



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863



# Advances in Deep Learning with Applications in Text and Image Processing

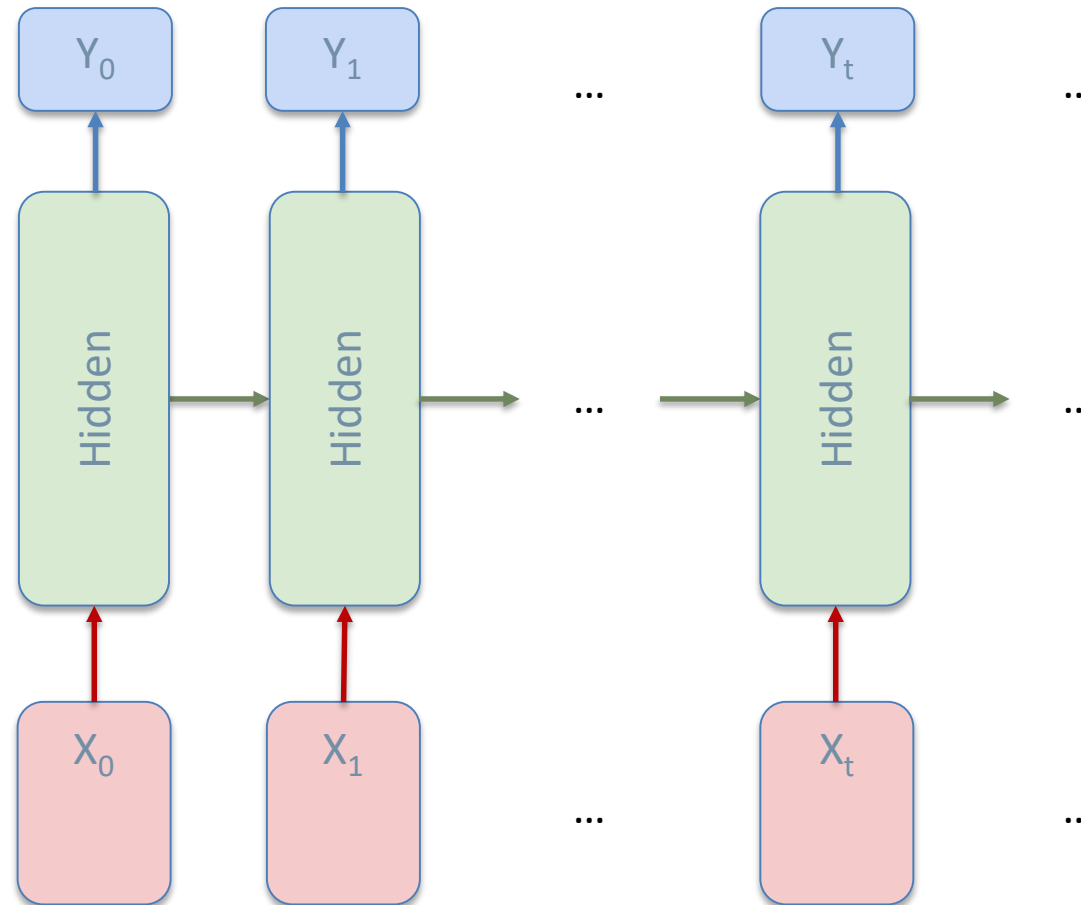
- Seq2Seq Learning Architectures -

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*Department of Electronics, Information and Bioengineering*  
*Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Lab - Politecnico di Milano*

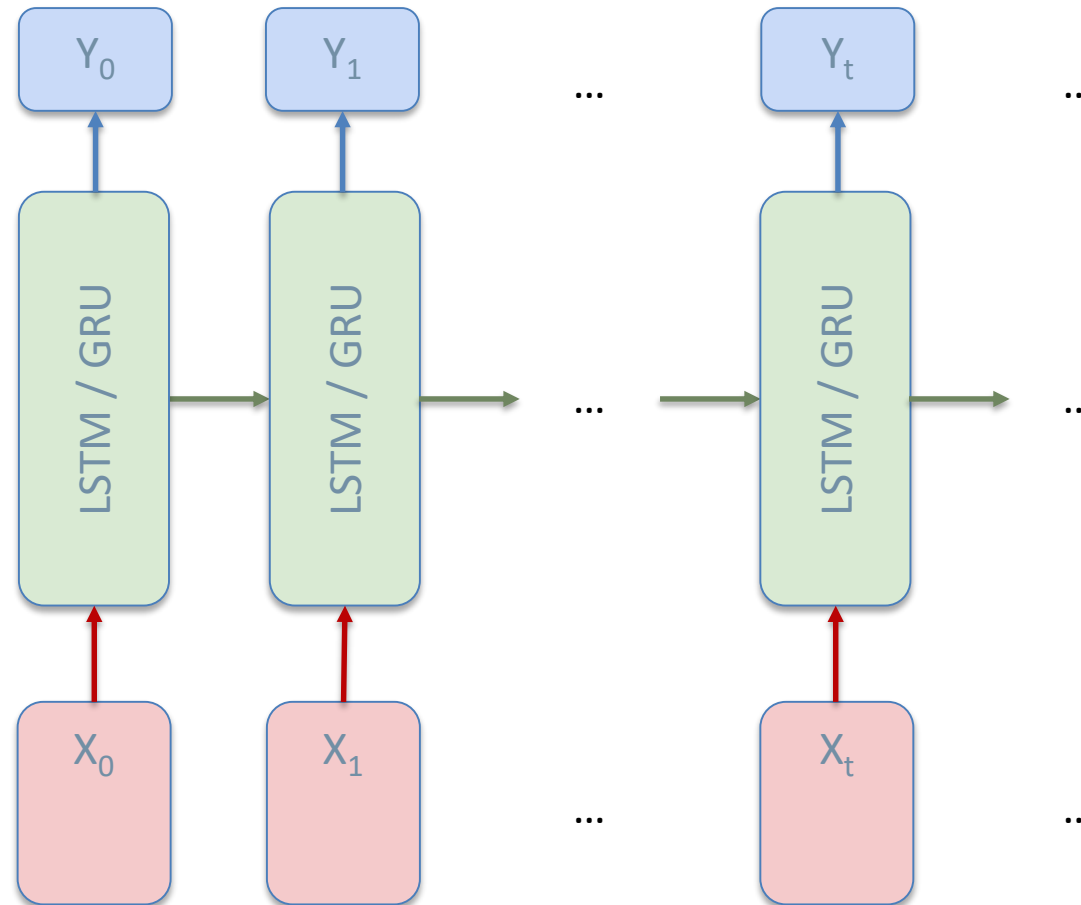
# Let's Recall LSTM Networks

From feed forward architecture to recurrent one



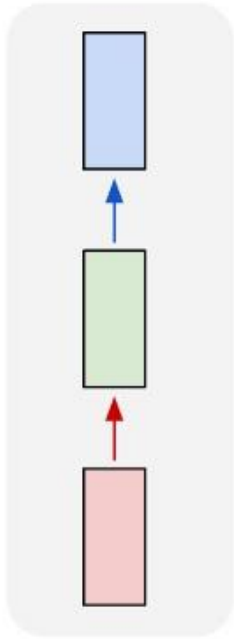
# Let's Recall LSTM Networks

From feed forward architecture to recurrent one



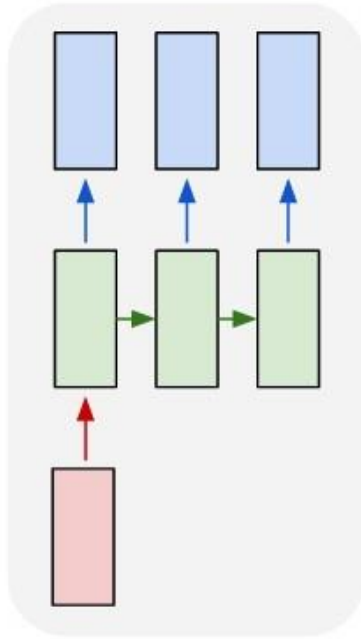
# Sequential Data Problems

one to one



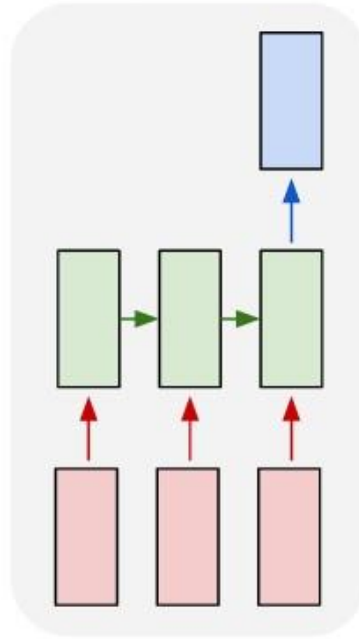
**Fixed-sized input to fixed-sized output** (e.g. image classification)

one to many



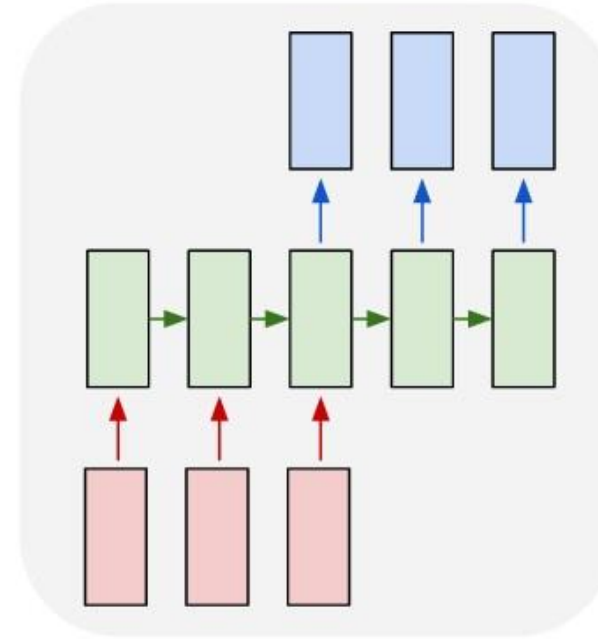
**Sequence output** (e.g. image captioning takes an image and outputs a sentence of words).

many to one



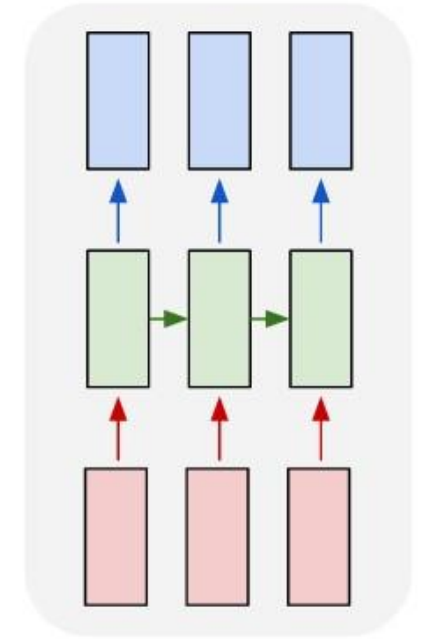
**Sequence input** (e.g. sentiment analysis where a given sentence is classified as expressing positive or negative sentiment).

many to many



**Sequence input and sequence output** (e.g. Machine Translation: an RNN reads a sentence in English and then outputs a sentence in French)

many to many

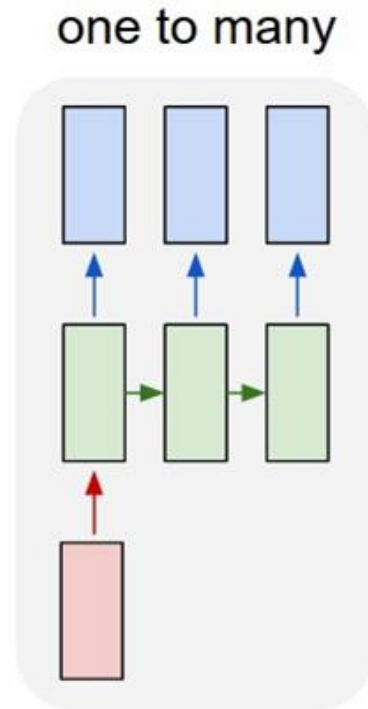


**Synced sequence input and output** (e.g. video classification where we wish to label each frame of the video)

Credits: Andrej Karpathy

# Sequence to Sequence Learning Examples (1/3)

Image Captioning: input a single image and get a series or sequence of words as output which describe it. The image has a fixed size, but the output has varying length.



A person riding a motorcycle on a dirt road.



Two dogs play in the grass.



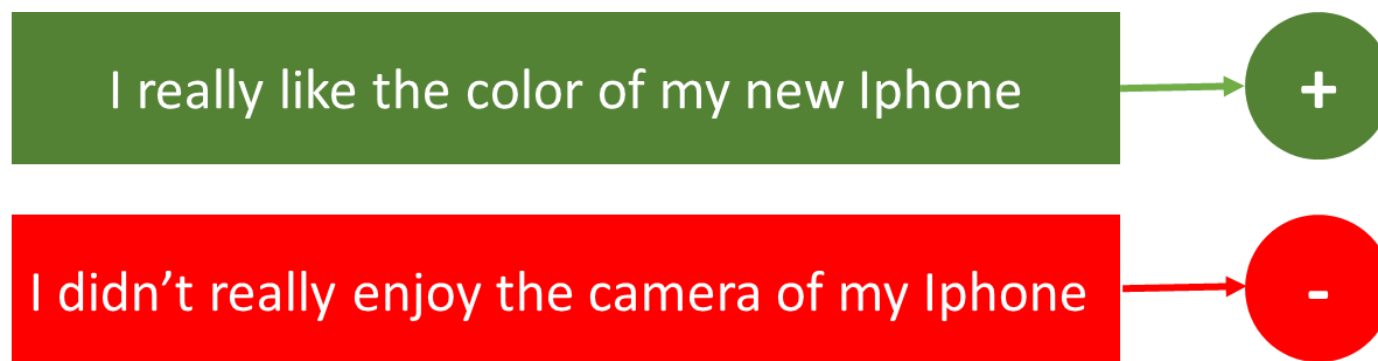
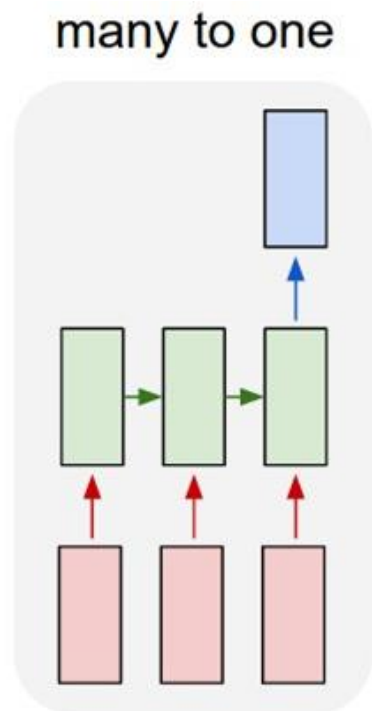
A group of young people playing a game of frisbee.



Two hockey players are fighting over the puck.

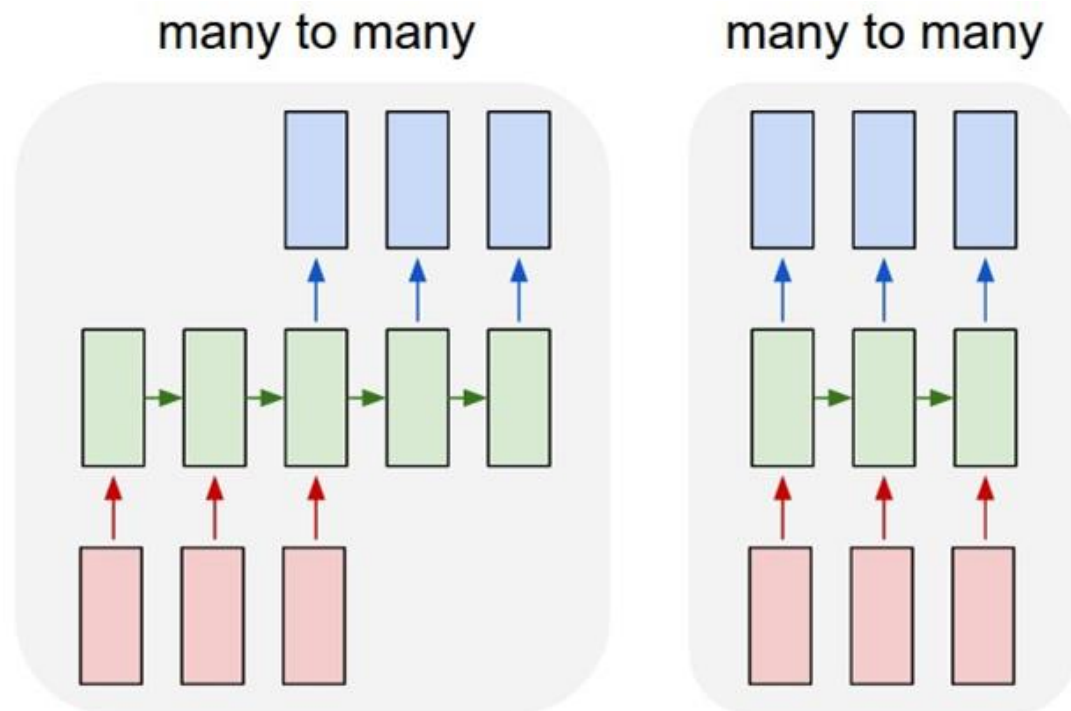
## Sequence to Sequence Learning Examples (2/3)

Sentiment Classification/Analysis: input a sequence of characters or words, e.g., a tweet, and classify the sequence into positive or negative sentiment. The input has a varying lengths, while output is of a fixed type and size.



