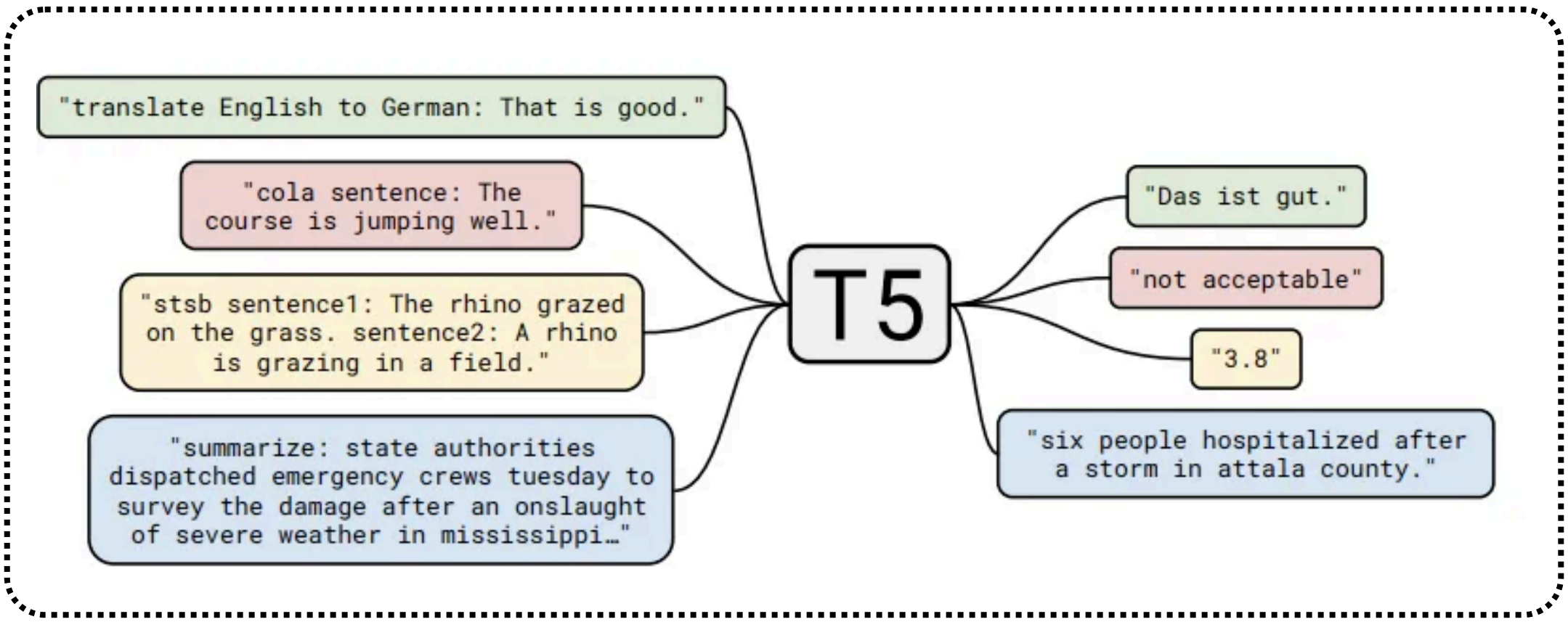
