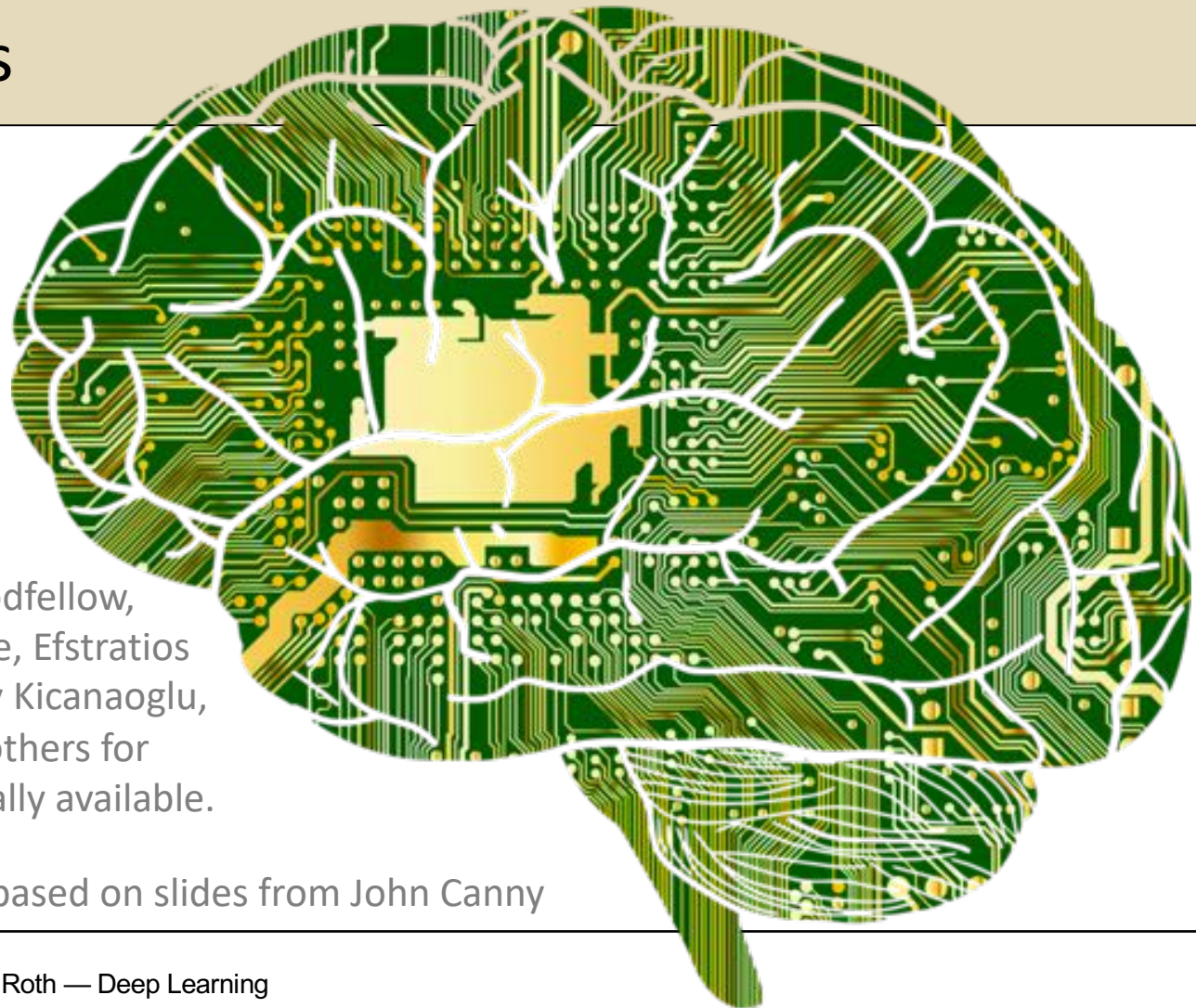


# Deep Learning

## Architectures and Methods: Attention Models



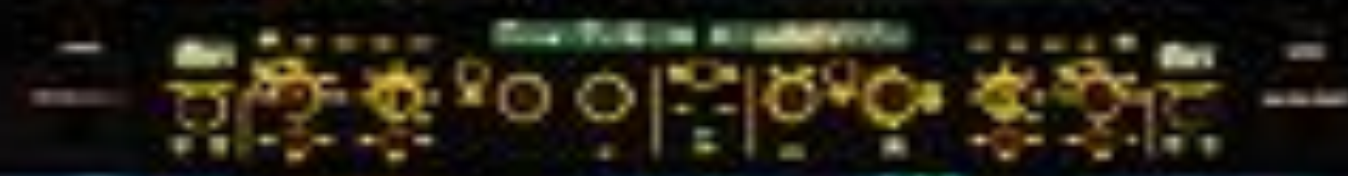
TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DARMSTADT



Thanks to John Canny, Ian Goodfellow, Yoshua Bengio, Aaron Courville, Efstratios Gavves, Kirill Gavrilyuk, Berkay Kicanaoglu, and Patrick Putzky and many others for making their materials publically available.

The present slides are mainly based on slides from John Canny

Handwritten text in Arabic script, likely a title or header, possibly reading "مقدمة" (Introduction).



# Early attention models

Larochelle and Hinton, 2010, “Learning to combine foveal glimpses with a third-order Boltzmann machine”

Misha Denil et al, 2011, “Learning where to Attend with Deep Architectures for Image Tracking”



---

# 2014: Neural Translation Breakthroughs

- Devlin et al, ACL'2014
- Cho et al EMNLP'2014
- Bahdanau, Cho & Bengio, arXiv sept. 2014
- Jean, Cho, Memisevic & Bengio, arXiv dec. 2014
- Sutskever et al NIPS'2014





---

# Other Applications

- Ba et al 2014, **Visual attention for recognition**
- Mnih et al 2014, **Visual attention for recognition**
- Chorowski et al, 2014, **Speech recognition**
- Graves et al 2014, **Neural Turing machines**
- Yao et al 2015, **Video description generation**
- Vinyals et al, 2015, **Conversational Agents**
- Xu et al 2015, **Image caption generation**
- Xu et al 2015, **Visual Question Answering**



# Soft vs Hard Attention Models

## Hard attention:

- Attend to a single input location.
- Can't use gradient descent.
- Need **reinforcement learning**.

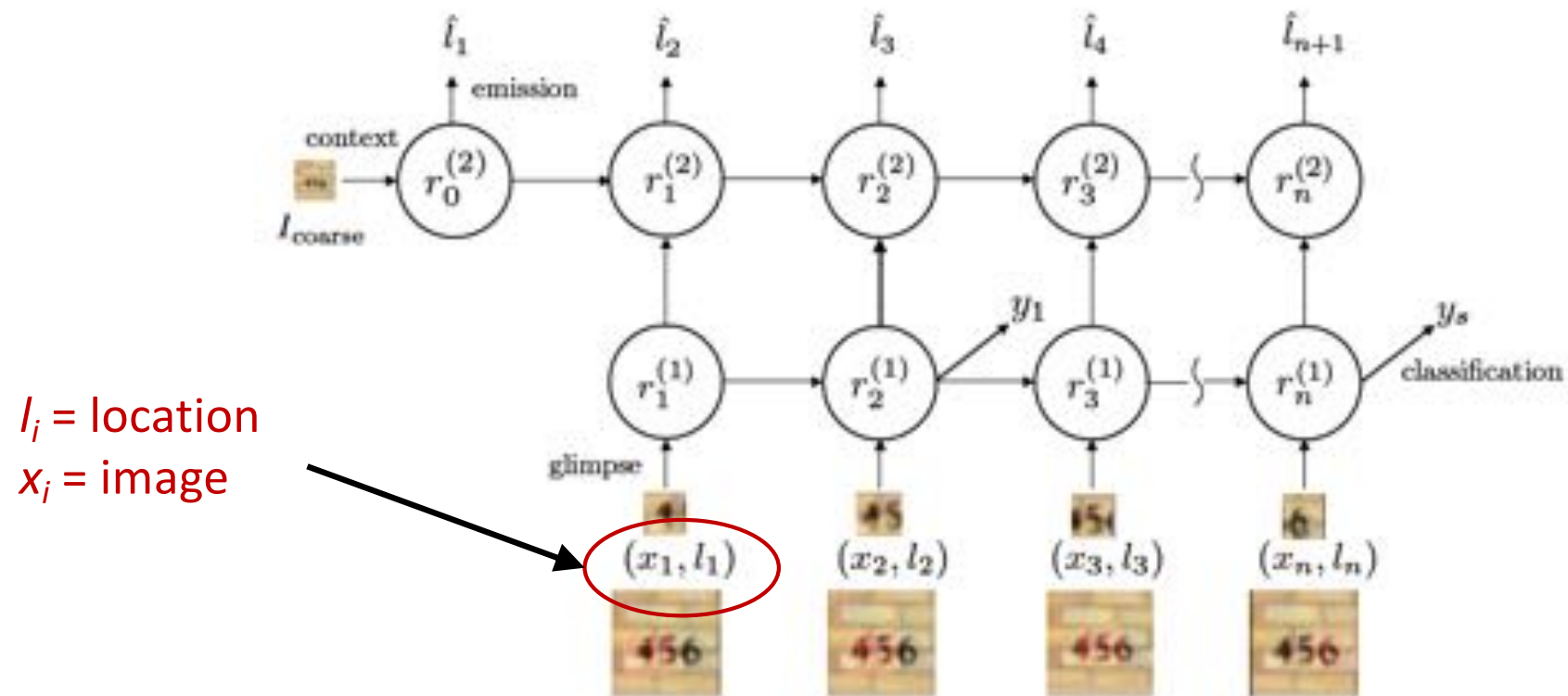
## Soft attention:

- Compute a weighted combination (attention) over some inputs using an attention network.
- Can use backpropagation to train end-to-end.



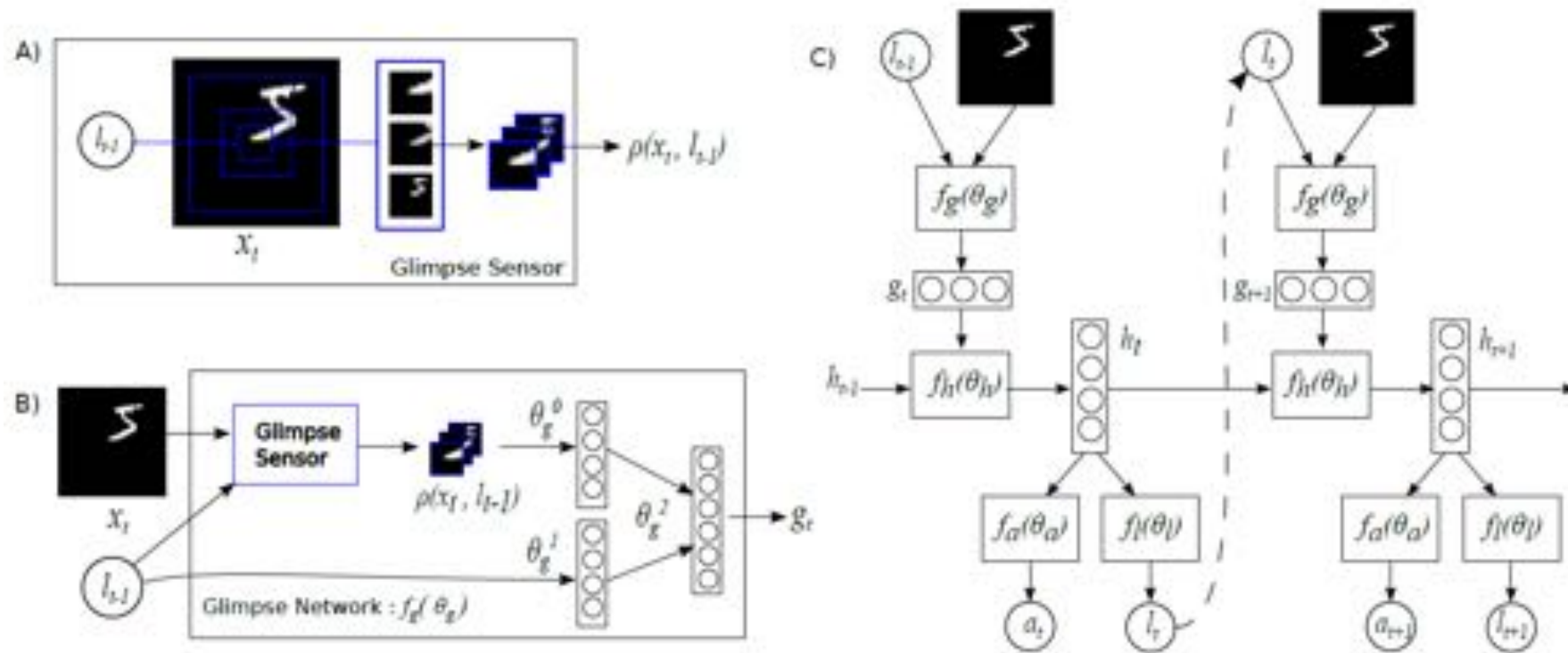
# Attention for Recognition (Ba et al 2014)

- RNN-based model.
- Hard attention.
- Required reinforcement learning.



