

# Recurrent Neural Networks

Adapted from Arun Mallya  
Source: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)  
Slides adapted from L. Lazebnik, P. Krahen

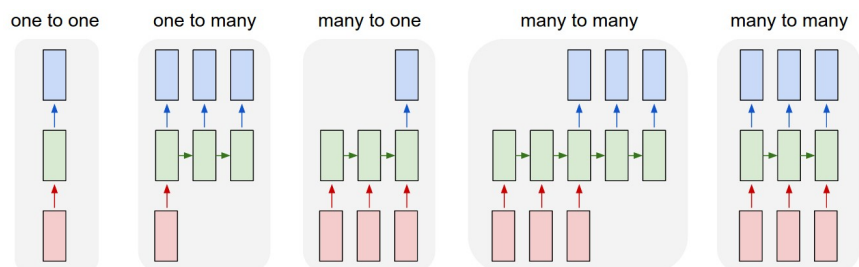
## Outline

- Sequential prediction problems
- Vanilla RNN unit
  - Forward and backward pass
  - Back-propagation through time (BPTT)
- Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) unit
- Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)
- Applications

## Sequential prediction tasks

- So far, we focused mainly on prediction problems with fixed-size inputs and outputs
- But what if the input and/or output is a variable-length sequence?

## Types of problems

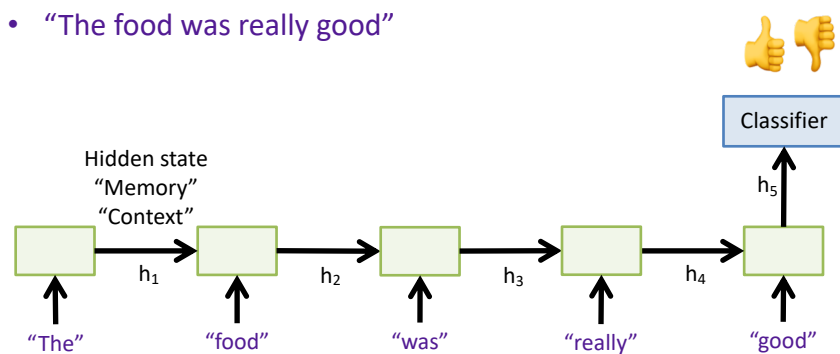


## Text classification

- **Sentiment classification:** classify a restaurant or movie or product review as positive or negative
  - “The food was really good”
  - “The vacuum cleaner broke within two weeks”
  - “The movie had slow parts, but overall was worth watching”
- What feature representation or predictor structure can we use for this problem?

## Sentiment classification

- “The food was really good”



Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)

# Language Modeling



# Language Modeling

## Character RNN

<http://tommymullaney.com/projects/char-rnn-gchat>

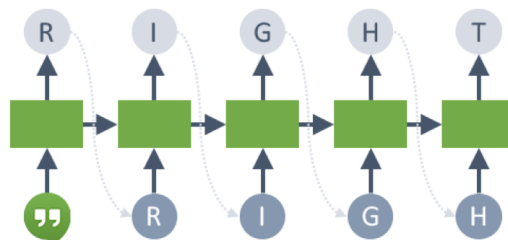
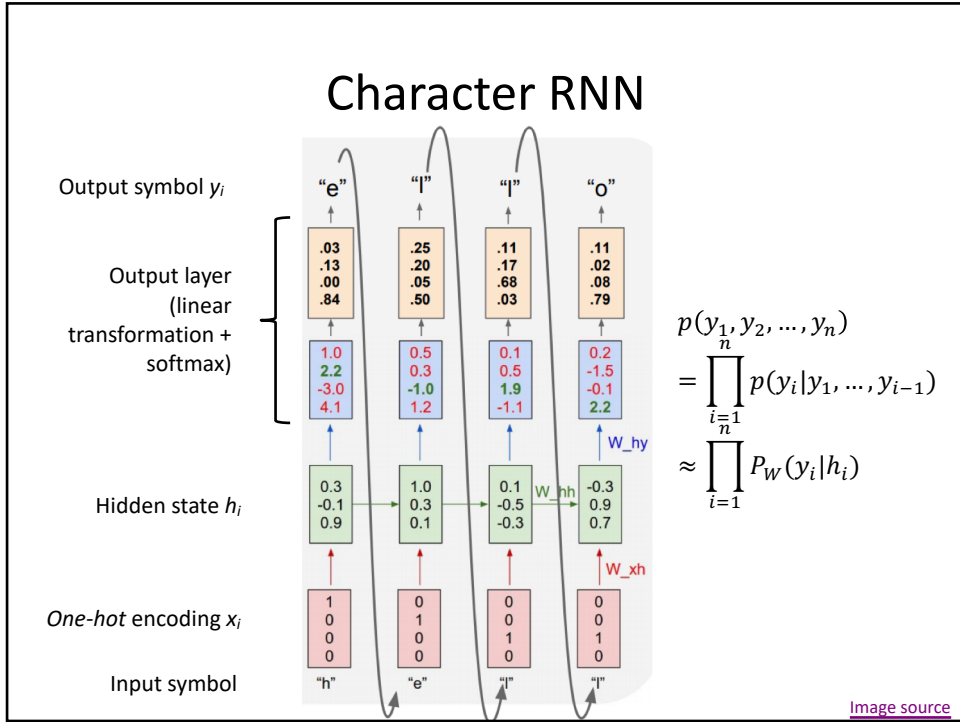


Image source



### Character RNN

- Generating paint colors

<table border="0"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #4b4b4b;"></td><td>Clardic Fug 112 113 84</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #8c8c4b;"></td><td>Snowbonk 201 199 165</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #4b4b2d;"></td><td>Catbabel 97 93 68</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #8c8c4b;"></td><td>Bunflow 190 174 155</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #4b4b4b;"></td><td>Ronching Blue 121 114 125</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #8c8c4b;"></td><td>Bank Butt 221 196 199</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #4b4b4b;"></td><td>Caring Tan 171 166 170</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #8c8c4b;"></td><td>Stargoos 233 191 141</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #4b4b2d;"></td><td>Sink 176 138 110</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #8c8c4b;"></td><td>Stummy Beige 216 200 185</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #4b4b4b;"></td><td>Dorkwood 61 63 66</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #8c8c4b;"></td><td>Flower 178 184 196</td></tr> </table>		Clardic Fug 112 113 84		Snowbonk 201 199 165		Catbabel 97 93 68		Bunflow 190 174 155		Ronching Blue 121 114 125		Bank Butt 221 196 199		Caring Tan 171 166 170		Stargoos 233 191 141		Sink 176 138 110		Stummy Beige 216 200 185		Dorkwood 61 63 66		Flower 178 184 196	<table border="0"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #8c8c4b;"></td><td>Sand Dan 201 172 143</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #4b4b4b;"></td><td>Grade Bat 48 94 83</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #8c8c4b;"></td><td>Light Of Blast 175 150 147</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #4b4b2d;"></td><td>Grass Bat 176 99 108</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #8c8c4b;"></td><td>Sindis Poop 204 205 194</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #4b4b4b;"></td><td>Dope 219 209 179</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #8c8c4b;"></td><td>Testing 156 101 106</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #4b4b4b;"></td><td>Stoner Blue 152 165 159</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #8c8c4b;"></td><td>Burple Simp 226 181 132</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #4b4b4b;"></td><td>Stanky Bean 197 162 171</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 15px; background-color: #8c8c4b;"></td><td>Turdly 190 164 116</td></tr> </table>		Sand Dan 201 172 143		Grade Bat 48 94 83		Light Of Blast 175 150 147		Grass Bat 176 99 108		Sindis Poop 204 205 194		Dope 219 209 179		Testing 156 101 106		Stoner Blue 152 165 159		Burple Simp 226 181 132		Stanky Bean 197 162 171		Turdly 190 164 116
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<http://aiweirdness.com/post/160776374467/new-paint-colors-invented-by-neural-network>

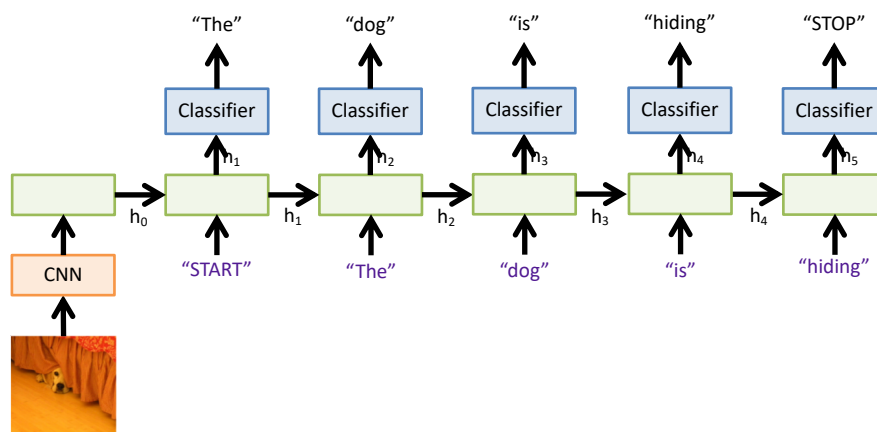
## Image Caption Generation

- Given an image, produce a sentence describing its contents



"The dog is hiding"

## Image Caption Generation



# Machine translation

The screenshot shows the Google Translate interface. On the left, the original French text is displayed under the heading "Correspondances" by Charles Baudelaire. On the right, the translated English text is shown under the heading "Matches". The interface includes language selection dropdowns for both source and target languages, a "Translate" button, and a "Turn off instant translation" toggle.

