CS388: Natural Language Processing

Lecture 19: Pretrained Transformers

Greg Durrett

TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin

Credit: ???

Administrivia

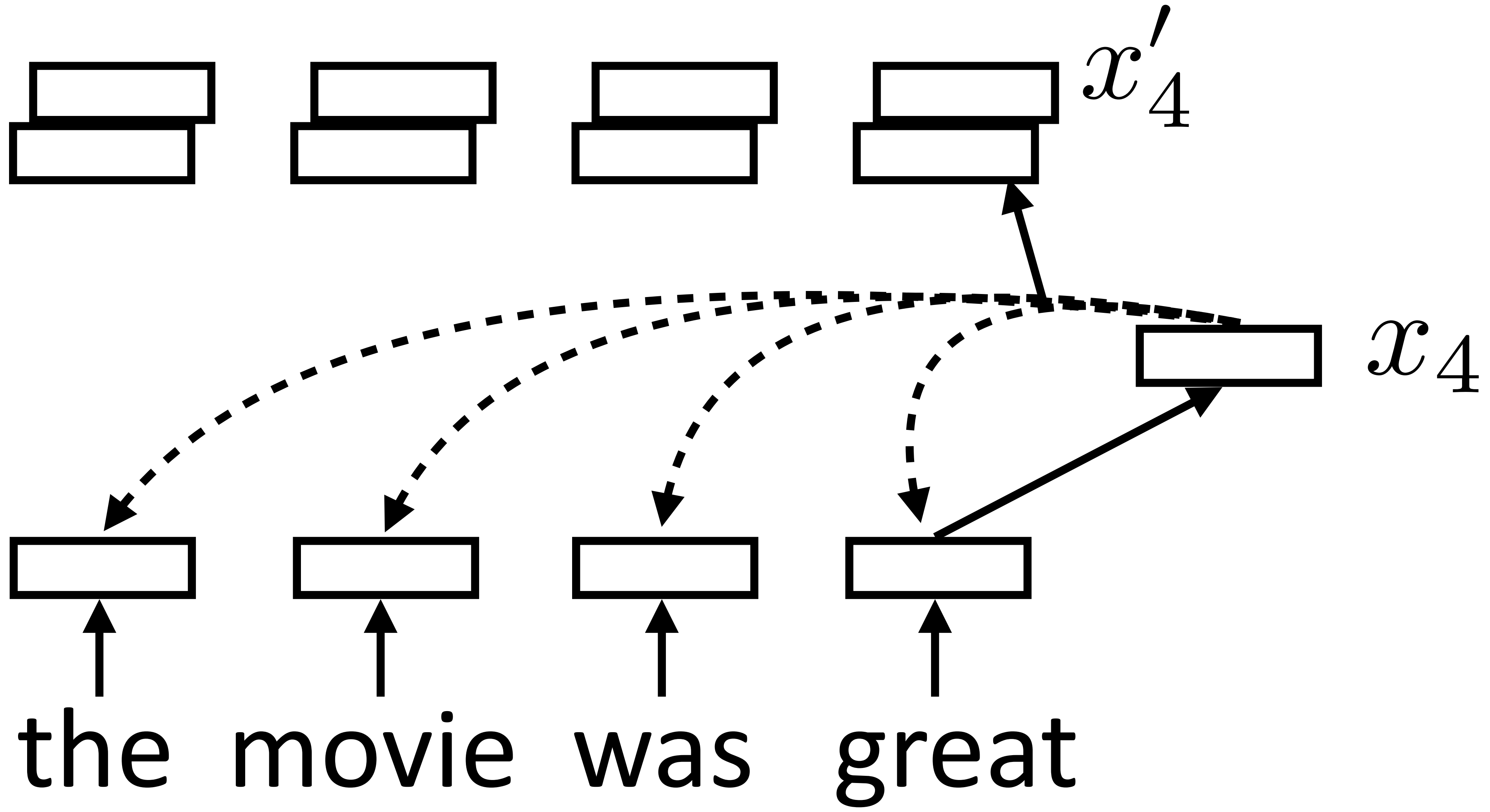
- Project 2 due Tuesday
- Presentation day announcements next week

Recall: Self-Attention

- Each word forms a "query" which then computes attention over each word

$$\alpha_{i,j} = \mathrm{softmax}(x_i^\top x_j) \quad \text{scalar}$$

$$x'_i = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \alpha_{i,j} x_j \quad \text{vector = sum of scalar * vector}$$

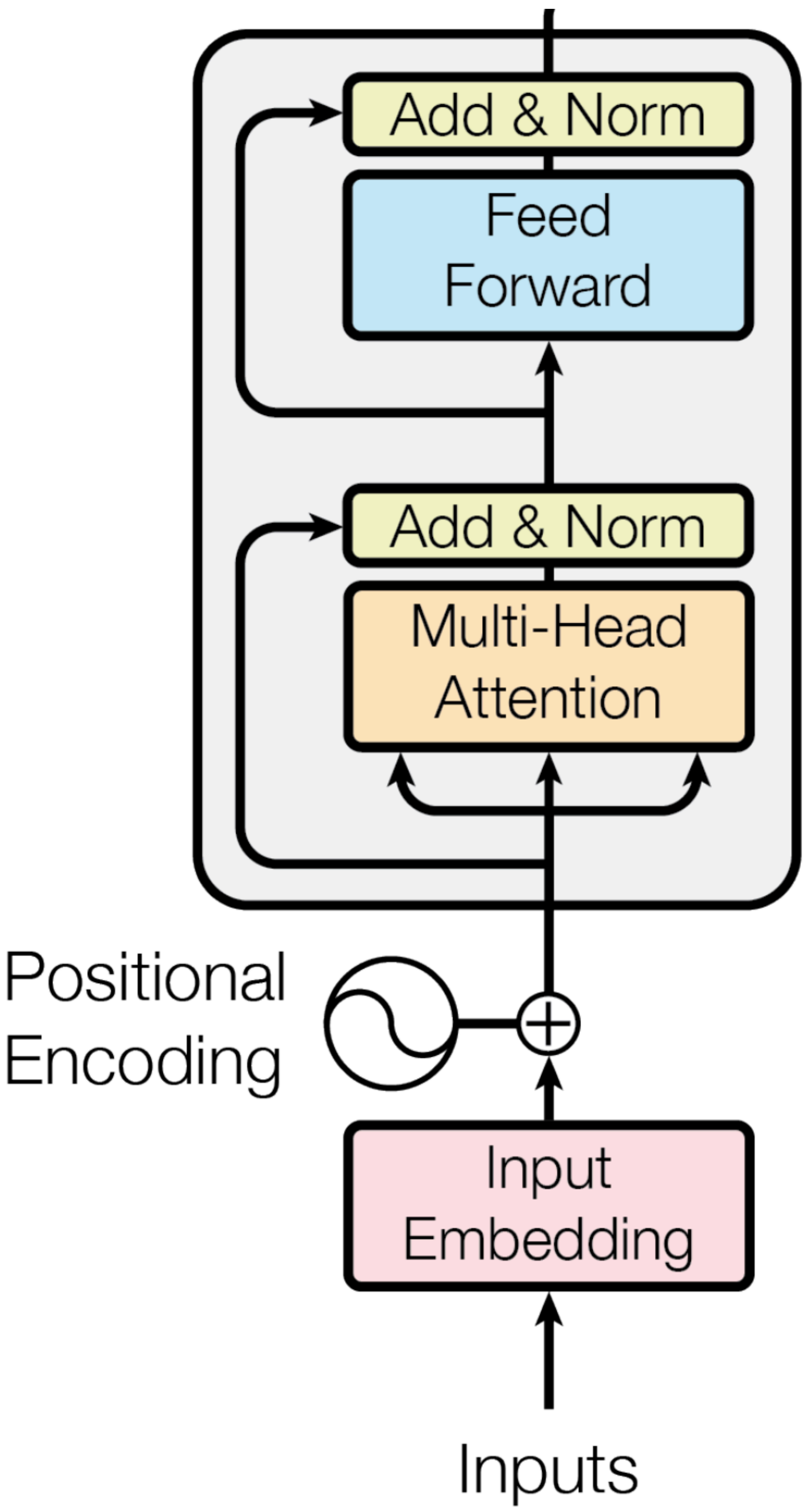


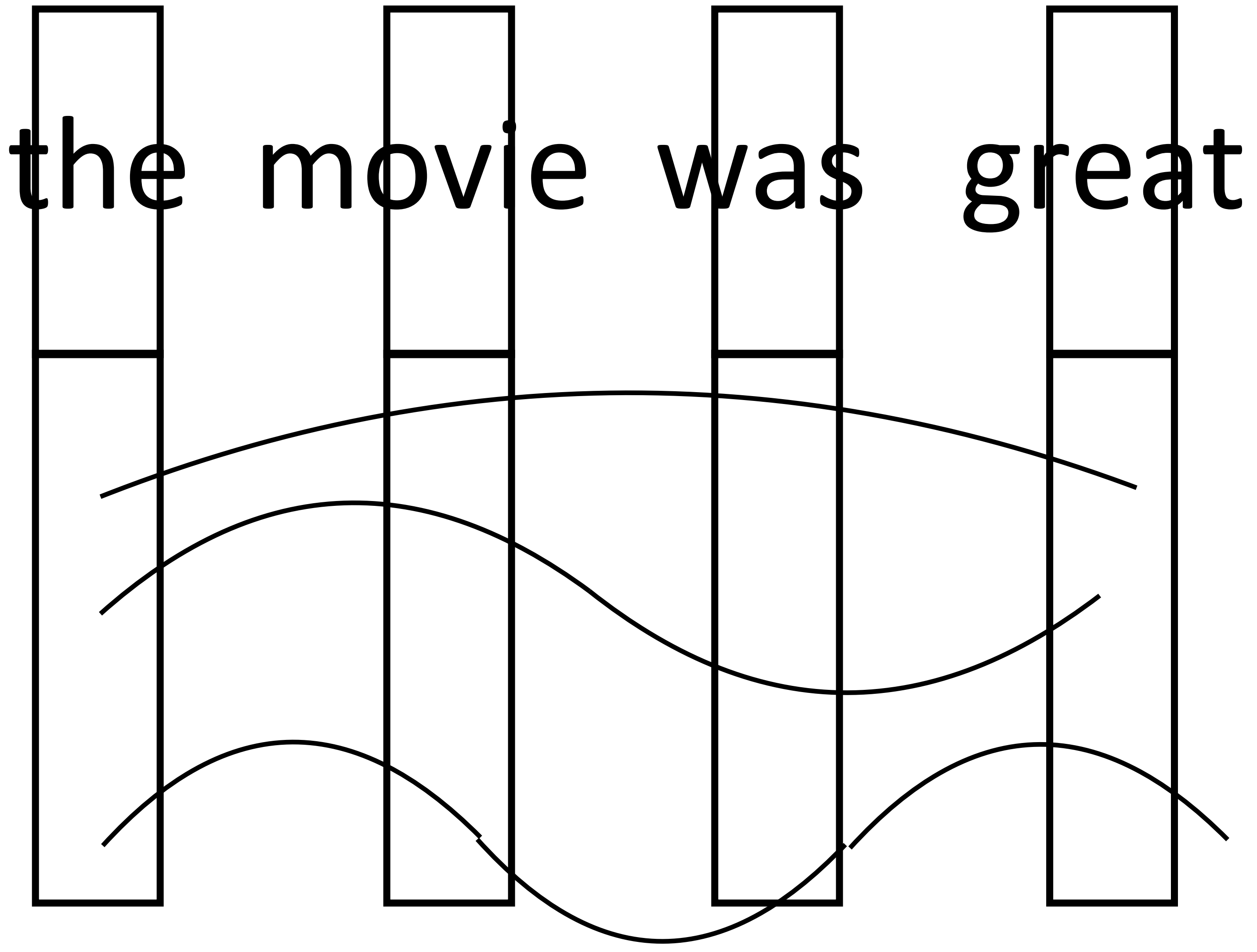
- Multiple "heads" analogous to different convolutional filters. Use parameters W_k and V_k to get different attention values + transform vectors

