



# Statistical Natural Language Processing [COMP0087]

*Recurrent Neural Networks*

Vasileios Lampos

Computer Science, UCL



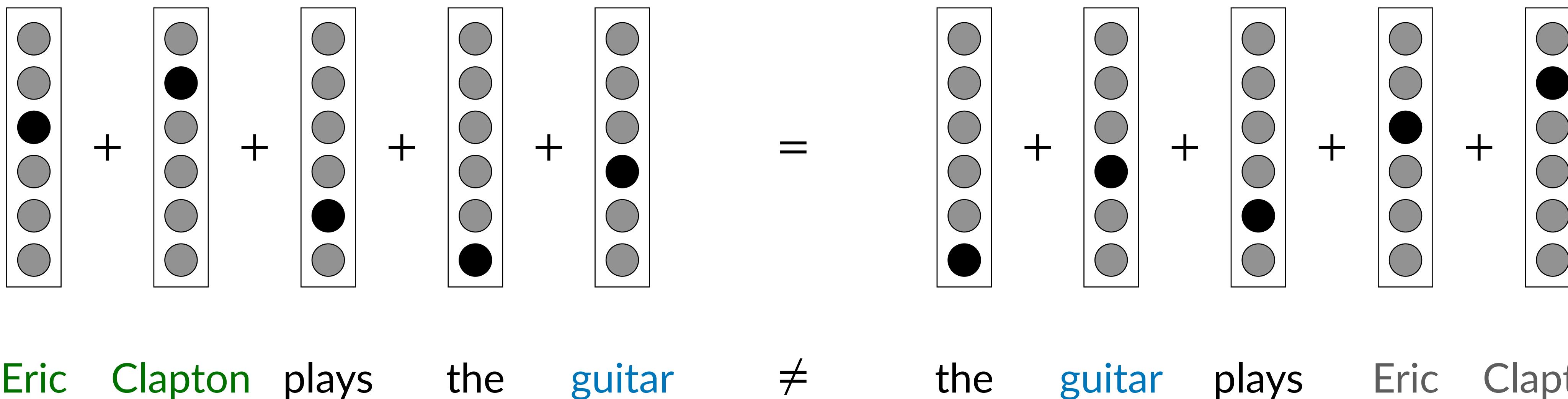
[lampos.net](http://lampos.net)

# About this lecture

- ▶ In this lecture:
  - brief overview on language models (*more on this during the lecture by Dr. Oana-Maria Camburu*)
  - Recurrent Neural Networks
  - The Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) architecture
  - Applications and extensions
  - slides: [lampos.net/teaching](http://lampos.net/teaching)
- ▶ Reading / Lecture based on: Chapters 3 (less so), 7 (less so), and 9 (more so) of “Speech and Language Processing” (SLP) by Jurafsky and Martin (2023) –  
[web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/slp3/](http://web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/slp3/)
- ▶ Additional material
  - \* Difficulties in training RNNs – [proceedings.mlr.press/v28/pascanu13.pdf](http://proceedings.mlr.press/v28/pascanu13.pdf)
  - \* LSTMs – [colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/](http://colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/)

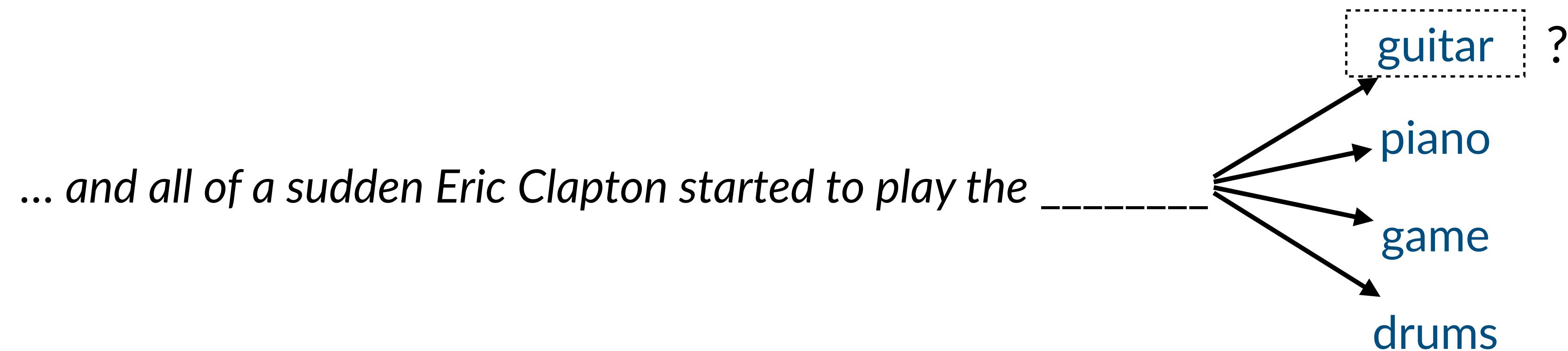
# Text order is important

Language is a sequence of “events” over time



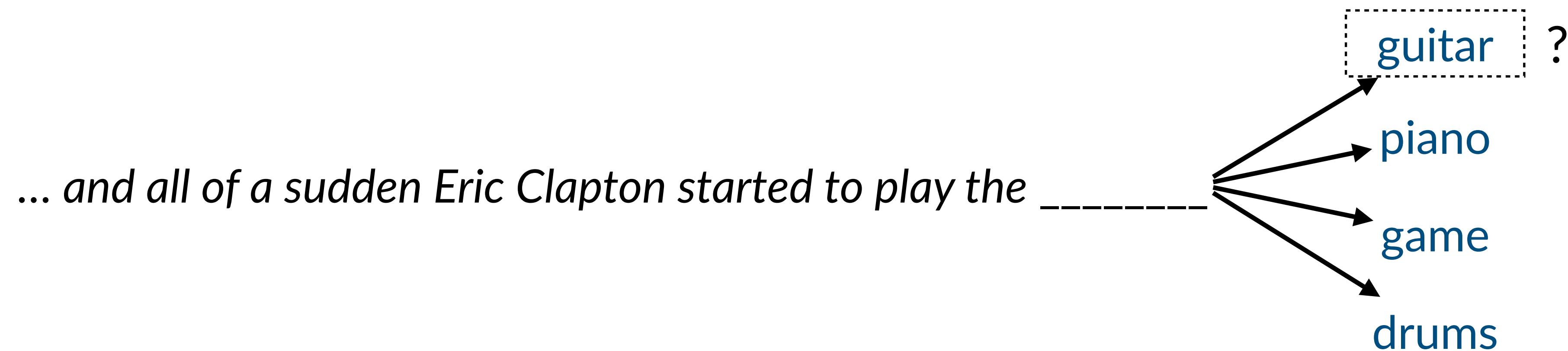
# Language model

A language model predicts the next word of a word sequence:



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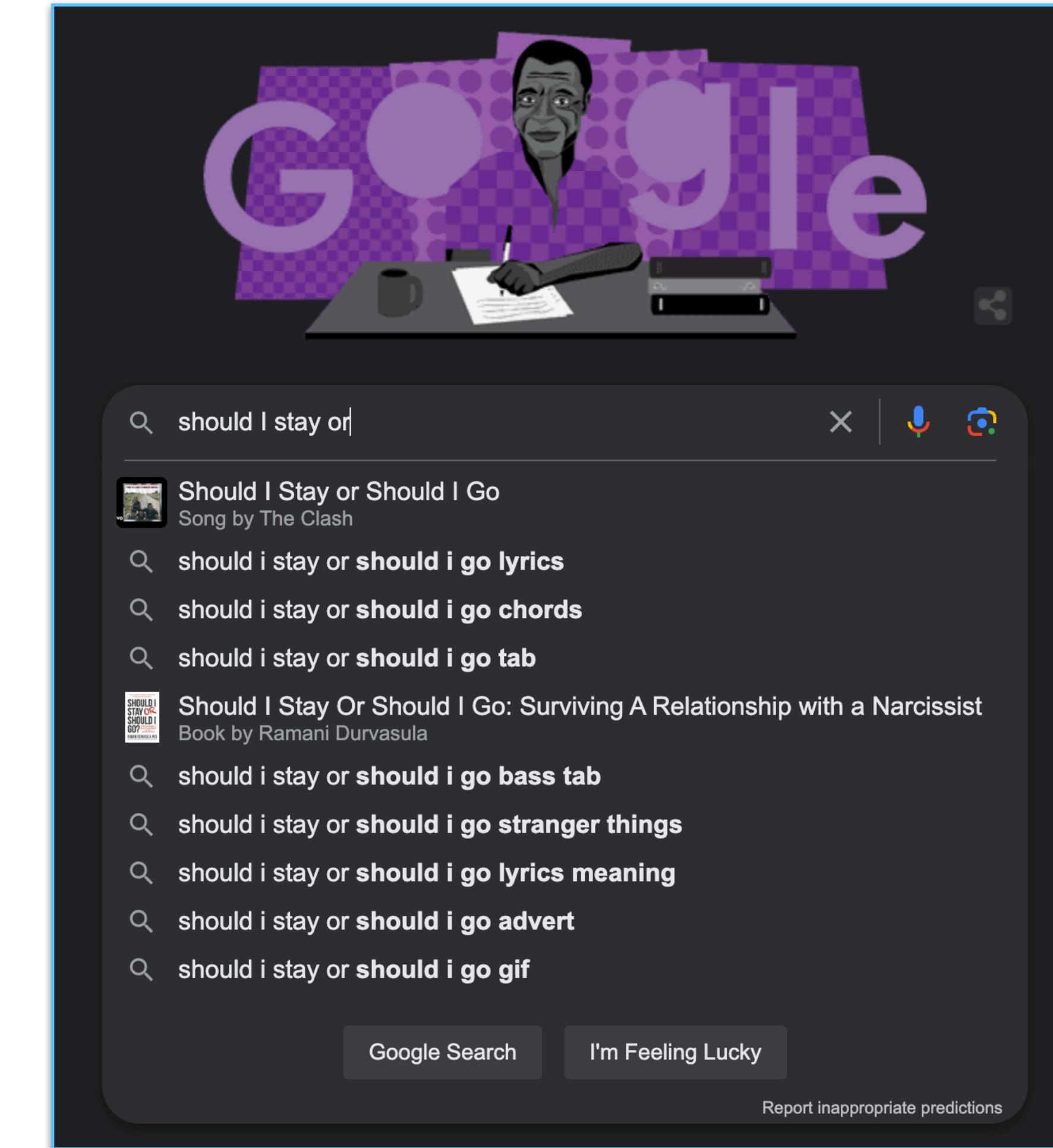
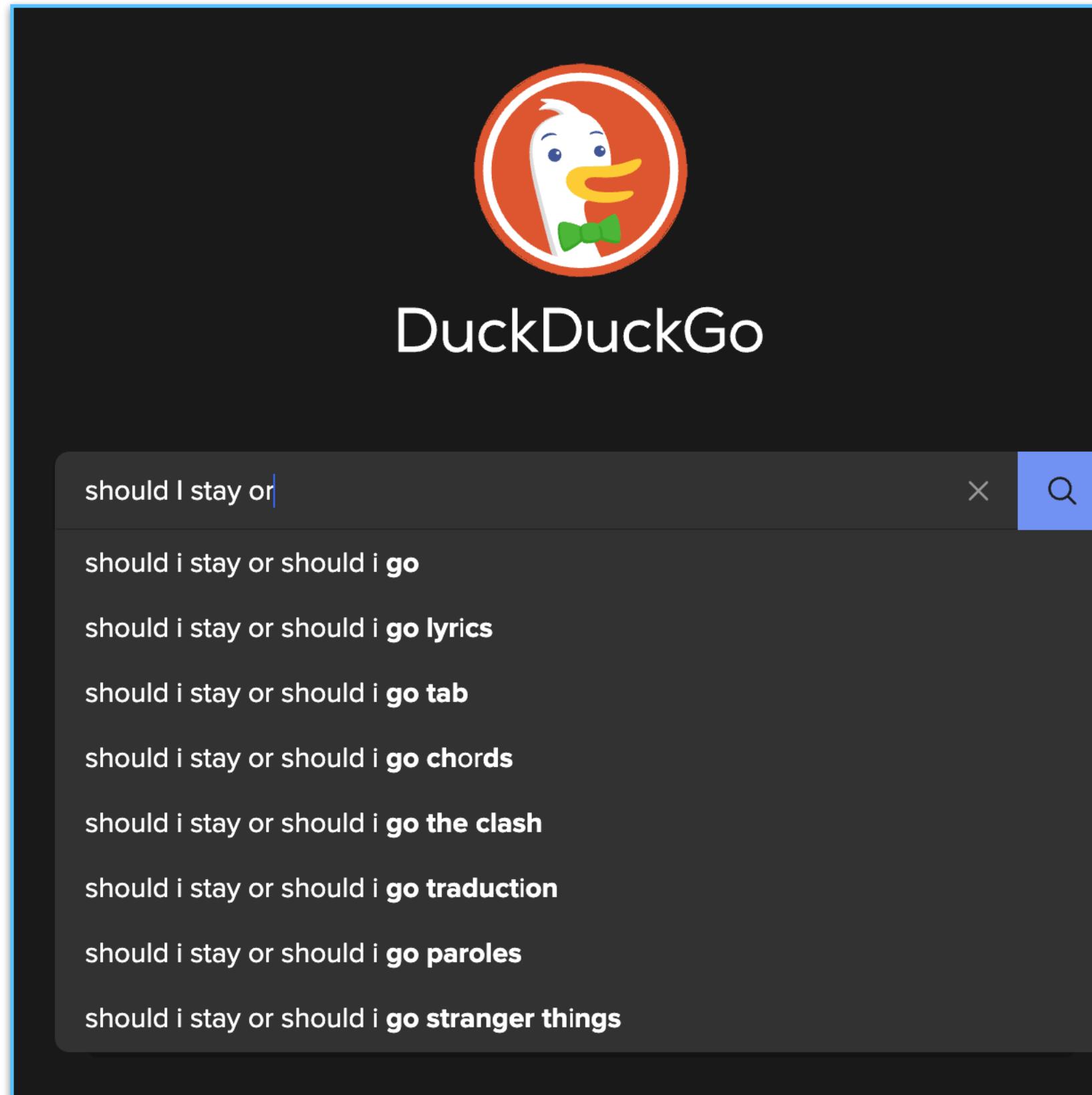
## Language model

Given a sequence of words  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_t$

compute the probability of the next word  $p(x_{t+1} | x_t, x_{t-1}, \dots, x_1)$

where  $x_i \in \mathcal{V}$  (a word from our vocabulary)

# We use language models all the time



# Language model evaluation using perplexity (PPL)

$$\text{PPL} = \prod_{t=1}^N \left( \frac{1}{p_\ell(x_{t+1} | x_t, \dots, x_1)} \right)^{\frac{1}{N}}$$

lower is better

inverse probability of the corpus, according to the language model  $\ell$

number of tokens in our corpus

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**Intuition:** if  $\text{PPL} = \delta$ , then our uncertainty about the next word is  $\sim$  equivalent to the uncertainty of tossing a  $\delta$ -sided dice and getting a  $\delta$

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$$\text{PPL} = \prod_{t=1}^N \left( \frac{1}{\hat{y}_{x_{t+1}}^{[t]}} \right)^{\frac{1}{N}} = \dots = \exp(L(\theta))$$

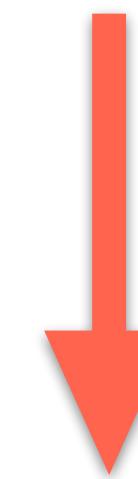
the estimated prob. at word  $t$  that the next word is  $x_{t+1}$  based on the language model

see 3.8 in SLP

cross entropy loss of a language model parametrised by  $\theta$

# Language model evaluation using perplexity (PPL)

Model	PPL
Interpolated Kneser-Ney 5-gram (2013)	67.6
RNN-1024 + MaxEnt 9-gram (2013)	51.3
LSTM-2048 (2016)	43.7
2-layer LSTM-8192 (2016)	30
Adaptive input Transformer (2019)	23.02
GPT-2 (2019)	16.45



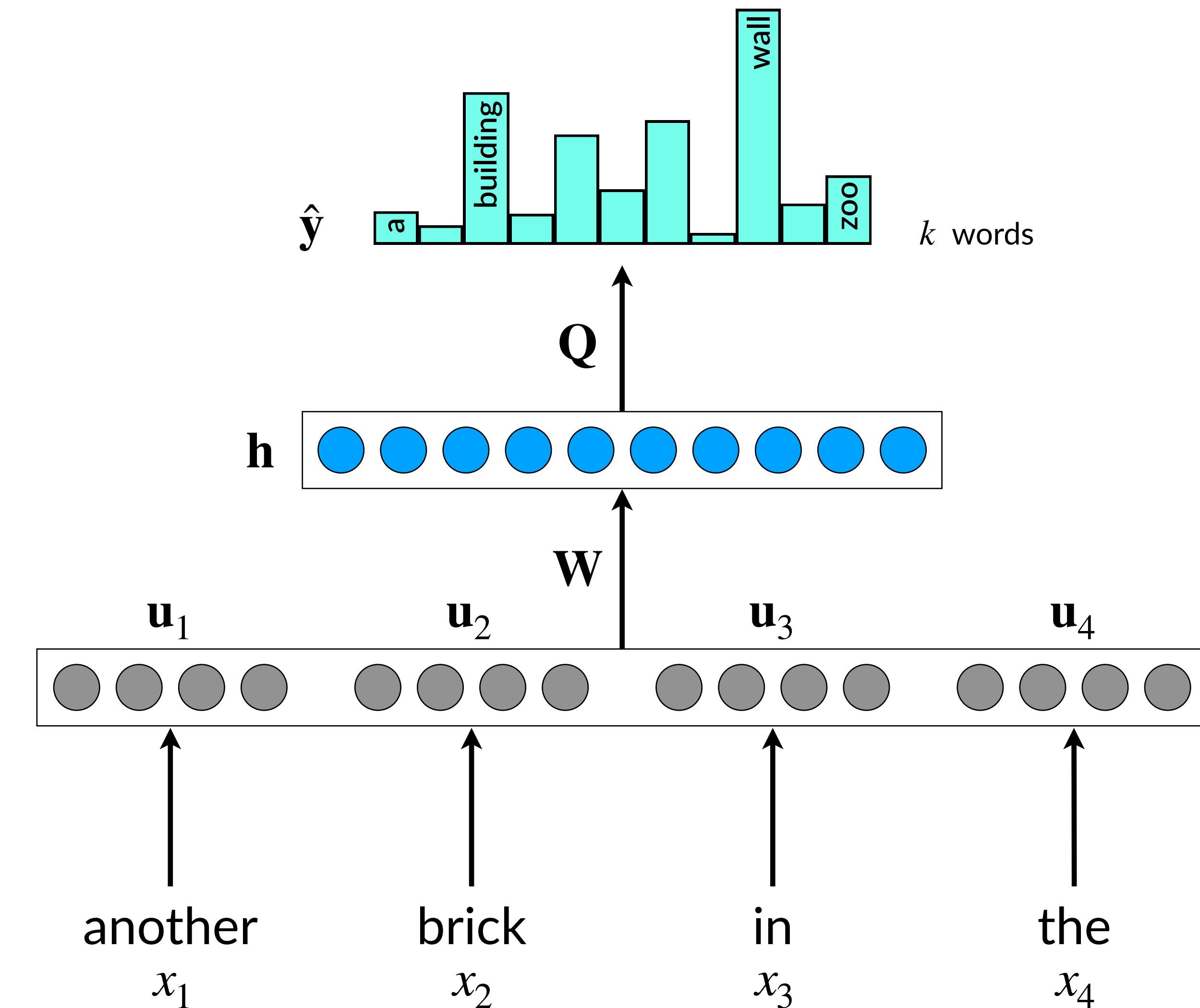
*But of course, there is a limit on how low perplexity can realistically be!*

Source 1: [engineering.fb.com/2016/10/25/ml-applications/building-an-efficient-neural-language-model-over-a-billion-words/](https://engineering.fb.com/2016/10/25/ml-applications/building-an-efficient-neural-language-model-over-a-billion-words/)

Source 2: [openreview.net/pdf?id=ByxZX20qFQ](https://openreview.net/pdf?id=ByxZX20qFQ)

Source 3: [huggingface.co/docs/transformers/perplexity](https://huggingface.co/docs/transformers/perplexity)

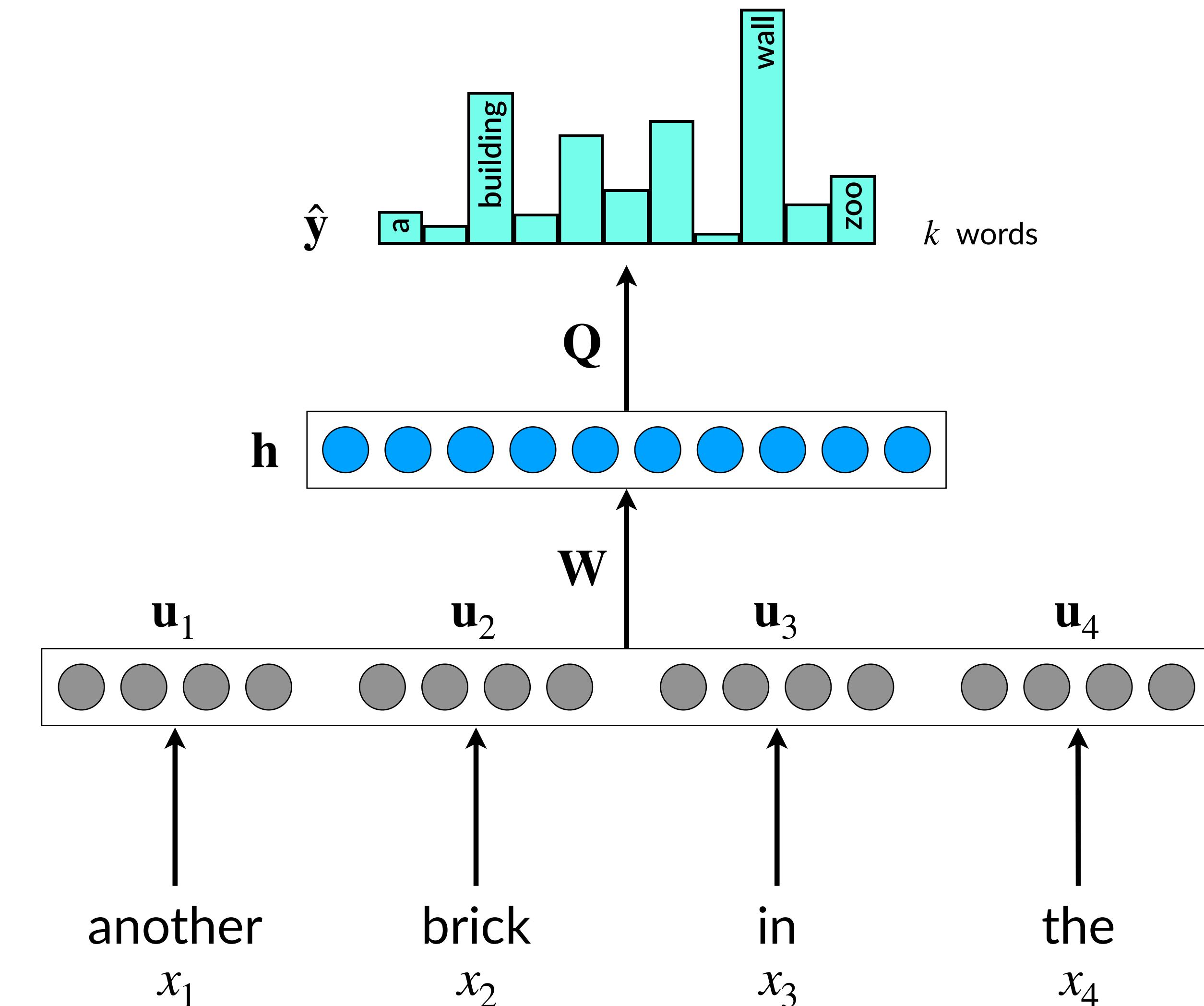
# A foundational neural language model



# A foundational neural language model

$$\mathbf{u} = [\mathbf{u}_1; \mathbf{u}_2; \mathbf{u}_3; \mathbf{u}_4] \in \mathbb{R}^{4d}$$

concatenate  
word representations



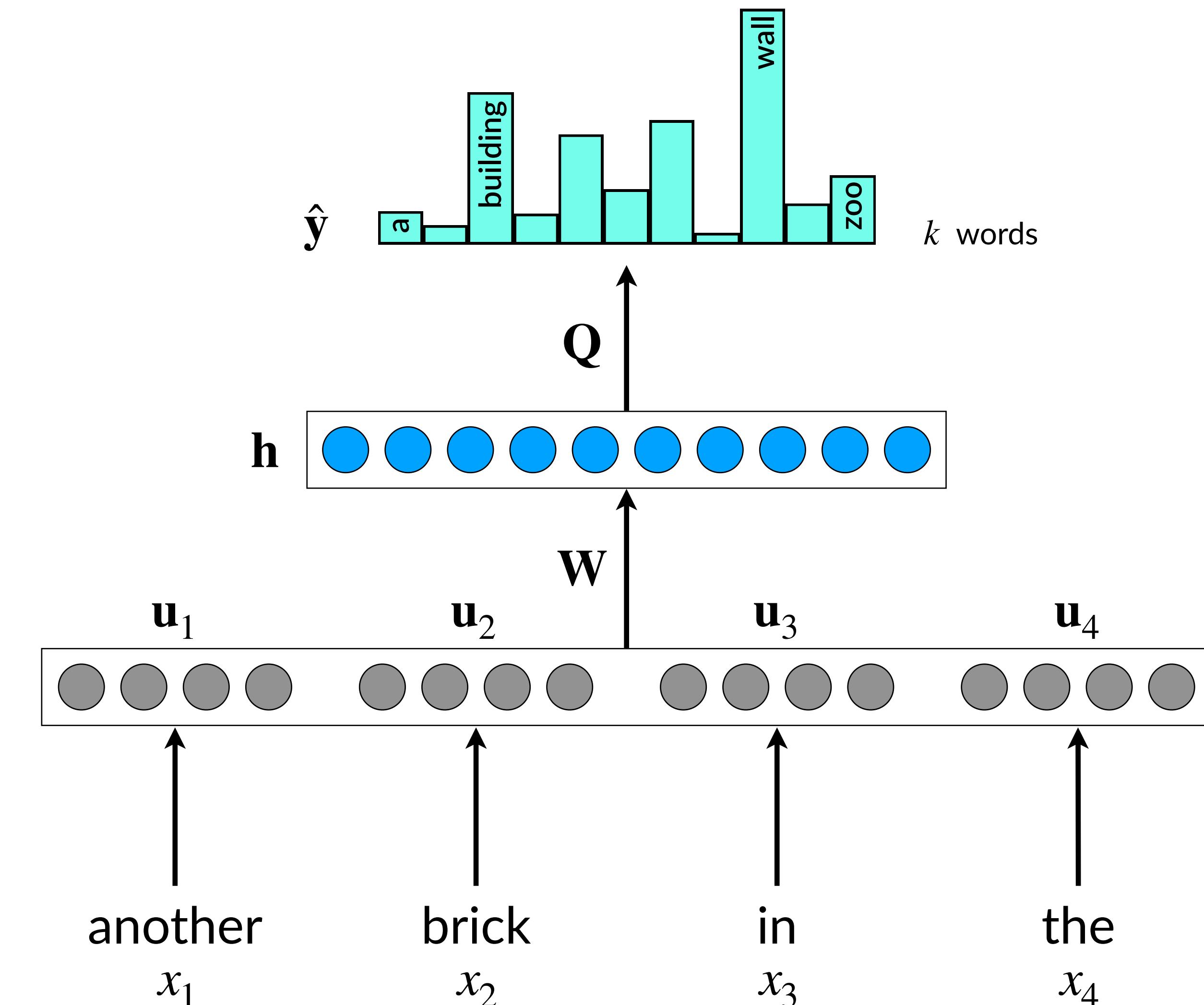
# A foundational neural language model

$$\mathbf{h} = \sigma(\mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{b}_W) \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

$$\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 4d}$$

$$\mathbf{u} = [\mathbf{u}_1; \mathbf{u}_2; \mathbf{u}_3; \mathbf{u}_4] \in \mathbb{R}^{4d}$$

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# A foundational neural language model

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{b}_Q) \in [0,1]^k$$

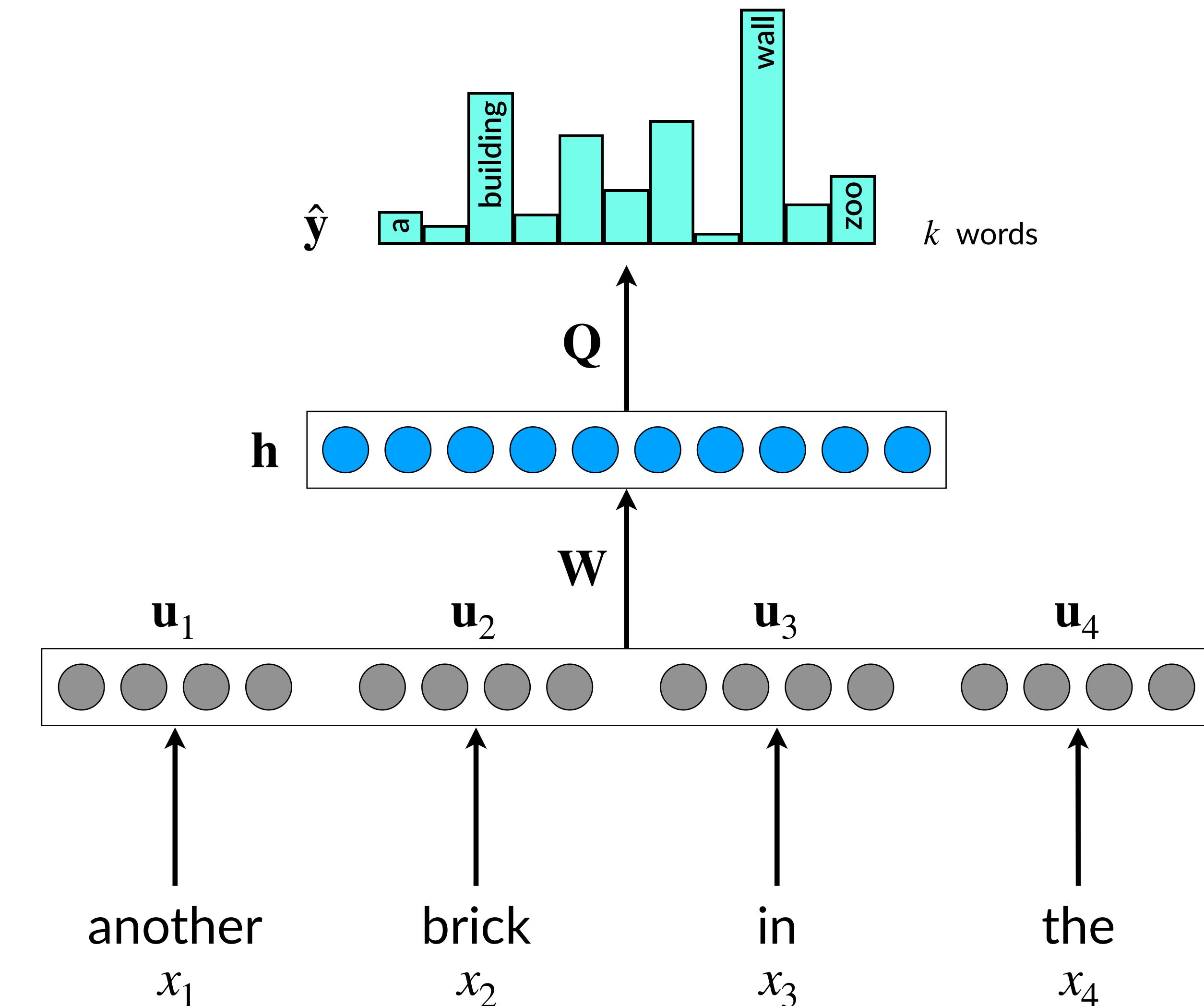
$$\mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times m}$$

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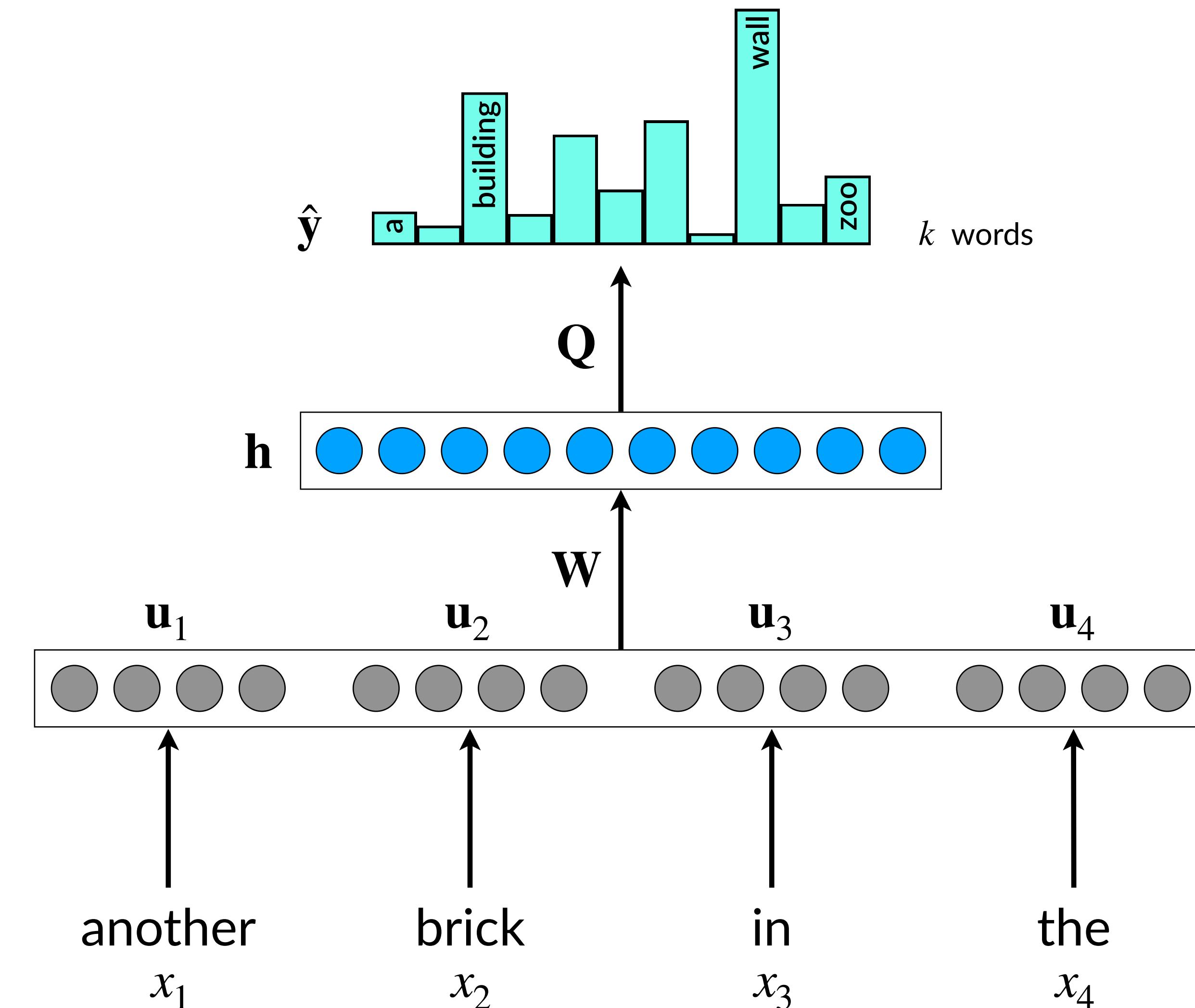


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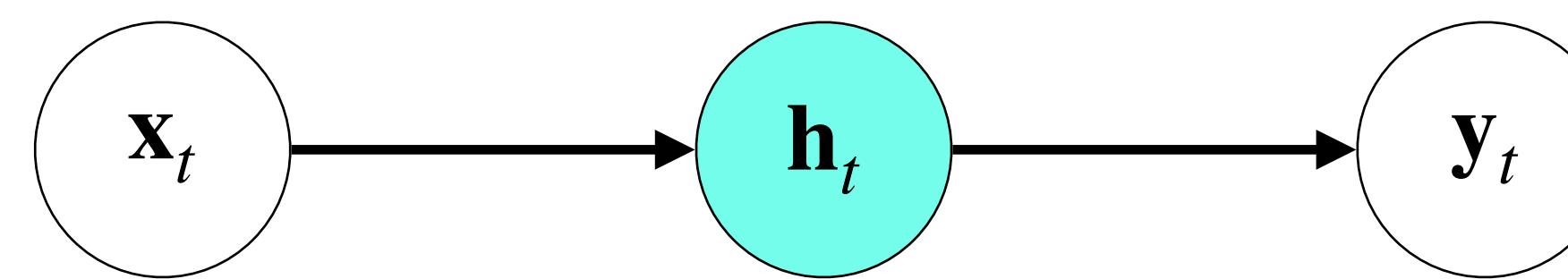
$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{y}} &= \text{softmax}(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{b}_Q) \in [0,1]^k \\ \mathbf{Q} &\in \mathbb{R}^{k \times m} \\ \mathbf{h} &= \sigma(\mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{b}_W) \in \mathbb{R}^m \\ \mathbf{W} &\in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 4d} \\ \mathbf{u} &= [\mathbf{u}_1; \mathbf{u}_2; \mathbf{u}_3; \mathbf{u}_4] \in \mathbb{R}^{4d}\end{aligned}$$

## Issues!

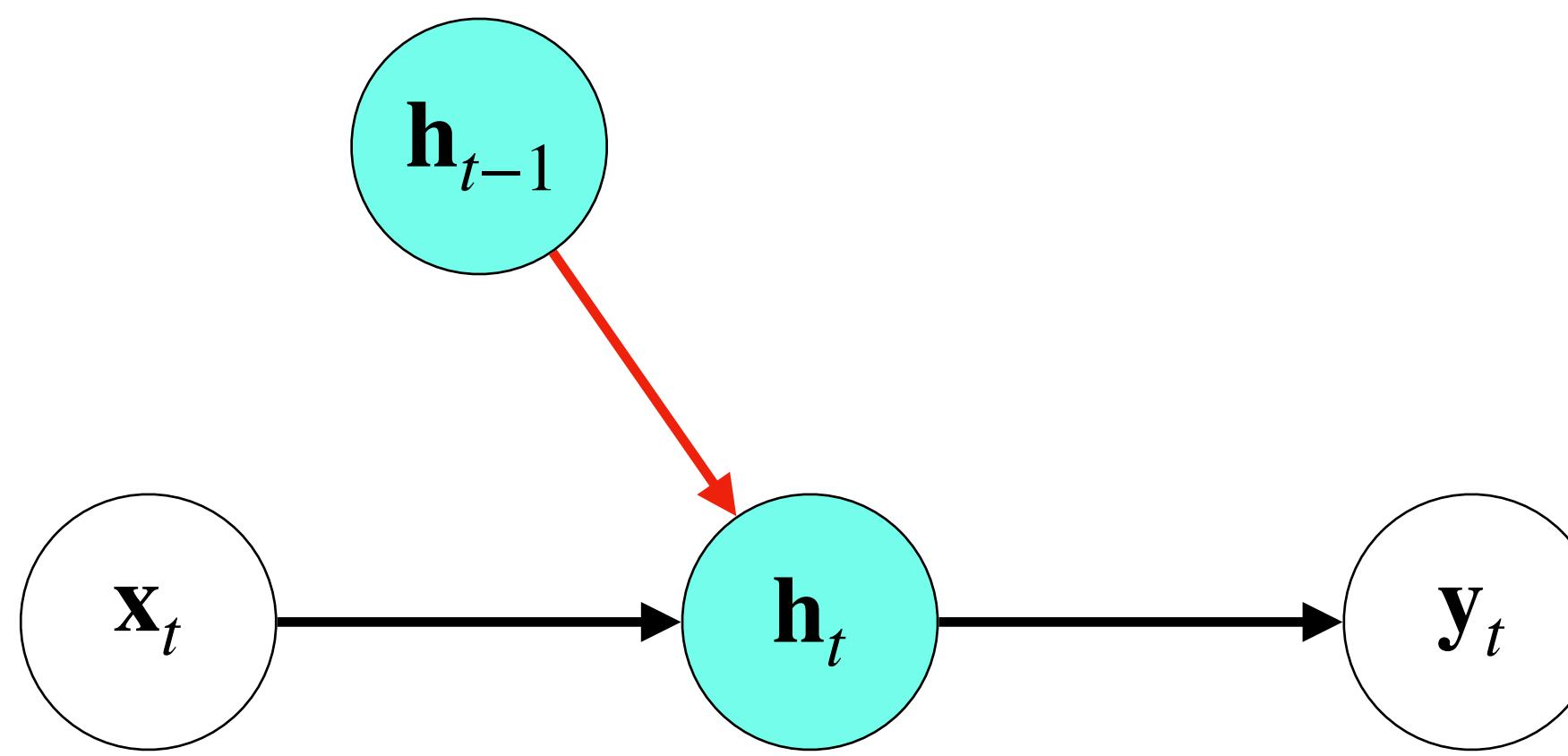
- context / window size is fixed
- $\mathbf{W}$  grows if we increase the window
- word position is modelled explicitly and independently, i.e. there is no weight sharing between words



# Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) – Intuition



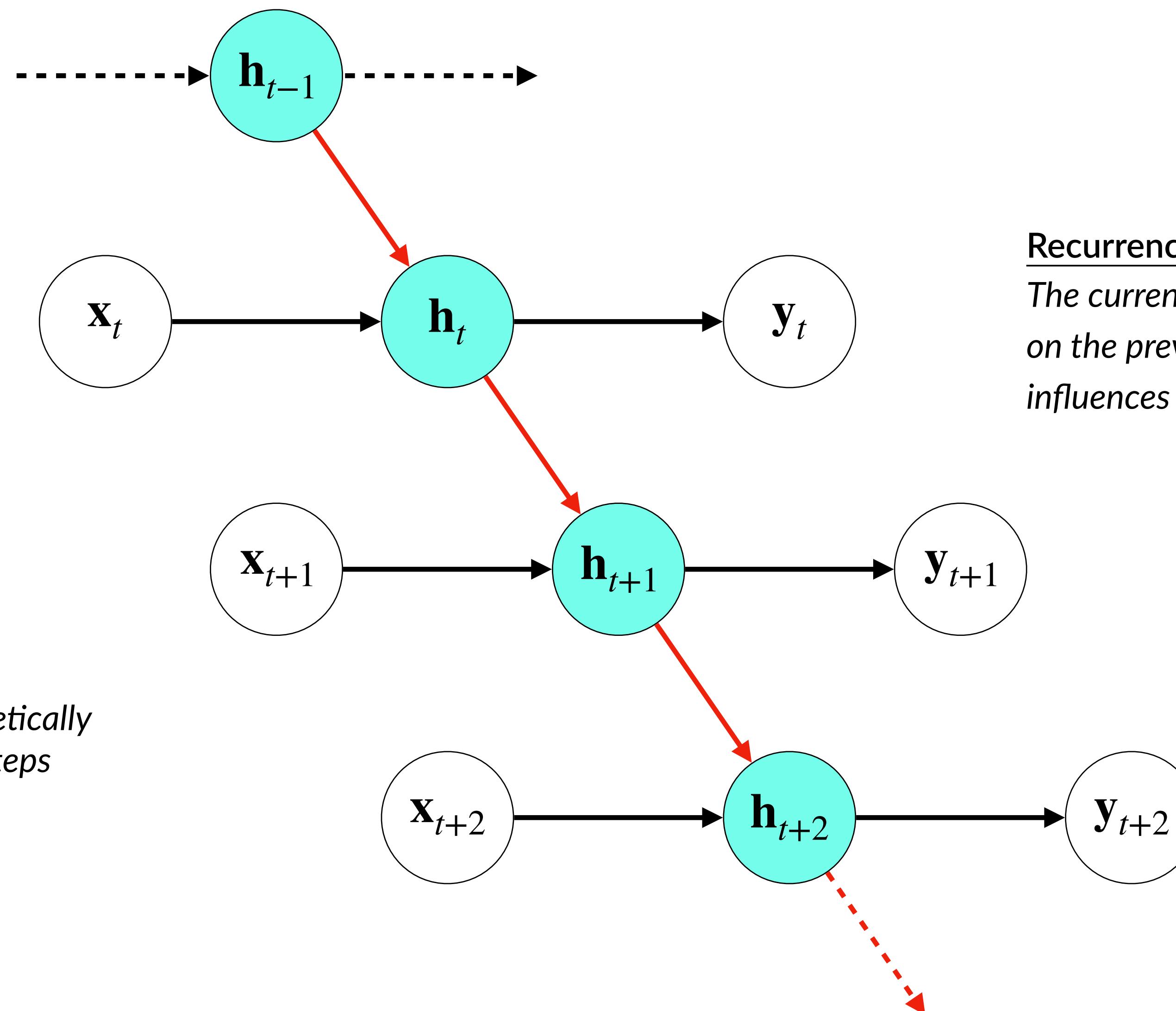
# Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) – Intuition



## Recurrency

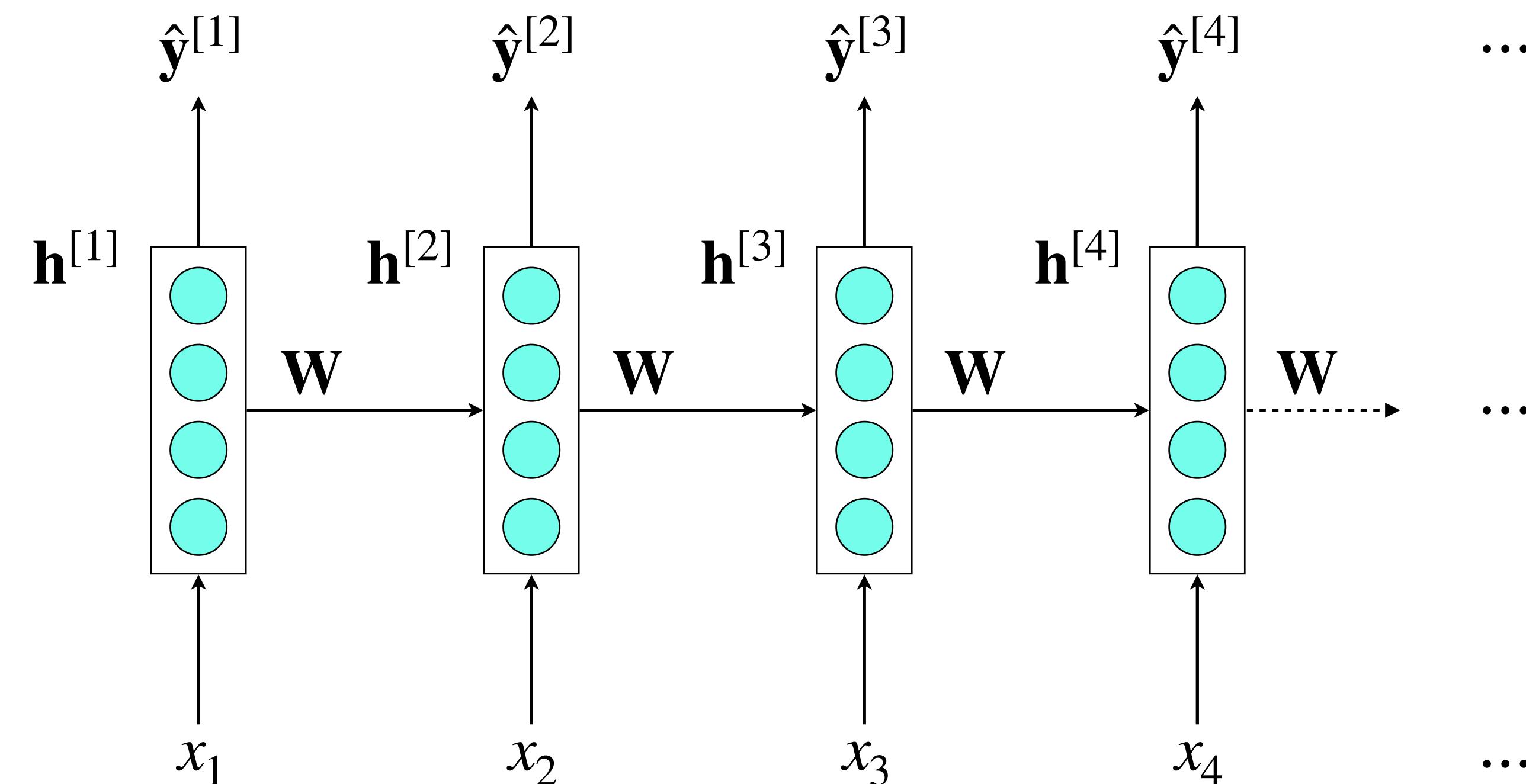
The current hidden state  $\mathbf{h}_t$  depends on the previous hidden state  $\mathbf{h}_{t-1}$  and influences the next hidden state  $\mathbf{h}_{t+1}$

# Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) – Intuition

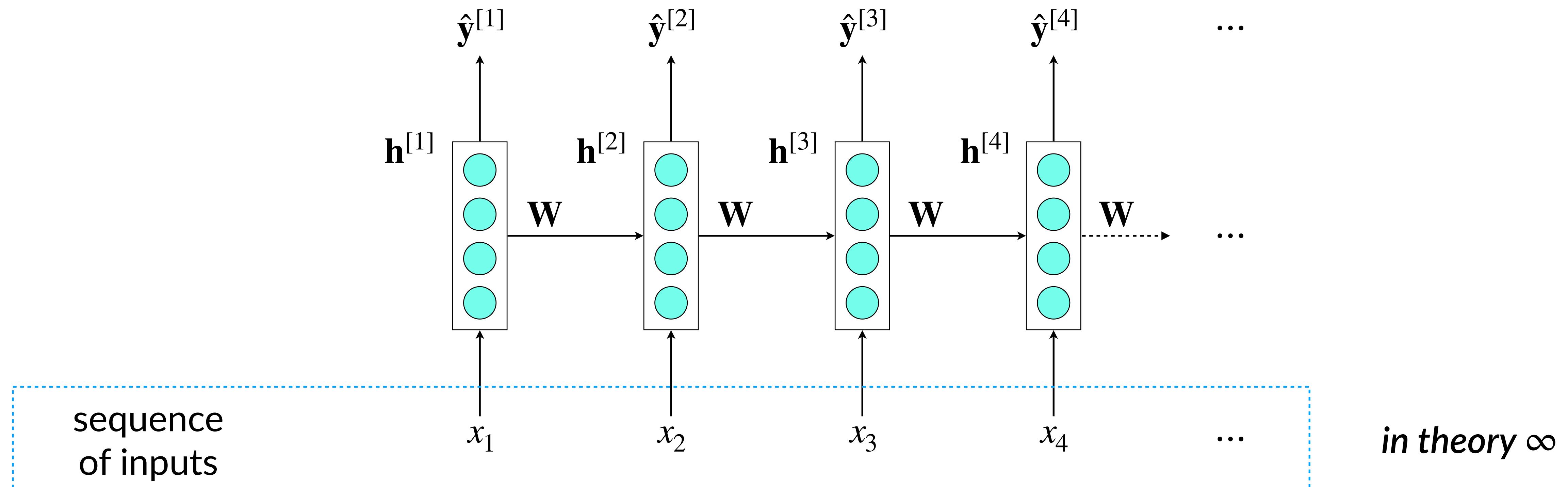


The RNN unrolls to a theoretically unlimited number of time steps

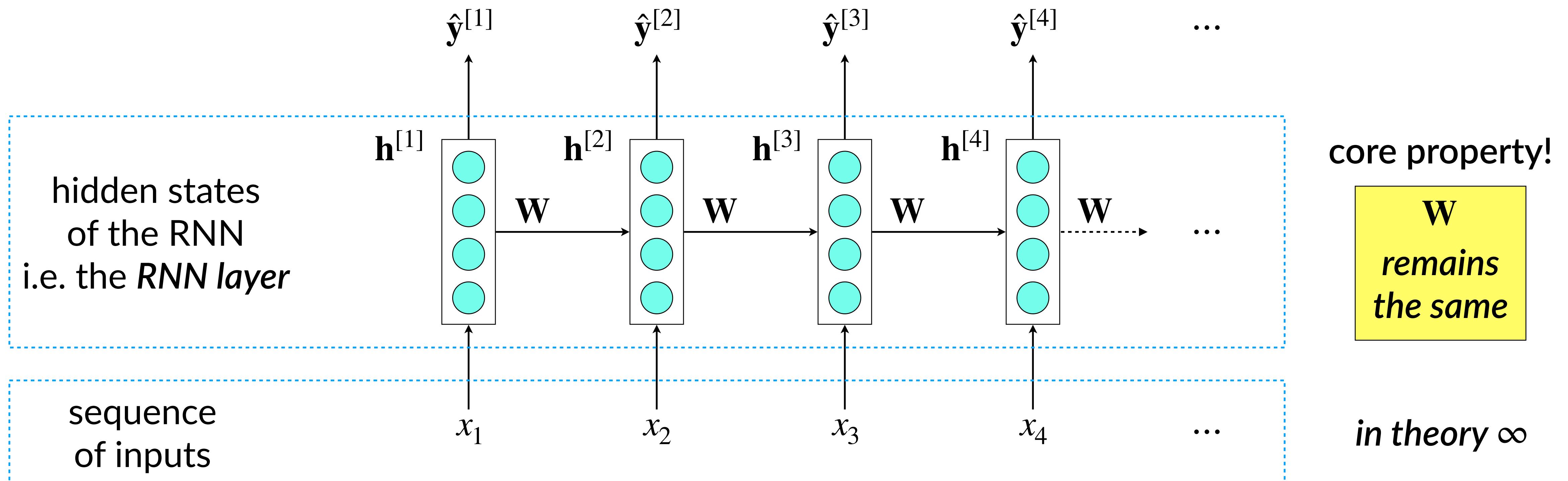
# Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs)



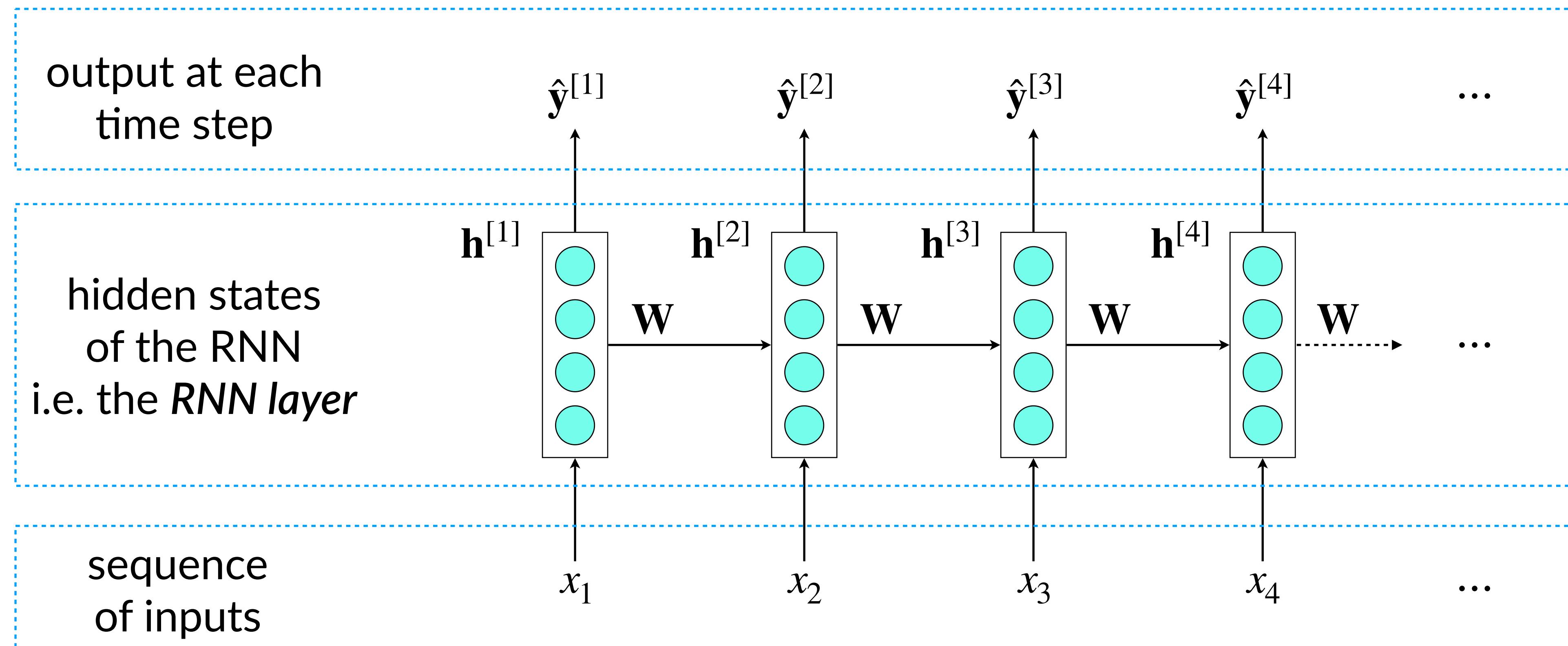
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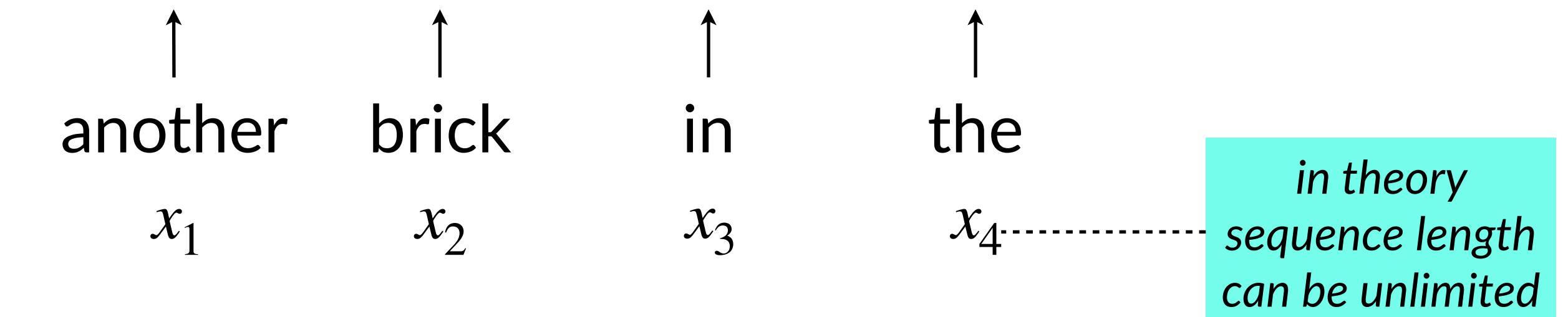


# Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs)

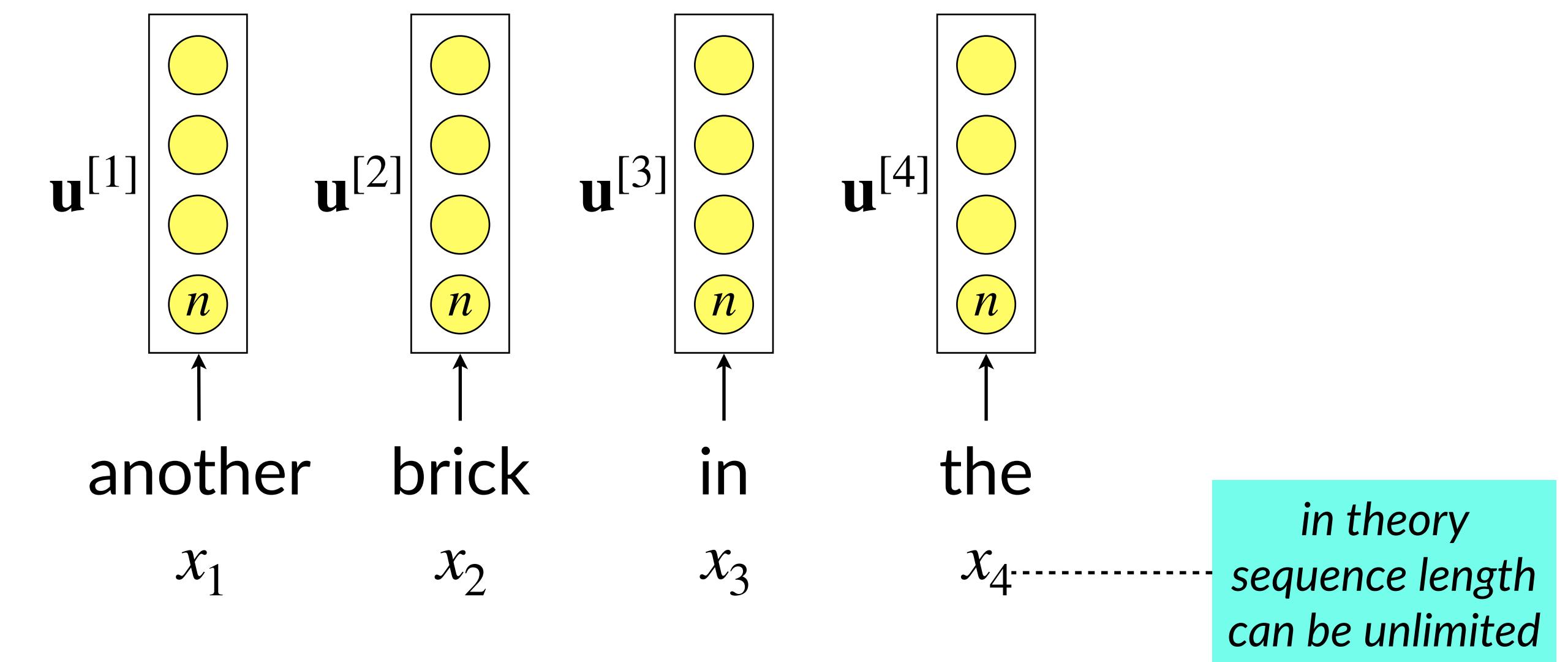


# An RNN-based language model

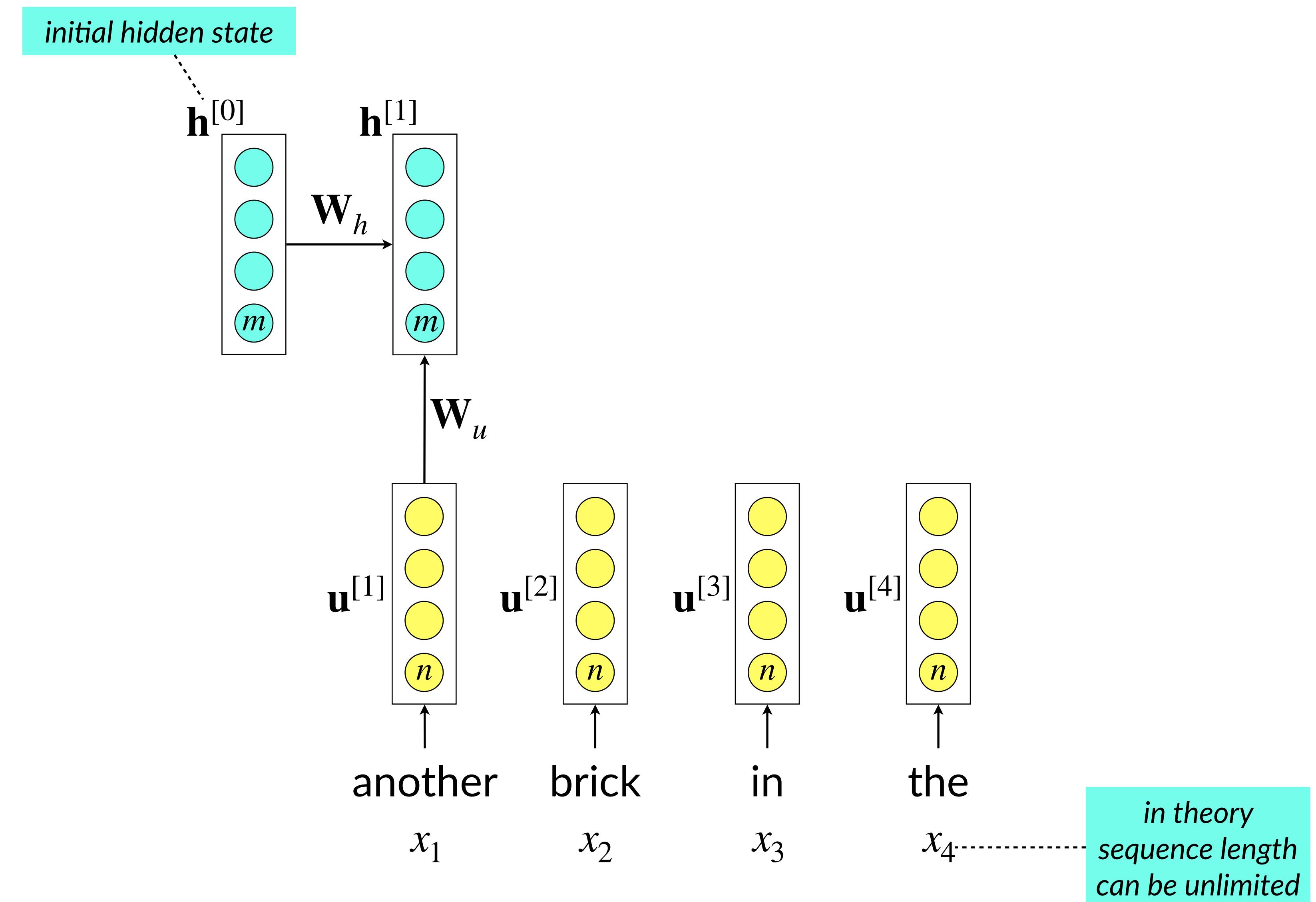
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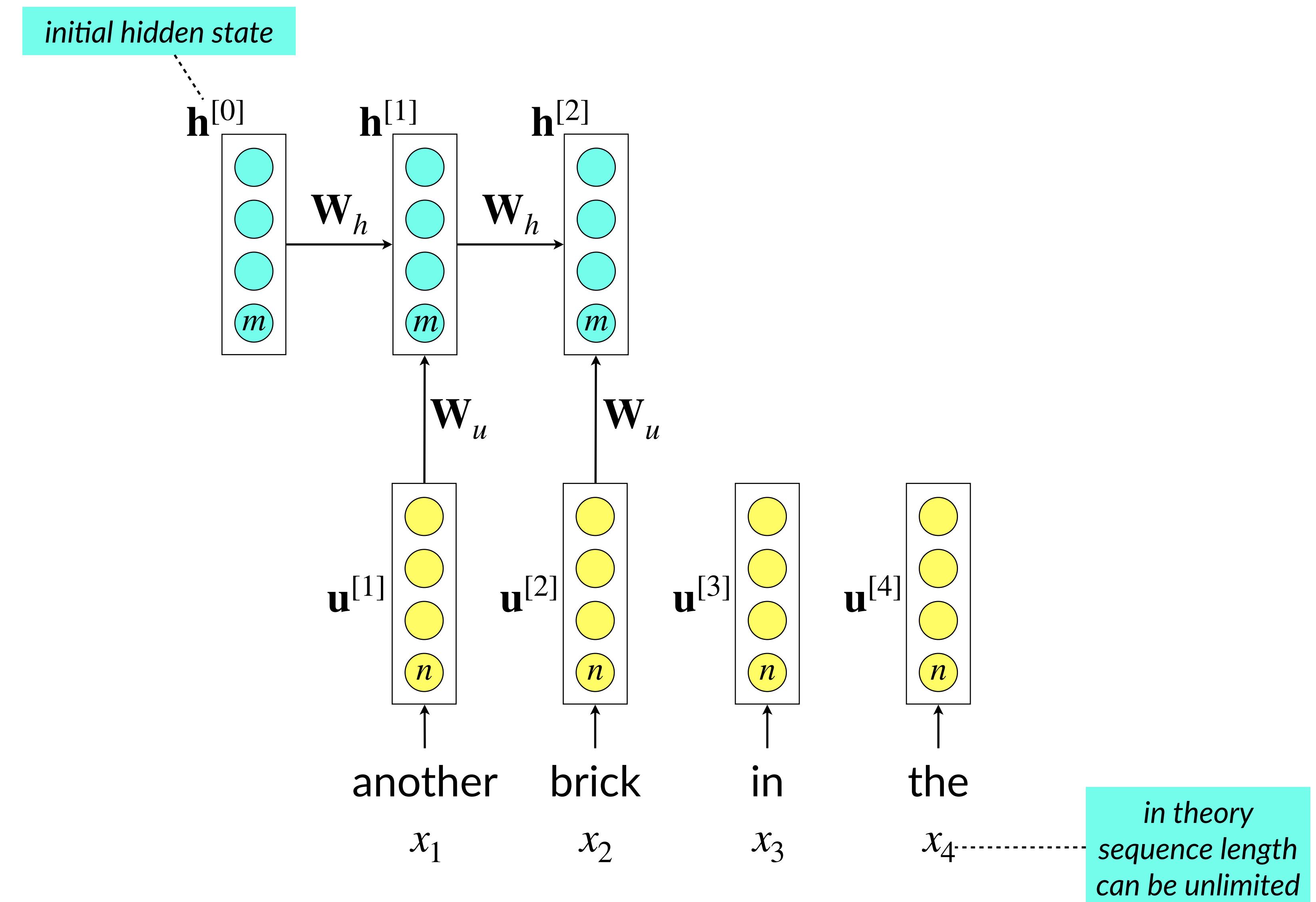
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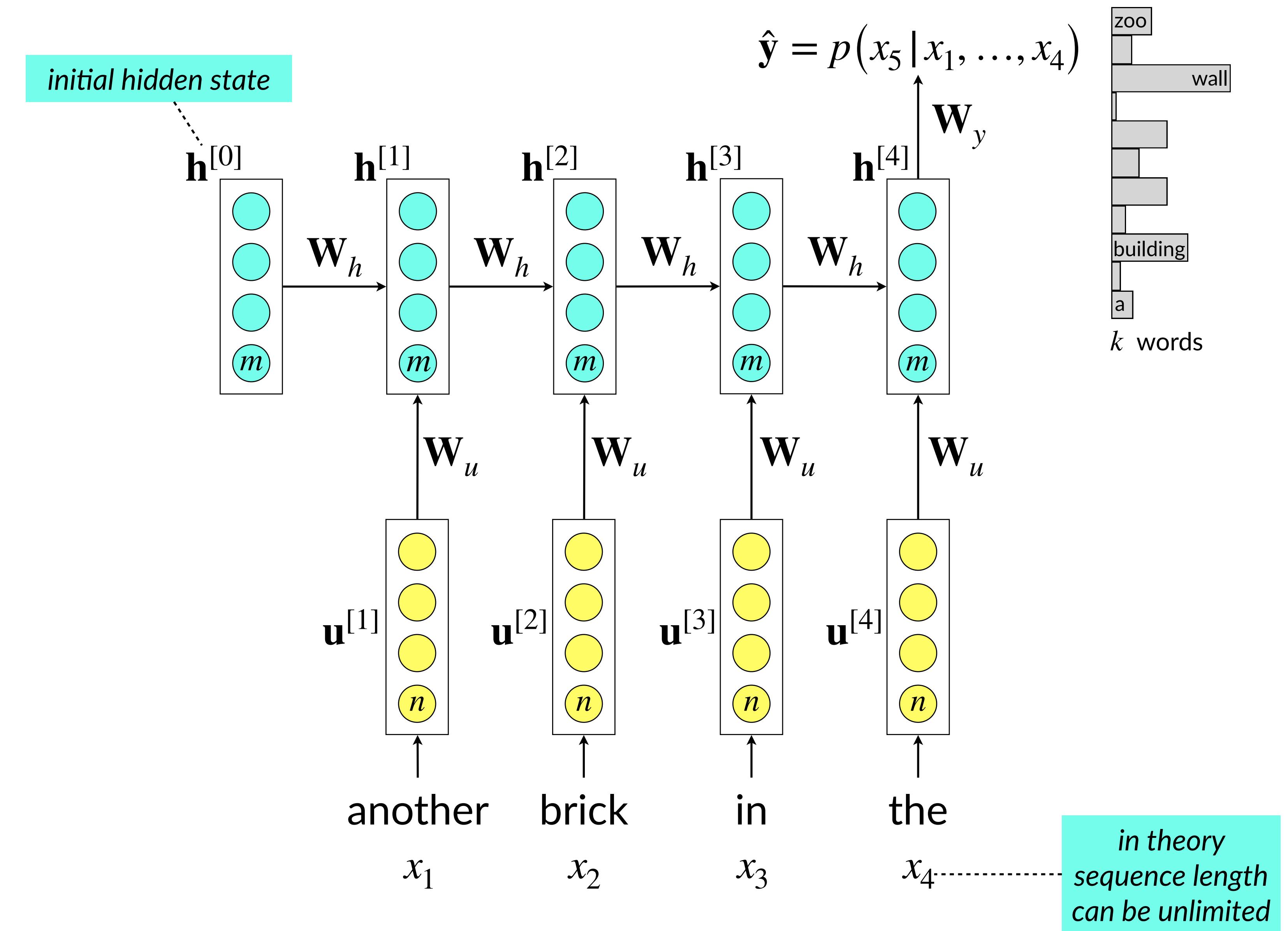
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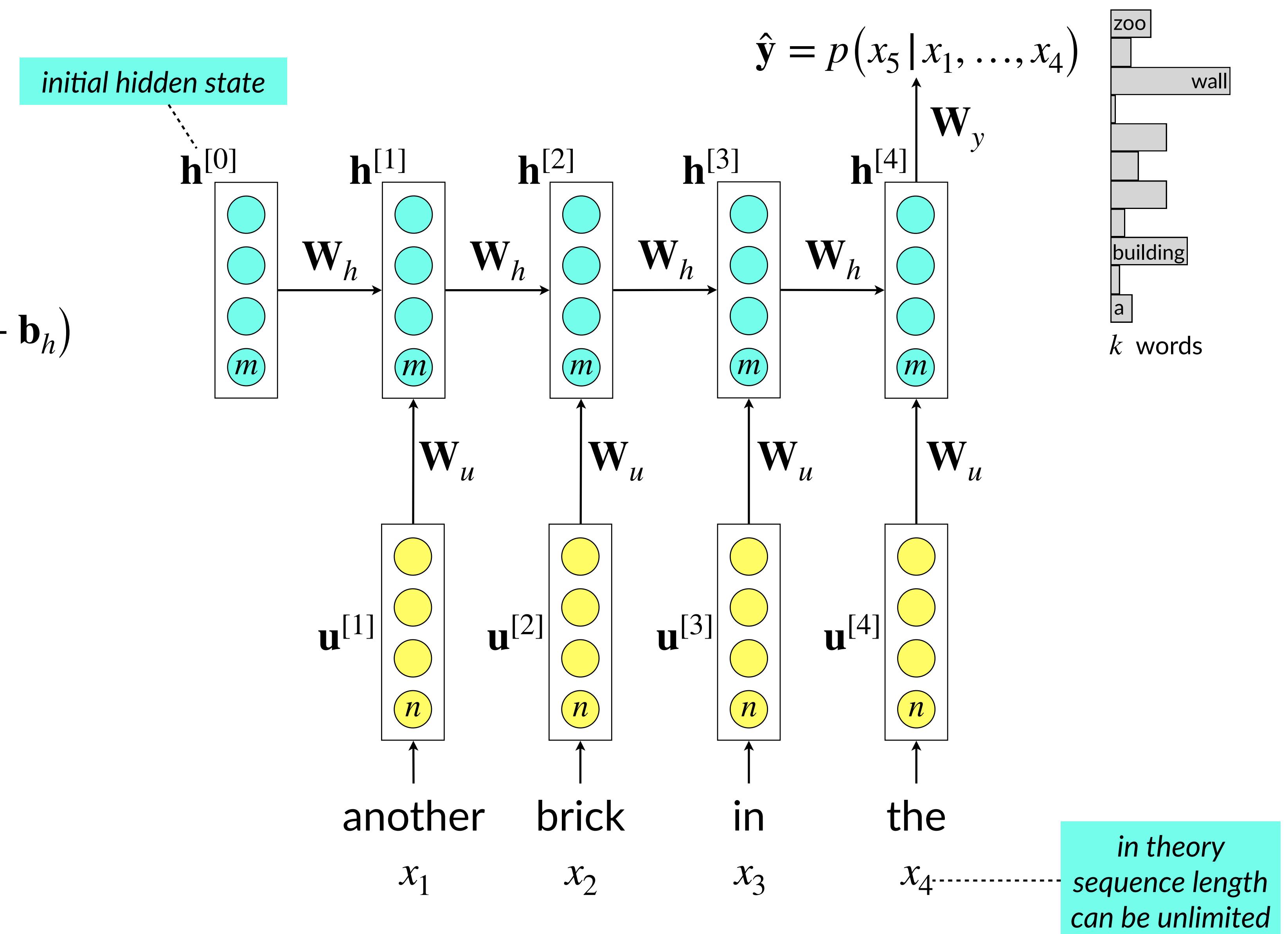


# An RNN-based language model

**Hidden states**

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_u \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_h \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_h)$$

or use  $\tanh(\cdot)$



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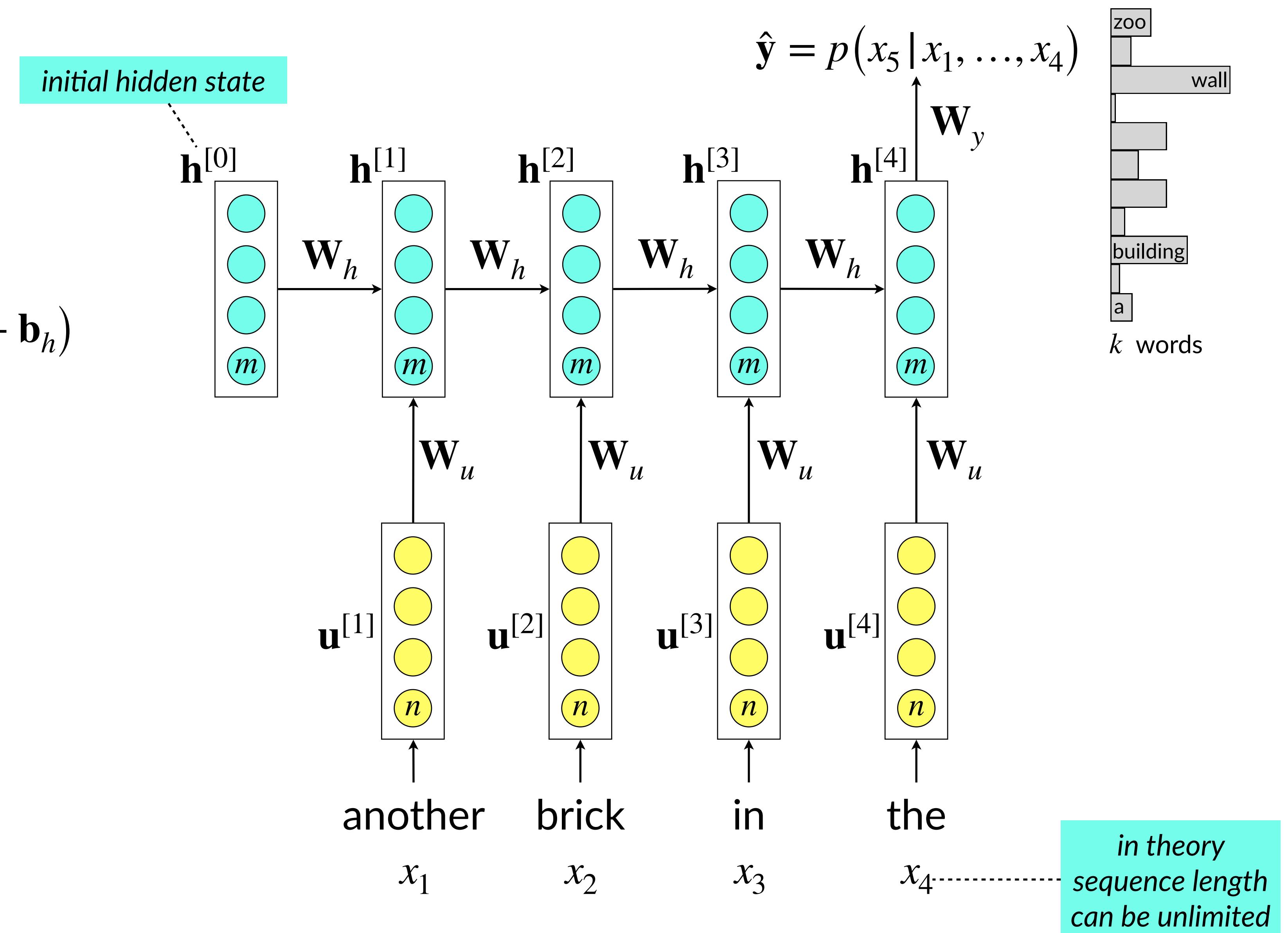
## Output

$$\hat{y} = \text{softmax}\left(\mathbf{W}_y \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[4]} + \mathbf{b}_y\right)$$

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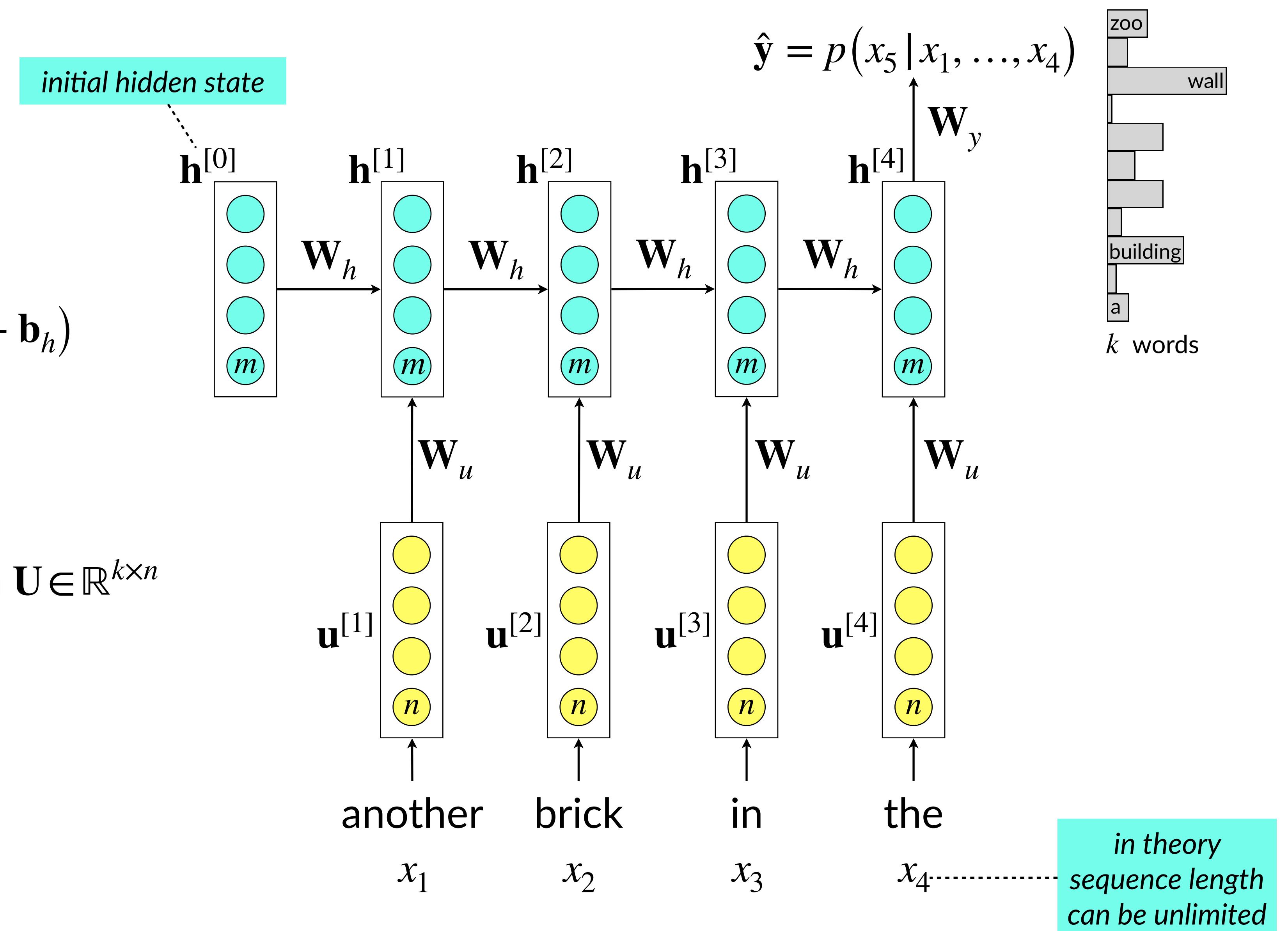
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## Dimensionalities?

