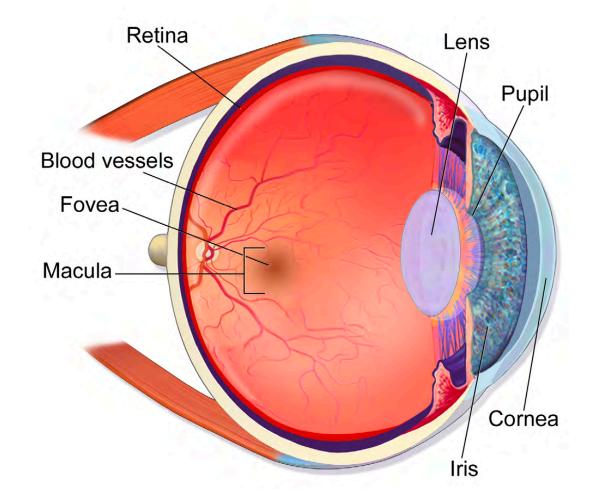
# Attention in Deep Learning

Alex Smola (smola@) and Aston Zhang (astonz@)

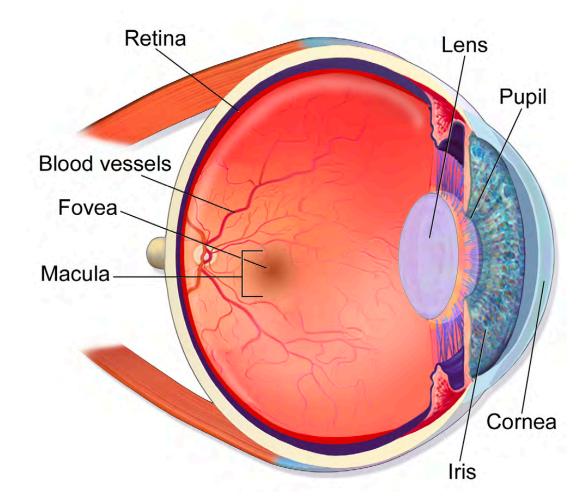
Amazon Web Services
ICML 2019, Long Beach, CA

bit.ly/2R10hTu alex.smola.org/talks/ICML19-attention.key alex.smola.org/talks/ICML19-attention.pdf



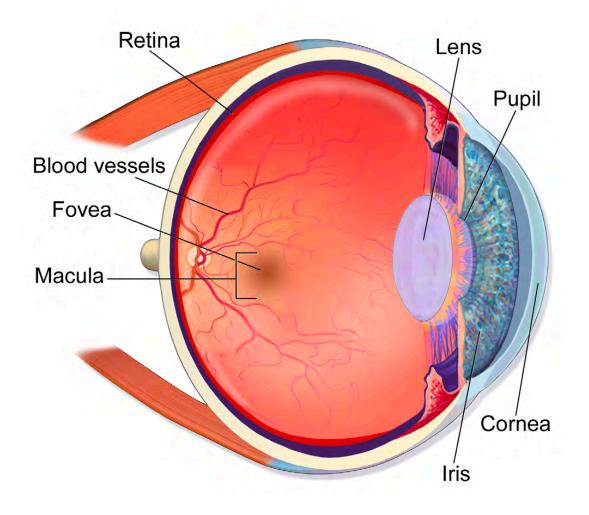








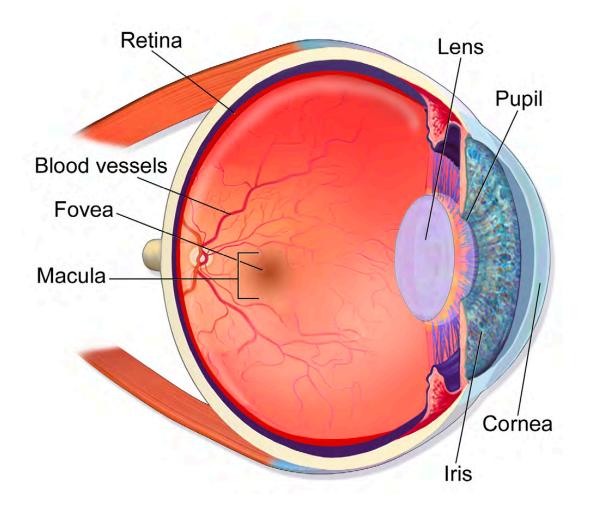




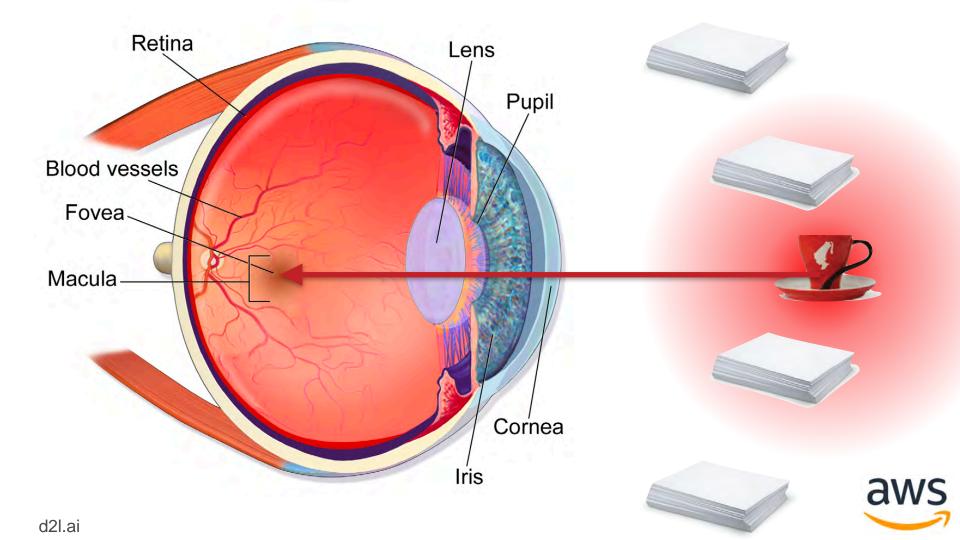


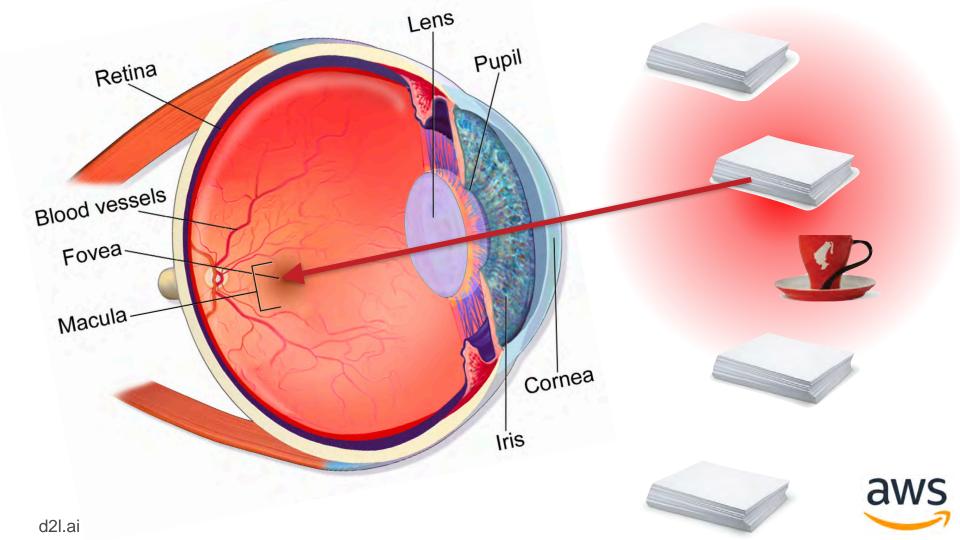












#### **Attention in Animals**

### Resource saving

- Only need **sensors** where relevant bits are (e.g. fovea vs. peripheral vision)
- Only compute relevant bits of information (e.g. fovea has many more 'pixels' than periphery)
- Variable state manipulation
  - Manipulate environment (for all grains do: eat)
  - Learn modular subroutines (not state)
- In machine learning nonparametric

#### **Outline**

#### 1. Watson Nadaraya Estimator

#### 2. Pooling

- Single objects Pooling to attention pooling
- Hierarchical structures Hierarchical attention networks

#### 3. Iterative Pooling

Question answering / memory networks

#### 4. Iterative Pooling and Generation

Neural machine translation

#### 5. Multiple Attention Heads

- Transformers / BERT
- Lightweight, structured, sparse

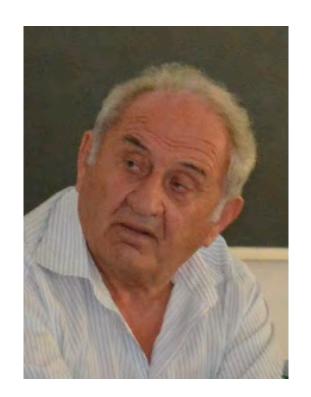
#### 6. Resources



## 1. Watson Nadaraya Estimator '64



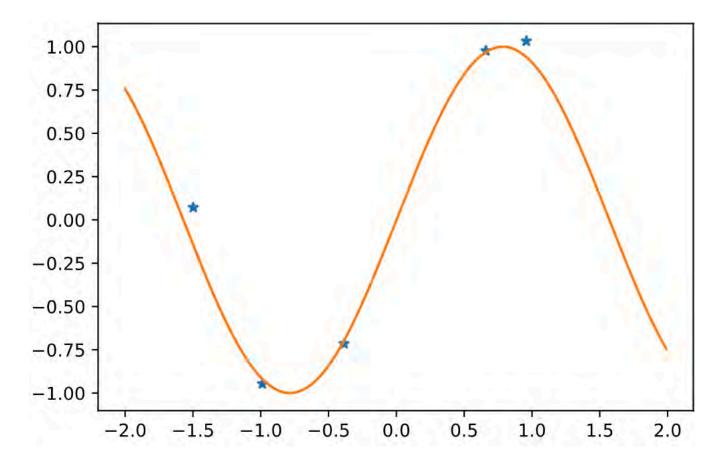
**Geoffrey Watson** 



Elizbar Nadaraya



## **Regression Problem**

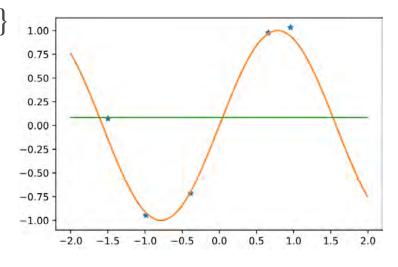




## Solving the regression problem

- Data  $\{x_1, ...x_m\}$  and labels  $\{y_1, ...y_m\}$
- Estimate label *y* at new location *x*
- The world's dumbest estimator
   Average over all labels

