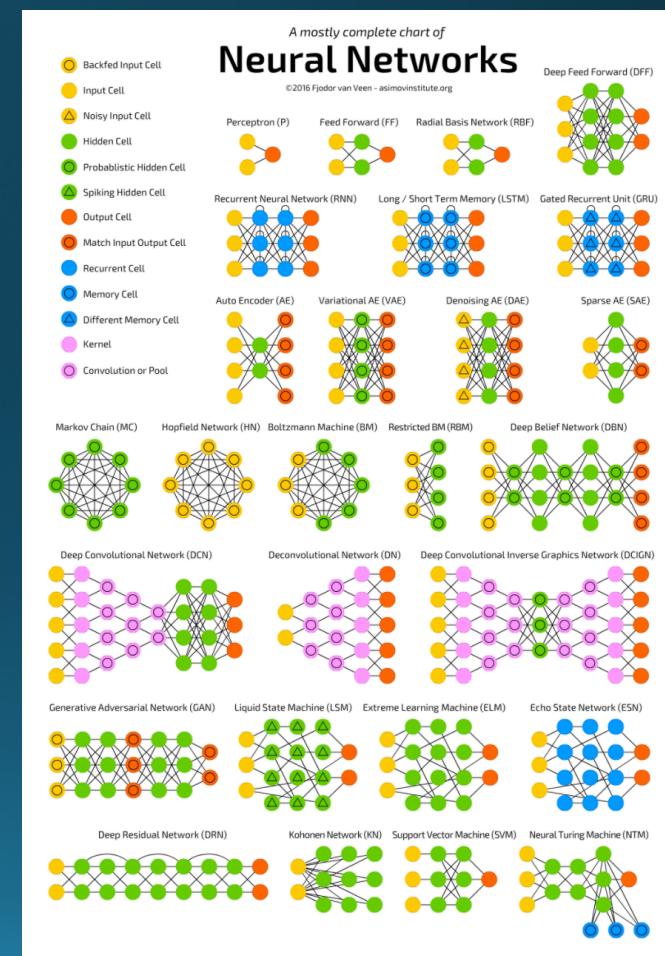


CSCI 4360/6360 Data Science II

# Recurrent Neural Networks

# The Neural Network Zoo

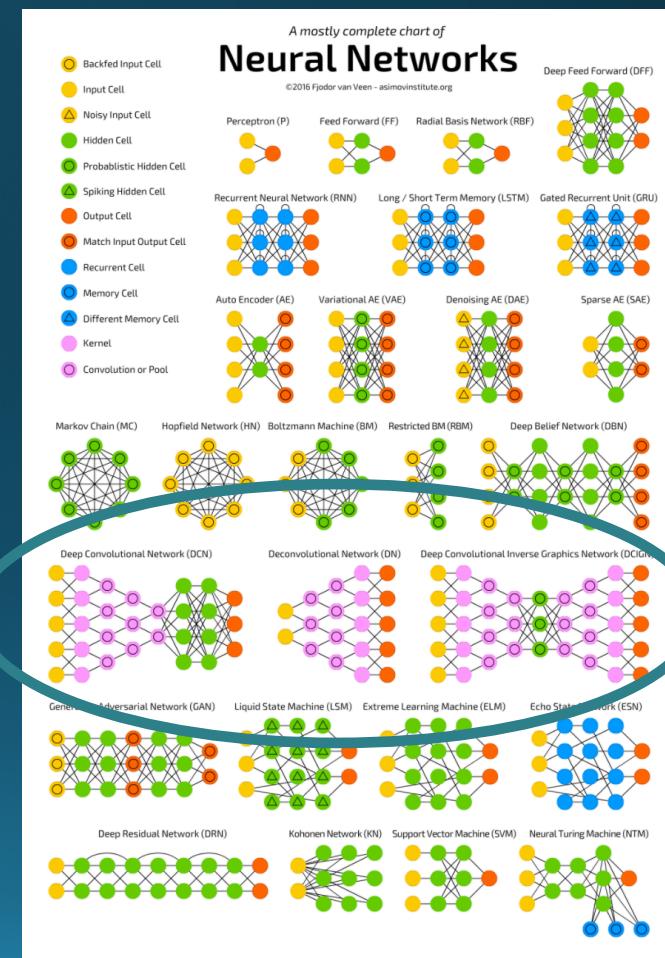
- [http://www.asimovinstitute.org/  
neural-network-zoo/](http://www.asimovinstitute.org/neural-network-zoo/)



