



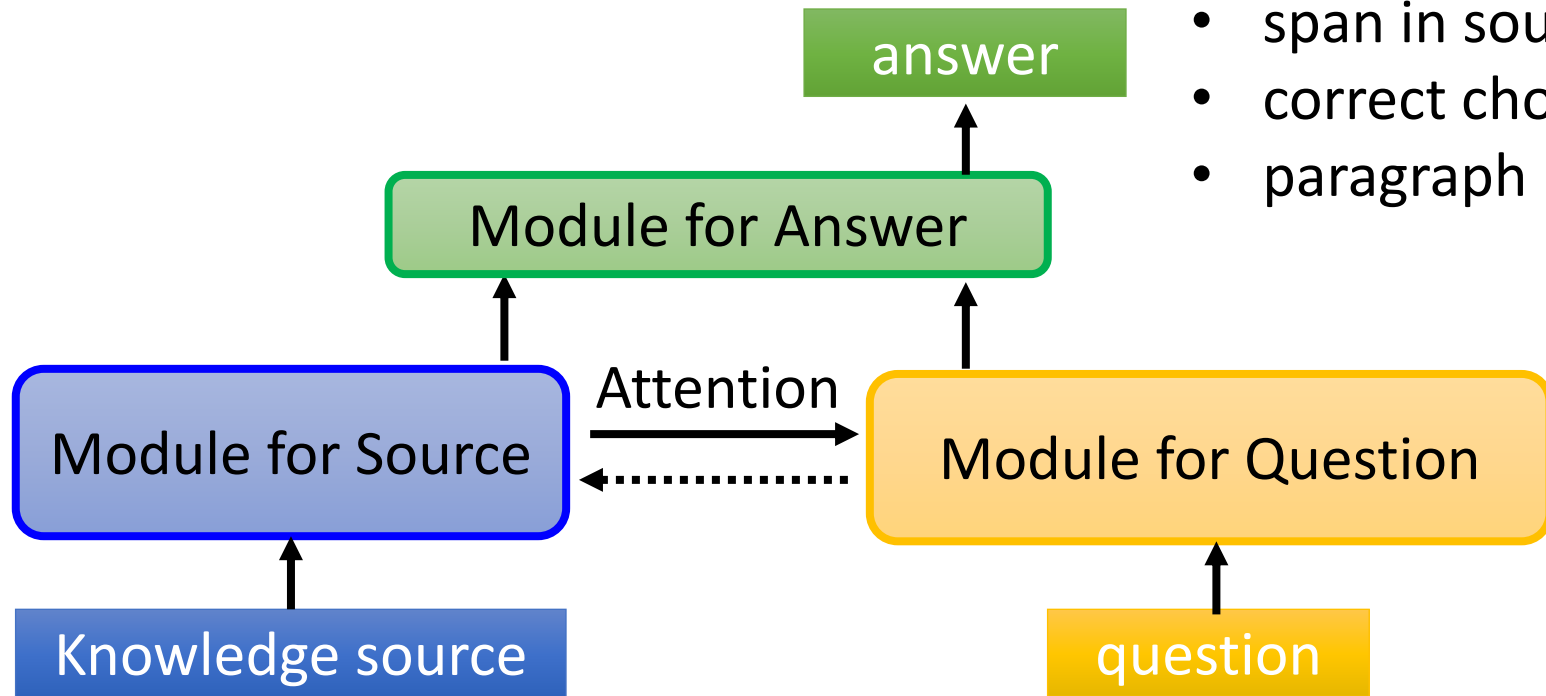
Question Answering

Hung-yi Lee

李宏毅

Question Answering

- word
- span in source
- correct choice
- paragraph

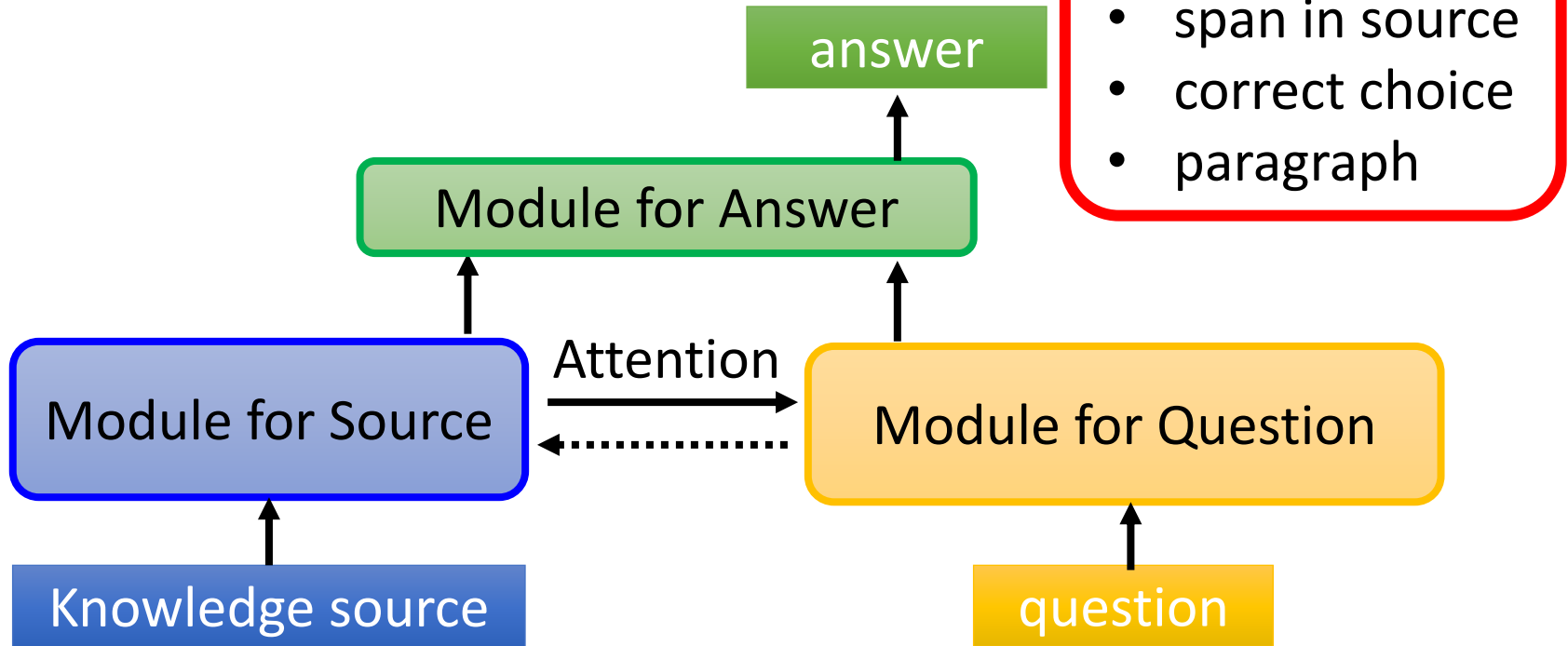


Who is the U.S. president?

Is Trump older than than Obama?

Who should pay for the date, and why?

Question Answering



Who is the U.S. president?

Is Trump older than than Obama?

Who should pay for the date, and why?

Answer is simply a word

- bAbI
 - MNIST of QA
 - 20 types of questions
 - Synthesized

Whether a system can answer questions via chaining facts, simple induction, deduction, etc.

[Weston, et al., arXiv'15]

Task 5: Three Argument Relations

Mary gave the cake to Fred.

Fred gave the cake to Bill.

Jeff was given the milk by Bill.

Who gave the cake to Fred? A: Mary

Who did Fred give the cake to? A: Bill

Task 10: Indefinite Knowledge

John is either in the classroom or the playground.

Sandra is in the garden.

Is John in the classroom? A: maybe

Is John in the office? A: no

Task 15: Basic Deduction

Sheep are afraid of wolves.

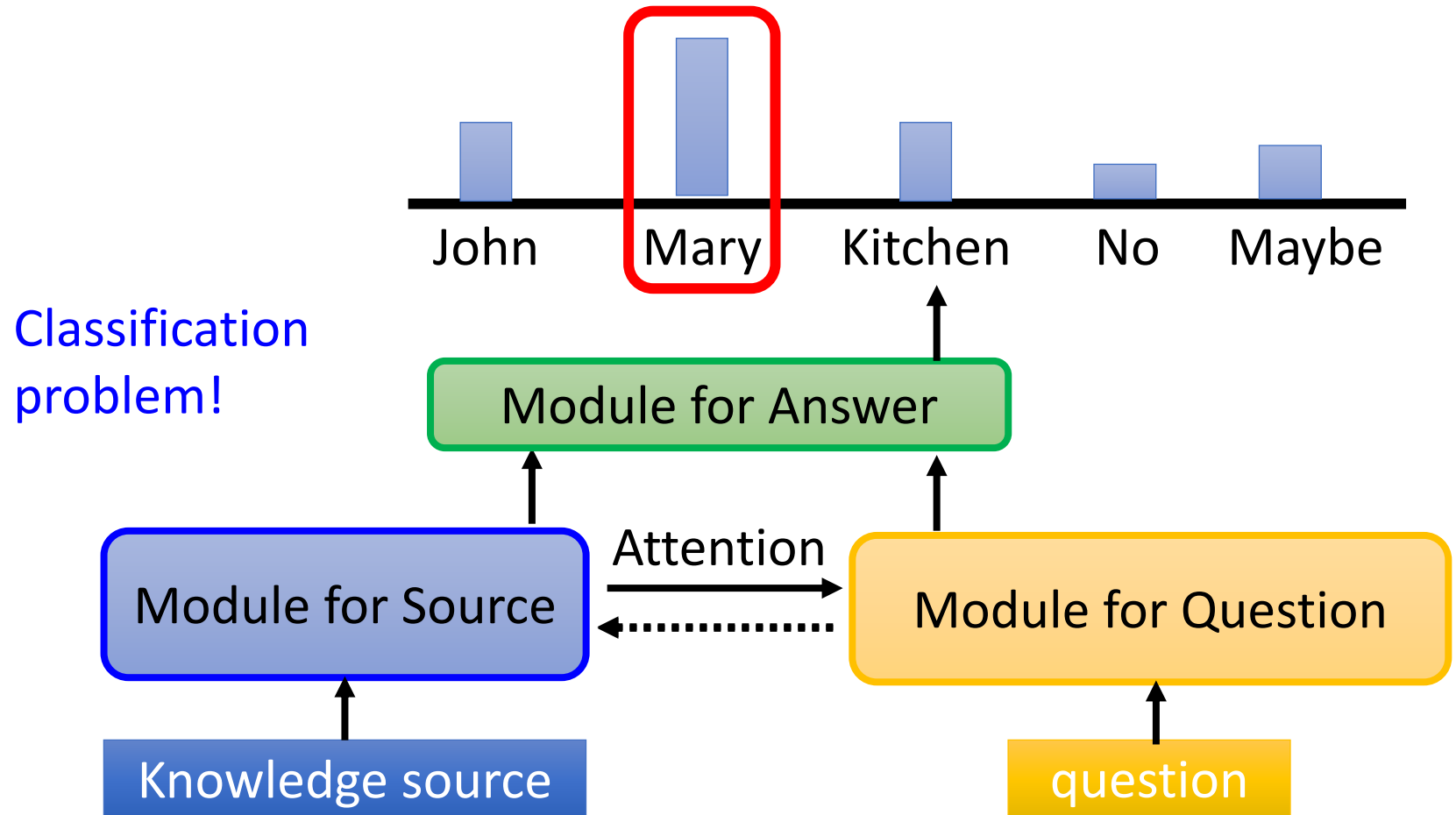
Cats are afraid of dogs.

Mice are afraid of cats.

Gertrude is a sheep.

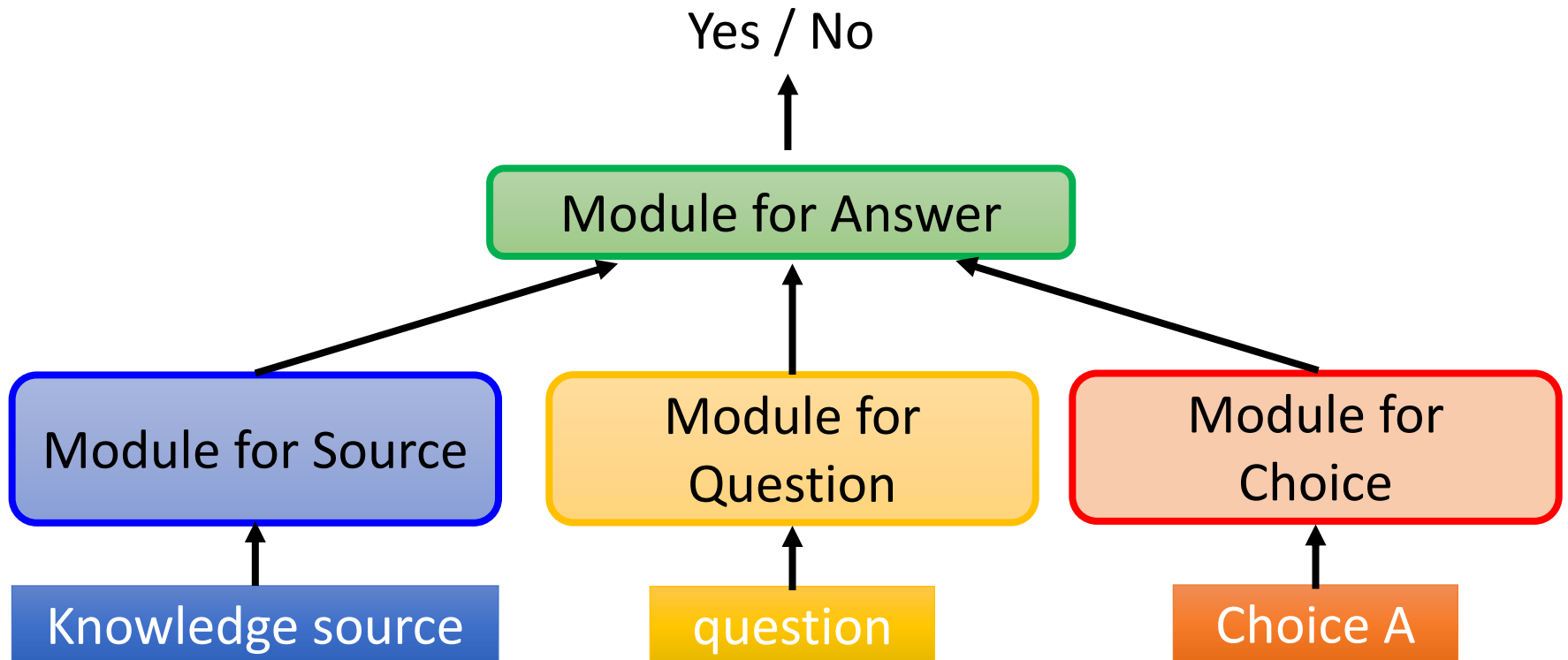
What is Gertrude afraid of? A: wolves

Answer is simply a word



Multiple Choices

(Ignoring attention here for simplicity)

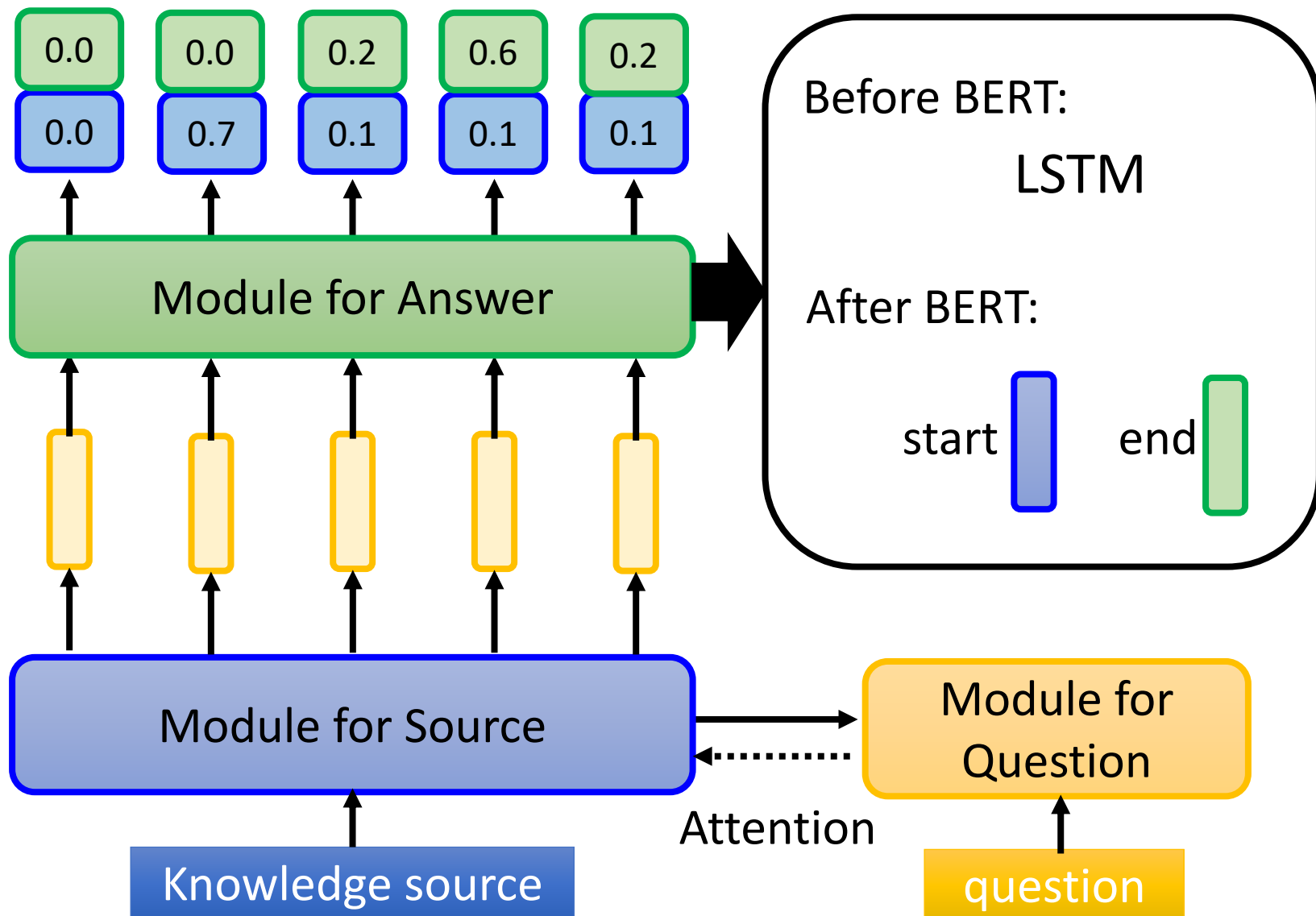


Span in Source / Extraction-based

- SQuAD [Rajpurkar, et al., EMNLP'16], DRCD [Shao, et al., arXiv'18]

End Score	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.0
Start Score	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Source	w_1	w_2	w_3	w_4	w_5	w_6	w_7

The answer is w_3 w_4 w_5



Free Answer Generation

- MS MARCO [Bajaj, et al., NIPS'16], DuReader [He, et al., ACL workshop'18]

All words in the answer are in the passage but from multiple text spans.

Q: who did odysseus see in the underworld

*P*₁: The souls that Odysseus saw in the Underworld On seeing **Achilles'** soul, said Odysseus: Achilles, the most fortunate man that ever was or will be honored as though you were a god and now you are a mighty prince among the dead.

*P*₂: Odysseus talked to his mother Anticlea, who died of grief when he did not return home after the Trojan War. Odysseus was also surprised to see **Elphenor**, the youngest member of his crew, in the Underworld.

A: Elphenor and Achilles.

All words in the answer are in the passage and question.

Q: what do **producers need to make food**

P: Plants are producers. Producers are living things that can make their own food using **air, light, soil, and water**. Plants use a process called photosynthesis to make food.

A: Producers need air, light, soil, and water to make food.

Part of words in the answer are not found in the passage or question.

Q: why conversion observed in body

P: Conversion disorder **symptoms** may appear suddenly after a stressful event or trauma, whether physical or psychological. Signs and symptoms that affect movement function may include: 1 Weakness or paralysis. 2 Abnormal movement, such as tremors or difficulty walking. 3 Loss of balance.