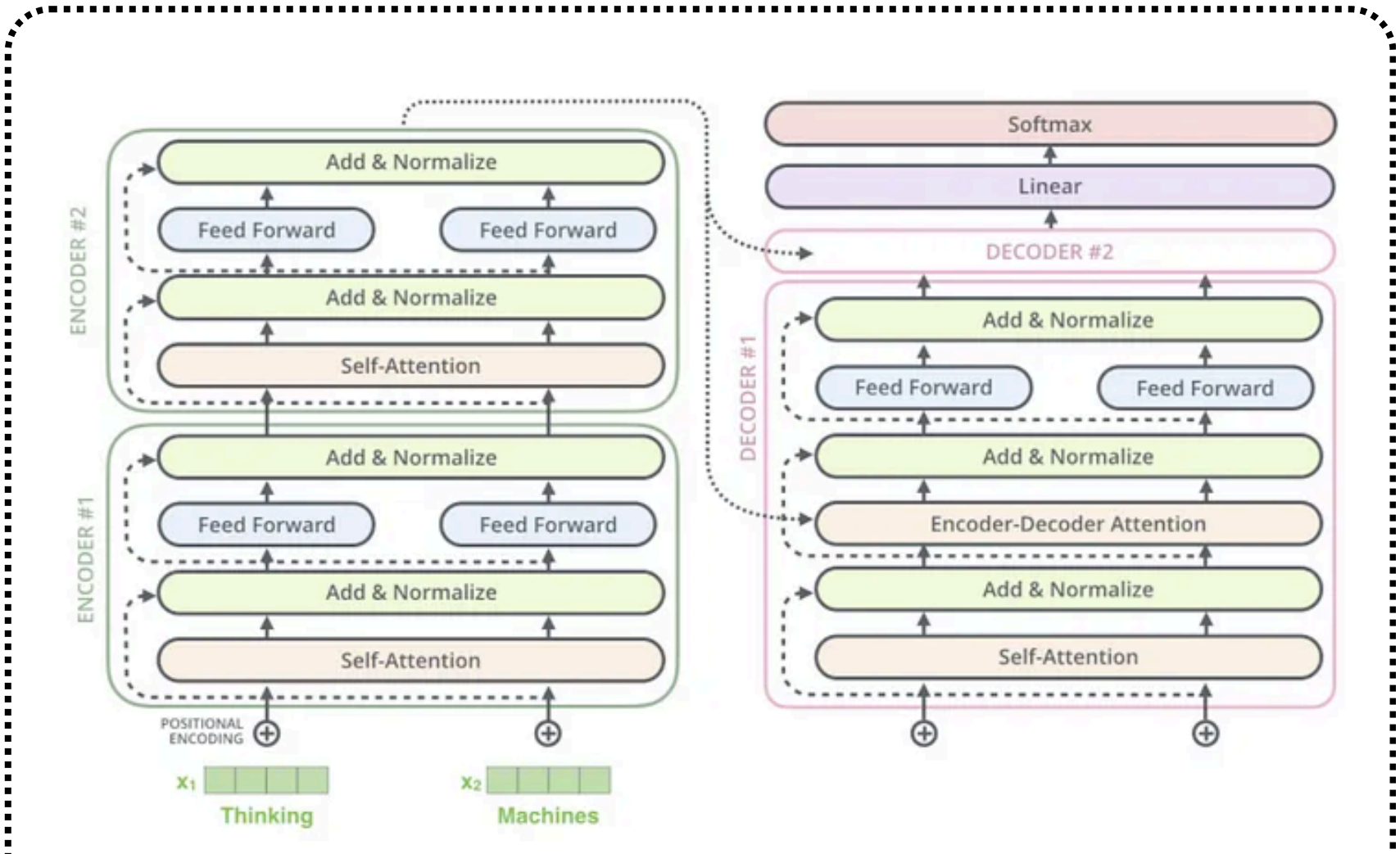
Analytics Vidhya

