Natural Language Processing

Lecture 5.3

Attention

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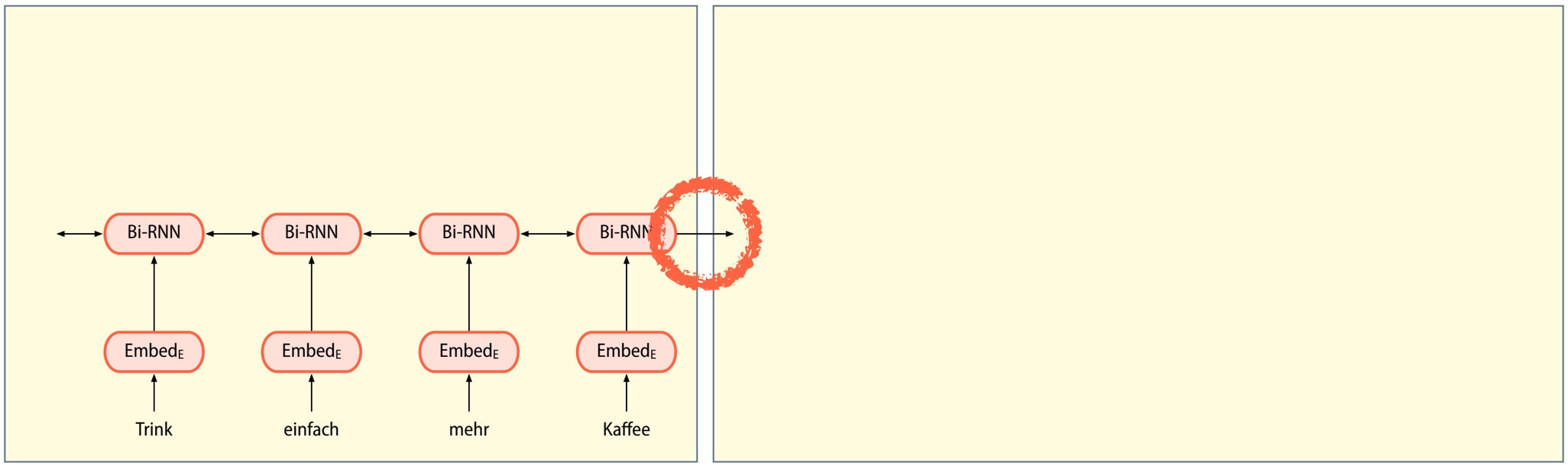
Recency bias in recurrent neural networks

