

Transformers – Part 2

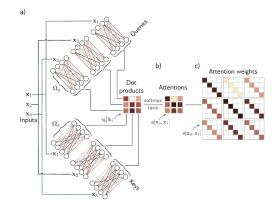
DL4DS – Spring 2025

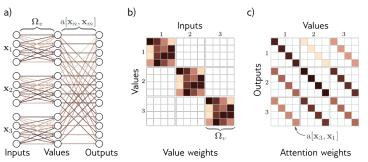
Today

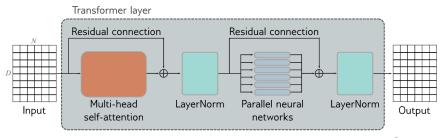
- Recap of Transformers Part 1
- Next token selection
- Transformers for Long Sequences
- Tokenization and Word Embedding

Recap From Part 1

- Motivation
- Dot-product self-attention
- Applying Self-Attention
- The Transformer Architecture
- Three Types of NLP Transformer Models
 - Encoder
 - Decoder
 - Encoder-Decoder







3

Transformers

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slido



Which model flavor do you use for Named Entity Recognition?

 $\ensuremath{\textcircled{1}}$ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

slido



Which model flavor do you use for language translation?

 $\ensuremath{\textcircled{1}}$ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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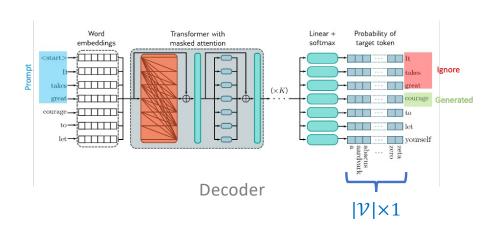


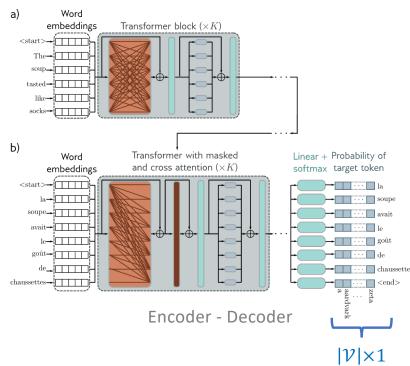
Which model flavor do you use for generating text, question answering, Al assistant?

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

3 Types of Transformer Models

- 1. Encoder transforms text embeddings into representations that support variety of tasks (e.g. sentiment analysis, classification)
 - ❖ Model Example: BERT
- Decoder predicts the next token to continue the input text (e.g. ChatGPT, AI assistants)
 - ❖ Model Example: GPT4, GPT4
- 3. Encoder-Decoder used in sequence-to-sequence tasks, where one text string is converted to another (e.g. machine translation)





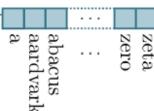
- Recall: output is a $|\mathcal{V}| \times 1$ vector of probabilities
- How should we pick the next token?
- Trade off between accuracy and diversity

Recall: output is a $|\mathcal{V}| \times 1$ vector of probabilities

Selectin methods:

- Greedy selection
- Top-K
- Nucleus
- Beam search

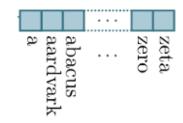
Probability of target token



Next Token Selection – Greedy

Pick most likely token (greedy)

Probability of target token



Simple to implement. Just take the max().

$$\hat{y}_t = rgmax_{w \in \mathcal{V}} \left[Pr(y_t = w | \hat{\mathbf{y}}_{< t}, \mathbf{x}, oldsymbol{\phi})
ight]$$

```
# in PyTorch
outputs = model(inputs)
value, index = outputs.max(1)
```

Might pick first token y_0 , but then there is no y_1 where $Pr(y_1|y_0)$ is high.

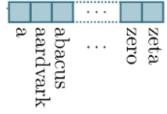
Result is generic and predictable. Same output for a given input context.