$\mathbf{u}^{[t]} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  embedding of  $x_t$  from  $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times n}$

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]}, \mathbf{b}_h \in \mathbb{R}^m$$



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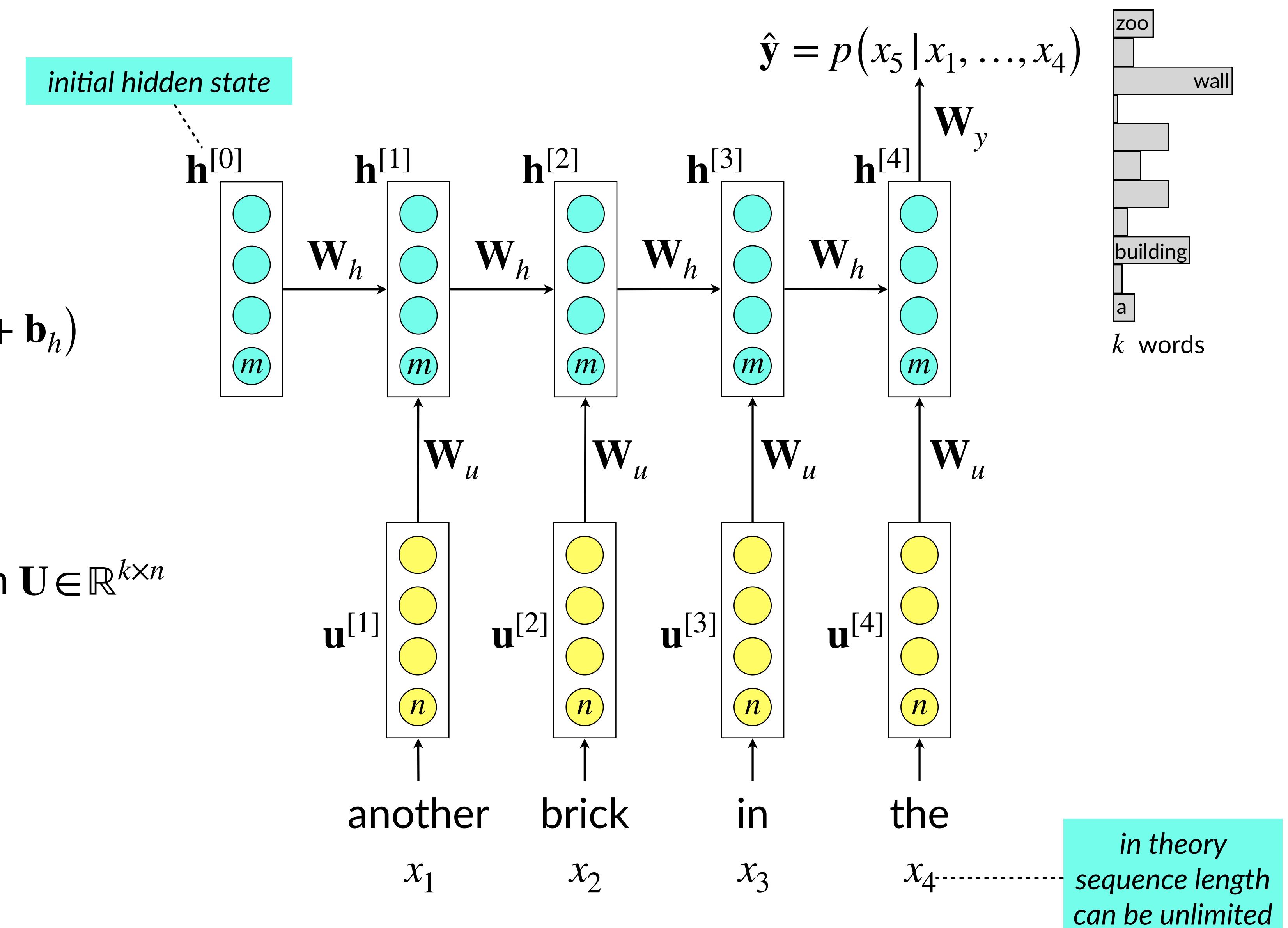
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$\mathbf{h}^{[t]}, \mathbf{b}_h \in \mathbb{R}^m$

$\hat{y}, \mathbf{b}_y \in \mathbb{R}^k$

$\mathbf{W}_u \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, \mathbf{W}_h \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$

$\mathbf{W}_y \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times m}$



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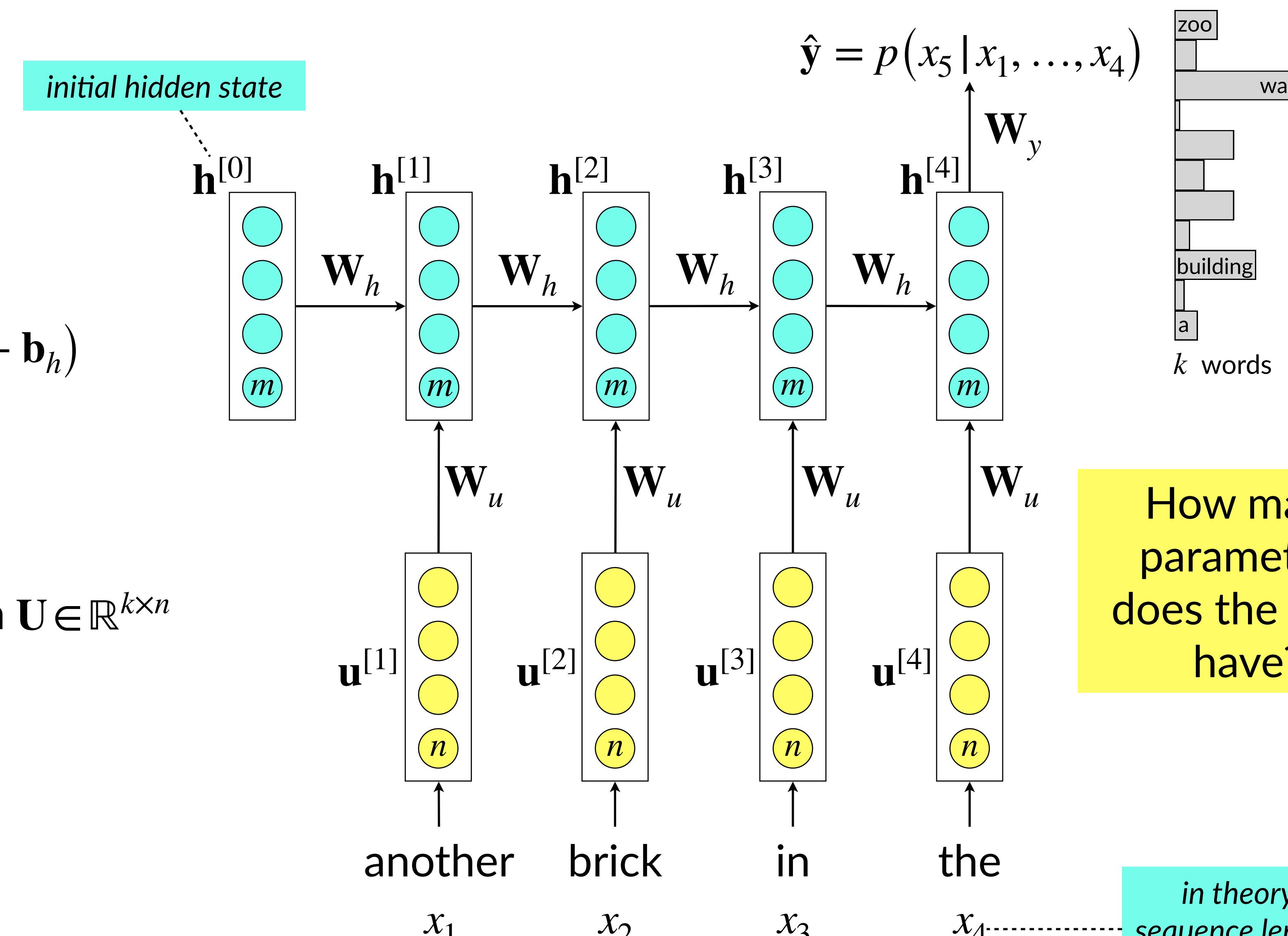
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How many parameters does the RNN have?

in theory sequence length can be unlimited

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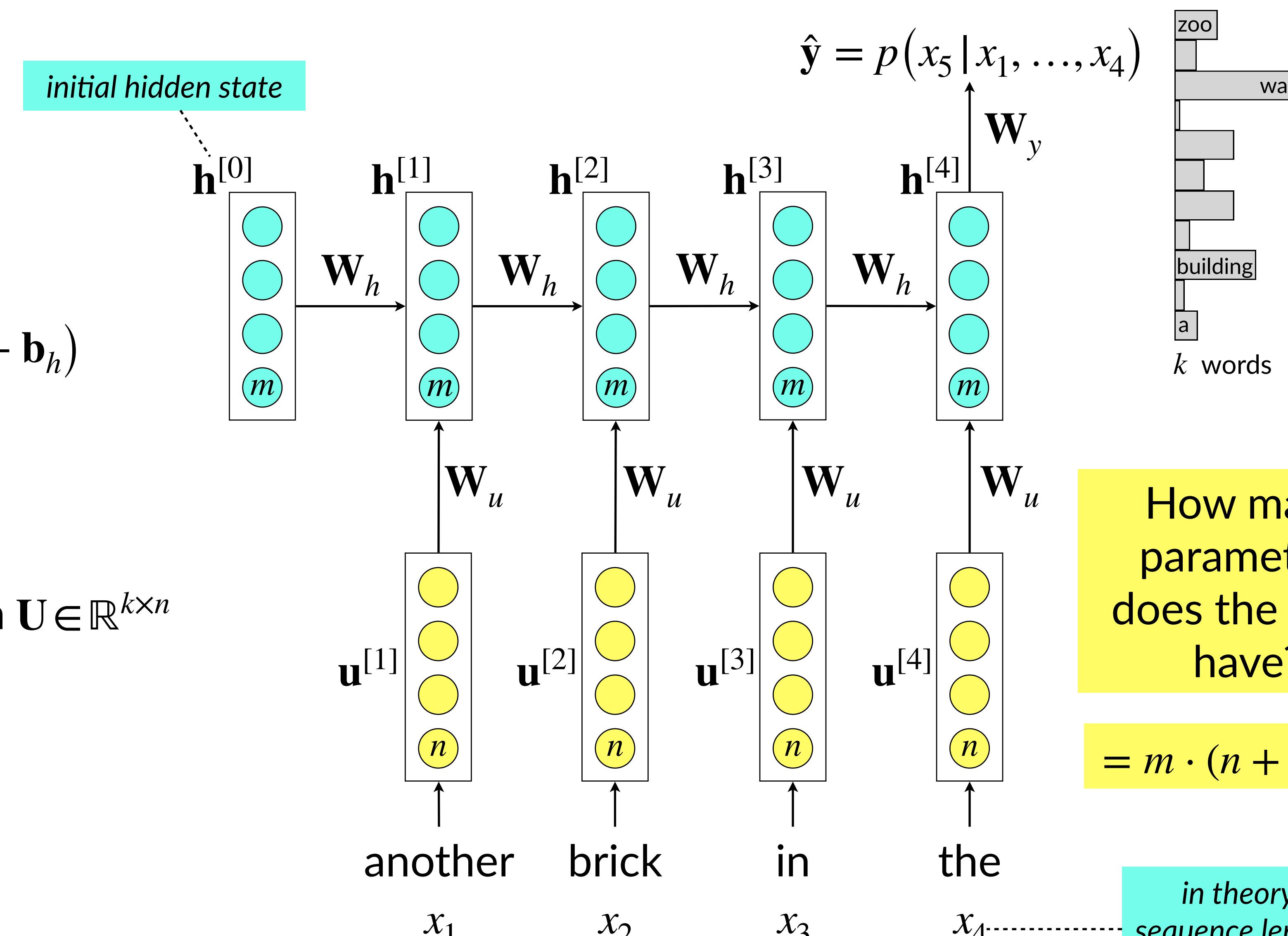
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How many parameters does the RNN have?

$$= m \cdot (n + m + 1)$$

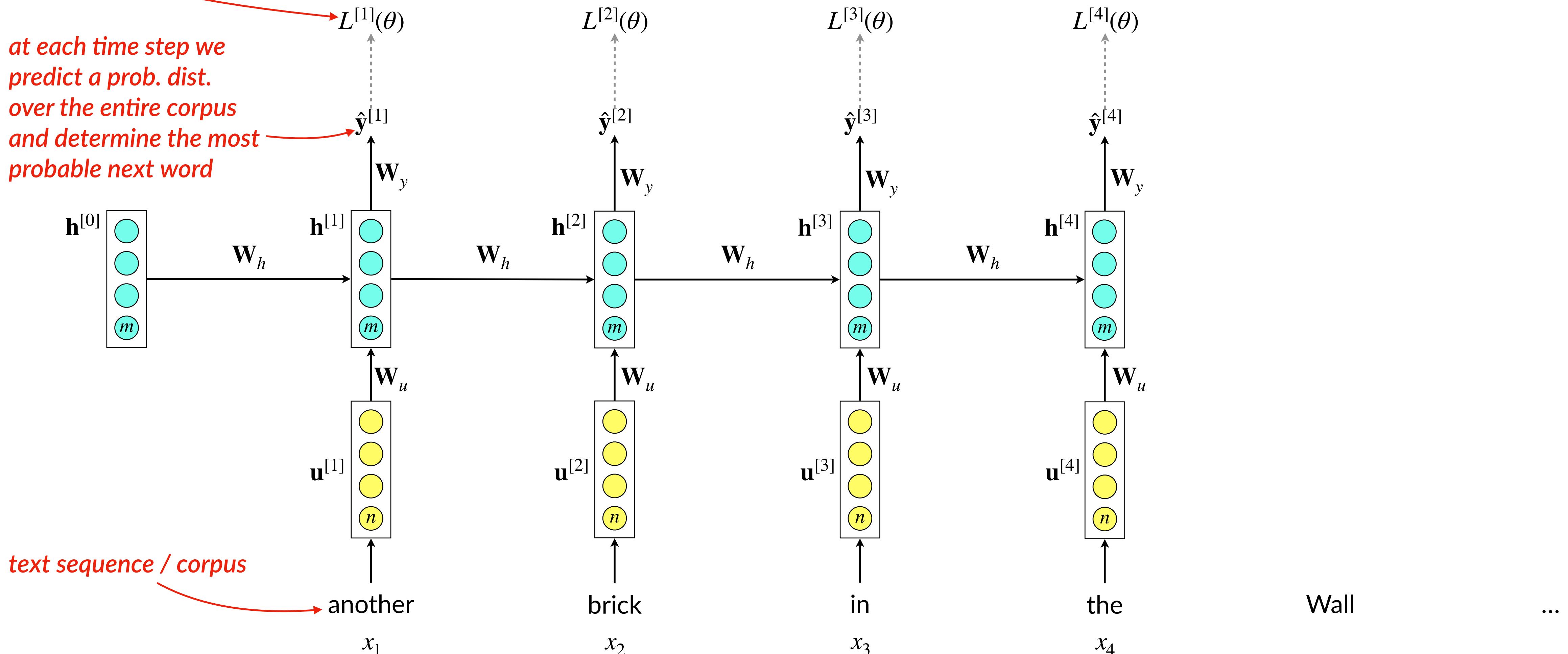
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# RNN training

$$\theta = [\mathbf{W}_u, \mathbf{W}_h, \mathbf{W}_y]$$

*Loss at each time step*

*at each time step we predict a prob. dist. over the entire corpus and determine the most probable next word*



# RNN training

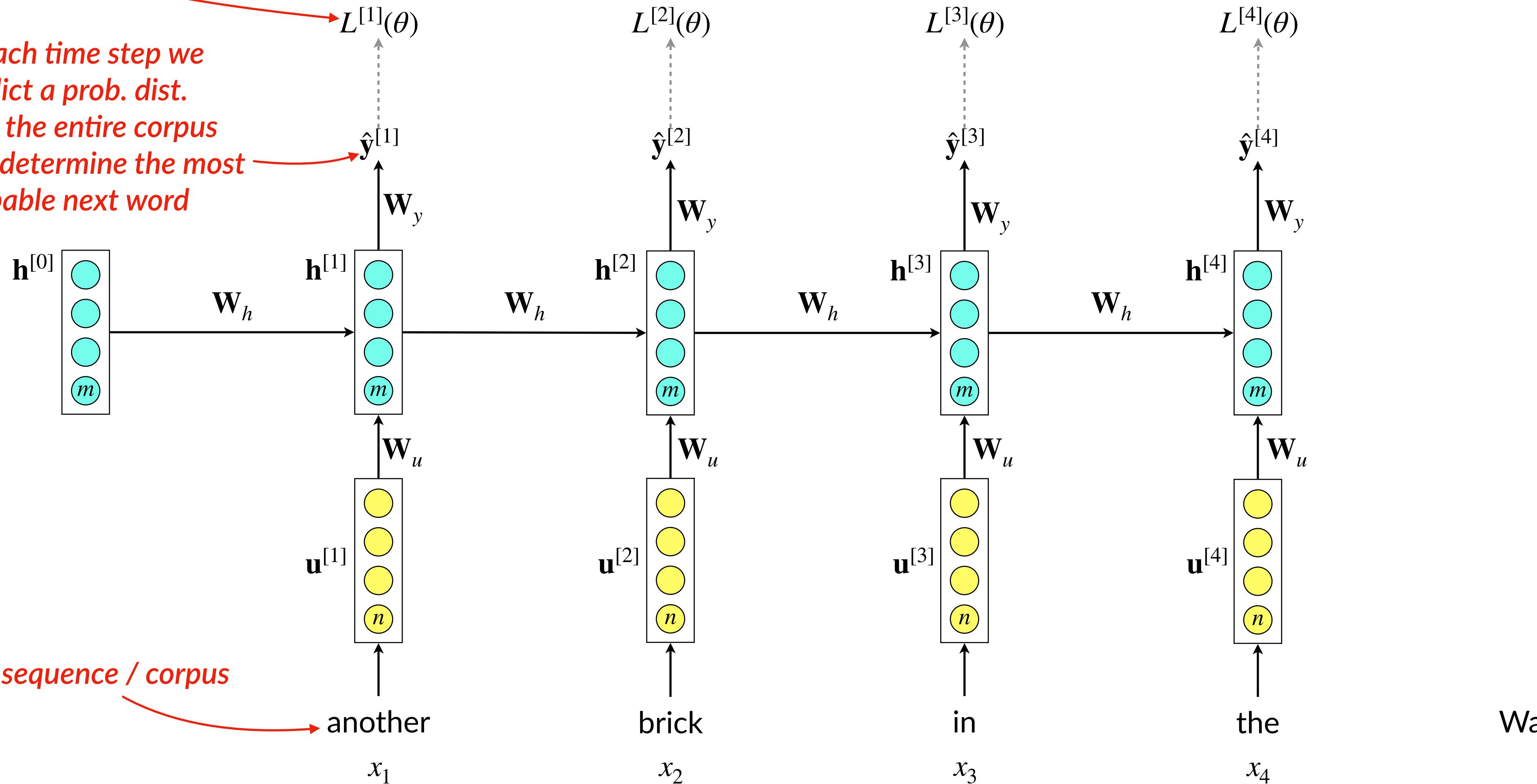
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$$-\log \hat{y}^{[1]}(\text{"brick"})$$

||

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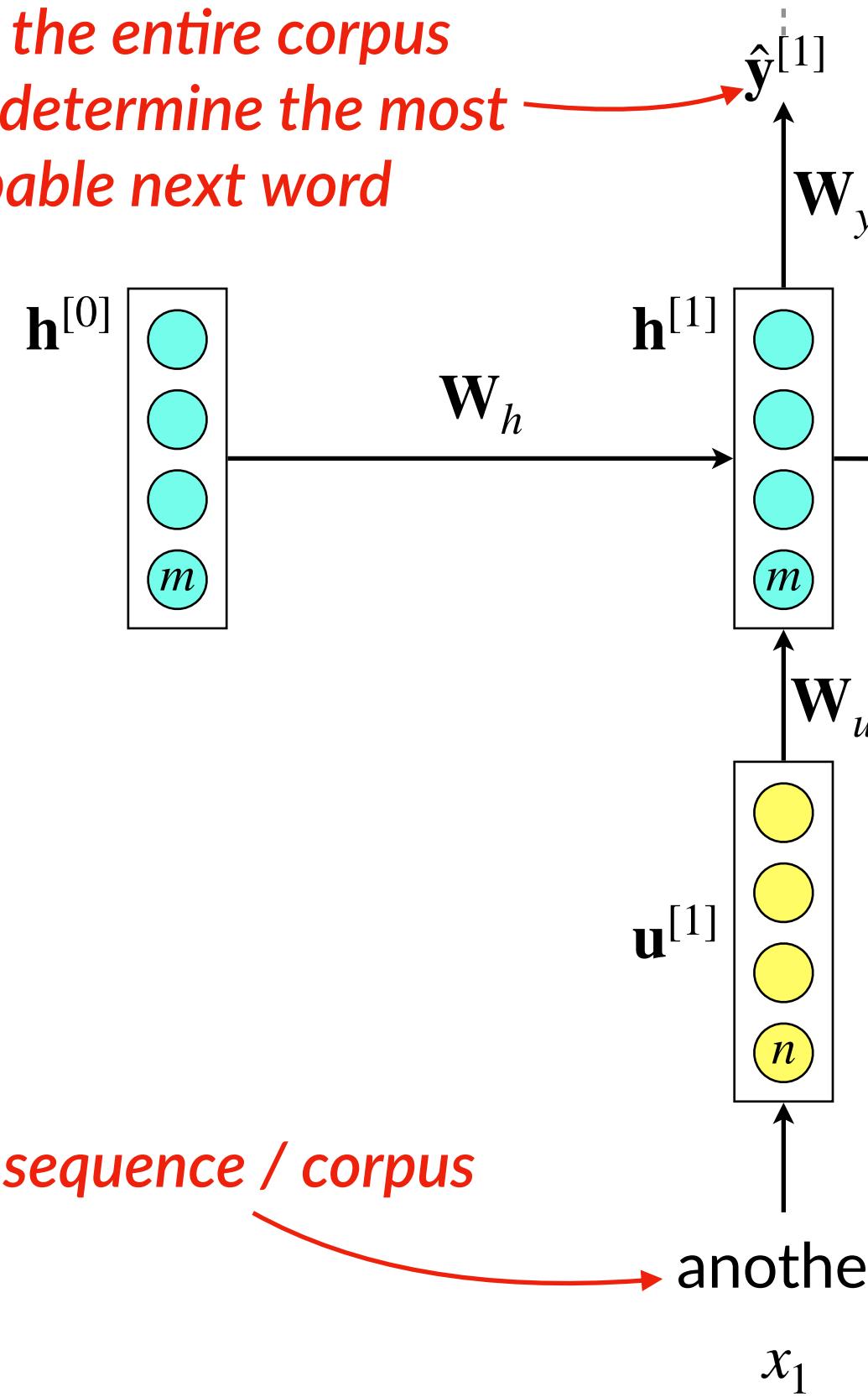
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$$-\log \hat{y}^{[2]}(\text{"in"})$$

*at each time step we predict a prob. dist. over the entire corpus and determine the most probable next word*



*text sequence / corpus*

another

brick

in

the

Wall

...

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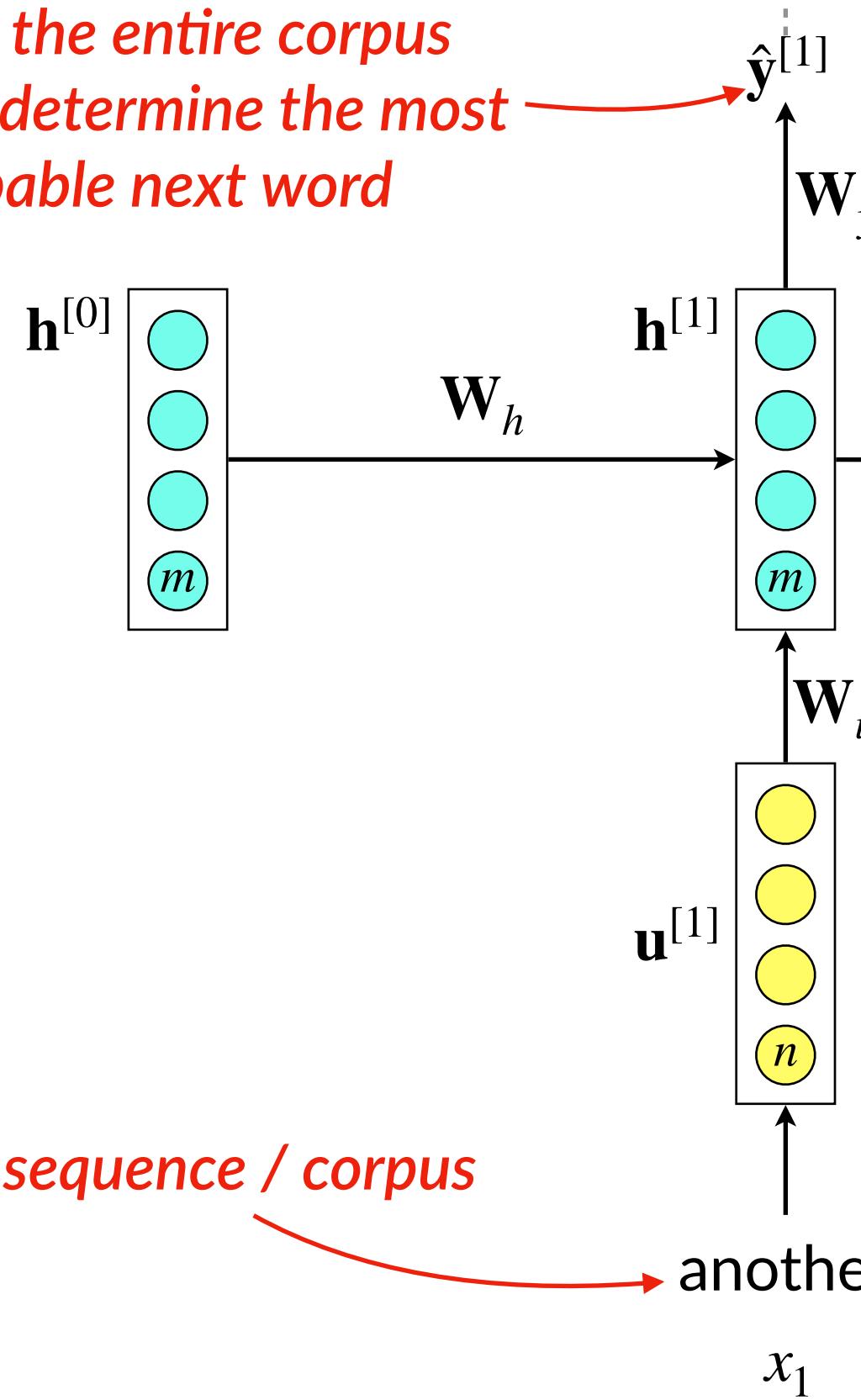
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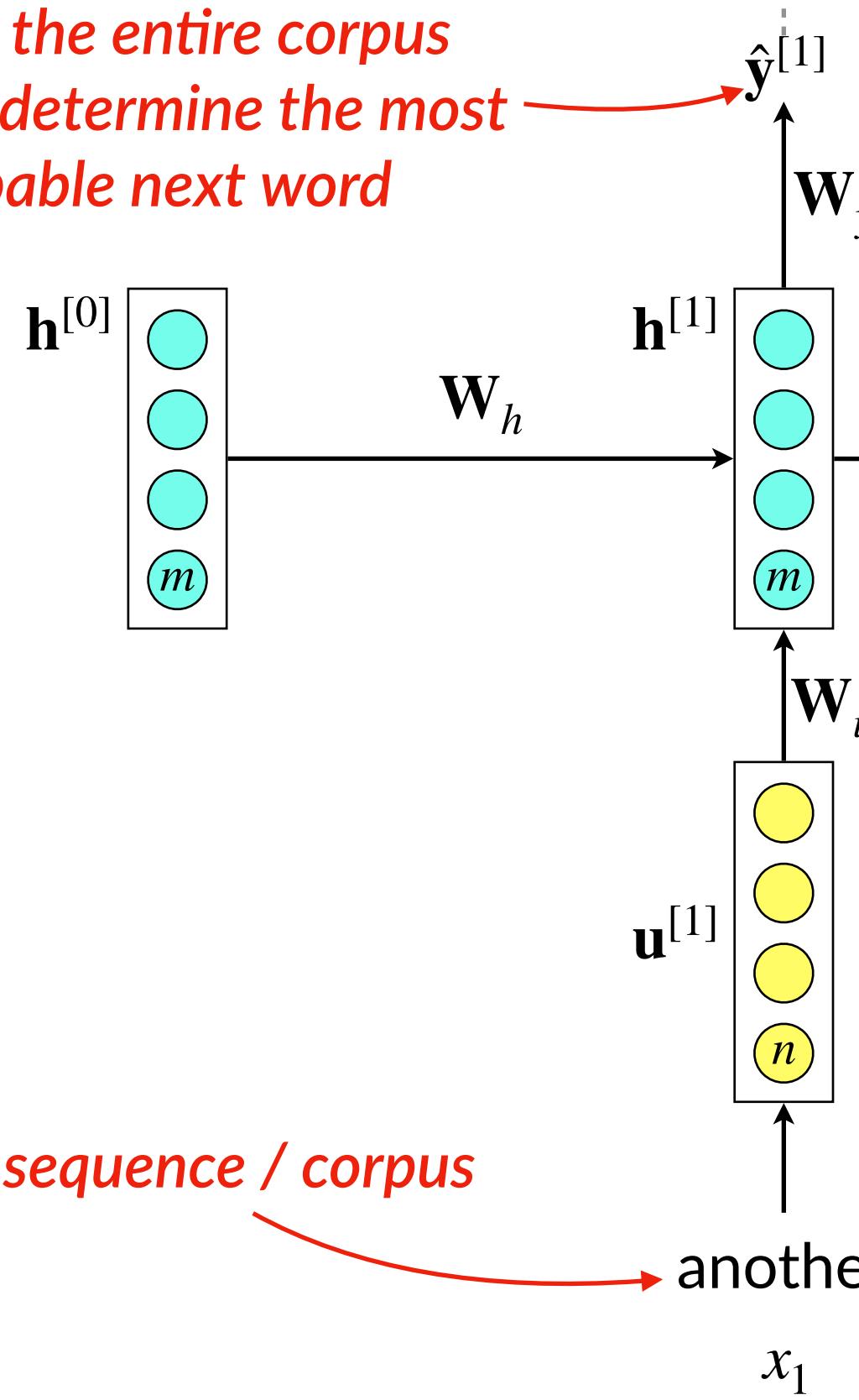
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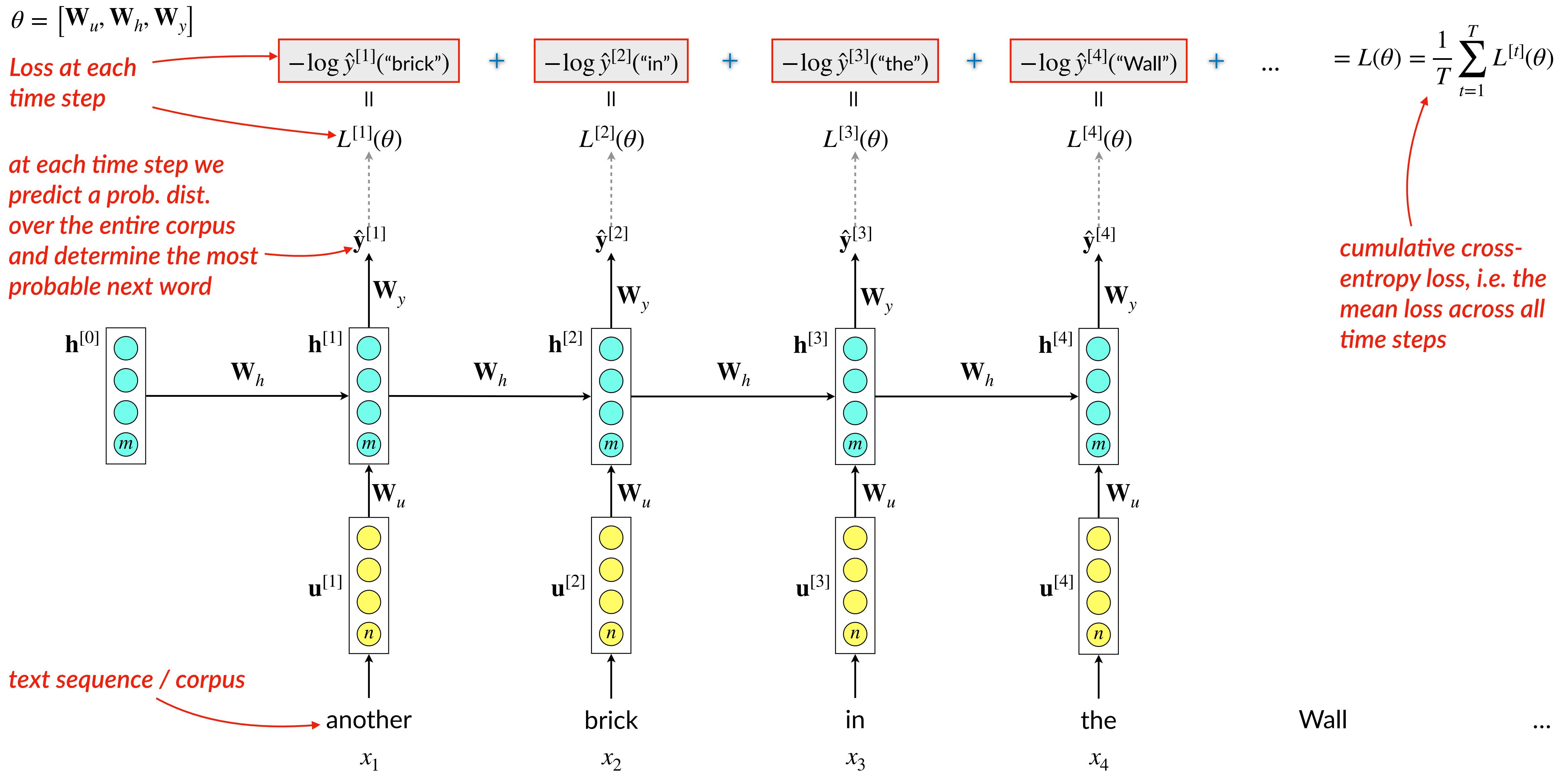
$$-\log \hat{y}^{[3]}(\text{"the"})$$

$$-\log \hat{y}^{[4]}(\text{"Wall"})$$

*at each time step we predict a prob. dist. over the entire corpus and determine the most probable next word*



# RNN training



- ▶ The number of tokens,  $T$ , across a large corpus is obviously quite large!

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T L^{[t]}(\theta)$$

- ▶ Computing  $L(\theta)$  becomes too **computationally expensive**...
- ▶ Instead we (*once again*) work with a specified **window of text**, say a sentence
- ▶ We compute  $L(\theta)$  for a batch of sentences, then compute the gradient of the loss with respect to the parameters of the network, and then update the parameters.
- ▶ We repeat this on a new batch until we eventually pass across the entire corpus.
- ▶ And then we go back to the beginning and repeat the entire process (*a new training epoch*), if necessary.

# RNN training *in practice*

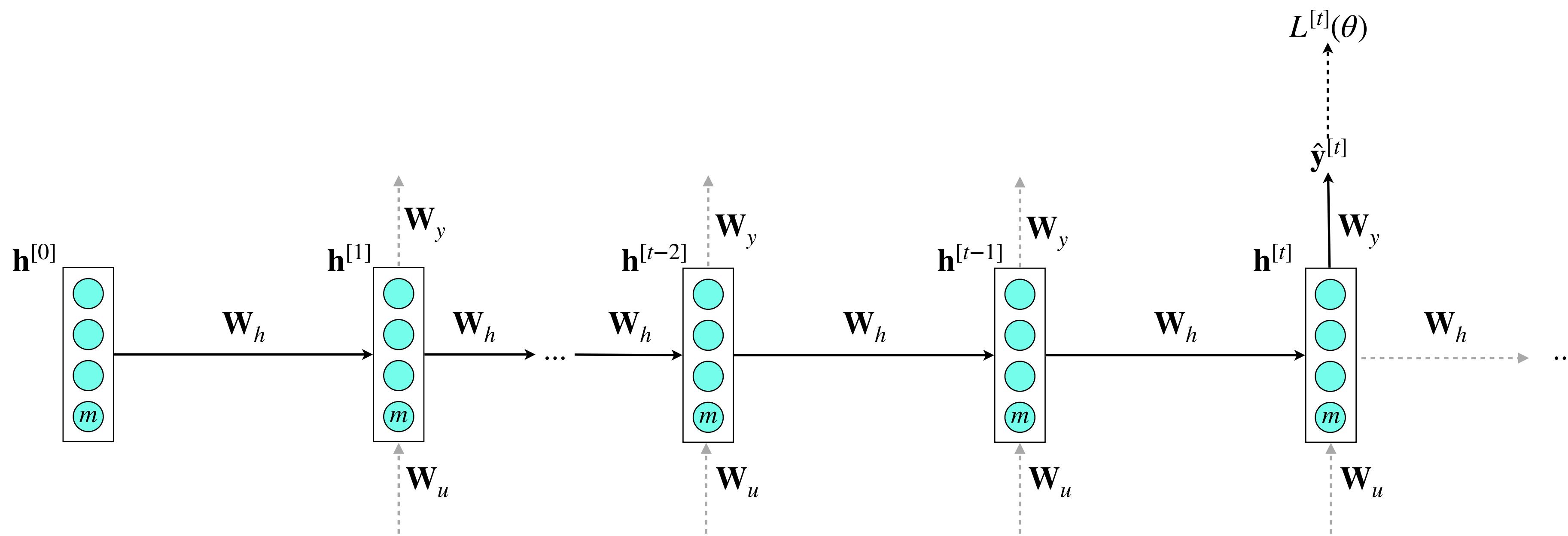
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$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T L^{[t]}(\theta)$$

how?

