

RNN Attention vs. Self-Attention

Aspect	RNN Attention	Self-Attention
 Source	Query from decoder Keys/Values encoder from	All from the same sequence
 Processing	Sequential processing	Parallel processing
 Relationships	Limited to current step	Captures relationships between all positions
 Complexity	$O(n)$ per step	$O(n^2)$ total

Key Advantage

Self-attention enables parallelization and better long-range dependency modeling