# Attention for Recognition (Mnih et al 2014)

- Glimpses are retinal (graded resolution) images



$l_i$  = location

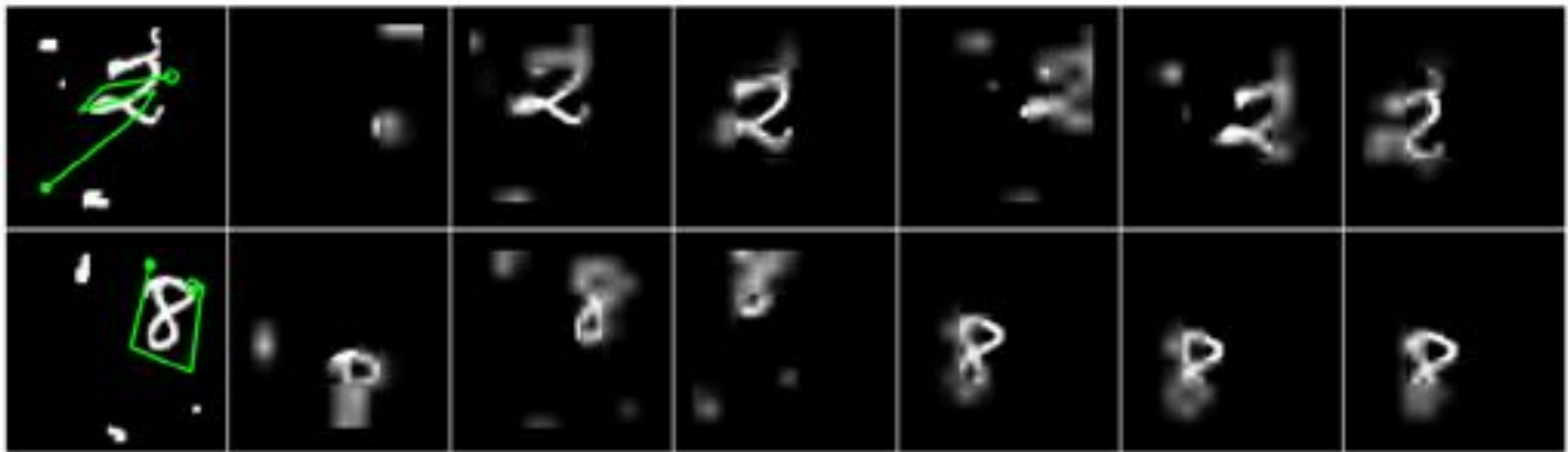
$a_i$  = action (classification)





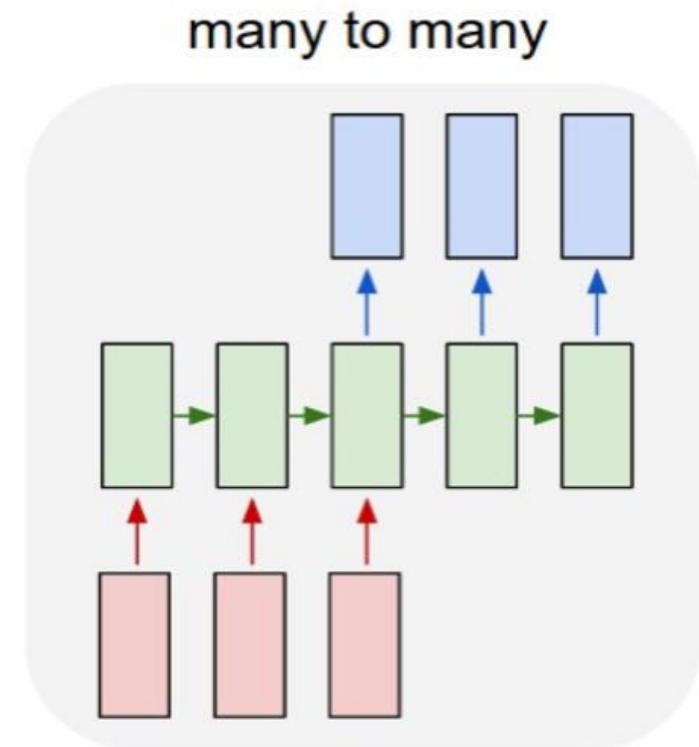
# Attention for Recognition (Mnih et al 2014)

- Glimpse trace on some digit images:
- Green line shows trajectory, other images are the glimpses themselves.



# Soft Attention for Translation

“I love coffee” -> “Me gusta el café”

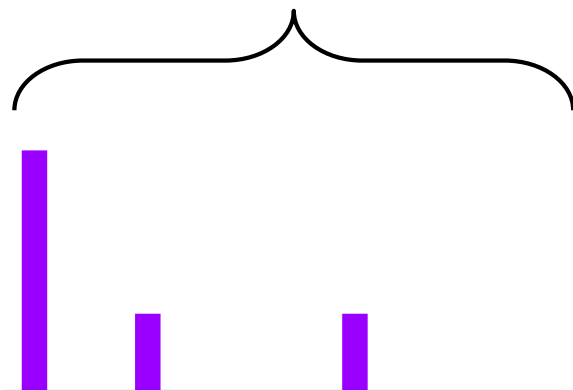


Bahdanau et al, “Neural Machine Translation by Jointly Learning to Align and Translate”, ICLR 2015



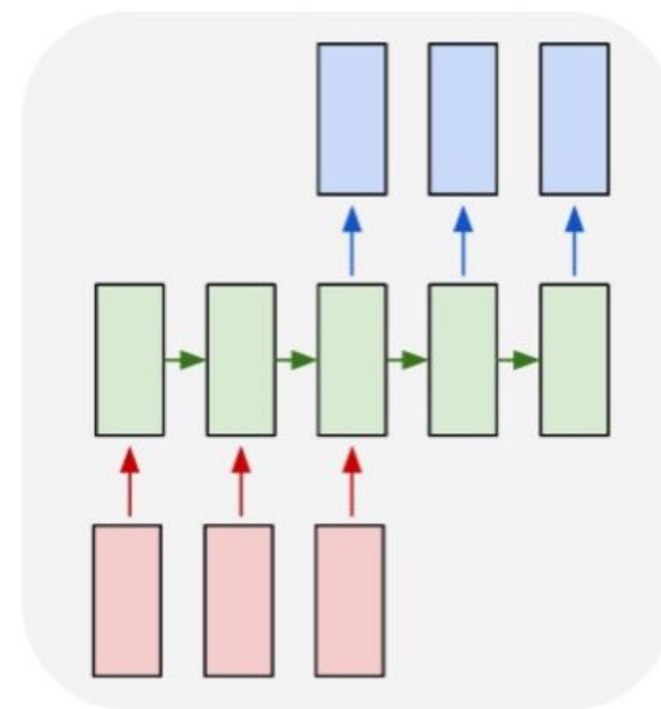
# Soft Attention for Translation

Distribution over  
input words



“I love coffee” -> “Me gusta el café”

many to many

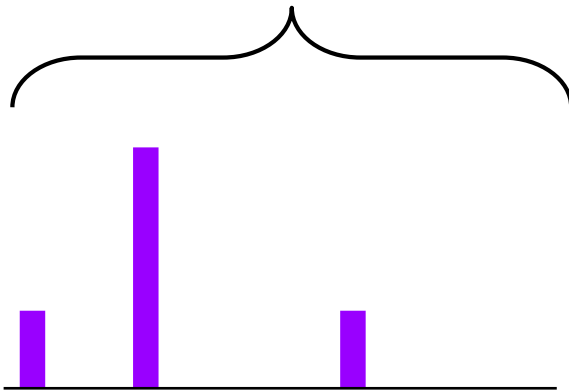


Bahdanau et al, “Neural Machine Translation by Jointly Learning to Align and Translate”, ICLR 2015



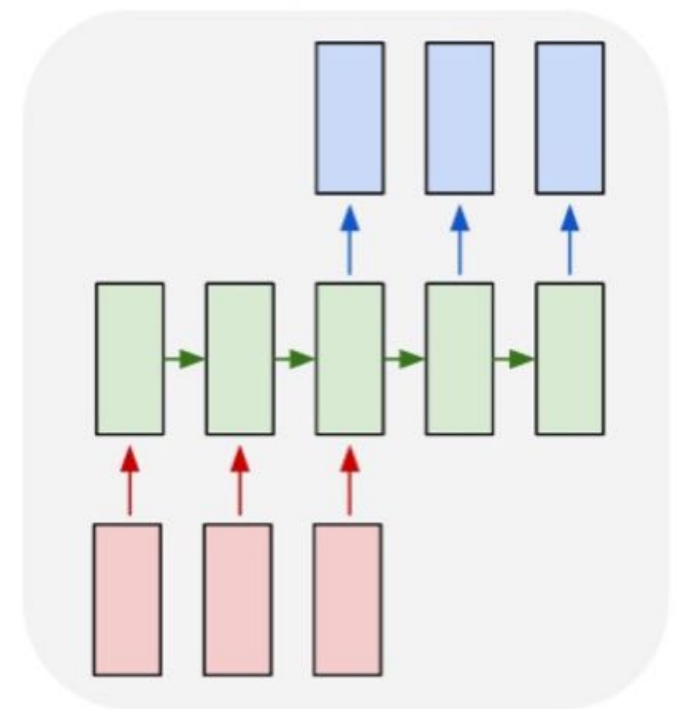
# Soft Attention for Translation

Distribution over  
input words



“I love coffee” -> “Me gusta el café”

many to many

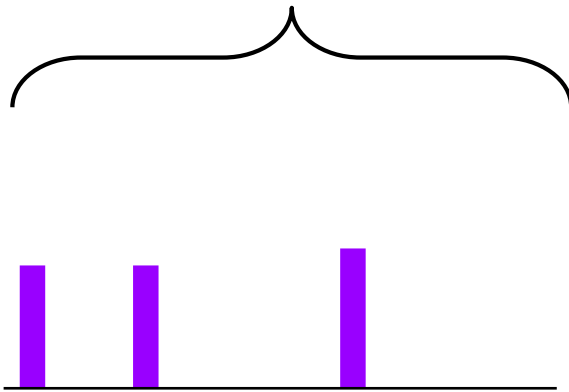


Bahdanau et al, “Neural Machine Translation by Jointly Learning to Align and Translate”, ICLR 2015



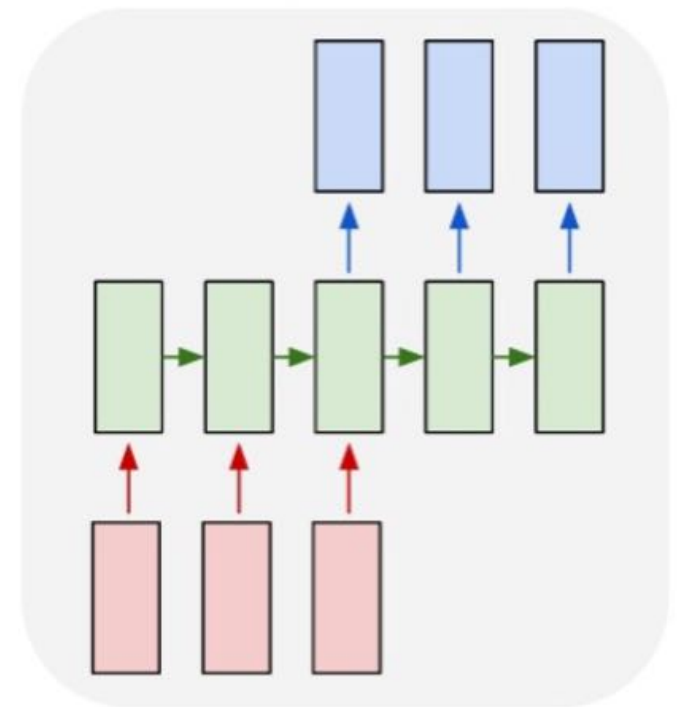
# Soft Attention for Translation

Distribution over  
input words



“I love coffee” -> “Me gusta el café”

many to many



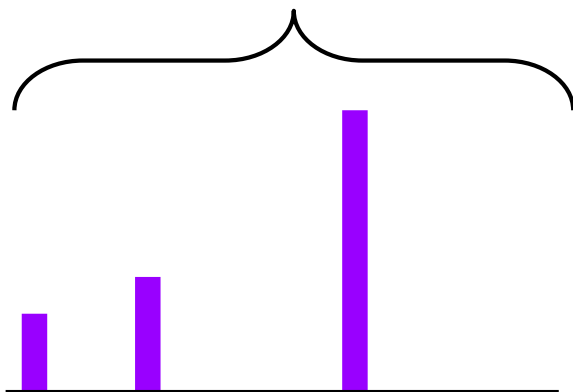
Bahdanau et al, “Neural Machine Translation by Jointly Learning to Align and Translate”, ICLR 2015





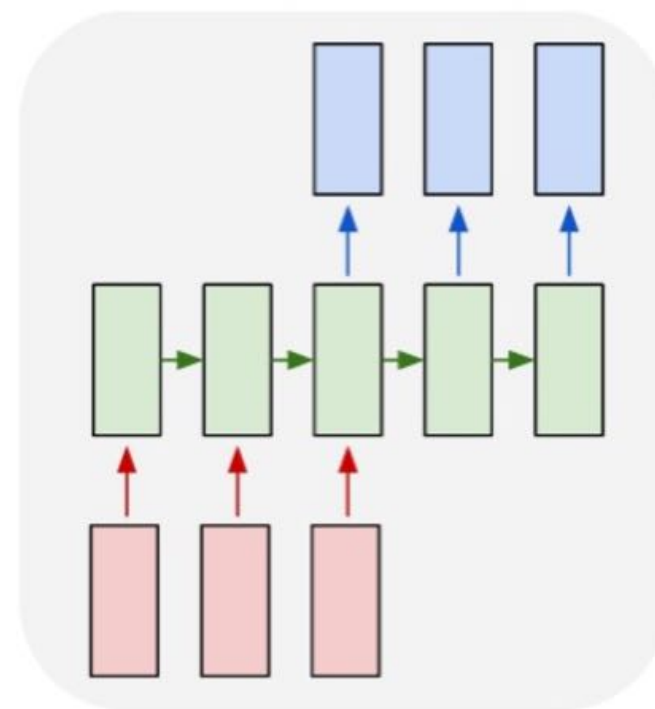
# Soft Attention for Translation

Distribution over  
input words



“I love coffee” -> “Me gusta el café”

