

# T5 and large language models: The good, the bad, and the ugly

Colin Raffel

Which transfer learning methods work best, and what happens when we scale them up?

What about non-English pre-trained models?

How much knowledge does the model learn during pre-training?

Does the model memorize data during pre-training?

Which Transformer modifications work best?

## *Unsupervised pre-training*

The cabs \_\_\_ the same rates as those \_\_\_ by horse-drawn cabs and were \_\_\_ quite popular, \_\_\_ the Prince of Wales (the \_\_\_ King Edward VII) travelled in \_\_\_. The cabs quickly \_\_\_ known as "hummingbirds" for \_\_\_ noise made by their motors and their distinctive black and \_\_\_ livery. Passengers \_\_\_ \_\_\_ the interior fittings were \_\_\_ when compared to \_\_\_ cabs but there \_\_\_ some complaints \_\_\_ the \_\_\_ lighting made them too \_\_\_ to those outside \_\_\_.

charged, used, initially, even, future, became, the, yellow, reported, that, luxurious, horse-drawn, were that, internal, conspicuous, cab

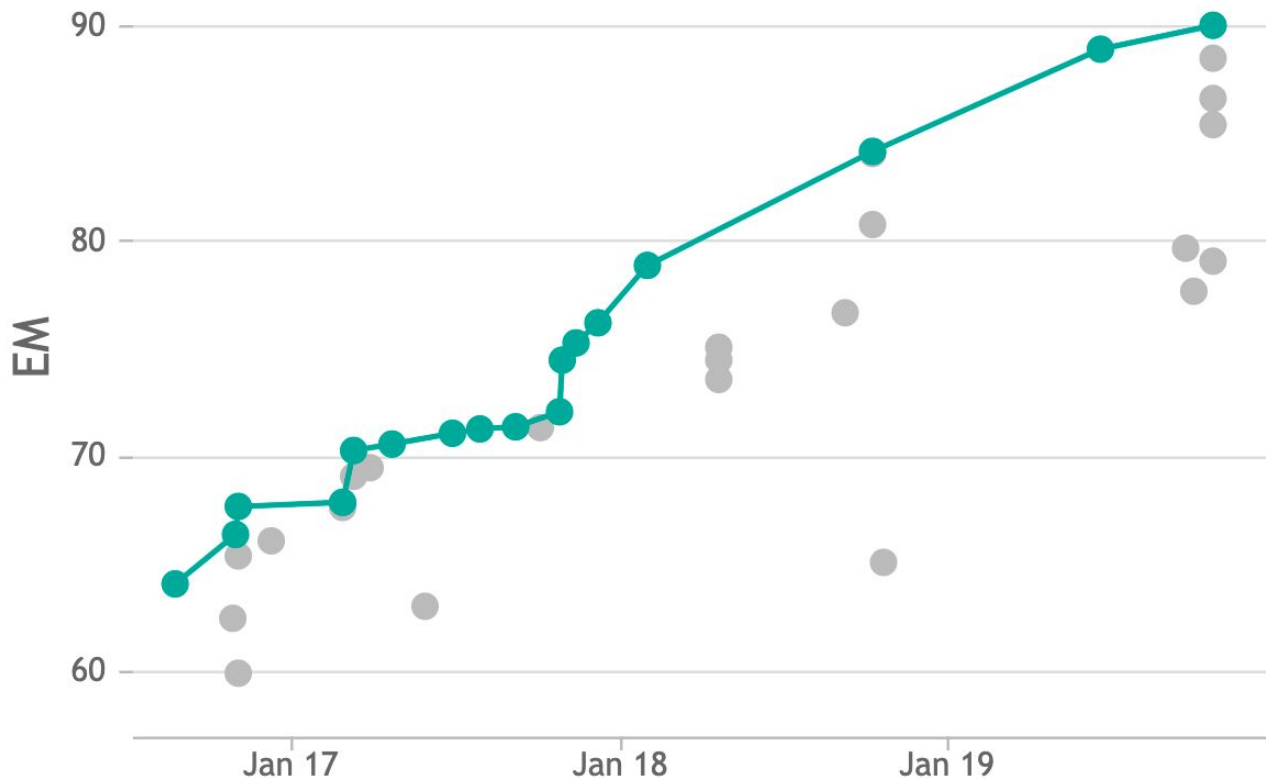


## *Supervised fine-tuning*

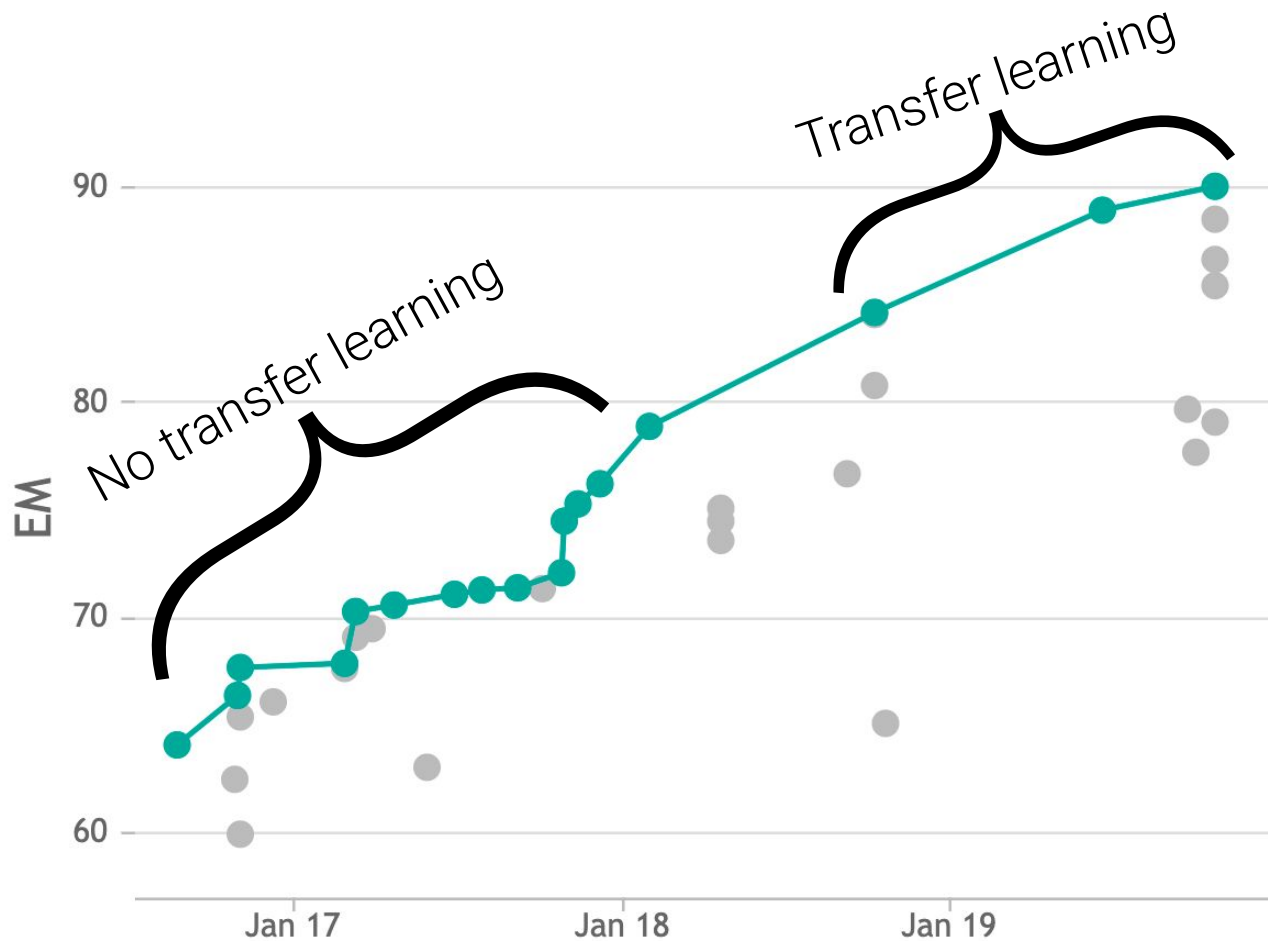
This movie is terrible! The acting is bad and I was bored the entire time. There was no plot and nothing interesting happened. I was really surprised since I had very high expectations. I want 103 minutes of my life back!

negative

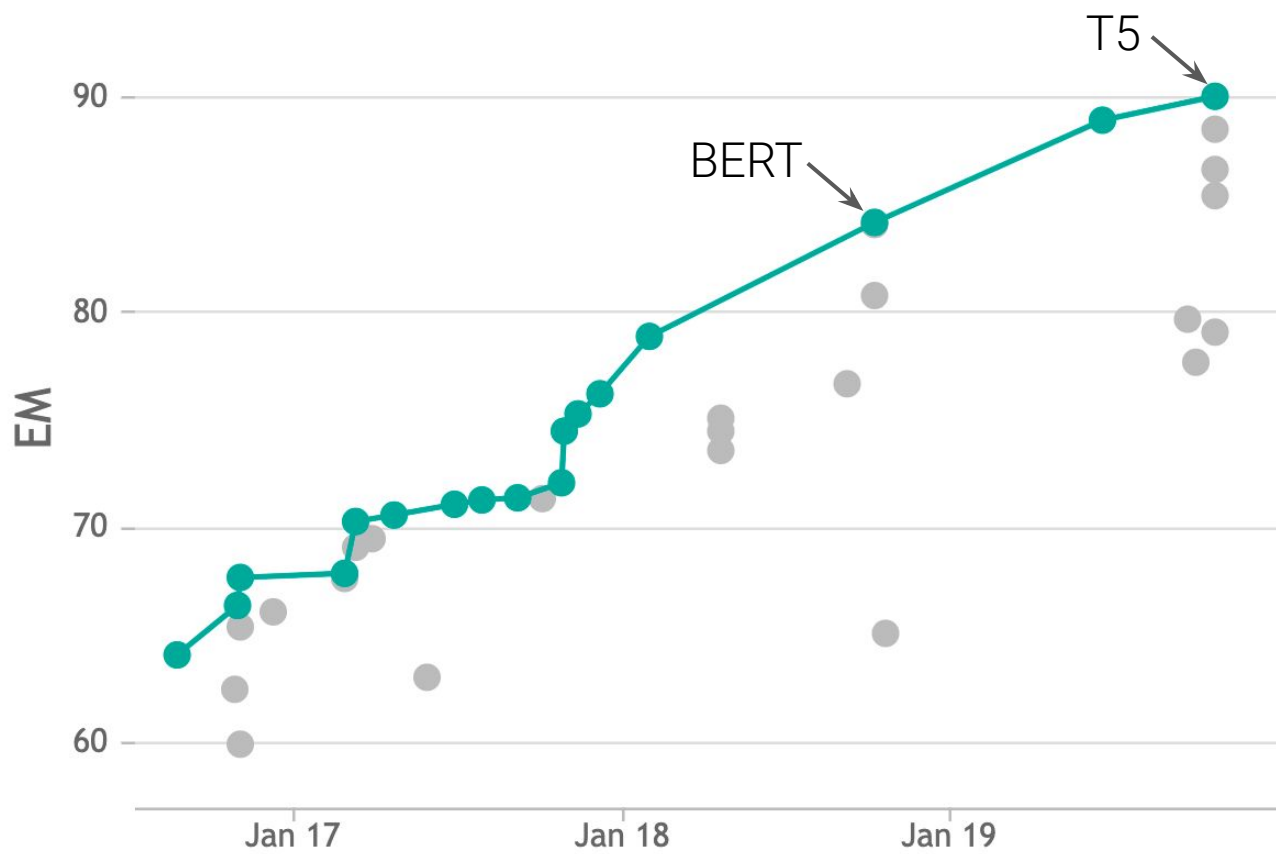
# SQuAD Exact Match score (validation set)



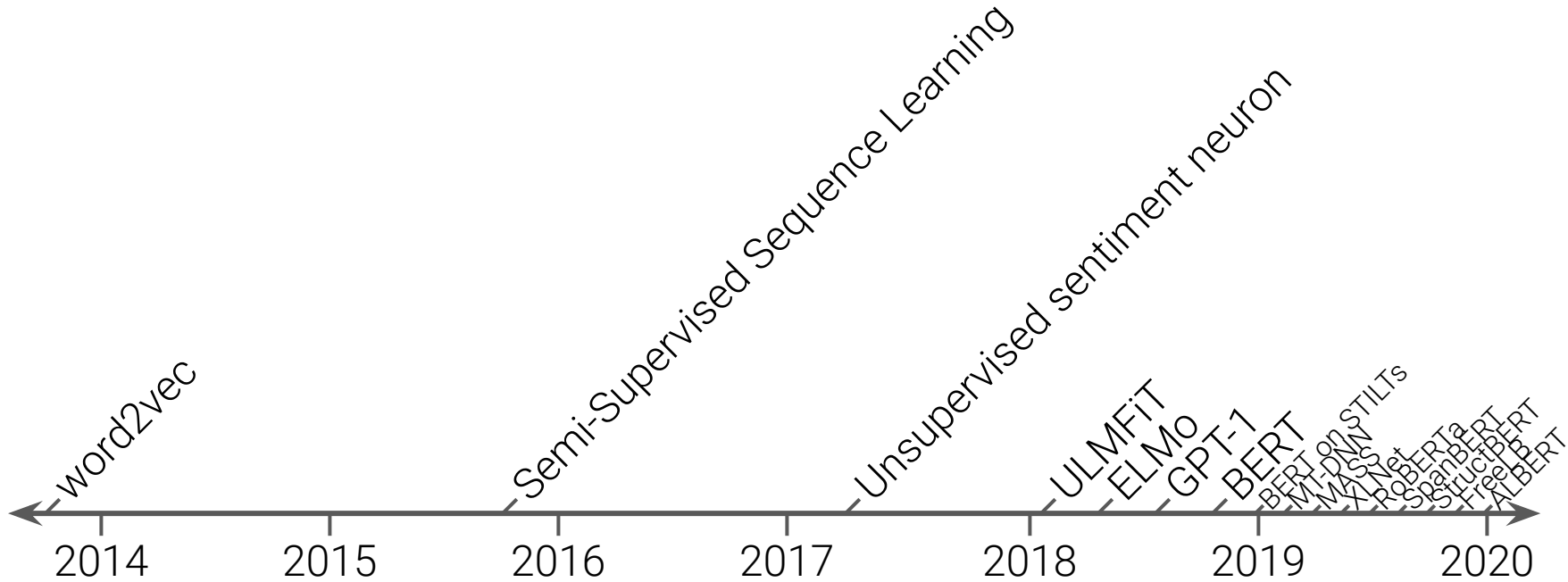
Source: <https://paperswithcode.com/sota/question-answering-on-squad11-dev>

