

# Natural Language Processing

ELMo, BERT, GPT, and T5 (BERT and its Family)



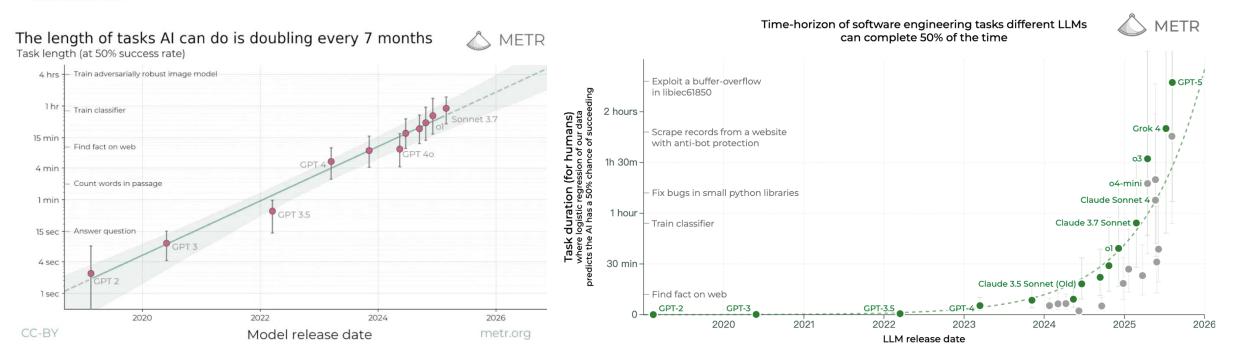
#### News



#### Failing to Understand the Exponential, Again

Sat 27 September 2025

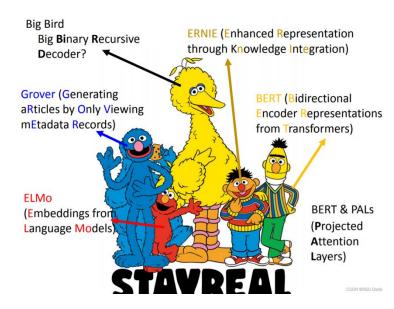
Julian Schrittwieser





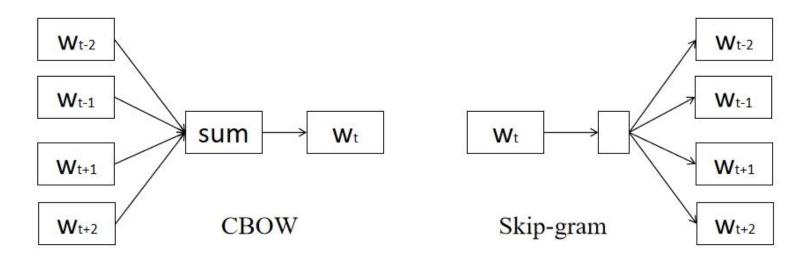
### Outline

- Recap: Word Embeddings, RNN
- Pretraining Language Model from Word Embeddings
  - ELMo
- Pretraining by Transformer
  - Encoders (BERT)
  - Encoder-Decoders (T5)
  - Decoders (GPT)
- GPT-3 with In-Context Learning and Large Language Models



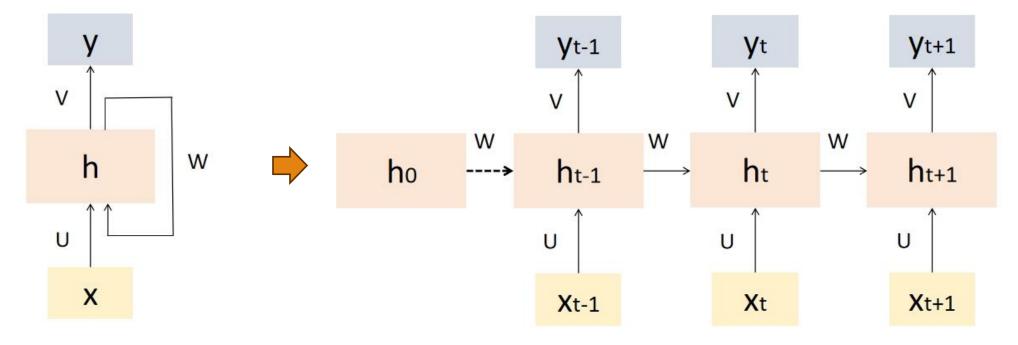
# Recap: Word Embeddings (Word2Vec)

- Skip-gram
  - Use words to predict their contexts.
- CBOW
  - Use the context to predict the target word.



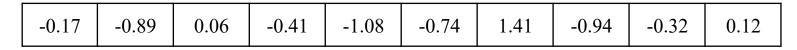
### Recap: RNN

- Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) are a type of artificial neural network designed to handle sequential data by capturing temporal dependencies.
  - The same set of weights and biases are used across all time steps



## Pretrained Word Embeddings

Consider I record the record: the two instances of record mean different things.



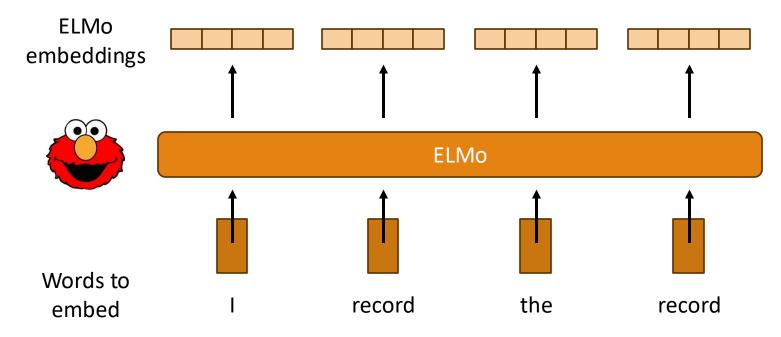
Vector representation

Word2Vec or GloVe word embeddings of "record"

Issue: Both GloVe and Word2Vec represent the word "record" as the same vector regardless of the context.

### Context Matters: ELMo (Peters et al., 2018)

Rather than using a fixed representation for each word, **ELMo (Embeddings from Language Models)** considers the entire sentence before assigning each word in it an embedding.





### Reconstruct the Sentences (next token prediction)

National Hsing Hua University is in \_\_\_\_\_. (Hsinchu)

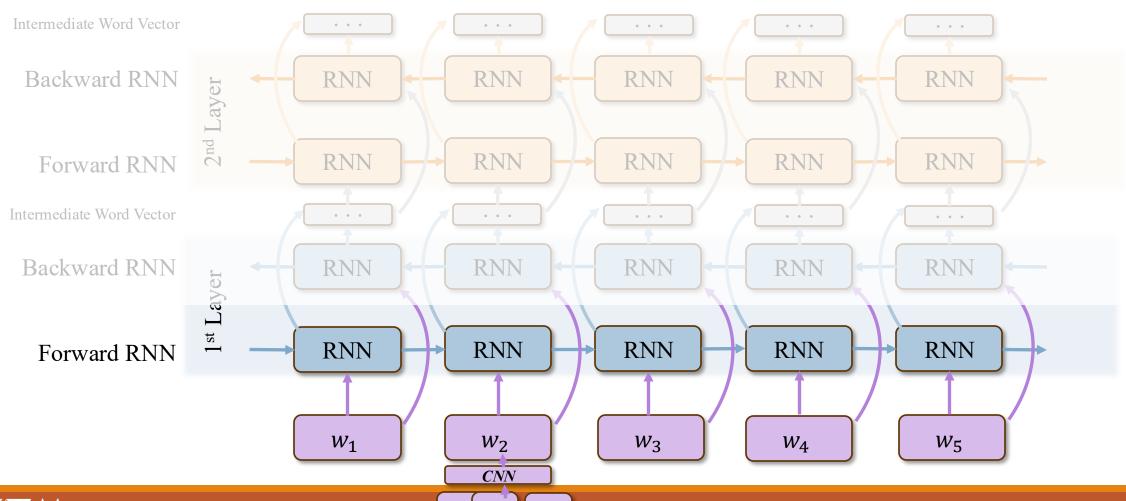
I put \_\_\_\_\_ bag on the table. (a)

