# Lecture 7:
# Recurrent Neural Networks

# Course Logistics

- Assignment 2 is going to be ***out*** this Thursday (4/23)!
- Project proposal deadline is ***due*** this Thursday (4/23)!

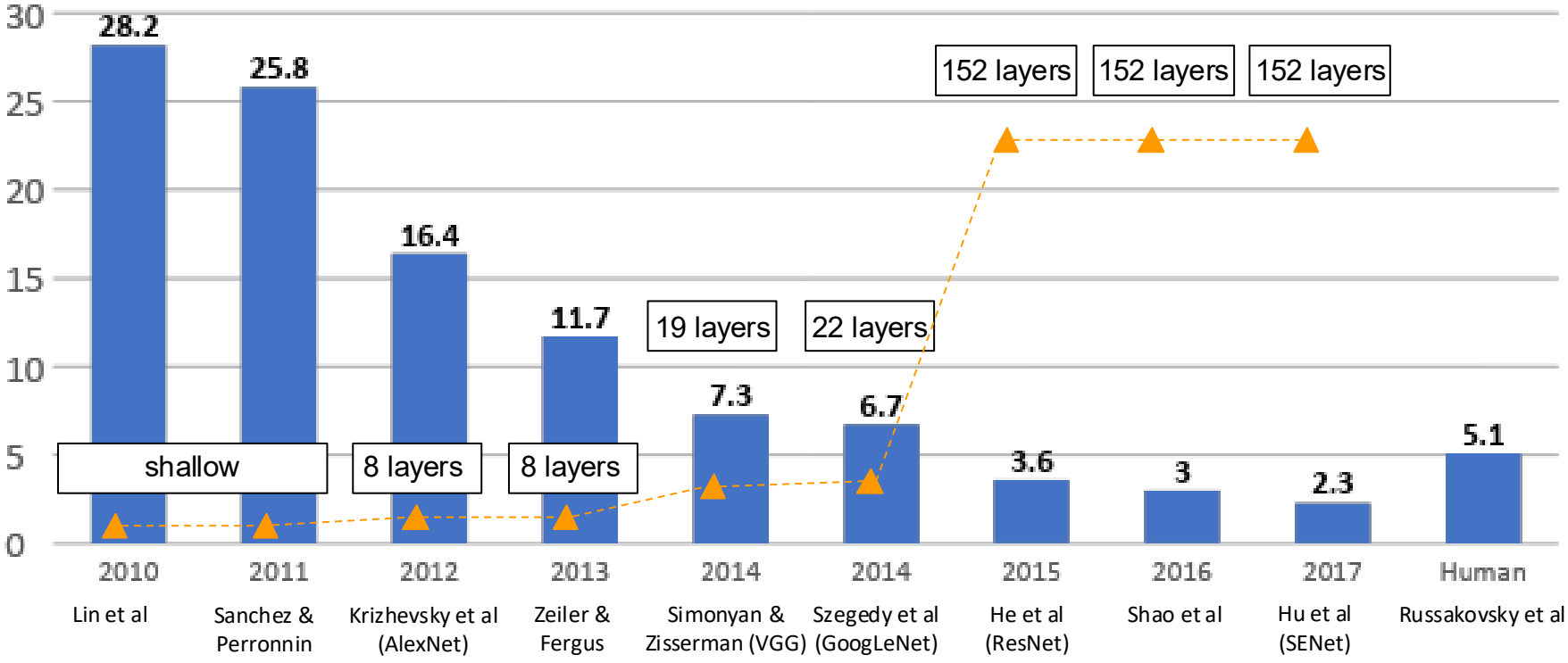
# Training “Feedforward” Neural Networks

1. **One time setup:** activation functions, preprocessing, weight initialization, regularization, gradient checking

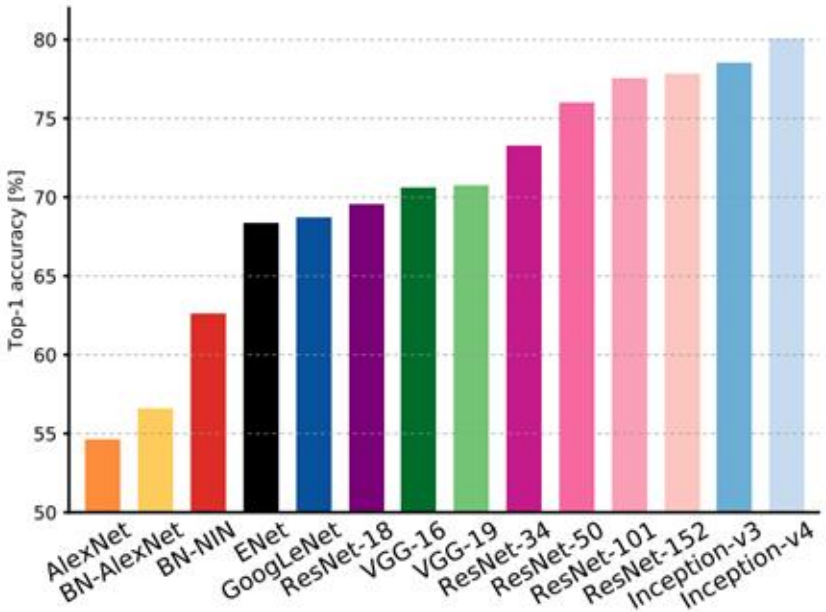
2. **Training dynamics:** babysitting the learning process, parameter updates, hyperparameter optimization

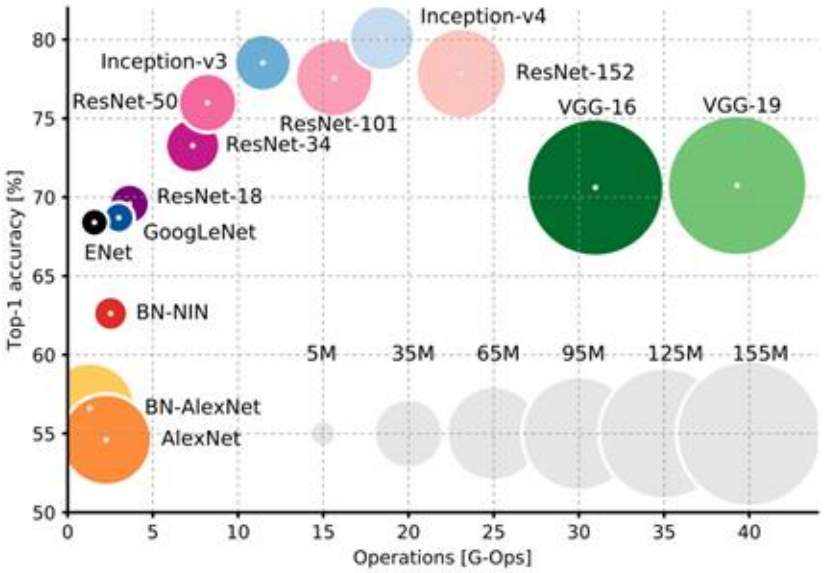
3. **Evaluation:** model ensembles, test-time augmentation, transfer learning

# ImageNet Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge (ILSVRC) winners



# Comparing complexity...

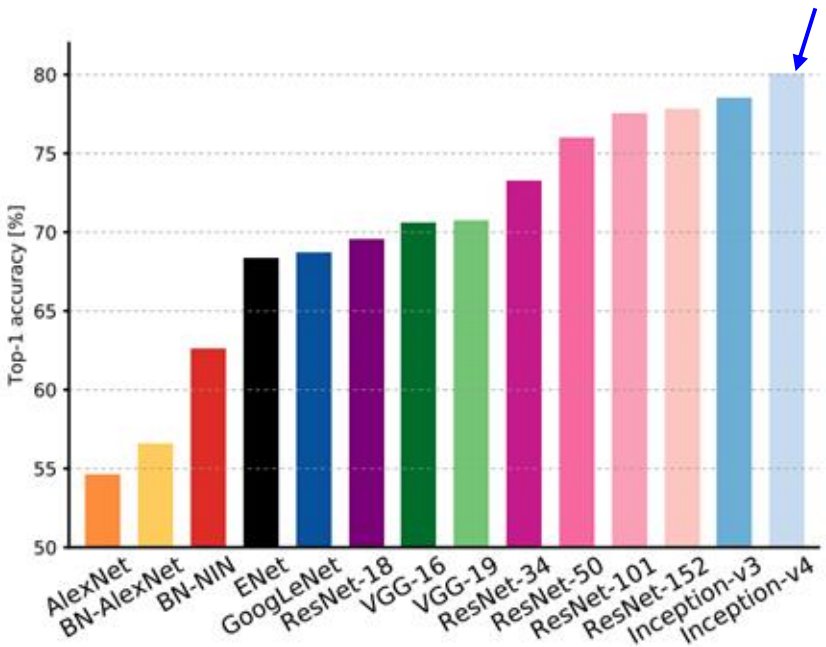


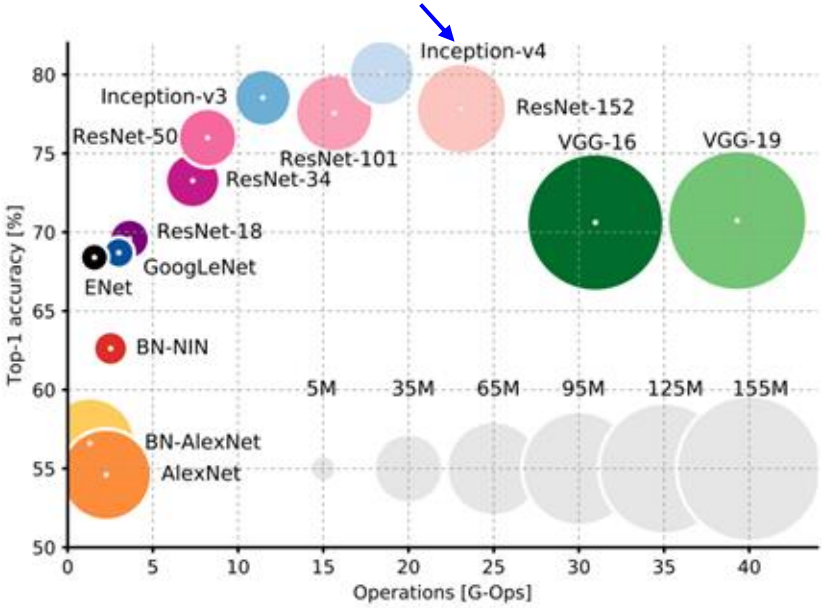




An Analysis of Deep Neural Network Models for Practical Applications, 2017.

# Comparing complexity...

Inception-v4: Resnet + Inception!

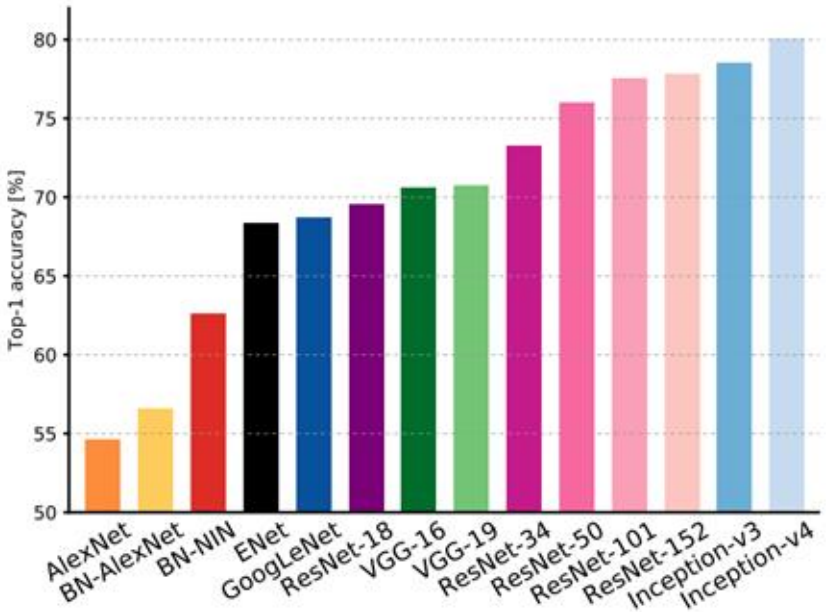


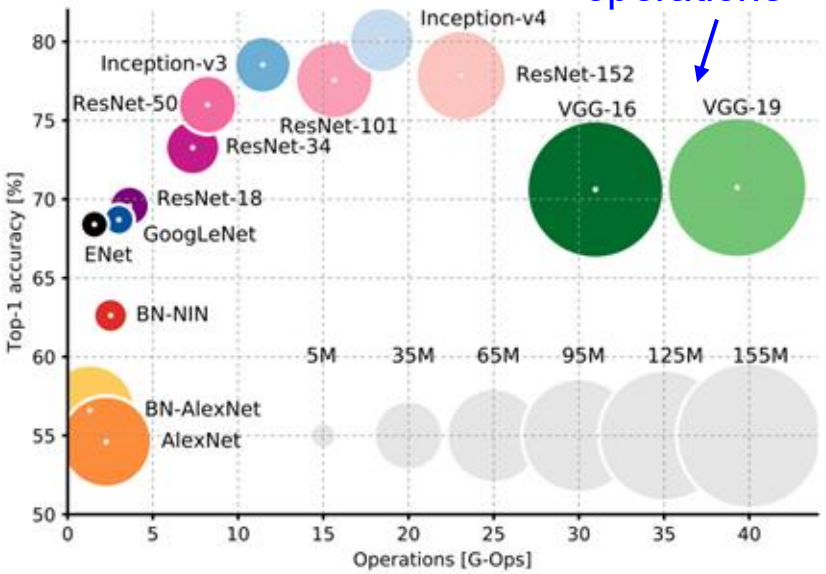




An Analysis of Deep Neural Network Models for Practical Applications, 2017.

# Comparing complexity...

VGG: most parameters, most operations

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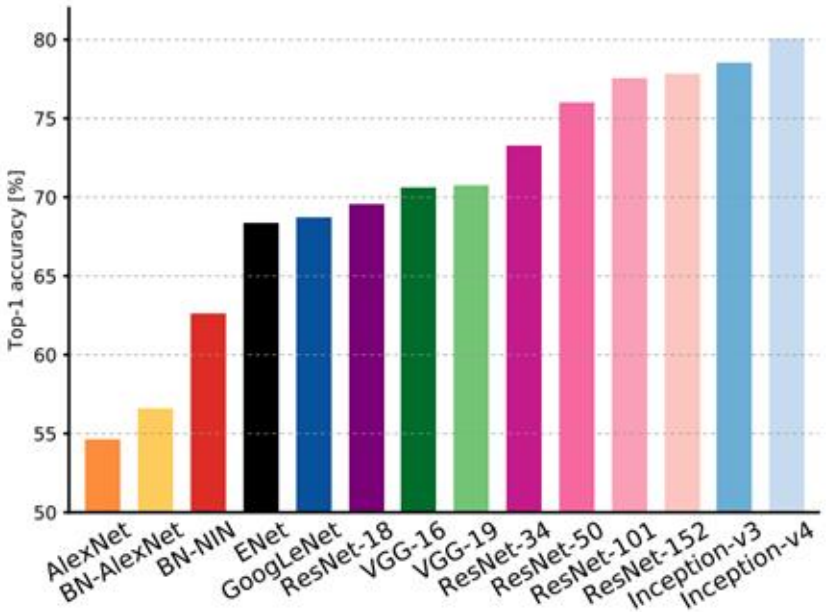
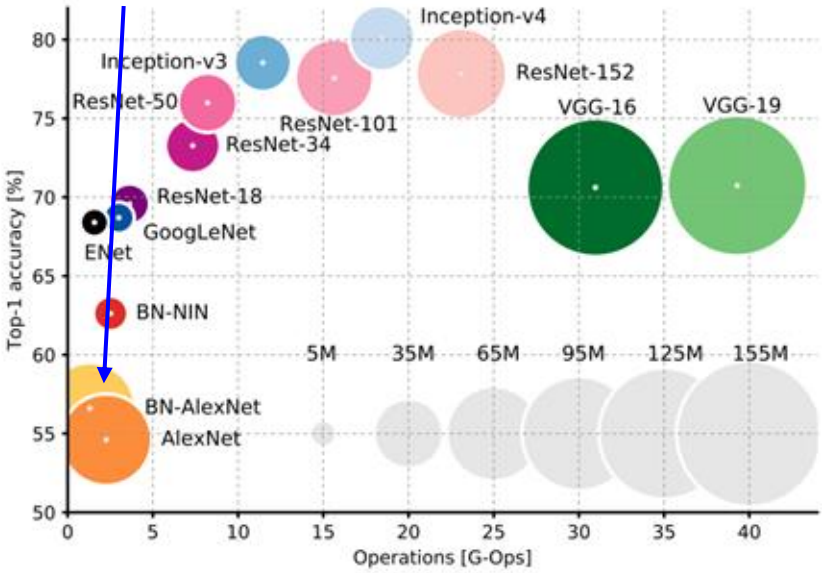



AlexNet:
Smaller compute, still memory heavy, lower accuracy

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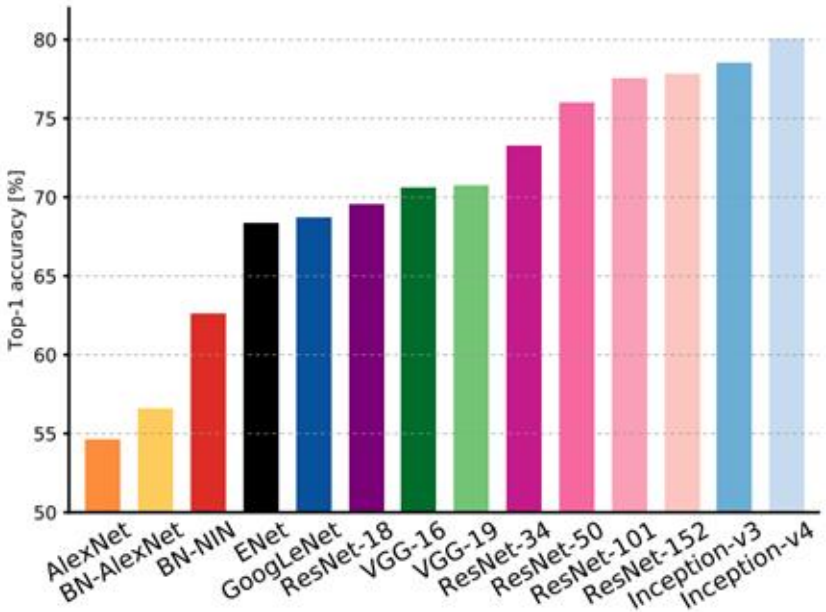
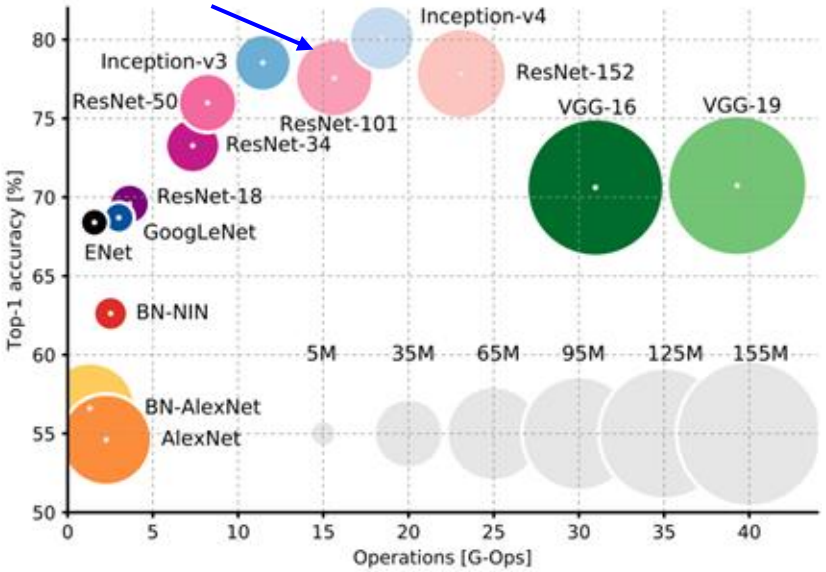
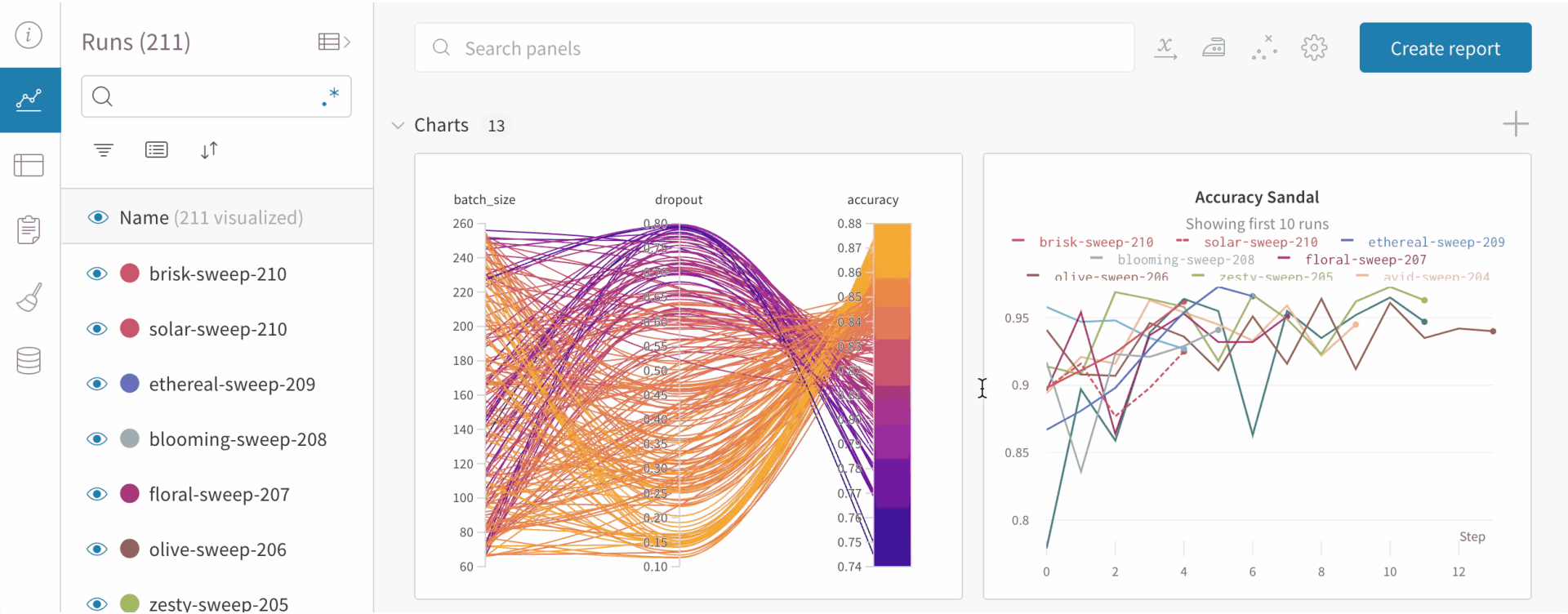



ResNet:
Moderate efficiency depending on model, highest accuracy




An Analysis of Deep Neural Network Models for Practical Applications, 2017.

# Evaluate models and tune hyperparameters

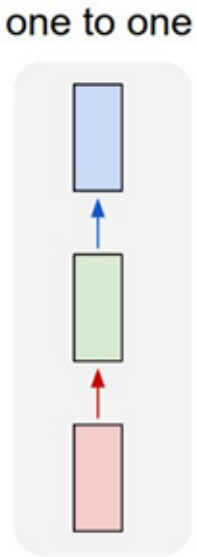



https://docs.wandb.ai/guides/track/app

# Today

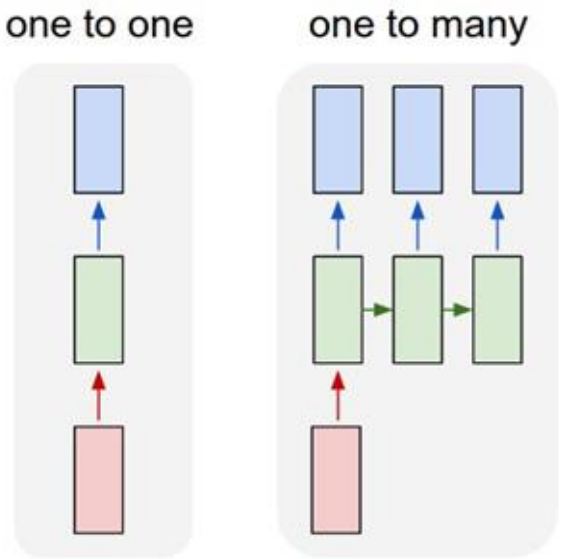
- Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs)
- Discuss sequence modeling (assumed fixed-length inputs so far)
- Simple models commonly used before the era of transformers
  - RNNs and some variants
- Relation to modern state-space models

