Lecture 13: Machine Translation II

Alan Ritter

(many slides from Greg Durrett)

Neural MT Details

Encoder-Decoder MT

- Sutskever seq2seq paper: first major application of LSTMs to NLP

Sutskever et al. (2014)

Encoder-Decoder MT

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- Basic encoder-decoder with beam search

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Method	test BLEU score (ntst14)
Bahdanau et al. [2]	28.45
Baseline System [29]	33.30
Single forward LSTM, beam size 12	26.17
Single reversed LSTM, beam size 12	30.59
Ensemble of 5 reversed LSTMs, beam size 12	**34.81**

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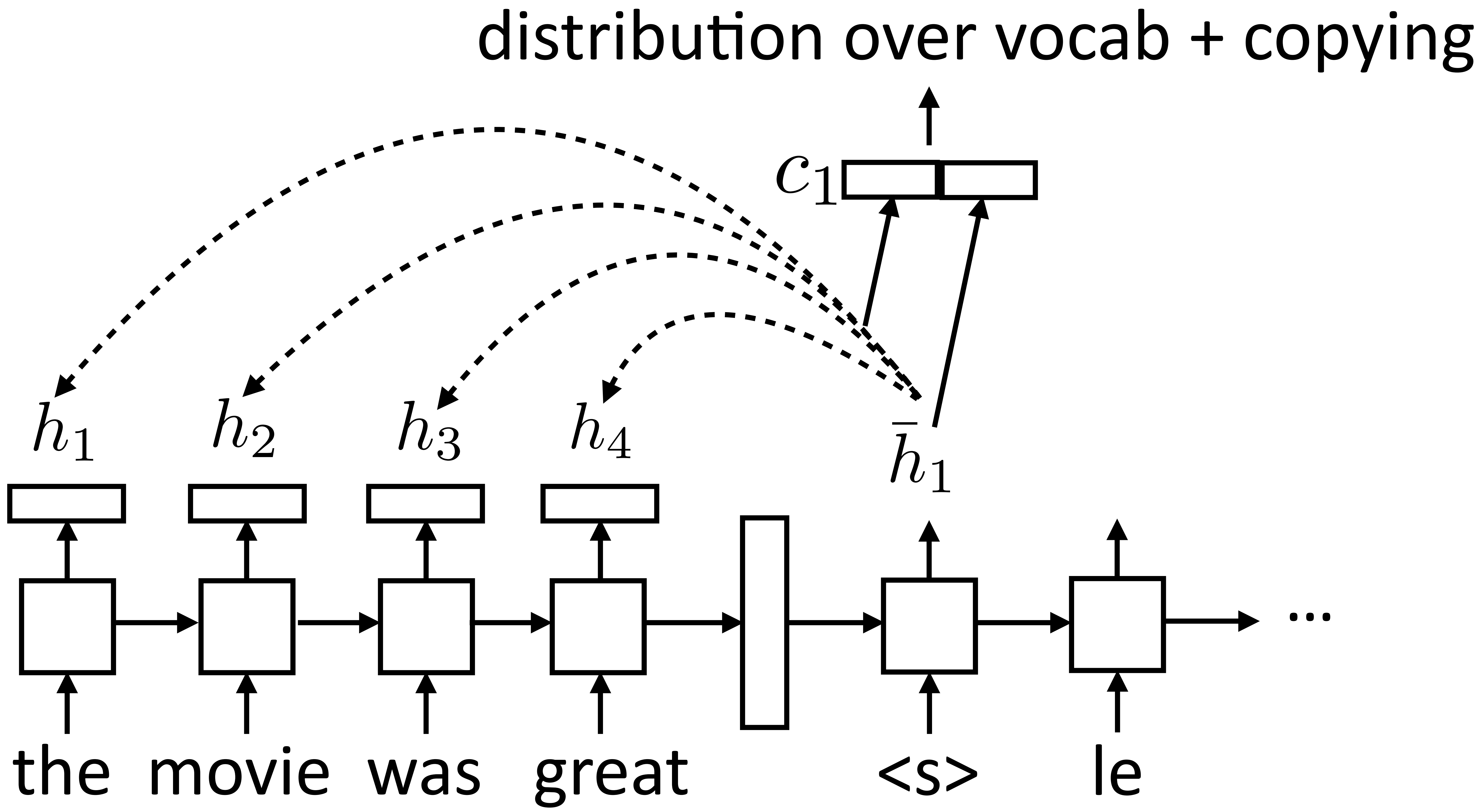
- SOTA = 37.0 — not all that competitive…

Sutskever et al. (2014)

Encoder-Decoder MT

- Better model from seq2seq lectures: encoder-decoder with attention and copying for rare words



Results: WMT English-French

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Sutskever+ (2014) seq2seq single: **30.6** BLEU

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Luong+ (2015) seq2seq ensemble with attention and rare word handling: **37.5** BLEU

- But English-French is a really easy language pair and there's *tons* of data for it! Does this approach work for anything harder?

Results: WMT English-German

- 4.5M sentence pairs

Classic phrase-based system: **20.7** BLEU

Luong+ (2014) seq2seq: **14** BLEU

Luong+ (2015) seq2seq ensemble with rare word handling: **23.0** BLEU

- Not nearly as good in absolute BLEU, but not really comparable across languages

Results: WMT English-German

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- Not nearly as good in absolute BLEU, but not really comparable across languages
- French, Spanish = easiest
  German, Czech = harder
  Japanese, Russian = hard (grammatically different, lots of morphology...)

MT Examples

src	In einem Interview sagte Bloom jedoch , dass er und Kerr sich noch immer lieben .
ref	However , in an interview , Bloom has said that he and *Kerr* still love each other .
best	In an interview , however , Bloom said that he and *Kerr* still love .
base	However , in an interview , Bloom said that he and **Tina** were still <unk> .

- best = with attention, base = no attention
- NMT systems can hallucinate words, especially when not using attention — phrase-based doesn't do this

Luong et al. (2015)

MT Examples

src	Wegen der von Berlin und der Europäischen Zentralbank verhängten strengen Sparpolitik in Verbindung mit der Zwangsjacke , in die die jeweilige nationale Wirtschaft durch das Festhalten an der gemeinsamen Währung genötigt wird , sind viele Menschen der Ansicht , das Projekt Europa sei zu weit gegangen
ref	The *austerity imposed by Berlin and the European Central Bank , coupled with the straitjacket* imposed on national economies through adherence to the common currency , has led many people to think Project Europe has gone too far .
best	Because of the strict *austerity measures imposed by Berlin and the European Central Bank in connection with the straitjacket* in which the respective national economy is forced to adhere to the common currency , many people believe that the European project has gone too far .
base	Because of the pressure **imposed by the European Central Bank and the Federal Central Bank with the strict austerity** imposed on the national economy in the face of the single currency , many people believe that the European project has gone too far .

- best = with attention, base = no attention

Luong et al. (2015)

MT Examples

Source	such changes in reaction conditions include , but are not limited to , an increase in temperature or change in ph .
Reference	所(such) 述(said) 反 应(reaction) 条 件(condition) 的(of) 改 变(change) 包 括(include) 但(but) 不(not) 限 于(limit) 温度(temperature) 的(of) 增加(increase) 或(or) pH 值(value) 的(of) 改变(change) 。
PBMT	中(in) 的(of) 这 种(such) 变 化(change) 的(of) 反 应(reaction) 条 件(condition) 包 括(include) , 但(but) 不(not) 限 于(limit) , 增加(increase) 的(of) 温度(temperature) 或(or) pH 变化(change) 。
NMT	这种(such) 反应(reaction) 条件(condition) 的(of) 变化(change) 包括(include) 但(but) 不(not) 限于(limit) pH 或(or) pH 的(of) 变化(change) 。

- NMT can repeat itself if it gets confused (pH or pH)
- Phrase-based MT often gets chunks right, may have more subtle ungrammaticalities

Zhang et al. (2017)

Rare Words: Word Piece Models

- Use Huffman encoding on a corpus, keep most common *k* (~10,000) character sequences for source and target

Input: _the **_eco tax** _port i co _in _Po nt - de - Bu is …

Output: _le _port ique **_éco taxe** _de _Pont - de - Bui s

Wu et al. (2016)

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- Captures common words and parts of rare words
- Subword structure may make it easier to translate
- Model balances translating and transliterating without explicit switching

Wu et al. (2016)

Rare Words: Byte Pair Encoding

- Simpler procedure, based only on the dictionary
- Input: a dictionary of words represented as characters

Sennrich et al. (2016)

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for i in range(num_merges):
  pairs = get_stats(vocab)
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- Final size = initial vocab + num merges. Often do 10k - 30k merges