I went to the zoo to see the lions, monkeys, elephants, and \_\_\_\_\_. ()

The overall value I got from the two hours of watching it was the total sum of popcorn and the drink. The movie was \_\_\_\_\_. (bad)

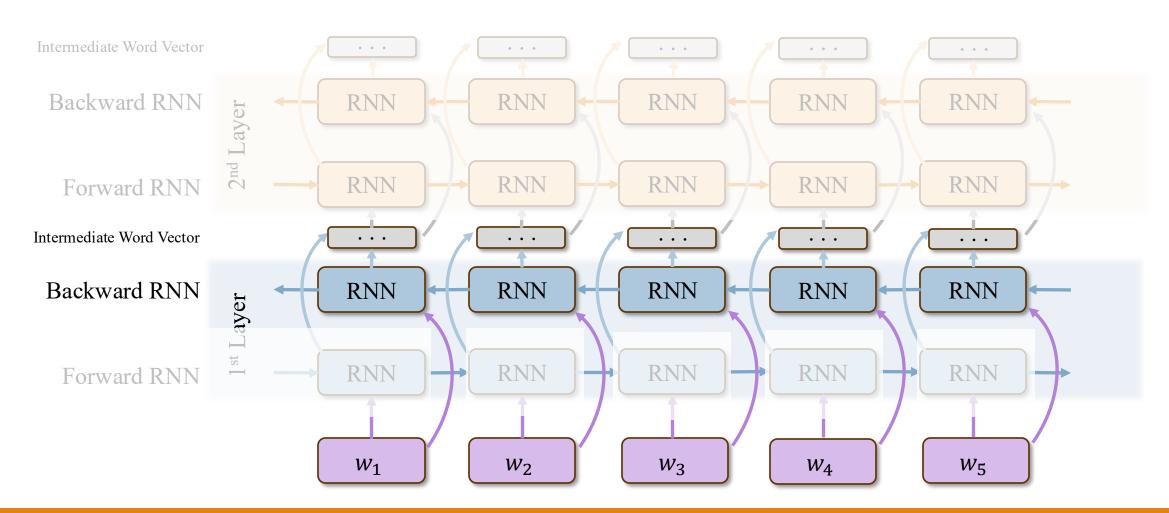
I was thinking about the sequence that goes 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, \_\_\_\_(34)

# Bidirectional Language Model (biLM)

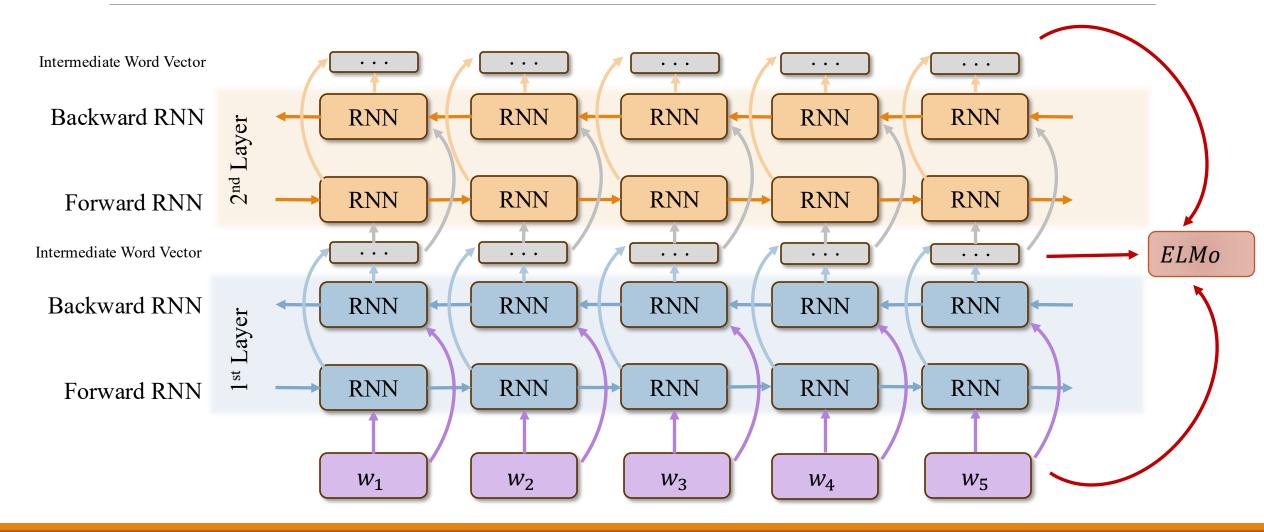


 $c_2$ 

# Bidirectional Language Model (biLM)



# Bidirectional Language Model (biLM)





#### Step 1. Concatenate hidden layers.

Concatenate forward and backward LM of each layer together (for token layer, we concatenate it with itself)

 $ec{h}_{k,\,0}^{LM}$  : Token Layer

 $\vec{h}_{k,j}^{LM}$ : Forward LM at j layer

$$\vec{h}_{k,j}^{LM}: \text{Forward LM at j layer}$$

$$\vec{h}_{k,j}^{LM}: \text{Backward LM at j layer}$$

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$$\vec{h}_{k,j}^{LM}: \text{RNN} \qquad \vec{h}_{k,2}^{LM} \qquad \vec{h}_{k,2}^{LM} \qquad \vec{h}_{k,2}^{LM} \qquad \vec{h}_{k,3}^{LM} \qquad \vec{h}_{k,1}^{LM} \qquad \vec{h}_{k,2}^{LM} \qquad \vec{h}_{k,3}^{LM} \qquad \vec{h}_{k,4}^{LM} \qquad \vec{h$$

#### Step 2. Multiply each vector by a weight

We assign each concatenated layer with softmax-normalized weight,  $s^{task}$ 

$$\mathbf{ELMo}_{k}^{task} = \underbrace{\gamma^{task}}_{j=0} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} s_{2}^{task} \times h_{k,2}^{LM} (j=2) \\ s_{1}^{task} \times h_{k,1}^{LM} (j=1) \\ s_{0}^{task} \times h_{k,0}^{LM} (j=0) \end{array} \right. h_{k,j}^{LM} = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{h}_{k,j}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,j}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,j}^{LM} \end{bmatrix} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \vec{h}_{k,1}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,1}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,1}^{LM} \end{array} \right. \\ \left. \begin{array}{c} \vec{h}_{k,1}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,1}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \end{array} \right. \\ \left. \begin{array}{c} \vec{h}_{k,1}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \end{array} \right. \\ \left. \begin{array}{c} \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \end{array} \right. \\ \left. \begin{array}{c} \vec{h}_{k,1}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \end{array} \right. \\ \left. \begin{array}{c} \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \end{array} \right. \\ \left. \begin{array}{c} \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \end{array} \right. \\ \left. \begin{array}{c} \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \end{array} \right. \\ \left. \begin{array}{c} \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \end{array} \right] \\ \left. \begin{array}{c} \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \end{array} \right. \\ \left. \begin{array}{c} \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \\ \vec{h}_{k,0}^{LM} \end{array} \right] \\ \left. \begin{array}{$$