# “Vanilla” Neural Network



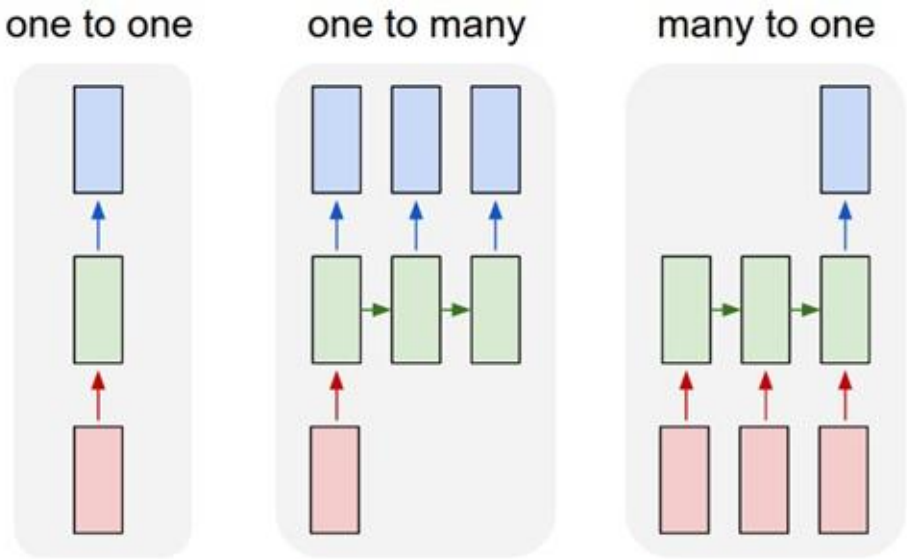

Vanilla Neural Networks

# Recurrent Neural Networks: Process Sequences



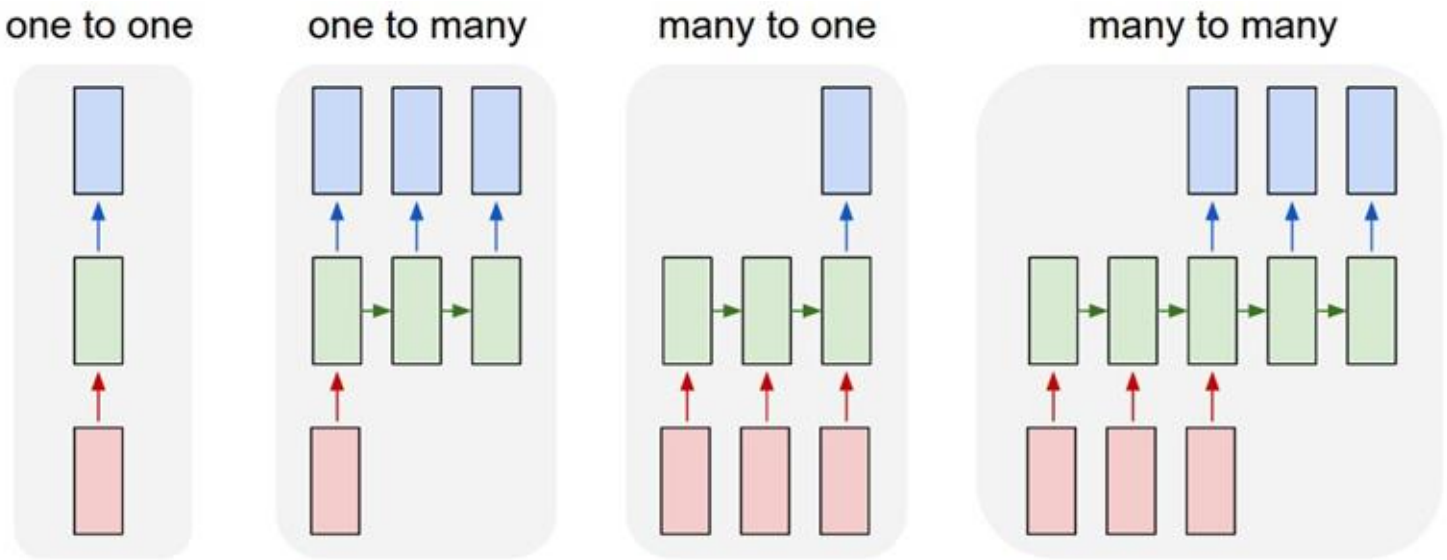

e.g. Image Captioning
image -> sequence of words

# Recurrent Neural Networks: Process Sequences



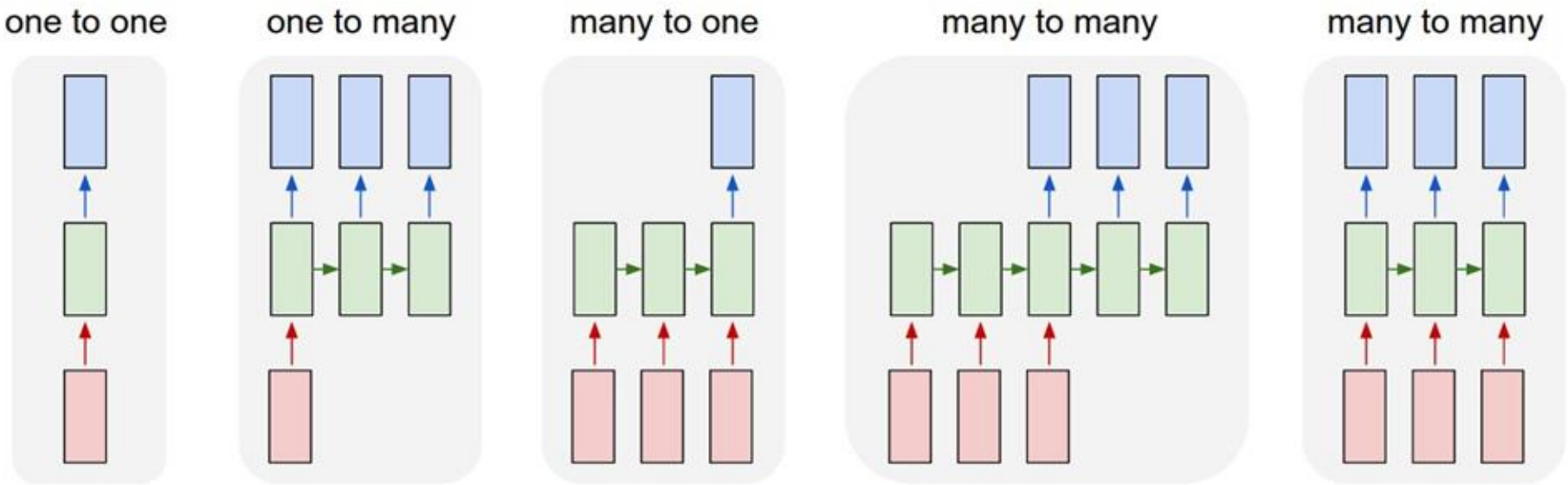

e.g. action prediction
sequence of video frames -> action class

# Recurrent Neural Networks: Process Sequences



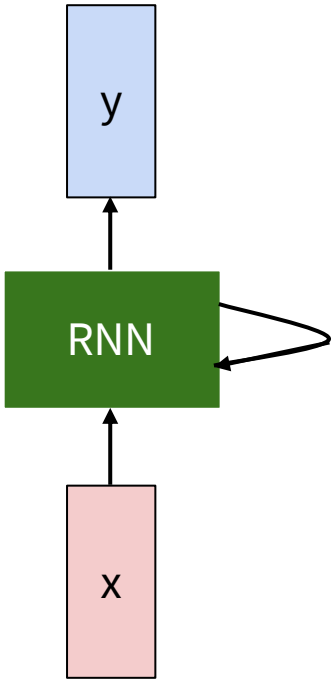

E.g. Video Captioning
Sequence of video frames -> caption

# Recurrent Neural Networks: Process Sequences

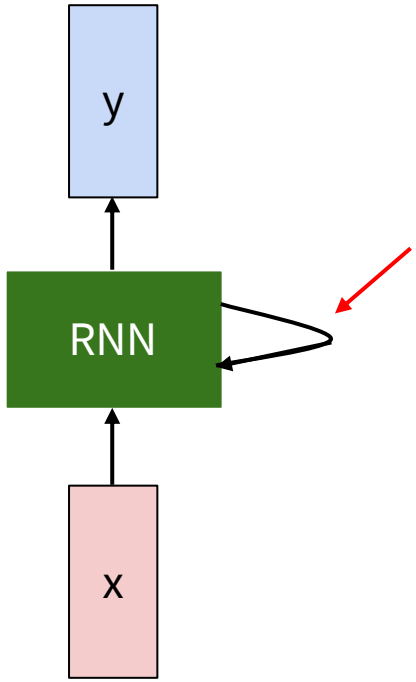



e.g. Video classification on frame level

# Recurrent Neural Network

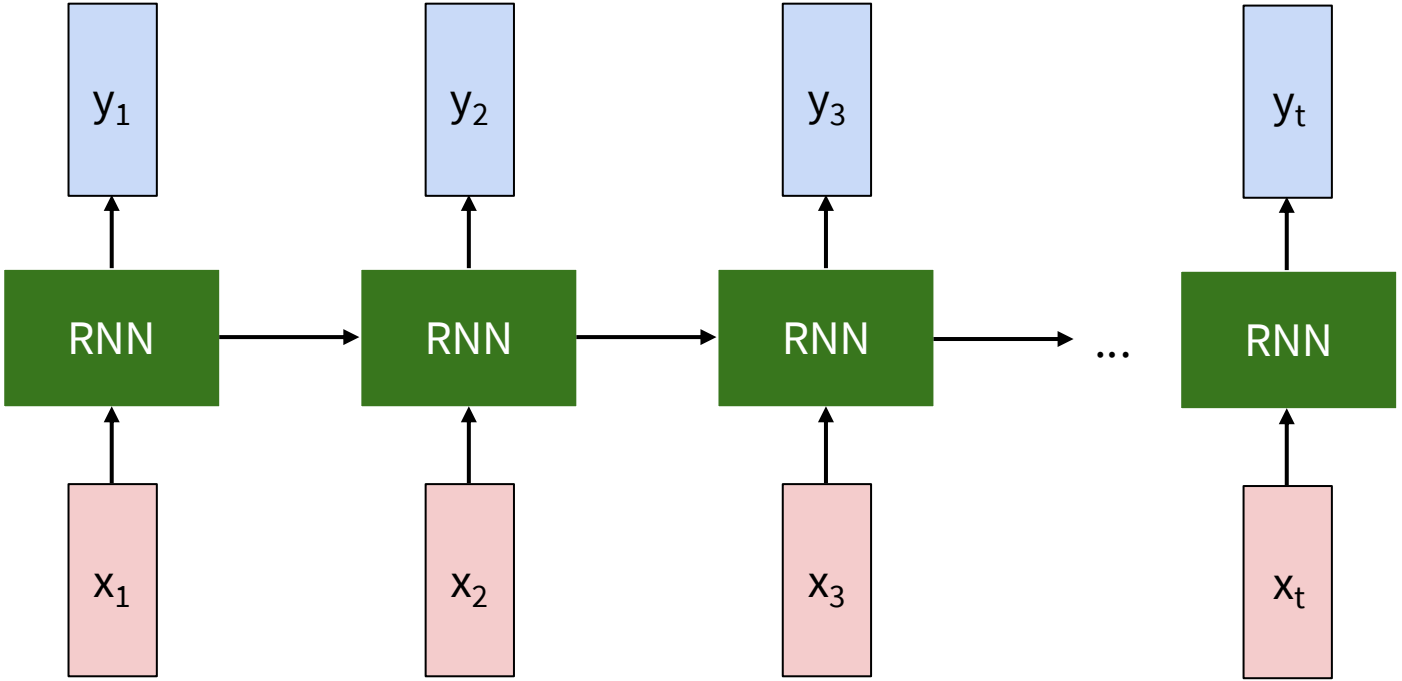


# Recurrent Neural Network




Key idea: RNNs have an "internal state" that is updated as a sequence is processed

# Unrolled RNN



# RNN hidden state update

We can process a sequence of vectors x by applying a recurrence formula at every time step:

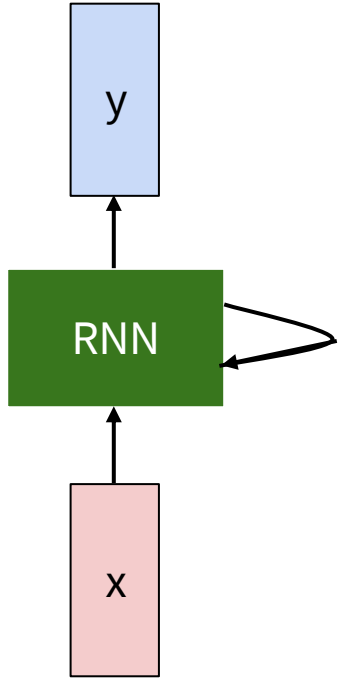
$$h_t = f_W(h_{t-1}, x_t)$$

new state

some function with parameters W

old state

input vector at some time step



# RNN output generation

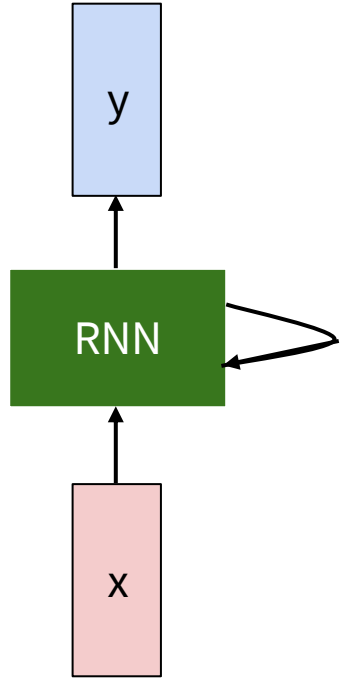
We can process a sequence of vectors x by applying a recurrence formula at every time step:

$$y_t = f_{W_{hy}}(h_t)$$

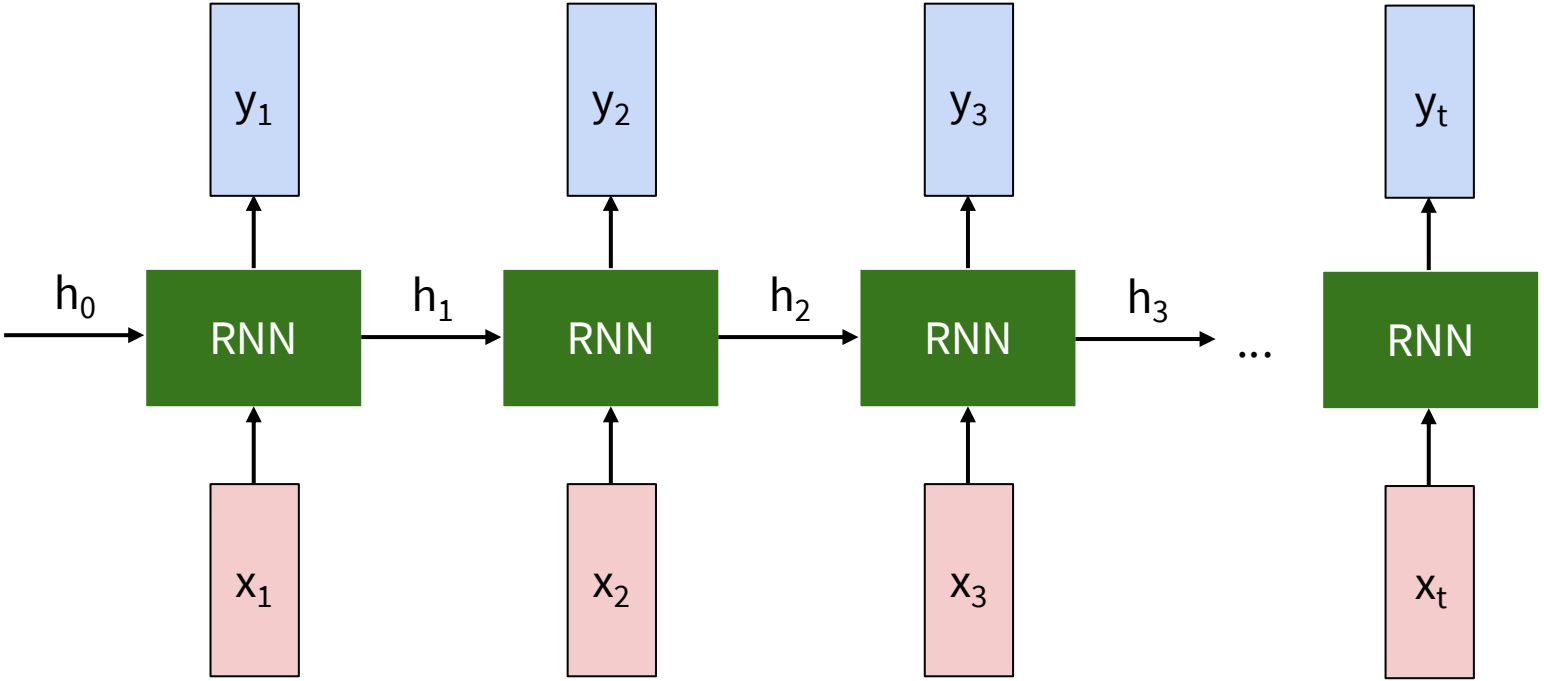
output

new state

another function with parameters $W_{hy}$



# Recurrent Neural Network



# Recurrent Neural Network

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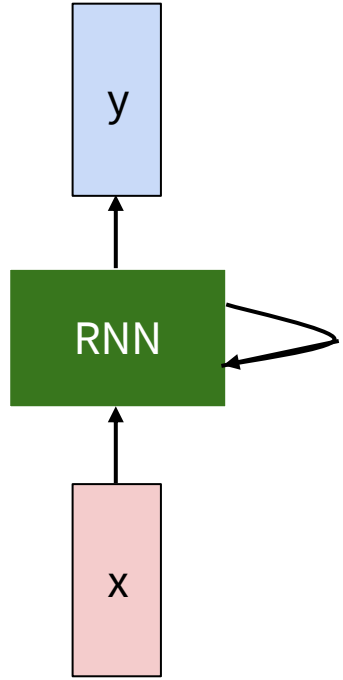
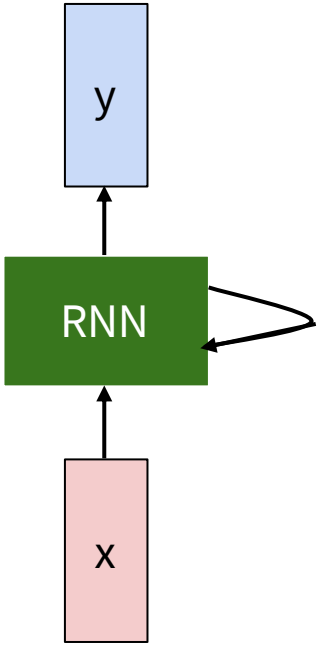
$$h_t = f_W(h_{t-1}, x_t)$$




Notice: the same function and the same set of parameters are used at every time step.

# (Vanilla) Recurrent Neural Network

The state consists of a single “hidden” vector h:




$$h_t = f_W(h_{t-1}, x_t)$$

$$h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$

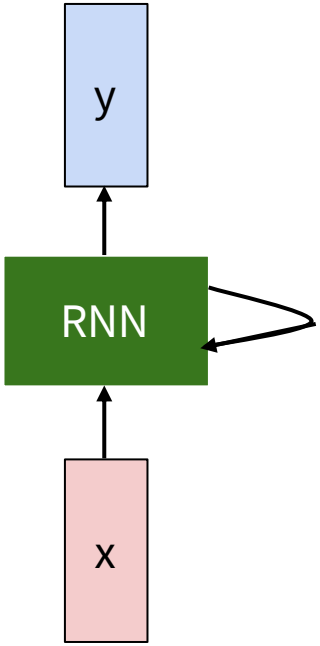
$$y_t = W_{hy}h_t$$

Often, we also have an output function: $f_y$

Sometimes called a “Vanilla RNN” or an “Elman RNN” after Prof. Jeffrey Elman

# Vanilla(-ish) RNN: Concrete Example

Manually creating a recurrent network for detecting repeated 1s




| X | | Y |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | RNN → | 0 |
| 1 | | 0 |
| 0 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 1 |
| 1 | | 1 |
| 0 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 1 |

"Many to many" sequence modeling task

$$h_t = f_W(h_{t-1}, x_t)$$

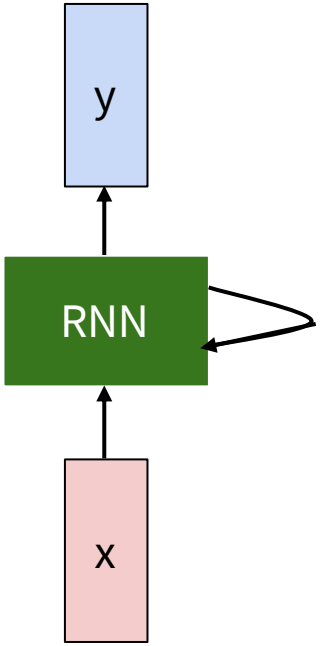
$$y_t = f_y(W_{hy}h_t)$$

How could we create an RNN to do this?

Q: What information should be captured in the "hidden" state?

# Vanilla(-ish) RNN: Concrete Example

Manually creating a recurrent network for detecting repeated 1s

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| 1 | | 1 |
| 0 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 1 |

"Many to many" sequence modeling task

$$h_t = f_W(h_{t-1}, x_t)$$

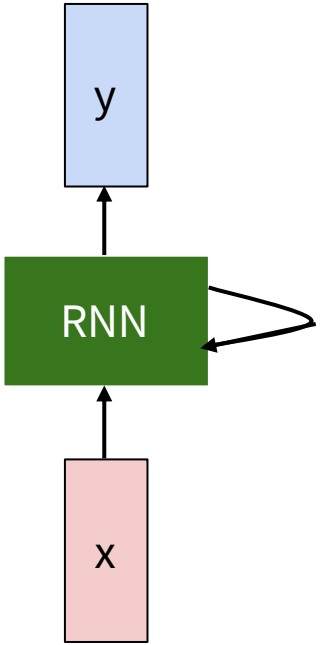
$$y_t = f_y(W_{hy}h_t)$$

How could we create an RNN to do this?

A: Previous input and current value for x

# Vanilla(-ish) RNN: Concrete Example

Manually creating a recurrent network for detecting repeated 1s

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| 0 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 0 |
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| 1 | | 1 |
| 0 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 1 |

"Many to many" sequence modeling task

$$h_t = f_W(h_{t-1}, x_t)$$

$$y_t = f_y(W_{hy}h_t)$$

Set $f_w$ and $f_y$ to both be ReLU for simplicity

$$h_t = \begin{pmatrix} \text{Current} \\ \text{Previous} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Initialize h_0 to (0, 0, 1)

# Vanilla(-ish) RNN: Concrete Example

Manually creating a recurrent network for detecting repeated 1s

```
w_xh = np.array([[1], [0], [0]])

w_hh = np.array([[0, 0, 0],
                 [1, 0, 0],
                 [0, 0, 1]])

w_yh = np.array([1, 1, -1])

x_seq = [0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1]

h_t_prev = np.array([[0], [0], [1]])

for t, x in enumerate(x_seq):
    h_t = relu(w_hh @ h_t_prev + (w_xh @ x))
    y_t = relu(w_yh @ h_t)
    h_t_prev = h_t
```

$$h_t = ReLU(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$

$$y_t = ReLU(W_{hy}h_t)$$

$$h_t = \begin{pmatrix} \text{Current} \\ \text{Previous} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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| 1 | | 1 |

* Code is missing parts, for full code see here

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$$h_t = ReLU(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$

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Right hand term
X=0 → [0, 0, 0]
X=1 → [1, 0, 0]

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|---|---|---|
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| 0 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 0 |
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$$h_t = \begin{pmatrix} \text{Current} \\ \text{Previous} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

0 for top row of left term (only use value from right term)

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Keep 1 on the bottom (helpful for output)

| X | | Y |
|---|---|---|
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| 1 | | 0 |
| 0 | | 0 |
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| 1 | | 1 |
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```

Max(Current + Previous – 1, 0)

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$$y_t = ReLU(W_{hy}h_t)$$

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| X | | Y |
|---|---|---|
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| 0 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 1 |
| 1 | | 1 |
| 0 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 1 |

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$$y_t = ReLU(W_{hy}h_t)$$

$$\boldsymbol{h_t} = \begin{pmatrix} \text{Current} \\ \text{Previous} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

And it just works! But how do we find the Ws in practice?

| X | | Y |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | RNN → | 0 |
| 1 | | 0 |
| 0 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 1 |
| 1 | | 1 |
| 0 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 0 |
| 1 | | 1 |

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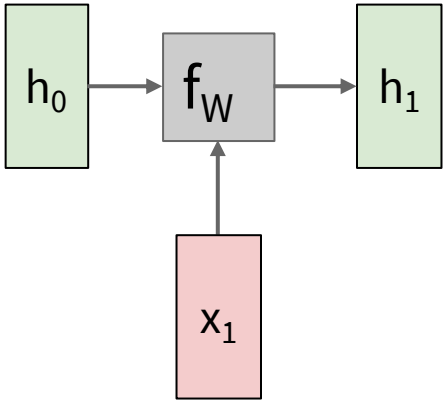
# RNN: Computational Graph



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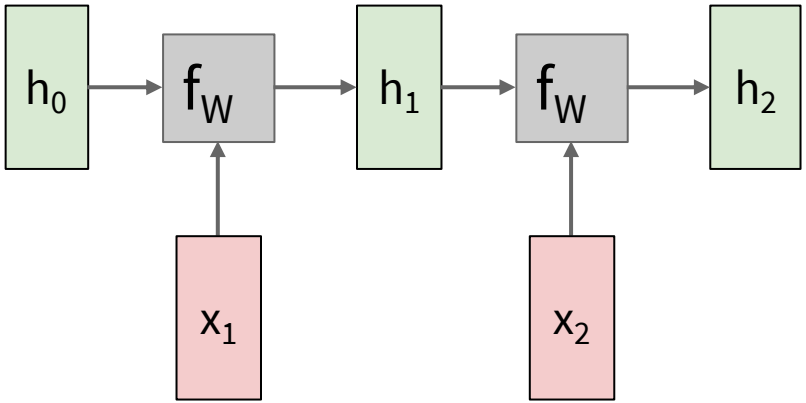