Next Token Selection -- Sampling

Sample from the probability distribution



Probability of target token



Get a bit more diversity in the output

Will occasionally sample from the long tail of the distribution, producing some unlikely word combinations

Next Token Selection – Top K Sampling

- Probability of target token
- zeta
 zero
 : : : abacus
 aardvark
 a

- Generate the probability vector as usual
- Sort tokens by likelihood
- 3. Discard all but top k most probable words
- 4. Renormalize the probabilities to be valid probability distribution (e.g. sum to 1)
- 5. Sample from the new distribution

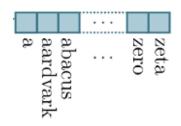
Diversifies word selection

Depends on the distribution. Could be low variance, reducing diversity

Next Token Selection – Nucleus Sampling

Instead of keeping top-k, keep the top p percent of the probability mass.

Probability of target token



Choose from the smallest set from the vocabulary such that

$$\sum_{w \in V^{(p)}} P(w|\mathbf{w}_{< t}) \ge p.$$

Diversifies word selection with less dependence on nature of distribution.

Depends on the distribution. Could be low variance, reducing diversity

Commonly used in *machine* translation

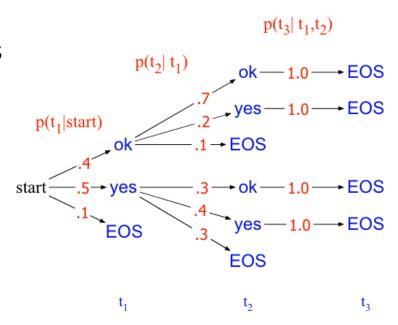
Maintain multiple output choices and then choose best combinations later via tree search

V = {yes, ok, <eos>}

We want to maximize $p(t_1, t_2, t_3)$.

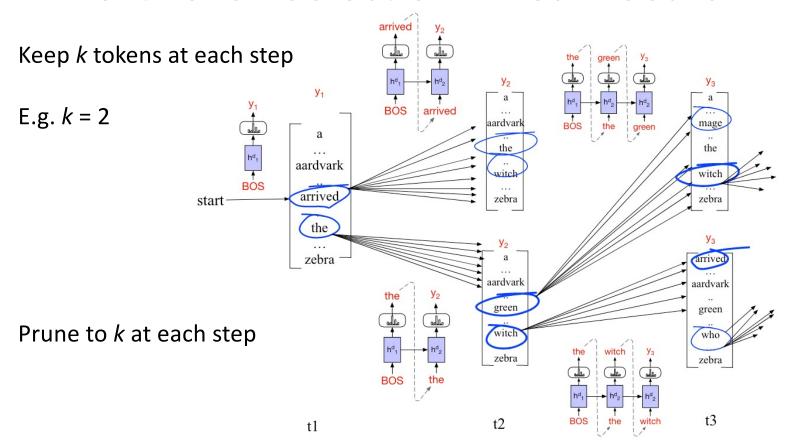
Greedy: $0.5 \times 0.4 \times 1.0 = 0.20$

Optimal: $0.4 \times 0.7 \times 1.0 = 0.28$



But we can't exhaustively search the entire vocabulary Keep k tokens (beam width) at each step

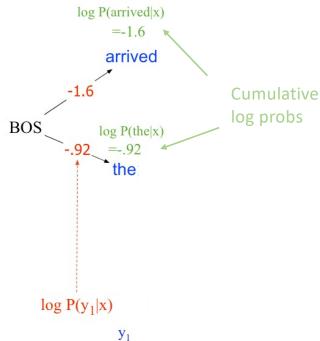
BOS: Beginning of Sentence token



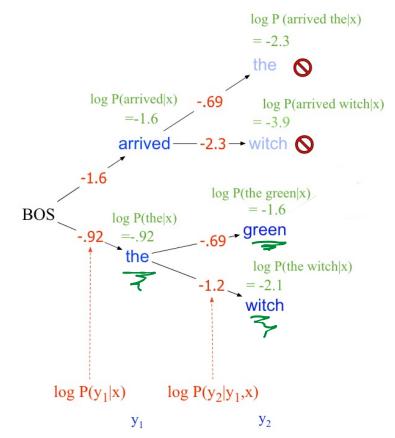
D. Jurafsky and J. H. Martin, Speech and Language Processing. 2024. https://web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/slpdraft/

Calculated with *log* probabilities and add

Pick the top 2 tokens.



