NUS | Computing
National University of Singapore

CS4248: Natural Language Processing

Lecture 10 — Transformers & LLMs

Announcements

Projects

- Grades and comments for Intermediate Update posted
- (Extended for Week 12) Optional consultation session – you can register here

Deadlines

- Standard Project Report Submission Deadline: Thu, Apr 18, 23:59 SGT
- STePS Projects:
  - STePS Public Poster Presentation: Wed, Apr 17, 15:00 – 20:00 SGT
    (Instructors and Project Mentors will let you know rough timing windows for oral viva)
  - Clarification Submission Deadline (if any): Thu, Apr 18, 23:59 SGT

Recap of Week 09

Context-Free Grammars (CFGs)

- Context-Free Grammars
  - Most common way to capture constituency and ordering ➜ good fit for natural language!
    (in fact, context-free grammars were first used to study human languages to describe the structure of sentences)
  - Define what meaningful constituents are and how a constituent is formed out of other constituents
  - More powerful than RegExs as they can express recursive structure
    (in contrast, context free grammars can describe regular languages)
- Example

special start symbol → $S \rightarrow NP\ VP$

$NP \rightarrow Det\ Noun$

$VP \rightarrow Verb\ NP$

$Det \rightarrow a \mid the$

$Noun \rightarrow man \mid meal \mid flight$

$Verb \rightarrow saw \mid booked$

set of **rules** or **productions**

Non-terminal symbols
- Symbols that can be replaced according to rules
- For natural language grammars: phrase names, part of speech

Terminal symbols
- May be the output of a rule; cannot be changed/replaced further
- For natural language grammars: words/tokens

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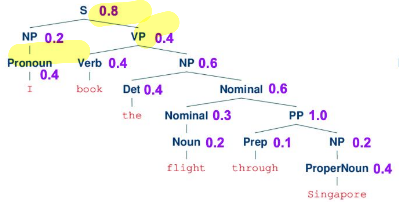
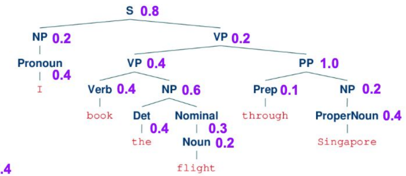
PCFG — Probability of a Parse Tree

- Probability of parse tree = product of probabilities of all rules
  - In practice, sum up log probabilities to avoid arithmetic underflow



$$P(T,S) = \prod_i^n P(A \rightarrow \alpha) = 0.00000071$$



$$P(T,S) = \prod_i^n P(A \rightarrow \alpha) = 0.00000024$$

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CYK — Walkthrough

I	book	the	flight	through	Singapore
[0,1] Pronoun, NP	[0,2] S	[0,3]	[0,4]	[0,5]	[0,6]
	[1,2] S, VP, Nominal, Noun, Verb	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]	[1,6]
		[2,3] Det	[2,4] NP	[2,5]	[2,6]
			[3,4] Nominal, Noun	[3,5]	[3,6]
				[4,5] Prep	[4,6] PP
					[5,6] PropNoun, NP

Cells for spans of length L > 1
➜ Check for each binary split if there is a production rule that can generate split

Example: Cell **[0,2]**
➜ only 1 binary split: [0,1] / [1,2]

Check each possible pair of non-terminals of binary split is the RHS of an existing production rule ➜ Yes, add LHS to cell

LHS	RHS
—	Pronoun S
—	Pronoun VP
—	Pronoun Nominal
—	Pronoun Noun
—	Pronoun Verb
—	NP S
S	NP VP
—	NP Nominal
—	NP Noun
—	NP Verb

Only this rule exists in our grammar

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Evaluation of Parse Trees — Example

Tuples only present in correct tree

$\langle NP, 3, 6\rangle$ $\langle Nominal, 4, 6\rangle$

Tuples resent in both trees

$\langle NP,1,1\rangle$ $\langle Pronoun,1,1\rangle$ $\langle VP,2,2\rangle$ $\langle Verb,2,2\rangle$ $\langle Det,3,3\rangle$ $\langle Nominal,4,4\rangle$ $\langle Noun,4,4\rangle$ $\langle Prep,5,5\rangle$ $\langle ProperNoun,6,6\rangle$ $\langle PP,5,6\rangle$ $\langle NP,6,6\rangle$

Tuples only present in computed tree

$\langle VP, 2, 4\rangle$ $\langle NP, 3, 4\rangle$

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP+FP} = \frac{11}{11+2} = 0.85$$

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP+FN} = \frac{11}{11+2} = 0.85$$

$$\text{f1} = \frac{2 \cdot Precision \cdot Recall}{Precision + Recall} = 0.85$$

TP = # tuples in both trees

FP = # tuples only in the computed tree

FN = # tuples only in the correct tree

Outline

- **Contextual Word Embeddings**
  - **Motivation**
  - ELMo
- Transformers
  - Positional Encoding
  - Core Layers
  - Encoder & Decoder
- Extended Concepts
  - Masking
  - Restricted Attention
- Transformer-based LLMs
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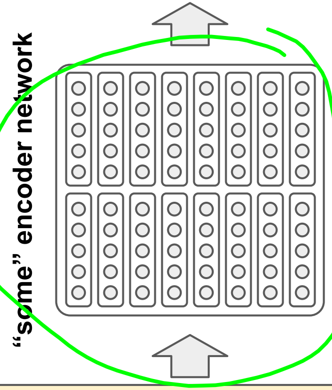
Supervised Training (RNN)

Quick Quiz: Which model is easier to build? Why?

Task A: Learning a Language Model

[...] Precipitation forms as smaller droplets coalesce via collision with other raindrops or ice crystals within a cloud. Short, intense periods of rain in scattered locations are called “showers”.[...]



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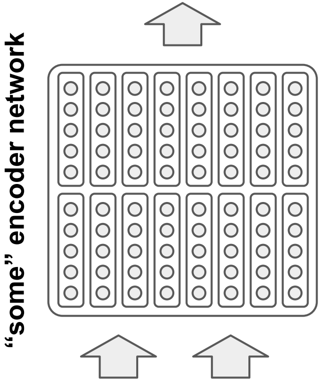
[...] Precipitation forms as smaller droplets coalesce via collision with other raindrops or ice crystals within a cloud. Short, intense periods of rain in scattered locations are called “showers”.[...]

Task B: Learning a QA System

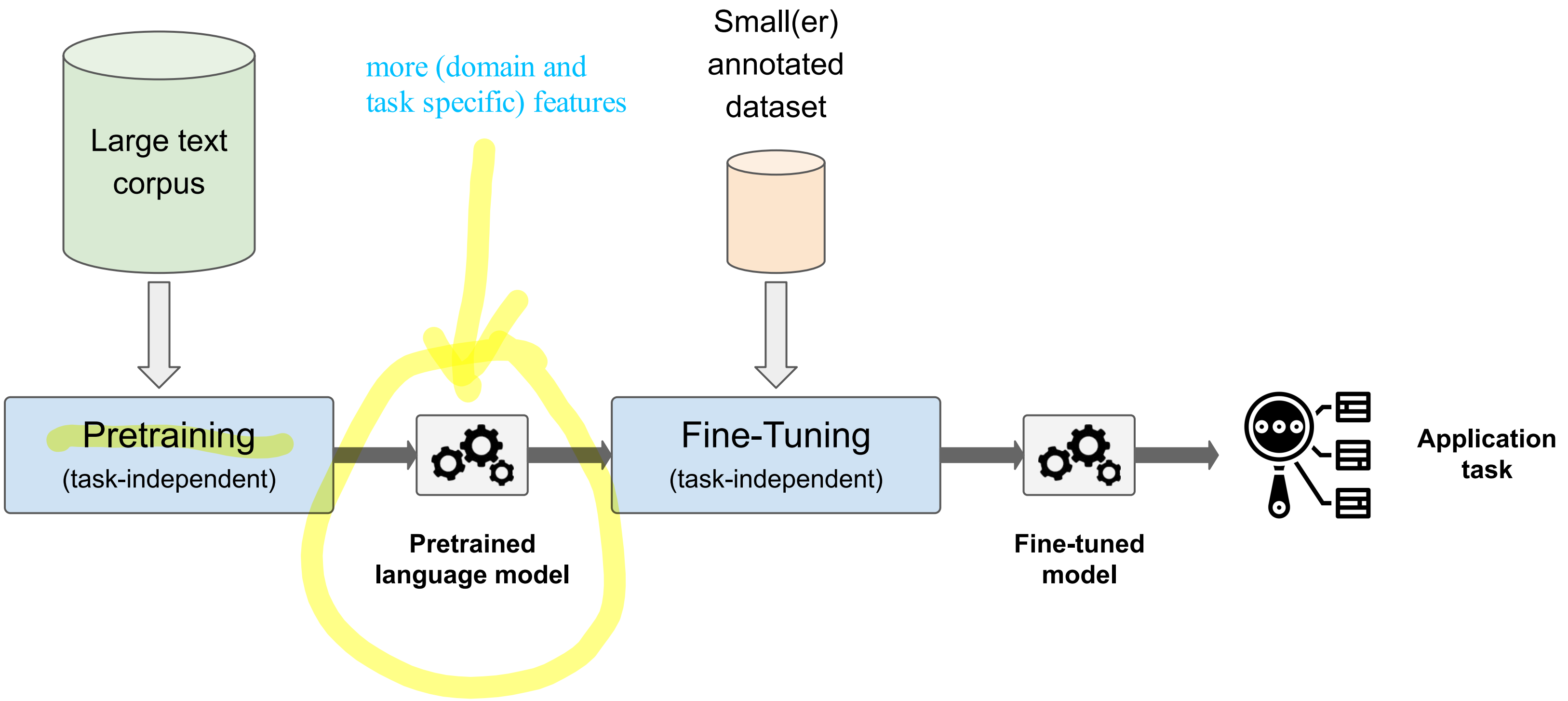
within a cloud



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

[...] Precipitation forms as smaller droplets coalesce via collision with other raindrops or ice crystals **within a cloud**. Short, intense periods of rain in scattered locations are called “showers”.[...]

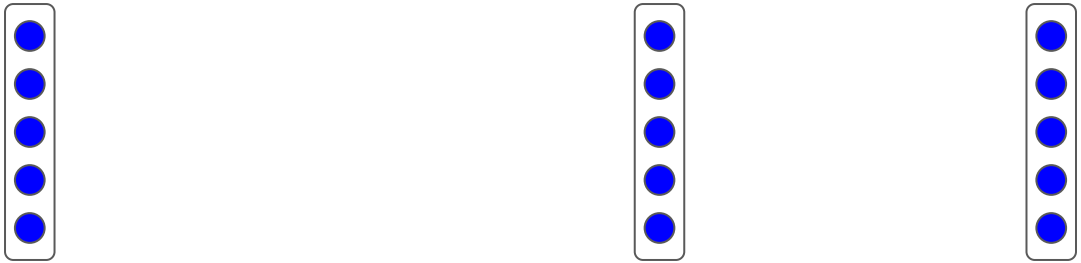
Transfer Learning for NLP Models



Transfer Learning with Word2Vec (or GloVe)

- Word2Vec: (almost) context-independent
  - BoW model ➜ no consideration of word order
  - Limited window size ➜ no consideration of whole sentence
  - Combining all the senses of a word into a single vector

"A light wind will make the traffic light collapse and light up in flames."

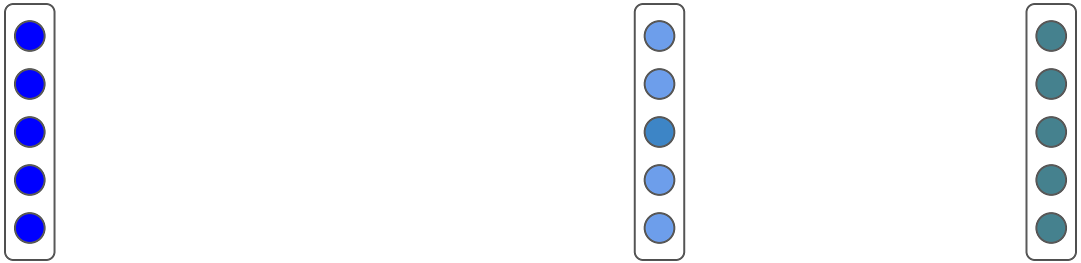


Problem: Same word vector for all occurrences of *"light"*!

Goal: Contextualized Word Embeddings

- What we want
  - Word representations should vary depending on context
  - Context = whole sentence + word order

“A light wind will make the traffic light collapse and light up in flames.”



~ weak, soft mild

~ glow, brightness

~ ignite, burn, kindle

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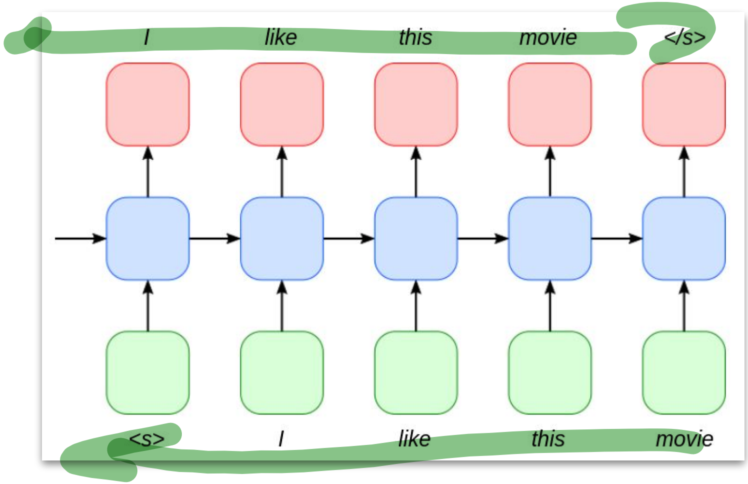
ELMo — Embeddings from Language Model

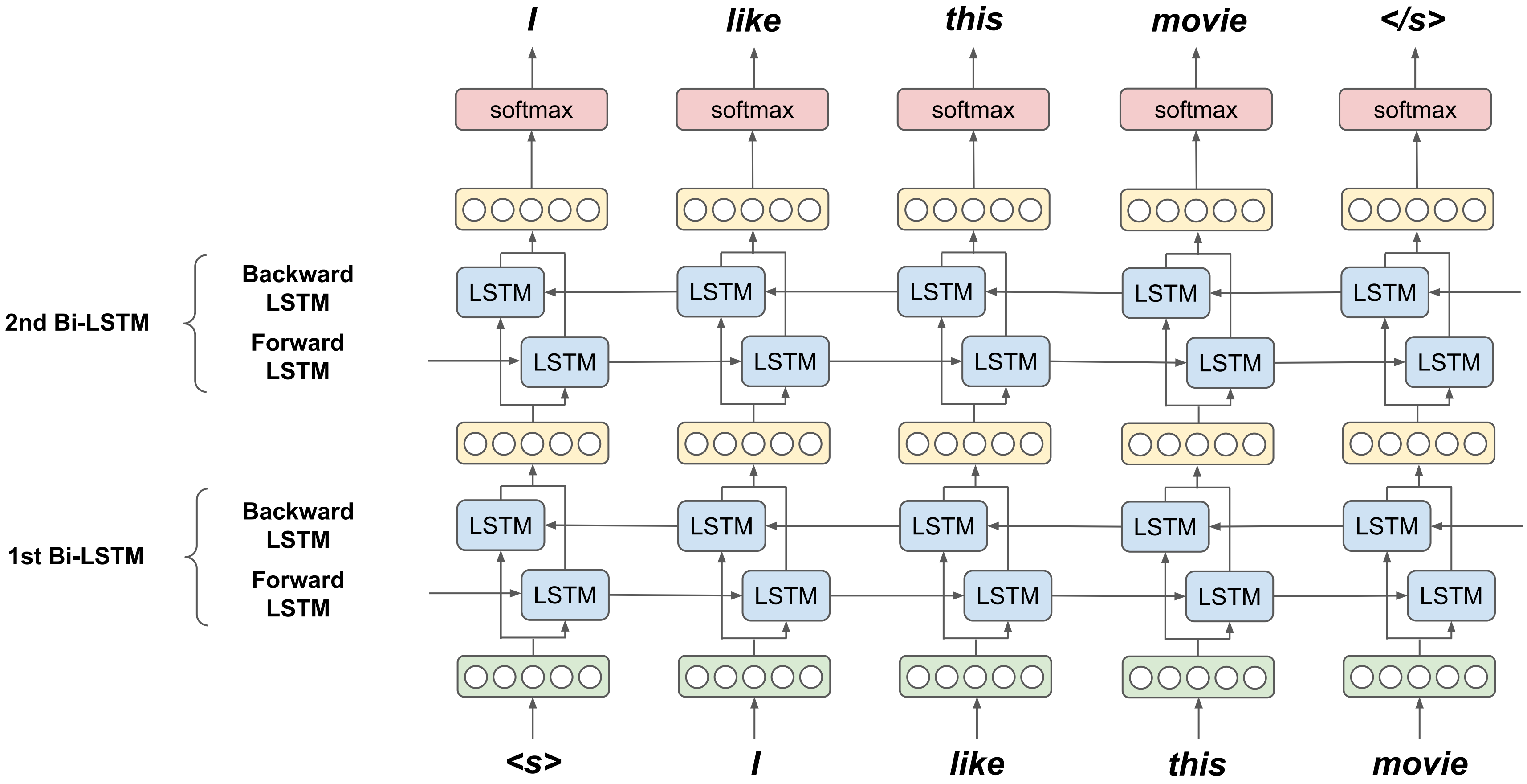
- ELMo = RNN-based Language model, but…
  - LSTM instead of Vanilla RNN
    (better handling of long dependencies)
  - Bi-LSTM — Bidirectional LSTM
    (forward and backward processing of sequence)
  - Two Bi-LSTM layers
    (output of 1st layer = input of 2nd layer)

