IERG5050 AI Foundation Models, Systems and Applications Spring 2025

Transformers Part I: Basic Architecture

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Acknowledgements

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Stanford CS25: Transformer United V4, Spring 2024, https://web.stanford.edu/class/cs25/
 Instructors: Div Garg, Steven Feng, Seonghee Lee, Emily Bunnapradist;

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Chris Manning,

Overview Slides https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10XPs3LXtIVIsVbwTyGjAWj aWvak9c1uNC4uhkS6glk/edit?usp=sharing

- Stanford CS336: Language Modeling from Scratch, Spring 2024
 - by Profs. Tatsunori Hashimoto, Percy Liang, https://stanford-cs336.github.io/spring2024/
- Stanford CS229S: Systems for Machine Learning, Fall 2023

by Profs. Azalia Mirhoseini, Simran Arora, https://cs229s.stanford.edu/fall2023/

Stanford CS224N: Natural Language Processing with Deep Learning, Winter 2021

by Prof. Chris Manning, https://web.stanford.edu/class/archive/cs/cs224n/cs224n.1214/

- Stanford CS231n: Deep Learning for Computer Vision, Spring 2023
 - by Prof. Fei-fei Li, https://cs231n.stanford.edu/slides/2023/
 - CMU 11-667: Large Language Models: Methods and Applications, Fall 2024 by Profs. Chenyan Xiong and Daphne Ippolito, https://cmu-llms.org
- CMU 11-711: Advanced Natural Language Processing (ANLP), Spring 2024 by Prof. Graham Neubig, https://phontron.com/class/anlp2024/lectures/
- UPenn CIS7000: Large Language Models, Fall 2024
 - by Prof. Mayur Naik, https://llm-class.github.io/schedule.html
- Princeton COS597G: Understanding Large Language Models, Fall 2022
 - by Prof. Dangi Chen, https://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/fall22/cos597G/
- UWaterloo CS886: Recent Advances on Foundation Models, Winter 2024
 - by Prof. Wenhu Chen, https://cs.uwaterloo.ca/~wenhuche/teaching/cs886/
- UMD CMSC848K: Multimodal Foundation Models, Fall 2024
 - by Prof. Jia-Bin Huang, https://jbhuang0604.github.io/teaching/CMSC848K/

Natural Language Processing (NLP) & Language Modeling

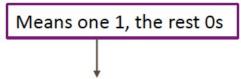
- NLP (natural language processing) tasks
 - o Translation, question answering, recommendations, sentence completion, etc.
- Language model
 - Model the probability of a sequence of tokens in a text
- Examples
 - I was eating __.
 - an apple (0.02)
 - a banana (0.01)
 - popcorns (0.0001)
 - I was in a __. I was eating popcorns
 - house (0.01)
 - mansion (0.001)
 - movie theater (0.2)

$$p(x) = p(x_1, \dots, x_T) = \prod_{t=1}^{T} p(x_t | x_{< t})$$

Representing Words as Discrete Symbols

In traditional NLP, we regard words as discrete symbols:

hotel, conference, motel - a localist representation



Such symbols for words can be represented by one-hot vectors:

motel = [0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0]

hotel = [0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0]

Vector dimension = number of words in vocabulary (e.g., 500,000+)

Problem with Words as Discrete Symbols

Example: in web search, if a user searches for "Seattle motel", we would like to match documents containing "Seattle hotel"

But:

```
motel = [0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0]

hotel = [0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0]
```

These two vectors are orthogonal

There is no natural notion of **similarity** for one-hot vectors!

Solution:

- Could try to rely on WordNet's list of synonyms to get similarity?
 - But it is well-known to fail badly: incompleteness, etc.
- Instead: learn to encode similarity in the vectors themselves

Representing Words by their Context

- Distributional semantics: A word's meaning is given by the words that frequently appear close-by
- - "You shall know a word by the company it keeps" (J. R. Firth 1957: 11)
 - One of the most successful ideas of modern statistical NI P!
- When a word w appears in a text, its context is the set of words that appear nearby (within a fixed-size window).
- We use the many contexts of w to build up a representation of w

...government debt problems turning into banking crises as happened in 2009...

...saying that Europe needs unified banking regulation to replace the hodgepodge...

...India has just given its banking system a shot in the arm...



Word Vectors (aka Word Embeddings)

We will build a dense vector for each word, chosen so that it is similar to vectors of words that appear in similar contexts, measuring similarity as the vector dot (scalar) product

$$banking = \begin{pmatrix} 0.286 \\ 0.792 \\ -0.177 \\ -0.107 \\ 0.109 \\ -0.542 \\ 0.349 \\ 0.271 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.413 \\ 0.582 \\ -0.007 \\ 0.247 \\ 0.216 \\ -0.718 \\ 0.147 \\ 0.051 \\ \end{array}$$

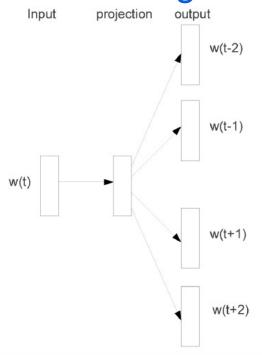
Note: word vectors are also called (word) embeddings or (neural) word representations. They are a distributed representation

Word2vec: How to learn the Word Embedding

Word2vec is a framework for learning word vectors (Mikolov et al. 2013)

Idea:

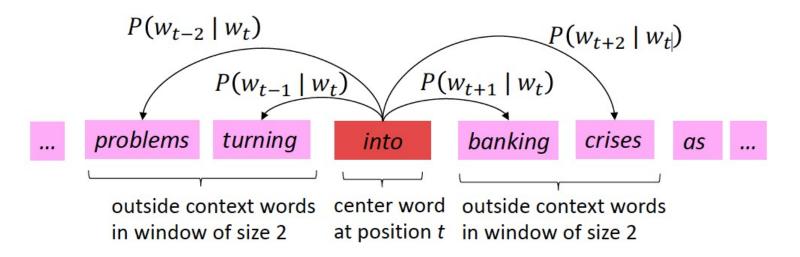
- We have a large corpus ("body") of text: a long list of words
- Every word in a fixed vocabulary is represented by a vector
- Go through each position t in the text, which has a center word c and context ("outside") words o
- Use the similarity of the word vectors for c and o to calculate the probability of o given c (or vice versa)
- Keep adjusting the word vectors to maximize this probability



Skip-gram model (Mikolov et al. 2013)

Word2vec Overview

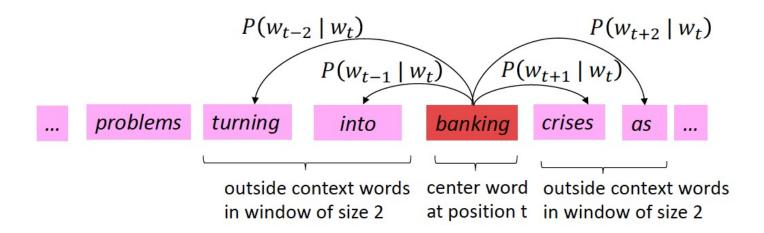
Example windows and process for computing $P(w_{t+j} \mid w_t)$



Source: https://web.stanford.edu/class/archive/cs/cs224n/cs224n.1244/slides/cs224n-2024-lecture01-wordvecs1-public.pdf
For details, refer to: https://web.stanford.edu/class/archive/cs/cs224n/cs224n.1244/readings/cs224n_winter2023_lecture1_notes_draft.pdf

Word2vec Overview

Example windows and process for computing $P(w_{t+j} \mid w_t)$



Word2vec: Objective Function

For each position t = 1, ..., T, predict context words within a window of fixed size m, given center word w_t . Data likelihood:

Likelihood =
$$L(\theta) = \prod_{t=1}^{I} \prod_{-m \le j \le m} P(w_{t+j} \mid w_t; \theta)$$
 θ is all variables to be optimized

sometimes called a cost or loss function

The objective function $J(\theta)$ is the (average) negative log likelihood:

$$J(\theta) = -\frac{1}{T} \log L(\theta) = -\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \sum_{\substack{-m \le j \le m \\ i \ne 0}} \log P(w_{t+j} \mid w_t; \theta)$$

Minimizing objective function \Leftrightarrow Maximizing predictive accuracy

Source: https://web.stanford.edu/class/archive/cs/cs224n/cs224n.1244/slides/cs224n-2024-lecture01-wordvecs1-public.pdf
For details, refer to: https://web.stanford.edu/class/archive/cs/cs224n/cs224n/cs224n.1244/readings/cs224n winter2023 lecture1 notes draft.pdf

Word2vec: Objective Function

We want to minimize the objective function:

$$J(\theta) = -\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \sum_{\substack{-m \le j \le m \\ j \ne 0}} \log P(w_{t+j} \mid w_t; \theta)$$

- Question: How to calculate $P(w_{t+j} | w_t; \theta)$?
- Answer: We will use two vectors per word w:
 - v_w when w is a center word
 - u_w when w is a context word
- Then for a center word c and a context word o:

These word vectors are subparts of the big vector of all parameters θ

$$P(o|c) = \frac{\exp(u_o^T v_c)}{\sum_{w \in V} \exp(u_w^T v_c)}$$

Word2vec: Prediction Function = Prob[o|c]

 $P(o|c) = \underbrace{\exp(u_o^T v_c)}_{\text{exp}(u_w^T v_c)} \underbrace{-\sum_{w \in V}^n \exp(u_w^T v_c)}_{\text{order}} \underbrace{-\sum_{i=1}^n u_i v_i}_{\text{order}} \underbrace{-\sum_{w \in V}^n \exp(u_w^T v_c)}_{\text{order}} \underbrace{-\sum_{i=1}^n u_i v_i}_{\text{order}} \underbrace{-\sum_{i=1}^n u_i v_i}_{\text{order}} \underbrace{-\sum_{i=1}^n u_i v_i}_{\text{order}} \underbrace{-\sum_{i=1}^n u_i v_i}_{\text{order}} \underbrace{-\sum_{w \in V}^n \exp(u_w^T v_c)}_{\text{order}} \underbrace{-\sum_{i=1}^n u_i v_i}_{\text{order}} \underbrace{-\sum_{w \in V}^n \exp(u_w^T v_c)}_{\text{order}} \underbrace{-\sum_{i=1}^n u_i v_i}_{\text{order}} \underbrace{-\sum_{i=1}^n u_i v_i}_{\text$

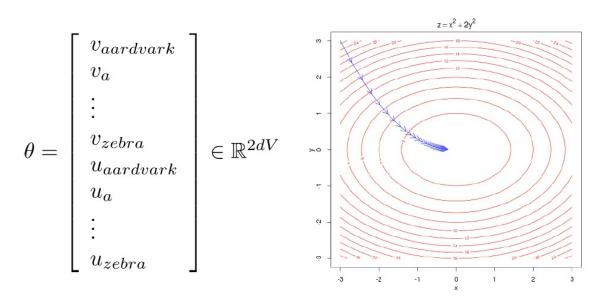
- This is an example of the **softmax function** $\mathbb{R}^n \to (0,1)^n$ Open region softmax $(x_i) = \frac{\exp(x_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^n \exp(x_i)} = p_i$
- The softmax function maps arbitrary values x_i to a probability distribution p_i
 - "max" because amplifies probability of largest x_i
 - "soft" because still assigns some probability to smaller x_i
 - Frequently used in Deep Learning

But sort of a weird name because it returns a distribution!

Word2vec: To Train the Model

To train a model, we gradually adjust parameters to minimize a loss

- Recall: θ represents all the model parameters, in one long vector
- In our case, with
 d-dimensional vectors and
 V-many words, we have →
- Remember: every word has two vectors



- We optimize these parameters by walking down the gradient (see right figure)
- We compute all vector gradients!

The problematic P[o|c]

$$P(o|c) = \frac{\exp(u_o^T v_c)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \exp(u_i^T v_c)}$$

The denominator is difficult to evaluate as it involves the embedding of ALL words in the Universe (Vocabulary)

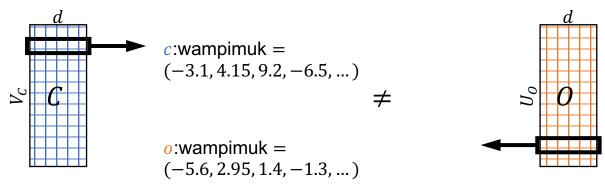
=> Use a trick to circumvent the problem via Negative Sampling

What is Word2vec?

- word2vec is not a single algorithm
- It is a software package for representing words as vectors, containing:
 - Two distinct models
 - ▶ CBoW
 - ► Skip-Gram (SG)
 - Various training methods
 - Negative Sampling (NS)
 - ▶ Hierarchical Softmax
 - ► A rich preprocessing pipeline
 - Dynamic Context Windows
 - Subsampling
 - Deleting Rare Words
- We will focus on the Skip-Grams with Negative Sampling (SGNS) approach!

SGNS starts with SAME basic setting

- SGNS finds a vector v_c for each word c in our vocabulary V_c
- Each such vector has d latent dimensions (e.g. d=100)
- Effectively, it learns a matrix C whose rows represent the center vectors v_c
- Key point: it also learns a similar auxiliary matrix O of outside context vectors
- ullet In fact, each word has two embeddings: $oldsymbol{v}_c$ and $oldsymbol{u}_o$



"word2vec Explained..."
Goldberg & Levy, arXiv
2014

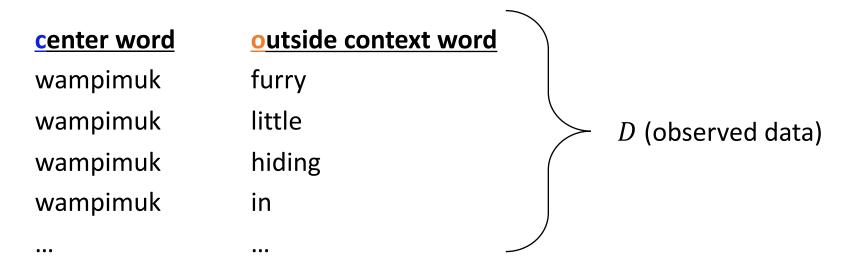
Skip-Grams with Negative Sampling (SGNS)

You first observe (actually sample) the following sentence from the training corpus:

Marco saw a furry little wampimuk hiding in the tree.

Skip-Grams with Negative Sampling (SGNS)

Marco saw a furry little wampimuk hiding in the tree.



"word2vec Explained..." Goldberg & Levy, arXiv 2014

Skip-Grams with Negative Sampling (SGNS)

Maximize $\prod_i \sigma(\vec{c} \cdot \overrightarrow{o_i})$

• o_i was **observed** with c where $\sigma(z) = 1/[1+\exp(-z)]$

<u>center word</u>	outside context
wampimuk	furry
wampimuk	little
wampimuk	hiding
wampimuk	in

AND Minimize $\prod_i \sigma(\vec{c} \cdot \overrightarrow{o_i}')$

\parallel = IVIAXIIIIIZE \parallel \parallel \parallel \perp $= 0$ ($C \cdot O_i$		■ Maximize	$\prod_i [1-\sigma]$	$(\vec{c} \cdot \overrightarrow{o_i}')$
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• o_i was NOT **observed** with c, they are from the set of Negative Samples D' randomly generated by the algorithm.

<u>center word</u>	NOT outside context
wampimuk	Australia

wampimuk cyber wampimuk the

wampimuk 1985

Take Log and the optimization problem becomes "similar" to the training of a binary logistic-regression classifier:

$$\arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D} \log \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}} + \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D} \log \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}} + \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (\frac{1}{1 + e^{v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D} \log \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}} + \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D} \log \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}} + \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D} \log \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}} + \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D} \log \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}} + \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}}) \\ = \arg\max_{\theta} \sum_{(w,c) \in D'} \log (1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-v_c \cdot v_w}})$$

Summary: How to learn Word2vec Embeddings via SGNS

For a vocabulary of size V: Start with V random 300-dimensional vectors as initial embeddings

Train a logistic regression classifier to distinguish words that co-occur in corpus from those that don't Pairs of words that co-occur are positive examples Pairs of words that don't co-occur are negative examples Train the classifier to distinguish these by slowly adjusting all the embeddings to improve the classifier performance

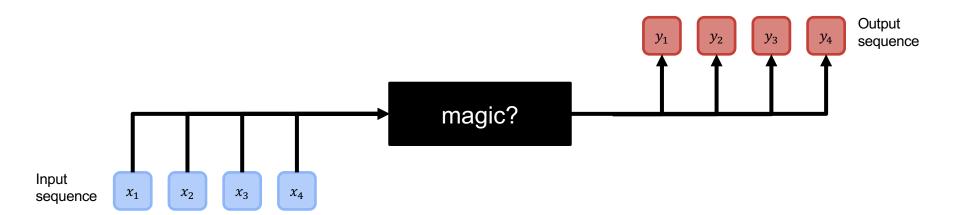
Throw away the classifier code and keep the embeddings.

NLP Tasks as Sequence to Sequence Modeling

NLP Tasks as Sequence to Sequence Modeling

Example Scenarios

- ► Text → Text (e.g. Q/A, translation, text summarization)
- ► Image → Text (e.g. image captioning)

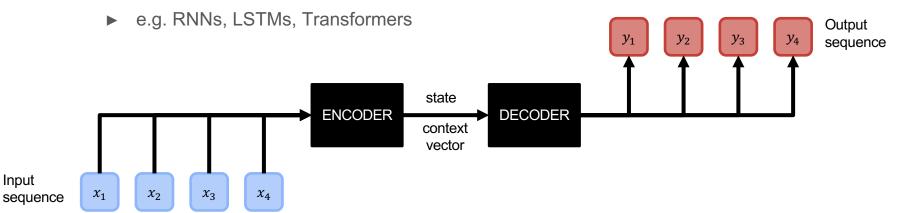


NLP Tasks as Sequence to Sequence Modeling

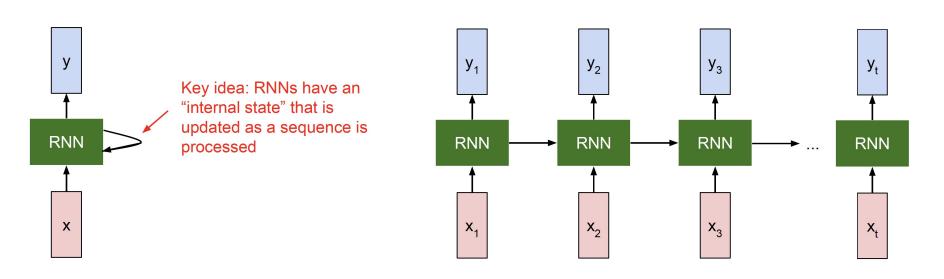
▶ Example Scenarios

- ► Text → Text (e.g. Q/A, translation, text summarization)
- ► Image → Text (e.g. image captioning)

► How? Usually Encoder-Decoder models



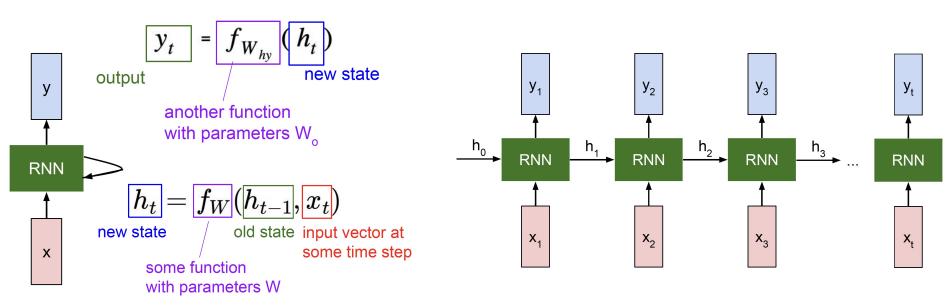
Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) – a Seq2Seq NN model



An RNN "Unrolled" along the Time axis

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

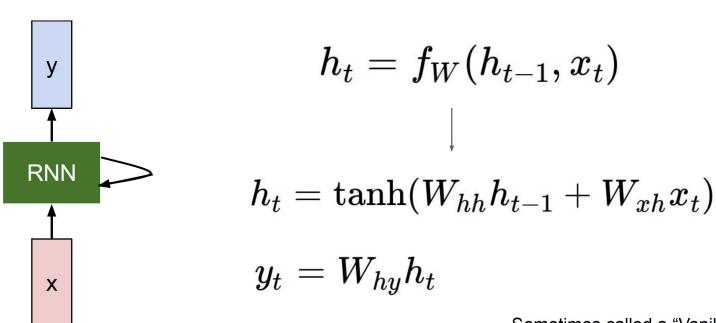
We can process a sequence of vectors **x** by applying a **recurrence formula** at every time step:



Notice: the same function and the same set of parameters are used at every time step.

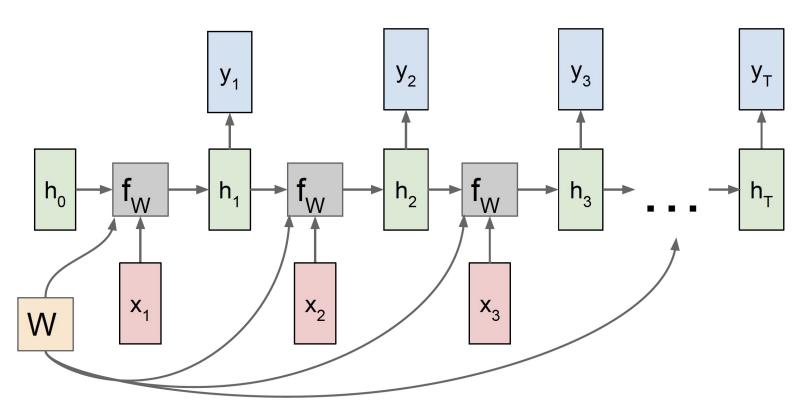
(Vanilla) Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

The state consists of a single "hidden" vector **h**:



Sometimes called a "Vanilla RNN" or an "Elman RNN" after Prof. Jeffrey Elman

Computational Graph for an RNN



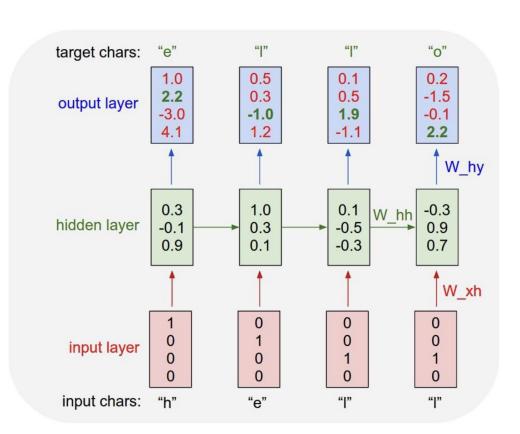
Note the reusing of the SAME weight matrix \mathbf{f}_{W} at every time-step!

