

# Lecture 14: Recurrent Neural Networks

## CS109B Data Science 2

Pavlos Protopapas, Mark Glickman, and Chris Tanner



# Online lectures guidelines

- We would prefer you have your video on, but it is OK if you have it off.
- We would prefer you have your real name.
- All lectures, labs and a-sections will be live streamed and also available for viewing later on canvas/zoom.
- We will have course staff in the chat online and during lecture you can also make use of [this spreadsheet](#) to enter your own questions or 'up vote' those of your fellow students.
- Quizzed will be available for 24 hours.



# Outline

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Why Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs)

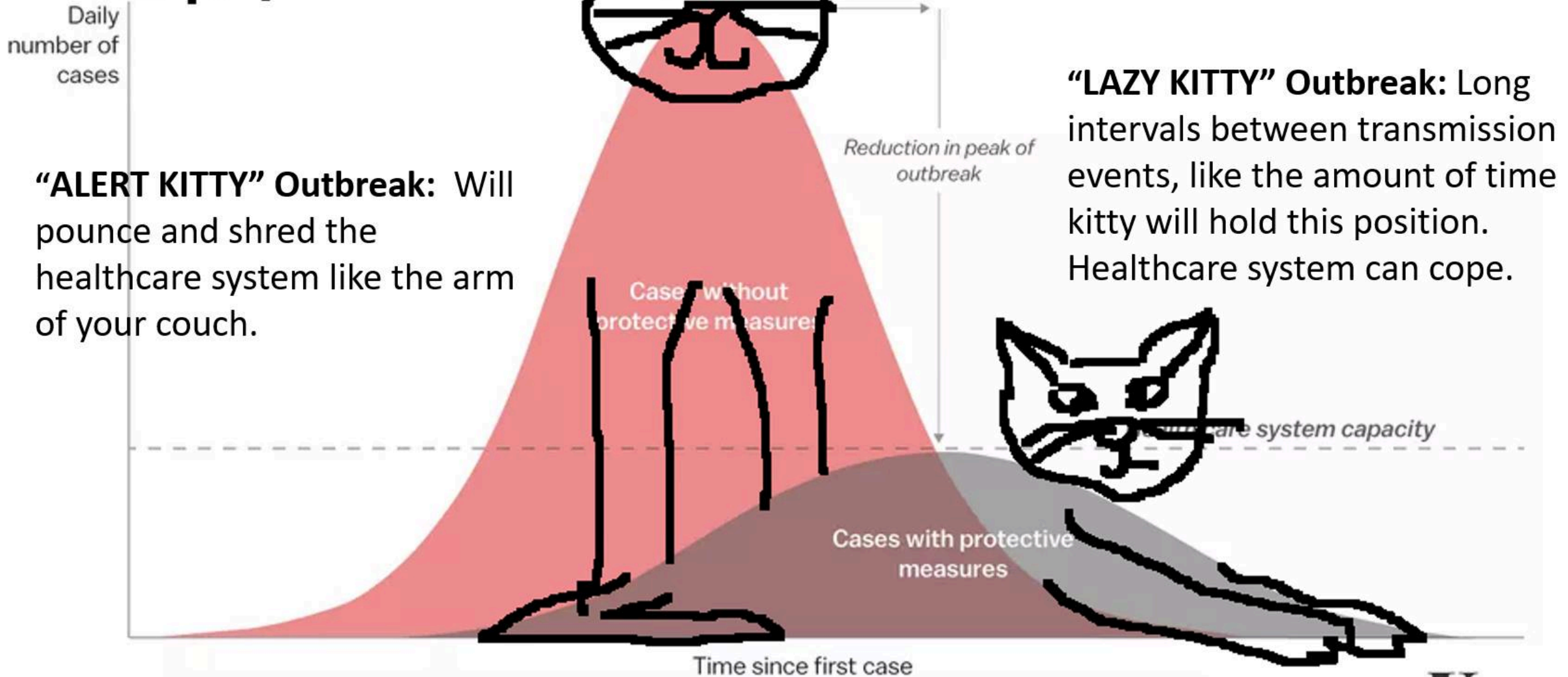
Main Concept of RNNs

More Details of RNNs

RNN training

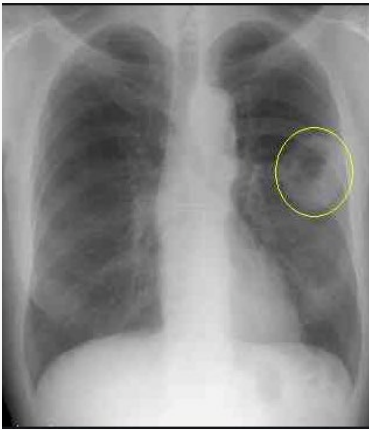
Gated RNN

# Flattening the curve CAT



# Background

Many classification and regression tasks involve data that is assumed to be **independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.)**. For example:



Detecting lung cancer



Face recognition



Risk of heart attack

# Background

Much of our data is inherently **sequential**

scale

examples

**WORLD**

Natural disasters (e.g., earthquakes)

Climate change

**HUMANITY**

Stock market

Virus outbreaks

**INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE**

Speech recognition

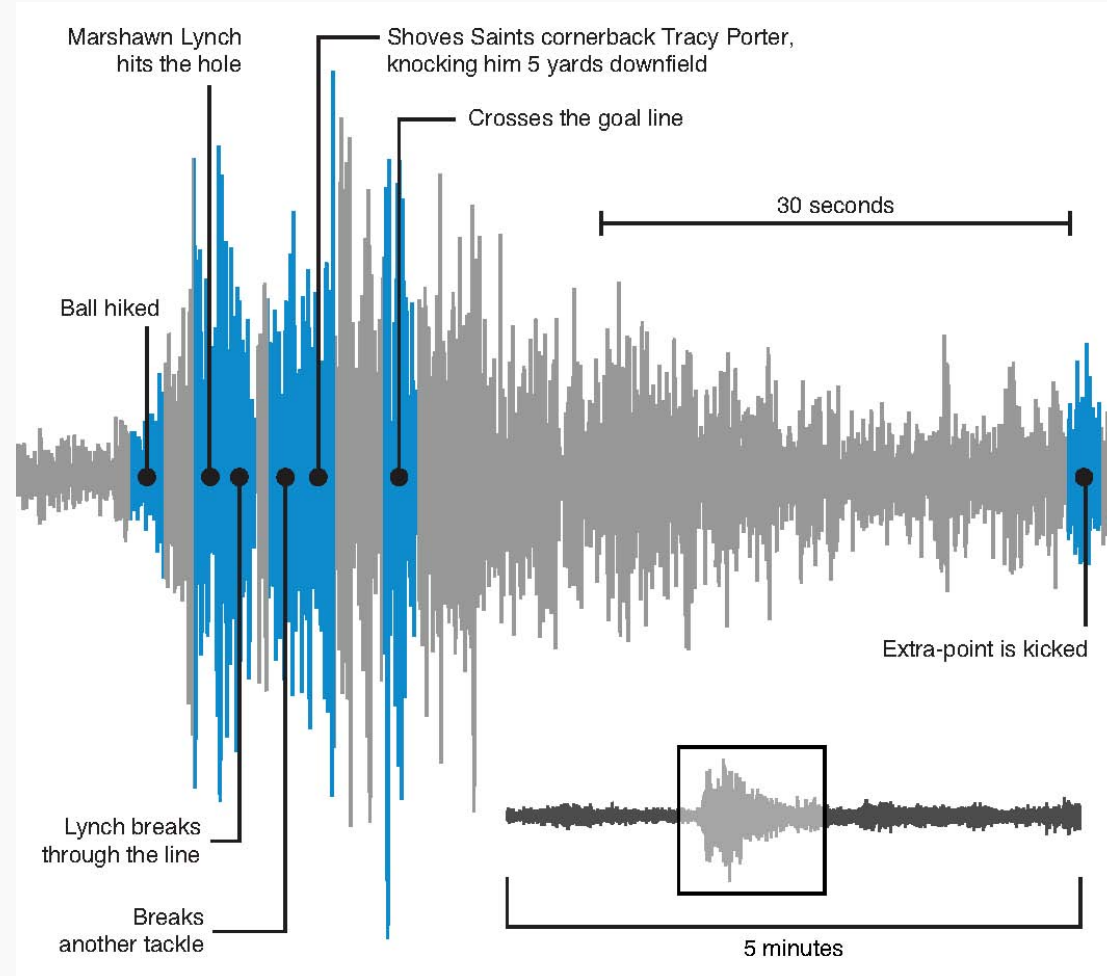
Machine Translation (e.g., English -> French)

Cancer treatment

# Background

Much of our data is inherently **sequential**

## PREDICTING EARTHQUAKES



CS109B, PROTOPAPAS, GLICKMAN, TANNER

# Background

Much of our data is inherently **sequential**

## STOCK MARKET PREDICTIONS





Much of our data is inherently **sequential**

## SPEECH RECOGNITION

“What is the weather today?”

“What is the weather two day?”

“What is the whether too day?”

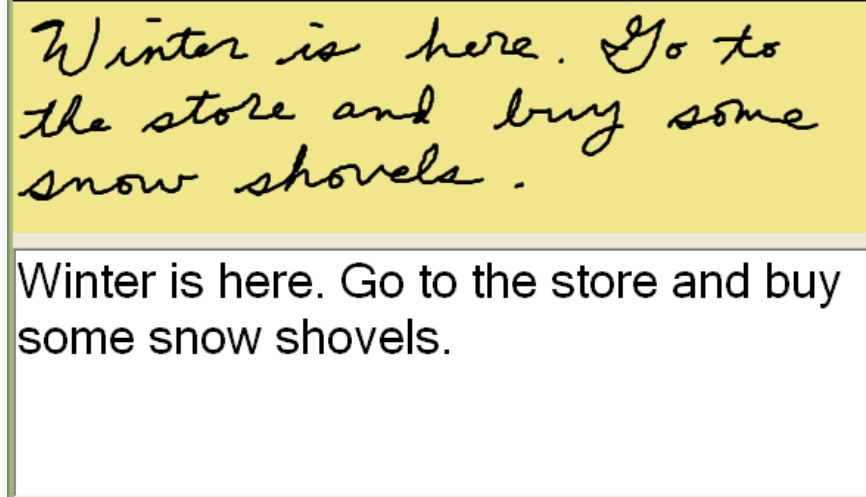
“What is, the Wrether to Dae?”





# Sequence Modeling: Handwritten Text

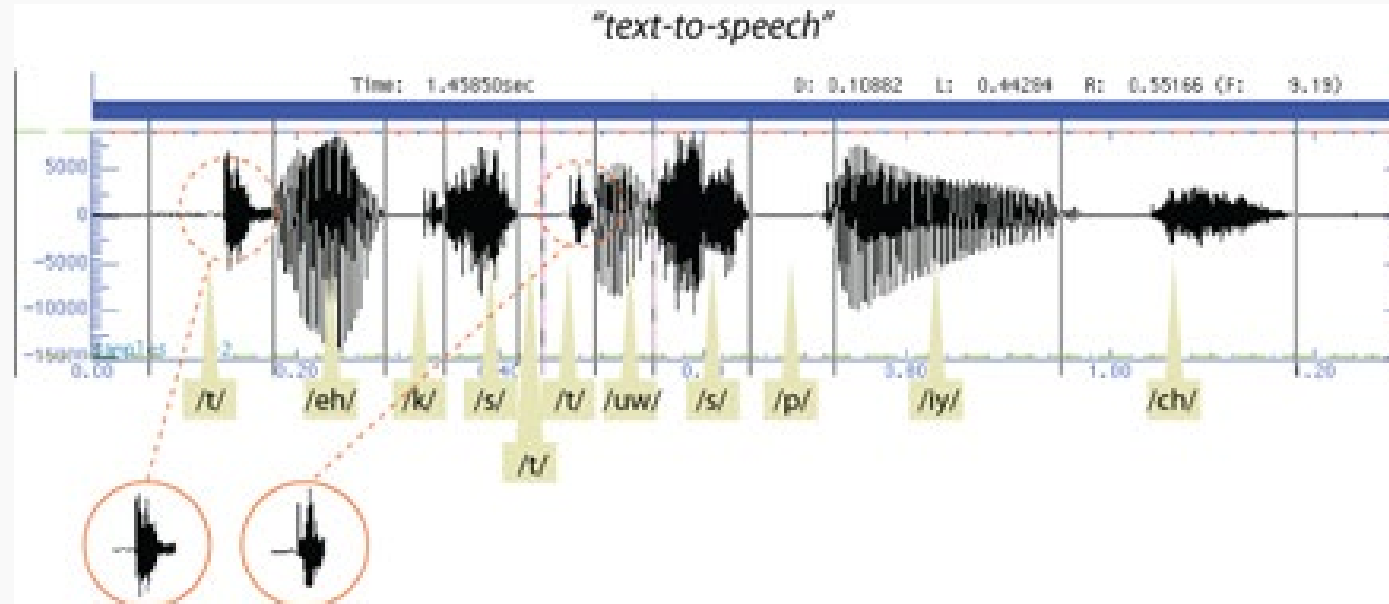
 → "house"



- Input : Image
- Output: Text

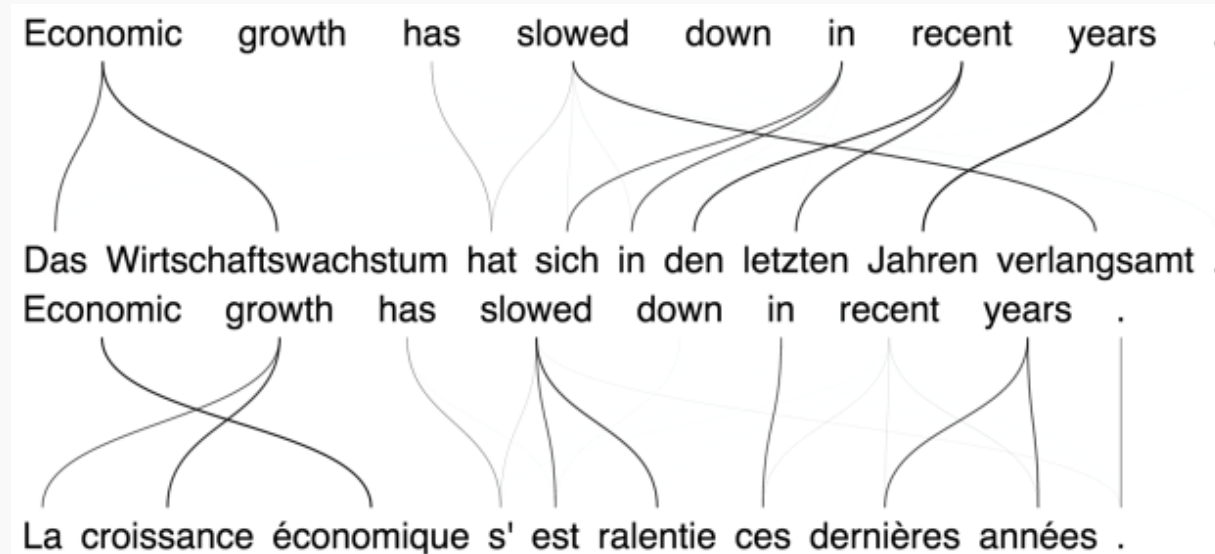
<https://towardsdatascience.com/build-a-handwritten-text-recognition-system-using-tensorflow-2326a3487cd5>

# Sequence Modeling: Text-to-Speech



- Input : Text
- Output: Audio

# Sequence Modeling: Machine Translation



- Input : Text
- Output: Translated Text

# Outline

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Why RNNs

**Main Concept of RNNs (part 1)**

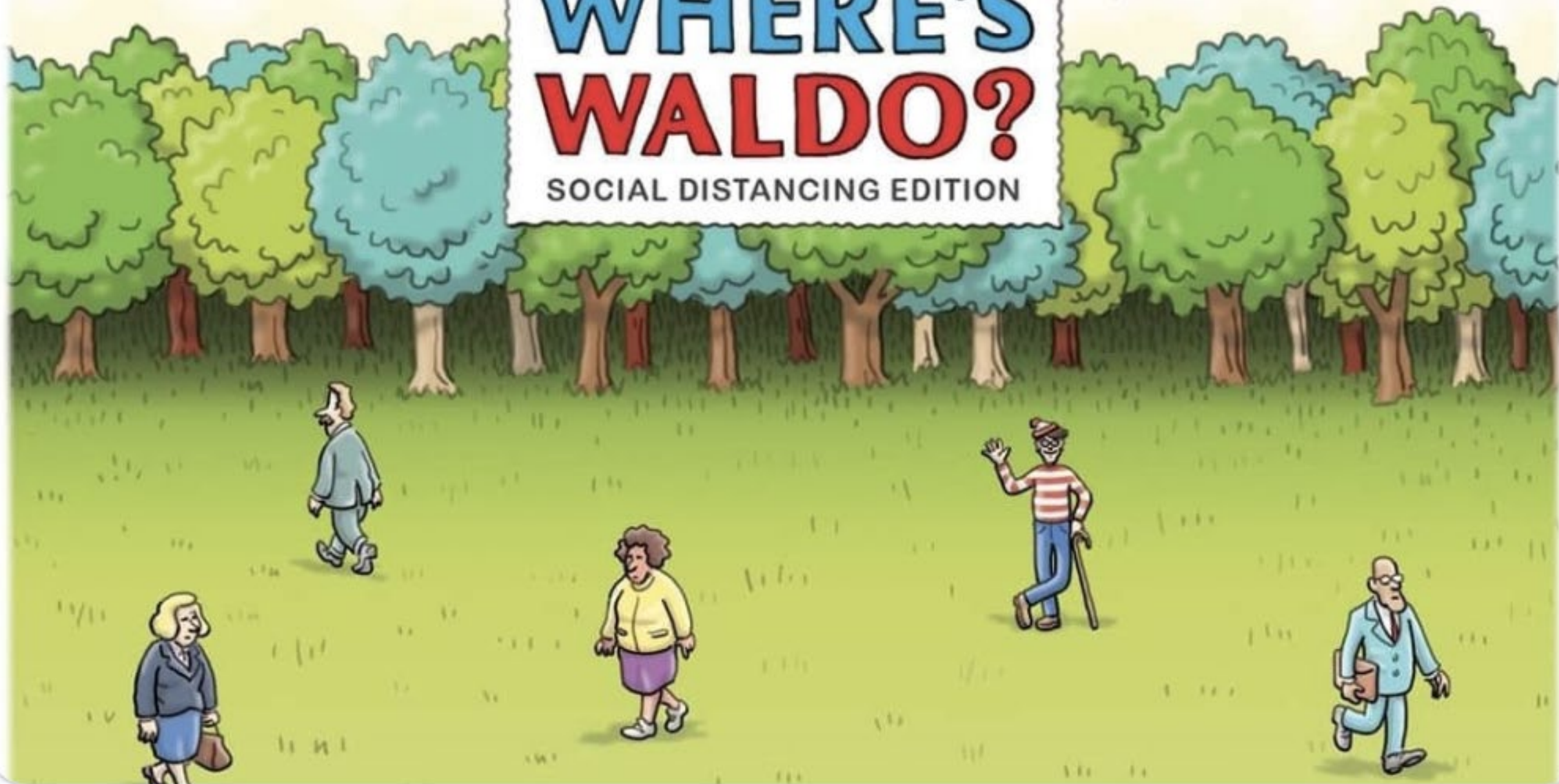
More Details of RNNs

RNN training

Gated RNN

# WHERE'S WALDO?

SOCIAL DISTANCING EDITION



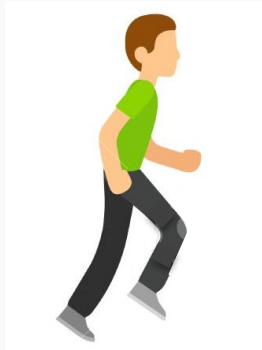
# What can my NN do?

