



# Recursive Neural Network

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## ADL x MLDS

YUN-NUNG (VIVIAN) CHEN

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國立臺灣大學  
National Taiwan University



Slides credited from Richard Socher

# Sequence Modeling

Idea: aggregate the meaning from all words into a vector

## → *Compositionality*

Method:

- Basic combination: average, sum
- Neural combination:
  - ✓ Recursive neural network (RvNN)
  - ✓ Recurrent neural network (RNN)
  - ✓ Convolutional neural network (CNN)

	N-dim				
這 (this)	0.2	0.6	0.3	...	0.4
規格 (specification)	0.9	0.8	0.1	...	0.1
有 (have)	0.1	0.3	0.1	...	0.7
誠意 (sincerity)	0.5	0.0	0.6	...	0.4

How to compute  $\vec{x} = [x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3 \ \cdots \ x_N]$

# Recursive Neural Network

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From Words to Phrases

# Recursive Neural Network

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Idea: leverage the linguistic knowledge (syntax) for combining multiple words into phrases

Assumption: language is described recursively

# Related Work for RvNN

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Pollack (1990): Recursive auto-associative memories

Previous Recursive Neural Networks work by Goller & Küchler (1996), Costa et al. (2003) assumed fixed tree structure and used one-hot vectors.

Hinton (1990) and Bottou (2011): Related ideas about recursive models and recursive operators as smooth versions of logic operations

# Outline

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## Property

- Syntactic Compositionality
- Recursion Assumption

## Network Architecture and Definition

- Standard Recursive Neural Network
  - Weight-Tied
  - Weight-Untied
- Matrix-Vector Recursive Neural Network
- Recursive Neural Tensor Network

## Applications

- Parsing
- Paraphrase Detection
- Sentiment Analysis

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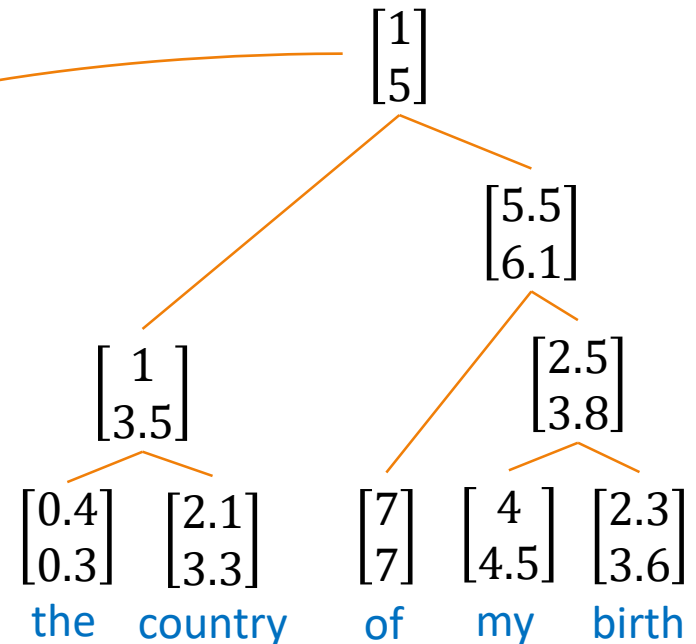
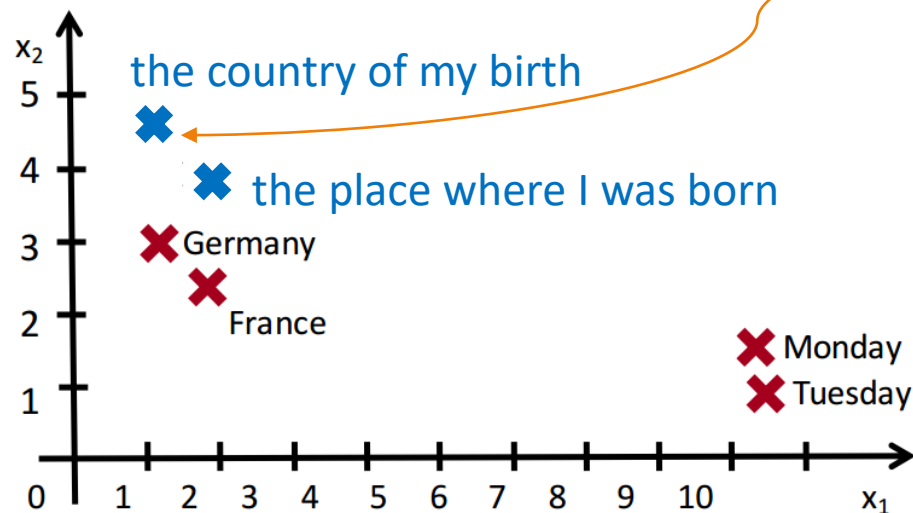
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# Phrase Mapping

## Principle of “Compositionality”

- The meaning (vector) of a sentence is determined by
  - 1) the meanings of its words and
  - 2) the rules that combine them



Idea: jointly learn parse trees and compositional vector representations



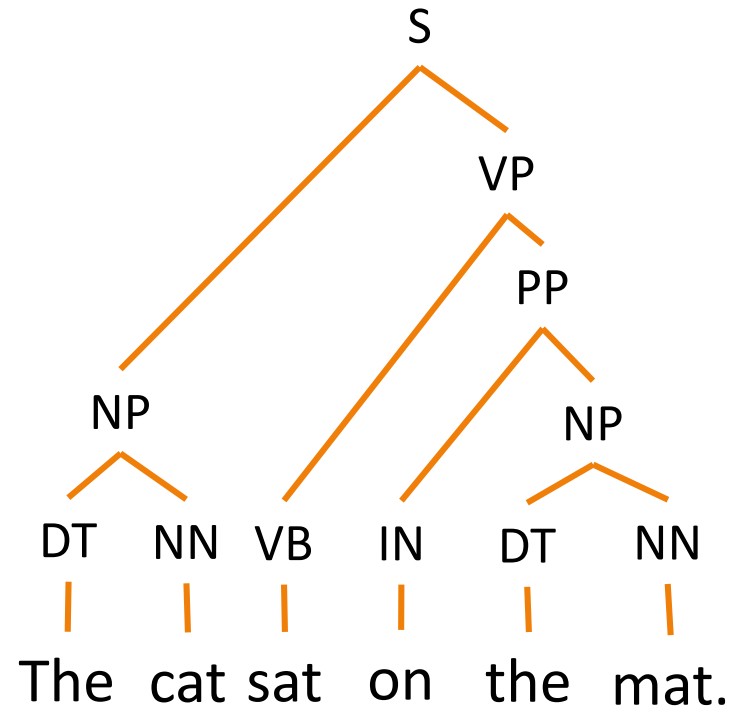
# Sentence Syntactic Parsing

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**Parsing** is a process of analyzing a string of symbols

Parsing tree conveys

- 1) Part-of-speech for each word
- 2) Phrases
- 3) Relationships



(NN = noun, VB = verb, DT = determiner, IN = Preposition)

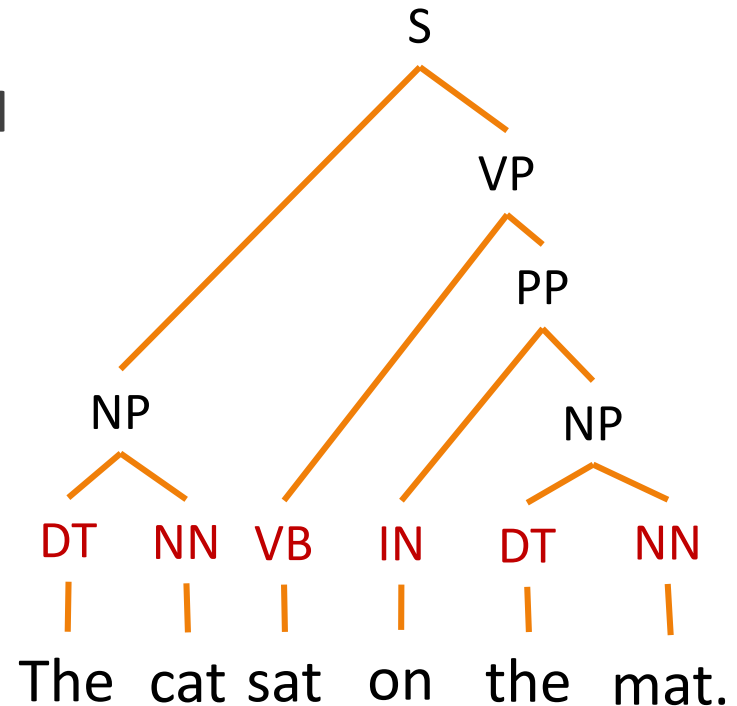
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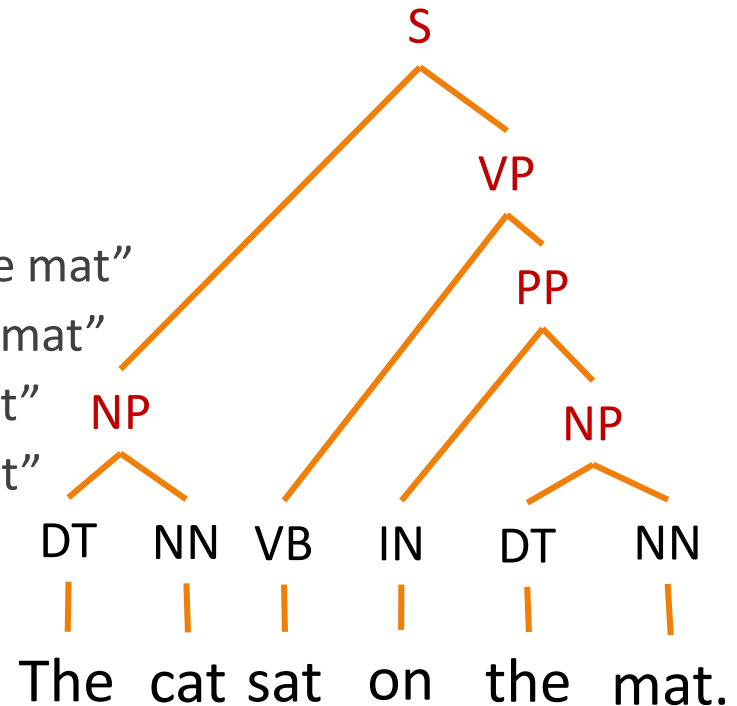
Parsing tree conveys

