

# Deep Learning

## 16 Self-Attention & Transformers

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# Motivation

- ① Why does one need to think beyond LSTMs?

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- ② Sequential processing doesn't allow parallelization
  - Path length =  $\mathcal{O}(n)$
  - RNNs need at most  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  sequential computations to access each element

# Motivation

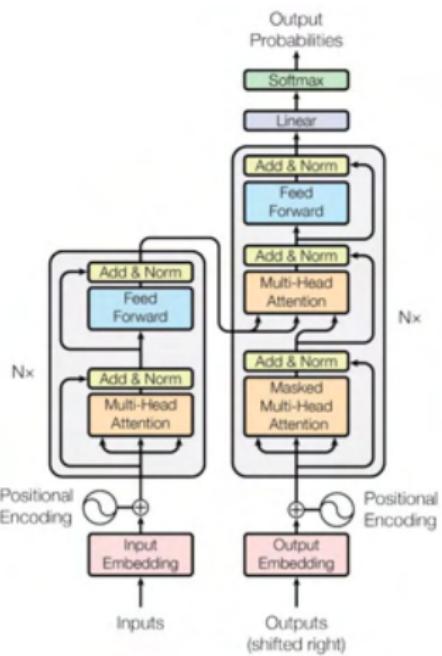
- ① Despite the LSTM/GRU, RNNs need attention to deal with long-range dependencies

# Motivation

- ① Despite the LSTM/GRU, RNNs need attention to deal with long-range dependencies
- ② Since attention enables accesses to any state, do we need RNNs?

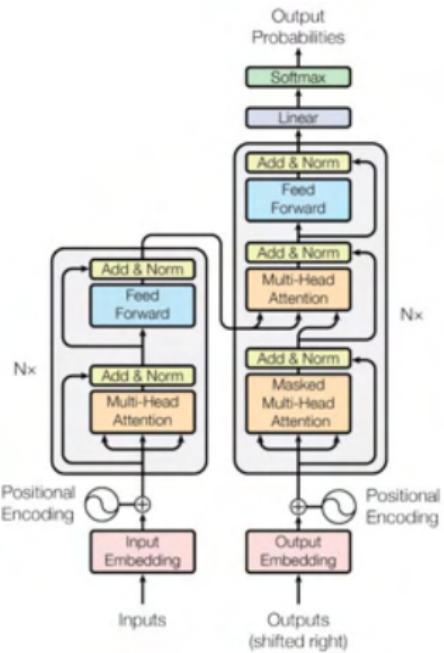
# Transformers

- ① Introduced by Vaswani et al.  
NeurIPS 2017



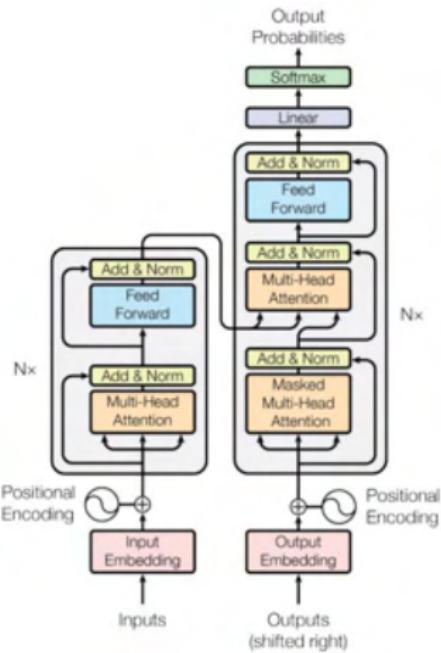
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- ① Introduced by Vaswani et al.  
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- ② Sequence to sequence modelling without RNNs
- ③ Transformer model is built on self-attention (no recurrent architectures!)