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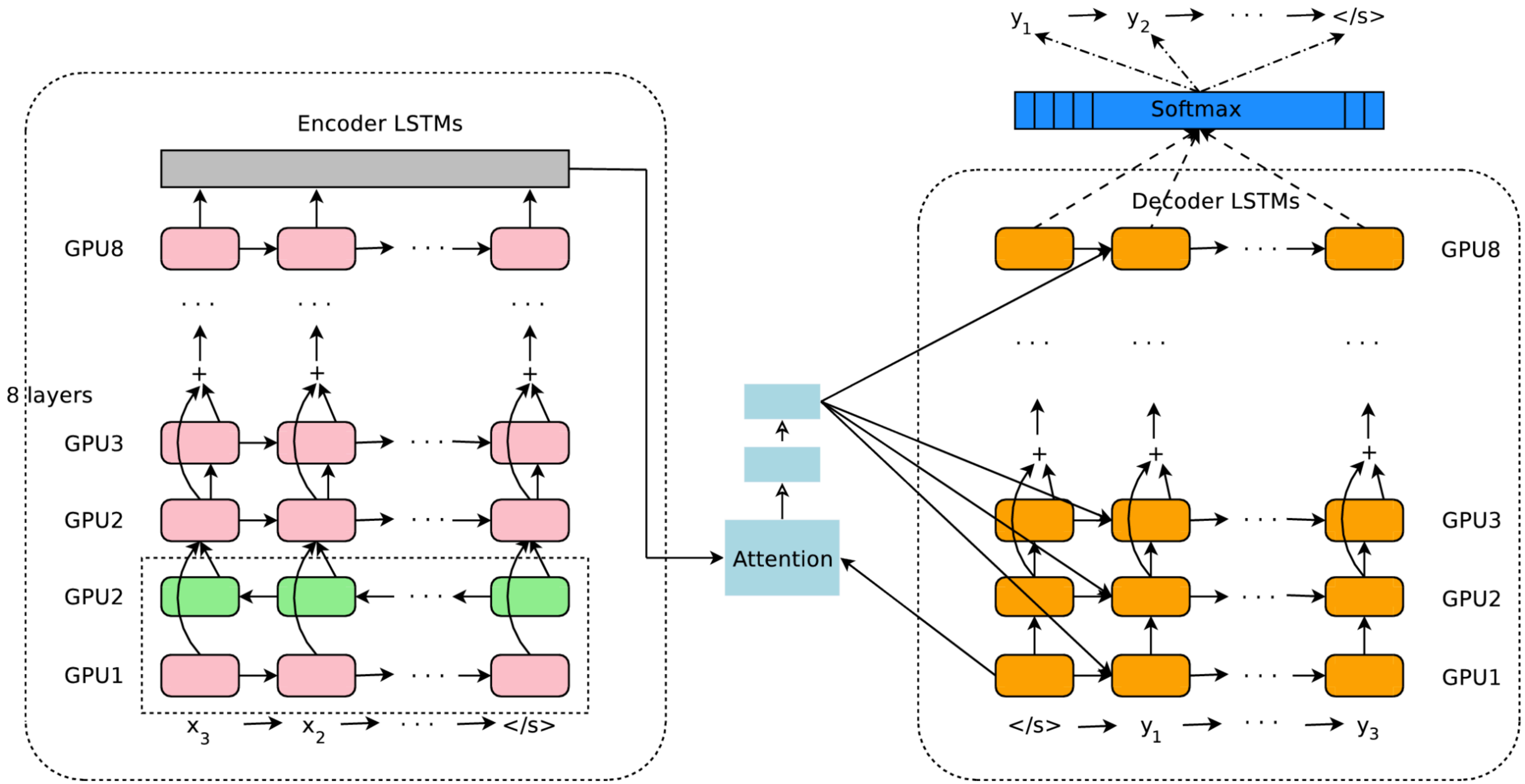
- Count bigram character cooccurrences
- Merge the most frequent pair of adjacent characters

- Final size = initial vocab + num merges. Often do 10k - 30k merges
- Most SOTA NMT systems use this on both source + target

Sennrich et al. (2016)

Google's NMT System



- 8-layer LSTM encoder-decoder with attention, word piece vocabulary of 8k-32k

Wu et al. (2016)

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English-French:

Google's phrase-based system: 37.0 BLEU

Luong+ (2015) seq2seq ensemble with rare word handling: 37.5 BLEU

Google's 32k word pieces: 38.95 BLEU

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English-German:

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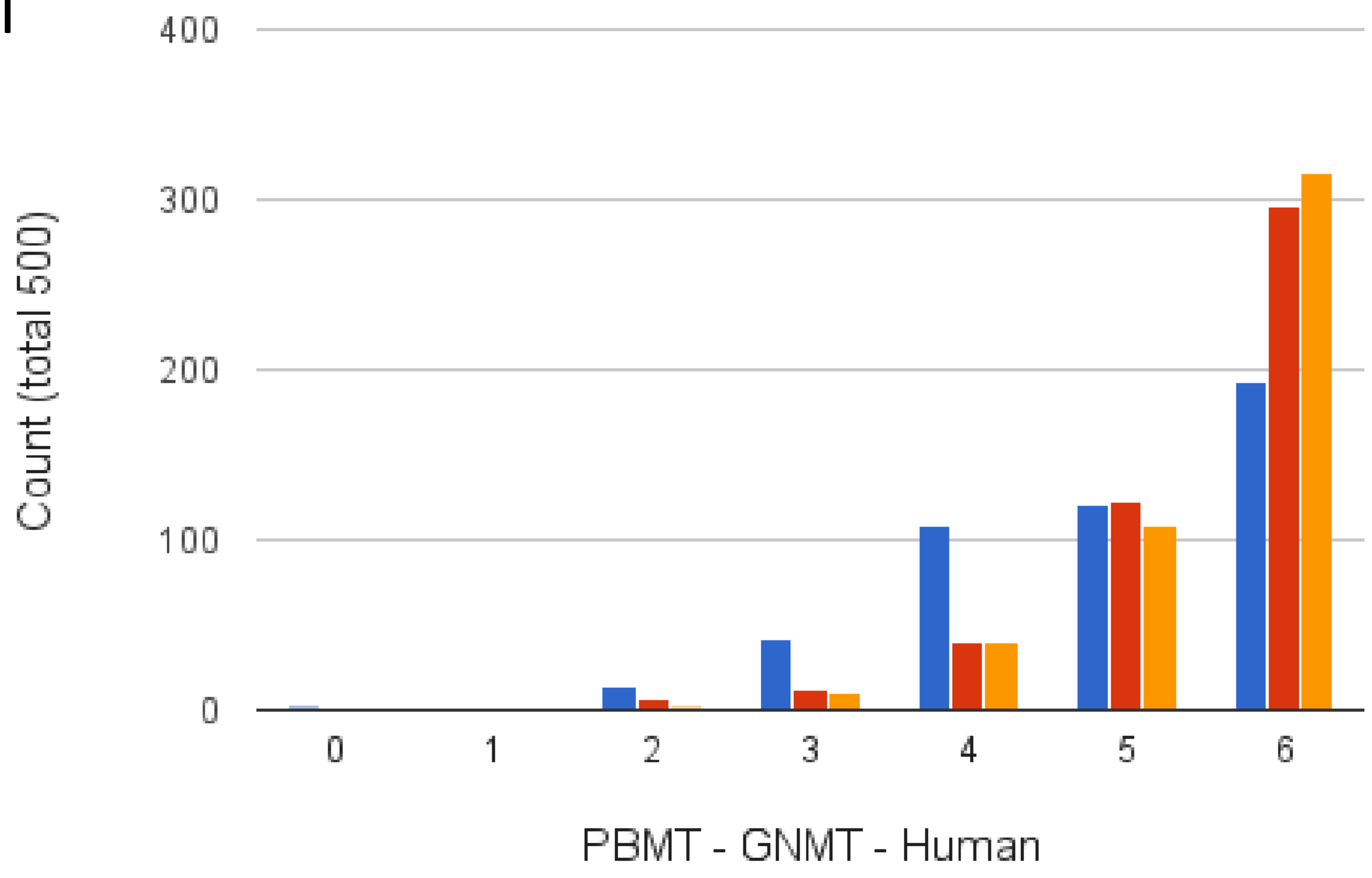
Google’s 32k word pieces: 24.2 BLEU

Wu et al. (2016)

Human Evaluation (En-Es)

- Similar to human-level performance *on English-Spanish*



Wu et al. (2016)

Google's NMT System

Source	She was spotted three days later by a dog walker trapped in the quarry	
PBMT	Elle a été repéré trois jours plus tard par un promeneur de chien piégé dans la carrière	6.0
GNMT	Elle a été repérée trois jours plus tard par un traîneau à chiens piégé dans la carrière.	2.0
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"sled"

"walker"

Wu et al. (2016)

Backtranslation

- Classical MT methods used a bilingual corpus of sentences B = (S, T) and a large monolingual corpus T' to train a language model. Can neural MT do the same?

Sennrich et al. (2015)

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s_1, t_1

s_2, t_2

…

[null], t'_1

[null], t'_2

…

Sennrich et al. (2015)

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- Approach 2: generate synthetic sources with a T->S machine translation system (backtranslation)

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s_1, t_1

s_2, t_2

...

$MT(t'_1), t'_1$

$MT(t'_2), t'_2$

...

Sennrich et al. (2015)

Backtranslation

name	training		BLEU			
	data	instances	tst2011	tst2012	tst2013	tst2014
baseline (Gülçehre et al., 2015)			18.4	18.8	19.9	18.7
deep fusion (Gülçehre et al., 2015)			20.2	20.2	21.3	**20.6**
baseline	parallel	7.2m	18.6	18.2	18.4	18.3
$\text{parallel}_{\text{synth}}$	$\text{parallel/parallel}_{\text{synth}}$	6m/6m	19.9	20.4	20.1	20.0
$\text{Gigaword}_{\text{mono}}$	$\text{parallel/Gigaword}_{\text{mono}}$	7.6m/7.6m	18.8	19.6	19.4	18.2
$\text{Gigaword}_{\text{synth}}$	$\text{parallel/Gigaword}_{\text{synth}}$	8.4m/8.4m	**21.2**	**21.1**	**21.8**	20.4