1) Part-of-speech for each word

2) Phrases

- Noun phrase (NP): “the cat”, “the mat”
- Preposition phrase (PP): “on the mat”
- Verb phrase (VP): “sat on the mat”
- Sentence: “the cat sat on the mat”

3) Relationships



(NN = noun, VB = verb, DT = determiner, IN = Preposition)

# Sentence Syntactic Parsing

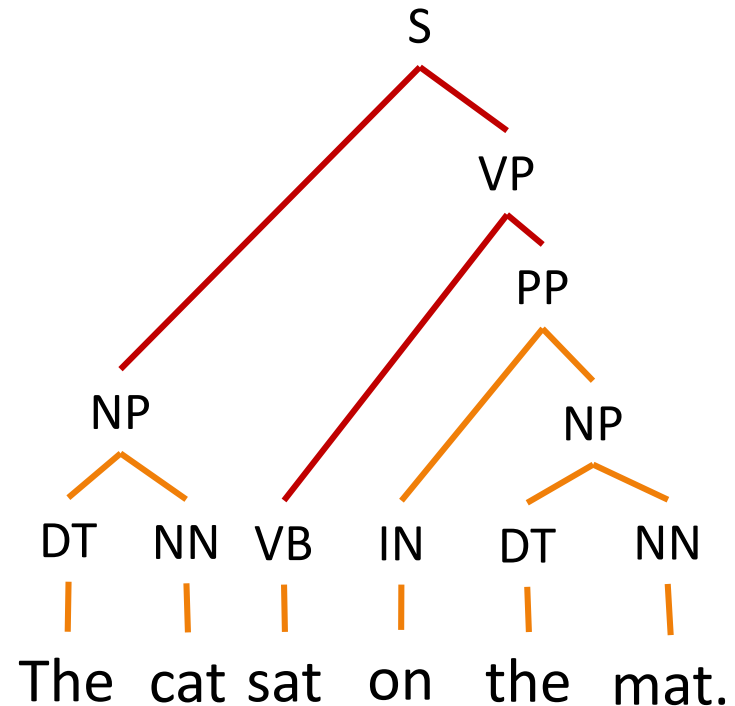
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*subject verb modifier\_of\_place*

- “the cat” is the subject of “sat”
- “on the mat” is the place modifier of “sat”

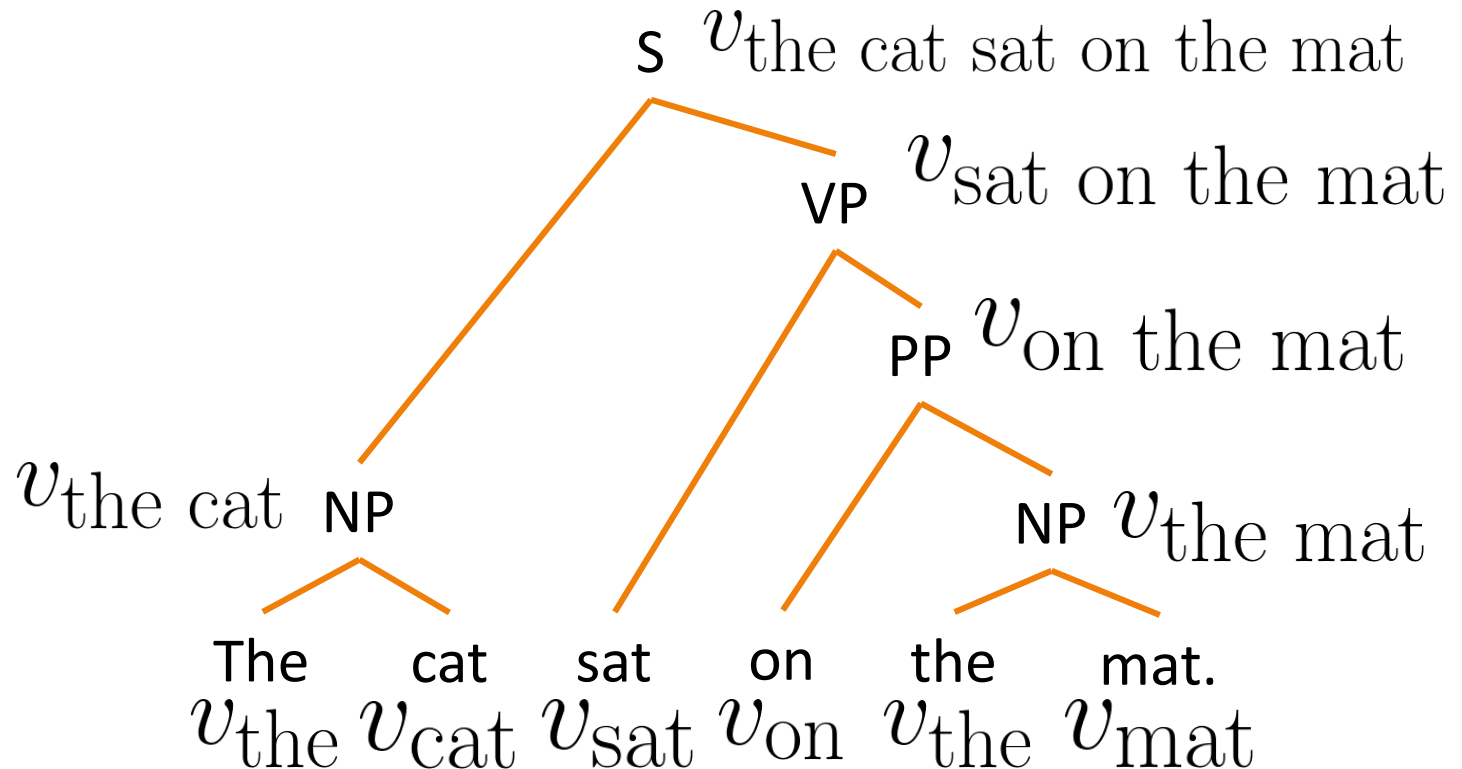


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# Learning Structure & Representation

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Vector representations incorporate the meaning of words and their compositional structures



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# Recursion Assumption

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Are languages recursive?

debatable

Recursion helps describe natural language

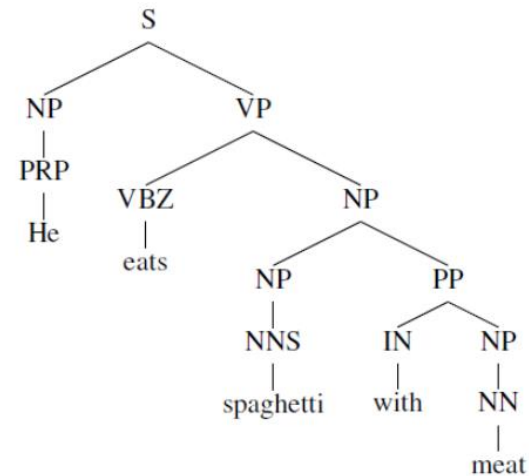
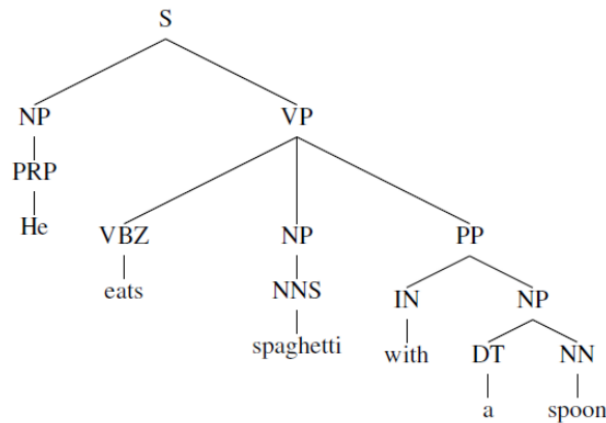
- Ex. “the church which has nice windows”, a noun phrase containing a relative clause that contains a noun phrases
- NP → NP PP



# Recursion Assumption

## Characteristics of recursion

### 1. Helpful in disambiguation



### 2. Helpful for some tasks to refer to specific phrases:

- John and Jane went to a big festival. They enjoyed the trip and the music there.
- “they”: John and Jane; “the trip”: went to a big festival; “there”: big festival

### 3. Works better for some tasks to use grammatical tree structure

Language recursion is still up to debate

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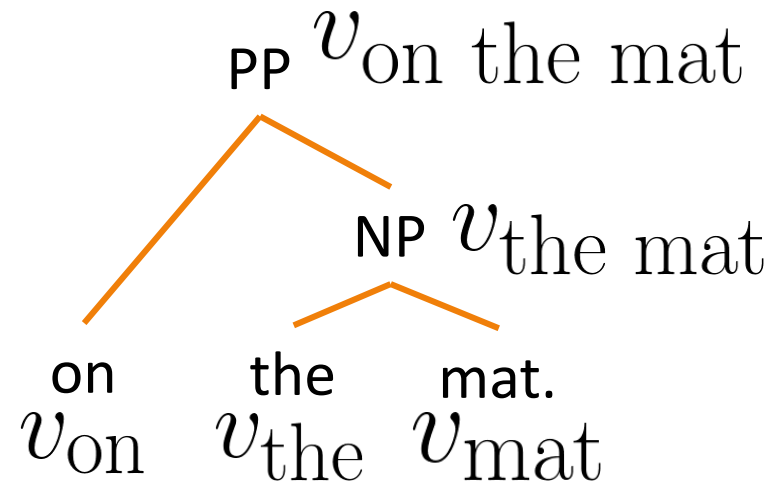
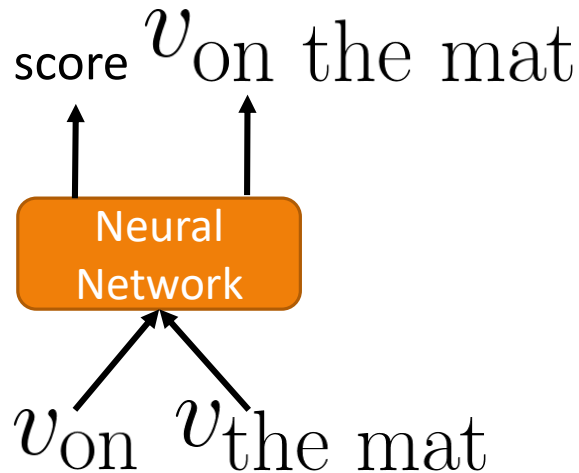
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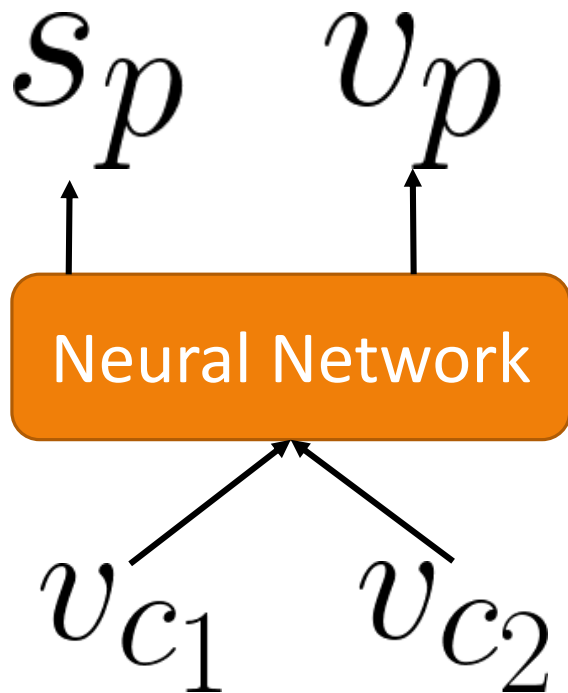
# Recursive Neural Network Architecture