# The Neural Network Zoo

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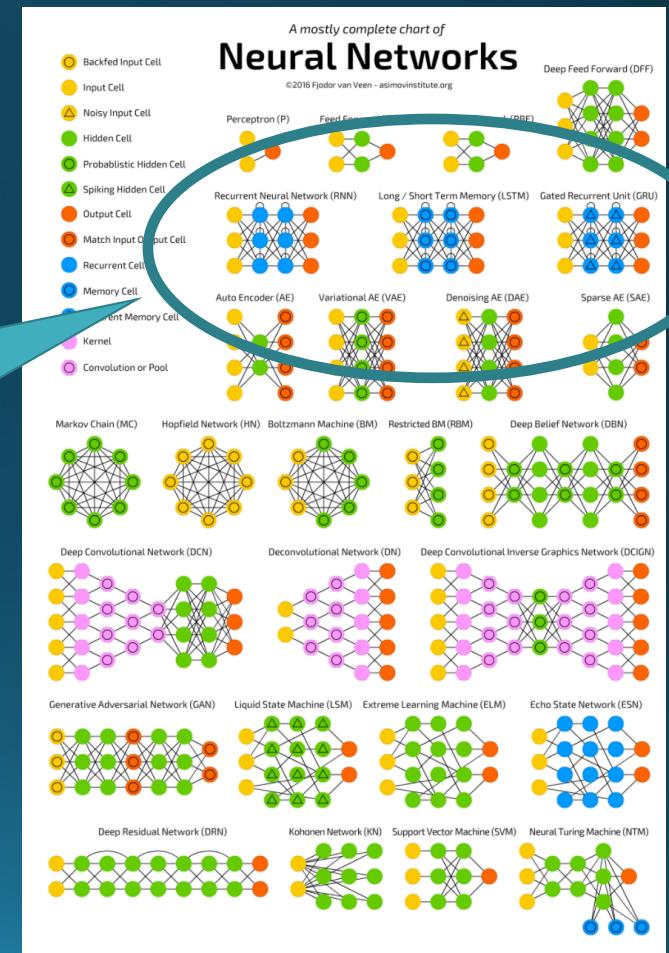
Last time



# The Neural Network Zoo

- [http://www.asimovinstitute.org/  
neural-network-zoo/](http://www.asimovinstitute.org/neural-network-zoo/)

Today



# Modeling Sequences

- Input:

$$X = [\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \dots, \vec{x}_T]$$

- Output:

$$Y = [\vec{y}_1, \vec{y}_2, \dots, \vec{y}_N]$$

$T$  and  $N$  not necessarily equal

Dimensions of  $X$  and  $Y$  not necessarily equal

Language Translation

Weather and Climate Forecasting

Automated Driving

Other “long-distance” time series data

Something we've seen before

# Linear Dynamical Models

- Two main components (using notation from Hyndman 2006):

Appearance  
Model

$$y_t = Cx_t + u_t$$

State Model

$$x_t = Ax_{t-1} + Wv_t$$

# Autoregressive Models

- This is the definition of a 1<sup>st</sup>-order autoregressive (AR) process!

$$x_t = Ax_{t-1} + Wv_t$$

- Each observation ( $x_t$ ) is a function of previous observations, plus some noise
- **Markov model!**

# Autoregressive Models

- AR models can have higher orders than 1
- Each observation is dependent on the previous  $d$  observations

$$x_t = A_1 x_{t-1} + A_2 x_{t-2} + \dots + A_d x_{t-d} + W v_t$$

# Autoregressive Models

- Concrete, *a priori* definition of what is important
  - $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Markov process
  - $n+1$  terms and larger are explicitly ignored
- No concept of *attention*
  - All  $n$  terms receive equal “attention” (computationally, if not also statistically)
  - Are you devoting equal time reading every word on this slide?
- Cannot handle *variable-length inputs*, nor *variable-length outputs*
  - Contrast with CNNs: all input images have to be the same size (usually)
  - Contrast with [insert deep network of choice]: all outputs are the same, given any input

