

# Comprehensive Deep Dive: Recurrent Neural Networks, LSTM, and GRU

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# 1 Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) Fundamentals

## 1.1 Core Concepts and Motivation

- **Problem:** Traditional feedforward networks cannot handle sequential data with temporal dependencies
- **Solution:** Introduce recurrent connections to create "memory"
- **Mathematical Formulation:**

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

- **Output Computation:**

$$y_t = g(W_{hy}h_t + b_y)$$

## 1.2 RNN Architecture: Detailed Analysis

### 1.2.1 Unfolded Computational Graph

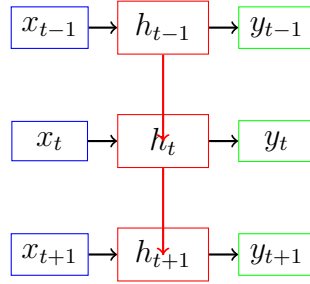


Figure 1: Detailed unfolded architecture of RNN across time steps

## 1.3 Mathematical Derivation

### 1.3.1 Forward Propagation

$$h_t = \tanh(W_h h_{t-1} + W_x x_t + b_h) \quad (1)$$

$$y_t = \text{softmax}(W_y h_t + b_y) \quad (2)$$

### 1.3.2 Parameter Dimension Analysis

- $x_t \in \mathbb{R}^{d_x}$ : Input vector dimension
- $h_t \in \mathbb{R}^{d_h}$ : Hidden state dimension
- $W_h \in \mathbb{R}^{d_h \times d_h}$ : Hidden layer weight matrix
- $W_x \in \mathbb{R}^{d_h \times d_x}$ : Input weight matrix
- $W_y \in \mathbb{R}^{d_y \times d_h}$ : Output weight matrix
- Total parameters:  $d_h \times (d_h + d_x + d_y) + d_h + d_y$

## 2 Complete Training Process and Gradient Computation

### 2.1 Loss Function Detailed Derivation

#### 2.1.1 Binary Cross-Entropy Loss (Sentiment Analysis Example)

Given training data:  $\{(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)})\}_{i=1}^N$ , where:

- $x^{(i)} = [x_1^{(i)}, x_2^{(i)}, \dots, x_T^{(i)}]$ : Input sequence
- $y^{(i)} \in \{0, 1\}$ : True label (0: negative, 1: positive)

Loss function:

$$L = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N [y^{(i)} \log(\hat{y}^{(i)}) + (1 - y^{(i)}) \log(1 - \hat{y}^{(i)})]$$

where  $\hat{y}^{(i)}$  is the predicted probability.

#### 2.1.2 Multi-Class Cross-Entropy Loss (Sequence Labeling)

For sequence labeling tasks (e.g., POS tagging):

$$L = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^{T_i} \sum_{c=1}^C y_{t,c}^{(i)} \log(\hat{y}_{t,c}^{(i)})$$

where  $C$  is number of classes.

## 2.2 Backpropagation Through Time (BPTT) - Complete Derivation

### 2.2.1 Single Time Step Gradient

At time step  $t$ , for parameter  $\theta$ :

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta} = \sum_{k=1}^t \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial h_t} \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_k} \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial \theta}$$

The key chain rule component:

$$\frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_k} = \prod_{j=k+1}^t \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial h_{j-1}} = \prod_{j=k+1}^t W_h^T \text{diag}(1 - h_j^2)$$

Here  $\text{diag}(1 - h_j^2)$  comes from the derivative of tanh activation.