A network is to predict the vectors along with the structure

- Input: two candidate children's vector representations
- Output:
  - 1) vector representations for the merged node
  - 2) score of how plausible the new node would be



# Recursive Neural Network Definition



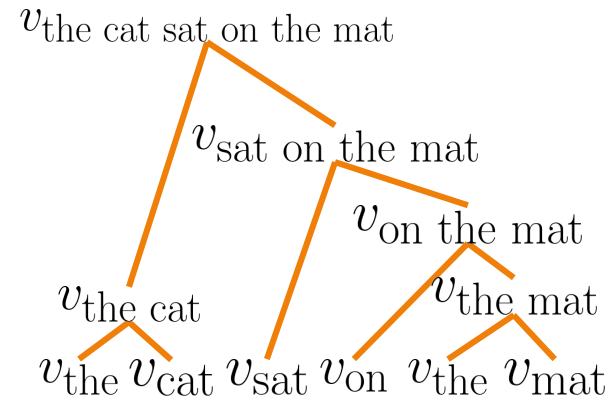
same  $W$  parameters at all nodes of the tree  
 → weight-tied

1) vector representations for the merged node

$$v_p = \sigma\left(W \begin{bmatrix} v_{c1} \\ v_{c2} \end{bmatrix} + b\right)$$

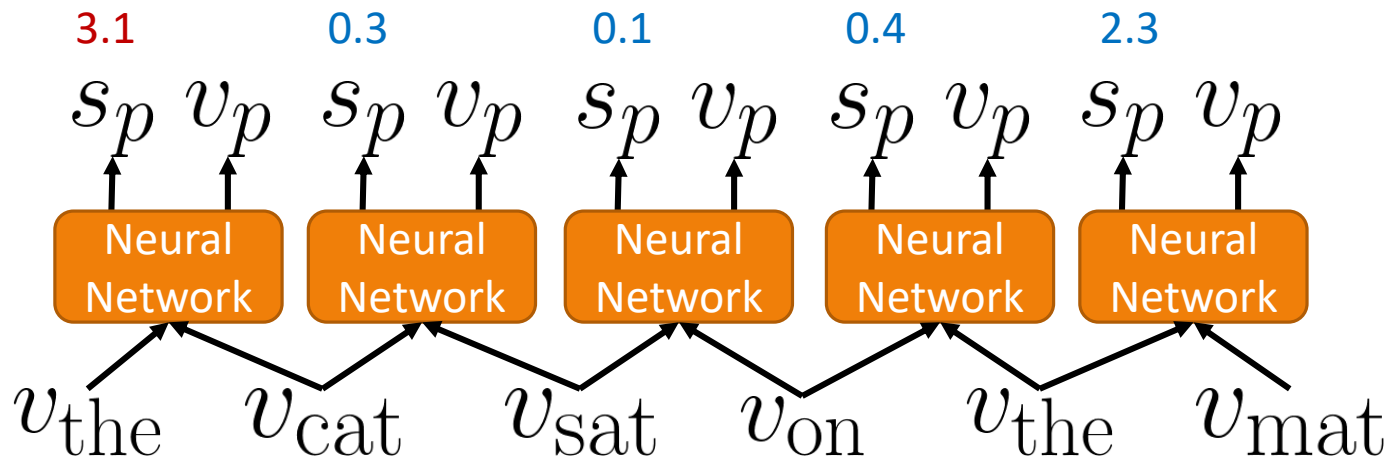
2) score of how plausible the new node would be

