

- modern NLP:

- modern LLM becomes powerful through one simple training task, predict next word from context, repeated billion of times.
- Training data: huge text corpus, model learns grammars, facts, reasoning implicitly
- if a model can predict the next word distribution, it can also generate text by sampling, from that distribution.

- Three Transformer Architecture:

- Decoder only
- encoder only
- Encoder + decoder (seq. to seq.)

- Definition:

input: tokens output: next tokens

- How it works:

- Generates one token at a time
- only looks at previous tokens
- training objective: next token prediction

- why powerful??

left to right generation → prediction perfect for
open ended text generation

- Diagram??

[the] → predict ⇒ [the, cat] → Predict next

- Encoder only models (masked language models)

- Definition:

input: tokens, output: vector representation

- Training:

- mask some tokens: model predicts the masked word using both left and right context
- objective: masked token prediction (MLM)

- examples:

- The capital of France is [mask]
- model [mask] \rightarrow Paris

- properties:

- Bidirectional attention
- excellent for understanding tasks

- used for:

- classification
- semantic search
- sentence similarity

• Definition: - input: tokens - output: tokens

• mechanism:

- ① encoder reads whole input \rightarrow compress it into context
- ② ~~encoder~~ decoder generates output tokens unique encoder representation

• why different from decoder only:

what makes it different than decoder-only models, is that an encoder decoder has a much looser relationship between the input tokens and output tokens.

- It is good for tasks where input and output differ in term of length or even language.

• used for:

machine translation

paraphrasing

summarization

question answering

• example:

encoder input: "i am hungry"

decoder output: "من گرسنه هستم"

architecture:

architecture	input	output	training	strength
Decoder only	Tokens	Generated tokens	next token	Generation, reasoning
encoder only	Tokens	embeddings	masked tokens	understanding, classification
encoder decoder	Tokens	Generated tokens	seq 2 seq	translation, summarization

Encoder (Bidirectional) vs. Decoder (Autoregressive)