## Sequence to Sequence Learning Examples (3/3)

Language Translation: having some text in a particular language, e.g., English, we wish to translate it in another, e.g., French. Each language has its own semantics and would have varying lengths for the same sentence.



French was the official language of the colony of French Indochina, comprising modern-day Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. It continues to be an administrative language in Laos and Cambodia, although its influence has waned in recent years.

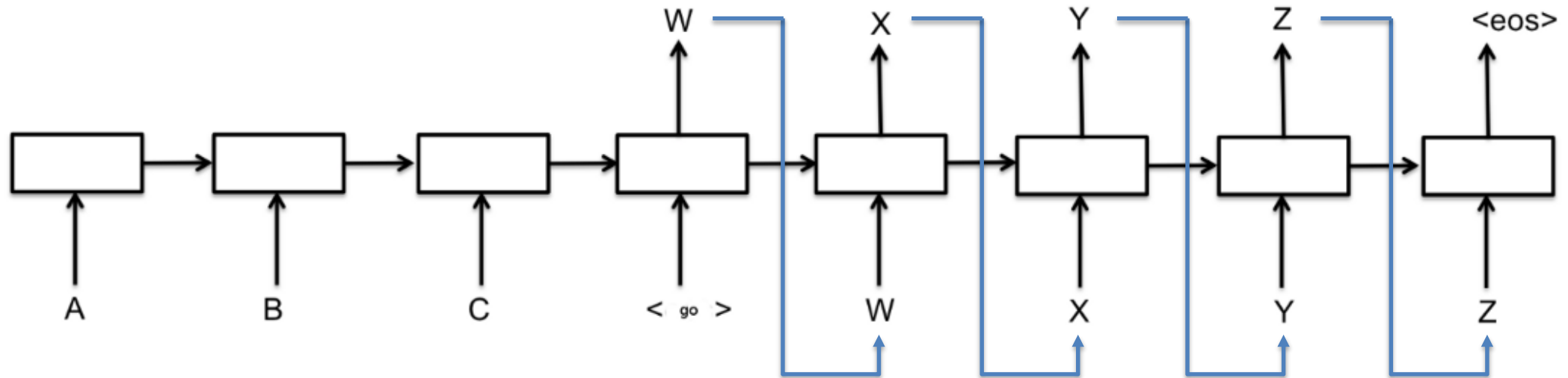


Le français était la langue officielle de la colonie de l'Indochine française, comprenant le Vietnam d'aujourd'hui, le Laos et le Cambodge. Il continue d'être une langue administrative au Laos et au Cambodge, bien que son influence a décliné au cours des dernières années.

# Seq2Seq Model Anatomy

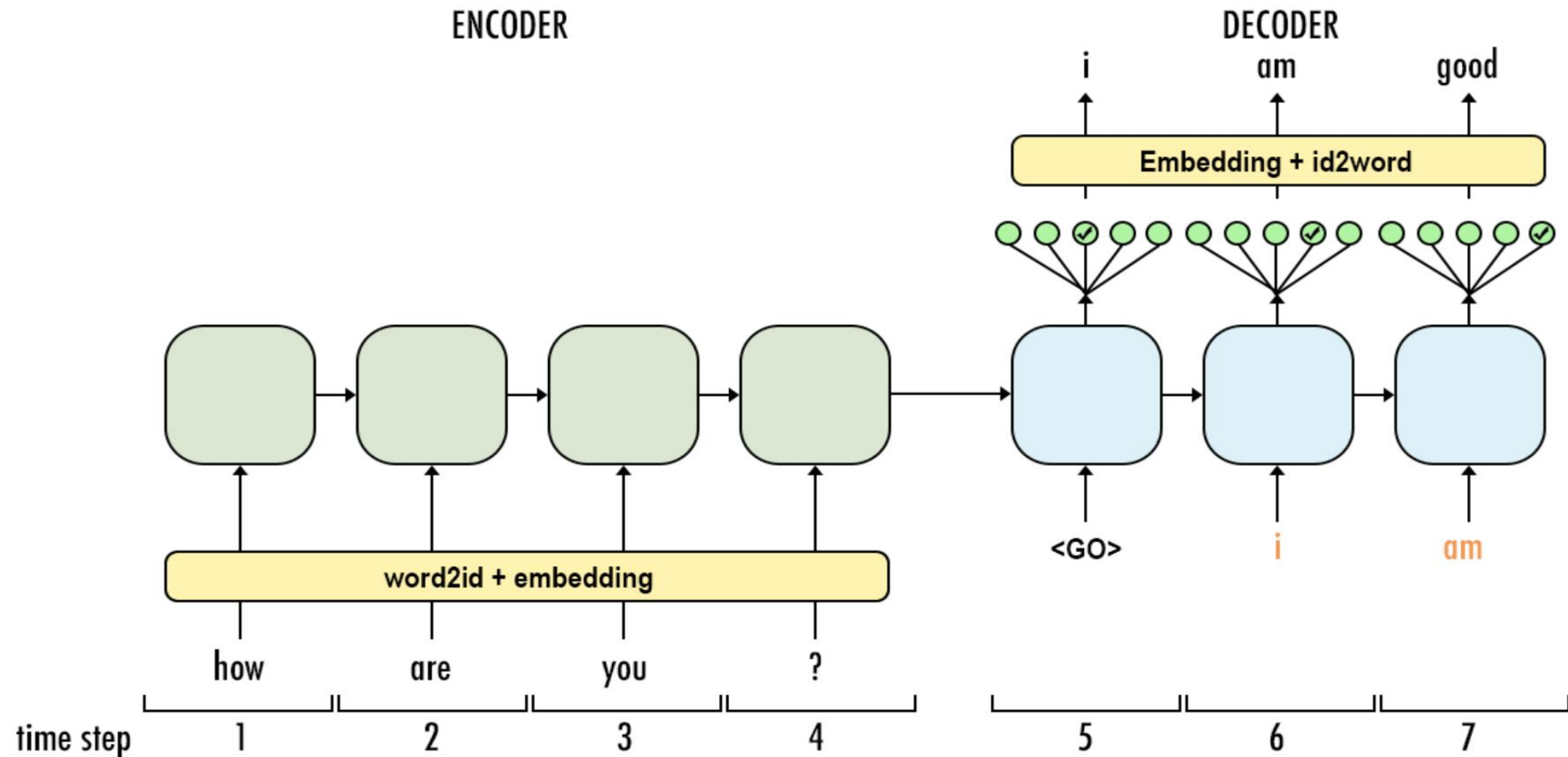
The Seq2Seq model follows the classical encoder decoder architecture

- At training time the decoder **does not** feed the output of each time step to the next; the inputs to the decoder time steps are the target from the training dataset
- At inference time the decoder feeds the output of each time step as an input to the next one

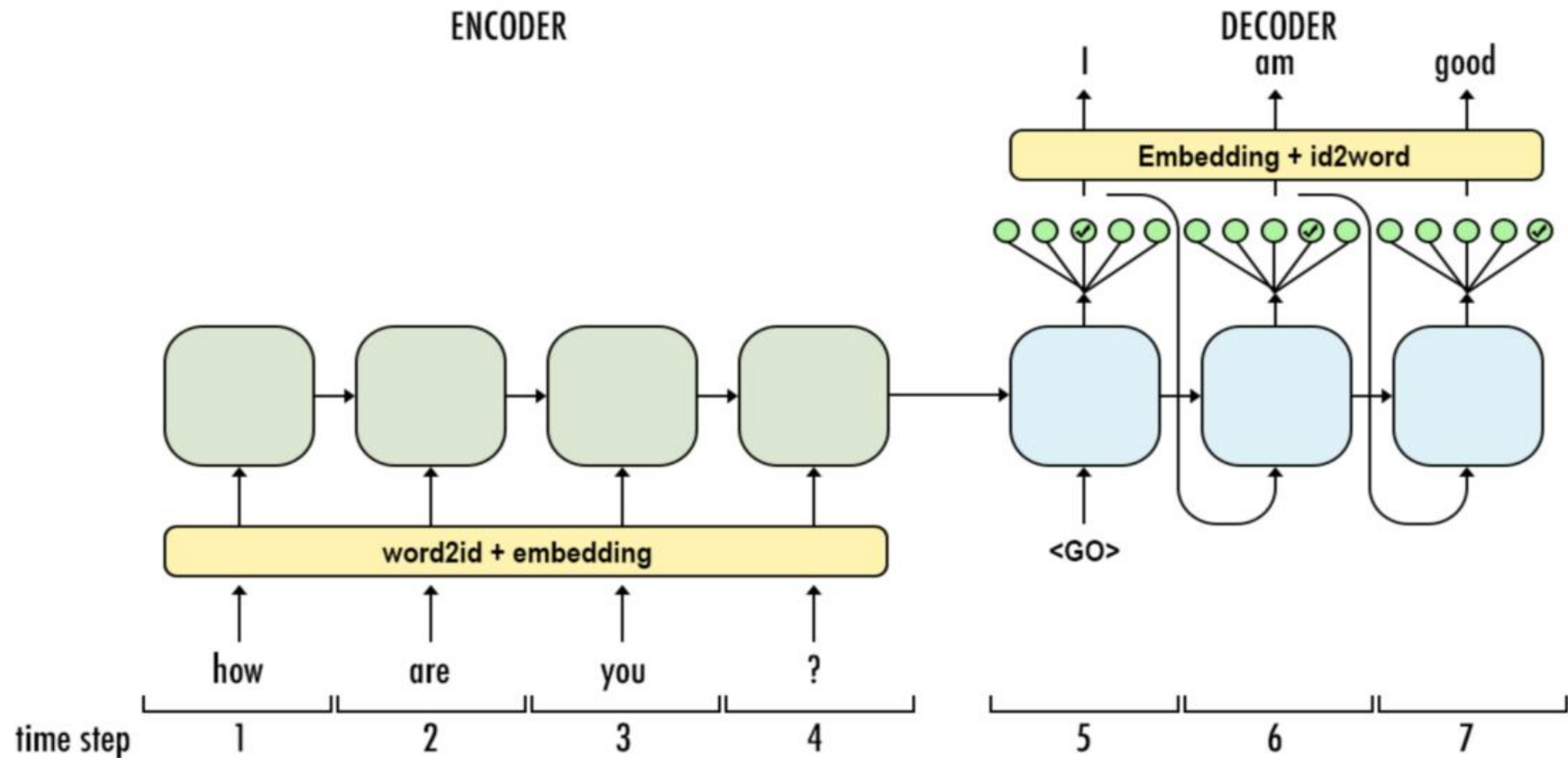




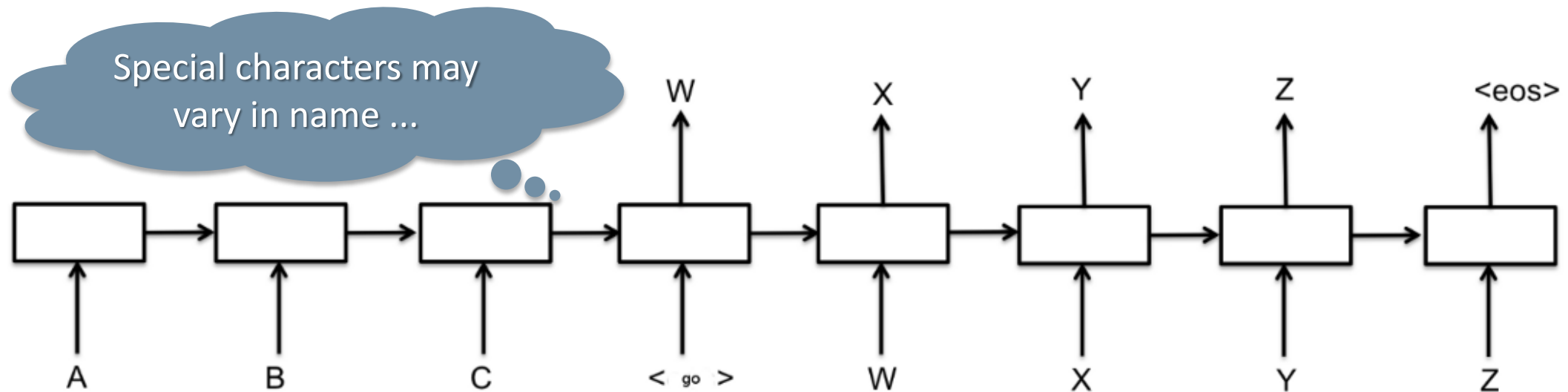
# Seq2Seq Training Process



# Seq2Seq Inference Process



# Special Characters



<PAD>: During training, examples are fed to the network in batches. The inputs in these batches need to be the same width. This is used to pad shorter inputs to the same width of the batch

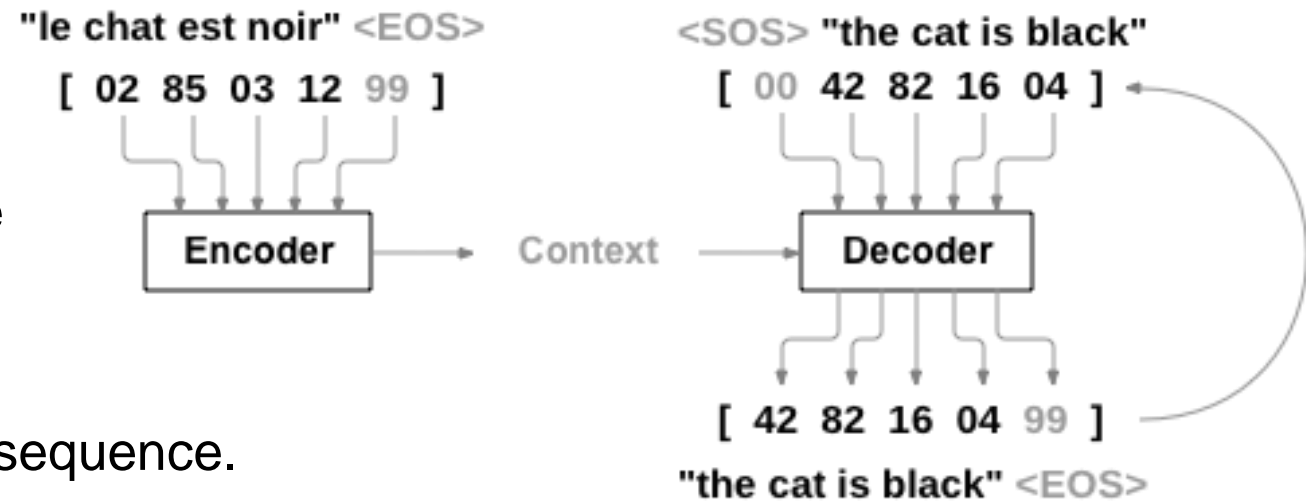
<EOS>: Needed for batching on the decoder side. It tells the decoder where a sentence ends, and it allows the decoder to indicate the same thing in its outputs as well.

<UNK>: On real data, it can vastly improve the resource efficiency to ignore words that do not show up often enough in your vocabulary by replace those with this character.

<SOS>/<GO>: This is the input to the first time step of the decoder to let the decoder know when to start generating output.

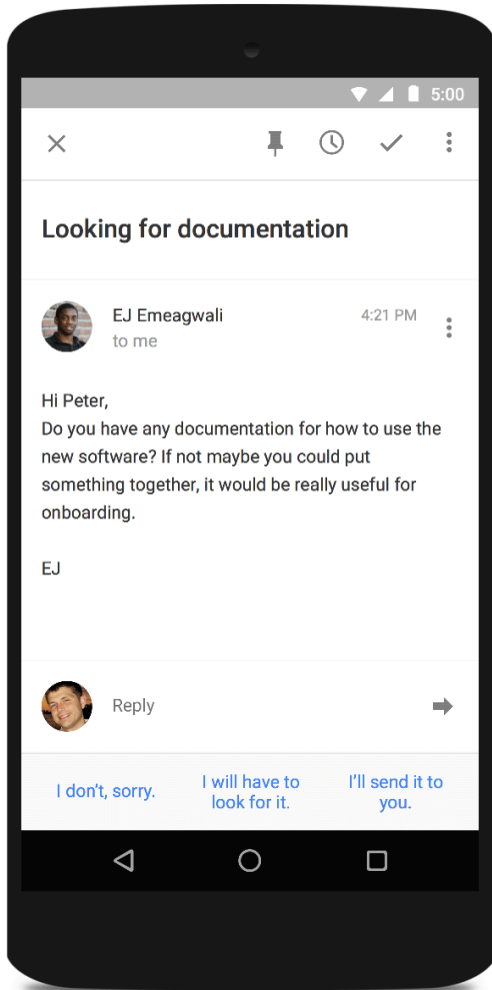
# Dataset Batch Preparation

1. Sample `batch_size` pairs of (`source_sequence`, `target_sequence`).
2. Append `<EOS>` to the `source_sequence`
3. Prepend `<SOS>` to the `target_sequence` to obtain the `target_input_sequence` and append `<EOS>` to obtain `target_output_sequence`.
4. Pad up to the `max_input_length` (`max_target_length`) within the batch using the `<PAD>` token.
5. Encode tokens based of vocabulary (or embedding)
6. Replace out of vocabulary (OOV) tokens with `<UNK>`.  
Compute the length of each input and target sequence in the batch.