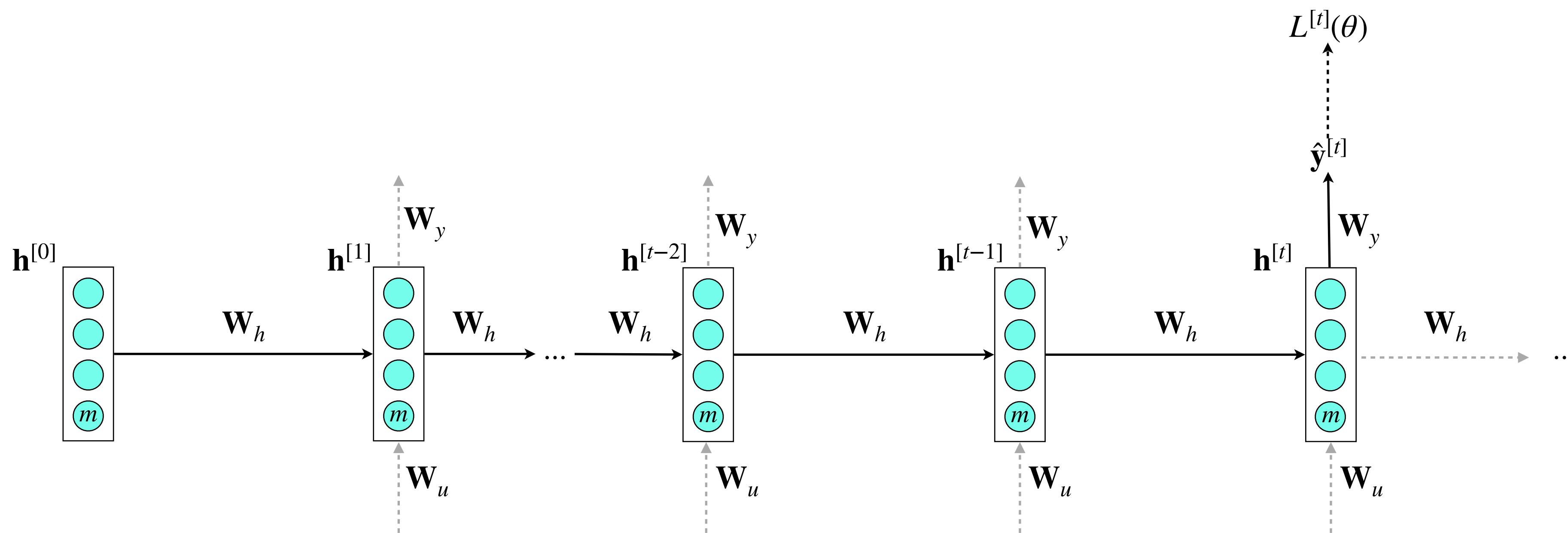
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# Training the parameters of RNNs



During training, one of the derivatives we need to estimate is:  $\frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h}$

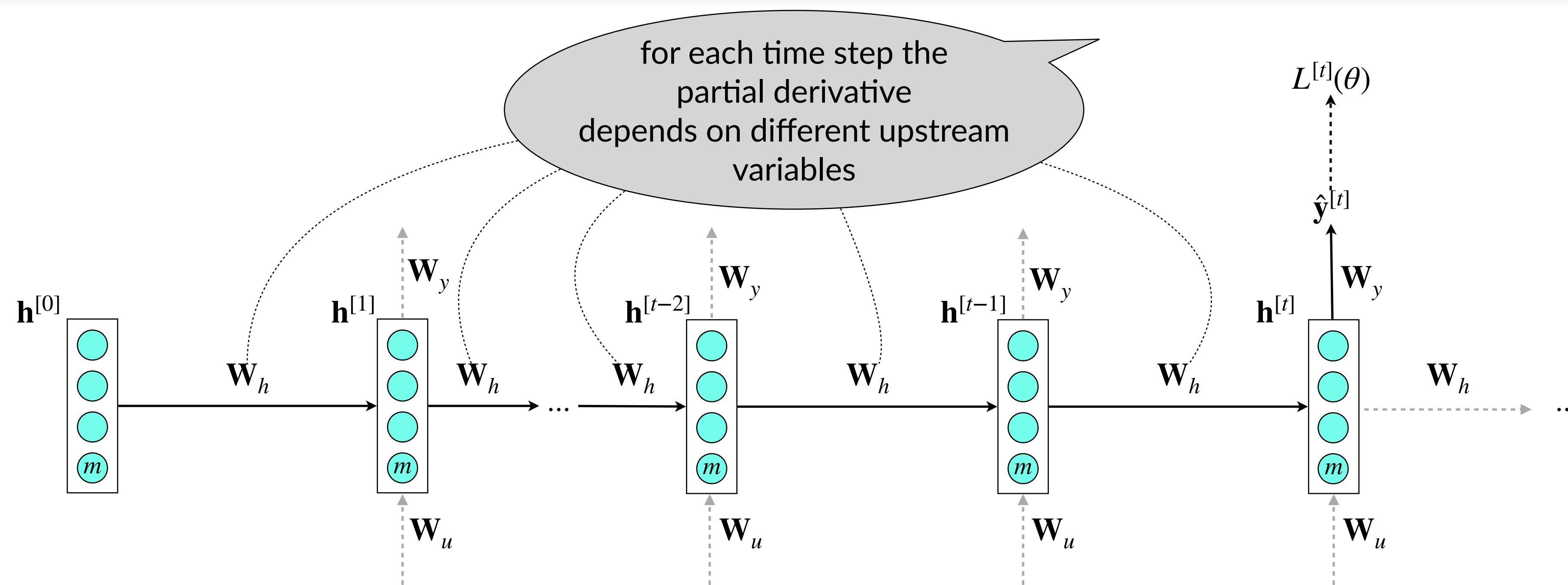
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This is given by: 
$$\frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \sum_{i=1}^t \frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} \Big|_{(i)}$$
 *we are summing up the gradients at each time step*

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# Multivariable chain rule

Total derivative of a multivariable function  $f(x(t), y(t))$  that depends on two single variable functions  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$

$$\frac{d}{dt} f(x(t), y(t)) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt}$$

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## Example

$$f(x, y) = 3x + y^2$$

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*(not always possible)*

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multivariate  
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multivariate  
chain rule

$$\frac{df}{dt} = 3 \cdot 2t +$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \frac{df}{dt} &= 3 \cdot 2t + 2y \cdot 1 \\ &= 6t + 2(t - 1) \end{aligned}$$

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## Example

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helpful when a function is unknown!

trivial solution  
*(not always possible)*

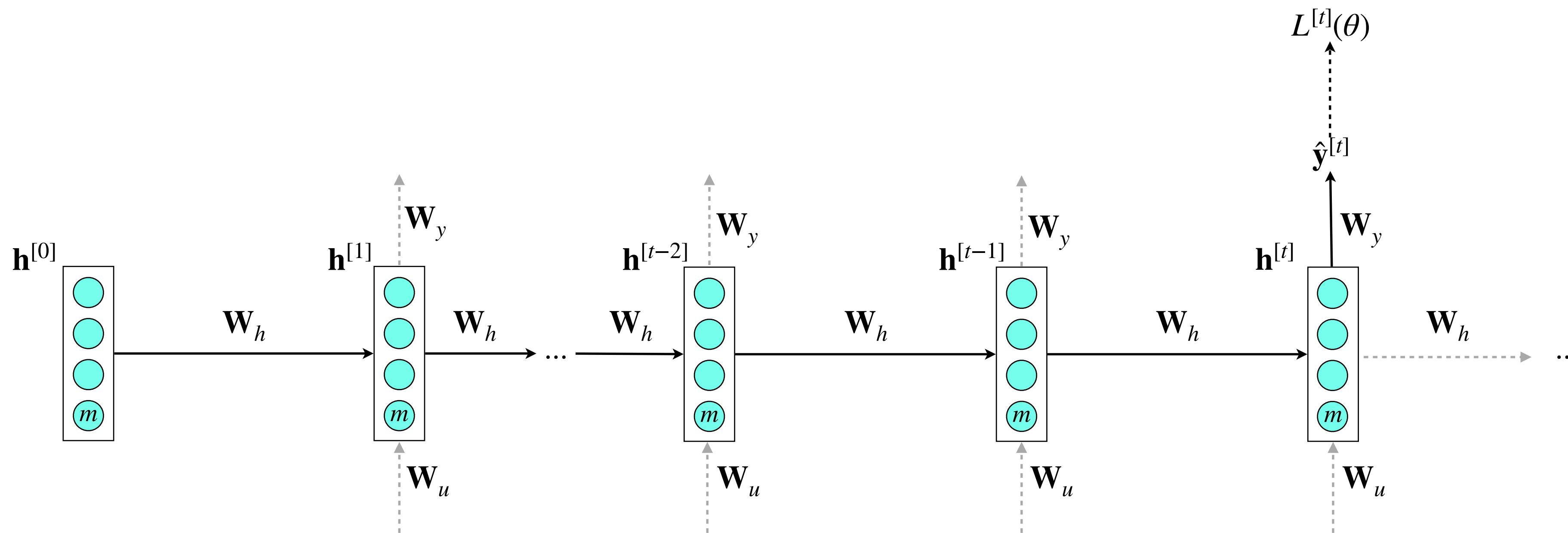
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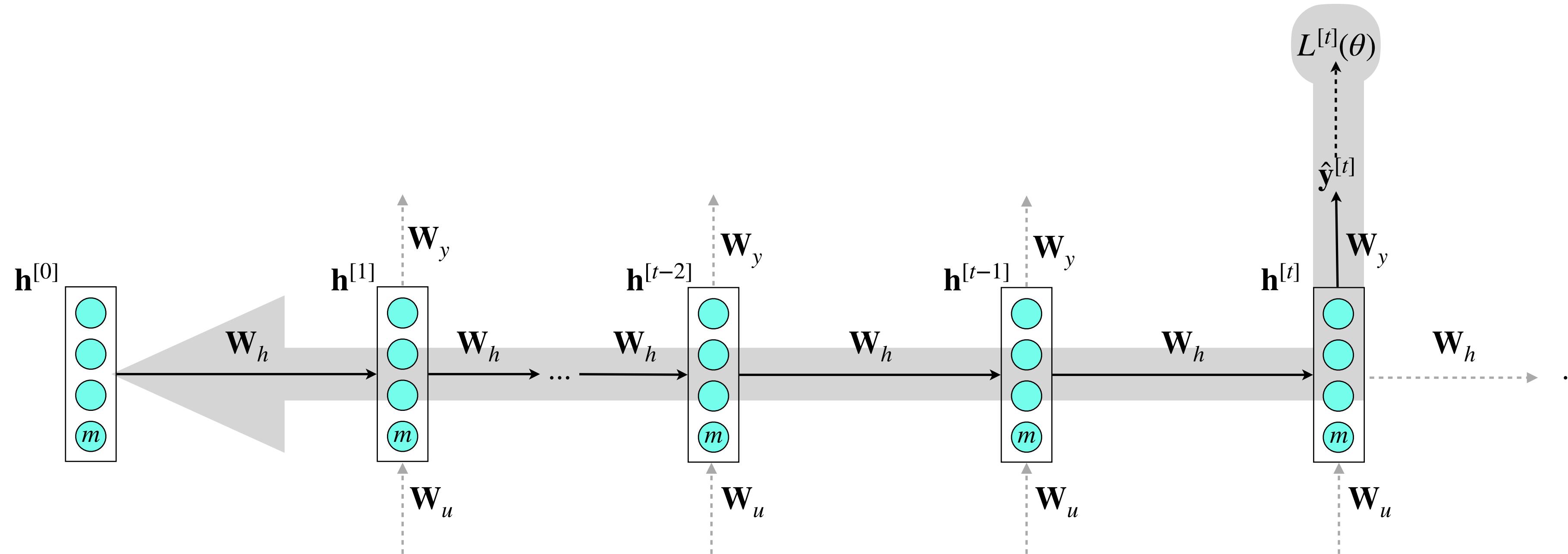
# Backpropagation Through Time (BPTT)



$$\frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \sum_{i=1}^t \frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} \Big|_{(i)}$$

backpropagation over time steps  
 $t, t - 1, \dots, 0$ , summing gradients,  
a.k.a. backpropagation through  
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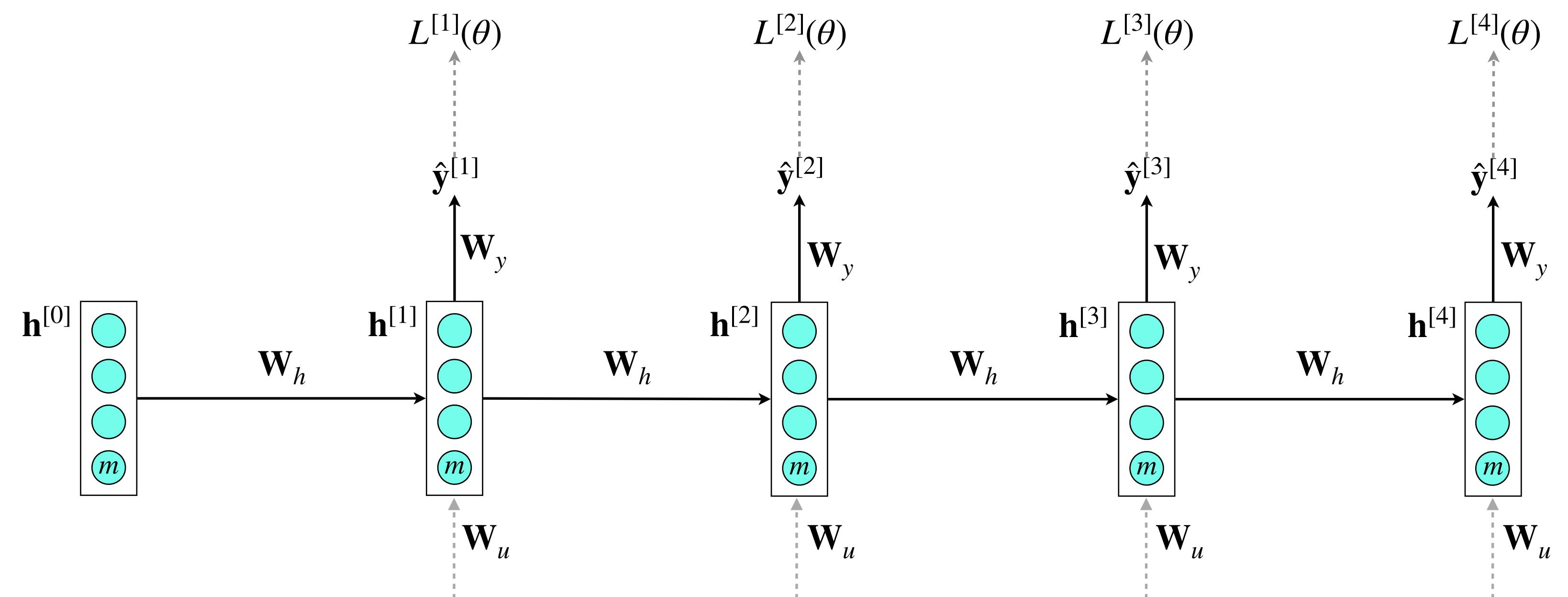
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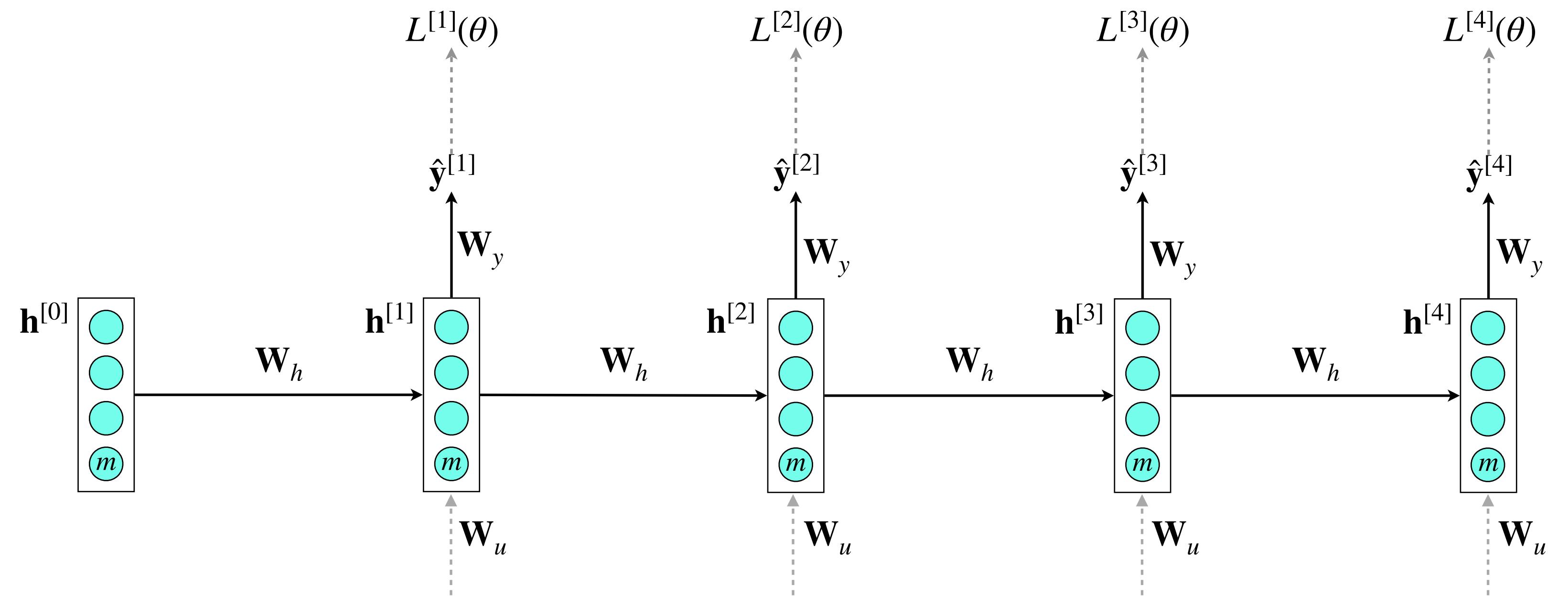
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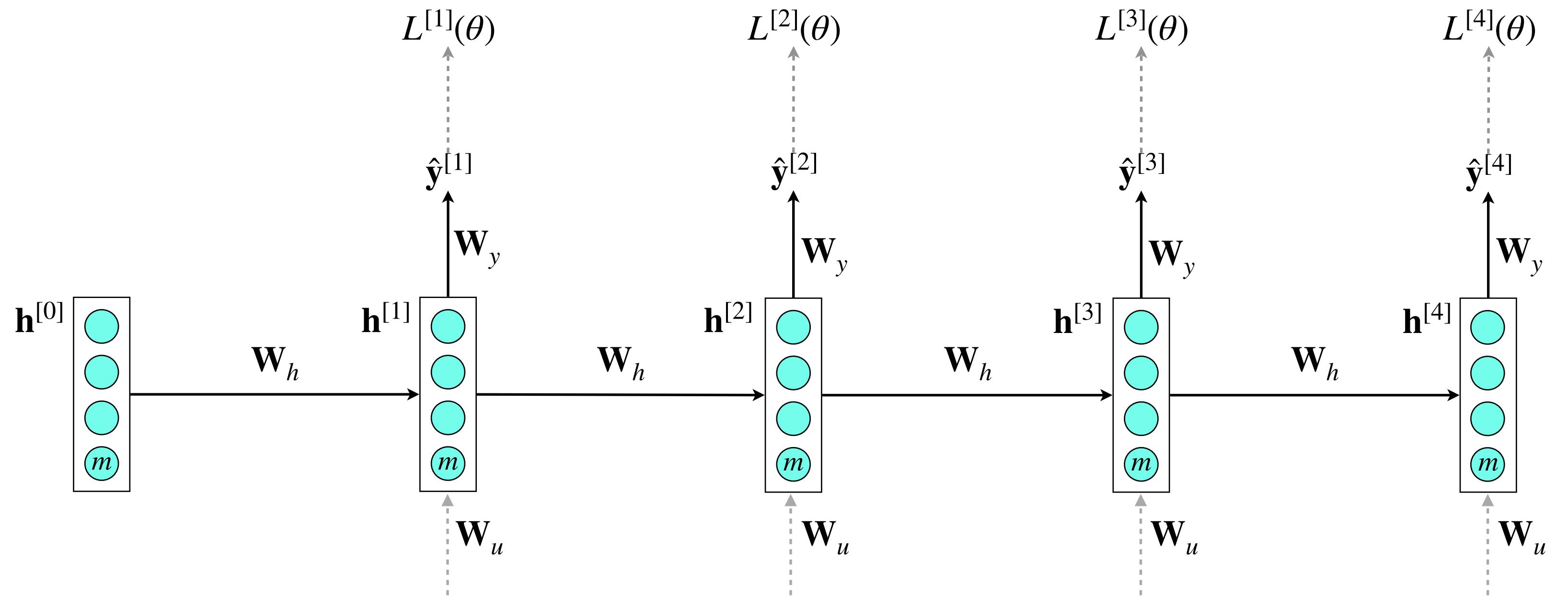
$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{t=1}^4 L^{[t]}(\theta)$$



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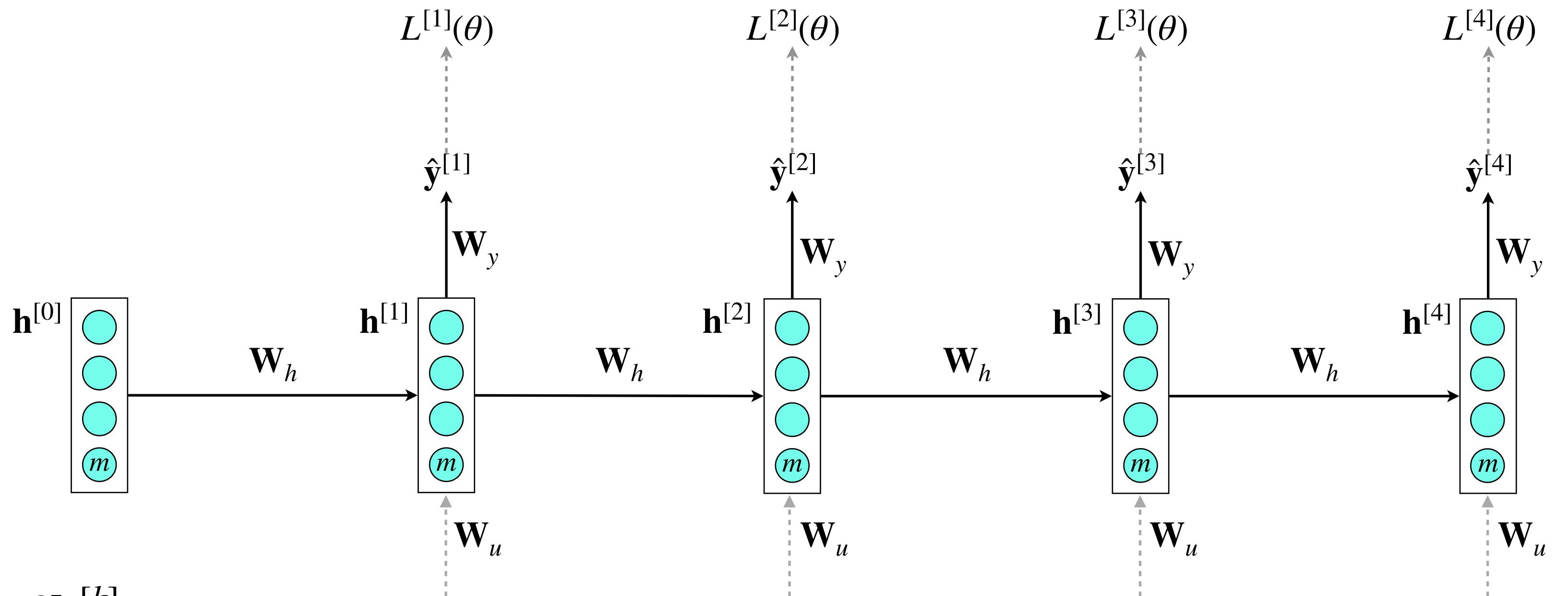


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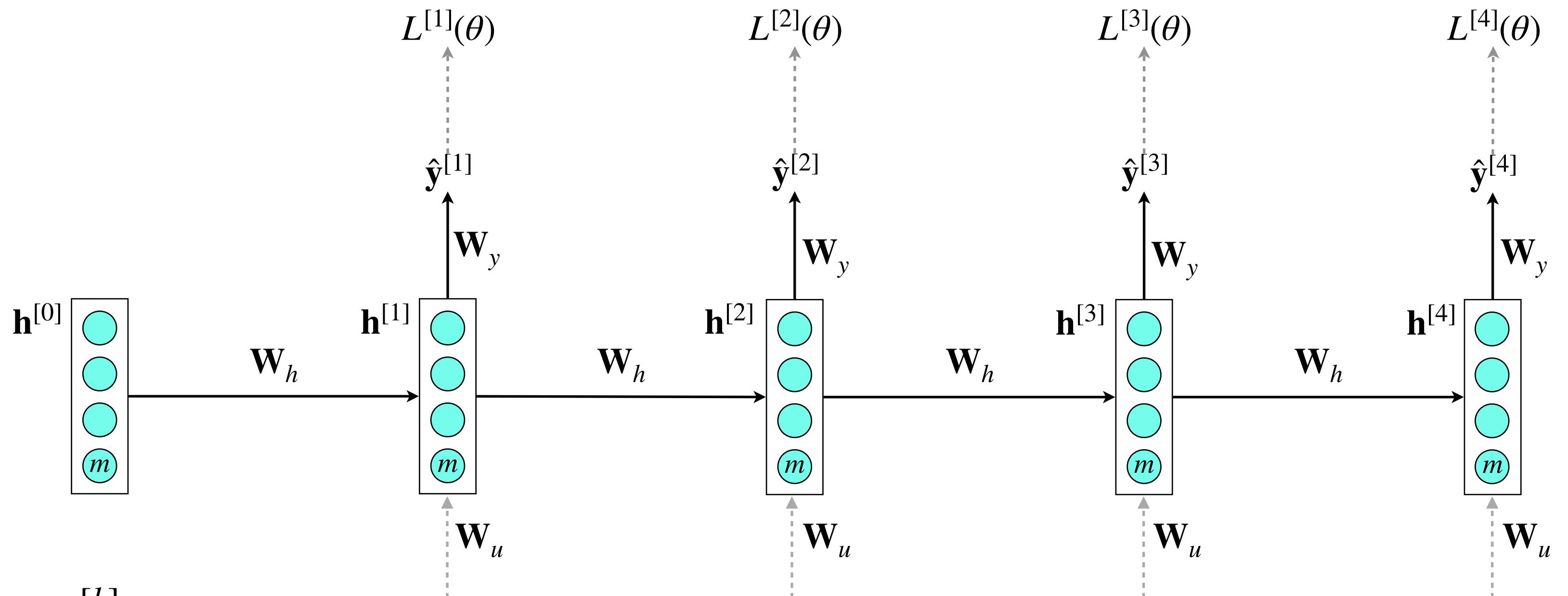
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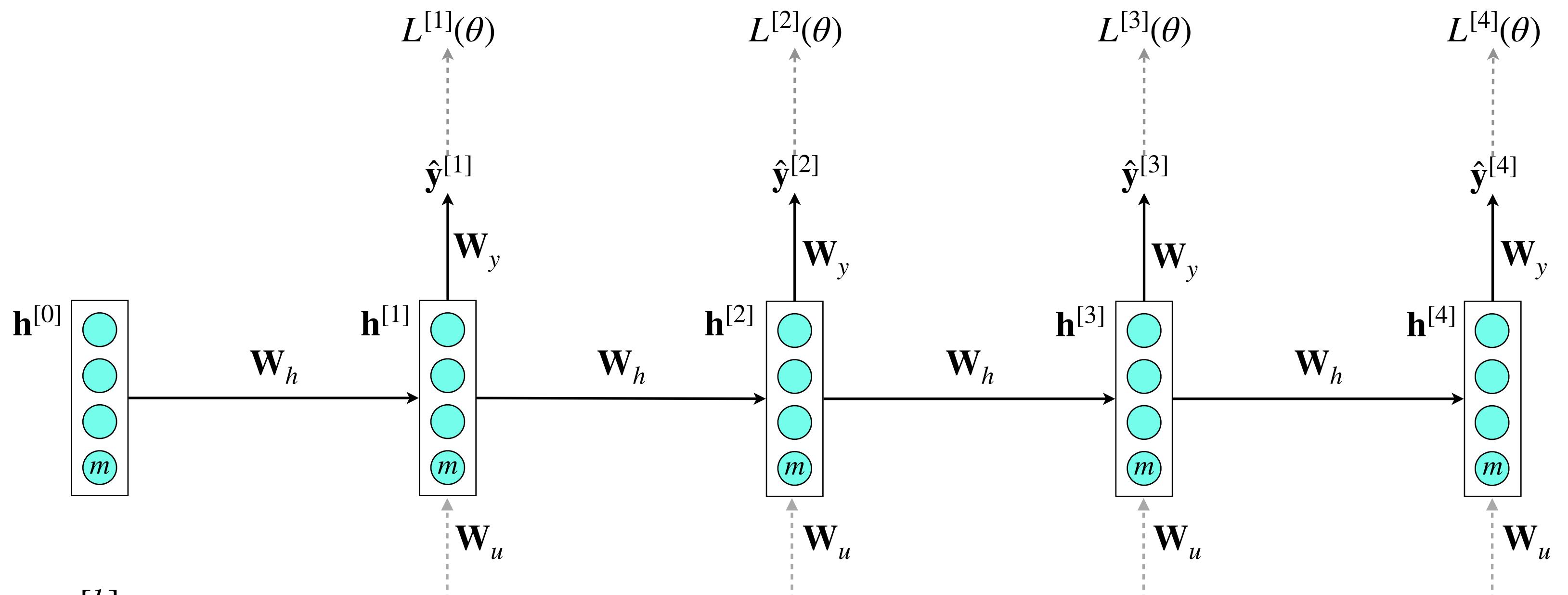
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e.g. if  $t = 4$  and  $k = 1$



$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} = \prod_{j=2}^4 \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}$$

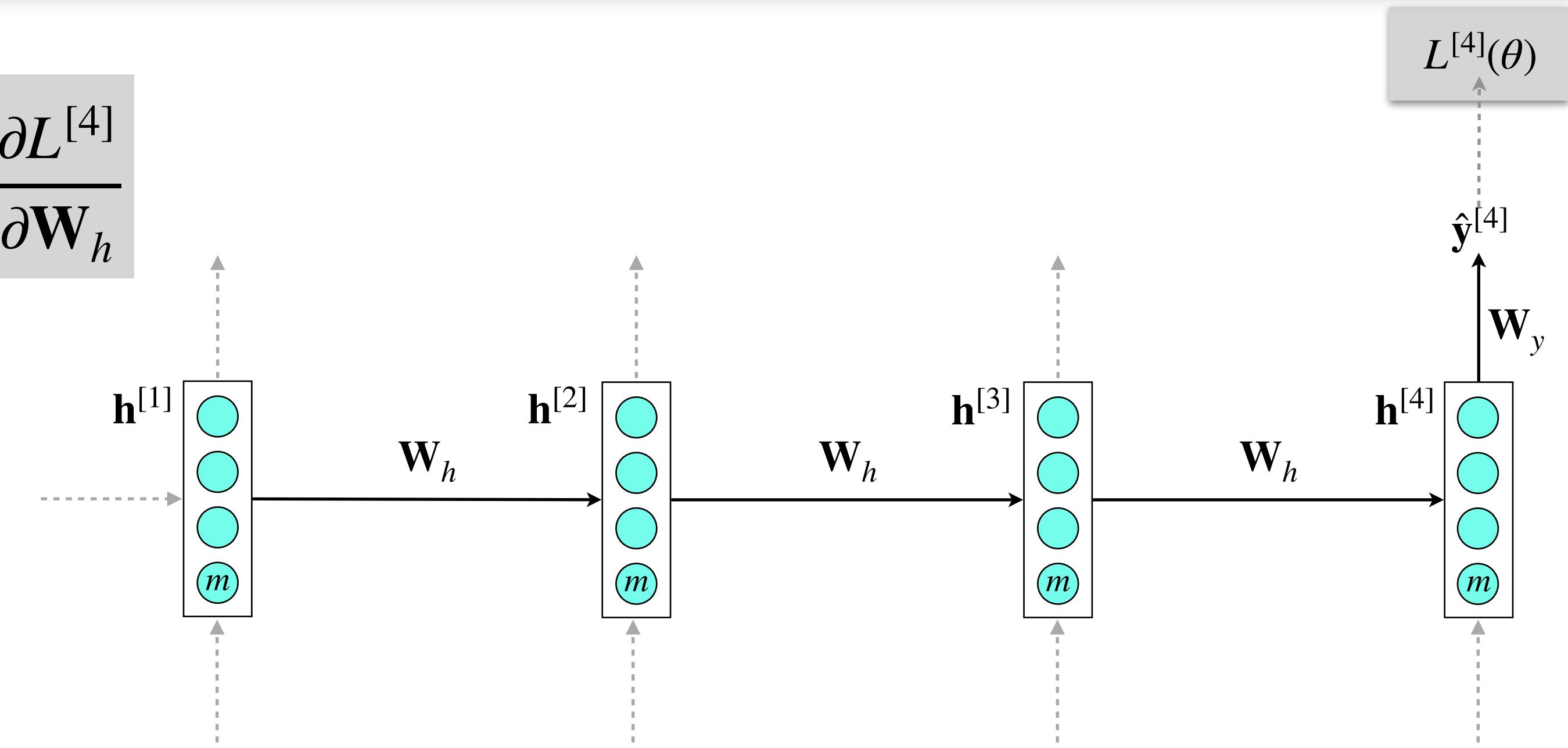
# Vanishing (or exploding) gradients

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \sum_{t=1}^4 \frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \frac{\partial L^{[1]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} + \frac{\partial L^{[2]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} + \frac{\partial L^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} + \frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h}$$

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let's focus on this component of the sum

$$\propto \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}$$



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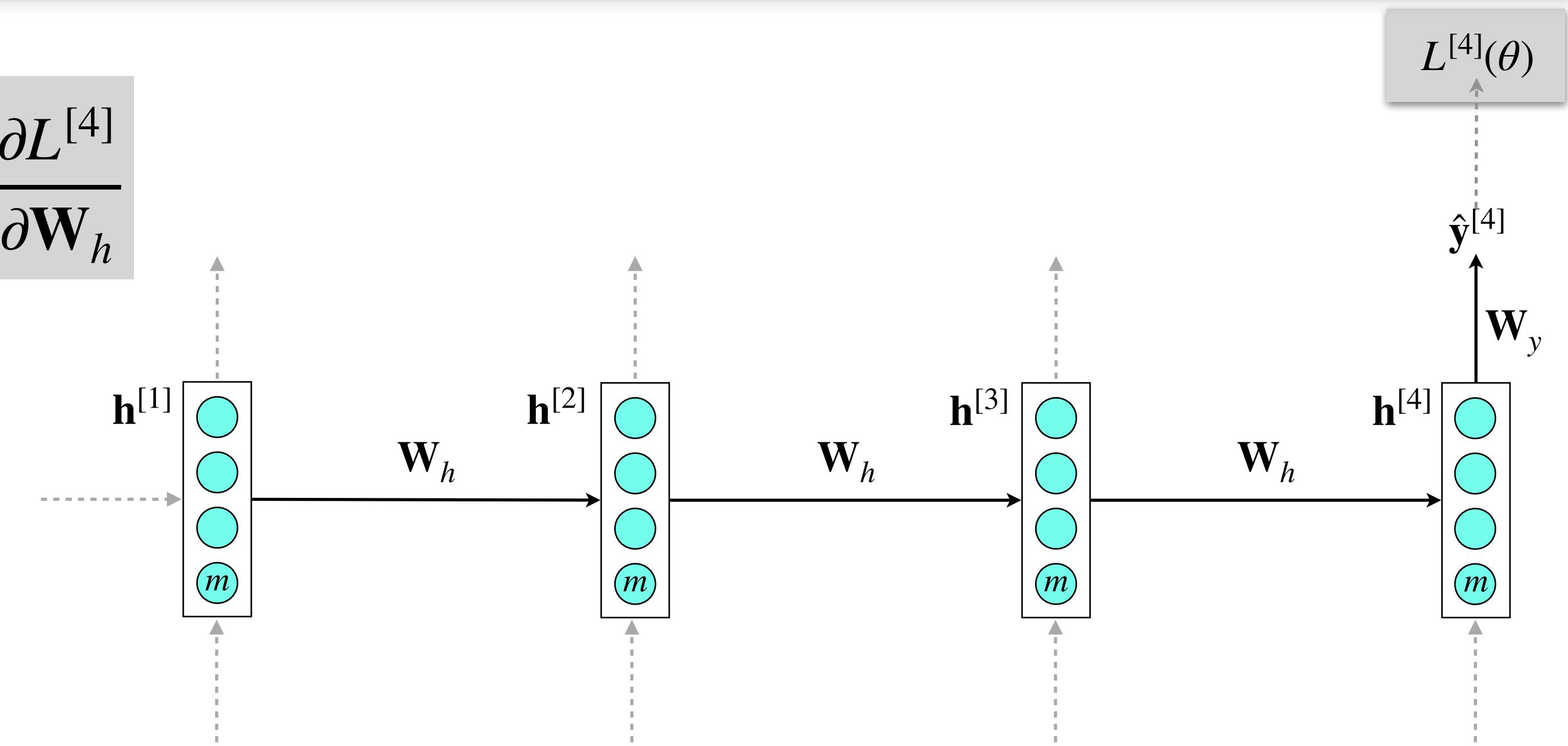
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$$\propto \sum_{k=1}^4 \prod_{j=k+1}^4 \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}}$$

recall

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[k]}} = \prod_{j=k+1}^4 \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}}$$



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$\Rightarrow$

$$\frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} \propto \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}$$

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$$\propto \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}$$

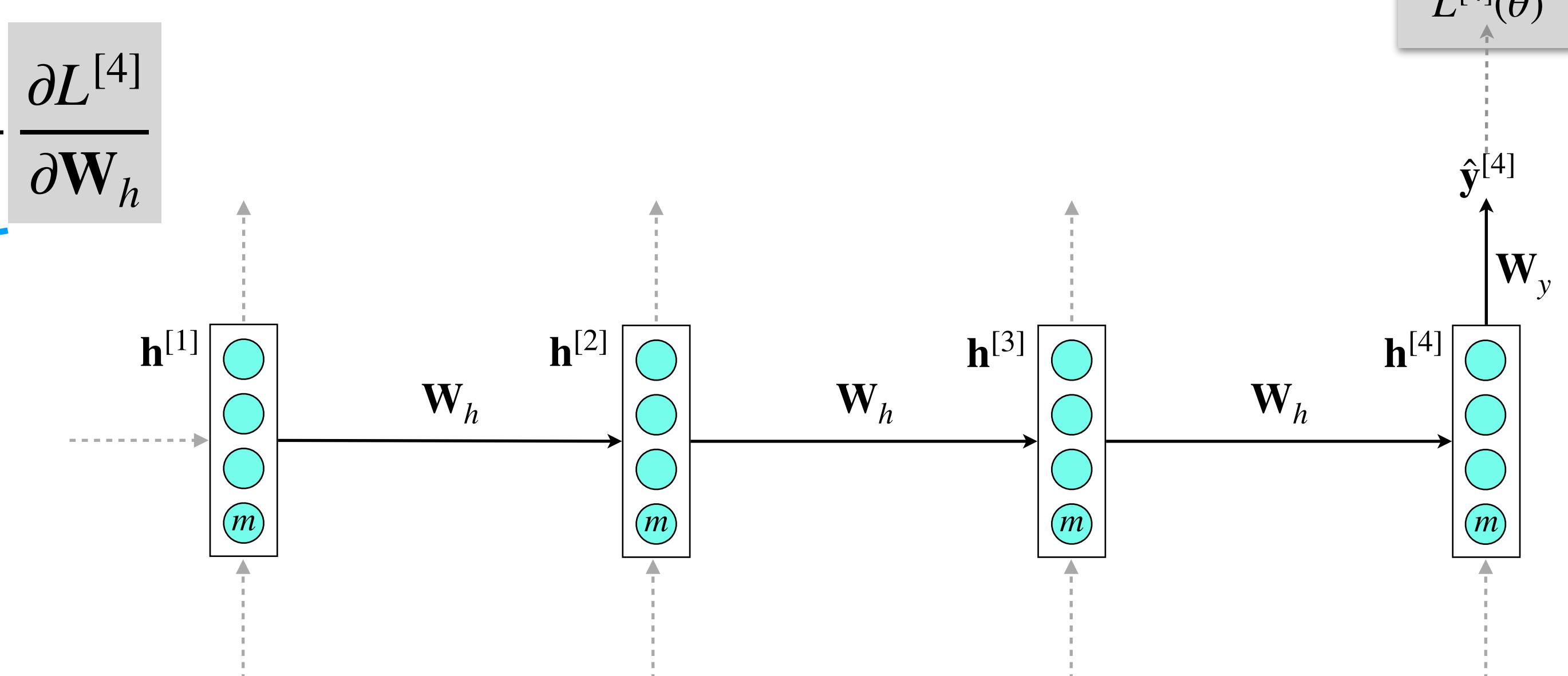
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recall

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$\Rightarrow$

$$\frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} \propto \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}$$



what if these are small (or large)?