# Attention

- Some things are more important than others

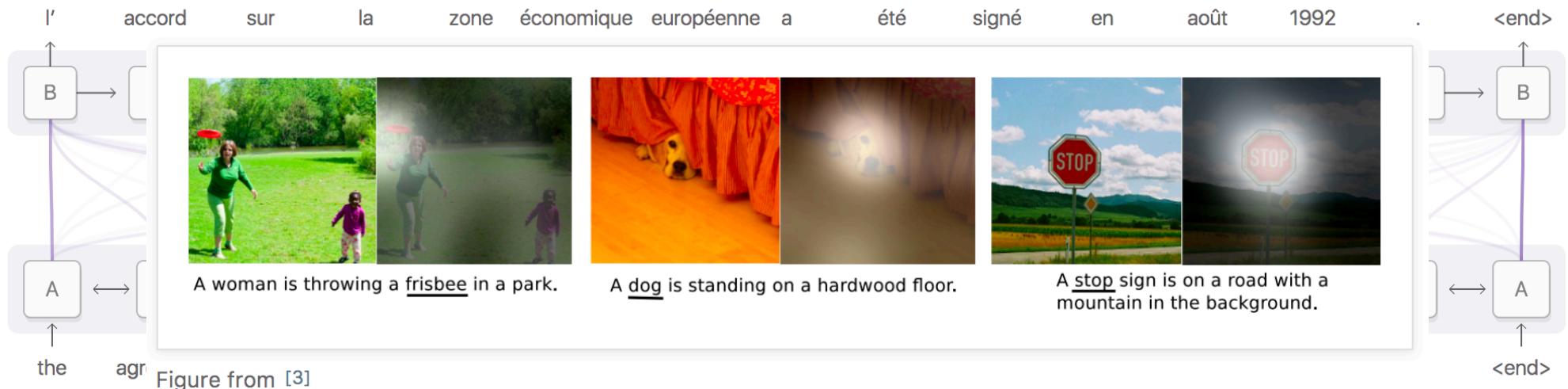
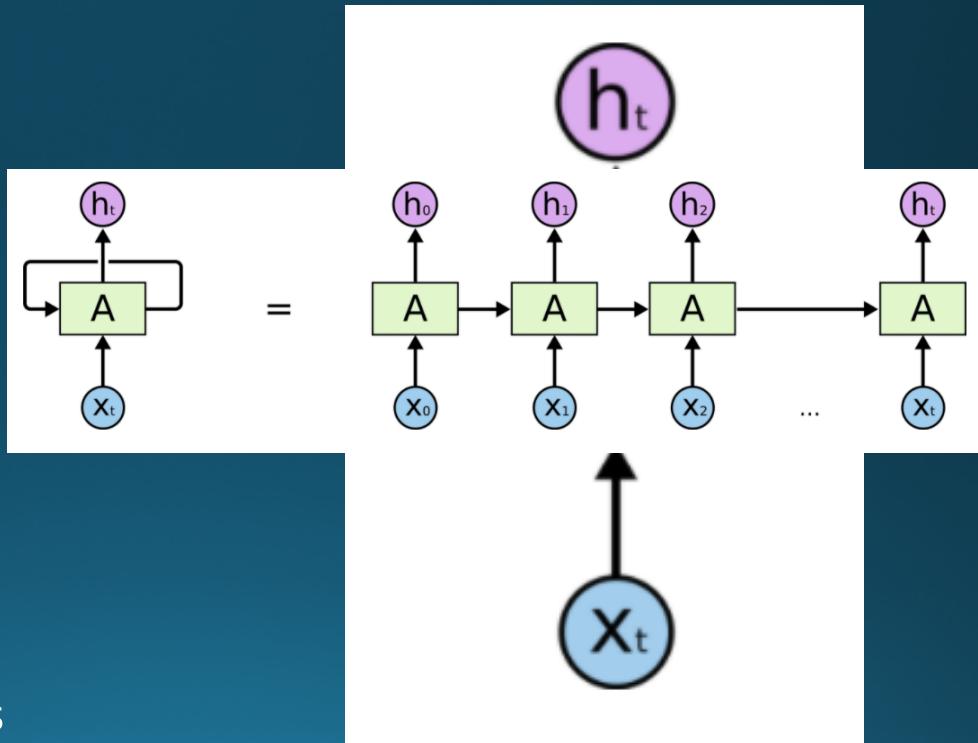


Diagram derived from Fig. 3 of [Bahdanau, et al. 2014](#)

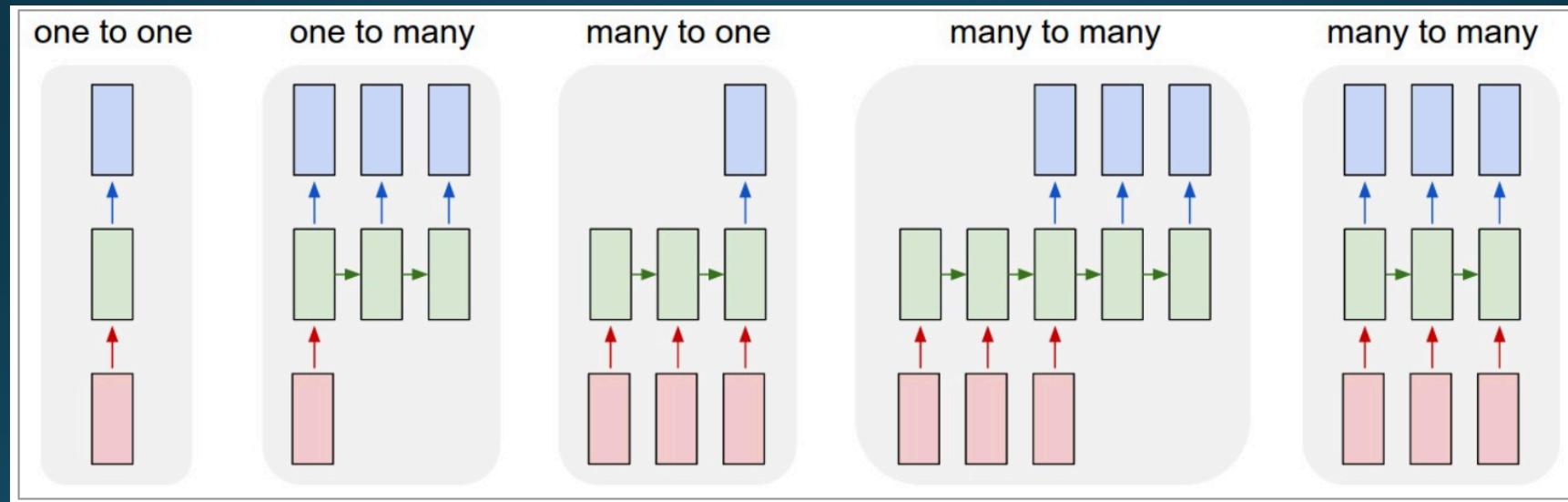
# Recurrent Neural Networks

- In short, recurrent neural networks (RNNs) break the typical “directed acyclic” pedagogy of deep networks by introducing self-loops
  - Allows information to persist through multiple iterations
- We can get around problems introduced by loops by “unrolling” the loops
  - This permits backprop to work as usual



