# Text Understanding with the Attention Sum Reader Network

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#### Abstract

Several large cloze-style context-questionanswer datasets have been introduced recently: the CNN and Daily Mail news data and the Children's Book Test. Thanks to the size of these datasets, the associated text comprehension task is well suited for deep-learning techniques that currently seem to outperform all alternative approaches. We present a new, simple model that uses attention to directly pick the answer from the context as opposed to computing the answer using a blended representation of words in the document as is usual in similar models. This makes the model particularly suitable for questionanswering problems where the answer is a single word from the document. Ensemble of our models sets new state of the art on all evaluated datasets.

**Document:** What was supposed to be a fantasy sports car ride at Walt Disney World Speedway turned deadly when a Lamborghini crashed into a guardrail. The crash took place Sunday at the Exotic Driving Experience, which bills itself as a chance to drive your dream car on a racetrack. The Lamborghini's passenger, 36-year-old Gary Terry of Davenport, Florida, died at the scene, Florida Highway Patrol said. The driver of the Lamborghini, 24-year-old Tavon Watson of Kissimmee, Florida, lost control of the vehicle, the Highway Patrol said. (...)

Question: Officials say the driver, 24-year-old Tavon Watson, lost control of a \_\_\_\_\_

Answer candidates: Tavon Watson, Walt Disney World Speedway, Highway Patrol, Lamborghini, Florida, (...)

Answer: Lamborghini

Figure 1: Each example consists of a context document, question, answer cadidates and, in the training data, the correct answer. This example was taken from the CNN dataset (Hermann et al., 2015). Anonymization of this example that makes

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#### Answering a cloze-style question

**Document:** What was supposed to be a fantasy sports car ride at Walt Disney World Speedway turned deadly when a Lamborghini crashed into a guardrail. The crash took place Sunday at the Exotic Driving Experience, which bills itself as a chance to drive your dream car on a racetrack. The Lamborghini's passenger, 36-year-old Gary Terry of Davenport, Florida, died at the scene, Florida Highway Patrol said. The driver of the Lamborghini 24-year-old Tavon Watson of Kissimmee, Florida, lost control of the vehicle, the Highway Patrol said. (...)

Question: Officials say the driver, 24-year-old Tavon Watson, lost control of a \_\_\_\_\_

- A Tavon Watson
- B Highway Patrol
- C Walt Disney World Speedway Lamborghini

Detect relationship between the question and the words in given document

**Document:** What was supposed to be a fantasy sports car ride at Walt Disney World Speedway turned deadly when a Lamborghini crashed into a guardrail. The crash took place Sunday at the Exotic Driving Experience, which bills itself as a chance to drive your dream car on a racetrack. The Lamborghini's passenger, 36-year-old Gary Terry of Davenport, Florida, died at the scene, Florida Highway Patrol said. The driver of the Lamborghini 24-year-old Tavon Watson of Kissimmee, Florida, lost control of the vehicle, the Highway Patrol said. (...)



Covert every word in text data into one hot vector

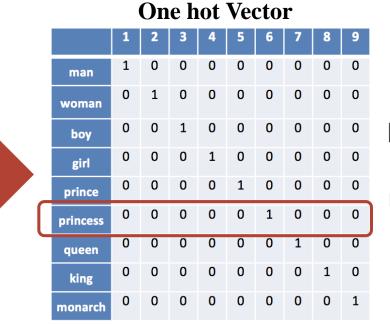
Vocabulary: Man, woman, boy, girl, prince, princess, queen, king, monarch

	<b>One hot Vector</b>										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	man	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	woman	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	boy	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	girl	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
	prince	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	princess	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
	queen	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
	king	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
	monarch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	

Each word gets a 1x9 vector representation

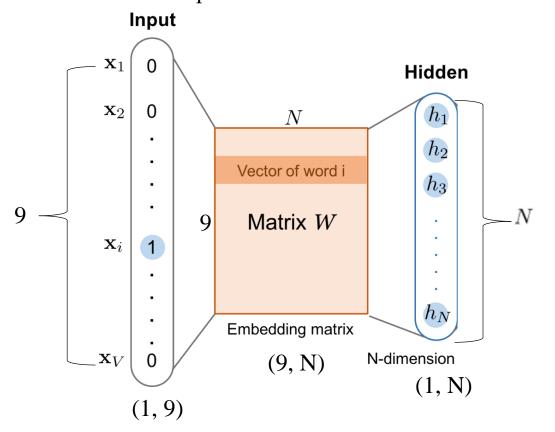
Covert every word in text data into one hot vector

Vocabulary: Man, woman, boy, girl, prince, princess, queen, king, monarch



Each word gets a 1x9 vector representation

Embed one hot vector into the hidden size : 'princess'