#### Step 3. Sum all weighted representations.

Once weighted vectors are added together, we use  $\gamma^{task}$  to allow the task model to scale the entire ELMo vector, which is crucial for optimization purposes.

$$\mathbf{ELMo}_{k}^{task} = \underbrace{\gamma^{task}}_{j=0} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} s_{2}^{task} \times h_{k,2}^{LM} (j=2) \\ s_{1}^{task} \times h_{k,1}^{LM} (j=1) \\ s_{0}^{task} \times h_{k,0}^{LM} (j=0) \end{array} \right. , h_{k,j}^{LM} = \left[ \overrightarrow{h}_{k,j}^{LM} ; \overleftarrow{h}_{k,j}^{LM} \right] \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \overrightarrow{h}_{k,2}^{LM} & \text{RNN} & \overleftarrow{h}_{k,2}^{LM} \\ \overrightarrow{h}_{k,1}^{LM} & \text{RNN} & \overleftarrow{h}_{k,1}^{LM} \\ x_{k,0}^{LM} & \text{Embedding} & x_{k,0}^{LM} \\ (t_{1},t_{2},t_{3},\ldots,t_{k}) \end{array} \right.$$

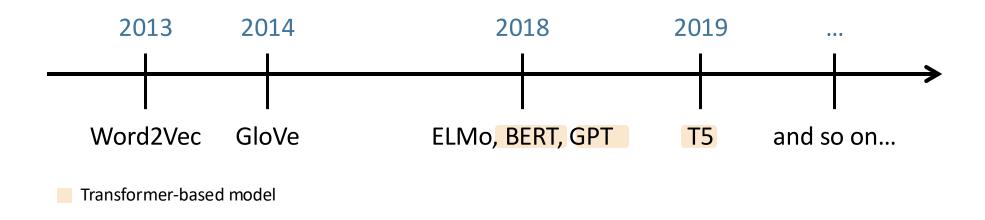
ELMo is a type of deep contextualized word representation that are created through a learning process based on hidden layers of a deep bidirectional language model.

ELMo is a task specific combination of the intermediate layer representations in the biLM.

ELMo generates the contextualized embedding by concatenating the hidden states (and initial embedding) together followed by weighted summation.

# The Transformer: Going beyond RNNs

The release of the Transformer along with the results it achieved on tasks like machine translation led researchers to view it as a superior alternative to RNNs, given its improved handling long-term dependencies compared to RNNs.



# Three Types of Pretraining Ways

Encoders

Feed Forward

Self-Attention

- Bidirectional capable of looking into the future
- Suitable for downstream task

**Encoder-Decoders** 

Feed Forward

Self-Attention

Feed Forward

Attention

Self-Attention

- Pros of decoders and encoders?
- Cons of having both during pretraining

**Decoders** 

Feed Forward

Self-Attention

- What LMs we have seen so far
- Suitable for generation task
- Not bidirectional

# Three Types of Pretraining Ways

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Decoders

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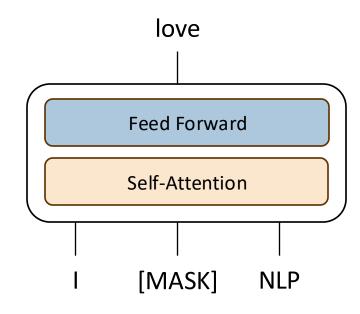
Self-Attention

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# Pretraining Encoder:

Idea: Encoder works bidirectionally which is more powerful than either a left-to-right model or the shallow concatenation of a left-to-right and a right-to-left model.

- Pretraining task
  - #1 MLM (Masked Language Models):
    - Train the model to reconstruct the sentence by replacing some fraction of words in the input with a special token, [MASK]
    - The model will look at the sentence bidirectionally to try to predict the removed words.
  - #2 NSP (Next Sentence Prediction):
    - In order to train a model that understands sentence relationships, we pre-train for a binarized next sentence prediction task that can be trivially generated from any monolingual corpus



# **BERT:** Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers (Devlin et al., 2018)

#### Task 1. "Masked Language Models"

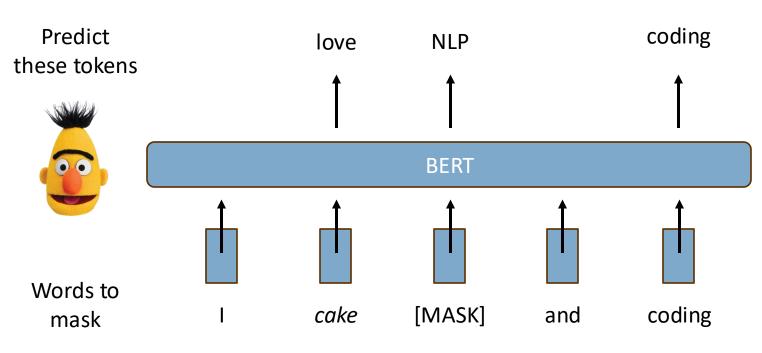
The objective is proposed alongside the weights of a pretrained Transformer, a model they refer to as BERT.

Replace the 15% of the tokens with

- 1) [MASK] 80% of the time
- 2) Random 10% of the time
- 3) Unchanged 10 % of the time

#### Why?

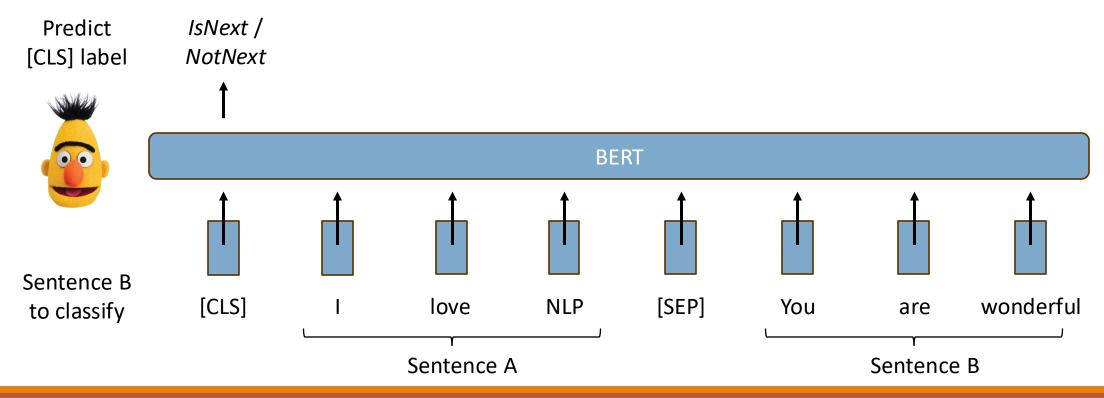
Prevent the model from becoming complacent and failing to construct robust representations for unmasked words. (No masks are seen at fine-tuning time!)