$$s_p = U^T v_p$$



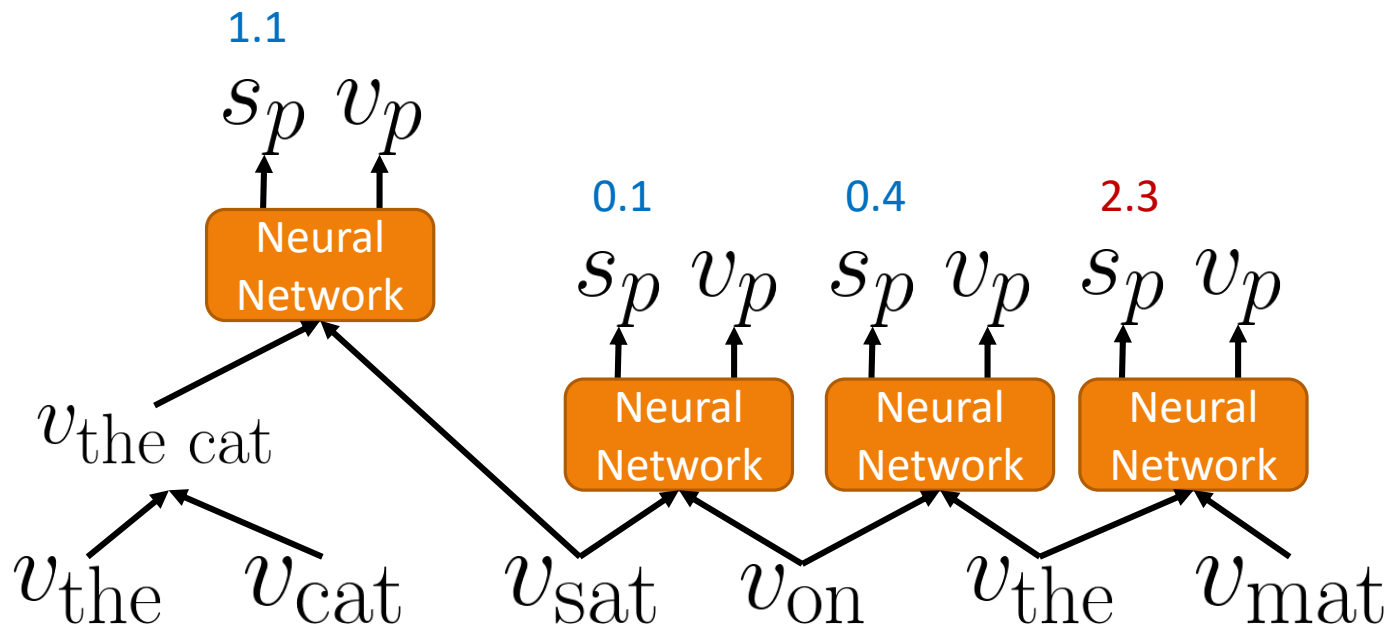
# Sentence Parsing via RvNN

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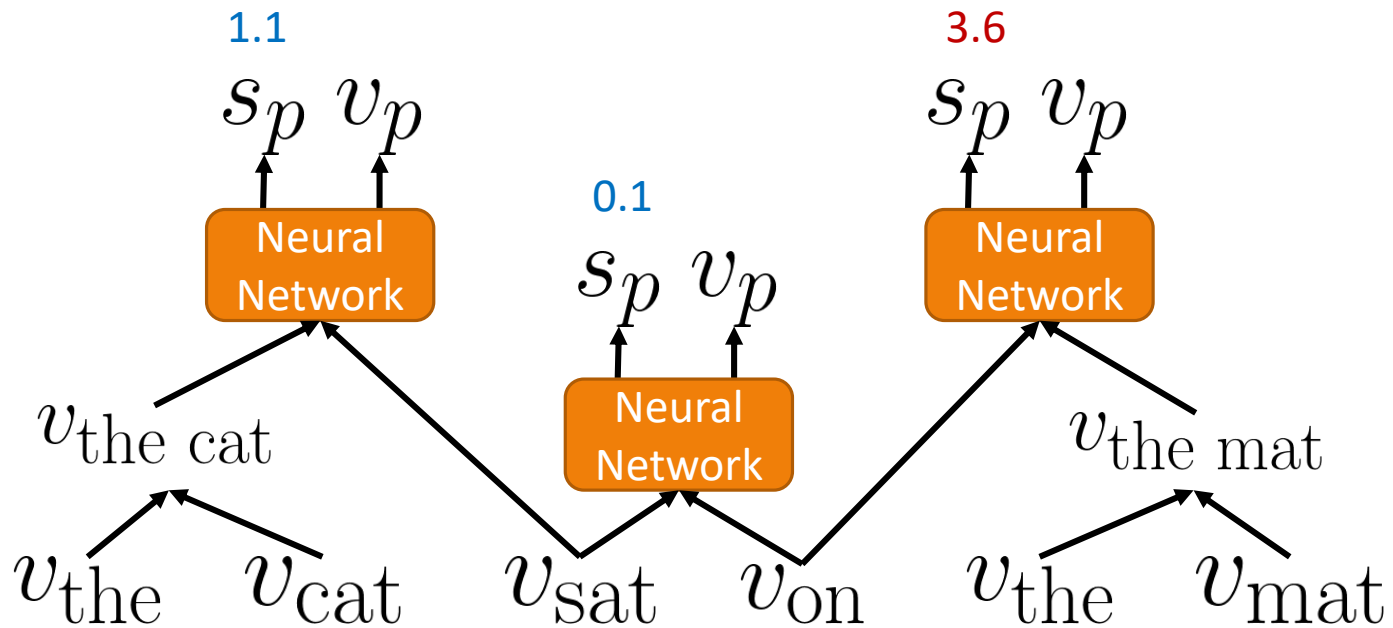
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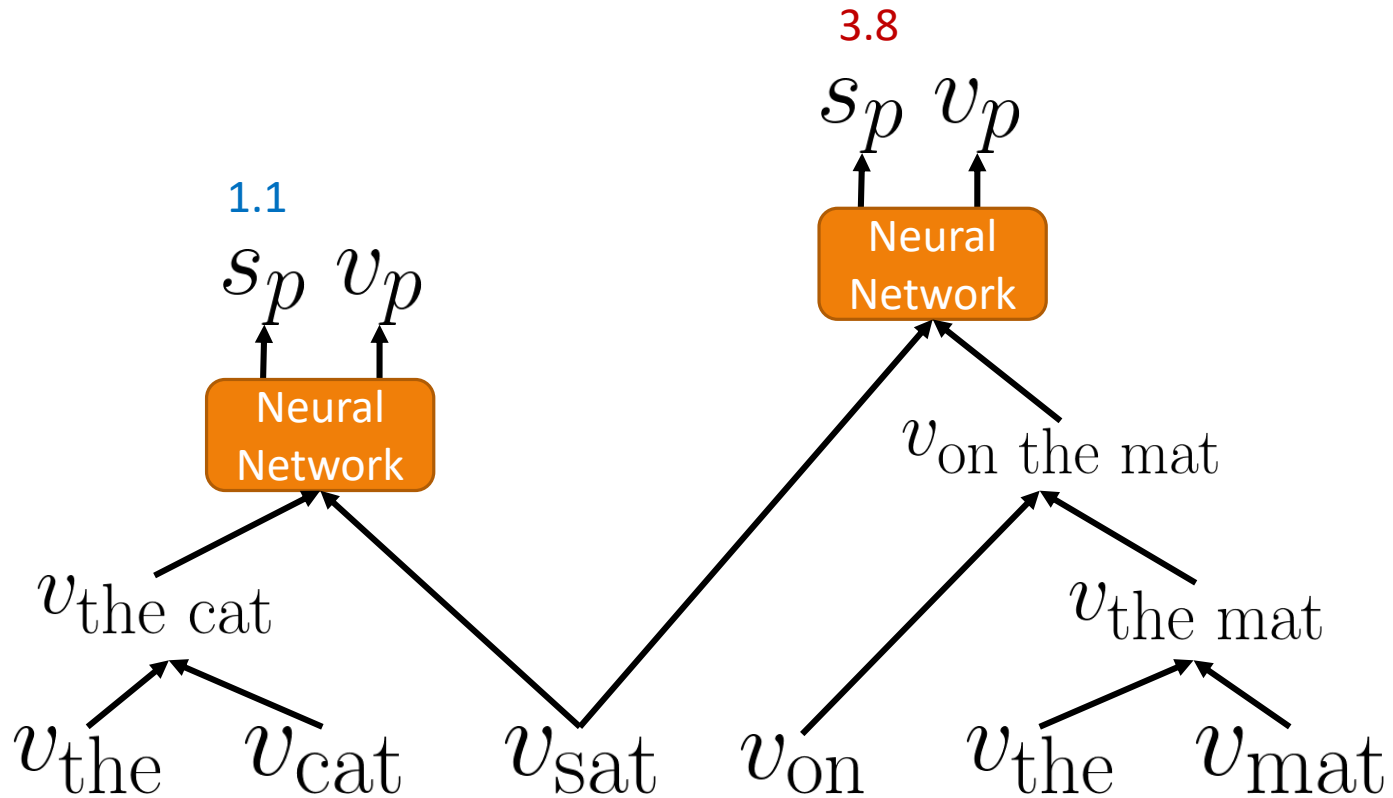
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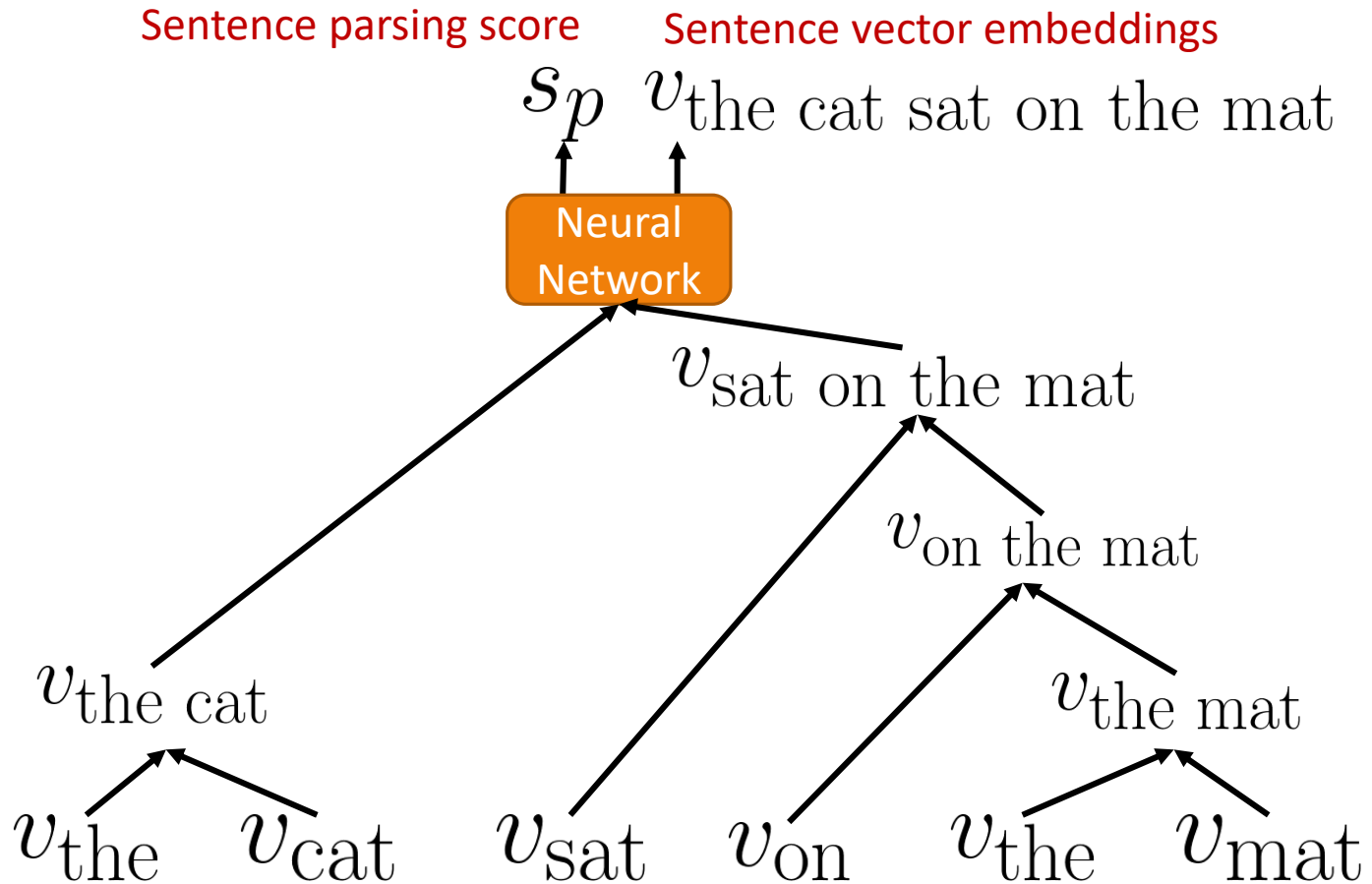


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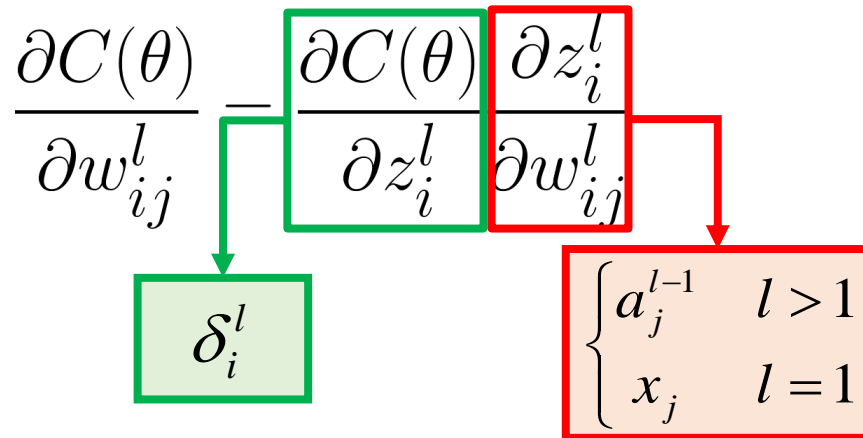


# Sentence Parsing via RvNN



# Backpropagation through Structure

Principally the same as general backpropagation (Goller & Küchler, 1996)



## Backward Pass

$$\delta^L = \sigma'(z^L) \odot \nabla C(y)$$

$$\delta^{L-1} = \sigma'(z^{L-1}) \odot (W^L)^T \delta^L$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\delta^l = \sigma'(z^l) \odot (W^{l+1})^T \delta^{l+1}$$

$$\vdots$$

## Three differences

- ① Sum derivatives of  $W$  from all nodes
- ② Split derivatives at each node
- ③ Add error messages from parent + node itself

