# Lecture 4 Language Modeling

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Introduction to Neural Networks July 12, 2025

#### Makemore

- Autoregressive character-level language model
  - input: a text file of words
  - output: similar words as input
- ► Application to name generation

```
# Input: 32K common names from ssa.gov in 2018
$ python makemore.py -i names.txt -o names

# Output: name-like words
dontell
khylum
camatena
aeriline
najlah
sherrith
```

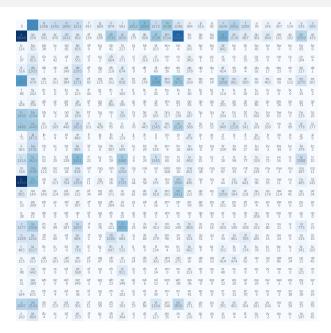
## The Road Ahead...

1 Bigram

2 Multilayer Perceptron

3 Transformer

# Bigram Counts



# Preprocessing

```
import torch
# Training dataset
xs, ys = [], []
for w in words: # list of names
    chs = ['.'] + list(w) + ['.']
    for ch1, ch2 in zip(chs, chs[1:]):
        ix1 = stoi[ch1] # char to index
        ix2 = stoi[ch2]
        xs.append(ix1)
        ys.append(ix2)
xs = torch.tensor(xs)
ys = torch.tensor(ys)
# Weight initialization
g = torch.Generator().manual_seed(2147483647)
W = torch.randn((27, 27), generator=g,
   requires_grad=True)
```

## **Training**

```
import torch.nn.functional as F
# Gradient descent (maximum likelihood estimation)
for k in range (10000):
    # Forward pass
    xenc = F.one_hot(xs, num_classes=27).float() #
        one-hot encoding to avoid ordering
    logits = xenc @ W # softmax classifier
    counts = logits.exp()
    probs = counts / counts.sum(1, keepdims=True)
    loss = -probs[torch.arange(num), ys].log().
       mean() + 0.01*(W**2).mean()
    print(loss.item())
    # Backward pass
    W.grad = None # zero gradients
    loss.backward()
    W.data += -0.1 * W.grad
```

#### Prediction

```
# Sampling
for i in range(5):
    out = []
    ix = 0
    while True:
        xenc = F.one_hot(torch.tensor([ix]),
           num_classes=27).float()
        logits = xenc @ W
        counts = logits.exp()
        p = counts / counts.sum(1, keepdims=True)
        ix = torch.multinomial(p, num_samples=1,
           replacement=True, generator=g).item()
        out.append(itos[ix])
        if ix == 0:
            break
    print('', join(out)) # mor. axx. minaymoryles.
        kondlaisah, anchthizarie.
```

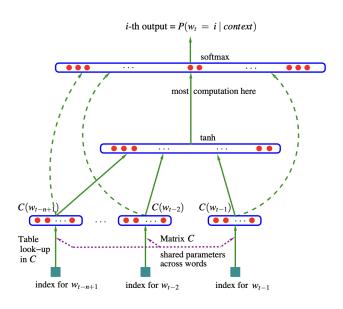
## The Road Ahead...

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## Model Architecture



## PyTorch-Like API

```
class Linear: # torch.nn.Linear
   def __init__(self,fan_in,fan_out,bias=True):
        self.weight = torch.randn((fan_in, fan_out
           ), generator=g) # or Kaiming init
        self.bias = torch.zeros(fan_out) if bias
           else None
   def __call__(self, x):
        self.out = x @ self.weight
        if self.bias is not None:
            self.out += self.bias
        return self.out
   def parameters(self):
        return [self.weight] + ([] if self.bias is
            None else [self.bias])
class Tanh: # torch.nn.Tanh
   def __call__(self, x):
        self.out = torch.tanh(x)
        return self.out
```

# PyTorch-Like API (Cont'd)

```
class BatchNorm1d: # torch.nn.BatchNorm1d
    def __init__(self, dim, eps=1e-5, momentum
       =0.1):
        self.eps = eps
        self.momentum = momentum
        self.training = True
        # Trained with backprop
        self.gamma = torch.ones(dim)
        self.beta = torch.zeros(dim)
        # Trained with running momentum update
        self.running_mean = torch.zeros(dim)
        self.running_var = torch.ones(dim)
    def parameters(self):
        return [self.gamma, self.beta]
    . . .
```

# PyTorch-Like API (Cont'd)

```
class BatchNorm1d: # torch.nn.BatchNorm1d
   def __call__(self, x):
        if self.training:
            xmean = x.mean(0, keepdim=True)
            xvar = x.var(0, keepdim=True)
        else:
            xmean = self.running_mean
            xvar = self.running_var
        xhat = (x - xmean) / torch.sqrt(xvar +
           self.eps) # normalization
        self.out = self.gamma * xhat + self.beta
        if self.training:
            with torch.no_grad():
                self.running_mean = (1 - self.
                    momentum) * self.running_mean
                    + self momentum * xmean
                self.running_var = (1 - self.
                    momentum) * self.running_var +
                     self.momentum * xvar
        return self.out
```