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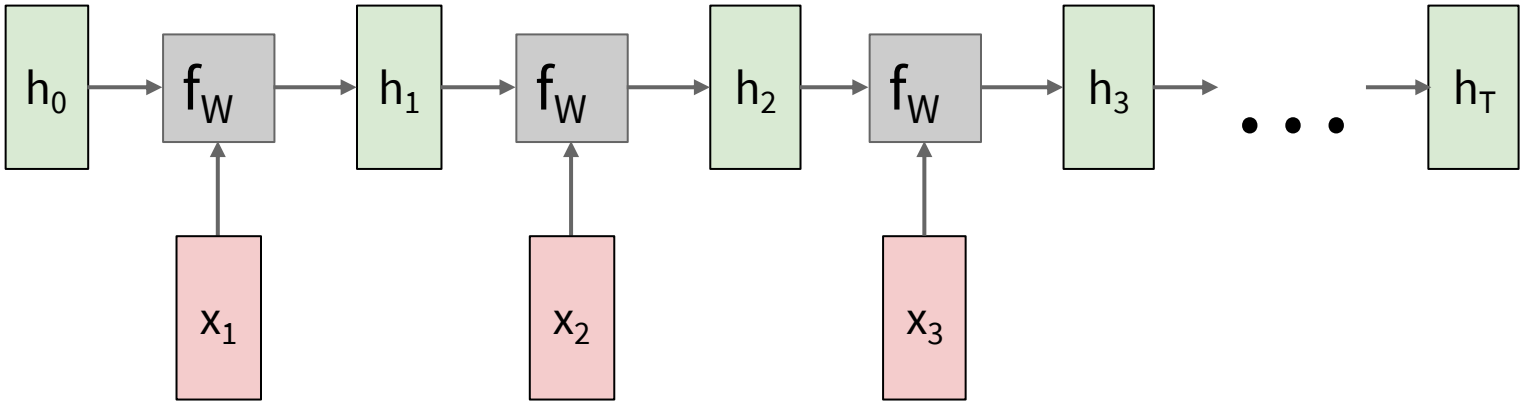
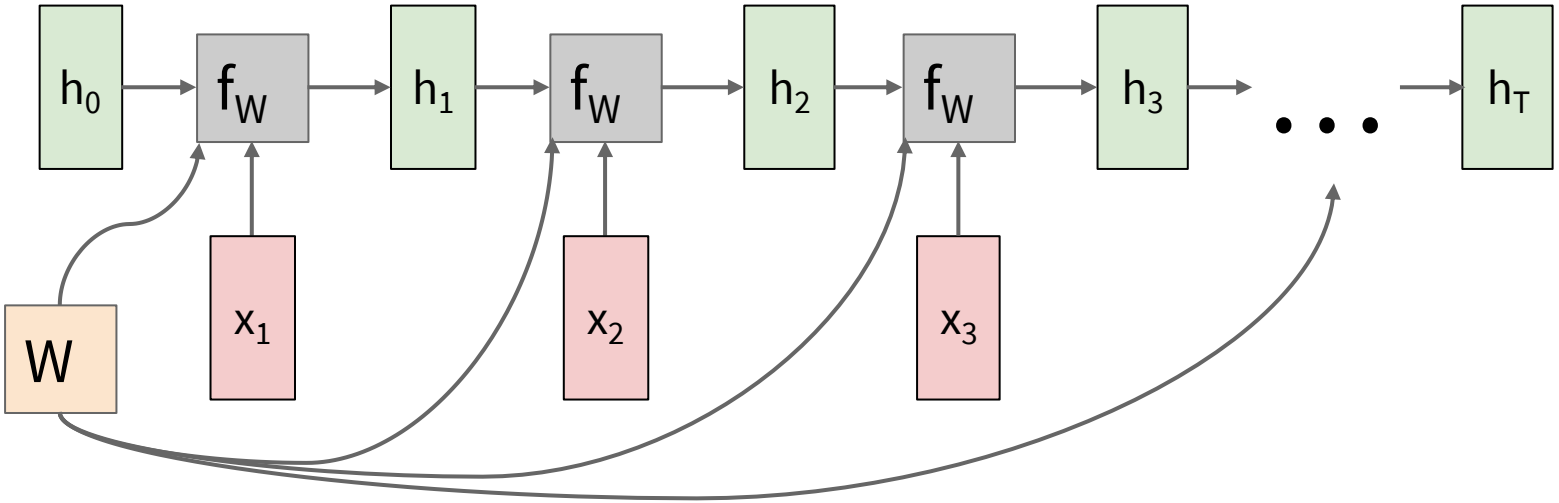
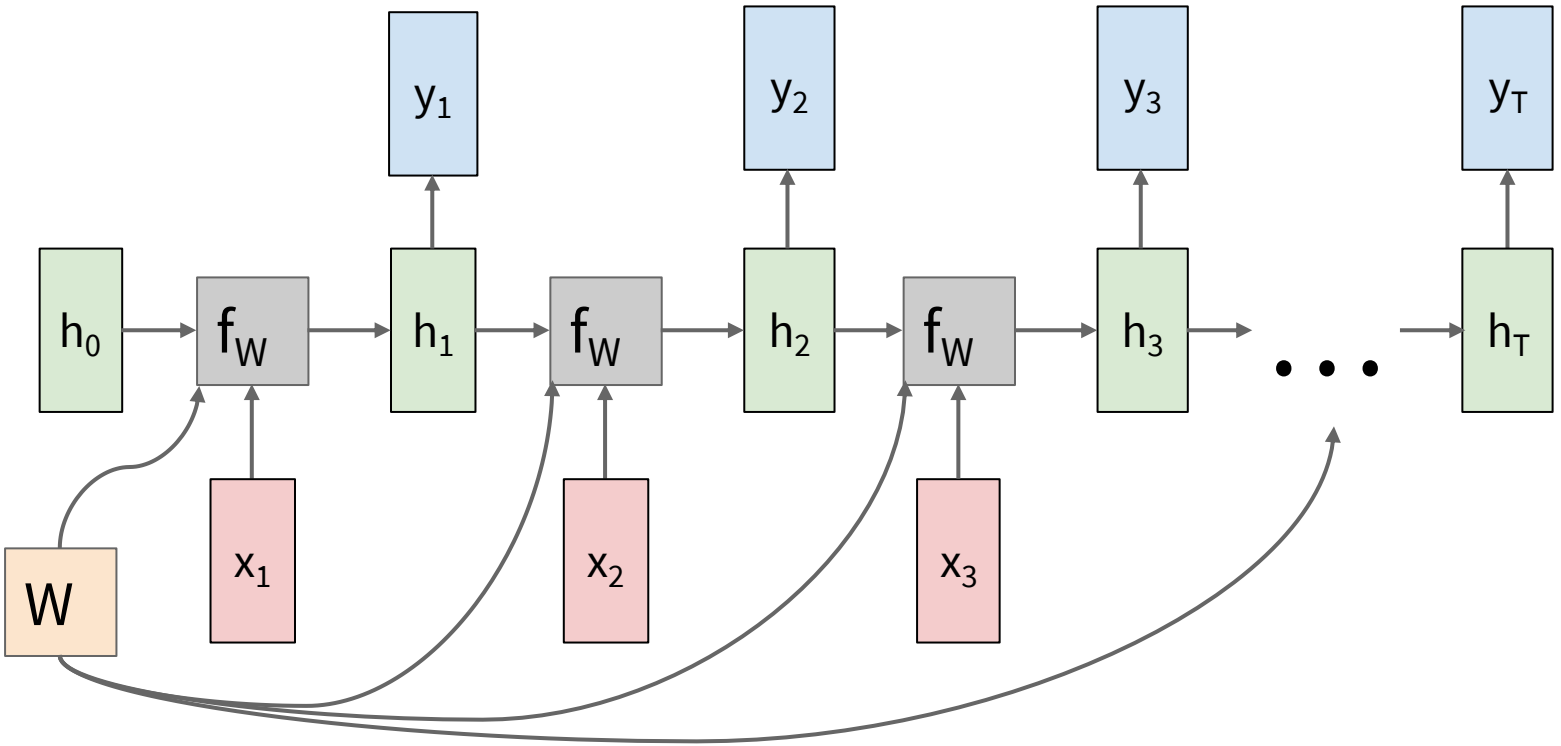


# RNN: Computational Graph

Re-use the same weight matrix at every time-step



# RNN: Computational Graph: Many to Many



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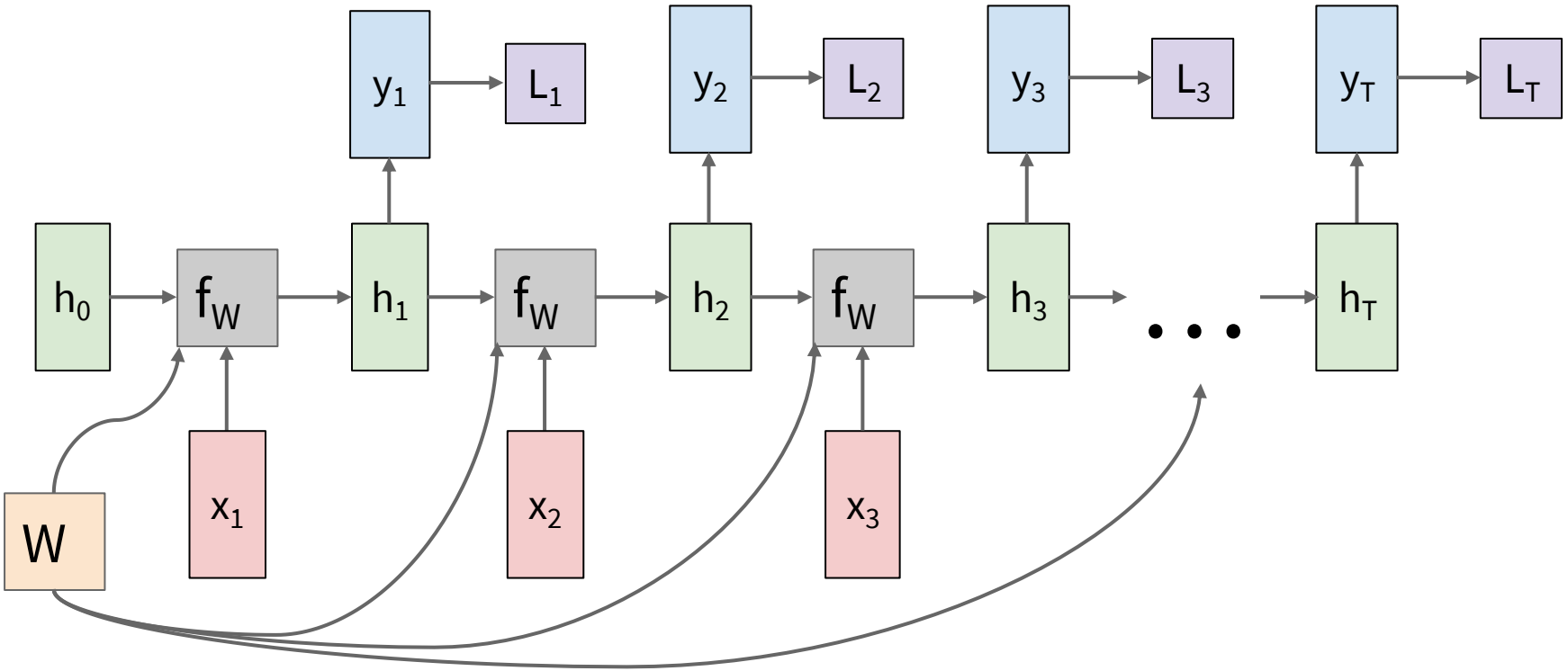

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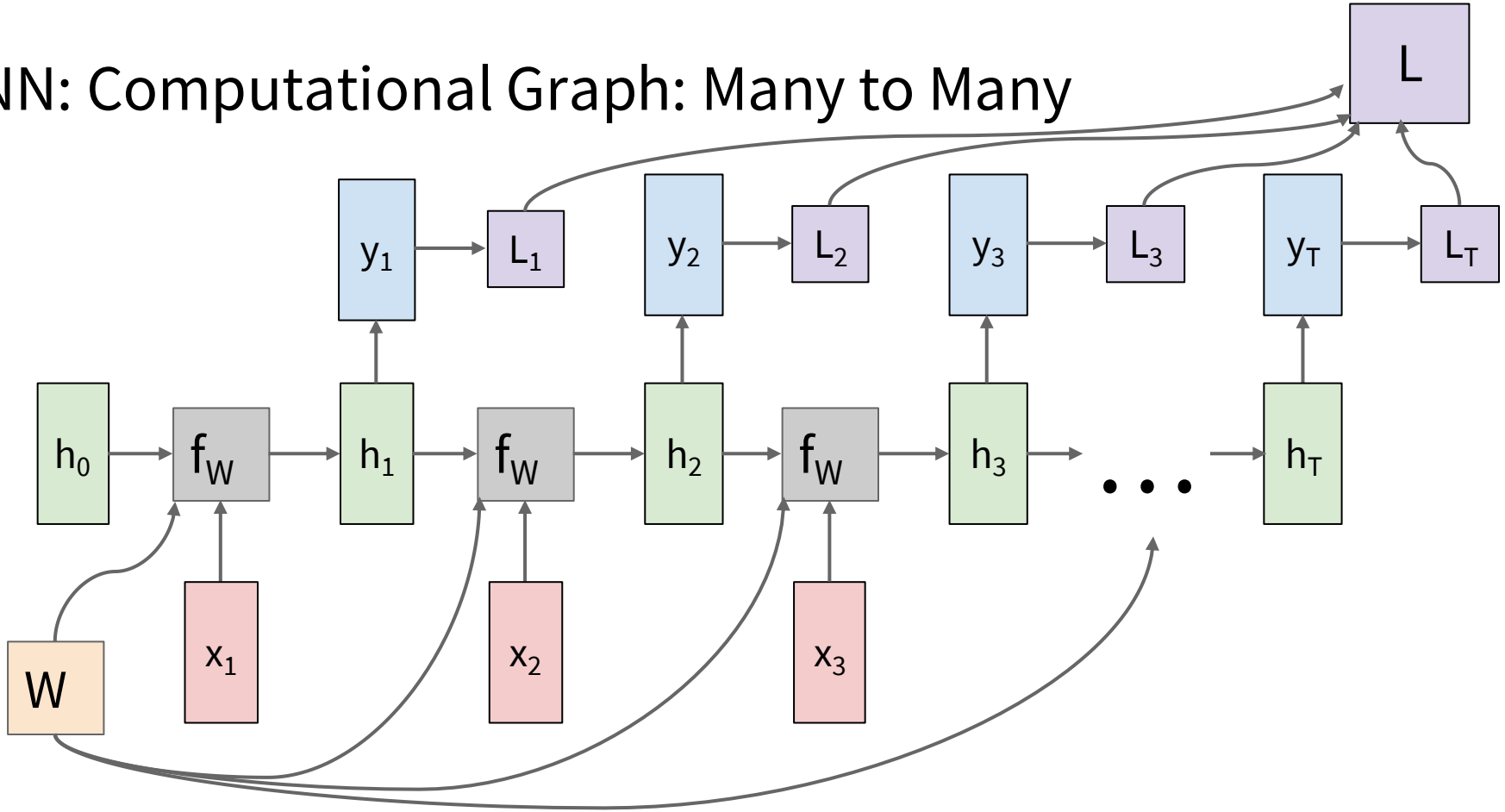
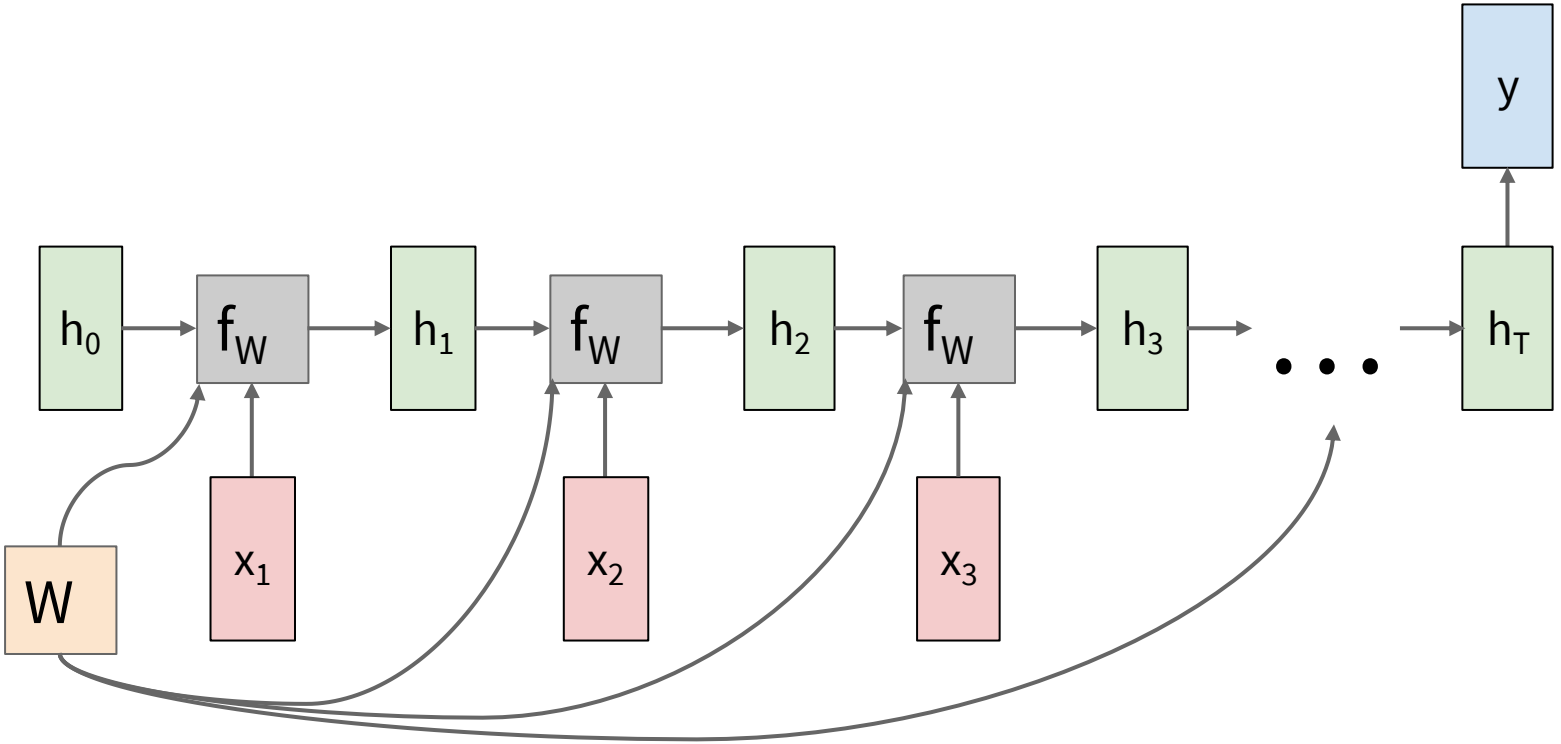
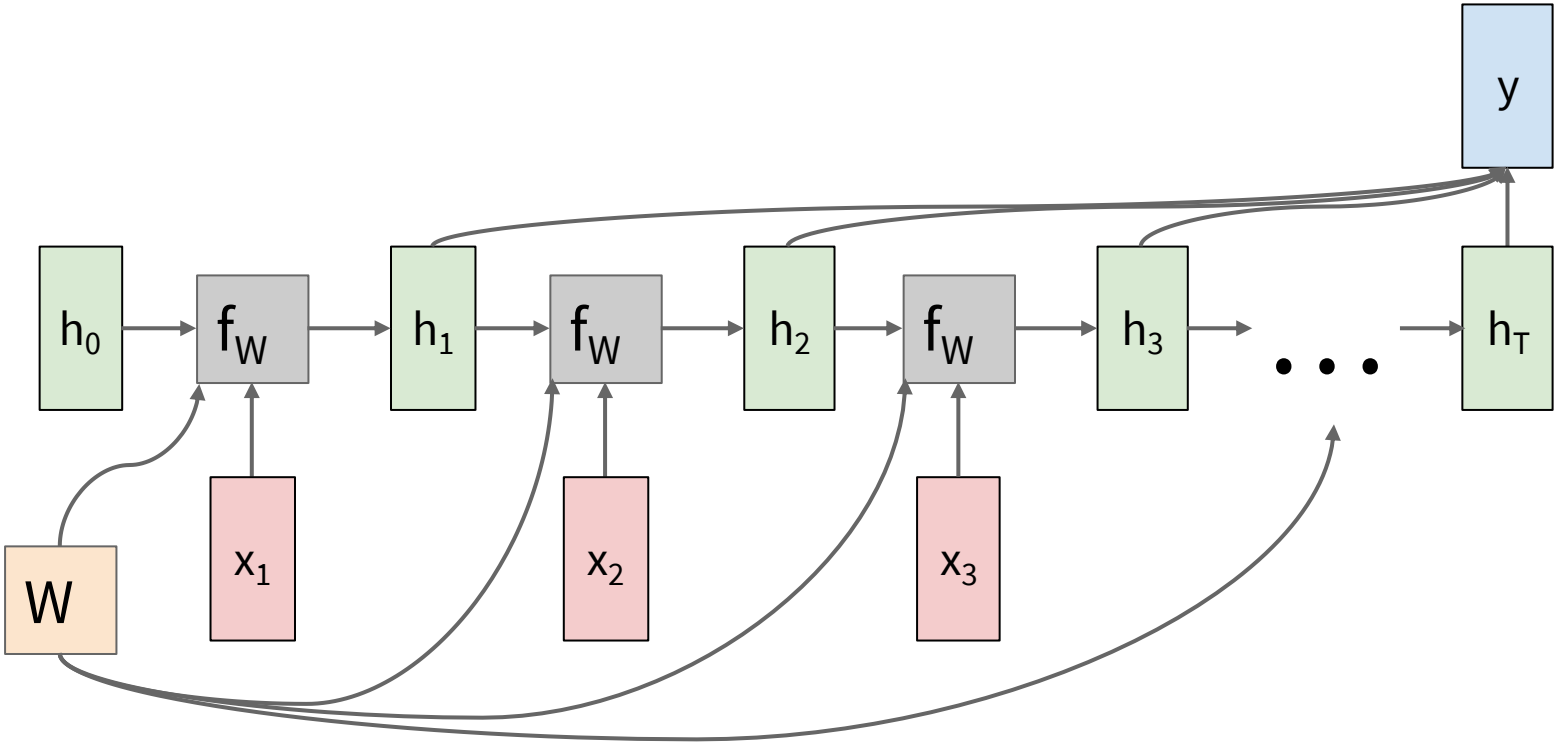


