



Deep Sequence Modeling

Ava Soleimany

MIT 6.S191

January 27, 2020



6.S191 Introduction to Deep Learning

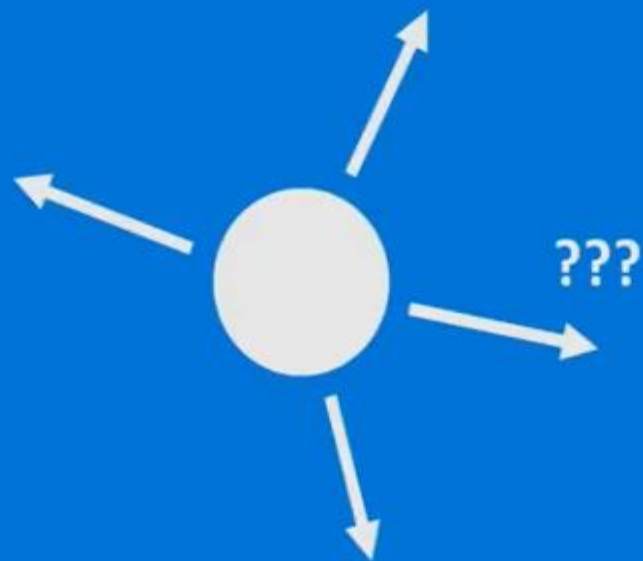
intro.todeeplearning.com [@MITDeepLearning](https://twitter.com/MITDeepLearning)



Given an image of a ball,
can you predict where it will go next?



Given an image of a ball,
can you predict where it will go next?



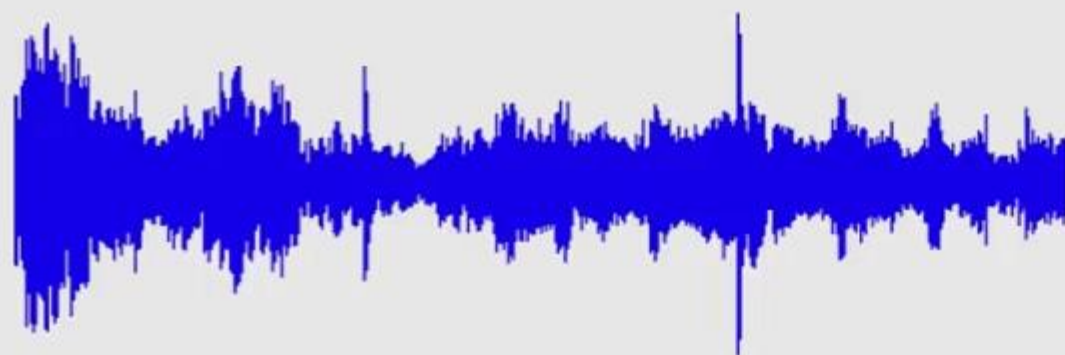
Given an image of a ball,
can you predict where it will go next?



Given an image of a ball,
can you predict where it will go next?



Sequences in the Wild



Audio

Sequences in the Wild



Audio

Sequences in the Wild

6.S191 Introduction to Deep Learning

Text



Sequences in the Wild

character:

6 . S | 9 |

word:

Introduction to Deep Learning

Text



A Sequence Modeling Problem: Predict the Next Word



A Sequence Modeling Problem: Predict the Next Word

“This morning I took my cat for a walk.”



A Sequence Modeling Problem: Predict the Next Word

“This morning I took my cat for a walk.”

given these words



A Sequence Modeling Problem: Predict the Next Word

“This morning I took my cat for a walk.”

given these words

predict the
next word



Idea #1: Use a Fixed Window

“This morning I took my cat for a walk.”

given these predict the
two words next word



Idea #1: Use a Fixed Window

“This morning I took my cat for a walk.”

given these predict the
two words next word

One-hot feature encoding: tells us what each word is

[1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0]

for

a



prediction

Problem #1: Can't Model Long-Term Dependencies

“France is where I grew up, but I now live in Boston. I speak fluent ____.”



We need information from **the distant past** to accurately predict the correct word.

Idea #2: Use Entire Sequence as Set of Counts

“This morning I took my cat for a”



“bag of words”

[0 1 0 0 1 0 0 ... 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1]



prediction



Problem #2: Counts Don't Preserve Order



The food was good, not bad at all.

vs.

The food was bad, not good at all.



Idea #3: Use a Really Big Fixed Window

“This morning I took my cat for a walk.”

given these
words

predict the
next word

[1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 ...]

morning

I

took

this

cat



prediction



Problem #3: No Parameter Sharing

[1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 ...]
this morning took the cat

Each of these inputs has a **separate** parameter:

Problem #3: No Parameter Sharing

[1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 ...]
this morning took the cat

Each of these inputs has a **separate** parameter:

[0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 ...]
this morning

Problem #3: No Parameter Sharing

[1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 ...]
this morning took the cat

Each of these inputs has a **separate** parameter:

[0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 ...]
this morning

Things we learn about the sequence **won't transfer** if they appear **elsewhere** in the sequence.

Sequence Modeling: Design Criteria

To model sequences, we need to:

1. Handle **variable-length** sequences



Sequence Modeling: Design Criteria

To model sequences, we need to:

1. Handle **variable-length** sequences
2. Track **long-term** dependencies



Sequence Modeling: Design Criteria

To model sequences, we need to:

1. Handle **variable-length** sequences
2. Track **long-term** dependencies
3. Maintain information about **order**



Sequence Modeling: Design Criteria

To model sequences, we need to:

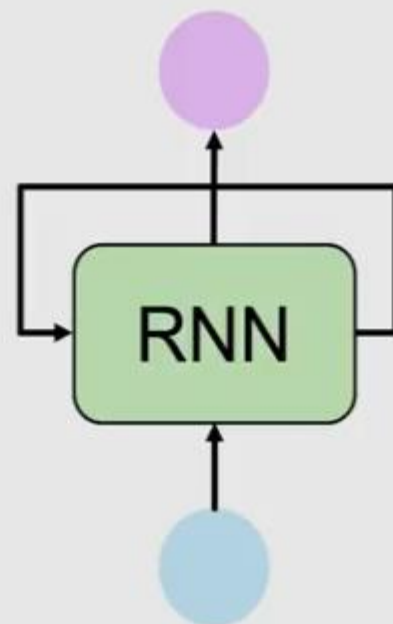
1. Handle **variable-length** sequences
2. Track **long-term** dependencies
3. Maintain information about **order**
4. **Share parameters** across the sequence



Sequence Modeling: Design Criteria

To model sequences, we need to:

1. Handle **variable-length** sequences
2. Track **long-term** dependencies
3. Maintain information about **order**
4. **Share parameters** across the sequence



Today: **Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs)** as an approach to sequence modeling problems

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs)

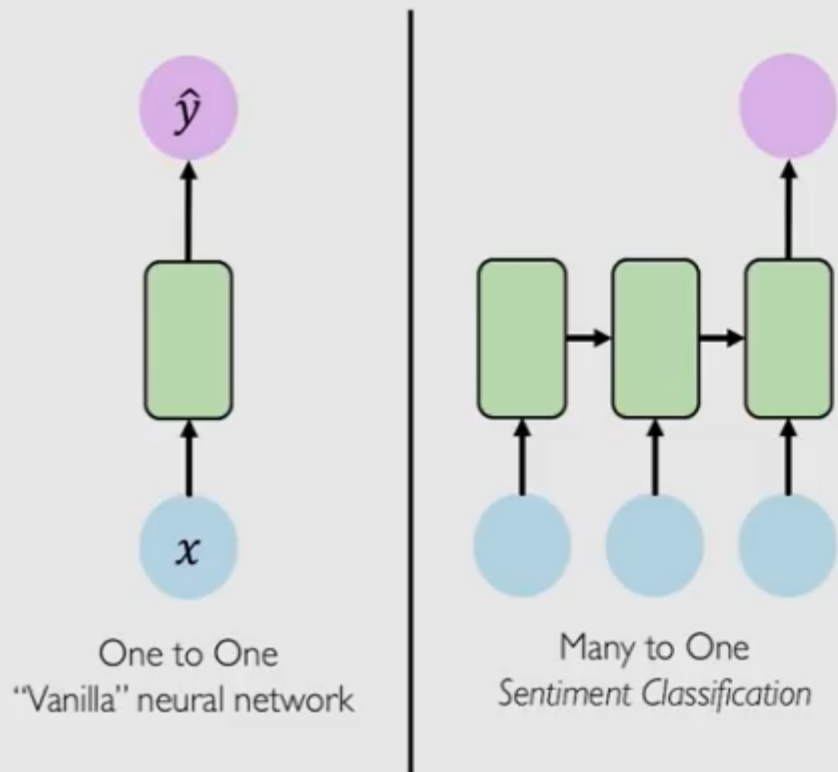


Standard Feed-Forward Neural Network



One to One
"Vanilla" neural network

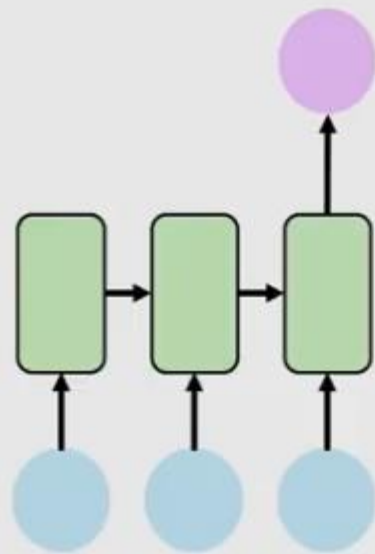
Recurrent Neural Networks for Sequence Modeling



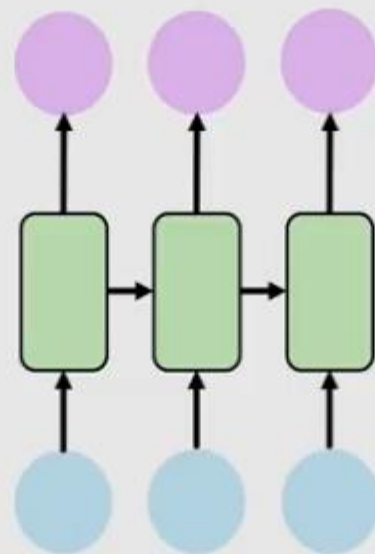
Recurrent Neural Networks for Sequence Modeling



One to One
"Vanilla" neural network



Many to One
Sentiment Classification



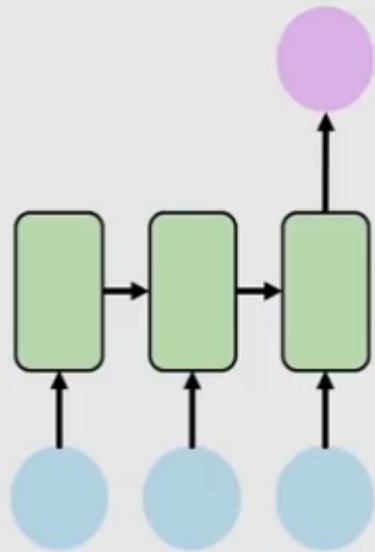
Many to Many
Music Generation



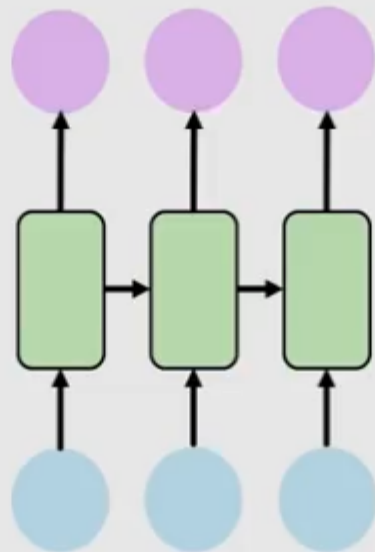
Recurrent Neural Networks for Sequence Modeling



One to One
"Vanilla" neural network



Many to One
Sentiment Classification

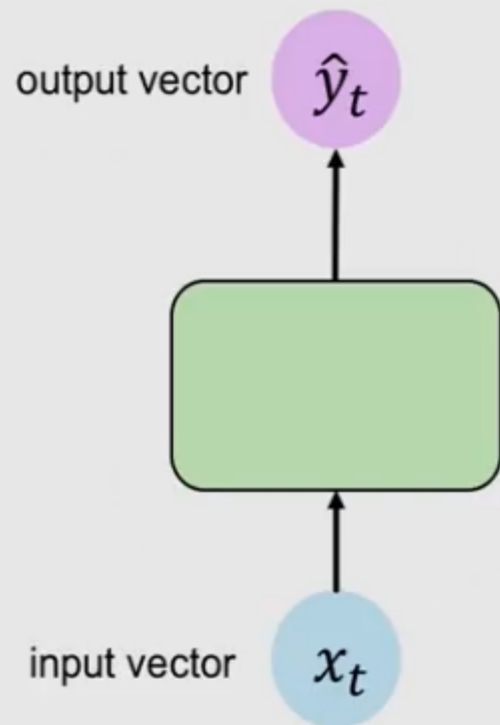


Many to Many
Music Generation

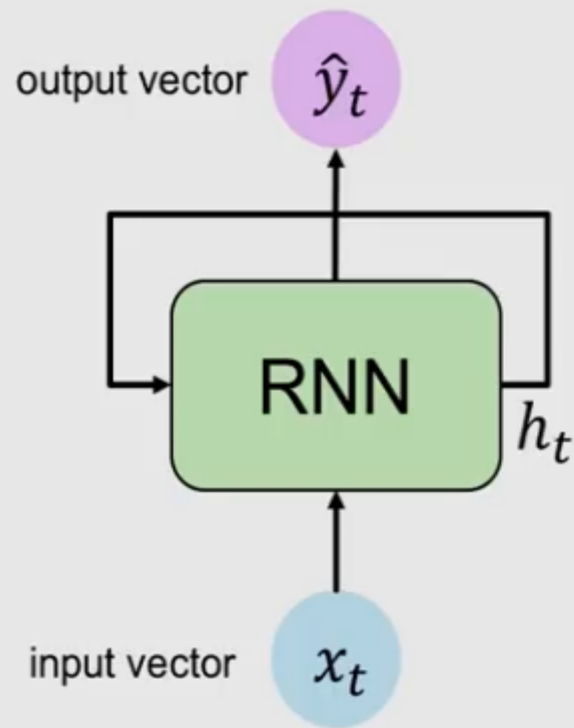
... and many other
architectures and
applications



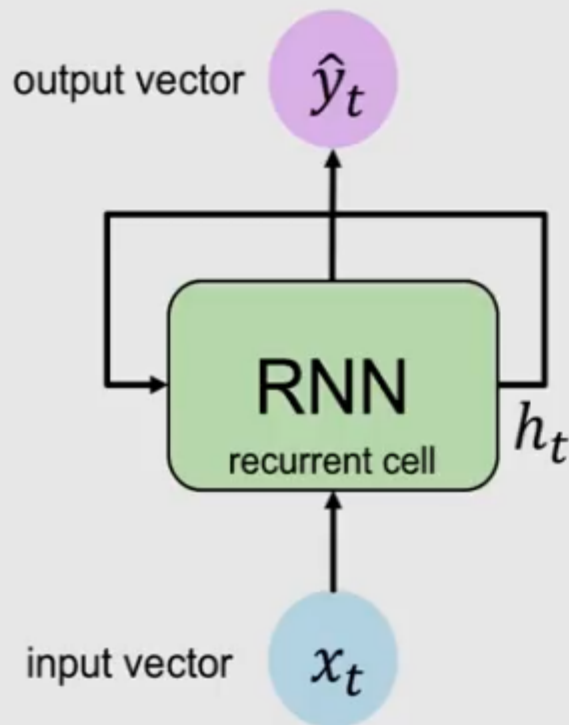
Standard “Vanilla” Neural Network



Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)

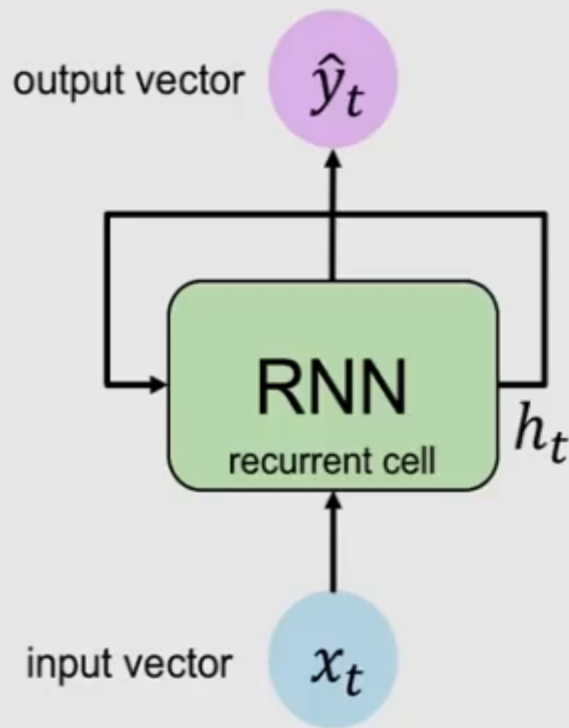


Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)



Apply a **recurrence relation** at every time step to process a sequence:

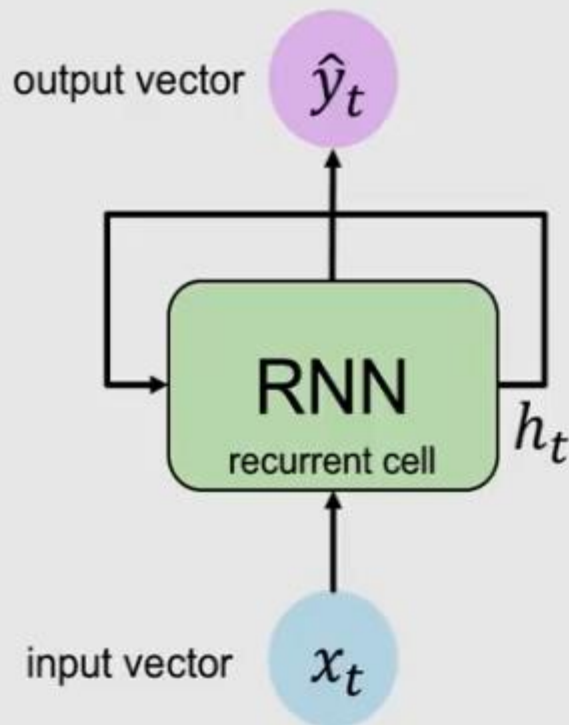
Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)



Apply a **recurrence relation** at every time step to process a sequence:

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

Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)

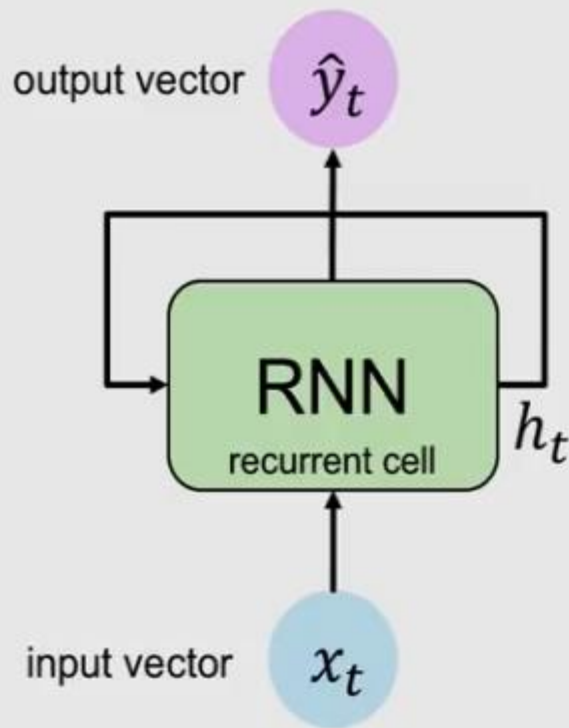


Apply a **recurrence relation** at every time step to process a sequence:

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

cell state function
parameterized
by W

Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)



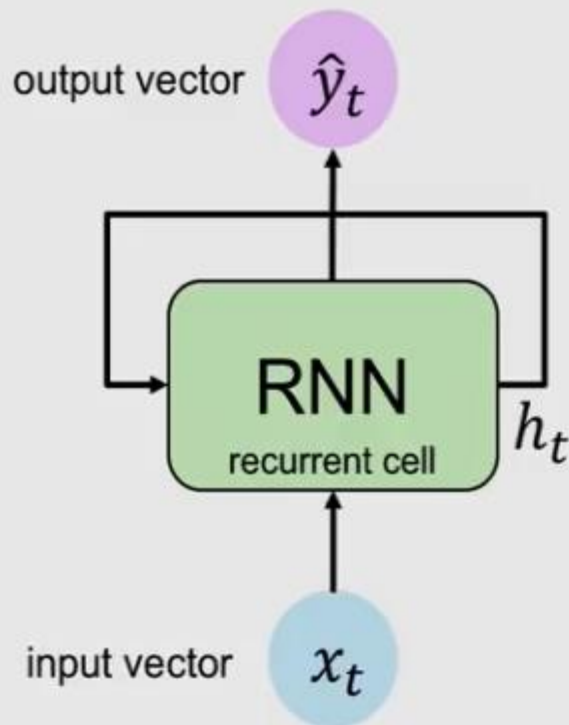
Apply a **recurrence relation** at every time step to process a sequence:

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

cell state function parameterized by W old state



Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)

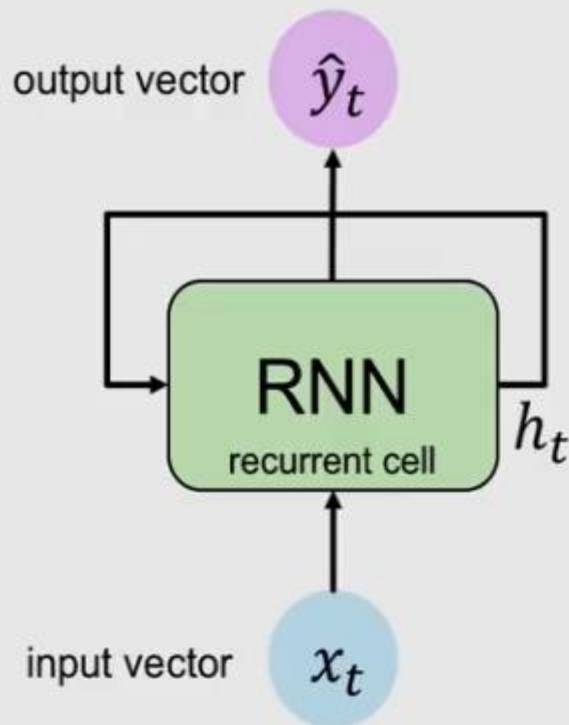


Apply a **recurrence relation** at every time step to process a sequence:

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

cell state function parameterized by W old state input vector at time step t

Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)



Apply a **recurrence relation** at every time step to process a sequence:

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

cell state function parameterized by W old state input vector at time step t

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



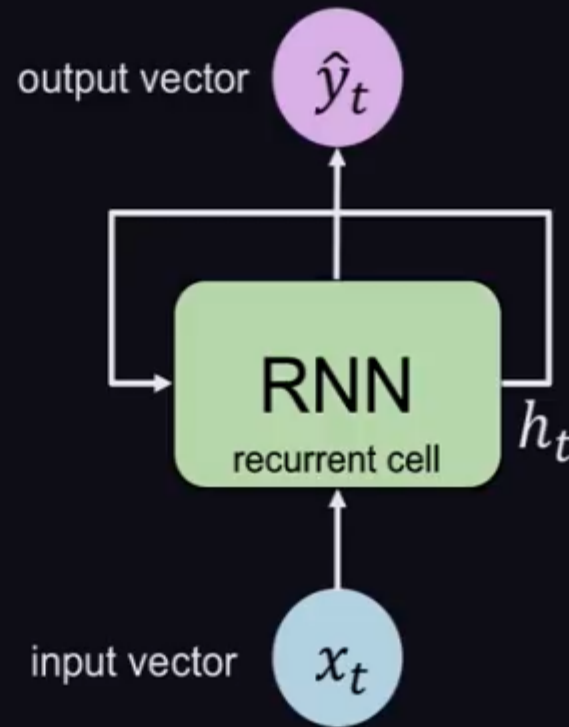
RNN Intuition

```
my_rnn = RNN()
hidden_state = [0, 0, 0, 0]

sentence = ["I", "love", "recurrent", "neural"]

for word in sentence:
    prediction, hidden_state = my_rnn(word, hidden_state)

next_word_prediction = prediction
# >>> "networks!"
```



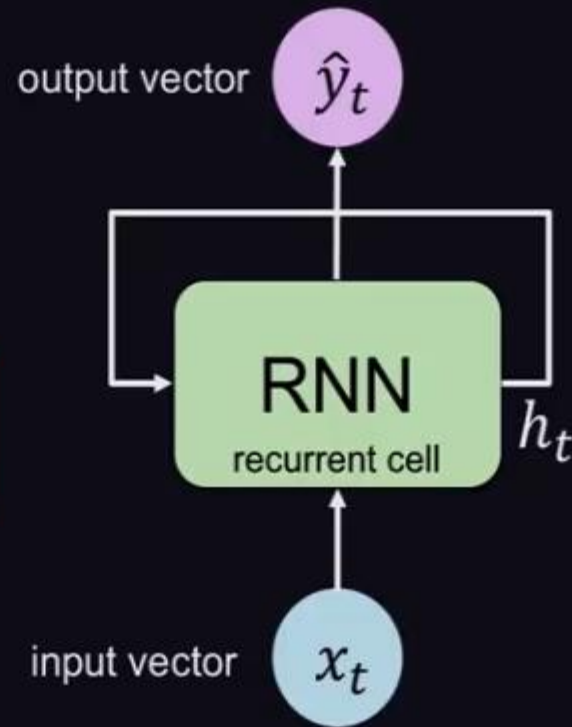
RNN Intuition

```
my_rnn = RNN()
hidden_state = [0, 0, 0, 0]

sentence = ["I", "love", "recurrent", "neural"]

for word in sentence:
    prediction, hidden_state = my_rnn(word, hidden_state)

next_word_prediction = prediction
# >>> "networks!"
```



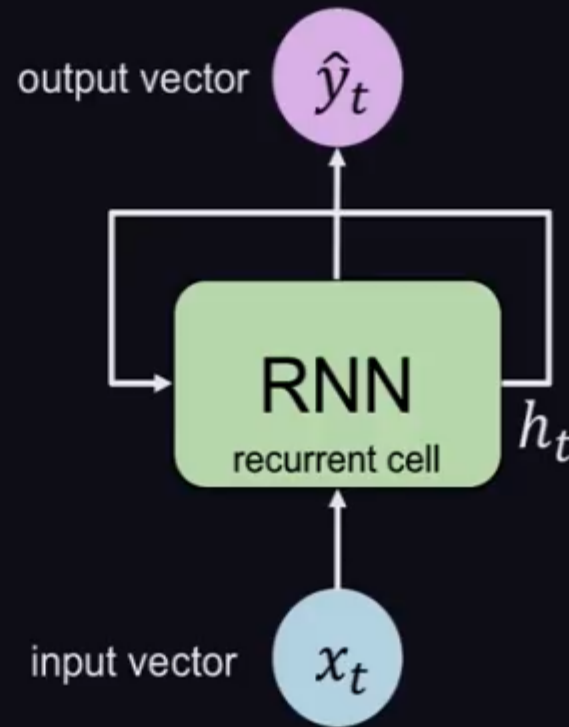
RNN Intuition

```
my_rnn = RNN()
hidden_state = [0, 0, 0, 0]

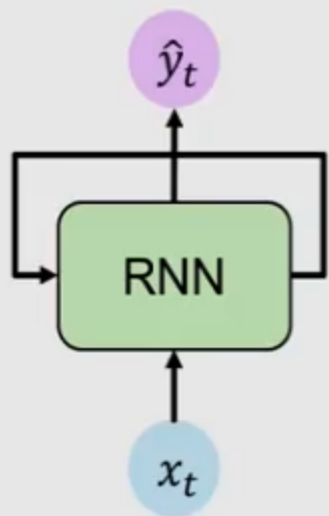
sentence = ["I", "love", "recurrent", "neural"]

for word in sentence:
    prediction, hidden_state = my_rnn(word, hidden_state)

    next_word_prediction = prediction
    # >>> "networks!"
```