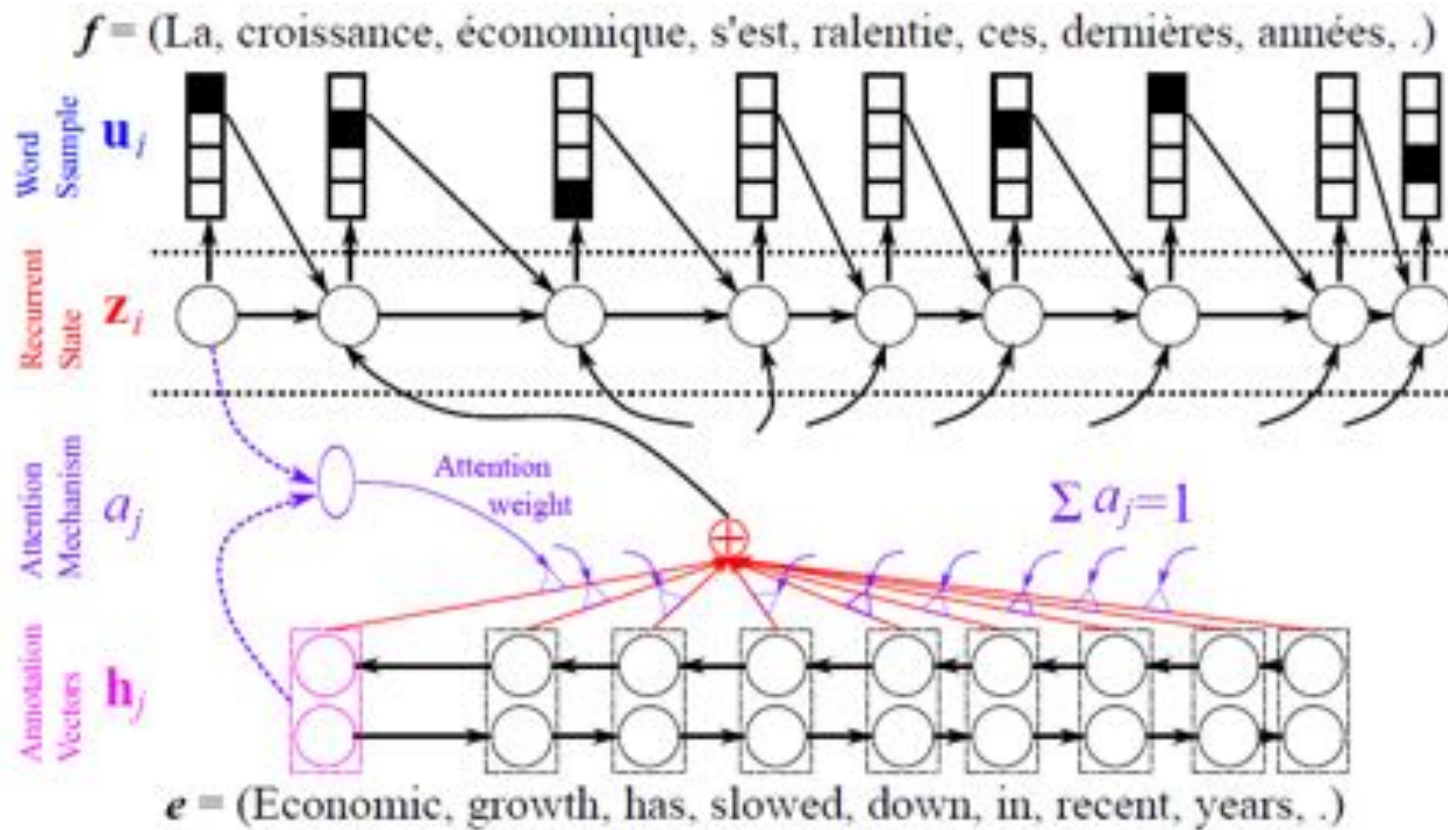
many to many



Bahdanau et al, “Neural Machine Translation by Jointly Learning to Align and Translate”, ICLR 2015



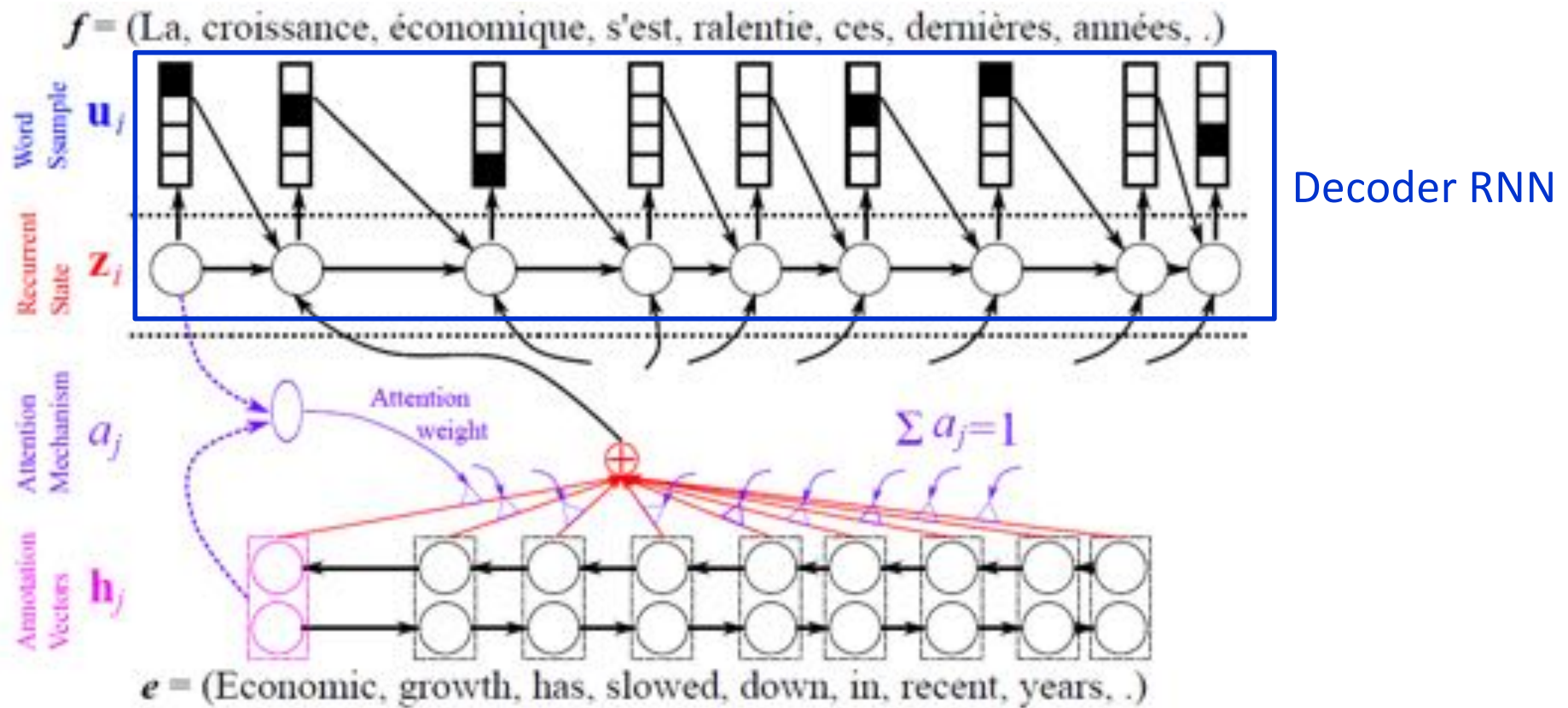
# Soft Attention for Translation



From Y. Bengio CVPR 2015 Tutorial



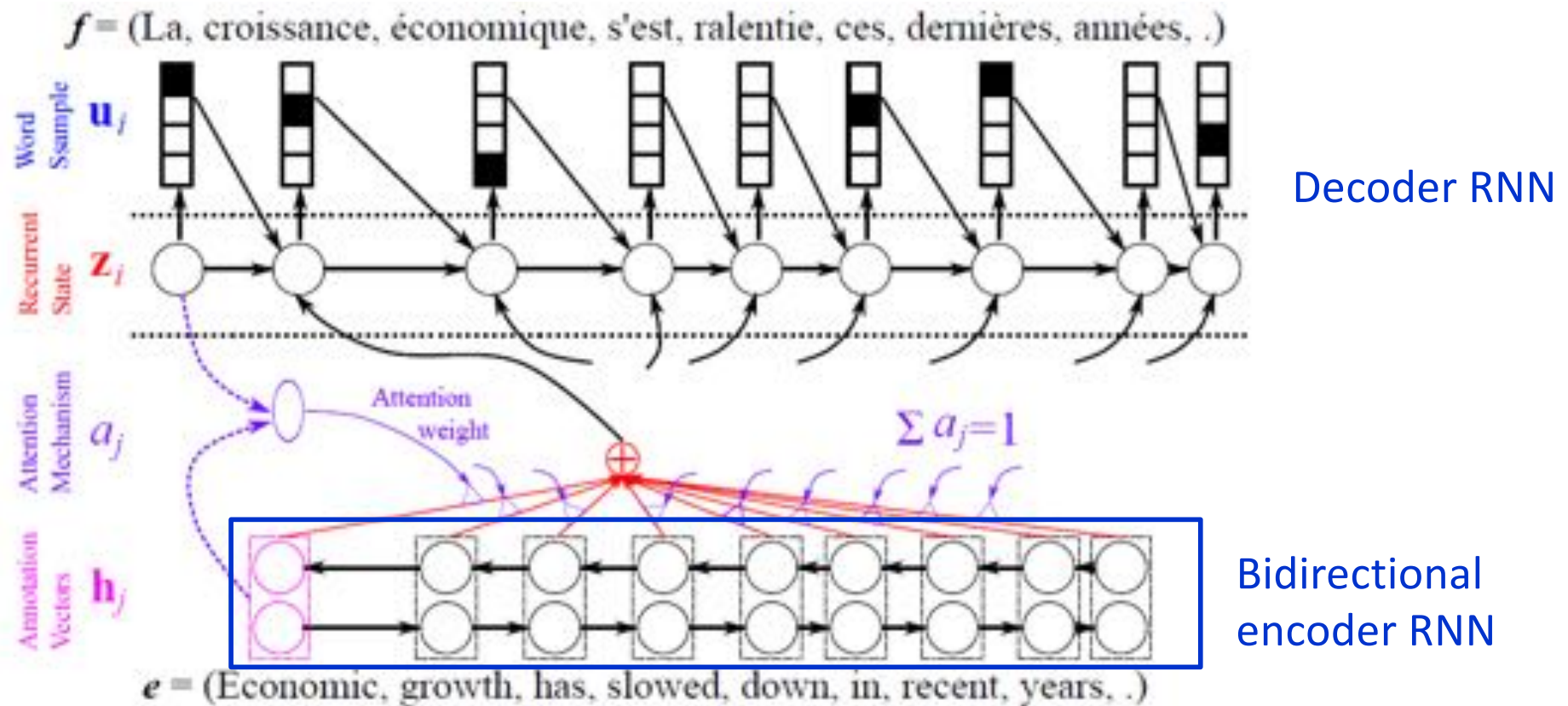
# Soft Attention for Translation



From Y. Bengio CVPR 2015 Tutorial



# Soft Attention for Translation

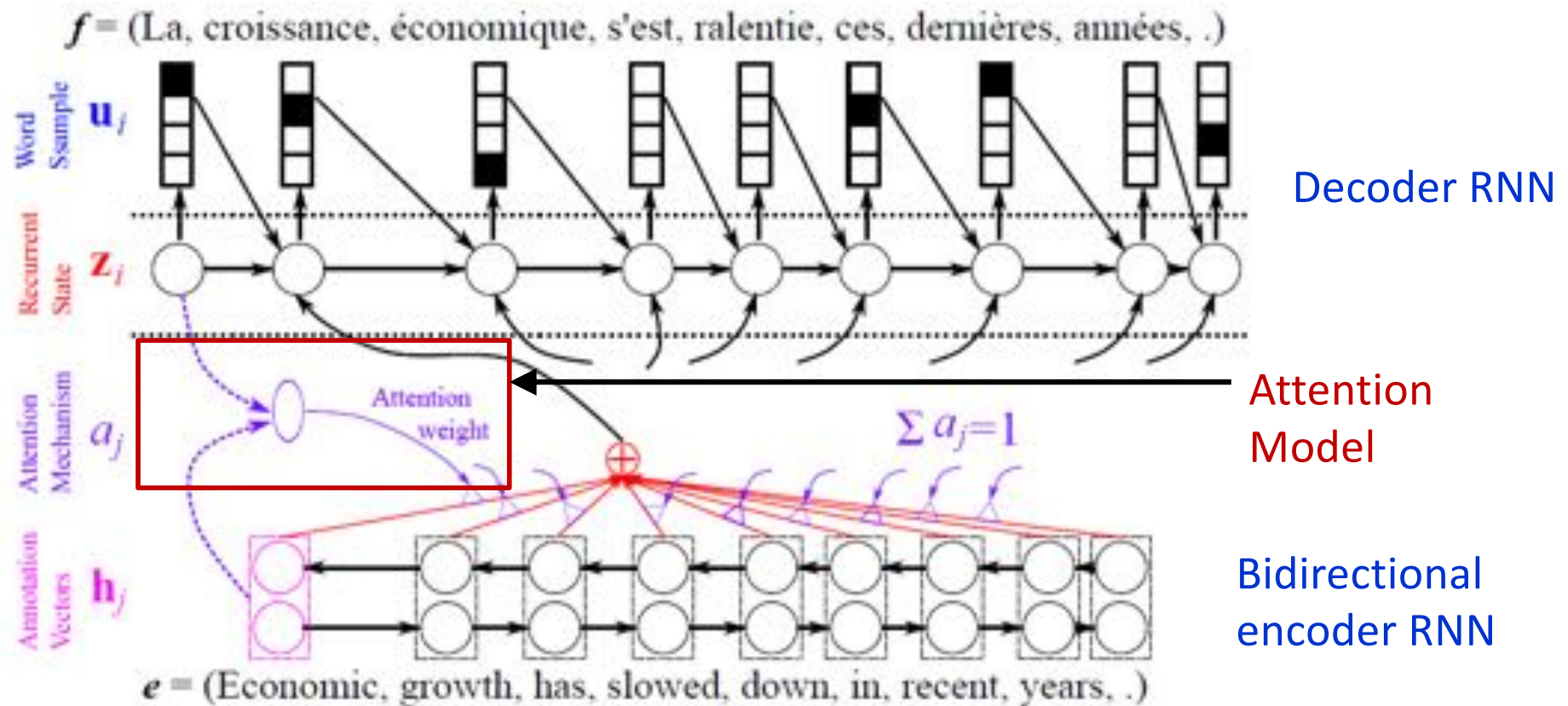


From Y. Bengio CVPR 2015 Tutorial





# Soft Attention for Translation



From Y. Bengio CVPR 2015 Tutorial





# Soft Attention for Translation

Context vector (input to decoder):