D. Jurafsky and J. H. Martin, Speech and Language Processing. 2024. https://web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/slpdraft/



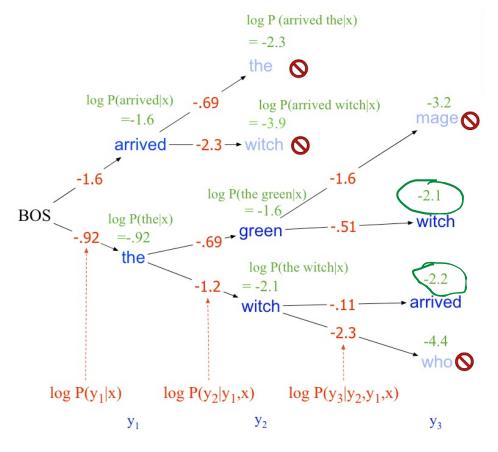
Then pick the next 2 from each of the first 2 tokens.

Calc cumulative log probs:

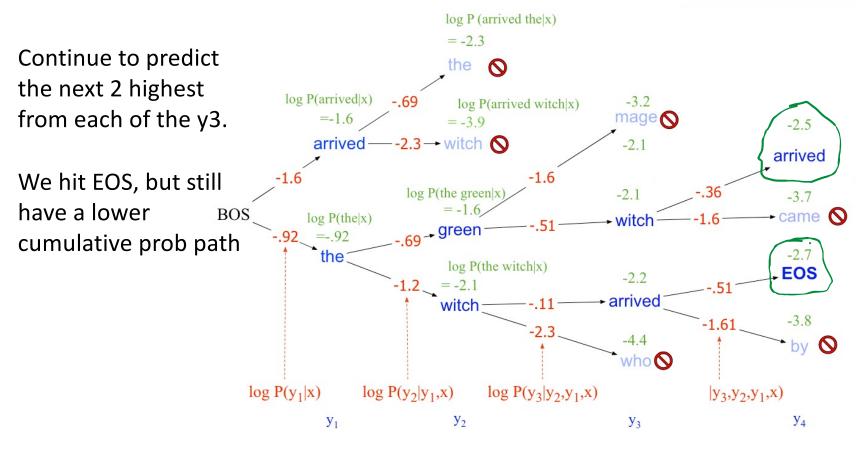
$$-1.6 - .69 = -2.3$$

$$-1.6 - 2.3 = -3.9$$

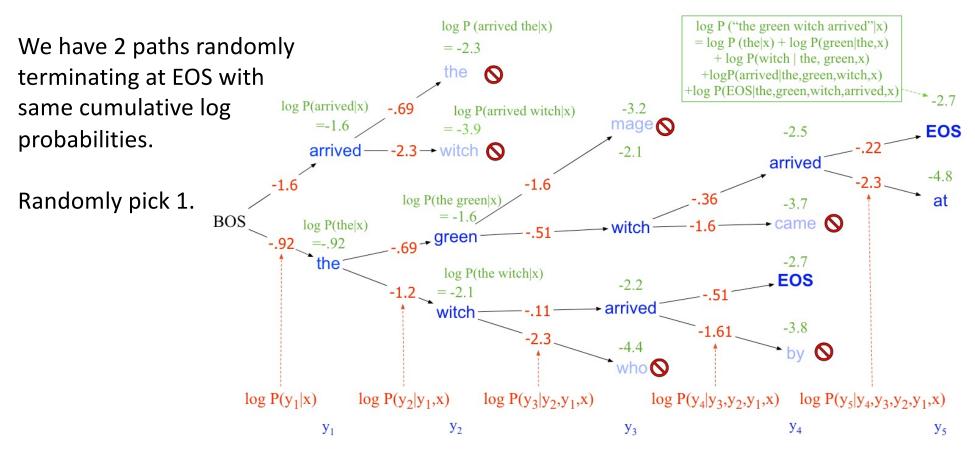
Pick the 1st token with highest log probability.



Then generate the next 2 tokens from each of the y2 and pick the 2 highest log probability paths.



