

Recurrent Neural Networks, I

Ling 575j: Deep Learning for NLP

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Today's Plan

- Last time:
 - Computation graphs + backpropagation; edugrad
- Feed-forward models for NLP tasks:
 - Deep Averaging Network (DAN)
 - Neural Probabilistic Language Model
- Additional Training Notes
 - Regularization
 - Early stopping
 - Hyper-parameter searching
- Intro to *Recurrent* Neural Networks

Announcements

- HW3 tests: hw3/test_all.py. NB: necessary, but not sufficient, to check correctness of your code. `pytest test_all.py`, from your directory, with environment activated.
- Implementing ops in edugrad:
 - You can use any numpy operations you want; goal is to understand forward/backward API
 - <https://github.com/shanest/edugrad>
 - Log: base e, don't need to do special handling of bad input arguments (like 0)
- Edugrad is installed in the course conda environment, so be sure to activate it
- $f(x) = x^2 \times 3x$ and static computation graphs

Decorators

- `@tensor_op` in edugrad code: what is this??
 - This converts `Operation`s into methods on `Tensor`s
 - Handles dynamic graph construction, the `ctx` magic, etc.
- Python decorator (similar to decorator design pattern)
 - Design pattern to extend an object with more functionality
 - Decorators *wrap* their arguments, add features
 - e.g. registering in a central DB
- In python, syntactic sugar:
 - With more complicated use cases
- Canonical examples: `@classmethod`, `@staticmethod`

```
@my_decorator
def fn(...):

def fn(...):

fn = my_decorator(fn)
```

Decorator Demo

```
def printer(method, *args):  
    def fn(*args):  
        output = method(*args)  
        print(f"Output: {output}")  
    return fn  
  
@printer  
def add(a, b):  
    return a + b  
  
add(1, 2) # prints "Output: 3"
```

Recurrent Neural Networks

RNNs: high-level

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- Feed-forward networks: fixed-size input, fixed-size output
 - Previous classifier: average embeddings of words
 - Previous LM: n -gram assumption (i.e. fixed-size context of word embeddings)

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- RNNs process *sequences* of vectors
 - Maintaining “hidden” state
 - Applying the same operation at each step

RNNs: high-level

- Feed-forward networks: fixed-size input, fixed-size output
 - Previous classifier: average embeddings of words
 - Previous LM: n -gram assumption (i.e. fixed-size context of word embeddings)
- RNNs process *sequences* of vectors
 - Maintaining “hidden” state
 - Applying the same operation at each step
- Different RNNs:
 - Different operations at each step
 - Operation also called “recurrent cell”
 - Other architectural considerations (e.g. depth; bidirectionally)

Long-distance dependencies, I: number

- Language modeling (fill-in-the-blank)
 - The keys _____
 - The keys on the table _____
 - The keys next to the book on top of the table _____
- To get the number on the verb, need to look at the subject, which can be very far away
 - And number can disagree with linearly-close nouns

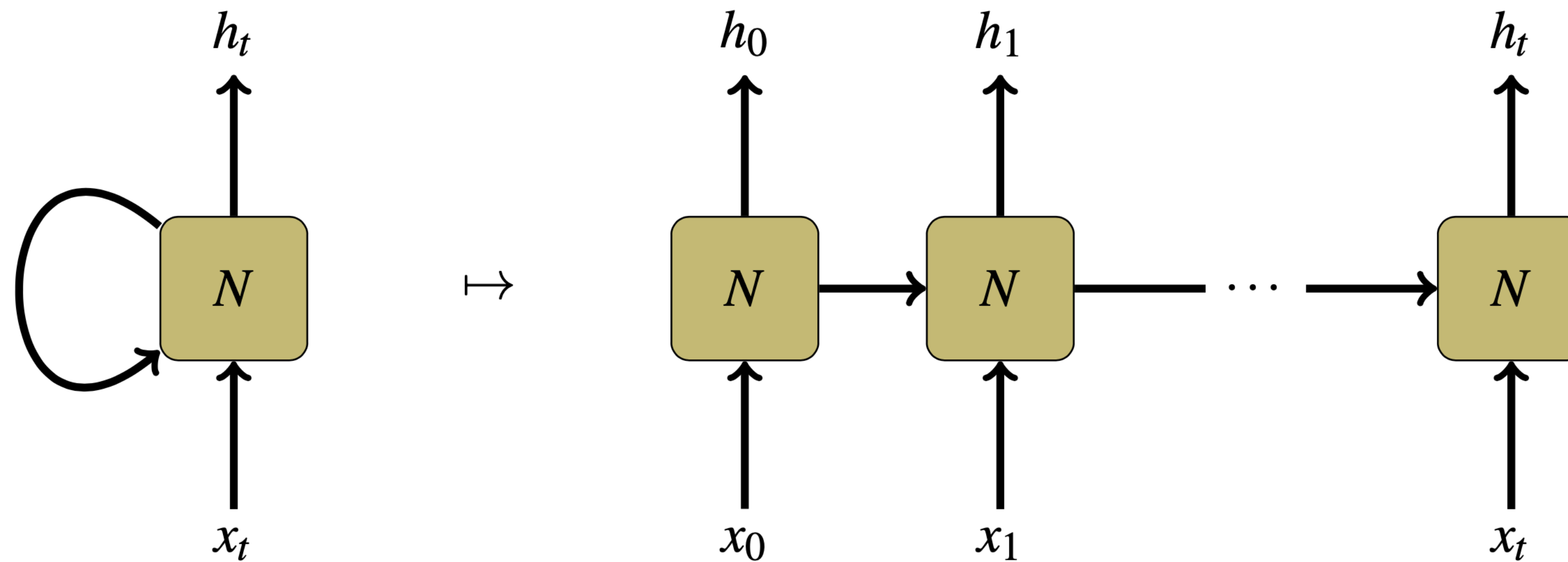
Selectional Restrictions

- The **family** moved from the city because they wanted a larger _____.
- The **team** moved from the city because they wanted a larger _____.

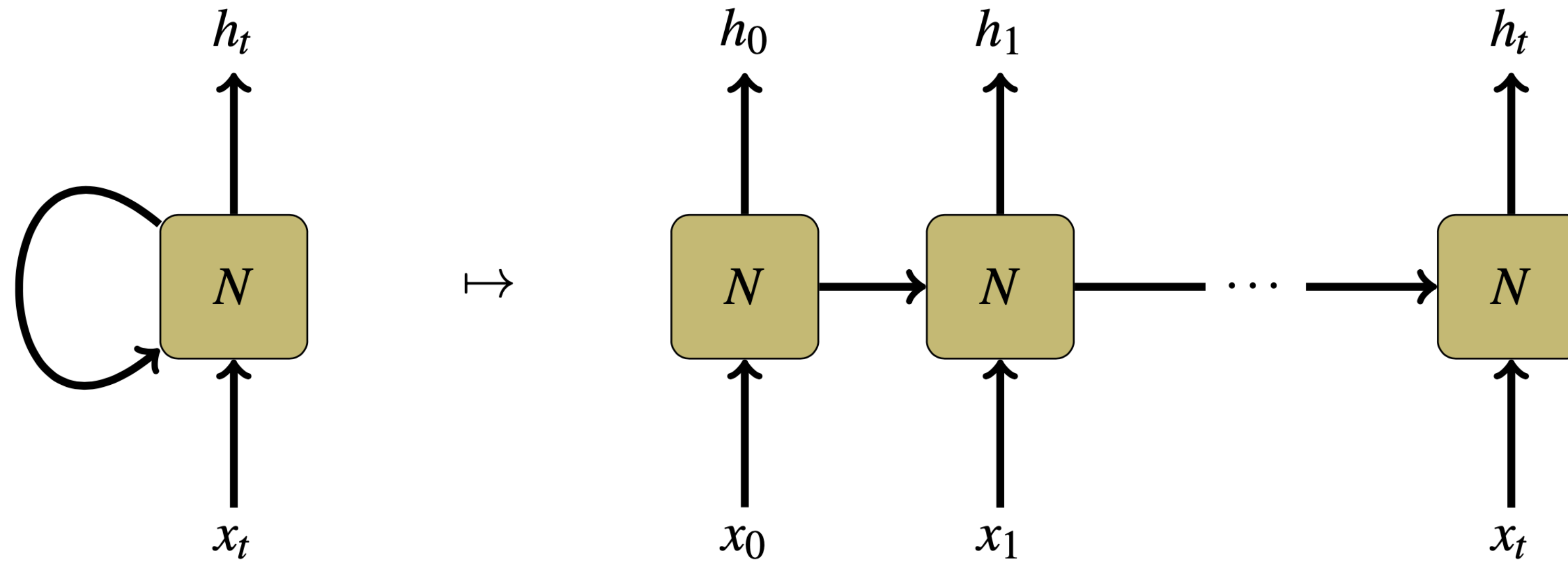
Selectional Restrictions

- The **family** moved from the city because they wanted a larger **house**.
 - The **team** moved from the city because they wanted a larger **market**.
-
- Need models that can capture long-range dependencies like this.
 - N-gram (whether count-based or neural) cannot. E.g., with $n=4$:
 - $P(\text{word} \mid \text{“they wanted a larger”})$

RNNs

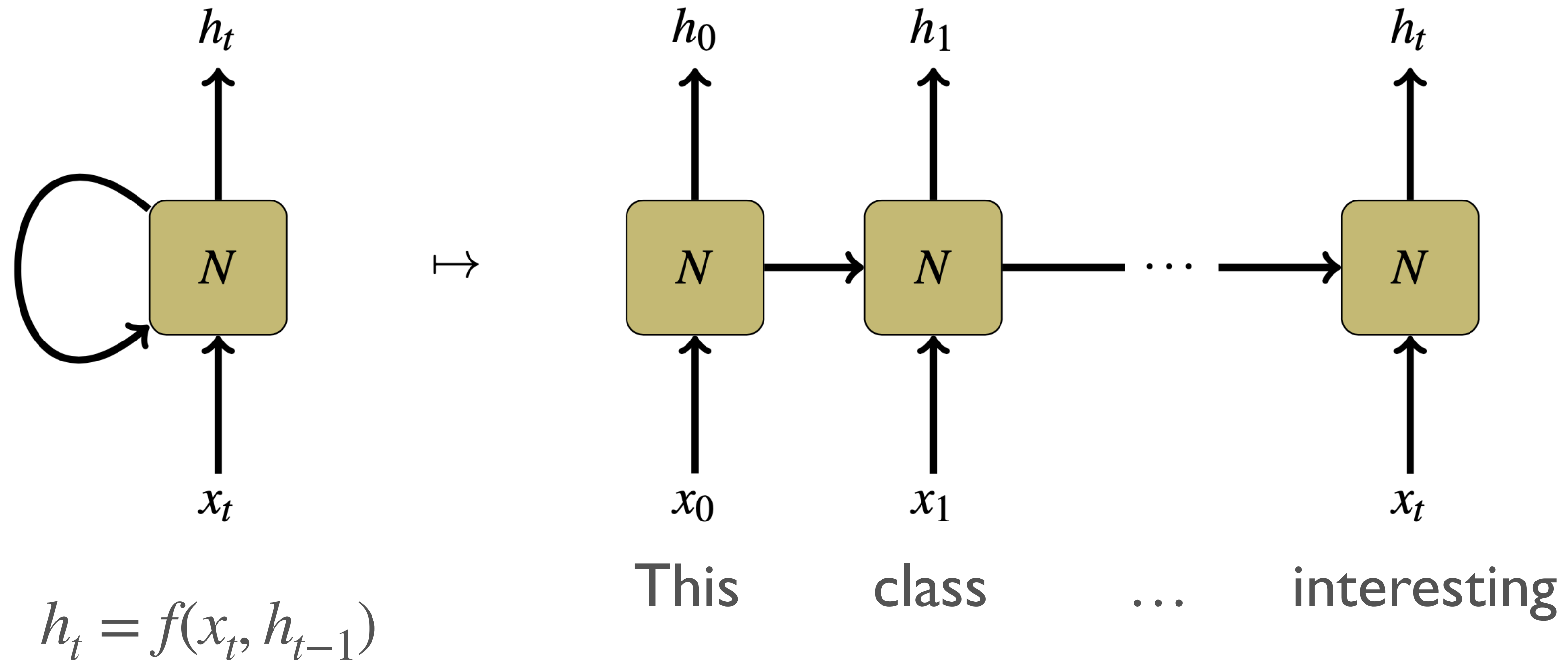


RNNs

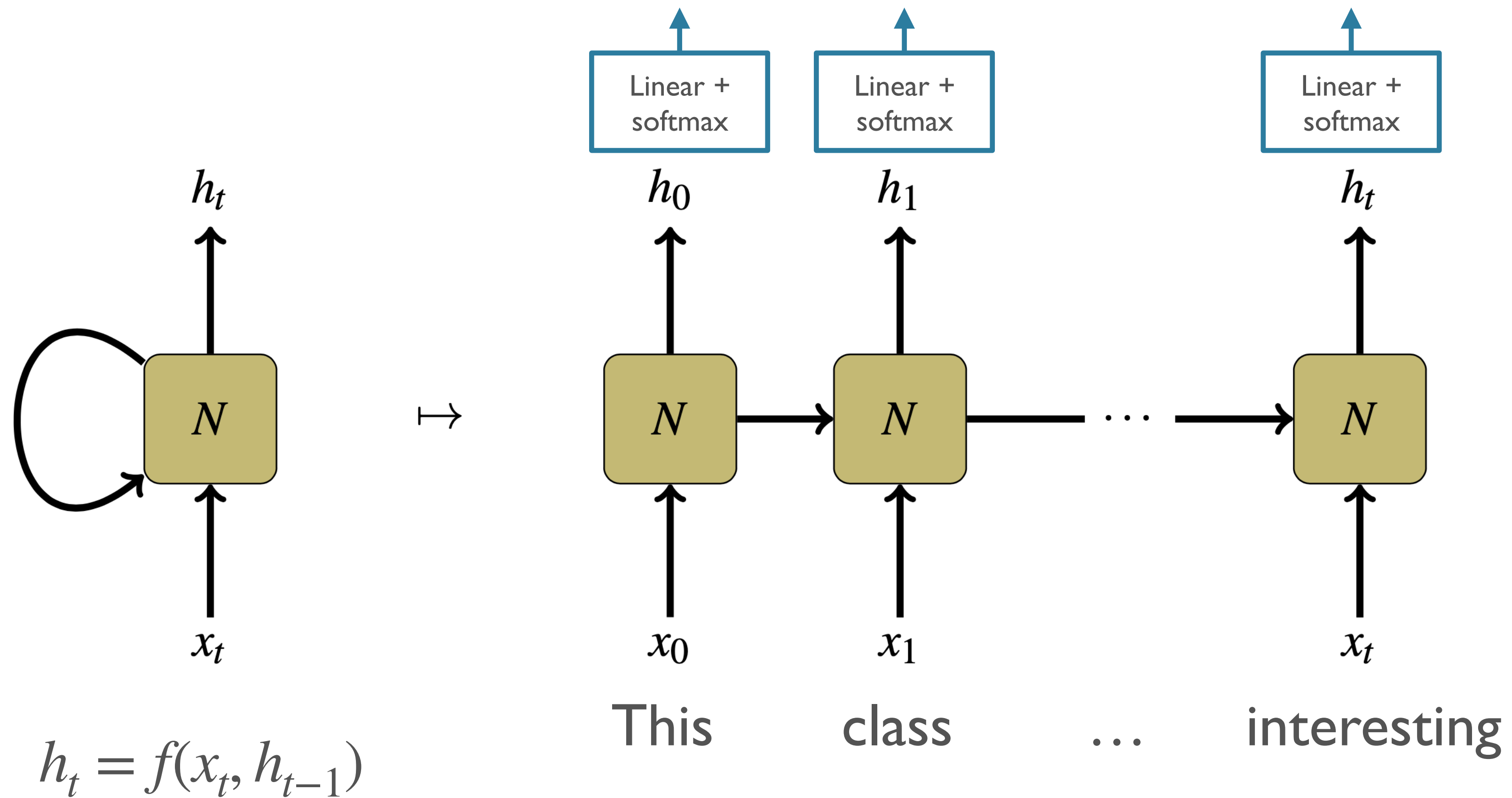


$$h_t = f(x_t, h_{t-1})$$

RNNs



RNNs



Simple / Vanilla / Elman RNNs

- Same kind of feed-forward computation we've been studying, but:
 - x_t : sequence element at time t
 - h_{t-1} : hidden state *of the model* at previous time $t-1$