Example: Character-level Language Model

Vocabulary: [h,e,l,o]

Example training sequence: "hello"

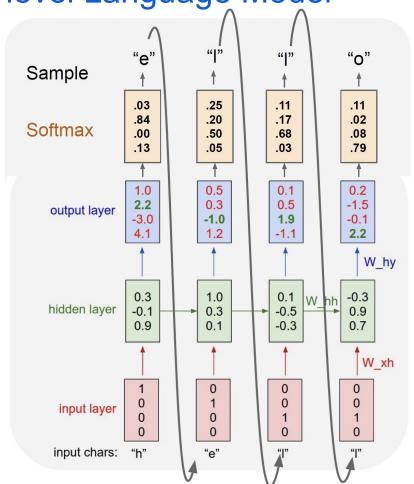
 $h_t = \tanh(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{xh}x_t)$



Example: Character-level Language Model

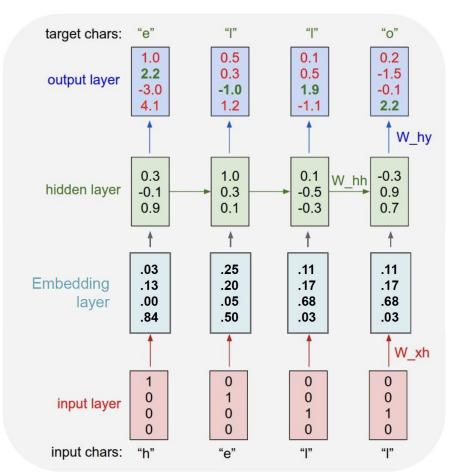
Vocabulary: [h,e,l,o]

At test-time sample characters one at a time, feed back to model



Example: Character-level Language Model

Matrix multiply with a one-hot vector just extracts a column from the weight matrix. We often put a separate **embedding** layer between input and hidden layers.

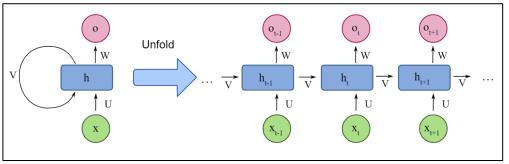


Weaknesses of early NN-based NLP approaches

- ► Short context length
- ► "Linear" reasoning no attention mechanism to focus on other parts
- ► Earlier approaches (e.g. word2vec) do not adapt based on context.

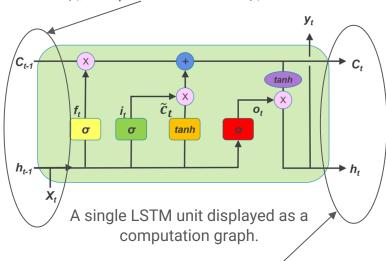
Seq2Seq Models w/ Neural Nets: the Pre-Transformer Era

- Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs)
- Long Short-Term Memory Networks (LSTMs)
- Capture dependencies between input tokens
- Gates control the flow of information



A simple RNN shown unrolled in time. Network layers are recalculated for each time step, while weights U, V and W are shared across all time steps.

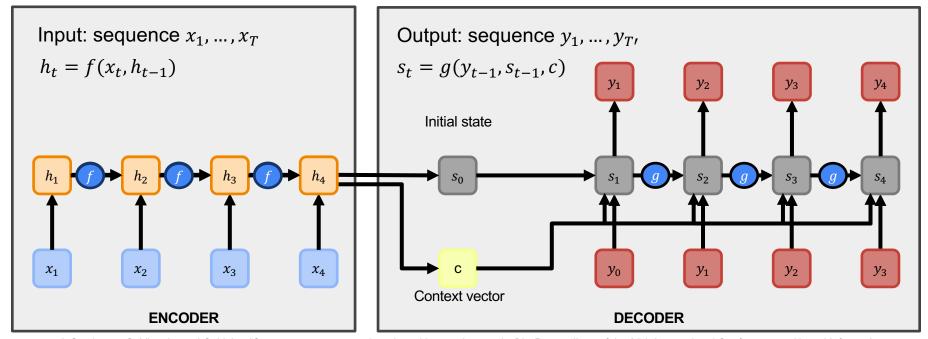
The inputs to each unit consists of the current input x_t , previous hidden state h_{t-1} , and previous context c_{t-1}



The outputs are a new hidden state h_t and an updated context c_t .

Better Capturing of Long-Range Dependence using LSTM for Seq2Seq Modeling

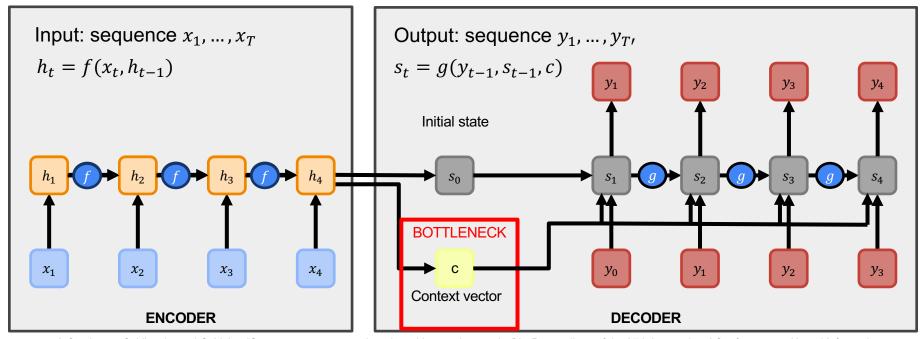
- ► Encoder (LSTM) and decoder (LSTM)
- ▶ Fixed-length context vector



I. Sutskever, O. Vinyals, and Q. V. Le, "Sequence to sequence learning with neural networks," in *Proceedings of the 27th International Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS)*, 2014, pp. 3104–3112.

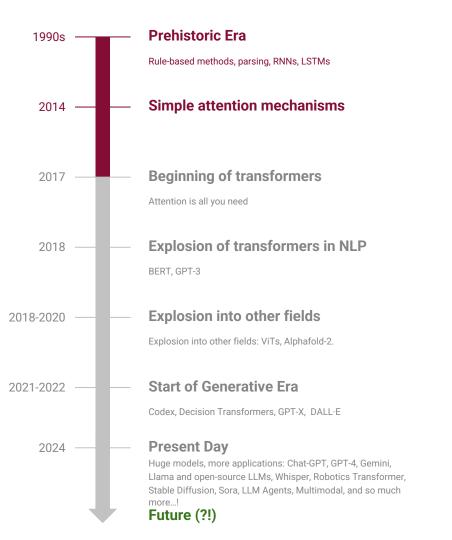
LSTM still suffers from Information Bottleneck

- ► Encoder (LSTM) and decoder (LSTM)
- Fixed-length context vector (bottleneck)



I. Sutskever, O. Vinyals, and Q. V. Le, "Sequence to sequence learning with neural networks," in *Proceedings of the 27th International Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS)*, 2014, pp. 3104–3112.

Attention Timeline

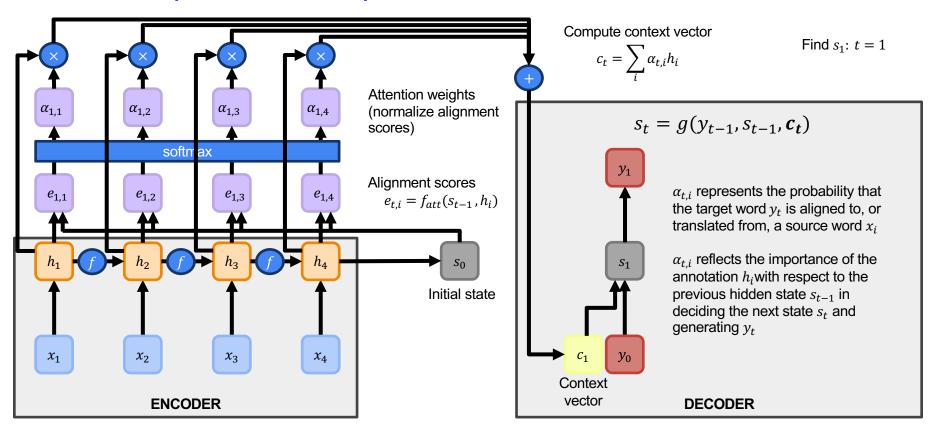


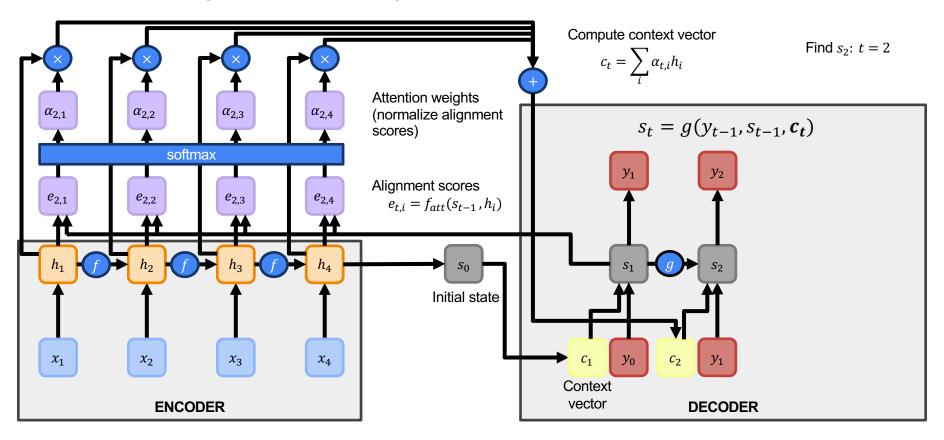
▶ Idea! Use a different context vector for each timestep in the decoder

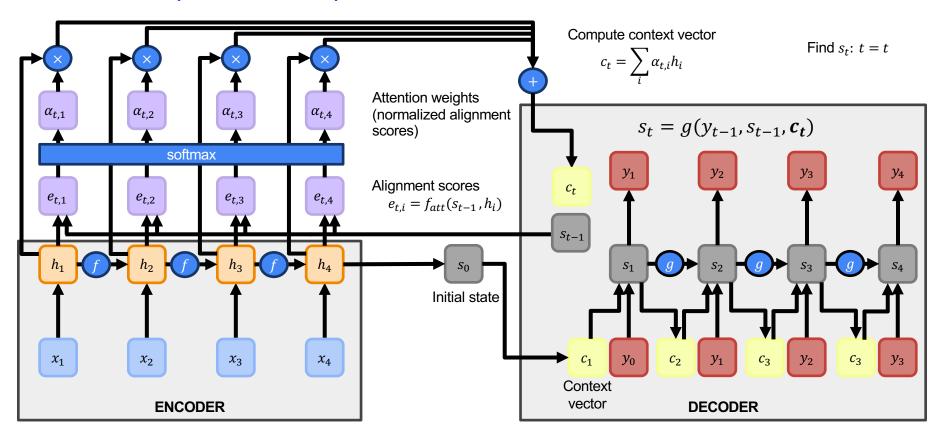
$$s_t = g(y_{t-1}, s_{t-1}, \boldsymbol{c_t})$$

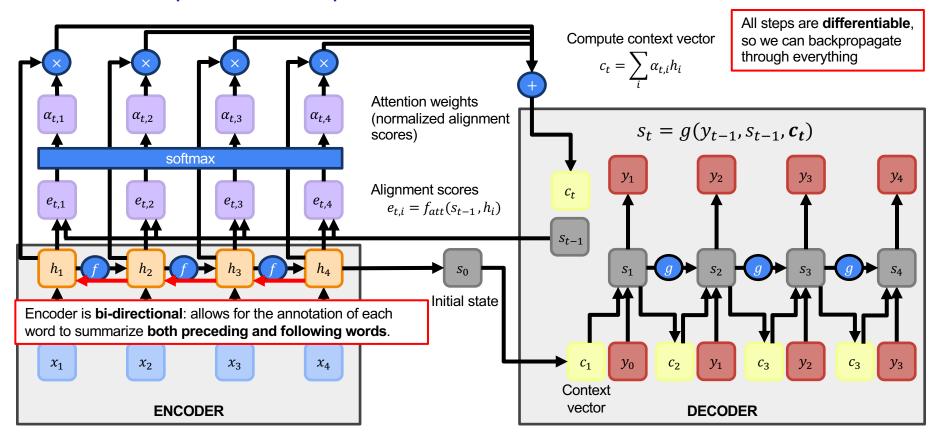
No more bottleneck through a single vector

► Craft the context vector so that it "looks at" different parts of the input sequence for each decoder timestep



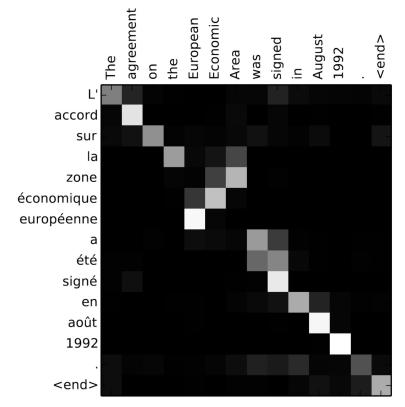






Application: translation

Each pixel shows the weight $\alpha_{t,i}$ of the annotation of the *i*-th source word for the *t*-th target word.



D. Bahdanau, K. Cho, and Y. Bengio, "Neural Machine Translation by Jointly Learning to Align and Translate," in 3rd International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2015.

Application:

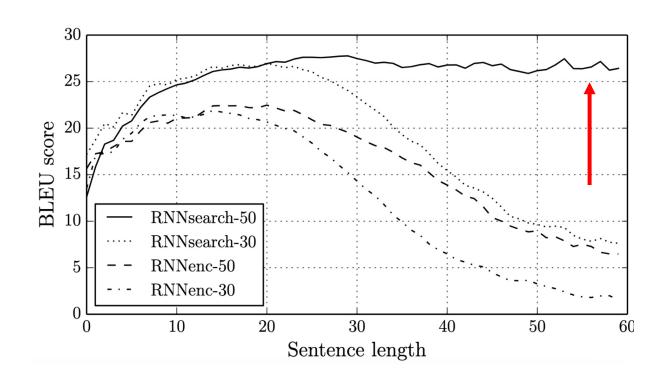
text translation

RNN:

RNNenc

RNN + attention:

RNNsearch



D. Bahdanau, K. Cho, and Y. Bengio, "Neural Machine Translation by Jointly Learning to Align and Translate," in 3rd International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2015.

Motivating Transformers by Understanding the Limitations of Recurrent Models

Challenge 1: Modeling long-range dependencies

Challenge 2: Optimization due to vanishing and exploding gradients

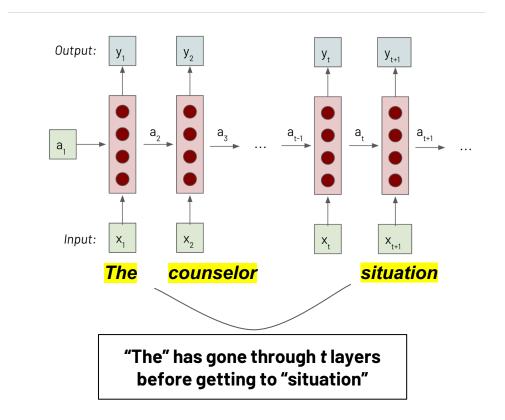
Challenge 3: Slow (sequential, serial) bottleneck

Caveating this discussion: while the challenges we'll discuss originally motivated Transformers, many have continued to make progress on RNNs over the years (<u>S4</u>, <u>Mamba</u>, <u>Linear Attention</u>, <u>GLA</u>, <u>Based</u>, etc.)

Challenge 1: Long Interaction Distances

E.g. "The counselor helped **frame** the situation."

Performance degrades
 as the distance between
 words increases due to
 memory constraints:
 Diluted impact of earlier
 elements on output as
 sequence progresses

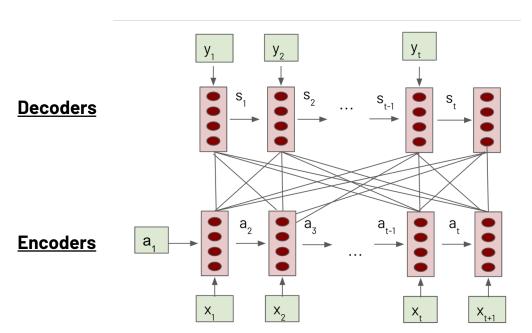


While RNNs + "Attention" has made some progress, the coupling of the "sequential" structure of RNN with Attention still creates difficulties

Key idea of the

RNN + Attention operation:

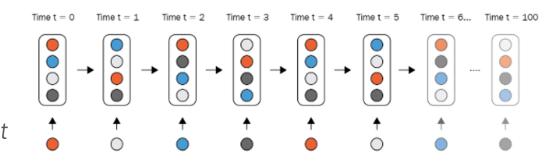
All tokens interact with all other tokens' representations



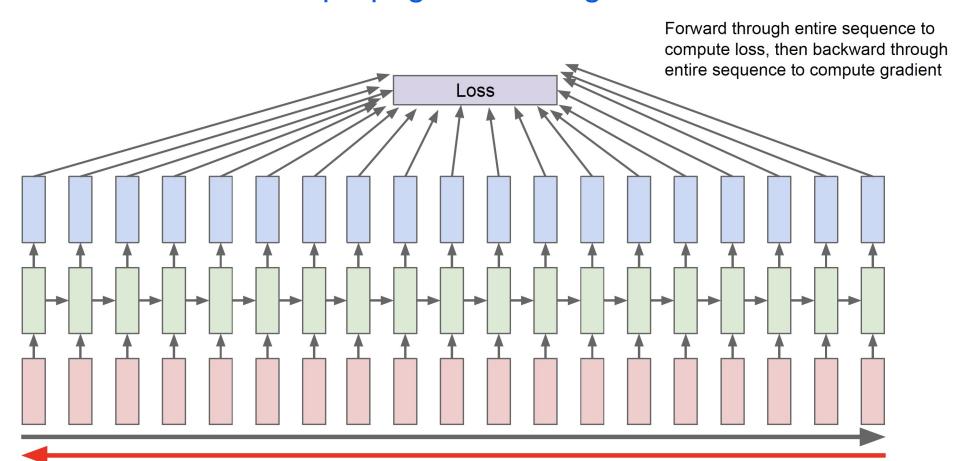
Challenge 2: RNNs/ LSTMs are difficult to train!

Backpropagation through many timesteps/"layers"...

Recall: backpropogation is about updating the parameters in a way that reduces the loss. We multiply with respect to each set of parameters at each timestep.



Backpropagation through Time

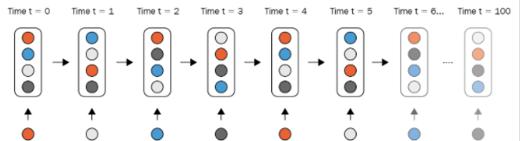


Challenge 2: RNNs/LSTMs are difficult to train!

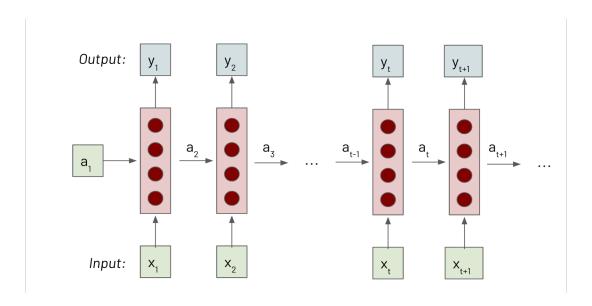
If the value we are multiplying is **large**, our gradients will grow **exponentially**!

The model becomes **unstable**!

If the value we are multiplying is small, our gradients will get smaller each timestep, going to 0. The network stops learning/learns too slowly.



Challenge 3: Parallelizability



Each time step needs to be processed before we can move onto the next step.

Decoupling "Attention" from RNNs

- Recall: attention determines the importance of elements to be passed forward in the model.
 - These weights lets the model pay attention to the most significant parts

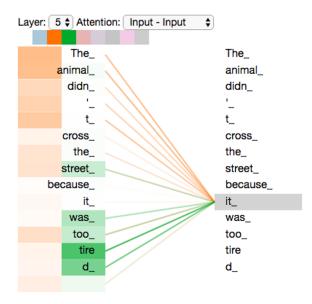
- ▶ **Objective**: a more general attention mechanism not confined to RNNs
 - We need a modified procedure to:
 - Determine weights based on context that indicate the elements to attend to
 - 2. Apply these weights to enhance attended features

Self-Attention and Transformers

- Allows to "focus attention" on particular aspects of the input while generating the output.
- Done by using a set of parameters, called "weights," that determine how much attention should be paid to each input token at each time step.
- These weights are computed using a combination of the input and the current hidden state of the model.

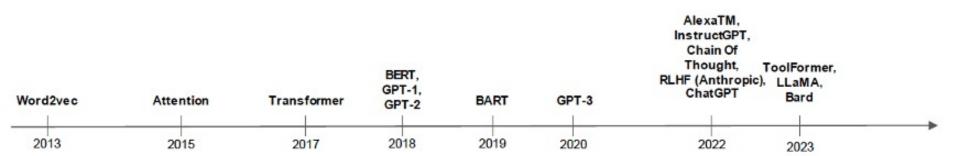
$$\operatorname{Attention}(Q,K,V) = \operatorname{softmax}(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}})V$$

A. Vaswani et al. Attention Is All You Need. NeurIPS 2017.



In encoding the word "it", one attention head is focusing most on "the animal", while another is focusing on "tired". The model's representation of the word "it" thus bakes in some of the representation of both "animal" and "tired". https://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-transformer/

Transformers – the current "standard" for building LLMs and Foundation Models



Slides for video from: Prof. Jia-Bin Huang University of Maryland, College Park

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcWMRA9E5RI







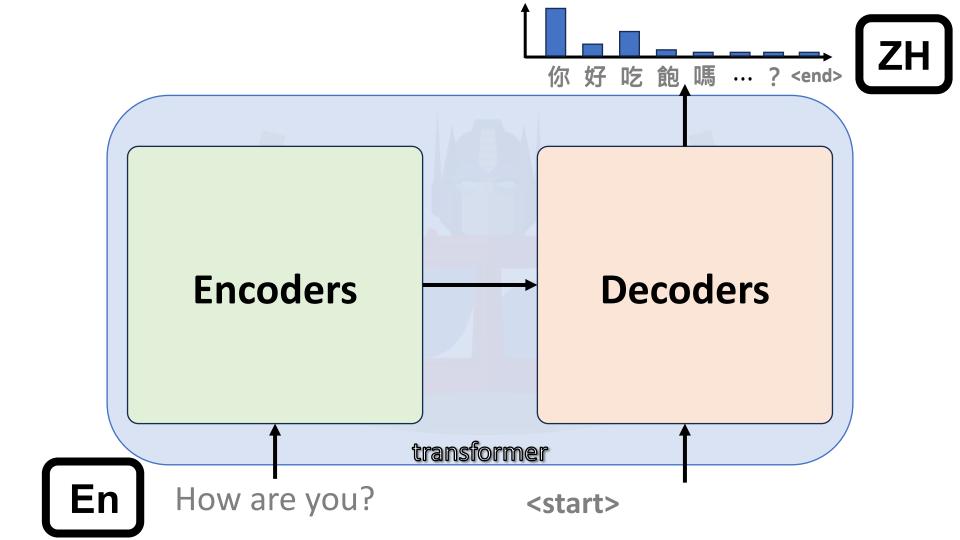
How?

