

# Discreteness in Generative Models

## -- *Discrete Sequence Generation*

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# Discreteness in Generative Models

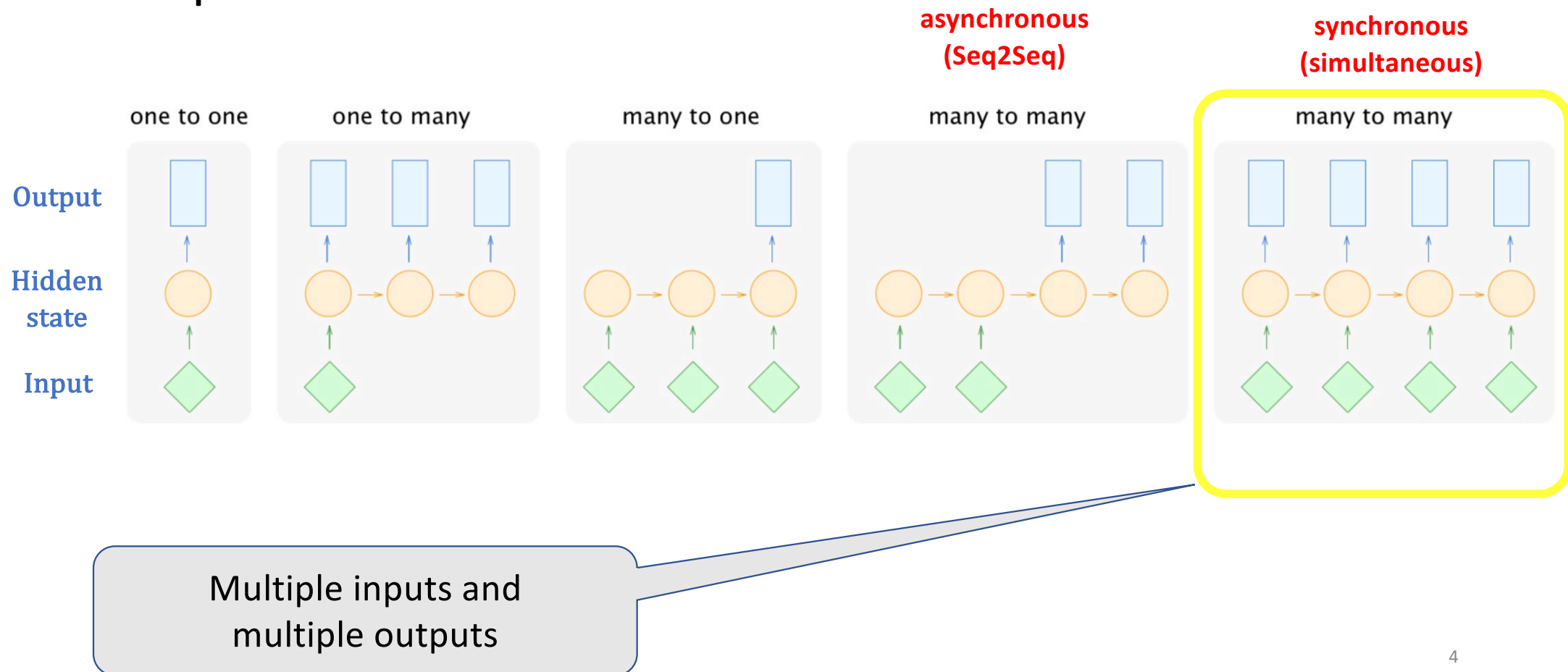
## – Discrete Sequence Generation

- Introduction
  - RNN Language Modelling
  - Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space
  - Recap: Inverse RL vs. GAN
- GAN+RL
  - SeqGAN
  - RankGAN
  - MaskGAN
- GANs
  - Adversarial Text Generation without Reinforcement Learning
  - GANs for Sequences Generation with the Gumbel-softmax

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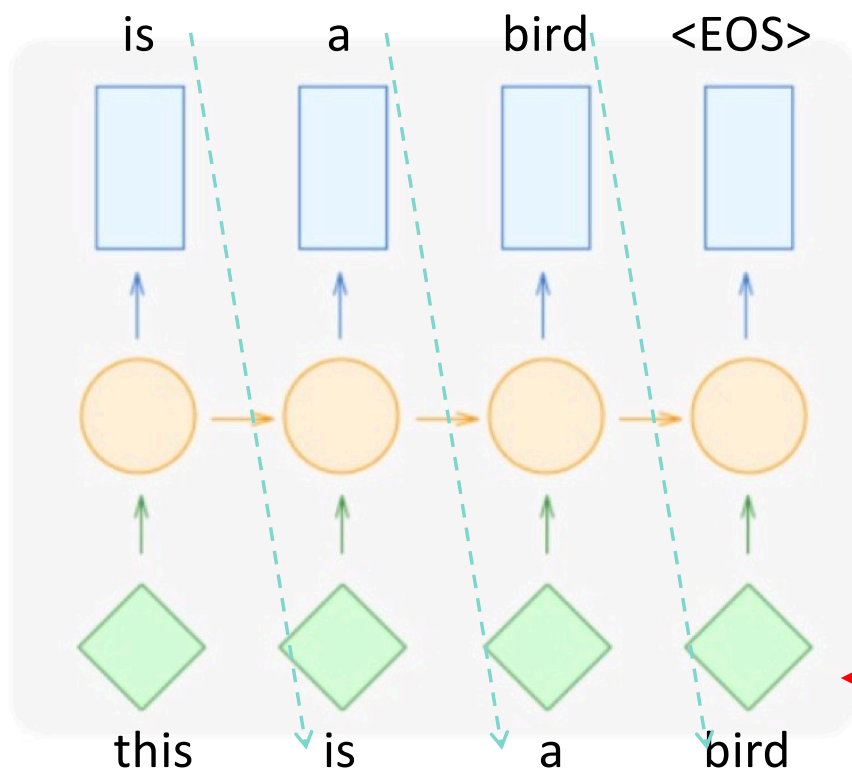
# RNN Language Modelling

- Recap: Recurrent Neural Network



# RNN Language Modelling

- **Synchronous Many-to-Many**



- MLE training
- The output of each step is equal to the input of its next step.

← For testing, input "this," output the entire sentence

# RNN Language Modelling

- **Limitations**
  - 1. No latent space – Representation learning
  - 2. Exposure bias – Long sentence generation problem

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# Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space

- Why Continuous Space

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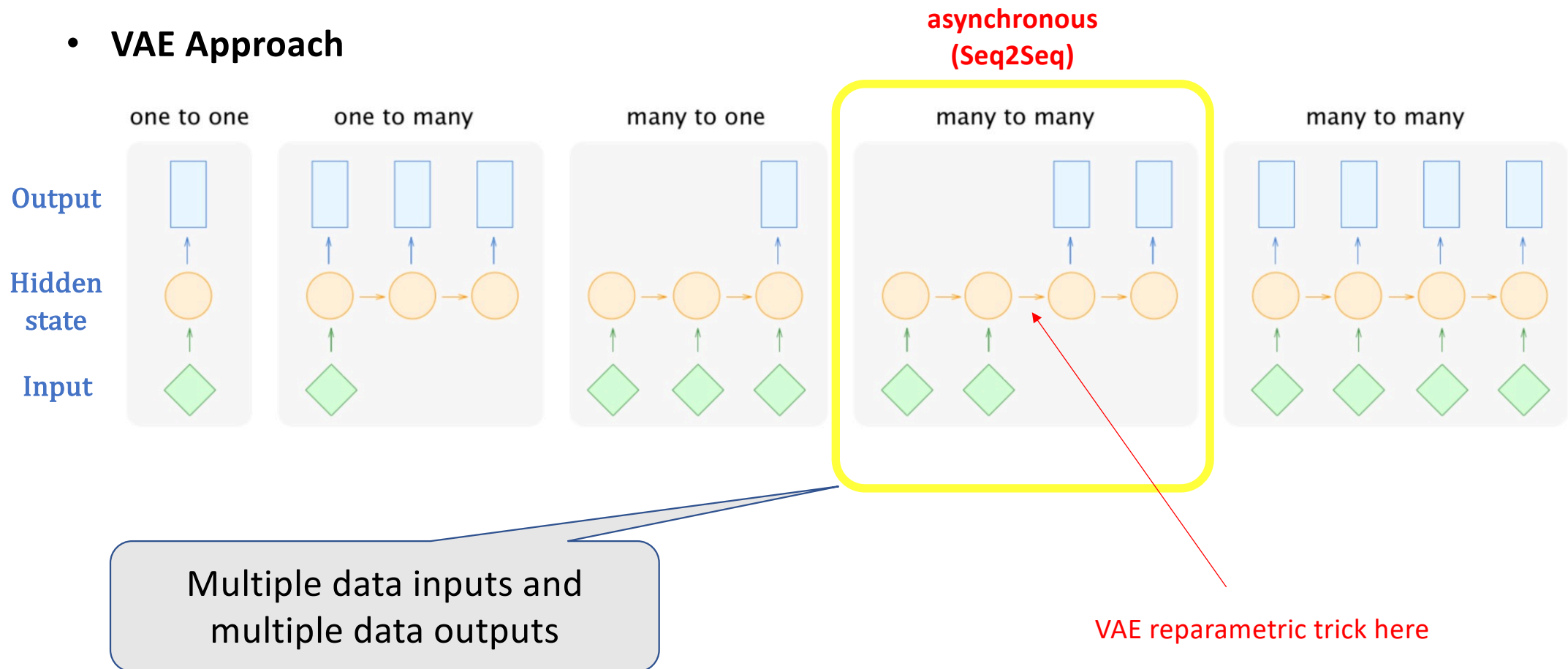
**i went to the store to buy some groceries .**  
*i store to buy some groceries .*  
*i were to buy any groceries .*  
*horses are to buy any groceries .*  
*horses are to buy any animal .*  
*horses the favorite any animal .*  
*horses the favorite favorite animal .*  
**horses are my favorite animal .**