$$y = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} y_i$$



• Better idea (Watson, Nadaraya, 1964) Weigh the labels according to location

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha(x, x_i) y_i$$



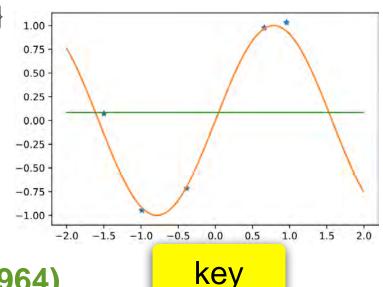
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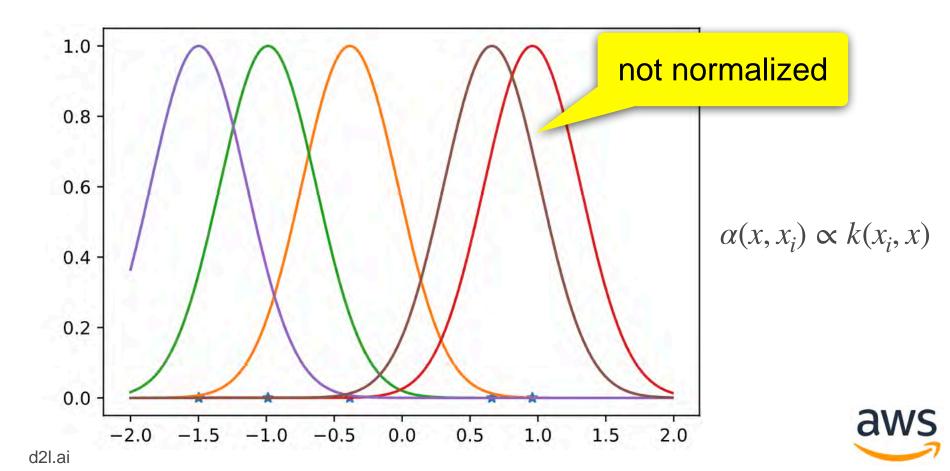
$$y = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha(x, x_i) y_i$$



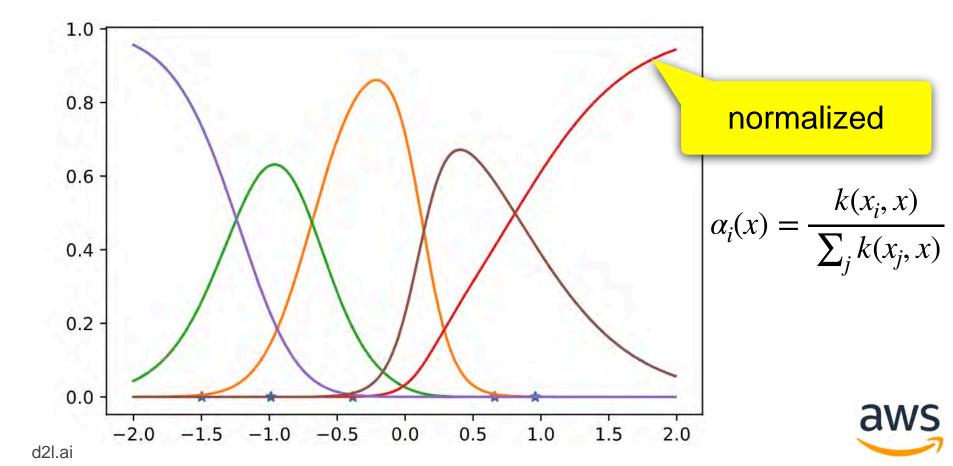
 $\alpha(x, x_i)y_i$ 

<mark>ery value</mark>

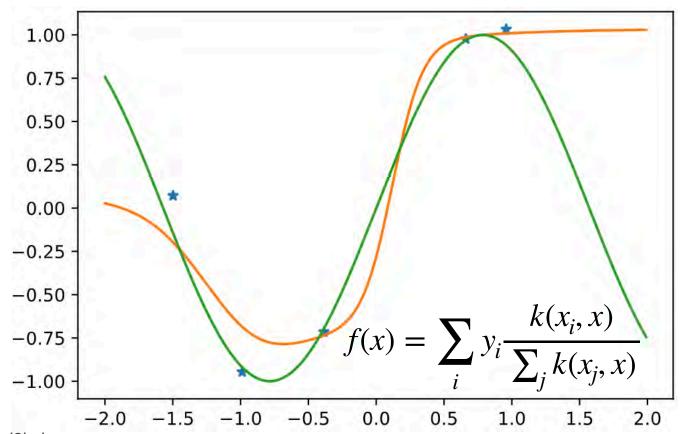
## Weighing the locations (e.g. with Gaussians)



## Weighing the locations (e.g. with Gaussians)



## Weighted regression estimate





d2l.ai

## Why bother with a 55 year old algorithm?

## Consistency

Given enough data this algorithm converges to the optimal solution (can your deep net do this?)

### Simplicity

No free parameters - information is in the data not weights (or very few if we try to learn the weighting function)



## Why bother with a 55 year old algorithm?

## Consistency

Given enough data this algorithm converges to the optimal solution (can your deep net do this?)

### Simplicity

No free parameters - information is in the data not weights (or very few if we try to learn the weighting function)

### Deep Learning Variant

- Learn weighting function
- Replace averaging (pooling) by weighted pooling





## Deep Sets (Zaheer et al. 2017)

- Deep (Networks on) Sets  $X = \{x_1, ...x_n\}$ 
  - Need permutation invariance for elements in set (e.g. LSTM doesn't work to ingest elements)
  - Theorem all functions are of the form\*

$$f(X) = \rho \left( \sum_{x \in X} \phi(x) \right)$$

- \*or some combination thereof
- Applications point clouds, set extension, red shift for galaxies, text retrieval, tagging, etc.



## Deep Sets (Zaheer et al. 2017)

Outliers in sets - learn function f(X) on set such that  $f(\{x\} \cup X) \ge f(\{x'\} \cup X) + \Delta(x, x')$ 



# Deep Sets with Attention aka Multi-Instance Learning (Ilse, Tomczak, Welling, '18)

- Multiple Instance Problem
   Set contains one (or more) elements with desirable property (drug discovery, keychain). Identify those sets.
- Deep Sets have trouble focusing, hence weigh it

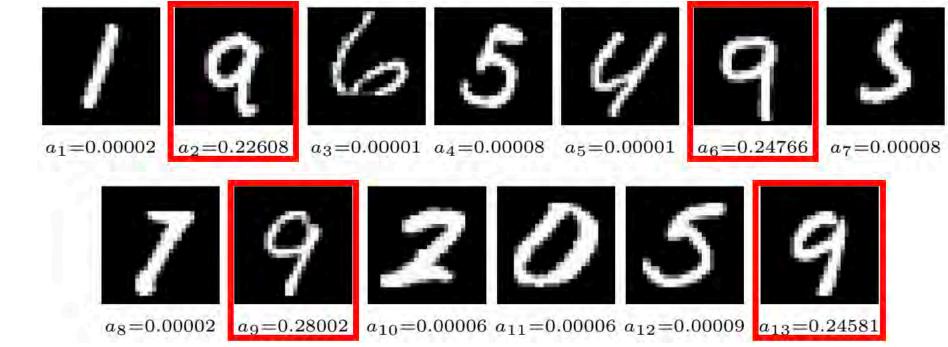
$$f(X) = \rho \left( \sum_{x \in X} \phi(x) \right) \qquad \qquad f(X) = \rho \left( \sum_{x \in X} \alpha(w, x) \phi(x) \right)$$

• Attention function e.g.  $\alpha(w, x) \propto \exp(w^{\top} \tanh Vx)$ 

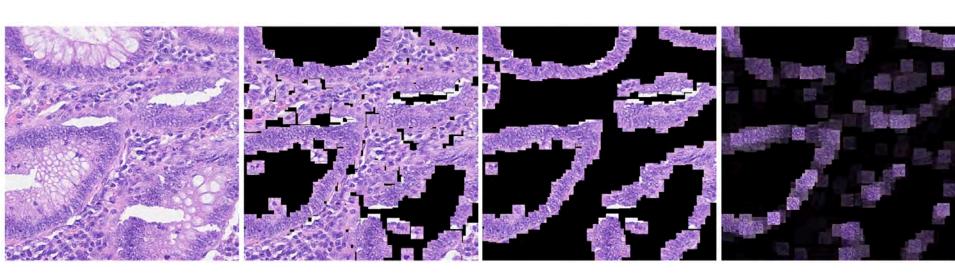


# Deep Sets with Attention aka Multi-Instance Learning (Ilse, Tomczak, Welling, '18)

Identifying sets that contain the digit '9'



# Deep Sets with Attention aka Multi-Instance Learning (Ilse, Tomczak, Welling, '18)



tissue sample

windowed cell nuclei

cancerous cells

attention weights

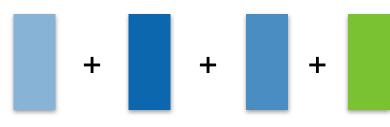


# Bag of words (Salton & McGill, 1986) Word2Vec (Mikolov et al., 2013)

- Embed each word in sentence (word2vec, binary, GRU ...)
- Add them all up
- Classify

$$f(X) = \rho \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} \phi(x_i) \right)$$

The tutorial is awesome.