Simple / Vanilla / Elman RNNs

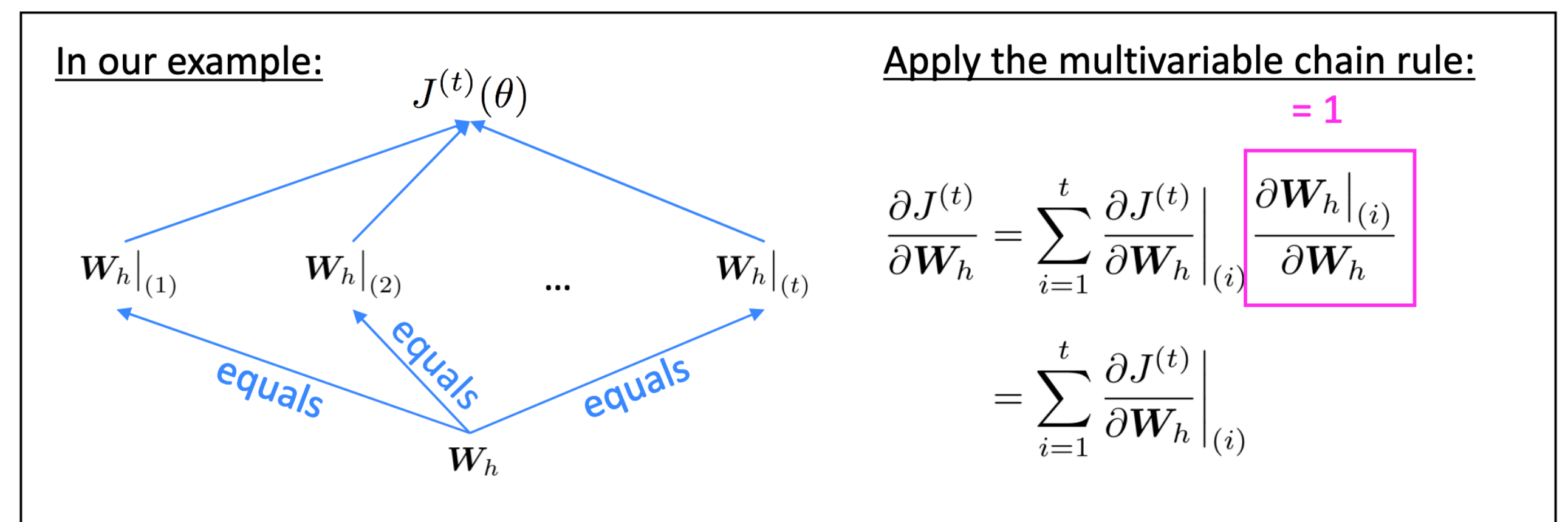
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Simple/"Vanilla" RNN:

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

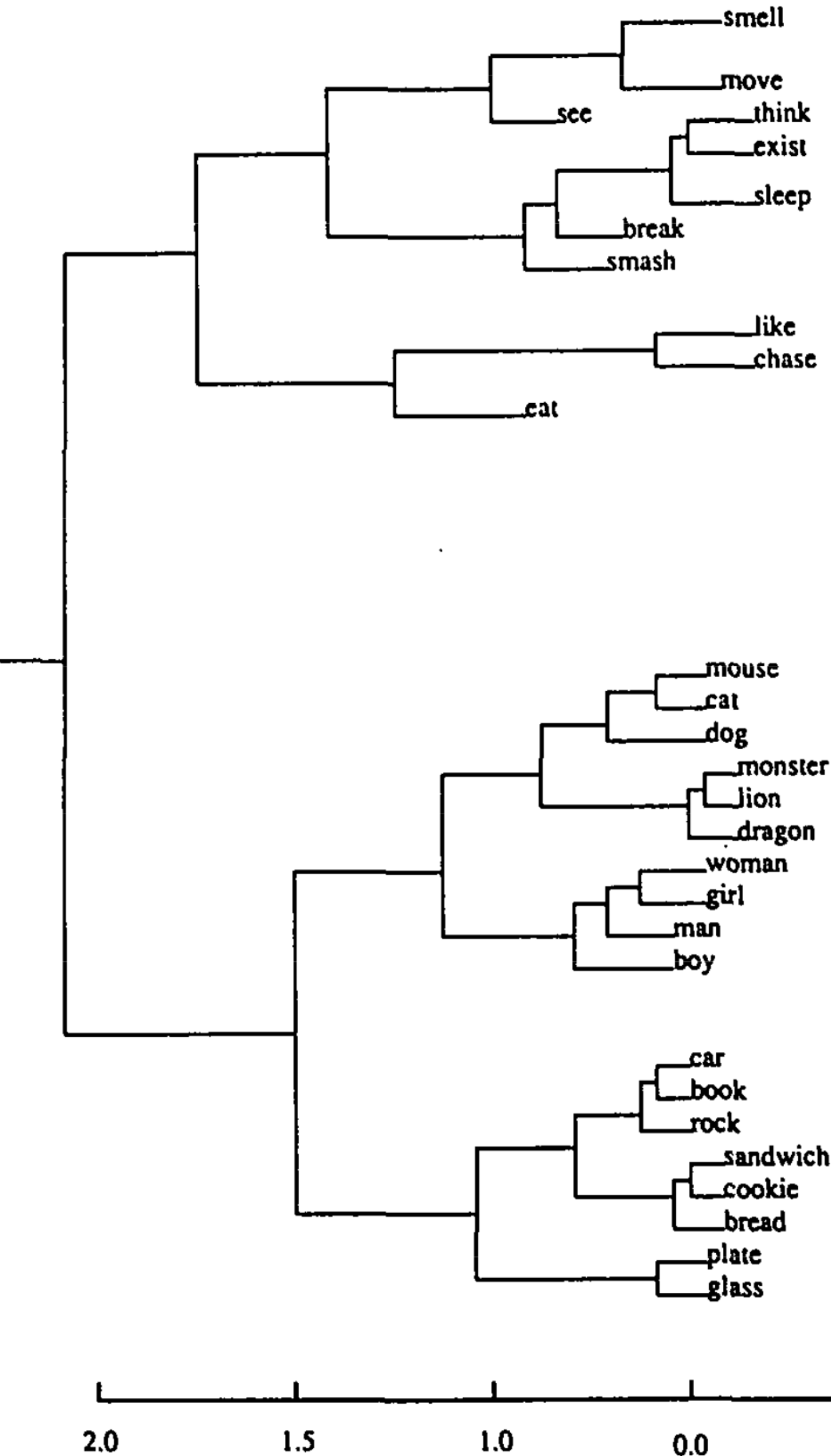
Training: BPTT

- Backpropagation Through Time
- “Unroll” the network across time-steps
- Apply backprop to the “wide” network
 - Each cell has the *same* parameters
 - Gradients sum across time-steps
 - Multi-variable chain rule



Power of RNNs

Hierarchical clustering of Vanilla RNN hidden states trained as LM on synthetic data:

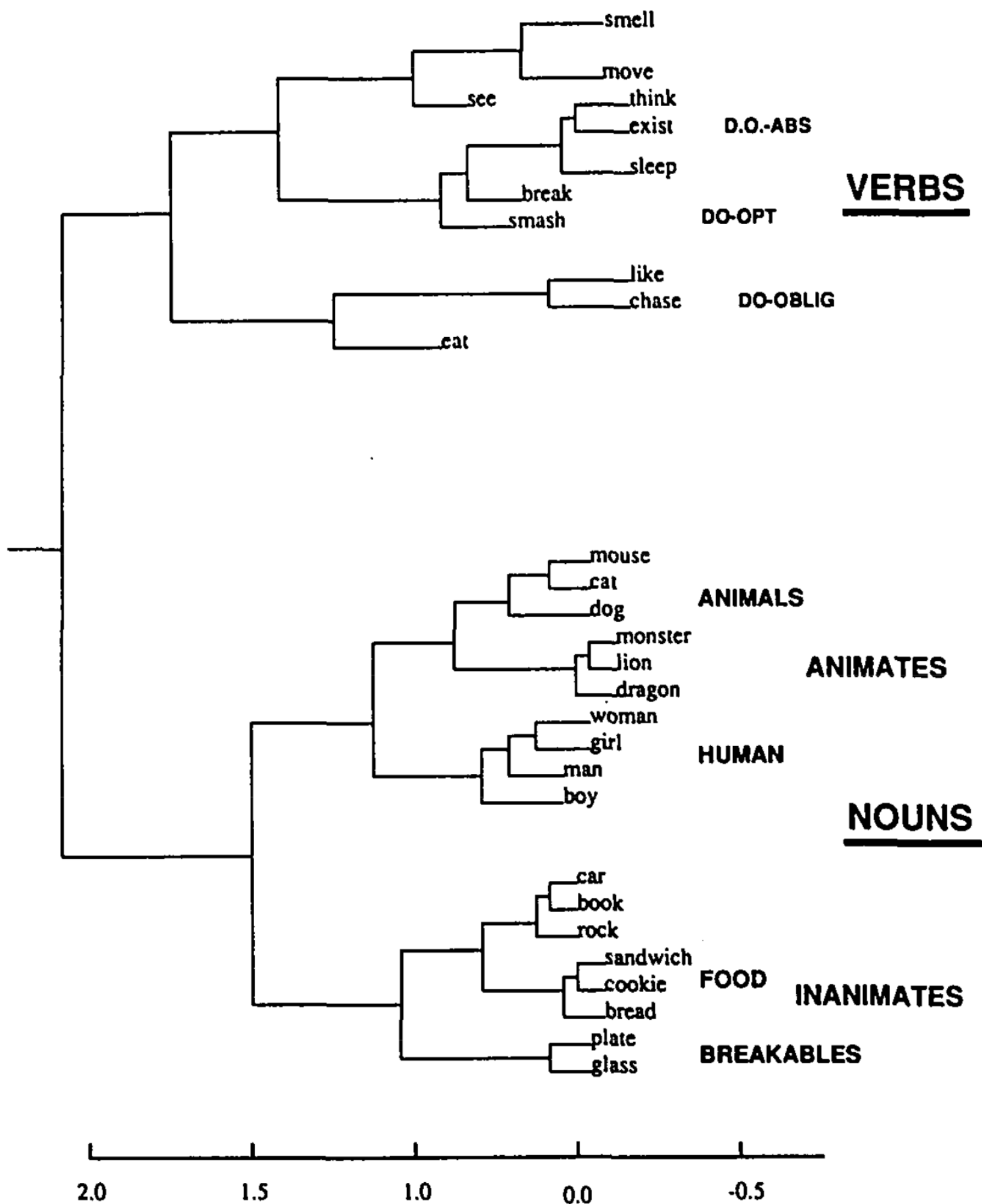


What trends do you notice?

Elman 1990

Power of RNNs

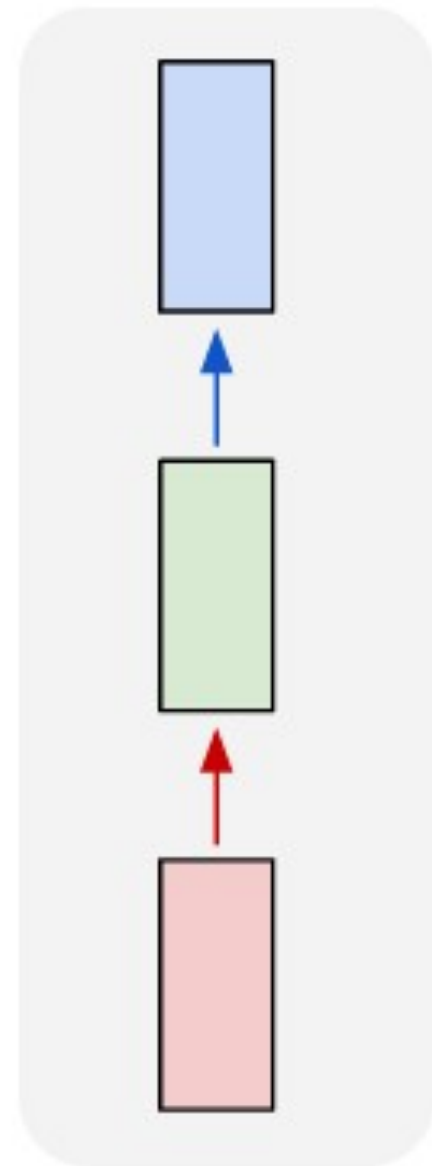
Hierarchical clustering of Vanilla RNN hidden states trained as LM on synthetic data:



[Elman 1990](#)