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# Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space

- VAE Approach

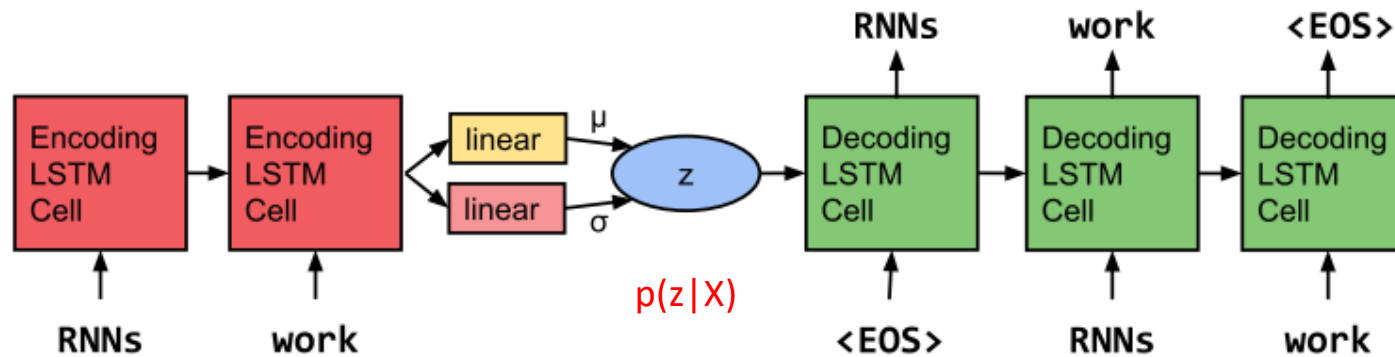


Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space.

Bowman, Samuel R. Vilnis, Luke. Vinyals, Oriol. Dai, Andrew. Jozefowicz, Rafal. Bengio, Samy. Arxiv 2015.

# Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space

- VAE Approach: Training

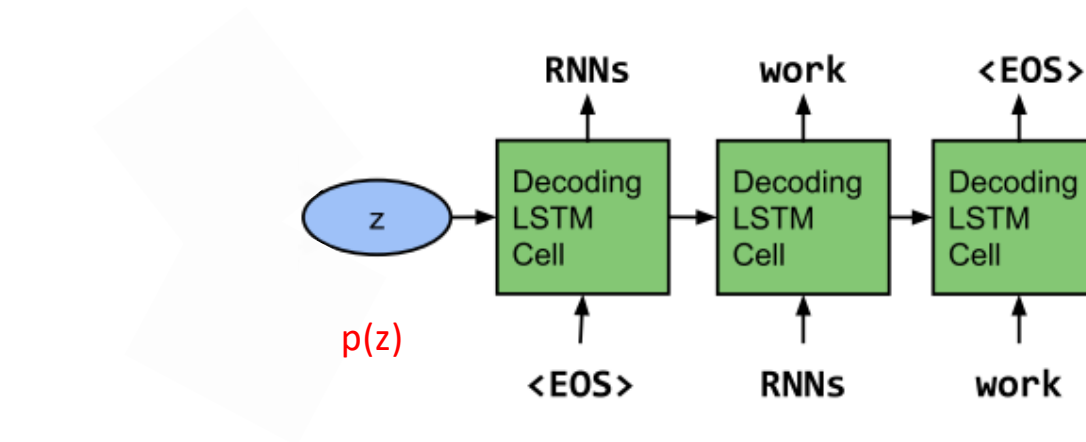


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# Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space

- VAE Approach: Testing



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## Impute missing words within sentences.

**True:** *that the transition was complete .*    **RNNLM:** *it , " i said .*    **VAE:** *through the driver 's door .*

**True:** *men* .

**RNNLM:** . ”

**VAE:** *brother* .

**True:** *on this matter .*      **RNNLM:** *, i said .*      **VAE:** *, right now .*

# Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space

- **Application**

Results from the mean of the posterior distribution and samples from that distribution.

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INPUT	<b>we looked out at the setting sun .</b>	<b>i went to the kitchen .</b>	<b>how are you doing ?</b>
MEAN	<i>they were laughing at the same time .</i>	<i>i went to the kitchen .</i>	<i>what are you doing ?</i>
SAMP. 1	<i>ill see you in the early morning .</i>	<i>i went to my apartment .</i>	<i>“ are you sure ?</i>
SAMP. 2	<i>i looked up at the blue sky .</i>	<i>i looked around the room .</i>	<i>what are you doing ?</i>
SAMP. 3	<i>it was down on the dance floor .</i>	<i>i turned back to the table .</i>	<i>what are you doing ?</i>

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Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space.

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# Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space

- Application

Interpolation between two points in the VAE manifold.

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**“ i want to talk to you . ”**  
*“i want to be with you . ”*  
*“i do n’t want to be with you . ”*  
*i do n’t want to be with you .*  
**she did n’t want to be with him .**

---

**he was silent for a long moment .**  
*he was silent for a moment .*  
*it was quiet for a moment .*  
*it was dark and cold .*  
*there was a pause .*  
**it was my turn .**

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Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space.

Bowman, Samuel R. Vilnis, Luke. Vinyals, Oriol. Dai, Andrew. Jozefowicz, Rafal. Bengio, Samy. Arxiv 2015.

# Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space

- **Limitation**

Difficult to generate long sentences

Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space.

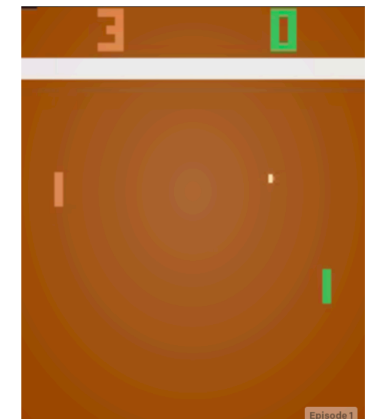
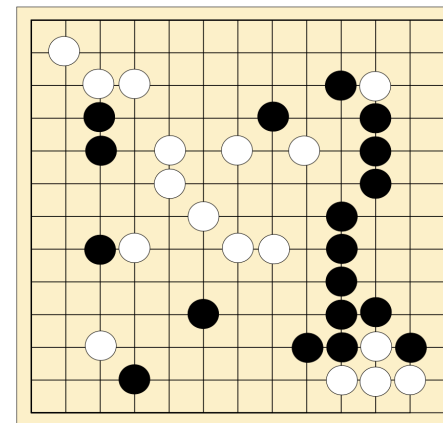
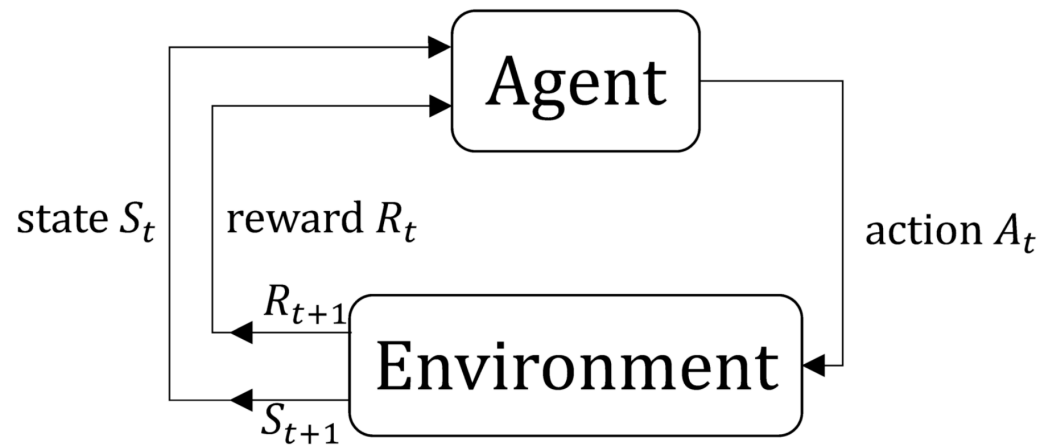
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## Recap: Inverse RL vs. GAN

