



# Transformer Architecture

CSCI 601-471/671 (NLP: Self-Supervised Models)

<https://self-supervised.cs.jhu.edu/sp2025/>

# RNNs, Back to the Cons

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- While RNNs in theory can represent long sequences, they quickly **forget** portions of the input.
- Vanishing/exploding gradients
- Difficult to parallelize
- The alternative solution we will see: Transformers!



# Language Models: History Recap

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- Probabilistic n-gram models of text generation [Jelinek+ 1980's, ...]
  - Applications: Speech Recognition, Machine Translation
- Statistical or shallow neural LMs (late 90's – mid 00's) [Bengio+ 2001, ...]
- Recurrent neural nets (2010s)
- Pre-training deep neural language models (2017's onward):
  - Many models based on: **Self-Attention**

# Chapter Plan

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1. Self-Attention module
2. Transformer architecture
3. Computation/space cost
4. Thinking about Transformer implementation

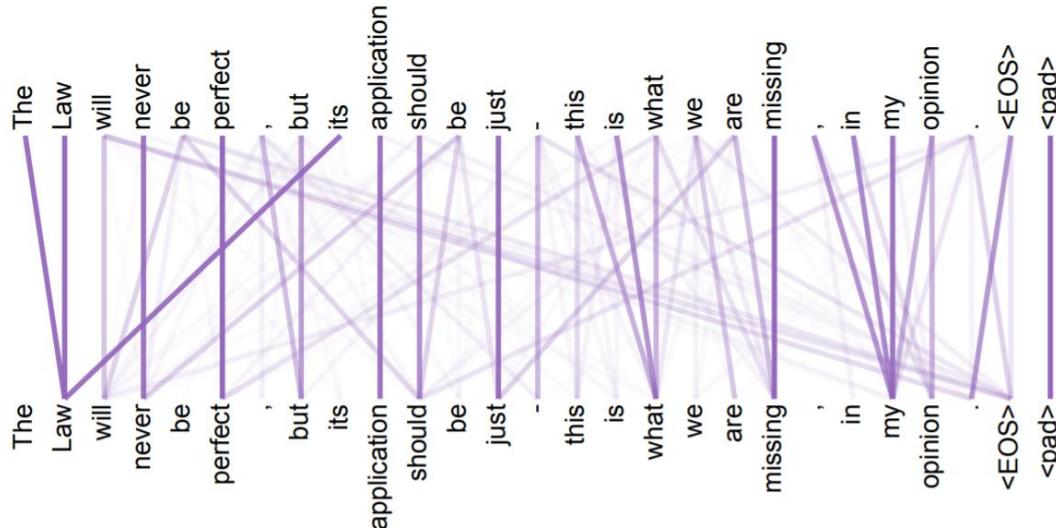
**Chapter goal** — getting very comfortable with nuances involved in Transformers.

# Self-Attention Module

# Attention

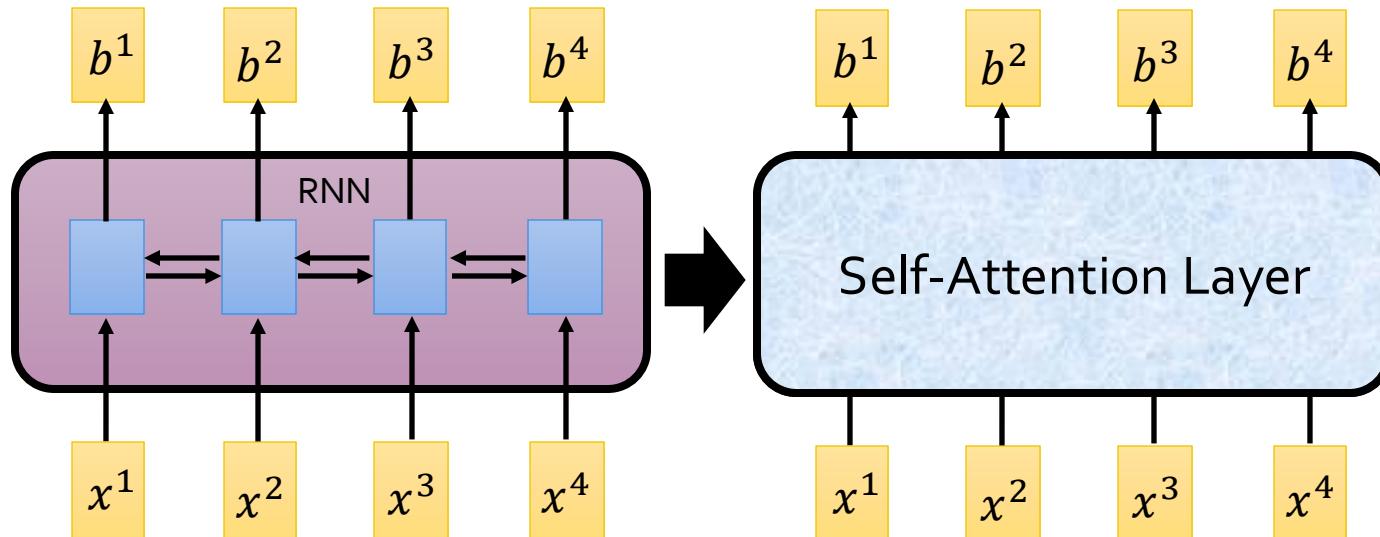


- Core idea: build a mechanism to **focus ("attend")** on a particular part of the context.
- How can this overcome the "long-range dependencies" problem in RNNs? By allowing the model to **directly "look"** at all tokens and decide which one is useful.



# Self-Attention

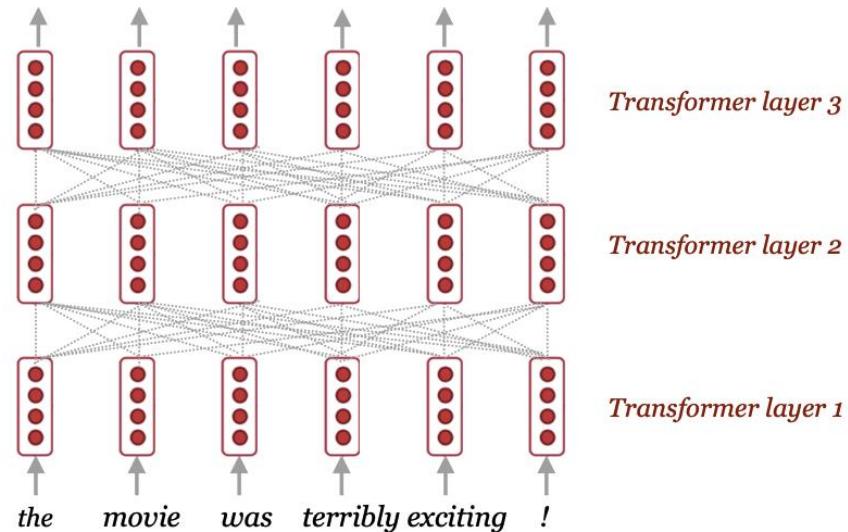
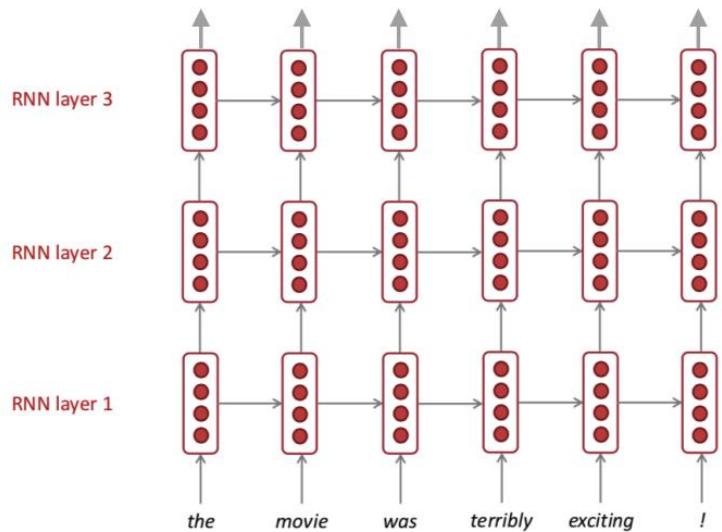
- $b^i$  is obtained based on the whole input sequence.
- can be parallelly computed.



Idea: replace any thing done by RNN with **self-attention**.

# RNN vs Transformer

- Notice that self-attention can directly “look” at all tokens and decide which one is useful.



# Defining Self-Attention

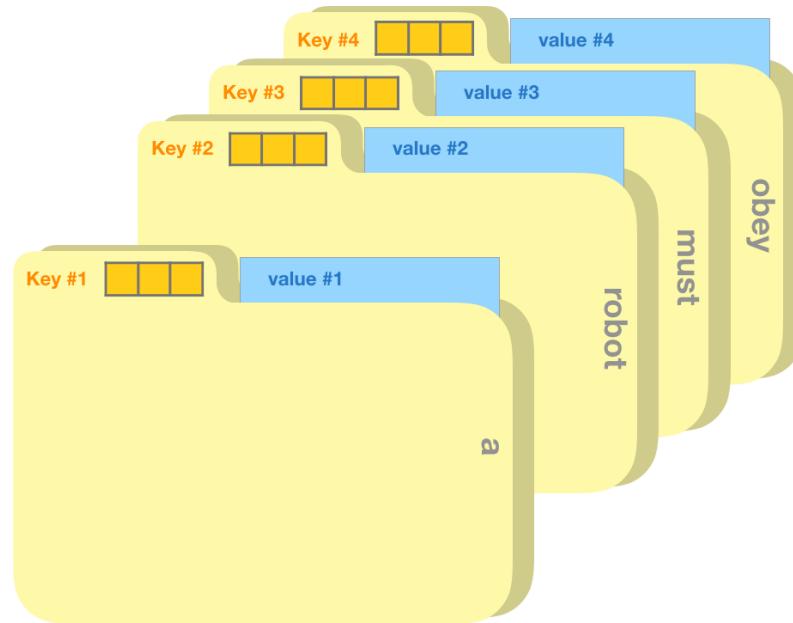
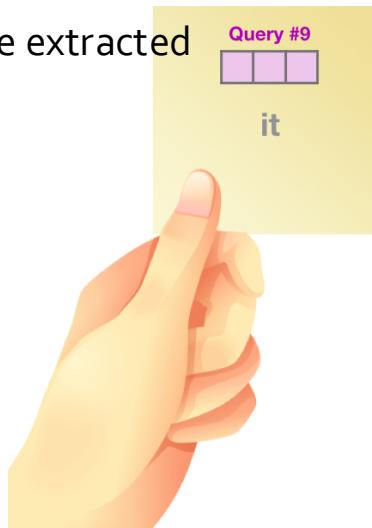
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- Terminology:
  - **Query**: to match others
  - **Key**: to be matched
  - **Value**: information to be extracted

# Defining Self-Attention

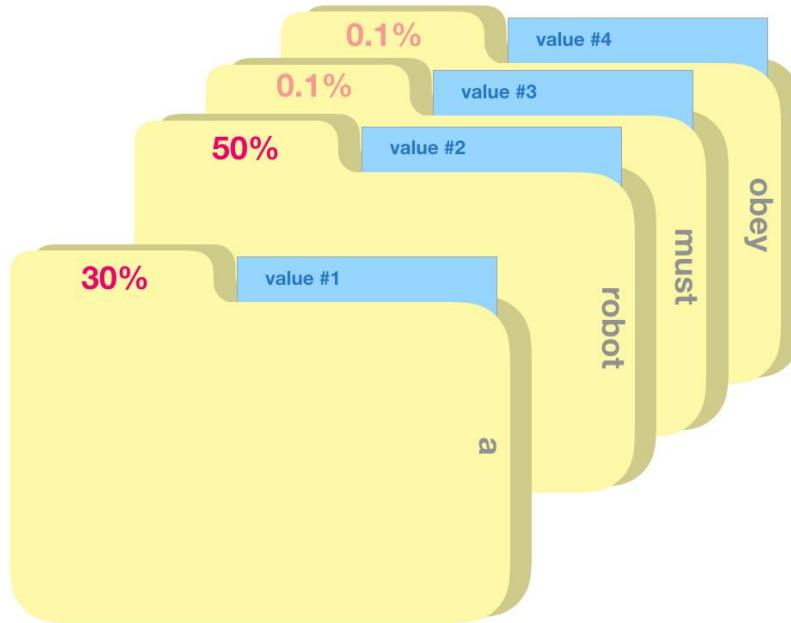
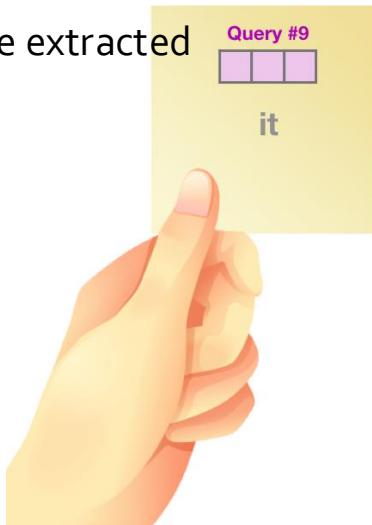
An analogy ....

- Terminology:
  - **Query**: to match others
  - **Key**: to be matched
  - **Value**: information to be extracted



# Defining Self-Attention

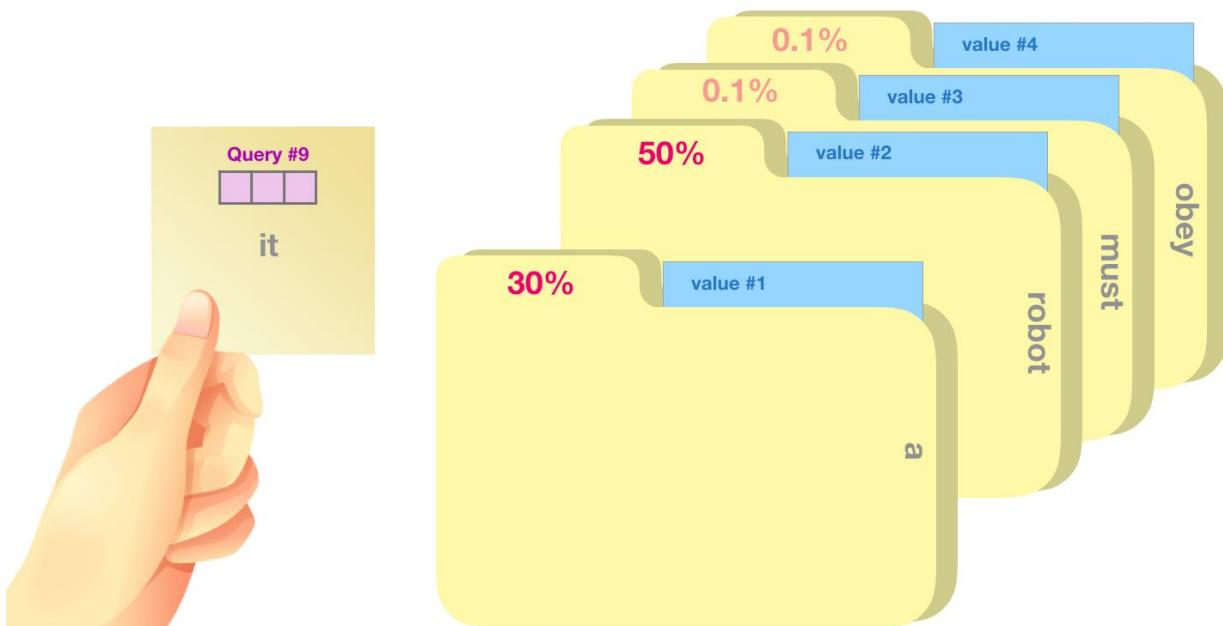
- Terminology:
  - **Query**: to match others
  - **Key**: to be matched
  - **Value**: information to be extracted



*q*: query (to match others)  
 $q_i = x_i W^q$

*k*: key (to be matched)  
 $k_i = x_i W^k$

*v*: value (information to be extracted)  
 $v_i = x_i W^v$



$q$ : query (to match others)

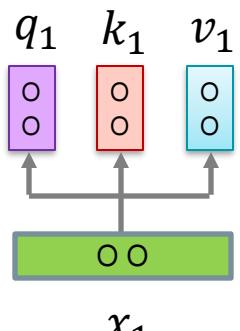
$$q_i = x_i W^q$$

$k$ : key (to be matched)

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$v$ : value (information to be extracted)

$$v_i = x_i W^v$$



$x_1$

The

$q$ : query (to match others)

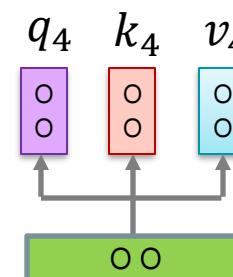
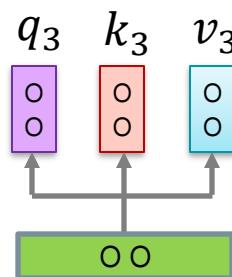
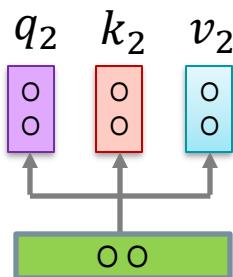
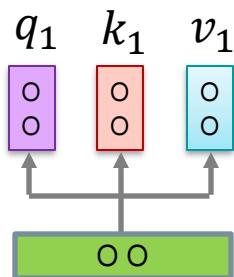
$$q_i = x_i W^q$$

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$$k_i = x_i W^k$$

$v$ : value (information to be extracted)

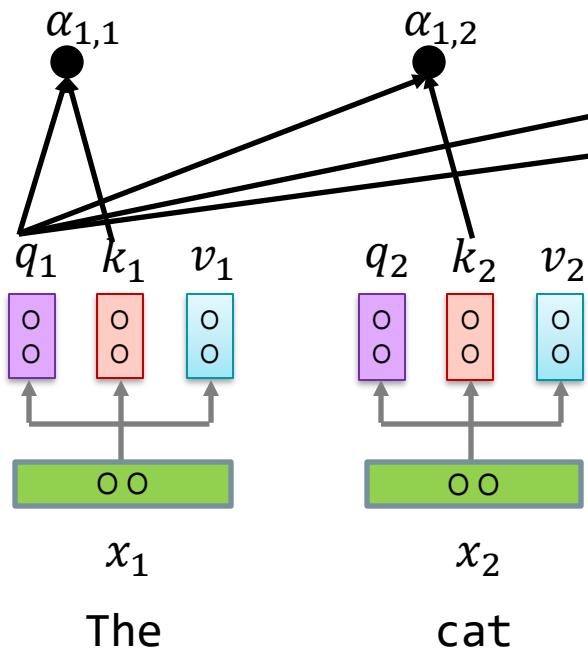
$$v_i = x_i W^v$$



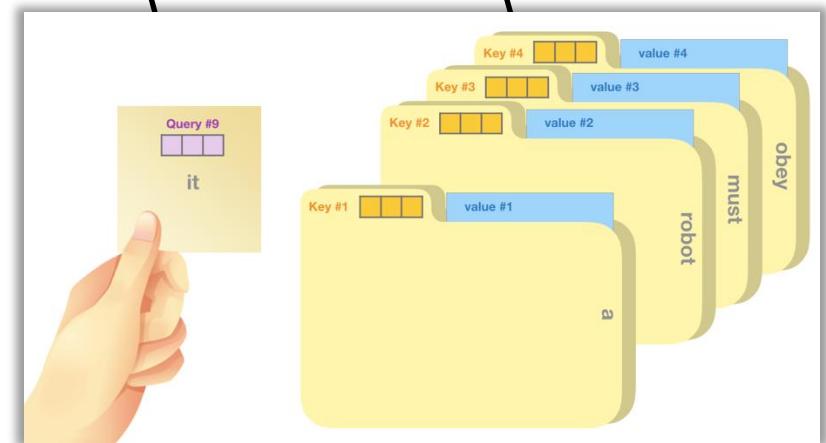
$$\alpha_{1,i} = \frac{q^1 \cdot k^i}{\sqrt{d}}$$

Scaled dot product

How much  
should "The"  
attend to other  
positions?

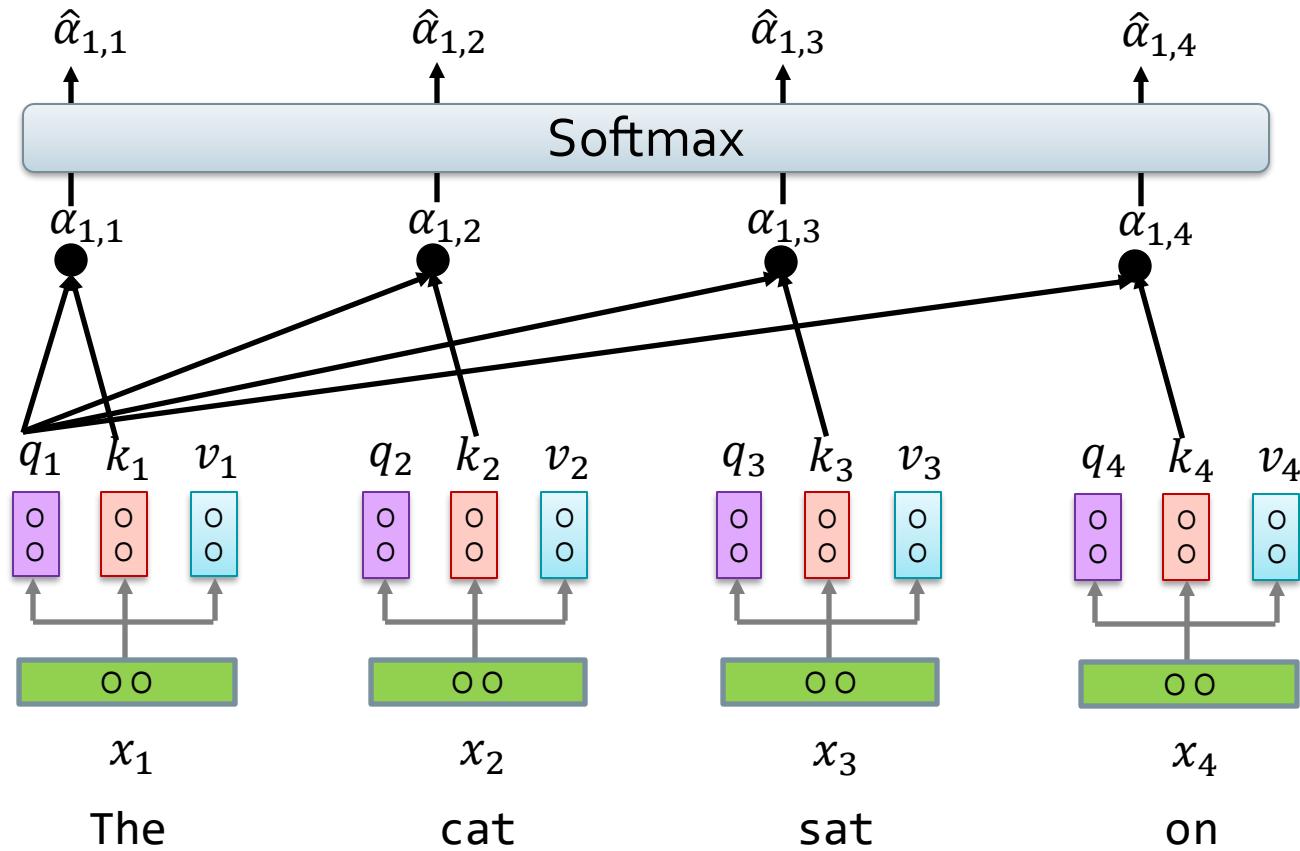


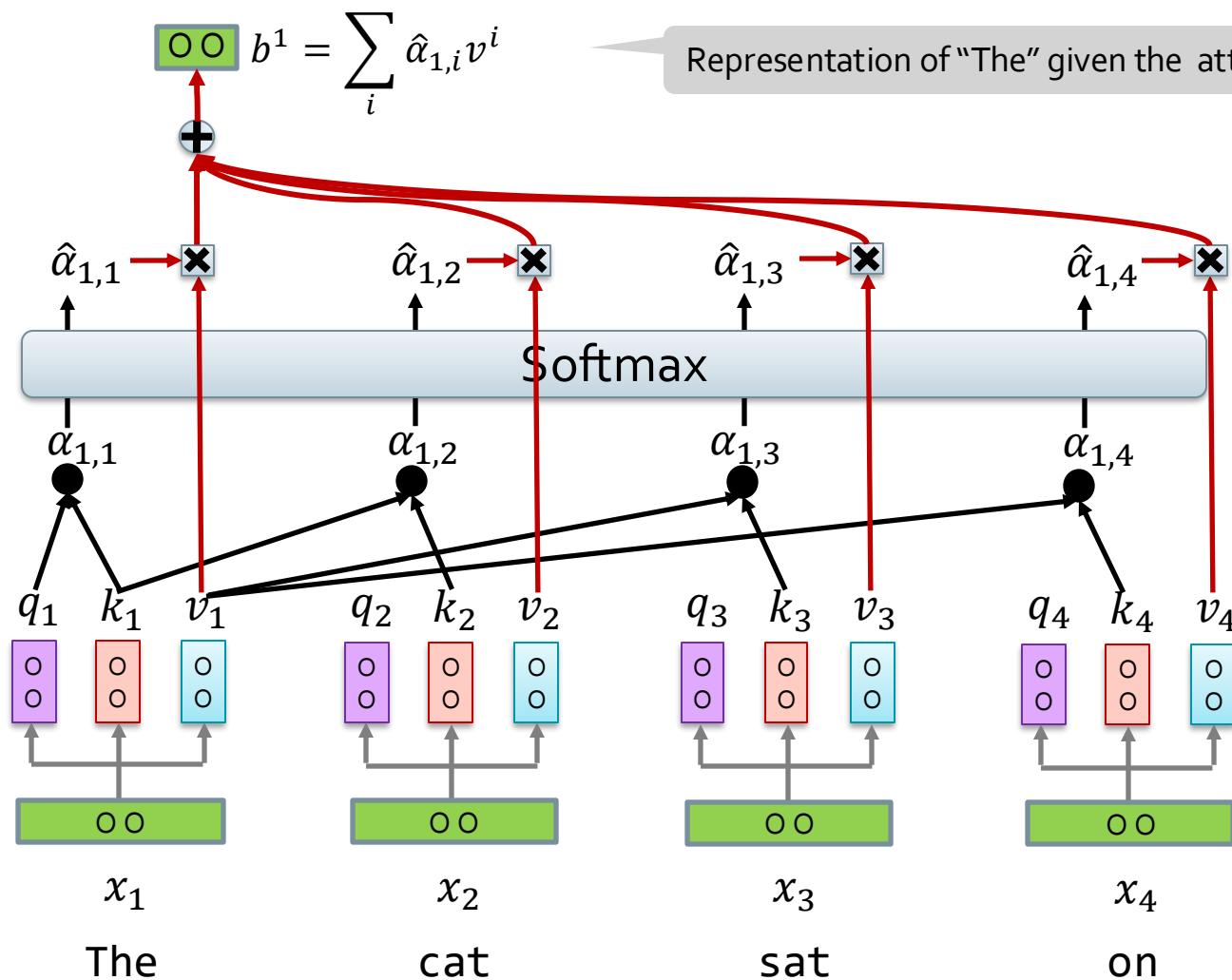
*q*: query (to match others)  
*k*: key (to be matched)  
*v*: value (information to be extracted)



$$\sigma(z)_i = \frac{\exp(z_i)}{\sum_j \exp(z_j)}$$

How much  
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attend to other  
positions?