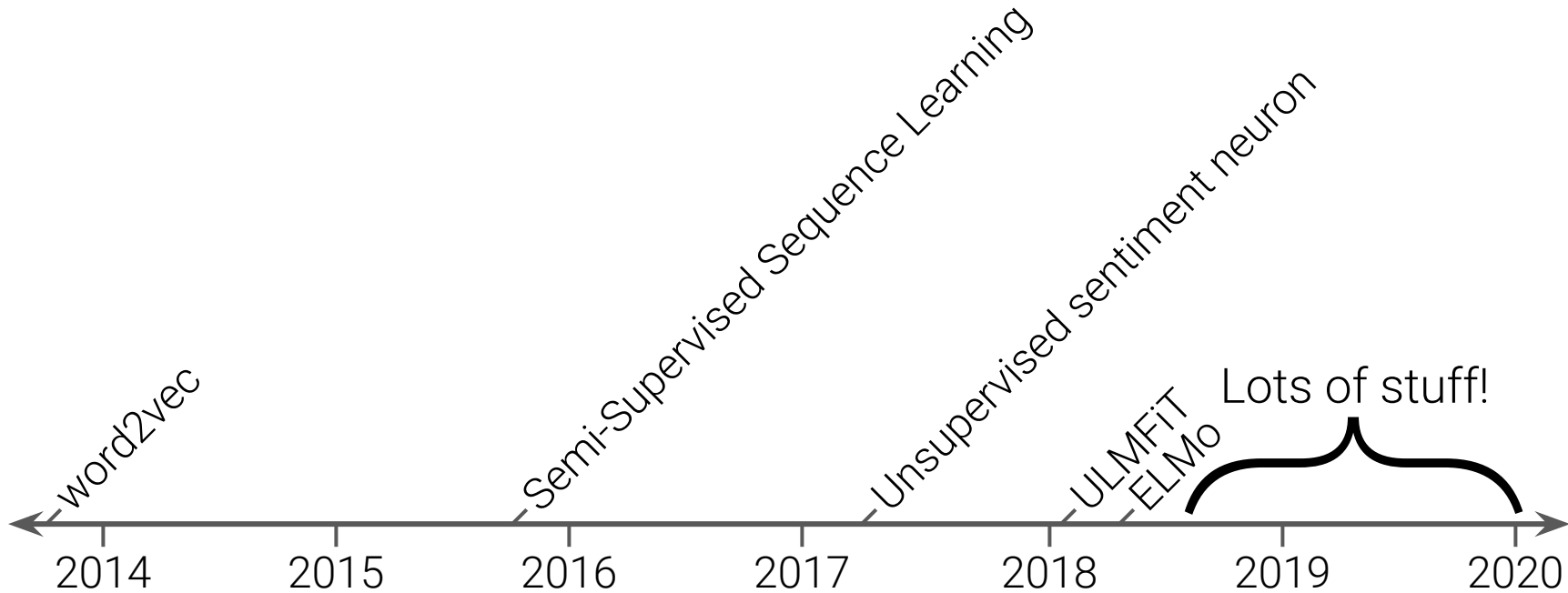


Source: <https://paperswithcode.com/sota/question-answering-on-squad11-dev>



Source: <https://paperswithcode.com/sota/question-answering-on-squad11-dev>







- Paper A proposes an unsupervised pre-training technique called "FancyLearn".
- Paper B proposes another pre-training technique called "FancierLearn" and achieves better results.
- Paper A uses **Wikipedia** for unlabeled data.
- Paper B uses **Wikipedia and the Toronto Books Corpus**.
- *Is FancierLearn better than FancyLearn?*

- Paper A proposes an unsupervised pre-training technique called "FancyLearn".
- Paper B proposes another pre-training technique called "FancierLearn" and achieves better results.
- Paper A uses a model with **100 million parameters**.
- Paper B uses a model with **200 million parameters**.
- *Is FancierLearn better than FancyLearn?*

- Paper A proposes an unsupervised pre-training technique called "FancyLearn".
- Paper B proposes another pre-training technique called "FancierLearn" and achieves better results.
- Paper A pre-trains on **100 billion tokens** of unlabeled data.
- Paper B pre-trains on **200 billion tokens** of unlabeled data.
- *Is FancierLearn better than FancyLearn?*

- Paper A proposes an unsupervised pre-training technique called "FancyLearn".
- Paper B proposes another pre-training technique called "FancierLearn" and achieves better results.
- Paper A uses the **Adam optimizer**.
- Paper B uses **SGD with momentum**.
- *Is FancierLearn better than FancyLearn?*

Given the current landscape  
of transfer learning for NLP,  
*what works best?* And how  
far can we push the tools we  
already have?

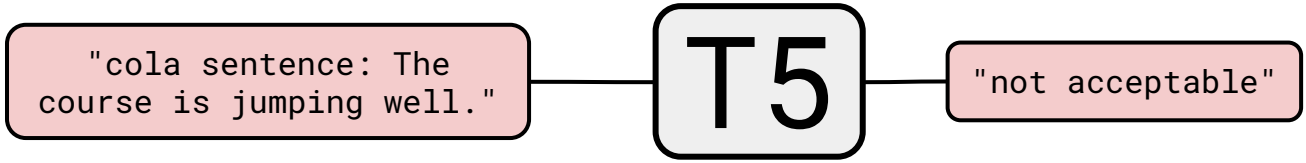
*Text-to-Text  
Transfer  
Transformer*

**T5**

"translate English to German: That is good."

T5

"Das ist gut."





"stsb sentence1: The rhino grazed on the grass. sentence2: A rhino is grazing in a field."

T5

"3.8"

"summarize: state authorities  
dispatched emergency crews tuesday to  
survey the damage after an onslaught  
of severe weather in mississippi..."

T5

"six people hospitalized after  
a storm in attala county."

T5

"translate English to German: That is good."

"cola sentence: The course is jumping well."

"stsb sentence1: The rhino grazed on the grass. sentence2: A rhino is grazing in a field."

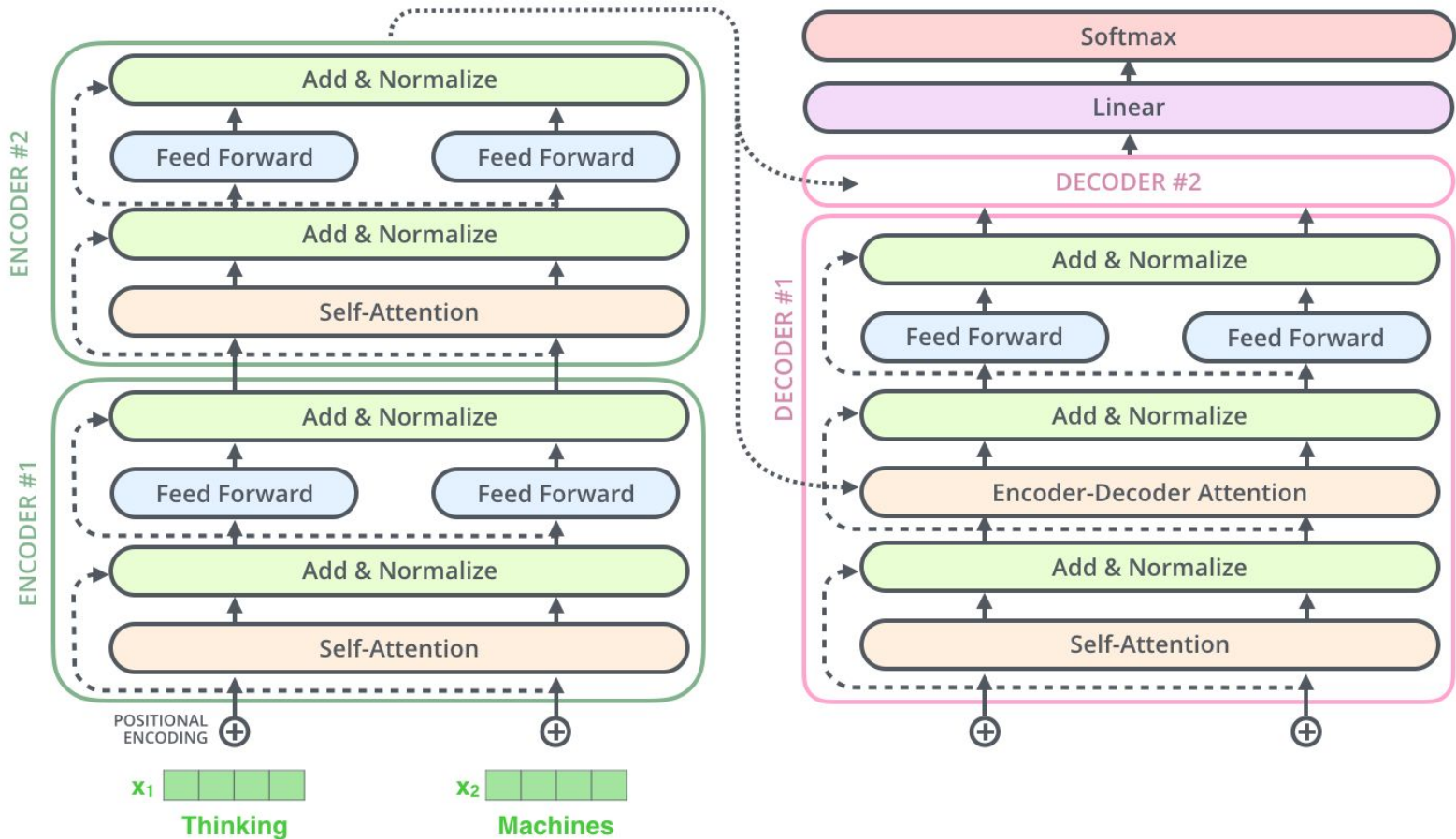
"summarize: state authorities dispatched emergency crews tuesday to survey the damage after an onslaught of severe weather in mississippi..."

"Das ist gut."

"not acceptable"

"3.8"

"six people hospitalized after a storm in attala county."



Source: <http://jalamar.github.io/illustrated-transformer/>

...orking, ... (1777), often shor...  
...pital and largest city of the U...  
...ma. the county seat of Oklah...  
...ity ranks 27th among united...  
...tion. the population grew foll...  
...s, with the population estima...  
...ed to 643,648 as of July 2017...  
...oklahoma city metropolitan...  
...n of 1,358,452,[9] and the...  
...shawnee combined statistica...  
...n of 1,459,758 residents,[9]...  
...oma's largest metropolitan a...

...running man was cla...  
...variety"; a genre of v...  
...environment.[1] the...  
...complete missions...  
...race.[2] the show ha...  
...familiar reality-varie...  
...games. it has gaine...  
...comeback program...  
...of the program, afte...  
...family outing in febr...

... "wheel...  
... "barro...  
...englis...  
...carryi...  
...the wh...  
...weigh...  
...opera...  
...heavie...  
...were t...  
...as suc...

...county,[8] the ci...  
...cities in populat...  
...the 2010 censu...  
...to have increas...  
...as of 2015, the...  
...had a populatio...  
...oklahoma city-s...  
...had a populatio...  
...making it oklah...  
...oklahoma city's...

...the signing of the treaty formally ended the seven...  
...years' war, known as the french and indian war in...  
...the north american theatre,[1] and marked the...  
...beginning of an era of british dominance outside...  
...europe.[2] great britain and france each returned...  
...much of the territory that they had captured...  
...during the war, but great britain gained much of...  
...france's possessions in north america...  
...additionally, great britain agreed to protect roman...  
...catholicism in the new world...

...a small hand-propelled vehicle,...  
...one wheel, designed to be...  
...ed by a single person using two...  
...ar, or by a sail to push the...  
...row by wind. the term...  
...made of two words: "wheel" and...  
..." is a derivation of the old...  
...which was a device used for...

...the show has become...  
...asia, and has gained online...  
...hallyu fans, having been fansubbed into various...  
...languages, such as english, spanish, portuguese,...  
...french, italian, thai, vietnamese, chinese, ...

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...asia, and has gained online...  
...hallyu fans, having been fansubbed into various...  
...languages, such as english, spanish, portuguese,...  
...french, italian, thai, vietnamese, chinese, ...

...a spe...  
...plant...  
...ly no...  
...the l...  
...small...  
...== treaty o...  
...dur...  
...fr...

...operator, so enabling the convenient carriage of...  
...heavier and bulkier loads than would be possible...  
...were the weight carried entirely by the operator...  
...as such it is a second-class lever...

...is designed to distribute the...  
...between the wheel and the...  
...operator, so enabling the convenient carriage of...  
...heavier and bulkier loads than would be possible...  
...were the weight carried entirely by the operator...  
...as such it is a second-class lever...

...treaty of paris, also kn...  
...), was signed on 10 fe...  
...doms of great britain,...  
...ugal in agreement, aft...  
...france a...

...== lemon...  
...the lemon, citrus limon (L.) osbeck, is a species of

...which...  
...ng tw...  
...eel" a...  
...for

...== piano...  
...the piano is an acoustic, stringed musical...  
...instrument invented in italy by bartolomeo...  
...cristofori around the year 1700 (the exact year is...  
...uncertain), in which the strings are struck by...  
...hammers. it is played using a keyboard,[1] which...  
...is a row of keys (small levers) that the performer...  
...presses down or strikes with the fingers and...  
...thumbs of both hands to cause the hammers to...  
...strike the strings.

...the word piano is a shortened form of pianoforte,...  
...the italian term for the early 1700s versions of the...  
...instrument, which in turn derives from...  
...gravicembalo col piano e forte[2] and fortepiano...  
...the italian musical terms piano and forte indicate

...agreed to protect roman...  
...rd...  
...paris, also known as the treaty...  
...igned on 10 february 1763 by th...  
...great britain, france and spain,...  
...greement, after great britain's v...  
...nd spain during the seven year...

...signing o...  
...s' war, k...  
...north an...  
...nning of...  
...pe.[2] g...  
...h of the...  
...ng the w...  
...ce's pos...  
...tionally,

...a wheelbarrow is a small hand-propelled vehicle,...  
...usually with just one wheel, designed to be...  
...pushed and guided by a single person using two...  
...handles at the rear, or by a sail to push the...  
...ancient wheelbarrow by wind. the term...  
..."wheelbarrow" is made of two words: "wheel" and...  
..."barrow." "barrow" is a derivation of the old...  
...english "bearwe" which was a device used for...  
...carrying loads.

...d for...  
...roughout...  
...has both...  
...and rind...  
...king. the...  
...itric acid,...  
...r taste. the...  
...takes it a...

...the...  
...the...  
...age o...  
...posit...

...the...  
...the...  
...age o...  
...posit...

...f the treaty formally ended the...  
...nown as the french and indian v...  
...erican theatre,[1] and marked t...  
...an era of british dominance ou...  
...eat britain and france each retu...  
...territory that they had capturec...  
...ar, but great britain gained muc...  
...sessions in north america.

# Common Crawl Web Extracted Text

Menu

Lemon

Introduction

The lemon, *Citrus Limon* (L.) Osbeck, is a species of small evergreen tree in the flowering plant family rutaceae. The tree's ellipsoidal yellow fruit is used for culinary and non-culinary purposes throughout the world, primarily for its juice, which has both culinary and cleaning uses. The juice of the lemon is about 5% to 6% citric acid, with a ph of around 2.2, giving it a sour taste.

Article

The origin of the lemon is unknown, though lemons are thought to have first grown in Assam (a region in northeast India), northern Burma or China. A genomic study of the lemon indicated it was a hybrid between bitter orange (sour orange) and citron.

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Dried Lemons, \$3.59/pound

Organic dried lemons from our farm in California.  
Lemons are harvested and sun-dried for maximum flavor.  
Good in soups and on popcorn.