Recall: Vanilla RNN Language Model



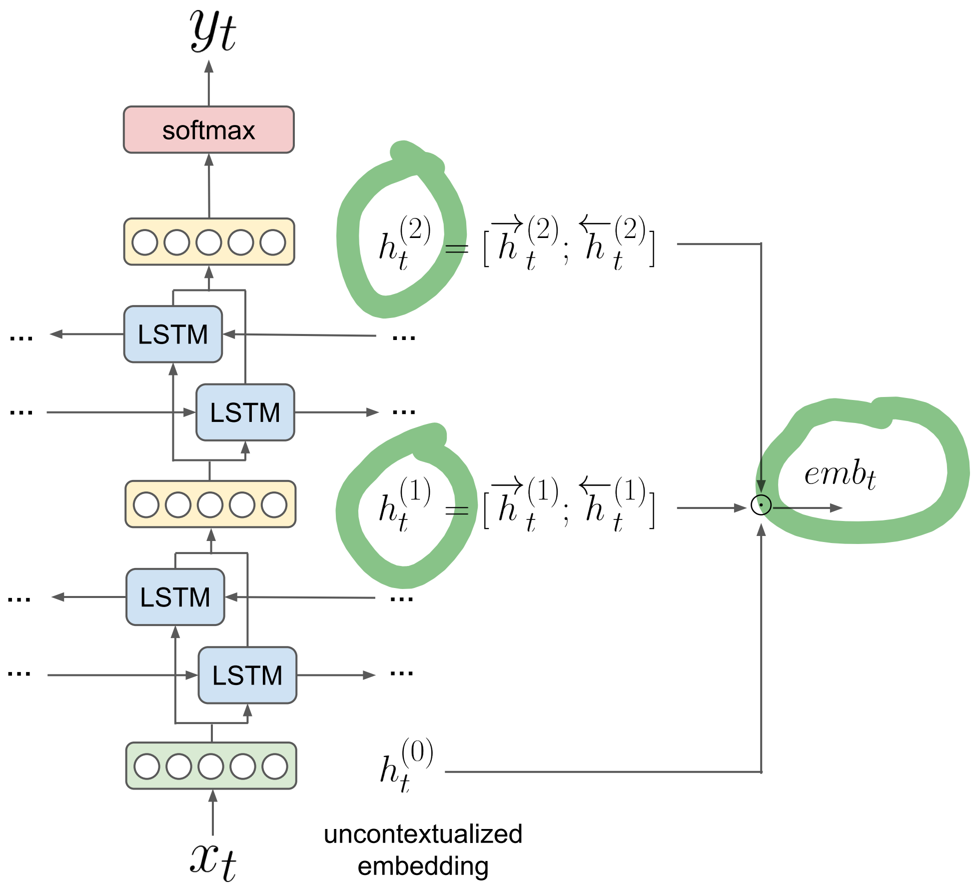
Source: [Deep Contextualized Word Representations]

ELMo



I
like
this
movie
</s>
softmax
2nd Bi-LSTM
Backward LSTM
Forward LSTM
1st Bi-LSTM
Backward LSTM
Forward LSTM
LSTM
<s>
I
like
this
movie

ELMo — Final Embeddings



Final embedding = “some” function of $\boxed{h_t^{(i)}}$

Simplest case: top layer $emb_t = \boxed{h_t^{(2)}}$

Generalized approach: weighted sum

$$\boxed{emb_t = \gamma \sum_{j=0}^{2} s_j h_t^{(i)} \quad , \text{with} \sum_{j=1}^{2} s_j = 1}$$

scaling factor

normalized weight

task-dependent values

ELMo — Evaluation

- Improvement of NLP downstream tasks

TASK	PREVIOUS SOTA		OUR BASELINE	ELMO + BASELINE	INCREASE (ABSOLUTE/ RELATIVE)
SQuAD	Liu et al. (2017)	84.4	81.1	85.8	4.7 / 24.9%
SNLI	Chen et al. (2017)	88.6	88.0	88.7 ± 0.17	0.7 / 5.8%
SRL	He et al. (2017)	81.7	81.4	84.6	3.2 / 17.2%
Coref	Lee et al. (2017)	67.2	67.2	70.4	3.2 / 9.8%
NER	Peters et al. (2017)	91.93 ± 0.19	90.15	92.22 ± 0.10	2.06 / 21%
SST-5	McCann et al. (2017)	53.7	51.4	54.7 ± 0.5	3.3 / 6.8%

Source: Deep Contextualized Word Representations

ELMo — Evaluation

- Qualitative understanding what ELMo learns

	Source	Nearest Neighbors
GloVe	play	playing, game, games, played, players, plays, player, Play, football, multiplayer
biLM	Chico Ruiz made a spectacular play on Alusik 's grounder {...}	Kieffer , the only junior in the group , was commended for his ability to hit in the clutch , as well as his all-round excellent play .
	Olivia De Havilland signed to do a Broadway play for Garson {...}	{...} they were actors who had been handed fat roles in a successful play , and had talent enough to fill the roles competently , with nice understatement .

Source: Deep Contextualized Word Representations

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Pre-Lecture Activity for Next Week

Read *8 Google Employees Invented Modern AI. Here's the Inside Story* (Wired Article)

Apply your own (self-)attention to the article. Quote a sentence of the article you think most or least strikes your attention. Tell us why.

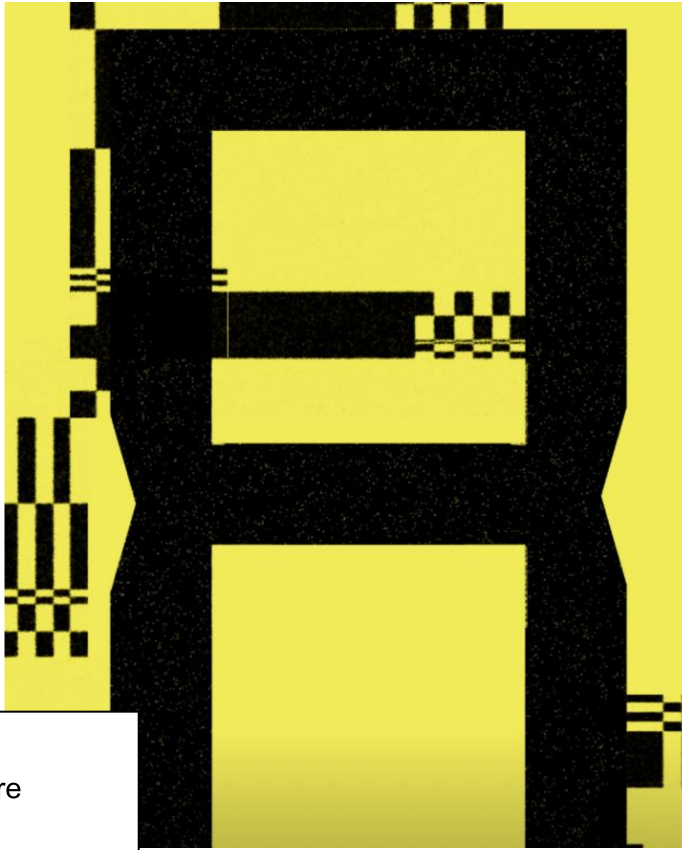


Photo credit: Wired

Side notes:

- This task is meant as a warm-up to provide some context for the next lecture
- No worries if you get lost; we will talk about this in the next lecture
- You can just copy-&-paste others' answers but this won't help you learn better

Pre-Lecture Activity from Last Week

The idea was that this mechanism would *transform* the information it took in, allowing the system to extract as much understanding as a human might

Why transfomers?

I still can't fully understand how it transforms, what the difference between transformers and attention? Looking forward to lecture

"Apple had just announced Siri, a virtual assistant that promised to deliver one-shot answers in casual conversation, and the Google brass smelled a huge competitive threat: Siri could eat up their search traffic"

This sentence caught my attention as I didnt realise Google will view Siri as a threat. Looking back, it is clear that Siri did not threaten Google's dominance in the search space. However, this was likely not apparent to the senior management in Google back then. Nonetheless, after the release of chatGPT, now Google must step up its efforts to avoid being replaced by GenAI based search tools.

“People raised their eyebrows, because it dumped out all the existing neural architectures,” Jakob Uszkoreit says. Say goodbye to recurrent neural nets? Heresy!

The quote above caught my attention because it showed how transformers, as widely-accepted as they are now, weren't always that way. It shows how it's not always obvious how well a new idea would work or whether it would work at all. It also shows how in the world of research, people need to be innovative and dare to try unusual things, since it may just be the next breakthrough we were looking for.

Maybe transformers too will be rendered obsolete within the next decade by a new discovery. Who knows?

Reply

"Hallway encounters and overheard lunch conversations led to big moments."

This sentence strikes my attention the most as it implies that big advancements in AI, which are often seen as complex and highly technical, can emerge from everyday interactions and informal settings.

Reply

RNN — Problem: (Very) Long Sequences

- Training
  - **Vanishing & Exploding Gradients** problem (not detailed here)
- Information capture
  - Hidden state h_t must capture all information from $h_0, h_1, ..., h_{t-1}$
  - Information dilutes over time ➜ **bottleneck**
- Performance
  - Processing is intrinsically sequential ➜ **no parallelization**
  - GPU-based performance gain depends on parallelization

➜ **Attention**

➜ **Transformer**

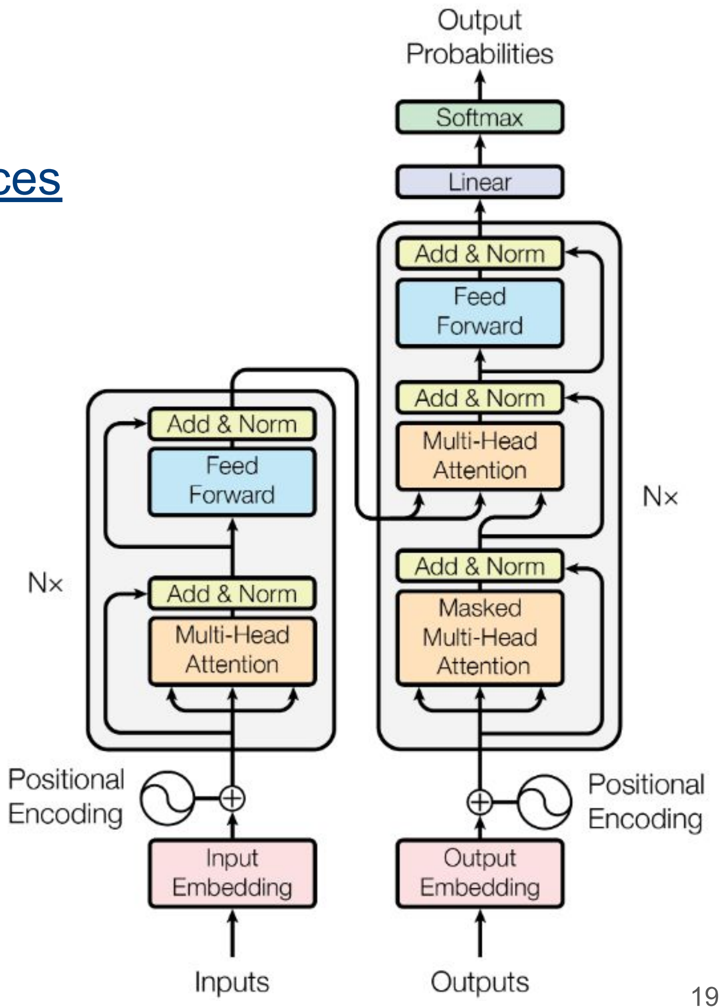
Transformer — Architecture

- Encoder–decoder architecture without recurrences
  - No long-range dependencies ➜ no bottleneck
  - No sequential processing ➜ easy to parallelize

    (note: this does not mean transformers are easier/faster to train!)

- Core concept: **Attention**
  - Alignment scores between **all** word pairs

- Important: **Positional Embeddings**
  - Preserve order of words in sequence



Source: Attention is all You Need

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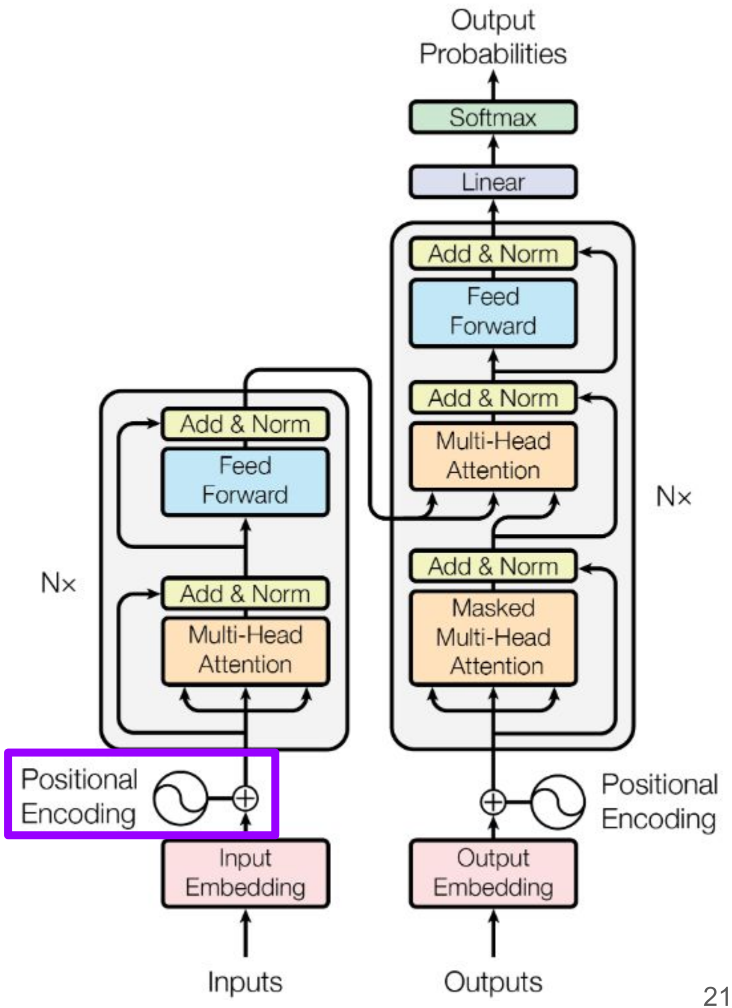
Positional Encodings

- Recall: RNNs process words sequentially
  - Considers order of words
  - Considers distance between words

- Transformers
  - Process all words all at once
  - No in-built mechanism to consider word order and word distances

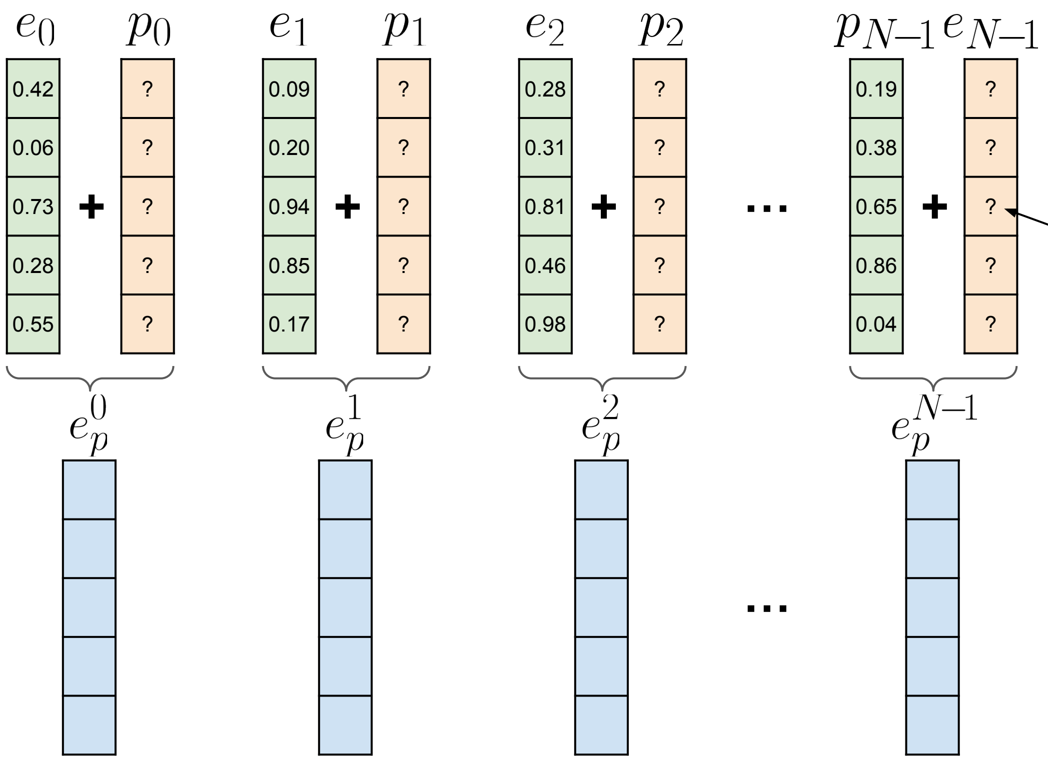
Can we somehow encode the position of words?

(as part of preprocessing the input for the transformer)



🏃‍♀️🏃🏃‍♂️ What's Your Position?

Basic idea: Add "some" position embeddings p to initial word embeddings e



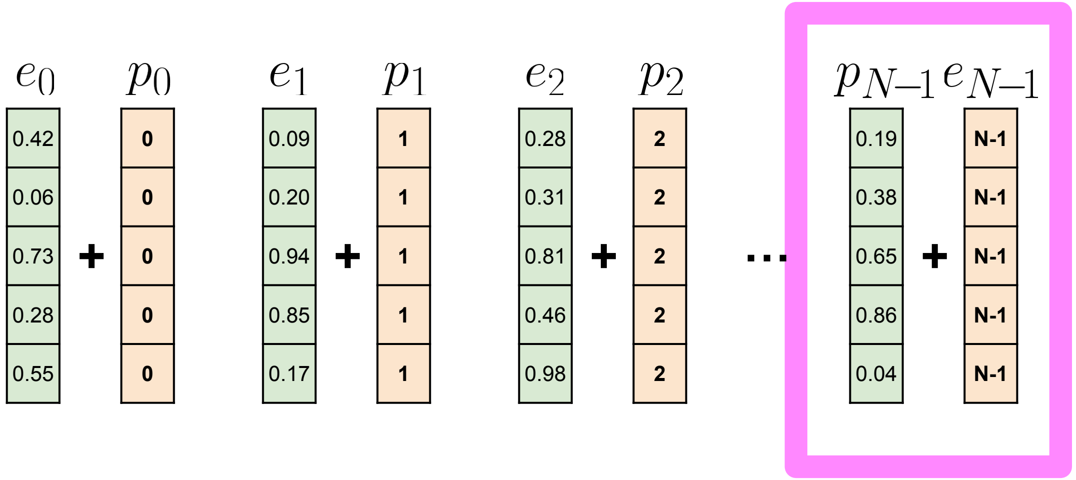
Questions:

- What are important requirements for "good" position embeddings?
- How could we compute them?

