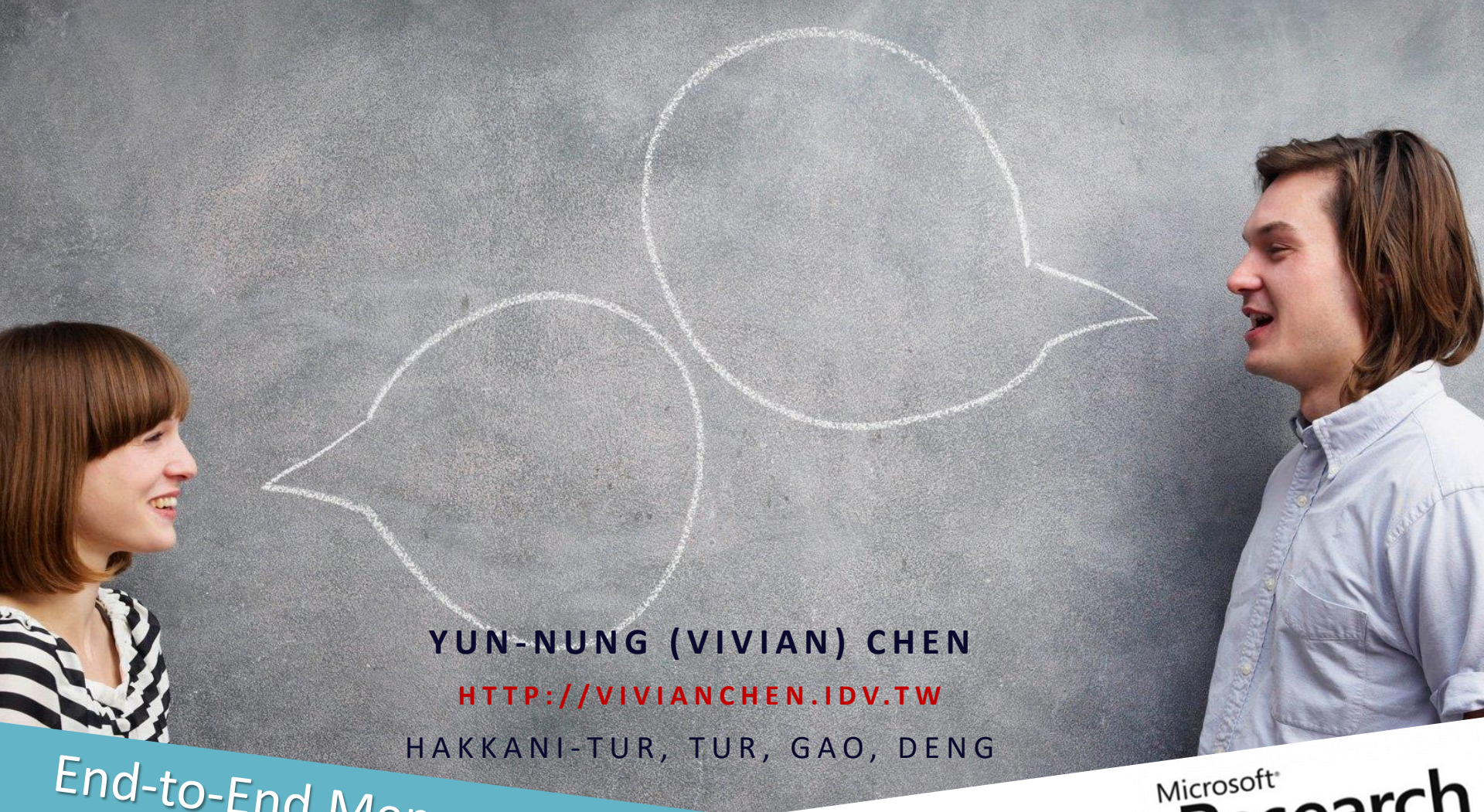




YUN-NUNG (VIVIAN) CHEN

[HTTP://VIVIANCHEN.IDV.TW](http://vivianchen.idv.tw)

HAKKANI-TUR, TUR, GAO, DENG

Microsoft  
**Research**

End-to-End Memory Networks with Knowledge Carryover  
for Multi-Turn Spoken Language Understanding