The lemon, *Citrus Limon* (L.) Osbeck, is a species of small evergreen tree in the flowering plant family rutaceae. The tree's ellipsoidal yellow fruit is used for culinary and non-culinary purposes throughout the world, primarily for its juice, which has both culinary and cleaning uses. The juice of the lemon is about 5% to 6% citric acid, with a ph of around 2.2, giving it a sour taste.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.  
Curabitur in tempus quam. In mollis et ante at consectetur.  
Aliquam erat volutpat.  
Donec at lacinia est.  
Duis semper, magna tempor interdum suscipit, ante elit molestie urna, eget efficitur risus nunc ac elit.  
Fusce quis blandit lectus.  
Mauris at mauris a turpis tristique lacinia at nec ante.  
Aenean in scelerisque tellus, a efficitur ipsum.  
Integer justo enim, ornare vitae sem non, mollis fermentum lectus.  
Mauris ultrices nisl at libero porta sodales in ac orci.

```
function Ball(r) {  
  this.radius = r;  
  this.area = pi * r ** 2;  
  this.show = function(){  
    drawCircle(r);  
  }  
}
```

# Common Crawl Web Extracted Text

Menu

Lemon

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Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur in tempus quam. In mollis et ante at consectetur. Aliquam erat volutpat. Donec at lacinia est. Duis semper, magna tempor interdum suscipit, ante elit molestie urna, eget efficitur risus nunc ac elit. Fusce quis blandit lectus. Mauris at mauris a turpis tristique lacinia at nec ante. Aenean in scelerisque tellus, a efficitur ipsum. Integer justo enim, ornare vitae sem non, mollis fermentum lectus. Mauris ultrices nisl at libero porta sodales in ac orci.

```
function Ball(r) {
  this.radius = r;
  this.area = pi * r ** 2;
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```

## Datasets v1.3.2

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[TensorFlow](#) > [Resources](#) > [Datasets v1.3.2](#) > [Catalog](#)


# c4 (Manual download)

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A colossal, cleaned version of Common Crawl's web crawl corpus.



Original text

Thank you for inviting me to your party last week.

Original text

Thank you ~~for~~ ~~inviting~~ me to your party ~~last~~ week.

Original text

Thank you ~~for inviting~~ me to your party ~~last~~ week.

Inputs

Thank you <X> me to your party <Y> week.

Original text

Thank you ~~for inviting~~ me to your party ~~last~~ week.

Inputs

Thank you <X> me to your party <Y> week.

Targets

<X> for inviting <Y> last <Z>

## Pretrain

BERT<sub>BASE</sub>-sized  
encoder-decoder  
Transformer

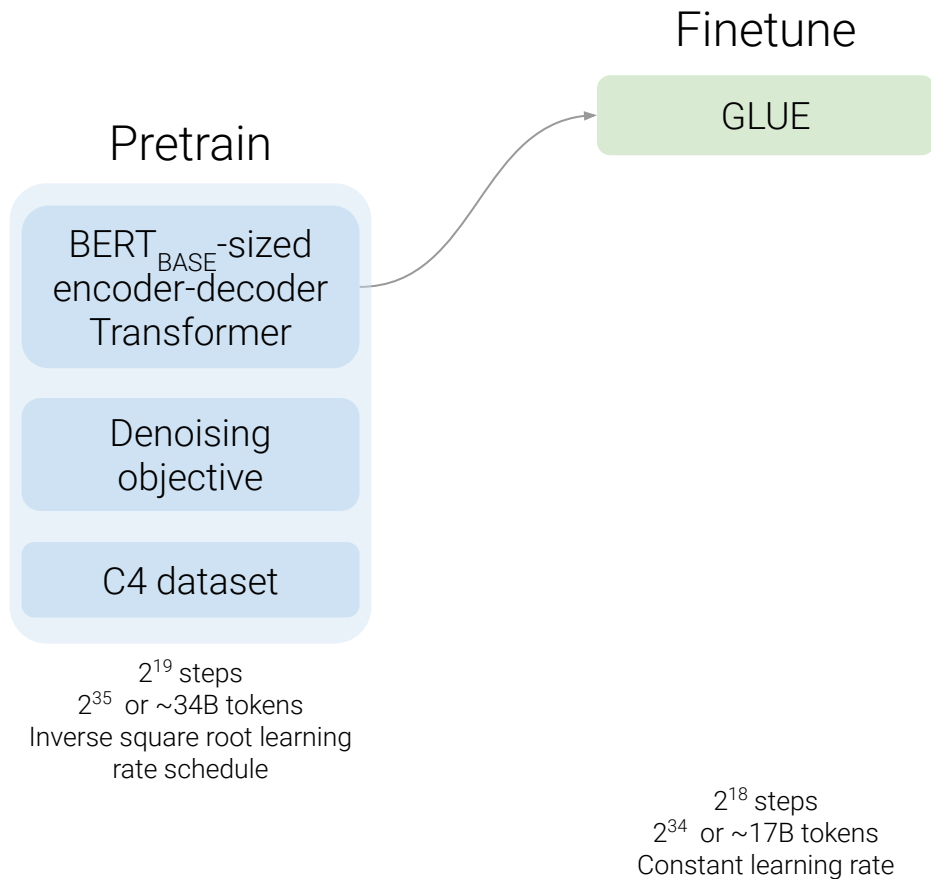
Denoising  
objective

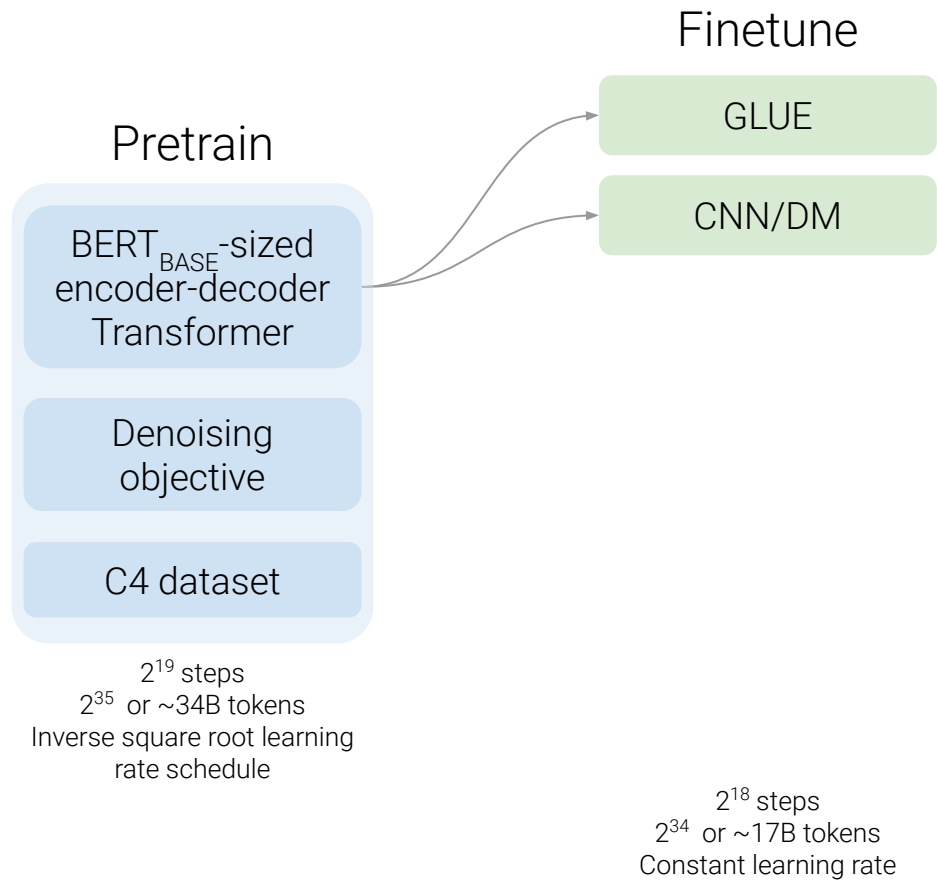
C4 dataset

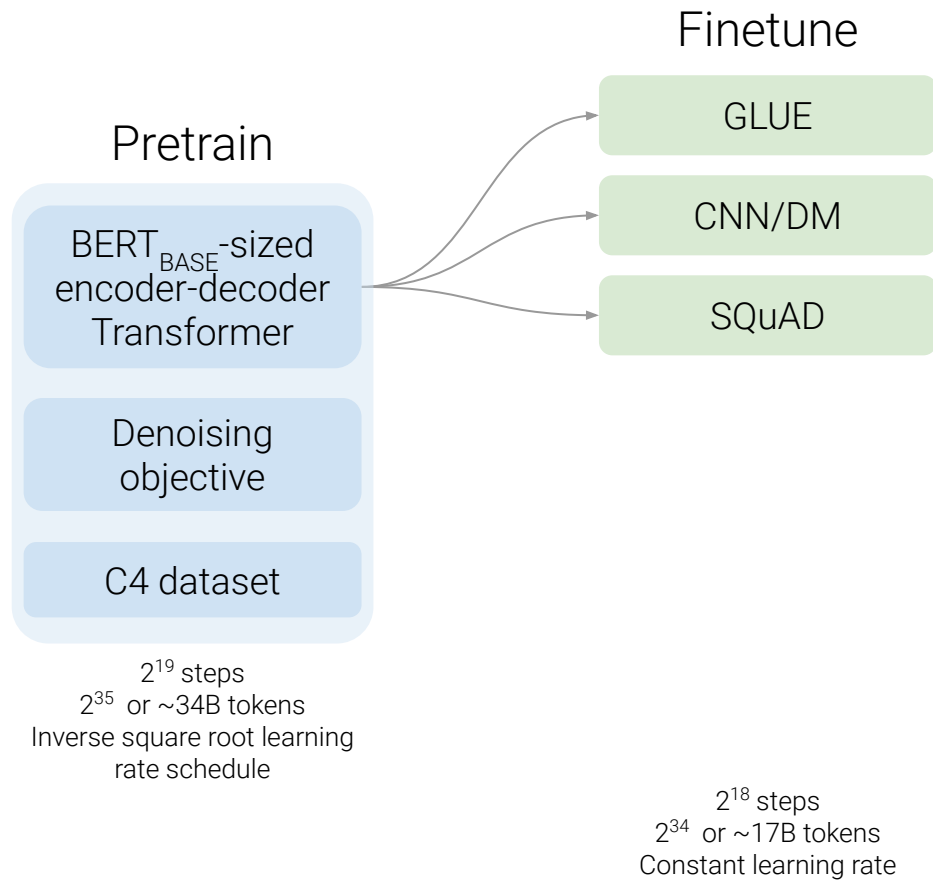
$2^{19}$  steps

$2^{35}$  or  $\sim 34\text{B}$  tokens

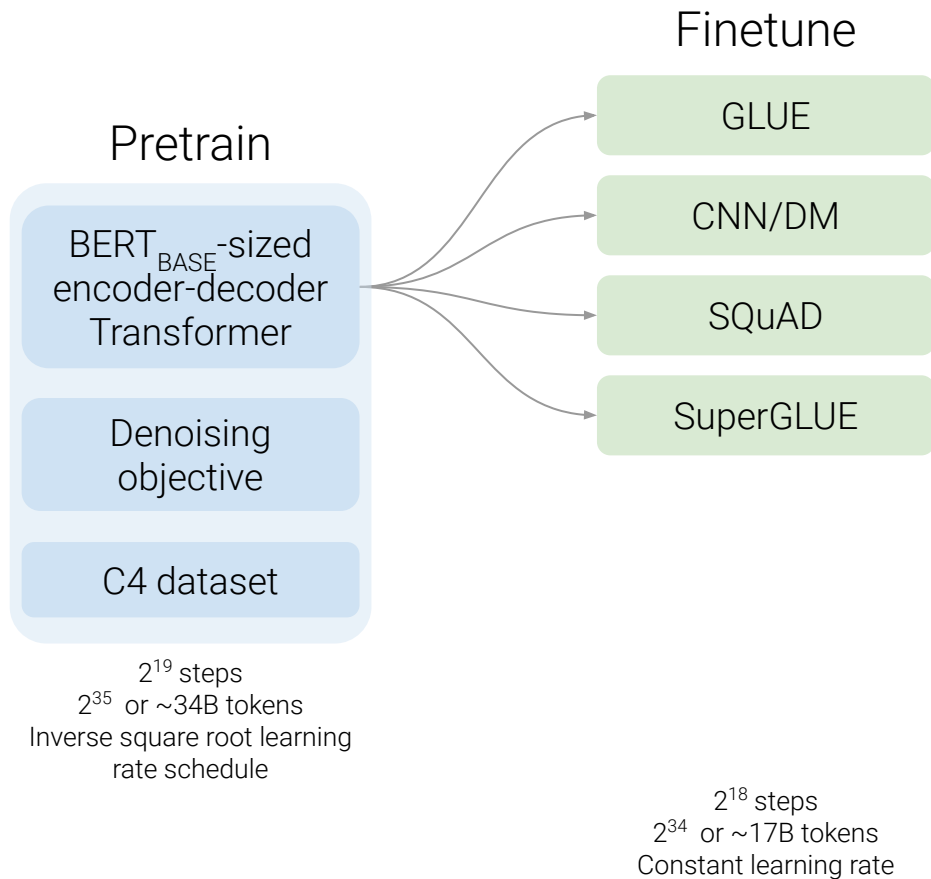
Inverse square root learning  
rate schedule

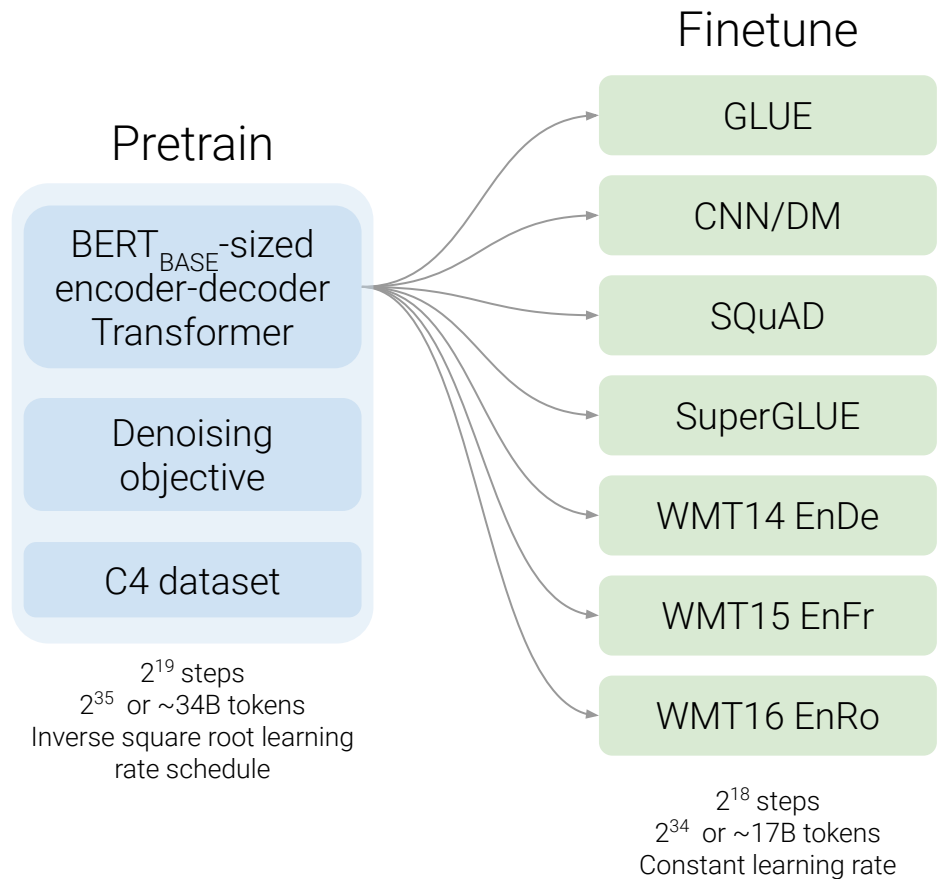


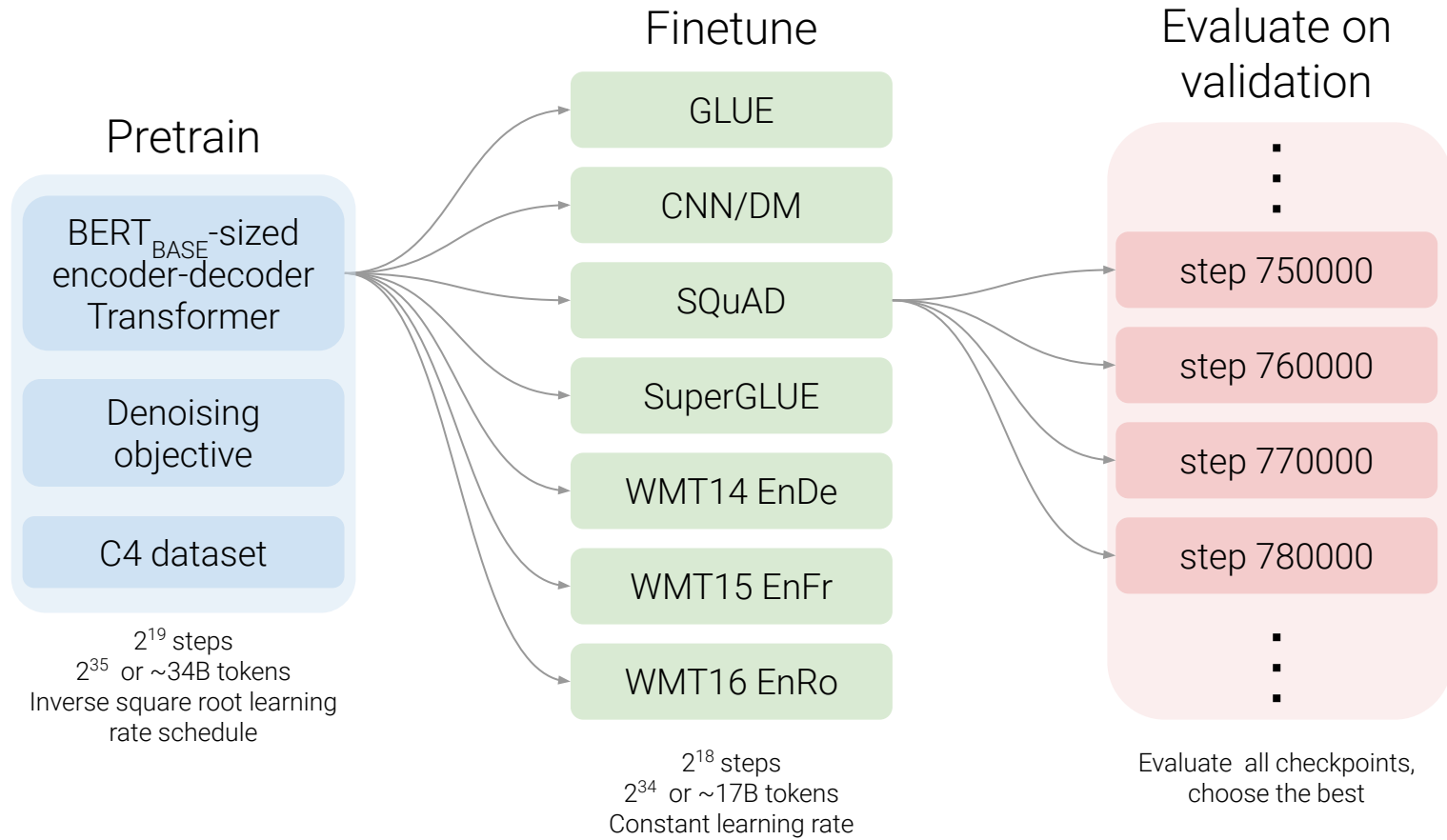












---

GLUE    CNNDM    SQuAD    SGLUE    EnDe    EnFr    EnRo

---

Setting 1  
Setting 2

*Downstream task performance*

---

...

---

	GLUE	CNNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ Baseline average	<b>83.28</b>	<b>19.24</b>	<b>80.88</b>	<b>71.36</b>	<b>26.98</b>	<b>39.82</b>	<b>27.65</b>
Baseline standard deviation	0.235	0.065	0.343	0.416	0.112	0.090	0.108
No pre-training	66.22	17.60	50.31	53.04	25.86	<b>39.77</b>	24.04

---

Star denotes baseline

Comparable to BERT

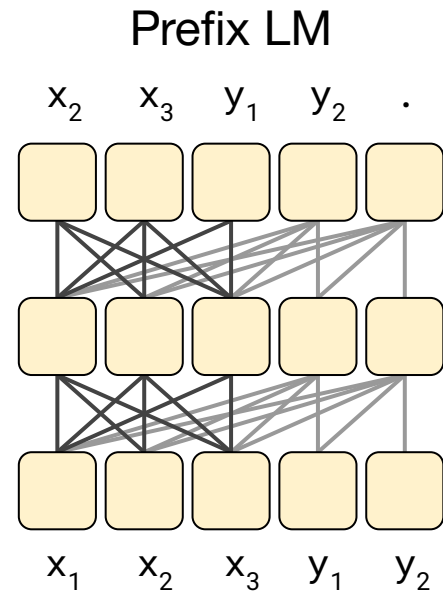
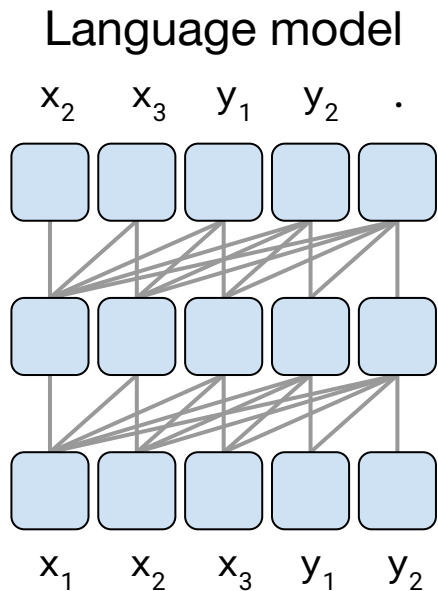
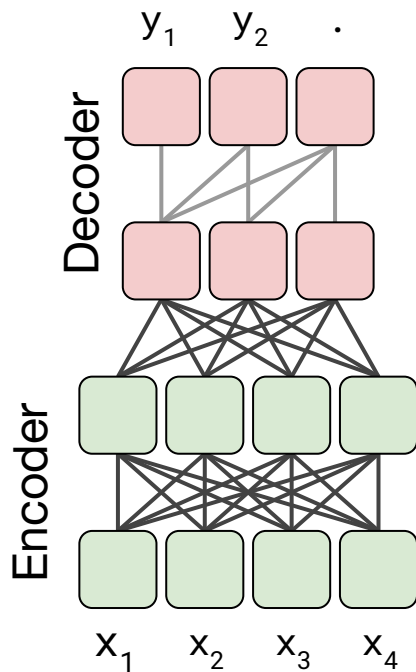
Bold = 1 std. dev. of max