D. Jurafsky and J. H. Martin, Speech and Language Processing. 2024. https://web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/slpdraft/



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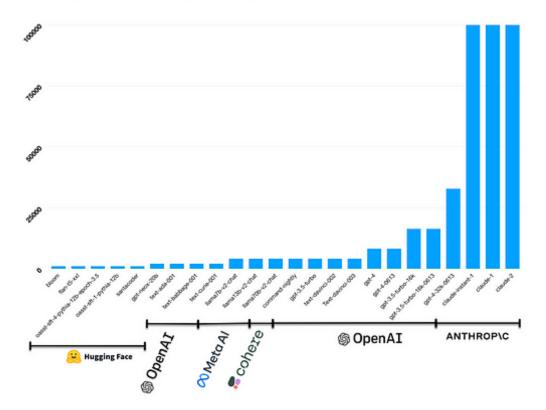
- Greedy selection
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Transformers for Long Sequences

Context Length of LLMs

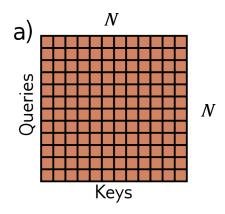
Large Language Model Context Size

Model	Context Length
Llama 2	32K
GPT4	32K
GPT-4 Turbo, Llama 3.1	128K
Claude 3.5 Sonnet	200K
Google Gemini 1.5 Pro	Millions

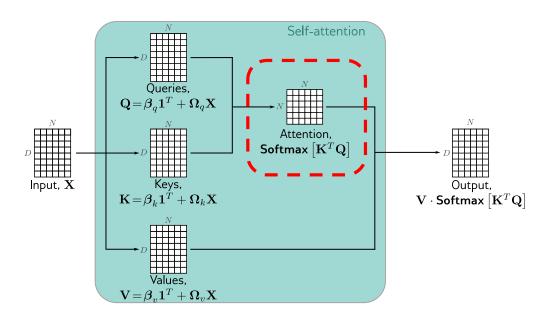


www.cobusgreyling.co

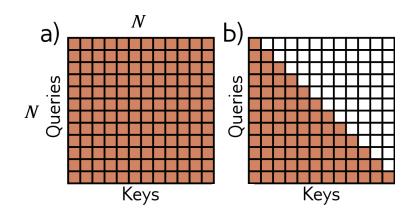
Attention Matrix

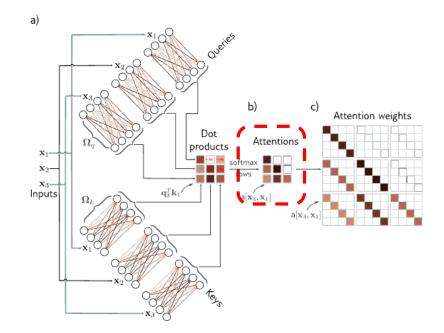


Scales quadratically with sequence length N, e.g. N².