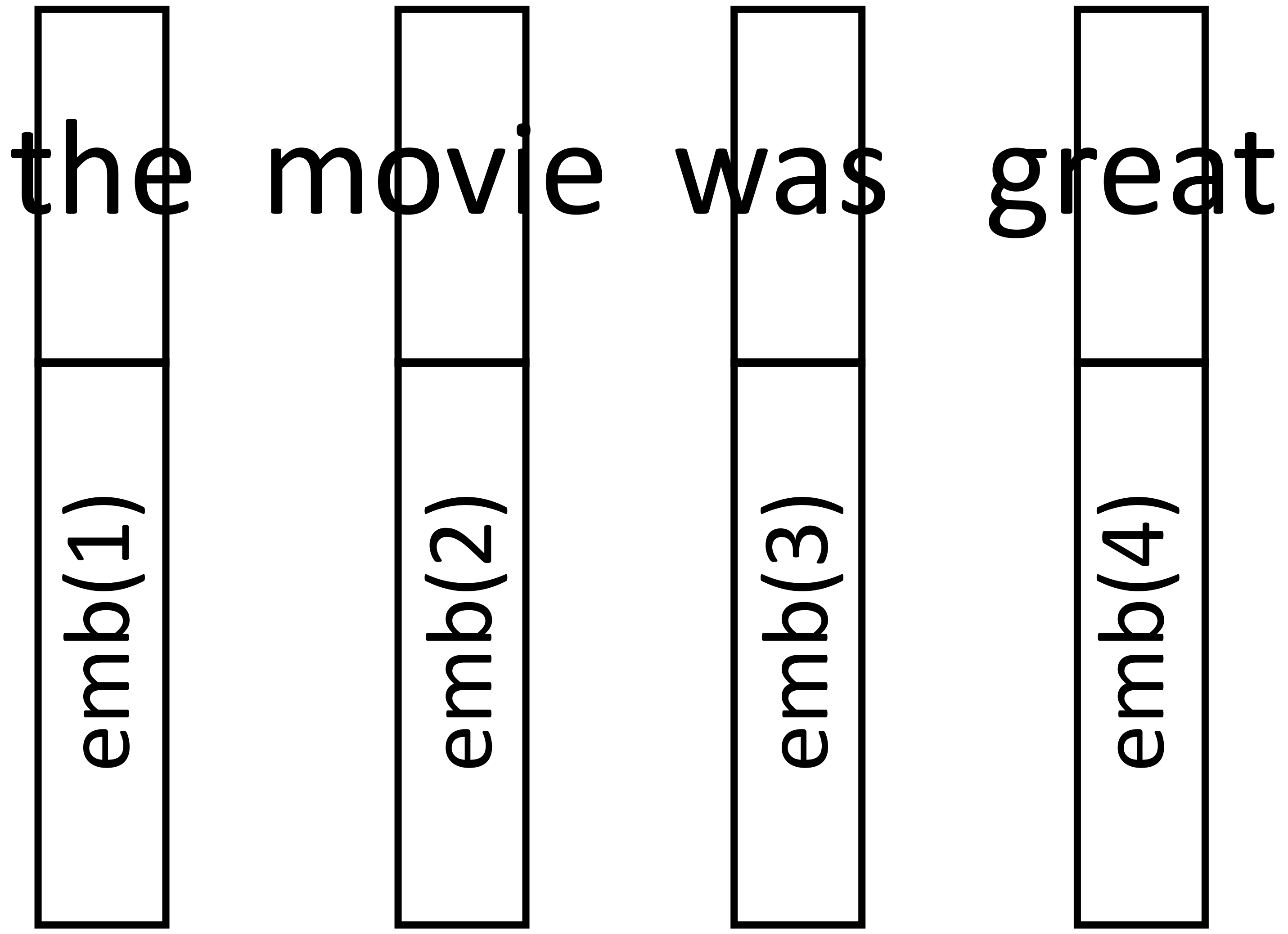
$$\alpha_{k,i,j} = \mathrm{softmax}(x_i^\top W_k x_j) \qquad x'_{k,i} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \alpha_{k,i,j} V_k x_j$$

Vaswani et al. (2017)

Recall: Transformers







- Augment word embedding with position embeddings, each dim is a sine/cosine wave of a different frequency. Closer points = higher dot products
- Works essentially as well as just encoding position as a one-hot vector

Vaswani et al. (2017)

This Lecture

- BERT
- GPT/GPT2
- Analysis/Visualization

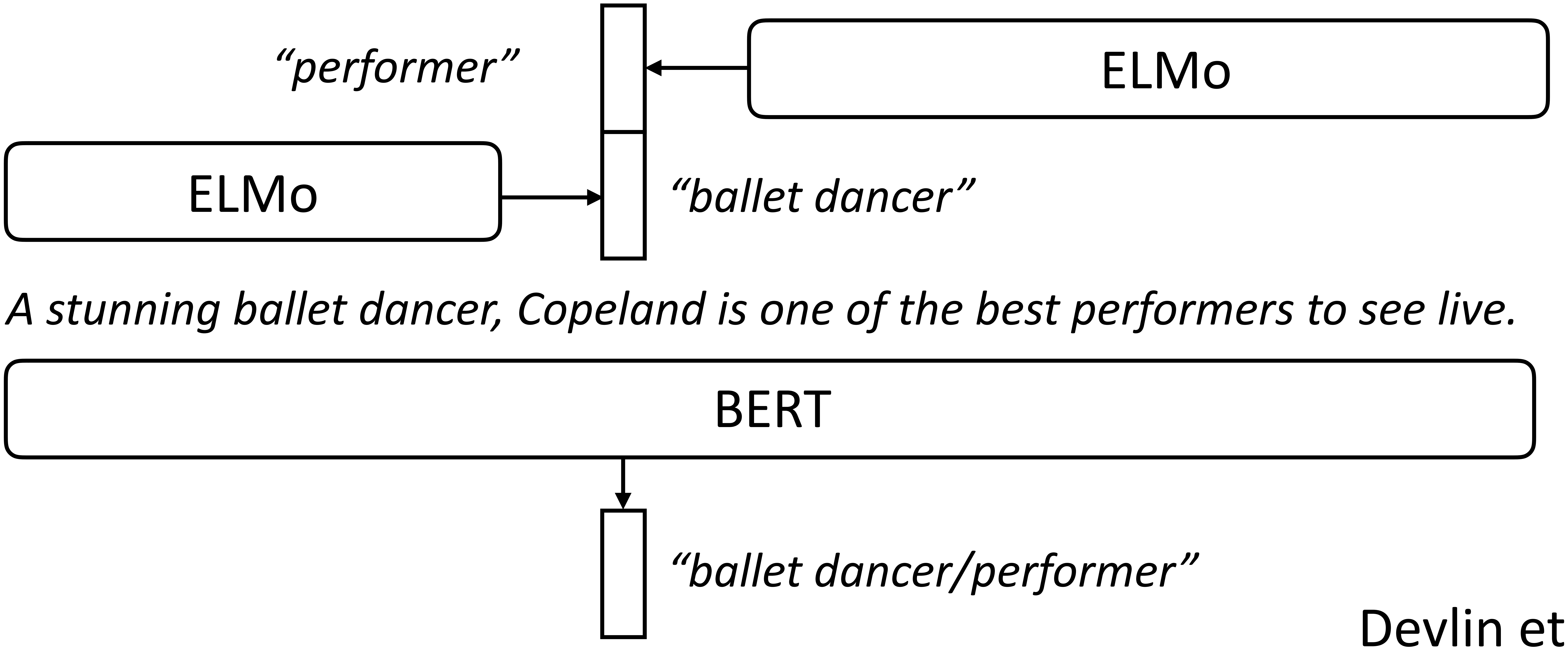
BERT

BERT

- AI2 made ELMo in spring 2018, GPT was released in summer 2018, BERT came out October 2018
- Three major changes compared to ELMo:
  - Transformers instead of LSTMs (transformers in GPT as well)
  - Bidirectional <=> Masked LM objective instead of standard LM
  - Fine-tune instead of freeze at test time

BERT

- ELMo is a unidirectional model (as is GPT): we can concatenate two unidirectional models, but is this the right thing to do?
- ELMo reprs look at each direction in isolation; BERT looks at them jointly