## Forward Pass

$$z^1 = W^1 x + b^1 \quad a^1 = \sigma(z^1)$$

$$\vdots$$

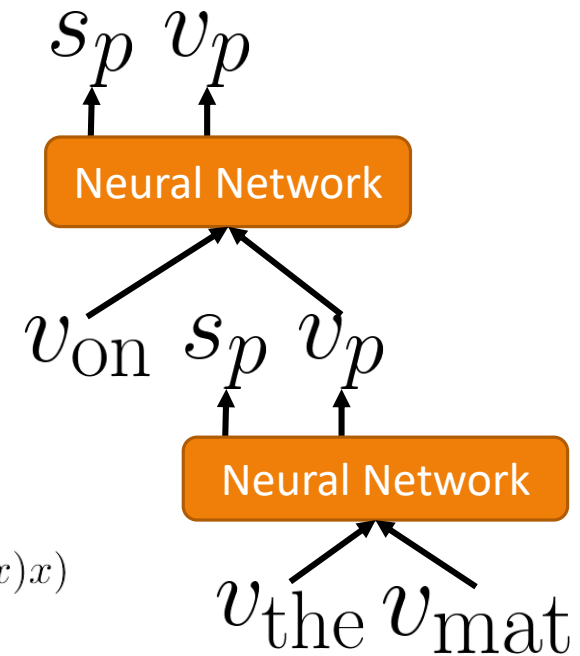
$$z^l = W^l a^{l-1} + b^l \quad a^l = \sigma(z^l)$$

$$\vdots$$

# 1) Sum derivatives of $W$ from all nodes

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial W} f(W(f(Wx))) \\ = & f'(W(f(Wx))) \left( \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial W} W \right) f(Wx) + W \frac{\partial}{\partial W} f(Wx) \right) \\ = & f'(W(f(Wx))) (f(Wx) + W f'(Wx)x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial W_2} f(W_2(f(W_1x))) + \frac{\partial}{\partial W_1} f(W_2(f(W_1x))) \\ = & f'(W_2(f(W_1x))) (f(W_1x)) + f'(W_2(f(W_1x))) (W_2 f'(W_1x)x) \\ = & f'(W_2(f(W_1x))) (f(W_1x) + W_2 f'(W_1x)x) \\ = & f'(W(f(Wx))) (f(Wx) + W f'(Wx)x) \end{aligned}$$



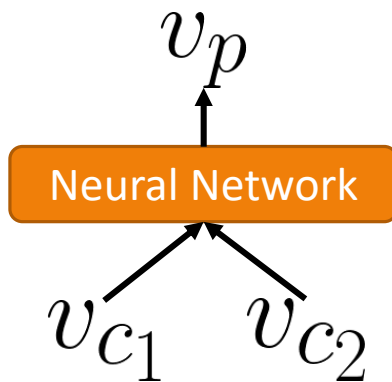
$$v_p = \sigma \left( W \begin{bmatrix} v_{c1} \\ v_{c2} \end{bmatrix} + b \right)$$

## 2) Split derivatives at each node

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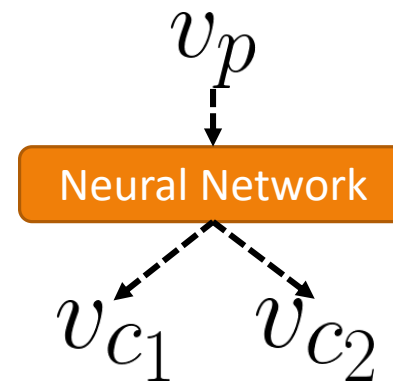
During forward propagation, the parent node is computed based on two children

$$v_p = \sigma\left(W \begin{bmatrix} v_{c_1} \\ v_{c_2} \end{bmatrix} + b\right)$$



During backward propagation, the errors should be computed wrt each of them

$$\delta_{p \rightarrow c_1 c_2} = [\delta_{p \rightarrow c_1} \delta_{p \rightarrow c_2}]$$

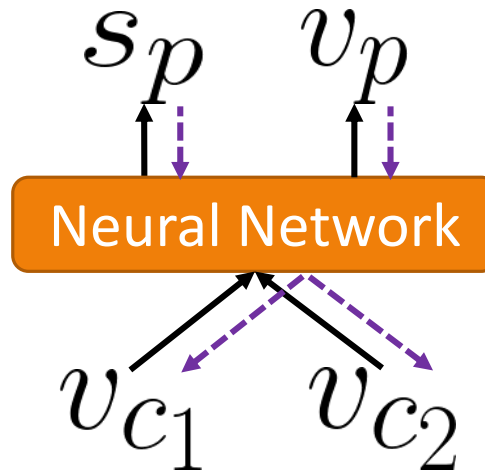


### 3) Add error messages

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For each node, the error message is composed of

- Error propagated from parent
- Error from the current node



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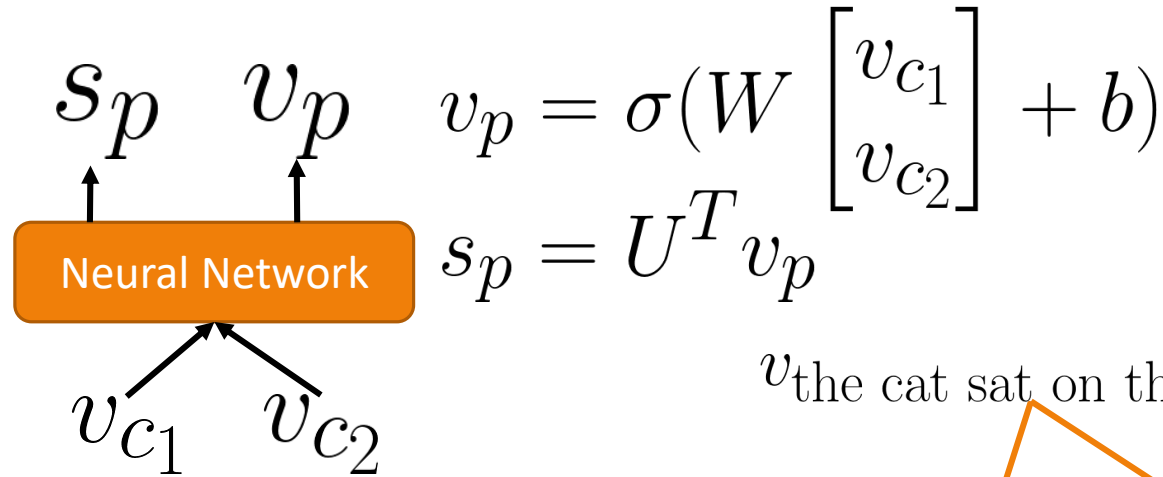
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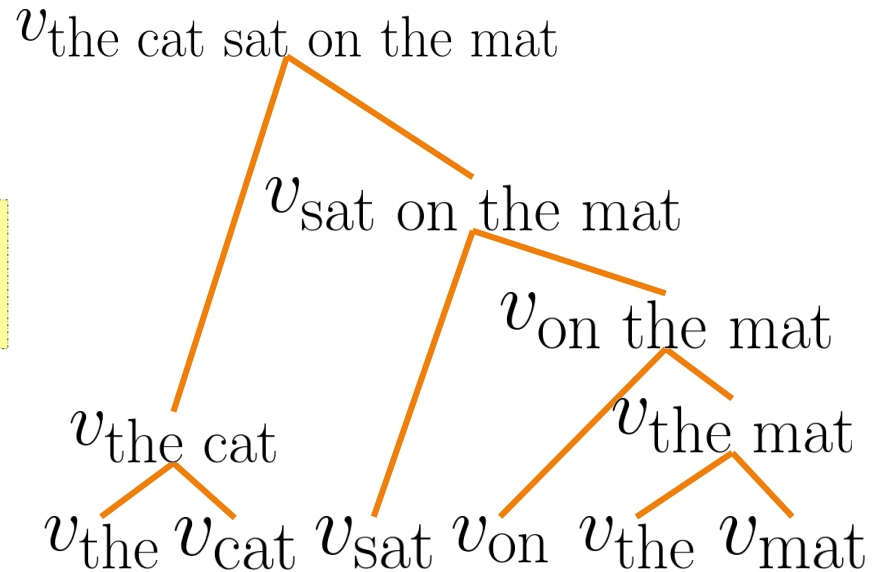
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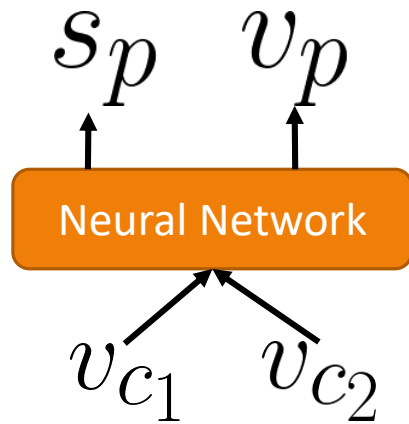
# Composition Matrix $W$



Issue: using the same network  $W$  for different compositions



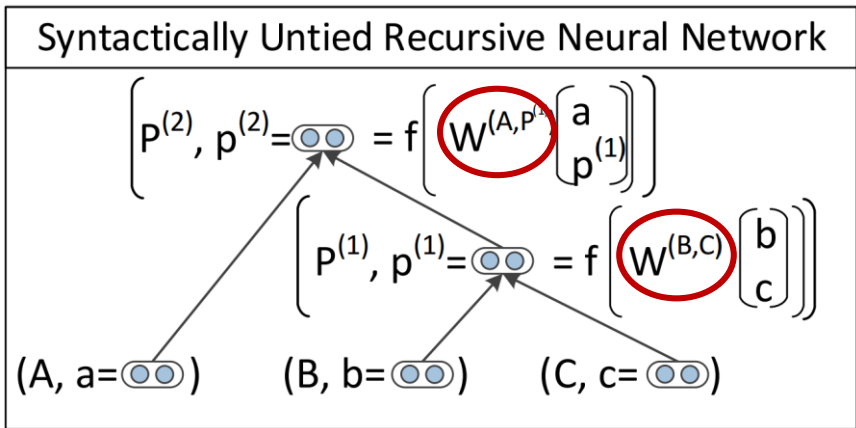
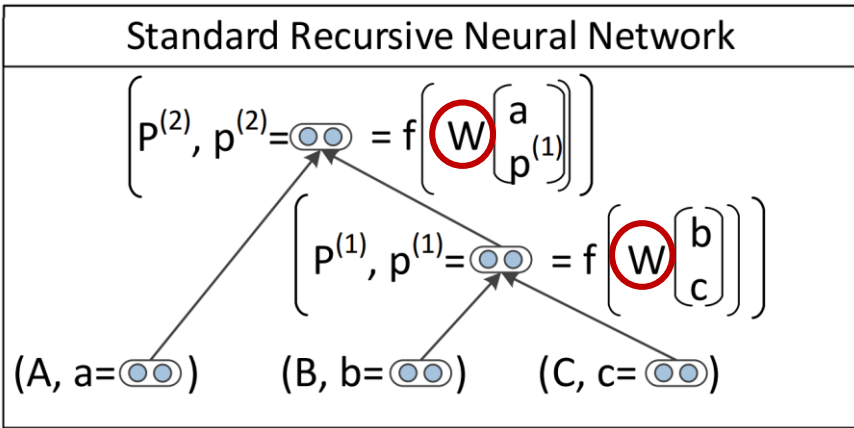
# Syntactically Untied RvNN