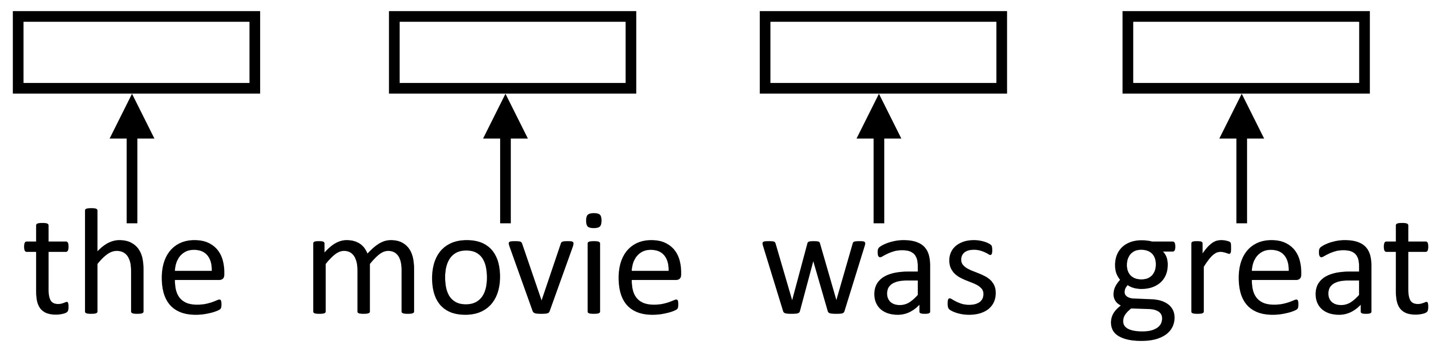
- Gigaword: large monolingual English corpus
- $\text{parallel}_{\text{synth}}$: backtranslate training data; makes additional noisy source sentences which could be useful

Sennrich et al. (2015)

Transformers for MT

Recall: Self-Attention

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



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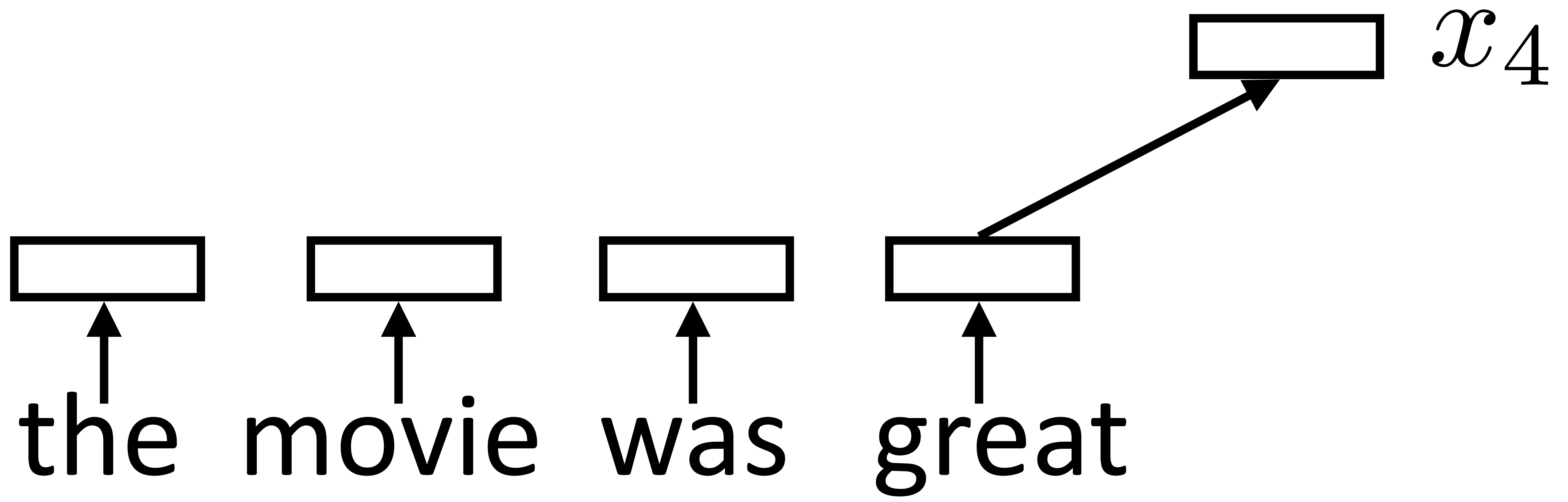

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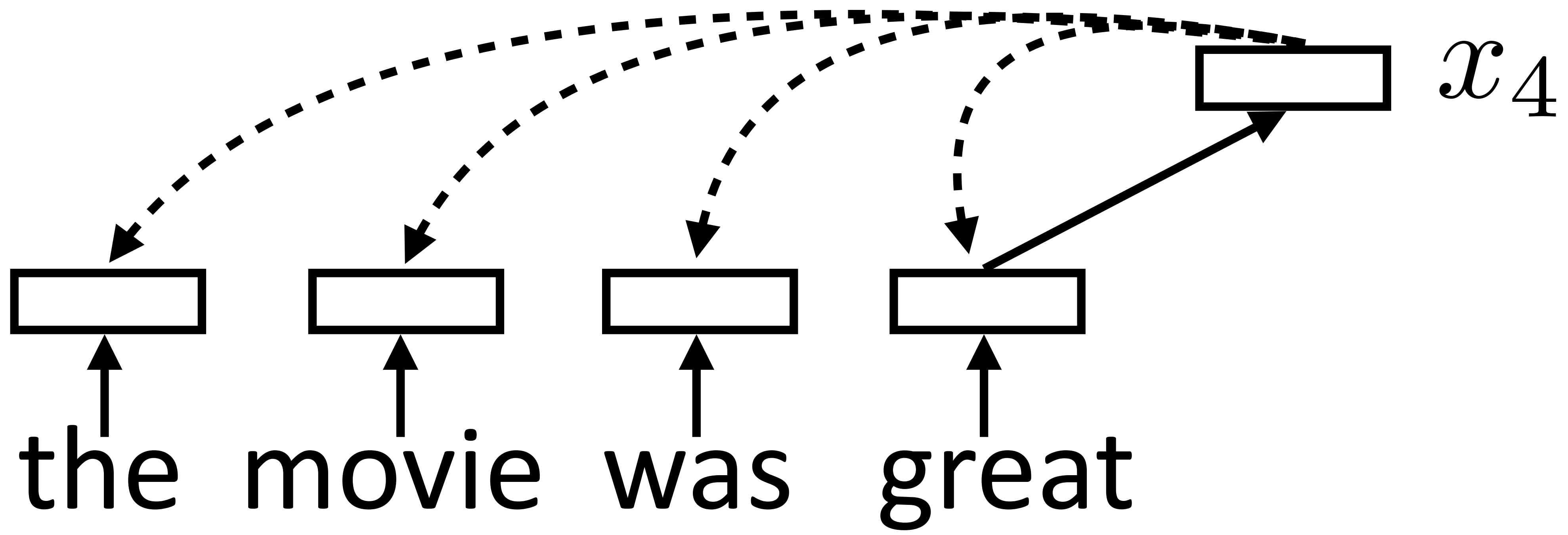