Mastering LLMs

Day 8: Text-to-Text Transfer Transformer





T5

Model Architecture

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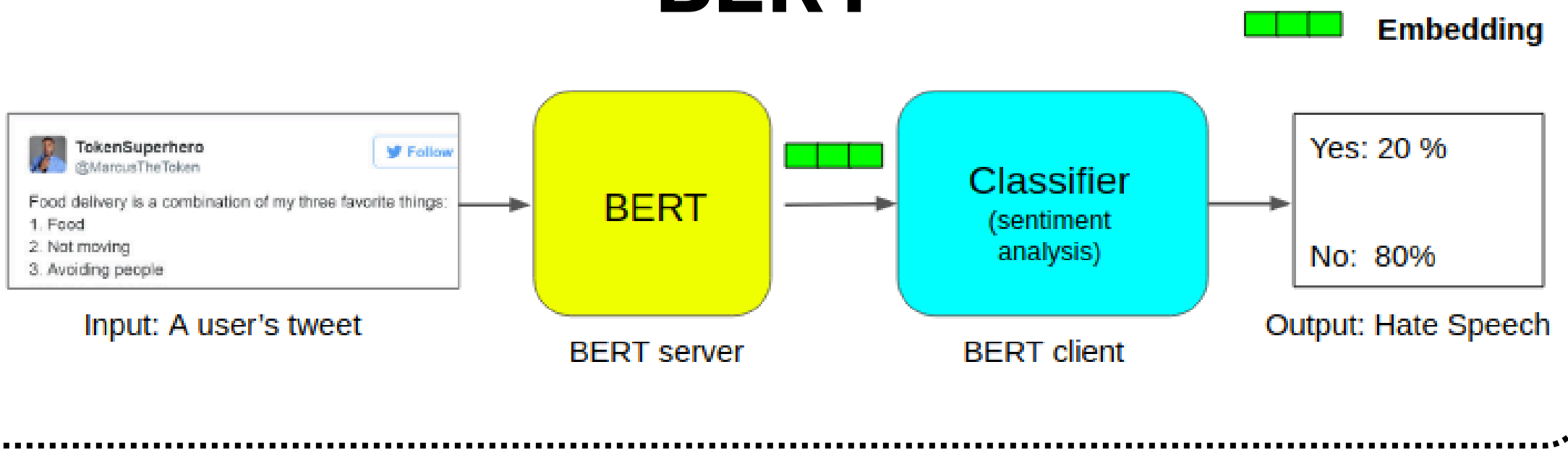
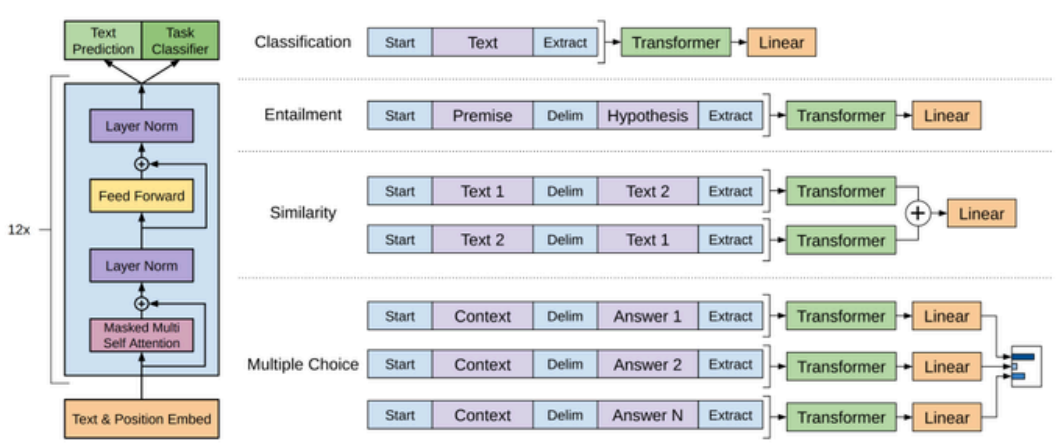
Yesterday, we talked about **GPT**. Today we will cover a Text-to-Text Transfer Transformer

