



# Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) and Long-Short-Term-Memory (LSTM)

1

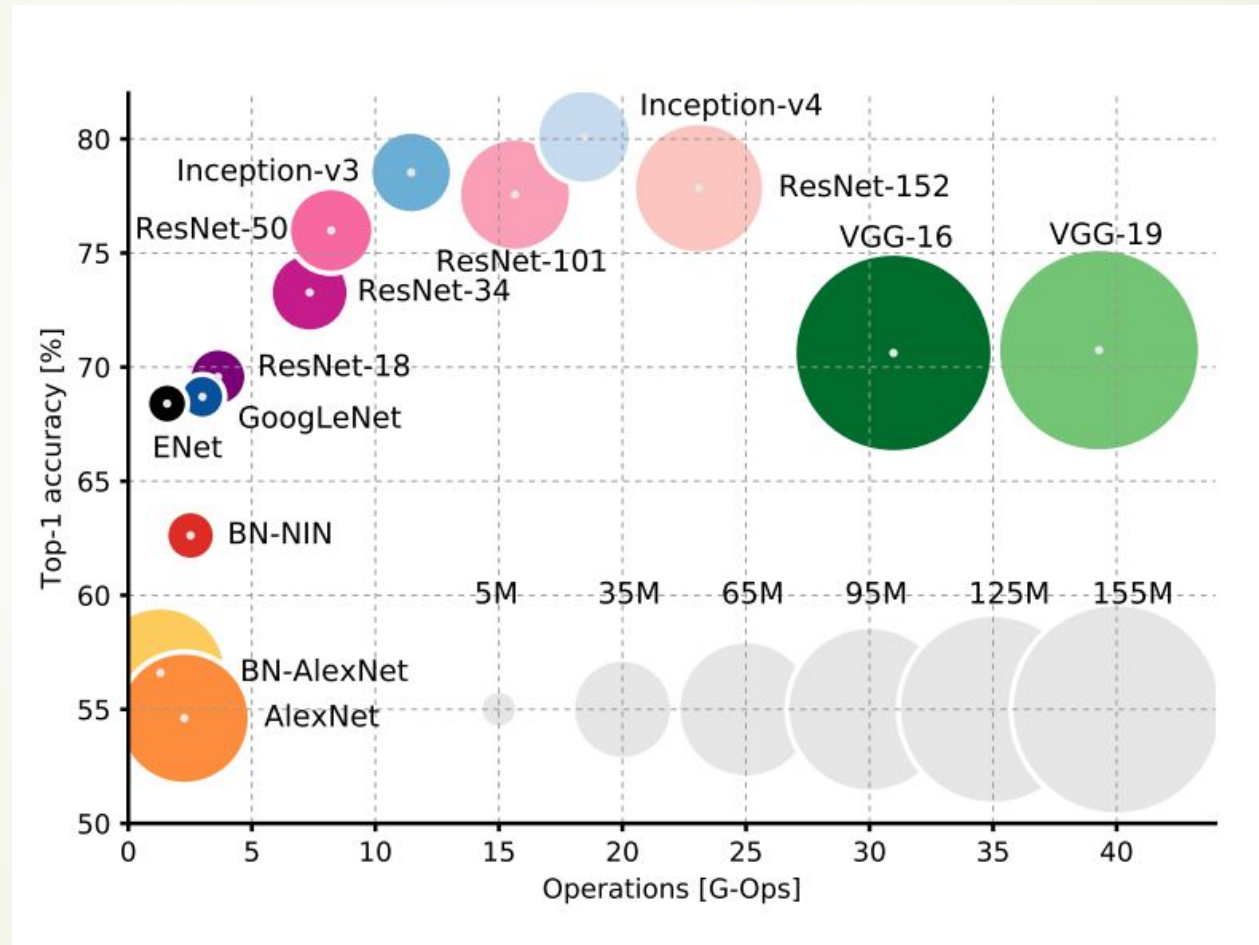
Yuan YAO

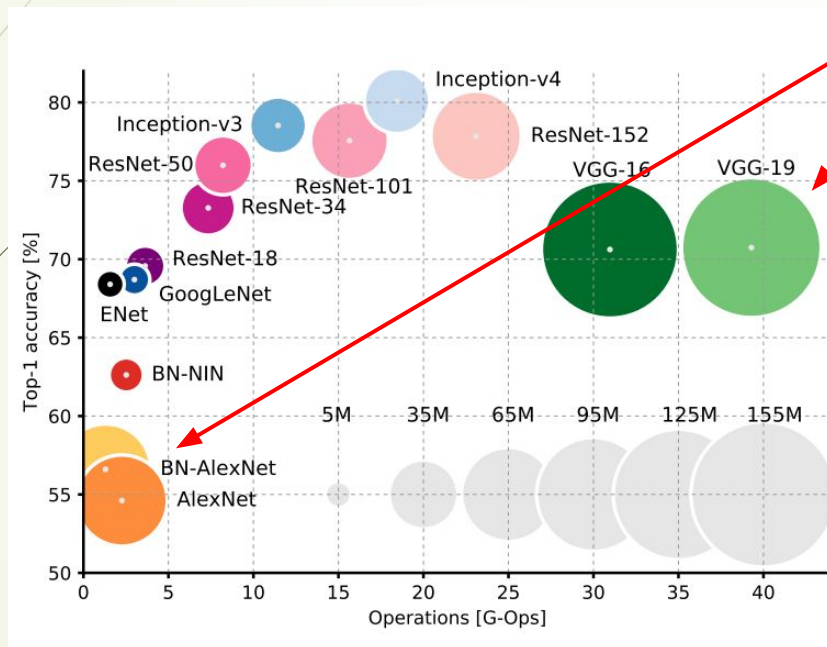
HKUST



# Summary

- ▶ We have shown:
  - ▶ First order optimization methods: GD (BP), SGD, Nesterov, Adagrad, ADAM, RMSPROP, etc.
  - ▶ Second order optimization methods: L-BFGS
  - ▶ Regularization methods: Penalty (L2/L1/Elastic), Dropout, Batch Normalization, Data Augmentation, etc.
  - ▶ CNN Architectures: LeNet5, Alexnet, VGG, GoogleNet, Resnet
- ▶ Now
  - ▶ Recurrent Neural Networks
  - ▶ LSTM
- ▶ Reference:
  - ▶ Feifei Li, Stanford cs231n





AlexNet and VGG have tons of parameters in the fully connected layers

**AlexNet: ~62M parameters**

FC6: 256x6x6 -> 4096: 38M params  
 FC7: 4096 -> 4096: 17M params  
 FC8: 4096 -> 1000: 4M params  
 ~59M params in FC layers!

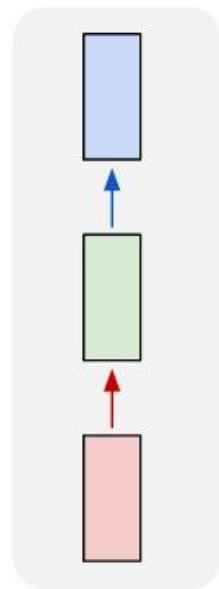
ResNet allows deep networks with small number of params.



# Recurrent Neural Networks

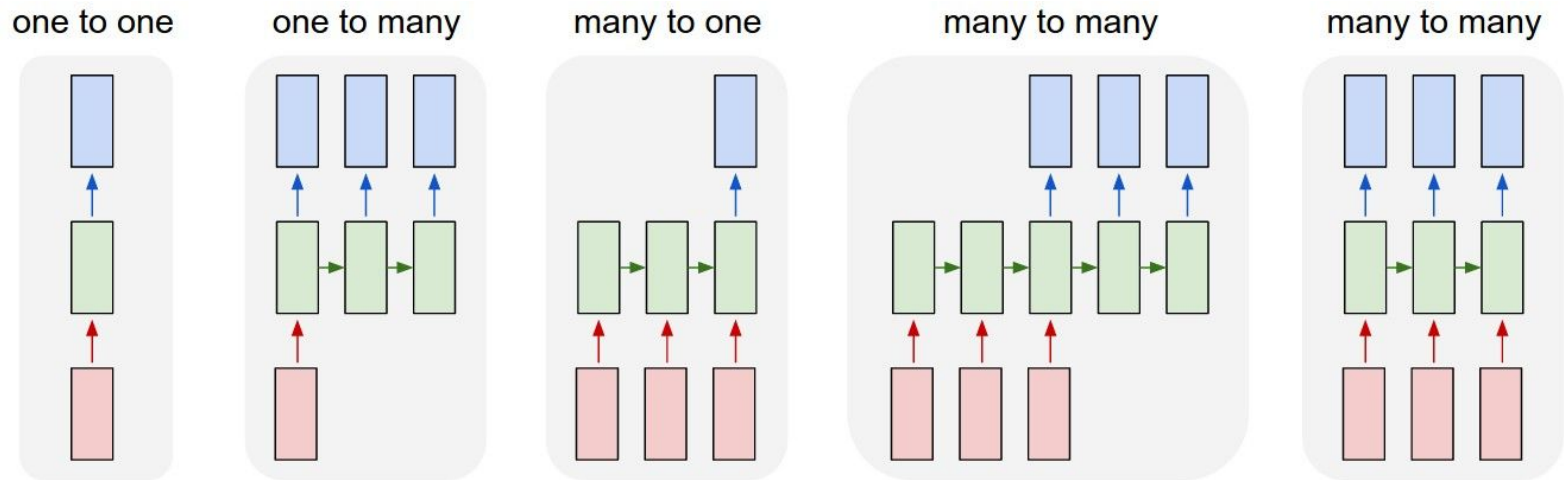
# “Vanilla” Neural Network

one to one



Vanilla Neural Networks

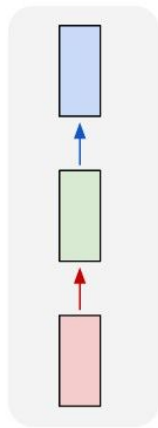
# Recurrent Neural Networks: Process Sequences



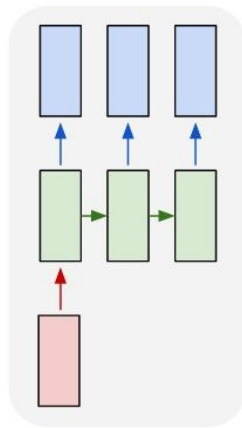
↙ e.g. **Image Captioning**  
image -> sequence of words

# Recurrent Neural Networks: Process Sequences

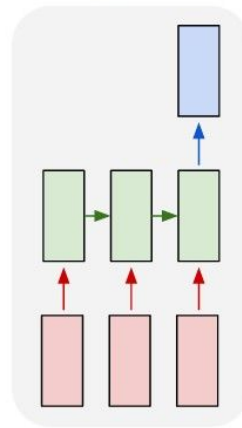
one to one



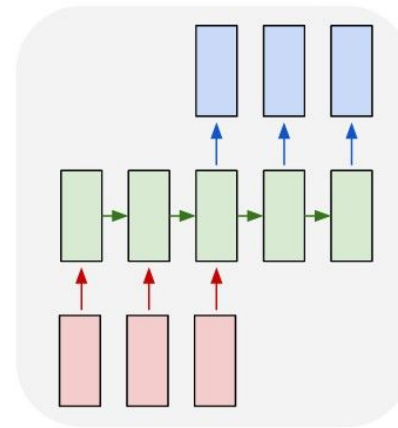
one to many



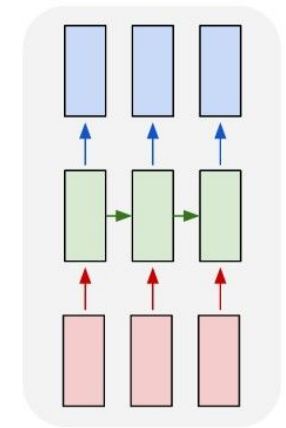
many to one



many to many



many to many

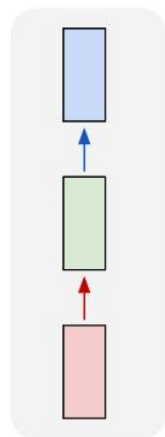


e.g. **Sentiment Classification**  
sequence of words -> sentiment

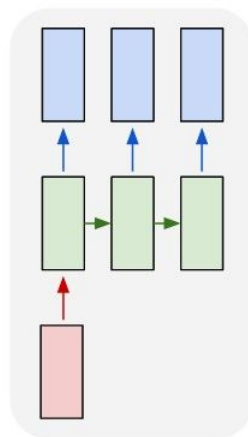


# Recurrent Neural Networks: Process Sequences

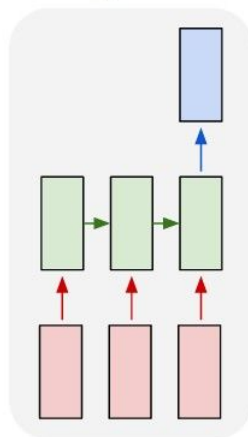
one to one



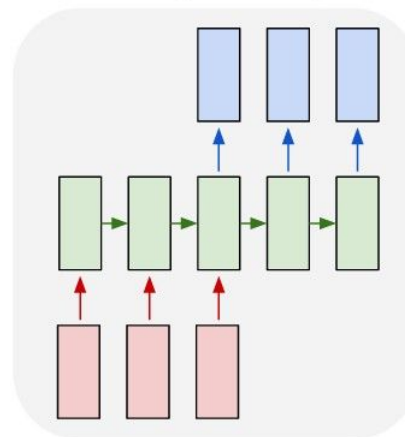
one to many



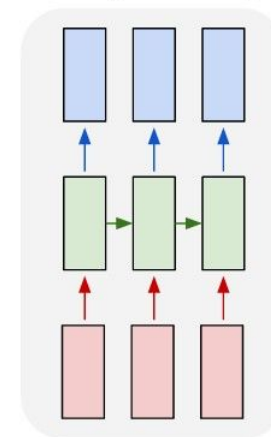
many to one



many to many



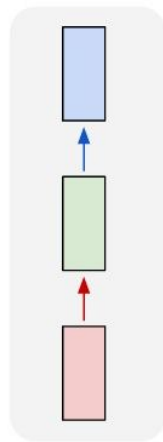
many to many



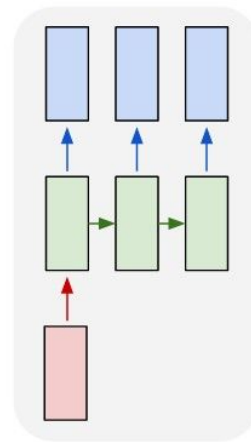
↖ e.g. **Machine Translation**  
seq of words -> seq of words

# Recurrent Neural Networks: Process Sequences

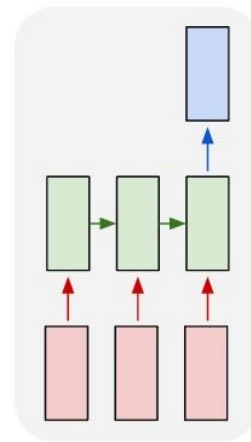
one to one



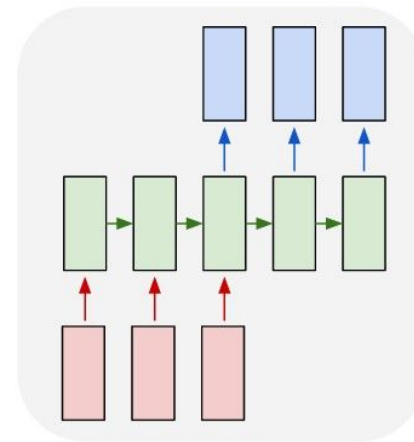
one to many



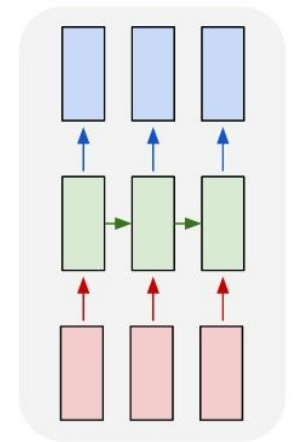
many to one



many to many



many to many



e.g. Video classification on frame level



## Sequential Processing of Non-Sequence Data

Classify images by taking a series of “glimpses”

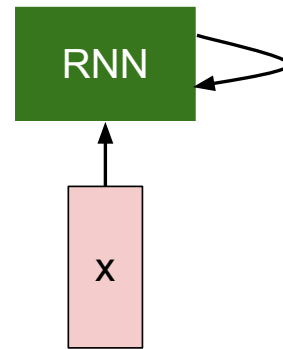


Ba, Mnih, and Kavukcuoglu, "Multiple Object Recognition with Visual Attention", ICLR 2015.