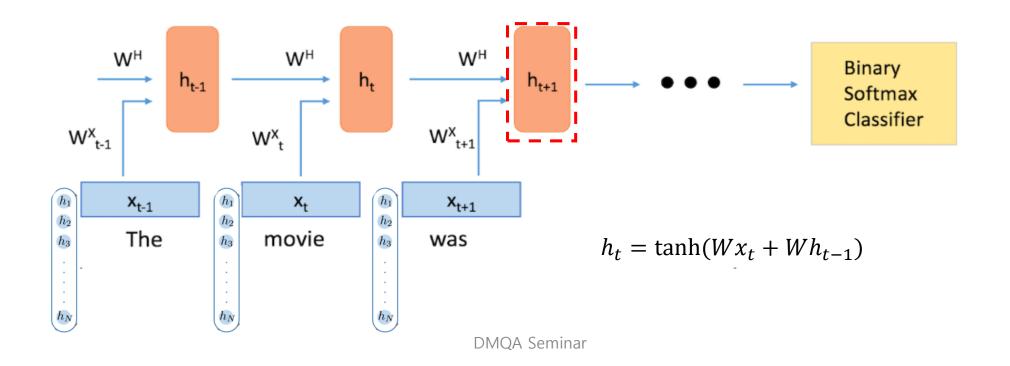
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Embed one hot vector into the hidden size : 'princess' Input  $\mathbf{x}_1$ 0 Hidden  $\mathbf{x}_2$ 0  $h_1$ .  $h_2$ .  $h_3$ . 9 • -N. . . 1  $\mathbf{x}_i$ . . . . .  $h_N$ . • N-dimension  $\mathbf{x}_V$ 0 (1, N) (1,9)

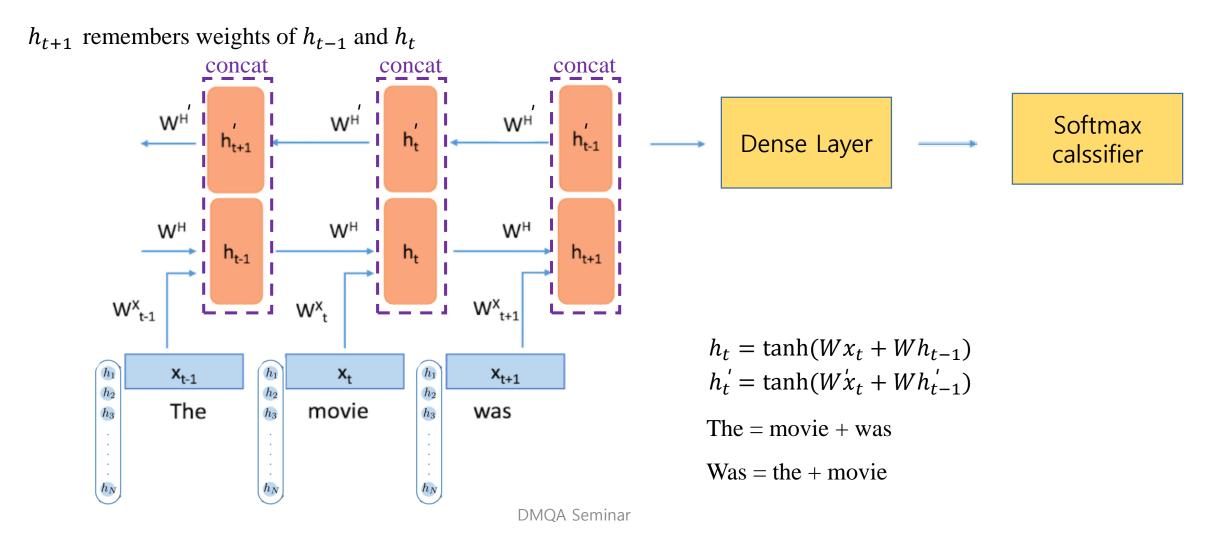
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## Vector embedding to RNN model

 $h_{t+1}$  remembers weights of  $h_{t-1}$  and  $h_t$ 



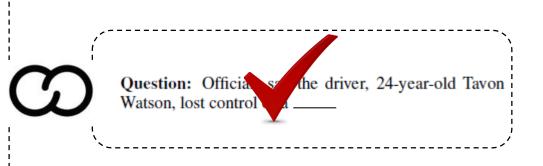
Vector embedding to Bi directional RNN model



#### Answering a cloze-style question

The answer to which depends on the **understanding of a context document provided with the question** 