### 2.2.2 Specific Parameter Gradients

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_h} = \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{k=1}^t \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial h_t} \left( \prod_{j=k+1}^t \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial h_{j-1}} \right) \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial W_h} \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_x} = \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{k=1}^t \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial h_t} \left( \prod_{j=k+1}^t \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial h_{j-1}} \right) \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial W_x} \quad (4)$$

## 2.3 Vanishing and Exploding Gradient Problem - Mathematical Analysis

### 2.3.1 Vanishing Gradient Problem

Consider gradient propagation factor:

$$\left\| \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_k} \right\| = \left\| \prod_{j=k+1}^t W_h^T \text{diag}(1 - h_j^2) \right\|$$

Since  $\|\text{diag}(1 - h_j^2)\| \leq 1$ , and  $\tanh'(z) = 1 - \tanh^2(z) \in (0, 1]$ , when  $t - k$  is large:

$$\left\| \prod_{j=k+1}^t W_h^T \text{diag}(1 - h_j^2) \right\| \approx \|W_h\|^{t-k}$$

If  $\|W_h\| < 1$ , gradients vanish exponentially.

### 2.3.2 Exploding Gradient Problem

If  $\|W_h\| > 1$ , gradients explode exponentially, causing numerical instability.

## 3 LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory) - Complete Detailed Analysis

### 3.1 LSTM Mathematical Formulation - Full Details

#### 3.1.1 Gate Definitions

$$\text{Forget gate: } f_t = \sigma(W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f) \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Input gate: } i_t = \sigma(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i) \quad (6)$$

$$\text{Candidate memory: } \tilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_C \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_C) \quad (7)$$

$$\text{Output gate: } o_t = \sigma(W_o \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_o) \quad (8)$$

#### 3.1.2 State Update Equations

$$\text{Cell state update: } C_t = f_t \odot C_{t-1} + i_t \odot \tilde{C}_t \quad (9)$$

$$\text{Hidden state output: } h_t = o_t \odot \tanh(C_t) \quad (10)$$

where  $\odot$  denotes element-wise multiplication.

### 3.2 LSTM Gradient Flow Analysis

#### 3.2.1 Cell State Gradient

Cell state gradient avoids multiplicative chains:

$$\frac{\partial C_t}{\partial C_{t-1}} = f_t + \text{diag}(C_{t-1}) \frac{\partial f_t}{\partial C_{t-1}} + \text{diag}(\tilde{C}_t) \frac{\partial i_t}{\partial C_{t-1}}$$

### 3.2.2 Parameter Count Analysis

For LSTM with hidden size  $d_h$  and input size  $d_x$ :

- $W_f, W_i, W_C, W_o \in \mathbb{R}^{d_h \times (d_h + d_x)}$
- $b_f, b_i, b_C, b_o \in \mathbb{R}^{d_h}$
- Total parameters:  $4 \times [d_h \times (d_h + d_x) + d_h]$

## 3.3 LSTM Implementation - Complete Code

Listing 1: Complete LSTM Implementation

```
import numpy as np
```

```
class LSTMCell:
```

```
    def __init__(self, input_size, hidden_size):
```

```
        # Parameter initialization
```

```
        self.input_size = input_size
```

```
        self.hidden_size = hidden_size
```

```
        # Weights for gates (combined for efficiency)
```

```
        self.W = np.random.randn(4 * hidden_size, hidden_size + input_size)
```

```
        self.b = np.zeros((4 * hidden_size, 1))
```

```
    def forward(self, x, h_prev, C_prev):
```

```
        """
```

```
----- Forward pass for single LSTM cell
```

```
----- x: input vector (input_size, 1)
```

```
----- h_prev: previous hidden state (hidden_size, 1)
```

```
----- C_prev: previous cell state (hidden_size, 1)
```

```
----- """
```

```
        # Concatenate h_prev and x
```

```
        concat = np.vstack((h_prev, x)) # (hidden_size + input_size, 1)
```

```
        # Compute all gates in one matrix multiplication
```

```
        gates = np.dot(self.W, concat) + self.b
```

```
        # Split into individual gates
```

```
        f_t = self._sigmoid(gates[0:self.hidden_size])
```

```
        i_t = self._sigmoid(gates[self.hidden_size:2*self.hidden_size])
```

```
        C_tilde = np.tanh(gates[2*self.hidden_size:3*self.hidden_size])
```

```
        o_t = self._sigmoid(gates[3*self.hidden_size:4*self.hidden_size])
```

```
        # Update cell state
```

```
        C_t = f_t * C_prev + i_t * C_tilde
```

```
        # Compute hidden state
```

```
        h_t = o_t * np.tanh(C_t)
```

```

# Cache for backward pass
self.cache = (x, h_prev, C_prev, f_t, i_t, C_tilde, o_t, C_t)

return h_t, C_t

def backward(self, dh_next, dC_next):
    """
    -----Backward pass for single LSTM cell
    -----"""
    # Unpack cache
    x, h_prev, C_prev, f_t, i_t, C_tilde, o_t, C_t = self.cache

    # Gradients from next time step
    dC_t = dC_next + dh_next * o_t * (1 - np.tanh(C_t)**2)

    # Gate gradients
    df = dC_t * C_prev * f_t * (1 - f_t)
    di = dC_t * C_tilde * i_t * (1 - i_t)
    dC_tilde = dC_t * i_t * (1 - C_tilde**2)
    do = dh_next * np.tanh(C_t) * o_t * (1 - o_t)

    # Concatenate gate gradients
    dgates = np.vstack((df, di, dC_tilde, do))

    # Gradient for previous cell state
    dC_prev = dC_t * f_t

    # Gradient for concatenated vector
    concat = np.vstack((h_prev, x))
    dW = np.dot(dgates, concat.T)
    db = np.sum(dgates, axis=1, keepdims=True)

    # Gradient for previous hidden state and input
    dconcat = np.dot(self.W.T, dgates)
    dh_prev = dconcat[:self.hidden_size]
    dx = dconcat[self.hidden_size:]

    return dx, dh_prev, dC_prev, dW, db

def _sigmoid(self, x):
    return 1 / (1 + np.exp(-x))