A: Due to symptoms in the body

All Words in the answer are not found in the passages or question.

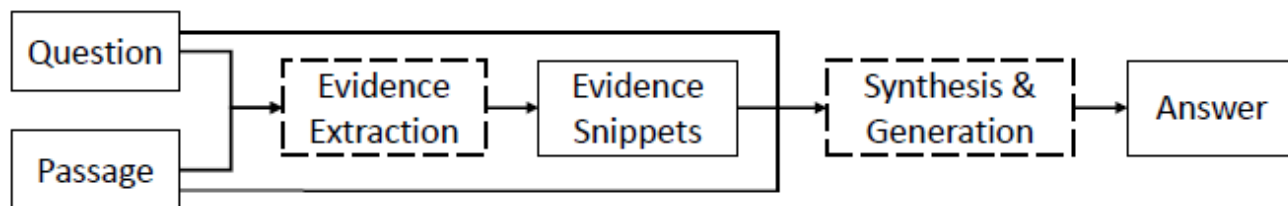
Q: is there an age limit for learning speech

P: Age is not a detriment to language learning, and by all accounts, learning a second (or third etc) language actually keeps the older language learners mind active. People of all ages can benefit from learning languages.

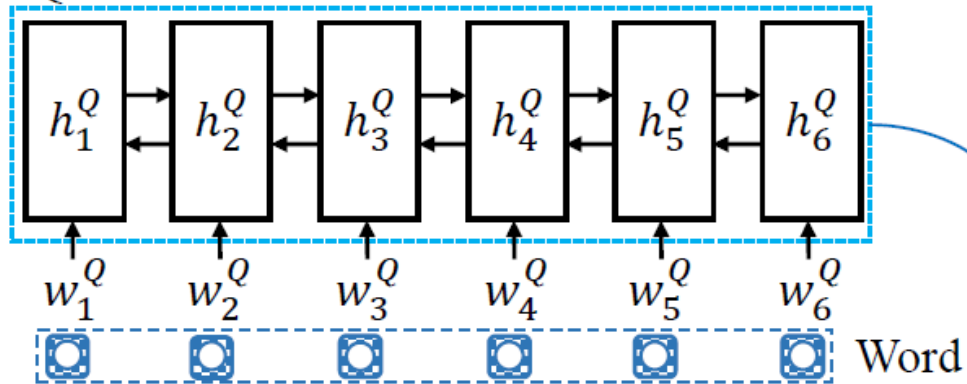
A: No

S-net

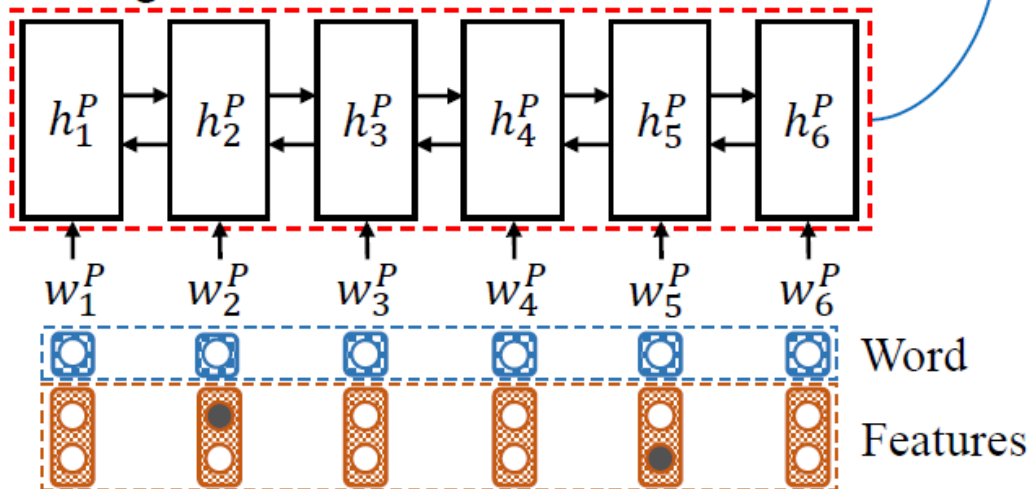
[Tan, et al., AAAI'18]



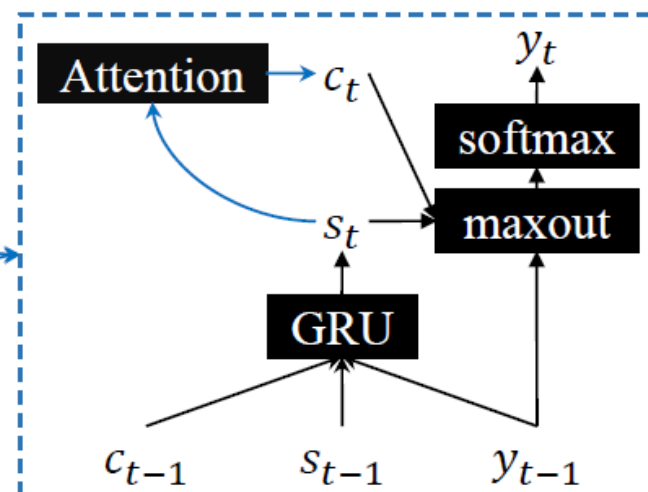
Question Encoder



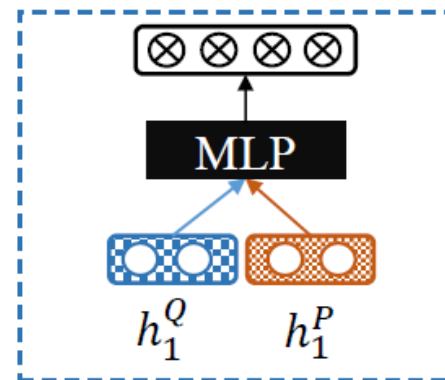
Passage Encoder



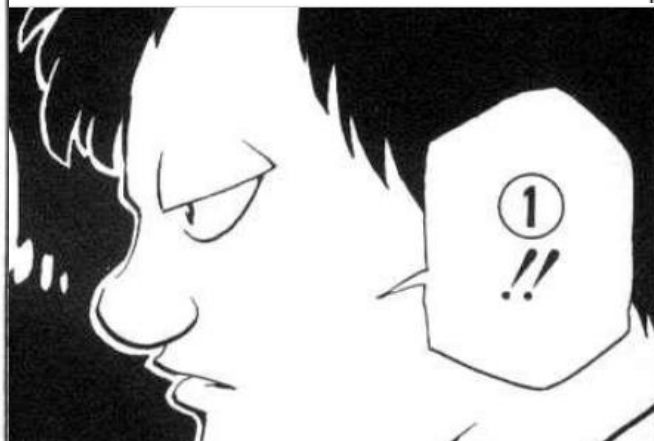
Decoder



Decoder Initialization



並不是所有問題都有答案





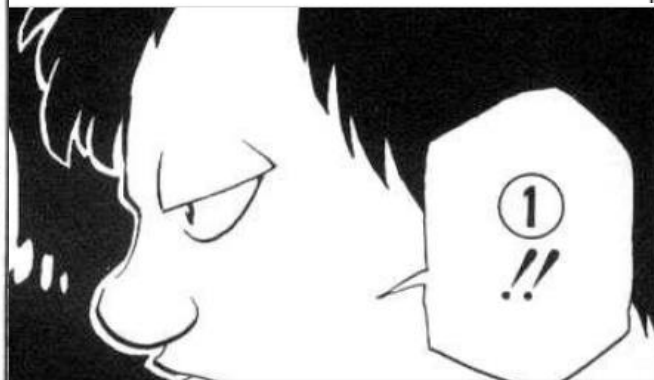
沈默！

這就是正
確答案。



你的壽命就

並不是所有問題都有答案



Know what you don't know

- SQuAD 2.0 [Rajpurkar, et al., ACL'18]

Article: Endangered Species Act

Paragraph: “... Other legislation followed, including the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929, a 1937 treaty prohibiting the hunting of right and gray whales, and the *Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940*. These *later laws* had a low cost to society—the species were relatively rare—and little *opposition* was raised.”

Question 1: “Which laws faced significant *opposition*?”

Plausible Answer: *later laws*

Question 2: “What was the name of the 1937 treaty?”

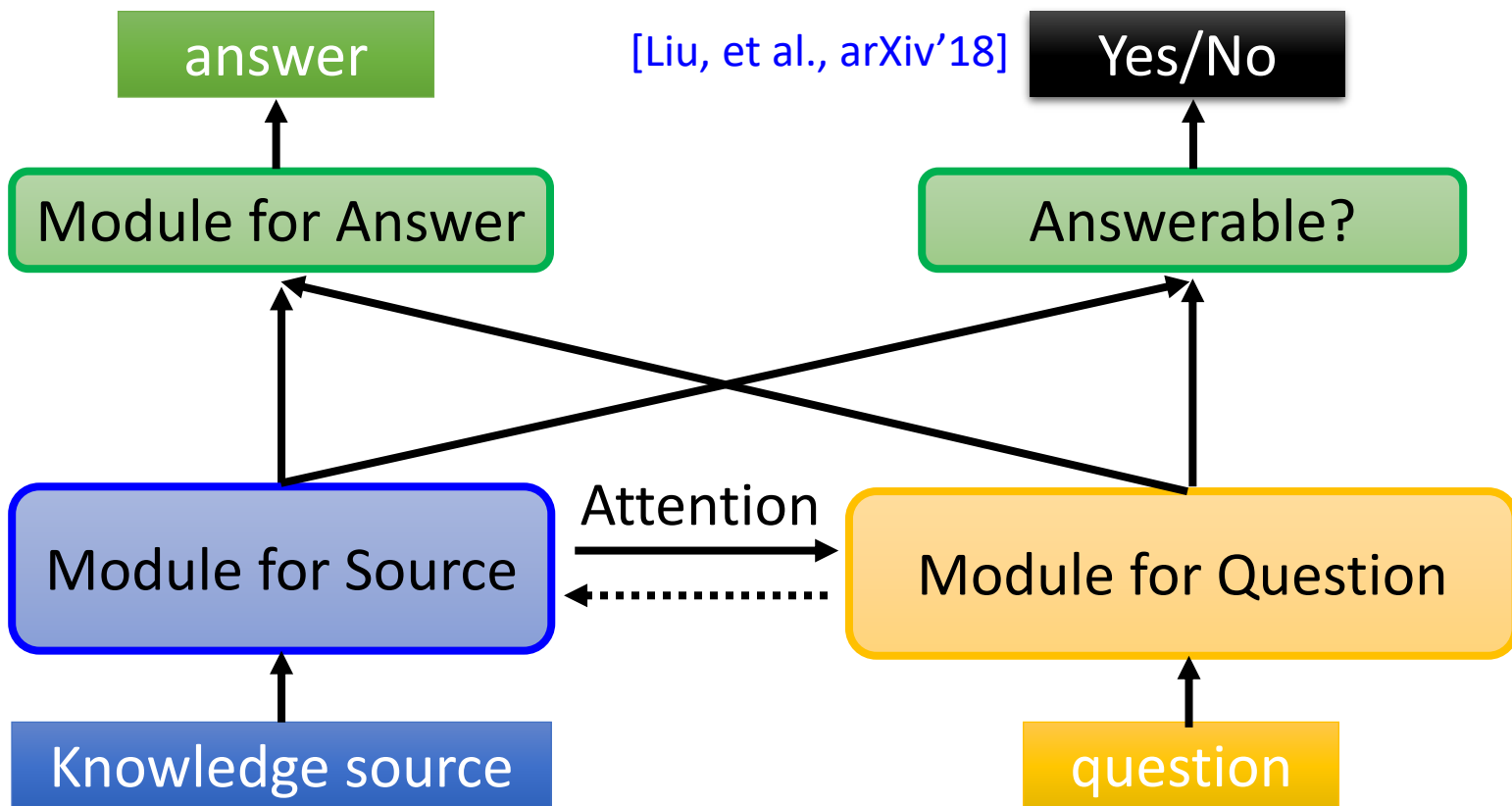
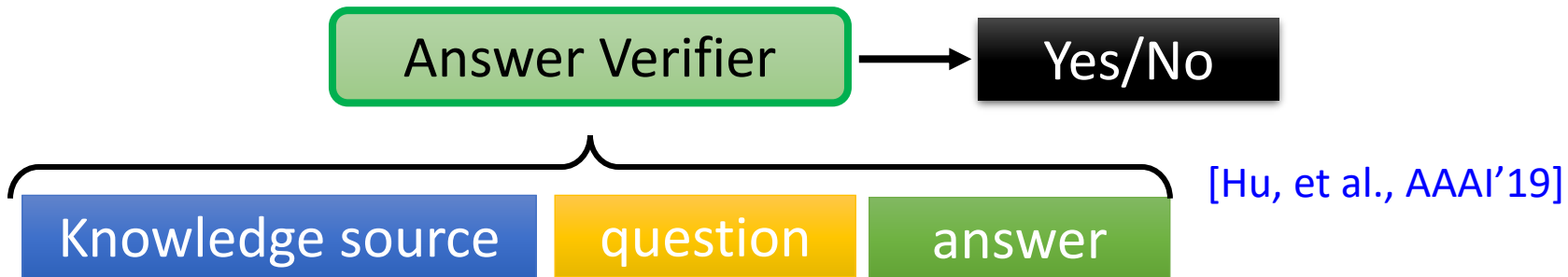
Plausible Answer: *Bald Eagle Protection Act*

Know what you don't know

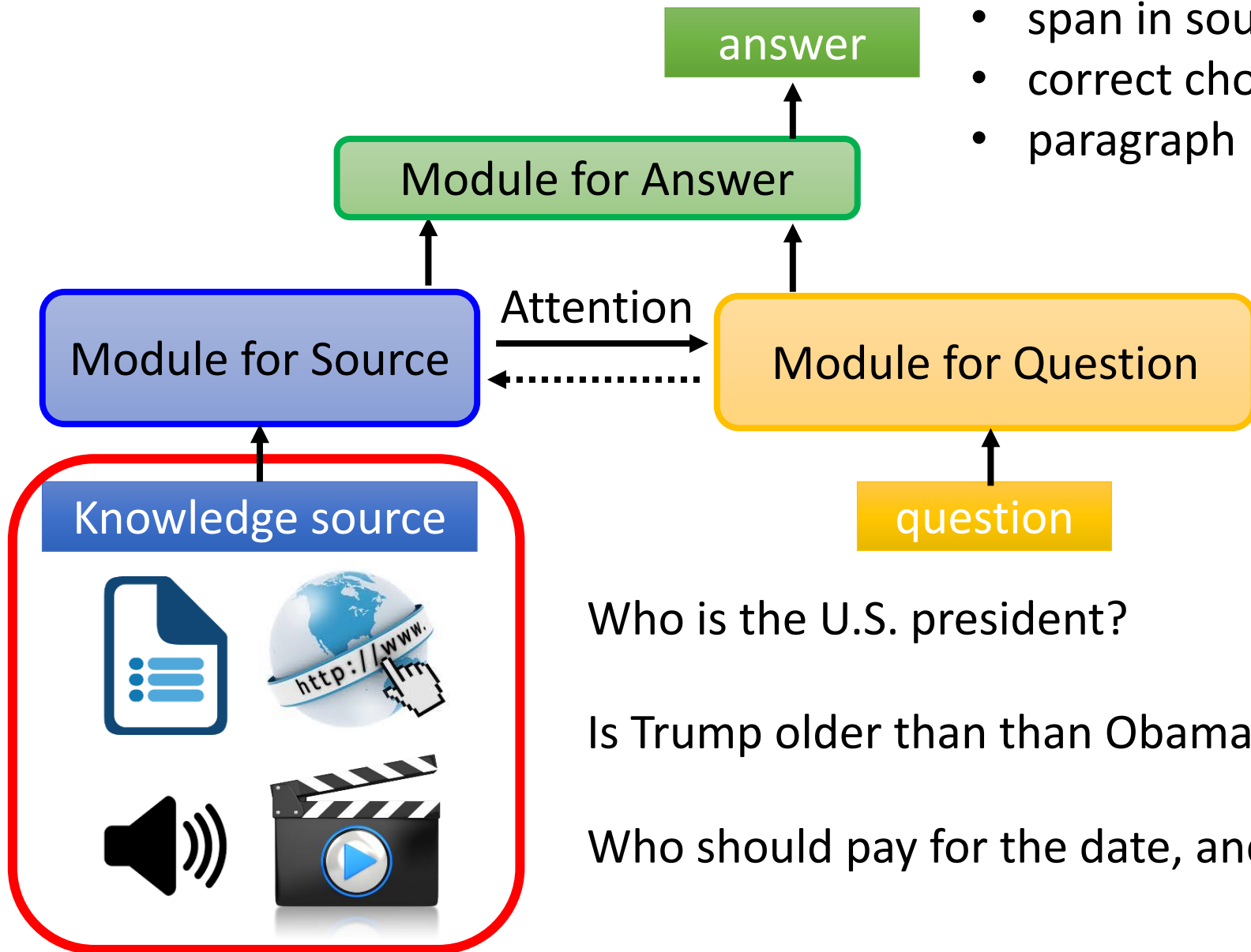
End Score	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.6
Start Score	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Source	w_1	w_2	w_3	w_4	w_5	w_6	w_7	Null

This is used in the original BERT paper by considering [CLS] as Null.

[Devlin, et al., NAACL'19]



Question Answering



- word
- span in source
- correct choice
- paragraph

Who is the U.S. president?

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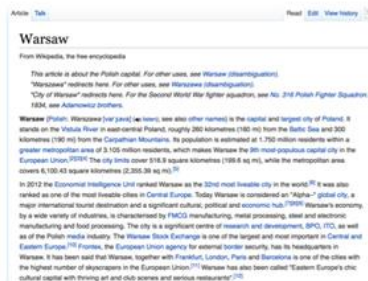
Internet

Not all the documents are relevant

Q: How many of Warsaw's inhabitants spoke Polish in 1933?



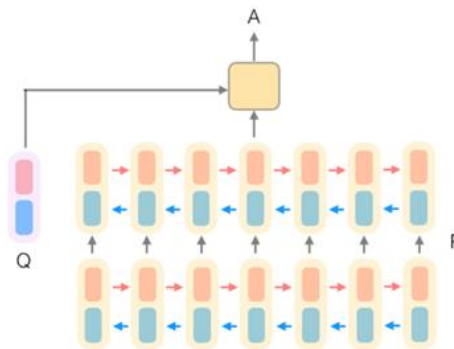
**Document
Retriever**



DrQA

**Document
Reader**

833,500



[Chen, et al., ACL'17]

MS MARCO and DuReader also have several documents for each question.