- Reinforcement Learning and Imitation Learning

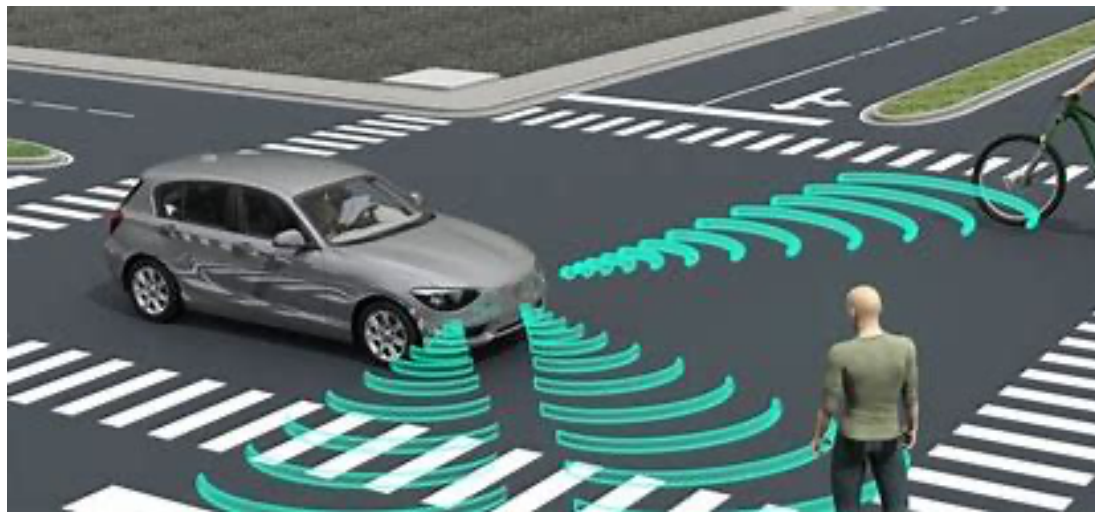


## Recap: Inverse RL vs. GAN

- Reinforcement Learning and Imitation Learning

- Why?

Difficult and even impossible to define reward functions for many environments



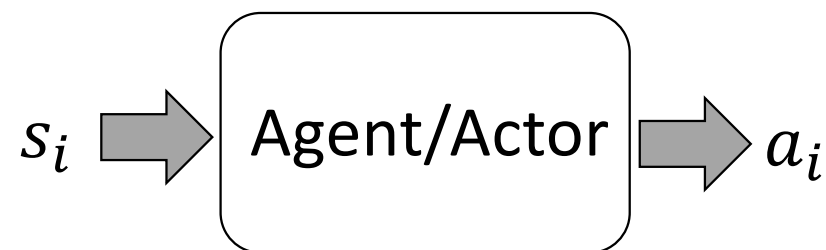
## Recap: Inverse RL vs. GAN

- Reinforcement Learning and Imitation Learning
  - Behaviour Cloning
  - Inverse RL

## Recap: Inverse RL vs. GAN

- Reinforcement Learning and Imitation Learning

- Behaviour Cloning == Supervised Learning
- Given expert's demonstrations:  $(s_1, a_1), (s_2, a_2), \dots, (s_N, a_N)$
- Supervised training:

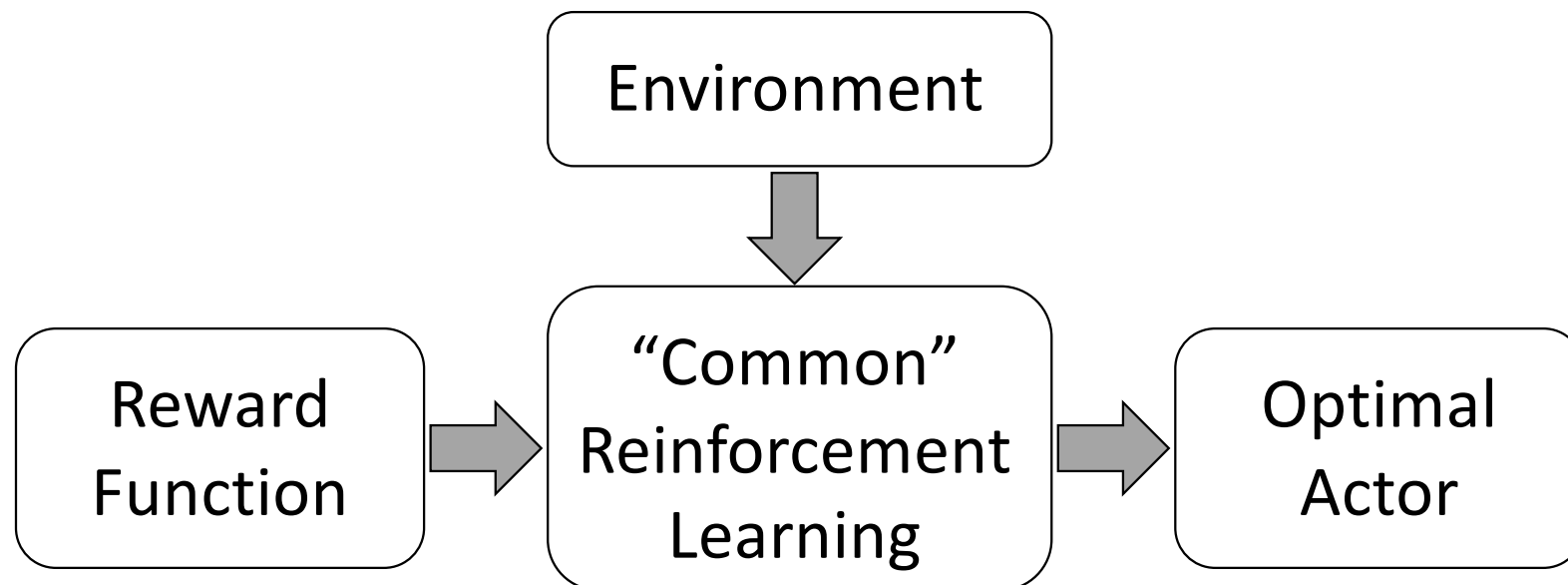


## Recap: Inverse RL vs. GAN

- **Reinforcement Learning and Imitation Learning**
  - **Behaviour Cloning == Supervised Learning**
  - Problem
    - Expert only samples from limited observation (states)  
(Solution: Dataset Aggregation)
    - If machine has limited capacity, it may choose the wrong behavior to copy
    - Assume the training and testing data distributions are the same

