

Department of Computer Engineering University of Kurdistan

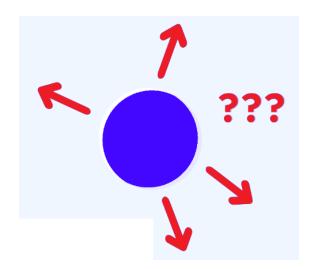
Deep Learning (Graduate level)

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

By: Dr. Alireza Abdollahpouri

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

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



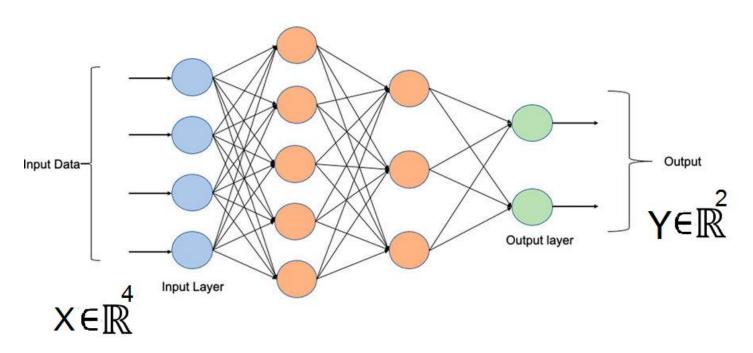
Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

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



Limitations of Feed forward Networks

- Information flows only in the forward direction. No cycles or Loops
- Decisions are based on current input, no memory about the past
- Doesn't know how to handle sequential data
- Inability to handle variable-length input

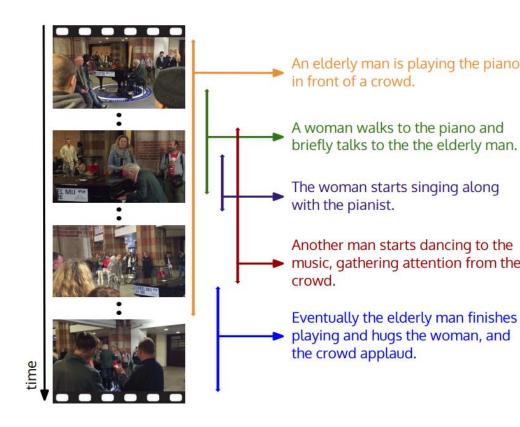




Why are existing convnets insufficient?

Variable sequence length inputs and outputs!

Example task: video captioning Input video can have variable number of frames
Output captions can be variable length.



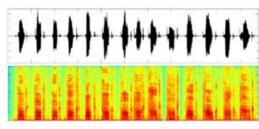


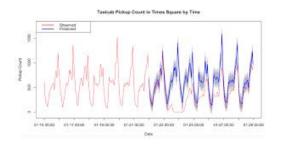
Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

- Models temporal information
- Hidden states as a function of inputs and previous time step information

$$\mathbf{h}_t = f(\mathbf{h}_{t-1}, \mathbf{x}_t; \Theta)$$

- Temporal information is important in many applications
 - Natural Language Processing (Machine Translation, Text Generation)
 - 2. Time Series Forecasting
 - 3. Speech Recognition
 - 4. Video Analysis

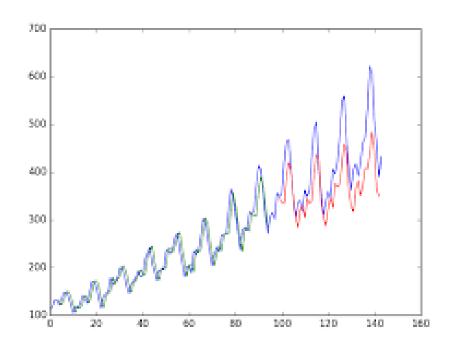




Sequential Data

Sometimes the sequence of data matters:

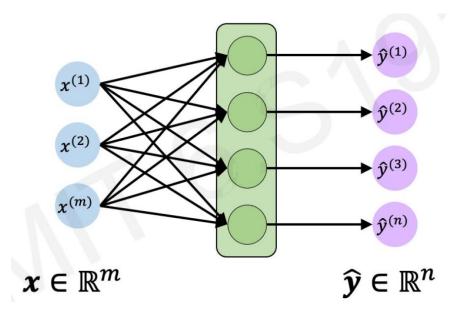
- Sentences: "The dog bit the cat" ≠ "The cat bit the dog"
- DNA sequences: ATG = start codon ≠ GTA (codes for different amino acid)

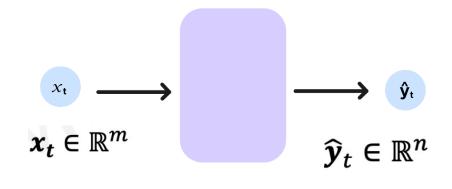


The clouds are in the (Answer: sky)