	GLUE	CNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
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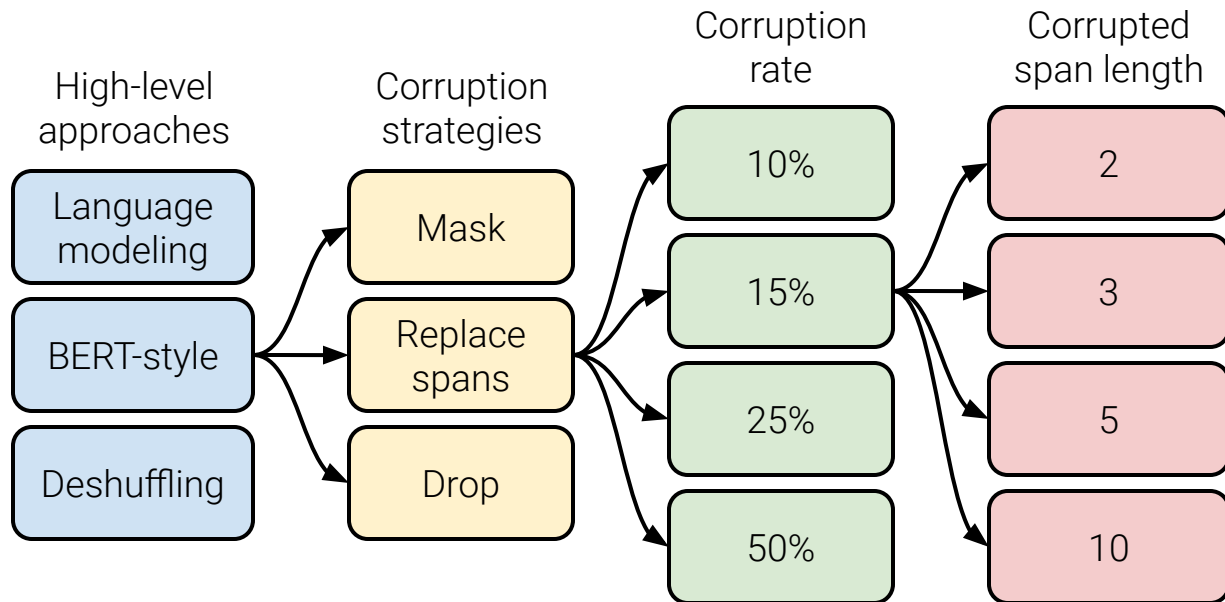
Big training set

*Disclaimer*

Architecture	Params	Cost	GLUE	CNN4	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ Encoder-decoder	$2P$	$M$	<b>83.28</b>	<b>19.24</b>	<b>80.88</b>	<b>71.36</b>	<b>26.98</b>	<b>39.82</b>	<b>27.65</b>
Enc-dec, shared	$P$	$M$	82.81	18.78	<b>80.63</b>	<b>70.73</b>	26.72	39.03	<b>27.46</b>
Enc-dec, 6 layers	$P$	$M/2$	80.88	18.97	77.59	68.42	26.38	38.40	26.95
Language model	$P$	$M$	74.70	17.93	61.14	55.02	25.09	35.28	25.86
Prefix LM	$P$	$M$	81.82	18.61	78.94	68.11	26.43	37.98	27.39







Objective	GLUE	CNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
BERT-style (Devlin et al., 2018)	82.96	19.17	<b>80.65</b>	69.85	26.78	<b>40.03</b>	27.41
MASS-style (Song et al., 2019)	82.32	19.16	80.10	69.28	26.79	<b>39.89</b>	27.55
★ Replace corrupted spans	83.28	<b>19.24</b>	<b>80.88</b>	<b>71.36</b>	<b>26.98</b>	39.82	<b>27.65</b>
Drop corrupted tokens	<b>84.44</b>	<b>19.31</b>	<b>80.52</b>	68.67	<b>27.07</b>	39.76	<b>27.82</b>

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Dried Lemons, \$3.59/pound

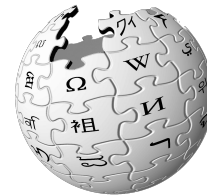
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Lemons are harvested and sun-dried for maximum flavor.  
Good in soups and on popcorn.

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Smashwords

Dataset	Size	GLUE	CNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ C4	745GB	83.28	<b>19.24</b>	80.88	71.36	<b>26.98</b>	<b>39.82</b>	<b>27.65</b>
C4, unfiltered	6.1TB	81.46	19.14	78.78	68.04	26.55	39.34	27.21
RealNews-like	35GB	<b>83.83</b>	<b>19.23</b>	80.39	72.38	<b>26.75</b>	<b>39.90</b>	<b>27.48</b>
WebText-like	17GB	<b>84.03</b>	<b>19.31</b>	<b>81.42</b>	71.40	<b>26.80</b>	<b>39.74</b>	<b>27.59</b>
Wikipedia	16GB	81.85	<b>19.31</b>	81.29	68.01	<b>26.94</b>	39.69	<b>27.67</b>
Wikipedia + TBC	20GB	83.65	<b>19.28</b>	<b>82.08</b>	<b>73.24</b>	<b>26.77</b>	39.63	<b>27.57</b>

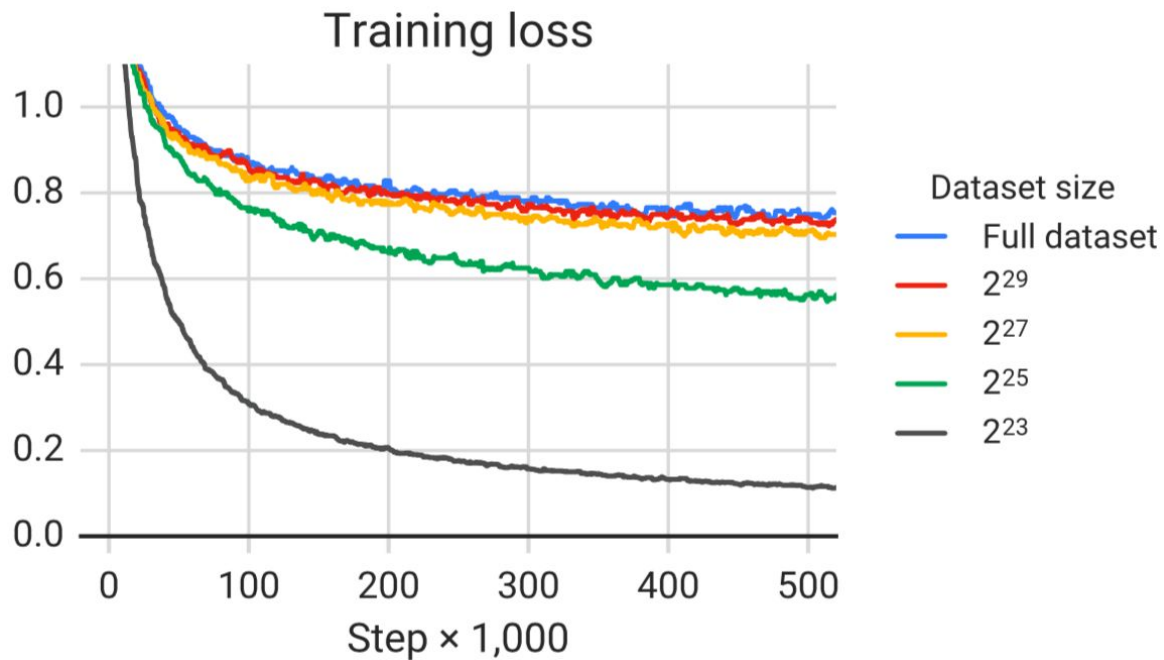
Order of magnitude smaller

Much worse on CoLA

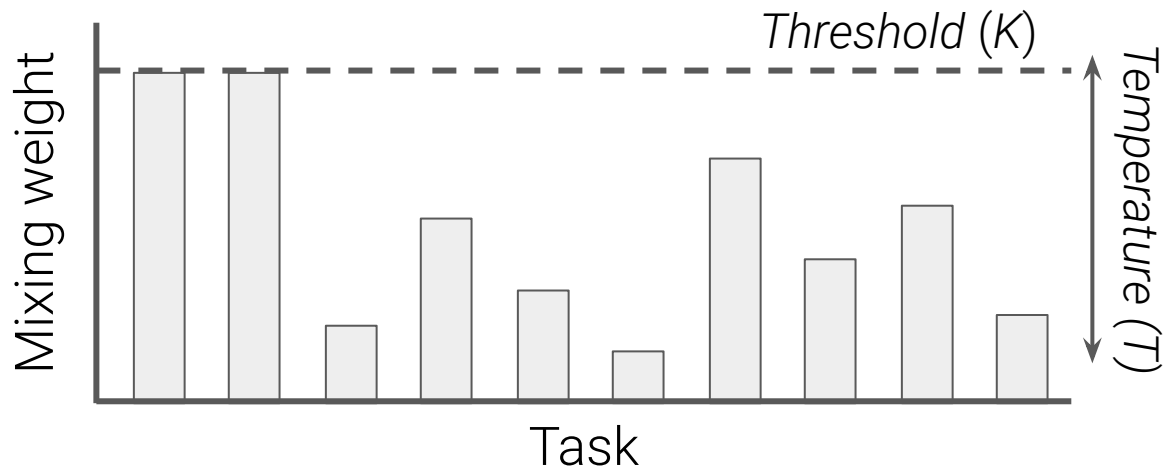
Much better on ReCoRD

Much better on MultiRC

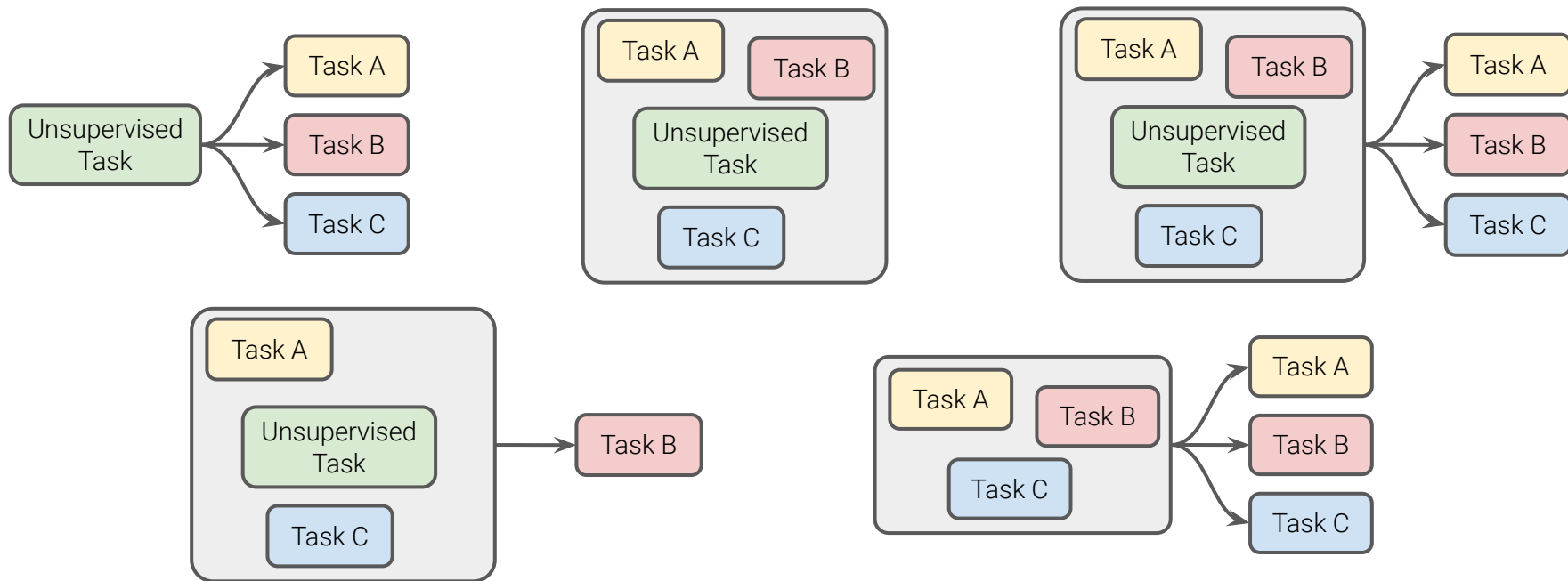
Number of tokens	Repeats	GLUE	CNNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ Full dataset	0	<b>83.28</b>	<b>19.24</b>	<b>80.88</b>	<b>71.36</b>	<b>26.98</b>	<b>39.82</b>	<b>27.65</b>
$2^{29}$	64	<b>82.87</b>	<b>19.19</b>	<b>80.97</b>	<b>72.03</b>	<b>26.83</b>	<b>39.74</b>	<b>27.63</b>
$2^{27}$	256	82.62	<b>19.20</b>	79.78	69.97	<b>27.02</b>	<b>39.71</b>	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



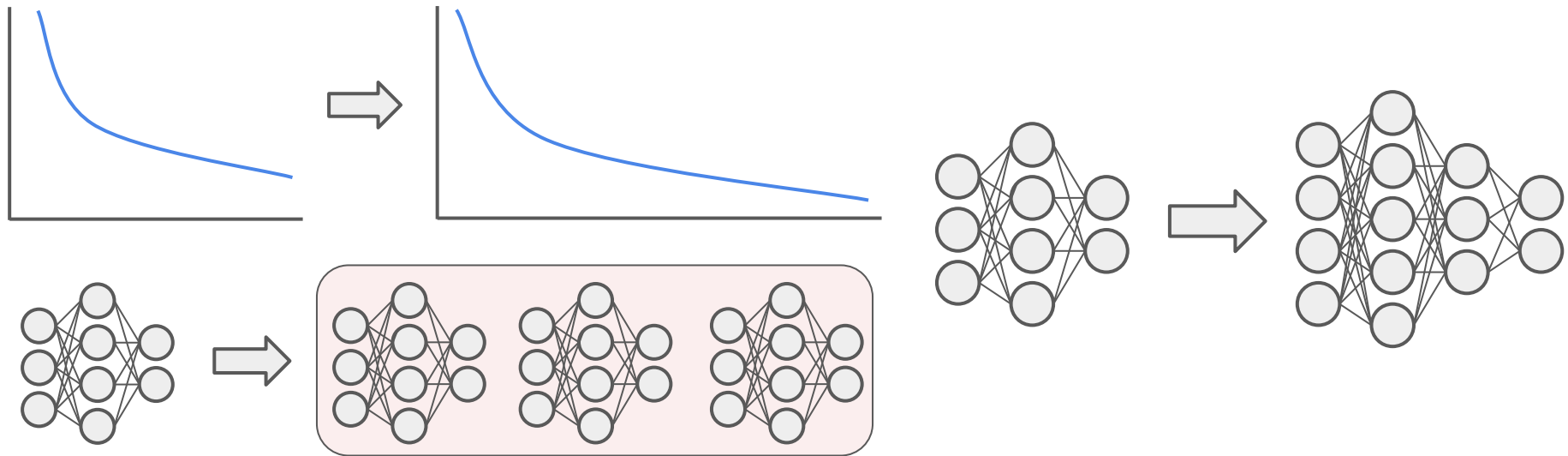
Mixing strategy	GLUE	CNN3M	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ Baseline (pre-train/fine-tune)	<b>83.28</b>	<b>19.24</b>	<b>80.88</b>	<b>71.36</b>	<b>26.98</b>	<b>39.82</b>	<b>27.65</b>
Equal	76.13	19.02	76.51	63.37	23.89	34.31	26.78
Examples-proportional, $K = 2^{16}$	80.45	19.04	77.25	69.95	24.35	34.99	27.10
Examples-proportional, $K = 2^{17}$	81.56	19.12	77.00	67.91	24.36	35.00	27.25
Examples-proportional, $K = 2^{18}$	81.67	19.07	78.17	67.94	24.57	35.19	27.39
Examples-proportional, $K = 2^{19}$	81.42	<b>19.24</b>	79.78	67.30	25.21	36.30	<b>27.76</b>
Examples-proportional, $K = 2^{20}$	80.80	<b>19.24</b>	<b>80.36</b>	67.38	25.66	36.93	<b>27.68</b>
Examples-proportional, $K = 2^{21}$	79.83	18.79	79.50	65.10	25.82	37.22	27.13
Temperature-scaled, $T = 2$	81.90	<b>19.28</b>	79.42	69.92	25.42	36.72	27.20
Temperature-scaled, $T = 4$	80.56	<b>19.22</b>	77.99	69.54	25.04	35.82	27.45