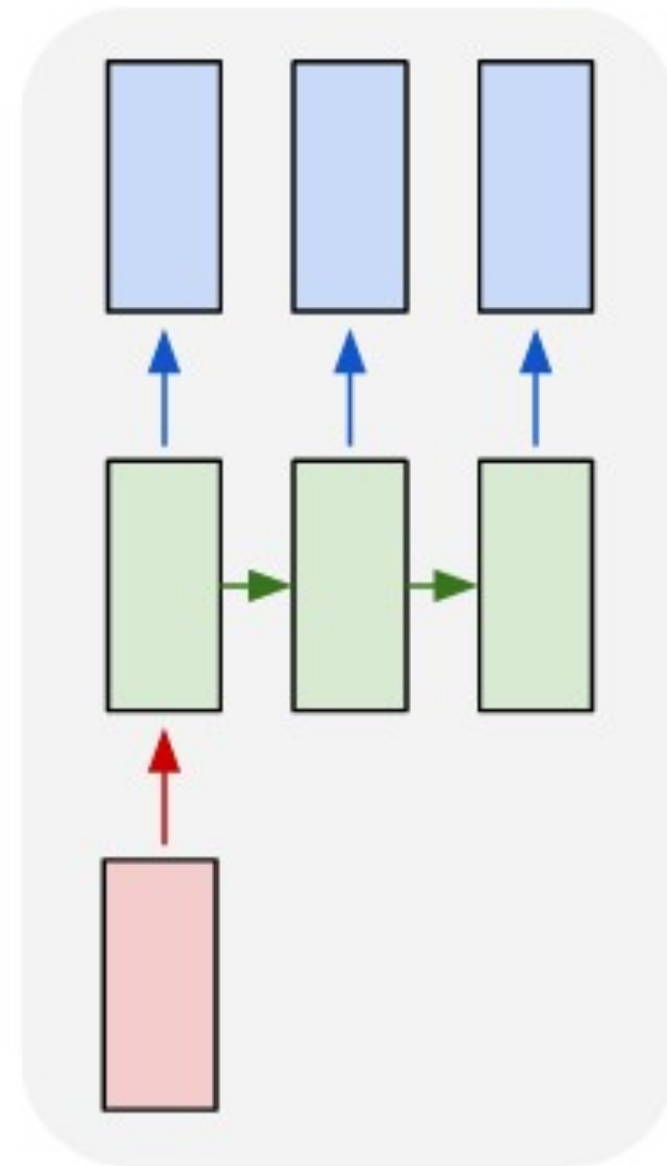
Using RNNs

one to one



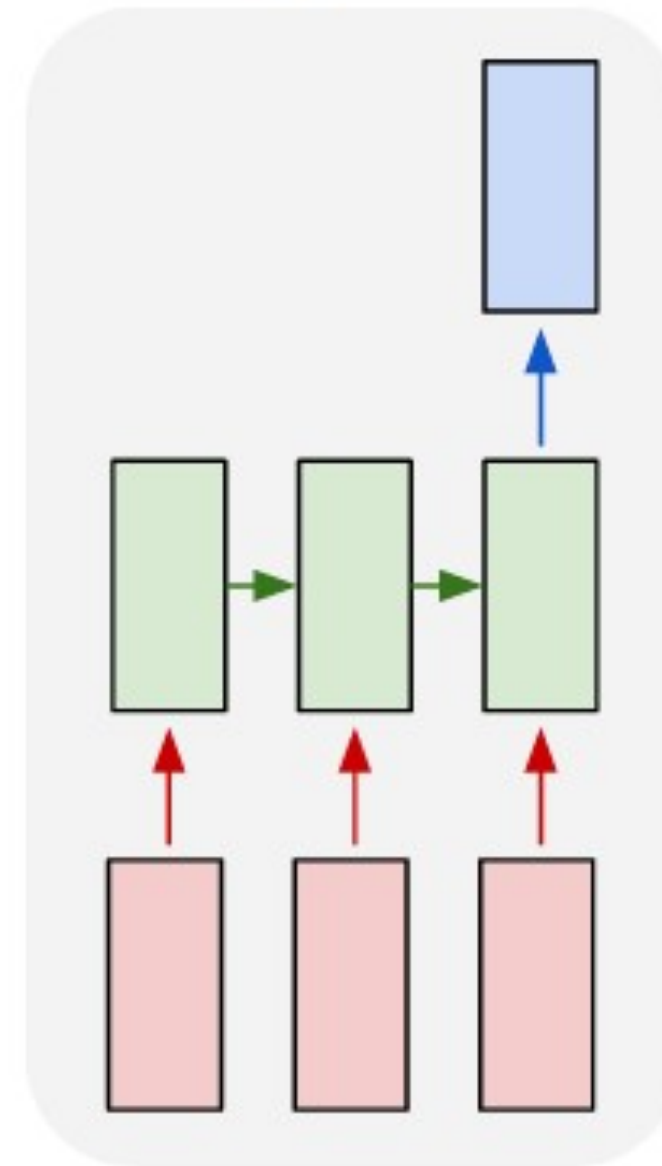
MLP

one to many

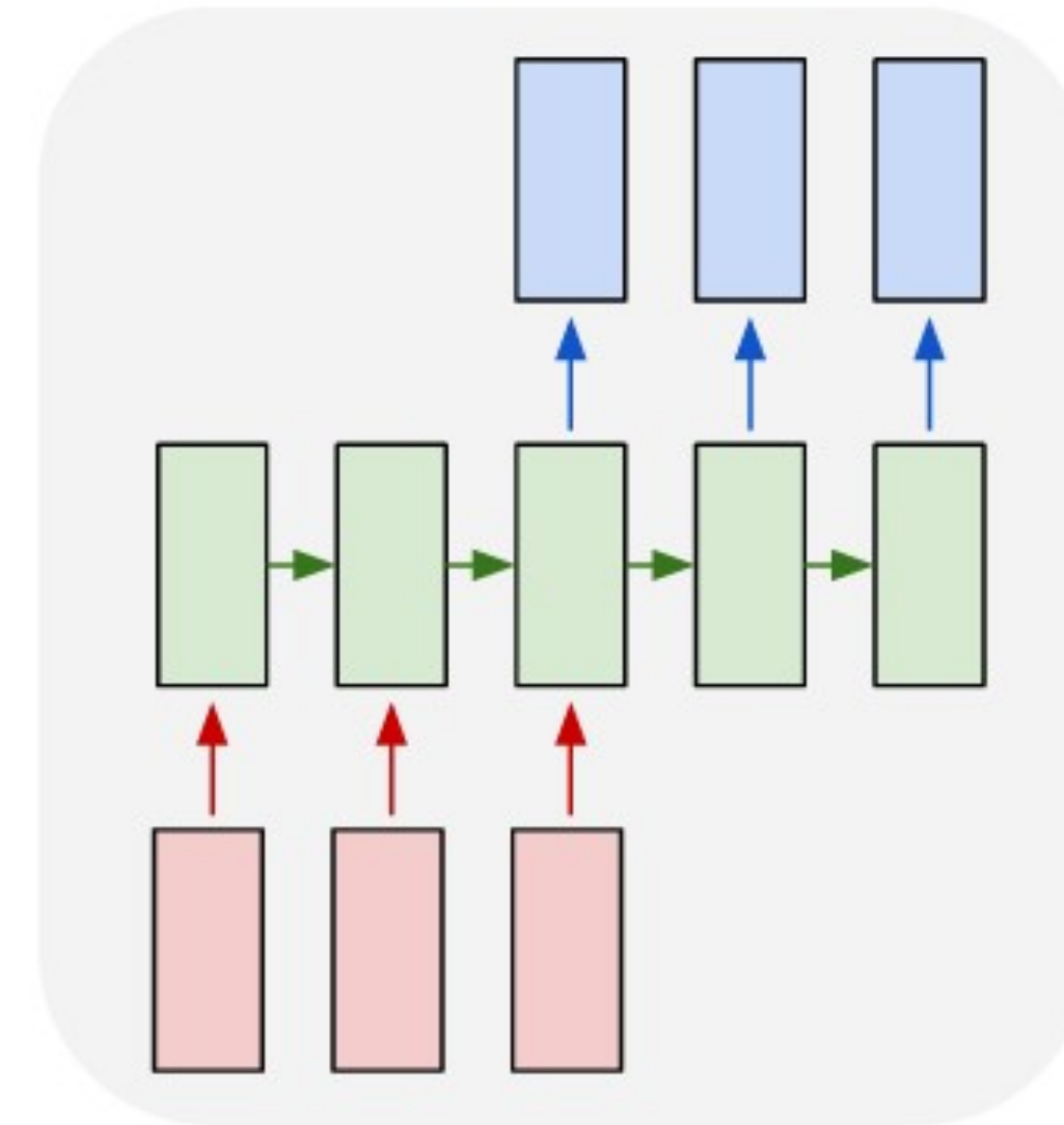


e.g. image
captioning

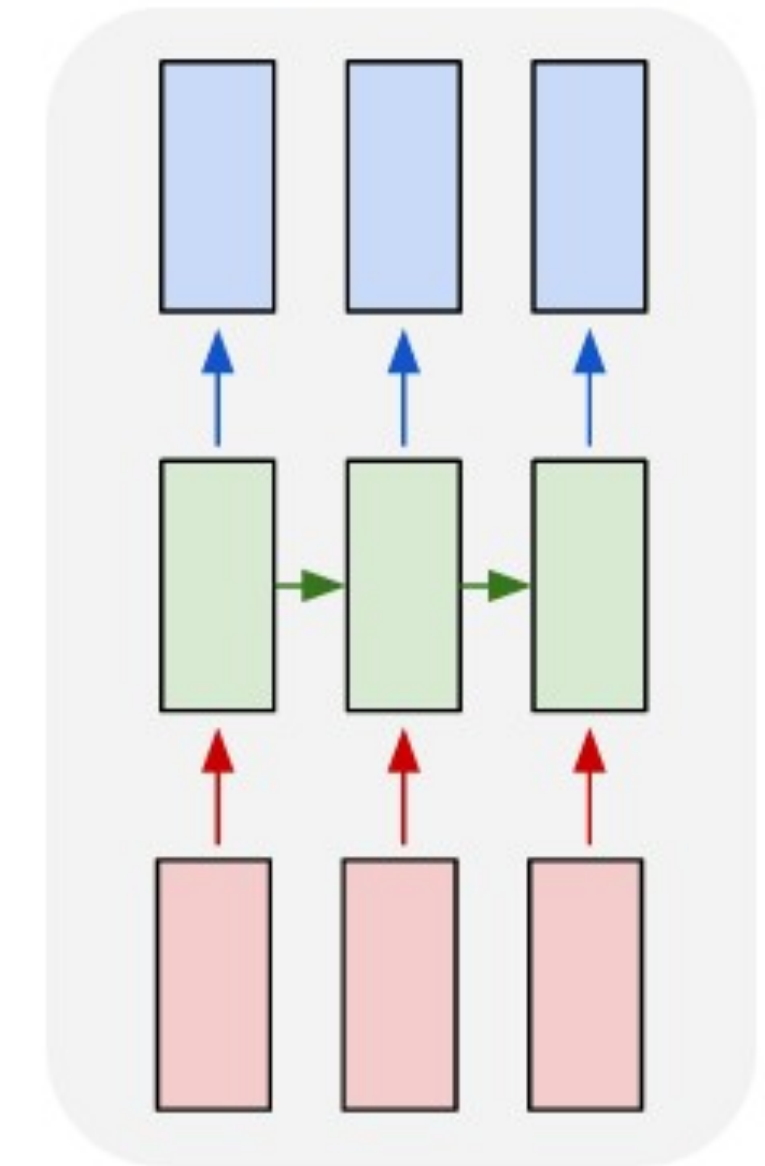
many to one



many to many

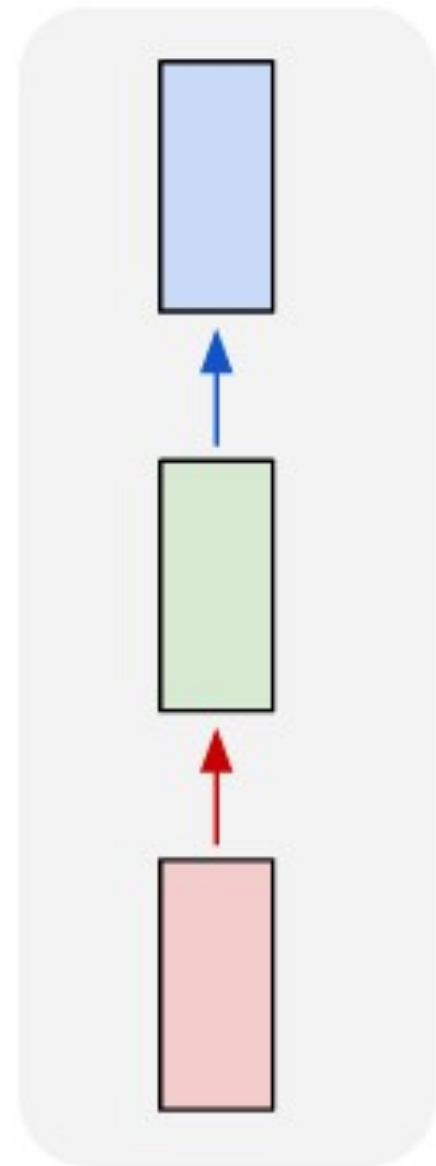


many to many



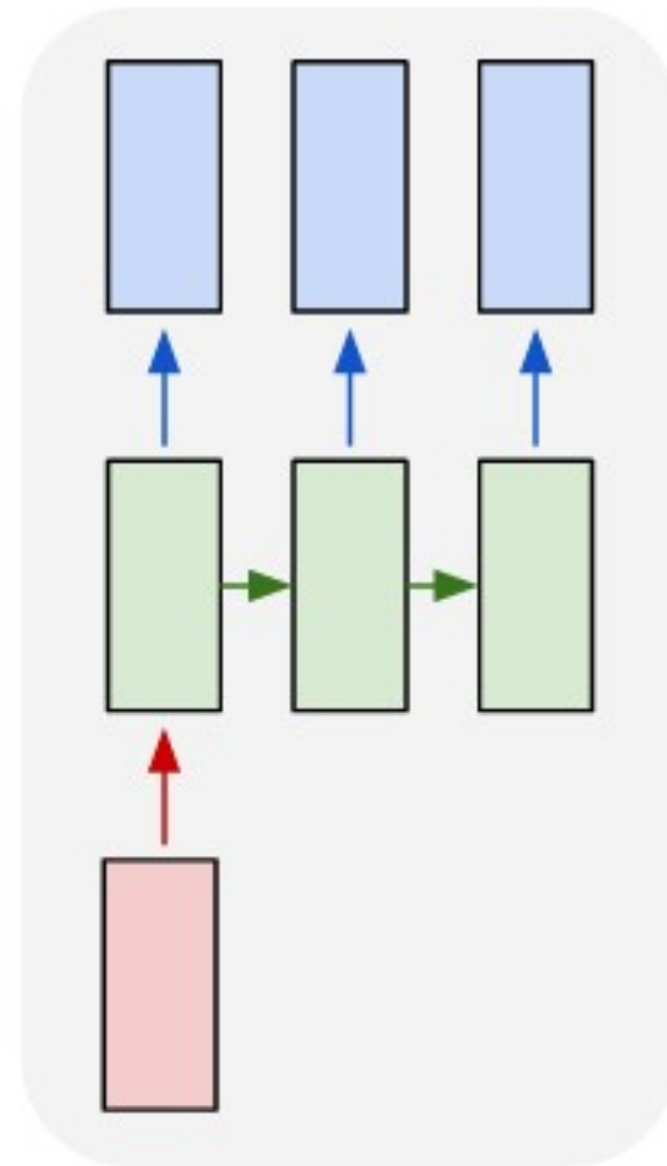
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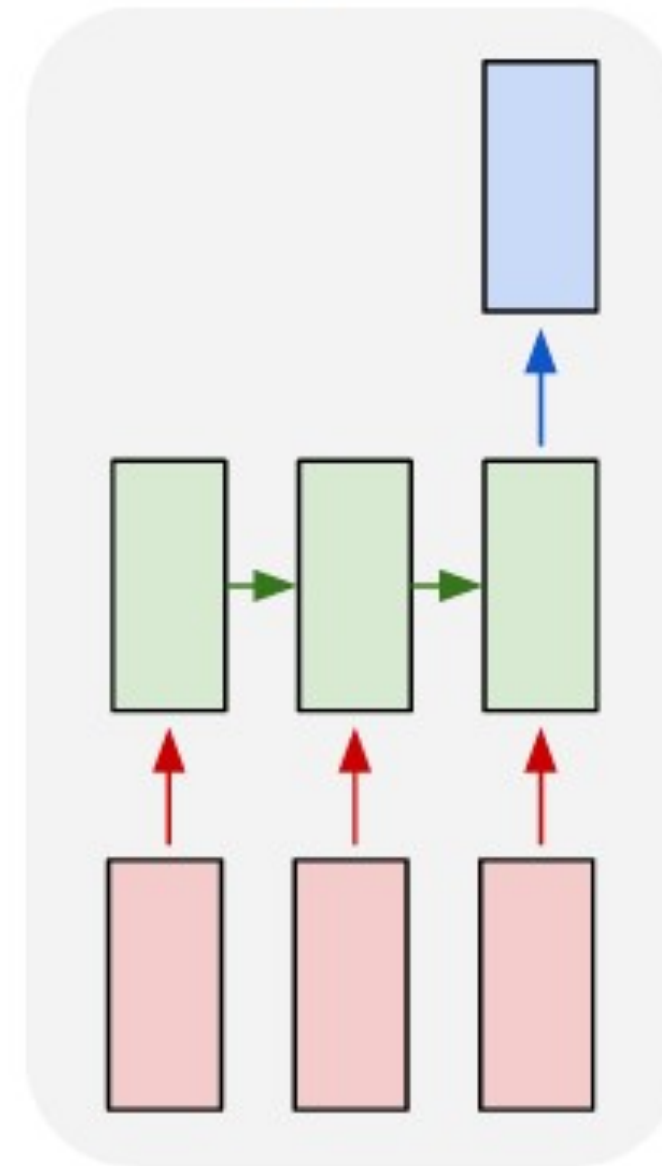
MLP