Post your answer to Canvas > Discussions > [In-Lecture] L1
(individually or as a group; include all group members' names in the post)

Positional Encodings — Naive Approach 1

- Set position embedding values to actual position



➜ **Problem:** positional encodings quickly start “dominating” word embeddings

- Magnitude of positional embedding values depends on sequence length *N*

Positional Encodings — Naive Approach 2

- Set position embedding values to $\dfrac{pos}{N-1}$

e_0		p_0	e_1		p_1	e_2		p_2		p_{N-1}		e_{N-1}
0.42		**0**	0.09		**0.2**	0.28		**0.4**		0.19		**1**
0.06		**0**	0.20		**0.2**	0.31		**0.4**		0.38		**1**
0.73	**+**	**0**	0.94	**+**	**0.2**	0.81	**+**	**0.4**	...	0.65	**+**	**1**
0.28		**0**	0.85		**0.2**	0.46		**0.4**		0.86		**1**
0.55		**0**	0.17		**0.2**	0.98		**0.4**		0.04		**1**

Example values for $N=6$

➜ **Problem:** positional encodings depend on the length of the sequence length

- encoding of the same position will differ for sequences with different lengths

Positional Encodings — Proposed Approach

- Set position embedding values to

$$PE_{(pos,2i)} = \sin\left(\frac{pos}{10000^{2i/d_{model}}}\right)$$

$$PE_{(pos,2i+1)} = \cos\left(\frac{pos}{10000^{2i/d_{model}}}\right)$$

pos

	p_0		p_{15}		p_{100}	
$i=0$	0.0		0.65		-0.51	
$i=1$	1.0		0.93		-0.81	
$i=2$	0.0	...	0.01	...	0.06	...
$i=3$	1.0		1.0		1.0	
$i=4$	0.0		0.0		0.0	

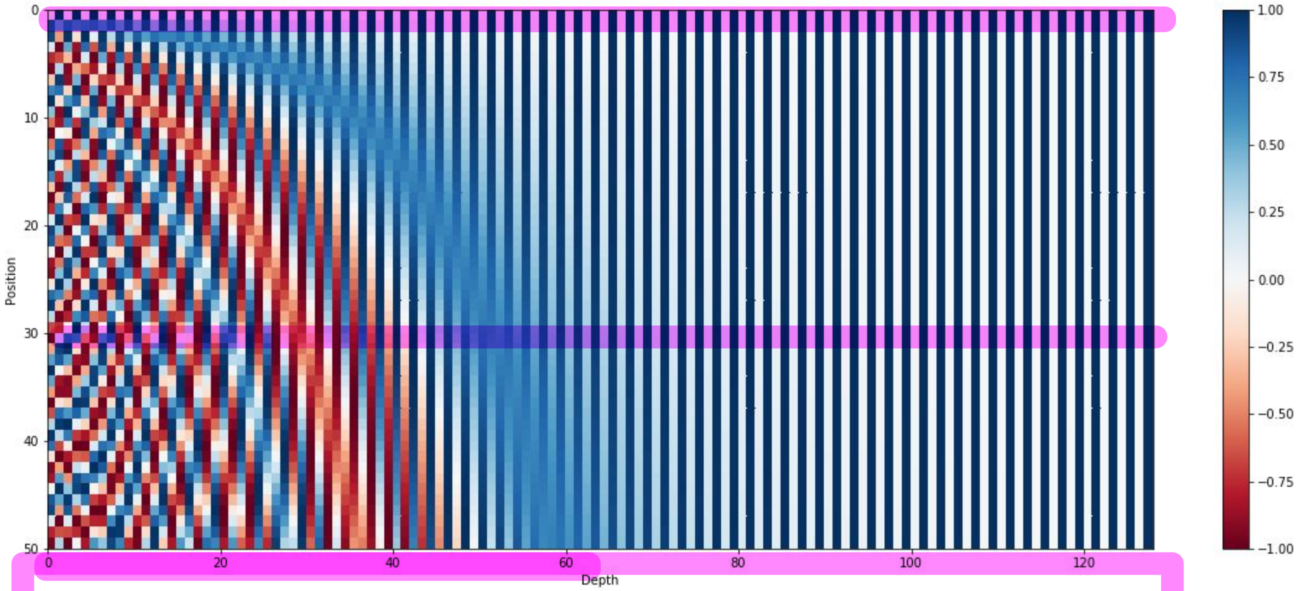
Advantages:

- Unique encoding for each position
- All values or of interval [-1, 1]
- Position encoding independent from N

Positional Encodings — Visualized

Representing a position/order (l) in binary and (r) in floats (positional encoding)

0 :	0	0	0	0
1 :	0	0	0	1
2 :	0	0	1	0
3 :	0	0	1	1
4 :	0	1	0	0
5 :	0	1	0	1
6 :	0	1	1	0
7 :	0	1	1	1



128-dimensional positional encoding for a sentence with length=50. Each row represents the embedding vector.

Source: [Transformer Architecture: The Positional Encoding]

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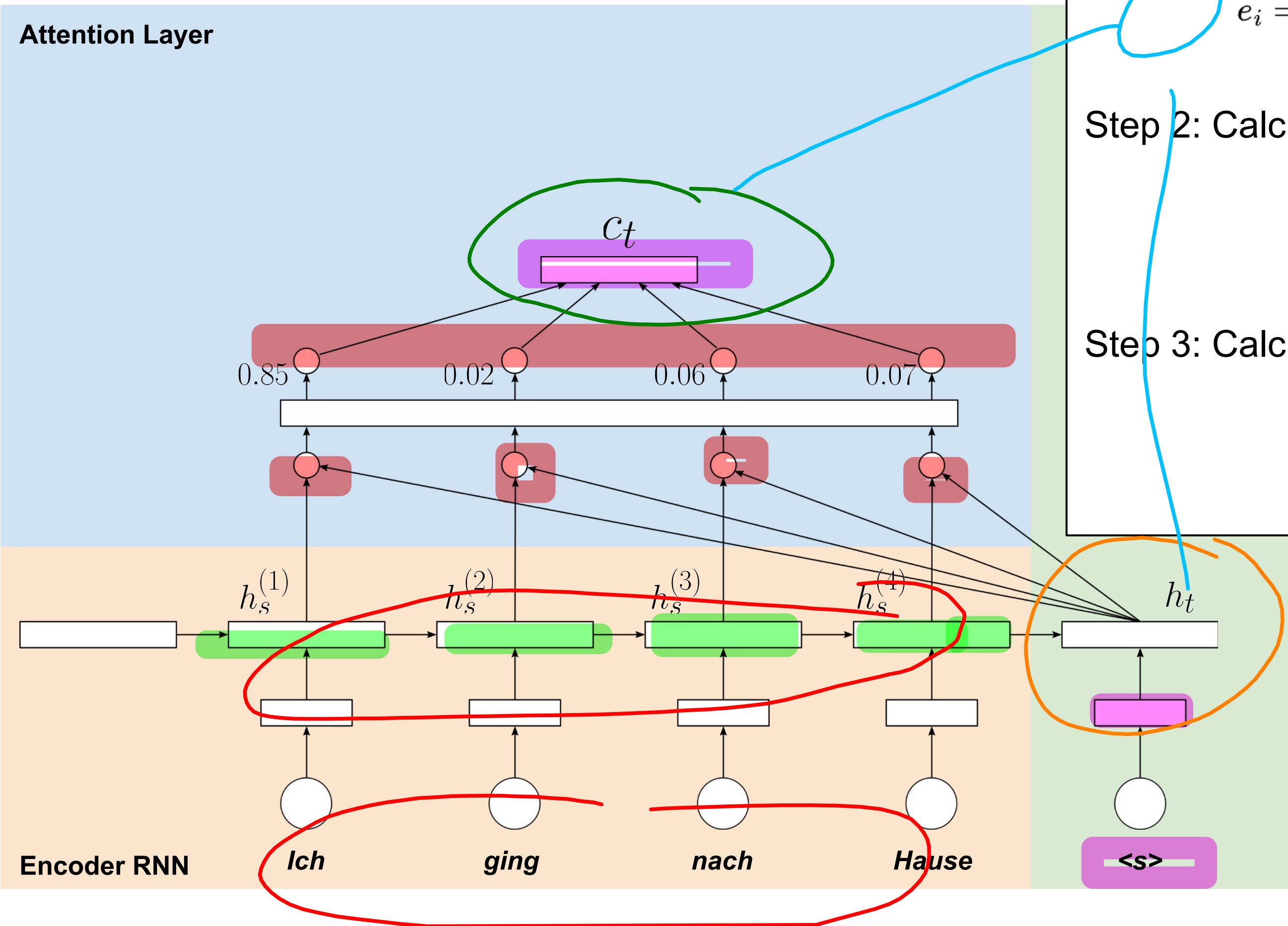
RNN Attention (revisited)



Step 1: Calculation of **Attention Scores**

$$e_i = score\left(h_t, h_s^{(i)}\right) = \begin{cases} h_t^\top h_s^{(i)} \\ \dots \end{cases}$$

Step 2: Calculation of **Attention Weights**

$$a_i = \frac{\exp\left(e_i\right)}{\sum_i \exp\left(e_i\right)}$$

Step 3: Calculation of **Context Vector**

$$c_t = \sum_i a_i \cdot h_s^{(i)}$$

RNN Attention (revisited)

hidden state of decoder

hidden states of encoder

$$\underbrace{\mathrm{softmax}\left(\frac{\text{went}\left(\begin{bmatrix} h_t \end{bmatrix}\right) \times \left(\begin{array}{cccc} \text{Ich} & \text{ging} & \text{nach} & \text{Hause} \\ \begin{bmatrix} h_s^{(1)} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} h_s^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} h_s^{(3)} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} h_s^{(4)} \end{bmatrix} \end{array}\right)}{1}\right)}_{(a_1\ a_2\ a_3\ a_4)} \times \begin{array}{r} \text{Ich} \\ \text{ging} \\ \text{nach} \\ \text{Hause} \end{array} \left(\begin{array}{c} \begin{bmatrix} h_s^{(1)} \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} h_s^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} h_s^{(3)} \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} h_s^{(4)} \end{bmatrix} \end{array}\right) = \left(\begin{bmatrix} c_t \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

context vector

attention weights

Attention — Generalized Definition

$$\mathrm{softmax}\left(\frac{\text{went}\,\left(\begin{bmatrix} h_t \end{bmatrix}\right) \times \left(\begin{array}{cccc} \text{Ich} & \text{ging} & \text{nach} & \text{Hause} \\ h_s^{(1)} & h_s^{(2)} & h_s^{(3)} & h_s^{(4)} \end{array}\right)}{1}\right) \times \begin{array}{r} \text{Ich} \\ \text{ging} \\ \text{nach} \\ \text{Hause} \end{array}\left(\begin{bmatrix} h_s^{(1)} \\ h_s^{(2)} \\ h_s^{(3)} \\ h_s^{(4)} \end{bmatrix}\right) = \left(\begin{bmatrix} c_t \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

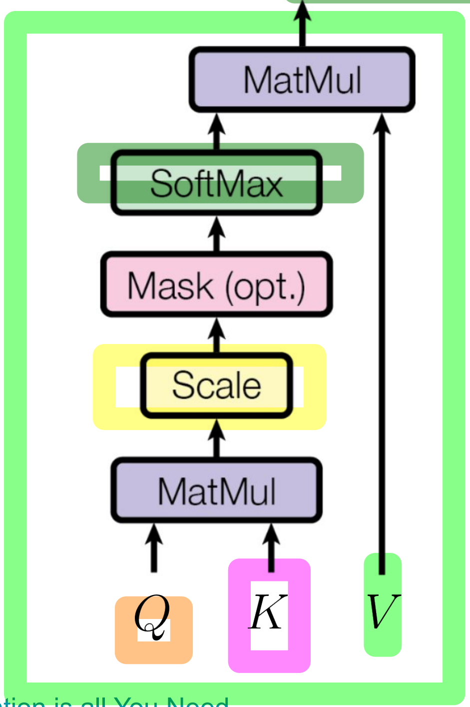
$$\mathrm{Attention}(Q, K, V) = \mathrm{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^\top}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)V$$

Scaled Dot-Product Attention

- Intuition: queries Q, keys K, values V
- $k \in K$, $q \in Q$ are vectors of size d_k
- scaling by $\sqrt{d_k}$ leads to more stable gradients

Scaled Dot-Product Attention

$$\mathrm{Attention}(Q, K, V) = \mathrm{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^\top}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)V$$



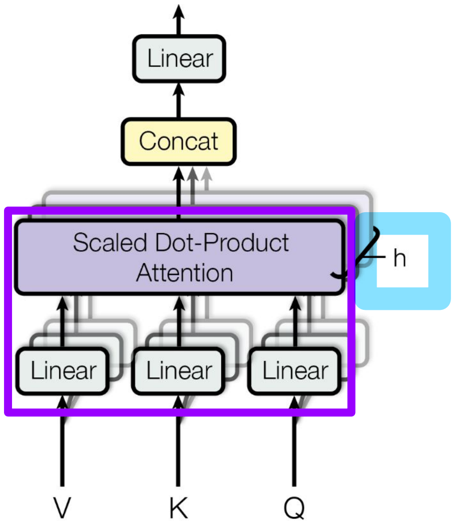

```python
import torch
import torch.nn as nn


class Attention(nn.Module):
    ### Implements Scaled Dot Product Attention

    def __init__(self):
        super().__init__()

    def forward(self, Q, K, V, mask=None, dropout=None):
        # All inputshapes: (batch_size B, seq_len L, model_size D)

        # Perform Q*K^T (* is the dot product here)
        # We have to use torch.matmul since we work with batches!
        out = torch.matmul(Q, K.transpose(1, 2)) # => shape: (B, L, L)

        # scale alignment scores
        out = out / (Q.shape[-1] ** 0.5)

        # Push throught softmax layer
        out = f.softmax(out, dim=-1)

        # Multiply scaled alignment scores with values V
        return torch.matmul(out, V)
```

Source: [Attention is all You Need]()

Attention Head

- Maps model size d_{model} to size of queries, keys, and values (by default: same size)
- Proposed: $d_q = d_k = d_v = (d_{model}/h)$

Number of **heads**; see next slide




```python
import torch
import torch.nn as nn


class AttentionHead(nn.Module):

    def __init__(self, model_size, qkv_size):
        super().__init__()
        self.Wq = nn.Linear(model_size, qkv_size)
        self.Wk = nn.Linear(model_size, qkv_size)
        self.Wv = nn.Linear(model_size, qkv_size)
        self.attention = Attention()

    def forward(self, queries, keys, values):
        # Computes scaled dot-product attention
        return self.attention(self.Wq(queries),
                              self.Wk(keys),
                              self.Wv(values))
```

Quick Quiz: What do you think is the reason for dividing by the number of heads?

Outline

- Contextual Word Embeddings
  - Motivation
  - ELMo
- **Transformers**
  - Positional Encoding
  - **Core Layers: Multi-Head Attention**
  - Encoder & Decoder
- Extended Concepts
  - Masking
  - Restricted Attention
- Transformer-based LLMs
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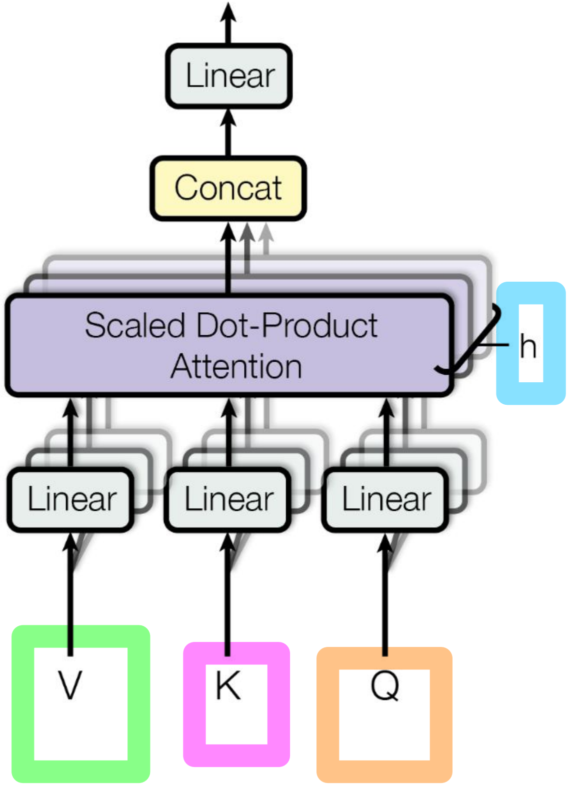
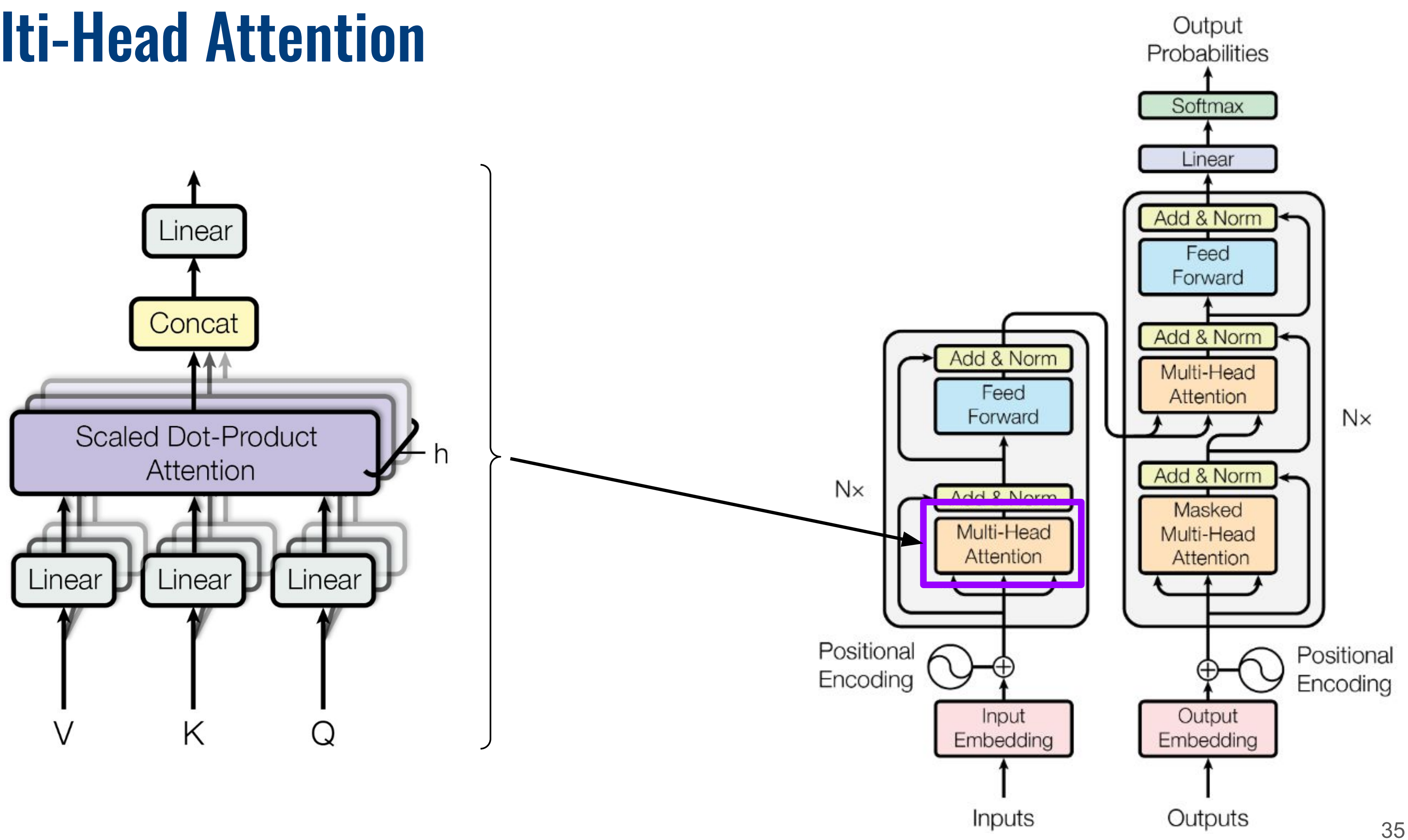
Multi-Head Attention (MHA)