# Recurrent Neural Network

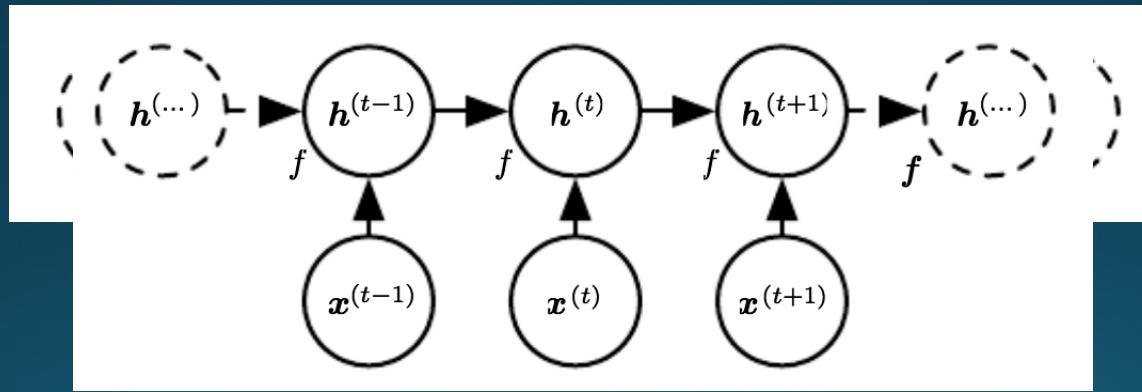
- “List” structure intrinsically handles variable-length data



- Think: convolution, but over time instead of space

# Recurrent Neural Networks

- Use the same “parameter sharing” as CNNs
  - And linear dynamical systems!



- $f$  maps each time point to the next
- Also updates internal state  $h$

# Recurrent Neural Networks

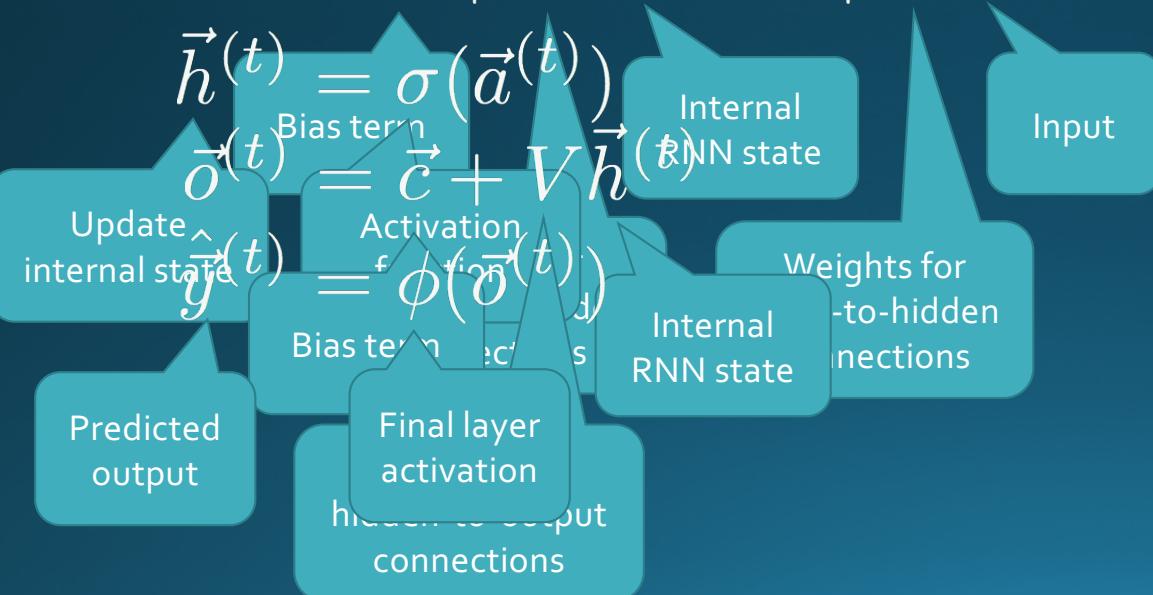
- Four main equations at each time point