INTERSPEECH 2016



臺灣大學

National Taiwan University



# Outline



## Introduction



Spoken Dialogue System



Spoken/Natural Language Understanding (SLU/NLU)



## Contextual Spoken Language Understanding



Model Architecture



End-to-End Training



## Experiments



## Conclusion & Future Work



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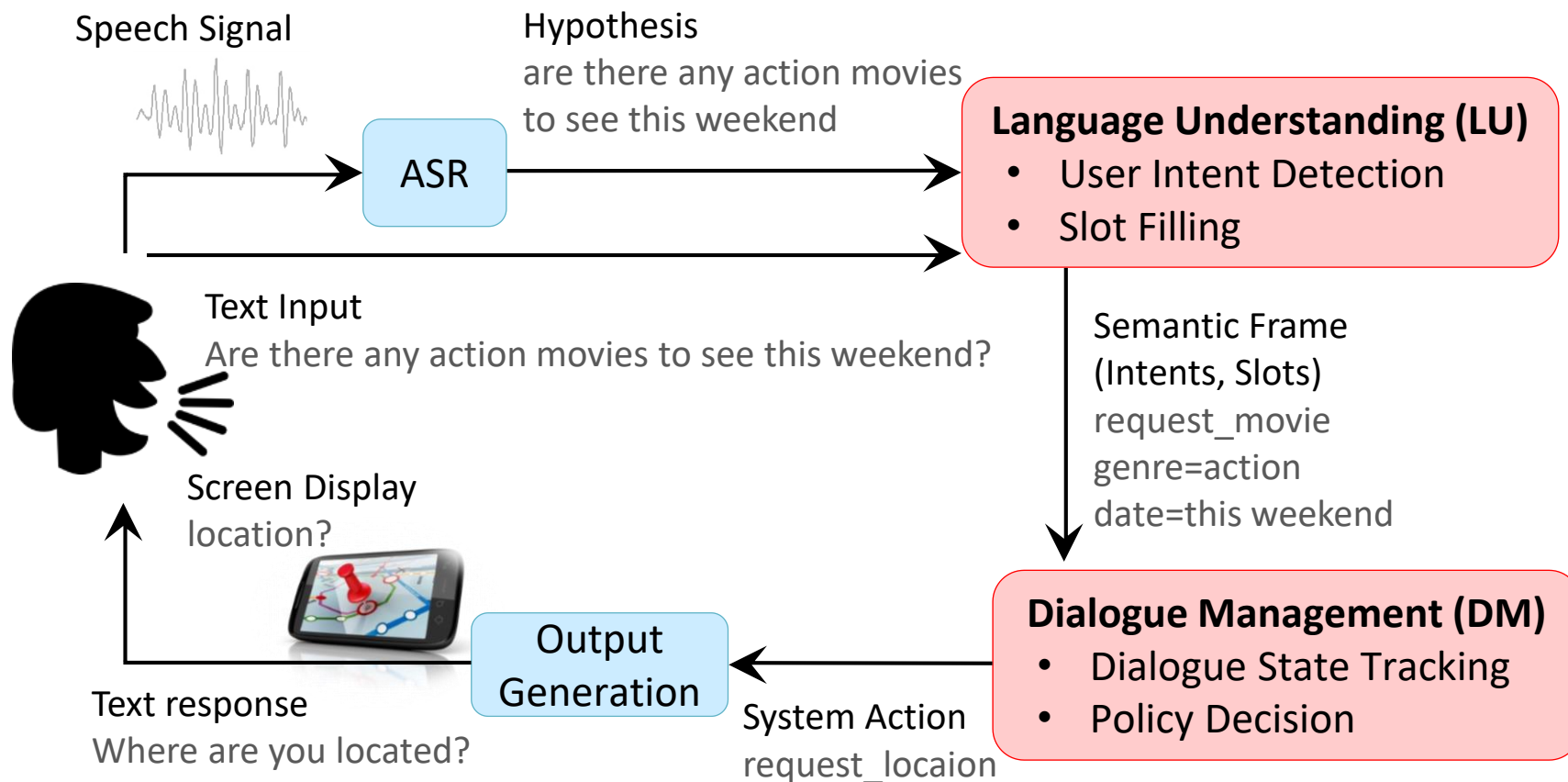


