LING 334 - Introduction to Computational Linguistics

Week 9

State of the Art

Plan for Today

Neural nets crash course!

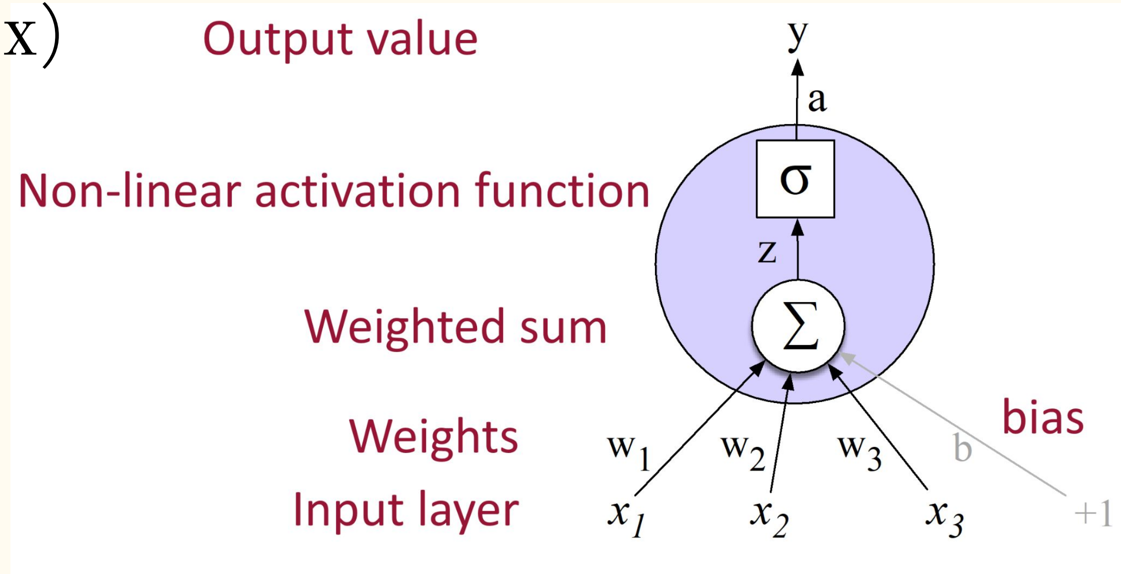
- Conceptual understanding -
- up to and including BERT-style (“transformers”)

Contextualizing NNs in the field

Where to go from here

One Neuron ($\approx$ Logistic Regression)

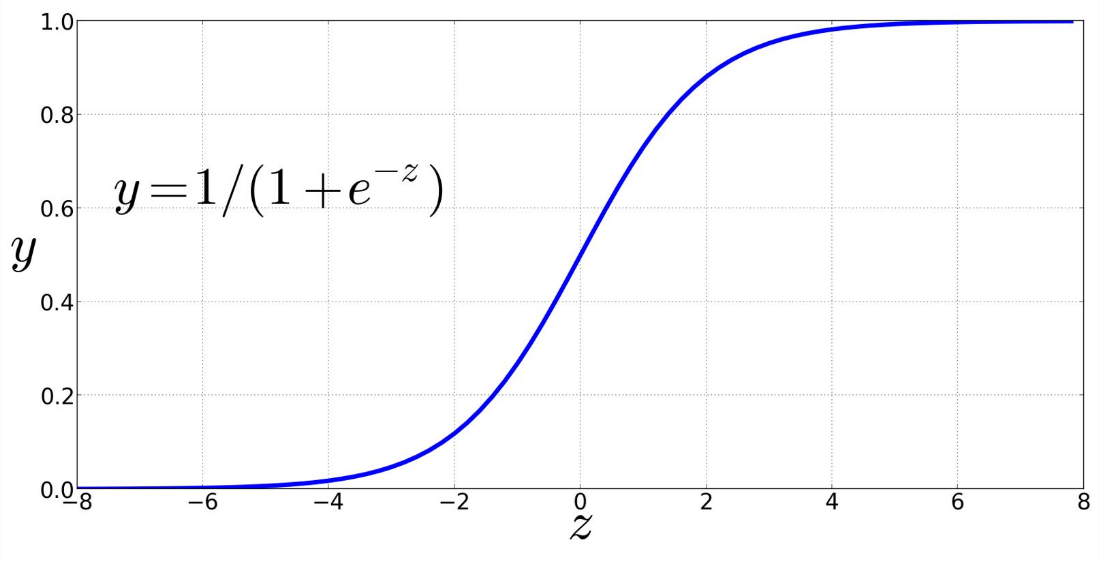
Biologically inspired
(but way less complex)