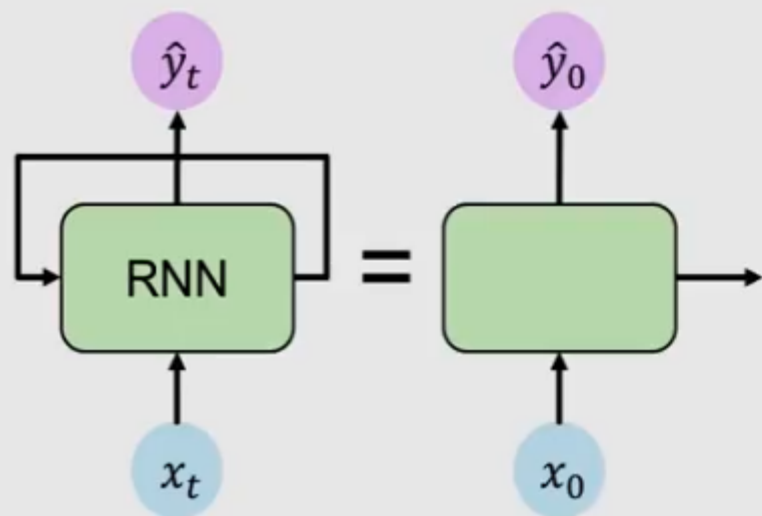
RNNs: Computational Graph Across Time



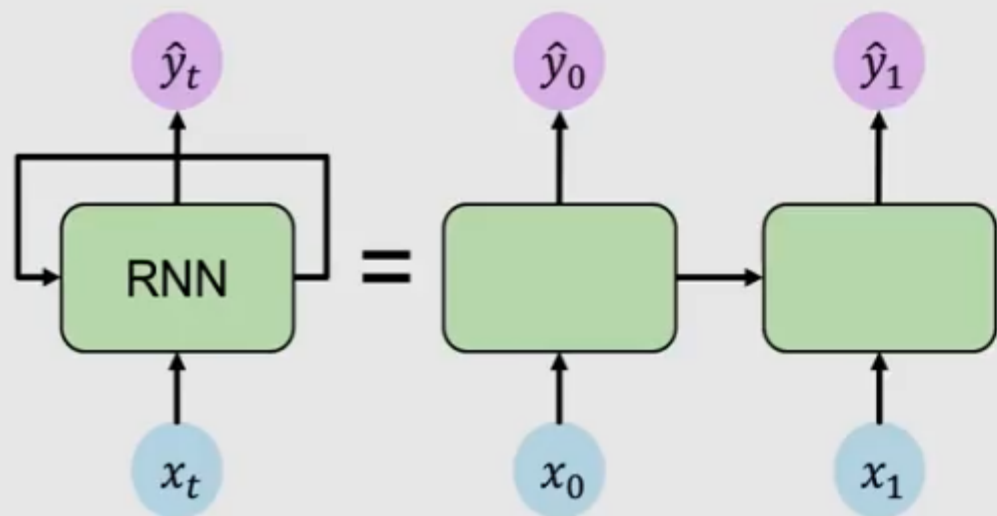
RNNs: Computational Graph Across Time



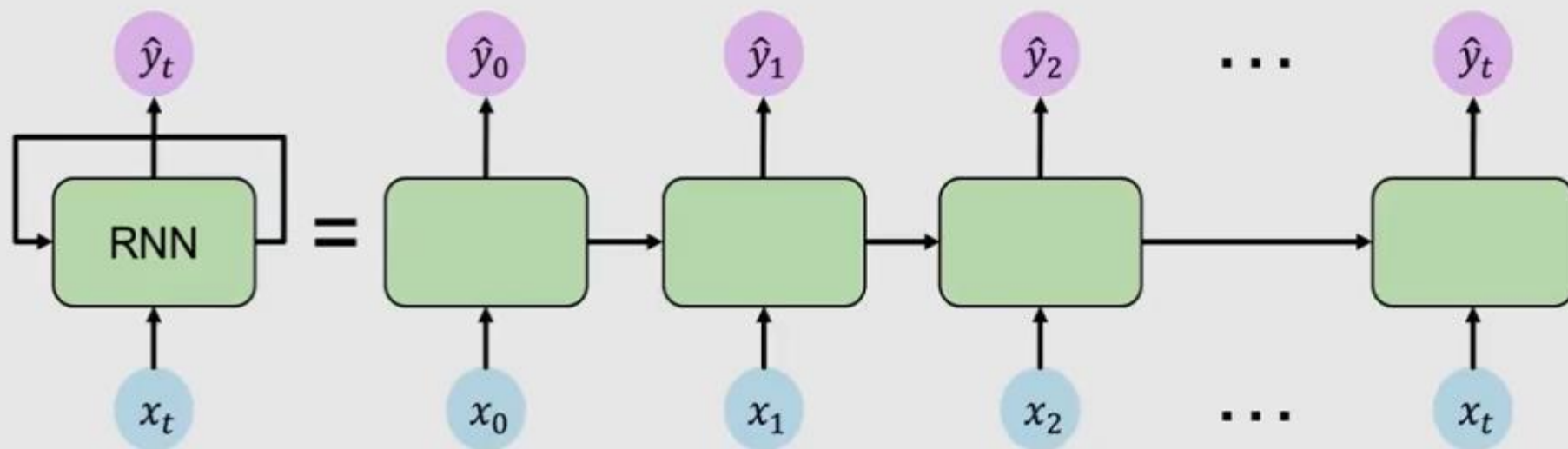
RNNs: Computational Graph Across Time



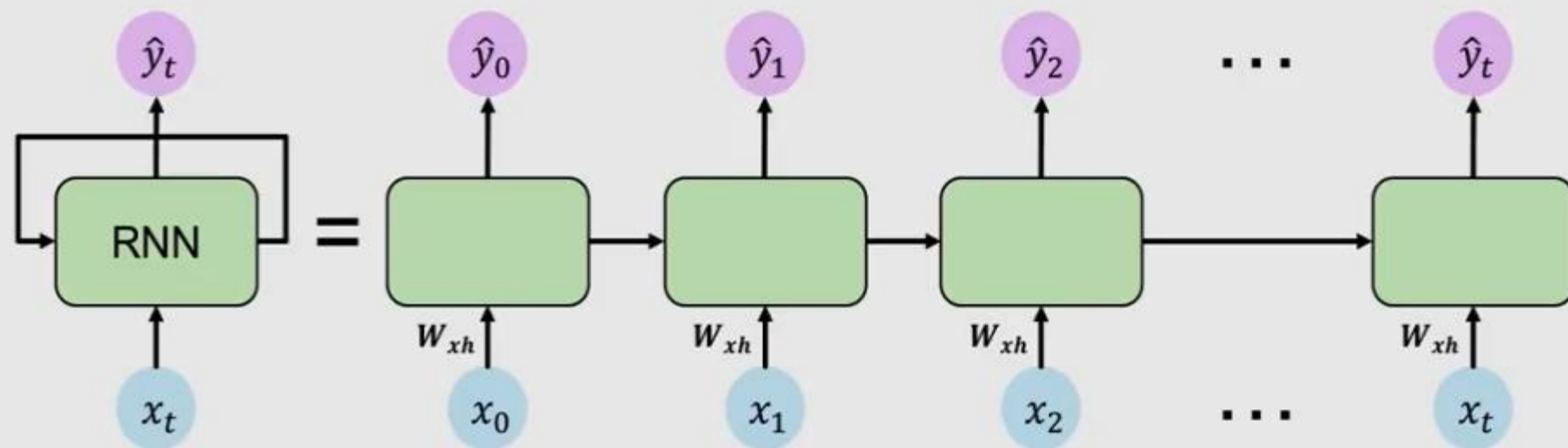
RNNs: Computational Graph Across Time



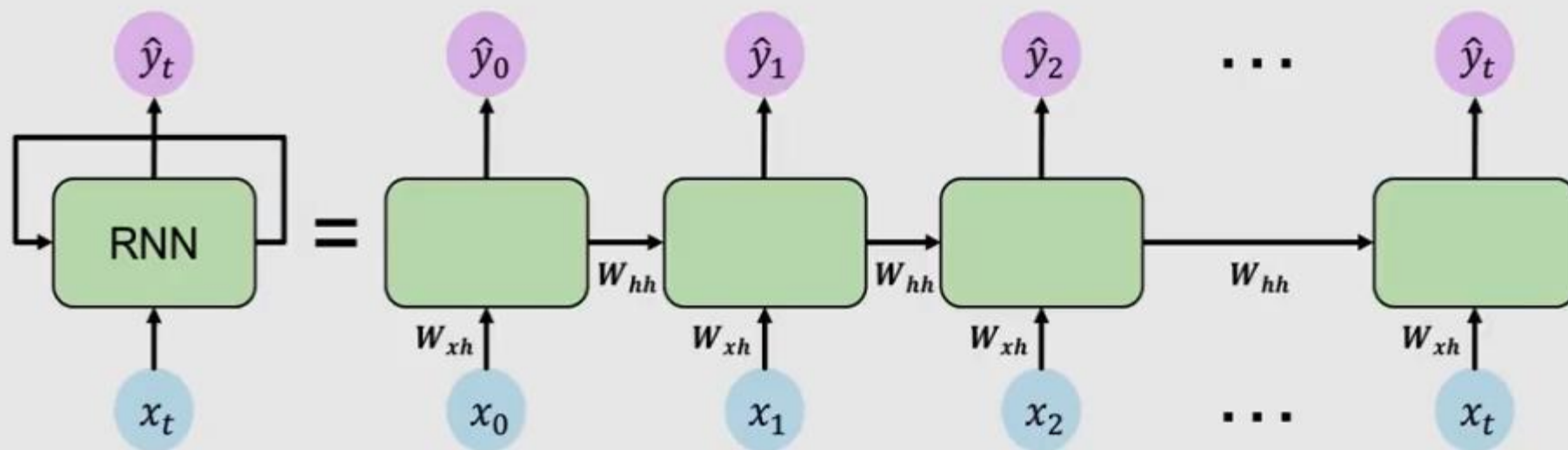
RNNs: Computational Graph Across Time



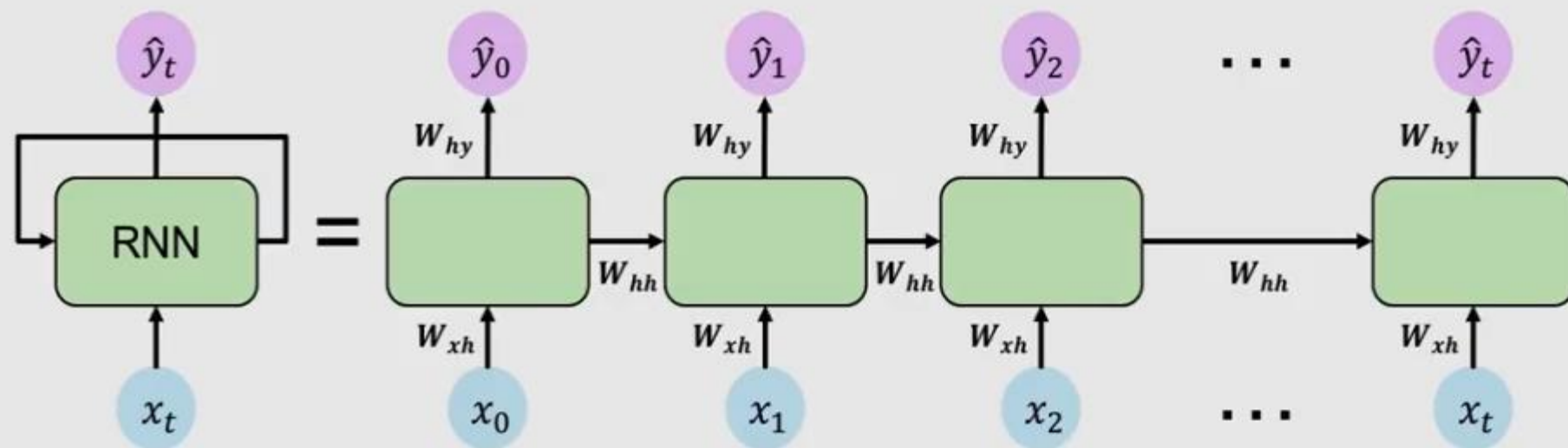
RNNs: Computational Graph Across Time



RNNs: Computational Graph Across Time

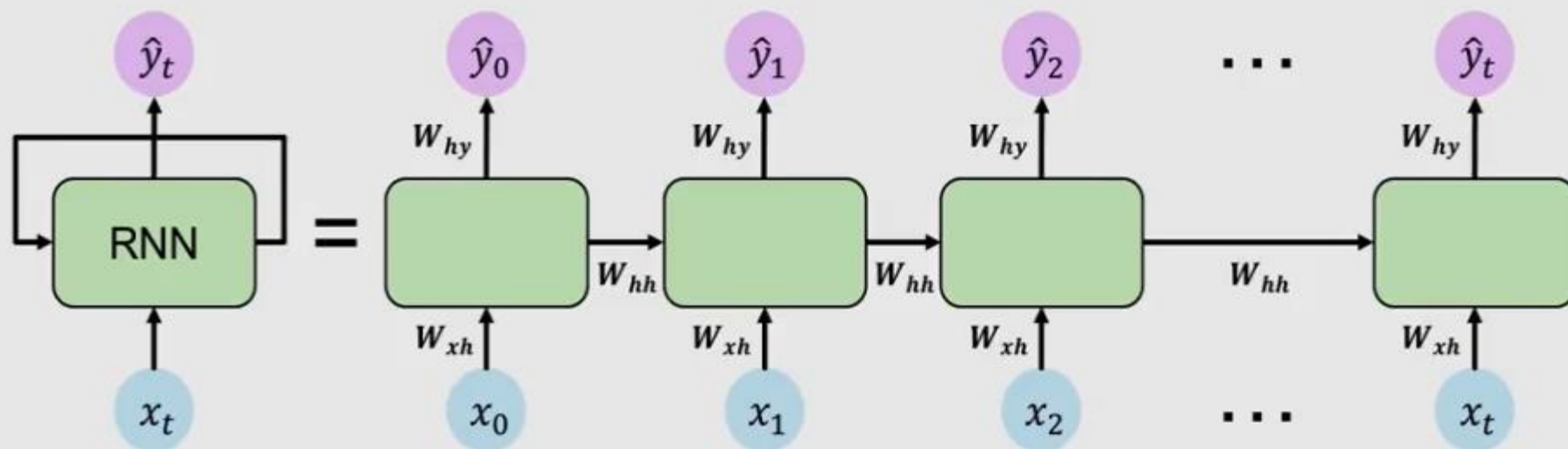


RNNs: Computational Graph Across Time



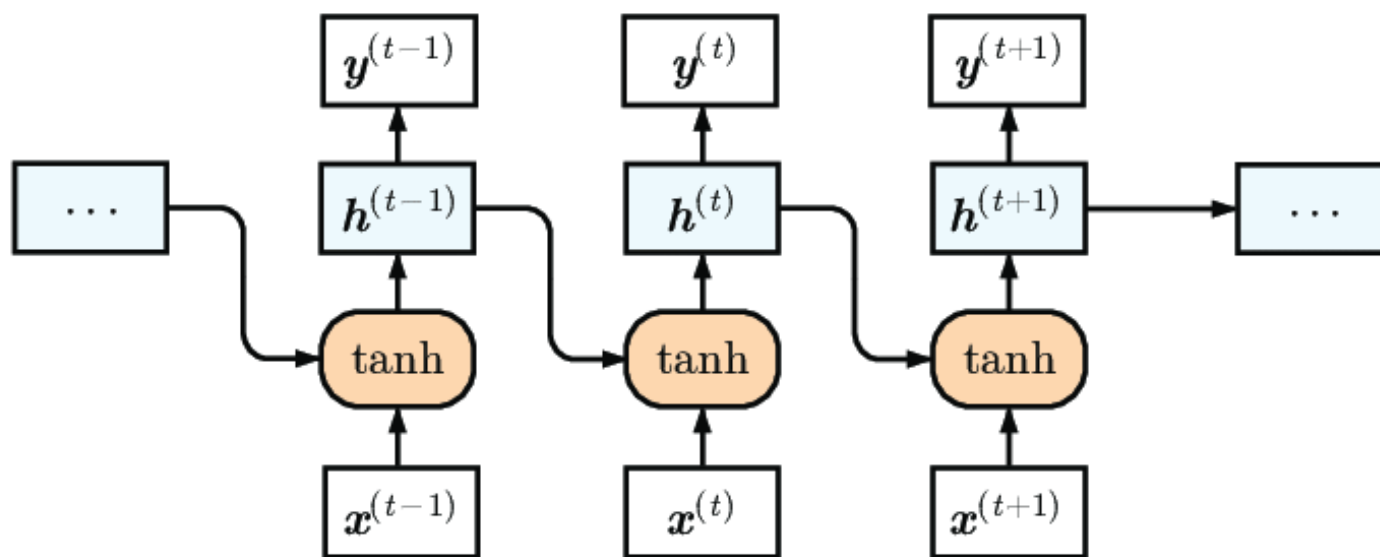
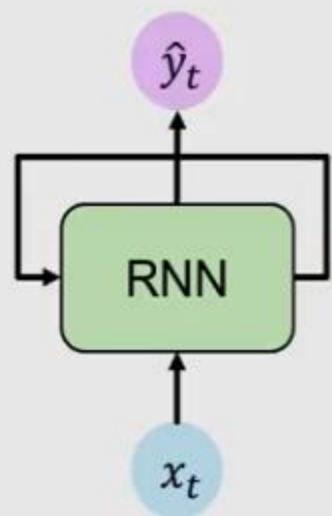
RNNs: Computational Graph Across Time

Re-use the **same weight matrices** at every time step

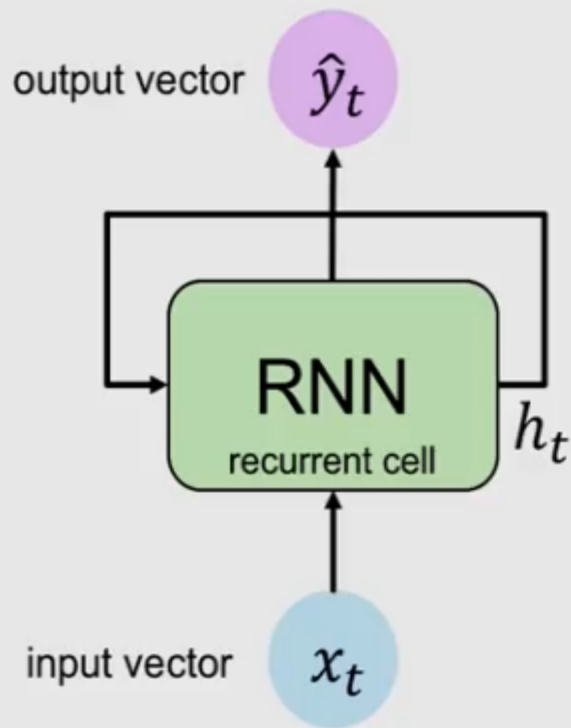


RNNs: Computational Graph Across Time

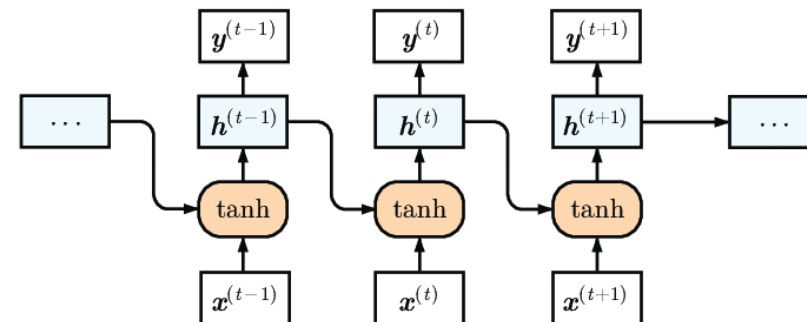
Re-use the same weight matrices at every time step



RNN State Update and Output

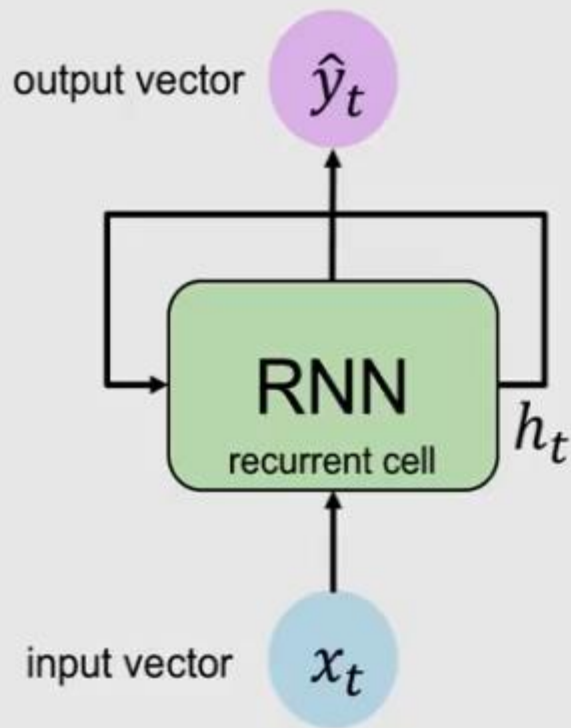


Input Vector
 x_t



 Deep Learning

RNN State Update and Output

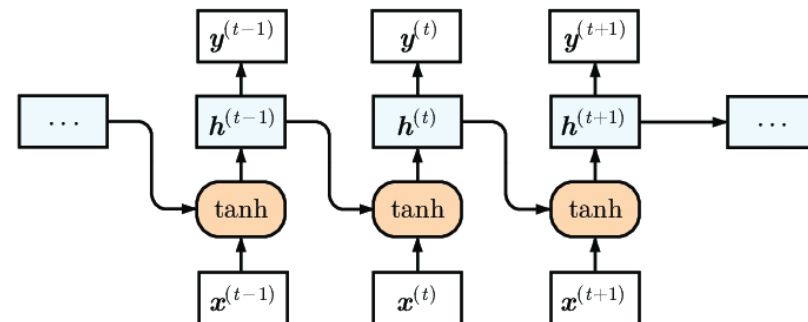


Update Hidden State

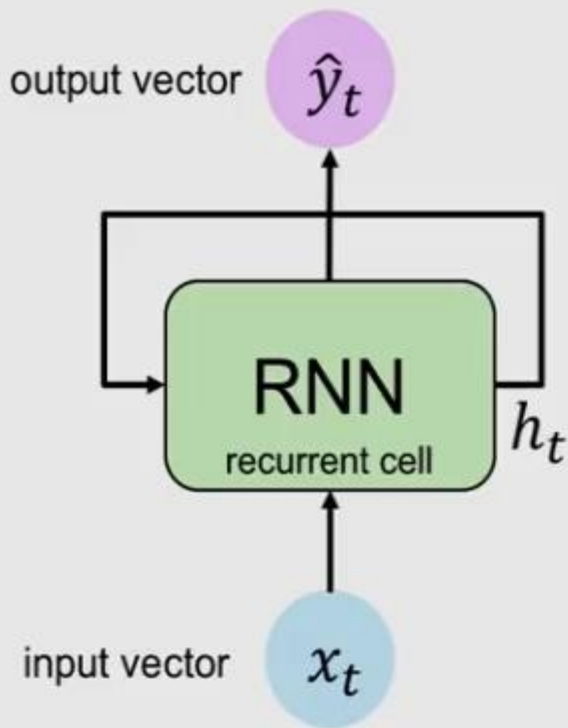
$$h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}^T h_{t-1} + W_{xh}^T x_t)$$

Input Vector

x_t



RNN State Update and Output



Output Vector

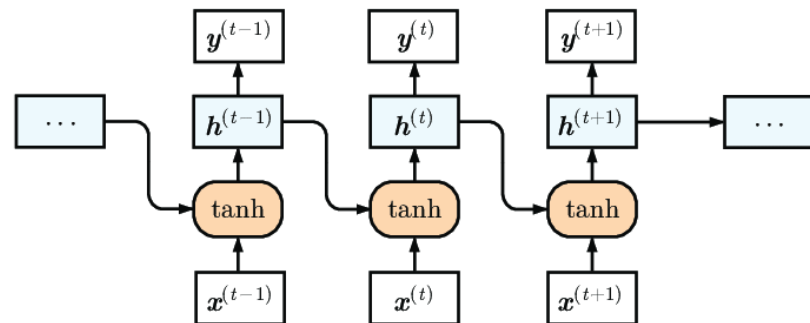
$$\hat{y}_t = W_{hy}^T h_t$$

Update Hidden State

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

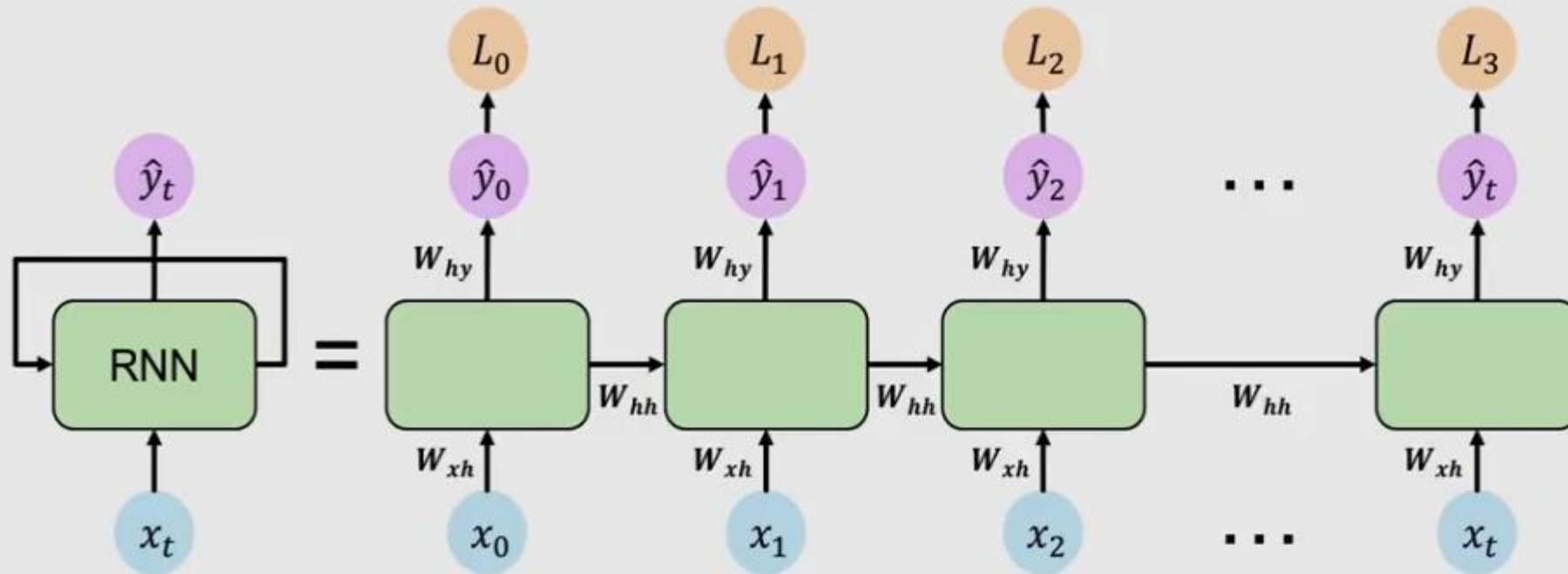
Input Vector

$$x_t$$

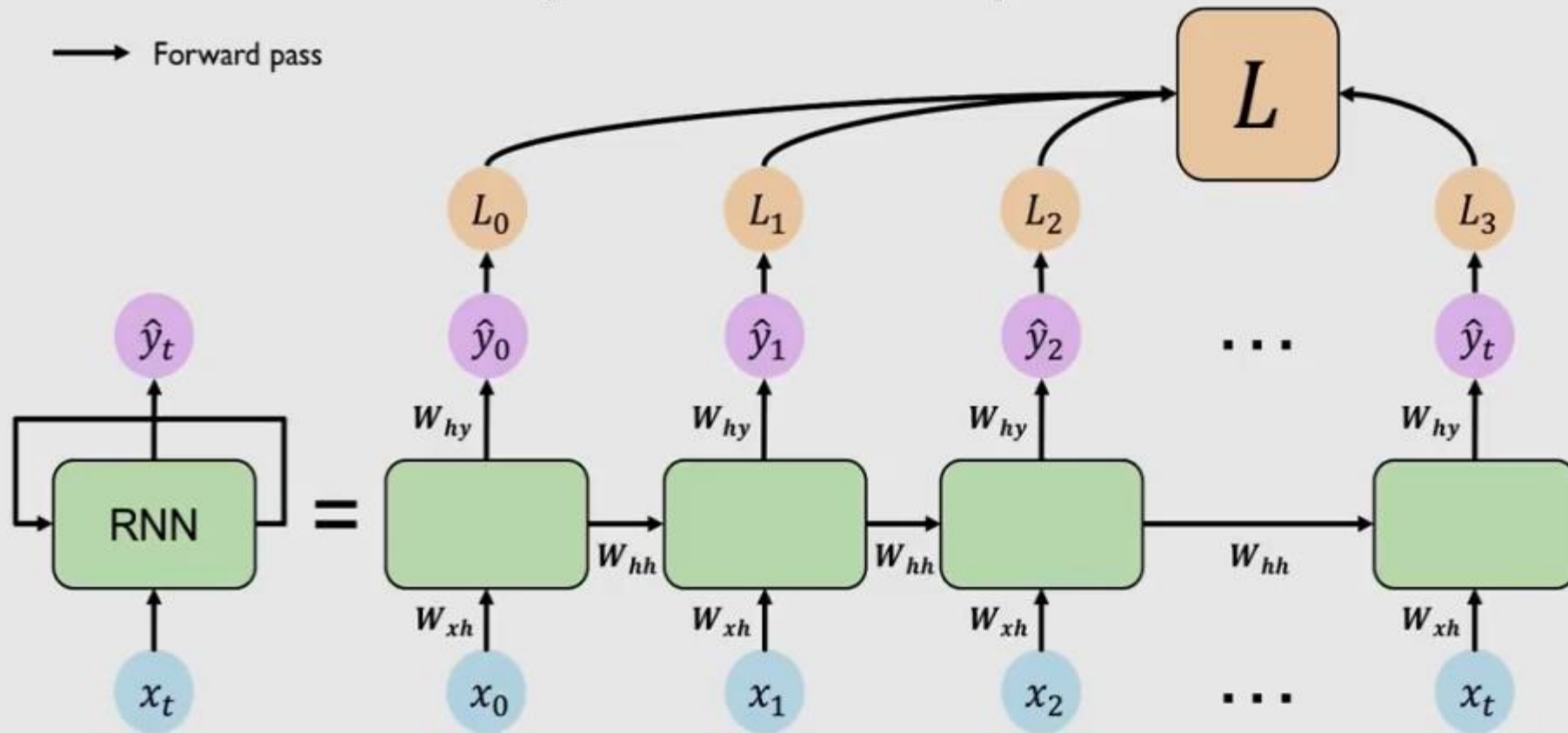


RNNs: Computational Graph Across Time

→ Forward pass



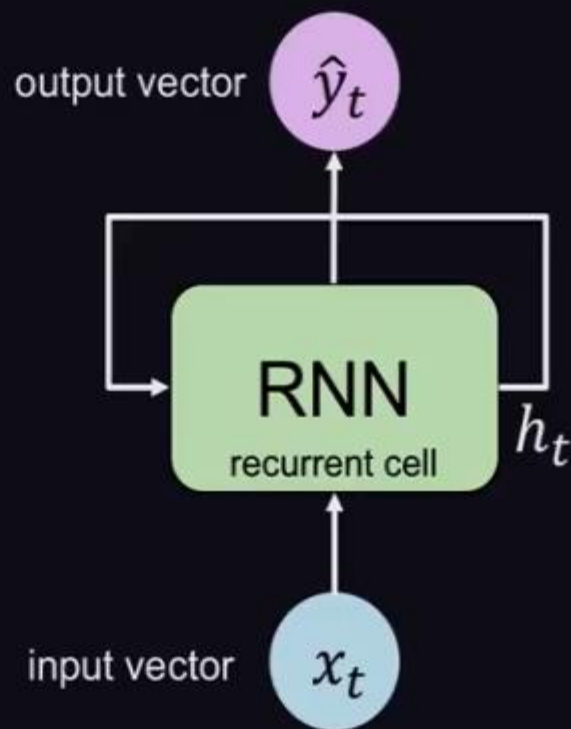
RNNs: Computational Graph Across Time



RNNs from Scratch



```
class MyRNNCell(tf.keras.layers.Layer):  
    def __init__(self, rnn_units, input_dim, output_dim):  
        super(MyRNNCell, self).__init__()  
  
        # Initialize weight matrices  
        self.W_xh = self.add_weight([rnn_units, input_dim])  
        self.W_hh = self.add_weight([rnn_units, rnn_units])  
        self.W_hy = self.add_weight([output_dim, rnn_units])  
  
        # Initialize hidden state to zeros  
        self.h = tf.zeros([rnn_units, 1])
```