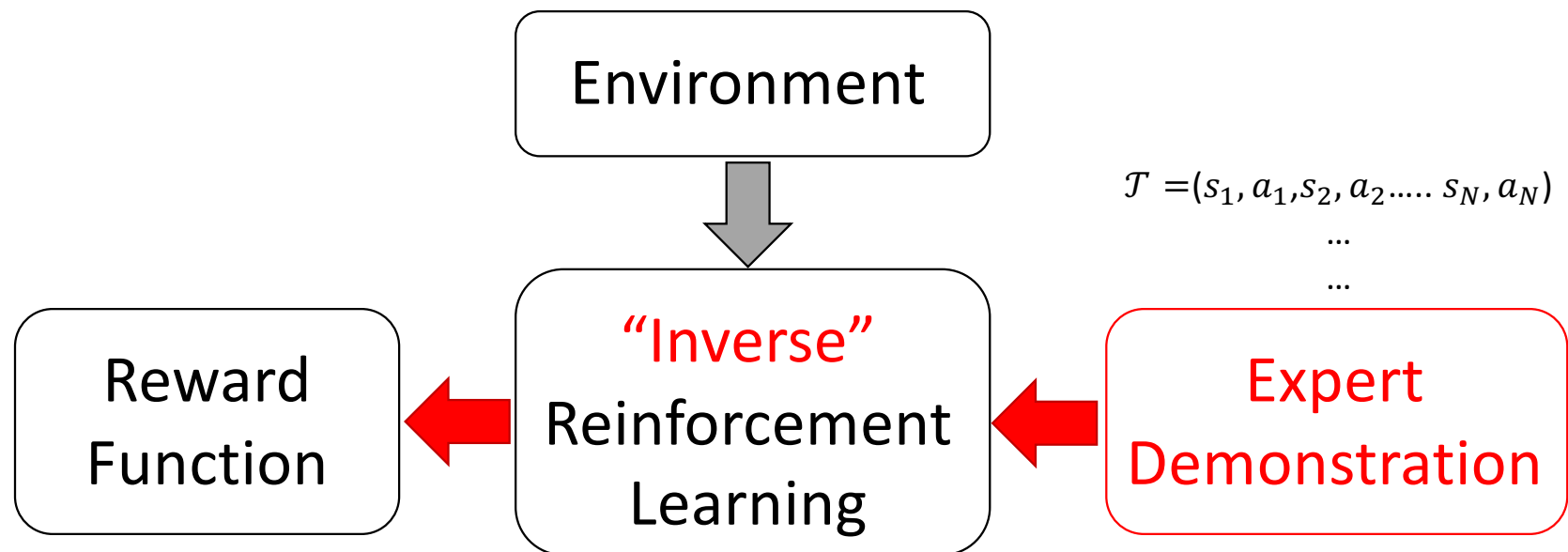
## Recap: Inverse RL vs. GAN

- Reinforcement Learning and Imitation Learning
  - Inverse Reinforcement Learning



## Recap: Inverse RL vs. GAN

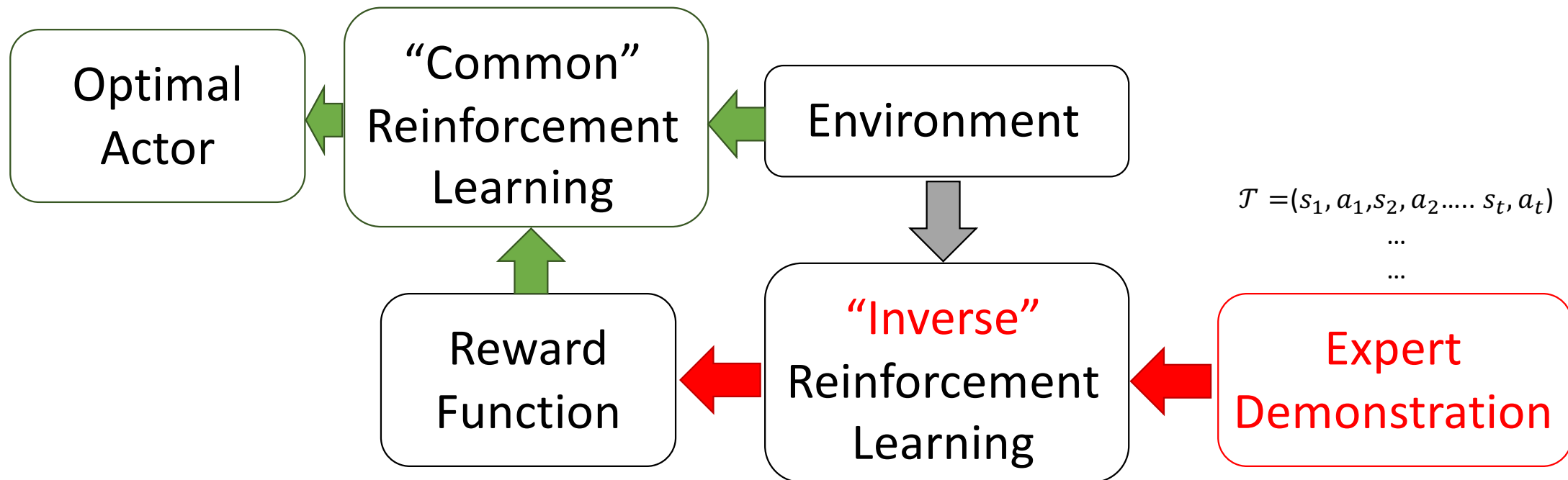
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## Recap: Inverse RL vs. GAN