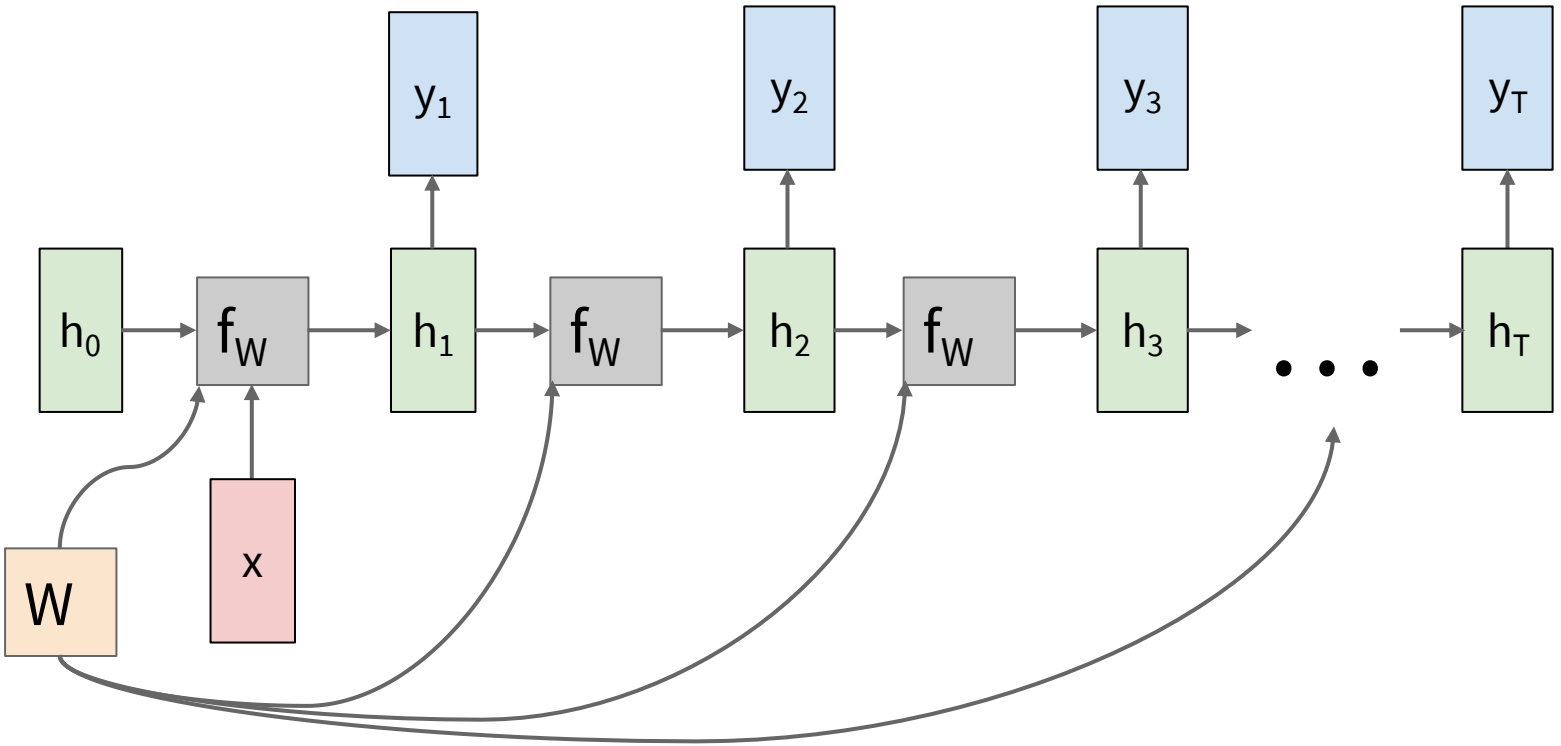
# RNN: Computational Graph: Many to One



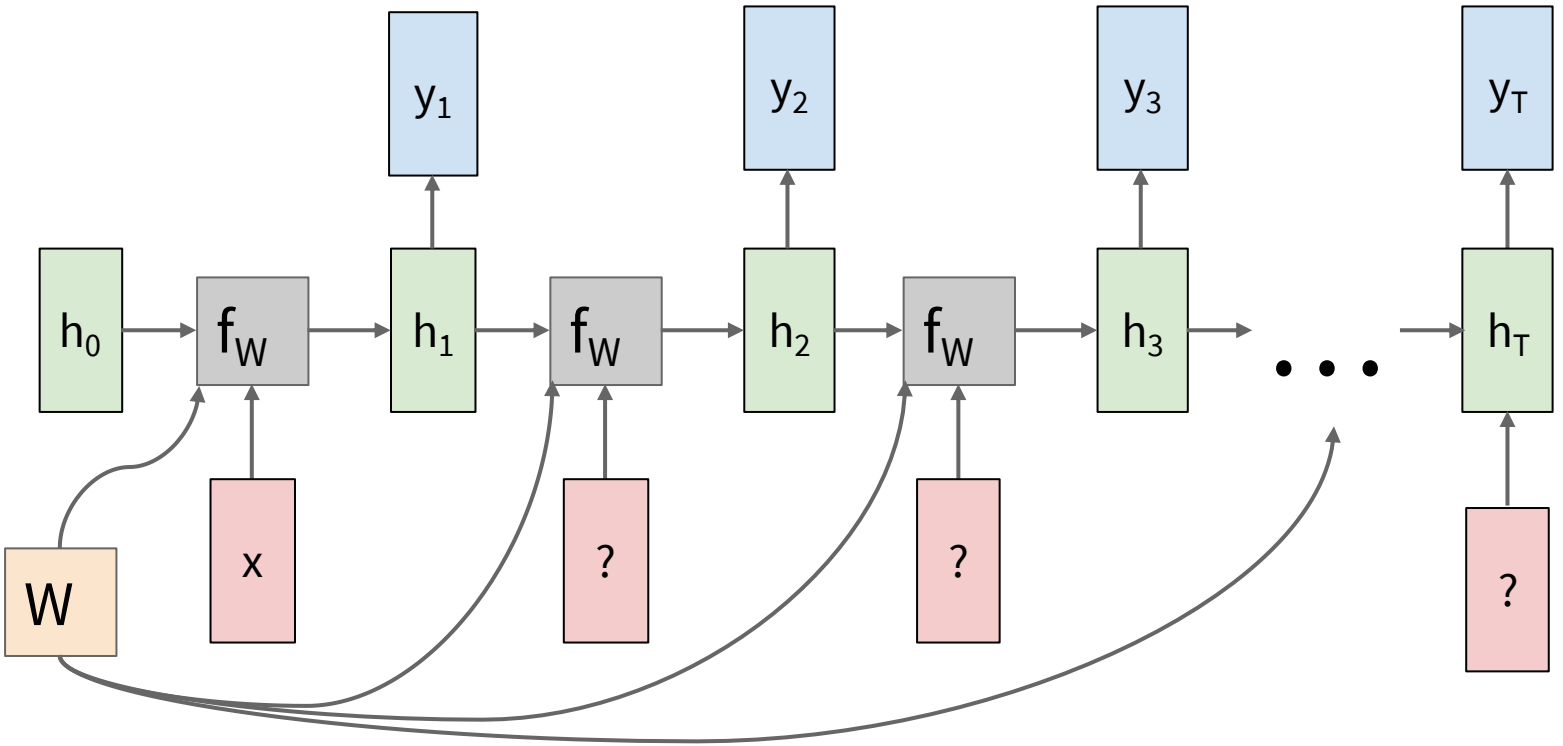
# RNN: Computational Graph: Many to One



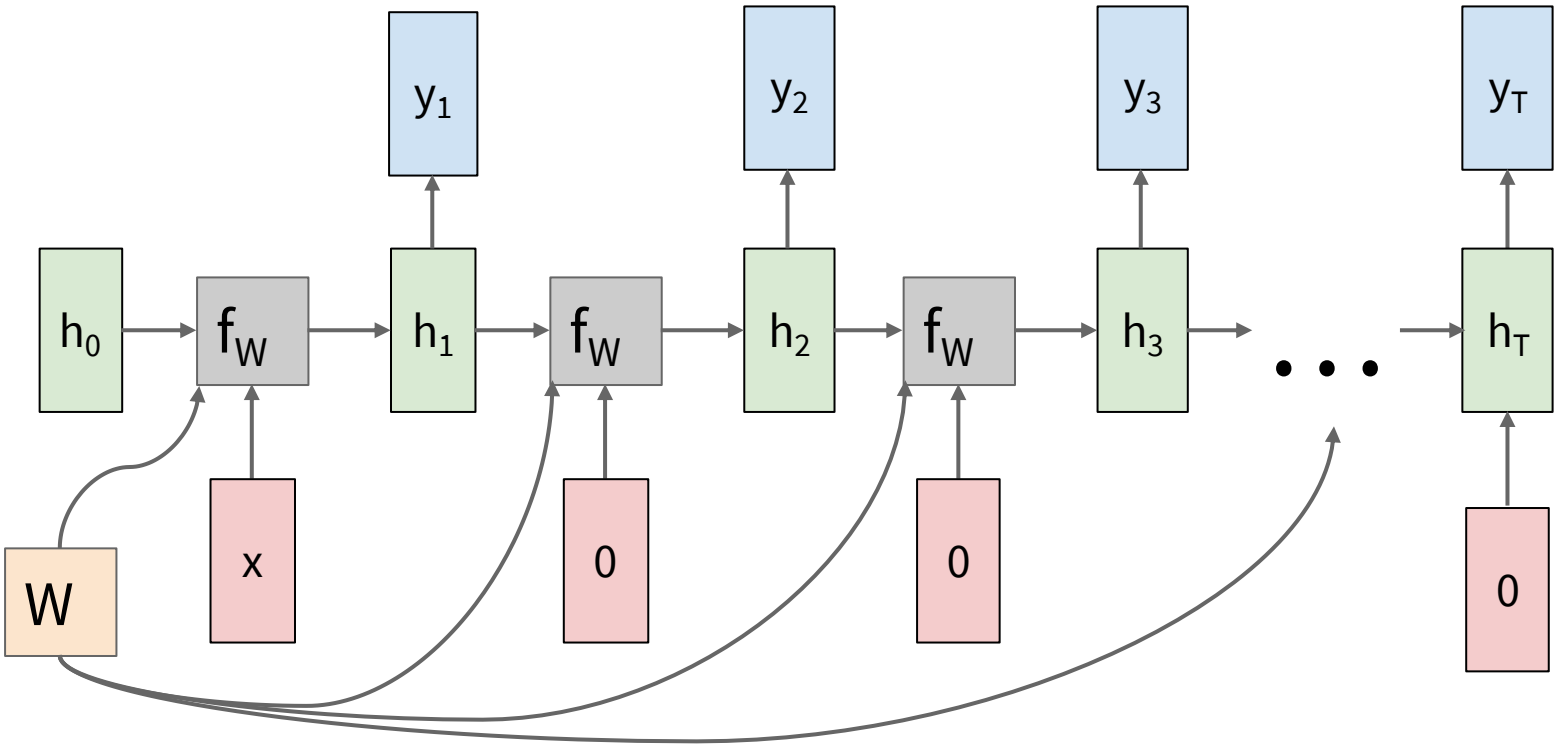
# RNN: Computational Graph: One to Many



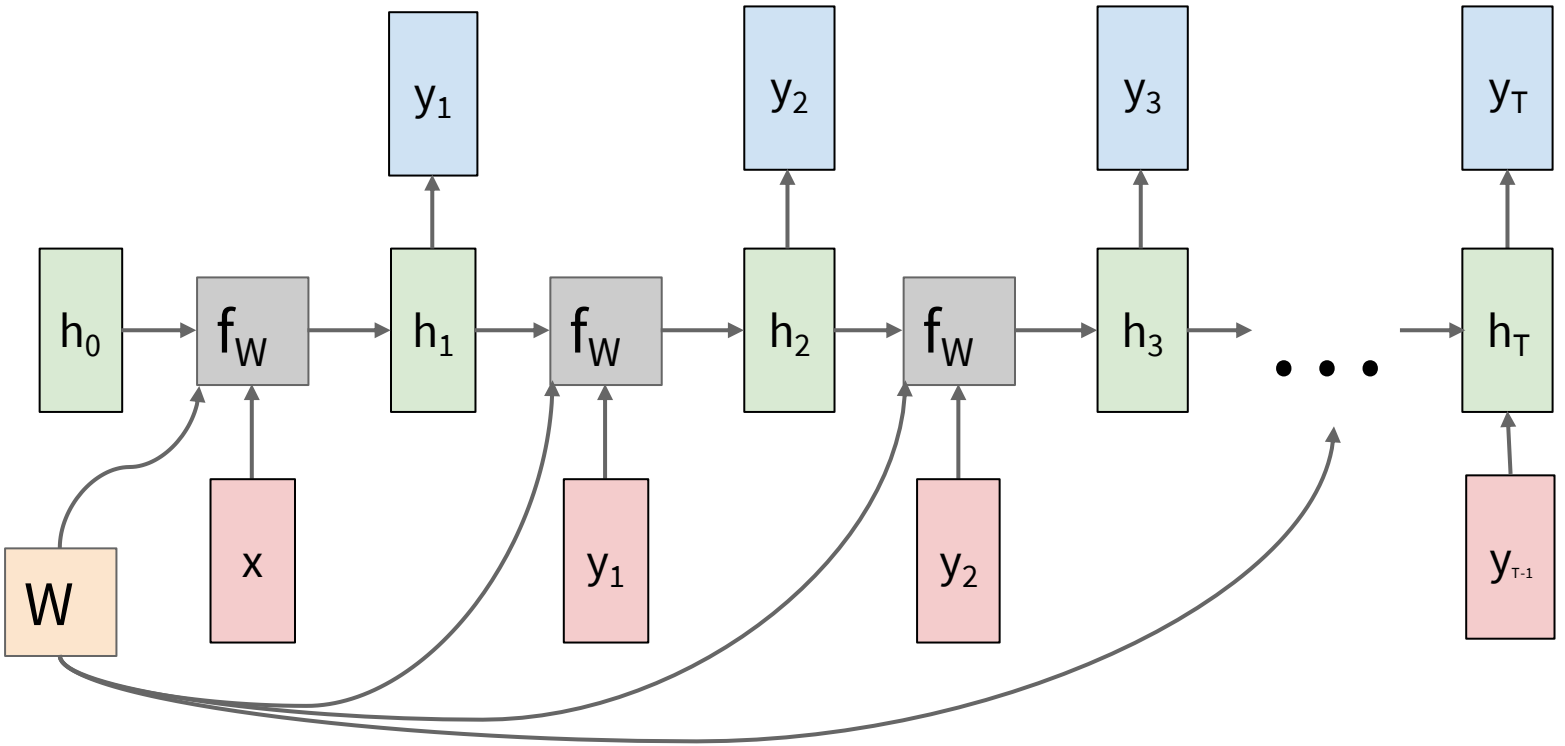
# RNN: Computational Graph: One to Many



# RNN: Computational Graph: One to Many

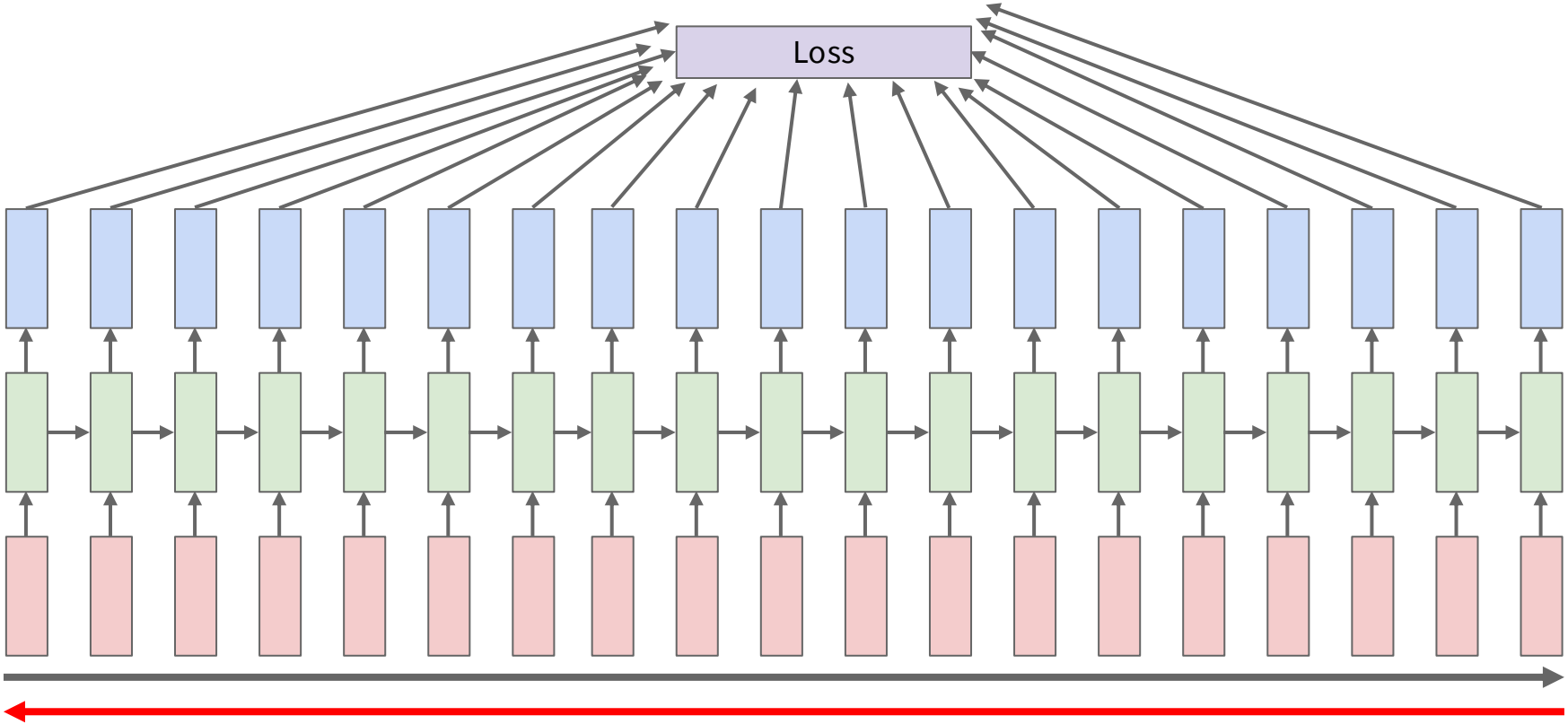


# RNN: Computational Graph: One to Many

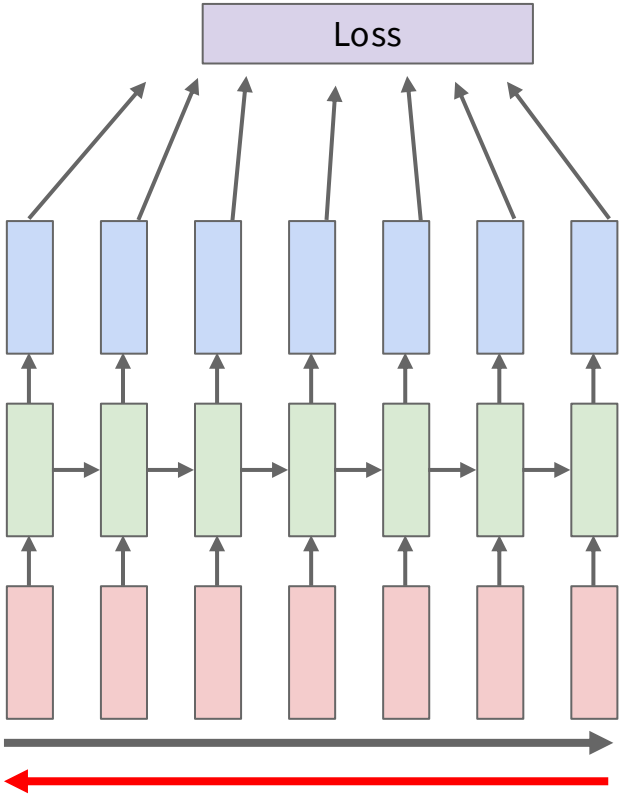


# Backpropagation through time

Forward through entire sequence to compute loss, then backward through entire sequence to compute gradient

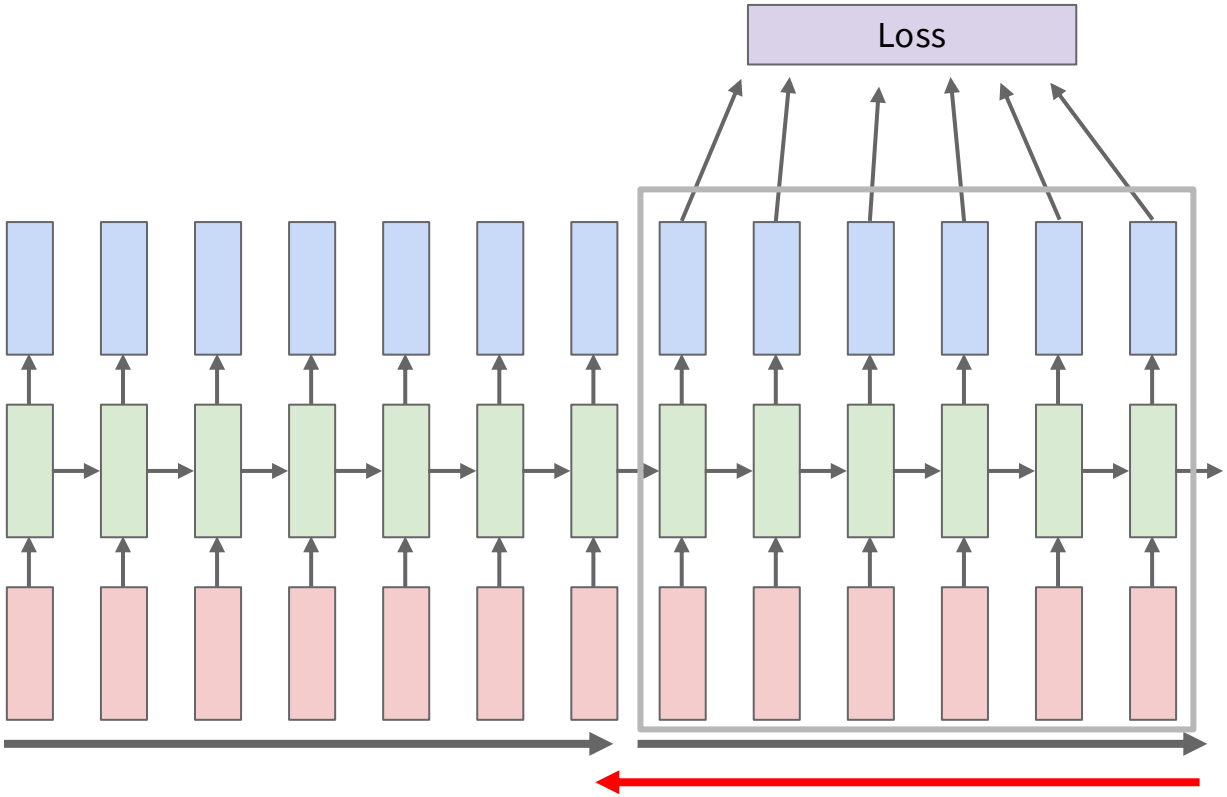


# Truncated Backpropagation through time



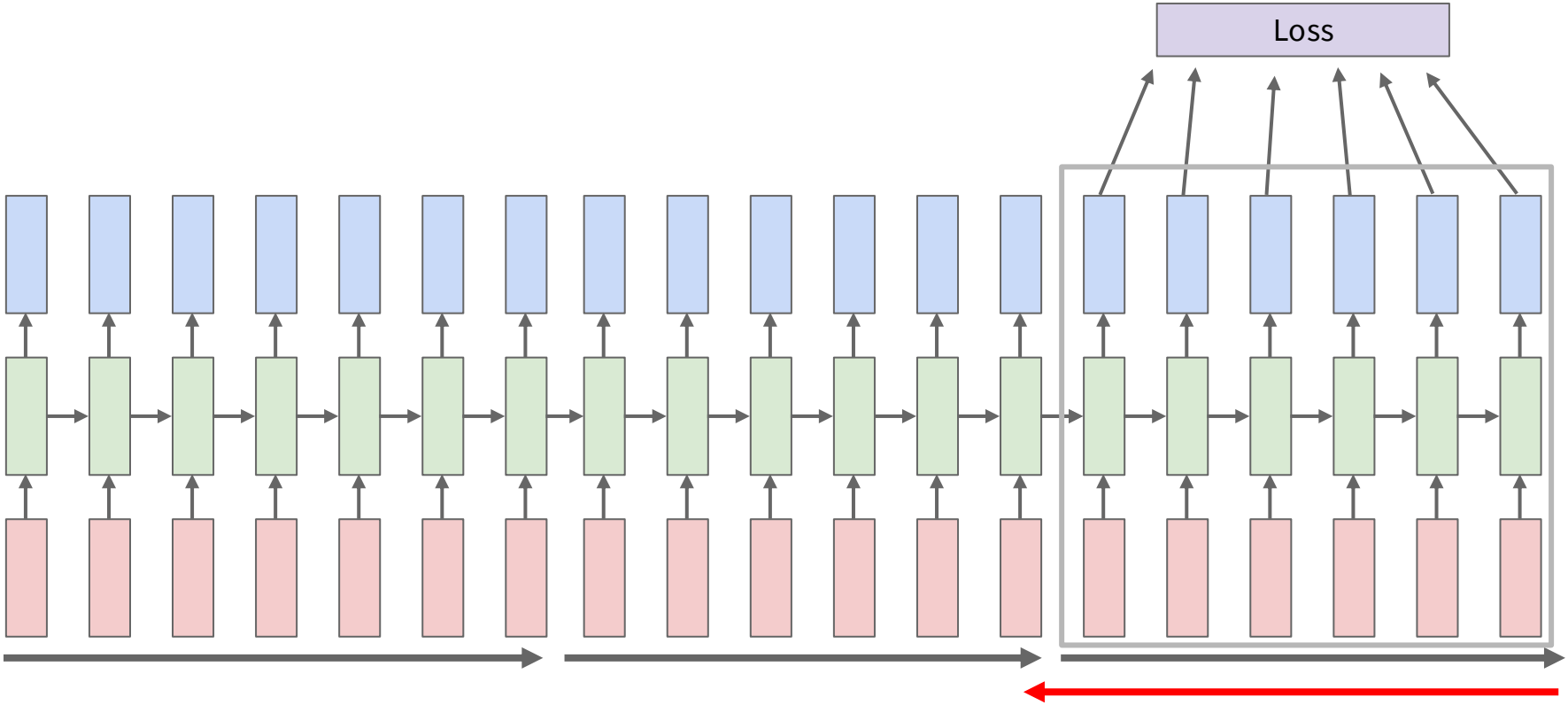

Run forward and backward through chunks of the sequence instead of whole sequence

# Truncated Backpropagation through time




Carry hidden states forward in time forever, but only backpropagate for some smaller number of steps

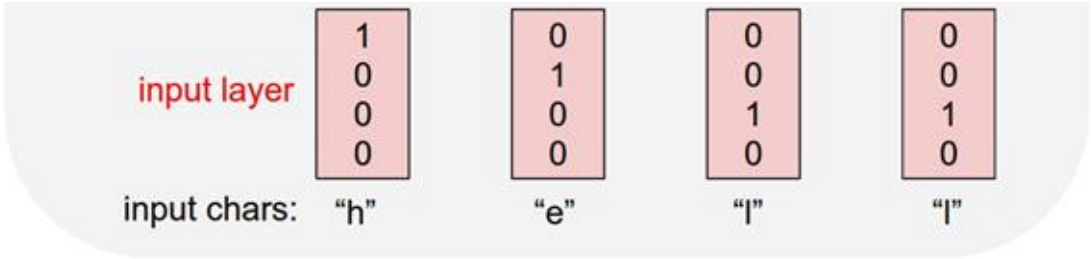
# Truncated Backpropagation through time



A more practical example: Character-level Language Model

Vocabulary: [h,e,l,o]

Example training sequence: “hello”



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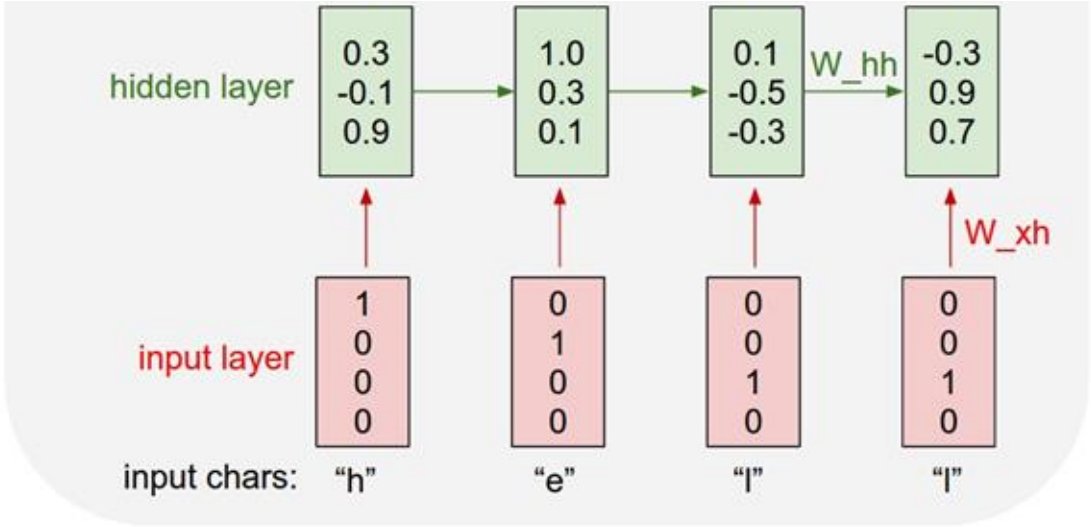
$$h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$



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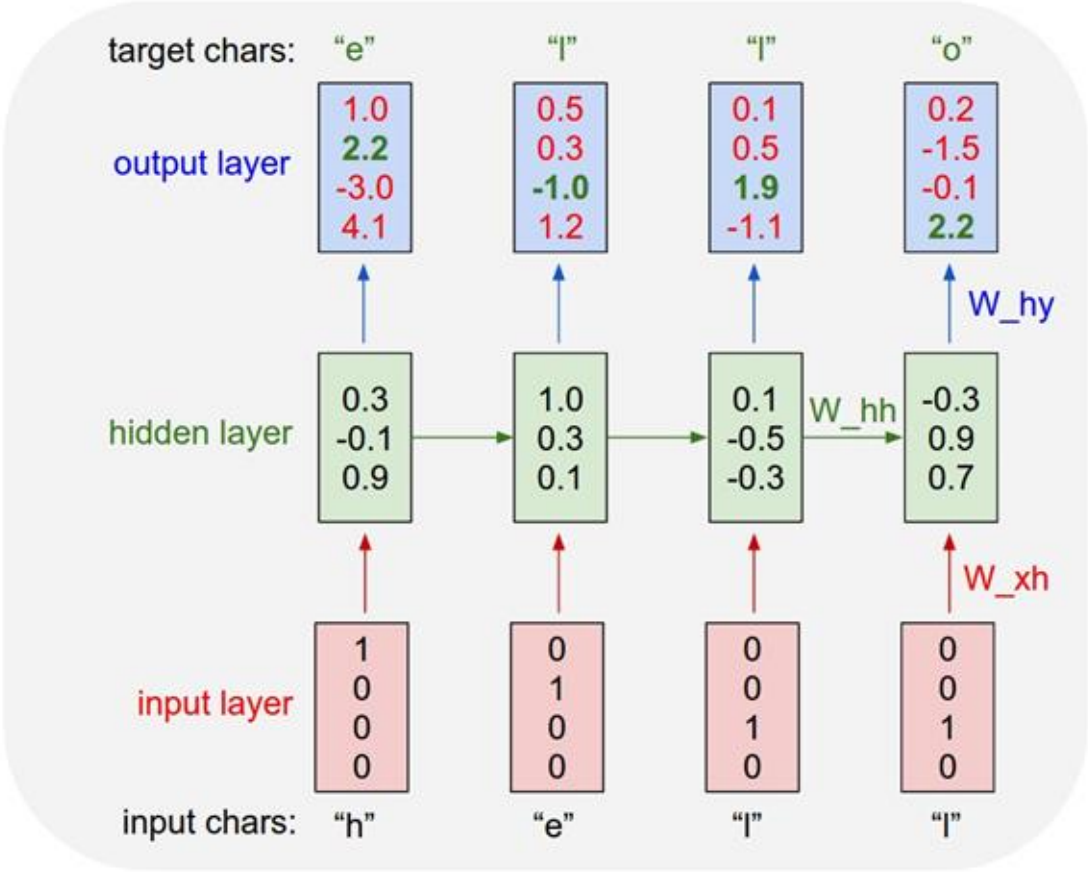
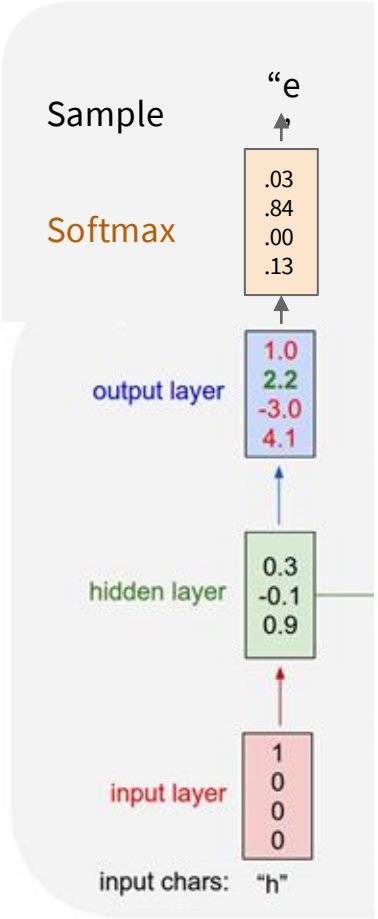


Example: Character-level Language Model Sampling

Vocabulary:
[h,e,l,o]

At test-time sample characters one at a time, feed back to model



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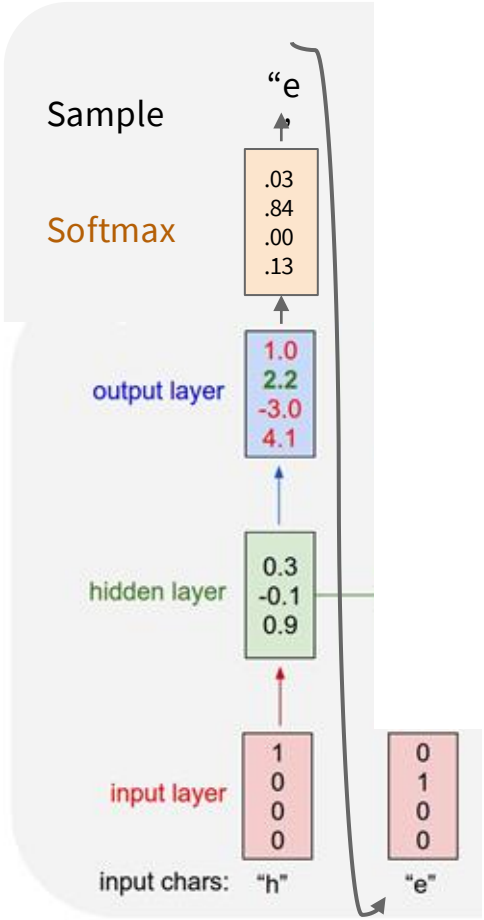