### BERT (Devlin et al., 2018)

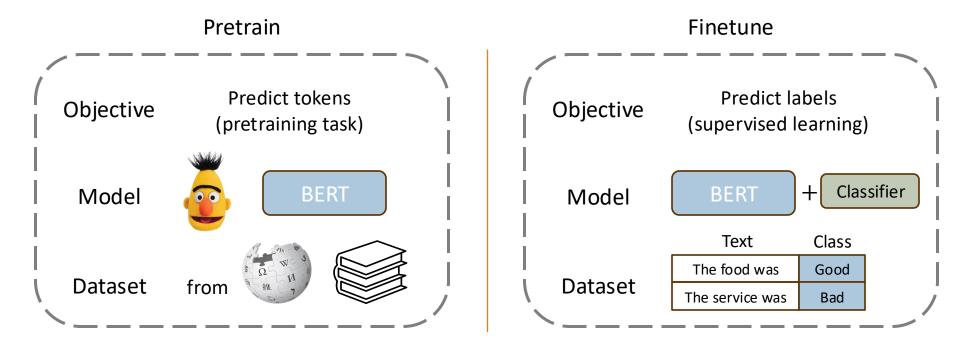
Task 2. "Next Sentence Prediction"

To develop a model that understands sentence relationships, we pre-train for a binarized next sentence prediction task that can be easily generated from any monolingual corpus.



# Transfer Learning: Pretrain and Finetune

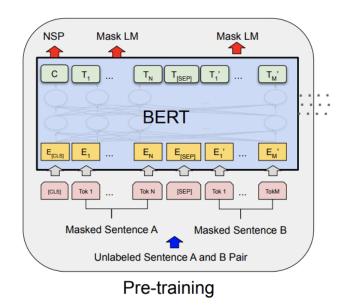
Modern-day standard approach is to first pre-train then fine-tune. During pretraining, a large amount of unlabeled text is used to build a general model of language understanding before fine-tuned on various specific NLP tasks

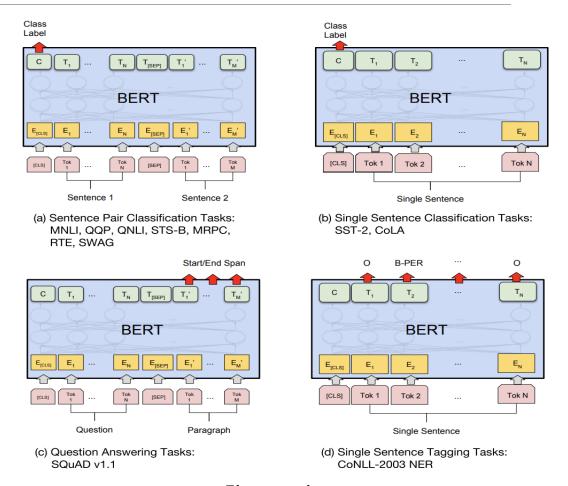




## Transfer Learning: Pretrain and Finetune

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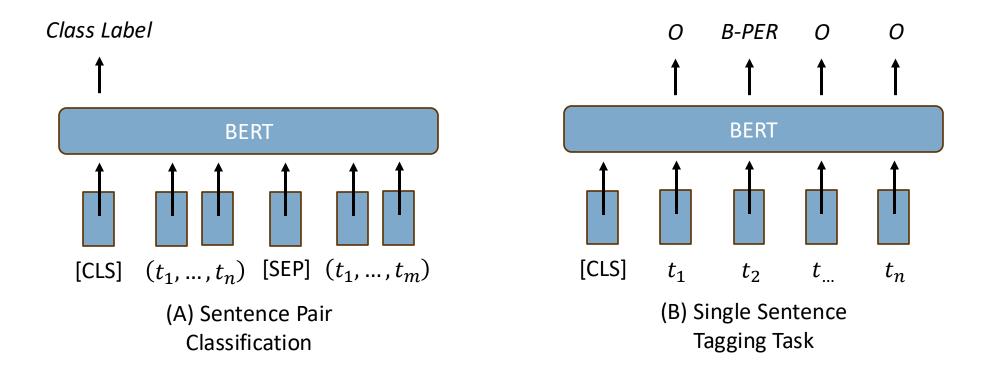


Fine-tuning

Ref: BERT paper

### Finetune BERT

Task-specific models are used to minimize the number of parameters need to be trained from scratch. This is done by integrating BERT with one additional output layer.



### Details about BERT

#### Google release two models at first:

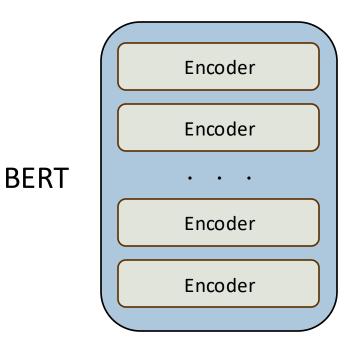
- BERT-base (110M parameters): 12 layers, 768-dim hidden size, 12 attention heads.
- BERT-large (340M parameters): 24 layers, 1024-dim hidden size, 16 attention heads.

#### Trained on two datasets:

- BooksCorpus (800M words)
- English Wikipedia (2,500M words)

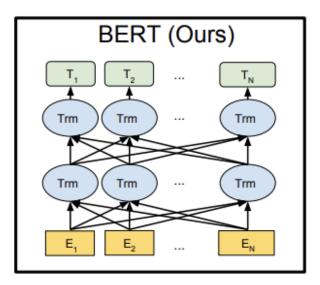
Pretraining is expensive and impractical on a single GPU.

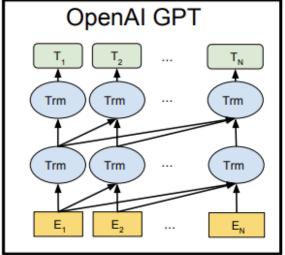
- BERT was pretrained with 64 TPU chips for a total of 4 days.
- (TPUs are special tensor operation acceleration hardware)
- Finetuning is practical and common on a single GPU

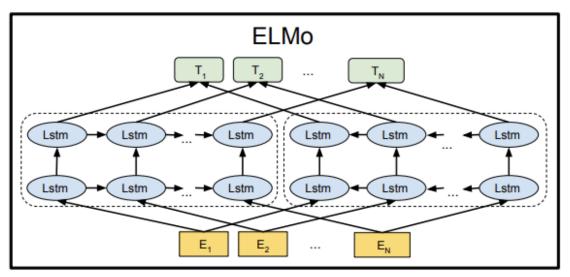




# Why bidirectional?







Ref: BERT paper



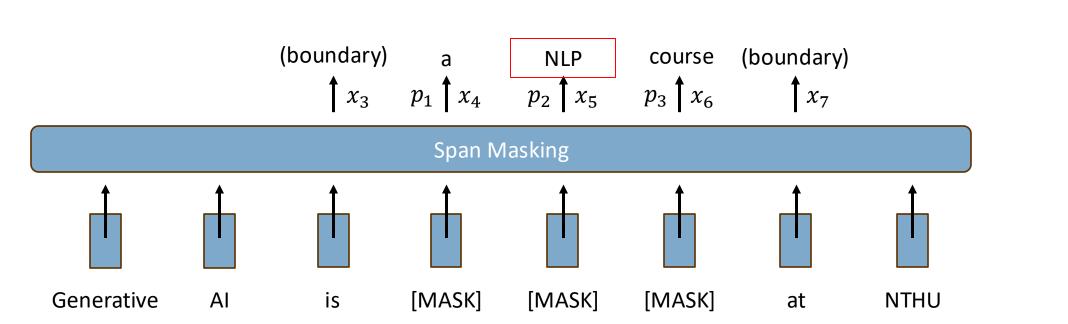
### Extensions of BERT

| Model                              | MLM task                                       | NSP task              | Release |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------|
| BERT                               | Static masking                                 | Sentence relationship | 2018/10 |
| RoBERTa                            | Dynamic masking                                | Remove NSP task       | 2019/07 |
| SpanBERT<br>https://arxiv.org/pdf/ | Span masking Remove NSP task<br>1907.11692.pdf |                       | 2019/07 |
| Albert                             | N-gram masking                                 | Sentence order        | 2019/09 |
| DistilBERT                         | Compression by knowl                           | 2019/10               |         |
| DeBERTa                            | Decoding-enhanced BERT with                    | 2020/06               |         |
| TinyBERT                           | TinyBERT: Distilling BERT for Natur            | 2019/09               |         |