this and future figures from SLP Ch. 7 and 9 unless noted

Non-Linearities - Sigmoid

Transforms any value to be between 0 and 1, pseudo-probability



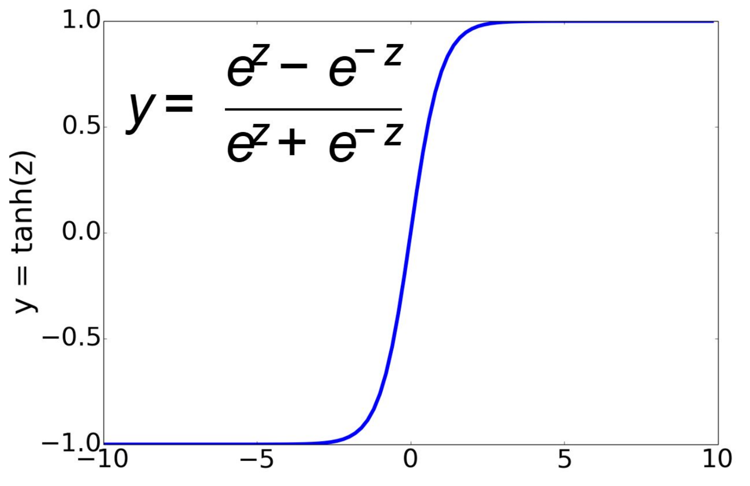
x axis = sum of weights times inputs

y axis = output value of neuron

Non-Linearities - tanh and ReLU

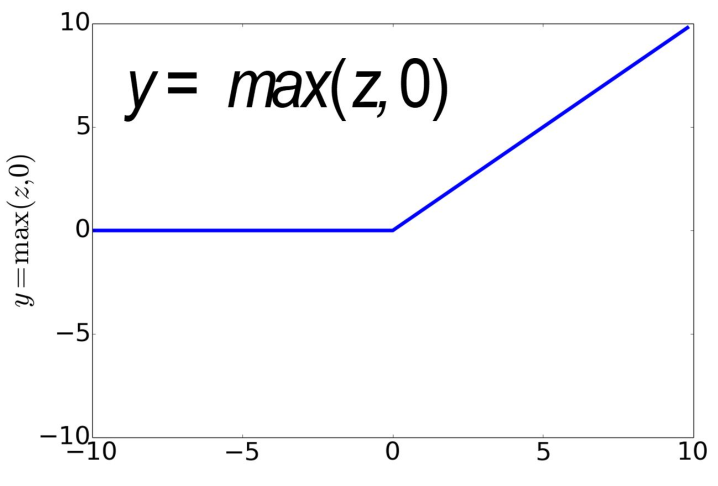
tanh

(like sigmoid, works better)



ReLU

(most common)

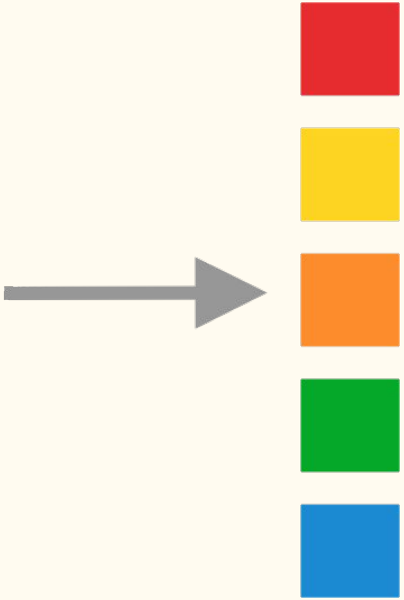


credit J+M, SLP slides

Why Non-Linearities?

Naive Bayes is a linear classifier

Decision boundary from $\sum w \cdot x$



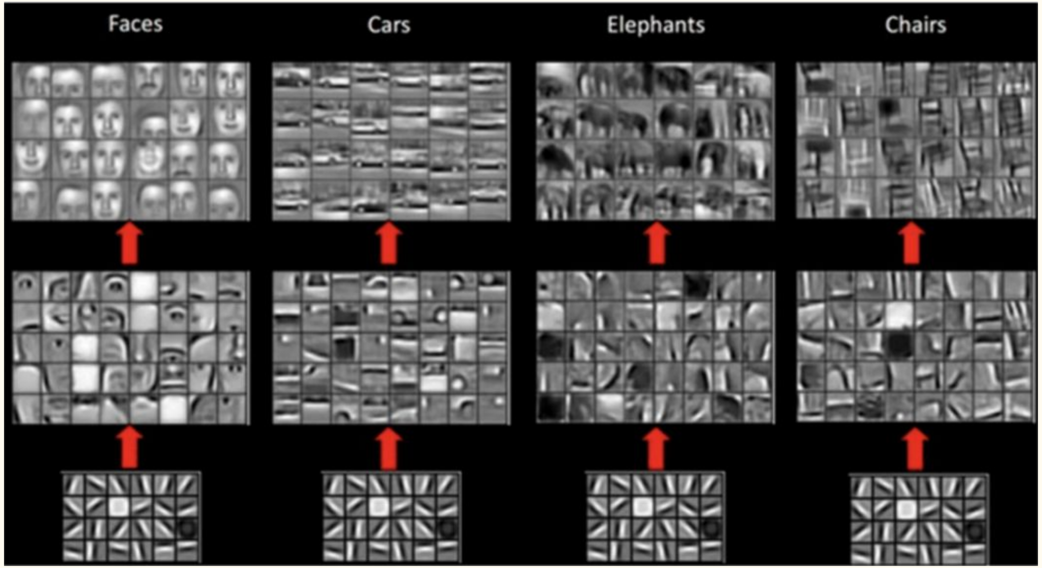
For NNs, key idea is representing the input in increasingly abstract non-linear transformations

“Hidden Layers”

Until the final decision can be made linearly

Example from Computer Vision

Each layer in a convolutional neural network is activated by increasingly abstract stimuli