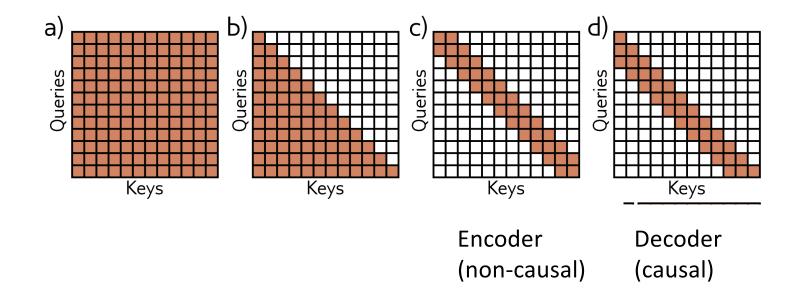
Masked Attention



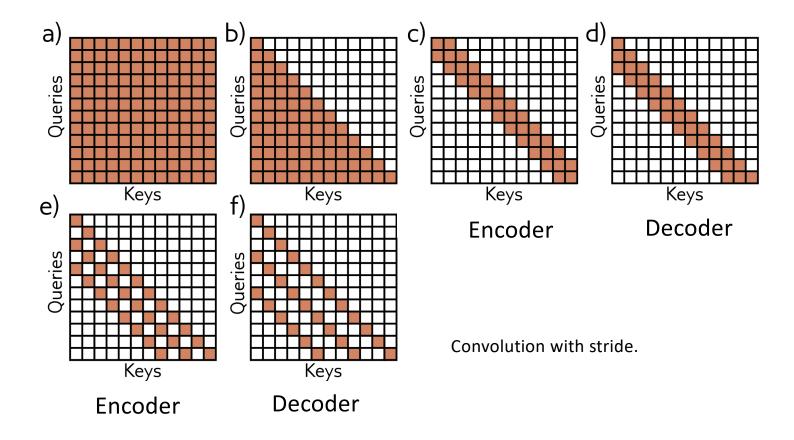


~1/2 the interactions but still scales quadratically

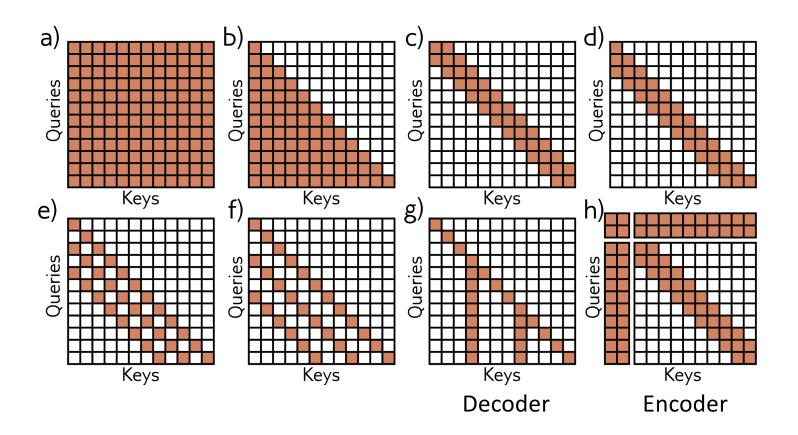
Use Convolutional Structure in Attention



Dilated Convolutional Structures



Have some tokens interact globally

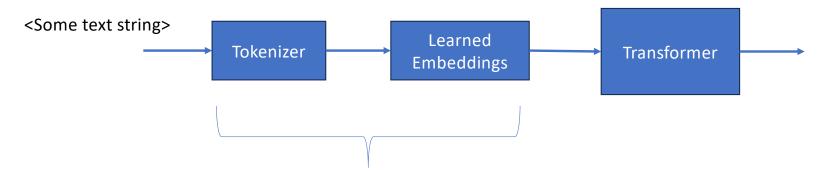


Tokenization and Word Embedding

NLP Preprocessing Pipeline

Transformers don't work on character string directly, but rather on vectors.

The character strings must be converted to vectors



Preprocessing: Tokenization and Embedding

Tokenizer



Tokenizer chooses input "units", e.g. words, sub-words, characters via tokenizer training

In tokenizer training, commonly occurring substrings are greedily merged based on their frequency, starting with character pairs

Tokenization Issues

"A lot of the issues that may look like issues with the neural network architecture actually trace back to tokenization. Here are just a few examples" – Andrej Karpathy

- Why can't LLM spell words? Tokenization.
- Why can't LLM do super simple string processing tasks like reversing a string? Tokenization.
- Why is LLM worse at non-English languages (e.g. Japanese)? Tokenization.
- Why is LLM bad at simple arithmetic? Tokenization.
- Why did GPT-2 have more than necessary trouble coding in Python? Tokenization.
- Why did my LLM abruptly halt when it sees the string "<|endoftext|>"? Tokenization.
- What is this weird warning I get about a "trailing whitespace"? Tokenization.
- Why did the LLM break if I ask it about "SolidGoldMagikarp"? Tokenization.
- Why should I prefer to use YAML over JSON with LLMs? Tokenization.
- Why is LLM not actually end-to-end language modeling? Tokenization.
- What is the real root of suffering? Tokenization.