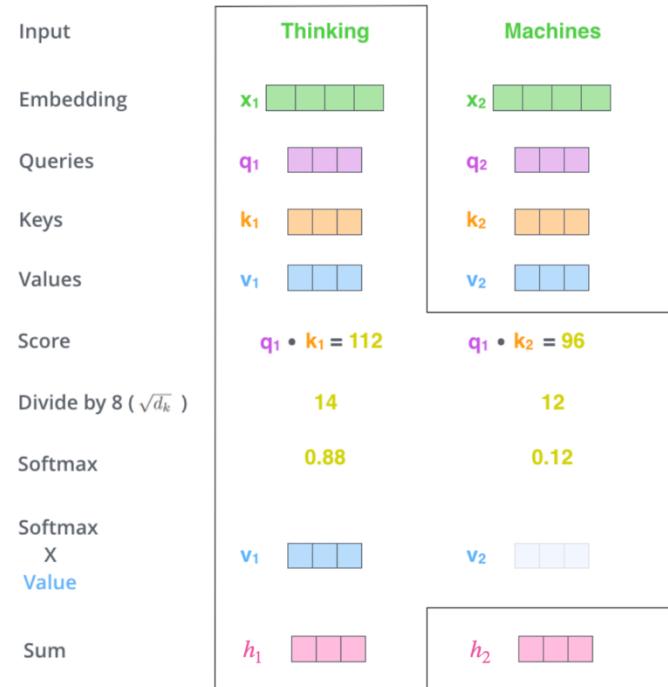




# Question

- What would be the output vector for the word “Thinking”?

- (a)  $0.5\mathbf{v}_1 + 0.5\mathbf{v}_2$
- (b)  $0.54\mathbf{v}_1 + 0.46\mathbf{v}_2$
- (c)  $0.88\mathbf{v}_1 + 0.12\mathbf{v}_2$
- (d)  $0.12\mathbf{v}_1 + 0.88\mathbf{v}_2$



# Self-Attention: Matrix Notation

- Input sequence:  $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$
- Calculate:

$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}^q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$

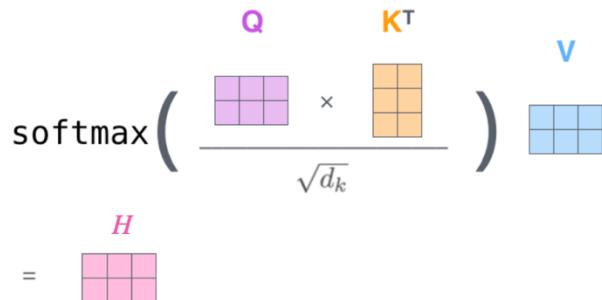
$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}^k \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}^v \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$

- Pairwise similarity matrix between queries and keys:  $\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$
- Attention output:

$$\text{Attention}(\mathbf{x}) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^T}{\sqrt{d}}\right)\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$

Attention raw scores												
0	-0.08	1.24	0.69	-0.98	1.43	-0.6	0.7	0.16	0.93	1.28	-1.61	-1.1
1	-0.09	-0.0	-0.7	0.06	0.25	0.23	0.26	0.18	0.78	-0.21	-1.01	1.01
2	0.86	1.19	1.59	0.86	-0.13	-0.15	-2.13	-0.98	-0.87	-1.72	1.87	-0.72
3	0.12	-0.03	-0.02	0.88	-0.46	-0.7	0.54	-0.42	-1.89	-0.38	0.04	-0.84
4	0.51	0.17	0.13	-1.64	0.24	-0.02	1.68	-0.36	0.64	0.36	0.27	0.66
5	0.24	-1.44	0.43	0.74	0.96	-1.21	-0.31	1.54	1.66	1.14	0.58	-1.44
6	0.26	-0.1	0.93	0.72	-0.38	1.65	0.47	-0.96	-0.17	-0.9	-1.57	0.22
7	-0.55	0.81	0.71	1.7	-0.8	-1.14	-0.32	1.78	-0.7	-0.04	1.54	0.81
8	0.74	-0.76	-0.44	-0.08	-1.38	-0.13	1.25	-1.37	1.84	0.3	0.57	0.74
9	-0.97	-0.91	0.15	0.35	-0.81	0.11	1.14	-1.52	1.06	1.87	0.5	-0.3
10	1.56	0.9	0.39	1.46	1.44	-1.05	0.9	-0.73	0.36	-0.67	-0.62	-0.43
11	0.32	0.74	0.44	-0.1	1.19	0.83	0.29	2.06	0.51	-0.26	1.51	0.11



# Self-Attention: Matrix Notation

- Input sequence:  $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$
- Calculate:

$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}^q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$

$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}^k \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}^v \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$

- Pairwise similarity matrix between queries and keys:  $\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$
- Attention output:

$$\text{Attention}(\mathbf{x}) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^T}{\sqrt{d}}\right)\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$



The most important formula in deep learning after 2018

## Self-Attention

What is self-attention? Self-attention calculates a weighted average of feature representations with the weight proportional to a similarity score between pairs of representations. Formally, an input sequence of  $n$  tokens of dimensions  $d$ ,  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ , is projected using three matrices  $W_Q \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d_q}$ ,  $W_K \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d_k}$ , and  $W_V \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d_v}$  to extract feature representations  $Q$ ,  $K$ , and  $V$ , referred to as query, key, and value respectively with  $d_k = d_q$ . The outputs  $Q$ ,  $K$ ,  $V$  are computed as

$$Q = XW_Q, \quad K = XW_K, \quad V = XW_V. \quad (1)$$

So, self-attention can be written as,

$$S = D(Q, K, V) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_q}}\right)V, \quad (2)$$

where softmax denotes a *row-wise* softmax normalization function. Thus, each element in  $S$  depends on all other elements in the same row.

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# Why do we need $\sqrt{d}$ ?

$$\text{Attention}(\mathbf{x}) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^T}{\sqrt{d}}\right)\mathbf{V}$$

- Without  $\sqrt{d}$ , the results of  $\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^T$  can be very large.
- By scaling down the dot product, the values fed into softmax remain in a reasonable range and it does not create any instability for training.
- A theoretical justification: we can easily prove that:
  - if each element of  $\mathbf{Q}$  and  $\mathbf{K}$  are drawn independently from a  $N(0, \sigma^2)$ , then  $\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^T$  would have a variance  $d\sigma^4$ .
  - But  $\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^T/\sqrt{d}$  has variance of  $\sigma^4$ .
  - This normalization ensures that the numbers given to softmax are not too dispersed.

# Self-Attention: Thinking about batching

- Suppose our data comes in batches of size  $b$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times d}$
- Self-attention's matrix form extends to this batched data. Let's verify:
- Calculate the keys, queries and values, per-batch:

$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{x} \mathbf{W}^q \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times d}$$

$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{x} \mathbf{W}^k \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times d}$$

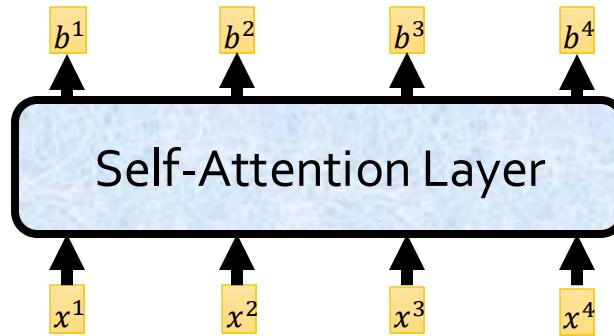
$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{x} \mathbf{W}^v \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times d}$$

- Pairwise similarity matrix between queries and keys, per batch:  $\mathbf{Q} \mathbf{K}^T \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times n}$
- Attention output for the whole batched data:

$$\text{Attention}(\mathbf{x}) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{\mathbf{Q} \mathbf{K}^T}{\sqrt{d}}\right) \mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times d}$$

# Recap: Self-Attention

- **Attention** is a powerful mechanism to create context-aware representations
- A way to focus on select parts of the input



- Better at maintaining **long-distance dependencies** in the context.

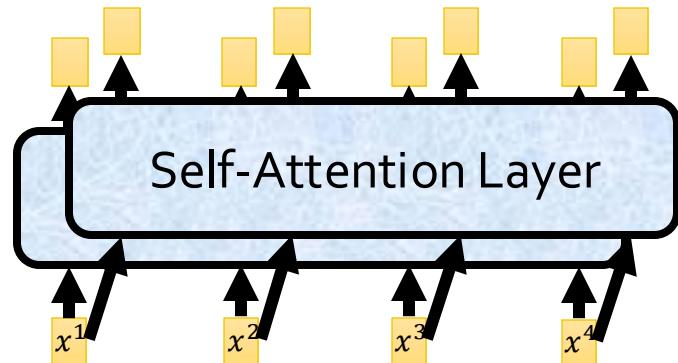
# Multi-Headed Self-Attention

- **Issue:** Each head has limited capacity, e.g., it cannot attend to too many things at the same time.



- **Main idea:** Allows model to jointly attend to information from different representation subspaces (like ensembling).

- **Multiple parallel attention layers.**
  - Each attention layer has its own parameters.
  - Concatenate the results and run them through a linear projection.



# Multi-Headed Self-Attention

- Just concatenate all the heads and apply an output projection.

$$\text{head}_i = \text{Attention}(\mathbf{x}W_i^q, \mathbf{x}W_i^k, \mathbf{x}W_i^v)$$
$$\text{MultiHeadedAttention}(\mathbf{x}) = \text{Concat}(\text{head}_1, \dots, \text{head}_h)W^o$$

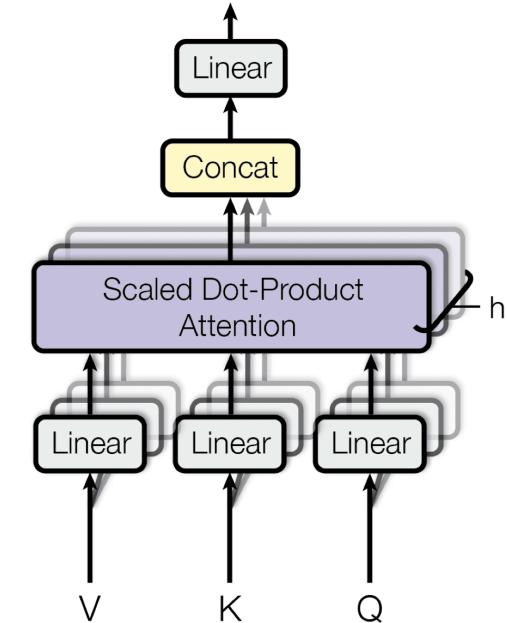
- Previously, we used the following dimensions for **single**-head SA:

$$W_i^q \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}, \quad W_i^k \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}, \quad W_i^v \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d},$$

- In practice, we use a reduced dimension for each head.

$$W_i^q \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times \frac{d}{h}}, \quad W_i^k \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times \frac{d}{h}}, \quad W_i^v \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times \frac{d}{h}}, \quad W^o \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$$

- The total computational cost is similar to that of single-head attention with full dimensionality.



$h$ : number of heads

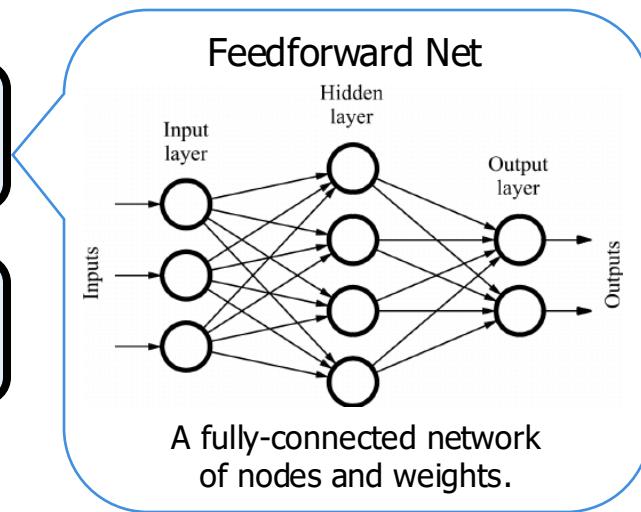
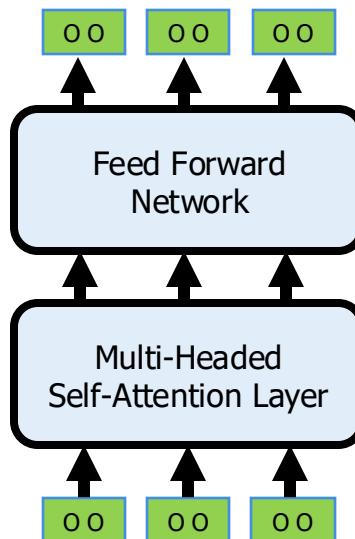
$d$ : feature dimension  
in output of SA

# Combine with FFN

- Add a **feed-forward network** to add more expressivity.
  - This applies another nonlinearity to the representations (or “post-process” them).

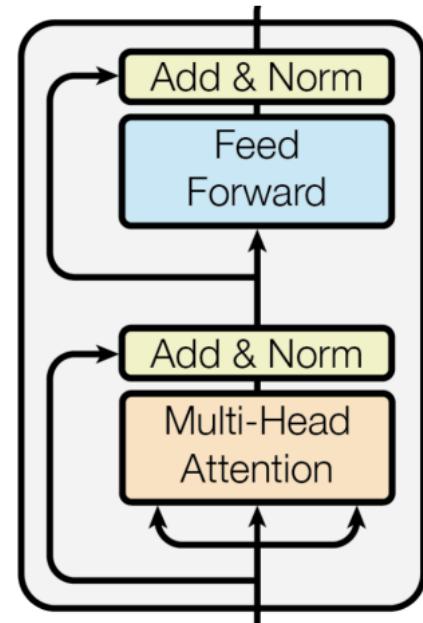
$$\text{FFN}(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}_1 + \mathbf{b}_1)\mathbf{W}_2 + \mathbf{b}_2$$
$$\mathbf{W}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d_{\text{ff}}},$$
$$\mathbf{W}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{ff}} \times d}$$

- Usually, the dimensionality of the hidden feedforward layer  $d_{\text{ff}}$  is 2-8 times larger than the input dimension  $d$ .



# How Do We Prevent Vanishing Gradients?

- **Residual connections** let the model “skip” layers
  - These connections are particularly useful for training deep networks
- Use **layer normalization** to stabilize the network and allow for proper gradient flow



# Putting it Together: Self-Attention Block

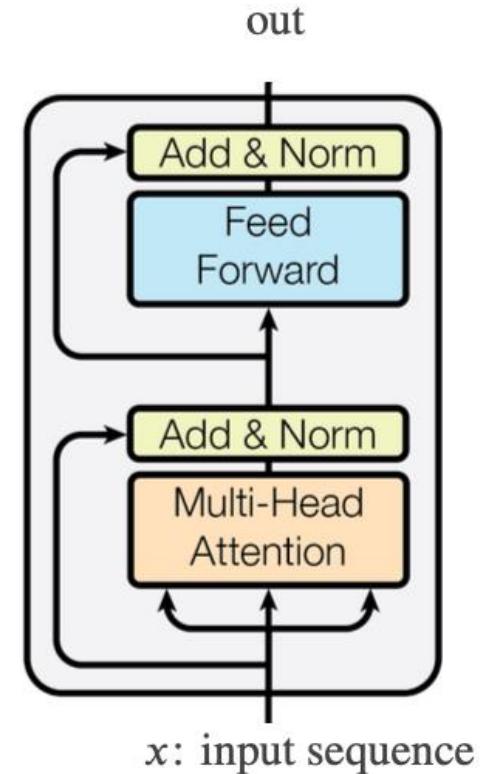
Given input  $\mathbf{x}$ :

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \text{MultiHeadedAttention}(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{W}^q, \mathbf{W}^k, \mathbf{W}^v)$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \text{LayerNorm}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{x})$$

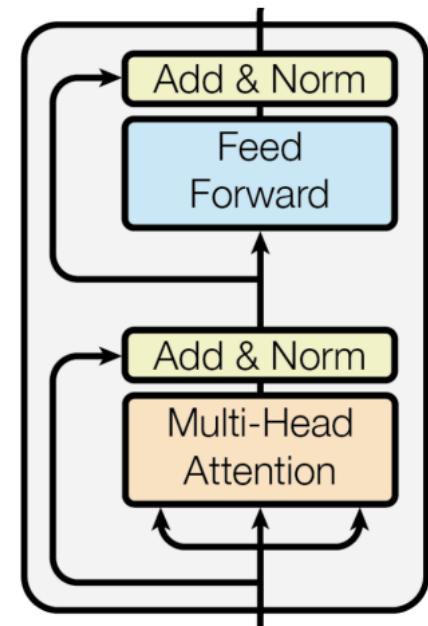
$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \text{FFN}(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}W_1 + b_1)W_2 + b_2$$

$$\text{out} = \text{LayerNorm}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{x})$$



# Summary: Self-Attention Block

- **Self-Attention:** A critical building block of modern language models.
  - The idea is to compose meanings of words weighted according some similarity notion.
- **Next:** We will combine self-attention blocks to build various architectures known as Transformer.

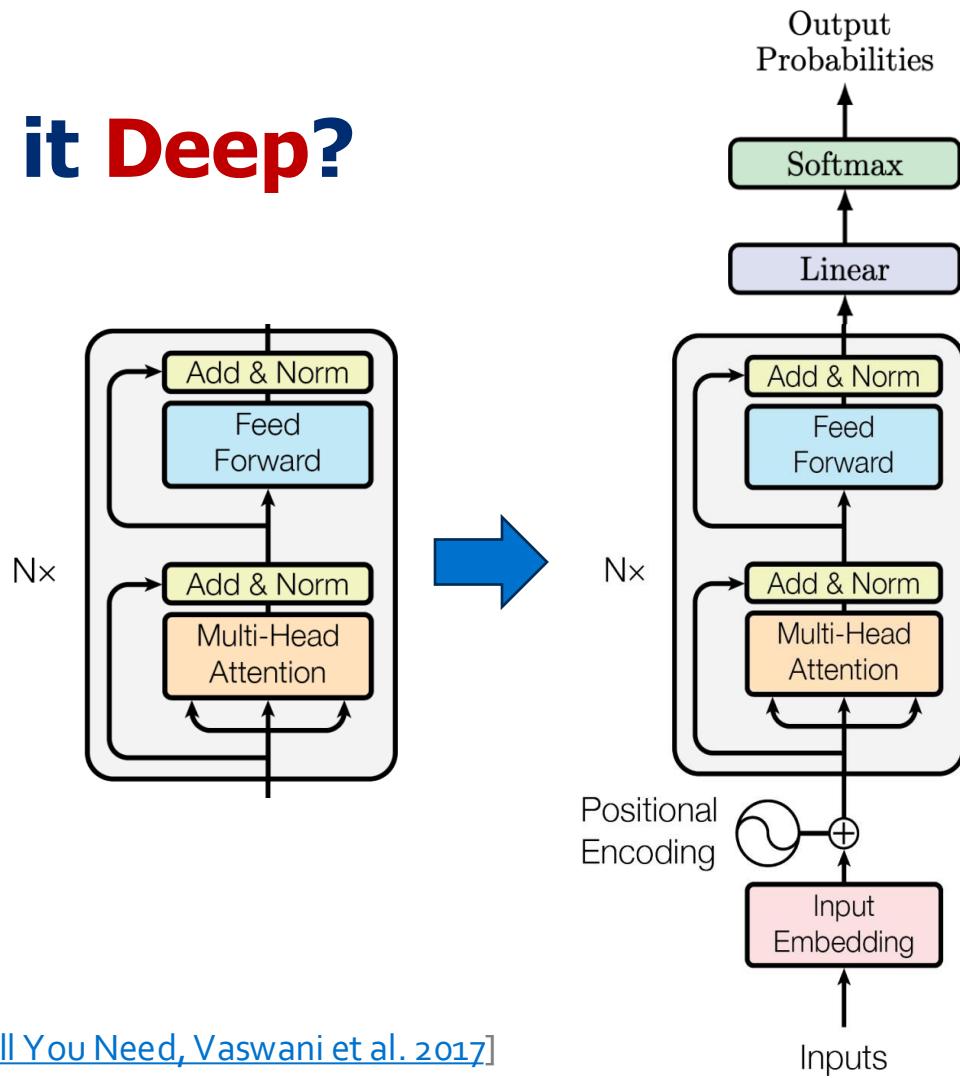
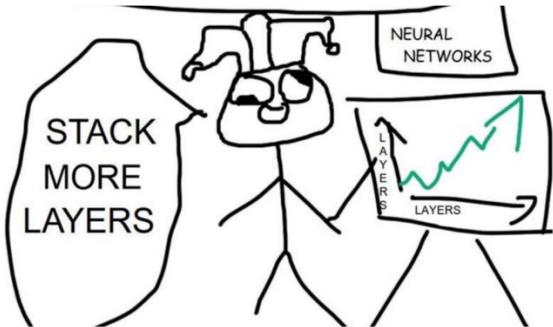




# A Decoder-Only Transformer

# How Do We Make it Deep?

- Stack more layers!



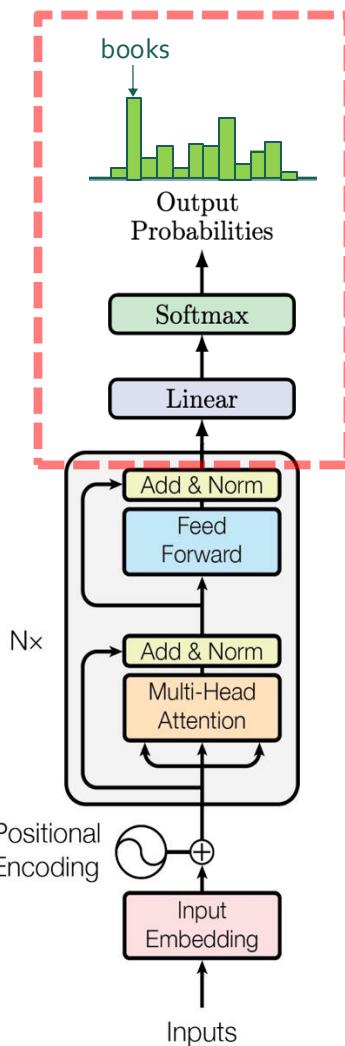
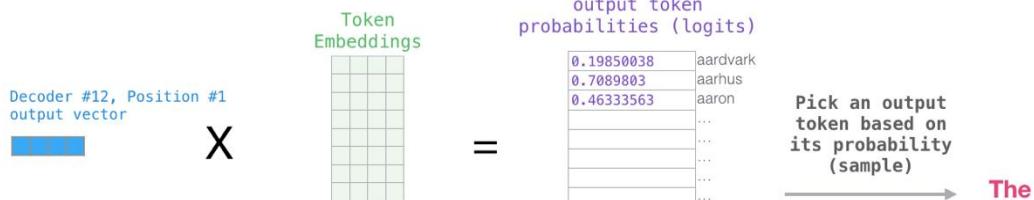
# From Representations to Prediction

- To perform prediction, add a classification head on top of the final layer of the transformer:  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ .
  - Where  $n$  is the length of your sequence.
- To obtain logits, we can apply a linear transformation with token embedding matrix  $\mathbf{W}_V \in \mathbb{R}^{V \times d}$ :

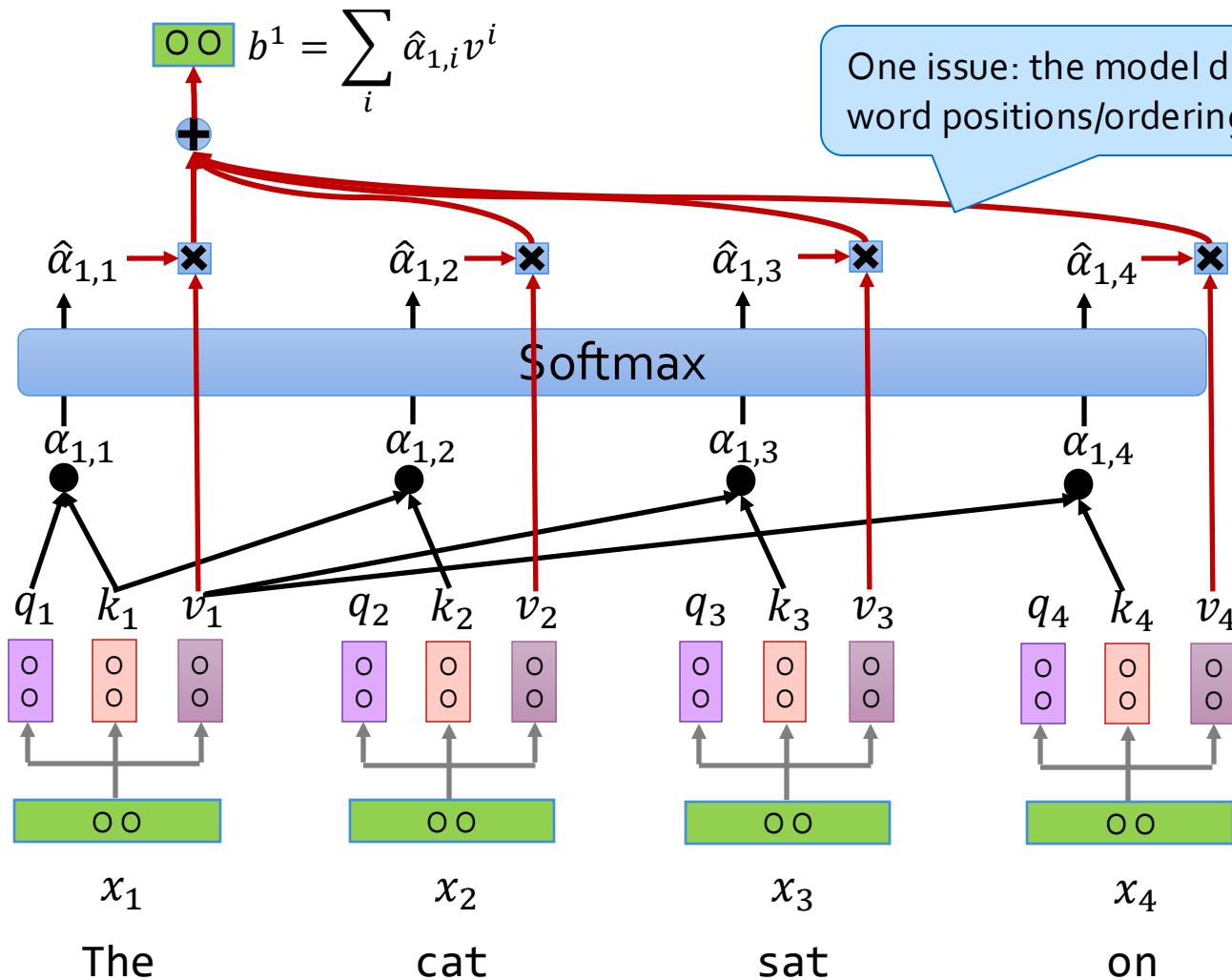
$$\mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}_V^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times V}$$

- To obtain probabilities, run this through softmax:

$$\text{softmax}(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}_V^T) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times V}$$



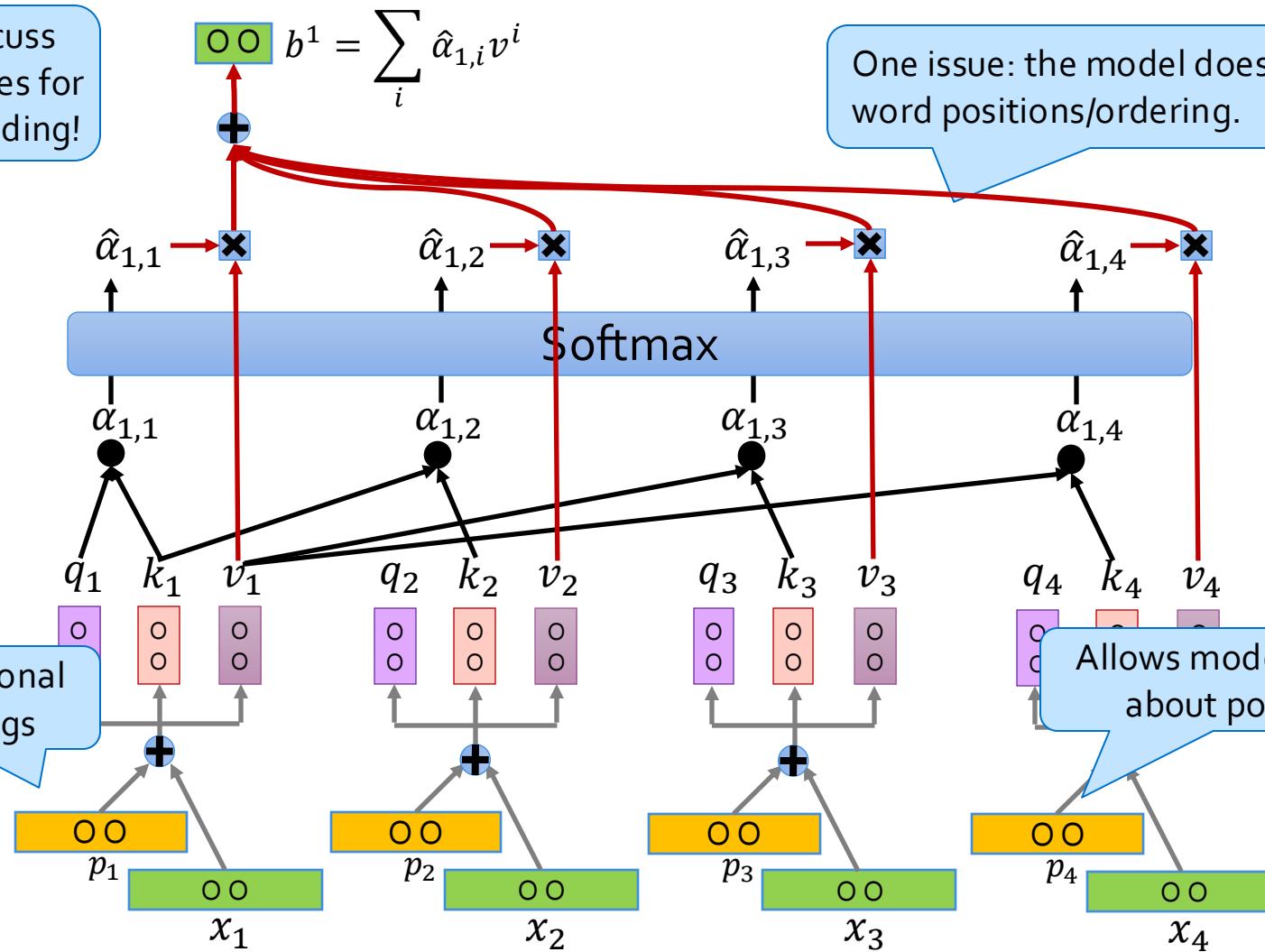
One wrinkle: How does Transformer  
know about word ordering? ...