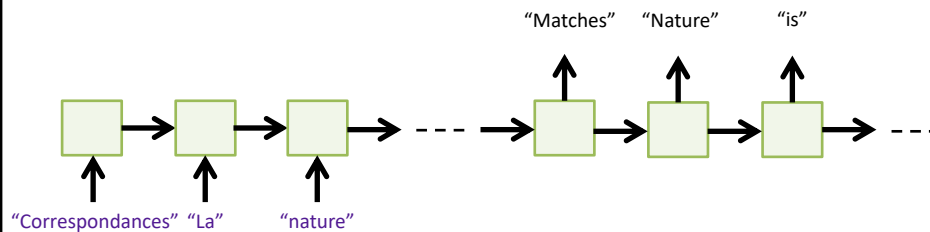
Correspondances  
 La Nature est un temple où de vivants piliers  
 Laisseront parfois sortir de confuses paroles;  
 L'homme y passe à travers des forêts de symboles  
 Qui l'observent avec des regards familiers.  
 Comme de longs échos qui de loin se confondent  
 Dans une ténébreuse et profonde unité,  
 Vaste comme la nuit et comme la clarté,  
 Les parfums, les couleurs et les sons se répondent.  
 Il est des parfums frais comme des chairs d'enfants,  
 Doux comme les hautbois, verts comme les prairies,  
 — Et d'autres, corrompus, riches et triomphants,  
 Ayant l'expansion des choses infinies,  
 Comme l'ambre, le musc, le benjoin et l'encens,  
 Qui chantent les transports de l'esprit et des sens.  
 — Charles Baudelaire

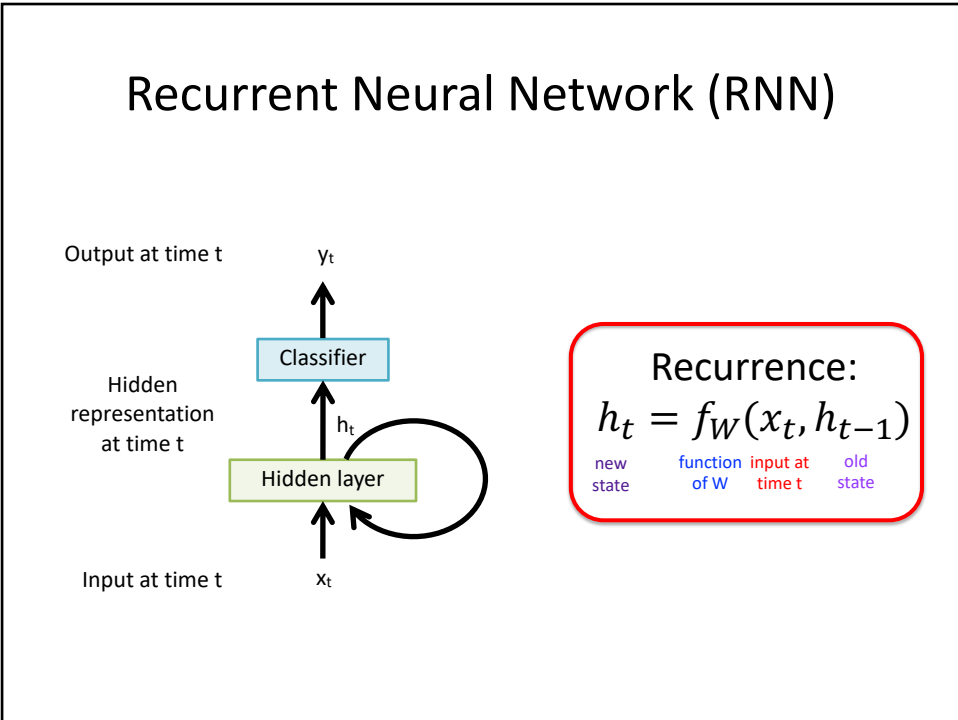
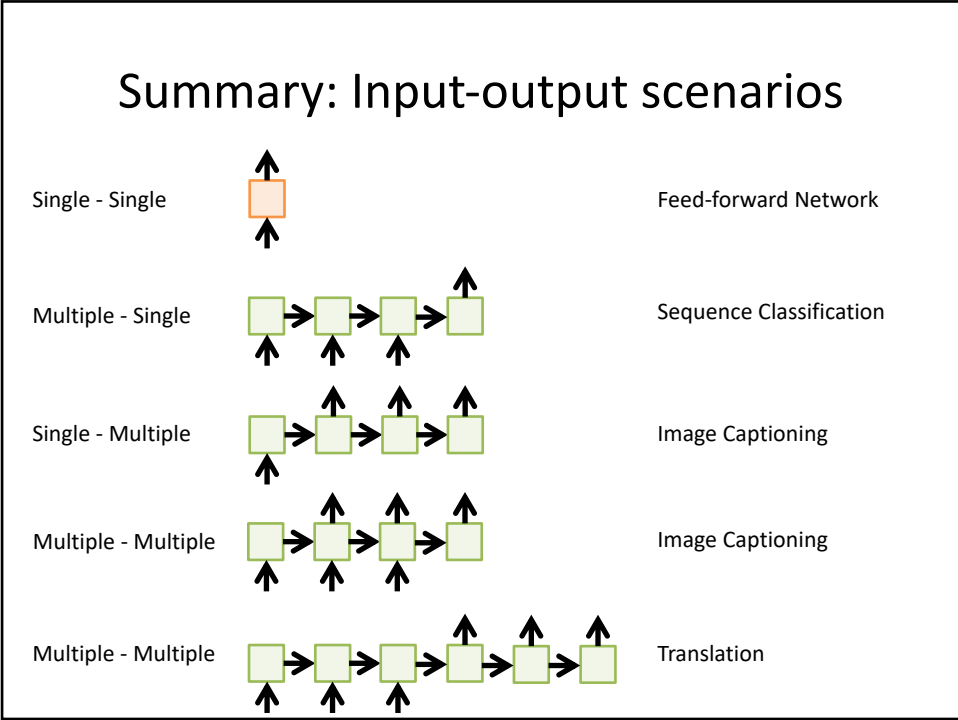
Matches  
 Nature is a temple where living pillars  
 Sometimes let out confused words;  
 Man goes through symbol forests  
 Which observe him with familiar eyes.  
 Like long echoes that by far merge  
 In a dark and deep unity,  
 As vast as the night and as clarity,  
 The perfumes, the colors and the sounds answer each  
 other.  
 There are fresh perfumes like children's flesh,  
 Sweet like oboes, green like meadows,  
 - And others, corrupt, rich and triumphant,  
 Having the expansion of infinite things,  
 Like amber, musk, benzoin and incense,  
 Who sing the transports of the mind and the senses.  
 - Charles Baudelaire

<https://translate.google.com/>

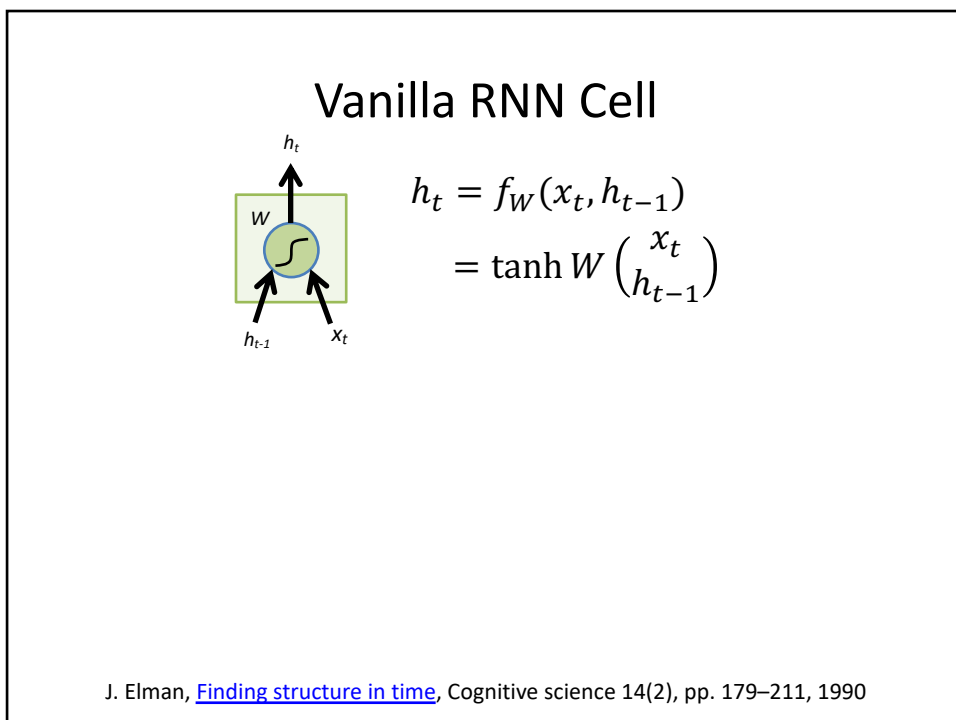
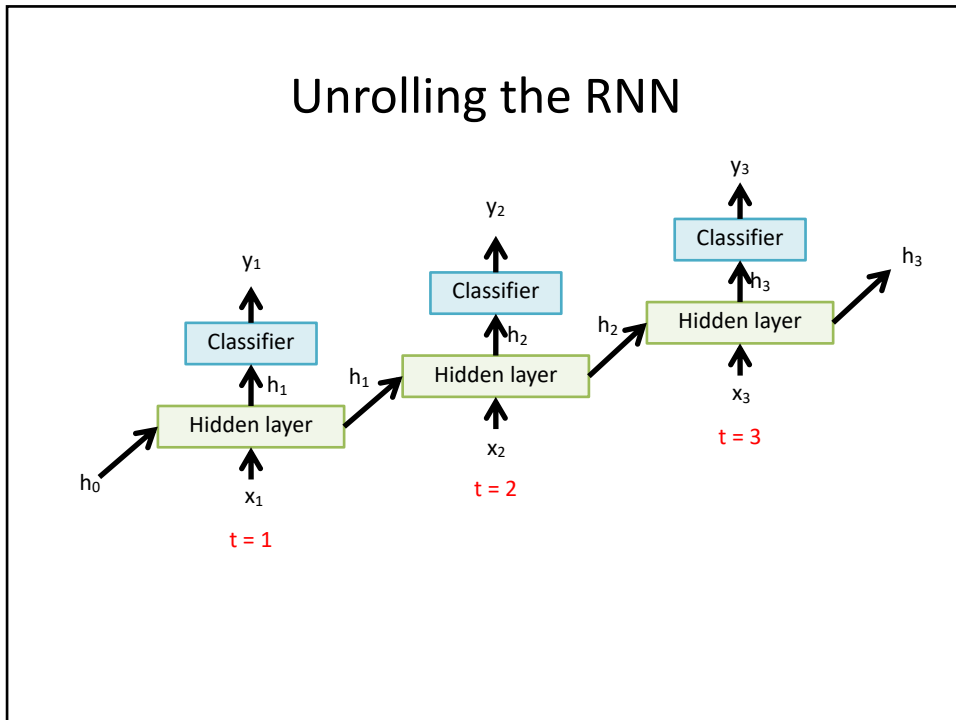
# Machine translation