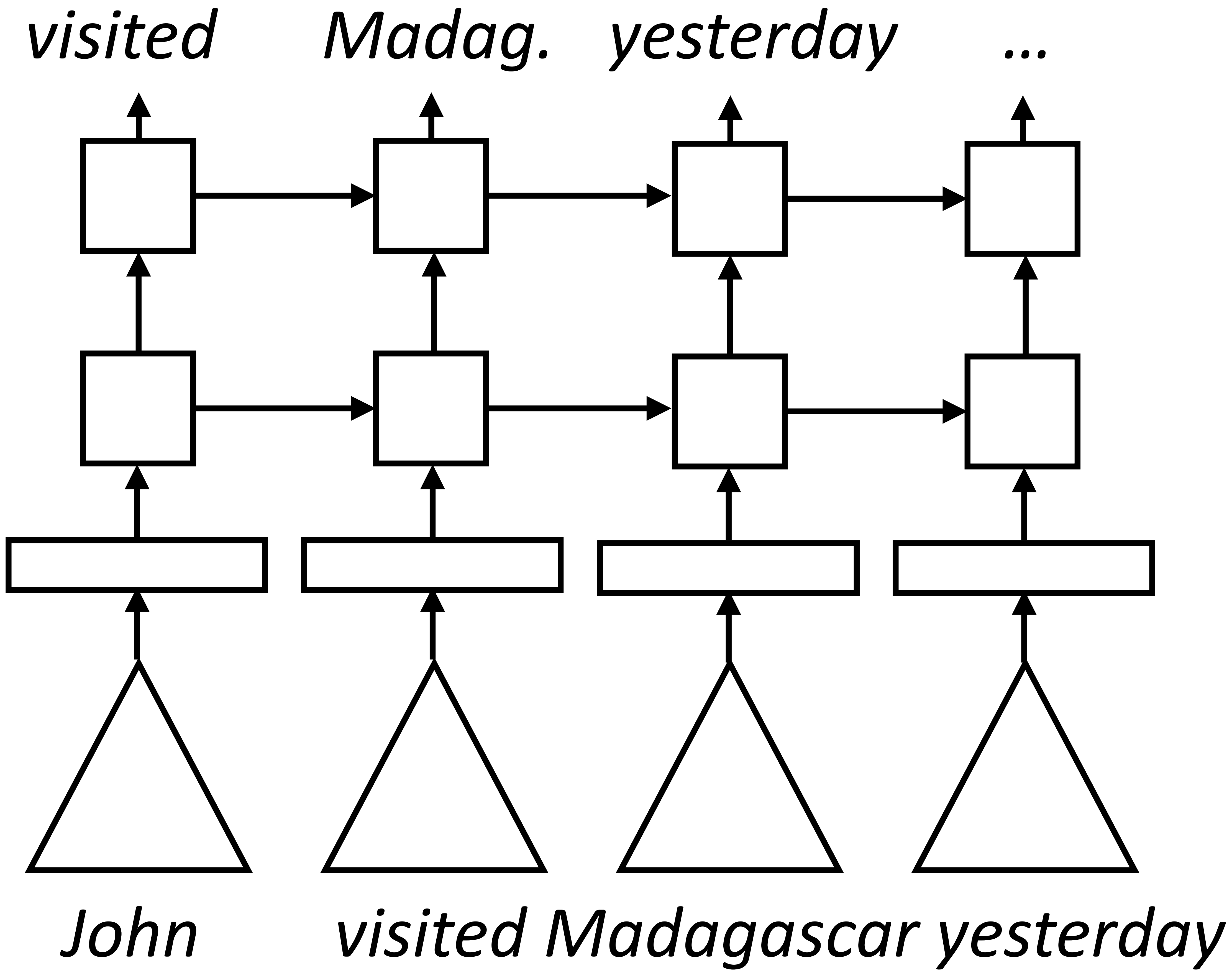


Devlin et al. (2019)

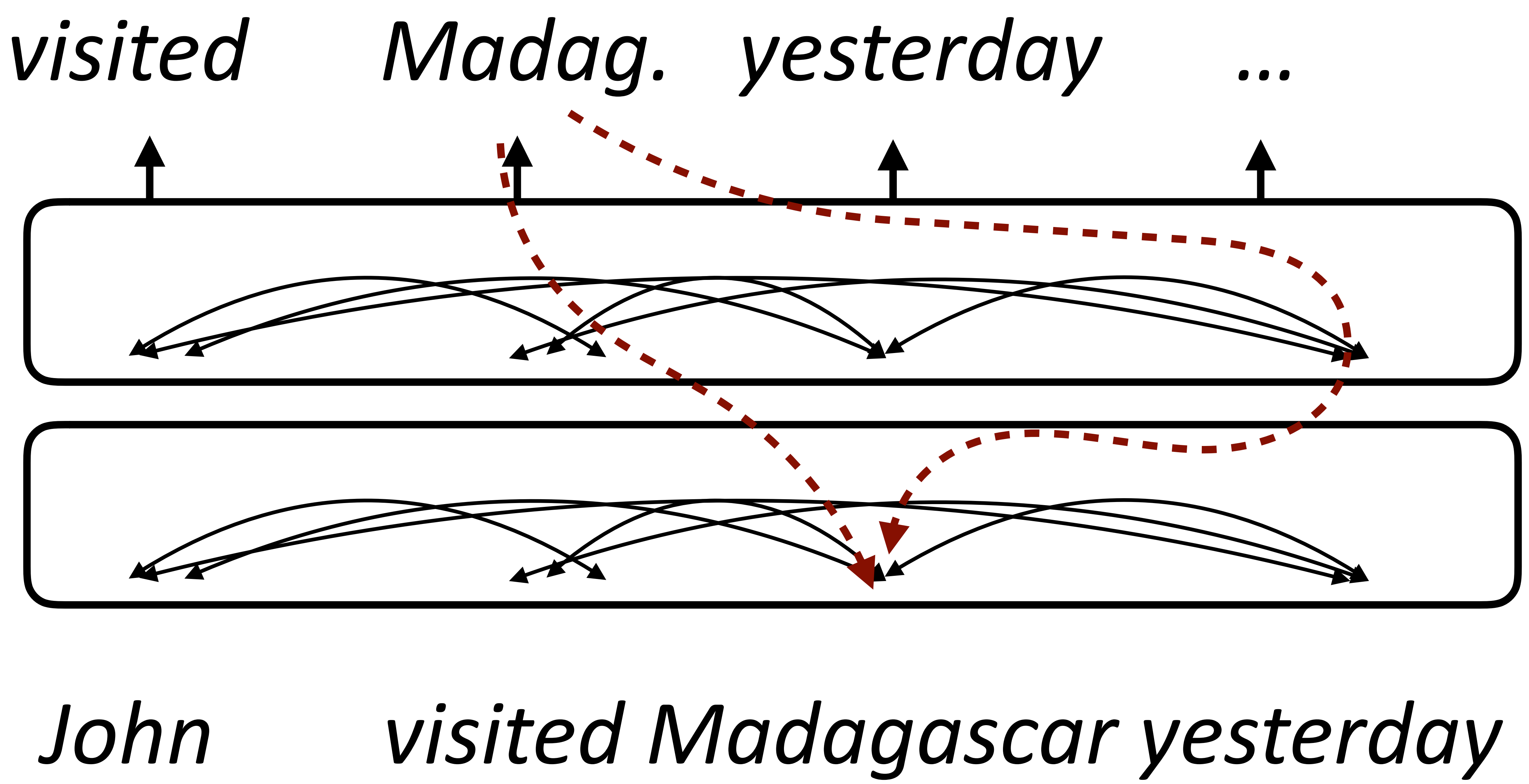
BERT

- How to learn a “deeply bidirectional” model? What happens if we just replace an LSTM with a transformer?

ELMo (Language Modeling)



BERT

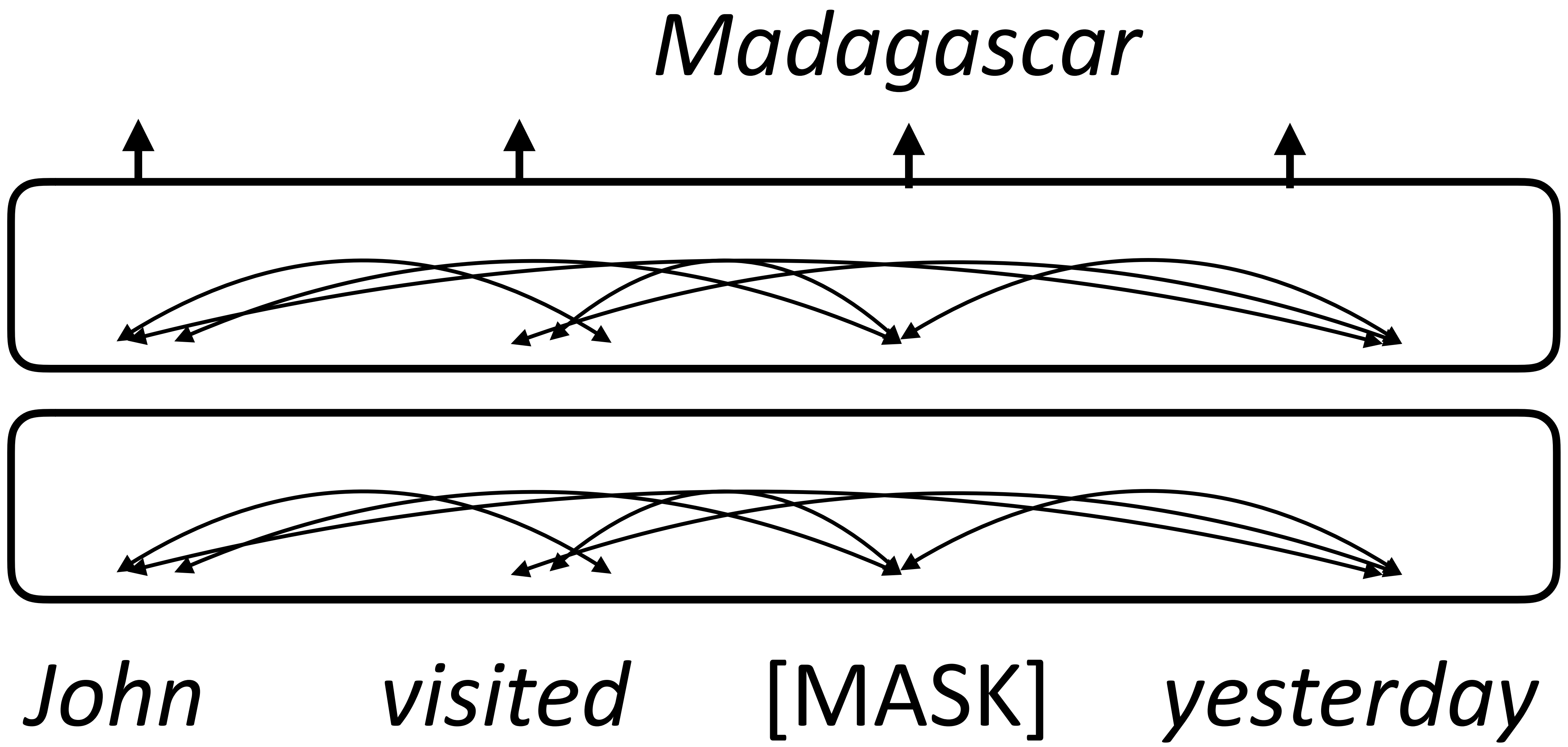


- Transformer LMs have to be “one-sided” (only attend to previous tokens), not what we want