- Reinforcement Learning and Imitation Learning

- Inverse Reinforcement Learning



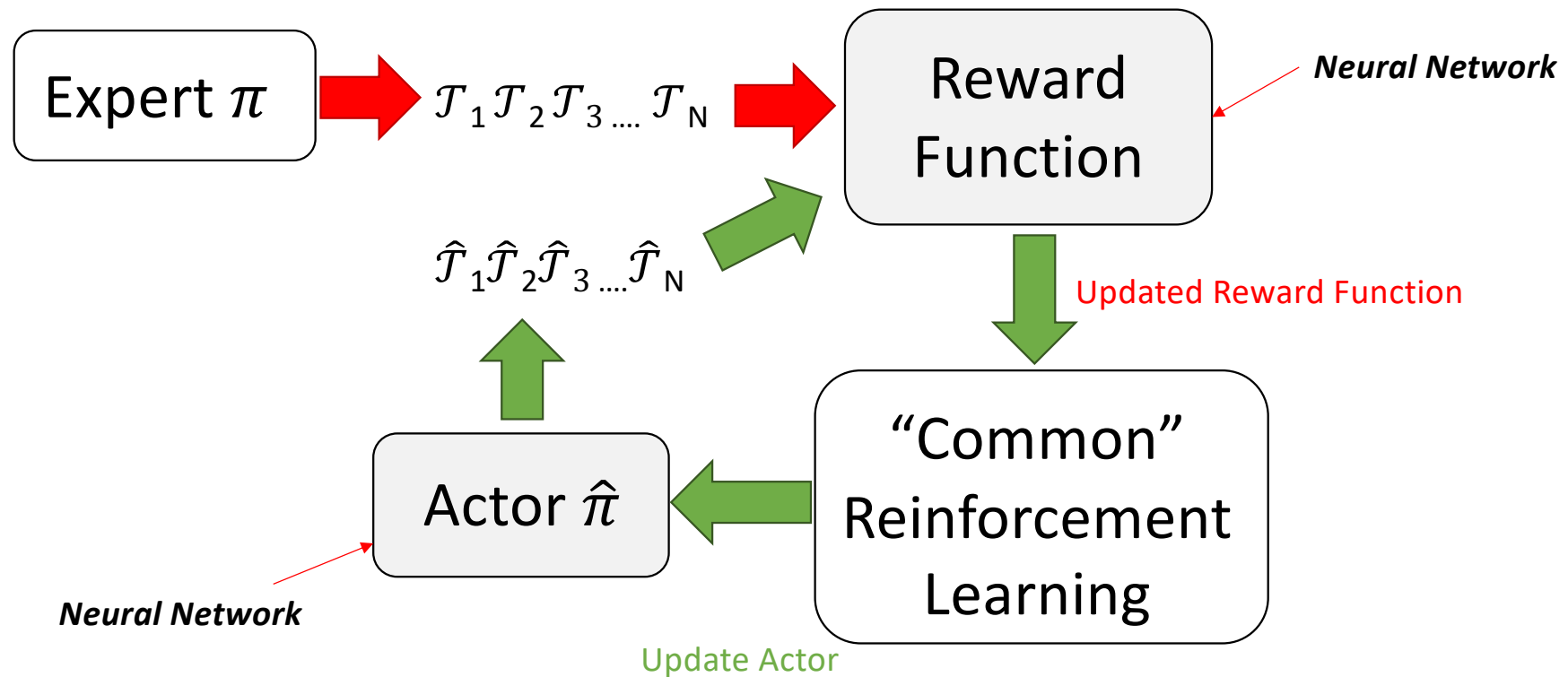


## Recap: Inverse RL vs. GAN

- Inverse RL: Training

$$\sum_{n=1}^N R(\mathcal{T}_n) > \sum_{n=1}^N R(\hat{\mathcal{T}}_n)$$

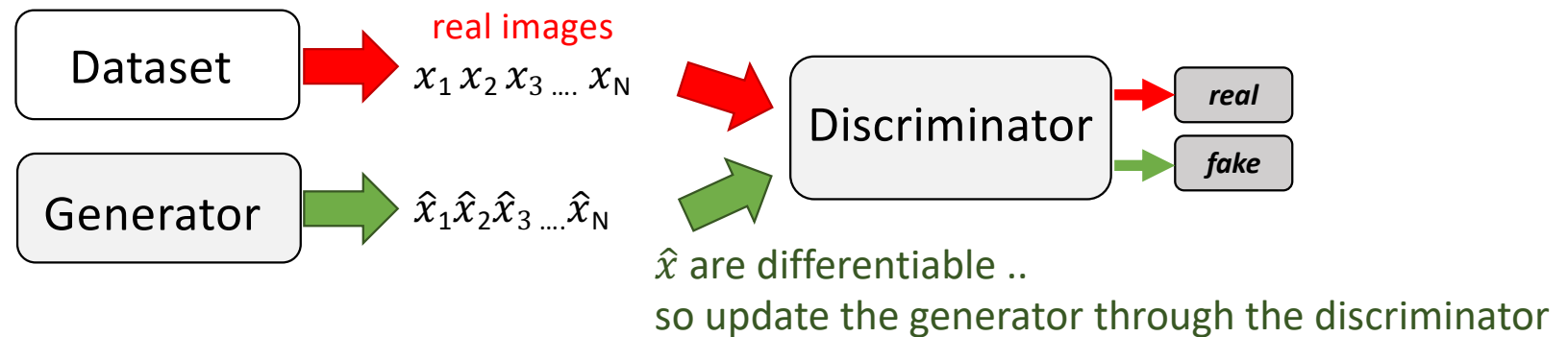
Goal: The expert is always the best



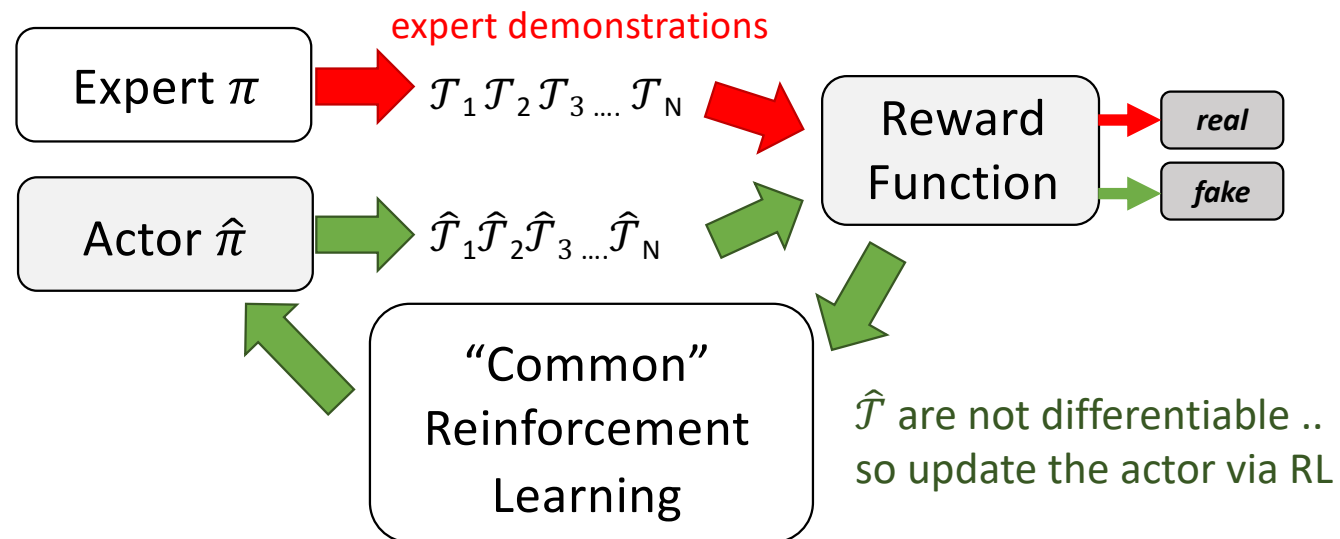
$$\mathcal{T} = (s_1, a_1, s_2, a_2, \dots, s_t, a_t)$$

## Recap: Inverse RL vs. GAN

- GAN



- Inverse RL



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# SeqGAN: Sequence Generative Adversarial Nets with Policy Gradient

- **Motivation**

MLE has exposure bias

MLE tends to move to the mean when there is uncertainty

“this is a ...” “this is one” ← “a” or “one” which one is correct?

MLE-free sentence generation using adversarial networks could be better

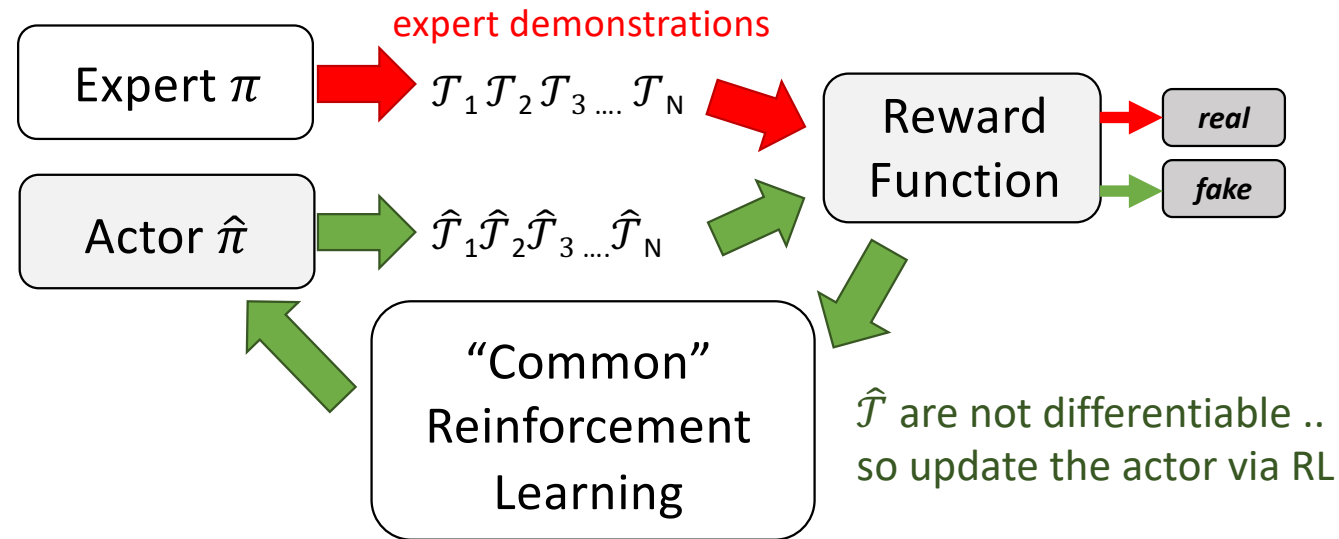
- **Challenge**

Sentences are discrete

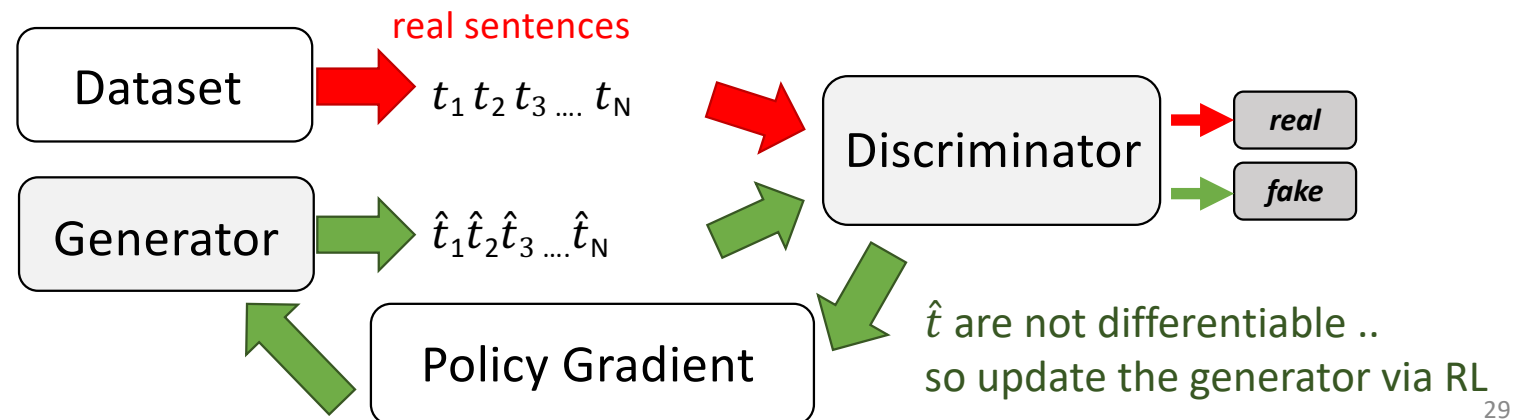
Sentence generation is not differentiable