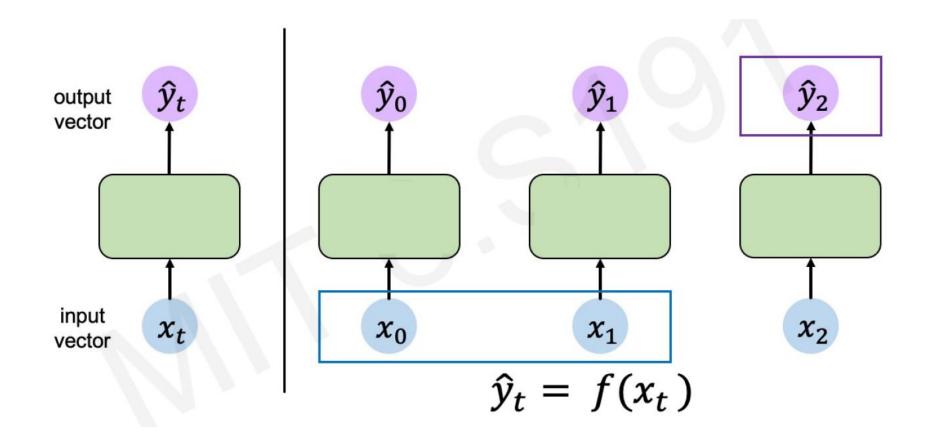


Feed-Forward Network

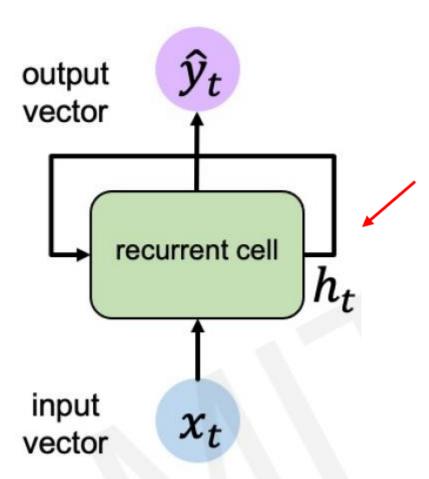




Handling Individual Time steps

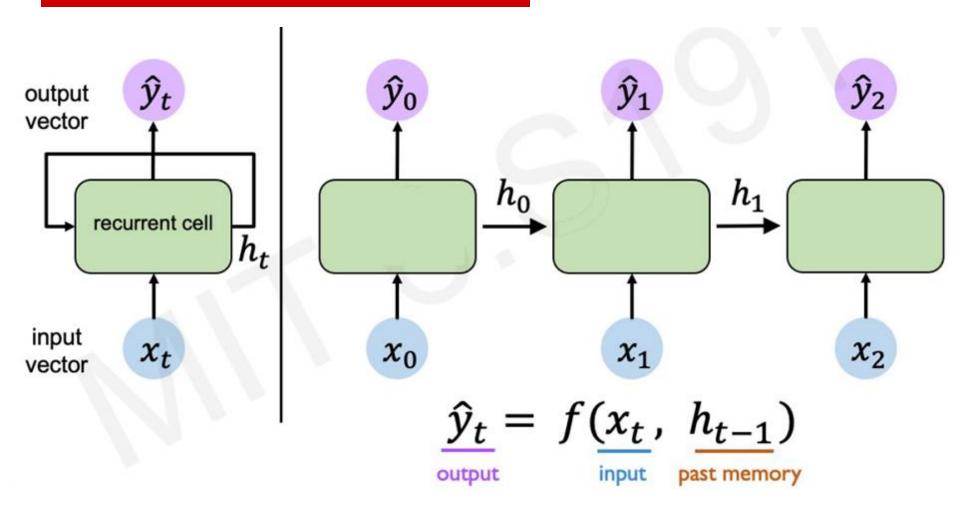


RNN: Internal State



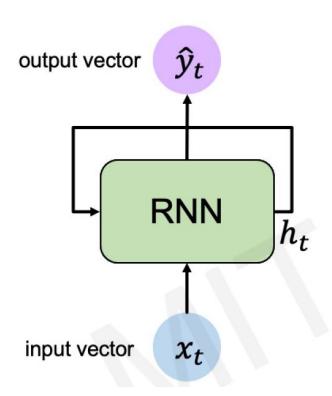
Key idea: RNNs have an "internal state" that is updated as a sequence is processed. You can think of it as "memory".

RNN: Unrolling through time



Unrolled RNN

Recurrent Neural Network



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

$$h_t = f_W(x_t), h_{t-1}$$
cell state function input old state with weights w

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

RNN: State ad output computations

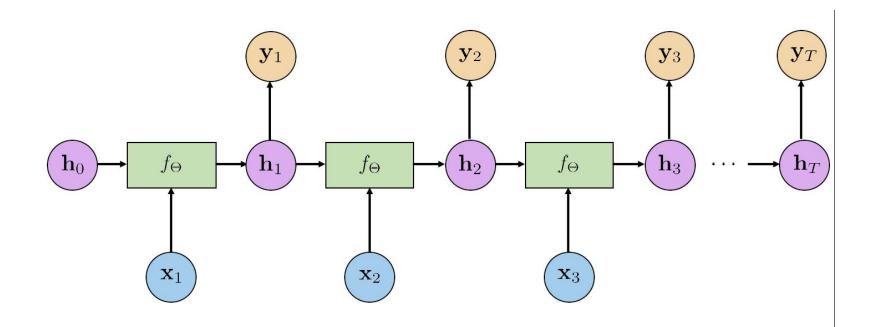
$$h_t = tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$$
 = tanh($w_{hh}h_{t-1} + w_{xh}x_t$)

$$y_t = W_{hy} h_t$$

$$y_t = W_{hy} \cdot h_t$$



RNN: Computation Graph (Many to Many)

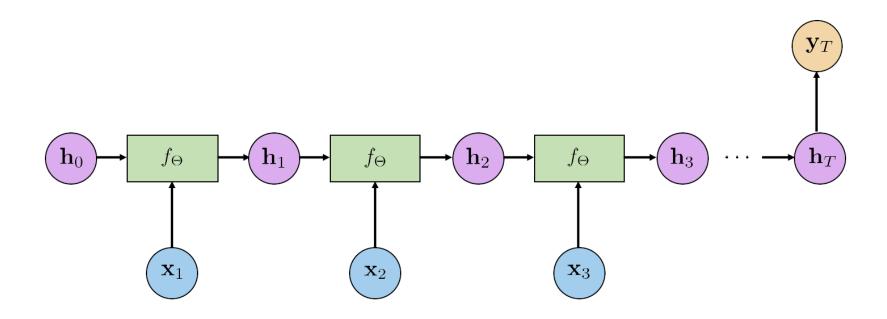


e.g., **Machine Translation** (Sequence of words \rightarrow Sequence of words)

Input sentence:	Translation (PBMT):	Translation (GNMT):	Translation (human):
李克強此行將啟動中加 總理年度對話機制,與 加拿大總理社會多舉行 兩艦總理查次年度對 話。	Li Keqiang premier added this line to start the annual dialogue mechanism with the Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau two prime ministers held its first annual session.	Li Keqiang will start the annual dialogue mechanism with Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada and hold the first annual dialogue between the two premiers.	Li Keqiang will initiate the annual dialogue mechanism between premiers of Chine and Canada during this visit, and hold the first annual dialogue with Premier Trudeau of Canada.



RNN: Computation Graph (Many to one)



e.g., Sentiment Classification

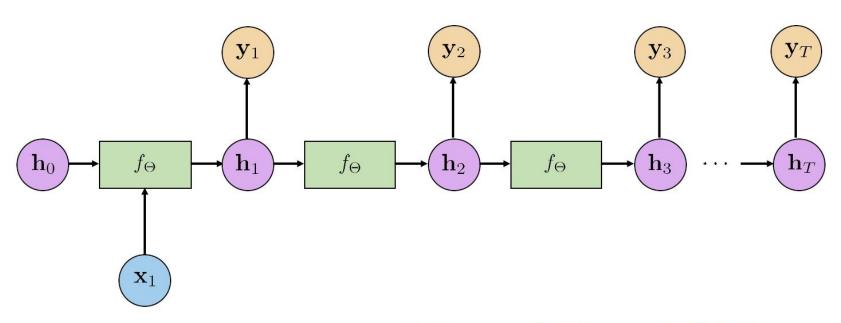
(Sequence of words → sentiment)

This Class is very interesting!





RNN: Computation Graph (One to Many)



e.g., Image Captioning (Image \rightarrow sequence of words)

No errors



A white teddy bear sitting in the grass

Minor errors



A man in a baseball uniform throwing a ball

Somewhat related



A woman is holding a cat in her hand



RNNs-Image Captioning Examples

Describes without errors



A person riding a motorcycle on a dirt road.



A group of young people playing a game of frisbee.

Describes with minor errors



Two dogs play in the grass.



Two hockey players are fighting over the puck.

Somewhat related to the image

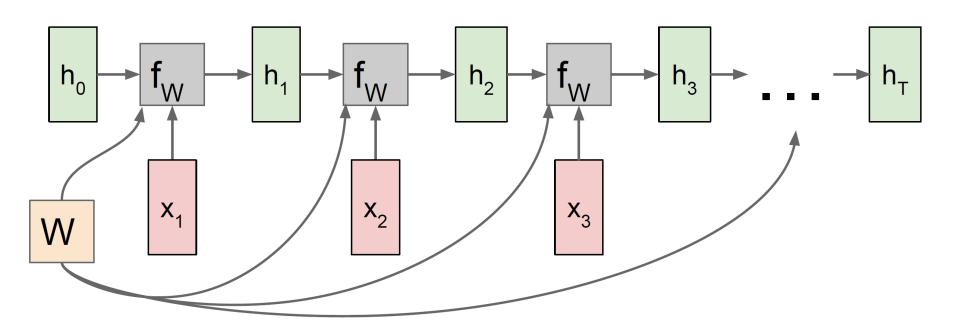


A skateboarder does a trick on a ramp.



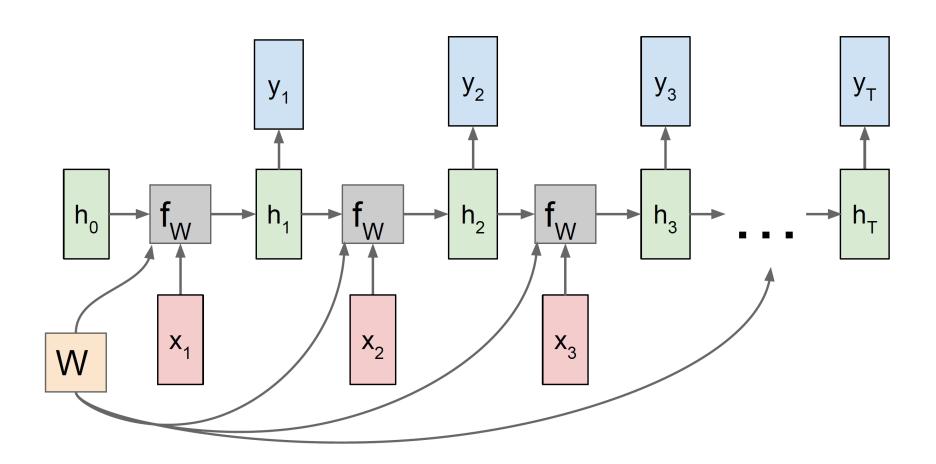
A little girl in a pink hat is blowing bubbles.