We will discuss various choices for these embedding!

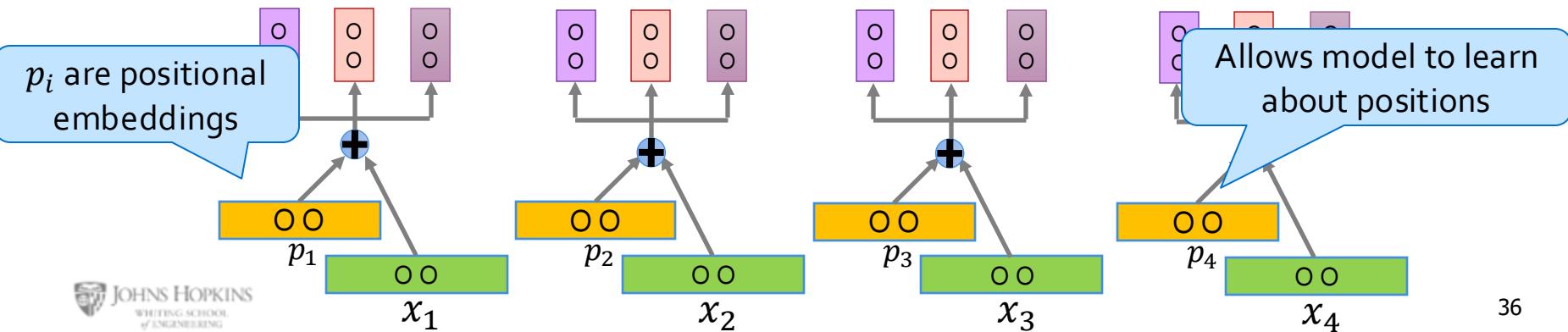
$$OO = \sum_i \hat{\alpha}_{1,i} v^i$$

One issue: the model doesn't know word positions/ordering.



# Absolute Positional Embeddings

- Why “add”? Why not, say, “concatenate and then project”?
  - “concatenate and then project” would be a more general approach with more trainable parameters.
  - In practice, “sum” works fine that
  - The intuition here is that “summing” forms point clouds of word embedding information around position embeddings unique to each position.



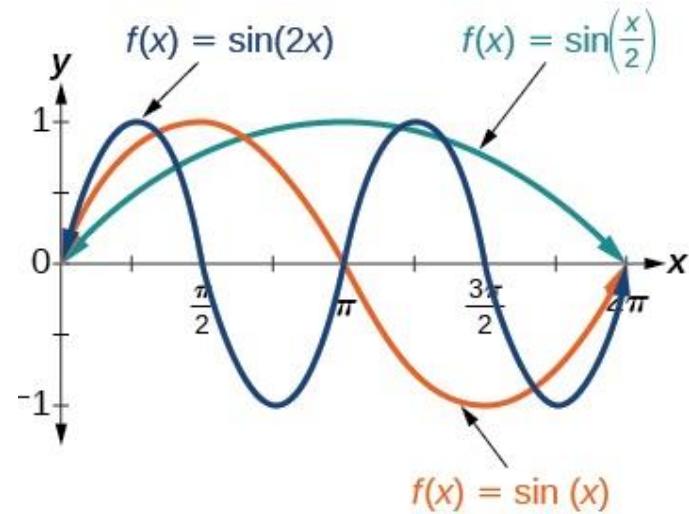
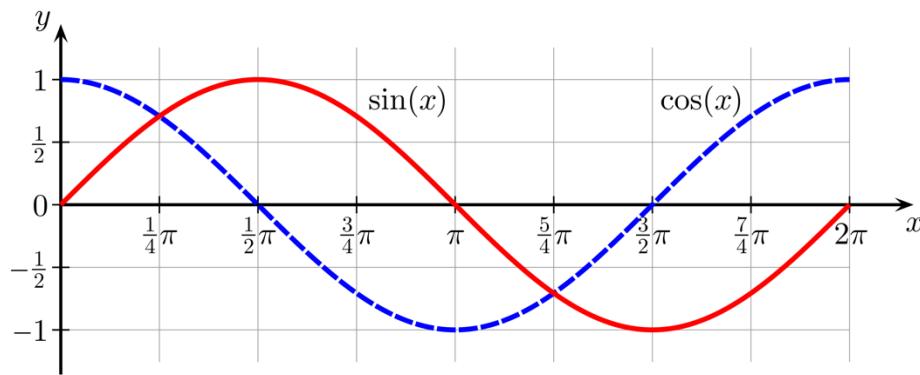
# Absolute Positional Embeddings

- The idea is to create vectors that uniquely encoder each position.
- For example, consider vectors of binary values.
  - Example below shows 4-dimensional position encodings for 16 positions.

0 :	0	0	0	0	8 :	1	0	0	0
1 :	0	0	0	1	9 :	1	0	0	1
2 :	0	0	1	0	10 :	1	0	1	0
3 :	0	0	1	1	11 :	1	0	1	1
4 :	0	1	0	0	12 :	1	1	0	0
5 :	0	1	0	1	13 :	1	1	0	1
6 :	0	1	1	0	14 :	1	1	1	0
7 :	0	1	1	1	15 :	1	1	1	1

Issues: Discrete numbers;  
the information is localized  
around a few bits;  
embedding depends on the  
number of positions ☹

# Math Recap: Sine and Cosine Functions



# Absolute Positional Embeddings

- Let  $t$  be a **desired position**. Then the  $i$ -th element of the positional vector is:

$$\vec{p}_t^{(i)} = f(t)^{(i)} := \begin{cases} \sin(\omega_k \cdot t), & \text{if } i = 2k \\ \cos(\omega_k \cdot t), & \text{if } i = 2k + 1 \end{cases} \quad \omega_k = \frac{1}{10000^{2k/d}}$$

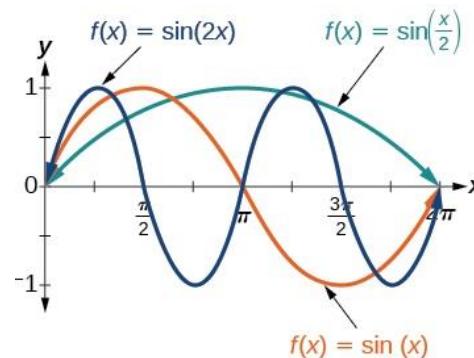
- Here  $d$  is the maximum dimension of each positional vector.
- This provides unique vectors for each position.

# Quiz

- Let  $t$  be a desired position.

$$\vec{p}_t^{(i)} = f(t)^{(i)} := \begin{cases} \sin(\omega_k \cdot t), & \text{if } i = 2k \\ \cos(\omega_k \cdot t), & \text{if } i = 2k + 1 \end{cases}$$

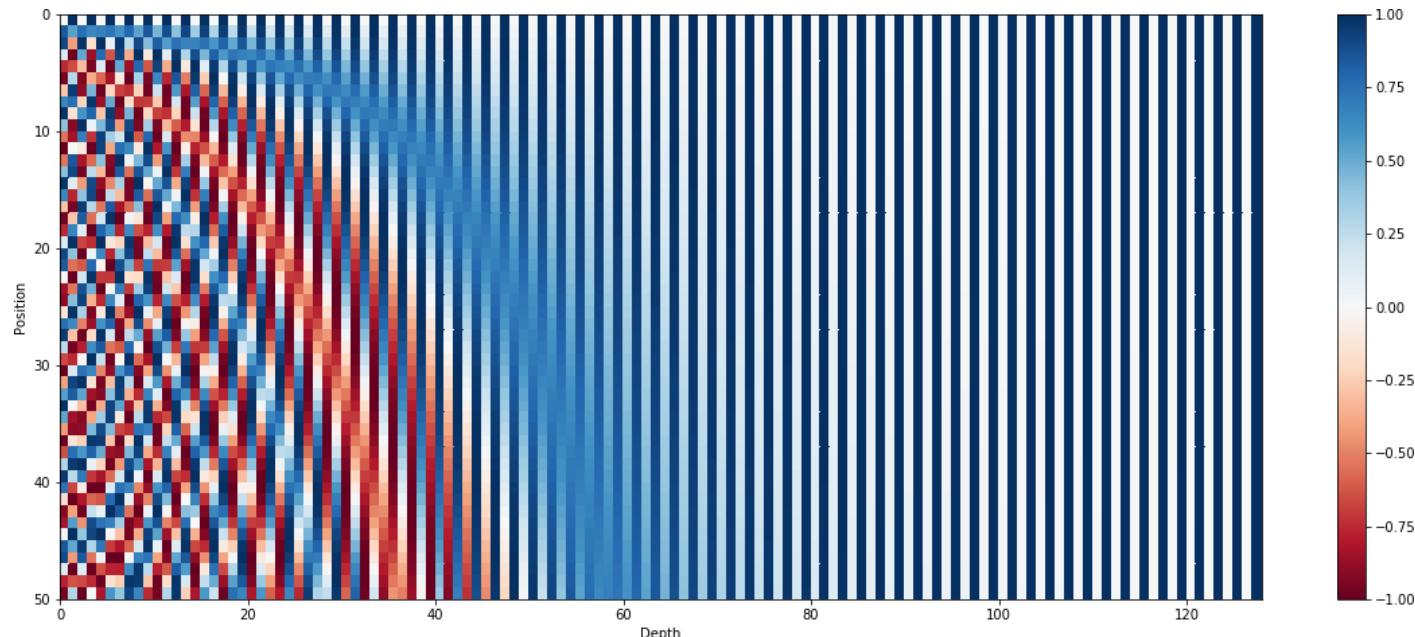
- Q:** Are the frequencies increasing with dimension  $i$  ?
- Answer:** The frequencies are decreasing along the vector dimension.



$$\omega_k = \frac{1}{10000^{2k/d}}$$

# Visualizing Absolute Positional Embeddings

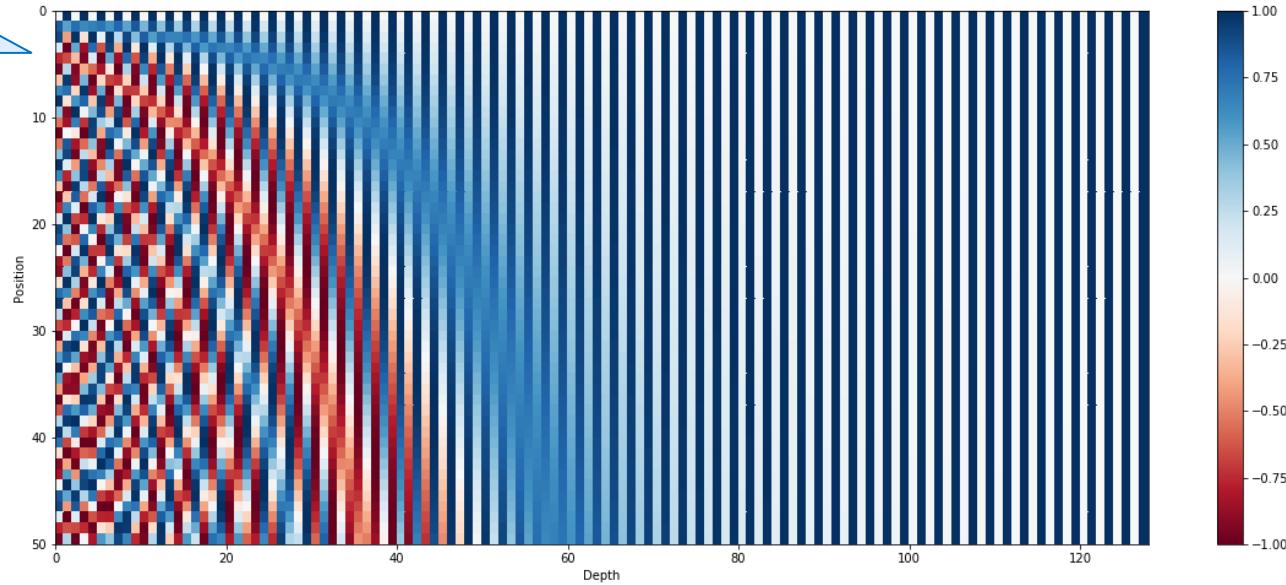
- Here positions range from 0-50, for an embedding dimension of 130.



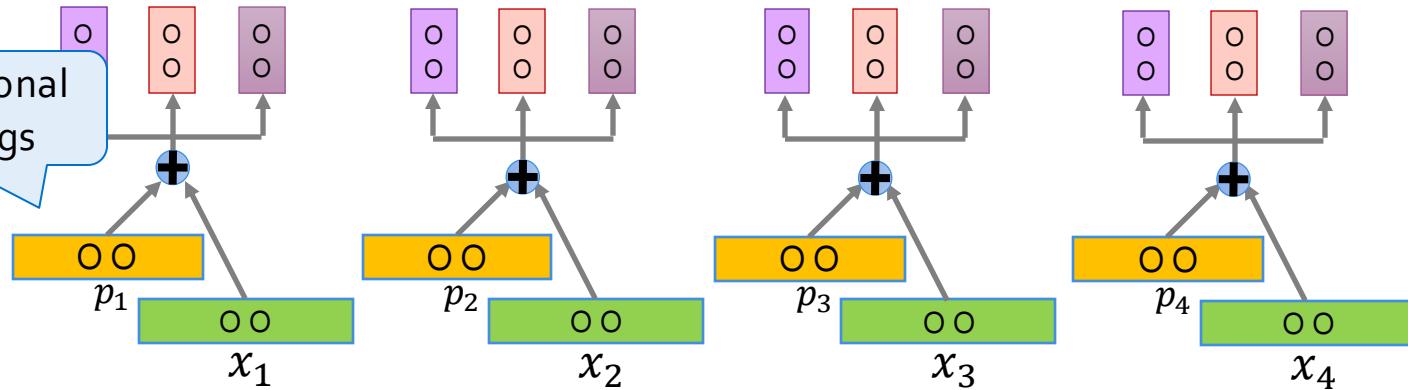
Notice, any pair of rows  
are different!

## Sine/Cosine encoding

$$p_i = \begin{pmatrix} \sin(i/10000^{2*1/d}) \\ \cos(i/10000^{2*1/d}) \\ \vdots \\ \sin(i/10000^{2*\frac{d}{2}/d}) \\ \cos(i/10000^{2*\frac{d}{2}/d}) \end{pmatrix}$$



$p_i$  are positional  
embeddings



# Recap—positional encoding

---

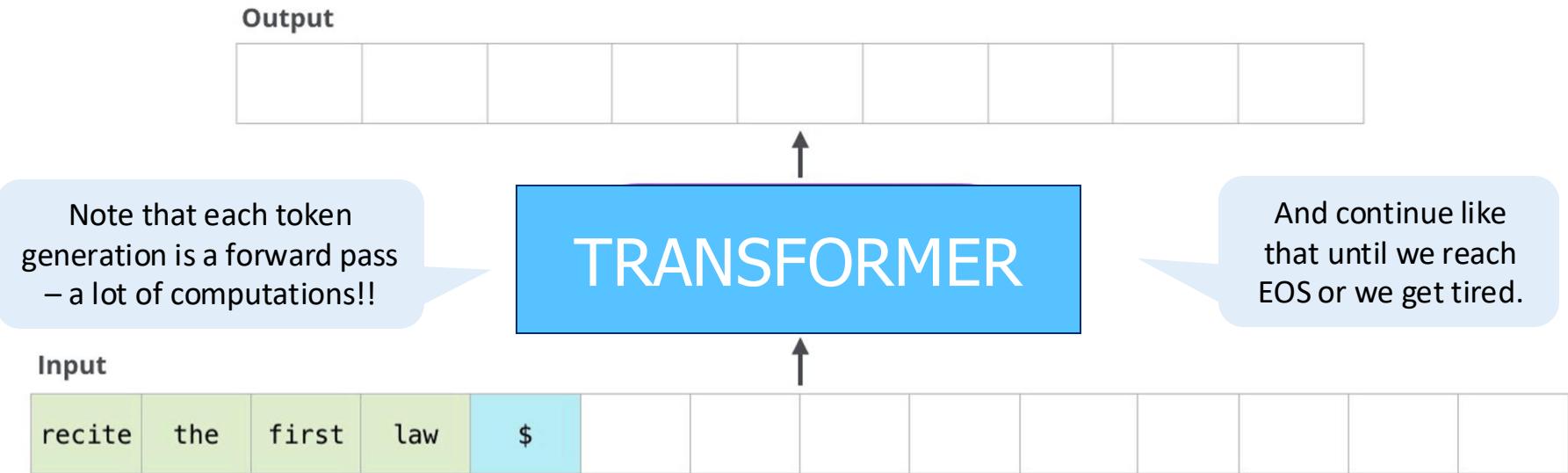
- They inform Transformer about word orderings.
- The original proposal: fixed sine/cosine embeddings added to word embeddings.
  - While this is a reasonable start, later we will see more sophisticated alternatives.
- Next: let's think about running transformer on language data.



# How does inference work?

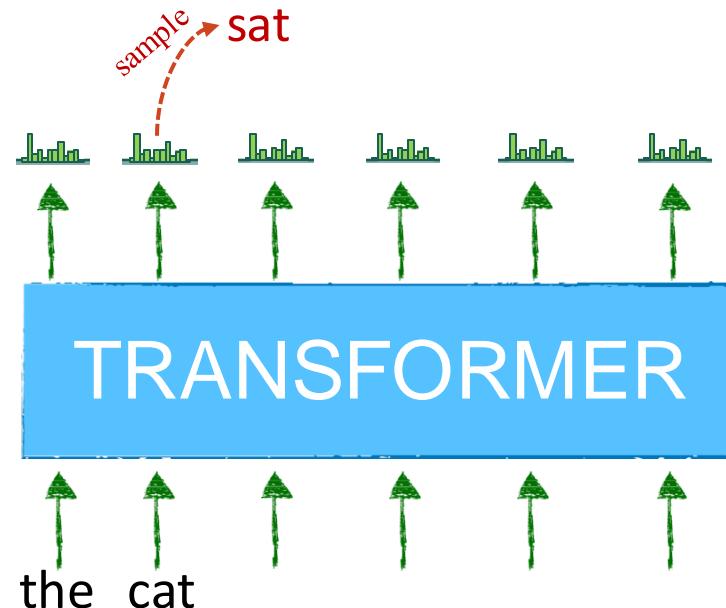


# Generating text via Transformer



# Generating text via Transformer

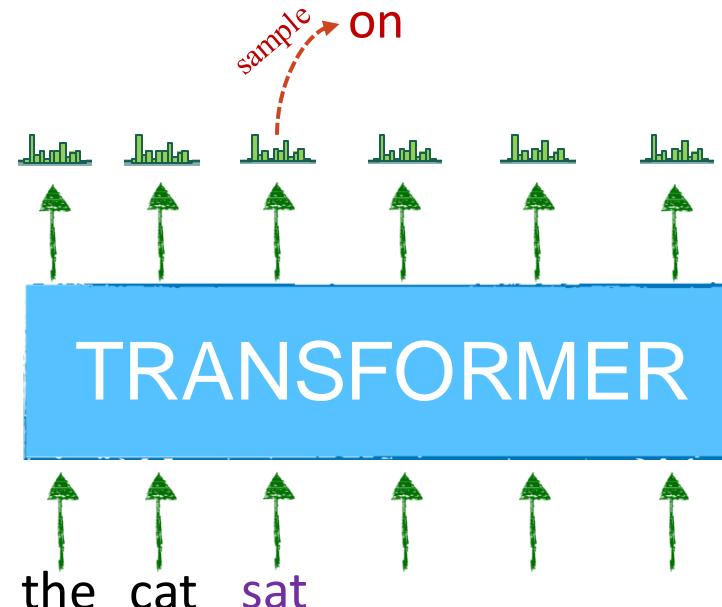
- Use the output of previous step as input to the next step repeatedly



# Generating text via Transformer

- Use the output of previous step as input to the next step repeatedly

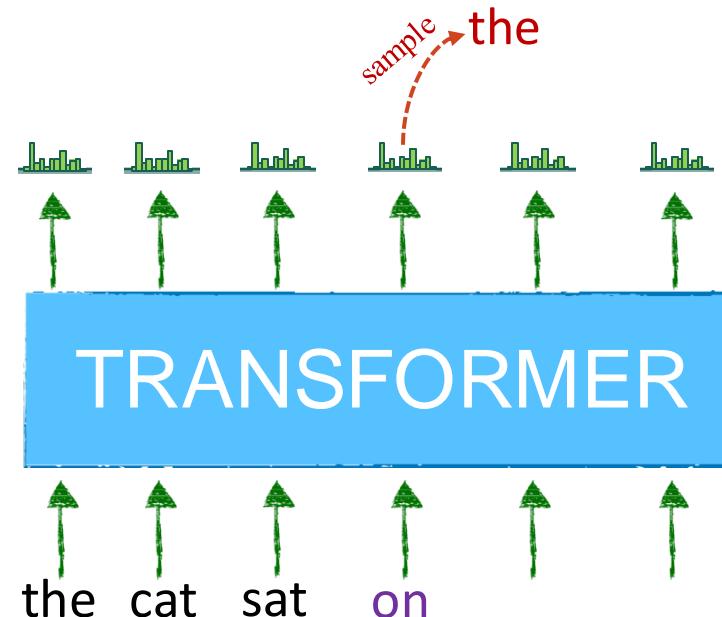
The probabilities get revised upon adding a new token to the input.



# Generating text via Transformer

- Use the output of previous step as input to the next step repeatedly

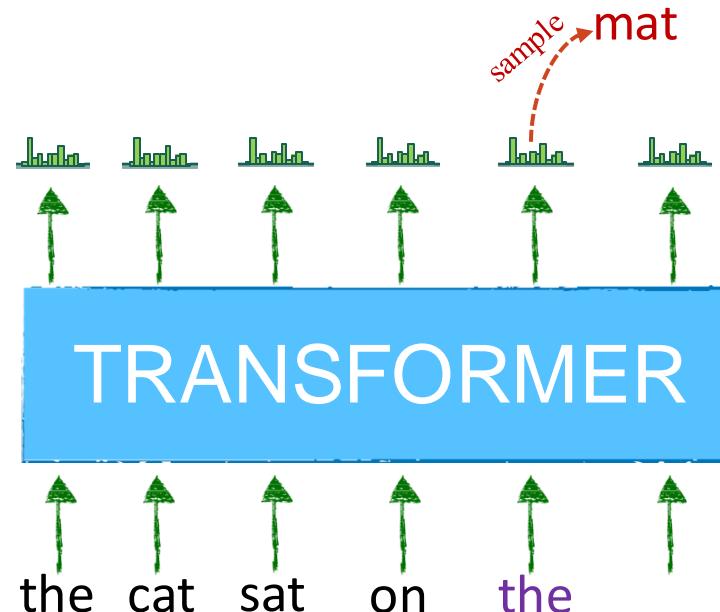
The probabilities get revised upon adding a new token to the input.



# Generating text via Transformer

- Use the output of previous step as input to the next step repeatedly

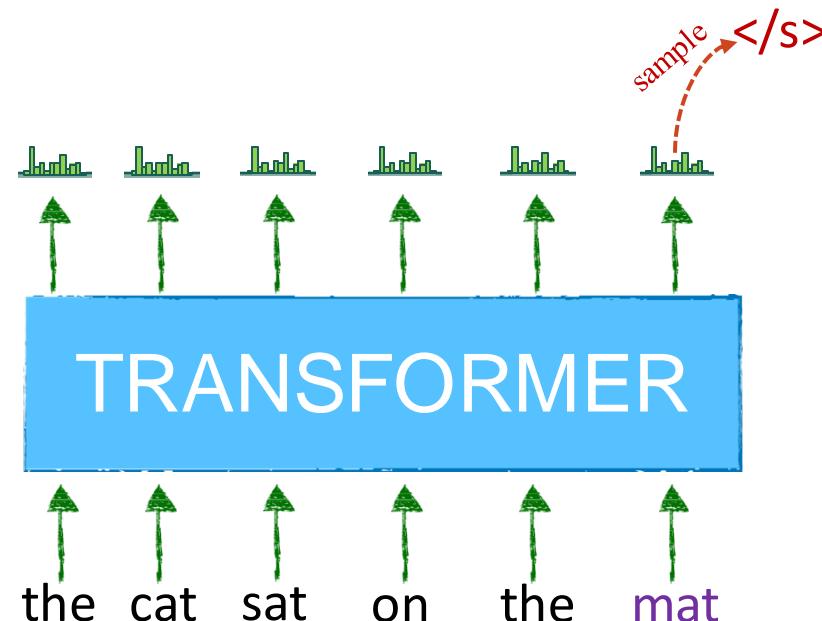
The probabilities get revised upon adding a new token to the input.