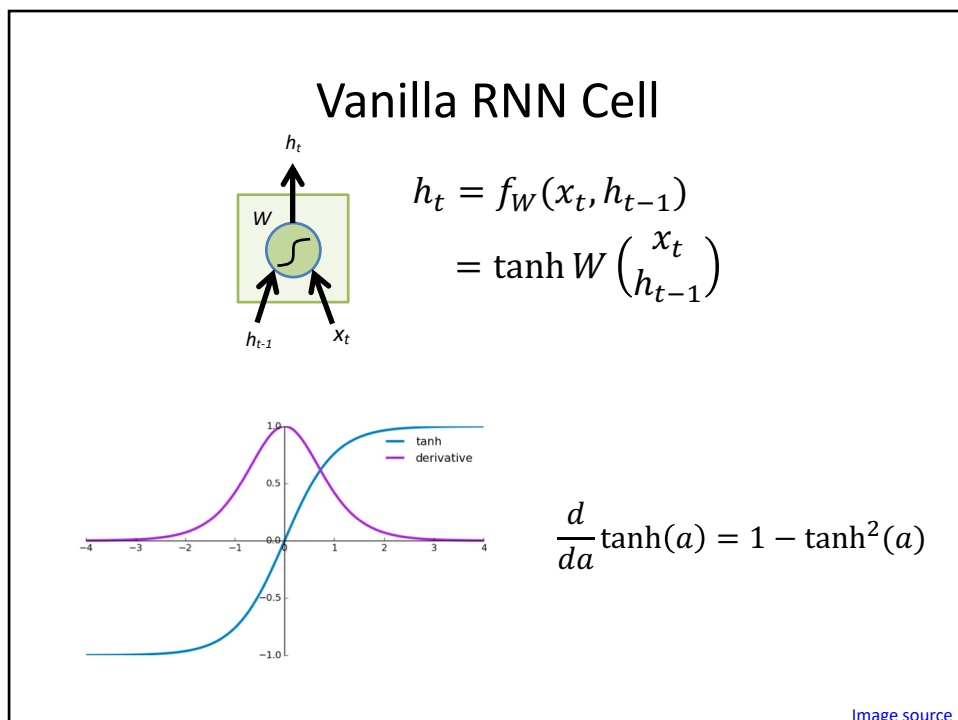
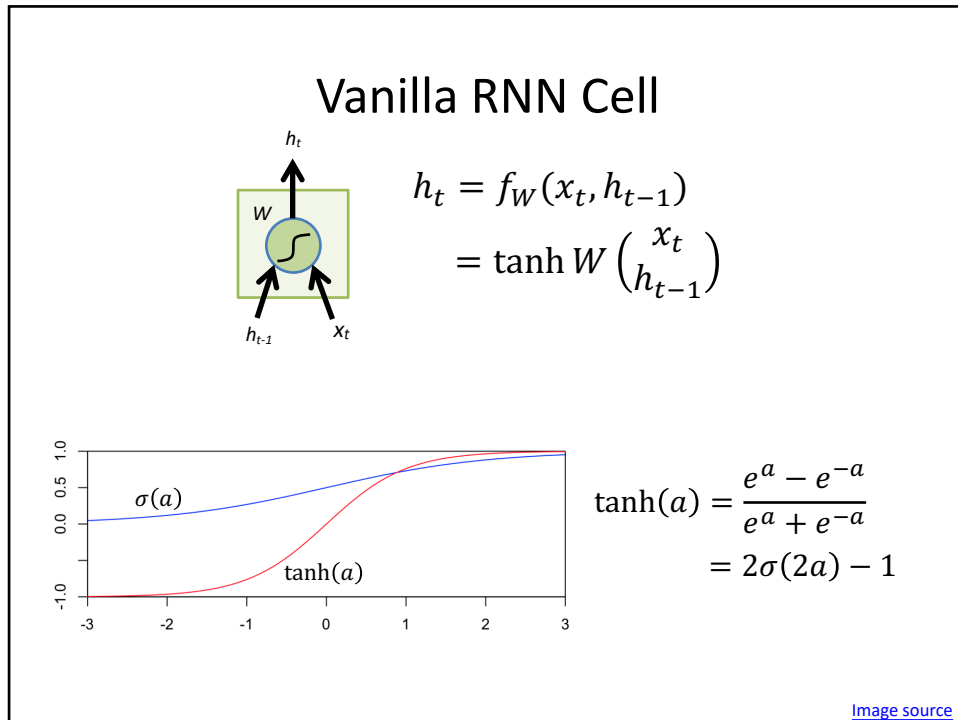
- Multiple input – multiple output (or sequence to sequence)

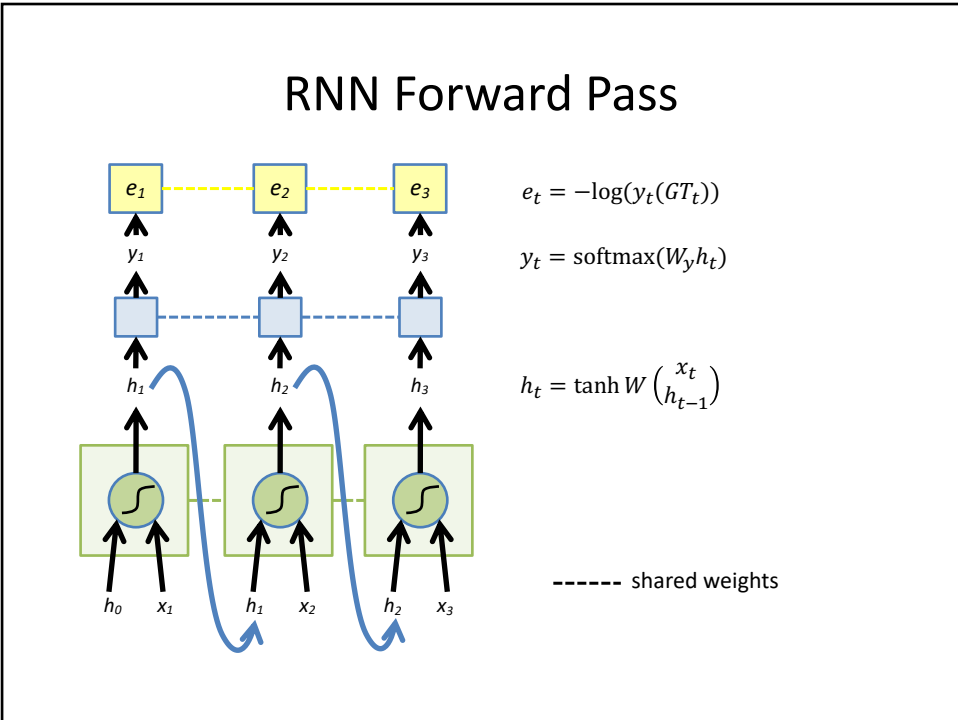
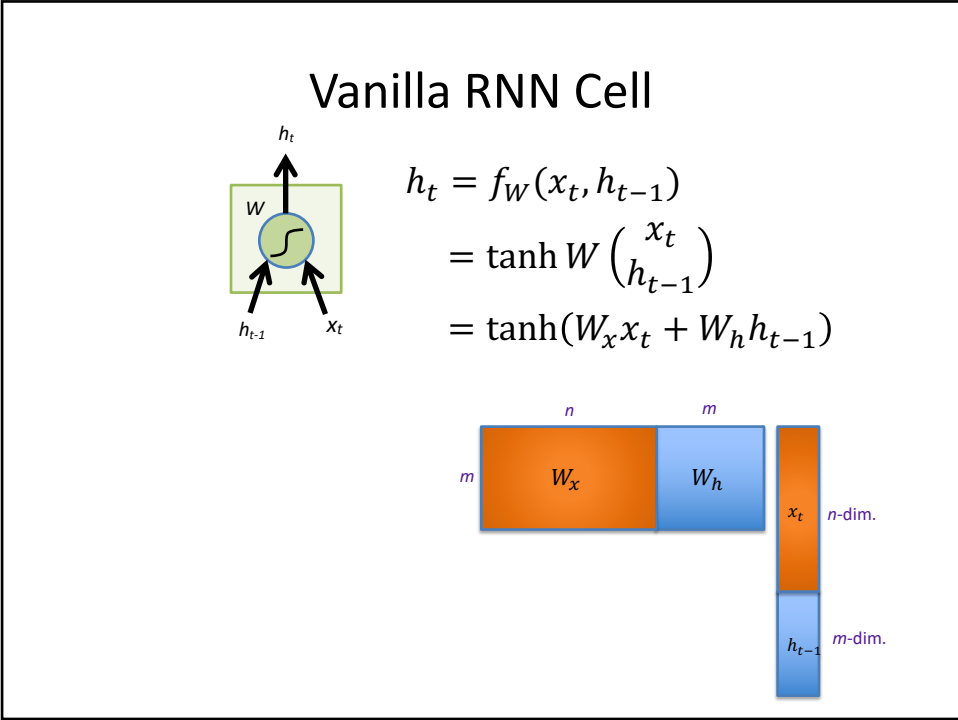