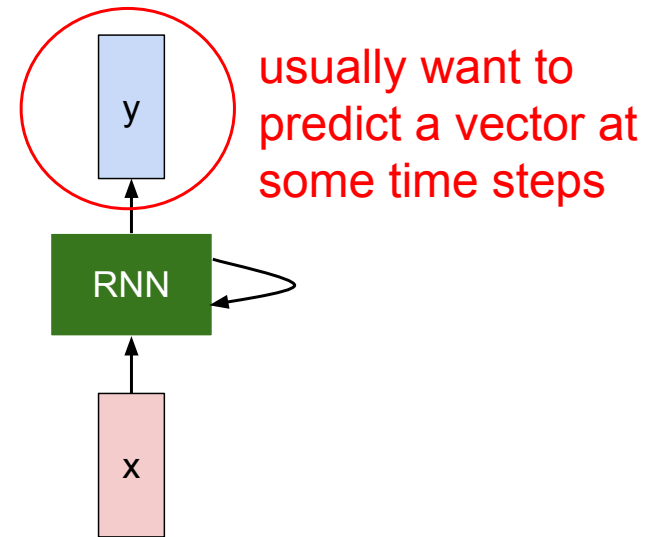
Gregor et al, "DRAW: A Recurrent Neural Network For Image Generation", ICML 2015

Figure copyright Karol Gregor, Ivo Danihelka, Alex Graves, Danilo Jimenez Rezende, and Daan Wierstra, 2015. Reproduced with permission

# Recurrent Neural Network



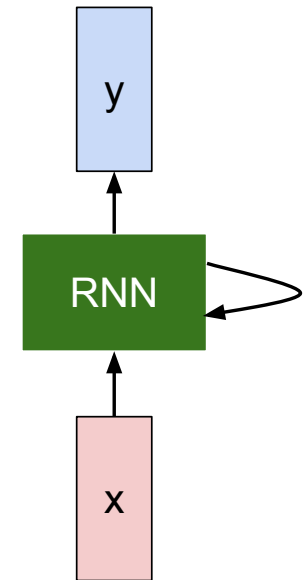
# Recurrent Neural Network



We can process a sequence of vectors  $\mathbf{x}$  by applying a **recurrence formula** at every time step:

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

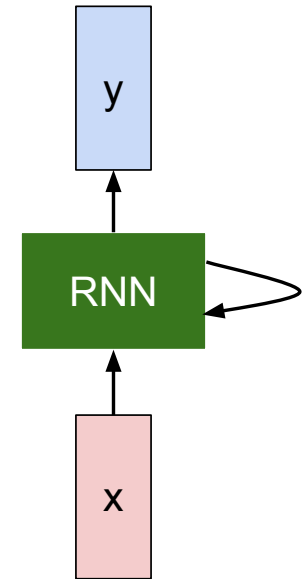
new state      some function with parameters  $W$       old state      input vector at some time step



We can process a sequence of vectors  $\mathbf{x}$  by applying a **recurrence formula** at every time step:

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

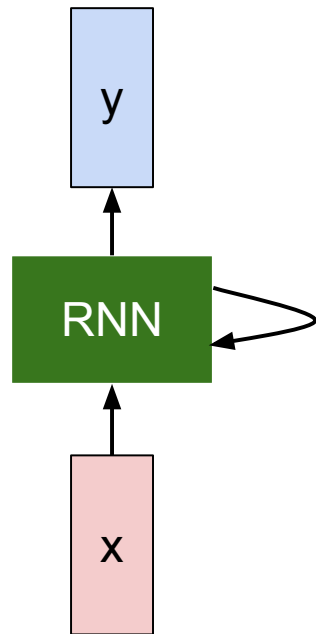
Notice: the same function and the same set of parameters are used at every time step.



# Vanilla Recurrent Neural Networks

State Space equations in feedback dynamical systems

The state consists of a single “*hidden*” vector  $\mathbf{h}$ :



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



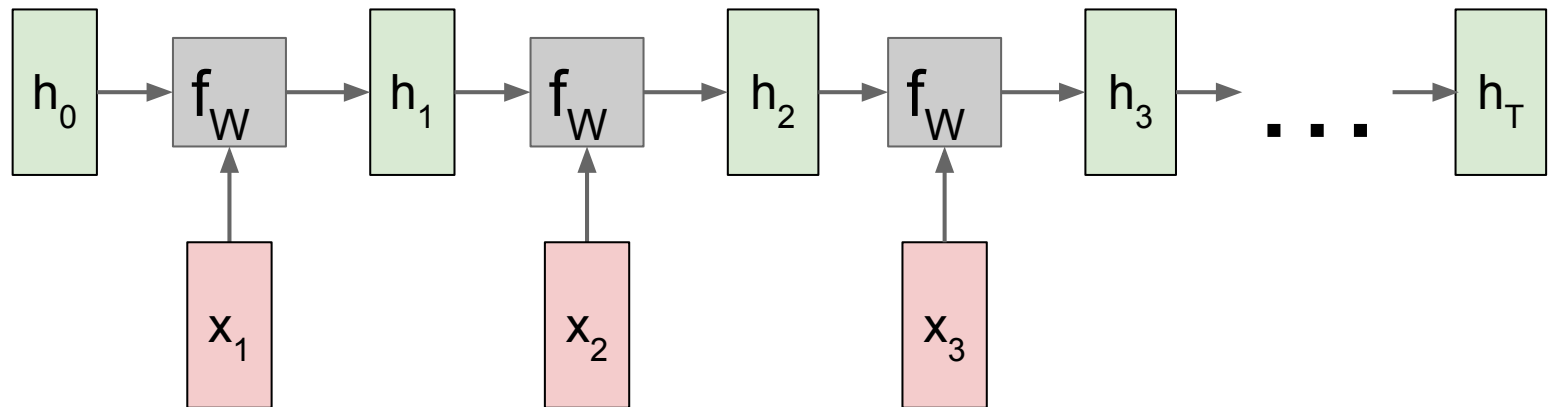
$$h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$