RNNs from Scratch



```
class MyRNNCell(tf.keras.layers.Layer):
    def __init__(self, rnn_units, input_dim, output_dim):
        super(MyRNNCell, self).__init__()

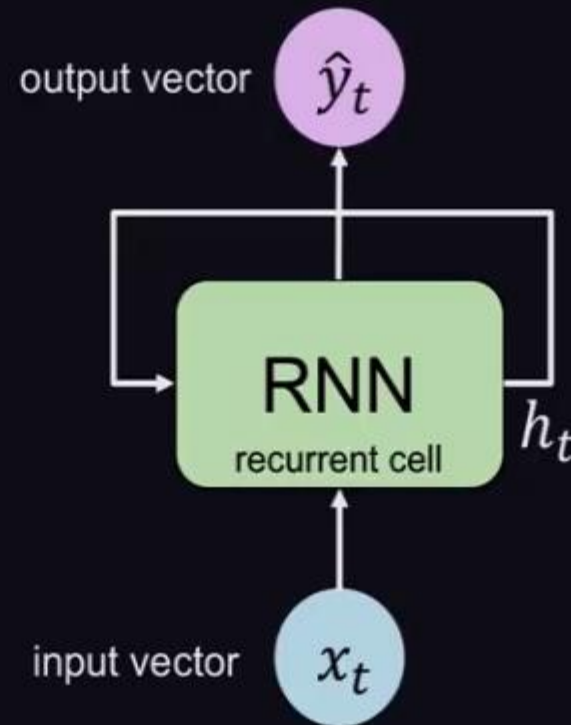
        # Initialize weight matrices
        self.W_xh = self.add_weight([rnn_units, input_dim])
        self.W_hh = self.add_weight([rnn_units, rnn_units])
        self.W_hy = self.add_weight([output_dim, rnn_units])

        # Initialize hidden state to zeros
        self.h = tf.zeros([rnn_units, 1])

    def call(self, x):
        # Update the hidden state
        self.h = tf.math.tanh( self.W_hh * self.h + self.W_xh * x )

        # Compute the output
        output = self.W_hy * self.h

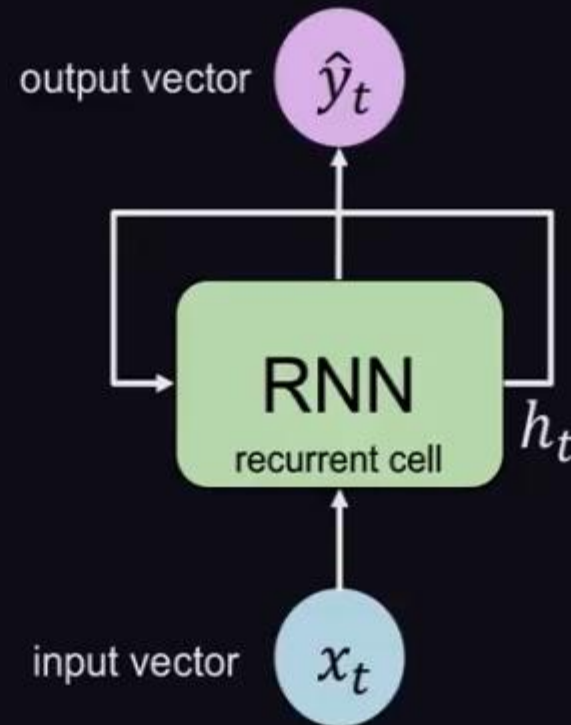
        # Return the current output and hidden state
        return output, self.h
```



RNNs from Scratch



```
class MyRNNCell(tf.keras.layers.Layer):  
    def __init__(self, rnn_units, input_dim, output_dim):  
        super(MyRNNCell, self).__init__()  
  
        # Initialize weight matrices  
        self.W_xh = self.add_weight([rnn_units, input_dim])  
        self.W_hh = self.add_weight([rnn_units, rnn_units])  
        self.W_hy = self.add_weight([output_dim, rnn_units])  
  
        # Initialize hidden state to zeros  
        self.h = tf.zeros([rnn_units, 1])  
  
    def call(self, x):  
        # Update the hidden state  
        self.h = tf.math.tanh( self.W_hh * self.h + self.W_xh * x )  
  
        # Compute the output  
        output = self.W_hy * self.h  
  
        # Return the current output and hidden state  
        return output, self.h
```



RNNs from Scratch



```
class MyRNNCell(tf.keras.layers.Layer):
    def __init__(self, rnn_units, input_dim, output_dim):
        super(MyRNNCell, self).__init__()

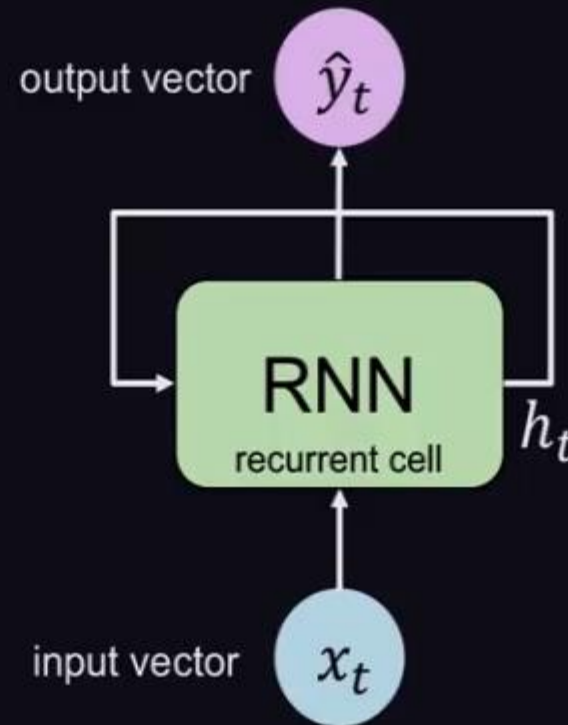
        # Initialize weight matrices
        self.W_xh = self.add_weight([rnn_units, input_dim])
        self.W_hh = self.add_weight([rnn_units, rnn_units])
        self.W_hy = self.add_weight([output_dim, rnn_units])

        # Initialize hidden state to zeros
        self.h = tf.zeros([rnn_units, 1])

    def call(self, x):
        # Update the hidden state
        self.h = tf.math.tanh( self.W_hh * self.h + self.W_xh * x )

        # Compute the output
        output = self.W_hy * self.h

        # Return the current output and hidden state
        return output, self.h
```



RNNs from Scratch



```
class MyRNNCell(tf.keras.layers.Layer):
    def __init__(self, rnn_units, input_dim, output_dim):
        super(MyRNNCell, self).__init__()

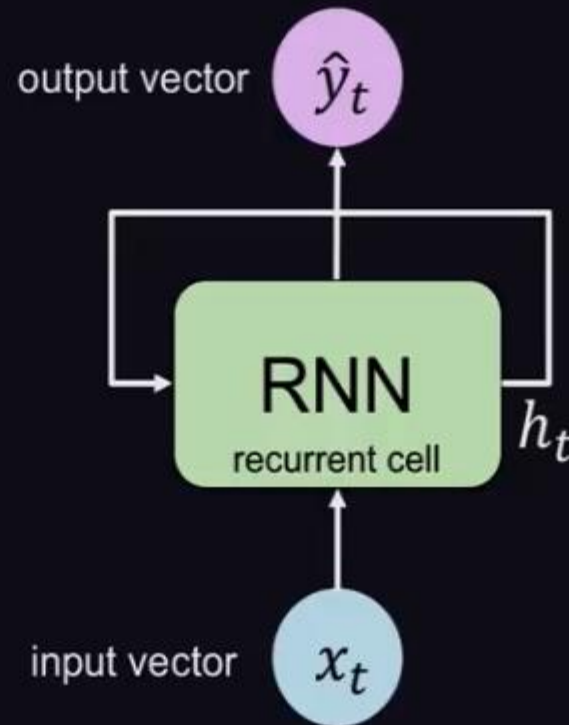
        # Initialize weight matrices
        self.W_xh = self.add_weight([rnn_units, input_dim])
        self.W_hh = self.add_weight([rnn_units, rnn_units])
        self.W_hy = self.add_weight([output_dim, rnn_units])

        # Initialize hidden state to zeros
        self.h = tf.zeros([rnn_units, 1])

    def call(self, x):
        # Update the hidden state
        self.h = tf.math.tanh( self.W_hh * self.h + self.W_xh * x )

        # Compute the output
        output = self.W_hy * self.h

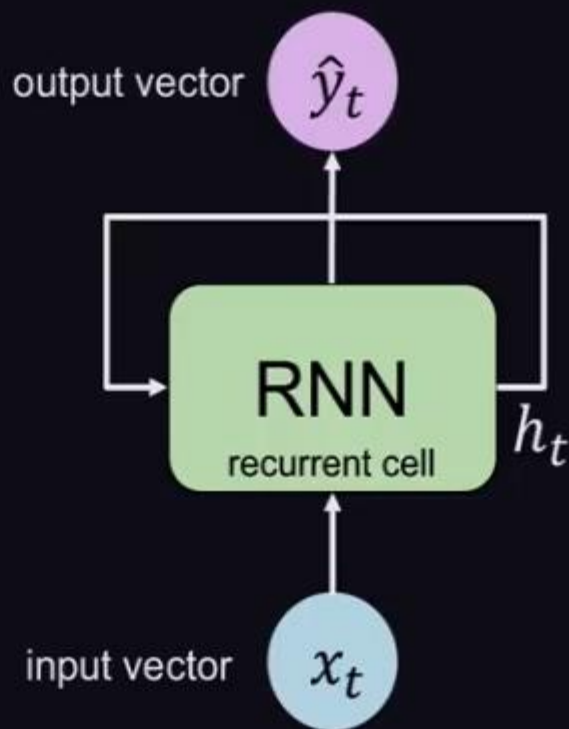
        # Return the current output and hidden state
        return output, self.h
```



RNN Implementation in TensorFlow



```
tf.keras.layers.SimpleRNN(rnn_units)
```

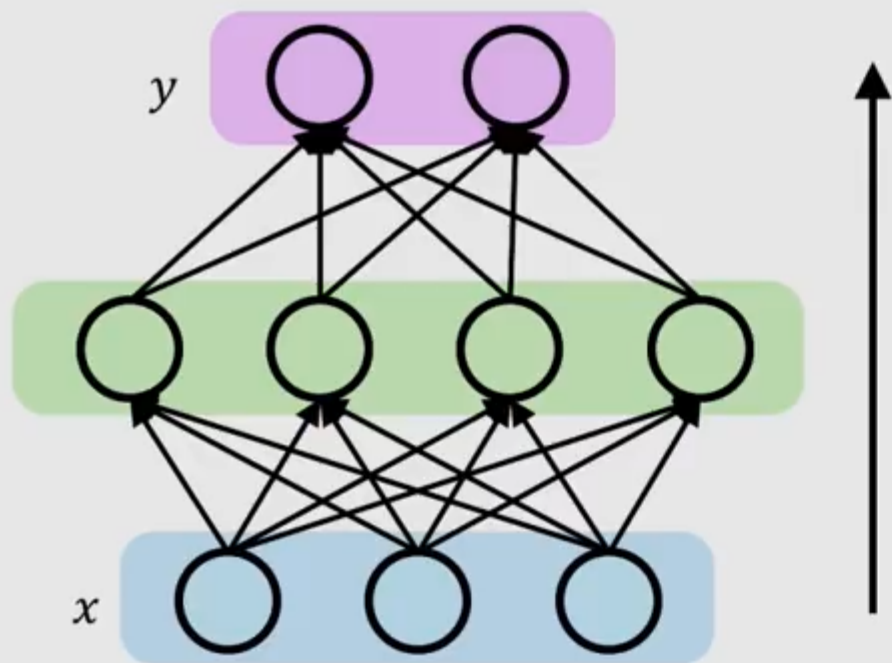


Backpropagation Through Time (BPTT)

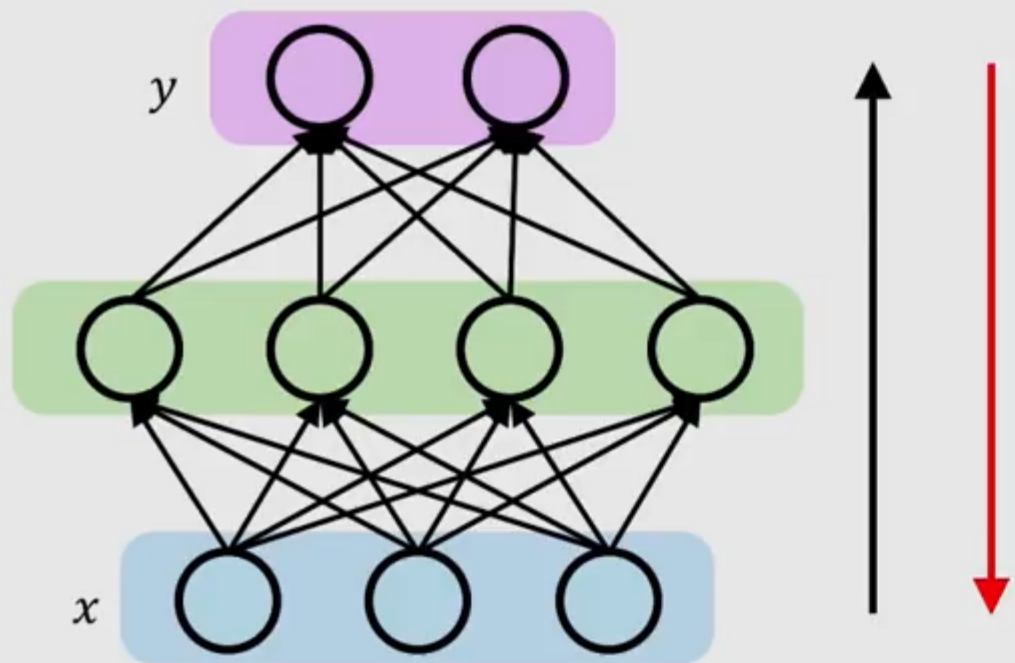
Recall: Backpropagation in Feed Forward Models



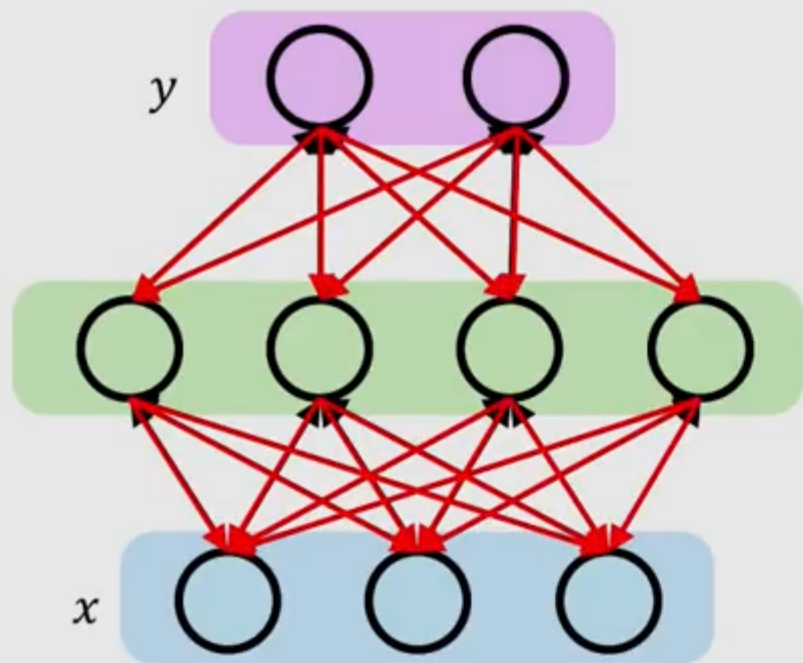
Recall: Backpropagation in Feed Forward Models