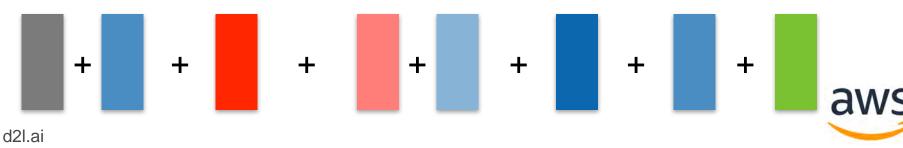


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- Embed each word in sentence (word2vec, binary, GRU ...)
- Add them all up
- Classify

$$f(X) = \rho \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} \phi(w_i) \right)$$

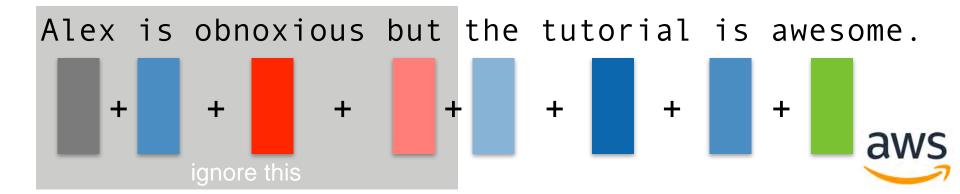
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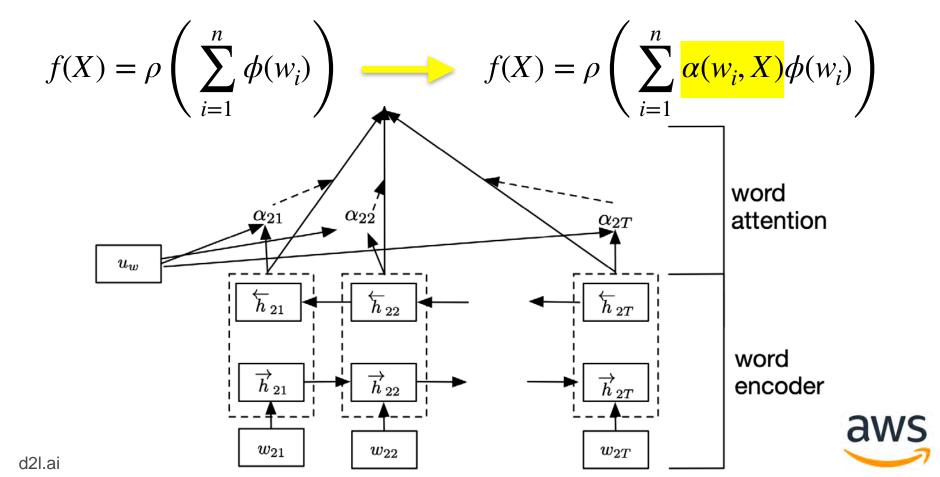
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## Attention weighting for documents (Wang et al, '16)



## Hierarchical attention weighting (Yang et al. '17)

Some sentences are more important than others ...

```
GT: 0 Prediction: 0
GT: 4 Prediction: 4
                                                      terrible value
     pork belly = delicious .
                                                      ordered pasta entree .
     scallops?
     i do n't.
                                                         16.95
                                                                good
                                                                      taste but size
                                                                                       was
     even .
                                                      appetizer size.
     like .
     scallops, and these were a-m-a-z-i-n-g.
                                                      no salad, no bread no vegetable
     fun and tasty cocktails.
                                                      this was
     next time i 'm in phoenix , i will go
                                                          and tasty cocktails.
     back here .
                                                      our second visit .
     highly recommend.
                                                      i will not go back.
```

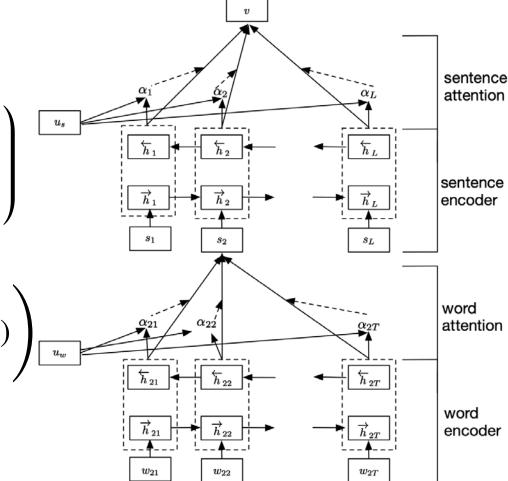
## Hierarchical attention

Word level

• Vvord level 
$$f(s_i) = \rho \left( \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} \alpha(w_{ij}, s_i) \phi(w_{ij}) \right)$$

Sentence level

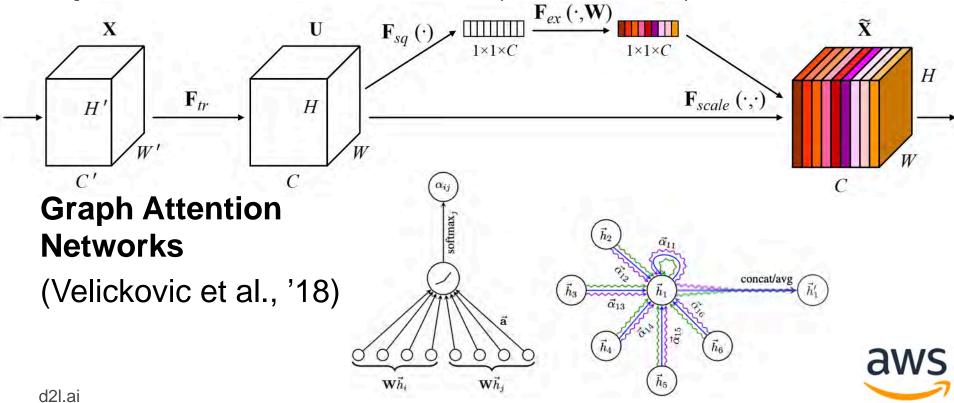
$$g(d) = \rho \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha(s_i, d) \phi(f(s_i)) \right)$$
• Embeddings e.g. via GRU



softmax

## **More Applications**

Squeeze Excitation Networks (Hu et al., '18)



## **Attention Summary**

Pooling

$$f(X) = \rho\left(\sum_{x \in X} \phi(x)\right)$$
 Query w can depend on context

Attention pooling

$$f(X) = \rho \left( \sum_{x \in X} \alpha(x, w) \phi(x) \right)$$

Attention function (normalized to unit weight) such as

$$\alpha(x, X) \propto \exp\left(w^{\mathsf{T}} \tanh Ux\right)$$



## 3. Iterative Pooling



original image

first attention layer

second attention layer aws

## **Question Answering**

Joe went to the kitchen.

Fred went to the kitchen.

Joe picked up the milk.

Joe travelled to the office.

Joe left the milk.

Joe went to the bathroom.

Where is the milk?



## **Question Answering**

Joe went to the kitchen.

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Joe picked up the milk.

Joe travelled to the office.

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## **Question Answering**

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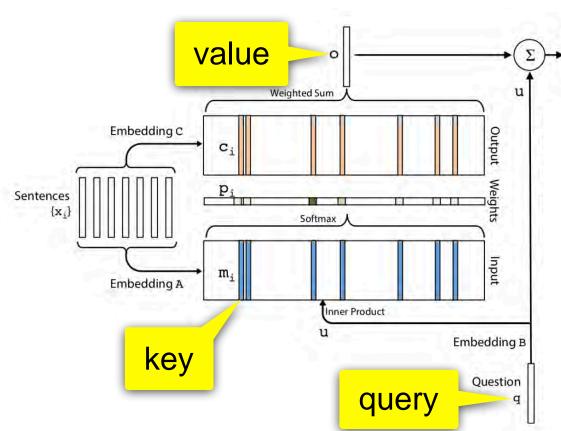
Joe left the milk.

Joe went to the bathroom.

Where is the milk?

- Simple attention selects sentences with 'milk'.
- Attention pooling doesn't help much since it misses intermediate steps,

## Question Answering with Pooling (Sukhbaatar et al., '15)



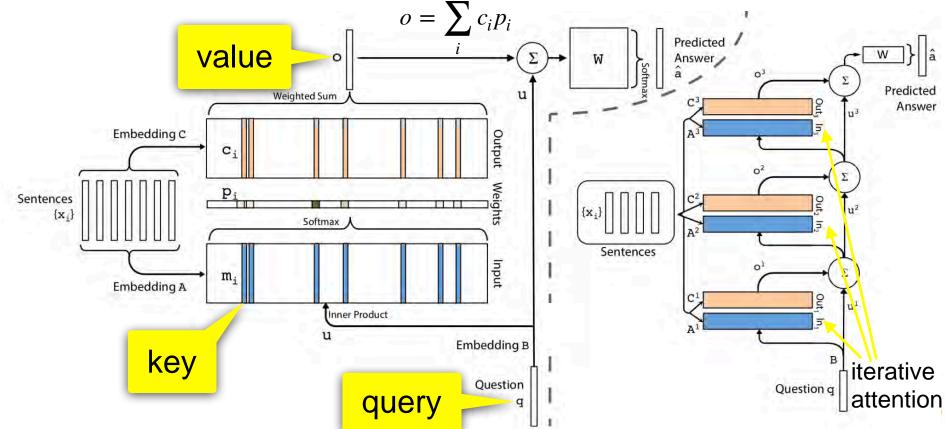
 Simple attention selects sentences with 'milk'.

Predicted

Answer

 Attention pooling doesn't help much since it misses intermediate steps,

## Question Answering with Pooling and Iteration (Sukhbaatar et al., '15)



## Question Answering with Pooling and Iteration (Sukhbaatar et al., '15)

Sam walks into the kitchen. Sam picks up an apple. Sam walks into the bedroom. Sam drops the apple.