### Extensions of BERT

Span Masking: Span Boundary Objective (SBO)

$$\mathcal{L}(NLP) = \mathcal{L}_{MLM}(NLP) + \mathcal{L}_{SBO}(NLP) = -logP(NLP \mid x_5) - logP(NLP \mid x_3, x_7, p_2)$$



### RoBERTa: A Robustly Optimized BERT Pretraining Approach

#### **Key Improvements:**

- **1.Longer Training Duration**: RoBERTa increases the training time and batch size, utilizing a larger training dataset.
- **2.Removing "Next Sentence Prediction" (NSP) Objective**: Unlike BERT, RoBERTa omits the NSP task, simplifying training.
- **3.Training on Longer Sequences**: Training uses longer text sequences, improving the model's ability to capture context.
- **4.Dynamic Masking**: Uses a dynamic masking strategy, where masking patterns in the training data change every iteration to avoid data overfitting.



### RoBERTa Training Approach and Performance

#### **Training Process:**

- **Data**: RoBERTa uses a larger dataset of over **160GB** of text, including CC-NEWS, OpenWebText, and other public text sources.
- **Architecture**: Similar to BERT, based on the Transformer architecture with 24 layers, 1024 hidden units, and 16 self-attention heads (for the large model configuration).
- **Optimization**: Improved learning rate and batch size adjustments. Dynamic masking is applied to vary the tokens masked during training, increasing data diversity.

#### **Experimental Results:**

- On the GLUE benchmark, Roberta achieves state-of-the-art performance on 4 out of 9 tasks.
- In SQuAD (question-answering) and RACE (reading comprehension) datasets, RoBERTa's performance matches or surpasses the best models.
- Demonstrates that BERT's Masked Language Model (MLM) objective is highly competitive when trained with the right strategies.

|                 | MNLI   | QNLI | QQP  | RTE  | SST  | MRPC | CoLA        | STS  | WNLI | Avg  |
|-----------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|------|------|------|
| Single-task si  | Single-task single models on dev                         |      |      |      |      |      |             |      |      |      |
| $BERT_{LARGE}$  | 86.6/-   | 92.3 | 91.3 | 70.4 | 93.2 | 88.0 | 60.6        | 90.0 | -    | -    |
| $XLNet_{LARGE}$ | 89.8/-   | 93.9 | 91.8 | 83.8 | 95.6 | 89.2 | 63.6        | 91.8 | -    | -    |
| RoBERTa         | 90.2/90.2  | 94.7 | 92.2 | 86.6 | 96.4 | 90.9 | <b>68.0</b> | 92.4 | 91.3 | -    |
| Ensembles on    | Ensembles on test (from leaderboard as of July 25, 2019) |      |      |      |      |      |             |      |      |      |
| ALICE           | 88.2/87.9  | 95.7 | 90.7 | 83.5 | 95.2 | 92.6 | 68.6        | 91.1 | 80.8 | 86.3 |
| MT-DNN          | 87.9/87.4  | 96.0 | 89.9 | 86.3 | 96.5 | 92.7 | 68.4        | 91.1 | 89.0 | 87.6 |
| XLNet           | 90.2/89.8  | 98.6 | 90.3 | 86.3 | 96.8 | 93.0 | 67.8        | 91.6 | 90.4 | 88.4 |
| RoBERTa         | 90.8/90.2  | 98.9 | 90.2 | 88.2 | 96.7 | 92.3 | 67.8        | 92.2 | 89.0 | 88.5 |

| Model                                       | SQuA             | AD 1.1        | SQuAD 2.0        |                  |  |  |
|---|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Model                                       | EM               | F1            | EM               | F1               |  |  |
| Single models on dev, w/o data augmentation |                  |               |                  |                  |  |  |
| $BERT_{LARGE}$                              | 84.1             | 90.9          | 79.0             | 81.8             |  |  |
| $XLNet_{LARGE}$                             | 89.0             | 94.5          | 86.1             | 88.8             |  |  |
| RoBERTa                                     | 88.9             | 94.6          | 86.5             | 89.4             |  |  |
| Single models on test (as of July 25, 2019) |                  |               |                  |                  |  |  |
| $XLNet_{LARGE}$                             |                  |               | $86.3^{\dagger}$ | $89.1^{\dagger}$ |  |  |
| RoBERTa                                     |                  |               | 86.8             | 89.8             |  |  |
| XLNet + SG-                                 | $87.0^{\dagger}$ | <b>89.9</b> † |                  |                  |  |  |

# Specific BERTs (2019)

| Model        | Paper  | Link                                      |  |
|--------------|--|---|--|
| SciBERT      | SciBERT: A Pretrained Language Model for Scientific Text (EMNLP 2019)  | https://aclanthology.org/D19-<br>1371.pdf |  |
| FinBERT      | FinBERT: Financial Sentiment Analysis with Pre-trained Language Models   | https://arxiv.org/abs/1908.10063          |  |
| BioBERT      | BioBERT: a pre-trained biomedical language representation model for biomedical text mining                               | https://arxiv.org/abs/1901.08746          |  |
| PubmedBERT   | Domain-Specific Language Model Pretraining for Biomedical<br>Natural Language Processing                                 | https://arxiv.org/pdf/2007.15779          |  |
| BlueBERT     | Transfer Learning in Biomedical Natural Language Processing: An Evaluation of BERT and ELMo on Ten Benchmarking Datasets | https://arxiv.org/abs/1906.05474          |  |
| ClinicalBERT | ClinicalBERT: Modeling Clinical Notes and Predicting Hospital Readmission  | https://arxiv.org/abs/1904.05342          |  |
| LegalBERT    | LEGAL-BERT: The Muppets straight out of Law School   | https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.02559          |  |

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Decoders

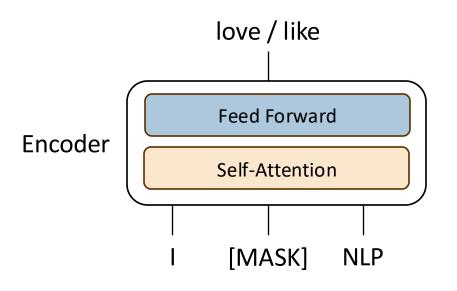
Feed Forward

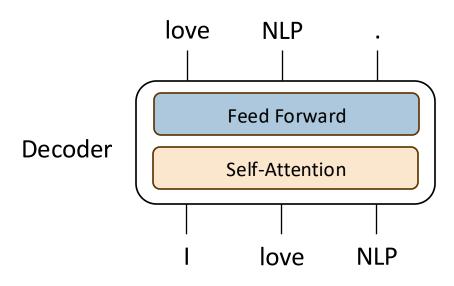
Self-Attention

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### Limitation of Encoders

Despite its strong performance on various tasks, it struggles to perform well on **generative tasks** due to the lack of bidirectional context, therefore, when your task involves autoregressive (1-word-at-a-time), consider using a pretrained decoder.