```

## 4 GRU (Gated Recurrent Unit) - Complete Analysis

### 4.1 GRU Mathematical Formulation

#### 4.1.1 Gate Definitions

$$\text{Reset gate: } r_t = \sigma(W_r \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_r) \quad (11)$$

$$\text{Update gate: } z_t = \sigma(W_z \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_z) \quad (12)$$

$$\text{Candidate activation: } \tilde{h}_t = \tanh(W \cdot [r_t \odot h_{t-1}, x_t] + b) \quad (13)$$

#### 4.1.2 State Update Equation

$$h_t = (1 - z_t) \odot h_{t-1} + z_t \odot \tilde{h}_t$$

### 4.2 GRU vs LSTM - Detailed Comparison

Aspect	LSTM	GRU
<b>Gates</b>	3 gates: Forget, Input, Output	2 gates: Reset, Update
<b>Parameters</b>	$4(d_h \times (d_h + d_x) + d_h)$	$3(d_h \times (d_h + d_x) + d_h)$
<b>Memory Mechanism</b>	Separate cell state $C_t$ and hidden state $h_t$	Combined hidden state $h_t$
<b>Gradient Flow</b>	Direct path through cell state	Adaptive gating for gradient flow
<b>Training Speed</b>	Slower due to more parameters	Faster with fewer parameters
<b>Performance</b>	Better for very long sequences	Comparable for moderate sequences