**Training:** Present to the NN examples and learn from them.



# What can my NN do?

**Prediction:** Given an example



George



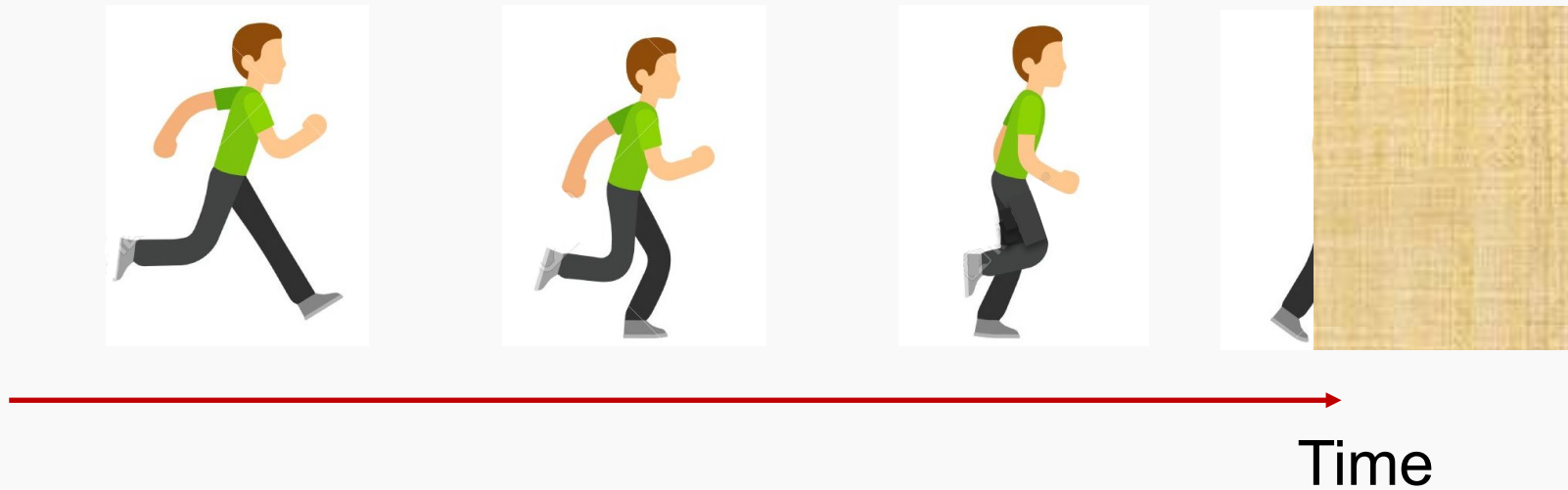
Mary



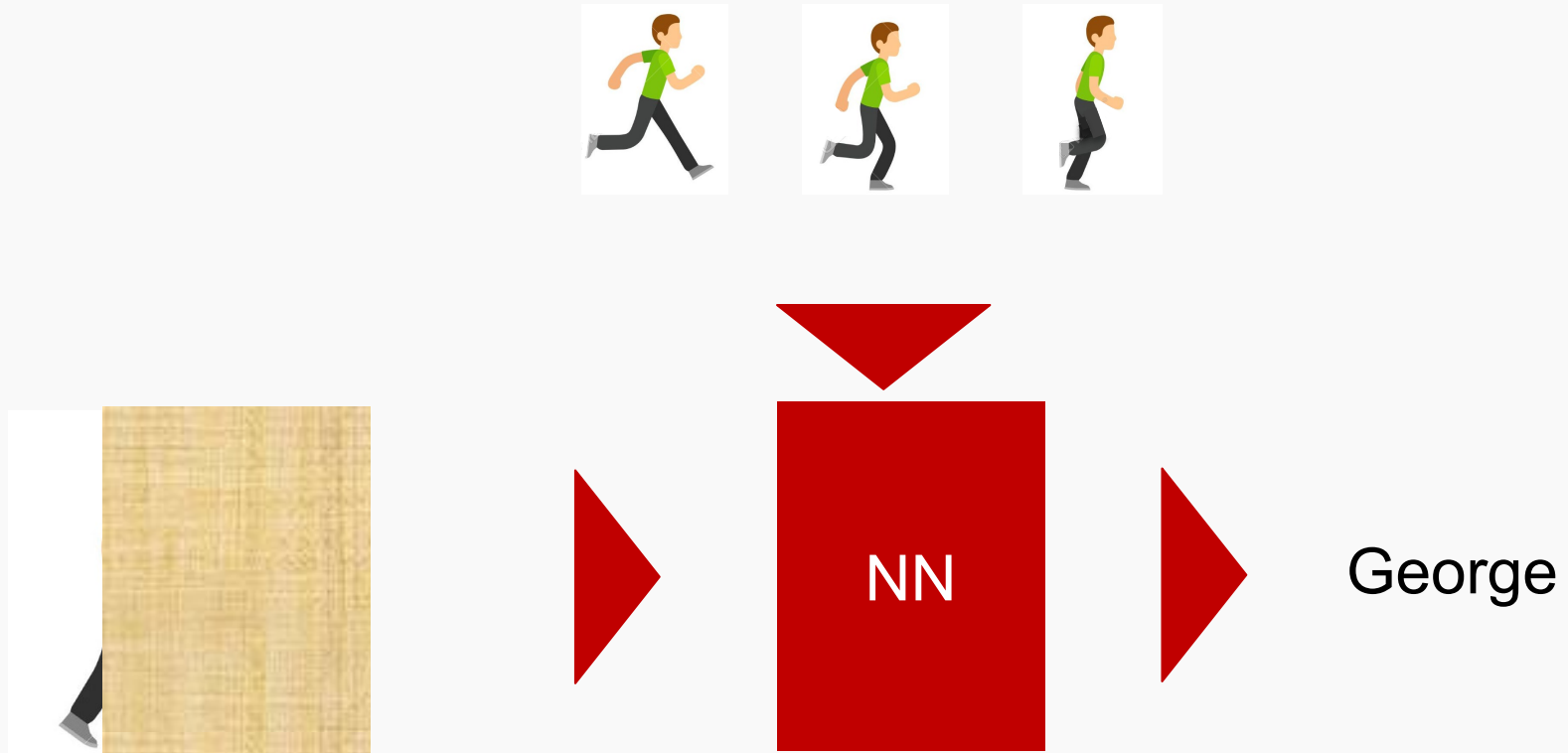
# What my NN can NOT do?



# Learn from previous examples

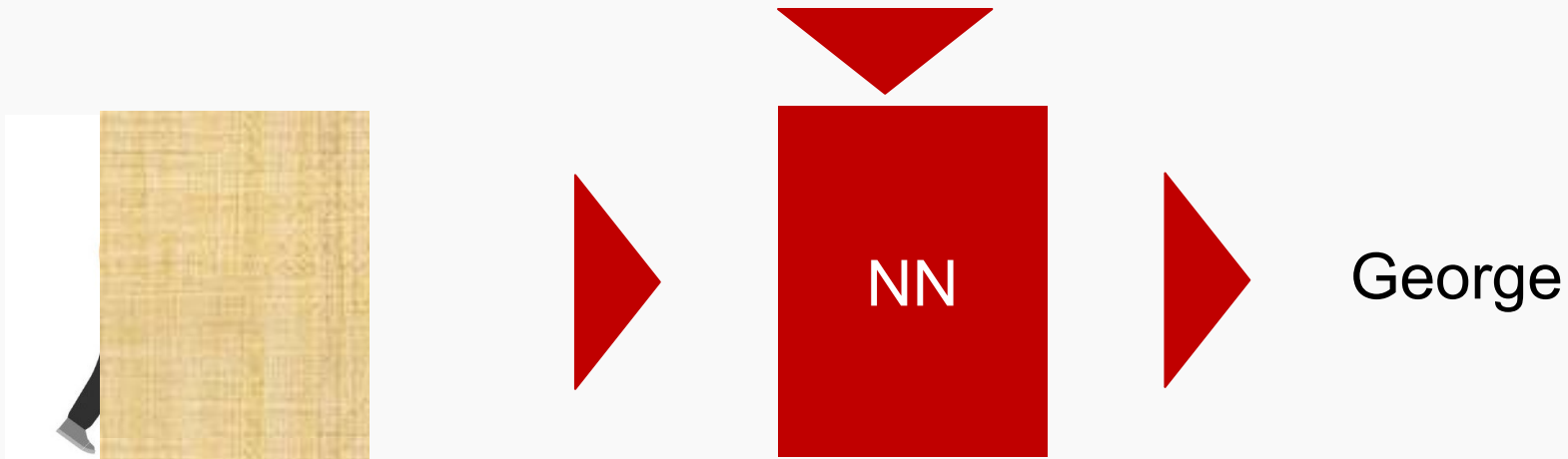


# Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)



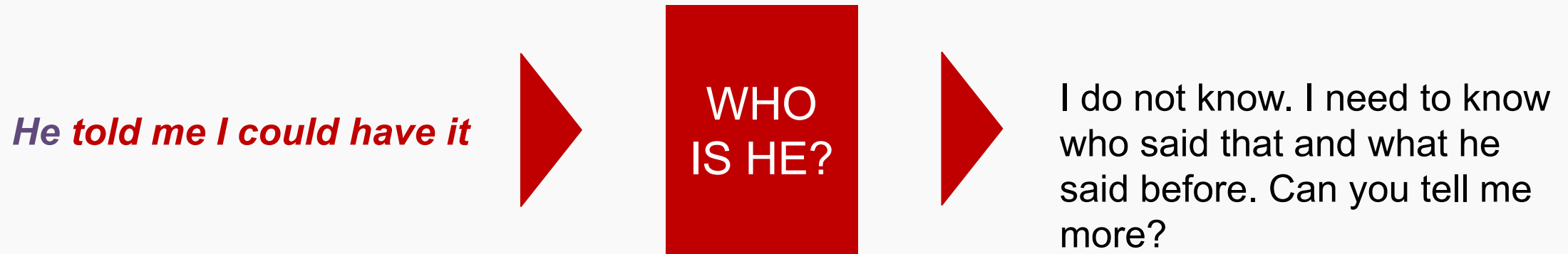
# Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)

I have seen George  
moving in this way  
before.



RNNs recognize the data's sequential characteristics and use patterns to predict the next likely scenario.

# Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)



Our model requires context - or contextual information - to understand the subject (he) and the direct object (it) in the sentence.

# RNN – Another Example with Text

- Hellen: Nice sweater Joe.  
- Joe: Thanks, Hellen. It used  
to belong to my brother and **he**  
**told me I could have it.**



WHO  
IS HE?



I see what you mean now!  
The noun “he” stands for  
Joe’s brother while “it” for  
the sweater.

After providing sequential information, the model recognize the subject (Joe’s brother) and the object (sweater) in the sentence.

**Introducing the new**

Batch\_size = 2048



**shopping cart for all your paraniod needs...**

# Sequences

- We want a machine learning model to understand sequences, not isolated samples.
- Can MLP do this?
- Assume we have a sequence of temperature measurements and we want to take 3 sequential measurements and predict the next one

features	
samples	1 35
	2 32
	3 45
	4 48
	5 41
	6 39
	7 36
	... ..



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features			
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	5	41	
	6	39	
	7	36	
	...	...	

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4	48	

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3	45	
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4

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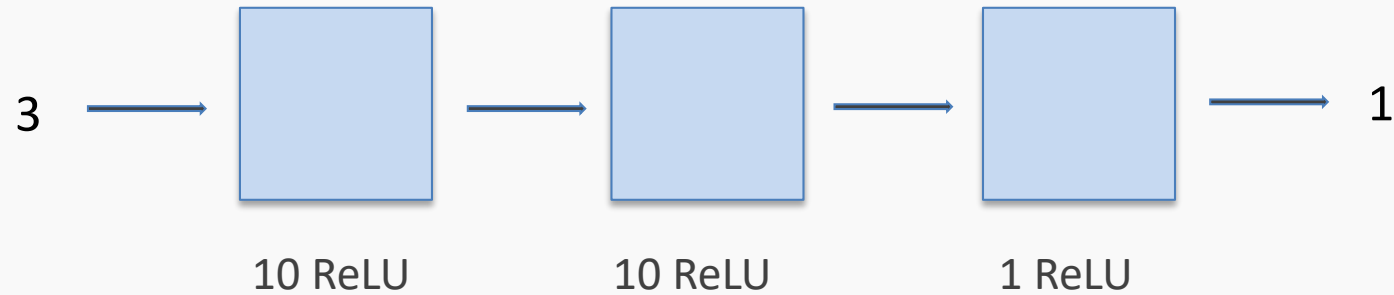
6

39

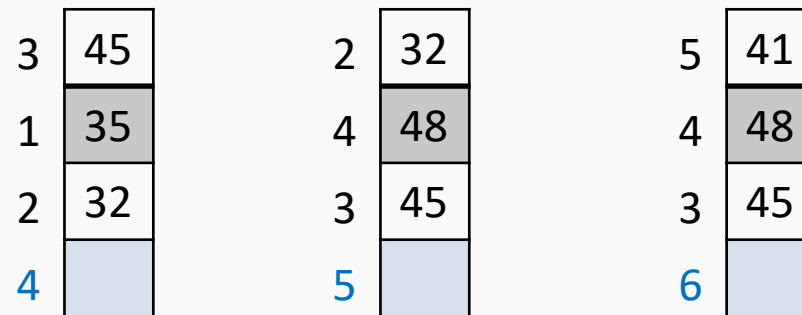
# Windowed dataset

This is called **overlapping windowed** dataset, since we're windowing observations to create new.

We can easily do using a MLS:



But re-arranging the order of the inputs like:



will produce the same results

# Why not CNNs or MLPs?

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1. MLPs/CNNs require fixed input and output size
2. MLPs/CNNs can't classify inputs in multiple places

# Windowed dataset

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**What follows after:** *`I got in the car and' ?*

*`drove away'*

**What follows after:** *`In car the and I got' ?*

Not obvious that it should be *`drove away'*

**The order of words matters. This is true for most sequential data.**

A fully connected network will not distinguish the order and therefore missing some information.



**A couple of weeks of isolation with the family. What can go wrong?**



# Outline

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Why RNNs

**Main Concept of RNNs**

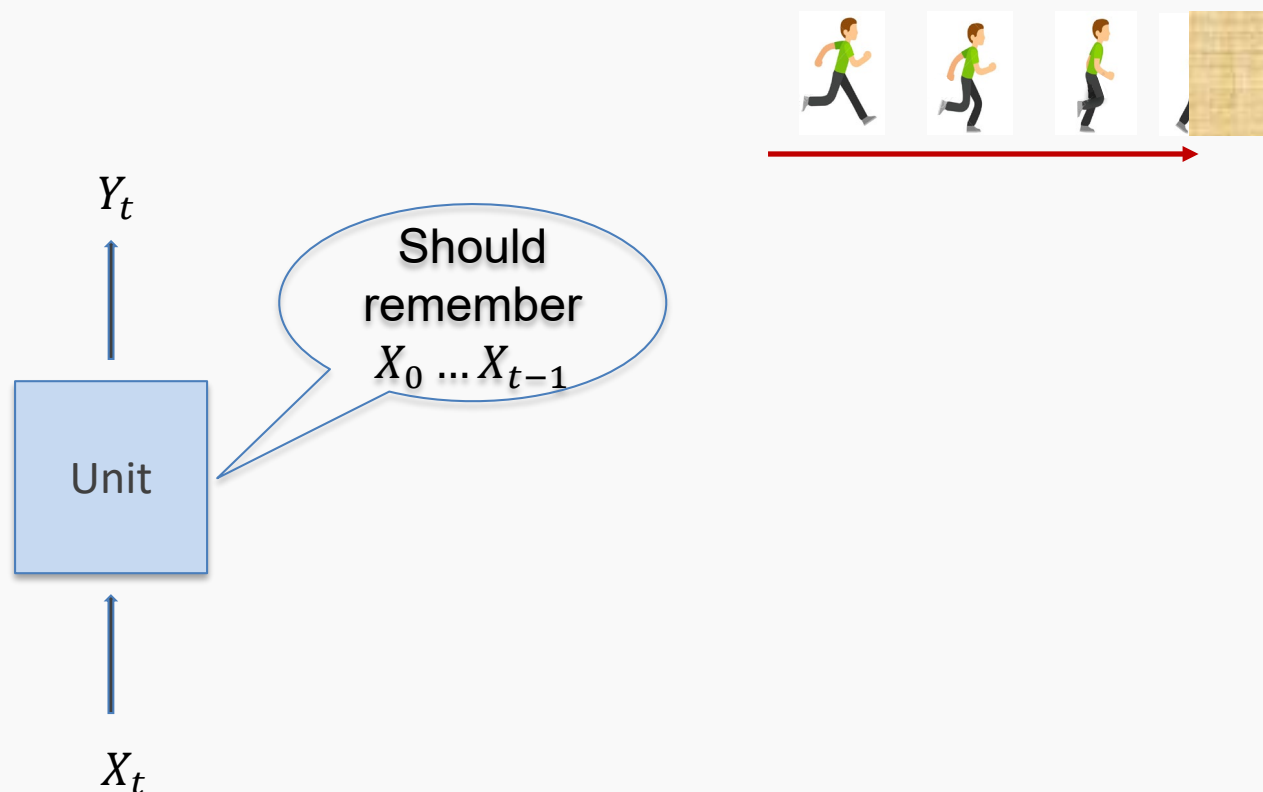
More Details of RNNs

RNN training

Gated RNN

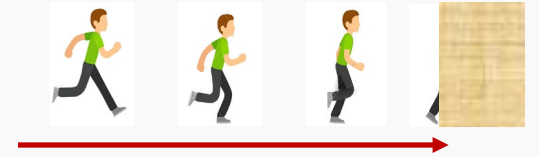
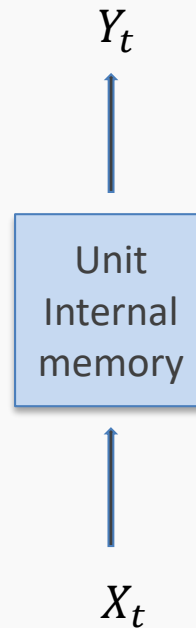
# Memory

Somehow the computational unit should remember what it has seen before.



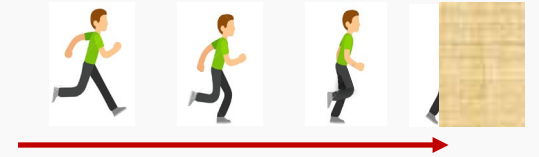
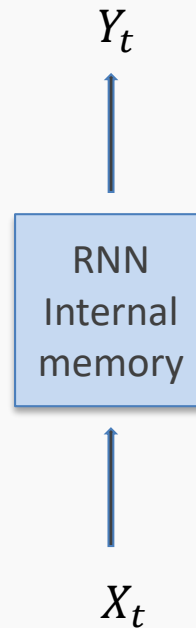
# Memory

Somehow the computational unit should remember what it has seen before.



# Memory

Somehow the computational unit should remember what it has seen before.  
We'll call the information the unit's **state**.



# Memory

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In neural networks, once training is over, the weights do not change. This means that the network is done learning and done changing.

Then, we feed in values, and it simply applies the operations that make up the network, using the values it has learned.

But the RNN units can remember new information after training has completed.

**That is, they're able to keep changing after training is over.**

# Memory

**Question:** How can we do this? How can build a unit that remembers the past?

The memory or **state** can be written to a file but in RNNs, we keep it inside the recurrent unit.

In an array or in a vector!

**Work with an example:**

*Anna Sofia said her shoes are too ugly. Her* here means Anna Sofia.

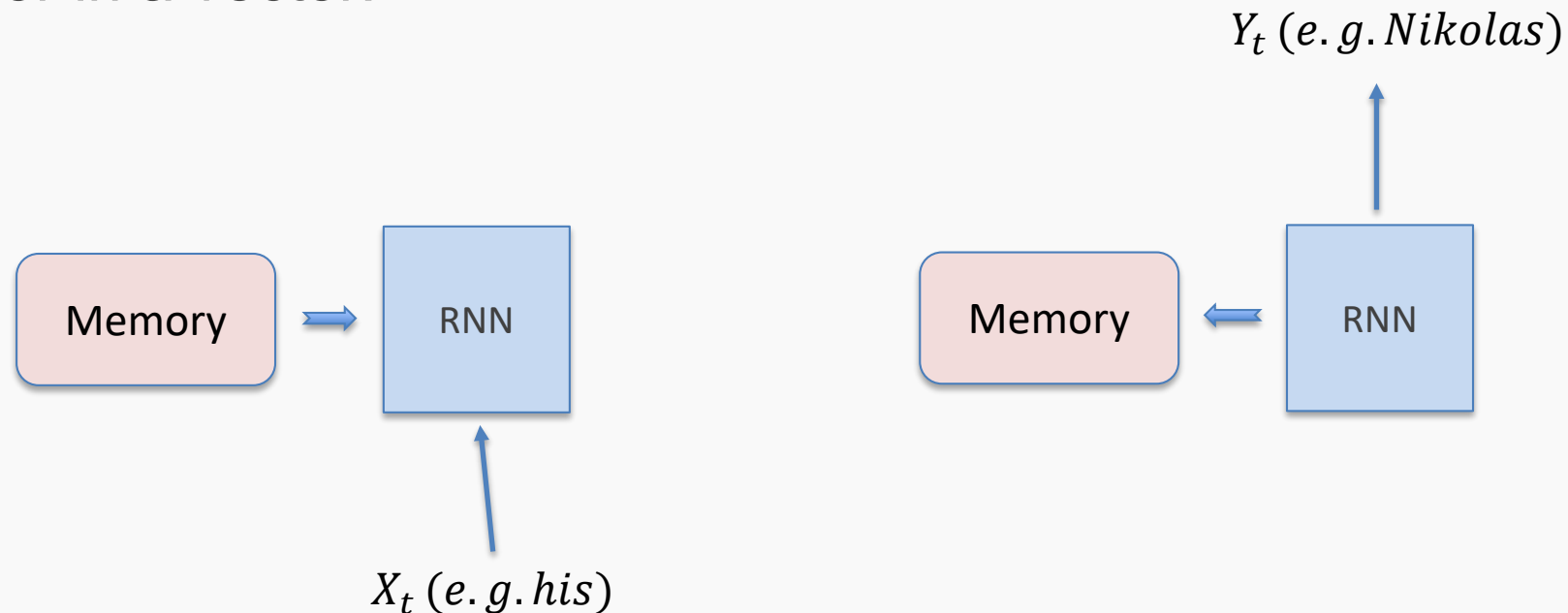
*Nikolas put his keys on the table. His* here means Nikolas

# Memory

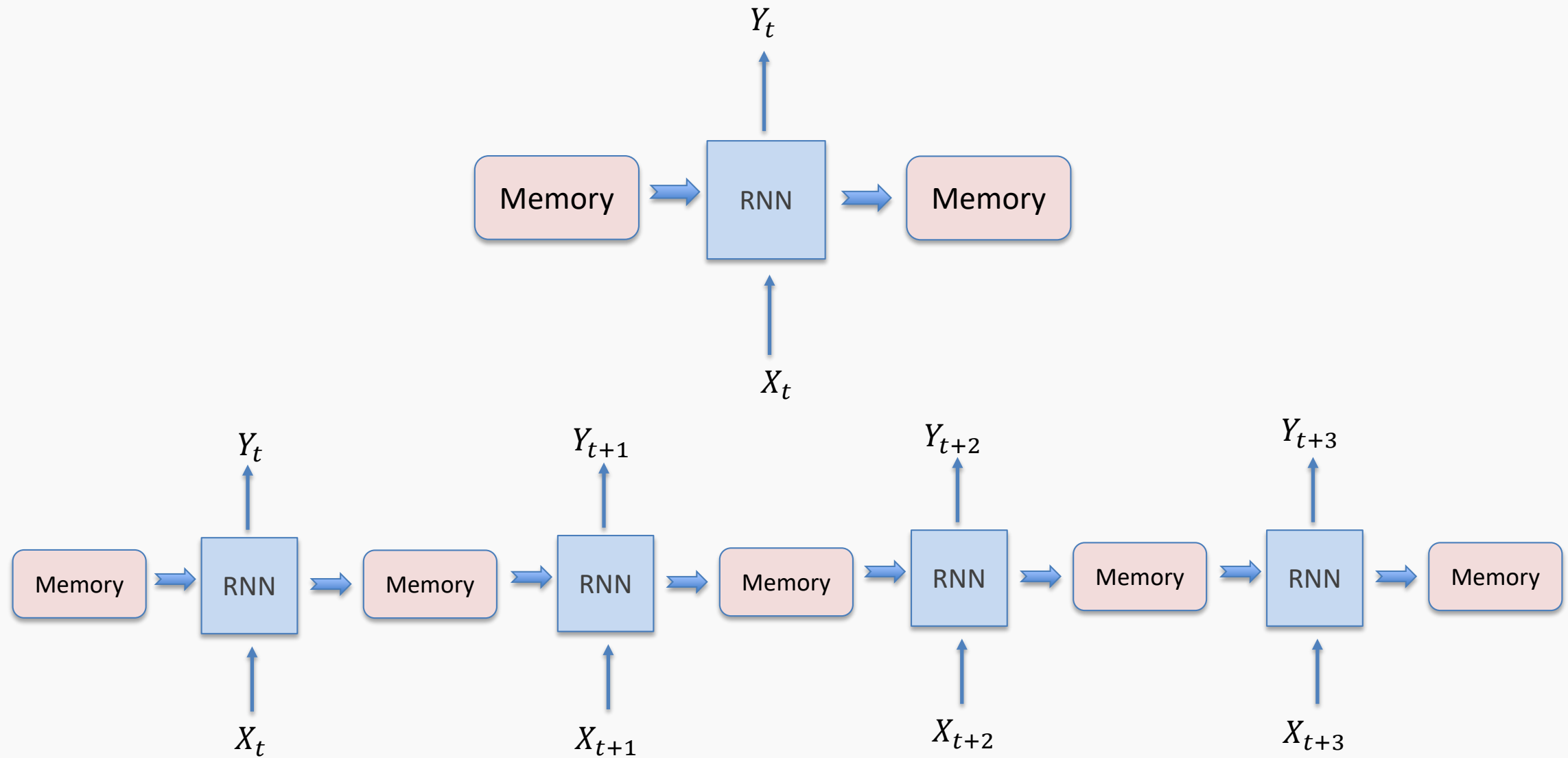
**Question:** How can we do this? How can build a unit that remembers the past?