Idea: the composition function is conditioned on the syntactic categories

- Benefit
- Composition function are syntax-dependent
  - Allows different composition functions for word pairs, e.g. Adv + AdjP, VP + NP

Issue: speed due to many candidates



# Compositional Vector Grammar

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Compute score only for a subset of trees coming from a simpler, faster model (Socher et al, 2013)

- Prunes very unlikely candidates for speed
- Provides coarse syntactic categories of the children for each beam candidate

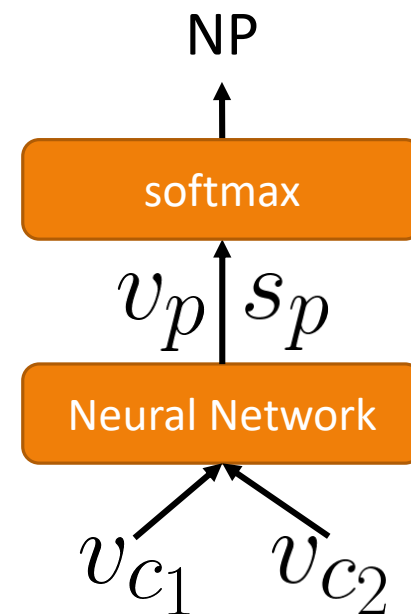
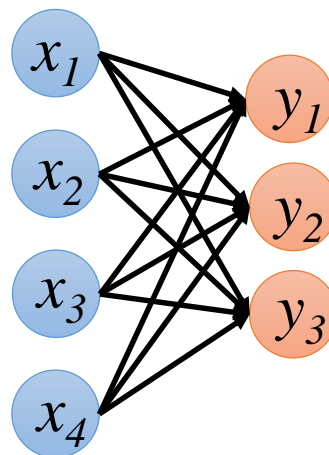
Probability context-free grammar (PCFG) helps decrease the search space

# Labels for RvNN

The score can be passed through a softmax function to compute the probability of each category

$$p(\text{class} \mid v_p) = \text{softmax}(s_p)$$

$$\text{softmax}(f)_i = \frac{\exp(f_i)}{\sum_j \exp(f_j)}$$



Softmax loss  $\rightarrow$  cross-entropy error for optimization

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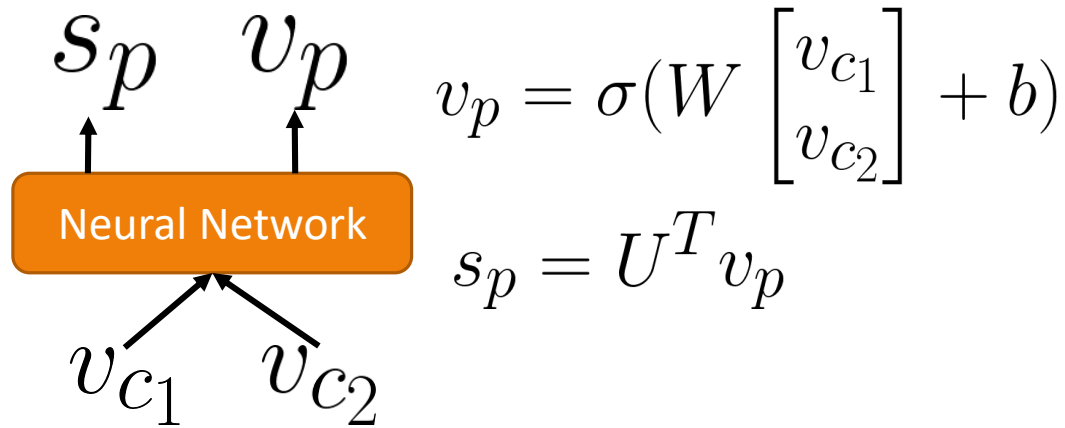
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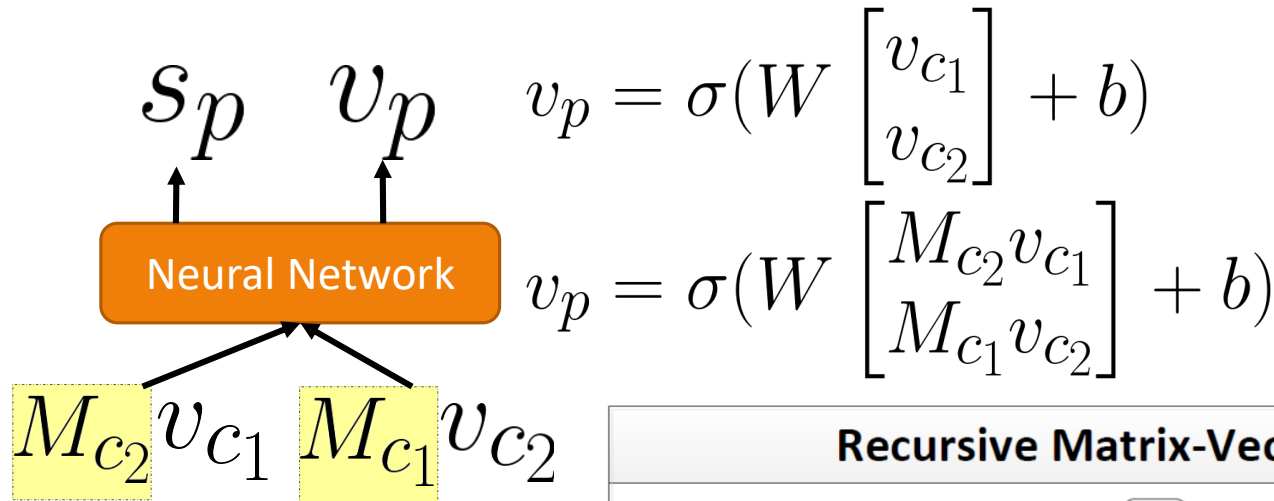
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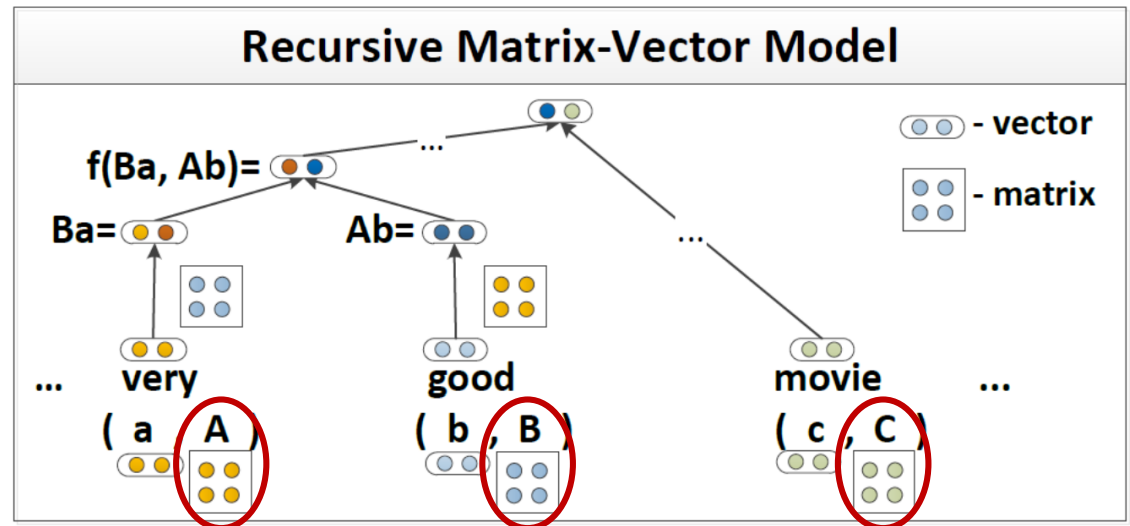


Issue: some words act mostly as an operator, e.g. “very” in “very good”

# Matrix-Vector Recursive Neural Network



Idea: each word can additionally serve as an operator



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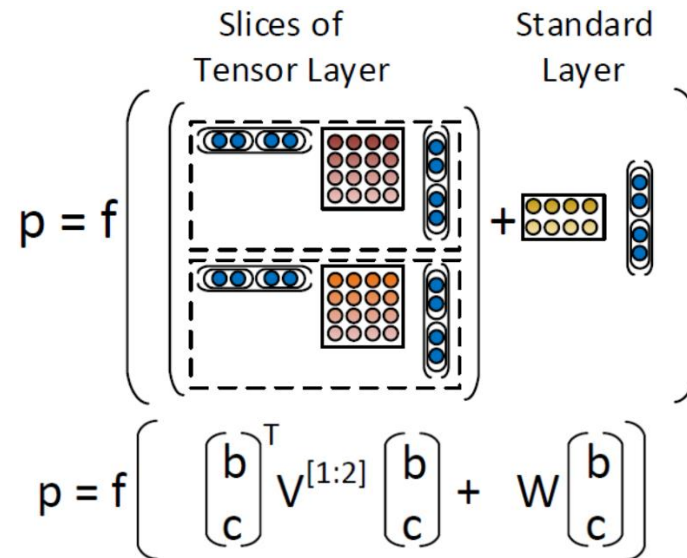
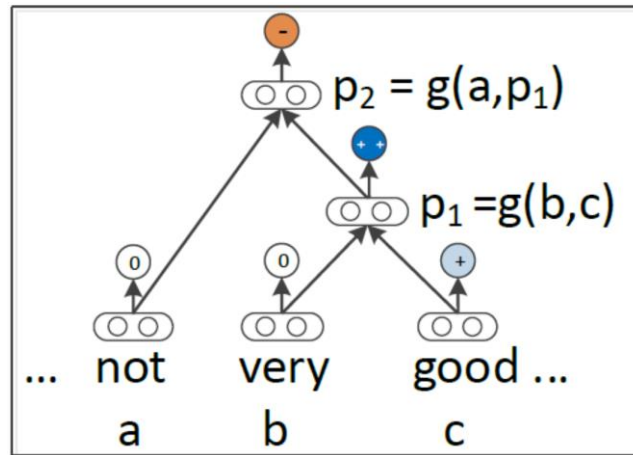