Unicode Standard and UTF-8

- Unicode variable length character encoding standard. currently defines 149,813 characters and 161 scripts, including emoji, symbols, etc.
- Unicode Codepoint can represent up to $17\times2^{16}=1,114,112$ entries. e.g. U+0000 U+10FFFF in hexadecimal
- Unicode Transformation Standard (e.g. UTF-8) is a variable length encoding using one to four bytes
 - First 128 chars same as ASCII

Code	poi	nt ↔	UTF-8	conversion	1

First code point	Last code point	Byte 1	Byte 2	Byte 3	Byte 4
U+00 <mark>0</mark> 0	U+00 7 F	0xxxxxx			
U+00 <mark>8</mark> 0	U+07FF	110xxxxx	10xxxxx		
U+0800	U+FFFF	1110xxxx	10xxxxxx	10xxxxx	
U+010000	^[b] U+10FFFF	11110xxx	10xxxxxx	10xxxxxx	10xxxxx

Covers ASCII

Covers remainder of almost all Latin-script alphabets

Basic Multilingual Plane including Chinese, Japanese and Korean characters

Emoji, historic scripts, math symbols

Tokenizer

Two common tokenizers:

- Byte Pair Encoding (BPE) Used by OpenAI GPT2, GPT4, etc.
 - The BPE algorithm is "byte-level" because it runs on UTF-8 encoded strings.
 - This algorithm was popularized for LLMs by the <u>GPT-2 paper</u> and the associated GPT-2 <u>code release</u> from OpenAI. <u>Sennrich et al. 2015</u> is cited as the original reference for the use of BPE in NLP applications. Today, all modern LLMs (e.g. GPT, Llama, Mistral) use this algorithm to train their tokenizers.*

sentencepiece

• (e.g. Llama, Mistral) use <u>sentencepiece</u> instead. Primary difference being that sentencepiece runs BPE directly on Unicode code points instead of on UTF-8 encoded bytes.

BPE Pseudocode

Initialize vocabulary with individual characters in the text and their frequencies

While desired vocabulary size not reached:

Identify the most frequent pair of adjacent tokens/characters in the vocabulary

Merge this pair to form a new token

Update the vocabulary with this new token

Recalculate frequencies of all tokens including the new token

Return the final vocabulary

Enforce a Token Split Pattern

```
GPT2_SPLIT_PATTERN = r"""'(?:[sdmt]|ll|ve|re)| ?\p{L}+| ?\p{N}+|
?[^\s\p{L}\p{N}]+|\s+(?!\S)|\s+"""

GPT4_SPLIT_PATTERN = r"""'(?i:[sdmt]|ll|ve|re)|[^\r\n\p{L}\p{N}]?+\p{L}+|\p{N}{1,3}|
?[^\s\p{L}\p{N}]++[\r\n]*|\s*[\r\n]|\s+(?!\S)|\s+"""
```

- Do not allow tokens to merge across certain characters or patterns
- Common contraction endings: 'll, 've, 're
- Match words with a leading space
- Match numeric sequences
- carriage returns, new lines

GPT4 Tokenizer

Tiktokenizer

a sailor went to sea sea sea to see what he could see see see but all that he could see see see was the bottom of the deep blue sea sea sea

cl100k_base is the GPT4 tokenizer



Show whitespace

https://tiktokenizer.vercel.app/

GPT2 Tokenizer

Tiktokenizer

```
class Tokenizer:
    """Base class for Tokenizers"""

def __init__(self):
    # default: vocab size of 256 (all bytes), no merges,
no patterns
    self.merges = {} # (int, int) -> int
    self.pattern = "" # str
    self.special_tokens = {} # str -> int, e.g.
{'<|endoftext|>': 100257}
    self.vocab = self._build_vocab() # int -> bytes
```

You can see some issues with the GPT2 tokenizer with respect to python code

Token count

146

class·Tokenizer:\n
...."""Base·class·for·Tokenizers"""\n
\n
.....#.default:\vocab\size\of\256\(all\bytes\),\no\m
erges,\no\patterns\n
....\self.merges\-\{\dagger\}*(\int,\int)\-\sin\n\n
....\self.pattern\-\self.\n
....\self.special_tokens\-\{\dagger\}*str\-\sin\n\,\e.g.\
{'<|endoftext|>':\langle 100257}\n
....\self.vocab\-\self._build_vocab()\dagger\}*int\-\sin\byte
s

https://tiktokenizer.vercel.app/

✓ Show whitespace 42

GPT4 Tokenizer

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{'<|endoftext|>': 100257}
    self.vocab = self._build_vocab() # int -> bytes
```

Issues are improved with GPT4 tokenizer