Recall: Backpropagation in Feed Forward Models



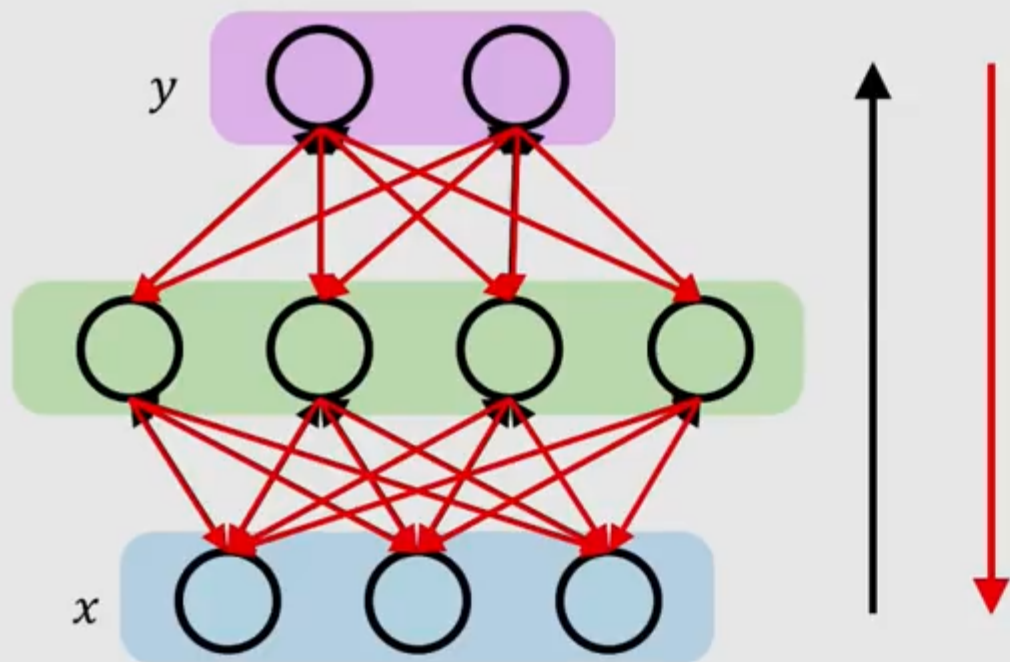
Recall: Backpropagation in Feed Forward Models



Backpropagation algorithm:



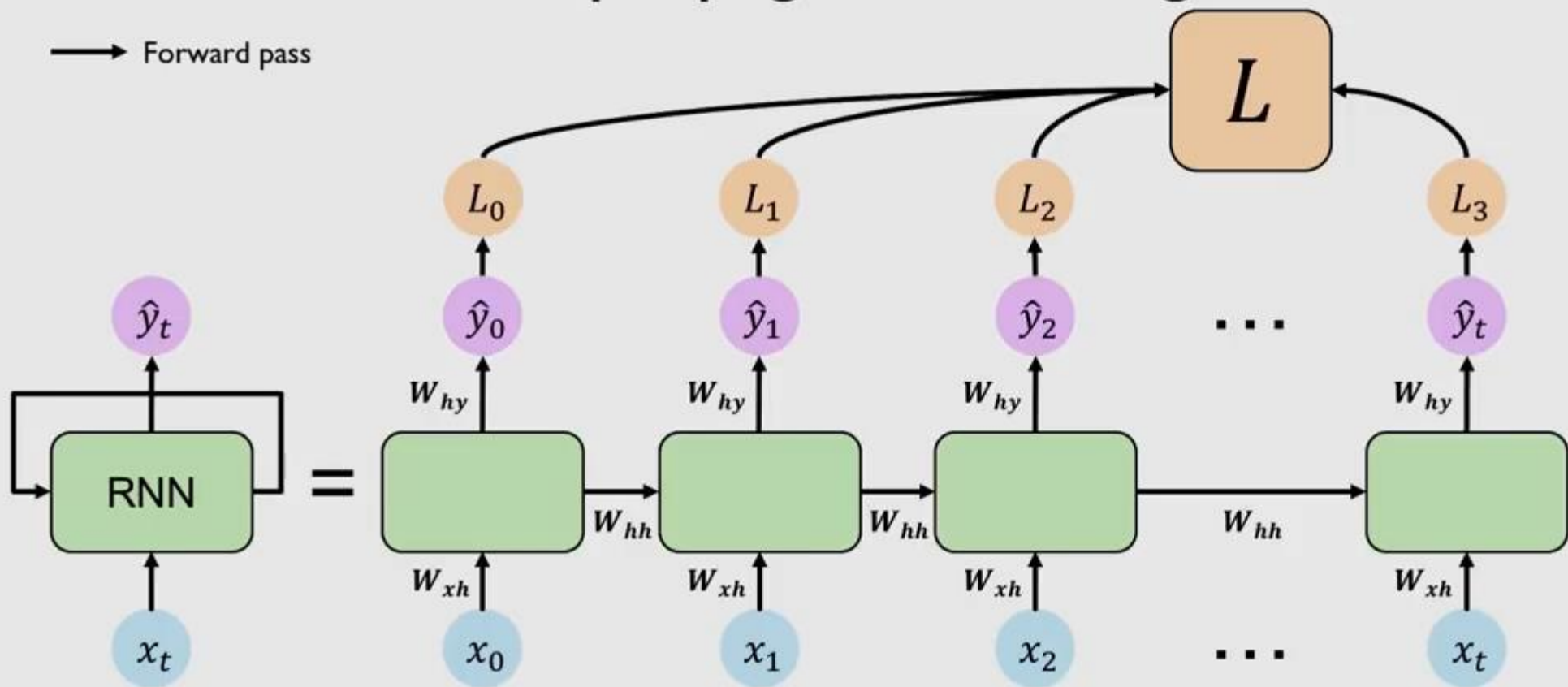
Recall: Backpropagation in Feed Forward Models



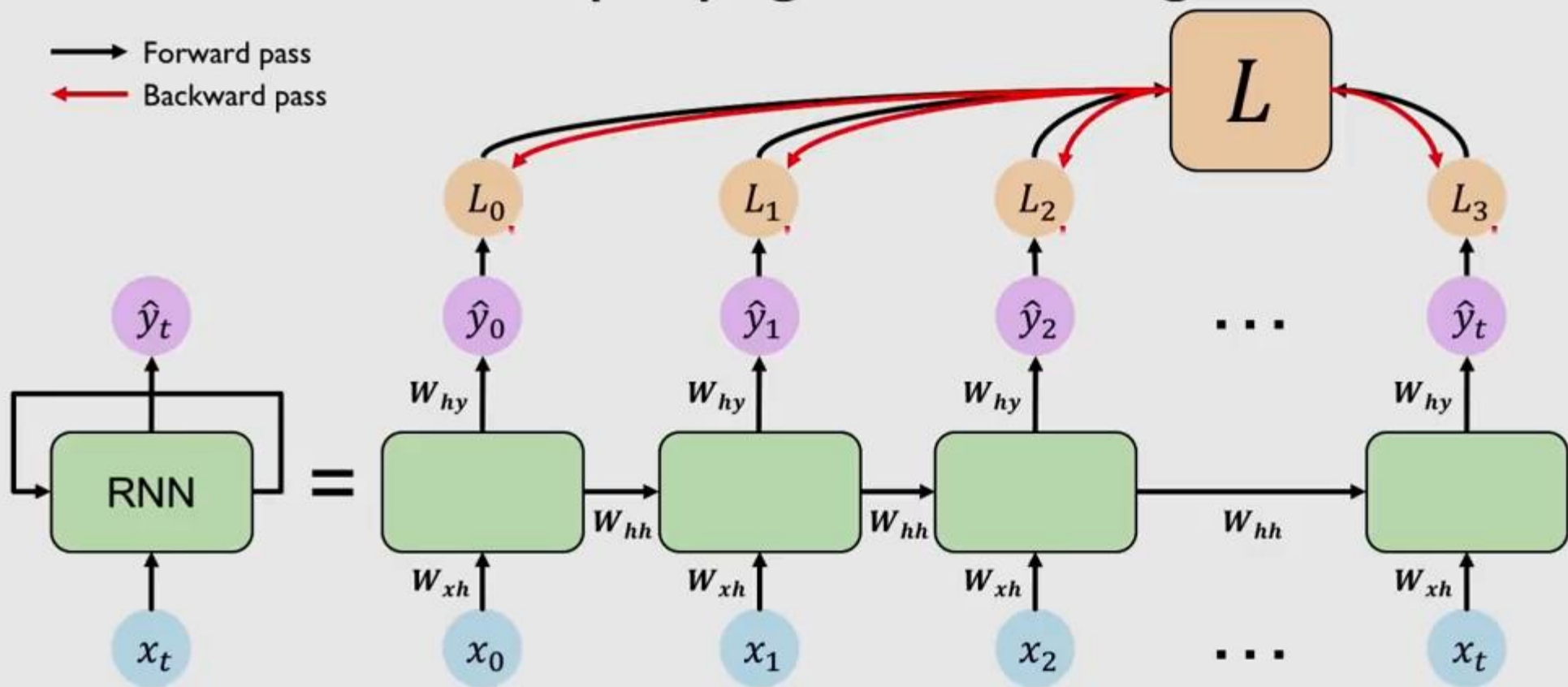
Backpropagation algorithm:

1. Take the derivative (gradient) of the loss with respect to each parameter
2. Shift parameters in order to minimize loss

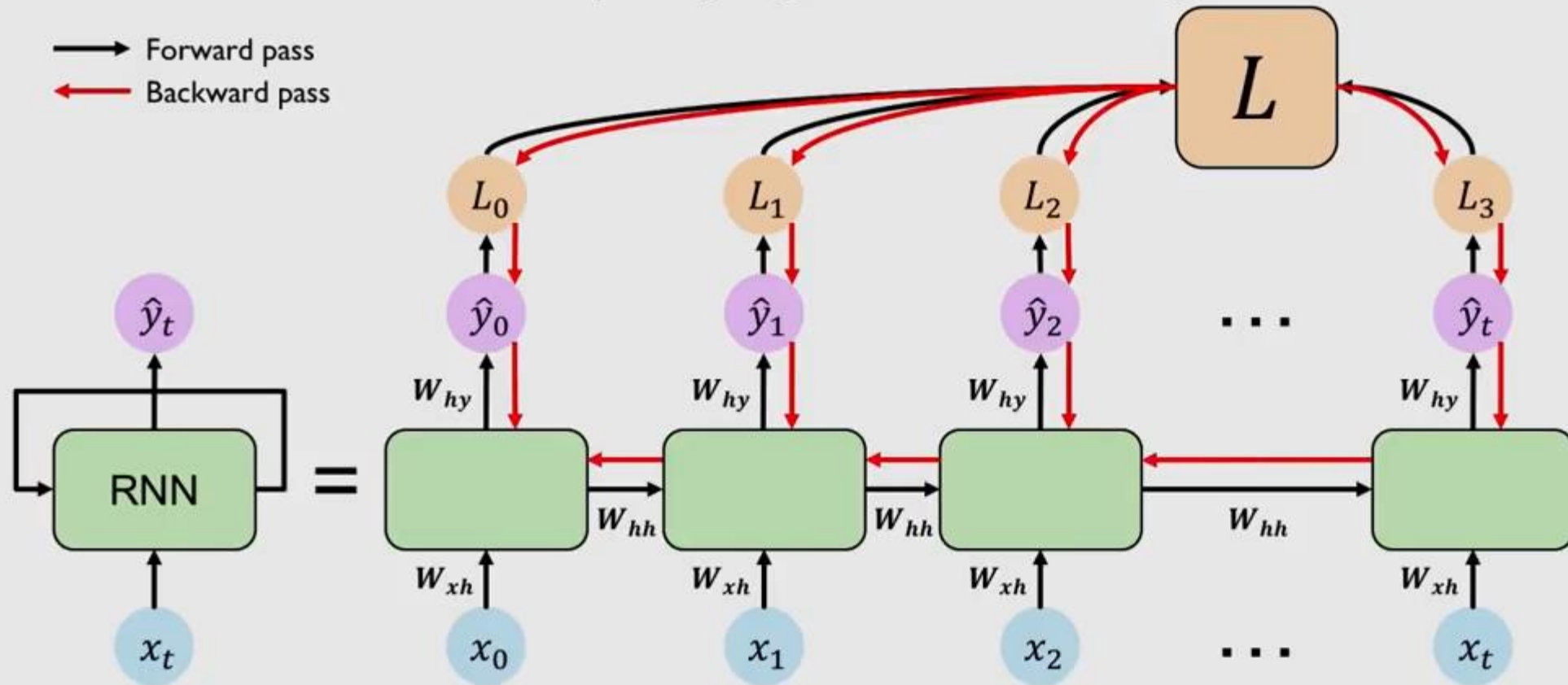
RNNs: Backpropagation Through Time



RNNs: Backpropagation Through Time

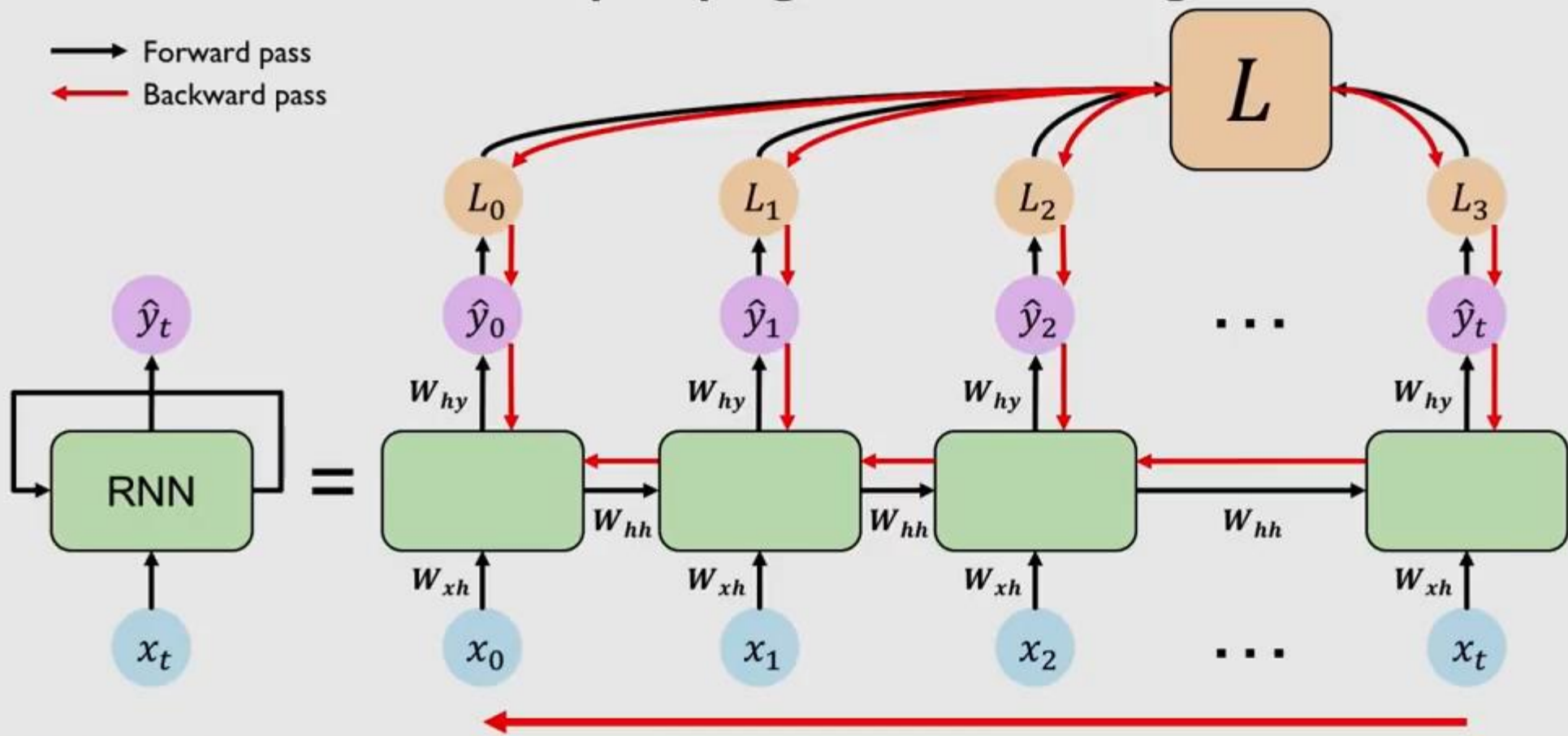


RNNs: Backpropagation Through Time



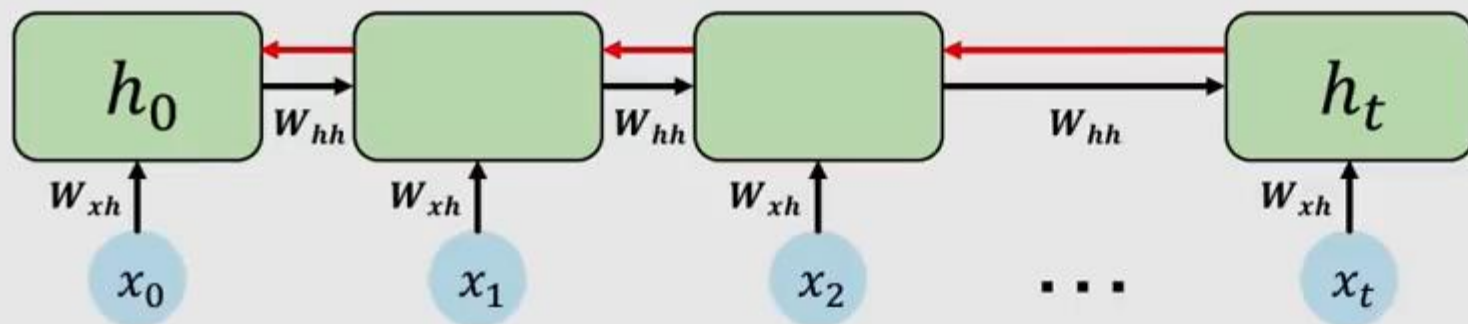
RNNs: Backpropagation Through Time

→ Forward pass
← Backward pass

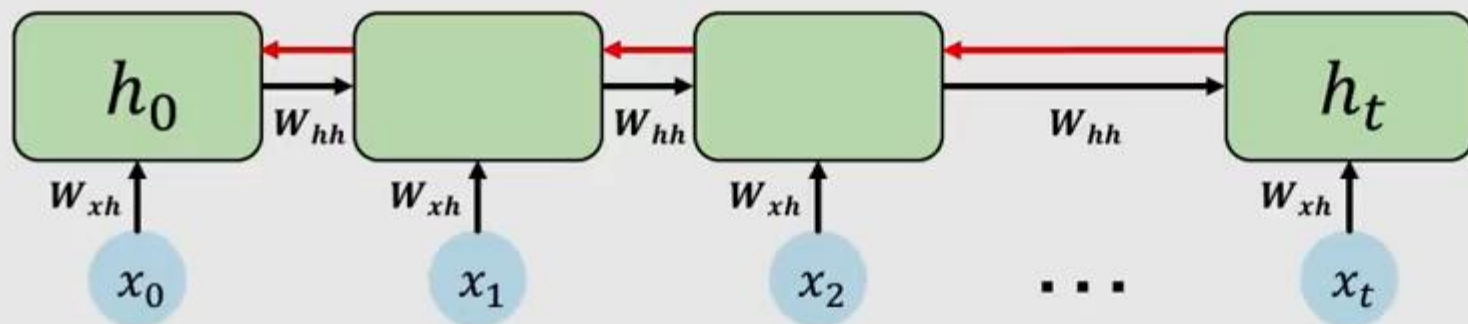


 Deep Learning

Standard RNN Gradient Flow

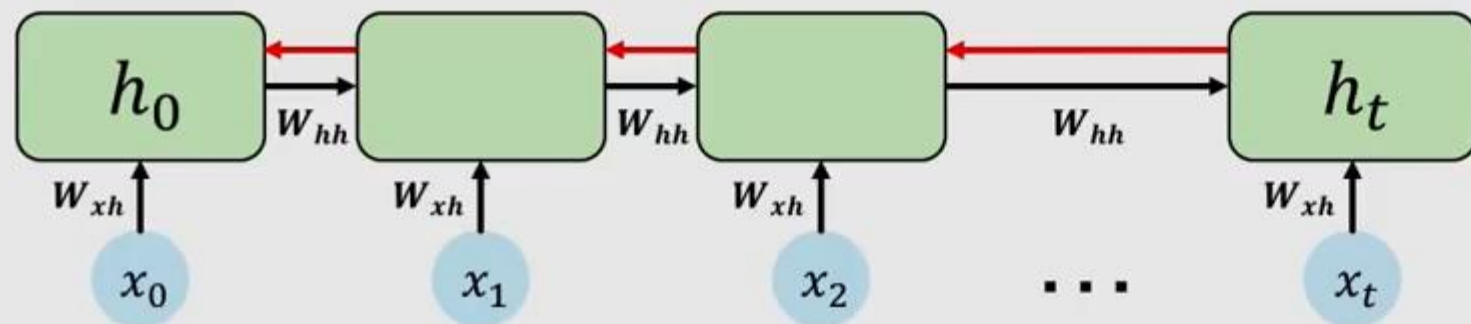


Standard RNN Gradient Flow



Computing the gradient wrt h_0 involves many factors of W_{hh} + repeated gradient computation!