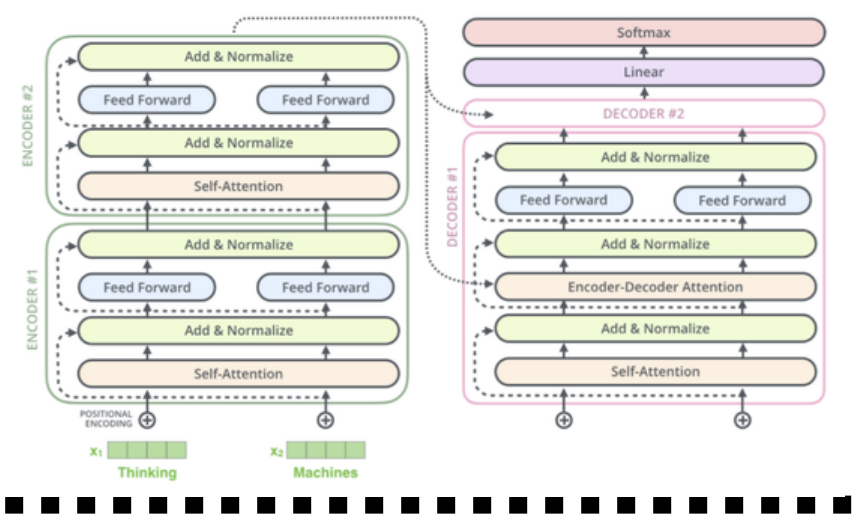
BERT



GPT



T5



ModernBERT

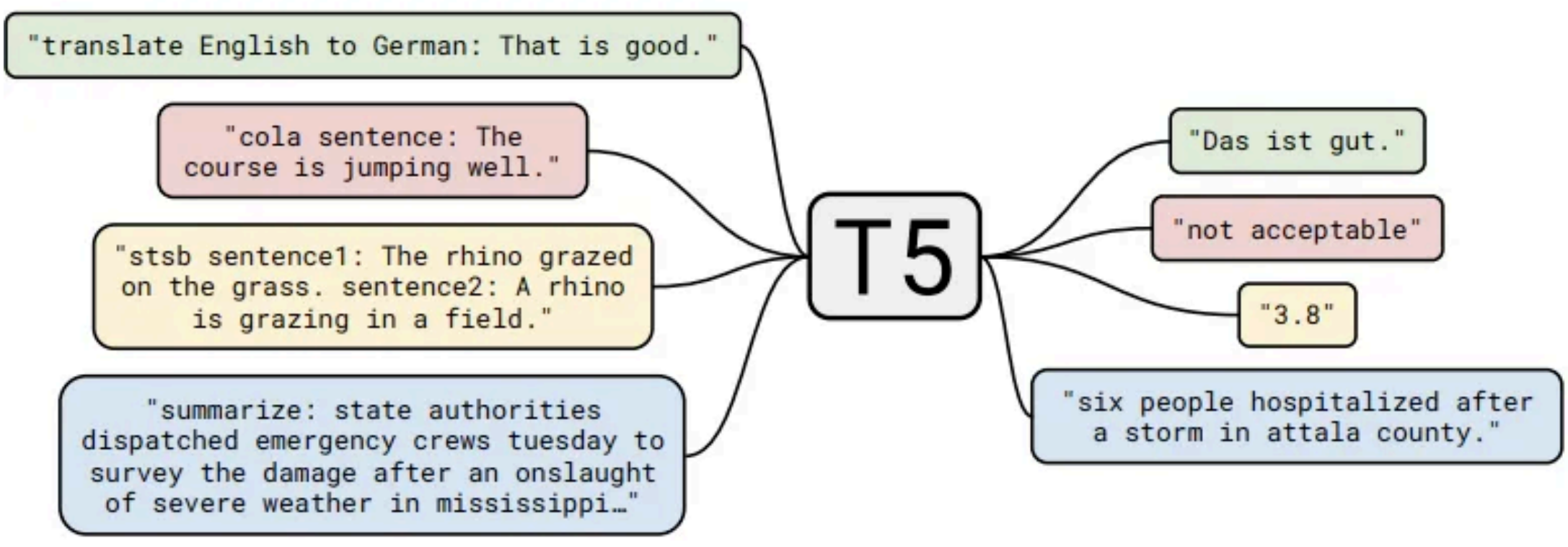
Answer.AI + Lighton +

Let's dive straight into

T5 ➡

What is T5?

- T5, short for **Text-to-Text Transfer Transformer**, is a language model developed by **Google Research**. Introduced in 2019, T5 treats every NLP (Natural Language Processing) problem as a text-to-text problem.
- This means that all inputs and outputs are represented as text strings, making it a unified framework to handle a wide range of NLP tasks such as translation, summarization, classification, and question answering.



Why is T5 Used?

- **Unified Framework**: By framing all tasks in a text-to-text paradigm, T5 eliminates the need for task-specific architectures, making it versatile and flexible.

- **Transfer Learning**: It leverages transfer learning, where the model is pre-trained on massive datasets and then fine-tuned on specific tasks, ensuring high performance.

- **State-of-the-Art Performance**: T5 achieves competitive or superior results across various NLP benchmarks, including the GLUE, SuperGLUE, and SQuAD datasets.

- **Ease of Use**: Representing inputs and outputs as text simplifies pipeline integration and reduces the complexity of adapting models for different tasks.

Is T5 Better than BERT and GPT?

Compared to **BERT**:

- **Versatility**: T5 is more versatile as it handles both generative (e.g., summarization) and discriminative tasks (e.g., classification), while BERT primarily excels at discriminative tasks.

- **Output Structure**: BERT focuses on token classification or sequence classification tasks, while T5 generates textual outputs, making it suitable for a broader range of tasks.

- **Performance**: T5 often outperforms BERT on generative and sequence-to-sequence tasks, although BERT may still be more efficient for simpler classification problems.