V-Net [Wang, et al., ACL'18]

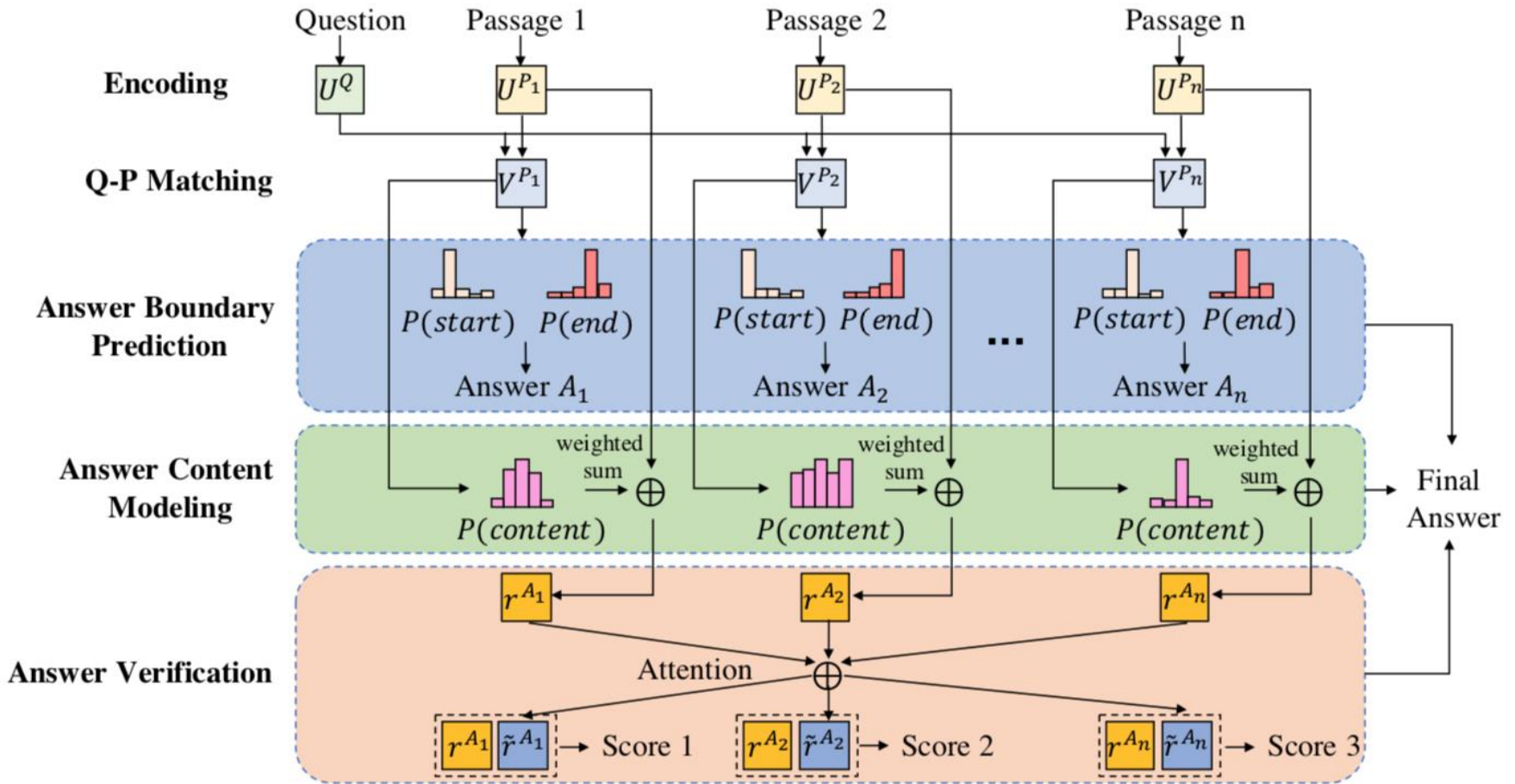


Figure 1: Overview of our method for multi-passage machine reading comprehension

V-Net [Wang, et al., ACL'18]

Question: What is the difference between a mixed and pure culture?

Passages:

[1] **A culture is a society's total way of living and a society is a group that live in a defined territory and participate in common culture.** While the answer given is in essence true, societies originally form for the express purpose to enhance ...

[2] ... There has been resurgence in the economic system known as capitalism during the past two decades. 4. **The mixed economy is a balance between socialism and capitalism.** As a result, some institutions are owned and maintained by ...

[3] **A pure culture is one in which only one kind of microbial species is found whereas in mixed culture two or more microbial species formed colonies.** Culture on the other hand, is the lifestyle that the people in the country ...

[4] Best Answer: **A pure culture comprises a single species or strains. A mixed culture is taken from a source and may contain multiple strains or species.** A contaminated culture contains organisms that derived from some place ...

[5] ... It will be at that time when we can truly obtain a pure culture. **A pure culture is a culture consisting of only one strain.** You can obtain a pure culture by picking out a small portion of the mixed culture ...

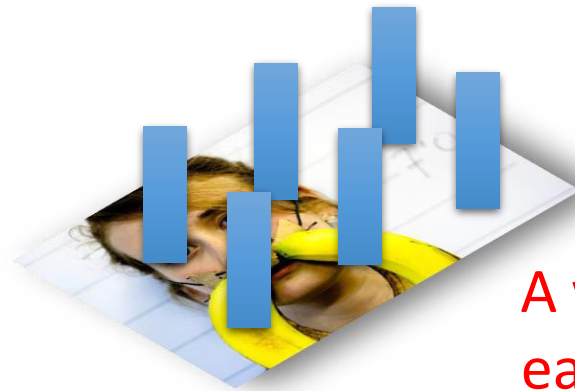
[6] **A pure culture is one in which only one kind of microbial species is found whereas in mixed culture two or more microbial species formed colonies.** A pure culture is a culture consisting of only one strain. ...

... ..

Reference Answer: A pure culture is one in which only one kind of microbial species is found whereas in mixed culture two or more microbial species formed colonies.

Table 1: An example from MS-MARCO. The text in bold is the predicted answer candidate from each passage according to the boundary model. The candidate from [1] is chosen as the final answer by this model, while the correct answer is from [6] and can be verified by the answers from [3], [4], [5].

Visual



A vector for
each region

- source: picture/video

- What is in the image?
- Are there any humans?
- What sport is being played?
- Who has the ball?
- How many players are in the image?
- Who are the teams?
- Is it raining?



source: <http://visualqa.org/>

Audio

Link: <https://github.com/iamyuanchung/TOEFL-QA>
[Tseng, et al., INTERSPEECH'16]

• TOEFL Listening Comprehension Test by Machine

Audio Story:  (The original story is 5 min long.)

Question: “ What is a possible origin of Venus’ clouds? ”

Choices:

- (A) gases released as a result of volcanic activity
- (B) chemical reactions caused by high surface temperatures
- (C) bursts of radio energy from the plane's surface
- (D) strong winds that blow dust into the atmosphere

Audio – SQuAD Style

- Link: <https://github.com/chiahsuan156/ODSQA>

Dataset	QA-pairs	Hours	M-spkr	F-spkr	WER-D(%)	WER-Q(%)	Avg D Len	AvgQ Len
ODSQA	3654	25.28	7	13	19.11	18.57	428	22
DRCD-TTS	16746	--	--	--	33.63	--	332	20

SPOKEN OPEN-DOMAIN QUESTION ANSWERING DATASET

Audio – SQuAD Style

- Link: <https://github.com/chiahsuan156/ODSQA>

Dataset	QA-pairs	Hours	M-spkr	F-spkr	WER-D(%)	WER-Q(%)	Avg D Len	AvgQ Len
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SPOKEN **O**PEN-**D**OMAIN **Q**UESTION **A**NSWERING DATASET

SOD QA

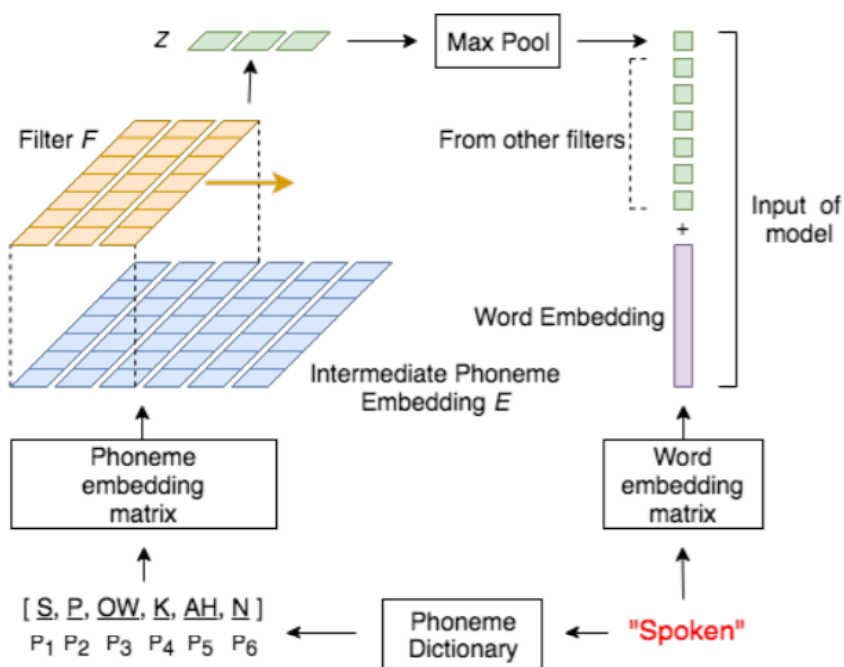
OPEN-**D**OMAIN **S**POKEN **Q**UESTION **A**NSWERING DATASET

ODS QA

[Lee, et al., SLT'18]

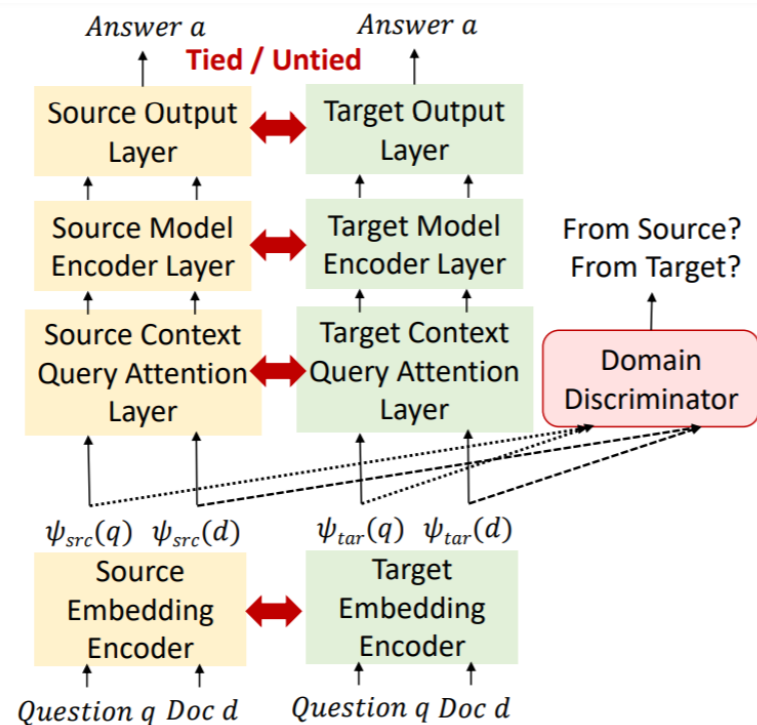
Audio - Techniques Developed

Subword Units



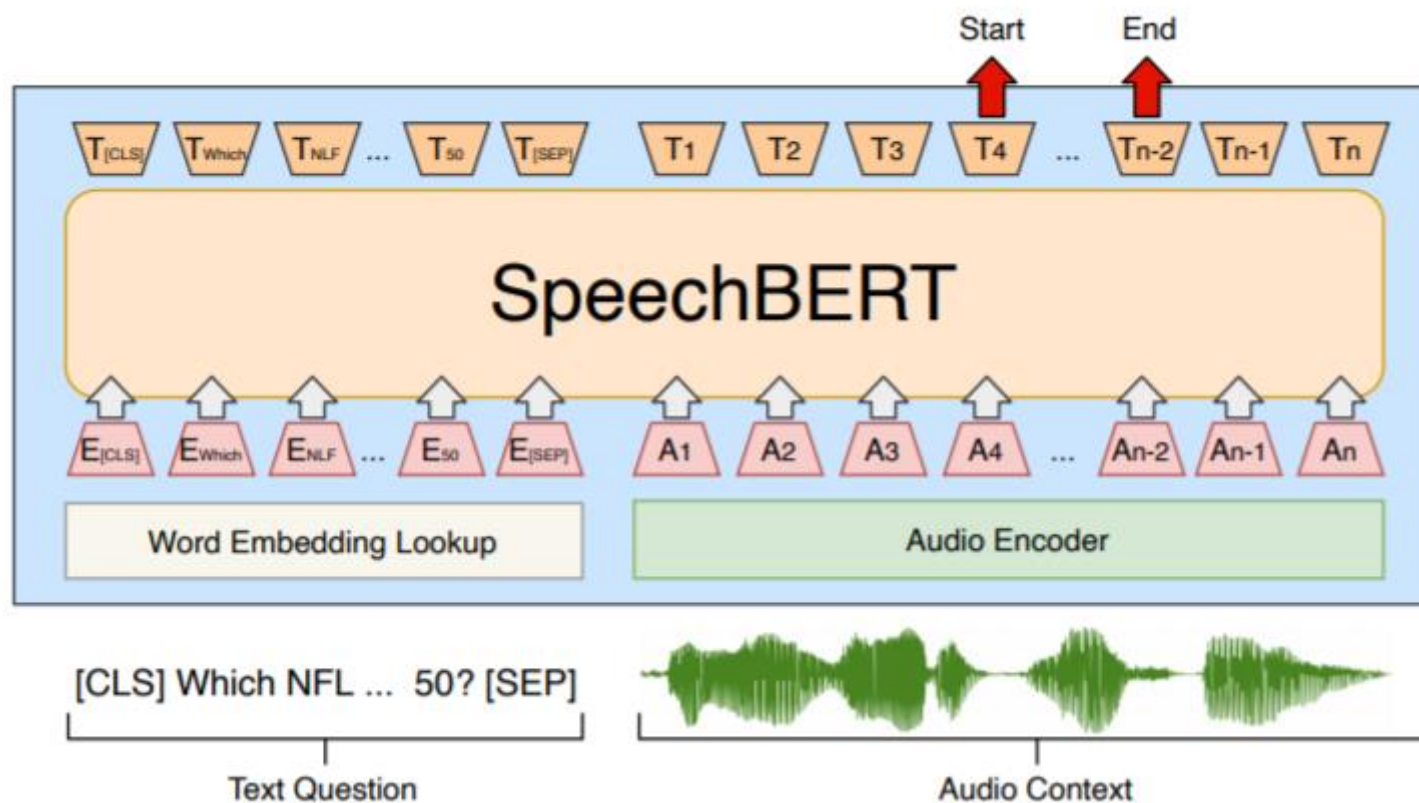
[Lee, et al., INTERSPEECH'18]

Adversarial Learning



[Lee, et al., ICASSP'19]

Audio - Towards End-to-end

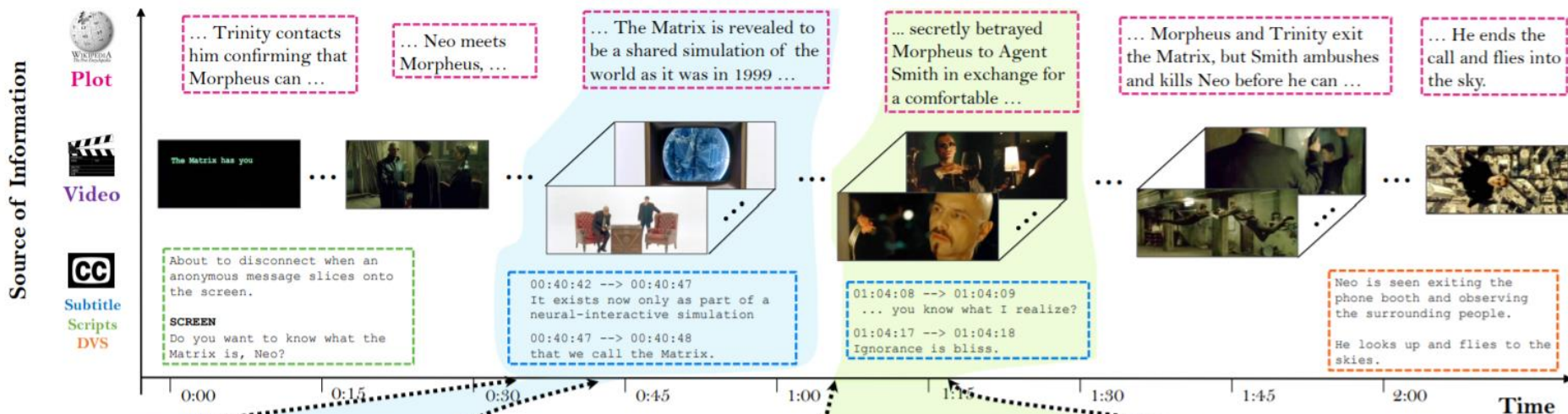
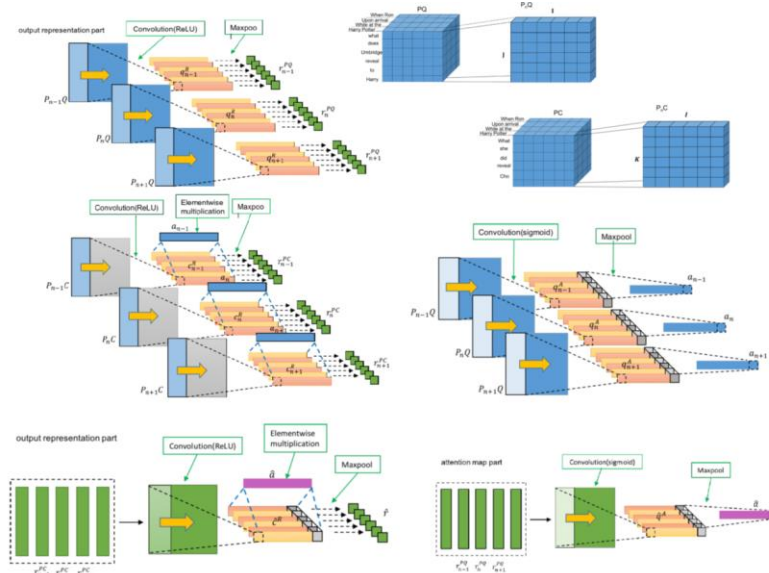


[Chuang, et al., arXiv'19]

Movie QA

QACNN

[Liu, et al., ICCV workshop'18]

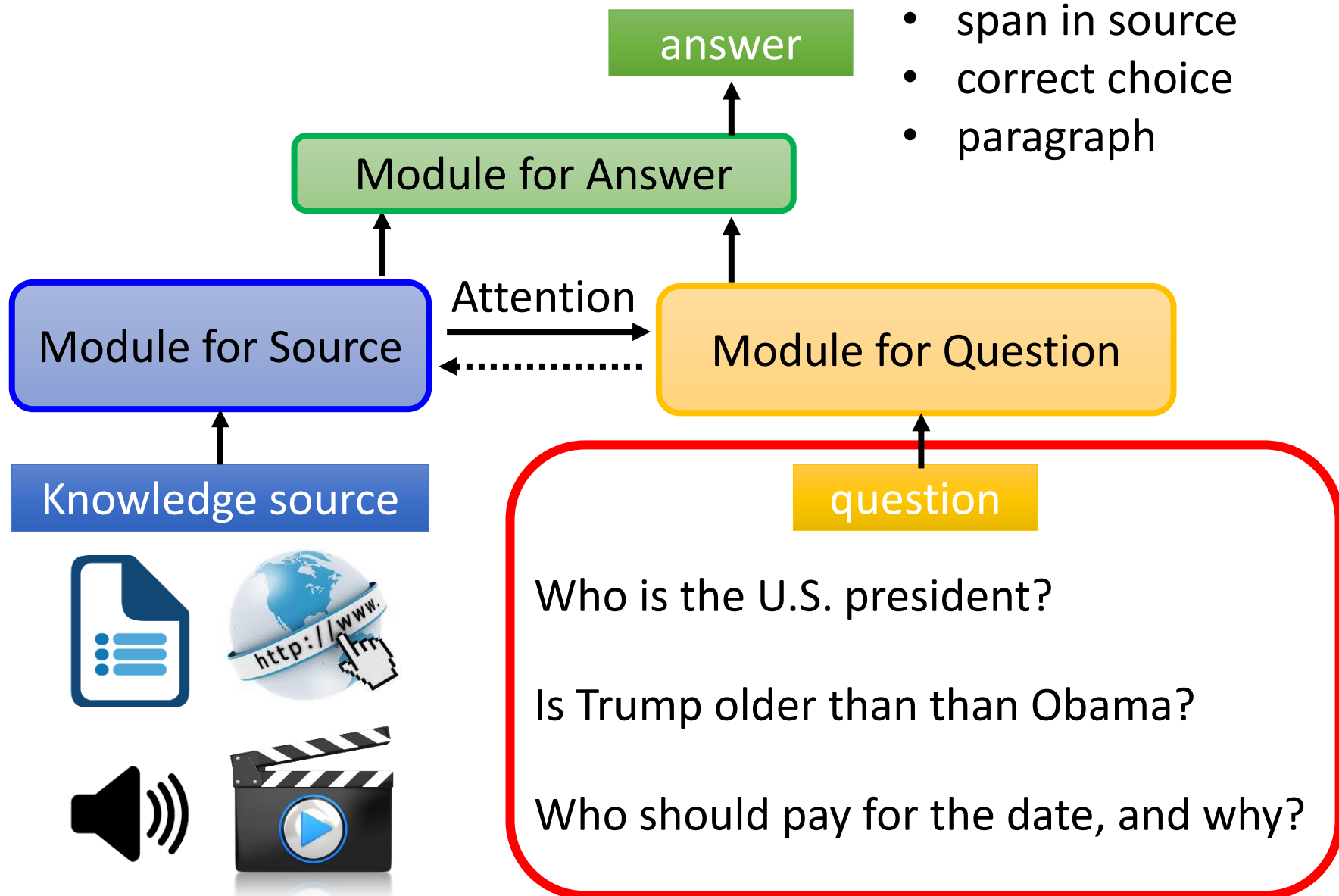


	What is the Matrix?	Who kills Neo in the Matrix?	Why does Cypher betray Morpheus?	How does the movie end?
Quiz	<p>A: A shared simulation of the world</p> <p>A: A group of robots</p> <p>A: A human body</p> <p>A: A set of numbers stored as a table</p>	<p>A: Smith kills Neo</p> <p>A: Trinity kills Neo</p> <p>A: Morpheus kills Neo after he realizes that Neo is not the one</p>	<p>A: In exchange for a comfortable life</p> <p>A: In exchange for money</p> <p>A: Because he is threatened by Agent Smith</p>	<p>A: With Neo flying into the sky</p> <p>A: With the Machines chasing after Neo</p> <p>A: We see Mr. Smith torture Morpheus</p>

[Tapaswi, et al., CVPR'16]

Question Answering

- word
- span in source
- correct choice
- paragraph



Types of Questions



Simple Question: Match & Extract

Complex Question: Reasoning

Dialogue QA

Difficulty

Types of Questions

Simple Question: Match & Extract

Complex Question: Reasoning

Dialogue QA

Simple Questions

In meteorology, precipitation is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapor that falls under gravity. The main forms of precipitation include drizzle, rain, sleet, snow, graupel and hail... Precipitation forms as smaller droplets coalesce via collision with other rain drops or ice crystals within a cloud. Short, intense periods of rain in scattered locations are called "showers".