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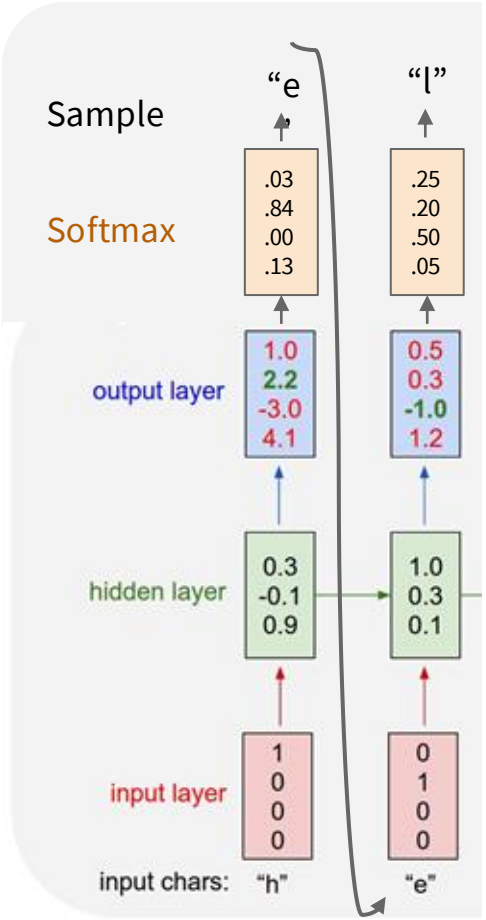

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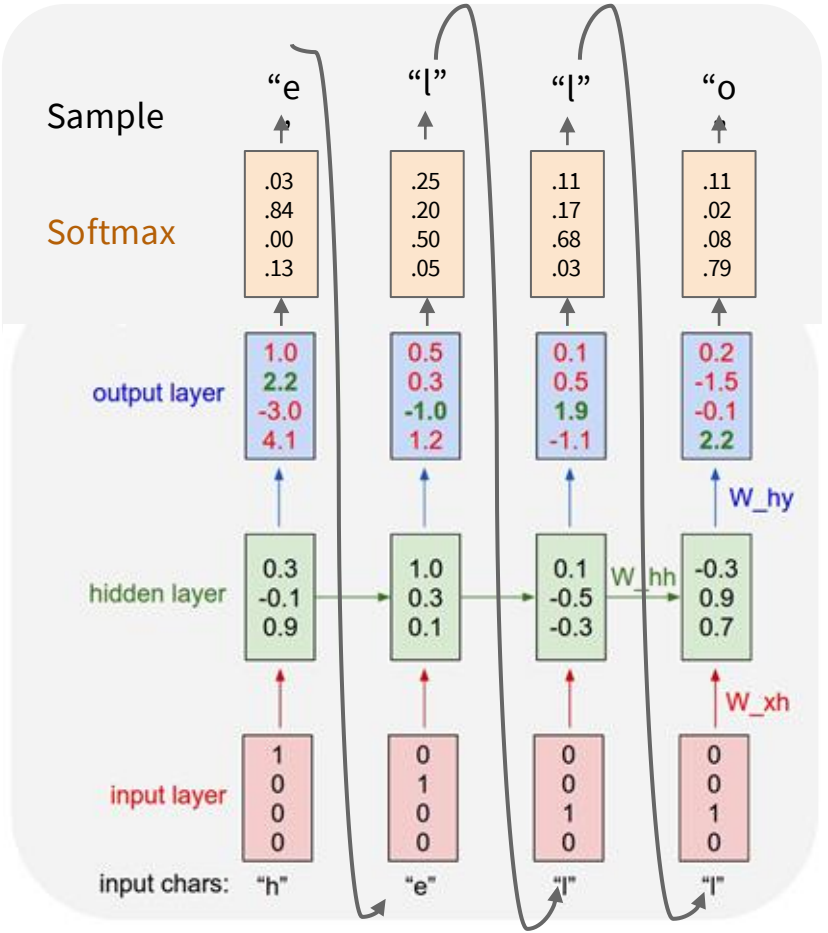
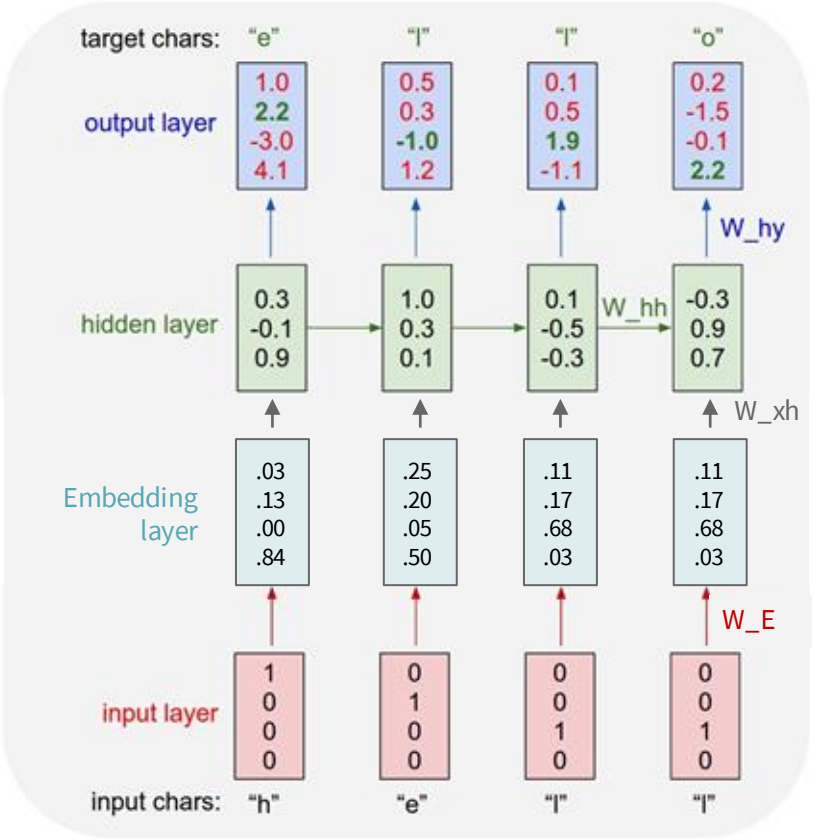


# Example: Character-level Language Model Sampling

$$\begin{bmatrix} w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} & w_{14} \\ w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} & w_{14} \\ w_{31} & w_{32} & w_{33} & w_{14} \\ w_{41} & w_{42} & w_{43} & w_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_{11} \\ w_{21} \\ w_{31} \\ w_{41} \end{bmatrix} = W\_E$$

Matrix multiplication with a one-hot vector just extracts a column from the weight matrix. We often put a separate embedding layer between the input and hidden layers.



# min-char-rnn.py gist: 112 lines of Python

```python
"""
Minimal character-level Vanilla RNN model. Written by Andrej Karpathy (@karpathy)
BSD License
"""
import numpy as np

# data I/O
data = open('input.txt', 'r').read() # should be simple plain text file
chars = list(set(data))
data_size, vocab_size = len(data), len(chars)
print 'data has %d characters, %d unique.' % (data_size, vocab_size)
char_to_ix = { ch:i for i,ch in enumerate(chars) }
ix_to_char = { i:ch for i,ch in enumerate(chars) }

# hyperparameters
hidden_size = 100 # size of hidden layer of neurons
seq_length = 25 # number of steps to unroll the RNN for
learning_rate = 1e-1

# model parameters
Wxh = np.random.randn(hidden_size, vocab_size)*0.01 # input to hidden
Whh = np.random.randn(hidden_size, hidden_size)*0.01 # hidden to hidden
Why = np.random.randn(vocab_size, hidden_size)*0.01 # hidden to output
bh = np.zeros((hidden_size, 1)) # hidden bias
by = np.zeros((vocab_size, 1)) # output bias

def lossFun(inputs, targets, hprev):
  """
  inputs,targets are both list of integers.
  hprev is Hx1 array of initial hidden state
  returns the loss, gradients on model parameters, and last hidden state
  """
  xs, hs, ys, ps = {}, {}, {}, {}
  hs[-1] = np.copy(hprev)
  loss = 0
  # forward pass
  for t in xrange(len(inputs)):
    xs[t] = np.zeros((vocab_size,1)) # encode in 1-of-k representation
    xs[t][inputs[t]] = 1
    hs[t] = np.tanh(np.dot(Wxh, xs[t]) + np.dot(Whh, hs[t-1]) + bh) # hidden state
    ys[t] = np.dot(Why, hs[t]) + by # unnormalized log probabilities for next chars
    ps[t] = np.exp(ys[t]) / np.sum(np.exp(ys[t])) # probabilities for next chars
    loss += -np.log(ps[t][targets[t],0]) # softmax (cross-entropy loss)
  # backward pass: compute gradients going backwards
  dWxh, dWhh, dWhy = np.zeros_like(Wxh), np.zeros_like(Whh), np.zeros_like(Why)
  dbh, dby = np.zeros_like(bh), np.zeros_like(by)
  dhnext = np.zeros_like(hs[0])
  for t in reversed(xrange(len(inputs))):
    dy = np.copy(ps[t])
    dy[targets[t]] -= 1 # backprop into y
    dWhy += np.dot(dy, hs[t].T)
    dby += dy
    dh = np.dot(Why.T, dy) + dhnext # backprop into h
    dhraw = (1 - hs[t] * hs[t]) * dh # backprop through tanh nonlinearity
    dbh += dhraw
    dWxh += np.dot(dhraw, xs[t].T)
    dWhh += np.dot(dhraw, hs[t-1].T)
    dhnext = np.dot(Whh.T, dhraw)
  for dparam in [dWxh, dWhh, dWhy, dbh, dby]:
    np.clip(dparam, -5, 5, out=dparam) # clip to mitigate exploding gradients
  return loss, dWxh, dWhh, dWhy, dbh, dby, hs[len(inputs)-1]

def sample(h, seed_ix, n):
  """
  sample a sequence of integers from the model
  h is memory state, seed_ix is seed letter for first time step
  """
  x = np.zeros((vocab_size, 1))
  x[seed_ix] = 1
  ixes = []
  for t in xrange(n):
    h = np.tanh(np.dot(Wxh, x) + np.dot(Whh, h) + bh)
    y = np.dot(Why, h) + by
    p = np.exp(y) / np.sum(np.exp(y))
    ix = np.random.choice(range(vocab_size), p=p.ravel())
    x = np.zeros((vocab_size, 1))
    x[ix] = 1
    ixes.append(ix)
  return ixes

n, p = 0, 0
mWxh, mWhh, mWhy = np.zeros_like(Wxh), np.zeros_like(Whh), np.zeros_like(Why)
mbh, mby = np.zeros_like(bh), np.zeros_like(by) # memory variables for Adagrad
smooth_loss = -np.log(1.0/vocab_size)*seq_length # loss at iteration 0
while True:
  # prepare inputs (we're sweeping from left to right in steps seq_length long)
  if p+seq_length+1 >= len(data) or n == 0:
    hprev = np.zeros((hidden_size,1)) # reset RNN memory
    p = 0 # go from start of data
  inputs = [char_to_ix[ch] for ch in data[p:p+seq_length]]
  targets = [char_to_ix[ch] for ch in data[p+1:p+seq_length+1]]

  # sample from the model now and then
  if n % 100 == 0:
    sample_ix = sample(hprev, inputs[0], 200)
    txt = ''.join(ix_to_char[ix] for ix in sample_ix)
    print '----\n %s \n----' % (txt, )

  # forward seq_length characters through the net and fetch gradient
  loss, dWxh, dWhh, dWhy, dbh, dby, hprev = lossFun(inputs, targets, hprev)
  smooth_loss = smooth_loss * 0.999 + loss * 0.001
  if n % 100 == 0: print 'iter %d, loss: %f' % (n, smooth_loss) # print progress

  # perform parameter update with Adagrad
  for param, dparam, mem in zip([Wxh, Whh, Why, bh, by],
                                [dWxh, dWhh, dWhy, dbh, dby],
                                [mWxh, mWhh, mWhy, mbh, mby]):
    mem += dparam * dparam
    param += -learning_rate * dparam / np.sqrt(mem + 1e-8) # adagrad update

  p += seq_length # move data pointer
  n += 1 # iteration counter
```

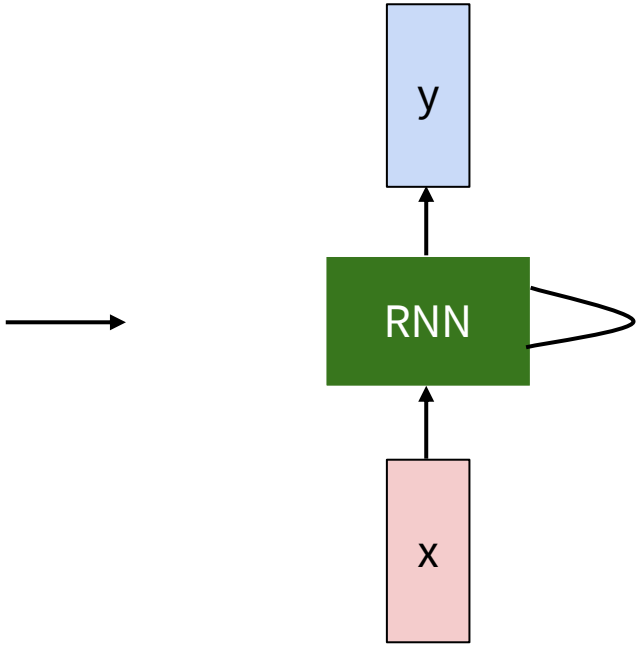
([https://gist.github.com/karpathy/d4dee566867f8291f086](https://gist.github.com/karpathy/d4dee566867f8291f086))

# THE SONNETS

## by William Shakespeare

From fairest creatures we desire increase,
That thereby beauty's rose might never die,
But as the riper should by time decease,
His tender heir might bear his memory:
But thou, contracted to thine own bright eyes,
Feed'st thy light's flame with self-substantial fuel,
Making a famine where abundance lies,
Thyself thy foe, to thy sweet self too cruel:
Thou that art now the world's fresh ornament,
And only herald to the gaudy spring,
Within thine own bud buriest thy content,
And tender churl mak'st waste in niggarding:
Pity the world, or else this glutton be,
To eat the world's due, by the grave and thee.

When forty winters shall besiege thy brow,
And dig deep trenches in thy beauty's field,
Thy youth's proud livery so gazed on now,
Will be a tatter'd weed of small worth held:
Then being asked, where all thy beauty lies,
Where all the treasure of thy lusty days;
To say, within thine own deep sunken eyes,
Were an all-eating shame, and thriftless praise.
How much more praise deserv'd thy beauty's use,
If thou couldst answer 'This fair child of mine
Shall sum my count, and make my old excuse,'
Proving his beauty by succession thine!
This were to be new made when thou art old,
And see thy blood warm when thou feel'st it cold.




[Blogpost from Andrej Karpathy back in 2015!]

at first:

```
tyntd-iafhatawiaoihrdemot  lytdws  e ,tfti, astai f ogoh eoase rrranbyne 'nhthnee e
plia tklrgd t o idoe ns,smtt   h ne etie h,hregtrs nigtike,aoaenns lng
```

train more

```
"Tmont thithey" fomesscerliund
Keushey. Thom here
sheulke, anmerenith ol sivh I lalterthend Bleipile shuwy fil on aseterlome
coaniogennc Phe lism thond hon at. MeiDimorotion in ther thize."
```

train more

```
Aftair fall unsuch that the hall for Prince Velzonski's that me of
her hearly, and behs to so arwage fiving were to it beloge, pavu say falling misfort
how, and Gogition is so overelical and ofter.
```

train more

```
"Why do what that day," replied Natasha, and wishing to himself the fact the
princess, Princess Mary was easier, fed in had oftened him.
Pierre aking his soul came to the packs and drove up his father-in-law women.
```

PANDARUS:
Alas, I think he shall be come approached and the day
When little srain would be attain'd into being never fed,
And who is but a chain and subjects of his death,
I should not sleep.

Second Senator:
They are away this miseries, produced upon my soul,
Breaking and strongly should be buried, when I perish
The earth and thoughts of many states.

DUKE VINCENTIO:
Well, your wit is in the care of side and that.

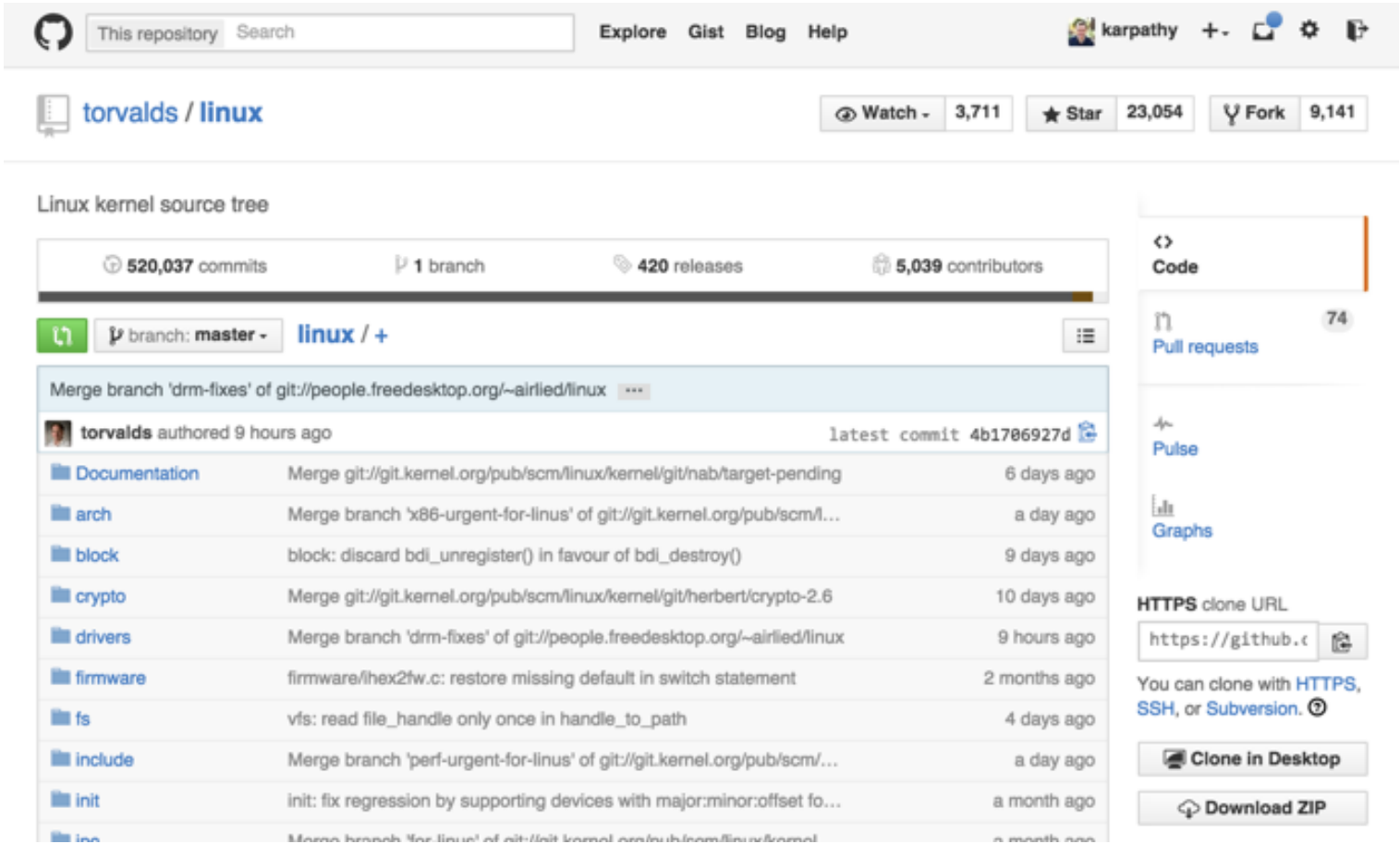
Second Lord:
They would be ruled after this chamber, and
my fair nues begun out of the fact, to be conveyed,
Whose noble souls I'll have the heart of the wars.

Clown:
Come, sir, I will make did behold your worship.

VIOLA:
I'll drink it.

VIOLA:
Why, Salisbury must find his flesh and thought
That which I am not aps, not a man and in fire,
To show the reining of the raven and the wars
To grace my hand reproach within, and not a fair are hand,
That Caesar and my goodly father's world;
When I was heaven of presence and our fleets,
We spare with hours, but cut thy council I am great,
Murdered and by thy master's ready there
My power to give thee but so much as hell:
Some service in the noble bondman here,
Would show him to her wine.

KING LEAR:
O, if you were a feeble sight, the courtesy of your law,
Your sight and several breath, will wear the gods
With his heads, and my hands are wonder'd at the deeds,
So drop upon your lordship's head, and your opinion
Shall be against your honour.


This repository Search
Explore Gist Blog Help
karpathy
torvalds / linux
Watch 3,711
Star 23,054
Fork 9,141
Linux kernel source tree
520,037 commits
1 branch
420 releases
5,039 contributors
branch: master
linux / +
Merge branch 'drm-fixes' of git://people.freedesktop.org/~airlied/linux
torvalds authored 9 hours ago
latest commit 4b1706927d
Documentation Merge git://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/linux/kernel/git/nab/target-pending 6 days ago
arch Merge branch 'x86-urgent-for-linus' of git://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/l... a day ago
block block: discard bdi_unregister() in favour of bdi_destroy() 9 days ago
crypto Merge git://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/linux/kernel/git/herbert/crypto-2.6 10 days ago
drivers Merge branch 'drm-fixes' of git://people.freedesktop.org/~airlied/linux 9 hours ago
firmware firmware/ihex2fw.c: restore missing default in switch statement 2 months ago
fs vfs: read file_handle only once in handle_to_path 4 days ago
include Merge branch 'perf-urgent-for-linus' of git://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/... a day ago
init init: fix regression by supporting devices with major:minor:offset fo... a month ago
Code
74
Pull requests
Pulse
Graphs
HTTPS clone URL
https://github.c
You can clone with HTTPS, SSH, or Subversion.
Clone in Desktop
Download ZIP

```
static void do_command(struct seq_file *m, void *v)
{
  int column = 32 << (cmd[2] & 0x80);
  if (state)
    cmd = (int)(int_state ^ (in_8(&ch->ch_flags) & Cmd) ? 2 : 1);
  else
    seq = 1;
  for (i = 0; i < 16; i++) {
    if (k & (1 << 1))
      pipe = (in_use & UMXTHREAD_UNCCA) +
        ((count & 0x00000000fffffff8) & 0x000000f) << 8;
    if (count == 0)
      sub(pid, ppc_md.kexec_handle, 0x20000000);
    pipe_set_bytes(i, 0);
  }
  /* Free our user pages pointer to place camera if all dash */
  subsystem_info = &of_changes[PAGE_SIZE];
  rek_controls(offset, idx, &soffset);
  /* Now we want to deliberately put it to device */
  control_check_polarity(&context, val, 0);
  for (i = 0; i < COUNTER; i++)
    seq_puts(s, "policy ");
}
```

Generated C code

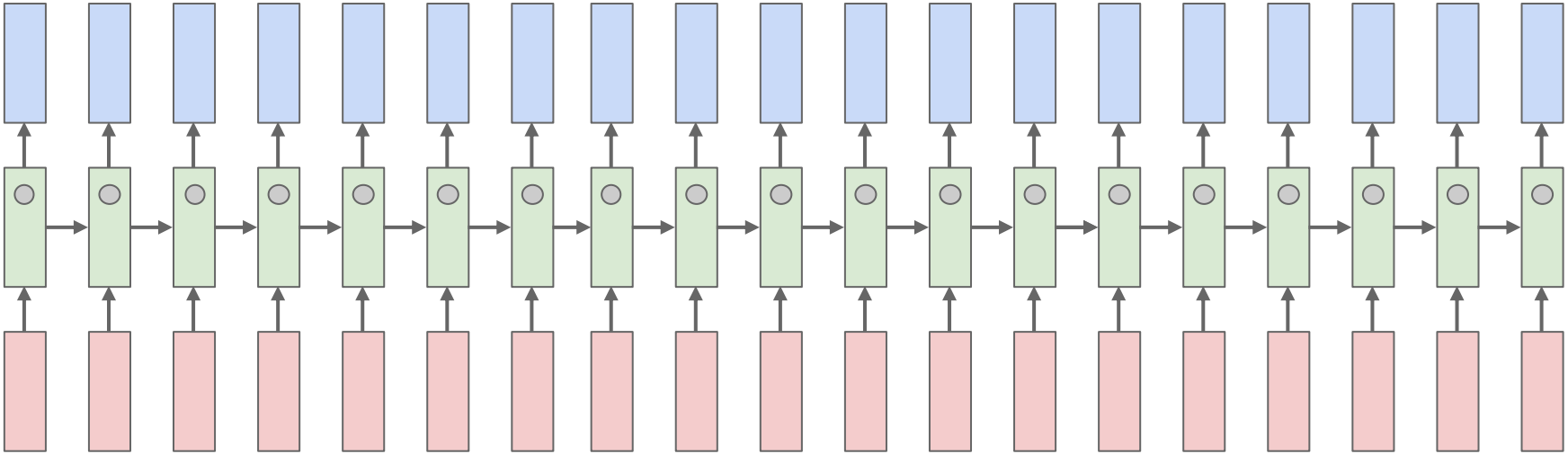
# OpenAI Codex, GitHub Copilot, Claude Code, Cursor IDE


```
/* Add this image of a
rocketship:
https://i1.sndcdn.com/artworks
-j8xjG7zc1wmTeO7b-O6l83w-
t500x500.jpg */
var rocketship =
document.createElement('img');
rocketship.src =
'https://i1.sndcdn.com/artwork
s-j8xjG7zc1wmTeO7b-O6l83w-
t500x500.jpg';
document.body.appendChild(rock
etship);
```

Add this image of a rocketship:
https://i1.sndcdn.com/artworks-j8xjG7zc1wmTeO7b-O6l83w-t500x500.jpg

https://openai.com/blog/openai-codex/

# Searching for interpretable cells

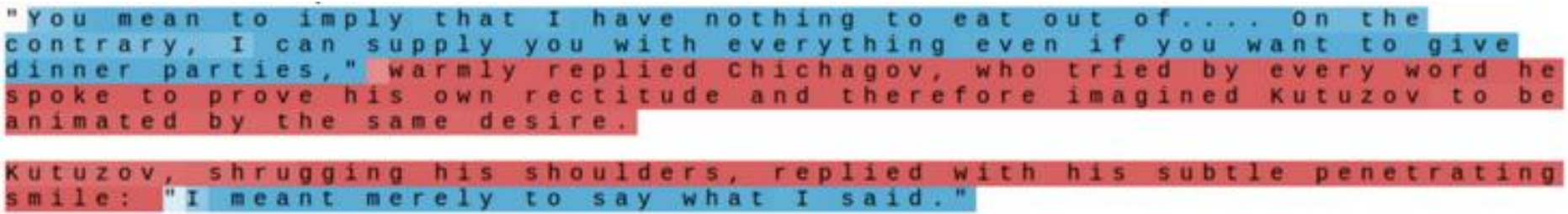


# Searching for interpretable cells

```
/*  Unpack a filter field's string representation from user-space
 *  buffer.  */
char *audit_unpack_string(void **bufp, size_t *remain, size_t len)
{
  char *str;
  if (!*bufp || (len == 0) || (len > *remain))
    return ERR_PTR(-EINVAL);
  /*  of the currently implemented string fields, PATH_MAX
   *  defines the longest valid length.
   */
```