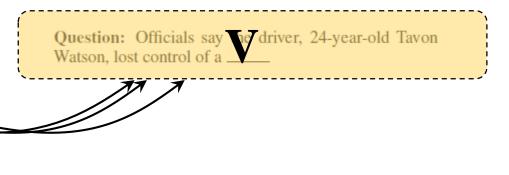
**Document:** What was supposed to be a fantasy sports car ride at Walt Disney World Speedway turned deadly when a Lamborghini crashed into a guardrail. The crash took place Sunday at the Exotic Driving Experience, which bills itself as a chance to drive your dream car on a racetrack. The Lamborghini's passenger, 36-year-old Gary Terry of Davenport, Florida, died at the scene, Florida Highway Patrol said. The driver of the Lamborghini, 24-year-old Tavon Watson of Kissimmee, Florida, lost control of the vehicle, the Highway Patrol said. (...)



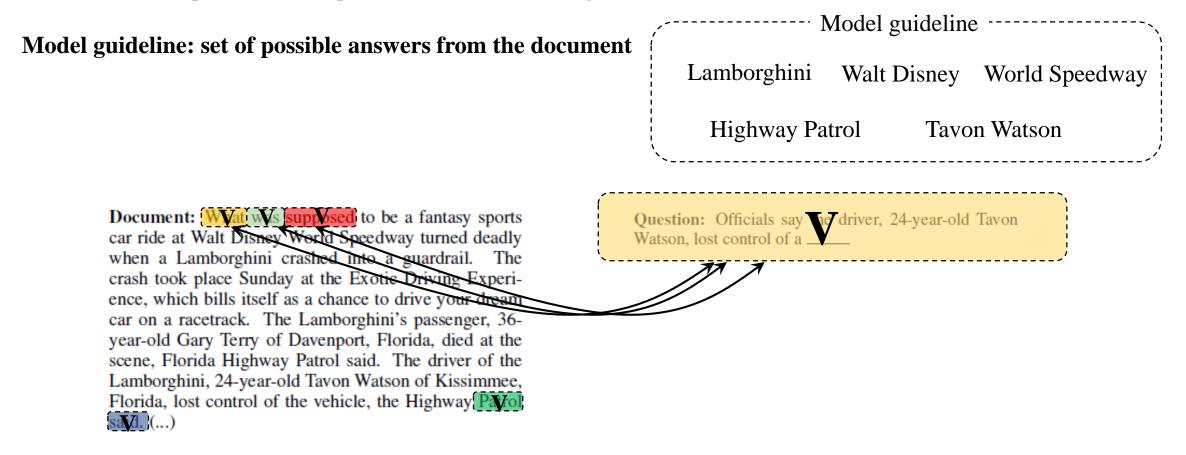
Detect relationship between the question and the words in given document

- 1. Embed the words in document
- 2. Embed the whole question
- 3. Calculate the similarity between the two embedded vectors

**Document:** WVat wVs supposed to be a fantasy sports car ride at Walt Disney World Speedway turned deadly when a Lamborghini crashed into a guardrail. The crash took place Sunday at the Exotic Driving Experience, which bills itself as a chance to drive your dream car on a racetrack. The Lamborghini's passenger, 36year-old Gary Terry of Davenport, Florida, died at the scene, Florida Highway Patrol said. The driver of the Lamborghini, 24-year-old Tavon Watson of Kissimmee, Florida, lost control of the vehicle, the Highway Patrol save. (...)



Detect relationship between the question and the words in given document



1 When she got home she shut herself up in her room and cried 2 There was nothing for her to do but resign, she thought dismally . 3 On the following **Saturday** Esther went for an afternoon walk, carrying her kodak with her . 4 It was a brilliantly fine autumn day, and woods and fields were basking in a mellow haze . 5 Esther went across lots to Mrs. Charley Cropper 's house, intending to make a call . 6 But the house was locked up and evidently deserted, so she rambled past it to the back fields . 7 Passing through a grove of maples she came out among leafy young saplings on the other side . 8 Just beyond her, with its laden boughs hanging over the line fence, was the famous plum tree . 9 Esther looked at it for a moment . 10 Then an odd smile gleamed over her face and she lifted her kodak . 11 Monday evening Esther called on Mr. Cropper again . 12 After the preliminary remarks in which he indulged, she said, with seeming irrelevance, that **Saturday** had been a fine day . 13 `` There was an excellent light for snapshots, " she went on coolly . 14 `` I went out with my kodak and was lucky enough to get a good negative . 15 I have brought you up a proof . 16 I thought you would be interested in it . '' 17 She rose and placed the proof on the table before Mr. Cropper . 18 The plum tree came out clearly . 19 Bob and Alf Cropper were up among the boughs picking the plums . 20 On the ground beneath them stood their father with a basket of fruit in his hand .