# Transformers

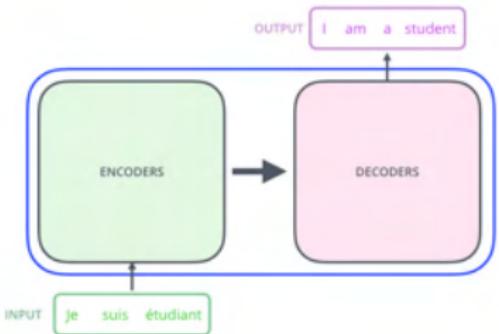


Credits: Jay Alammar

# Transformers

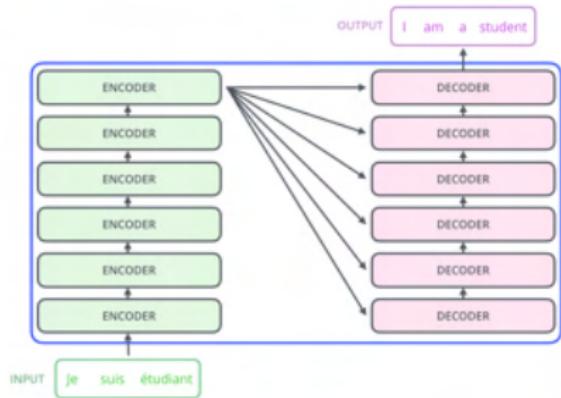


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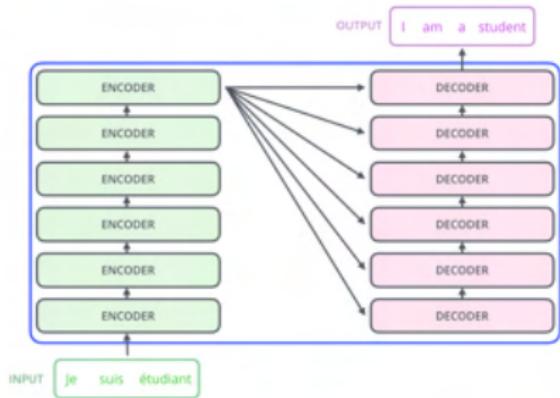
# Transformers



- ① Encoding module has a stack of encoders

Credits: Jay Alammar

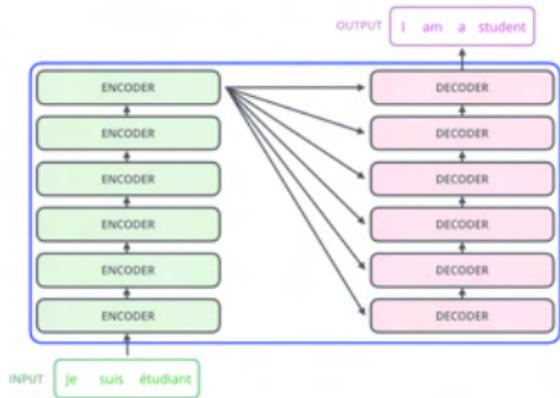
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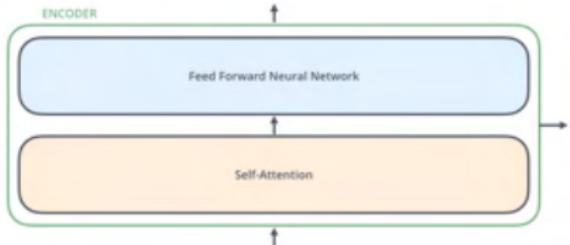


- ① Encoding module has a stack of encoders
- ② Same structure different parameters
- ③ Similarly the decoding module (same number of components in the stack as encoder)

Credits: Jay Alammar

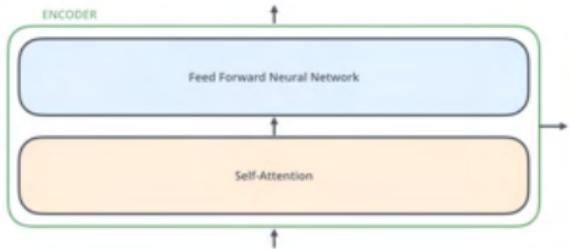
# Transformers

- ① Encoder first has a self-attention layer



Credits: [Jay Alammar](#)

