

Statistical Natural Language Processing [COMP0087]

Recurrent Neural Networks

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Computer Science, UCL

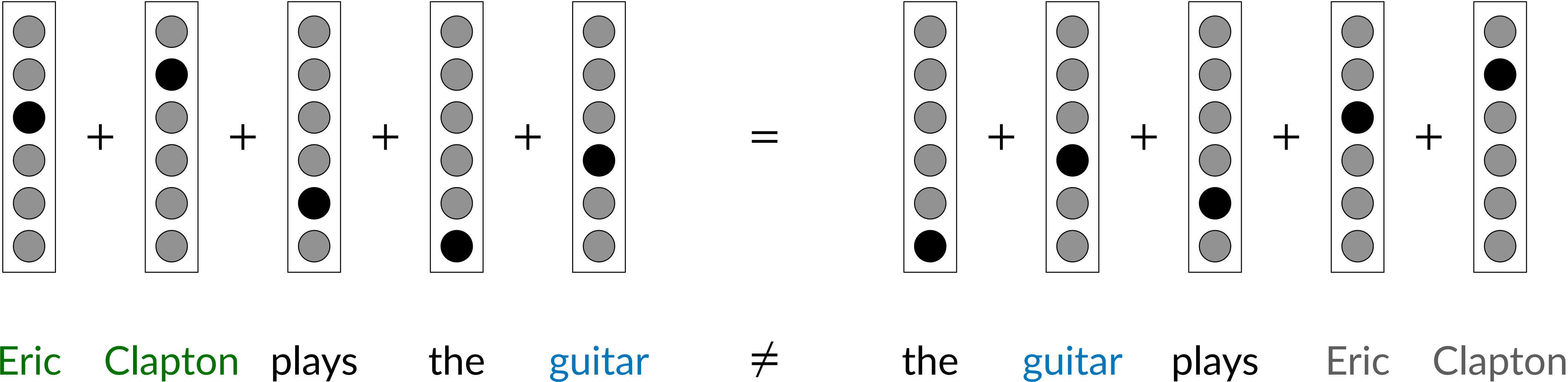


About this lecture

- ▶ In this lecture:
 - brief overview on language models (*more on this during the lecture by Dr. Oana-Maria Camburu*)
 - Recurrent Neural Networks
 - The Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) architecture
 - Applications and extensions
 - slides: lampos.net/teaching
- ▶ Reading / Lecture based on: Chapters 3 (*less so*), 7 (*less so*), and 9 (*more so*) of “*Speech and Language Processing*” (SLP) by Jurafsky and Martin (2023) – web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/slp3/
- ▶ Additional material
 - * Difficulties in training RNNs – proceedings.mlr.press/v28/pascanu13.pdf
 - * LSTMs – colah.github.io/posts/2015-08-Understanding-LSTMs/

Text order is important

Language is a sequence of “events” over time



Language model

A language model predicts the next word of a word sequence:



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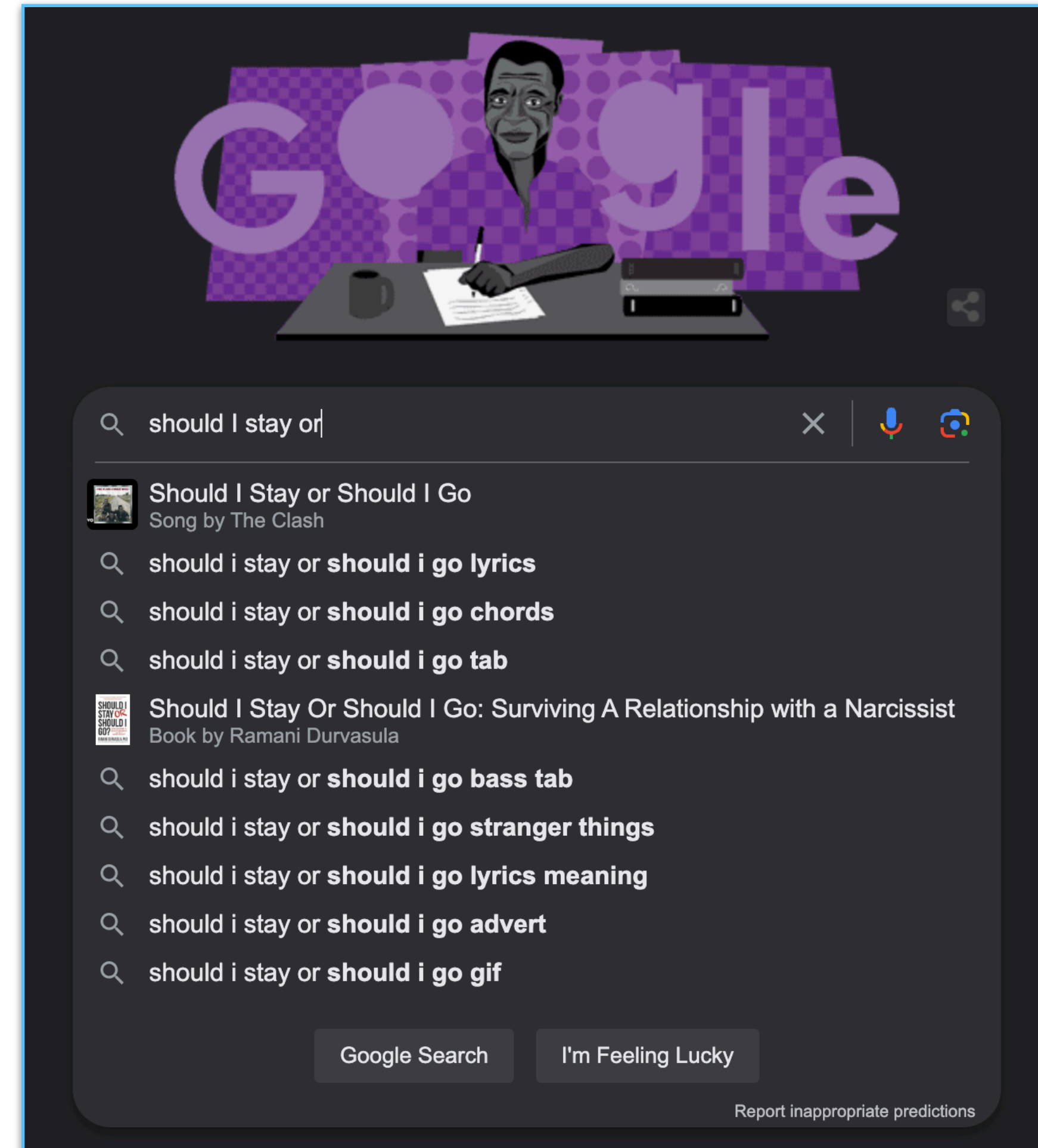
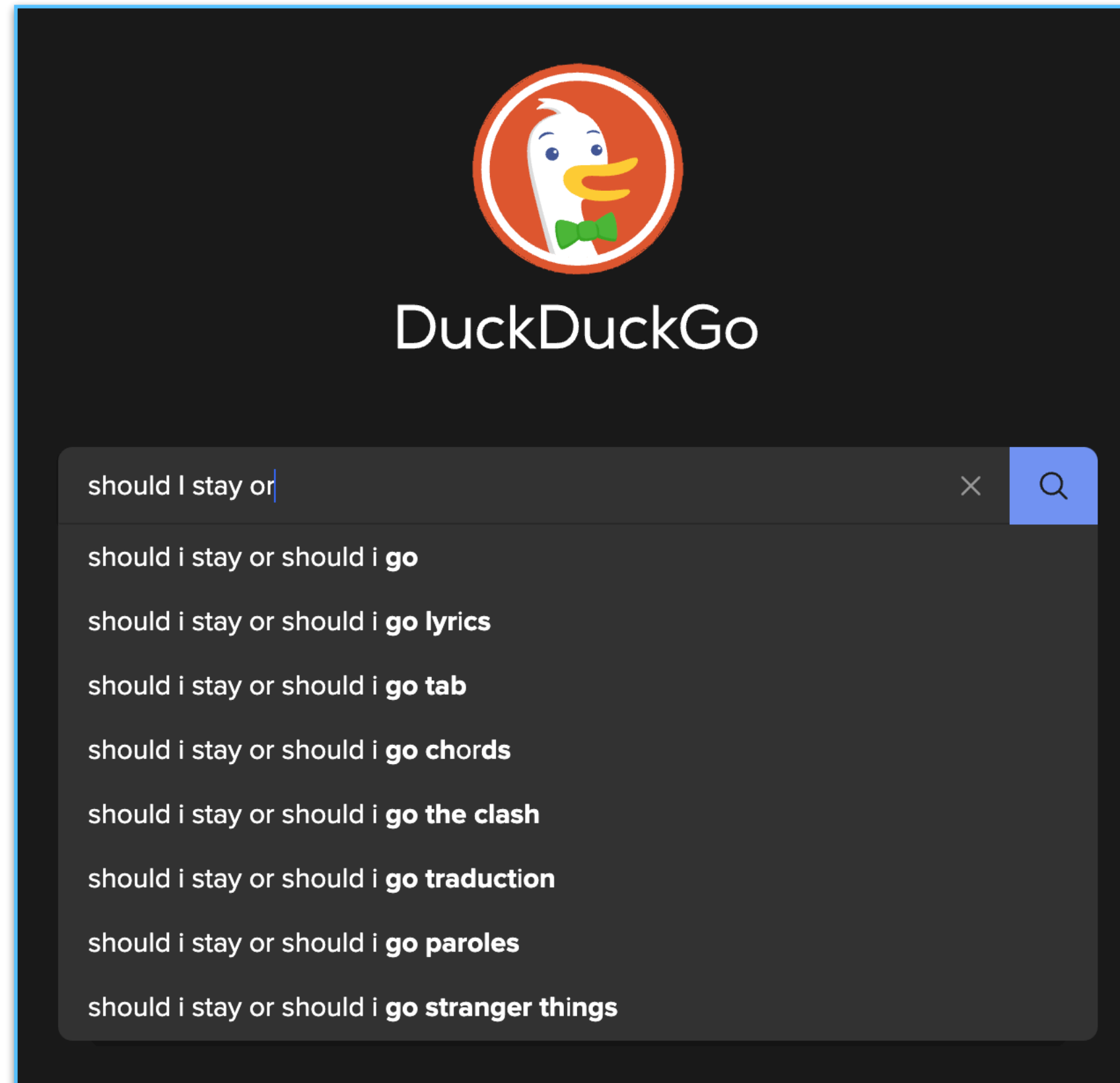
Language model

Given a sequence of words x_1, x_2, \dots, x_t

compute the probability of the next word $p(x_{t+1} | x_t, x_{t-1}, \dots, x_1)$

where $x_i \in \mathcal{V}$ (a word from our vocabulary)

We use language models all the time



Language model evaluation using perplexity (PPL)

lower is better

$$\text{PPL} = \prod_{t=1}^N \left(\frac{1}{p_{\ell}(x_{t+1} | x_t, \dots, x_1)} \right)^{\frac{1}{N}}$$

inverse probability of the corpus, according to the language model ℓ

number of tokens in our corpus

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Intuition: if $\text{PPL} = \delta$, then our uncertainty about the next word is \sim equivalent to the uncertainty of tossing a δ -sided dice and getting a δ

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$$\text{PPL} = \prod_{t=1}^N \left(\frac{1}{\hat{y}_{x_{t+1}}^{[t]}} \right)^{\frac{1}{N}} = \dots = \exp(L(\theta))$$

the estimated prob. at word t that the next word is x_{t+1} based on the language model

see 3.8 in SLP

cross entropy loss of a language model parametrised by θ

Language model evaluation using perplexity (PPL)

Model	PPL
Interpolated Kneser-Ney 5-gram (2013)	67.6
RNN-1024 + MaxEnt 9-gram (2013)	51.3
LSTM-2048 (2016)	43.7
2-layer LSTM-8192 (2016)	30
Adaptive input Transformer (2019)	23.02
GPT-2 (2019)	16.45



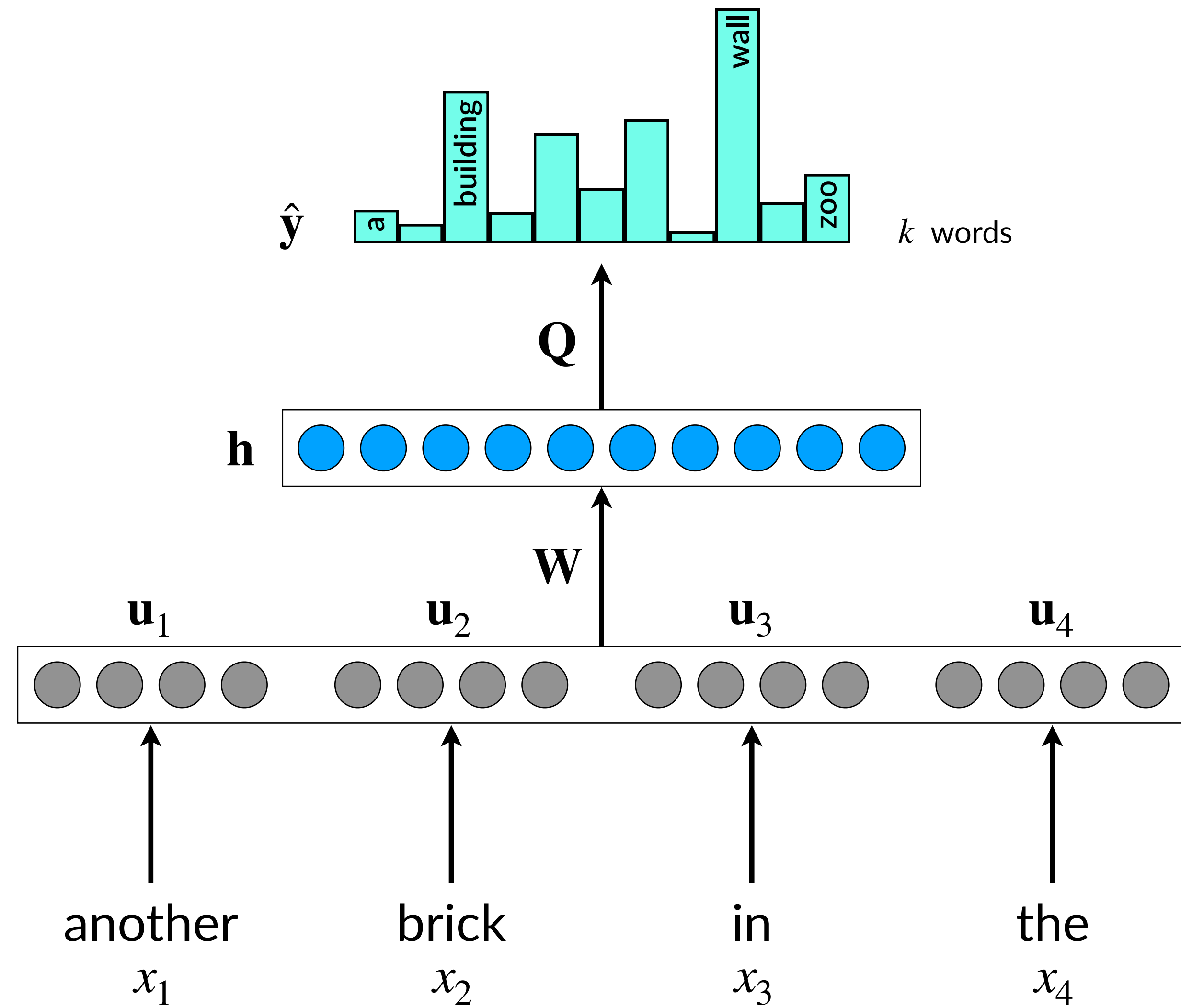
But of course, there is a limit on how low perplexity can realistically be!

Source 1: engineering.fb.com/2016/10/25/ml-applications/building-an-efficient-neural-language-model-over-a-billion-words/

Source 2: openreview.net/pdf?id=ByxZX20qFQ

Source 3: huggingface.co/docs/transformers/perplexity

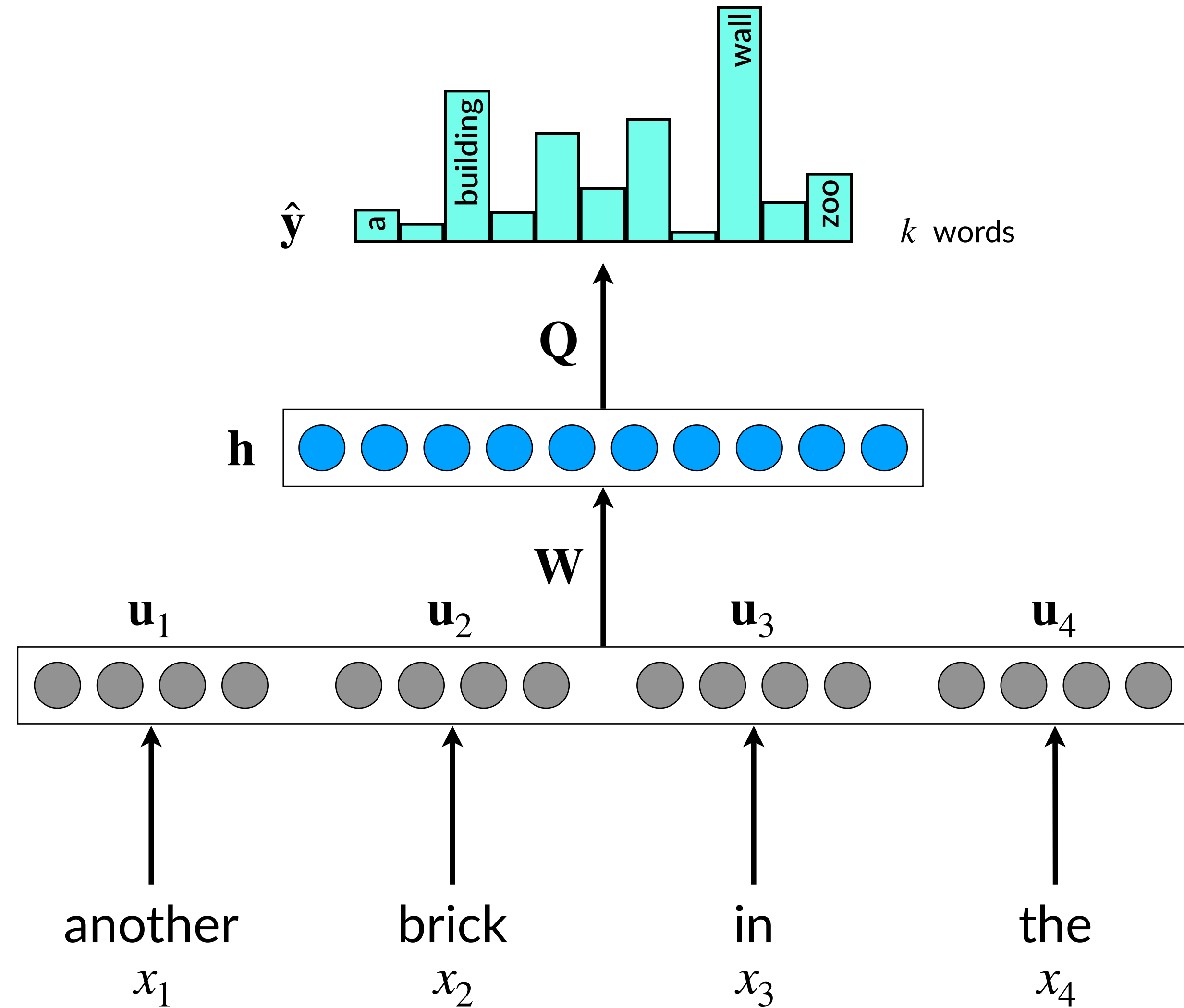
A foundational neural language model



A foundational neural language model

$$\mathbf{u} = [\mathbf{u}_1; \mathbf{u}_2; \mathbf{u}_3; \mathbf{u}_4] \in \mathbb{R}^{4d}$$

concatenate
word representations



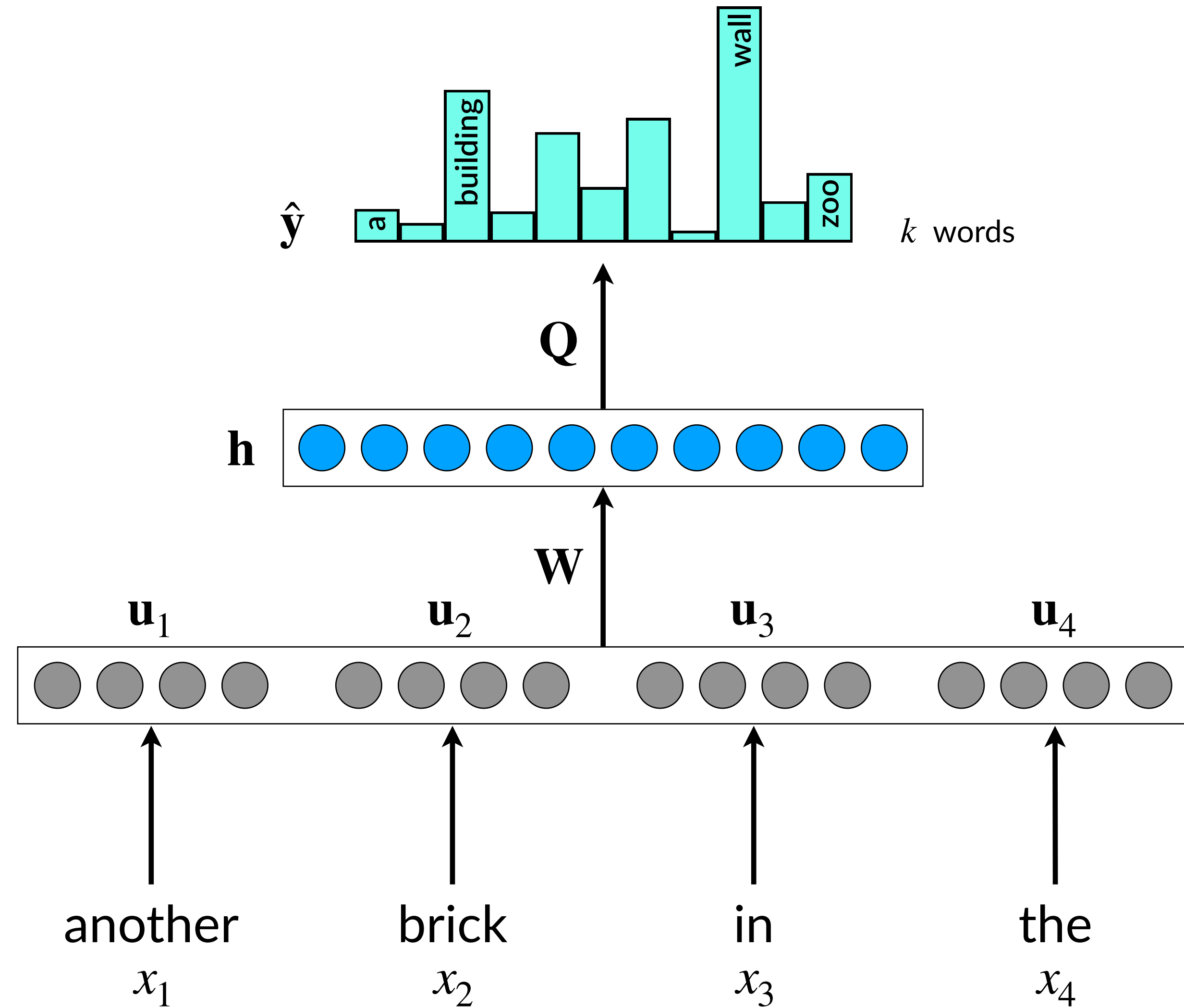
A foundational neural language model

$$\mathbf{h} = \sigma(\mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{b}_W) \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

$$\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 4d}$$

$$\mathbf{u} = [\mathbf{u}_1; \mathbf{u}_2; \mathbf{u}_3; \mathbf{u}_4] \in \mathbb{R}^{4d}$$

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A foundational neural language model

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{b}_Q) \in [0,1]^k$$

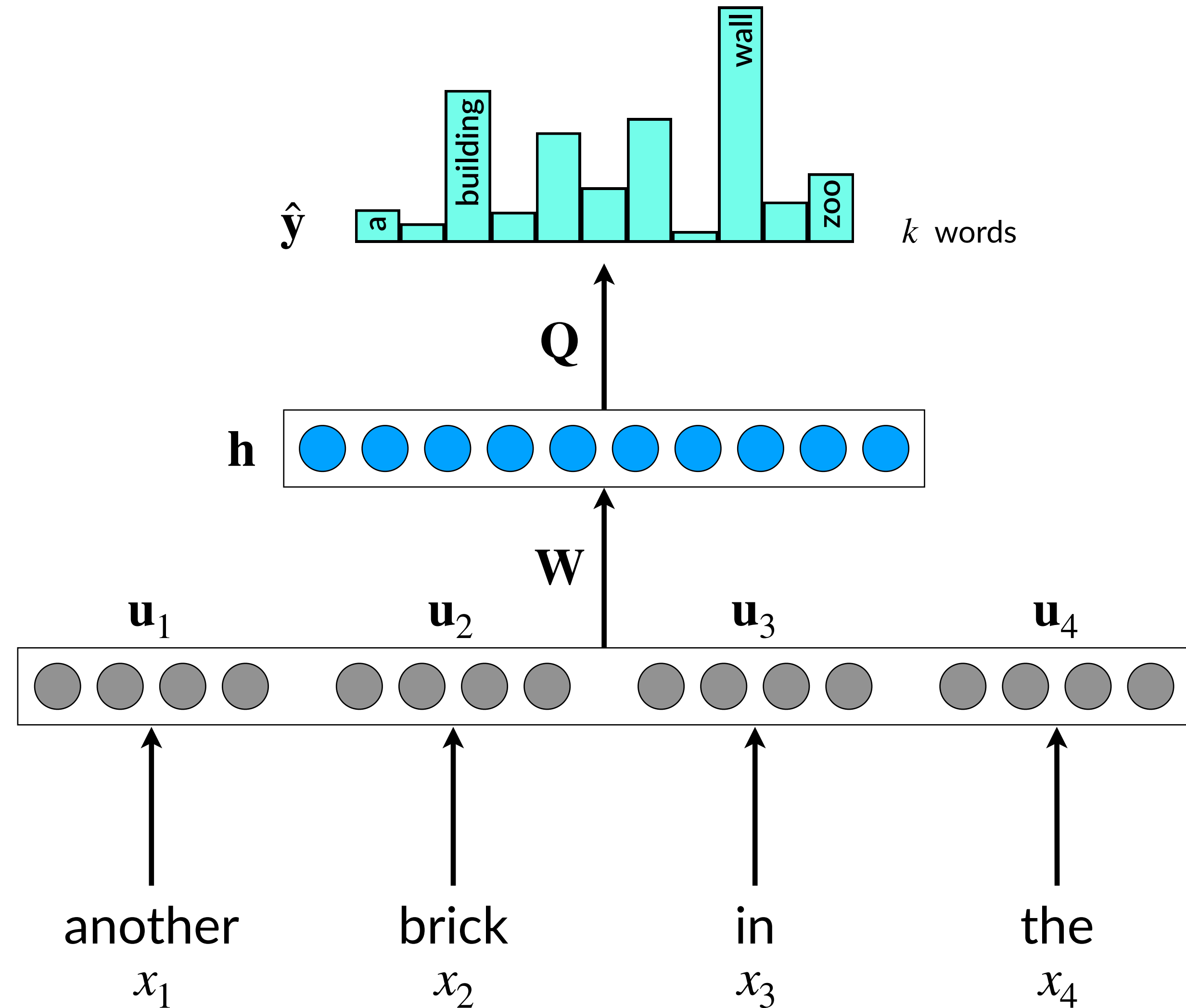
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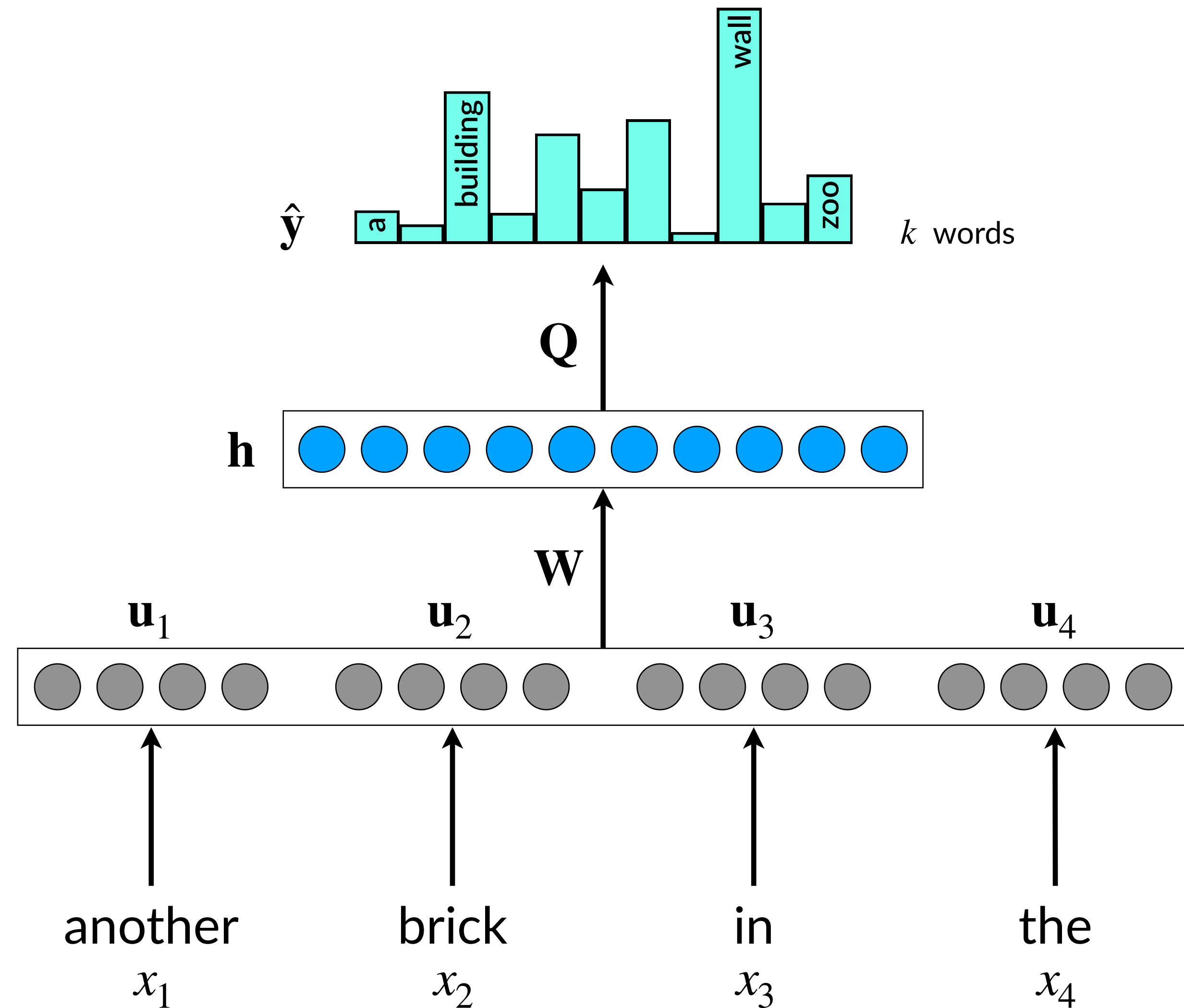


A foundational neural language model

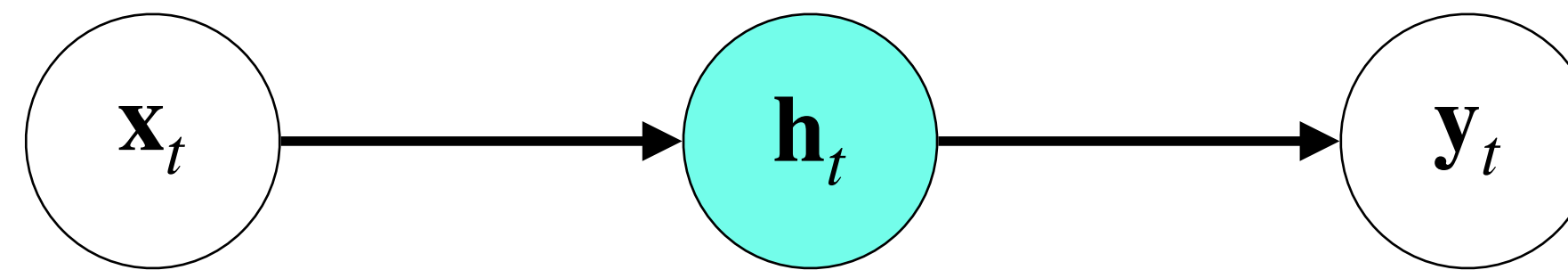
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$$\mathbf{u} = [\mathbf{u}_1; \mathbf{u}_2; \mathbf{u}_3; \mathbf{u}_4] \in \mathbb{R}^{4d}$$

Issues!

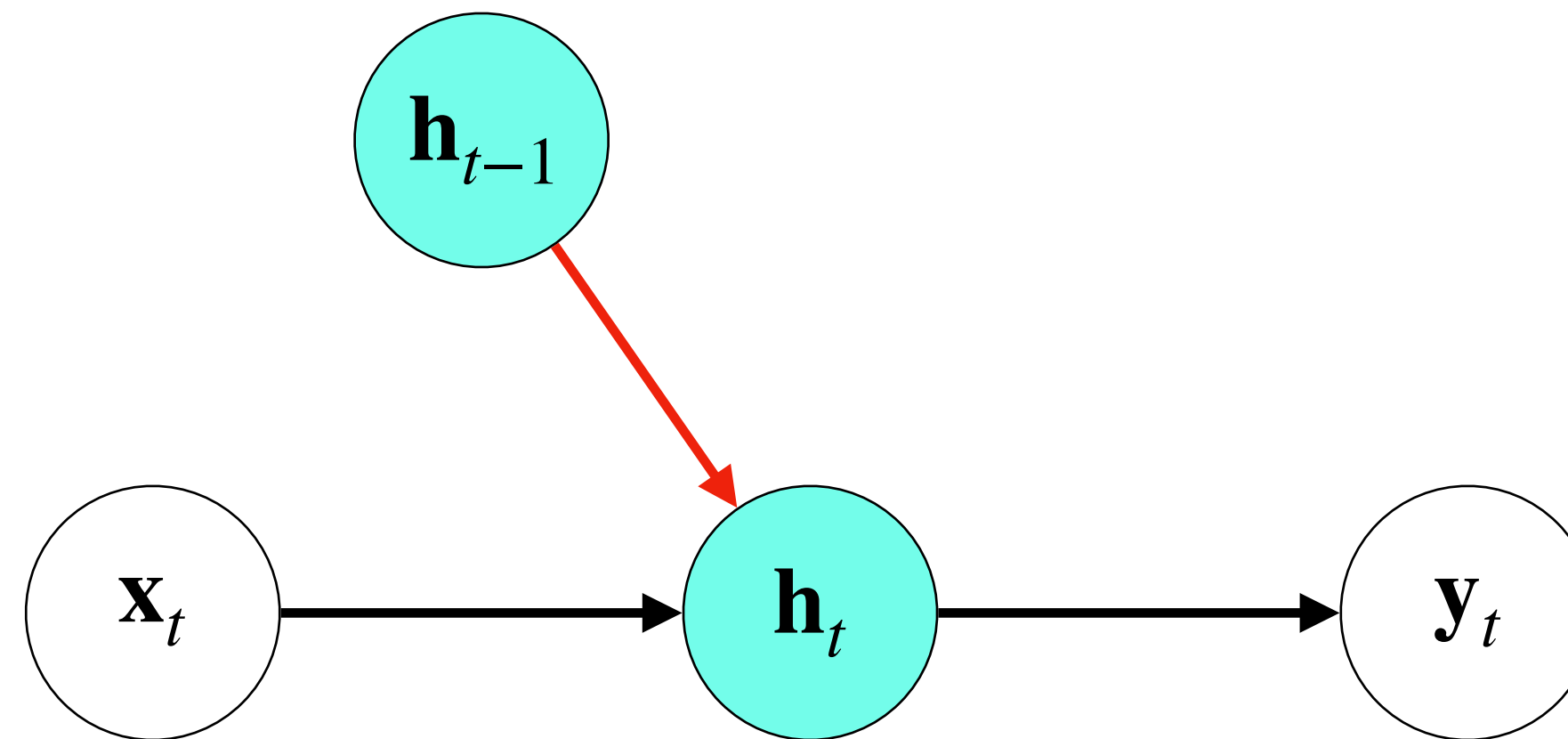
- ▶ context / window size is fixed
- ▶ \mathbf{W} grows if we increase the window
- ▶ word position is modelled explicitly and independently, i.e. there is no weight sharing between words



Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) – Intuition



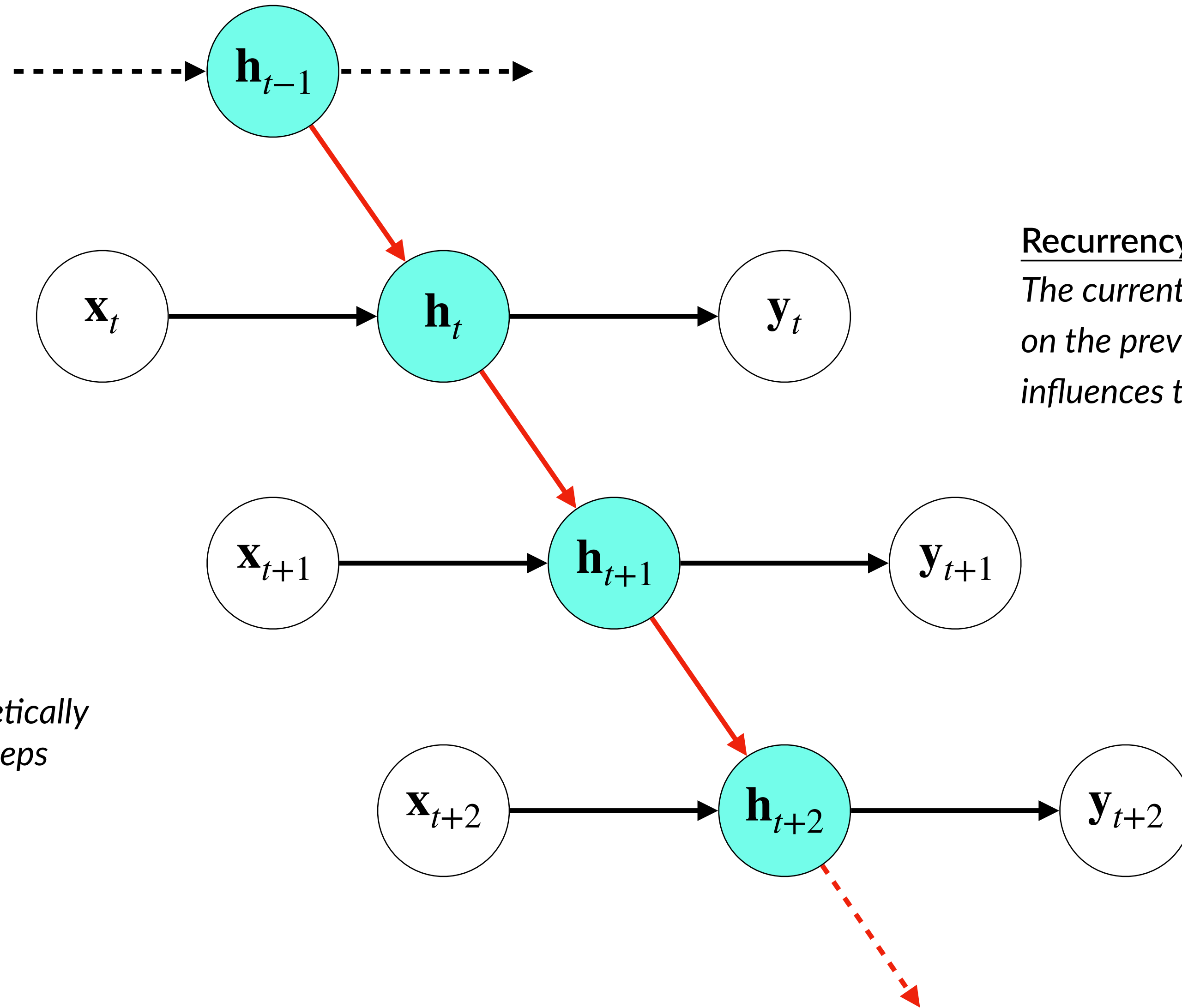
Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) – Intuition



Recurrency

The current hidden state h_t depends on the previous hidden state h_{t-1} and influences the next hidden state h_{t+1}