#### Question

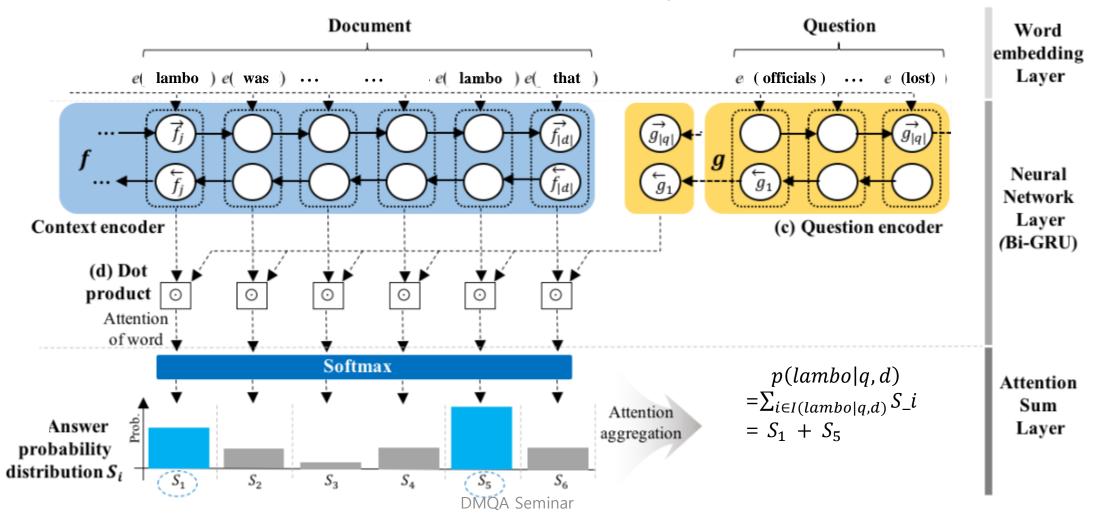
Mr. Cropper looked at the XXXXX and from it to Esther .

#### **Answer candidates**

**Saturday**, boughs, face, father, home, nothing, proof, remarks, smile, woods

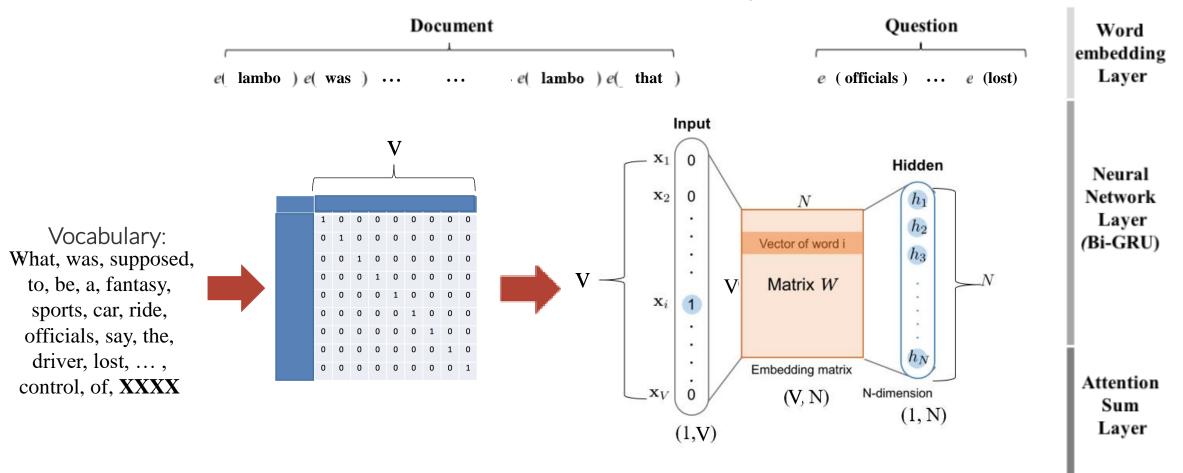
What was supposed to be a fantasy sports car ride ...

#### Question



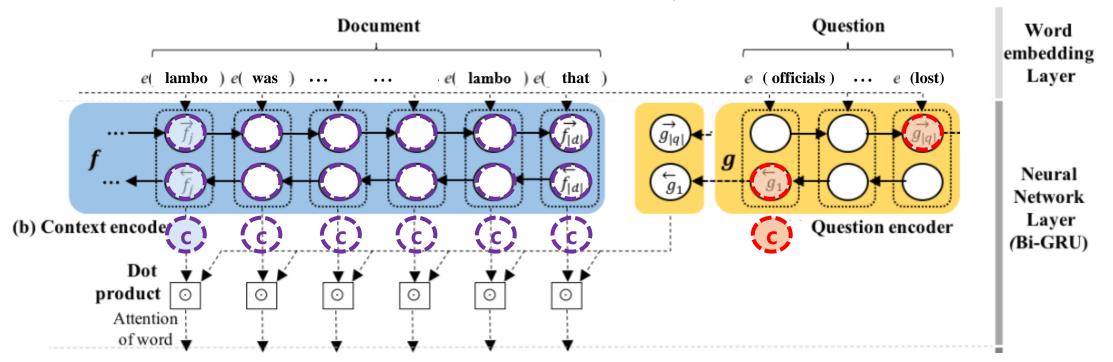
What was supposed to be a fantasy sports car ride ...