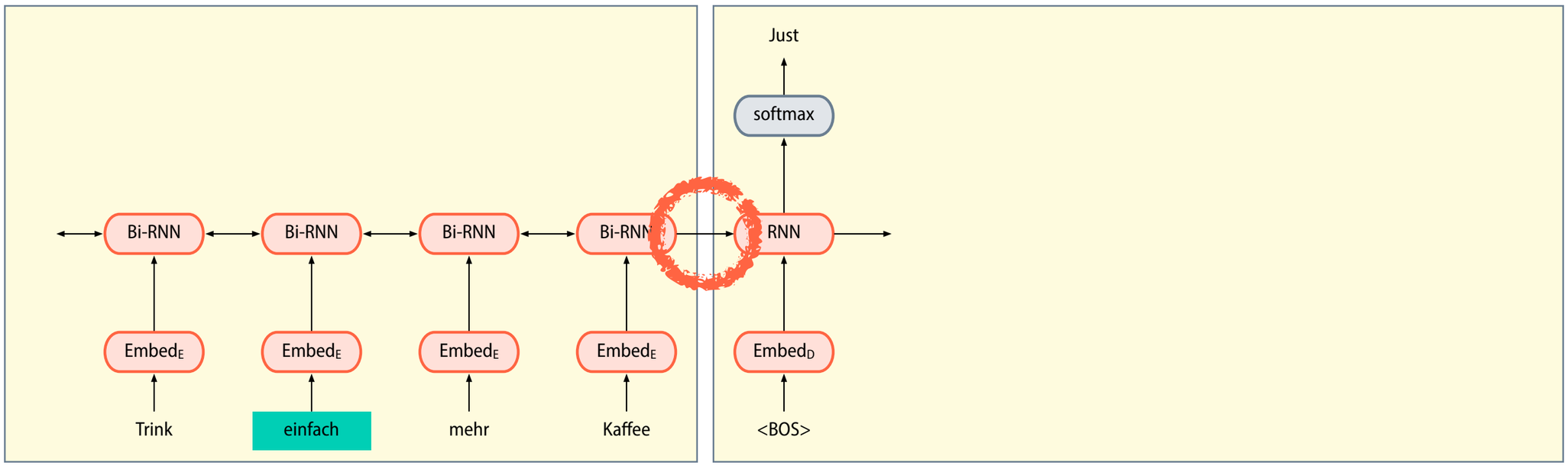


encoder

decoder

Sutskever et al. (2014)

Recency bias in recurrent neural networks

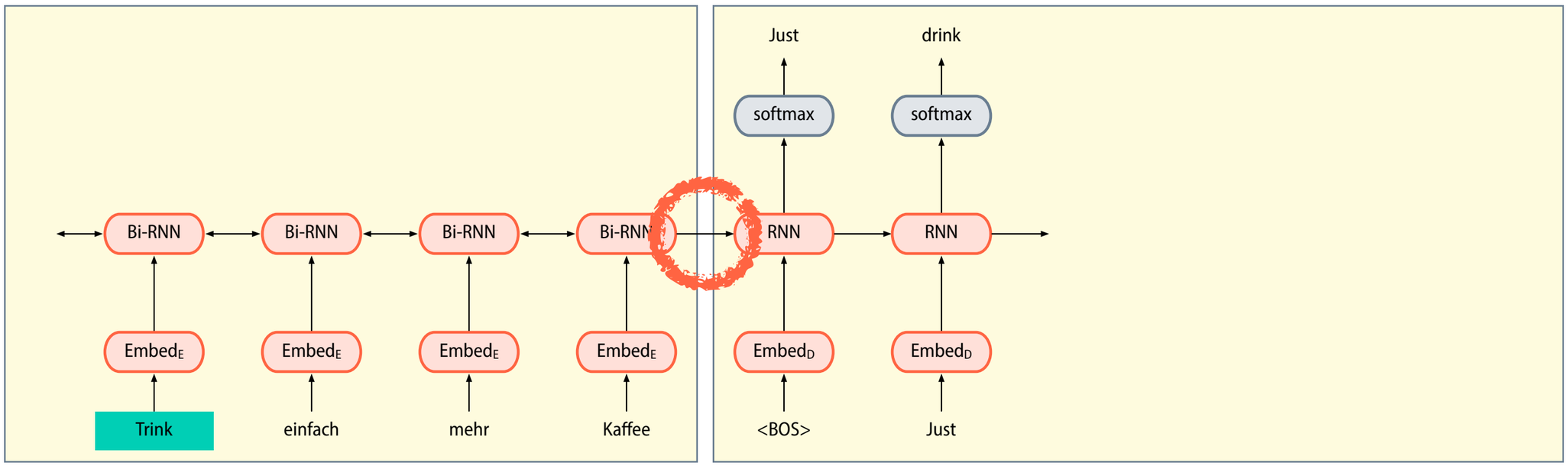


encoder

decoder

Sutskever et al. (2014)

Recency bias in recurrent neural networks



encoder

decoder

Sutskever et al. (2014)