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$$\propto \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}$$

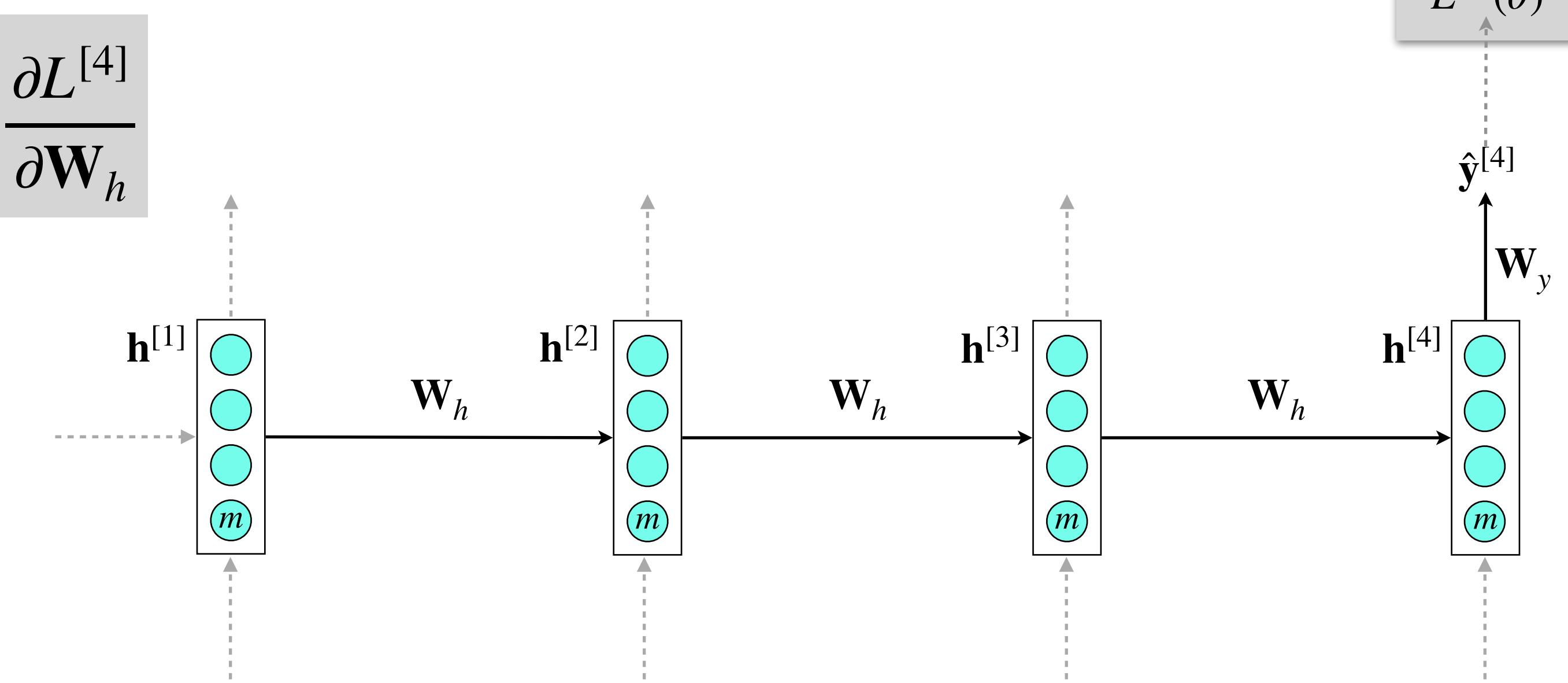
$$\propto \sum_{k=1}^4 \prod_{j=k+1}^4 \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}}$$

recall

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[k]}} = \prod_{j=k+1}^4 \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} \propto \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}$$



what if these are small (or large)?



vanishing (or exploding) gradient as we backpropagate!

# Vanishing (or exploding) gradients – Proof intuition

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_u \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_h \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_h)$$

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let's ignore the activation function  $\sigma$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]}} =$$

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$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]}} = \mathbf{W}_h$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-\xi]}} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]}} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-\xi-1]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-\xi]}}$$

let's now see what happens when we compute  
the partial derivative of hidden state  $\mathbf{h}^{[t]}$  w.r.t.  
the hidden state  $\xi$  time steps before it, i.e.  $\mathbf{h}^{[t-\xi]}$

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.....  
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- If  $\mathbf{W}_h$  has eigenvalues  $< 1$ , gradients become exponentially smaller as time steps  $\xi$  increase  $\implies$  gradients will become 0, i.e. vanish

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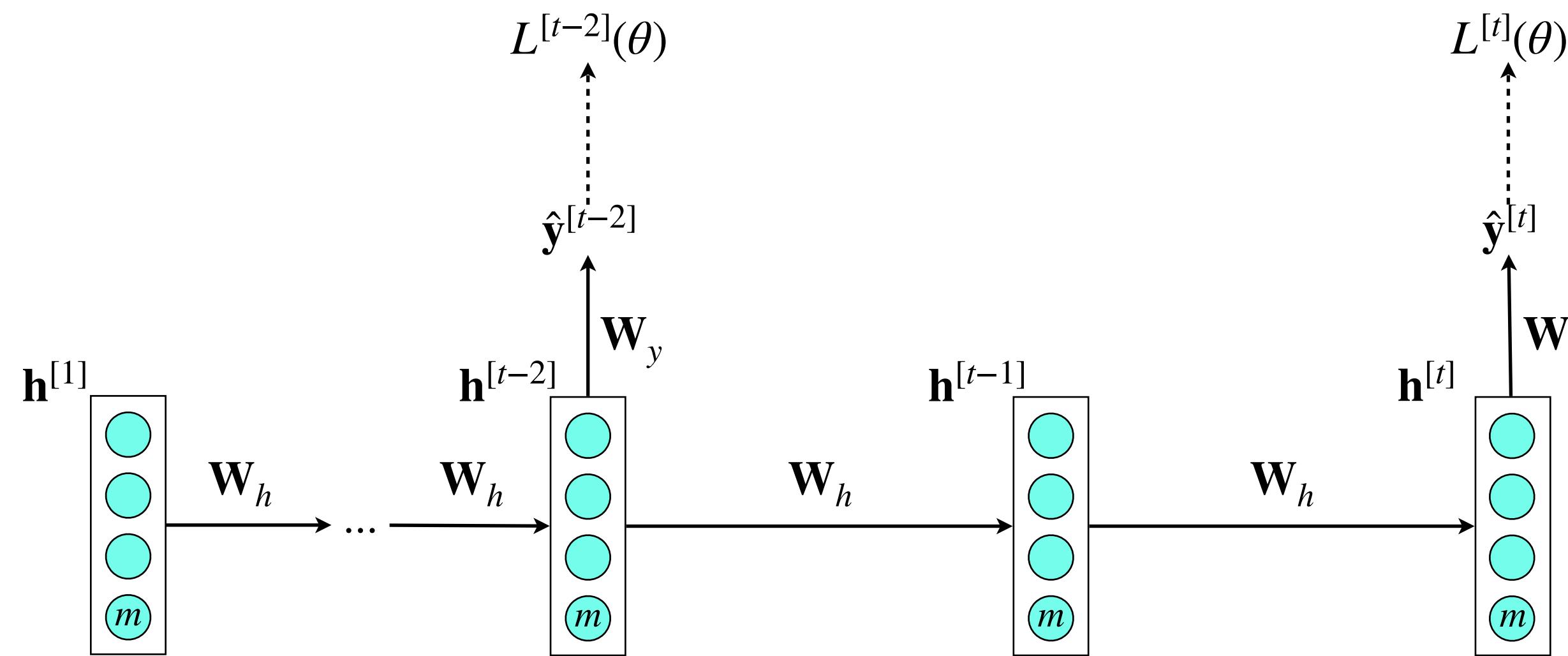
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-\xi]}} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]}} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-\xi-1]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-\xi]}} = \mathbf{W}_h^{\xi}$$

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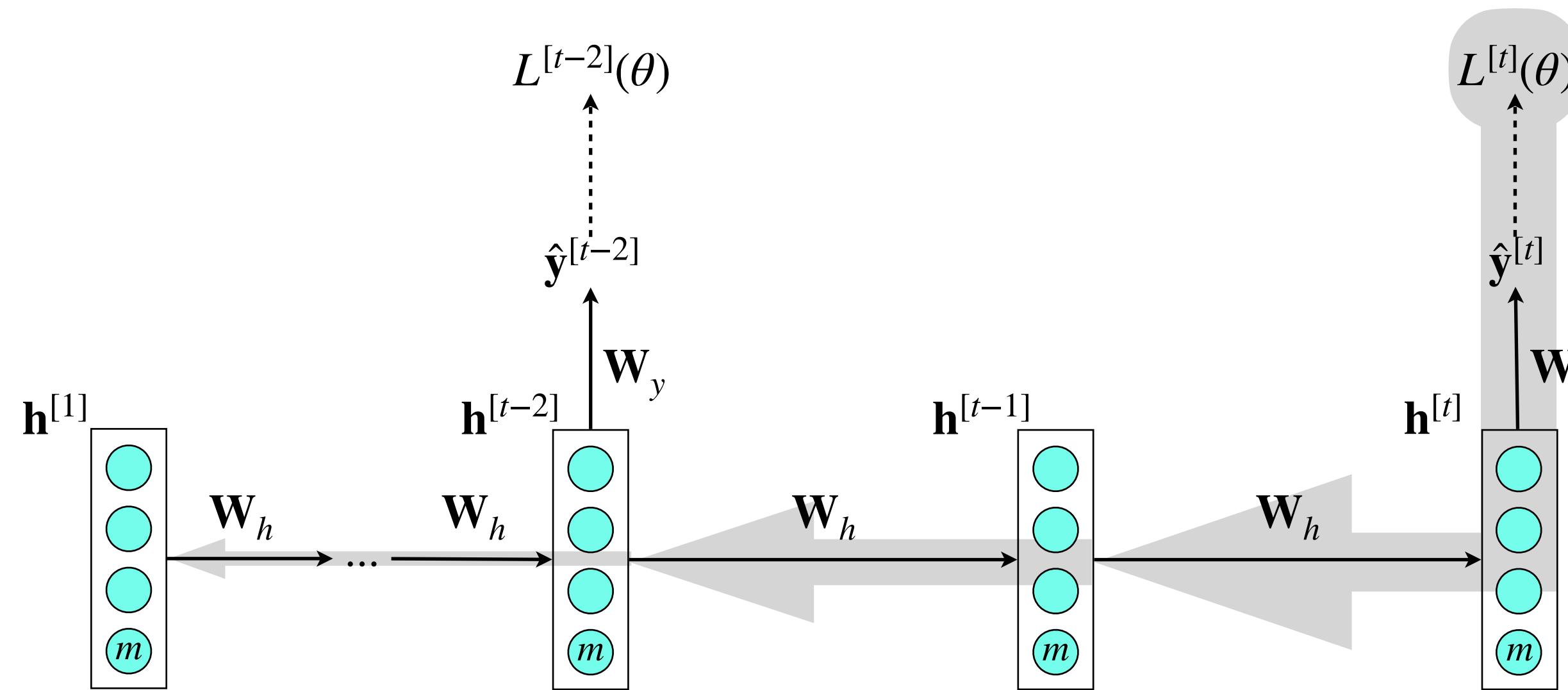
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- ▶ If  $\mathbf{W}_h$  has eigenvalues  $> 1$   $\implies$  gradients will explode
- ▶ Similar outcome when we re-introduce an activation function

# Vanishing gradients are an issue because...



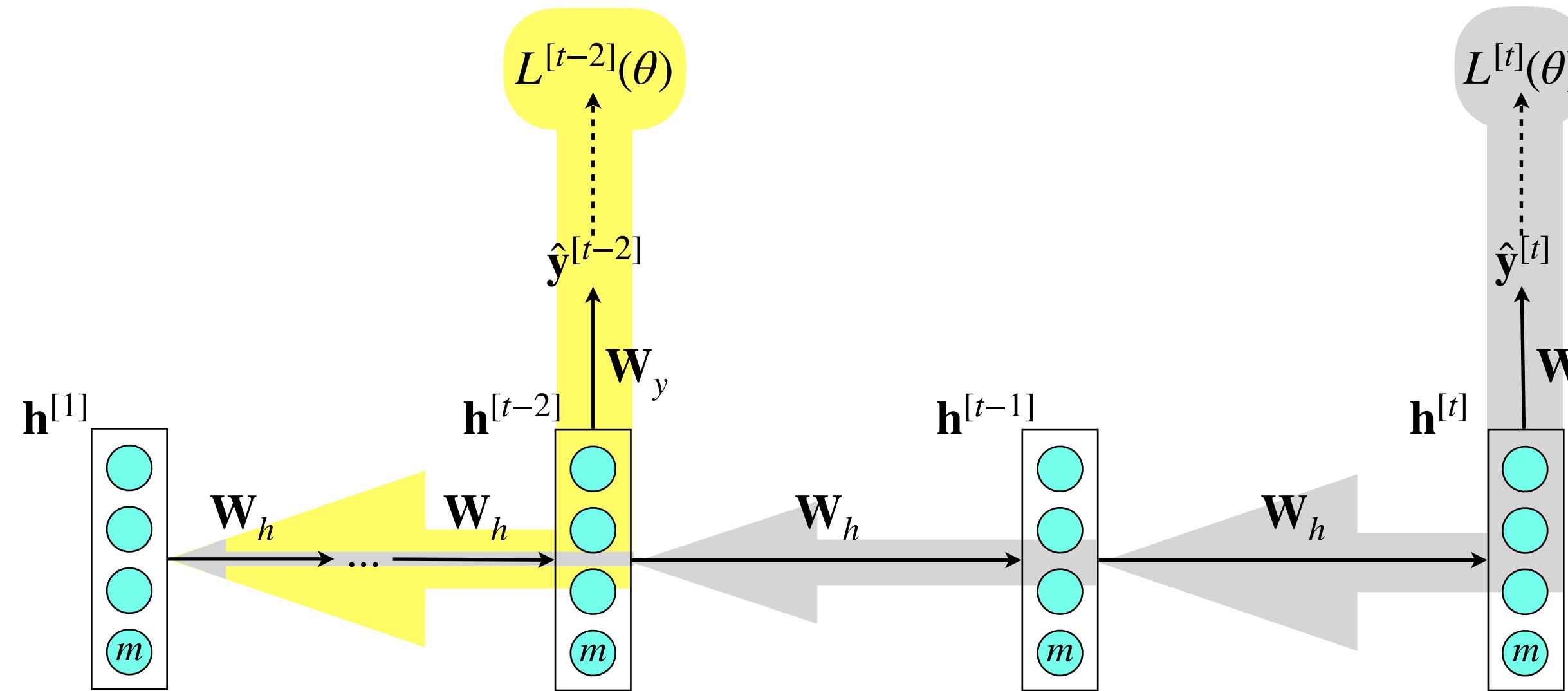
# Vanishing gradients are an issue because...



- ▶ Signal (gradient) from early states that are distant to the current state is lost  $\implies$  long-terms effects are not captured

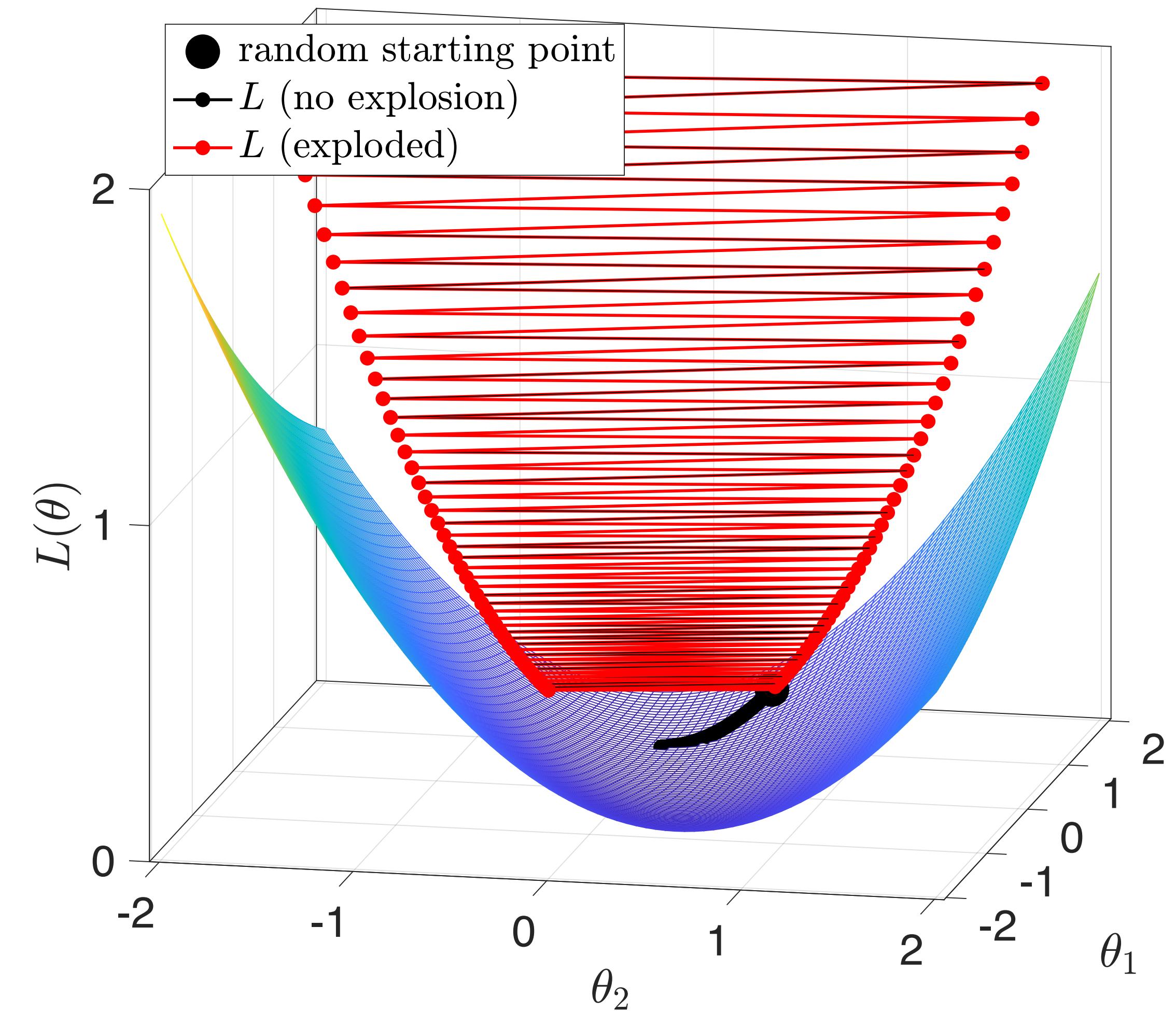


# Vanishing gradients are an issue because...



- ▶ Signal (gradient) from early states that are distant to the current state is lost  $\implies$  long-terms effects are not captured
- ▶ NB: Parameters will still be updated, but based on shorter-term gradients that have not vanished.

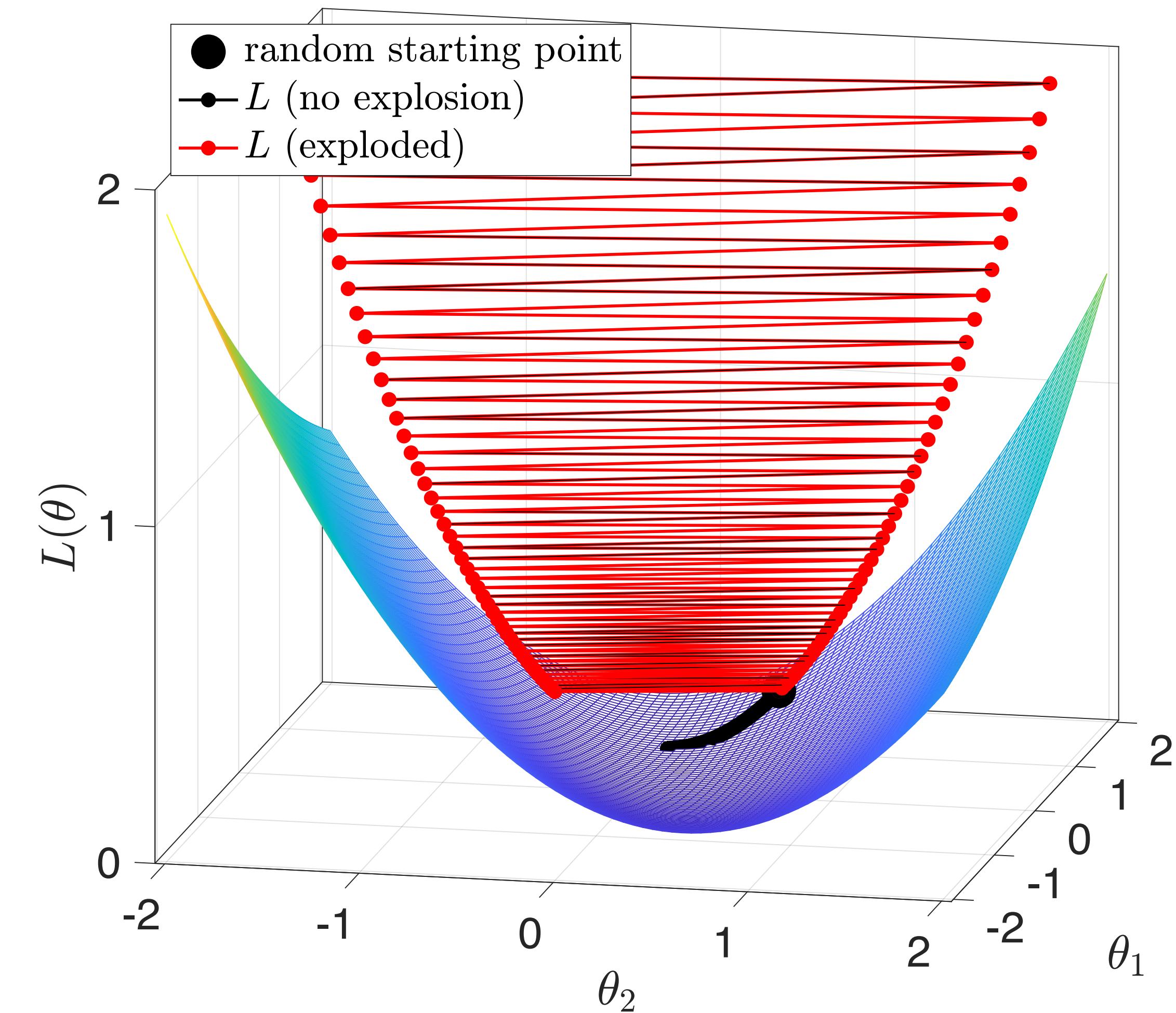
# Exploding gradients



# Exploding gradients

- ▶ Large gradients,  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta_j}$ , mean large learning steps during optimisation

$$\theta_{j+1} = \theta_j - \eta \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta_j}$$

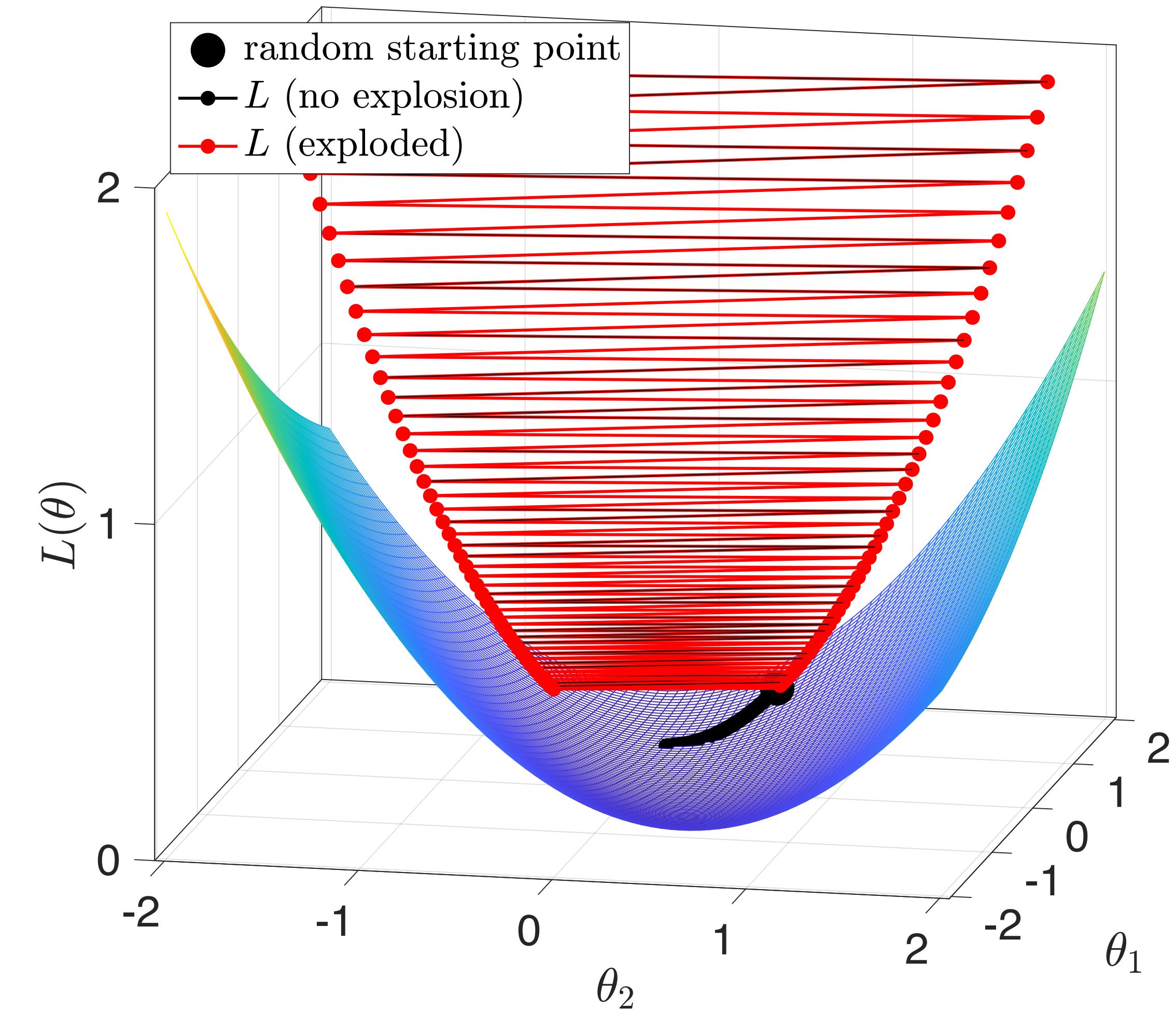


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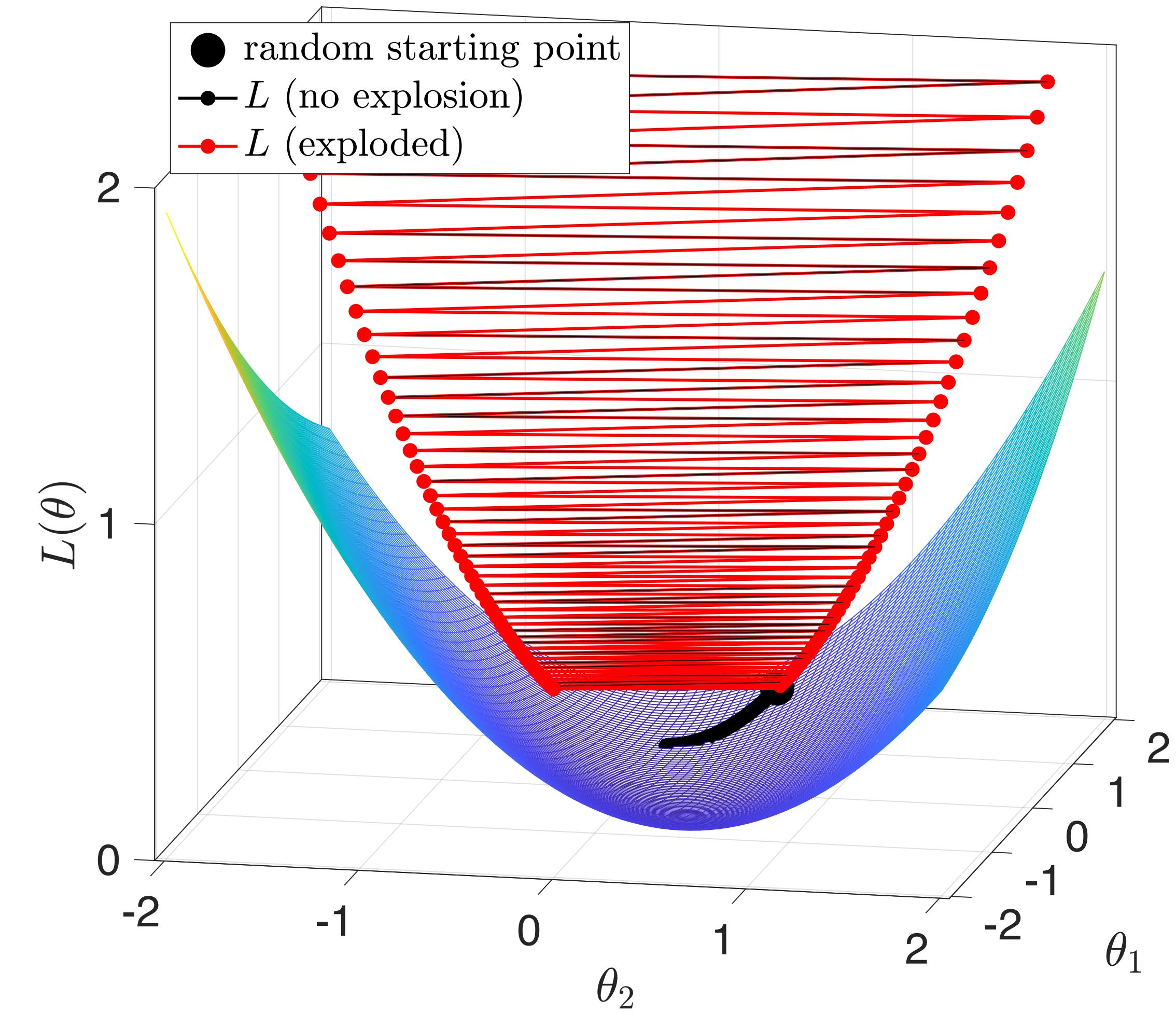
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- ▶ This would possibly result in a poor parameter setting from which we might not be able to recover, especially while using large learning steps



# Exploding gradients

- ▶ Large gradients,  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta_j}$ , mean large learning steps during optimisation
- ▶ 
$$\theta_{j+1} = \theta_j - \eta \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta_j}$$
- ▶ This would possibly result in a poor parameter setting from which we might not be able to recover, especially while using large learning steps
- ▶ The worst penalty to pay would be NaN / Inf errors in the NN parameters; training will have to be restarted



# An “easy” solution to exploding gradients – Gradient clipping

- ▶ If the L2 norm of the gradient is greater than a threshold  $\gamma$ , simply scale the gradient down, i.e. clip it!

$$\mathbf{q} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta}$$

**if**  $\|\mathbf{q}\| \geq \gamma$  **then**

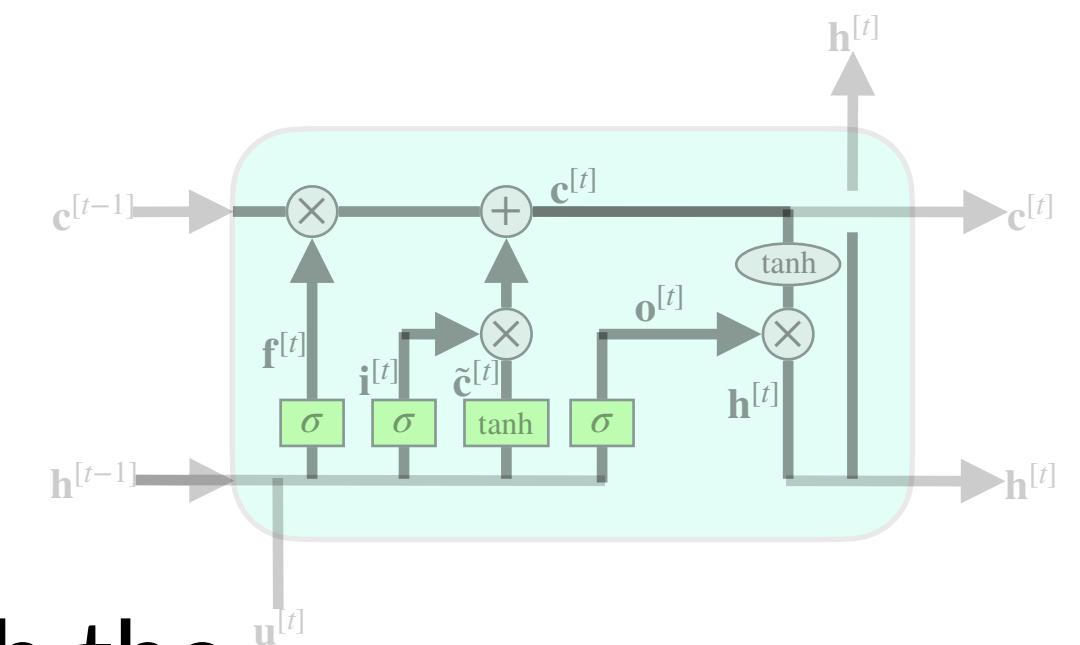
$$\mathbf{q} = \frac{\gamma}{\|\mathbf{q}\|} \cdot \mathbf{q}$$

**endif**

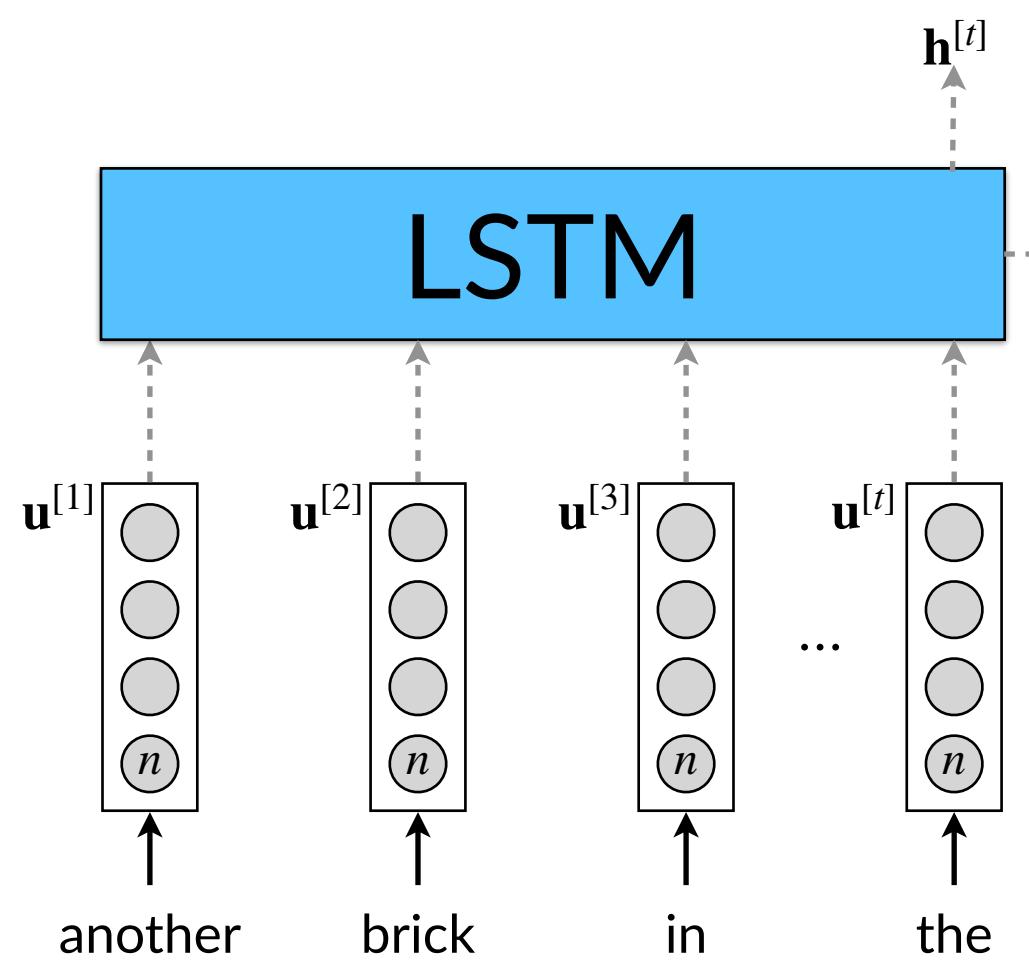
- ▶ We are still taking a step in the same direction, albeit a smaller one
- ▶ We need to learn / set the threshold  $\gamma$ ; a good heuristic 0.5 to 10 times the average norm of the gradient over a sufficient number of updates

# Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) – A better RNN

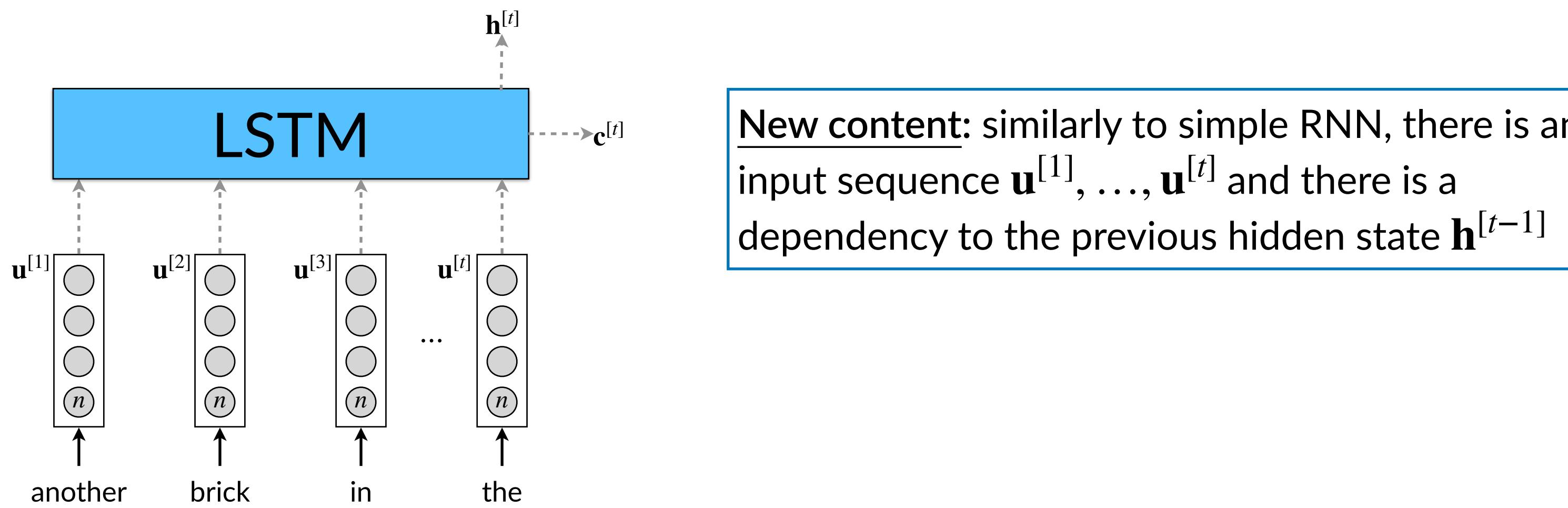
- ▶ Simple RNNs fail to maintain information over many time steps as their architecture does not have explicit components to do so
- ▶ Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) is an update to the RNN architecture with the aim of solving the problem of vanishing gradients
- ▶ The LSTM has a hidden state like the simple RNN, but also a “cell” state, both being  $n$ -dimensional vectors
- ▶ The cell is designed to store more long-term information and acts like a memory module – the LSTM can read, delete, and write information to the cell
- ▶ 3 new  $n$ -dimensional vectors control what is read, deleted, and written; however their decisions are “probabilistic”  $\in [0,1]$  for each of the  $n$  dimensions (not 0 or 1) and are learned during optimisation



# Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)