RNN: Computational graph

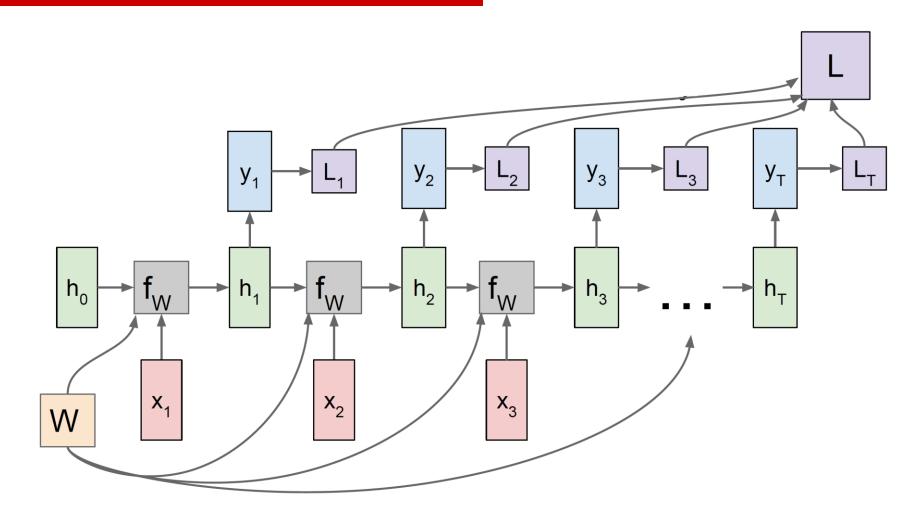


Re-use the same weight matrix at every time-step.

RNN: Computational graph: Many-to-many

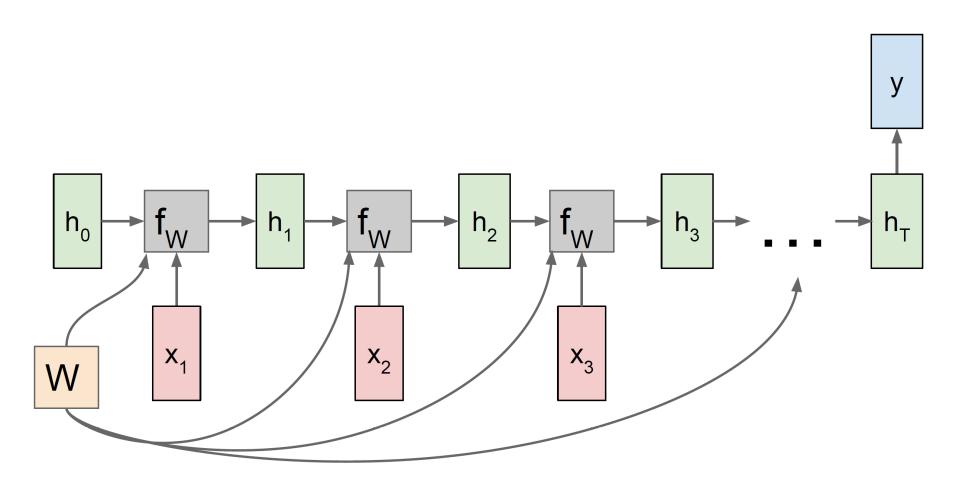


RNN: Computational graph: Many-to-many

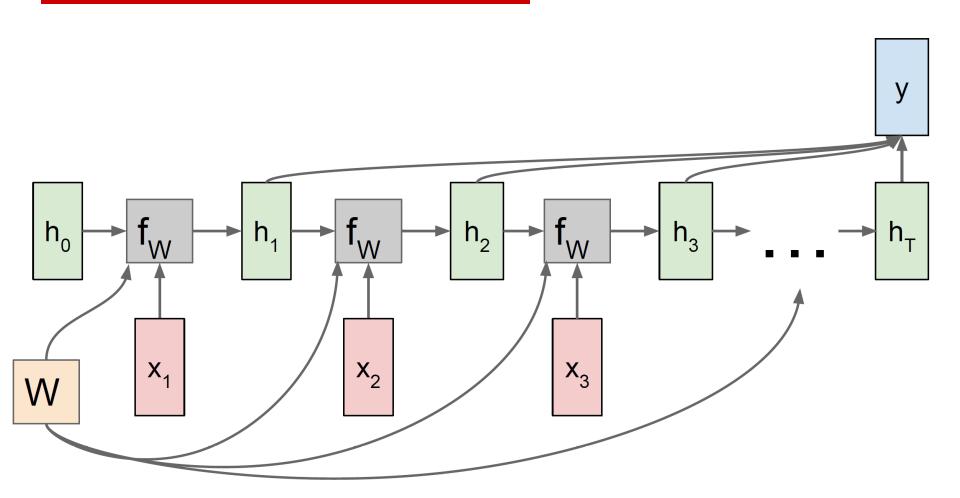


The loss is the sum of the loss at each slot.

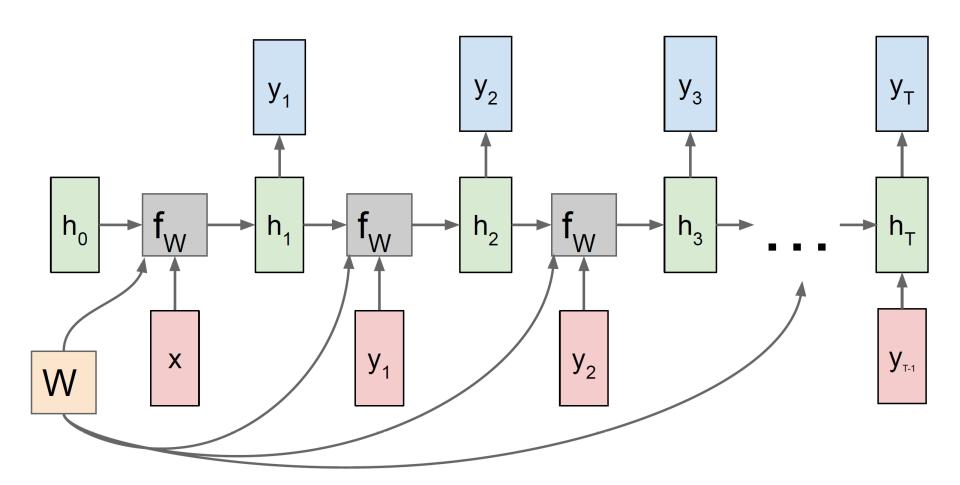
RNN: Computational graph: Many-to-one



RNN: Computational graph: Many-to-one



RNN: Computational graph: One-to-many



Example:

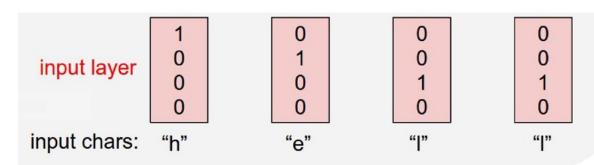
Character-level

Language Model

Vocabulary:

[h,e,l,o]

Example training sequence: "hello"