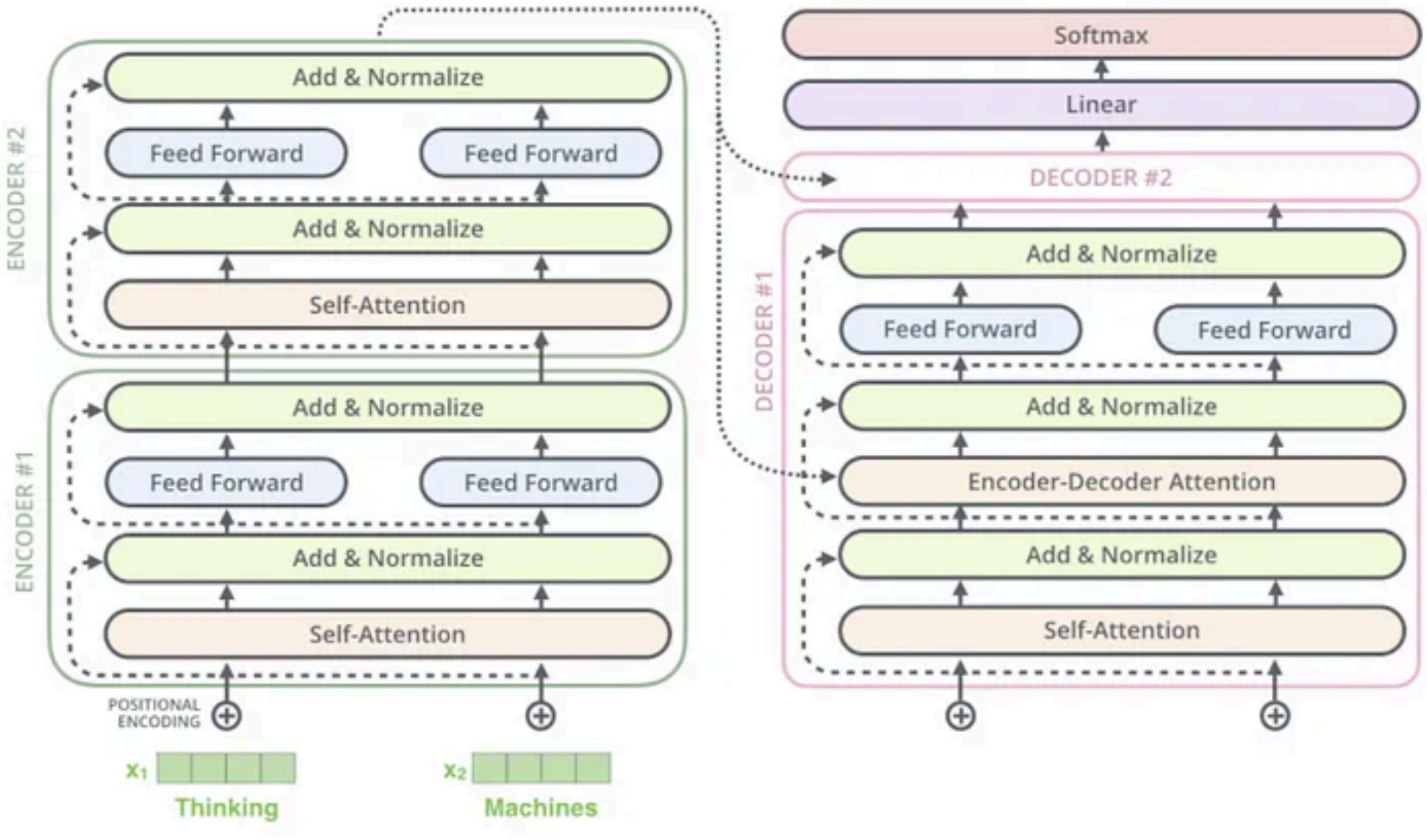
Compared to **GPT**:

- **Task Framing**: While GPT (e.g., GPT-3) focuses on autoregressive generation, T5 frames problems within the text-to-text paradigm, enabling better alignment for structured tasks like translation or summarization.

- **Pretraining Objectives**: T5 uses a Span-Corruption pretraining objective (a variant of masked language modeling) compared to GPT's left-to-right autoregressive modeling. This leads to better bidirectional context understanding in T5.

- **Efficiency**: T5 models are more parameter-efficient for specific tasks, although GPT models may still shine in few-shot or zero-shot scenarios due to their scale and pretraining strategy.

The Architecture of T5



Transformer-Based

- T5 is built on the Transformer architecture, consisting of an encoder-decoder structure:
    - **Encoder**: Processes the input text and generates hidden representations.
    - **Decoder**: Generates the output text based on encoder representations and previously generated tokens.

Key Features

- **Layer Normalization**: Applied before each sub-layer (Pre-LN Transformer).
- **Relative Positional Encoding**: Improves efficiency in handling long sequences.
- **Efficient Feedforward Layers**: Standard Transformer feedforward layers are used for scalability.

Variants

- T5 comes in multiple sizes to balance performance and computational cost:
  - Small, Base, Large, 3B, and 11B (11 billion parameters being the largest variant).

Training Dataset

- T5 is pretrained on the Colossal Clean Crawled Corpus (C4), a large and diverse dataset curated from the web.

Training Objective

- Span-corruption objective ensures the model learns bidirectional context and remains efficient for both generative and discriminative tasks.

Analytics Vidhya

Stay Tuned for **Day 9** of

Mastering LLMs