Conclusion & Future Work



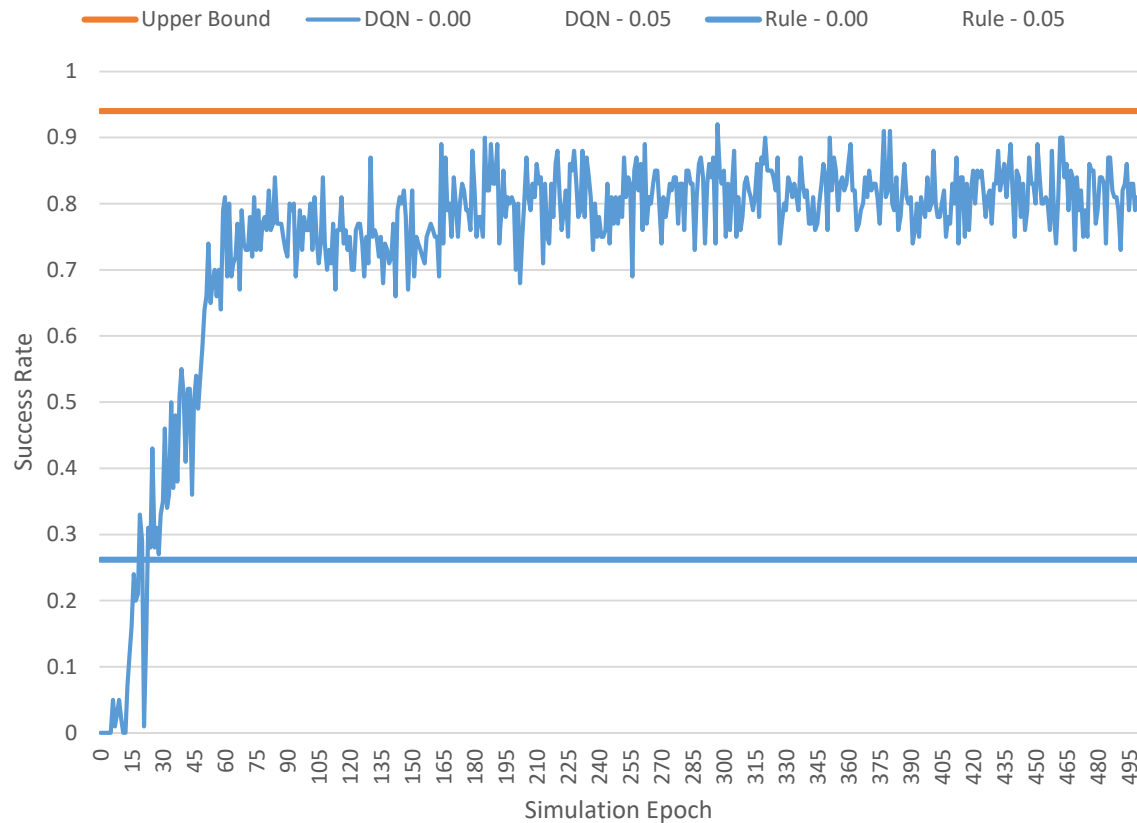


# Dialogue System Pipeline



# LU Importance

Learning Curve of System Performance

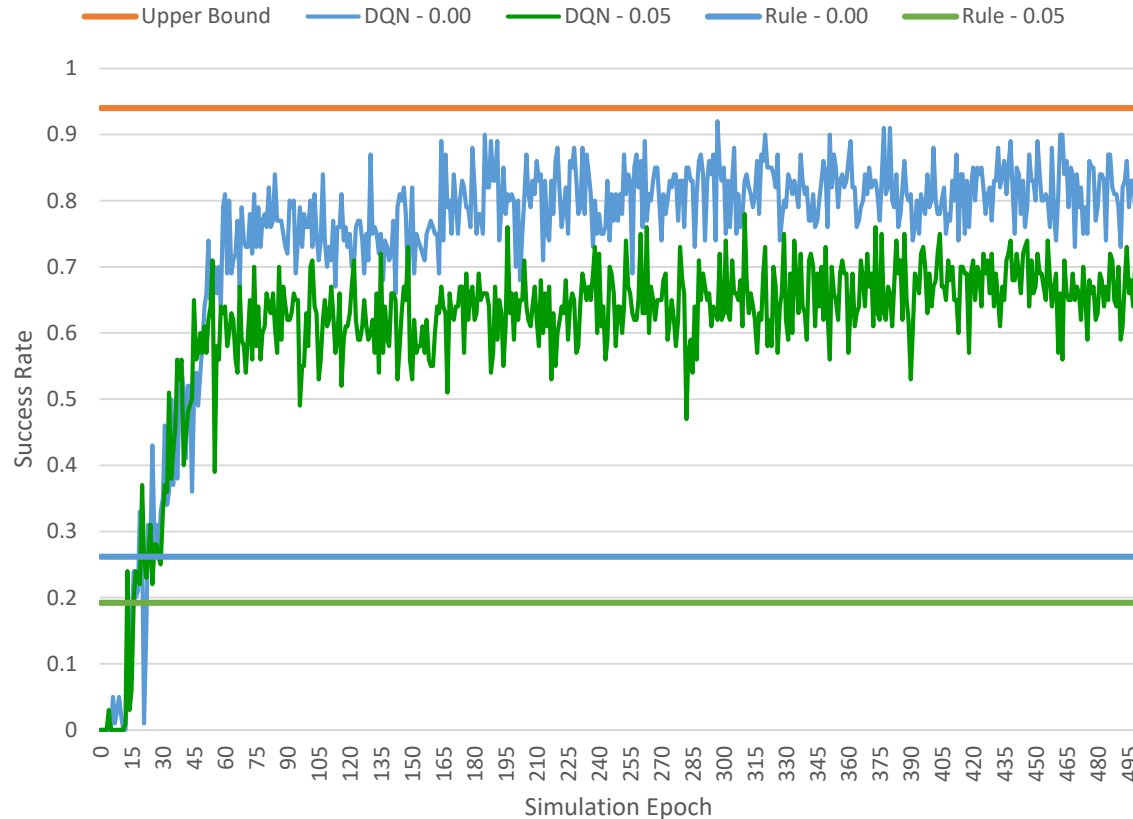


RL Agent w/o LU errors

Rule Agent w/o LU errors

# LU Importance

Learning Curve of System Performance



RL Agent w/o LU errors

RL Agent w/ 5% LU errors

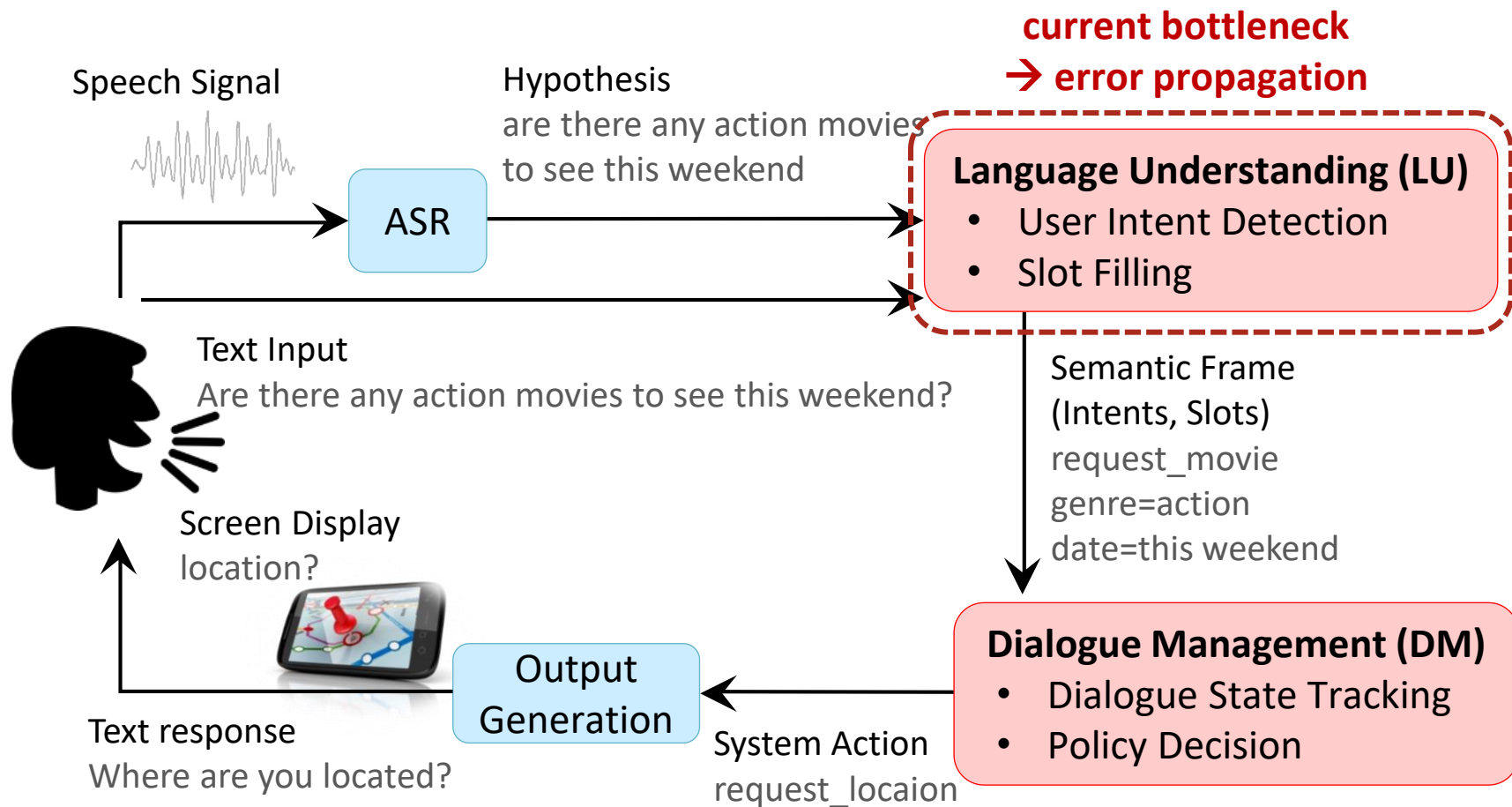
>5% performance drop

Rule Agent w/o LU errors

Rule Agent w/ 5% LU errors

The system performance is sensitive to LU errors, for both rule-based and reinforcement learning agents.

# Dialogue System Pipeline



SLU usually focuses on understanding single-turn utterances

The understanding result is usually influenced by  
1) local observations 2) global knowledge.

# Spoken Language Understanding

Domain Identification → Intent Prediction → Slot Filling

$D$  communication

$I$  send\_email

Single Turn



$U$  just sent email to bob about fishing this weekend

$S$  O O O O ↓ O ↓ ↓ ↓

B-contact\_name B-subject I-subject I-subject

→ send\_email(contact\_name="bob", subject="fishing this weekend")

Multi-Turn

$U_1$  send email to bob

$S_1$  B-contact\_name

→ send\_email(contact\_name="bob")

$U_2$  are we going to fish this weekend

$S_2$  B-message I-message I-message I-message I-message

→ send\_email(message="are we going to fish this weekend")