Q: Where is the apple?

A. Bedroom

Brian is a lion.
Julius is a lion.
Julius is white.

Bernhard is green.

Q: What color is Brian?

A. White

Mary journeyed to the den.
Mary went back to the kitchen.
John journeyed to the bedroom.
Mary discarded the milk.

Q: Where was the milk before the den?

A. Hallway



**Question Answering with Pooling and Iteration** (Yang et al., '16) feature vectors of different parts of image key & value CNN Query **Question: Answer** Softmax What are sitting CNN/ dogs in the basket on **LSTM** a bicycle? Attention layer 1 Attention layer 2

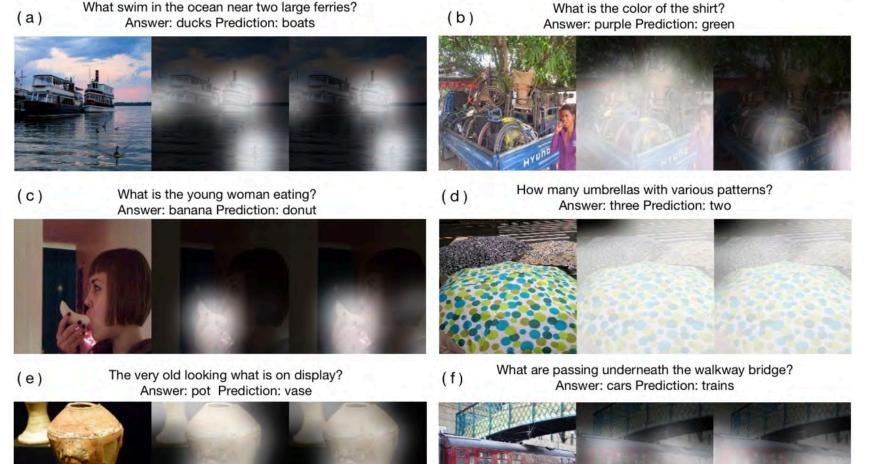
## Question Answering with Pooling and Iteration (Yang et al., '16)

- Encode image via CNN
- Encode text query via LSTM
- Weigh patches according to attention and iterate

- Improving it (2019 tools)
  - Convolutionalize CNN (e.g. ResNet)
  - BERT for query encoding
  - Convolutional weighting (a la SE-Net)



What is the color of the box? What are pulling a man on a wagon down on dirt road? (b) (a) Answer: red Prediction: red Answer: horses Prediction: horses (d) How many people are going up the mountain with walking sticks? What next to the large umbrella attached to a table? (c) Answer: four Prediction: four Answer: trees Prediction: tree What is the color of the horns? What is sitting on the handle bar of a bicycle? (e) (f) Answer: red Prediction: red Answer: bird Prediction: bird aws





## **Iterative Attention Summary**

Pooling

$$f(X) = \rho \left( \sum_{x \in X} \phi(x) \right)$$

Attention pooling

$$f(X) = \rho \left( \sum_{x \in X} \alpha(x, w) \phi(x) \right)$$

Iterative Attention pooling

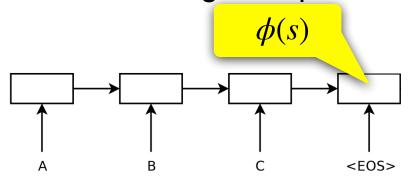
internal state

Repeatedly update internal state 
$$q_{t+1} = \rho \left( \sum_{x \in X} \alpha(x, q_t) \phi(x) \right)$$





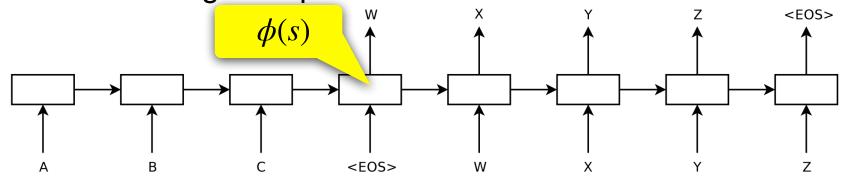
- Encode source sequence s via LSTM to representation  $\phi(s)$
- Decode to target sequence one character at a time



- 'The table is round.' 'Der Tisch ist rund.'
- 'The table is very beautiful with many inlaid patterns, blah blah blah' - 'Error ...'



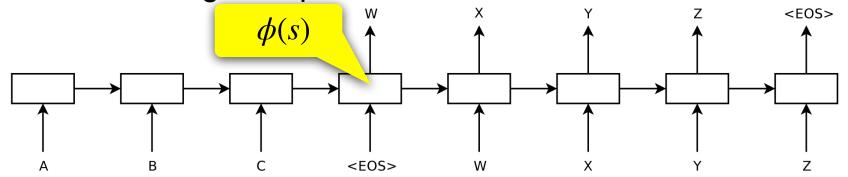
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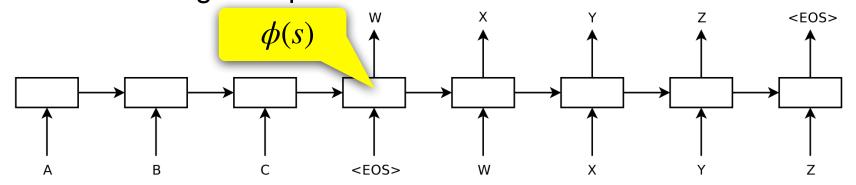


- 'The table is round.' 'Der Tisch ist rund.'
- 'The table is very beautiful with r Republish blah blah blah' 'Error ...' not r

Representation not rich enough



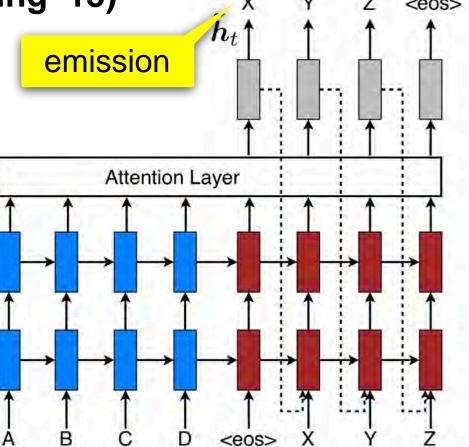
- Encode source sequence s via LSTM to latent representation  $\phi(s)$
- Decode to target sequence one character at a time



- Need memory for long sequences
- Attention to iterate over source (we can look up source at any time after all)

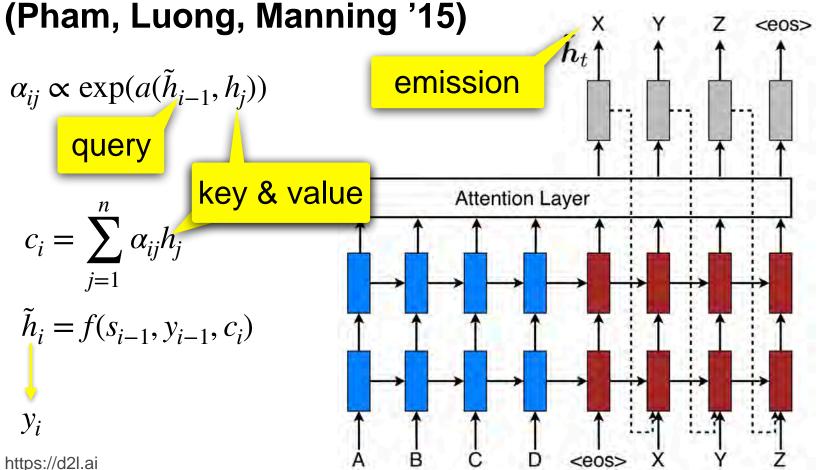


Seq2Seq with attention (Bahdanau, Cho, Bengio '14) (Pham, Luong, Manning '15)





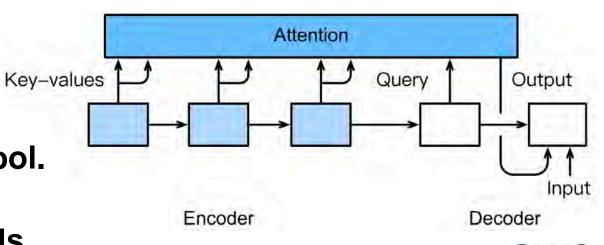
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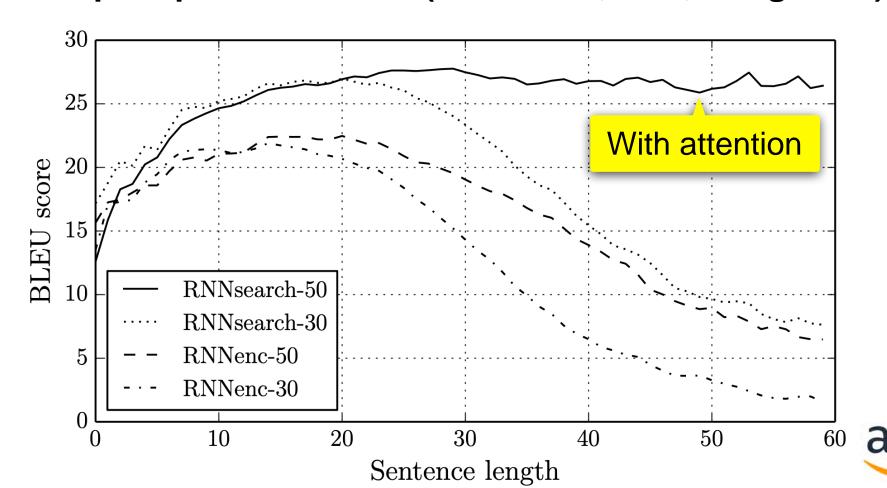


## Seq2Seq with attention (Bahdanau, Cho, Bengio '14) (Pham, Luong, Manning '15)

- Iterative attention model
  - Compute (next) attention weights
  - Aggregate next state
  - Emit next symbol
- Repeat
- Memory networks emit only one symbol.
- NMT with attention emits many symbols.