# Generating text via Transformer

- Use the output of previous step as input to the next step repeatedly

The probabilities get revised upon adding a new token to the input.





# How does training work?



# Quiz

- What do we optimize when we train a transformer?
  1.  $X$  and  $q$
  2.  $W_k$  and  $W_v$
  3. Softmax function
  4. Sine/cos positional encodings
  5. The embedding matrix
  6.  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  in your FFN
  7.  $W_q$

**Answer:** 2, 6, 7 and 5.

# Training a Transformer Language Model

- **Goal:** Train a Transformer for language modeling (i.e., predicting the next word).
- **Approach:** Train it so that each position is predictor of the next (right) token.
  - We just shift the input to right by one, and use as labels

(gold output)  $Y = \text{cat sat on the mat } </s>$

EOS special token



```
X = text[:, :-1]  
Y = text[:, 1:]
```

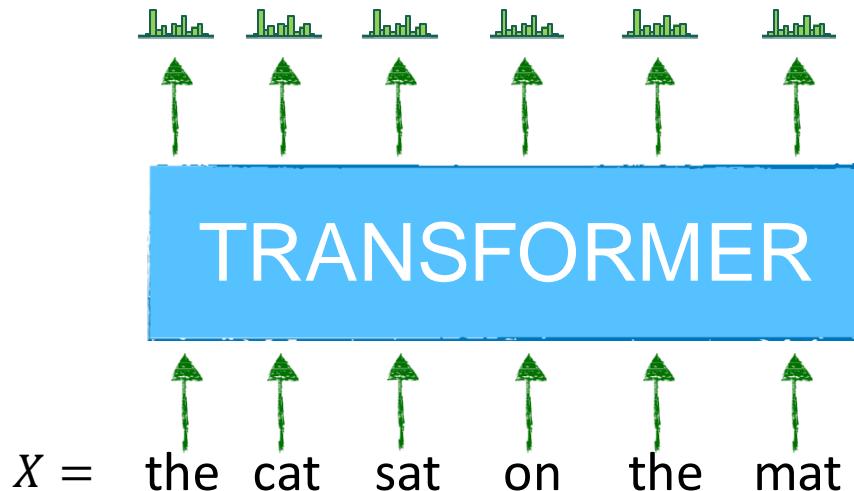
$X = \text{the cat sat on the mat}$

[Slide credit: Arman Cohan]

# Training a Transformer Language Model

- For each position, compute their corresponding **distribution** over the whole vocab.

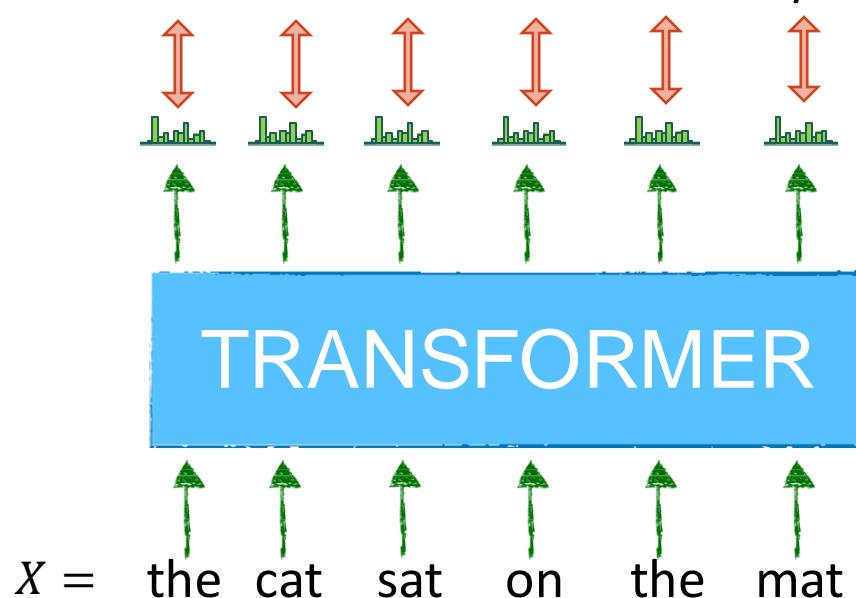
(gold output)  $Y = \text{cat sat on the mat } </s>$



# Training a Transformer Language Model

- For each position, compute the **loss** between the distribution and the gold output label.

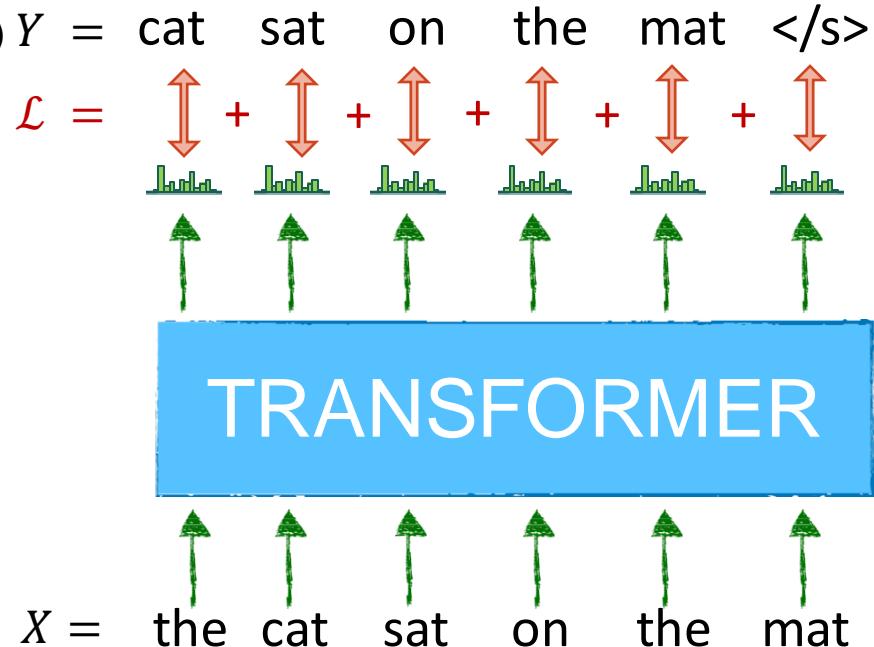
(gold output)  $Y = \text{cat sat on the mat } </s>$



# Training a Transformer Language Model

- Sum the position-wise loss values to obtain a **global loss**.

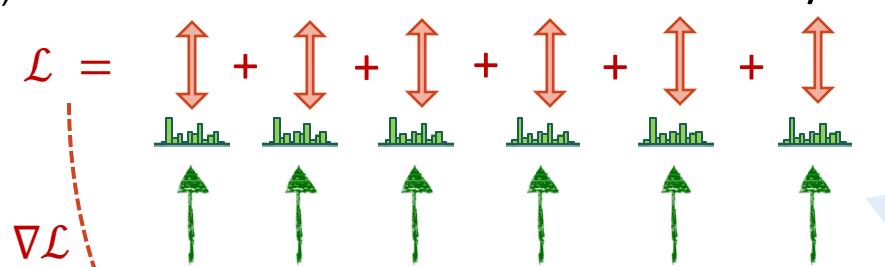
(gold output)  $Y = \text{cat sat on the mat } </s>$



# Training a Transformer Language Model

- Using this loss, do **Backprop** and **update** the Transformer parameters.

(gold output)  $Y = \text{cat sat on the mat } </s>$

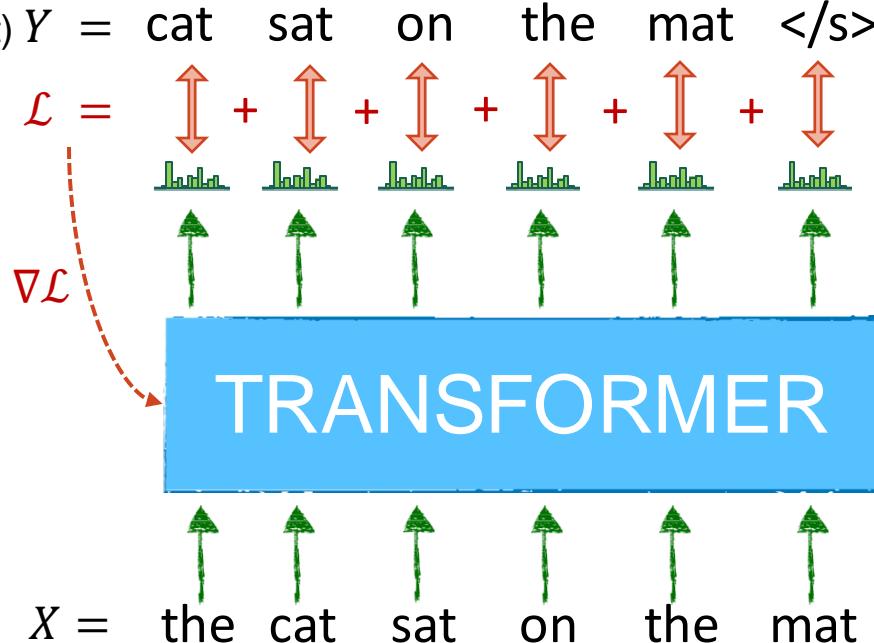


Well, this is not quite right 😊  
...  
what is the problem with this?

# Training a Transformer Language Model

- The model would solve the task by **copying** the next token to output (data leakage).
  - Does **not** learn anything useful

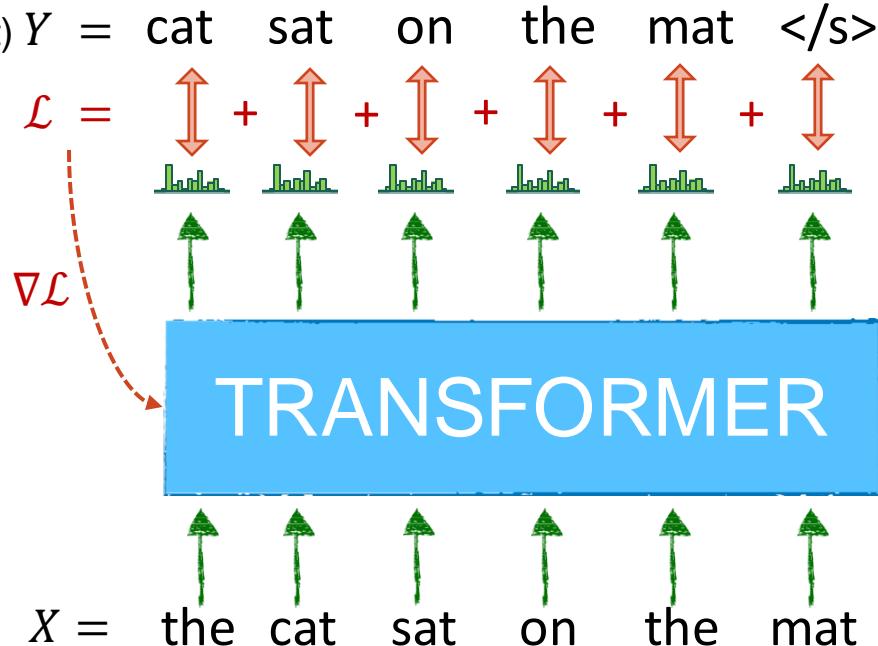
(gold output)  $Y = \text{cat sat on the mat } </s>$



# Training a Transformer Language Model

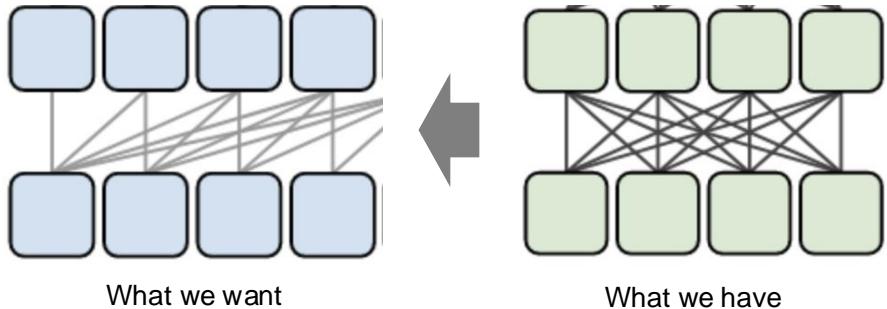
- We need to **prevent information leakage** from future tokens! How?

(gold output)  $Y = \text{cat sat on the mat } </s>$

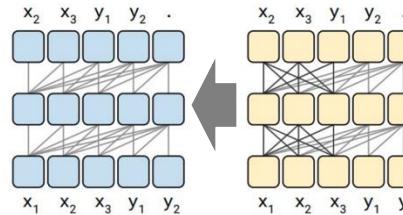


# Attention mask

Attention raw scores												
0	-0.08	1.24	0.69	-0.98	1.43	-0.6	0.7	0.16	0.93	1.28	-1.61	-1.1
1	-0.09	-0.0	-0.7	0.06	0.25	0.23	0.26	0.18	0.78	-0.21	-1.01	1.01
2	0.86	1.19	1.59	0.86	-0.13	-0.15	<b>-2.13</b>	-0.98	-0.87	-1.72	1.87	-0.72
3	0.12	-0.03	-0.02	0.88	-0.46	-0.7	0.54	-0.42	<b>-1.89</b>	-0.38	0.04	-0.84
4	0.51	0.17	0.13	<b>-1.64</b>	0.24	-0.02	1.68	-0.36	0.64	0.36	0.27	0.66
5	0.24	<b>-1.44</b>	0.43	0.74	0.96	<b>-1.21</b>	-0.31	1.54	1.66	1.14	0.58	<b>-1.44</b>
6	0.26	-0.1	0.93	0.72	-0.38	1.65	0.47	<b>-0.96</b>	-0.17	-0.9	<b>-1.57</b>	0.22
7	-0.55	0.81	0.71	1.7	-0.8	-1.14	-0.32	1.78	-0.7	-0.04	1.54	0.81
8	0.74	<b>-0.76</b>	-0.44	-0.08	<b>-1.38</b>	-0.13	1.25	<b>-1.37</b>	1.84	0.3	0.57	0.74
9	-0.97	<b>-0.91</b>	0.15	0.35	-0.81	0.11	1.14	<b>-1.52</b>	1.06	1.87	0.5	-0.3
10	1.56	0.9	0.39	1.46	1.44	<b>-1.05</b>	0.9	-0.73	0.36	-0.67	-0.62	-0.43
11	0.32	0.74	0.44	-0.1	1.19	0.83	0.29	2.06	0.51	-0.26	1.51	0.11



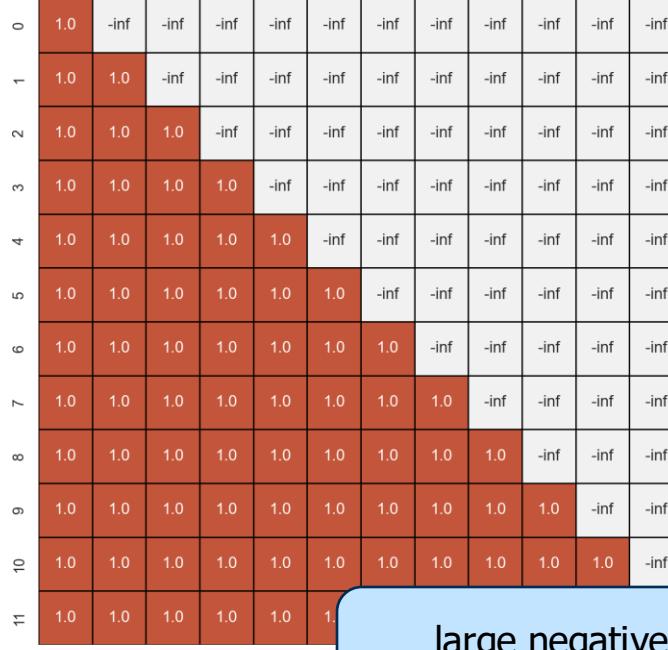
# Attention mask



Attention raw scores

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
0	-0.08	1.24	0.69	-0.98	1.43	-0.6	0.7	0.16	0.93	1.28	-1.61	-1.1
1	-0.09	-0.0	-0.7	0.06	0.25	0.23	0.26	0.18	0.78	-0.21	-1.01	1.01
2	0.86	1.19	1.59	0.86	-0.13	-0.15	-2.13	-0.98	-0.87	-1.72	1.87	-0.72
3	0.12	-0.03	-0.02	0.88	-0.46	-0.7	0.54	-0.42	-1.89	-0.38	0.04	-0.84
4	0.51	0.17	0.13	-1.64	0.24	-0.02	1.68	-0.36	0.64	0.36	0.27	0.66
5	0.24	-1.44	0.43	0.74	0.96	-1.21	-0.31	1.54	1.66	1.14	0.58	-1.44
6	0.26	-0.1	0.93	0.72	-0.38	1.65	0.47	-0.96	-0.17	-0.9	-1.57	0.22
7	-0.55	0.81	0.71	1.7	-0.8	-1.14	-0.32	1.78	-0.7	-0.04	1.54	0.81
8	0.74	-0.76	-0.44	-0.08	-1.38	-0.13	1.25	-1.37	1.84	0.3	0.57	0.74
9	-0.97	-0.91	0.15	0.35	-0.81	0.11	1.14	-1.52	1.06	1.87	0.5	-0.3
10	1.56	0.9	0.39	1.46	1.44	-1.05	0.9	-0.73	0.36	-0.67	-0.62	-0.43
11	0.32	0.74	0.44	-0.1	1.19	0.83	0.29	2.06	0.51	-0.26	1.51	0.11

Attention mask

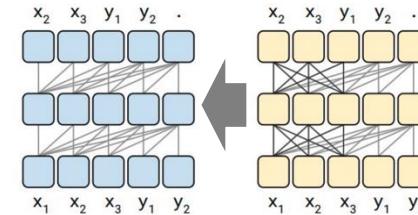


large negative numbers,  
which leads to  $\text{softmax}(-\infty) \approx 0$

# Attention mask

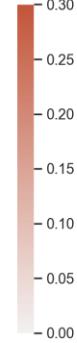
Attention raw scores												
0	-0.08	1.24	0.69	-0.98	1.43	-0.6	0.7	0.16	0.93	1.28	-1.61	-1.1
1	-0.09	-0.0	-0.7	0.06	0.25	0.23	0.26	0.18	0.78	-0.21	-1.01	1.01
2	0.86	1.19	1.59	0.86	-0.13	-0.15	-2.13	-0.98	-0.87	-1.72	1.87	-0.72
3	0.12	-0.03	-0.02	0.88	-0.46	-0.7	0.54	-0.42	-1.89	-0.38	0.04	-0.84
4	0.51	0.17	0.13	-1.64	0.24	-0.02	1.68	-0.36	0.64	0.36	0.27	0.66
5	0.24	-1.44	0.43	0.74	0.96	-1.21	-0.31	1.54	1.66	1.14	0.58	-1.44
6	0.26	-0.1	0.93	0.72	-0.38	1.65	0.47	-0.96	-0.17	-0.9	-1.57	0.22
7	-0.55	0.81	0.71	1.7	-0.8	-1.14	-0.32	1.78	-0.7	-0.04	1.54	0.81
8	0.74	-0.76	-0.44	-0.08	-1.38	-0.13	1.25	-1.37	1.84	0.3	0.57	0.74
9	-0.97	-0.91	0.15	0.35	-0.81	0.11	1.14	-1.52	1.06	1.87	0.5	-0.3
10	1.56	0.9	0.39	1.46	1.44	-1.05	0.9	-0.73	0.36	-0.67	-0.62	-0.43
11	0.32	0.74	0.44	-0.1	1.19	0.83	0.29	2.06	0.51	-0.26	1.51	0.11

X



Attention mask

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
0	1.0	-inf									
1	1.0	1.0	-inf								
2	1.0	1.0	1.0	-inf							
3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-inf						
4	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
6	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
7	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-inf	-inf	-inf
8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-inf	-inf
9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-inf
10	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-inf
11	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0



Note matrix multiplication is quite fast in GPUs.

Slide credit: Arman Cohan

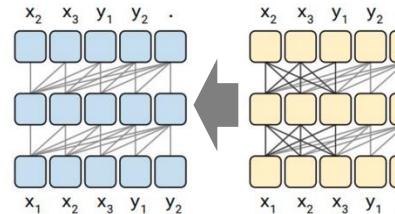
# Attention mask

Attention raw scores													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1	-0.09	1.34	0.69	0.98	3.43	-0.1	0.7	0.16	0.93	1.28	1.81	-1.13	
2	-0.09	-0.7	0.06	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.18	0.78	-0.21	1.01	1.01	1.01	
3	-0.06	1.19	1.09	0.96	-0.15	0.15	1.11	0.96	-0.07	1.23	1.67	-0.23	
4	0.12	-0.03	-0.02	0.88	-0.46	-0.1	0.54	-0.42	1.86	-0.38	0.94	-0.84	
5	0.51	0.17	0.51	0.34	0.24	-0.02	1.68	-0.36	0.84	0.36	0.27	0.86	
6	0.24	-1.64	0.43	0.78	0.96	1.2	-0.31	1.54	1.86	1.14	0.58	-1.44	
7	0.26	-0.1	0.63	0.72	-0.36	1.84	0.47	0.96	-0.17	-0.5	0.58	0.22	
8	0.05	0.91	0.71	1.7	-0.8	1.16	-0.32	1.78	-0.7	-0.54	1.54	0.81	
9	0.74	0.76	-0.48	-0.68	-0.38	0.13	0.13	1.25	1.37	1.84	0.3	0.57	0.74
10	0.87	0.91	0.15	0.36	-0.81	0.11	1.14	-0.51	1.08	1.87	0.5	-0.37	
11	0.52	0.74	0.44	0.71	1.19	0.89	0.29	2.06	0.31	-0.28	1.51	0.11	
12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	

X

=

Raw attention scores												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	1.11	inf										
2	0.1	1.0	inf									
3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
4	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
6	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
7	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
10	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
11	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
12	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0



Masked attention raw scores

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
0	-0.08	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf						
1	-0.09	-0.0	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
2	0.86	1.19	1.59	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
3	0.12	-0.03	-0.02	0.88	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
4	0.51	0.17	0.13	-1.64	0.24	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
5	0.24	-1.44	0.43	0.74	0.96	-1.21	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
6	0.26	-0.1	0.93	0.72	-0.38	1.65	0.47	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
7	-0.55	0.81	0.71	1.7	-0.8	-1.14	-0.32	1.78	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
8	0.74	-0.76	-0.44	-0.08	-1.38	-0.13	1.25	-1.37	1.84	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
9	-0.97	-0.91	0.15	0.35	-0.81	0.11	1.14	-1.52	1.06	1.87	-inf	-inf	-inf
10	1.56	0.9	0.39	1.46	1.44	-1.05	0.9	-0.73	0.36	-0.67	-0.62	-inf	-inf
11	0.32	0.74	0.44	-0.1	1.19	0.83	0.29	2.06	0.51	-0.26	1.51	0.11	-inf
12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	

# Attention mask

The effect is more than just pruning out some of the wirings in self-attention block.

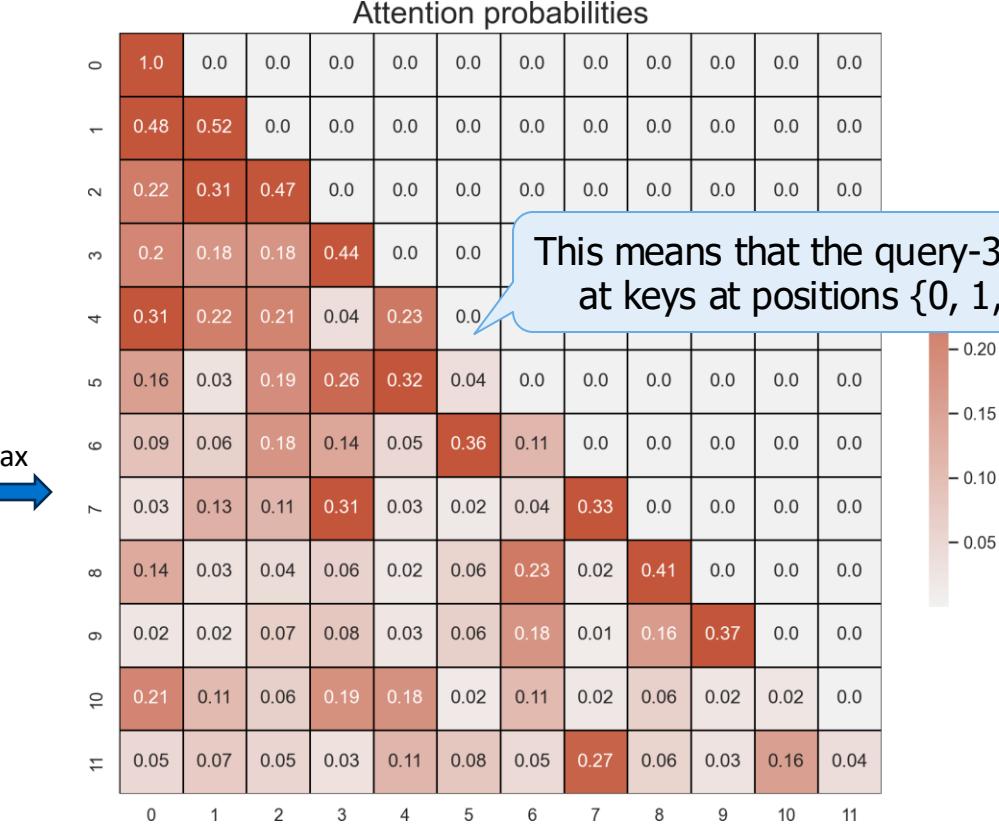
Attention raw scores											
-0.09	1.24	0.69	0.38	3.43	-0.1	0.7	1.18	0.93	1.28	1.81	-1.13
-0.09	-0.0	-0.7	0.06	0.25	0.22	0.26	1.18	0.78	-0.21	1.01	1.01
-0.06	1.19	1.09	0.98	-0.15	0.15	1.11	0.98	-0.97	1.22	1.67	-0.72
-0.12	-0.03	-0.42	0.88	-0.48	-0.1	0.54	-0.42	1.86	-0.38	0.94	-0.84
-0.51	0.17	0.55	0.34	0.24	0.02	1.68	0.36	0.04	0.37	0.27	0.06
-0.24	-1.64	0.43	0.78	0.96	1.2	-0.31	1.54	1.88	1.14	0.58	-1.44
-0.26	-0.1	0.63	0.72	0.36	1.84	0.47	1.96	-0.17	-0.5	1.67	0.22
-0.05	0.81	0.71	1.7	-0.18	0.32	1.78	-0.7	-0.54	1.54	0.81	-0.74
0.74	-0.76	-0.48	-0.08	-0.33	-0.13	1.25	1.37	1.84	0.3	0.57	0.74
-0.97	0.31	0.15	0.30	-0.81	0.11	1.14	-0.50	1.08	1.87	0.5	-0.37
-0.52	0.74	0.44	0.71	1.19	0.89	0.29	2.06	0.31	-0.28	1.51	0.11
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

X

Raw attention scores											
-0.09	1.24	0.69	0.38	3.43	-0.1	0.7	1.18	0.93	1.28	1.81	-1.13
-0.09	-0.0	-0.7	0.06	0.25	0.22	0.26	1.18	0.78	-0.21	1.01	1.01
-0.06	1.19	1.09	0.98	-0.15	0.15	1.11	0.98	-0.97	1.22	1.67	-0.72
-0.12	-0.03	-0.42	0.88	-0.48	-0.1	0.54	-0.42	1.86	-0.38	0.94	-0.84
-0.51	0.17	0.55	0.34	0.24	0.02	1.68	0.36	0.04	0.37	0.27	0.06
-0.24	-1.64	0.43	0.78	0.96	1.2	-0.31	1.54	1.88	1.14	0.58	-1.44
-0.26	-0.1	0.63	0.72	0.36	1.84	0.47	1.96	-0.17	-0.5	1.67	0.22
-0.05	0.81	0.71	1.7	-0.18	0.32	1.78	-0.7	-0.54	1.54	0.81	-0.74
0.74	-0.76	-0.48	-0.08	-0.33	-0.13	1.25	1.37	1.84	0.3	0.57	0.74
-0.97	0.31	0.15	0.30	-0.81	0.11	1.14	-0.50	1.08	1.87	0.5	-0.37
-0.52	0.74	0.44	0.71	1.19	0.89	0.29	2.06	0.31	-0.28	1.51	0.11
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Masked attention raw scores											
-0.08	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf
-0.09	-0.0	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf
-0.06	1.19	1.09	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf
-0.12	-0.03	0.88	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf
-0.51	0.17	0.55	0.34	0.24	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf
-0.24	-1.64	0.43	0.78	0.96	1.2	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf
-0.26	-0.1	0.63	0.72	0.36	1.84	0.47	inf	inf	inf	inf	inf
-0.05	0.81	0.71	1.7	-0.18	0.32	1.78	-0.7	inf	inf	inf	inf
0.74	-0.76	-0.48	-0.08	-0.33	-0.13	1.25	1.37	1.84	inf	inf	inf
-0.97	0.31	0.15	0.30	-0.81	0.11	1.14	-0.50	1.08	1.87	inf	inf
-0.52	0.74	0.44	0.71	1.19	0.89	0.29	2.06	0.31	-0.28	1.51	0.11
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

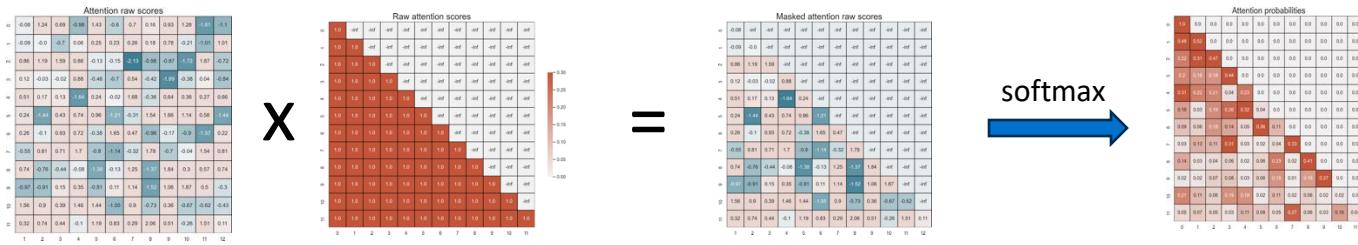
softmax



This means that the query-3 can look at keys at positions {0, 1, 2, 3}.