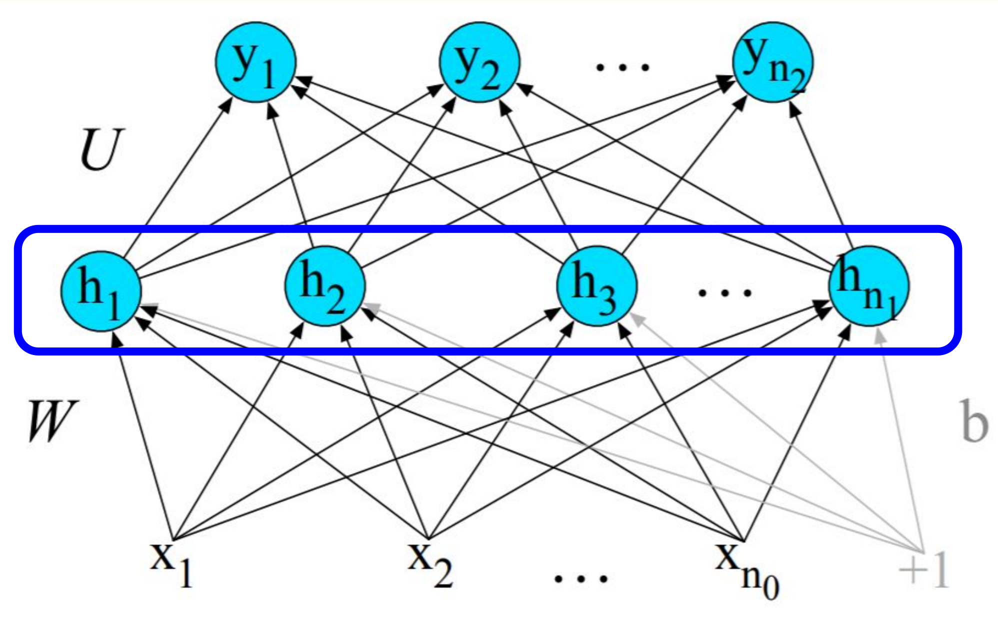


Simple Feed-forward Neural Net

Each arrow represents multiplication of value by a weight

Summed at each node,
non-linear transform

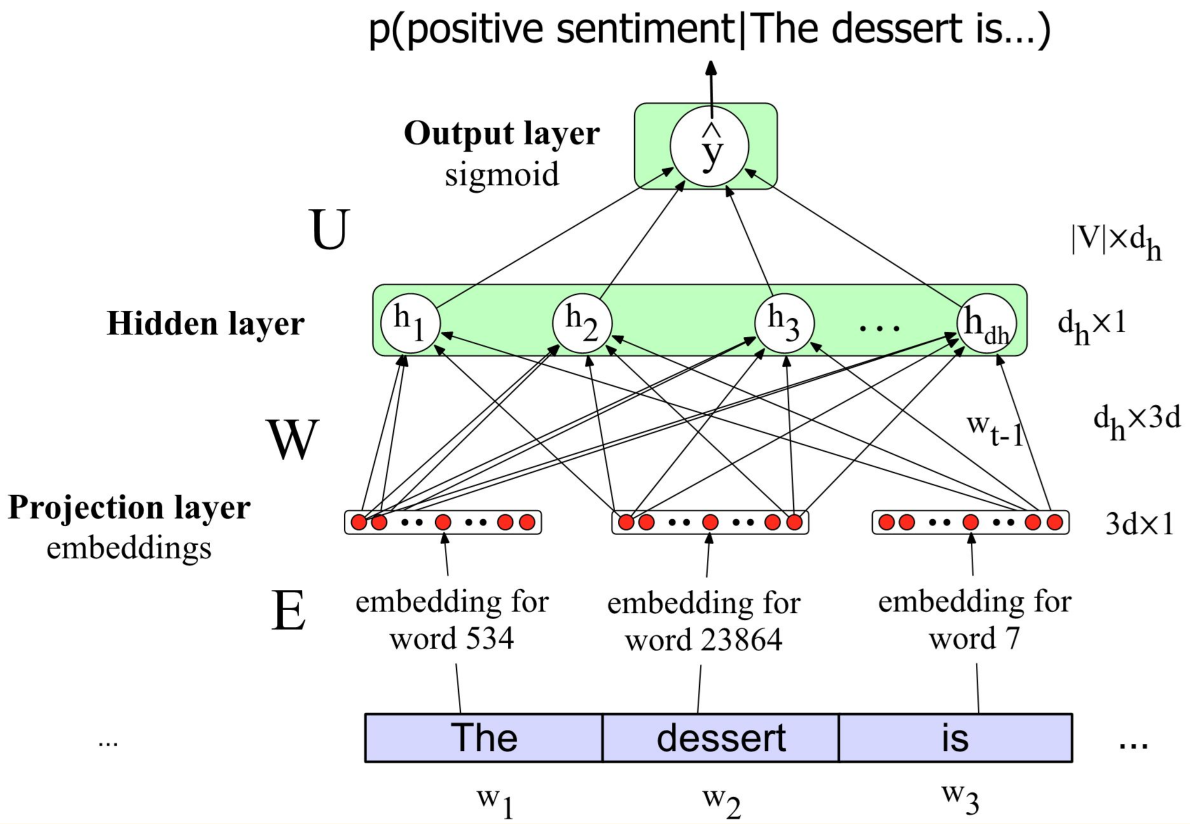
Like multiple logistic
regressions running
concurrently on the
same inputs



Simple NN - Another View

Large input layer!

Many weights!

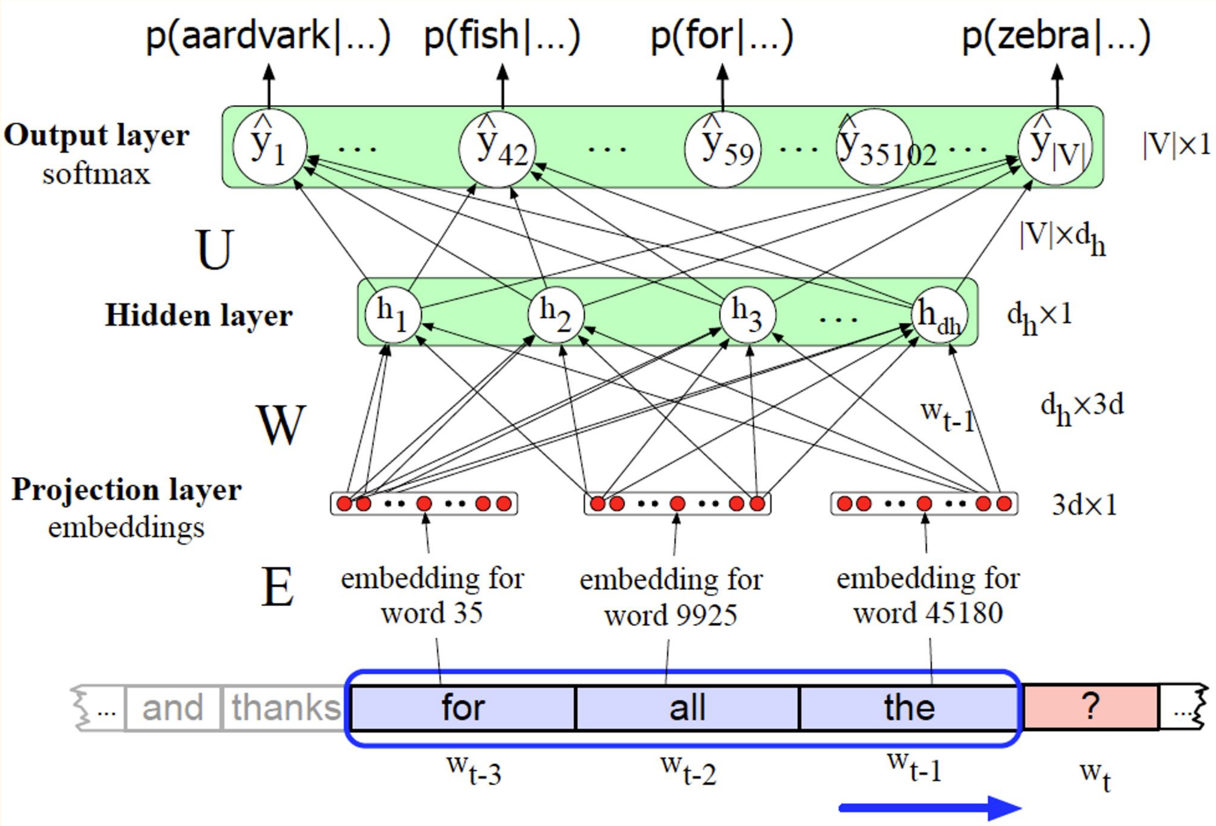


Neural Network Language Model

Sliding window over words

Large output layer of all words in V

Notice the hidden layer is itself a vector!