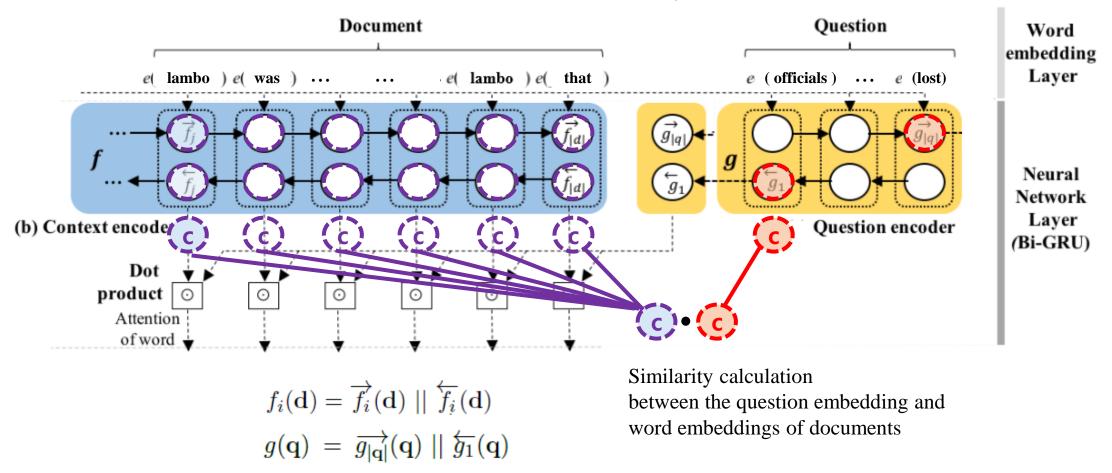
What was supposed to be a fantasy sports car ride  $\cdots$ 

#### Question



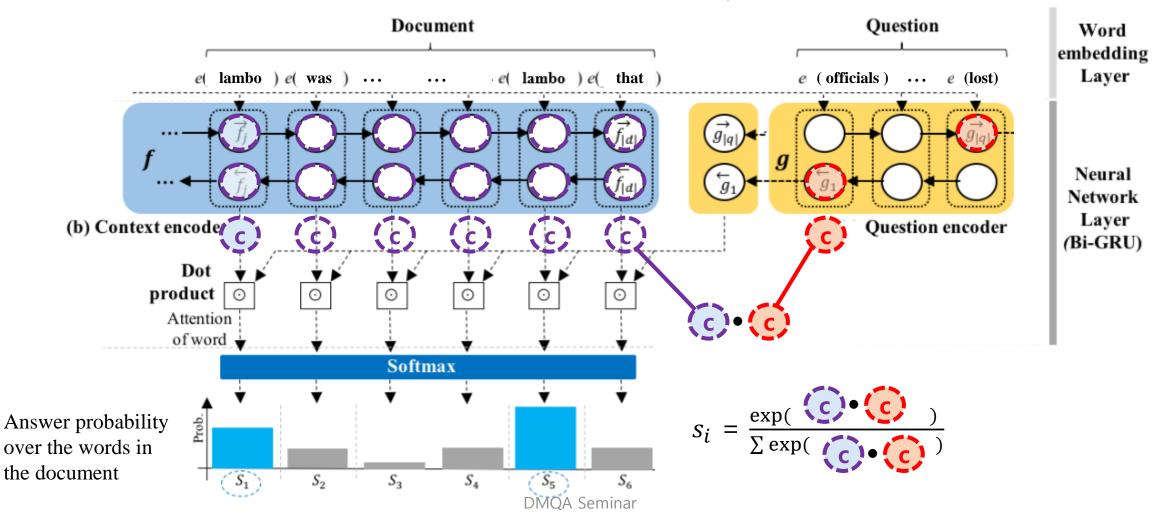
What was supposed to be a fantasy sports car ride ...