Purpose / Intuition

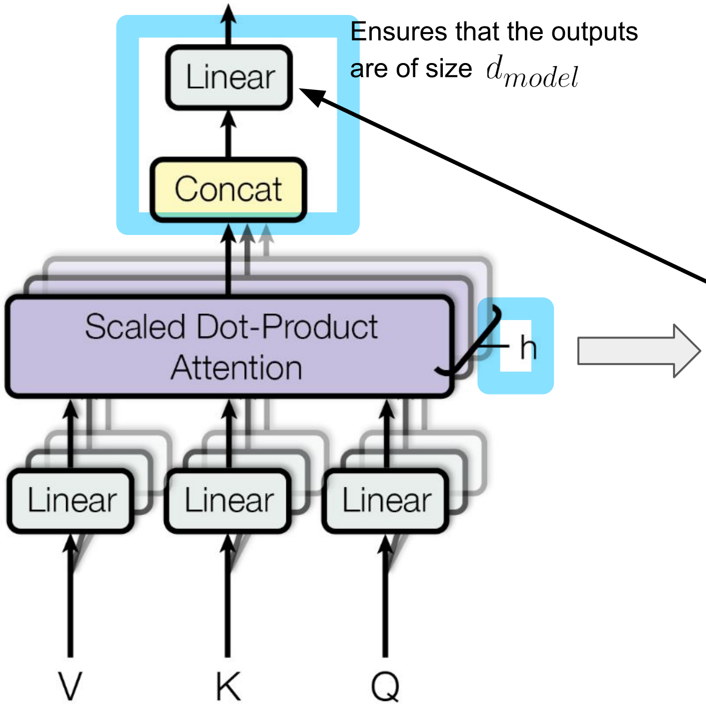
- A word may relate to multiple other words in a sentence
- A single Attention Head considers only one instance of relationship between pairs of words
- MHA allows to capture different relationships
  (note that each Attention Head comes with its own weight matrices!)
- Parameter: number of heads ➜ h



Multi-Head Attention



Multi-Head Attention



Ensures that the outputs are of size d_{model}

```python
import torch
import torch.nn as nn


class MultiHeadAttention(nn.Module):

    def __init__(self, num_heads, model_size, qkv_size):
        super().__init__()

        # Define num_heads attention heads
        self.heads = nn.ModuleList(
            [ AttentionHead(model_size, qkv_size) for _ in range(num_heads) ]
        )

        # Linear layer to "unify" all heads into one
        self.Wo = nn.Linear(num_heads * qkv_size, model_size)

    def forward(self, query, key, value):
        # Compute the outputs for all attention heads
        out_heads = [ head(query, key, value) for head in self.heads ]

        # Concatenate output of all attention heads
        out = torch.cat(out_heads, dim=-1)

        # Unify concatenated output to the model size
        return self.Wo(out)
```

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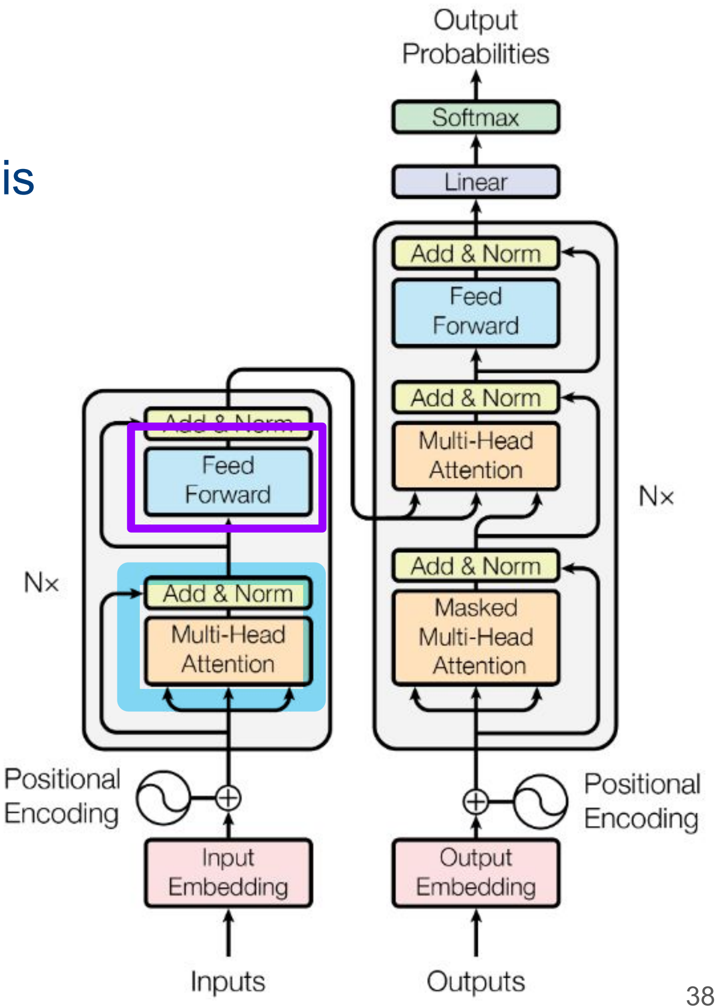
Feed Forward Layer

- The original paper doesn't say what its purpose is
- …uh, increase capacity / complexity

> Feed-forward layers constitute two-thirds of a transformer model's parameters, yet their role in the network remains under-explored.



Source: [Transformer Feed-Forward Layers Are Key-Value Memories (2021)]

Feed Forward Layer

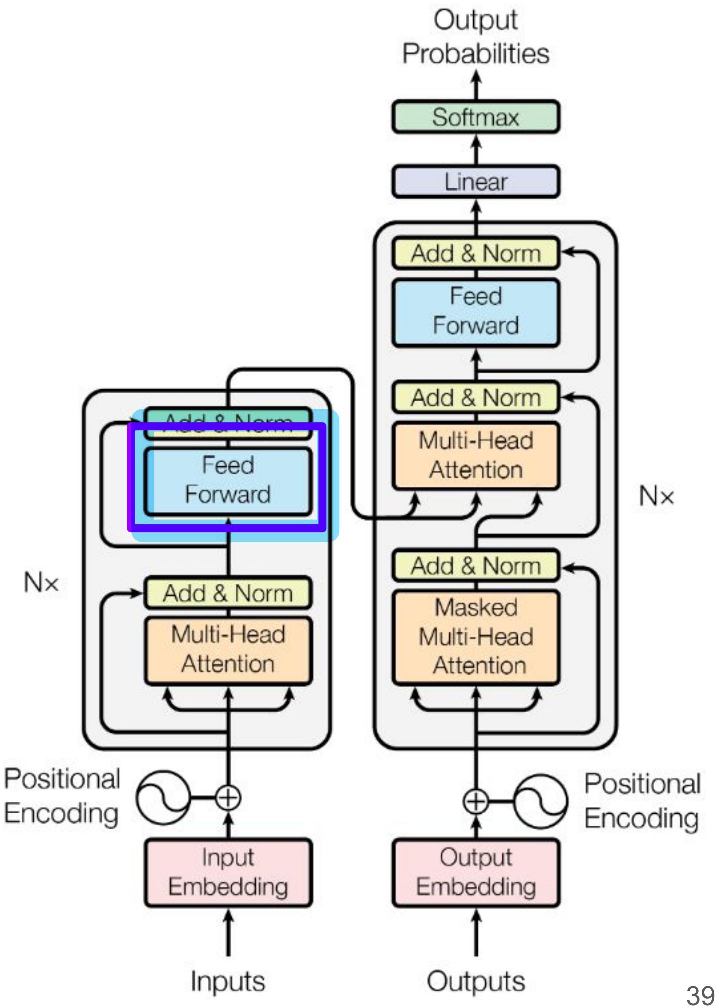
```python
import torch
import torch.nn as nn


class FeedForward(nn.Module):

    def __init__(self, model_size, hidden_size=2048):
        super().__init__()

        # Very simple 2-layer fully connected network
        self.net = nn.Sequential(
            nn.Linear(model_size, hidden_size),
            nn.ReLU(),
            nn.Linear(hidden_size, model_size),
        )

    def forward(self, X):
        return self.net(X)
```



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Encoder Layer

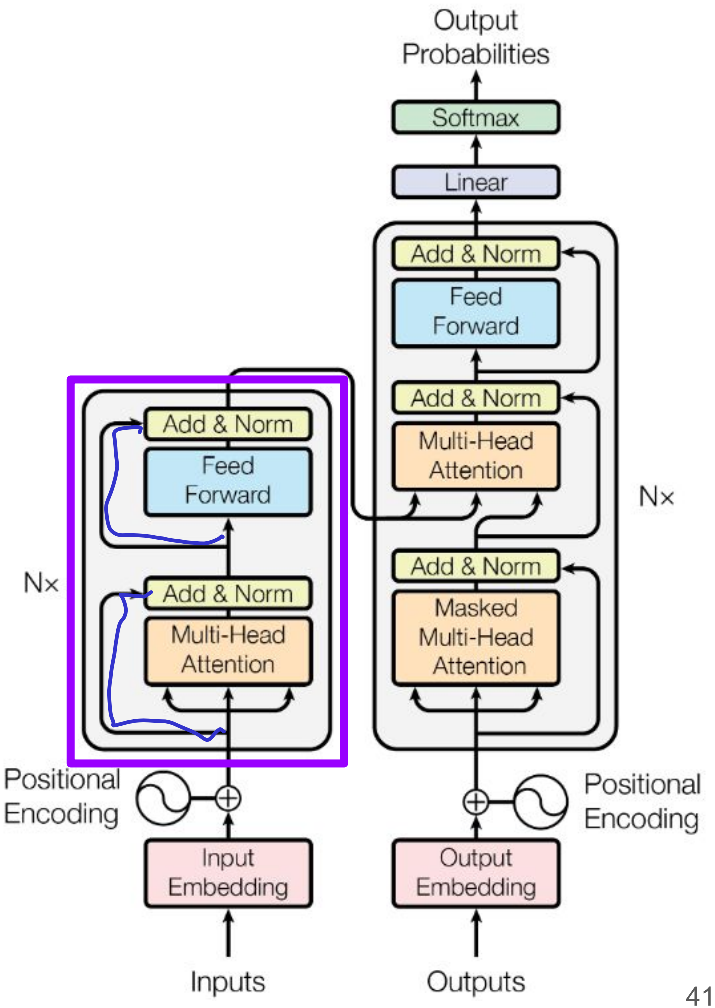
- Combines MHA and FF block
  (MHA: Multi-Head Attention, FF: Feed Forward)
- 3 additional concepts deployed

Oversimplified!

(1) Residual Connections
- Help mitigate the vanishing gradient problem

(2) Dropout (after MHA/FF block; not shown)
- Regularization technique to prevent overfitting

(3) Layer Normalization
- Normalizes input across the features
- Improves the training stability and convergence

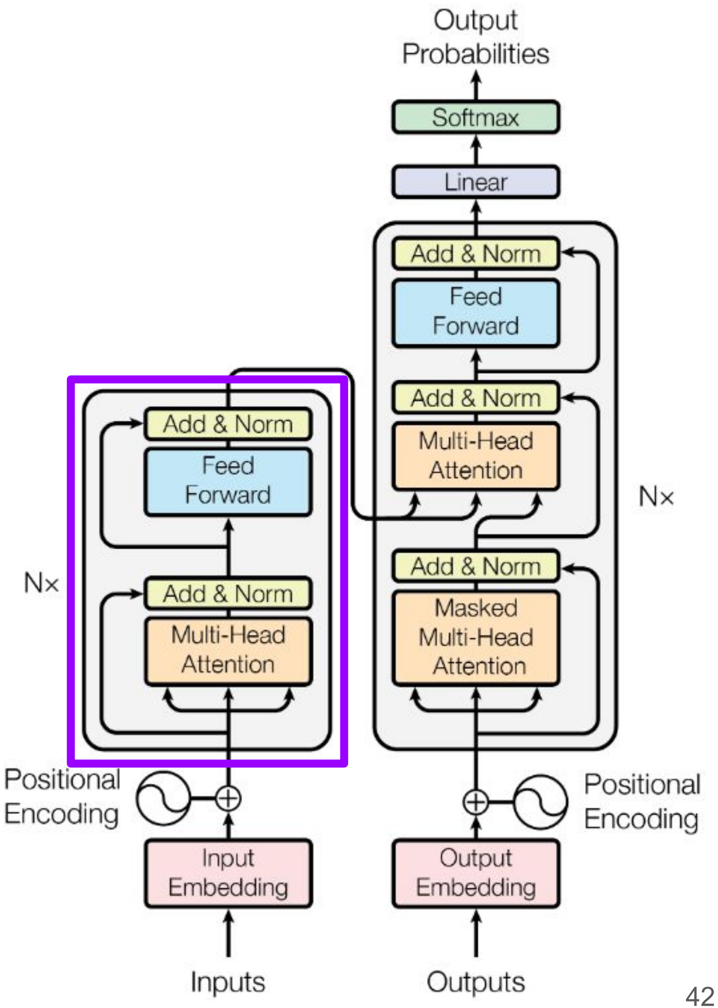


Encoder Layer

```python
import torch
import torch.nn as nn


class TransformerEncoderLayer(nn.Module):

    def __init__(self, model_size, num_heads, ff_hidden_size, dropout):
        super().__init__()

        # Define sizes of Q/K/V based on model size and number of heads
        qkv_size = max(model_size // num_heads, 1)

        # MultiHeadAttention block
        self.mha1 = MultiHeadAttention(num_heads, model_size, qkv_size)
        self.dropout1 = nn.Dropout(dropout)
        self.norm1 = nn.LayerNorm(model_size)

        # FeedForward block
        self.ff = FeedForward(model_size, ff_hidden_size)
        self.dropout2 = nn.Dropout(dropout)
        self.norm2 = nn.LayerNorm(model_size)

    def forward(self, source):
        # MultiHeadAttention block
        out1 = self.mha1(source, source, source)
        out1 = self.dropout1(out1)
        out1 = self.norm1(out1 + source)

        # FeedForward block
        out2 = self.ff(out1)
        out2 = self.dropout2(out2)
        out2 = self.norm2(out2 + out1)

        # Return final output
        return out2
```

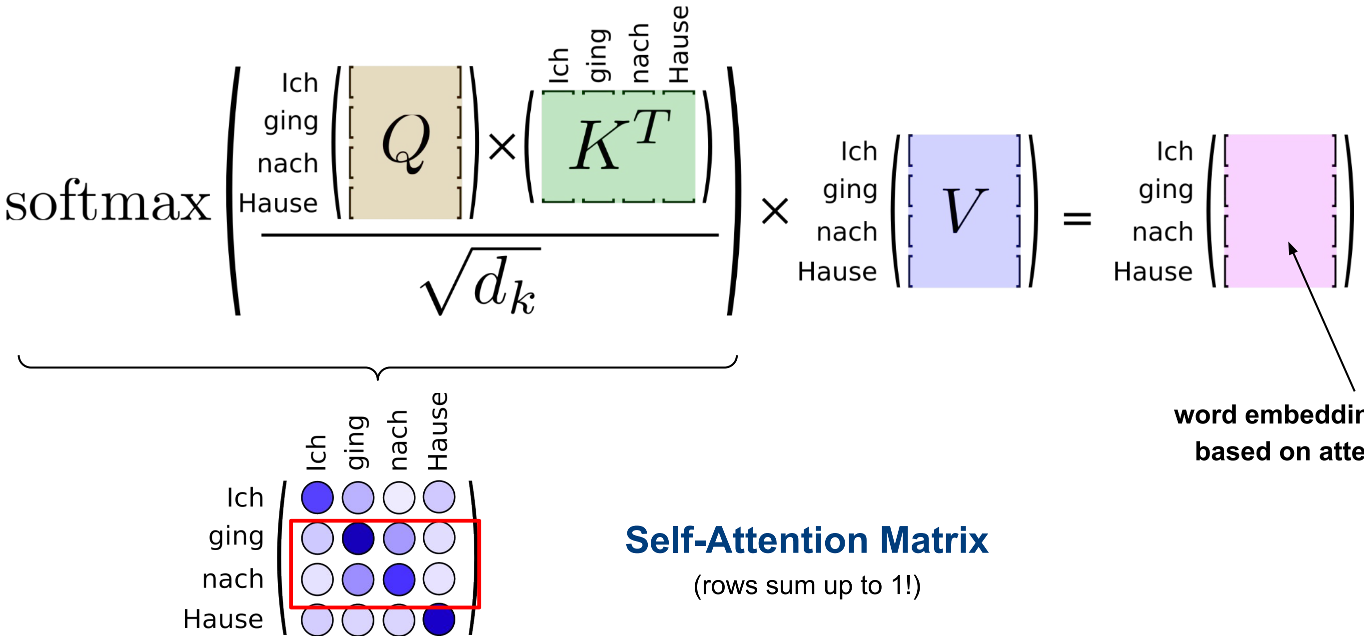
Self-Attention

$$Q = K = V$$



Encoder — Self-Attention

- Example: German-to-English machine translation



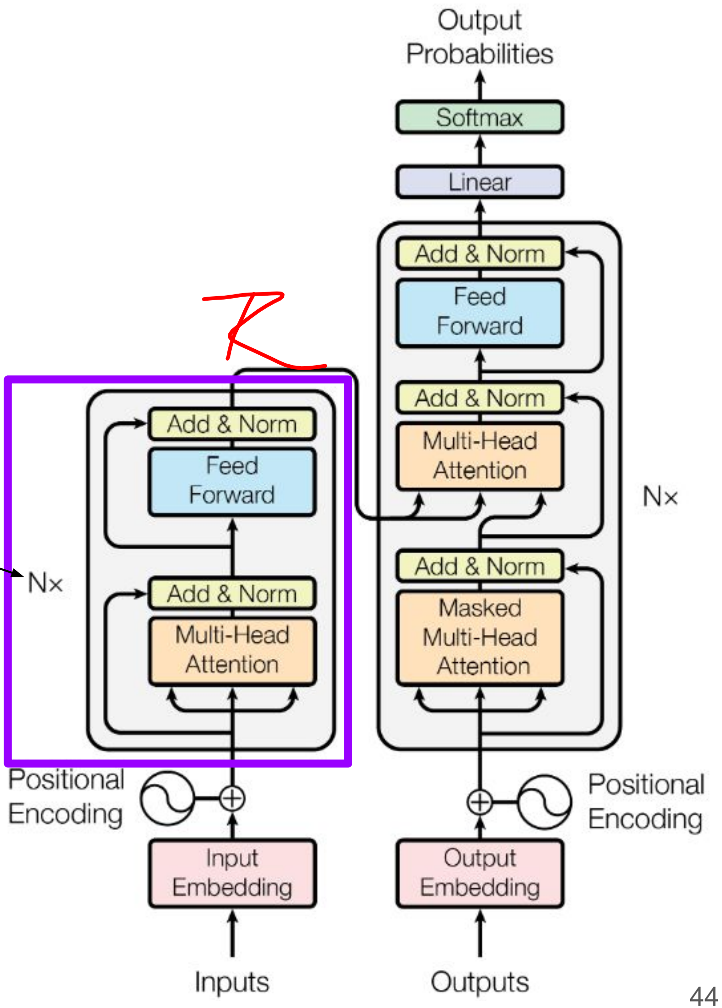
word embeddings re-weighted based on attention weights

Self-Attention Matrix

(rows sum up to 1!)