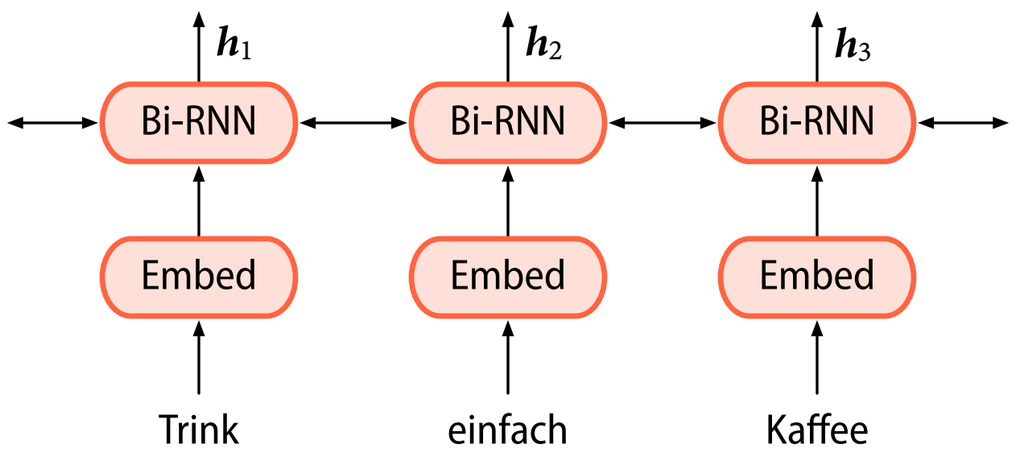
Attention

- In the context of machine translation, **attention** enables the model to learn 'soft' word alignments.
- Essentially, we compute a set of weights that allow us to score words based on how much the model should 'attend to them'.
- Attention was first proposed in the context of the sequence-to-sequence architecture, but is now used in many architectures.

  Bahdanau et al. (2015)

Attention for translation

Just drink coffee

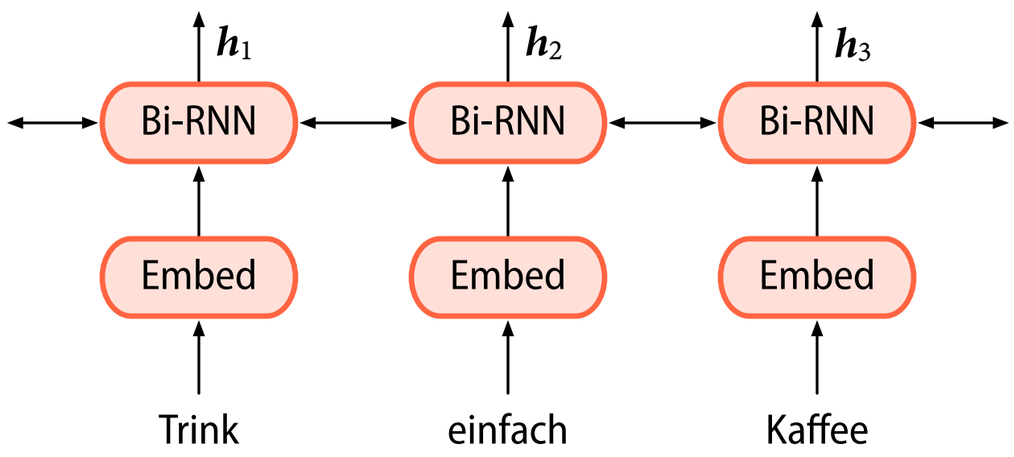


Bahdanau et al. (2015)

Attention for translation

Just drink coffee

previous hidden state of the decoder — s

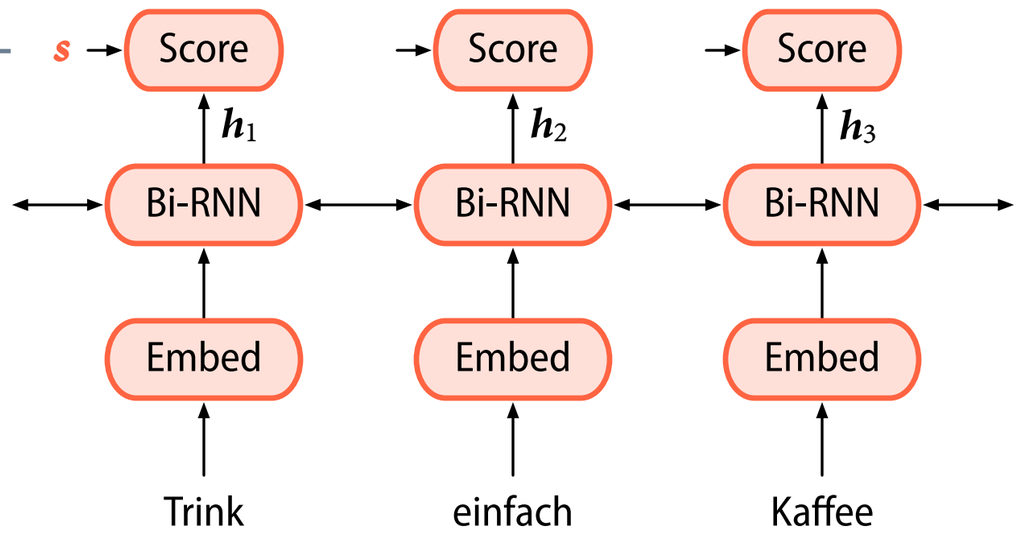


Bahdanau et al. (2015)