Match & Extract

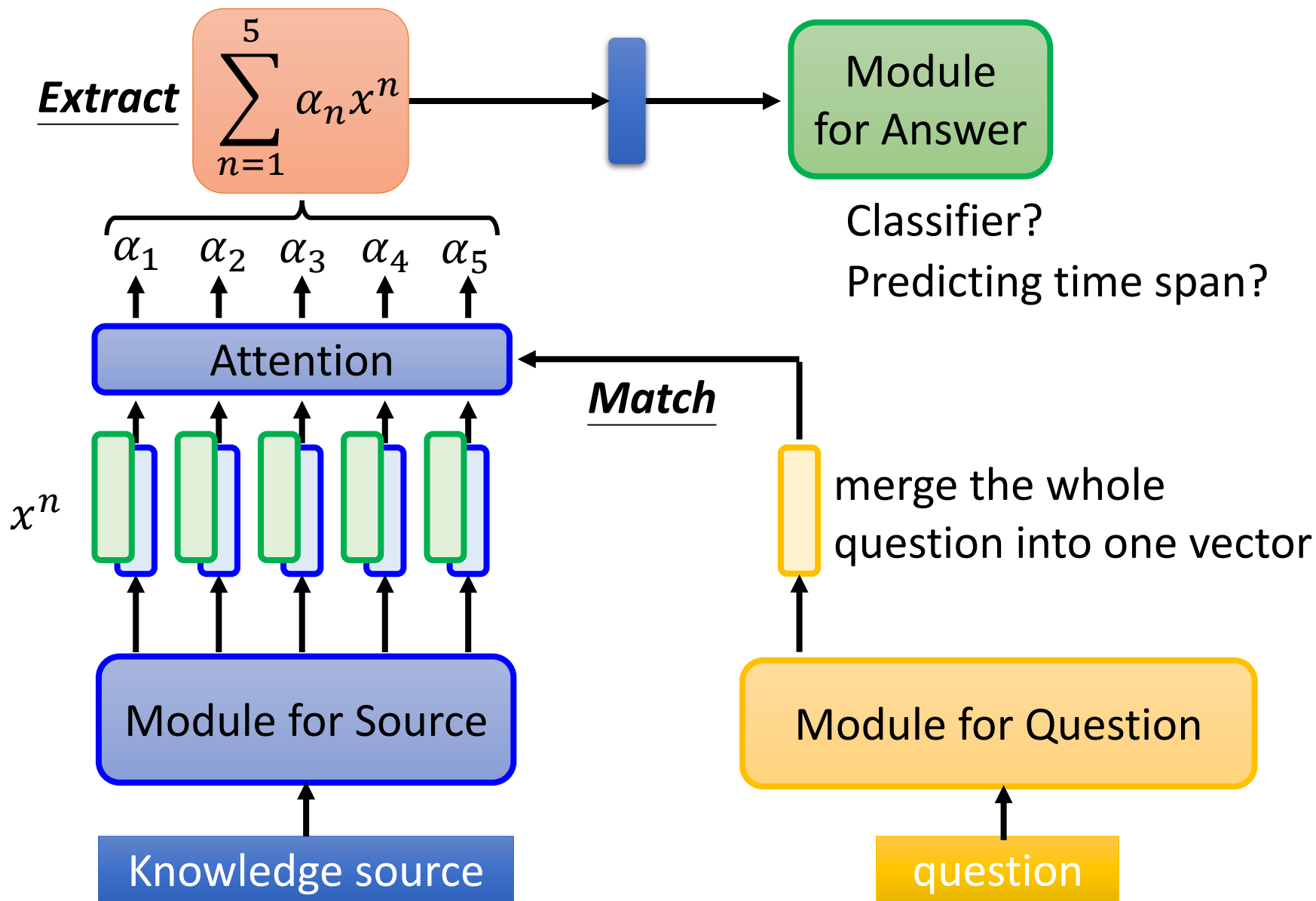
What causes precipitation to fall?
gravity

What is another main form of precipitation besides drizzle, rain, snow, sleet and hail?
graupel

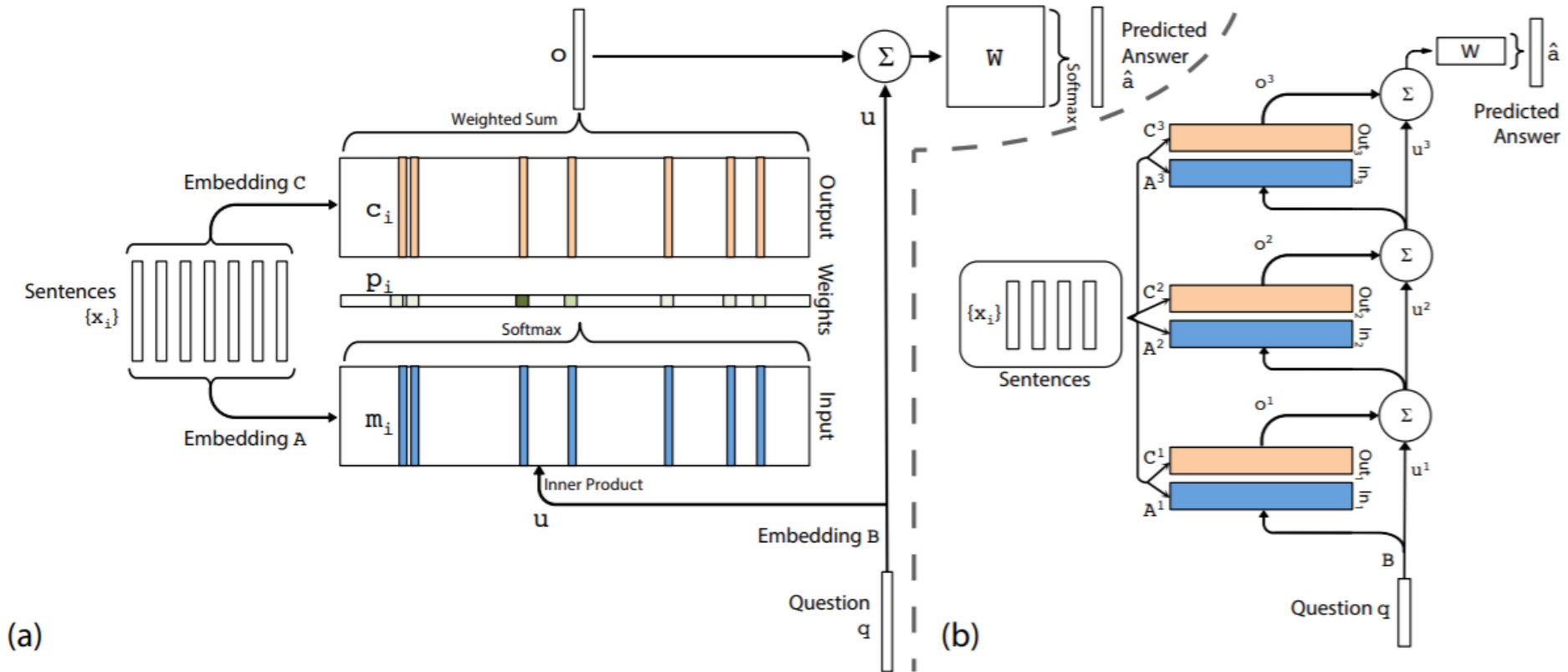
Where do water droplets collide with ice crystals to form precipitation?
within a cloud

SQuAD

Query-to-context Attention



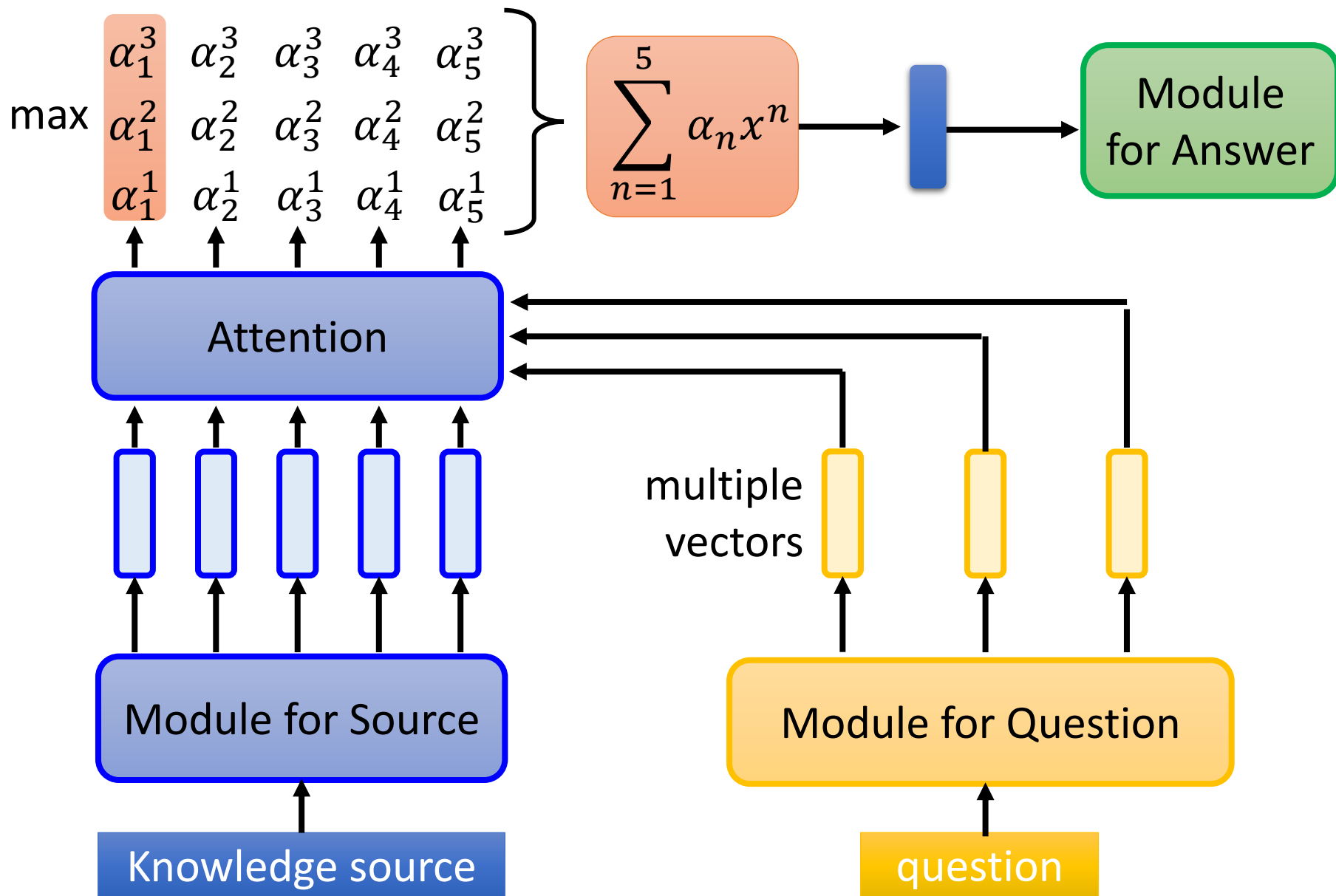
Query-to-context Attention



End-to-end Memory Network

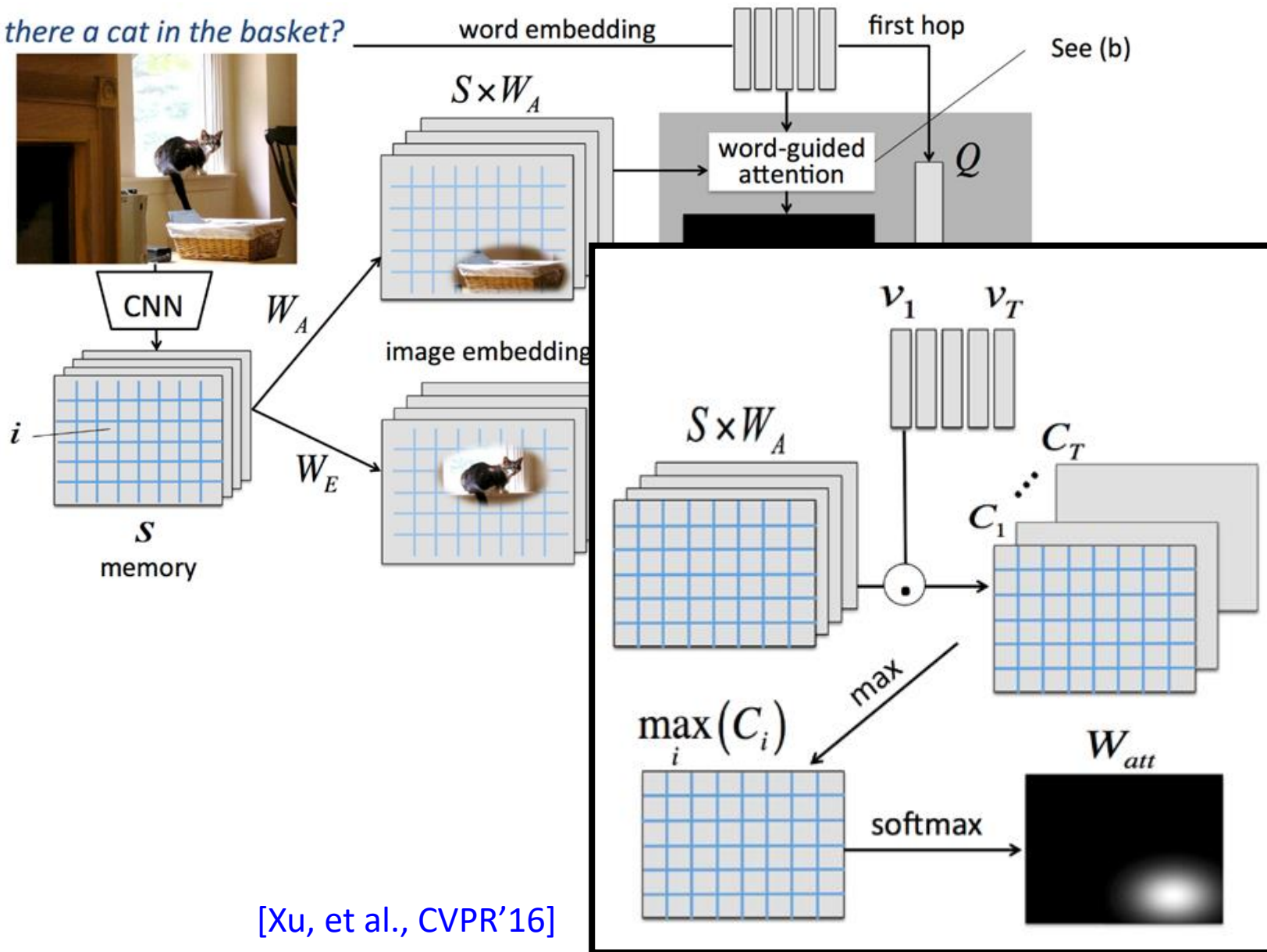
[Sukhbaatar, et al., NIPS'15]

Query-to-context Attention (v2)

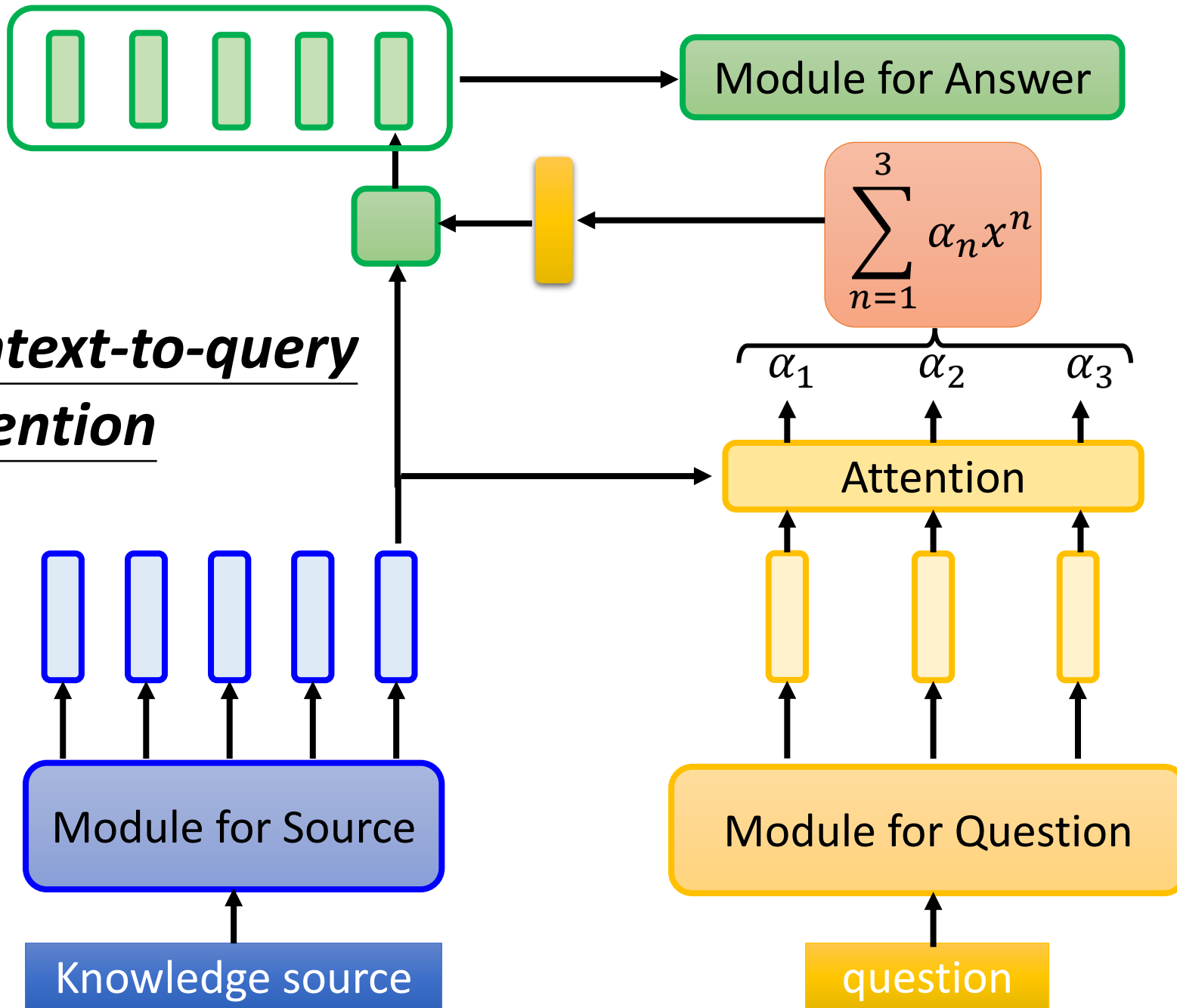


Query-to-context Attention (v2)

Is there a cat in the basket?



