Recurrent neural networks and LSTM

Adapted from Raymond J. Mooney

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Borrows significantly from:

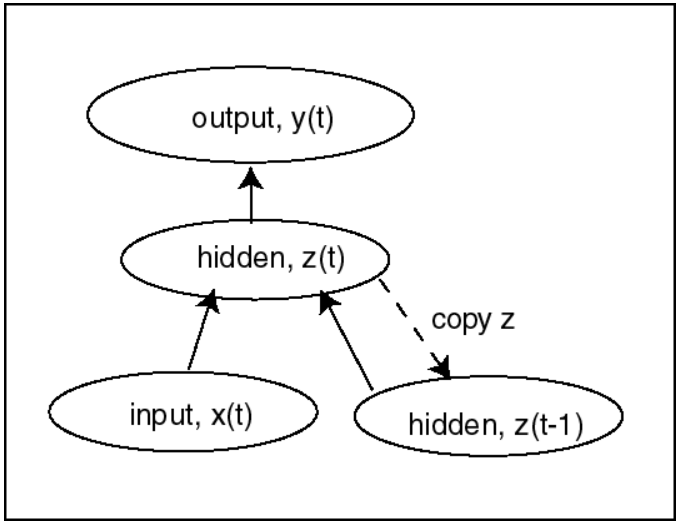
http://colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/

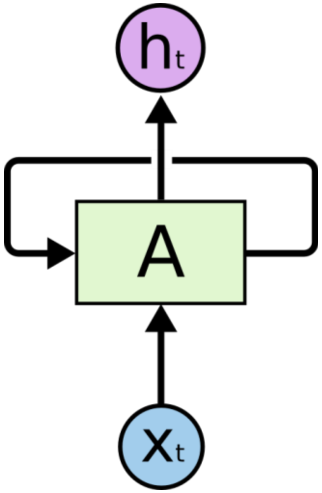
Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

- Add feedback loops where some units' current outputs determine some future network inputs.
- RNNs can model dynamic finite-state machines, beyond the static combinatorial circuits modeled by feed-forward networks.

Simple Recurrent Network (SRN)

- Initially developed by Jeff Elman ("*Finding structure in time*," 1990).
- Additional input to hidden layer is the state of the hidden layer in the previous time step.





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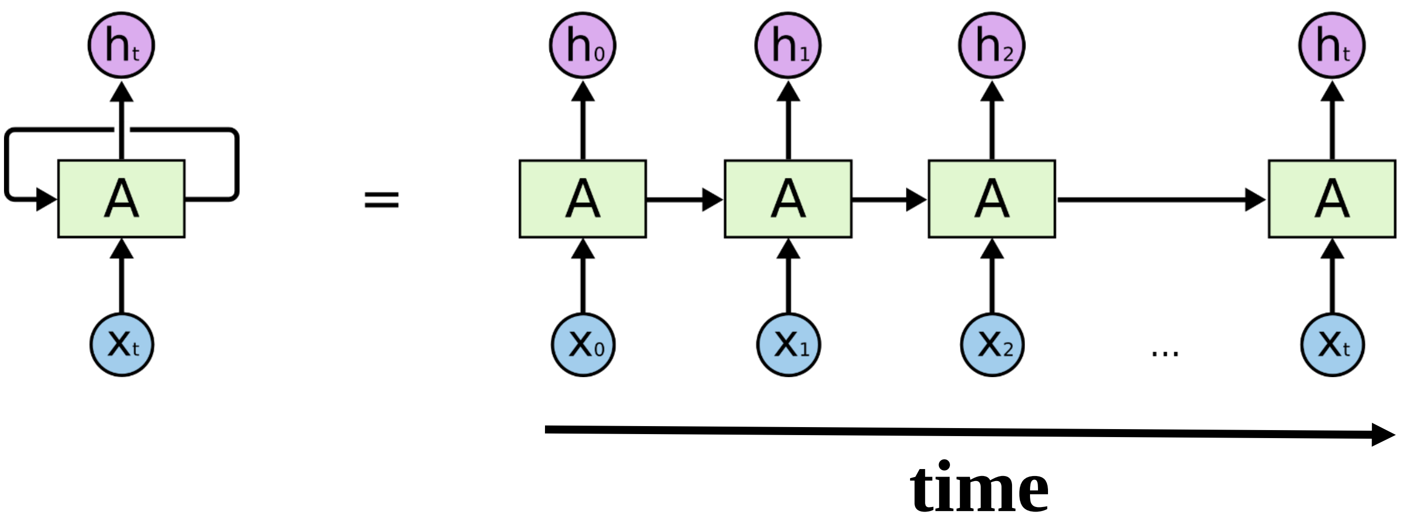
Unrolled RNN

- Behavior of RNN is perhaps best viewed by "unrolling" the network over time.