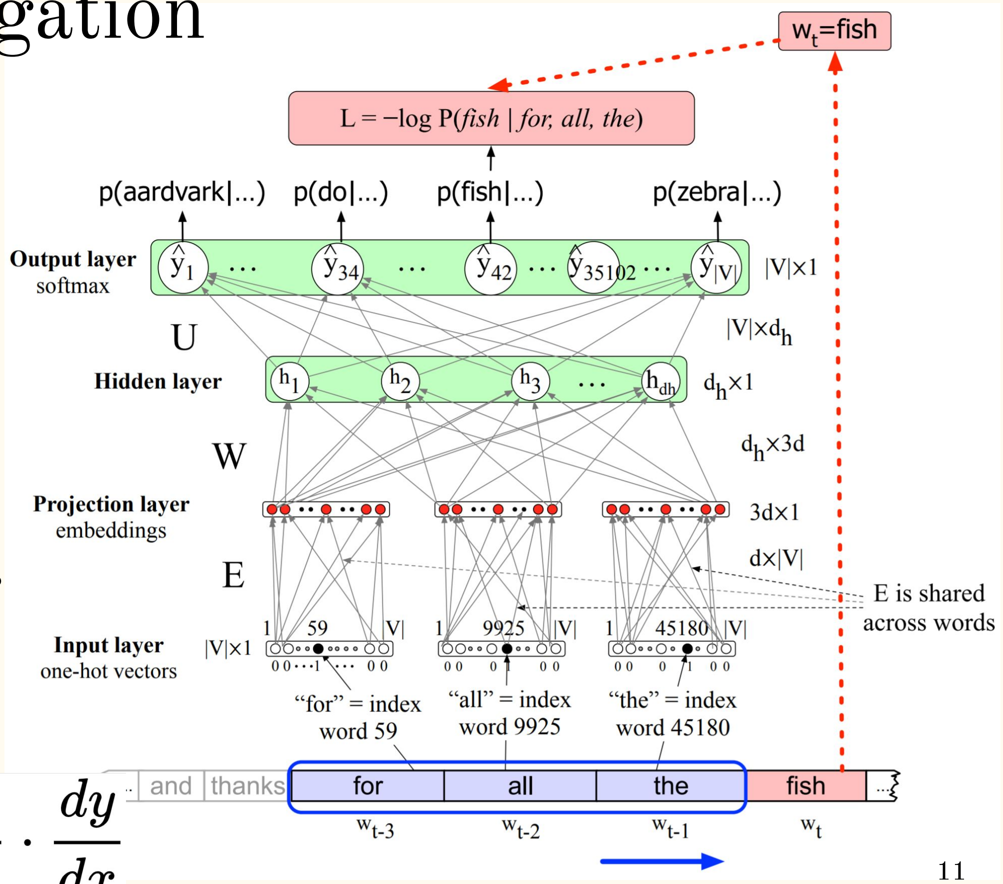


Training via Backpropagation

Loss = function saying, how wrong are we?

Derivative of this function at any point tells us which way to go to be less wrong

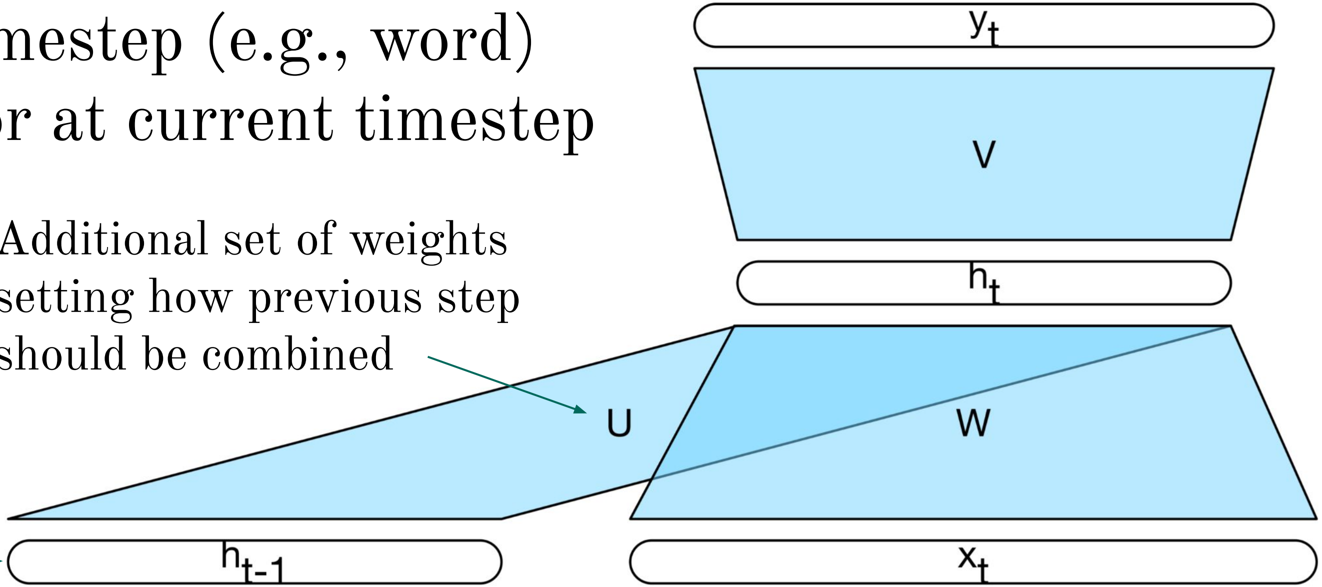
Chain rule allows us to go back arbitrarily far $\frac{dz}{dx} = \frac{dz}{dy} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx}$