Masked Language Modeling

- How to prevent cheating? Next word prediction fundamentally doesn't work for bidirectional models, instead do *masked language modeling*

- BERT formula: take a chunk of text, predict 15% of the tokens
  - For 80% (of the 15%), replace the input token with [MASK]
  - For 10%, replace w/random
  - For 10%, keep same



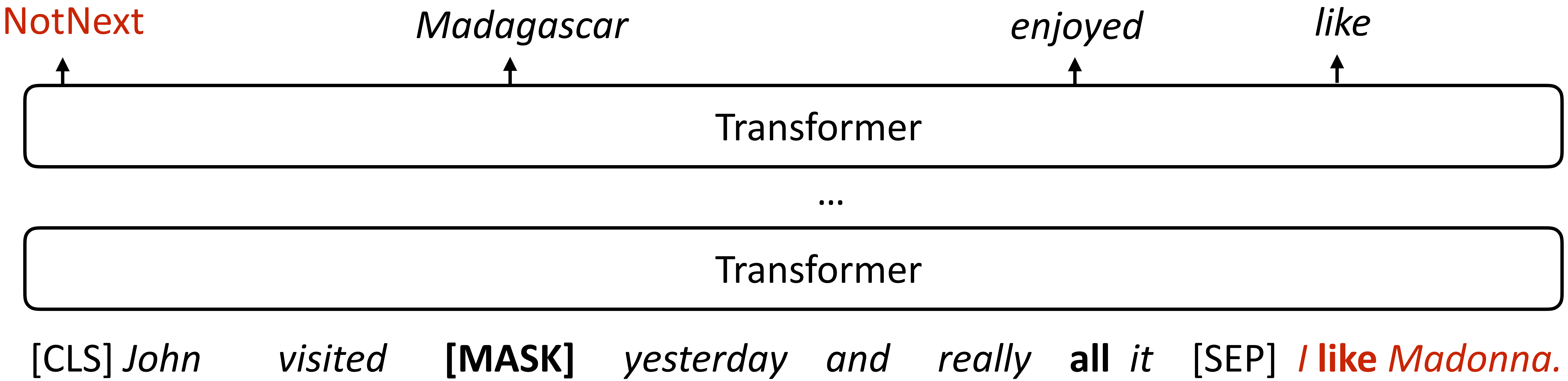
John *visited* **of** *yesterday*

John *visited* Madagascar *yesterday*

Devlin et al. (2019)

Next "Sentence" Prediction

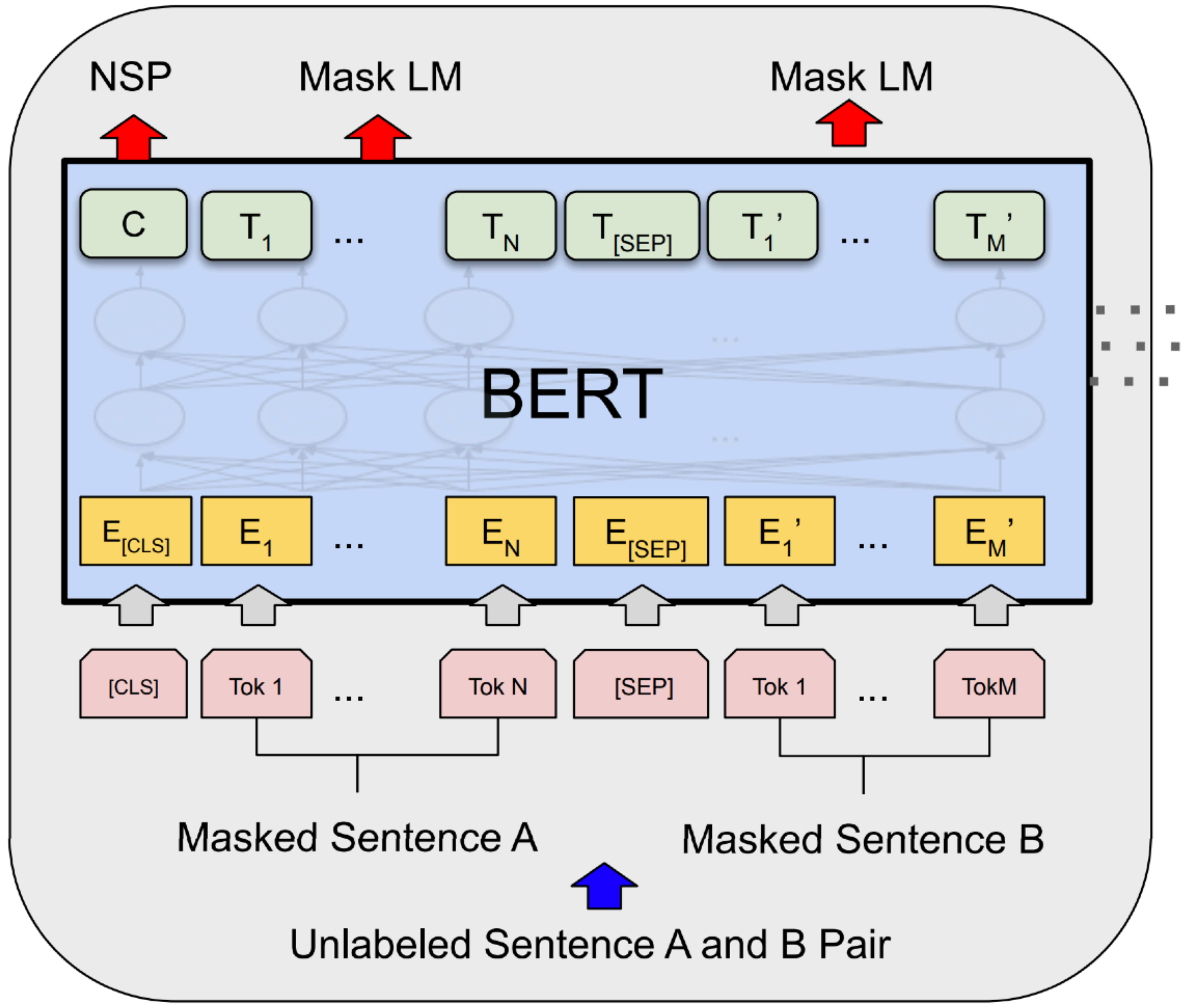
- Input: [CLS] Text chunk 1 [SEP] Text chunk 2
- 50% of the time, take the true next chunk of text, 50% of the time take a random other chunk. Predict whether the next chunk is the "true" next
- BERT objective: masked LM + next sentence prediction

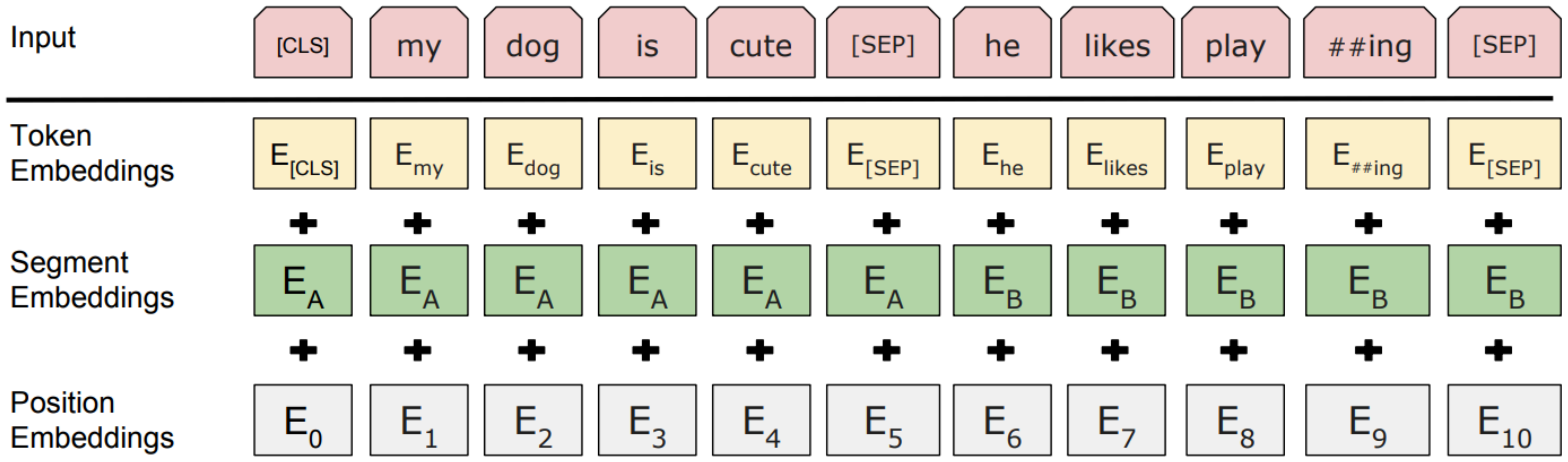


Devlin et al. (2019)