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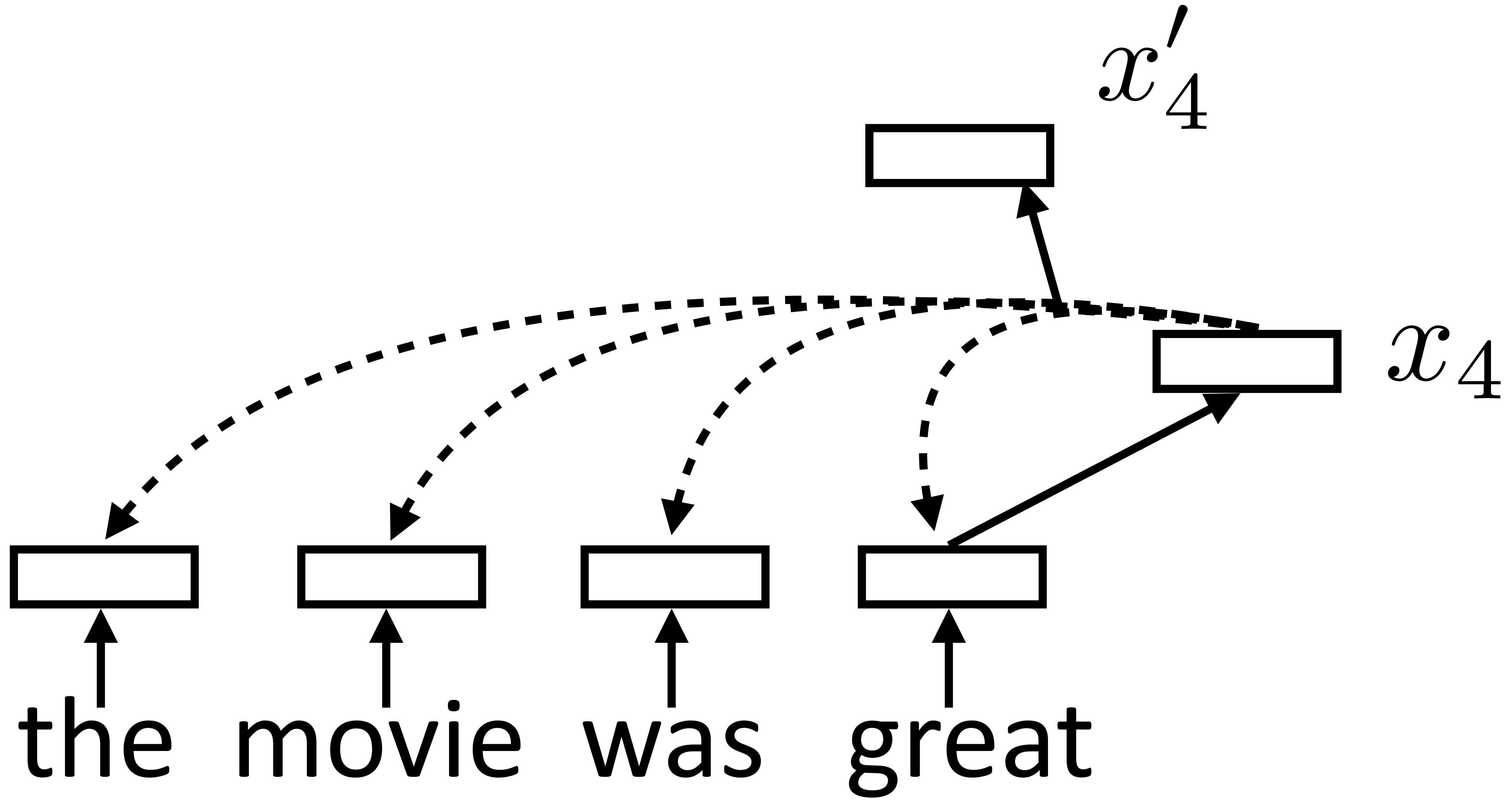
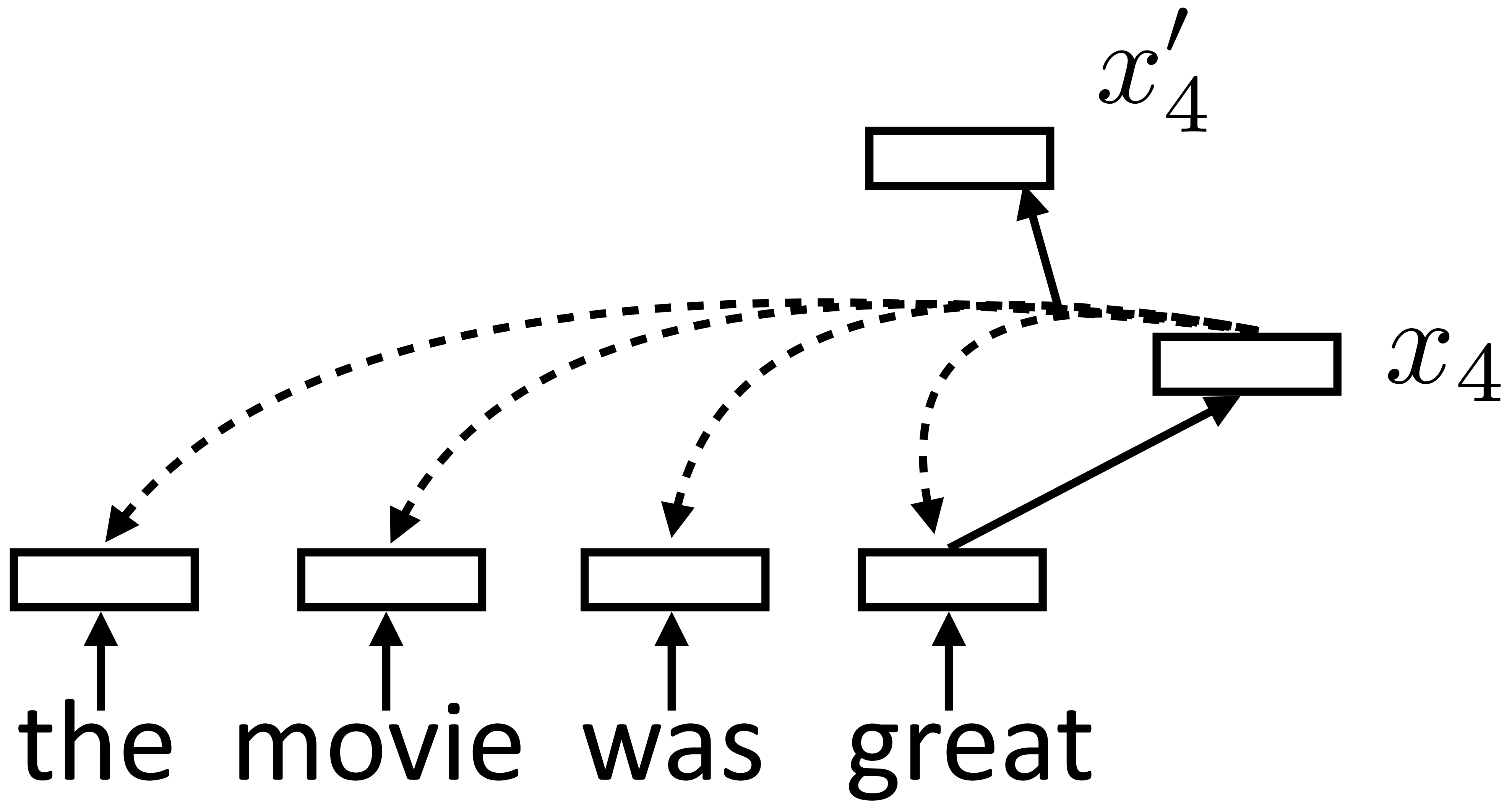


Vaswani et al. (2017)

Recall: Self-Attention

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

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



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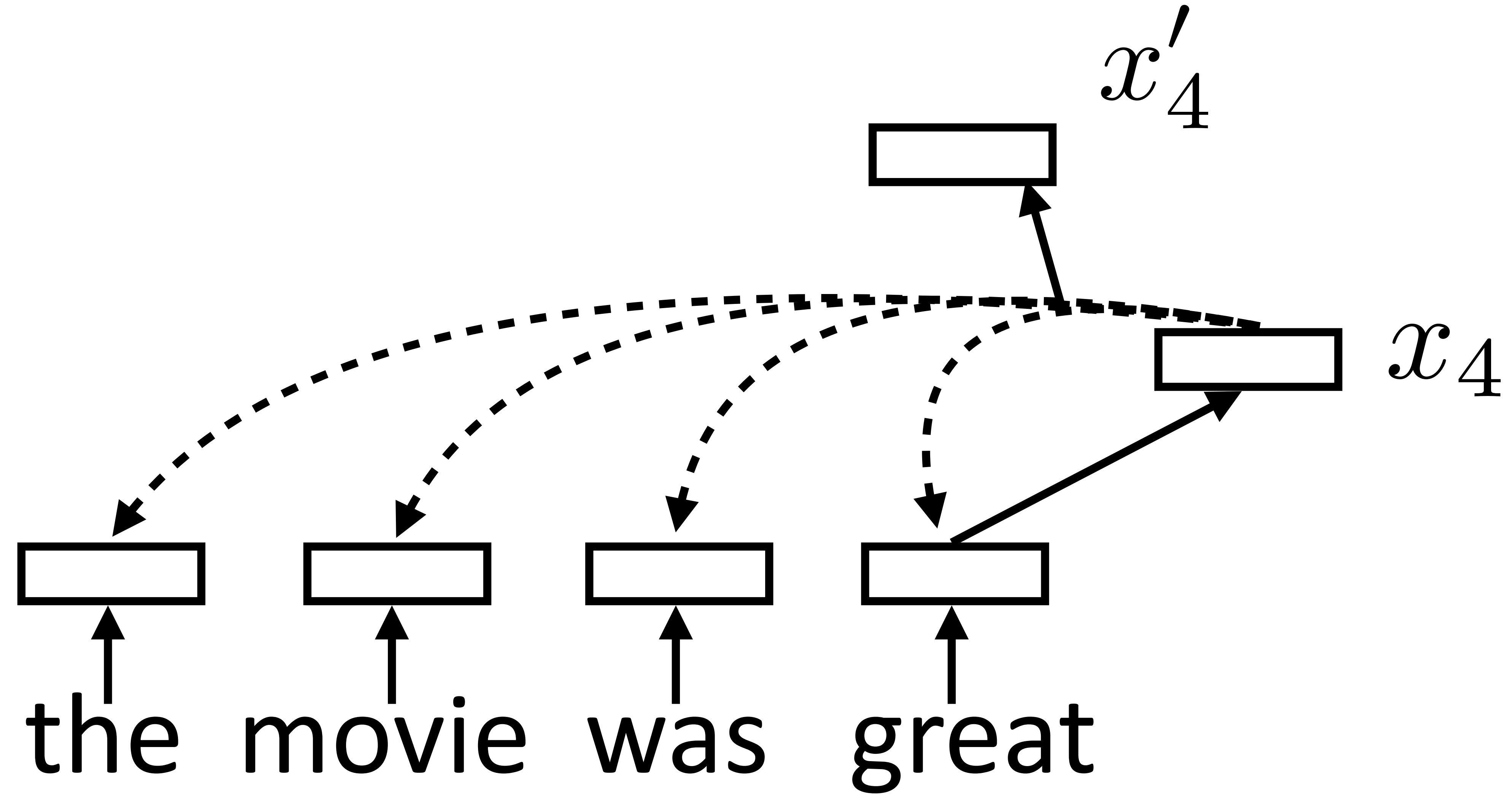
$$\alpha_{i,j} = \mathrm{softmax}(x_i^\top x_j)$$ scalar