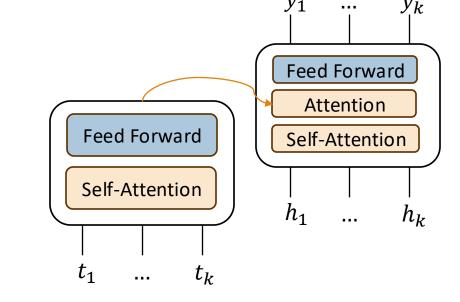


## Pretraining Encoder-Decoder

Idea: Capture the context bidirectionally with encoder then use decoder to train the whole model

through language modeling.

- Pretraining task
  - High-level approaches
    - Language modeling
    - BERT-style
    - Deshuffling
  - Corruption Strategy
    - Replace by mask
    - Replace by spans
    - Drop the token



| Objective   | Inputs   | Targets                                       |
|---|--|---|
| Prefix language modeling<br>BERT-style Devlin et al. (2018) | Thank you for inviting Thank you <m> <m> me to your party apple week .</m></m> | me to your party last week .  (original text) |
| Deshuffling   | party me for your to . last fun you inviting week Thank                        | (original text)                               |

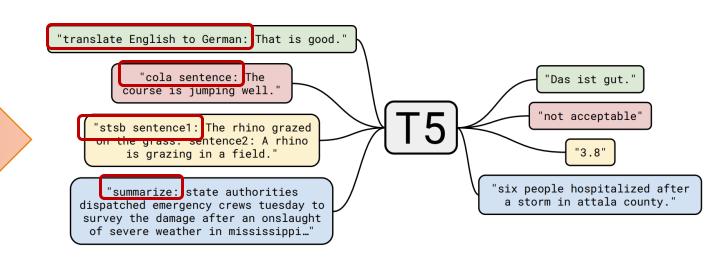
# T5 (Text-to-Text Transfer Transformer) (Raffel et al., Google, 2019)

Universal

task

#### 4 NLP Main Tasks

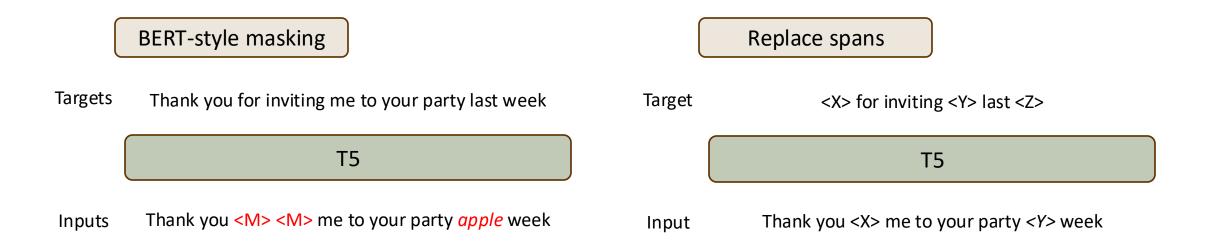
- Classification
- Content Similarity
   Measurement
- Sequence Tagging
- Natural Language Generation



# T5 (Text-to-Text Transfer Transformer) (Raffel et al., Google, 2019)

Idea: Replace various spans with different length from the input with unique placeholders; then, reconstruct the removed spans during decoding.

Original text: "Thank you for inviting me to your party last week."



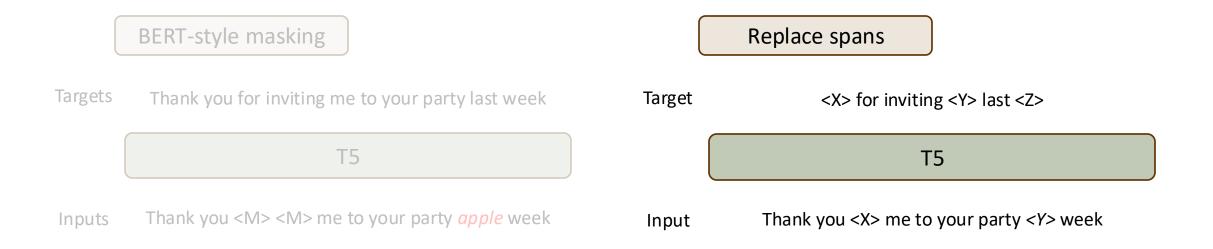
#### T5

Later, BERT-style objective, a method originally proposed as a pre-training technique for an encoder-only model trained for classification and span prediction was found to have better performance over the alternative approach.



#### T5

"Span" refers to multiple consecutive tokens that have been corrupted. A single unique mask token is then used to replace the entire span, resulting in unlabeled text data being processed into shorter sequences.



### Details about Replace Spans

Our objective of replacing spans can be parameterized by the proportion of tokens to be corrupted and the total number of corrupted. It is also shown that this setting is not sensitive to performance due to slight difference in performance with low corruption rate (below 50%).

Input

- Corruption objective
  - Corruption rate: 15%
  - Corrupted average span length: 3

Both parameters can be used to specified total number of span by using this simple calculation.

$$avg\_span\_length = \frac{T_{token} \times rate_{corrupt}}{\#_{span}}$$

Replace spans

Target <X> for inviting <Y> last <Z>

T5

Thank you <X> me to your party <Y> week

#### Details about T5

#### There are five variants for T5 models:

- T5-small (60M parameters): 6 layers, 512-dim hidden size, 8 attention heads.
- T5-base (220M parameters): 12 layers, 768-dim hidden size, 12 attention heads.
- T5-large (770M parameters): 24 layers, 1024-dim hidden size, 16 attention heads.
- T5-3B: 24 layers, 1024-dim hidden size, 32 attention heads.
- T5-11B: 24 layers, 1024-dim hidden size, 128 attention heads.

#### Trained on:

• C4 (Colossal Clean Crawled Corpus, extracted from Common Crawl, 34B words)

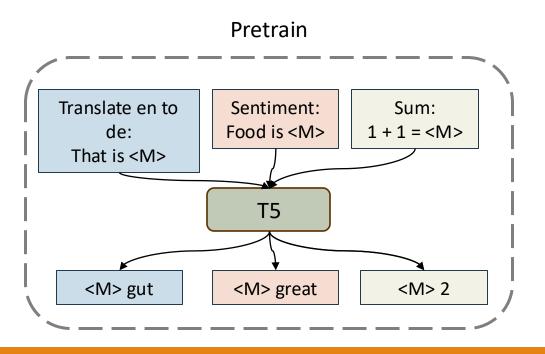
Scaling can make a significant boost in performance.

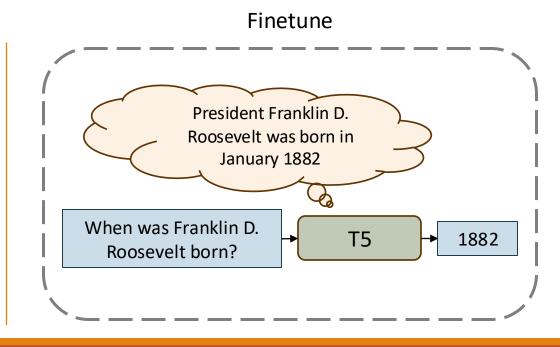
Converts all text-based language problems into a text-to-text format.



### Training Strategy and Finetune T5

We pre-train T5 by having it learned to fill in dropped-out spans of text (denoted by <M>). To apply T5 to closed-book question answer, we fine-tuned it to answer questions without giving any additional input information or context. This forces T5 to answer questions based on "knowledge" that it learnt during pre-training.