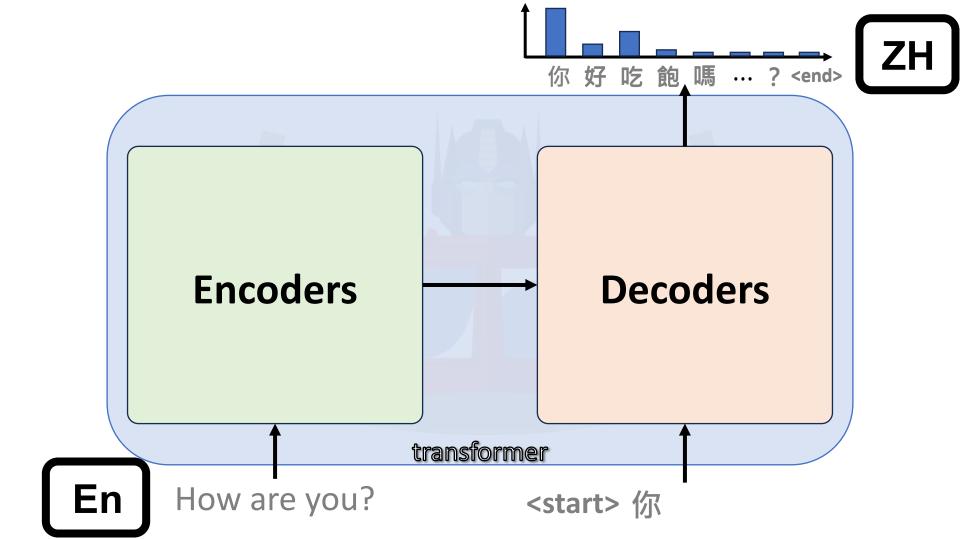


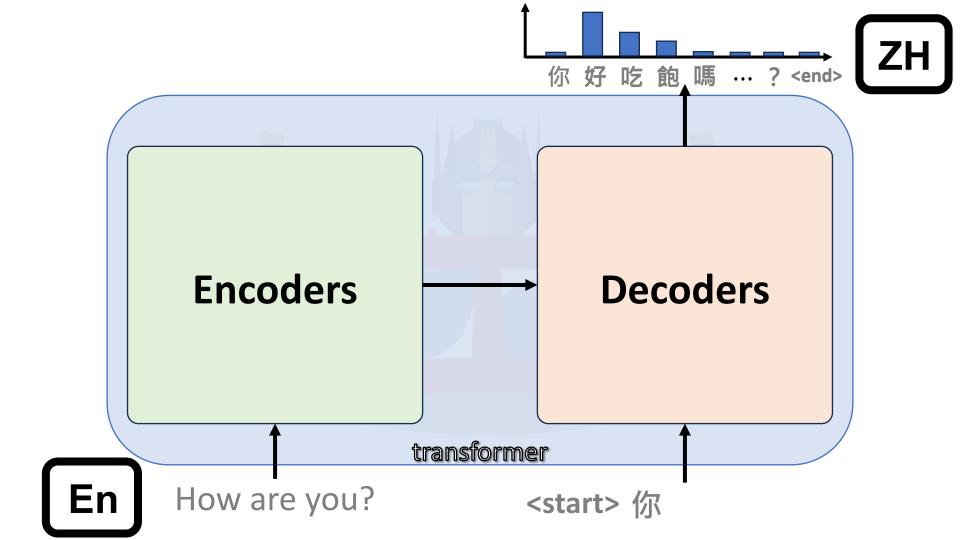
Why?

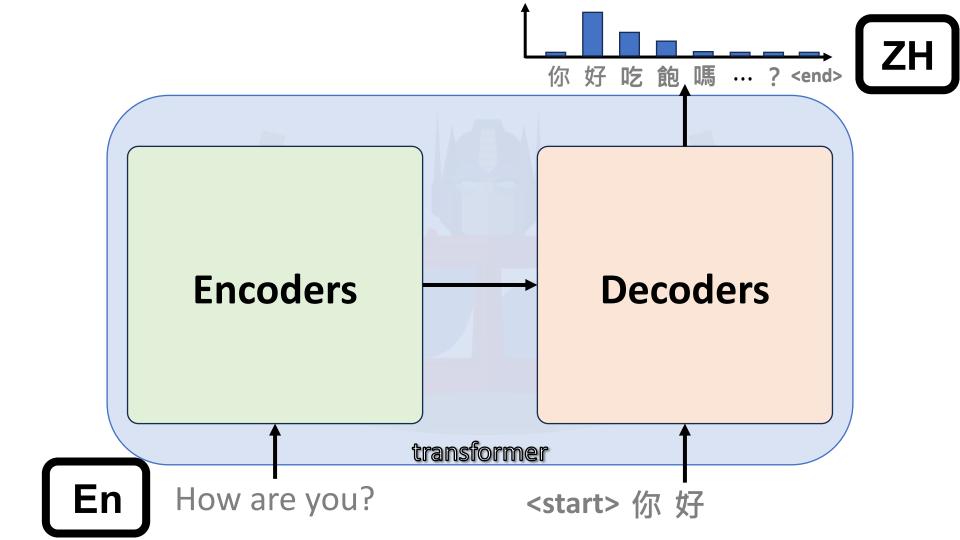


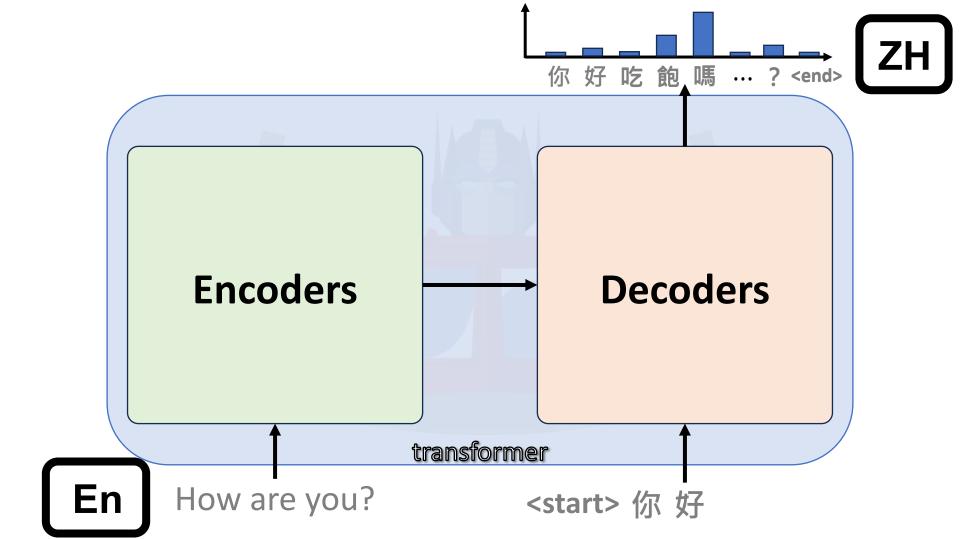
Sequence-to-Sequence model

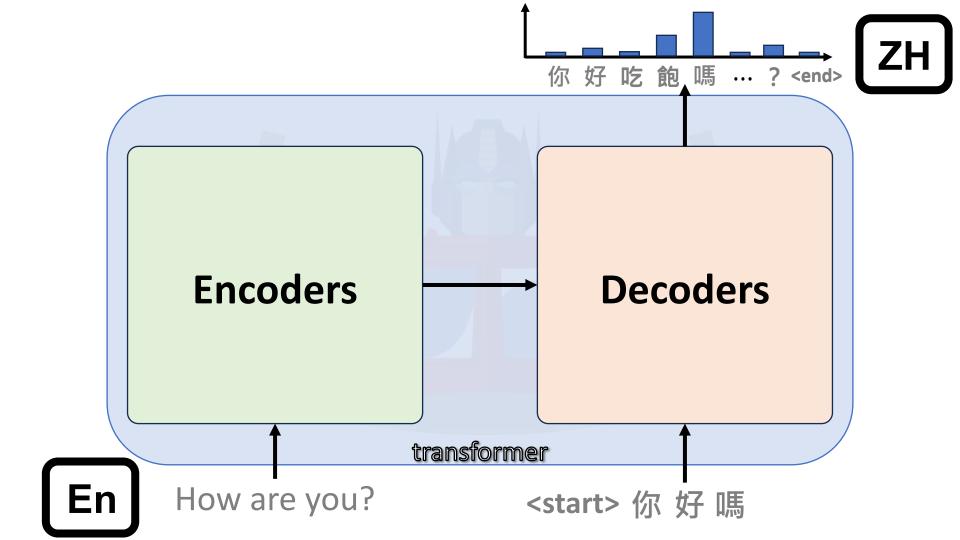


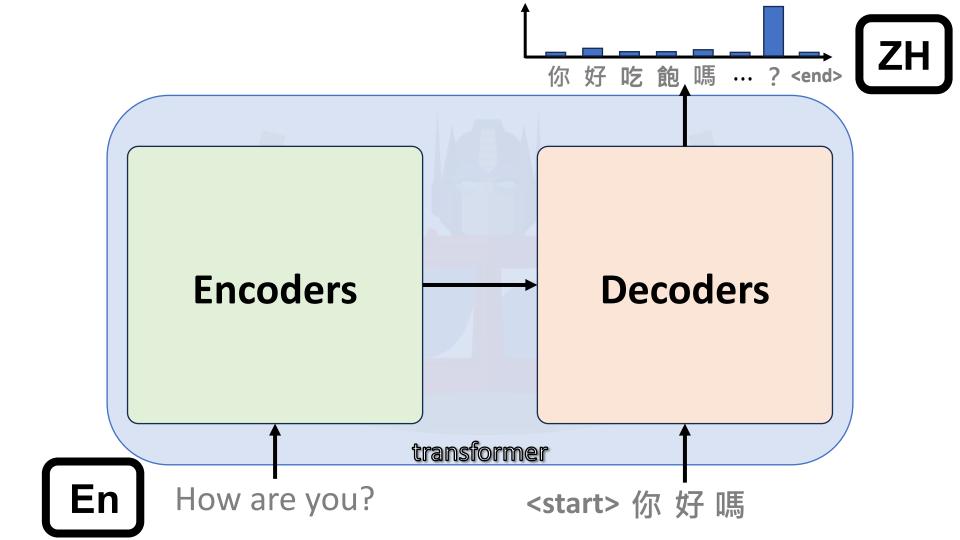


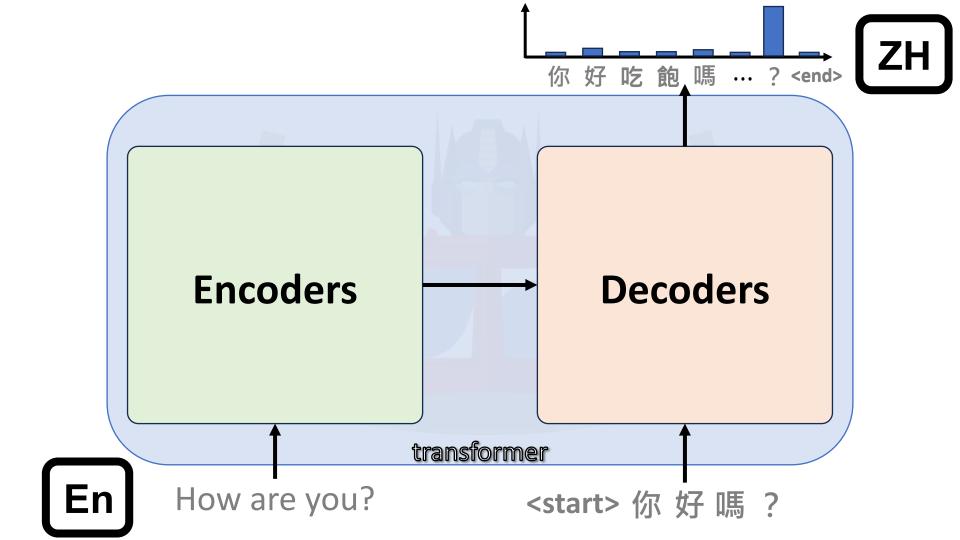


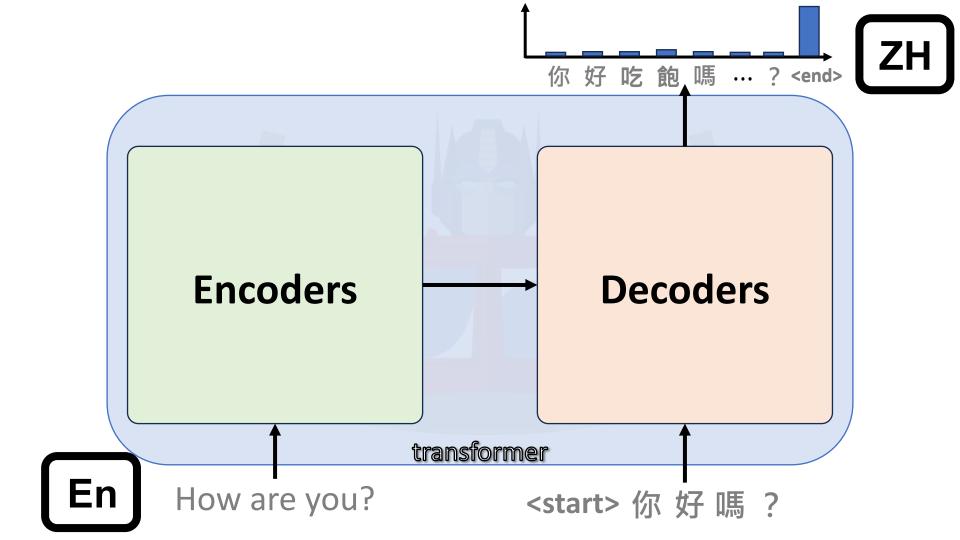


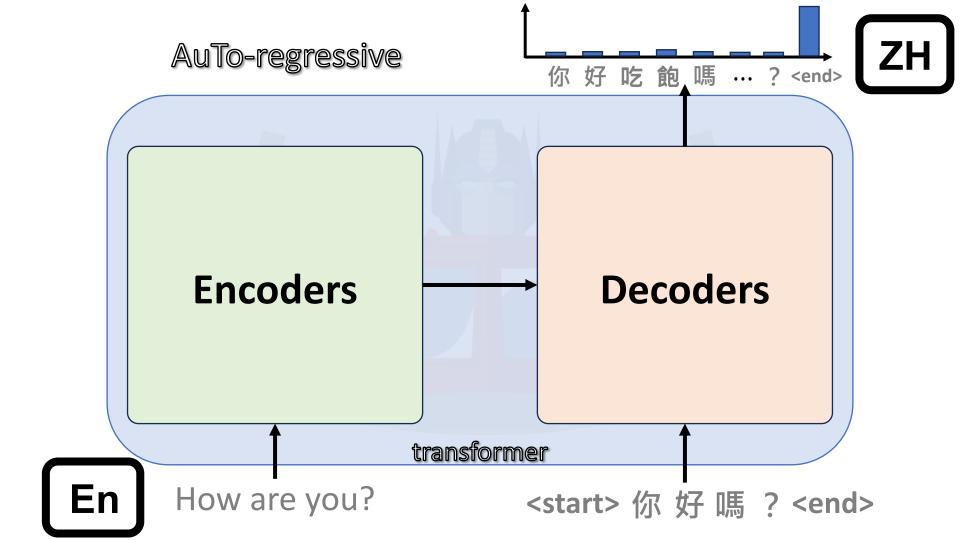








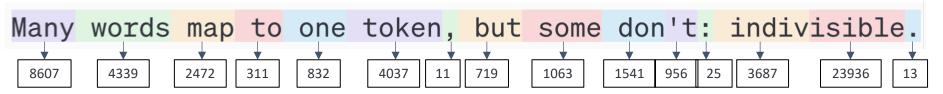


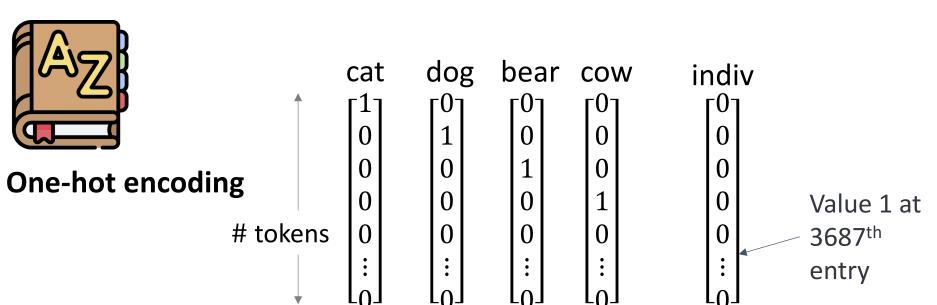


Encoders

How are you?

Tokenization



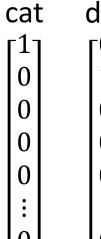


One-hot encoding

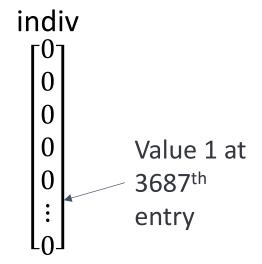






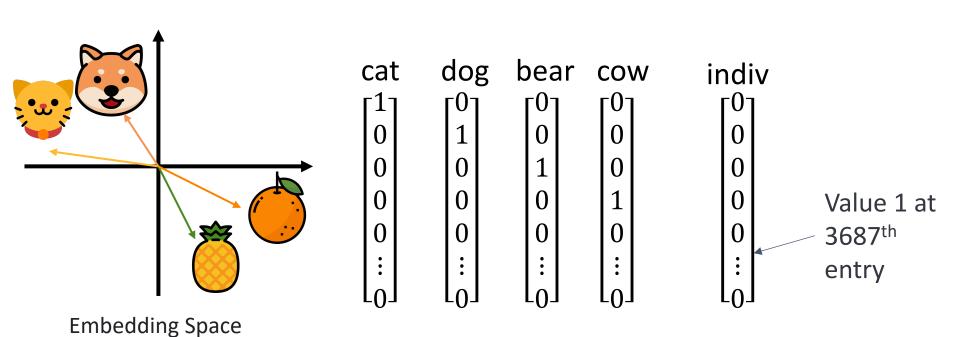


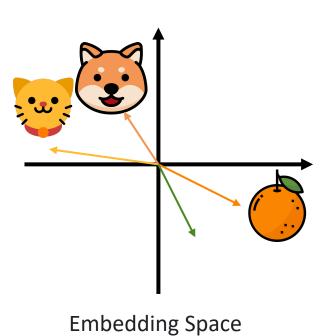
dog	bear	COV
[0]	۲0٦	۲0٦
1	0	0
0	1	0
0	0	1
0	0	0
Γ^{0}	$\lceil L_0 \rceil$	Γ^{0}







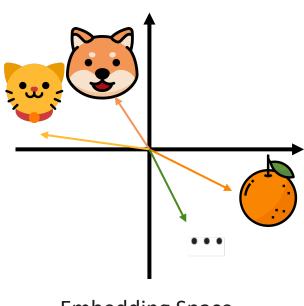




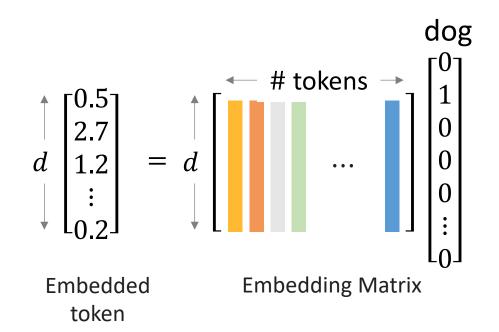
$$dog \begin{pmatrix} 0.5 \\ 2.7 \\ 1.2 \\ \vdots \\ 0.2 \end{pmatrix} = d \begin{pmatrix} \text{\# tokens} \\ \text{D} \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

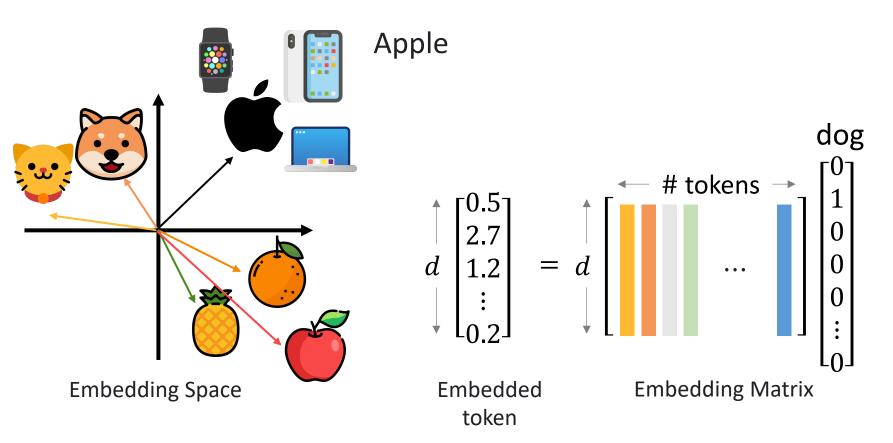
$$Embedded \qquad Embedding Matrix$$

token

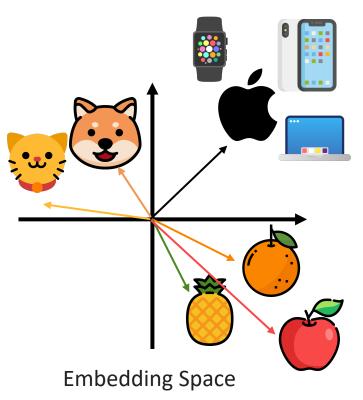


Embedding Space





TOKEN EMBEDDING

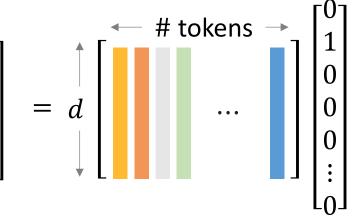


Apple

I bought an **apple** and an orange.

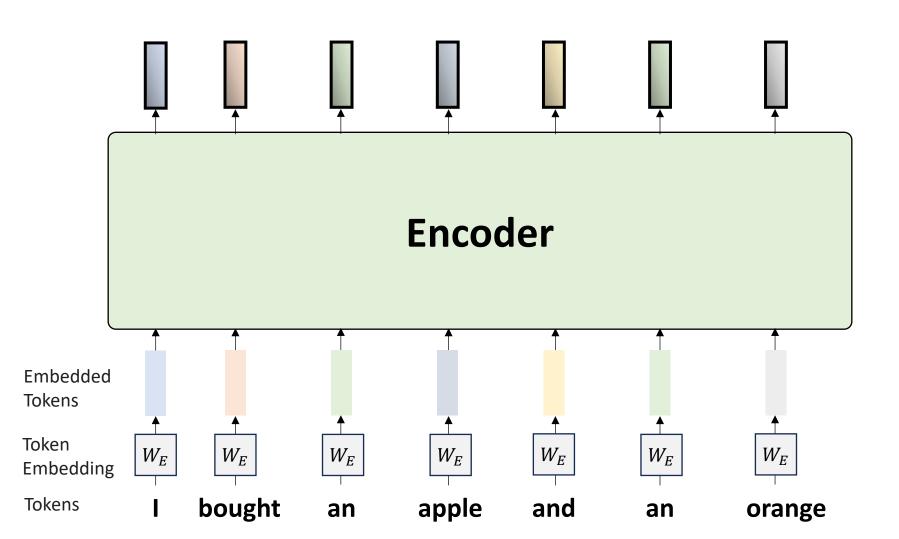
dog

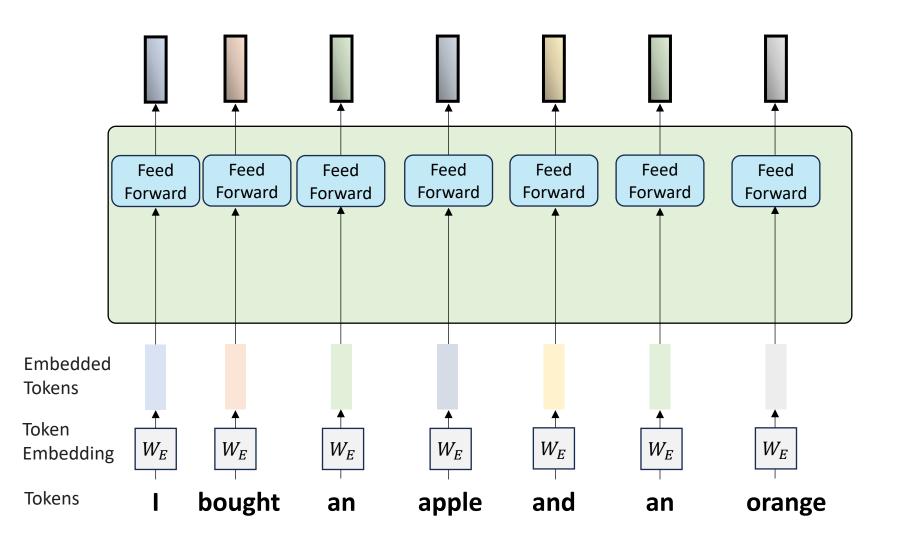
I bought an **apple** watch.