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# MODEL ARCHITECTURE

## 1. Sentence Encoding

$$m_i = \text{RNN}_{\text{mem}}(x_i)$$

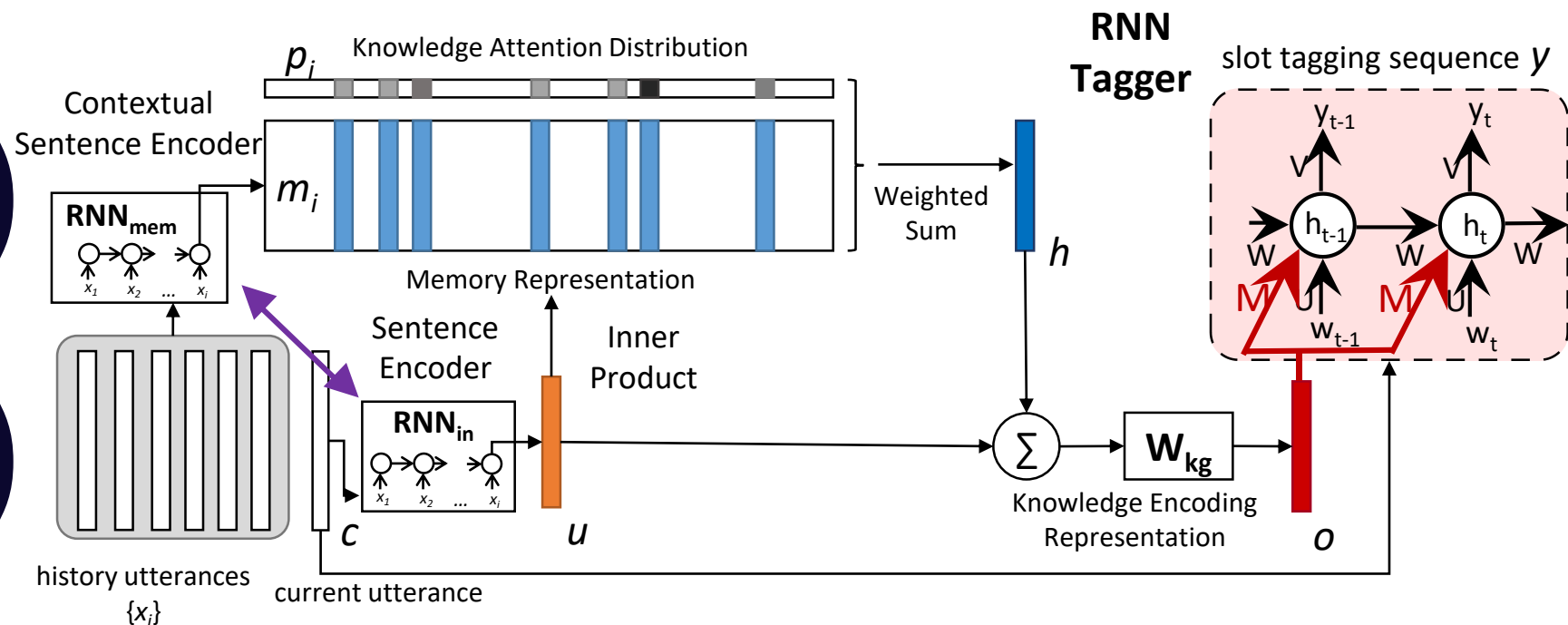
$$u = \text{RNN}_{\text{in}}(c)$$

## 2. Knowledge Attention

$$p_i = \text{softmax}(u^T m_i)$$

$$h = \sum_i p_i m_i \quad o = W_{\text{kg}}(h + u)$$

## 3. Knowledge Encoding



Idea: additionally incorporating contextual knowledge during slot tagging

# MODEL ARCHITECTURE

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$$m_i = \text{RNN}_{\text{mem}}(x_i)$$