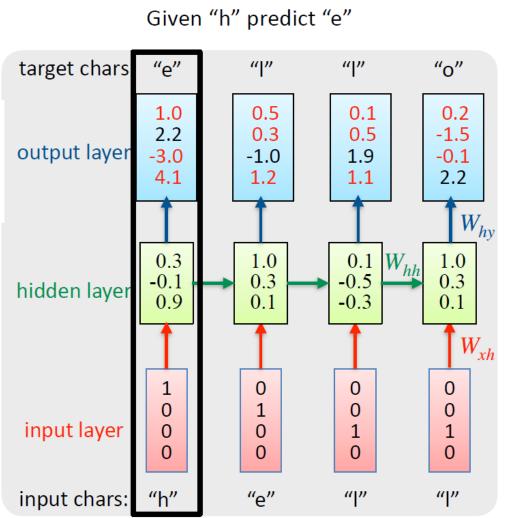




$$\left| \mathbf{h}_t = \tanh(W_{hh} \mathbf{h}_{t-1} + \mathbf{W}_{xh} \mathbf{x}_t) \right|$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \mathrm{"h"} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \mathrm{"e"}$$

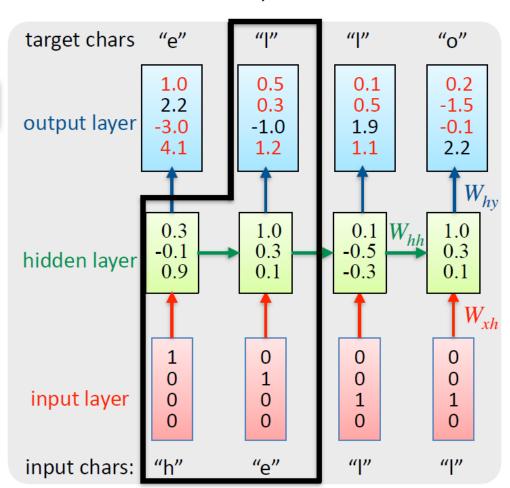
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = "l" \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = "o"$$



Given "he" predict "l"

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \text{"h"} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \text{"e"}$$

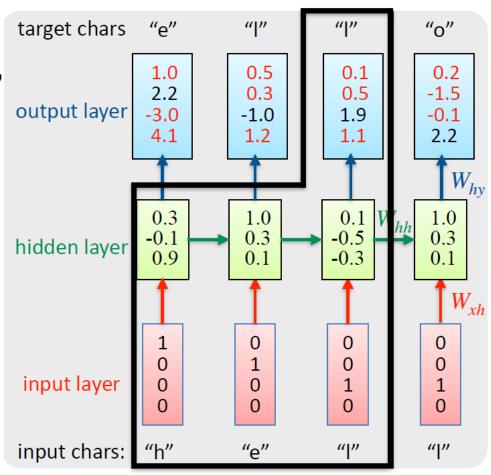
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \text{"l"} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \text{"o"}$$



Given "hel" predict "l"

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \text{"h"} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \text{"e"} \quad \text{hidden layer}$$

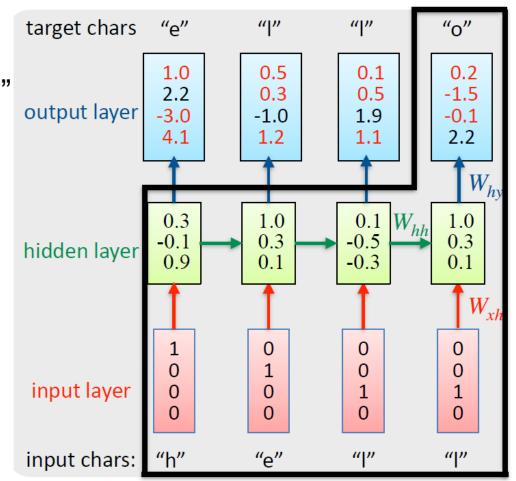
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = "l" \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = "o"$$
 input layer input chars:



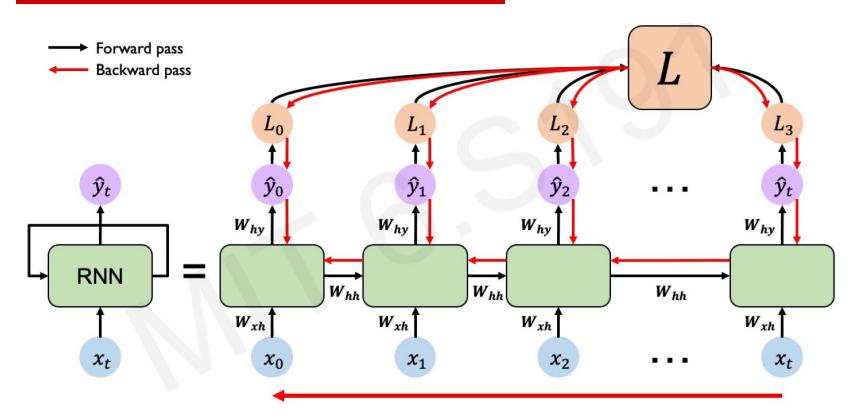
Given "hell" predict "o"

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \text{"h"} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \text{"e"}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = "l" \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = "o"$$
 input layer input chars:

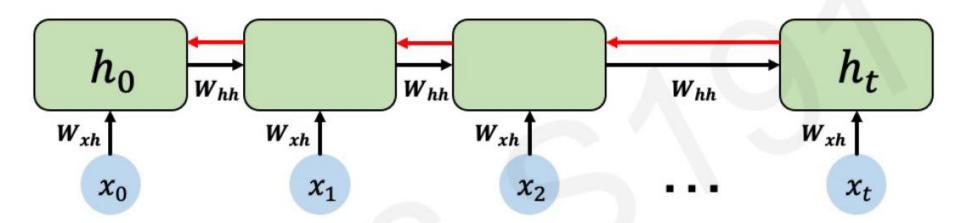


RNN Training -Backpropagation Through Time



Unfold the network across time steps and apply backpropagation to calculate gradients and update weights throughout the entire temporal sequence.

RNN Training -Backpropagation Through Time



RNN Gradient flow

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

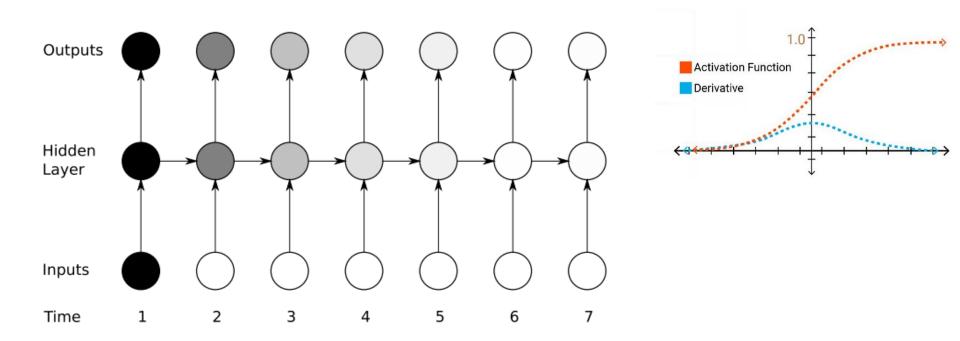
Many values >1 → **Exploding** Gradient Many values <1 → **Vanishing** Gradient



Vanishing Gradient Over Time

This is more problematic in vanilla RNN (with tanh/sigmoid activation)

- When trying to handle long temporal dependency
- The gradient vanishes over time



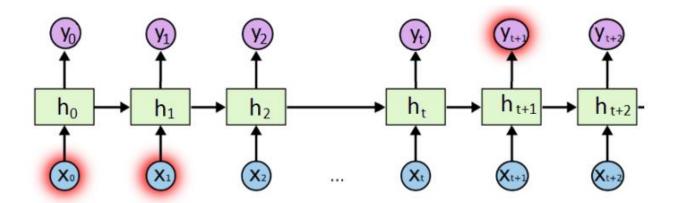
The Problem of Long-term Dependencies

RNNs are good with short sequences such as:

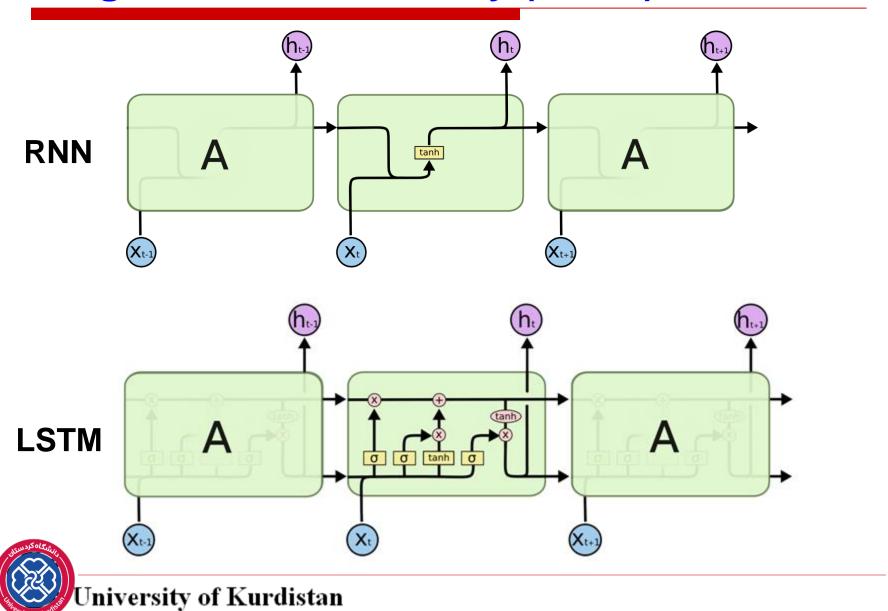
The sky is (Answer: blue)

But...

This is the 10th day of wildfires in California area. There is smoke everywhere, and the sky is

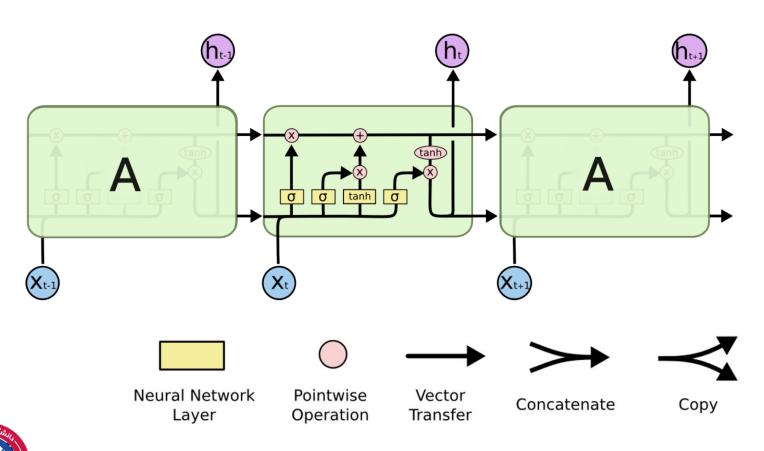


Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)



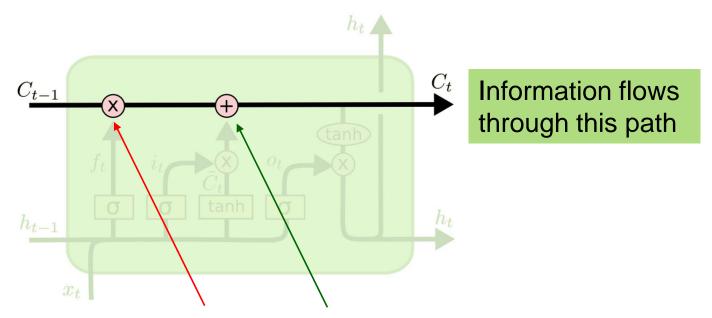
Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)

LSTM networks are RNNs capable of learning long-term dependencies



LSTM: Cell State (long-term memory)

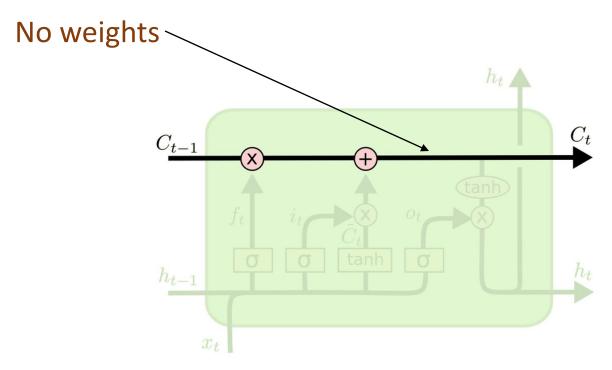
The core idea behind LSTMs is the **cell state**.



The LSTM has the ability to **remove** or **add** information to the cell state: thanks to **gates**

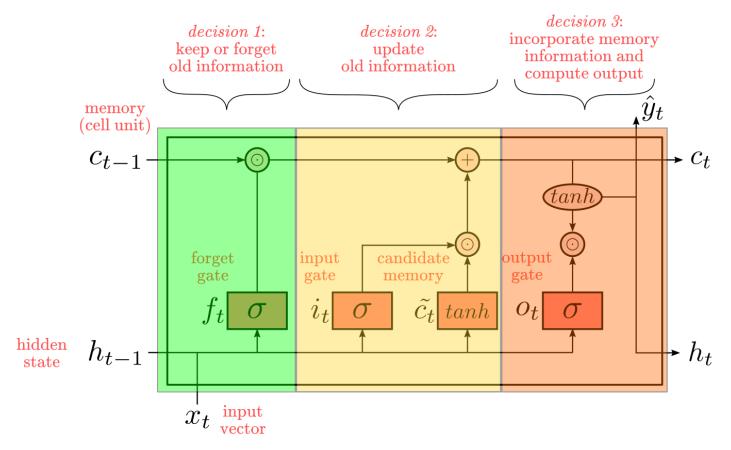
A stable pathway mitigates the vanishing gradient problem and is the core mechanism enabling LSTMs to capture long-range dependencies.

LSTM: Cell State (long-term memory)



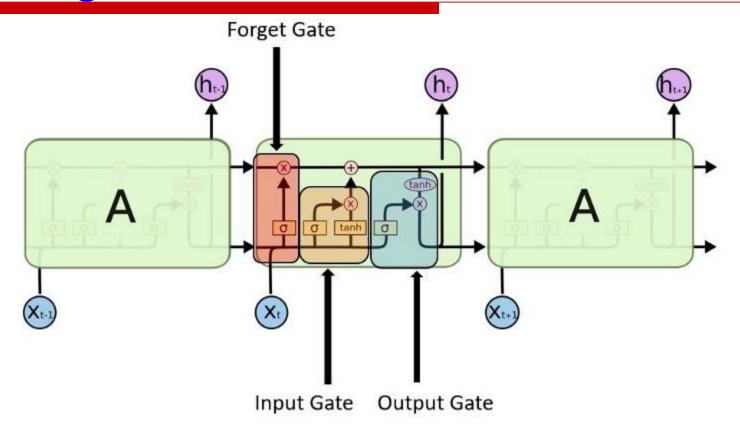
The lack of weights in this path allows long term memories to flow through a series of unrolled units without gradient vanishing/exploding

LSTM gates



The gates are the components that *regulate* what information flows onto, stays on, and gets output from this conveyor belt.

LSTM gates



1.Forget gate: Controls what old information to discard

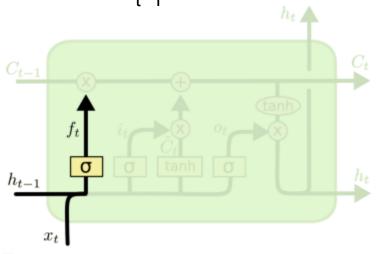
2.Input gate: Controls what new information to store

3.Output gate: Controls what to output

LSTM gates: Forget Gate

Step:1 Decides how much (what percentage) of the past you should remember.