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In an array or in a vector!



# Building an RNN





# Outline

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Why RNNs

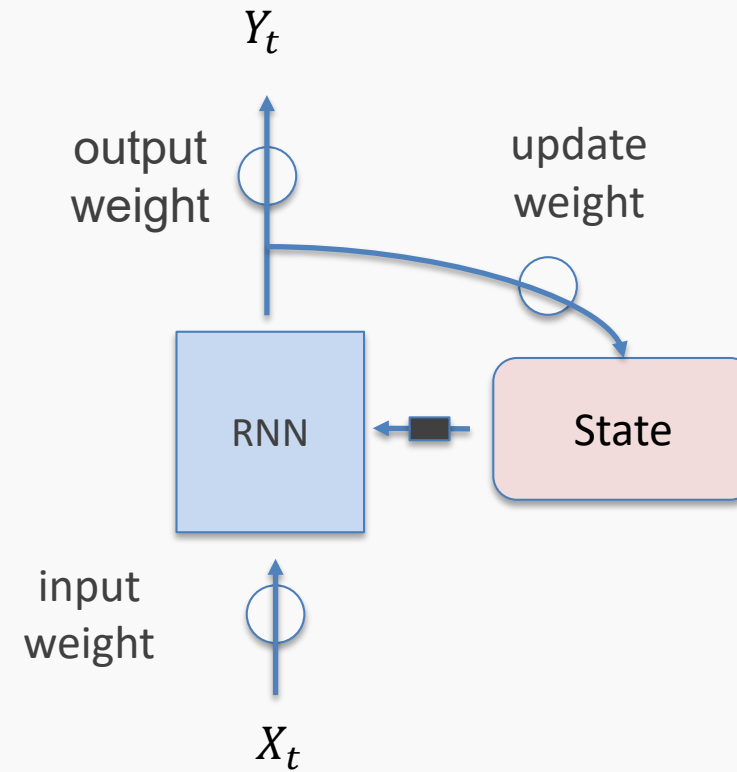
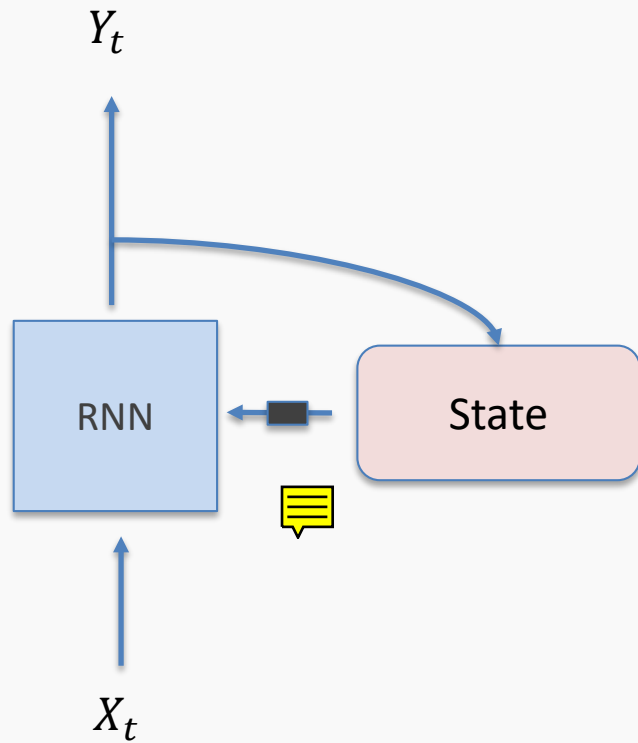
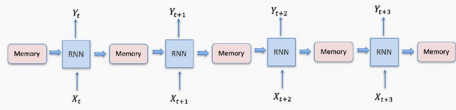
Main Concept of RNNs

**More Details of RNNs**

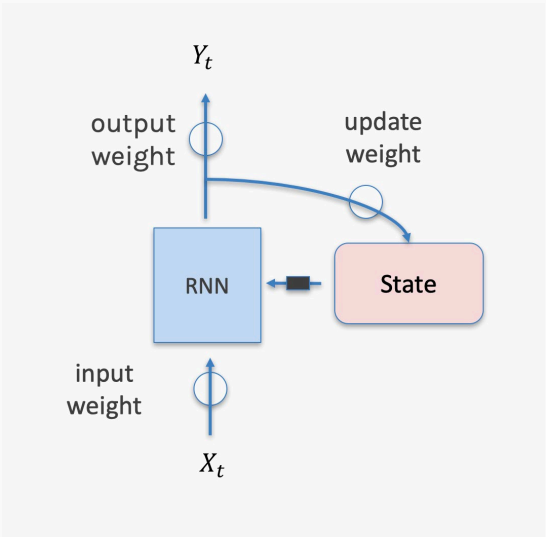
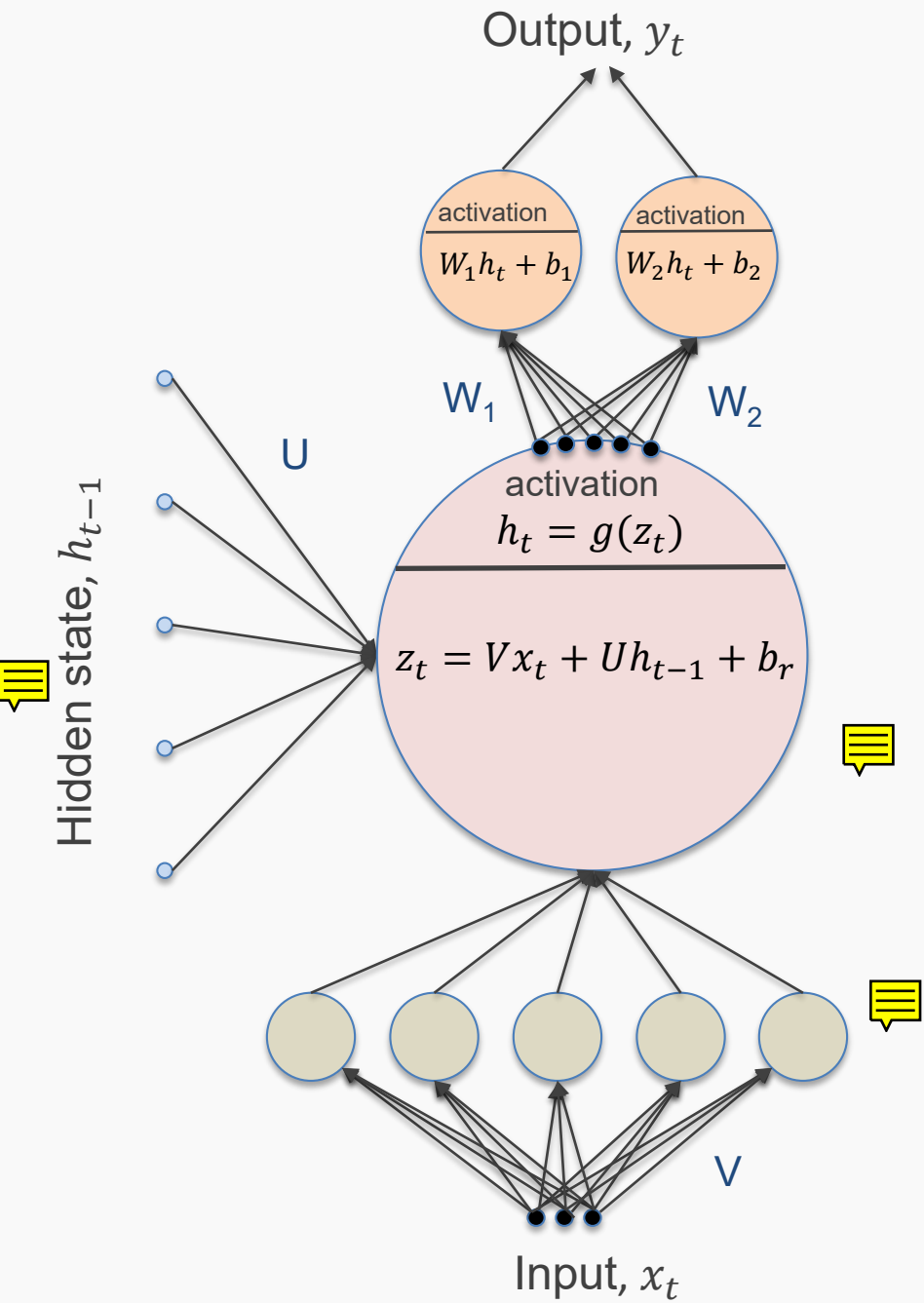
RNN training

Gated RNN

# Structure of an RNN cell



# Anatomy of an RNN unit



# Outline

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Why RNNs

Main Concept of RNNs

More Details of RNNs

**RNN training**

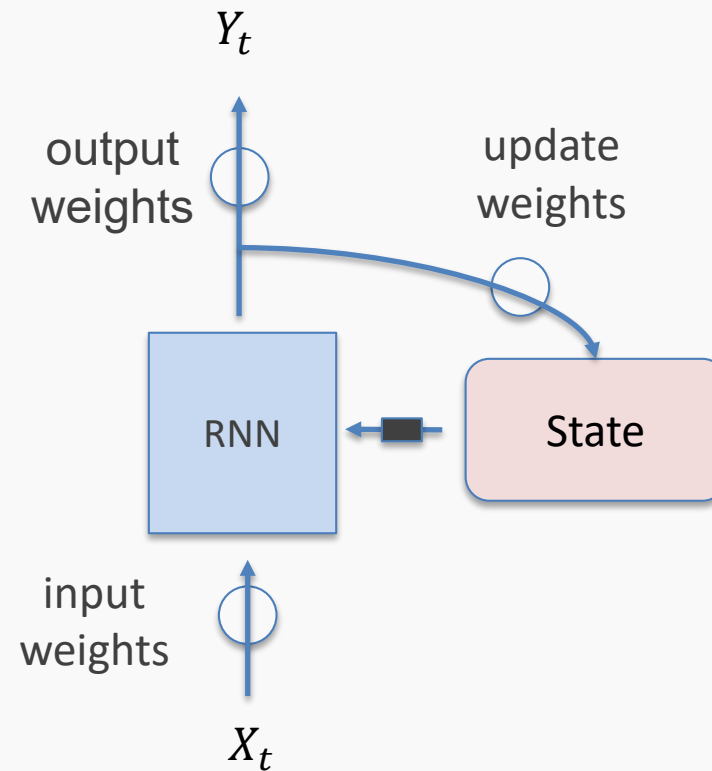
Gated RNN

# Backprop Through Time

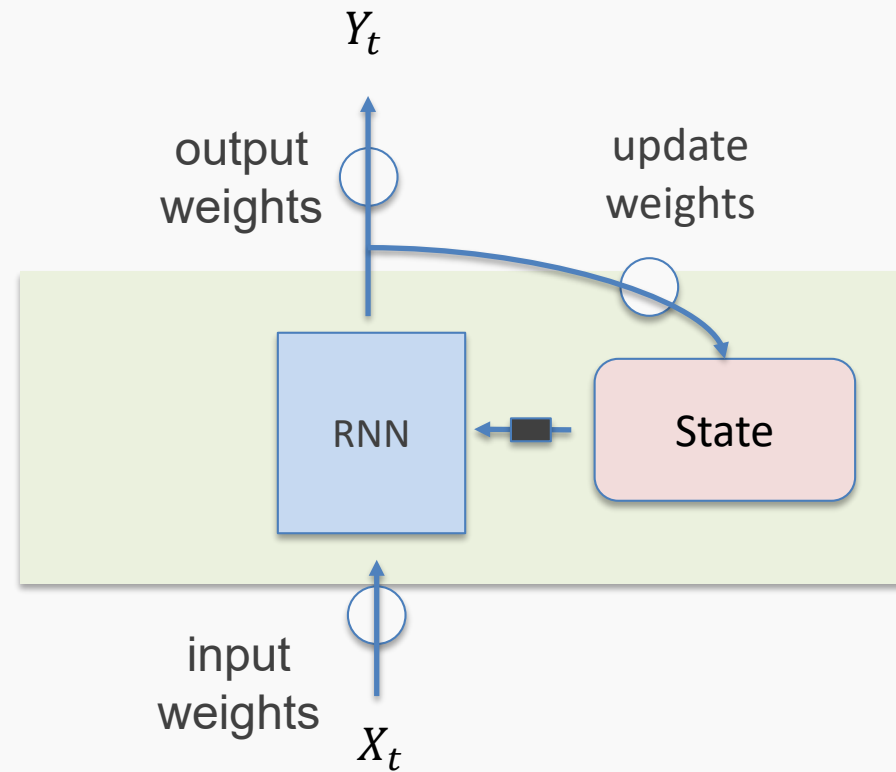
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- For each input, **unfold network for the sequence length  $T$**
- Back-propagation: apply forward and backward pass on unfolded network
- **Memory cost:  $O(T)$**

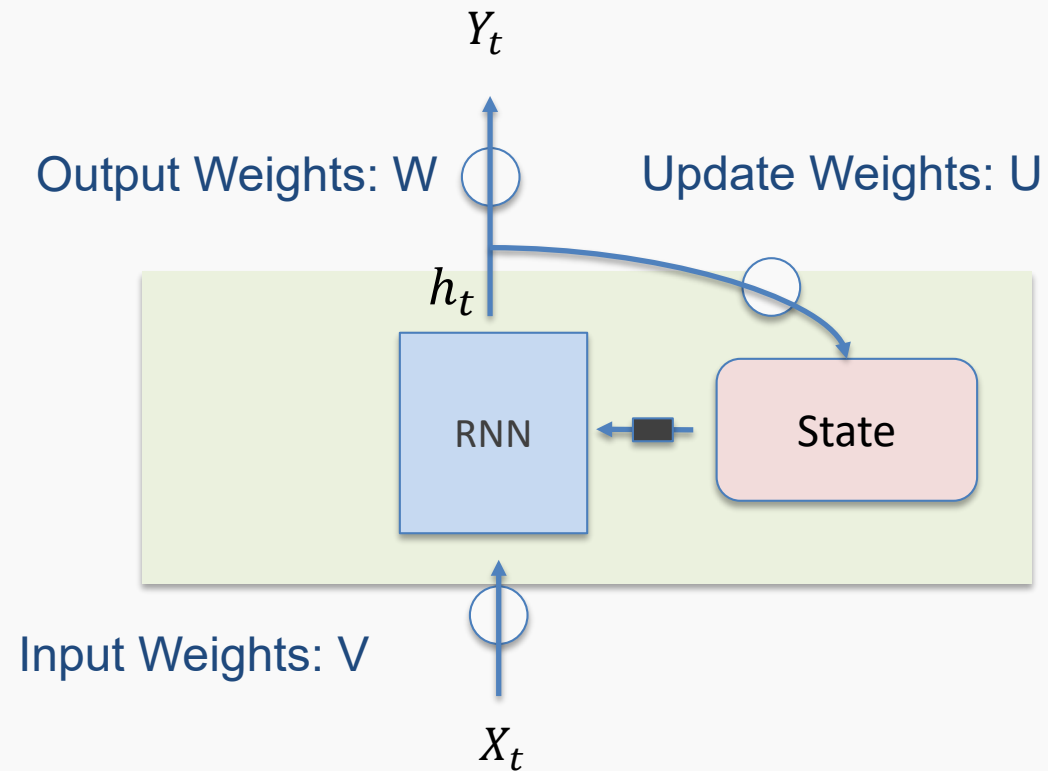
# Backprop Through Time



# Backprop Through Time

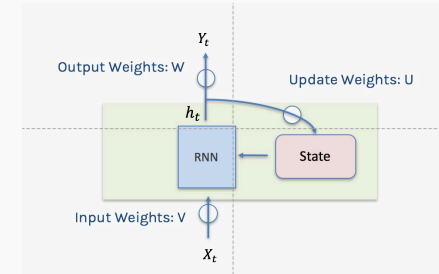
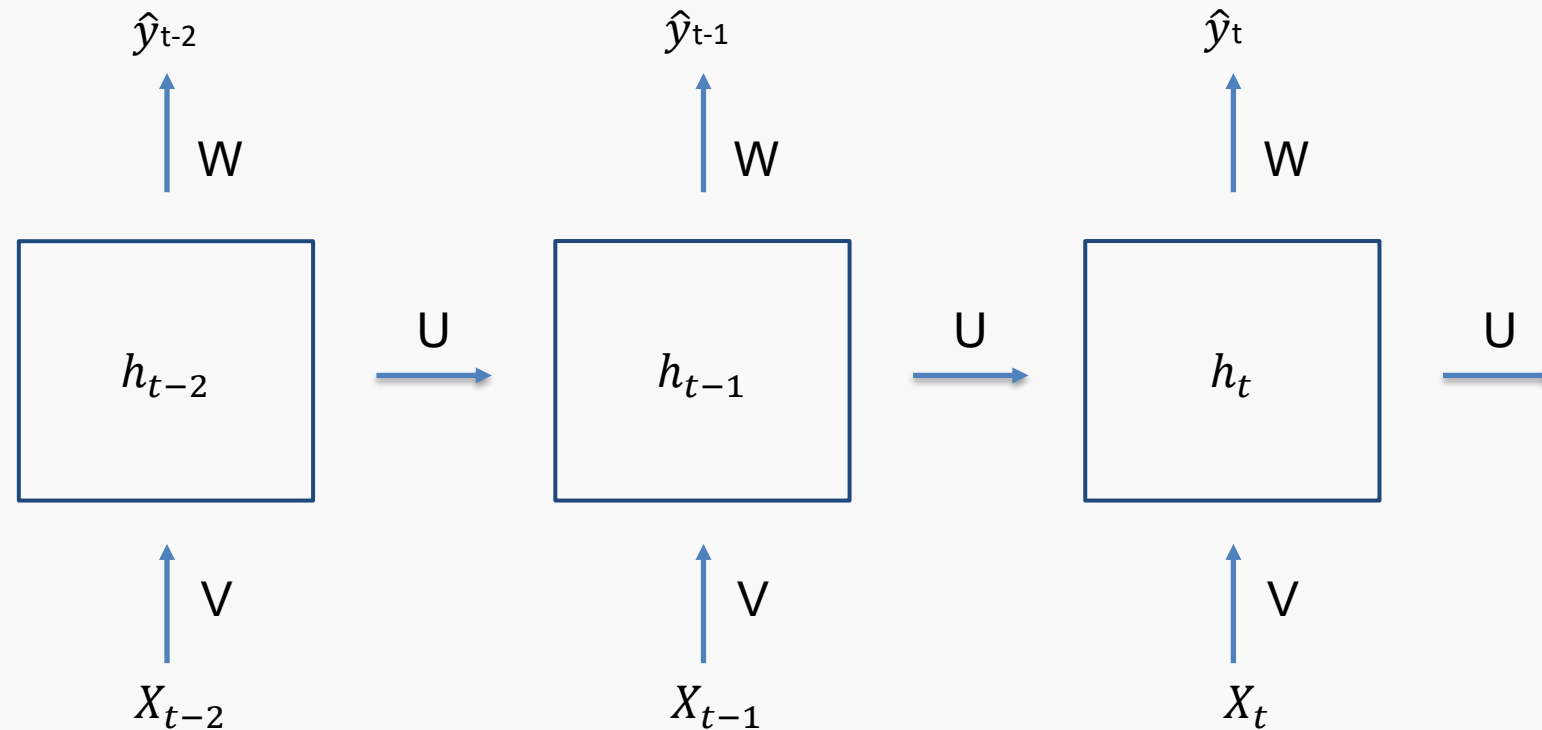


# Backprop Through Time



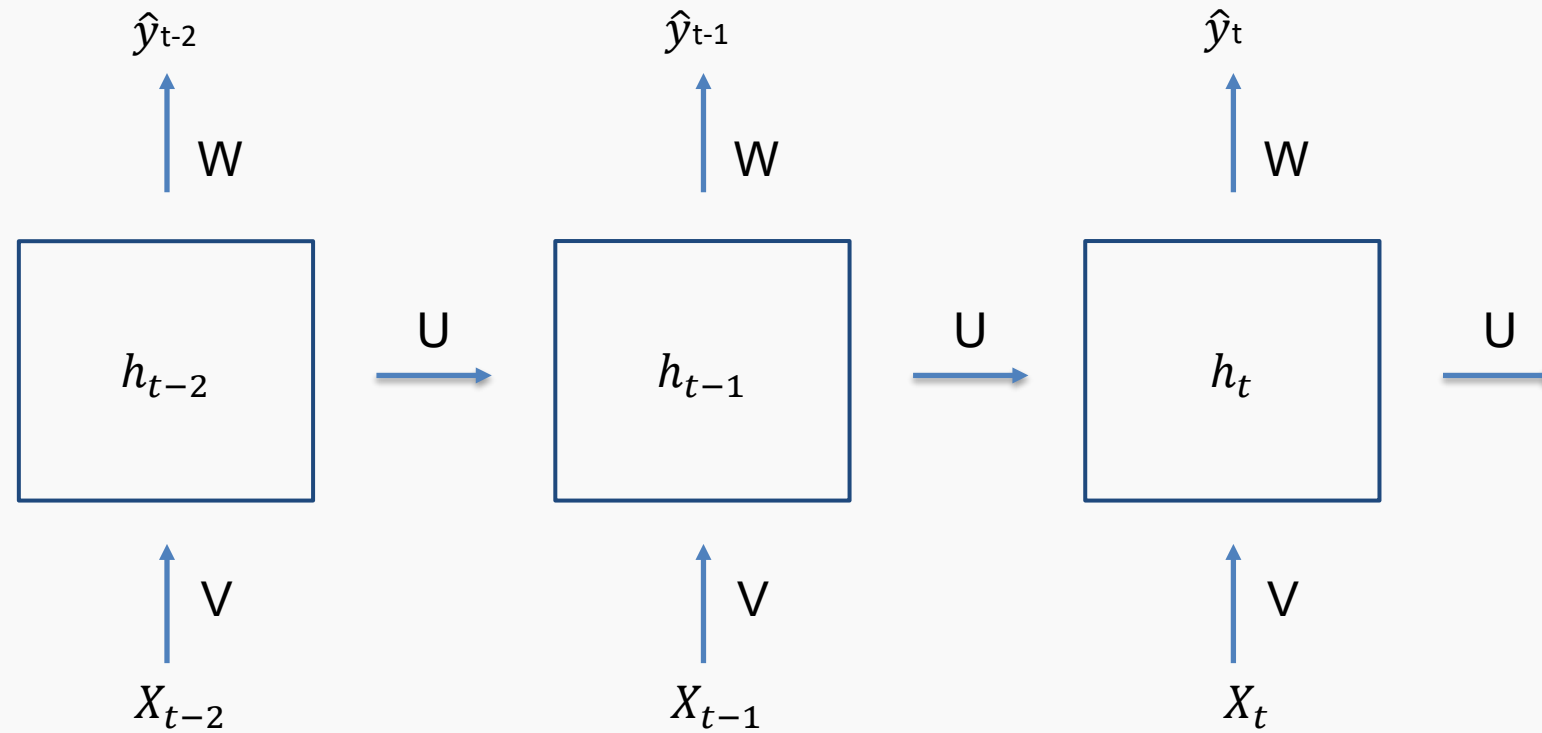


# Backprop Through Time



You have two activation functions  $g_h$  which serves as the activation for the hidden state and  $g_y$  which is the activation of the output. In the example shown before  $g_y$  was the identity.