## Preprocessing

```
for w in words:
    context = [0] * block_size
    for ch in w + '.':
        ix = stoi[ch]
        X.append(context)
        Y.append(ix)
        context = context[1:] + [ix] # shift
X = torch.tensor(X)
Y = torch.tensor(Y)
C = torch.randn((vocab_size, n_embd), generator=g)
layers = [
    Linear(n_embd * block_size, n_hidden, bias=
       False), BatchNorm1d(n_hidden), Tanh(),
    Linear(n_hidden, n_hidden, bias=False),
       BatchNorm1d(n_hidden), Tanh(),
    Linear(n_hidden, vocab_size, bias=False),
       BatchNorm1d(vocab_size)]
```

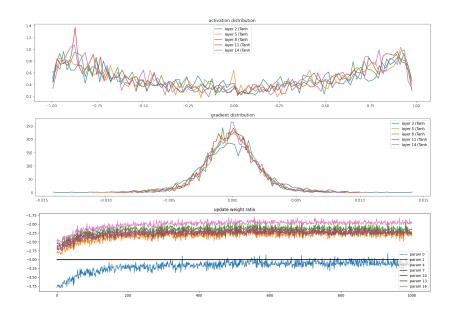
## **Training**

```
for i in range (200000):
    # Forward pass
    ix = torch.randint(0, X.shape[0], (batch_size
       ,)) # minibatch
    emb = C[X[ix]]
    x = emb.view(emb.shape[0], -1) # concatenate
    for layer in layers:
        x = layer(x)
    loss = F.cross_entropy(x, Y[ix])
    # Backward pass
    for layer in layers:
        layer.out.retain_grad() # debug
    for p in parameters:
        p.grad = None
    loss.backward()
    1r = 0.1 if i < 100000 else 0.01
    for p in parameters:
        p.data += -lr * p.grad
```

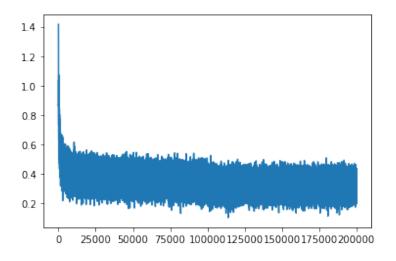
#### Prediction

```
for _ in range(5):
    out = []
    context = [0] * block_size
    while True:
        emb = C[torch.tensor([context])]
        x = emb.view(emb.shape[0], -1)
        for layer in layers:
            x = layer(x)
        probs = F.softmax(x, dim=1)
        ix = torch.multinomial(probs, num_samples
           =1, generator=g).item()
        context = context[1:] + [ix]
        out.append(ix)
        if ix == 0:
           break
    print(''.join(itos[i] for i in out)) # carpah
        . garlileif. jmrix. thty. sacansa.
```

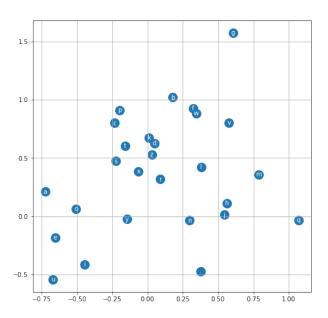
# Diagnoses



# Loss Trace (log10)



# **Character Embeddings**



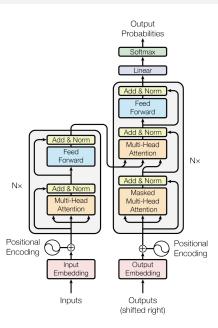
## The Road Ahead...

Bigram

2 Multilayer Perceptron

**3** Transformer

## Model Architecture



#### Attention

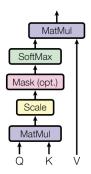
## Scaled dot-product attention

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

- Key concepts
  - query (Q) represents current word, key (K) captures other words, value (V) carries information
  - encoder vs. decoder, self-attention vs. cross-attention
- Why attention mechanism?
  - eliminate need for recurrence or convolution
  - superior performance while maintaining parallelization

# Attention (Cont'd)

#### **Scaled Dot-Product Attention**



# Multi-Head Attention Linear Concat Scaled Dot-Product Attention

## Single-Head Attention

```
class Head(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, head_size):
        super().__init__()
        self.key = nn.Linear(n_embd, head_size,
           bias=False)
        self.query = nn.Linear(n_embd, head_size,
           bias=False)
        self.value = nn.Linear(n_embd, head_size,
           bias=False)
        self.register_buffer('tril', torch.tril(
           torch.ones(block_size, block_size)))
           # not updated during backprop
        self.dropout = nn.Dropout(dropout)
    . . .
```