```
Token count
96

class·Tokenizer:\n
...."""Base·class·for·Tokenizers"""\n
\n
.....def·__init__(self):\n
......#·default:·vocab·size·of·256·(all·bytes),·no·m
erges,·no·patterns\n
......self.merges·=·{}·#·(int,·int)·->·int\n
.....self.pattern·=·""-#·str\n
.....self.special_tokens·=·{}·#·str·->·int,·e.g.·
{'<|endoftext|>':·100257}\n
.....self.vocab·=·self._build_vocab()·#·int·->·byte
s
```

[1058, 9857, 3213, 512, 262, 4304, 4066, 538, 369, 985
7, 12509, 15425, 262, 711, 1328, 2381, 3889, 726, 997, 286, 674, 1670, 25, 24757, 1404, 315, 220, 4146, 320, 543, 5943, 705, 912, 82053, 11, 912, 12912, 198, 286, 659, 749, 2431, 288, 284, 4792, 674, 320, 396, 11, 52
8, 8, 1492, 528, 198, 286, 659, 40209, 284, 1621, 674, 610, 198, 286, 659, 64308, 29938, 284, 4792, 674, 610, 1492, 528, 11, 384, 1326, 13, 5473, 100257, 1232, 220, 1041, 15574, 534, 286, 659, 78557, 284, 659, 1462, 595
7, 53923, 368, 674, 528, 1492, 5943]

Show whitespace

a_sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_ to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_ but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_ was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_

_															m			
33	28	15	12	11	8	6	6	4	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

Byte Pair Encoding (BPE) Example

Minimal starting vocabulary of subset of lower case latin alphabet and space `_`.

a_sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_ to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_ but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_ was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_

_	е	s	а	t	0	h		u	Ь	d	w	С	f	i	m	n	Р	r
33	28	15	12	11	8	6	6	4	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

b) a_sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_
to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_
but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_
was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_

	_	e	se	а	t	0	h		u	Ь	d	w	С	s	f	i	m	n	Р	r
[33	15	13	12	11	8	6	6	4	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

Byte Pair Encoding (BPE) Example

Find the most frequent pair of adjacent tokens, 'se', in this case and form new token.

a) a_sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_ to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_ but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_ was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_

```
_ e s a t o h l u b d w c f i m n p r 33 28 15 12 11 8 6 6 4 3 3 3 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

b) a_sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_
to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_
but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_
was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_

C) a_sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_
to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_
but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_
was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_

```
| _ | se | a | e_ | t | o | h | l | u | b | d | e | w | c | s | f | i | m | n | p | r | | 21 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1
```

Byte Pair Encoding (BPE) Example

Next most frequent pair of tokens is `e_`

a sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_ to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_ but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_ was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_

```
_ e s a t o h l u b d w c f i m n p r 33 28 15 12 11 8 6 6 4 3 3 3 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

b) a_sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_
to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_
but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_
was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_

C) a_sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_
to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_
but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_
was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_

```
_ se a e t o h l u b d e w c s f i m n p r
21 13 12 12 11 8 6 6 4 3 3 3 3 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

: :

Continue until you hit your vocabulary size limit.

a_sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_ to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_ but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_ was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_

Byte Pair Encoding (BPE) Example

```
_ e s a t o h l u b d w c f i m n p r 33 28 15 12 11 8 6 6 4 3 3 3 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

b) a_sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_
to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_
but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_
was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_

```
_ e se a t o h l u b d w c s f i m n p r 33 15 13 12 11 8 6 6 6 4 3 3 3 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

C) a_sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_
to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_
but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_
was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_sea_

```
_ se a e_ t o h l u b d e w c s f i m n p r
21 13 12 12 11 8 6 6 4 3 3 3 3 3 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

: :

 $\frac{\mathsf{d}}{\mathsf{d}} = \frac{\mathsf{sea} + \mathsf{e} + \mathsf{b} + \mathsf{e} + \mathsf{w} + \mathsf{a} + \mathsf{could} + \mathsf{hat} + \mathsf{he} + \mathsf{o} + \mathsf{e} + \mathsf{e} + \mathsf{to} + \mathsf{u} + \mathsf{a} + \mathsf{d} + \mathsf{f} + \mathsf{w} + \mathsf{h} + \mathsf{e} + \mathsf{fo} + \mathsf{f} + \mathsf{f}$

: : :