Recurrent Neural Networks

Core idea: combine hidden state vector from previous timestep (e.g., word) With input vector at current timestep

Additional set of weights setting how previous step should be combined



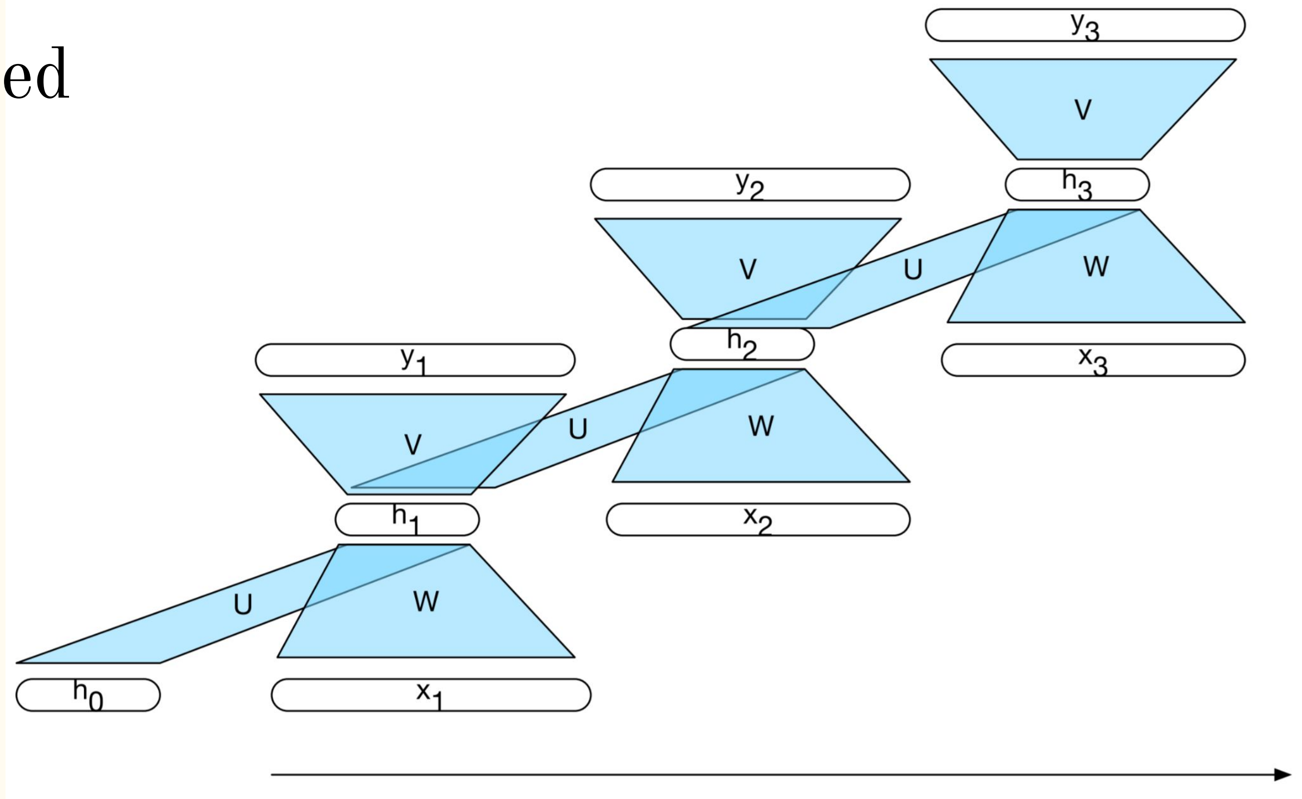
Vector of hidden state from the previous timestep