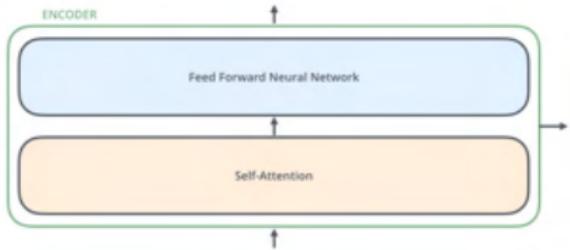
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- ① Encoder first has a self-attention layer
- ② Looks at the other words while encoding a specific word

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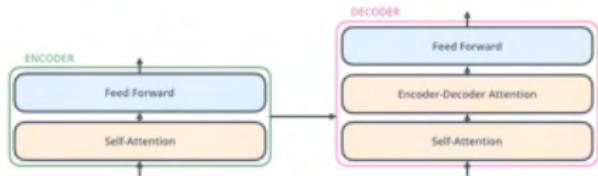
# Transformers



- ① Encoder first has a self-attention layer
- ② Looks at the other words while encoding a specific word
- ③ Next a (same) feed-forward NN is applied at all positions

Credits: Jay Alammar

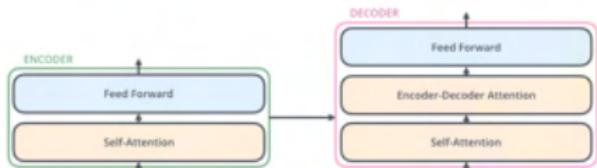
# Transformers



- ① Decoder also has both the layers

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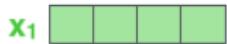


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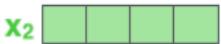
- ① Decoder also has both the layers
- ② But, in the middle it has an encoder-decoder attention layer

# Transformers- Encoding

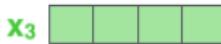
- ① Start with turning each word into a vector at the bottom-most encoder



Je



suis

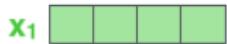


étudiant

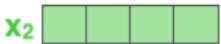
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# Transformers-Encoding

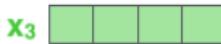
- ① Start with turning each word into a vector at the bottom-most encoder
- ② Others receive a list of vectors from the encoder immediately below



**Je**



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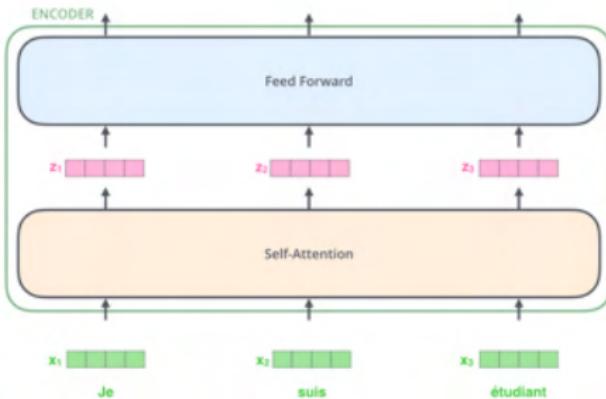


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# Transformers- Encoding

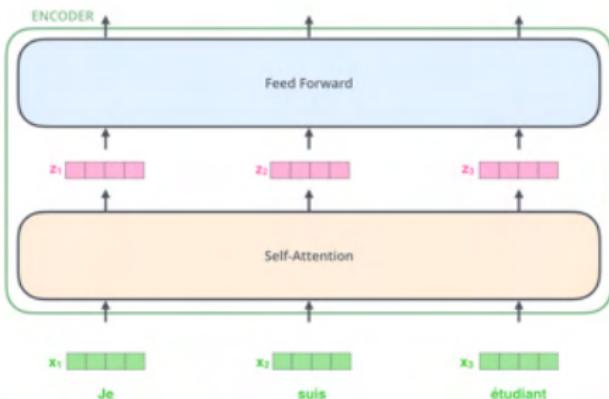
- ① Each word flows through the two layers of the encoder through its own path