#### Seq2Seq with attention (Bahdanau, Cho, Bengio '14)



## Variations on a Theme

BWV 988

(PART I)

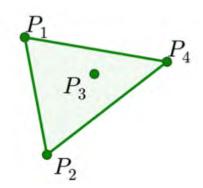
J.S.Bach (1685-1750)

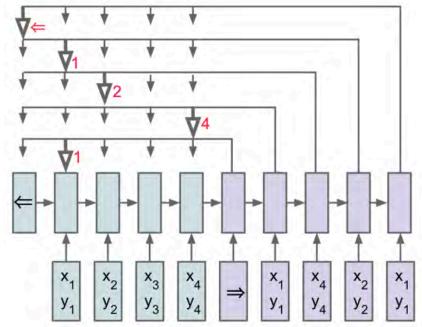




## Pointer networks for finding convex hull (Vinyals et al., '15)

Input 
$$P = \{P_1, ...P_4\}$$
  
Output  $O = \{1,4,2,1\}$ 





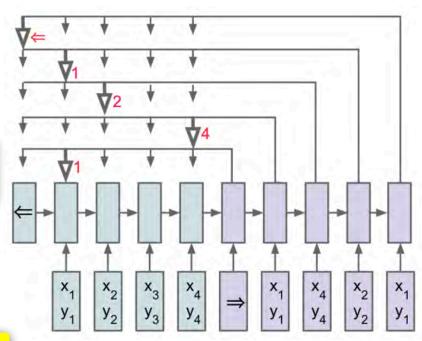


# Pointer networks for finding convex hull (Vinyals et al., '15)

Input 
$$P = \{P_1, \dots P_4\}$$
  
Output  $O = \{1,4,2,1\}$   
key query
$$u_{ij} = v^{\mathsf{T}} \tanh(W[e_j, d_i])$$

$$p(C_i \mid C_{[1:i-1]}, P) = \mathrm{softmax}(u_i)$$

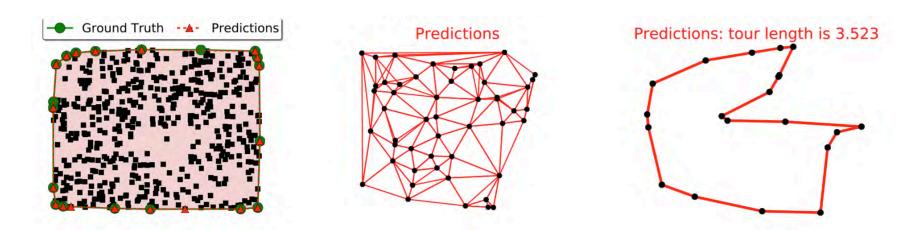
attention weight as prediction distribution



encoder state: e<sub>i</sub> decoder state: d<sub>i</sub>



### Convex hulls, Delaunay triangulation, and TSP

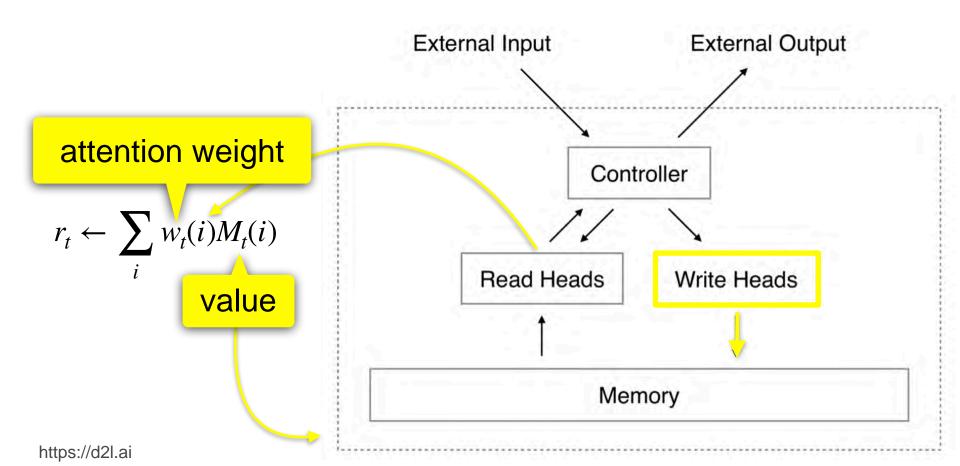


#### 2019 style improvements

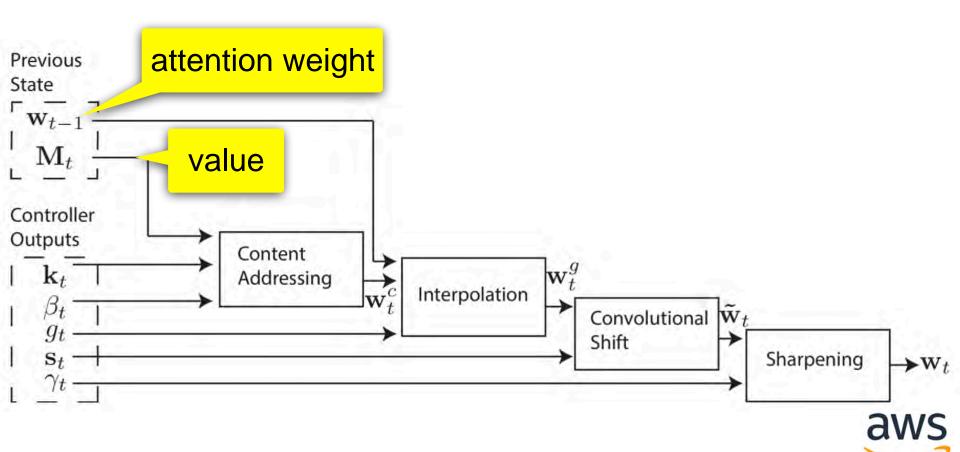
- Transformer to encode inputs (and outputs)
- Graph neural networks for local interactions



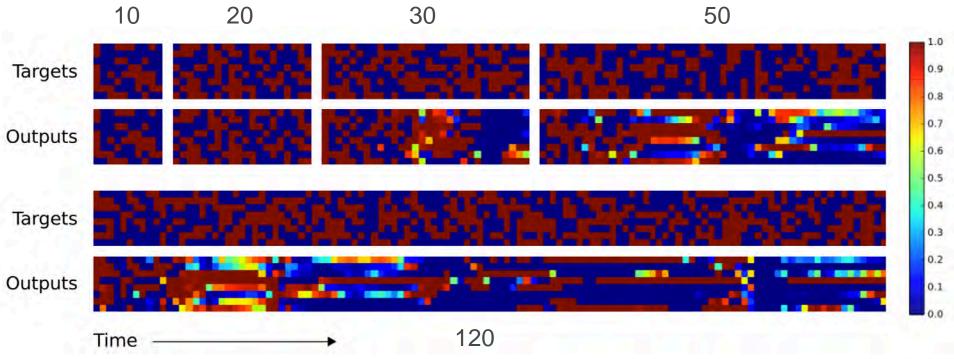
## **Neural Turing Machines (Graves et al., '14)**



### Attention weights can be stateful (values, too)

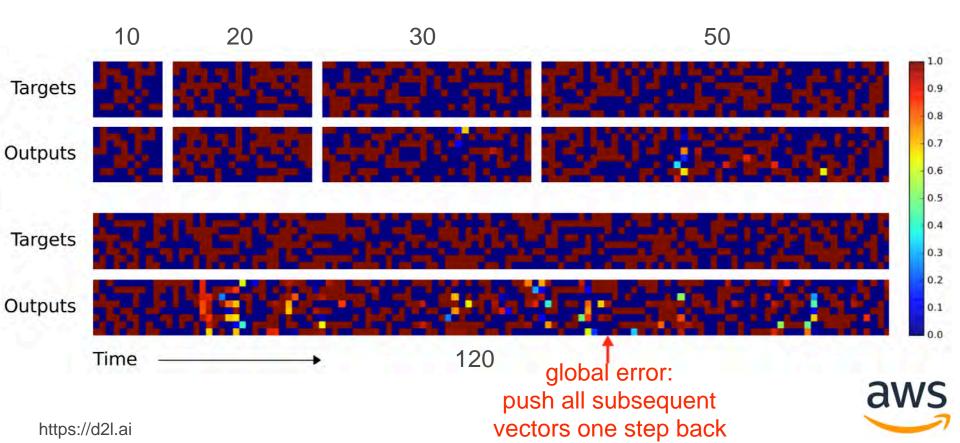


## Copying a sequence (with LSTM)





## Copying a sequence (with NTM)



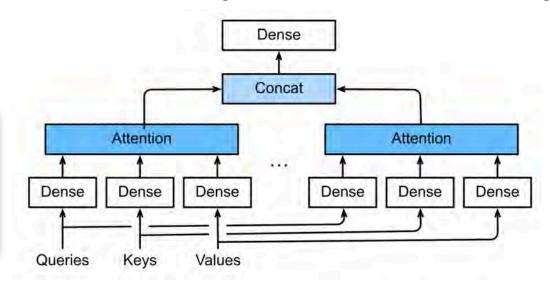


### Multi-head attention (Vaswani et al., '17)



K: key

V: value



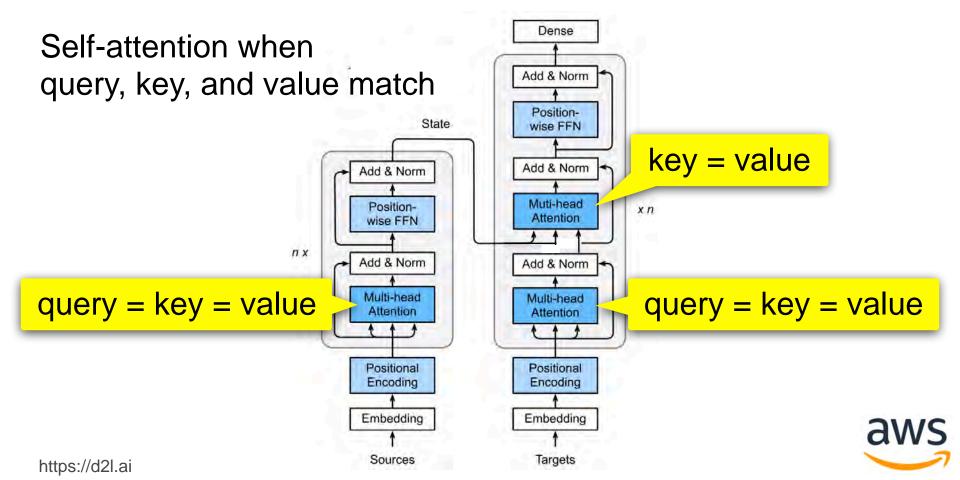
Attention(Q, K, V) = softmax 
$$\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)V$$