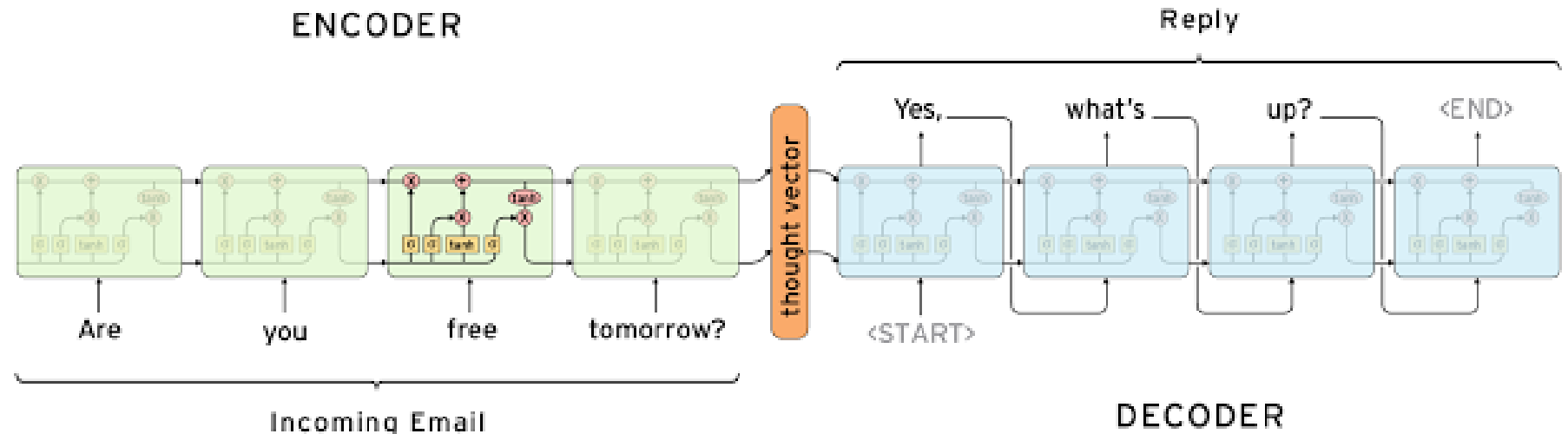


```
vocabulary = { "<SOS>": 00,  
               "<EOS>": 99,  
               "<UNK>": 01,  
               "<PAD>": 03,  
               "the": 42,  
               "is": 16,  
               ... }
```

# Sequence to Sequence Modeling



Given  $\langle S, T \rangle$  pairs, read  $S$ , and output  $T'$  that best matches  $T$

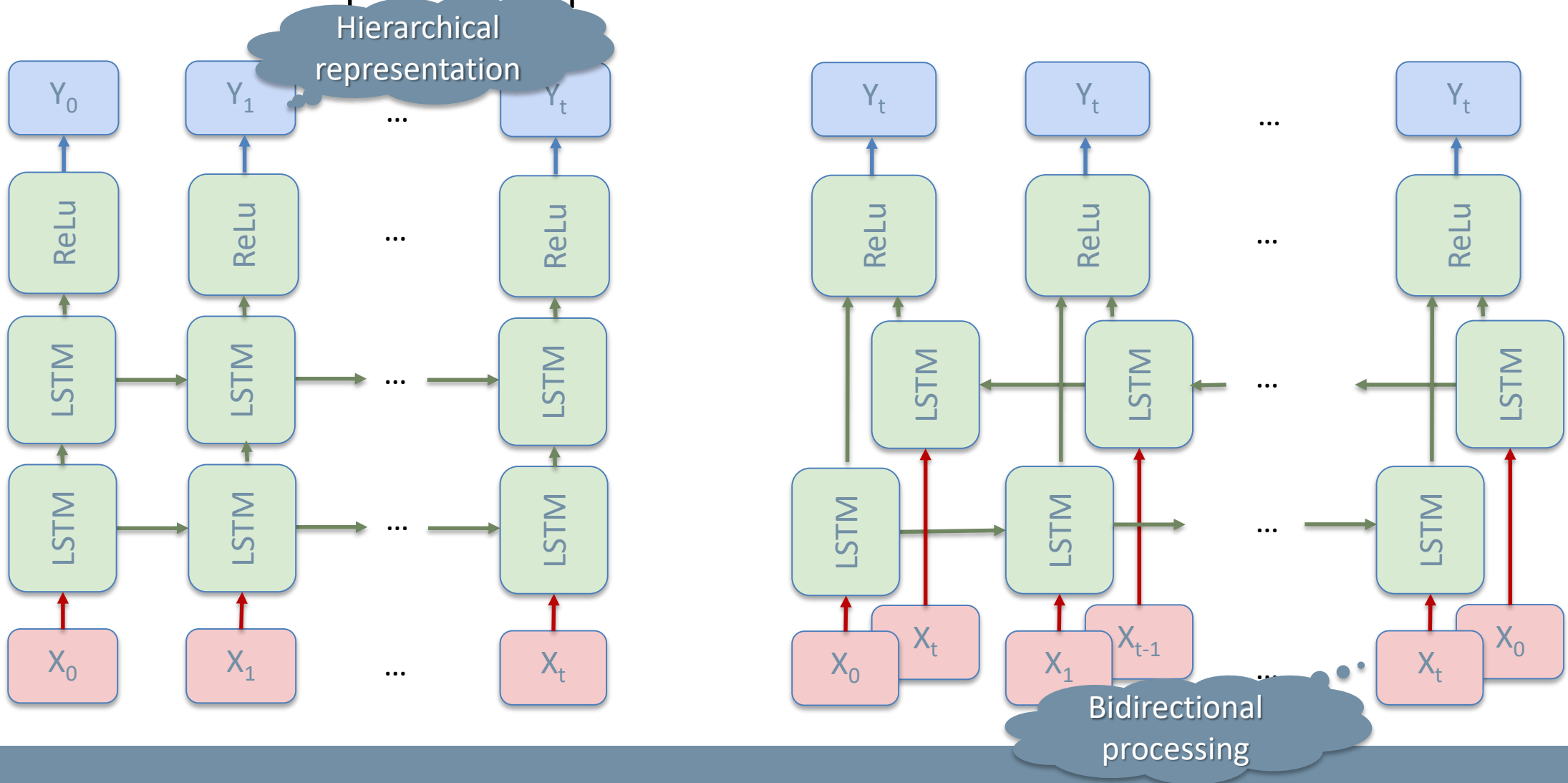


$$p(y_1, \dots, y_{T'} | x_1, \dots, x_T) = \prod_{t=1}^{T'} p(y_t | v, y_1, \dots, y_{t-1})$$

$$\frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{(T,S) \in \mathcal{S}} \log p(T|S)$$

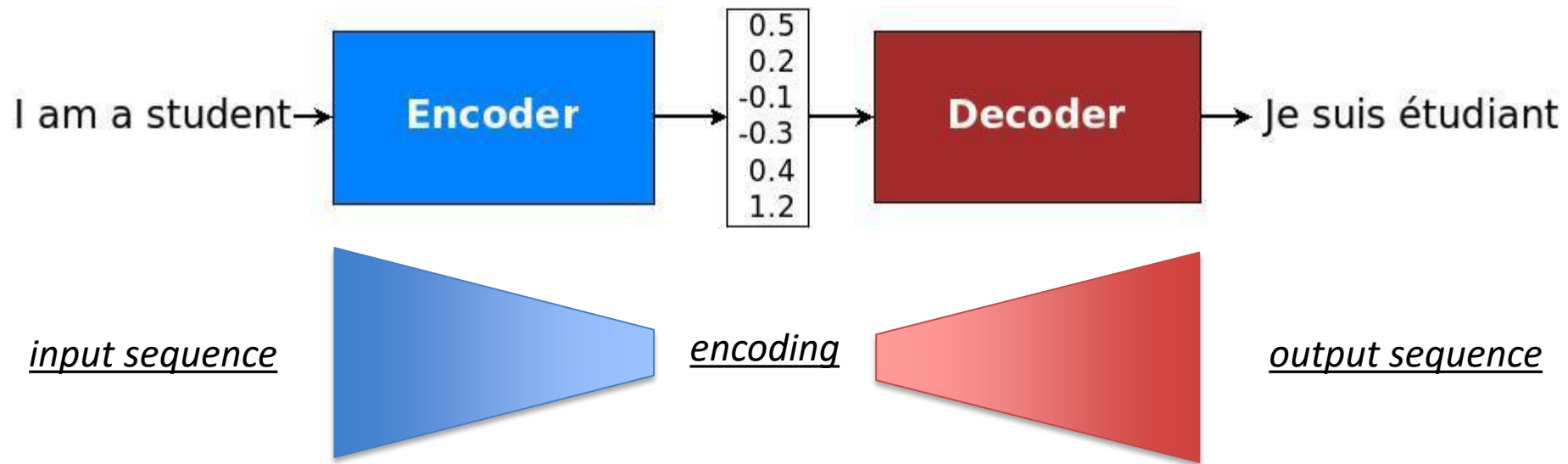
# Multiple Layers and Bidirectional LSTM Networks

You can build a computation graph in time with continuous transformations.



# Extending Recurrent Neural Networks

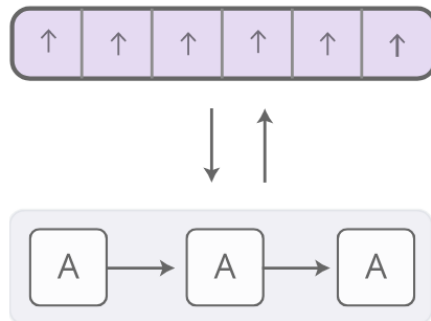
Recurrent Neural Networks have been also extended with memory mechanism to cope with very long sequences and the encoding bottleneck ...



# Extending Recurrent Neural Networks

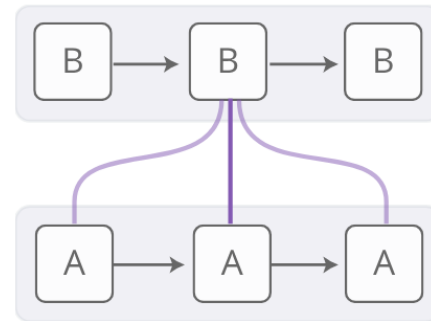
Recurrent Neural Networks have been also extended with memory mechanism to cope with very long sequences and the encoding bottleneck ...

<https://distill.pub/2016/augmented-rnns/>



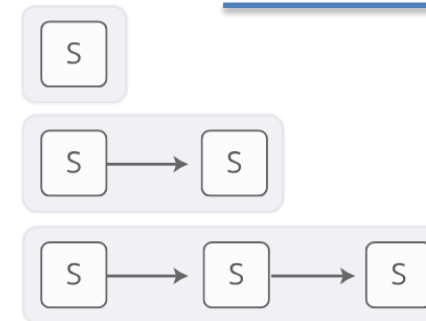
## Neural Turing Machines

have external memory that they can read and write to.



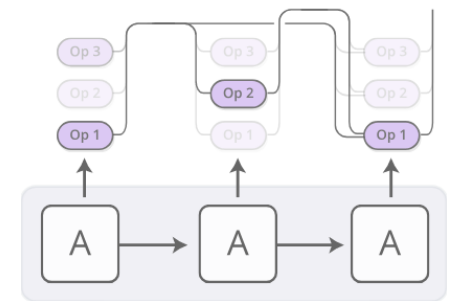
## Attentional Interfaces

allow RNNs to focus on parts of their input.



## Adaptive Computation Time

allows for varying amounts of computation per step.



## Neural Programmers

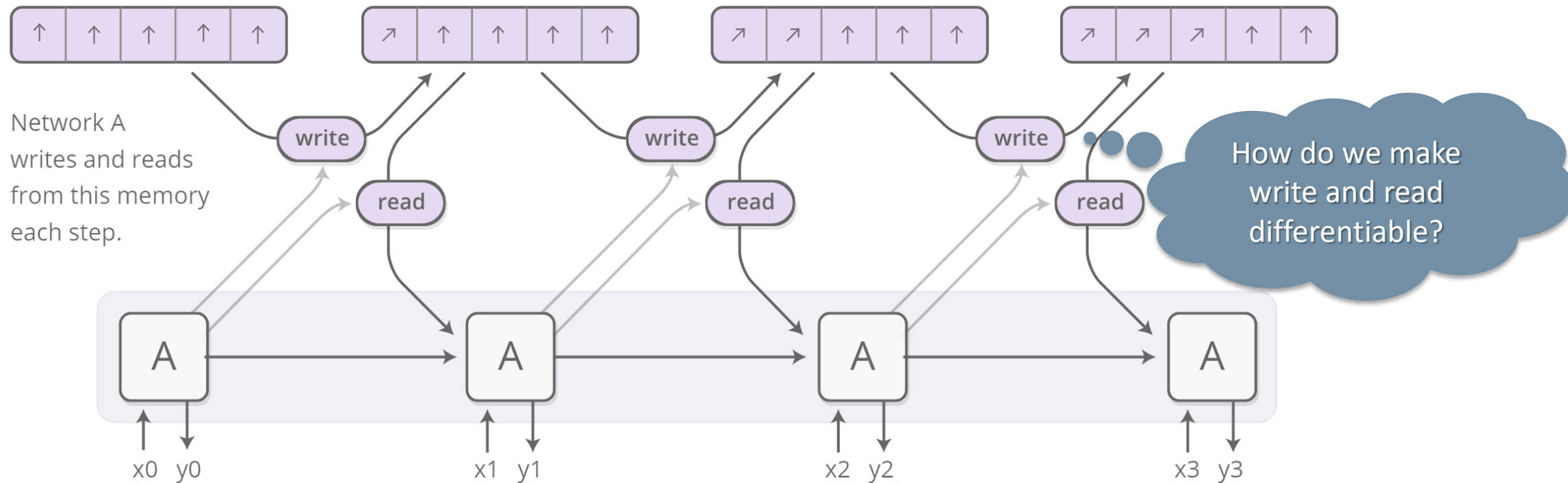
can call functions, building programs as they run.



# Neural Turing Machines

Neural Turing Machines combine a RNN with an external memory bank.

Memory is an array of vectors.



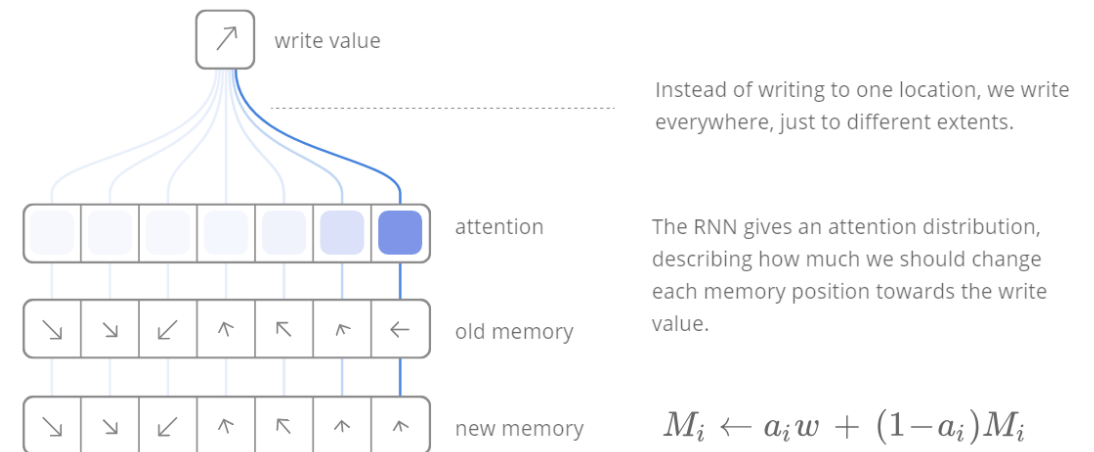
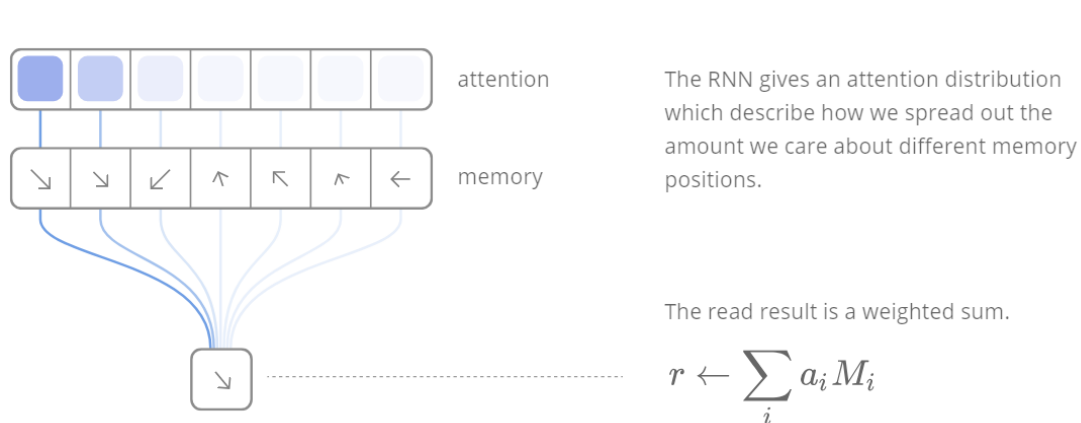
# Neural Turing Machines Idea

## Neural Turing Machines challenge:

- We want to learn what to write/read but also where to write it
- Memory addresses are fundamentally discrete
- Write/read differentiable w.r.t the location we read from or write to

Attention mechanism!

NTM solution: Every step, they read and write everywhere, just to different extents.