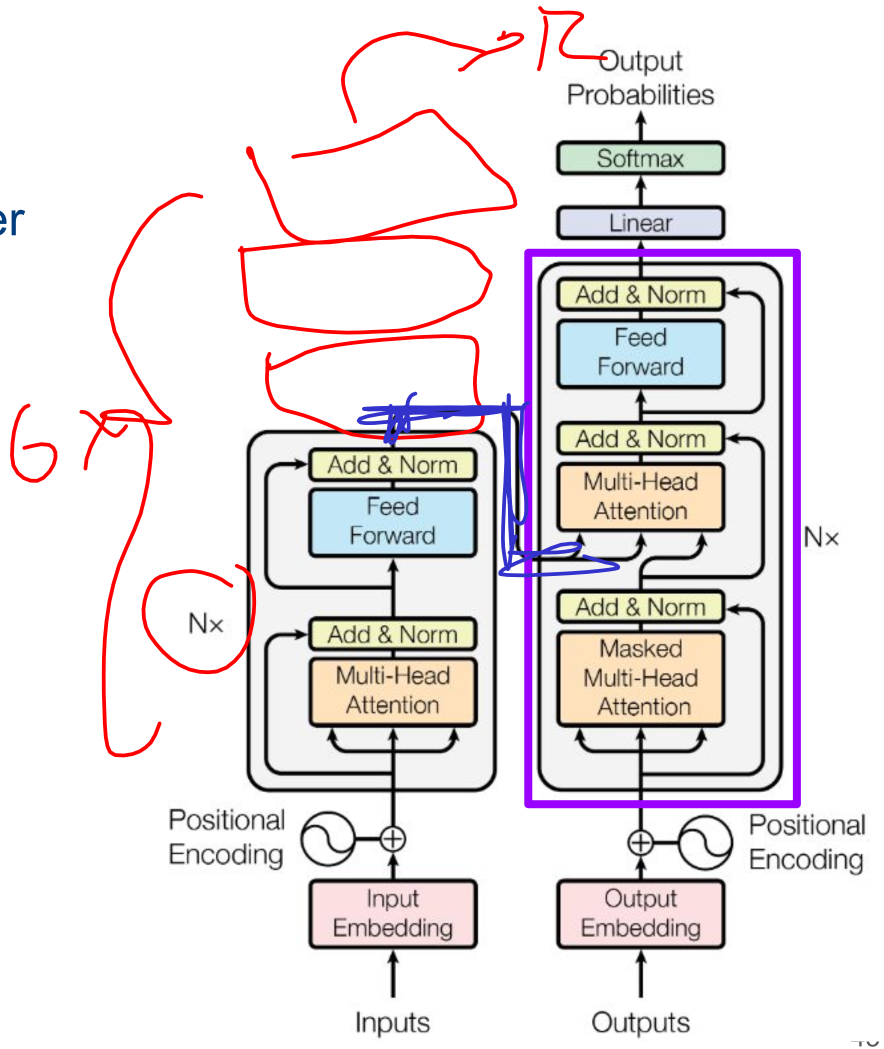
Complete Encoder

```python
import torch
import torch.nn as nn


class TransformerEncoder(nn.Module):

    def __init__(self,
                 num_layers=6,        # Common default values
                 model_size=512,      # used in original paper
                 num_heads=8,
                 ff_hidden_size=2048,
                 dropout= 0.1):
        super().__init__()

        # Define num_layers (N) encoder layers
        self.layers = nn.ModuleList(
            [ TransformerEncoderLayer(model_size,
                                      num_heads,
                                      ff_hidden_size,
                                      dropout)
              for _ in range(num_layers)
            ]
        )

    def forward(self, source):
        # Push through each encoder layer
        for l in self.layers:
            source = l(source)
        return source
```



Decoder Layer

- The same components as Encoder Layer
  - Multi-Head Attention but 2 MHA blocks
    (one for output, once for input/output)
  - Feed Forward Layer
  - The same additional concepts
    (residual connections, dropout, layer normalization)
  - Multiple layers for complete decoder



Decoder Layer

```python
import torch
import torch.nn as nn


class TransformerDecoderLayer(nn.Module):

    def __init__(self, model_size, num_heads, ff_hidden_size, dropout):
        super().__init__()

        # Define sizes of Q/K/V based on model size and number of heads
        qkv_size = max(model_size // num_heads, 1)

        # 1st MultiHeadAttention block (decoder input only)
        self.mha1 = MultiHeadAttention(num_heads, model_size, qkv_size)
        self.dropout1 = nn.Dropout(dropout)
        self.norm1 = nn.LayerNorm(model_size)

        # 2nd MultiHeadAttention block (encoder & decoder)
        self.mha2 = MultiHeadAttention(num_heads, model_size, qkv_size)
        self.dropout2 = nn.Dropout(dropout)
        self.norm2 = nn.LayerNorm(model_size)

        self.ff = FeedForward(model_size, ff_hidden_size)
        self.dropout3 = nn.Dropout(dropout)
        self.norm3 = nn.LayerNorm(model_size)

    def forward(self, target, memory):
        # 1st MultiHeadAttention block
        out1 = self.mha1(target, target, target)
        out1 = self.dropout1(out1)
        out1 = self.norm1(out1 + target)
        # 2nd MultiHeadAttention block
        out2 = self.mha2(out1, memory, memory)
        out2 = self.dropout2(out2)
        out2 = self.norm2(out2 + out1)
        # FeedForward block
        out3 = self.ff(out2)
        out3 = self.dropout3(out3)
        out3 = self.norm3(out3 + out2)
        # Return final output
        return out3
```

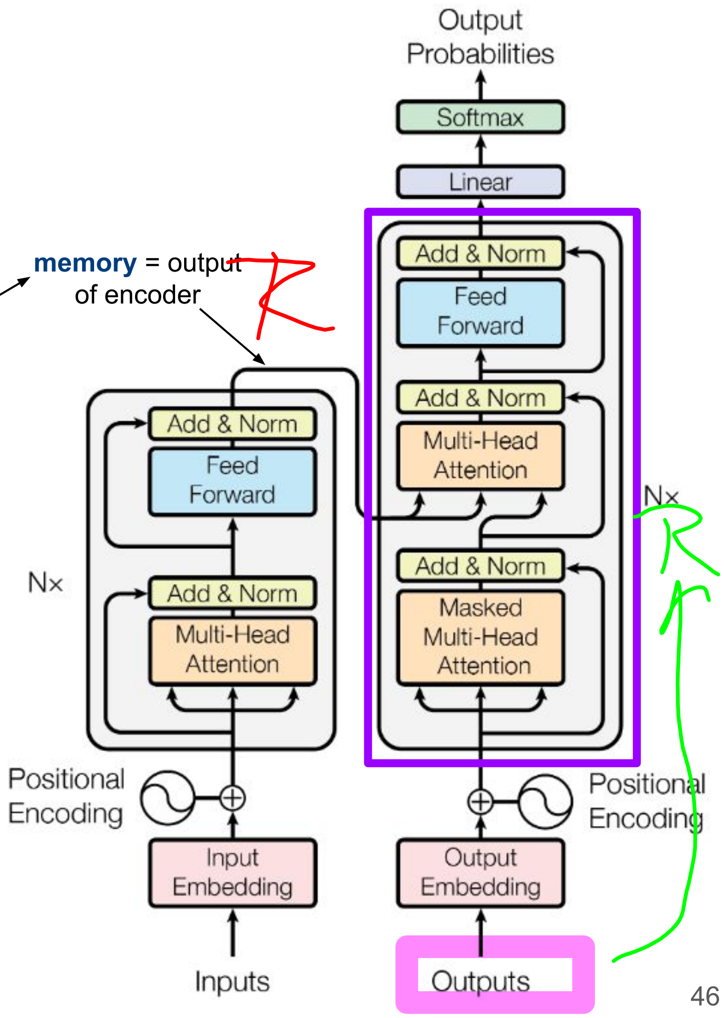
Self-Attention

$Q = K = V$

Source–Target Attention

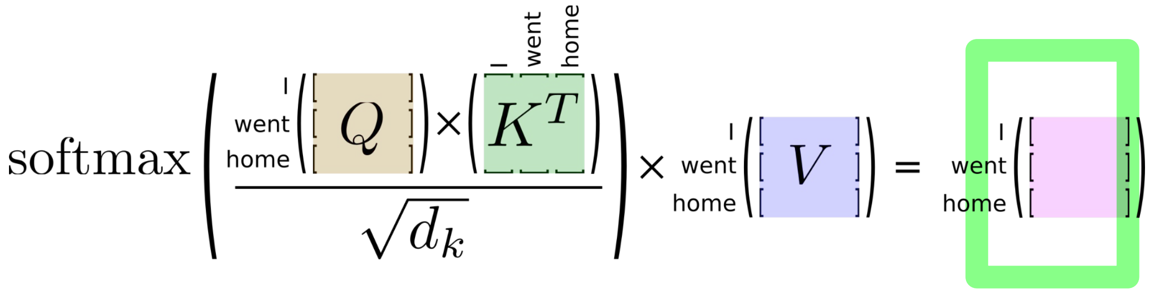
$Q \neq K = V$

memory = output of encoder

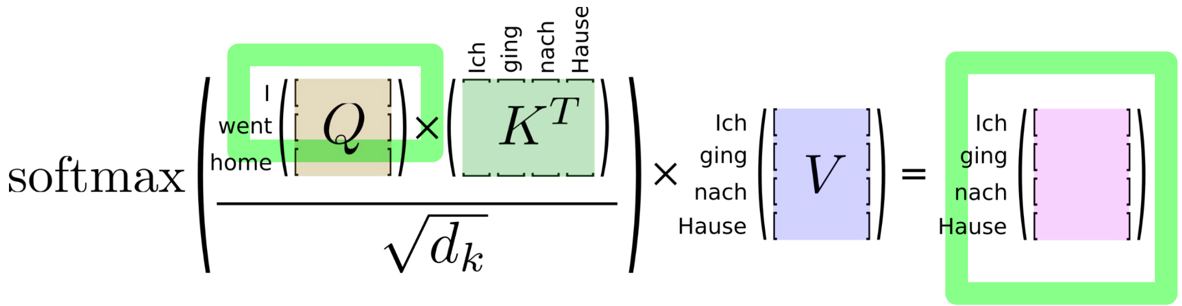


Decoder — Attentions

- Example: German-to-English machine translation



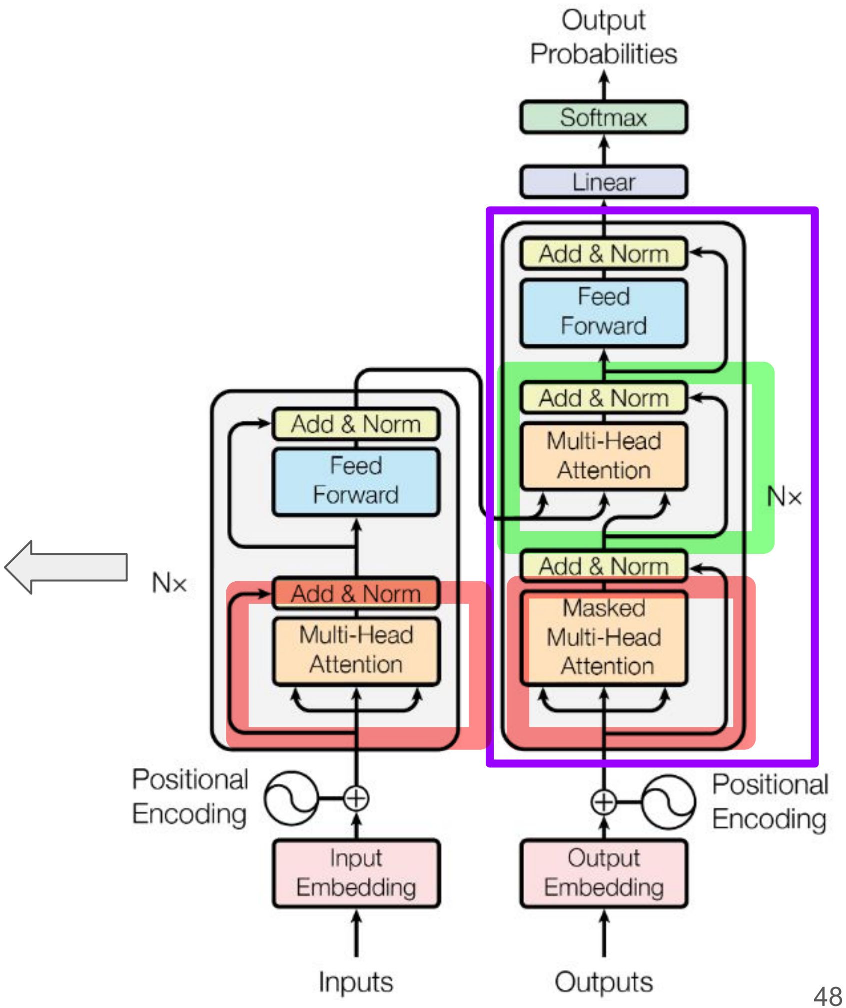
Self-Attention
$Q = K = V$



Cross-Attention
$Q \neq K = V$

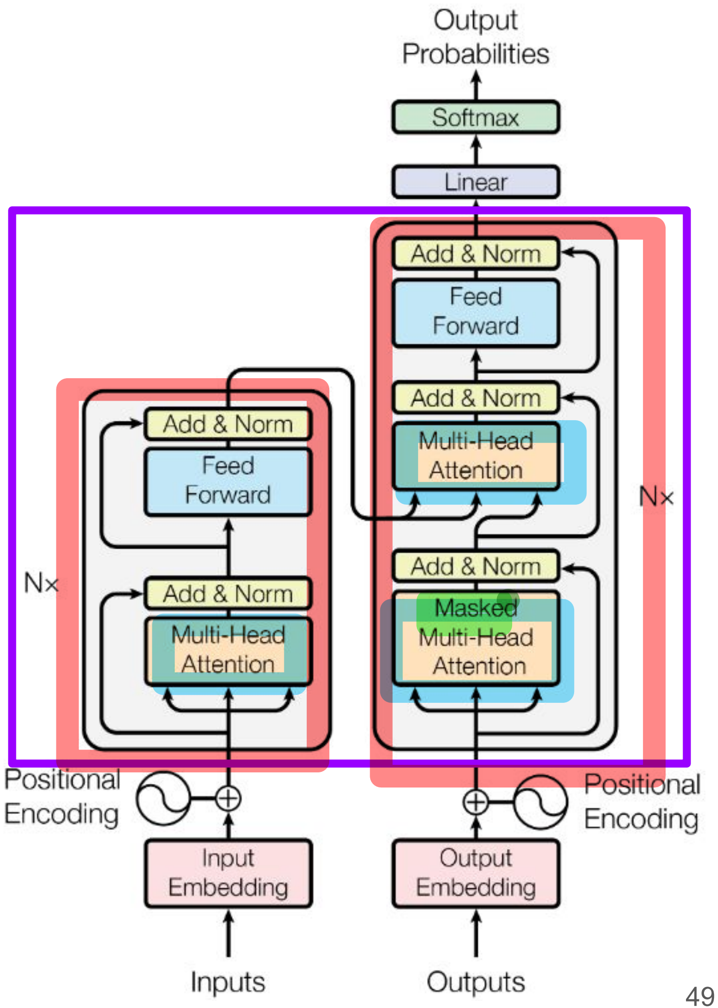
Complete Decoder

```python
import torch
import torch.nn as nn


class TransformerDecoder(nn.Module):

    def __init__(self,
                 num_layers=6,          # Common default values
                 model_size=512,        # used in original paper
                 num_heads=8,
                 ff_hidden_size=2048,
                 dropout= 0.1):
        super().__init__()

        # Define num_layers (N) decoder layers
        self.layers = nn.ModuleList(
            [ TransformerDecoderLayer(model_size,
                                      num_heads,
                                      ff_hidden_size,
                                      dropout)
                for _ in range(num_layers)
            ]
        )

    def forward(self, target, memory):
        # Push through each decoder layer
        for l in self.layers:
            target = l(target, memory)
        return target
```



Complete Transformer

```python
import torch
import torch.nn as nn


class Transformer(nn.Module):

    def __init__(self,
                 num_encoder_layers=6, # Common default values
                 num_decoder_layers=6, # used in original paper
                 model_size=512,
                 num_heads=8,
                 ff_hidden_size=2048,
                 dropout= 0.1):
        super().__init__()

        # Definer encoder
        self.encoder = TransformerEncoder(
            num_layers=num_encoder_layers,
            model_size=model_size,
            num_heads=num_heads,
            ff_hidden_size=ff_hidden_size,
            dropout=dropout
        )

        #Define decoder
        self.decoder = TransformerDecoder(
            num_layers=num_decoder_layers,
            model_size=model_size,
            num_heads=num_heads,
            ff_hidden_size=ff_hidden_size,
            dropout=dropout
        )

    def forward(self, source, target):
        memory = self.encoder(source)
        return self.decoder(target, memory)
```



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Masking — Purpose

- Masking: Ignore attention between “invalid” words — most commonly
  - Padding in batches with sequences of different lengths
  - “Hidden” words in models for Language Modeling
  - “Future” words in models for text generation

- Masking padded words

best	*movie*	*ever*	***<PAD>***	***<PAD>***
i	*really*	*liked*	*only*	*the*
top	*movie*	***<PAD>***	***<PAD>***	***<PAD>***
such	*a*	*dumb*	*and*	*silly*
could	*have*	*been*	*much*	*worse*
the	*story*	*was*	*not*	*that*

Masking matrix M

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -\infty & -\infty \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\infty & -\infty & -\infty \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

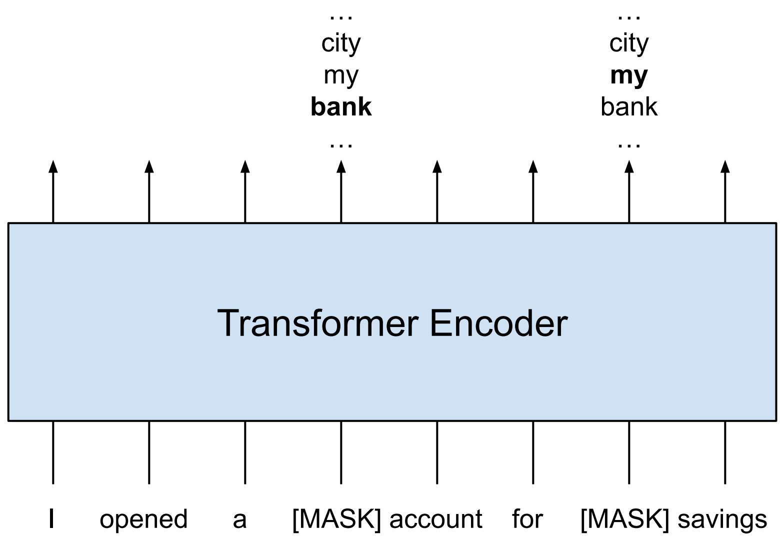
$$a_{ij} + 0 = a_{ij}$$

$$a_{ij} + (-\infty) = -\infty$$

Becomes 0 probability after Softmax!