 $MultiHead(Q, K, V) = Concat(head_1, ...head_h)W^O$ 

where head<sub>i</sub> = Attention 
$$\left(QW_i^Q, KW_i^K, VW_i^V\right)$$



#### Transformer with multi-head attention (Vaswani et al., '17)



## **Semantic Segmentation**





## **Semantic Segmentation**



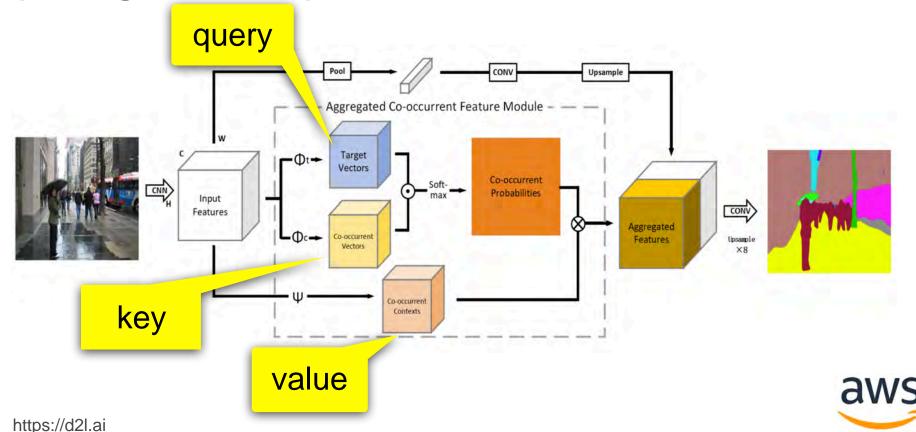


## **Semantic Segmentation**

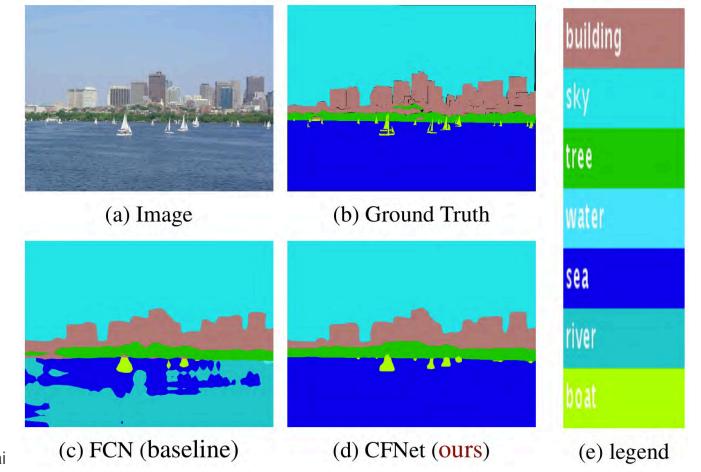




## Multi-head attention for semantic segmentation (Zhang et al., '19)



#### Classify pixels co-occurring with boat as sea rather than water





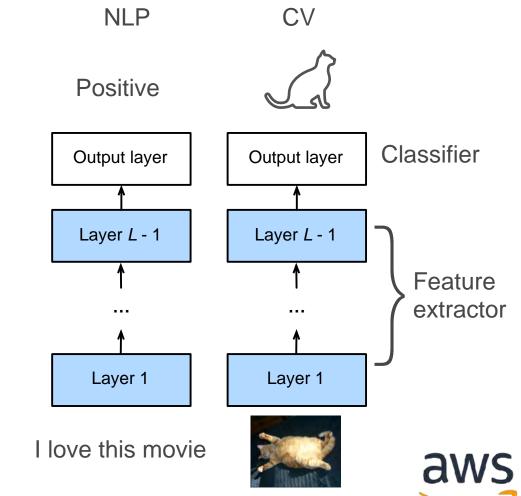
BERT
Bidirectional Encoder
Representations from
Transformers
(Devlin et al, 2018)

SOTA on 11 NLP tasks



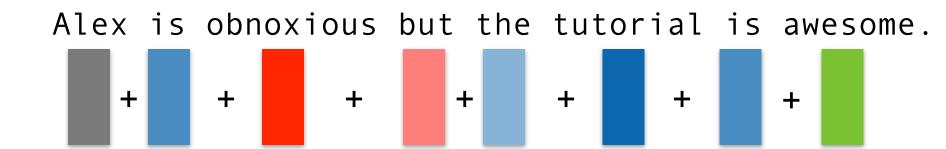
#### **Motivation**

- Fine-tuning for NLP (learning a prior for NLP)
- Pre-trained model captures prior
- Only add one (or more) output layers for new task



### **Transfer Learning with Embeddings**

Pre-trained embeddings for new models (e.g. word2vec)



Word2vec ignores sequential information entirely



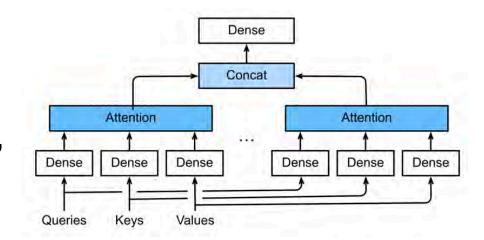
#### GPT uses Transformer Decoder (Radford et al., '18)

- Pre-train language model, then fine-tune on each task
- Trained on full length documents
- 12 blocks, 768 hidden units, 12 heads
- SOTA for 9 NLP tasks
- Language model only looks forward
  - I went to the bank to deposit some money.
  - I went to the bank to sit down.



#### **Architecture**

- (Big) transformer encoder
- Train on large corpus (books, wikipedia) with > 3B words

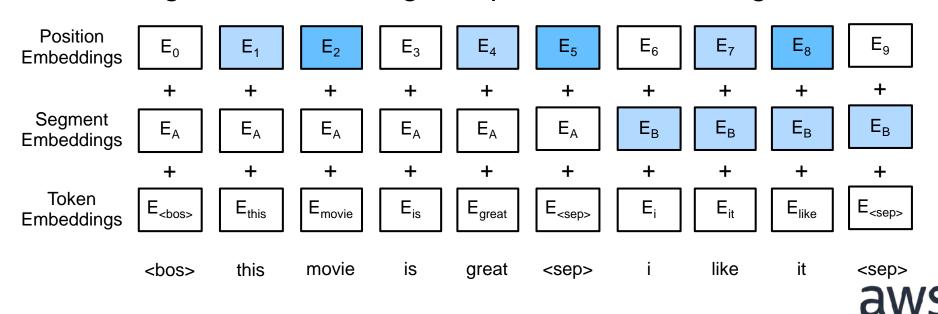


|       | blocks | hidden<br>units | heads | parameters |
|-------|--------|-----------------|-------|------------|
| small | 12     | 768             | 12    | 110M       |
| large | 24     | 1024            | 16    | 340M       |



## **Input Encoding**

- Each example is a pair of sentences
- Add segment embedding and position embedding



#### Task 1 - Masked Language Model

- Estimate  $p(x_i | x_{[1:i-1]}, x_{[i+1:n]})$  rather than  $p(x_i | x_{[1:i-1]})$ 
  - Randomly mask 15% of all tokens and predict token
  - 80% of them replace token with <mask>
  - 10% of them replace with <random token>
  - 10% of them replace with <token>

```
Alex is obnoxious but the tutorial is awesome.

Alex is obnoxious but the <mask> is awesome.

Alex is obnoxious but the <banana> is awesome.

Alex is obnoxious but the <tutorial> is awesome.
```

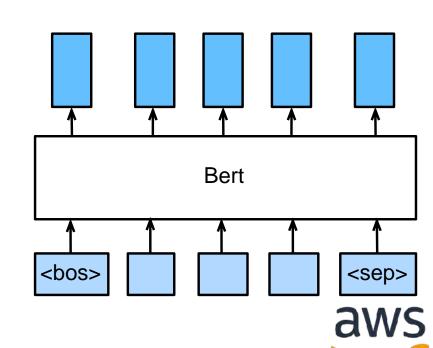
#### **Task 2 - Next Sentence Prediction**

- Predict next sentence
  - 50% of the time, replace it by random sentence
  - Feed the Transformer output into a dense layer to predict if it is a sequential pair.
- Learn logical coherence



# **Using BERT**

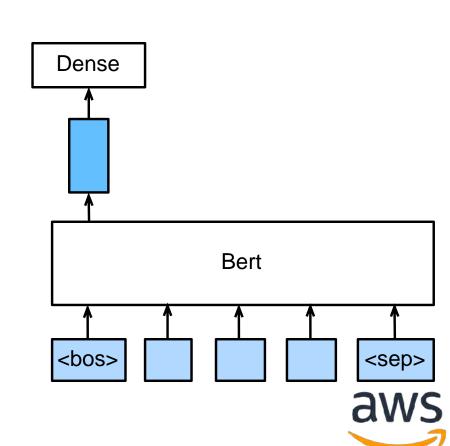
- BERT returns a feature vector for each token.
- Embedding captures context



# **Using BERT - Sentence Classification**

- BERT returns a feature vector for each token.
- Embedding captures context

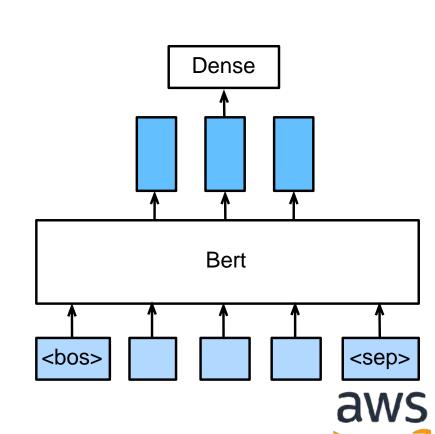
- Feed <bos> embedding into dense layer
- Works for pairs, too



# **Using BERT - Named Entity Recognition**

- BERT returns a feature vector for each token.
- Embedding captures context

- Identify if token is an entity
- Use embedding for each non-special token and classify via dense layer.