# Backprop Through Time



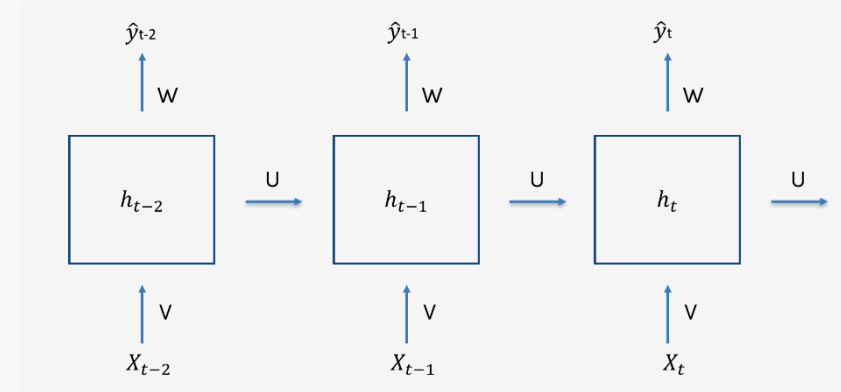
# Backprop Through Time

$$\hat{y}_t = g_y(Wh_t + b)$$

$$L = \sum_t L_t \quad L_t = L_t(\hat{y}_t)$$

$$\frac{dL}{dW} = \sum_t \frac{dL_t}{dW} = \sum_t \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial \hat{y}_t} \frac{\partial \hat{y}_t}{\partial W}$$

$$\frac{\partial \hat{y}_t}{\partial W} = g_y' h_t$$



# Backprop Through Time

$$\hat{y}_t = g_y(Wh_t + b)$$

$$h_t = g_h(Vx_t + Uh_{t-1} + b')$$

$$\hat{y}_t = g_y(Wg_h(Vx_t + Uh_{t-1} + b') + b)$$

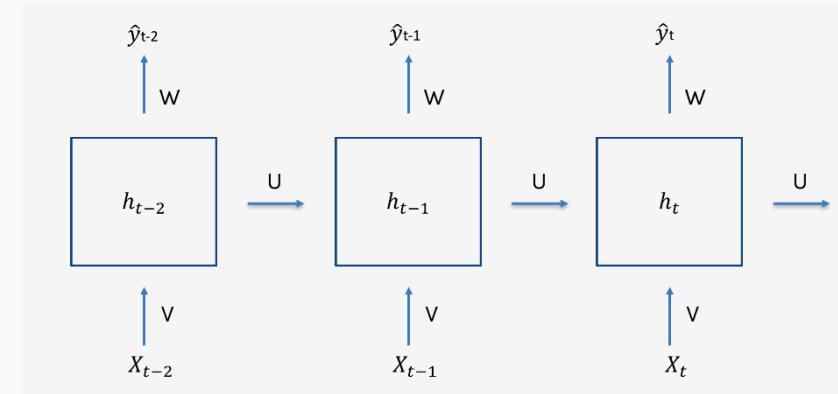
$$L = \sum_t L_t \quad L_t = L_t(\hat{y}_t)$$

$$\frac{dL}{dU} = \sum_t \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial \hat{y}_t} \frac{\partial \hat{y}_t}{\partial h_t} \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial U}$$

$$\frac{\partial h_t}{\partial U} = \sum_{k=1}^t \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_k} \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial U}$$

$$\frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_k} = \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} \frac{\partial h_{t-1}}{\partial h_{t-2}} \cdots \frac{\partial h_{k+1}}{\partial h_k} = \prod_{j=k+1}^t \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial h_{j-1}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L_t}{\partial U} = \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial \hat{y}_t} \frac{\partial \hat{y}_t}{\partial h_t} \left( \frac{dh_t}{dU} + \frac{dh_t}{dh_{t-1}} \frac{dh_{t-1}}{dU} + \frac{dh_t}{dh_{t-1}} \frac{dh_{t-1}}{dh_{t-2}} \frac{dh_{t-2}}{dU} + \cdots \right)$$



$$\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial h_{j-1}} = g'_h U$$





# Gradient Clipping

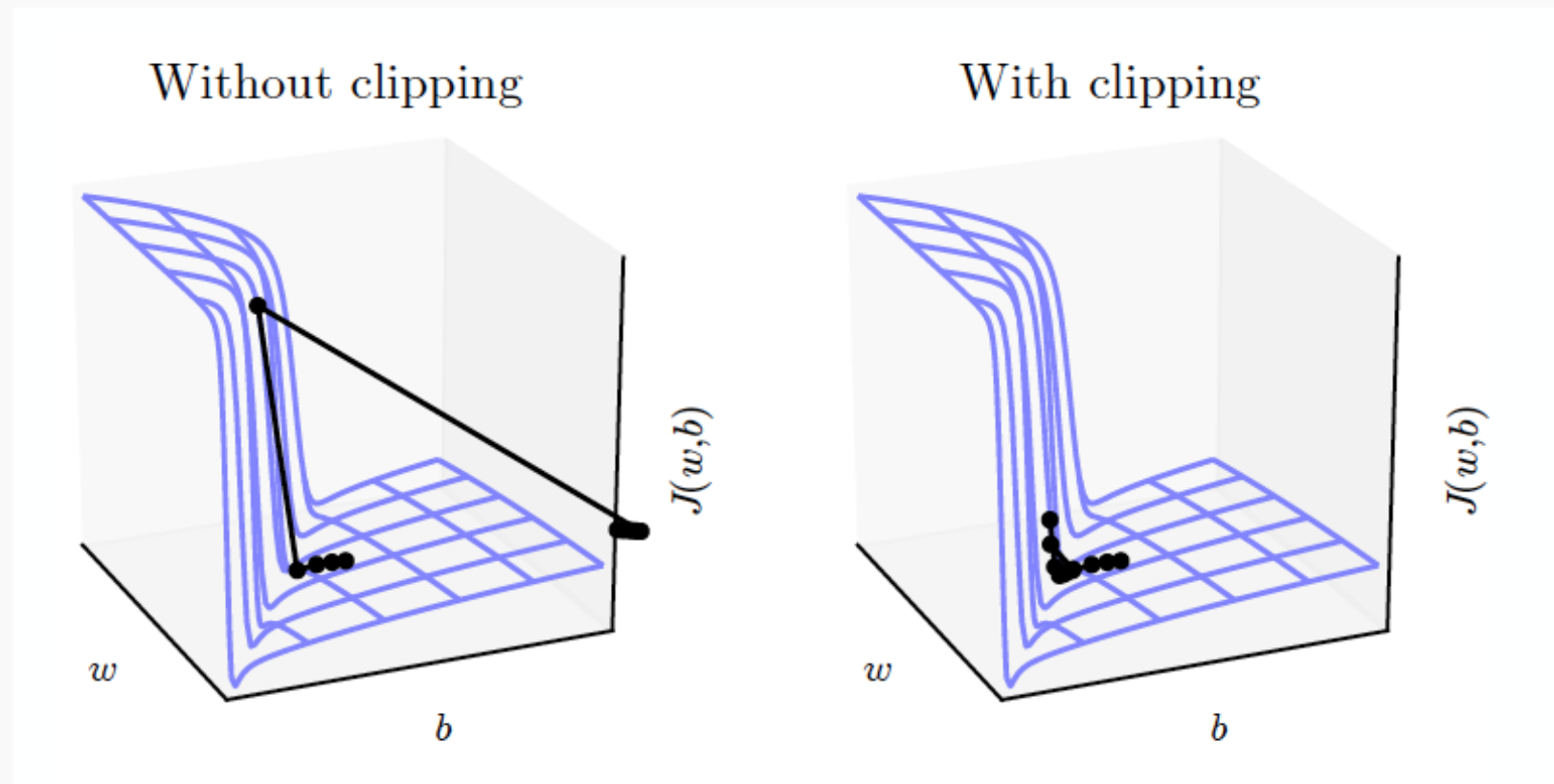
Prevents exploding gradients

Clip the norm of gradient before update.

For some derivative  $g$ , and some threshold  $u$

if  $\|g\| > u$

$$g \leftarrow \frac{gu}{\|g\|}$$



# Outline

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Why RNNs

Main Concept of RNNs

More Details of RNNs

RNN training

**Gated RNN**

# Long-term Dependencies

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Unfolded networks can be very deep

Long-term interactions are given exponentially smaller weights than small-term interactions

Gradients tend to either *vanish* or *explode*



# Long Short-Term Memory

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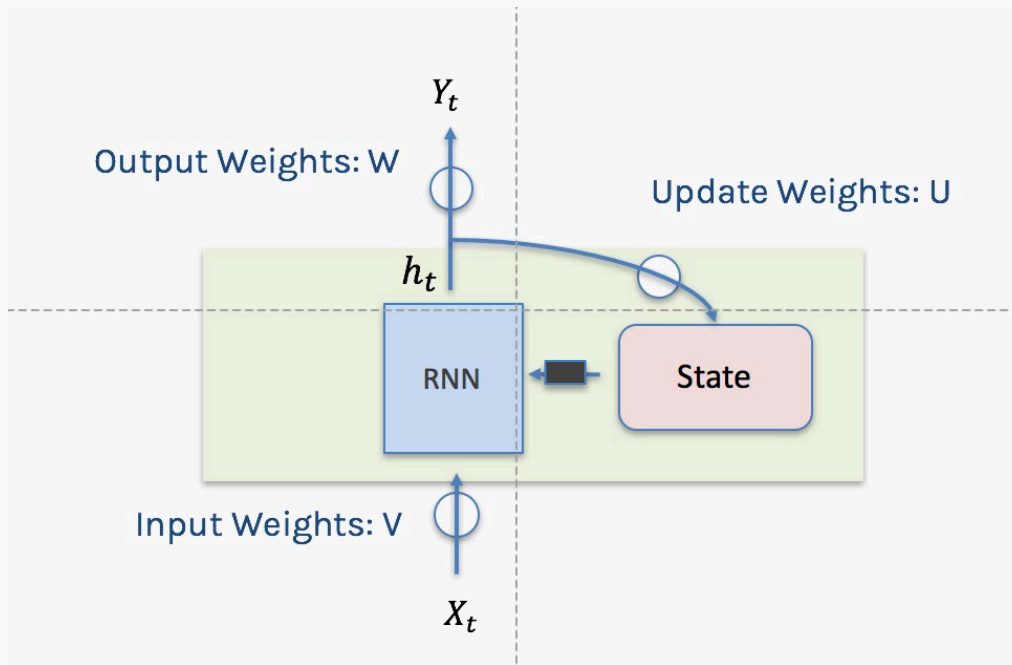
Handles long-term dependencies

Leaky units where weight on self-loop  $\alpha$  is context-dependent

Allow network to decide whether to accumulate or forget past info

# Notation

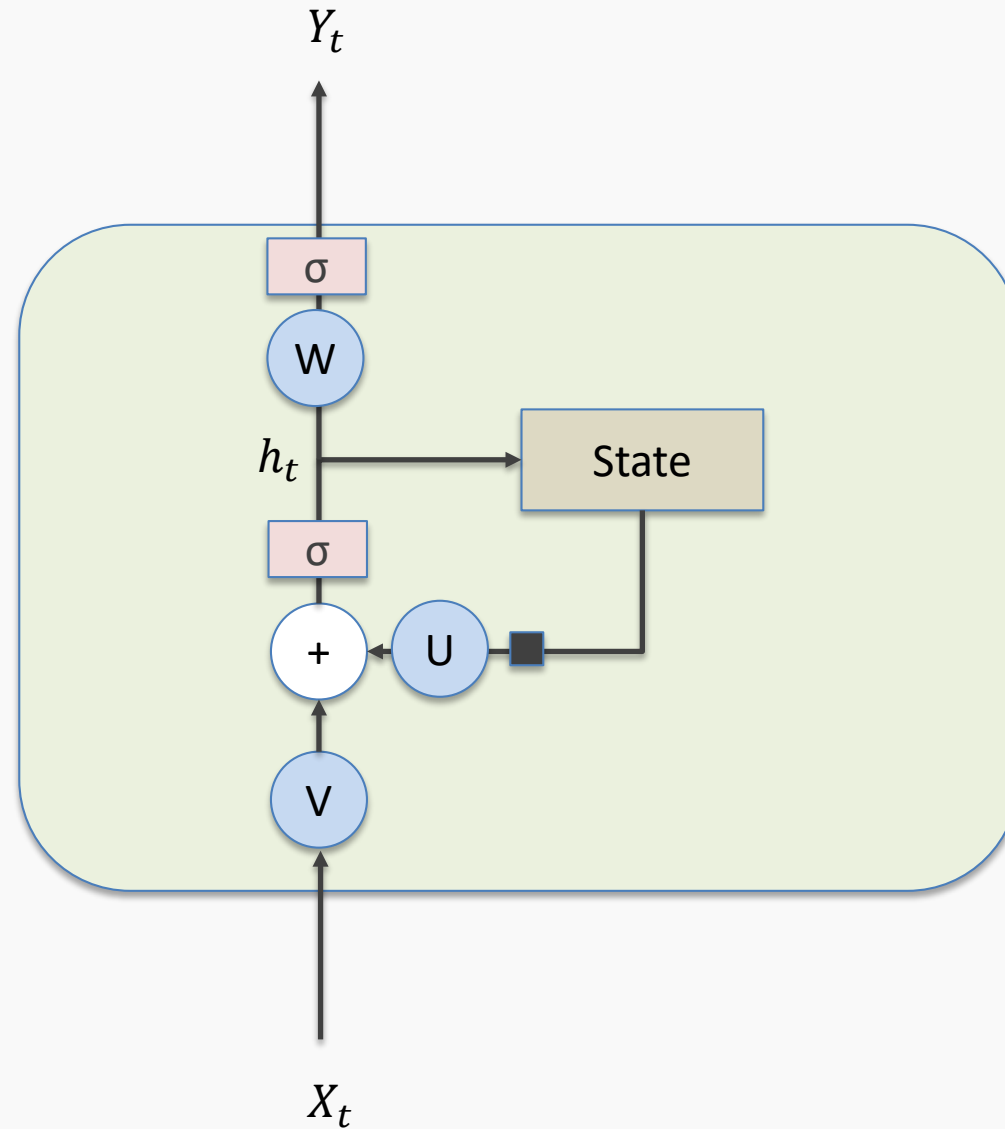
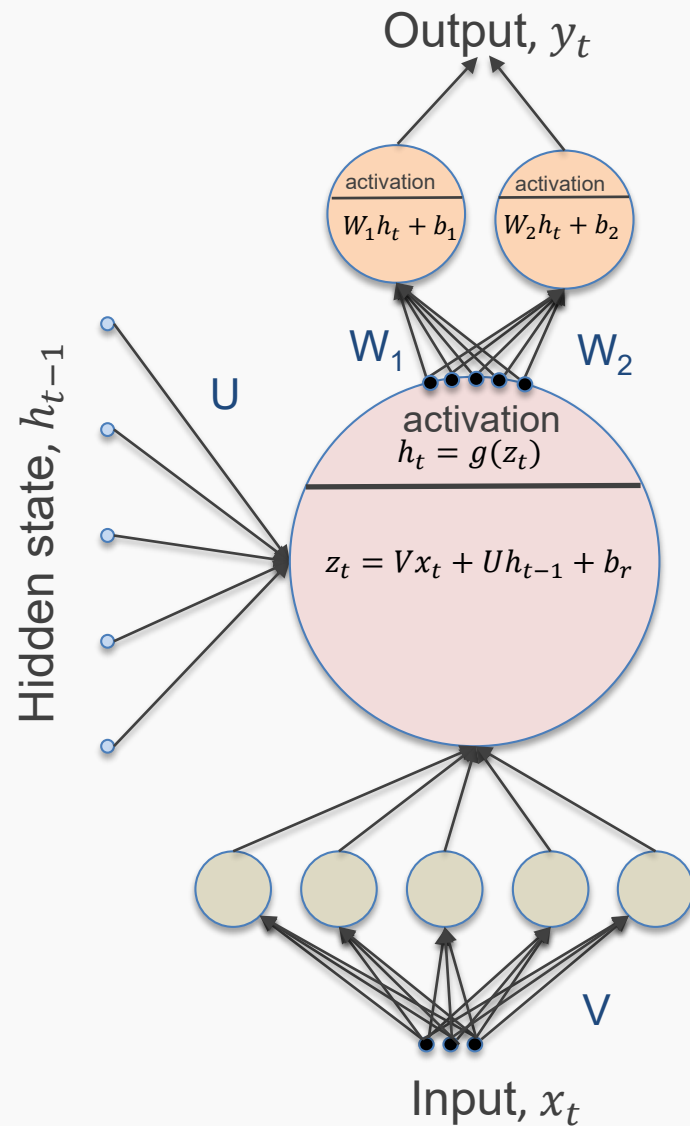
Using conventional and convenient notation



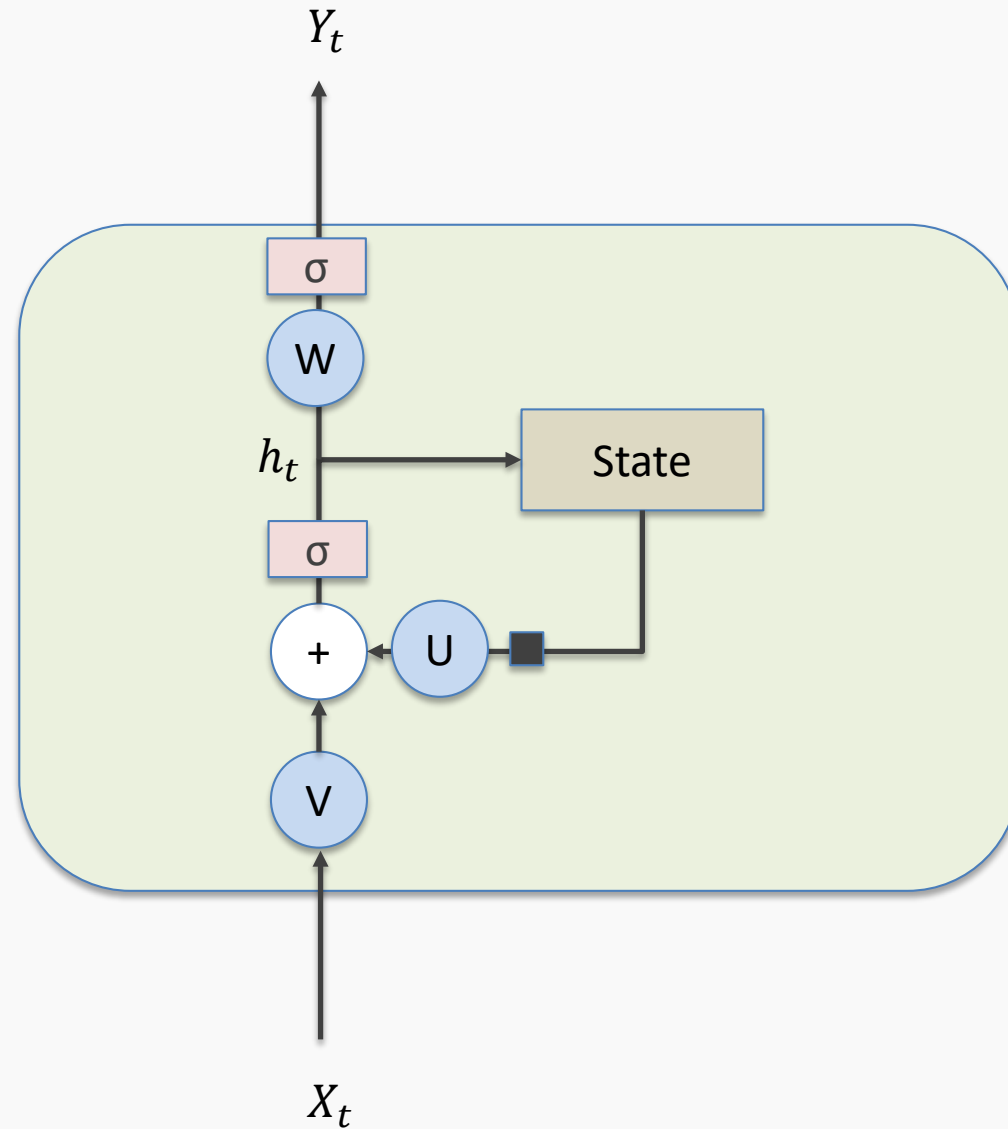
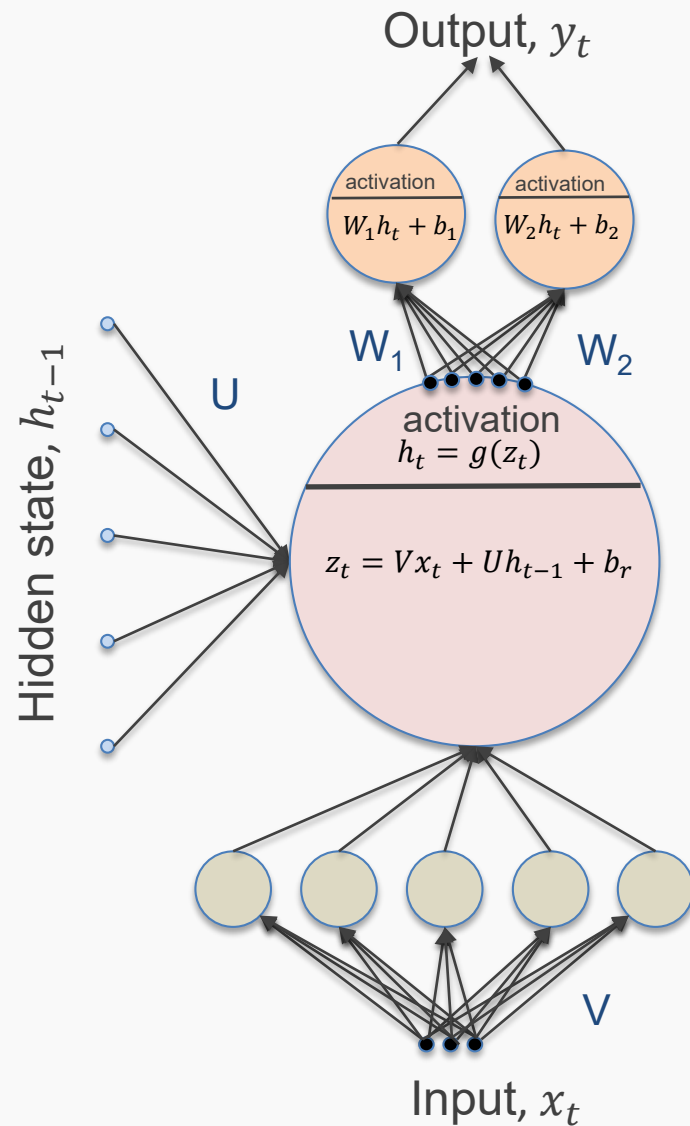
**when your basic RNN isn't  
cabable of catching long-term  
dependencies**