$$y_t = W_{hy}h_t$$

Or, 
$$y_t = \text{softmax}(W_{hy}h_t)$$



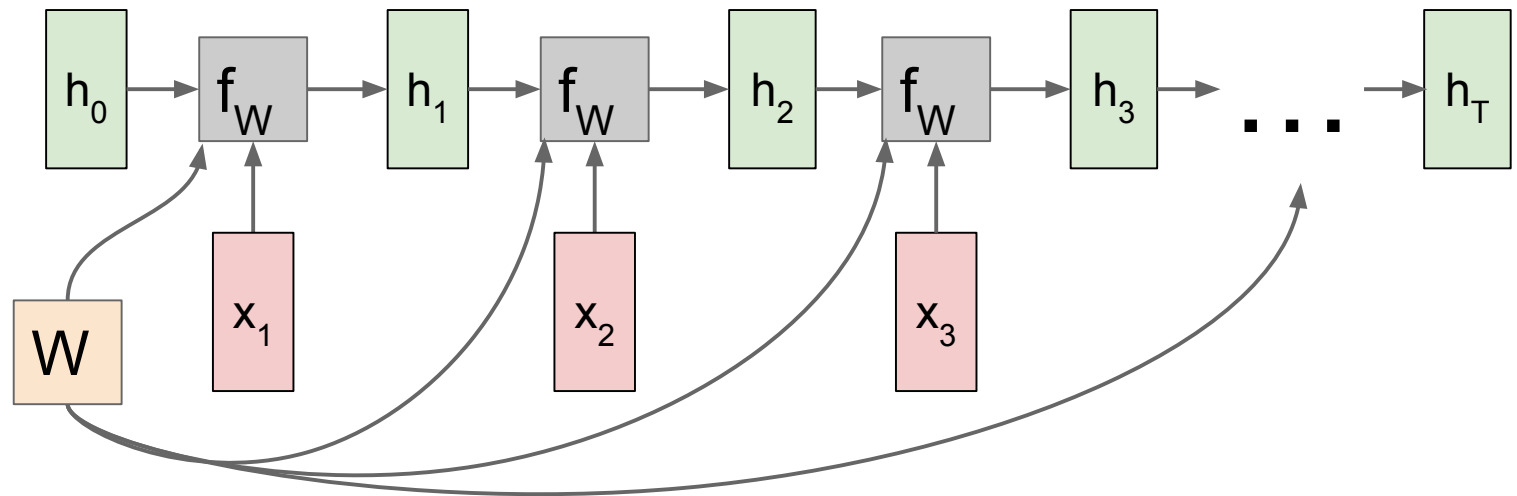
## RNN: Computational Graph



# Time invariant systems

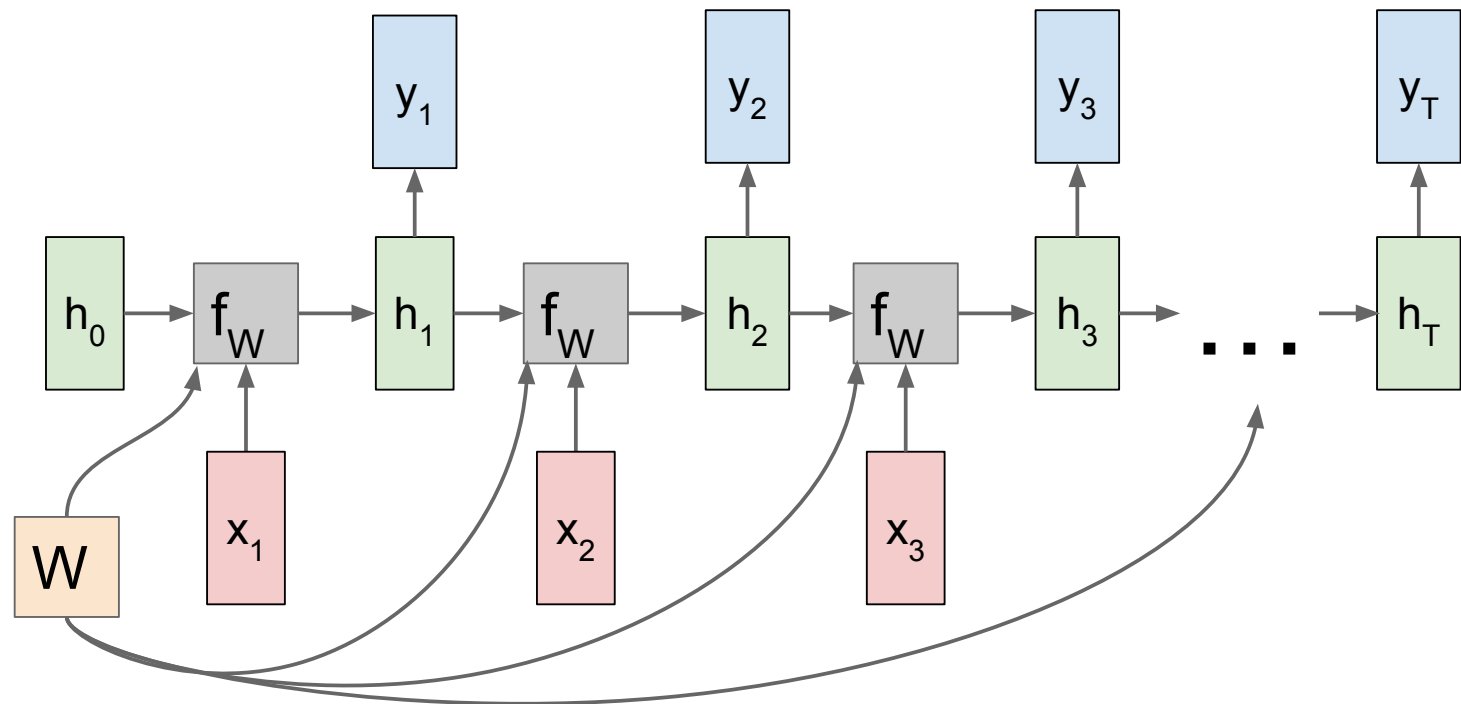
## RNN: Computational Graph

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



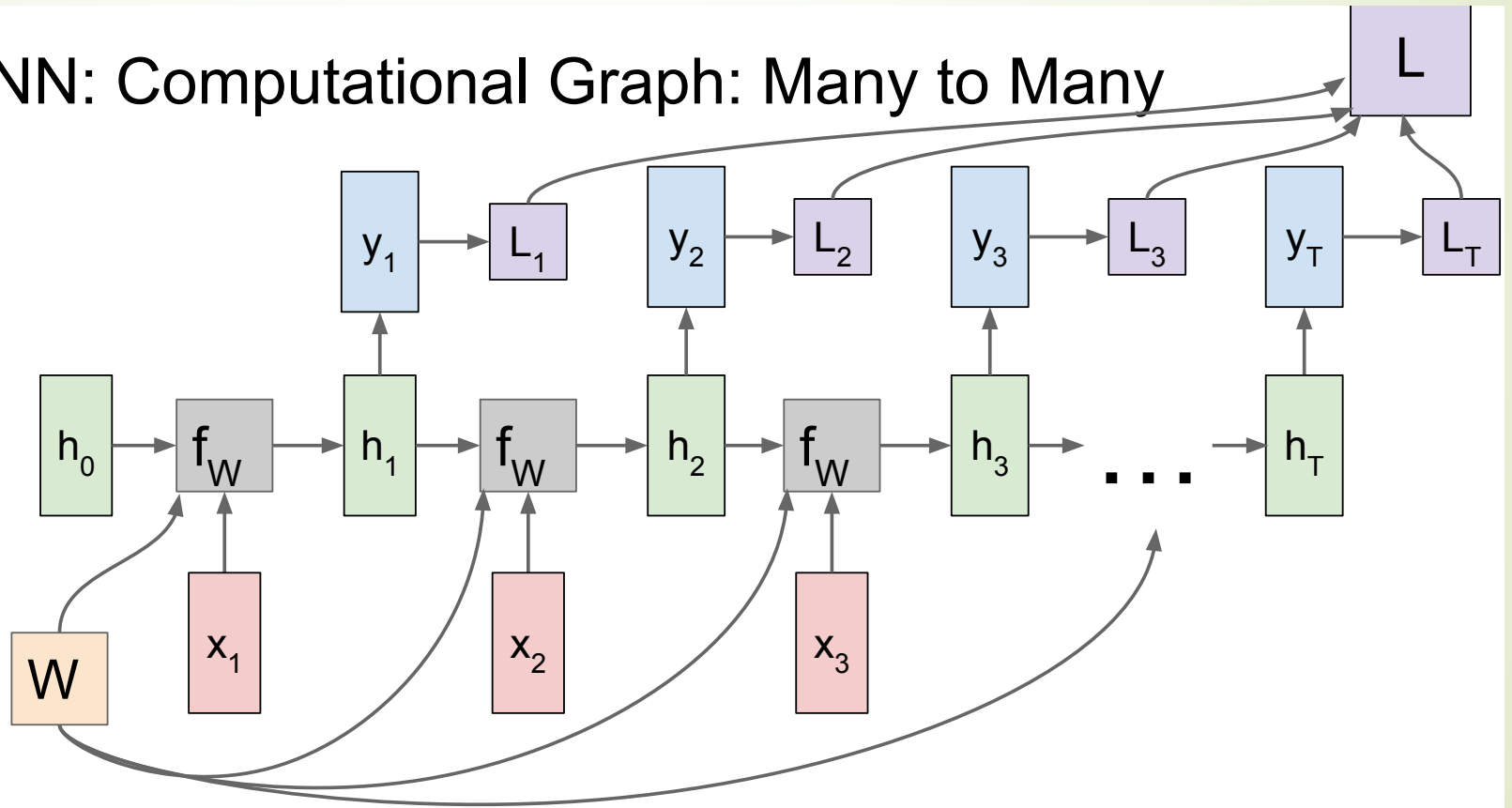
# Outputs added

## RNN: Computational Graph: Many to Many

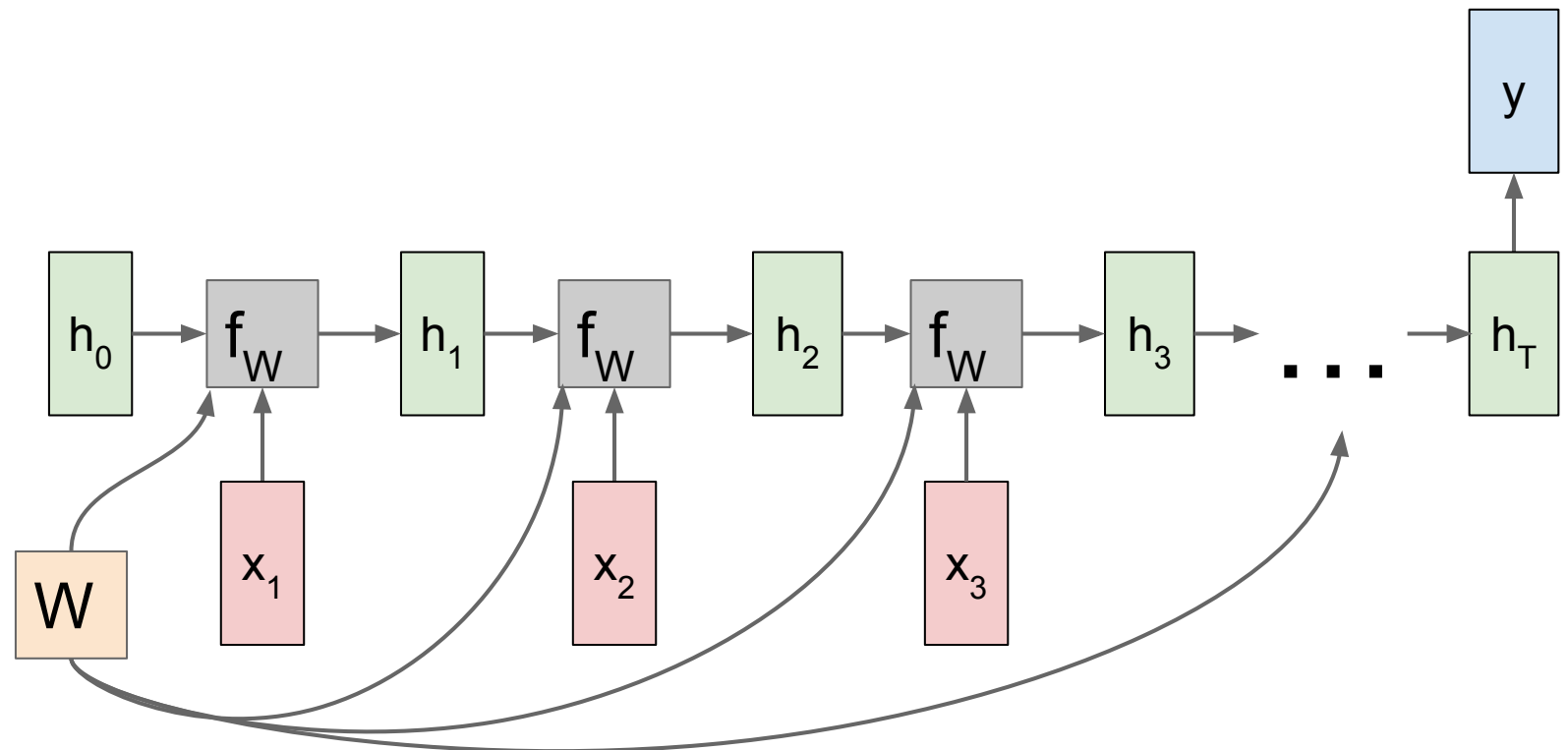


# Loss modules

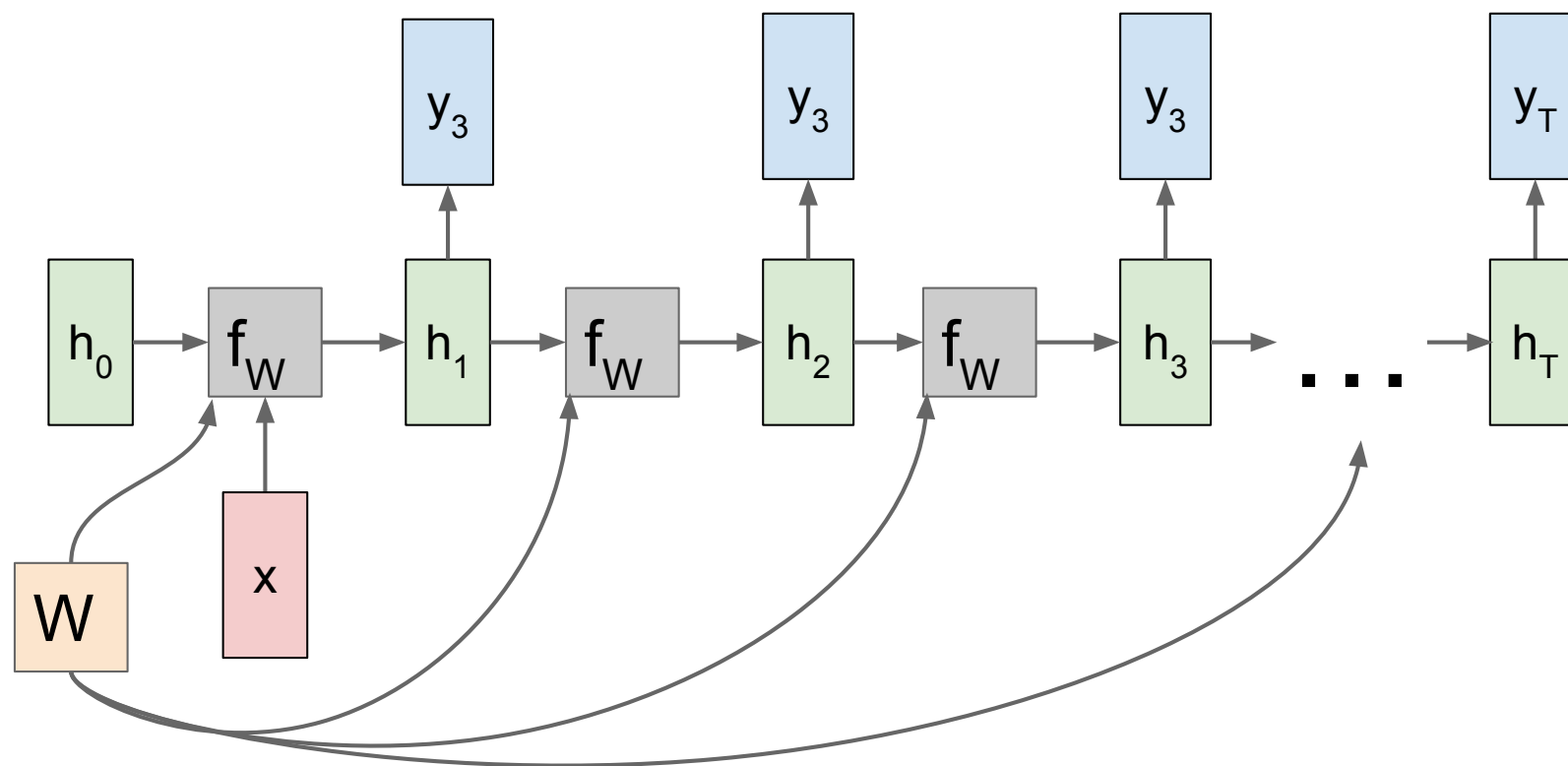
## RNN: Computational Graph: Many to Many



# RNN: Computational Graph: Many to One



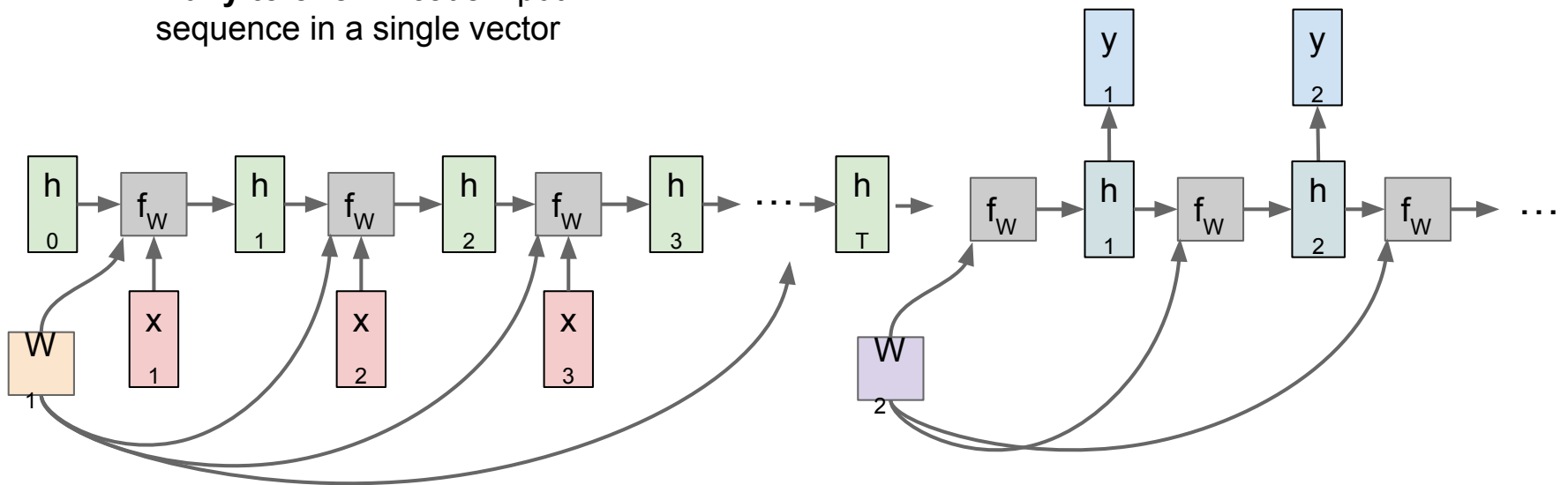
# RNN: Computational Graph: One to Many



# Sequence to Sequence: Many-to-one + one-to-many

**Many to one:** Encode input sequence in a single vector

**One to many:** Produce output sequence from single input vector

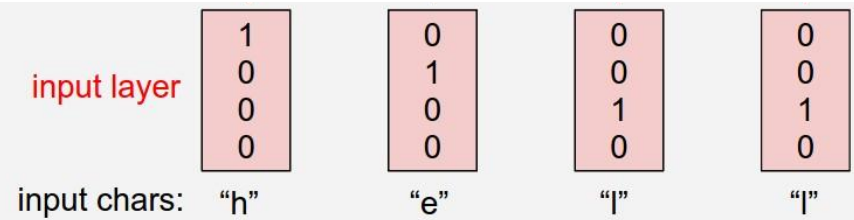




## Example: Character-level Language Model

Vocabulary:  
[h,e,l,o]

Example training  
sequence:  
“hello”