BERT Architecture

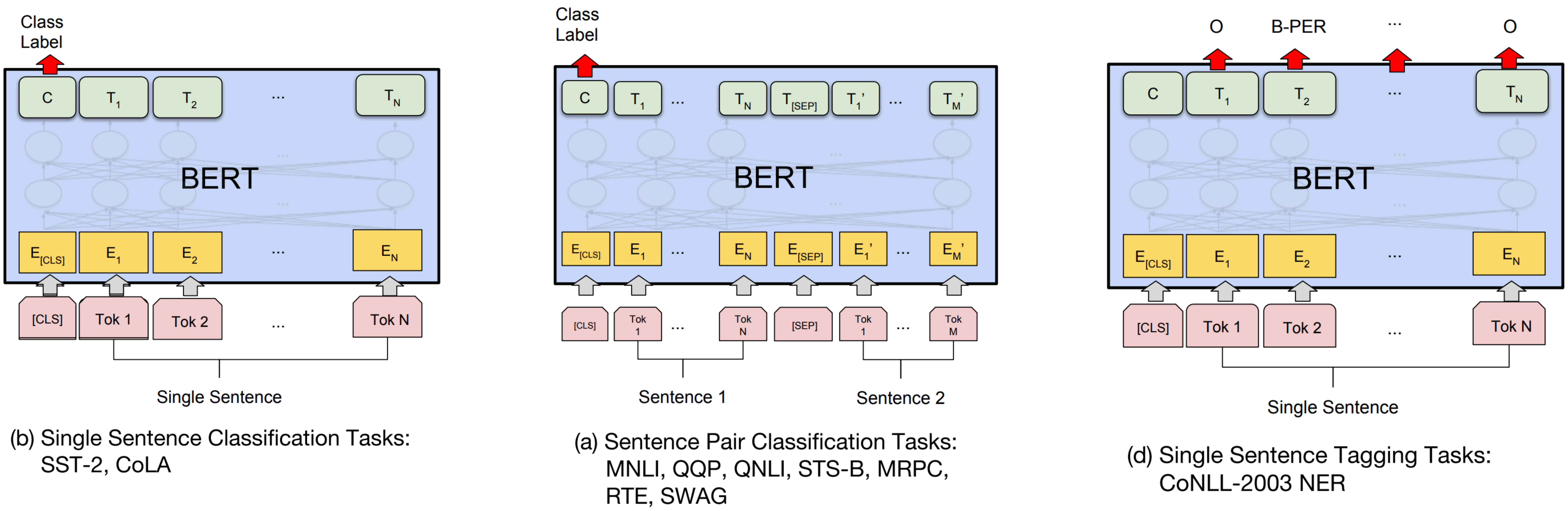
- BERT Base: 12 layers, 768-dim per wordpiece token, 12 heads. Total params = 110M
- BERT Large: 24 layers, 1024-dim per wordpiece token, 16 heads. Total params = 340M
- Positional embeddings and segment embeddings, 30k word pieces
- This is the model that gets **pre-trained** on a large corpus





Devlin et al. (2019)

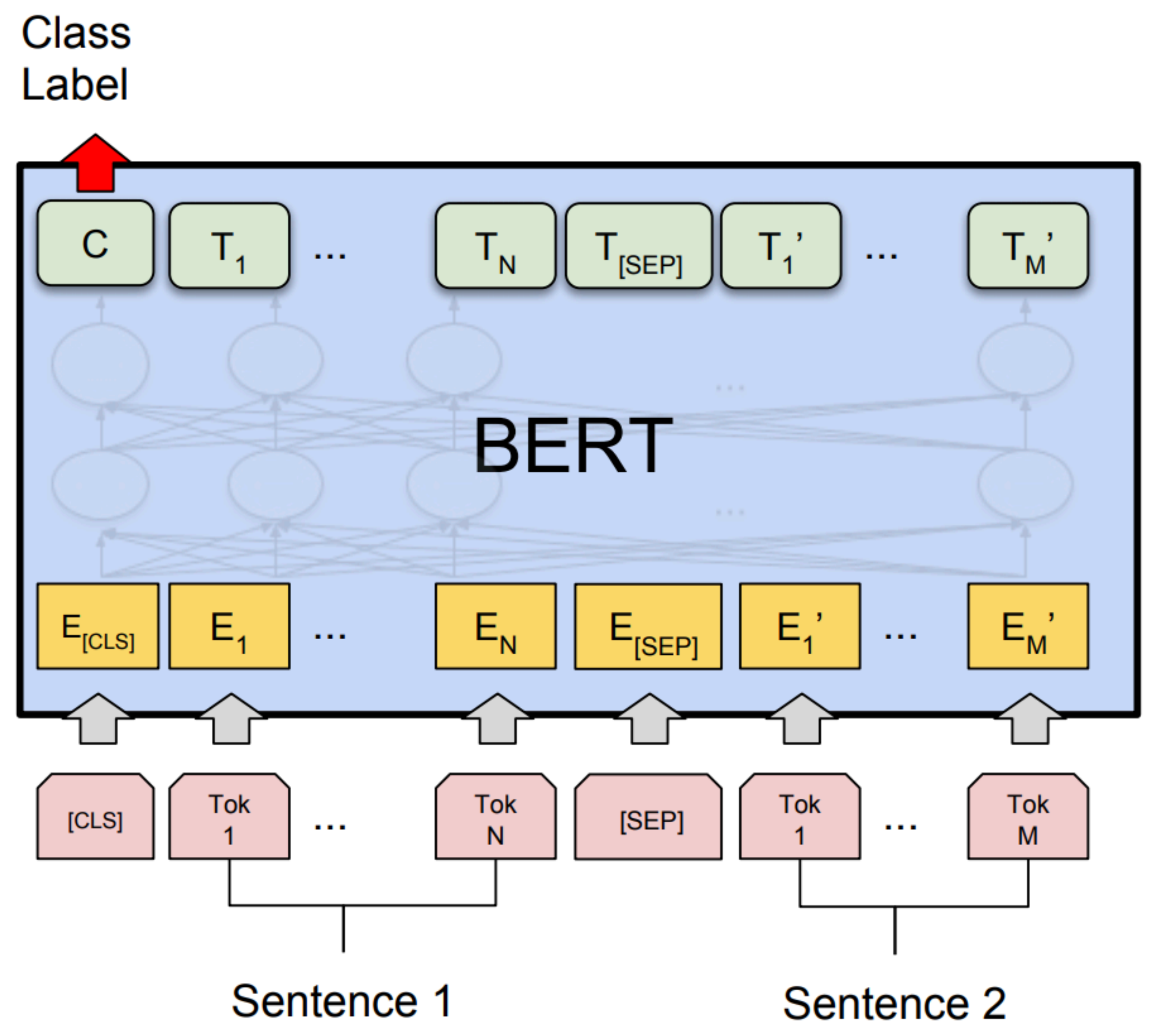
What can BERT do?



- CLS token is used to provide classification decisions
- Sentence pair tasks (entailment): feed both sentences into BERT
- BERT can also do tagging by predicting tags at each word piece

Devlin et al. (2019)

What can BERT do?



(a) Sentence Pair Classification Tasks: MNLI, QQP, QNLI, STS-B, MRPC, RTE, SWAG

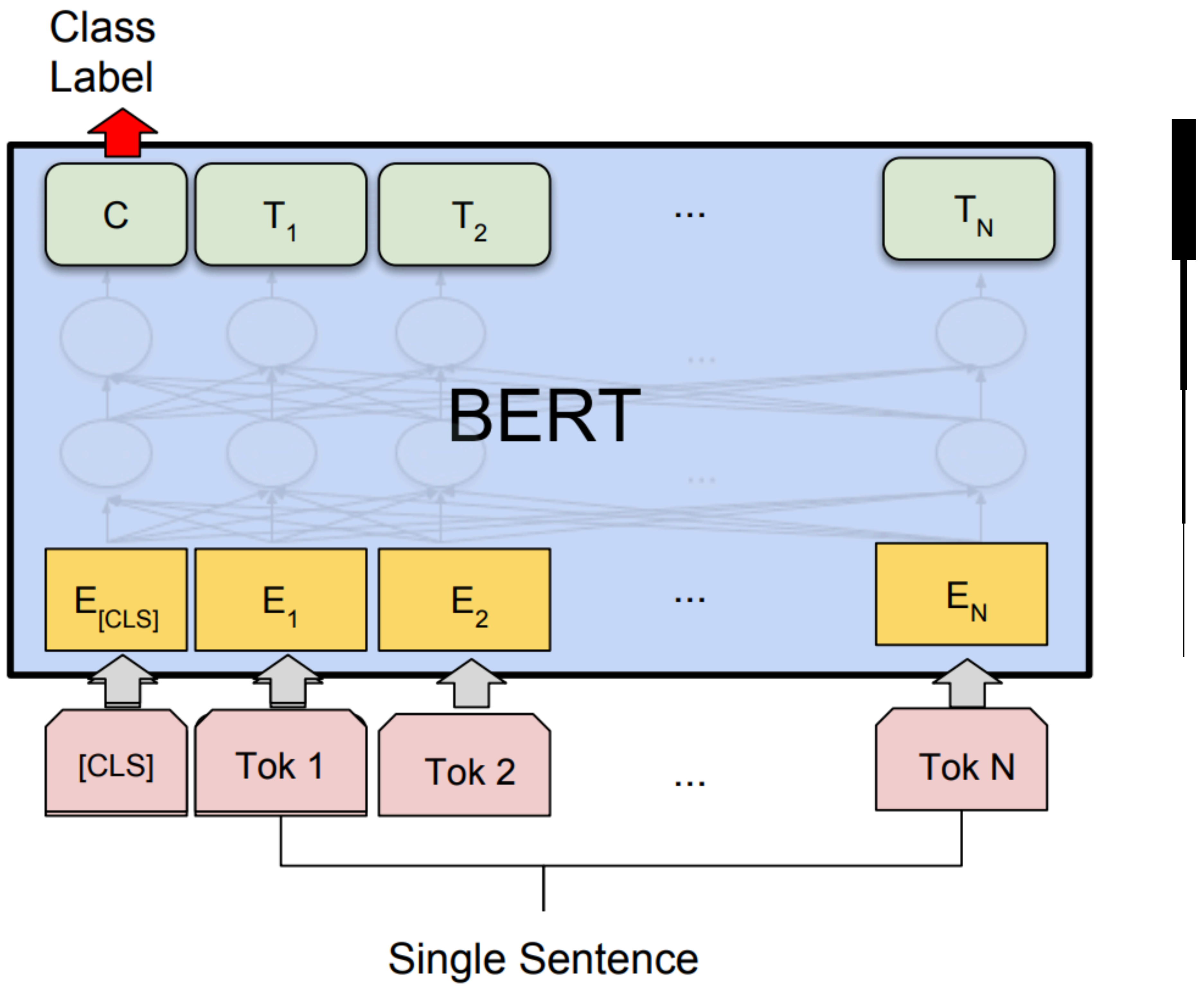
- How does BERT model this sentence pair stuff?
- Transformers can capture interactions between the two sentences, even though the NSP objective doesn't really cause this to happen

What can BERT NOT do?