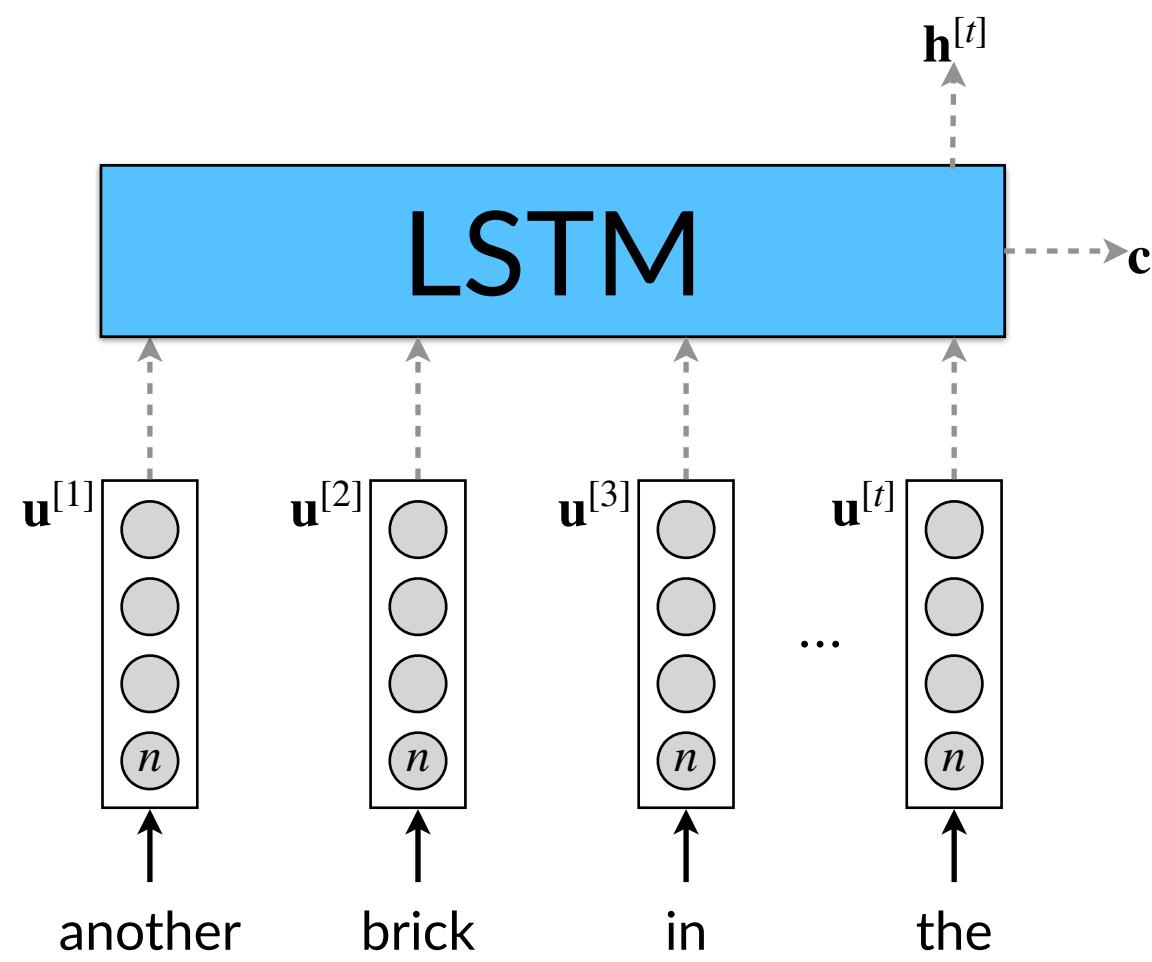


# Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)



$$\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]} = \tanh(\mathbf{U}_c \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_c \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_c)$$

# Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)



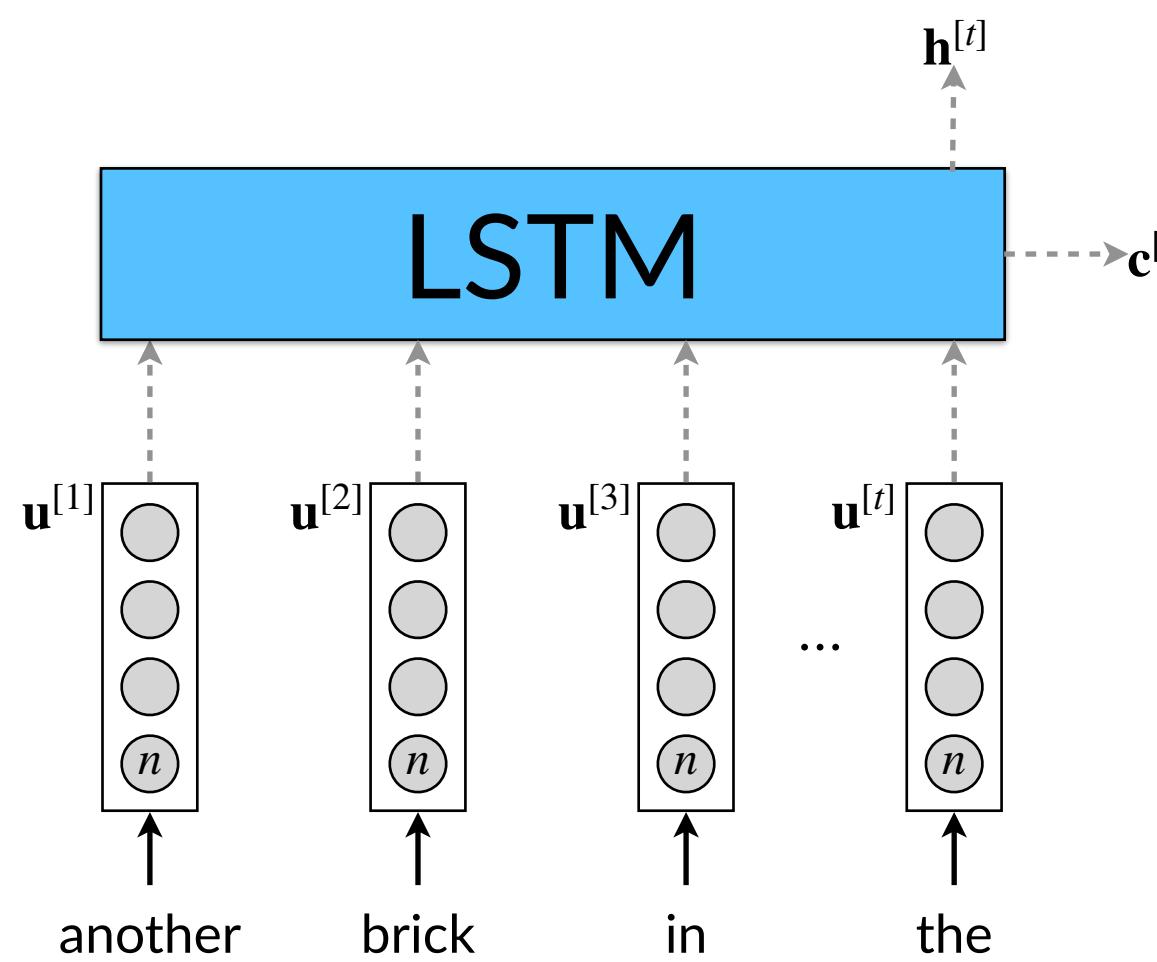
**New content:** similarly to simple RNN, there is an input sequence  $\mathbf{u}^{[1]}, \dots, \mathbf{u}^{[t]}$  and there is a dependency to the previous hidden state  $\mathbf{h}^{[t-1]}$

**Forget gate:** what should be forgotten from the previous cell state;  $0 \rightarrow 1 \sim \text{forget} \rightarrow \text{keep}$ .

$$\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]} = \tanh(\mathbf{U}_c \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_c \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_c)$$

$$\mathbf{f}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_f \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_f \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_f)$$

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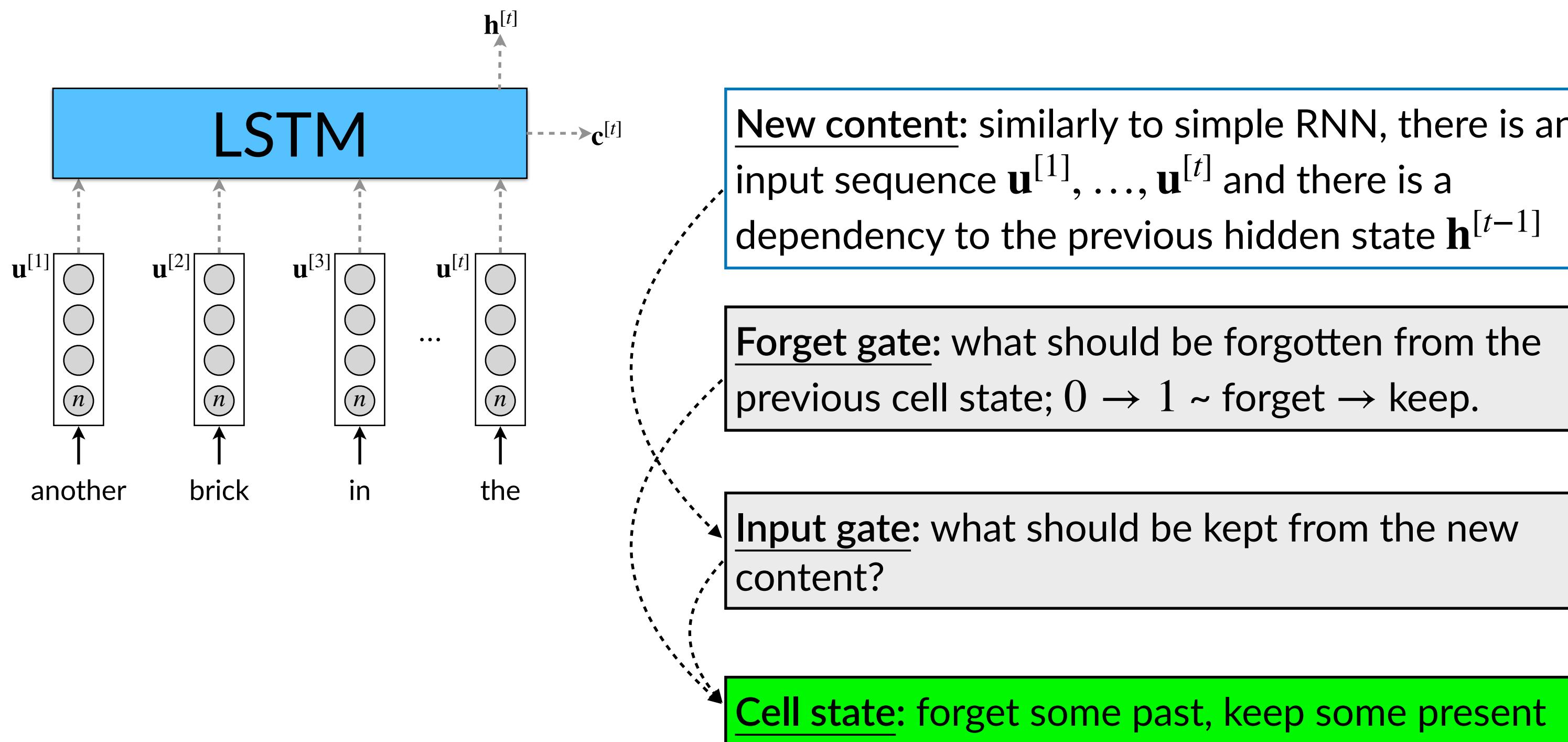
Input gate: what should be kept from the new content?

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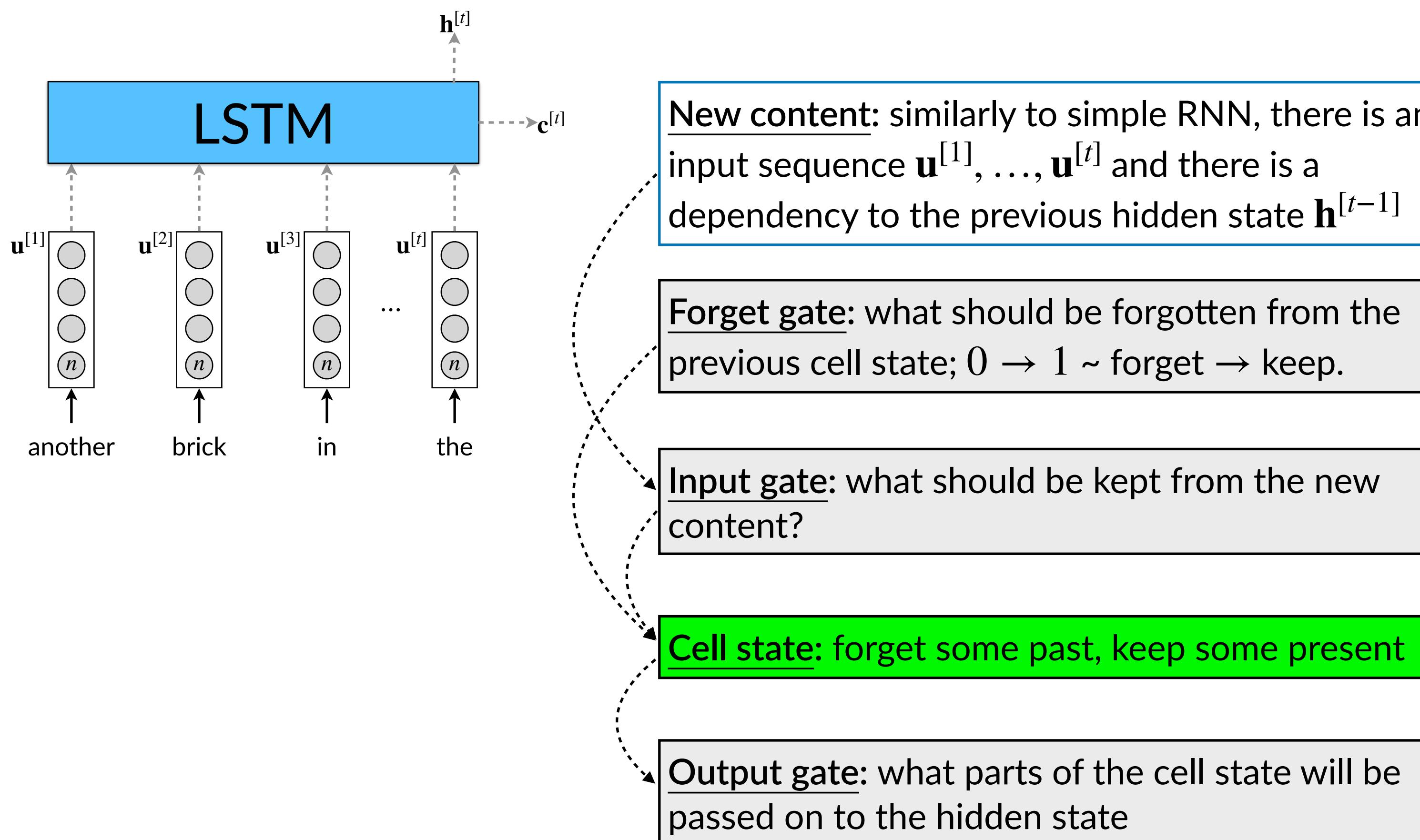
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$$\mathbf{c}^{[t]} = \mathbf{f}^{[t]} \odot \mathbf{c}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{i}^{[t]} \odot \tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]}$$

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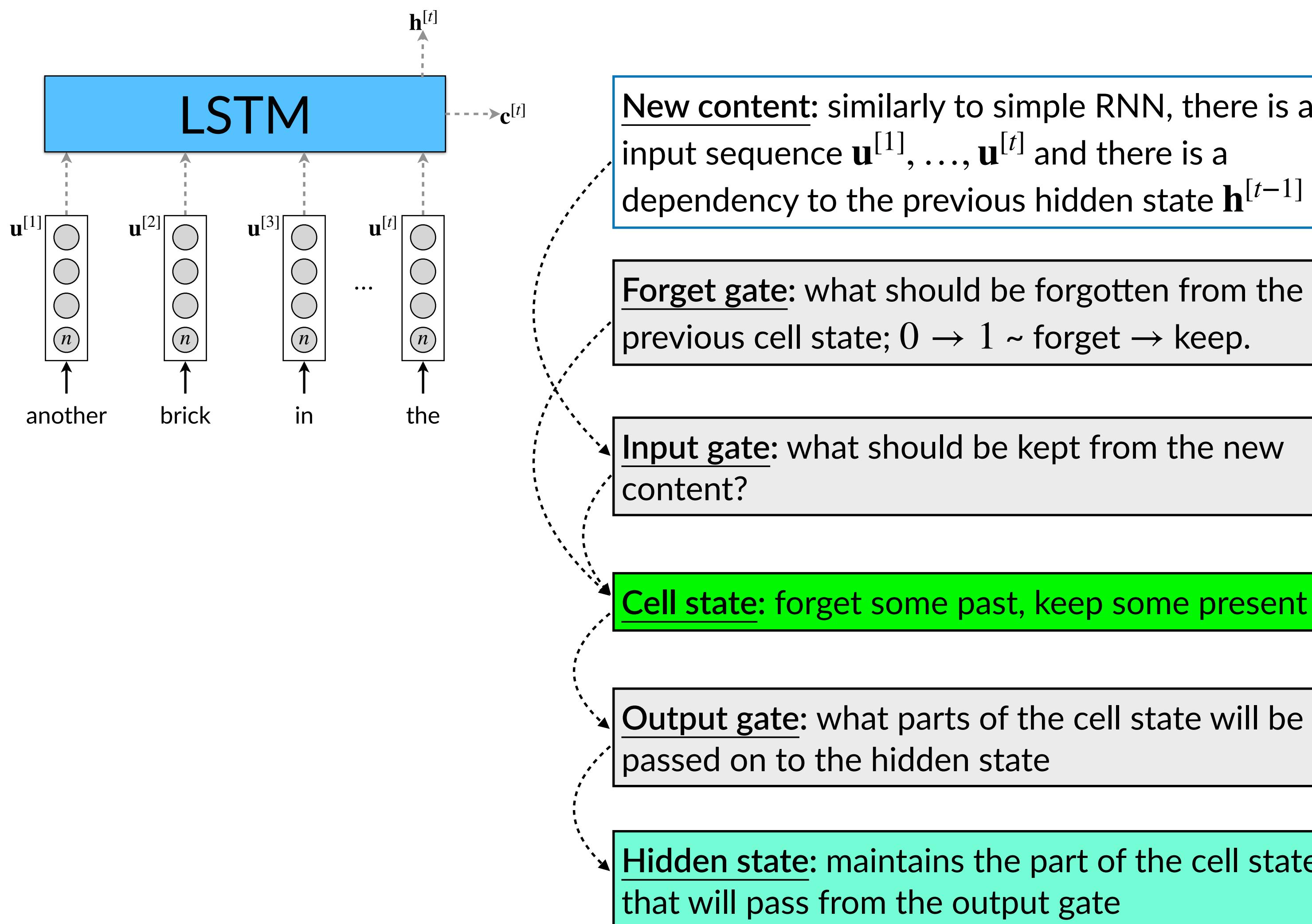
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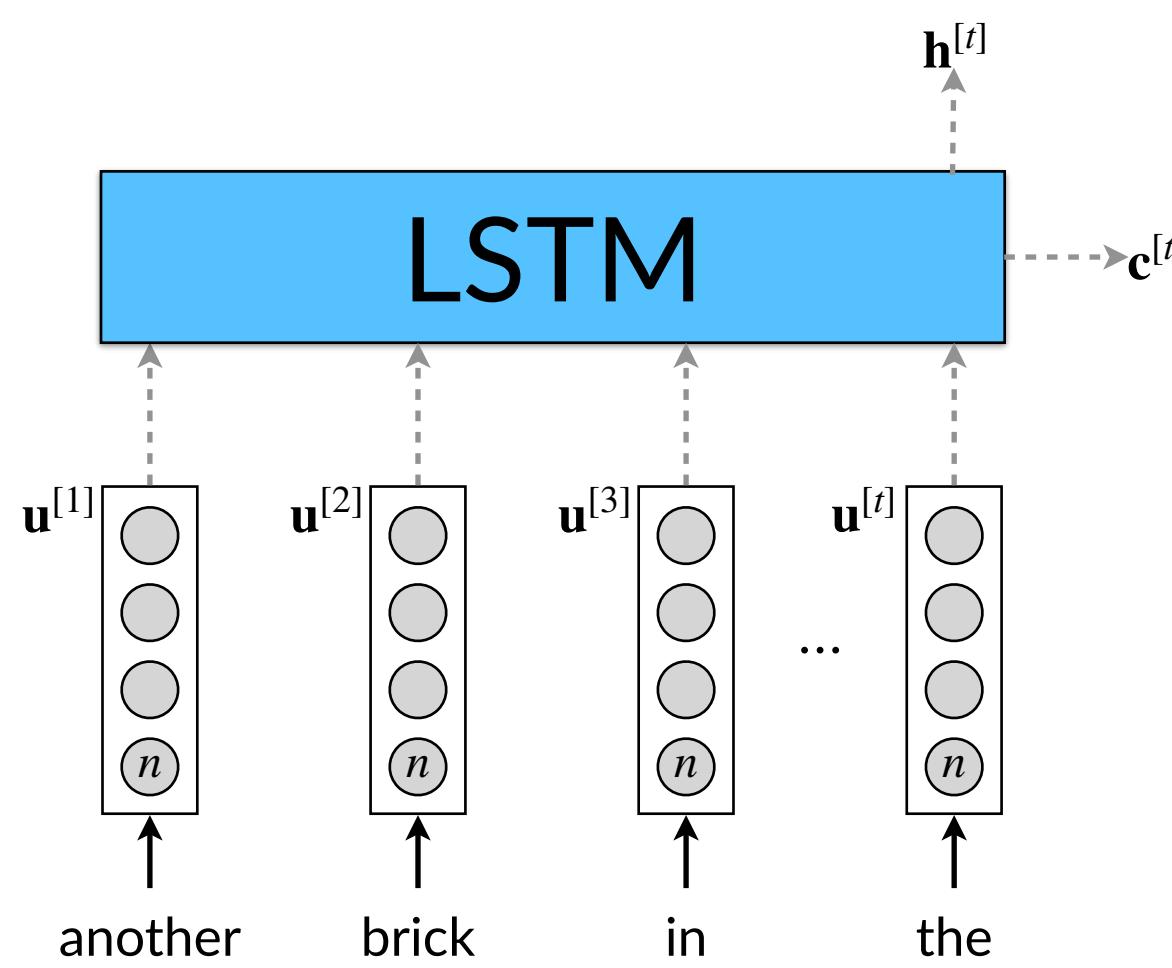
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# Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)



all gate values range from 0 to 1  
given the sigmoid activation ( $\sigma$ )

$$\mathbf{f}^{[t]}, \mathbf{i}^{[t]}, \mathbf{o}^{[t]} \in (0,1)^n$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]}, \mathbf{h}^{[t]} \in (-1,1)^n \text{ and } \mathbf{c}^{[t]} \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$\odot$  Hadamard or element-wise product

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**Input gate:** what should be kept from the new content?

**Cell state:** forget some past, keep some present

**Output gate:** what parts of the cell state will be passed on to the hidden state

**Hidden state:** maintains the part of the cell state that will pass from the output gate

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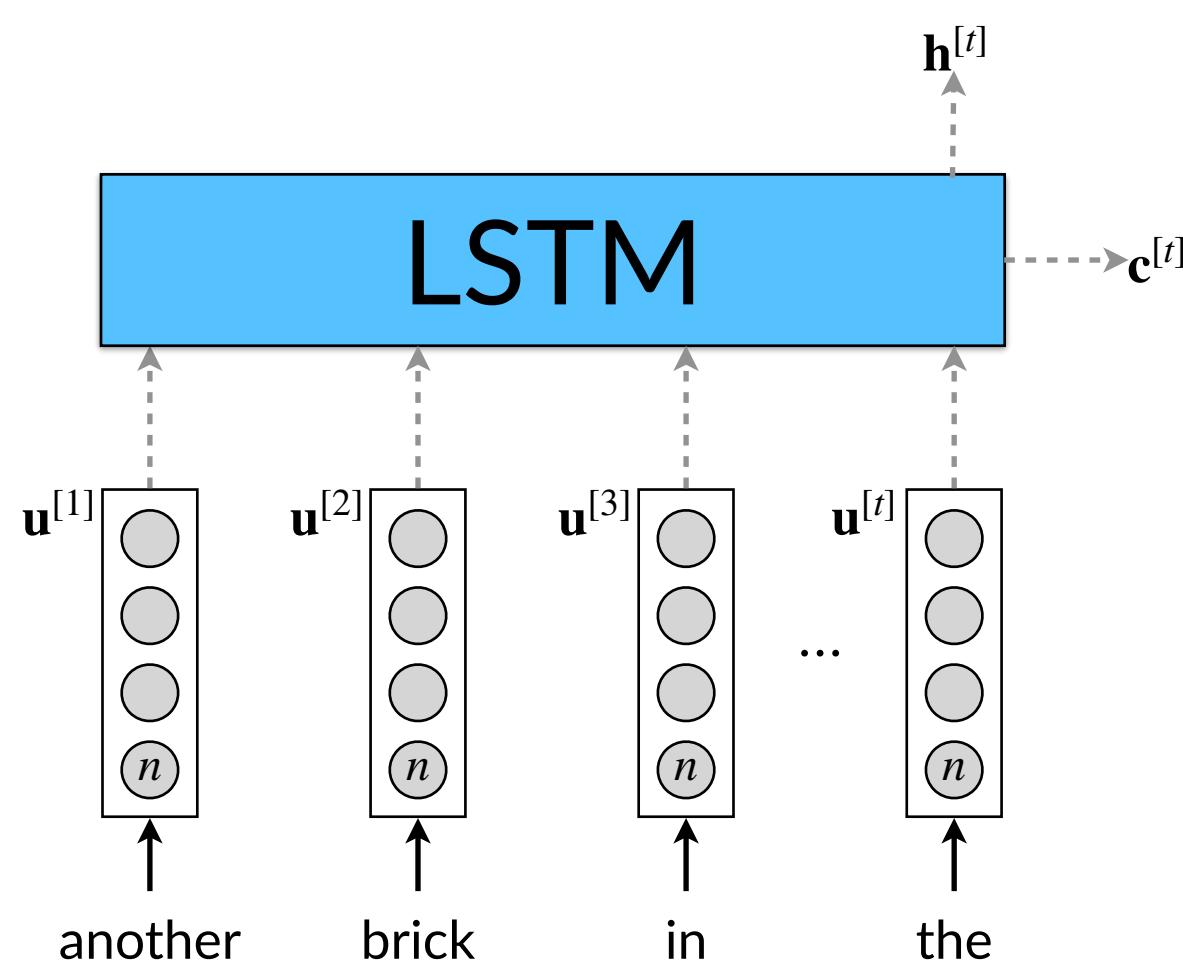
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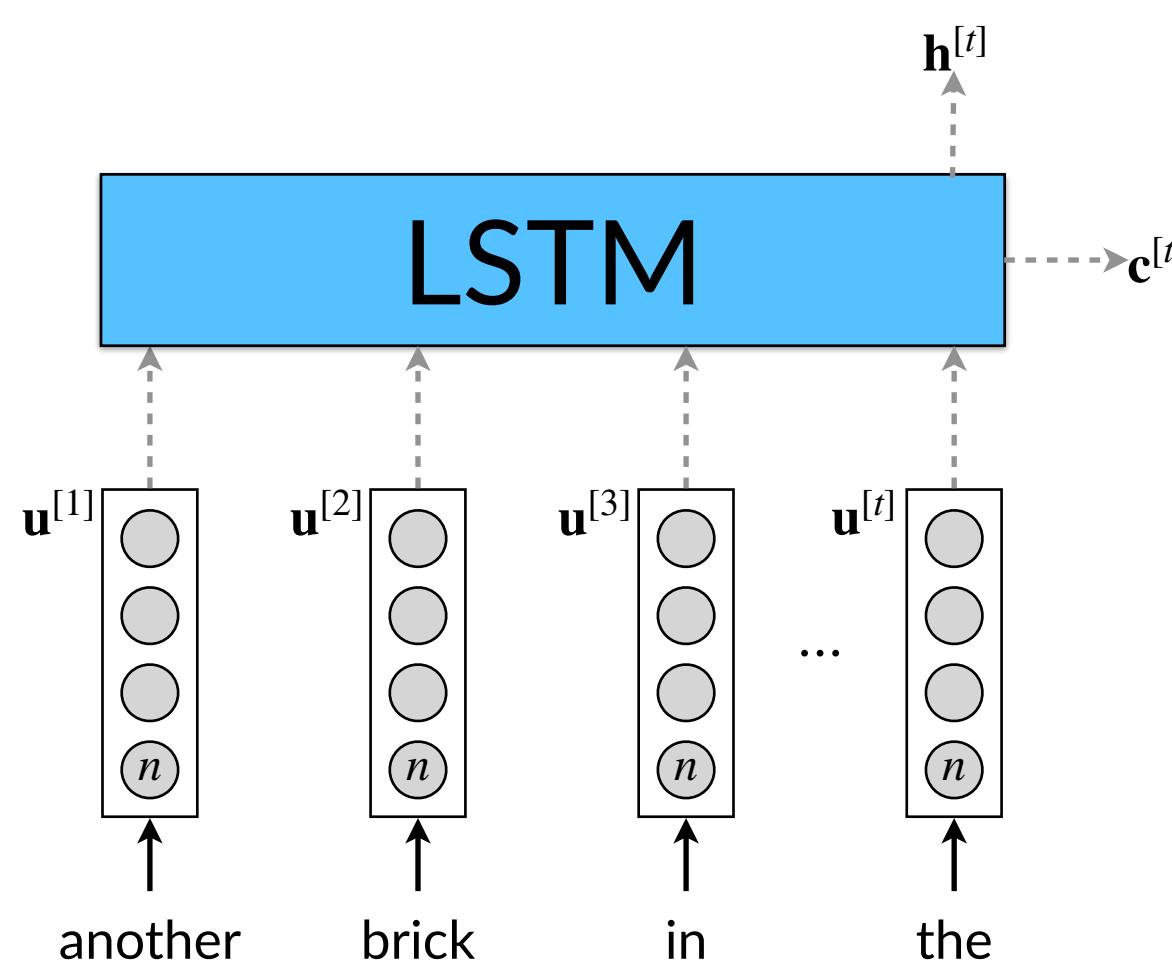
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independent from each other  
could be computed in parallel

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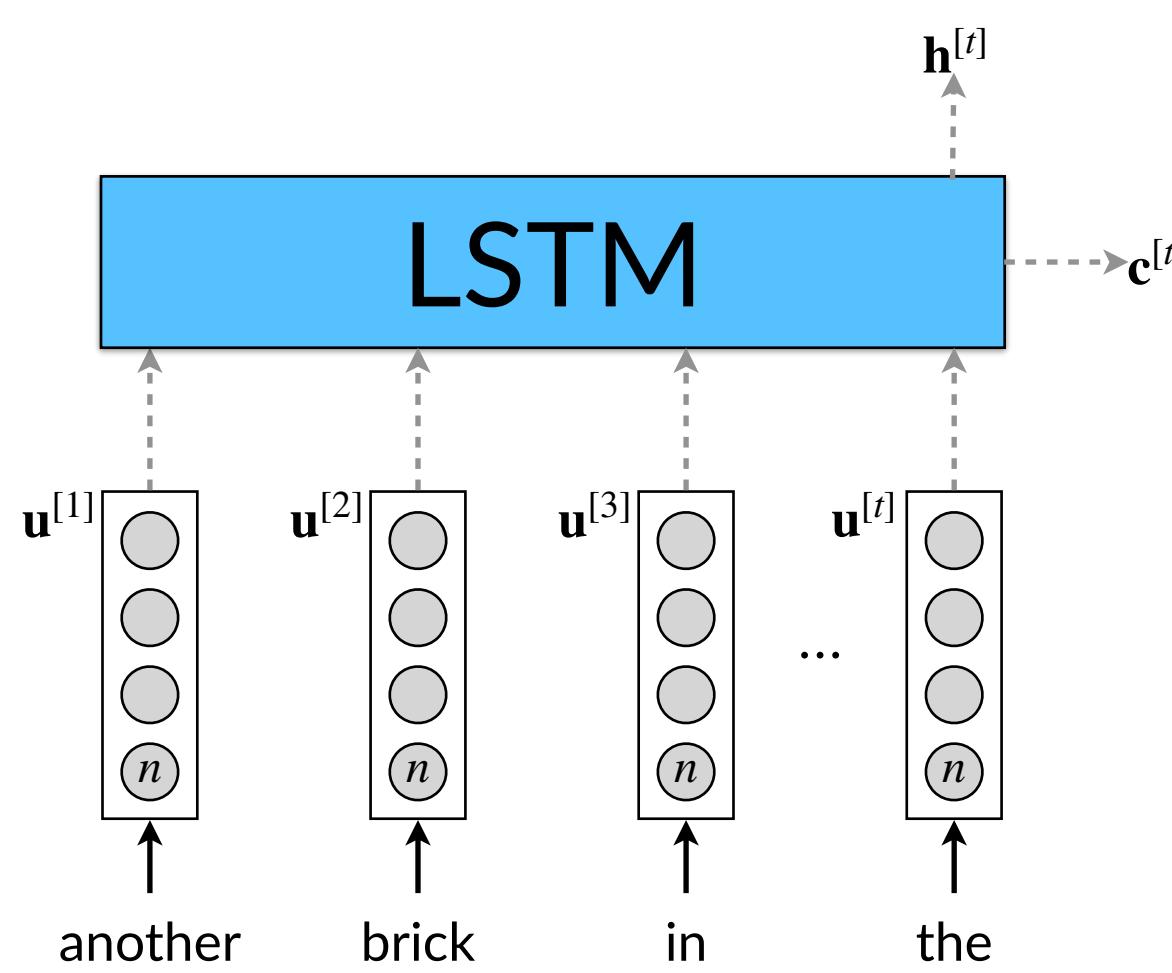
$$\mathbf{c}^{[t]} = \mathbf{f}^{[t]} \odot \mathbf{c}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{i}^{[t]} \odot \tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]}$$

$$\mathbf{o}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_o \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_o \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_o)$$

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \mathbf{o}^{[t]} \odot \tanh(\mathbf{c}^{[t]})$$

If  $\mathbf{u}^{[t]} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , how many parameters?

# Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)



all gate values range from 0 to 1  
given the sigmoid activation ( $\sigma$ )

$$\mathbf{f}^{[t]}, \mathbf{i}^{[t]}, \mathbf{o}^{[t]} \in (0,1)^n$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]}, \mathbf{h}^{[t]} \in (-1,1)^n \text{ and } \mathbf{c}^{[t]} \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$\odot$  Hadamard or element-wise product

New content: similarly to simple RNN, there is an input sequence  $\mathbf{u}^{[1]}, \dots, \mathbf{u}^{[t]}$  and there is a dependency to the previous hidden state  $\mathbf{h}^{[t-1]}$

Forget gate: what should be forgotten from the previous cell state;  $0 \rightarrow 1 \sim \text{forget} \rightarrow \text{keep}$ .

Input gate: what should be kept from the new content?

Cell state: forget some past, keep some present

Output gate: what parts of the cell state will be passed on to the hidden state

Hidden state: maintains the part of the cell state that will pass from the output gate

independent from each other  
could be computed in parallel

$$\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]} = \tanh(\mathbf{U}_c \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_c \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_c)$$

$$\mathbf{f}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_f \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_f \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_f)$$

$$\mathbf{i}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_i \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_i)$$

$$\mathbf{c}^{[t]} = \mathbf{f}^{[t]} \odot \mathbf{c}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{i}^{[t]} \odot \tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]}$$

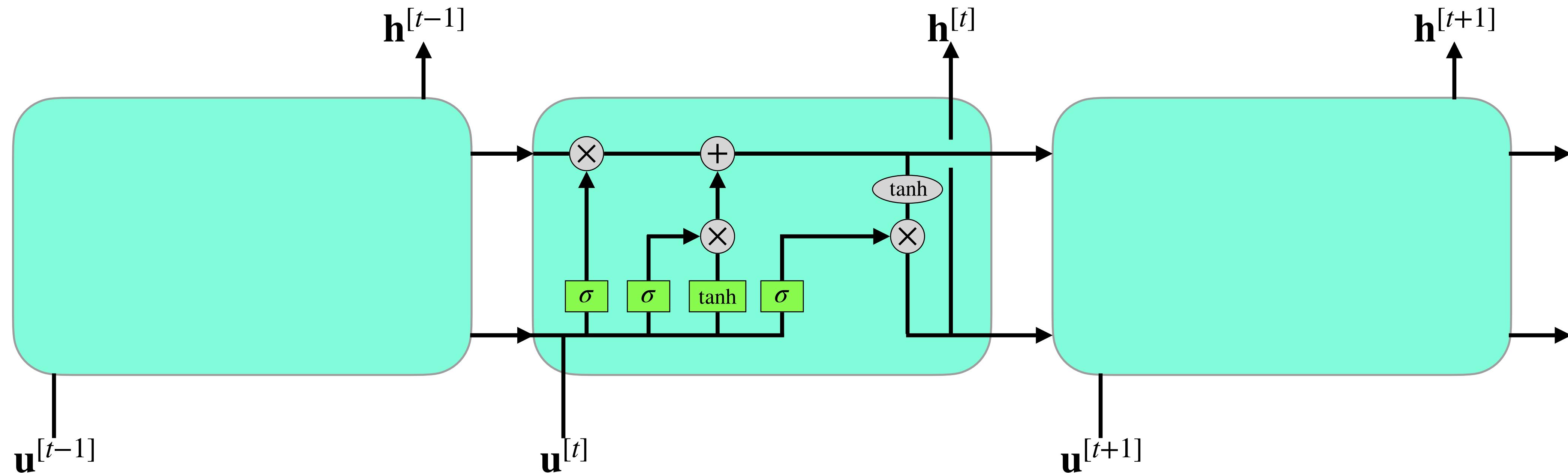
$$\mathbf{o}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_o \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_o \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_o)$$

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \mathbf{o}^{[t]} \odot \tanh(\mathbf{c}^{[t]})$$

If  $\mathbf{u}^{[t]} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , how many parameters?

$$= 4 \cdot n \cdot (m + n + 1)$$

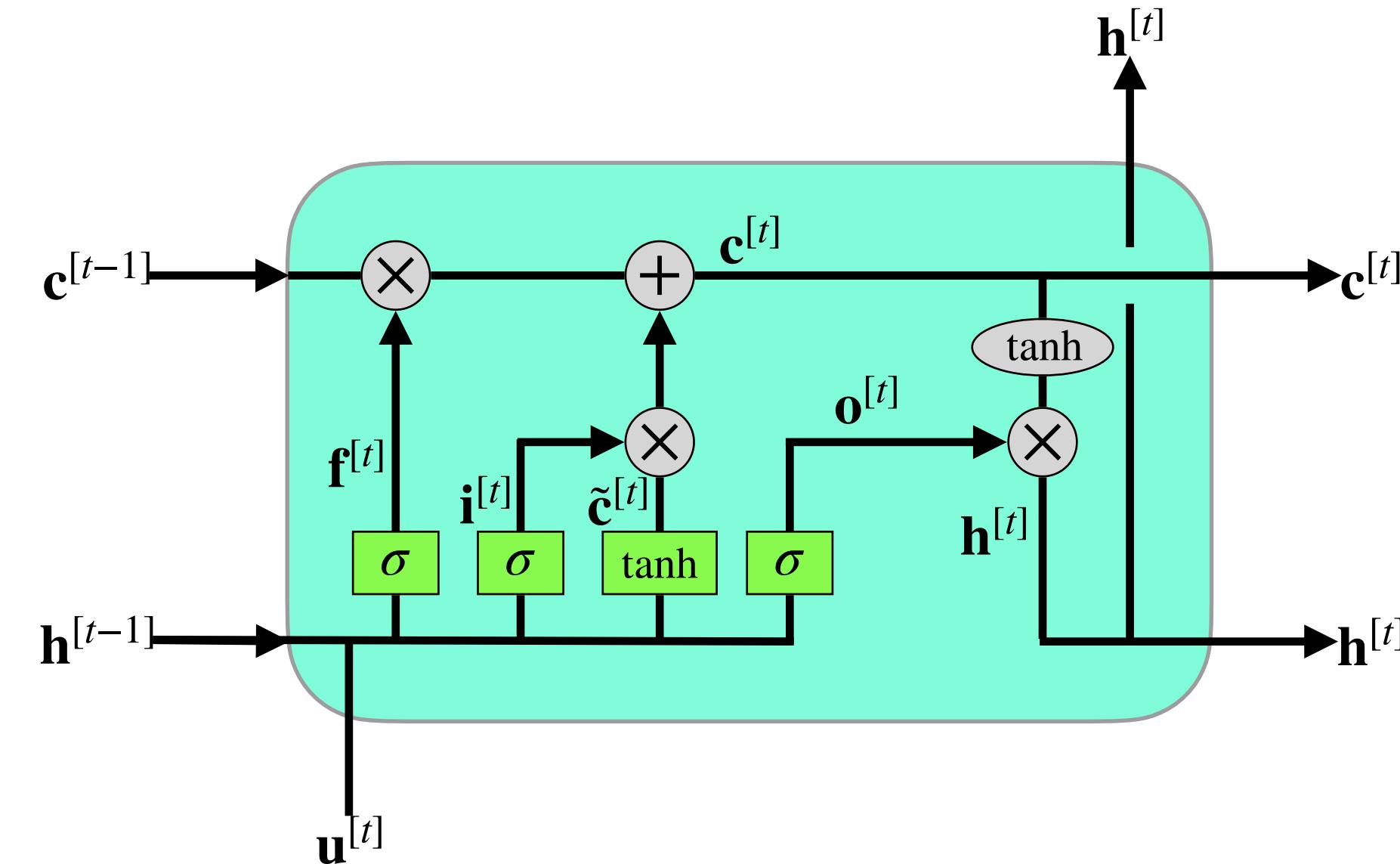
# The LSTM (*confusing/artistic*) schematic



element-wise  
operation

More: [colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/](https://colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/)

