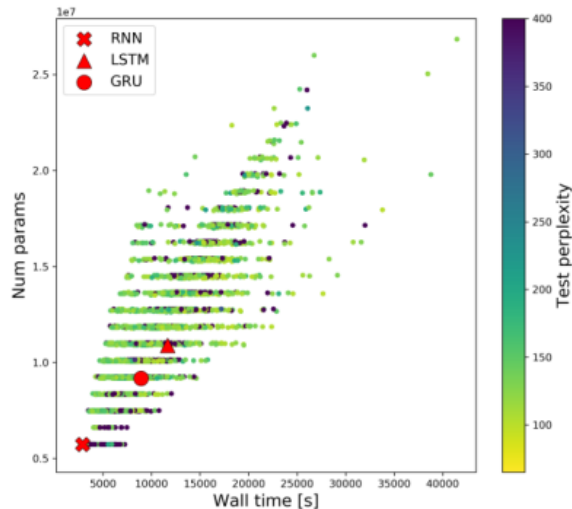
(b) LSTM Cell



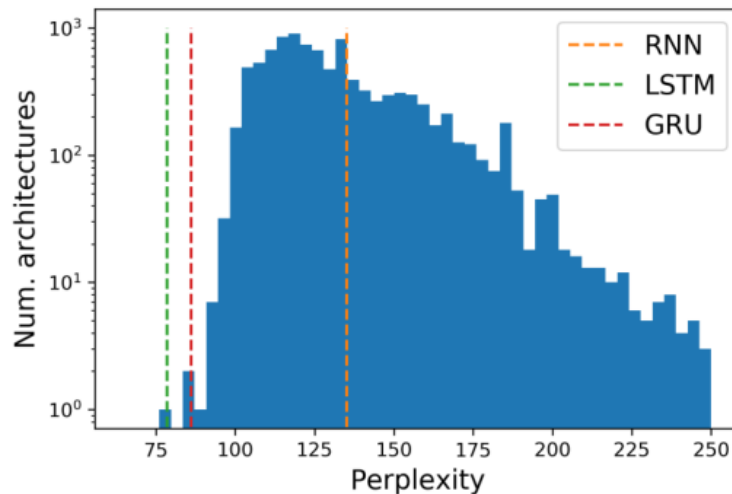
(c) GRU Cell

Figure 2: Examples of conventional RNN cells. Colors of nodes highlight the corresponding previous and new hidden states, green color also highlights the input vector. Black dashed, blue and red edges indicate blending arguments  $z$ ,  $x$  and  $y$  respectively.

# Neural architecture search for a better Recurrent block



(a) Joint distribution of metrics.

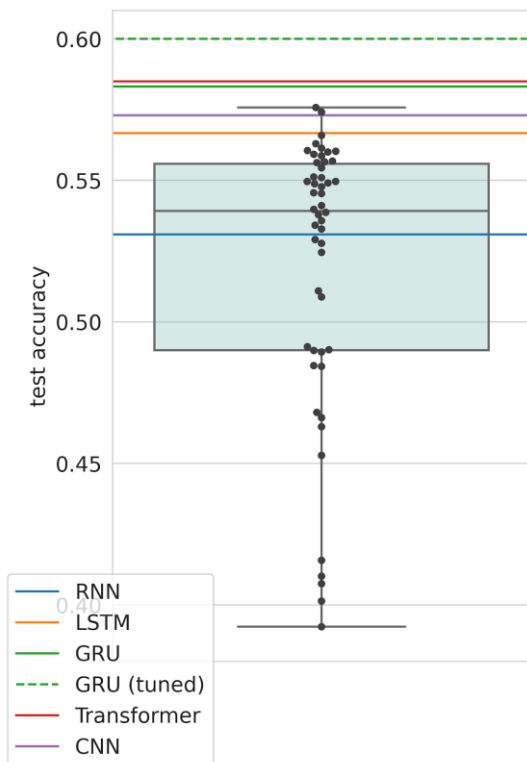


(b) Best test perplexity distribution.

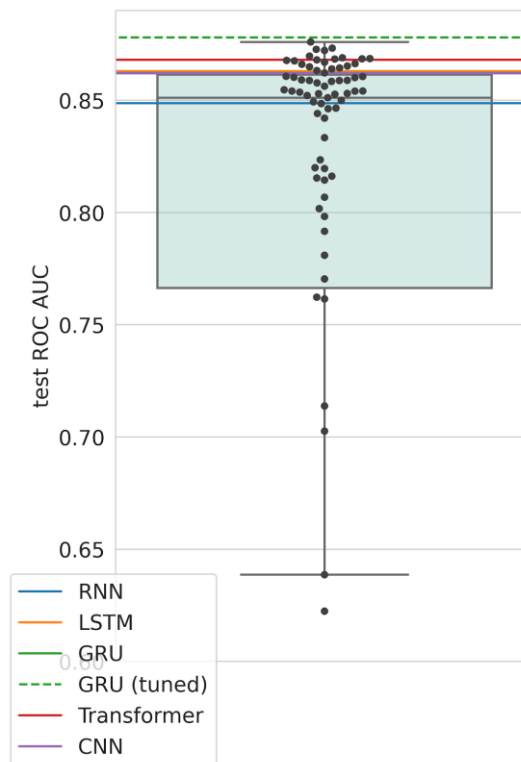
Figure 4: Architectures metrics on PTB.

# Best architecture for Transactions data

Age prediction



Gender prediction



# Architecture performance transferability