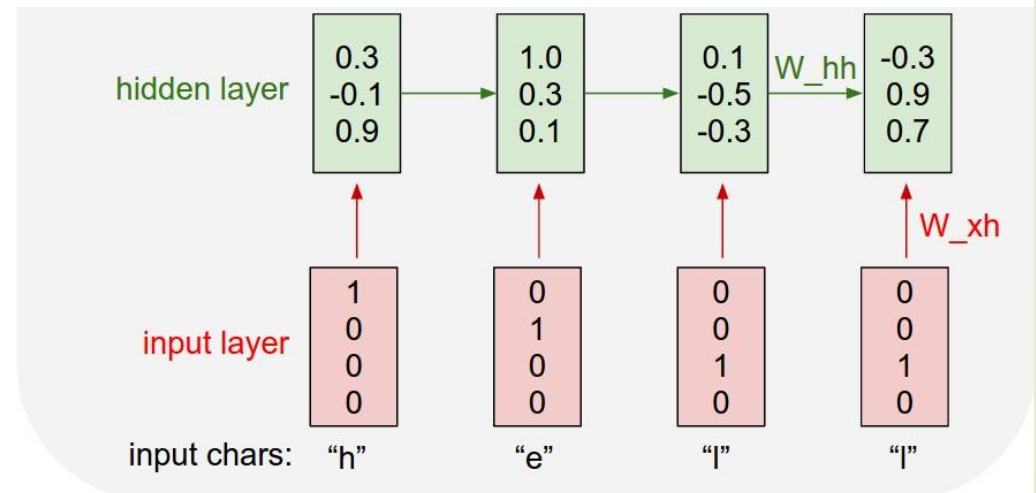


## Example: Character-level Language Model

Vocabulary:  
[h,e,l,o]

Example training  
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“hello”

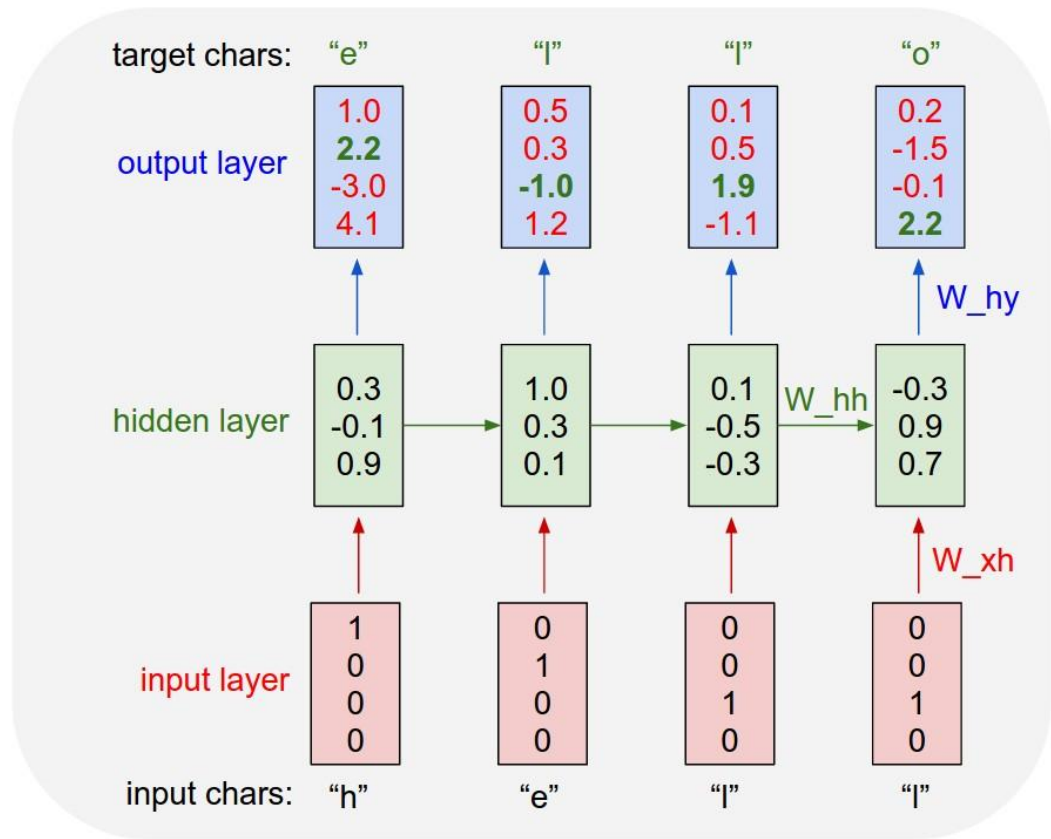
$$h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$



# Example: Character-level Language Model

Vocabulary:  
[h,e,l,o]

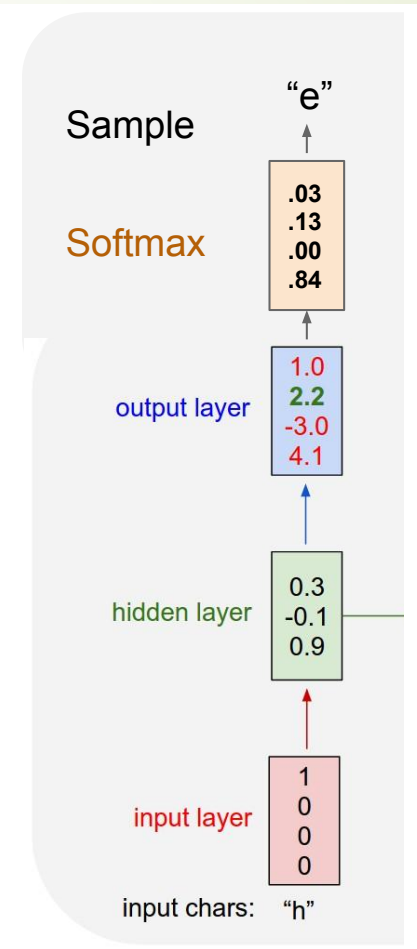
Example training  
sequence:  
"hello"



# Example: Character-level Language Model Sampling

Vocabulary:  
[h,e,l,o]

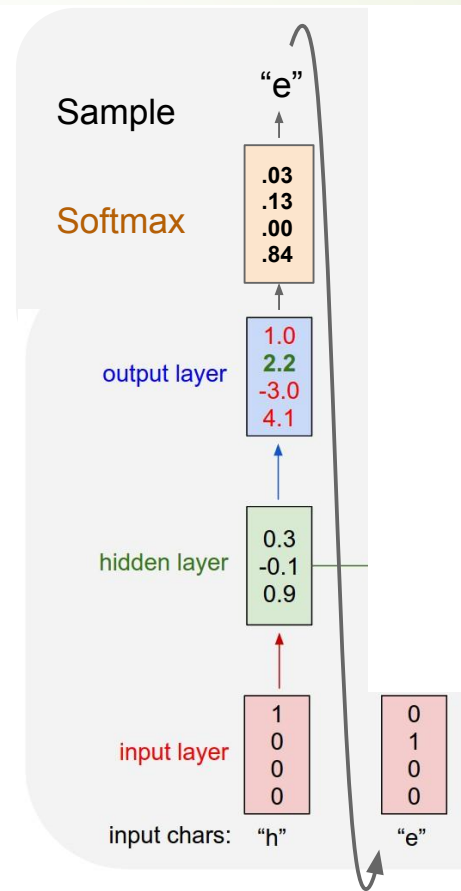
At test-time sample  
characters one at a time,  
feed back to model



## Example: Character-level Language Model Sampling

Vocabulary:  
[h,e,l,o]

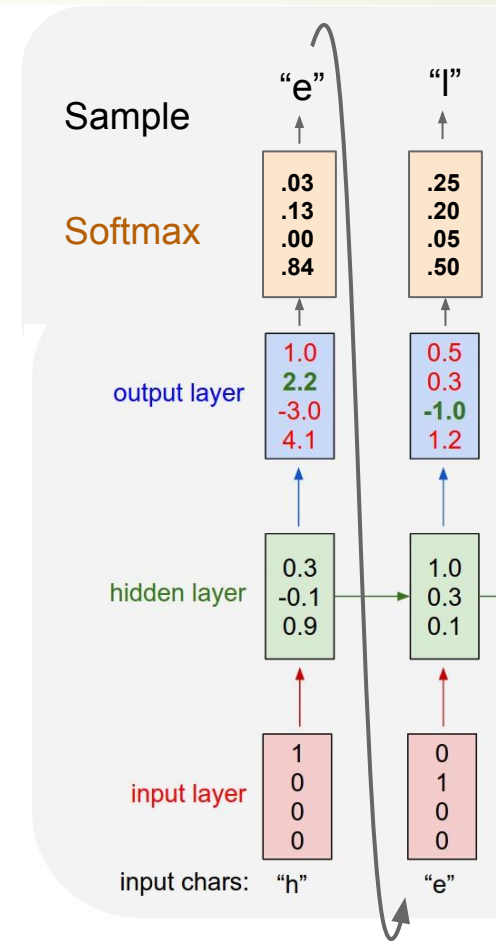
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# Example: Character-level Language Model Sampling

Vocabulary:  
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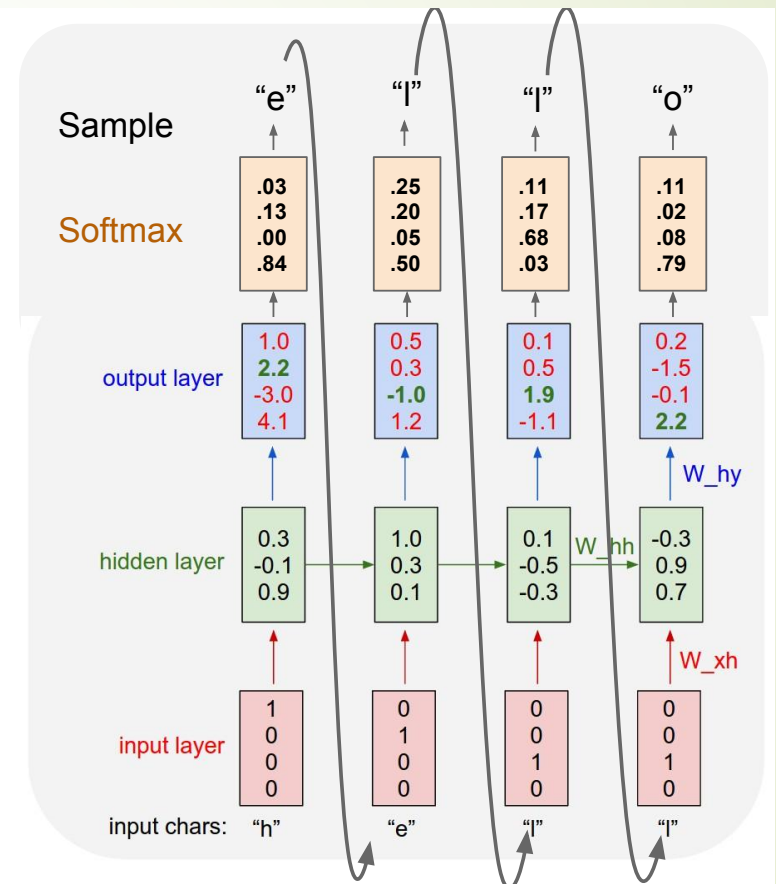
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# Example: Character-level Language Model Sampling

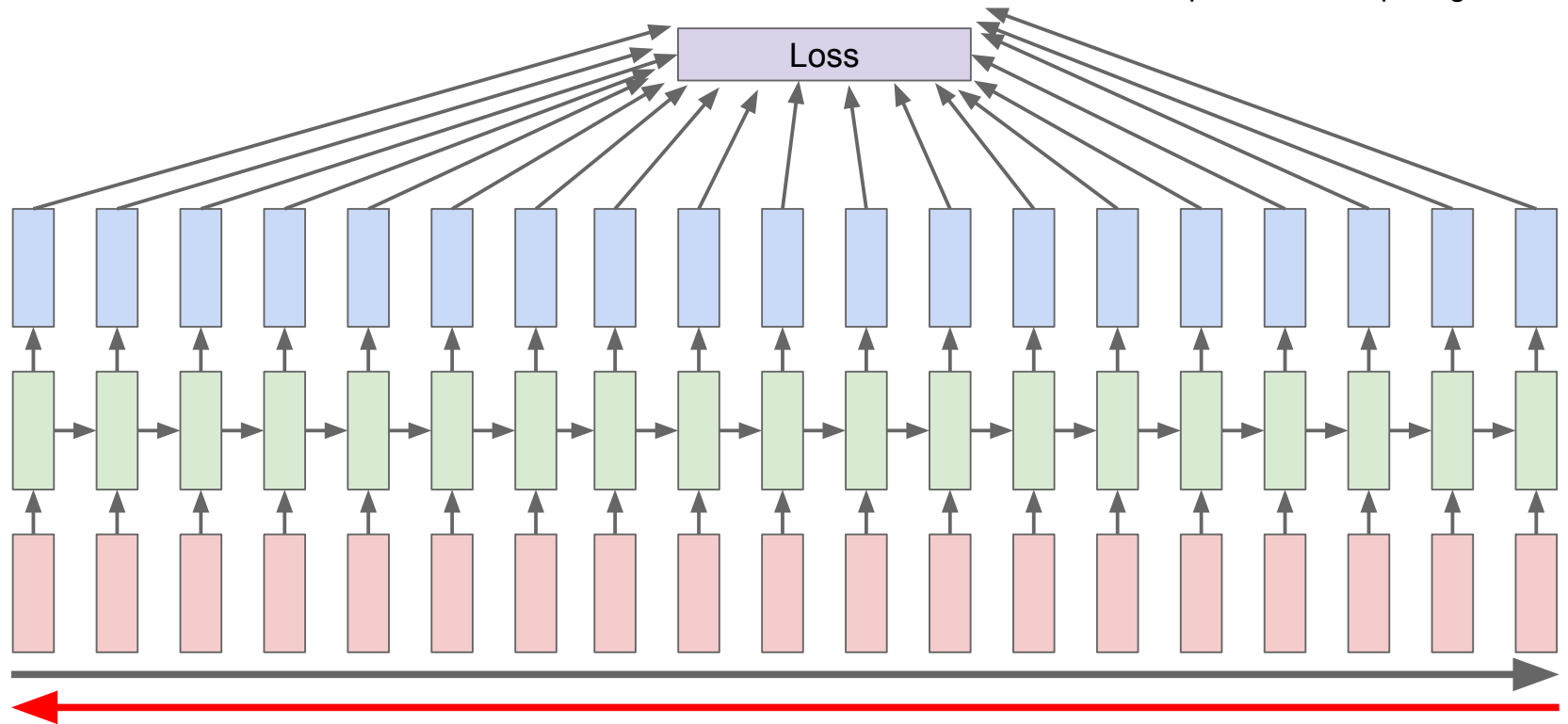
Vocabulary:  
[h,e,l,o]