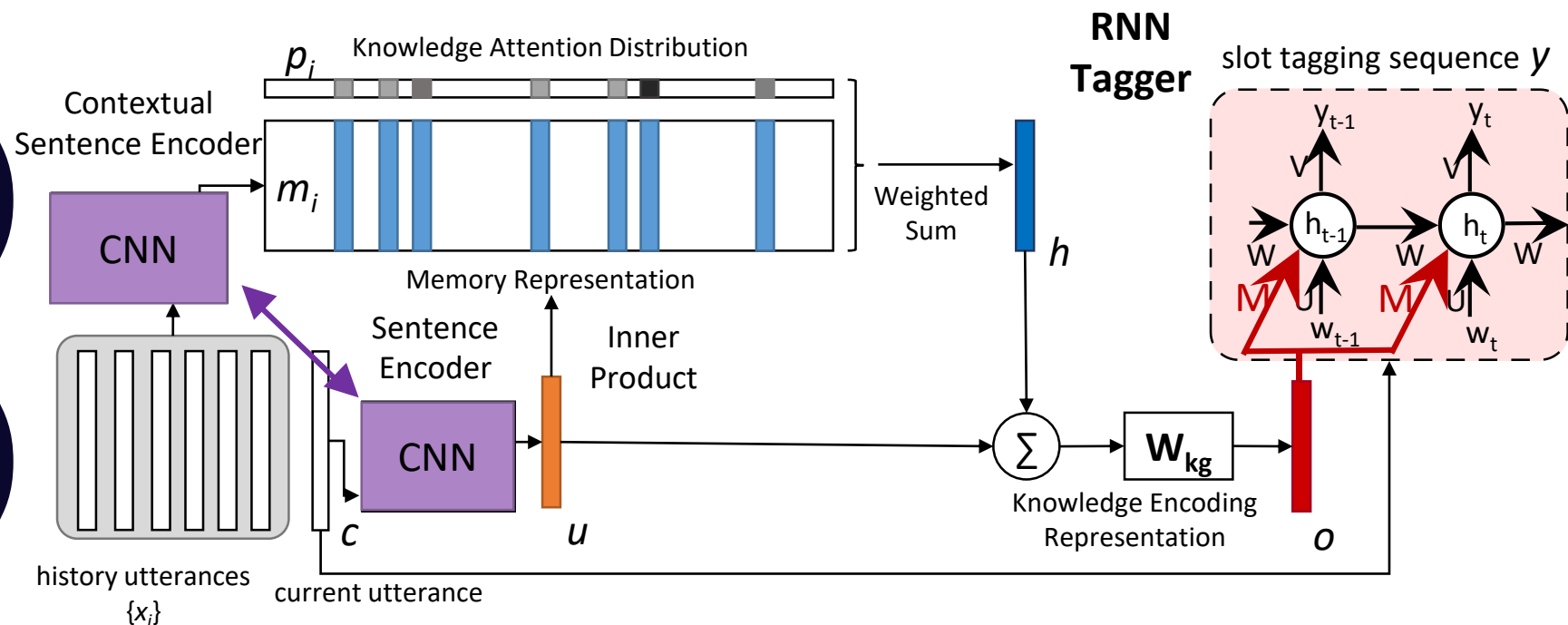
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Idea: additionally incorporating contextual knowledge during slot tagging

# END-TO-END TRAINING

- Tagging Objective

$$\mathbf{y} = \text{RNN}(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{c})$$

slot tag sequence

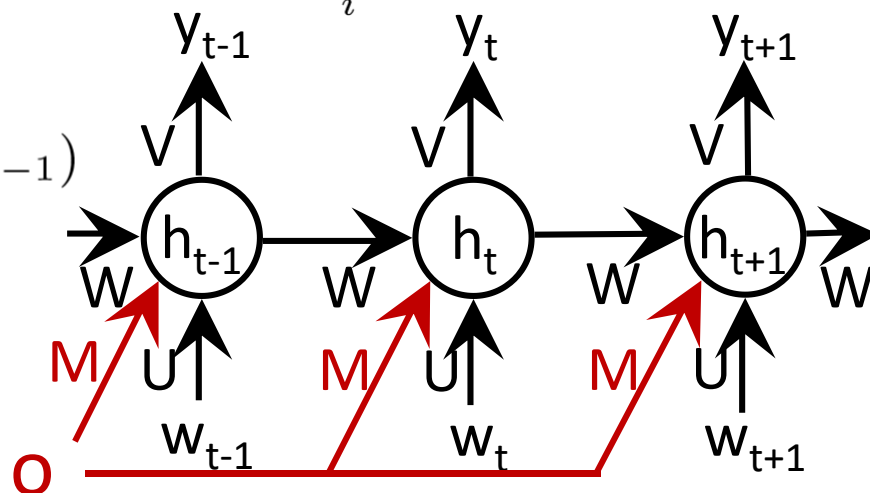
contextual utterances & current utterance

$$p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{c}) = p(\mathbf{y} \mid w_1, \dots, w_T) = \prod_i p(y_i \mid w_1, \dots, w_i).$$

- RNN Tagger

$$h_t = \phi(Mo + Ww_t + Uh_{t-1})$$

$$\hat{y}_t = \text{softmax}(Vh_t)$$



Automatically figure out the attention distribution without explicit supervision

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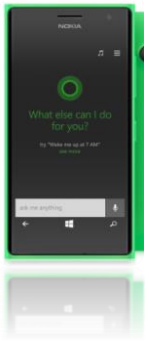