$$\vec{a}^{(t)} = \vec{b} + W\vec{h}^{(t-1)} + U\vec{x}^{(t)}$$

$$\vec{h}^{(t)} = \sigma(\vec{a}^{(t)})$$

$$\vec{o}^{(t)} = \vec{c} + V\vec{h}^{(t)}$$

$$\hat{\vec{y}}^{(t)} = \phi(\vec{o}^{(t)})$$

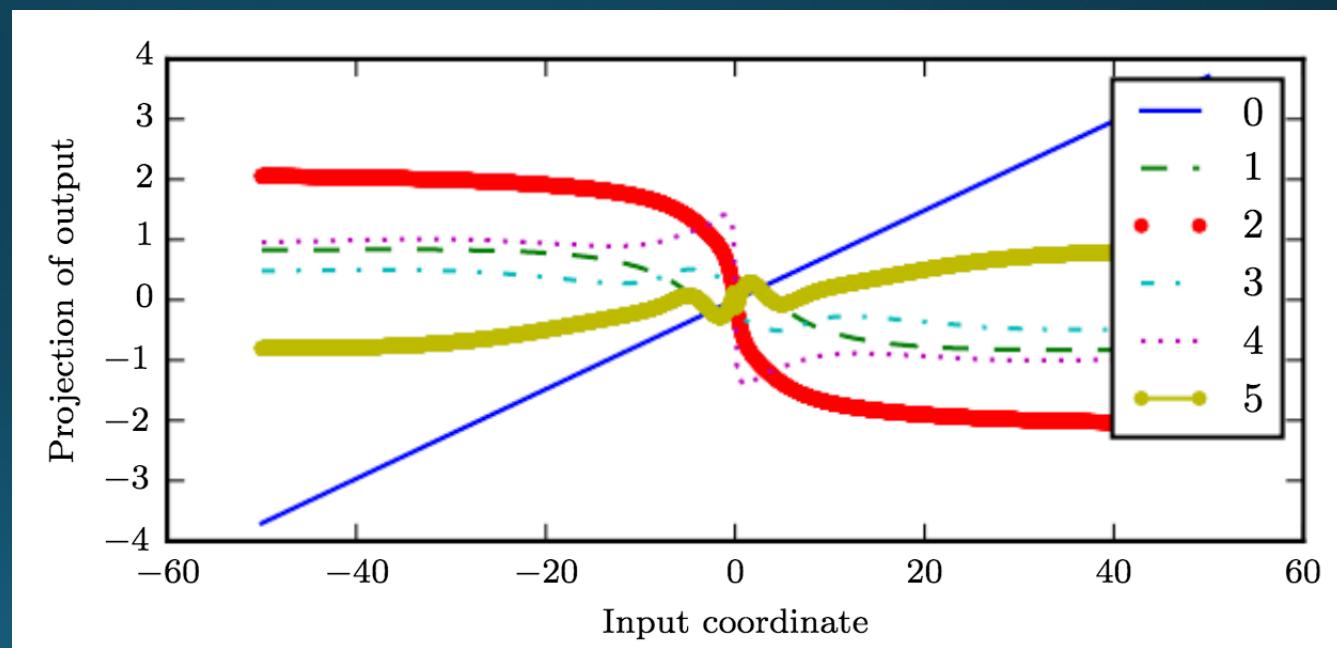


# Recurrent Neural Networks

- RNNs are great for modeling sequences, but by themselves cannot capture *attention*
- **Long-term dependencies require an explicit “memory”**

# Long-term Dependencies

- RNNs *compose* the same activation function repeatedly
  - Think: recurrence relations
- Results in highly nonlinear behavior



# Long-term Dependencies

- Put another way, recall the internal state update:

$$\vec{h}^{(t)} = W^T \vec{h}^{(t-1)}$$

- Where have we seen this before...

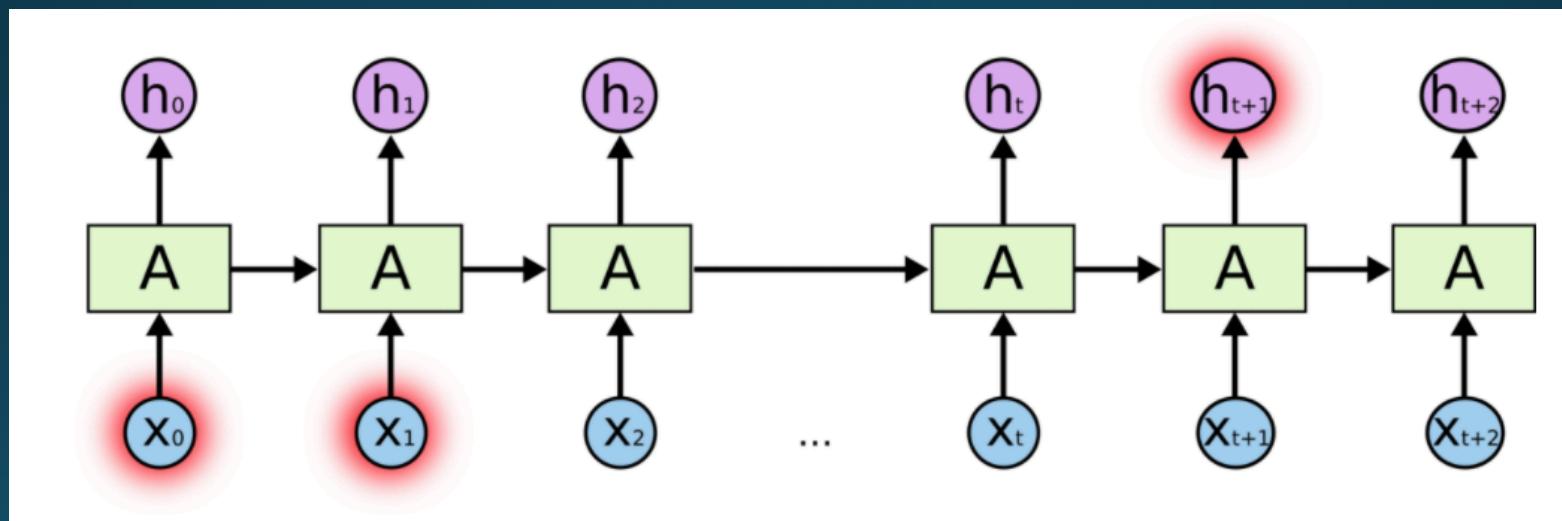
$$\vec{h}^{(t)} = (W^t)^T \vec{h}^{(0)} \qquad \qquad W = X \Lambda X^T$$