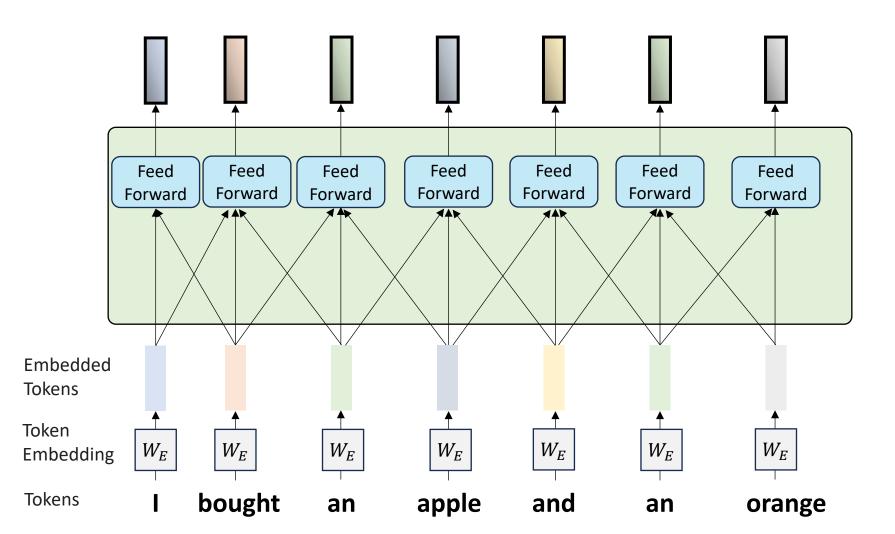


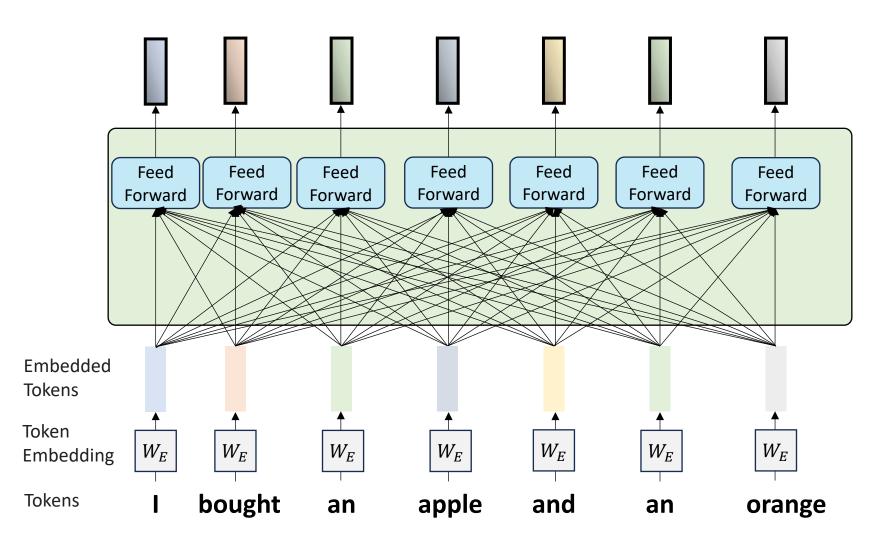
Embedded token

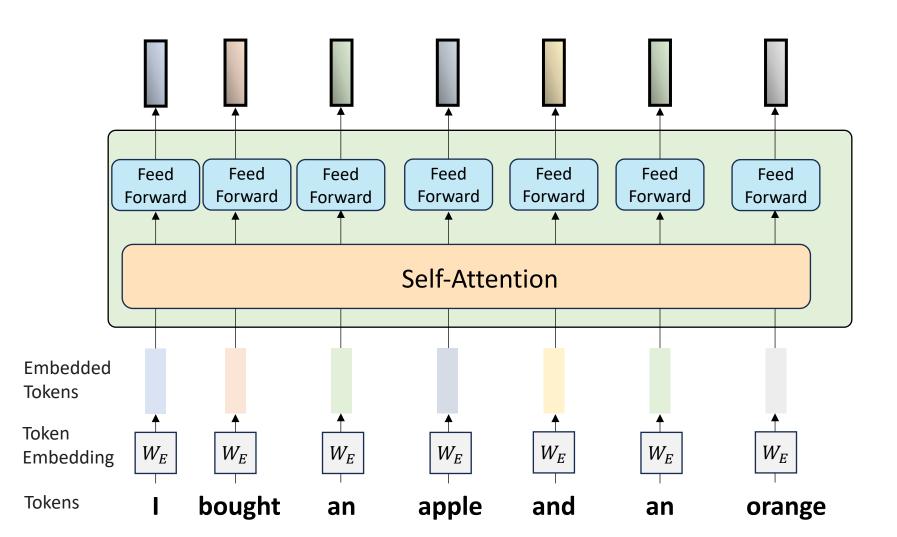
Embedding Matrix

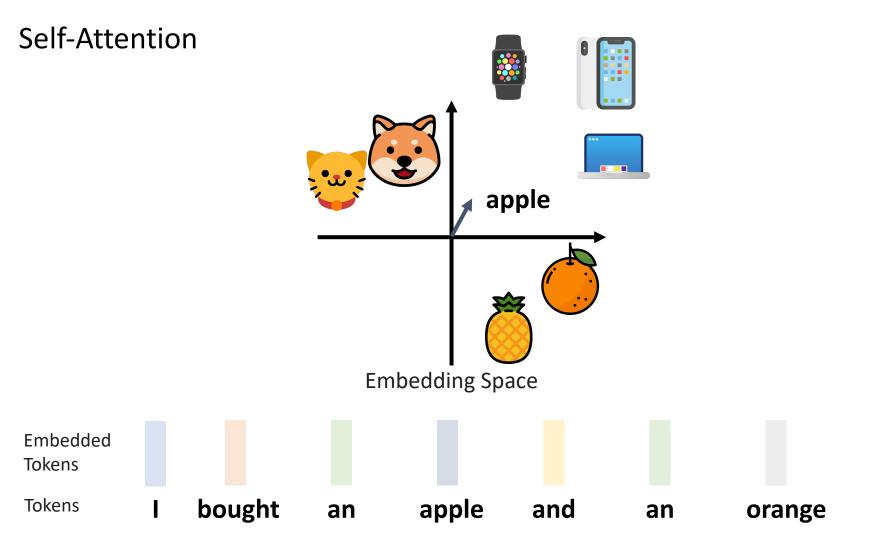


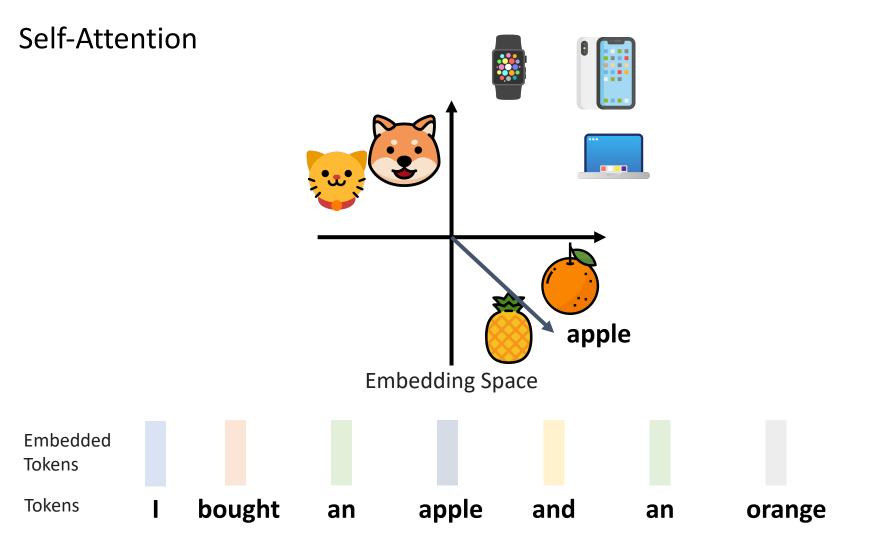


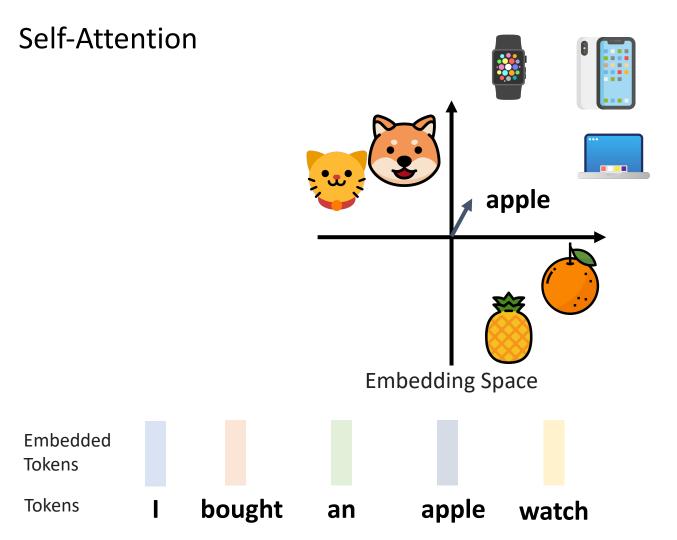


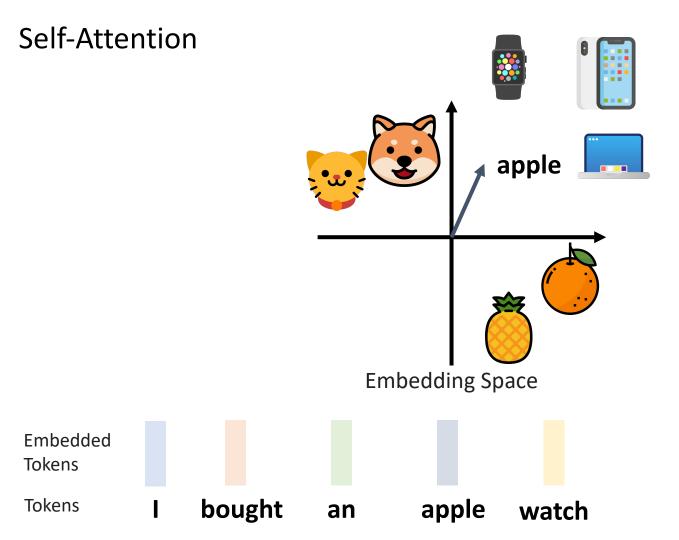




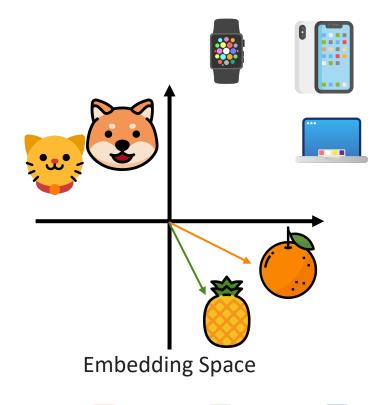






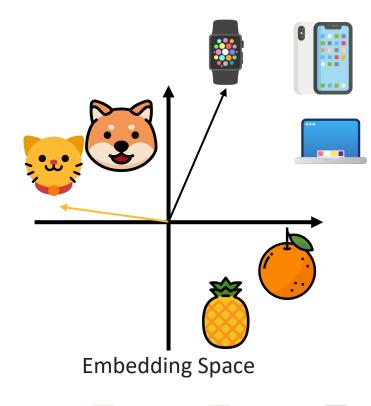


Self-Attention



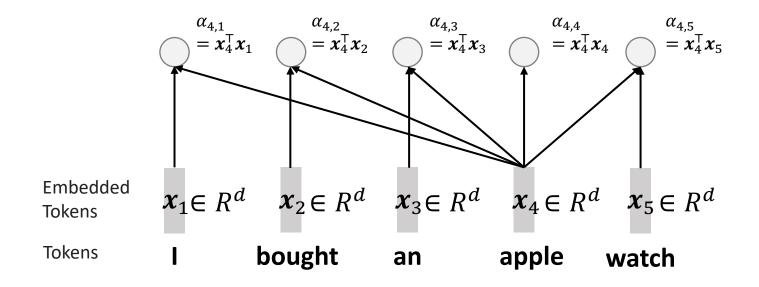


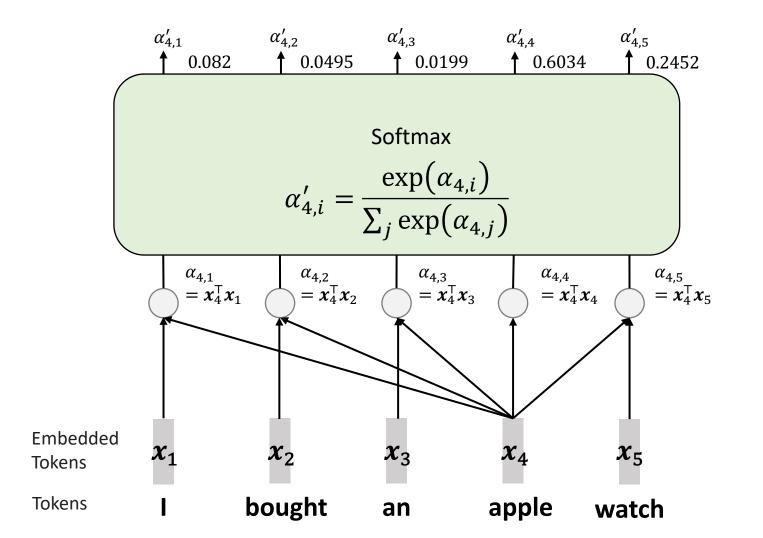
Self-Attention

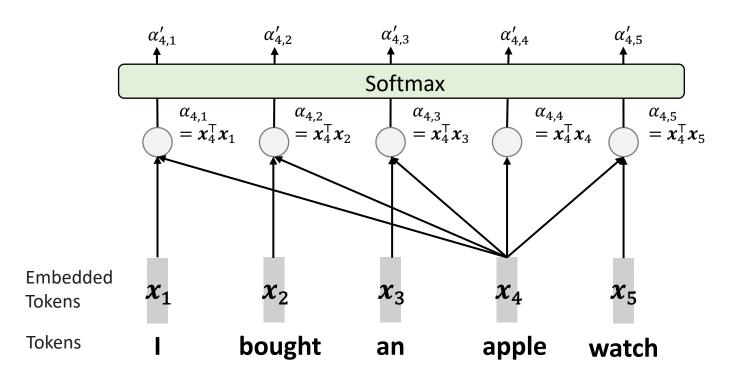


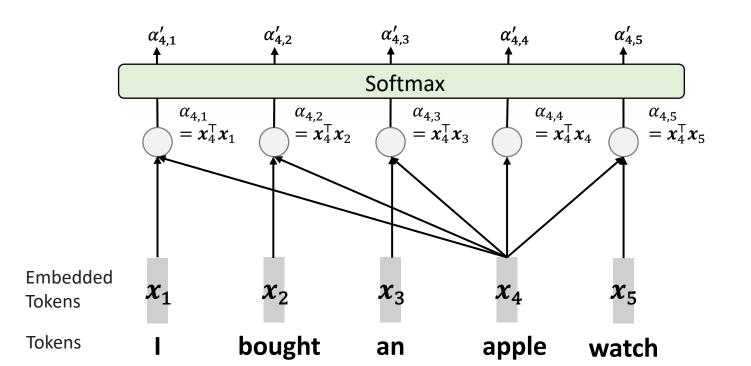


Self-Attention





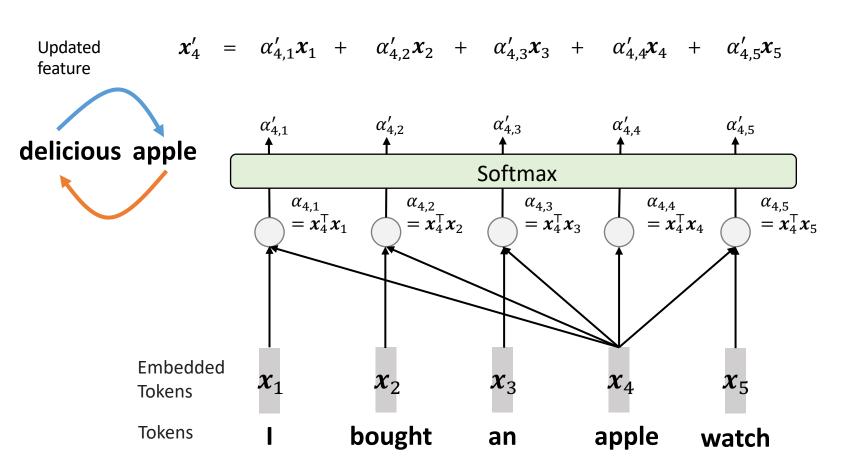


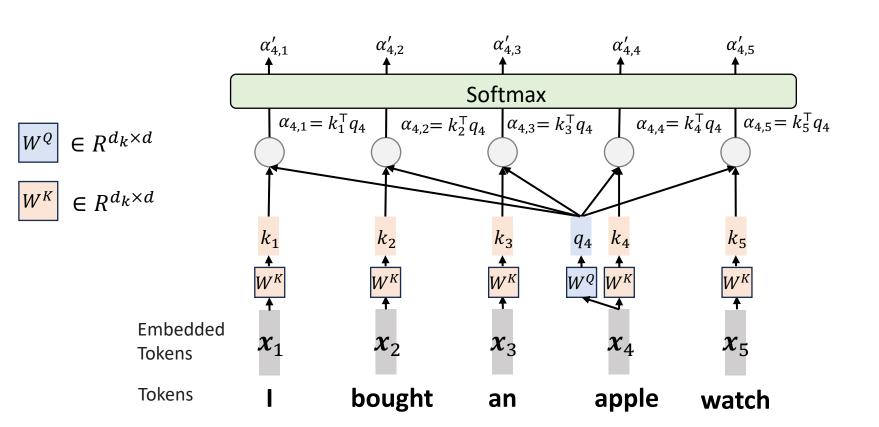


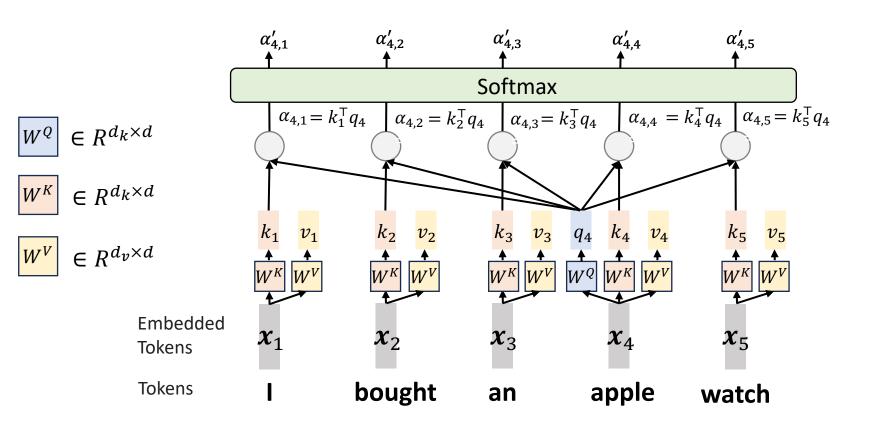
 $x_4' = \alpha_{4,1}' x_1 + \alpha_{4,2}' x_2 + \alpha_{4,3}' x_3 + \alpha_{4,4}' x_4 +$ Updated feature $\alpha'_{4,4}$ $\alpha'_{4,1}$ $\alpha'_{4,2}$ $\alpha'_{4,3}$ $\alpha'_{4,5}$ watch Softmax $\begin{array}{l} \alpha_{4,1} \\ = \boldsymbol{x}_4^\mathsf{T} \boldsymbol{x}_1 \end{array}$ $\alpha_{4,2} \\ = \boldsymbol{x}_4^\mathsf{T} \boldsymbol{x}_2$ $\alpha_{4,5} \\ = \boldsymbol{x}_4^\mathsf{T} \boldsymbol{x}_5$ $\alpha_{4,4}$ apple $\alpha_{4,3}$ $= \boldsymbol{x}_4^\mathsf{T} \boldsymbol{x}_3$ $= \boldsymbol{x}_4^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{x}_4$ an bought Embedded \boldsymbol{x}_2 \boldsymbol{x}_3 \boldsymbol{x}_{5} \boldsymbol{x}_1 $oldsymbol{x}_4$ Tokens Tokens bought apple watch

an

 $x_4' = \alpha_{4,1}' x_1 + \alpha_{4,2}' x_2 + \alpha_{4,3}' x_3 + \alpha_{4,4}' x_4 +$ Updated feature $\alpha'_{4,4}$ $\alpha'_{4,1}$ $\alpha'_{4,2}$ $\alpha'_{4,3}$ $\alpha'_{4,5}$ watch Softmax apple $\begin{array}{l} \alpha_{4,1} \\ = \boldsymbol{x}_4^\mathsf{T} \boldsymbol{x}_1 \end{array}$ $\alpha_{4,2} \\ = \boldsymbol{x}_4^\mathsf{T} \boldsymbol{x}_2$ $\alpha_{4,5} \\ = \boldsymbol{x}_4^\mathsf{T} \boldsymbol{x}_5$ $\alpha_{4,4}$ $\alpha_{4,3}$ $= \boldsymbol{x}_4^\mathsf{T} \boldsymbol{x}_3$ $= \boldsymbol{x}_4^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{x}_4$ an bought Embedded \boldsymbol{x}_2 \boldsymbol{x}_3 \boldsymbol{x}_{5} \boldsymbol{x}_1 $oldsymbol{x}_4$ Tokens Tokens bought apple watch an