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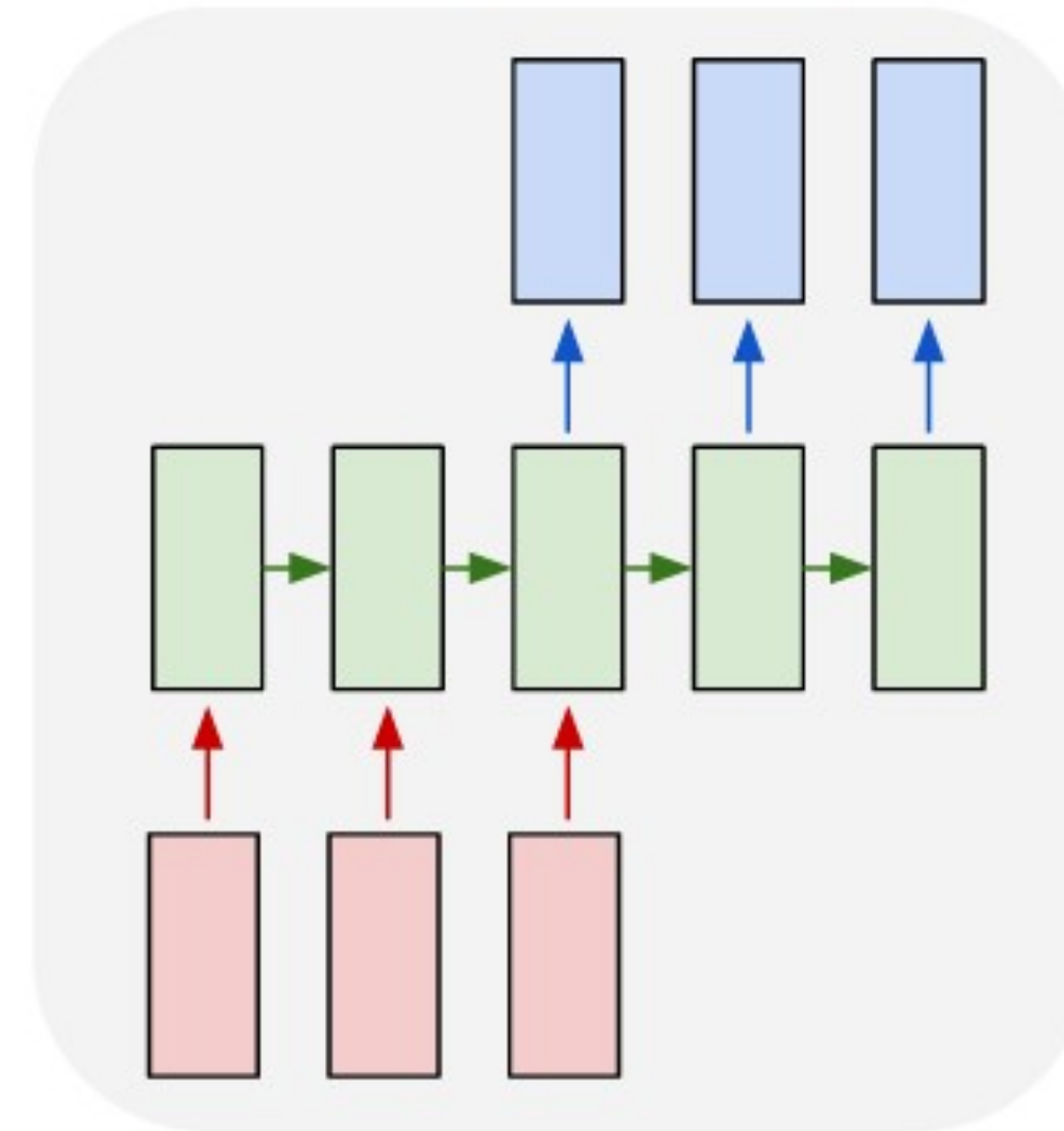
e.g. image
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many to one