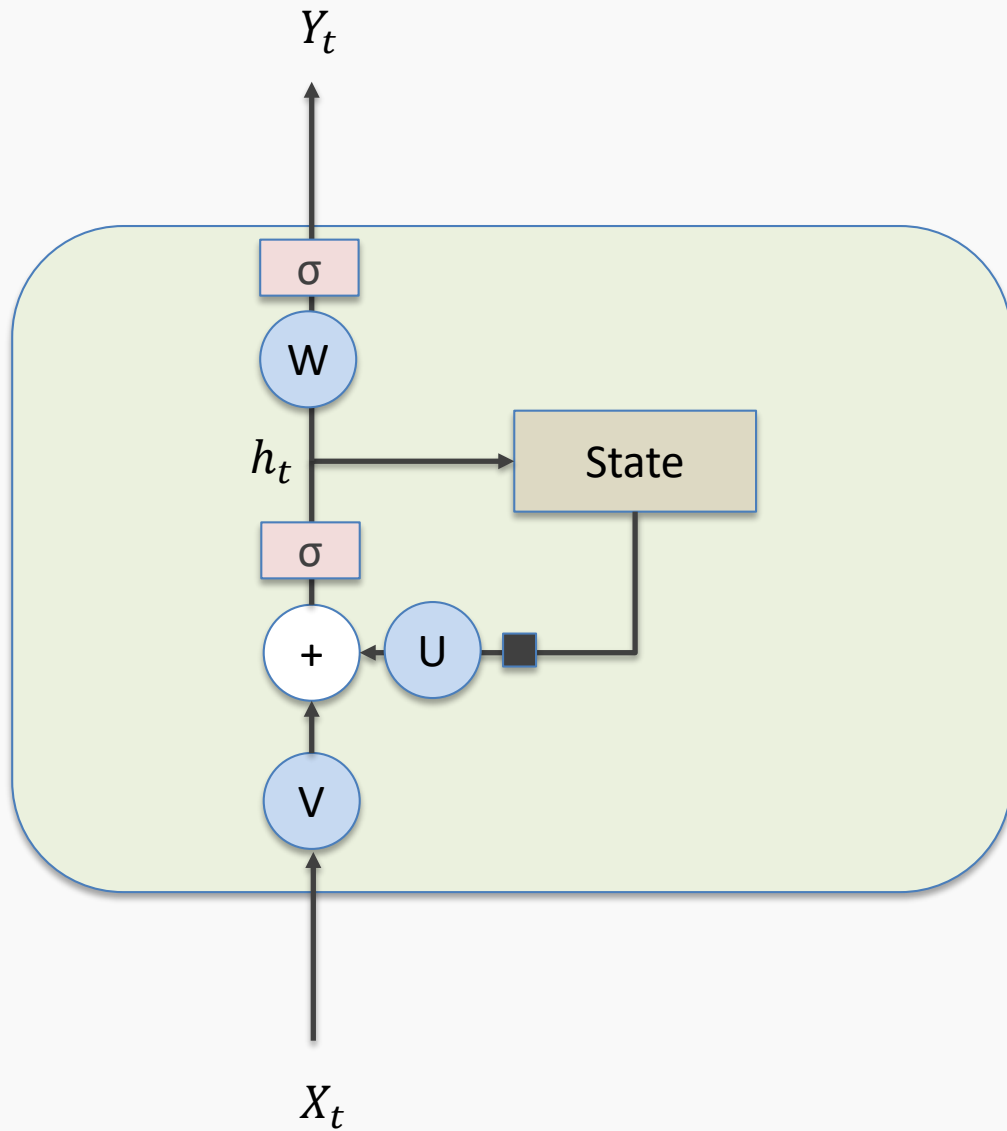
# Simple RNN again



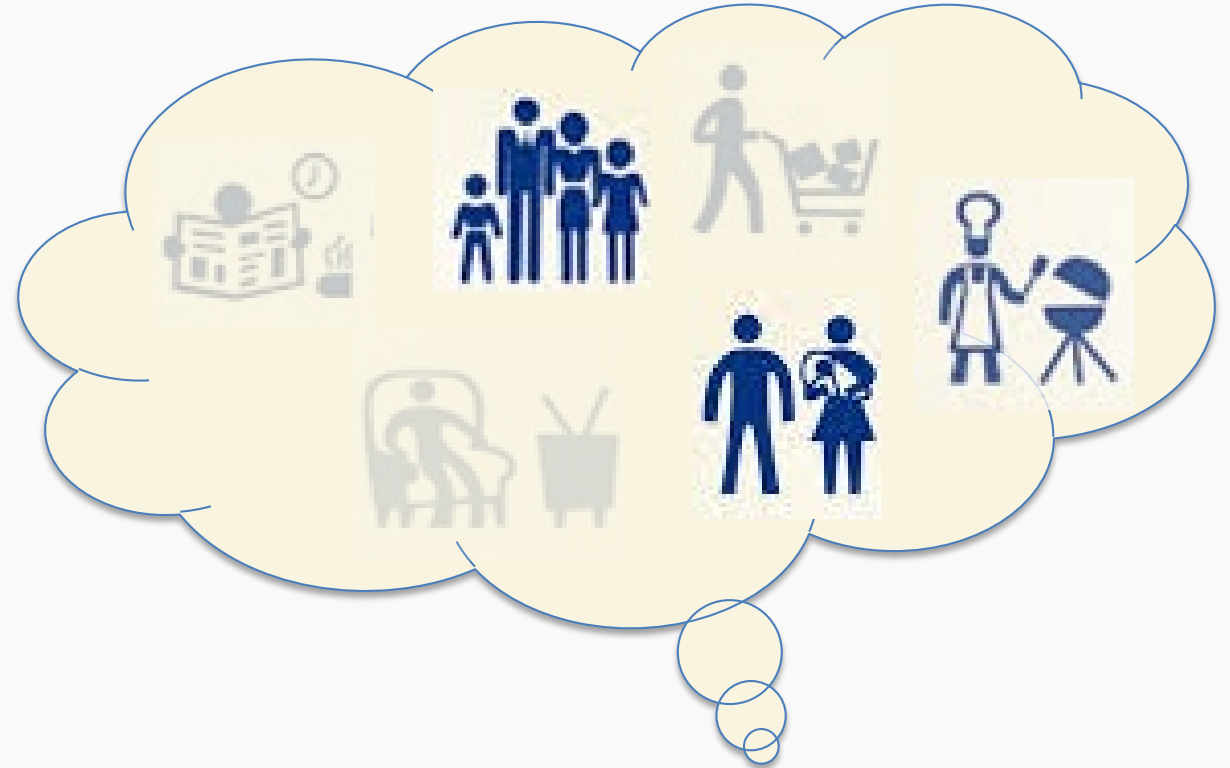
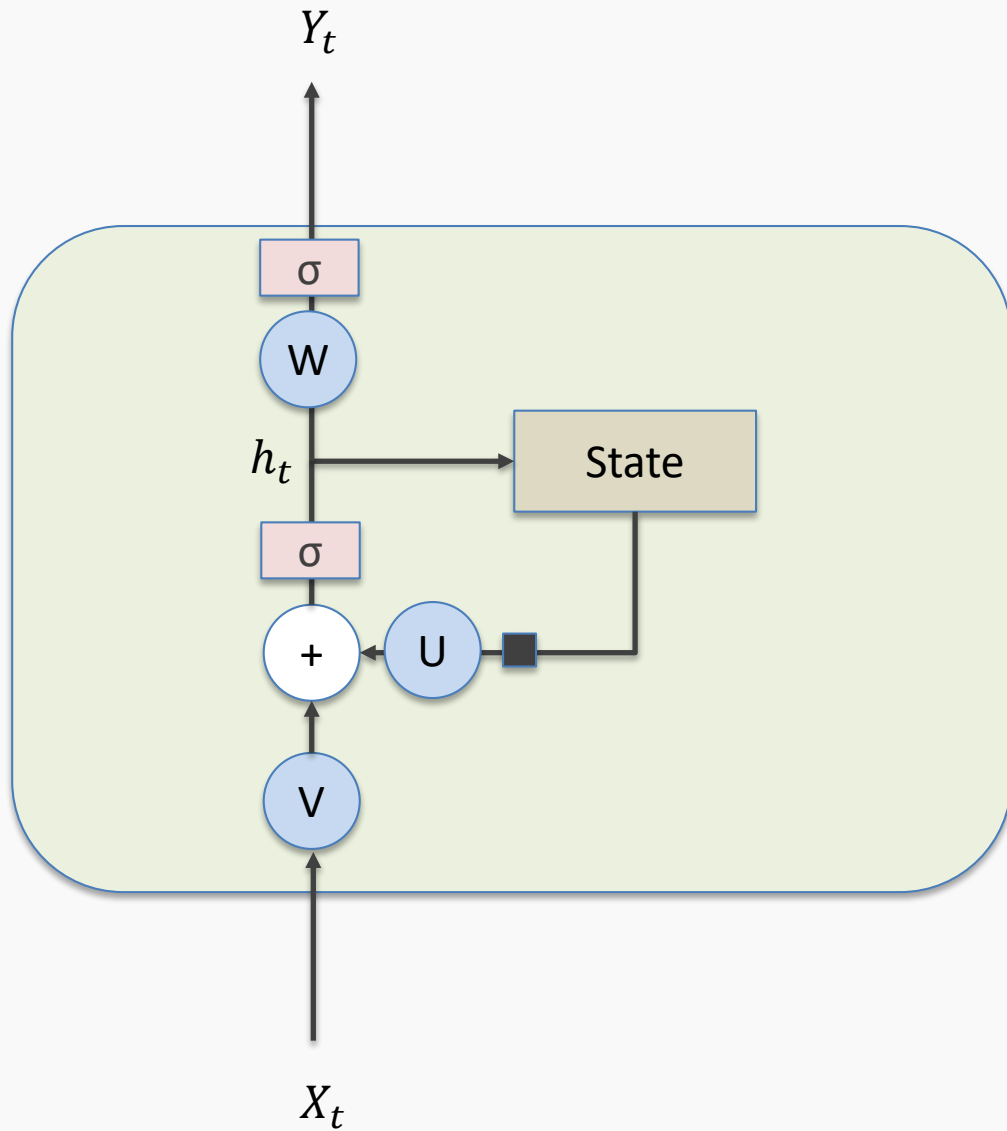
# Simple RNN again



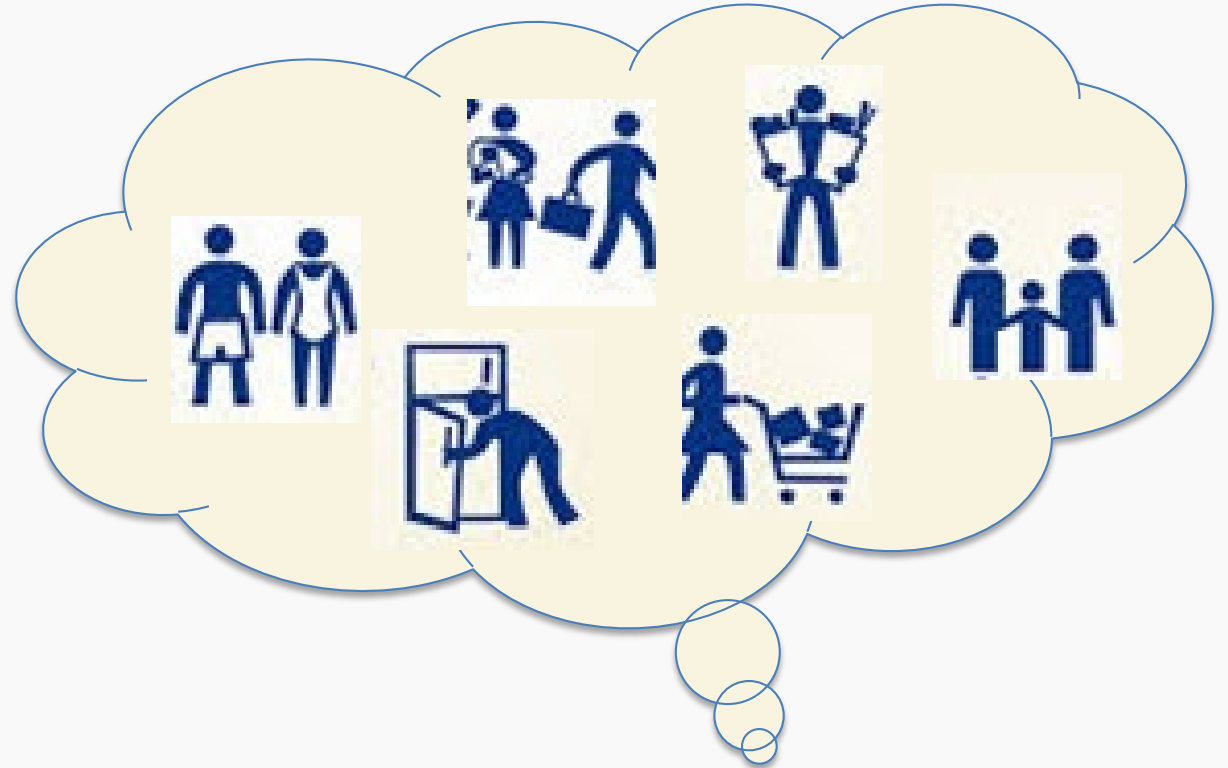
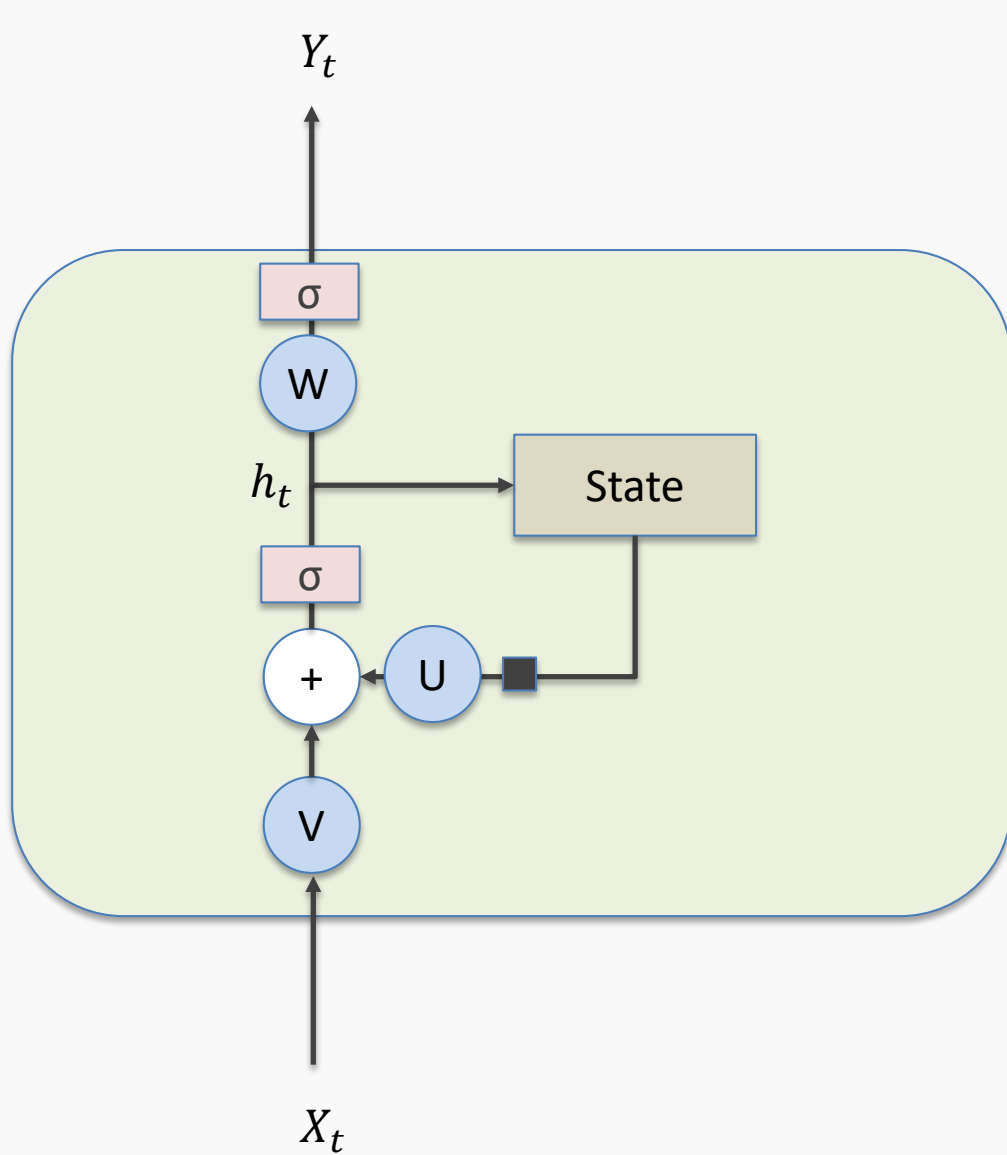
# Simple RNN again: **Memories**