#### Question



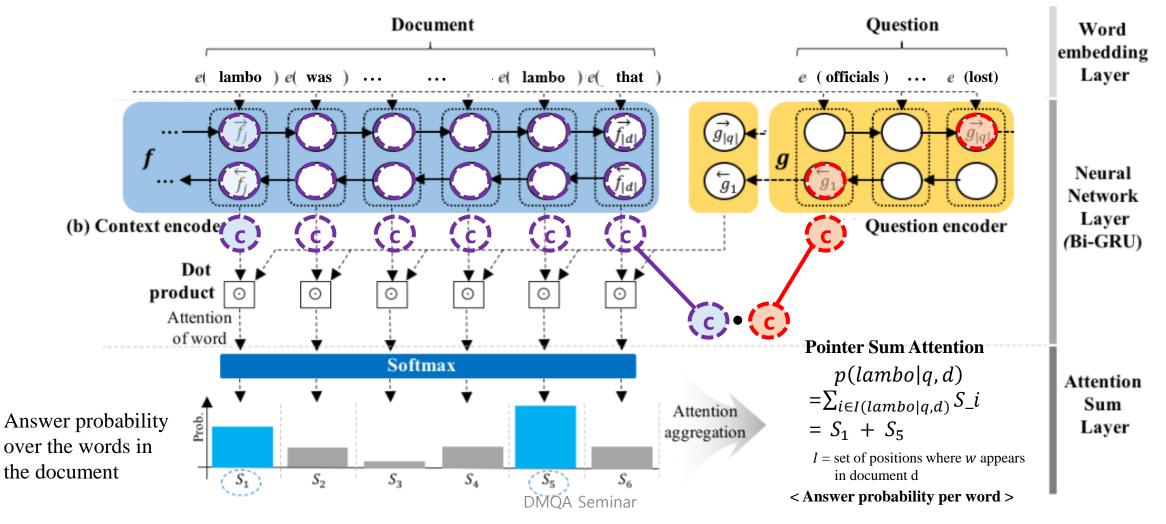
What was supposed to be a fantasy sports car ride ...

#### Question



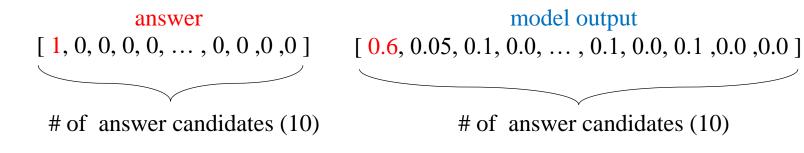
What was supposed to be a fantasy sports car ride ...

#### Question



1. Answer Candidate and pointer sum attention (word probability among document)

Lambo, Walt Disney, World Speedway, Highway Patrol, Tavon Watson, nothing, proof, remarks, smile, woods



2. Minimize negative log likelihood

 $-\log P_{\theta}(a|\mathbf{q},\mathbf{d})$ 

where a is the correct answer probability for the question q and document d,

 $P_{\theta}$  is the word probability of the word from answer candidate

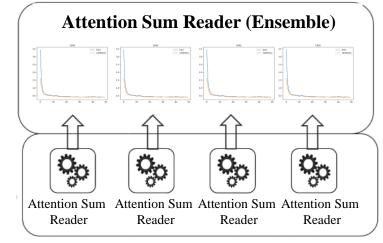
- 1. Single model
- 2. Ensemble model : use simple averaging of the answer probabilities predicted by ensemble members

#### Average Ensemble (average weight)

Choose top 20% of all trained models from validation

#### Greedy Ensemble (average weight through greedy learning

Add the 70% of best performing model that had not been previously tried



#### CBT Data set

canoes and t hellish lands

#### CNN data set

#### Daily mail data set

falling to English-speaking rebels. In mid-June, just as my hotel was being evacuated, the French announced plans to send a peacekeeping mission to the western part of Rwanda for "humanitat ian" reasons. This gave the genocidaires the chance to look like ctims instead of aggressors, and they started to pack up and leave for the protected area that became known as "the Turquoise Zone." WTLM radio then performed its final disservice to the nation b mps. The radio told them that the RPF would kill any h y found in their path and encouraged all its listeners to pack r belongings and he Context or the western pa hat used to be called Zaire), where the French soldiers a arty 1.7 million people heeded the call. Entire hills and ci abilized into caravans: men carrying sacks of bananas, a a in their belt loops; women with baskets a in on their heads; children hugging photo albums to the They w QUESTION corpass piled at the side of the am sorry to say that the dire predictions of the radio were no rooted in fantasy, as the rebels did conduct crimes against human ity in revenge for the genocide and to make people fear them. In any case, what was left of Rwanda emptied out within days. The U.N. Security Council, so ineffective in the face of the genocide, lent its sponsorship to the camps the French set up to protect the "refugees." The main place of comfort to the killers was at a town called Gome, just over the border into the Democratic