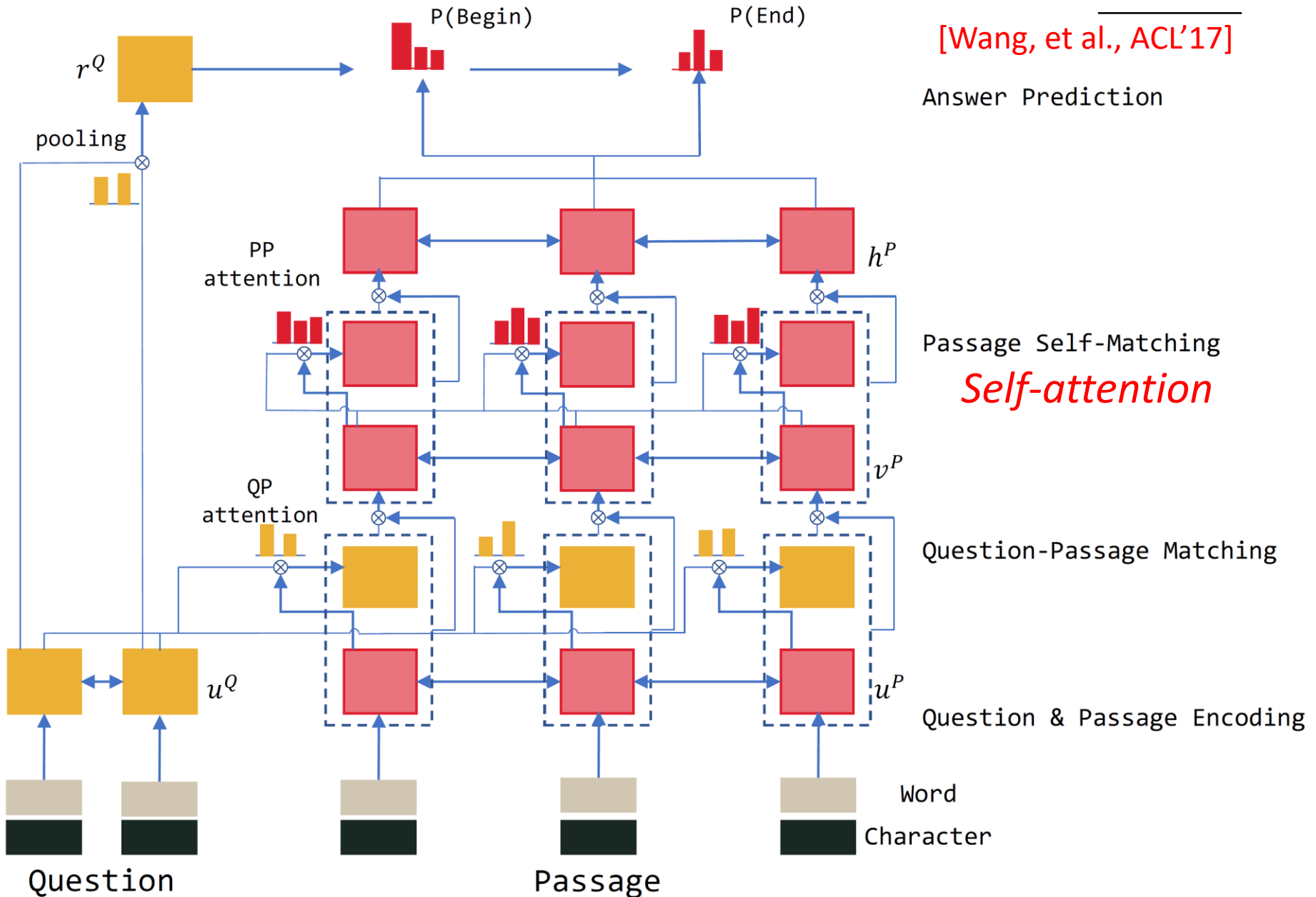
Context-to-query
Attention



R-Net

[Wang, et al., ACL'17]

Answer Prediction



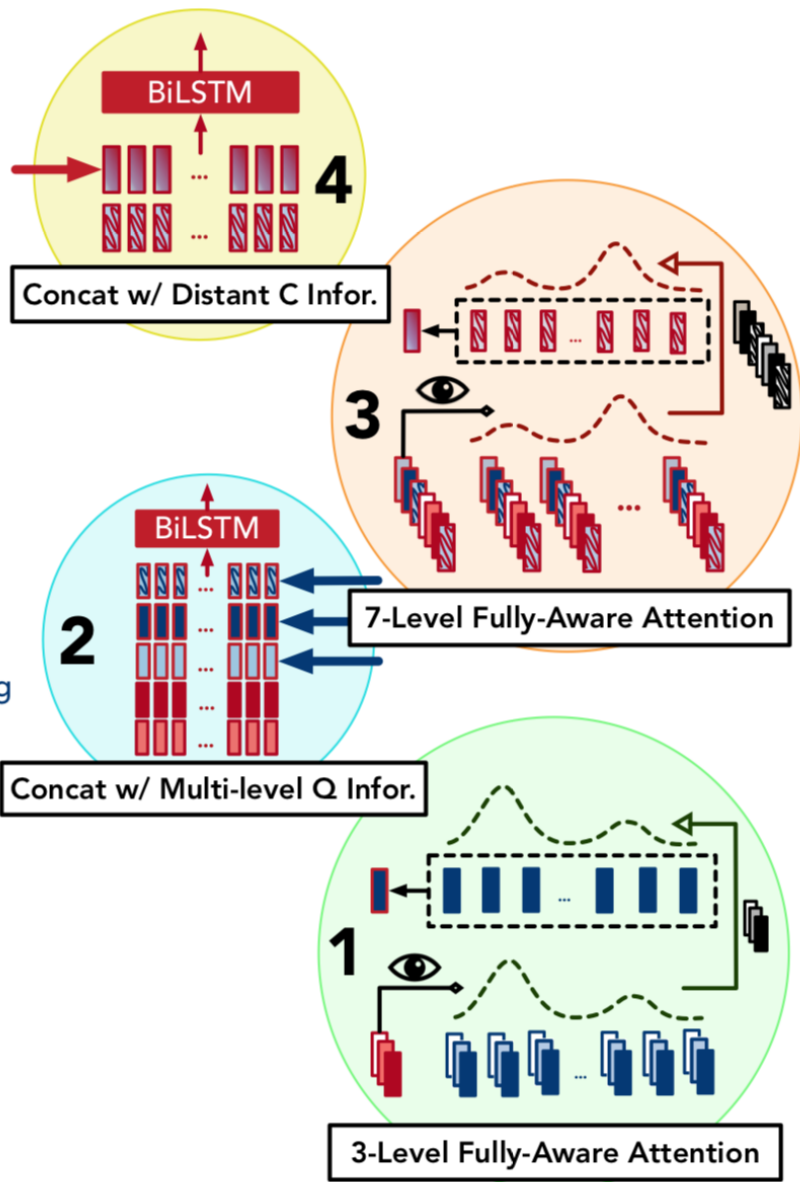
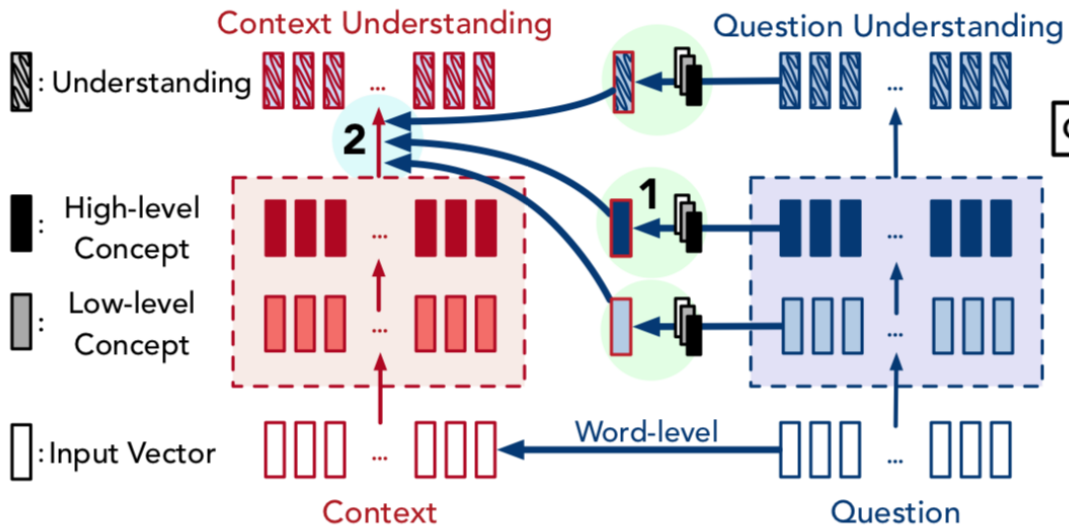
Fully-Aware Fusion Network

Fully-Aware Self-Boosted Fusion



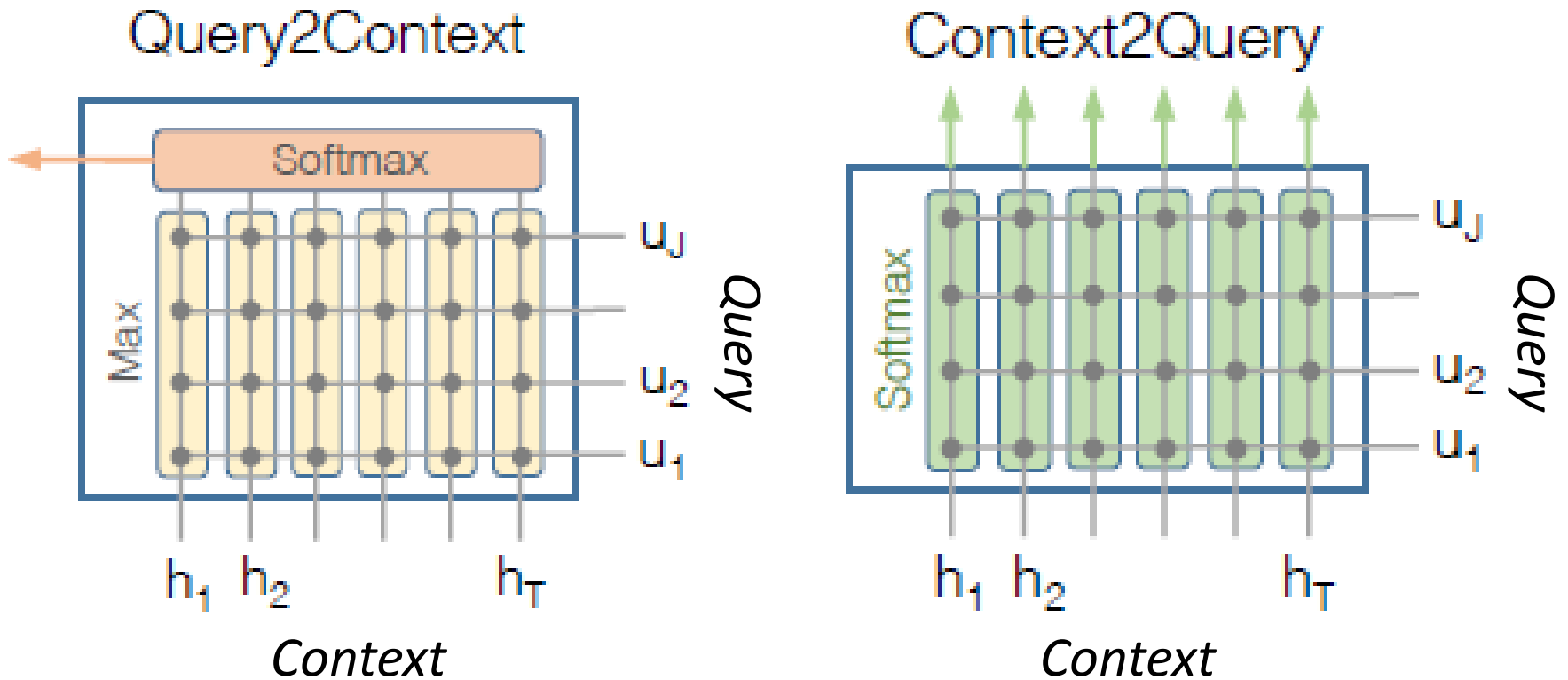
The above can be used to capture long range info.