# Simple RNN again: **Memories - Forgetting**

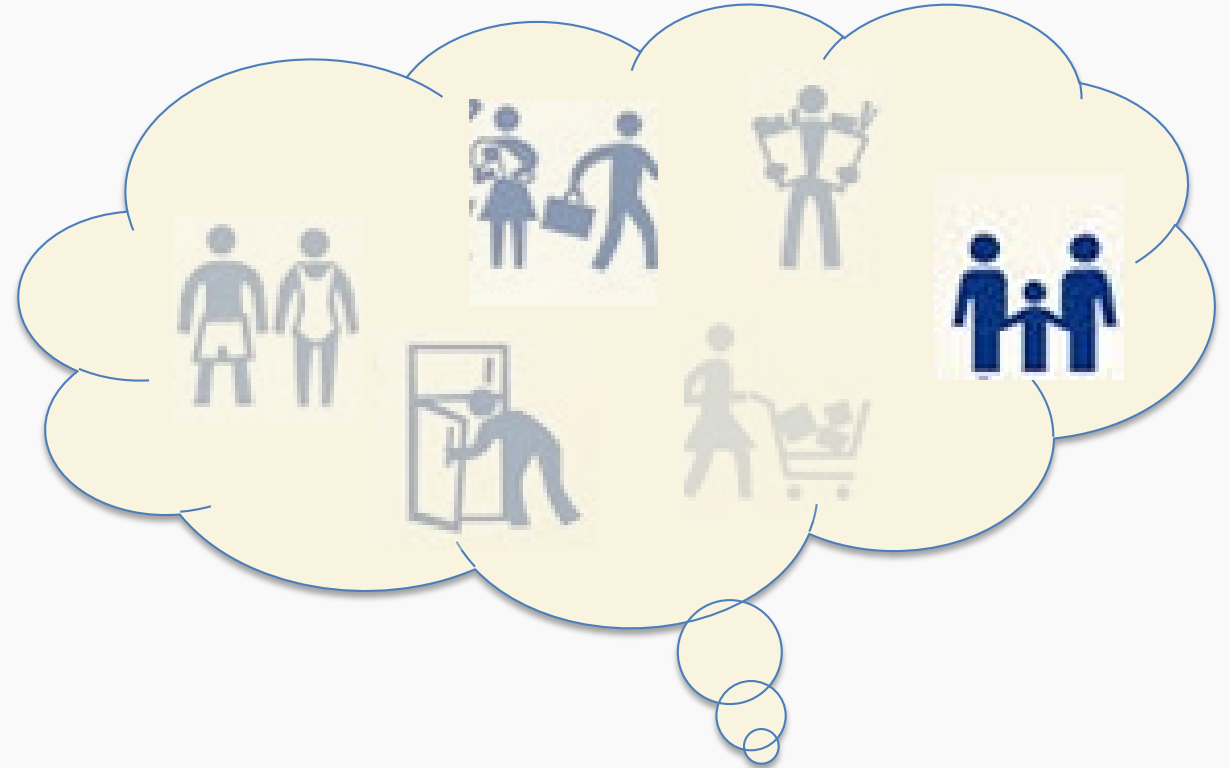
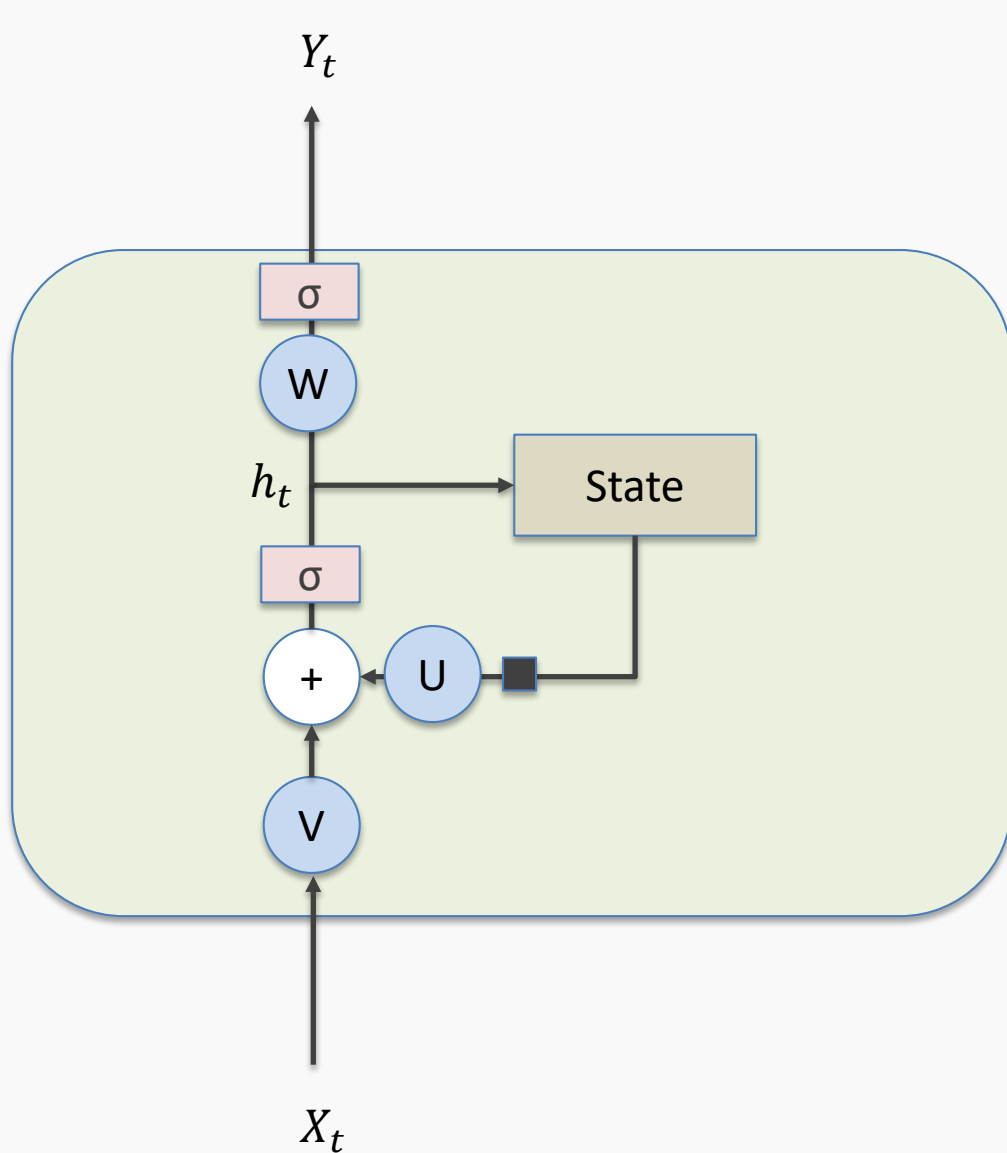


# Simple RNN again: New Events

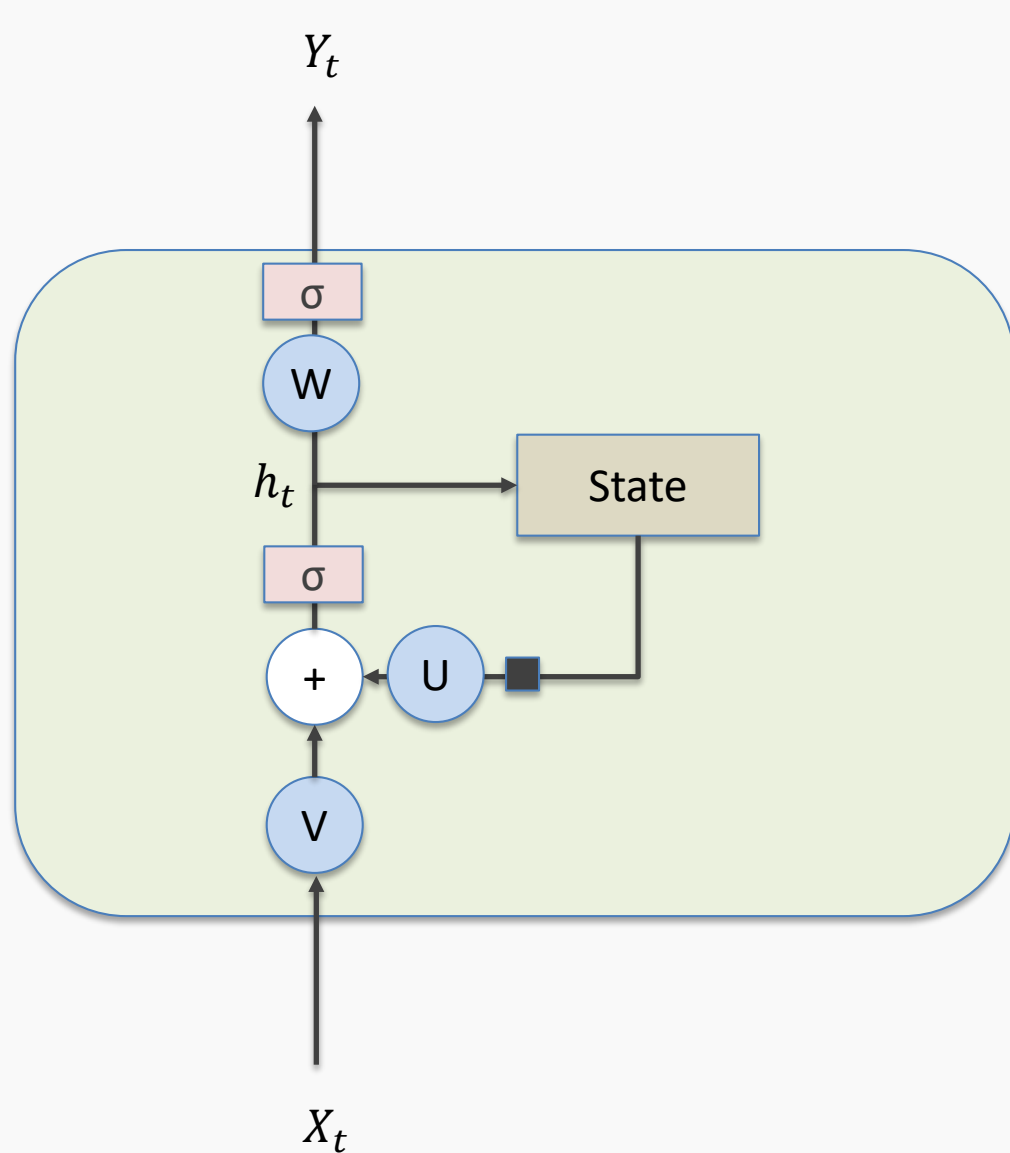




# Simple RNN again: **New Events Weighted**



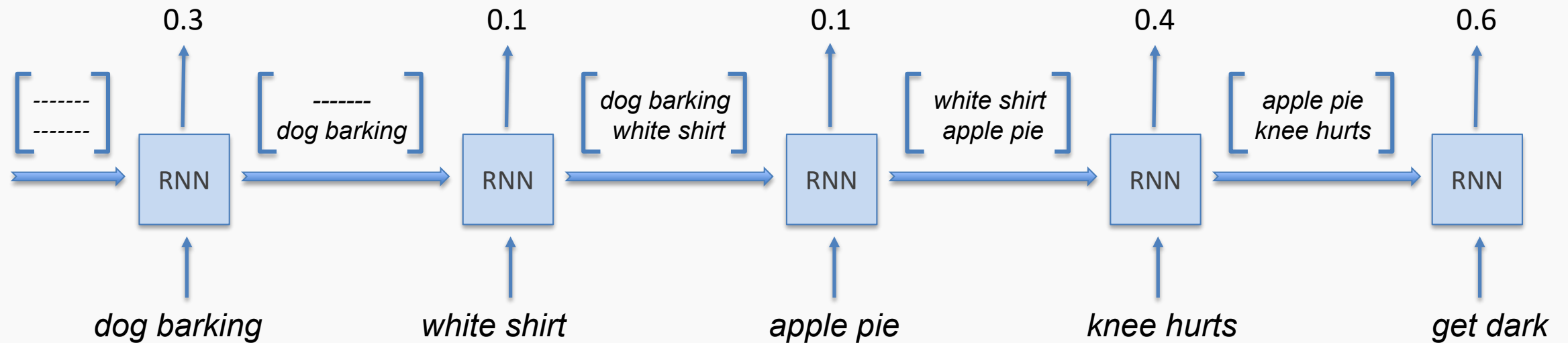
# Simple RNN again: **Updated memories**



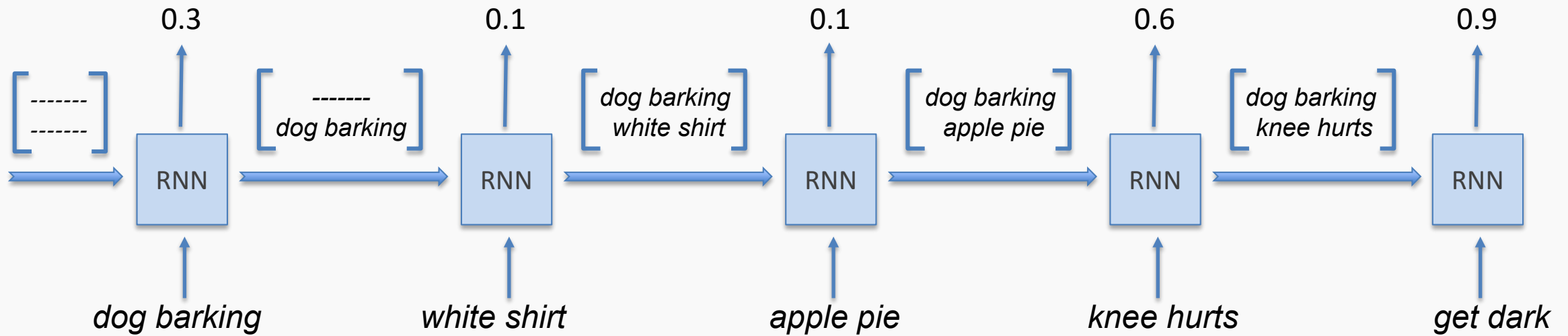
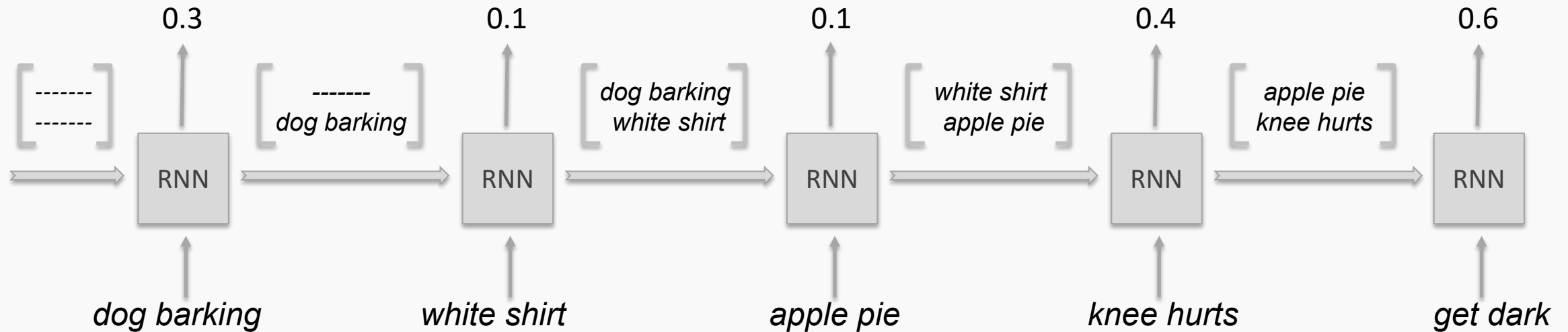
- [Chen17b] Qiming Chen, Ren Wu, “CNN Is All You Need”, arXiv 1712.09662, 2017.  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1712.09662>
- [Chu17] Hang Chu, Raquel Urtasun, Sanja Fidler, “Song From PI: A Musically Plausible Network for Pop Music Generation”, arXiv preprint, 2017.  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1611.03477>
- [Johnson17] Daniel Johnson, “Composing Music with Recurrent Neural Networks”, Heahedria, 2017. <http://www.hexahedria.com/2015/08/03/composing-music-with-recurrent-neural-networks/>
- [Deutsch16b] Max Deutsch, “Silicon Valley: A New Episode Written by AI”, Deep Writing blog post, 2017. <https://medium.com/deep-writing/silicon-valley-a-new-episode-written-by-ai-a8f832645bc2>
- [Fan16] Bo Fan, Lijuan Wang, Frank K. Soong, Lei Xie “Photo-Real Talking Head with Deep Bidirectional LSTM”, Multimedia Tools and Applications, 75(9), 2016.  
[https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/icassp2015\\_fanbo\\_1009.pdf](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/icassp2015_fanbo_1009.pdf)

# RNN

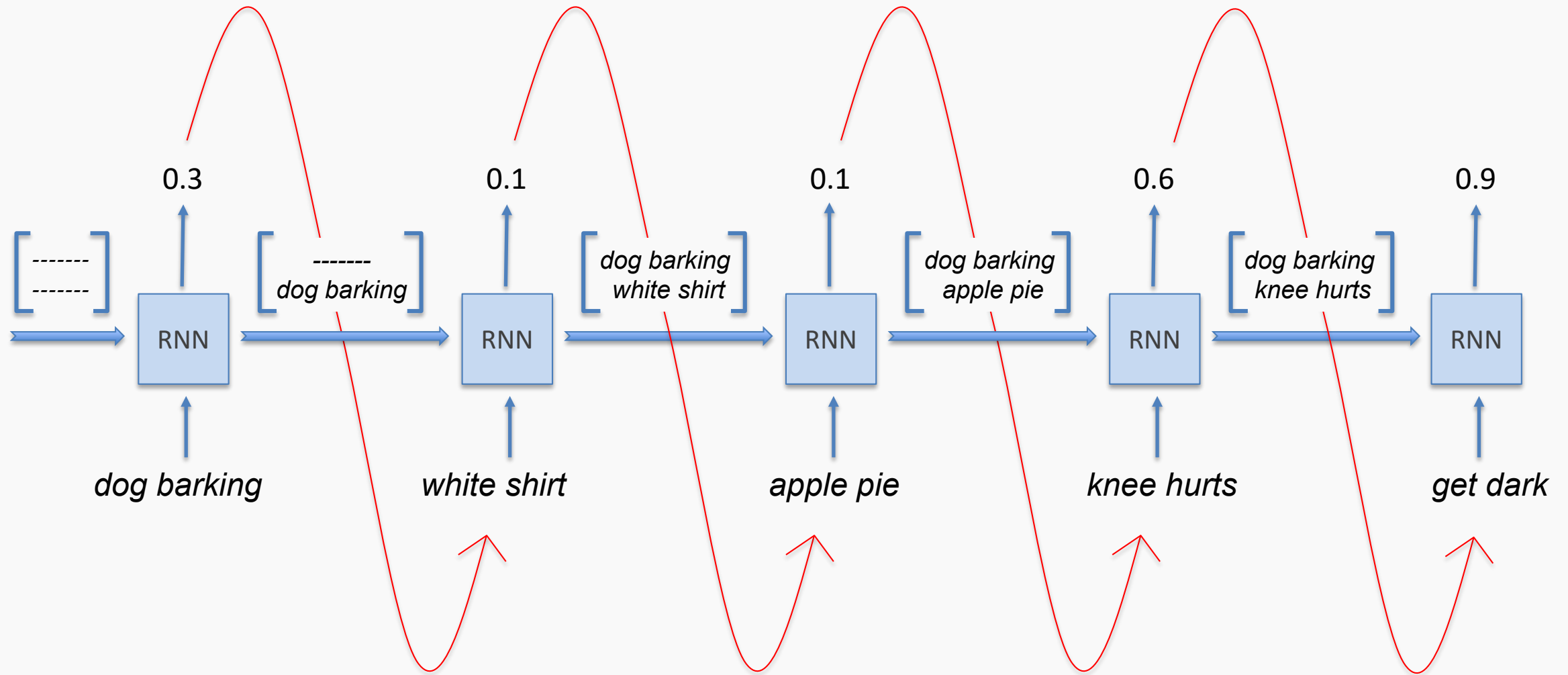
Is it raining? We build an RNN to the probability if it is raining:



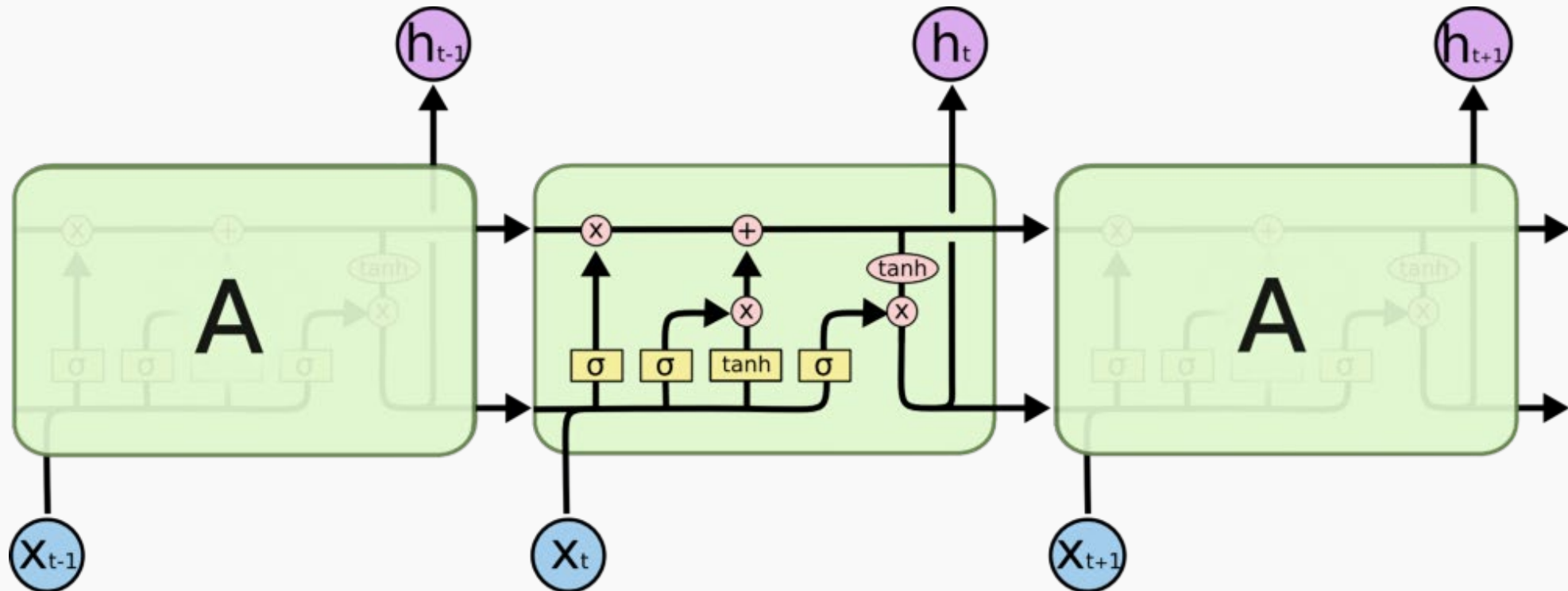
# RNN + Memory



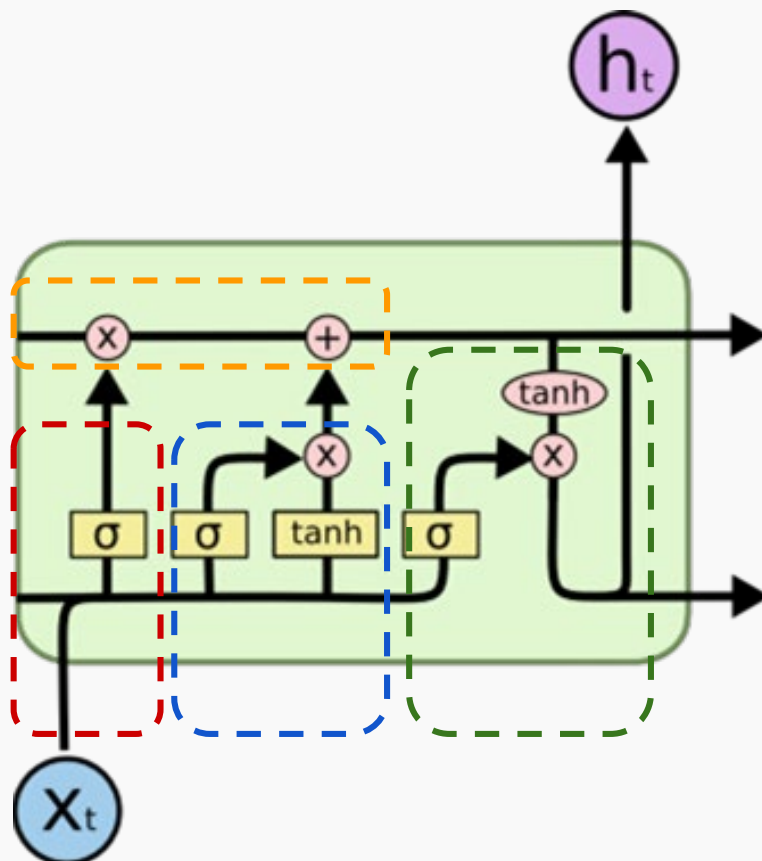
# RNN + Memory + Output



# LSTM: Long short term memory



Before to really understand LSTM lets see the big picture ...