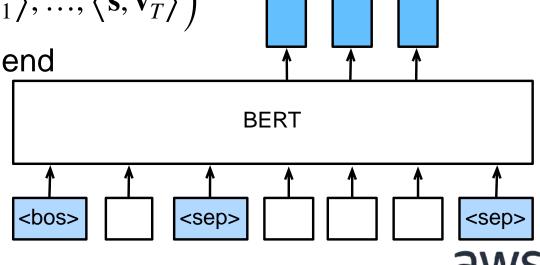


# **Using BERT - Question Answering**

- Given question, find answer as segment of text
- Encode question first, then text

$$p_1, ..., p_T = \text{softmax}\left(\langle \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v}_1 \rangle, ..., \langle \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v}_T \rangle\right)$$

Model sequence start & end probability for answer.



# GPT2 (it gets even bigger, Radford et al., '19)

- Pretrained on 8M webpages (WebText, 40GB)
- Without fine-tuning SOTA on 7 language models

|       | blocks | hidden<br>units | parameters |
|-------|--------|-----------------|------------|
| small | 12     | 768             | 110M       |
| large | 24     | 1024            | 340M       |
| GPT2  | 48     | 1600            | 1.5B       |



## **GPT2** Demo (<u>gluon-nlp.mxnet.io</u>)

```
$python sampling_demo.py --model 117M
Please type in the start of the sentence
>>> average human attention span is even shorter than that of a
goldfish
----- Begin Sample 0 ------
```

average human attention span is even shorter than that of a goldfish strutting its way down the jaws. An estimate by the USA TODAY Science team of 80 human-sized models reveals that a complex jaw becomes a grandiose mitesaur in 100 million years, less than an exothermic Holocene huge sea lion, and towering 500 meters tall.

Similar mitesaur-sized jaws would burden as trillions

Scientists would expect a lost at least four million times as much time in the same distances ocean as other mammals



#### Heavy parameterization in multi-head attention

#### 9. Attention Mechanism > 9.3. Transformer

In practice, we often use  $p_q=p_k=p_v=d_o/h$ . The hyper-parameters for a multi-head attention, feature size  $d_o$ .

```
class MultiHeadAttention(nn.Block):
    def __init (self, units, num heads, dropout, **kwargs): # units = 0 o
       super(MultiHeadAttention, self).__init__(**kwargs)
       assert units % num heads == 0
        self.num_heads = num_heads
        self.attention = d2l.DotProductAttention(dropout)
       self.W_q = nn.Dense(units, use_bias=False, flatten=False)
       self.W k = nn.Dense(units, use bias=False, flatten=False)
       self.W v = nn.Dense(units, use bias=False, flatten=False)
   # query, key, and value shape: (batch_size, num_items, dim)
    # valid length shape is either (bathc size, ) or (batch size, num items)
   def forward(self, query, key, value, valid_length):
       # Project and transpose from (batch size, num items, units) to
       # (batch_size * num_heads, num_items, p), where units = p * num_heads.
       query, key, value = [transpose_qkv(X, self.num_heads) for X in (
            self.W g(query), self.W k(key), self.W v(value))]
```

parameterization of fully connected (dense) layers



#### Quaternion Transformer - 75% fewer parameters (Tay et al., '19)

#### Quaternion is 4D hypercomplex number

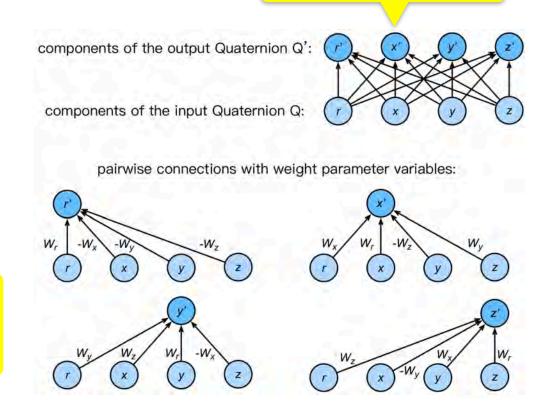
fully connected

$$W = W_r + W_x \mathbf{i} + W_y \mathbf{j} + W_z \mathbf{k}$$
$$Q = r + x \mathbf{i} + y \mathbf{j} + z \mathbf{k}$$

#### Hamilton product

$$egin{bmatrix} W_r & -W_x & -W_y & -W_z \ W_x & W_r & -W_z & W_y \ W_y & W_z & W_r & -W_x \ W_z & -W_y & W_x & W_r \end{bmatrix} egin{bmatrix} r \ x \ y \ z \end{bmatrix}$$

only 4 degrees of freedom (16 for real-valued matrix)



# High computational cost for a long sequence

#### 9. Attention Mechanism > 9.1. Attention Mechanism

Assume  $\mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$  contains m queries and  $\mathbf{K} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  has all n keys. We can compute all mn sco

$$\alpha(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{K}) = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^T/\sqrt{d}.$$

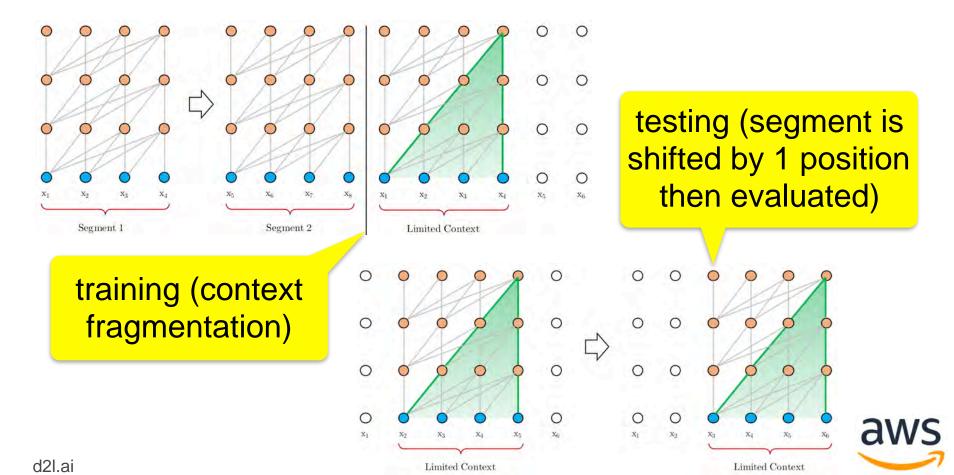
Now let's implement this layer that supports a batch of queries and key-value pairs. In addition, it su attention weights as a regularization.

```
class DotProductAttention(nn.Block): # This class is saved in d2l.
    def init (self, dropout, **kwargs):
        super(DotProductAttention, self).__init__(**kwargs)
        self.dropout = nn.Dropout(dropout)
    # query: (batch size, #queries, d)
    # key: (batch size, #kv pairs, d)
    # value: (batch size, #kv pairs, dim v)
    # valid length; either (batch size, ) or (batch size, xx)
    def forward(self, query, key, value, valid_length=None):
        d = query.shape[-1]
       # set transpose b=True to swap the last two dimensions of key
        scores = nd.batch_dot(query, key, transpose_b=True) / math.sqrt(d)
        attention_weights = self.dropout(masked_softmax(scores, valid_length))
        return nd.batch dot(attention weights, value)
```

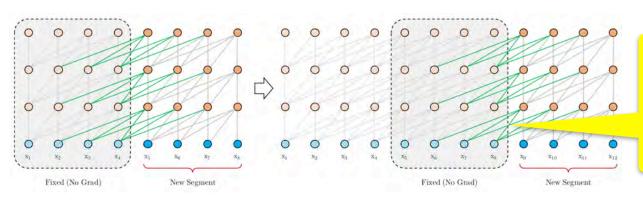
O(n<sup>2</sup>d) in self attention (sequence length n) (hidden size d)



#### Structured attention on long sequences (Al-Rfou et al., '18)

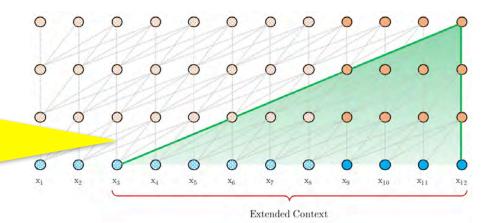


# Transformer-XL with recurrence (Dai et al., '19)



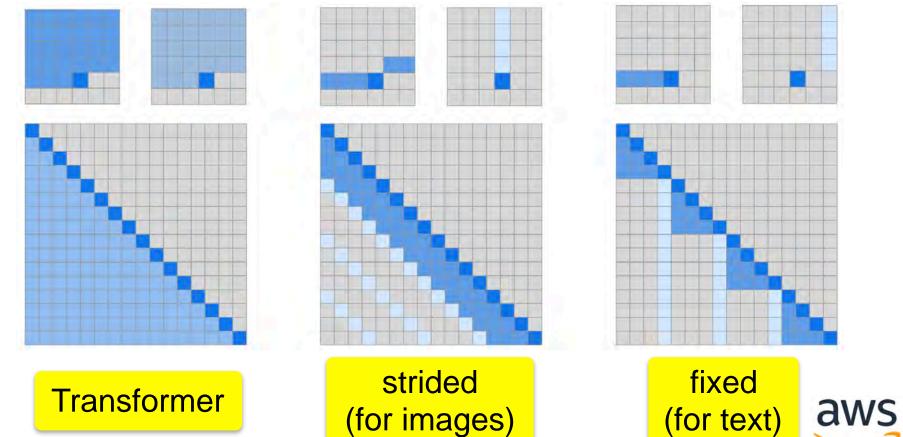
training - cache previous segments 'truncated BPTT'

testing - reuse previous segments (like in RNN)





# Sparse Transformer (Child et al., '19)



d2l.ai

## **Open Questions**

#### Theory

- Function complexity (design complex function via simple attention mechanism)
- Convergence analysis for mechanism vs. parameters (similar to Watson-Nadaraya estimator)
- Regularization

#### Interpretation

- Attention vs. meaning (e.g. Hewitt & Manning, '19; Coenen et al., '19 for BERT)
- Multiple steps of reasoning
   Can we guide it? Structure it? Can we learn from it?