Table 1: LSTM vs GRU detailed comparison

### 4.3 GRU Implementation - Complete Code

Listing 2: Complete GRU Implementation

```
class GRUCell:
    def __init__(self, input_size, hidden_size):
        self.input_size = input_size
        self.hidden_size = hidden_size

        # Initialize weights
        self.W_z = np.random.randn(hidden_size, hidden_size + input_size)
        self.W_r = np.random.randn(hidden_size, hidden_size + input_size)
        self.W_h = np.random.randn(hidden_size, hidden_size + input_size)

        # Initialize biases
        self.b_z = np.zeros((hidden_size, 1))
```



```

        self.b_r = np.zeros((hidden_size, 1))
        self.b_h = np.zeros((hidden_size, 1))

    def forward(self, x, h_prev):
        """
        -----Forward pass for GRU cell
        -----"""
        # Concatenate h_prev and x
        concat = np.vstack((h_prev, x))

        # Reset gate
        r = self._sigmoid(np.dot(self.W_r, concat) + self.b_r)

        # Update gate
        z = self._sigmoid(np.dot(self.W_z, concat) + self.b_z)

        # Concatenate reset gate output with input
        concat_reset = np.vstack((r * h_prev, x))

        # Candidate hidden state
        h_tilde = np.tanh(np.dot(self.W_h, concat_reset) + self.b_h)

        # Final hidden state
        h_t = (1 - z) * h_prev + z * h_tilde

        # Cache for backward pass
        self.cache = (x, h_prev, r, z, h_tilde, concat, concat_reset)

    return h_t

    def backward(self, dh_next):
        """
        -----Backward pass for GRU cell
        -----"""
        # Unpack cache
        x, h_prev, r, z, h_tilde, concat, concat_reset = self.cache

        # Gradients
        dh_prev = dh_next * (1 - z)
        dz = dh_next * (h_tilde - h_prev) * z * (1 - z)
        dh_tilde = dh_next * z * (1 - h_tilde**2)

        # Gradients for reset gate
        dr = np.dot(self.W_h[:, :self.hidden_size].T, dh_tilde) * h_prev *

        # Gradients for weights
        dW_z = np.dot(dz, concat.T)
        dW_r = np.dot(dr, concat.T)

```

```

dW_h = np.dot(dh_tilde, concat_reset.T)

# Gradient for input
dx_part = (
    np.dot(self.W_z[:, self.hidden_size:].T, dz) +
    np.dot(self.W_r[:, self.hidden_size:].T, dr) +
    np.dot(self.W_h[:, self.hidden_size:].T, dh_tilde)
)

return dx_part, dh_prev, dW_z, dW_r, dW_h, dz, dr, dh_tilde

def _sigmoid(self, x):
    return 1 / (1 + np.exp(-x))

```

## 5 From PDF Content: Practical Examples and Data Processing

### 5.1 Sentiment Analysis Example from PDF

From the PDF, we see repeated patterns like:

```

1 → [you are good] 0
2 → [you are bad] 0
3 → [you are good] 0
4 → [you are bad] 0
...

```

#### 5.1.1 Data Preprocessing

Listing 3: Data preprocessing for sentiment analysis

```

import numpy as np

class SentimentDataProcessor:
    def __init__(self, vocab_size=1000, max_length=10):
        self.vocab_size = vocab_size
        self.max_length = max_length
        self.word_to_idx = {}
        self.idx_to_word = {}

    def preprocess(self, sentences, labels):
        """
        ----- Convert sentences to one-hot encoded sequences
        ----- """
        # Build vocabulary
        vocab = set()
        for sentence in sentences:
            for word in sentence.split():

```

```

vocab.add(word)

# Create word mappings
self.word_to_idx = {word: i for i, word in enumerate(vocab)}
self.idx_to_word = {i: word for word, i in self.word_to_idx.items()}

# Convert sentences to one-hot
X = []
for sentence in sentences:
    words = sentence.split()
    seq = []
    for word in words:
        if word in self.word_to_idx:
            one_hot = np.zeros(self.vocab_size)
            one_hot[self.word_to_idx[word]] = 1
            seq.append(one_hot)

    # Pad or truncate to max_length
    if len(seq) < self.max_length:
        padding = [np.zeros(self.vocab_size)] * (self.max_length - len(seq))
        seq = seq + padding
    else:
        seq = seq[:self.max_length]

    X.append(np.array(seq))

return np.array(X), np.array(labels)

```

## 5.2 Loss Function Implementation

Listing 4: Complete loss function implementation

```

def binary_cross_entropy_loss(y_pred, y_true):
    """
    --- Binary cross-entropy loss implementation
    --- y_pred: predicted probabilities [batch_size, -1]
    --- y_true: true labels [batch_size, -1]
    --- """

    # Clip predictions to avoid log(0)
    epsilon = 1e-15
    y_pred = np.clip(y_pred, epsilon, 1 - epsilon)

    # Calculate loss
    loss = -np.mean(y_true * np.log(y_pred) + (1 - y_true) * np.log(1 - y_pred))

    # Gradient
    dy_pred = (y_pred - y_true) / (y_pred * (1 - y_pred) + epsilon)