```
a _sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_
to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_
but_all_that_he_could_see_see_see_
was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_
```

```
_ e s a t o h l u b d w c f i m n p r 33 28 15 12 11 8 6 6 4 3 3 3 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

b) a_sailor_went_to_sea_sea_sea_
to_see_what_he_could_see_see_see_
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was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_
le_lse_a_lt_o_bl_lu_b_d_w_cls_f_i_m_n_plr

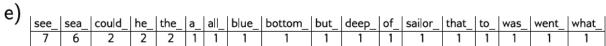
```
_ e se a t o h l u b d w c s f i m n p r 33 15 13 12 11 8 6 6 6 4 3 3 3 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

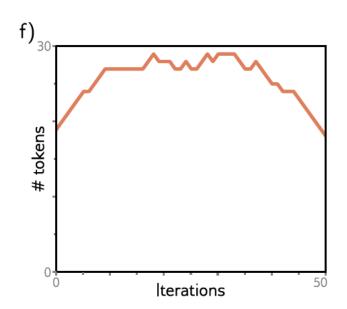
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was_the_bottom_of_the_deep_blue_sea_sea_sea_

```
_ se a e_ t o h l u b d e w c s f i m n p r
21 13 12 12 11 8 6 6 4 3 3 3 3 3 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

: :

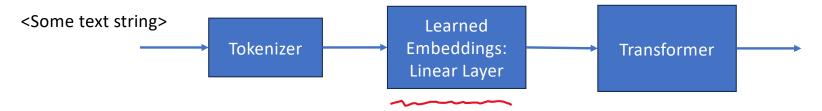






Generally # of tokens increases and then starts decreasing after continuing to merge tokens

Learned Embeddings

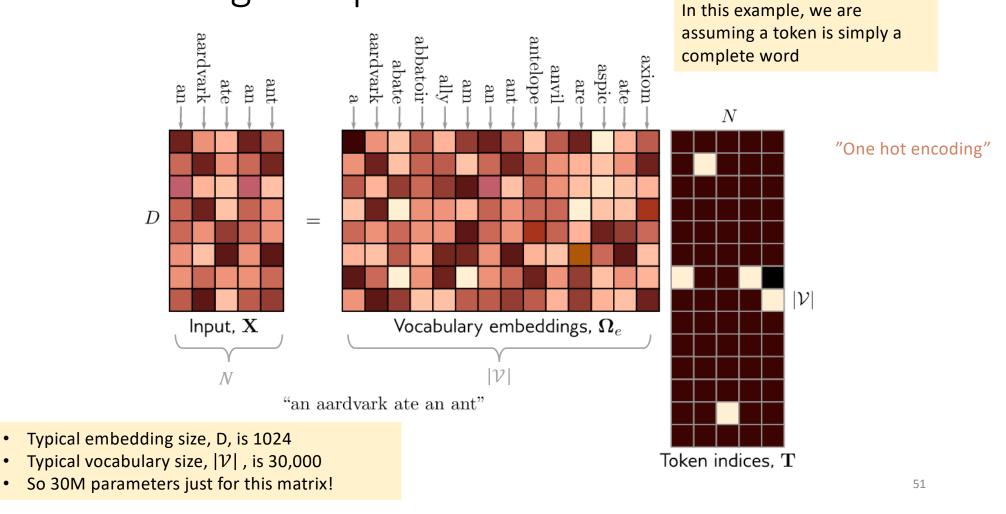


- After the tokenizer, you have an updated "vocabulary" indexed by token ID
- Next step is to translate the token into an embedding vector
- Translation is done via a linear layer which is typically learned with the rest of the transformer model

```
self.embedding = nn.Embedding(vocab_size, embedding_dim)
```

• Special layer definition, likely to exploit sparsity of input

Embeddings Output



Next Jupyter Notebook assignment

- will release shortly
- > self-attention
- > multi-head self-attention

Next

- Image Transformers
- Multimodal Transformers

• ...

Feedback