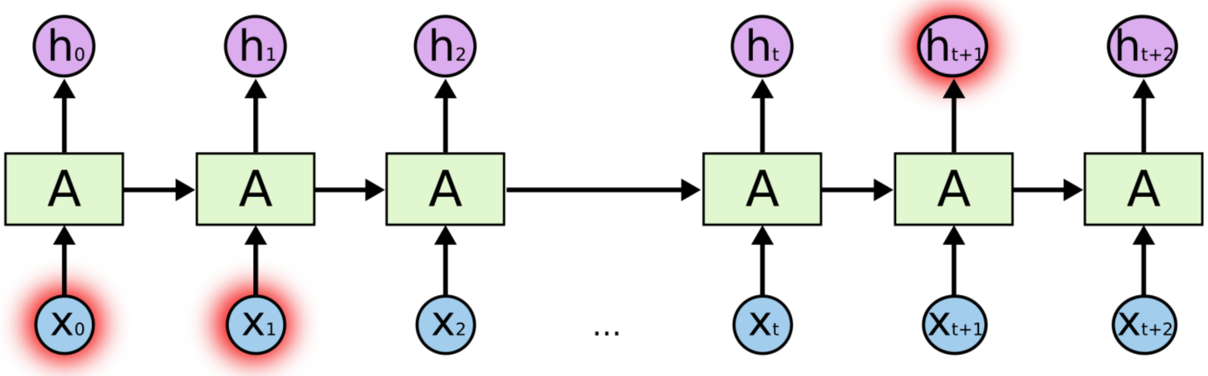


Vanishing/Exploding Gradient Problem

- Backpropagated errors multiply at each layer, resulting in exponential decay (if derivative is small) or growth (if derivative is large).
- Makes it very difficult train deep networks, or simple recurrent networks over many time steps.