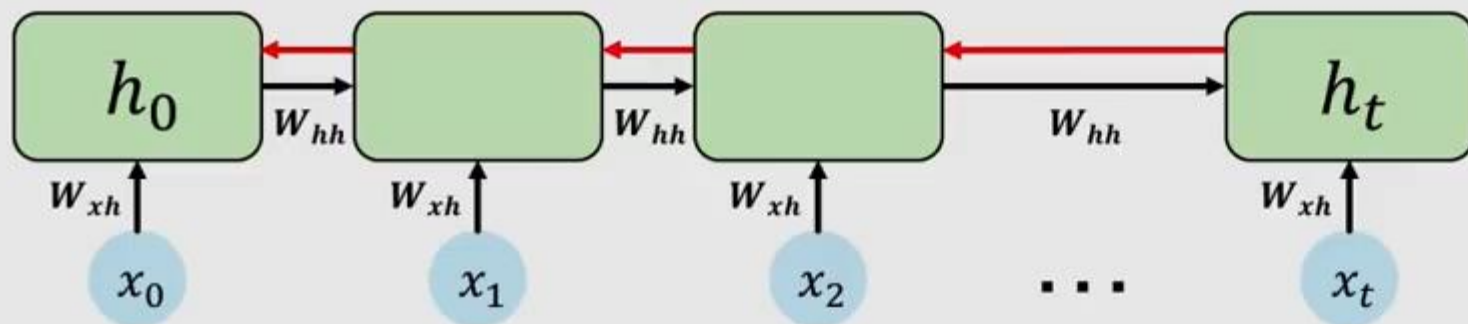
Standard RNN Gradient Flow: Exploding Gradients



Computing the gradient wrt h_0 involves many factors of W_{hh} + repeated gradient computation!

Many values > 1 :
exploding gradients

Standard RNN Gradient Flow: Vanishing Gradients



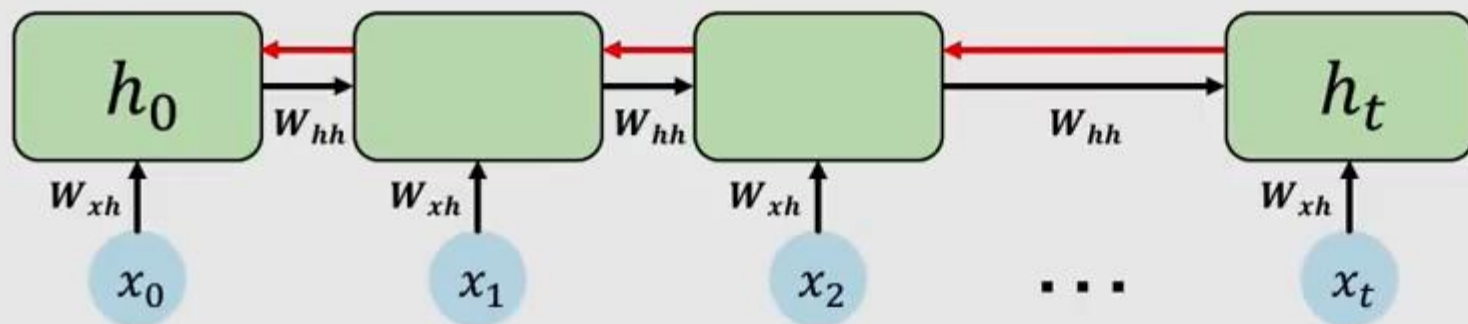
Computing the gradient wrt h_0 involves many factors of W_{hh} + repeated gradient computation!

Many values > 1 :
exploding gradients

Gradient clipping to
scale big gradients

Many values < 1 :
vanishing gradients

Standard RNN Gradient Flow: Vanishing Gradients



Computing the gradient wrt h_0 involves many factors of W_{hh} + repeated gradient computation!

Many values > 1 :
exploding gradients

Gradient clipping to
scale big gradients

Many values < 1 :
vanishing gradients

1. Activation function
2. Weight initialization
3. Network architecture

The Problem of Long-Term Dependencies

Why are vanishing gradients a problem?



The Problem of Long-Term Dependencies

Why are vanishing gradients a problem?

Multiply many **small numbers** together



The Problem of Long-Term Dependencies

Why are vanishing gradients a problem?

Multiply many **small numbers** together



Errors due to further back time steps
have smaller and smaller gradients



The Problem of Long-Term Dependencies

Why are vanishing gradients a problem?

Multiply many **small numbers** together



Errors due to further back time steps
have smaller and smaller gradients



Bias parameters to capture short-term
dependencies



The Problem of Long-Term Dependencies

"The clouds are in the ____"

Why are vanishing gradients a problem?

Multiply many **small numbers** together



Errors due to further back time steps
have smaller and smaller gradients



Bias parameters to capture short-term
dependencies



The Problem of Long-Term Dependencies

Why are vanishing gradients a problem?

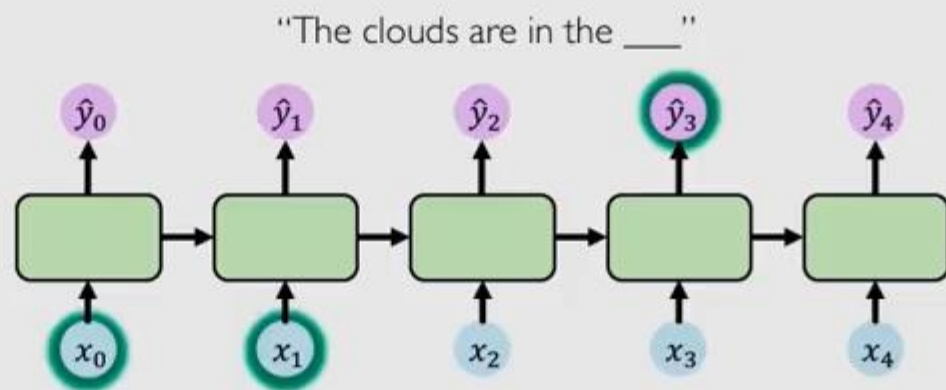
Multiply many **small numbers** together



Errors due to further back time steps
have smaller and smaller gradients



Bias parameters to capture short-term
dependencies



The Problem of Long-Term Dependencies

Why are vanishing gradients a problem?

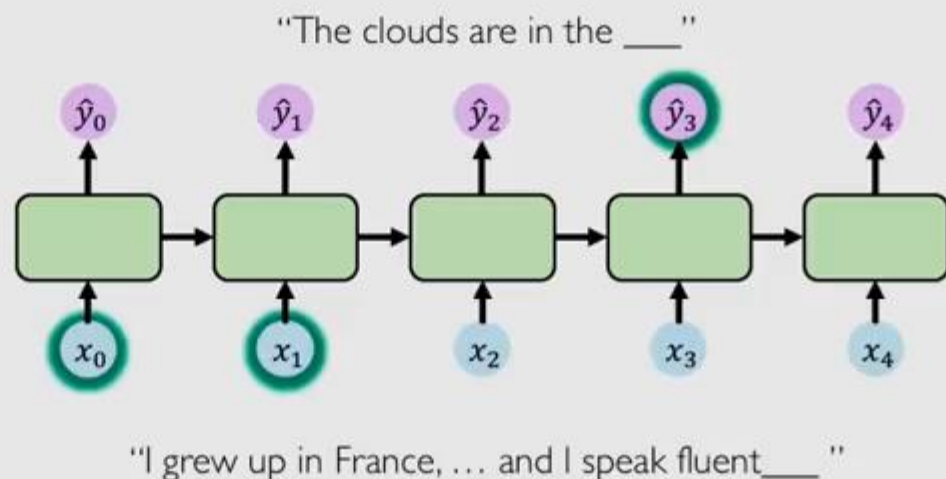
Multiply many **small numbers** together



Errors due to further back time steps
have smaller and smaller gradients



Bias parameters to capture short-term
dependencies



The Problem of Long-Term Dependencies

Why are vanishing gradients a problem?

Multiply many **small numbers** together

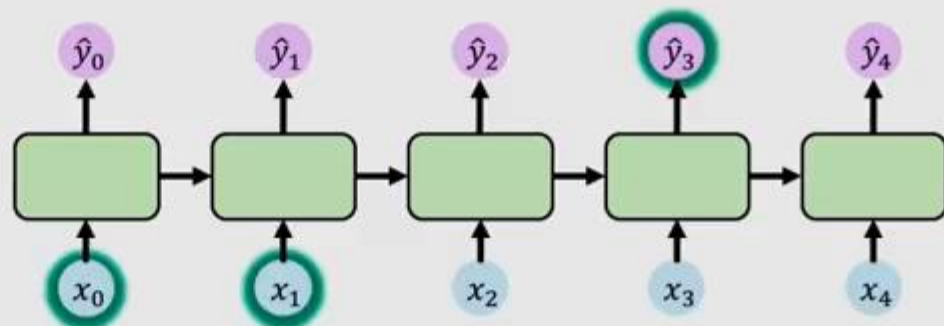


Errors due to further back time steps have smaller and smaller gradients

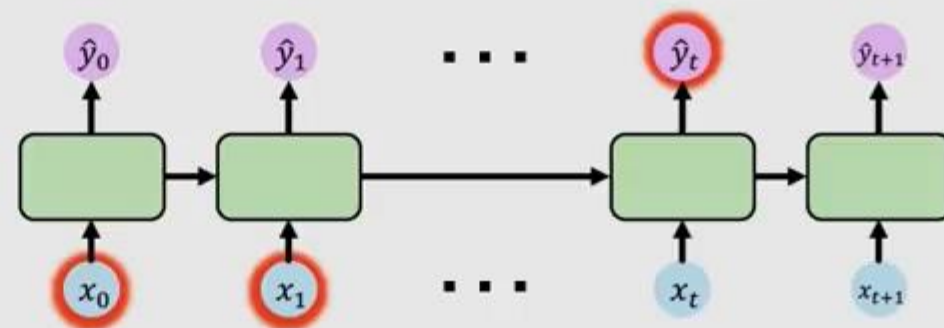


Bias parameters to capture short-term dependencies

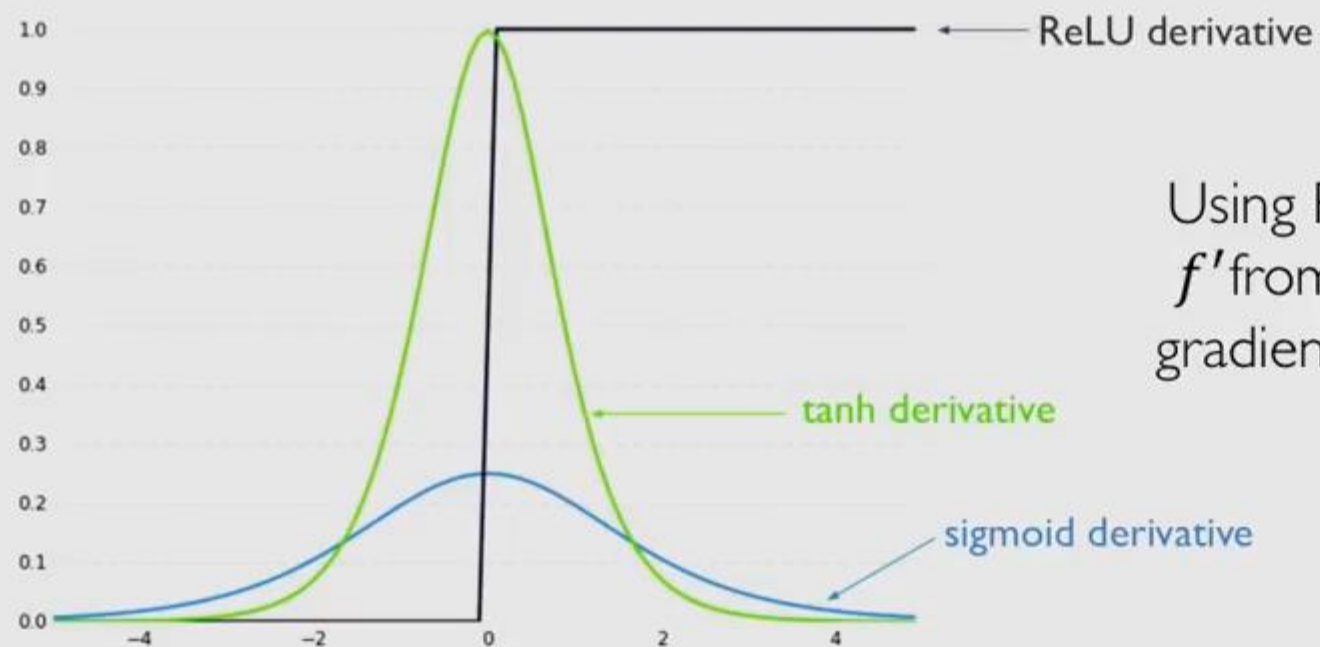
"The clouds are in the ____"



"I grew up in France, ... and I speak fluent ____"



Trick #1: Activation Functions



Using ReLU prevents f' from shrinking the gradients when $x > 0$



Trick #2: Parameter Initialization

Initialize **weights** to identity matrix

Initialize **biases** to zero

$$I_n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

This helps prevent the weights from shrinking to zero.



Solution #3: Gated Cells

Idea: use a more **complex recurrent unit with gates** to control what information is passed through



Solution #3: Gated Cells

Idea: use a more **complex recurrent unit with gates** to control what information is passed through

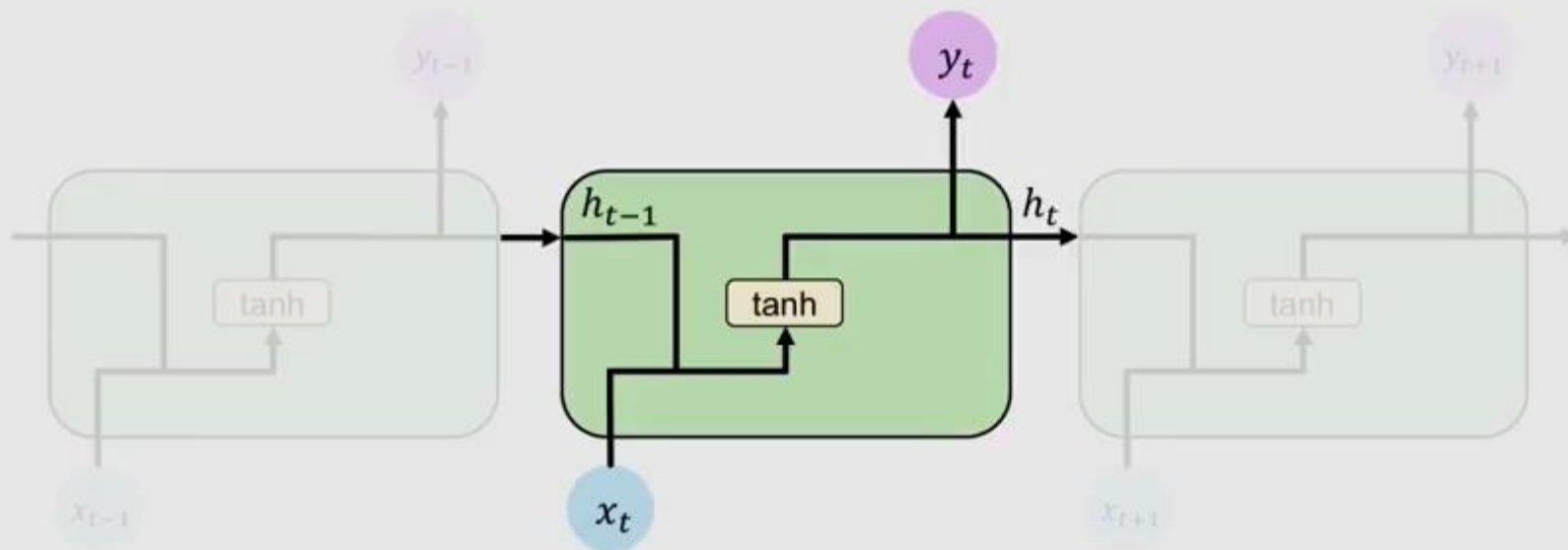


Long Short Term Memory (LSTMs) networks rely on a gated cell to track information throughout many time steps.