# Neural Turing Machines Attention

**Content-based attention:** searches memory and focus on places that match what they're looking for

**Location-based attention:** allows relative movement in memory enabling the NTM to loop.

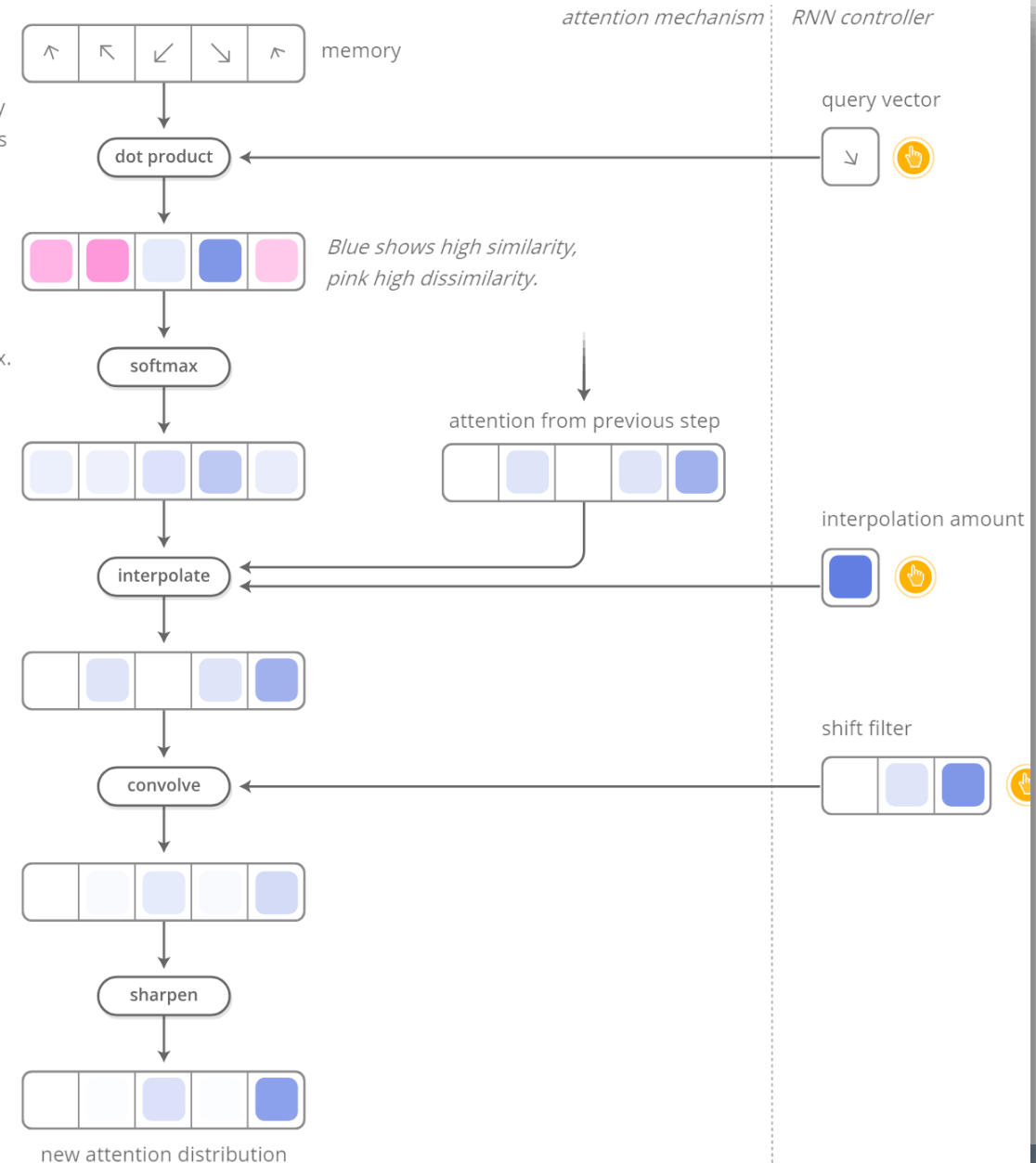
First, the controller gives a query vector and each memory entry is scored for similarity with the query.

The scores are then converted into a distribution using softmax.

Next, we interpolate the attention from the previous time step.

We convolve the attention with a shift filter—this allows the controller to move its focus.

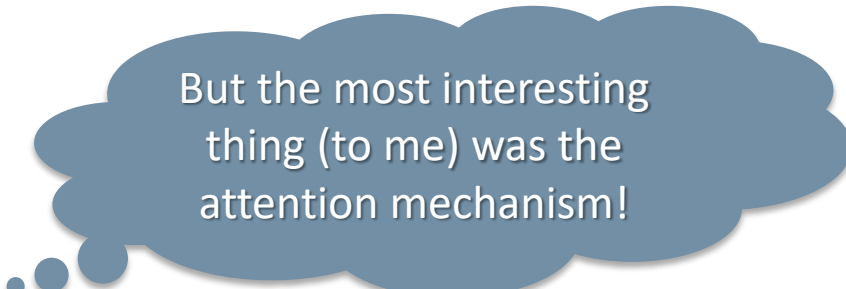
Finally, we sharpen the attention distribution. This final attention distribution is fed to the read or write operation.



# Neural Turing Machines Extensions

Thanks to memory, NTM can perform algorithms, previously beyond neural networks:

- Learn to store a long sequence in memory
- Learn to loop and repeat sequences back repeatedly
- Learn to mimic a lookup table
- Learn to sort numbers ...



But the most interesting thing (to me) was the attention mechanism!

Some extension have been proposed to go beyond this:

- Neural GPU overcomes the NTM's inability to add and multiply numbers
- Zaremba & Sutskever train NTMs using reinforcement learning instead of the differentiable read/writes used by the original
- Neural Random Access Machines work based on pointers
- Others have explored differentiable data structures, like stacks and queues

# Attention Mechanism in Seq2Seq Models

Considering the sequential dataset:

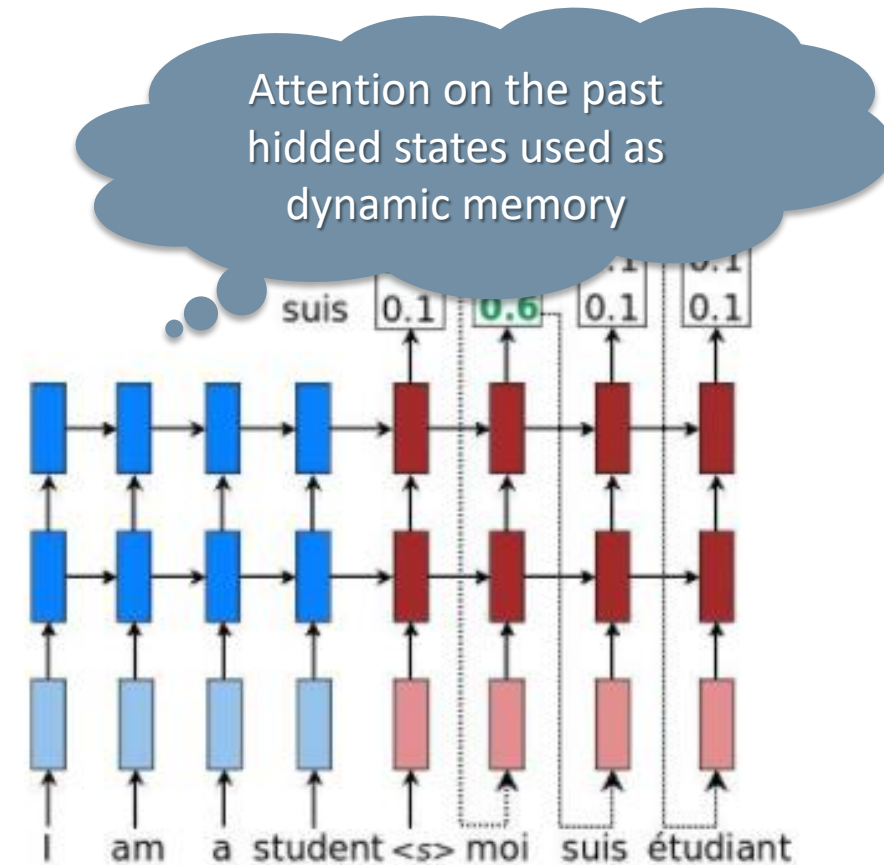
$$\{((x_1, \dots, x_n), (y_1, \dots, y_m))\}_{i=1}^N$$

The decoder role is to model the generative probability:

$$P(y_1, \dots, y_m | x)$$

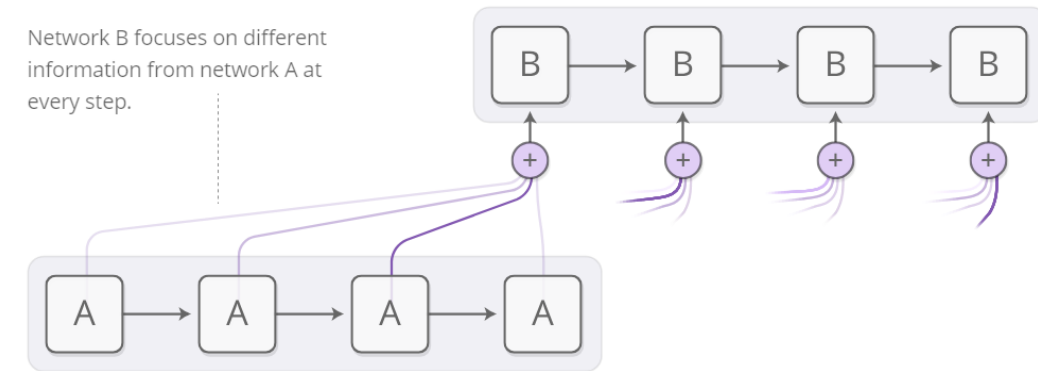
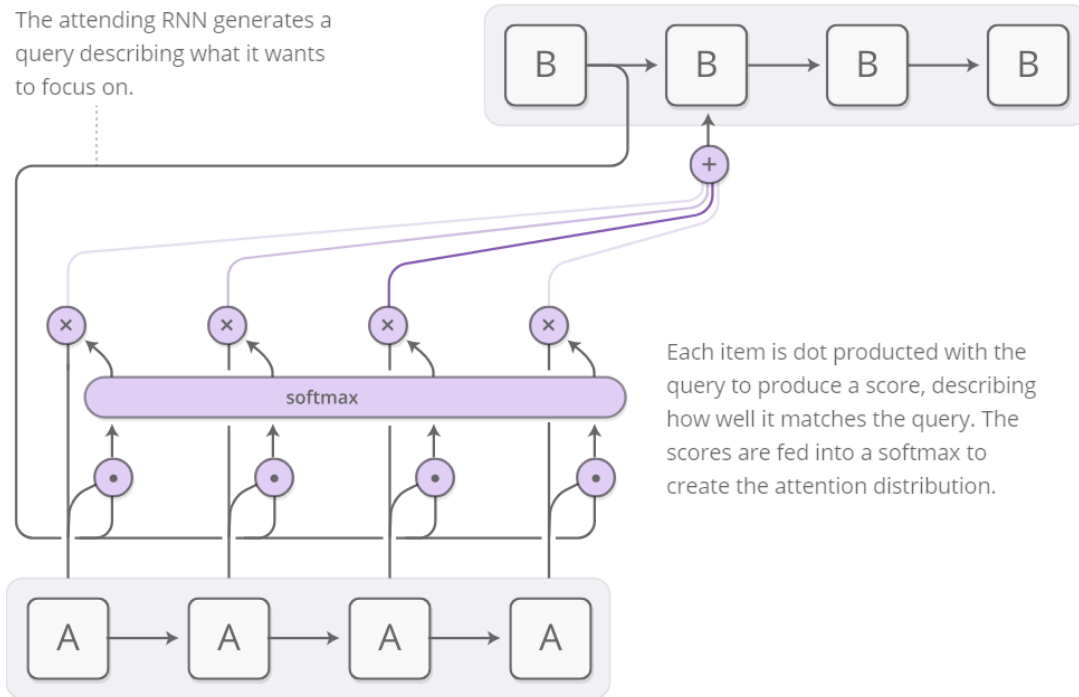
In “vanilla” seq2seq models, the decoder is conditioned initializing the initial state with last state of the encoder.

Works well for short and medium-length sentences; however, for long sentences, becomes a bottleneck



# Attention Mechanism in Seq2Seq Models

Let's use the same idea of Neural Turing Machines to get a differentiable attention and learn where to focus attention.



Attention distribution is usually generated with content-based attention.

Each item is thus weighted with the query response to produce a score

Scores are fed into a softmax to create the attention distribution

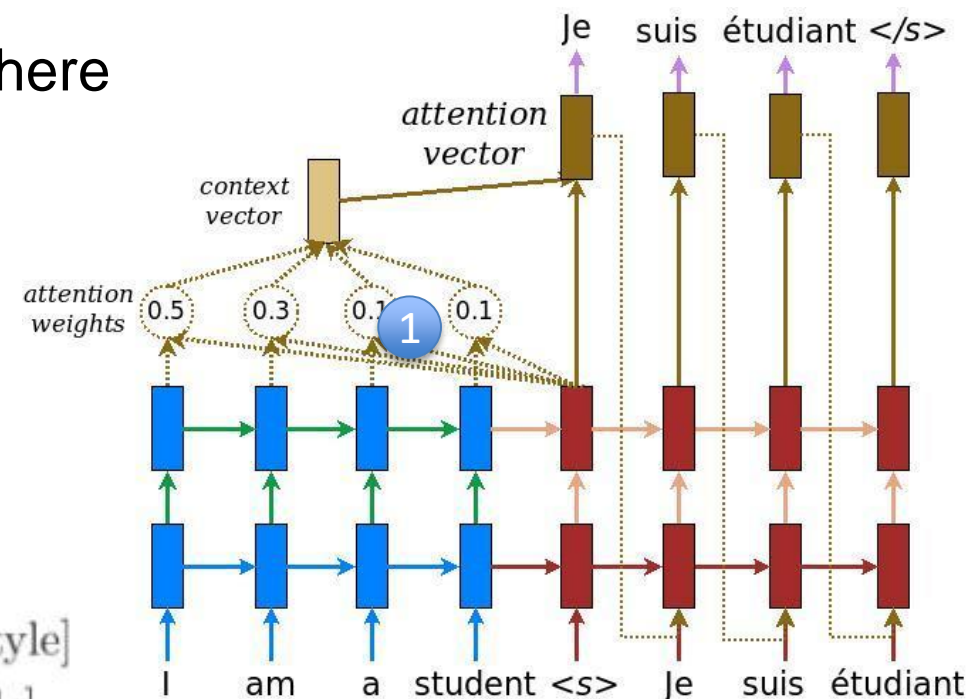
# Attention Mechanism in Seq2Seq Models

The attention function as mapping a query and a set of key-value pairs to an output.

Output computed as a weighted sum of the values, where the weight assigned to each value is computed by a compatibility function:

1. Compare current target hidden state  $h_t$ , with all source states  $h_s$  to derive attention scores

$$\text{score}(h_t, \bar{h}_s) = \begin{cases} h_t^\top W \bar{h}_s & \text{[Luong's multiplicative style]} \\ v_a^\top \tanh(W_1 h_t + W_2 \bar{h}_s) & \text{[Bahdanau's additive style]} \end{cases}$$





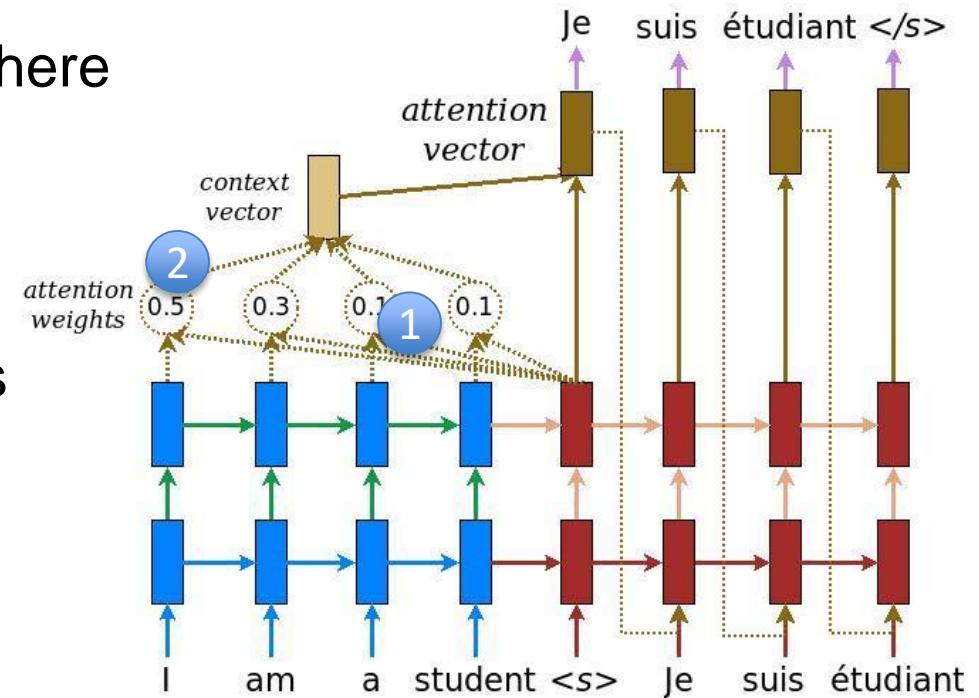
# Attention Mechanism in Seq2Seq Models

The attention function as mapping a query and a set of key-value pairs to an output.