- BERT **cannot** generate text (at least not in an obvious way)
  - Not an autoregressive model, can do weird things like stick a [MASK] at the end of a string, fill in the mask, and repeat
- Masked language models are intended to be used primarily for “analysis” tasks

Fine-tuning BERT

- Fine-tune for 1-3 epochs, batch size 2-32, learning rate 2e-5 - 5e-5



(b) Single Sentence Classification Tasks: SST-2, CoLA

- Large changes to weights up here (particularly in last layer to route the right information to [CLS])
- Smaller changes to weights lower down in the transformer
- Small LR and short fine-tuning schedule mean weights don't change much
- More complex "triangular learning rate" schemes exist

Fine-tuning BERT

Pretraining	Adaptation	NER	SA	Nat. lang. inference		Semantic textual similarity		
		CoNLL 2003	SST-2	MNLI	SICK-E	SICK-R	MRPC	STS-B
Skip-thoughts	❄️	-	81.8	62.9	-	86.6	75.8	71.8
ELMo	❄️	91.7	**91.8**	**79.6**	**86.3**	**86.1**	**76.0**	**75.9**
	🔥	**91.9**	91.2	76.4	83.3	83.3	74.7	75.5
	Δ=🔥-❄️	0.2	-0.6	-3.2	-3.3	-2.8	-1.3	-0.4
BERT-base	❄️	92.2	93.0	**84.6**	84.8	86.4	78.1	82.9
	🔥	**92.4**	**93.5**	**84.6**	**85.8**	**88.7**	**84.8**	**87.1**
	Δ=🔥-❄️	0.2	0.5	0.0	1.0	2.3	6.7	4.2

- BERT is typically better if the whole network is fine-tuned, unlike ELMo

Peters, Ruder, Smith (2019)

Evaluation: GLUE

Corpus	|Train|	|Test|	Task	Metrics	Domain
			Single-Sentence Tasks		
CoLA	8.5k	**1k**	acceptability	Matthews corr.	misc.
SST-2	67k	1.8k	sentiment	acc.	movie reviews
			Similarity and Paraphrase Tasks		
MRPC	3.7k	1.7k	paraphrase	acc./F1	news
STS-B	7k	1.4k	sentence similarity	Pearson/Spearman corr.	misc.
QQP	364k	**391k**	paraphrase	acc./F1	social QA questions
			Inference Tasks		
MNLI	393k	**20k**	NLI	matched acc./mismatched acc.	misc.
QNLI	105k	5.4k	QA/NLI	acc.	Wikipedia
RTE	2.5k	3k	NLI	acc.	news, Wikipedia
WNLI	634	**146**	coreference/NLI	acc.	fiction books

Wang et al. (2019)

Results

System	MNLI-(m/mm)	QQP	QNLI	SST-2	CoLA	STS-B	MRPC	RTE	**Average**
	392k	363k	108k	67k	8.5k	5.7k	3.5k	2.5k	-
Pre-OpenAI SOTA	80.6/80.1	66.1	82.3	93.2	35.0	81.0	86.0	61.7	74.0
BiLSTM+ELMo+Attn	76.4/76.1	64.8	79.9	90.4	36.0	73.3	84.9	56.8	71.0
OpenAI GPT	82.1/81.4	70.3	88.1	91.3	45.4	80.0	82.3	56.0	75.2
BERT$_{\text{BASE}}$	84.6/83.4	71.2	90.1	93.5	52.1	85.8	88.9	66.4	79.6
BERT$_{\text{LARGE}}$	**86.7/85.9**	**72.1**	**91.1**	**94.9**	**60.5**	**86.5**	**89.3**	**70.1**	**81.9**

- Huge improvements over prior work (even compared to ELMo)
- Effective at "sentence pair" tasks: textual entailment (does sentence A imply sentence B), paraphrase detection

Devlin et al. (2018)

RoBERTa

- "Robustly optimized BERT"
- 160GB of data instead of 16 GB
- Dynamic masking: standard BERT uses the same MASK scheme for every epoch, RoBERTa recomputes them

Model	data	bsz	steps	SQuAD (v1.1/2.0)	MNLI-m	SST-2
RoBERTa						
with BOOKS + WIKI	16GB	8K	100K	93.6/87.3	89.0	95.3
+ additional data (§3.2)	160GB	8K	100K	94.0/87.7	89.3	95.6
+ pretrain longer	160GB	8K	300K	94.4/88.7	90.0	96.1
+ pretrain even longer	160GB	8K	500K	**94.6/89.4**	**90.2**	**96.4**
$\text{BERT}_{\text{LARGE}}$						
with BOOKS + WIKI	13GB	256	1M	90.9/81.8	86.6	93.7

- New training + more data = better performance

Liu et al. (2019)

GPT/GPT2

OpenAI GPT/GPT2

- "ELMo with transformers" (works better than ELMo)
- Train a single unidirectional transformer LM on long contexts
- GPT2: trained on 40GB of text collected from upvoted links from reddit
- 1.5B parameters — by far the largest of these models trained as of March 2019

Parameters	Layers	d_{model}
117M	12	768
345M	24	1024
762M	36	1280
1542M	48	1600

- Because it's a language model, we can **generate** from it

Radford et al. (2019)

OpenAI GPT2

SYSTEM PROMPT (HUMAN-WRITTEN)	*Miley Cyrus was caught shoplifting from Abercrombie and Fitch on Hollywood Boulevard today.*
MODEL COMPLETION (MACHINE-WRITTEN, SECOND TRY)	The 19-year-old singer was caught on camera being escorted out of the store by security guards. The singer was wearing a black hoodie with the label 'Blurred Lines' on the front and 'Fashion Police' on the back. Scroll down for video Shoplifting: Miley Cyrus was caught shoplifting from Abercrombie and Fitch on Hollywood Boulevard today (pictured) The singer was wearing a black hoodie with the label 'Blurred Lines' on the front and 'Fashion Police' on the back The singer was also wearing a pair of black-rimmed glasses, a black jacket, black jeans and black sandals. She was carrying a pair of black and white striped gloves and a small black bag.

slide credit: OpenAI

Open Questions

1) How novel is the stuff being generated? (Is it just doing nearest neighbors on a large corpus?)

2) How do we understand and distill what is learned in this model?

3) How do we harness these priors for conditional generation tasks (summarization, generate a report of a basketball game, etc.)

4) Is this technology dangerous? (OpenAI has only released 774M param model, not 1.5B yet)

Grover

- Sample from a large language model conditioned on a domain, date, authors, and headline

- Humans rank Grover-generated propaganda as more realistic than real “fake news”

- Fine-tuned Grover can detect Grover propaganda easily — authors argue for releasing it for this reason

- NOTE: Not a GAN, discriminator trained separately from the generator

Discriminator size		Unpaired Accuracy Generator size 1.5B	355M	124M	Paired Accuracy Generator size 1.5B	355M	124M
	Chance		50.0			50.0	
1.5B	Grover-Mega	**92.0**	**98.5**	**99.8**	**97.4**	**100.0**	**100.0**
355M	Grover-Large	**80.8**	**91.2**	**98.4**	**89.0**	**96.9**	**100.0**
355M	BERT-Large	73.1	75.9	97.5	84.1	91.5	99.9
355M	GPT2	70.1	78.0	90.3	78.8	87.0	96.8
124M	Grover-Base	**70.1**	**80.0**	**89.2**	77.5	88.2	95.7
124M	BERT-Base	67.2	76.6	84.1	**80.0**	**89.5**	**96.2**
124M	GPT2	66.2	71.9	83.5	72.5	79.6	89.6
11M	FastText	63.8	65.6	69.7	65.9	69.0	74.4

Zellers et al. (2019)

Pre-Training Cost (with Google/AWS)

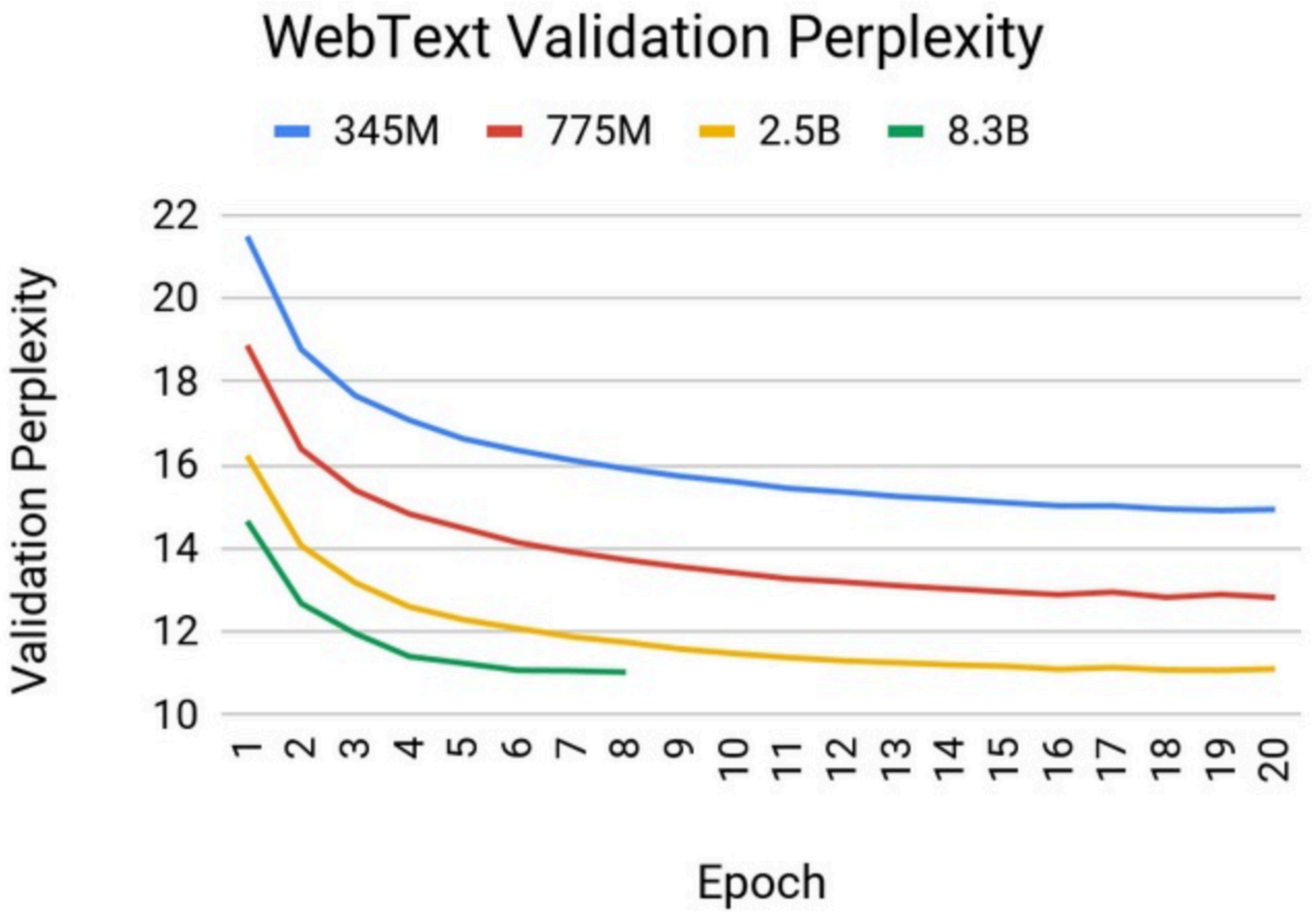
- BERT: Base $500, Large $7000
- Grover-MEGA: $25,000
- XLNet (BERT variant): $30,000 — $60,000 (unclear)
- This is for a single pre-training run…developing new pre-training techniques may require many runs
- *Fine-tuning* these models can typically be done with a single GPU (but may take 1-3 days for medium-sized datasets)