Karpathy, Johnson, and Fei-Fei: Visualizing and Understanding Recurrent Networks, ICLR Workshop 2016

# Searching for interpretable cells

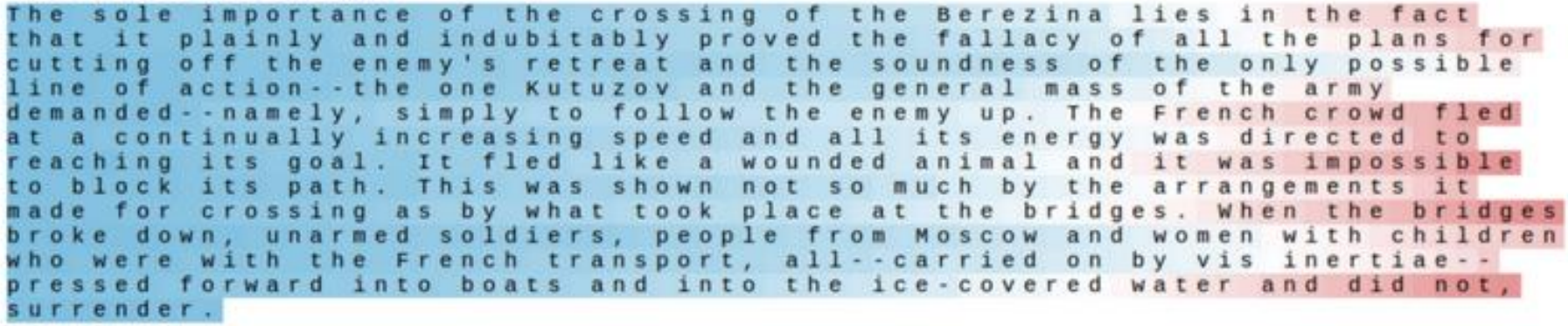



quote detection cell

Karpathy, Johnson, and Fei-Fei: Visualizing and Understanding Recurrent Networks, ICLR Workshop 2016

# Searching for interpretable cells

Cell sensitive to position in line:




line length tracking cell

Karpathy, Johnson, and Fei-Fei: Visualizing and Understanding Recurrent Networks, ICLR Workshop 2016

# Searching for interpretable cells

```
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;
}
```

if statement cell

Karpathy, Johnson, and Fei-Fei: Visualizing and Understanding Recurrent Networks, ICLR Workshop 2016

# Searching for interpretable cells

Cell that turns on inside comments and 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;
}
```

quote/comment cell

Karpathy, Johnson, and Fei-Fei: Visualizing and Understanding Recurrent Networks, ICLR Workshop 2016

# Searching for interpretable cells