Attention for translation

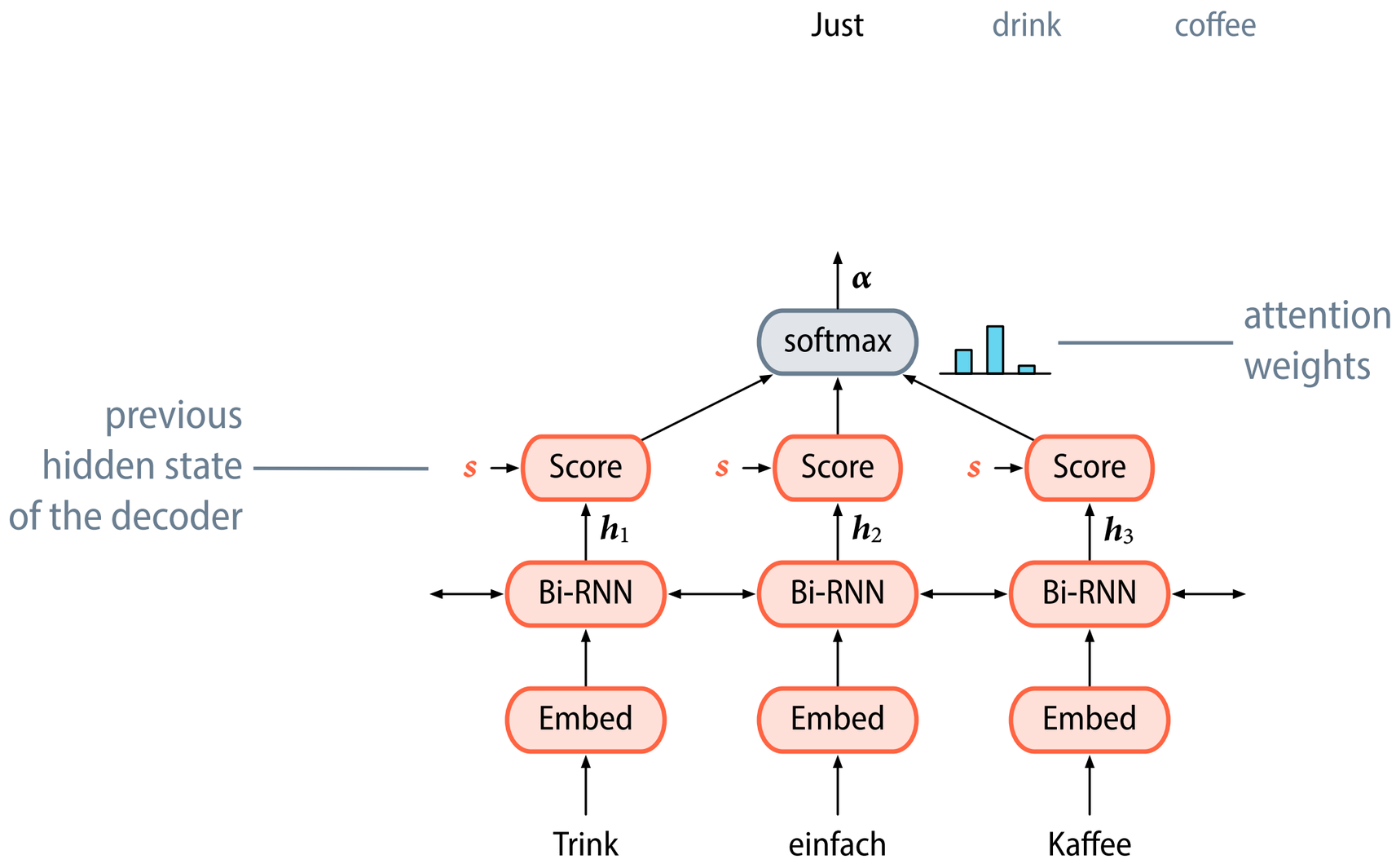
Just drink coffee

previous hidden state of the decoder