```

```

    return loss, dy_pred

def categorical_crossentropy_loss(y_pred, y_true):
    """
    ---- Categorical cross-entropy loss
    ---- y_pred: predicted probabilities [batch_size, num_classes]
    ---- y_true: one-hot encoded labels [batch_size, num_classes]
    ---- """
    # Clip predictions
    epsilon = 1e-15
    y_pred = np.clip(y_pred, epsilon, 1 - epsilon)

    # Calculate loss
    loss = -np.sum(y_true * np.log(y_pred)) / y_pred.shape[0]

    # Gradient
    dy_pred = (y_pred - y_true) / y_pred.shape[0]

    return loss, dy_pred

```

## 6 Optimization Algorithms

### 6.1 Gradient Descent Implementation

Listing 5: Gradient descent optimizer with momentum

```

class GradientDescentOptimizer:
    def __init__(self, learning_rate=0.01, momentum=0.9):
        self.learning_rate = learning_rate
        self.momentum = momentum
        self.velocity = {}

    def update(self, parameters, gradients):
        """
        ----- Update parameters using gradient descent with momentum
        ----- """
        for param_name in parameters:
            if param_name not in self.velocity:
                self.velocity[param_name] = np.zeros_like(gradients[param_name])

            # Update velocity
            self.velocity[param_name] = (
                self.momentum * self.velocity[param_name] -
                self.learning_rate * gradients[param_name]
            )

            # Update parameters
            parameters[param_name] += self.velocity[param_name]

```

```

        return parameters

class AdamOptimizer:
    def __init__(self, learning_rate=0.001, beta1=0.9, beta2=0.999, epsilon=1e-9):
        self.learning_rate = learning_rate
        self.beta1 = beta1
        self.beta2 = beta2
        self.epsilon = epsilon
        self.m = {}
        self.v = {}
        self.t = 0

    def update(self, parameters, gradients):
        self.t += 1

        for param_name in parameters:
            if param_name not in self.m:
                self.m[param_name] = np.zeros_like(gradients[param_name])
                self.v[param_name] = np.zeros_like(gradients[param_name])

            # Update biased first moment estimate
            self.m[param_name] = self.beta1 * self.m[param_name] + (1 - self.beta1) * gradients[param_name]

            # Update biased second raw moment estimate
            self.v[param_name] = self.beta2 * self.v[param_name] + (1 - self.beta2) * gradients[param_name]**2

            # Compute bias-corrected first moment estimate
            m_hat = self.m[param_name] / (1 - self.beta1 ** self.t)

            # Compute bias-corrected second raw moment estimate
            v_hat = self.v[param_name] / (1 - self.beta2 ** self.t)

            # Update parameters
            parameters[param_name] -= self.learning_rate * m_hat / (np.sqrt(v_hat) + self.epsilon)

        return parameters

```

## 7 Complete RNN Model Implementation

Listing 6: Complete RNN model with training loop

```

class RNNModel:
    def __init__(self, input_size, hidden_size, output_size, cell_type='LSTM'):
        self.input_size = input_size
        self.hidden_size = hidden_size
        self.output_size = output_size
        self.cell_type = cell_type