This gate decides which information to be omitted in from the cell in that particular time stamp. It is decided by the sigmoid function. it looks at the previous state(h_{t-1}) and the content input(X_t) and outputs a number between 0(omit this) and 1(keep this) for each number in the cell state C_{t-1} .



$$f_t = \sigma\left(W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f\right)$$

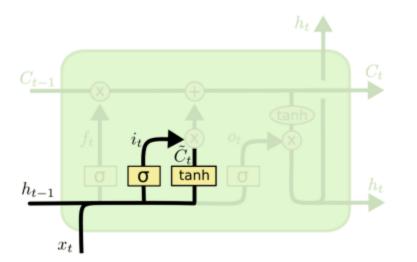
1 represents "completely keep this"0 represents "completely forget this."



LSTM gates: Forget Gate

LSTM gates: Input Gate

Step2: Decide what new information we're going to store in the cell state.



$$i_t = \sigma \left(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i \right)$$

$$\tilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_C \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_C)$$

Input gate layer: decides which values we will update Tanh layer: creates a vector of new candidate values

LSTM gates: Input Gate

Sigmoid function decides which values to let through 0,1. tanh function gives weightage to the values which are passed deciding their level of importance ranging from -1 to 1.

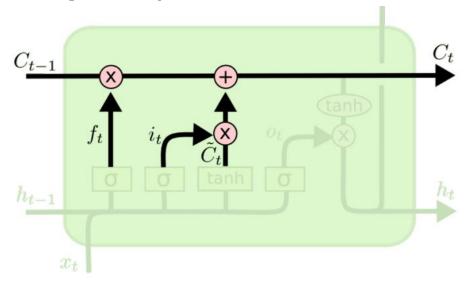
EX1: 'The movie's special effects were simply amazing,' where the sigmoid gate allowed the word 'amazing' to pass through with full strength (1) and the tanh function then weighted its emotional value as +0.93 to reflect its strong positive importance."

EX2: **'The service was shockingly awful**,' where the sigmoid gate identified 'awful' as a key sentiment marker and allowed it through with full force (~1), and the tanh function then weighted its emotional impact as **-0.95** to capture its severe negative importance."



LSTM gates: Input Gate

Step 3: Update the cell state



$$C_t = f_t * C_{t-1} + i_t * \tilde{C}_t$$

Combines:

- What to forget (forget gate × old cell state)
- What to add (input gate × candidate cell state)

Example with Numbers

Suppose for a single memory cell:

```
C_{t-1} = 0.8 (old memory: "it's sunny")

f_t = 0.9 (keep 90% of old memory)

i_t = 0.7 (add 70% of new candidate)

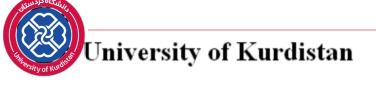
\tilde{C}_t = 0.6 (candidate: "temperature is 25°

C_t = f_t \times C_{t-1} + i_t \times \tilde{C}_t

= 0.9 \times 0.8 + 0.7 \times 0.6

= 0.72 + 0.42
```

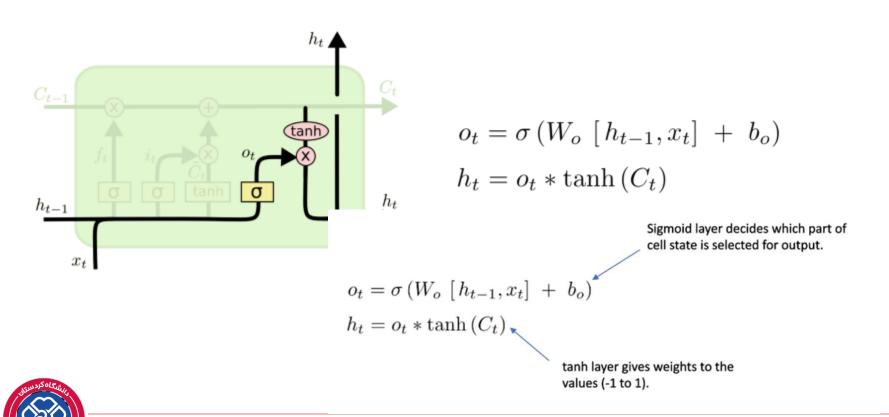
= 1.14 (new cell state: "it's sunny and temperature is 25°)



LSTM gates: Output Gate

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Step4: Decides which part of the current cell makes it to the output. (Decide what is the output)



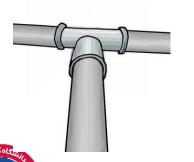
LSTM: Analogy



•The **Sigmoid gates** are like the **faucet handles**. It decides how much of the liquid gets through (0% to 100%).



•The **Tanh function** is like the **water treatment plant**. It creates the clean, normalized water (candidate information) that is ready to flow into the pipe (the cell state). It determines the *property* of the liquid (e.g., its pH level, scored from -1 [acidic] to +1 [alkaline])



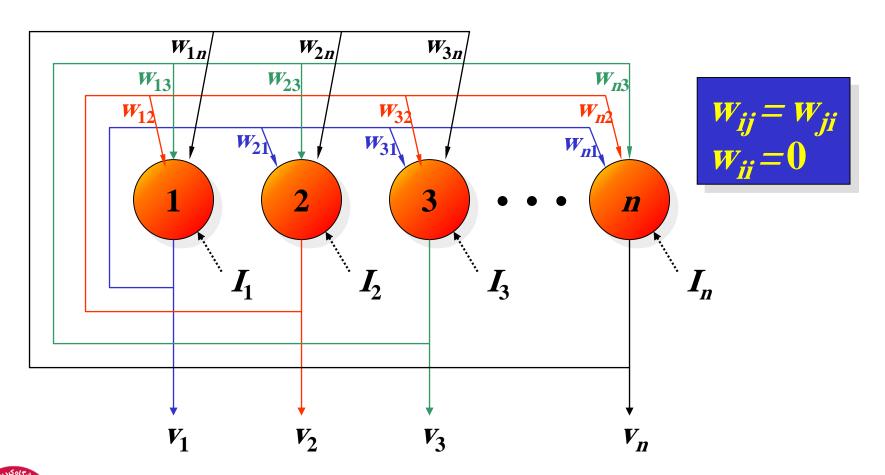
•The Cell State (C_t) is the main pipe itself, carrying water over long distances with little loss.

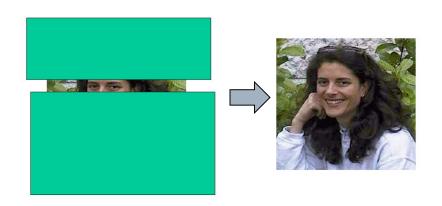
This elegant combination of a "decision-making" function (Sigmoid) and a "content-creating" function (Tanh), coupled with the additive cell state update, is what gives the LSTM its remarkable ability to capture long-term dependencies.

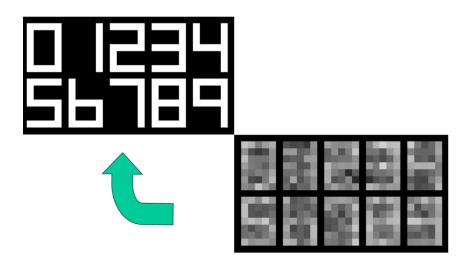
Intelligence emerges not from what you know, but from what you choose to forget. LSTMs encode this wisdom mathematically—they become intelligent by learning what's worth ignoring.

Hopfield networks are energy-based recurrent neural networks that function as associative memories, converging to stable attractor states to store and retrieve patterns through symmetric connections and Hebbian learning.

It is a single layer neural network with feedbacks.