growing increasingly alarmed at the likelihood of their neocolomy

equipped pa jets, tents, wa pathetic UN height in Ap shelter some Many of	118 children books from project Gutenberg
parently they attack the rel the Internalian the camps, p keep filling th camp so their faithful. It we confort was In a surp suaded to act. ton administ for the camps ple who occu initiative to c over into Uga	1 "In phase becknowd to him, I saw her, " crited rate, staring hard at the door. 2 "I is in more presents coming "? 3 asked jamie, just an his brother re-appeared, looking more excited than ever. 4 "yes, a present for him other, and here it is !" 5 roared archer, finging wide the door to let in a tail man, who cried out, " where 's my little woman ? 5 the first kiss for her, then the rest may come on as fast as they like" 7 before the words were out of his mouth, mark, jasse was half-hidden under his rough great-coat, and four boys were prancing about him clamouring for their turn. 8 of course, there was a joydil amouft, rest, sines was half-hidden under his rough great-coat, and four boys were prancing about him clamouring for their turn. 8 of course, there was a joydil amouft, rest in a christmas story. 9 it was good to see bluff unde gen him a christmas story. 9 it was good to see bluff unde gen tim a christmas story. 10 it was bette still to see him shale hib bothers. 'handa as if he would never leave off, and kiss all the sisters in a wych atm dide even solema under mys highten out for a minute.
times what it s which would corpues. On July 4, RPF captured conquered a s were knocked were empty al	11 but it was best of all to see him finally established in grandfather 's chair , with his ' little woman '' beside him , his three youngest boys in his lap , and hovering over him like a large-sized cherub . faith   brothers   rose   <u>archie</u>   rest   mouth   way   mother   sisters   george

	Question	Passage			
Story understanding dataset based on 118 children books from project Gutenberg arbeckoned to him; I saw her, " cried rose, staring hard at the door. more presents coming ? " multiple, just ais historher re-speared, looking more excited than ever.	it 's clear @entity0 is leaning to- ward @placeholder, says an ex- pert who monitors @entity0	@entity116, who follows @entity0's operations and propaganda closely, recently told @entity3, <i>it</i> 's <i>clear</i> @ <i>entity0 is leaning toward</i> @ <b>entity60</b> in terms of doctrine, ideology and an emphasis on holding territory after operations			
a present for mother, and here it is 1 " archie, finging wide the door to let in a tail man, who cried out, " where 's my little woman ? it is soft her, then the rest may come on a fart as they like. " the words were out of his mouth, mrs: jesie was half-hidden under his rough great-coat, and four re prancing about hin diamouning for their turn. Thes, there was a joyful formult for a time, during which rose slipped into the window recess and what went on, as if were a chapter in a christmas story.	<b>@placeholder</b> says he under- stands why @entity0 wo n't play at his tournament	@entity0 called me personally to let me know the he would n't be playing here at @entity23,"@entity said on his @entity21 event 's website			
good to see bluff uncle jem look proudly at his tall son, and fondly hig the little ones. better still to see him shake his brothers ' hand a sa if he would rever leave off, and kiss all the sisters that made even solema aunt myis brighten up and in a mute. it was best of all to see him finally established in grandfather 's chair, with his '' oman '' beside him, his three youngest boys in his lap, and bovering over	a tv movie based on @entity2 's book @ <b>placeholder</b> casts a @en- tity76 actor as @entity5	to @entity12 @entity2 professed that his @entity11 is not a religious book			
onnamnoster innt, ins three youngest obys in ins hap , and nover ing over e a large-sized cherub . brothers   rose   <u>archie</u>   rest   mouth   way   mother   sisters   george	he 's doing a his - and - her duet all by himself, @entity6 said of @placeholder	0 0 01			
	rapper @ <b>placeholder</b> " disgusted , " cancels upcoming show for @en- tity280	with hip - hop star @entity246 saying on @entity247 that he was canceling an upcoming show for the @en- tity249 (but @entity249 = @entity280 = SAEs)			
	pilot error and snow were reasons stated for <b>@placeholder</b> plane crash	a small aircraft carrying @entity5, @entity6 and @entity7 the @entity12 @entity3 crashed a few miles from @entity9, near @entity10, @entity11			

#### Passage

more diverse

(@entity4) if you feel a ripple in the force today, it may be the news that the official @entity6 is getting its first gay character . according to the sci-fi website @entity9, the upcoming novel " @entity11 " will feature a capable but flawed @entity13 official named @entity14 who " also happens to be a lesbian . " the character is the first gay figure in the official @entity6 -- the movies, television shows, comics and books approved by @entity6 franchise owner @entity22 -- according to @entity24 , editor of " @entity6 " books at @entity28 imprint @entity26 .