```

```

# Initialize RNN cell
if cell_type == 'LSTM':
    self.rnn_cell = LSTMCell(input_size, hidden_size)
elif cell_type == 'GRU':
    self.rnn_cell = GRUCell(input_size, hidden_size)
else: # Simple RNN
    self.W_h = np.random.randn(hidden_size, hidden_size) * 0.01
    self.W_x = np.random.randn(hidden_size, input_size) * 0.01
    self.b_h = np.zeros((hidden_size, 1))

# Output layer
self.W_y = np.random.randn(output_size, hidden_size) * 0.01
self.b_y = np.zeros((output_size, 1))

def forward(self, X):
    """
    -----Forward pass through entire sequence
    -----X: input sequence [seq_length, batch_size, input_size]
    -----"""
    batch_size = X.shape[1]
    seq_length = X.shape[0]

    # Initialize hidden state
    if self.cell_type == 'LSTM':
        h = np.zeros((self.hidden_size, batch_size))
        C = np.zeros((self.hidden_size, batch_size))
        hidden_states = []
        cell_states = []
    else:
        h = np.zeros((self.hidden_size, batch_size))
        hidden_states = []

    outputs = []

    for t in range(seq_length):
        if self.cell_type == 'LSTM':
            h, C = self.rnn_cell.forward(X[t], h, C)
            hidden_states.append(h)
            cell_states.append(C)
        elif self.cell_type == 'GRU':
            h = self.rnn_cell.forward(X[t], h)
            hidden_states.append(h)
        else: # Simple RNN
            h = np.tanh(np.dot(self.W_h, h) + np.dot(self.W_x, X[t]) +
                        self.b_h)
            hidden_states.append(h)

    # Output layer

```

```

        y_t = np.dot(self.W_y, h) + self.b_y
        if self.output_size == 1: # Binary classification
            y_t = self._sigmoid(y_t)
        else: # Multi-class classification
            y_t = self._softmax(y_t)

        outputs.append(y_t)

# Cache for backward pass
self.cache = {
    'X': X,
    'hidden_states': hidden_states,
    'outputs': outputs
}

if self.cell_type == 'LSTM':
    self.cache['cell_states'] = cell_states

return outputs

def backward(self, dY):
    """
    -----Backward pass through entire sequence
    -----dY: gradient of loss w.r.t. outputs
    -----"""
    X = self.cache['X']
    hidden_states = self.cache['hidden_states']
    outputs = self.cache['outputs']

    batch_size = X.shape[1]
    seq_length = X.shape[0]

    # Initialize gradients
    if self.cell_type == 'LSTM':
        dW, db = self.rnn_cell.backward.initialize_gradients()
    elif self.cell_type == 'GRU':
        dW_z, dW_r, dW_h = np.zeros_like(self.rnn_cell.W_z), np.zeros_like(self.rnn_cell.W_r), np.zeros_like(self.rnn_cell.W_h)
        db_z, db_r, db_h = np.zeros_like(self.rnn_cell.b_z), np.zeros_like(self.rnn_cell.b_r), np.zeros_like(self.rnn_cell.b_h)

    dW_y = np.zeros_like(self.W_y)
    db_y = np.zeros_like(self.b_y)

    # Initialize gradient for next hidden state
    dh_next = np.zeros((self.hidden_size, batch_size))
    if self.cell_type == 'LSTM':
        dC_next = np.zeros((self.hidden_size, batch_size))

    # Backward through time

```

```

for t in reversed(range(seq_length)):
    # Gradient from output layer
    if self.output_size == 1:
        dy_t = outputs[t] * (1 - outputs[t]) * dY[t]
    else:
        dy_t = dY[t]

    # Output layer gradients
    dW_y += np.dot(dy_t, hidden_states[t].T)
    db_y += np.sum(dy_t, axis=1, keepdims=True)

    # Gradient w.r.t. hidden state
    dh = np.dot(self.W_y.T, dy_t) + dh_next

    if self.cell_type == 'LSTM':
        dx, dh_prev, dC_prev, dW_t, db_t = self.rnn_cell.backward(dy_t, dh_next)
        dW += dW_t
        db += db_t
        dh_next = dh_prev
        dC_next = dC_prev
    elif self.cell_type == 'GRU':
        dx, dh_prev, dW_z_t, dW_r_t, dW_h_t, db_z_t, db_r_t, db_h_t = self.rnn_cell.backward(dy_t, dh_next)
        dW_z += dW_z_t
        dW_r += dW_r_t
        dW_h += dW_h_t
        db_z += db_z_t
        db_r += db_r_t
        db_h += db_h_t
        dh_next = dh_prev

gradients = {
    'W_y': dW_y / batch_size,
    'b_y': db_y / batch_size
}

if self.cell_type == 'LSTM':
    gradients.update(self.rnn_cell.get_gradients())
elif self.cell_type == 'GRU':
    gradients.update({
        'W_z': dW_z / batch_size,
        'W_r': dW_r / batch_size,
        'W_h': dW_h / batch_size,
        'b_z': db_z / batch_size,
        'b_r': db_r / batch_size,
        'b_h': db_h / batch_size
    })

return gradients