$$c_i = \sum_{j=1}^{T_x} \alpha_{ij} h_j$$

Mixture weights:

$$\alpha_{ij} = \frac{\exp(e_{ij})}{\sum_{k=1}^{T_x} \exp(e_{ik})}$$

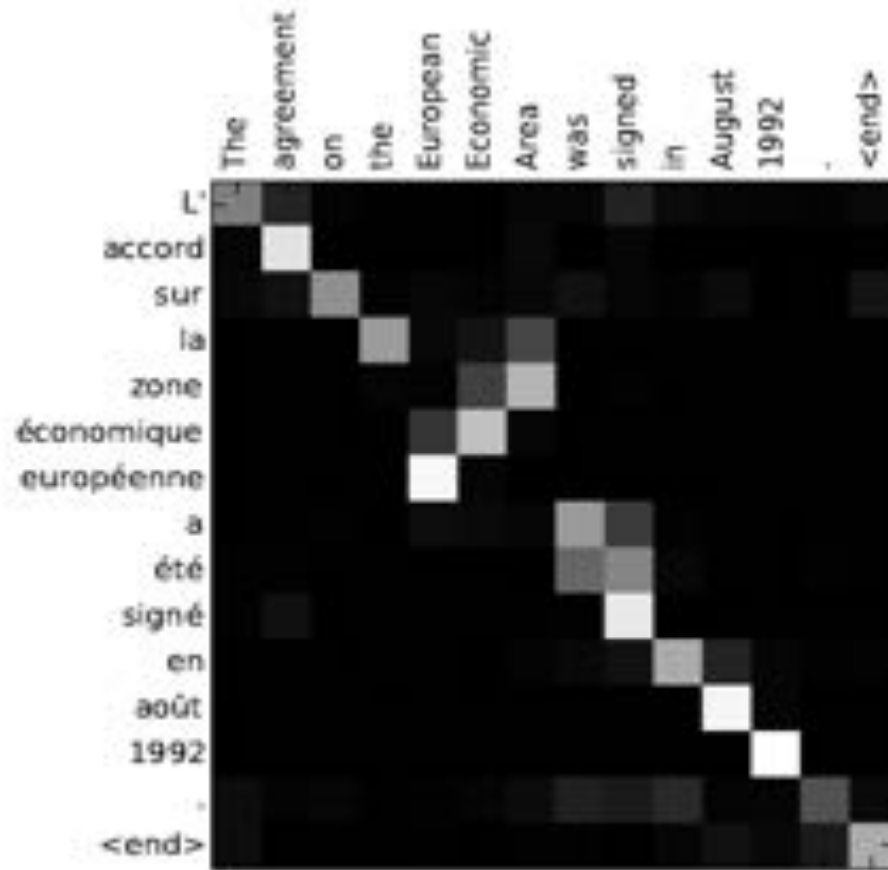
Alignment score (how well do input words near  $j$  match output words at position  $i$ ):

$$e_{ij} = a(s_{i-1}, h_j)$$

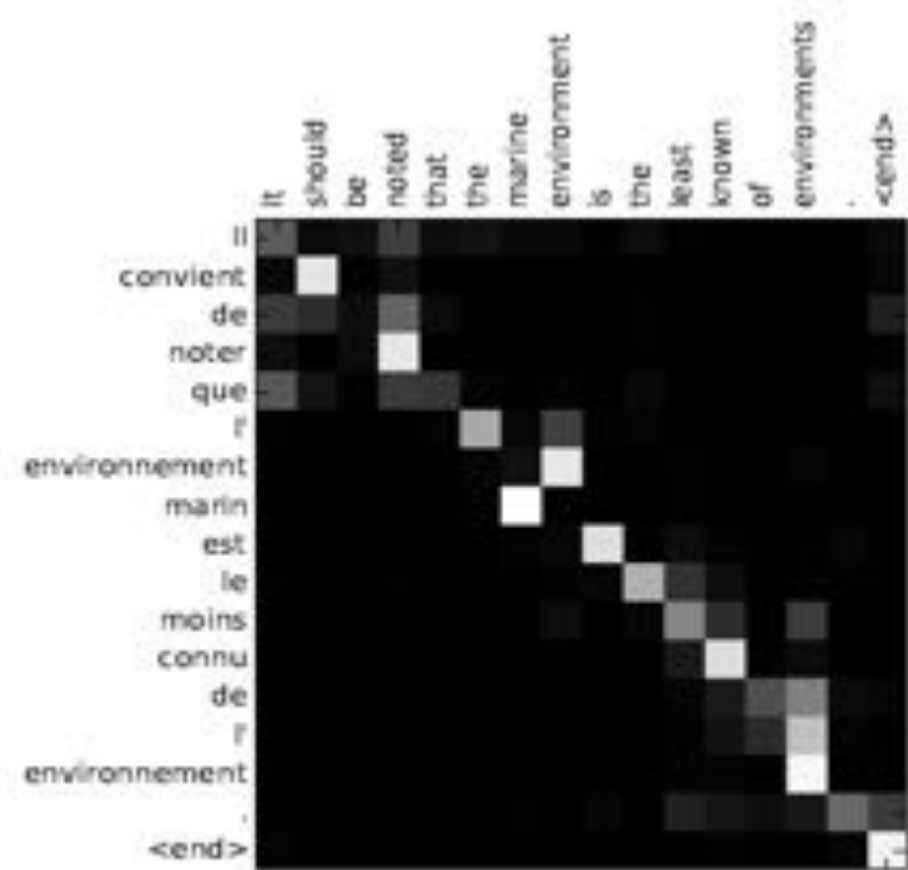
Bahdanau et al, “Neural Machine Translation by Jointly Learning to Align and Translate”, ICLR 2015



# Soft Attention for Translation



(a)



(b)

Bahdanau et al, "Neural Machine Translation by Jointly Learning to Align and Translate", ICLR 2015



# Soft Attention for Translation

Reached State of the art in one year:

(a) English→French (WMT-14)

|       | NMT(A) | Google | P-SMT  |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| NMT   | 32.68  | 30.6*  | 37.03* |
| +Cand | 33.28  | –      |        |
| +UNK  | 33.99  | 32.7°  |        |
| +Ens  | 36.71  | 36.9°  |        |

(b) English→German (WMT-15)

| Model | Note                       |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 24.8  | Neural MT                  |
| 24.0  | U.Edinburgh, Syntactic SMT |
| 23.6  | LIMSI/KIT                  |
| 22.8  | U.Edinburgh, Phrase SMT    |
| 22.7  | KIT, Phrase SMT            |

(c) English→Czech (WMT-15)

| Model | Note                       |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 18.3  | Neural MT                  |
| 18.2  | JHU, SMT+LM+OSM+Sparse     |
| 17.6  | CU, Phrase SMT             |
| 17.4  | U.Edinburgh, Phrase SMT    |
| 16.1  | U.Edinburgh, Syntactic SMT |

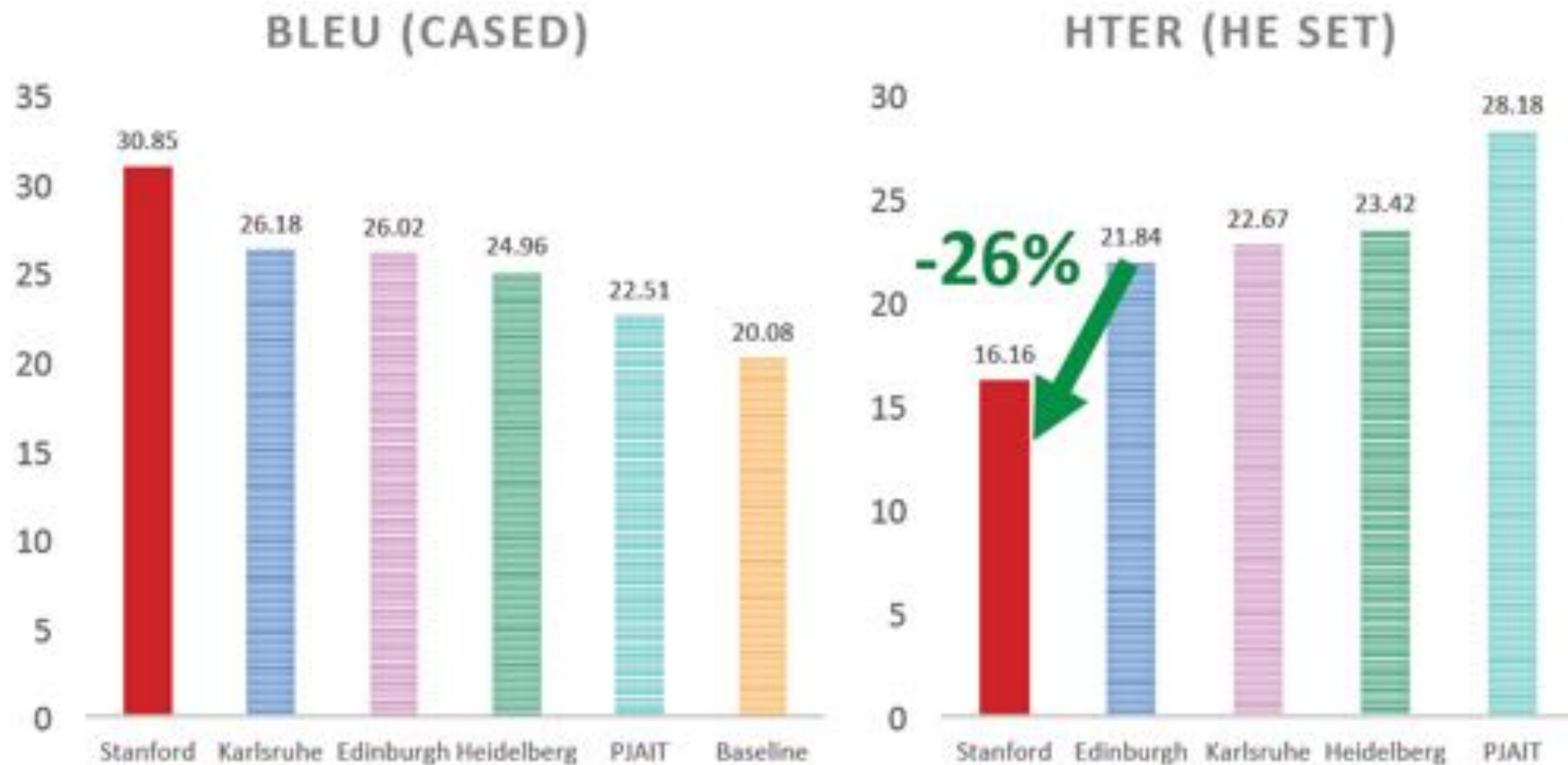
Yoshua Bengio, NIPS RAM workshop 2015



# Soft Attention for Translation

Luong, Pham and Manning's Translation System (2015):