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



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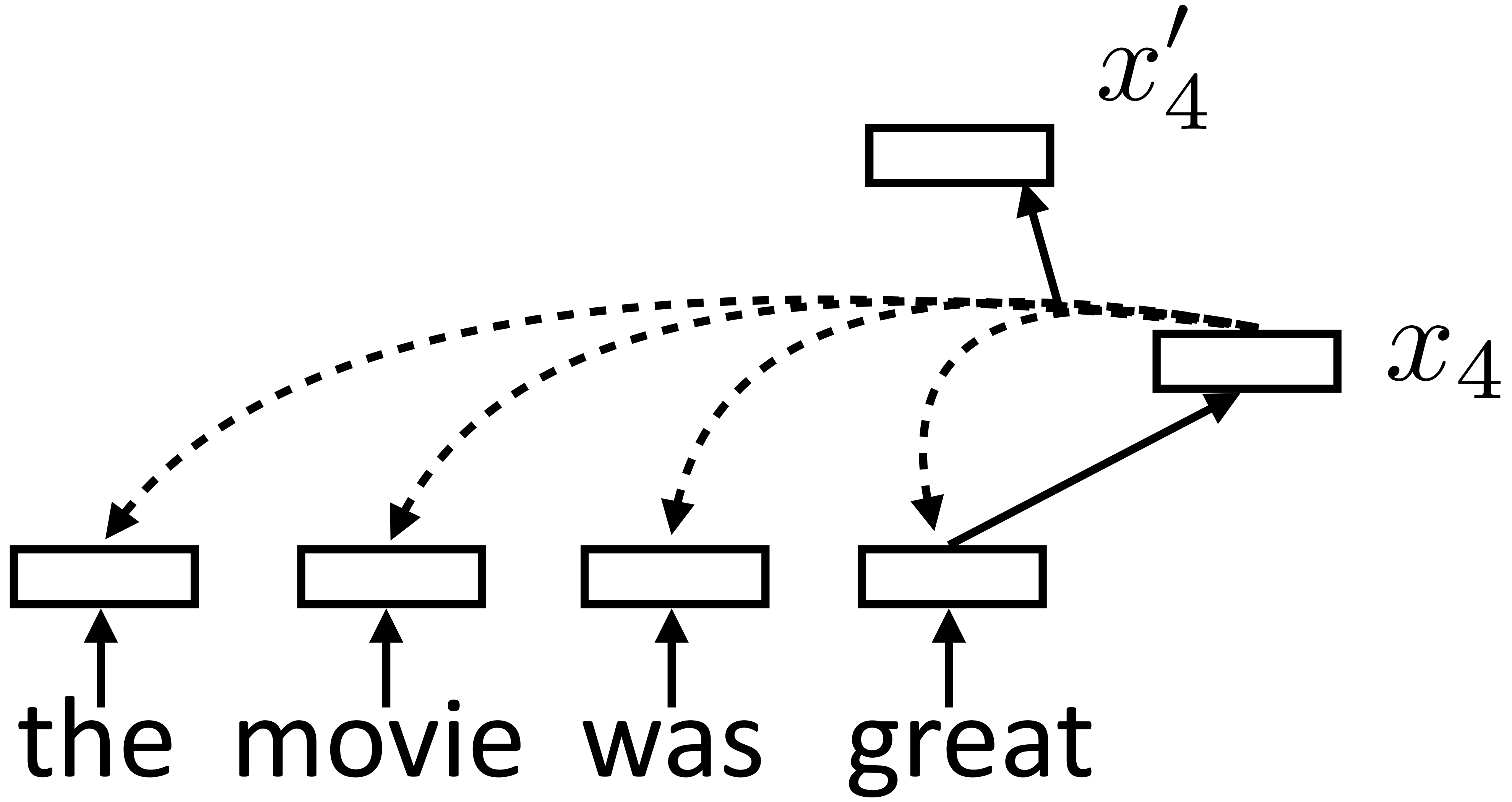

- Multiple "heads" analogous to different convolutional filters. Use parameters W_k and V_k to get different attention values + transform vectors

Vaswani et al. (2017)

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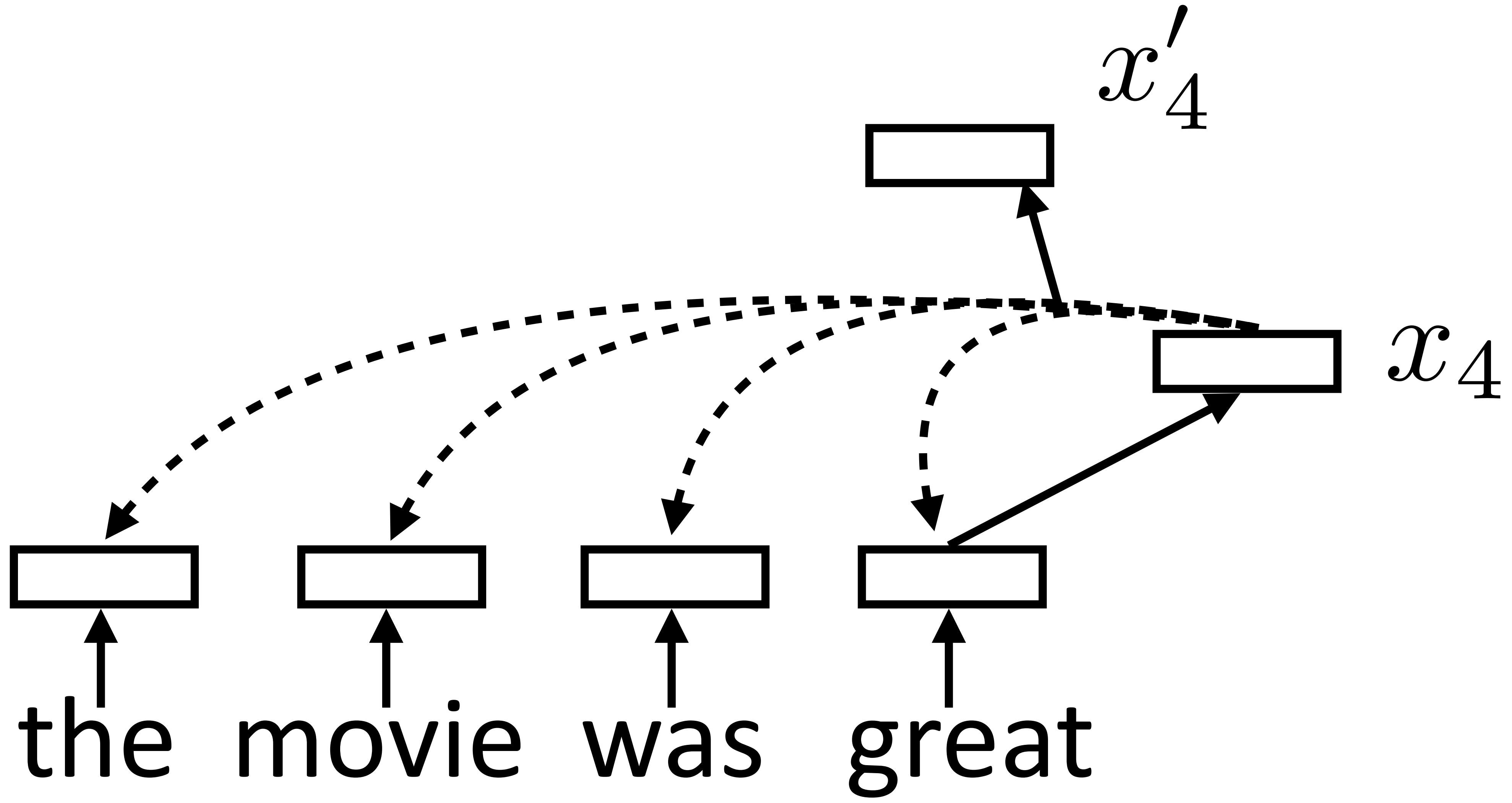

- Multiple "heads" analogous to different convolutional filters. Use parameters *W*

$$\alpha_{k,i,j} = \text{softmax}(x_i^\top W_k x_j)$$

Vaswani et al. (2017)

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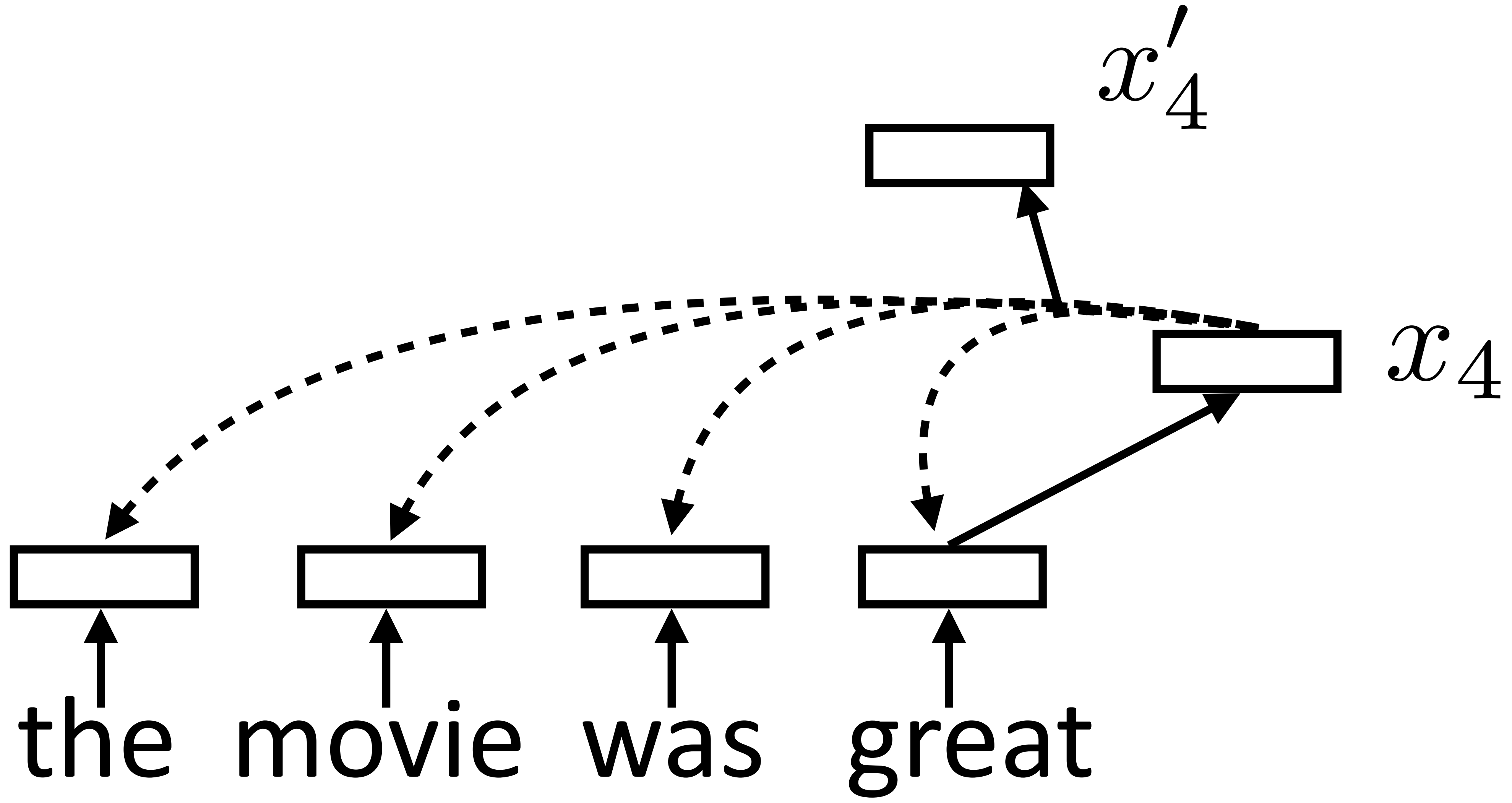