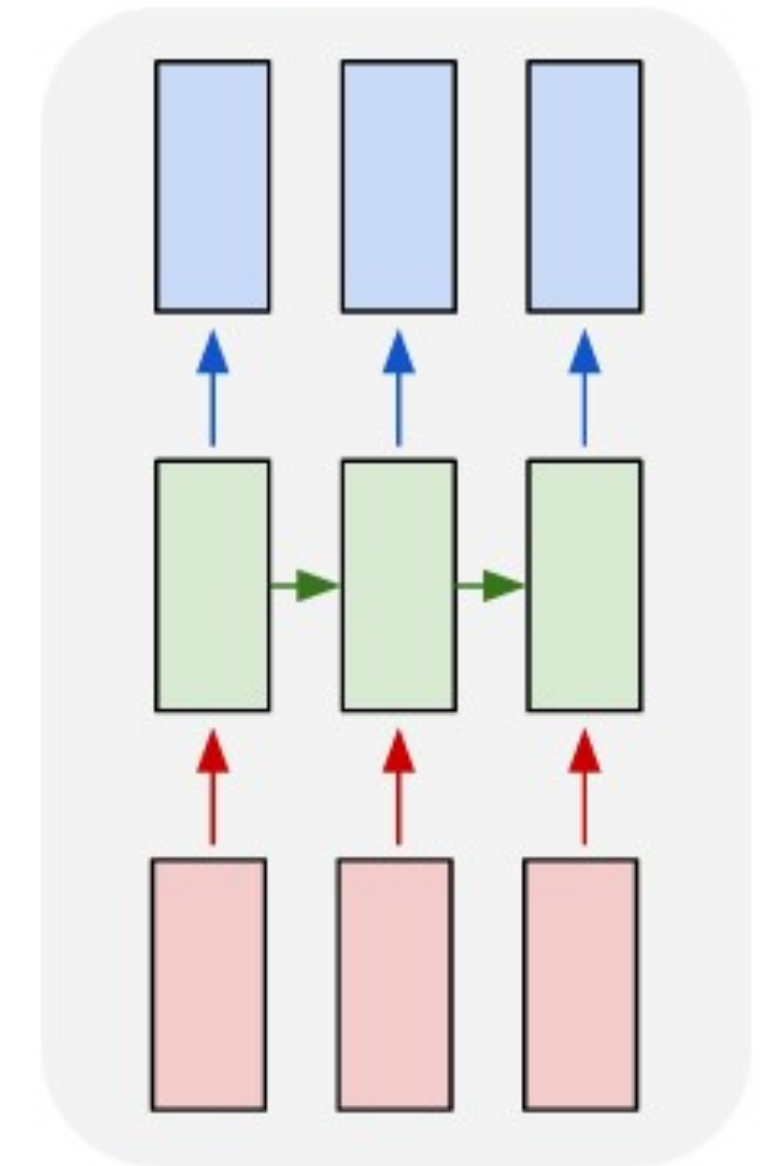


e.g. text classification

many to many

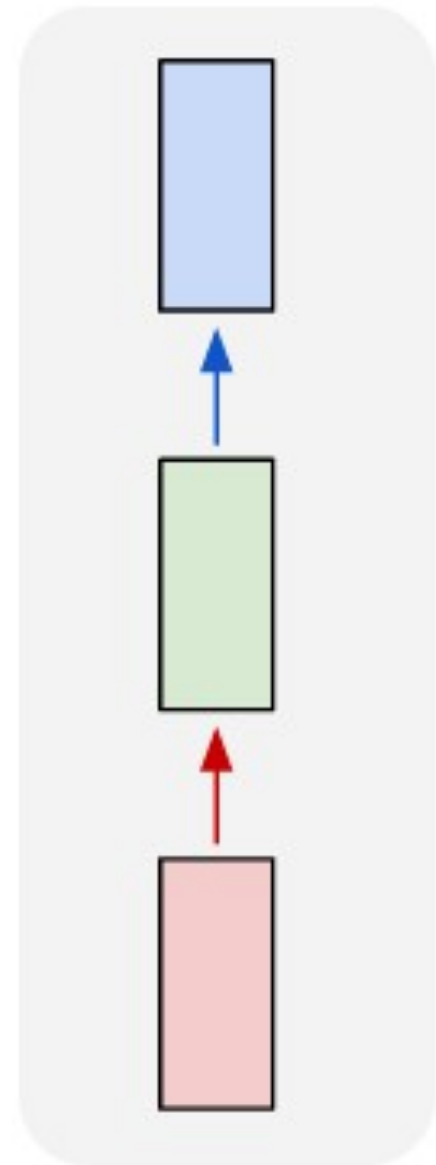


many to many



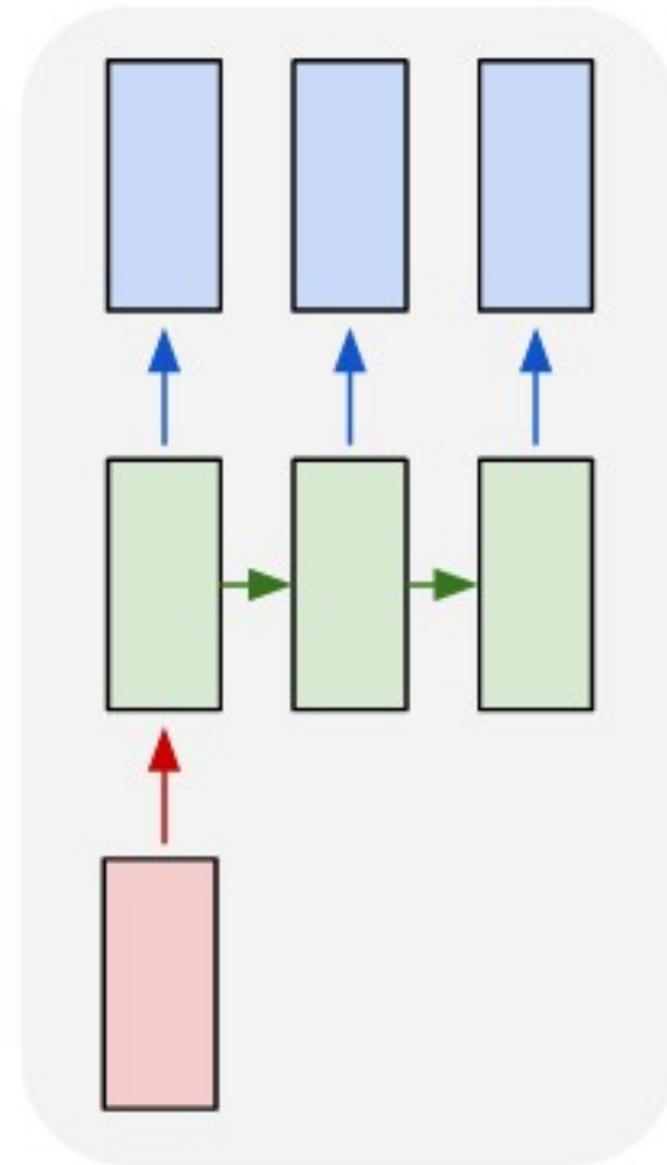
Using RNNs

one to one



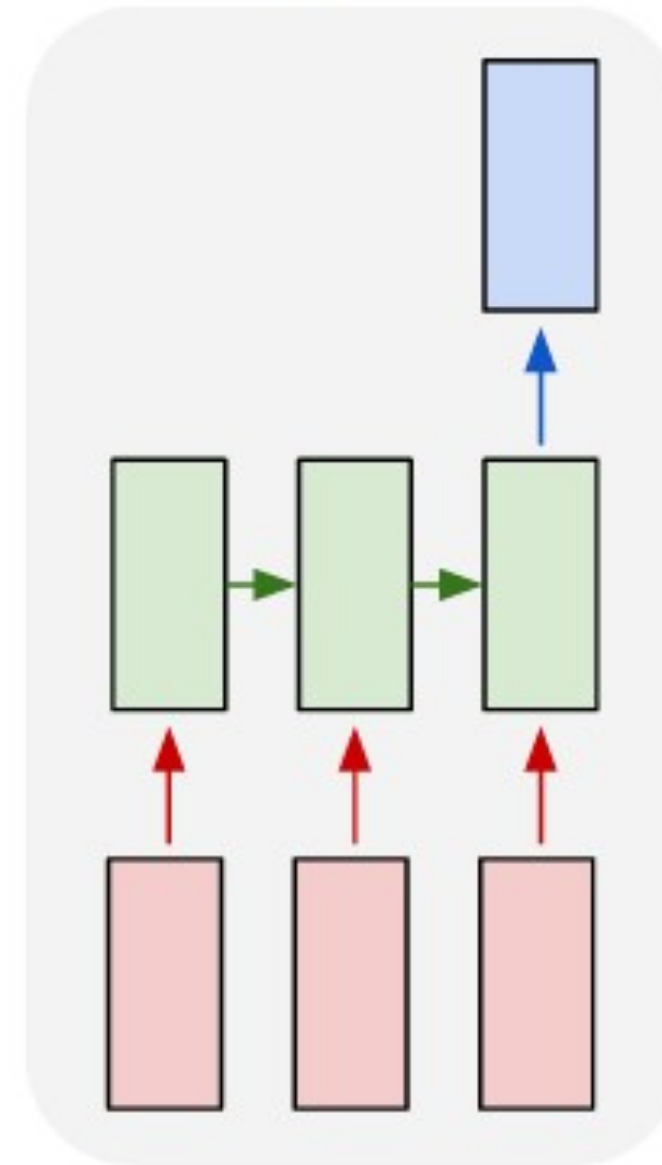
MLP

one to many



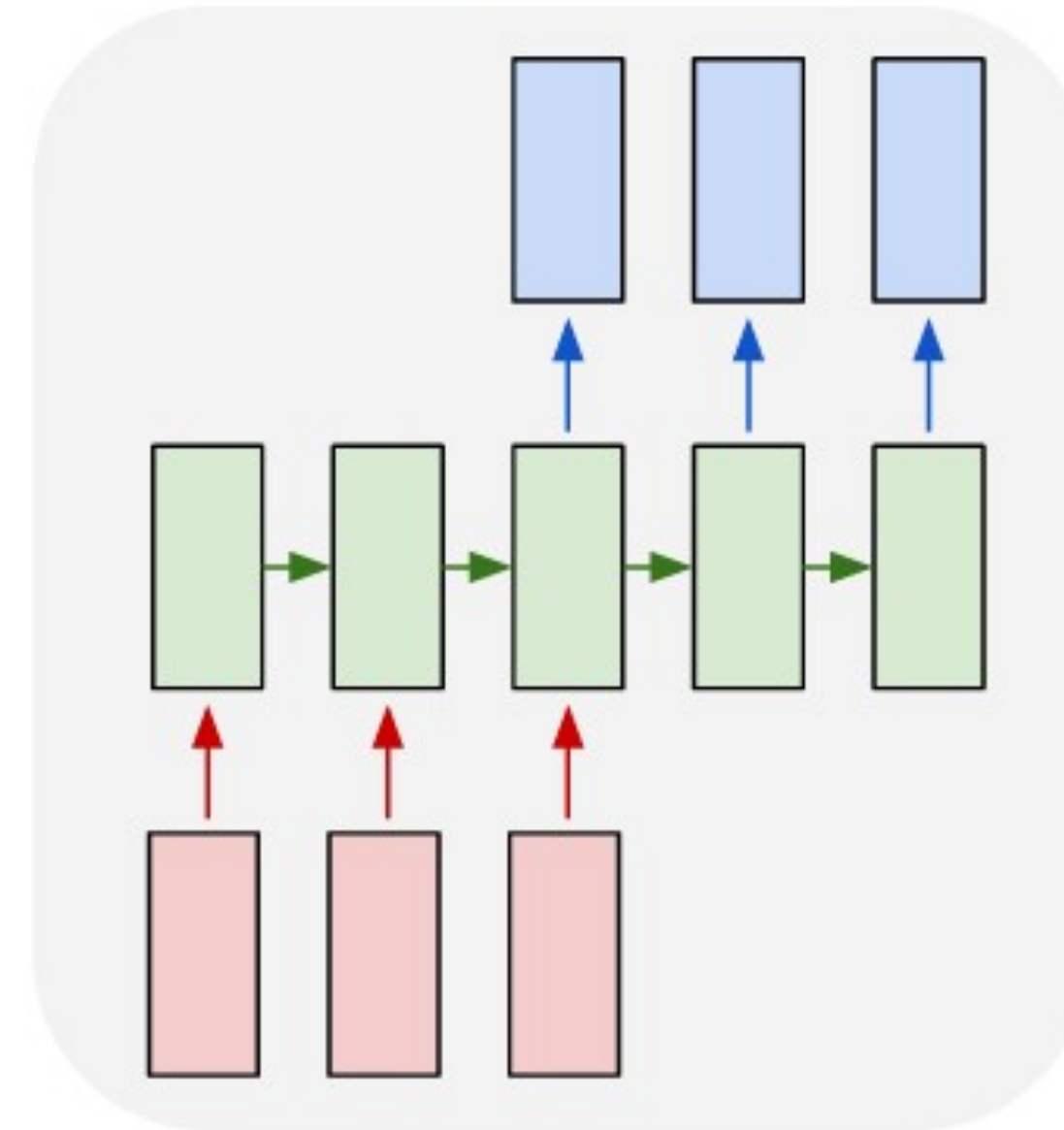
e.g. image captioning

many to one

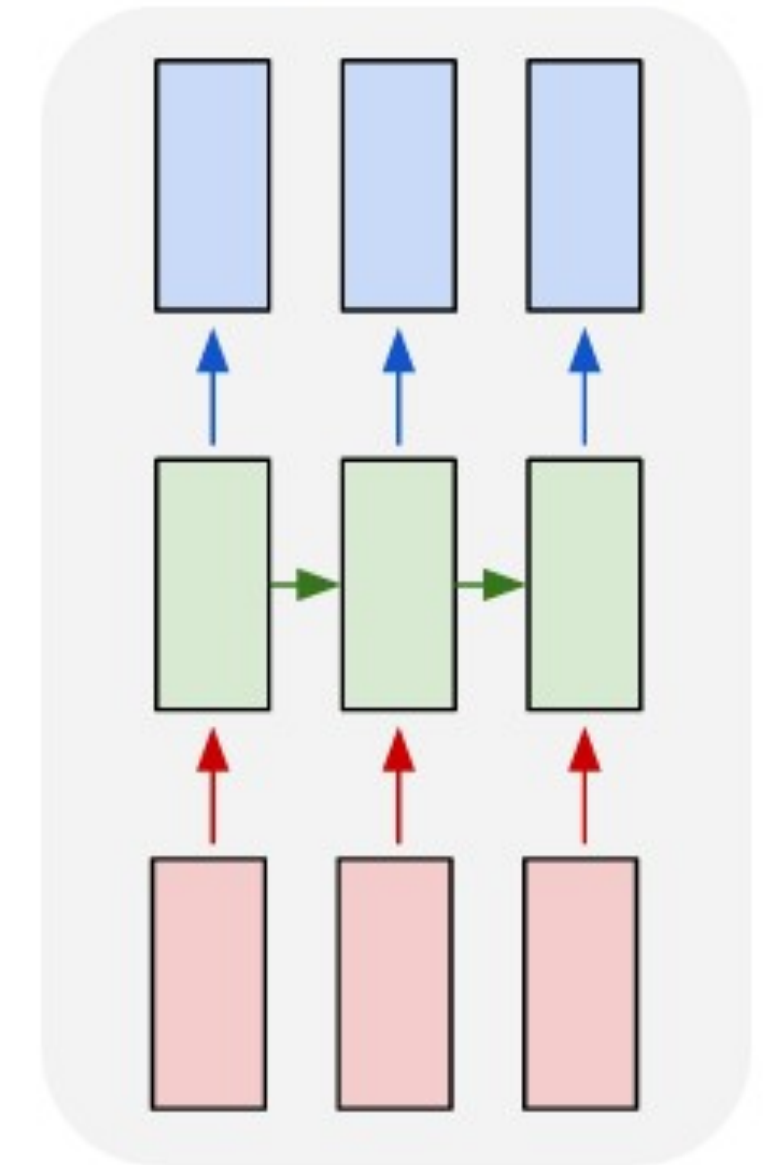


e.g. text classification

many to many