# **Open Questions**

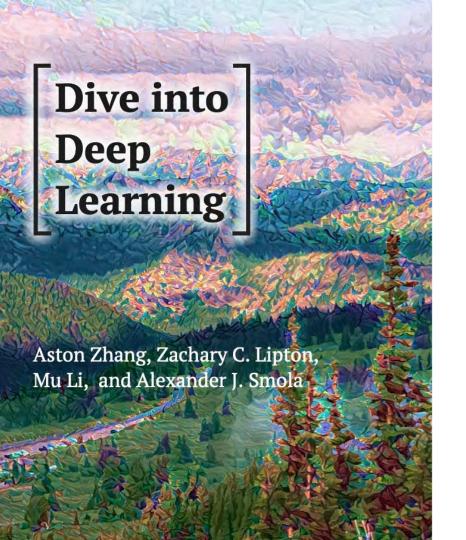
#### Large State Spaces

- Factorizing space (design automatically rather than manually per head)
- Pseudorandom dense (beyond quaternions)
- Learn sparse structure (transfer for attention?)

#### Computation

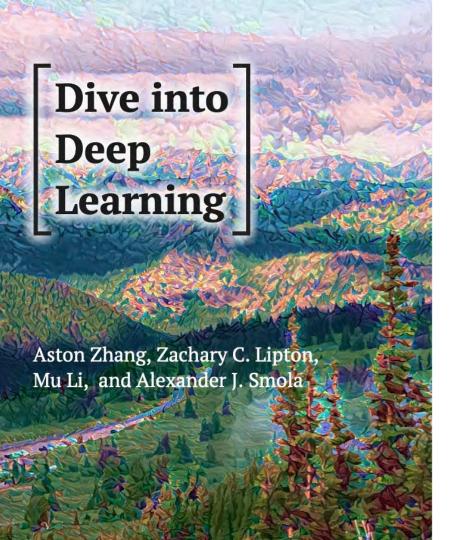
- Avoid computation when no attention
- Memory footprint
- Low Hanging Fruit
   Rewrite papers with attention / Transformers / BERT





# 6. Resources





- Self-contained tutorials
- Statistics, linear algebra, optimization
- Machine learning basics
- 150+ Jupyter Notebooks, fully executed
- GPU and parallel examples
- Ready to use for applications
- Teachable content
- Adopted as a textbook or reference book at Berkeley, CMU, UCLA, UIUC, Gatech, Shanghai Jiao Tong, Zhejiang U, USTC
- Slides, videos from Berkeley class courses.d2l.ai
- Multilingual content EN, ZH (in progress: KO, JA, FR, TR)



# One Code - Multiple Formats & Devices



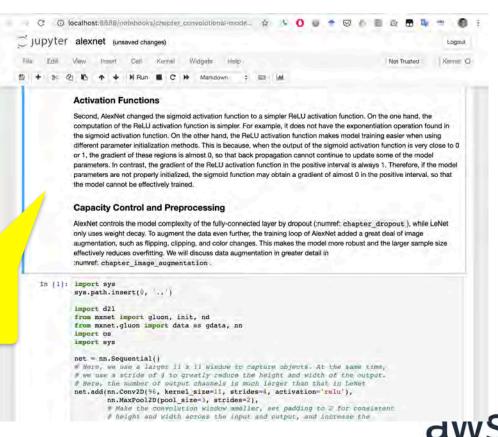
#### 7.1.2.3. Capacity Control and Preprocessing

AlexNet controls the model complexity of the fully-connected layer by dropout (Section 4.6), while LeNet only uses weight decay. To augment the data even further, the training loop of AlexNet added a great deal of image augmentation, such as flipping, clipping, and color changes. This makes the model more robust and the larger sample size effectively reduces overfitting. We will discuss data augmentation in greater detail in Section 12.1.

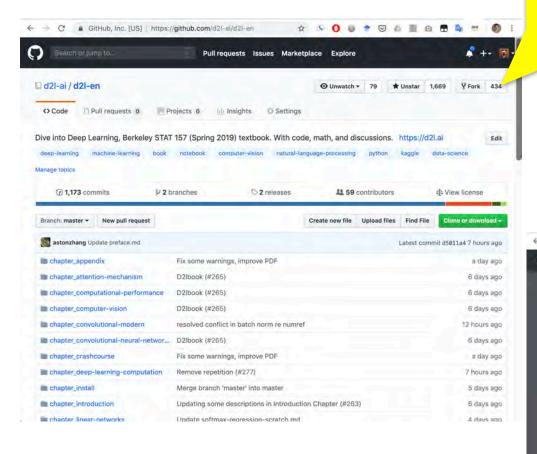
import sys
sys.path.insert(0, '...')
import d2l
from mxnet import gluon, init, nd
from mxnet.gluon import data as gdata, nn
import os
import sys
net = nn.Sequential()

# Mobile friendly

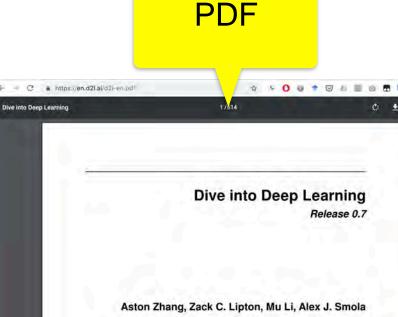
Jupyter Notebook



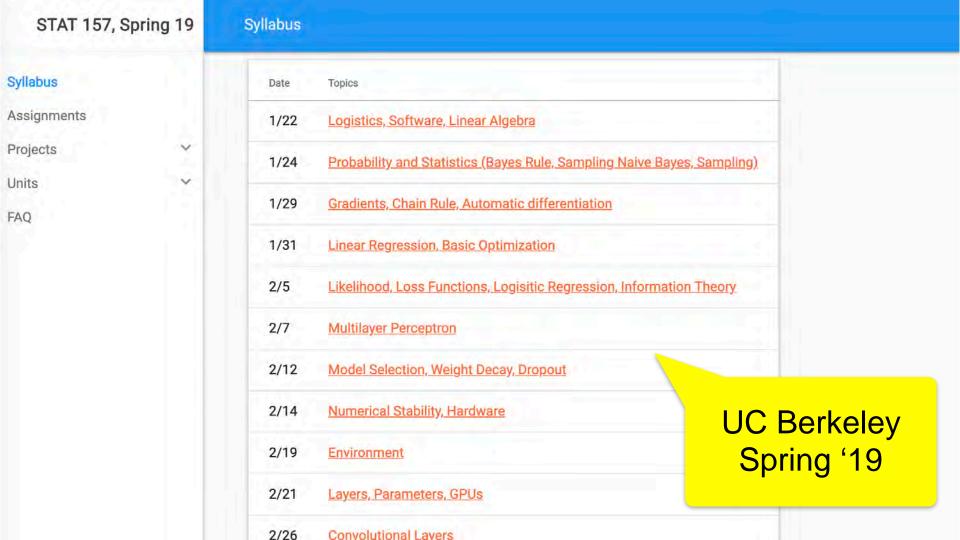
#### **Open Source**



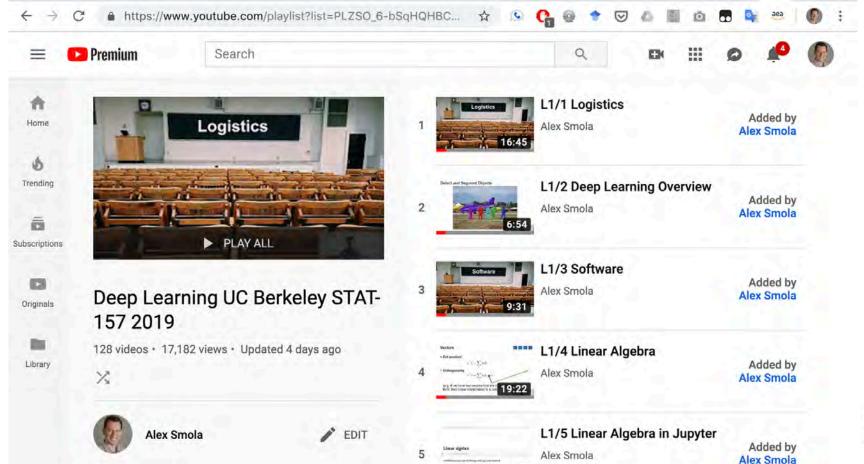
Active Development



https://d2l.ai



# 120+ Videos on YouTube (+20 slide decks)







gluon-cv.mxnet.io Computer Vision

gluon-nlp.mxnet.io Natural Language

gluon-ts.mxnet.io
Time Series Prediction

mxnet.io
Imperative & Symbolic

tvm.ai
Deep Learning
Compiler

Aston Zhang, Zachary C. Lipton, Mu Li, and Alexander J. Smola

dgl.ai
Deep Learning on
Graphs





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