Inputs at this timestep

Recurrent Neural Networks - unrolled view

Weights are shared across timesteps

E.g., the same U, V, W are applied at each timestep

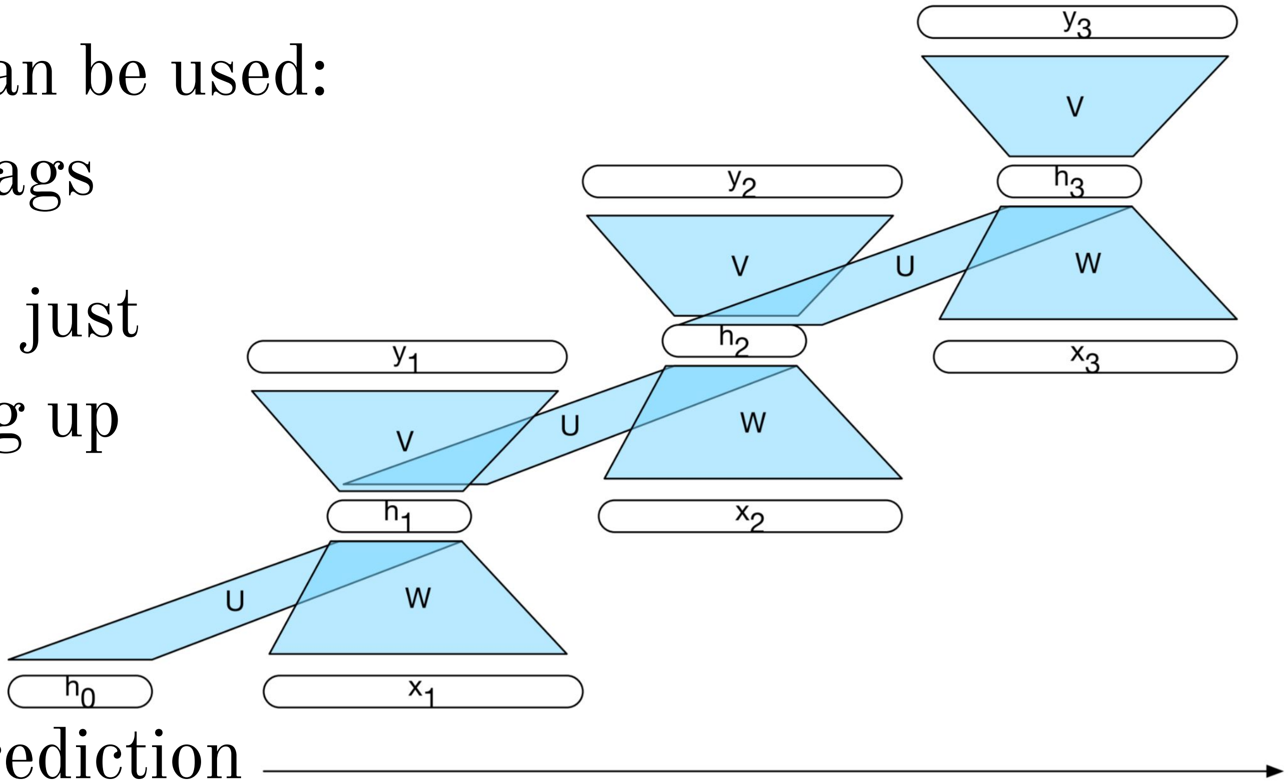


Recurrent Neural Networks - unrolled view

Output layer (y) can be used:
e.g. predict POS tags

or discarded, if we just care about building up the hidden state

Can just use final output layer for prediction

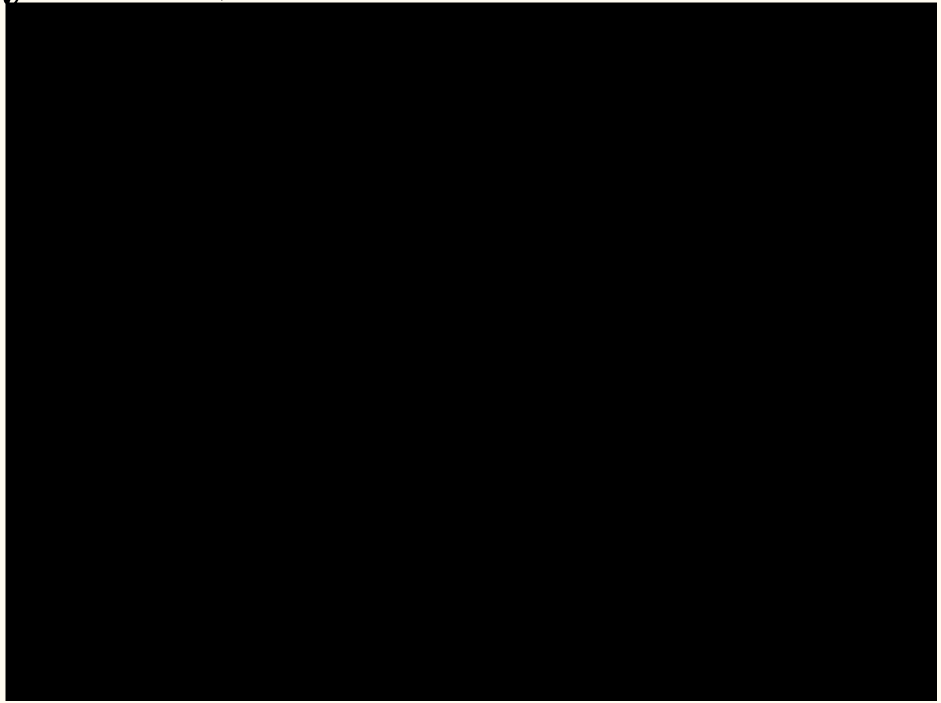


Seq2seq Models

Encode a sequence word by word, building the hidden state

Pass final hidden state to another RNN to "decode"

Common use case: machine translation



ELMo (Embeddings from a Language Model)

Key insight: don't use static embeddings; instead, use hidden state from an RNN language model (Peters et al. 2018)

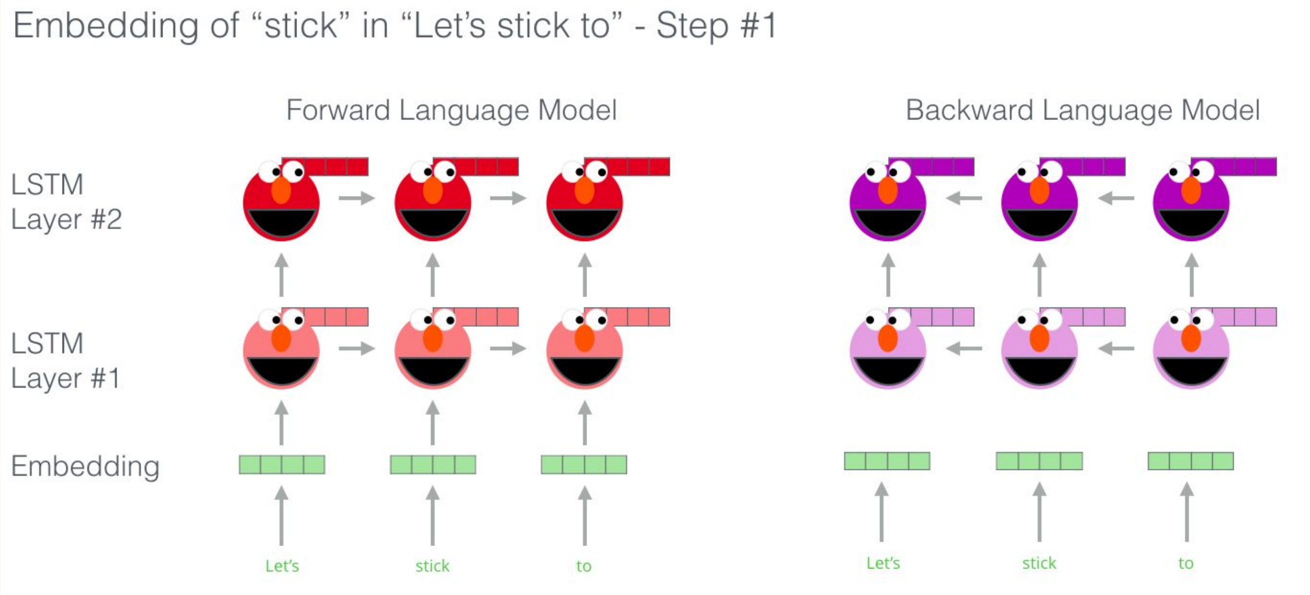


figure from Jay Alammar

ELMo (Embeddings from a Language Model)