Long Distance Dependencies

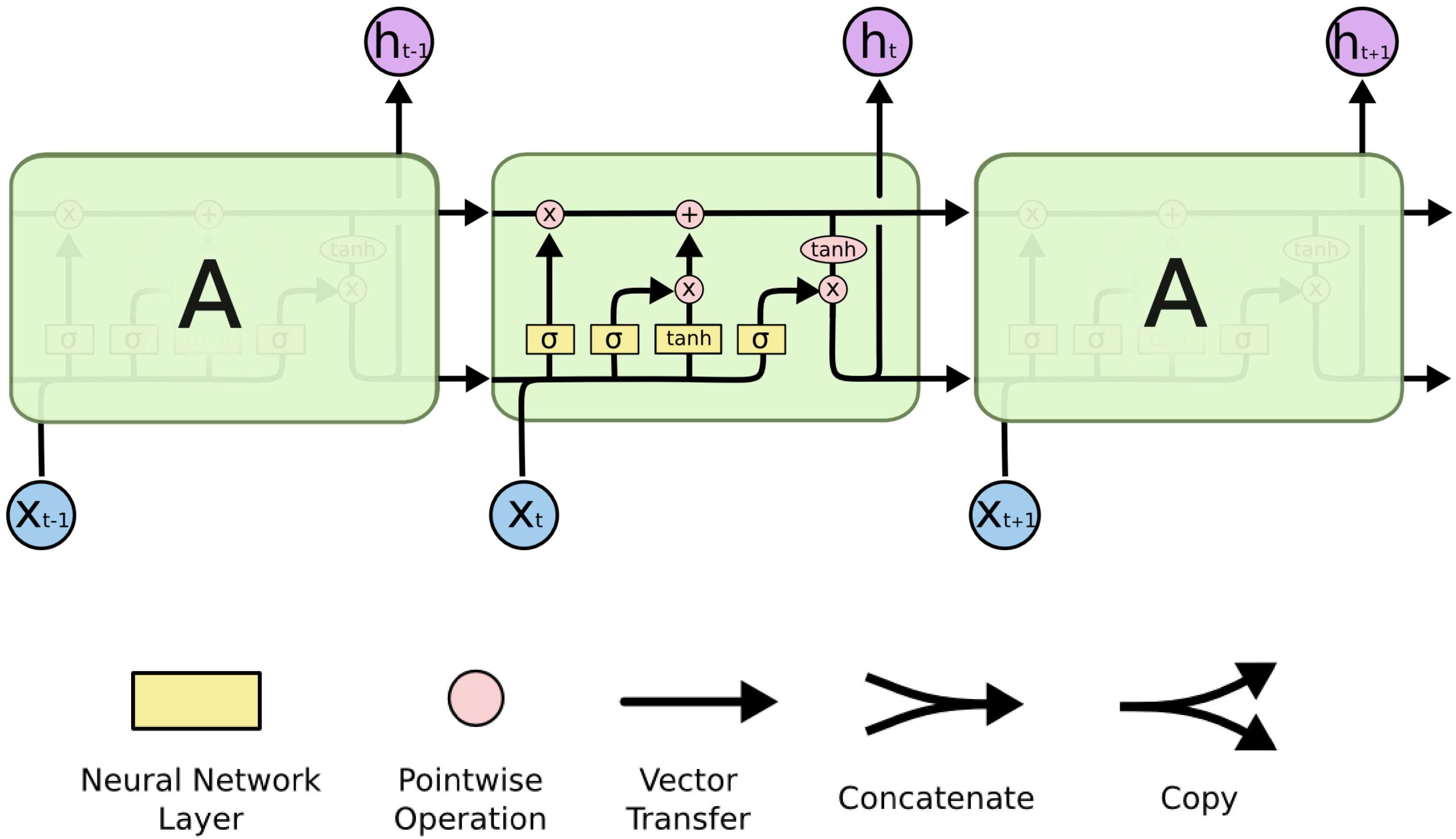
- It is very difficult to train SRNs to retain information over many time steps
- This make is very difficult to learn SRNs that handle long-distance dependencies, such as subject-verb agreement.



Long Short Term Memory

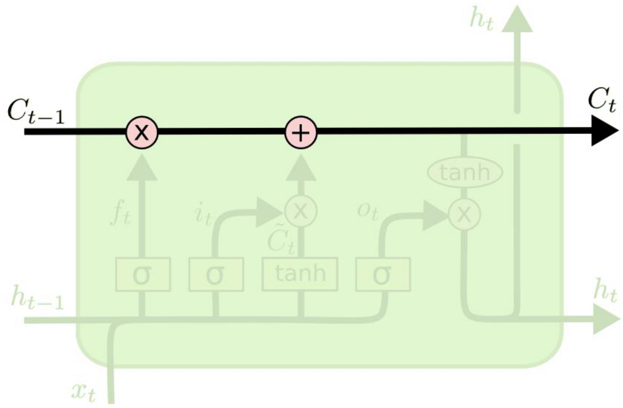
- LSTM networks, add additional gating units in each memory cell.
  - Forget gate
  - Input gate
  - Output gate
- Prevents vanishing/exploding gradient problem and allows network to retain state information over longer periods of time.

LSTM Network Architecture



Cell State

- Maintains a vector C_t that is the same dimensionality as the hidden state, h_t
- Information can be added or deleted from this state vector via the forget and input gates.