```
#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;
}
```

code depth cell

Karpathy, Johnson, and Fei-Fei: Visualizing and Understanding Recurrent Networks, ICLR Workshop 2016

# RNN tradeoffs

RNN Advantages:

- Can process any length of the input (no context length)
- Computation for step t can (in theory) use information from many steps back
- Model size does not increase for longer input
- The same weights are applied on every timestep, so there is symmetry in how inputs are processed.

RNN Disadvantages:

- Recurrent computation is slow
- In practice, difficult to access information from many steps back

# Image Captioning

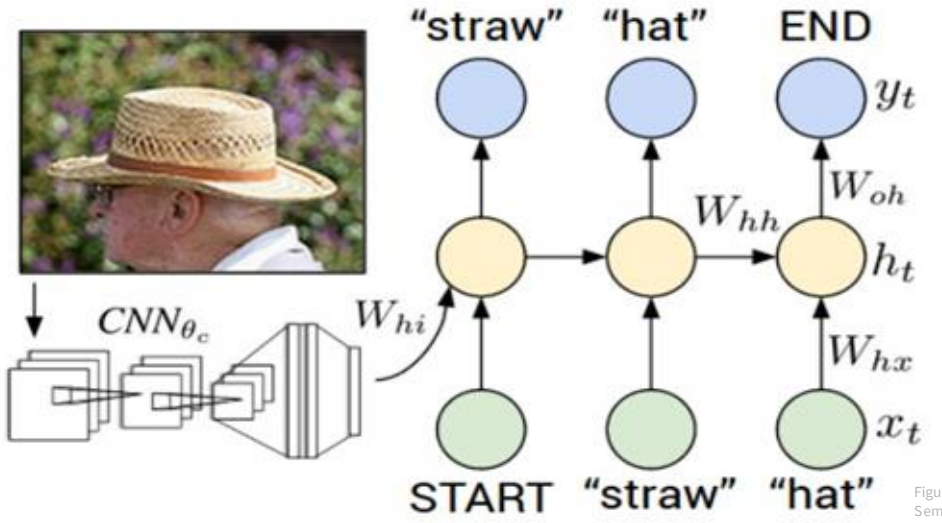
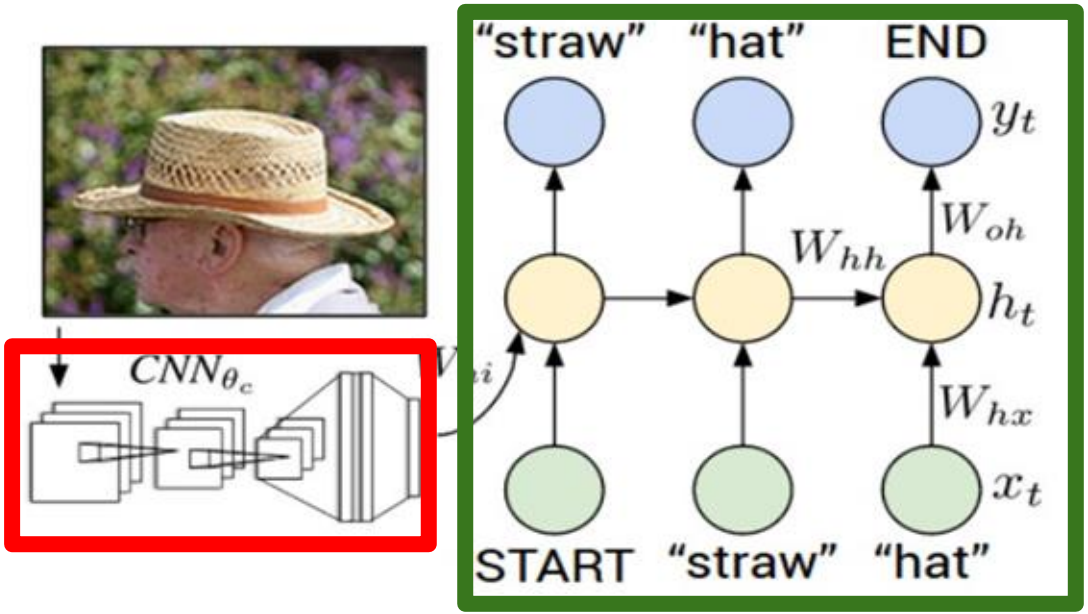



Figure from Karpathy et a, "Deep Visual-Semantic Alignments for Generating Image Descriptions", CVPR 2015; figure copyright IEEE, 2015.
Reproduced for educational purposes.

Explain Images with Multimodal Recurrent Neural Networks, Mao et al.
Deep Visual-Semantic Alignments for Generating Image Descriptions, Karpathy and Fei-Fei
Show and Tell: A Neural Image Caption Generator, Vinyals et al.
Long-term Recurrent Convolutional Networks for Visual Recognition and Description, Donahue et al.
Learning a Recurrent Visual Representation for Image Caption Generation, Chen and Zitnick

# Recurrent Neural Network




# Convolutional Neural Network

This image is CC0 public domain

test image


image
conv-64
conv-64
maxpool
conv-128
conv-128
maxpool
conv-256
conv-256
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
FC-4096
FC-4096
FC-1000
softmax

test image


image
conv-64
conv-64
maxpool
conv-128
conv-128
maxpool
conv-256
conv-256
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
FC-4096
FC-4096
FC-1000
softmax

test image

image

conv-64
conv-64
maxpool

conv-128
conv-128
maxpool

conv-256
conv-256
maxpool

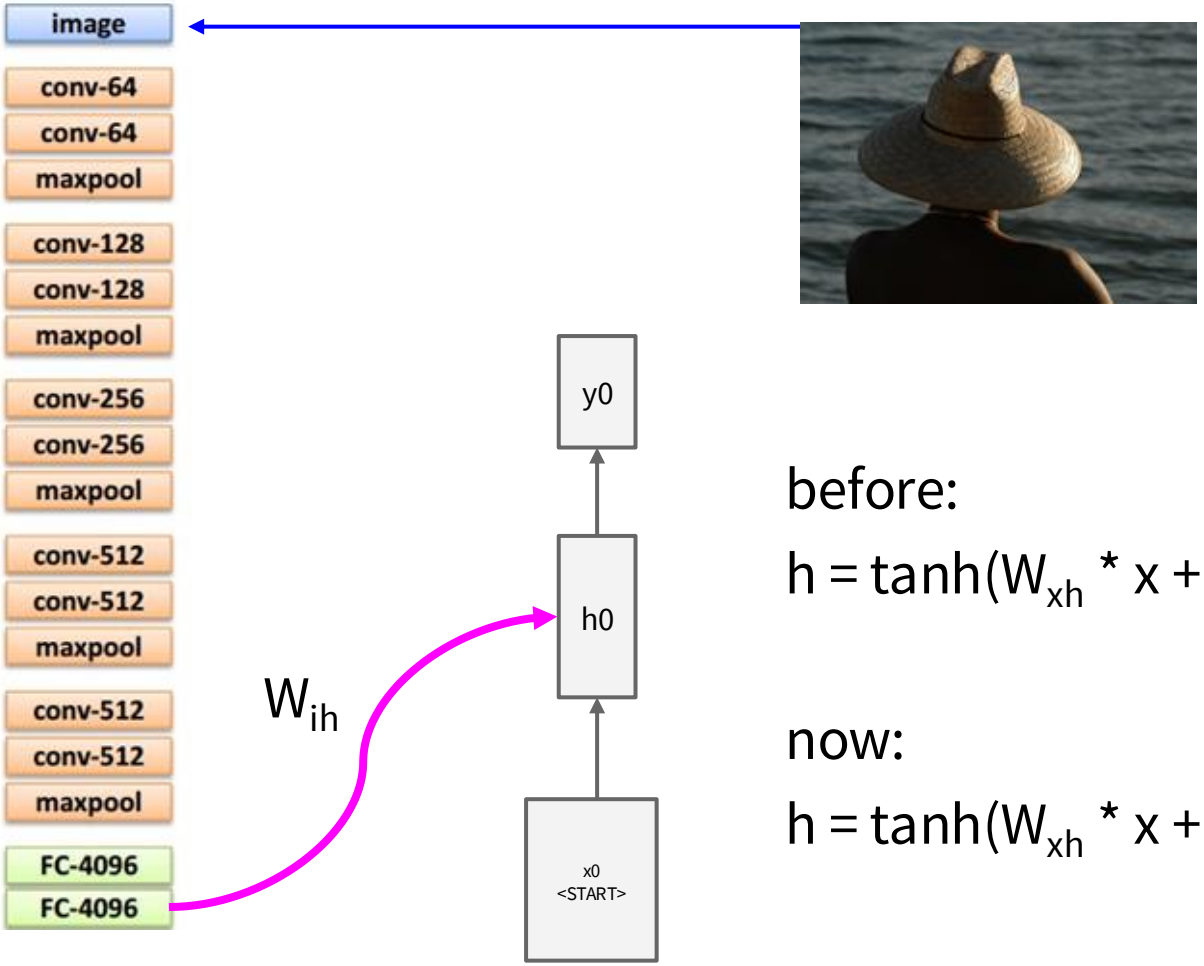
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool

conv-512
conv-512
maxpool

FC-4096
FC-4096

test image

x0
<START>




test image

before:

$h = \tanh(W_{xh} * x + W_{hh} * h)$

now:

$h = \tanh(W_{xh} * x + W_{hh} * h + W_{ih} * v)$

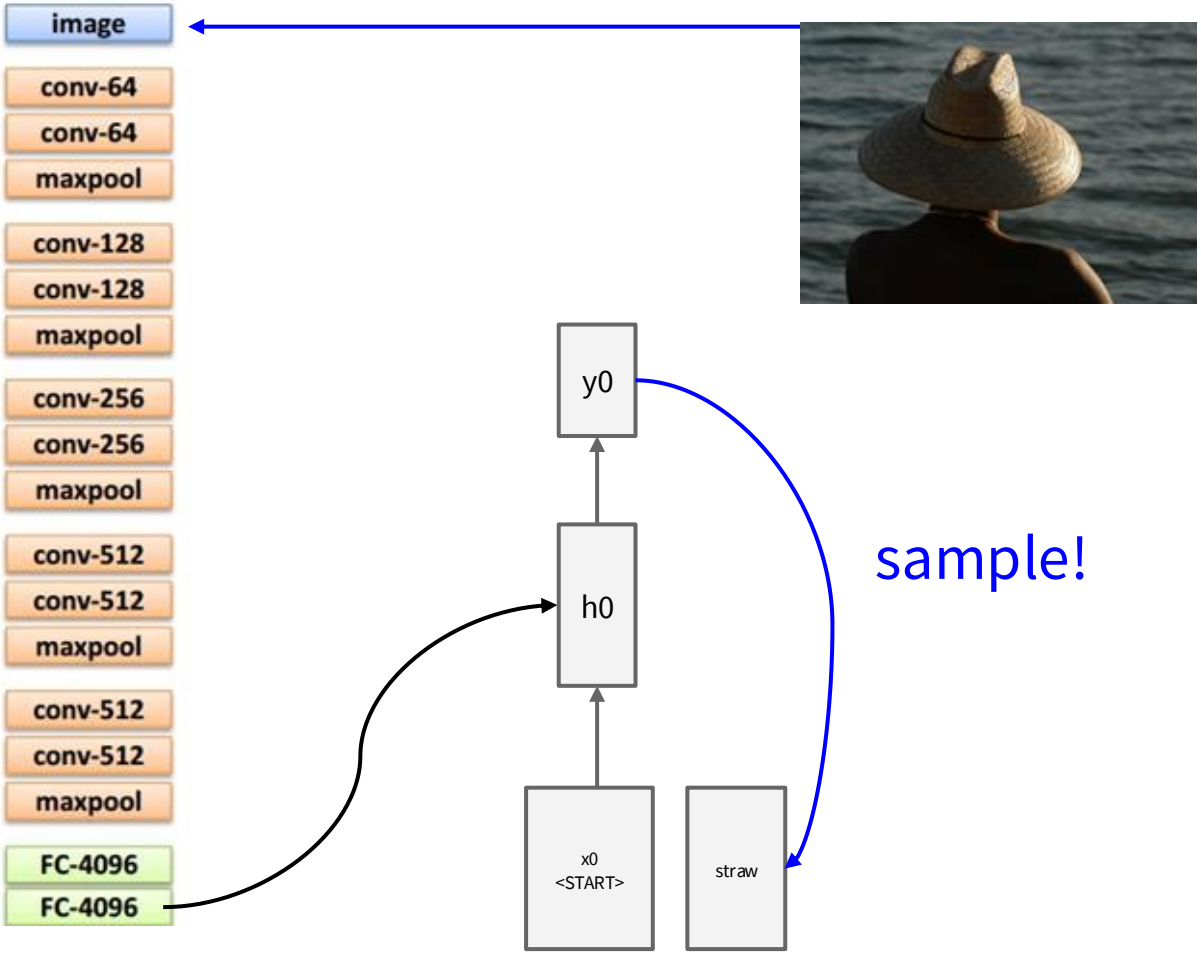


image
conv-64
conv-64
maxpool
conv-128
conv-128
maxpool
conv-256
conv-256
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
FC-4096
FC-4096
test image
y0
h0
x0
<START>
straw
sample!

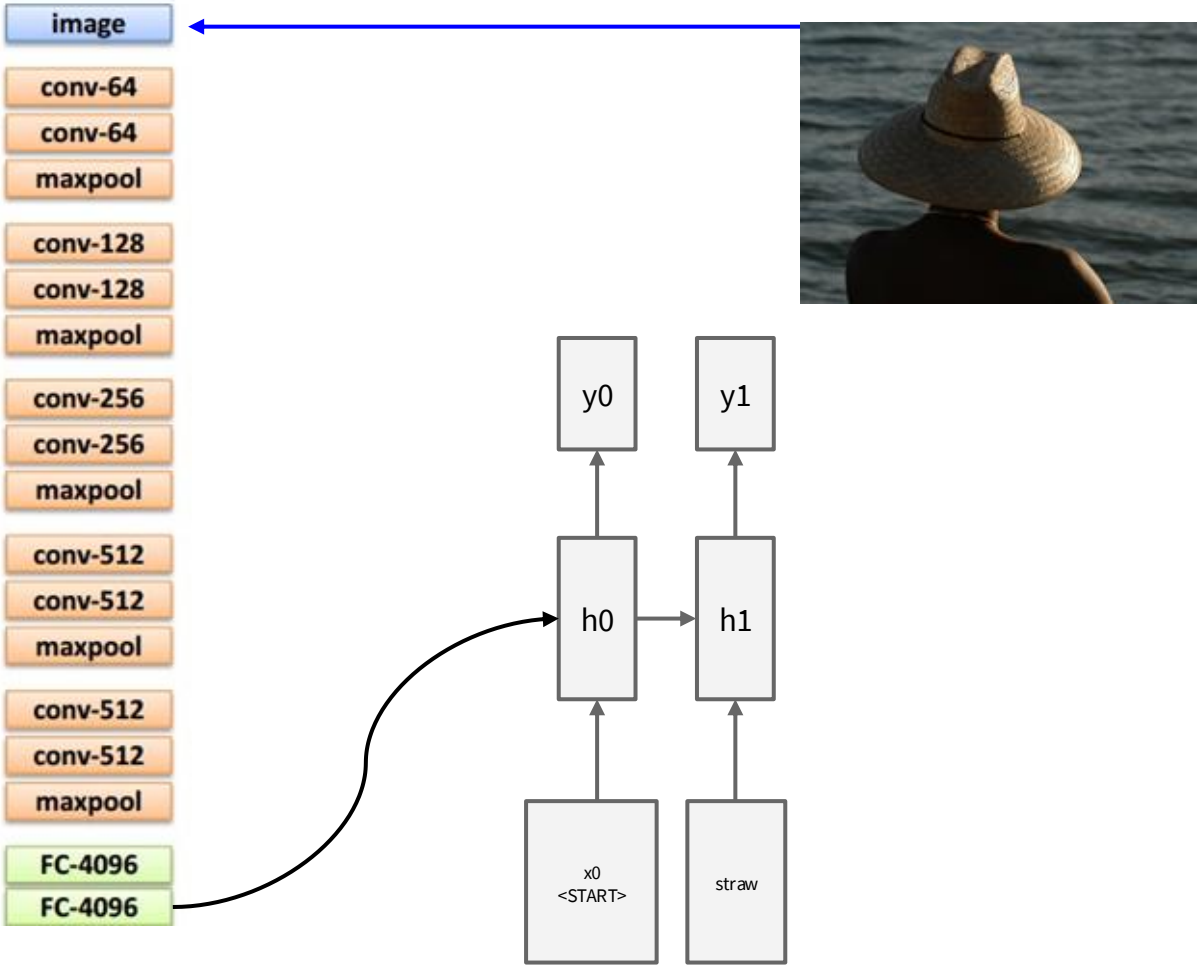
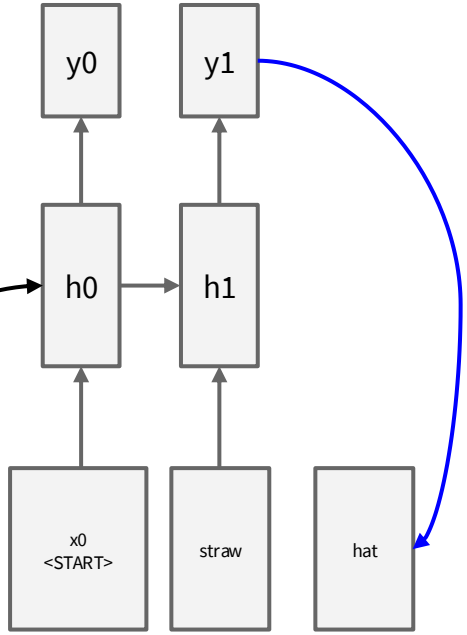


image
conv-64
conv-64
maxpool
conv-128
conv-128
maxpool
conv-256
conv-256
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
FC-4096
FC-4096
y0
y1
h0
h1
x0
<START>
straw
test image


test image




sample!

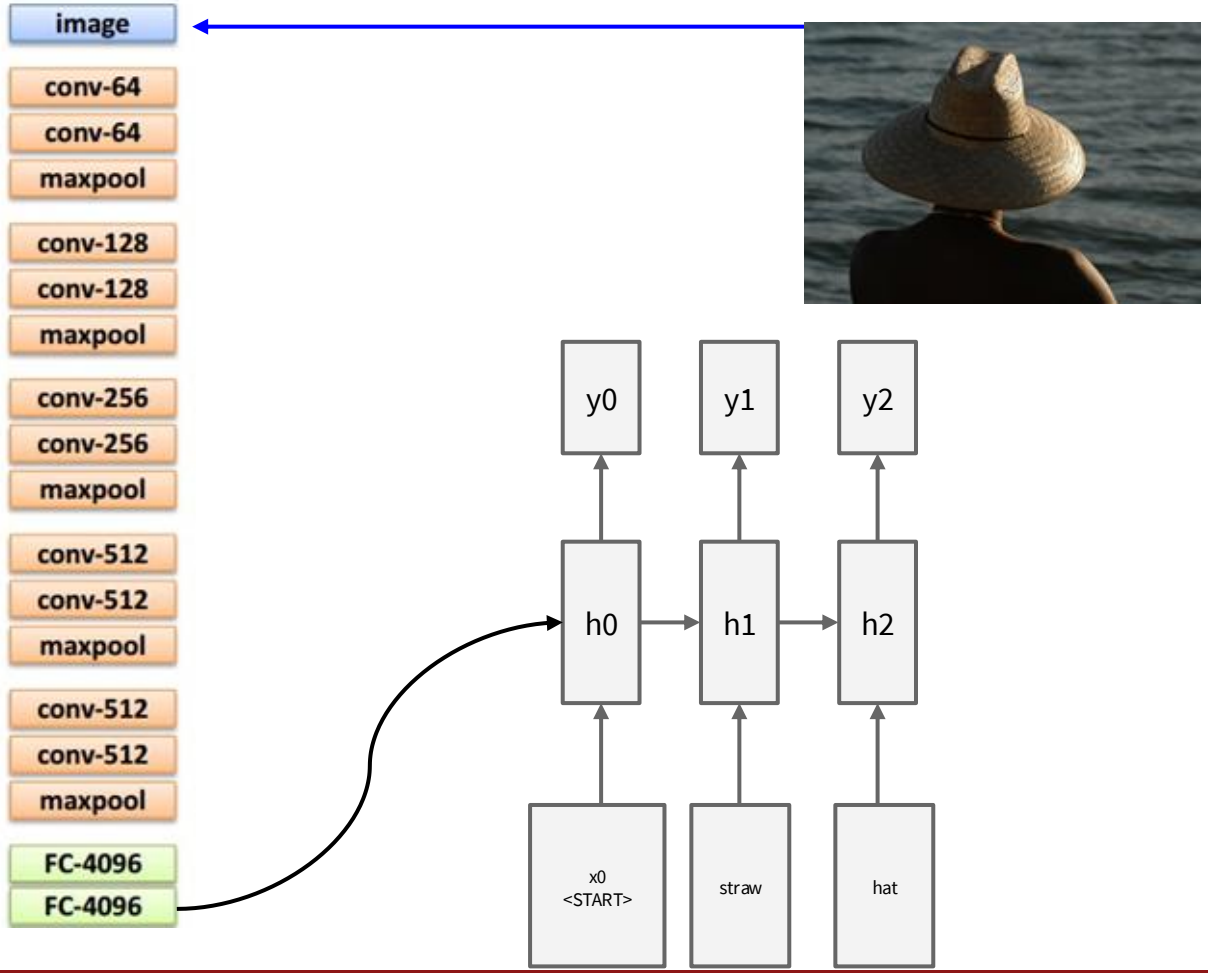


image
conv-64
conv-64
maxpool
conv-128
conv-128
maxpool
conv-256
conv-256
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
FC-4096
FC-4096
test image
y0
y1
y2
h0
h1
h2
x0
<START>
straw
hat

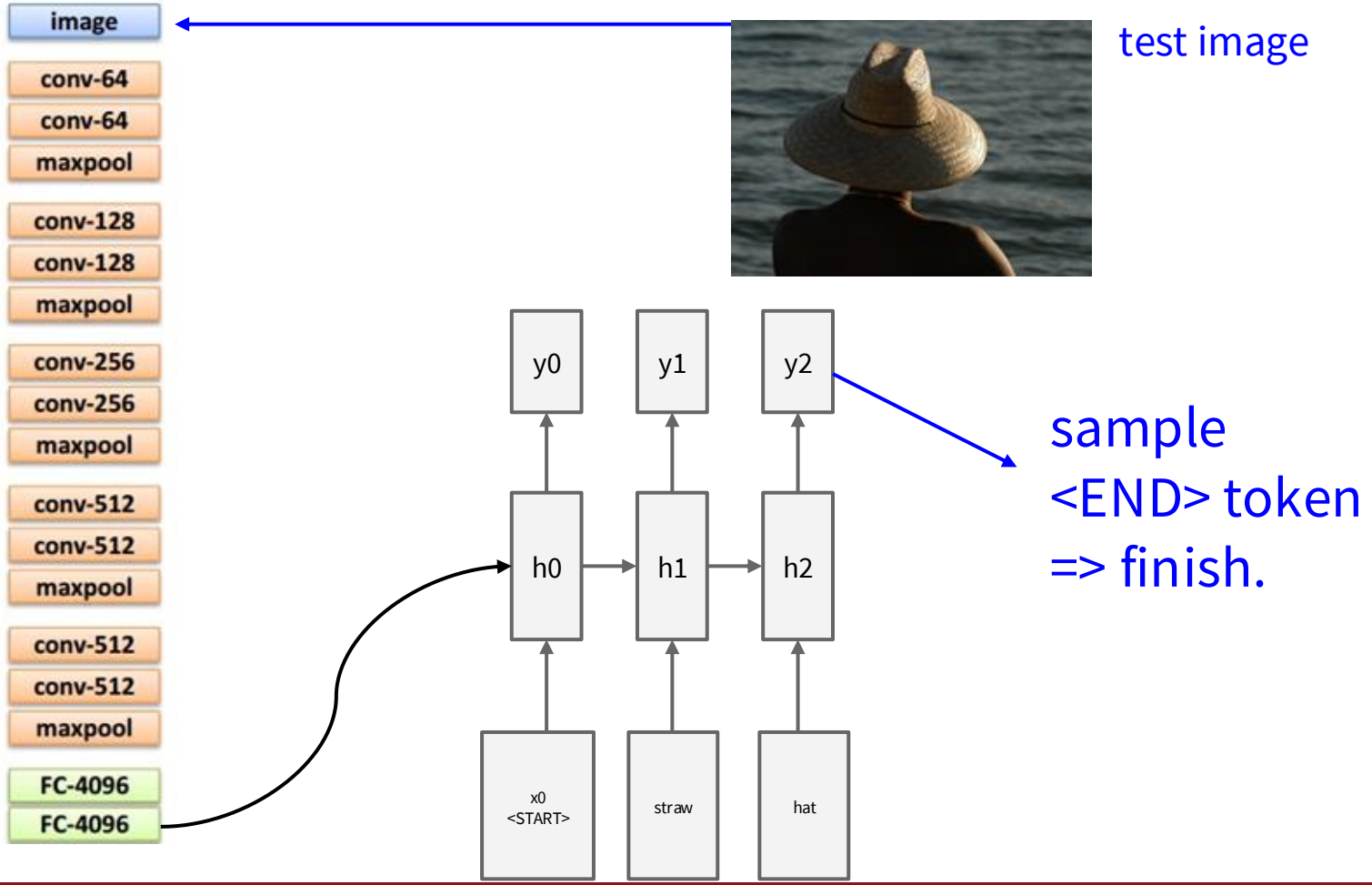


image
conv-64
conv-64
maxpool
conv-128
conv-128
maxpool
conv-256
conv-256
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
conv-512
conv-512
maxpool
FC-4096
FC-4096
test image
y0
y1
y2
h0
h1
h2
x0
<START>
straw
hat
sample
<END> token
=> finish.

# Image Captioning: Example Results

Captions generated using neuraltalk2
All images are CC0 Public domain: cat suitcase, cat tree, dog, bear, surfers, tennis, giraffe, motorcycle

A cat sitting on a suitcase on the floor

A cat is sitting on a tree branch

A dog is running in the grass with a frisbee

A white teddy bear sitting in the grass

Two people walking on the beach with surfboards

A tennis player in action on the court

Two giraffes standing in a grassy field

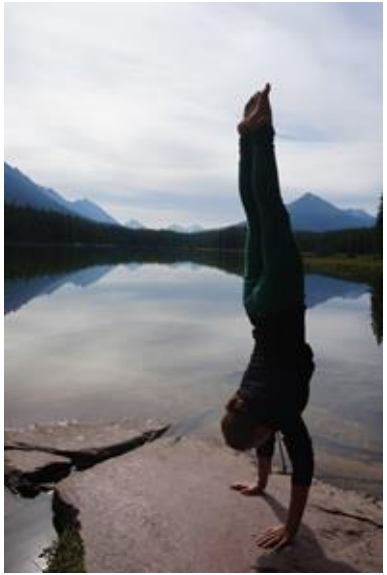
A man riding a dirt bike on a dirt track

# Image Captioning: Failure Cases

Captions generated using neuraltalk2
All images are CC0 Public domain: fur coat, handstand, spider web, baseball

A woman is holding a cat in her hand

A person holding a computer mouse on a desk



A woman standing on a beach holding a surfboard

A bird is perched on a tree branch

A man in a baseball uniform throwing a ball

# Visual Question Answering (VQA)


Q: What endangered animal is featured on the truck?

A: A bald eagle.
A: A sparrow.
A: A humming bird.
A: A raven.


Q: Where will the driver go if turning right?

A: Onto 24 ¾ Rd.
A: Onto 25 ¾ Rd.
A: Onto 23 ¾ Rd.
A: Onto Main Street.

Q: When was the picture taken?

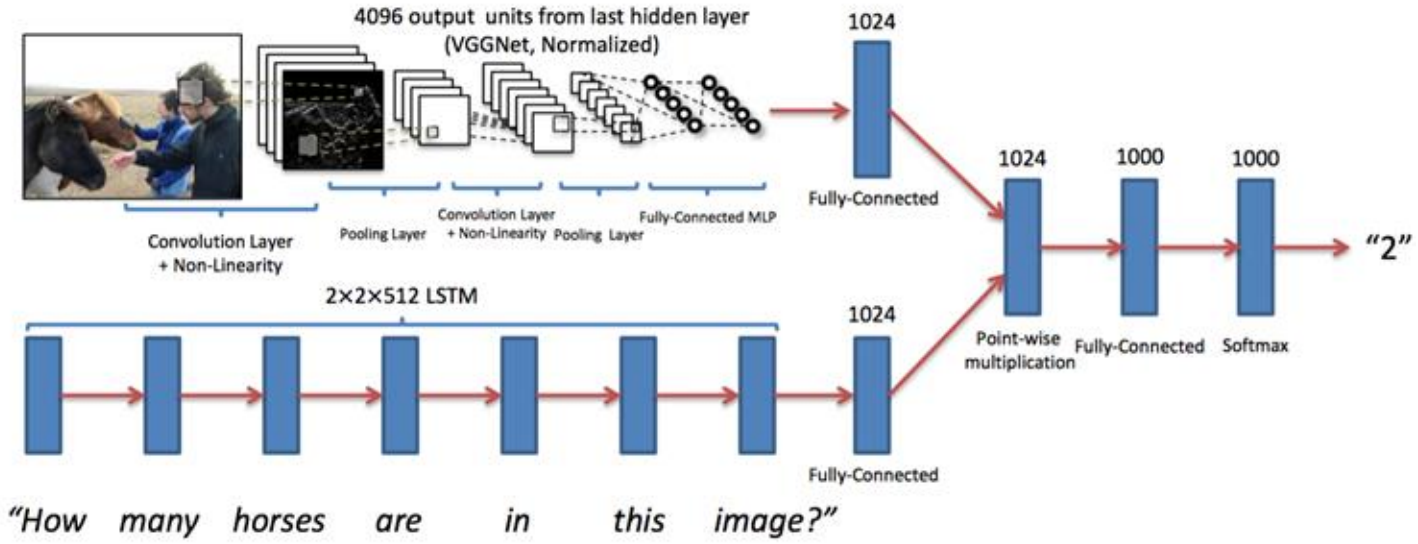
A: During a wedding.
A: During a bar mitzvah.
A: During a funeral.
A: During a Sunday church service

Q: Who is under the umbrella?

A: Two women.
A: A child.
A: An old man.
A: A husband and a wife.

Agrawal et al, "VQA: Visual Question Answering", ICCV 2015
Zhu et al, "Visual 7W: Grounded Question Answering in Images", CVPR 2016

# Visual Question Answering (VQA)

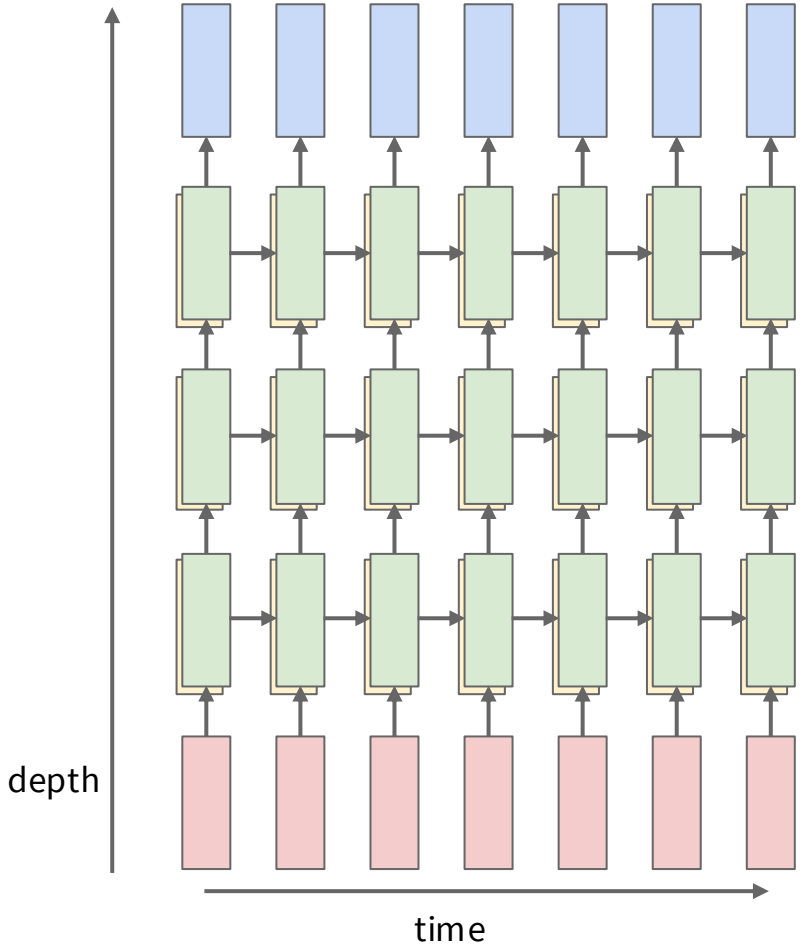



Agrawal et al, "Visual 7W: Grounded Question Answering in Images", CVPR 2015

# Visual Dialog: Conversations about images


Das et al, "Visual Dialog", CVPR 2017

# Multilayer RNNs



# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

Vanilla RNN

$$h_t = \tanh\left(W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

LSTM

$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \tanh \end{pmatrix} W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$$

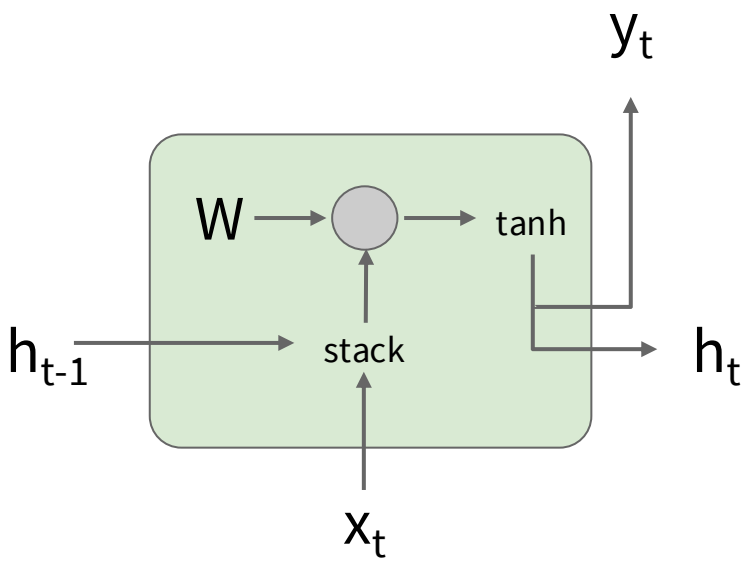
$$c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$$

$$h_t = o \odot \tanh(c_t)$$

Hochreiter and Schmidhuber, "Long Short Term Memory", Neural Computation 1997

# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

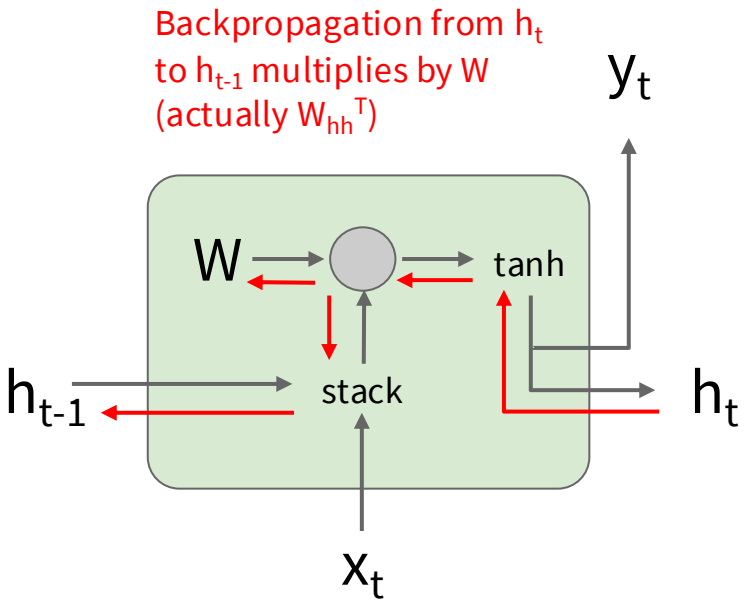
Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013




$$h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$
$$= \tanh\left((W_{hh} \quad W_{hx})\begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right)$$
$$= \tanh\left(W\begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013




$$h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$
$$= \tanh\left((W_{hh} \quad W_{hx})\begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right)$$
$$= \tanh\left(W\begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
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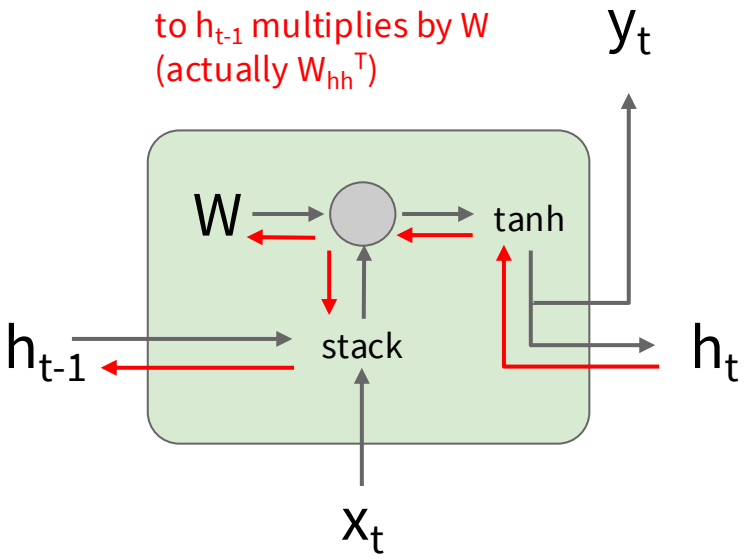
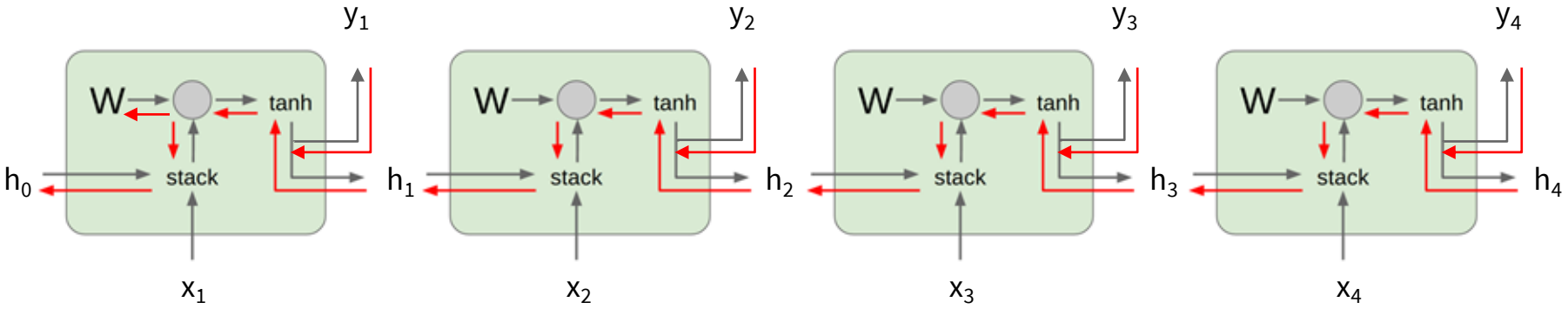



$$h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$
$$= \tanh\left((W_{hh} \quad W_{hx})\begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right)$$
$$= \tanh\left(W\begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

$$\frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} = tanh'(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)W_{hh}$$

# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

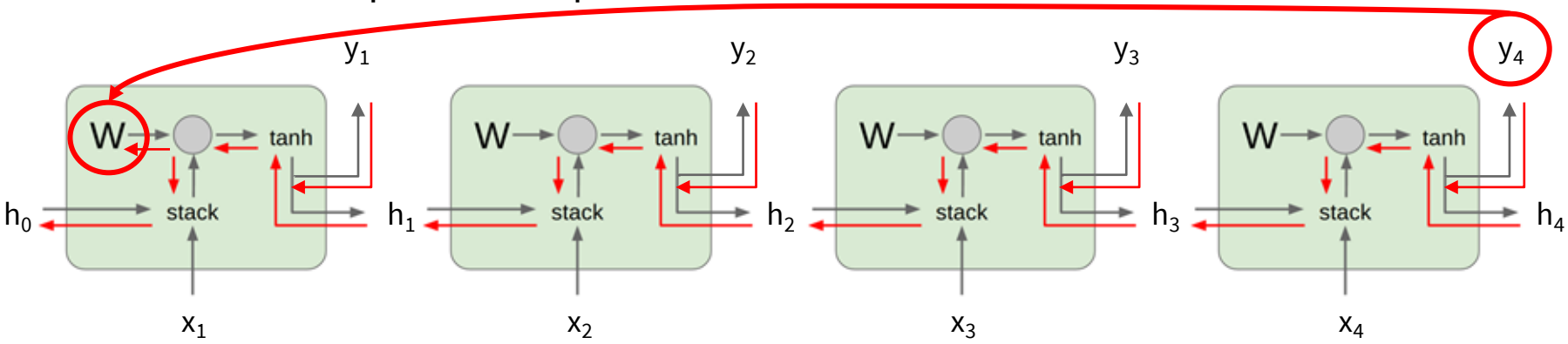



$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Gradients over multiple time steps:



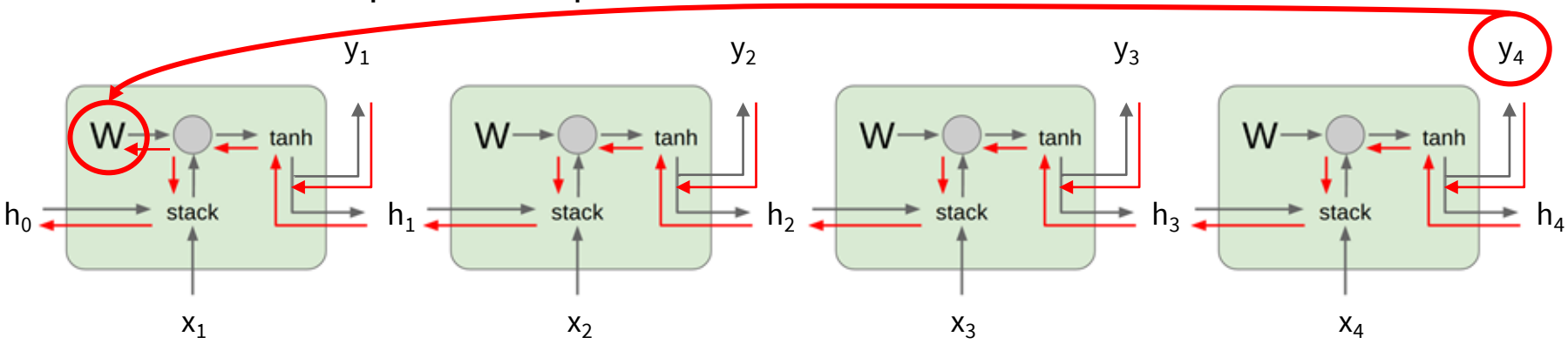

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

$$\frac{\partial L_T}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} \cdots \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W}$$

# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Gradients over multiple time steps:



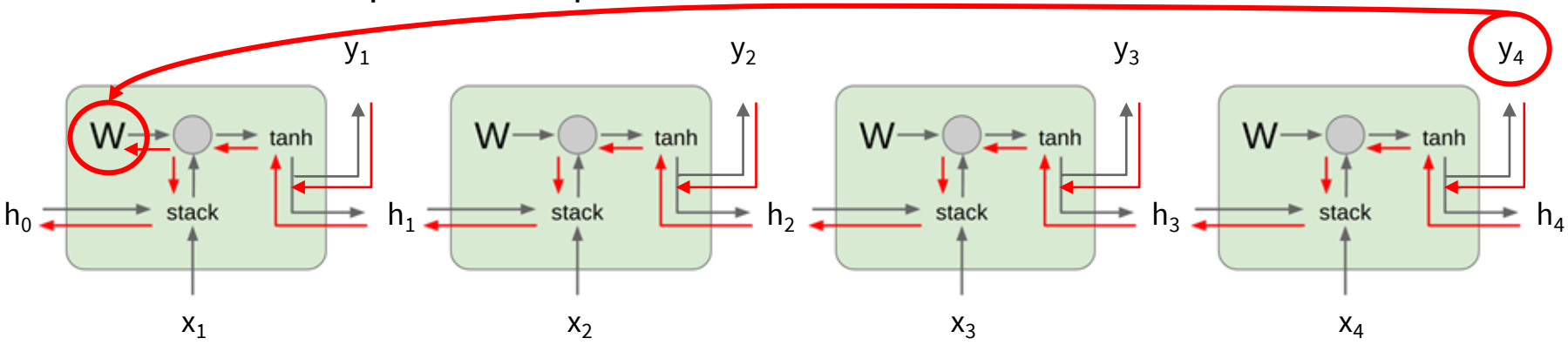

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

$$\frac{\partial L_T}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} \cdots \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} \left( \prod_{t=2}^{T} \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} \right) \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W}$$

# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Gradients over multiple time steps:




$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

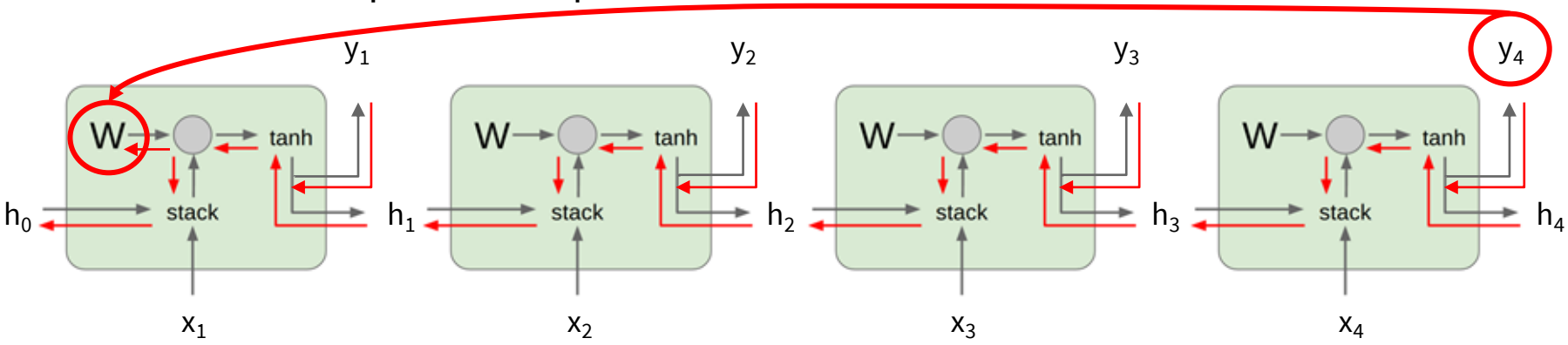