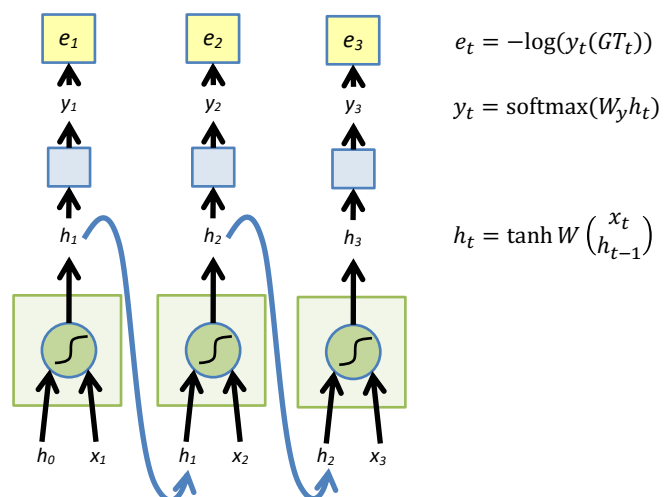


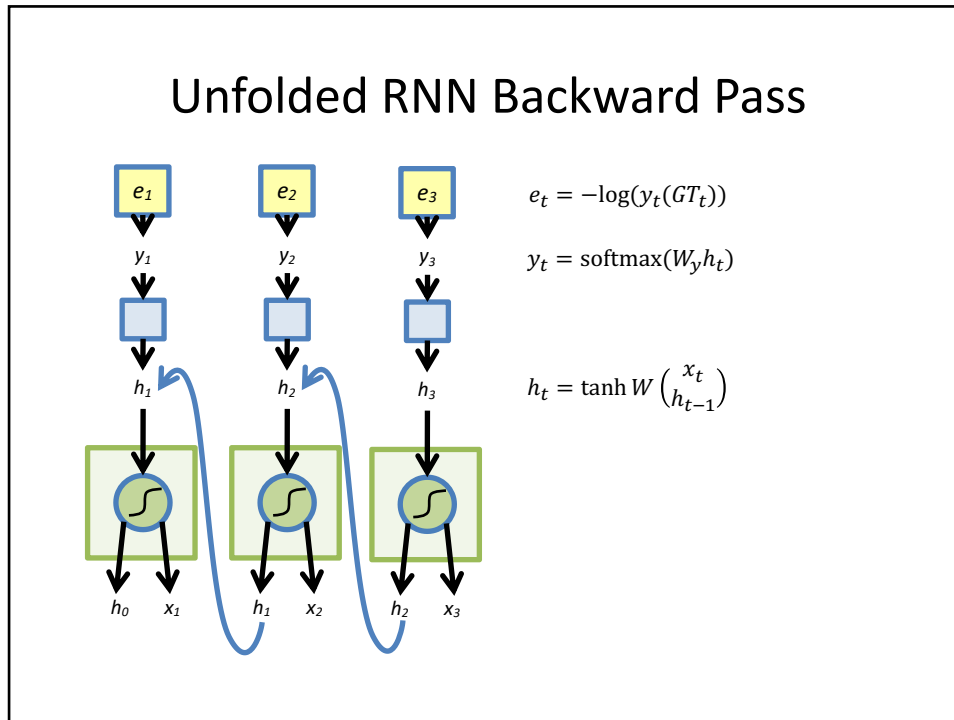


## Backpropagation Through Time (BPTT)

- Most common method used to train RNNs
- The unfolded network (used during forward pass) is treated as one big feed-forward network that accepts the whole time series as input
- The weight updates are computed for each copy in the unfolded network, then summed (or averaged) and applied to the RNN weights

## Unfolded RNN Forward Pass





## Backpropagation Through Time (BPTT)

- Most common method used to train RNNs
- The unfolded network (used during forward pass) is treated as one big feed-forward network that accepts the whole time series as input
- The weight updates are computed for each copy in the unfolded network, then summed (or averaged) and applied to the RNN weights
- In practice, *truncated* BPTT is used: run the RNN forward  $k_1$  time steps, propagate backward for  $k_2$  time steps

<https://machinelearningmastery.com/gentle-introduction-backpropagation-time/>  
[http://www.cs.utoronto.ca/~ilya/pubs/ilya\\_sutskever\\_phd\\_thesis.pdf](http://www.cs.utoronto.ca/~ilya/pubs/ilya_sutskever_phd_thesis.pdf)

### RNN Backward Pass

$$h_t = \tanh(W_x x_t + W_h h_{t-1})$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial W_h} = \frac{\partial e}{\partial h_t} \odot (1 - \tanh^2(W_x x_t + W_h h_{t-1})) h_{t-1}^T$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial W_x} = \frac{\partial e}{\partial h_t} \odot (1 - \tanh^2(W_x x_t + W_h h_{t-1})) x_t^T$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial h_{t-1}} = W_h^T (1 - \tanh^2(W_x x_t + W_h h_{t-1})) \odot \frac{\partial e}{\partial h_t}$$

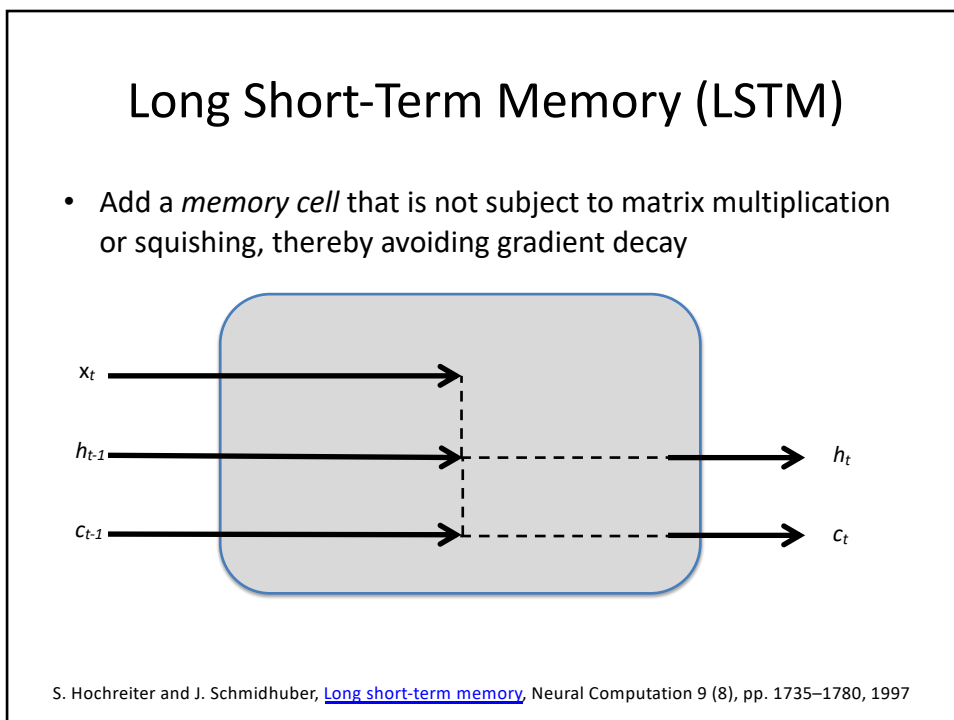
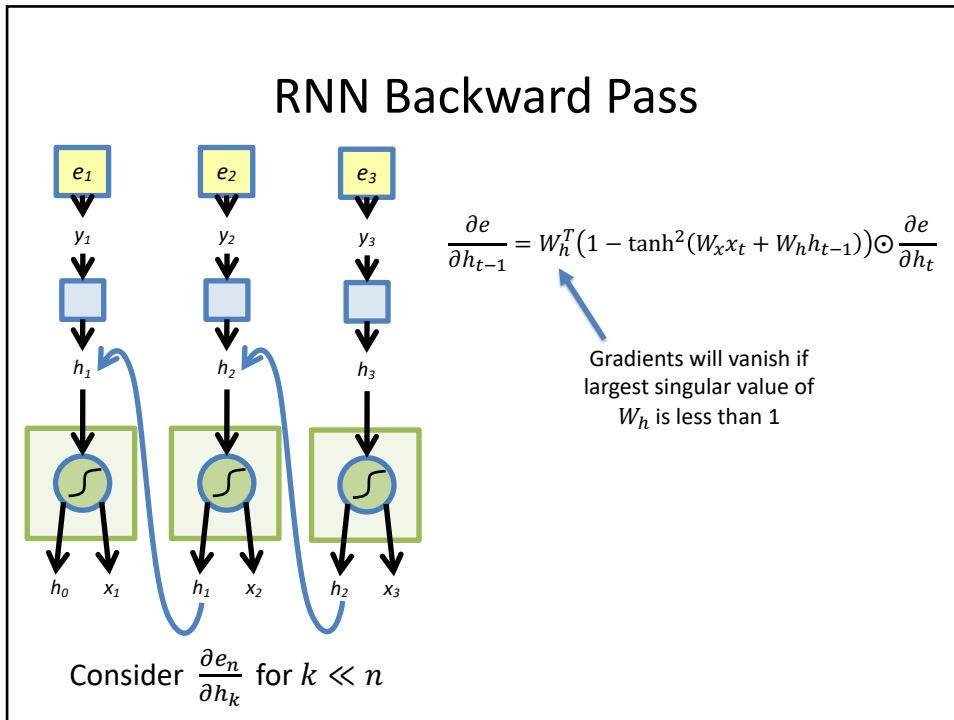
Propagate to earlier time steps