Result is “contextual” embeddings

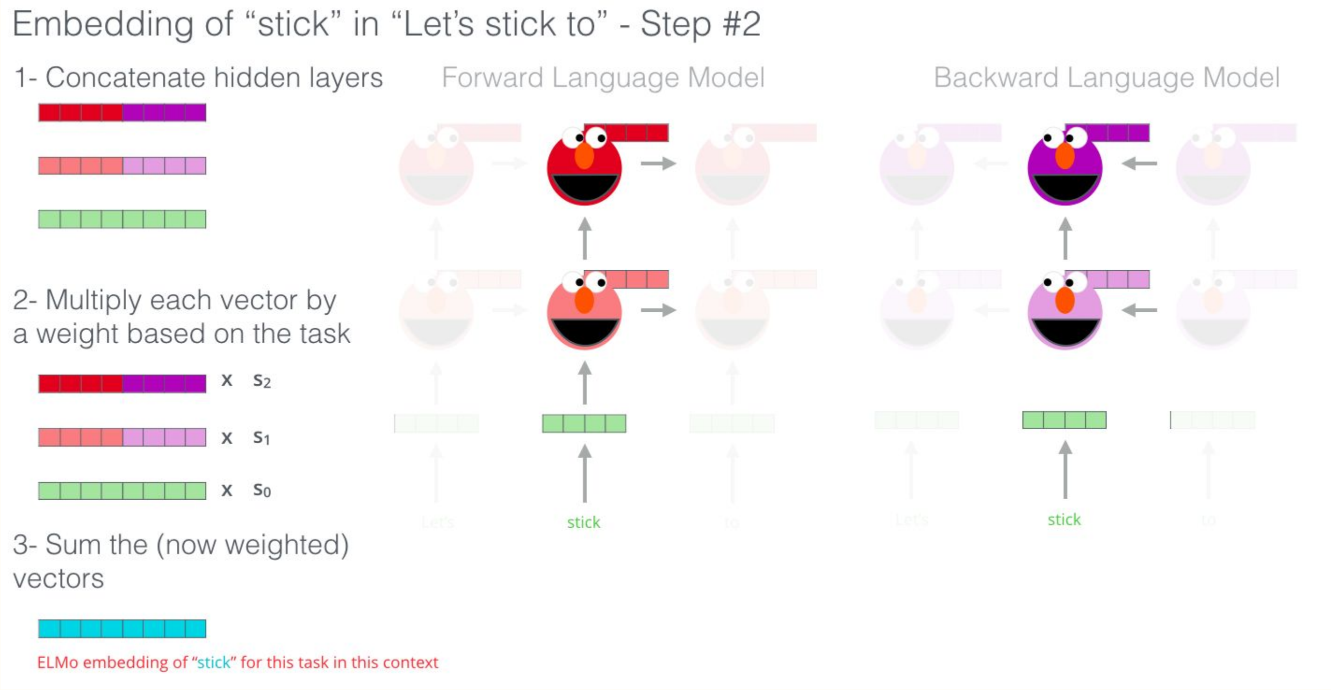


figure from Jay Alammar

The Muppet Parade

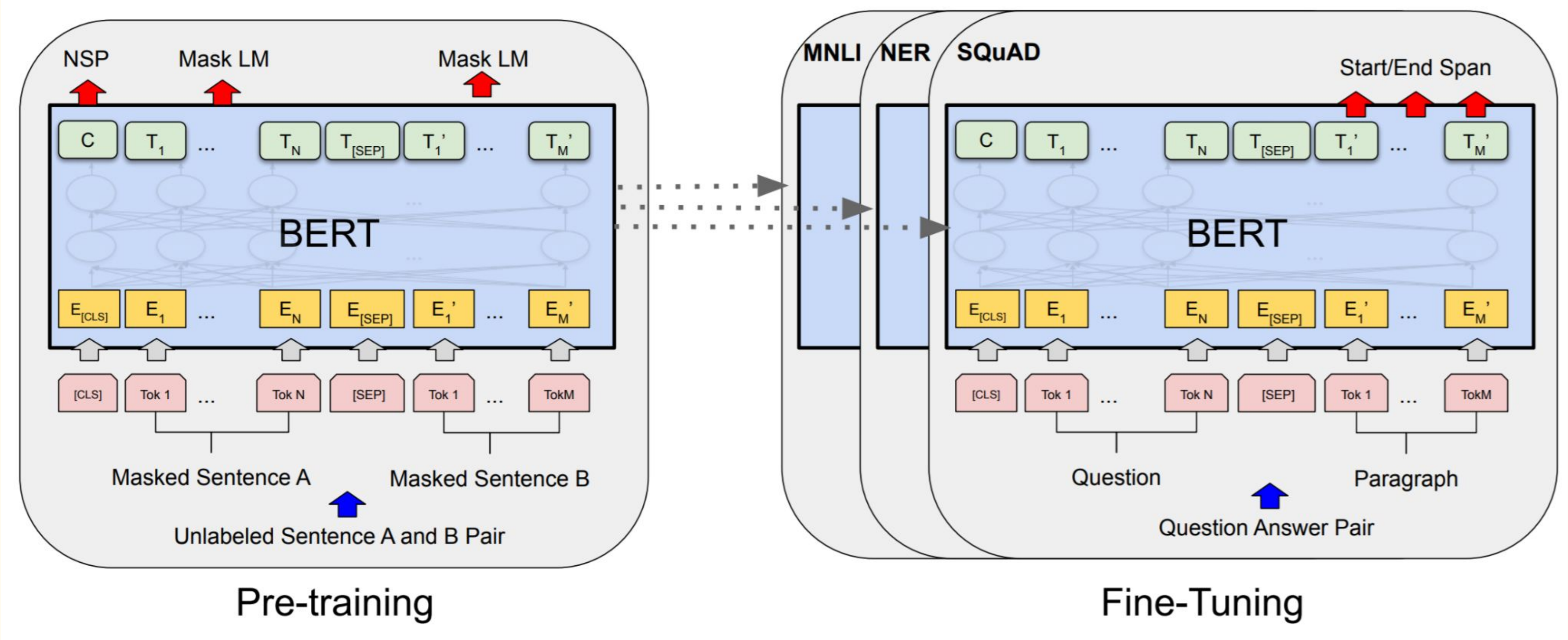
BERT and others follow on this idea
with more complex architectures