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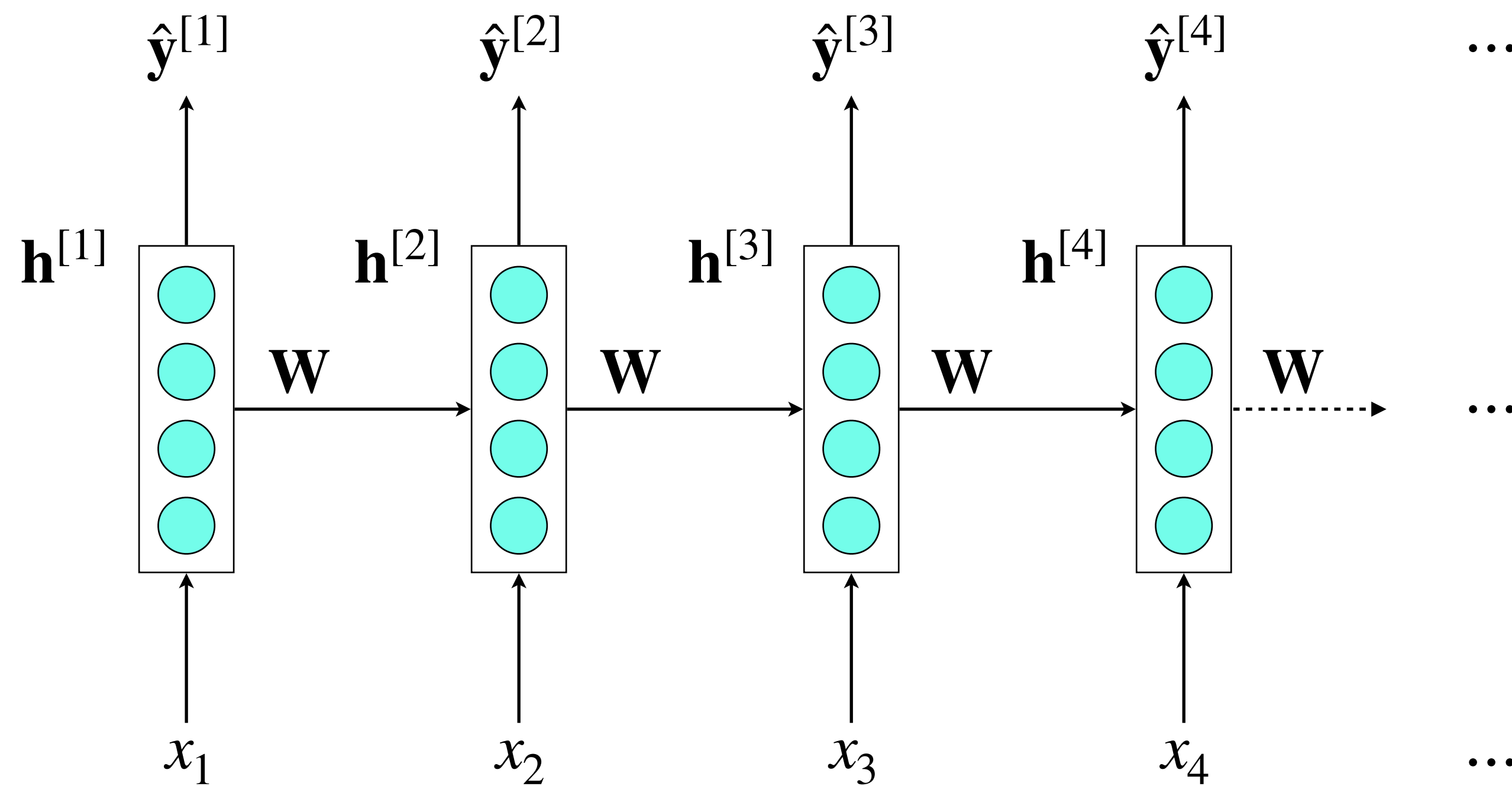


Recurrency

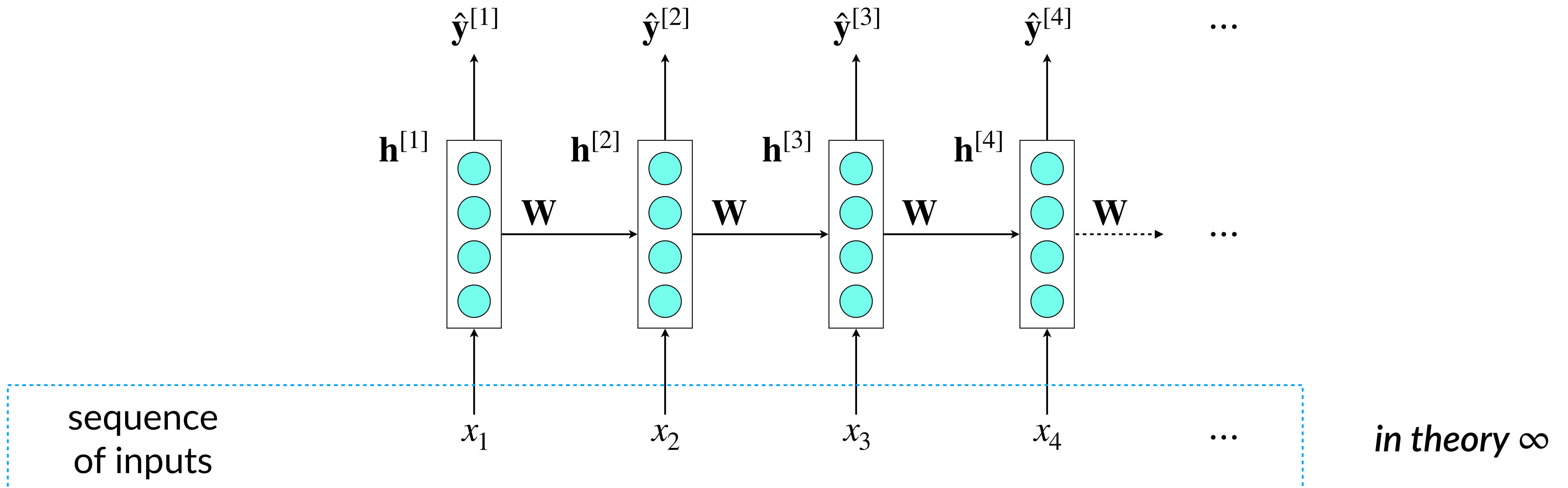
The current hidden state \mathbf{h}_t depends on the previous hidden state \mathbf{h}_{t-1} and influences the next hidden state \mathbf{h}_{t+1}

The RNN unrolls to a theoretically unlimited number of time steps

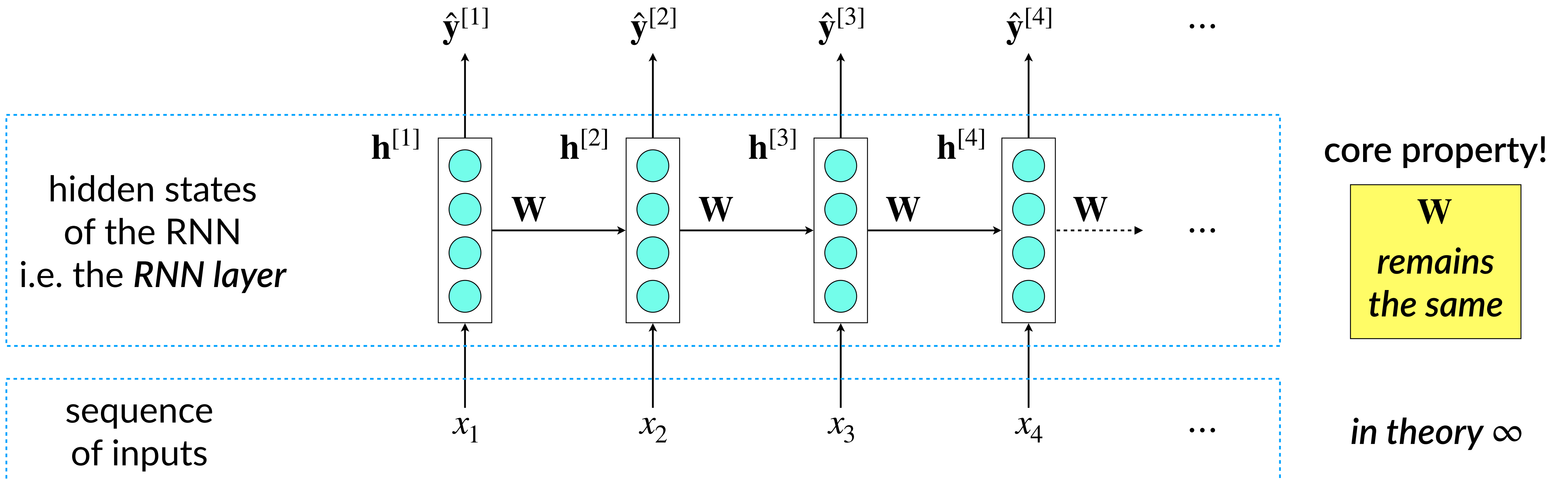
Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs)



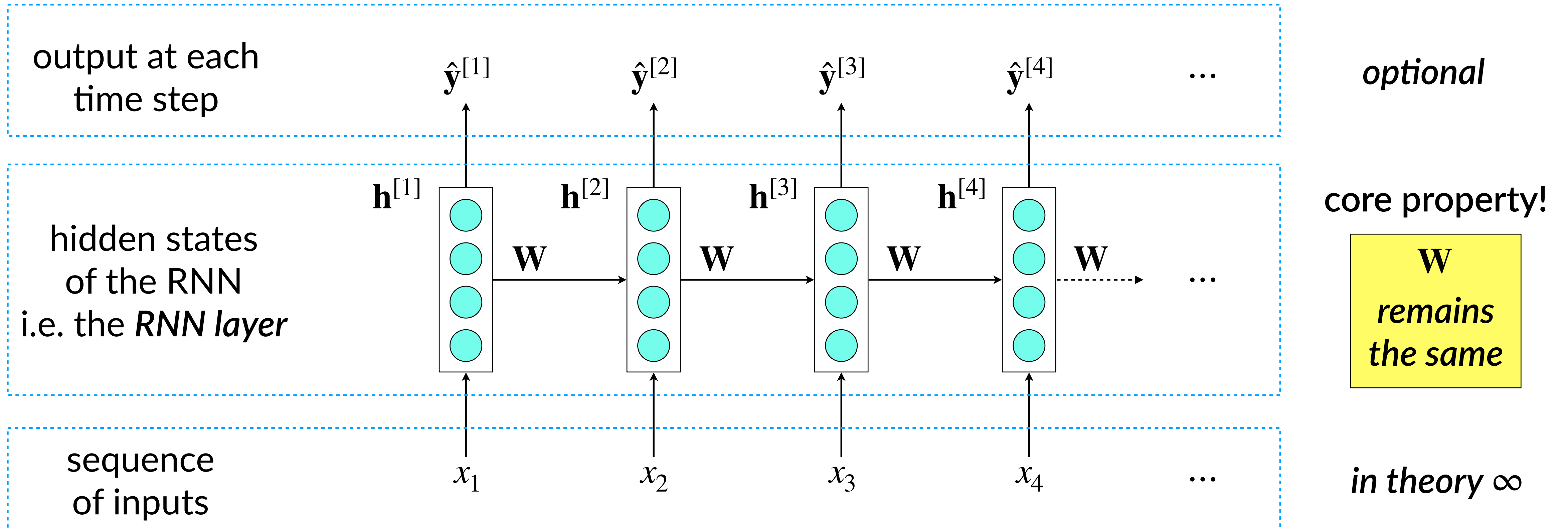
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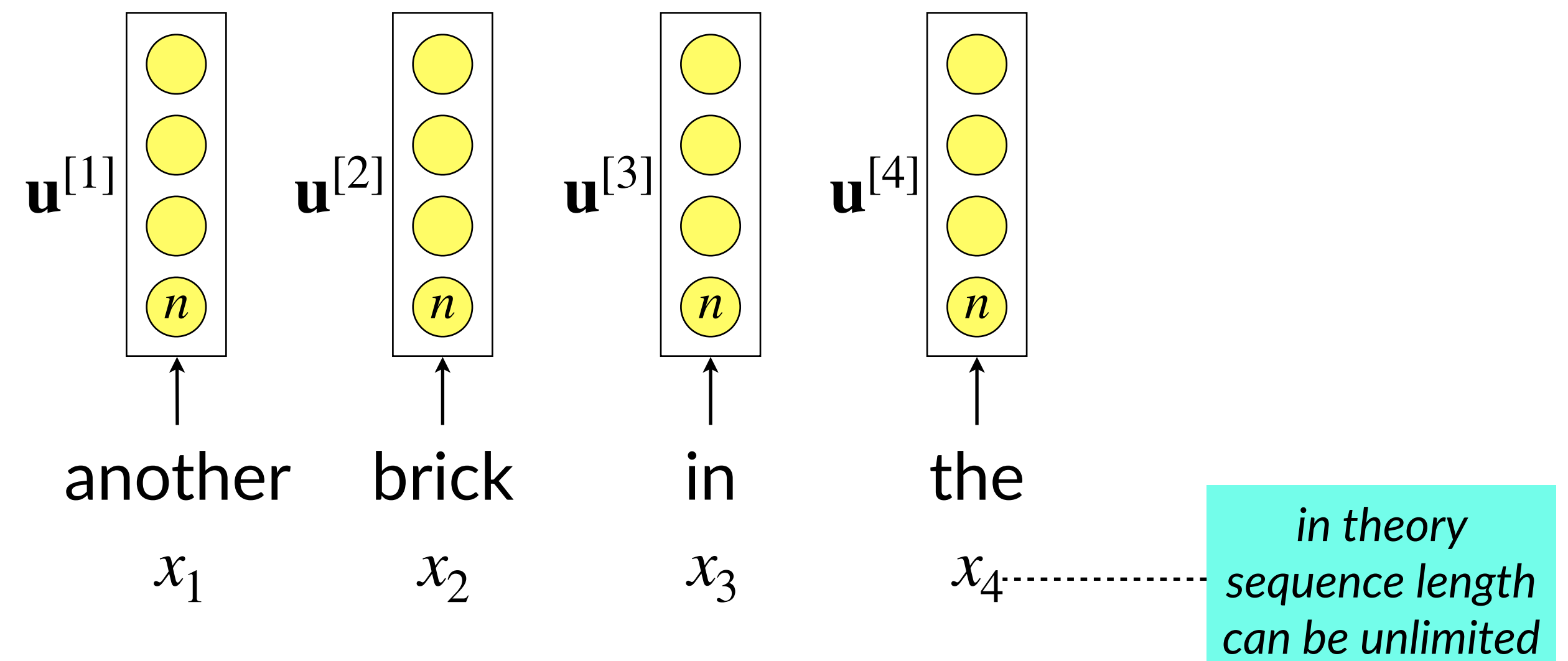
An RNN-based language model

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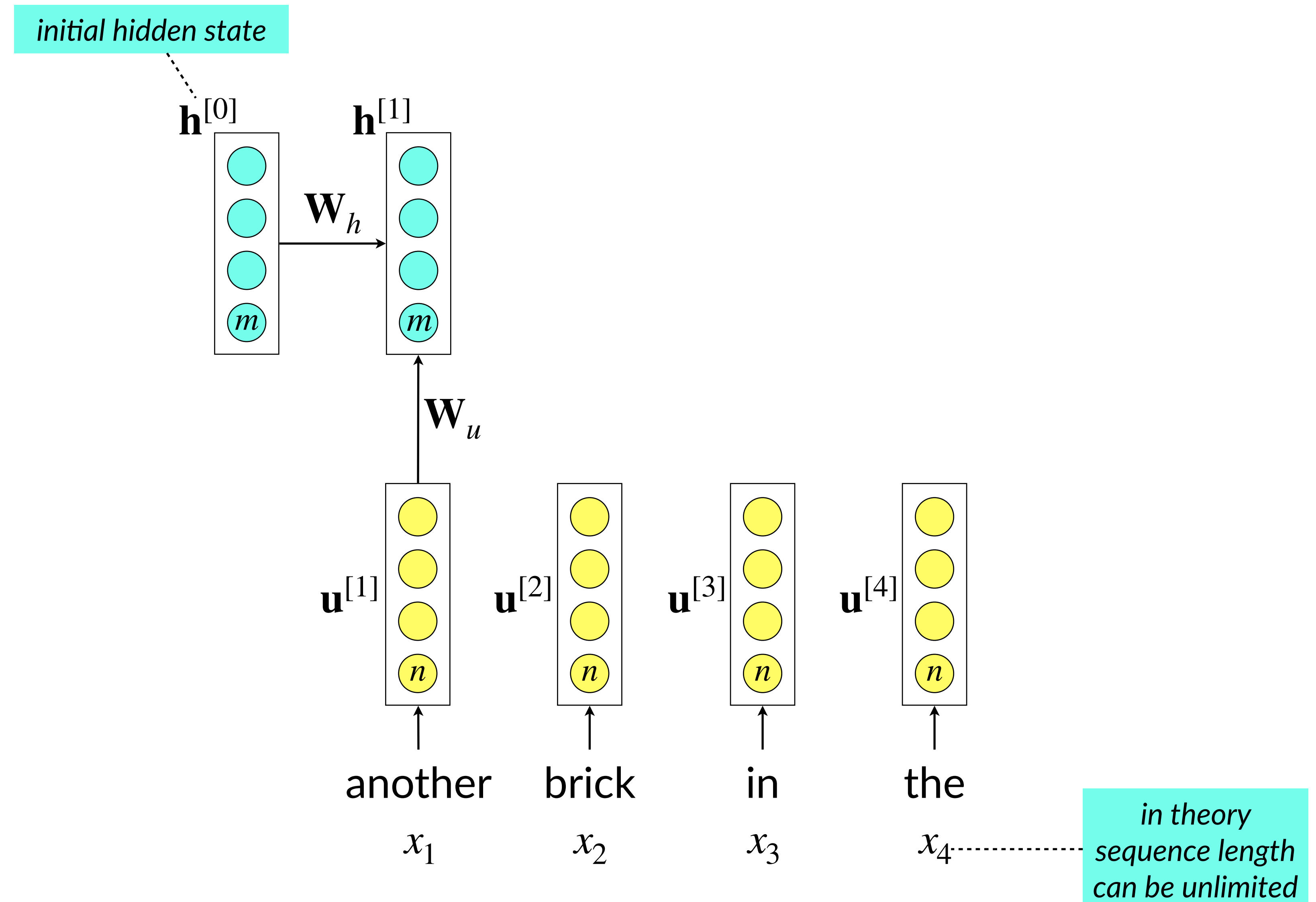
↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
another brick in the
 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4

*in theory
sequence length
can be unlimited*

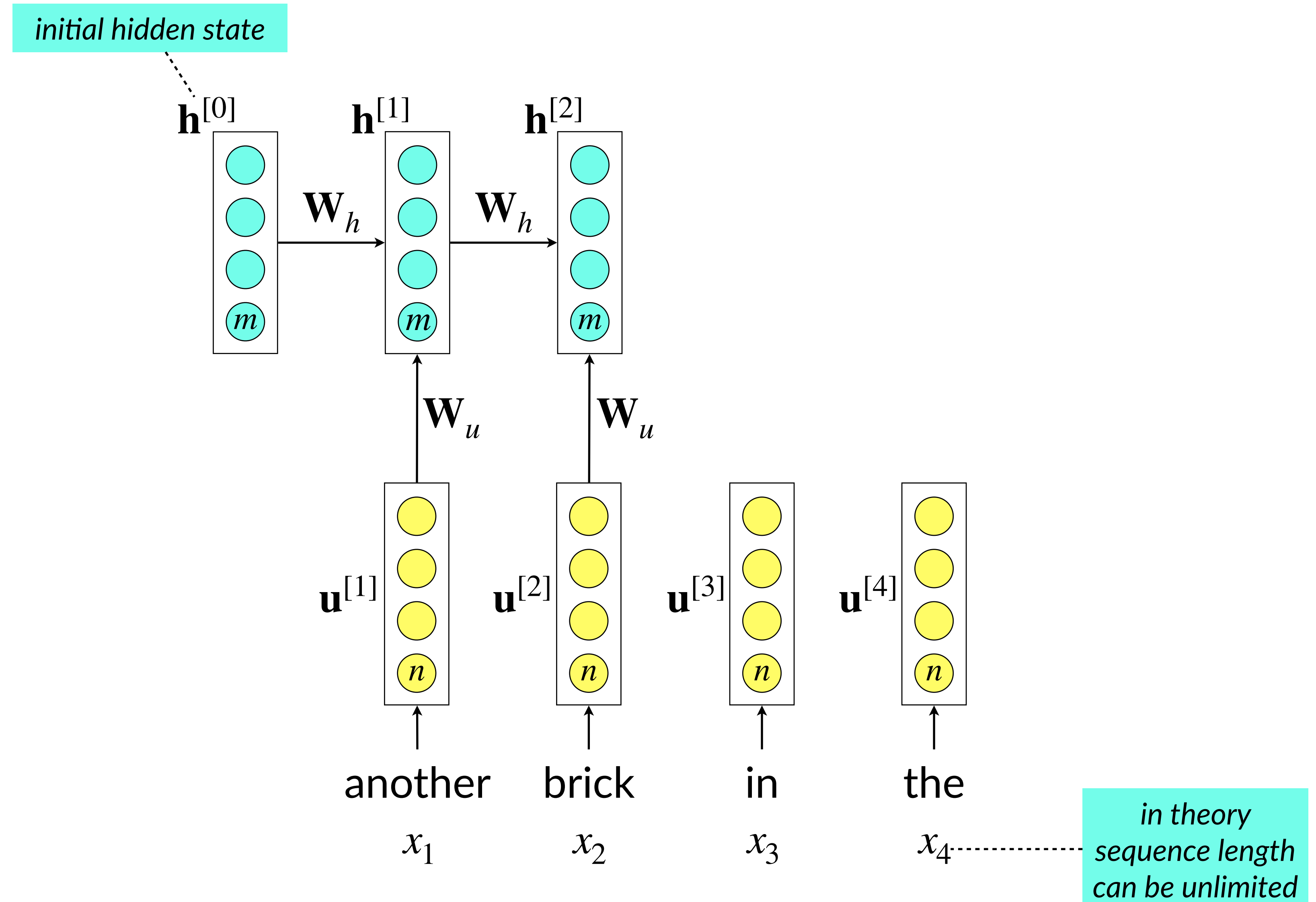
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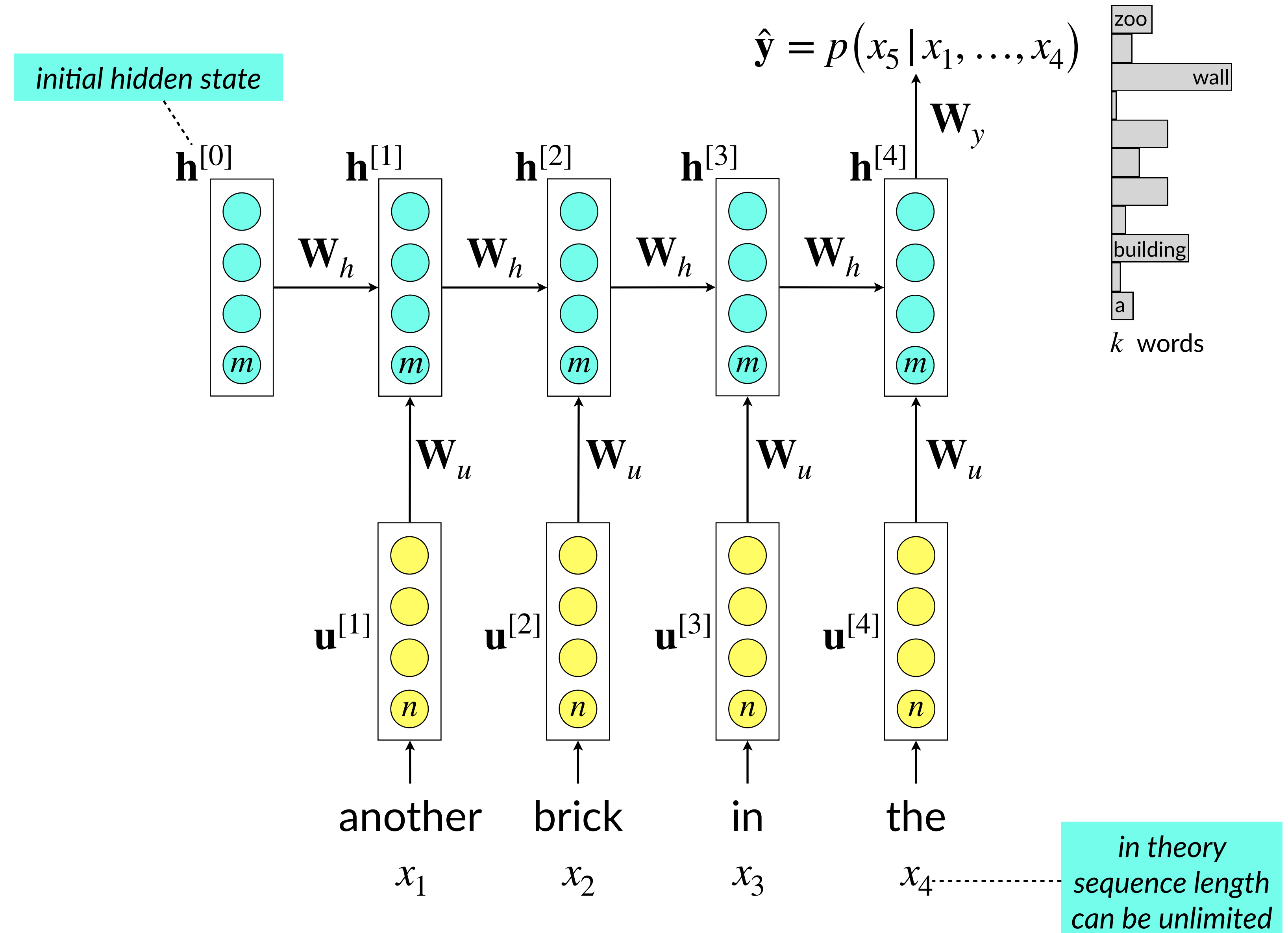
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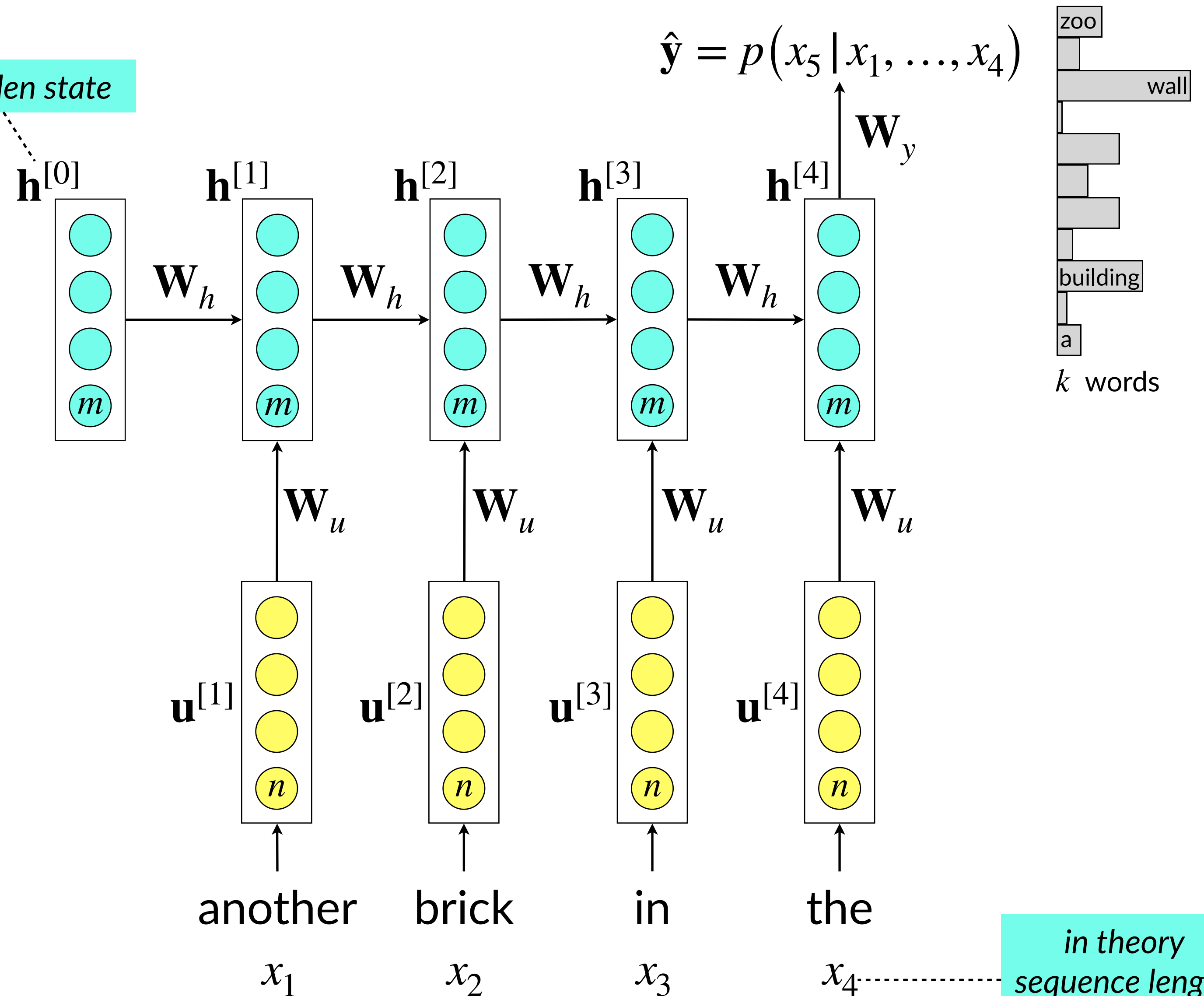
An RNN-based language model

Hidden states

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_u \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_h \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_h)$$

or use $\tanh(\cdot)$

initial hidden state



in theory
sequence length
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An RNN-based language model

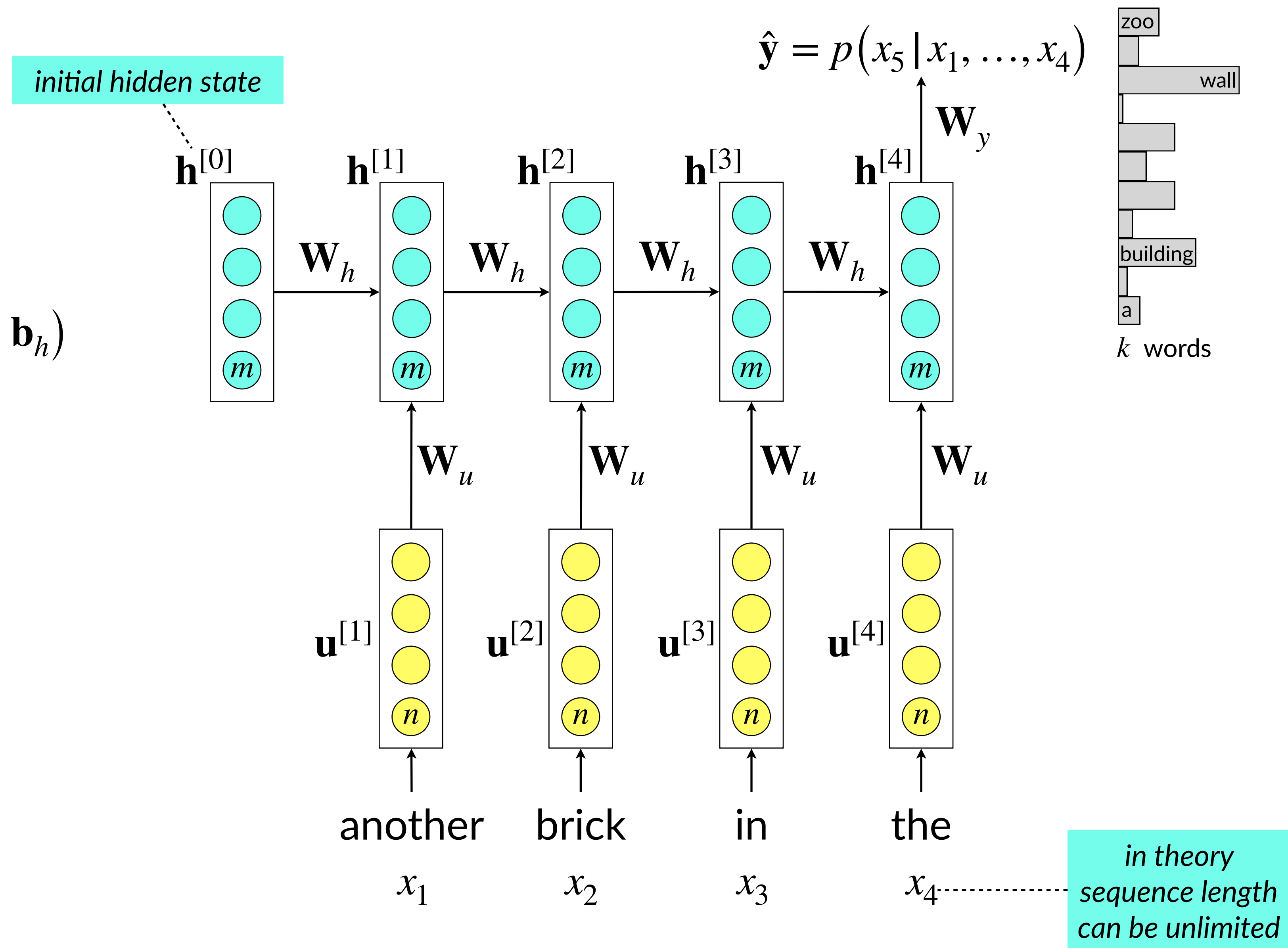
Output

$$\hat{y} = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{W}_y \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[4]} + \mathbf{b}_y)$$

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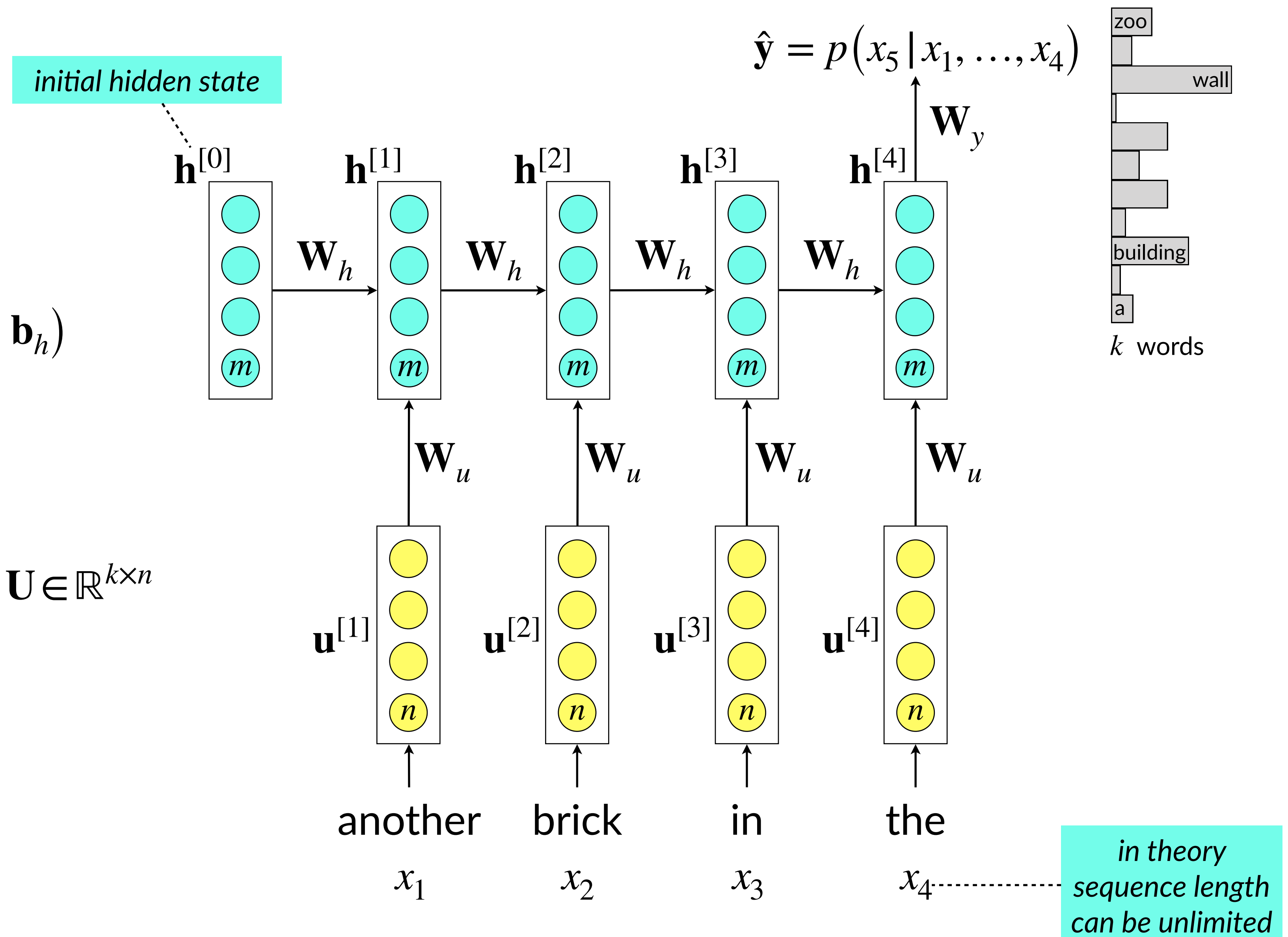
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or use $\tanh(\cdot)$

Dimensionalities?