# SeqGAN: Sequence Generative Adversarial Nets with Policy Gradient

- Inverse RL

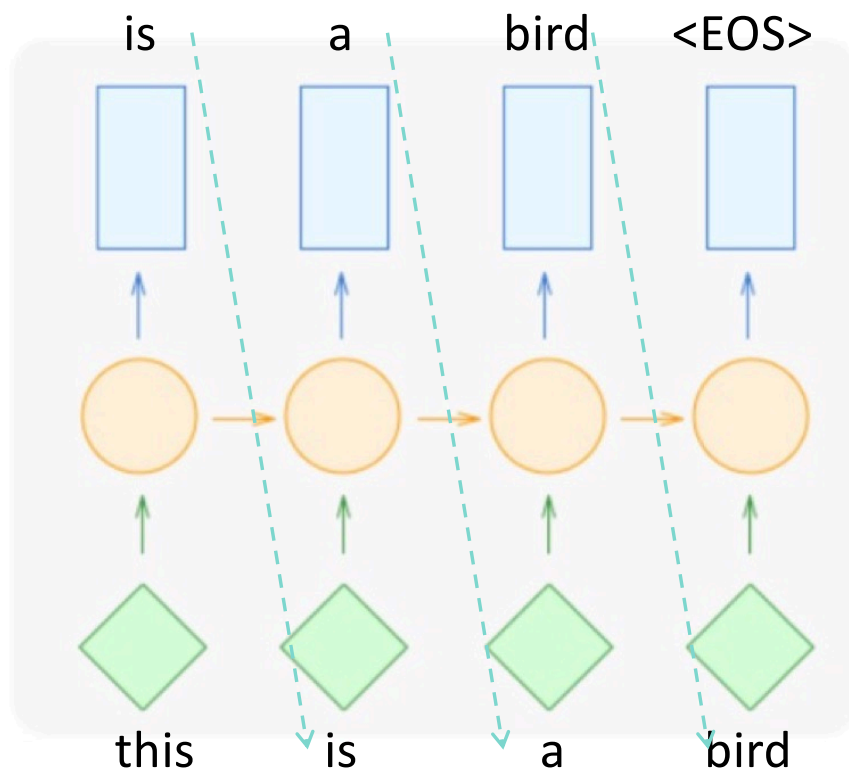


- SeqGAN



# SeqGAN: Sequence Generative Adversarial Nets with Policy Gradient

- Method Details



- The generator is a LSTM or GRU language model
- Pretrain the generator using MLE before RL training for better initialization
- The discriminator is a CNN network

# SeqGAN: Sequence Generative Adversarial Nets with Policy Gradient

- Method Details

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**Algorithm 1** Sequence Generative Adversarial Nets

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**Require:** generator policy  $G_\theta$ ; roll-out policy  $G_\beta$ ; discriminator  $D_\phi$ ; a sequence dataset  $\mathcal{S} = \{X_{1:T}\}$

- 1: Initialize  $G_\theta, D_\phi$  with random weights  $\theta, \phi$ .
- 2: Pre-train  $G_\theta$  using MLE on  $\mathcal{S}$
- 3:  $\beta \leftarrow \theta$
- 4: Generate negative samples using  $G_\theta$  for training  $D_\phi$
- 5: Pre-train  $D_\phi$  via minimizing the cross entropy
- 6: **repeat**
- 7:   **for** g-steps **do**
- 8:     Generate a sequence  $Y_{1:T} = (y_1, \dots, y_T) \sim G_\theta$
- 9:     **for**  $t$  in  $1 : T$  **do**
- 10:       Compute  $Q(a = y_t; s = Y_{1:t-1})$  by Eq. (4)
- 11:     **end for**
- 12:     Update generator parameters via policy gradient Eq. (8)
- 13:   **end for**
- 14:   **for** d-steps **do**
- 15:     Use current  $G_\theta$  to generate negative examples and combine with given positive examples  $\mathcal{S}$
- 16:     Train discriminator  $D_\phi$  for  $k$  epochs by Eq. (5)
- 17:   **end for**
- 18:    $\beta \leftarrow \theta$
- 19: **until** SeqGAN converges

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# SeqGAN: Sequence Generative Adversarial Nets with Policy Gradient

- Results

Table 2: Chinese poem generation performance comparison.

Algorithm	Human score	$p$ -value	BLEU-2	$p$ -value
MLE	0.4165	0.0034	0.6670	$< 10^{-6}$
SeqGAN	<b>0.5356</b>		<b>0.7389</b>	
Real data	0.6011		0.746	

Table 3: Obama political speech generation performance.

Algorithm	BLEU-3	$p$ -value	BLEU-4	$p$ -value
MLE	0.519	$< 10^{-6}$	0.416	0.00014
SeqGAN	<b>0.556</b>		<b>0.427</b>	

Table 4: Music generation performance comparison.

Algorithm	BLEU-4	$p$ -value	MSE	$p$ -value
MLE	0.9210	$< 10^{-6}$	22.38	0.00034
SeqGAN	<b>0.9406</b>		<b>20.62</b>	



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# RankGAN: Adversarial Ranking for Language Generation

- **Motivation**

the existing GANs restrict the discriminator to be a binary classifier,  
limiting their learning capacity for tasks that need to synthesize output with rich structures  
such as natural language descriptions

so ... we use a Ranker as the discriminator ... improved SeqGAN

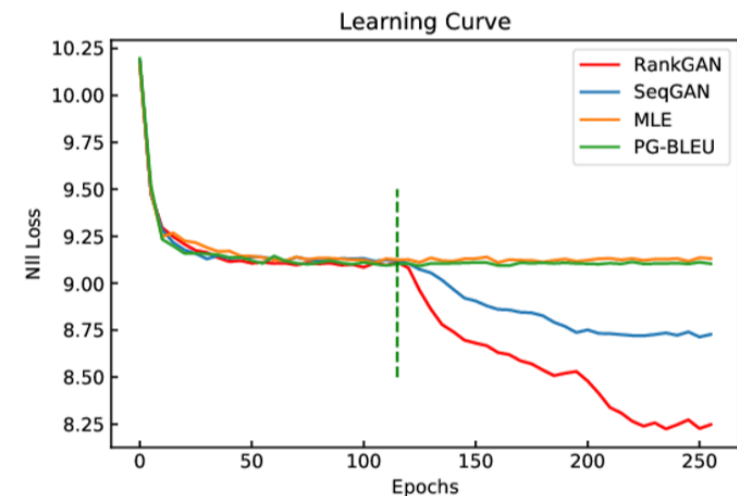
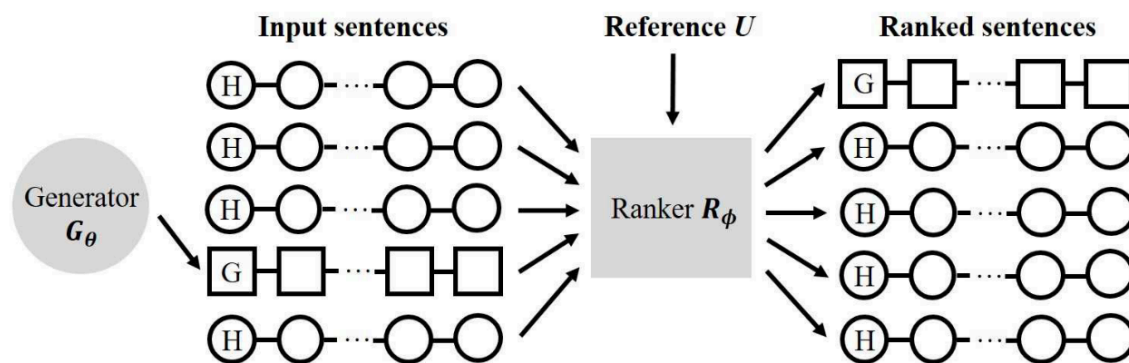
RankGAN: Adversarial Ranking for Language Generation.