$$\vec{h}^{(t)} = X^T \Lambda^t X \vec{h}^{(0)}$$

- Eigenvalues are raised to the power  $t$ , decaying any eigenvalue  $< 1$
- **Any component of  $h^{(0)}$  not aligned with largest eigenvalue will be discarded**

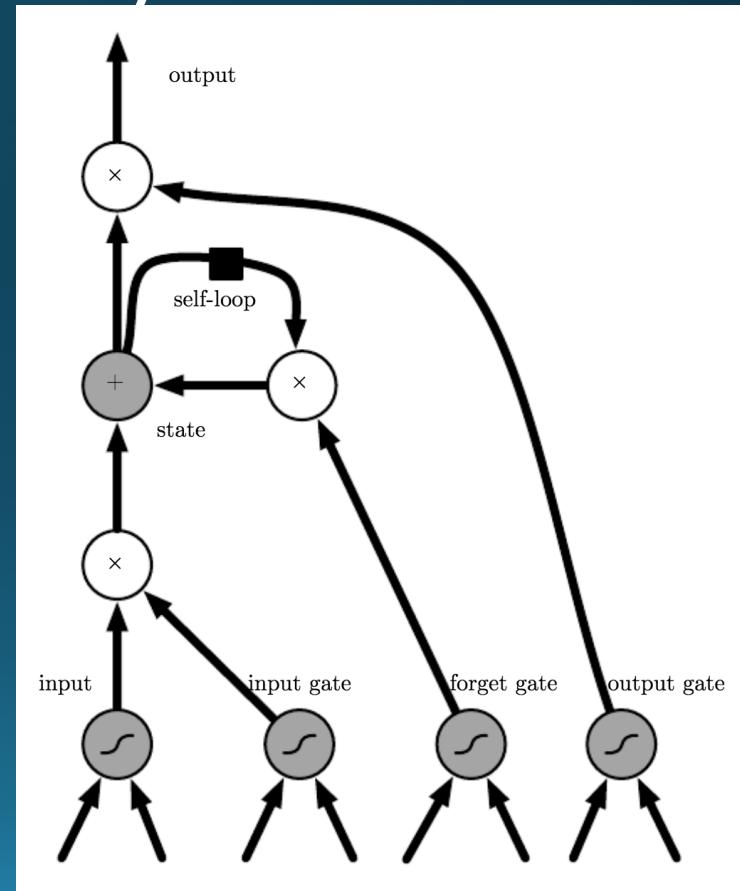
# Long-term Dependencies

- “I grew up in France... I speak fluent **French**.”