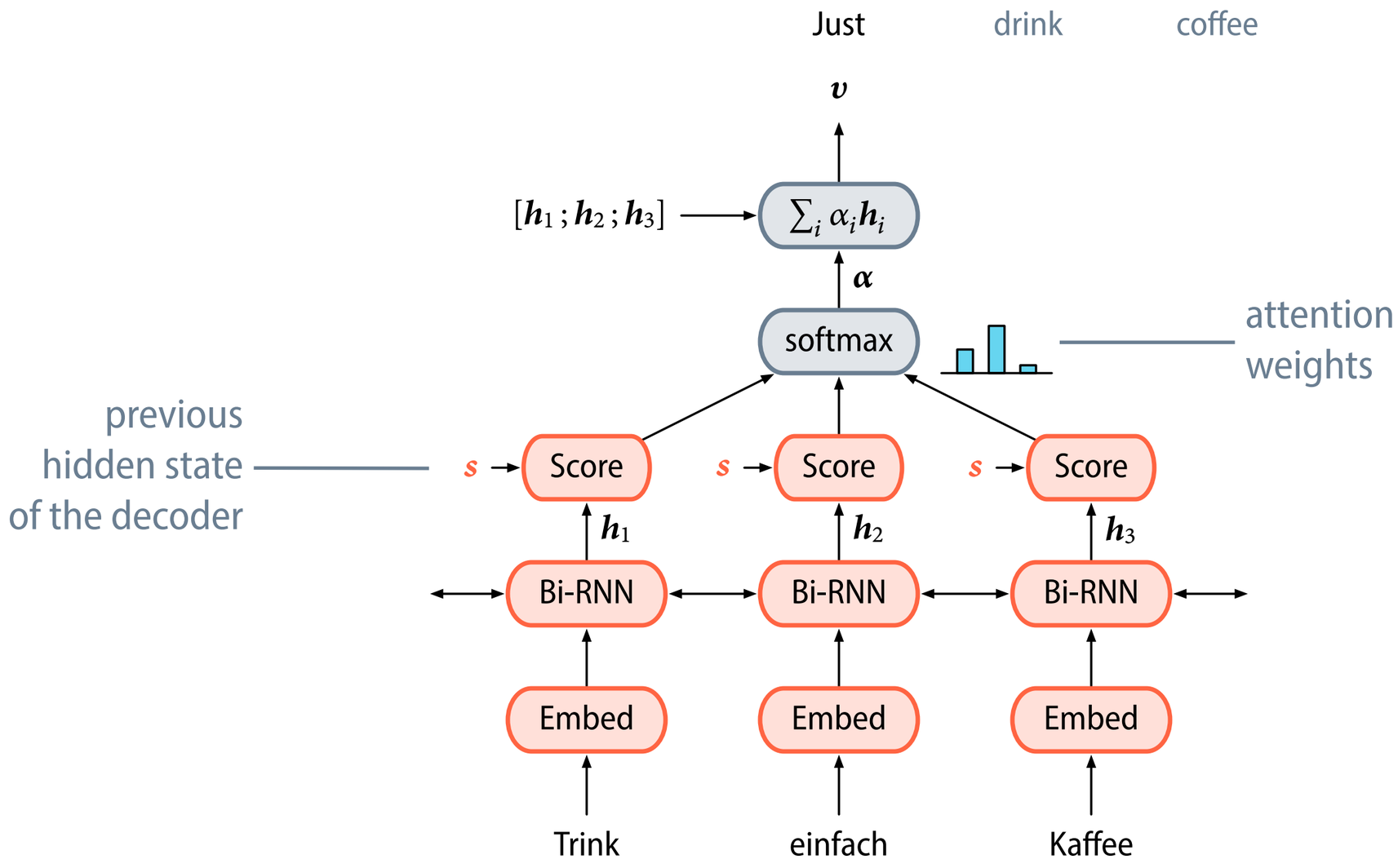
Bahdanau et al. (2015)

Attention for translation



Bahdanau et al. (2015)