Masking for Language Modeling

- Masked Language Model — basic idea
  - Mask a random number of words in a input sequence (e.g., BERT: 15%)
  - Train model — transformer encoder — to predict masked words



Masking matrix M

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & .. \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\infty & 0 & 0 & -\infty & 0 \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & .... & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \end{pmatrix}$$

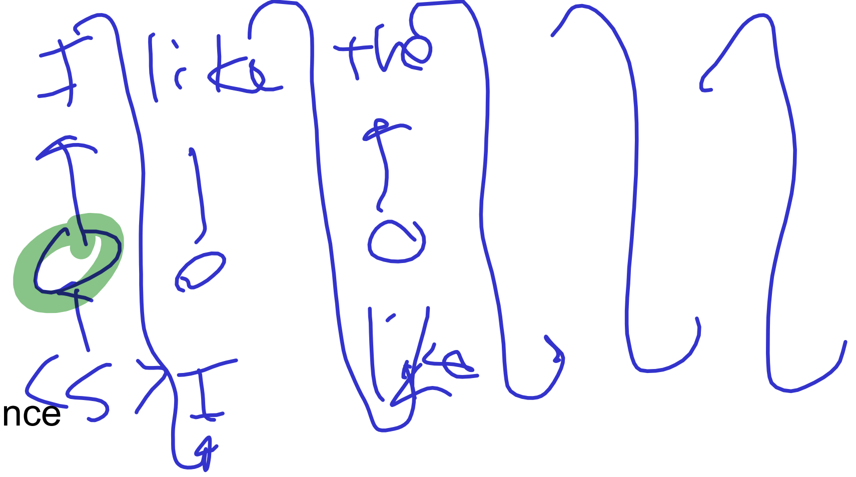
Masking for Text Generation

Decoder is autoregressive

- Output is generated word-by-word
- During training, decoder gets complete output sequence
  (i.e., the decoder could “cheat” and look at subsequent words)
- Ignore attention between a word and “future” words
- Only affects self-attention MHA block

Example

- German-to-English machine translation



$$
\begin{array}{c c}
 & \begin{array}{cccc} \text{<S>} & \text{I} & \text{went} & \text{home} \end{array} \\
\begin{array}{c} \text{<S>} \\ \text{I} \\ \text{went} \\ \text{home} \end{array} &
\begin{pmatrix}
0 & -\infty & -\infty & -\infty \\
0 & 0 & -\infty & -\infty \\
0 & 0 & 0 & -\infty \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix}
\end{array}
$$

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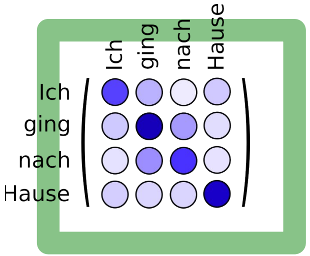
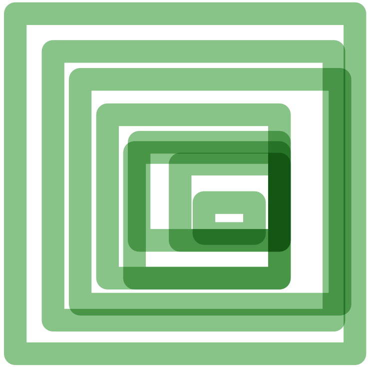
Attention — Performance Considerations

- Attentions is all you need…but it doesn't come for free
  - Pro: no sequential processing required ➜ easy parallelize
  - Cons: number of operations for attention: N^2 (*N* = sequence length)

$$\text{softmax}\left(\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{Ich} \\ \text{ging} \\ \text{nach} \\ \text{Hause} \end{array}\begin{pmatrix} Q \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{array}{c} \text{Ich} \quad \text{ging} \quad \text{nach} \quad \text{Hause} \\ \begin{pmatrix} K^T \end{pmatrix} \end{array}}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right) \times \begin{array}{c} \text{Ich} \\ \text{ging} \\ \text{nach} \\ \text{Hause} \end{array}\begin{pmatrix} V \end{pmatrix} = \begin{array}{c} \text{Ich} \\ \text{ging} \\ \text{nach} \\ \text{Hause} \end{array}\begin{pmatrix} \ \end{pmatrix}$$



Attention — Performance Considerations



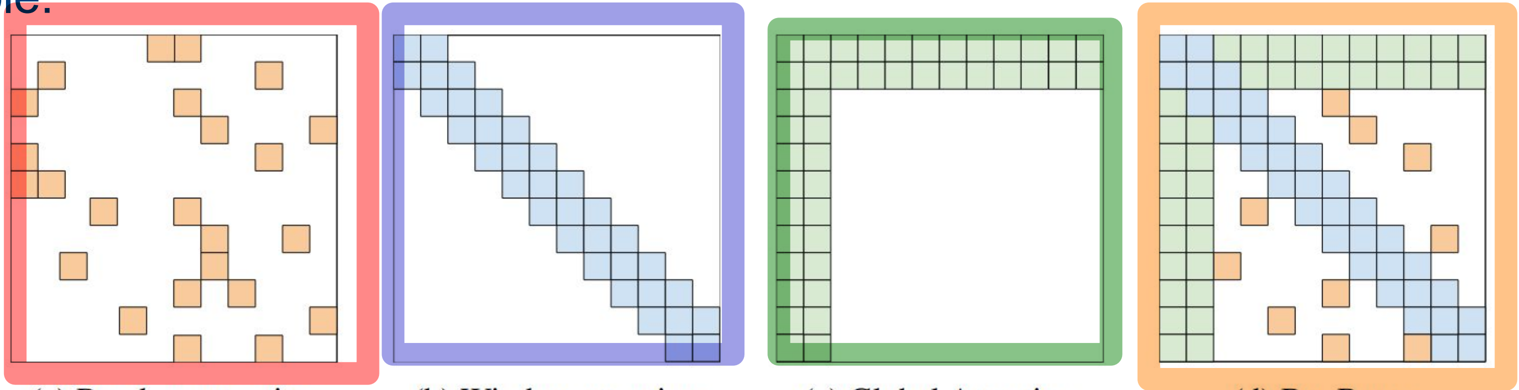
N^2

Alternative: **"restricted" attention**

- Does not compute attention between all pairs of words
- Main goal: make number of operations to be in $O(N)$

word2vec

Example:



(a) Random attention (b) Window attention (c) Global Attention (d) BIGBIRD

N

Source: [Big Bird: Transformers for Longer Sequences (2021)]

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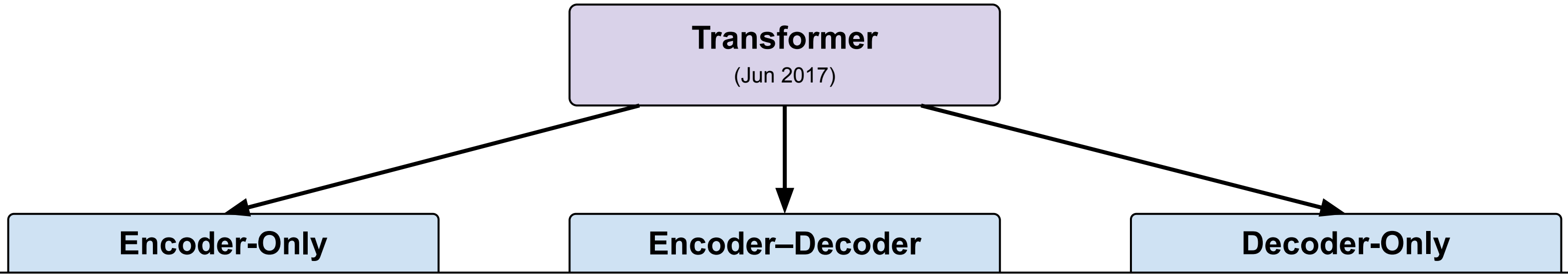
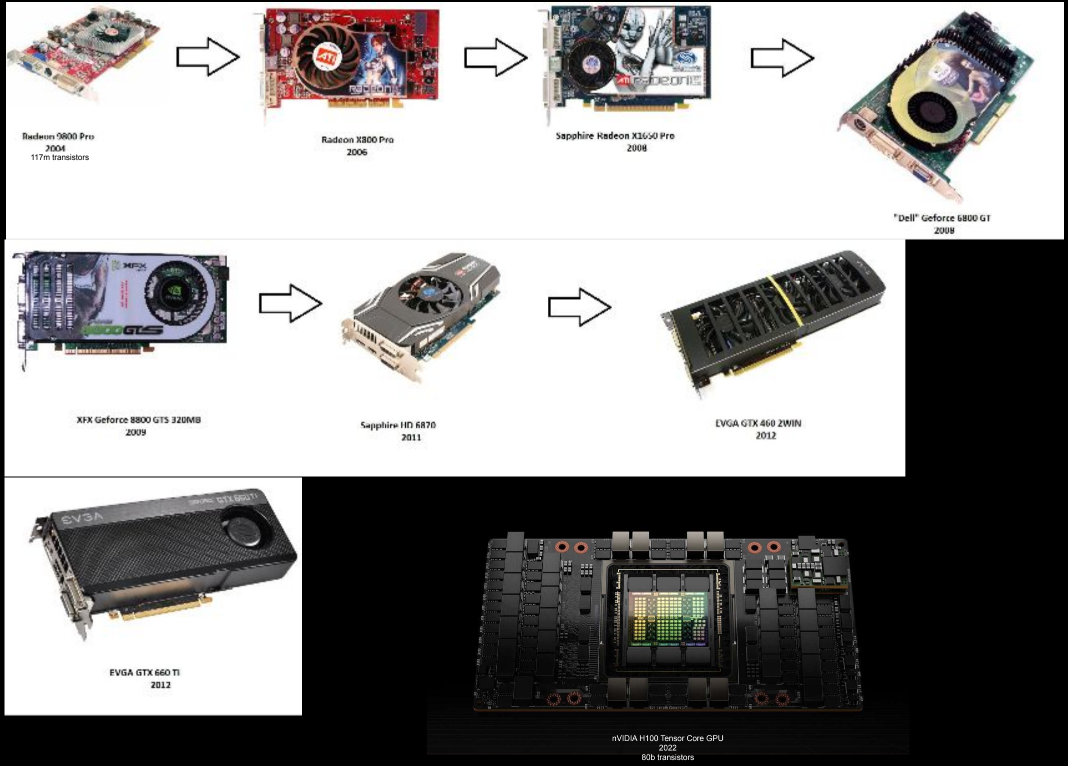
🏃‍♀️🏃🏃 Architecture Order: Doric Ionic Corinthian



In-Lecture Activity

- Question: What is the intuition behind using different LLM architectures?
  - Encoder-only vs. encoder–decoder vs. decoder-only
  - Post your ~~RegEx~~ Answer to Canvas > Discussions > [In Lecture] L1
    (individually or as a group; include all group members' names in the post)

Throwing Shade: DirectX, OpenGL, GPGPU to CUDA



In the quest for better graphics in gaming, programmable shaders were introduced. This led to the introduction of Graphics Processing Units (GPUs).

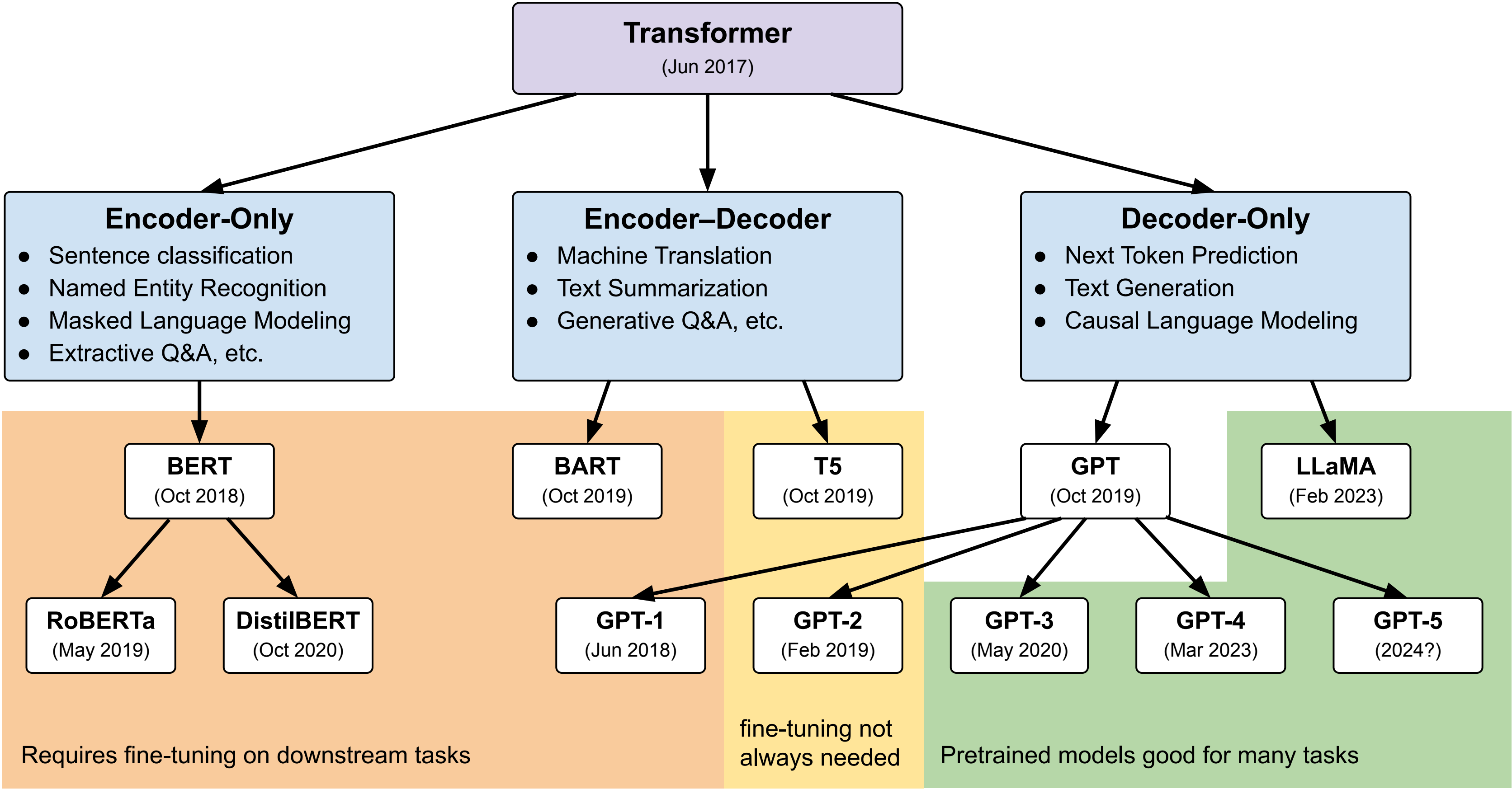
In 2003, two independent groups at TUM and Caltech showed that the growing power of GPUs was adept at solving linear algebra (tensor math) problems, bettering CPU-bound methods.

In 2006, General Purpose Computing on Graphics Processing Units (GPGPU) was conceived to take back advantage of the parallelism of a GPU to do CPU tasks with acceleration. The rest is history.

GG, indeed.