Temperature-scaled, $T = 8$	77.21	19.10	77.14	66.07	24.55	35.35	27.17



Training strategy	GLUE	CNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ Unsupervised pre-training + fine-tuning	<b>83.28</b>	<b>19.24</b>	<b>80.88</b>	<b>71.36</b>	<b>26.98</b>	39.82	27.65
Multi-task training	81.42	<b>19.24</b>	79.78	67.30	25.21	36.30	27.76
Multi-task pre-training + fine-tuning	<b>83.11</b>	<b>19.12</b>	<b>80.26</b>	<b>71.03</b>	<b>27.08</b>	39.80	<b>28.07</b>
Leave-one-out multi-task training	81.98	19.05	79.97	<b>71.68</b>	<b>26.93</b>	39.79	<b>27.87</b>
Supervised multi-task pre-training	79.93	18.96	77.38	65.36	26.81	<b>40.13</b>	<b>28.04</b>



Scaling strategy	GLUE	CNNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ Baseline	83.28	19.24	80.88	71.36	26.98	39.82	27.65
1× size, 4× training steps	85.33	19.33	82.45	74.72	27.08	40.66	27.93
1× size, 4× batch size	84.60	19.42	82.52	74.64	27.07	40.60	27.84
2× size, 2× training steps	<b>86.18</b>	19.66	<b>84.18</b>	77.18	27.52	<b>41.03</b>	28.19
4× size, 1× training steps	<b>85.91</b>	19.73	<b>83.86</b>	<b>78.04</b>	27.47	40.71	28.10
4× ensembled	84.77	<b>20.10</b>	83.09	71.74	<b>28.05</b>	40.53	<b>28.57</b>
4× ensembled, fine-tune only	84.05	19.57	82.36	71.55	27.55	40.22	28.09



Encoder-decoder architecture

Architecture	Params	Cost	GLUE	CNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ Encoder-decoder	$2P$	$M$	<b>83.28</b>	<b>19.24</b>	<b>80.88</b>	<b>71.36</b>	<b>26.98</b>	<b>39.82</b>	<b>27.65</b>
Enc-dec, shared	$P$	$M$	82.81	18.78	<b>80.63</b>	<b>70.73</b>	26.72	39.03	<b>27.46</b>
Enc-dec, 6 layers	$P$	$M/2$	80.88	18.97	77.59	68.42	26.38	38.40	26.95
Language model	$P$	$M$	74.70	17.93	61.14	55.02	25.09	35.28	25.86
Prefix LM	$P$	$M$	81.82	18.61	78.94	68.11	26.43	37.98	27.39

Span prediction objective

Span length	GLUE	CNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ Baseline (i.i.d.)	<b>83.28</b>	19.24	80.88	71.36	<b>26.98</b>	<b>39.82</b>	<b>27.65</b>
2	<b>83.54</b>	19.39	<b>82.09</b>	<b>72.20</b>	<b>26.76</b>	<b>39.99</b>	<b>27.63</b>
3	<b>83.49</b>	<b>19.62</b>	<b>81.84</b>	<b>72.53</b>	<b>26.86</b>	39.65	<b>27.62</b>
5	<b>83.40</b>	19.24	<b>82.05</b>	<b>72.23</b>	<b>26.88</b>	39.40	<b>27.53</b>
10	82.85	19.33	<b>81.84</b>	70.44	<b>26.79</b>	39.49	<b>27.69</b>

C4 dataset

Dataset	Size	GLUE	CNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ C4	745GB	83.28	<b>19.24</b>	80.88	71.36	<b>26.98</b>	<b>39.82</b>	<b>27.65</b>
C4, unfiltered	6.1TB	81.46	19.14	78.78	68.04	26.55	39.34	27.21
RealNews-like	35GB	<b>83.83</b>	<b>19.23</b>	80.39	72.38	<b>26.75</b>	<b>39.90</b>	<b>27.48</b>
WebText-like	17GB	<b>84.03</b>	<b>19.31</b>	<b>81.42</b>	71.40	<b>26.80</b>	<b>39.74</b>	<b>27.59</b>
Wikipedia	16GB	81.85	<b>19.31</b>	81.29	68.01	<b>26.94</b>	39.69	<b>27.67</b>
Wikipedia + TBC	20GB	83.65	<b>19.28</b>	<b>82.08</b>	<b>73.24</b>	<b>26.77</b>	39.63	<b>27.57</b>

Multi-task pre-training

Training strategy	GLUE	CNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
★ Unsupervised pre-training + fine-tuning	<b>83.28</b>	<b>19.24</b>	<b>80.88</b>	<b>71.36</b>	<b>26.98</b>	39.82	27.65
Multi-task training	81.42	<b>19.24</b>	79.78	67.30	25.21	36.30	27.76
Multi-task pre-training + fine-tuning	<b>83.11</b>	<b>19.12</b>	<b>80.26</b>	<b>71.03</b>	<b>27.08</b>	39.80	<b>28.07</b>
Leave-one-out multi-task training	81.98	19.05	79.97	<b>71.68</b>	<b>26.93</b>	39.79	<b>27.87</b>
Supervised multi-task pre-training	79.93	18.96	77.38	65.36	26.81	<b>40.13</b>	<b>28.04</b>

Bigger models trained longer

Scaling strategy	GLUE	CNNDM	SQuAD	SGLUE	EnDe	EnFr	EnRo
Baseline	83.28	19.24	80.88	71.36	26.98	39.82	27.65
1× size, 4× training steps	85.33	19.33	82.45	74.72	27.08	40.66	27.93