Translation Error Rate vs Human

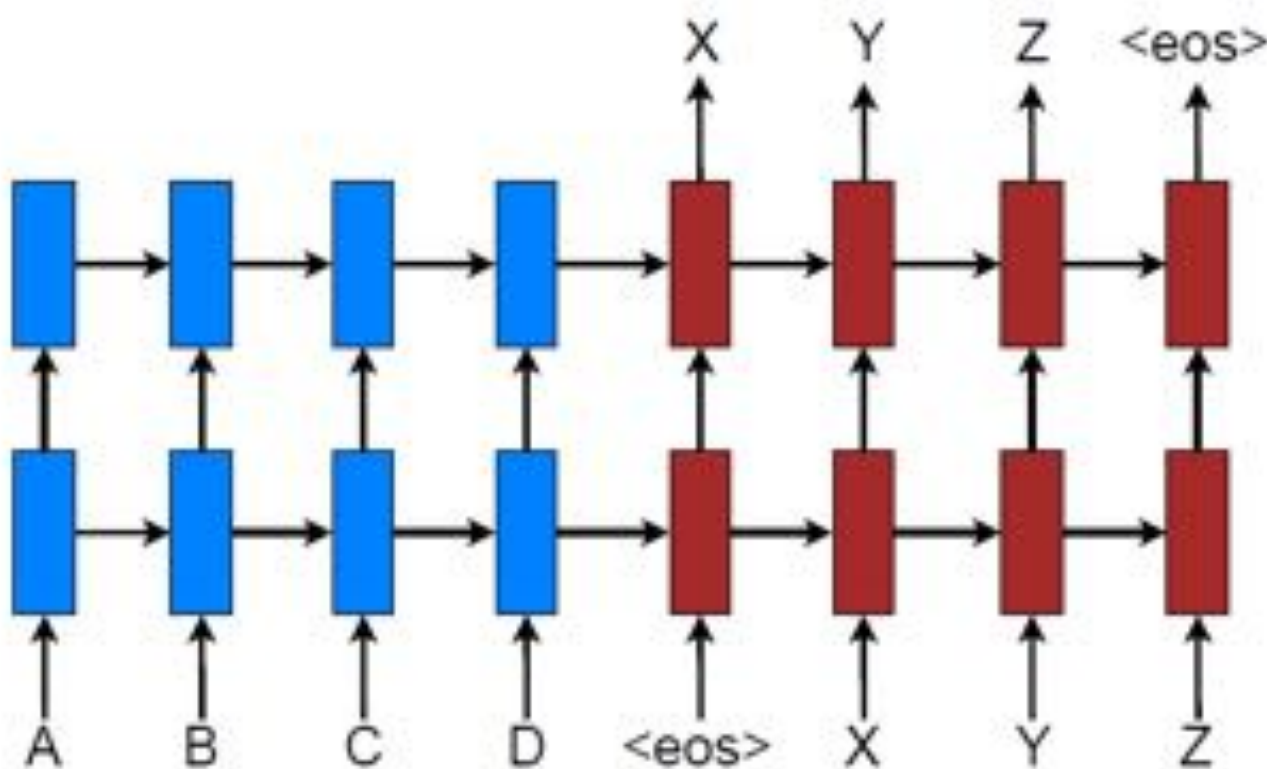


Luong and Manning IWSLT 2015



# Luong, Pham and Manning 2015

Stacked LSTM (c.f. bidirectional flat encoder in Bahdanau et al):



Effective Approaches to Attention-based Neural Machine Translation  
Minh-Thang Luong, Hieu Pham, Christopher D. Manning, EMNLP 15

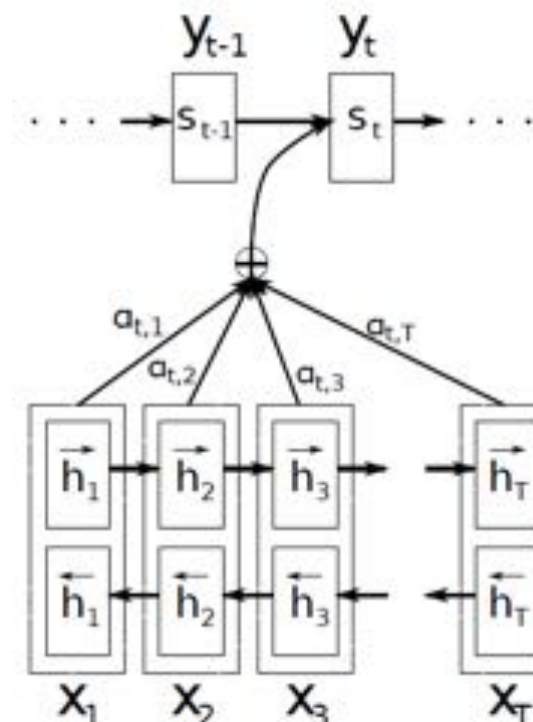
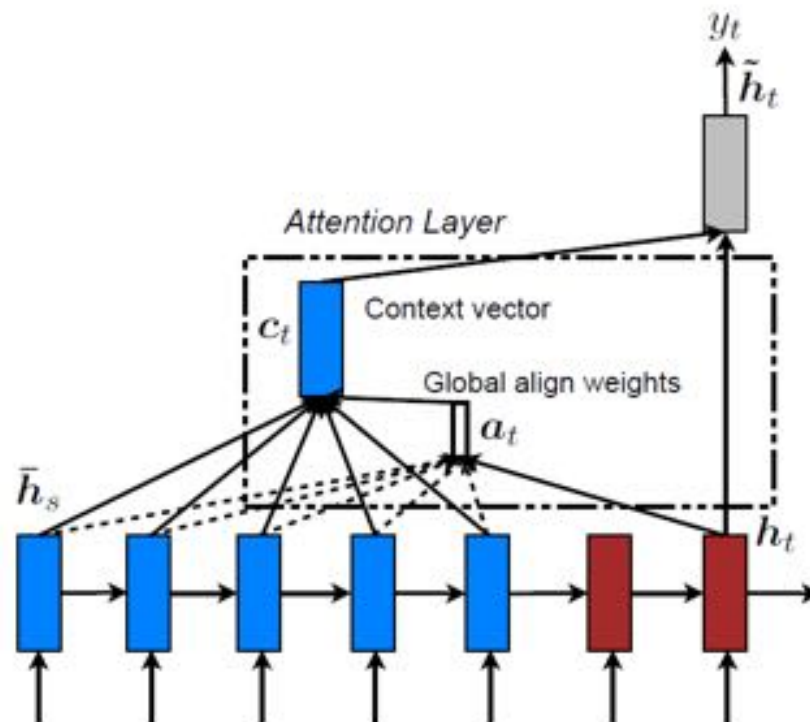




# Global Attention Model

Global attention model is similar but simpler than Bahdanau's:

Different word matching functions were used

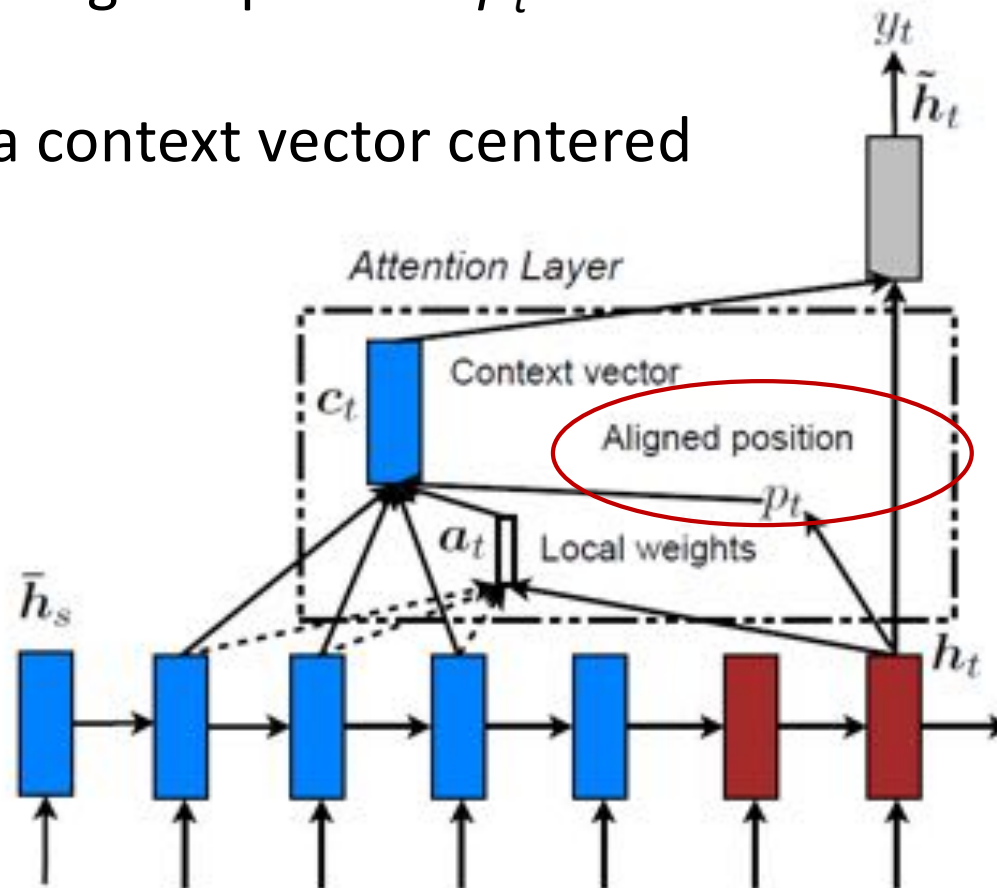


Effective Approaches to Attention-based Neural Machine Translation  
Minh-Thang Luong Hieu Pham Christopher D. Manning, EMNLP 15



# Local Attention Model

- Compute a best aligned position  $p_t$  first
- Then compute a context vector centered at that position



Effective Approaches to Attention-based Neural Machine Translation  
Minh-Thang Luong Hieu Pham Christopher D. Manning, EMNLP 15



# Results

| System   | Ppl  | BLEU               |
|--|------|--------------------|
| Winning WMT' 14 system – <i>phrase-based</i> + <i>large LM</i> (Buck et al., 2014)         |      | 20.7               |
| <i>Existing NMT systems</i>  |      |                    |
| RNNsearch (Jean et al., 2015)  |      | 16.5               |
| RNNsearch + unk replace (Jean et al., 2015)  |      | 19.0               |
| RNNsearch + unk replace + large vocab + <i>ensemble</i> 8 models (Jean et al., 2015)       |      | <b>21.6</b>        |
| <i>Our NMT systems</i>   |      |                    |
| Base   | 10.6 | 11.3               |
| Base + reverse   | 9.9  | 12.6 (+1.3)        |
| Base + reverse + dropout   | 8.1  | 14.0 (+1.4)        |
| Base + reverse + dropout + global attention ( <i>location</i> )                            | 7.3  | 16.8 (+2.8)        |
| Base + reverse + dropout + global attention ( <i>location</i> ) + feed input               | 6.4  | 18.1 (+1.3)        |
| Base + reverse + dropout + local-p attention ( <i>general</i> ) + feed input               | 5.9  | 19.0 (+0.9)        |
| Base + reverse + dropout + local-p attention ( <i>general</i> ) + feed input + unk replace |      | 20.9 (+1.9)        |
| <i>Ensemble 8 models + unk replace</i>   |      | <b>23.0 (+2.1)</b> |

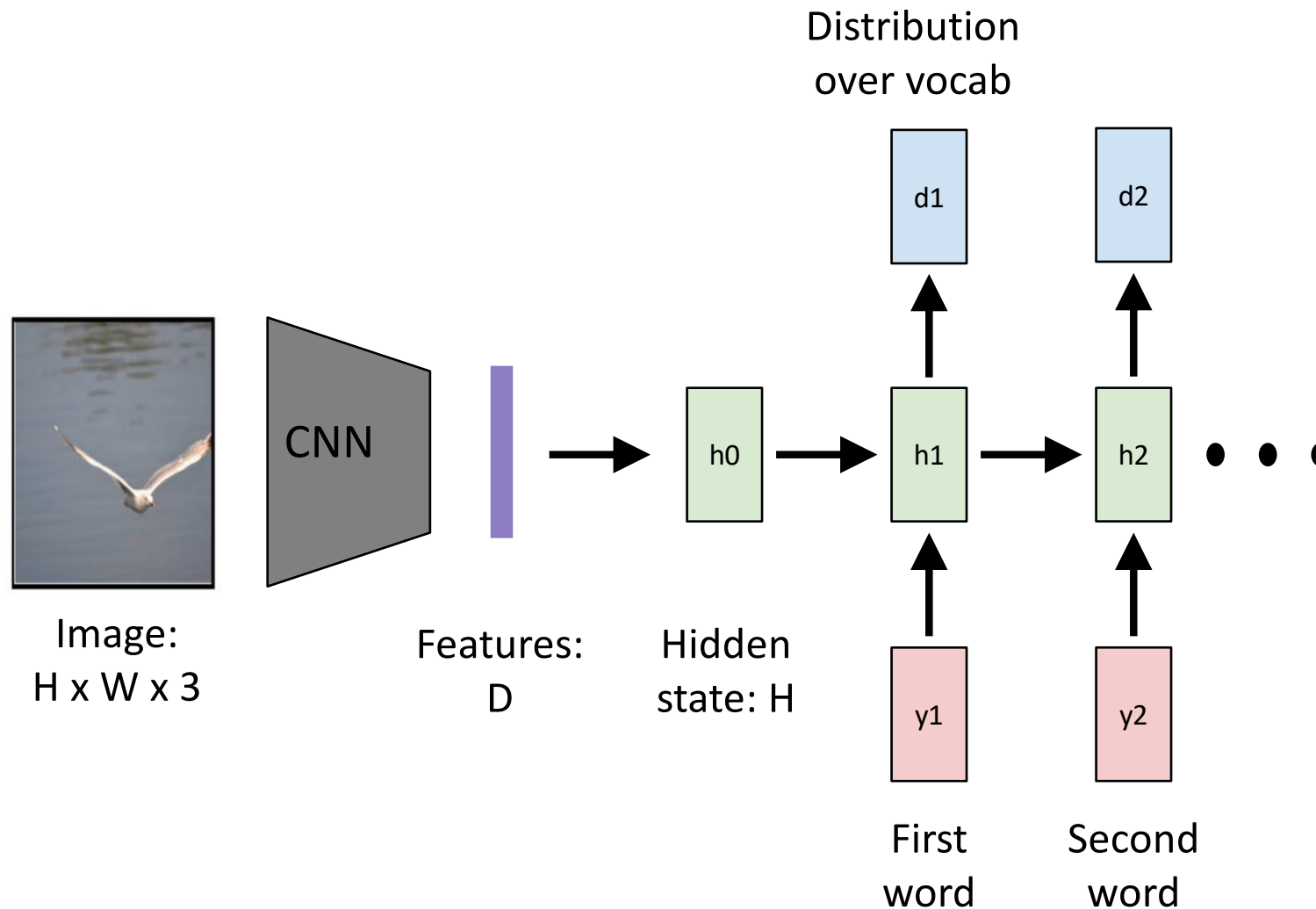
Local **and** global models

Effective Approaches to Attention-based Neural Machine Translation  
Minh-Thang Luong Hieu Pham Christopher D. Manning, EMNLP 15