Image credits: Imgur and nVIDIA

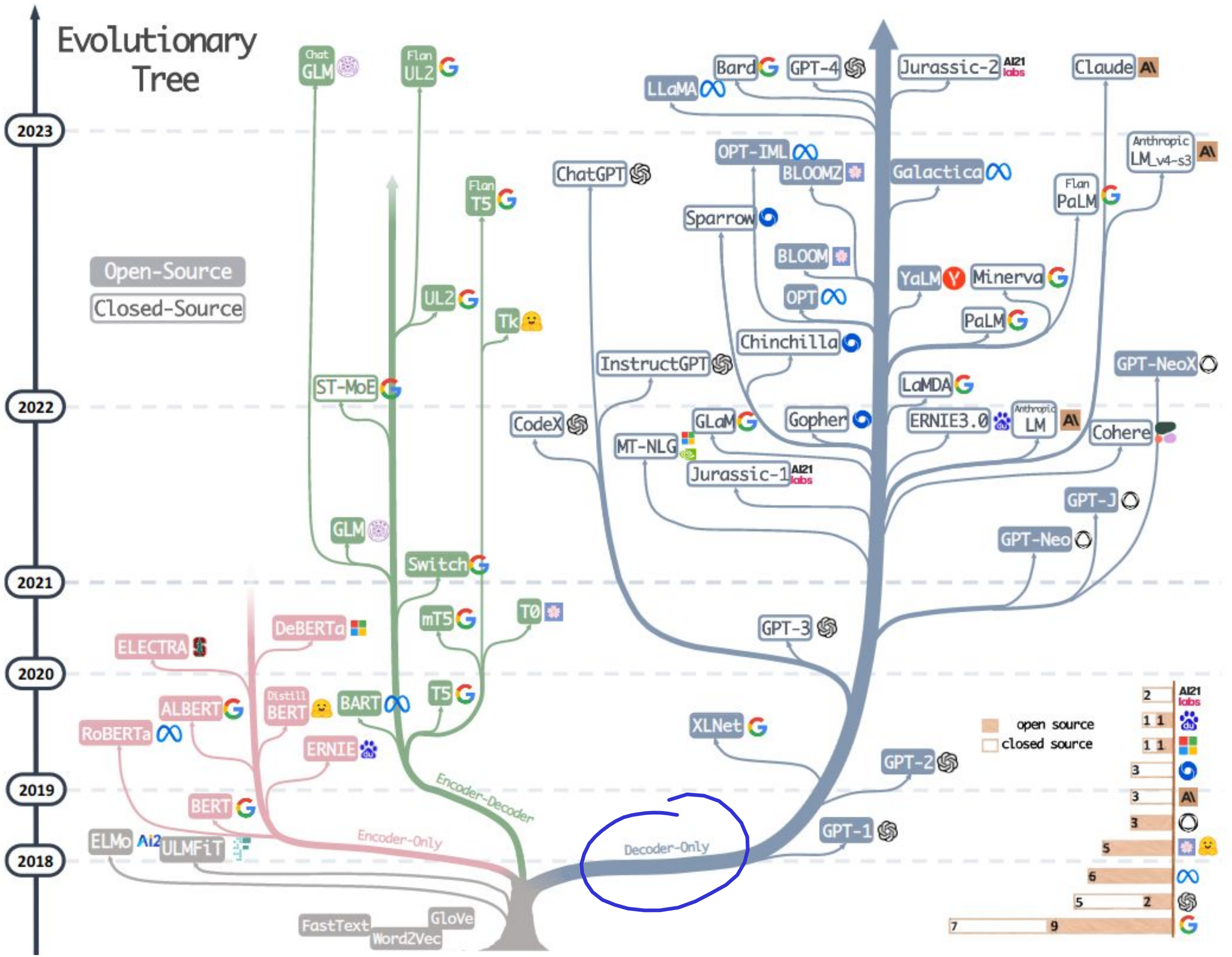
Architectures



The LLM Craze

Observation: **Decoder-only dominates!**

- Simpler architecture & setup
- More cheaply to train (relatively)
- More suitable for text generation
- Good zero-shot generalization



Source: [Harnessing the Power of LLMs in Practice: A Survey on ChatGPT and Beyond (2023)]

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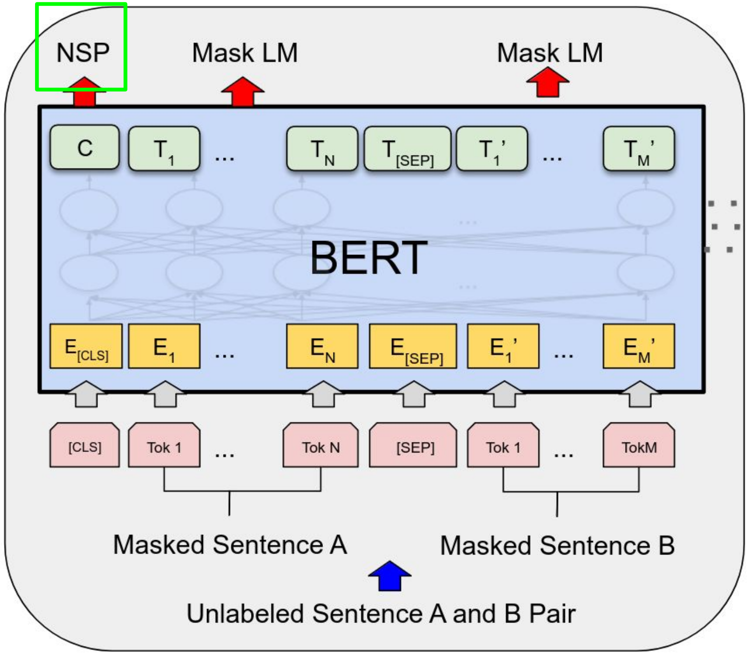
BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers)

- BERT
  - Uses only the Transformer Encoder
  - Self-supervised training

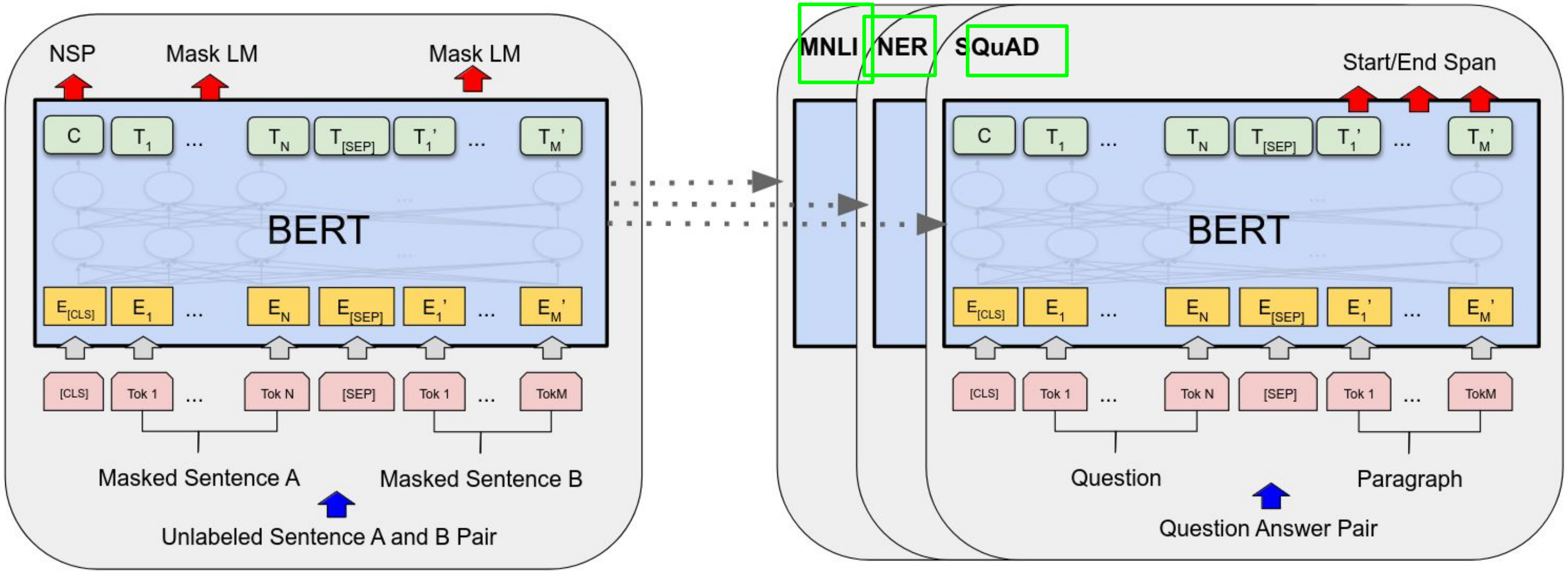
- Train on 2 learning objectives
  - MLM: Masked Language Model
    (predict the masked words in input sentences)
  - NSP: Next Sentence Prediction
    (predict if the second sentence was indeed followed by the first sentence)



Source: [BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding (2018)]

BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers)

Pretraining **Fine-Tuning** for specific task



Source: [BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding (2018)]

RoBERTa (A Robustly Optimized Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers)

- RoBERTa ≈ BERT scaled up
  - Same architecture, similar training setup (MLM only), but longer training, using more data
  - Dynamic masking: masking done during training time
    (BERT uses "static" masking: masking done during preprocessing)

- Other BERT variants
  - DistilBERT
  - ALBERT

Comparison	BERT October 11, 2018	RoBERTa July 26, 2019	DistilBERT October 2, 2019	ALBERT September 26, 2019
Parameters	**Base:** 110M **Large:** 340M	**Base:** 125 **Large:** 355	**Base:** 66	**Base:** 12M **Large:** 18M
Layers / Hidden Dimensions / Self-Attention Heads	**Base:** 12 / 768 / 12 **Large:** 24 / 1024 / 16	**Base:** 12 / 768 / 12 **Large:** 24 / 1024 / 16	**Base:** 6 / 768 / 12	**Base:** 12 / 768 / 12 **Large:** 24 / 1024 / 16
Training Time	**Base:** 8 x V100 x 12d **Large:** 280 x V100 x 1d	1024 x V100 x 1 day (4-5x more than BERT)	**Base:** 8 x V100 x 3.5d (4 times less than BERT)	[not given] **Large:** 1.7x faster
Performance	Outperforming SOTA in Oct 2018	88.5 on GLUE	97% of BERT-base's performance on GLUE	89.4 on GLUE
Pre-Training Data	BooksCorpus + English Wikipedia = 16 GB	BERT + CCNews + OpenWebText + Stories = 160 GB	BooksCorpus + English Wikipedia = 16 GB	BooksCorpus + English Wikipedia = 16 GB
Method	Bidirectional Trans-former, MLM & NSP	BERT without NSP, Using Dynamic Masking	BERT Distillation	BERT with reduced para-meters & SOP (not NSP)

Source: [Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin website]

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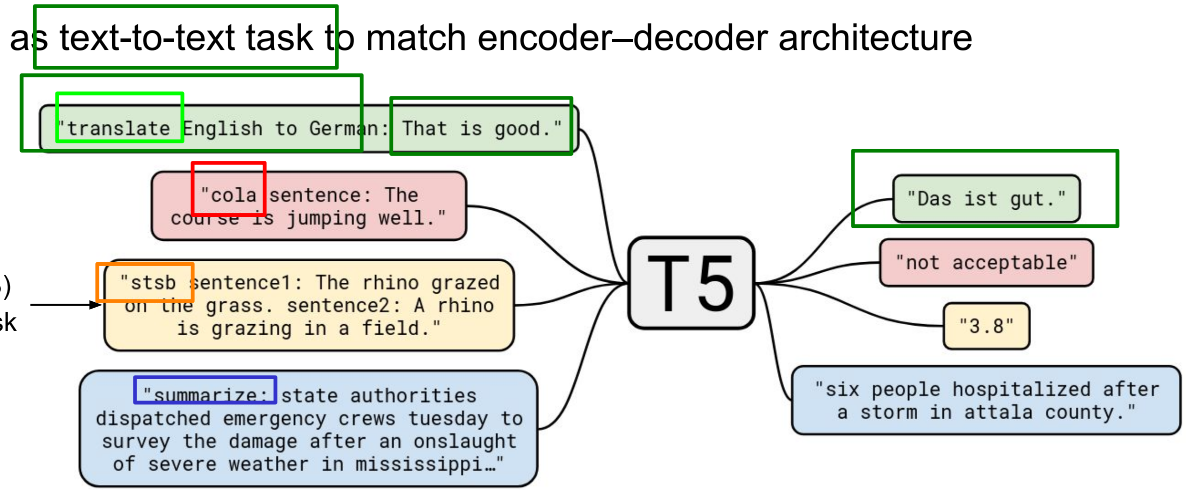
T5 (Text-to-Text Transfer Transformer)

Core Concepts

- Basic encoder–decoder Transformer architecture
- Multi-task learning: training of model on multiple tasks at the same time
  (e.g., machine translation, coreference resolution, text summarization, sentence acceptability judgment, sentiment analysis)
- Each task is (re-)formulated as text-to-text task to match encoder–decoder architecture
  (including task-specific prefixes)

Example: Semantic Text Similarity Benchmark (STSB) training data sample reformulated as a text-to-text task

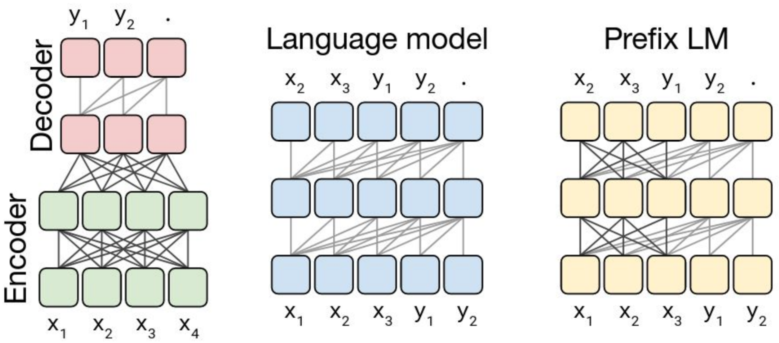


Source: Exploring the Limits of Transfer Learning with a Unified Text-to-Text Transformer (2019)

T5 (Text-to-Text Transfer Transformer)

Evaluation

- The authors evaluated the multi-task learning approach on different architectures
- Best results: encoder–decoder architecture



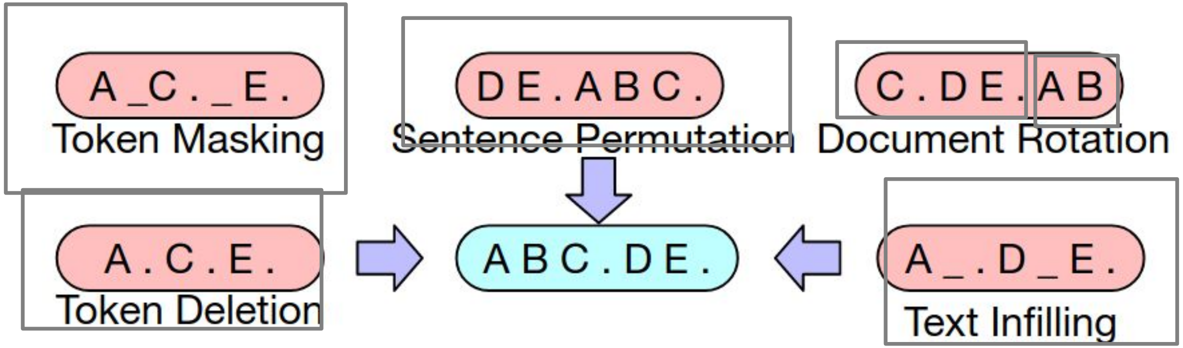
Architecture	Objective	Params	Cost	GLUE	CNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ Encoder-decoder	Denoising	$2P$	M	**83.28**	**19.24**	**80.88**	**71.36**	**26.98**	**39.82**	**27.65**
Enc-dec, shared	Denoising	P	M	82.81	18.78	**80.63**	**70.73**	26.72	39.03	**27.46**
Enc-dec, 6 layers	Denoising	P	$M/2$	80.88	18.97	77.59	68.42	26.38	38.40	26.95
Language model	Denoising	P	M	74.70	17.93	61.14	55.02	25.09	35.28	25.86
Prefix LM	Denoising	P	M	81.82	18.61	78.94	68.11	26.43	37.98	27.39

Source: [Exploring the Limits of Transfer Learning with a Unified Text-to-Text Transformer (2019)]

BART (Bidirectional and Auto-Regressive Transformers)

Core Concepts

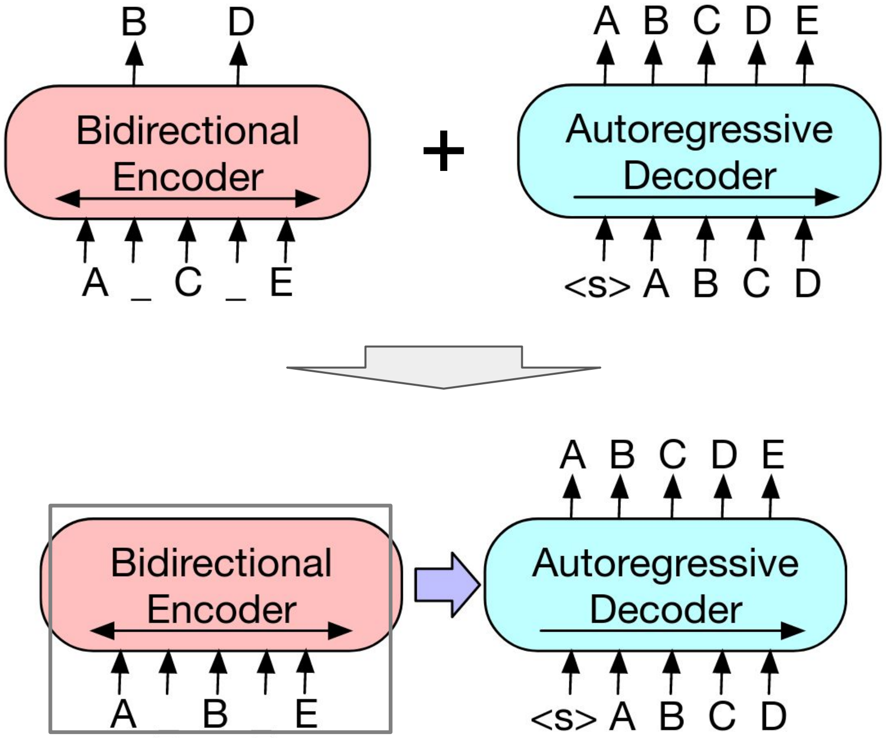
- Basic encoder–decoder Transformer architecture
- Trained by corrupting documents and then optimizing a reconstruction loss ➜ **denoising**
  (Denoising: Minimising the cross-entropy between the decoder's output and the original document)
- Various transformation techniques to corrupt input documents



BART ≈ BERT + GPT

BERT

- Random tokens are replaced with masks (e.g., [MASK])
- Input is encoded bidirectionally (not suitable for text generation)



GPT

- Auto-regressively word prediction (suitable for text generation)
- Words can only condition on leftward context (cannot learn bidirectional interactions)

BART

- Arbitrary noise transformation (not just BERT-like masking)
- Bidirectional encoding + auto-regression word prediction

Source: [BART: Denoising Sequence-to-Sequence Pre-training for Natural Language Generation, Translation, and Comprehension (2019)]

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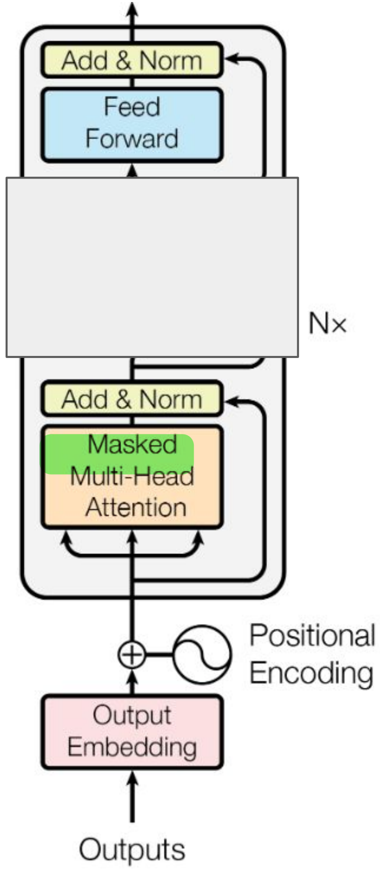
GPT (Generative Pretrained Transformer)

- GPT
  - Uses only the Transformer Decoder without the encoder attention block
    (alternatively: encoder with “do not look ahead” masking)
  - Self-supervised training
- Learning objectives
  - Auto-regressive Language Model
- (Very) oversimplified history of GPT
  - GPT-1/2/3: text only, “just” making it larger; GPT-4: multimodal
  - GPT-3+: **reinforcement learning from human feedback** (RLHF)



GPT (Generative Pretrained Transformer)