$\mathbf{u}^{[t]} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ embedding of x_t from $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times n}$

$\mathbf{h}^{[t]}, \mathbf{b}_h \in \mathbb{R}^m$



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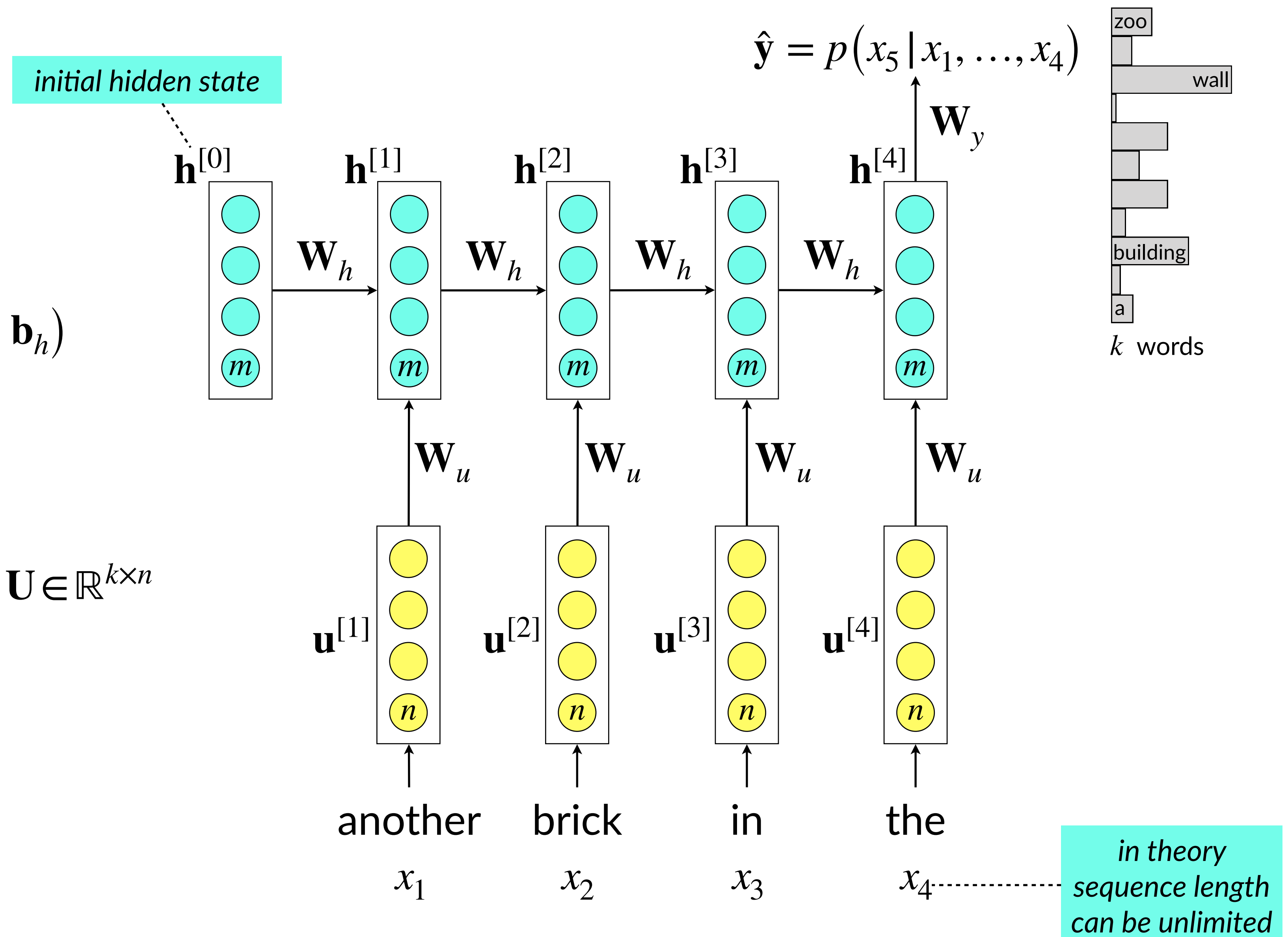
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$\hat{y}, \mathbf{b}_y \in \mathbb{R}^k$

$\mathbf{W}_u \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, \mathbf{W}_h \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$

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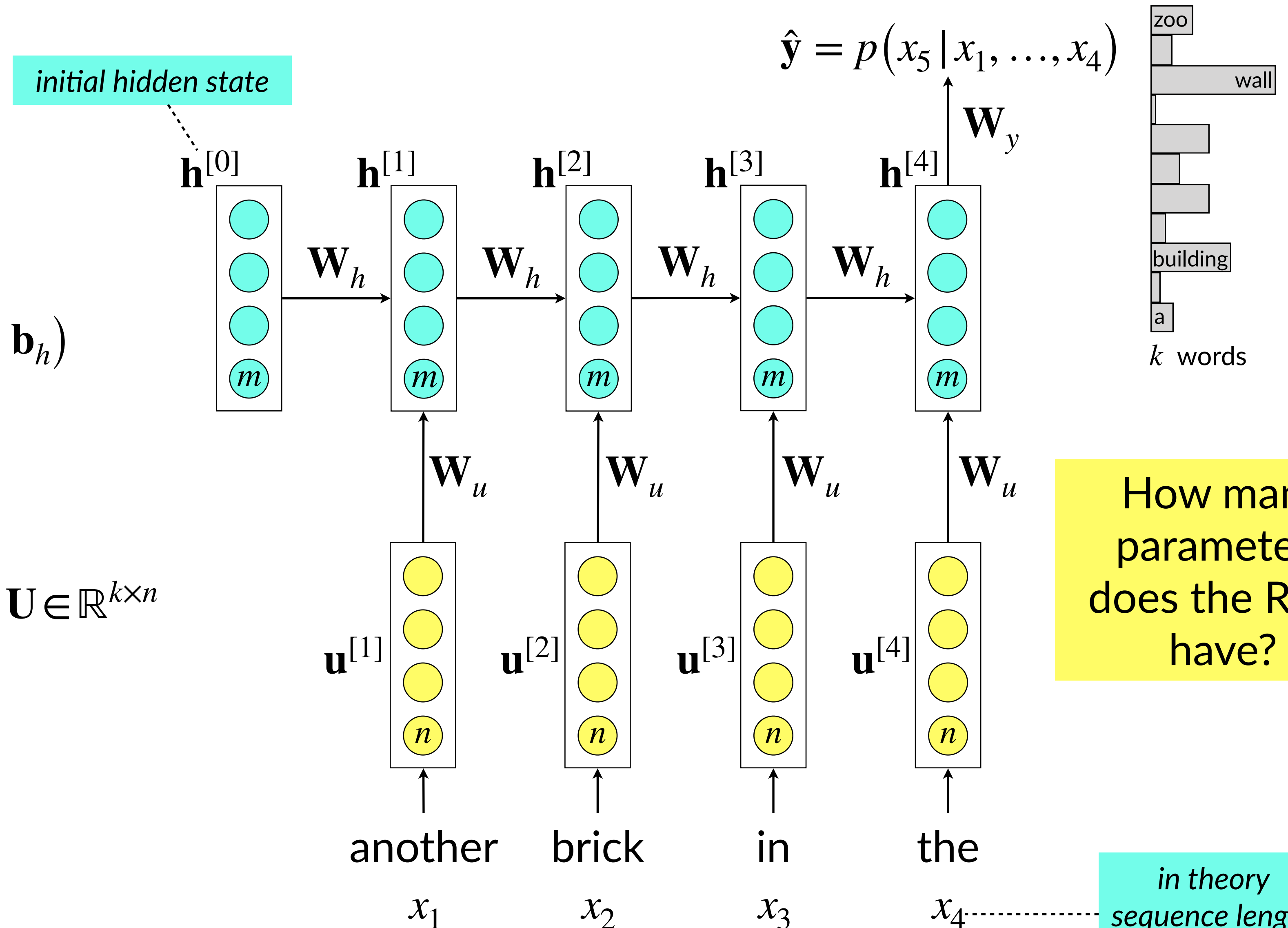
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initial hidden state



How many parameters does the RNN have?

in theory sequence length can be unlimited

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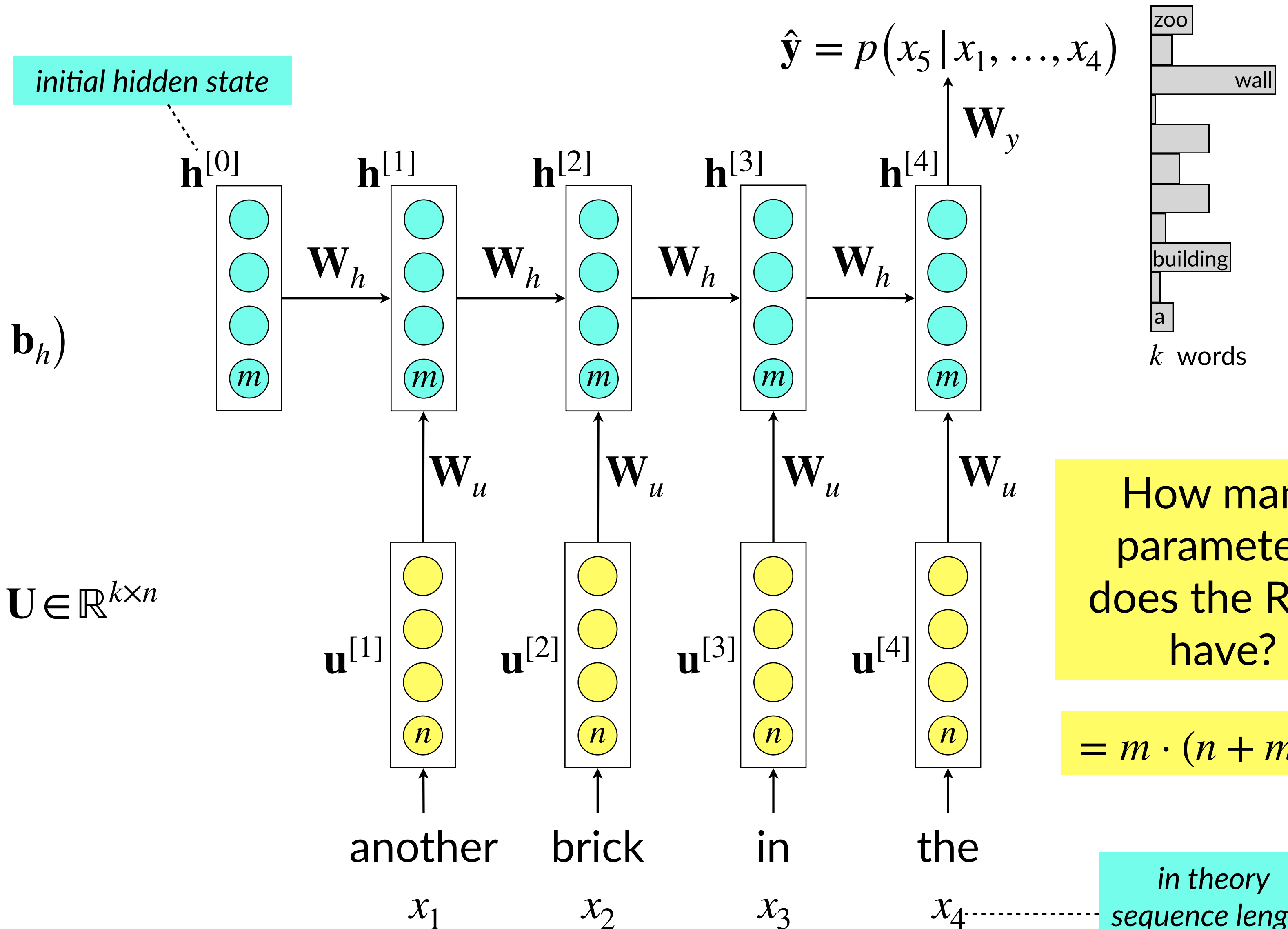
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$\mathbf{W}_y \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times m}$

initial hidden state



How many parameters does the RNN have?

$$= m \cdot (n + m + 1)$$

in theory sequence length can be unlimited

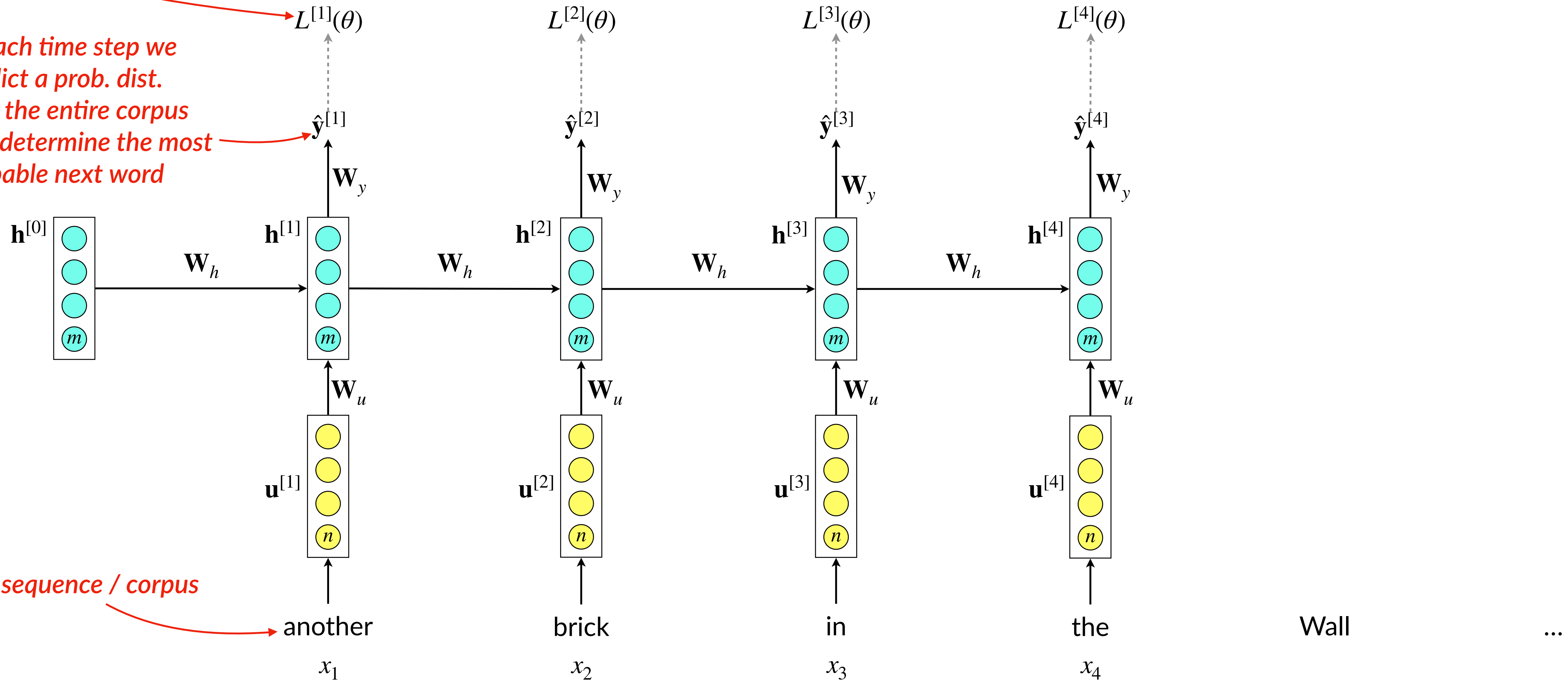
RNN training

$$\theta = [\mathbf{W}_u, \mathbf{W}_h, \mathbf{W}_y]$$

Loss at each time step

at each time step we predict a prob. dist. over the entire corpus and determine the most probable next word

text sequence / corpus



RNN training

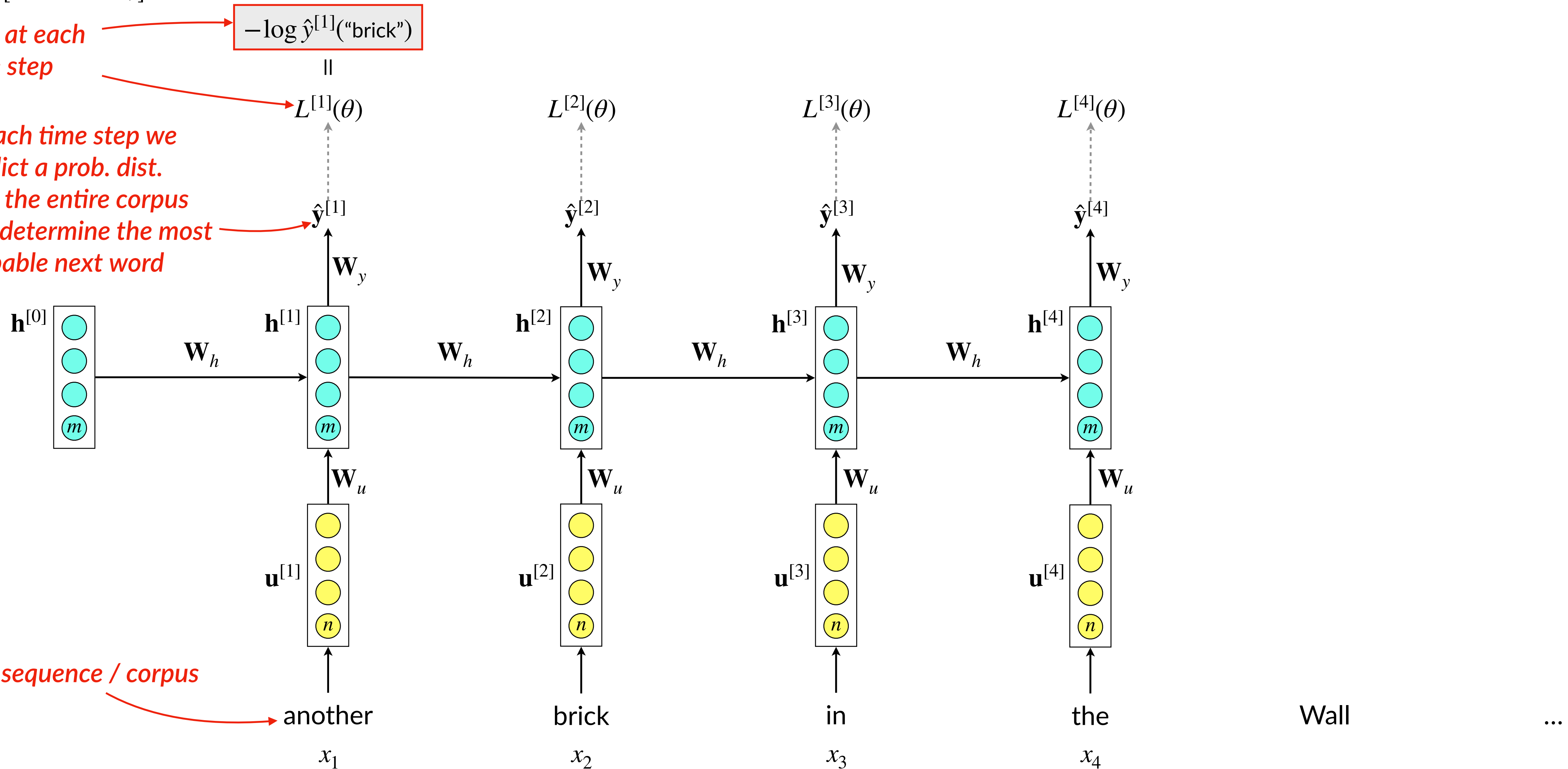
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Loss at each time step

$$-\log \hat{y}^{[1]}(\text{"brick"})$$

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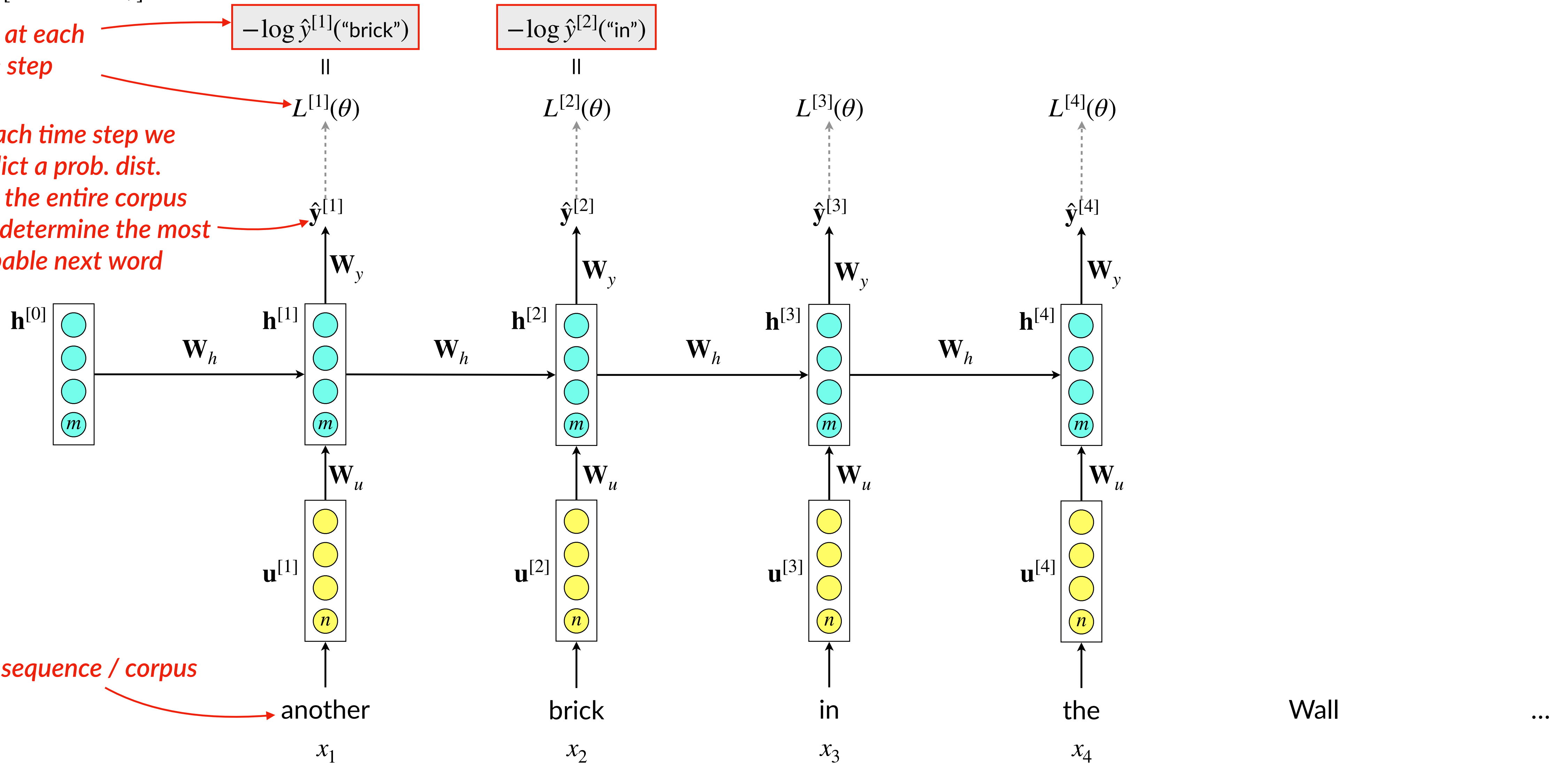
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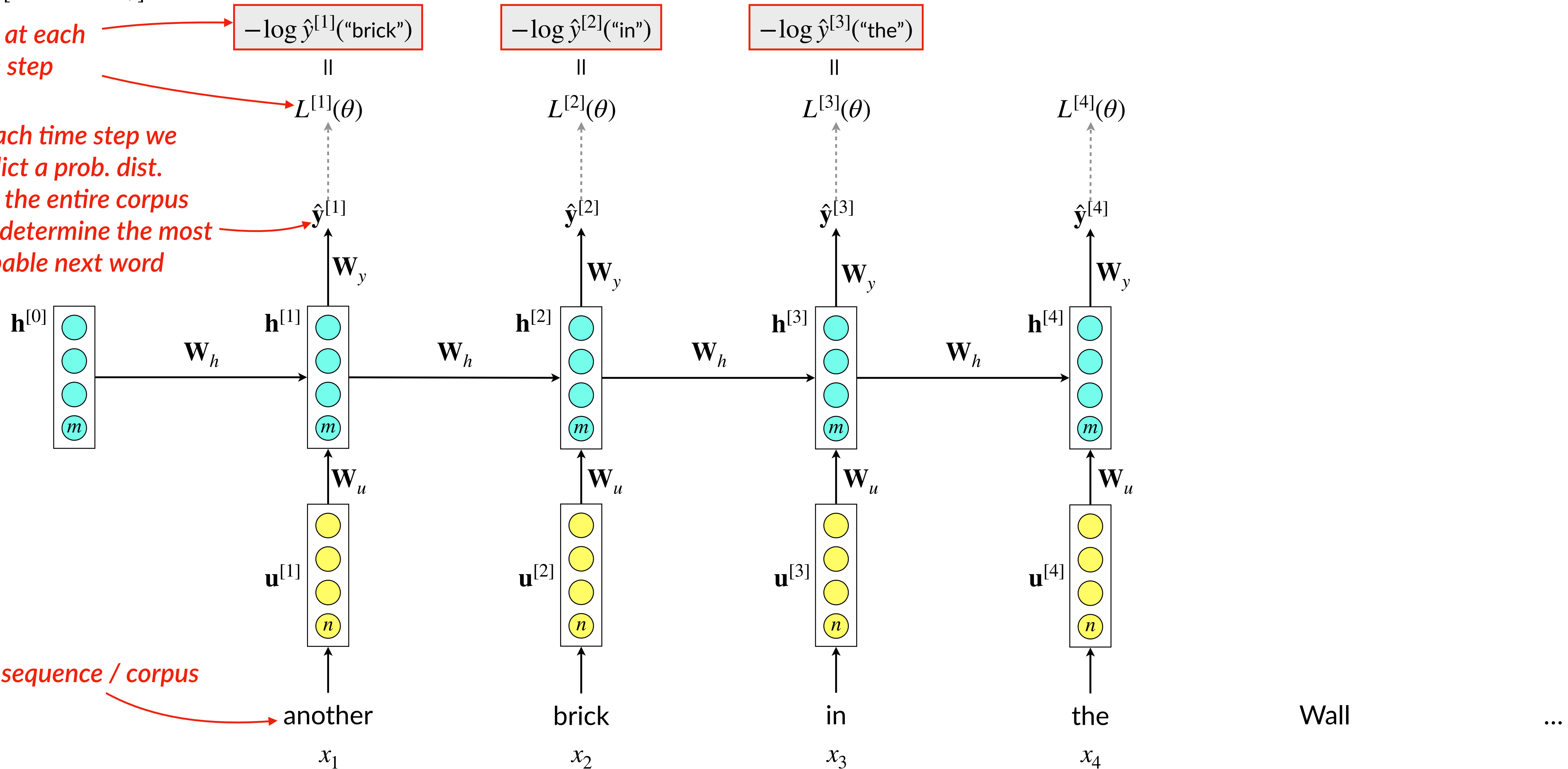
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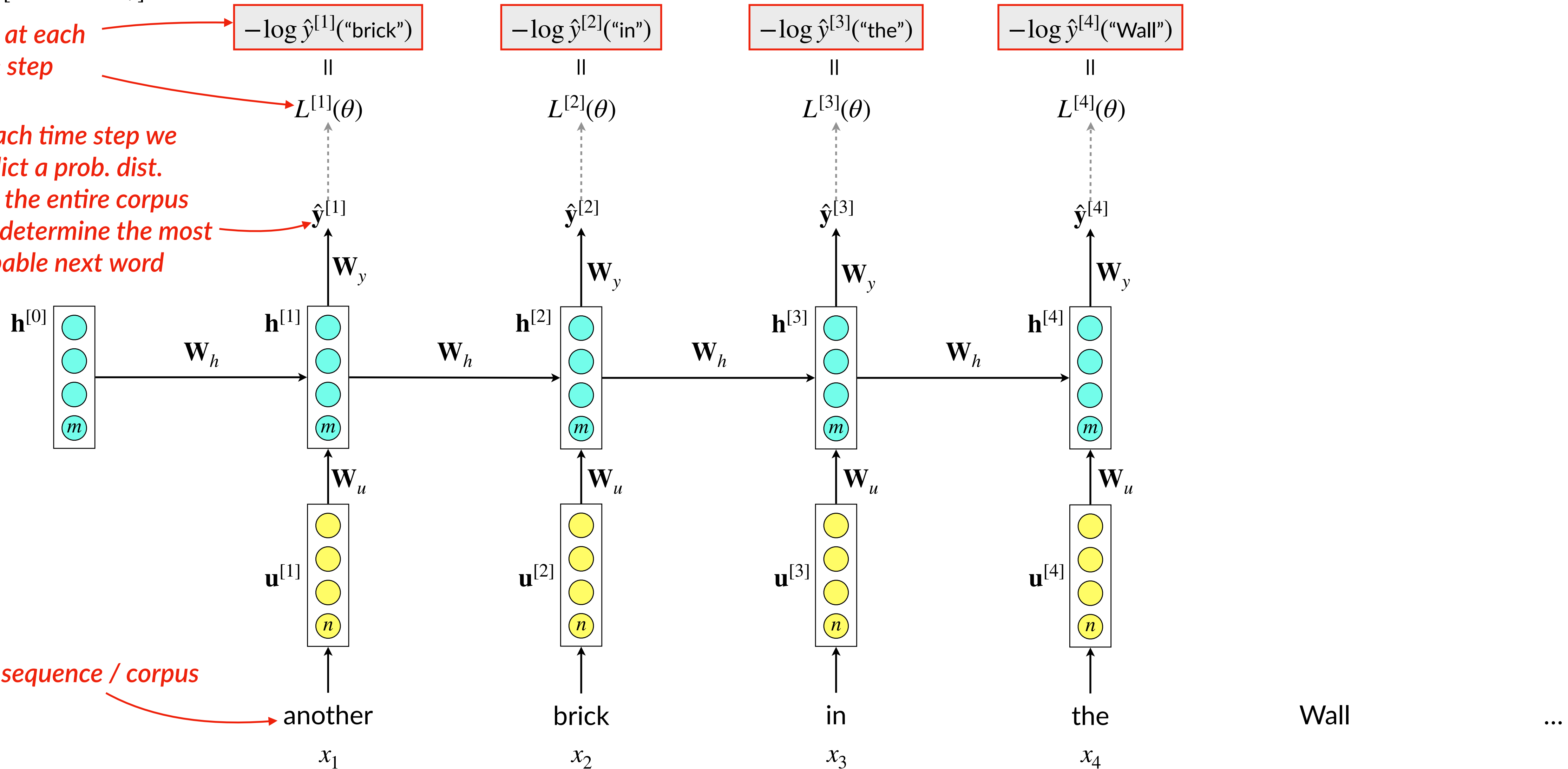
$$-\log \hat{y}^{[2]}(\text{"in"})$$

$$-\log \hat{y}^{[3]}(\text{"the"})$$

$$-\log \hat{y}^{[4]}(\text{"Wall"})$$

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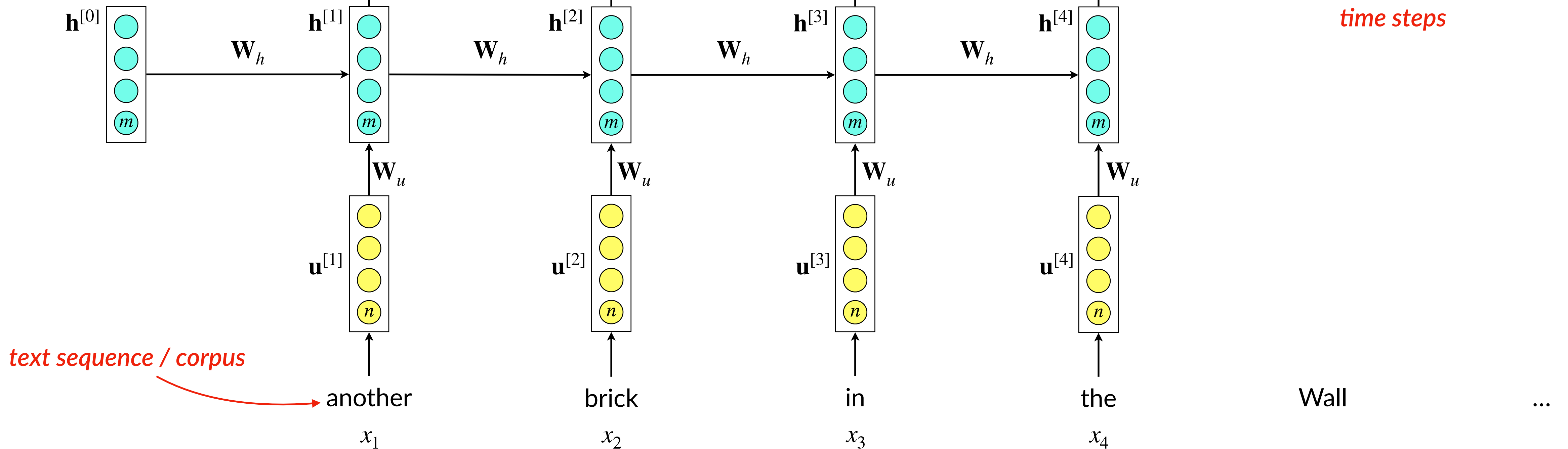
Loss at each time step

$$-\log \hat{y}^{[1]}(\text{"brick"}) + -\log \hat{y}^{[2]}(\text{"in"}) + -\log \hat{y}^{[3]}(\text{"the"}) + -\log \hat{y}^{[4]}(\text{"Wall"}) + \dots$$

at each time step we predict a prob. dist. over the entire corpus and determine the most probable next word

$$= L(\theta) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T L^{[t]}(\theta)$$

cumulative cross-entropy loss, i.e. the mean loss across all time steps



- ▶ The number of tokens, T , across a large corpus is obviously quite large!

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T L^{[t]}(\theta)$$

- ▶ Computing $L(\theta)$ becomes too computationally expensive...
- ▶ Instead we (*once again*) work with a specified window of text, say a sentence
- ▶ We compute $L(\theta)$ for a batch of sentences, then compute the gradient of the loss with respect to the parameters of the network, and then update the parameters.
- ▶ We repeat this on a new batch until we eventually pass across the entire corpus.
- ▶ And then we go back to the beginning and repeat the entire process (*a new training epoch*), if necessary.

RNN training *in practice*

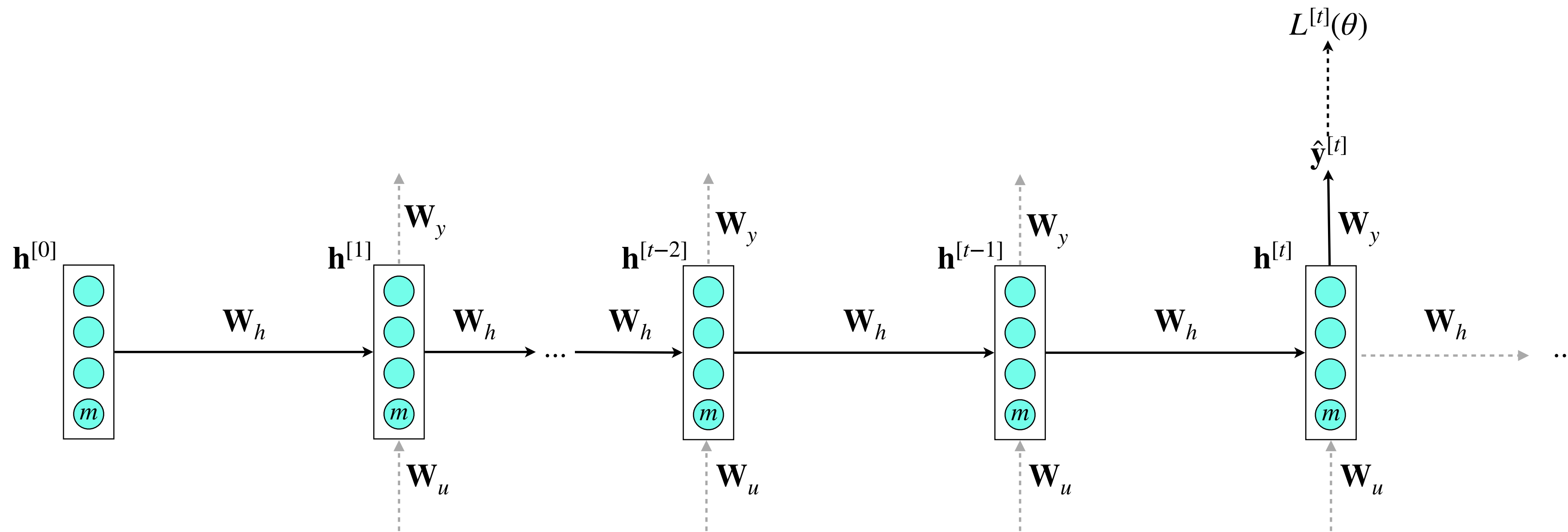
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how?

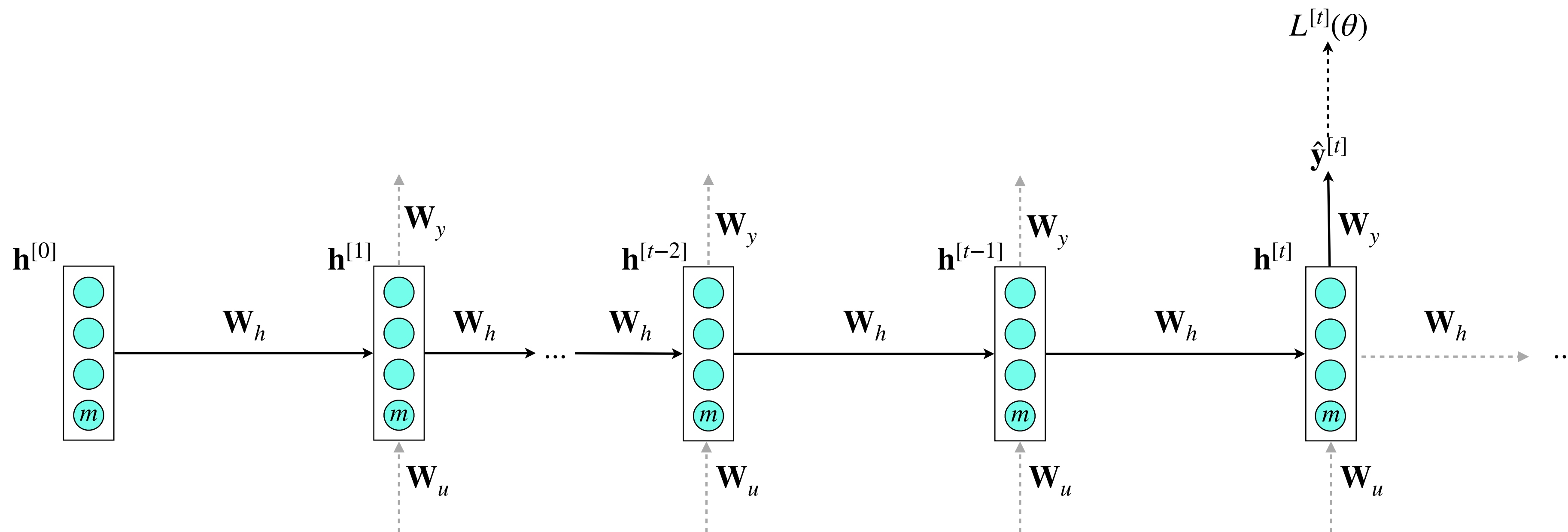
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Training the parameters of RNNs



During training, one of the derivatives we need to estimate is: $\frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h}$

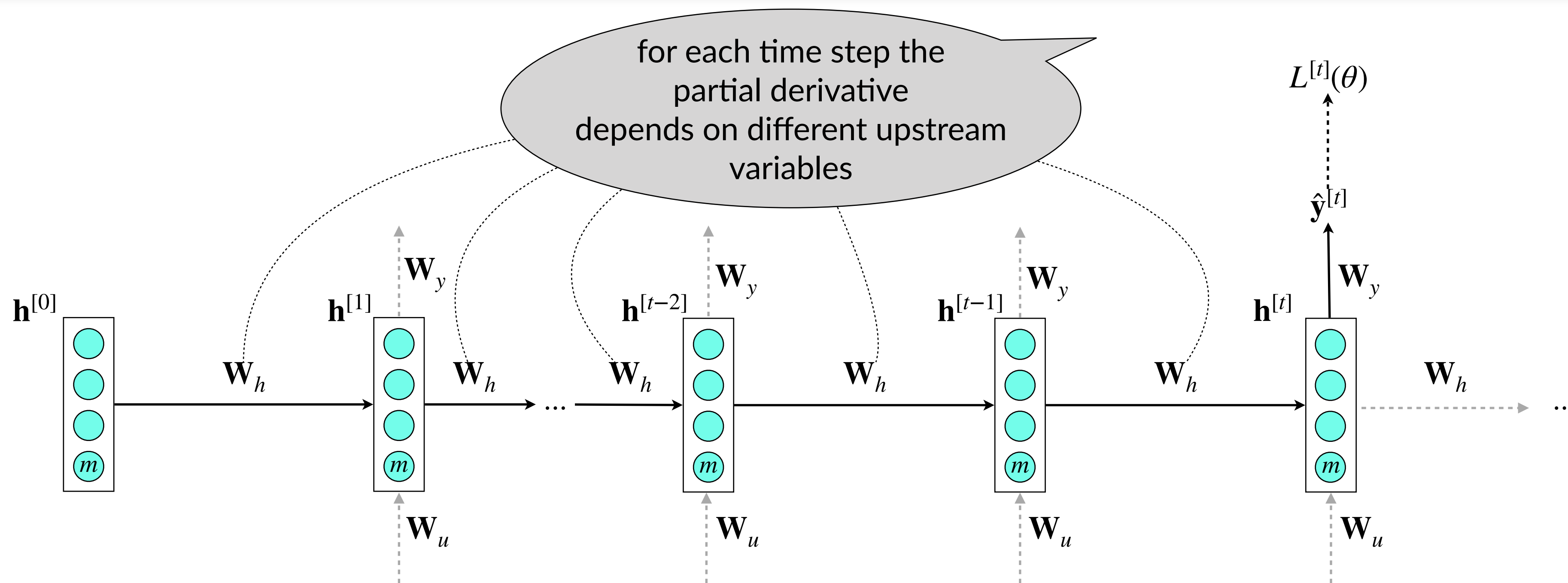
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This is given by: $\frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \sum_{i=1}^t \frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} \Big|_{(i)}$ *we are summing up the gradients at each time step*

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Multivariable chain rule

Total derivative of a multivariable function $f(x(t), y(t))$ that depends on two single variable functions $x(t)$ and $y(t)$

$$\frac{d}{dt} f(x(t), y(t)) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt}$$

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Example

$$f(x, y) = 3x + y^2$$

$$x(t) = t^2$$

$$y(t) = t - 1$$

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trivial solution
(*not always possible*)

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$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y) &= 3x(t) + y(t)^2 \\ &= 3t^2 + (t - 1)^2 \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y) &= 3x(t) + y(t)^2 \\ &= 3t^2 + (t - 1)^2 \\ &= 4t^2 - 2t + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Multivariable chain rule

Total derivative of a multivariable function $f(x(t), y(t))$ that depends on two single variable functions $x(t)$ and $y(t)$

$$\frac{d}{dt} f(x(t), y(t)) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt}$$

Example

$$f(x, y) = 3x + y^2$$

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multivariate
chain rule

$$\frac{df}{dt} = 3$$

Multivariable chain rule

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$$\frac{d}{dt} f(x(t), y(t)) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt}$$

Example

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trivial solution
(not always possible)

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y) &= 3x(t) + y(t)^2 \\ &= 3t^2 + (t - 1)^2 \\ &= 4t^2 - 2t + 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{df}{dt} = 8t - 2$$

multivariate
chain rule

$$\frac{df}{dt} = 3 \cdot 2t +$$

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$$f(x, y) = 3x + y^2$$

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$$\frac{df}{dt} = 8t - 2$$

multivariate
chain rule

$$\frac{df}{dt} = 3 \cdot 2t + 2y$$

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$$\frac{df}{dt} = 8t - 2$$

multivariate
chain rule

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{df}{dt} &= 3 \cdot 2t + 2y \cdot 1 \\ &= 6t + 2(t - 1) \end{aligned}$$