https://syncedreview.com/2019/06/27/the-staggering-cost-of-training-sota-ai-models/

Pushing the Limits

- NVIDIA: trained 8.3B parameter GPT model (5.6x the size of GPT-2)

- Arguable these models are still underfit: larger models still get better held-out perplexities



NVIDIA blog (Narasimhan, August 2019)

Google T5

Number of tokens	Repeats	GLUE	CNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ Full dataset	0	**83.28**	**19.24**	**80.88**	**71.36**	**26.98**	**39.82**	**27.65**
2^{29}	64	**82.87**	**19.19**	**80.97**	**72.03**	**26.83**	**39.74**	**27.63**
2^{27}	256	82.62	**19.20**	79.78	69.97	**27.02**	**39.71**	27.33
2^{25}	1,024	79.55	18.57	76.27	64.76	26.38	39.56	26.80
2^{23}	4,096	76.34	18.33	70.92	59.29	26.37	38.84	25.81

- Colossal Cleaned Common Crawl: 750 GB of text
- We still haven't hit the limit of bigger data being useful

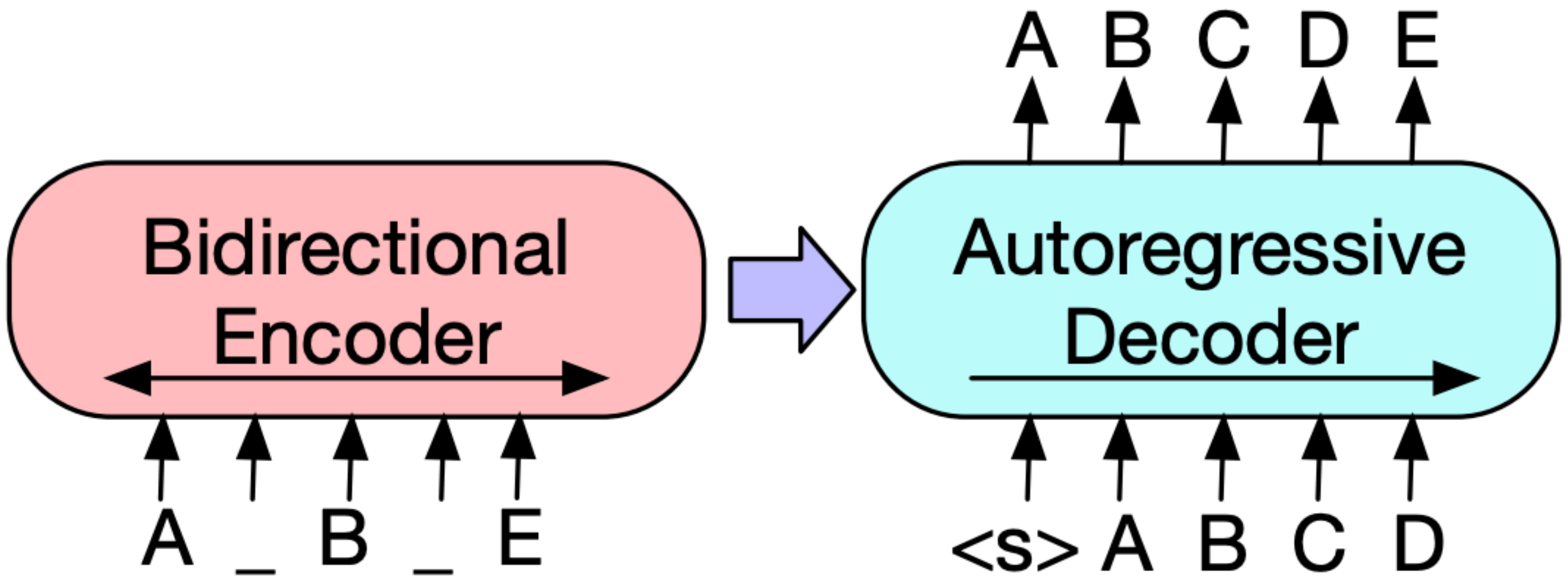
Raffel et al. (October 23, 2019)

BART

- Sequence-to-sequence BERT variant: permute/make/delete tokens, then predict full sequence autoregressively

- For downstream tasks: feed document into both encoder + decoder, use decoder hidden state as output

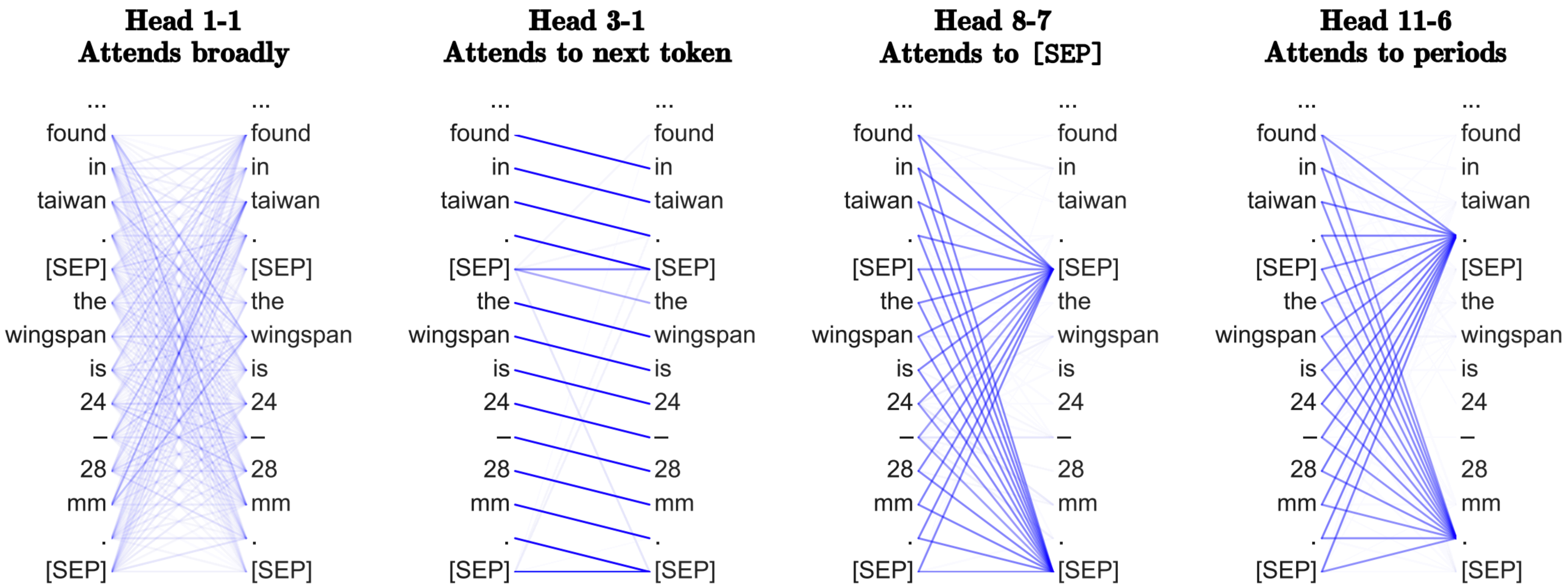
- Good results on dialogue, summarization tasks



Lewis et al. (October 30, 2019)

Analysis

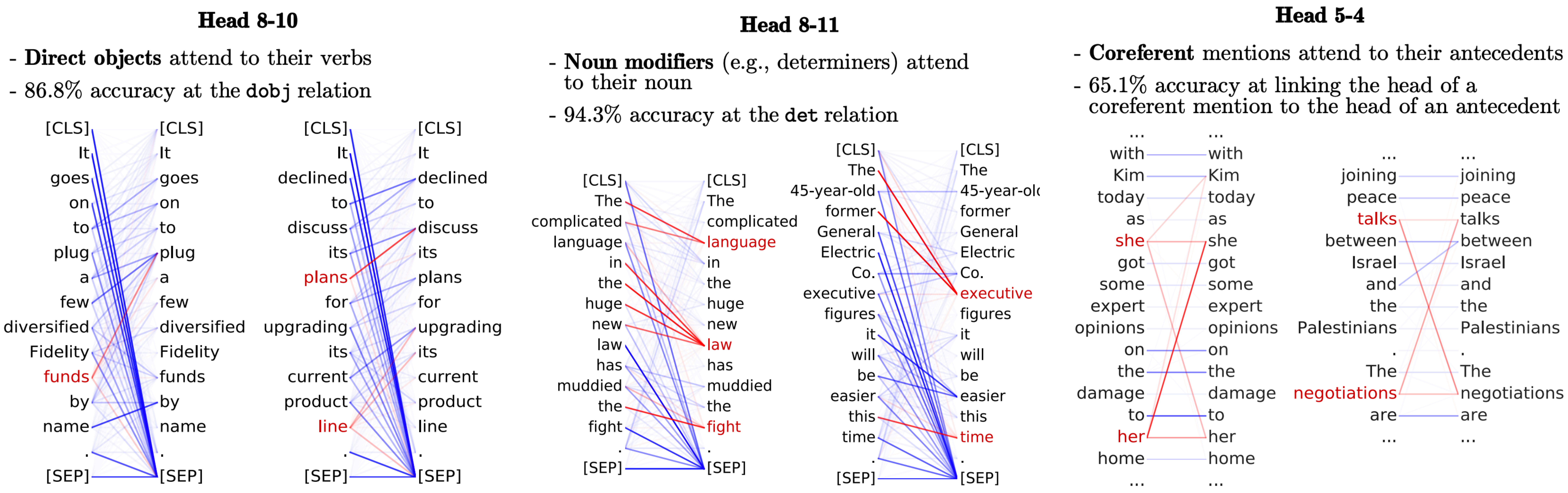
What does BERT learn?