At test-time sample  
characters one at a time,  
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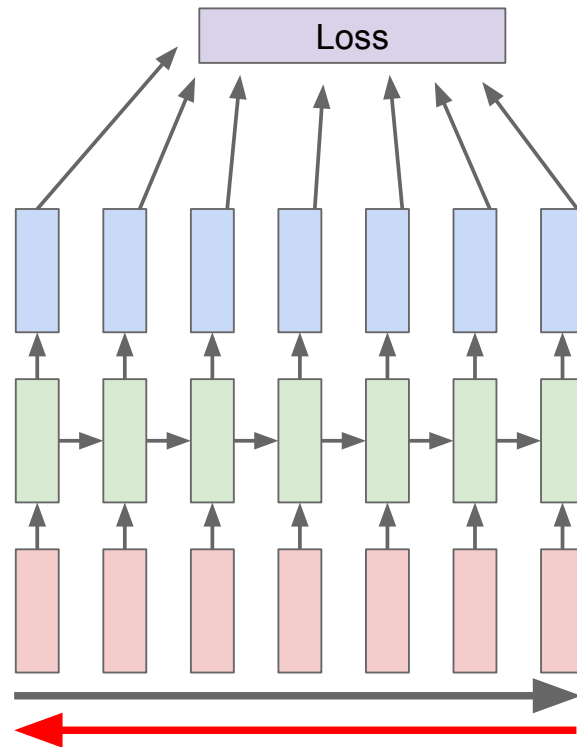


# Backpropagation through time

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



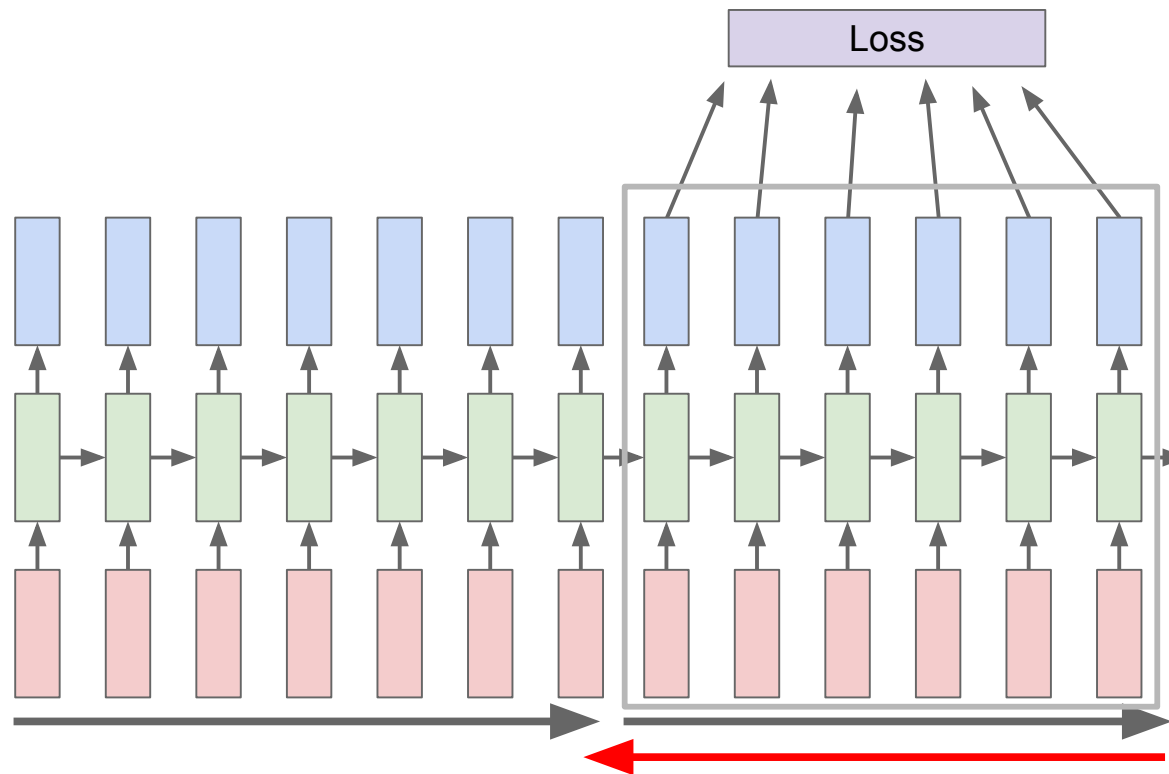
## Truncated Backpropagation through time



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

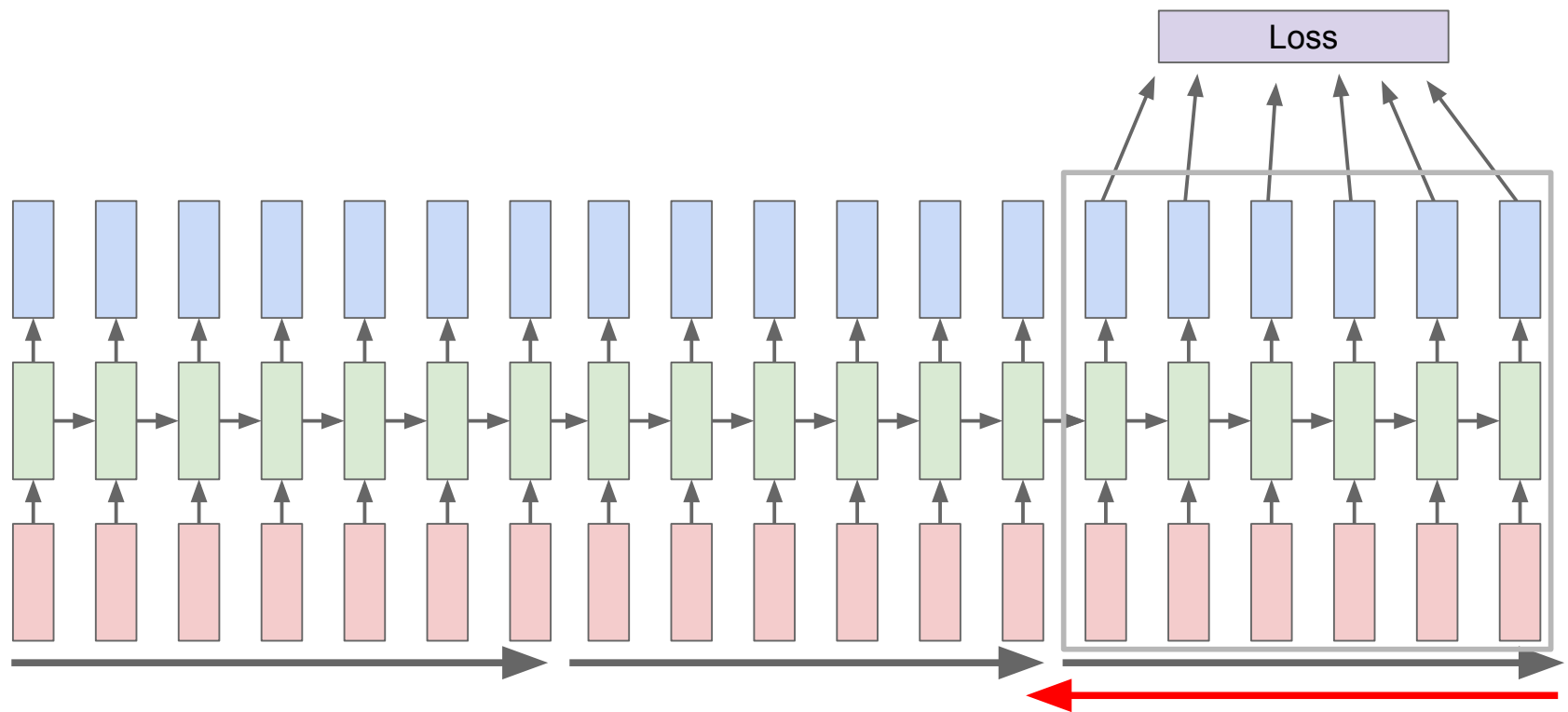


## Truncated Backpropagation through time



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

# Truncated Backpropagation through time



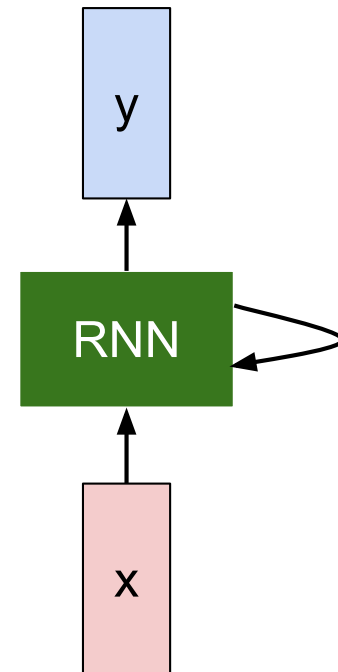
# Example: Text->RNN

## THE SONNETS

by William Shakespeare

From fairest creatures we desire increase,  
That thereby beauty's rose might never die,  
But as the ripper 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.



<https://gist.github.com/karpathy/d4dee566867f8291f086>



at first:

tyntd-iafhatawiaoihrdemot lytdws e ,tfti, astai f ogoh eoase rrrranbyne 'nhthnee e  
plia tklrqd t o idoe ns,smtt h ne etie h,hregtrs nigtkie,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 offer.

↓  
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.

# Image Captioning

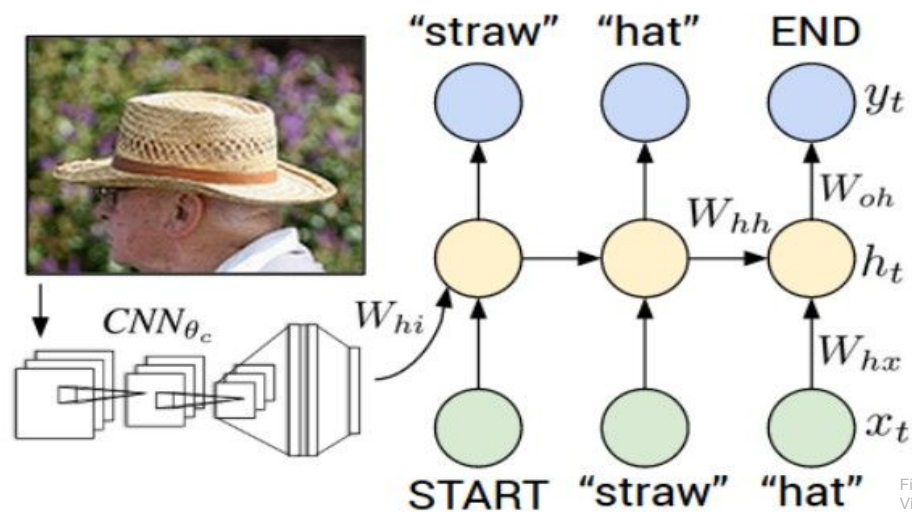


Figure from Karpathy et al, "Deep Visual-Semantic Alignments for Generating Image Descriptions", CVPR 2015; figure copyright IEEE, 2015. Reproduced for educational purposes.

Explain Images with Multimodal Recurrent Neural Networks, Mao et al.

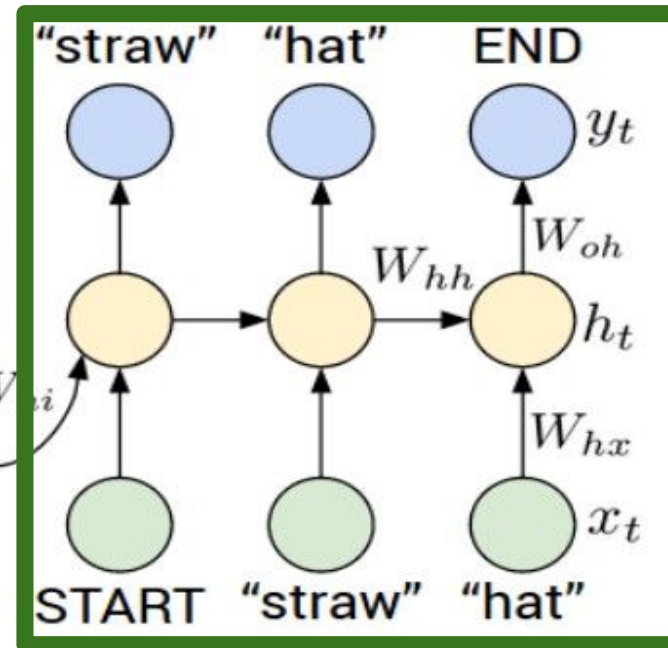
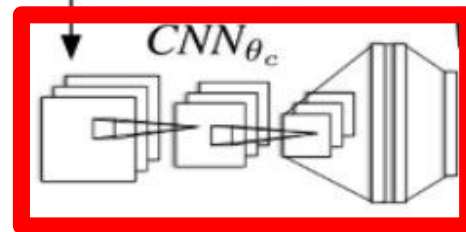
Deep Visual-Semantic Alignments for Generating Image Descriptions, Karpathy and Fei-Fei