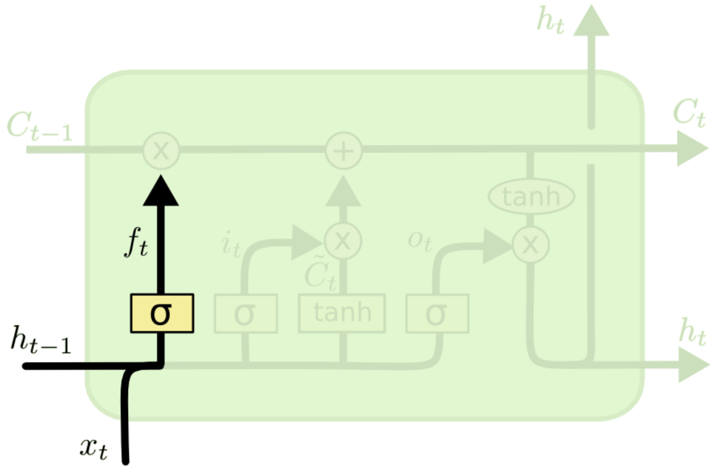


Cell State Example

- Want to remember person & number of a subject noun so that it can be checked to agree with the person & number of verb when it is eventually encountered.
- Forget gate will remove existing information of a prior subject when a new one is encountered.
- Input gate "adds" in the information for the new subject.

Forget Gate

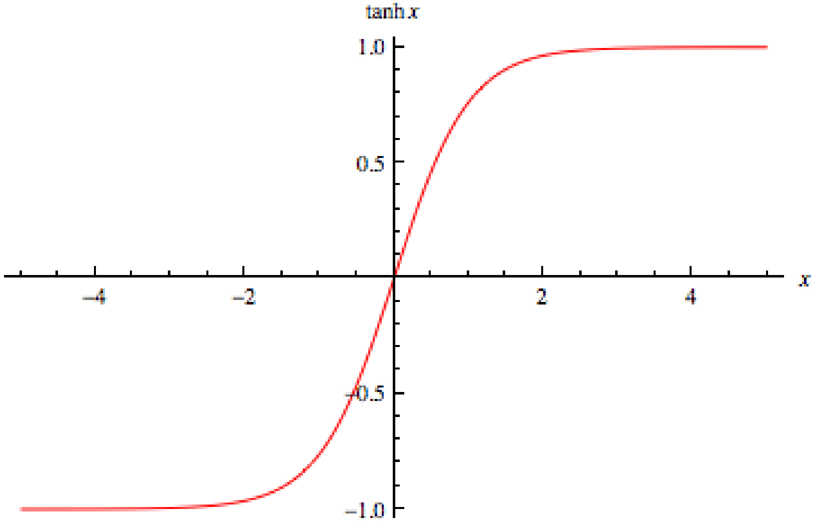
- Forget gate computes a 0-1 value using a logistic sigmoid output function from the input, x_t, and the current hidden state, h_t:
- Multiplicatively combined with cell state, "forgetting" information where the gate outputs something close to 0.



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

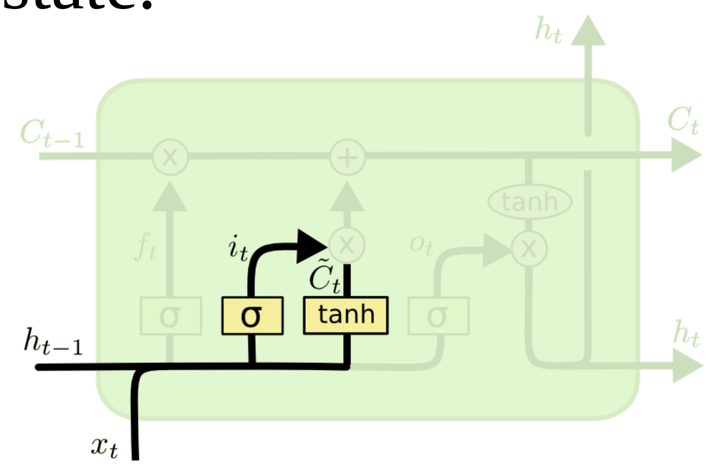
Hyperbolic Tangent Units

- Tanh can be used as an alternative nonlinear function to the sigmoid logistic (0-1) output function.
- Used to produce thresholded output between –1 and 1.



Input Gate

- First, determine which entries in the cell state to update by computing 0-1 sigmoid output.
- Then determine what amount to add/subtract from these entries by computing a tanh output (valued –1 to 1) function of the input and hidden state.