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Example

$$f(x, y) = 3x + y^2$$

$$x(t) = t^2$$

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helpful when a function is unknown!

trivial solution
(not always possible)

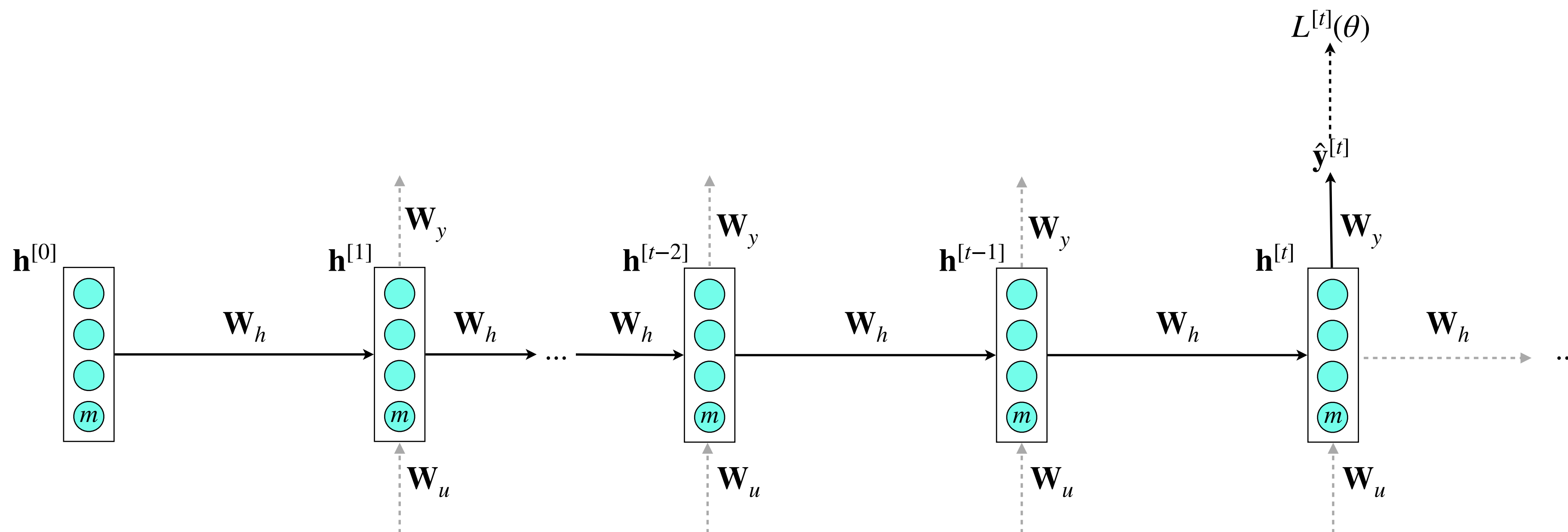
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Backpropagation Through Time (BPTT)

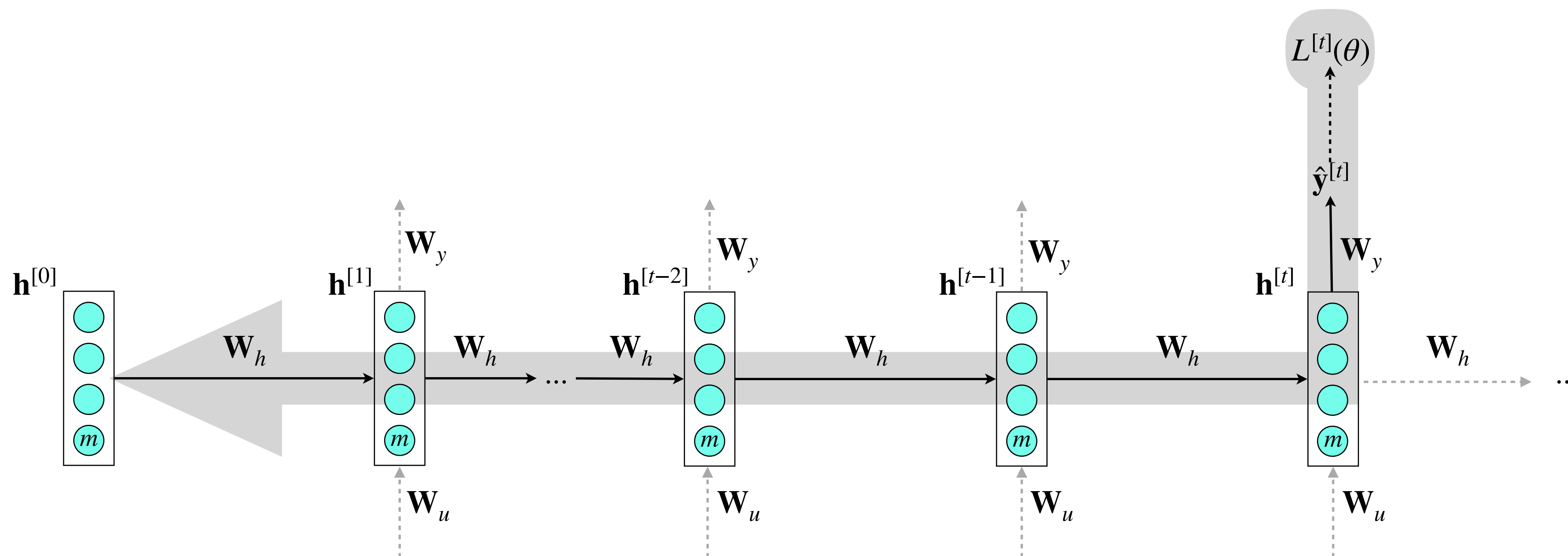


$$\frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \sum_{i=1}^t \frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} \Big|_{(i)}$$

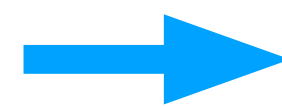


backpropagation over time steps $t, t - 1, \dots, 0$, summing gradients, a.k.a. backpropagation through time (BPTT)

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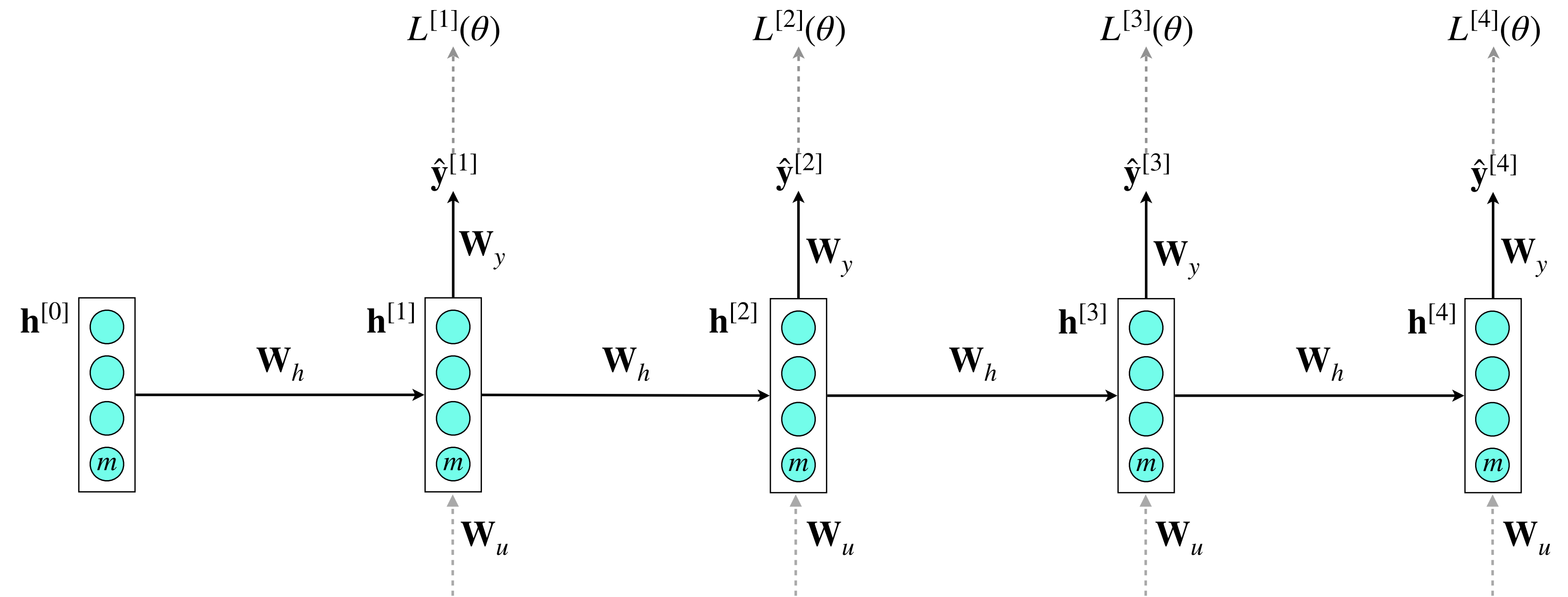


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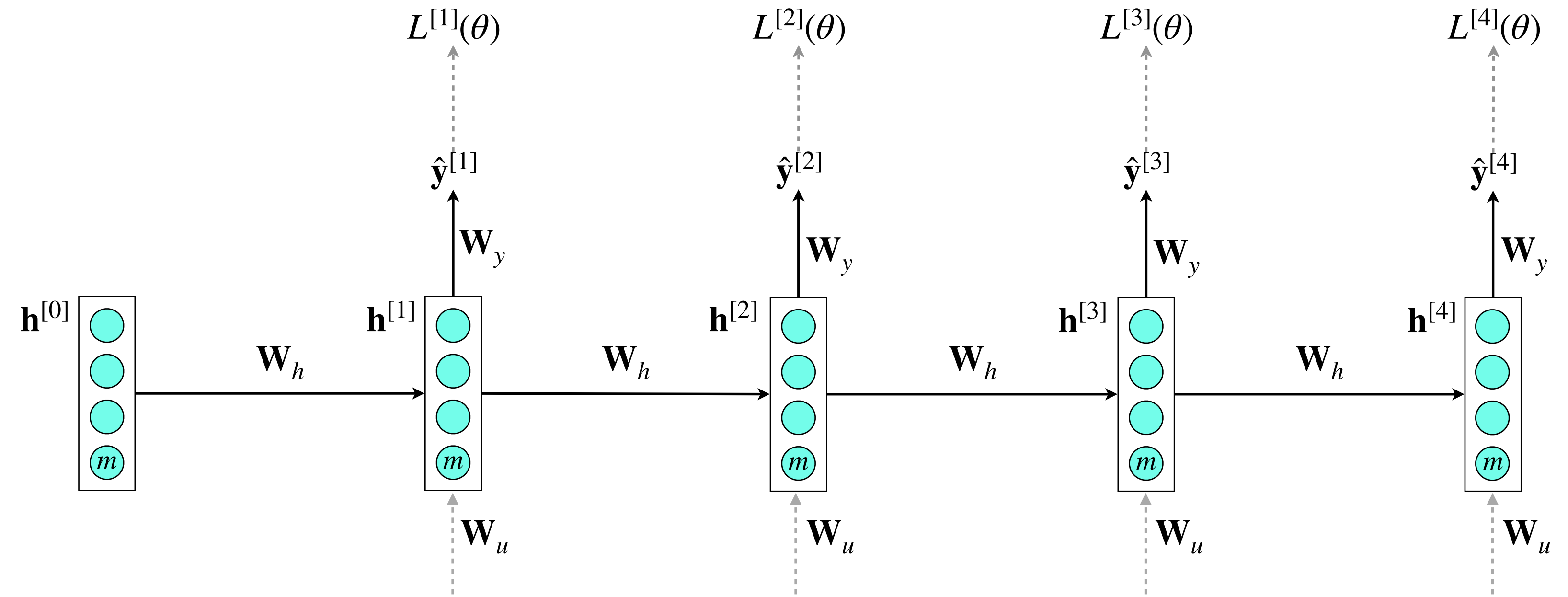
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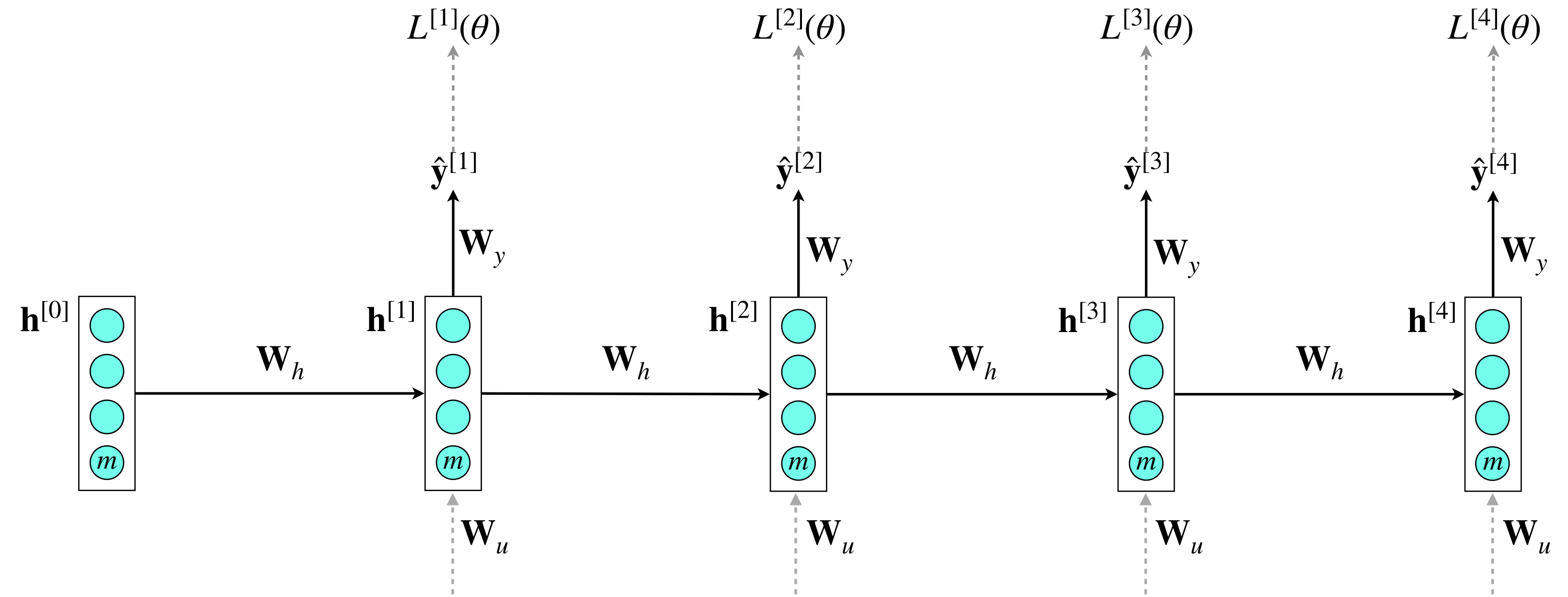
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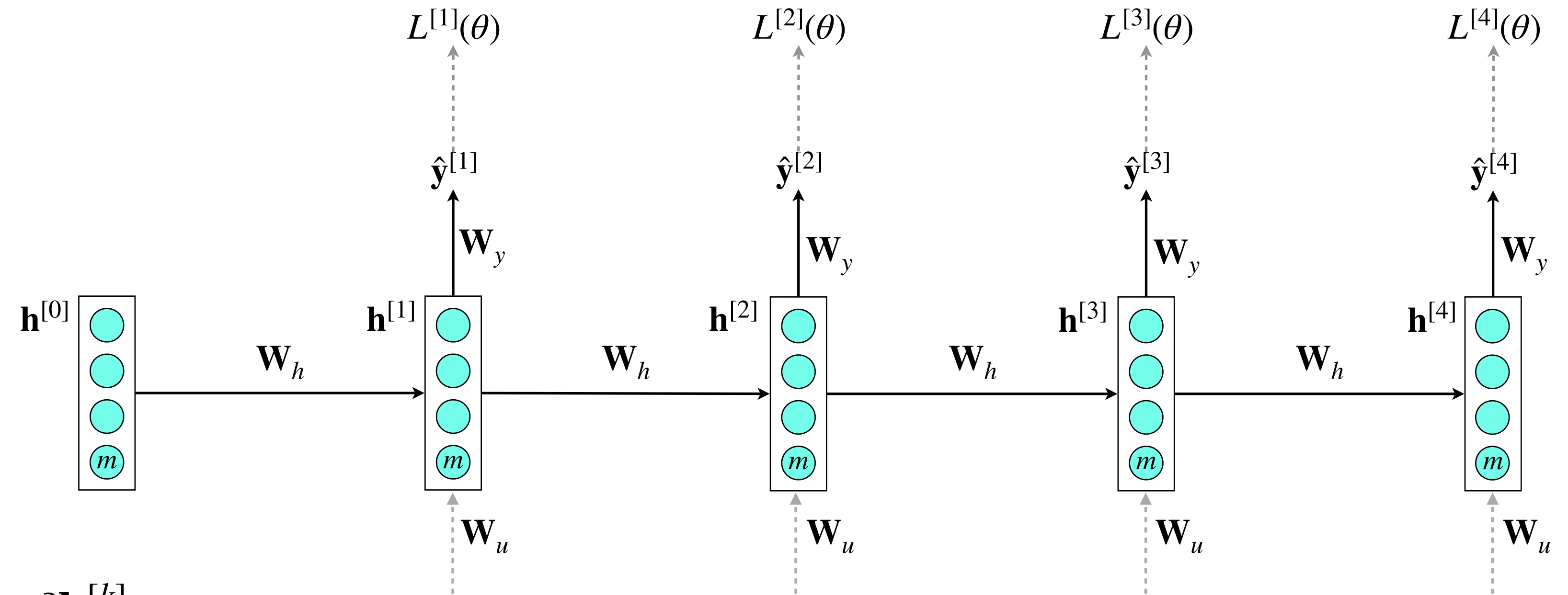


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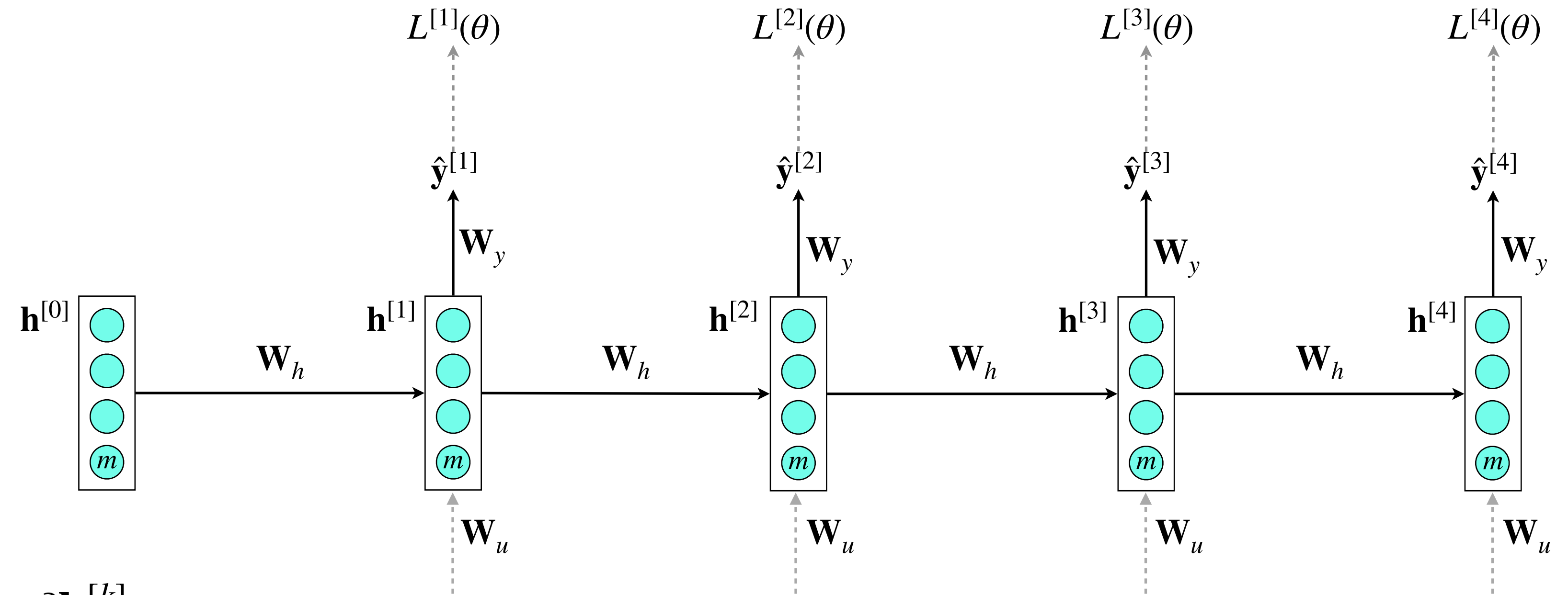
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$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[k]}} = \prod_{j=k+1}^t \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}}$$



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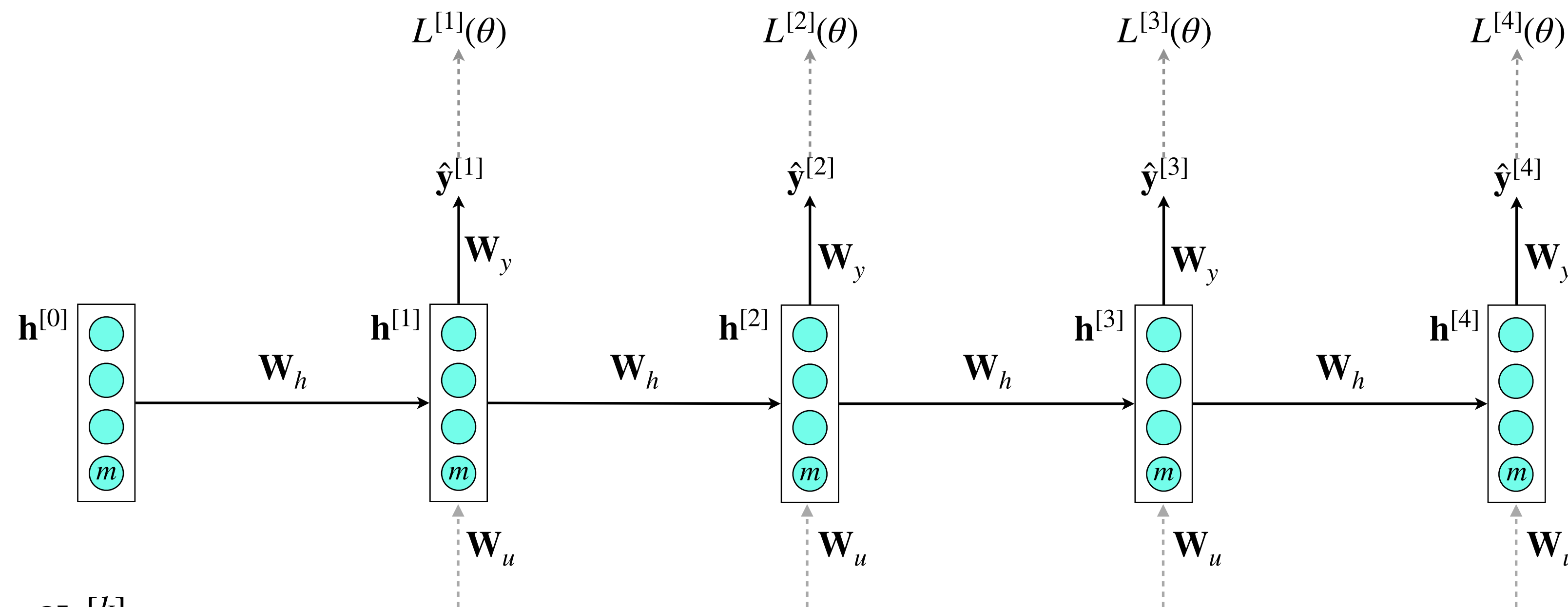
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e.g. if $t = 4$ and $k = 1$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} = \prod_{j=2}^4 \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}$$



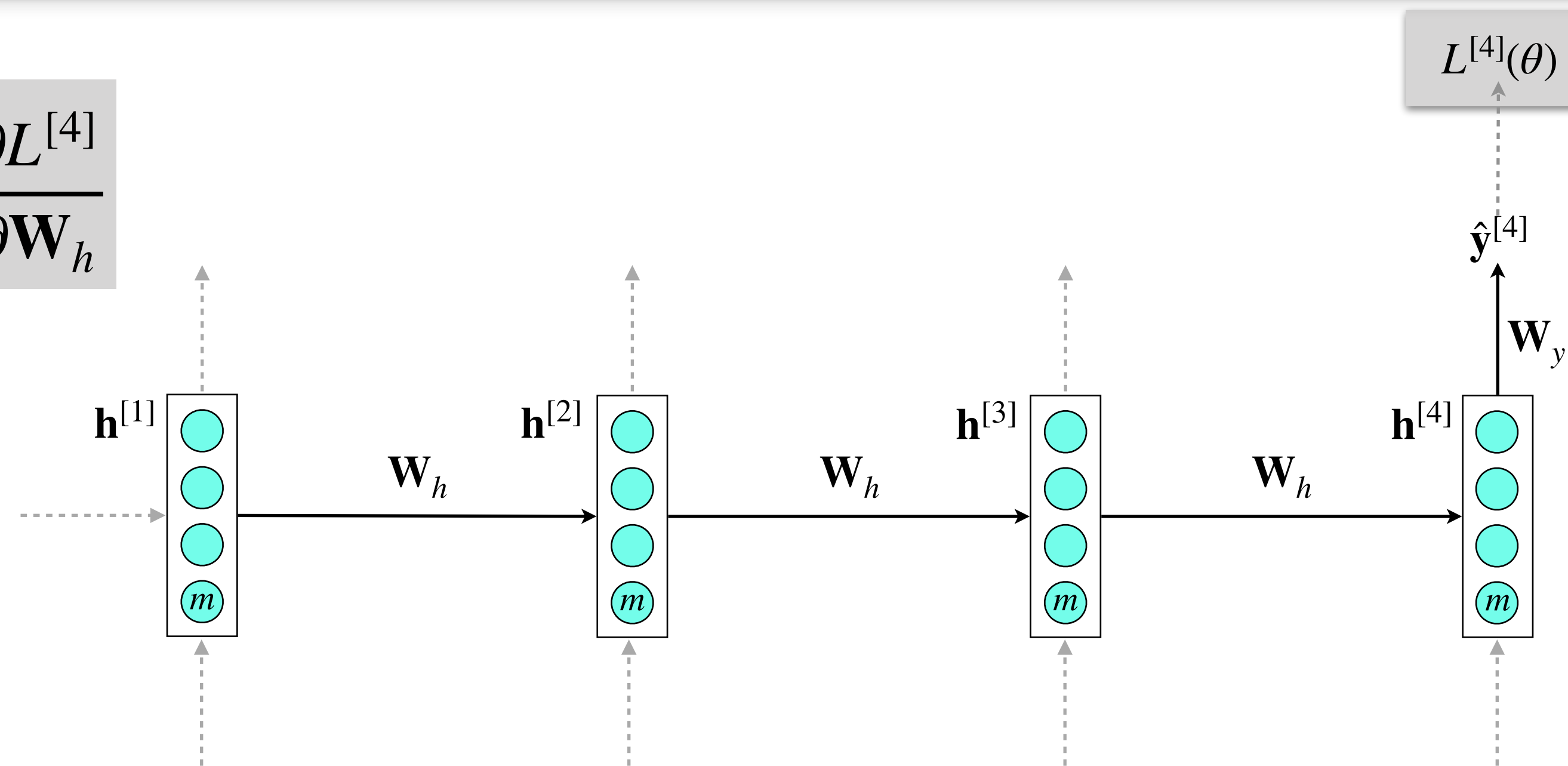
Vanishing (or exploding) gradients

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \sum_{t=1}^4 \frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \frac{\partial L^{[1]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} + \frac{\partial L^{[2]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} + \frac{\partial L^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} + \frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h}$$

$$\frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \sum_{k=1}^4 \frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{y}}^{[4]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{y}}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[k]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[k]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h}$$

let's focus on this component of the sum

$$\propto \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}$$



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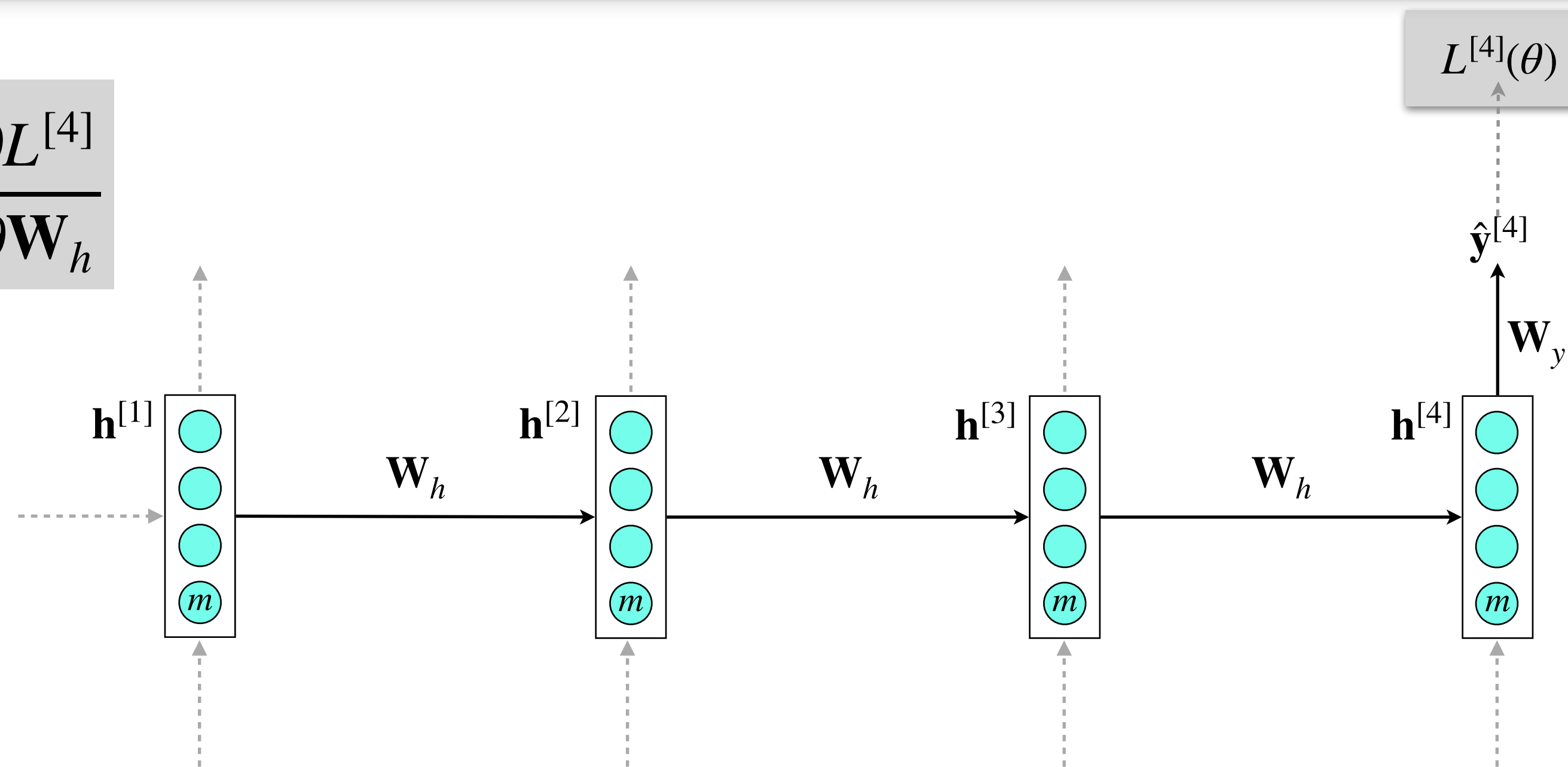
let's focus on this component of the sum

$$\propto \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}$$

$$\propto \sum_{k=1}^4 \prod_{j=k+1}^4 \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}}$$

recall

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[k]}} = \prod_{j=k+1}^4 \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}}$$



Vanishing (or exploding) gradients

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \sum_{t=1}^4 \frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \frac{\partial L^{[1]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} + \frac{\partial L^{[2]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} + \frac{\partial L^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} + \frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h}$$

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let's focus on this component of the sum

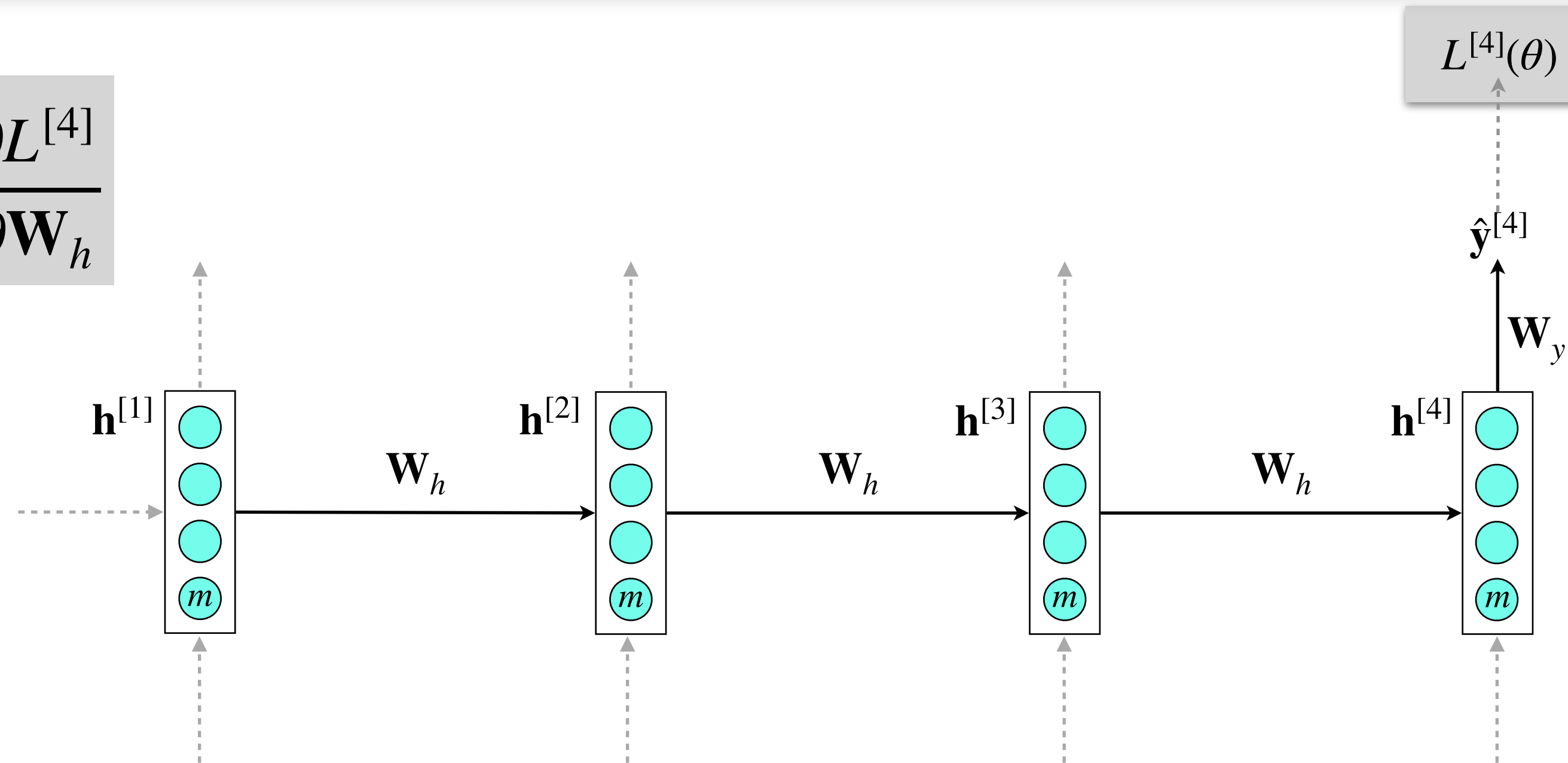
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recall

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[k]}} = \prod_{j=k+1}^4 \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} \propto \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}$$



Vanishing (or exploding) gradients

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \sum_{t=1}^4 \frac{\partial L^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} = \frac{\partial L^{[1]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} + \frac{\partial L^{[2]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} + \frac{\partial L^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} + \frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h}$$

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let's focus on this component of the sum

$$\propto \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}$$

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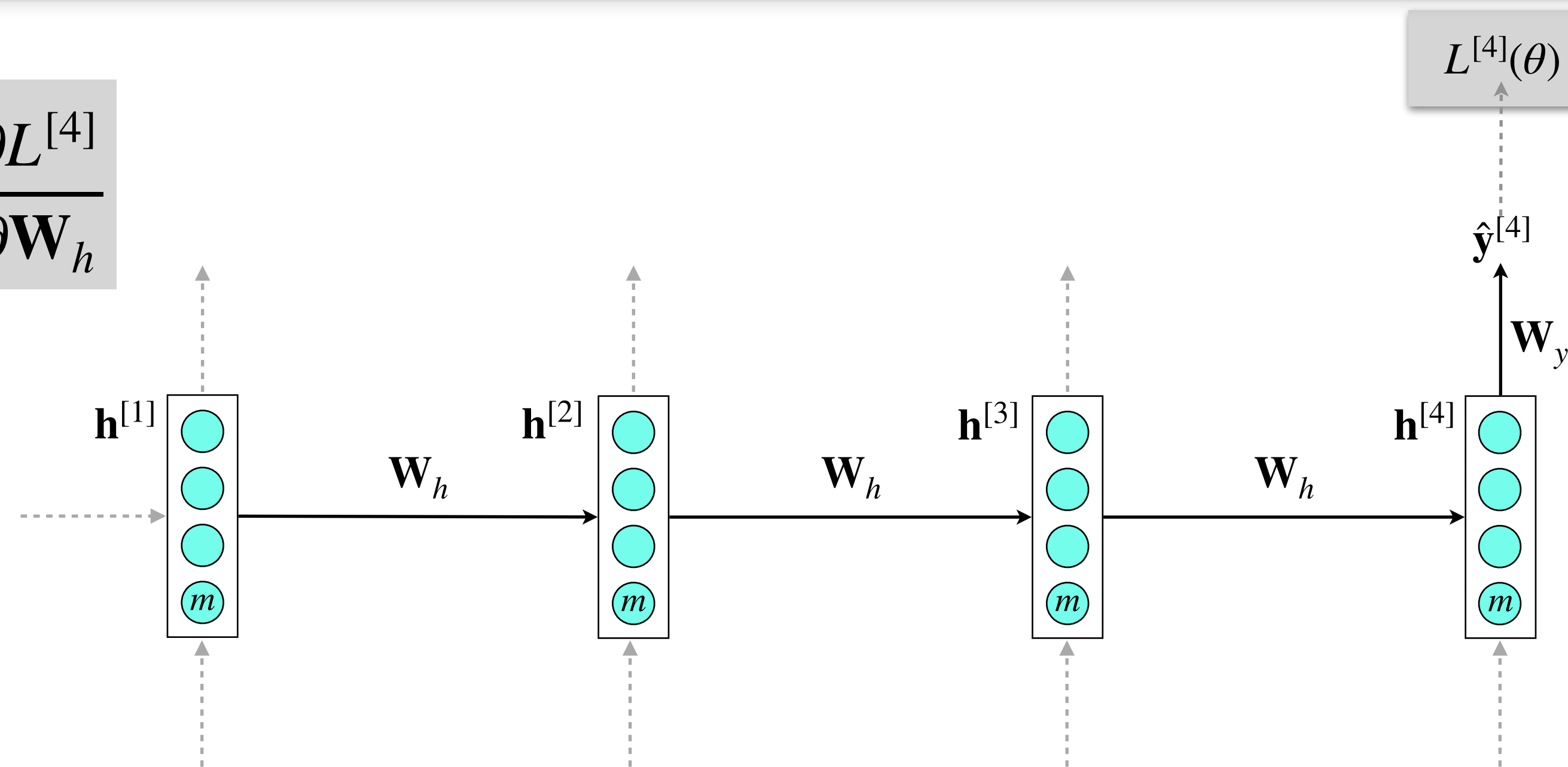
recall

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[k]}} = \prod_{j=k+1}^4 \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}}$$

\Rightarrow

what if these are small (or large)?

$$\frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} \propto \frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}$$