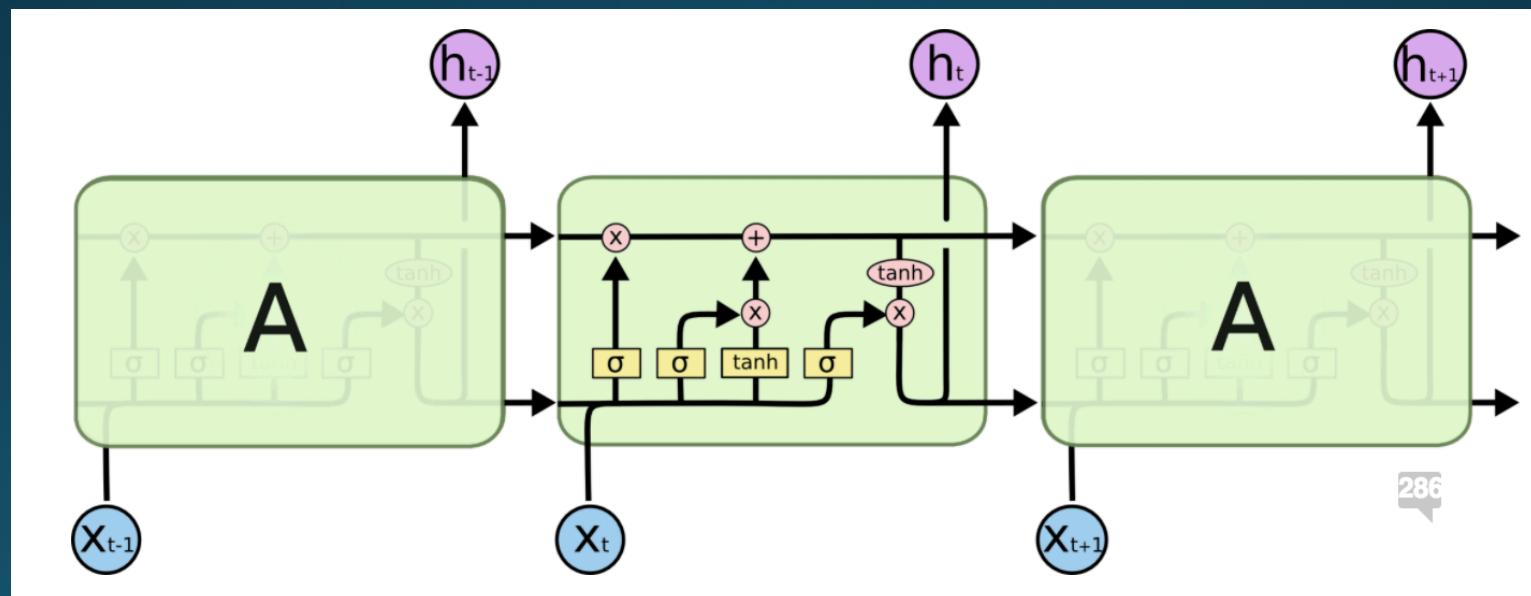
# Long-Short Term Memory

- Or “LSTM”
- A variant of the *gated* RNN
- Each hidden state comprises a **forget** gate
  - Determines what to “remember” and what to discard
  - Functions on self-loop input



# LSTM versus “vanilla” RNN

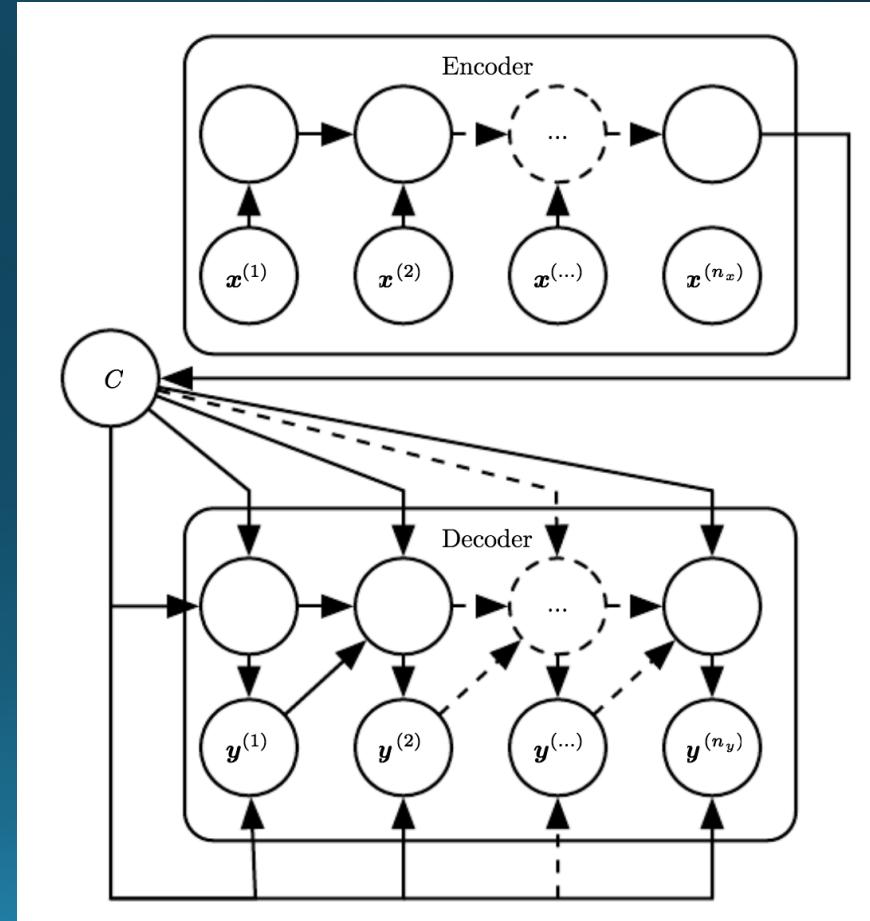
- A “vanilla” RNN contains only a single activation
- LSTMs have four interacting layers in each step



# Other RNN Variants

# Encoder-Decoder Networks

- Maps input to output sequences
  - Each mapping not necessarily of equal length!
- $C$  is a “semantic summary”
  - Think: input “subspace”
- Have to ensure  $C$  is of sufficient dimensionality to represent input space



