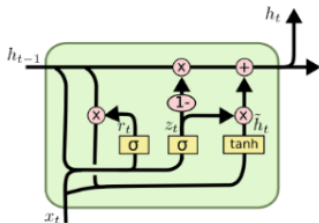# Variable-Length Inputs

Variable-length input can be handled by recurrent NNs:
- Reading one input symbol at a time.
  - The same (trained) transformation used every time.
- Unroll in time (up to a fixed length limit).

Tricks needed to train (to avoid "vanishing gradients"):
- LSTM, Long Short-Term Memory Cells (Hochreiter and Schmidhuber, 1997).
- GRU, Gated Recurrent Unit Cells (Chung et al., 2014).

$$z_t = \sigma \left(W_z \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] \right)$$

$$r_t = \sigma \left(W_r \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] \right)$$

$$\tilde{h}_t = \tanh \left(W \cdot [r_t * h_{t-1}, x_t] \right)$$

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