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$$\alpha_{k,i,j} = \text{softmax}(x_i^\top W_k x_j) \quad x'_{k,i} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \alpha_{k,i,j} V_k x_j$$

Vaswani et al. (2017)

Recall: Self-Attention

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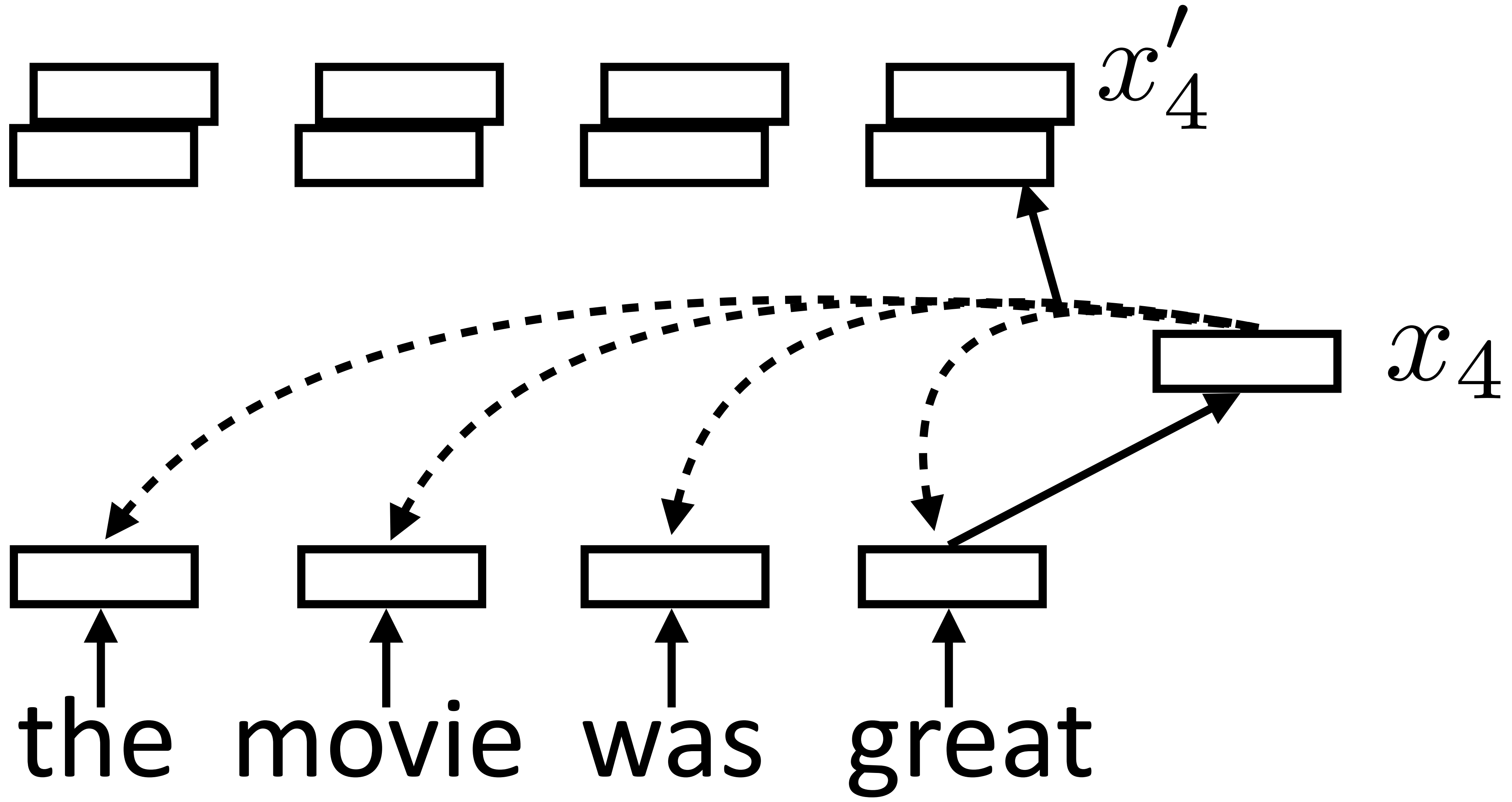