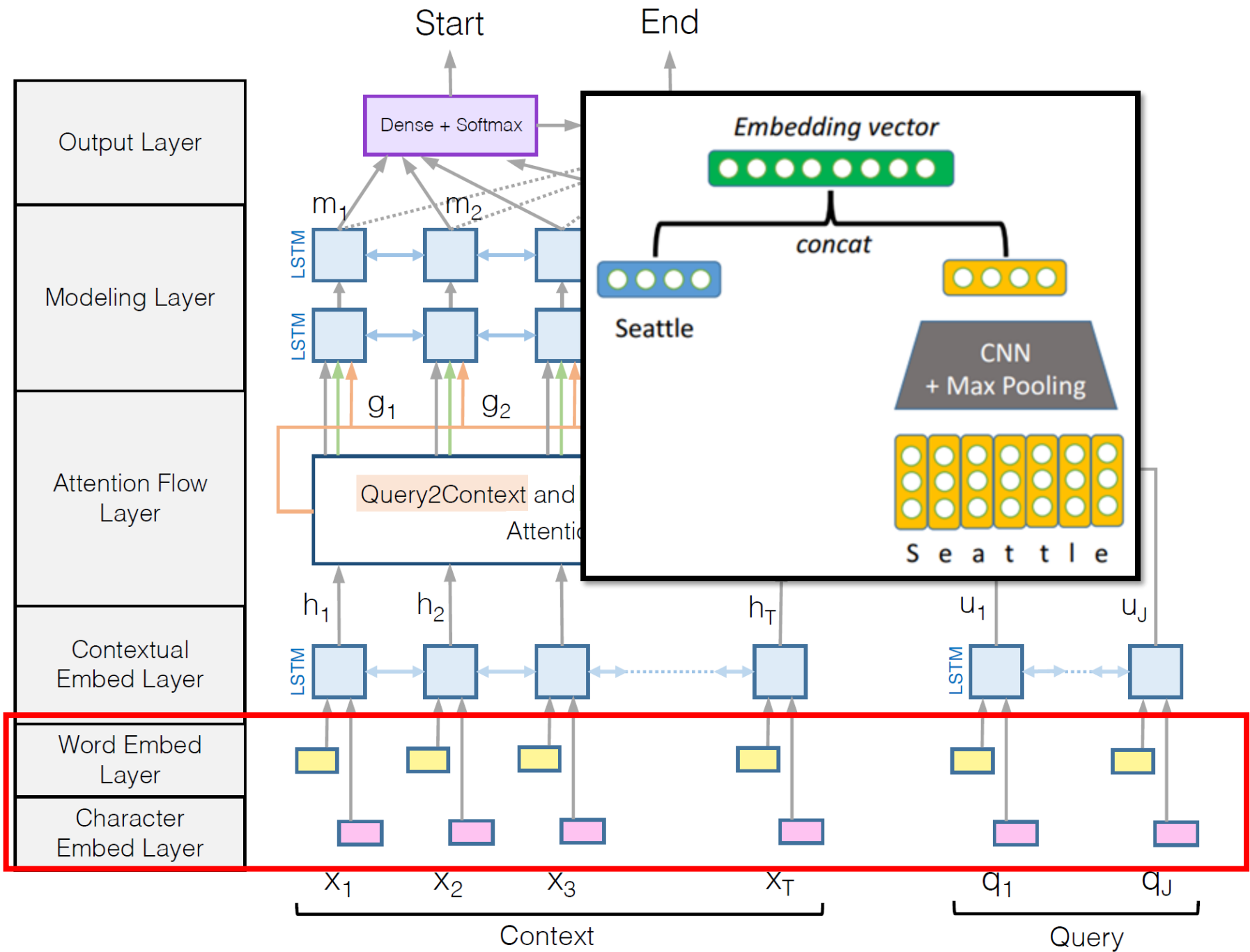
Fully-Aware Multi-level Fusion

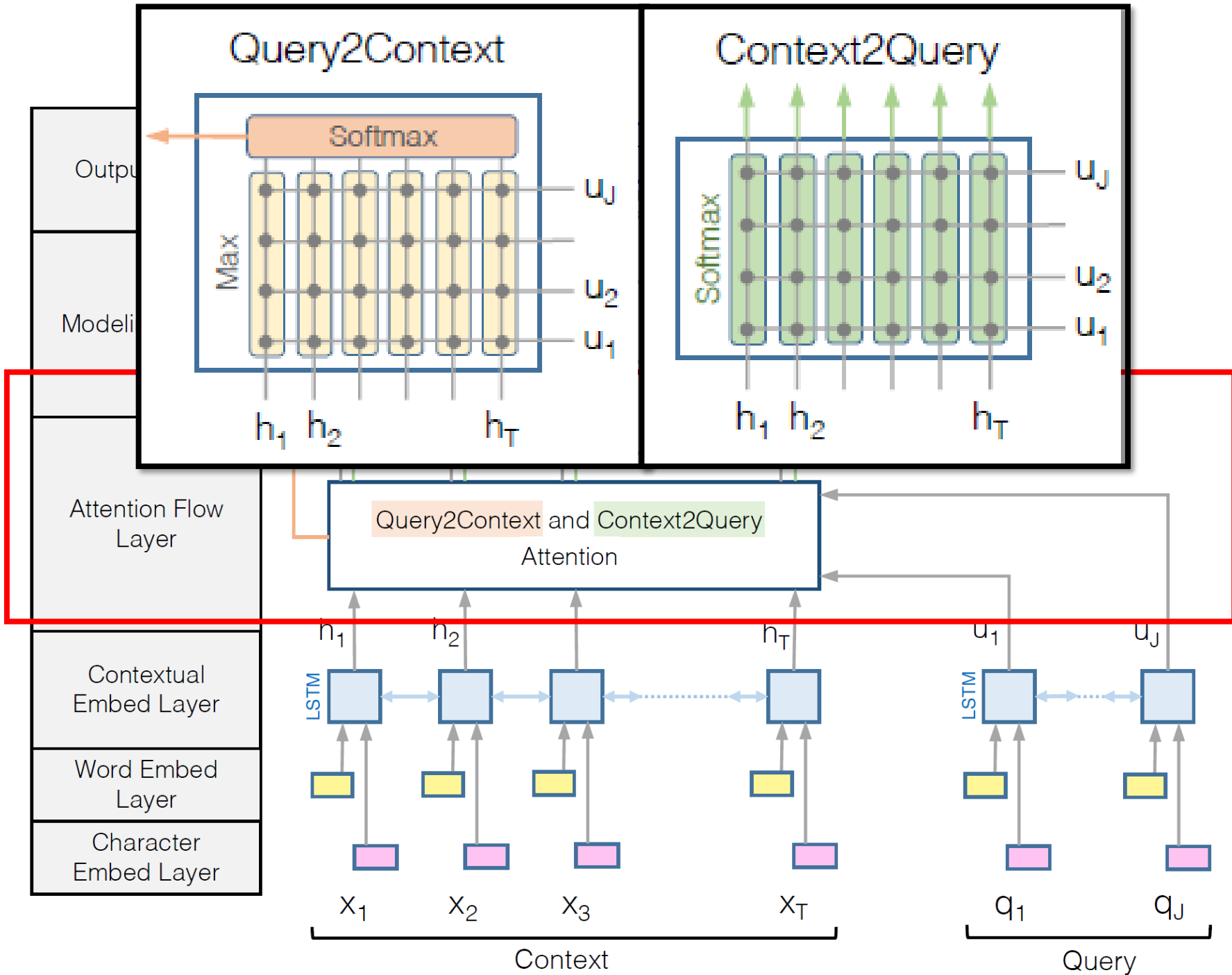


Bi-directional Attention Flow

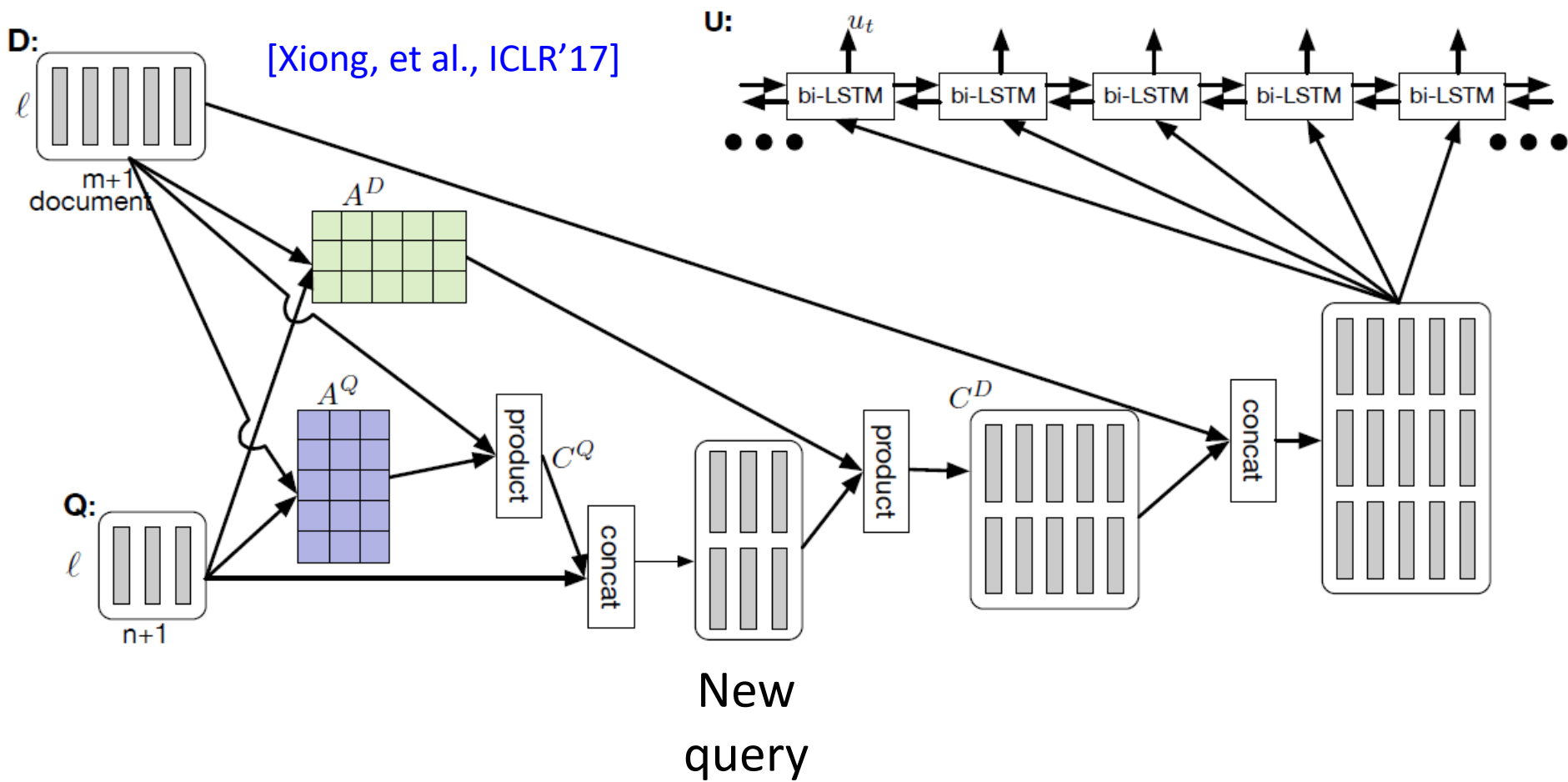
- BiDAF [Seo, et al., ICLR'17]







Dynamic Coattention Networks

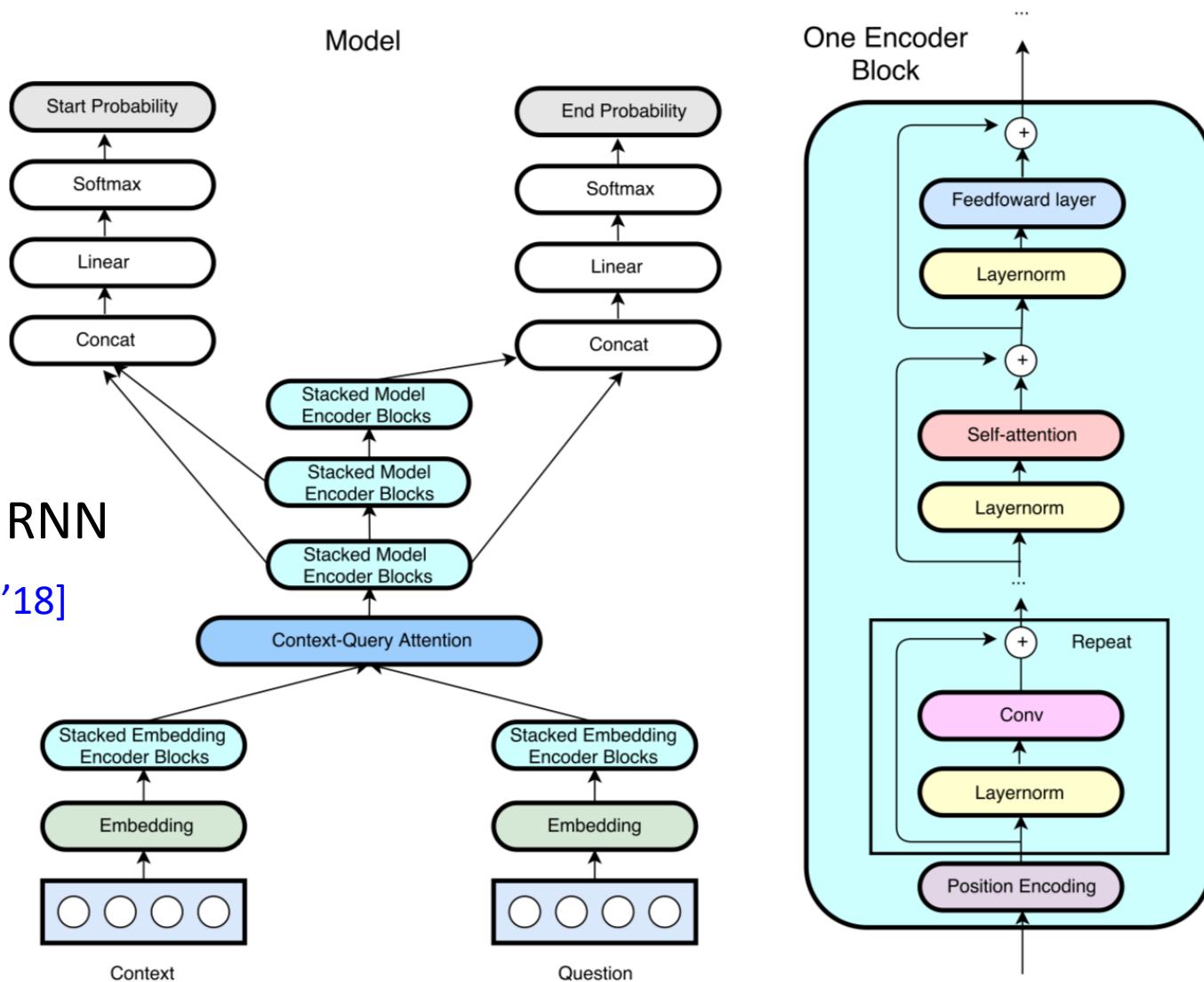


QANet

BERT 家族之外的最後一道榮光

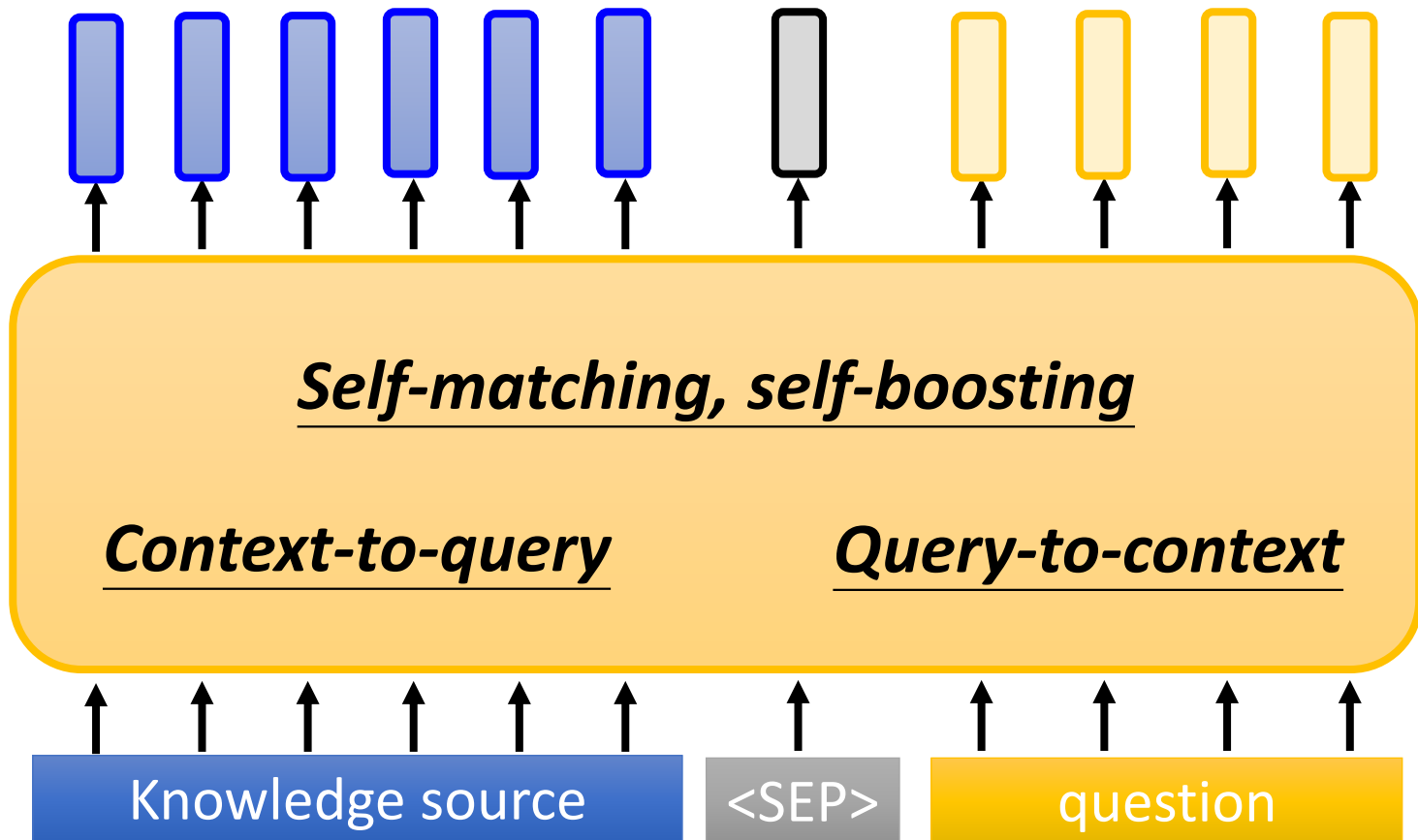
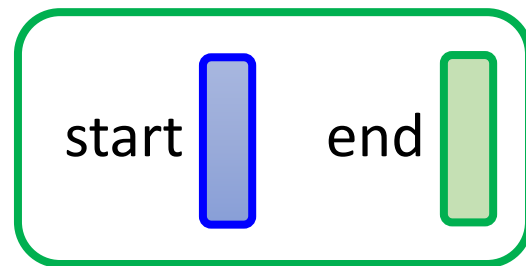
Do not use RNN

[Yu, et al., ICLR'18]



BERT

Answer
Module



你想要的 BERT 裡面通通都有了!

Types of Questions

Simple Question: Match & Extract

Complex Question: Reasoning

Dialogue QA

Qangaroo



[Welbl, et al., TACL'18]



The Hanging Gardens, in **[Mumbai]**, also known as Pherozeshah Mehta Gardens, are terraced gardens ... They provide sunset views over the **[Arabian Sea]** ...

Mumbai (also known as Bombay, the official name until 1995) is the capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra. It is the most populous city in **India** ...

The **Arabian Sea** is a region of the northern Indian Ocean bounded on the north by **Pakistan** and **Iran**, on the west by northeastern **Somalia** and the Arabian Peninsula, and on the east by **India** ...

Q: (Hanging gardens of Mumbai, country, ?)

Options: {Iran, **India**, Pakistan, Somalia, ...}

Hoppot QA [Yang, et al., EMNLP'18]



Reasoning Type	%	Example(s)
Inferring the <i>bridge entity</i> to complete the 2nd-hop question (Type I)	42	<p>Paragraph A: The 2015 Diamond Head Classic was a college basketball tournament ... <i>Buddy Hield</i> was named the tournament's MVP.</p> <p>Paragraph B: <i>Chavano Rainier "Buddy" Hield</i> is a Bahamian professional basketball player for the Sacramento Kings of the NBA...</p> <p>Q: Which team does the player named 2015 Diamond Head Classic's MVP play for?</p>
Comparing two entities (Comparison)	27	<p>Paragraph A: LostAlone were a British rock band ... consisted of <i>Steven Battelle, Alan Williamson, and Mark Gibson</i>...</p> <p>Paragraph B: Guster is an American alternative rock band ... Founding members <i>Adam Gardner, Ryan Miller, and Brian Rosenworcel</i> began...</p> <p>Q: Did LostAlone and Guster have the same number of members? (yes)</p>
Locating the <i>answer entity</i> by checking multiple properties (Type II)	15	<p>Paragraph A: Several <i>current and former members of the Pittsburgh Pirates</i> ... John Milner, Dave Parker, and Rod Scurry...</p> <p>Paragraph B: David Gene Parker, <i>nicknamed "The Cobra"</i>, is an American former player in Major League Baseball...</p> <p>Q: Which former member of the Pittsburgh Pirates was nicknamed "The Cobra"?</p>

DROP Discrete Reasoning Over the text in the Paragraph

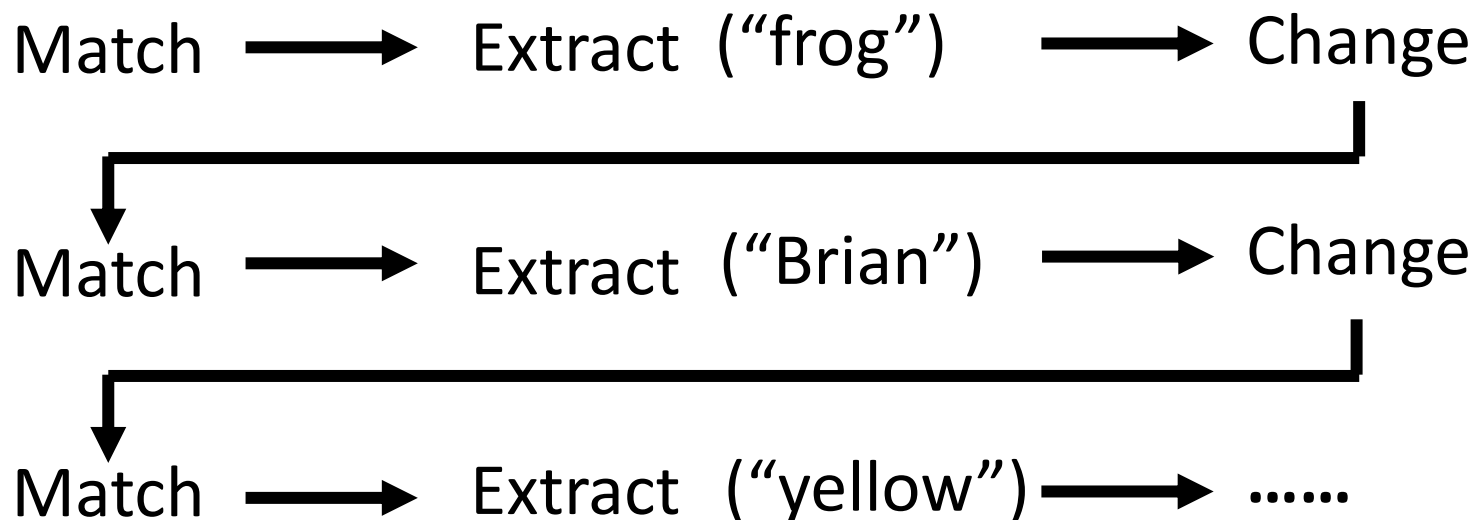
[Dua, et al., NAACL'19]

懷抱惡意出題



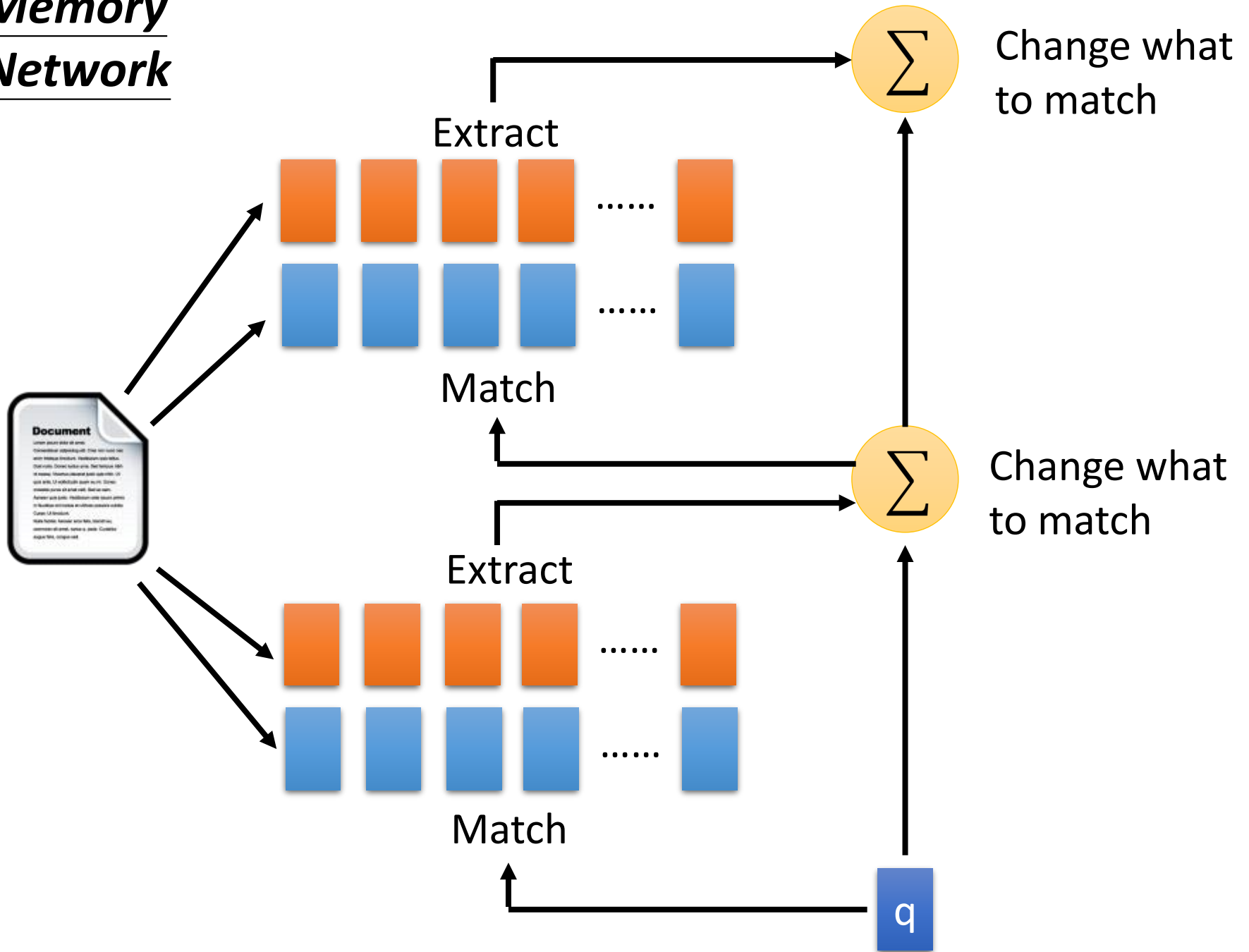
Reasoning	Passage (some parts shortened)	Question	Answer
Subtraction (28.8%)	That year, his Untitled (1981) , a painting of a haloed, black-headed man with a bright red skeletal body, depicted amid the artists signature scrawls, was sold by Robert Lehrman for \$16.3 million, well above its \$12 million high estimate.	How many more dollars was the Untitled (1981) painting sold for than the 12 million dollar estimation?	4300000
Comparison (18.2%)	In 1517, the seventeen-year-old King sailed to Castile. There, his Flemish court In May 1518, Charles traveled to Barcelona in Aragon.	Where did Charles travel to first, Castile or Barcelona?	Castile
Selection (19.4%)	In 1970, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Baldwin City, Baker University professor and playwright Don Mueller and Phyllis E. Braun, Business Manager, produced a musical play entitled The Ballad Of Black Jack to tell the story of the events that led up to the battle.	Who was the University professor that helped produce The Ballad Of Black Jack , Ivan Boyd or Don Mueller?	Don Mueller
Addition (11.7%)	Before the UNPROFOR fully deployed, the HV clashed with an armed force of the RSK in the village of Nos Kalik, located in a pink zone near Šibenik, and captured the village at 4:45 p.m. on 2 March 1992. The JNA formed a battlegroup to counterattack the next day.	What date did the JNA form a battlegroup to counterattack after the village of Nos Kalik was captured?	3 March 1992
Count (16.5%) and Sort (11.7%)	Denver would retake the lead with kicker Matt Prater nailing a 43-yard field goal , yet Carolina answered as kicker John Kasay ties the game with a 39-yard field goal. . . . Carolina closed out the half with Kasay nailing a 44-yard field goal. . . . In the fourth quarter, Carolina sealed the win with Kasay's 42-yard field goal.	Which kicker kicked the most field goals?	John Kasay