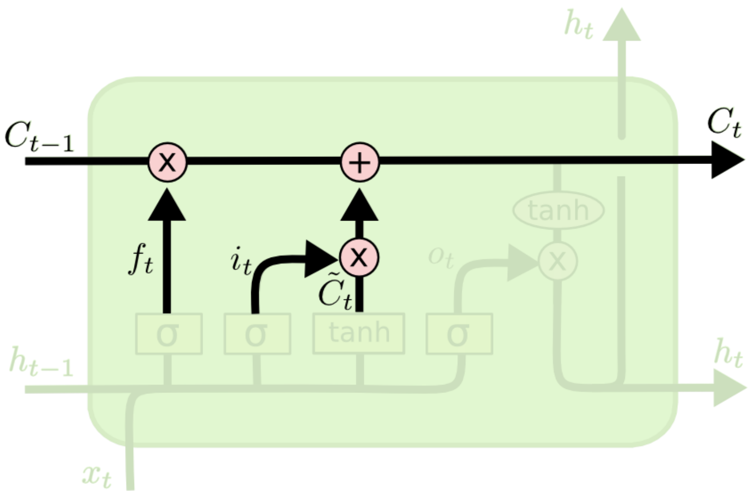


$$i_t = \sigma\left(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] \ + \ b_i\right)$$

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

Updating the Cell State

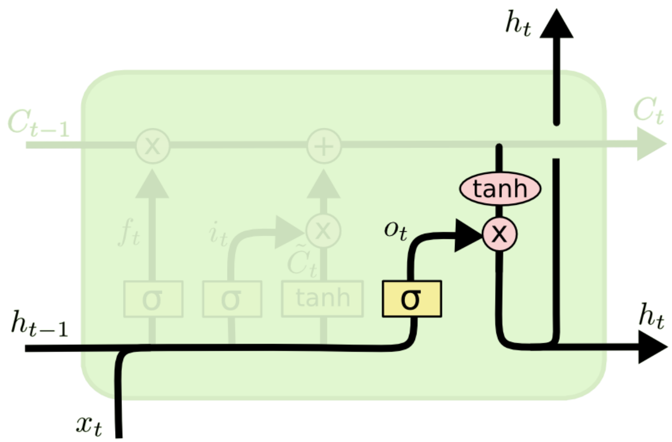
- Cell state is updated by using component-wise vector multiply to "forget" and vector addition to "input" new information.



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

Output Gate

- Hidden state is updated based on a "filtered" version of the cell state, scaled to –1 to 1 using tanh.
- Output gate computes a sigmoid function of the input and current hidden state to determine which elements of the cell state to "output".