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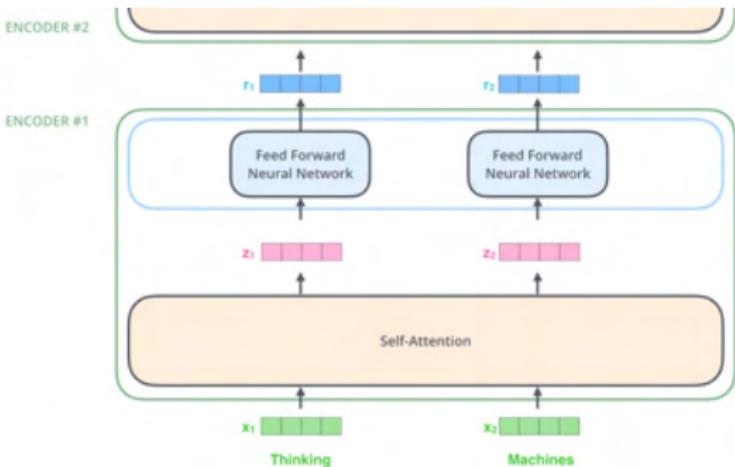
# Transformers- Encoding

- ① Each word flows through the two layers of the encoder through its own path
- ② Self-attention layer has dependencies among them, however, the path length is  $\mathcal{O}(1)$



Credits: Jay Alammar

# Transformers- Encoding



Credits: Jay Alammar

# Self-Attention

- ① The animal didn't cross the street because it was too tired
- ② The animal didn't cross the street because it was too wide

# Self-Attention

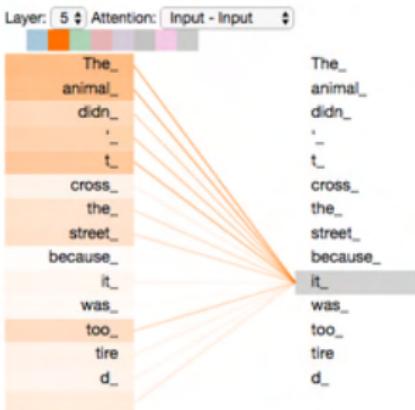
- ① The animal didn't cross the street because it was too tired
- ② The animal didn't cross the street because it was too wide
- ③ What does 'it' refer to?

# Self-Attention

- ① The animal didn't cross the street because it was too tired
- ② The animal didn't cross the street because it was too wide
- ③ What does 'it' refer to?
- ④ Easy for humans, but not so much for the traditional Seq2Seq models

# Self-Attention

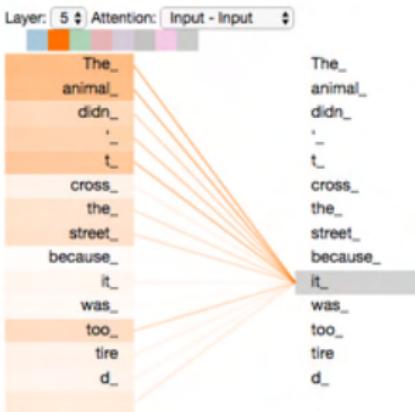
- ① As the model processes each word, self-attention attends other positions in the i/p sequence to encode better



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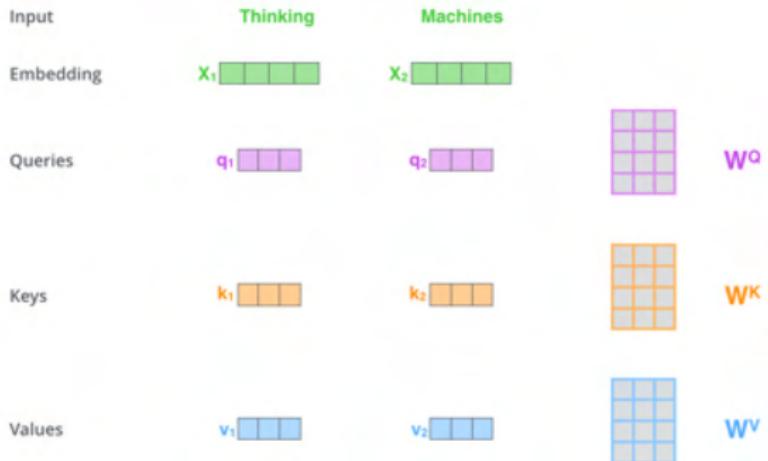
# Self-Attention

- ① As the model processes each word, self-attention attends other positions in the i/p sequence to encode better
- ② Unlike RNNs, here we don't keep hidden states from previous positions!