1× size, 4× batch size	84.60	19.42	82.52	74.64	27.07	40.60	27.84
2× size, 2× training steps	<b>86.18</b>	19.66	<b>84.18</b>	77.18	27.52	<b>41.03</b>	28.19
4× size, 1× training steps	<b>85.91</b>	19.73	<b>83.86</b>	<b>78.04</b>	27.47	40.71	<b>28.10</b>
4× ensembled	84.77	<b>20.10</b>	83.09	71.74	<b>28.05</b>	40.53	<b>28.57</b>
4× ensembled, fine-tune only	84.05	19.57	82.36	71.55	27.55	40.22	<b>28.09</b>

## *Model size variants*

---

Model	Parameters	# layers	$d_{\text{model}}$	$d_{\text{ff}}$	$d_{\text{kv}}$	# heads
Small	60M	6	512	2048	64	8
Base	220M	12	768	3072	64	12
Large	770M	24	1024	4096	64	16
3B	3B	24	1024	16384	128	32
11B	11B	24	1024	65536	128	128

---



Back-translation beats English-only pre-training

Model	GLUE Average	CNN/DM ROUGE-2-F	SQuAD EM	SuperGLUE Average	WMT EnDe BLEU	WMT EnFr BLEU	WMT EnRo BLEU
Previous best	89.4	20.30	90.1	84.6	<b>33.8</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>38.5</b>
T5-Small	77.4	19.56	87.24	63.3	26.7	36.0	26.8
T5-Base	82.7	20.34	92.08	76.2	30.9	41.2	28.0
T5-Large	86.4	20.68	93.79	82.3	32.0	41.5	28.1
T5-3B	88.5	21.02	94.95	86.4	31.8	42.6	28.2
T5-11B	<b>90.3</b>	<b>21.55</b>	<b>91.26</b>	<b>89.3</b>	32.1	43.4	28.1

Human score = 89.8

Code for the paper "Exploring the Limits of Transfer Learning with a Unified Text-to-Text Transformer"

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.10683>

Edit

[Manage topics](#)

## Released Model Checkpoints

We have released the following checkpoints for pre-trained models described in our [paper](#):

- **T5-Small** (60 million parameters): [gs://t5-data/pretrained\\_models/small](gs://t5-data/pretrained_models/small)
- **T5-Base** (220 million parameters): [gs://t5-data/pretrained\\_models/base](gs://t5-data/pretrained_models/base)
- **T5-Large** (770 million parameters): [gs://t5-data/pretrained\\_models/large](gs://t5-data/pretrained_models/large)
- **T5-3B** (3 billion parameters): [gs://t5-data/pretrained\\_models/3B](gs://t5-data/pretrained_models/3B)
- **T5-11B** (11 billion parameters): [gs://t5-data/pretrained\\_models/11B](gs://t5-data/pretrained_models/11B)

<https://github.com/google-research/text-to-text-transfer-transformer>



Open in Colab

▶ Copyright 2019 The T5 Authors

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↳ 1 cell hidden

## Fine-Tuning the Text-To-Text Transfer Transformer (T5) for Context-Free Trivia

*Or: What does T5 know?*

The following tutorial guides you through the process of fine-tuning a pre-trained T5 model, evaluating its accuracy, and using it for prediction, all on a free Google Cloud TPU [Open in Colab](#).

What about all of the other  
languages?

"paws-x sentence1: 但为击败斯洛伐克, 德里克必须成为吸血鬼攻击者。sentence2: 然而, 为了成为斯洛伐克人, 德里克必须击败吸血鬼刺客。"

"xhli premise: Το κορίτσι που μπορεί να με βοηθήσει είναι στον δρόμο προς την πόλη. hypothesis: Η κοπέλα που θα με βοηθήσει είναι 5 μίλια μακριά."

"mlqa context: Bei einer Sonnenfinsternis, die nur bei Neumond auftreten kann, steht der Mond zwischen Sonne und Erde. Eine Sonnenfinsternis...  
question: Wo befindet sich der Mond während des Sonnenfinsternis?"

mT5

"not paraphrasing"

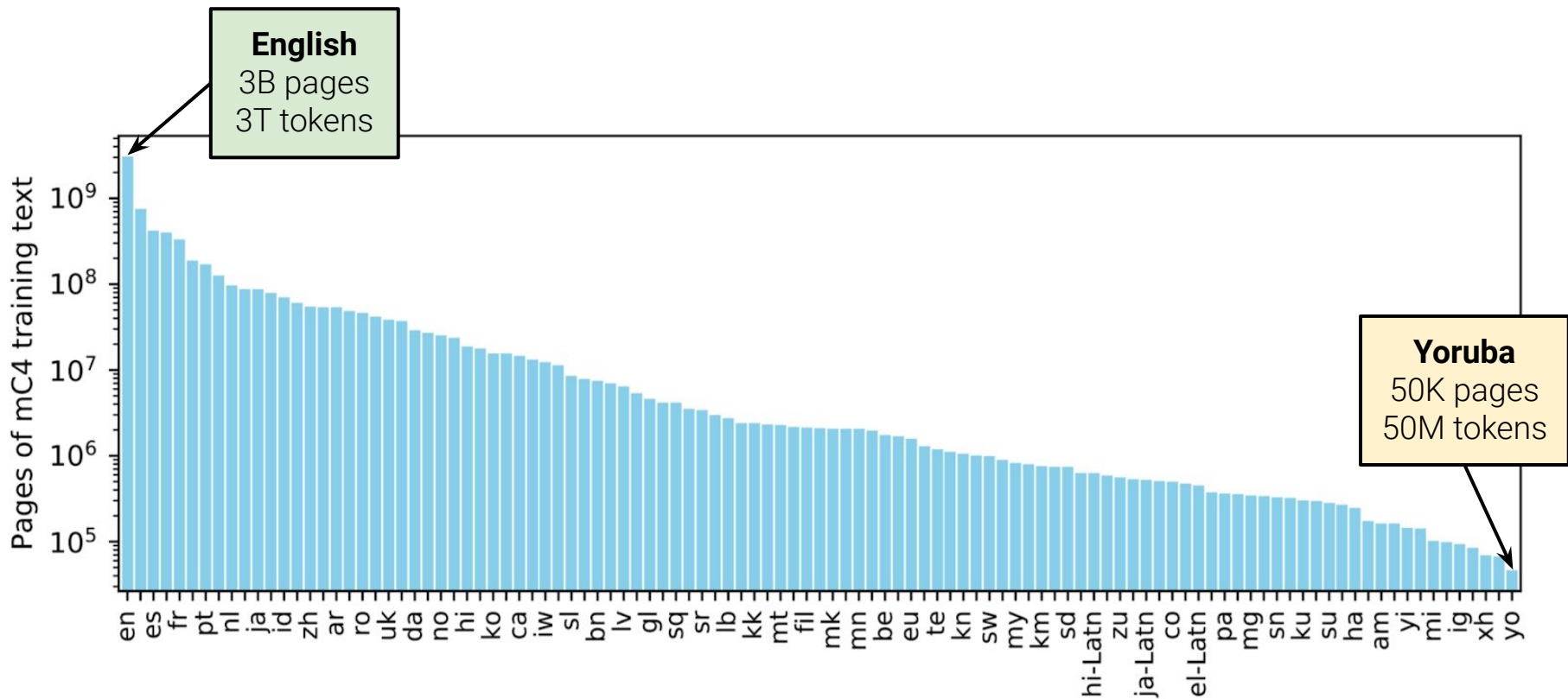
"neutral"

"Zwischen Sonne und Erde"

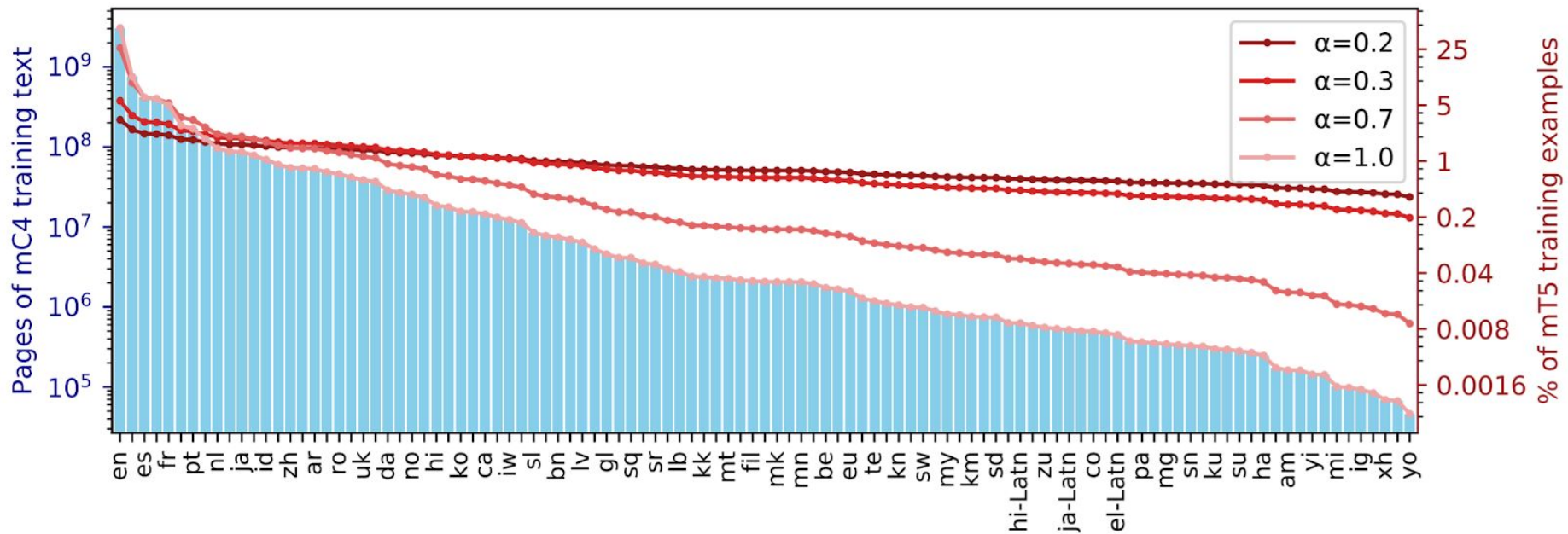
## c4/multilingual

- **Config description:** Multilingual C4 (mC4) has 101 languages and is generated from 71 Common Crawl dumps.
- **Download size:** 22.74 MiB
- **Dataset size:** 26.76 TiB