# Recall: RNN for Captioning

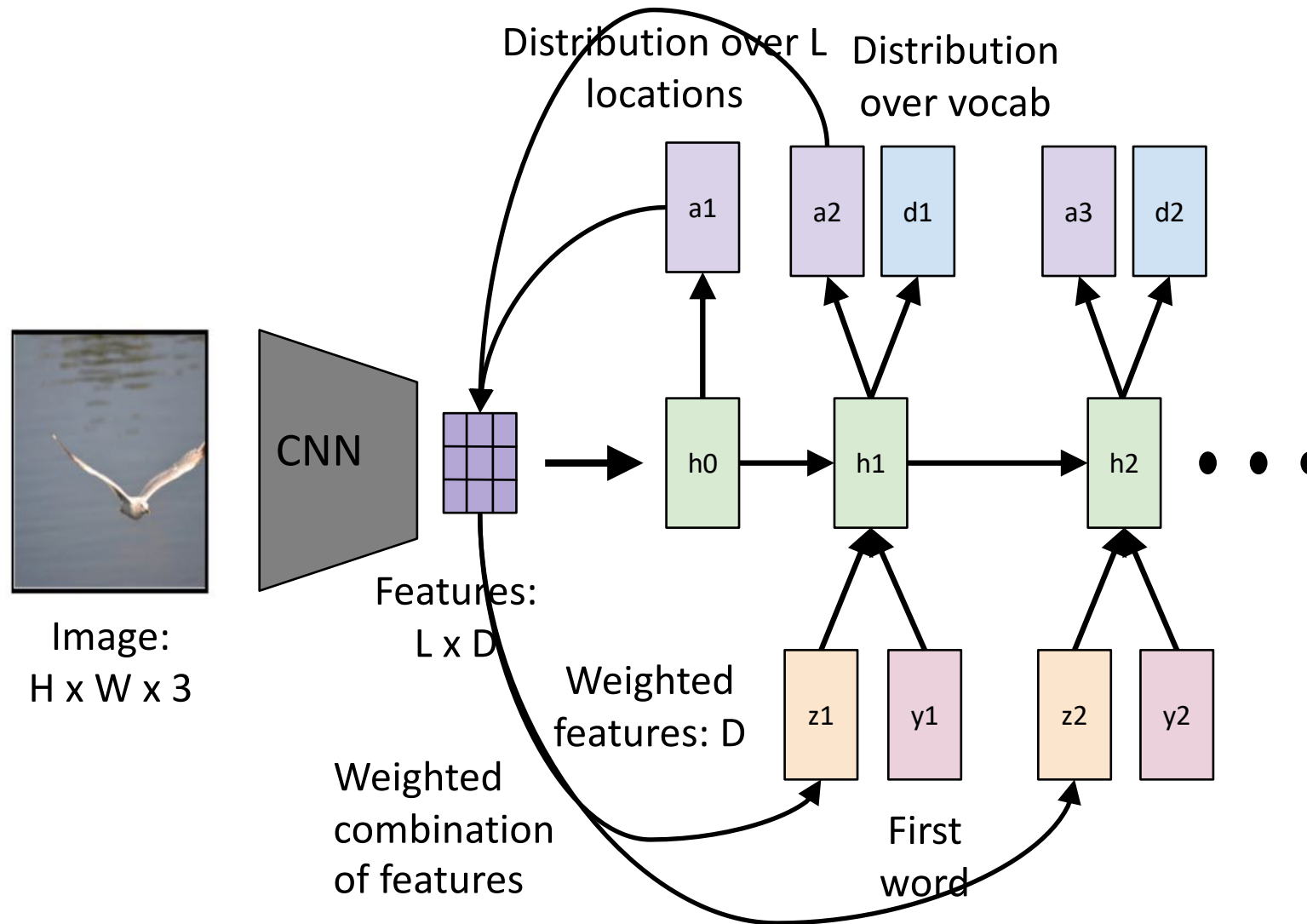
RNN only looks  
at whole image,  
once



What if the RNN  
looks at different  
parts of the  
image at each  
timestep?

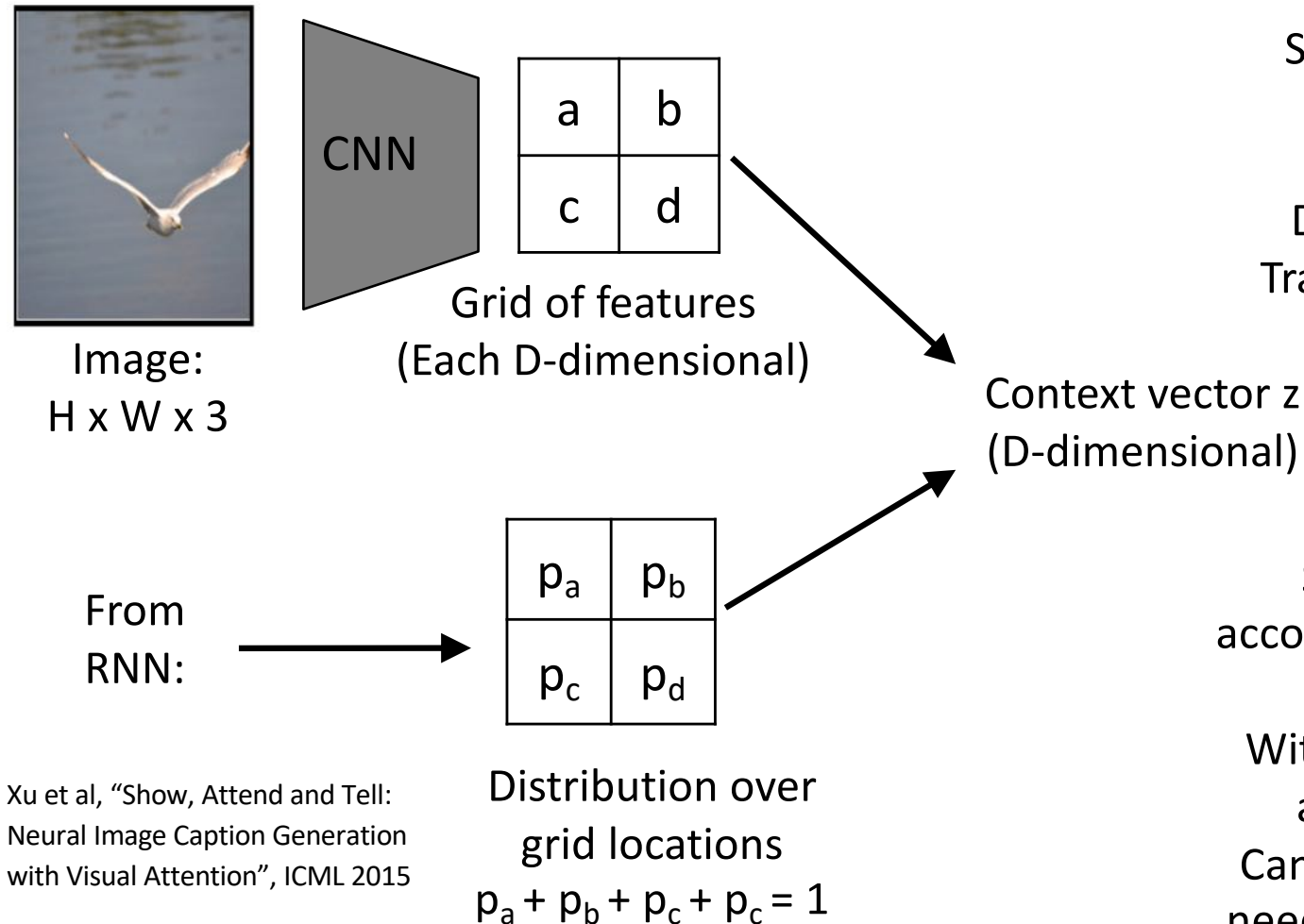


# Soft Attention for Captioning





# Soft vs Hard Attention



**Soft attention:**  
Summarize ALL locations  
 $z = p_a a + p_b b + p_c c + p_d d$   
Derivative  $dz/dp$  is nice!  
Train with gradient descent

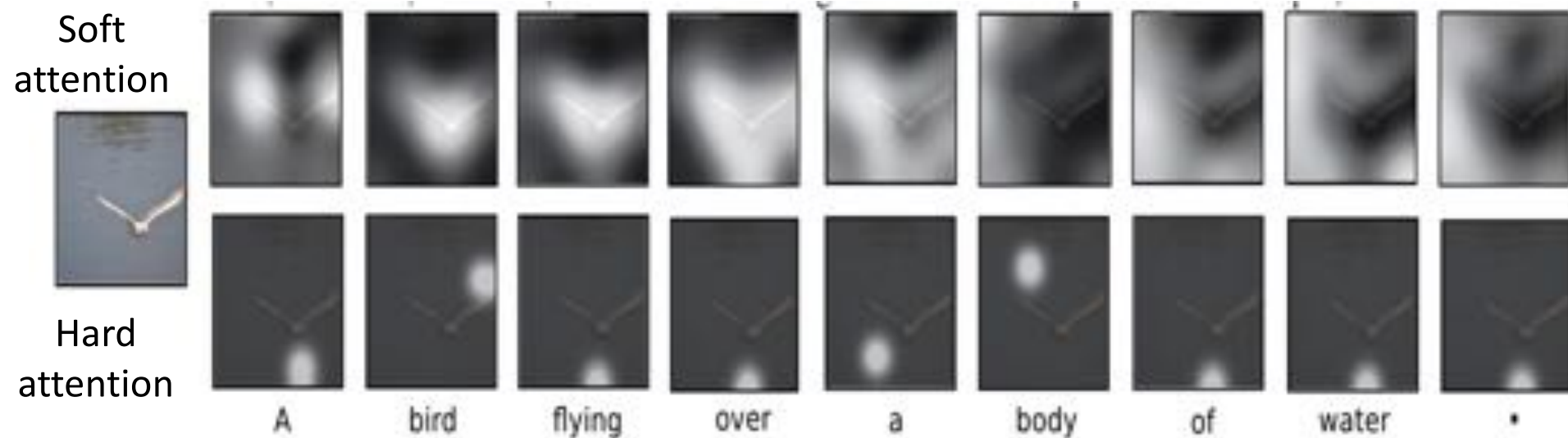
**Hard attention:**  
Sample ONE location  
according to  $p$ ,  $z =$  that vector

With  $\text{argmax}$ ,  $dz/dp$  is zero  
almost everywhere ...  
Can't use gradient descent;  
need reinforcement learning

Xu et al, "Show, Attend and Tell:  
Neural Image Caption Generation  
with Visual Attention", ICML 2015



# Soft Attention for Captioning



# Soft Attention for Captioning



A woman is throwing a frisbee in a park.



A dog is standing on a hardwood floor.



A stop sign is on a road with a mountain in the background.



A little girl sitting on a bed with a teddy bear.



A group of people sitting on a boat in the water.



A giraffe standing in a forest with trees in the background.

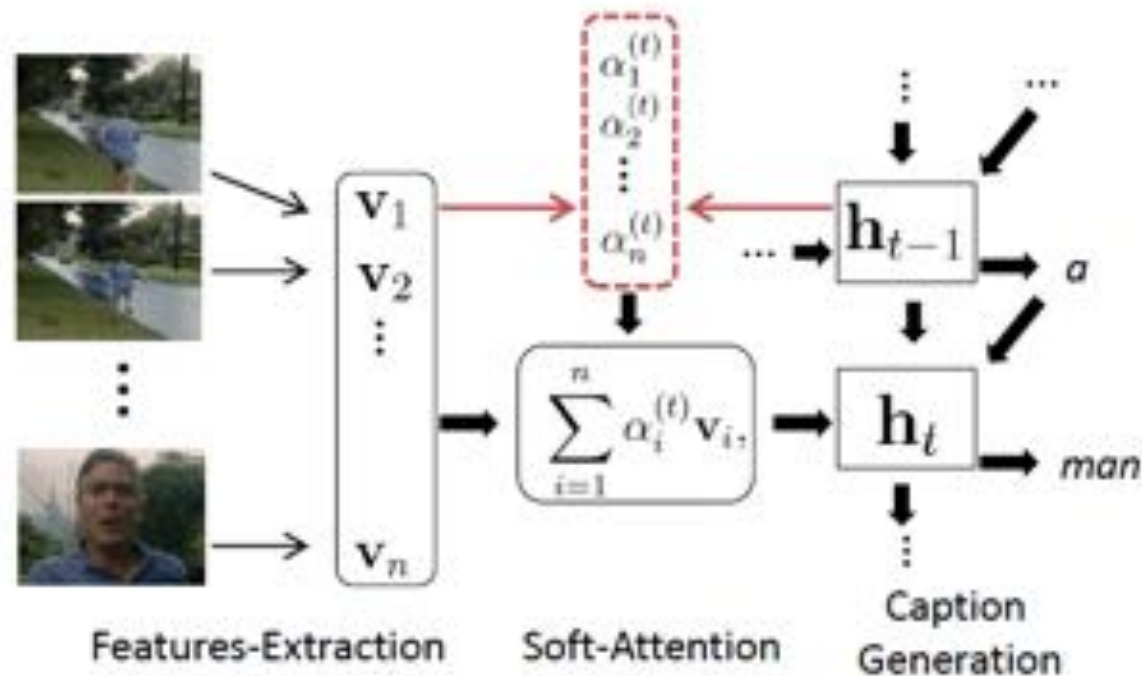


# Soft Attention for Video



# Soft Attention for Video

The attention model:



“Describing Videos by Exploiting Temporal Structure,” Li Yao et al, arXiv 2015.