# Attention masking: Why Before Softmax?

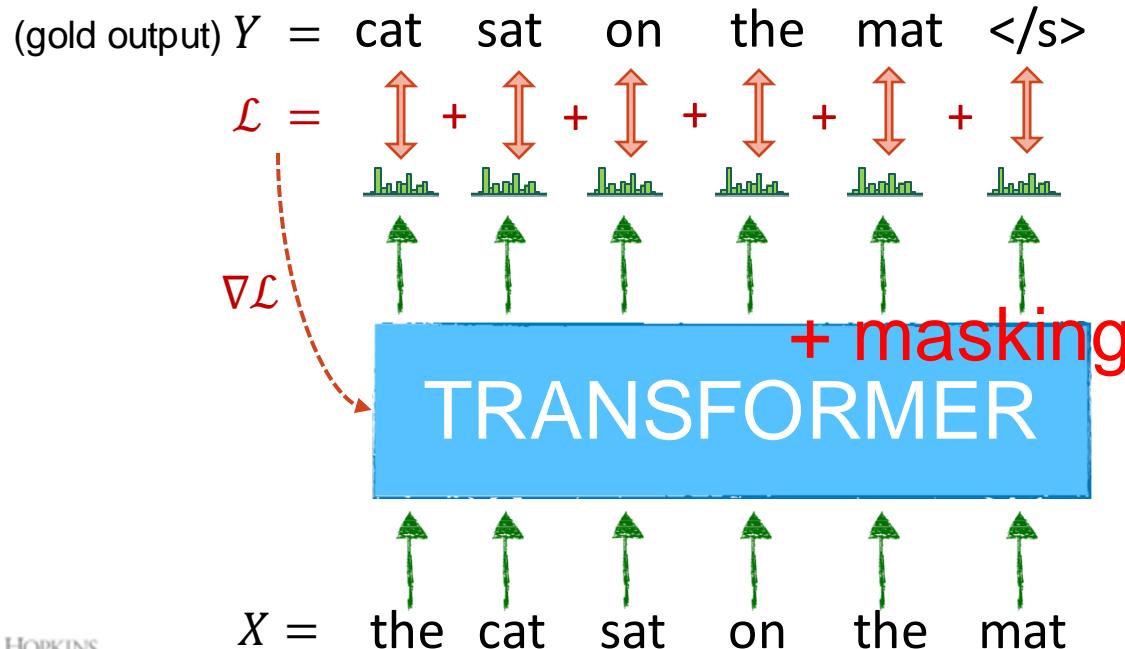
- We applied attention masking before softmax. Why not after?



- Softmax normalizes the scores so that it's a probability. Masking after softmax, would lead to an unnormalized probability distribution.
  - In practice, I (Daniel) suspects applying mask after softmax may just work! ☺

# Training a Transformer Language Model

- We need to **prevent information leakage** from future tokens! How?



# Quiz: attention masking

- What's the point of attention masking during training?
  - A. speeds up training by reducing the number of computations performed.
  - B. prevents accessing future tokens, ensuring that predictions are based only on past and present information.
  - C. selectively highlights important tokens in the input, thereby enhancing attention mechanism.

# Summary: A Decoder-only Transformer

---

- This is a very generic Transformer!
  - We will implement this in HW5 to build a simple Transformer Language Model!!
- 
- What we saw was only a subset of the most general Transformer.
  - **Next:** The full Transformer architecture

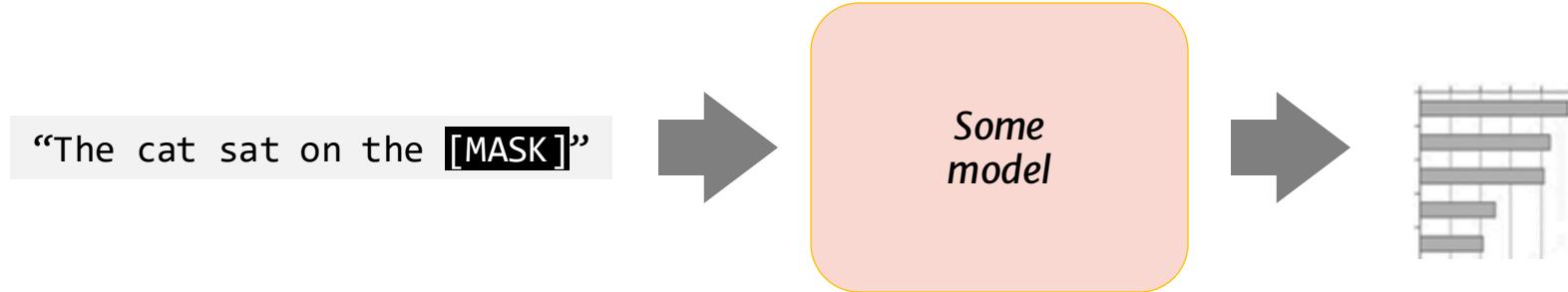


# Transformer Architectural Variants

# Encoder-Decoder Architectures

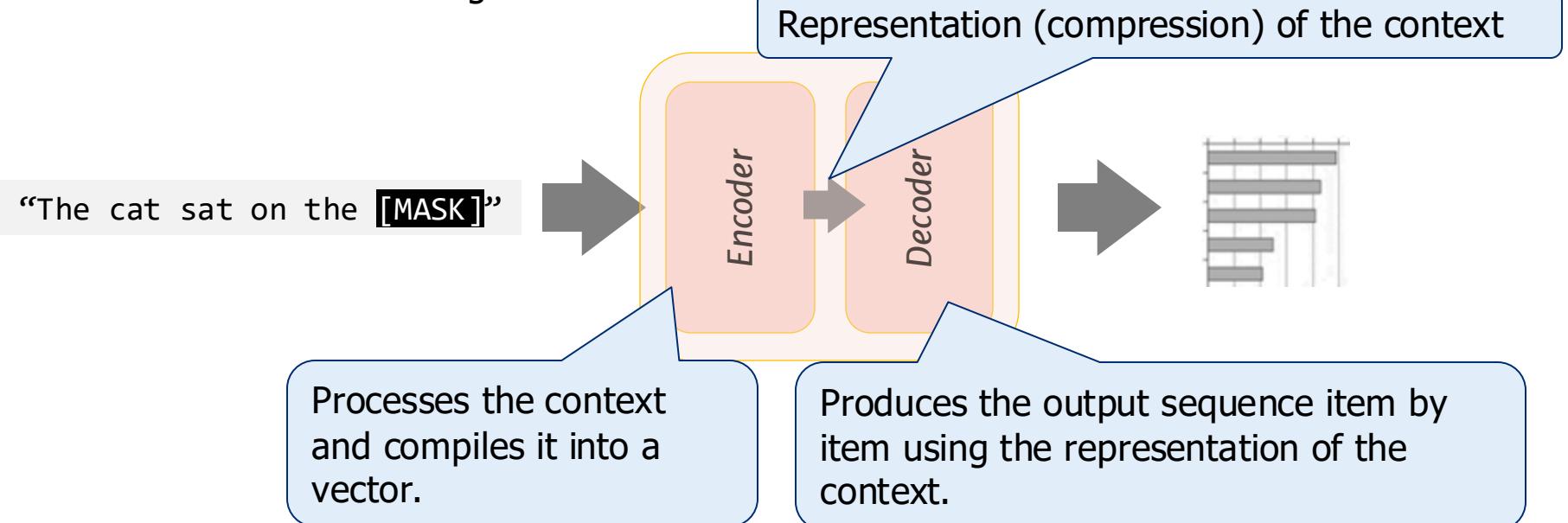
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- It is useful to think of generative models as two sub-models.



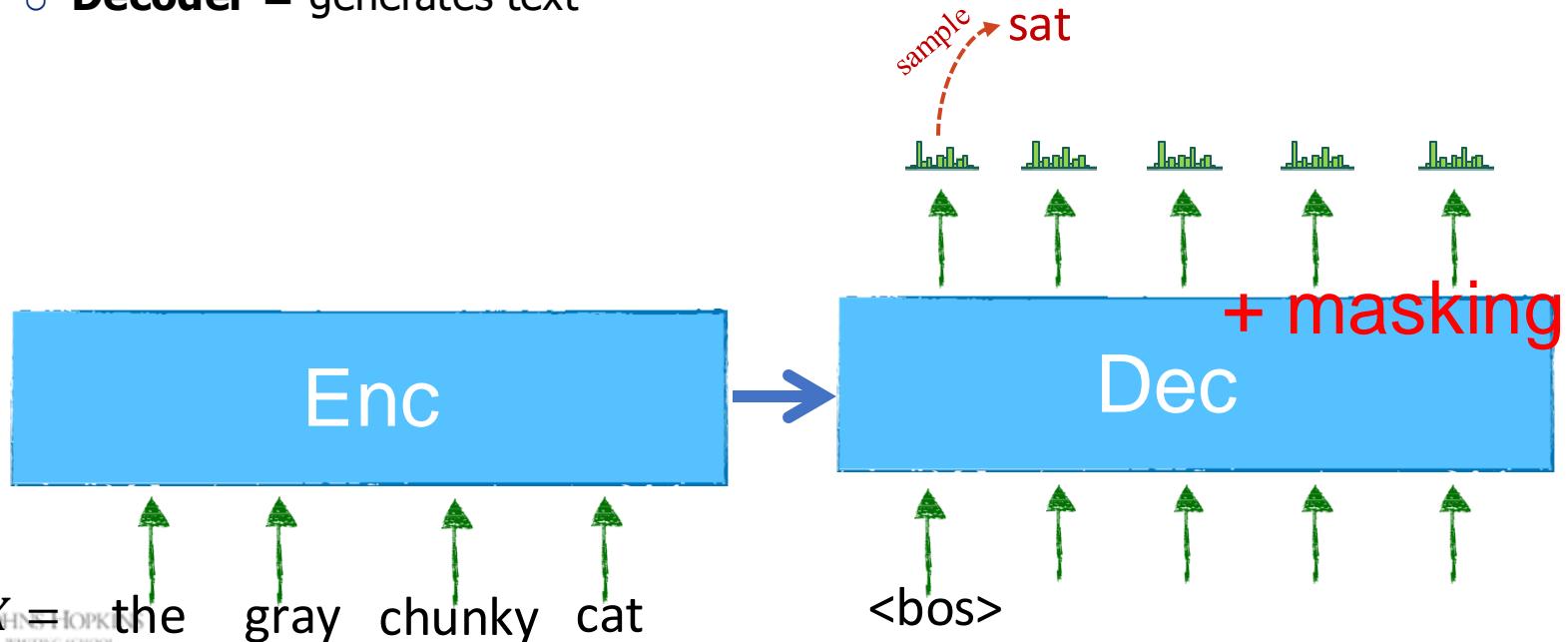
# Encoder-Decoder Architectures

- It is useful to think of generative models as two sub-models



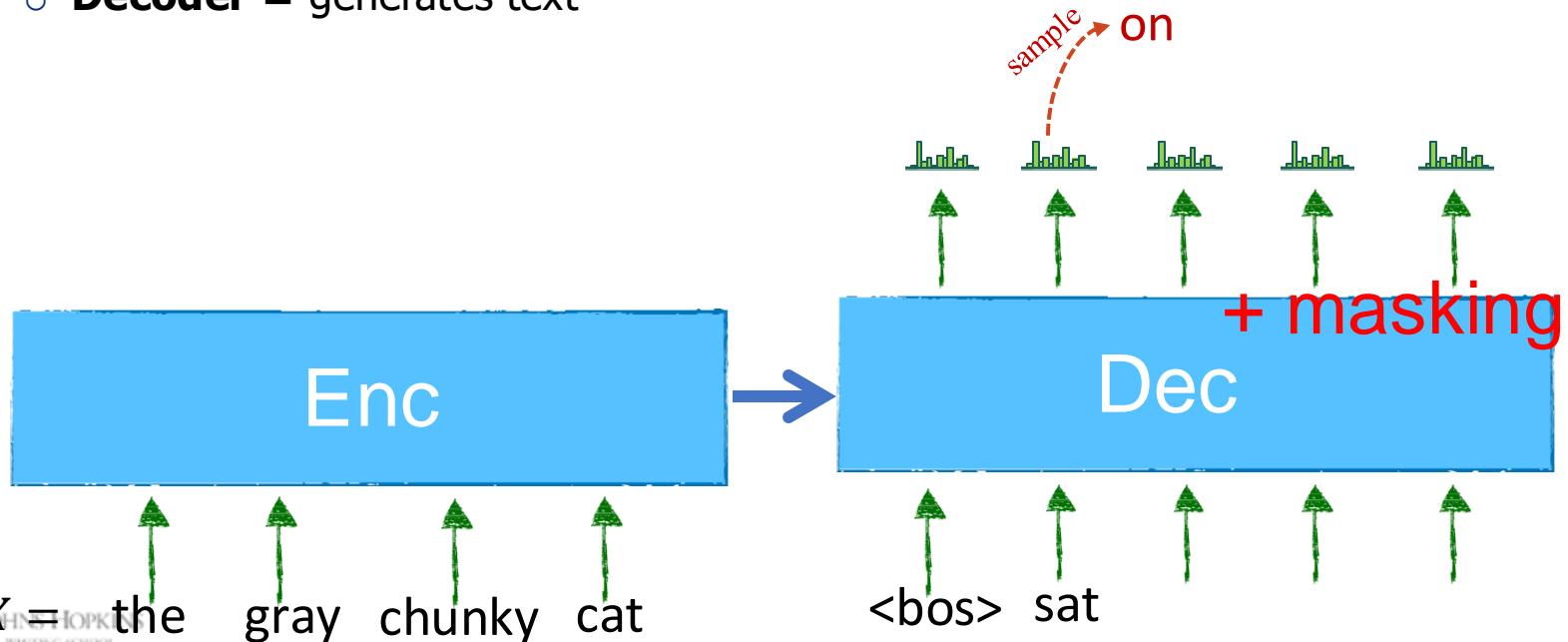
# Enc-Dec work at inference time

- Transformer is two blocks
  - **Encoder** = read or encode the input
  - **Decoder** = generates text



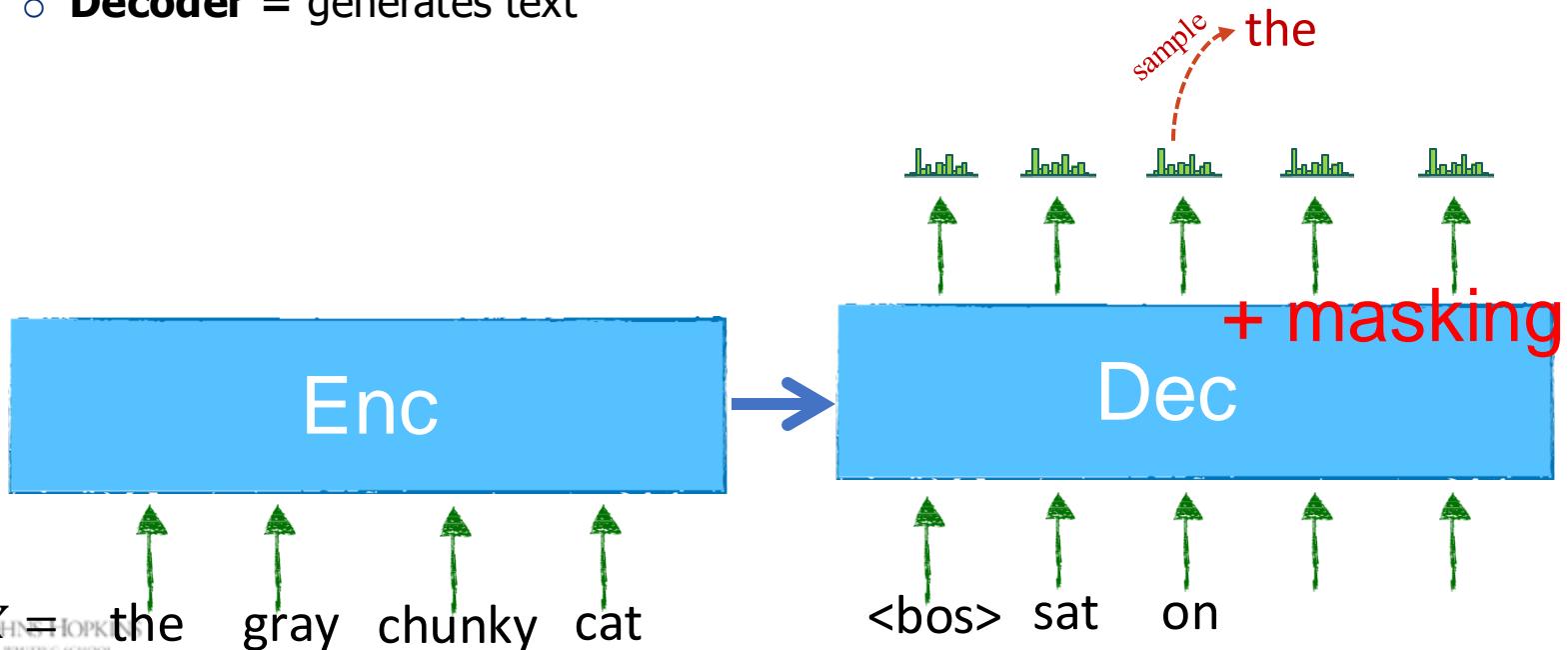
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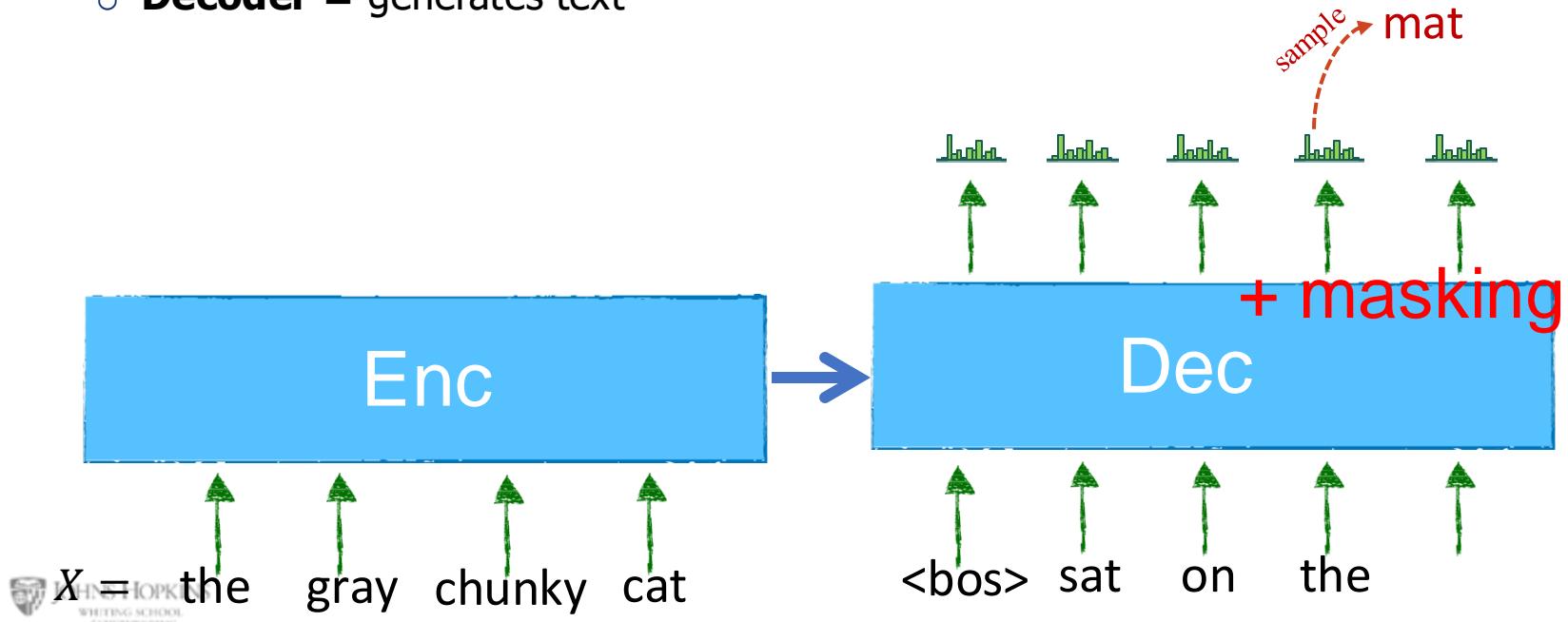
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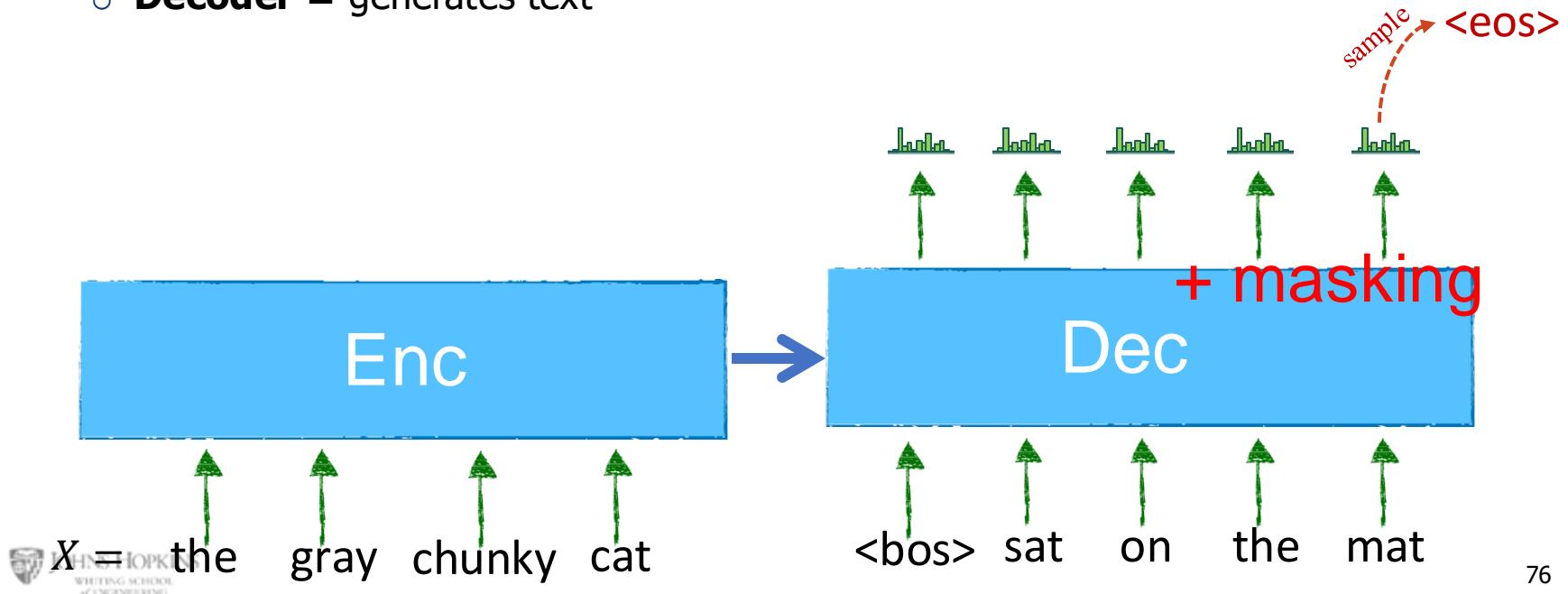
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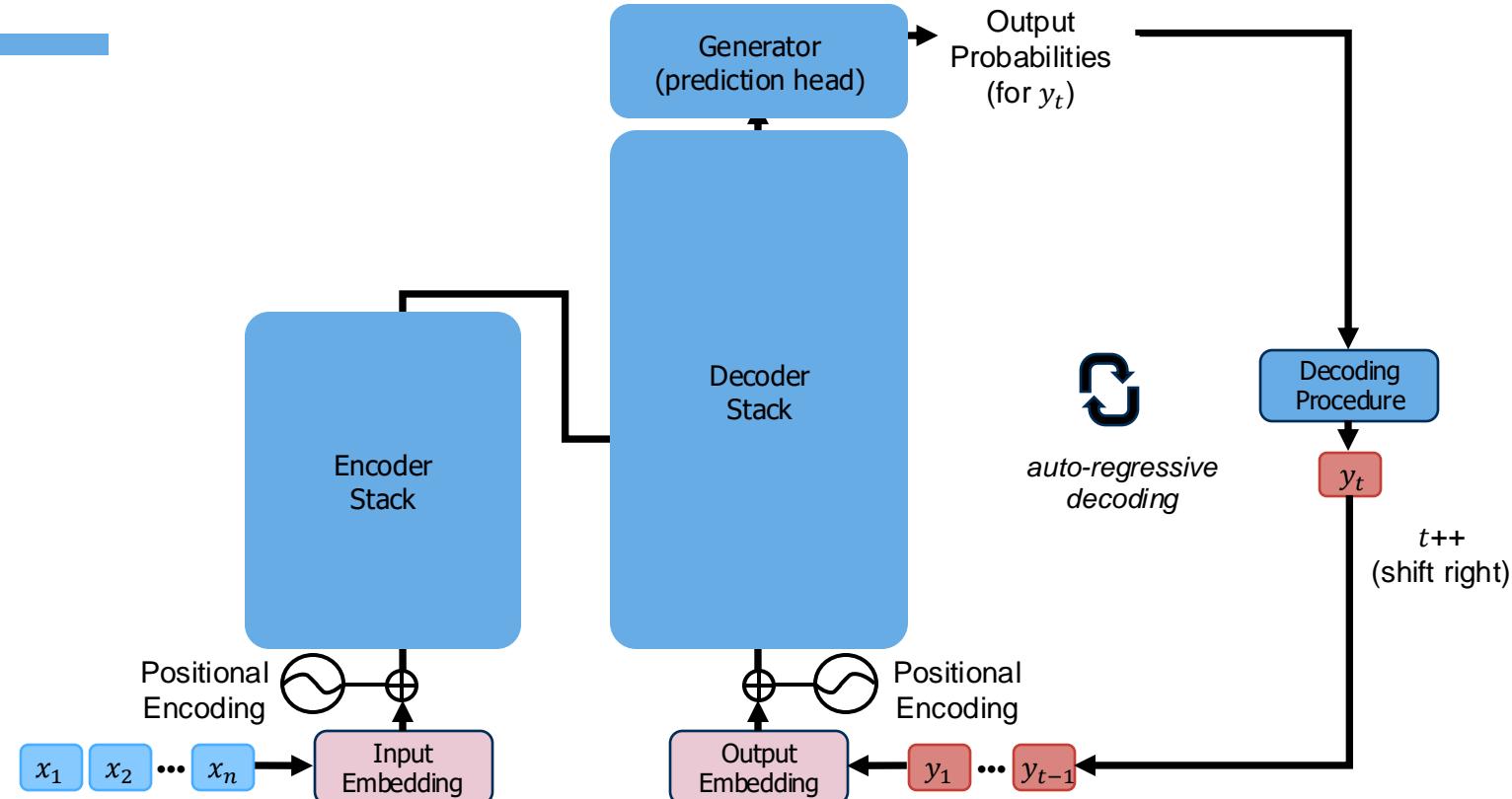
# Enc-Dec work at inference time