```



```

def train(self, X_train, y_train, epochs=100, learning_rate=0.01):
    """
    -----Complete training loop
    -----"""
    losses = []

    for epoch in range(epochs):
        # Forward pass
        outputs = self.forward(X_train)

        # Calculate loss
        loss = self._calculate_loss(outputs[-1], y_train)
        losses.append(loss)

        # Backward pass
        gradients = self.backward(self._loss_gradient(outputs[-1], y_train))

        # Update parameters
        self._update_parameters(gradients, learning_rate)

        if epoch % 10 == 0:
            print(f"Epoch {epoch}, Loss: {loss:.4f}")

    return losses

def _sigmoid(self, x):
    return 1 / (1 + np.exp(-x))

def _softmax(self, x):
    exp_x = np.exp(x - np.max(x, axis=0, keepdims=True))
    return exp_x / np.sum(exp_x, axis=0, keepdims=True)

```

## 8 Performance Metrics and Evaluation

### 8.1 Evaluation Metrics Implementation

Listing 7: Evaluation metrics for sequence models

```

def accuracy_score(y_pred, y_true):
    """
    ---Calculate accuracy for classification tasks
    ---"""
    if y_pred.shape != y_true.shape:
        y_pred = np.argmax(y_pred, axis=0)
        y_true = np.argmax(y_true, axis=0)

    return np.mean(y_pred == y_true)

```

```

def precision_score(y_pred, y_true):
    """
    Calculate precision for binary classification
    """
    tp = np.sum((y_pred == 1) & (y_true == 1))
    fp = np.sum((y_pred == 1) & (y_true == 0))

    return tp / (tp + fp + 1e-10)

def recall_score(y_pred, y_true):
    """
    Calculate recall for binary classification
    """
    tp = np.sum((y_pred == 1) & (y_true == 1))
    fn = np.sum((y_pred == 0) & (y_true == 1))

    return tp / (tp + fn + 1e-10)

def f1_score(y_pred, y_true):
    """
    Calculate F1 score
    """
    precision = precision_score(y_pred, y_true)
    recall = recall_score(y_pred, y_true)

    return 2 * (precision * recall) / (precision + recall + 1e-10)

def perplexity_score(y_pred, y_true):
    """
    Calculate perplexity for language models
    """
    cross_entropy = -np.sum(y_true * np.log(y_pred + 1e-10))
    return np.exp(cross_entropy / y_true.shape[0])

```

## 9 Conclusion and Best Practices

### 9.1 Key Takeaways from PDF Analysis

- **Simple RNN Limitations:** Forget information quickly, cannot handle long sequences
- **Gradient Problems:** Vanishing/exploding gradients limit training
- **LSTM Solution:** Gates control information flow, solve long-term dependency problem
- **GRU Alternative:** Simpler architecture with comparable performance

## 9.2 Practical Recommendations

1. **Sequence Length:** Use LSTM for very long sequences (>100 steps), GRU for moderate lengths
2. **Initialization:** Use Xavier/Glorot initialization for better convergence
3. **Gradient Clipping:** Always use gradient clipping (norm  $\leq 5$ ) for stability
4. **Dropout:** Apply dropout between RNN layers to prevent overfitting
5. **Batch Normalization:** Use layer normalization instead of batch normalization for RNNs
6. **Teacher Forcing:** Use during training for faster convergence
7. **Attention Mechanism:** Combine with RNN for better performance on long sequences

## 9.3 Future Directions

- **Transformers:** Have largely replaced RNNs for many NLP tasks
- **Attention is All You Need:** Self-attention mechanisms for parallel processing
- **BERT/GPT:** Pre-trained transformer models for transfer learning
- **Hybrid Models:** Combine RNNs with attention for specific applications