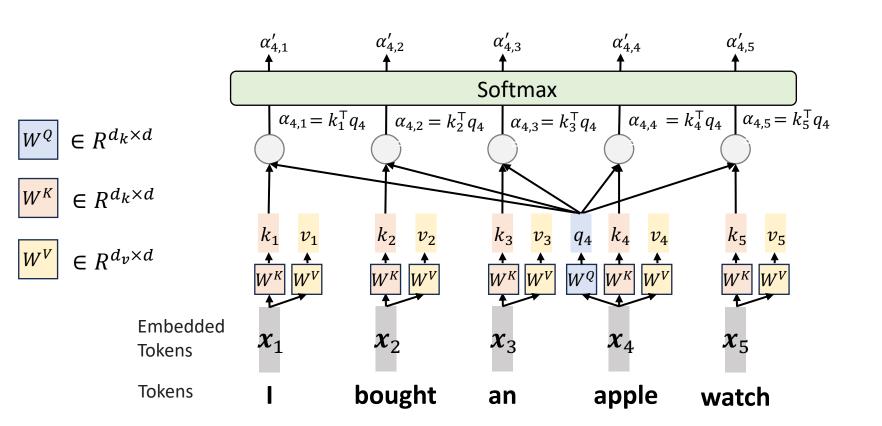


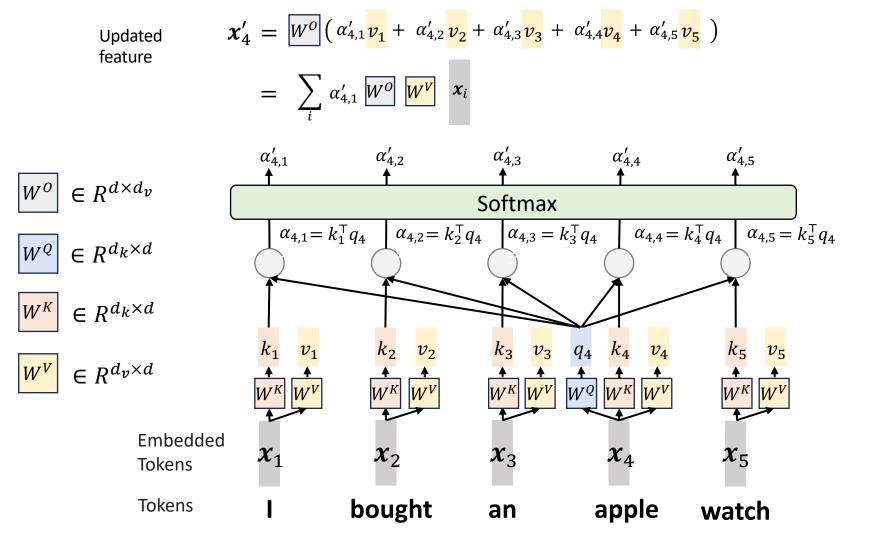


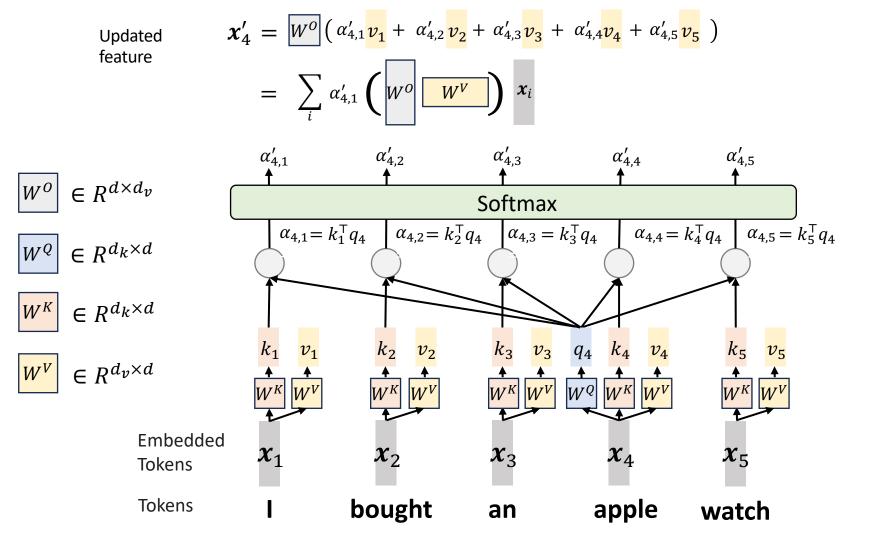


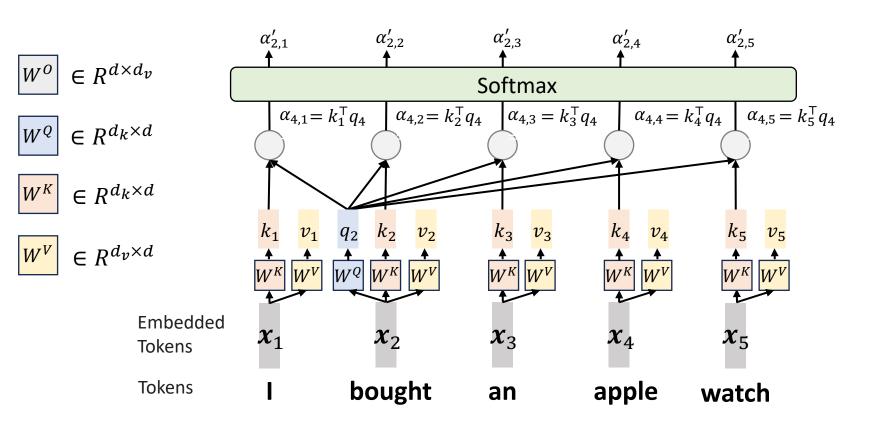
Updated feature

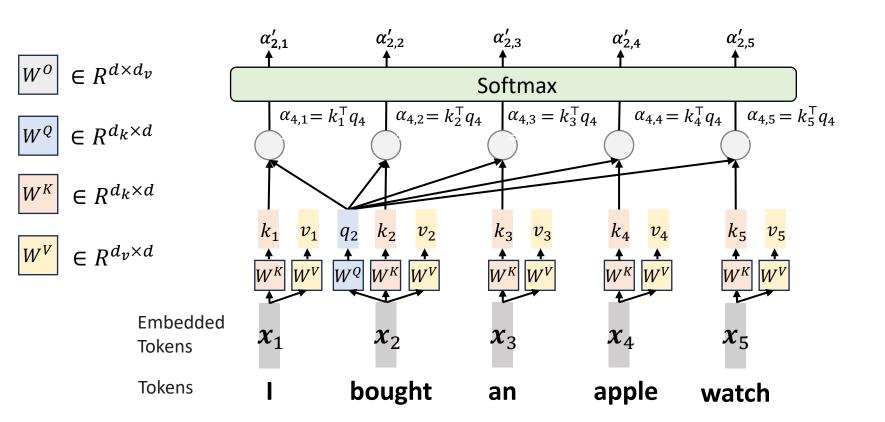
$$x_4' = \alpha_{4,1}' v_1 + \alpha_{4,2}' v_2 + \alpha_{4,3}' v_3 + \alpha_{4,4}' v_4 + \alpha_{4,5}' v_5$$



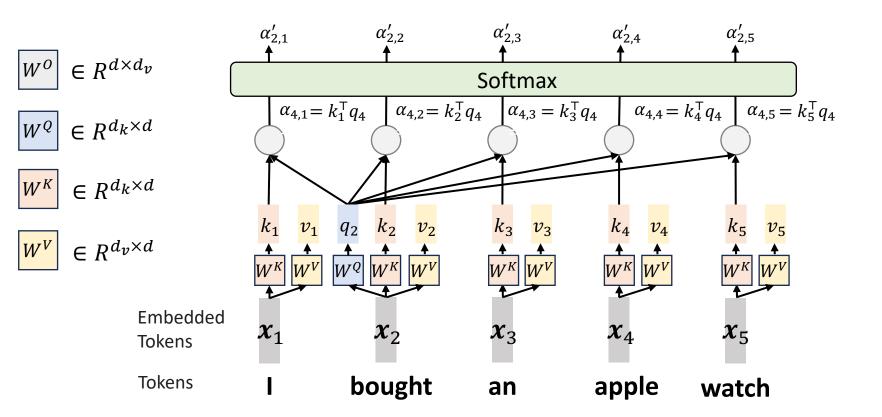








$$\mathbf{x}_{2}' = W^{0}(\alpha_{2,1}' \mathbf{v_{1}} + \alpha_{2,2}' \mathbf{v_{2}} + \alpha_{2,3}' \mathbf{v_{3}} + \alpha_{2,4}' \mathbf{v_{4}} + \alpha_{2,5}' \mathbf{v_{5}})$$



Total weights: 175,181,291,520

d embed * d value * n heads * n layers

12,288

n_neurons * d_embed * n_layers

49.152

d_embed * n_neurons * n_layers

12,288

n vocab * d embed

Organized into	27,938 matrices
Embedding	12,288 d_embed * n

Up-projection

Unembedding

Down-projection

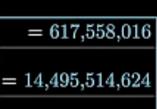
Organized into 27,938 matrices		
Embedding	12,288 50,257 d_embed * n_vocab	
Key	128 12,288 96 96 d_query * d_embed * n_heads * n_lay	
Query	128 12,288 96 96 d_query * d_embed * n_heads * n_lay	
Value	128 12,288 96 96 d_value * d_embed * n_heads * n_laye	
Output	12,288 128 96 96 d_embed * d_value * n_heads * n_laye	

49.152

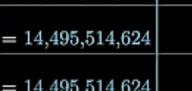
12,288

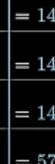
50.257





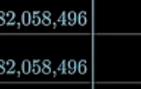


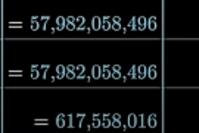


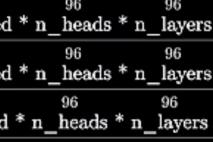












96

ers/

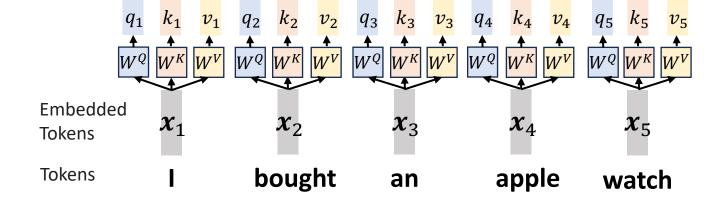
$$\alpha_{1,1} = k_1^{\mathsf{T}} q_1$$

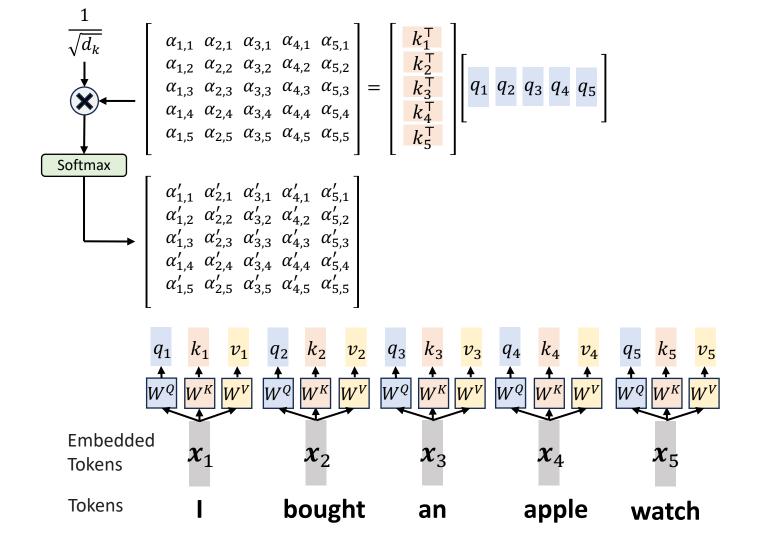
$$\alpha_{1,2} = k_2^{\mathsf{T}} q_1$$

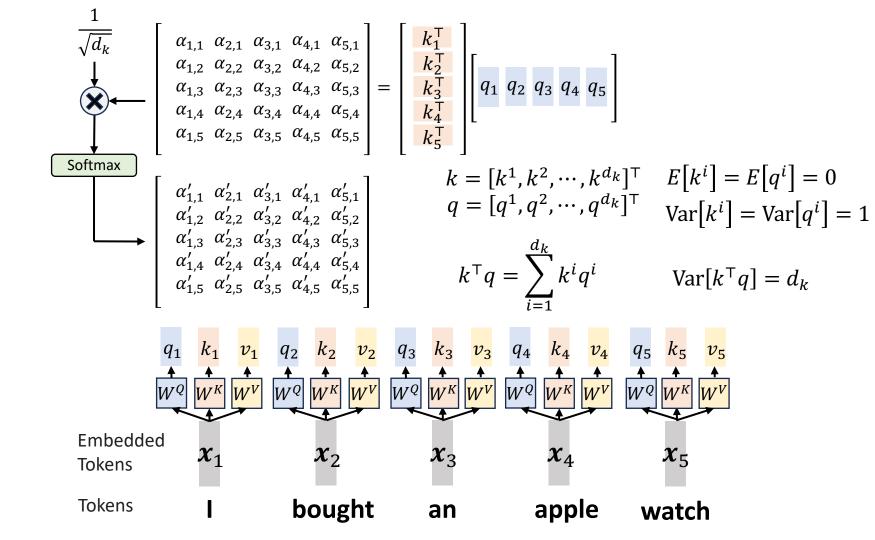
$$\alpha_{1,3} = k_3^{\mathsf{T}} q_1$$

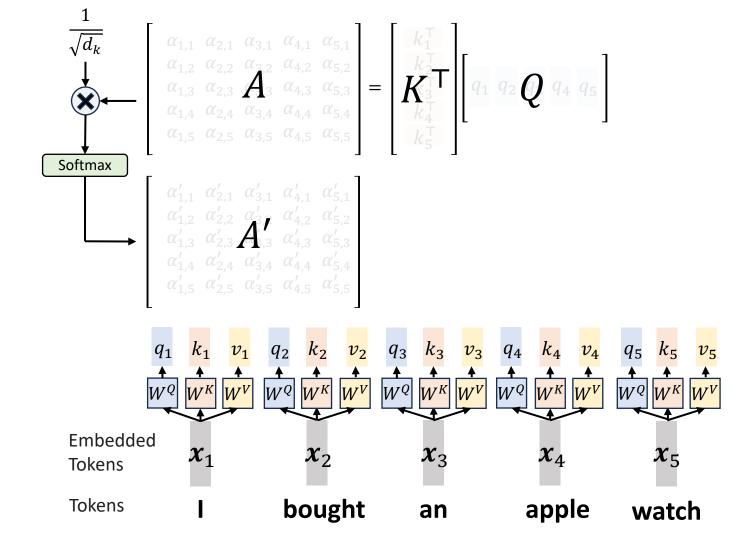
$$\alpha_{1,4} = k_4^{\mathsf{T}} q_1$$

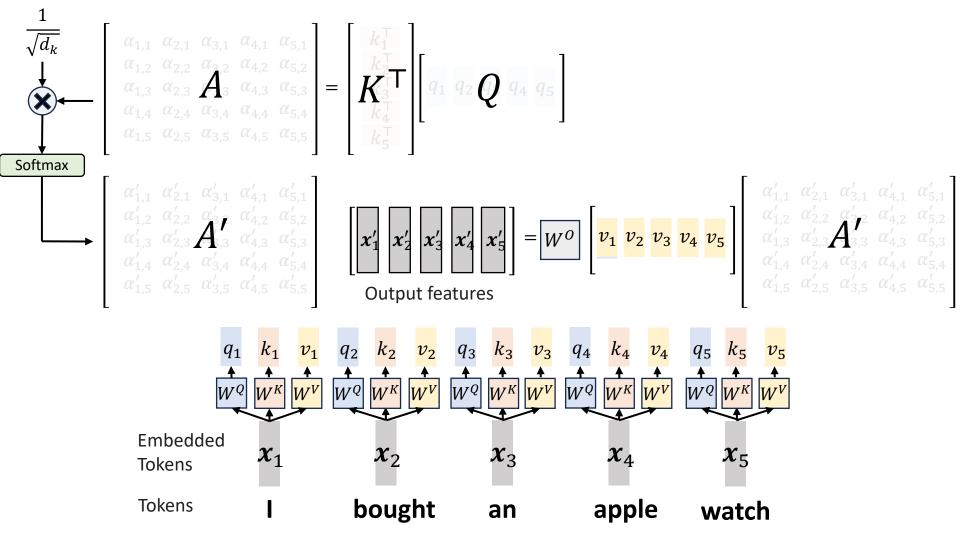
$$\alpha_{1,5} = k_5^{\mathsf{T}} q_1$$

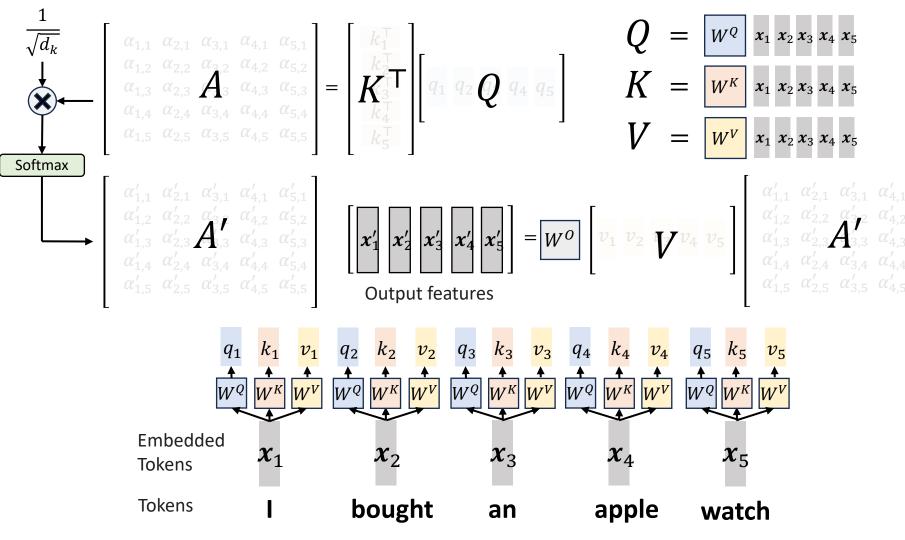










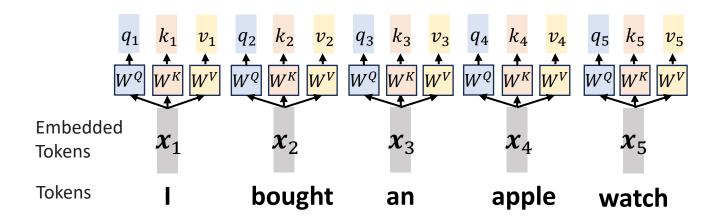




Single-head attention

Attention
$$(Q, K, V) = V \operatorname{softmax}\left(\frac{K^{\mathsf{T}}Q}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)$$

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} W^Q & x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & x_5 \end{bmatrix}$$
 $K = \begin{bmatrix} W^K & x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & x_5 \end{bmatrix}$
 $V = \begin{bmatrix} W^V & x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & x_5 \end{bmatrix}$



Analogy for Q, K, V

- ▶ Library system
- Imagine you're looking for information on a specific topic (query)
- ► Each book in the library has a summary (key) that helps identify if it contains the information you're looking for
- Once you find a match between your query and a summary, you access the book to get the detailed information (value) you need
- ► Here, in Attention, we do a "soft match" across multiple values, e.g. get info from multiple books ("book 1 is most relevant, then book 2, then book 3, etc.")

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

Attention
$$(Q, K, V) = V \operatorname{softmax}\left(\frac{K^{\mathsf{T}}Q}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)$$

$$= W^Q x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 x_5$$

$$K = W^{K} x_{1} x_{2} x_{3} x_{4} x_{5}$$

$$V = W^{V} x_{1} x_{2} x_{3} x_{4} x_{5}$$

$$W_0^Q$$
 W_0^K W_0^V

$$W_1^Q$$
 W_1^K W_1^V

$$\begin{bmatrix} W_{h-1}^Q & W_{h-1}^K \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} W_{h-1}^V & W_{h-1}^V \end{bmatrix}$$

$$W_i^Q \in R^{d_k \times d}$$

$$W_i^K \in R^{d_k \times d}$$

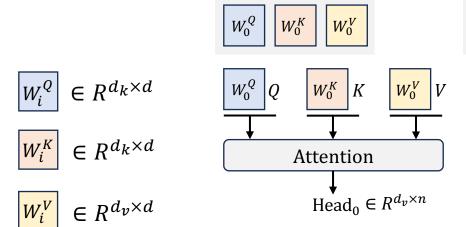
$$\overline{ \frac{W_i^V}{W_i^V}} \in R^{d_v \times d}$$

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

$$= W^Q x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 x_5$$

$$K = W^K x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 x_5$$

$$V = W^{V} x_{1} x_{2} x_{3} x_{4} x_{5}$$



 W_1^K

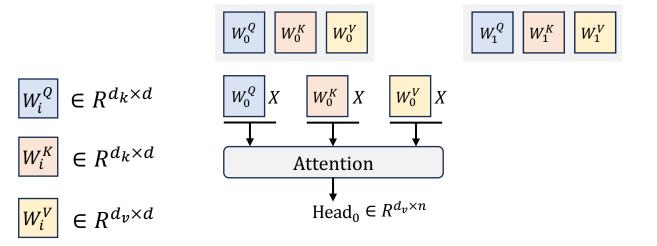
 W_1^V

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q \\ h-1 \end{bmatrix}$$
 $\begin{bmatrix} W_{h-}^K \end{bmatrix}$

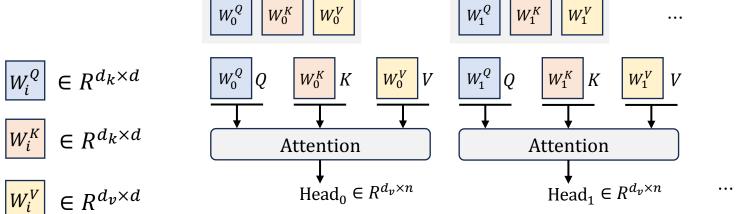
$$W_{h-1}^V$$

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

$$X = x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 x_5$$



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

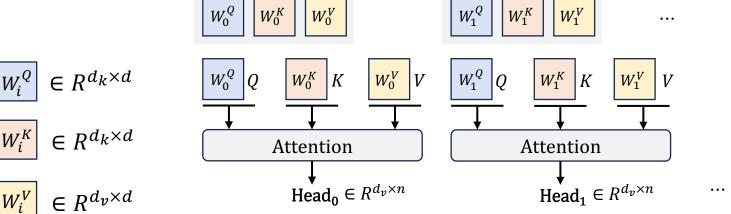


$$∴ Head_{h-1} ∈ R^{d_v \times n}$$

Attention
$$(Q, K, V) = V \operatorname{softmax}\left(\frac{K^{\mathsf{T}}Q}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)$$