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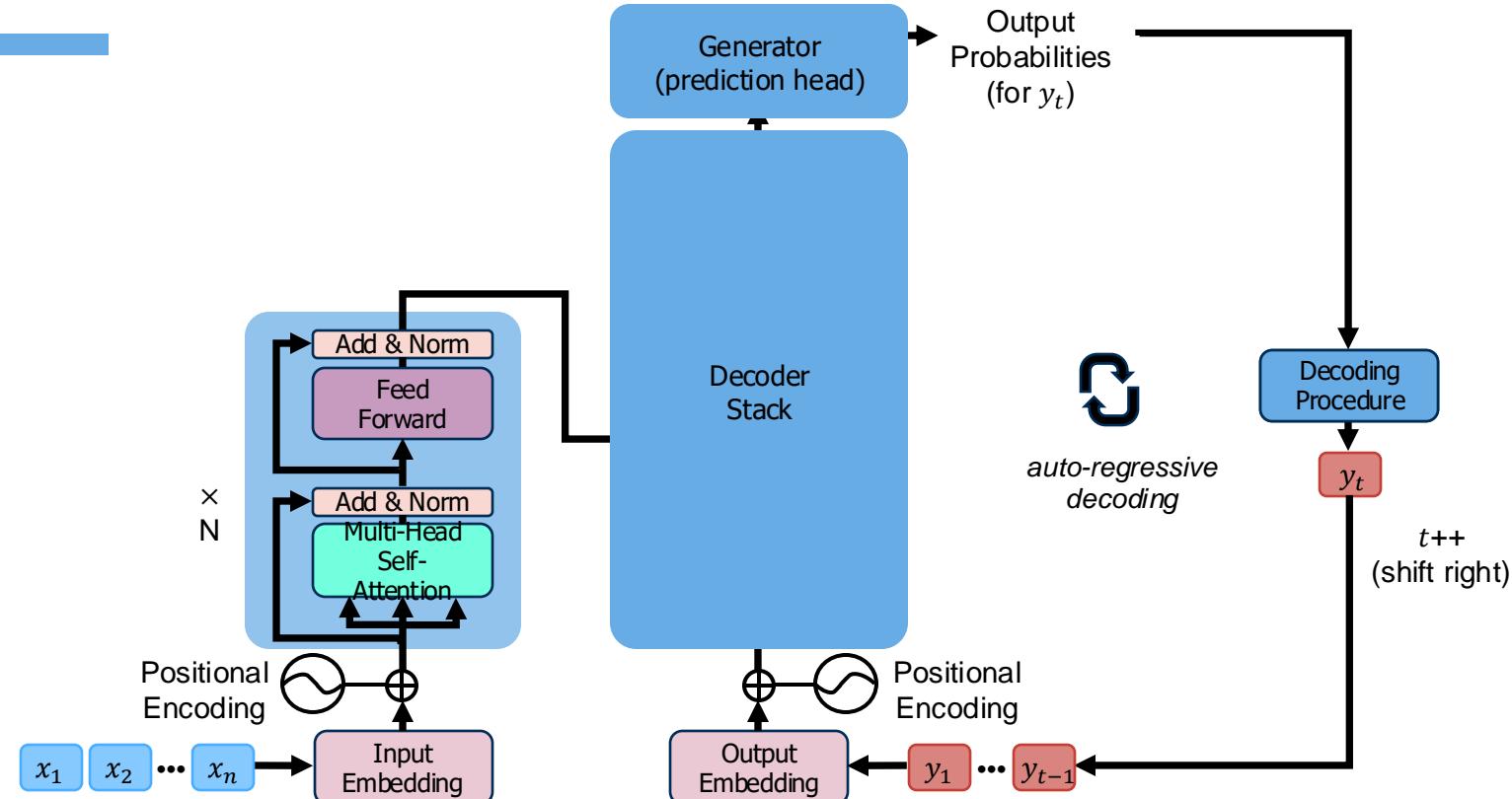
# Transformer

[Vaswani et al. 2017]



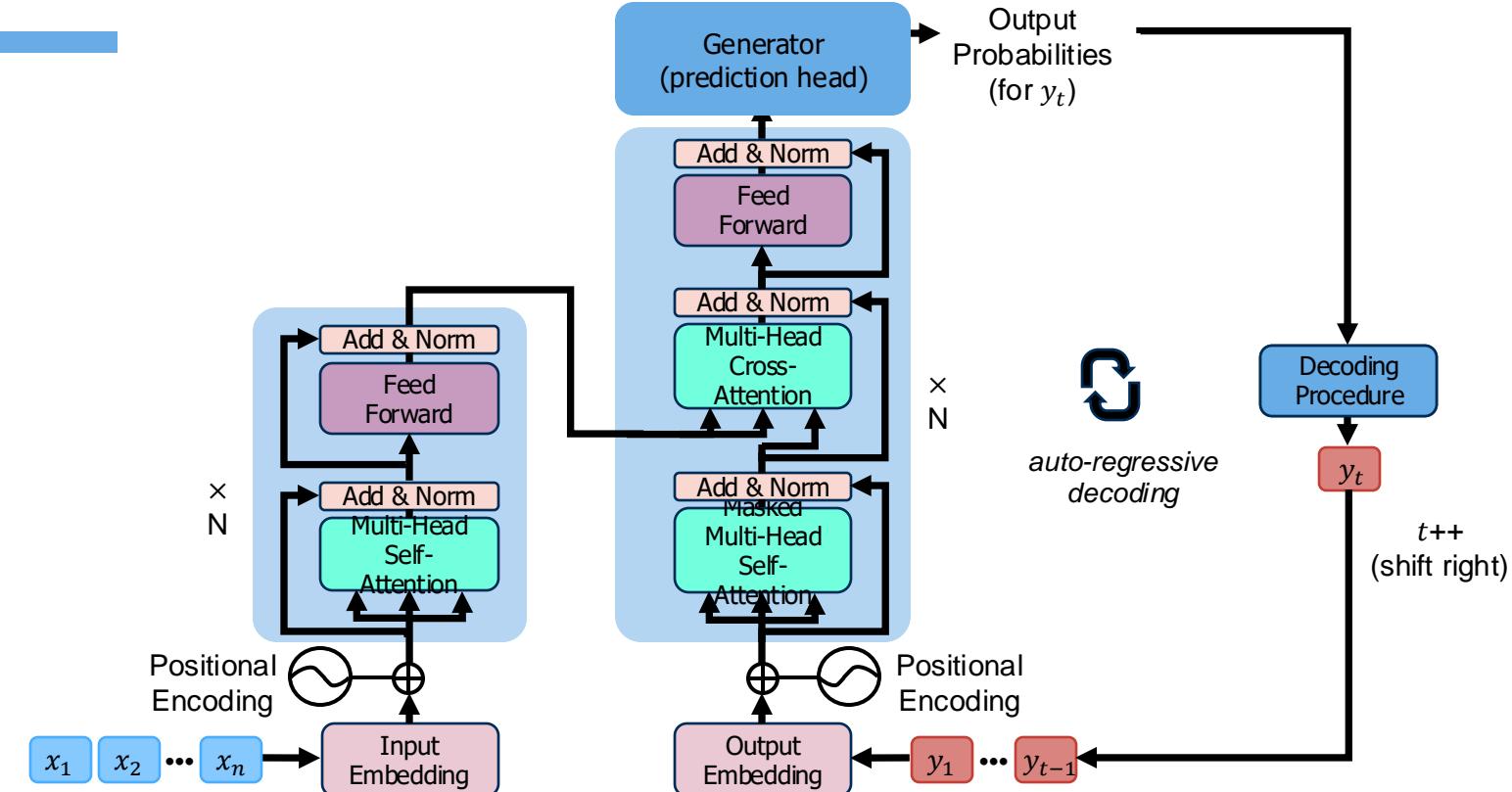
# Transformer

[Vaswani et al. 2017]



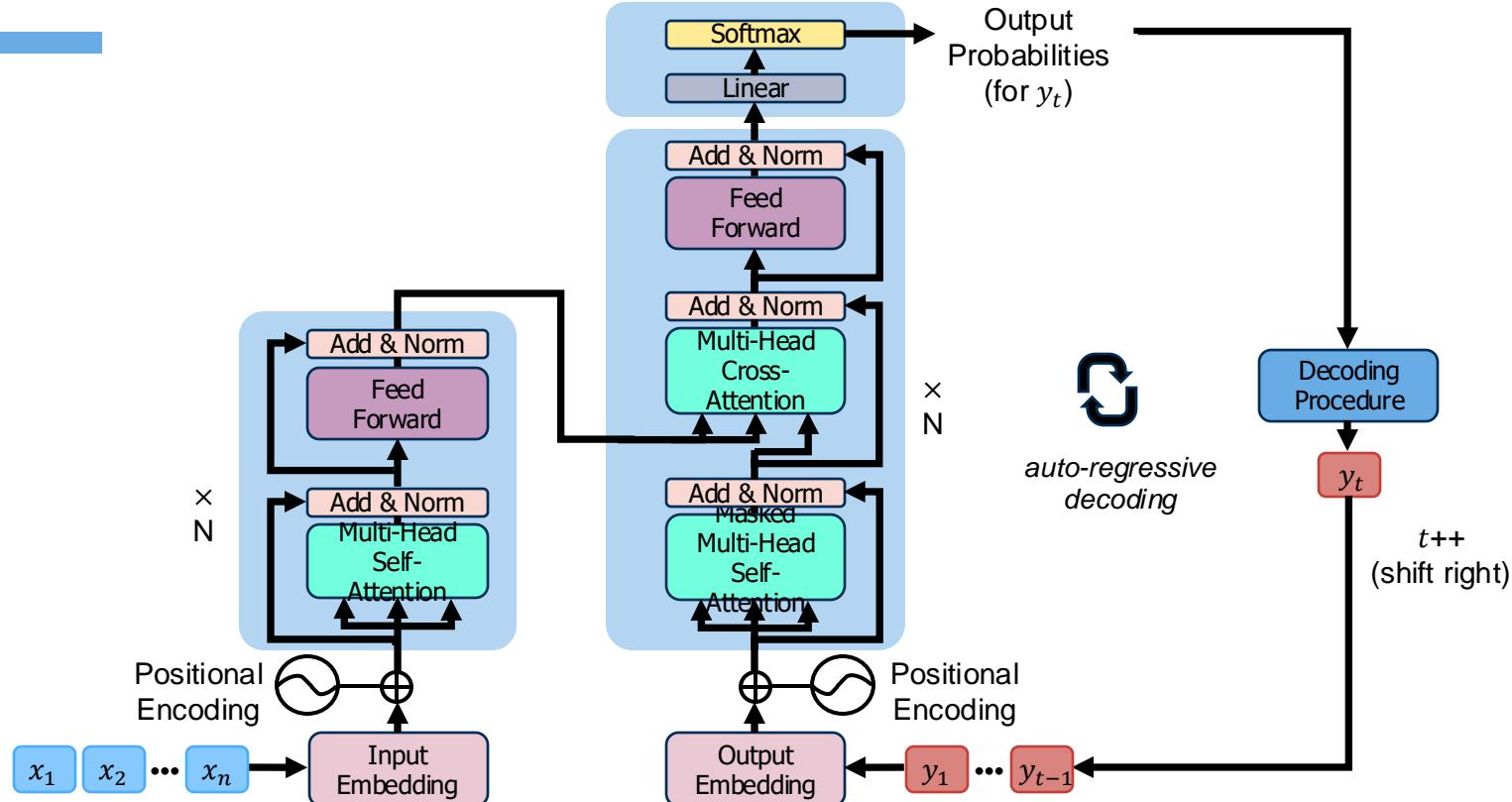
# Transformer

[Vaswani et al. 2017]



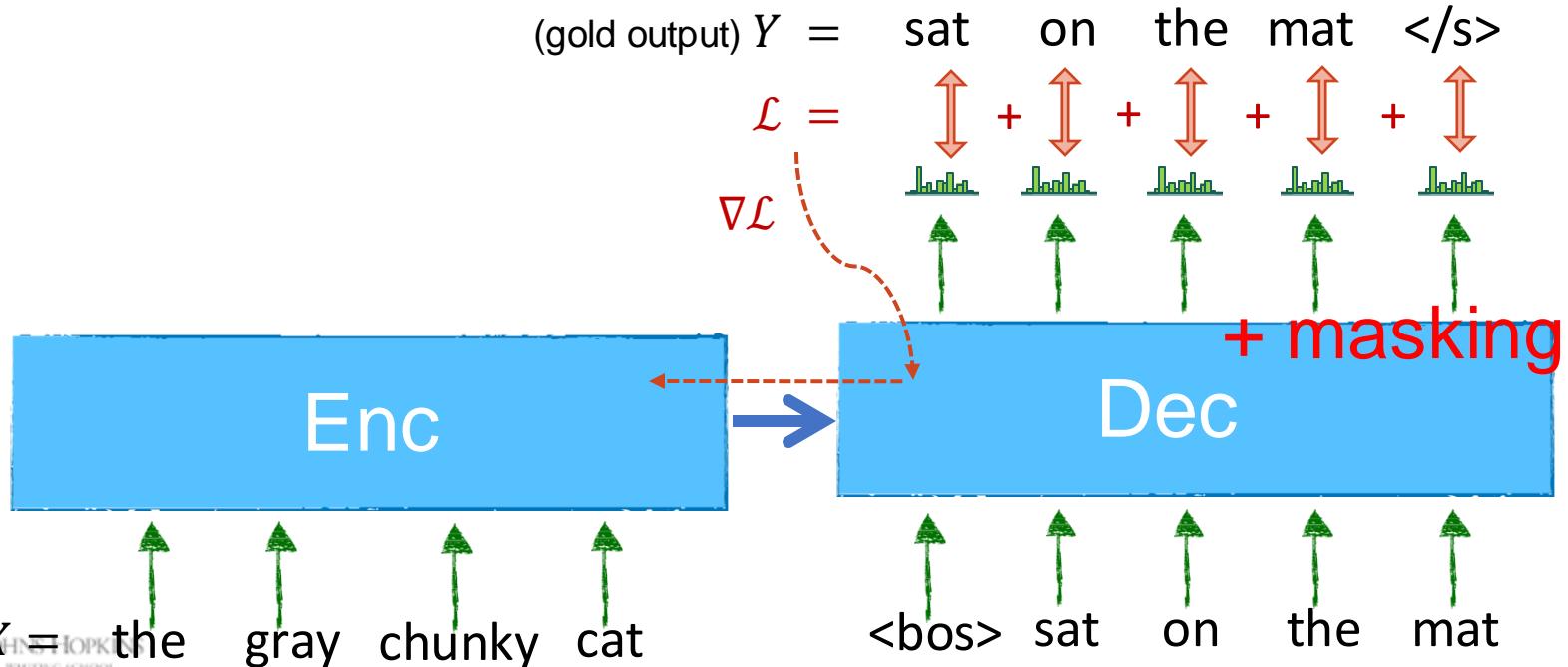
# Transformer

[Vaswani et al. 2017]



# How does training Enc-Dec work?

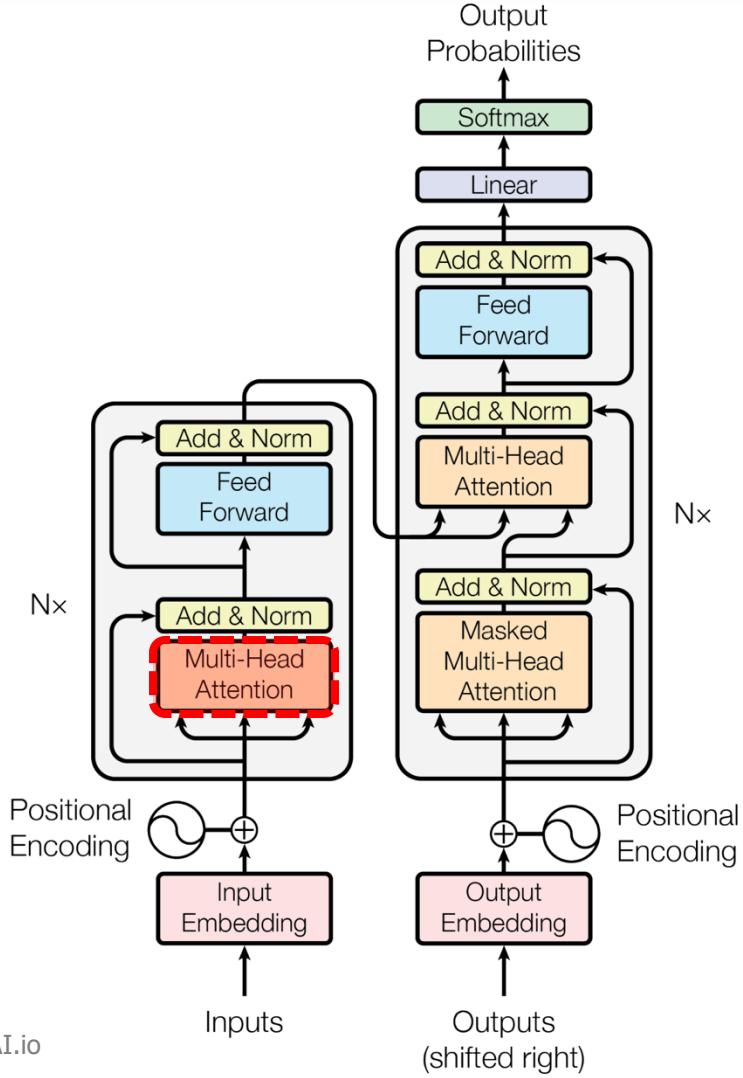
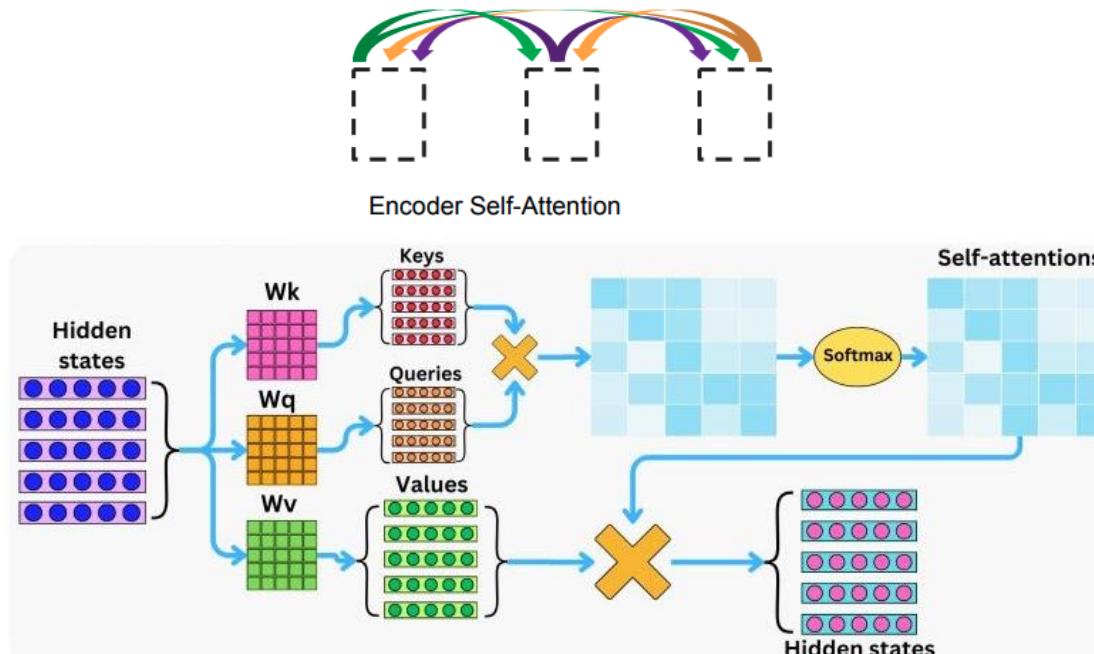
- Same as what we did before for encoder-only models.



# Transformer

 [Vaswani et al. 2017]

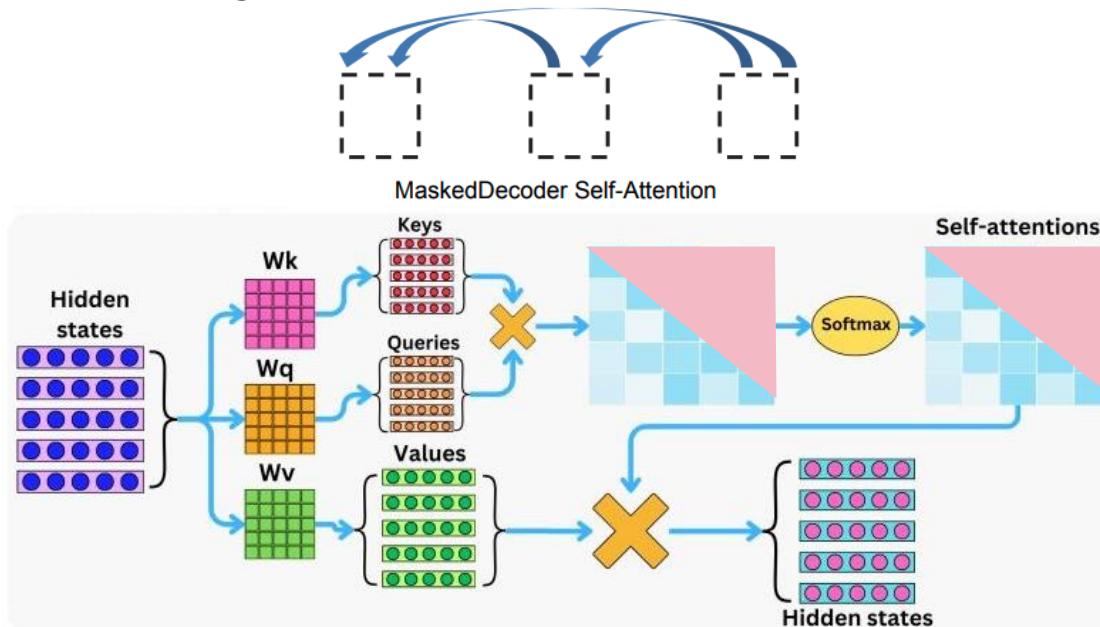
- Computation of **encoder** attends to both sides.



# Transformer

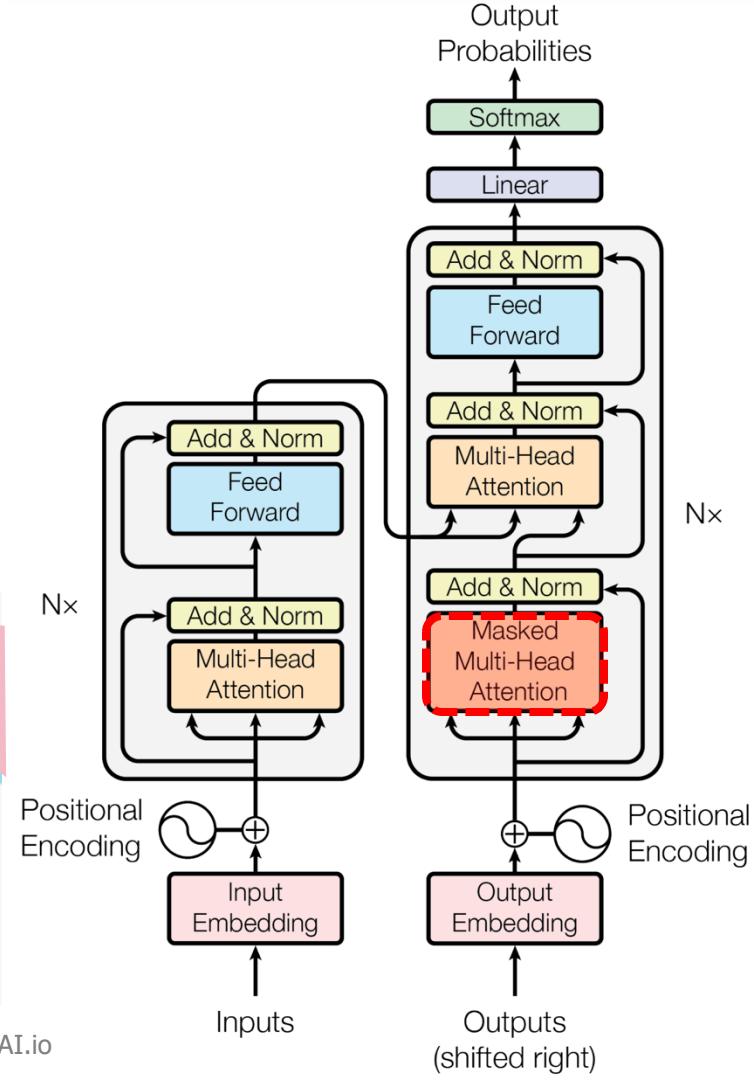
 [Vaswani et al. 2017]

- At any step of **decoder**, it attends to previous computation of **encoder** as well as **decoder's** own generations.