Long Short Term Memory (LSTM) Networks

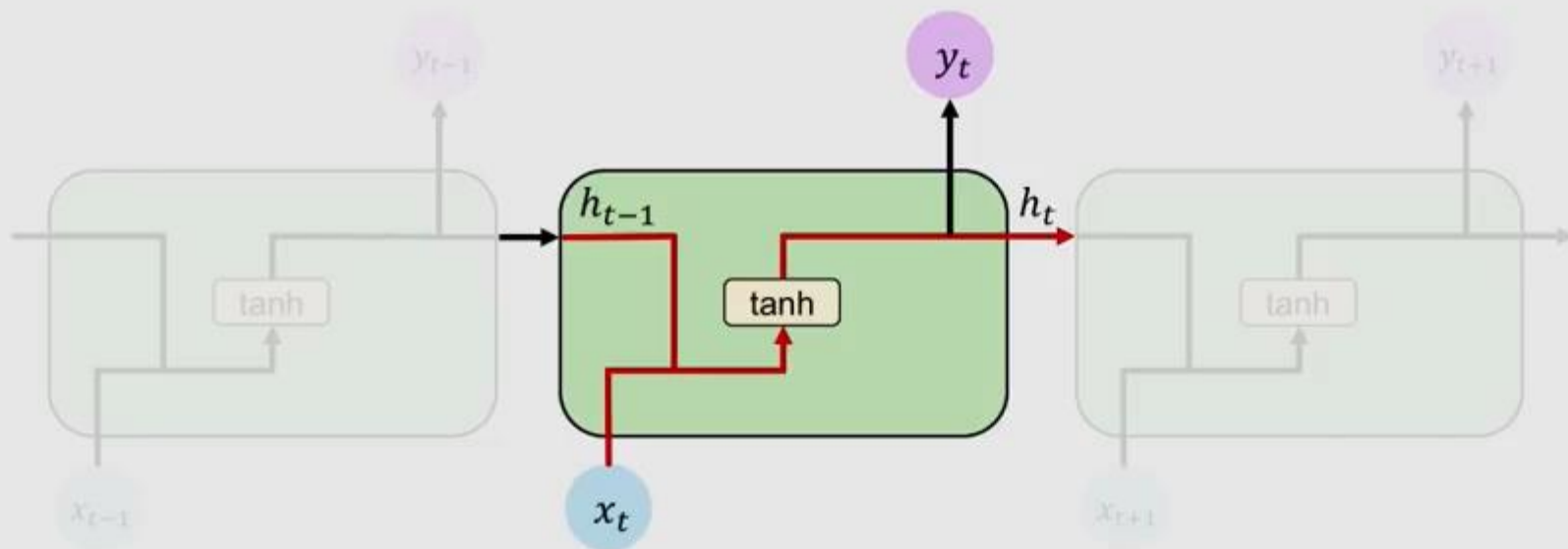
Standard RNN

In a standard RNN, repeating modules contain a **simple computation node**



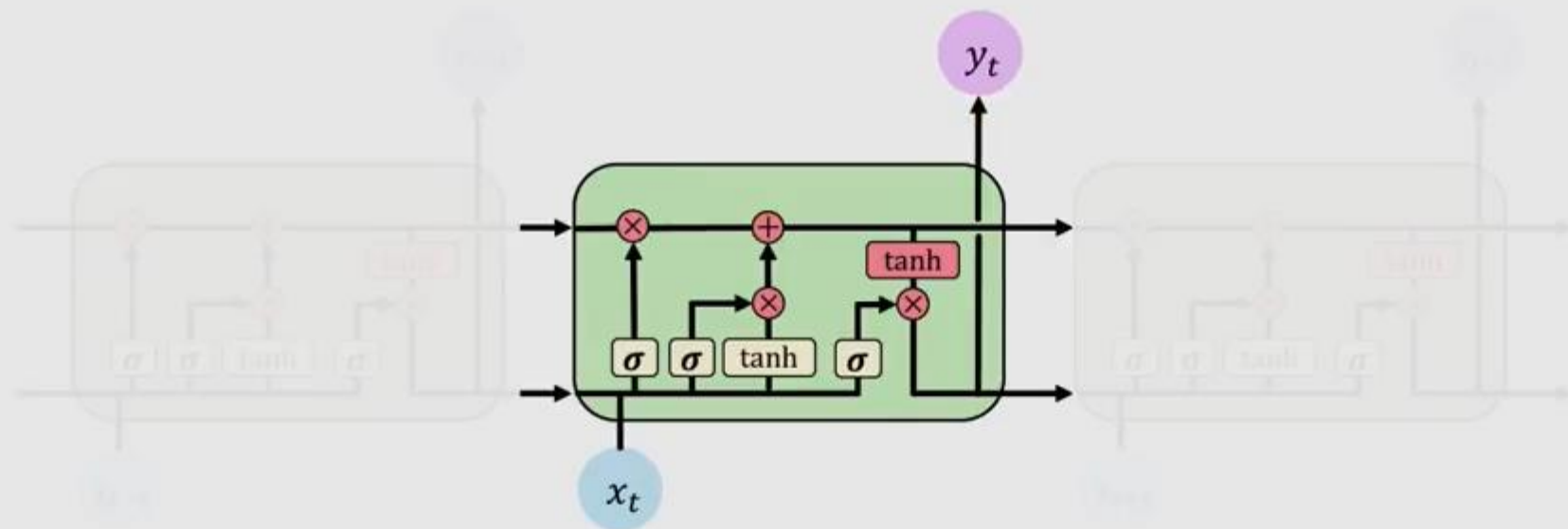
Standard RNN

In a standard RNN, repeating modules contain a **simple computation node**



Long Short Term Memory (LSTMs)

LSTM modules contain **computational blocks** that **control information flow**



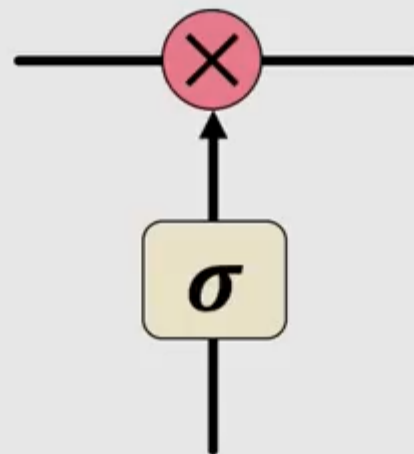
MIT Deep Learning

LSTM cells are able to track information throughout many timesteps

```
tf.keras.layers.LSTM(num_units)
```

Long Short Term Memory (LSTMs)

Information is **added** or **removed** through structures called **gates**

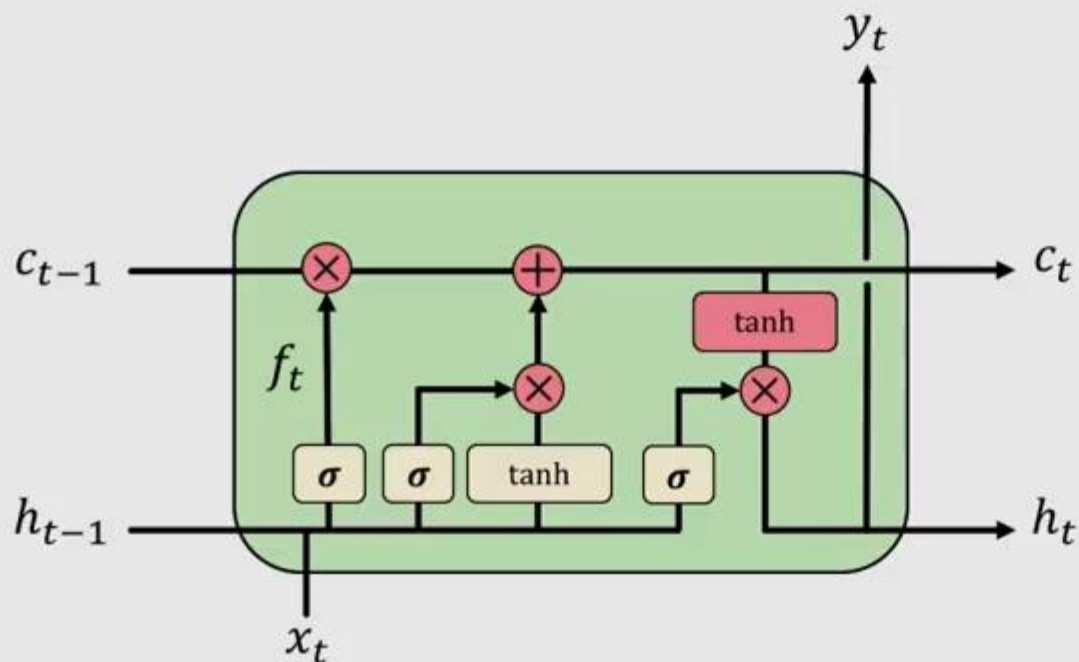


Gates optionally let information through, for example via a sigmoid neural net layer and pointwise multiplication

Long Short Term Memory (LSTMs)

How do LSTMs work?

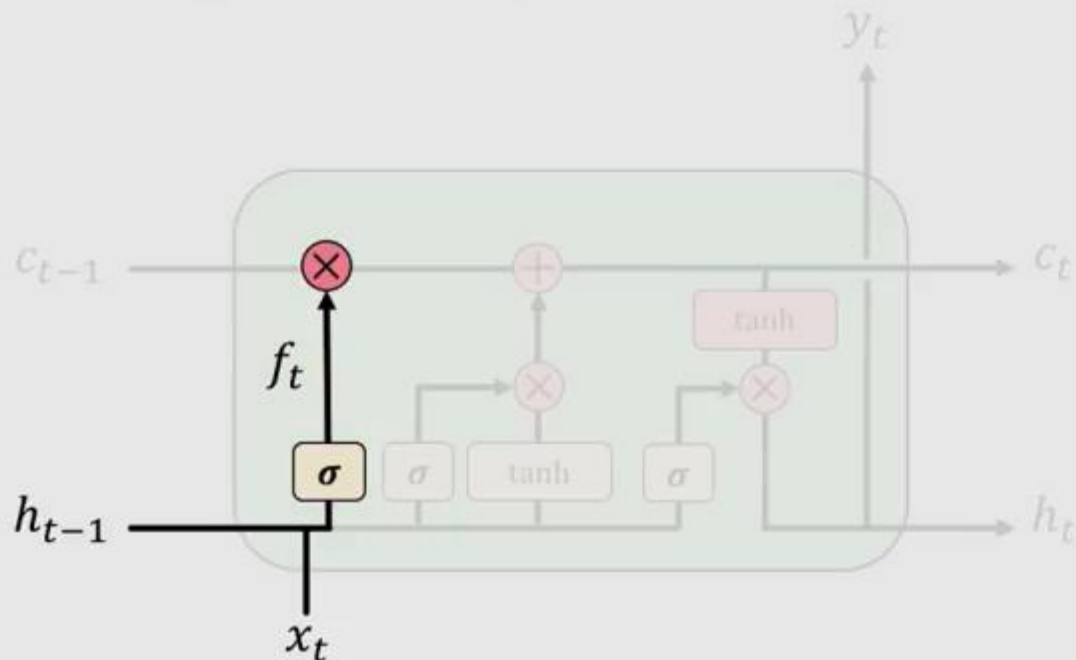
- 1) Forget 2) Store 3) Update 4) Output



Long Short Term Memory (LSTMs)

1) **Forget** 2) Store 3) Update 4) Output

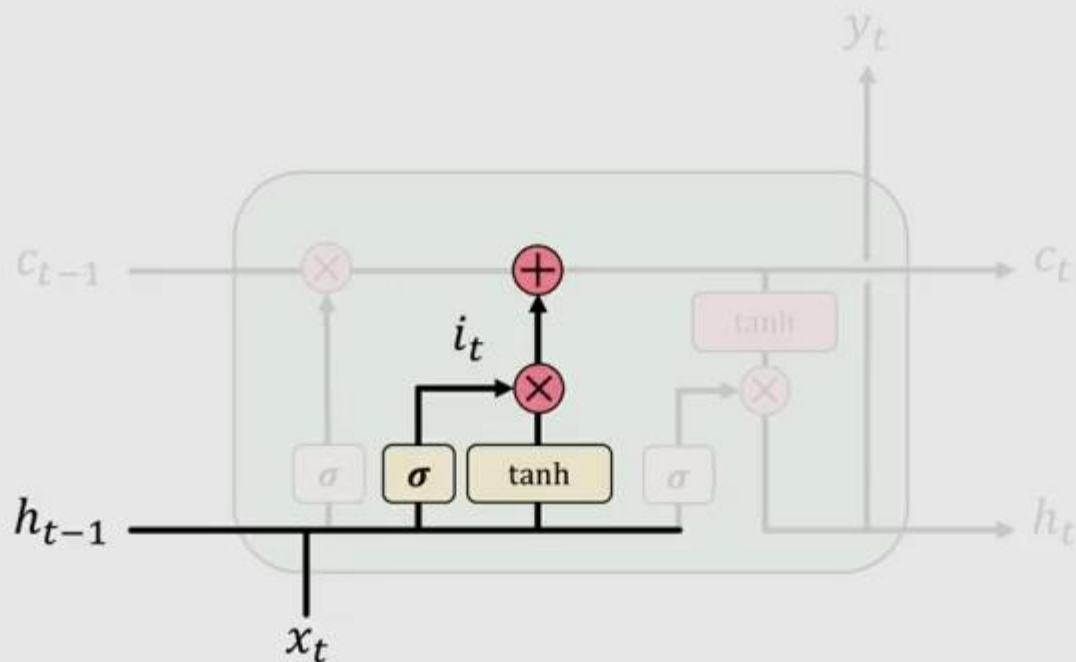
LSTMs **forget** irrelevant parts of the previous state



Long Short Term Memory (LSTMs)

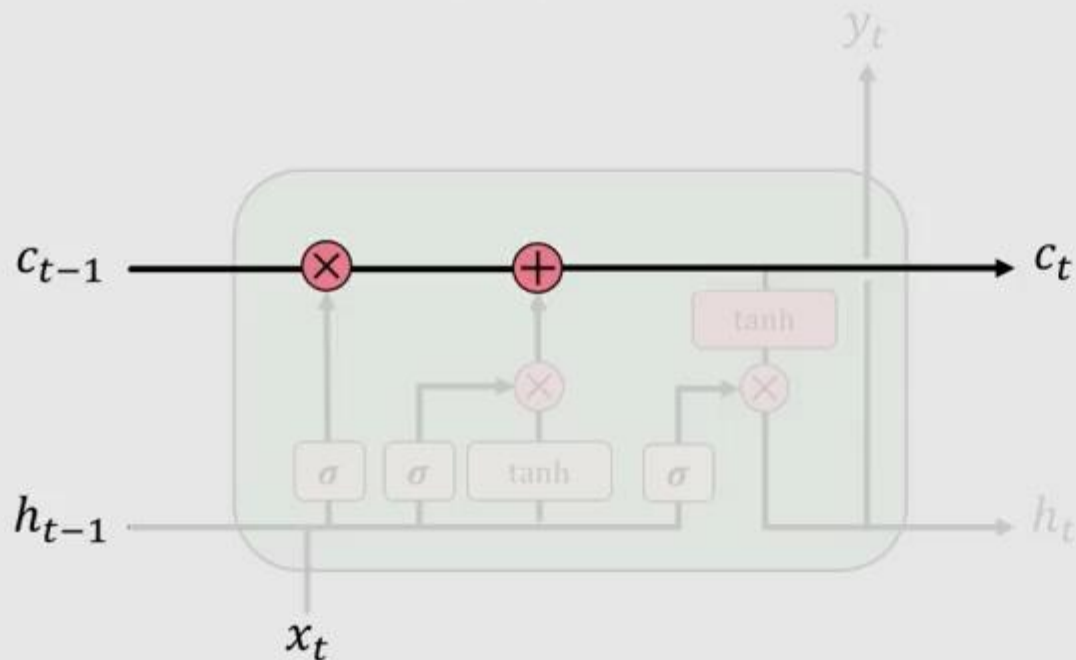
1) Forget 2) **Store** 3) Update 4) Output

LSTMs **store relevant** new information into the cell state



Long Short Term Memory (LSTMs)

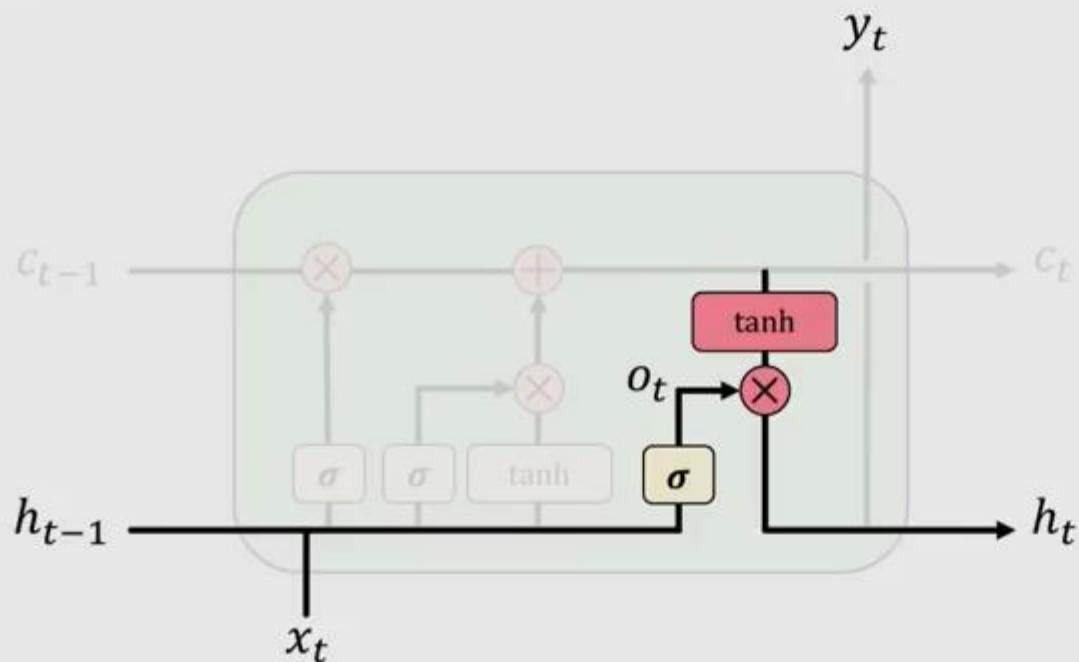
- 1) Forget 2) Store **3) Update** 4) Output
LSTMs **selectively update** cell state values



Long Short Term Memory (LSTMs)

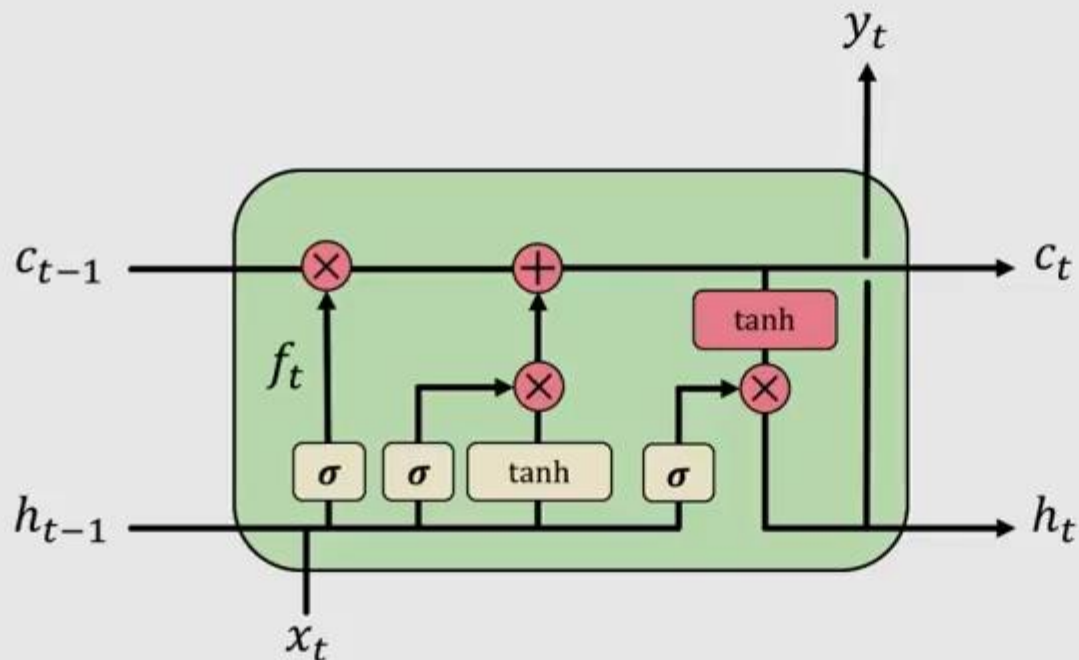
1) Forget 2) Store 3) Update 4) **Output**

The **output gate** controls what information is sent to the next time step



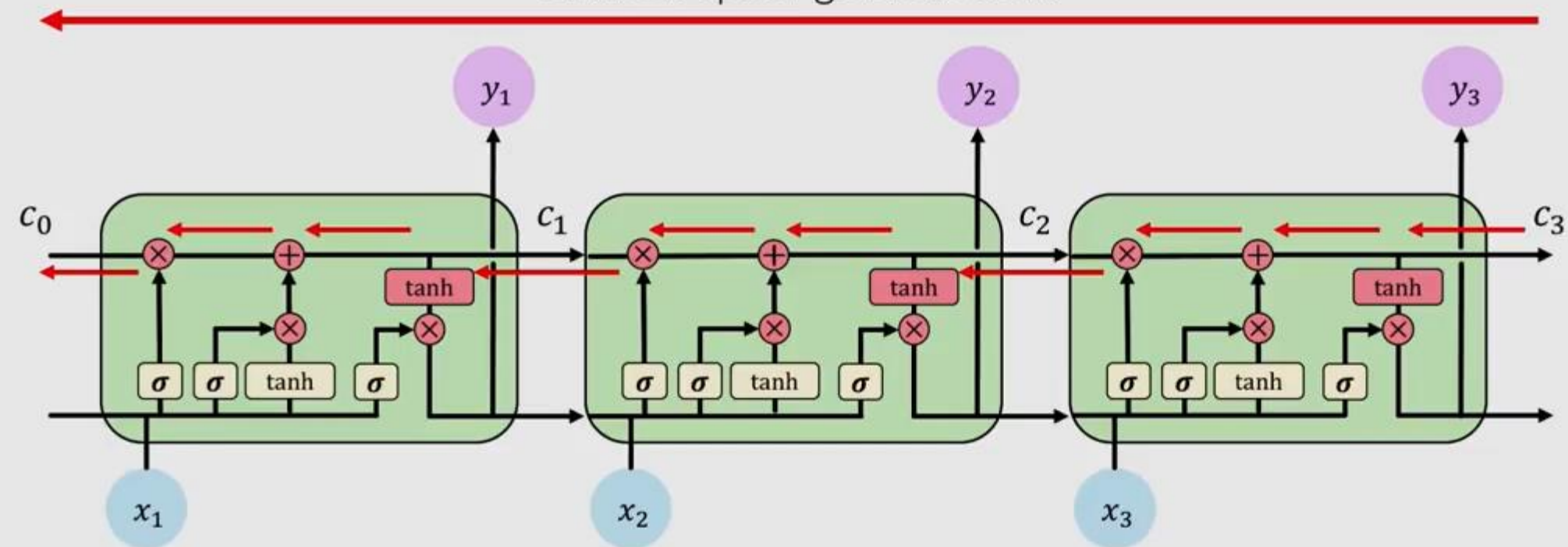
Long Short Term Memory (LSTMs)

1) Forget 2) Store 3) Update 4) Output



LSTM Gradient Flow

Uninterrupted gradient flow!