# The LSTM (*confusing/artistic*) schematic



$$\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]} = \tanh(\mathbf{U}_c \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_c \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_c)$$

$$\mathbf{f}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_f \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_f \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_f)$$

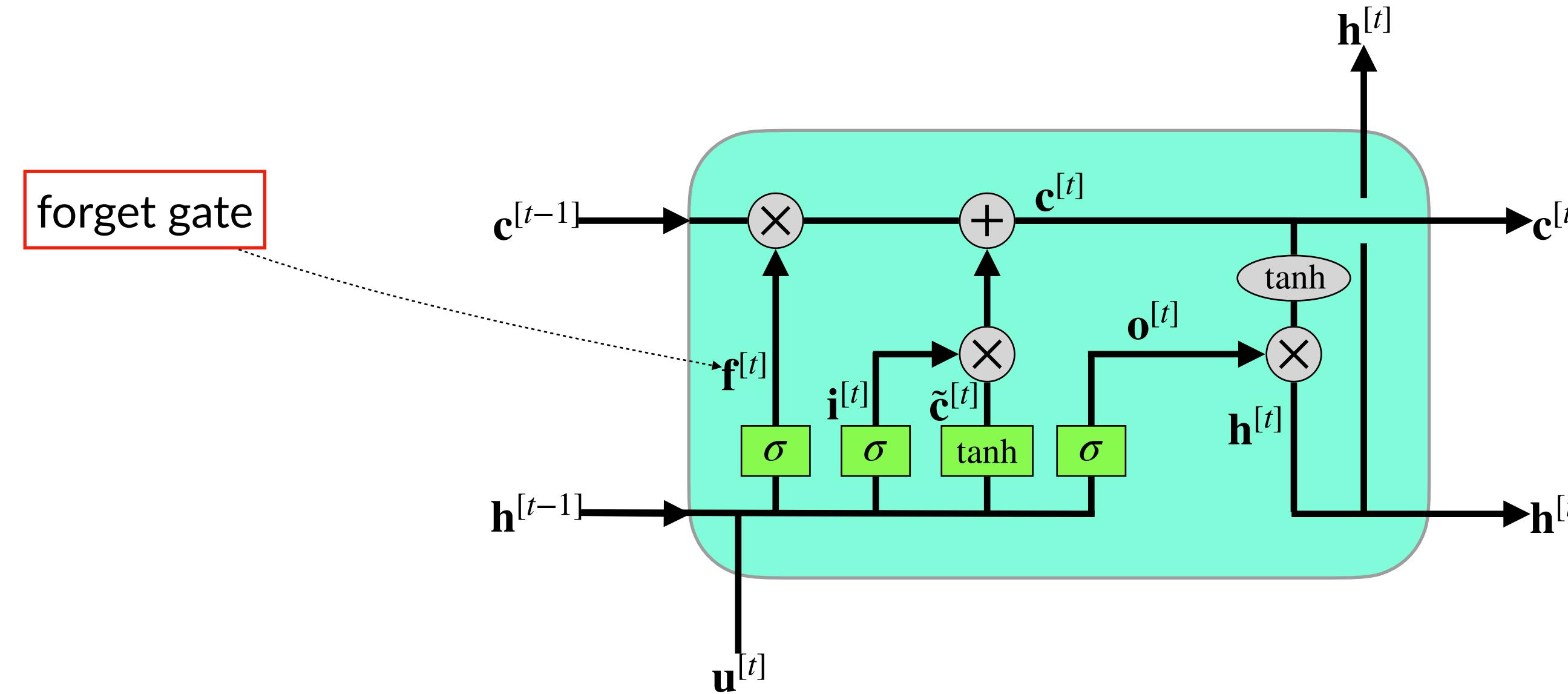
$$\mathbf{i}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_i \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_i)$$

$$\mathbf{c}^{[t]} = \mathbf{f}^{[t]} \odot \mathbf{c}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{i}^{[t]} \odot \tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]}$$

$$\mathbf{o}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_o \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_o \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_o)$$

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \mathbf{o}^{[t]} \odot \tanh(\mathbf{c}^{[t]})$$

# The LSTM (*confusing/artistic*) schematic



$$\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]} = \tanh(\mathbf{U}_c \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_c \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_c)$$

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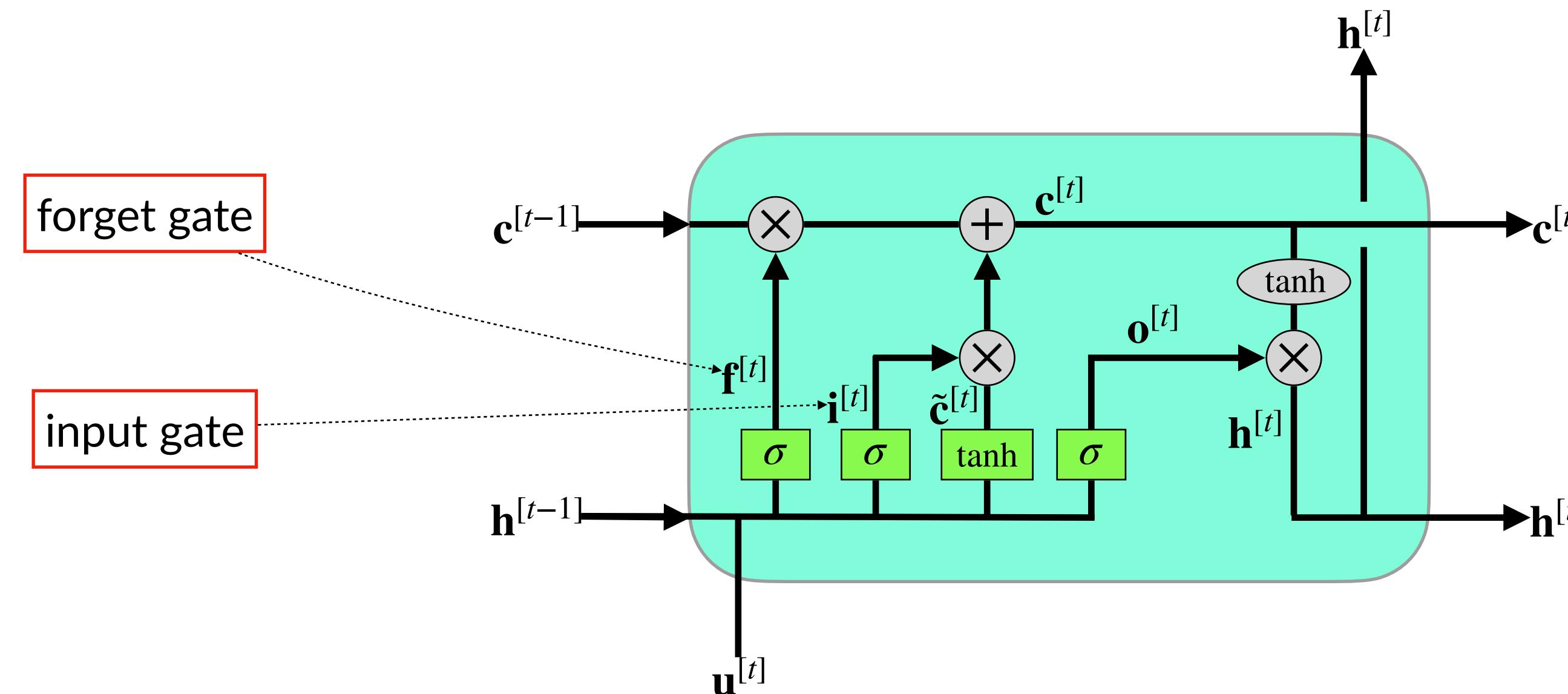
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# The LSTM (*confusing/artistic*) schematic



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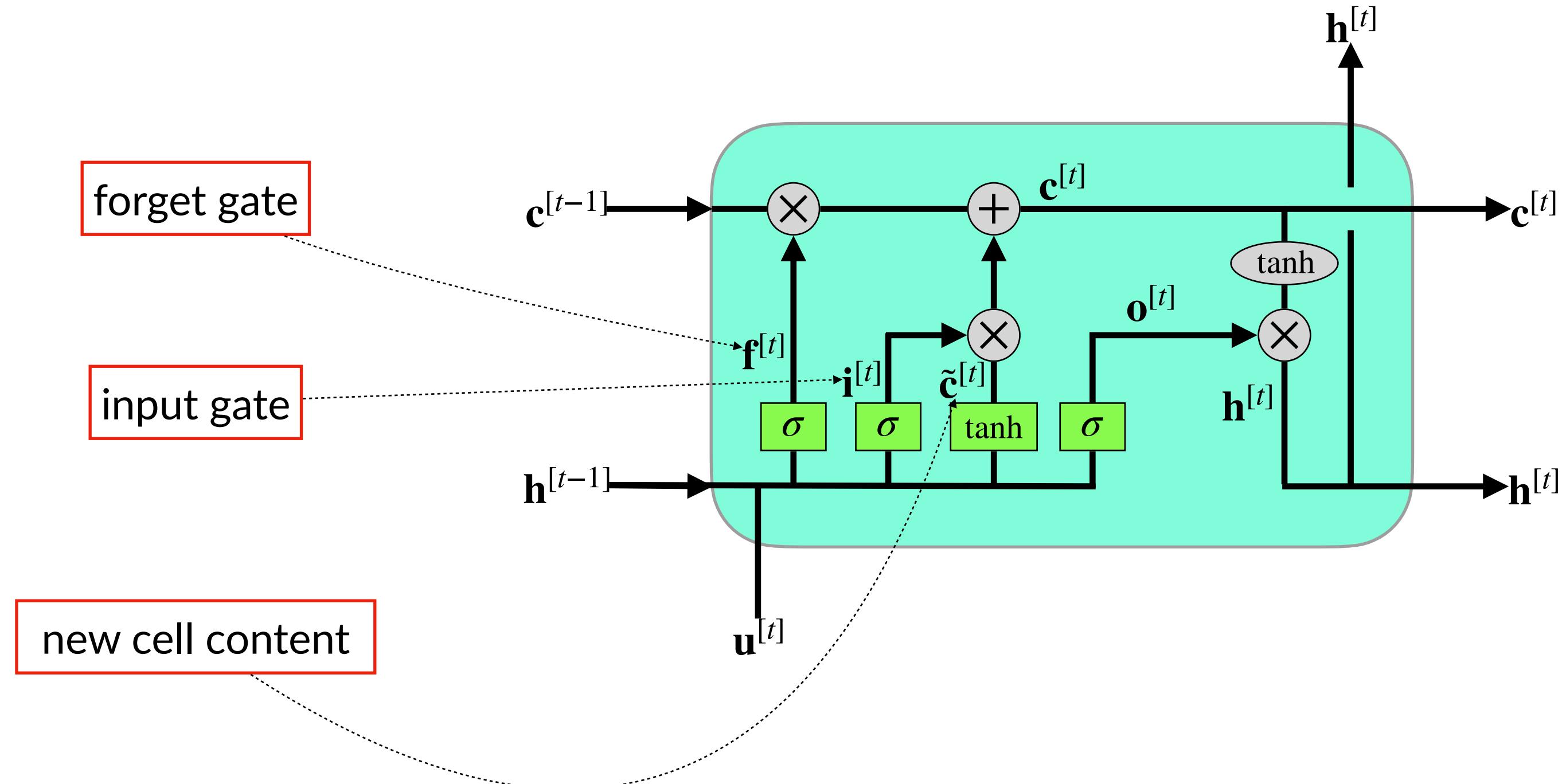
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# The LSTM (confusing/artistic) schematic



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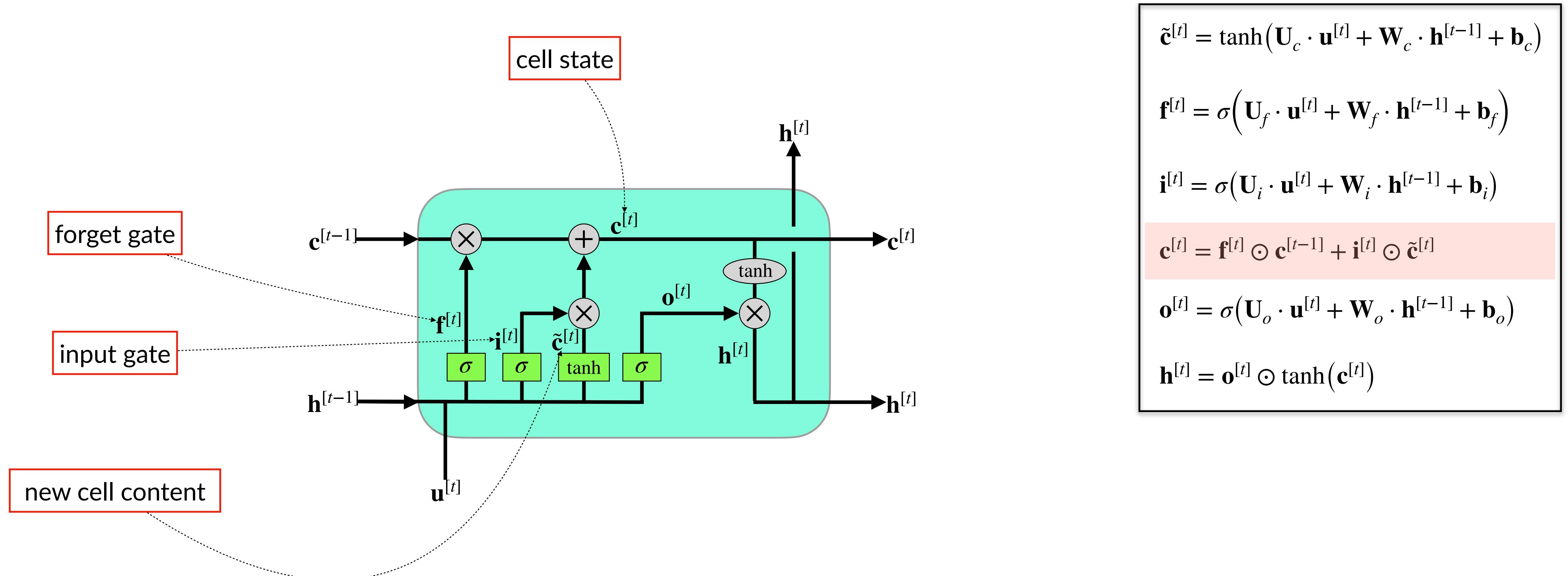
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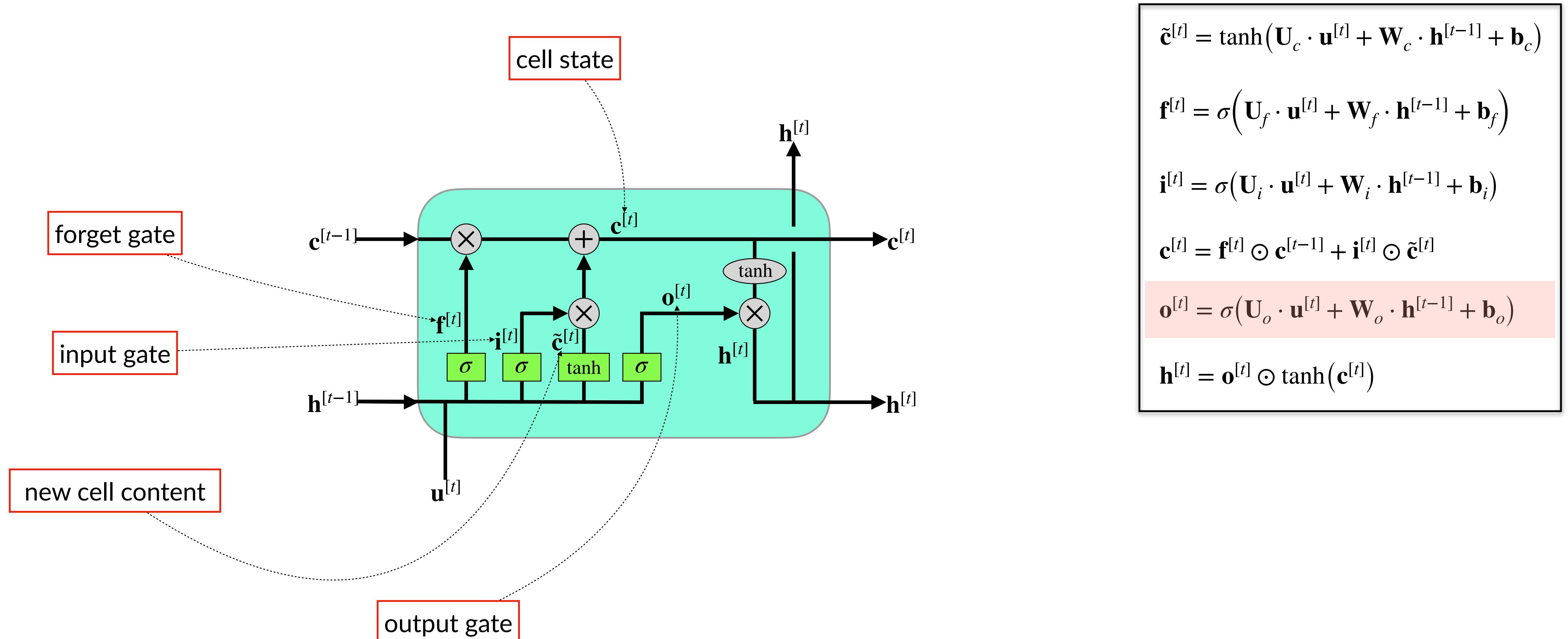
$$i^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_i \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_i)$$

$$c^{[t]} = f^{[t]} \odot c^{[t-1]} + i^{[t]} \odot \tilde{c}^{[t]}$$

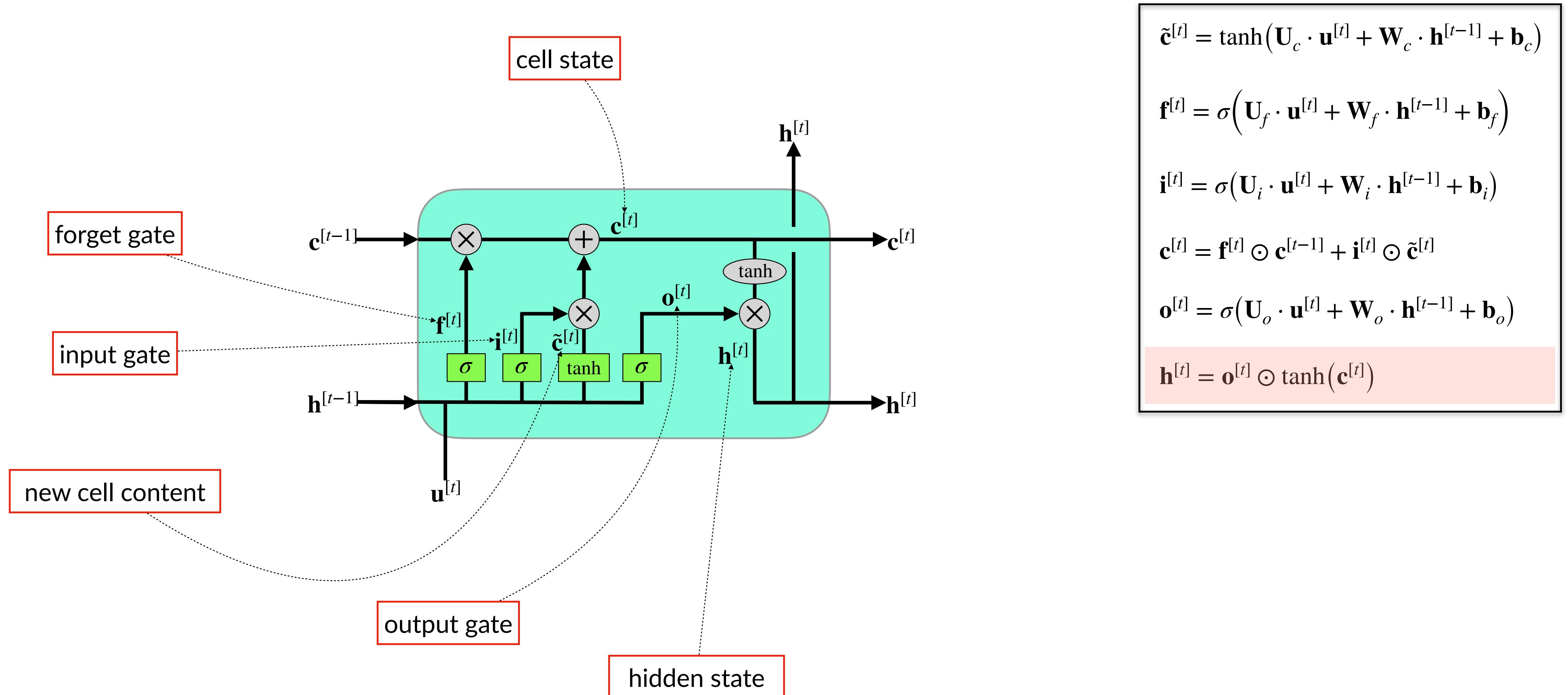
$$o^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_o \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_o \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_o)$$

$$h^{[t]} = o^{[t]} \odot \tanh(c^{[t]})$$

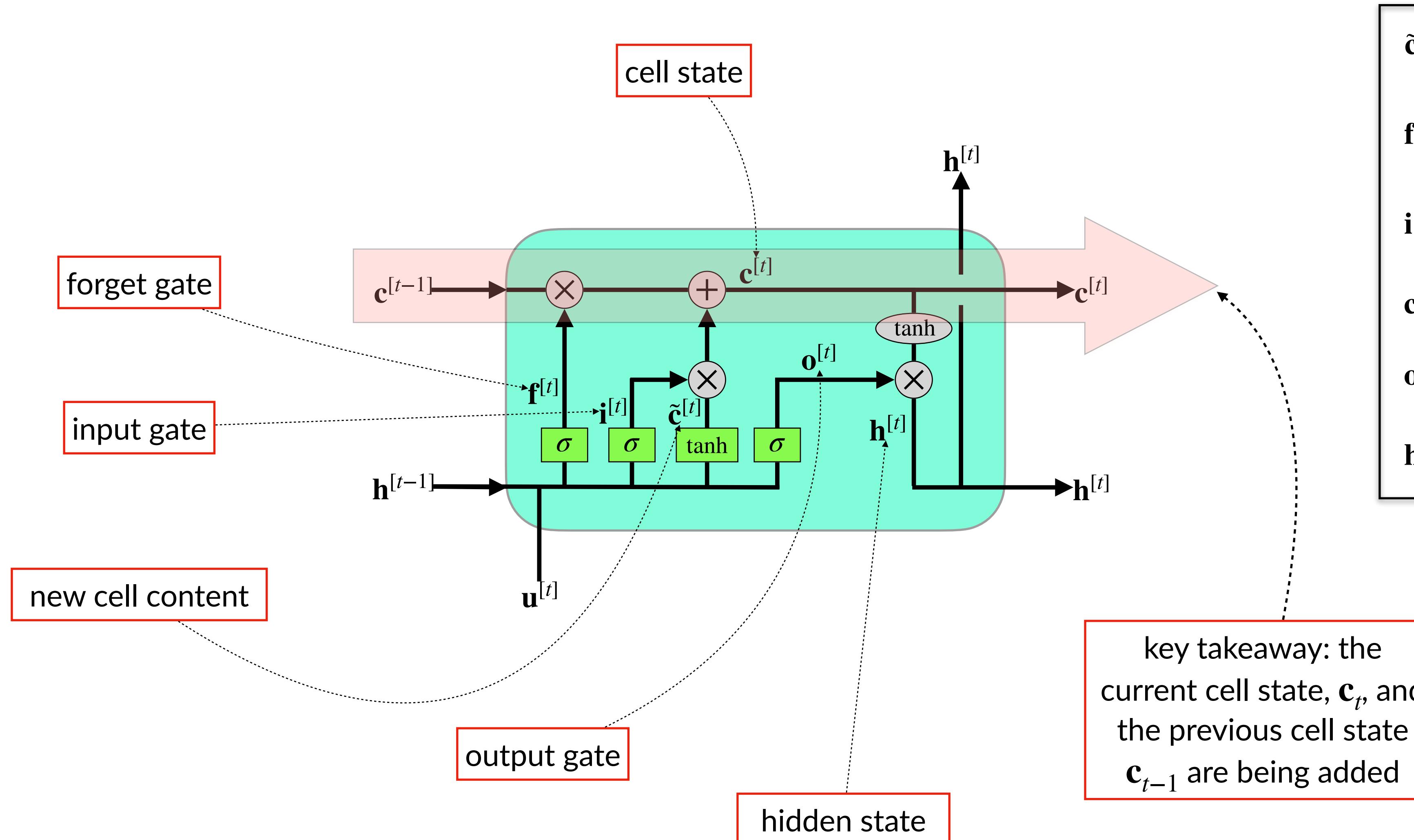
# The LSTM (confusing/artistic) schematic



# The LSTM (confusing/artistic) schematic



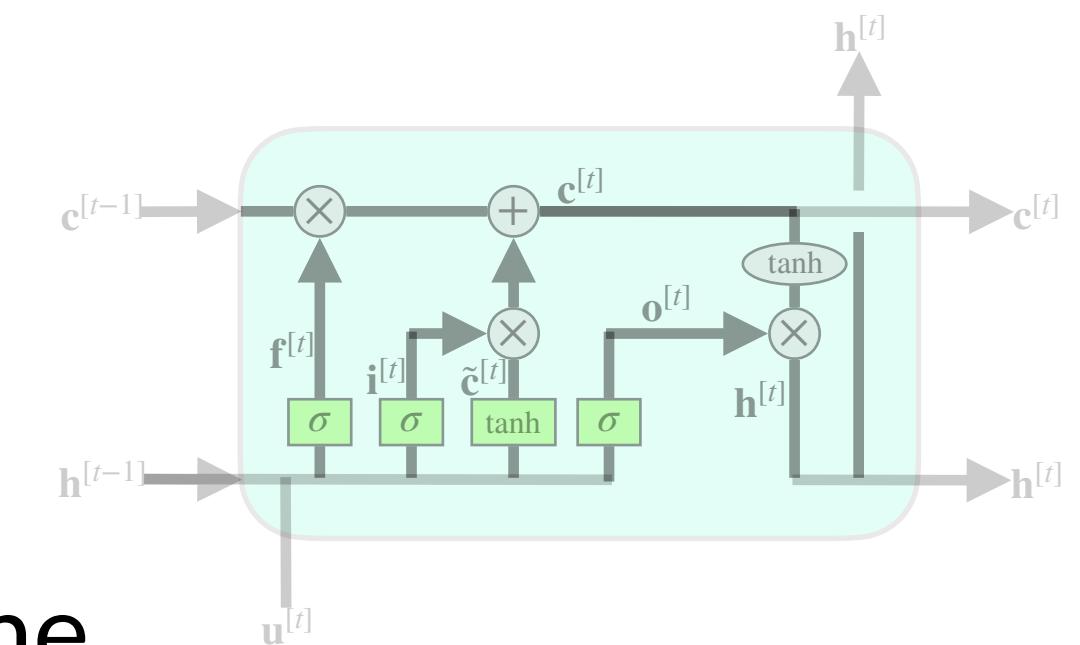
# The LSTM (confusing/artistic) schematic



$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]} &= \tanh(\mathbf{U}_c \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_c \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_c) \\ \mathbf{f}^{[t]} &= \sigma(\mathbf{U}_f \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_f \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_f) \\ \mathbf{i}^{[t]} &= \sigma(\mathbf{U}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_i \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_i) \\ \mathbf{c}^{[t]} &= \mathbf{f}^{[t]} \odot \mathbf{c}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{i}^{[t]} \odot \tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]} \\ \mathbf{o}^{[t]} &= \sigma(\mathbf{U}_o \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_o \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_o) \\ \mathbf{h}^{[t]} &= \mathbf{o}^{[t]} \odot \tanh(\mathbf{c}^{[t]})\end{aligned}$$

# LSTM resolves the vanishing gradient issue

- ▶ LSTM can preserve information over many time steps using its gates
- ▶ LSTM: If the forget gate value is set to  $f_i^{[t]} = 1$  for a cell dimension  $i$  and the corresponding input gate value  $i_i^{[t]} = 0$ , then the cell value from the previous time step,  $c_i^{[t-1]}$ , is maintained intact
- ▶ Simple RNN: much harder to maintain previous state information given at least an entire row of the recurrent matrix  $\mathbf{W}_h$  should be set to 1 which in turn will invalidate the entire RNN rationale:  $\mathbf{h}_j^{[t]} \propto \mathbf{W}_h[j, :] \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]}$
- ▶ Depends on the task, but say an RNN can model  $\sim 10$  time steps accurately, then an LSTM can probably capture  $\sim 100$  time steps



# Text generation with RNNs

Source: [trekhleb.dev/machine-learning-experiments/#/experiments/RecipeGenerationRNN](https://trekhleb.dev/machine-learning-experiments/#/experiments/RecipeGenerationRNN)

## Recipe RNN LM output

Input: “Fish and chips”

**Name:** Fish and chips with Broccoli and Salad of Creamy Thyme Broth

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup frozen peas, thawed
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh dill
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup corn tortillas
- 1 cup shredded smoked mozzarella or parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1 cup chicken broth
- Salt and pepper

**Instructions:** Season salad with salt and pepper. In a large saute pan over medium-high heat, cook poblano pepper for 1 minute. Add broccoli rabe, spring onions, thyme, and bay leaves and sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste. Cook until vegetables are soft, about 10 minutes. Add the spinach and stir until completely melted. Add sugar and simmer until sauce thickens, about 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice. Serve with steamed roasted garlic bread.

# Text generation with RNNs – Trends captured by LSTM cells

Certain LSTM cells “learn” to have larger values...

*towards the end of a line*

```
The sole importance of the crossing of the Berezina lies in the fact  
that it plainly and indubitably proved the fallacy of all the plans for  
cutting off the enemy's retreat and the soundness of the only possible  
line of action--the one Kutuzov and the general mass of the army  
demanded--namely, simply to follow the enemy up. The French crowd fled  
at a continually increasing speed and all its energy was directed to  
reaching its goal. It fled like a wounded animal and it was impossible  
to block its path. This was shown not so much by the arrangements it  
made for crossing as by what took place at the bridges. When the bridges  
broke down, unarmed soldiers, people from Moscow and women with children  
who were with the French transport, all--carried on by vis inertiae--  
pressed forward into boats and into the ice-covered water and did not,  
surrender.
```

*inside if statements*

```
static int __dequeue_signal(struct sigpending *pending, sigset_t *mask,  
                           siginfo_t *info)  
{  
    int sig = next_signal(pending, mask);  
    if (sig) {  
        if (current->notifier) {  
            if (sigismember(current->notifier_mask, sig)) {  
                if (!!(current->notifier)(current->notifier_data)) {  
                    clear_thread_flag(TIF_SIGPENDING);  
                    return 0;  
                }  
            }  
        }  
        collect_signal(sig, pending, info);  
    }  
    return sig;  
}
```

Source: [karpathy.github.io/2015/05/21/rnn-effectiveness/](http://karpathy.github.io/2015/05/21/rnn-effectiveness/)

# Text generation with RNNs – Trends captured by LSTM cells

Certain LSTM cells “learn” to have larger values...

*when the code expression's depth increases*

```
#ifdef CONFIG_AUDITSYSCALL
static inline int audit_match_class_bits(int class, u32 *mask)
{
    int i;
    if (classes[class]) {
        for (i = 0; i < AUDIT_BITMASK_SIZE; i++)
            if (mask[i] & classes[class][i])
                return 0;
    }
    return 1;
}
```

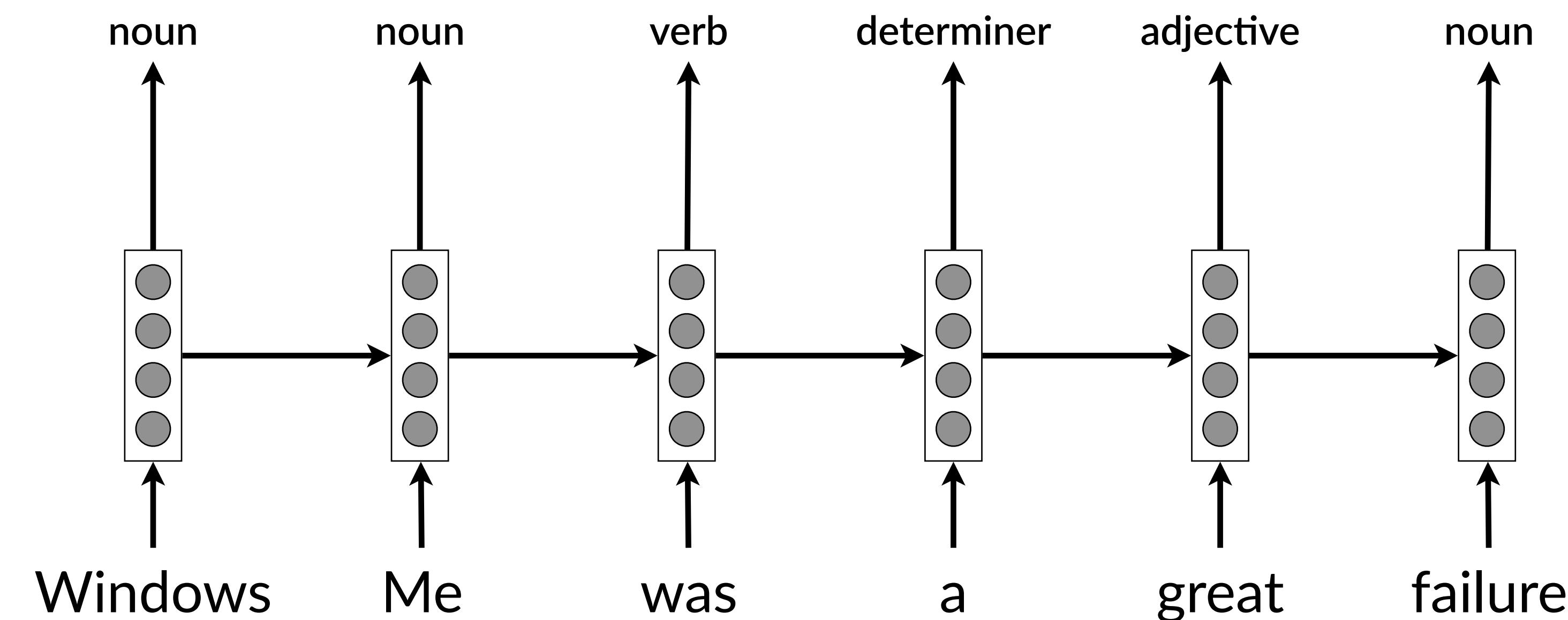
*inside comments or double quotes*

```
/* Duplicate LSM field information. The lsm_rule is opaque, so
 * re-initialized. */
static inline int audit_dupe_lsm_field(struct audit_field *df,
                                       struct audit_field *sf)
{
    int ret = 0;
    char *lsm_str;
    /* our own copy of lsm_str */
    lsm_str = kstrdup(sf->lsm_str, GFP_KERNEL);
    if (unlikely(!lsm_str))
        return -ENOMEM;
    df->lsm_str = lsm_str;
    /* our own (refreshed) copy of lsm_rule */
    ret = security_audit_rule_init(df->type, df->op, df->lsm_str,
                                   (void **) &df->lsm_rule);
    /* Keep currently invalid fields around in case they
     * become valid after a policy reload. */
    if (ret == -EINVAL) {
        pr_warn("audit rule for LSM \\'%s\\' is invalid\n",
               df->lsm_str);
        ret = 0;
    }
    return ret;
}
```

Source: [karpathy.github.io/2015/05/21/rnn-effectiveness/](http://karpathy.github.io/2015/05/21/rnn-effectiveness/)

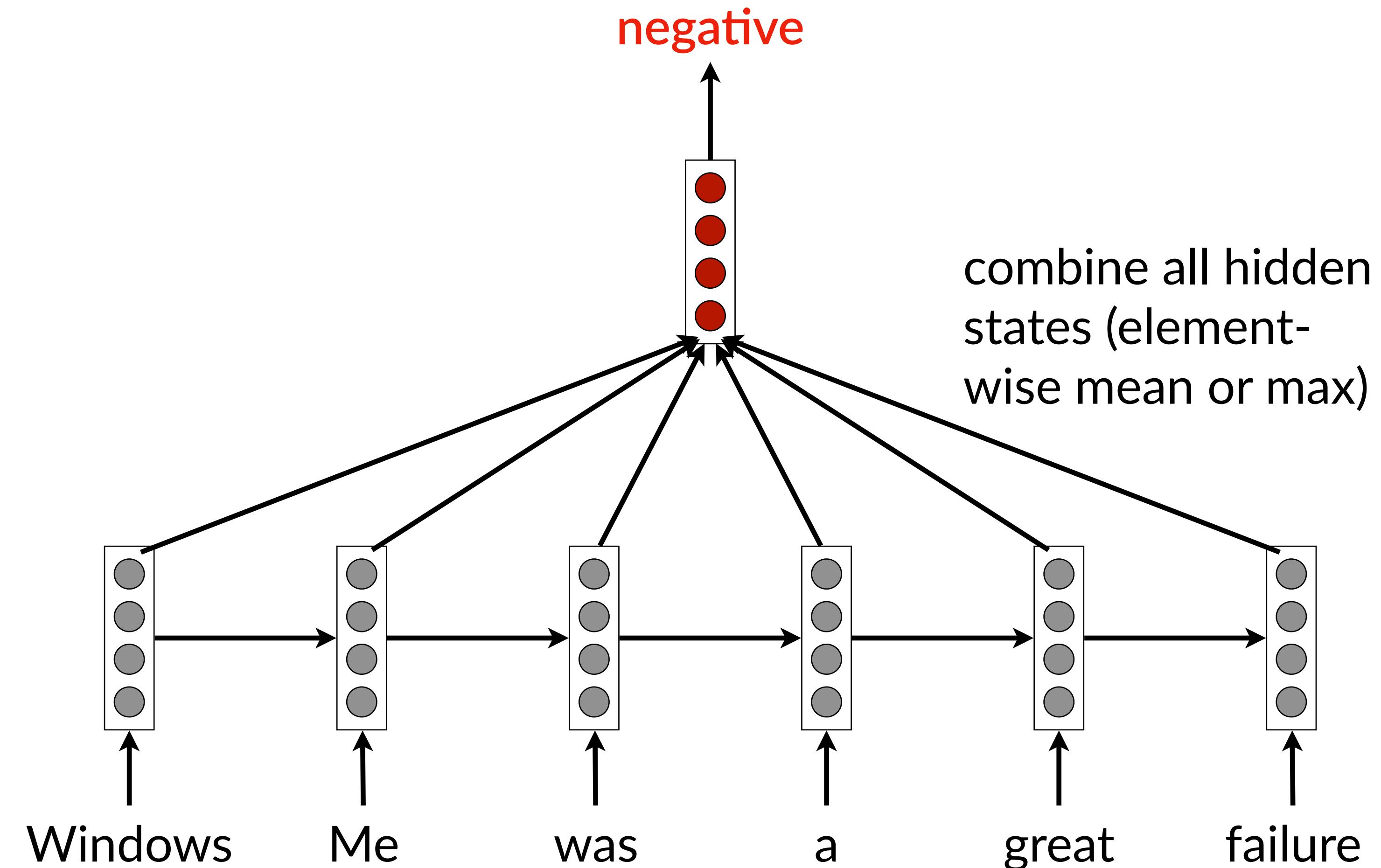
# RNN applications – Sequence tagging

e.g. tasks like part-of-speech (POS) tagging and named entity recognition (NER)