## Conclusion & Future Work





# EXPERIMENTS

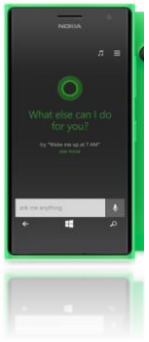


- Dataset: Cortana communication session data
  - GRU for all RNN
  - adam optimizer
  - embedding dim=150
  - hidden unit=100
  - dropout=0.5

| Model      | Training Set | Knowledge Encoding | Sentence Encoder | First Turn  | Other | Overall |
|------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|-------|---------|
| RNN Tagger | single-turn  | x                  | x                | <b>60.6</b> | 16.2  | 25.5    |

The model trained on single-turn data performs worse for non-first turns due to mismatched training data

# EXPERIMENTS



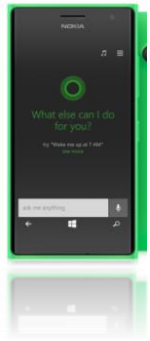
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|------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| RNN Tagger | single-turn  | x                  | x                | <b>60.6</b> | 16.2        | 25.5        |
|            | multi-turn   | x                  | x                | 55.9        | <b>45.7</b> | <b>47.4</b> |

Treating multi-turn data as single-turn for training performs reasonable

# EXPERIMENTS

- Dataset: Cortana communication session data
  - GRU for all RNN
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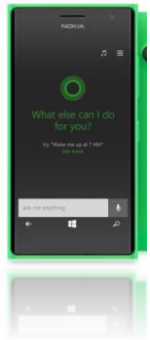


| Model          | Training Set | Knowledge Encoding       | Sentence Encoder | First Turn  | Other       | Overall     |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| RNN Tagger     | single-turn  | x                        | x                | 60.6        | 16.2        | 25.5        |
|                | multi-turn   | x                        | x                | 55.9        | 45.7        | 47.4        |
| Encoder-Tagger | multi-turn   | current utt (c)          | RNN              | 57.6        | 56.0        | 56.3        |
|                | multi-turn   | history + current (x, c) | RNN              | <b>69.9</b> | <b>60.8</b> | <b>62.5</b> |

Encoding current and history utterances improves the performance but increases the training time

# EXPERIMENTS

- Dataset: Cortana communication session data
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  - embedding dim=150
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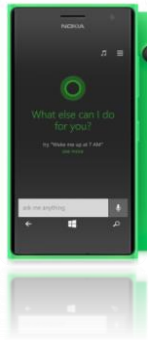


| Model          | Training Set | Knowledge Encoding       | Sentence Encoder | First Turn  | Other       | Overall     |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| RNN Tagger     | single-turn  | x                        | x                | 60.6        | 16.2        | 25.5        |
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|                | multi-turn   | history + current (x, c) | RNN              | 69.9        | 60.8        | 62.5        |
| Proposed       | multi-turn   | history + current (x, c) | RNN              | <b>73.2</b> | <b>65.7</b> | <b>67.1</b> |

Applying memory networks significantly outperforms all approaches with much less training time

# EXPERIMENTS

- Dataset: Cortana communication session data
  - GRU for all RNN
  - adam optimizer
  - embedding dim=150
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| Model          | Training Set | Knowledge Encoding       | Sentence Encoder | First Turn  | Other       | Overall     |
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| RNN Tagger     | single-turn  | x                        | x                | 60.6        | 16.2        | 25.5        |
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| Proposed       | multi-turn   | history + current (x, c) | RNN              | <b>73.2</b> | <b>65.7</b> | <b>67.1</b> |
|                | multi-turn   | history + current (x, c) | CNN              | <b>73.8</b> | <b>66.5</b> | <b>68.0</b> |

CNN produces comparable results for sentence encoding with shorter training time

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# Conclusion

- The proposed *end-to-end* memory networks **store contextual knowledge**, which can be exploited dynamically based on an **attention model** for **manipulating knowledge carryover** for multi-turn understanding
- The end-to-end model performs the **tagging** task instead of **classification**
- The experiments show the *feasibility* and *robustness* of modeling knowledge carryover through memory networks



# Future Work

- Leveraging not only **local observation** but also **global knowledge** for better language understanding
  - Syntax or semantics can serve as global knowledge to guide the understanding model
  - “Knowledge as a Teacher: Knowledge-Guided Structural Attention Networks,” arXiv preprint [arXiv: 1609.03286](https://arxiv.org/abs/1609.03286)

# Q & A

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

The code will be available at  
<https://github.com/yvchen/ContextualSLU>