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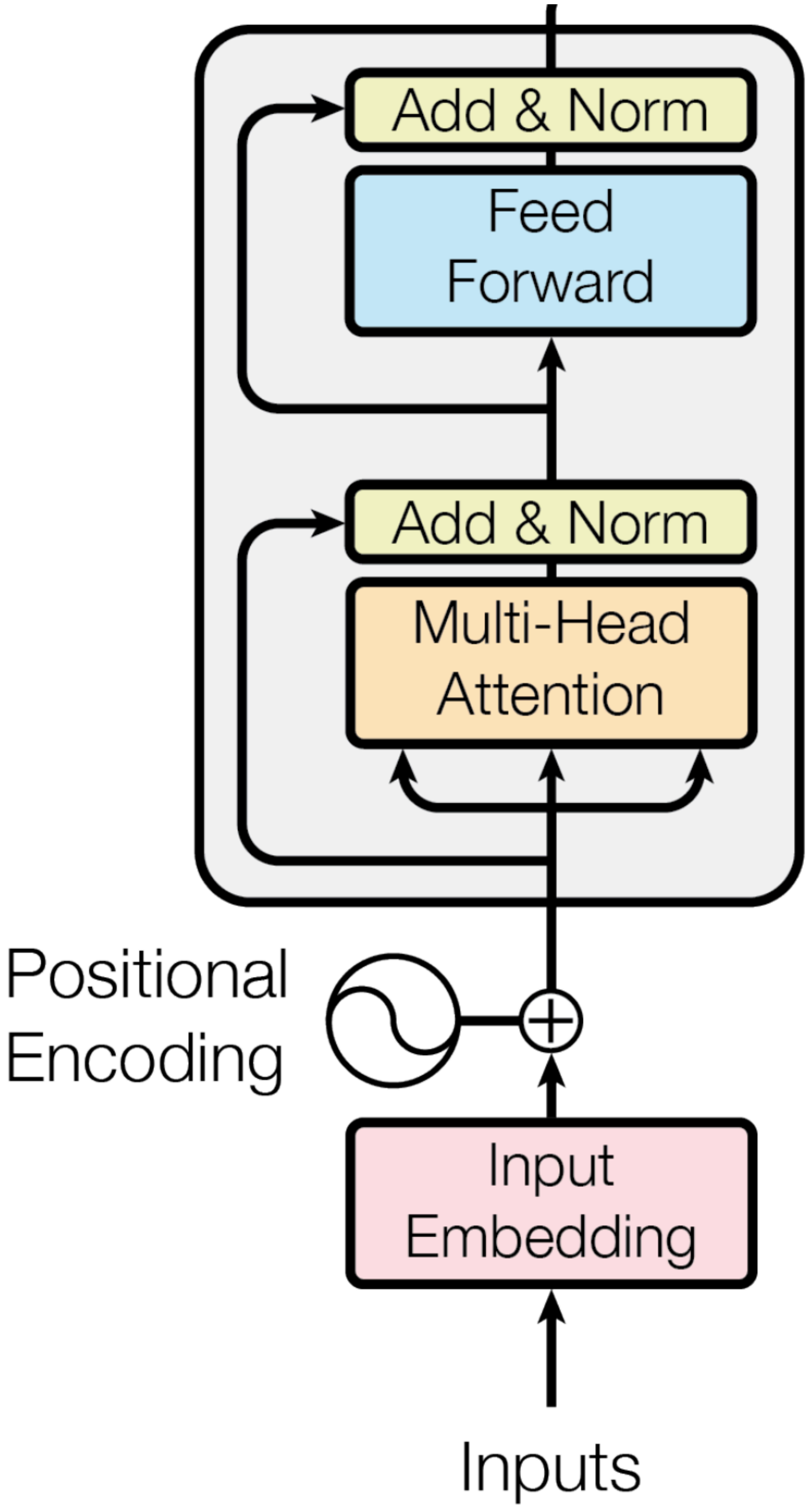
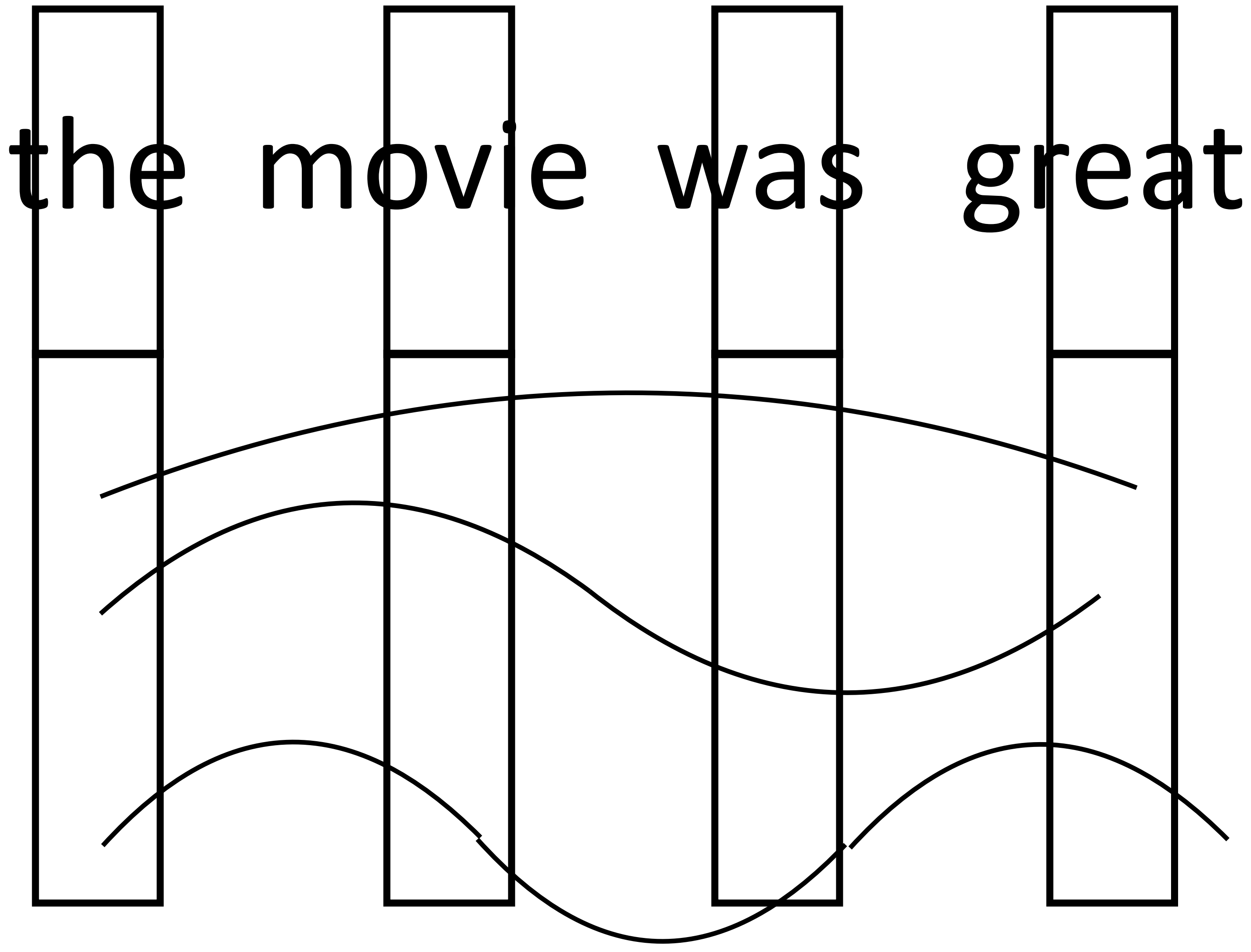
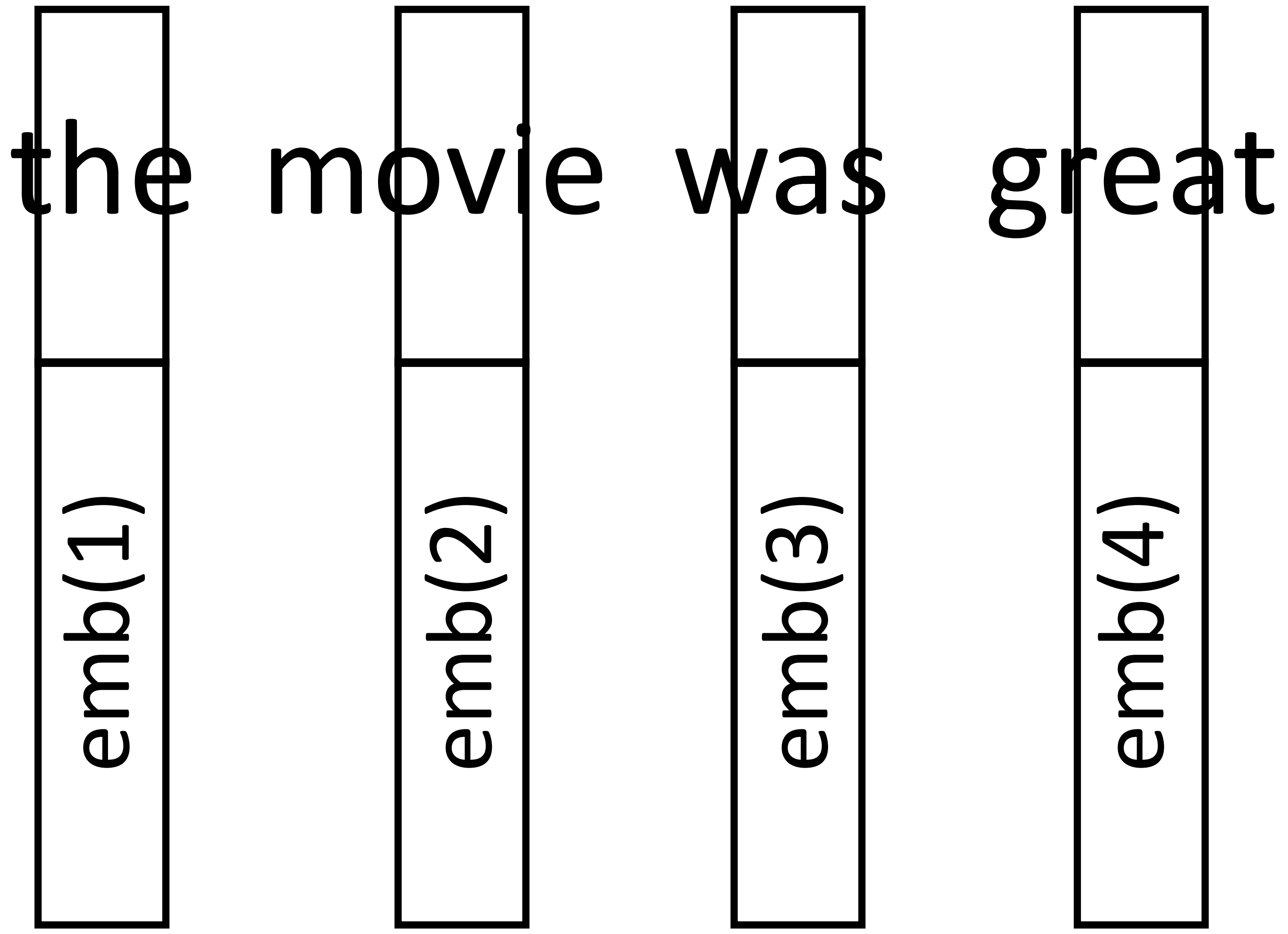
Transformers



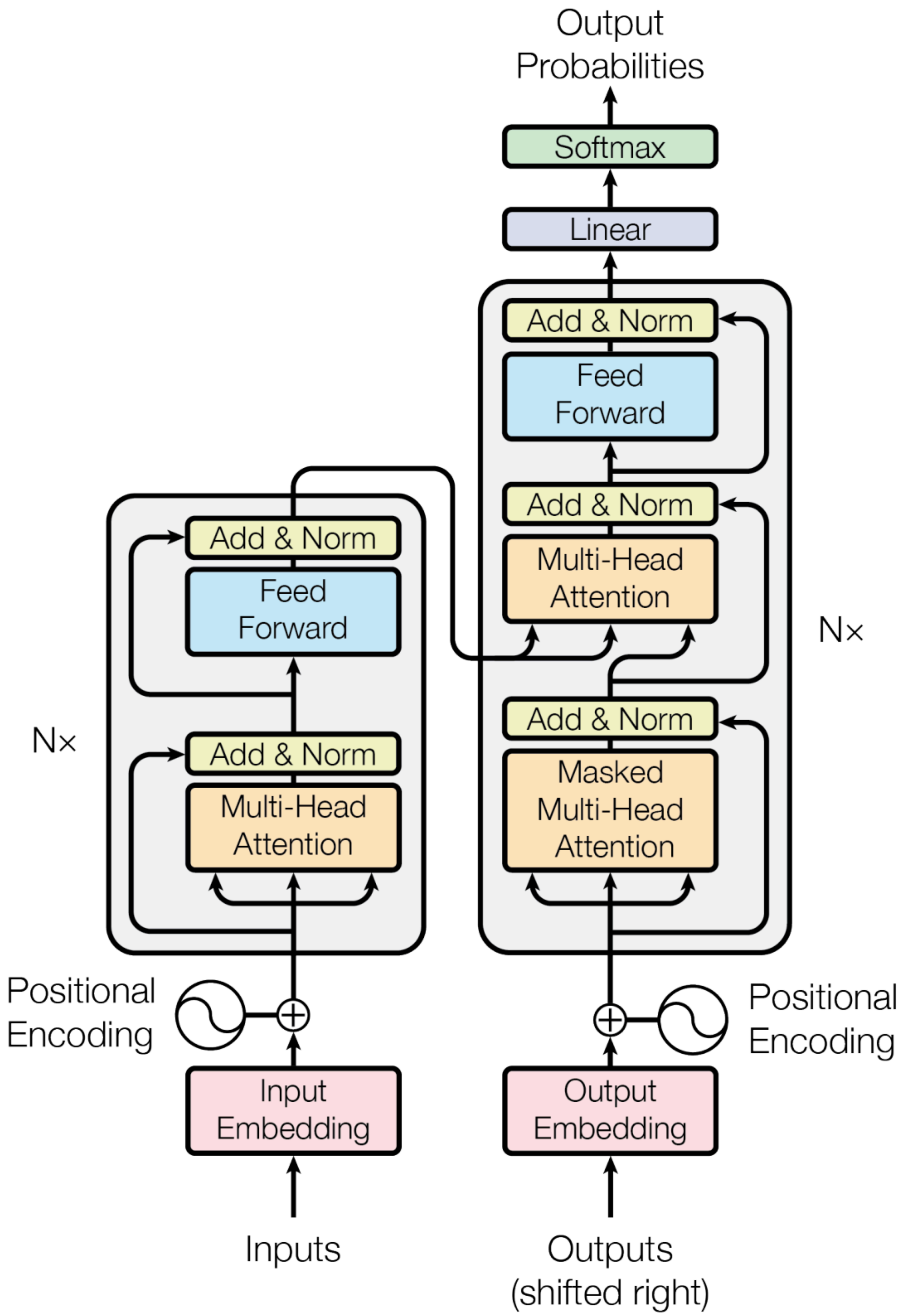




- Augment word embedding with position embeddings, each dim is a sine/cosine wave of a different frequency. Closer points = higher dot products
- Works essentially as well as just encoding position as a one-hot vector