Output computed as a weighted sum of the values, where the weight assigned to each value is computed by a compatibility function:

2. Apply the softmax function on the attention scores and compute the attention weights, one for each encoder token

$$\alpha_{ts} = \frac{\exp(\text{score}(\mathbf{h}_t, \bar{\mathbf{h}}_s))}{\sum_{s'=1}^S \exp(\text{score}(\mathbf{h}_t, \bar{\mathbf{h}}_{s'}))}$$





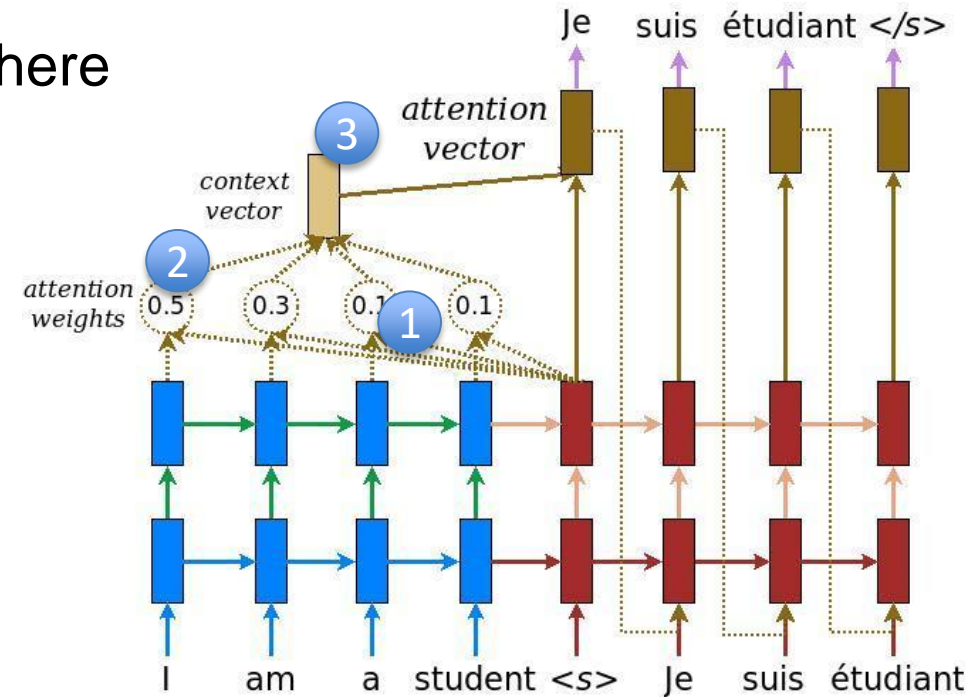
# Attention Mechanism in Seq2Seq Models

The attention function as mapping a query and a set of key-value pairs to an output.

Output computed as a weighted sum of the values, where the weight assigned to each value is computed by a compatibility function:

3. Compute the context vector as the weighted average of the source states

$$c_t = \sum_s \alpha_{ts} \bar{h}_s$$



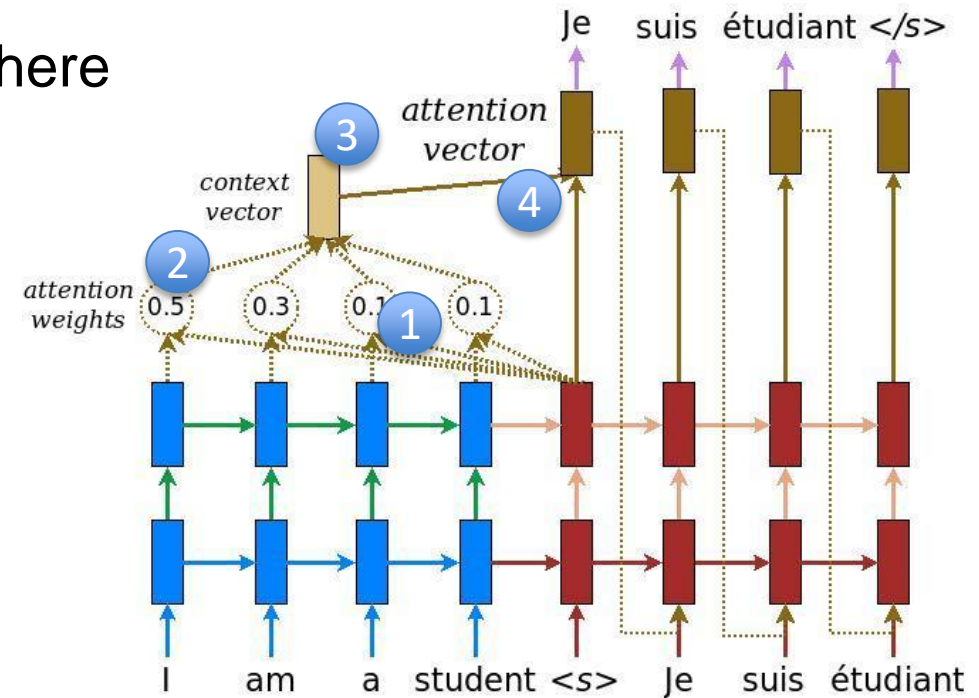
## Attention Mechanism in Seq2Seq Models

The attention function as mapping a query and a set of key-value pairs to an output.

Output computed as a weighted sum of the values, where the weight assigned to each value is computed by a compatibility function:

4. Combine the context vector with current target hidden state to yield the final attention vector

$$\mathbf{a}_t = f(\mathbf{c}_t, \mathbf{h}_t) = \tanh(\mathbf{W}_c[\mathbf{c}_t; \mathbf{h}_t])$$

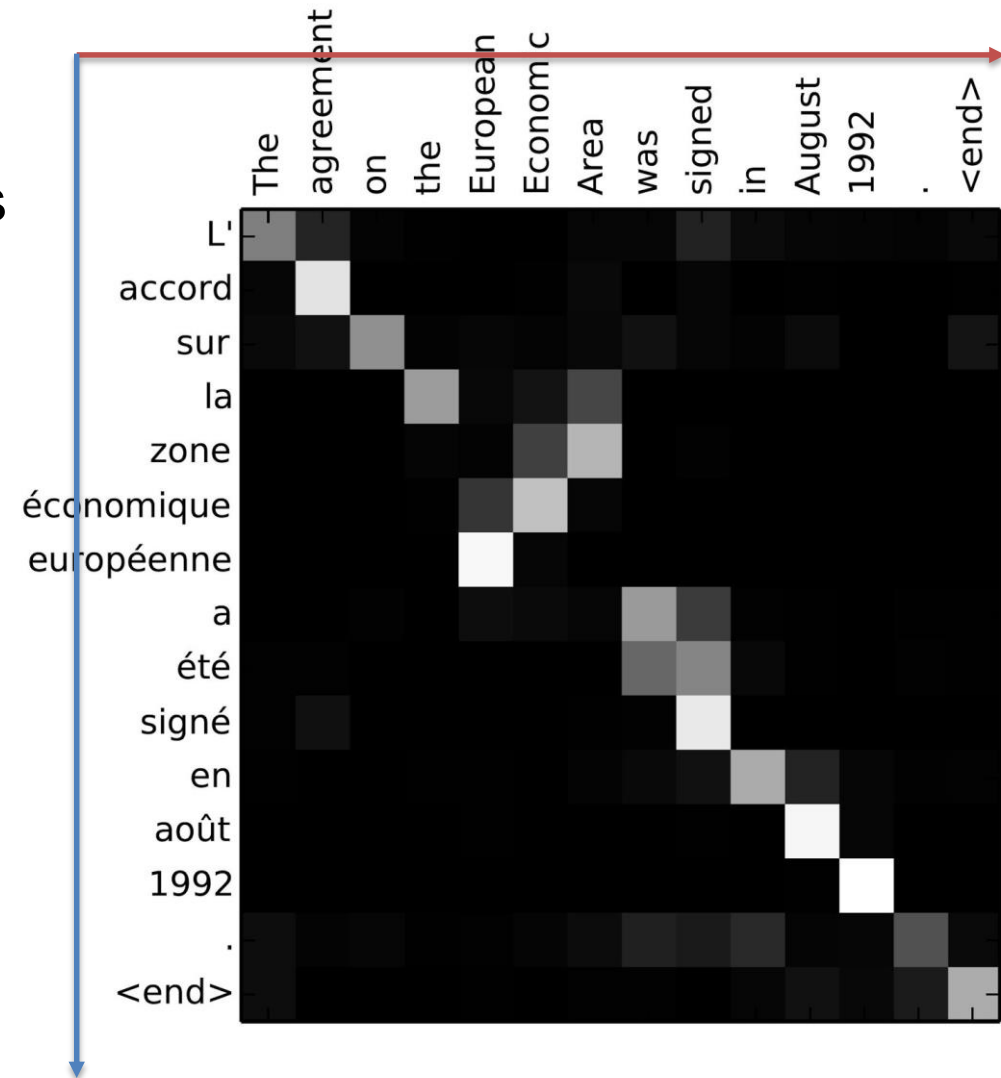


# Attention Visualization

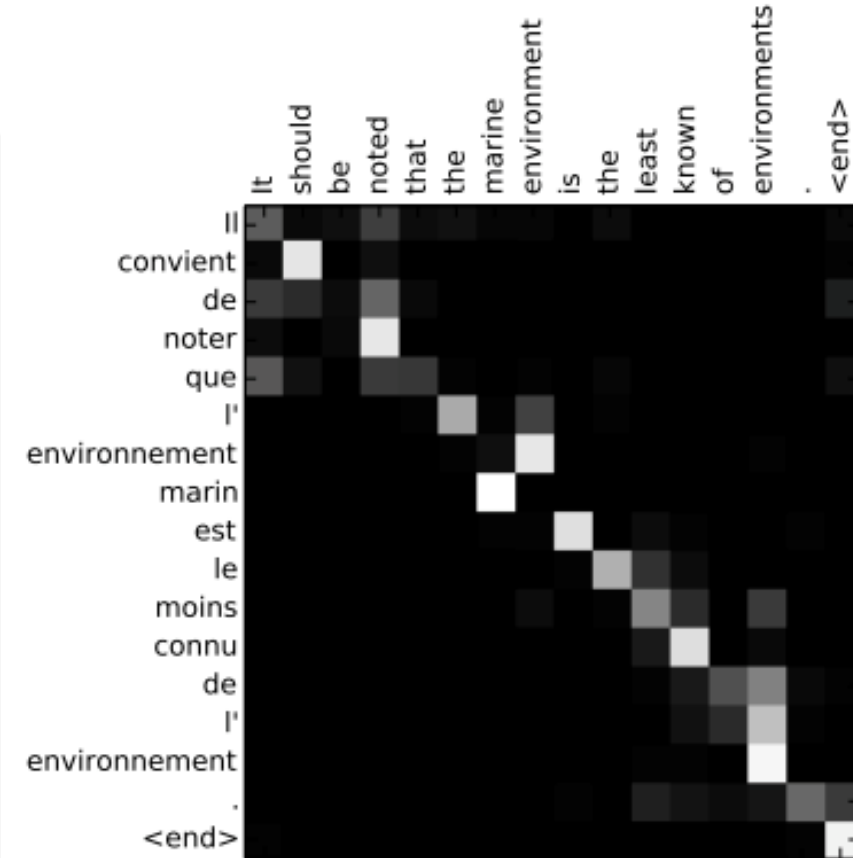
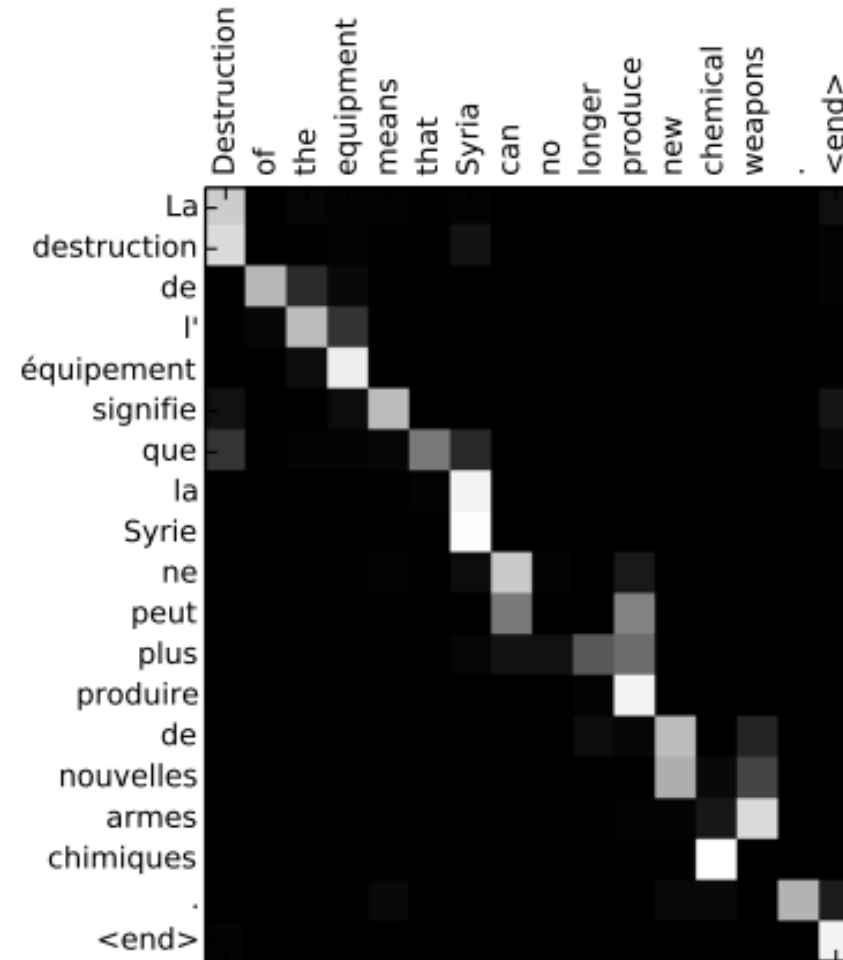
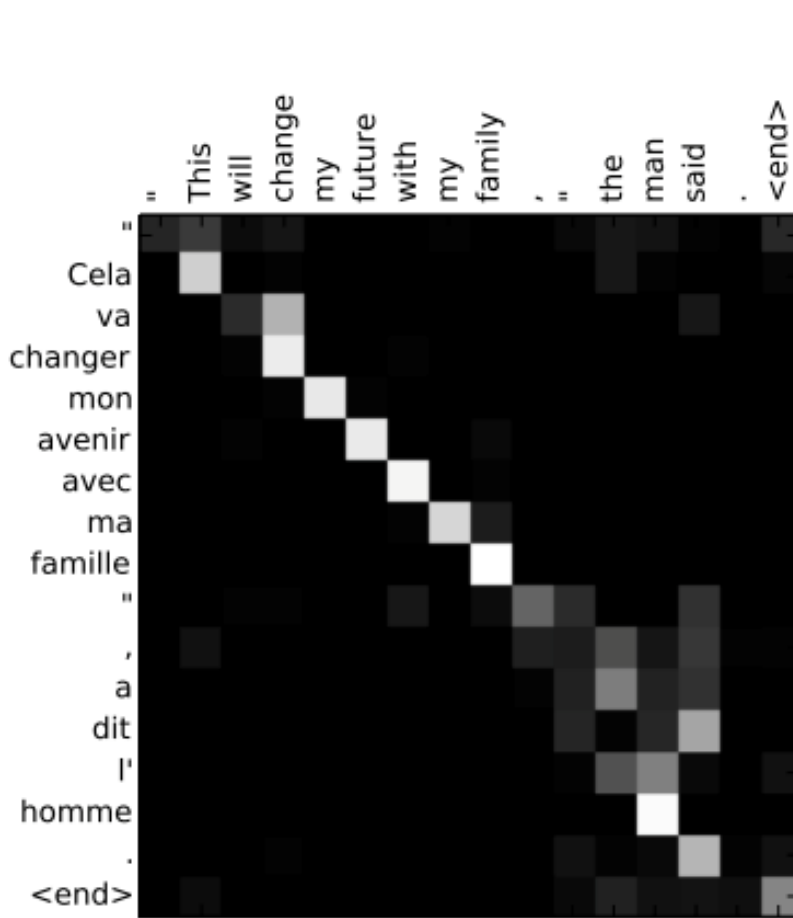
Alignment matrix is use to visualize attention weights between **source** and **target** sentences.

For each decoding step, i.e., for each generated target token, describes which are the source tokens that are more present in the weighted sum that conditioned the decoding.

We can see attention as a tool in the network's bag that, while decoding, allows it to pay attention on different parts of the source sentence.



# Attention Visualization



# Attention Mechanism in Translation

Check the demo!!!

Attention allows processing the input to pass along information about each word it sees, and then for generating the output to focus on words as they become relevant.

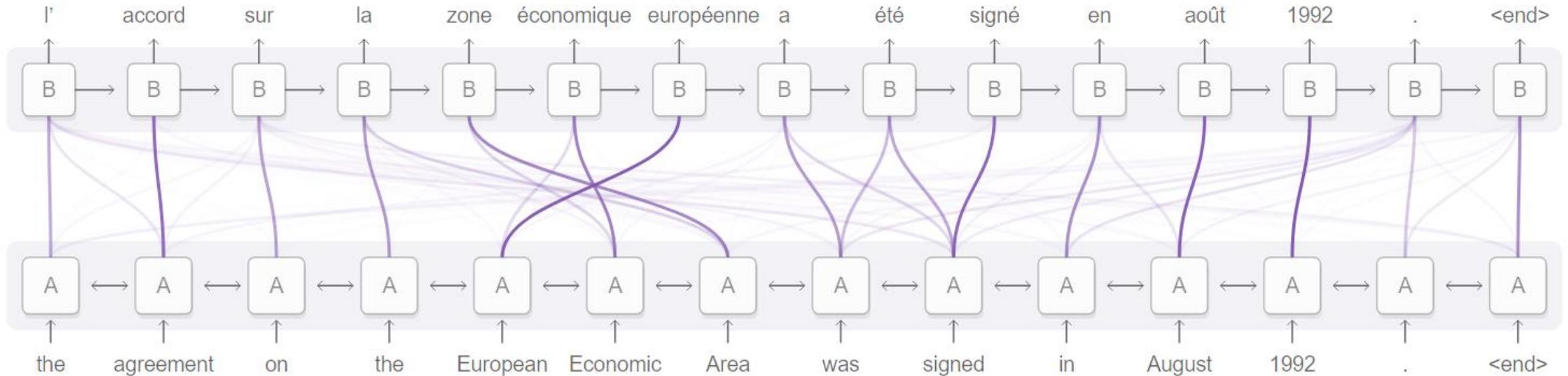


Diagram derived from Fig. 3 of [Bahdanau, et al. 2014](#)



# Attention Mechanism in Voice Recognition

Check the demo!!!

