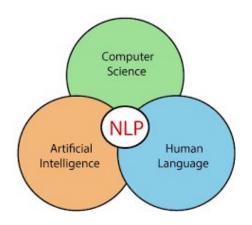
# Natural Language Processing and Transformer

# **Learning Objectives**

- Natural Language Processing
  - What is NLP?
  - Examples of NLP
  - Long distance dependency
- Transformer
  - Encoder-decoder structure
  - Self-attention
  - Positional embedding

# Part I: Natural Language Processing



NLP concerns with developing algorithms to understand text and spoken words in much the same way human beings can.

- Verbal understanding
- Textual understanding

Example 1: language translation



Example 2: next word prediction

Neural network is a powerful tool for designing and analyzing complex systems. Thanks to a paradigm shift over the past two decades, the notion of designing and optimizing complex adaptive systems with this tool has greatly advanced our understanding of their operation, enabling novel scientific studies and applications. This background, combined with a strong desire to support and share the achievements of the community, has generated an ambitious and fascinating open source project.

https://app.inferkit.com/demo

Long distance dependency between words

"The animal didn't cross the street because it was too tired"

## Part II: Transformer



#### Transformer is the state-of-the-art AI model for NLP modeling

- Encoder--decoder structure
  - Encoder: project words to high dimensional representations/embeddings
  - Decoder: decode high dimensional representations to target words
- Self-attention
  - Attention: learn long distance dependency
  - Multi-headed attention: learn multiple dependency
- Positional encoding
  - Sin/cos functions: represent position of words

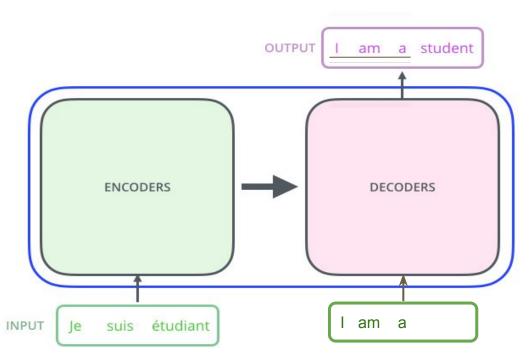
#### **Encoder**

Map words to embeddings

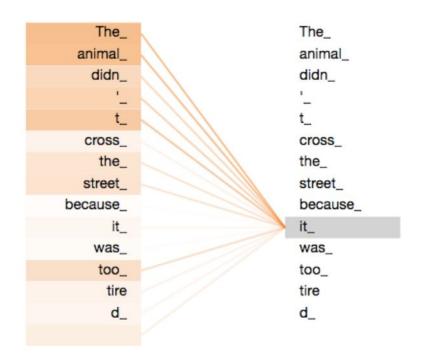
#### Decoder

Use embeddings to predict words in target language

Decoder use both encoder outputs and words already predicted to predict the next word

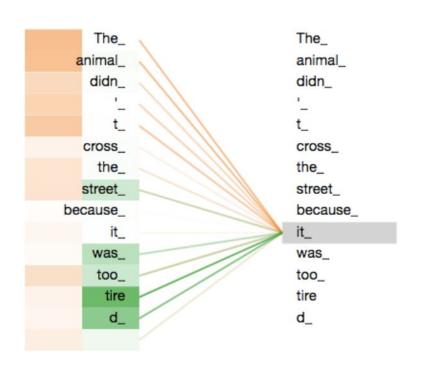


Self-attention

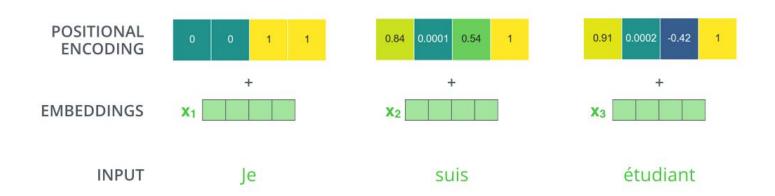


Self-attention

with multi-heads



- Positional encoding -- order of words matters!
  - Encoding positions by using sin/cos functions with various freq.



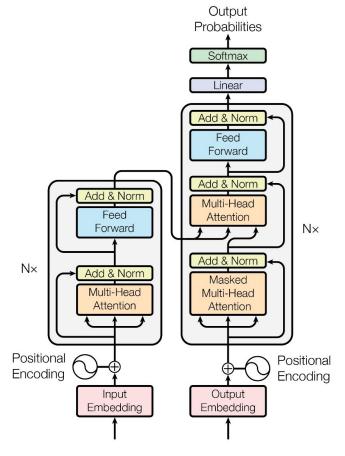


Image source: https://arxiv.org/pdf/1706.03762.pdf

## **Useful Resources**

- 1. <u>Attention Is All You Need</u> (transformer original paper)
- 2. <u>The Illustrated Transformer</u> (nice visualizations!)
- 3. Stanford CS224n
- 4. <u>The Annotated Transformer</u> (Explanation with codes)