Question	Answer			
characters in " @placeholder "				

@entity6 movies have gradually become

# Accuracy Measure

	CN	IN	Daily Mail	
	valid	test	valid	test
Attentive Reader <sup>†</sup>	61.6	63.0	70.5	69.0
Impatient Reader <sup>†</sup>	61.8	63.8	69.0	68.0
MemNNs (single model) <sup>‡</sup>	63.4	66.8	NA	NA
MemNNs (ensemble) <sup>‡</sup>	66.2	69.4	NA	NA
Dynamic Entity Repres. (max-pool) <sup>#</sup>	71.2	70.7	NA	NA
Dynamic Entity Repres. (max-pool + byway	y) <sup>♯</sup> 70.8	72.0	NA	NA
Dynamic Entity Repres. + w2v <sup>#</sup>	71.3	72.9	NA	NA
Chen et al. (2016) (single model)	72.4	72.4	76.9	75.8
AS Reader (single model)	68.6	69.5	75.0	73.9
AS Reader (avg for top 20%)	68.4	69.9	74.5	73.5
AS Reader (avg ensemble)	73.9	75.4	78.1	77.1
AS Reader (greedy ensemble)	74.5	74.8	78.7	77.7

	Named entity		Common noun		
	valid	test	valid	test	
Humans (query) (*)	NA	52.0	NA	64.4	
Humans (context+query) (*)	NA	81.6	NA	81.6	
LSTMs (context+query) <sup>‡</sup>	51.2	41.8	62.6	56.0	
MemNNs (window memory + self-s	up.) <sup>‡</sup> 70.4	66.6	64.2	63.0	
AS Reader (single model)	73.8	68.6	68.8	63.4	
AS Reader (avg for top 20%)	73.3	68.4	67.7	63.2	
AS Reader (avg ensemble)	74.5	70.6	71.1	68.9	
AS Reader (greedy ensemble)	76.2	71.0	72.4	67.5	

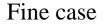
0

#### Good case

what was supposed to be a fantasy sports car ride at @entity3 turned deadly when a @entity4 crashed into a guardrail. the crash took place sunday at the @entity8, which bills itself as a chance to drive your dream car on a racetrack. the @entity4 's passenger, 36 year - old @entity14 of @entity15, @entity16, died at the scene, @entity13 said. the driver of the @entity4 , 24 - year - old @entity18 of @entity19, @entity16, lost control of the vehicle, the @entity13 said.

officials say the driver, 24 - year - old @entity18, lost control of a \_\_\_\_\_

Figure 3: Attention in an example with anonymized entities where our system selected the correct answer. Note that the attention is focused only on named entities.



@entity11 film critic @entity29 writes in his review that "anyone nostalgic for childhood dreams of transformation will find something to enjoy in an uplifting movie that invests warm sentiment in universal themes of loss and resilience, experience and maturity." more : the best and worst adaptations of "@entity" @entity43,
@entity44 and @entity46 star in director @entity48's crime film about a hit man trying to save his estranged son from a revenge plot. @entity11 chief film critic @entity52 writes in his review that the film

\_\_\_\_\_ stars in crime film about hit man trying to save his estranged son

Figure 4: Attention over an example where our system failed to select the correct answer (entity43). The system was probably mislead by the co-occurring word 'film'. Namely, entity11 occurs 7 times in the whole document and 6 times it is together with the word 'film'. On the other hand, the correct answer occurs only 3 times in total and only once together with 'film'. 1. Natural Language text comprehension task

Answer to cloze-style question from a document

- 2. Simple but explicit neural model
- 3. An analysis by Chen et al., 2016 suggests that CNN and Daily Mail dataset are difficult to understand for humans and the model may achieve the maximal accuracy

# Thank you

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# Appendix

	CNN		D	Daily Mail		C	CBT CN			CBT NE		
	train	valid	test	train	valid	test	train	valid	test	train	valid	test
# queries	380,298	3,924	3,198	879,450	64,835	53,182	120,769	2,000	2,500	108,719	2,000	2,500
Max # options	527	187	396	371	232	245	10	10	10	10	10	10
Avg # options	26.4	26.5	24.5	26.5	25.5	26.0	10	10	10	10	10	10
Avg # tokens	762	763	716	813	774	780	470	448	461	433	412	424
Vocab. size 118,497		2	208,045		53,185			53,063				

CBT CN : CBT Common Nouns CBT NE : CBT Named Entities Vocab dimension 52,263 Embedding dimension 200 Hidden dimension 128 RNN type GRU

Gradient clipping 10

Embedding matrix initialization: uniformly random