Attention allows one RNN to process the audio and then have another RNN scan over it, focusing on relevant parts as it generates a transcript.

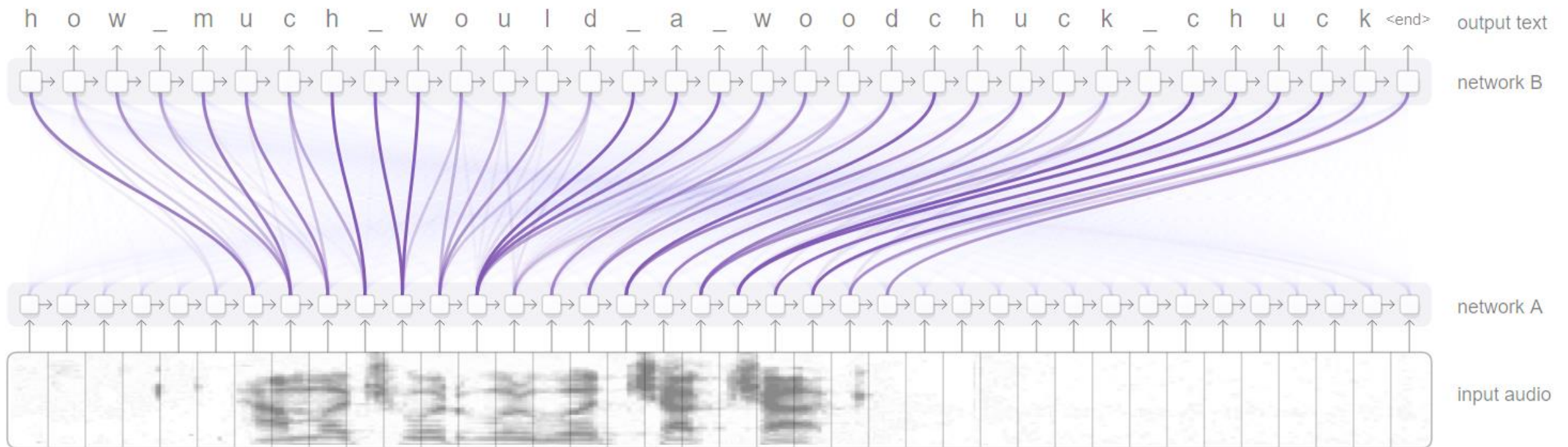


Figure derived from [Chan, et al. 2015](#)

# Attention Mechanism in Image Captioning

A CNN processes the image, extracting high-level features. Then an RNN runs, generating a description of the image based on the features.

As it generates each word in the description, the RNN focuses on the CNN interpretation of the relevant parts of the image.



A woman is throwing a frisbee in a park.



A dog is standing on a hardwood floor.

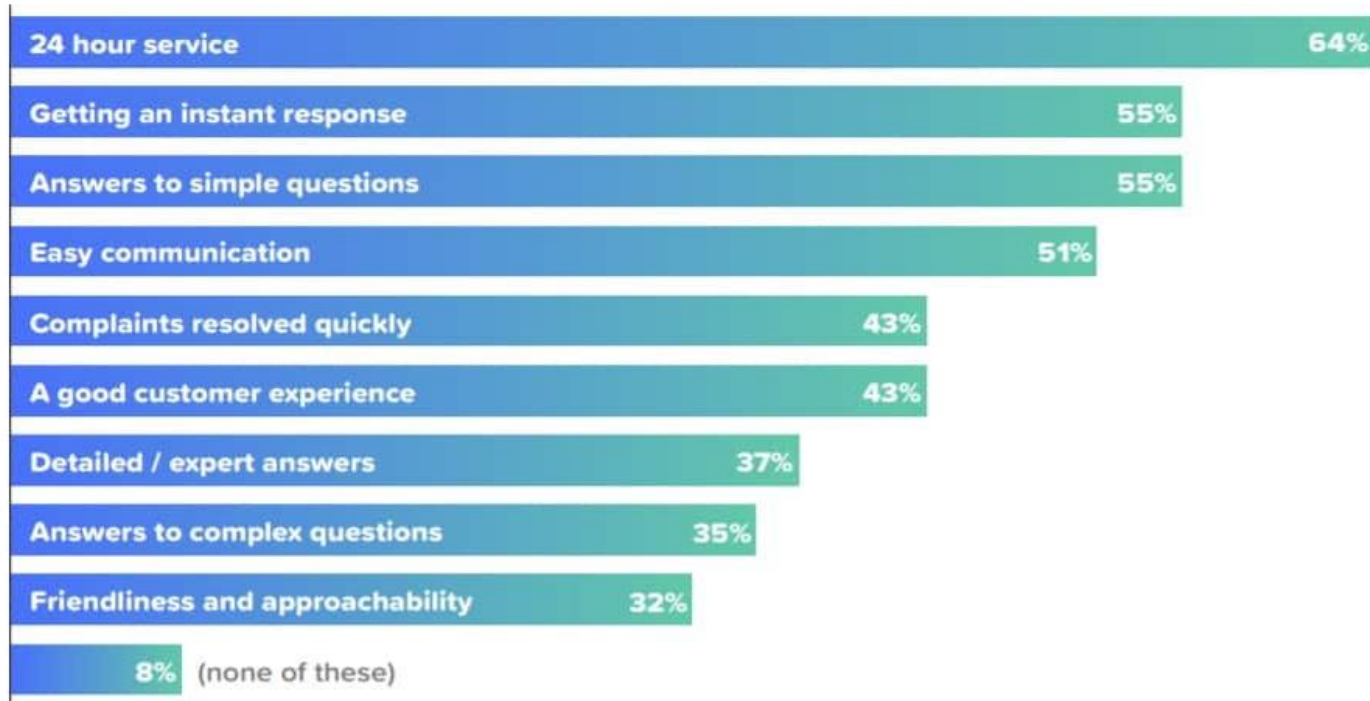


A stop sign is on a road with a mountain in the background.

# Attention in Response Generation (i.e., Chatbots)

## Potential Benefits of Chatbots

*If chatbots were available (and working effectively) for the online services that you use, which of these benefits would you expect to enjoy?*



Sources: <https://blog.appliedai.com/chatbot-benefits/>  
<https://blog.growthbot.org/chatbots-were-the-next-big-thing-what-happened>





# Attention in Response Generation (i.e., Chatbots)

Chatbots can be defined along at least two dimensions, *core algorithm* and context handling:

- Generative: encode the question into a context vector and generate the answer word by word using conditioned probability distribution over answer's vocabulary. E.g., an encoder-decoder model.
- Retrieval: rely on knowledge base of question-answer pairs. When a new question comes in, inference phase encodes it in a context vector and by using similarity measure retrieves the top-k neighbor knowledge base items.



# Attention in Response Generation (i.e., Chatbots)

Chatbots can be defined along at least two dimensions, core algorithm and *context handling*:

- Single-turn: build the input vector by considering the incoming question. They may lose important information about the history of the conversation and generate irrelevant responses.

$$\{(q_i, a_i)\}$$

- Multi-turn: the input vector is built by considering a multi-turn conversational context, containing also incoming question.

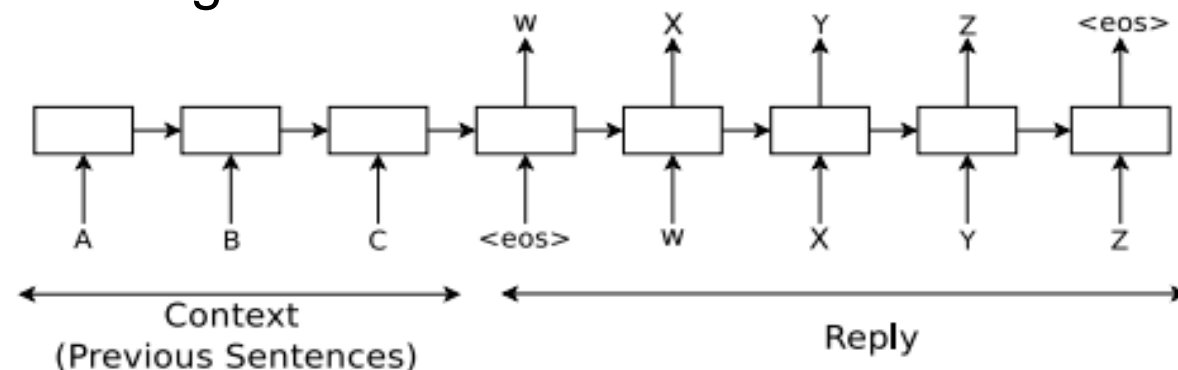
$$\{([q_{i-2}; a_{i-2}; q_{i-1}; a_{i-1}; q_i], a_i)\}$$



# Generative Chatbots

Vinyals and Le, 2015 and Shang et al., 2015 proposed to directly apply sequence to sequence models to the conversation between two agents:

- The first person utters “ABC”
- The second person replies “WXYZ”



The idea of generative chatbots is to use an RNN and train it to map “ABC” to “WXYZ”:

- We can borrow the model from machine translation
- A flat model simple and general
- Attention mechanisms apply as usual

How do we handle multi turns chat?

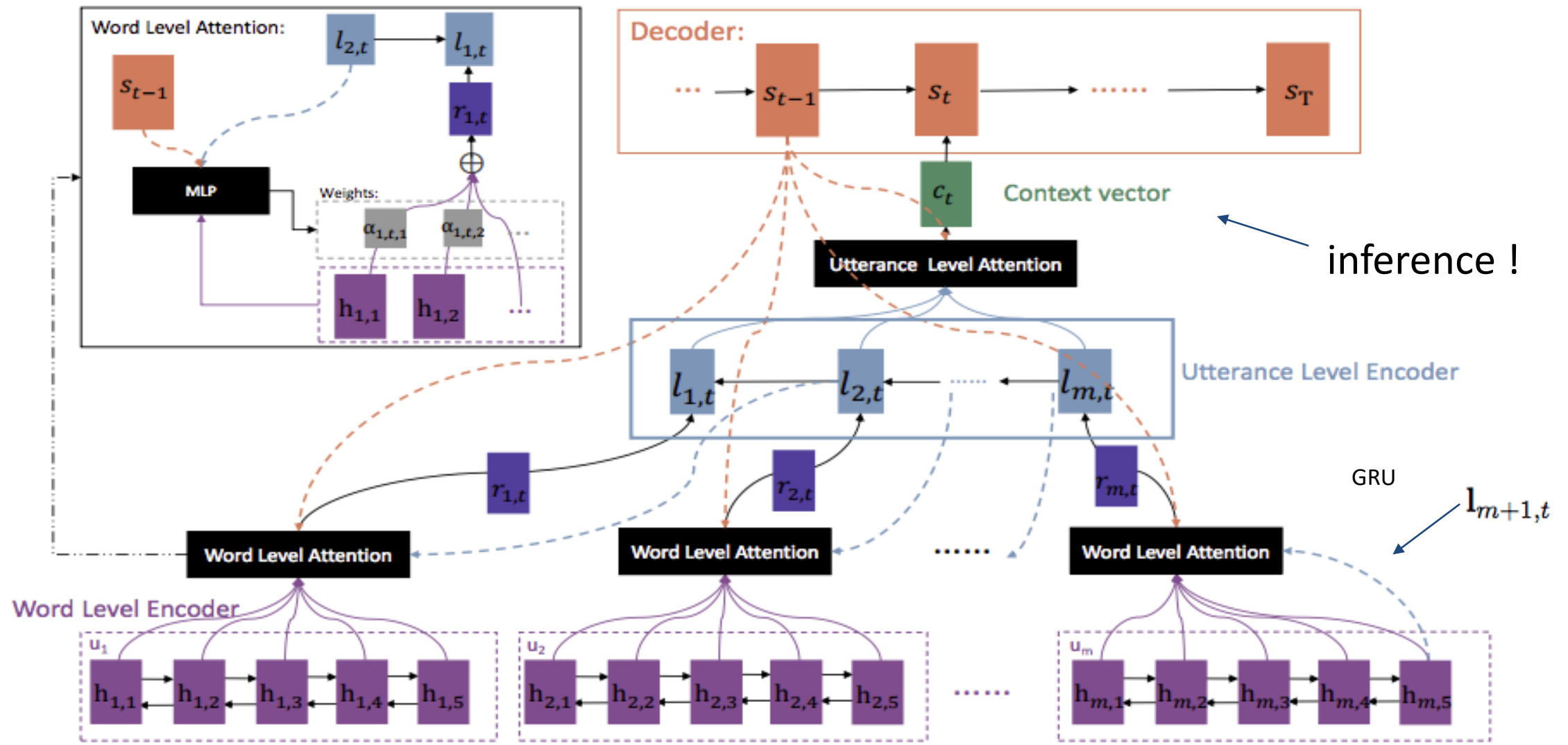
The first idea could be **concatenating multiple turns** into a **single long input sequence**, but this would probably result in poor performances.

- LSTM cells often fail to catch the long term dependencies within input sequences that are longer than 100 tokens
- No explicit representation of turns can be exploited by the attention mechanism

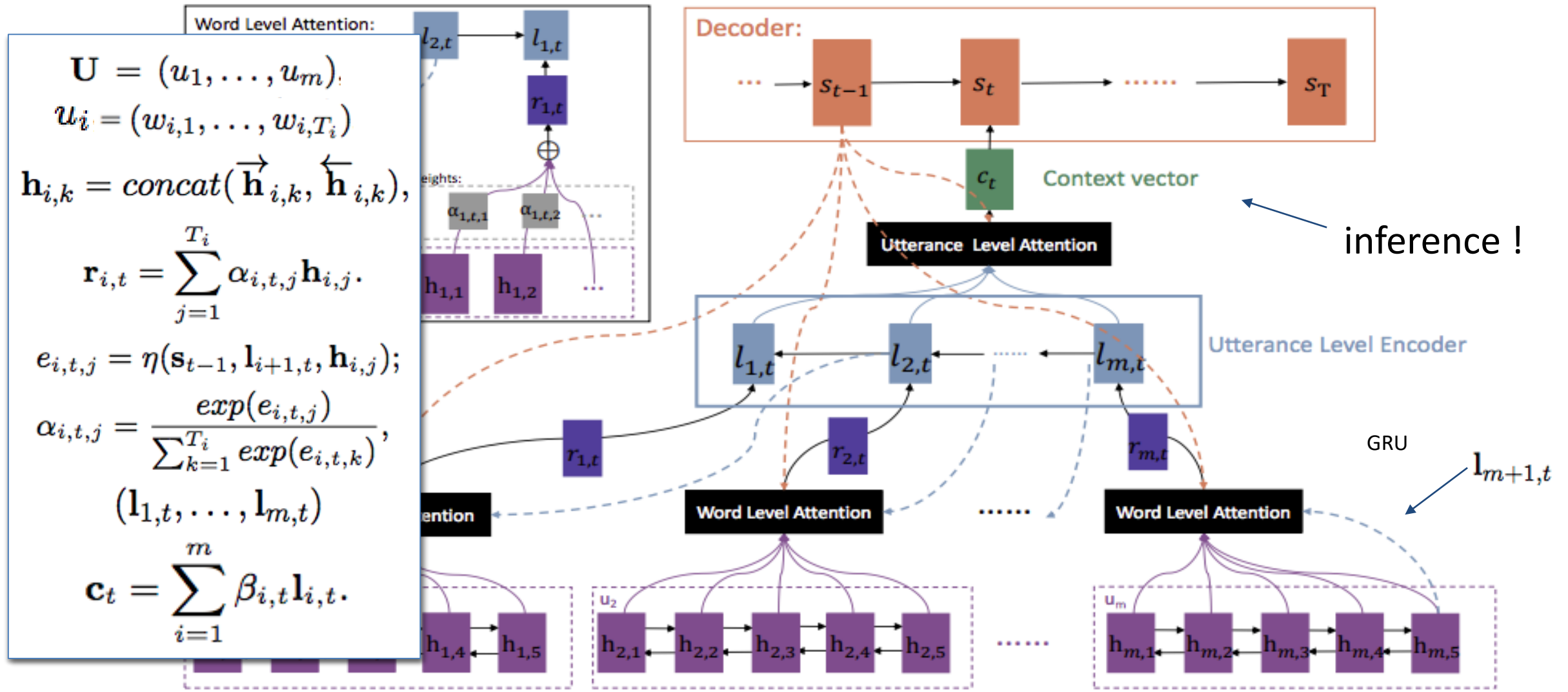
Xing et al., in 2017, extended the attention mechanism from single-turn response generation to a hierarchical attention mechanism for multi-turn response generation

- Hierarchical attention networks (e.g., characters -> words -> sentences)
- Generate hidden representation of a sequence from contextualized words

# Hierarchical Generative Multi-turn Chatbots



# Hierarchical Generative Multi-turn Chatbots





# Hierarchical Generative Multi-turn Chatbots

We can visualize hierarchical attention weights, darker color means more important words or utterances.