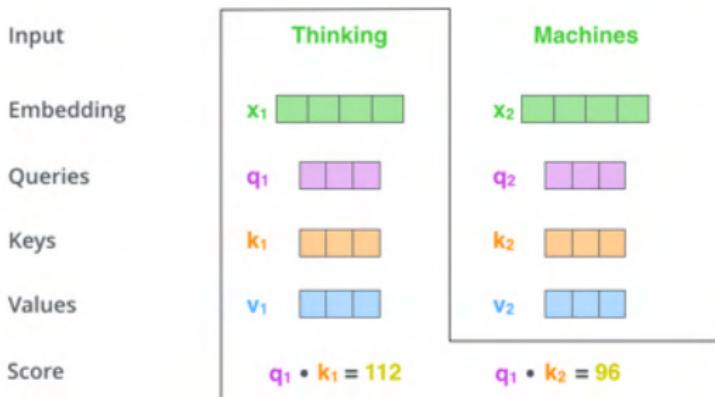
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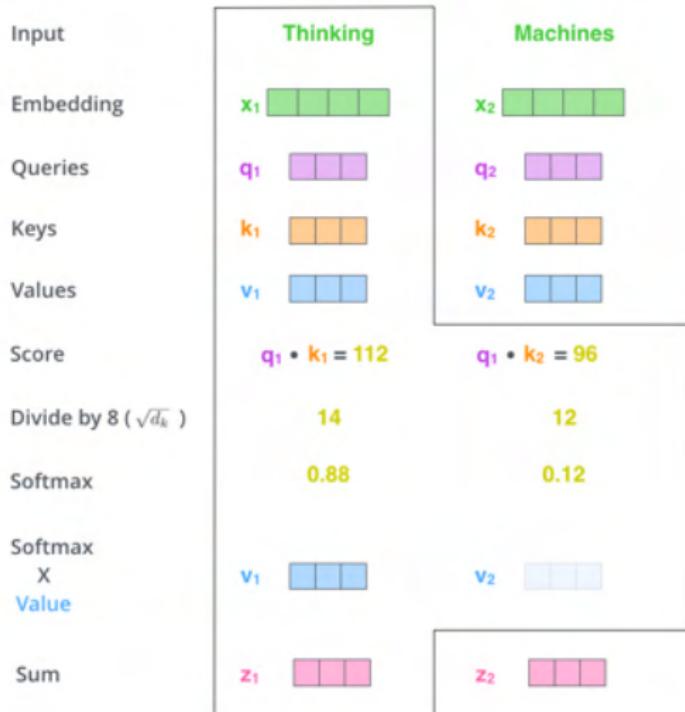
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# Self-Attention

Input	Thinking	Machines
Embedding	$x_1$	$x_2$
Queries	$q_1$	$q_2$
Keys	$k_1$	$k_2$
Values	$v_1$	$v_2$
Score	$q_1 \cdot k_1 = 112$	$q_1 \cdot k_2 = 96$
Divide by 8 ( $\sqrt{d_k}$ )	14	12
Softmax	0.88	0.12

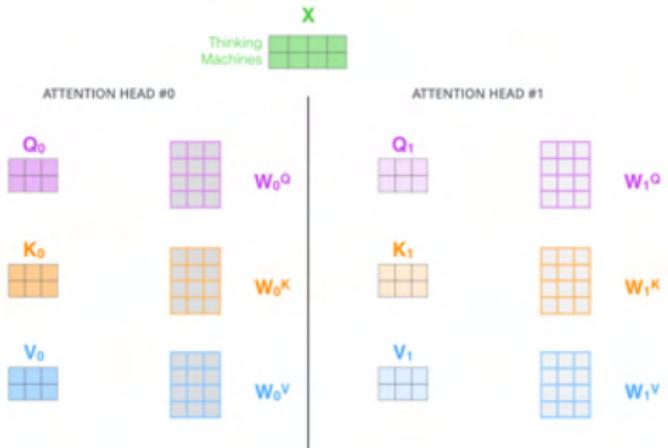
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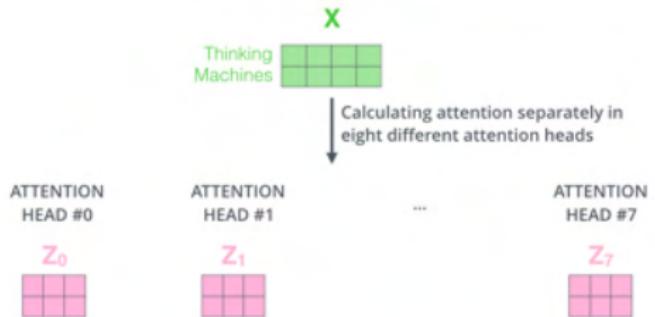
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- ① Expands the model's ability to focus on different relevant positions in the i/p
- ② Enables different 'representational subspace'