[Attention Is All You Need, Vaswani et al. 2017]

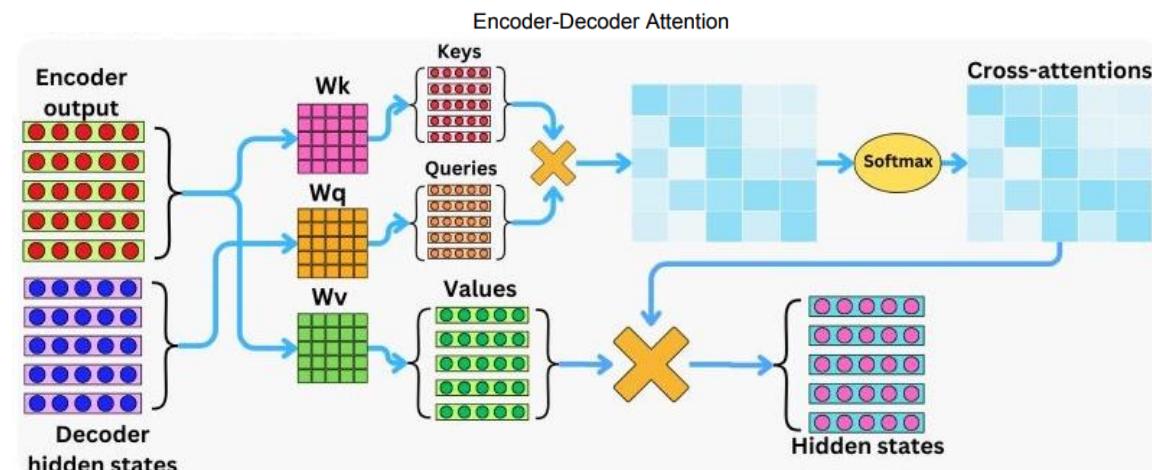
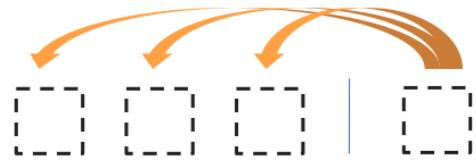
Visualization: theEdgeAI.io



# Transformer

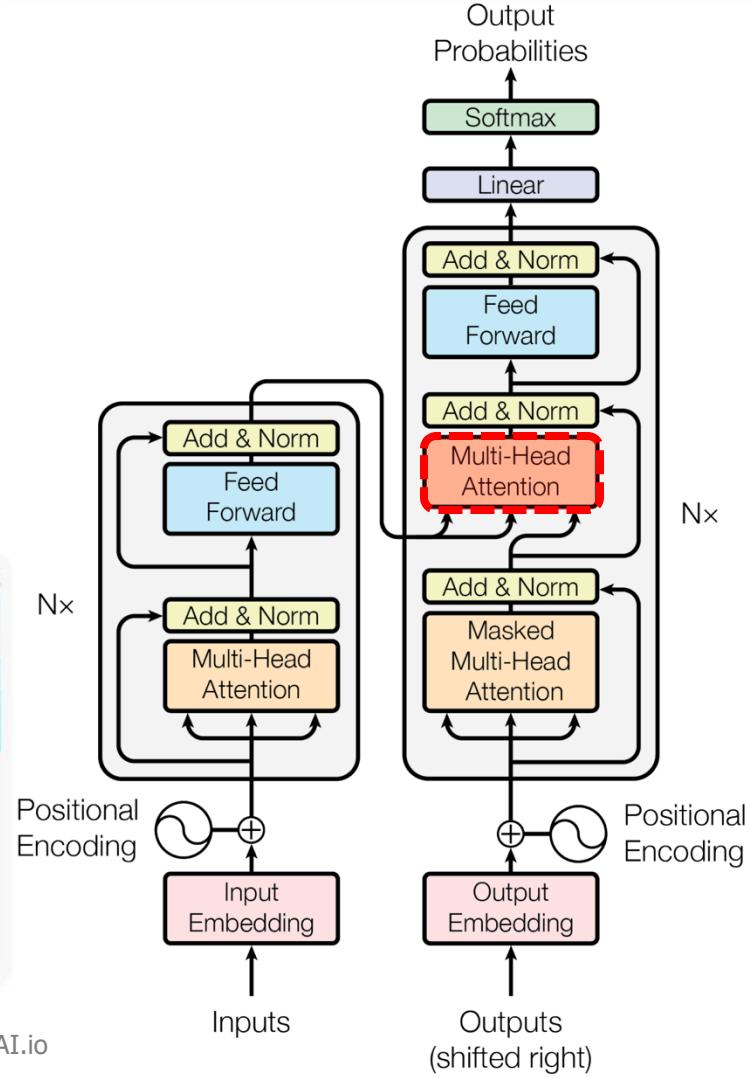
 [Vaswani et al. 2017]

- At any step of **decoder**, it attends to previous computation of **encoder**.



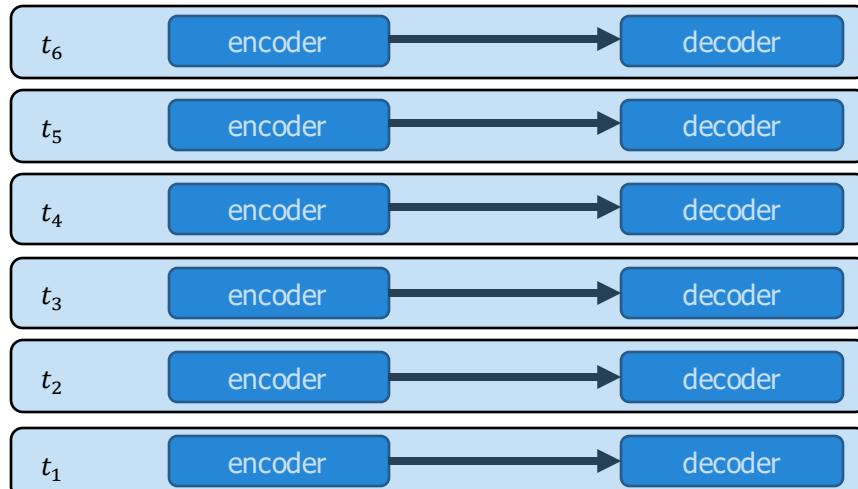
[Attention Is All You Need, Vaswani et al. 2017]

Visualization: theEdgeAI.io

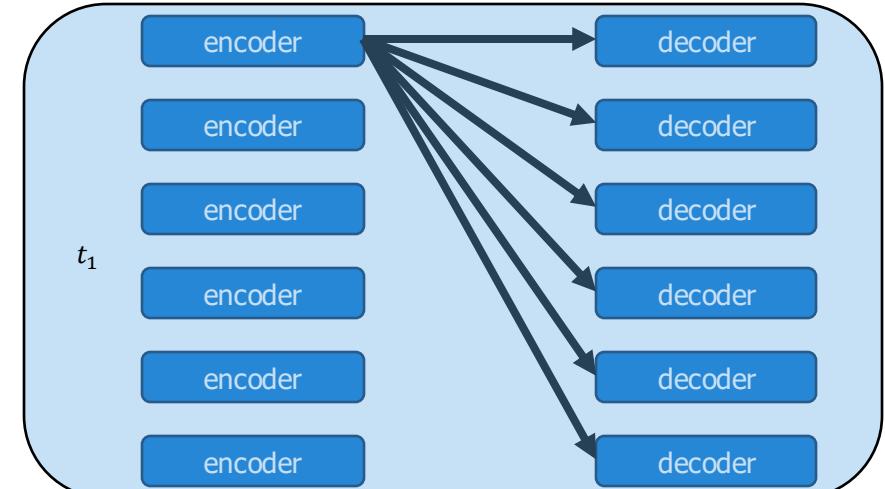


# Quiz: Enc-Dec Connections

- Which best represents encoder-decoder connections?



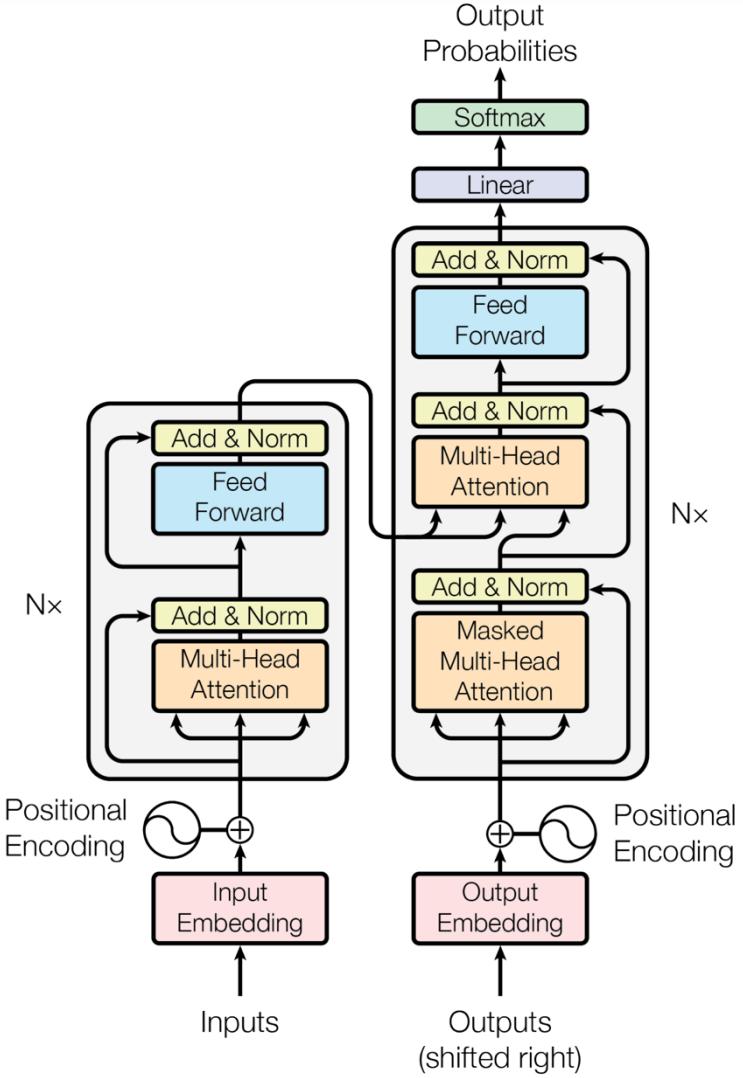
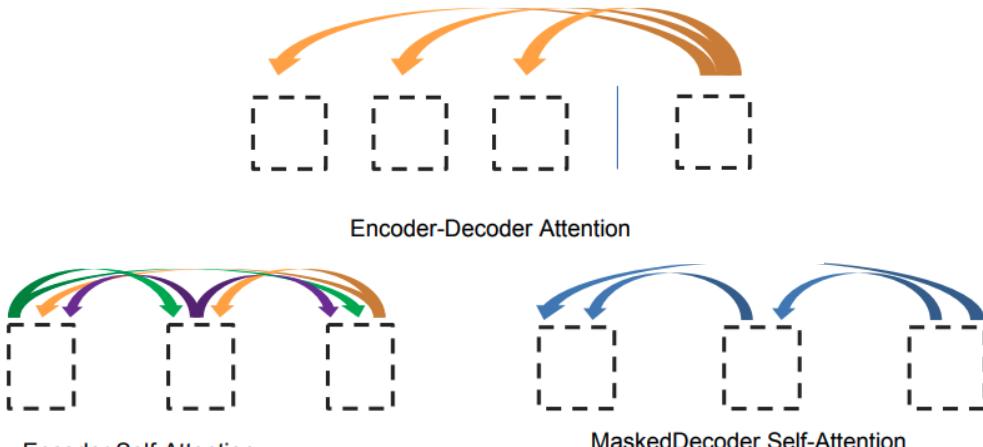
Incorrect



Correct

# Recap: Transformer

- Yaaay we know Transformers now! 🎉
- An **encoder-decoder** architecture
- 3 forms of attention



# Considerations about computational cost in Transformers

# Diversion: Floating-point Ops: FLOPS

---

- Floating point operations per second (FLOPS, flops or flop/s)
- Each FLOP can represent an addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division of floating-point numbers,
- The total FLOP of a model (e.g., Transformer) provides a basic approximation of computational costs associated with that model.

# FLOPS of Matrix Multiplication

- Matrix-vector multiplication are common in Self-Attention (e.g., QKV projection)
  - Requires  $2mn$  ( $2 \times$  matrix size) operations for multiplying  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$
  - (2 because 1 for multiplication, 1 for addition)

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & \cdots & A_{1n} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & \cdots & A_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A_{m1} & A_{m2} & \cdots & A_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11}x_1 + A_{12}x_2 + \cdots + A_{1n}x_n \\ A_{21}x_1 + A_{22}x_2 + \cdots + A_{2n}x_n \\ \vdots \\ A_{m1}x_1 + A_{m2}x_2 + \cdots + A_{mn}x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

# Quiz: thinking about computations

- Consider the following matrix multiplication:

$$A \cdot B, \quad \text{where } A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times k}$$

- **Question 1:** Computing  $AB$  involves how many arithmetic operations?

- (also referred to as floating-point operations or FLOPs)

- **Answer:** It's  $O(n \times m \times k)$ .

- (to be a bit more precise, it's  $\approx 2n \times m \times k$  since each element in  $A \cdot B$  requires almost equal num of multiplications and summations.)

- **Question 2:** Computing  $AB$  involves how many memory/IO access?

- **Answer:** It's  $n \times m$  (reading A) +  $m \times k$  (reading B) +  $n \times m$  (writing AB).

# Computations in Self-Attention Block

---

- We are going to count computations and IO access in Transformer computations.
- Note we assume that the full input sequence is given at once (e.g., training time).
- Here is the first step. Given:  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times d}$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_i^q \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times \frac{d}{m}}$
- Let's think about the following computation:  $\mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}_i^q$
- **Q1:** What is the number of arithmetic operations?  $O(b \times n \times d \times \frac{d}{m})$  for each head
- **Q2:** What about the number of IO?  $O(b \times n \times d + d \times \frac{d}{m} + b \times n \times \frac{d}{m})$  for each head
- **Q3:** What are these quantities for all heads?
  - Number of arithmetic ops:  $O(bnd^2)$
  - Number of IO ops:  $O(2bnd + d^2)$

# Computations in Self-Att

$b$ : batch size,  
 $n$ : sequence length,  
 $m$ : number of heads  
 $d$ : feature dimension in output of SA  
 $d/m$ : feature dimension inside each SA head  
 $d_{\text{ff}} = 4d$ : feature dimension inside FFN

Dimensions	Operation	Computations	IO
$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times d}, \mathbf{W}_i^q \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times \frac{d}{m}}$	$\mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}_i^q, \mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}_i^k, \mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}_i^v$ for $m$ heads	$O(bnd^2)$	$O(d^2 + 2bnd)$
$\mathbf{Q}_i, \mathbf{K}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times \frac{d}{m}}$	$P_i \leftarrow \text{softmax}\left(\frac{\mathbf{Q}_i \mathbf{K}_i^T}{\sqrt{d/m}}\right)$ for $m$ heads	$O(bn^2d)$	$O(2bnd + bmn^2)$
$\mathbf{V}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times \frac{d}{m}}, P_i \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times n}$	$\text{head}_i \leftarrow P_i \mathbf{V}_i$ for $m$ heads	$O(bn^2d)$	$O(2bnd + bmn^2)$
$\mathbf{W}^o \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}, \text{head}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times \frac{d}{m}}$	$Y = \text{Concat}(\text{head}_1, \dots, \text{head}_m) \mathbf{W}^o$	$O(bnd^2)$	$O(2bnd + d^2)$
$Y \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times d}, \mathbf{W}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d_{\text{ff}}}, \mathbf{W}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{ff}} \times d}$	$Y = \text{ReLU}(Y \mathbf{W}_1) \mathbf{W}_2$	$O(16bnd^2)$	$O(2bnd + 8d^2)$
---	Total	$O(bnd^2 + bn^2d)$	$O(bnd + bmn^2 + d^2)$

# The bottlenecks

$b$ : batch size,  
 $n$ : sequence length,  
 $d$ : feature dimension in output of SA

- So, in total, we have →
- The quadratic terms are based on  $n$  and  $d$
- $d$  is fixed (part of architecture) but  $n$  changes with input.
- **Bottlenecks #1:** If  $n$  (sequence length)  $\gg d$  (feature dimension), the time and space complexity would be dominated by  $O(n^2)$ .
- **However,** these despite this quadratic dependence these are parallelizable operations which can be computed efficiently in GPUs.

- In comparison, RNNs perform less arithmetic ops but they're not all parallelizable.

- **Bottlenecks #2:** Another potential bottleneck is how fast we can run IO.  
A good way to think about this is using "Arithmetic Intensity" (more on this later)

Computations	IO
$O(bnd^2 + bn^2d)$	$O(bnd + bmn^2 + d^2)$

Layer Type	Complexity per Layer	Sequential Operations
Self-Attention	$O(n^2 \cdot d)$	$O(1)$
Recurrent	$O(n \cdot d^2)$	$O(n)$

[Vaswani et al. 2017]

# Recap

---

- Transformers **computation of a full sequence** is bounded by  $O(bnd^2 + bn^2d)$ .
  - Generally, the quadratic term that depends on seq len  $n$  is more concerning.
- We have not discussed yet how **IO may impose** other limits on this. (in a week)
- Also, the above calculations is for a given sentences.
  - How bad is the computational complexity during the decoding time where we want to generate text one token at a time?

During decoding time, how slow  
is attention computation?

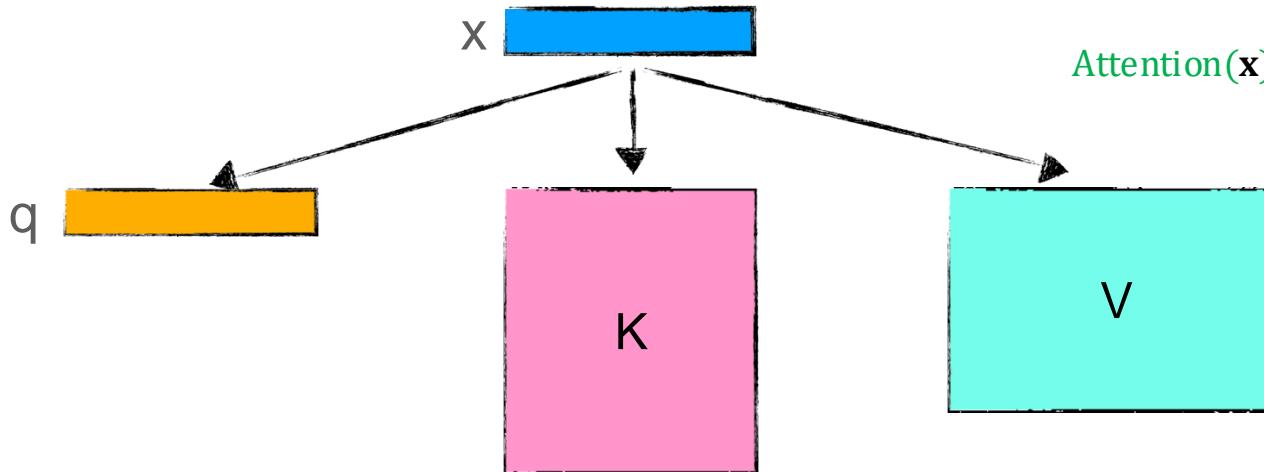
# Self-Attention During Inference

$$Q = \mathbf{x}W^q$$

$$K = \mathbf{x}W^k$$

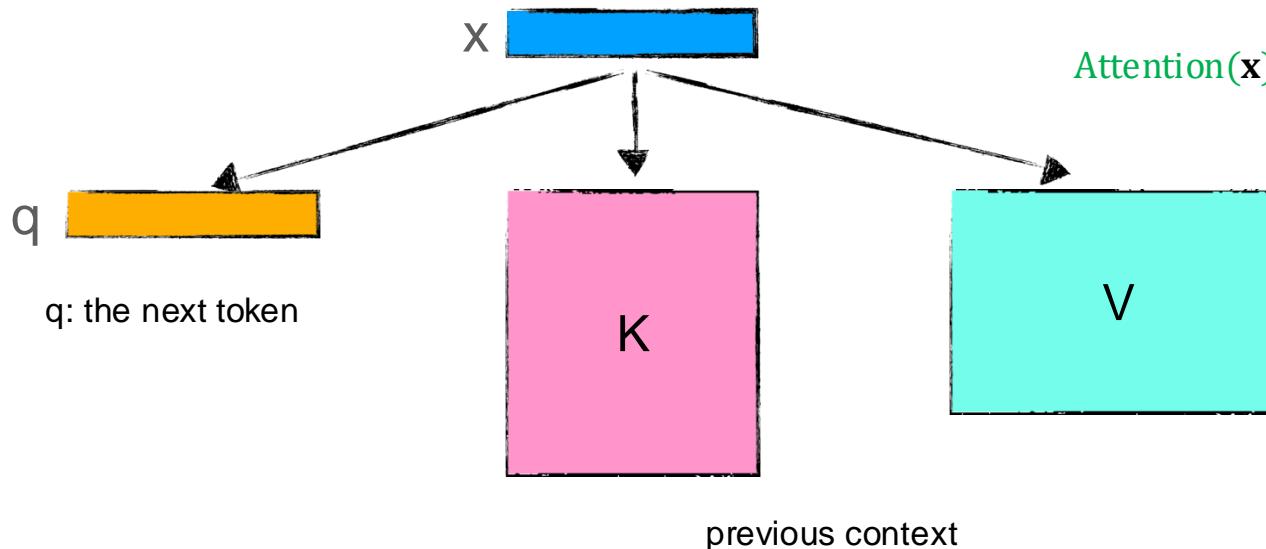
$$V = \mathbf{x}W^v$$

$$\text{Attention}(\mathbf{x}) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d}}\right)V$$



[Slide credit: Arman Cohan]

# Self-Attention During Inference



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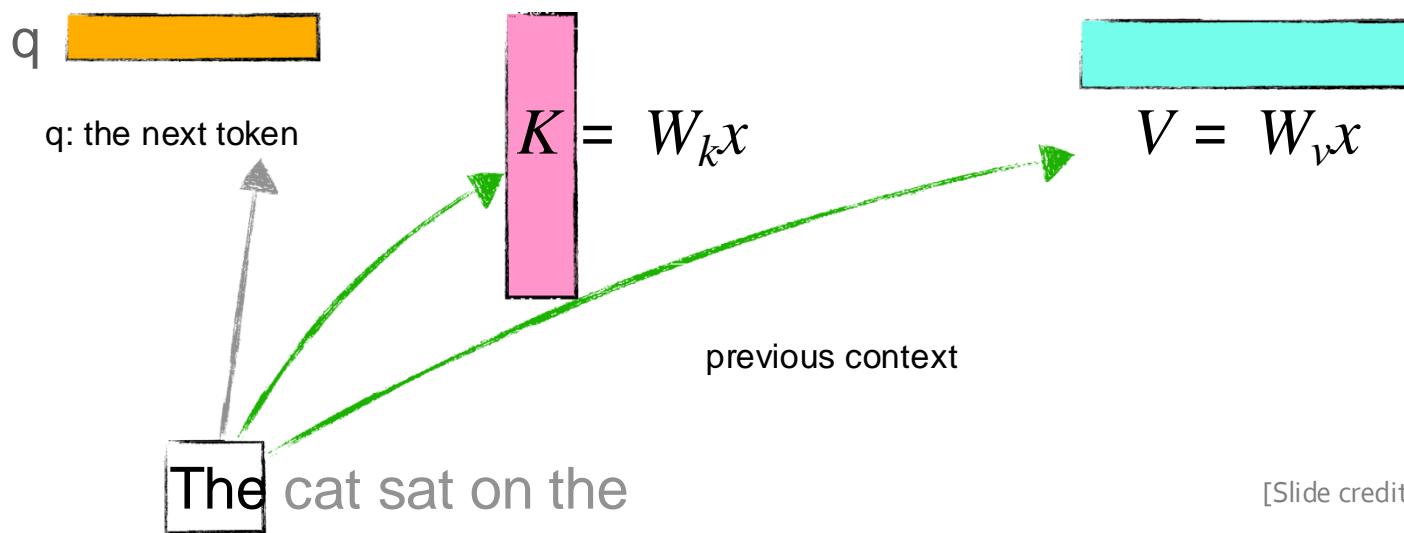
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[Slide credit: Arman Cohan]

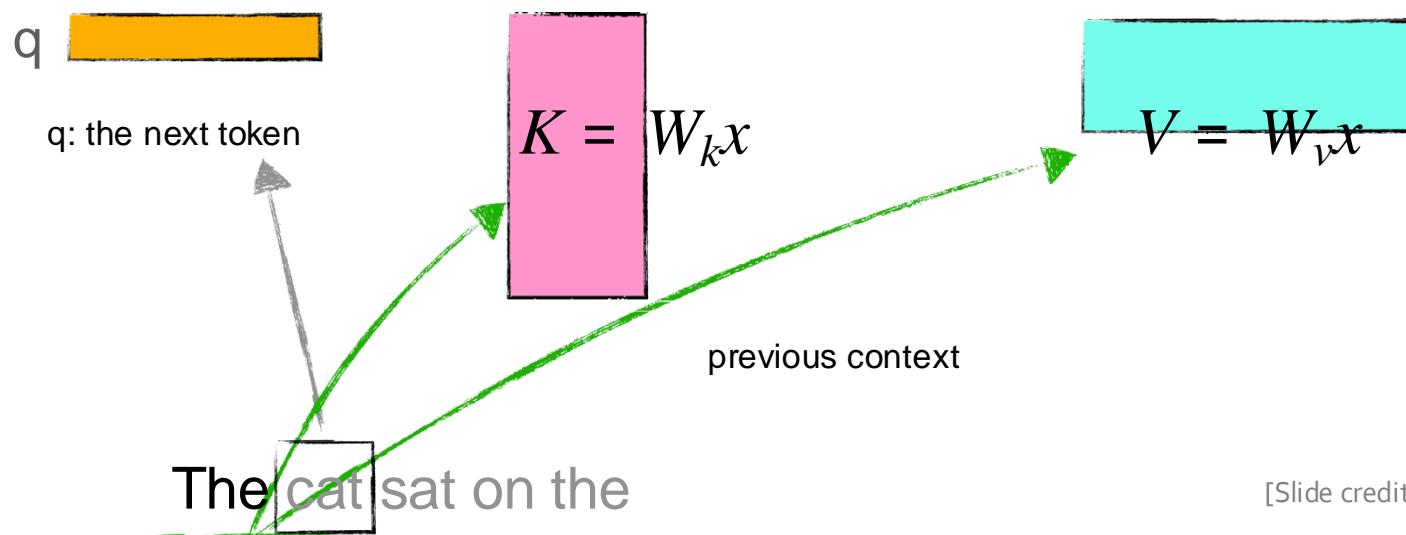
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[Slide credit: Arman Cohan]