Vanishing (or exploding) gradients

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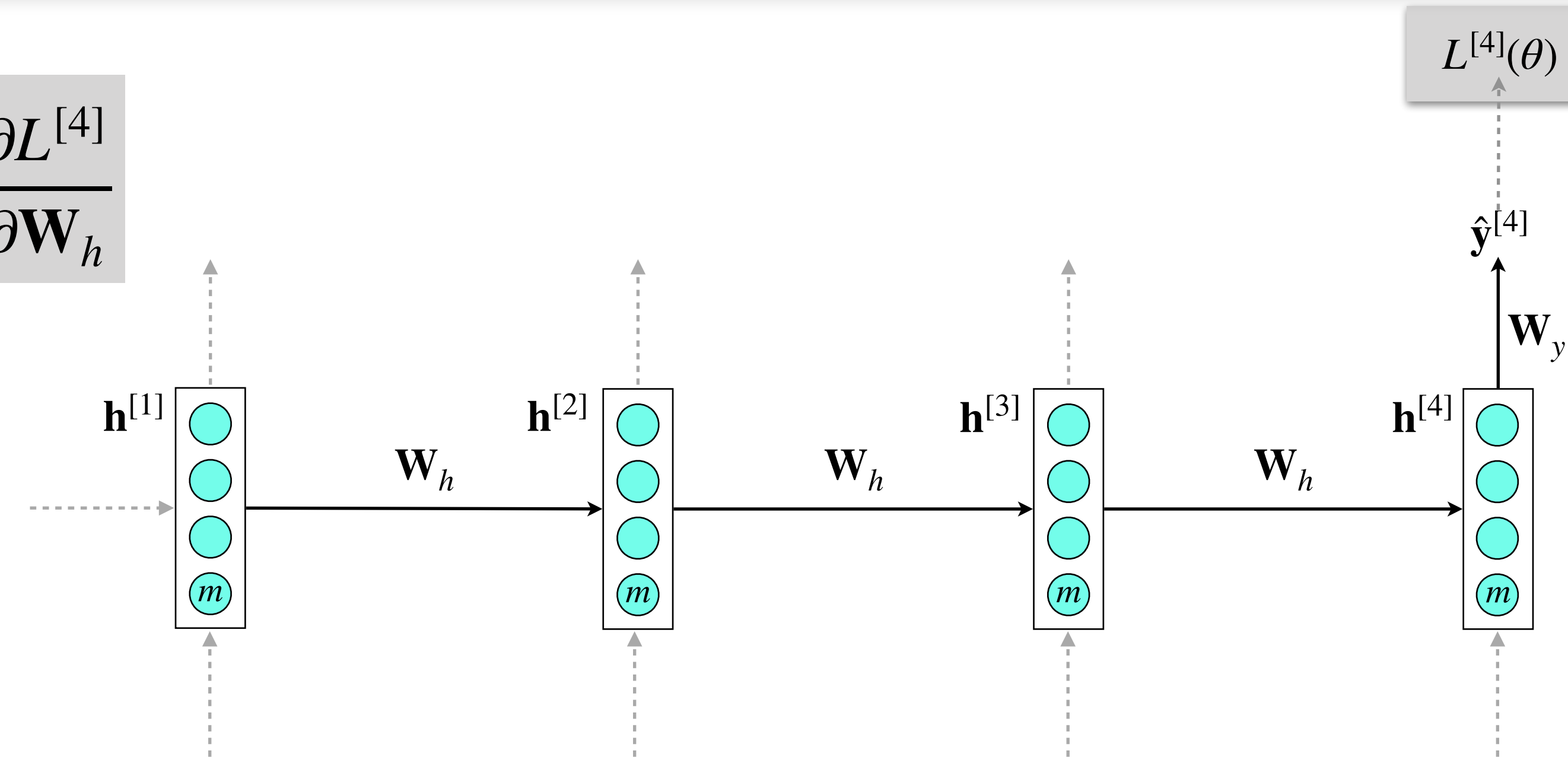
let's focus on this component of the sum

$$\propto \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}$$

$$\propto \sum_{k=1}^4 \prod_{j=k+1}^4 \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}}$$

recall

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[k]}} = \prod_{j=k+1}^4 \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[j-1]}}$$



what if these are small (or large)?

vanishing (or exploding) gradient as we backpropagate!

$$\frac{\partial L^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{W}_h} \propto \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[1]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[2]}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[4]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[3]}}$$

Vanishing (or exploding) gradients – Proof intuition

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_u \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_h \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_h)$$

Vanishing (or exploding) gradients – Proof intuition

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_u \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_h \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_h)$$

let's ignore the activation function σ

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]}} =$$

Vanishing (or exploding) gradients – Proof intuition

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_u \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_h \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_h)$$

let's ignore the activation function σ

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]}} = \mathbf{W}_h$$

Vanishing (or exploding) gradients – Proof intuition

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_u \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_h \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_h)$$

let's ignore the activation function σ

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]}} = \mathbf{W}_h$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-\xi]}} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]}} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-\xi-1]}}{\partial \mathbf{h}^{[t-\xi]}}$$

let's now see what happens when we compute the partial derivative of hidden state $\mathbf{h}^{[t]}$ w.r.t. the hidden state ξ time steps before it, i.e. $\mathbf{h}^{[t-\xi]}$

Vanishing (or exploding) gradients – Proof intuition

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_u \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_h \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_h)$$

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- ▶ If \mathbf{W}_h has eigenvalues < 1 , gradients become exponentially smaller as time steps ξ increase \implies gradients will become 0, i.e. vanish
- ▶ If \mathbf{W}_h has eigenvalues > 1 \implies gradients will explode

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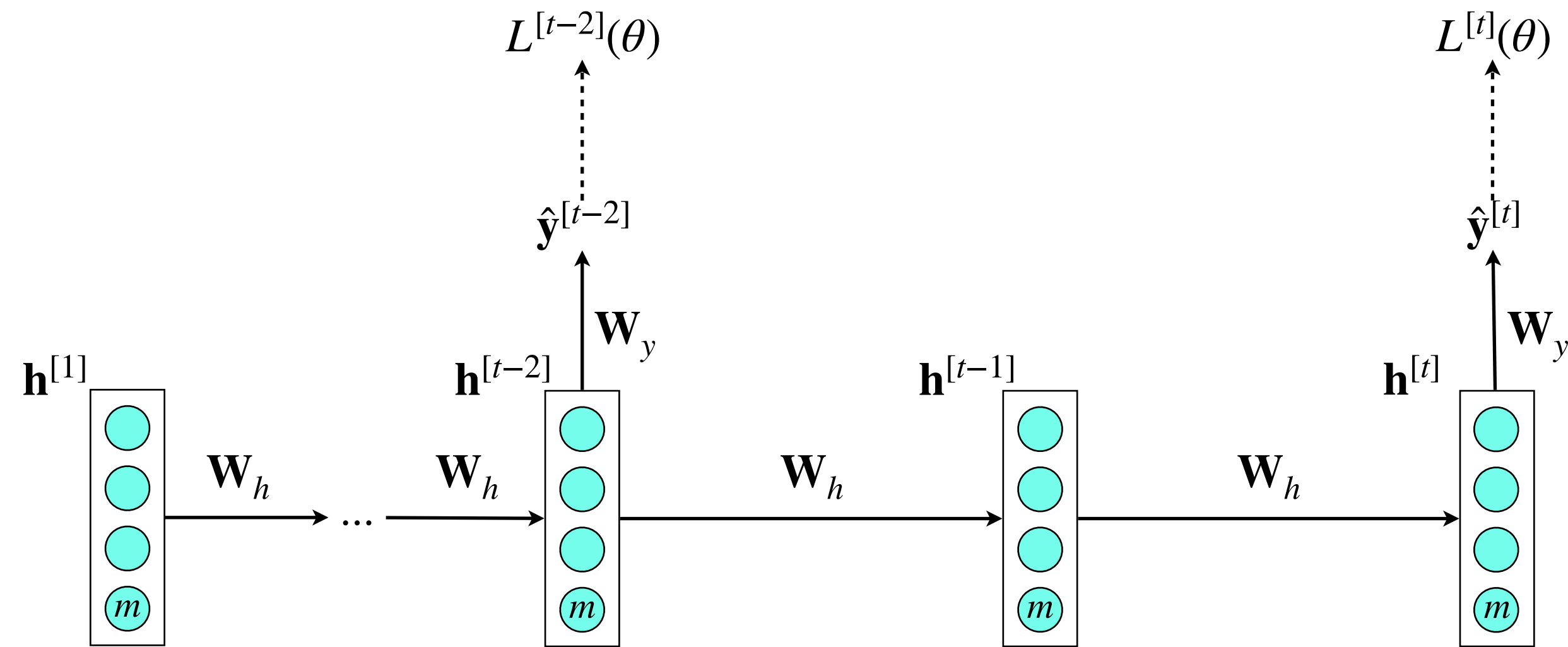
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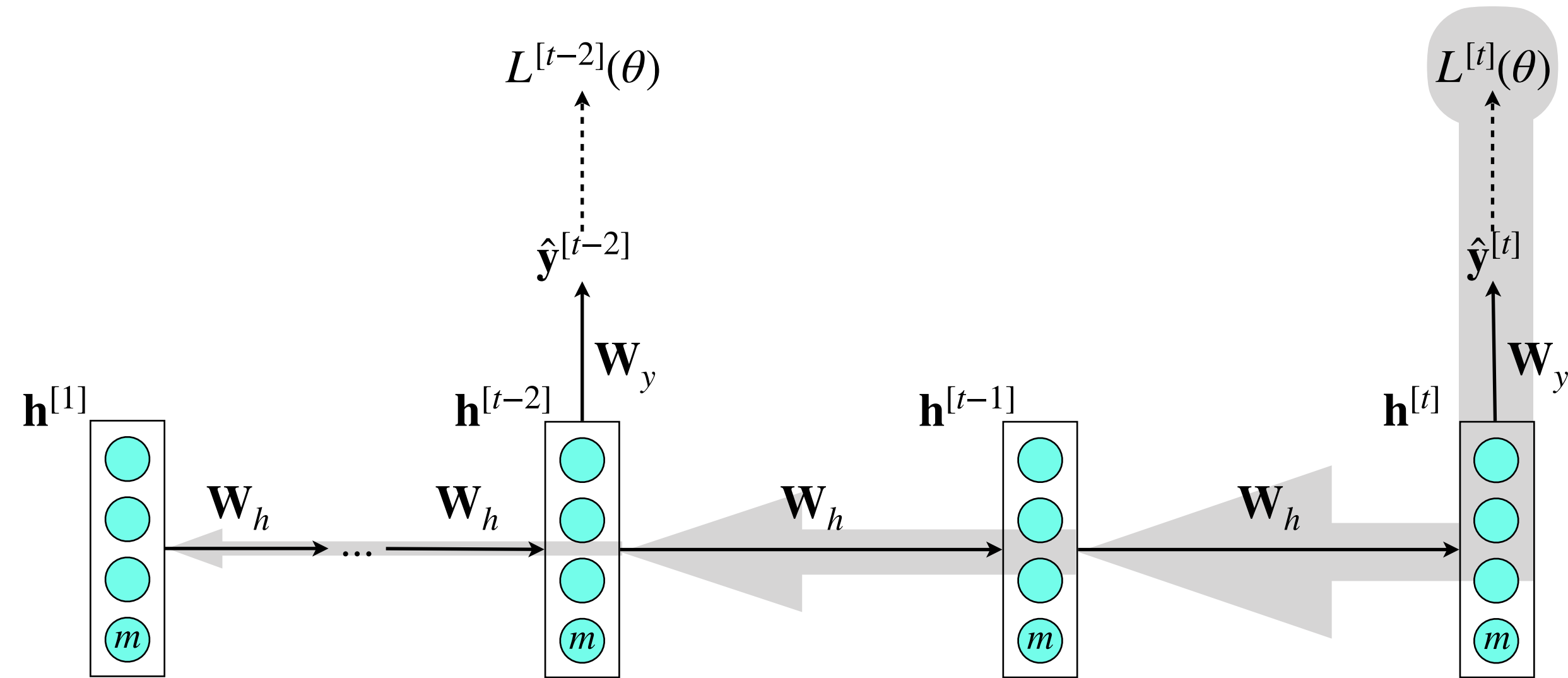
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- ▶ If \mathbf{W}_h has eigenvalues > 1 \implies gradients will explode
- ▶ Similar outcome when we re-introduce an activation function

Vanishing gradients are an issue because...



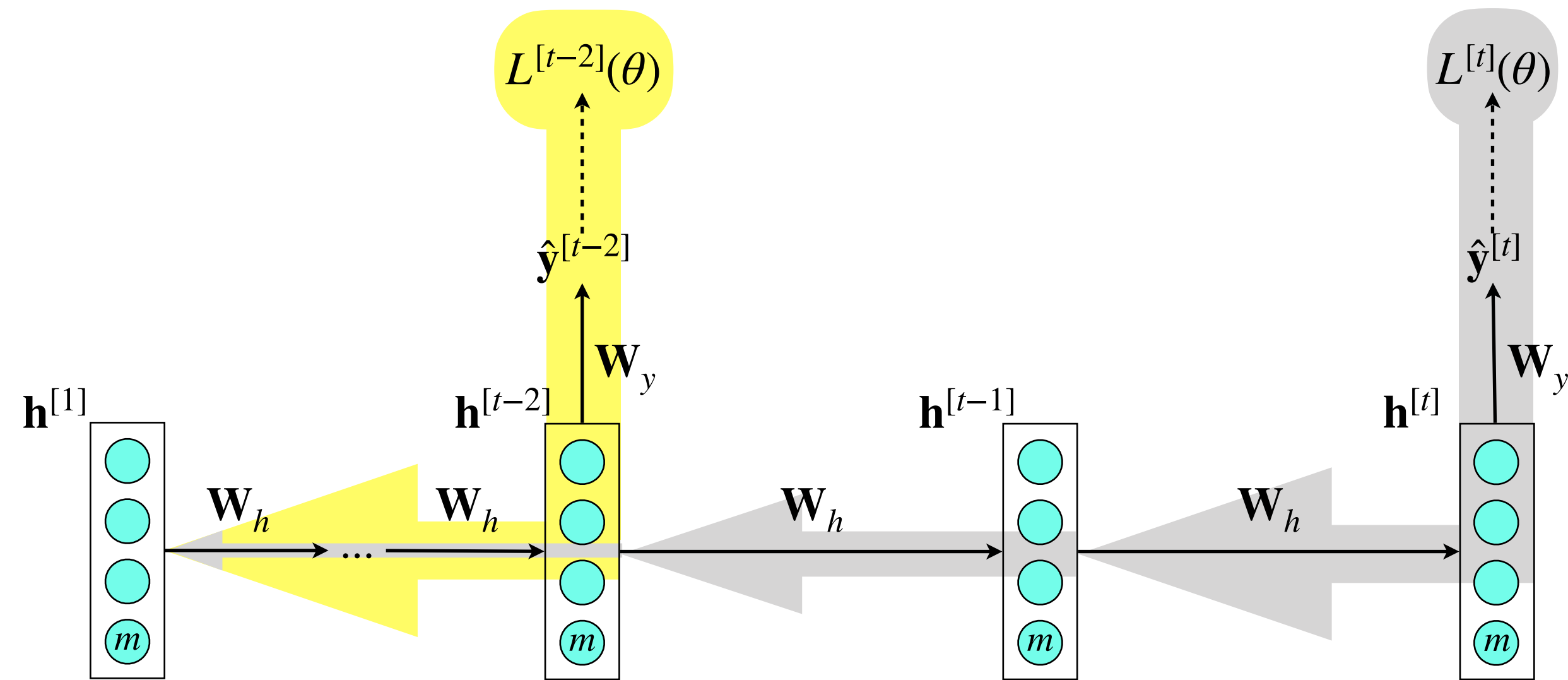
Vanishing gradients are an issue because...



- ▶ Signal (gradient) from early states that are distant to the current state is lost \implies long-term effects are not captured

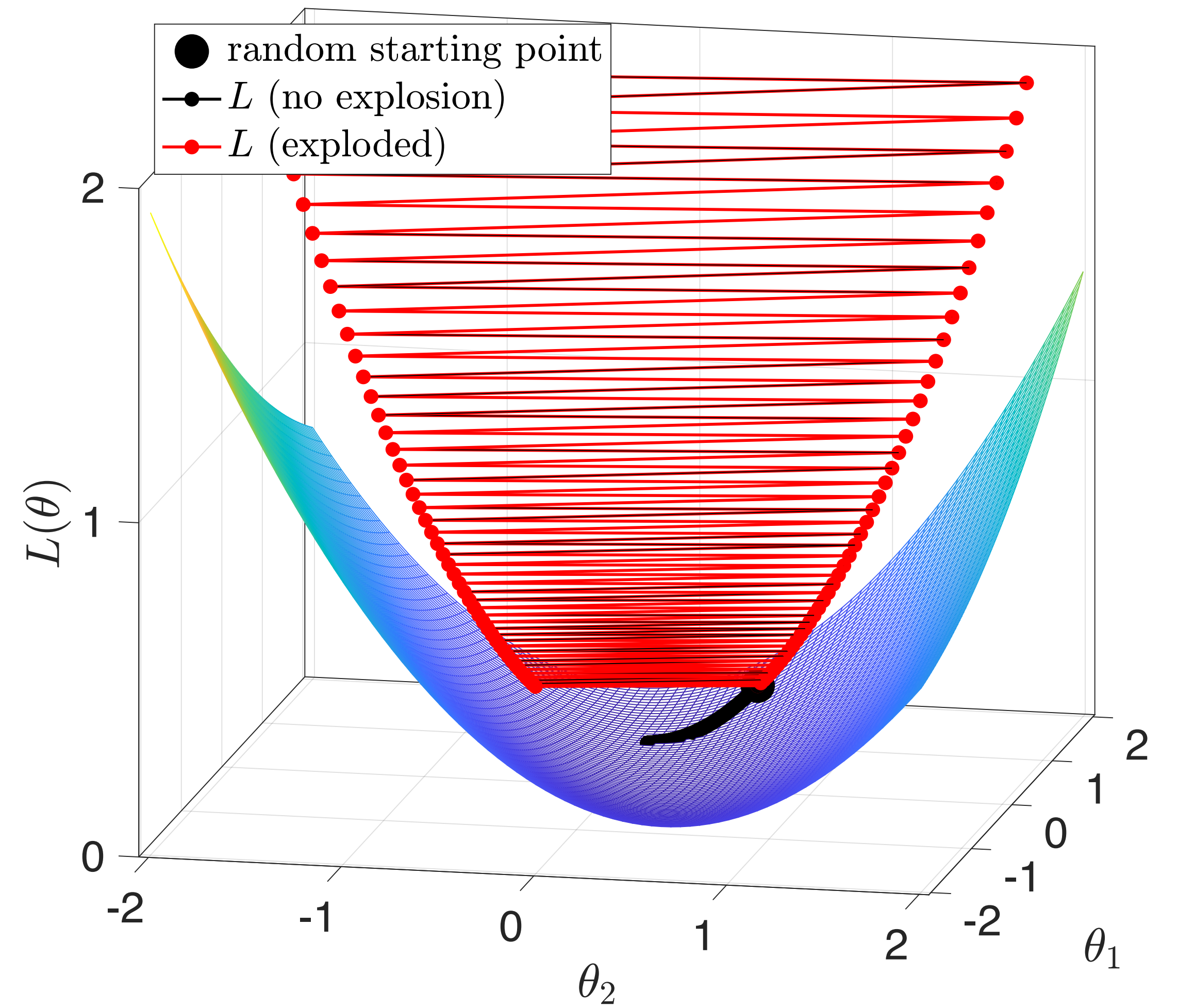


Vanishing gradients are an issue because...



- ▶ Signal (gradient) from early states that are distant to the current state is lost \implies long-term effects are not captured
- ▶ NB: Parameters will still be updated, but based on shorter-term gradients that have not vanished.

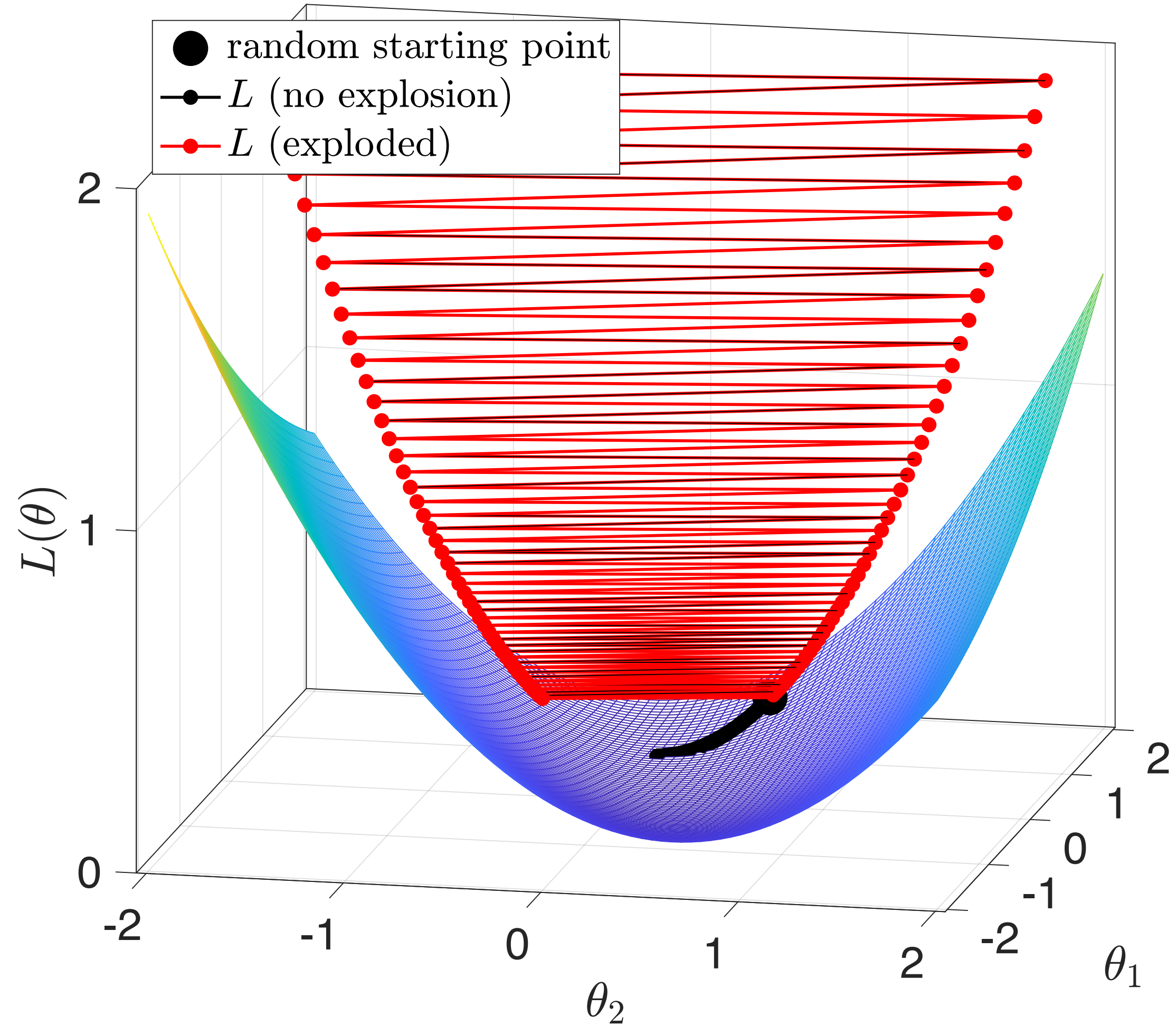
Exploding gradients



Exploding gradients

- ▶ Large gradients, $\frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta_j}$, mean large learning steps during optimisation

$$\theta_{j+1} = \theta_j - \eta \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta_j}$$

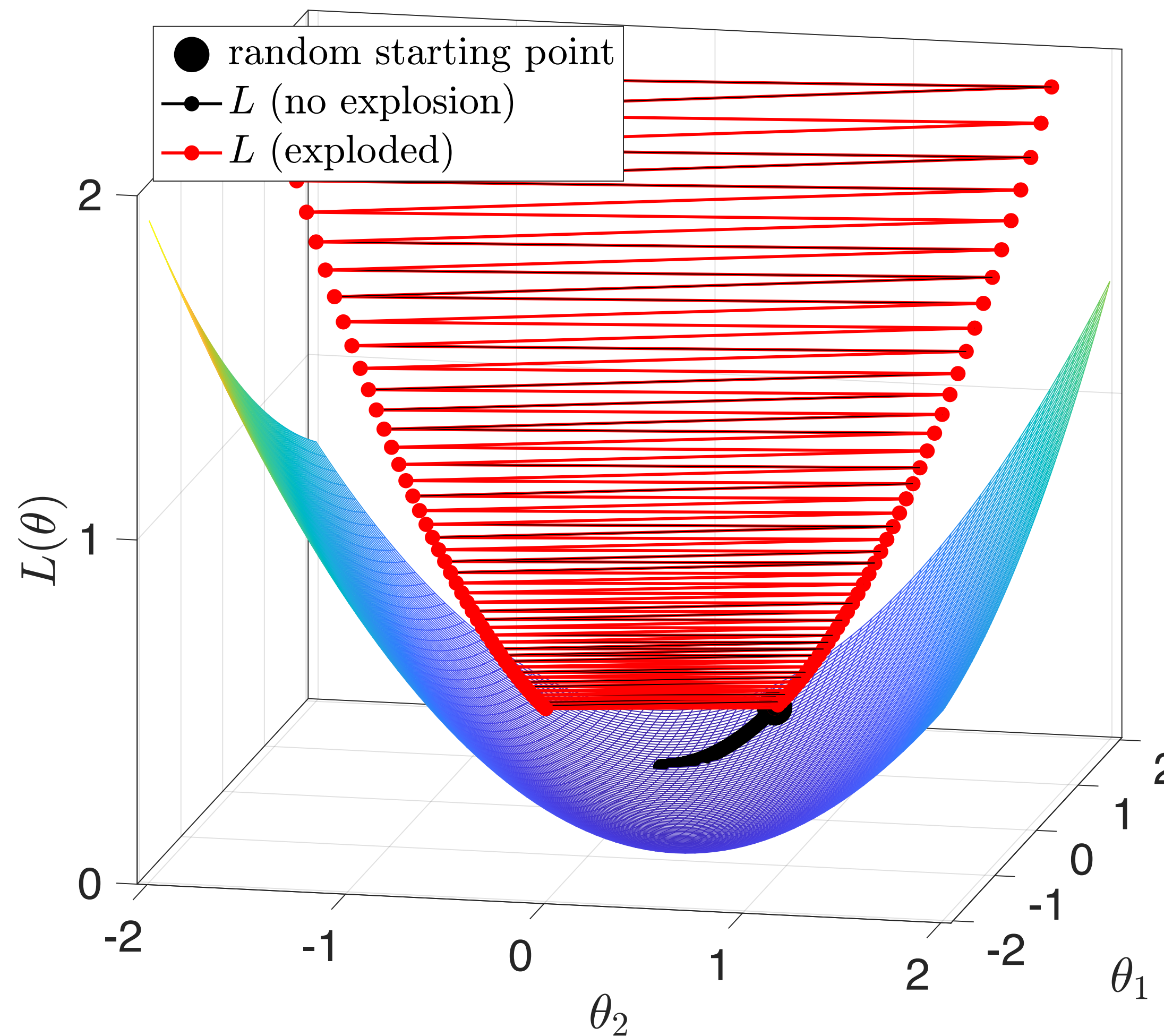


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- ▶ This would possibly result in a poor parameter setting from which we might not be able to recover, especially while using large learning steps

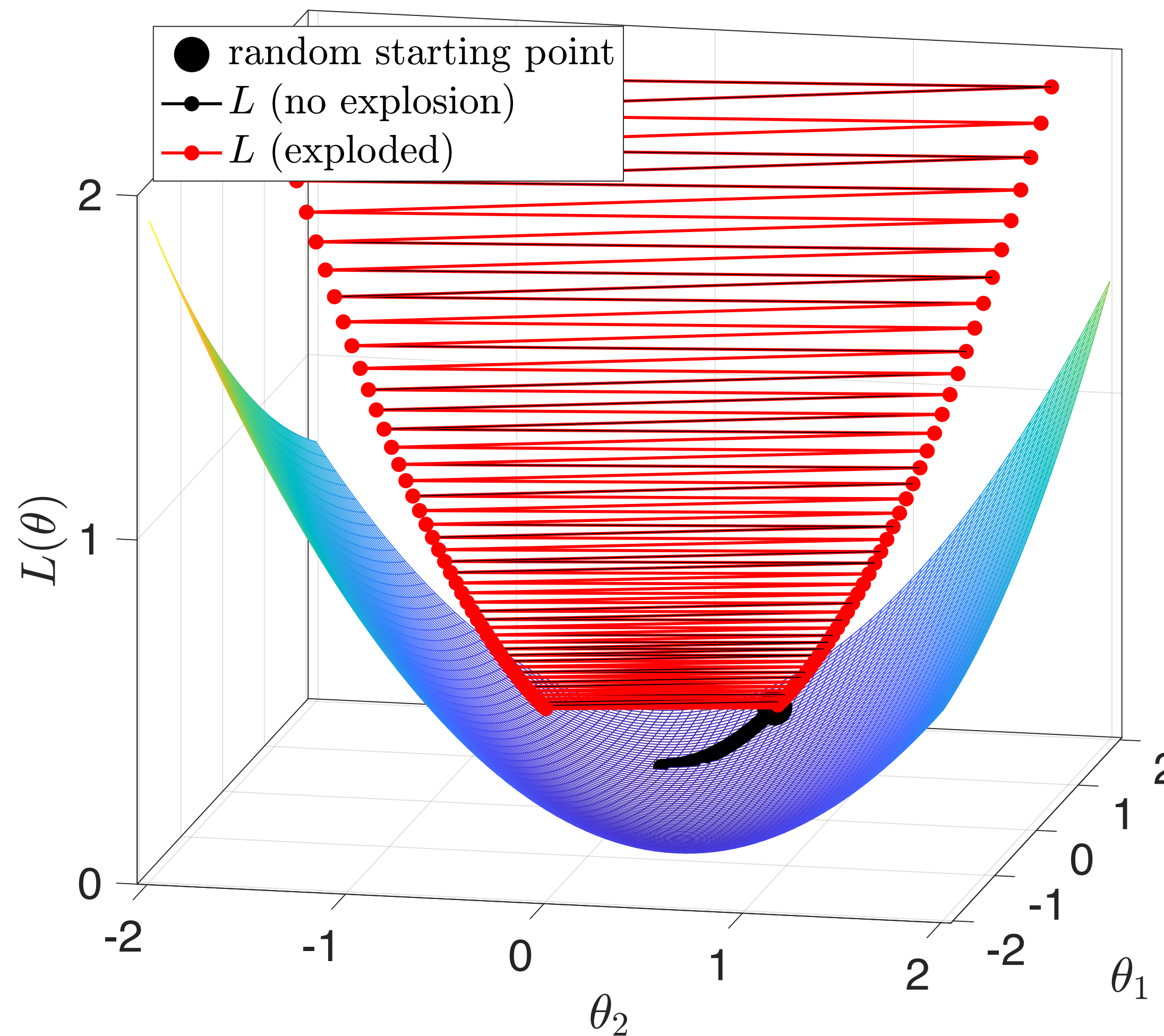


Exploding gradients

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- ▶ This would possibly result in a poor parameter setting from which we might not be able to recover, especially while using large learning steps
- ▶ The worst penalty to pay would be NaN / Inf errors in the NN parameters; training will have to be restarted



An “easy” solution to exploding gradients – Gradient clipping

- ▶ If the L2 norm of the gradient is greater than a threshold γ , simply scale the gradient down, i.e. clip it!

$$\mathbf{q} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta}$$

if $\|\mathbf{q}\| \geq \gamma$ **then**

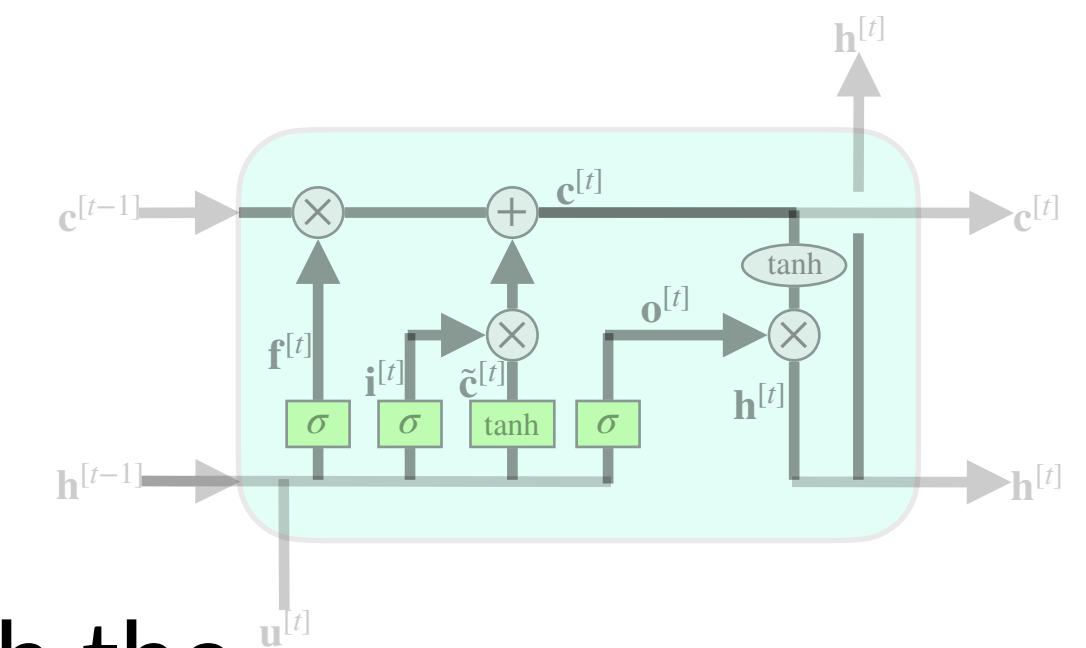
$$\mathbf{q} = \frac{\gamma}{\|\mathbf{q}\|} \cdot \mathbf{q}$$

endif

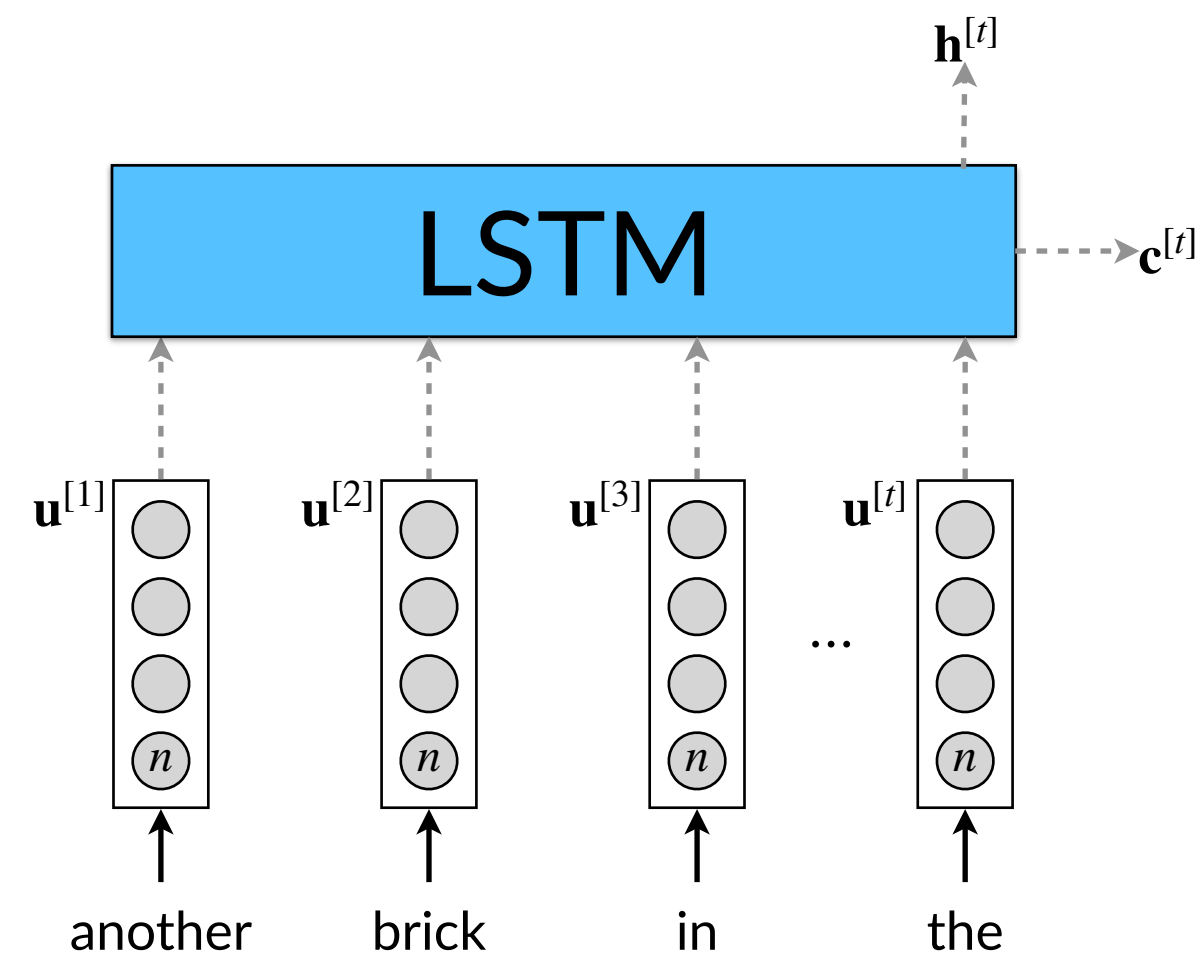
- ▶ We are still taking a step in the same direction, albeit a smaller one
- ▶ We need to learn / set the threshold γ ; a good heuristic 0.5 to 10 times the average norm of the gradient over a sufficient number of updates

Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) – A better RNN

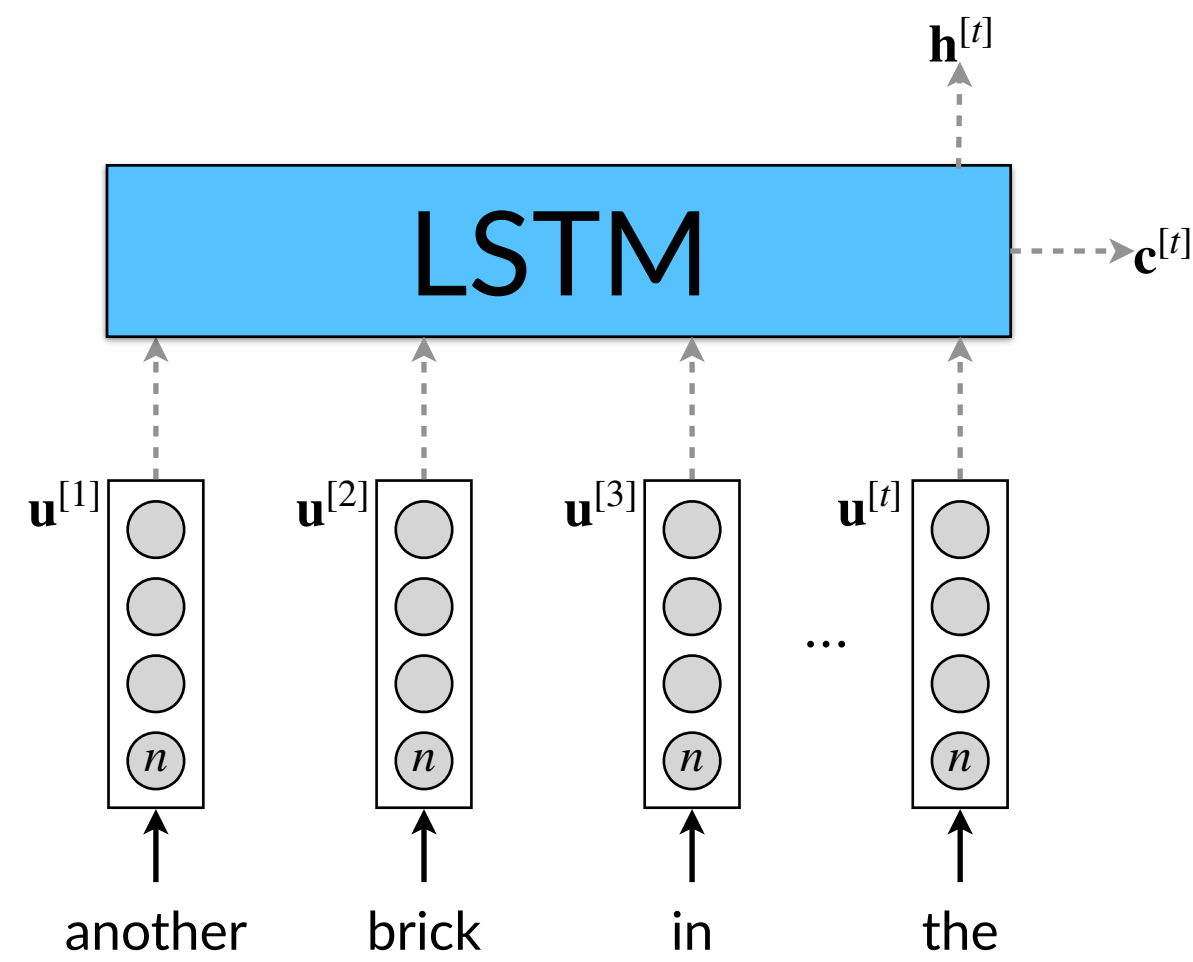
- ▶ Simple RNNs fail to maintain information over many time steps as their architecture does not have explicit components to do so
- ▶ Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) is an update to the RNN architecture with the aim of solving the problem of vanishing gradients
- ▶ The LSTM has a hidden state like the simple RNN, but also a “cell” state, both being n -dimensional vectors
- ▶ The cell is designed to store more long-term information and acts like a memory module – the LSTM can read, delete, and write information to the cell
- ▶ 3 new n -dimensional vectors control what is read, deleted, and written; however their decisions are “probabilistic” $\in [0,1]$ for each of the n dimensions (not 0 or 1) and are learned during optimisation



Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)



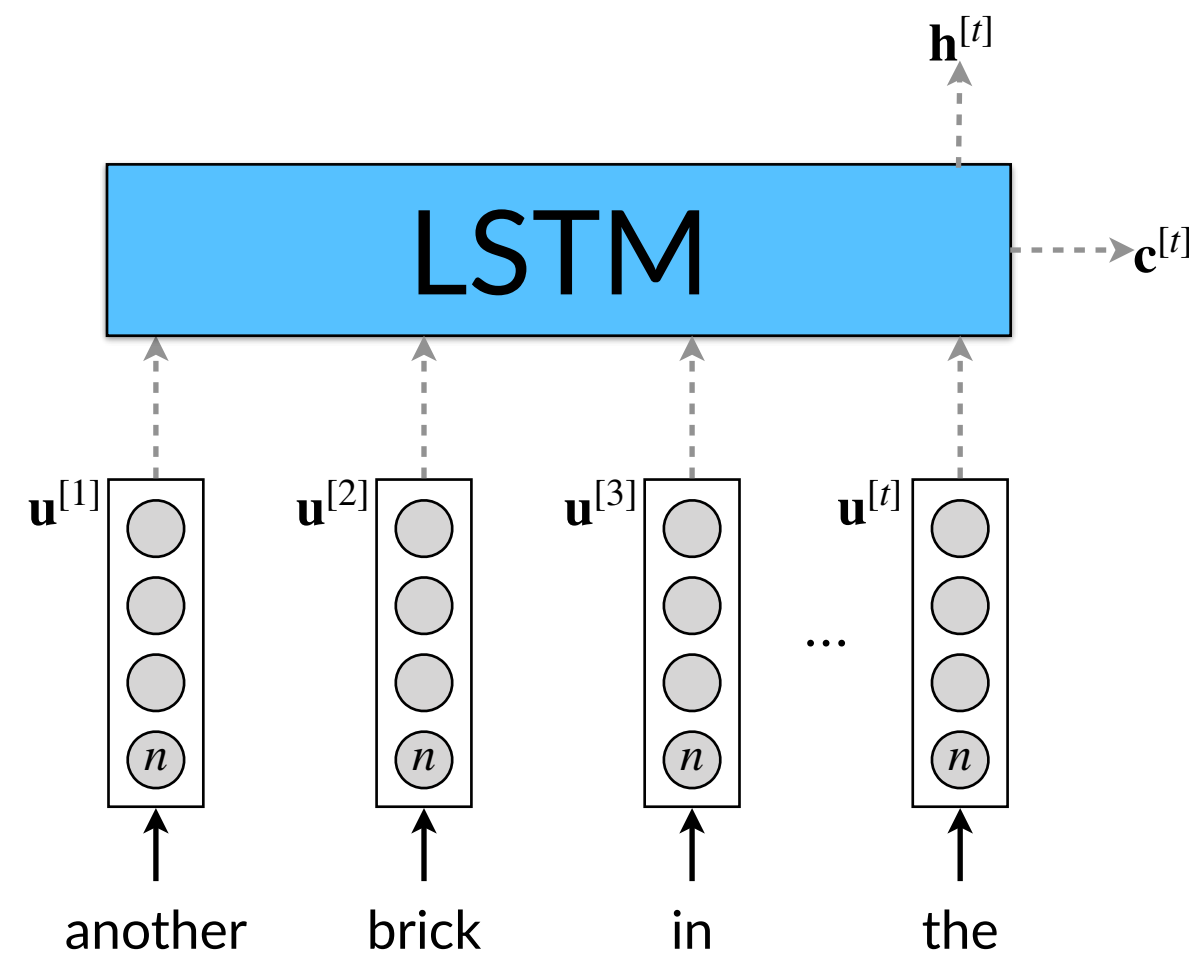
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$$\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]} = \tanh(\mathbf{U}_c \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_c \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_c)$$

Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)



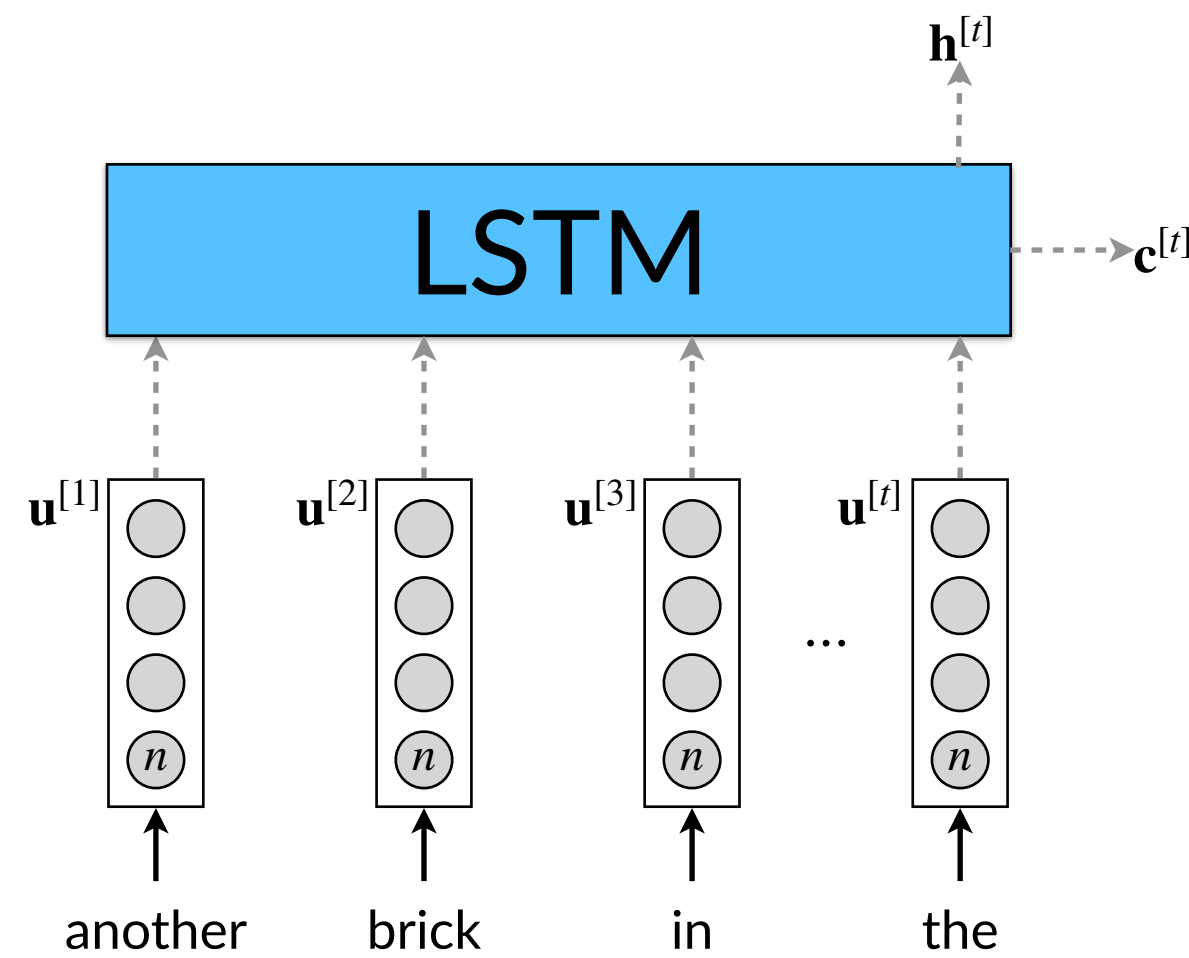
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$$\mathbf{f}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_f \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_f \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_f)$$

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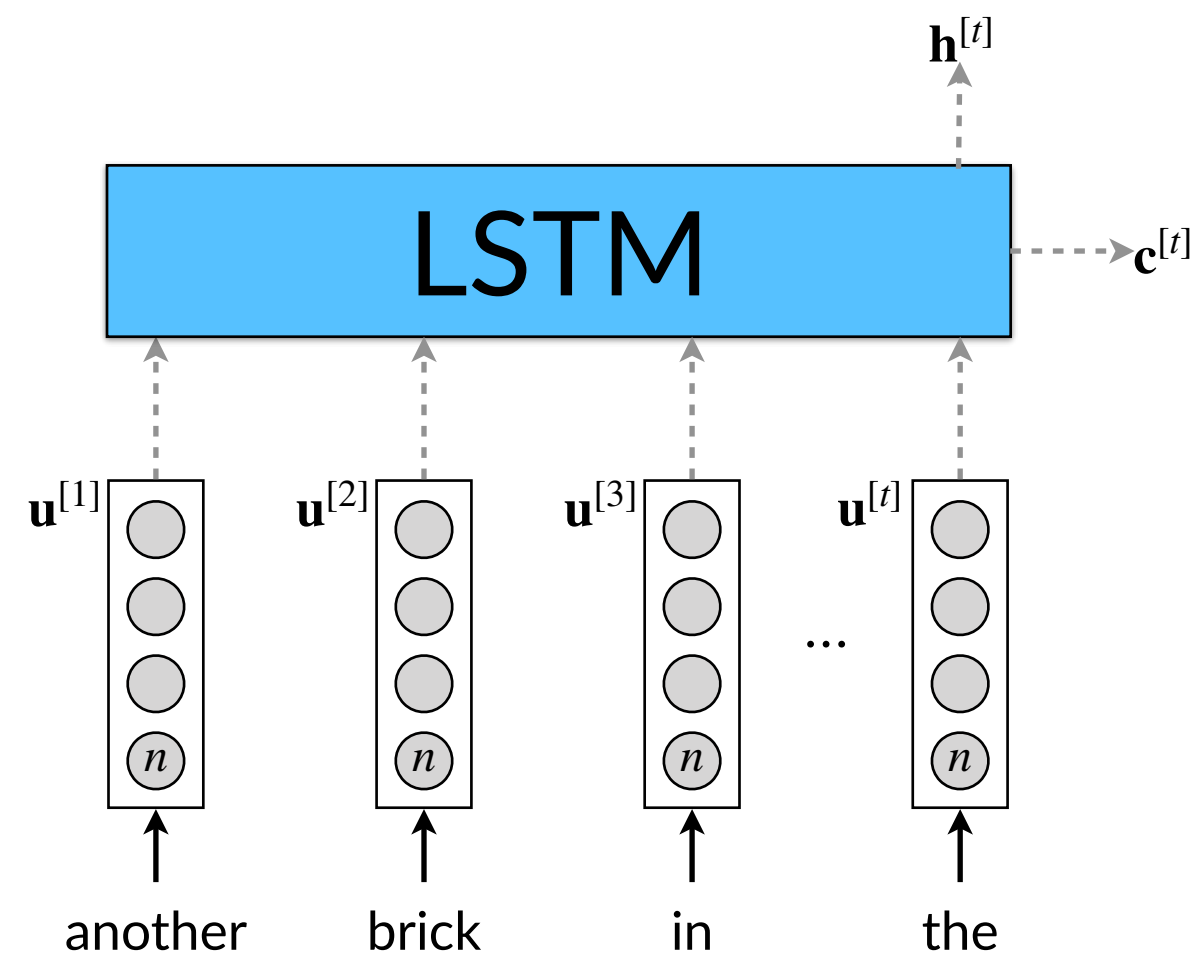
Input gate: what should be kept from the new content?

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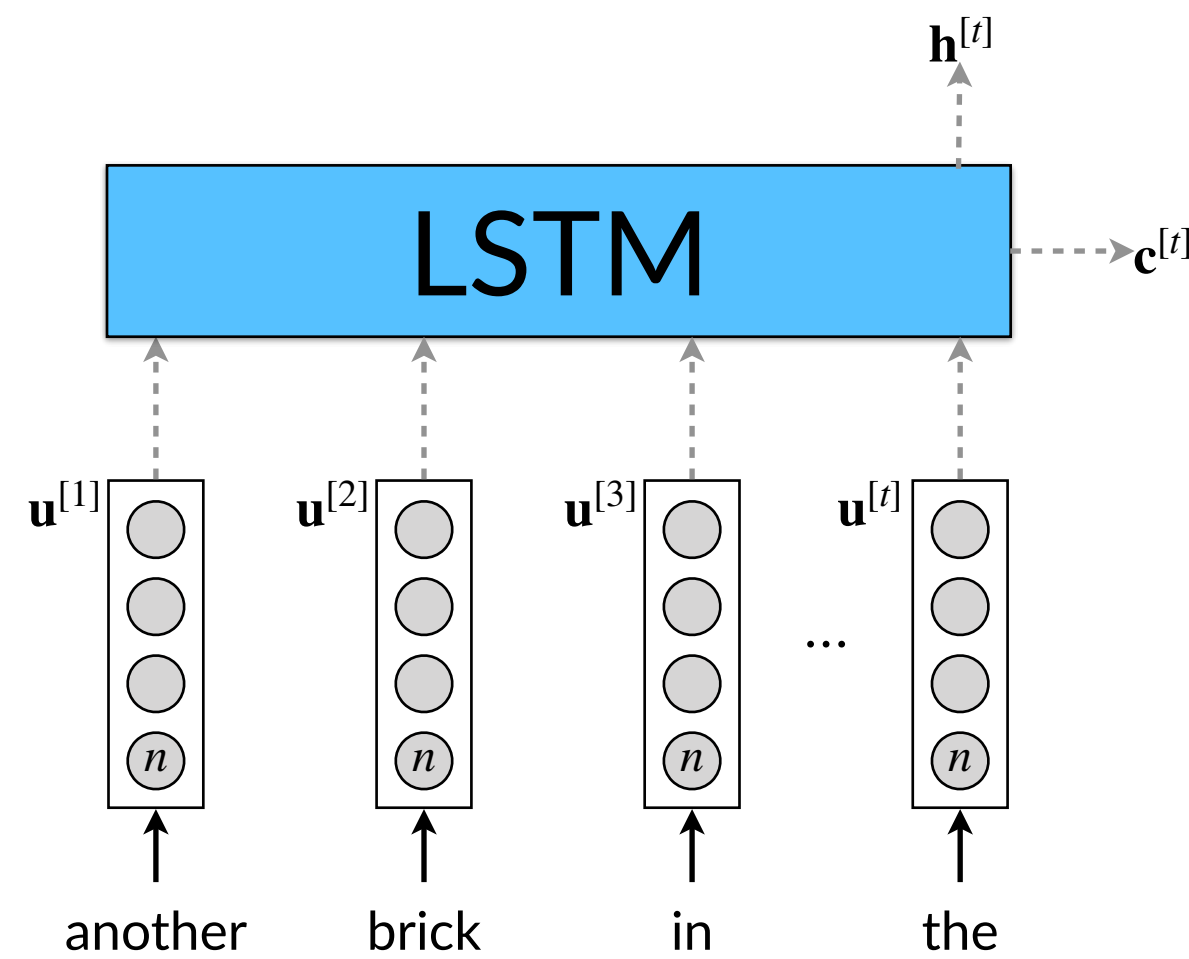
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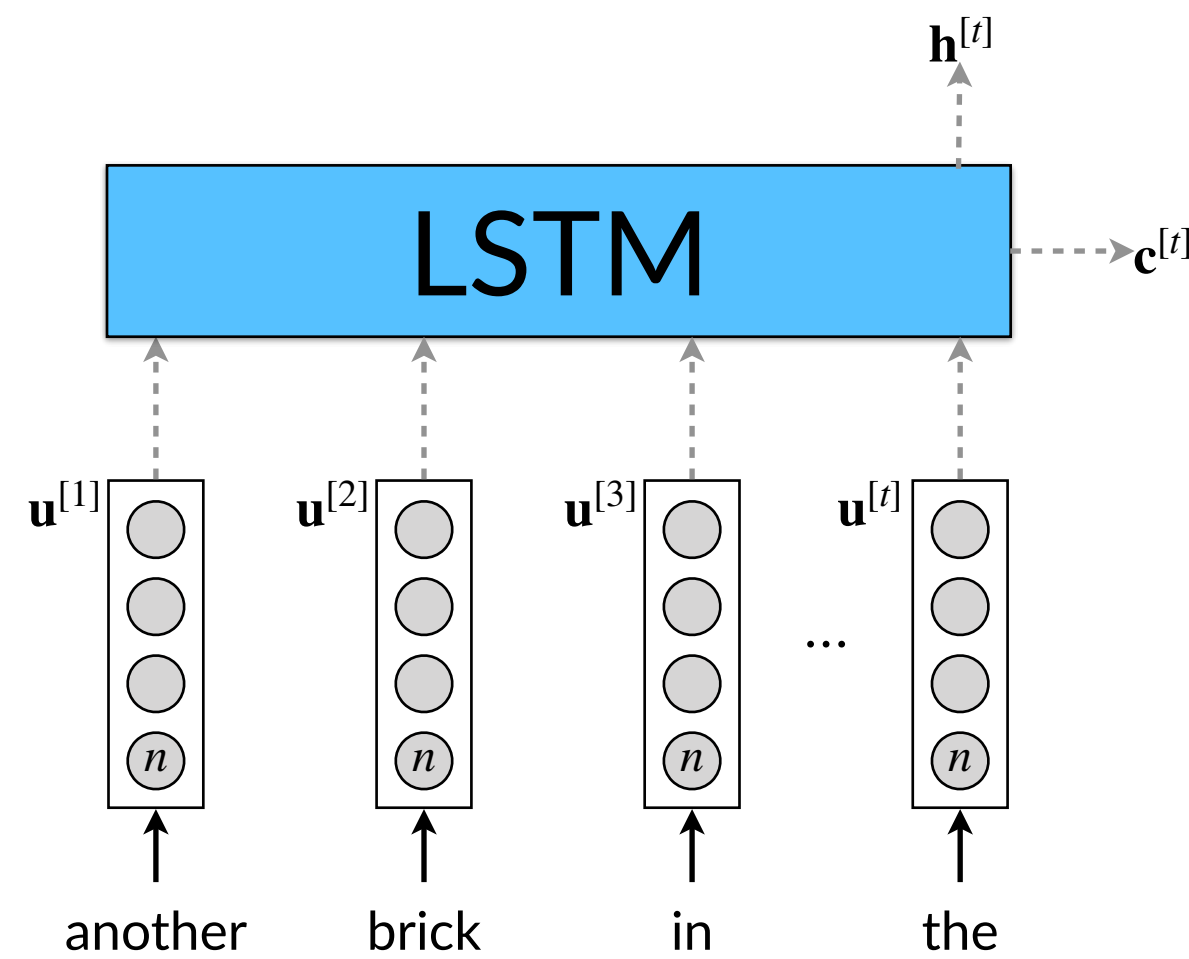
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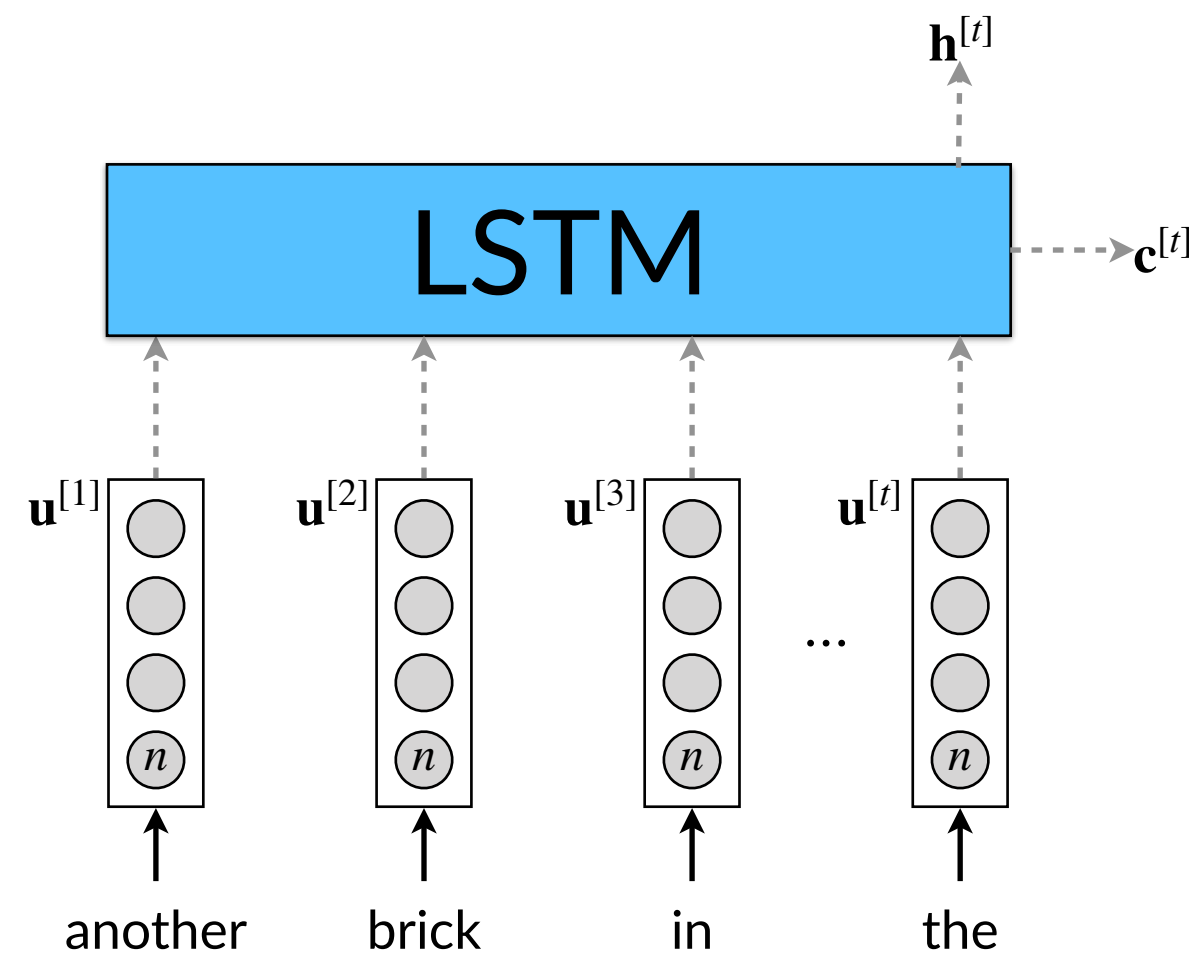
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\odot Hadamard or element-wise product

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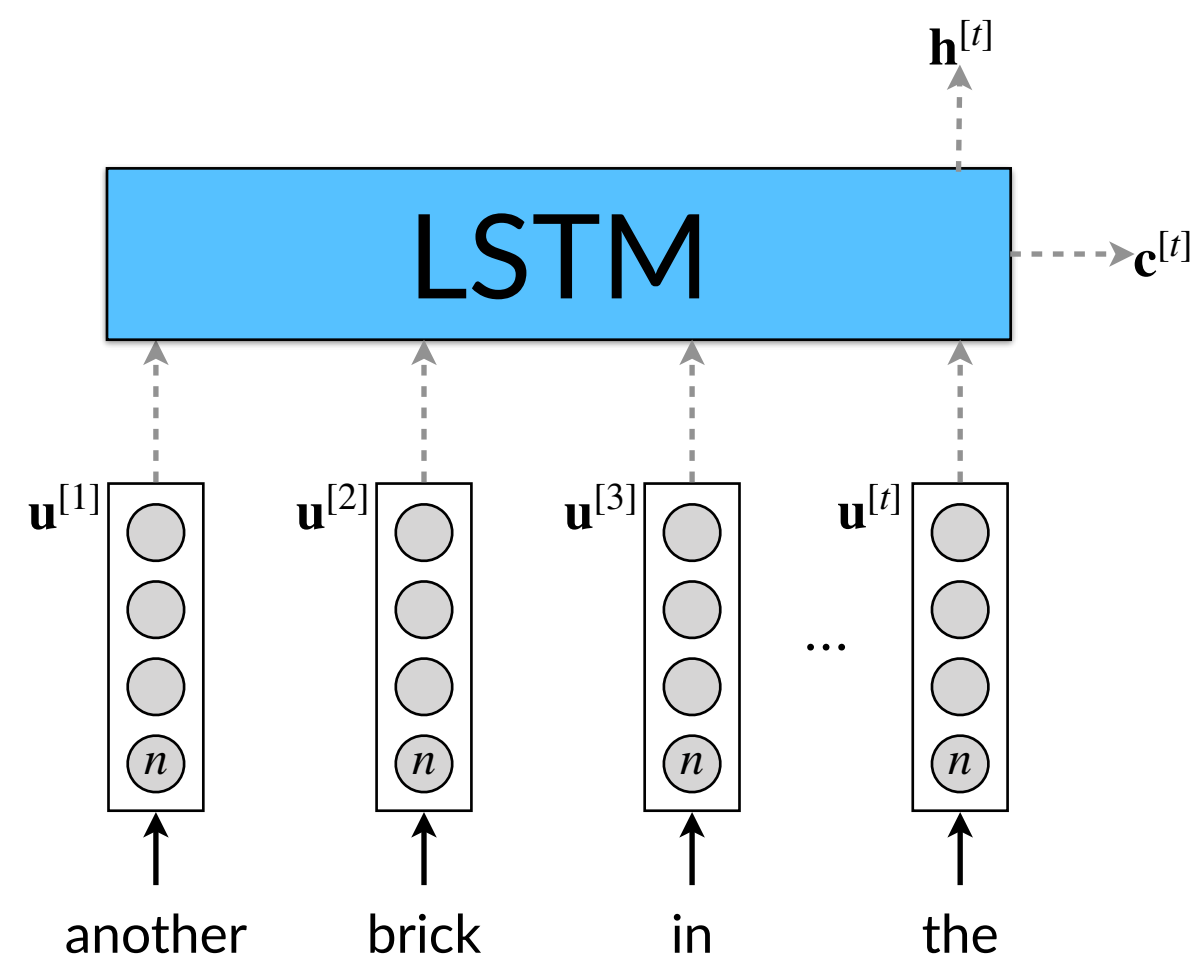
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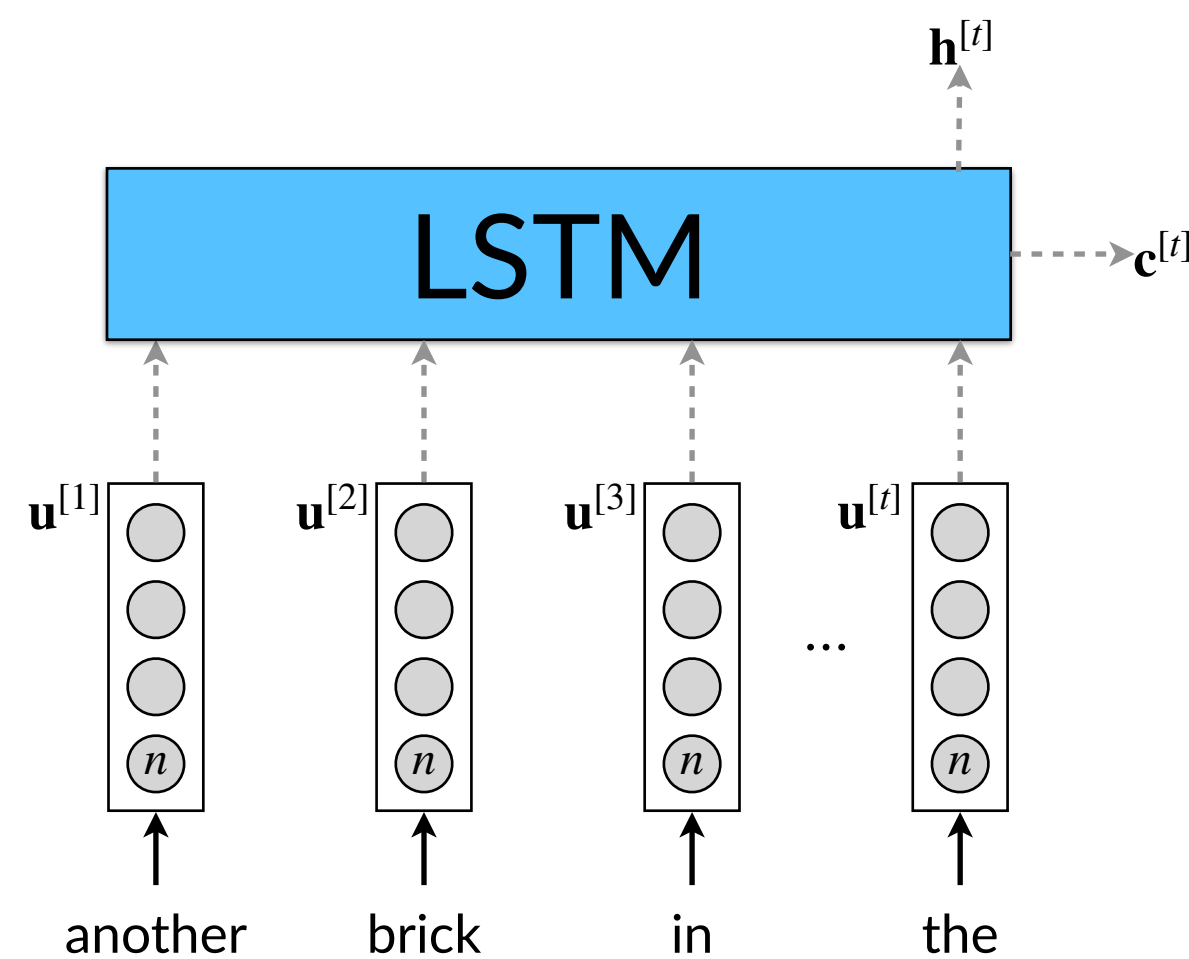
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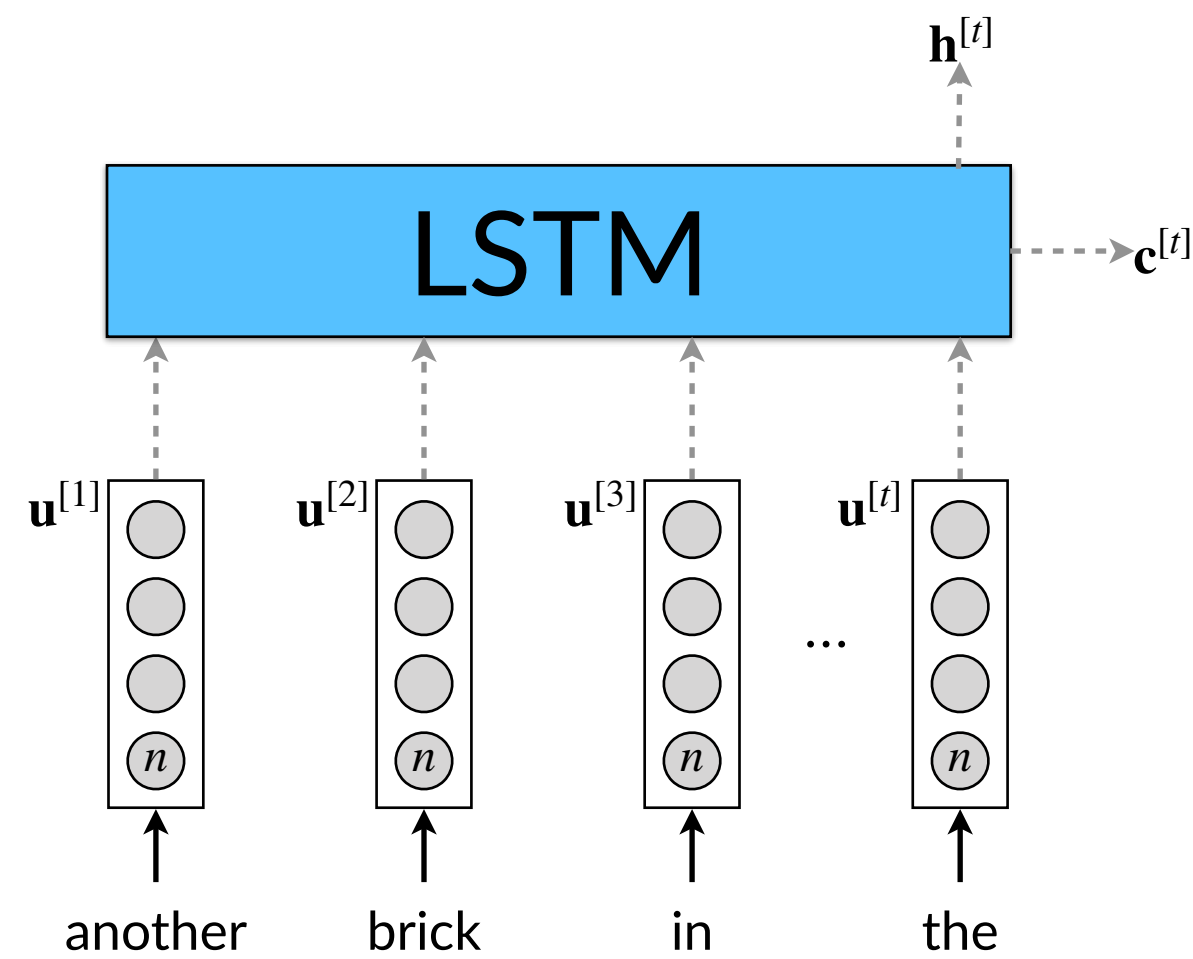
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$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \mathbf{o}^{[t]} \odot \tanh(\mathbf{c}^{[t]})$$

If $\mathbf{u}^{[t]} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, how many parameters?

Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)



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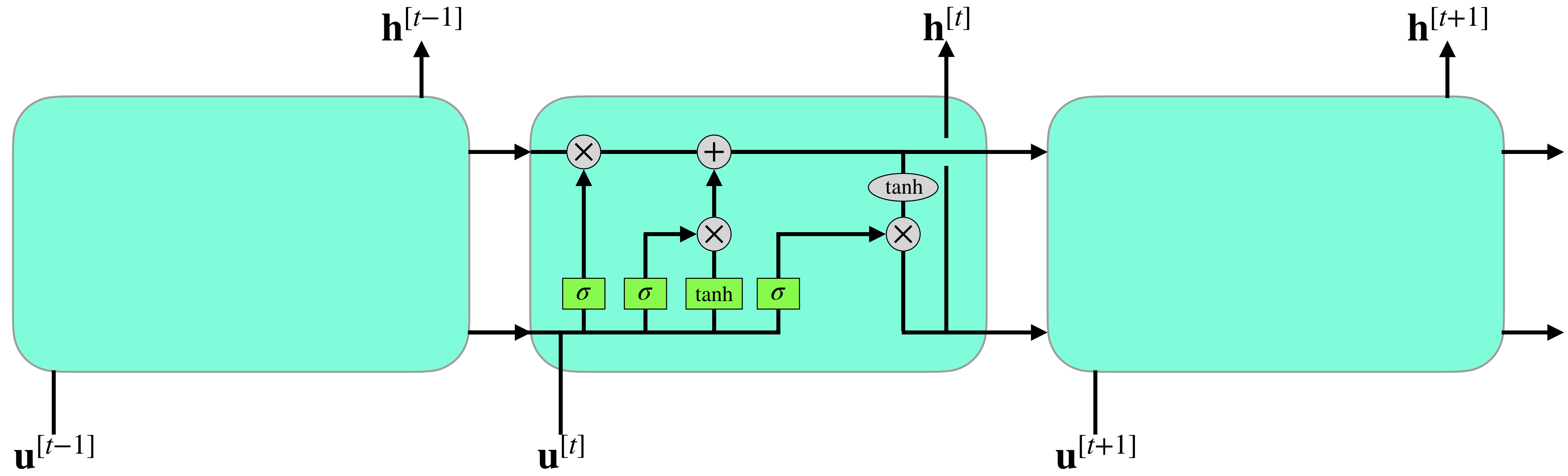
$$\mathbf{o}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_o \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_o \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_o)$$

$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \mathbf{o}^{[t]} \odot \tanh(\mathbf{c}^{[t]})$$

If $\mathbf{u}^{[t]} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, how many parameters?

$$= 4 \cdot n \cdot (m + n + 1)$$

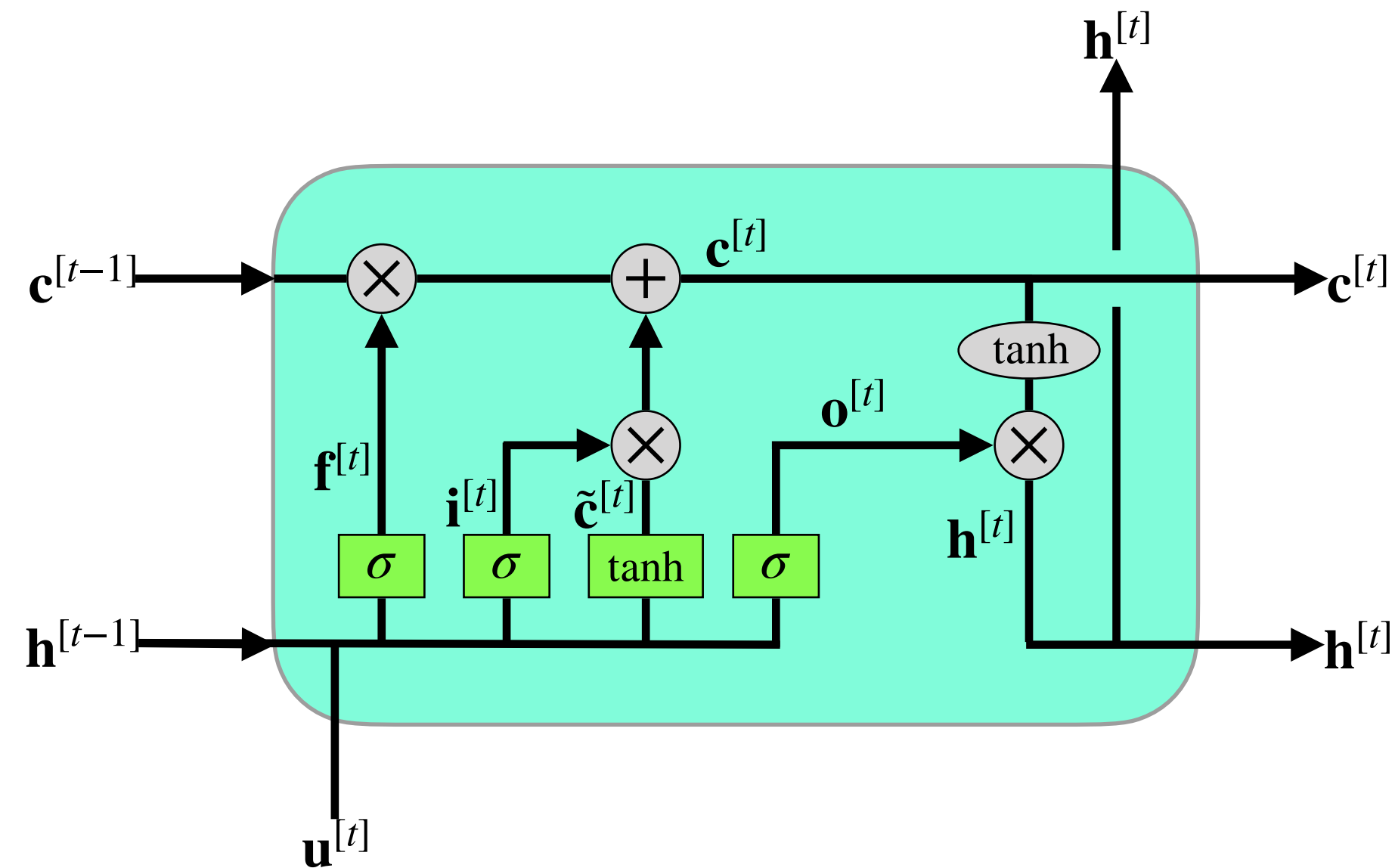
The LSTM (confusing/artistic) schematic



● element-wise operation

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

The LSTM (confusing/artistic) schematic



$$\tilde{\mathbf{c}}^{[t]} = \tanh(\mathbf{U}_c \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_c \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_c)$$

$$\mathbf{f}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_f \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_f \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_f)$$