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} W^{Q} & x_{1} & x_{2} & x_{3} & x_{4} & x_{5} \\ K & = & W^{K} & x_{1} & x_{2} & x_{3} & x_{4} & x_{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$V = \boxed{W^V} x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 x_5$$



$$\cdots \qquad \mathsf{Head}_{h-1} \in R^{d_v \times n}$$

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

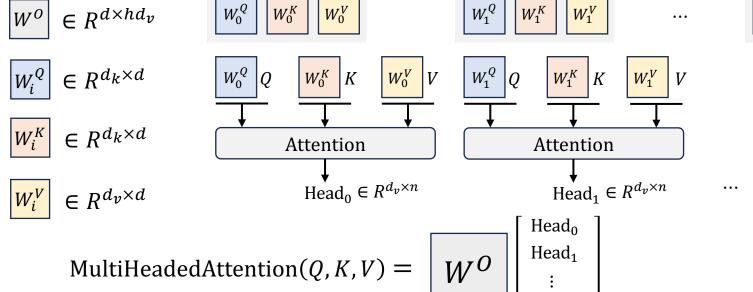
Multi-head attention

$$= W^{Q} x_{1} x_{2} x_{3} x_{4} x_{5}$$

$$= W^{K} x_{1} x_{2} x_{3} x_{4} x_{5}$$

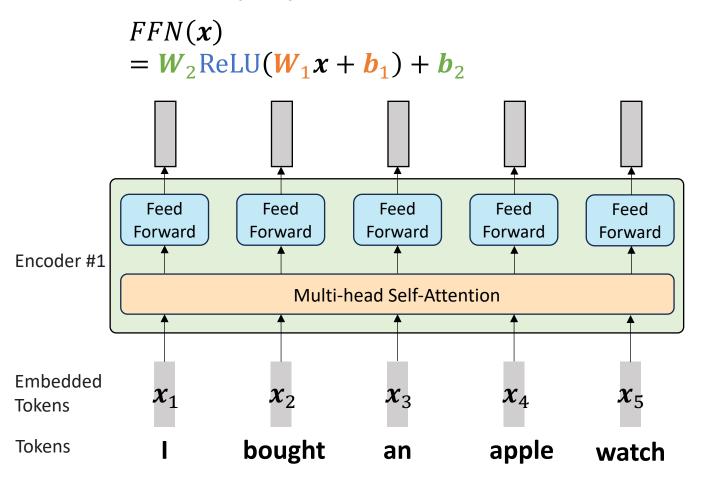
$$= W^{V} x_{1} x_{2} x_{3} x_{4} x_{5}$$

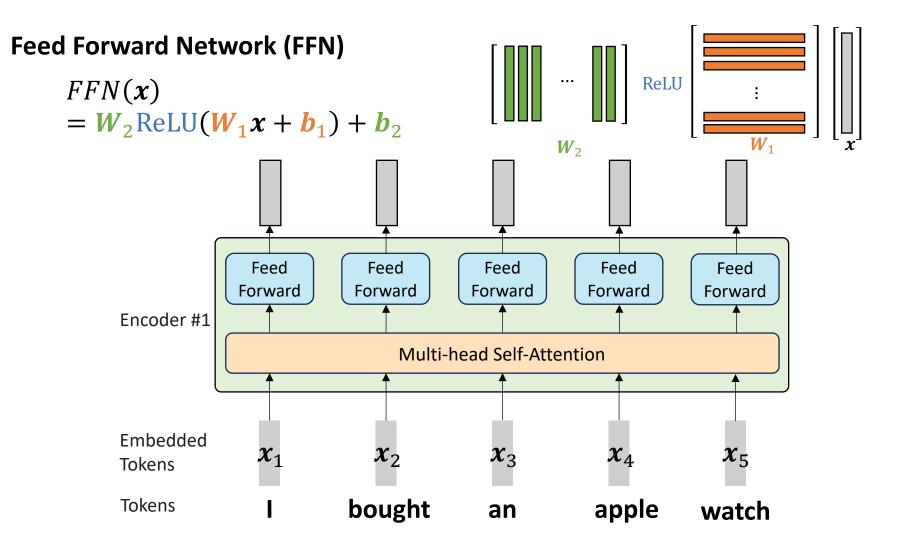
 $\operatorname{Head}_{h-1} \in R^{d_v \times n}$

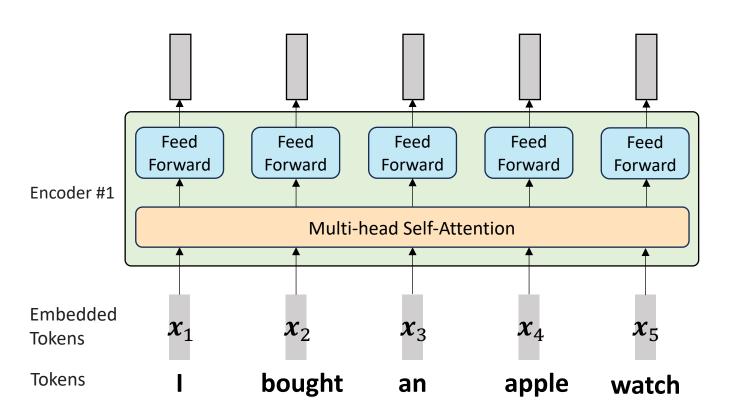


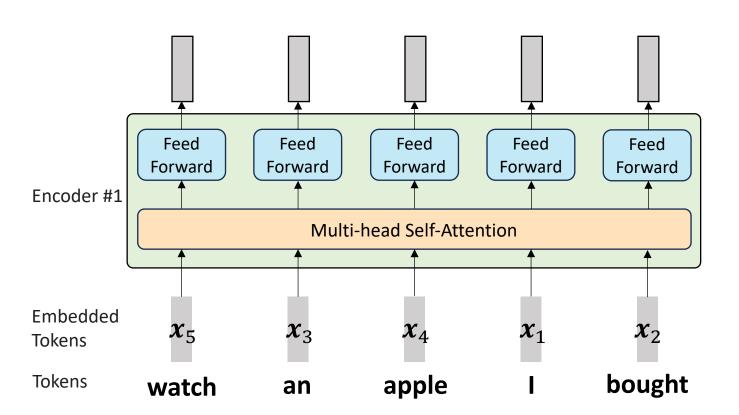
Head
$$_0$$
Head $_1$
:
Head $_{h-1}$

Feed Forward Network (FFN)

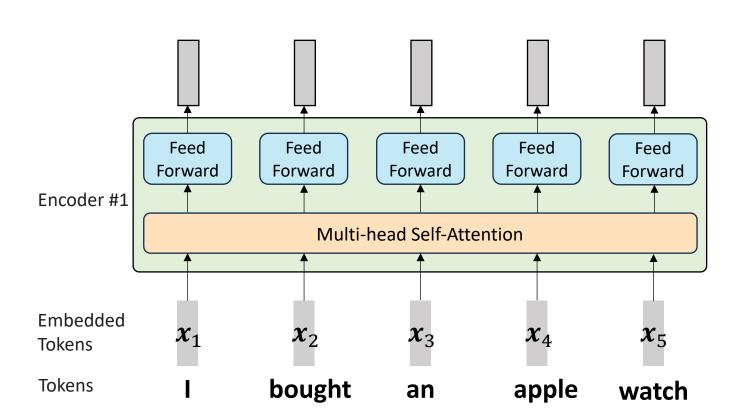






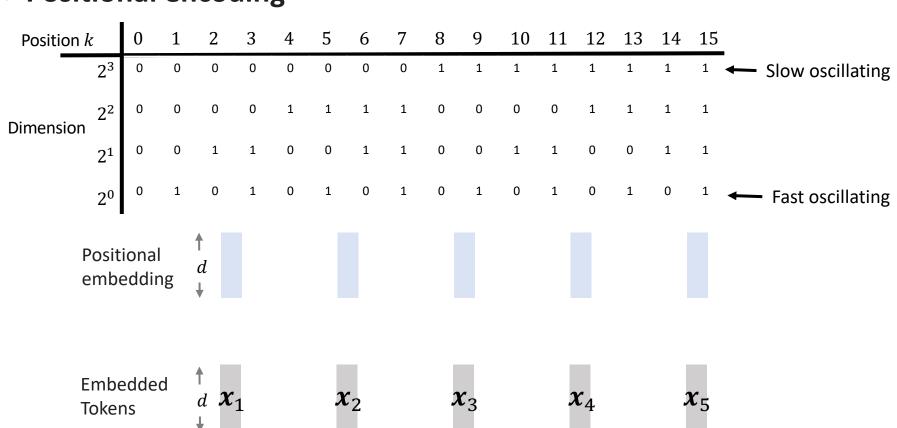








Tokens



an

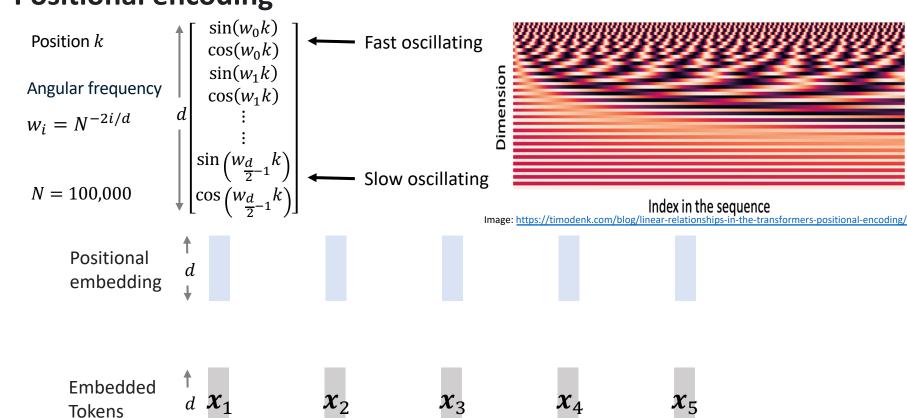
apple

watch

bought



Tokens



an

apple

watch

bought

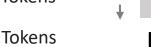


$sin(w_0k)$ $cos(w_0k)$ $sin(w_1k)$ Position kAngular frequency $\cos(w_1 k)$

$$N = 100,000$$

embedding





Normalized Range



Unique identifier, unlimited length



Relative positions as linear transform

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sin(w_i(k + \Delta k)) \\ \cos(w_i(k + \Delta k)) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin(w_i k) \cos(w_i \Delta k) + \cos(w_i k) \sin(w_i \Delta k) \\ \cos(w_i k) \cos(w_i \Delta k) - \sin(w_i k) \sin(w_i \Delta k) \end{bmatrix}$$



bought









an



apple



$$\boldsymbol{x}_5$$

watch



Normalized Range



Unique identifier, unlimited length



Relative positions as linear transform

Position
$$k$$

Angular frequency
$$w_i = N^{-2i/d}$$

$$N = 100,000$$

$$\lim_{cos(w_0k)} \cos(w_0k)$$

$$\sin(w_1k)$$

$$\cos(w_1k)$$

$$\vdots$$

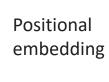
$$\sin\left(\frac{w_d}{2} - 1k\right)$$

$$\cos\left(\frac{w_d}{2} - 1k\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sin(w_1 k) \\ \cos(w_1 k) \\ \vdots \\ \sin(w_i (k + \Delta k)) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin(w_i k) \cos(w_i \Delta k) + \cos(w_i k) \sin(w_i \Delta k) \\ \cos(w_i k) \cos(w_i \Delta k) - \sin(w_i \Delta k) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \cos(w_i \Delta k) & \sin(w_i \Delta k) \\ \cos(w_i \Delta k) & \sin(w_i \Delta k) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \sin(w_i k) \\ \cos(w_i \Delta k) & \cos(w_i \Delta k) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \cos(w_i \Delta k) & \sin(w_i \Delta k) \\ -\sin(w_i \Delta k) & \cos(w_i \Delta k) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \sin(w_i k) \\ \cos(w_i k) \end{bmatrix}$$