Kevin Lin, Dianqi Li, Xiaodong He, Zhengyou Zhang, Ming-Ting Sun. NeurIPS. 2017

# RankGAN: Adversarial Ranking for Language Generation

- Method

Generator hopes the Ranker rank the fake sentence to the top  
... a better reward function for RL training



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# RankGAN: Adversarial Ranking for Language Generation

- Method

$$\min_{\theta} \max_{\phi} \mathcal{L}(G_{\theta}, R_{\phi}) = \mathbb{E}_{s \sim \mathcal{P}_h} [\log R_{\phi}(s|U, \mathcal{C}^{-})] + \mathbb{E}_{s \sim G_{\theta}} [\log(1 - R_{\phi}(s|U, \mathcal{C}^{+}))]$$

$U$  is a set of real data for reference

$\mathcal{C}^{-}$  is a set of randomly sampled fake data

$\mathcal{C}^{+}$  is a set of randomly sampled real data

$p_h$  and  $G_{\theta}$  are real and fake distribution

The “Rank” of a data is the similarity with the reference  $U$

$y_s$  and  $y_u$  are the feature vector of  $U$  and  $s$  ( $s$  is a single data point)

The similarity score of the input sequence  $s$  given a reference  $u$ :

$$\alpha(s|u) = \text{cosine}(y_s, y_u) = \frac{y_s \cdot y_u}{\|y_s\| \|y_u\|}$$

The ranking score for a certain sequence  $s$  given a comparison set  $\mathcal{C}$ :

$$P(s|u, \mathcal{C}) = \frac{\exp(\gamma \alpha(s|u))}{\sum_{s' \in \mathcal{C}} \exp(\gamma \alpha(s'|u))}$$

The ranking score for the input sentence  $s$ :

$$R_{\phi}(s|U, \mathcal{C}) = \mathbb{E}_{u \in U} [P(s|u, \mathcal{C})]$$

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# MaskGAN: Better Text Generation via Filling in the \_\_\_\_\_

- **Motivation**

SeqGAN and RankGAN use Policy Gradient for RL training,  
... thus we can only have a single reward for the whole sentence

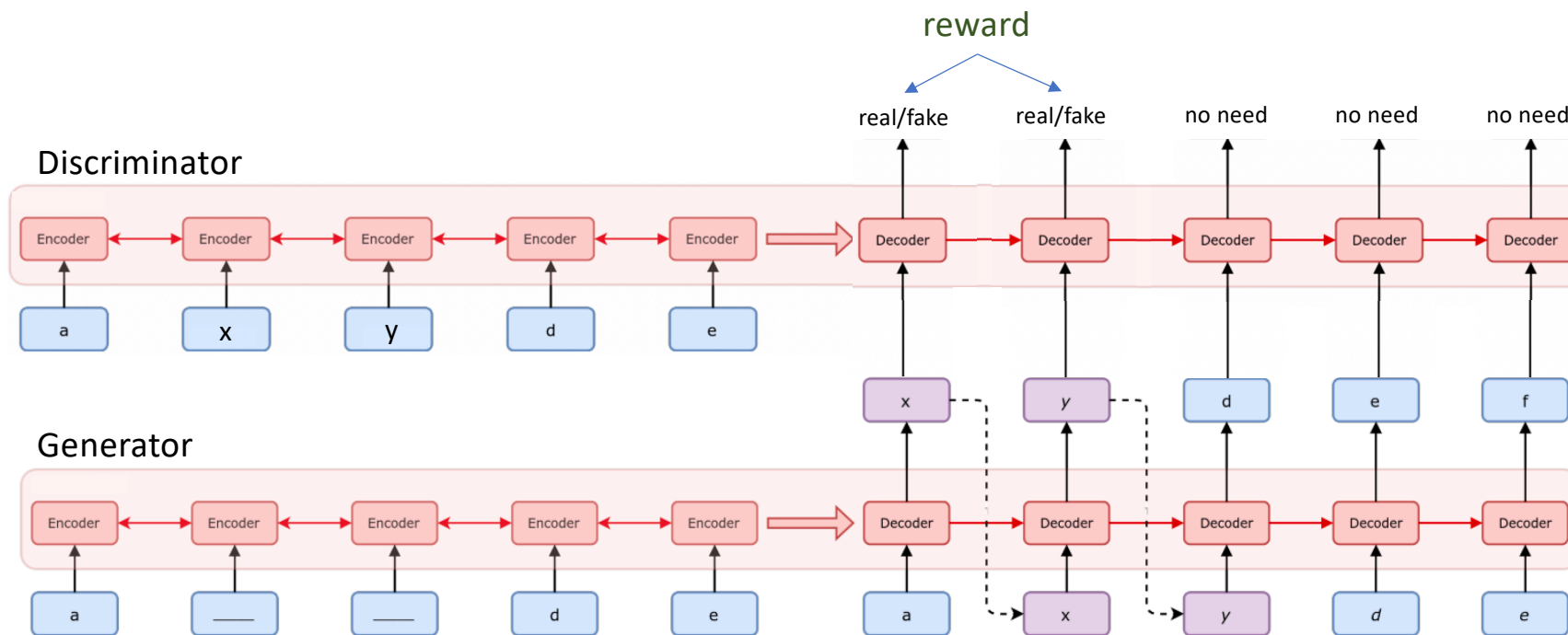
Could we have a reward for each word?

MaskGAN uses Actor Critic for RL training.

# MaskGAN: Better Text Generation via Filling in the \_\_\_\_\_

- Method**

Both Generator and Discriminator are Seq2Seq



MaskGAN: Better Text Generation via Filling in the \_\_\_\_\_. William Fedus, Ian Goodfellow, Andrew M. Dai. ICLR 2018

# MaskGAN: Better Text Generation via Filling in the \_\_\_\_\_

- Results

- Conditional Sentence Generation == Inpainting

Ground Truth	Pitch Black was a complete shock to me when I first saw it back in 2000 In the previous years I
MaskGAN	Pitch Black was a complete shock to me when I first saw it back in 1979 I was really looking forward
MaskMLE	Black was a complete shock to me when I first saw it back in 1969 I live in New Zealand

- Unconditional Sentence Generation == All words are masked

MaskGAN	<b>Positive:</b> Follow the Good Earth movie linked Vacation is a comedy that credited against the modern day era yarns which has helpful something to the modern day s best It is an interesting drama based on a story of the famed
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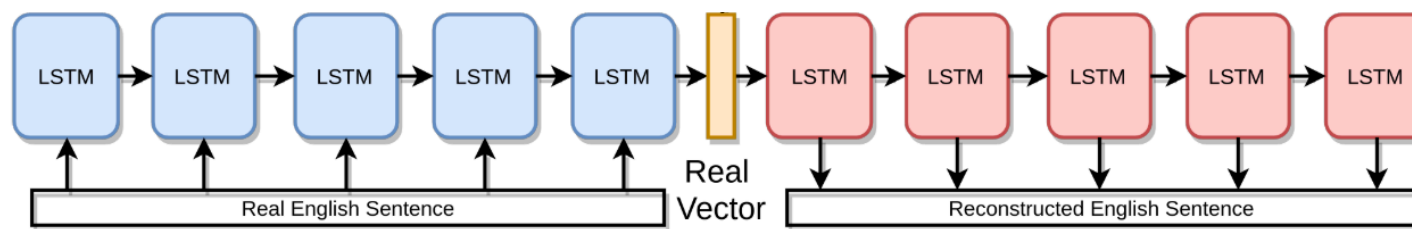
# Adversarial Text Generation without Reinforcement Learning

- **Motivation**

RL training is too slow ...