Afrikaans, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Basque, Belarusian, Bengali, Bulgarian, Burmese, Catalan, Cebuano, Chichewa, Chinese, Corsican, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Esperanto, Estonian, Filipino, Finnish, French, Galician, Georgian, German, Greek, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hausa, Hawaiian, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong, Hungarian, Icelandic, Igbo, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Javanese, Kannada, Kazakh, Khmer, Korean, Kurdish, Kyrgyz, Lao, Latin, Latvian, Lithuanian, Luxembourgish, Macedonian, Malagasy, Malay, Malayalam, Maltese, Maori, Marathi, Mongolian, Nepali, Norwegian, Pashto, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Scottish Gaelic, Serbian, Shona, Sindhi, Sinhala, Slovak, Slovenian, Somali, Sotho, Spanish, Sundanese, Swahili, Swedish, Tajik, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Uzbek, Vietnamese, Welsh, West Frisian, Xhosa, Yiddish, Yoruba, Zulu.



Slide from Noah Constant

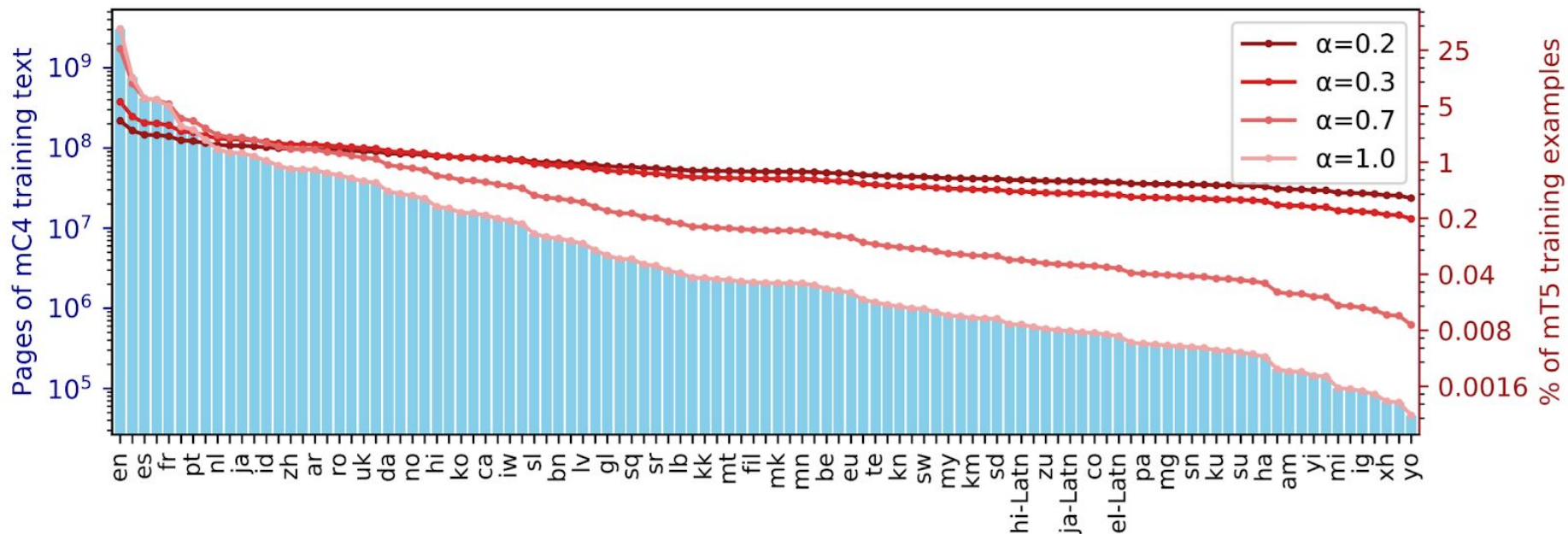


Slide from Noah Constant



## XNLI Zero-shot Accuracy

	Urdu	Russian
$\alpha=0.2$	<b>73.9</b>	81.2
$\alpha=0.3$	73.5	81.5
$\alpha=0.7$	71.7	<b>82.8</b>



*Slide from Noah Constant*

# XTREME



## (X) Cross-Lingual Transfer Evaluation of Multilingual Encoders

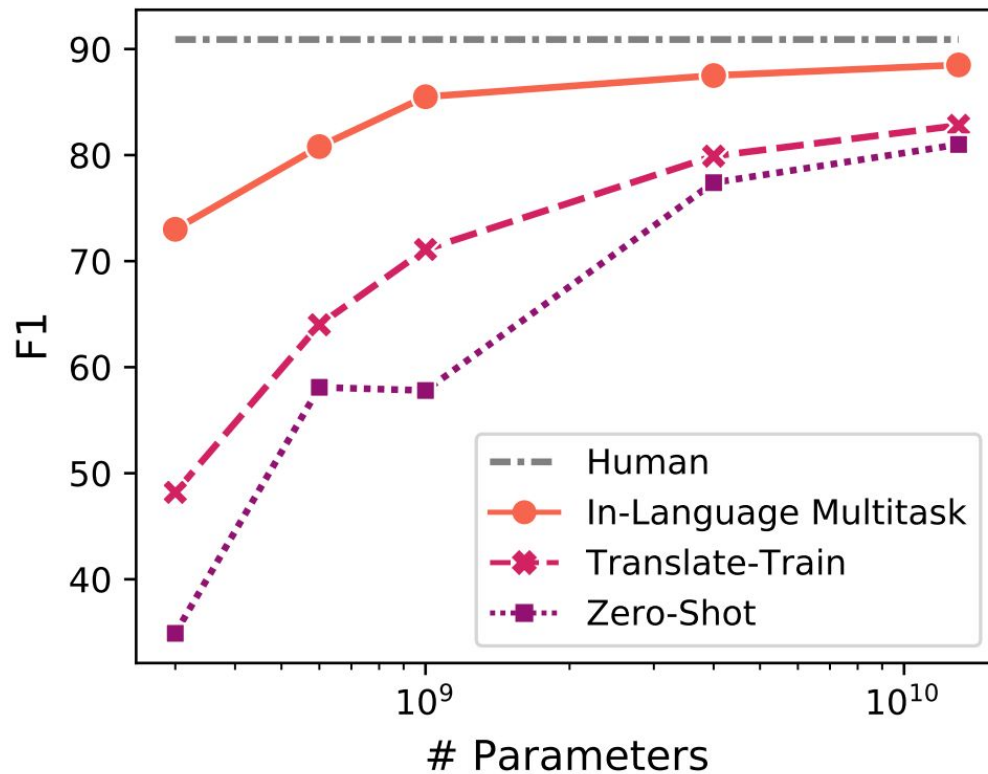
A comprehensive benchmark for cross-lingual transfer learning on a diverse set of languages and tasks.

Model	Participant	Affiliation	Attempt Date	Avg	Sentence-pair Classification	Structured Prediction	Question Answering	Sentence Retrieval
	Human	-	-	93.3	95.1	97.0	87.8	-
<a href="#">ERNIE-M</a>	ERNIE Team	Baidu	Jan 1, 2021	80.9	87.9	75.6	72.3	91.9
<a href="#">mT5</a>	mT5-Team	Google Research	Jan 13, 2021	40.9	89.8	NA	73.6	NA



*Slide from Noah Constant*

## TyDi QA GoldP Performance



*Slide from Noah Constant*

How much knowledge  
does a language model  
pick up during  
pre-training?

# Reading Comprehension

*Question*

"What color is a lemon?"

*Context*

"The lemon tree's ellipsoidal yellow fruit is used for culinary and non-culinary purposes throughout the world, primarily for its juice, which has both culinary and cleaning uses. The pulp and rind are also used in cooking and baking."

Model

yellow

# Open-Domain Question Answering

*Question*

"What color is a lemon?"

*Database*

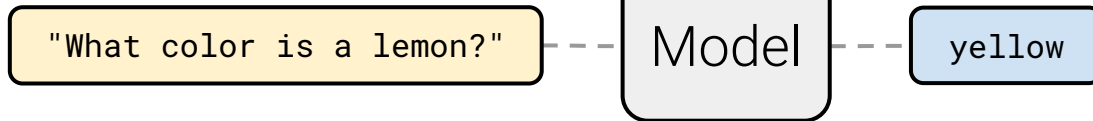
"The lemon tree's ellipsoidal yellow fruit is used for culinary and non-culinary purposes throughout the world, primarily for its juice, which has both culinary and cleaning uses. The pulp and rind are also used in cooking and baking."

Model

yellow

# Closed-Book Question Answering

*Question*



President Franklin <M> born <M> January 1882.

Lily couldn't <M>. The waitress had brought the largest <M> of chocolate cake <M> seen.

Our <M> hand-picked and sun-dried <M> orchard in Georgia.

T5

D. Roosevelt was <M> in

believe her eyes <M> piece <M> she had ever

peaches are <M> at our

President Franklin D. Roosevelt was born in January 1882.

*Pre-training*

*Fine-tuning*

When was Franklin D. Roosevelt born?

T5

1882



---

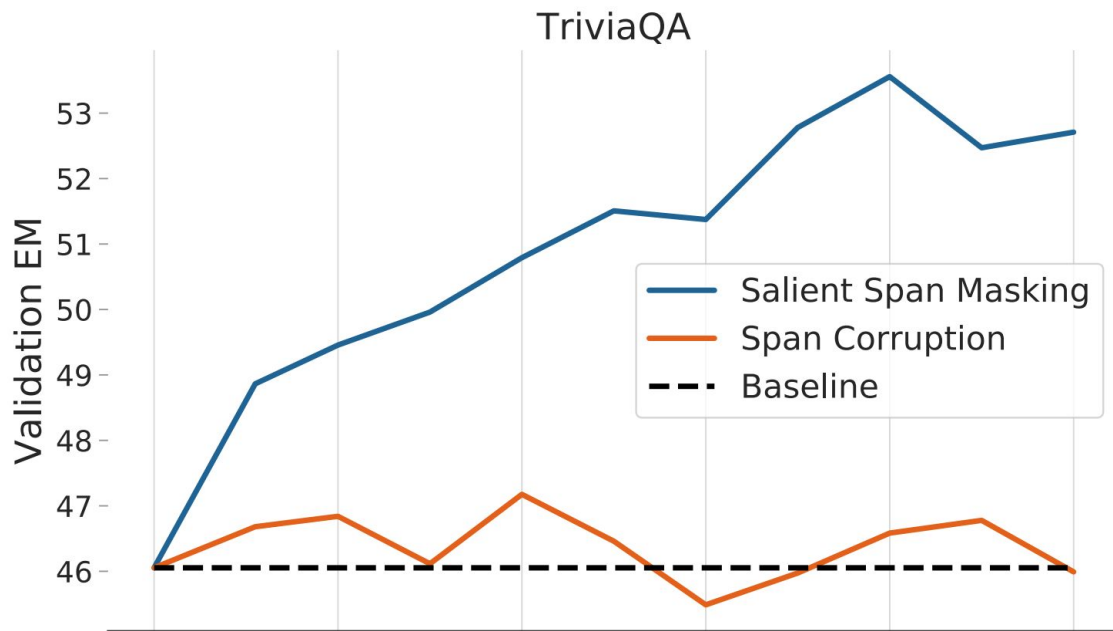
	NQ	WQ	TQA
Open-domain SoTA	41.5	42.4	57.9
T5.1.1-Base	25.7	28.2	24.2
T5.1.1-Large	27.3	29.5	28.5
T5.1.1-XL	29.5	32.4	36.0
T5.1.1-XXL	32.8	35.6	42.9

---

<M> (born 1957) is a Spanish librarian who has been the director of the National Library of Spain since February 2013.

T5

Ana Santos Aramburo



SSM data from "REALM: Retrieval-Augmented Language Model Pre-Training" by Guu et al.

---

	NQ	WQ	TQA
Open-domain SoTA	41.5	42.4	57.9
T5.1.1-Base	25.7	28.2	24.2
T5.1.1-Large	27.3	29.5	28.5
T5.1.1-XL	29.5	32.4	36.0
T5.1.1-XXL	32.8	35.6	42.9
T5.1.1-XXL + SSM	35.2	42.8	51.9




---

---

Category	Question	Target(s)	T5 Prediction