# Hierarchical Document Classification

Hierarchical attention networks have been used for topic classification (e.g., Yahoo Answer data set).


- Left document denotes Science and Mathematics; model accurately localizes the words zebra, stripes, camouflage, predator and corresponding sentences.
- Right document denotes Computers and Internet; the model focuses on web, searches, browsers and their corresponding sentences.

GT: 1 Prediction: 1



why does zebras have stripes ?  
what is the purpose or those stripes ?  
who do they serve the zebras in the  
wild life ?  
this provides camouflage - predator  
vision is such that it is usually difficult  
for them to see complex patterns

GT: 4 Prediction: 4



how do i get rid of all the old web  
searches i have on my web browser ?  
i want to clean up my web browser  
go to tools > options .  
then click “ delete history ” and “  
clean up temporary internet files . ”



# Hierarchical Document Classification

In Sentiment Analysis, the model can select words carrying strong sentiment like **delicious**, **amazing**, **terrible** and their corresponding sentences.

Sentences containing useless words like cocktails, pasta, entree are disregarded.

GT: 4 Prediction: 4	GT: 0 Prediction: 0
pork belly = delicious .	terrible value .
scallops ?	ordered pasta entree .
i do n't .	.
even .	\$ 16.95 good taste but size was an
like .	appetizer size .
scallops , and these were a-m-a-z-i-n-g .	.
fun and tasty cocktails .	no salad , no bread no vegetable .
next time i 'm in phoenix , i will go	this was .
back here .	our and tasty cocktails .
highly recommend .	our second visit .
	i will not go back .

## Attention Is All You Need

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## Attention is all you need!

Once you have seen attention is what makes things working you start wondering:

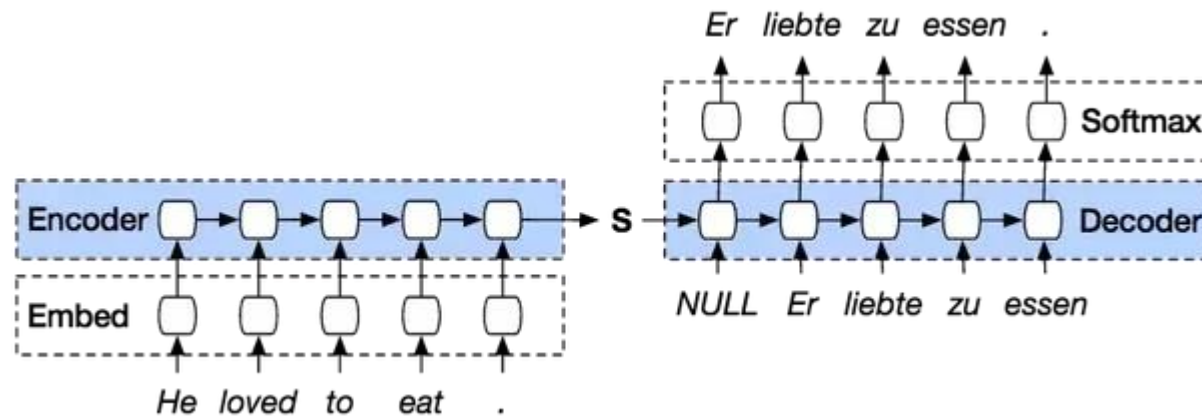
- Sequential nature precludes parallelization within training examples, which becomes critical at longer sequence lengths, as memory constraints limit batching across examples.
- Attention mechanisms have become an integral part of compelling sequence modeling and transduction models in various tasks. Can we base solely on attention mechanisms, dispensing with recurrence and convolutions entirely?
- Without recurrence, nor convolution, in order for the model to make use of the order of the sequence, we must **inject** some information about the relative or absolute position of the tokens in the sequence.



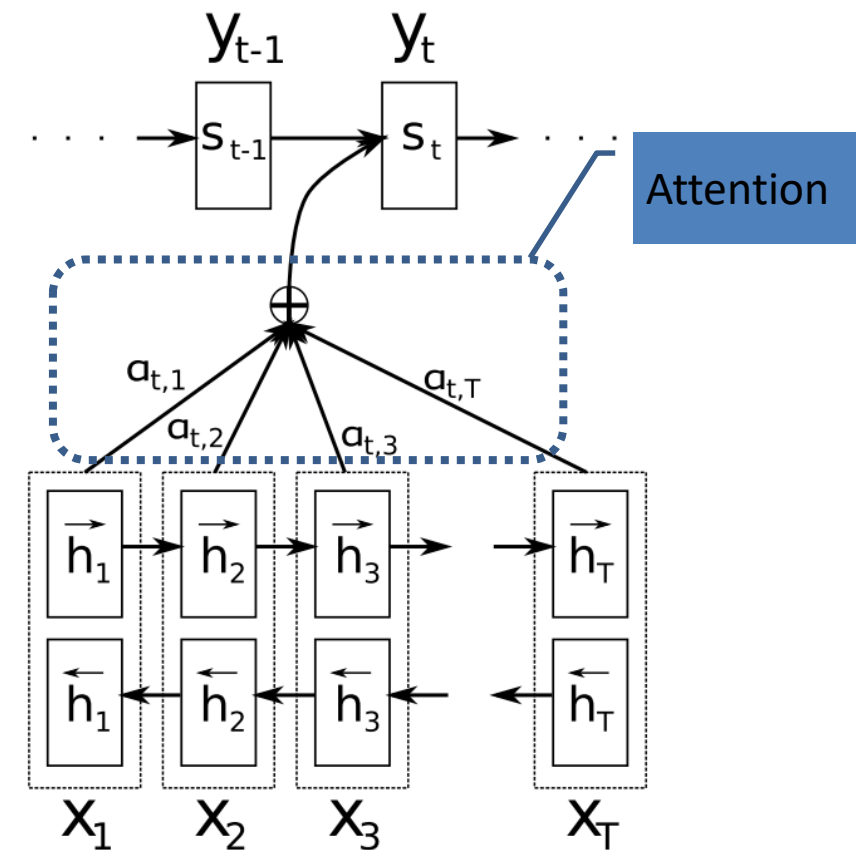
# Current State of the Art

There has been a running joke in the NLP community that **an LSTM with attention** will yield state-of-the-art performance on any task.

## Example: Neural Machine Translation



- Observation: attention is built upon RNN
- The Transformer breaks this observation!



# Transformer

- Scaled Dot-Product Attention
- Multi-Head Attention
- Position-wise Feed-Forward Networks
- Embeddings and Softmax
- Positional Encoding

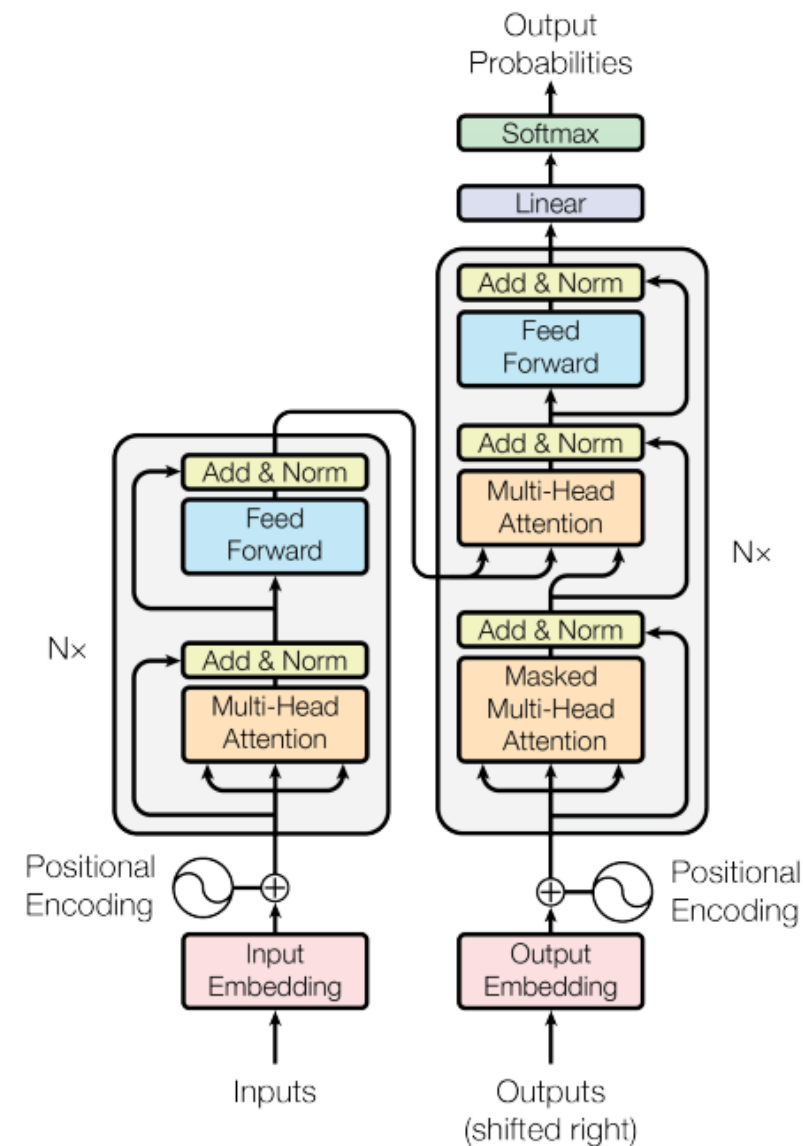


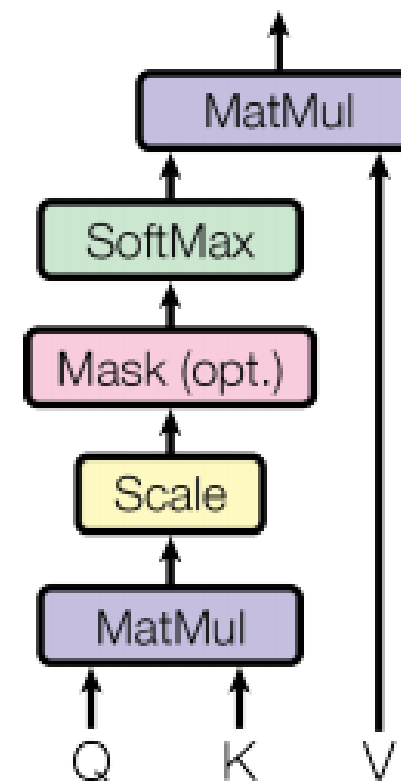
Figure 1: The Transformer - model architecture.

- Scaled Dot-Product Attention
- Multi-Head Attention
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Q: queries, K: keys, V: values

$$\text{Attention}(Q, K, V) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)V$$

## Scaled Dot-Product Attention



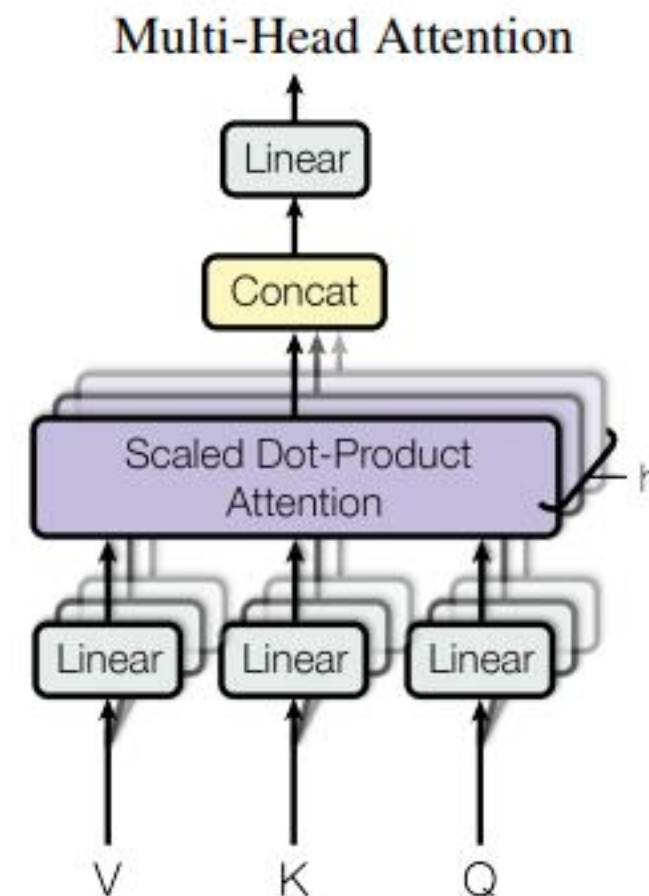
# Transformer

- Scaled Dot-Product Attention
- **Multi-Head Attention**
- Position-wise Feed-Forward Networks
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$$\text{MultiHead}(Q, K, V) = \text{Concat}(\text{head}_1, \dots, \text{head}_h)W^O$$

where  $\text{head}_i = \text{Attention}(QW_i^Q, KW_i^K, VW_i^V)$

Where the projections are parameter matrices  $W_i^Q \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{model}} \times d_k}$ ,  $W_i^K \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{model}} \times d_k}$ ,  $W_i^V \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{model}} \times d_v}$  and  $W^O \in \mathbb{R}^{hd_v \times d_{\text{model}}}$ .



- The total computational cost is similar to that of single-head attention with full dimensionality.



# Transformer

- Scaled Dot-Product Attention
- Multi-Head Attention
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$$\text{FFN}(x) = \max(0, xW_1 + b_1)W_2 + b_2$$

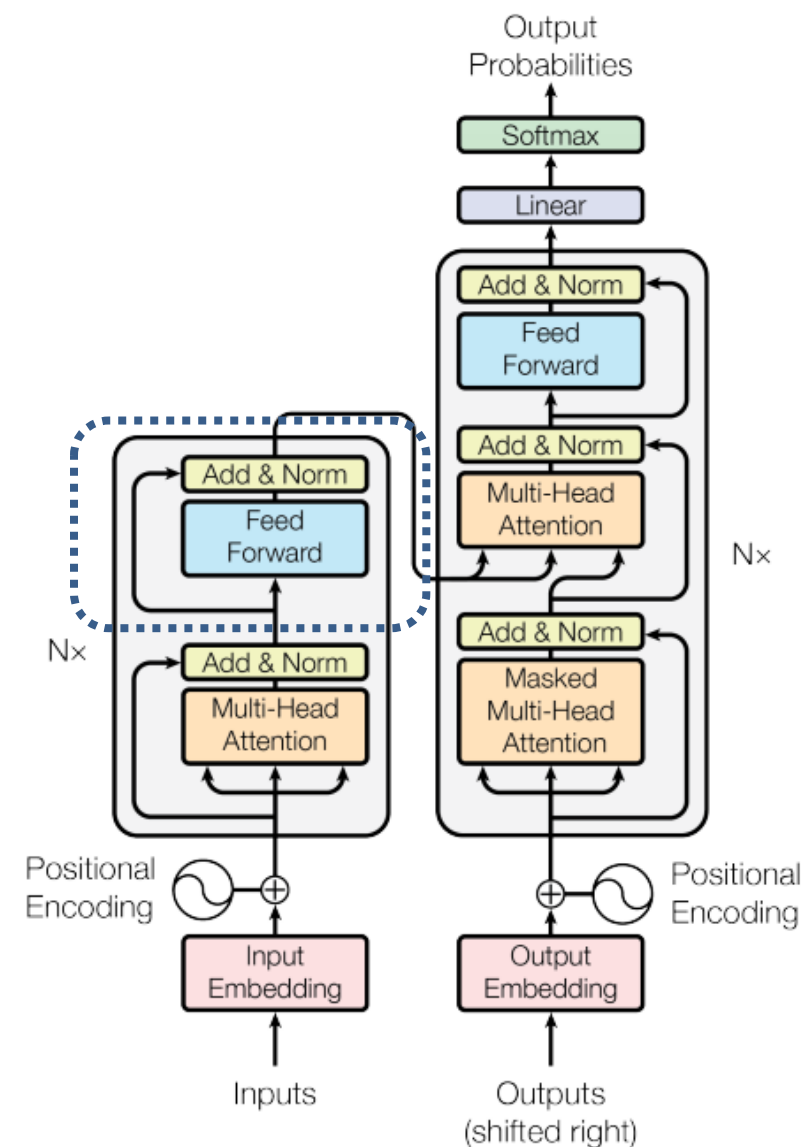


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# Transformer

- Scaled Dot-Product Attention
- Multi-Head Attention
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- **Embeddings and Softmax**
- Positional Encoding

Share embedding weights and the pre-softmax linear transformation (refer to arXiv:1608.05859)