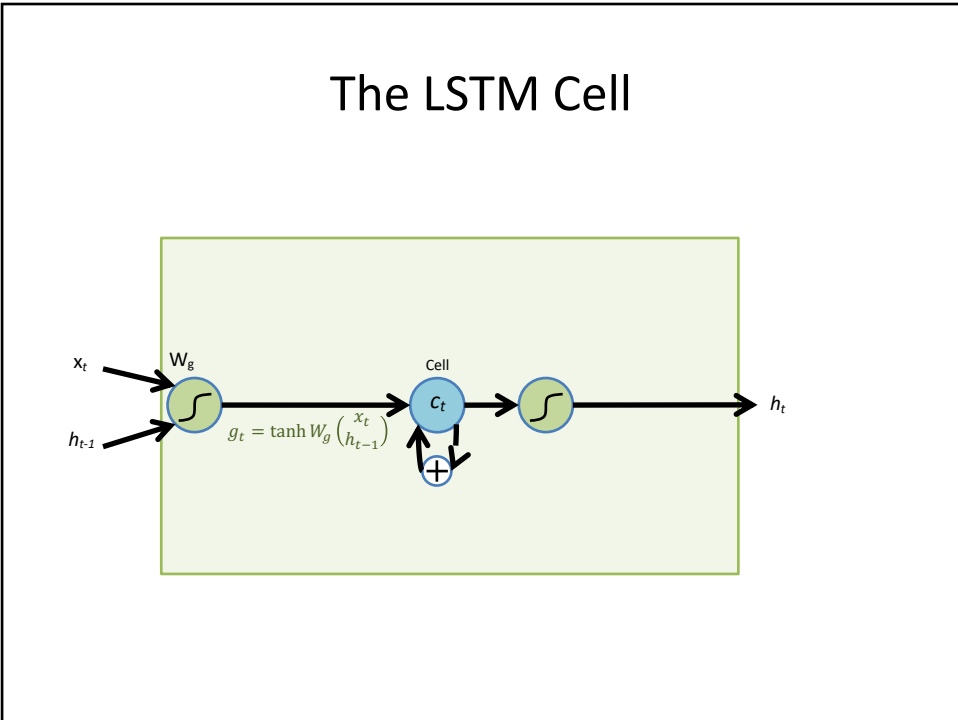
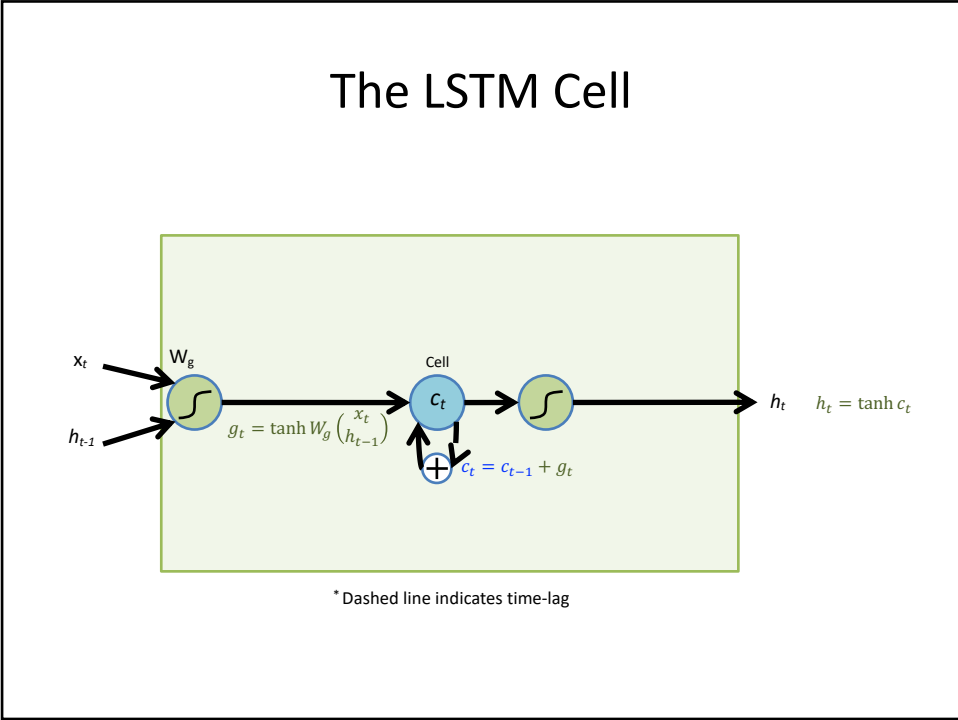
### RNN Backward Pass

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial h_{t-1}} = W_h^T (1 - \tanh^2(W_x x_t + W_h h_{t-1})) \odot \frac{\partial e}{\partial h_t}$$

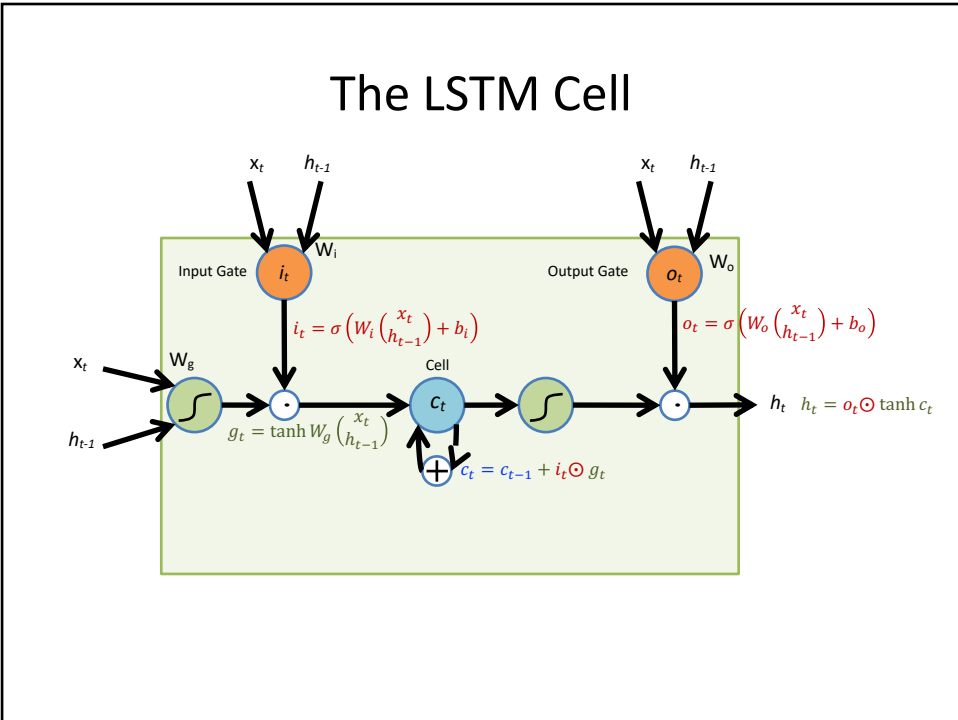
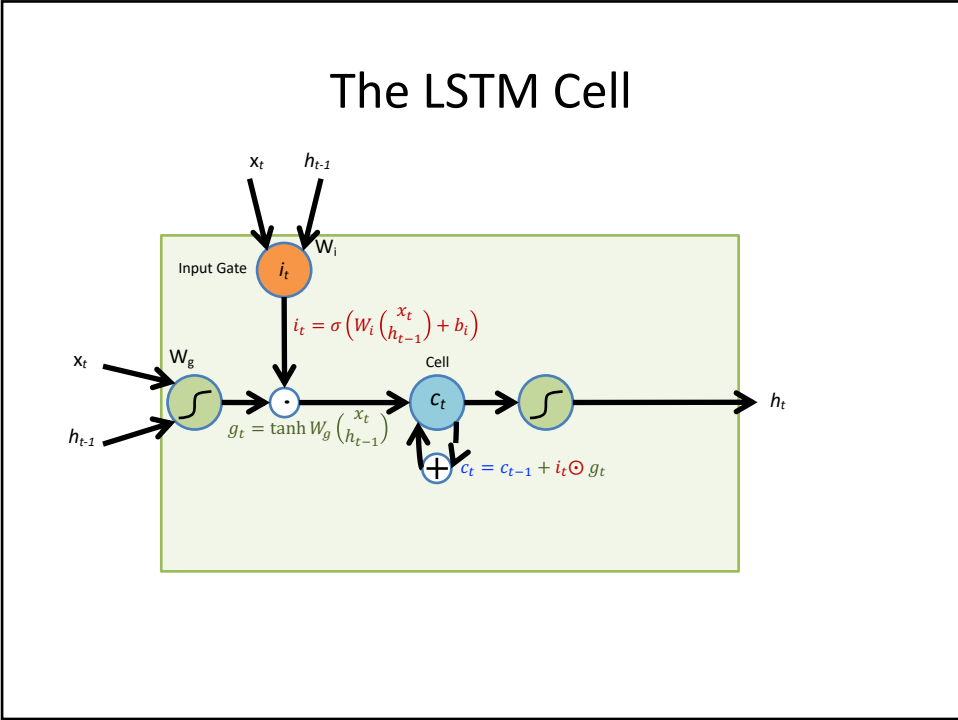
Large tanh activations will give small gradients

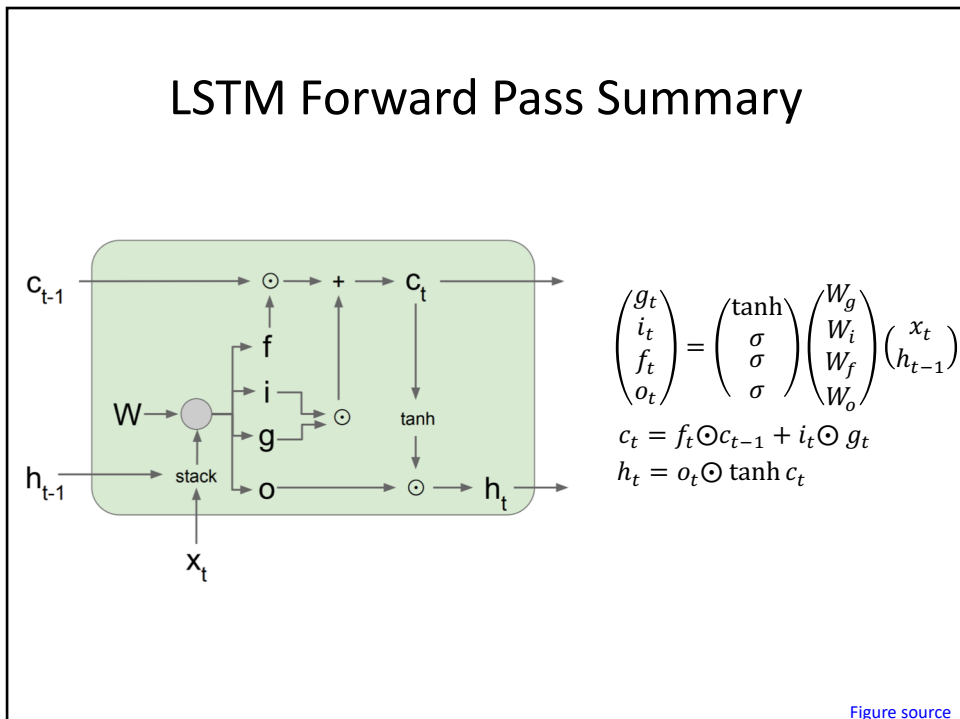
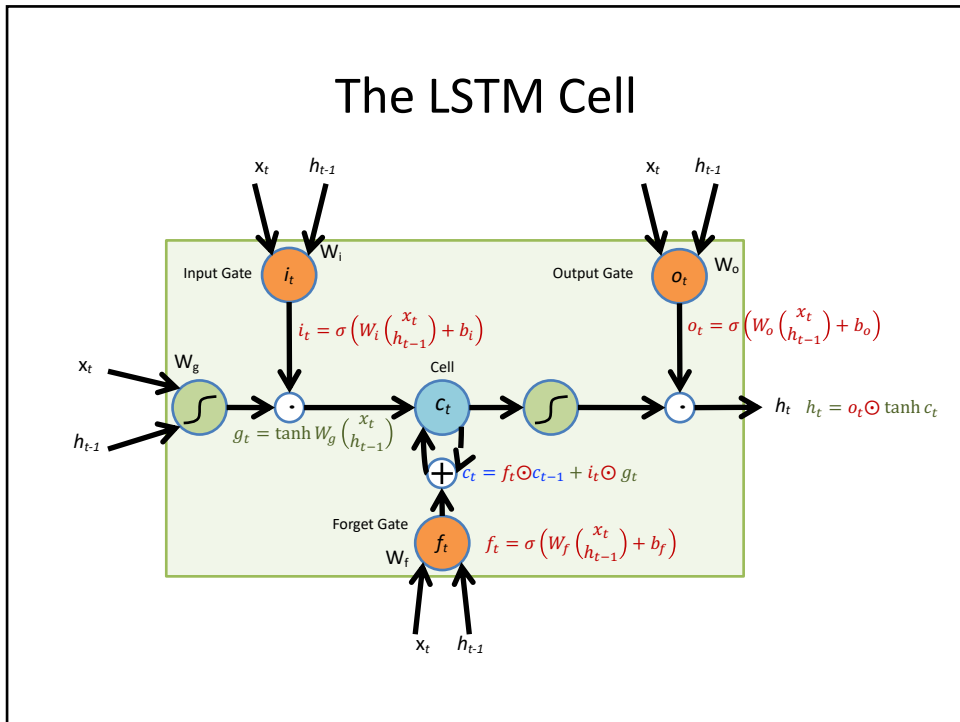
Consider  $\frac{\partial e_n}{\partial h_k}$  for  $k \ll n$