Many layers, complex flow of information

Very common paradigm:

- "Fine-tune" BERT-like model for a specific task
- e.g., train it a little bit extra on some relevant data

Pre-Training → Fine-Tuning Paradigm

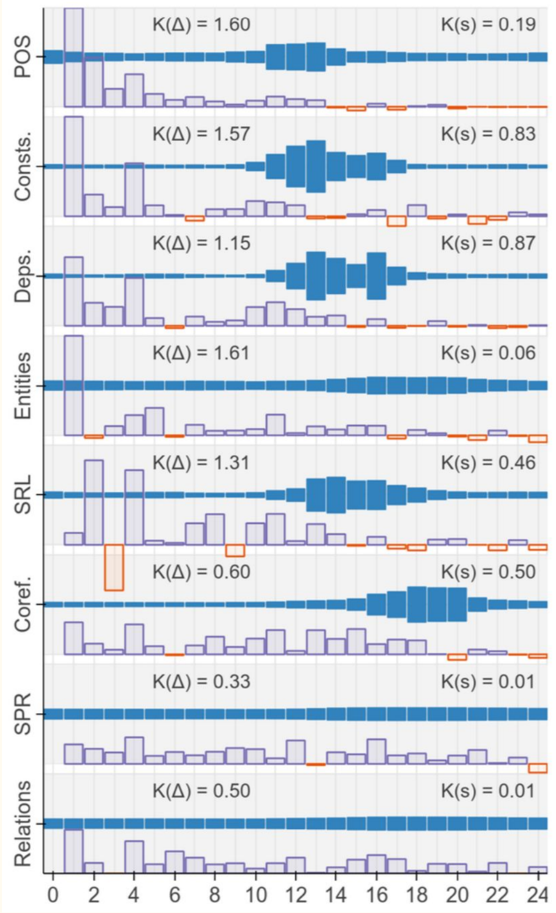


The many layers of BERT

BERT-Large has 24 transformer layers (each of which has many layers itself)

Empirical work has shown that BERT encodes increasingly abstract linguistic information in higher layers

(Tenney et al. 2019)

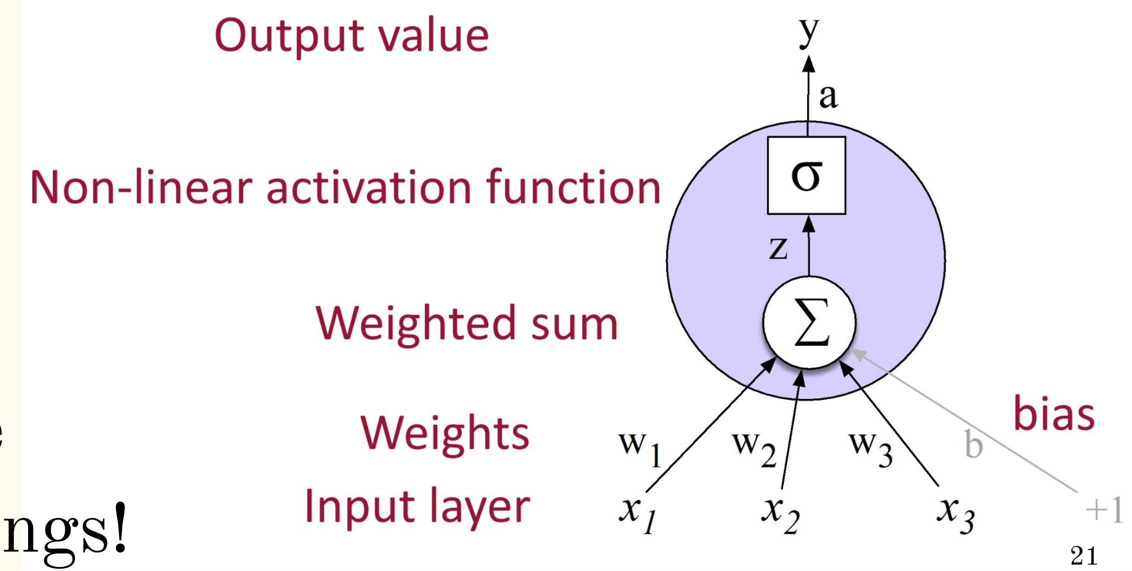


BERT for Classification

BERT in particular provides a [CLS] token, contextual embedding token for classification

Frequently just start the cycle over again...

Train a new classifier where the features are BERT [CLS] embeddings!



Parameter Explosion!

Parameters are any values we have to set - e.g. weights

Naive Bayes

two classes, vocab size of 30k = 60k params

BERT-Large, 300 million params

More recent models in the trillions

Parameter Explosion!

Therefore, these big NNs are very data hungry!

We need many examples (at least 10x params) to train

Training on the internet, basically (Common Crawl)

Multiple terabytes of text

Costs to train one model up to the millions USD

not to mention all the failed attempts...

A Tricky Proposition

We got here empirically -

you see many cards have been stacked,

people kept trying stuff until they stayed standing

It all sounds reasonable, but it's also weird that it works

New subfield: BERTology

trying to understand what linguistic things

BERT et al know and can do, and why

What did we gain from doing this?

Better results on concrete tasks, real world applications

Neural Machine Translation for instance - transformative
  previously very complex statistical systems,
  now trained end-to-end

No feature engineering! (Lots of architecture tinkering.)

Many building blocks for complex models

How has this affected the field?

The gap between modern, task-based NLP and "Computational Linguistics" has maybe never been wider

Divergence between properly linguistic/behavioral and simply "increase performance on this task"

Still, earlier non-neural methods are not worthless!

Interesting time to be a computational linguist!

Great Free Courses on This Neural Stuff

Stanford CS224n:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoROMvodv4rOhcuXMZkNm7j3fVwBBY42z

CMU CS 11-747:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8PYTP1V4I8AkaHEJ7lOOrlex-pcxS-XV

Coming Up

Wednesday this week:

Class optional, final project discussion + OH

Next week:

Survey of software packages for doing CL/NLP