Hebbian learning in Hopfield networks follows the principle "neurons that fire together, wire together" to create associative memory

To store a set of binary patterns, the weight matrix W = is given by:

$$w_{ij} = \sum_{p} (2s_i(p) - 1)(2s_i(p) - 1), i \neq j ; w_{ii} = 0$$

To store a set of bipolar patterns, the weight matrix W = is given by:

$$w_{ij} = \sum_{p} s_i(p) s_j(p), \quad i \neq j \quad ; \quad w_{ii} = 0$$



Step 0. Initialize weights to store patterns (Hebbian rule).

While activations of the net are not converged, do Steps 1-7.

- **Step 1**. For each input vector x, do Steps 2-6.
 - **Step 2.** Set initial activations of net equal to the external input vector x: $y_i = x_i$, i = 1,...,n
 - **Step 3**. Do Steps 4-6 for each unit (Units should be updated in random order.)
 - **Step 4.** Compute net input: $y_{-}in_{i} = x_{i} + \sum_{j} y_{j}w_{ji}$ **Step 5.** Determine activation (output signal): $y_{i} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y_{-}in_{i} > \theta_{i} \\ y_{i} & \text{if } y_{-}in_{i} = \theta_{i} \end{cases}$ **Step 6.** Broadcast the value of y_{i} to all other units. $\begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } y_{-}in_{i} < \theta_{i} \end{cases}$ (This updates the activation vector.)
- **Step 7**. Test for convergence.



The vector (1, 1, 1, 0) (or its bipolar equivalent (1, 1, 1, -1)) was stored in a net

The weight matrix is bipolar

$$\mathbf{W} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The input vector is x = (0, 0, 1, 0)

For this example the update order is Y_1 Y_4 Y_3 Y_2

$$y = (0, 0, 1, 0)$$

Choose unit Y_1 to update its activation:

$$y_{in_{1}} = x_{1} + \sum_{j} y_{j} w_{j1} = 0 + 1$$

 $y_{in_{1}} > 0 \rightarrow y_{1} = 1 \implies y = (1, 0, 1, 0)$

$$\mathbf{W} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Choose unit Y_4 to update its activation:

$$y_{in_{4}} = x_{4} + \sum_{j} y_{j} w_{j4} = 0 + (-2)$$

 $y_{in_{4}} < 0 \rightarrow y_{4} = 0 \implies y = (1, 0, 1, 0)$

Choose unit Y_3 to update its activation:

$$y = (1, 0, 1, 0)$$

$$y_{in_{3}} = x_{3} + \sum_{j} y_{j} w_{j3} = 1 + 1$$

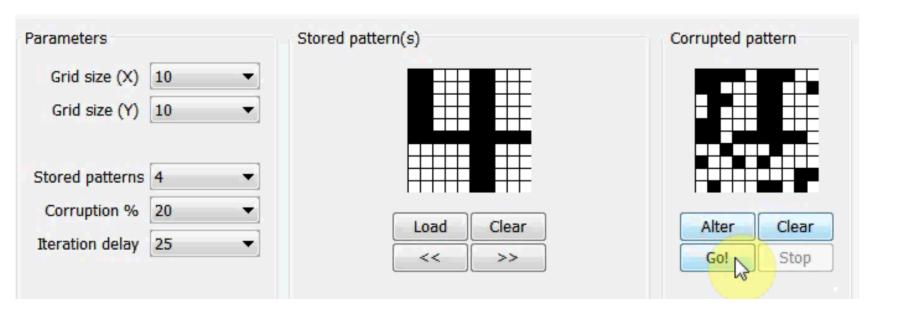
 $y_{in_{3}} > 0 \rightarrow y_{3} = 1 \implies y = (1, 0, 1, 0)$

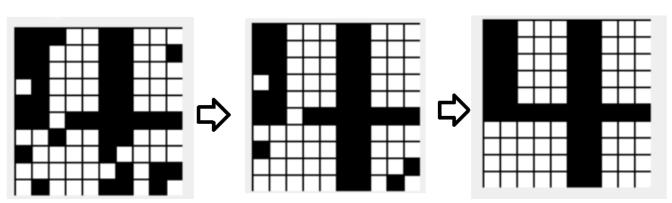
Choose unit Y_2 to update its activation:

$$y_{in_{2}} = x_{2} + \sum_{j} y_{j} w_{j2} = 0 + 2$$

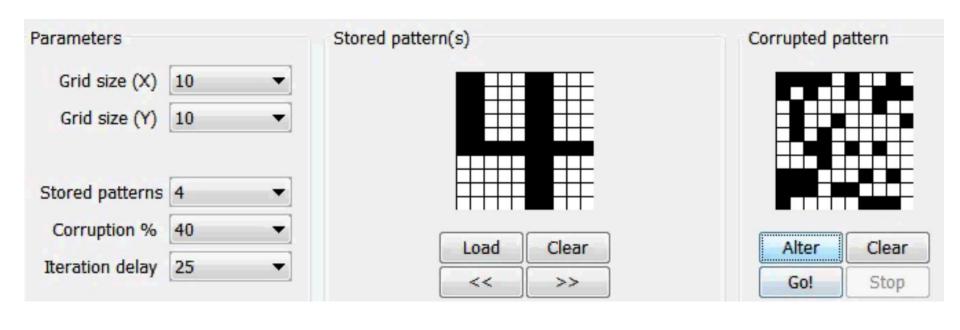
 $y_{in_{2}} > 0 \rightarrow y_{2} = 1 \implies y = (1,1,0)$

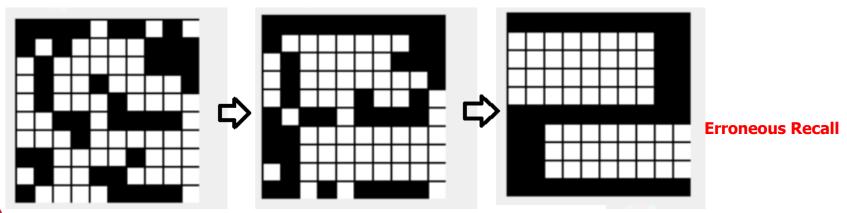
further iterations do not change the activation of any unit. The net has converged to the stored vector.





Perfect Recall

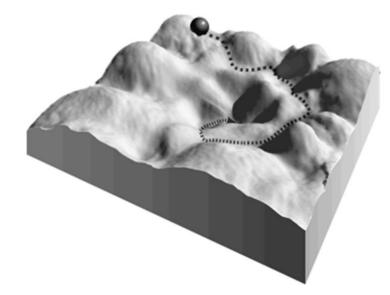




Hopfield network- Energy function

Hopfield nets have a scalar value associated with each state of the network, referred to as the "energy", E, of the network, where:

$$E = -0.5 \sum_{i \neq j} \sum_{j} y_{i} y_{j} w_{ij} + \sum_{i} \theta_{i} y_{i}$$



$$\Delta E = -\left[\sum_{j} y_{j} w_{ij} - \theta_{i}\right] \Delta y_{i}$$

$$\Delta E < 0$$

a Hopfield network constantly decreases its energy



Problem Statement

- We need to store a **fundamental pattern (memory)** given by the vector $O = [1, 1, 1, -1]^T$ in a four node binary Hopefield network.
- Presume that the threshold parameters are all equal to zero.