$$P_1$$



$$P_3$$



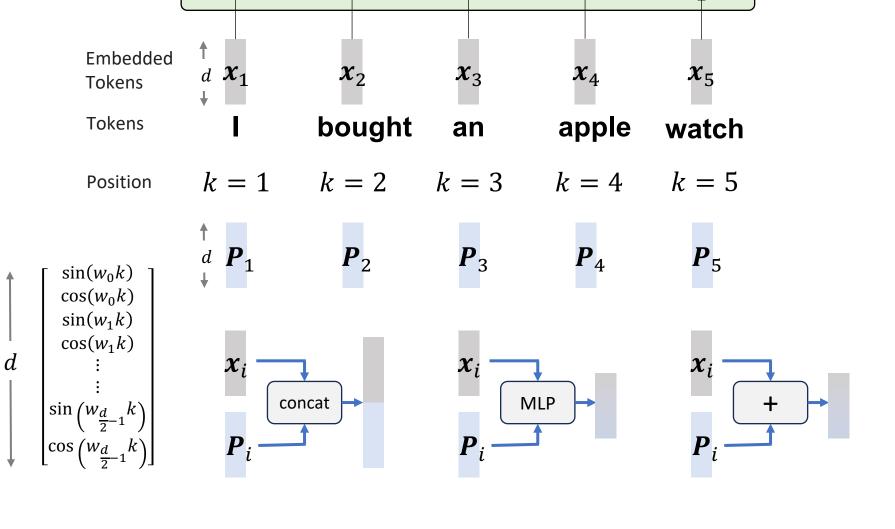
$$P_{k+\Delta k} = MF$$

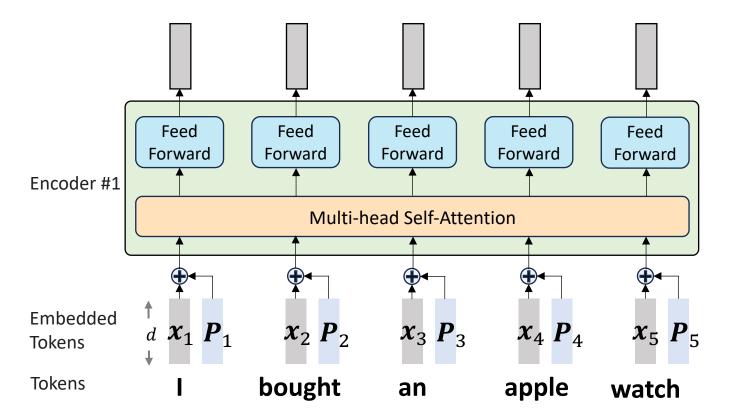
$$d \mathbf{x}_1$$

$$\boldsymbol{x}_3$$

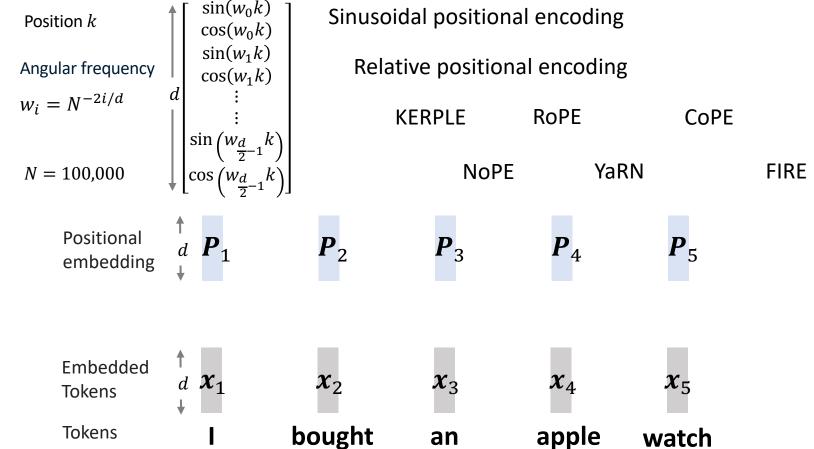
$$x_{5}$$

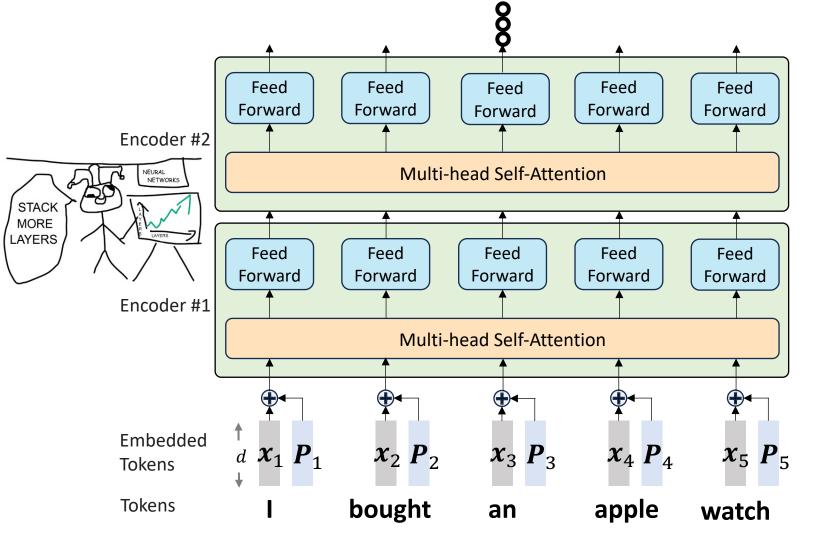
apple watch

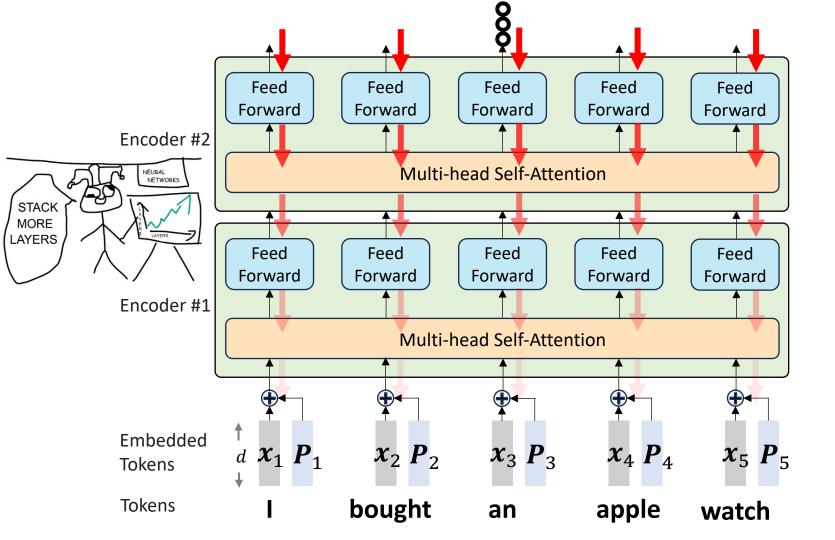


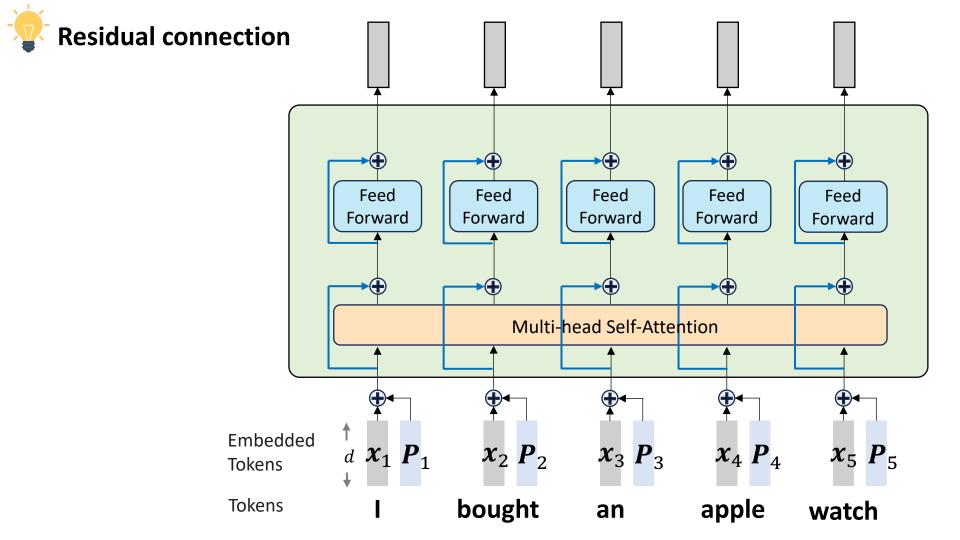


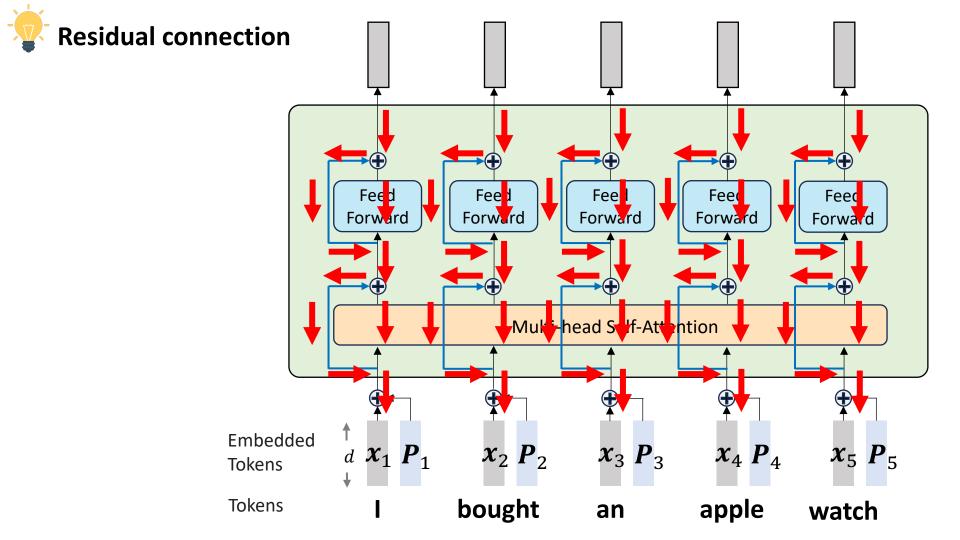


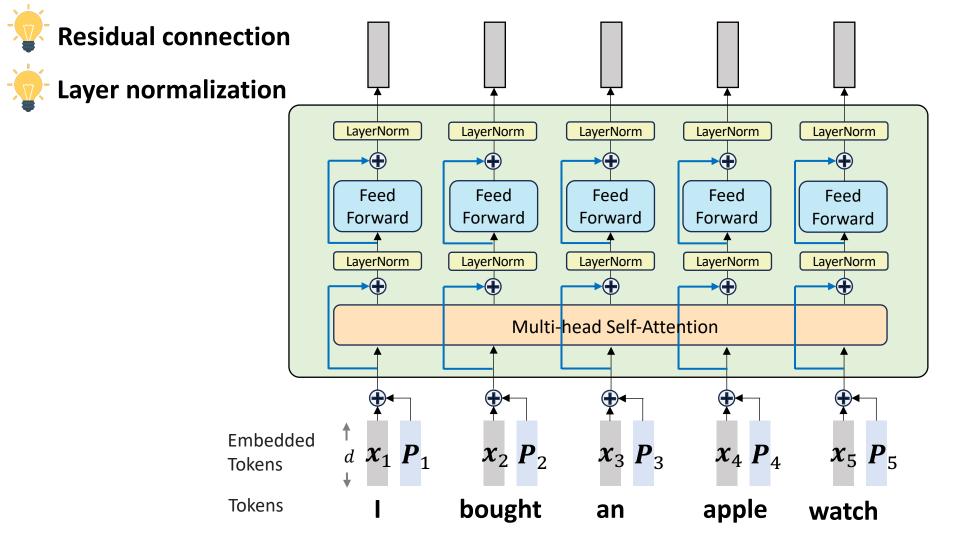


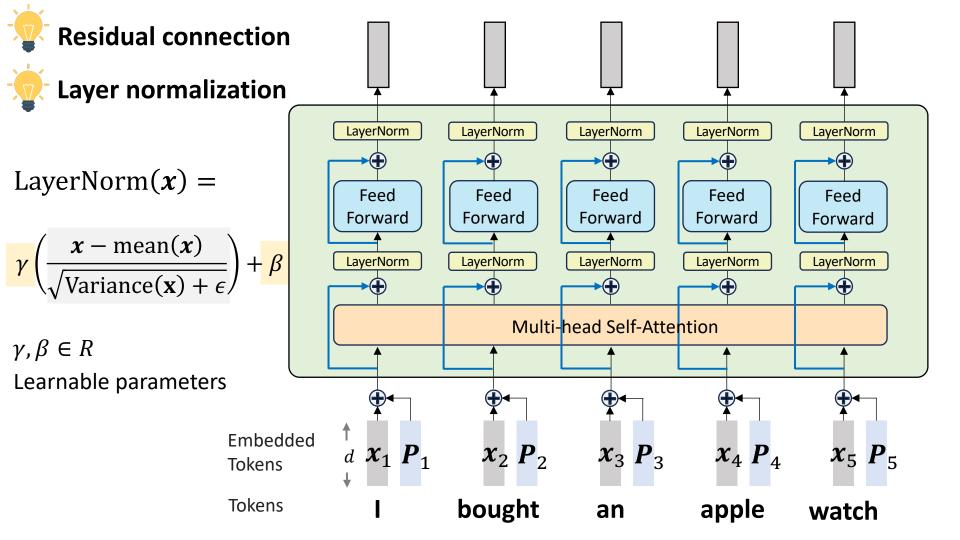


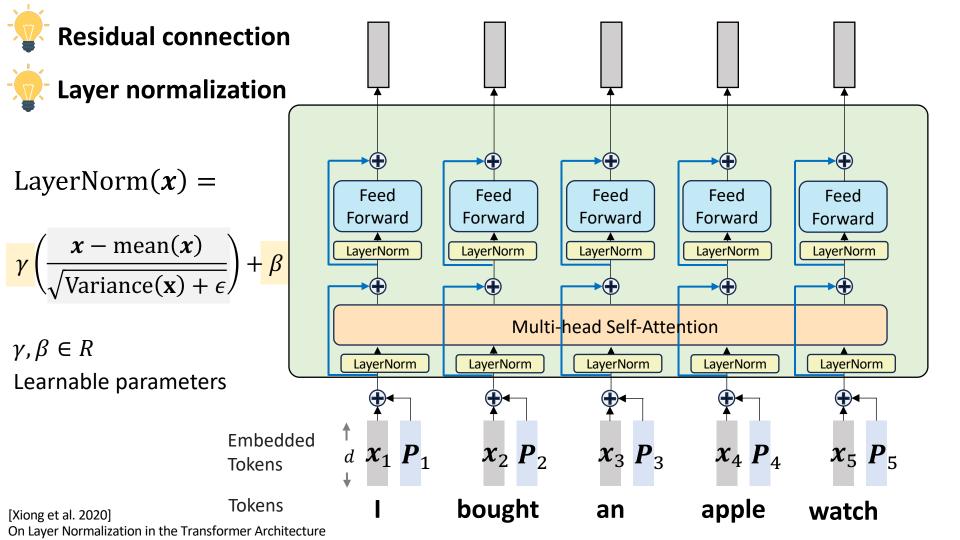


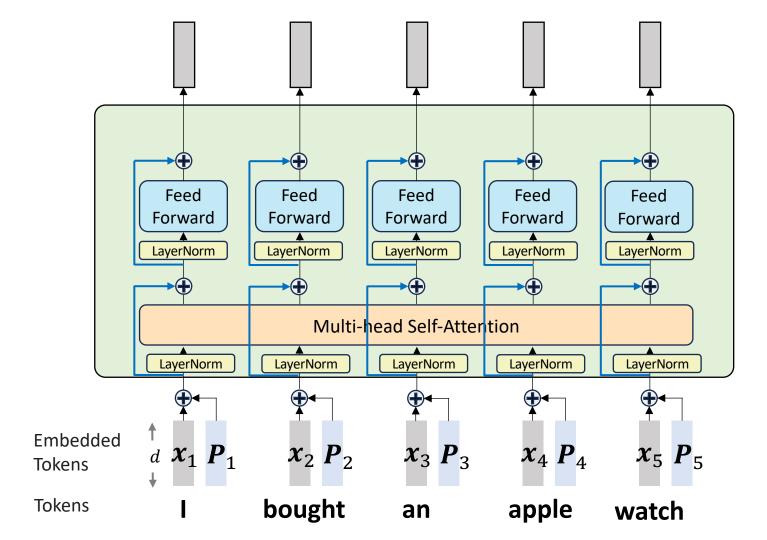


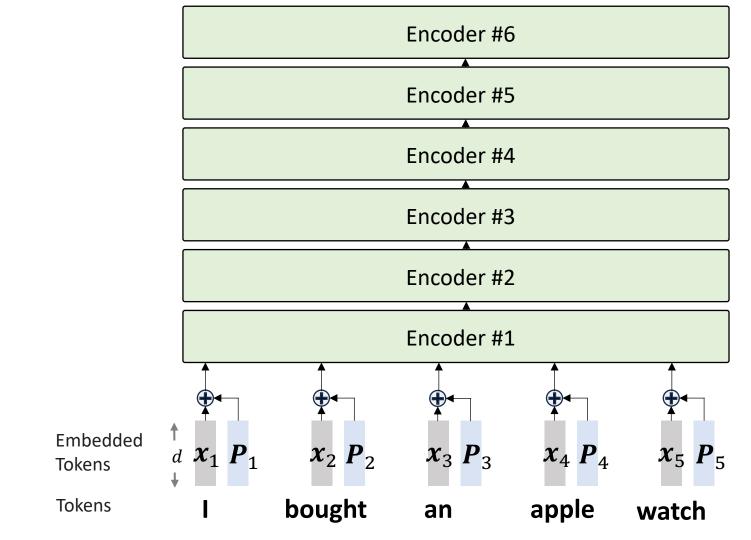


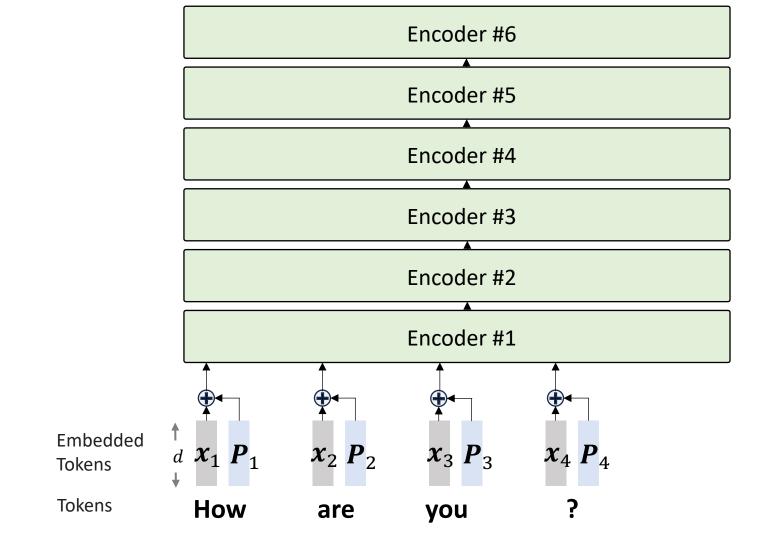


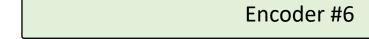


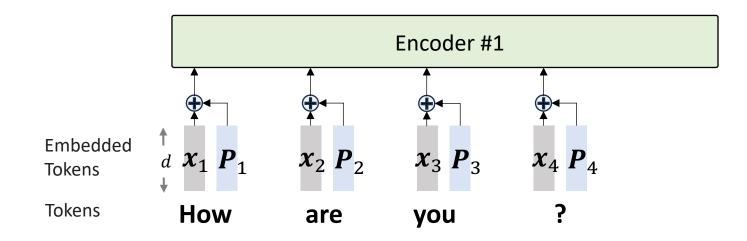


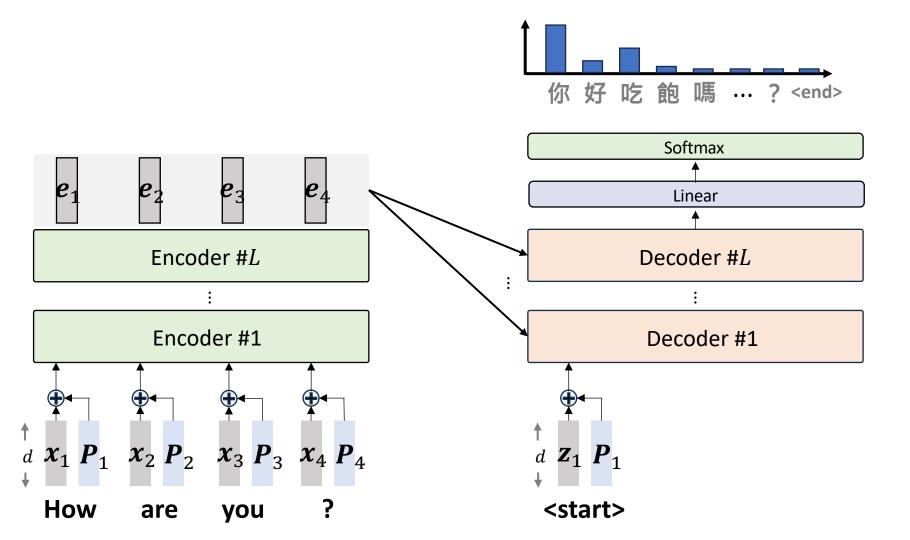


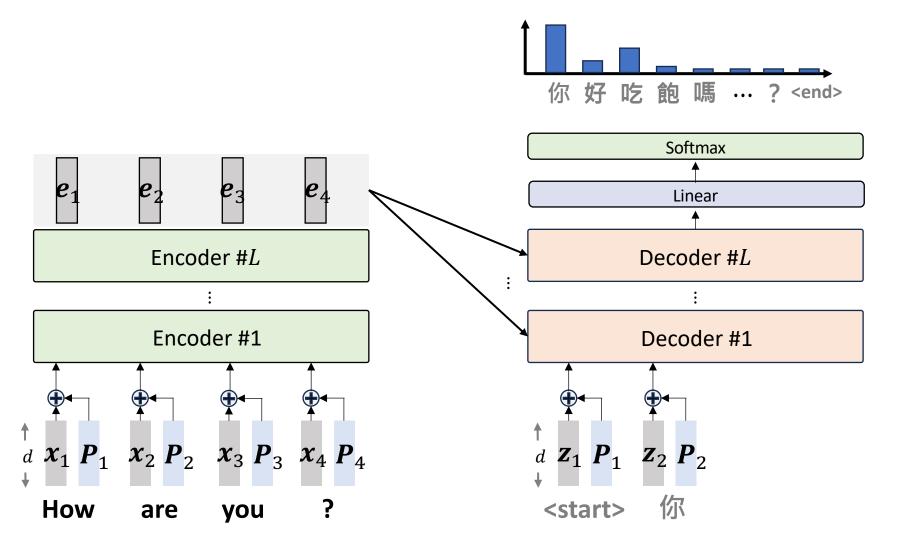


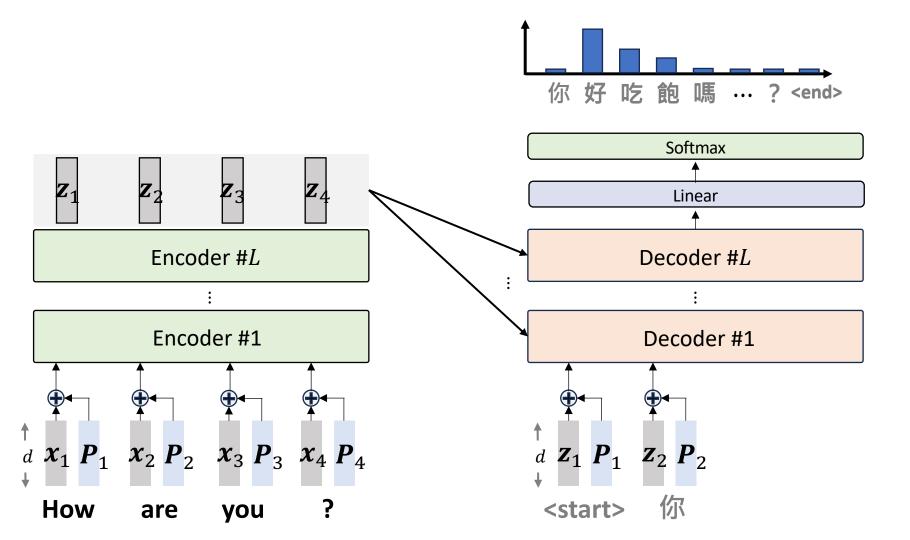


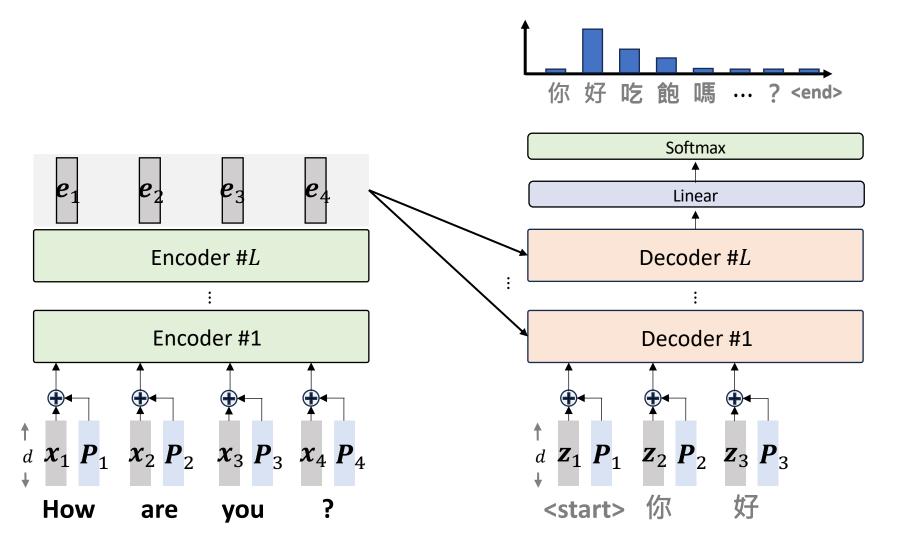


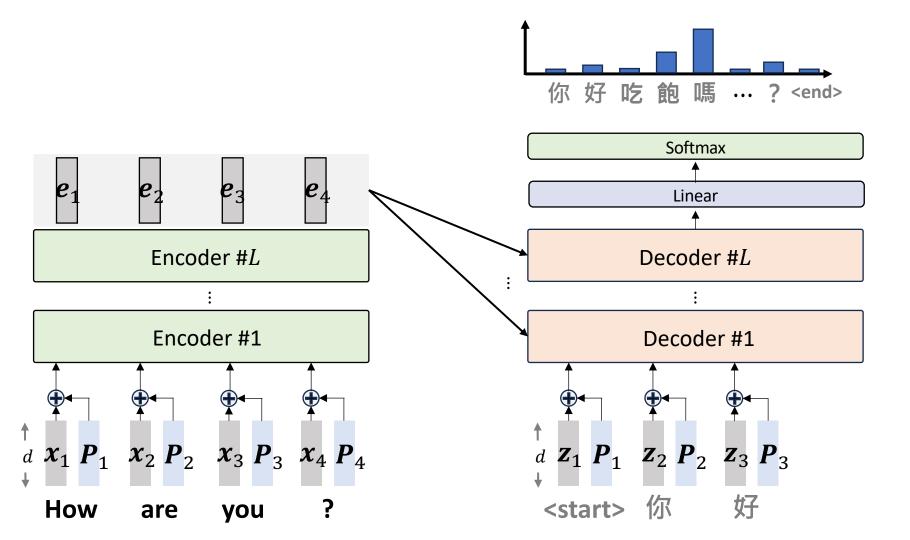


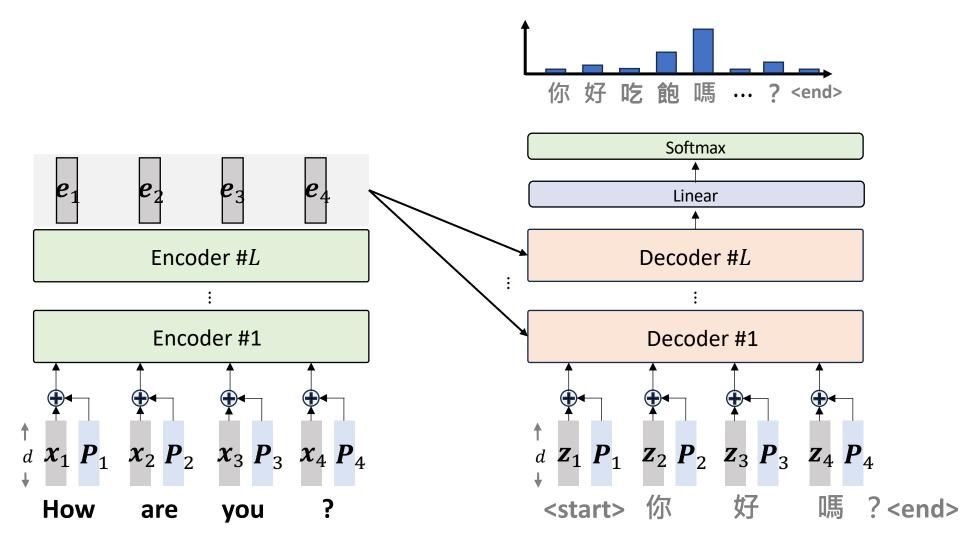


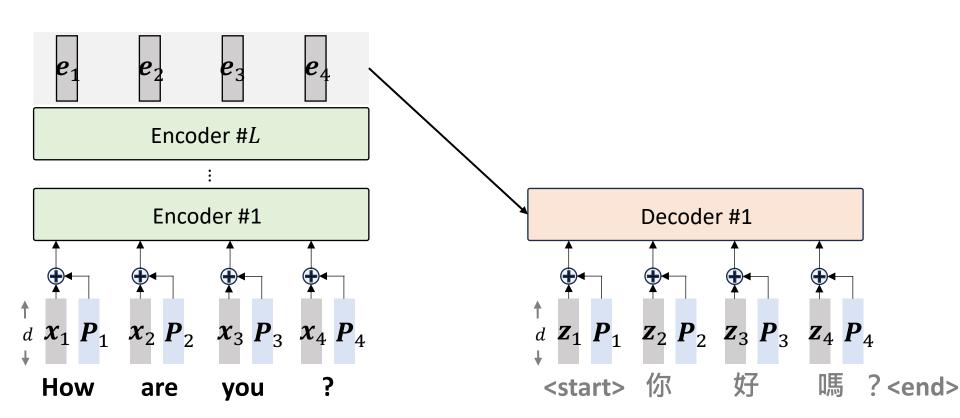


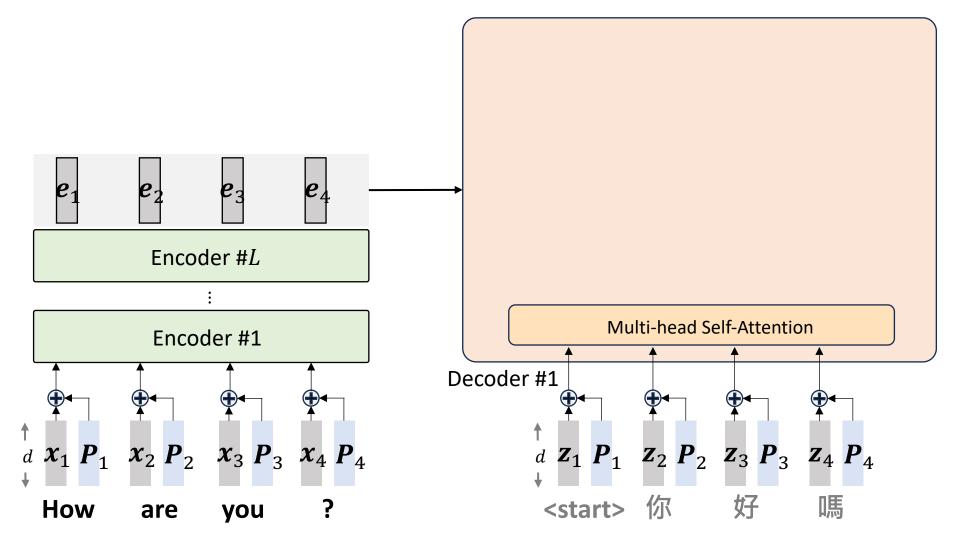


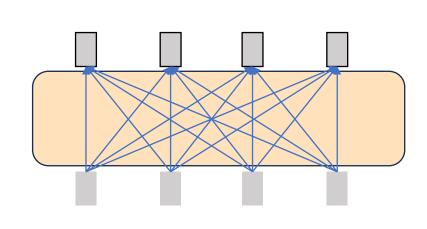


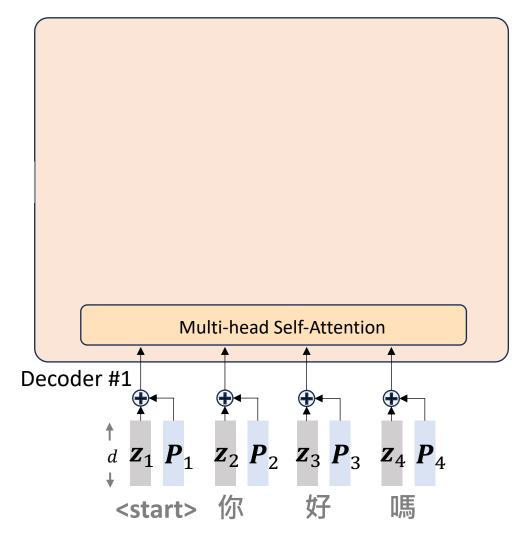


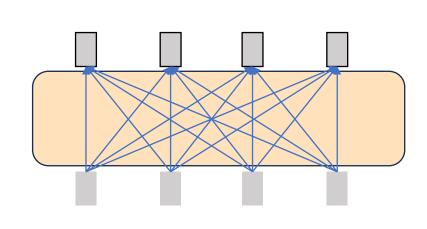


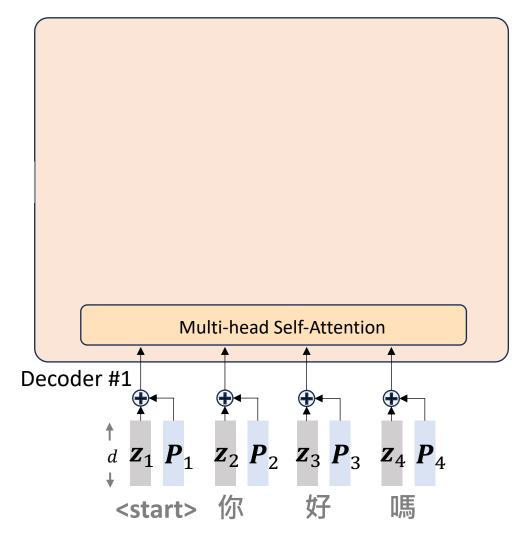


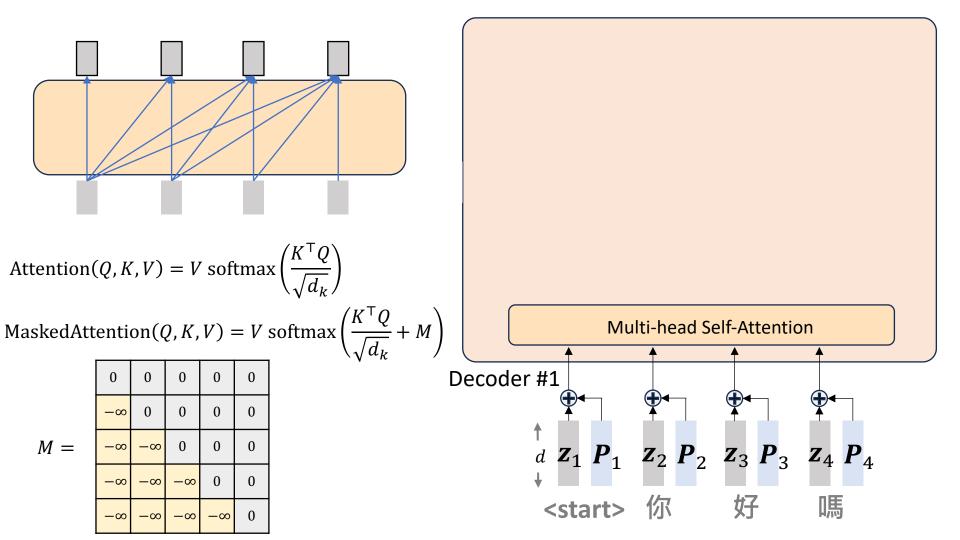


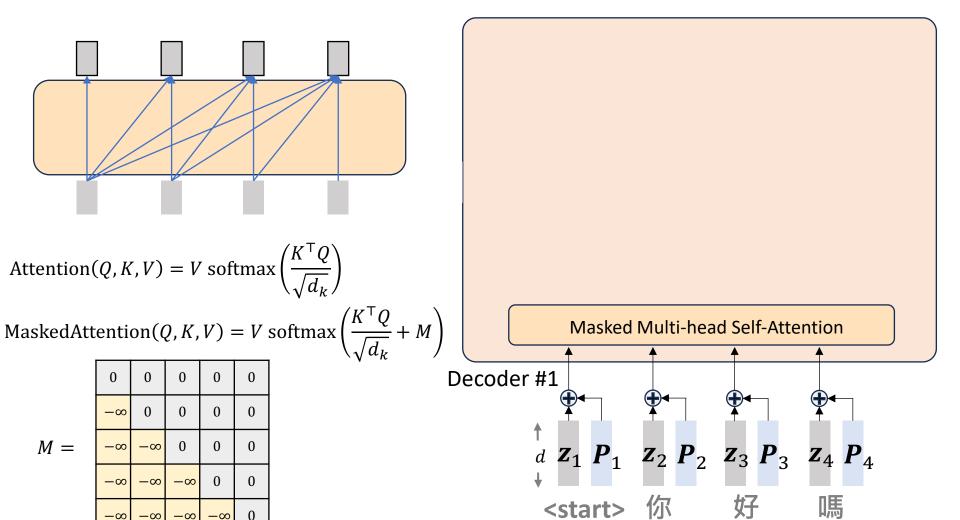


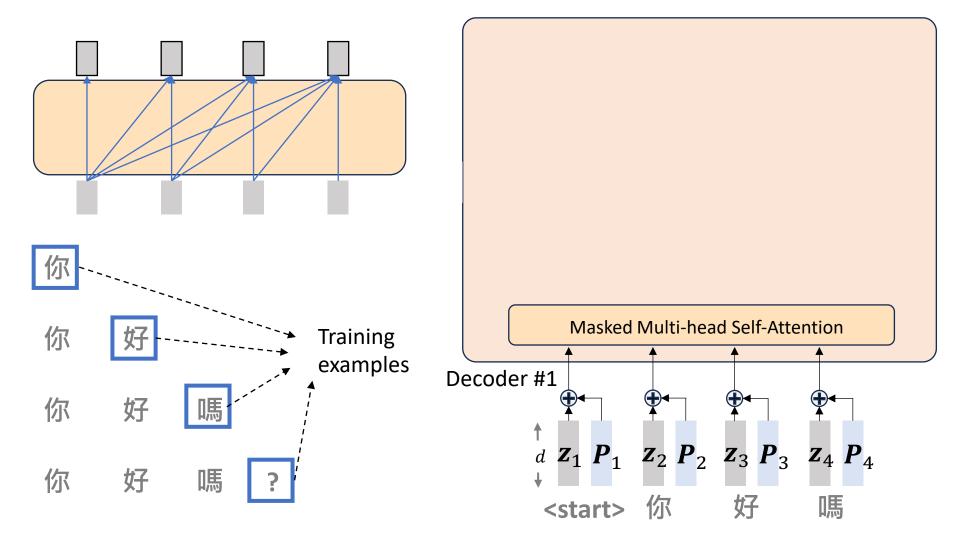


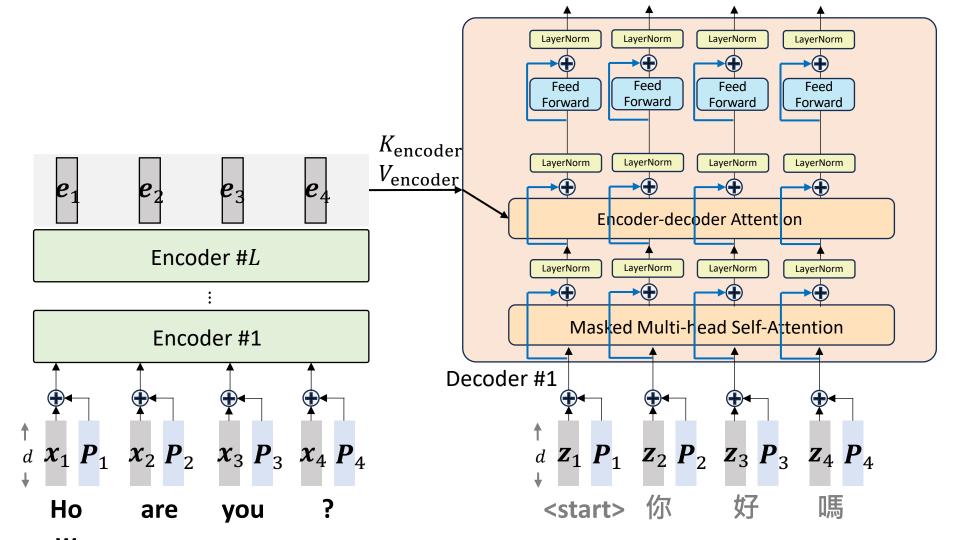


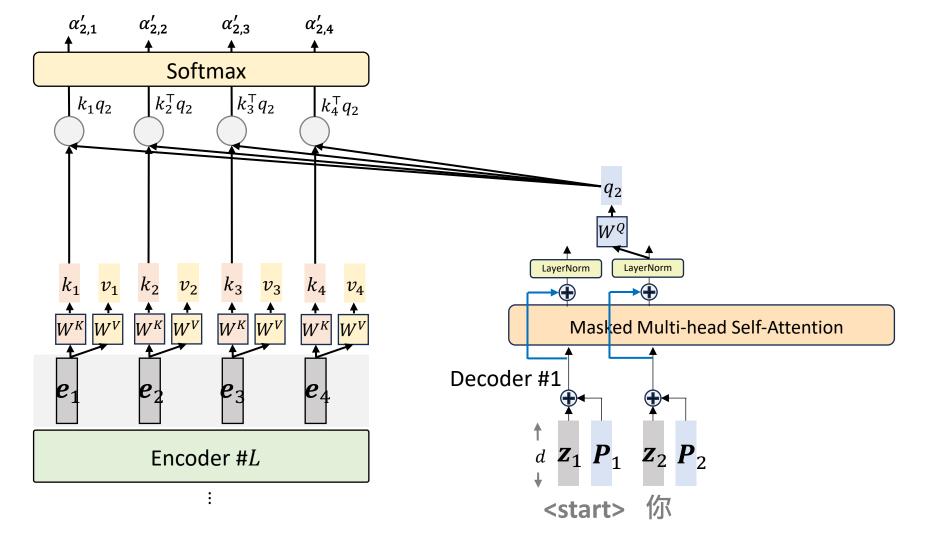


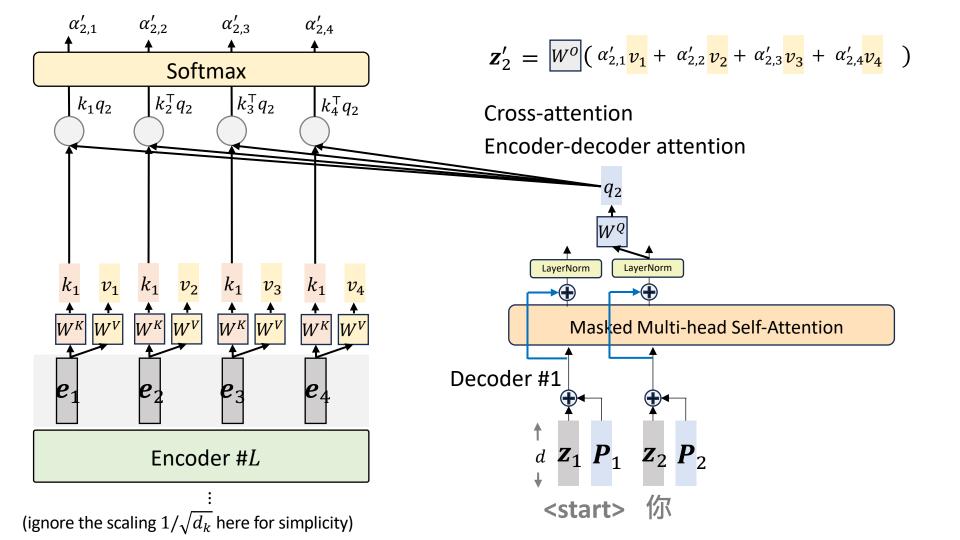


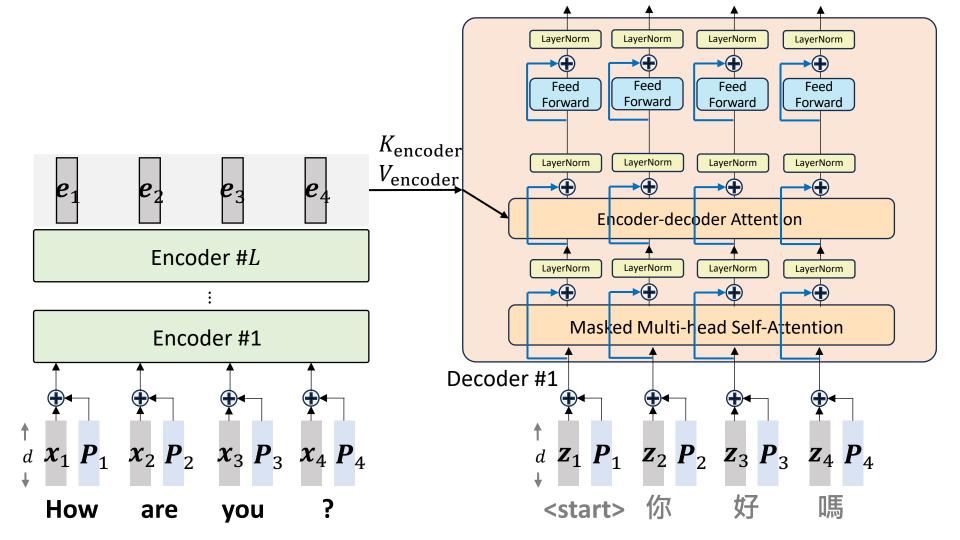


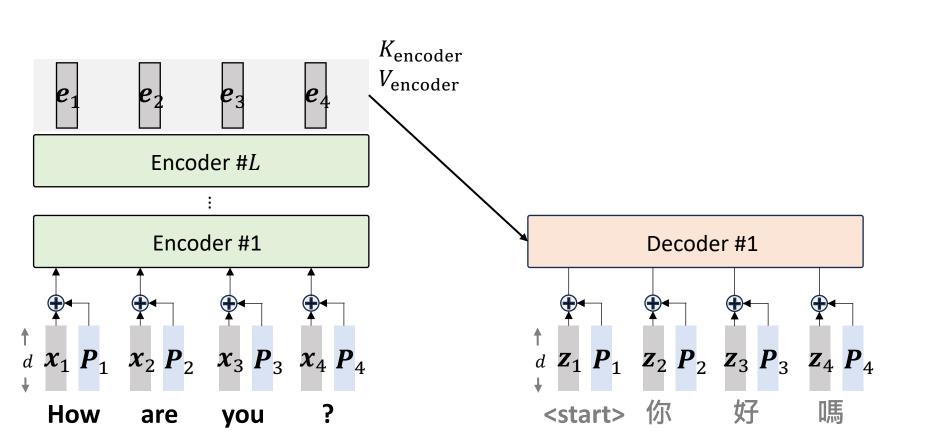


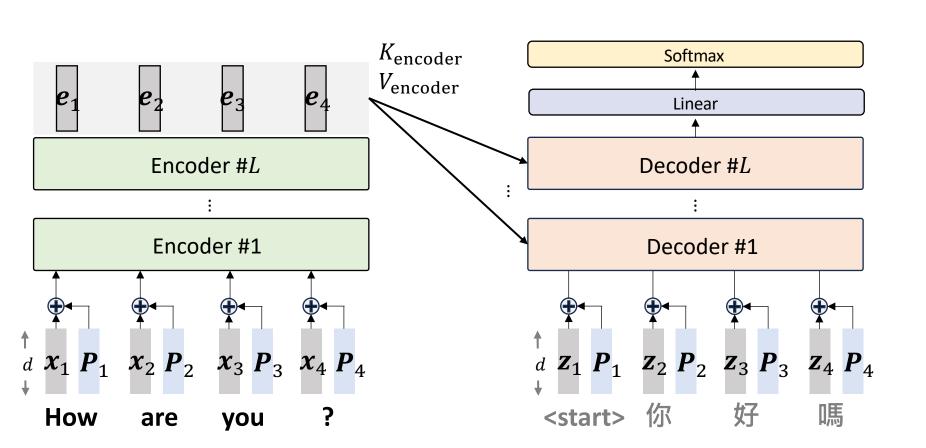












Transformer & Multi-Head Attention

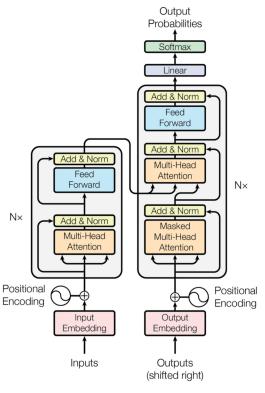


Figure 1: The Transformer - model architecture.

Summary: Attention and Transformers

- ► Attention weights used to compute the context vector, which is a weighted sum of the input at different positions
- Context vector is used to update the hidden state of the model, which is used to generate the final output
- ▶ "Pay attention" to different parts of the input, depending on the task at hand → more accurate and natural-sounding output, esp. when working with longer inputs (e.g. paragraphs)

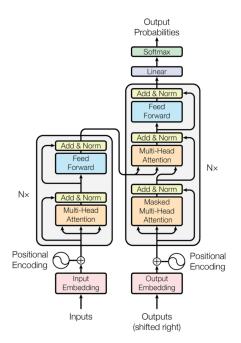


Figure 1: The Transformer - model architecture.

Ways Attention was used in the *original* Transformer Architecture

Encoder-decoder cross-attention

- Allow decoder layers to attend all parts of the latent representation produced by the encoder
- Pull context from the encoder sequence over to the decoder

Self-attention in the encoder

- Allow the model to attend to all positions in the previous encoder layer
- Embeds context about how elements in the sequence relate to one another