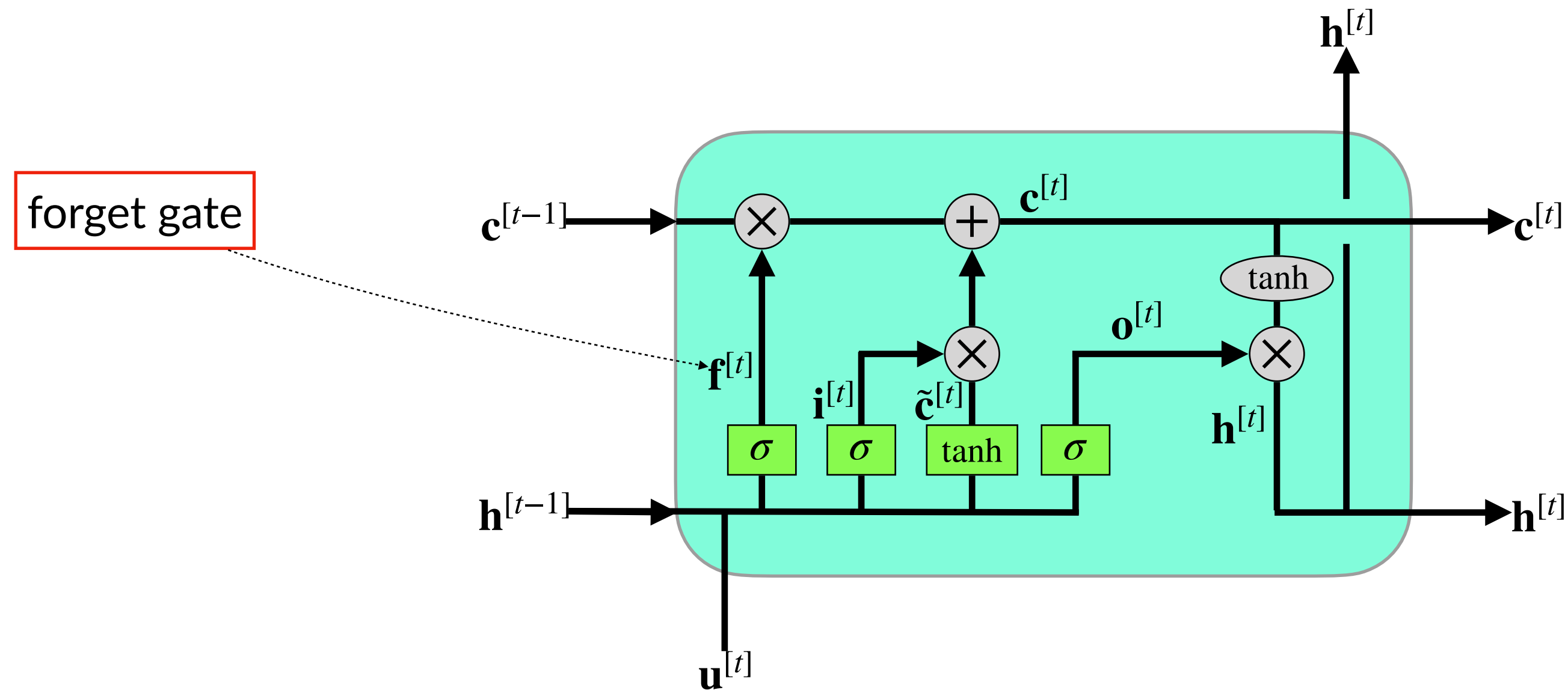
$$\mathbf{i}^{[t]} = \sigma(\mathbf{U}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}^{[t]} + \mathbf{W}_i \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]} + \mathbf{b}_i)$$

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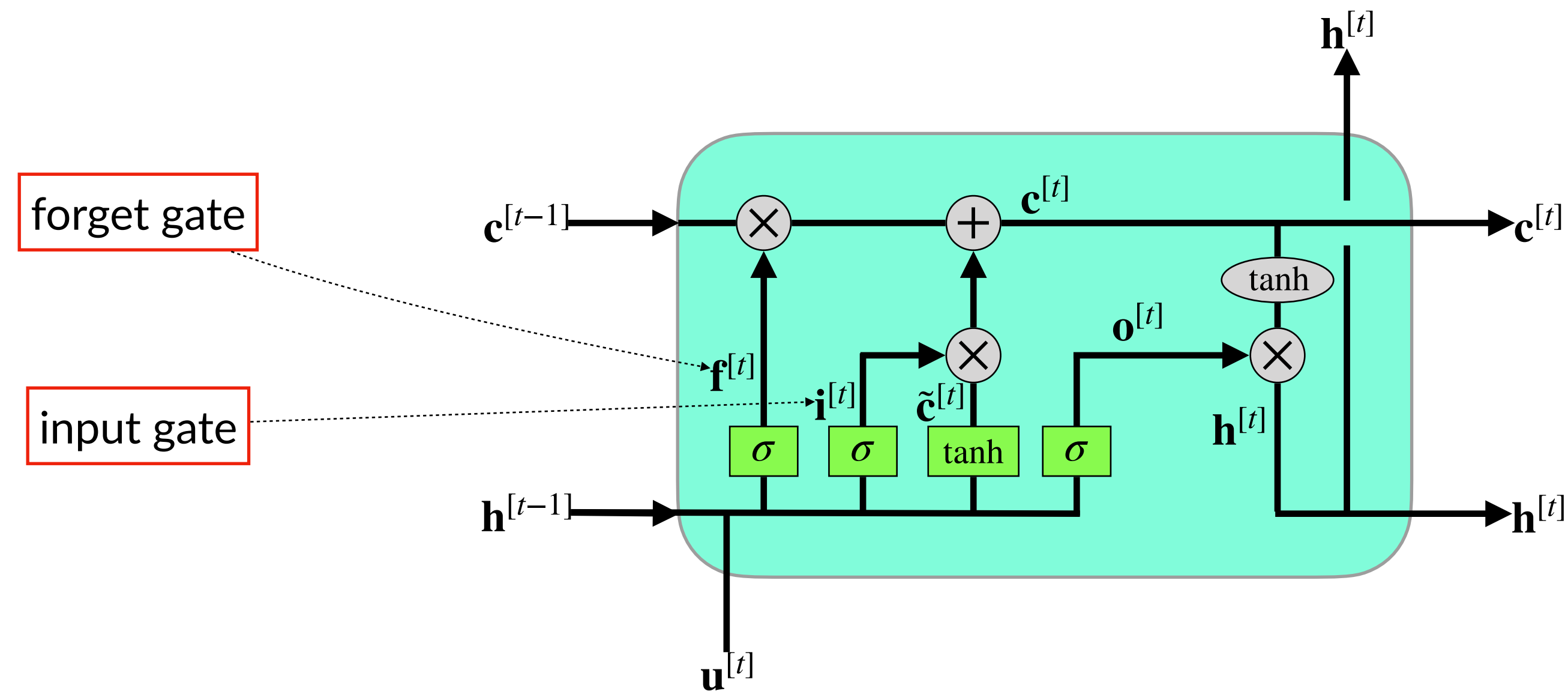
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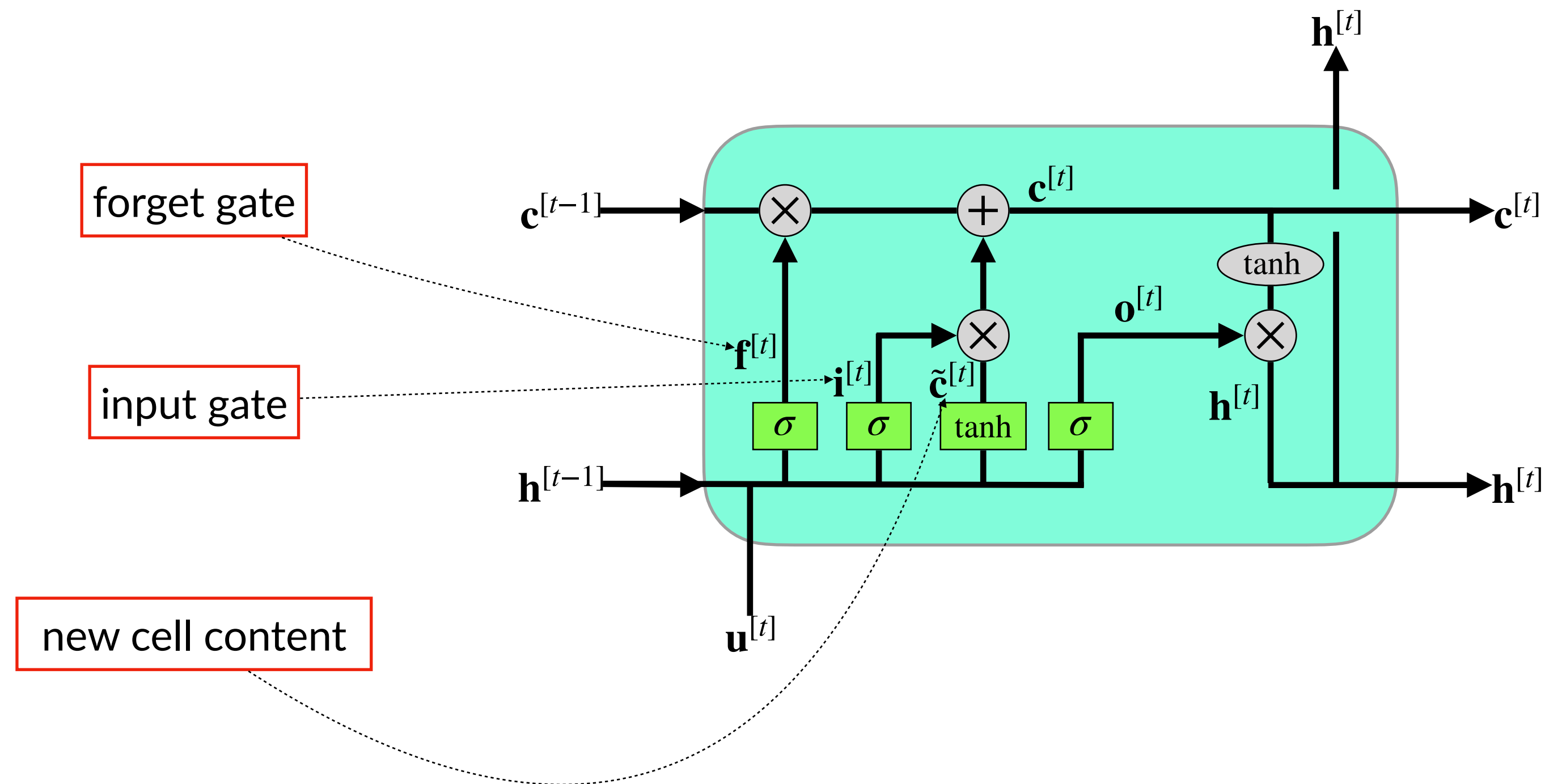
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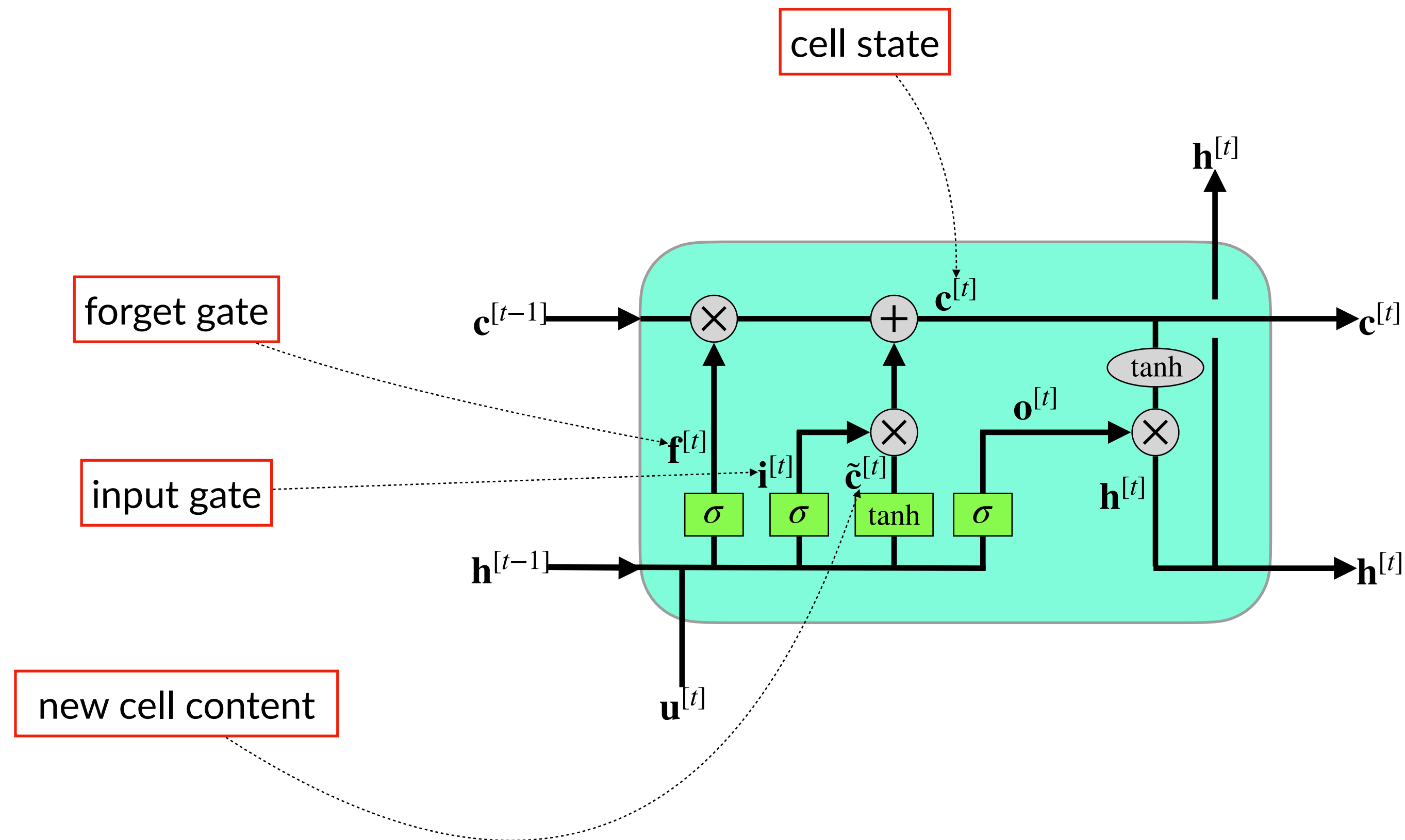
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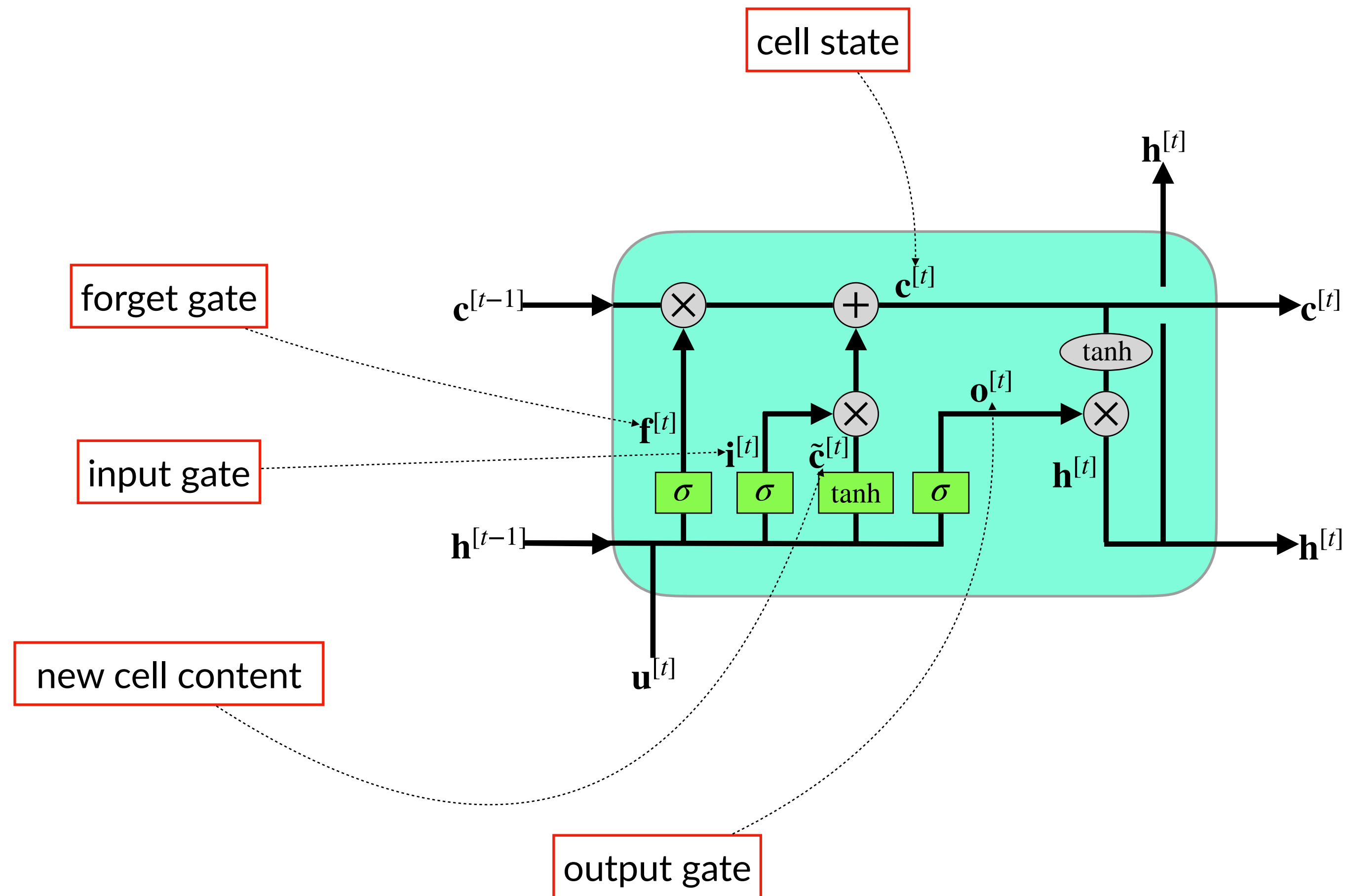
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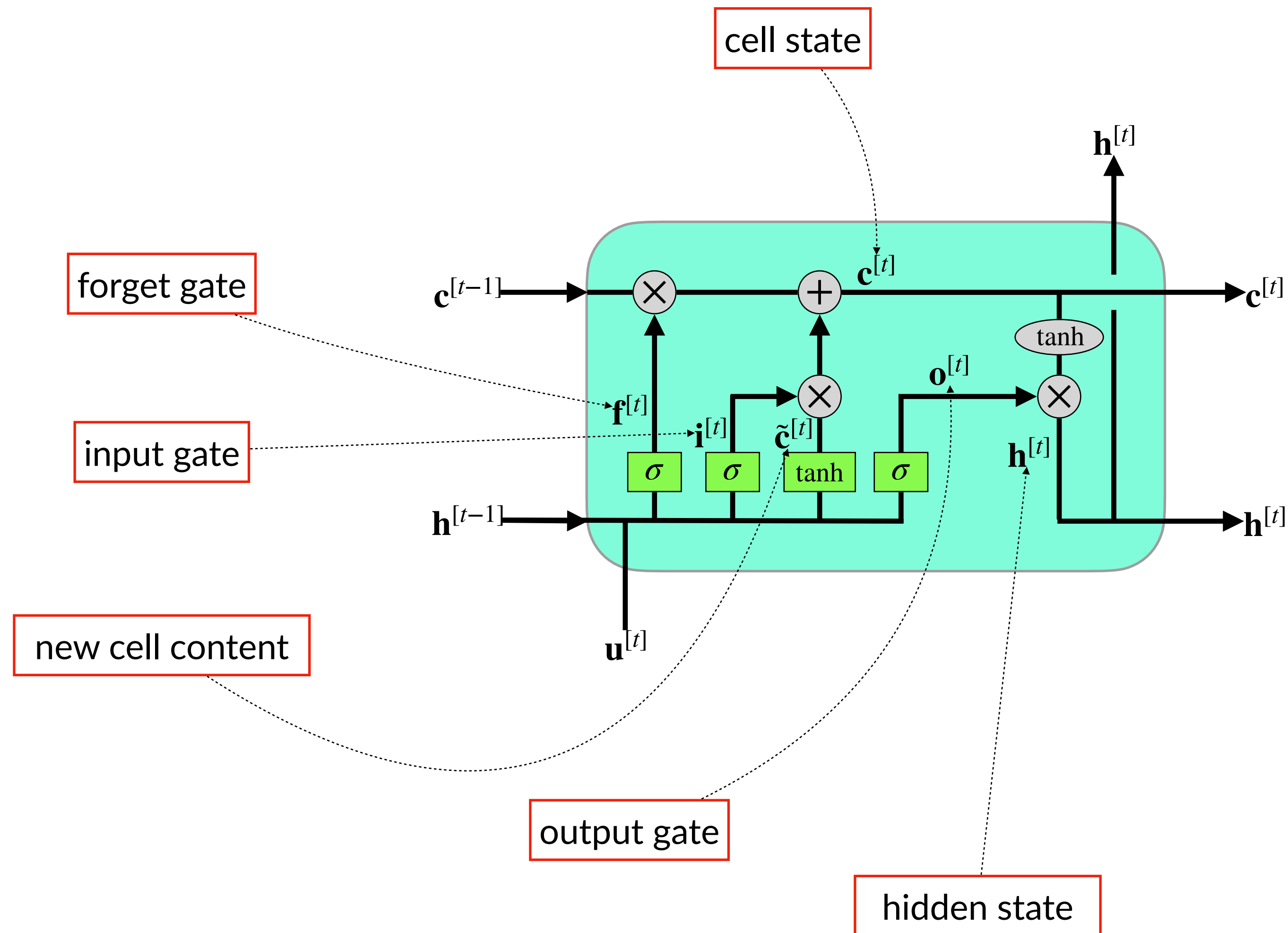
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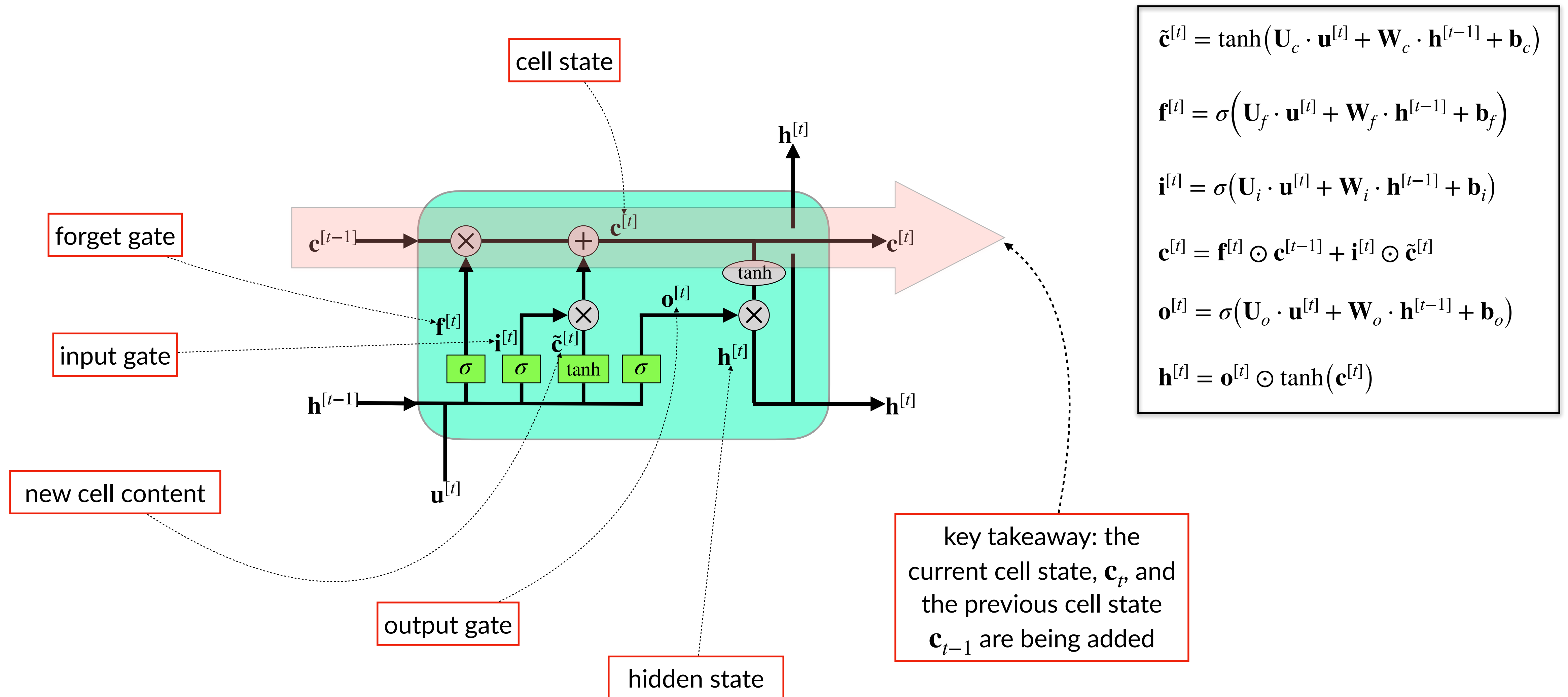
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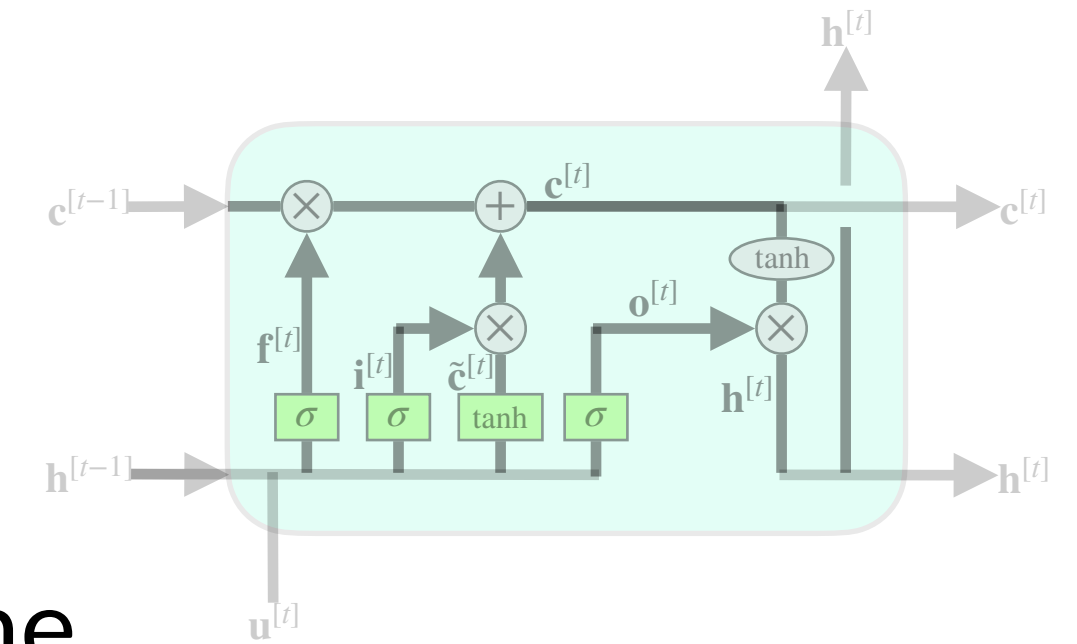
$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \mathbf{o}^{[t]} \odot \tanh(\mathbf{c}^{[t]})$$

The LSTM (confusing/artistic) schematic



LSTM resolves the vanishing gradient issue

- ▶ LSTM can preserve information over many time steps using its gates
- ▶ LSTM: If the forget gate value is set to $\mathbf{f}_i^{[t]} = 1$ for a cell dimension i and the corresponding input gate value $\mathbf{i}_i^{[t]} = 0$, then the cell value from the previous time step, $\mathbf{c}_i^{[t-1]}$, is maintained intact
- ▶ Simple RNN: much harder to maintain previous state information given at least an entire row of the recurrent matrix \mathbf{W}_h should be set to 1 which in turn will invalidate the entire RNN rationale: $\mathbf{h}_j^{[t]} \propto \mathbf{W}_h[j, :] \cdot \mathbf{h}^{[t-1]}$
- ▶ Depends on the task, but say an RNN can model ~ 10 time steps accurately, then an LSTM can probably capture ~ 100 time steps



Text generation with RNNs

Source: trekhlb.dev/machine-learning-experiments/#/experiments/RecipeGenerationRNN

Recipe RNN LM output

Input: “Fish and chips”

Name: Fish and chips with Broccoli and Salad of Creamy Thyme Broth

Ingredients:

- 1 cup frozen peas, thawed
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh dill
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup corn tortillas
- 1 cup shredded smoked mozzarella or parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1 cup chicken broth
- Salt and pepper

Instructions: *Season salad with salt and pepper. In a large saute pan over medium-high heat, cook poblano pepper for 1 minute. Add broccoli rabe, spring onions, thyme, and bay leaves and sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste. Cook until vegetables are soft, about 10 minutes. Add the spinach and stir until completely melted. Add sugar and simmer until sauce thickens, about 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice. Serve with steamed roasted garlic bread.*

Text generation with RNNs – Trends captured by LSTM cells

Certain LSTM cells “learn” to have larger values...

towards the end of a line

```
The sole importance of the crossing of the Berezina lies in the fact that it plainly and indubitably proved the fallacy of all the plans for cutting off the enemy's retreat and the soundness of the only possible line of action--the one Kutuzov and the general mass of the army demanded--namely, simply to follow the enemy up. The French crowd fled at a continually increasing speed and all its energy was directed to reaching its goal. It fled like a wounded animal and it was impossible to block its path. This was shown not so much by the arrangements it made for crossing as by what took place at the bridges. When the bridges broke down, unarmed soldiers, people from Moscow and women with children who were with the French transport, all--carried on by vis inertiae--pressed forward into boats and into the ice-covered water and did not, surrender.
```

inside if statements

```
static int __dequeue_signal(struct sigpending *pending, sigset_t *mask,
                           siginfo_t *info)
{
    int sig = next_signal(pending, mask);
    if (sig) {
        if (current->notifier) {
            if (sigismember(current->notifier_mask, sig)) {
                if (!(current->notifier)(current->notifier_data)) {
                    clear_thread_flag(TIF_SIGPENDING);
                    return 0;
                }
            }
        }
        collect_signal(sig, pending, info);
    }
    return sig;
}
```

Source: karpathy.github.io/2015/05/21/rnn-effectiveness/

Text generation with RNNs – Trends captured by LSTM cells

Certain LSTM cells “learn” to have larger values...

*when the code expression's
depth increases*

*inside comments or
double quotes*

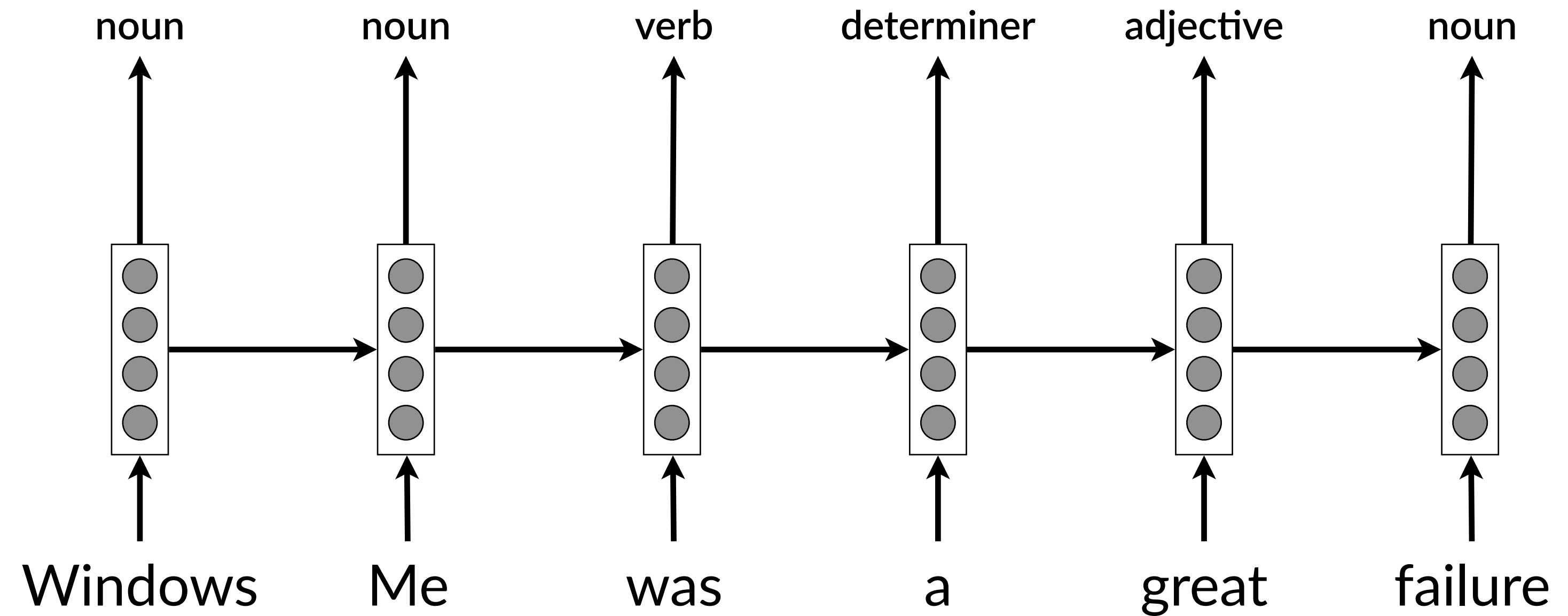
```
#ifdef CONFIG_AUDITSYSCALL
static inline int audit_match_class_bits(int class, u32 *mask)
{
    int i;
    if (classes[class]) {
        for (i = 0; i < AUDIT_BITMASK_SIZE; i++)
            if (mask[i] & classes[class][i])
                return 0;
    }
    return 1;
}

/* Duplicate LSM field information. The lsm_rule is opaque, so
 * re-initialized. */
static inline int audit_dupe_lsm_field(struct audit_field *df,
                                     struct audit_field *sf)
{
    int ret = 0;
    char *lsm_str;
    /* our own copy of lsm_str */
    lsm_str = kstrdup(sf->lsm_str, GFP_KERNEL);
    if (unlikely(!lsm_str))
        return -ENOMEM;
    df->lsm_str = lsm_str;
    /* our own (refreshed) copy of lsm_rule */
    ret = security_audit_rule_init(df->type, df->op, df->lsm_str,
                                  (void *)&df->lsm_rule);
    /* Keep currently invalid fields around in case they
     * become valid after a policy reload. */
    if (ret == -EINVAL) {
        pr_warn("audit rule for LSM '%s' is invalid\n",
              df->lsm_str);
        ret = 0;
    }
    return ret;
}
```

Source: karpathy.github.io/2015/05/21/rnn-effectiveness/

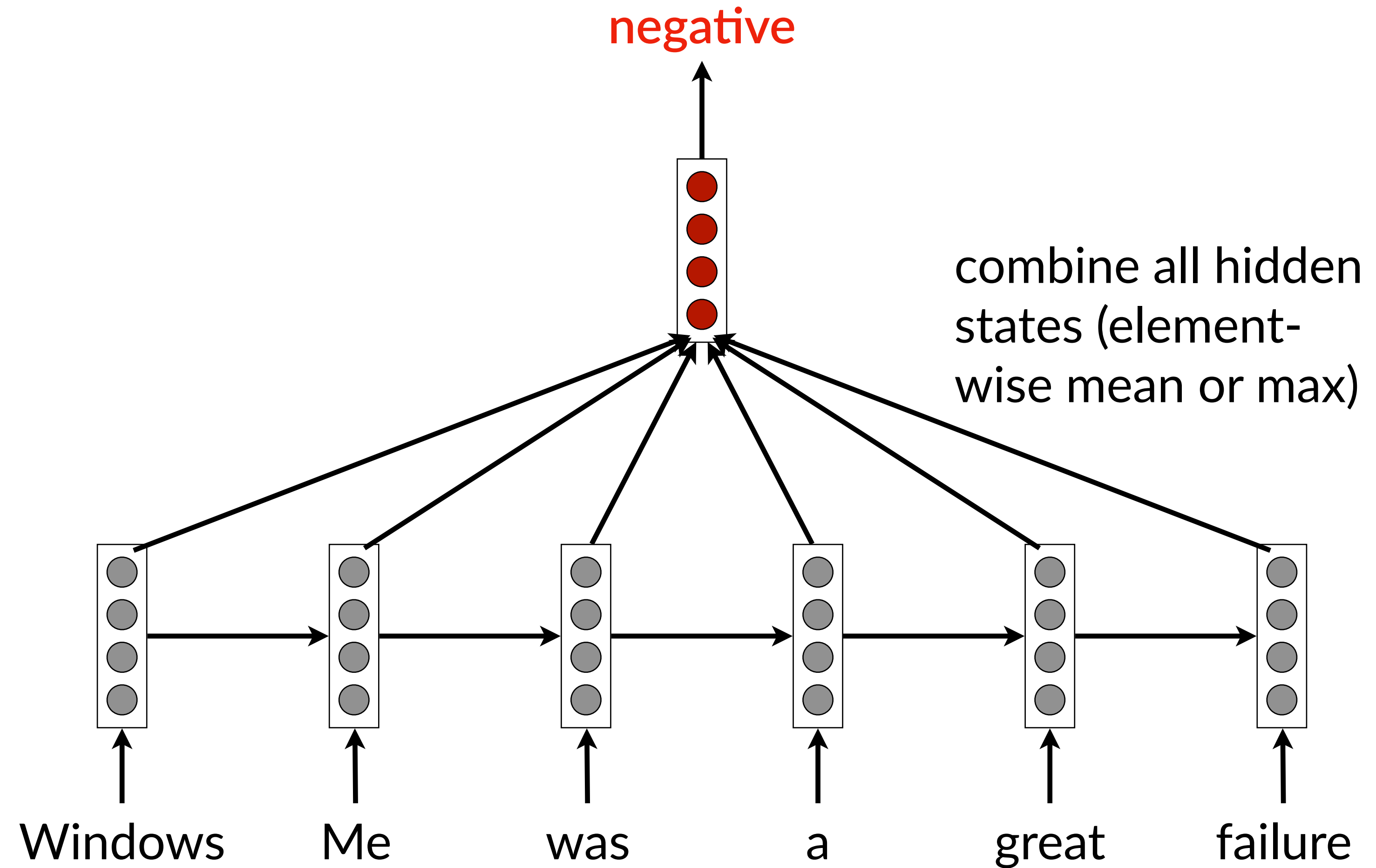
RNN applications – Sequence tagging

e.g. tasks like part-of-speech (POS) tagging and named entity recognition (NER)