Vaswani et al. (2017)

Transformers



- Encoder and decoder are both transformers

- Decoder consumes the previous generated token (and attends to input), but has *no recurrent state*

Vaswani et al. (2017)

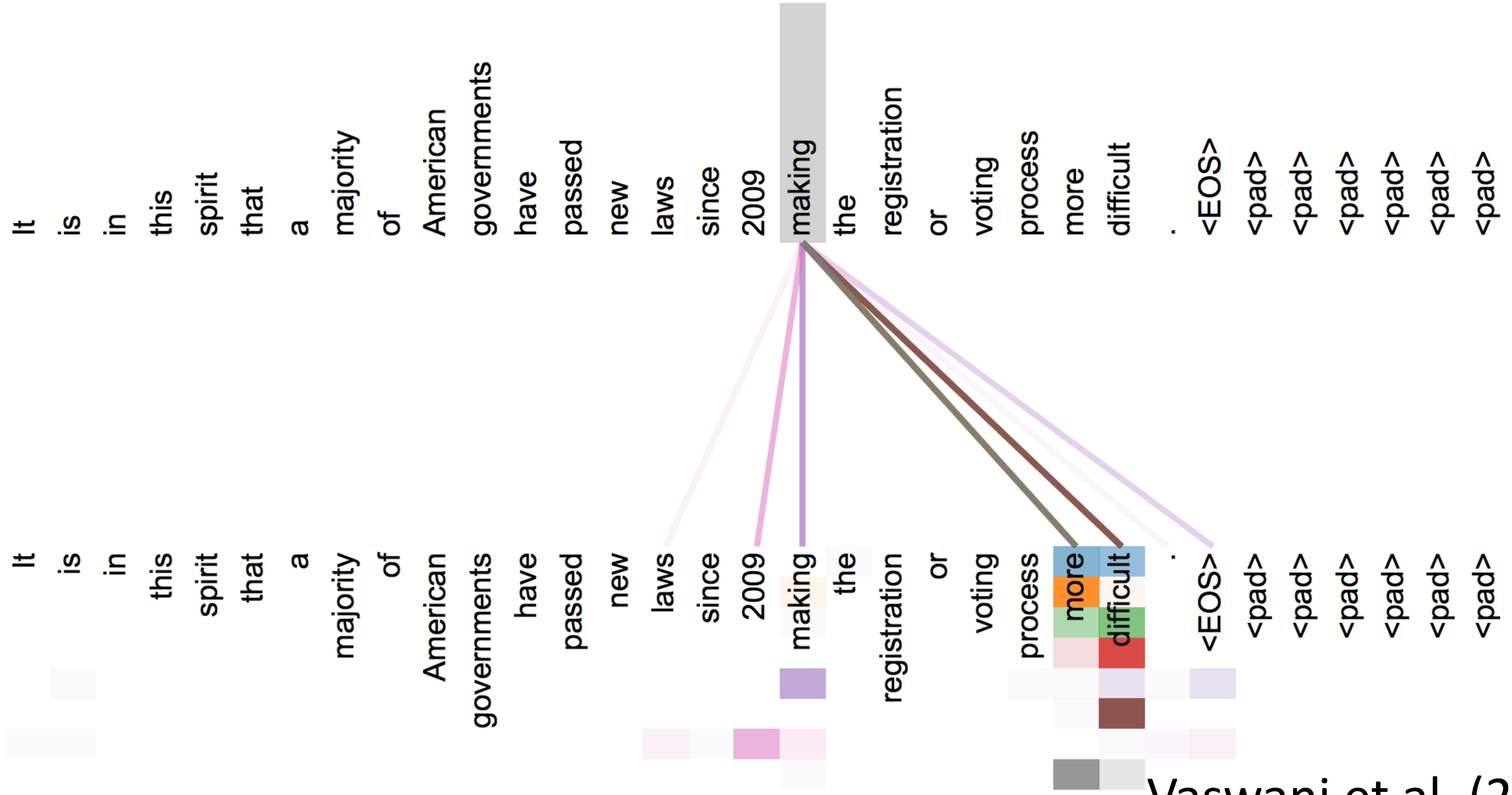
Transformers

Model	BLEU	
	EN-DE	EN-FR
ByteNet [18]	23.75	
Deep-Att + PosUnk [39]		39.2
GNMT + RL [38]	24.6	39.92
ConvS2S [9]	25.16	40.46
MoE [32]	26.03	40.56
Deep-Att + PosUnk Ensemble [39]		40.4
GNMT + RL Ensemble [38]	26.30	41.16
ConvS2S Ensemble [9]	26.36	**41.29**
Transformer (base model)	27.3	38.1
Transformer (big)	**28.4**	**41.8**

- Big = 6 layers, 1000 dim for each token, 16 heads, base = 6 layers + other params halved

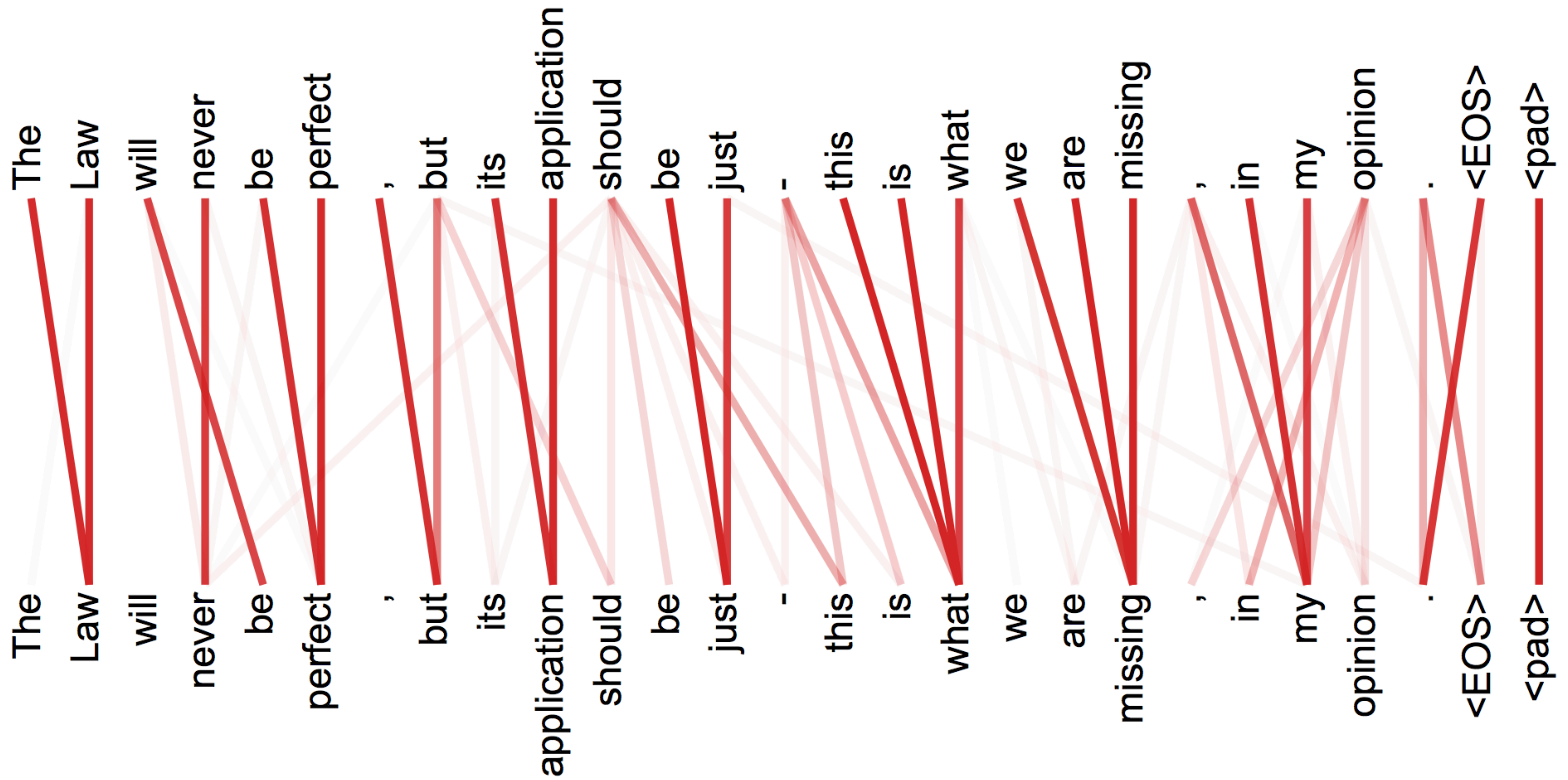
Vaswani et al. (2017)

Visualization



Vaswani et al. (2017)

Visualization



Vaswani et al. (2017)

Takeaways

- Can build MT systems with LSTM encoder-decoders, CNNs, or transformers
- Word piece / byte pair models are really effective and easy to use
- State of the art systems are getting pretty good, but lots of challenges remain, especially for low-resource settings
- Next time: pre-trained transformer models (BERT), applied to other tasks