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



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

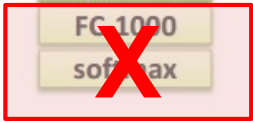
maxpool

FC-4096

FC-4096

FC-1000

softmax



test image



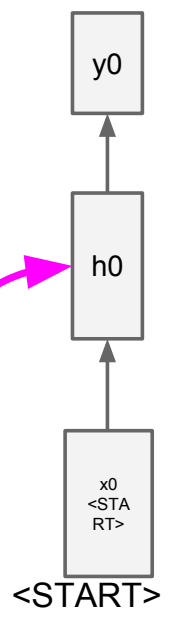


V



test image

Wih



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

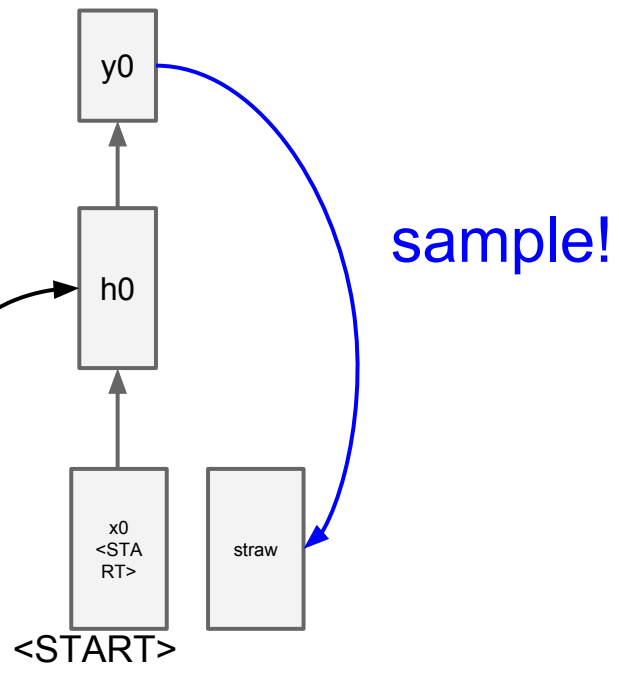
maxpool

FC-4096

FC-4096



test image





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

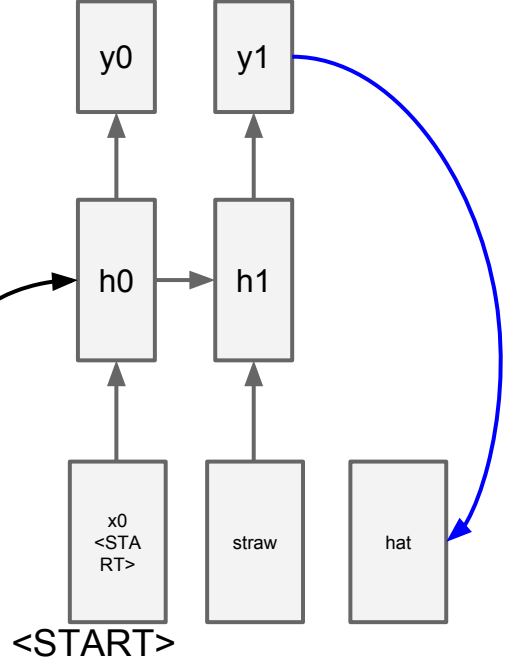
maxpool

FC-4096

FC-4096



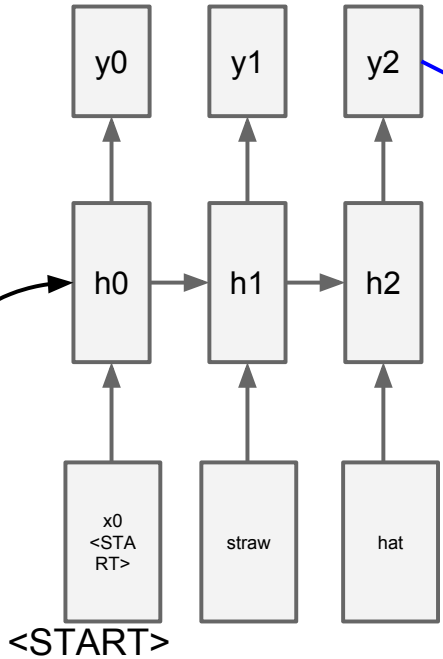
test image



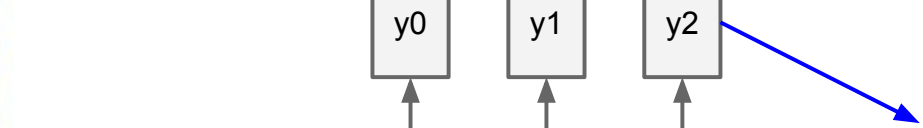
sample!



test image



sample <END> token => finish.

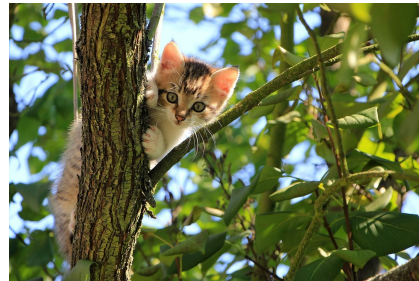


# Image Captioning: Example Results

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*



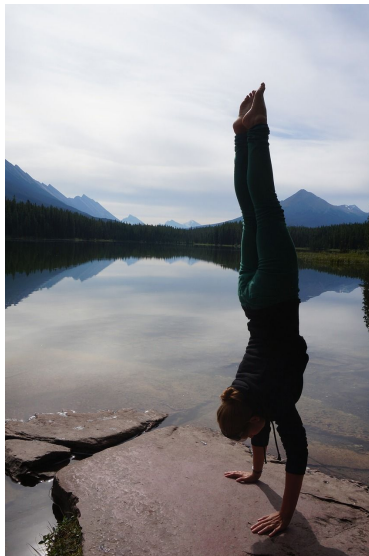
*A man riding a dirt bike on a dirt track*

# 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 woman standing on a beach holding a surfboard*



*A bird is perched on a tree branch*



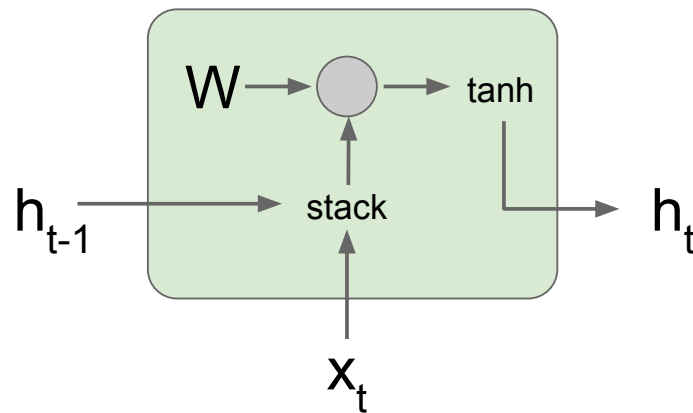
*A person holding a computer mouse on a desk*



*A man in a baseball uniform throwing a ball*

# 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

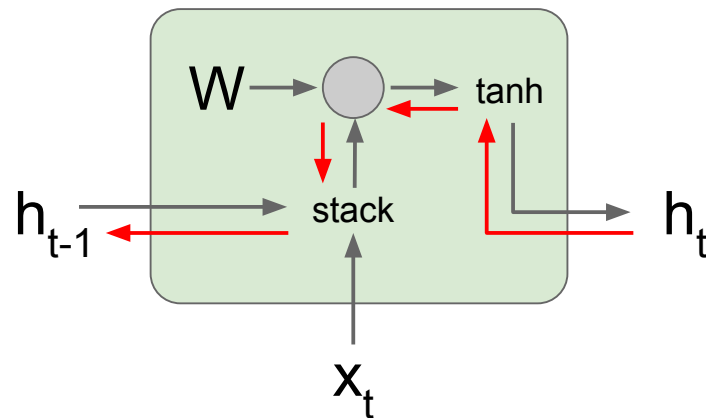


$$\begin{aligned} h_t &= \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{hx}x_t) \\ &= \tanh\left(\begin{pmatrix} W_{hh} & W_{hx} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right) \\ &= \tanh\left(W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right) \end{aligned}$$

# 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

Backpropagation from  $h_t$   
to  $h_{t-1}$  multiplies by  $W$   
(actually  $W_{hh}^T$ )

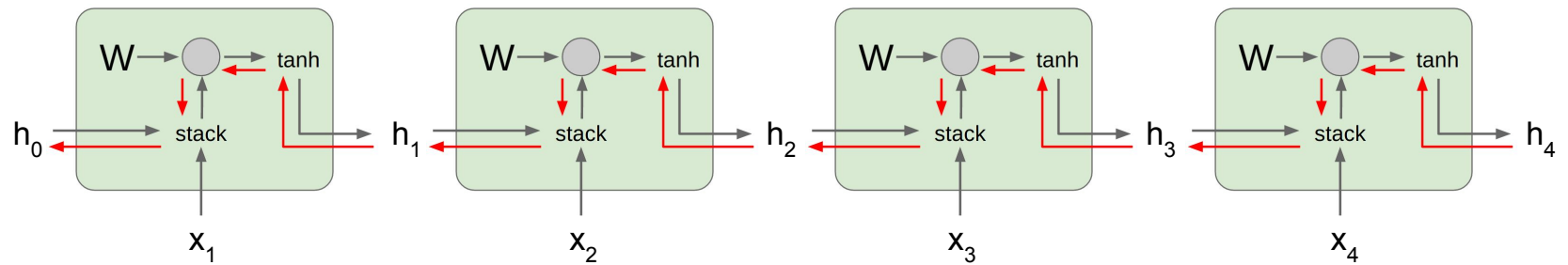


$$\begin{aligned} h_t &= \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{hx}x_t) \\ &= \tanh\left(\begin{pmatrix} W_{hh} & W_{hx} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right) \\ &= \tanh\left(W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}\right) \end{aligned}$$



# Vanilla RNN Gradient Flow

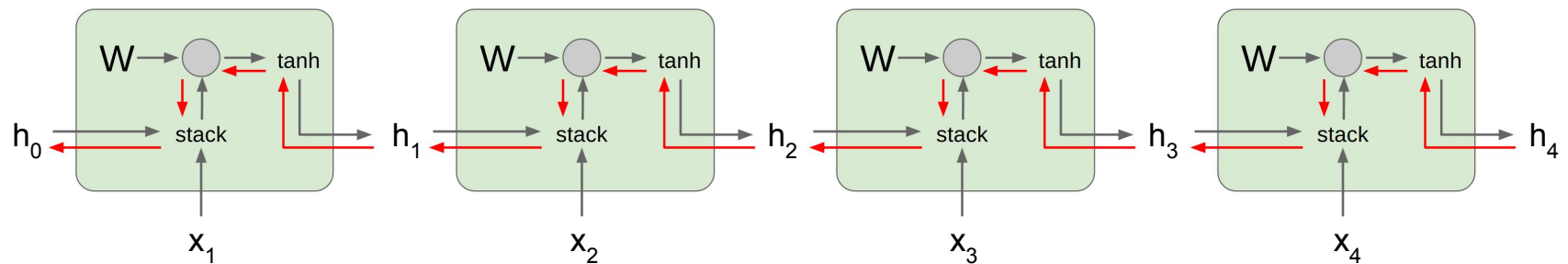
Bengio et al, "Learning long-term dependencies with gradient descent is difficult", IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, 1994  
Pascanu et al, "On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks", ICML 2013



Computing gradient of  $h_0$  involves many factors of  $W$  (and repeated tanh)

# 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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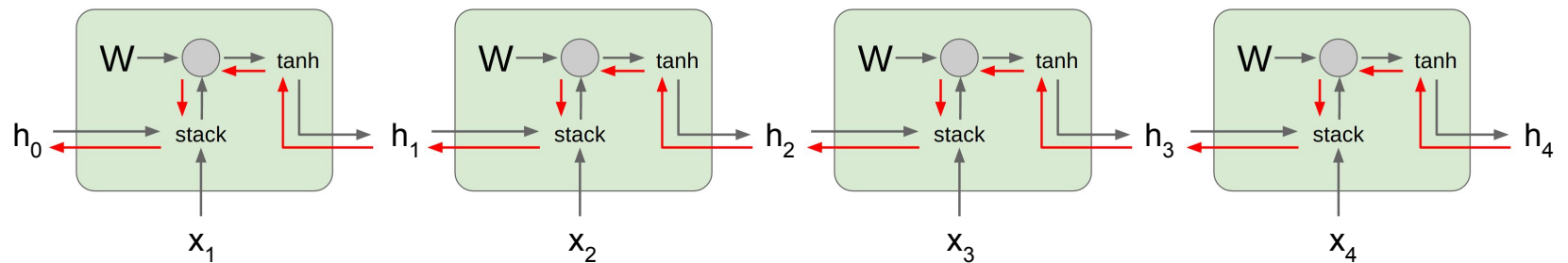
Computing gradient of  $h_0$  involves many factors of  $W$  (and repeated  $\tanh$ )

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  
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Computing gradient of  $h_0$  involves many factors of  $W$  (and repeated tanh)

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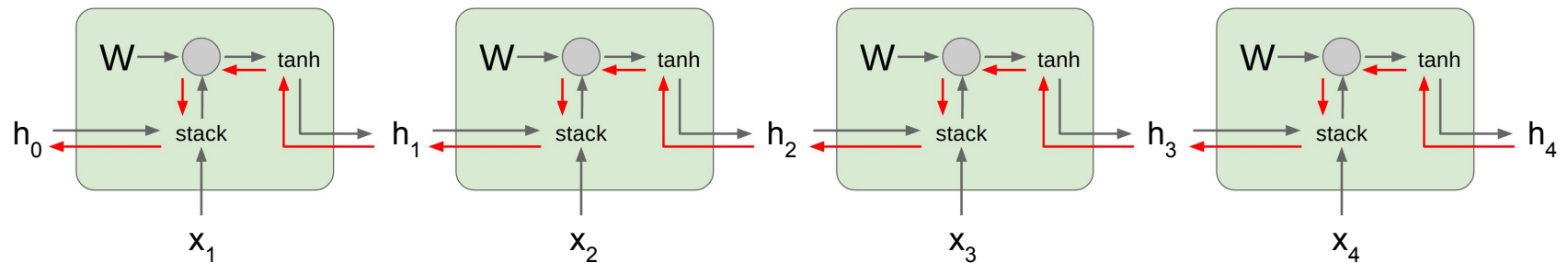
Largest singular value  $< 1$ :  
**Vanishing gradients**

**Gradient clipping:** Scale gradient if its norm is too big

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

# 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



Computing gradient of  $h_0$  involves many factors of  $W$  (and repeated  $\tanh$ )

Largest singular value  $> 1$ :  
**Exploding gradients**

Largest singular value  $< 1$ :  
**Vanishing gradients**

→ Change RNN architecture



# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

## Vanilla RNN

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

## LSTM

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

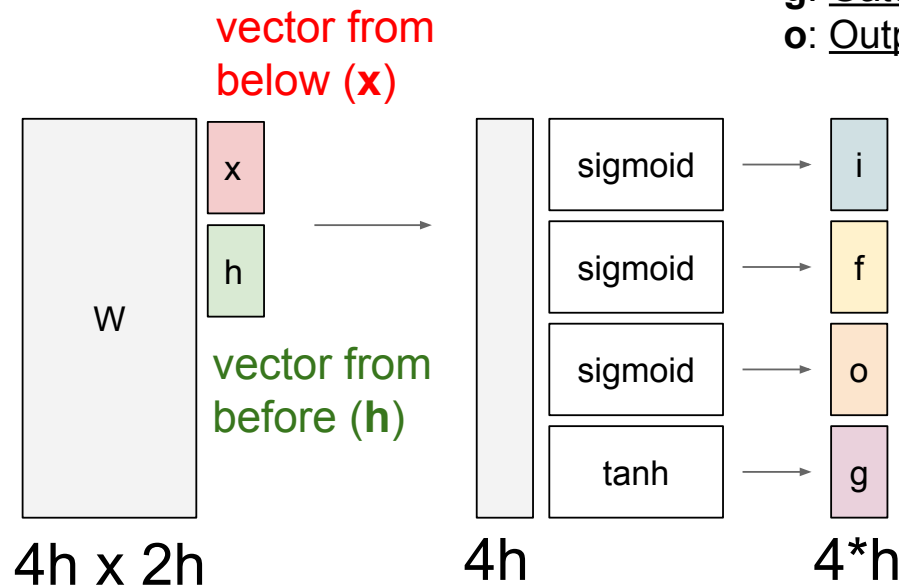
$$c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$$