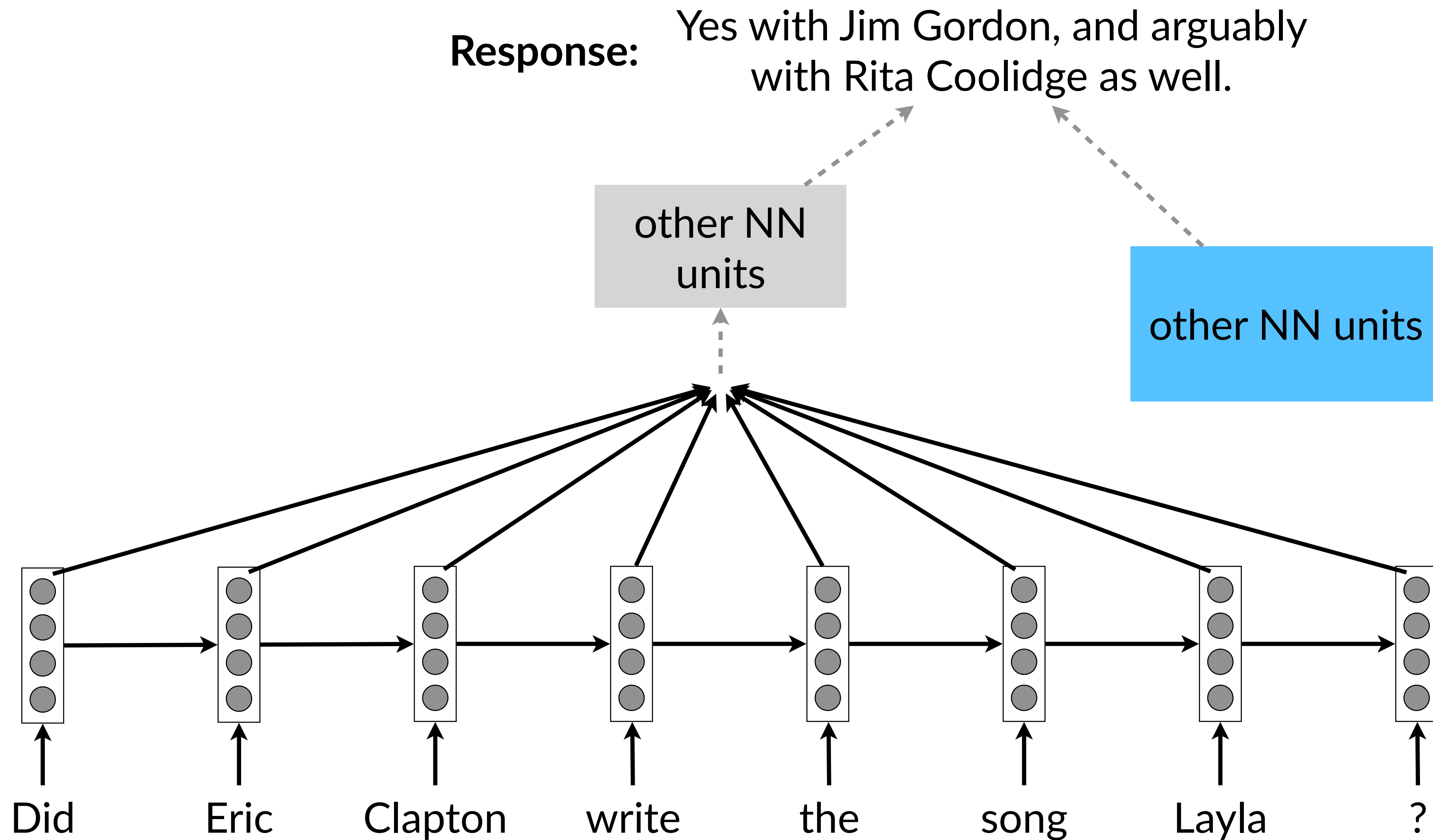


RNN applications – Sentence encoding

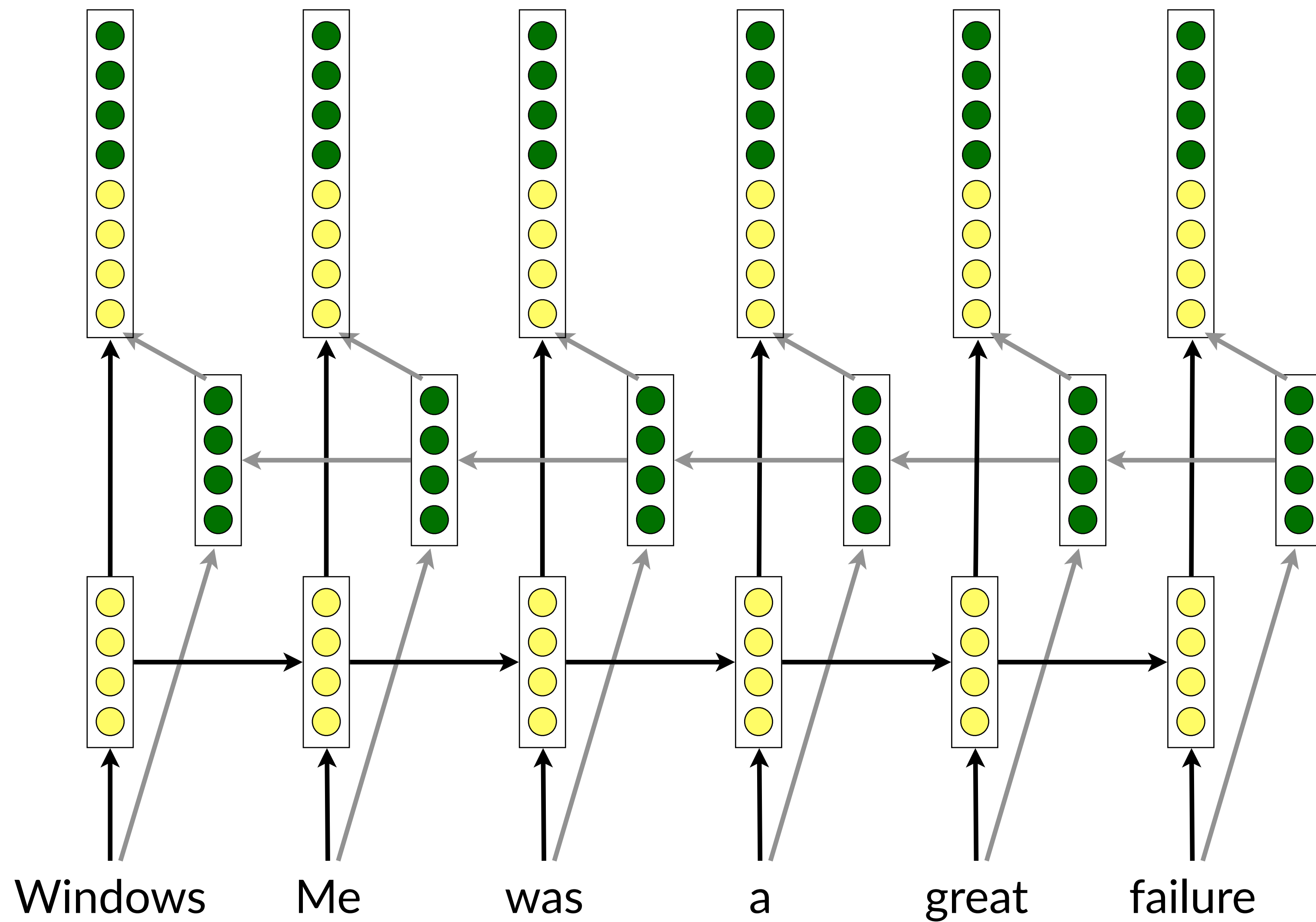
*e.g. text / sentence,
sentiment classification*



RNN applications – Encoding units in larger architectures

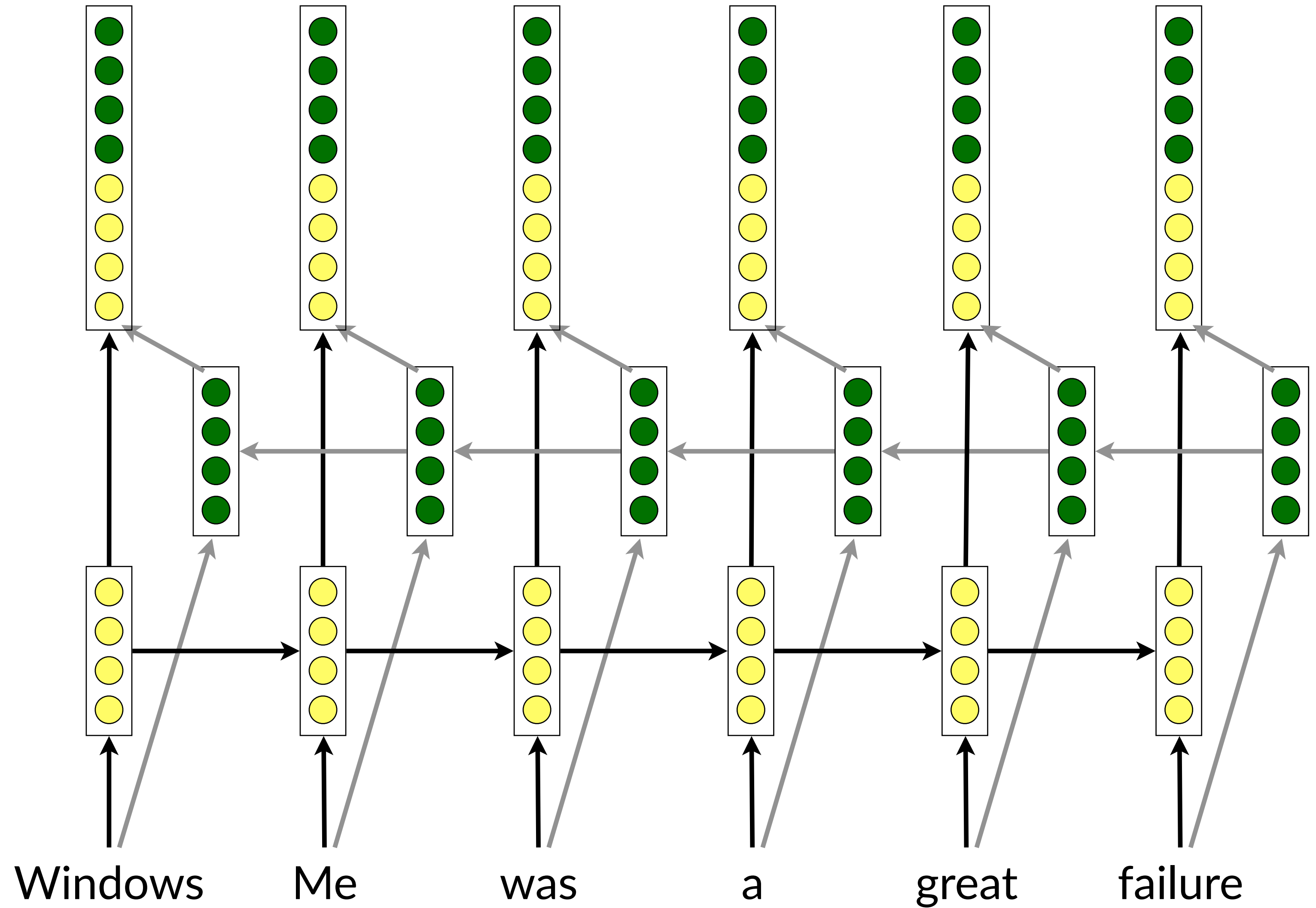


Bidirectional RNNs

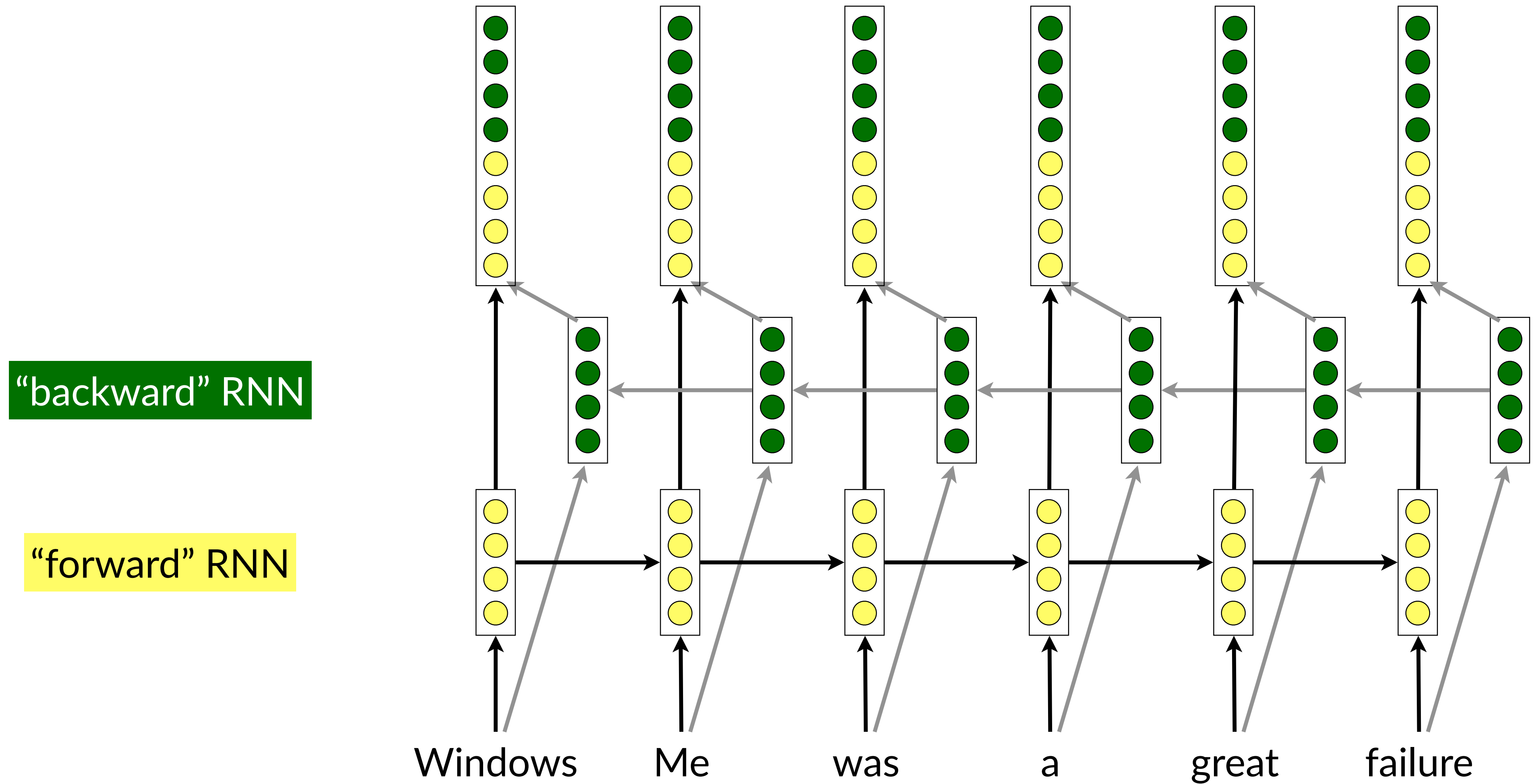


Bidirectional RNNs

“forward” RNN



Bidirectional RNNs

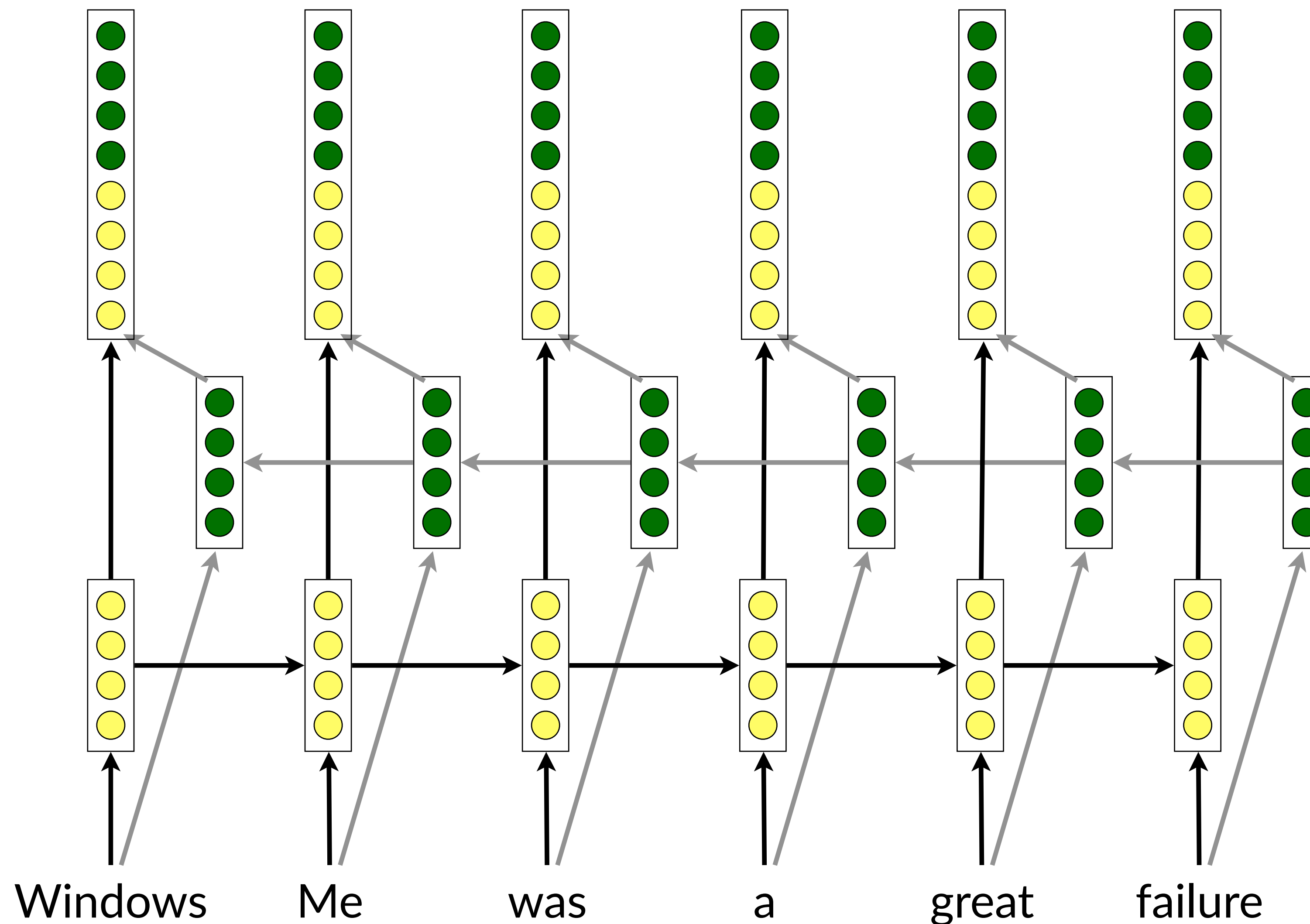


Bidirectional RNNs

Hidden state
via concatenation
has context from
both directions

“backward” RNN

“forward” RNN



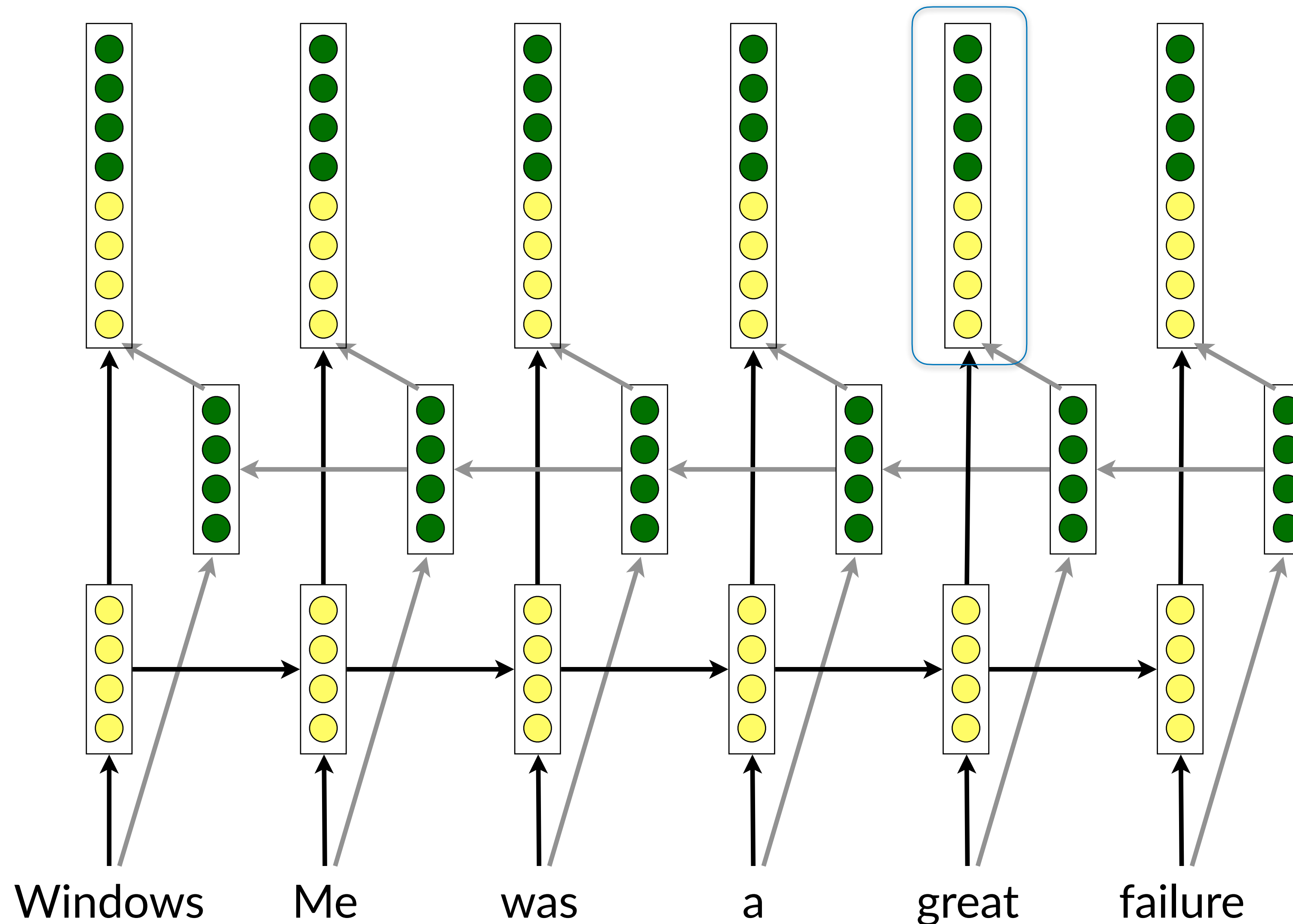
Bidirectional RNNs

“great” product vs. “great” failure

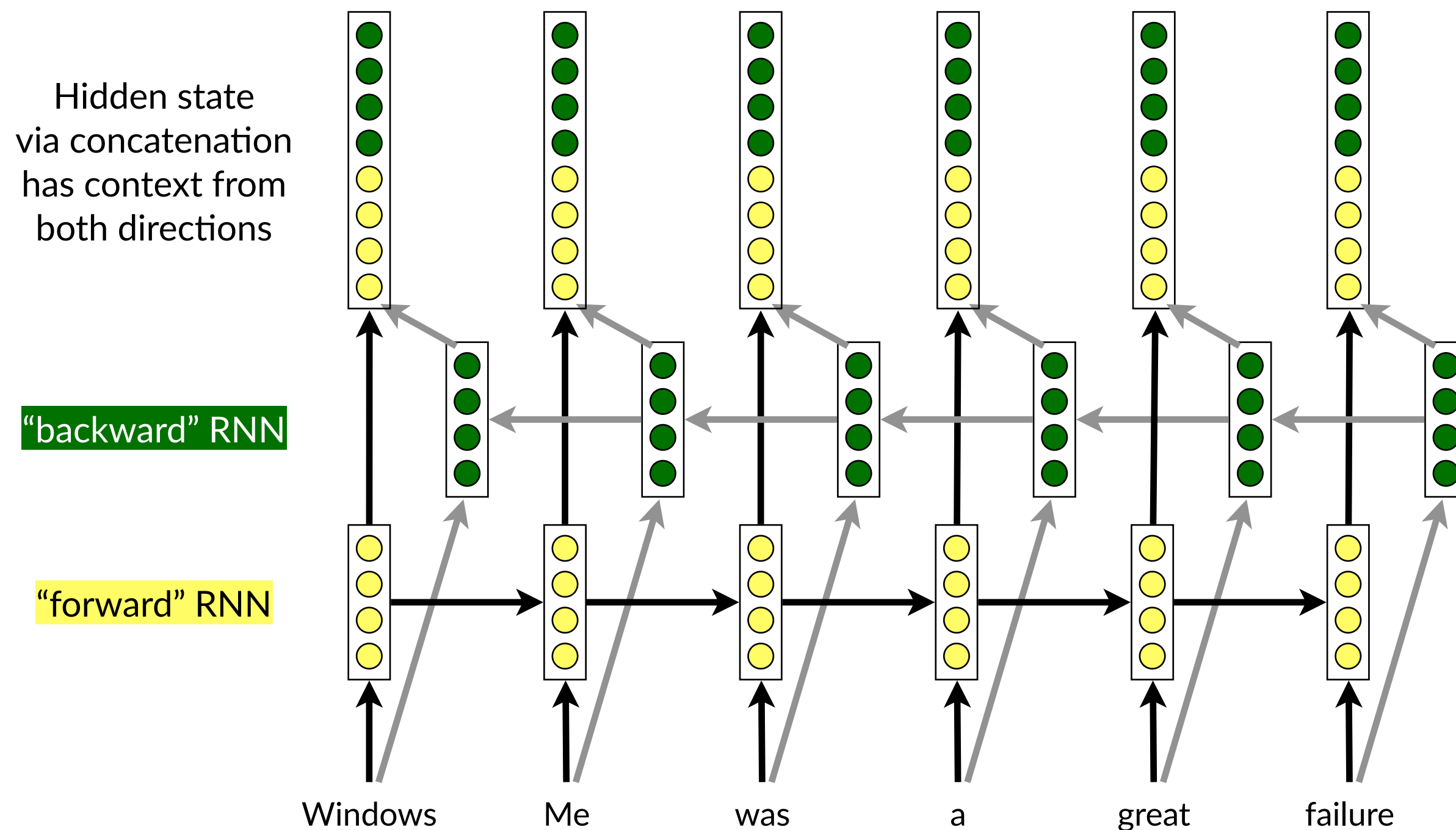
Hidden state
via concatenation
has context from
both directions

“backward” RNN

“forward” RNN



Bidirectional RNNs



hidden state of the bidirectional RNN

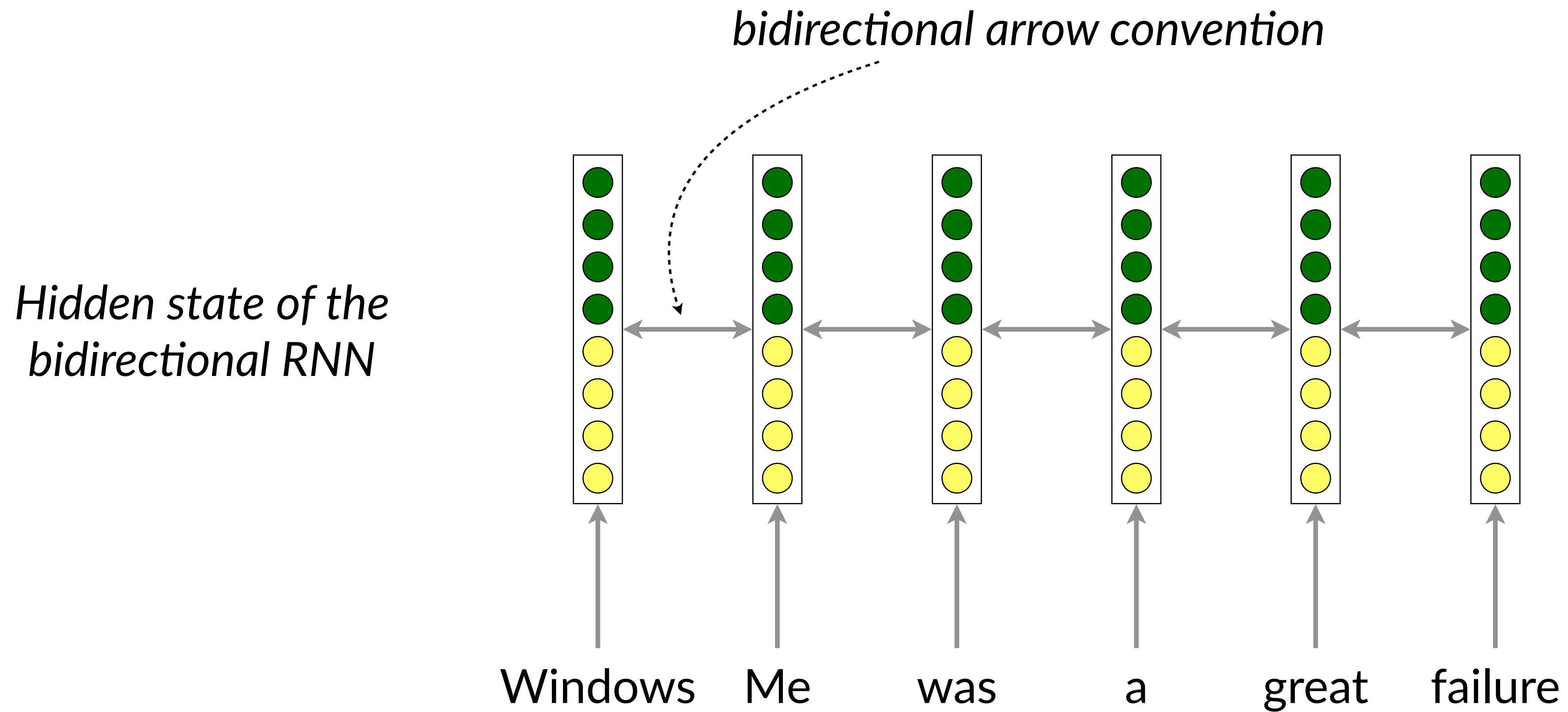
$$\mathbf{h}^{[t]} = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{\mathbf{h}}^{[t]} \\ \overleftarrow{\mathbf{h}}^{[t]} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\overleftarrow{\mathbf{h}}^{[t]} = \text{RNN}_B \left(\overleftarrow{\mathbf{h}}^{[t+1]}, \mathbf{u}^{[t]} \right)$$

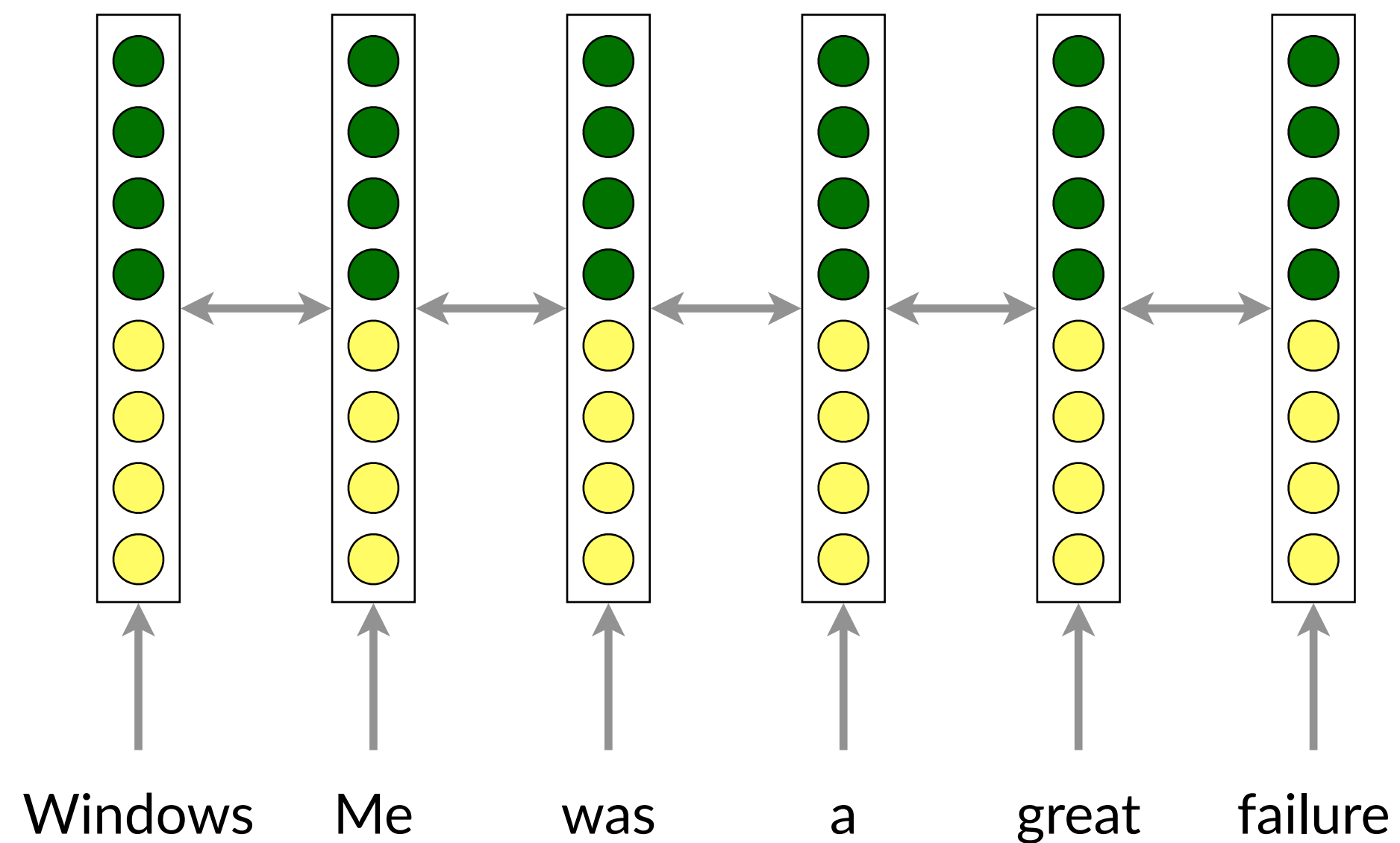
$$\vec{\mathbf{h}}^{[t]} = \text{RNN}_F \left(\vec{\mathbf{h}}^{[t-1]}, \mathbf{u}^{[t]} \right)$$

different weights

Bidirectional RNNs



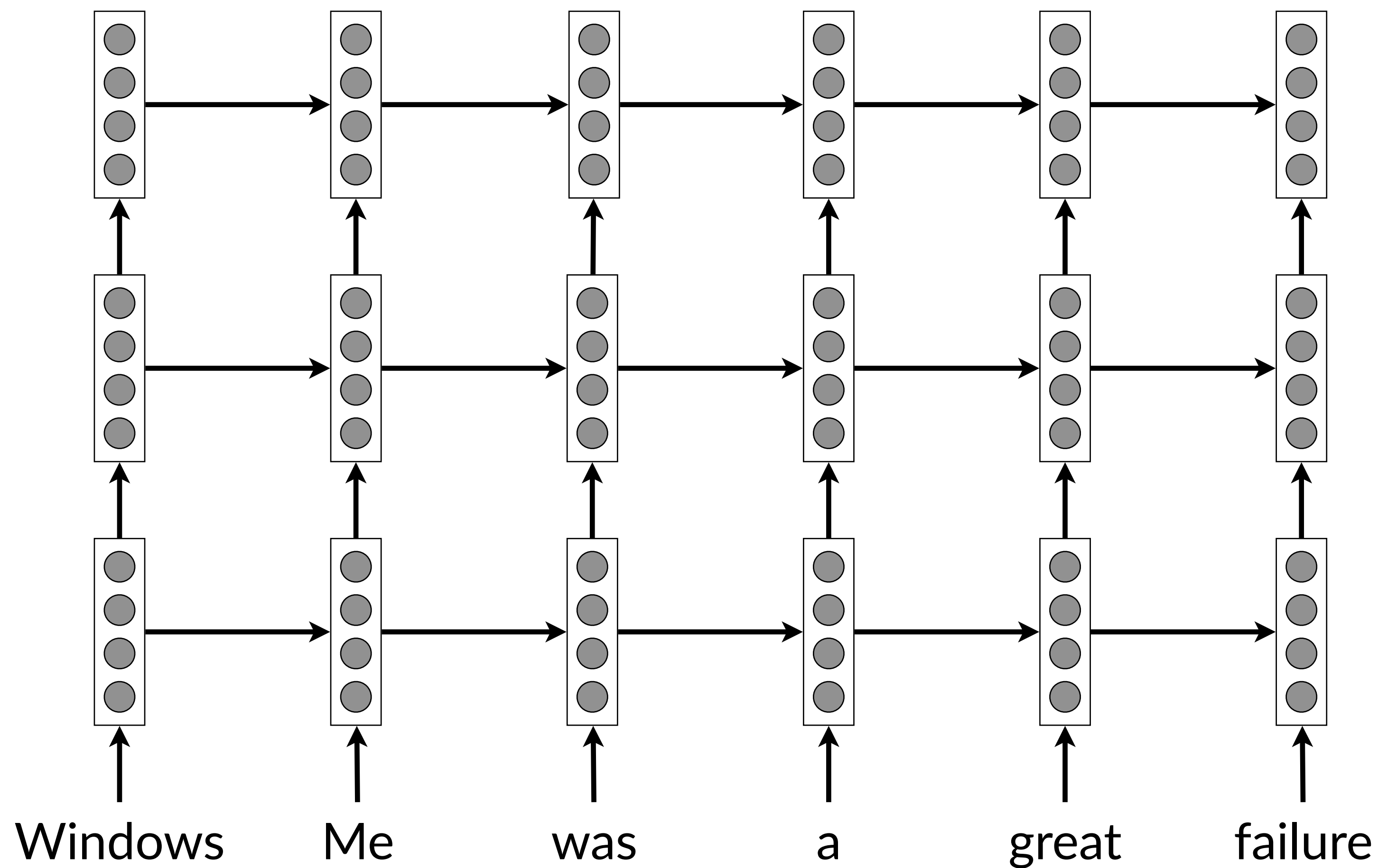
Bidirectional RNNs



- ▶ Bidirectional RNNs are very effective in sequence classification
- ▶ They require access to the entire sequence, i.e. not necessarily great for language models (*text generators*)
- ▶ Bidirectional NNs are strong predictors, i.e. BERT: Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers
[aclanthology.org/N19-1423.pdf](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1910.01107v1.pdf)

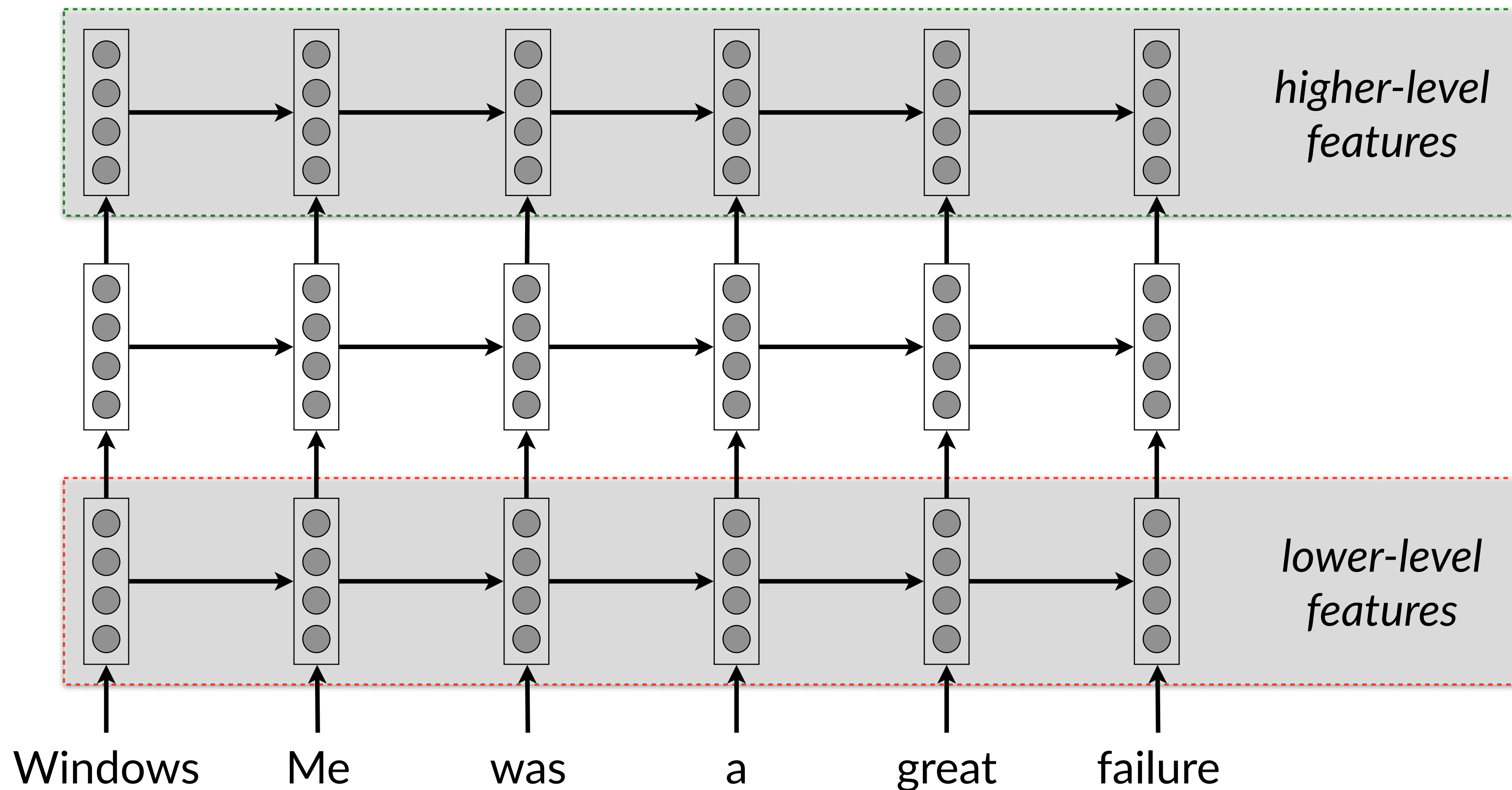
Stacked (multi-layer) RNNs

the output of one RNN layer (hidden state) becomes the input to the next



Stacked (multi-layer) RNNs

the output of one RNN layer (hidden state) becomes the input to the next



Next lecture with me

- ▶ Monday, March 18 (*last week*)
- ▶ Self-invited “guest” lecture on “*Modelling infectious disease prevalence using web search activity*”