# Soft Attention for Video

Table 1. Performance of different variants of the model on the Youtube2Text and DVS datasets.

| Model                          | Youtube2Text  |               |               |              | DVS          |              |              |              |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                | BLEU          | METEOR        | CIDEr         | Perplexity   | BLEU         | METEOR       | CIDEr        | Perplexity   |
| Enc-Dec (Basic)                | 0.3869        | 0.2868        | 0.4478        | 33.09        | 0.003        | 0.044        | 0.044        | 88.28        |
| + Local (3-D CNN)              | 0.3875        | 0.2832        | 0.5087        | 33.42        | 0.004        | 0.051        | 0.050        | 84.41        |
| + Global (Temporal Attention)  | 0.4028        | 0.2900        | 0.4801        | 27.89        | 0.003        | 0.040        | 0.047        | 66.63        |
| + Local + Global               | <b>0.4192</b> | <b>0.2960</b> | <b>0.5167</b> | <b>27.55</b> | <b>0.007</b> | <b>0.057</b> | <b>0.061</b> | <b>65.44</b> |
| Venugopalan <i>et al.</i> [41] | 0.3119        | 0.2687        | -             | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| + Extra Data (Flickr30k, COCO) | 0.3329        | 0.2907        | -             | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| Thomason <i>et al.</i> [37]    | 0.1368        | 0.2390        | -             | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            |

“Describing Videos by Exploiting Temporal Structure,” Li Yao et al, arXiv 2015.



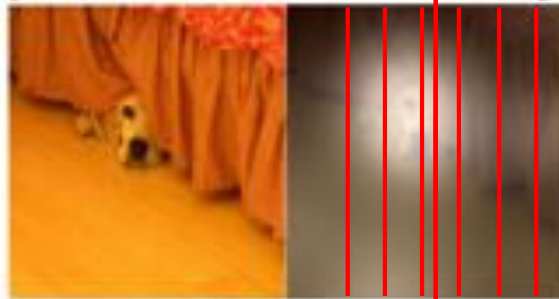


# Soft Attention for Captioning

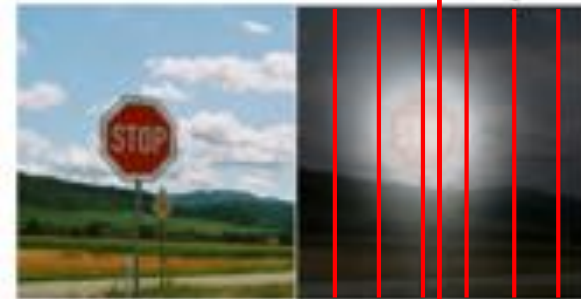
Attention constrained to fixed grid! We'll come back to this ....



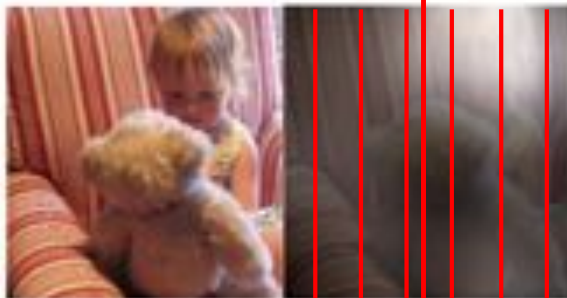
A woman is throwing a frisbee in a park.



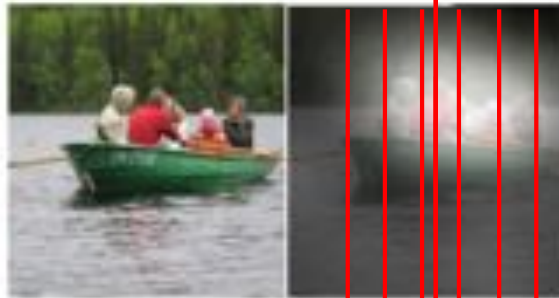
A dog is standing on a hardwood floor.



A stop sign is on a road with a mountain in the background.



A little girl sitting on a bed with a teddy bear.



A group of people sitting on a boat in the water.



A giraffe standing in a forest with trees in the background.

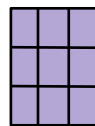
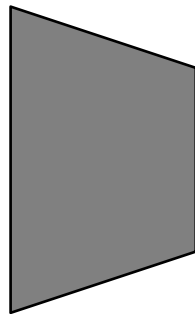




# Attending to arbitrary regions?



Image:  
 $H \times W \times 3$



Features:  
 $L \times D$



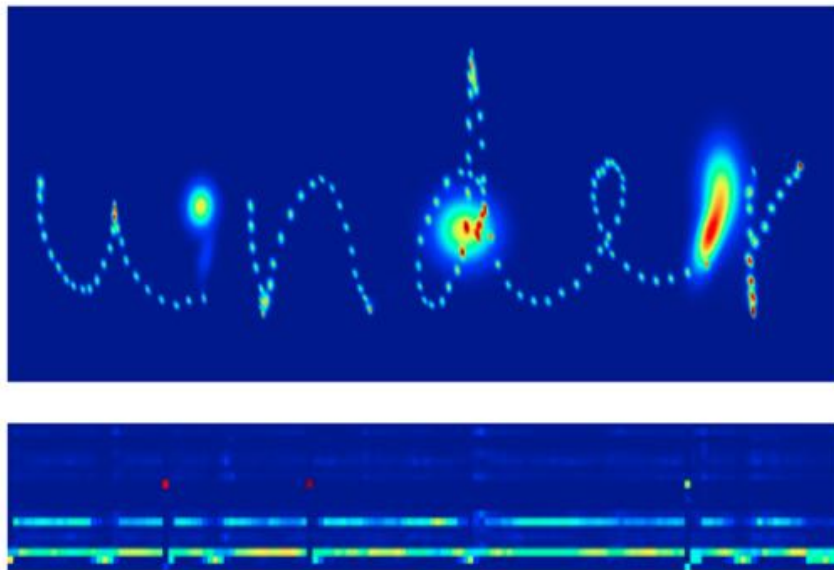
A woman is throwing a frisbee in a park.

Attention mechanism from Show, Attend, and Tell only lets us softly attend to fixed grid positions ... can we do better?



# Attending to Arbitrary Regions

- Read text, generate handwriting using an RNN
- Attend to arbitrary regions of the **output** by predicting params of a mixture model



Which are real and which are generated?

REAL

more of national temperament

more of national temperament  
more of national temperament  
more of national temperament  
more of national temperament  
more of national temperament