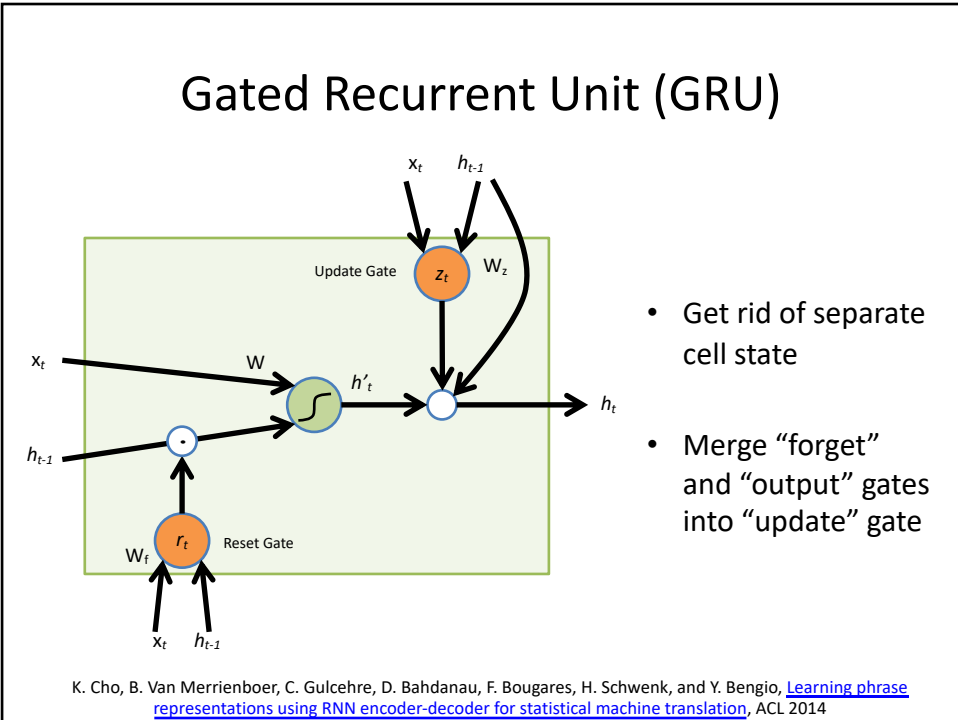
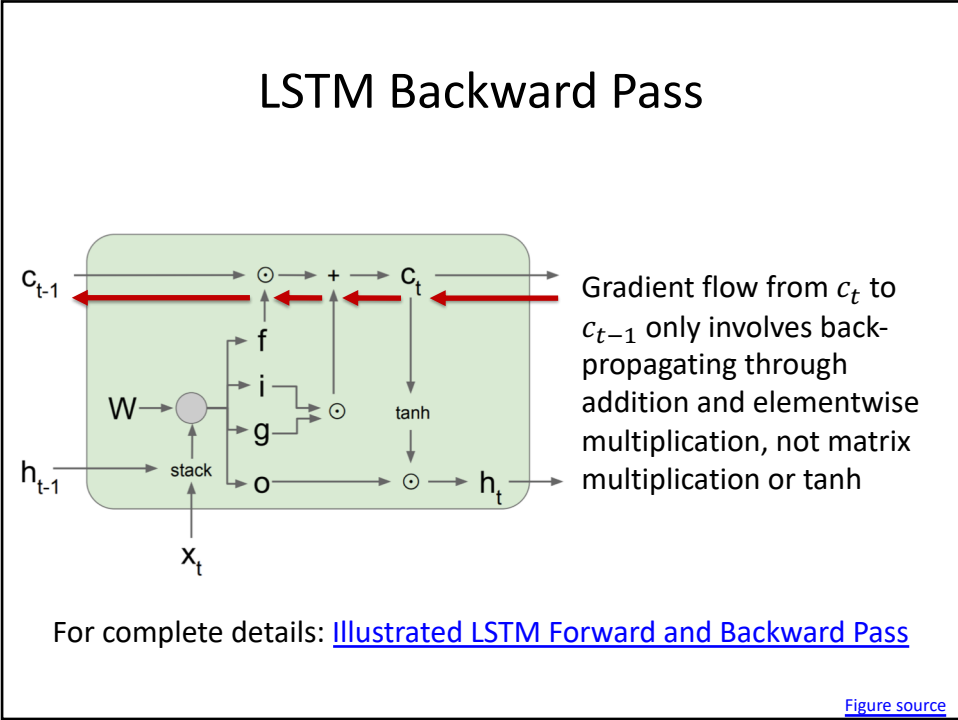




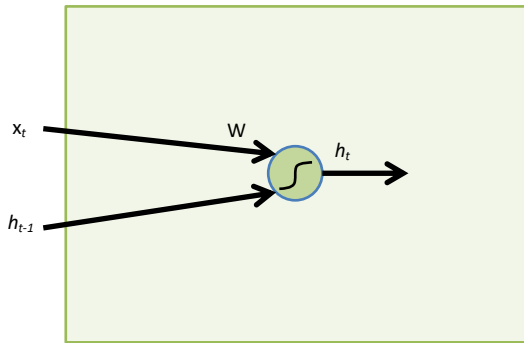






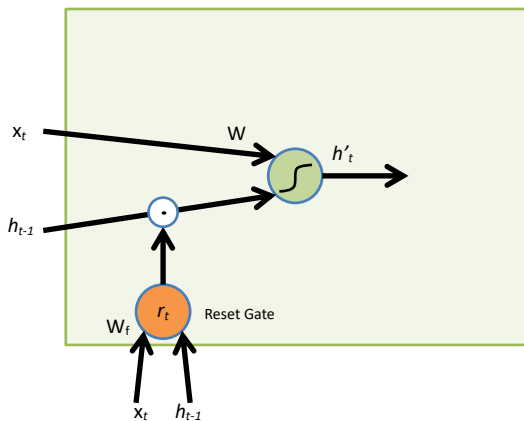


## Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)



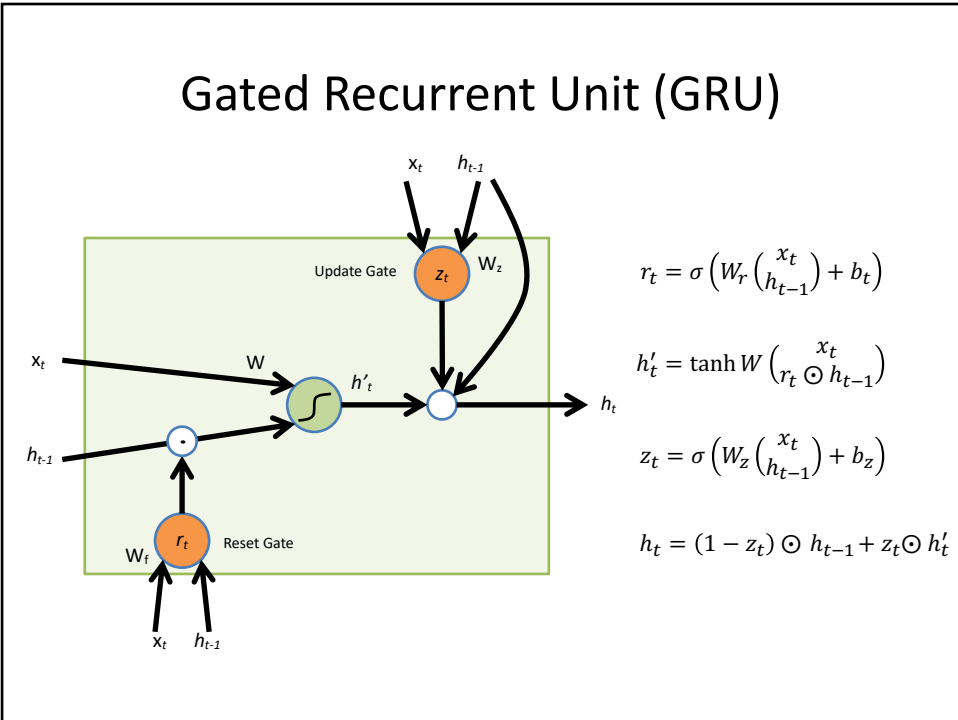
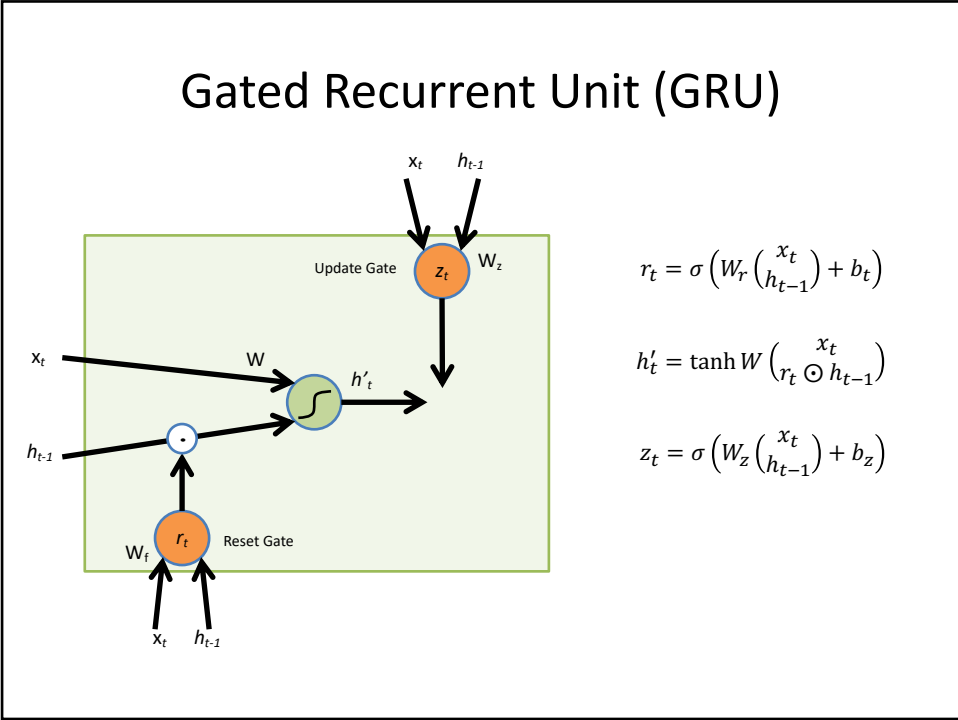
$$h_t = \tanh W \begin{pmatrix} x_t \\ h_{t-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

## Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)



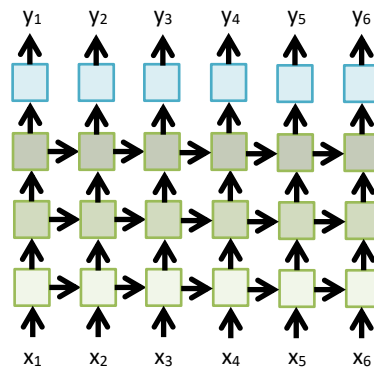
$$r_t = \sigma \left( W_r \begin{pmatrix} x_t \\ h_{t-1} \end{pmatrix} + b_r \right)$$

$$h'_t = \tanh W \begin{pmatrix} x_t \\ r_t \odot h_{t-1} \end{pmatrix}$$



## Multi-layer RNNs

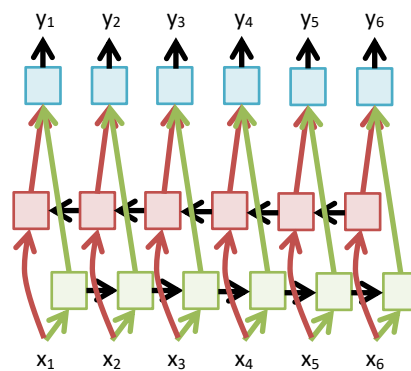
- We can of course design RNNs with multiple hidden layers



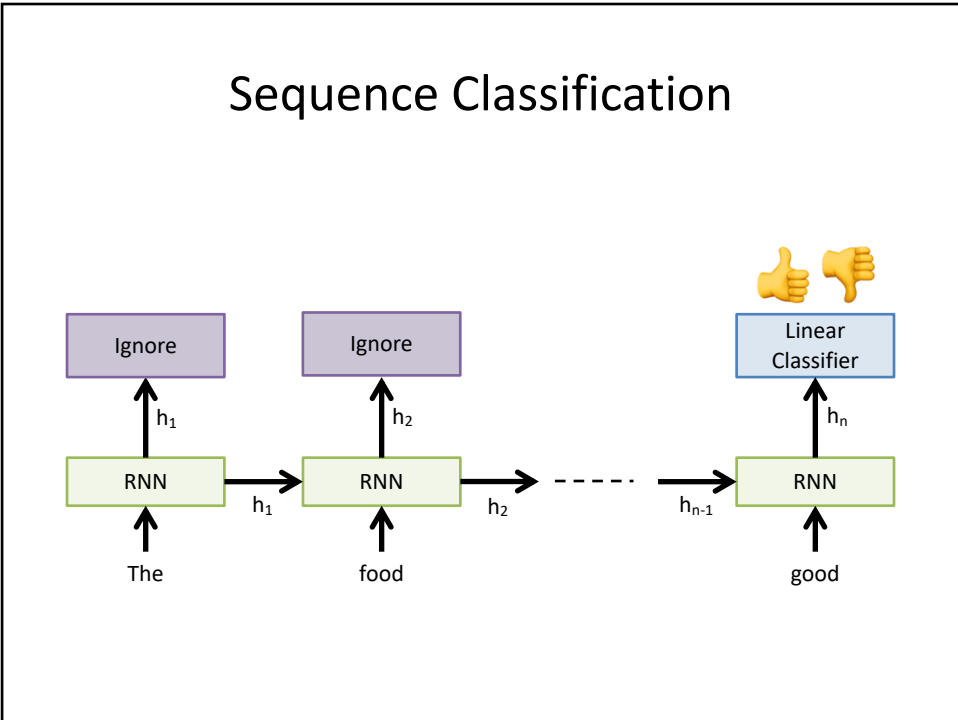
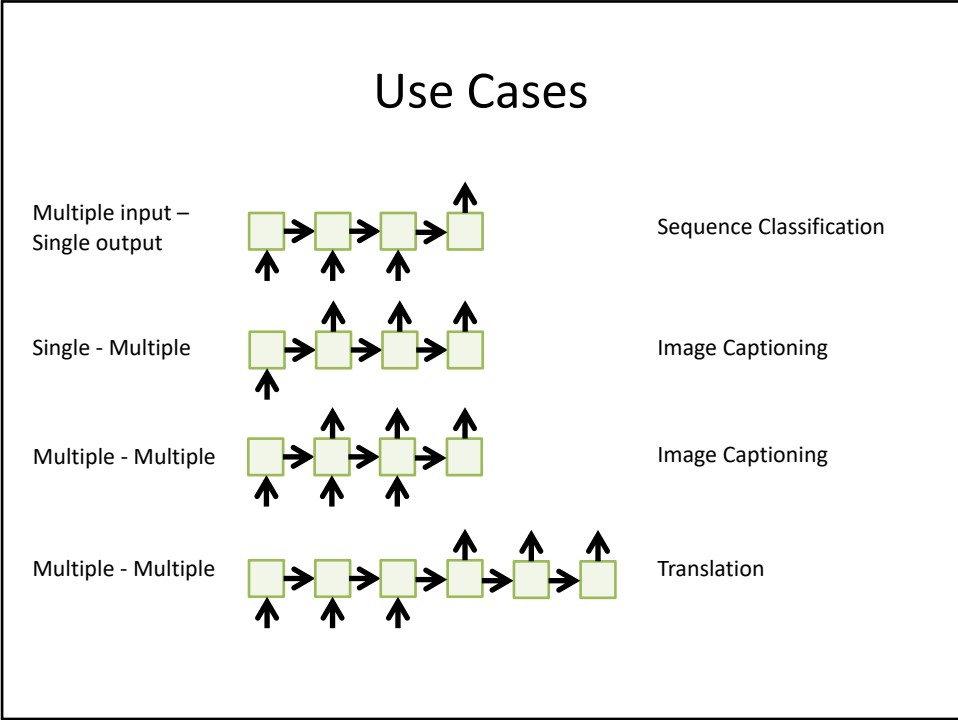
- Anything goes: skip connections across layers, across time, ...

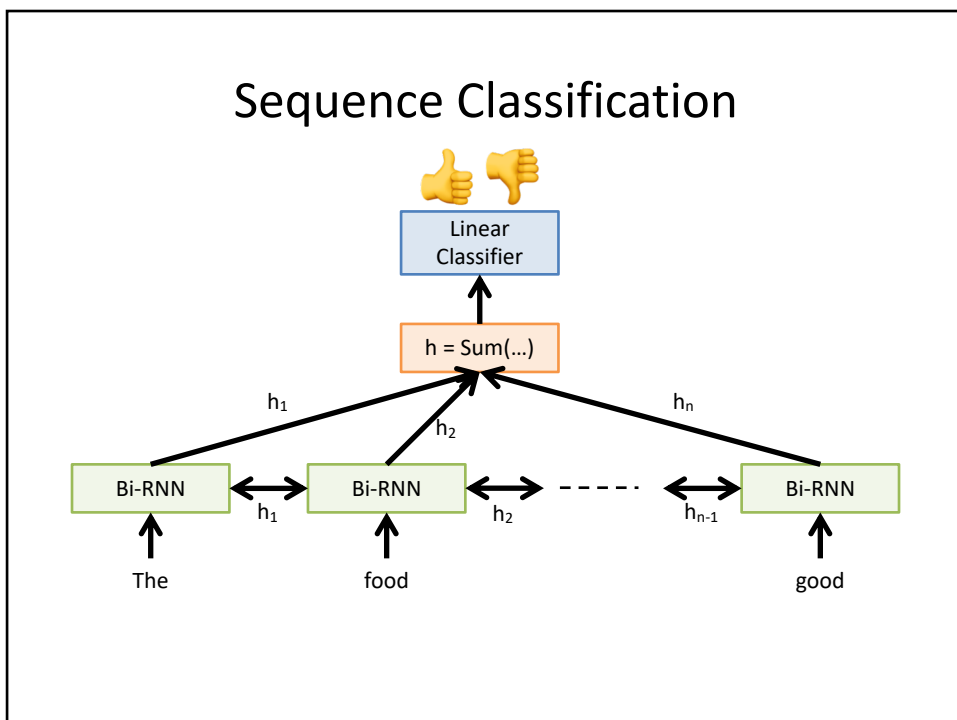
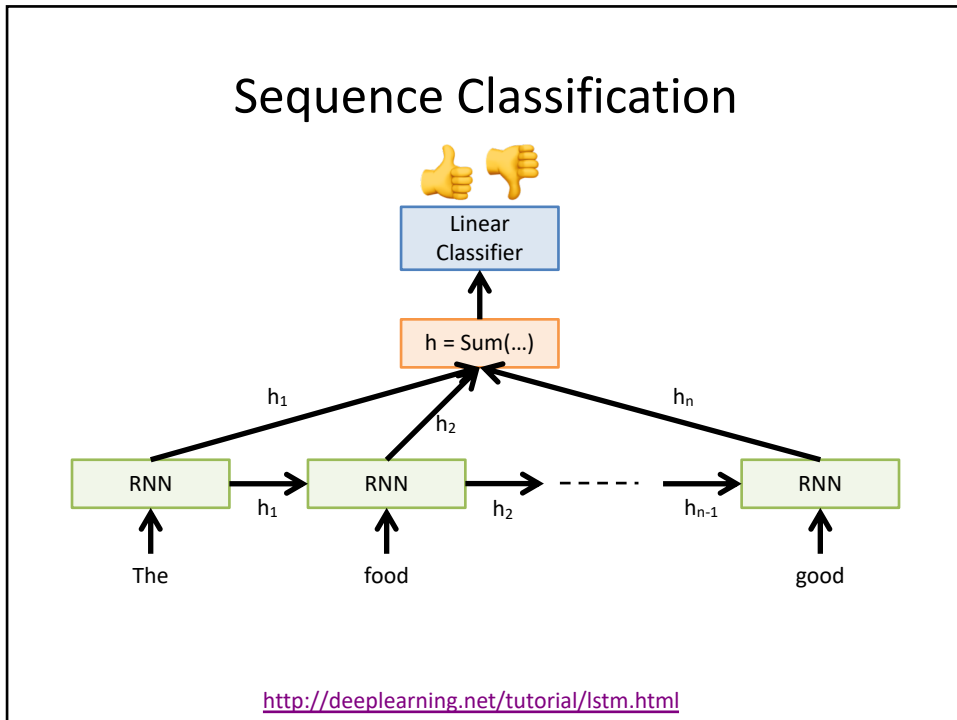
## Bi-directional RNNs