Multiple-hop

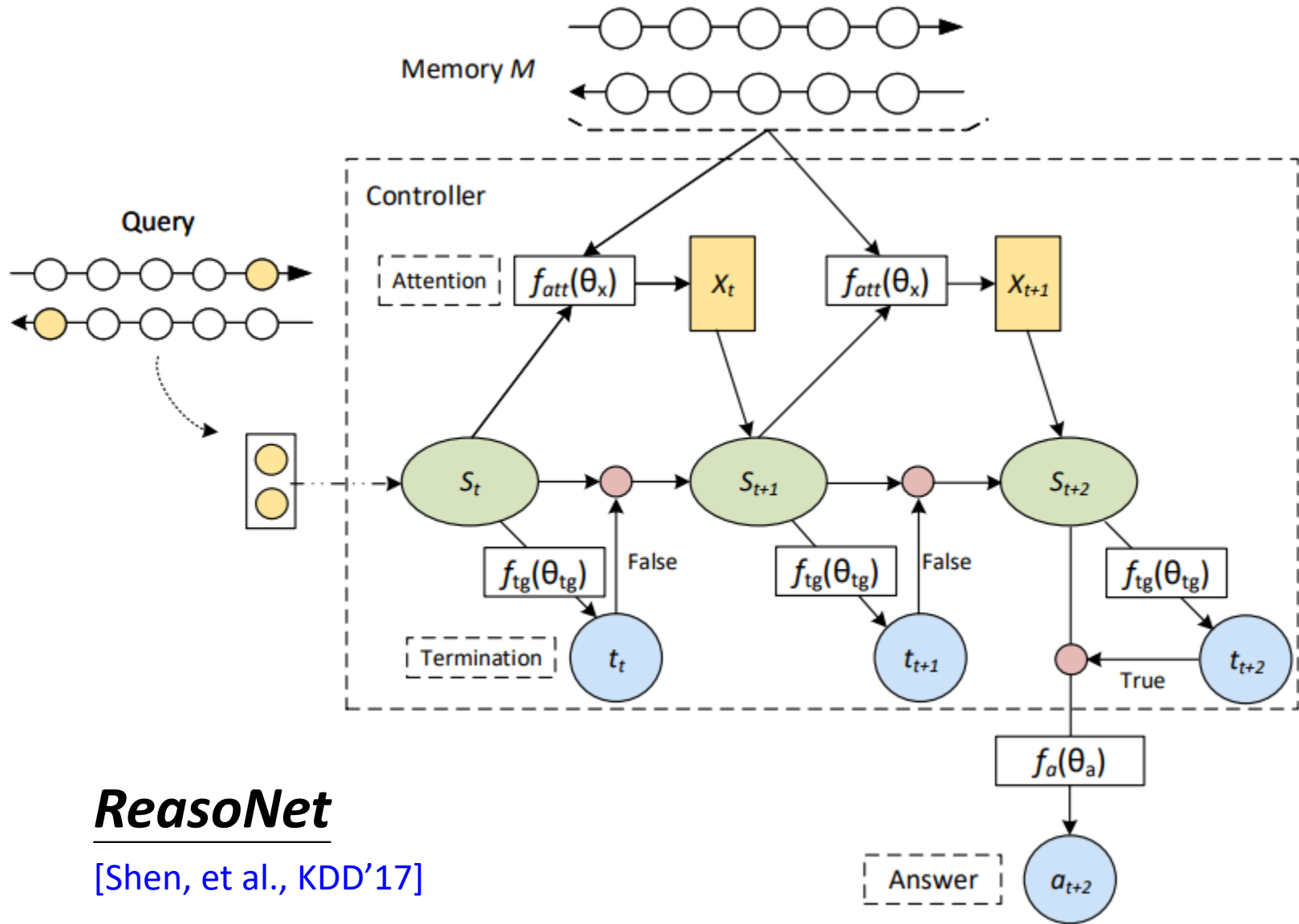


Story (16: basic induction)	Support	Hop 1	Hop 2	Hop 3
Brian is a frog.	yes	0.00	0.98	0.00
Lily is gray.		0.07	0.00	0.00
Brian is yellow.	yes	0.07	0.00	1.00
Julius is green.		0.06	0.00	0.00
Greg is a frog.	yes	0.76	0.02	0.00
What color is Greg? Answer: yellow Prediction: yellow				

Memory Network



How many hops do we need?



ReasonNet

[Shen, et al., KDD'17]

Graph Neural Network

Input Paragraphs:

The Sum of All Fears is a best-selling thriller novel by Tom Clancy ... It was the fourth of Clancy's Jack Ryan books to be turned into a film ...

Dr. John Patrick Jack Ryan Sr. KCVO (Hon.), Ph.D. is a fictional character created by Tom Clancy, who appears in many of his novels and their respective film adaptations ...

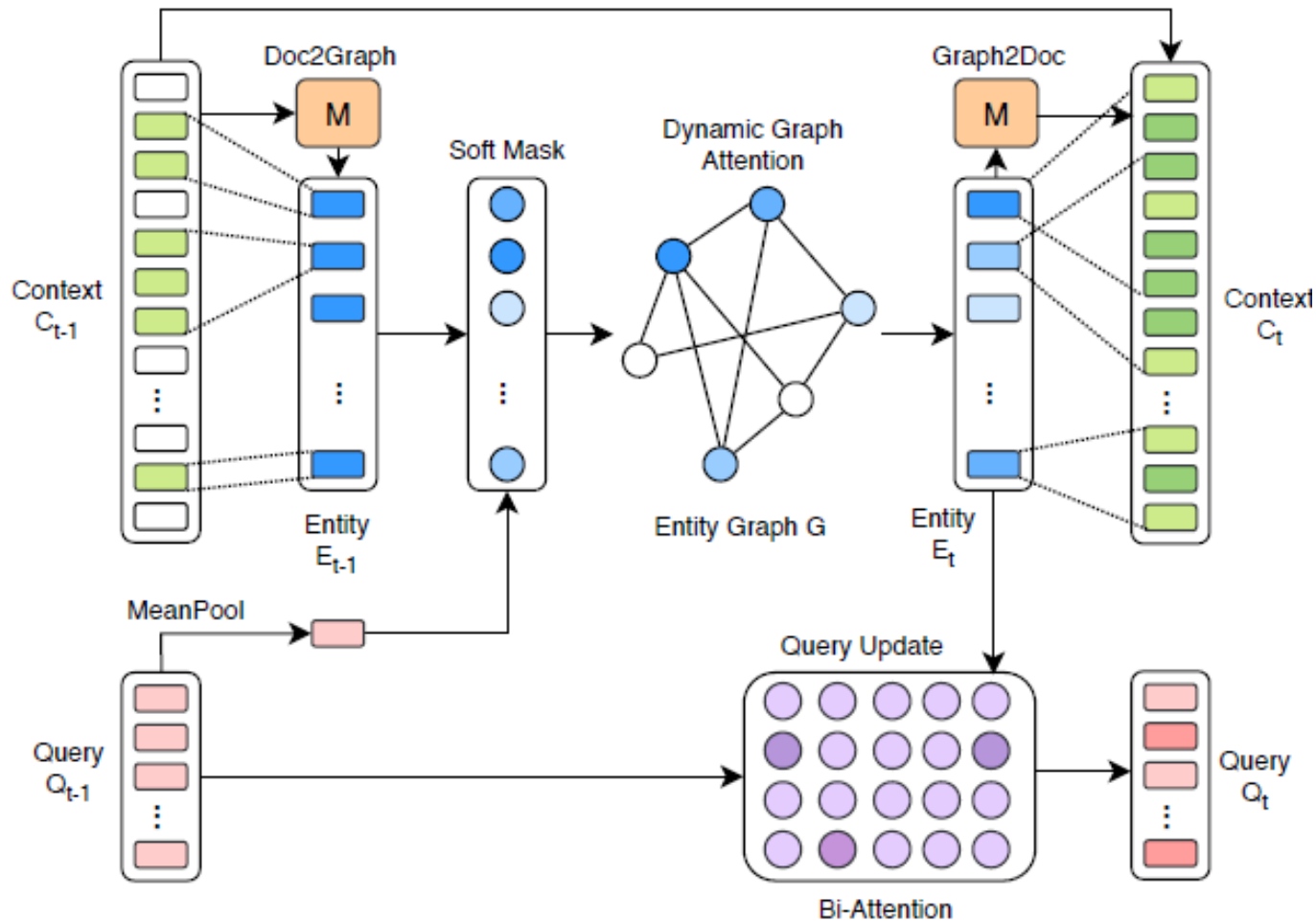
Net Force Explorers is a series of young adult novels created by Tom Clancy and Steve Pieczenik as a spin-off of the military fiction series ...

Question: What fiction character created by Tom Clancy was turned into a film in 2002?

Answer: Jack Ryan

[Qiu, et al., ACL'19]

Graph Neural Network



Graph is not needed ...

[Shao, et al., arXiv'20]

[Qiu, et al., ACL'19]

Types of Questions

Simple Question: Match & Extract

Complex Question: Reasoning

Dialogue QA

Dialogue QA

The Virginia governor's race, billed as the marquee battle of an otherwise anticlimactic 2013 election cycle, is shaping up to be a foregone conclusion. Democrat Terry McAuliffe, the longtime political fixer and moneyman, hasn't trailed in a poll since May. Barring a political miracle, Republican Ken Cuccinelli will be delivering a concession speech on Tuesday evening in Richmond. In recent ...

Q₁: What are the candidates **running** for?

A₁: Governor

R₁: The Virginia governor's race

Q₂: **Where**?

A₂: Virginia

R₂: The Virginia governor's race

Q₃: Who is the democratic candidate?

A₃: Terry McAuliffe

R₃: Democrat Terry McAuliffe

Q₄: Who is **his** opponent?

A₄: Ken Cuccinelli

R₄: Republican Ken Cuccinelli

Q₅: What party does **he** belong to?

A₅: Republican

R₅: Republican Ken Cuccinelli

Q₆: Which of **them** is winning?

A₆: Terry McAuliffe

R₆: Democrat Terry McAuliffe, the longtime political fixer and moneyman, hasn't trailed in a poll since May

CoQA

[Reddy, et al., TACL'19]

Dialogue QA

QuAC

[Choi, et al., EMNLP'18]

Section:  Daffy Duck, Origin & History

STUDENT: **What is the origin of Daffy Duck?**

TEACHER: \hookrightarrow first appeared in Porky's Duck Hunt

STUDENT: **What was he like in that episode?**

TEACHER: \hookrightarrow assertive, unrestrained, combative

STUDENT: **Was he the star?**

TEACHER: \hookrightarrow No, barely more than an unnamed bit player in this short

STUDENT: **Who was the star?**

TEACHER: \nrightarrow No answer

STUDENT: **Did he change a lot from that first episode in future episodes?**

TEACHER: \hookrightarrow Yes, the only aspects of the character that have remained consistent (...) are his voice characterization by Mel Blanc

STUDENT: **How has he changed?**

TEACHER: \hookrightarrow Daffy was less anthropomorphic

STUDENT: **In what other ways did he change?**

TEACHER: \hookrightarrow Daffy's slobbery, exaggerated lisp (...) is barely noticeable in the early cartoons.

STUDENT: **Why did they add the lisp?**

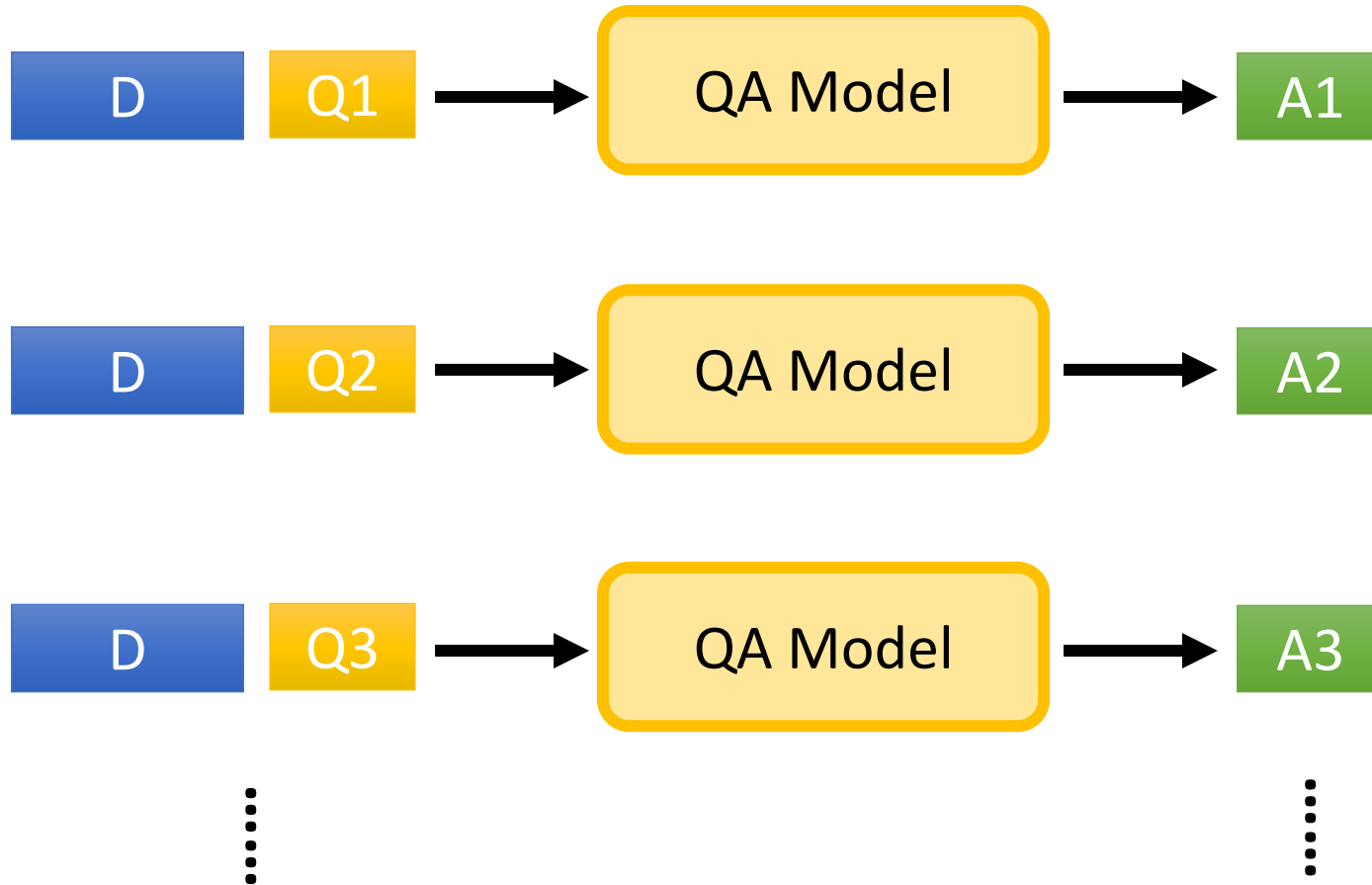
TEACHER: \hookrightarrow One often-repeated "official" story is that it was modeled after producer Leon Schlesinger's tendency to lisp.

STUDENT: **Is there an "unofficial" story?**

TEACHER: \hookrightarrow Yes, Mel Blanc (...) contradicts that conventional belief

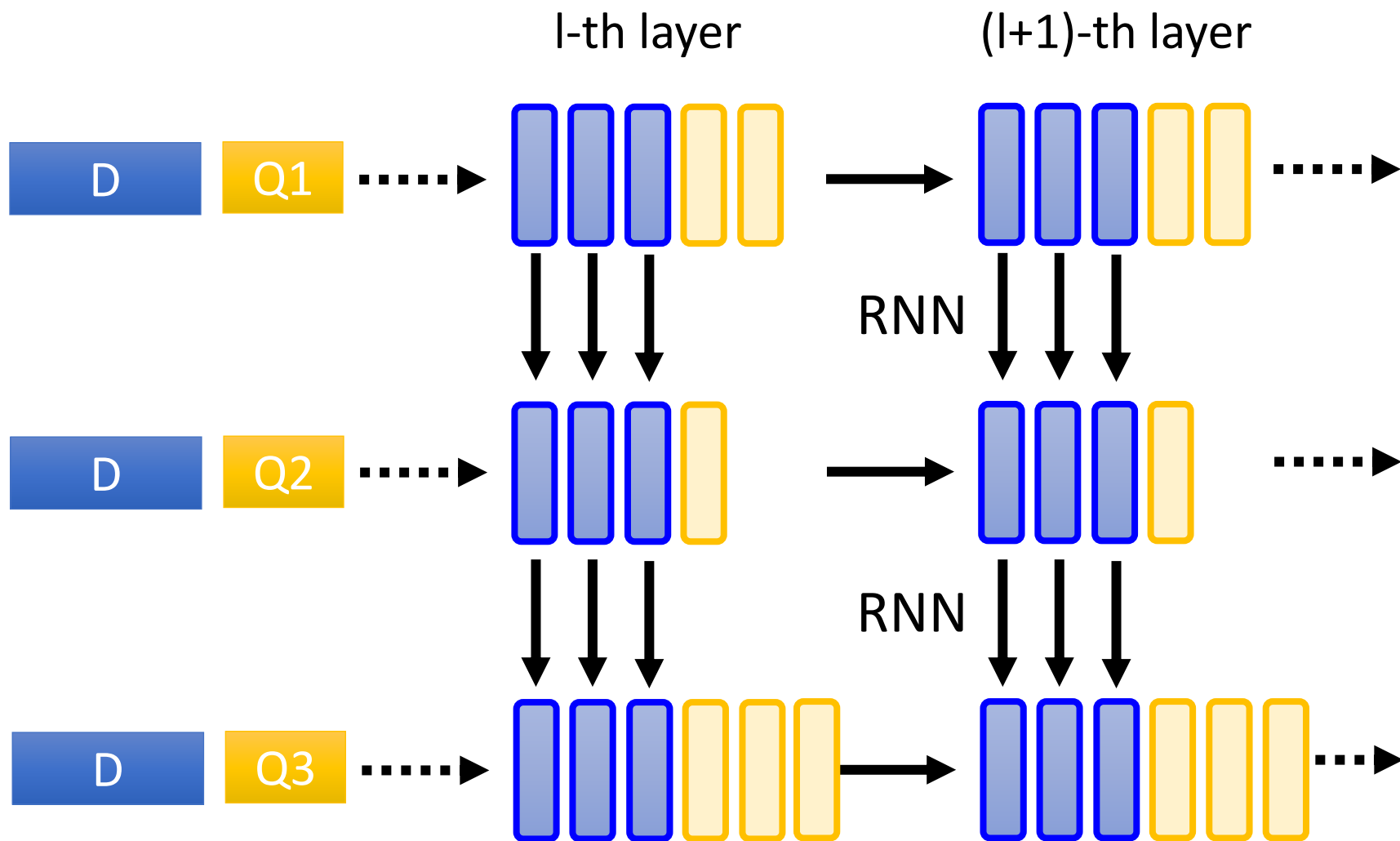
...