- Heads on transformers learn interesting and diverse things: content heads (attend based on content), positional heads (based on position), etc.

Clark et al. (2019)

What does BERT learn?



- Still way worse than what supervised systems can do, but interesting that this is learned organically

Clark et al. (2019)

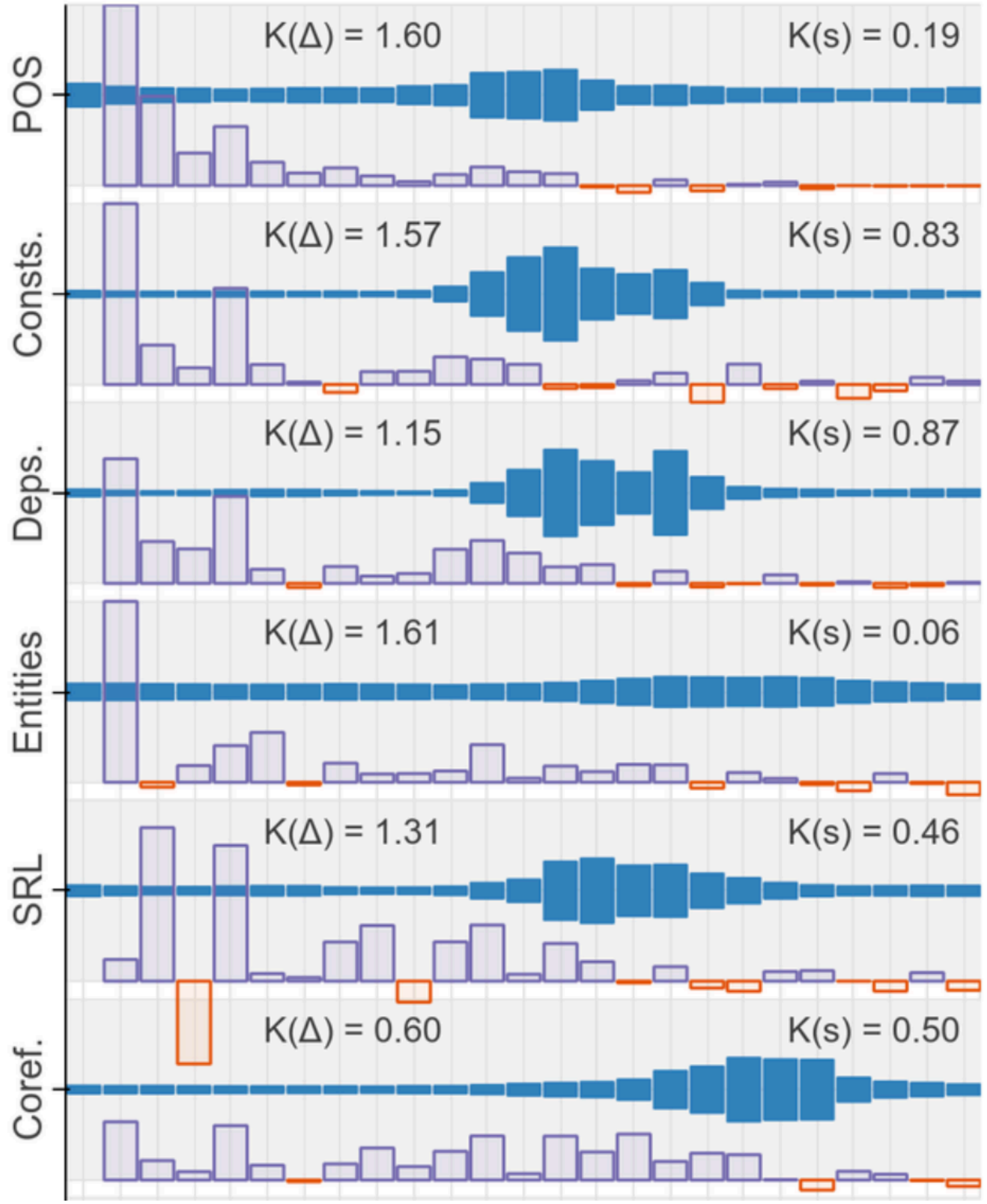
Probing BERT

- Try to predict POS, etc. from each layer. Learn mixing weights

$$\mathbf{h}_{i,\tau} = \gamma_\tau \sum_{\ell=0}^{L} s_\tau^{(\ell)} \mathbf{h}_i^{(\ell)}$$

representation of wordpiece *i* for task τ

- Plot shows *s* weights (blue) and performance deltas when an additional layer is incorporated (purple)
- BERT "rediscovers the classical NLP pipeline": first syntactic tasks then semantic ones

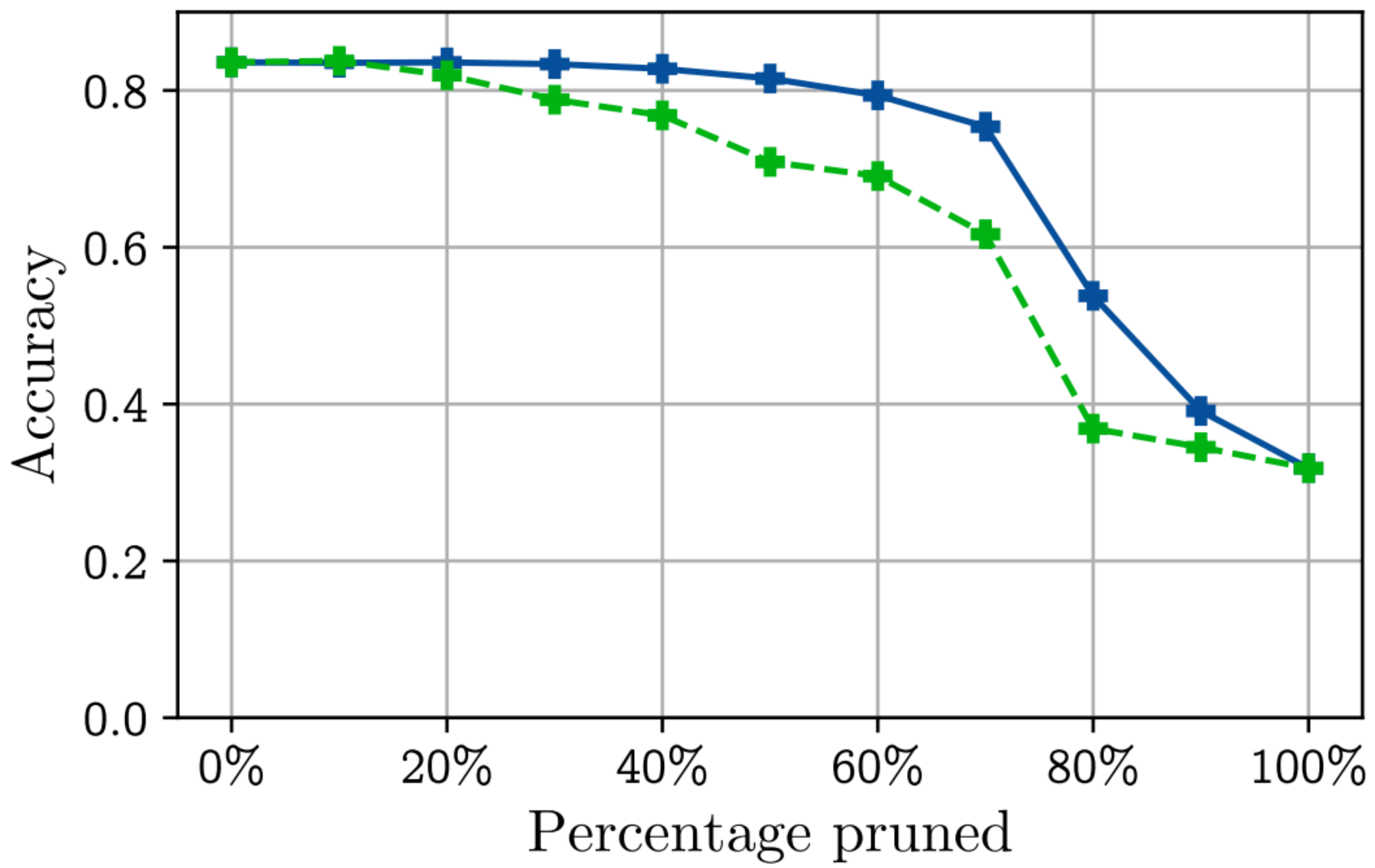


Tenney et al. (2019)

Compressing BERT

- Remove 60+% of BERT's heads with minimal drop in performance

- DistilBERT (Sanh et al., 2019): nearly as good with half the parameters of BERT (via knowledge distillation)



(b) Evolution of accuracy on the MultiNLI-matched validation set when heads are pruned from BERT according to I_h (solid blue) and accuracy difference (dashed green).

Michel et al. (2019)

Open Questions

- BERT-based systems are state-of-the-art for nearly every major text analysis task
- These techniques are here to stay, unclear what form will win out
- Role of academia vs. industry: no major pretrained model has come purely from academia
- Cost/carbon footprint: a single model costs $10,000+ to train (though this cost should come down)