- RNNs can process the input sequence in forward and in the reverse direction

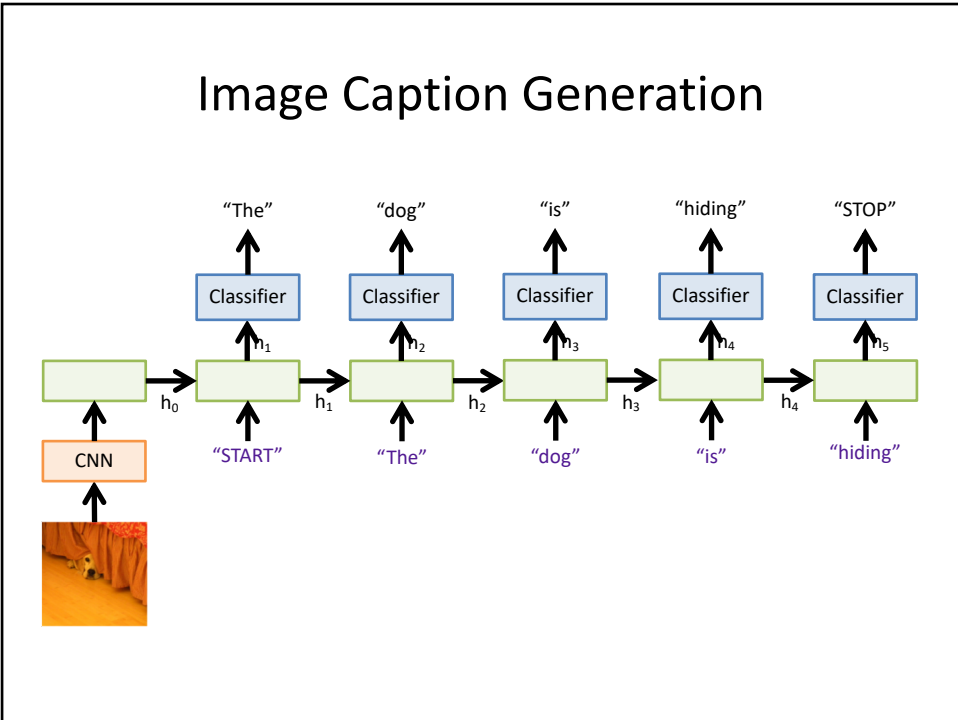
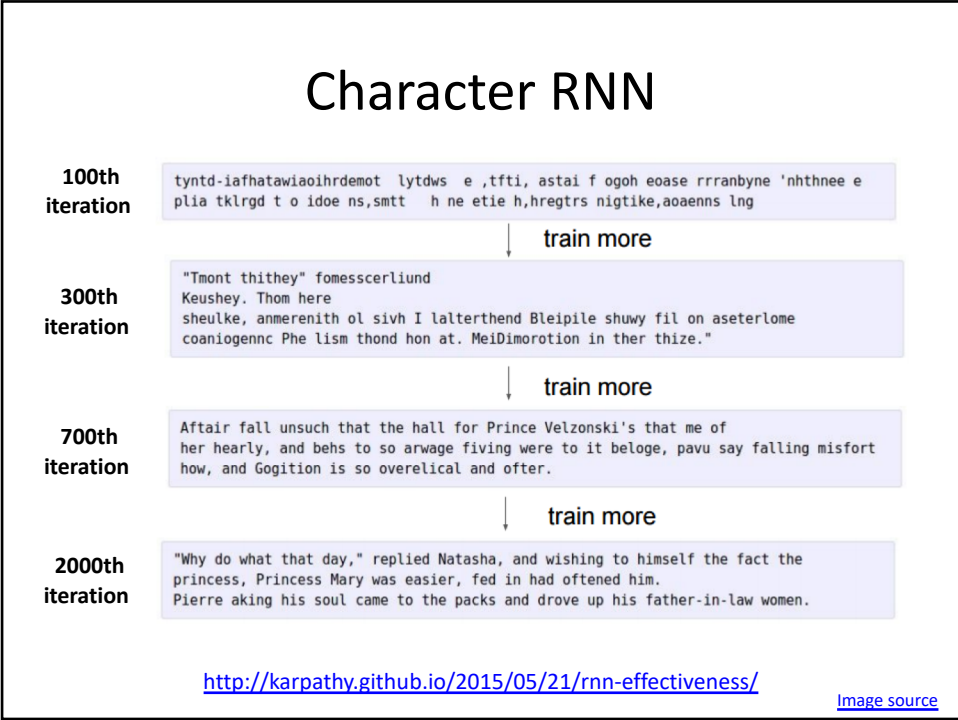


- Popular in speech recognition

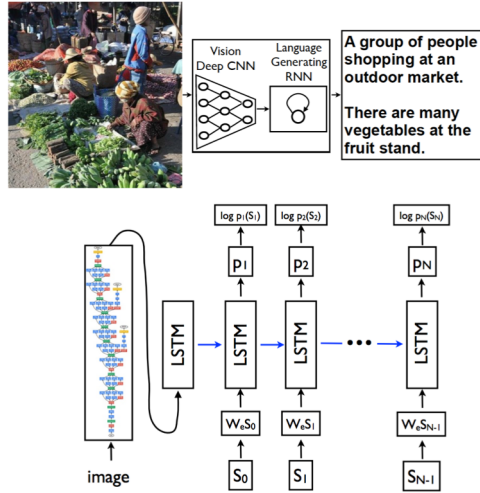








# Image Caption Generation



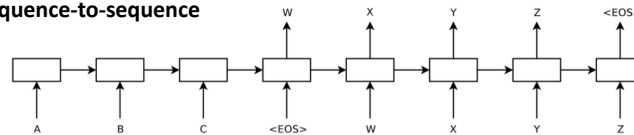
O. Vinyals, A. Toshev, S. Bengio, D. Erhan, [Show and Tell: A Neural Image Caption Generator](#), CVPR 2015

# Image Caption Generation

<p>A person riding a motorcycle on a dirt road.</p>	<p>Two dogs play in the grass.</p>	<p>A skateboarder does a trick on a ramp.</p>	<p>A dog is jumping to catch a frisbee.</p>
<p>A group of young people playing a game of frisbee.</p>	<p>Two hockey players are fighting over the puck.</p>	<p>A little girl in a pink hat is blowing bubbles.</p>	<p>A refrigerator filled with lots of food and drinks.</p>
<p>A herd of elephants walking across a dry grass field.</p>	<p>A close up of a cat laying on a couch.</p>	<p>A red motorcycle parked on the side of the road.</p>	<p>A yellow school bus parked in a parking lot.</p>
Describes without errors	Describes with minor errors	Somewhat related to the image	Unrelated to the image

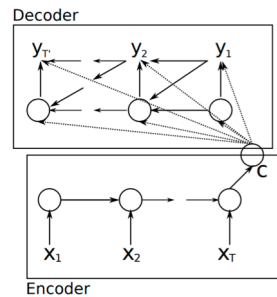
# Machine Translation

## Sequence-to-sequence



I. Sutskever, O. Vinyals, Q. Le, [Sequence to Sequence Learning with Neural Networks](#), NIPS 2014

## Encoder-decoder



K. Cho, B. Merriënboer, C. Gulcehre, F. Bougares, H. Schwenk, and Y. Bengio, [Learning phrase representations using RNN encoder-decoder for statistical machine translation](#), ACL 2014

## Useful Resources / References

- [http://cs231n.stanford.edu/slides/winter1516\\_lecture10.pdf](http://cs231n.stanford.edu/slides/winter1516_lecture10.pdf)
- <http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~rgrosse/csc321/lec10.pdf>
- R. Pascanu, T. Mikolov, and Y. Bengio, [On the difficulty of training recurrent neural networks](#), ICML 2013
- S. Hochreiter, and J. Schmidhuber, [Long short-term memory](#), Neural computation, 1997 9(8), pp.1735-1780
- F.A. Gers, and J. Schmidhuber, [Recurrent nets that time and count](#), IJCNN 2000
- K. Greff, R.K. Srivastava, J. Koutník, B.R. Steunebrink, and J. Schmidhuber, [LSTM: A search space odyssey](#), IEEE transactions on neural networks and learning systems, 2016
- K. Cho, B. Van Merriënboer, C. Gulcehre, D. Bahdanau, F. Bougares, H. Schwenk, and Y. Bengio, [Learning phrase representations using RNN encoder-decoder for statistical machine translation](#), ACL 2014
- R. Jozefowicz, W. Zaremba, and I. Sutskever, [An empirical exploration of recurrent network architectures](#), JMLR 2015