Dialogue QA



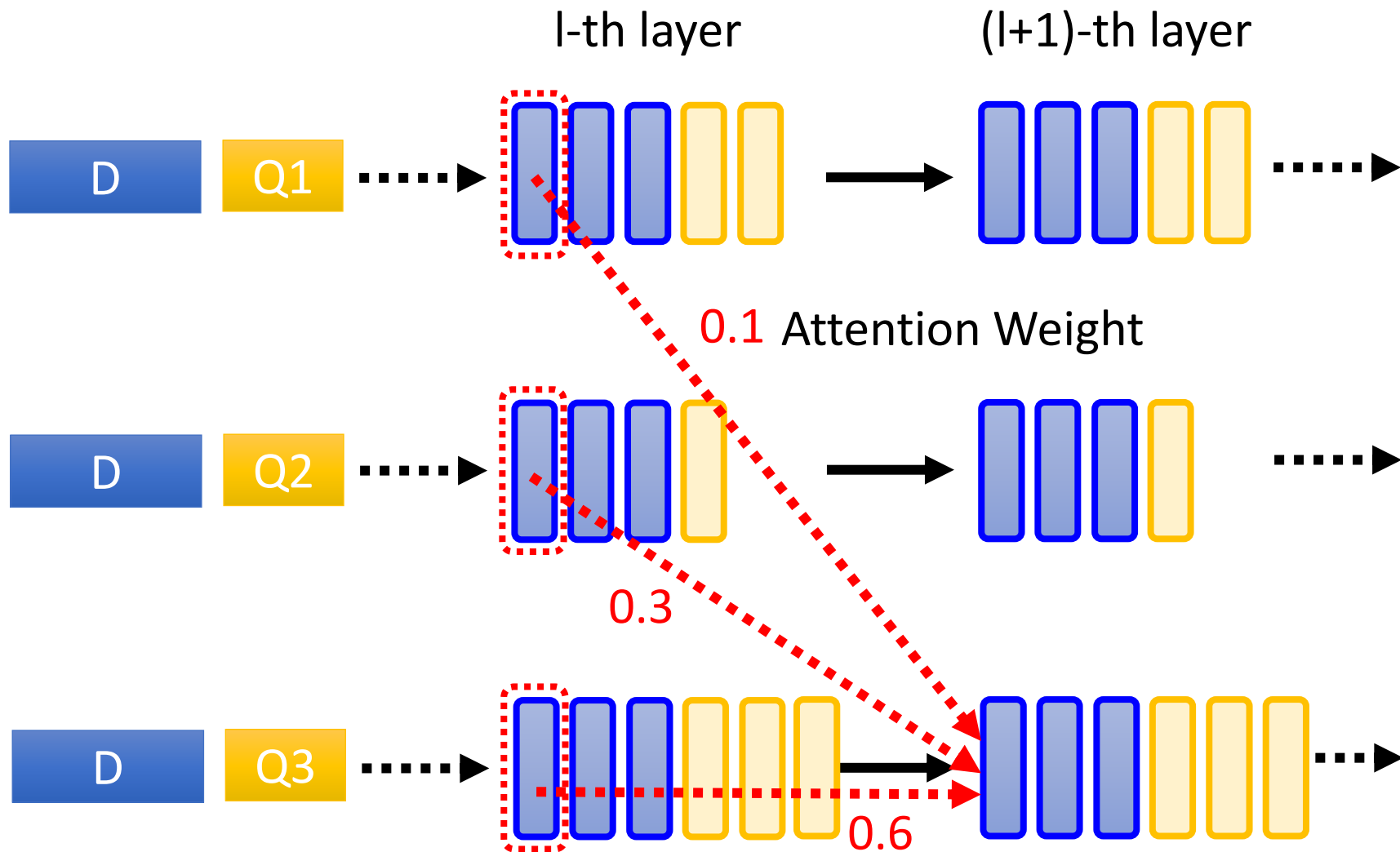
Dialogue QA

[Huang, et al., ICLR'19]



Dialogue QA

[Qu, et al., CIKM'19]



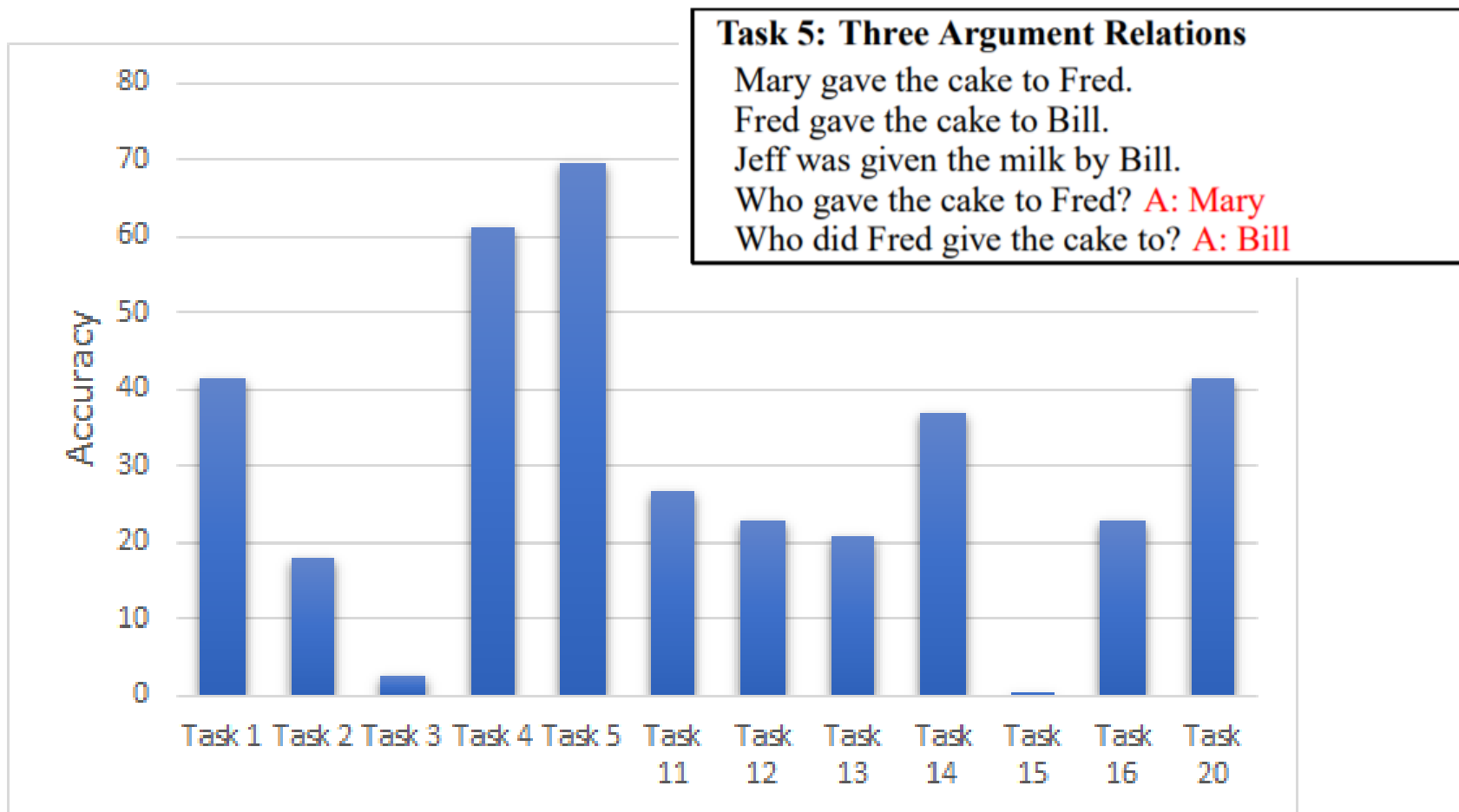


Problem
Solved?



Rank	Model	EM	F1
	Human Performance <i>Stanford University</i> (Rajpurkar & Jia et al. '18)	86.831	89.452
1 Apr 06, 2020	SA-Net on Albert (ensemble) QIANXIN	90.724	93.011
2 May 05, 2020	SA-Net-V2 (ensemble) QIANXIN	90.679	92.948
2 Apr 05, 2020	Retro-Reader (ensemble) <i>Shanghai Jiao Tong University</i> http://arxiv.org/abs/2001.09694v2	90.578	92.978
3 May 04, 2020	ELECTRA+ALBERT+EntitySpanFocus (ensemble) SRCB_DML	90.442	92.839
4 Mar 12, 2020	ALBERT + DAAF + Verifier (ensemble) PINGAN Omni-Sinitic	90.386	92.777
5 Jan 10, 2020	Retro-Reader on ALBERT (ensemble) <i>Shanghai Jiao Tong University</i> http://arxiv.org/abs/2001.09694v2	90.115	92.580

Train on SQuAD, Test on bAbI



感謝吳侑學同學提供實驗結果

bAbI Tasks 1-10

Dataset	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
True dataset	100%	100%	39%	100%	99%	100%	94%	97%	99%	98%

bAbI Tasks 11-20

	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
True dataset	94%	100%	94%	96%	100%	48%	57%	93%	30%	100%

Key value

EM	70.7%	0.6%	10.9%	-59.8
F1	79.1%	4.0%	14.8%	-64.3

Table 4: Performance of QANet on SQuAD

CBT-NE	35.0%	29
CBT-CN	37.6%	32
CBT-V	52.5%	55
CBT-P	55.2%	56.9%

30.1% +1.7

[Kaushik, et al., EMNLP'18]

SQUAD

Context

In 1899, John Jacob Astor IV invested \$100,000 for Tesla to further develop and produce a new lighting system. Instead, Tesla used the money to fund his Colorado Springs experiments.

Original

What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?

Reduced

did

Confidence

0.78 → 0.91

VQA



Original

What color is the flower ?

Reduced

flower ?

Answer

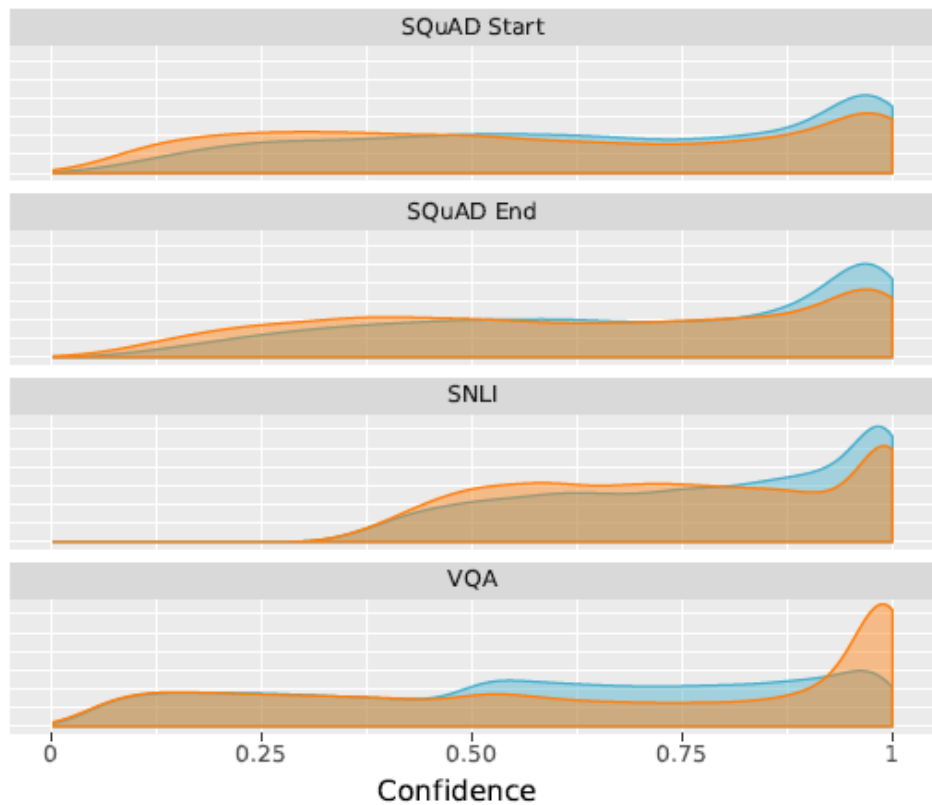
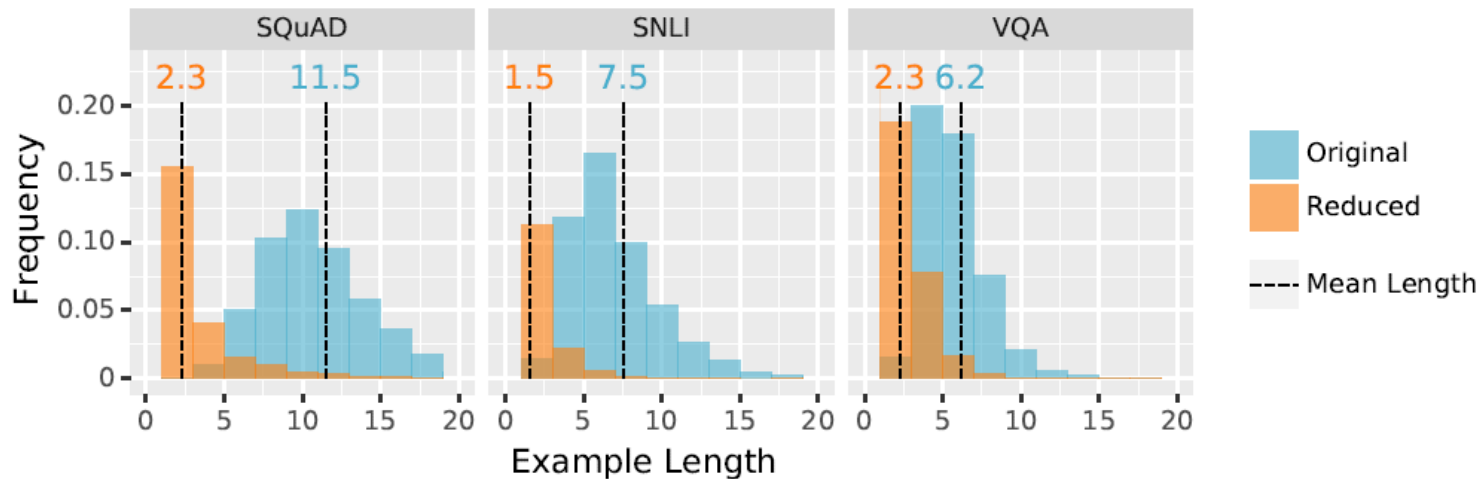
yellow

Confidence

0.827 → 0.819

機器居然
料事如神!

[Feng, et al., EMNLP'18]



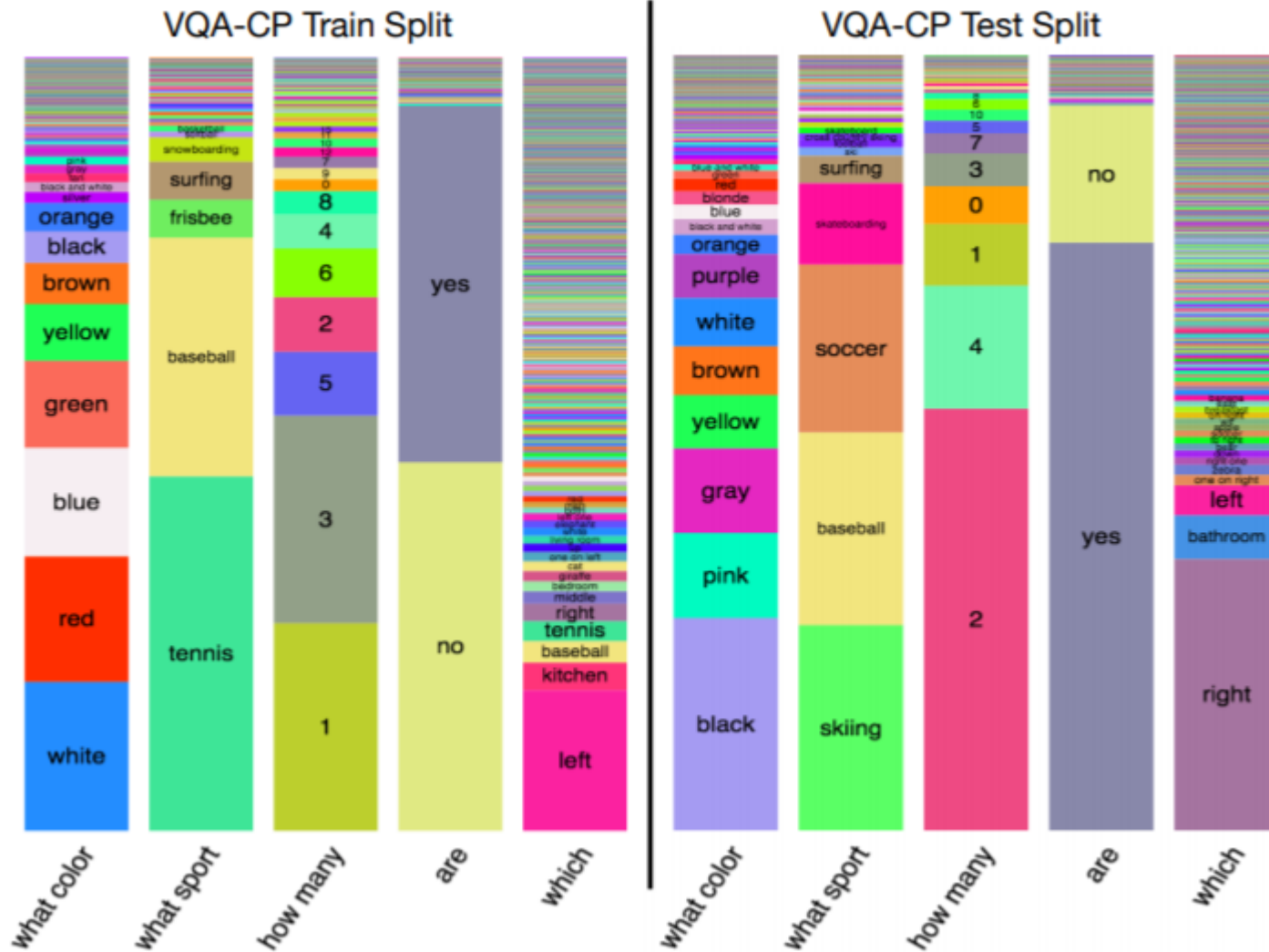
Dataset	Original	Reduced
SQUAD	80.58	31.72
SNLI-E	76.40	27.66
SNLI-N	55.40	52.66
SNLI-C	76.20	60.60
VQA	76.11	40.60

Human Performance

機器超越人類?

VQA

[Agrawal, et al., CVPR'18]



VQA [Agrawal, et al., CVPR'18]

Model	Dataset	Overall	Yes/No	Number	Other
per Q-type prior [5] (question type only)	VQA v1	35.13	71.31	31.93	08.86
d-LSTM Q [5] (question only)	VQA v1	48.23	79.05	33.70	28.81
d-LSTM Q + norm I [24]	VQA v1	54.40	79.82	33.87	40.54
NMN [3]	VQA v1	54.83	80.39	33.45	41.07
SAN [39]	VQA v1	55.86	78.54	33.46	44.51
MCB [11]	VQA v1	60.97	81.62	34.56	52.16

A wooden boardwalk made of light-colored planks winds through a coastal dune landscape. The path is flanked by dense, dry, golden-brown grasses and some dark green shrubs. In the background, there are sand dunes with sparse vegetation and a clear, pale blue sky. The overall scene is bright and open, suggesting a natural park or beach area.

There is still
a long way to go.

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