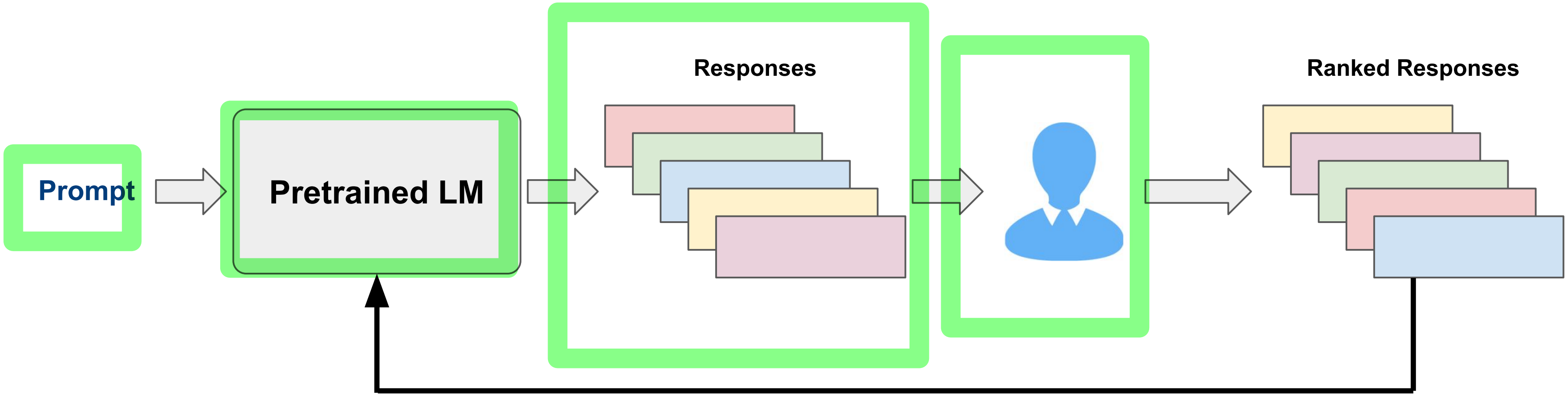
- GPT-3 models

Model Name	n_{params}	n_{layers}	d_{model}	n_{heads}	d_{head}	Batch Size	Learning Rate
GPT-3 Small	125M	12	768	12	64	0.5M	6.0×10^{-4}
GPT-3 Medium	350M	24	1024	16	64	0.5M	3.0×10^{-4}
GPT-3 Large	760M	24	1536	16	96	0.5M	2.5×10^{-4}
GPT-3 XL	1.3B	24	2048	24	128	1M	2.0×10^{-4}
GPT-3 2.7B	2.7B	32	2560	32	80	1M	1.6×10^{-4}
GPT-3 6.7B	6.7B	32	4096	32	128	2M	1.2×10^{-4}
GPT-3 13B	13.0B	40	5140	40	128	2M	1.0×10^{-4}
GPT-3 175B or "GPT-3"	175.0B	96	12288	96	128	3.2M	0.6×10^{-4}

Source: Language Models are Few-Shot Learners (2020)

GPT — RLHF (Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback)

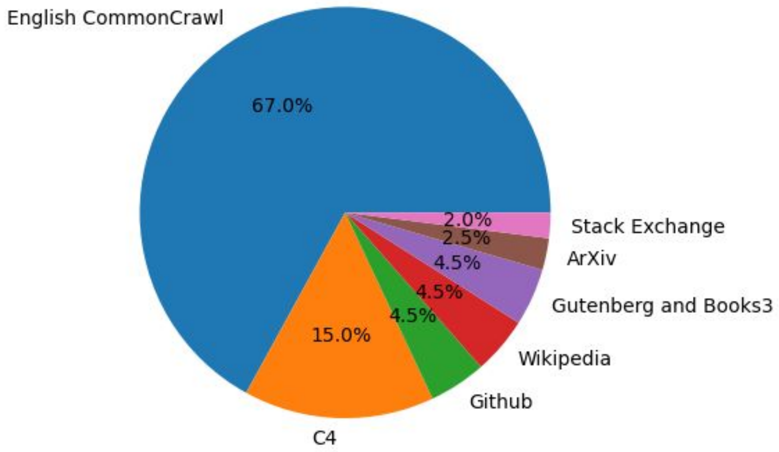
- RLHF — two common setups
  - Use human-generated responses to prompts to fine-tune the pretrained model
  - Generate multiple response for same prompt; human ranks response; use ranking for fine-tuning



LLaMA (Large Language Model Meta AI)

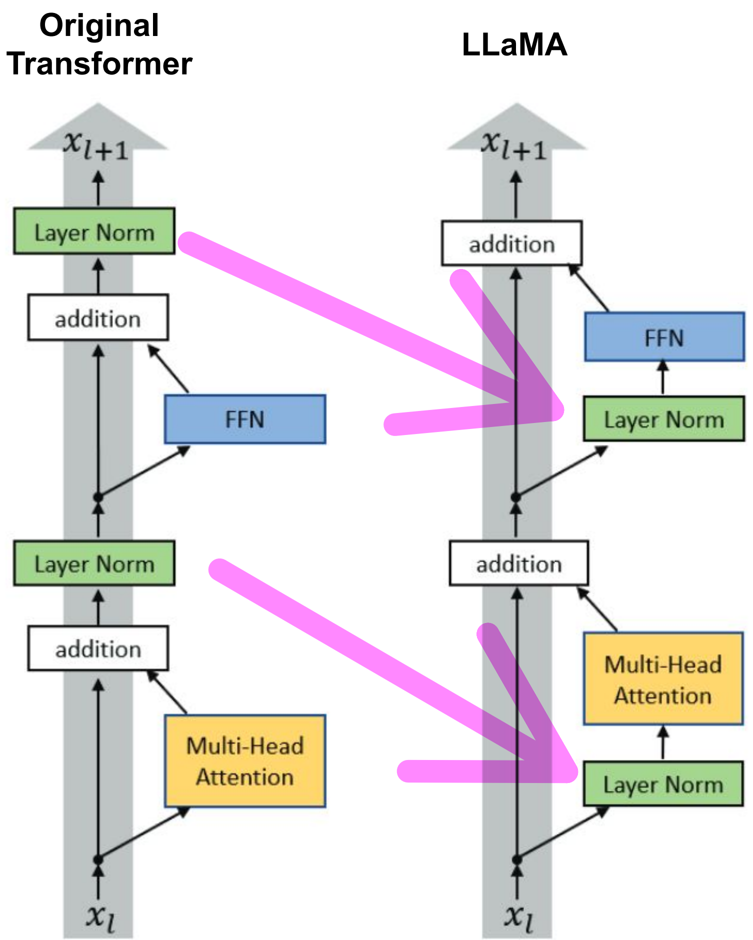
- Decoder-only architecture very similar to GPT (any many others!) — main tweaks
  - Pre-normalization: layer normalization is put **inside** the residual blocks
  - SwiGLU (Swish-Gated Linear Unit) activation: non-monotonic, parameterized activation function
  - Rotary Positional Embeddings: encode word positions by rotating word embedding vectors

- Open LLM
  - Trained exclusively on publicly available data



LLaMA — Pre-Normalization

- Post vs. pre-normalization
  - Post: layer normalization **between** residual blocks (original transformer)
  - Pre: layer normalization **inside** residual blocks (LLaMA, etc.)
  - Observed benefit of pre-normalization:
    - Well-behaved gradients at initialization
    - Significantly faster training



Source: [On Layer Normalization in the Transformer Architecture (2020)]

LLaMA — SwiGLU (Swish-Gated Linear Unit)

GLU – Gated Linear Unit (paper)

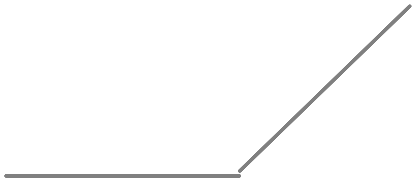
- Gating proposed in LSTM paper (1997!)
- Parameterized activation function
- Many other variants proposed

$$GLU(x) = (xW + b) \otimes \sigma(xV + c)$$

Swish (paper)

- Simple parameterized activation function
- Approach: "try and see what works best"

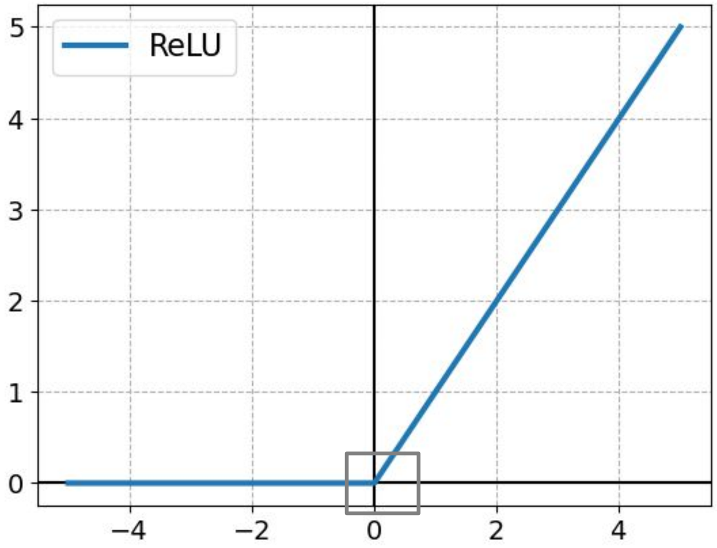
$$Swish(x) = x \otimes \sigma(\beta x)$$



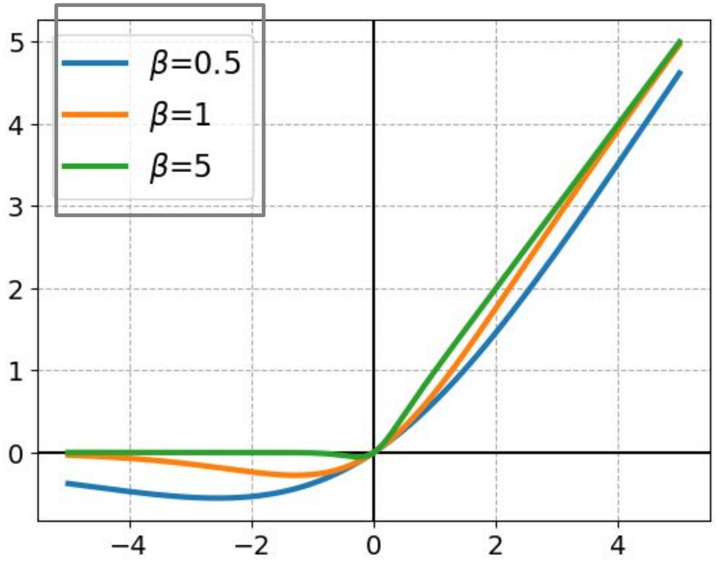
$$SwiGLU(x) = (xW + b) \otimes Swish_\beta(xV + c)$$

LLaMA — SwiGLU (Swish-Gated Linear Unit)

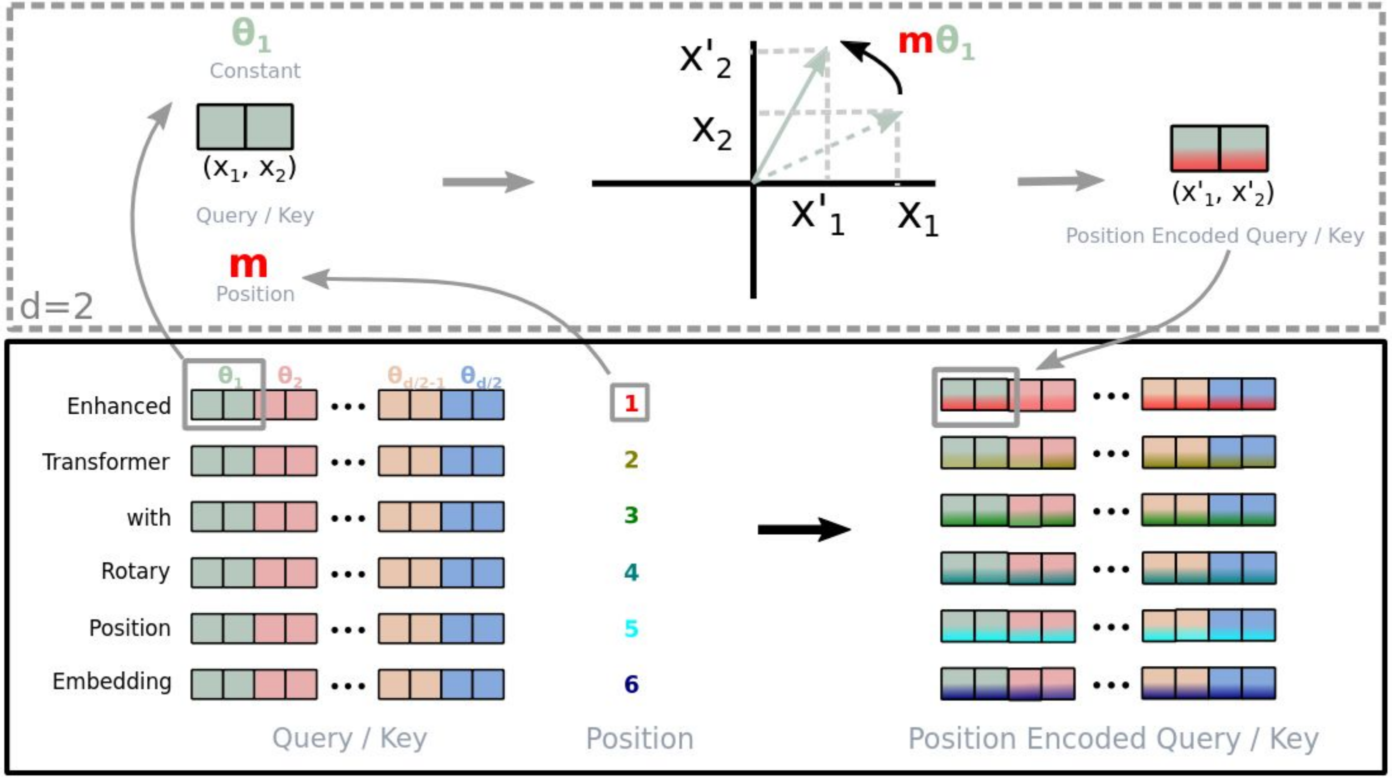
ReLU (Linear Rectified Unit)



Swish



LLaMA — Rotary Positional Embeddings (RoPE)



Source: [RoFormer: Enhanced Transformer with Rotary Position Embedding (2021)]

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The Future of Large Language Models — Opportunities

Language models are an old idea — What changed?

- New architectures (here: Transformers)
- More computing power
- More and diverse data
- More resources (i.e., money, manpower)

➜ Exploding size/scale of models

Size of models has crossed some kind of threshold

➜ **LLMs show Emergent Abilities**

Abilities that were not explicitly programmed into the model but emerge from the training process

The Future of Large Language Models — Opportunities

Emergent abilities

- Language Generation (coherent and fluent text in a variety of styles and genres, from news articles to poetry)
- Question Answering (answering complex questions by extracting information from large amounts of text data)
- Translation (translating text between different languages with high accuracy)
- Summarization (generate concise summaries of long documents, allowing for efficient information extraction and consumption)
- Dialogue Generation (engage in natural and coherent conversations with humans)
- Common Sense Reasoning (basic degree of common sense reasoning; predicting outcome of simple scenarios)

➜ **Question: Can a language model really do these tasks?**

The Future of Large Language Models — Challenges

EXPLAINER: What is ChatGPT and why are schools blocking it?

Will ChatGPT take my job? Here are 20 professions that could be replaced by AI

Hallucinations, Plagiarism, and ChatGPT

Letters | How universities can start to grapple with ChatGPT's capabilities

Hollywood: Writers Guild considering ChatGPT-written scripts, no AI credits

ChatGPT
The impact of Large Language Models on Law Enforcement

Criminals will soon use ChatGPT to make scams more convincing, experts warn; only 'a matter of time' before S'pore hit

ChatGPT Poses Dangers for Online Dating Apps

Cybercriminals are using ChatGPT to create malware

A fake news frenzy: why ChatGPT could be disastrous for truth in journalism

Pause Giant AI Experiments: An Open Letter

The Future of Large Language Models — Challenges

ChatGPT invented a sexual harassment scandal and named a real law prof as the accused

1,100+ notable signatories just signed an open letter asking 'all AI labs to immediately pause for at least 6 months'

Italy orders ChatGPT blocked citing data protection concerns

AI can be racist, sexist and creepy. What should we do about it?

GPT-4 kicks AI security risks into higher gear

Europol sounds alarm as crooks tap into ChatGPT-4

GPT-5 expected this year, could make ChatGPT indistinguishable from a human

What Have Humans Just Unleashed?

Call it tech's optical-illusion era: Not even the experts know exactly what will come next in the AI revolution.

Experts Warn of Nightmare Internet Filling With Infinite AI-Generated Propaganda

Did a Robot Write This? We Need Watermarks to Spot AI

The Future of Large Language Models — Challenges

Exclusive: OpenAI Used Kenyan Workers on Less Than $2 Per Hour to Make ChatGPT Less Toxic

Australian Mayor Threatens to Sue OpenAI for Defamation by Chatbot

Artists sue AI company for billions, alleging "parasite" app used their work for free

ChatGPT banned on Q&A site over 'substantially harmful' answers

$120bn wiped off Google after Bard AI chatbot gives wrong answer

Chat-GPT Pretended to Be Blind and Tricked a Human Into Solving a CAPTCHA

Microsoft tries to justify A.I.'s tendency to give wrong answers by saying they're 'usefully wrong'

ChatGPT lies about scientific results, needs open-source alternatives, say researchers

AI isn't close to becoming sentient – the real danger lies in how easily we're prone to anthropomorphize it

The Future of Large Language Models — Challenges

…and the biggest questions: **Why** does this all seem to work?

> We have extended the GLU family of layers and proposed their use in Transformer. In a transfer-learning setup, the new variants seem to produce better perplexities for the de-noising objective used in pre-training, as well as better results on many downstream language-understanding tasks. These architectures are simple to implement, and have no apparent computational drawbacks. We offer no explanation as to why these architectures seem to work; we attribute their success, as all else, to divine benevolence.

Source: GLU Variants Improve Transformer (2020)

Summary

- Transformer architecture
  - Encoder-decoder architecture
  - Core concept: attention (self-attention + cross attention)
  - Additional concepts: positional encoding, masking

- Large Language Models (LLMs)
  - Currently dominated by transformer architecture
  - Main categorization: encoder-only, encoder-decoder, decoder-only (with decoder-only models right now dominating the field)
  - Still continuously growing model zoo of LLMs

➜ Last lecture: LLMs – problems, challenges, strategies

Pre-Lecture Activity for Next Week

- Assigned Task
  - Do a web search and answer the question stated below
  - Post you answer(s) to the question into the Discussion on Canvas (please cite or quote your sources)

“What is the relationship between information retrieval and natural language processing?”

Side notes:
- This task is meant as a warm-up to provide some context for the next lecture
- No worries if you get lost; we will talk about this in the next lecture
- You can just copy-&-paste others' answers but this won't help you learn better

Outlook for Next Week: Classification Applications

Photo credit: [Franganillo@ Unsplash]