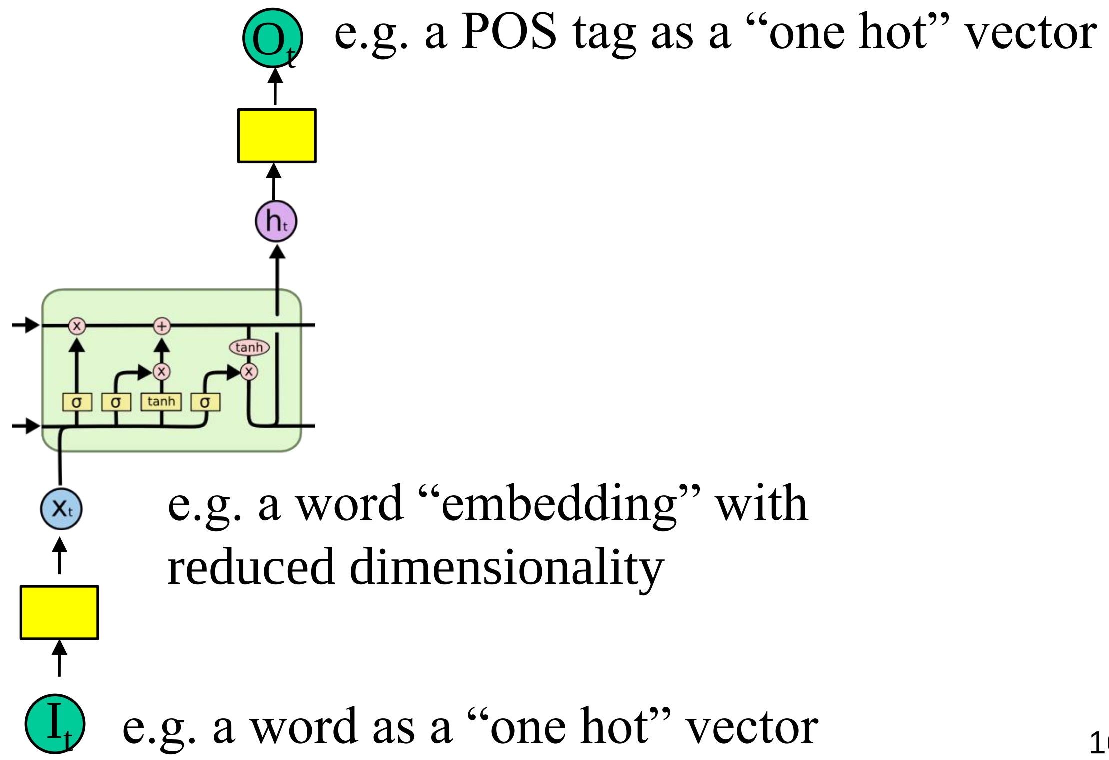


$$o_t = \sigma\left(W_o\ [h_{t-1}, x_t]\ +\ b_o\right)$$

$$h_t = o_t * \tanh\left(C_t\right)$$

Overall Network Architecture

- Single or multilayer networks can compute LSTM inputs from problem inputs and problem outputs from LSTM outputs.



LSTM Training

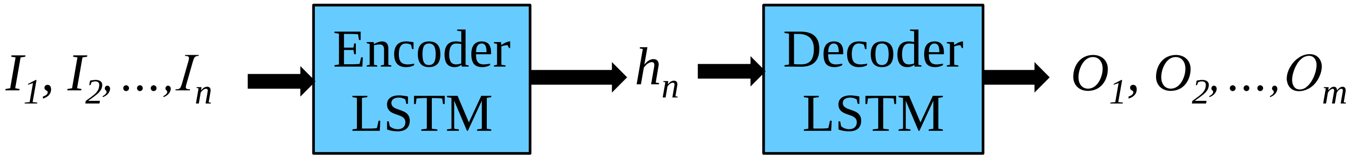
- Trainable with backprop derivatives such as:
  - Stochastic gradient descent (randomize order of examples in each epoch) with momentum (bias weight changes to continue in same direction as last update).
  - ADAM optimizer (Kingma & Ma, 2015)
- Each cell has many parameters (W_f, W_i, W_C, W_o)
  - Generally requires lots of training data.
  - Requires lots of compute time that exploits GPU clusters.

General Problems Solved with LSTMs

- Sequence labeling
  - Train with supervised output at each time step computed using a single or multilayer network that maps the hidden state (h_t) to an output vector (O_t).
- Language modeling
  - Train to predict next input ($O_t = I_{t+1}$)
- Sequence (e.g. text) classification
  - Train a single or multilayer network that maps the final hidden state (h_n) to an output vector (O).

Sequence to Sequence Transduction (Mapping)

- Encoder/Decoder framework maps one sequence to a "deep vector" then another LSTM maps this vector to an output sequence.



- Train model "end to end" on I/O pairs of sequences.