# Multi-headed Self-Attention

1) Concatenate all the attention heads



2) Multiply with a weight matrix  $W^O$  that was trained jointly with the model

$x$

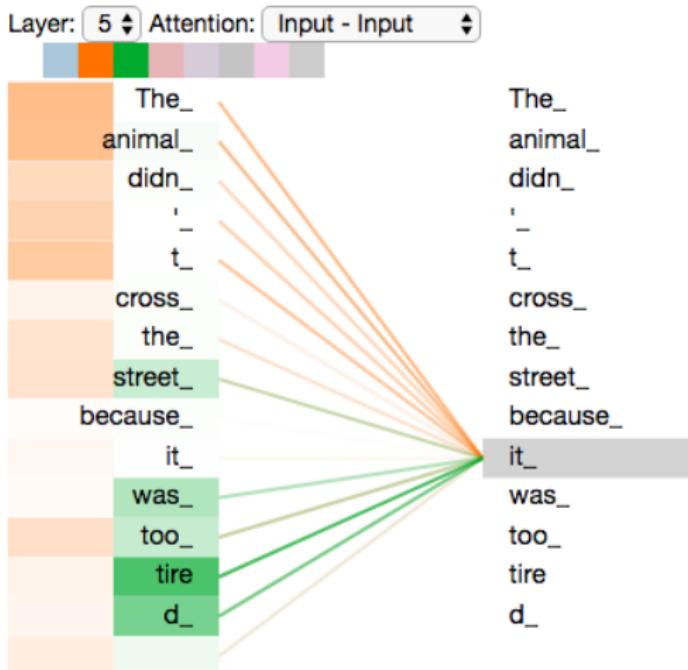


3) The result would be the  $Z$  matrix that captures information from all the attention heads. We can send this forward to the FFNN

$$= \begin{matrix} Z \\ \hline \end{matrix}$$

Credits: Jay Alammar

# Multi-headed Self-Attention



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# Positional Encoding

- ① Unlike RNN and CNN encoders, attention encoder outputs don't depend on the order