Attention for translation



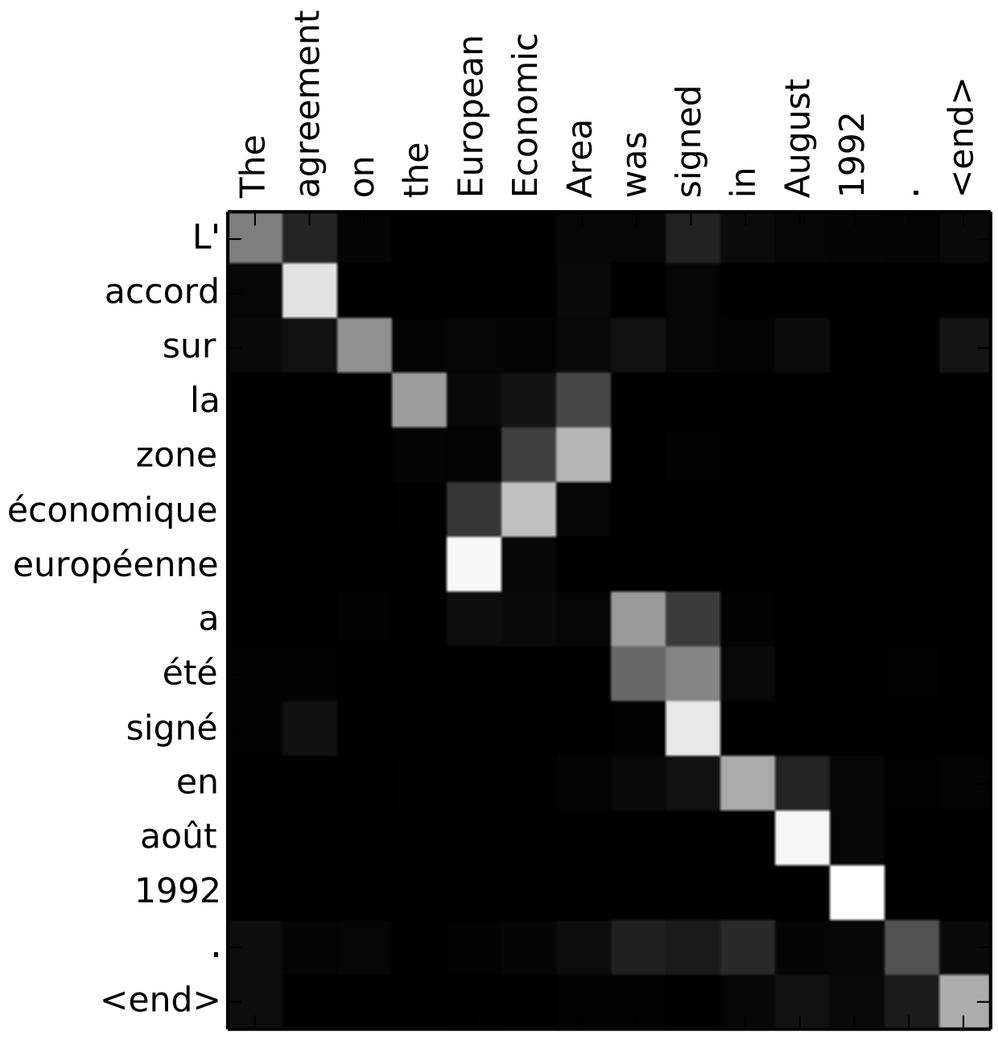
Bahdanau et al. (2015)

A more general characterisation of attention

- In general, attention can be described as a mapping from a query $\boldsymbol{q}$ and a set of key–value pairs $\boldsymbol{k}_i$, $\boldsymbol{v}_i$ to an output.
- The output is the weighted sum of the $\boldsymbol{v}_i$, where the weight of each $\boldsymbol{v}_i$ is given by the compatibility between $\boldsymbol{q}$ and $\boldsymbol{k}_i$.
- In the translation architecture, the query $\boldsymbol{q}$ corresponds to the hidden state of the decoder; and the keys and values correspond to the hidden states of the encoder, $\boldsymbol{h}_i$.

Vaswani et al. (2017)

Attention as word alignments



In the context of the encoder–decoder architecture for neural machine translation, attention can be interpreted as word alignments.

Image source: Bahdanau et al. (2015)