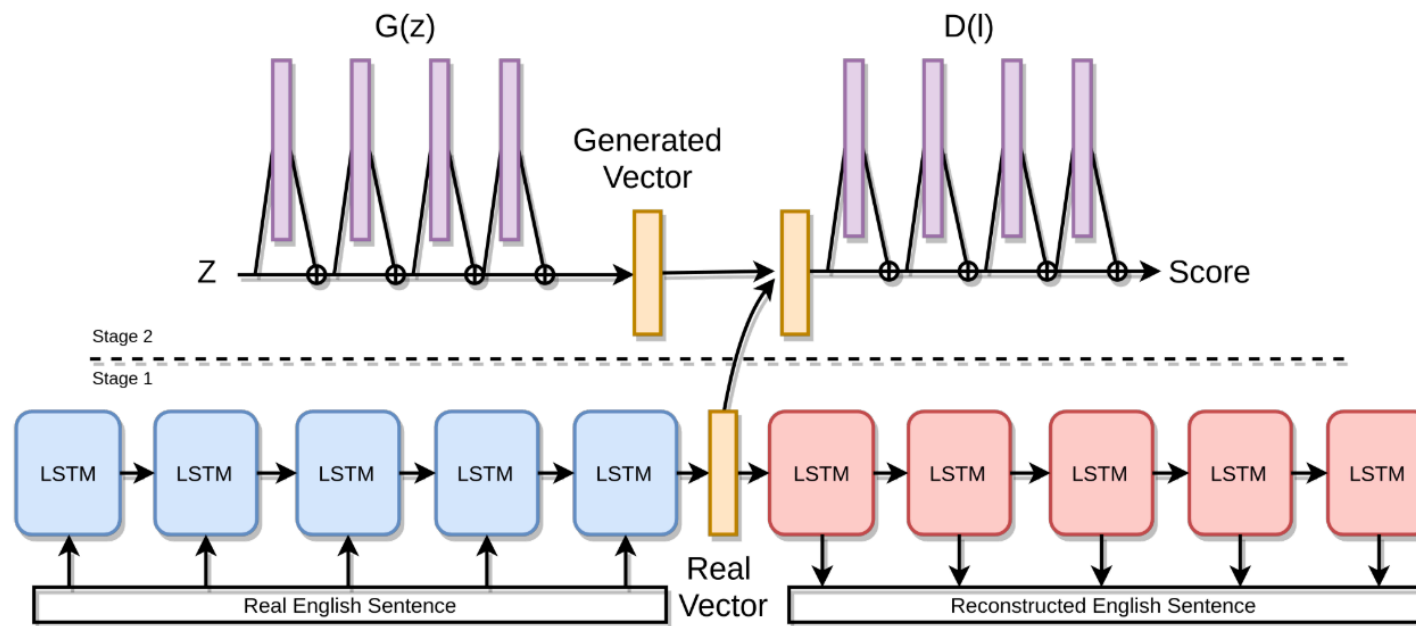
- **Method: Stage 1**

The generator is a common Seq2Seq



# Adversarial Text Generation without Reinforcement Learning

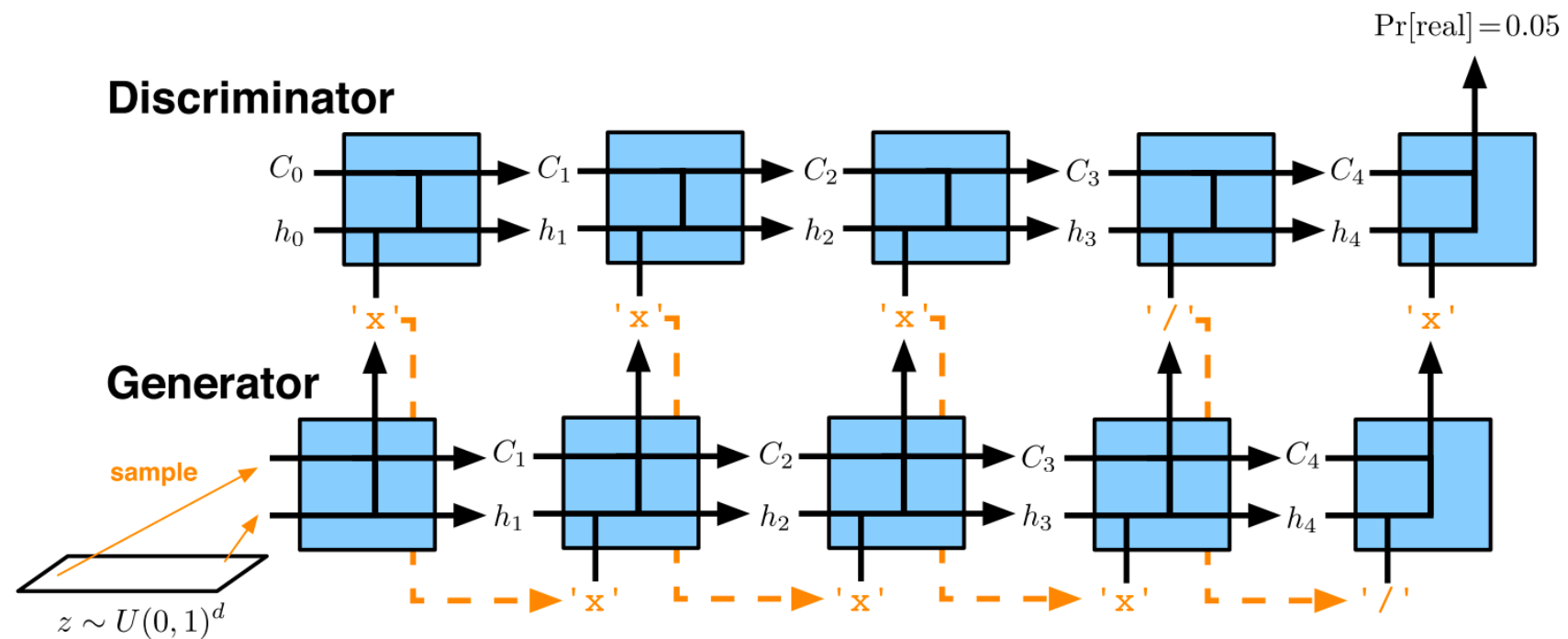
- Method: Stage 2



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# GANs for Sequence Generation with Gumbel-softmax

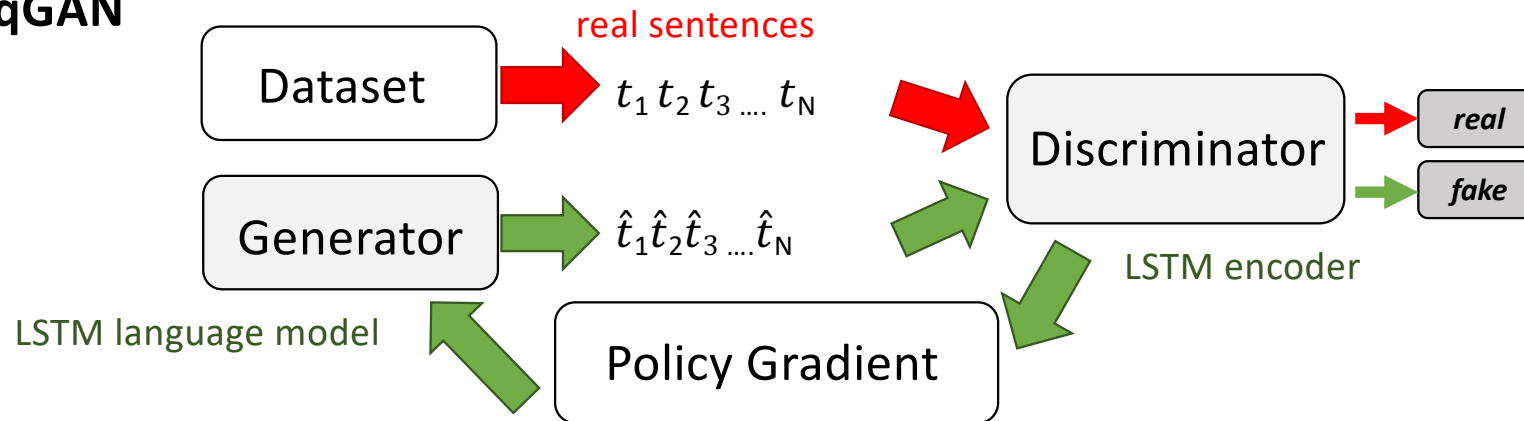
- **Motivation**  
Train like a normal GAN



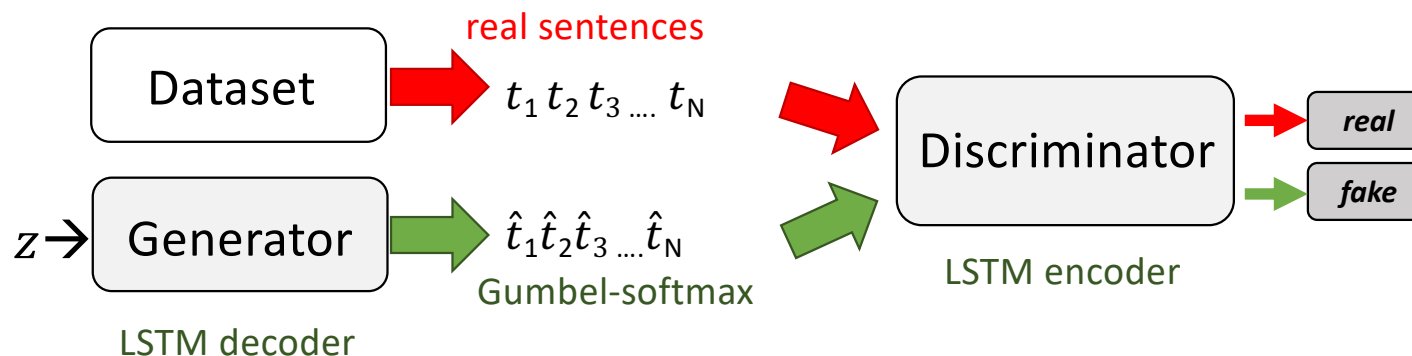
GANs for Sequences of Discrete Elements with the Gumbel-softmax Distribution.  
Matt Kusner, Jose Miguel Hernandez-Lobato. NeurIPS. 2016.

# GANs for Sequence Generation with Gumbel-softmax

- SeqGAN



- Gumbel-softmax GAN



GANs for Sequences of Discrete Elements with the Gumbel-softmax Distribution.  
 Matt Kusner, Jose Miguel Hernandez-Lobato. NeurIPS. 2016.

# GANs for Sequence Generation with Gumbel-softmax

- **Limitation**
  - Gumbel-softmax's gradient is too large ... poor performance

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# Thanks