Summary of LSTM Application Architectures

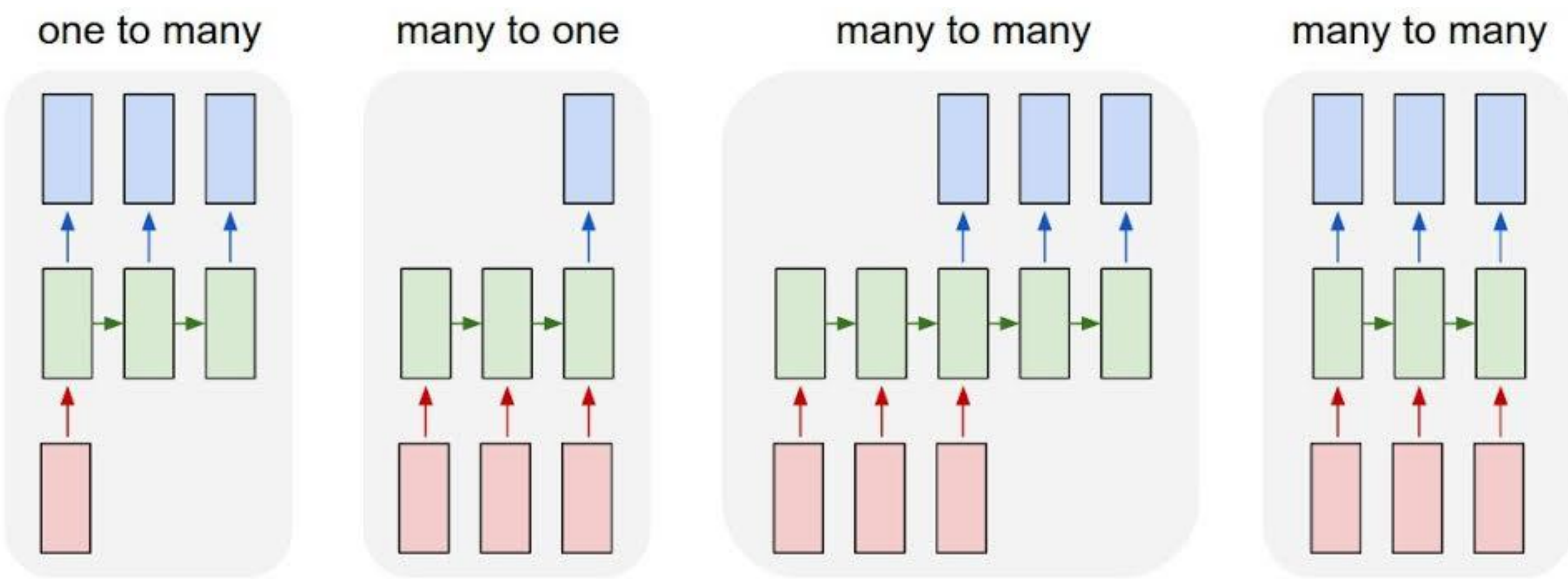


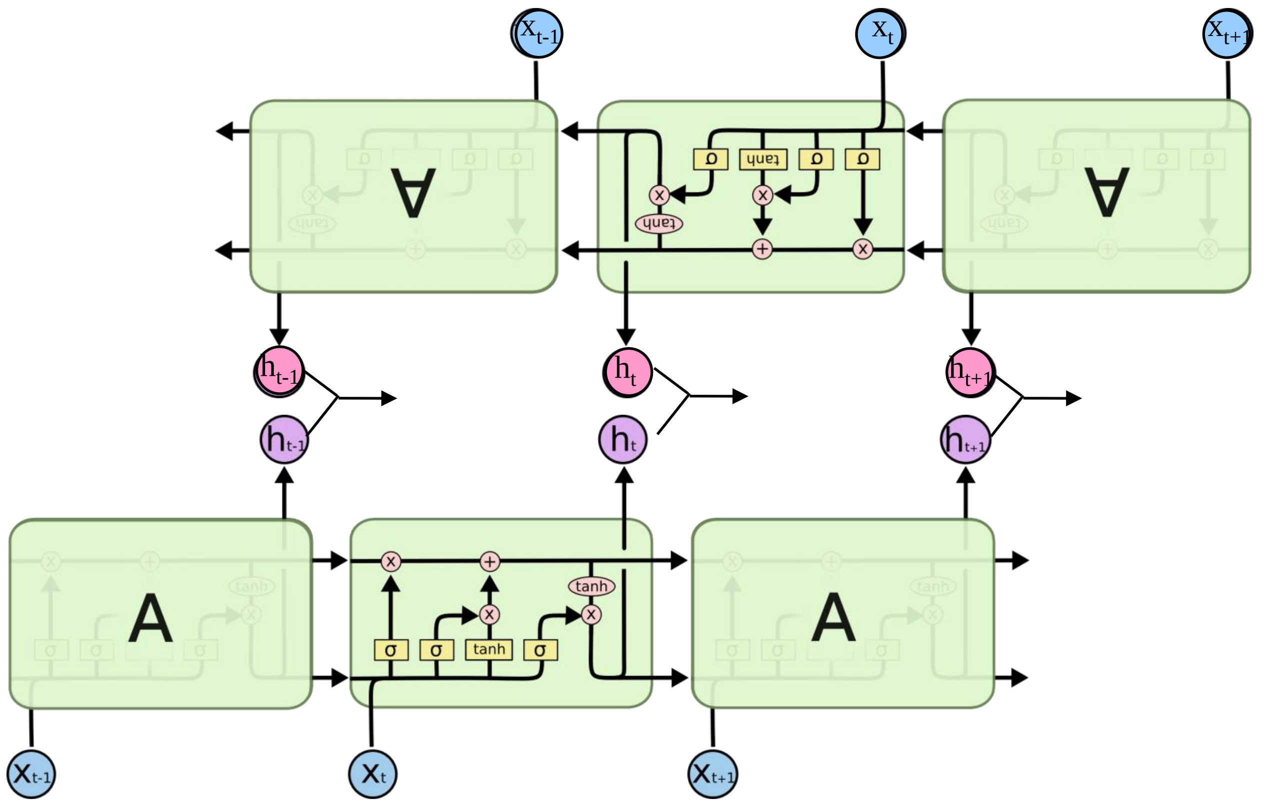
Image Captioning | Video Activity Recog, Text Classification | Video Captioning, Machine Translation | POS Tagging, Language Modeling