Establishing Connection Weights

$$\mathbf{W} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



Network' States and Their Code: Total number of states = 16

State			Code	
А	1	1	1	1
В	1	1	1	-1
С	1	1	-1	-1
D	1	1	-1	1
E	1	-1	-1	1
F	1	-1	-1	-1
G	1	-1	1	-1
Н	1	-1	1	1

State	Code			
I	-1	-1	1	1
J	-1	-1	1	-1
K	-1	-1	-1	-1
L	-1	-1	-1	1
М	-1	1	-1	1
N	-1	1	-1	-1
O	-1	1	1	-1
Р	-1	1	1	1

Calculating energy function for all states: $(\theta=0)$

$$E = -1/2 \sum_{i=1}^{4} \sum_{j=1}^{4} w_{ij} o_i o_j$$

$$E = -1/2 (w_{11} o_1 o_1 + w_{12} o_1 o_2 + w_{13} o_1 o_3 + w_{14} o_1 o_4 + w_{21} o_2 o_1 + w_{22} o_2 o_2 + w_{23} o_2 o_3 + w_{24} o_2 o_4 + w_{31} o_3 o_1 + w_{32} o_3 o_2 + w_{33} o_3 o_3 + w_{34} o_3 o_4 + w_{41} o_4 o_1 + w_{42} o_4 o_2 + w_{43} o_4 o_3 + w_{44} o_4 o_4)$$

For state $A = [O_1, O_2, O_3, O_4] [1, 1, 1, 1]$

$$E = -1/2(0 + (1)(1)(1) + (1)(1)(1) + (-1)(1)(1) + (1)(1)(1) + (1)(1)(1) + (-1)(1)(1) + (-1)(1)(1) + (1)(1)(1) + (-1)(1)($$

State	Code			Energy	
A	1	1	1	1	0
В	1	1	1	-1	-6 🔨
С	1	1	-1	-1	0
D	1	1	-1	1	2
Е	1	-1	-1	1	0
F	1	-1	-1	-1	2
G	1	-1	1	-1	0
Н	1	-1	1	1	2
I	-1	-1	1	1	0
J	-1	-1	1	-1	2
K	-1	-1	-1	-1	0
L	-1	-1	-1	1	-6 ←
M	-1	1	-1	1	0
N	-1	1	-1	-1	2
О	-1	1	1	-1	0
P	-1	1	1	-1	2

Similarly, we can compute the energy level of the other states.

> Minimum energy (Stable states)



State Transition for State J = [-1, -1, 1, -1]

Transition $1 (o_1)$

$$o_{1} = sgn(\sum_{j=1}^{4} w_{ij}o_{j} - \theta_{i}) = sgn(w_{12}o_{2} + w_{13}o_{3} + w_{14}o_{4} - 0)$$

$$= sgn((1)(-1) + (1)(1) + (-1)(-1))$$

$$= sgn(+1)$$

$$= +1$$

As a result, the first component of the state J changes from -1 to 1. In other words, the state J transits to the state G

$$J = [-1, -1, 1, -1]^T$$
 (2) $\rightarrow G = [1, -1, 1, -1]^T$ (0)



Transition 2 (o_2)

$$o_{2} = sgn(\sum_{j=1}^{4} w_{ij}o_{j} - \theta_{i}) = sgn(w_{21}o_{1} + w_{23}o_{3} + w_{24}o_{4})$$

$$= sgn((1)(1) + (1)(1) + (-1)(-1))$$

$$= sgn(+3)$$

$$= +1$$

As a result, the second component of the state G changes from -1 to 1. In other words, the state G transits to the state B

$$B = [1, 1, 1, -1]$$



As state B is a fundamental pattern, no more transition will occur

$$o_3 = sgn(\sum_{j=1}^4 w_{ij}o_j - \theta_i) = sgn(w_{31}o_1 + w_{32}o_2 + w_{34}o_4)$$

= $sgn((1)(1) + (1)(1) + (-1)(-1))$
= $sgn(+3)$
= $+1$

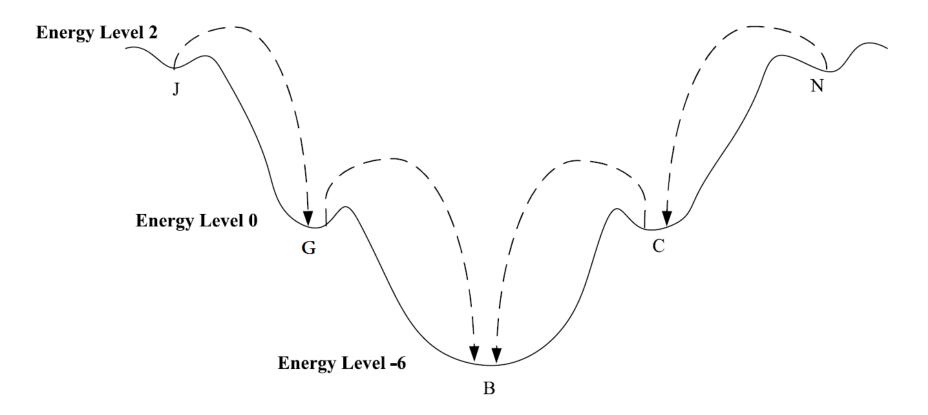
$$o_4 = sgn(\sum_{j=1}^4 w_{ij}o_j - \theta_i) = sgn(w_{41}o_1 + w_{42}o_2 + w_{43}o_3)$$

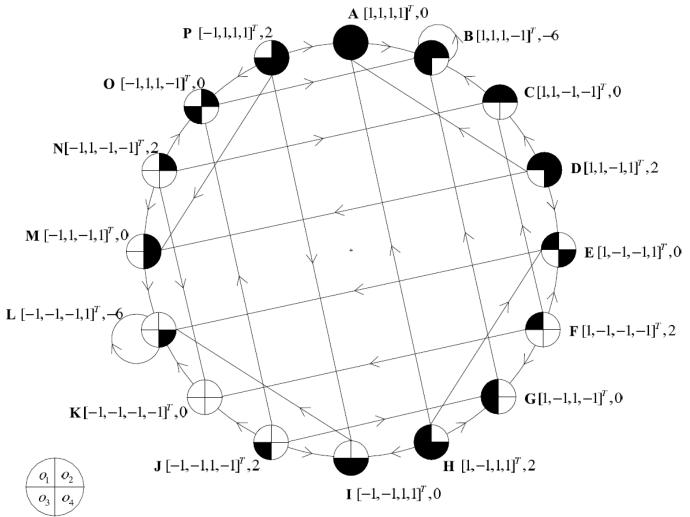
$$= sgn((-1)(1) + (-1)(1) + (-1)(1))$$

$$= sgn(-3)$$

$$= -1$$







Storage Capacity of Hopfield Net

Binary

$$P \approx 0.15n$$

Bipolar

$$P \approx \frac{n}{2\log_2 n}$$

P: # of patterns that can be stored an recalled in a net with reasonable accuracy

n: # of neurons in the net



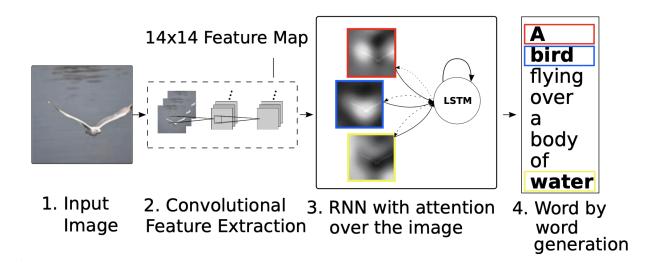
LSTM vs Hopfield Networks: Key Differences

Aspect	LSTM	Hopfield Network	
Primary Purpose	Sequence modeling, time series prediction (Temporal)	Associative memory, pattern completion (Spatial)	
Memory Type	Gated memory cells	Energy-based attractor states	
Training	Backpropagation through time	Hebbian learning (usually)	
Time Dynamics	Sequential processing	Converges to equilibrium	
Output	Next prediction in sequence	Retrieved memory pattern	
Capacity	Virtually unlimited (state- based)	Limited (≈ 0.15N patterns for N neurons)	



Attention Mechanism

In psychology, attention is the cognitive process of selectively concentrating on one or a few things while ignoring others.



Attention mechanisms in Transformers are modern, differentiable implementations of continuous Hopfield networks that perform associative memory retrieval through softmax-weighted pattern recall.



Attention Mechanism Examples



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 <u>people</u> sitting on a boat in the water.



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

The **Attention Mechanism** is a revolutionary concept that allows a neural network to **dynamically focus on the most relevant parts of its input** when producing an output, much like how human attention works.