$$\frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} = tanh'(W_{hh} h_{t-1} + W_{xh} x_t) W_{hh}$$

$$\frac{\partial L_T}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} \cdots \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} \left( \prod_{t=2}^{T} \frac{\partial h_t}{\partial h_{t-1}} \right) \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W}$$

# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Gradients over multiple time steps:




$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

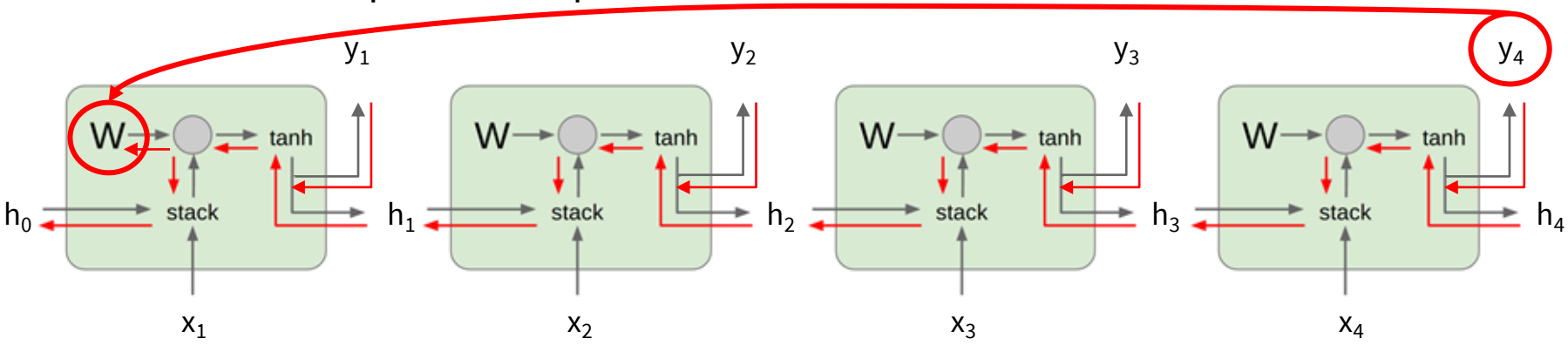
Almost always < 1
Vanishing gradients

$$\frac{\partial L_T}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} \left( \prod_{t=2}^{T} tanh'\left(W_{hh} h_{t-1} + W_{xh} x_t\right) \right) W_{hh}^{T-1} \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W}$$

# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Gradients over multiple time steps:



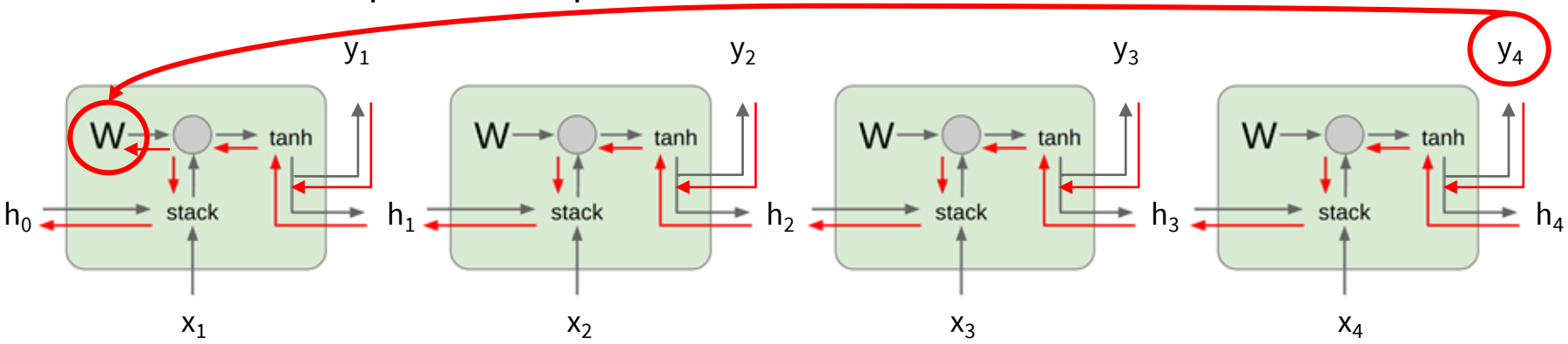

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

What if we assumed no non-linearity?

# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Gradients over multiple time steps:




What if we assumed no non-linearity?

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

$$\frac{\partial L_T}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} W_{hh}^{T-1} \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W}$$

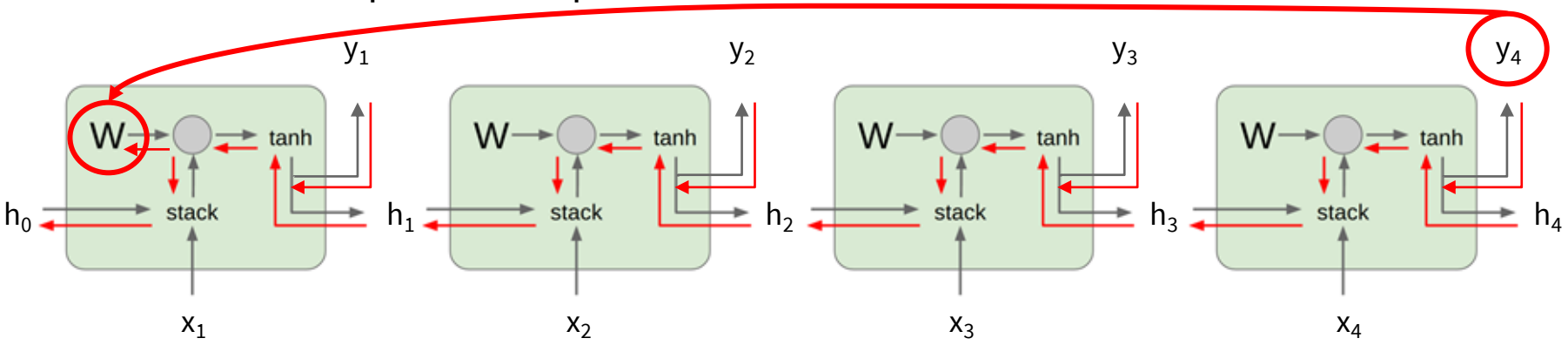
Largest singular value > 1:
Exploding gradients

Largest singular value < 1:
Vanishing gradients

# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Gradients over multiple time steps:




What if we assumed no non-linearity?

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

$$\frac{\partial L_T}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} W_{hh}^{T-1} \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W}$$

Largest singular value > 1: Exploding gradients → Gradient clipping: Scale gradient if its norm is too big

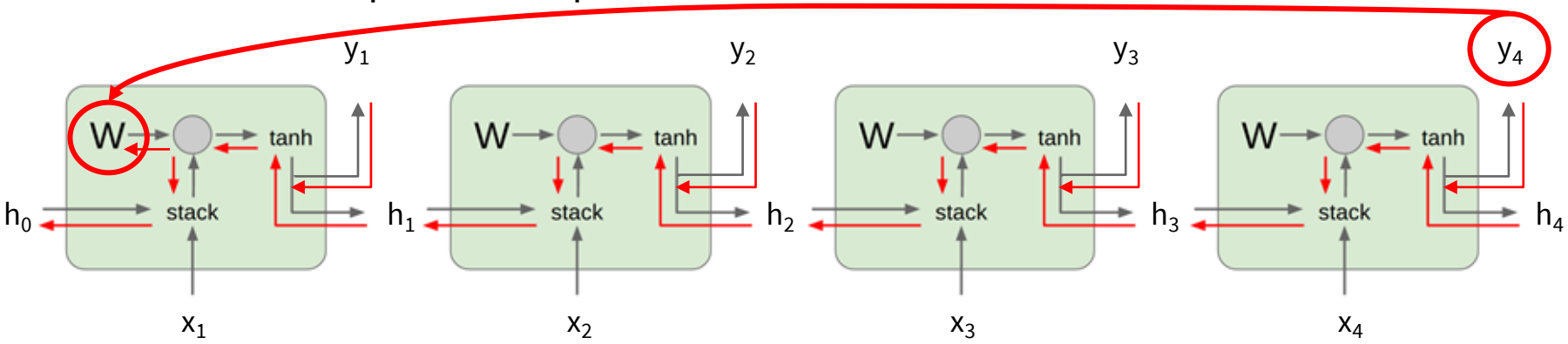
```
grad_norm = np.sum(grad * grad)
if grad_norm > threshold:
  grad *= (threshold / grad_norm)
```

Largest singular value < 1: Vanishing gradients

# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013

Gradients over multiple time steps:




What if we assumed no non-linearity?

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial W}$$

Largest singular value > 1:
Exploding gradients

$$\frac{\partial L_T}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial L_T}{\partial h_T} W_{hh}^{T-1} \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial W}$$

Largest singular value < 1:
Vanishing gradients

→ Change RNN architecture

# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM) – A Historical Note

Vanilla RNN

$$h_t = \tanh\left(W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

LSTM

$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \tanh \end{pmatrix} W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$$

$$h_t = o \odot \tanh(c_t)$$

Hochreiter and Schmidhuber, "Long Short Term Memory", Neural Computation 1997

# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

## Vanilla RNN

$$h_t = \tanh\left(W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

## LSTM

Four gates

$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \tanh \end{pmatrix} W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$$

Cell state

$$c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$$

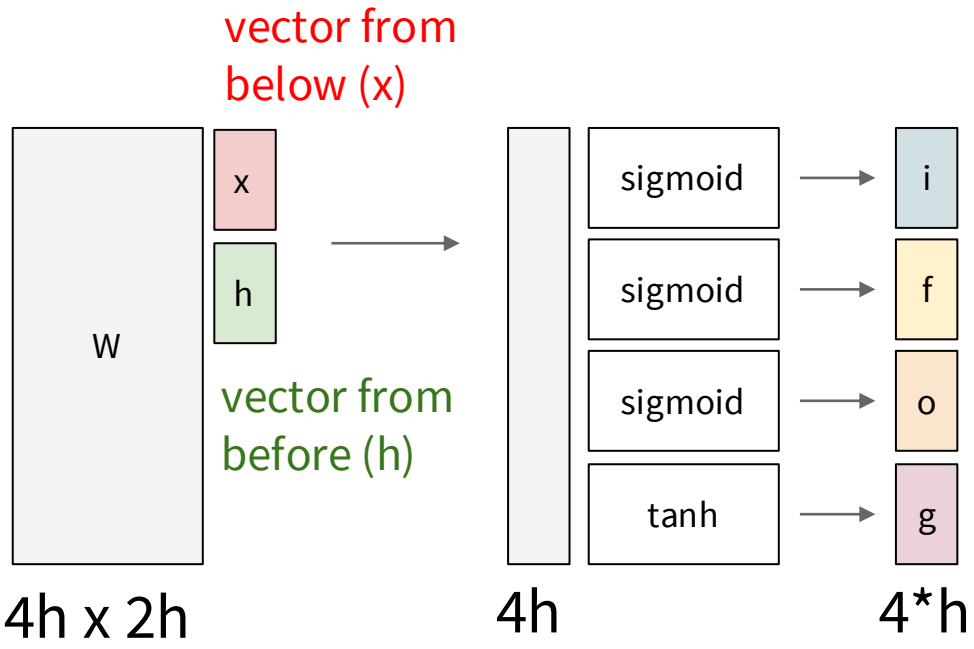
Hidden state

$$h_t = o \odot \tanh(c_t)$$

Hochreiter and Schmidhuber, "Long Short Term Memory", Neural Computation 1997

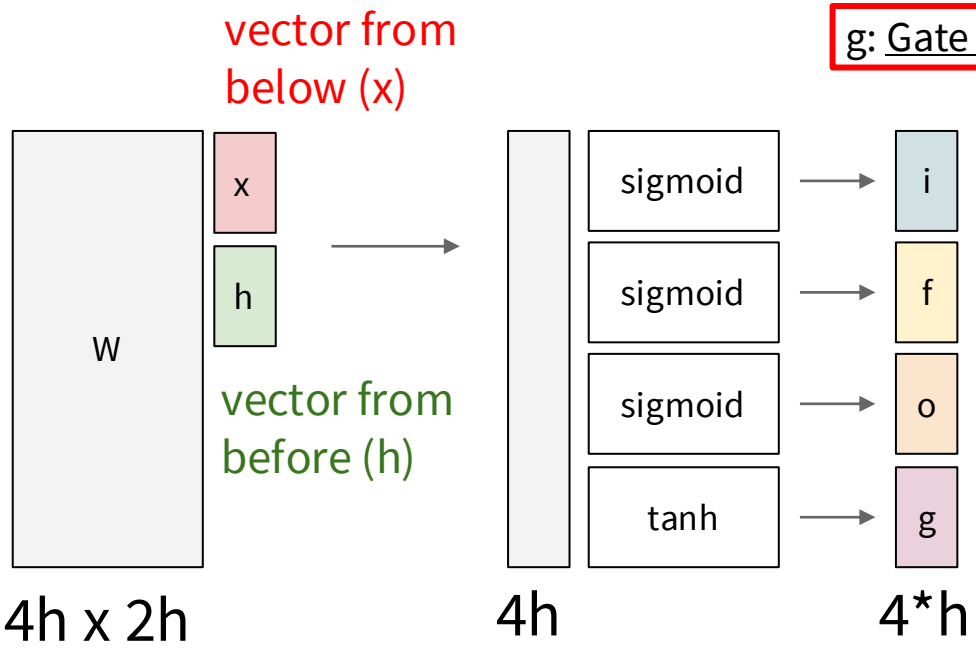
# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]



# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]




g: Gate gate (?), How much to write to cell

$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \tanh \end{pmatrix} W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$$

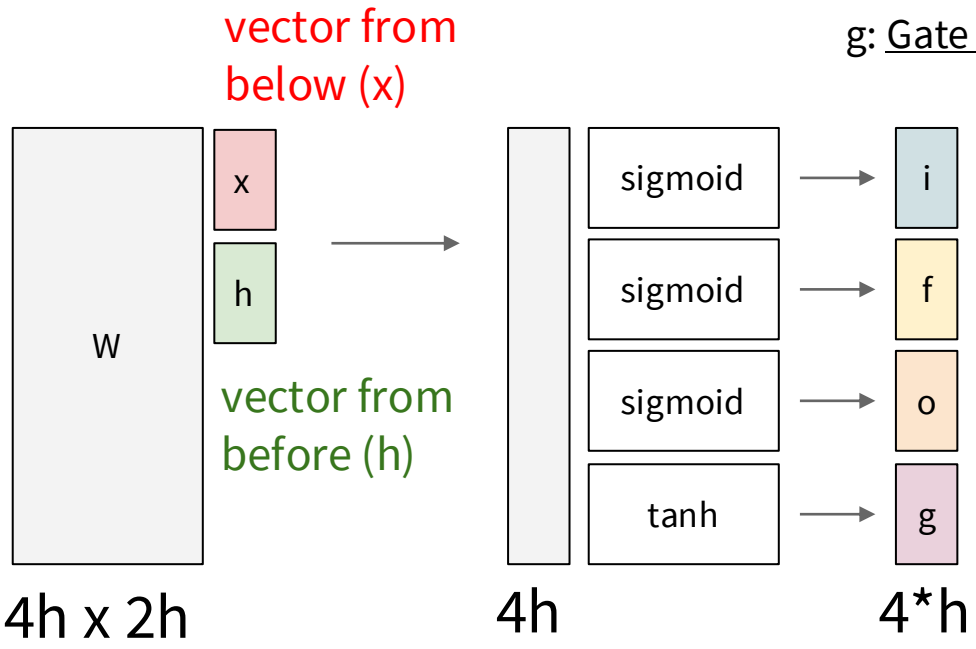
$$h_t = o \odot \tanh(c_t)$$

# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]

i: Input gate, whether to write to cell

g: Gate gate (?), How much to write to cell




$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \tanh \end{pmatrix} W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$$

$$h_t = o \odot \tanh(c_t)$$

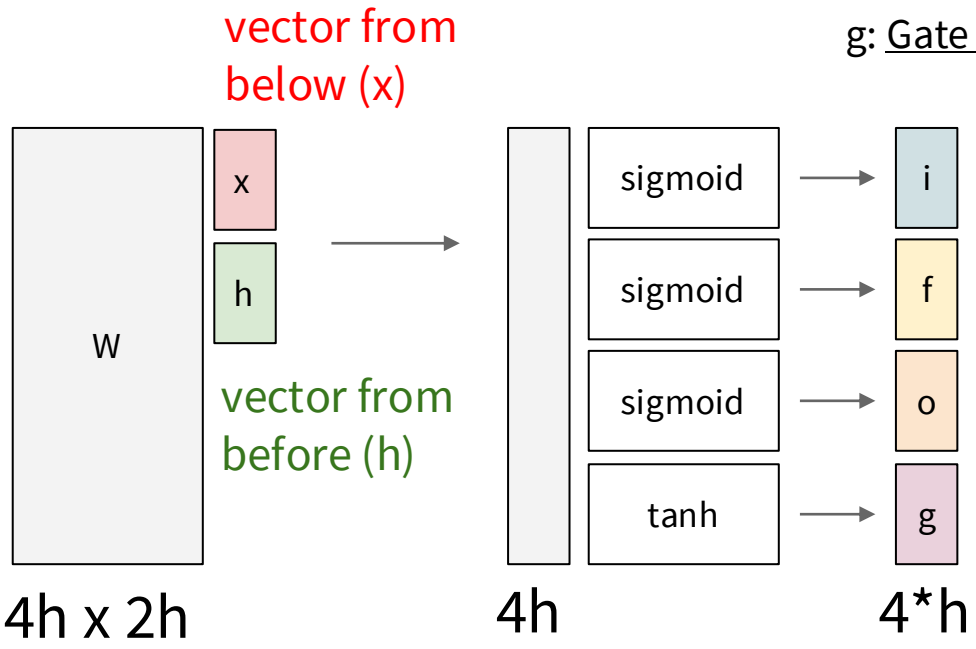
# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]

i: Input gate, whether to write to cell

f: Forget gate, Whether to erase cell

g: Gate gate (?), How much to write to cell




$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \tanh \end{pmatrix} W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$$

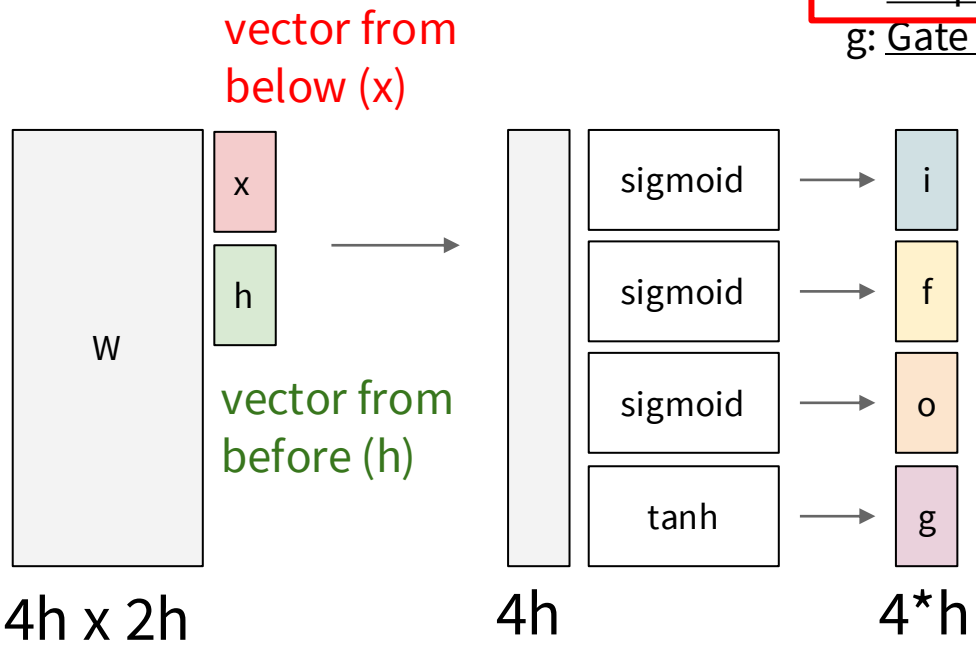
$$c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$$

$$h_t = o \odot \tanh(c_t)$$

# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]

i: Input gate, whether to write to cell
f: Forget gate, Whether to erase cell
o: Output gate, How much to reveal cell
g: Gate gate (?), How much to write to cell




$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \tanh \end{pmatrix} W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$$

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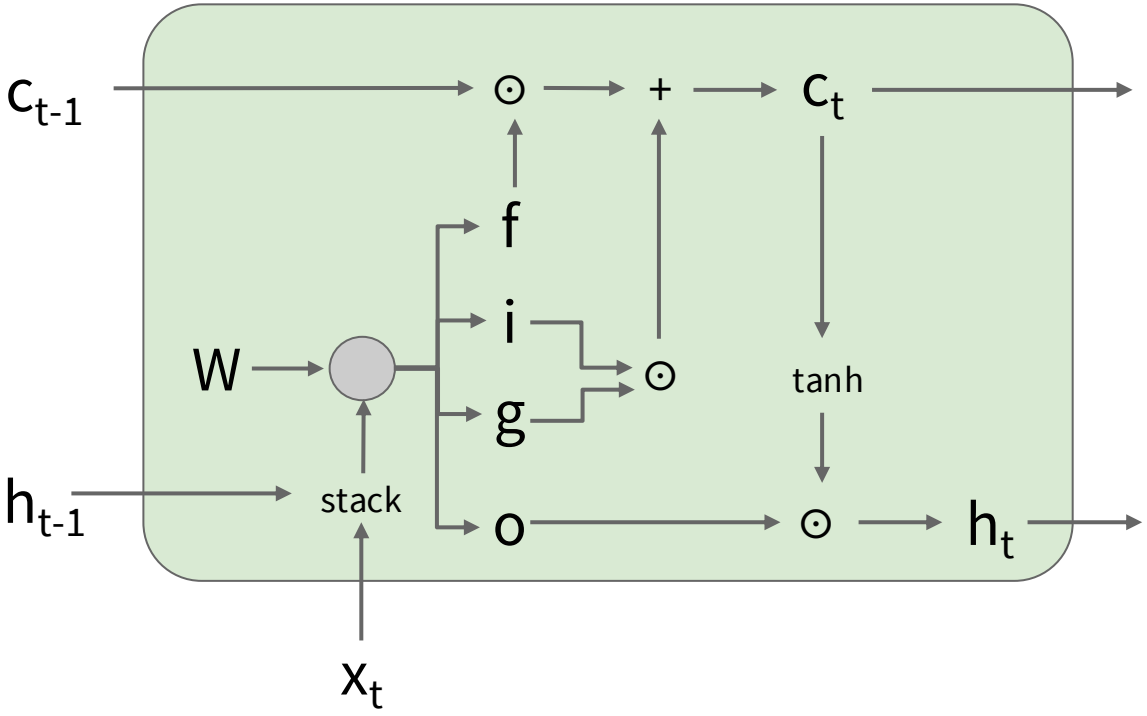
# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]



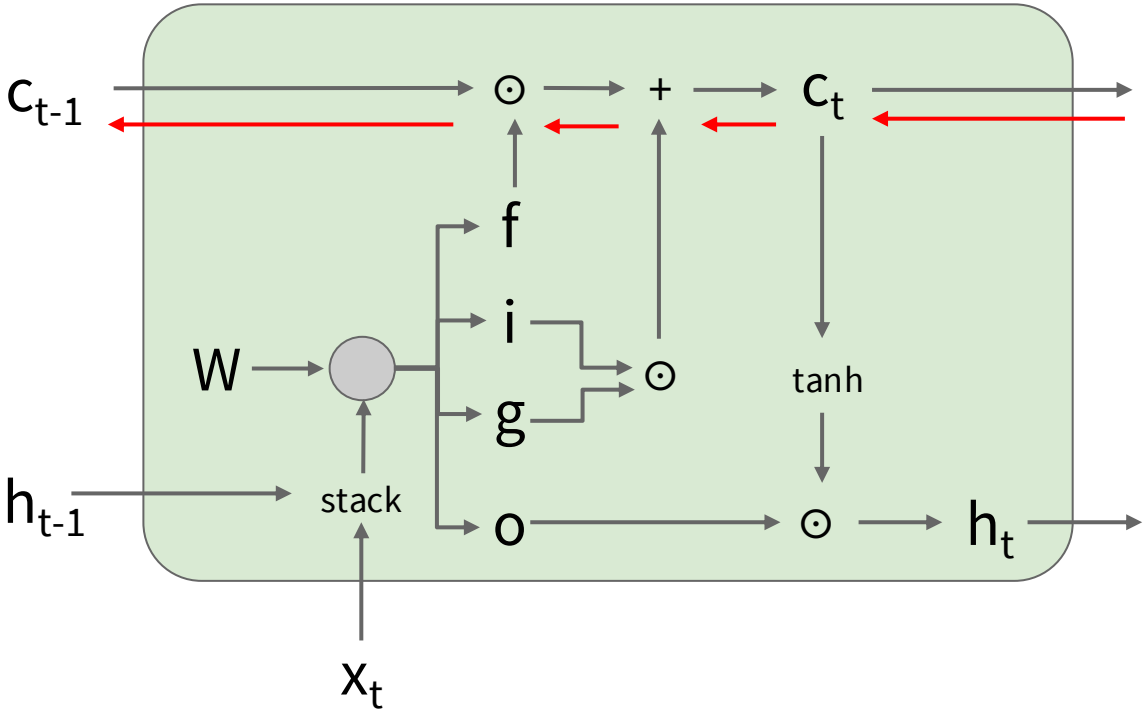

$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \tanh \end{pmatrix} W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$$

$$h_t = o \odot \tanh(c_t)$$

# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM): Gradient Flow

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]




Backpropagation from $c_t$ to $c_{t-1}$ only elementwise multiplication by f, no matrix multiply by W

$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \tanh \end{pmatrix} W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$$

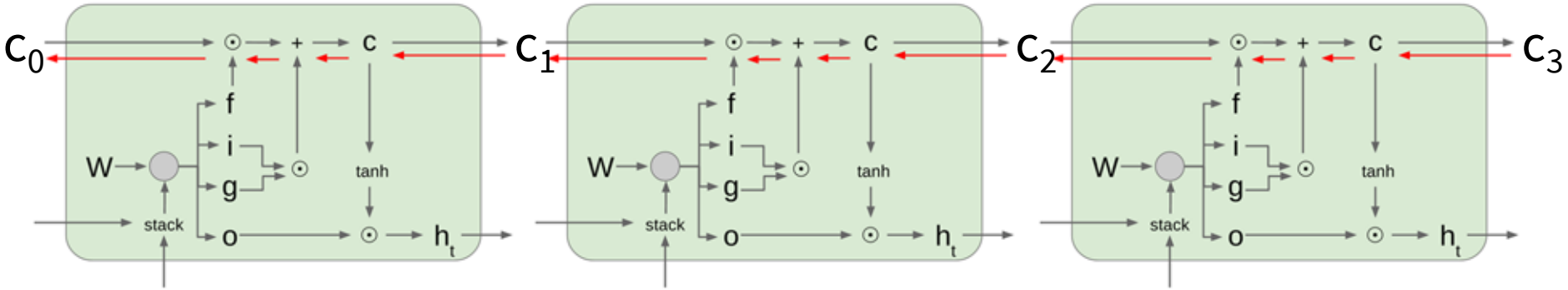
$$c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$$

$$h_t = o \odot \tanh(c_t)$$

# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM): Gradient Flow

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]

Uninterrupted gradient flow!



# Do LSTMs solve the vanishing gradient problem?

The LSTM architecture makes it easier for the RNN to preserve information over many timesteps

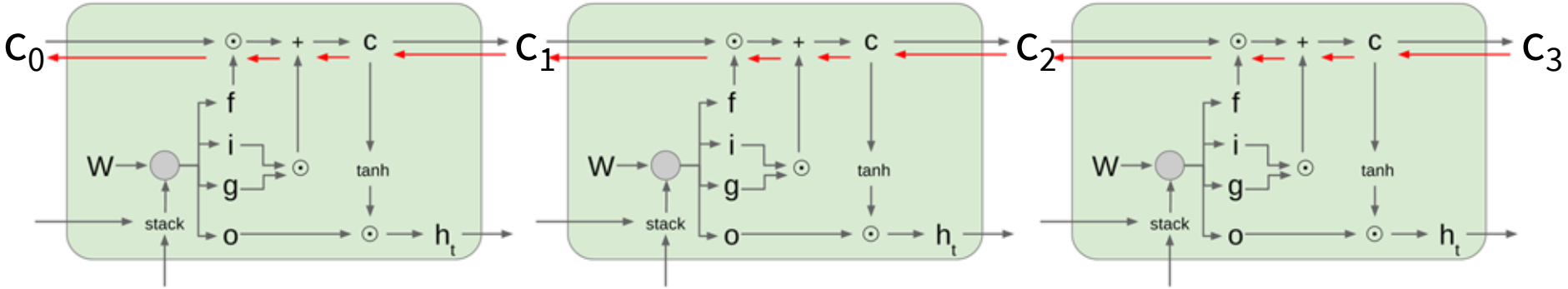
- e.g. if the f = 1 and the i = 0, then the information of that cell is preserved indefinitely.
- By contrast, it's harder for vanilla RNN to learn a recurrent weight matrix Wh that preserves info in hidden state

LSTM doesn't guarantee that there is no vanishing/exploding gradient, but it does provide an easier way for the model to learn long-distance dependencies

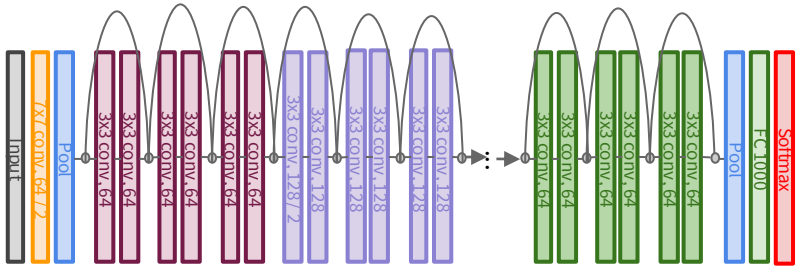
# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM): Gradient Flow

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]

## Uninterrupted gradient flow!

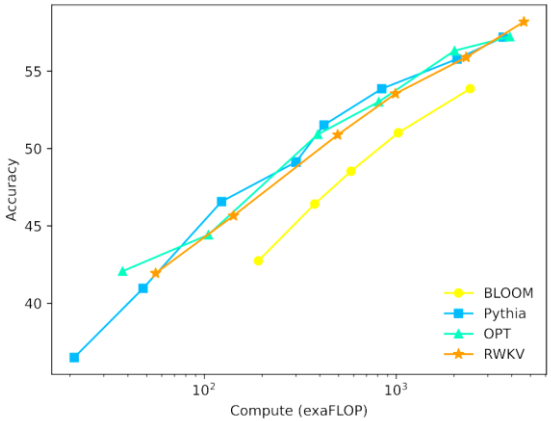



Similar to ResNet!



# Modern RNNs

- Sometimes called “state space models”
  - Hidden state
- Main advantages:
  - Unlimited context length
  - Compute scales linearly with sequence length




RWKV Scaling (arXiv)

SIMPLIFIED STATE SPACE LAYERS FOR SEQUENCE MODELING

Mamba: Linear-Time Sequence Modeling with Selective State Spaces

# Summary

- RNNs allow a lot of **flexibility in architecture** design
- Vanilla RNNs are simple but don't work very well
- More complex variants (e.g. LSTMs, Mamba) can introduce ways to **selectively pass** information forward
- Backward flow of gradients in RNN can **explode or vanish**. Exploding is controlled with gradient clipping. Backpropagation through time is often needed.

Next time: Attention and Transformers