Cell State

$$C_t = f_t * C_{t-1} + i_t * \tilde{C}_t$$

Output Gate

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

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

Forget Gate

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

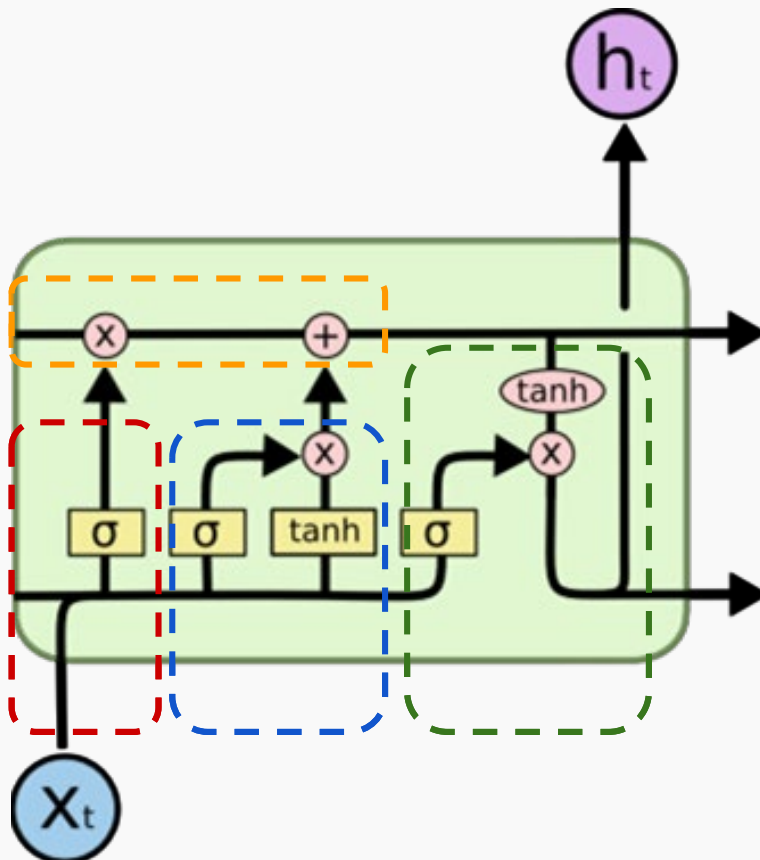
Input Gate

$$i_t = \sigma(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i)$$

$$\tilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_c \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f)$$



# Before to really understand LSTM lets see the big picture ...



1. LSTM are recurrent neural network with a cell and a hidden state, boths of these are updated in each step and can be thought as memories.
2. Cell states work as a long term memory and the updates depends on the relation between the hidden state in  $t - 1$  and the input.
3. The hidden state of the next step is a transformation of the cell state and the output (which is the section that is in general used to calculate our loss, ie information that we want in a short memory).

# Let's think about my cell state

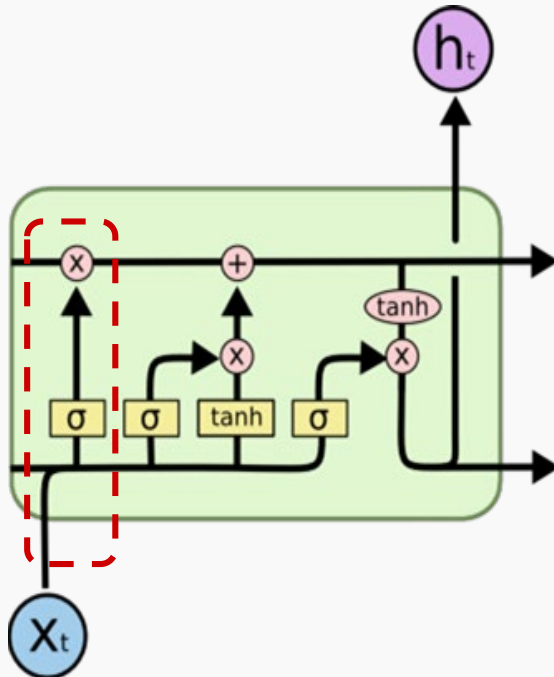
$$x_t = \begin{bmatrix} \text{family icon} & 1 \\ \text{spider icon} & -1 \\ \text{6AM icon} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad h_{t-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{happy emoji} & 1 \\ \text{sad emoji} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad C_{t-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{happy emoji} & 0.7 \\ \text{sad emoji} & 0.3 \end{bmatrix}$$



Let's predict if i will help you in the homework in time t

## Forget Gate

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



The forget gate tries to estimate what features of the cell state should be forgotten.

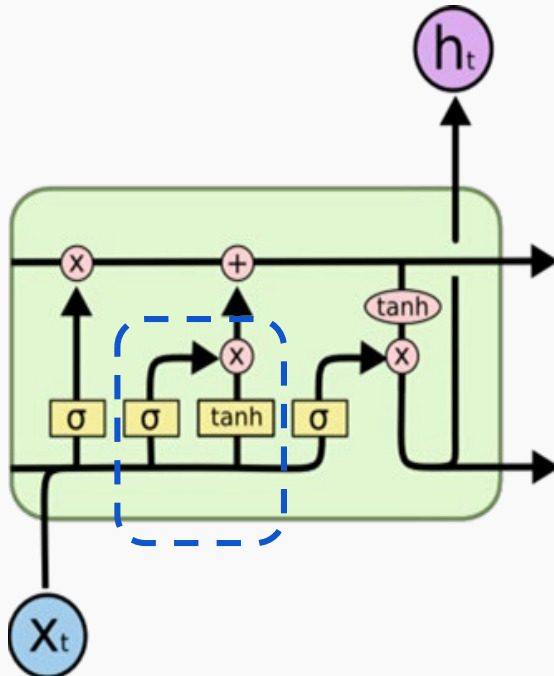
$$f_t = \sigma \left( \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{😊} & 1 \\ \text{🚫} & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -100 \\ 0.1 & 0.1 & -100 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{👨👩👦} & 1 \\ \text{🐘} & -1 \\ \text{6AM} & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\begin{bmatrix} -100 \\ -100 \end{bmatrix}} \right)$$

Erase  
everything!

## Input Gate

$$i_t = \sigma(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i)$$

$$\tilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_c \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f)$$



The input gate layer works in a similar way that the forget layer, the input gate layer estimate the degree of confidence of  $\tilde{C}_t$  and  $\tilde{C}_t$  is a new estimation of the cell state.

Let's say that my input gate estimation is:

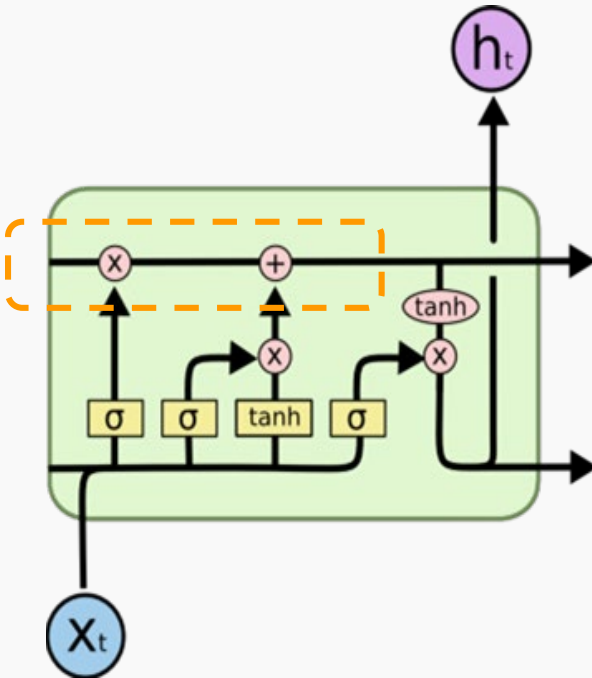
$$i_t = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\tilde{C}_t = \tanh \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{😊} & 1 \\ \text{🕒} & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 10 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{👨👩👧} & 1 \\ \text{🦋} & -1 \\ \text{6AM} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$\tilde{C}_t = \tanh \left( \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 10 \end{bmatrix}}_{\begin{bmatrix} \text{😊} & 1 \\ \text{🕒} & 1 \end{bmatrix}} \right)$$

## Cell state

$$C_t = f_t * C_{t-1} + i_t * \tilde{C}_t$$



After the calculation of forget gate and input gate we can update our cell state.

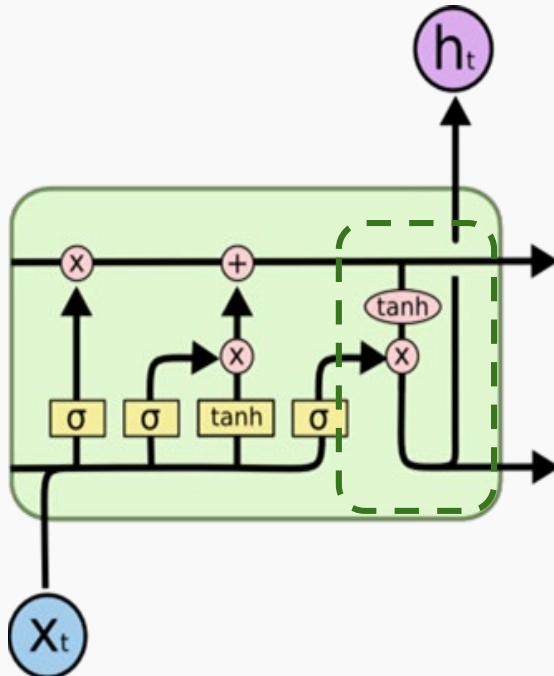
$$C_t = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} \text{😊} & 0.7 \\ \text{🕒} & 0.3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} \text{😊} & 1 \\ \text{🕒} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_t = \begin{bmatrix} \text{😊} & 1 \\ \text{🕒} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Output gate

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

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



- The output gate layer is calculated using the information of the input  $x$  in time  $t$  and hidden state of the last step.
- It is important to notice that hidden state used in the next step is obtained using the output gate layer which is usually the function that we optimize.

$$o_t = \sigma \left( \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{😊} & 1 \\ \text{🕒} & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{👤} & 1 \\ \text{🐢} & -1 \\ \text{6AM} & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{o_t \approx 0.9} \right)$$

$$h_t \approx 0.9 * \begin{bmatrix} \text{😊} & 1 \\ \text{🕒} & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{😊} & 0.9 \\ \text{🕒} & 0.9 \end{bmatrix}$$

wcct! = we can calculate this!

To optimize my parameters i basically need to do:  
Let's calculate all the derivatives in some time t!

$$W = W - \eta \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W_f} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial C^t} \underbrace{\frac{\partial C^t}{\partial f^t}}_{C^{t-1}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial f^t}{\partial W_f}}_{\text{wcct!}}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W_c} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial C^t} \underbrace{\frac{\partial C^t}{\partial (i^t \odot \hat{C}^t)}}_1 \underbrace{\frac{\partial (i^t \odot \hat{C}^t)}{\partial W_c}}_{\text{wcct!}}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W_i} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial C^t} \underbrace{\frac{\partial C^t}{\partial (i^t \odot \hat{C}^t)}}_1 \underbrace{\frac{\partial (i^t \odot \hat{C}^t)}{\partial W_i}}_{\text{wcct!}}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W_o} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial h^t} \underbrace{\frac{\partial h^t}{\partial o^t}}_{\tanh C^t} \underbrace{\frac{\partial o^t}{\partial W_o}}_{\text{wcct!}}$$

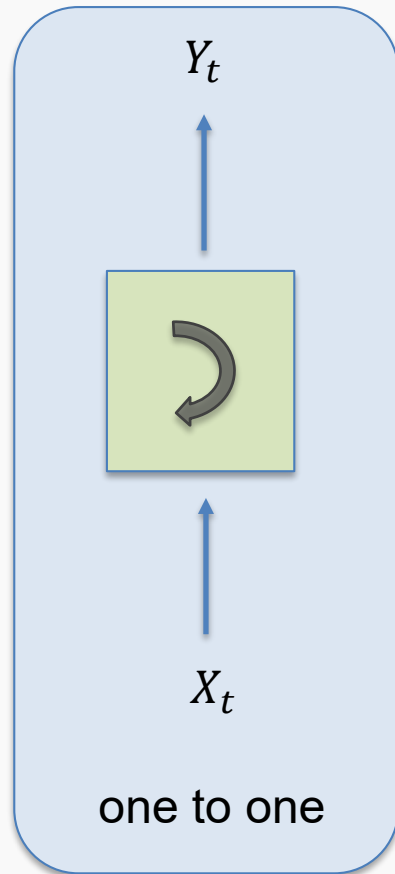
Let's calculate the cell state and the hidden state

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial h^{t-1}} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial C^t} \left( \frac{\partial C^t}{\partial f^t} \frac{\partial f^t}{\partial h^t} + \frac{\partial C^t}{\partial (i^t \odot \hat{C}^t)} \frac{\partial (i^t \odot \hat{C}^t)}{\partial h^t} \right) + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial h^t} \frac{\partial h^t}{\partial o^t} \frac{\partial o^t}{\partial h^{t-1}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial C^t} &= \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (f^{t+1} \odot C^t + i^{t+1} \odot \hat{C}^t)}}_{\left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial C^{t+1}} + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial h^{t+1}} \frac{\partial h^{t+1}}{\partial C^{t+1}} \right) \odot f^{t+1}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial (f^{t+1} \odot C^t + i^{t+1} \odot \hat{C}^t)}{\partial C^t}}_{\frac{\partial (f^{t+1} \odot C^t + i^{t+1} \odot \hat{C}^t)}{\partial C^t}} \end{aligned}$$

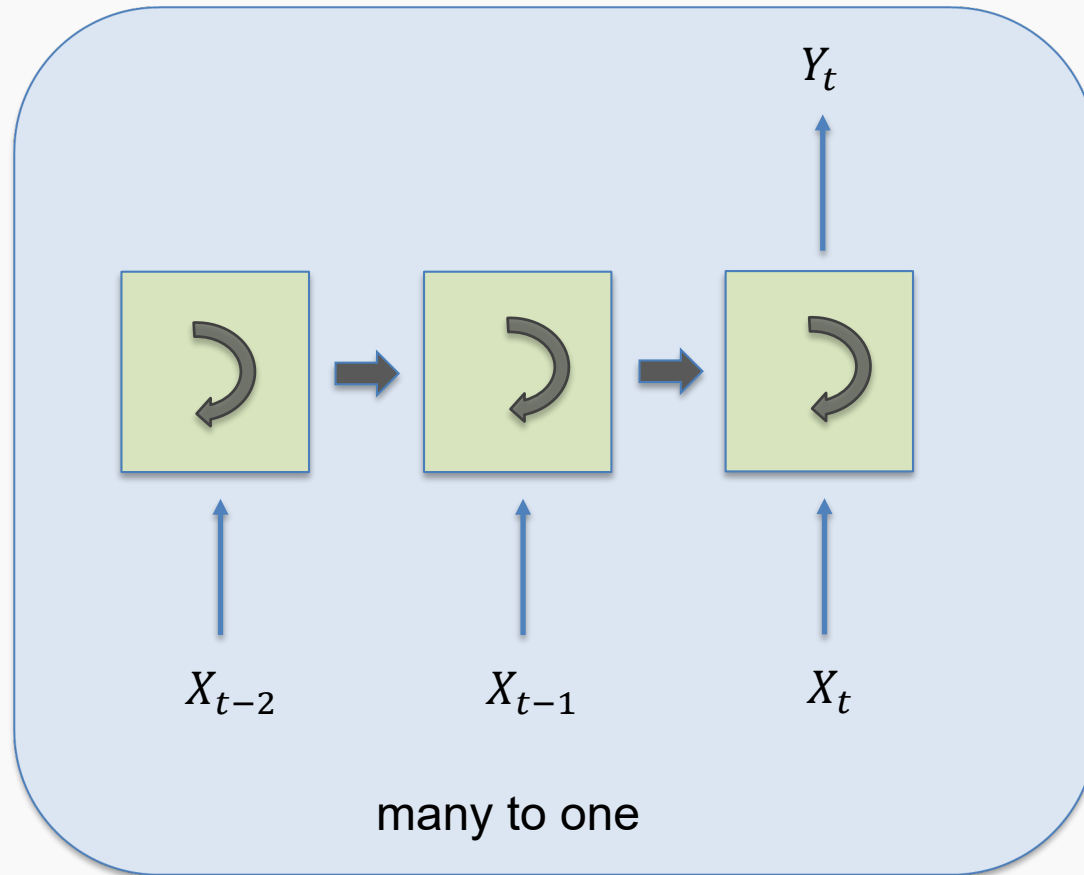


# RNN Structures



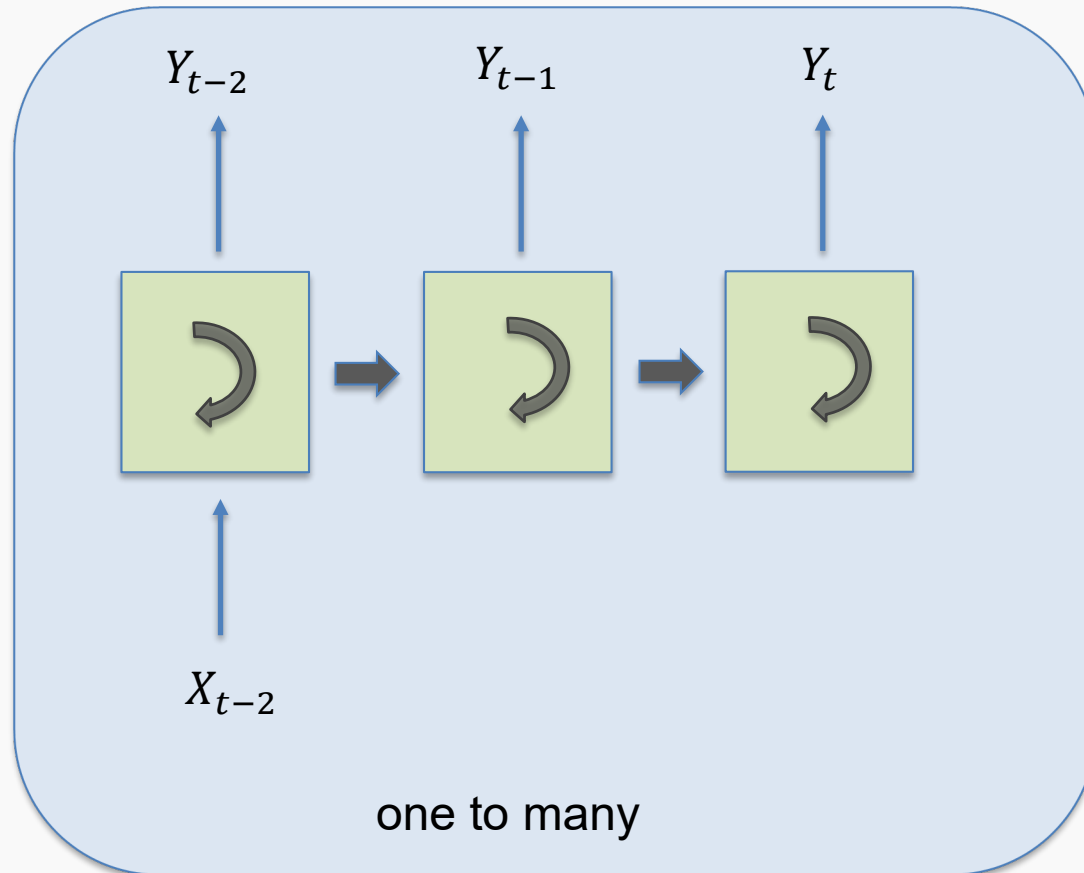
- The **one to one** structure is useless.
- It takes a single input and it produces a single output.
- Not useful because the RNN cell is making little use of its unique ability to remember things about its input sequence

# RNN Structures (cont)



The **many to one** structure reads in a sequence and gives us back a single value. Example: Sentiment analysis, where the network is given a piece of text and then reports on some quality inherent in the writing. A common example is to look at a movie review and determine if it was positive or negative.

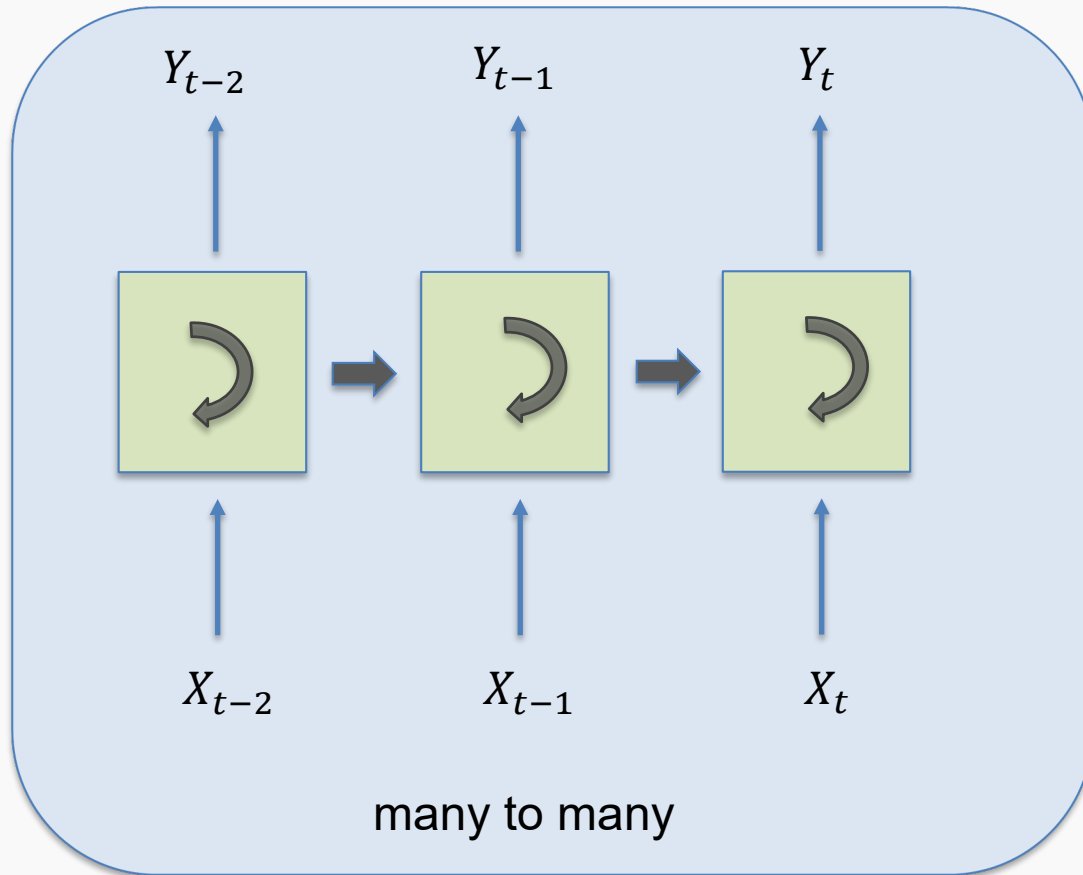
# RNN Structures (cont)



The **one to many** takes in a single piece of data and produces a sequence.