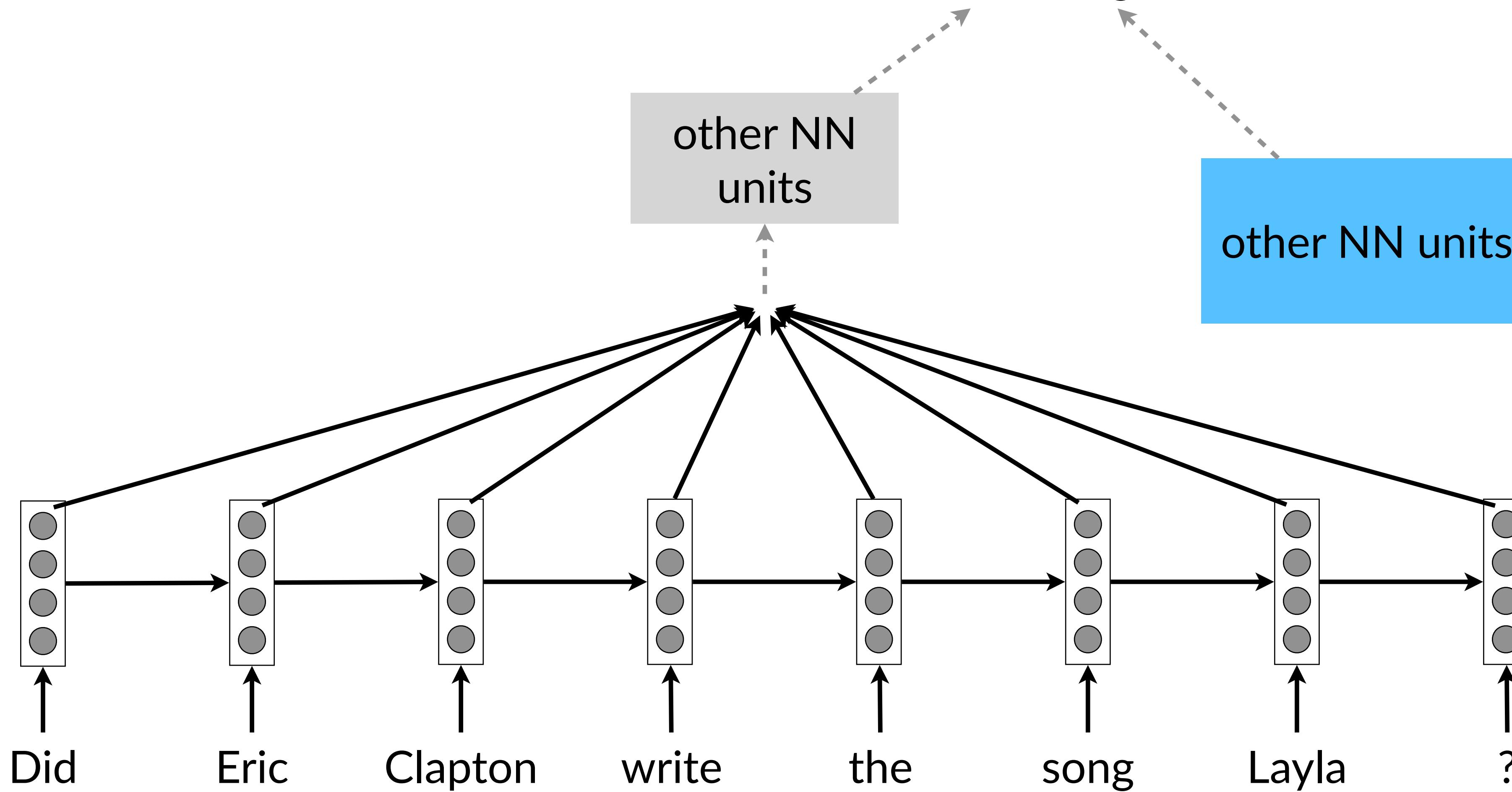
# RNN applications – Sentence encoding

e.g. text / sentence,  
sentiment classification

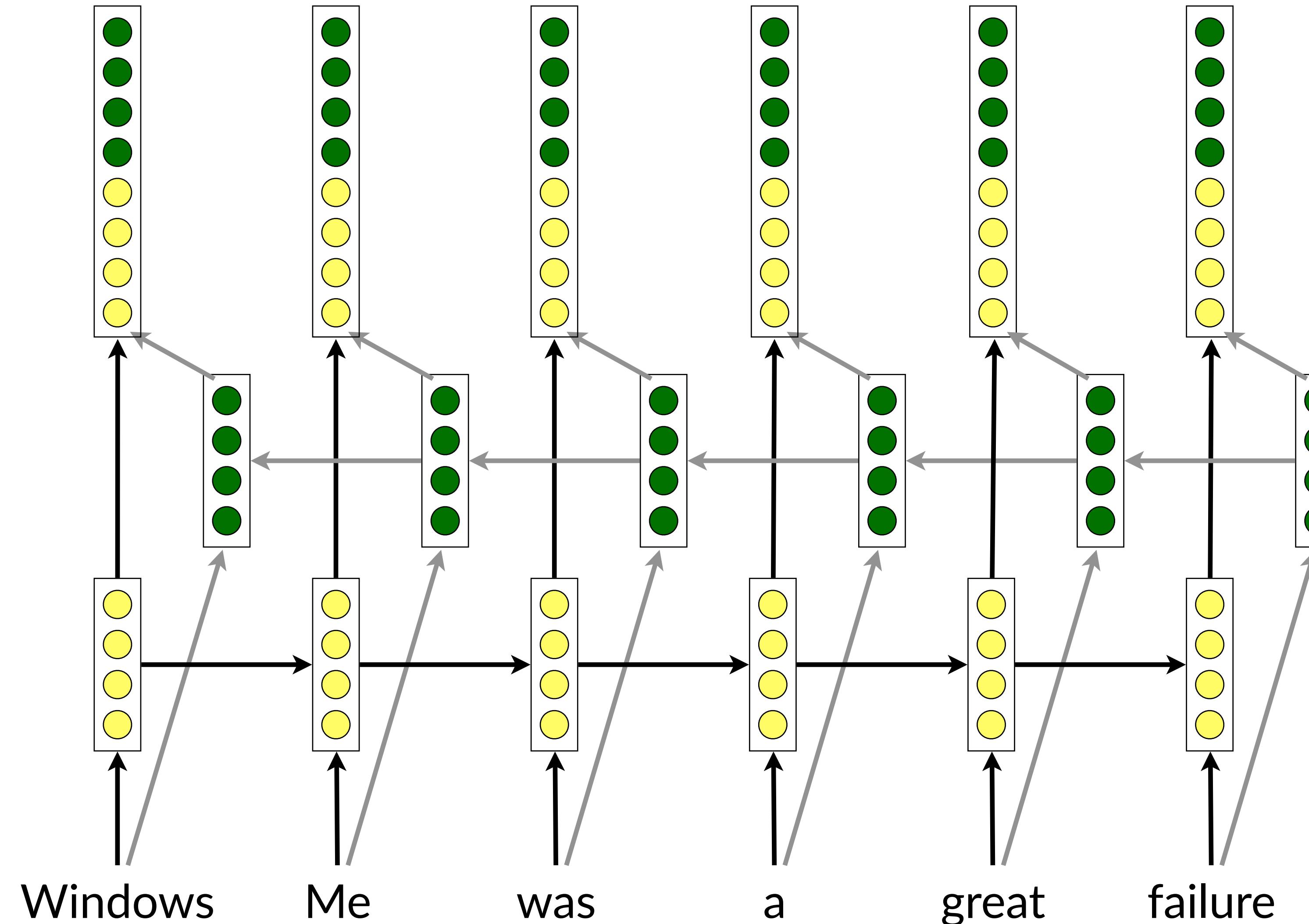


# RNN applications – Encoding units in larger architectures

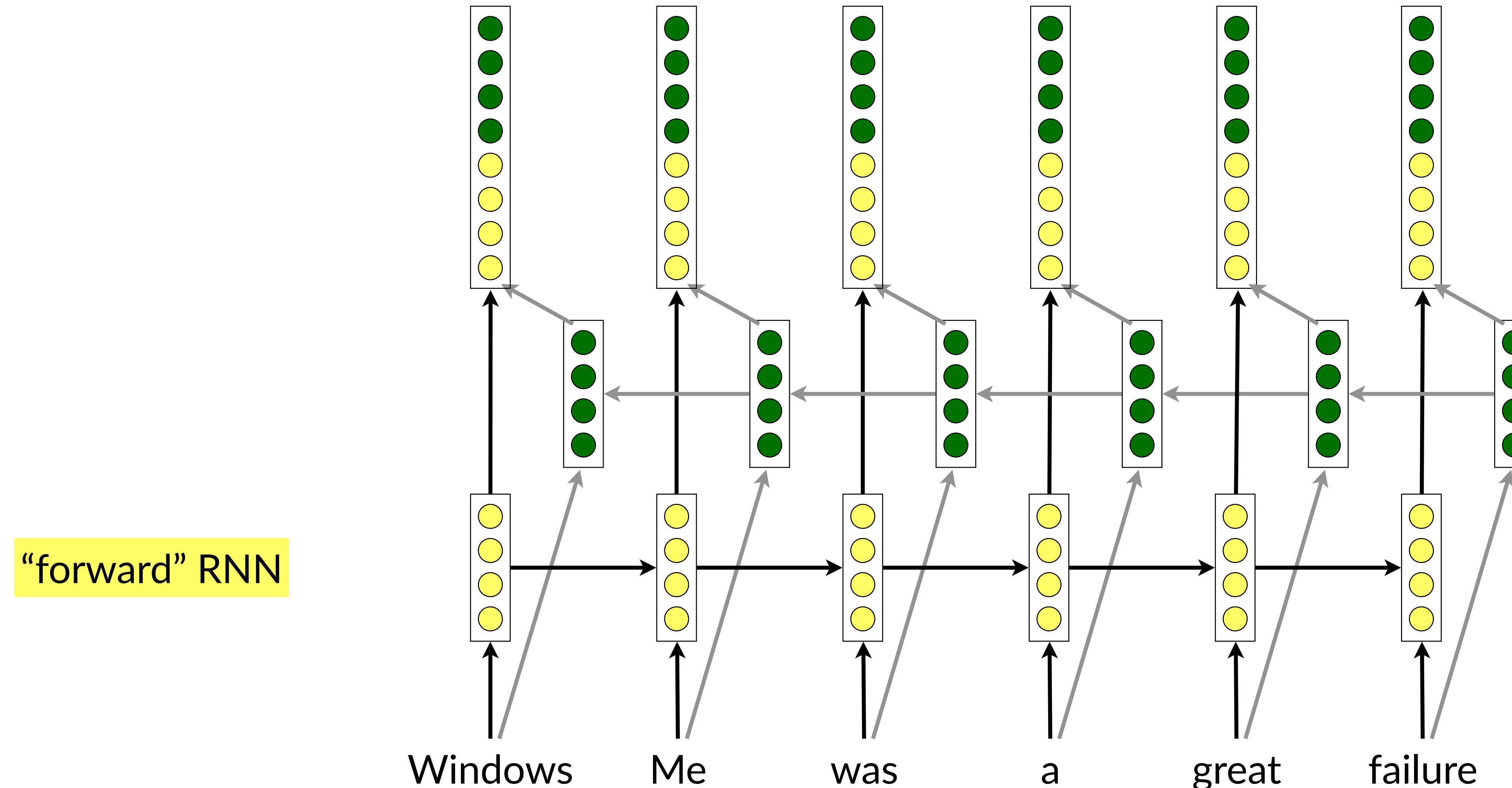
**Response:** Yes with Jim Gordon, and arguably with Rita Coolidge as well.



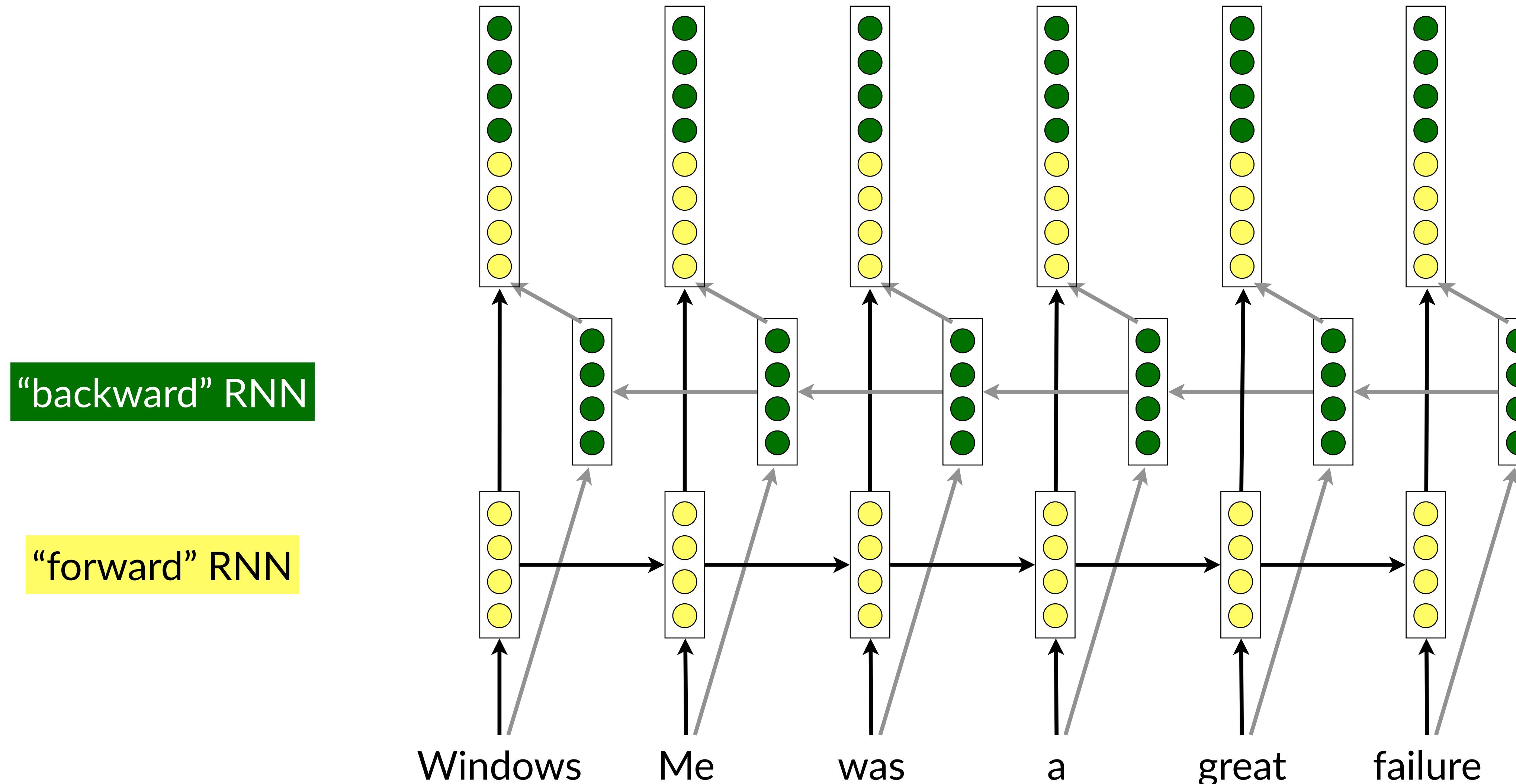
# Bidirectional RNNs



# Bidirectional RNNs



# Bidirectional RNNs

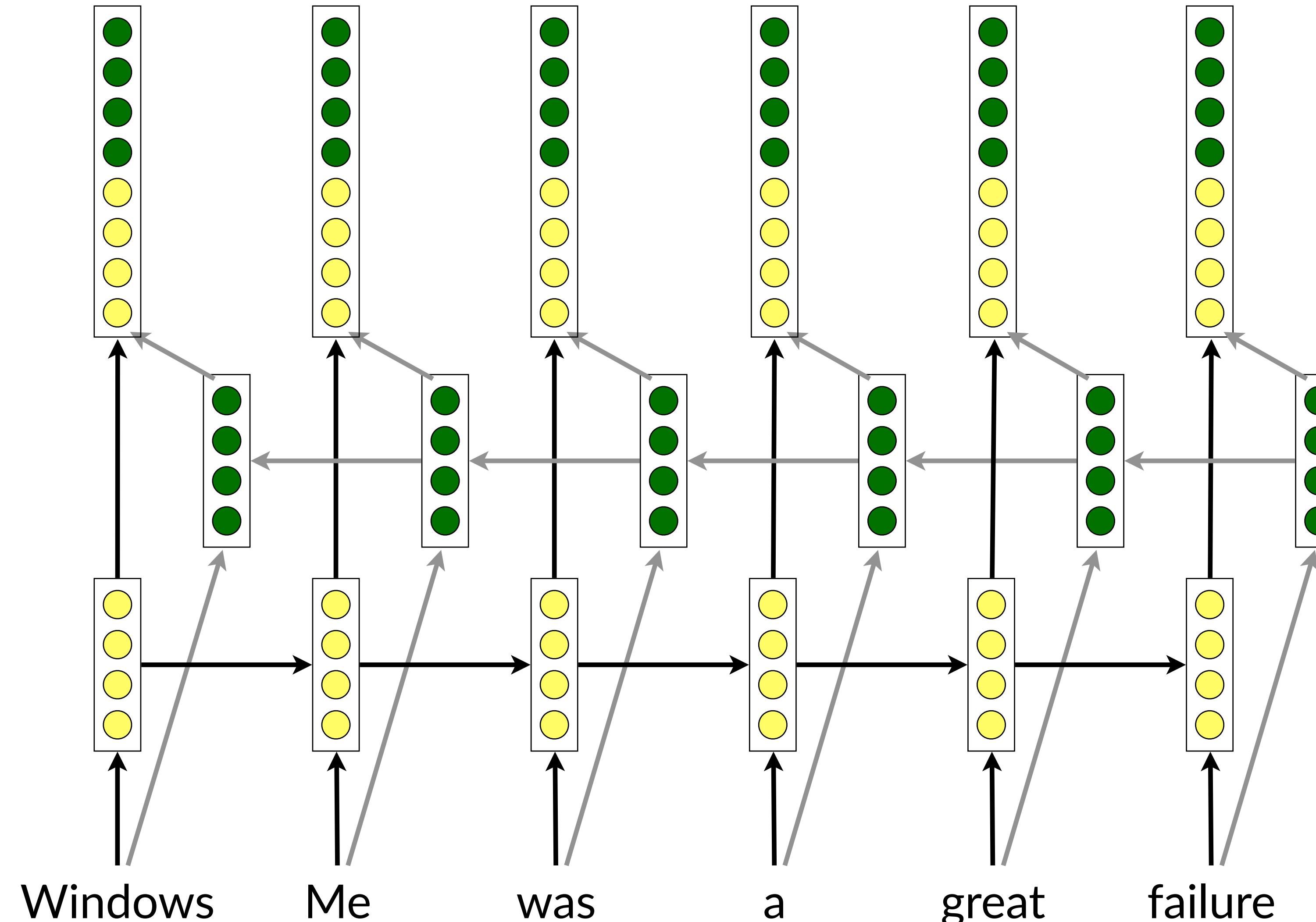


# Bidirectional RNNs

Hidden state  
via concatenation  
has context from  
both directions

“backward” RNN

“forward” RNN



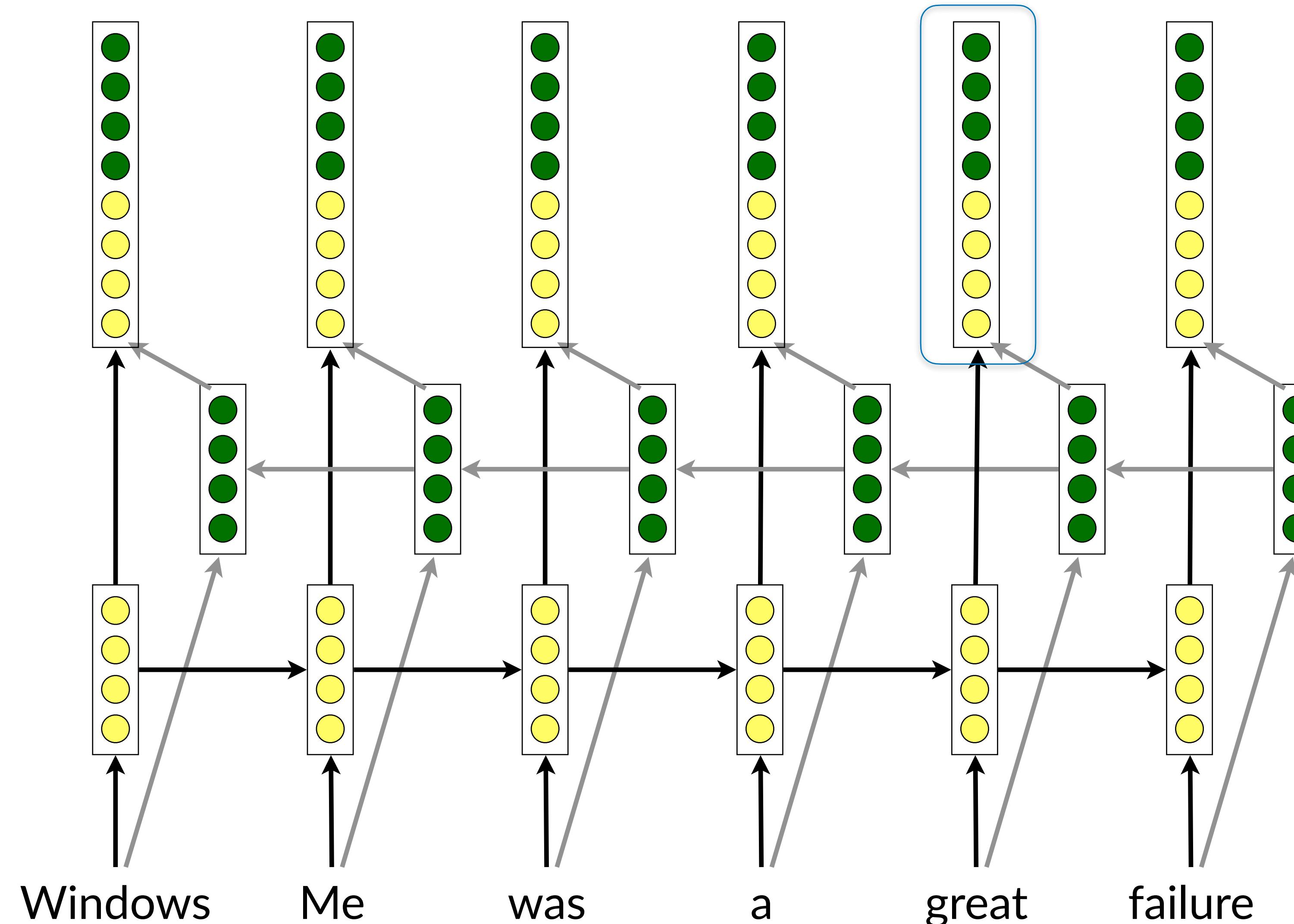
# Bidirectional RNNs

Hidden state  
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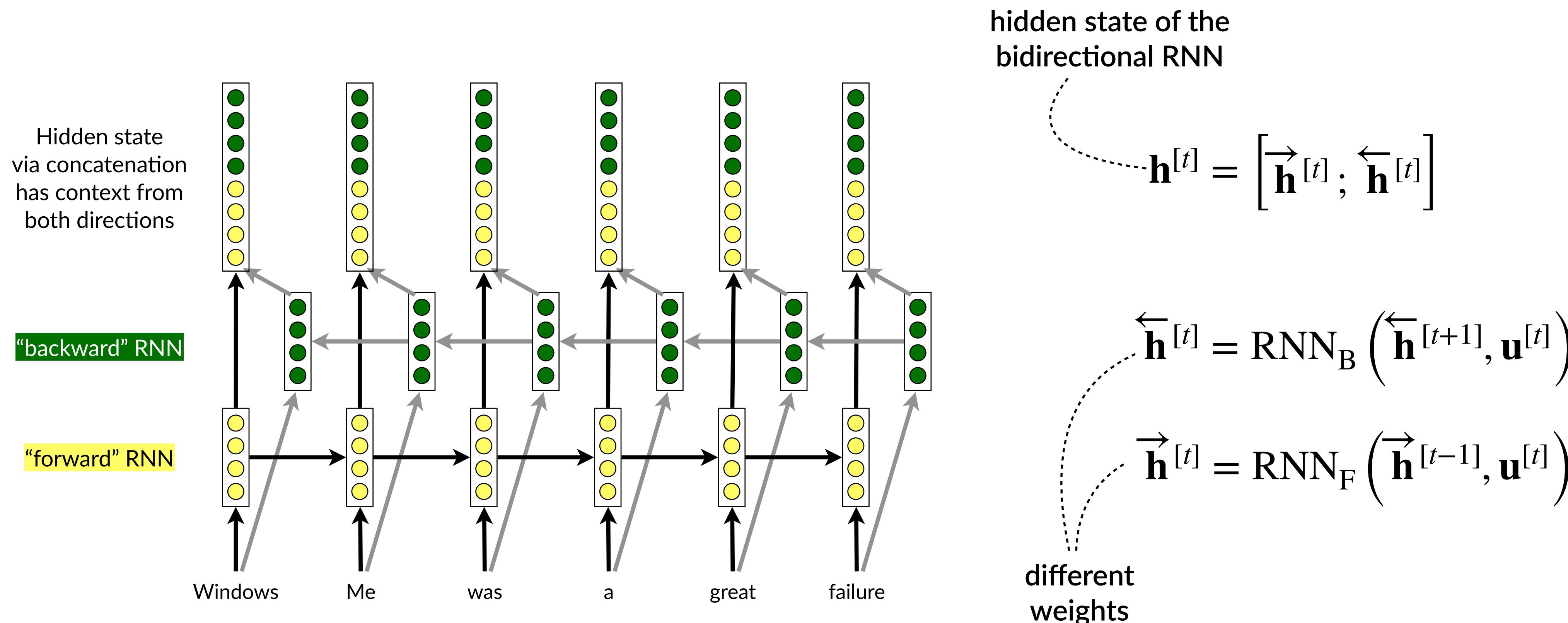
“backward” RNN

“forward” RNN

“great” product vs. “great” failure



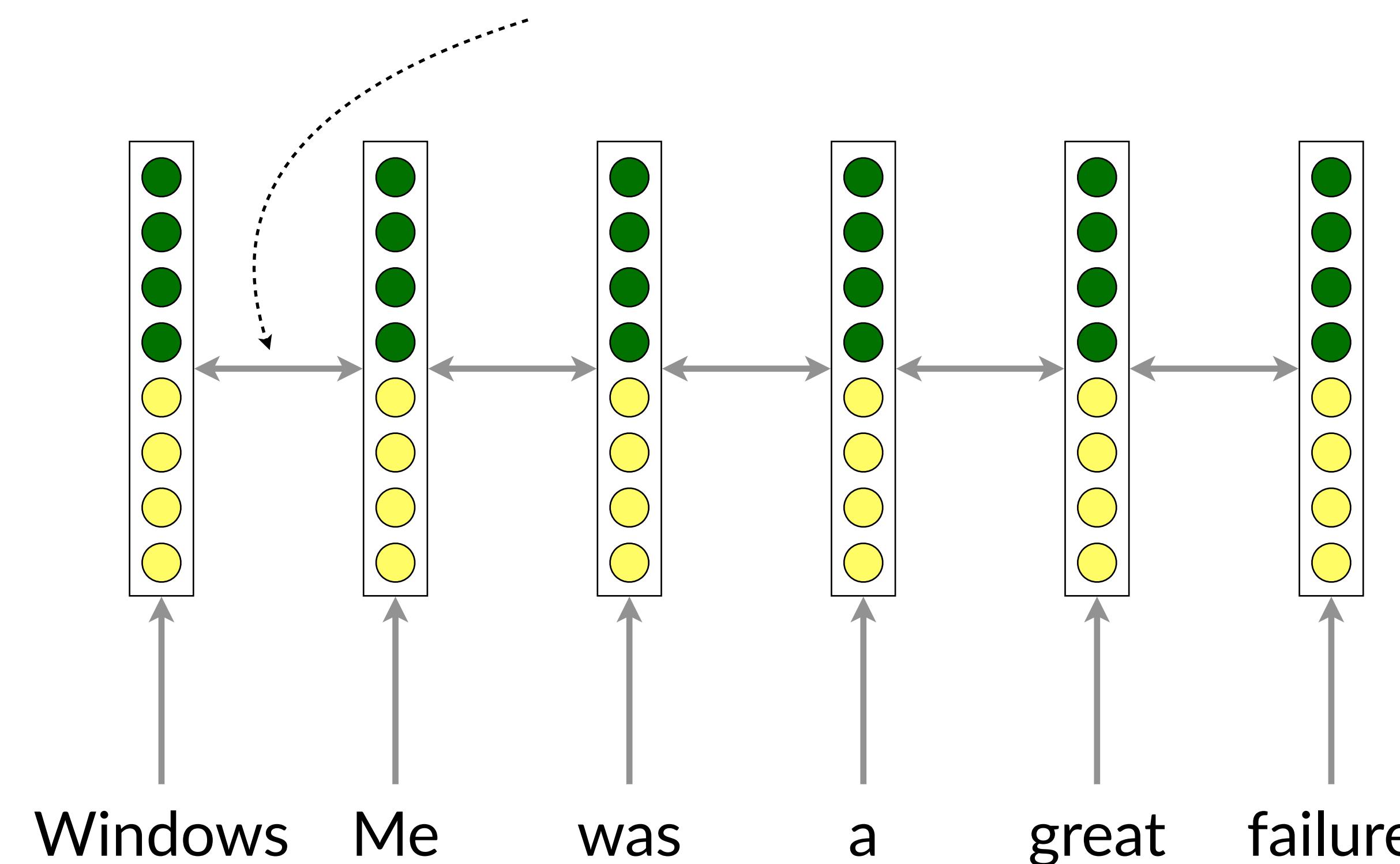
# Bidirectional RNNs



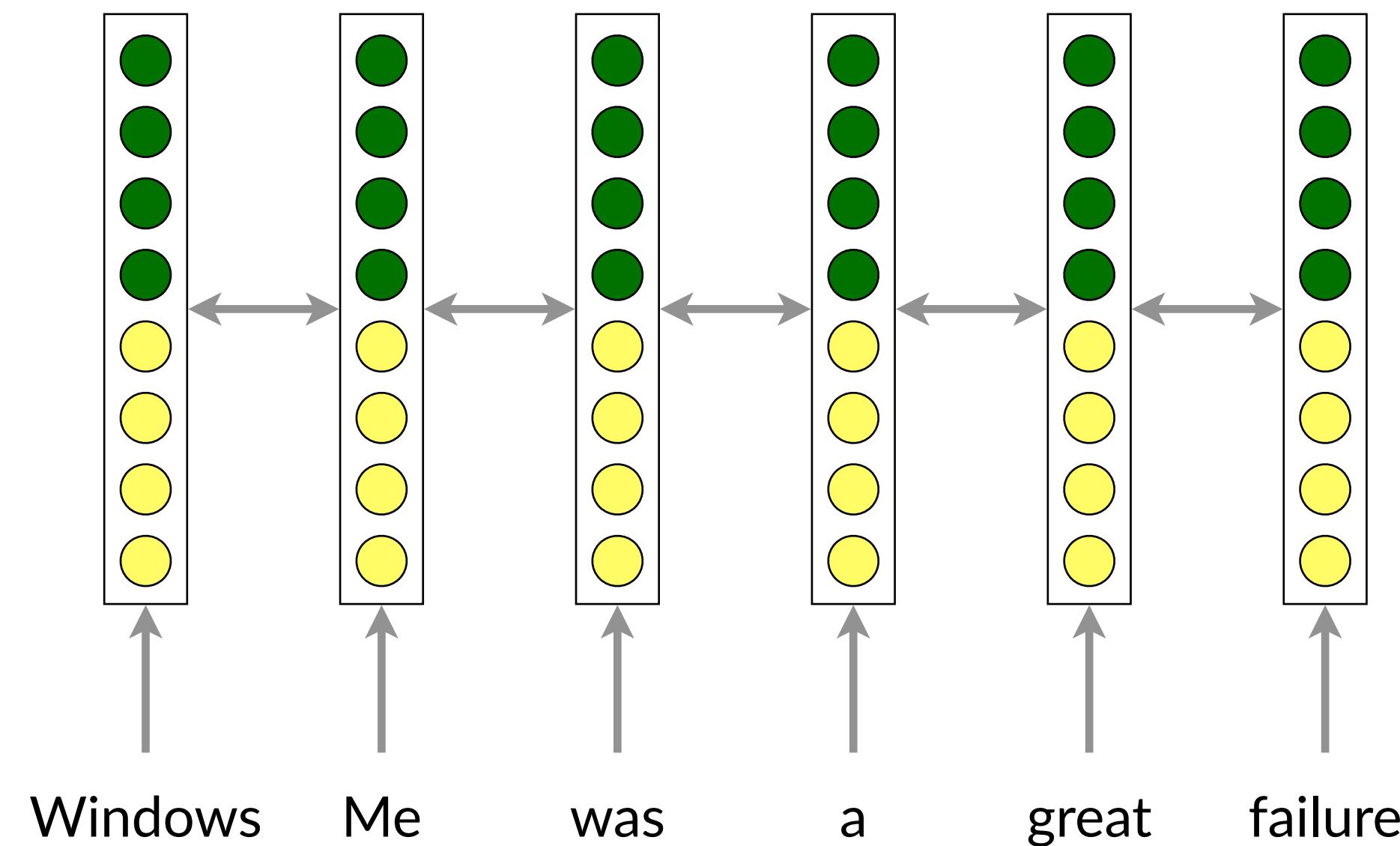
# Bidirectional RNNs

*Hidden state of the  
bidirectional RNN*

*bidirectional arrow convention*



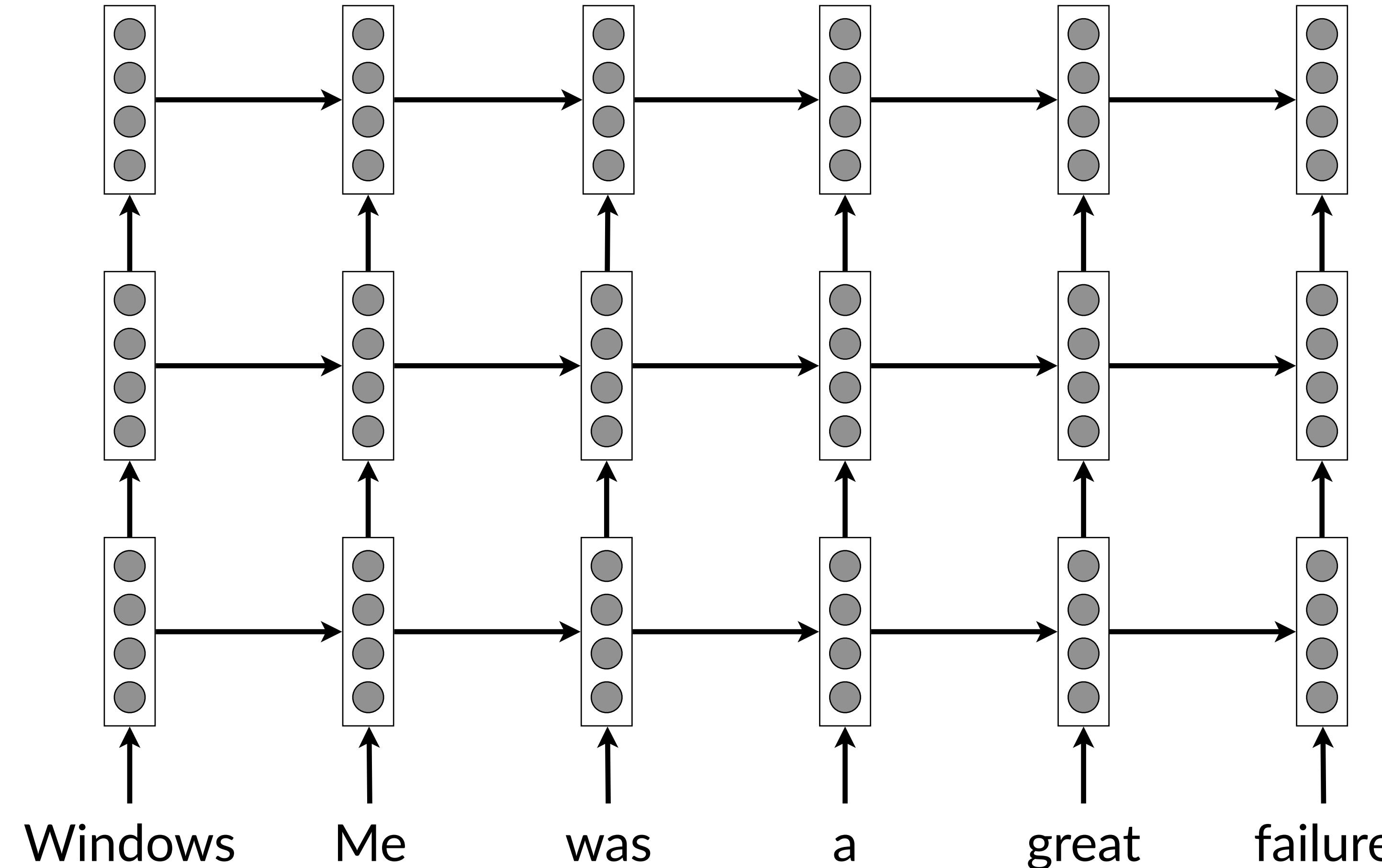
# Bidirectional RNNs



- ▶ Bidirectional RNNs are very effective in sequence classification
- ▶ They require access to the entire sequence, i.e. not necessarily good for language models (*text generators*)
- ▶ Bidirectional NNs are strong predictors, i.e. BERT: Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers  
[aclanthology.org/N19-1423.pdf](https://aclanthology.org/N19-1423.pdf)

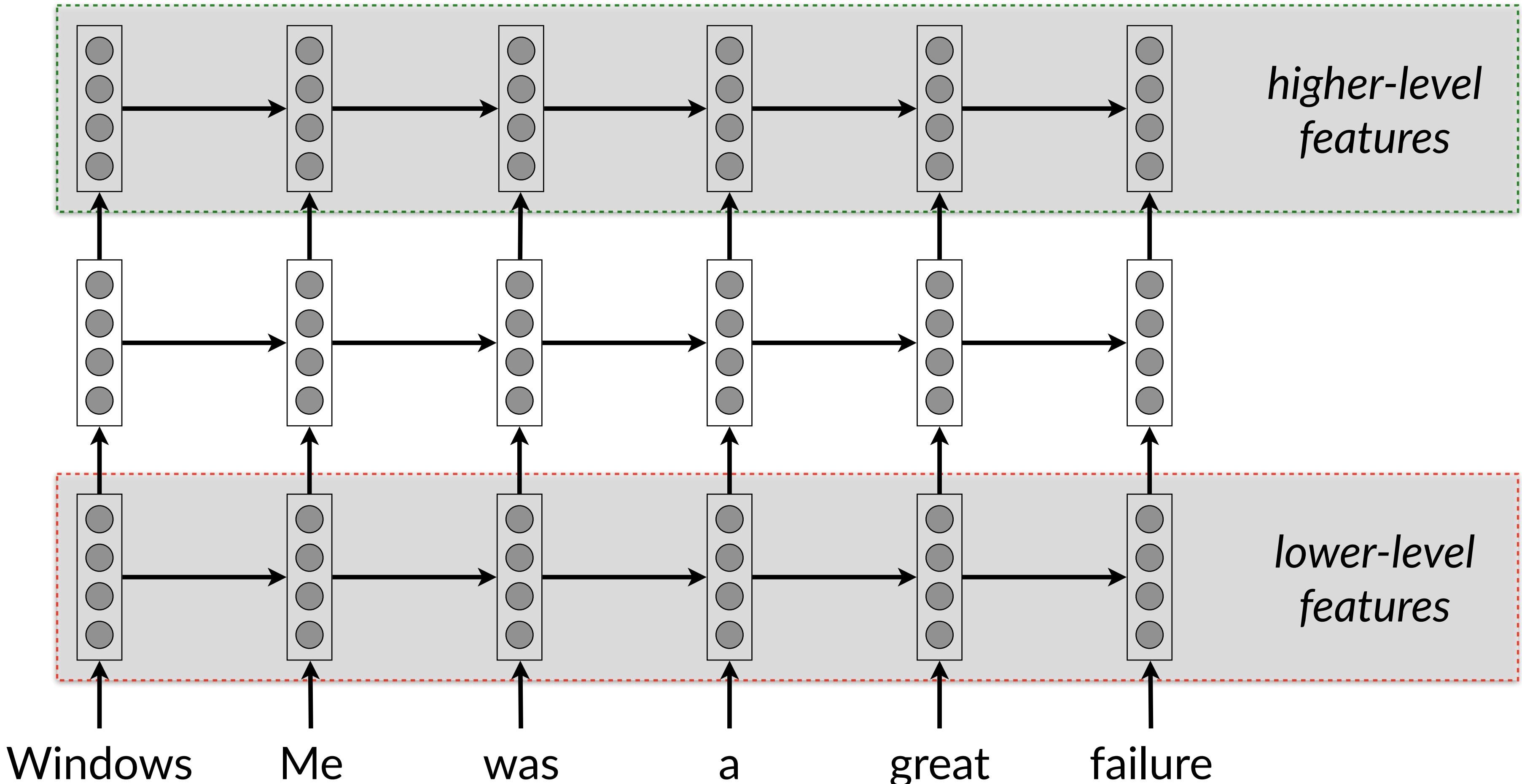
# Stacked (multi-layer) RNNs

*the output of one  
RNN layer (hidden  
state) becomes the  
input to the next*



# Stacked (multi-layer) RNNs

*the output of one  
RNN layer (hidden  
state) becomes the  
input to the next*



# Next lecture with me

- ▶ Monday, March 18 (*last week*)
- ▶ Self-invited “guest” lecture on “*Modelling infectious disease prevalence using web search activity*”