LSTMs: Key Concepts



LSTMs: Key Concepts

1. Maintain a **separate cell state** from what is outputted



LSTMs: Key Concepts

1. Maintain a **separate cell state** from what is outputted
2. Use **gates** to control the **flow of information**



LSTMs: Key Concepts

1. Maintain a **separate cell state** from what is outputted
2. Use **gates** to control the **flow of information**
 - **Forget** gate gets rid of irrelevant information



LSTMs: Key Concepts

1. Maintain a **separate cell state** from what is outputted
2. Use **gates** to control the **flow of information**
 - **Forget** gate gets rid of irrelevant information
 - **Store** relevant information from current input



LSTMs: Key Concepts

1. Maintain a **separate cell state** from what is outputted
2. Use **gates** to control the **flow of information**
 - **Forget** gate gets rid of irrelevant information
 - **Store** relevant information from current input
 - Selectively **update** cell state



LSTMs: Key Concepts

1. Maintain a **separate cell state** from what is outputted
2. Use **gates** to control the **flow of information**
 - **Forget** gate gets rid of irrelevant information
 - **Store** relevant information from current input
 - Selectively **update** cell state
 - **Output** gate returns a filtered version of the cell state



LSTMs: Key Concepts

1. Maintain a **separate cell state** from what is outputted
2. Use **gates** to control the **flow of information**
 - **Forget** gate gets rid of irrelevant information
 - **Store** relevant information from current input
 - Selectively **update** cell state
 - **Output** gate returns a filtered version of the cell state
3. Backpropagation through time with **uninterrupted gradient flow**

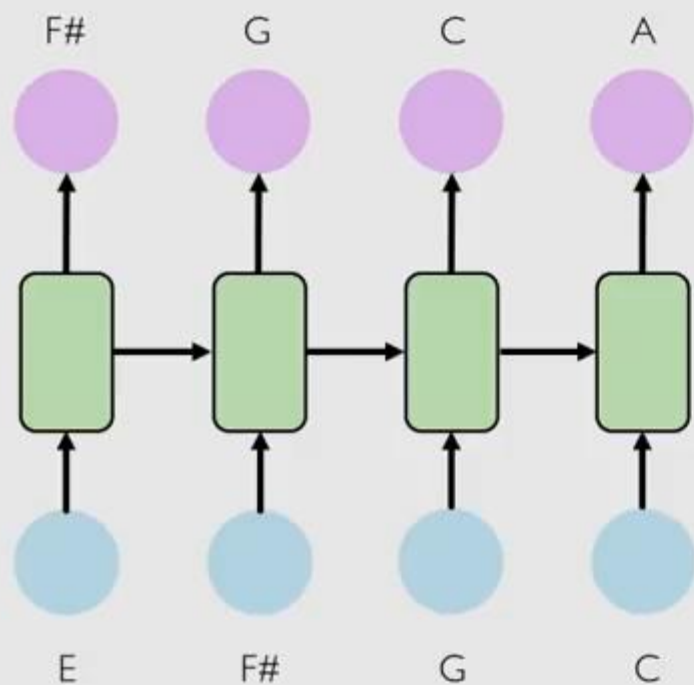


RNN Applications

Example Task: Music Generation

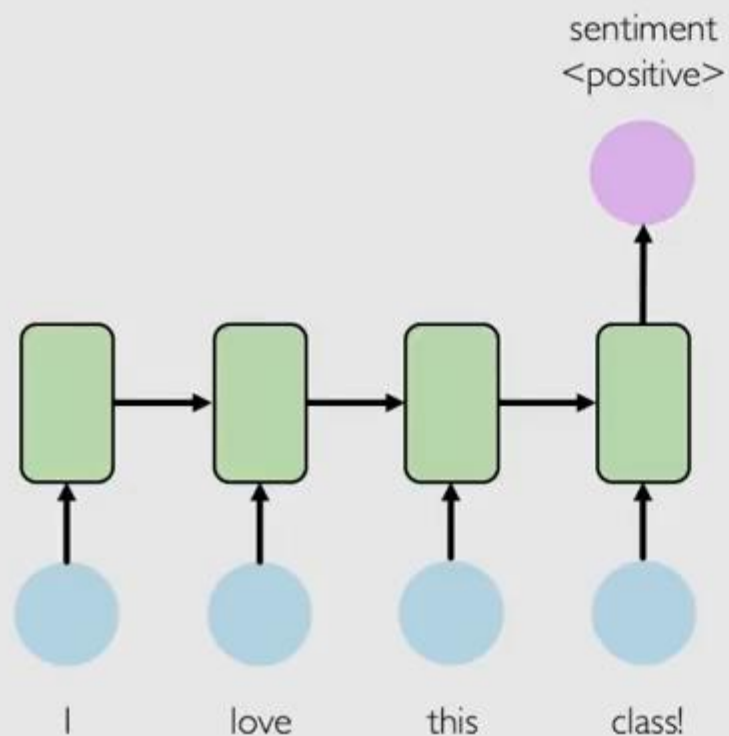
Input: sheet music

Output: next character in sheet music



 Deep Learning

Example Task: Sentiment Classification

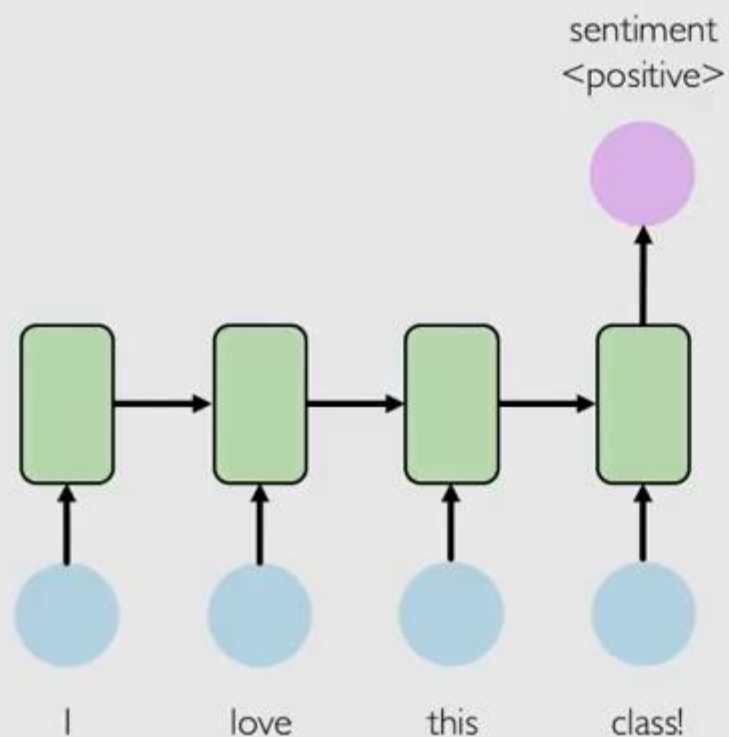


Input: sequence of words

Output: probability of having positive sentiment

```
loss = tf.nn.softmax_cross_entropy_with_logits(y, predicted)
```

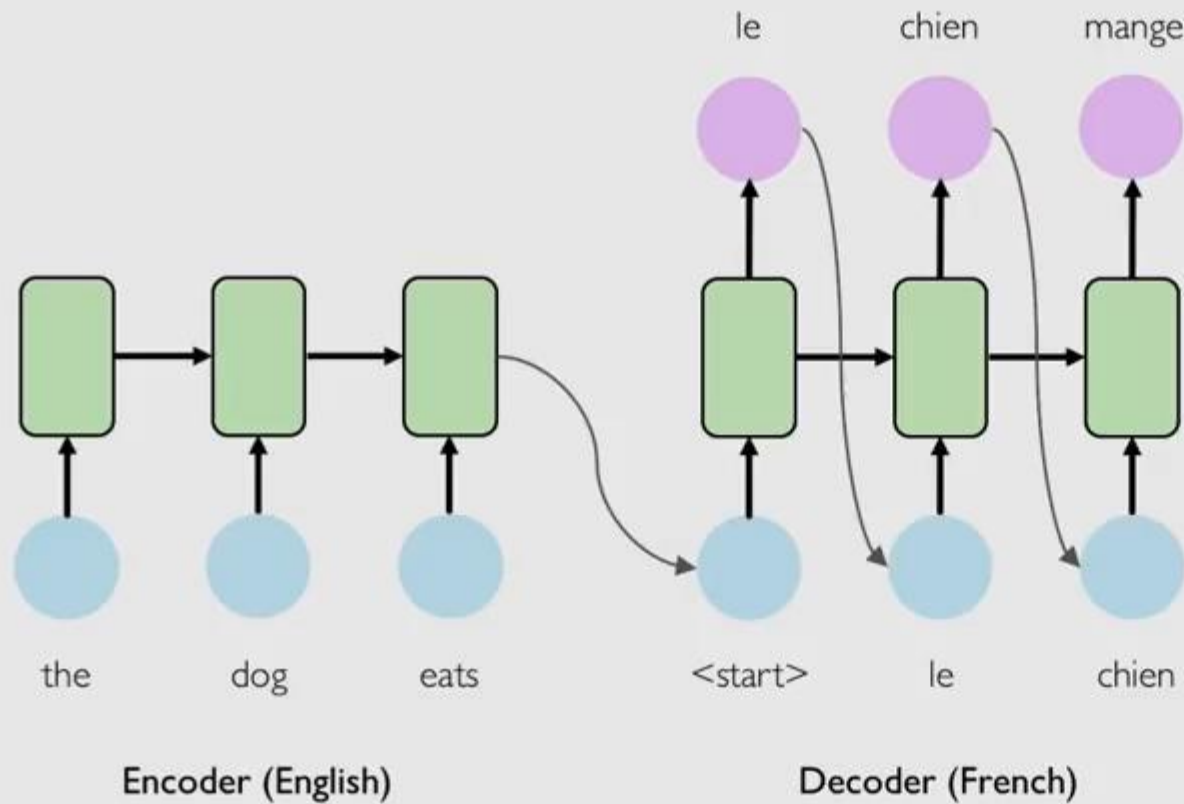
Example Task: Sentiment Classification



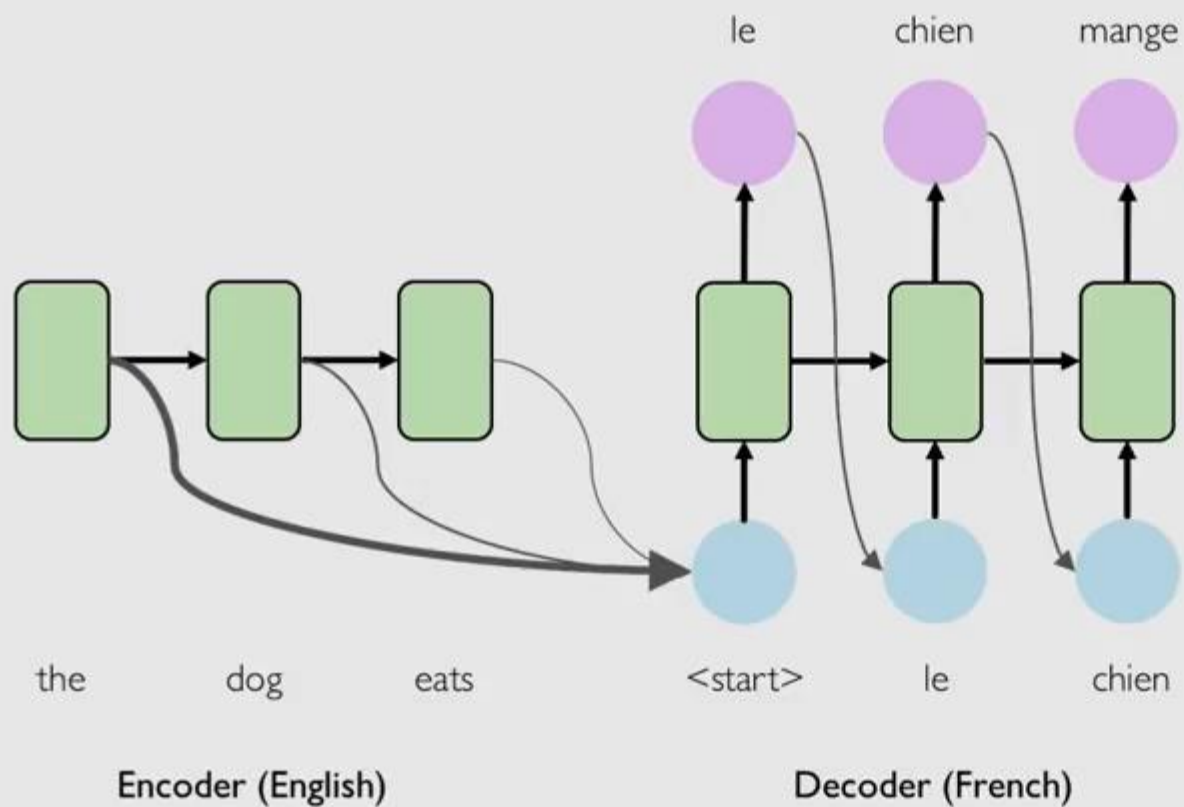
Tweet sentiment classification



Example Task: Machine Translation

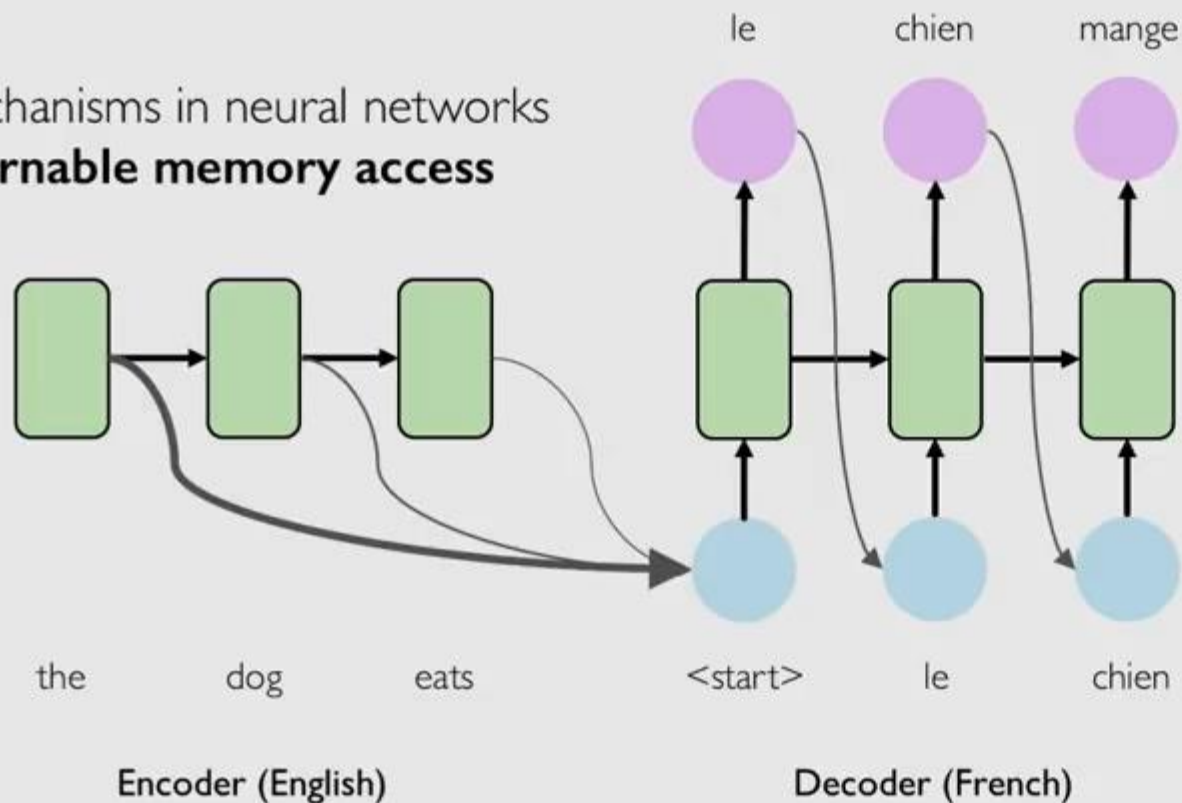


Attention Mechanisms



Attention Mechanisms

Attention mechanisms in neural networks provide **learnable memory access**



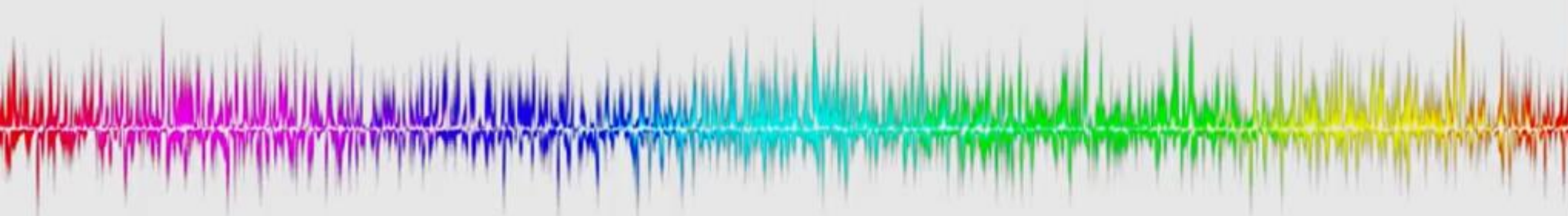
Deep Learning for Sequence Modeling: Summary

1. RNNs are well suited for **sequence modeling** tasks



Deep Learning for Sequence Modeling: Summary

1. RNNs are well suited for **sequence modeling** tasks
2. Model sequences via a **recurrence relation**



Deep Learning for Sequence Modeling: Summary

1. RNNs are well suited for **sequence modeling** tasks
2. Model sequences via a **recurrence relation**
3. Training RNNs with **backpropagation through time**



Deep Learning for Sequence Modeling: Summary

1. RNNs are well suited for **sequence modeling** tasks
2. Model sequences via a **recurrence relation**
3. Training RNNs with **backpropagation through time**
4. Gated cells like **LSTMs** let us model **long-term dependencies**



Deep Learning for Sequence Modeling: Summary

1. RNNs are well suited for **sequence modeling** tasks
2. Model sequences via a **recurrence relation**
3. Training RNNs with **backpropagation through time**
4. Gated cells like **LSTMs** let us model **long-term dependencies**
5. Models for **music generation**, classification, machine translation, and more



THANK YOU!