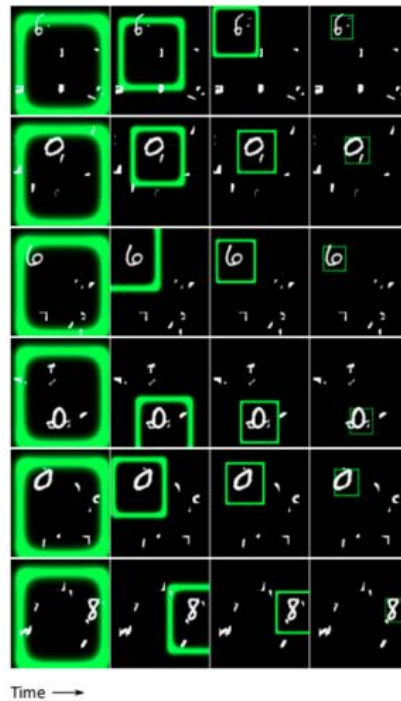
GENERATED

Graves, "Generating Sequences with Recurrent Neural Networks", arXiv 2013

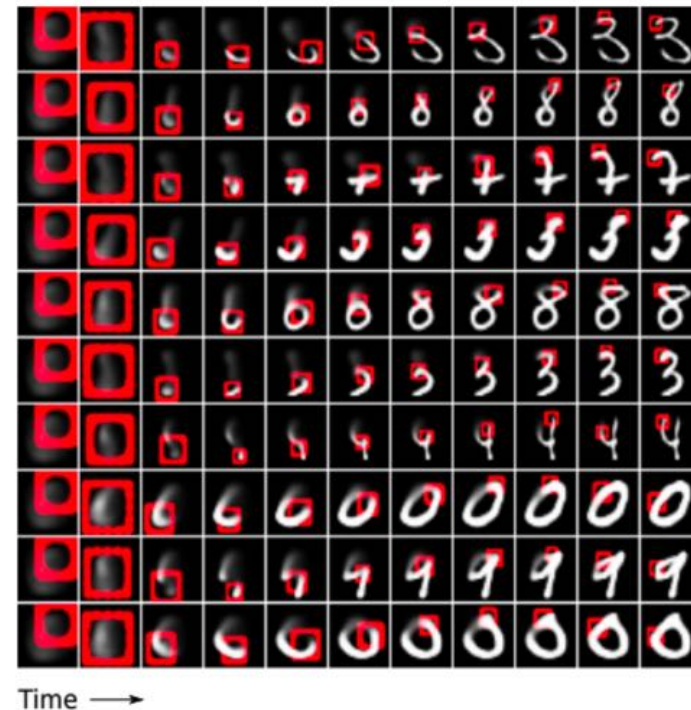


# Attending to Arbitrary Regions: DRAW

**Classify** images by attending to arbitrary regions of the *input*

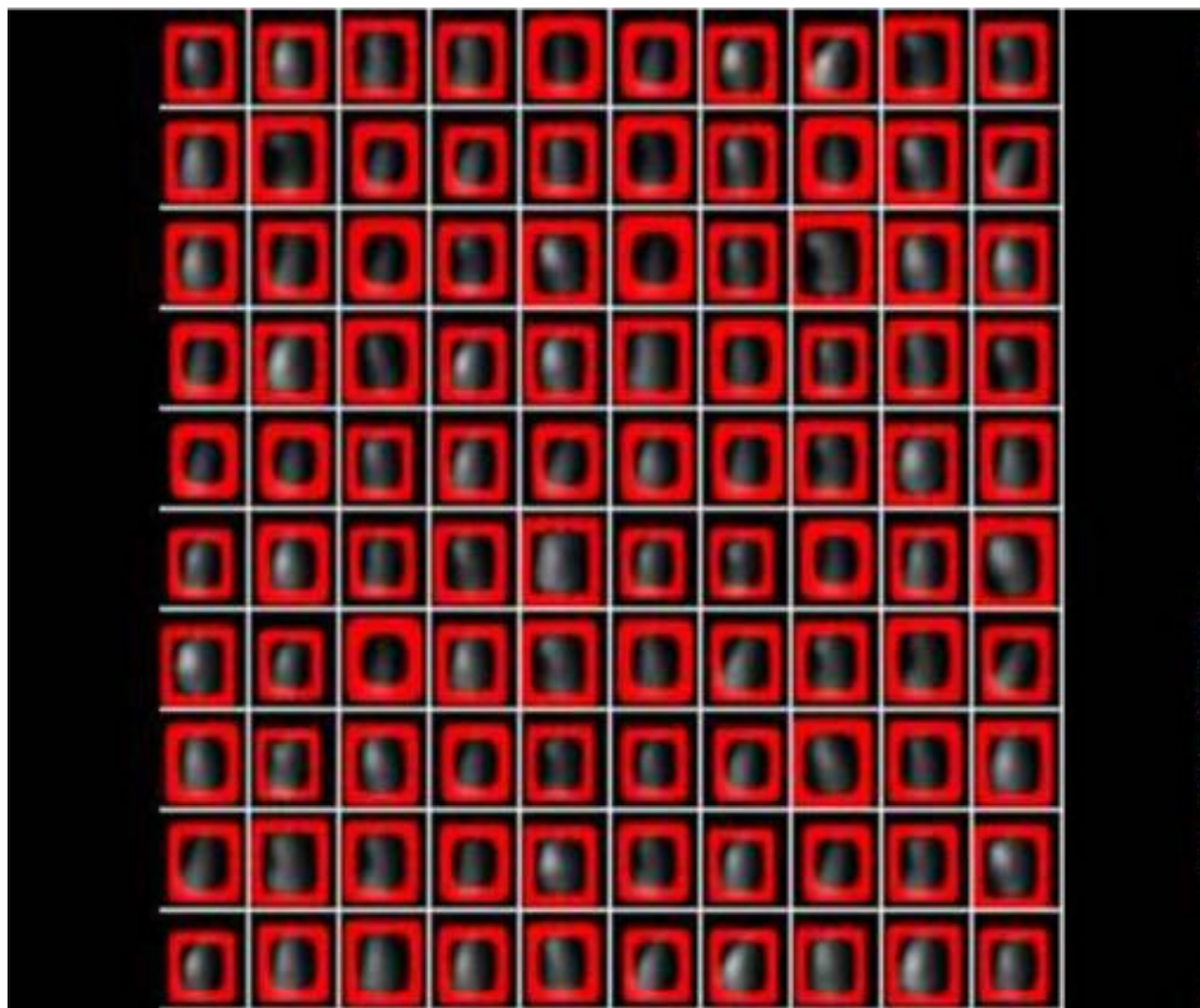


**Generate** images by attending to arbitrary regions of the *output*



Gregor et al, "DRAW: A Recurrent Neural Network For Image Generation", ICML 2015





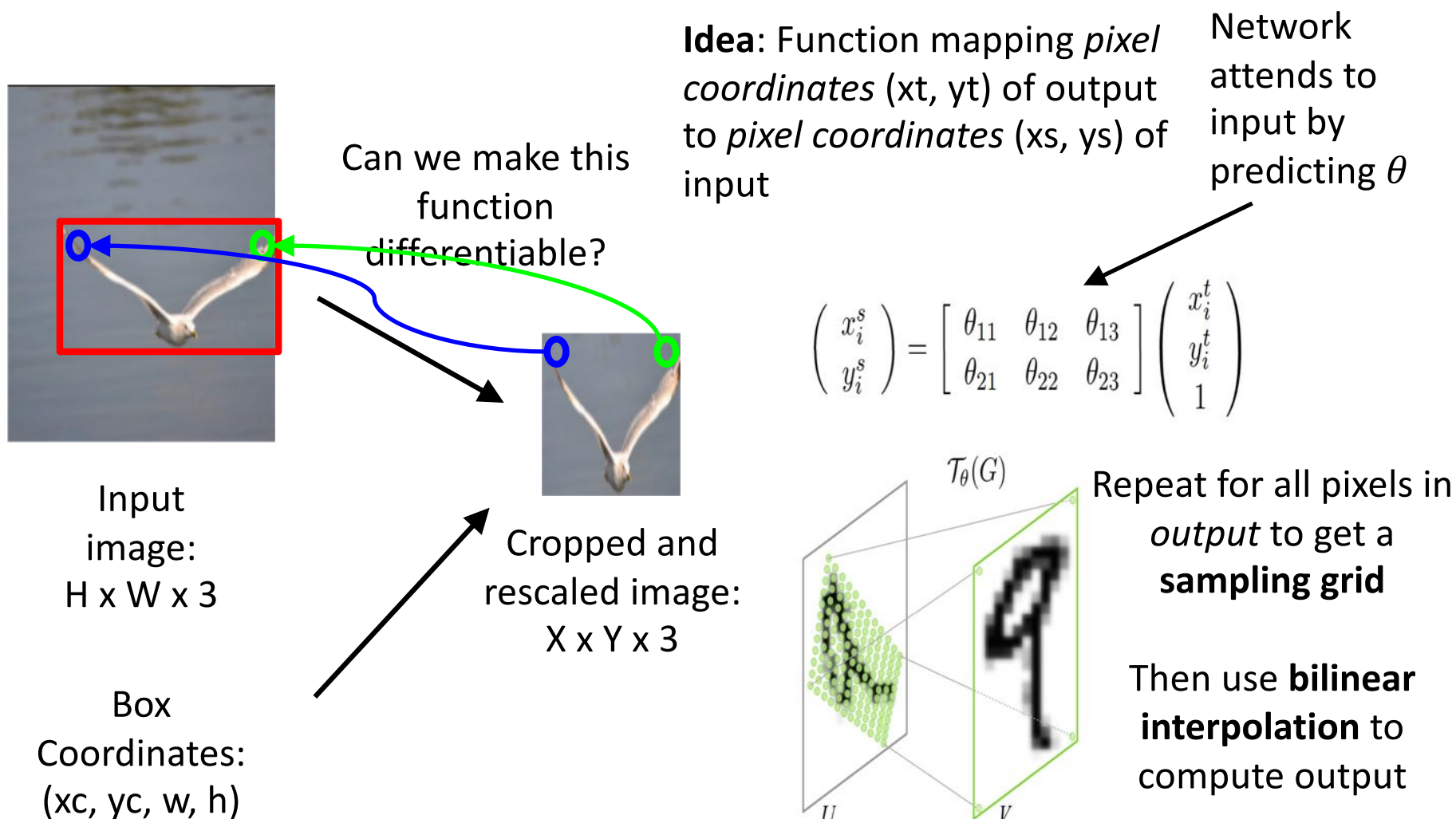
# Attending to Arbitrary Regions: Spatial Transformer Networks

Attention mechanism similar to DRAW, but easier to explain

Jaderberg et al, “Spatial Transformer Networks”, NIPS 2015



# Spatial Transformer Networks



Jaderberg et al, "Spatial Transformer Networks", NIPS 2015



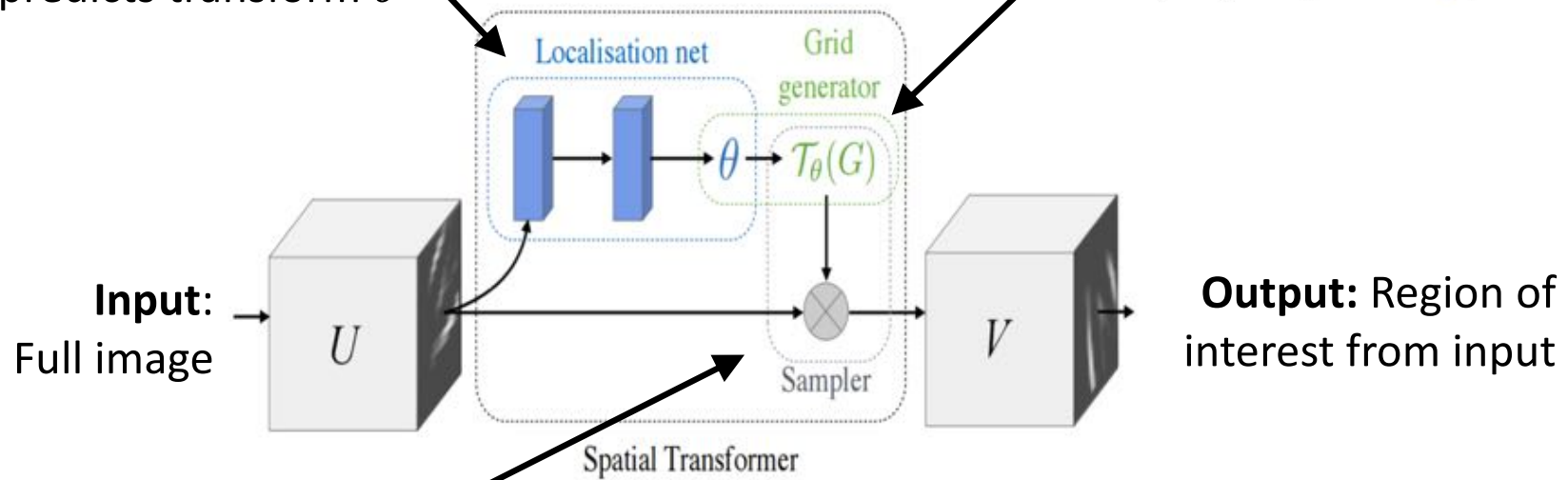
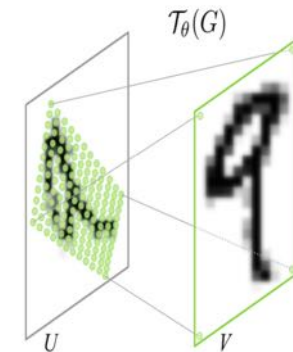


# Spatial Transformer Networks

A small  
**Localization network**  
predicts transform  $\theta$

**Grid generator** uses  $\theta$  to  
compute sampling grid

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_i^s \\ y_i^s \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_{11} & \theta_{12} & \theta_{13} \\ \theta_{21} & \theta_{22} & \theta_{23} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_i^t \\ y_i^t \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



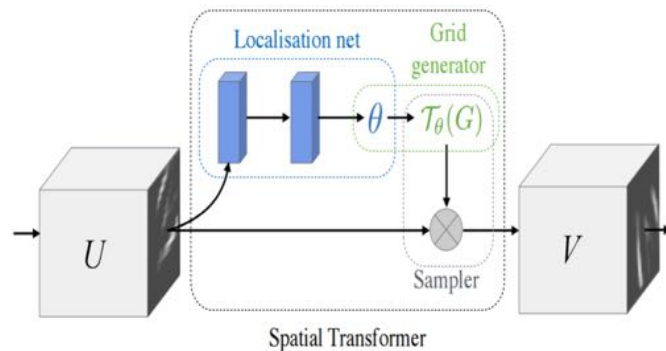
**Sampler** uses bilinear  
interpolation to  
produce output

$$V_i^c = \sum_n^H \sum_m^W U_{nm}^c \max(0, 1 - |x_i^s - m|) \max(0, 1 - |y_i^s - n|)$$

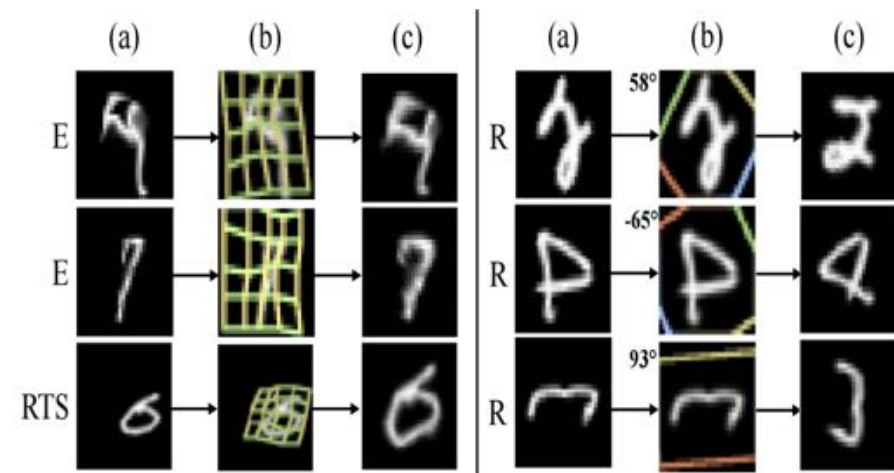


# Spatial Transformer Networks

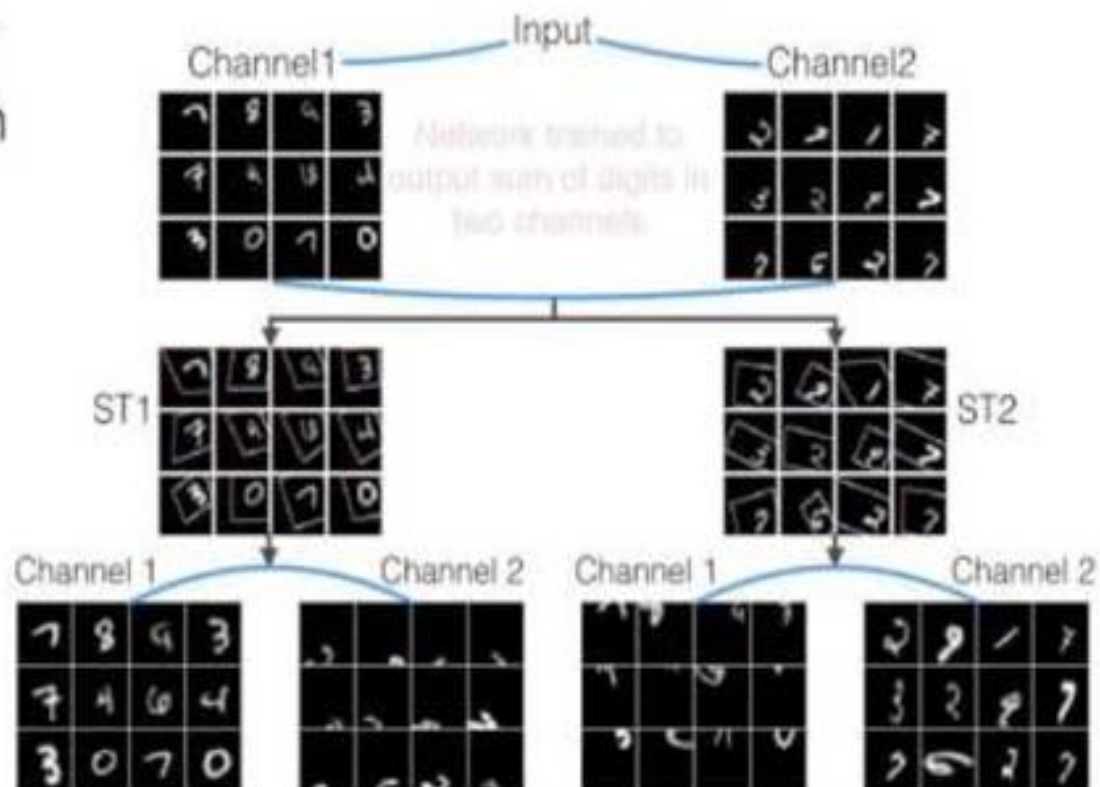
Differentiable “attention / transformation” module



Insert spatial transformers into a classification network and it learns to attend and transform the input



# MNIST Addition



# Attention Takeaways

## Performance:

- Attention models can *improve accuracy* and *reduce computation* at the same time.

## Complexity:

- There are many design choices.
- Those choices have a big effect on performance.
- Ensembling has unusually large benefits.
- Simplify where possible!



# Attention Takeaways

## Explainability:

- Attention models encode explanation
- Both locus and trajectory help understand what's going on.

## Hard vs. Soft:

- Soft models are easier to train, hard models require reinforcement learning.
- They can be combined, as in Luong et al.