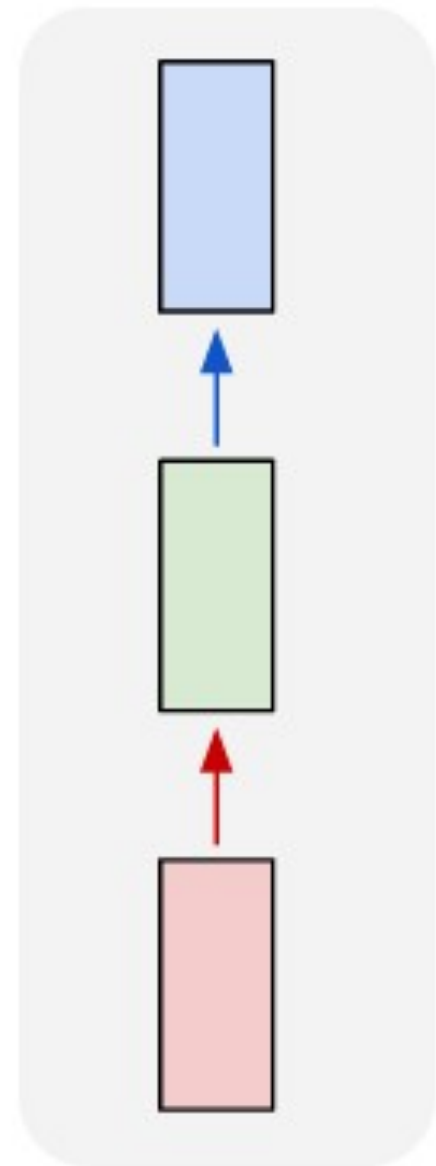
many to many



e.g. POS tagging

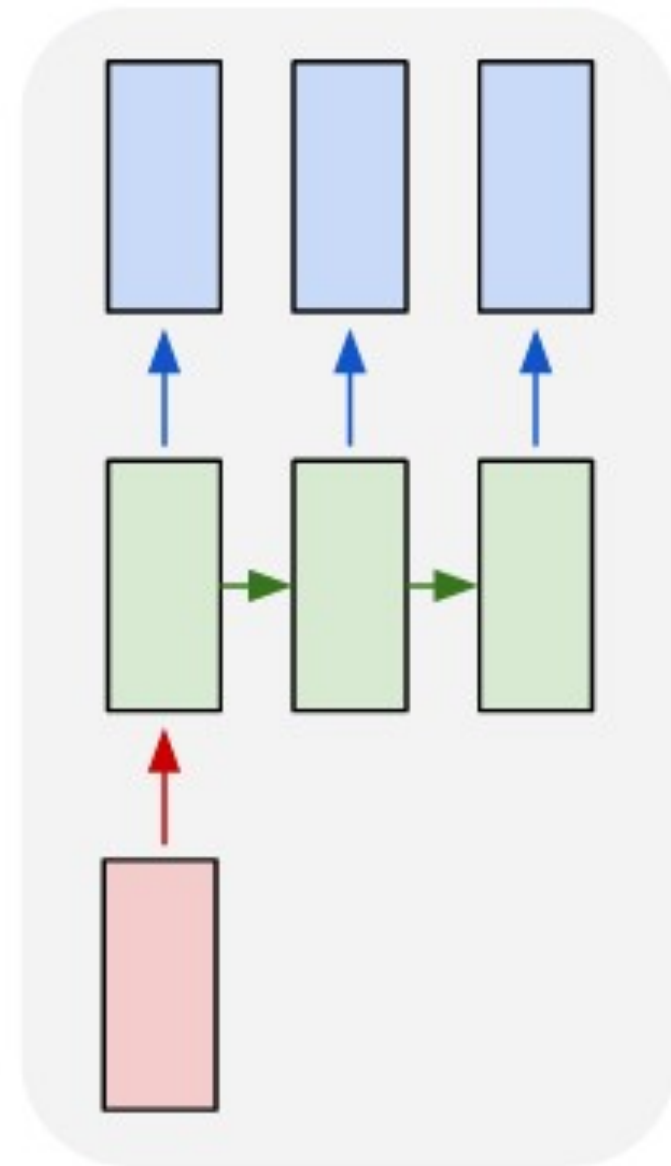
Using RNNs

one to one



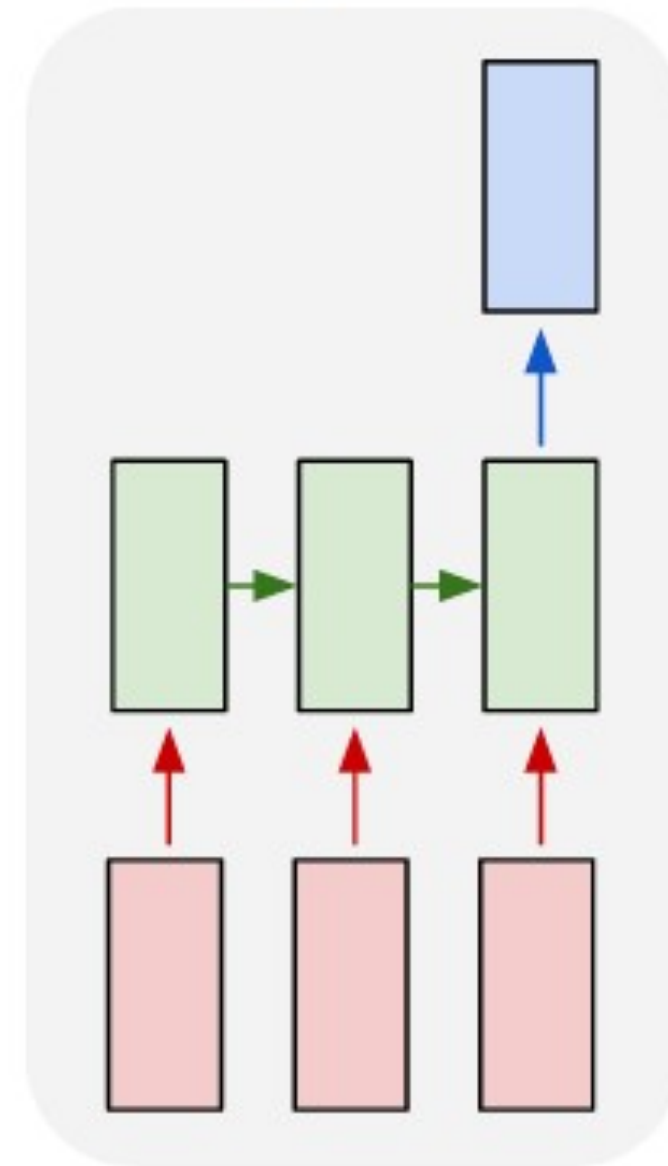
MLP

one to many



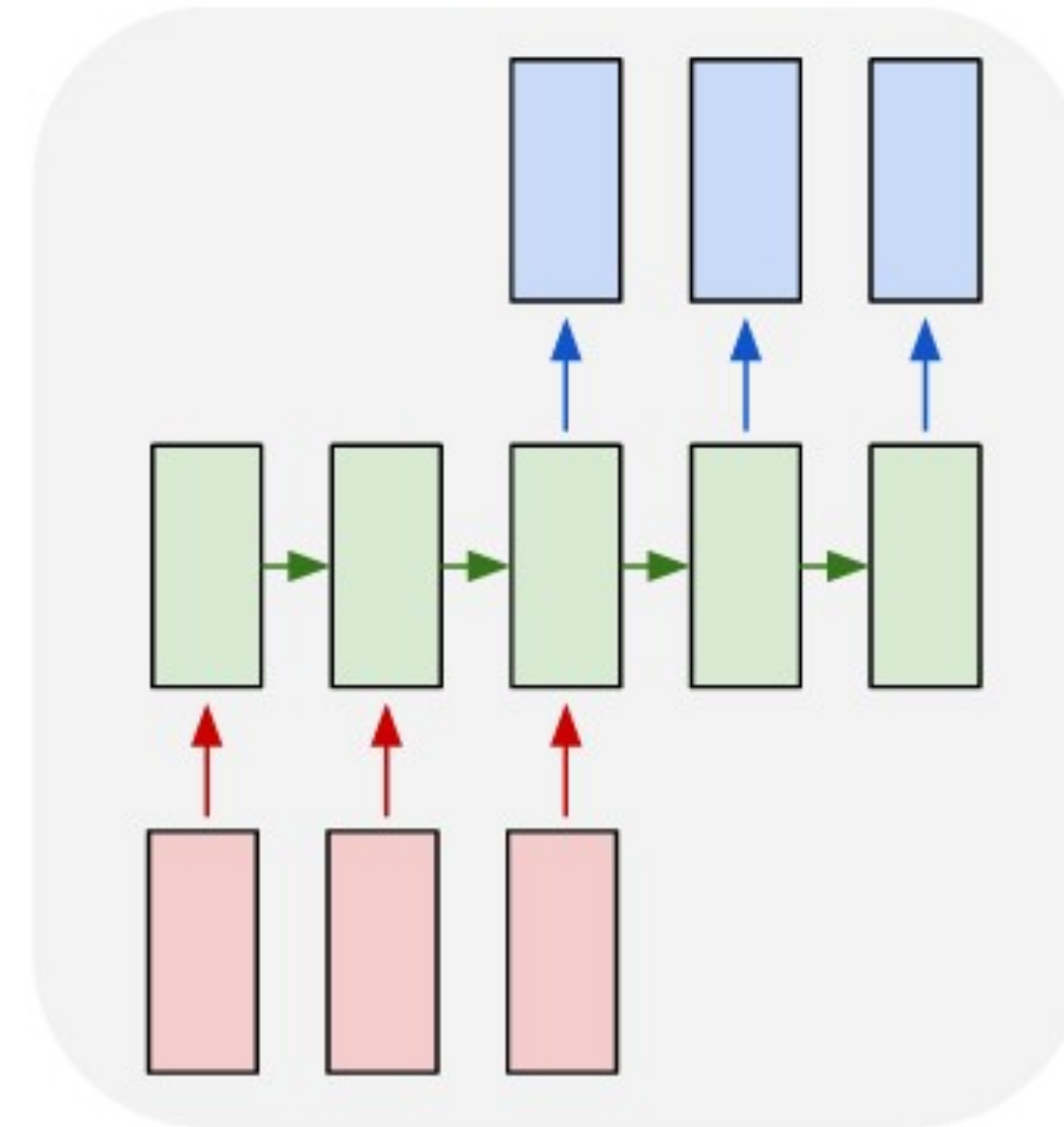
e.g. image captioning

many to one



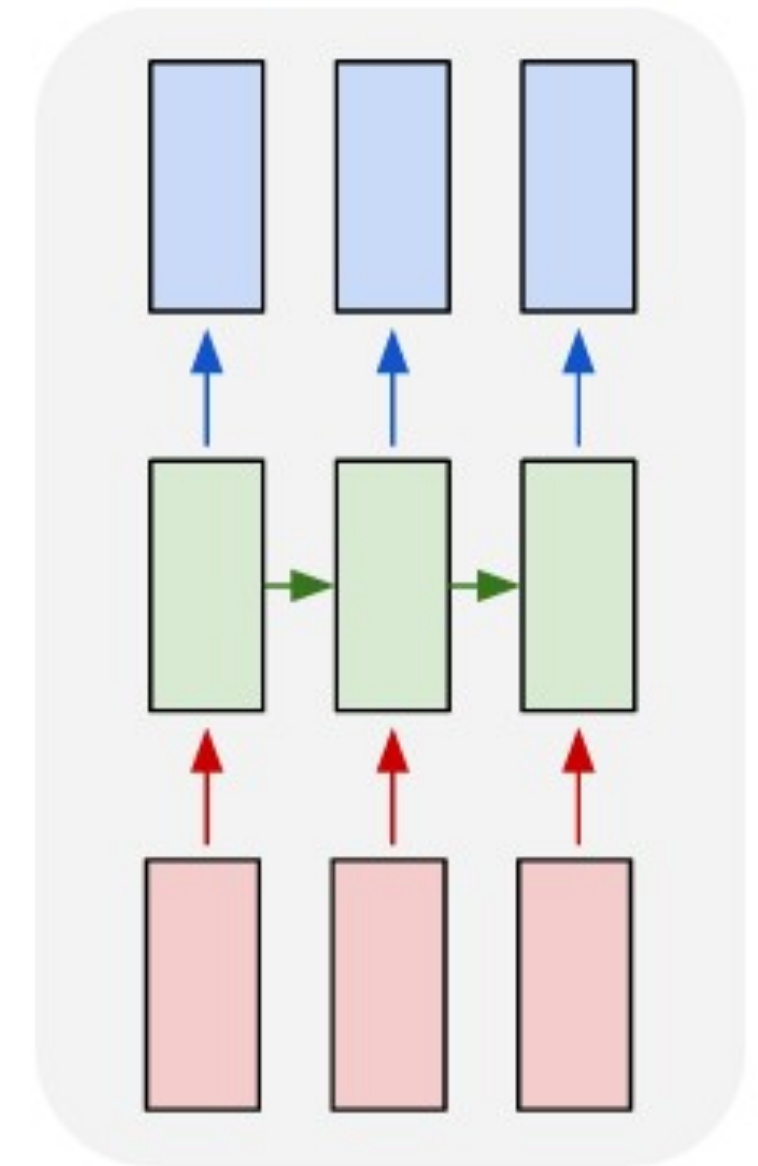
e.g. text classification

many to many



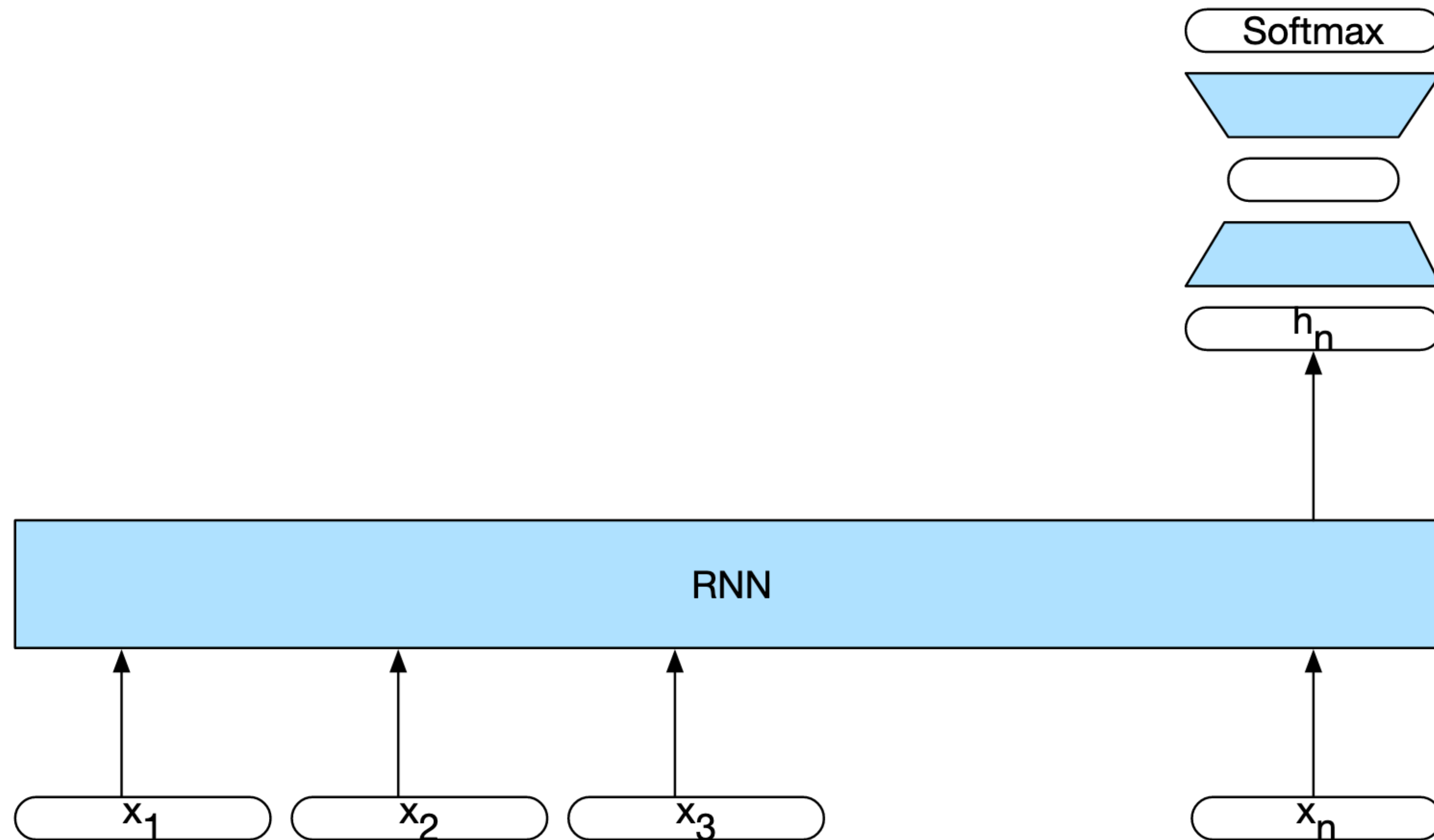
seq2seq (later)