# Recursive Neural Tensor Network

$$v_p = \sigma\left(W \begin{bmatrix} v_{c_1} \\ v_{c_2} \end{bmatrix} + b\right)$$

Idea: allow more interactions of vectors

$$v_p = \sigma\left(\begin{bmatrix} v_{c_1} \\ v_{c_2} \end{bmatrix}^T V_{c_1, c_2} \begin{bmatrix} v_{c_1} \\ v_{c_2} \end{bmatrix} + W \begin{bmatrix} v_{c_1} \\ v_{c_2} \end{bmatrix} + b\right)$$



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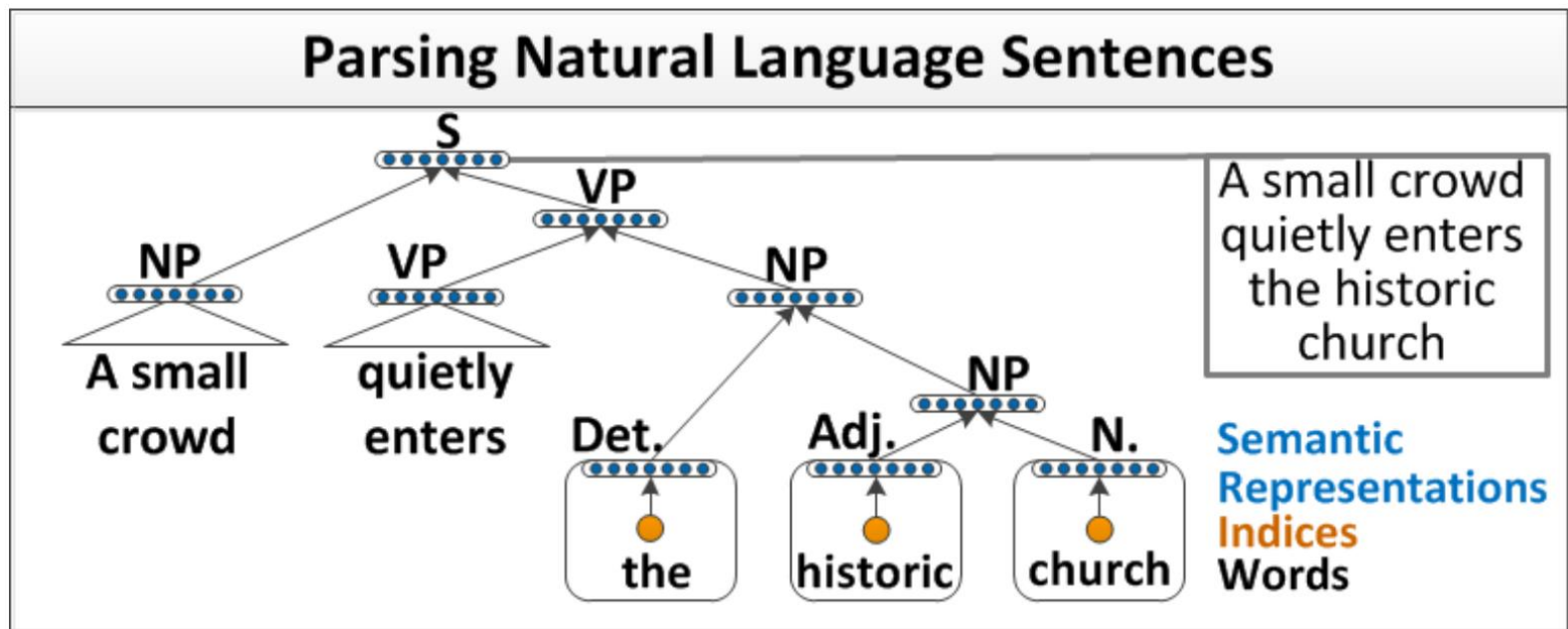
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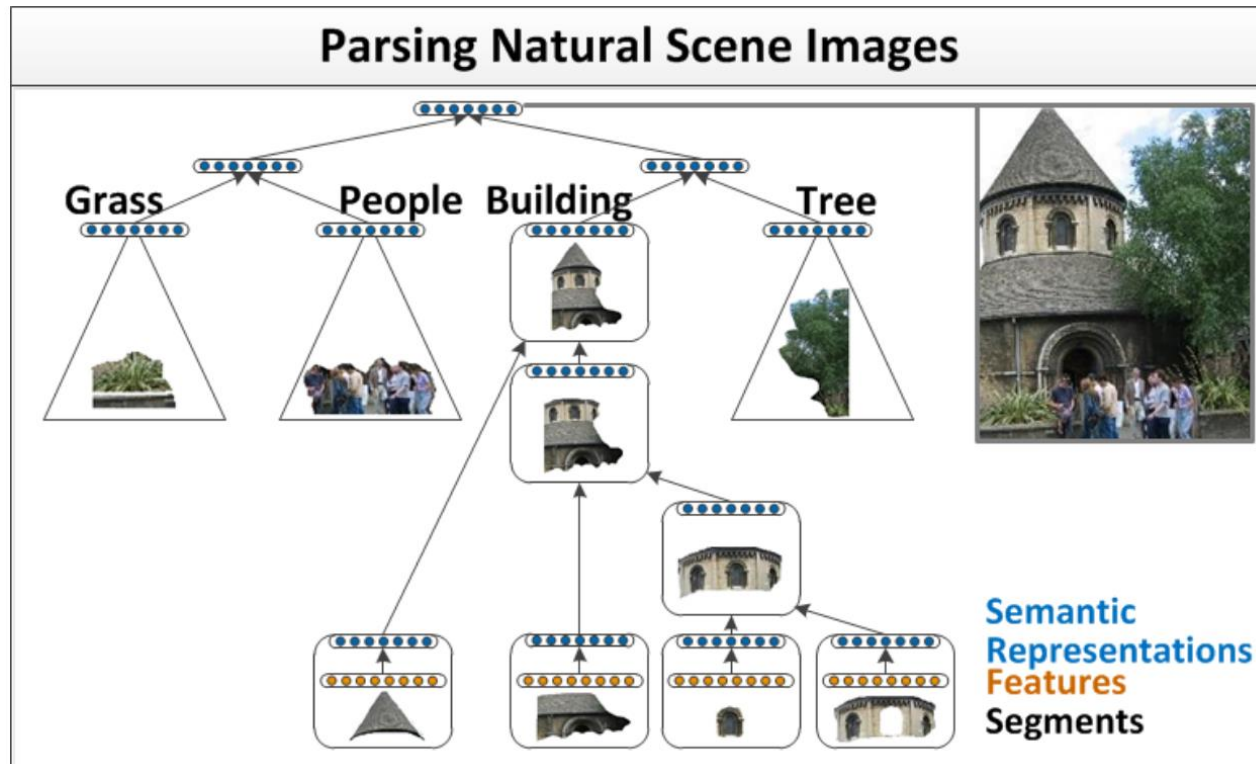
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# Language Compositionality



# Image Compositionality

Idea: image can be composed by the visual segments (same as natural language parsing)



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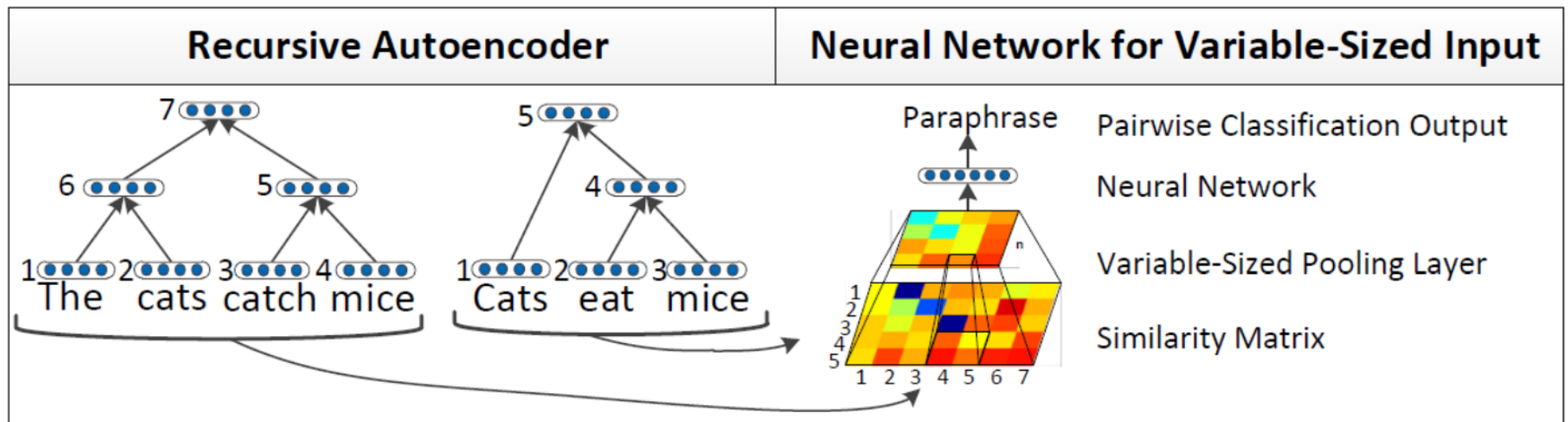
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# Paraphrase for Learning Sentence Vectors

A pair-wise sentence comparison of nodes in parsed trees for learning sentence embeddings