# Transformer Networks

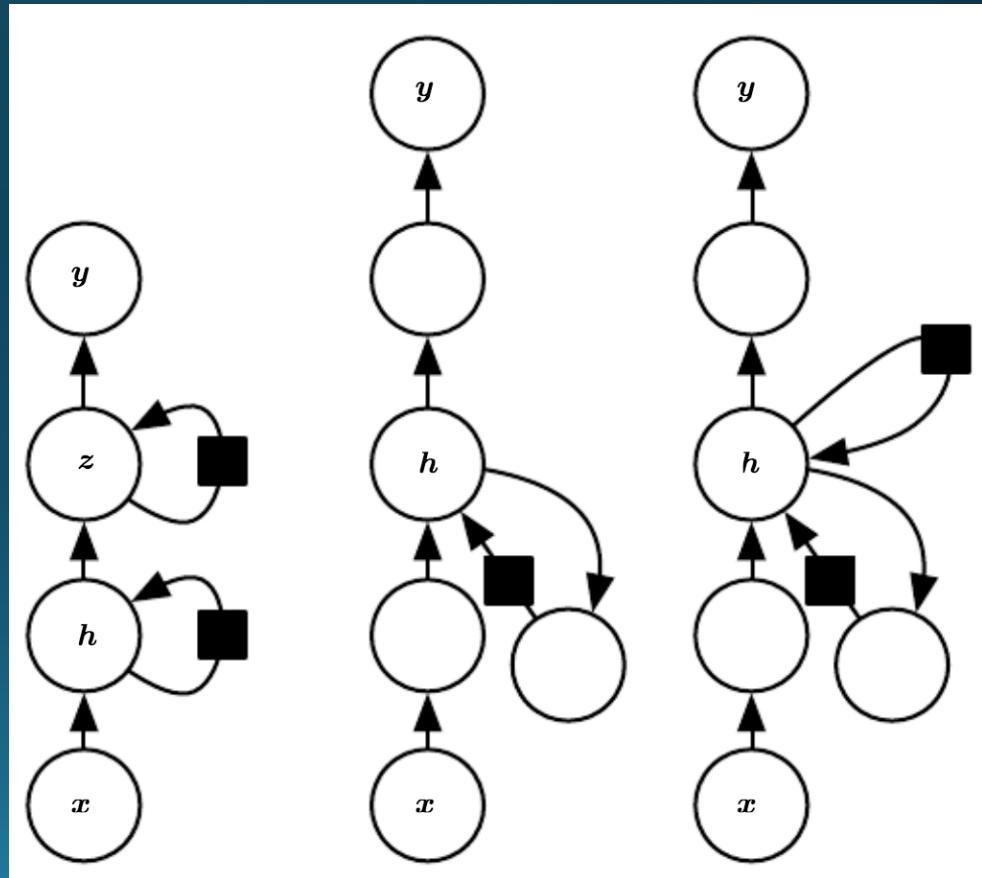
- Architectural implementation of “self-attention”
  - GPT-2, XLM, MultiFit, BERT
- “Talk to Transformer”  
<https://talktotransformer.com/>
- Language models

**Compare and contrast works written by male and female authors. What distinguishes novels written by male and female authors? Is there a difference between non-fiction and fiction? What historical context might you be able to infer?**

Well, I think, first of all, there's no question that there are more women writers of fiction and non-fiction today than there were 50 years ago, but there are fewer. And there's no question that there are more women who have books that are published than there are women who can sell those books, and there are more men who have books that are published than there are men who can sell those books. So that's what you'll find in a lot of the statistical data. And it seems to me to be something that's also true of TV: In the past 50 years, the number of female hosts of daytime talk shows has gone from maybe 25 to 40 to more than 50, and that doesn't seem to have been a result of a growing

# Deep Recurrent Networks

- Each recurrent state can feed into a series of hidden states
- Analogous to hidden markov models (HMMs) with attention and nearly infinite support for hidden states



# Conclusions

- Recurrent neural networks
  - A generalization of convolution (or is a convolution a generalization of recurrence?): uses same **parameter-sharing** idea
  - Introduces self-loops, but over discrete intervals: loops can be “unrolled” so backpropagation can still be used as normal
  - Still have trouble with long-term dependencies, such as language translation (vanishing / exploding gradient)
- Long-short term memory
  - Introduce a series of gates within the self-loops
  - Gates determine what to remember, what to discard
  - No ill-conditioned gradients
- Other gated variants

# Course Details

- Assignment 5—due **tonight!**
- If you're getting ZEROs on AutoLab:
  - Check your **dimensions**
  - (p and q have NO EFFECT on dimensions, only k)
  - A/B/C RMSD are scaled to expected
    - > 100: you somehow made something more accurate than the baseline?! (check that you are correctly using random numbers)
    - < 100: Double-check linalg operations (and make sure you're using **scipy.linalg**)
- Final Projects
  - Current presentation schedule
  - 25 minutes (+5 for Q&A) per team

Mon, Final Presentations  
11/25

- Zirak Khan,  
Jialin Yang,  
Sasha Popov

Tues, Final Presentations  
11/26

- Elika  
Bozorgi, Hao  
Yang,  
Matthew  
Pooser
- Cheng Chen,  
Yulong  
Wang, Will  
Moore

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Mon, Final Presentations  
12/2

- Alexander  
Kimbrell,  
Tori Pirtle

Tues, Final Presentations  
12/3

- Aditya Patel,  
Michael  
Hearn, Anh  
Tran

Fri, Final Project Deliverables Due  
12/6

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# References

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- "Attention and Augmented Recurrent Neural Networks",  
<https://distill.pub/2016/augmented-rnns/>
- "Understanding LSTM Networks" <https://colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/>
- "The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Recurrent Neural Networks"  
<https://karpathy.github.io/2015/05/21/rnn-effectiveness/>
- "MultiFiT: Efficient Multi-lingual Language Model Fine-tuning",  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.04761>
- "Cross-lingual Language Model Pretraining", <https://arxiv.org/abs/1901.07291>
- "BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding", <https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.04805>
- Full GPT-2 Model <https://openai.com/blog/gpt-2-1-5b-release/>