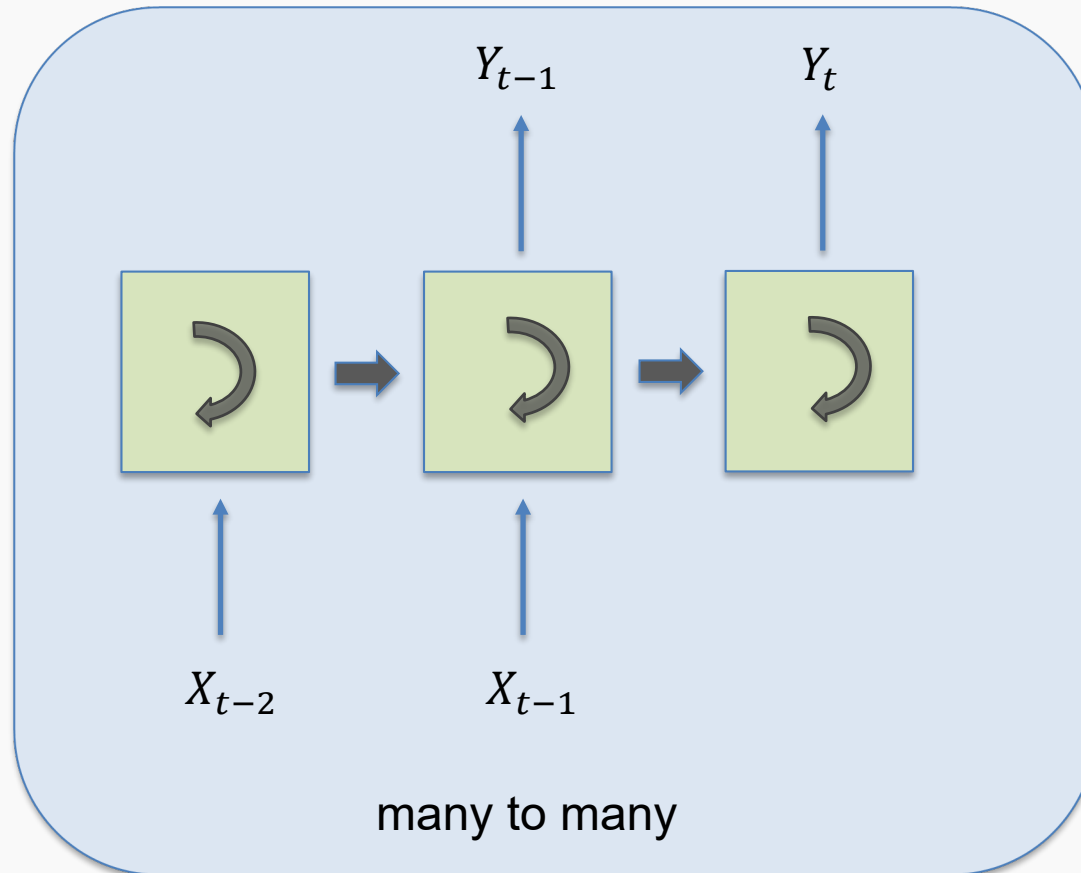
For example we give it the starting note for a song, and the network produces the rest of the melody for us.

# RNN Structures (cont)



The **many to many** structures are in some ways the most interesting. used for machine translation.  
Example: Predict if it will rain given some inputs.

# RNN Structures (cont)



This form of **many to many** can be used for machine translation.

For example, the English sentence:  
**“The black dog jumped over the cat”**  
In Italian as:

“Il cane nero saltò sopra il gatto”  
In the Italia, the adjective “nero” (black) follows the noun “cane” (dog), so we need to have some kind of buffer so we can produce the words in their proper English.

# Bidirectional

LSTM and RNN are designed to analyze sequence of values.

For example: *Patrick said he needs a vacation.*

*he* here means *Patrick* and we know this because *Patrick* was before the word *he*.

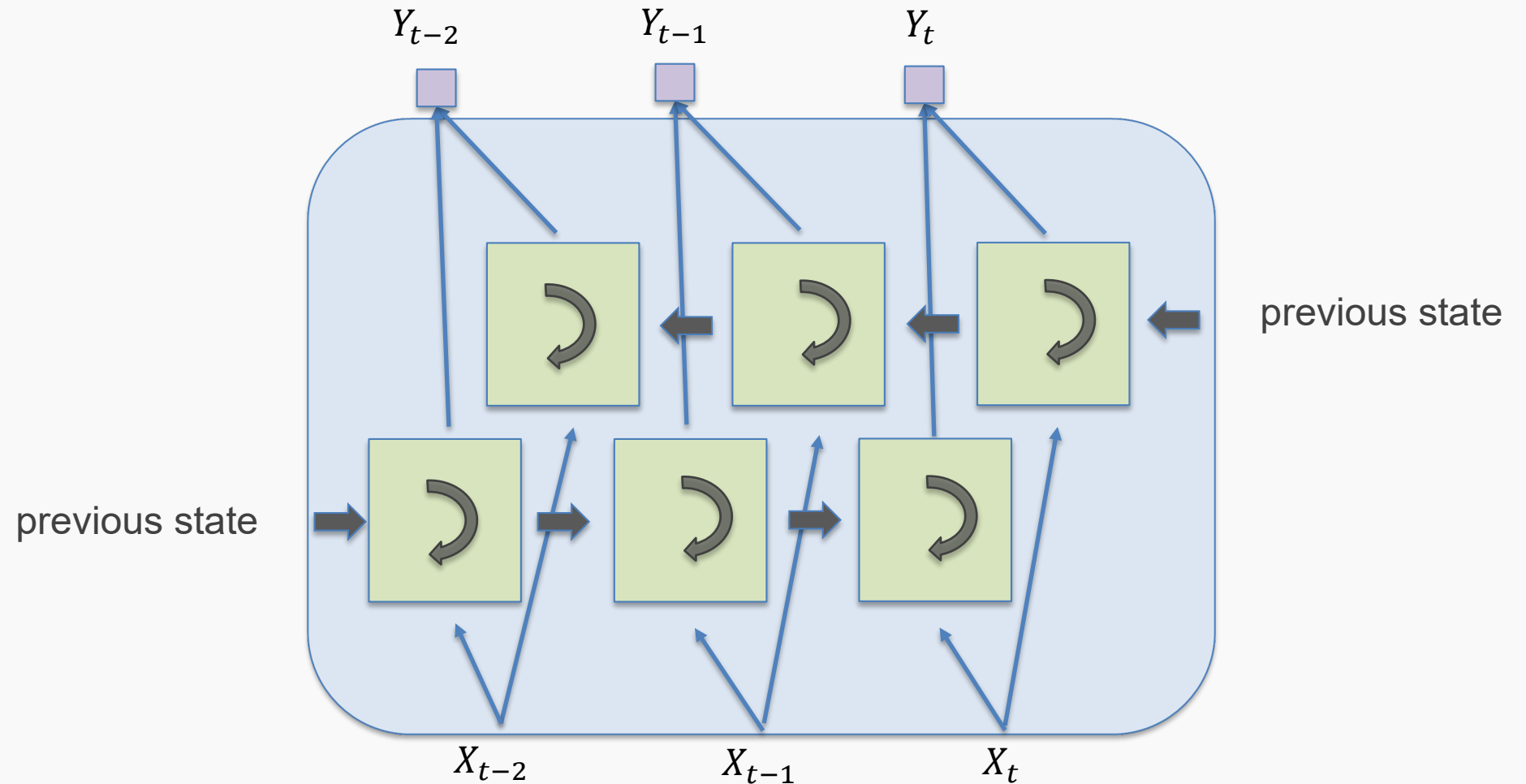
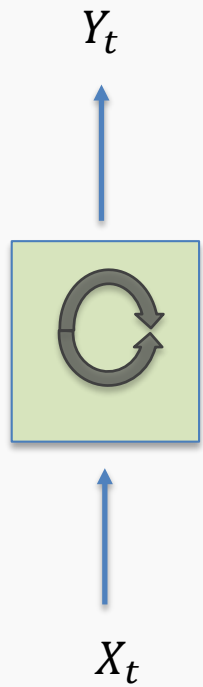
However consider the following sentence:

*He needs to work more, Pavlos said about Patrick.*

Bidirectional RNN or BRNN or bidirectional LSTM or BLSTM when using LSTM units.

# Bidirectional (cond)

symbol for a BRNN



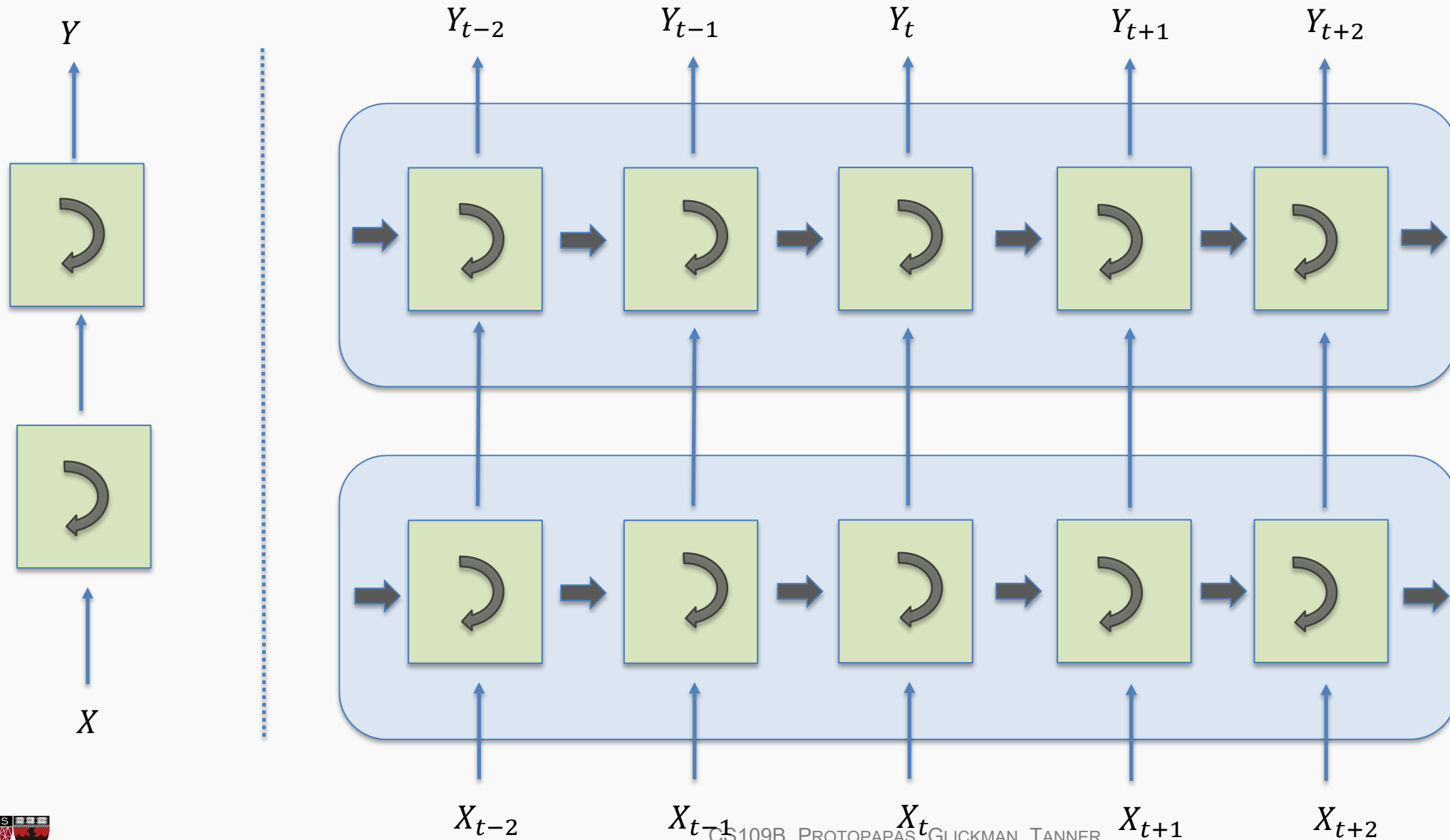
# Deep RNN

LSTM units can be arranged in layers, so that each the output of each unit is the input to the other units. This is called **a deep RNN**, where the adjective “deep” refers to these multiple layers.

- Each layer feeds the LSTM on the next layer
- First time step of a feature is fed to the first LSTM, which processes that data and produces an output (and a new state for itself).
- That output is fed to the next LSTM, which does the same thing, and the next, and so on.
- Then the second time step arrives at the first LSTM, and the process repeats.

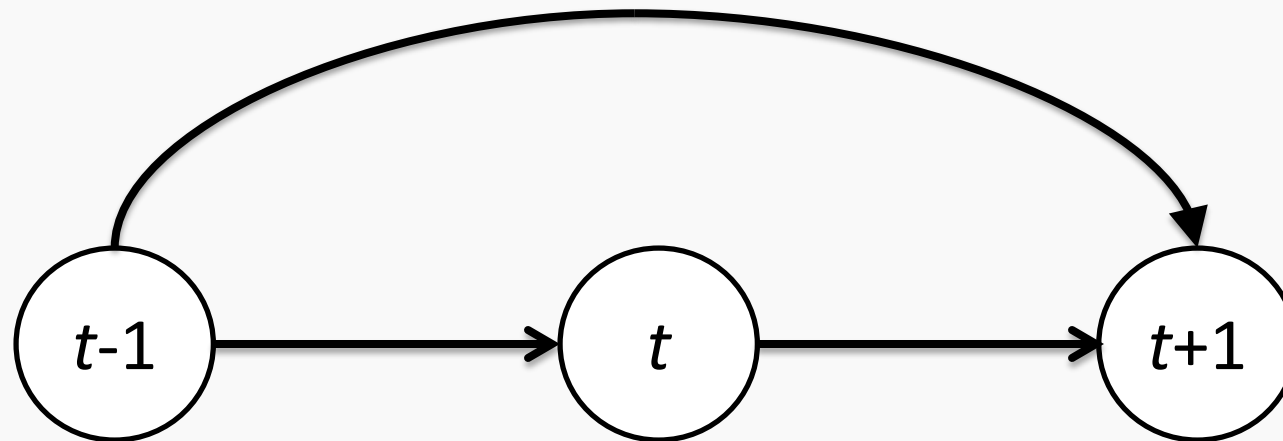


# Deep RNN



# Skip Connections

Add additional **connections between units  $d$  time steps apart**  
Creating paths through time where gradients neither vanish or explode



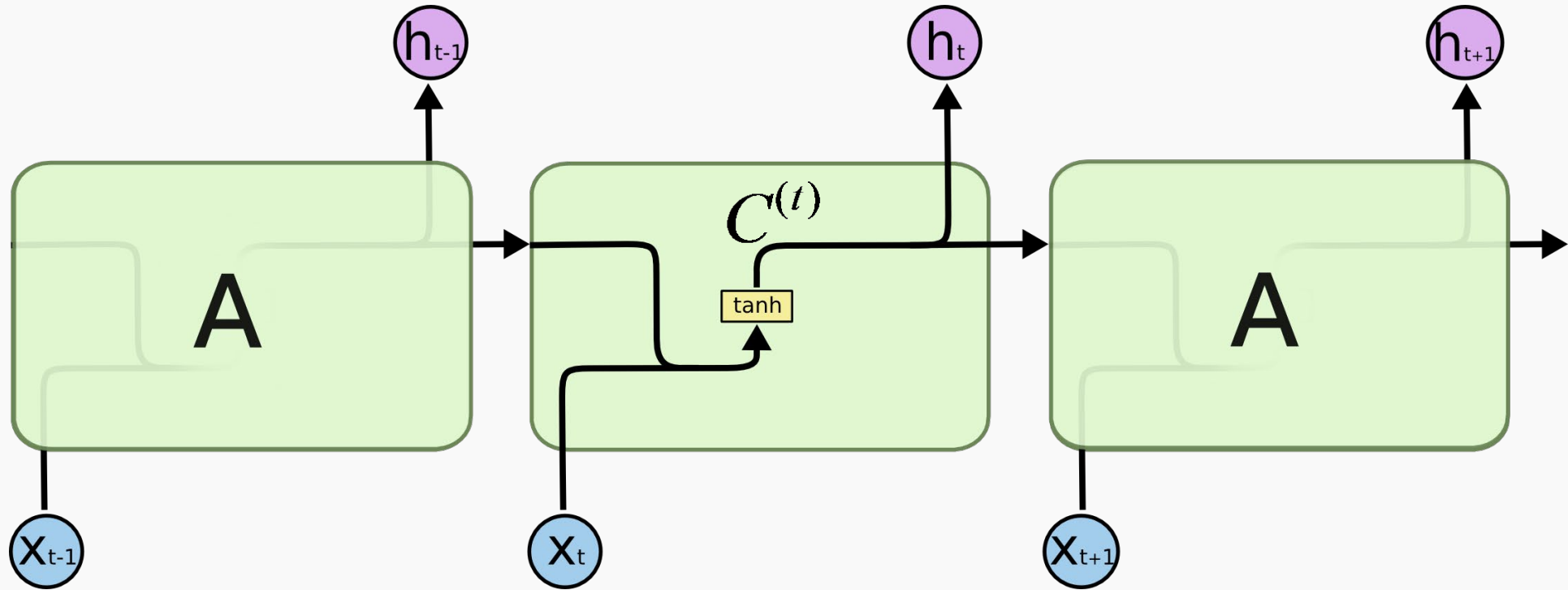
# Leaky Units

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Linear self-connections

Maintain **cell state**: running average of past hidden activations

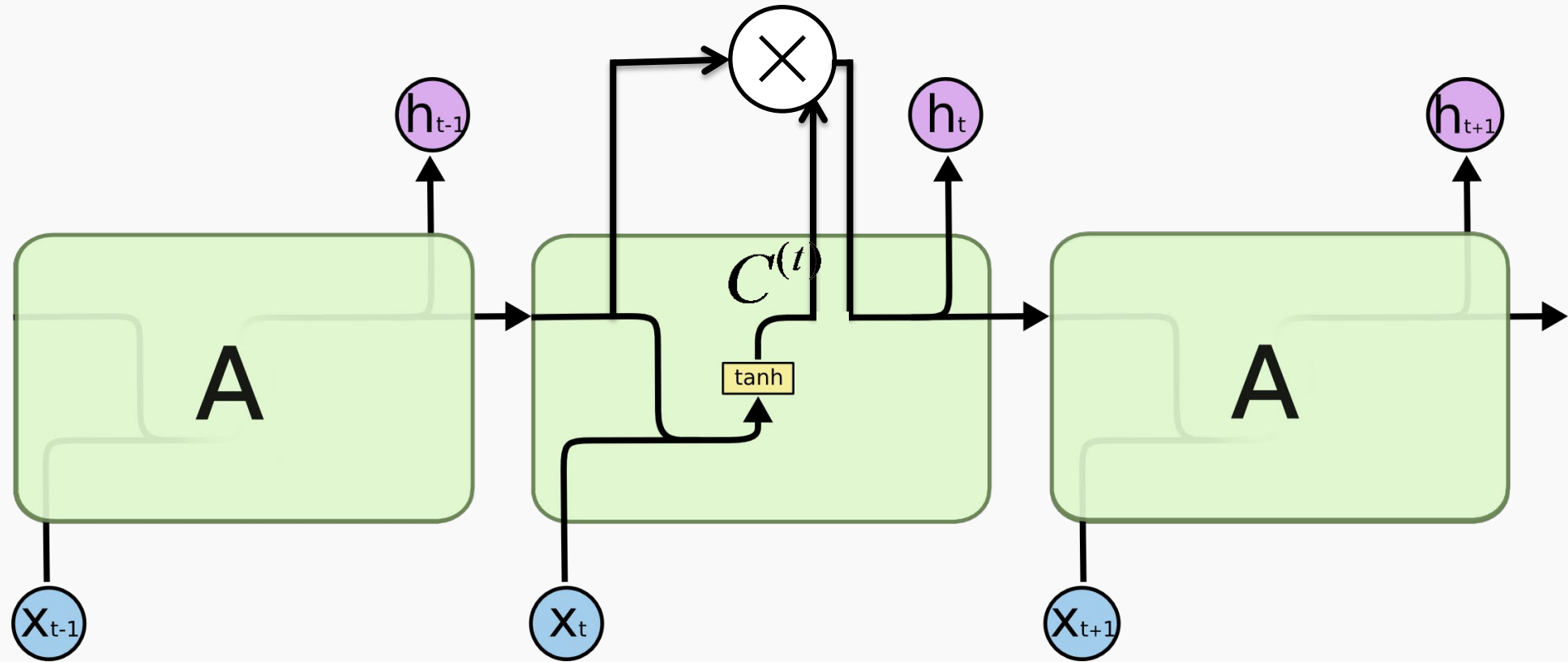
# Standard RNN



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

$$h^{(t)} = C^{(t)}$$

# Leaky Unit



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

$$h^{(t)} = \alpha h^{(t-1)} + (1-\alpha)C^{(t)}$$