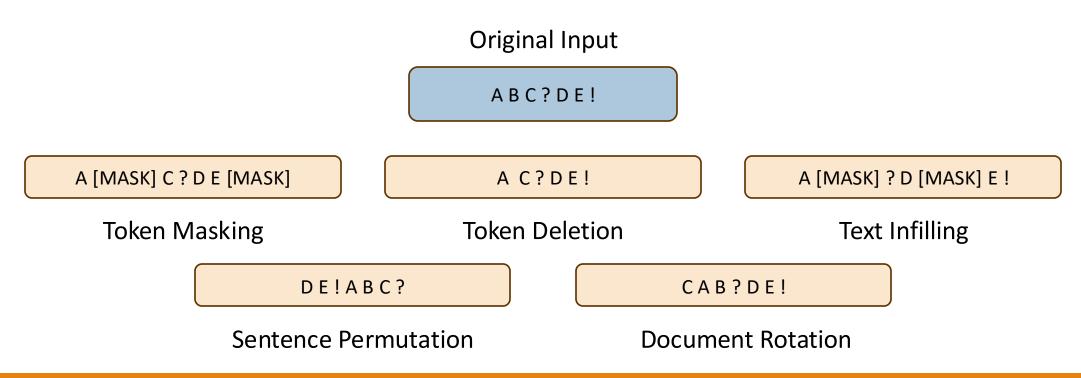


#### Extensions of T5

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



BART (Bidirectional and Auto-Regressive Transformers) serves as a denoising autoencoder designed to pretrain sequence-to-sequence models. BART undergoes two training processes. First, corrupting text using arbitrary noising function. Second, learning a model to reconstruct the original text.



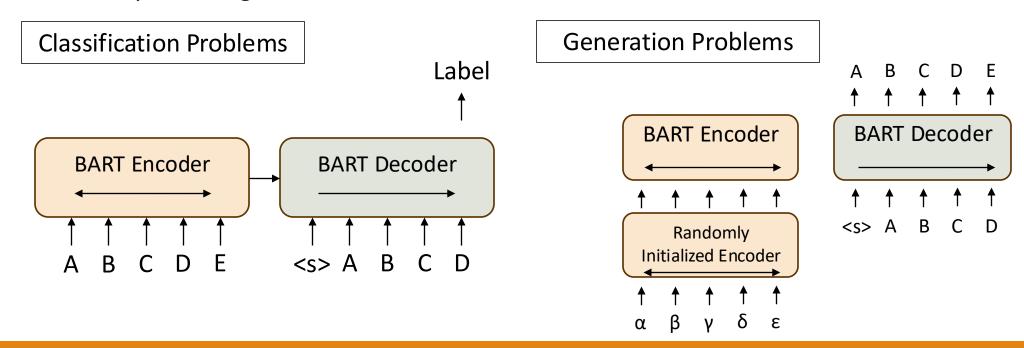
## Pretraining tasks of BART

| Noise                | Method  | Goal  |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Token Masking        | Random tokens are sampled and replaced with [MASK] elements.  | Teach the model to predict masked token.                            |
| Token Deletion       | Random tokens are deleted from the input.   | Teach the model to predict masked token and its position.           |
| Text Infilling       | Like SpanBERT, but <b>0-length</b> spans correspond to the insertion of [MASK] tokens.                        | Teach the model to predict how many tokens are missing from a span. |
| Sentence Permutation | A document is divided into sentences based on full stops, and these sentences are shuffled in a random order. | Teach the model to clarify the relationship between two sentences.  |
| Document Rotation    | A token is chosen uniformly at random, and the document is rotated so that it begins with that token.         | Teach the model to identify the start of the document.              |



## Finetuning BART

For classification problems, both the encoder and decoder receive the same input, and the representation from the final output is utilized; For generation, BART's encoder is replaced with newly trained encoder the word embeddings in BART. The new encoder can use a separate vocabulary from original BART model.



## Three Types of Pretraining Ways

Encoders

Feed Forward

Self-Attention

- Bidirectional capable of looking into the future
- Suitable for downstream task

**Encoder-Decoders** 

Feed Forward

Self-Attention

Attention
Self-Attention

- Pros of decoders and encoders?
- Cons of having both during pretraining

**Decoders** 

Feed Forward

Self-Attention

- What LMs we have seen so far
- Suitable for generation task
- Not bidirectional

#### GPT (Radford et al., 2018) Improving Language Understanding by Generative Pre-Training

#### **Details**

- Transformer decoder with 12 layers, 117M parameters
- 768-dimensional hidden states, 3072-dimensional feed-forward hidden layers
- Byte-pair encoding with 40,000 merges

#### **Dataset**

- Trained on BooksCorpus: over 7000 unique books
  - Contains long spans of contiguous text, for learning long-distance dependencies

#### **Additional Insights**

- The acronym "GPT" never showed up in the original paper
  - Could stand for "Generative PreTraining" or "Generative Pretrained Transformer"

MXX

BERT and its Family



### Alec Radford

#### Cited by

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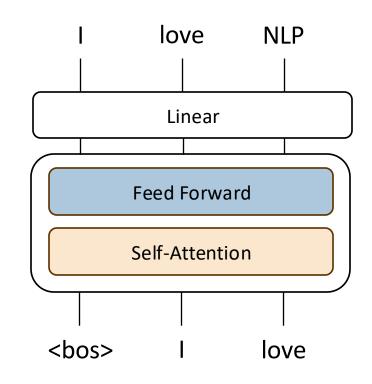
## Pretraining Decoder

Idea: Pretrain decoders on language modeling, then use them as generators. This is helpful in tasks where the output is a sequence with a vocabulary like that at pretraining time.

- Pretraining task
  - Next Token Prediction

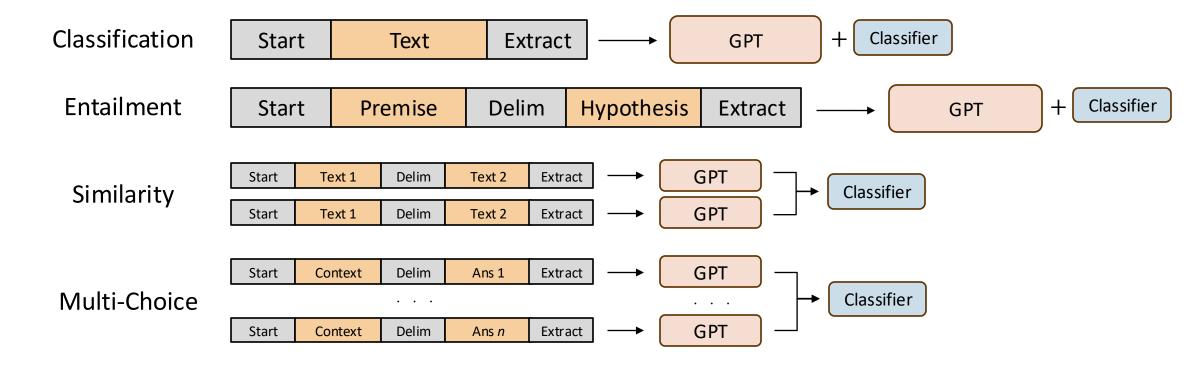
$$p(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} p(s_n | s_1, \dots, s_{n-1})$$

Since language follows a specific rule and order, therefore, we leverage conditional probabilities to help us determine the most probable next word based on the preceding sequence of texts.