Successful Applications of LSTMs

- Speech recognition: Language and acoustic modeling
- Sequence labeling
  - POS Tagging
    https://www.aclweb.org/aclwiki/index.php?title=POS_Tagging_(State_of_the_art)
  - NER
  - Phrase Chunking
- Neural syntactic and semantic parsing
- Image captioning: CNN output vector to sequence
- Sequence to Sequence
  - Machine Translation (Sustkever, Vinyals, & Le, 2014)
  - Video Captioning (input sequence of CNN frame outputs)

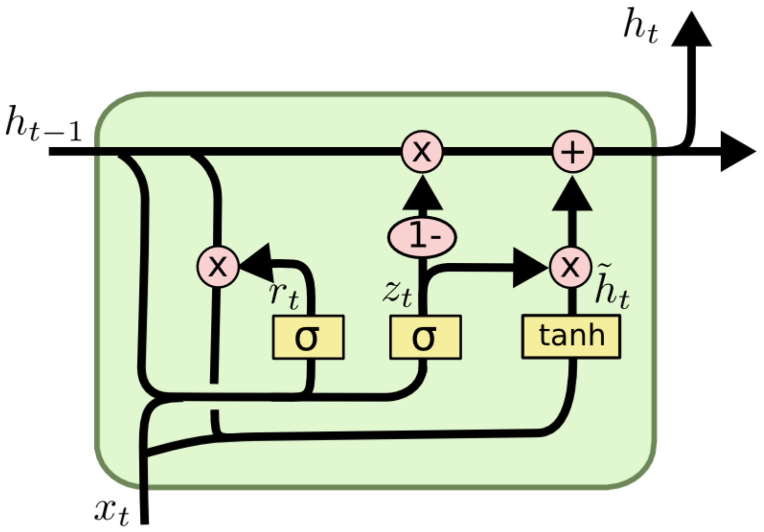
Bi-directional LSTM (Bi-LSTM)

- Separate LSTMs process sequence forward and backward and hidden layers at each time step are concatenated to form the cell output.



Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)

- Alternative RNN to LSTM that uses fewer gates (Cho, et al., 2014)
  - Combines forget and input gates into "update" gate.
  - Eliminates cell state vector



$$z_t = \sigma\left(W_z \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t]\right)$$

$$r_t = \sigma\left(W_r \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t]\right)$$

$$\tilde{h}_t = \tanh\left(W \cdot [r_t * h_{t-1}, x_t]\right)$$

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

GRU vs. LSTM

- GRU has significantly fewer parameters and trains faster.
- Experimental results comparing the two are still inconclusive, many problems they perform the same, but each has problems on which they work better.

Conclusions

- By adding "gates" to an RNN, we can prevent the vanishing/exploding gradient problem.
- Trained LSTMs/GRUs can retain state information longer and handle long-distance dependencies.
- Recent impressive results on a range of challenging NLP problems.