

# Positional Encoding Visualization

## Frequency Patterns Across Dimensions



### Unique Patterns

Each position has **unique encoding pattern**



### Smooth Gradient

Allows model to learn **relative positions**



### Multiple Frequencies

**Different frequencies** for different dimensions



### Magnitude Balance

Magnitude **comparable** to embedding values



### Low Frequencies

Capture **global position**  
Overall sequence location



### High Frequencies

Capture **local position**  
Fine-grained distinctions

**Element-wise addition** to token embeddings | Preserves both semantic and positional information



## Calculation Example (d\_model=4, max\_len=8)

### Formula

$$PE_{(pos, 2i)} = \sin(pos / 10000^{2i/d\_model})$$

$$PE_{(pos, 2i+1)} = \cos(pos / 10000^{2i/d\_model})$$



Token Embeddings



Positional Encoding



Final Input

X (8×4)					PE (8×4)					X + PE (8×4)			
0.5	-0.3	0.8	-0.2	+	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	=	0.50	0.70	0.80	0.80
-0.1	0.7	0.2	0.4		0.84	0.54	0.01	1.00		0.74	1.24	0.21	1.40
0.9	-0.5	-0.3	0.6		0.91	-0.42	0.02	1.00		1.81	-0.92	-0.28	1.60
0.3	0.4	-0.7	0.1		0.14	-0.99	0.03	1.00		0.44	-0.59	-0.67	1.10
-0.6	0.2	0.5	-0.4		-0.76	-0.66	0.04	1.00		-1.36	-0.46	0.54	0.60
0.7	-0.8	0.1	0.3		-0.96	0.28	0.05	1.00		-0.26	-0.52	0.15	1.30
-0.2	0.6	-0.4	0.8		-0.28	0.96	0.06	1.00		-0.48	1.56	-0.34	1.80
0.4	-0.1	0.9	-0.5		0.66	0.75	0.07	0.99		1.06	0.65	0.97	0.49



**Key Insight:** Each position gets a unique sinusoidal pattern. Lower dimensions (0,1) use **high frequency** for fine-grained position, while higher dimensions (2,3) use **low frequency** for global position.