#### Finetune GPT

Idea: Convert all structured inputs into sequence of tokens to be processed by our pre-trained model, followed by a linear classifier





## **GPT Family**

| Model | Pretraining method                             | Parameters | Dataset            | Release                   |
|-------|--|------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| GPT-1 | Transformer decoder followed by linear-softmax | 117 M      | BooksCorpus 4.5 GB | 2018.06.11                |
| GPT-2 | Same as GPT-1 but different normalized layer   | 1.5 B      | WebText 40 GB      | 2019.02.14<br>Text genera |
| GPT-3 | Larger version of GPT-2                        | 175 B      | CommonCrawl 45 TB  | 2020.05.15                |
| GPT-4 | Trained with RLHF                              | > 1.5 T    | Undisclosed        | 2023.03.14                |



# GPT-3, In-Context learning, and LLMs Language Models are Few-Shot Learners

GPT-3 (Brown et al., 2020) (75 pages)

So far, there are two ways we interact with pre - trained models

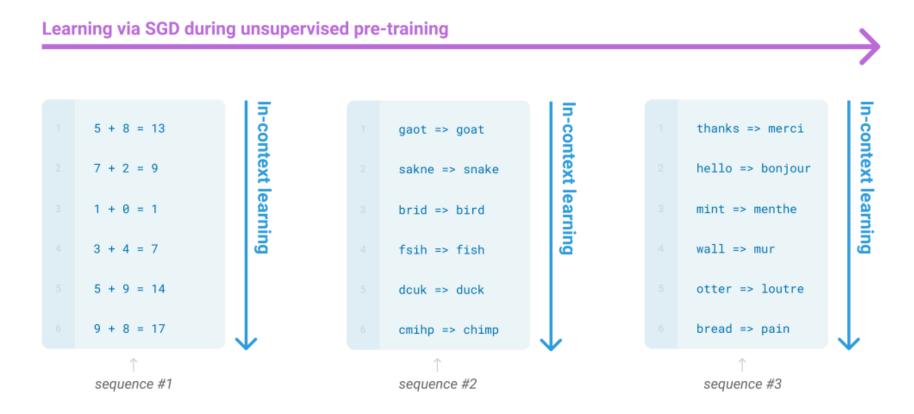
- 1. Sample from the distributions they define
- 2. Fine-tune them on a task we care about

However, large models are shown to have this **emergence ability** which allows them to perform some kind of learning without gradient steps.

GPT-3, with 175 billion parameters, is a good example of this.

### GPT-3, In-Context learning, and LLMs

Very large language models have ability to learn through examples provided within their contexts without gradient steps. This is referred to as in-context learning ability.





### GPT3, ICL

#### Zero-shot

The model predicts the answer given only a natural language description of the task. No gradient updates are performed.

#### One-shot

In addition to the task description, the model sees a single example of the task. No gradient updates are performed.

#### Few-shot

In addition to the task description, the model sees a few examples of the task. No gradient updates are performed.

```
Translate English to French: 
task description

sea otter => loutre de mer 
examples

peppermint => menthe poivrée

plush girafe => girafe peluche

cheese => 
prompt
```



## GPT3 family

| Model Name            | $n_{ m params}$ | $n_{ m layers}$ | $d_{ m model}$ | $n_{ m heads}$ | $d_{ m head}$ | Batch Size | Learning Rate        |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|
| GPT-3 Small           | 125M            | 12              | 768            | 12             | 64            | 0.5M       | $6.0 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| GPT-3 Medium          | 350M            | 24              | 1024           | 16             | 64            | 0.5M       | $3.0 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| GPT-3 Large           | 760M            | 24              | 1536           | 16             | 96            | 0.5M       | $2.5 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| GPT-3 XL              | 1.3B            | 24              | 2048           | 24             | 128           | 1 <b>M</b> | $2.0 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| GPT-3 2.7B            | 2.7B            | 32              | 2560           | 32             | 80            | 1 <b>M</b> | $1.6\times10^{-4}$   |
| GPT-3 6.7B            | 6.7B            | 32              | 4096           | 32             | 128           | 2M         | $1.2\times10^{-4}$   |
| GPT-3 13B             | 13.0B           | 40              | 5140           | 40             | 128           | 2M         | $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| GPT-3 175B or "GPT-3" | 175.0B          | 96              | 12288          | 96             | 128           | 3.2M       | $0.6 \times 10^{-4}$ |

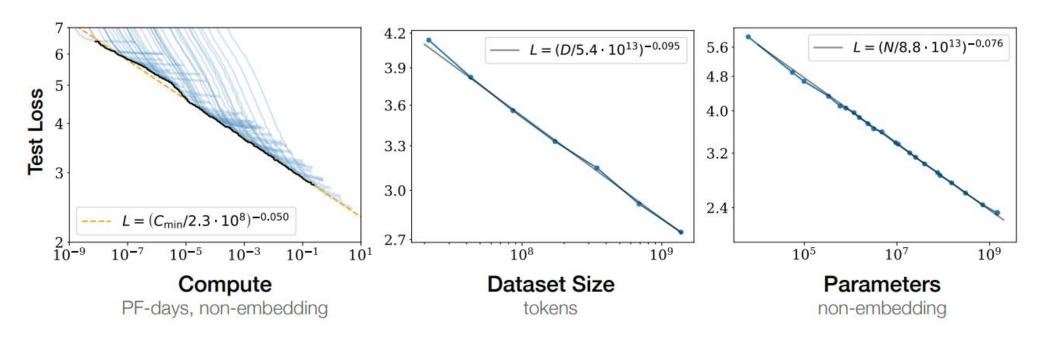


| Dataset                 | Quantity (tokens) | Weight in training mix | Epochs elapsed when training for 300B tokens |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--|
| Common Crawl (filtered) | 410 billion       | 60%                    | 0.44   |
| WebText2                | 19 billion        | 22%                    | 2.9  |
| Books1                  | 12 billion        | 8%                     | 1.9  |
| Books2                  | 55 billion        | 8%                     | 0.43   |
| Wikipedia               | 3 billion         | 3%                     | 3.4  |



## Scaling Laws (Kaplan et al,. 2020)

Scaling laws are simple, predictive rules for model performance. Increasing the model size, dataset size, and the amount of computation during training lead to better performance which increase smoothly.



## Very Large Language Models

| Model     | Parameters | Publisher  | Release |
|-----------|------------|------------|---------|
| GPT-3     | 175B       | OpenAl     | 2020.05 |
| BLOOM     | 176B       | BigScience | 2022.07 |
| Flan-PaLM | 540B       | Google     | 2022.10 |



## Large Language Models for Community

| Model   | Architecture | Parameters               | Publisher | Release    |
|---------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Llama 2 | Decoder-only | 7B, 13B, 70B             | Meta      | 2023.07.18 |
| Mistral | Decoder-only | 7B, <b>8</b> × <b>7B</b> | MistralAI | 2023.09.27 |
| Phi 2   | Decoder-only | 2.7B                     | Microsoft | 2023.12.12 |
| Gemma   | Decoder-only | 2B, 7B                   | Google    | 2024.02.21 |



### Takeaways

Encoders

**Feed Forward** 

Self-Attention

- BERT family
- MLM and NSP task for pretraining
- Not good at performing generation

**Encoder-Decoders** 

Feed Forward

Self-Attention

Feed Forward

Attention

Self-Attention

- T5, BART
- Span corruption for boosting MLM
- Targeting text-to-text format model

**Decoders** 

Feed Forward

Self-Attention

- GPT family
- Pure language modeling
- Most popular backbone nowadays