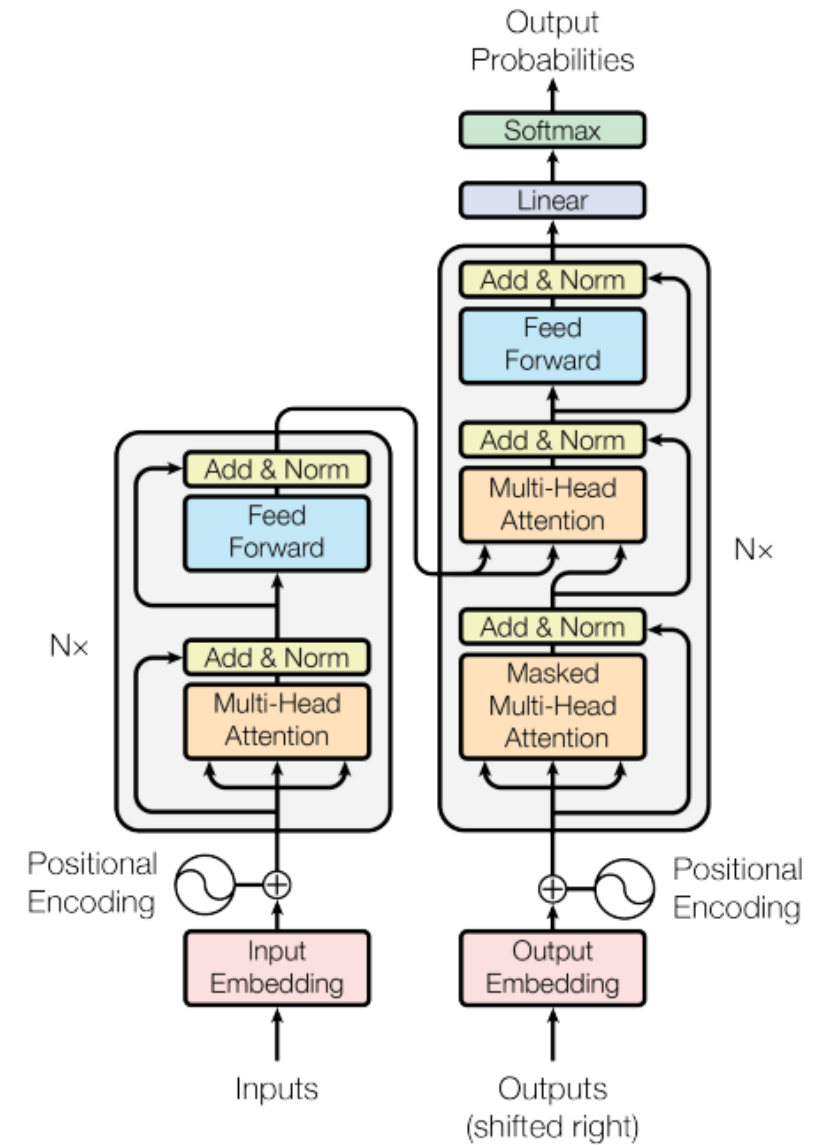


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# Transformer

- Scaled Dot-Product Attention
- Multi-Head Attention
- Position-wise Feed-Forward Networks
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- Positional Encoding

Reason: no RNN to model the sequence position

Two types:

- learned positional embeddings (arXiv:1705.03122v2)
- Sinusoid:

$$PE_{(pos,2i)} = \sin(pos/10000^{2i/d_{model}})$$

$$PE_{(pos,2i+1)} = \cos(pos/10000^{2i/d_{model}})$$

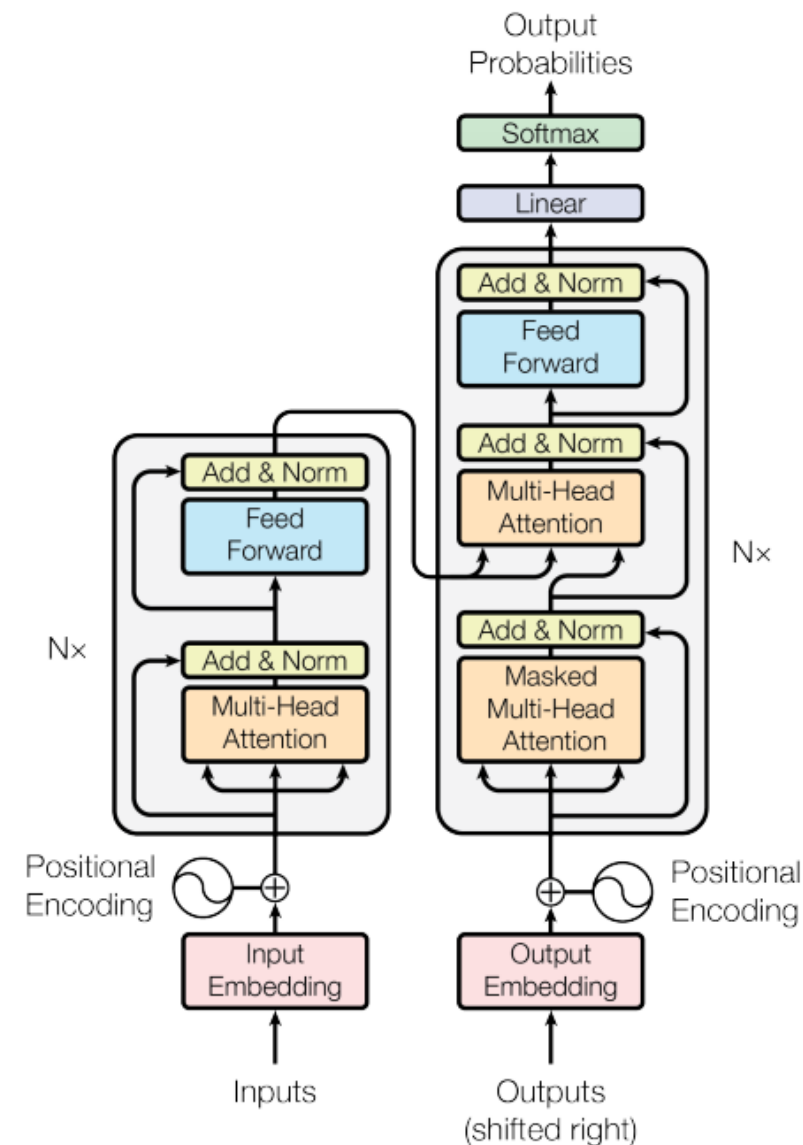


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# Transformer (Self Attention)

Table 1: Maximum path lengths, per-layer complexity and minimum number of sequential operations for different layer types.  $n$  is the sequence length,  $d$  is the representation dimension,  $k$  is the size of convolutions and  $r$  the size of the neighborhood in restricted self-attention.

Layer Type	Complexity per Layer	Sequential Operations	Maximum Path Length
Self-Attention	$O(n^2 \cdot d)$	$O(1)$	$O(1)$
Recurrent	$O(n \cdot d^2)$	$O(n)$	$O(n)$
Convolutional	$O(k \cdot n \cdot d^2)$	$O(1)$	$O(\log_k(n))$
Self-Attention (restricted)	$O(r \cdot n \cdot d)$	$O(1)$	$O(n/r)$

## Observation:

- Self-Attention has  $O(1)$  maximum path length (capture long range dependency easily)
- When  $n < d$ , Self-Attention has lower complexity per layer

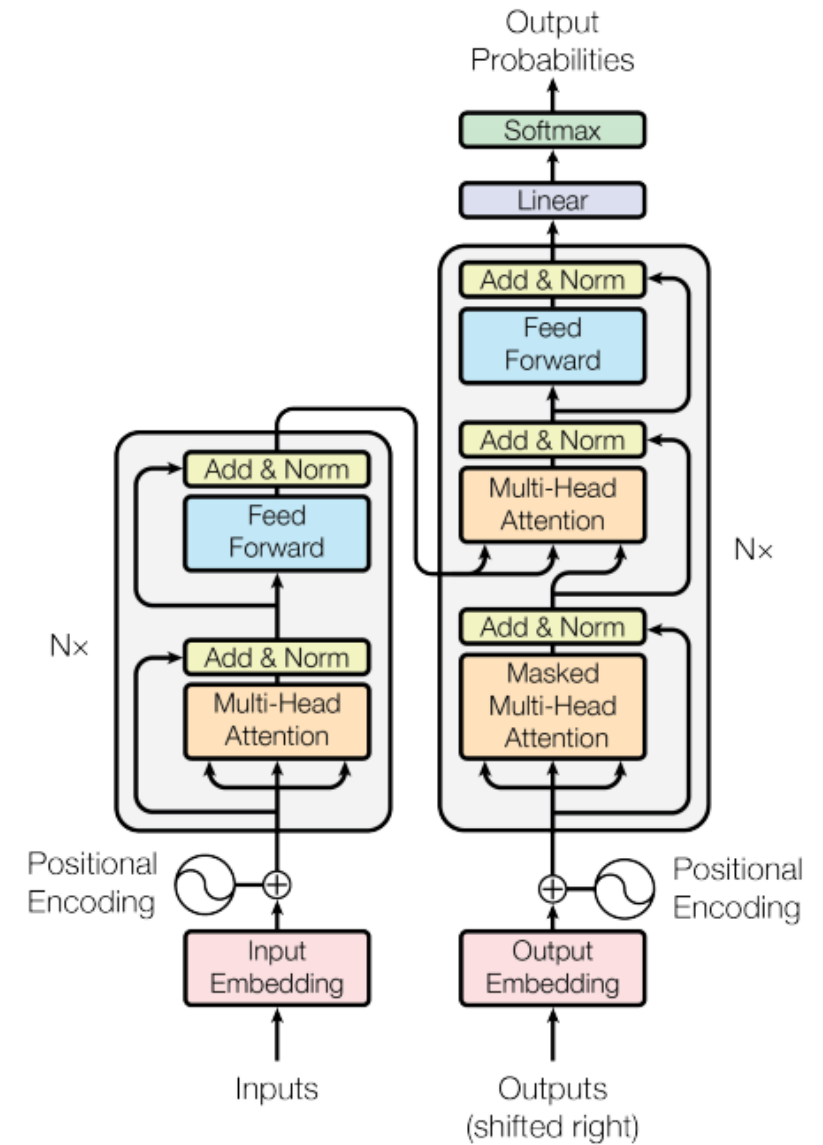


Figure 1: The Transformer - model architecture.

# Transformer Performance

Table 2: The Transformer achieves better BLEU scores than previous state-of-the-art models on the English-to-German and English-to-French newstest2014 tests at a fraction of the training cost.

Model	BLEU		Training Cost (FLOPs)	
	EN-DE	EN-FR	EN-DE	EN-FR
ByteNet [17]	23.75			
Deep-Att + PosUnk [37]		39.2		$1.0 \cdot 10^{20}$
GNMT + RL [36]	24.6	39.92	$2.3 \cdot 10^{19}$	$1.4 \cdot 10^{20}$
ConvS2S [9]	25.16	40.46	$9.6 \cdot 10^{18}$	$1.5 \cdot 10^{20}$
MoE [31]	26.03	40.56	$2.0 \cdot 10^{19}$	$1.2 \cdot 10^{20}$
Deep-Att + PosUnk Ensemble [37]		40.4		$8.0 \cdot 10^{20}$
GNMT + RL Ensemble [36]	26.30	41.16	$1.8 \cdot 10^{20}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{21}$
ConvS2S Ensemble [9]	26.36	<b>41.29</b>	$7.7 \cdot 10^{19}$	$1.2 \cdot 10^{21}$
Transformer (base model)	27.3	38.1	<b><math>3.3 \cdot 10^{18}</math></b>	
Transformer (big)	<b>28.4</b>	<b>41.0</b>	$2.3 \cdot 10^{19}$	

- Eng-to-De: new state-of-the-art (increase over 2 BLEU)
- Eng-to-Fr: new single-model state-of-the-art (BLEU of 41.0)
- Less training cost

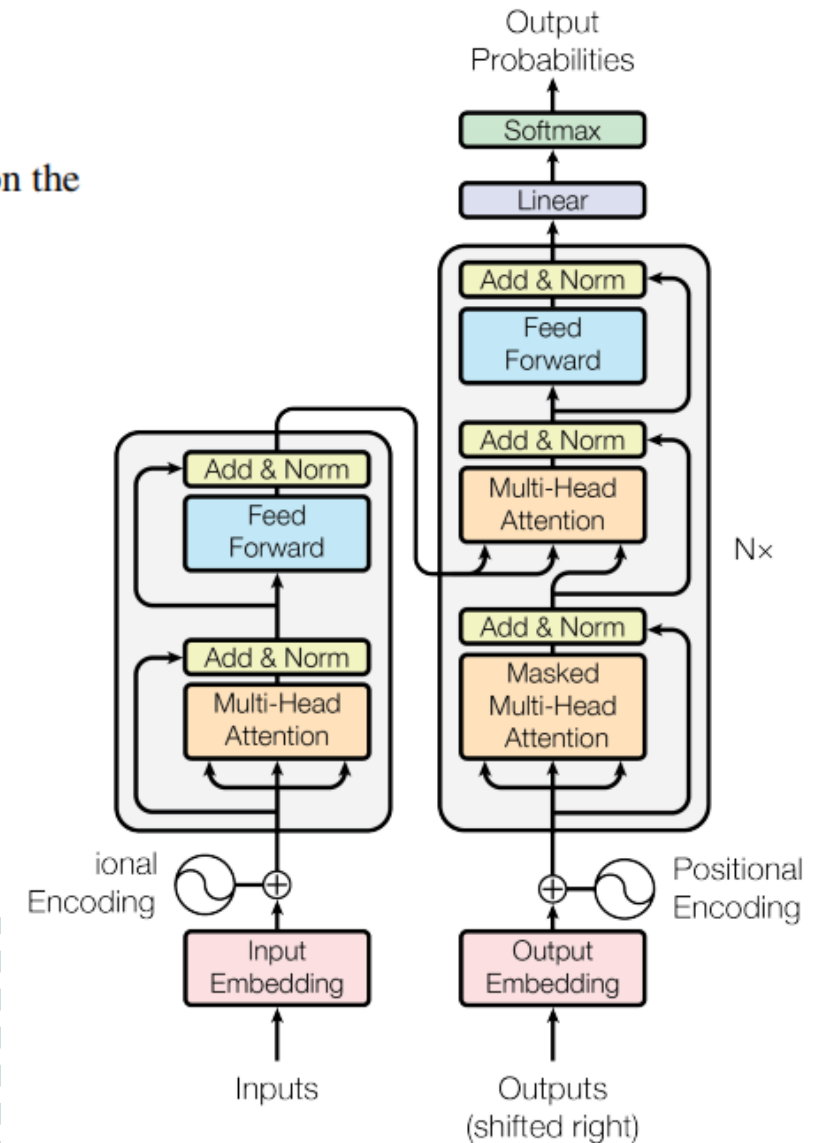


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# Transformer Performance

## Some results:

- source: Aber ich habe es nicht hingekriegt
- expected: But I didn't handle it
- got: But I didn't <UNK> it
- source: Wir könnten zum Mars fliegen wenn wir wollen
- expected: We could go to Mars if we want
- got: We could fly to Mars when we want
- source: Dies ist nicht meine Meinung Das sind Fakten
- expected: This is not my opinion These are the facts
- got: This is not my opinion These are facts
- source: Wie würde eine solche Zukunft aussehen
- expected: What would such a future look like
- got: What would a future like this

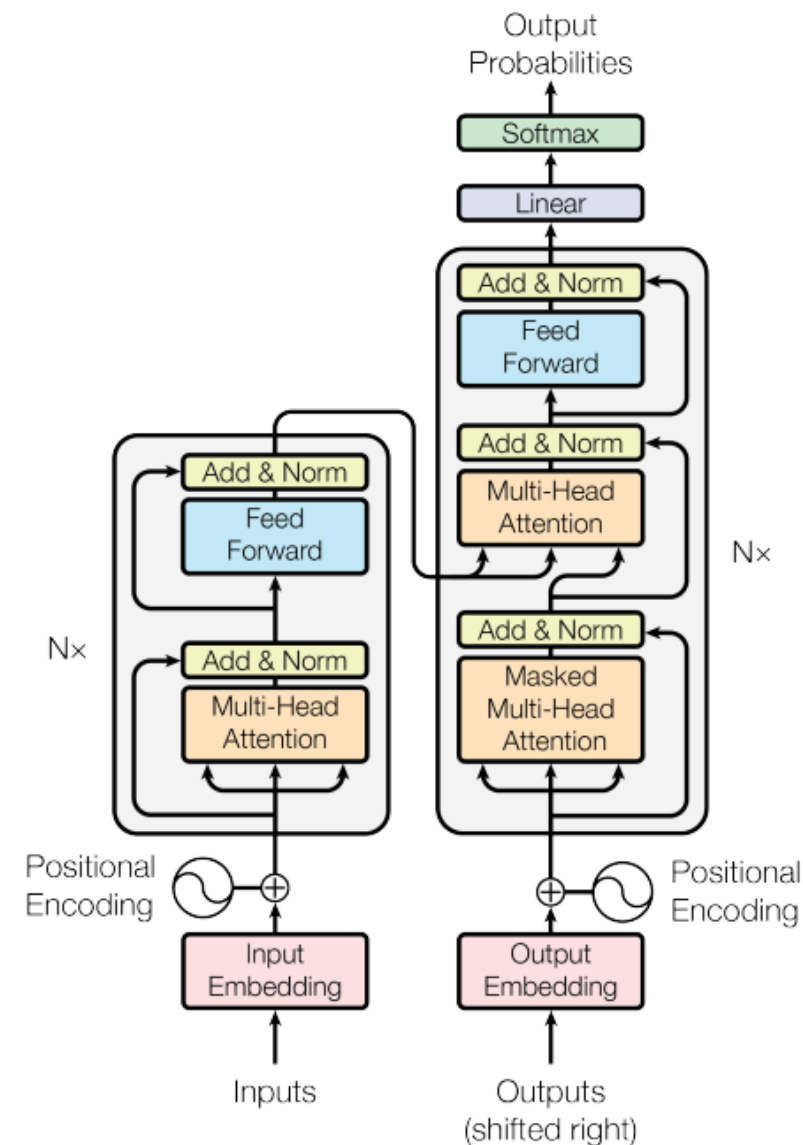


Figure 1: The Transformer - model architecture.

# Acknowledgements

These slides are highly based on material taken from the following websites/blogs:

- <https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2017/12/introduction-to-recurrent-neural-networks/>
- <https://medium.com/@Aj.Cheng/seq2seq-18a0730d1d77>
- <https://distill.pub/2016/augmented-rnns/>

The amazing images, and part of the content, about attention mechanisms are from

Olah & Carter, "Attention and Augmented Recurrent Neural Networks", Distill, 2016.  
<http://doi.org/10.23915/distill.00001>