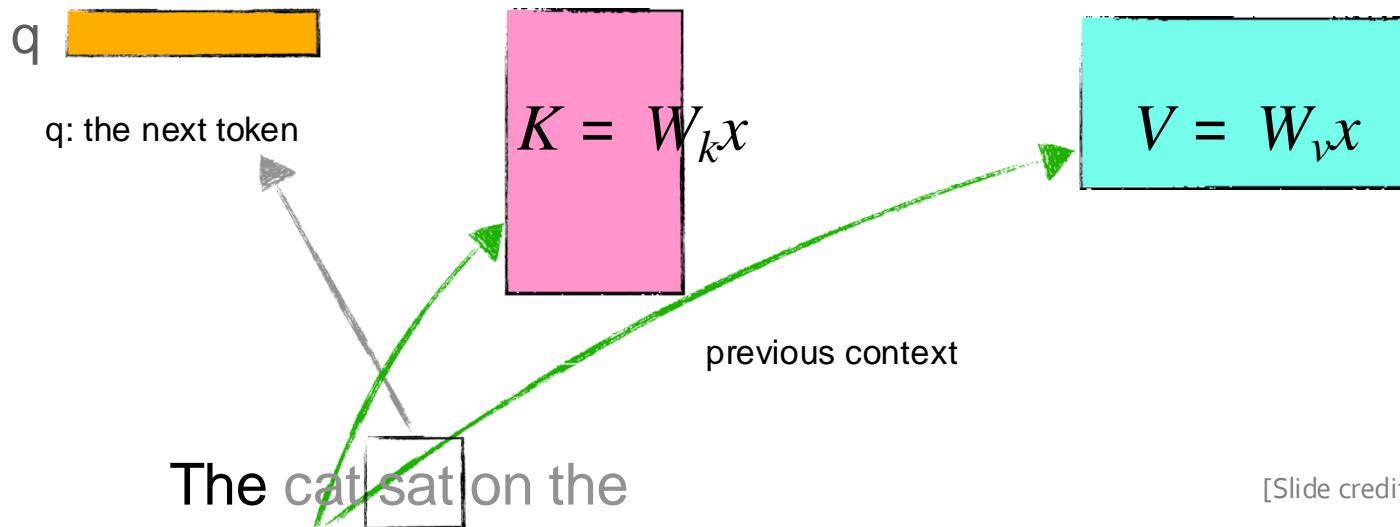
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[Slide credit: Arman Cohan]

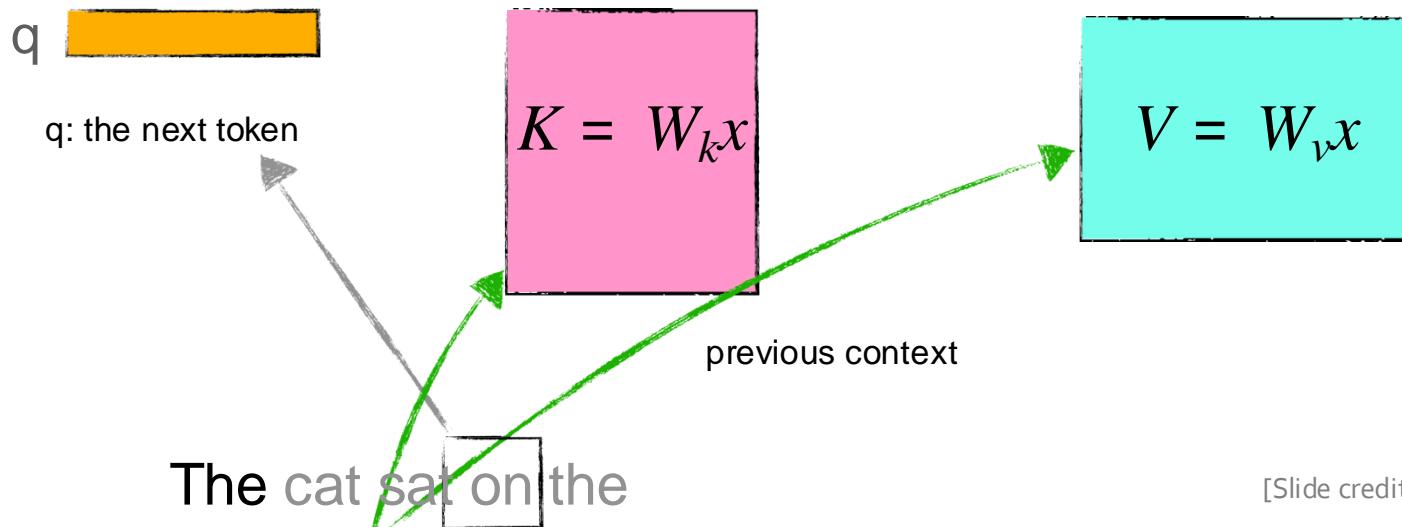
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[Slide credit: Arman Cohan]

# Self-Attention During Inference

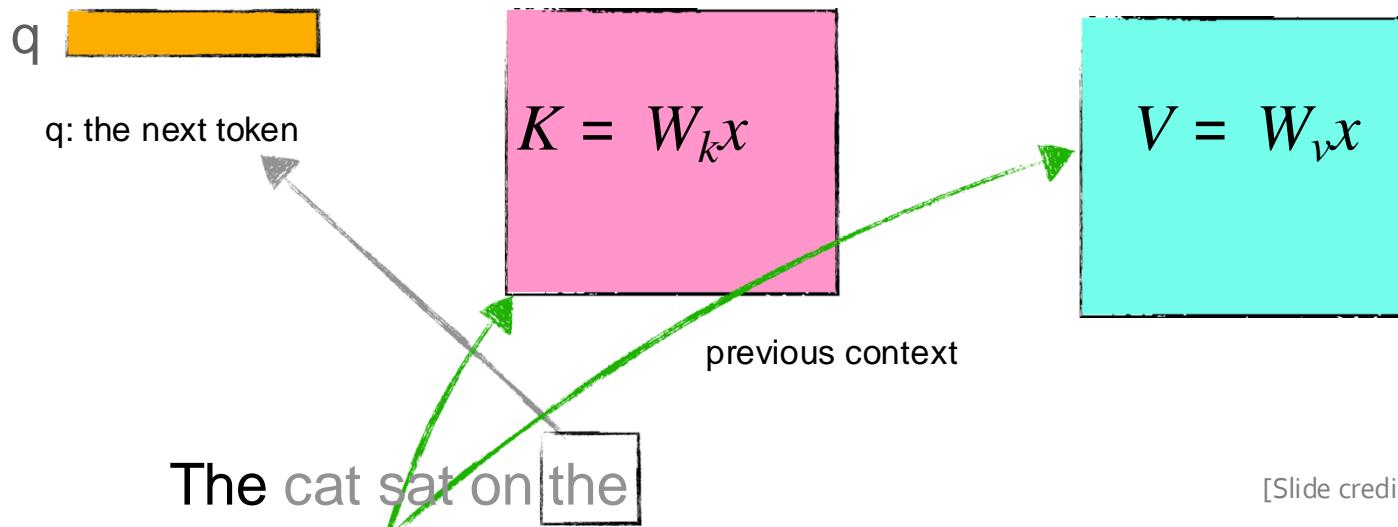
- We are computing the Keys and Values many times!
  - Let's reduce redundancy! 😊

$$Q = \mathbf{x}W^q$$

$$K = \mathbf{x}W^k$$

$$V = \mathbf{x}W^v$$

$$\text{Attention}(\mathbf{x}) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d}}\right)V$$



[Slide credit: Arman Cohan]

# KV-Cache for reducing inference redundancy

- We are computing the Keys and Values many times!
  - Let's reduce redundancy! 😊

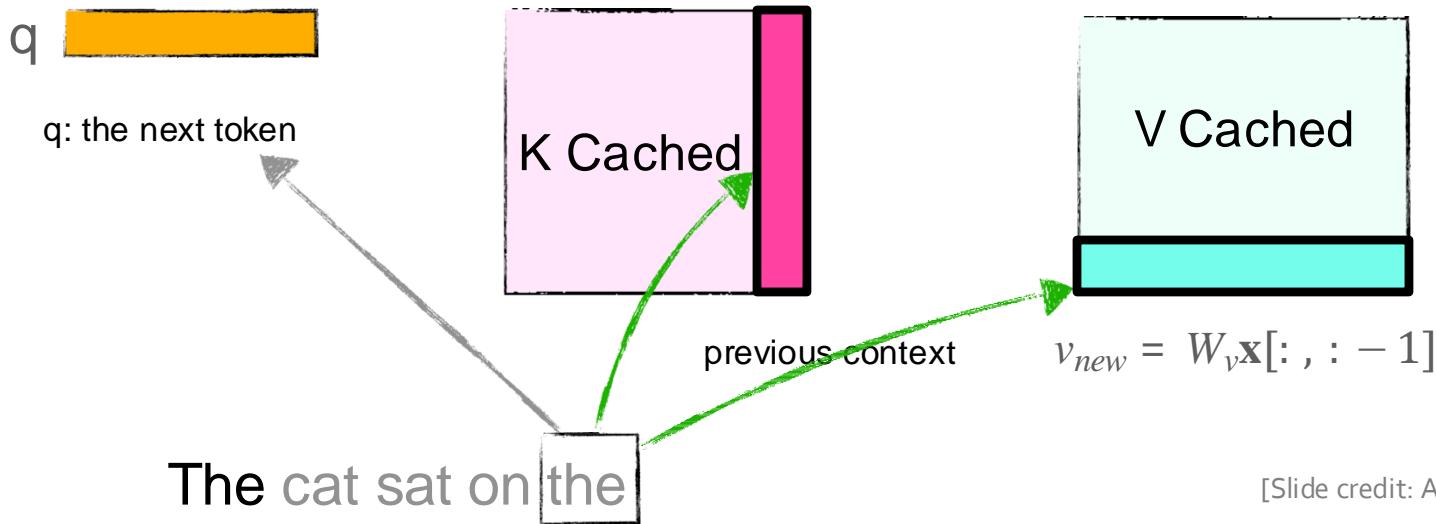
$$k_{new} = W_k \mathbf{x}[:, :, -1]$$

$$Q = \mathbf{x}W^q$$

$$K = \mathbf{x}W^k$$

$$V = \mathbf{x}W^v$$

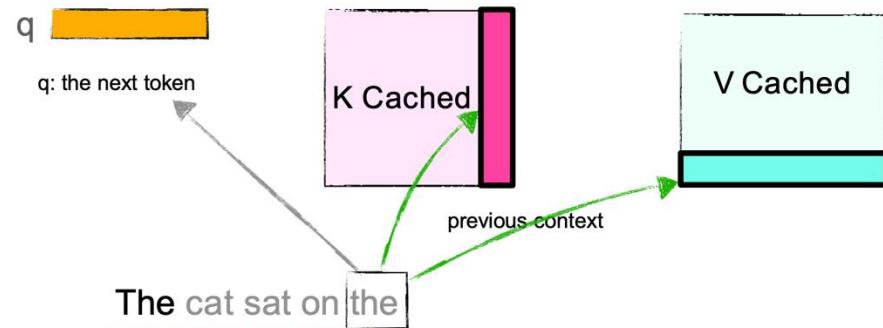
$$\text{Attention}(\mathbf{x}) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d}}\right)V$$



[Slide credit: Arman Cohan]

# Quiz: KV-Cache

- **Question:** How much **memory** does this KV-cache require?
    - Let's assume, embedding dimension is  $d$ , the length of the sequence seen so far is  $n$ , and your model has  $L$  layers.
1.  $2nL$
  2.  $2dL$
  3.  $ndL$
  4.  $2ndL$



# Recap

---

- To avoid **redundant computations** during decoding time, KV-cache is used to keep track of previous calculations of keys and values.
- But how exactly how costly are these computations?

# Decoding Computations

Notice we're doing this computations for one token

Compared to the previous table (SA for a seq of length  $n$ ), all the cells have one less dependence on  $n$  (e.g.,  $n^2 \rightarrow n$  or  $n \rightarrow 1$ ).

Dimensions	Operation	Computations	IO
$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times 1 \times d}, \mathbf{W}_i^q \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times \frac{d}{m}}$	Query/key computations get combined with KV-cache	$O(bd^2)$	$O(d^2 + 2bd)$
$\mathbf{Q}_i, \mathbf{K}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times 1 \times \frac{d}{m}} + \text{KV-cache}$	$P_i \leftarrow \text{softmax}\left(\frac{\mathbf{Q}_i \mathbf{K}_i^T}{\sqrt{d/m}}\right)$ for $m$ heads	$O(bnd)$	$O(bnm + bnd + bd)$
$\mathbf{V}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times 1 \times \frac{d}{m}}, P_i \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times n \times 1}$	$\text{head}_i \leftarrow P_i \mathbf{V}_i$ for $m$ heads	$O(bnd)$	$O(bnm + bnd + bd)$
$\mathbf{W}^o \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}, \text{head}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times 1 \times \frac{d}{m}}$	$Y = \text{Concat}(\text{head}_1, \dots, \text{head}_m) \mathbf{W}^o$	$O(bd^2)$	$O(2bd + d^2)$
$Y \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times 1 \times d}, \mathbf{W}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d_{ff}}, \mathbf{W}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{ff} \times d}$	$Y = \text{ReLU}(Y \mathbf{W}_1) \mathbf{W}_2$	$O(16bd^2)$	$O(2bd + 8d^2)$
---	Total	$O(bd^2 + bnd)$	$O(bmn + bnd + d^2)$

Now the computations (of next token) has linear dependence on seq length.

# Recap: complexity of decoding text

---

- Transformers computation for generating each word is  $O(bd^2 + bnd)$ .
- Remember the complexity of processing a full sequence of length:  $O(bnd^2 + bn^2d)$ .

# Quiz: Enc-Dec inference cost

- Suppose we're using an Enc-Dec model for summarization task. Input are long passages with length  $m$  and the expected (summary length is  $n$ ). The computational complexity of this operation is:
  - $O(n) + O(m)$
  - $O(n) + O(m) + O(nm)$
  - $O(n^2) + O(m^2) + O(nm)$
  - $O(n^2) + O(m^2)$

No, self attention is all-to-all  
and so quadratic.

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No, self attention is all-to-all  
and so quadratic in  $m$  and  $n$ .

# Quiz: Enc-Dec inference cost

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    - $O(n^2) + O(m^2) + O(nm)$
    - $O(n^2) + O(m^2)$
- No, cross attention is missing.

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  - $O(n^2) + O(m^2)$

Yes. The three terms are respectively the Encoder self-attention, Decoder self-attention, and Cross attention.

Though a more accurate term is:  $O(n^2d + nd^2 + m^2d + md^2 + nmd)$  with  $d$  denoting the model embedding dimension.

# Summary: Computational Complexity of Transformers

---

- **Process a sequence at once:** Computation is bounded by  $O(n^2)$ .
- **Processing one token at a time during inference:**
  - **KV-Cache:** To avoid redundant computations during decoding time, KV-cache is used to keep track of previous calculations of keys and values.
  - The computation is bounded by  $O(n)$ .
- Though in all cases, the computations are penalizable (modulo Transformer layers).
- **IO bottlenecks:** we will get to this (next chapter).

# Writing our own Transformer

# Clone Helper Function

- Create N copies of pytorch nn.Module
- The Transformer's structure contains a lot of design repetition (like VGG)
- Remember these clones shouldn't share parameters (for the most part)

```
def clones(module, N):
    "Produce N identical layers."
    return nn.ModuleList([copy.deepcopy(module) for _ in range(N)])
```

# Create Embedding

- Create vector representation of sequence vocabulary
- nn.Embedding creates a lookup table to map sequence vocabulary to unique vectors

```
class Embeddings(nn.Module):  
    def __init__(self, d_model, vocab):  
        super(Embeddings, self).__init__()  
        self.lut = nn.Embedding(vocab, d_model)  
        self.d_model = d_model  
  
    def forward(self, x):  
        return self.lut(x) * math.sqrt(self.d_model)
```

# Positional Encoding

- Add information about an element's position in a sequence to its representation
- Element wise addition of sinusoidal encoding



```
class PositionalEncoding(nn.Module):
    "Implement the PE function."

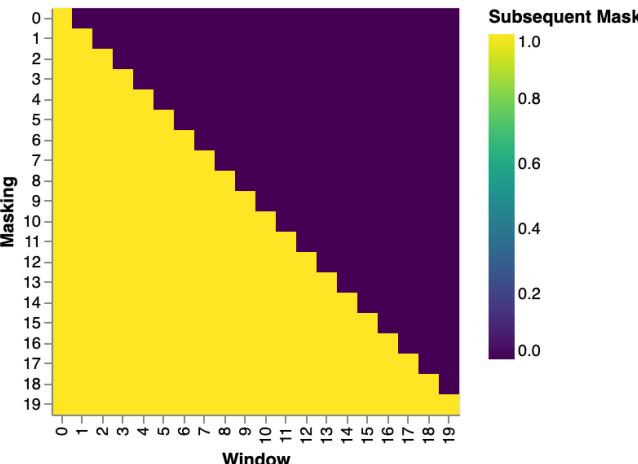
    def __init__(self, d_model, dropout, max_len=5000):
        super(PositionalEncoding, self).__init__()
        self.dropout = nn.Dropout(p=dropout)

        # Compute the positional encodings once in log space.
        pe = torch.zeros(max_len, d_model)
        position = torch.arange(0, max_len).unsqueeze(1)
        div_term = torch.exp(
            torch.arange(0, d_model, 2) * -(math.log(10000.0) / d_model))
        pe[:, 0::2] = torch.sin(position * div_term)
        pe[:, 1::2] = torch.cos(position * div_term)
        pe = pe.unsqueeze(0)
        self.register_buffer("pe", pe)

    def forward(self, x):
        x = x + self.pe[:, :, :x.size(1)].requires_grad_(False)
        return self.dropout(x)
```

# Attention block

```
def attention(query, key, value, mask=None, dropout=None):
    "Compute 'Scaled Dot Product Attention'"
    d_k = query.size(-1)
    scores = torch.matmul(query, key.transpose(-2, -1)) / math.sqrt(d_k)
    if mask is not None:
        scores = scores.masked_fill(mask == 0, -1e9)
    p_attn = scores.softmax(dim=-1)
    if dropout is not None:
        p_attn = dropout(p_attn)
    return torch.matmul(p_attn, value), p_attn
```



$-1e9$  is a large negative number, which leads to  $\text{softmax}(-1e9) \approx 0$

# Multi-Head Attention

```
class MultiHeadedAttention(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, h, d_model, dropout=0.1):
        "Take in model size and number of heads."
        super(MultiHeadedAttention, self).__init__()
        assert d_model % h == 0
        # We assume d_v always equals d_k
        self.d_k = d_model // h
        self.h = h
        self.linears = clones(nn.Linear(d_model, d_model), 4)
        self.attn = None
        self.dropout = nn.Dropout(p=dropout)
```

```
def forward(self, query, key, value, mask=None):
    "Implements Figure 2"
    if mask is not None:
        # Same mask applied to all h heads.
        mask = mask.unsqueeze(1)
    nbatches = query.size(0)

    # 1) Do all the linear projections in batch from d_model => h x d_k
    query, key, value = [
        lin(x).view(nbatches, -1, self.h, self.d_k).transpose(1, 2)
        for lin, x in zip(self.linears, (query, key, value))
    ]

    # 2) Apply attention on all the projected vectors in batch.
    x, self.attn = attention(
        query, key, value, mask=mask, dropout=self.dropout
    )

    # 3) "Concat" using a view and apply a final linear.
    x = (
        x.transpose(1, 2)
        .contiguous()
        .view(nbatches, -1, self.h * self.d_k)
    )
    del query
    del key
    del value
    return self.linears[-1](x)
```

[Slide credit: CS886 at Waterloo]

# FeedForward Layer

```
class PositionwiseFeedForward(nn.Module):
    "Implements FFN equation.

    def __init__(self, d_model, d_ff, dropout=0.1):
        super(PositionwiseFeedForward, self).__init__()
        self.w_1 = nn.Linear(d_model, d_ff)
        self.w_2 = nn.Linear(d_ff, d_model)
        self.dropout = nn.Dropout(dropout)

    def forward(self, x):
        return self.w_2(self.dropout(self.w_1(x).relu()))
```

# Sublayer Connections

---

```
class SublayerConnection(nn.Module):
    """
    A residual connection followed by a layer norm.
    Note for code simplicity the norm is first as opposed to last.
    """

    def __init__(self, size, dropout):
        super(SublayerConnection, self).__init__()
        self.norm = LayerNorm(size)
        self.dropout = nn.Dropout(dropout)

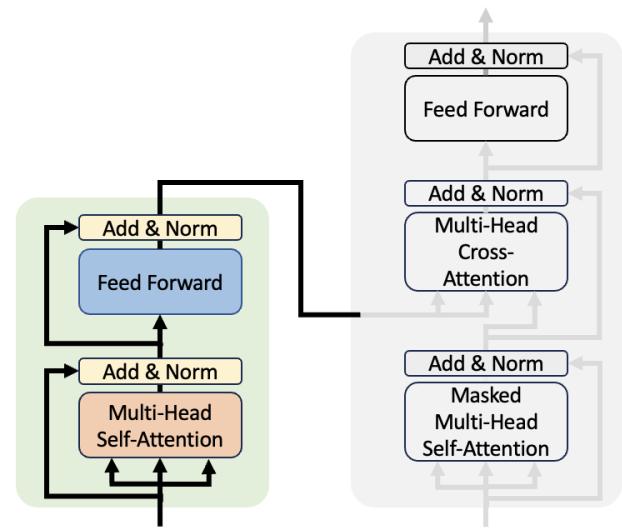
    def forward(self, x, sublayer):
        "Apply residual connection to any sublayer with the same size."
        return x + self.dropout(sublayer(self.norm(x)))
```

# Encoder Layer

```
class EncoderLayer(nn.Module):
    "Encoder is made up of self-attn and feed forward (defined below)"

    def __init__(self, size, self_attn, feed_forward, dropout):
        super(EncoderLayer, self).__init__()
        self.self_attn = self_attn
        self.feed_forward = feed_forward
        self.sublayer = clones(SublayerConnection(size, dropout), 2)
        self.size = size

    def forward(self, x, mask):
        "Follow Figure 1 (left) for connections."
        x = self.sublayer[0](x, lambda x: self.self_attn(x, x, x, mask))
        return self.sublayer[1](x, self.feed_forward)
```



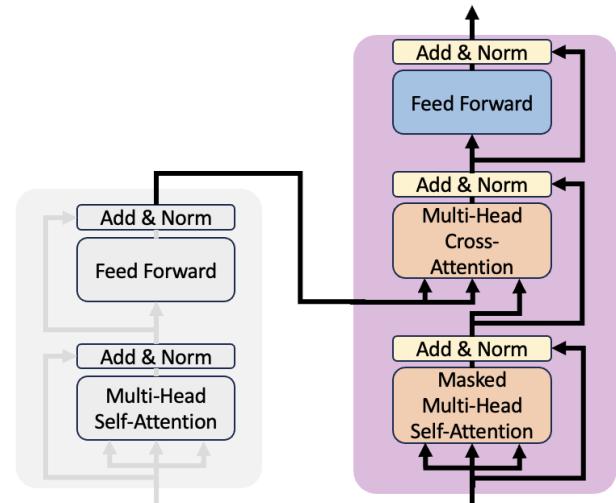
# Decoder Layer

- Same as encoder layers other than:
  - the additional multi-head attention block to perform cross-attention with the output representation from the encoder

```
class DecoderLayer(nn.Module):
    "Decoder is made of self-attn, src-attn, and feed forward (defined below)"

    def __init__(self, size, self_attn, src_attn, feed_forward, dropout):
        super(DecoderLayer, self).__init__()
        self.size = size
        self.self_attn = self_attn
        self.src_attn = src_attn
        self.feed_forward = feed_forward
        self.sublayer = clones(SublayerConnection(size, dropout), 3)

    def forward(self, x, memory, src_mask, tgt_mask):
        "Follow Figure 1 (right) for connections."
        m = memory
        x = self.sublayer[0](x, lambda x: self.self_attn(x, x, x, tgt_mask))
        x = self.sublayer[1](x, lambda x: self.src_attn(x, m, m, src_mask))
        return self.sublayer[2](x, self.feed_forward)
```



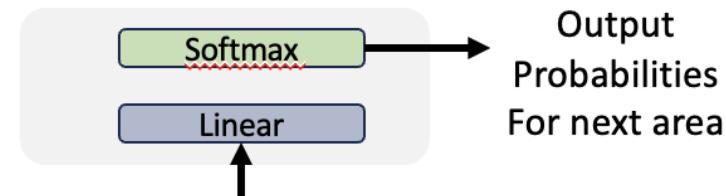
# The Prediction Head

- A final linear mapping
- Apply softmax to convert logits to probabilities

```
class Generator(nn.Module):
    "Define standard linear + softmax generation step."

    def __init__(self, d_model, vocab):
        super(Generator, self).__init__()
        self.proj = nn.Linear(d_model, vocab)

    def forward(self, x):
        return log_softmax(self.proj(x), dim=-1)
```



# Build each block

```
class Encoder(nn.Module):
    "Core encoder is a stack of N layers"

    def __init__(self, layer, N):
        super(Encoder, self).__init__()
        self.layers = clones(layer, N)
        self.norm = LayerNorm(layer.size)

    def forward(self, x, mask):
        "Pass the input (and mask) through each layer in turn."
        for layer in self.layers:
            x = layer(x, mask)
        return self.norm(x)
```

```
class Decoder(nn.Module):
    "Generic N layer decoder with masking."

    def __init__(self, layer, N):
        super(Decoder, self).__init__()
        self.layers = clones(layer, N)
        self.norm = LayerNorm(layer.size)

    def forward(self, x, memory, src_mask, tgt_mask):
        for layer in self.layers:
            x = layer(x, memory, src_mask, tgt_mask)
        return self.norm(x)
```

# Putting it Together

```
class EncoderDecoder(nn.Module):
    """
    A standard Encoder-Decoder architecture. Base for this and many
    other models.
    """

    def __init__(self, encoder, decoder, src_embed, tgt_embed, generator):
        super(EncoderDecoder, self).__init__()
        self.encoder = encoder
        self.decoder = decoder
        self.src_embed = src_embed
        self.tgt_embed = tgt_embed
        self.generator = generator

    def forward(self, src, tgt, src_mask, tgt_mask):
        "Take in and process masked src and target sequences."
        return self.decode(self.encode(src, src_mask), src_mask, tgt, tgt_mask)

    def encode(self, src, src_mask):
        return self.encoder(self.src_embed(src), src_mask)

    def decode(self, memory, src_mask, tgt, tgt_mask):
        return self.decoder(self.tgt_embed(tgt), memory, src_mask, tgt_mask)
```

# Initialize the model

```
def make_model(  
    src_vocab, tgt_vocab, N=6, d_model=512, d_ff=2048, h=8, dropout=0.1  
):  
    "Helper: Construct a model from hyperparameters."  
    c = copy.deepcopy  
    attn = MultiHeadedAttention(h, d_model)  
    ff = PositionwiseFeedForward(d_model, d_ff, dropout)  
    position = PositionalEncoding(d_model, dropout)  
    model = EncoderDecoder(  
        Encoder(EncoderLayer(d_model, c(attn), c(ff), dropout), N),  
        Decoder(DecoderLayer(d_model, c(attn), c(attn), c(ff), dropout), N),  
        nn.Sequential(Embeddings(d_model, src_vocab), c(position)),  
        nn.Sequential(Embeddings(d_model, tgt_vocab), c(position)),  
        Generator(d_model, tgt_vocab),  
    )  
  
    # This was important from their code.  
    # Initialize parameters with Glorot / fan_avg.  
    for p in model.parameters():  
        if p.dim() > 1:  
            nn.init.xavier_uniform_(p)  
    return model
```