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

# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]

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



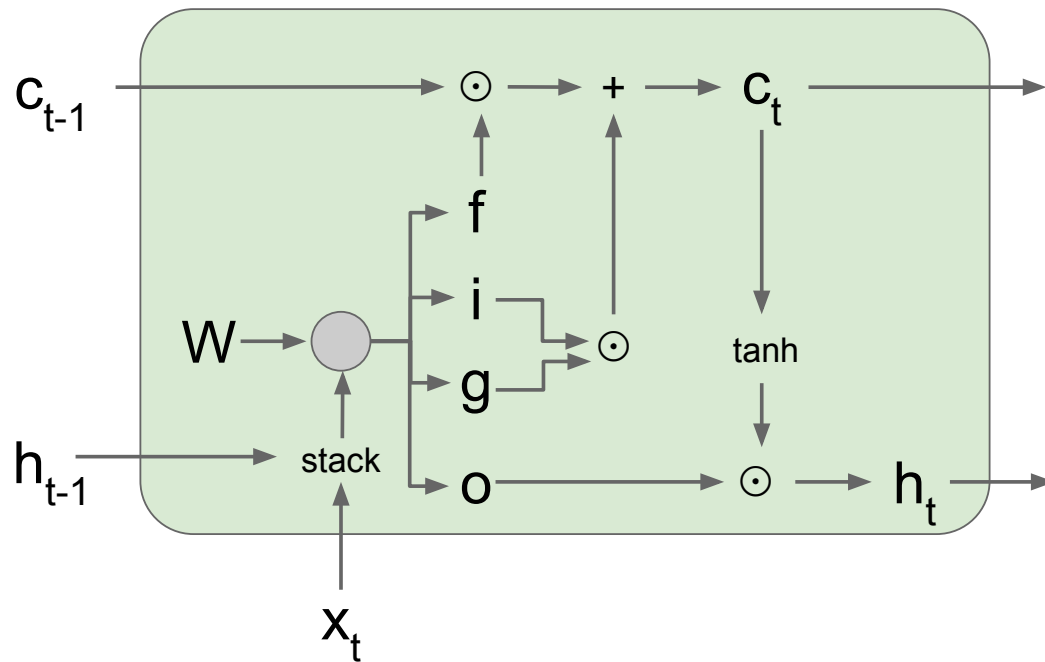
$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \sigma \\ \tanh \end{pmatrix} W \begin{pmatrix} h_{t-1} \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$$

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# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]



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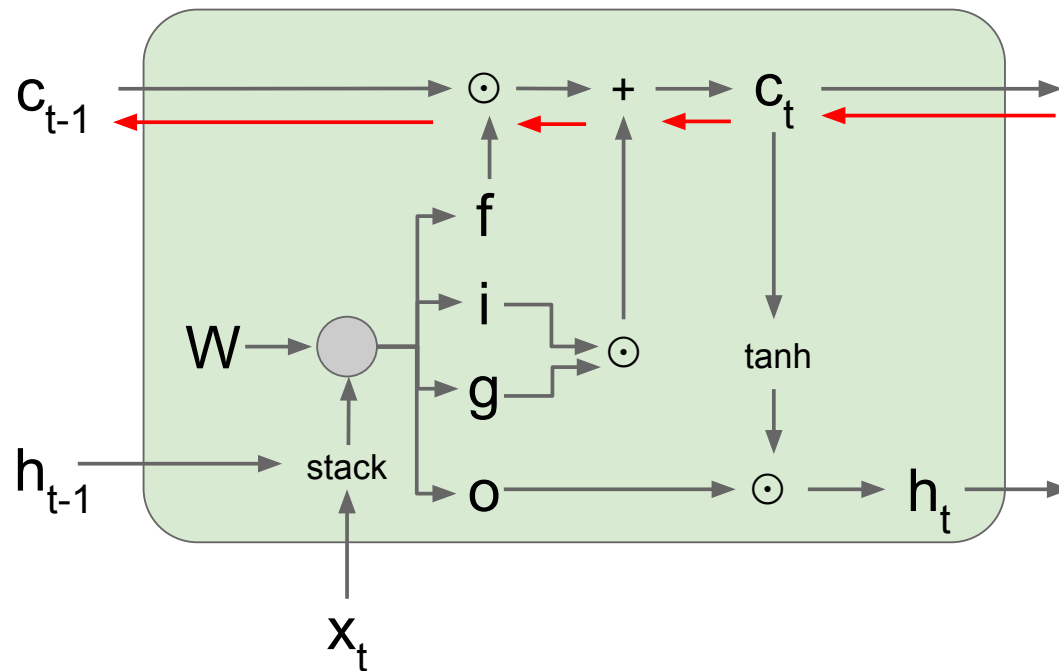
$$c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$$

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



# 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  $W$

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

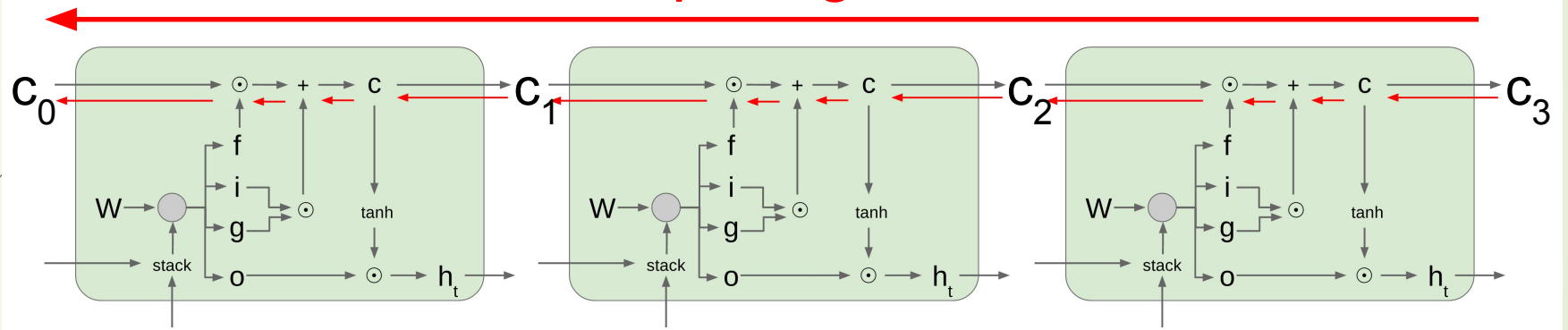
$$c_t = f \odot c_{t-1} + i \odot g$$

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

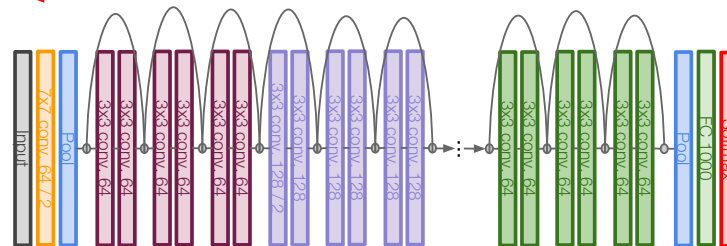
# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM): Gradient Flow

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]

**Uninterrupted gradient flow!**



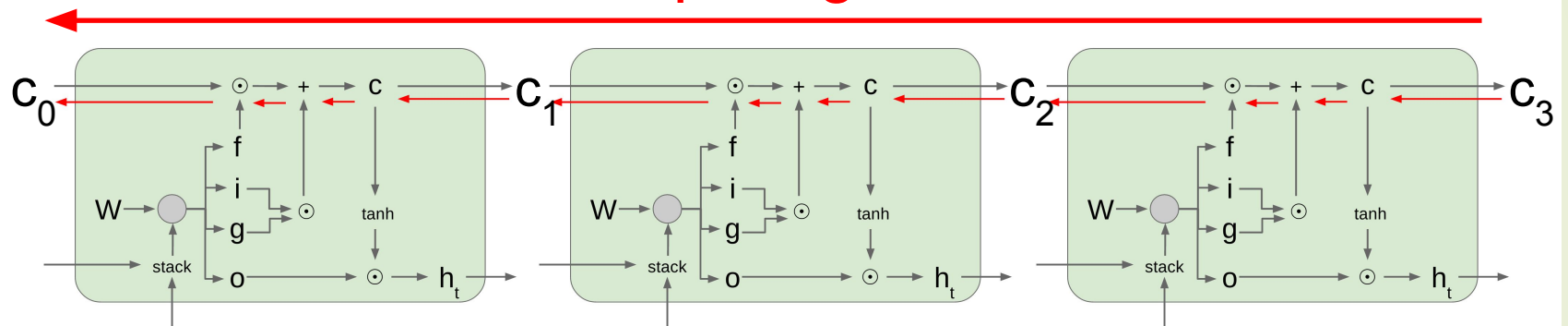
Similar to ResNet!



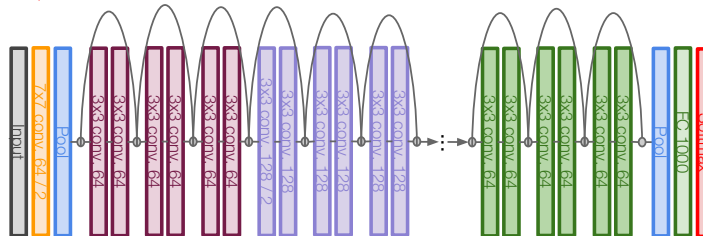
# Long Short Term Memory (LSTM): Gradient Flow

[Hochreiter et al., 1997]

Uninterrupted gradient flow!



Similar to ResNet!



In between:  
**Highway Networks**

$$g = T(x, W_T)$$

$$y = g \odot H(x, W_H) + (1 - g) \odot x$$

Srivastava et al, "Highway Networks",  
ICML DL Workshop 2015

## Multilayer RNNs

$$h_t^l = \tanh W^l \begin{pmatrix} h_t^{l-1} \\ h_{t-1}^l \end{pmatrix}$$

$$h \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad W^l [n \times 2n]$$

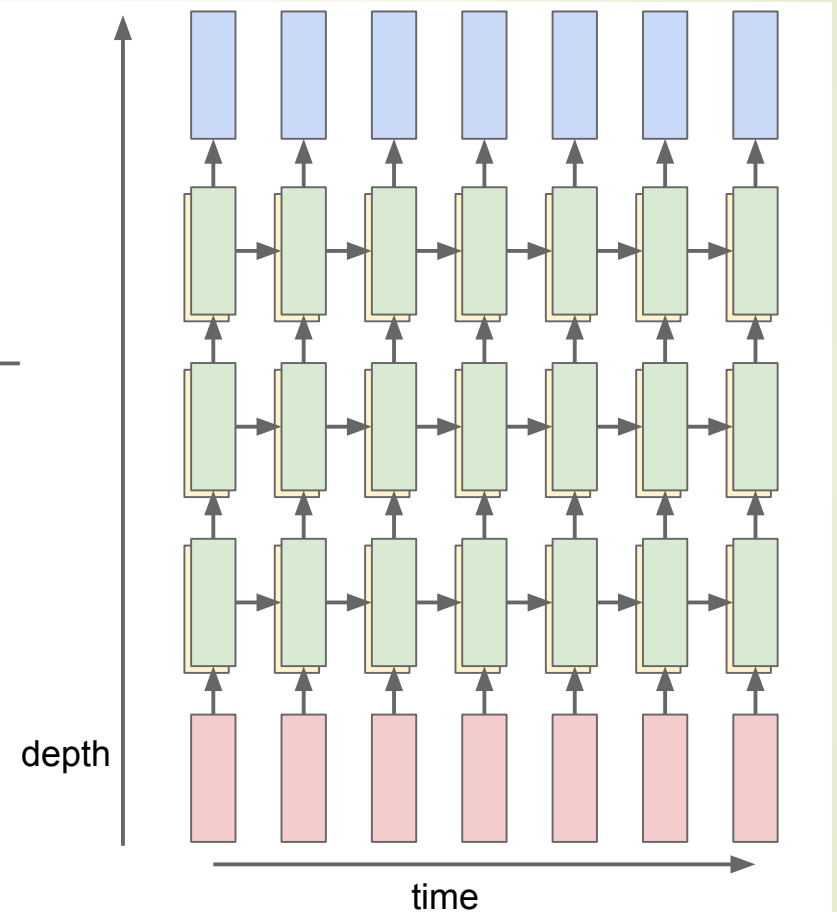
## LSTM:

$$W^l [4n \times 2n]$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ f \\ o \\ g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \text{sigm} \\ \text{sigm} \\ \text{sigm} \\ \text{tanh} \end{pmatrix} W^l \begin{pmatrix} h_t^{l-1} \\ h_{t-1}^l \end{pmatrix}$$

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

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



## Other RNN Variants

**GRU** [*Learning phrase representations using rnn encoder-decoder for statistical machine translation*, Cho et al. 2014]

$$r_t = \sigma(W_{xr}x_t + W_{hr}h_{t-1} + b_r)$$

$$z_t = \sigma(W_{xz}x_t + W_{hz}h_{t-1} + b_z)$$

$$\tilde{h}_t = \tanh(W_{xh}x_t + W_{hh}(r_t \odot h_{t-1}) + b_h)$$

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

[*LSTM: A Search Space Odyssey*, Greff et al., 2015]

[*An Empirical Exploration of Recurrent Network Architectures*, Jozefowicz et al., 2015]

MUT1:

$$z = \text{sigm}(W_{xz}x_t + b_z)$$

$$r = \text{sigm}(W_{xr}x_t + W_{hr}h_t + b_r)$$

$$h_{t+1} = \tanh(W_{hh}(r \odot h_t) + \tanh(x_t) + b_h) \odot z + h_t \odot (1 - z)$$

MUT2:

$$z = \text{sigm}(W_{xz}x_t + W_{hz}h_t + b_z)$$

$$r = \text{sigm}(x_t + W_{hr}h_t + b_r)$$

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

MUT3:

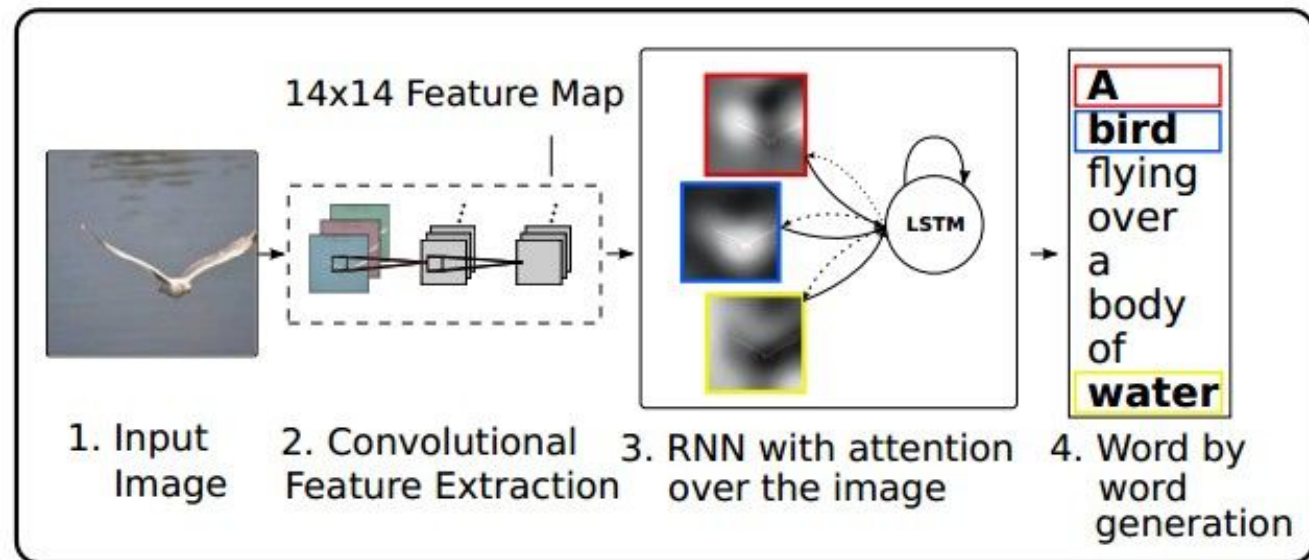
$$z = \text{sigm}(W_{xz}x_t + W_{hz} \tanh(h_t) + b_z)$$

$$r = \text{sigm}(W_{xr}x_t + W_{hr}h_t + b_r)$$

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

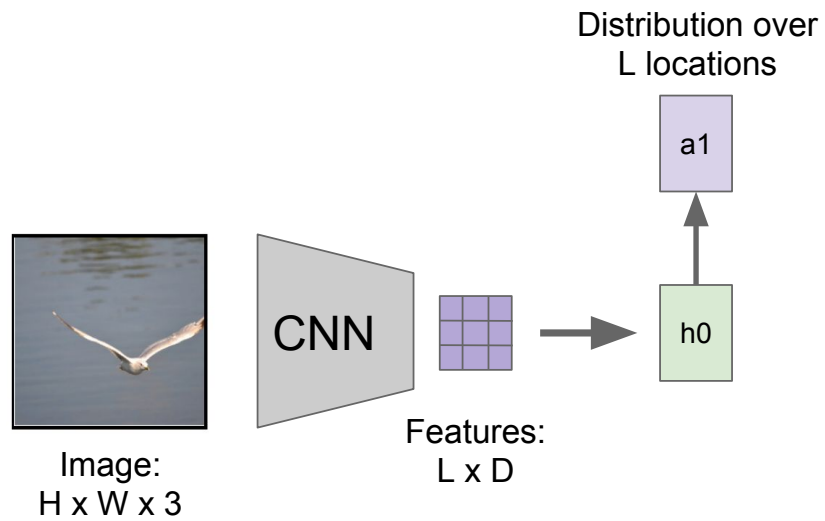
# Image Captioning with Attention

RNN focuses its attention at a different spatial location when generating each word



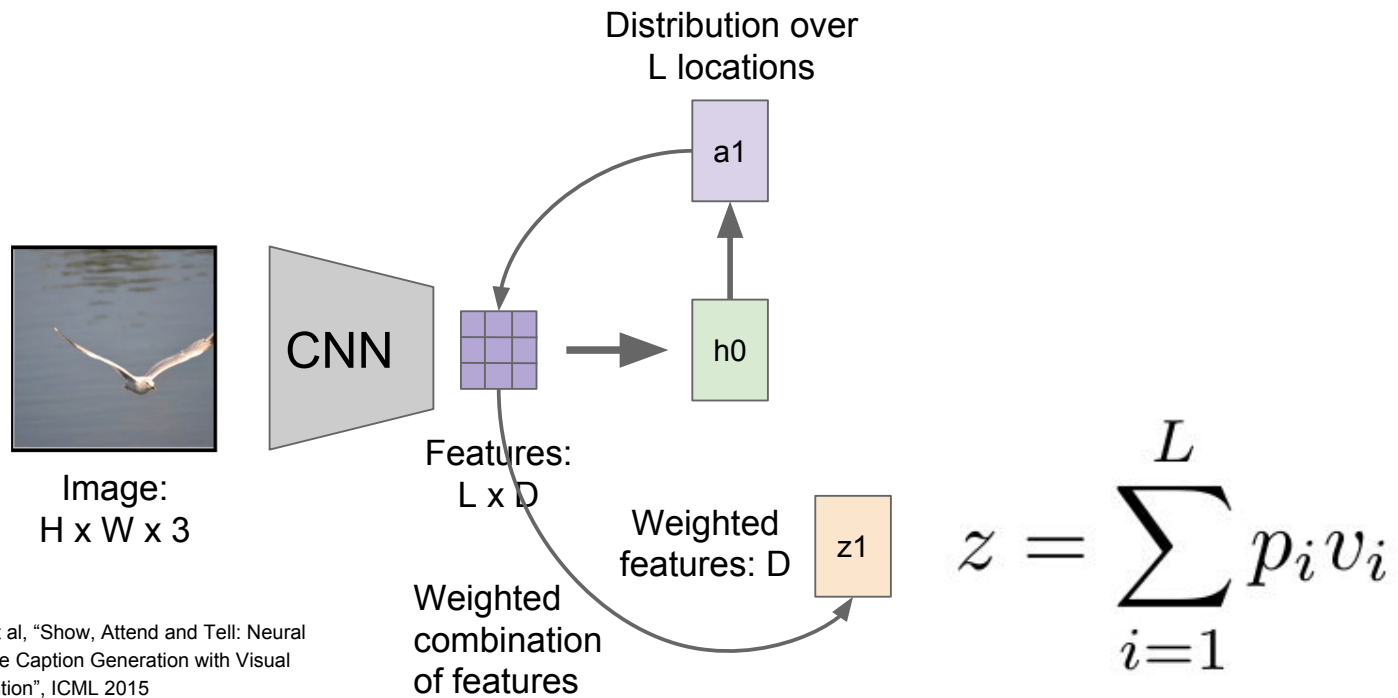
Xu et al. "Show, Attend, and Tell: Neural Image Caption Generation with Visual Attention", ICML 2015  
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# Image Captioning with Attention



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

# Image Captioning with Attention

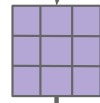
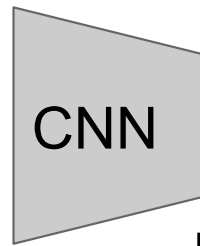




# Image Captioning with Attention

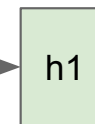
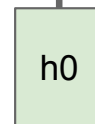
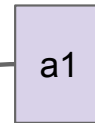


Image:  
 $H \times W \times 3$

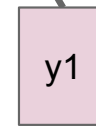
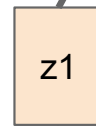


Features:  
 $L \times D$

Distribution over  
 $L$  locations



Weighted  
features:  $D$



First word

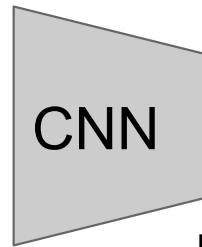
Weighted  
combination  
of features

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

# Image Captioning with Attention



Image:  
 $H \times W \times 3$

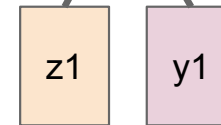
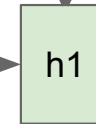
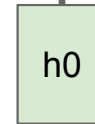
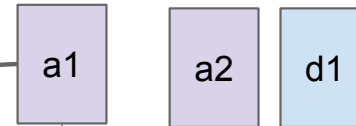


Features:  
 $L \times D$

Weighted  
combination  
of features

Distribution over  
 $L$  locations

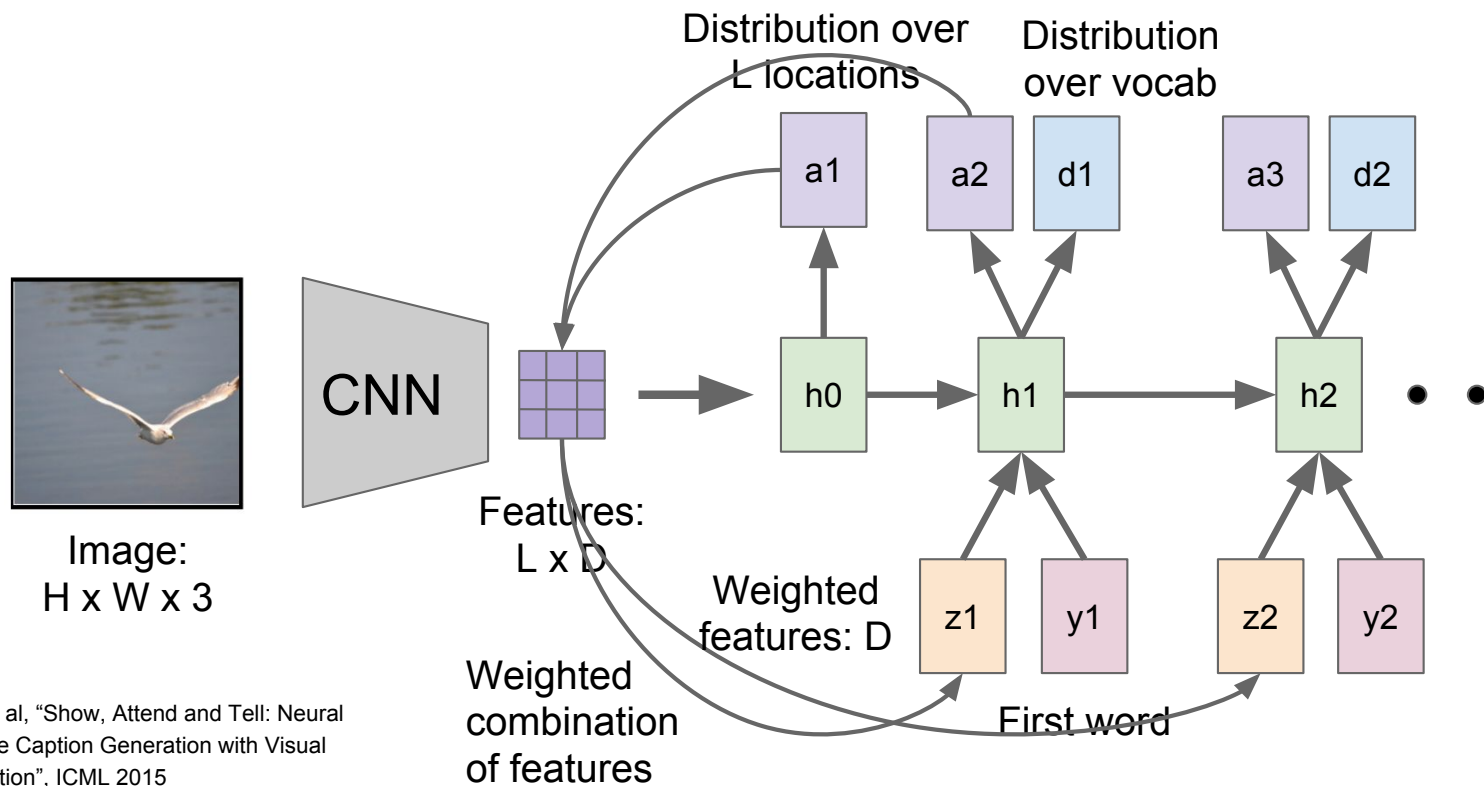
Distribution  
over vocab



First word

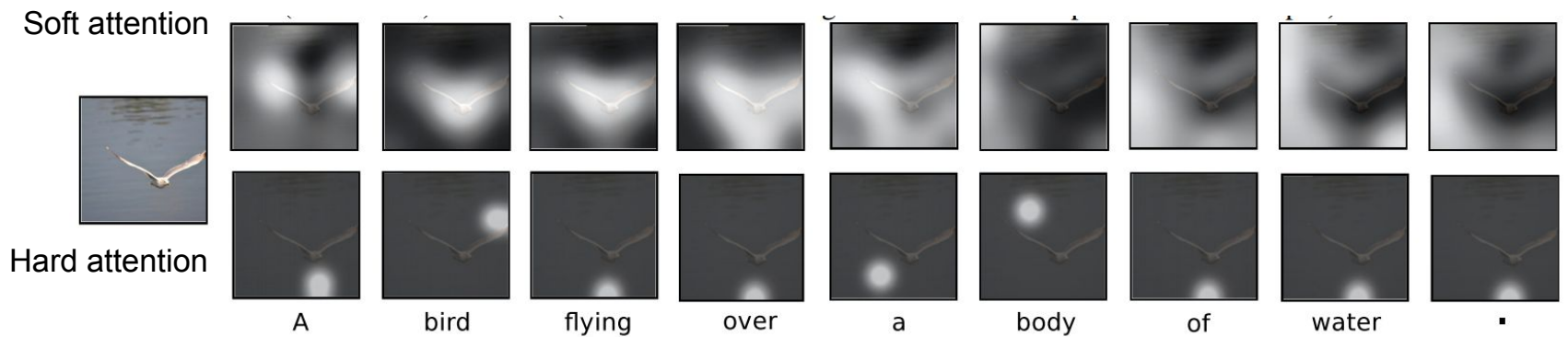
Xu et al, "Show, Attend and Tell: Neural  
Image Caption Generation with Visual  
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Xu et al, "Show, Attend and Tell: Neural Image Caption Generation with Visual Attention", ICML 2015

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

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# Image Captioning with Attention



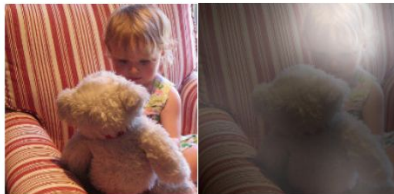
A woman is throwing a frisbee in a park.



A dog is standing on a hardwood floor.



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



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



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



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



# Summary



- ▶ RNN is flexible in architectures
- ▶ Vanilla RNNs are simple but don't work very well
- ▶ Common to use LSTM or GRU: their additive interactions improve gradient flow
  - ▶ Backward flow of gradients in RNN can explode or vanish.
  - ▶ Exploding is controlled with gradient clipping.
  - ▶ Vanishing is controlled with additive interactions
- ▶ Better/simpler architectures are a hot topic of current research
- ▶ Better understanding (both theoretical and empirical) is needed

Thank you!