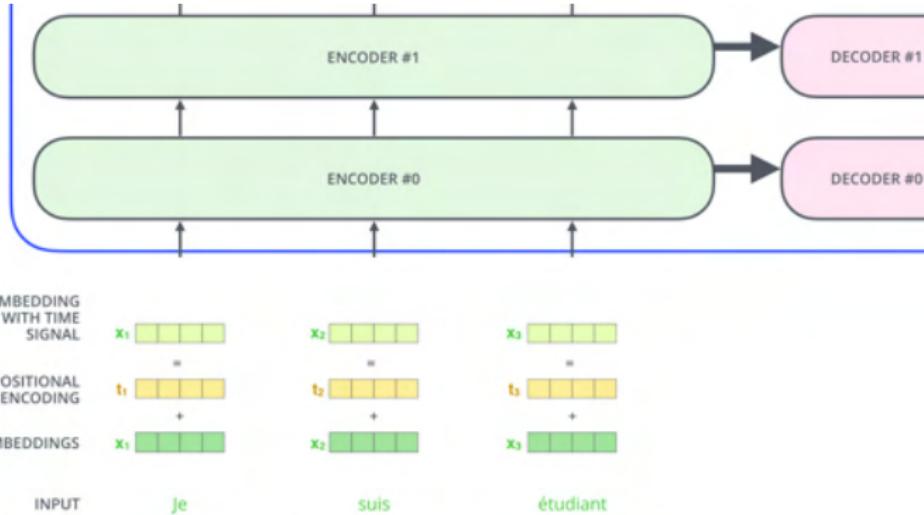
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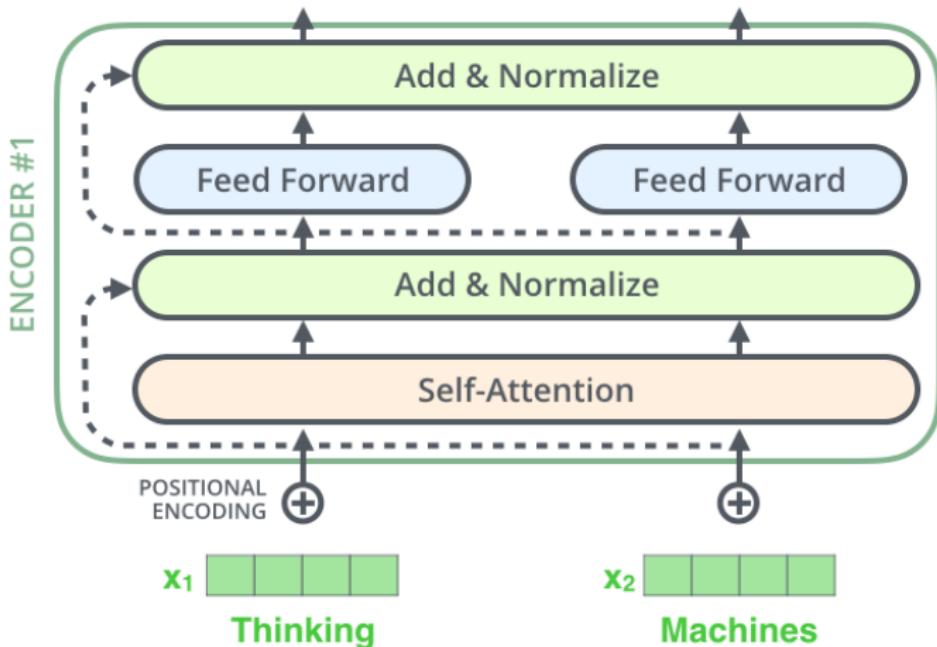
- ① Unlike RNN and CNN encoders, attention encoder outputs don't depend on the order
- ② However, order the sequence conveys vital information in some applications
- ③ Solution: Add positional information of the i/p words into their embedding vectors

# Positional Encoding



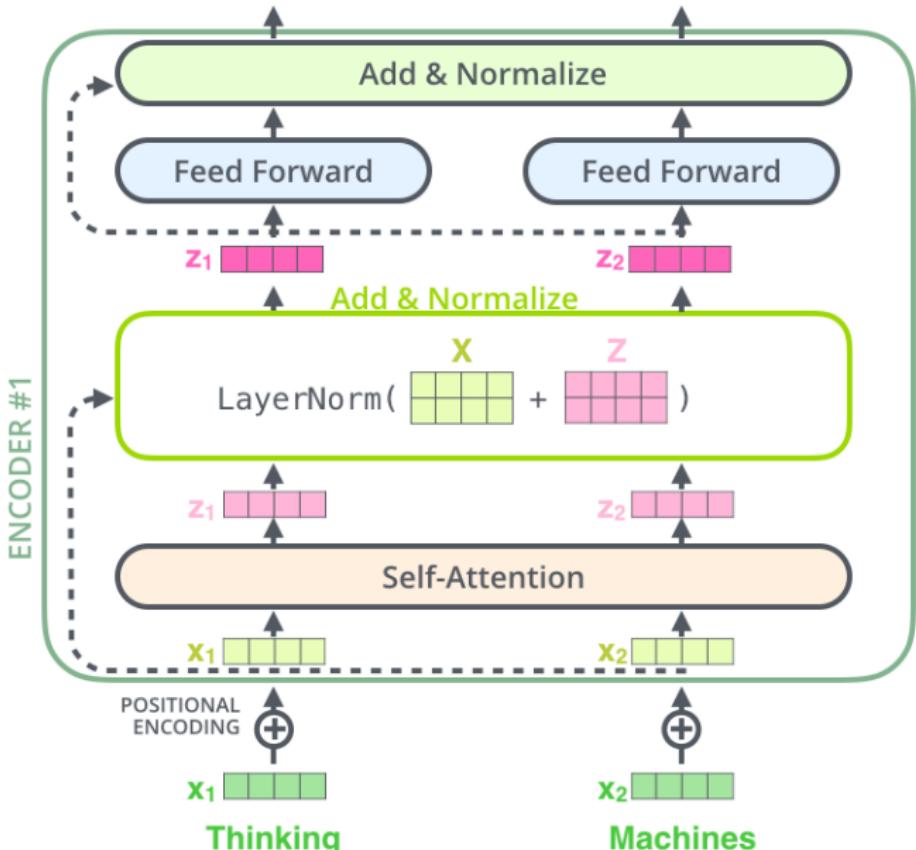
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# Residuals in the Encoder