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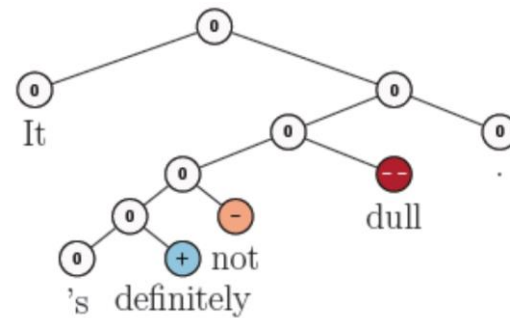
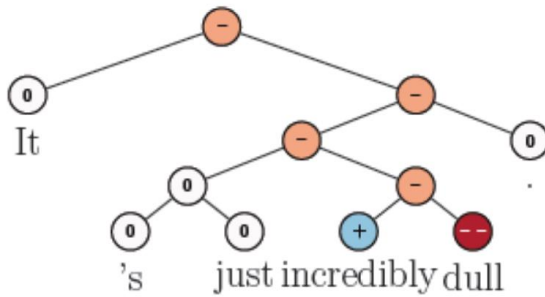
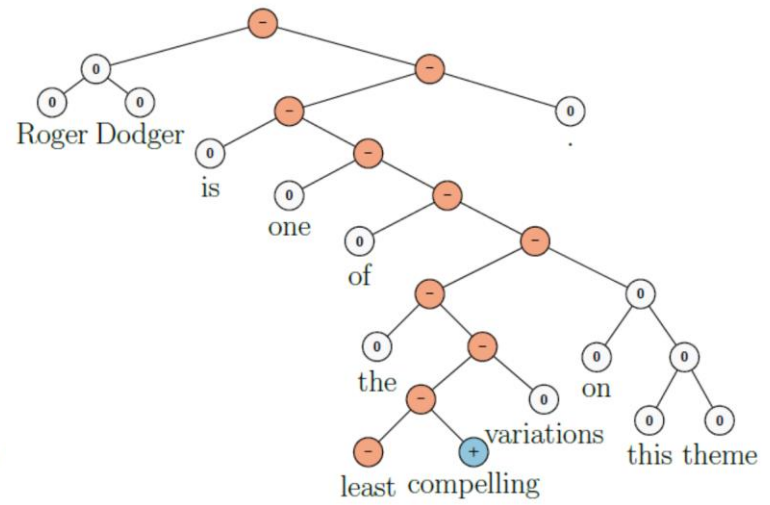
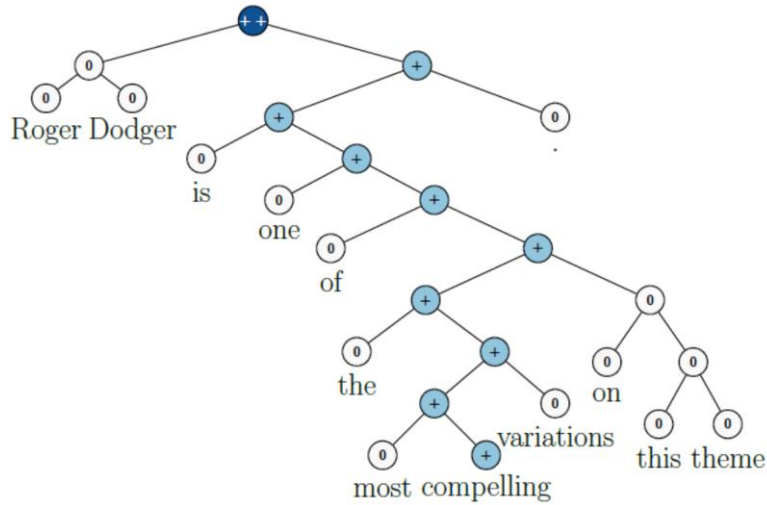
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# Sentiment Analysis

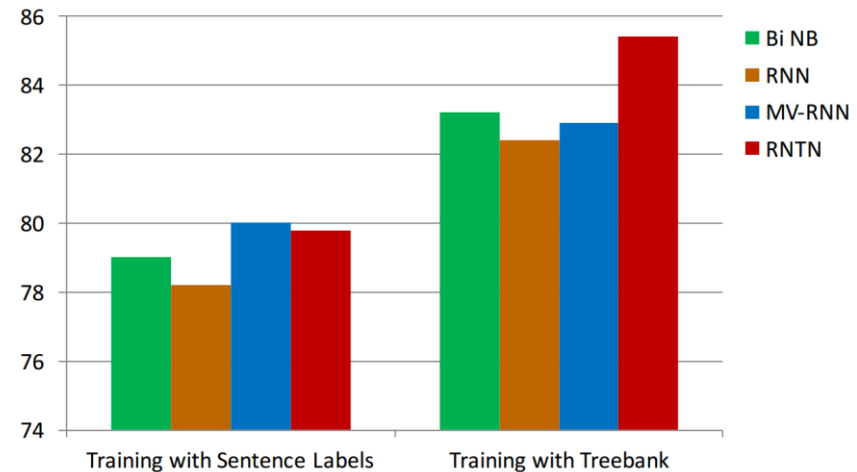
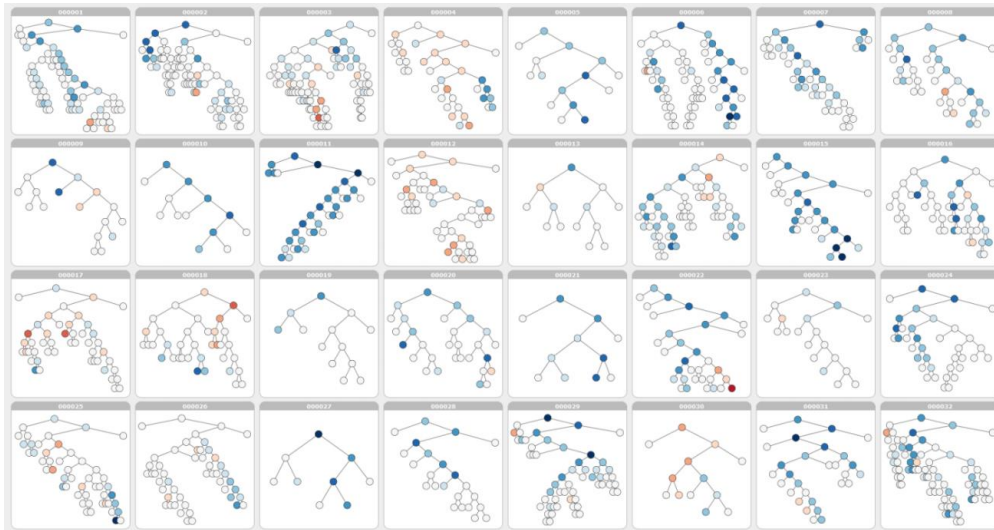


Sentiment analysis for sentences with negation words can benefit from RvNN



# Sentiment Analysis

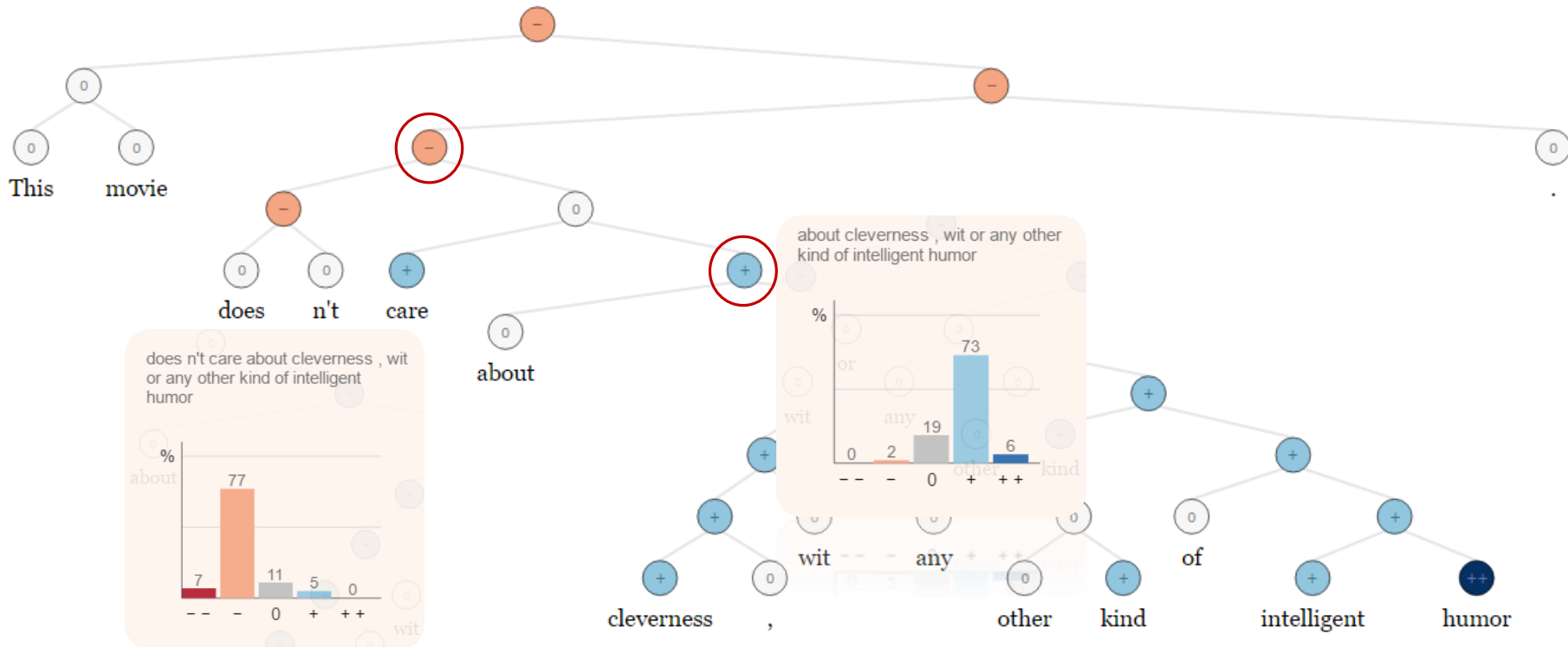
## Sentiment Treebank with richer annotations



Phrase-level sentiment labels indeed improve the performance

# Sentiment Tree Illustration

Stanford live demo: <http://nlp.stanford.edu/sentiment/>



Phrase-level annotations learn the specific compositional functions for sentiment

# Concluding Remarks

## Recursive Neural Network

- Idea: syntactic compositionality & language recursion

## Network Variants

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