Masked self-attention in the decoder

- Allow the model to attend to all positions in the previous decoder layer up to and including the current position (during auto-regressive process)
- Prevent forward looking bias by stopping leftward information flow during training
- Also embed context about how elements in the sequence relate to one another

^{*} A. Vaswani et al., "Attention is All you Need," in Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2017.

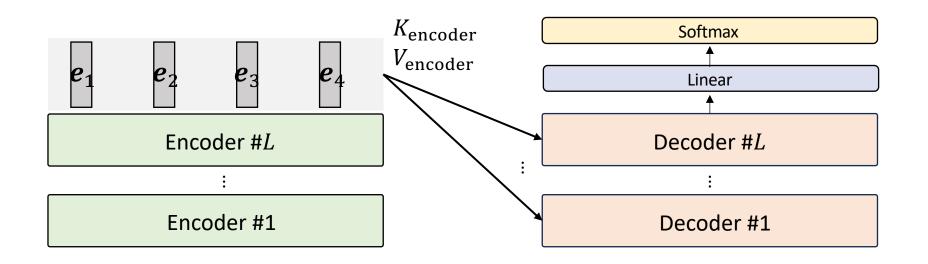
Encoder-Decoder Transformer

Examples:

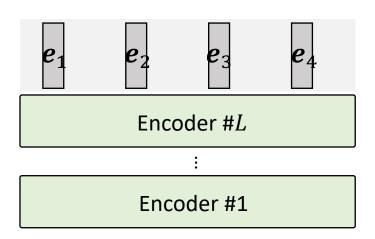
Attention is all you need, T5, BART.

Good for:

Machine translation, summarization. QA (when input/target are sufficiently different)



Encoder-Decoder Transformer



Examples:

Attention is all you need, T5, BART.

Good for:

Machine translation, summarization. QA (when input/target are sufficiently different)

Encoder-only Transformer

Examples:

BERT, RoBERTa, DeBERTa, X-BERT

Good for:

Classification, sequence tagging, sentiment analysis

(Understand text, but not generate them)





Encoder #*L*

:

Encoder #1

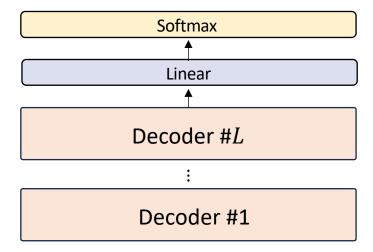
Decoder-only Transformer

Examples:

GPT-X (OpenAI), PaLM (Google), LLaMA (Meta) BLOOM (BigScience)

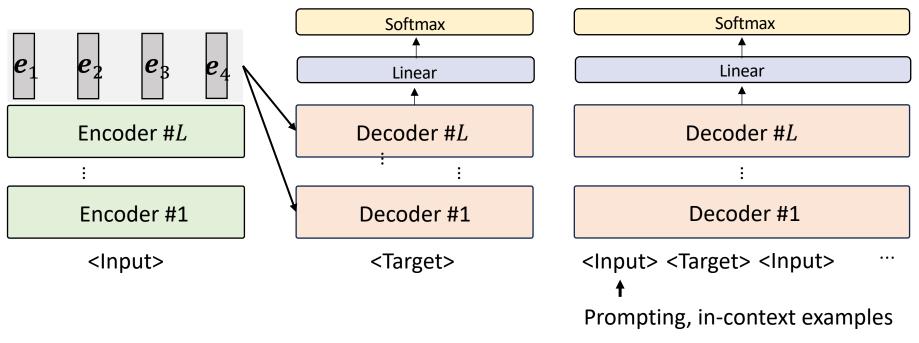
Good for:

Text generation, multi-round conversation



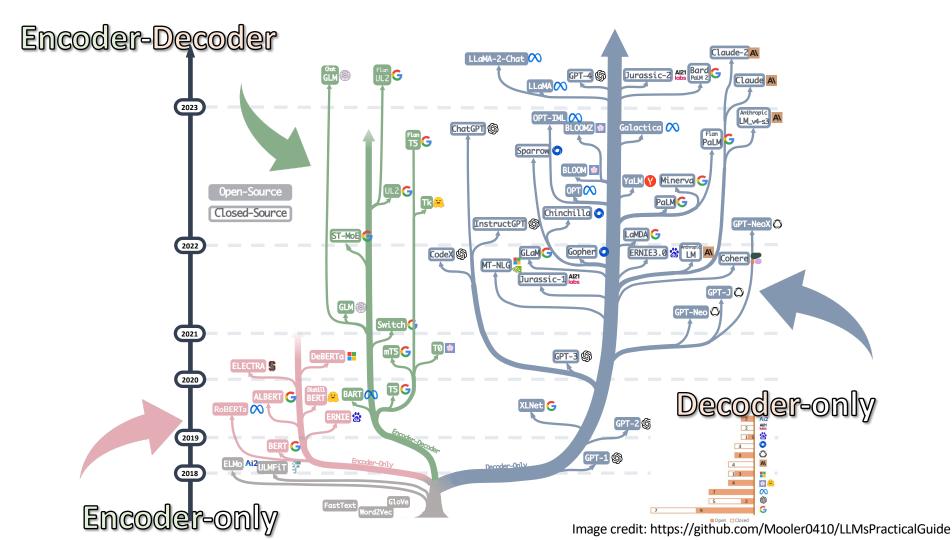
Encoder-Decoder Transformer

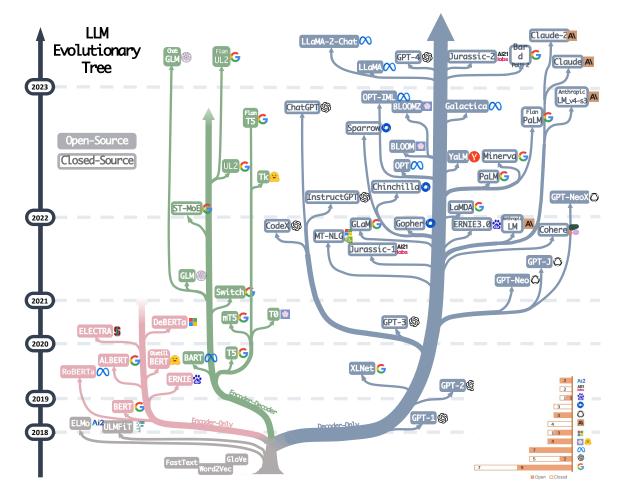
Decoder-only Transformer



Different parameters for encoder/decoder

Shared parameters





Transformers vs. RNNs

Challenges with RNNs	Transformers
 Long range dependencies Gradient vanishing and explosion Large # of training steps Sequential/recurrence → can't parallelize Complexity per layer: O(n*d²) 	 Can model long-range dependencies No gradient vanishing and explosion Fewer training steps Can parallelize computation! Complexity per layer: O(n²*d)

▶ When sequence length (n) << representation dimension (d), the complexity per layer is lower for a Transformer model compared to RNN models; no true for real-world LLMs

Differences in Attention Mechanism of RNN vs. Transformer

Feature	RNN with Attention (Bahdanau et al. 2015)	Transformer
Attention Type	Additive (Bahdanau) Attention	Scaled Dot Product Attention
Alignment	Based on decoder hidden state and encoder hidden states	Based on dot-product of query and keys (global attention)
Efficiency	Processes sequences step-by-step	Parallel processing of all positions
Context	Weighted sum of encoder hidden states at each step	Attends to all encoder positions for every output
Self-Attention	Not used	Self-attention in both encoder and decoder

Computational Dependencies for Recurrence vs. Attention