many to many



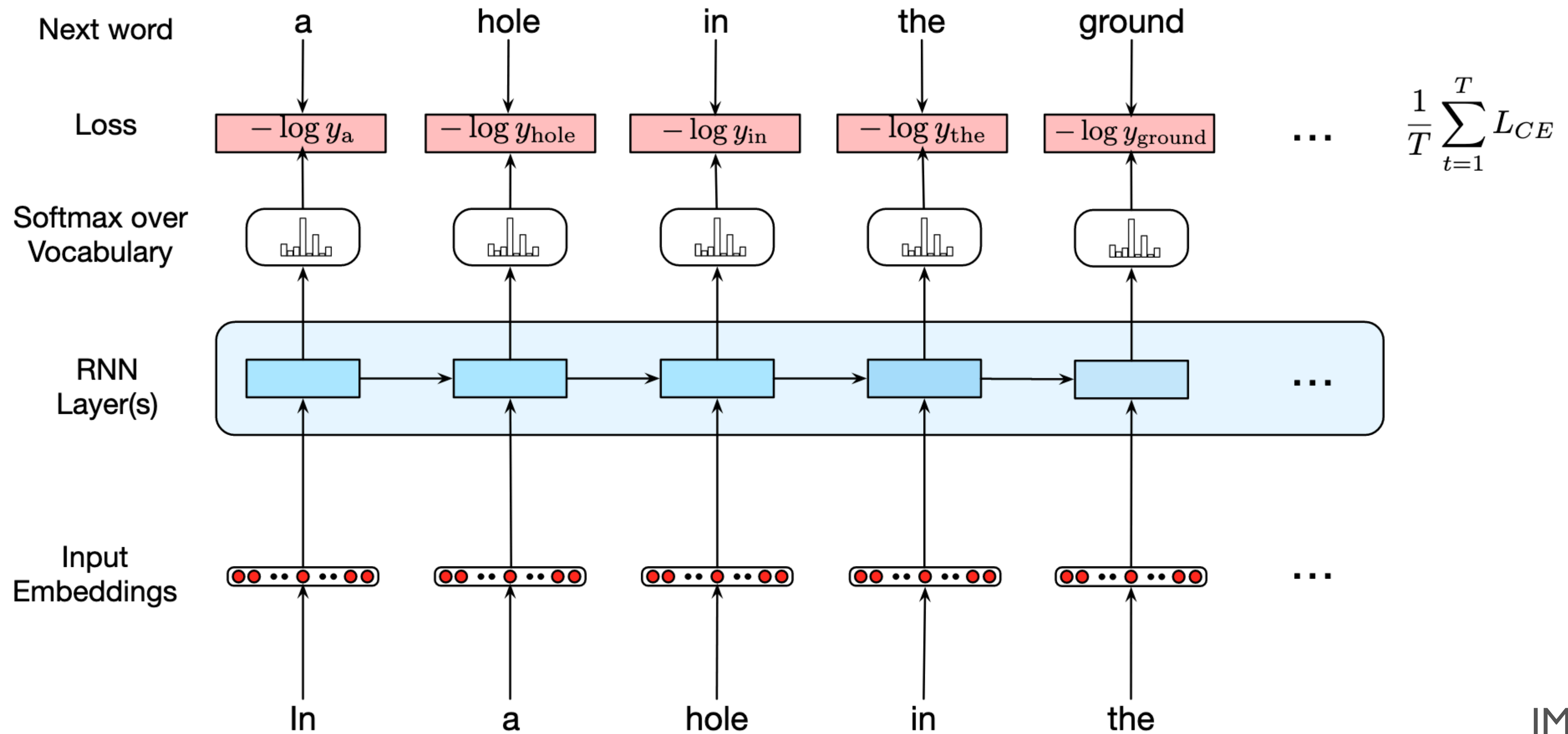
e.g. POS tagging

RNN for Text Classification



JM sec 9.2.5

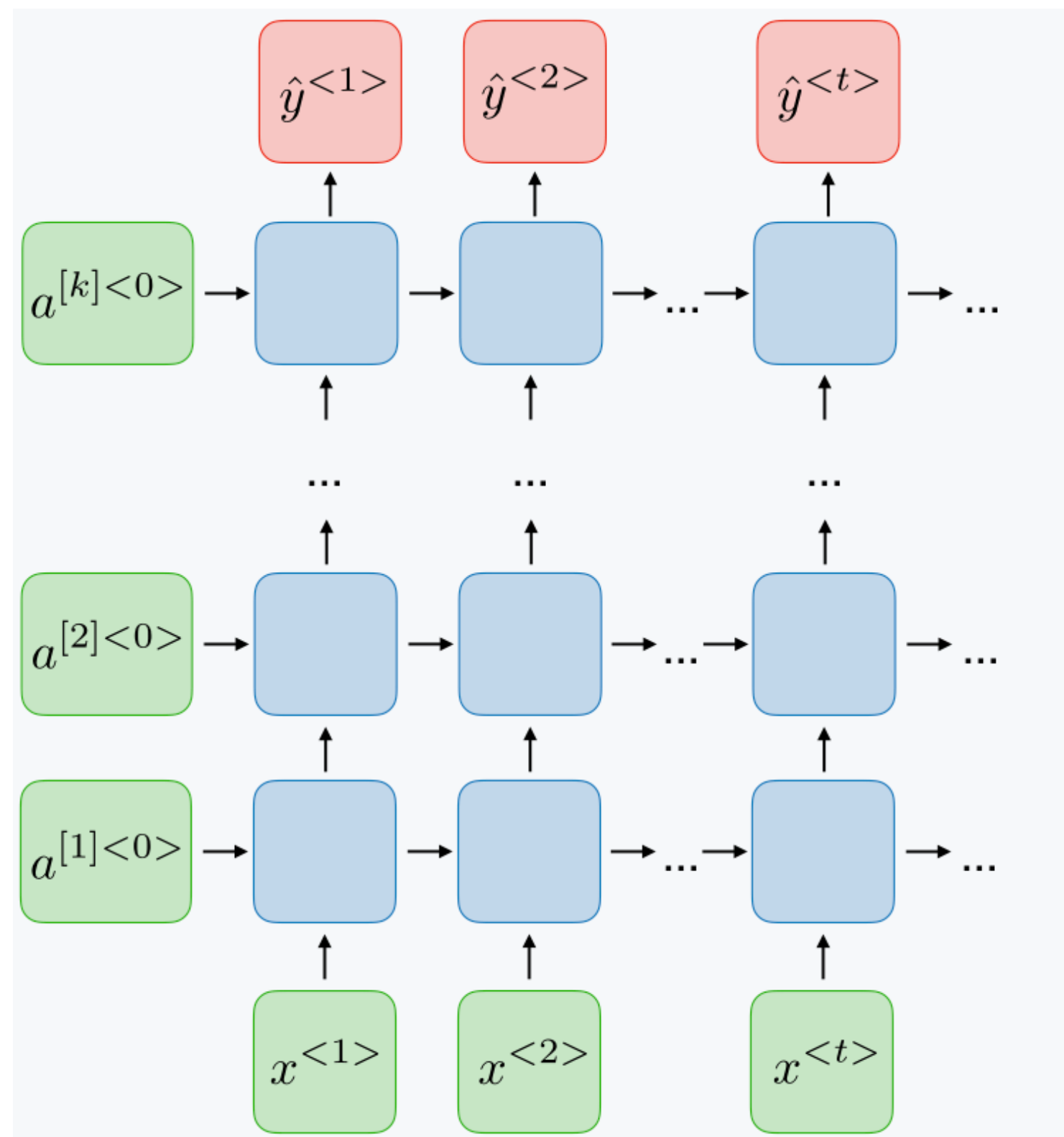
RNNs for Language Modeling



JM sec 9.2.3

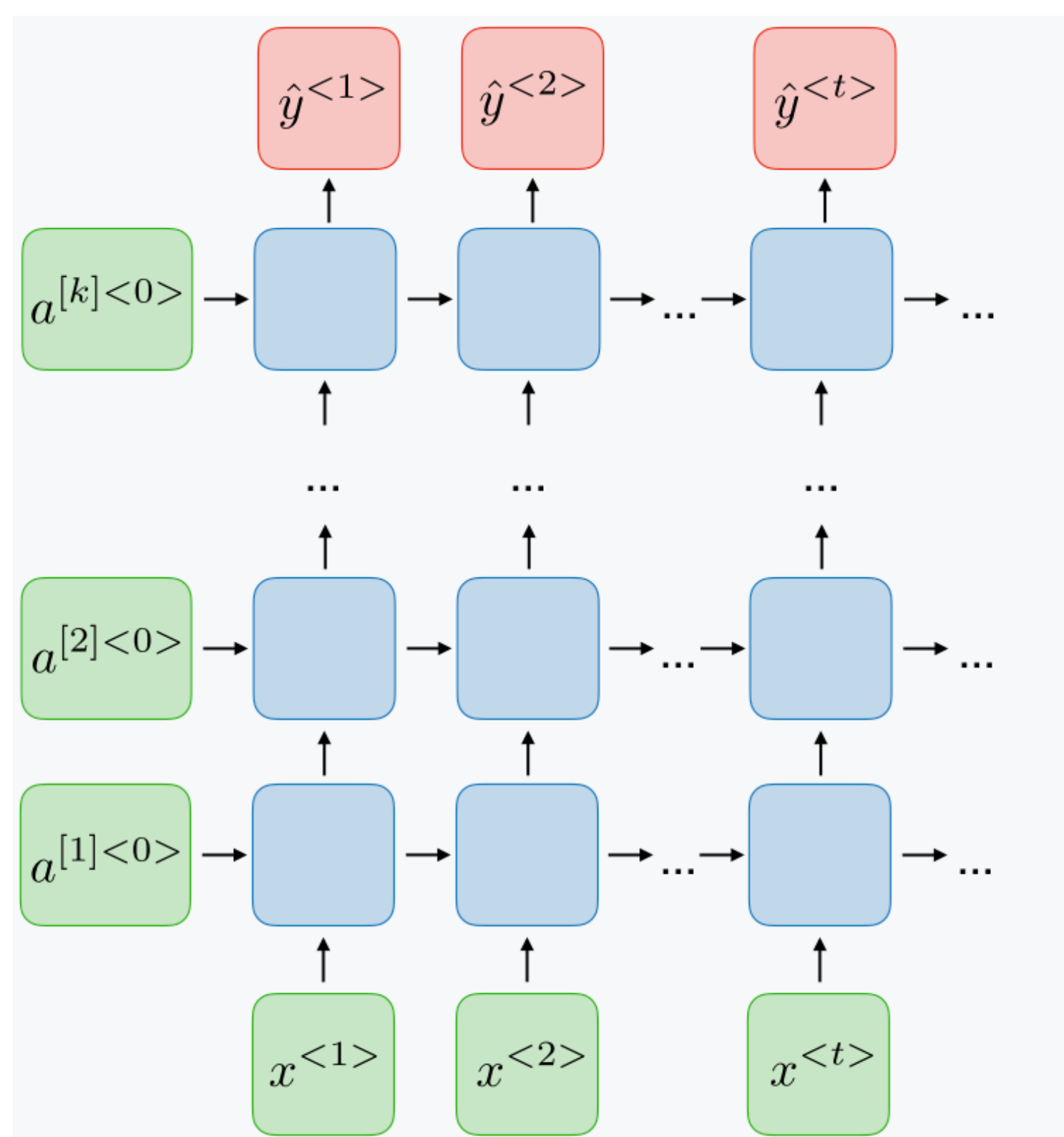
Two Extensions

- Deep RNNs:

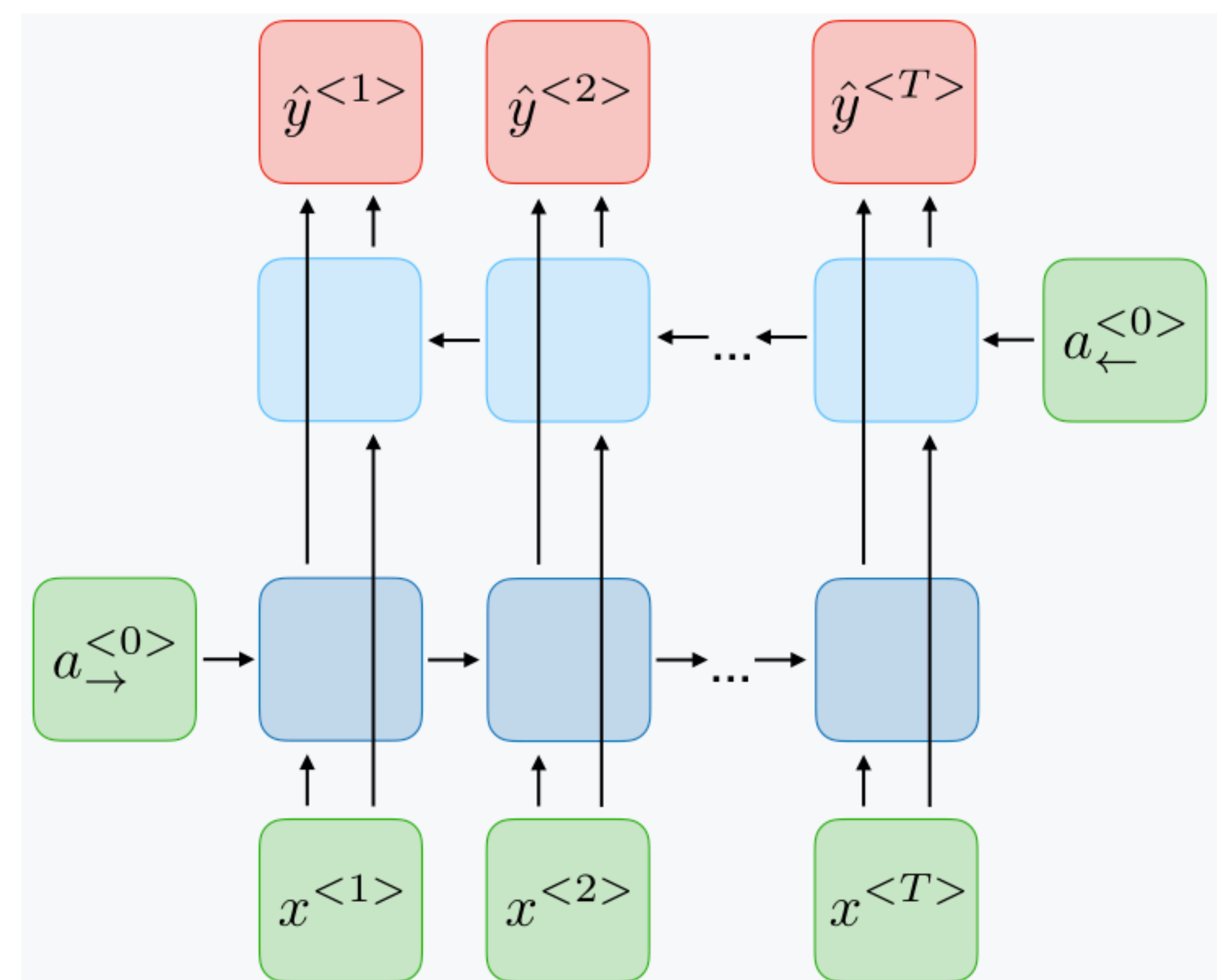


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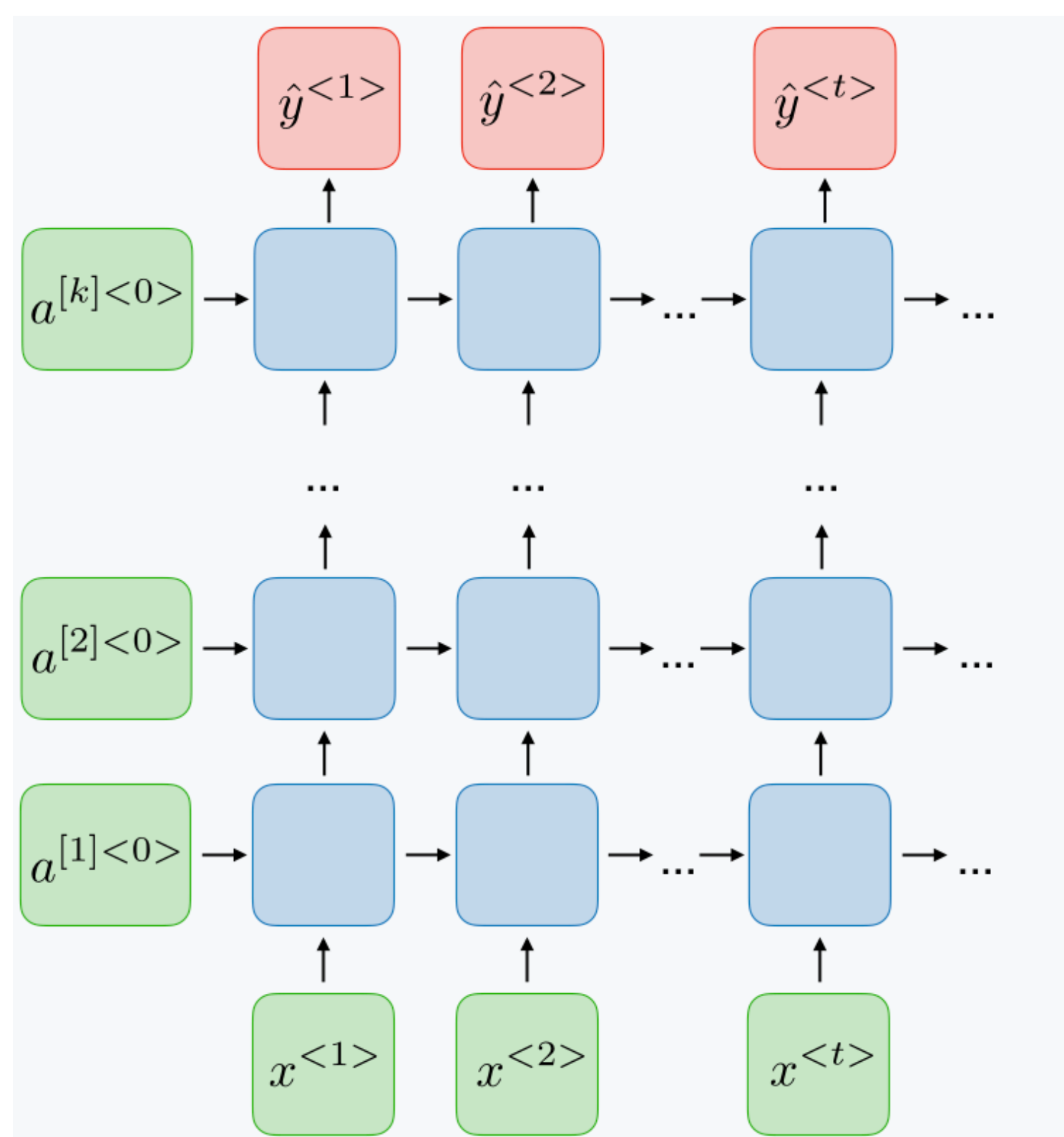


- Bidirectional RNNs:

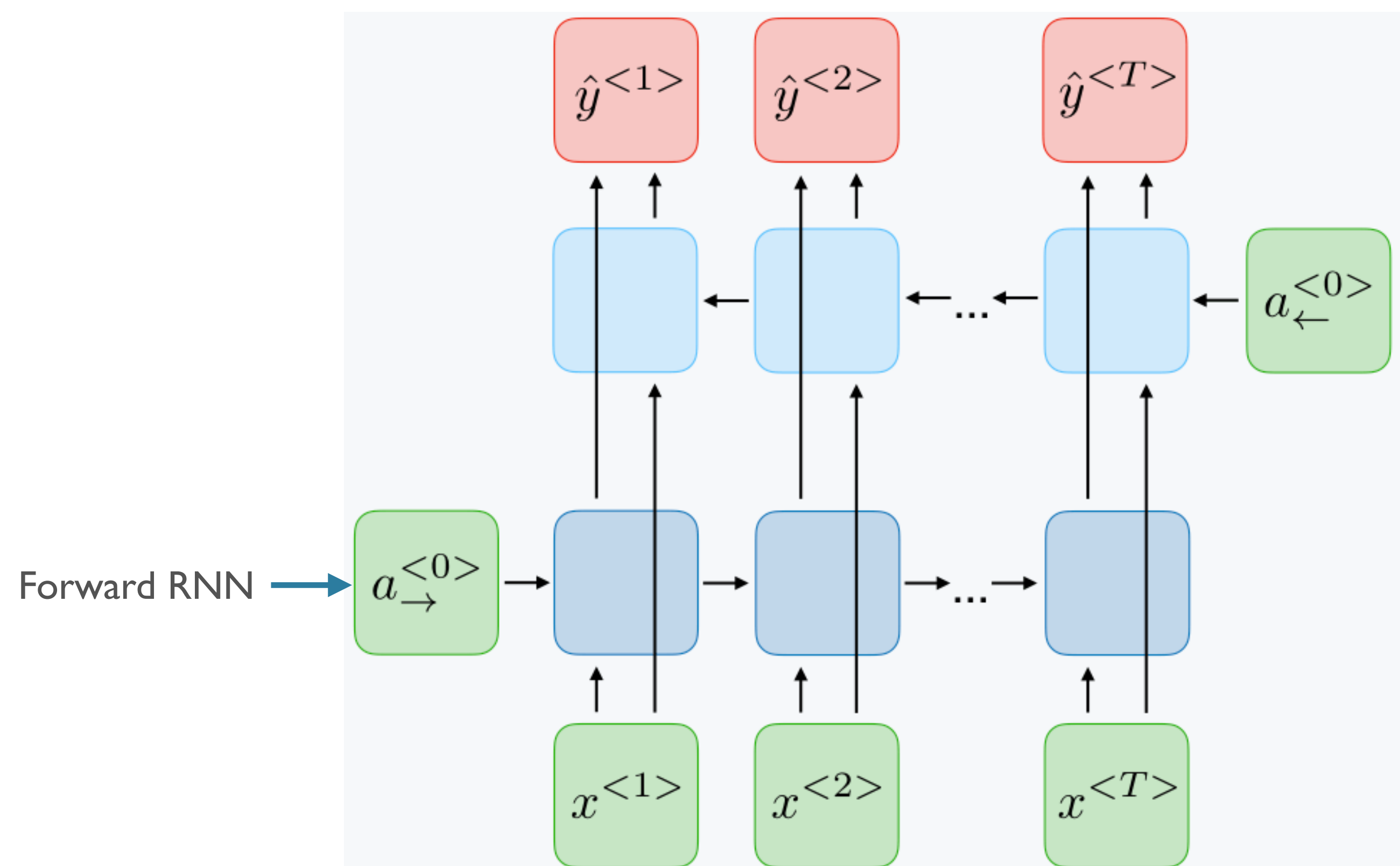


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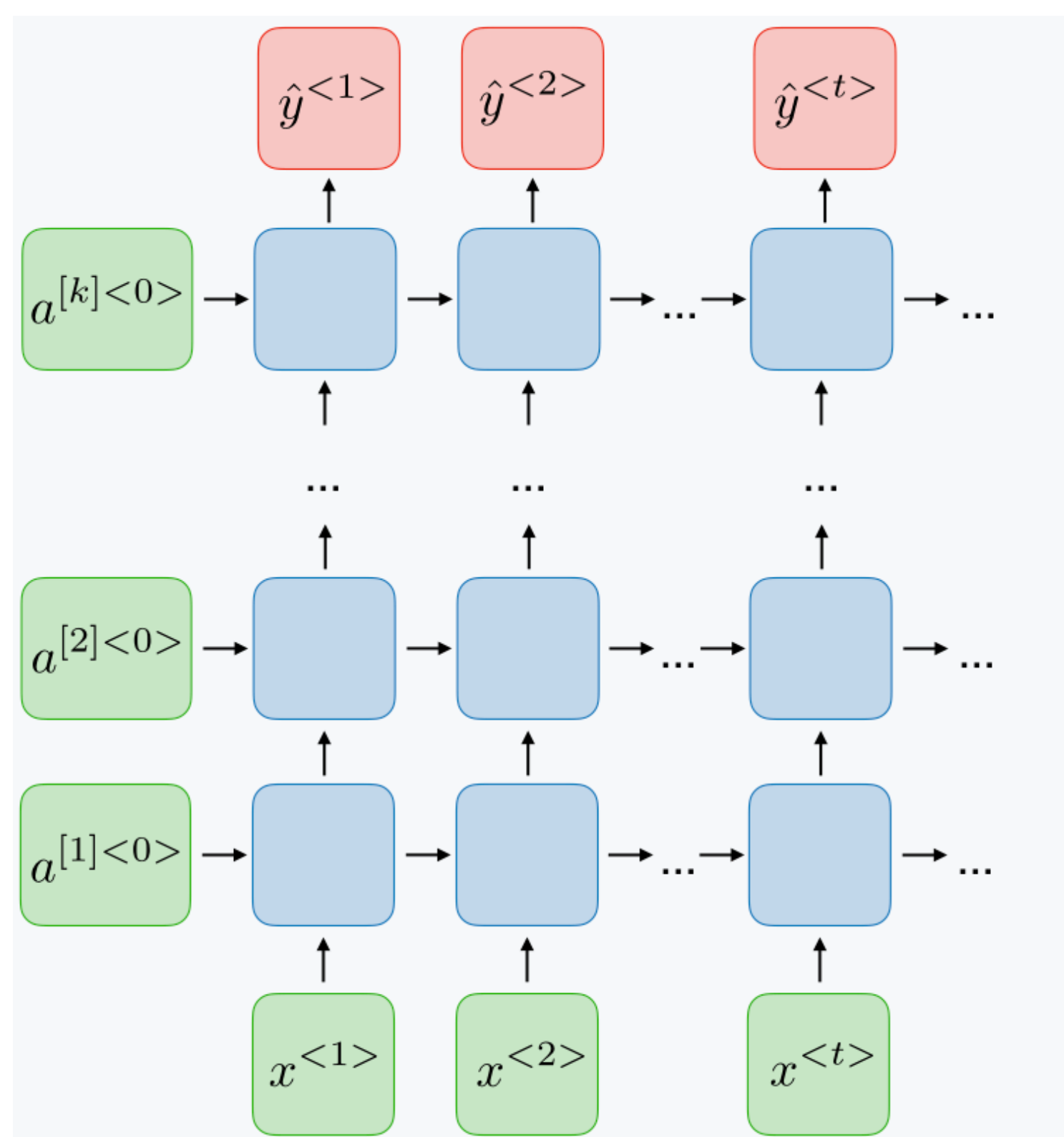


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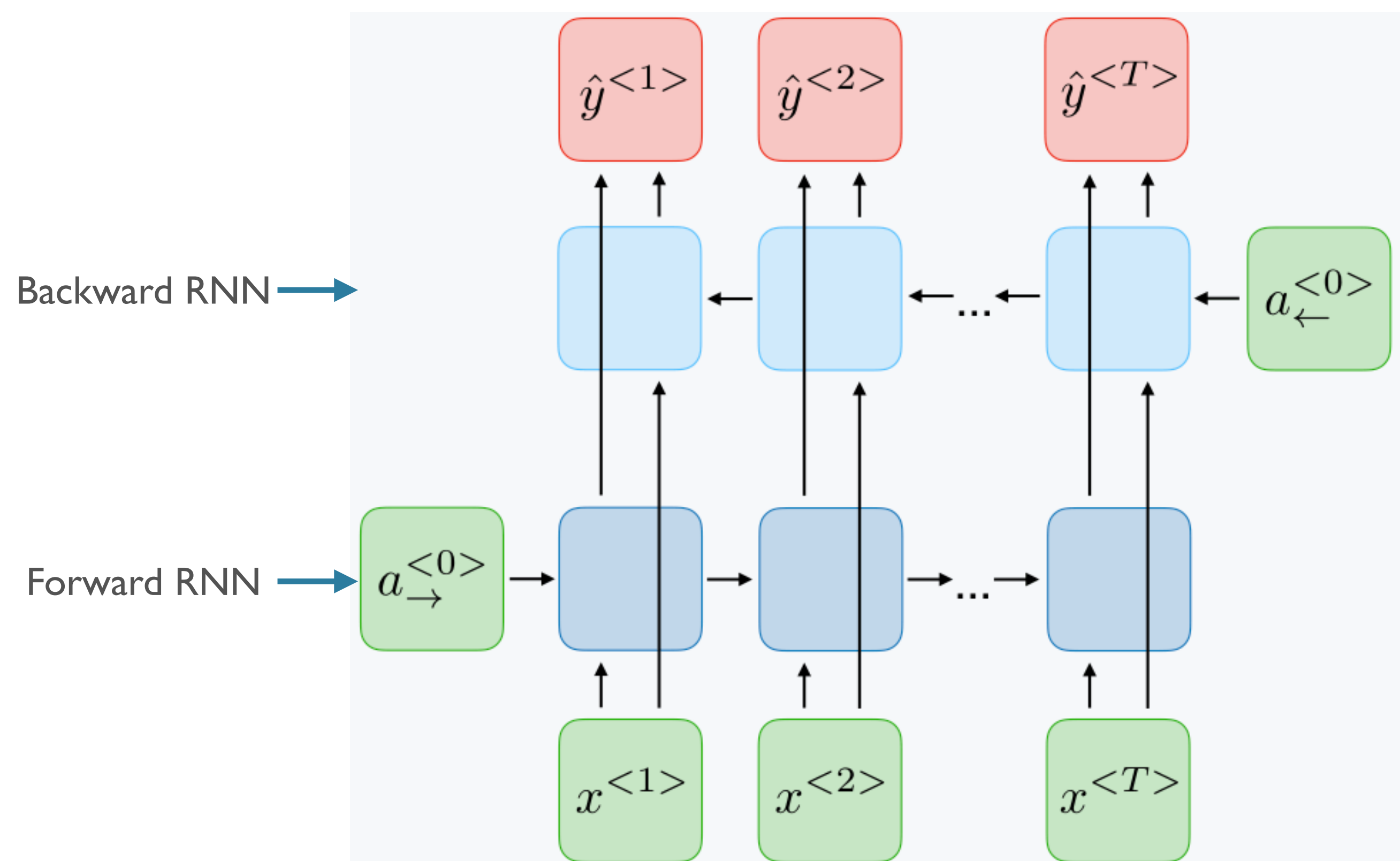


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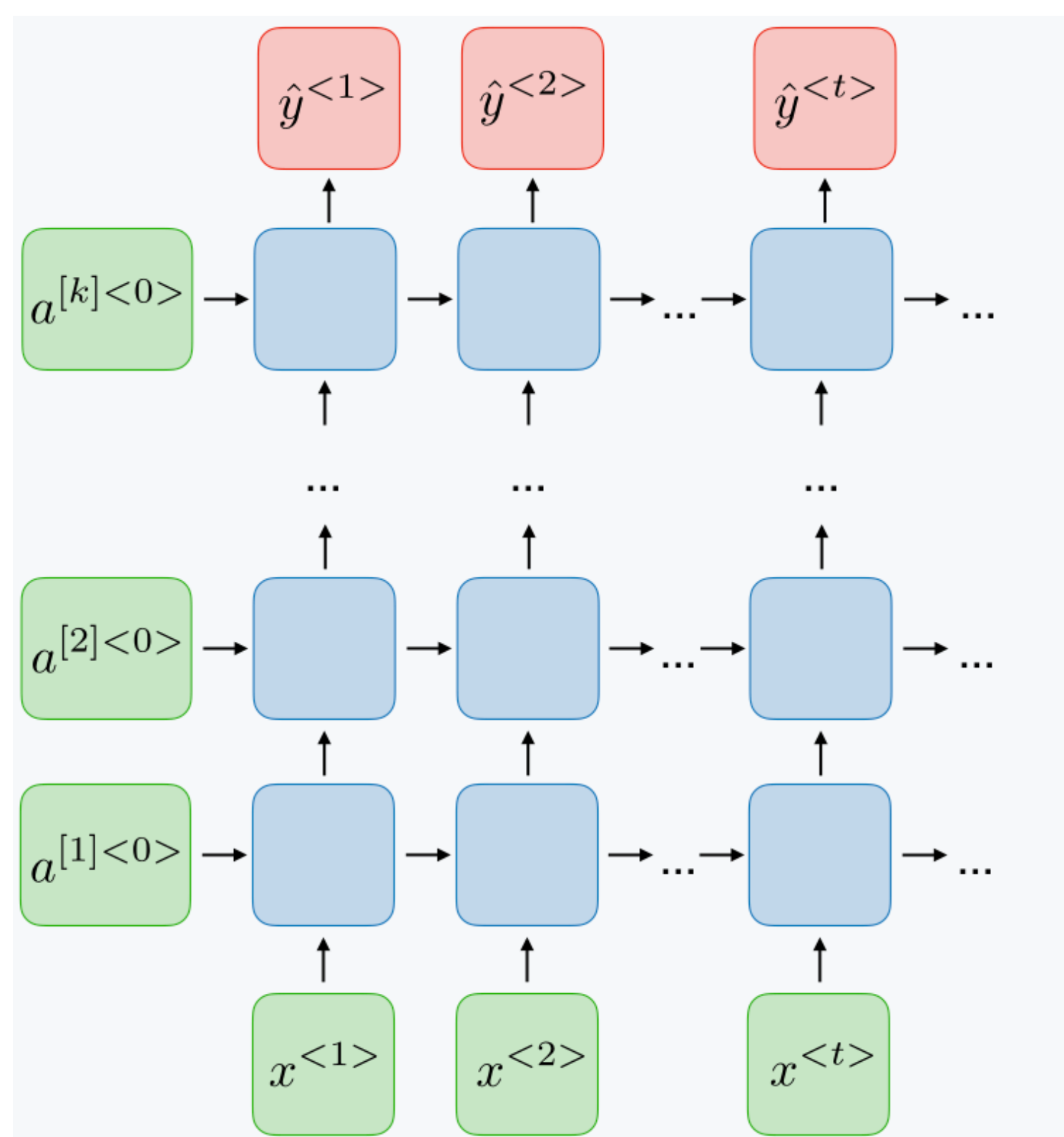


- Bidirectional RNNs:

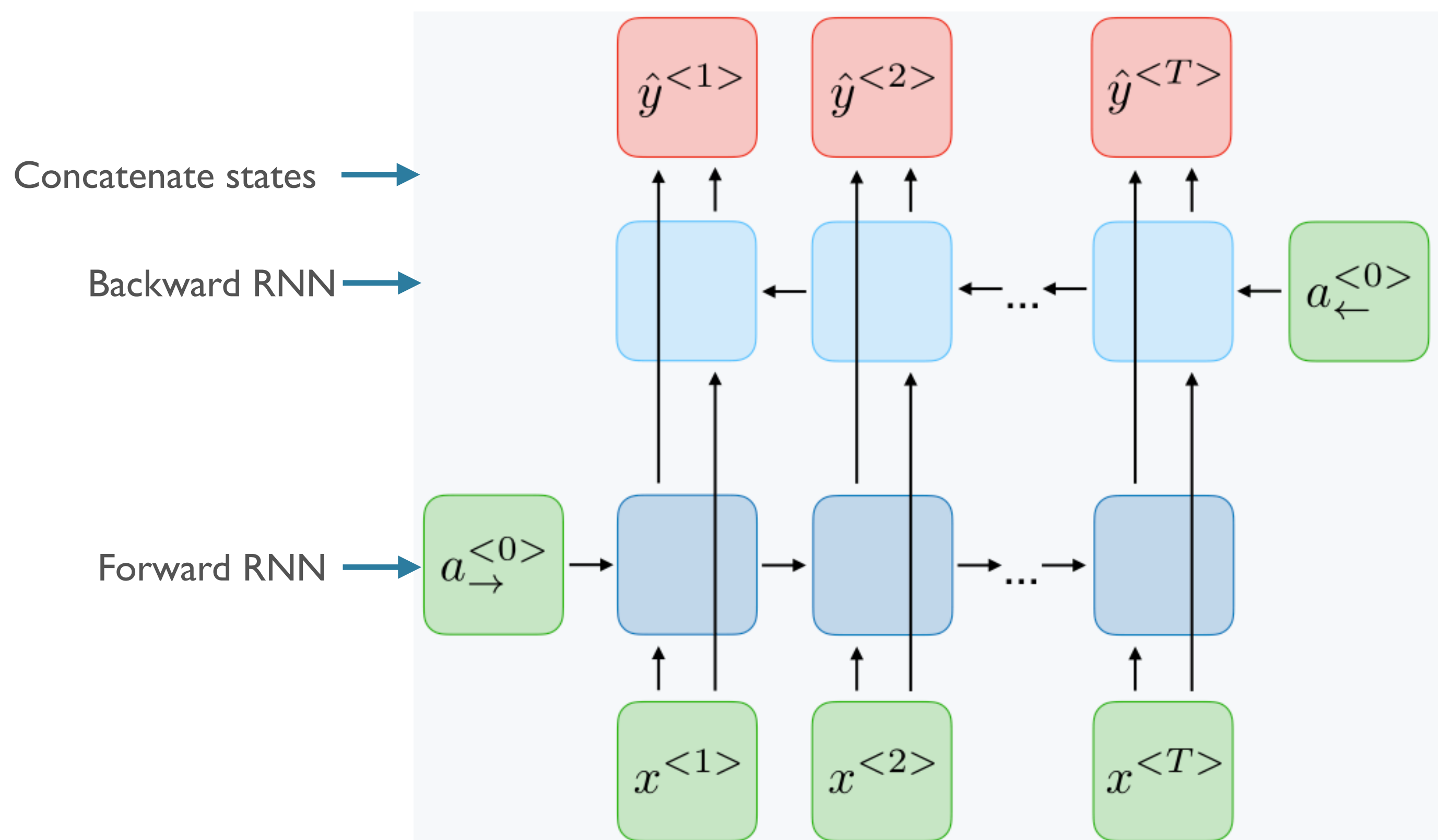


Two Extensions

- Deep RNNs:



- Bidirectional RNNs:



Batching in RNNs

- Intuitively, shape of inputs: [batch_size, seq_len, vocab_size]
- But what is sequence length??
 - “This is the first example `</s>`”: 6
 - “This is another `</s>`”: 4

Padding and Masking

- Step 1: *pad* all sequences in batch to be of the same length
 - “This is the first example </s>”: 6
 - “This is another </s> PAD PAD”: 6
- Step 2: build a “mask” (1 = True token, 0 = padding)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Step 3: use mask to tell model what to ignore, either
 - Select correct final states [classification]
 - Multiply losses in tagging tasks [LM]

Summary

- RNNs allow for neural processing of *sequential data*
- In principle, should help models capture long-distance dependencies (e.g. number agreement, selectional preferences, ...)
 - Maintain a state over time
 - Repeatedly apply the same weights
 - as opposed to n-gram models, which cannot build such dependencies
- Uses: classification, tagging
- Extensions: deep, bidirectional

Next Time

- Discuss a technical problem in training Vanilla RNNs
 - Vanishing gradients
- Introduce *gating-based* RNNs
 - LSTMs
 - GRUs
 - Strengths, weaknesses, differences