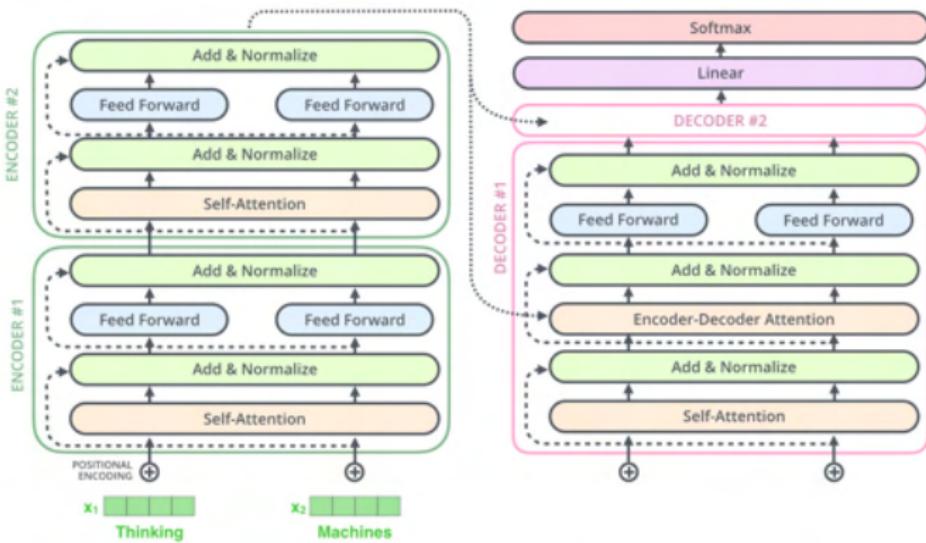


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# Transformer-Decoder



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- ② Uses the top encoder's K and V vectors for its' encoder-decoder attention
- ③ Encoder-decoder attention layer borrows the queries from the layer below it

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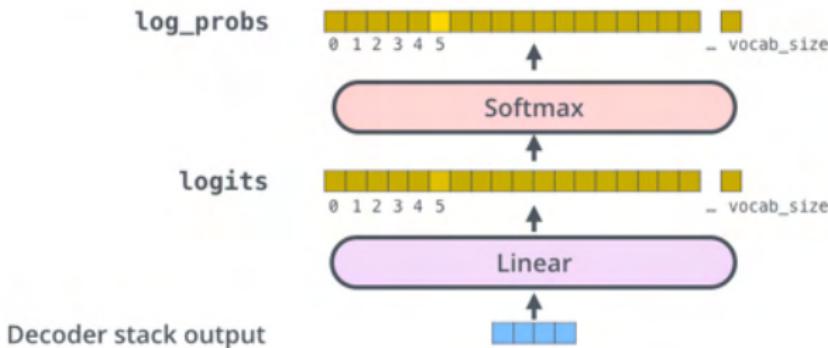
# Final o/p

Which word in our vocabulary  
is associated with this index?

am

Get the index of the cell  
with the highest value  
(argmax)

5



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