# Single-Head Attention (Cont'd)

```
class Head(nn.Module):
   def forward(self, x):
       B,T,C = x.shape # (batch, time, channels)
       k = self.kev(x)
       q = self.query(x)
        wei = q @ k.transpose(-2,-1) * k.shape
           [-1]**-0.5 # attention scores
        wei = wei.masked_fill(self.tril[:T, :T] ==
            0, float('-inf')) # decoder
        wei = F.softmax(wei, dim=-1)
        wei = self.dropout(wei)
       v = self.value(x)
        out = wei @ v # (batch, time, head size)
        return out
```

#### Multi-Head Attention

```
class MultiHead(nn.Module):
   def __init__(self, num_heads, head_size):
        super().__init__()
        self.heads = nn.ModuleList([Head(head_size
           ) for _ in range(num_heads)])
        self.proj = nn.Linear(head_size *
           num_heads, n_embd)
        self.dropout = nn.Dropout(dropout)
   def forward(self, x):
        out = torch.cat([h(x) for h in self.heads
           l. dim = -1
        out = self.dropout(self.proj(out))
        return out
```

#### Feed Forward

```
class FeedFoward(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, n_embd):
        super().__init__()
        self.net = nn.Sequential(
            nn.Linear(n_embd, 4 * n_embd),
            nn.ReLU(),
            nn.Linear(4 * n_embd, n_embd),
            nn.Dropout(dropout))

def forward(self, x):
    return self.net(x)
```

## Transformer Block

```
class Block(nn.Module):
   def __init__(self, n_embd, n_head):
        super().__init__()
        head_size = n_embd // n_head
        self.sa = MultiHeadAttention(n_head,
           head size)
        self.ffwd = FeedFoward(n embd)
        self.ln1 = nn.LayerNorm(n_embd)
        self.ln2 = nn.LayerNorm(n_embd)
   def forward(self, x):
       x = x + self.sa(self.ln1(x))
        x = x + self.ffwd(self.ln2(x))
        return x
```

```
class GPT(nn.Module):
   def __init__(self):
        super().__init__()
        self.token_embedding_table = nn.Embedding(
           vocab_size, n_embd)
        self.position_embedding_table = nn.
           Embedding(block_size, n_embd)
        self.blocks = nn.Sequential(*[Block(n_embd
           , n_head=n_head) for _ in range(
           n_layer)])
        self.ln_f = nn.LayerNorm(n_embd)
        self.lm_head = nn.Linear(n_embd,
           vocab_size)
```

# GPT (Cont'd)

```
class GPT(nn.Module):
    def forward(self, idx, targets):
        B, T = idx.shape
        tok_emb = self.token_embedding_table(idx)
        pos_emb = self.position_embedding_table(
           torch.arange(T))
        x = tok_emb + pos_emb
        x = self.blocks(x)
        x = self.ln f(x)
        logits = self.lm_head(x)
        B, T, C = logits.shape
        logits = logits.view(B*T, C)
        targets = targets.view(B*T)
        loss = F.cross_entropy(logits, targets)
        return logits, loss
device = torch.device("mps" if torch.backends.mps.
   is_available() else "cpu")
model = GPT().to(device)
```

### Prediction

```
# wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/karpathy/
   char-rnn/master/data/tinyshakespeare/input.txt
First Citizen:
Before we proceed any further, hear me speak.
A11:
Speak, speak.
# Output: Shakespeare-like text
VALHASTNA:
Nobleman; go, then both groans to us.
AUFTDIUS .
O those prepation!
```

#### **Tokenizer**

- Byte-pair encoding for tokenizing text
  - iteratively replace most frequent pair of consecutive UTF-8 bytes (characters) with single byte
  - reduce vocabulary while being able to encode *any* word
- ightharpoonup Example: "aaabdaaabac" ightarrow "XdXac", X=ZY, Y=ab, Z=aa

```
from minbpe import BasicTokenizer
tokenizer = BasicTokenizer()
text = "aaabdaaabac"
tokenizer.train(text, 256 + 3)  # 256 byte
    tokens + 3 merges
print(tokenizer.encode(text))  # [258, 100,
    258, 97, 99]
print(tokenizer.decode([258, 100, 258, 97,
    99]))  # aaabdaaabac
```

#### References

- github.com/karpathy/makemore An autoregressive character-level language model for making more things
- github.com/karpathy/nanoGPT The simplest, fastest repository for training/finetuning medium-sized GPTs
- github.com/karpathy/minbpe Minimal, clean code for the Byte Pair Encoding (BPE) algorithm commonly used in LLM tokenization
- ▶ Bengio et al. (2003), "A Neural Probabilistic Language Model", Journal of Machine Learning Research
- ► Vaswani et al. (2017), "Attention is All You Need", arXiv:1706.03762