True Negative	what does the ghost of christmas present sprinkle from his torch	little warmth, warmth	confetti
Phrasing Mismatch	who plays red on orange is new black	kate mulgrew	katherine kiernan maria mulgrew
Incomplete Annotation	where does the us launch space shuttles from	florida	kennedy lc39b
Unanswerable	who is the secretary of state for northern ireland	karen bradley	james brokenshire

---

---

Category	Question	Target(s)	T5 Prediction
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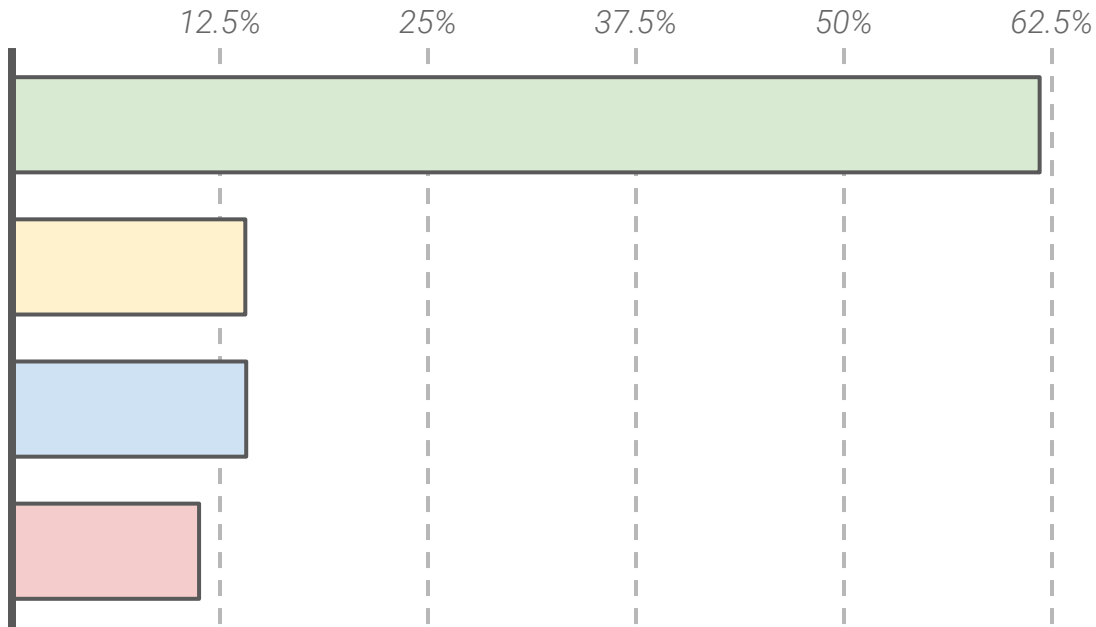
---

✘ True Negative

✓ Phrasing mismatch

✓ Incomplete annotation

🗑 Unanswerable



Exact Match: 36.6 → 57.8%!

Do large language  
models memorize their  
training data?

*“... the extent that a work is produced with a machine learning tool that was trained on a large number of copyrighted works, the degree of copying with respect to any given work is likely to be, at most, de minimis.”*

– [Electronic Frontier Foundation](#)

*“Well-constructed AI systems generally do not regenerate, in any nontrivial portion, unaltered data from any particular work in their training corpus.”*

– [OpenAI](#)



Prefix

East Stroudsburg Stroudsburg...

GPT-2

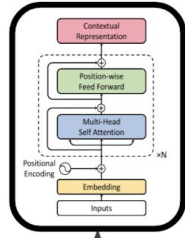
Memorized text

████████ Corporation Seabank Centre  
████████ Marine Parade Southport  
Peter W ██████████  
████████@████████.████████.com  
+ ██████████ 7 5 ██████████ 40  
Fax: + ██████████ 7 5 ██████████ 0 ██████████ 0

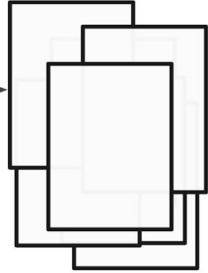
# Training Data Extraction Attack

LM (GPT-2)

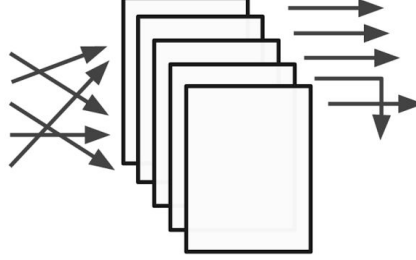
200,000 LM Generations



Prefixes



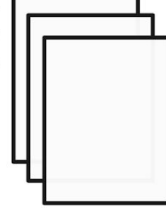
Sorted Generations  
(using one of 6 metrics)



Deduplicate



Choose Top-100



# Evaluation

Check Memorization

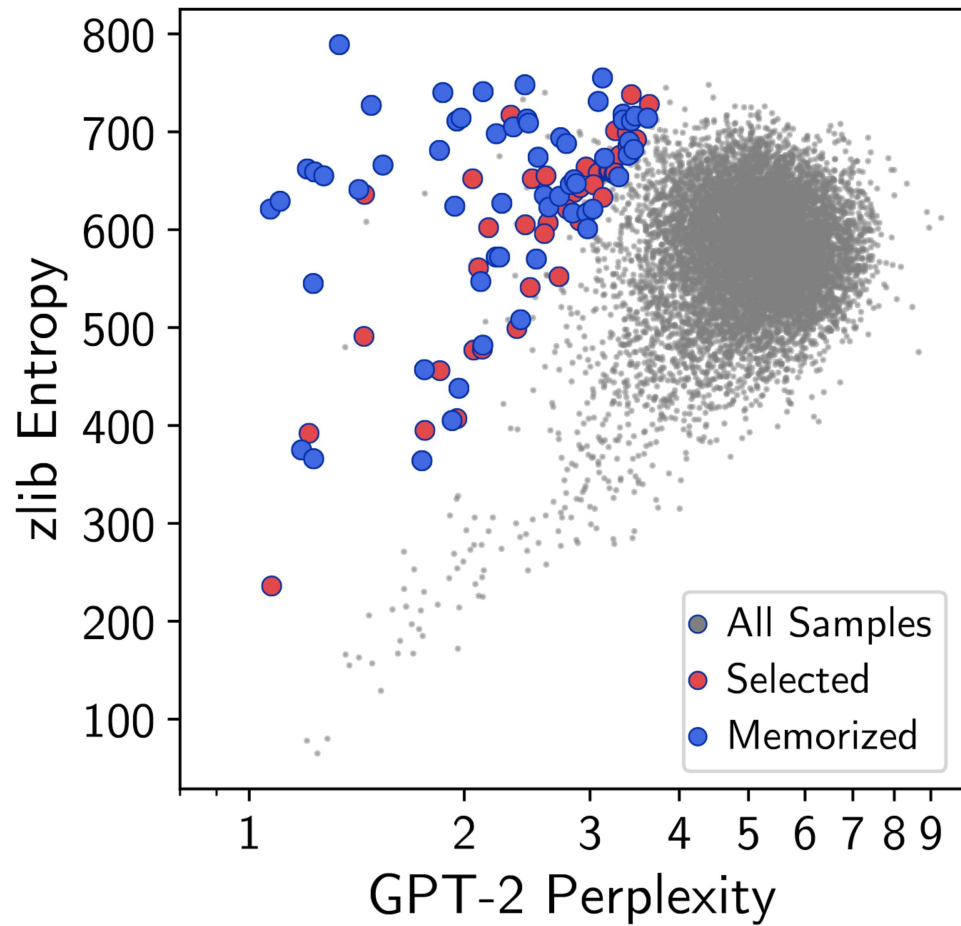
Internet Search

Match → In training set?

No Match → **X**

Top-*n* sampling  
Decaying-temperature sampling  
Conditioning on Internet text

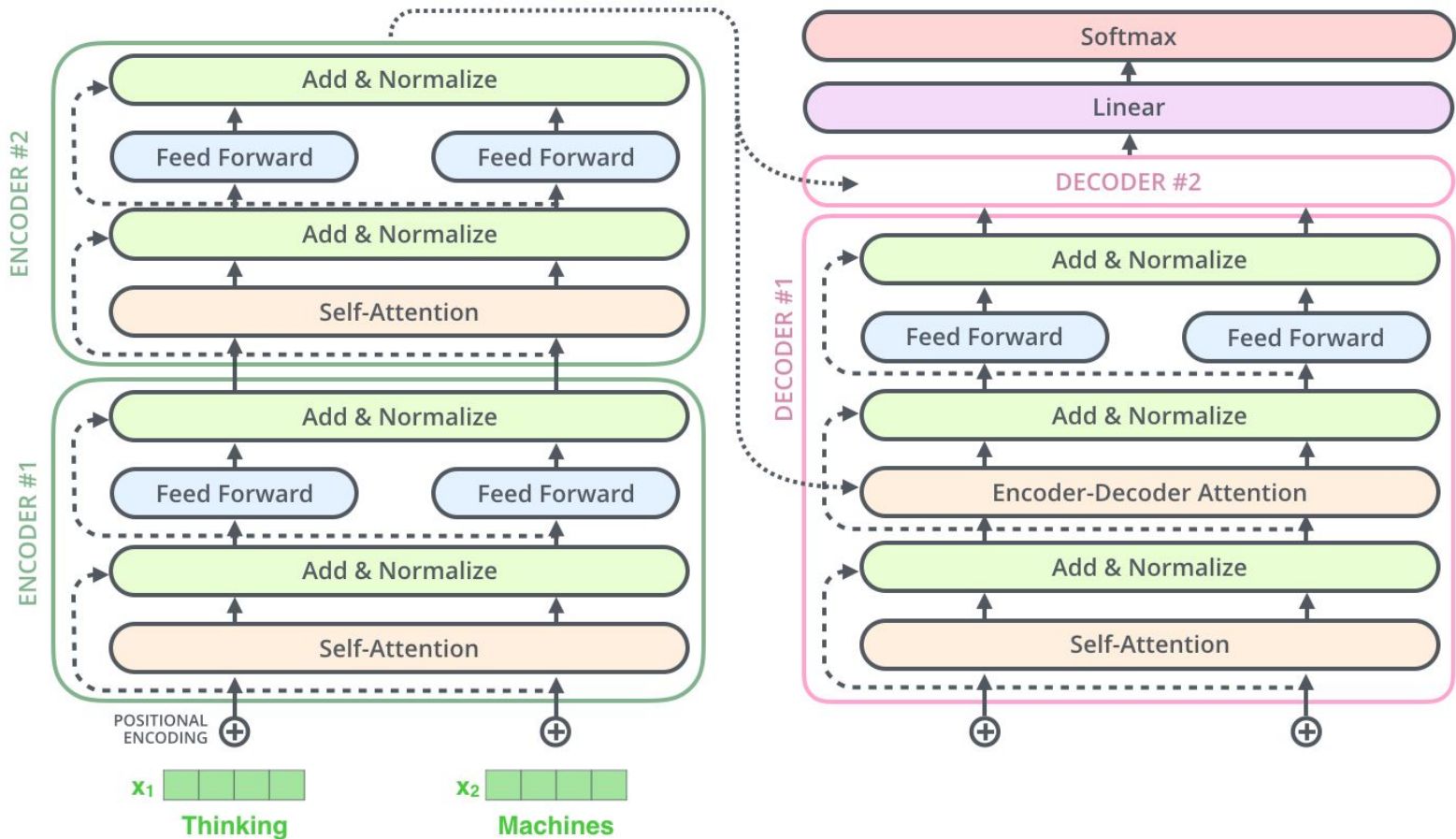
Perplexity  
... vs. different GPT  
... vs. zlib  
... vs. lowercased  
Windowed perplexity



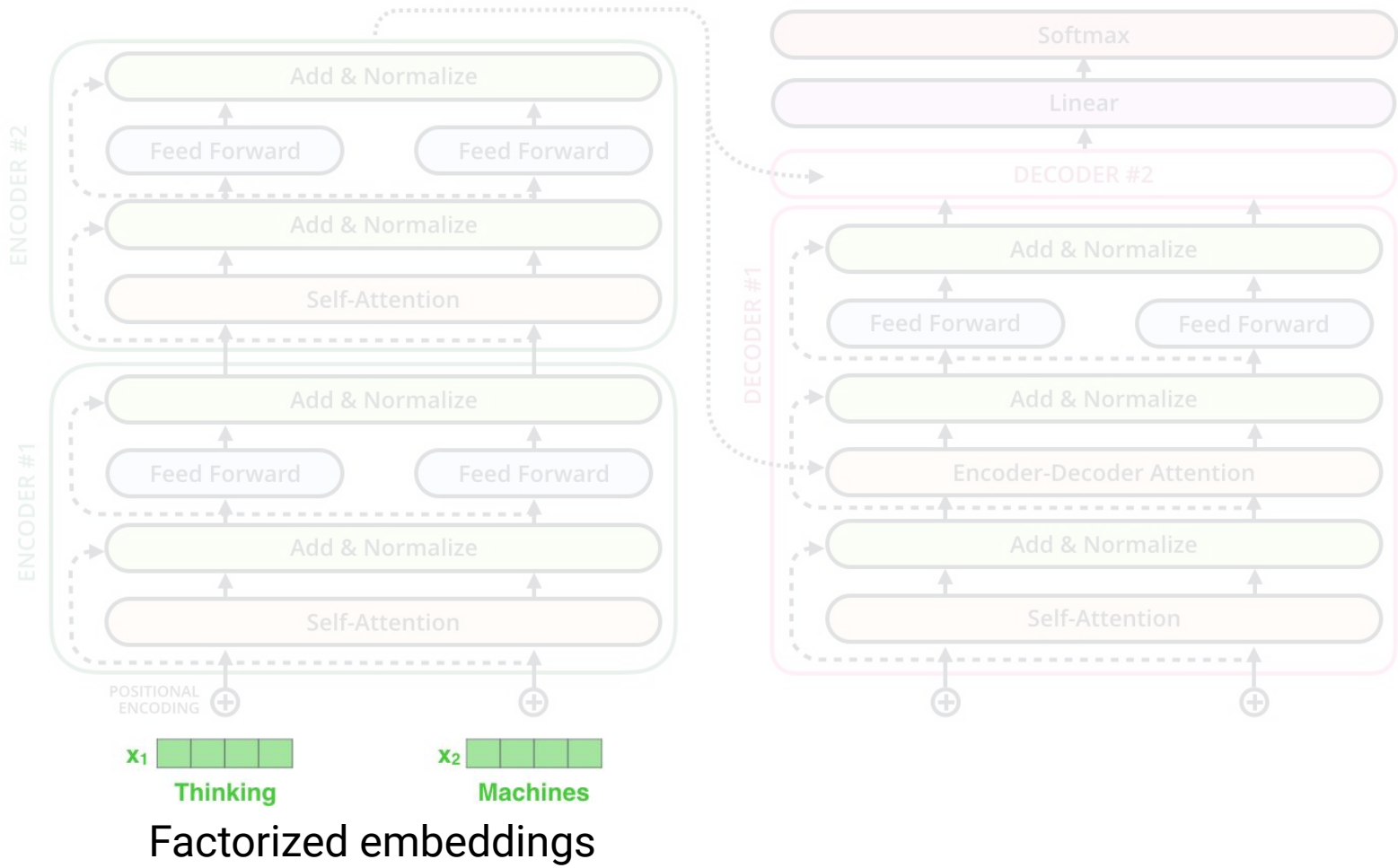
<b>Category</b>	<b>Count</b>
US and international news	109
Log files and error reports	79
License, terms of use, copyright notices	54
Lists of named items (games, countries, etc.)	54
Forum or Wiki entry	53
Valid URLs	50
<b>Named individuals (non-news samples only)</b>	46
Promotional content (products, subscriptions, etc.)	45
High entropy (UUIDs, base64 data)	35
<b>Contact info (address, email, phone, twitter, etc.)</b>	32
Code	31
Configuration files	30
Religious texts	25
Pseudonyms	15
Donald Trump tweets and quotes	12
Web forms (menu items, instructions, etc.)	11
Tech news	11
Lists of numbers (dates, sequences, etc.)	10

<b>URL (trimmed)</b>	<b>Occurrences</b>		<b>Memorized?</b>		
	<b>Docs</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>S</b>
/r/████51y/milo_evacua...	1	359	✓	✓	1/2
/r/████zin/hi_my_name...	1	113	✓	✓	
/r/████7ne/for_all_yo...	1	76	✓	1/2	
/r/████5mj/fake_news_...	1	72	✓		
/r/████5wn/reddit_admi...	1	64	✓	✓	
/r/████1p8/26_evening...	1	56	✓	✓	
/r/████jla/so_pizzagat...	1	51	✓	1/2	
/r/████ubf/late_night...	1	51	✓	1/2	
/r/████eta/make_christ...	1	35	✓	1/2	
/r/████6ev/its_officia...	1	33	✓		
/r/████3c7/scott_adams...	1	17			
/r/████k2o/because_his...	1	17			
/r/████tu3/armynavy_ga...	1	8			

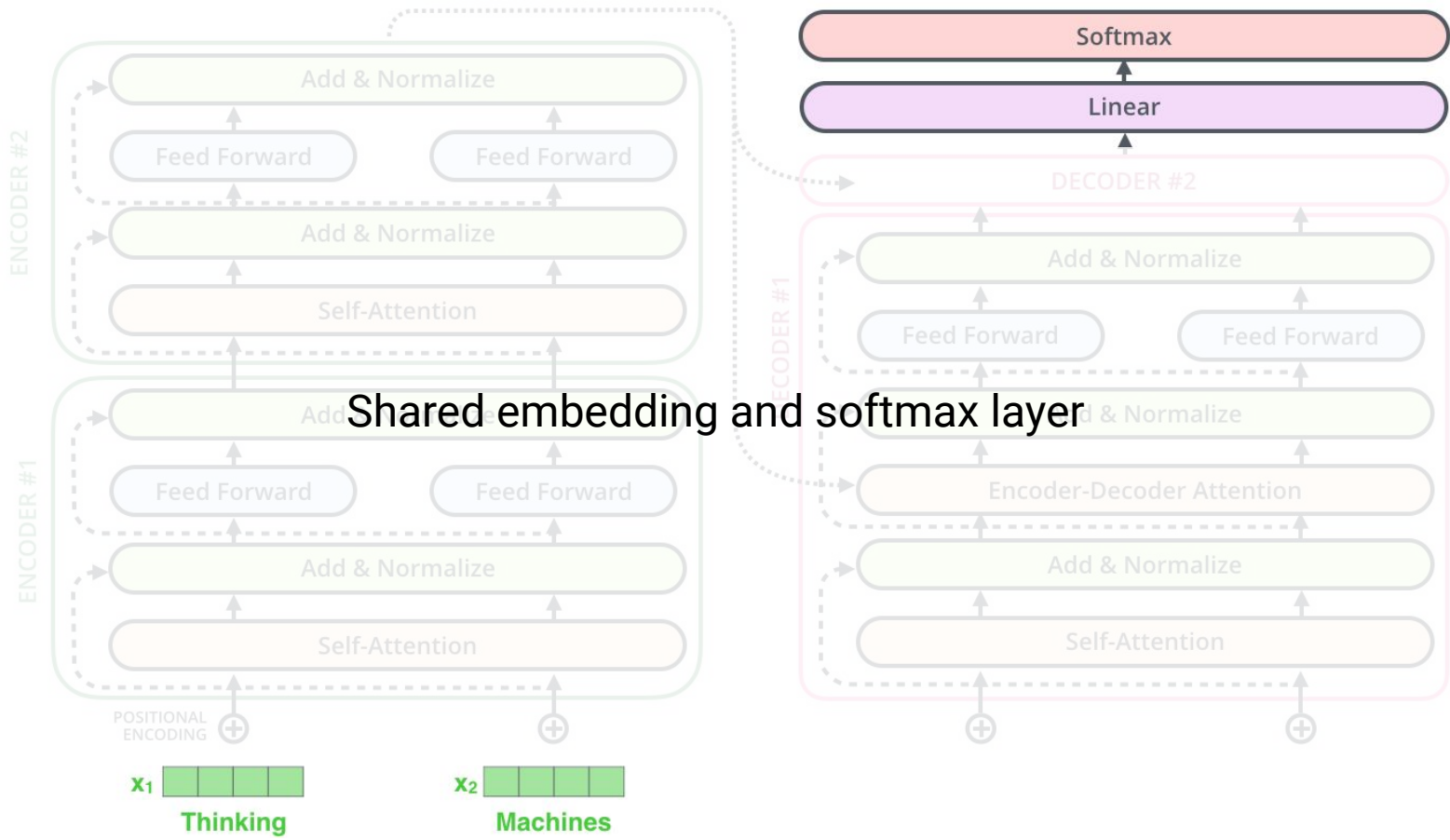
Can we close the gap  
between large and small  
models by improving the  
Transformer architecture?



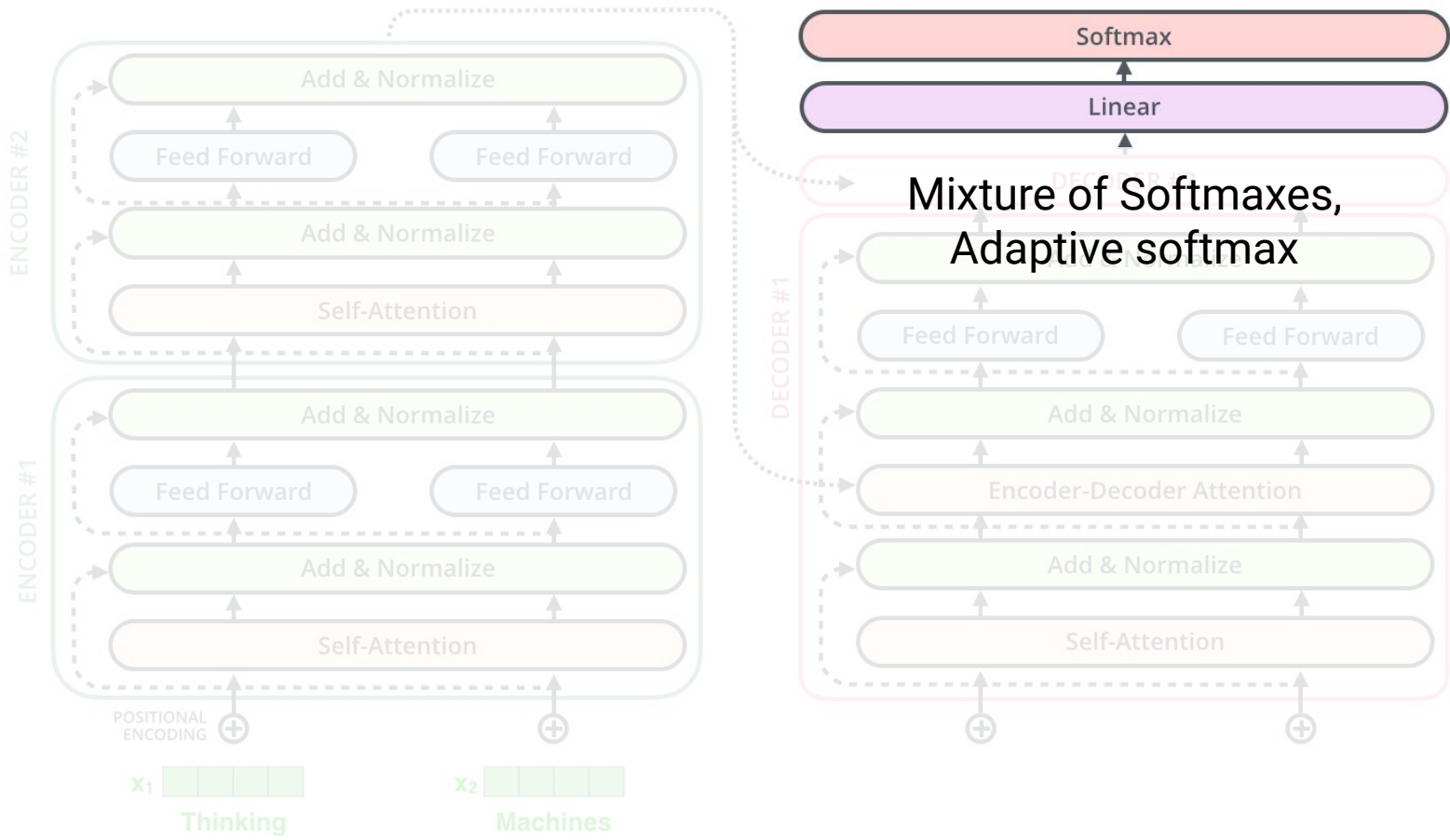
Source: <http://jalamar.github.io/illustrated-transformer/>

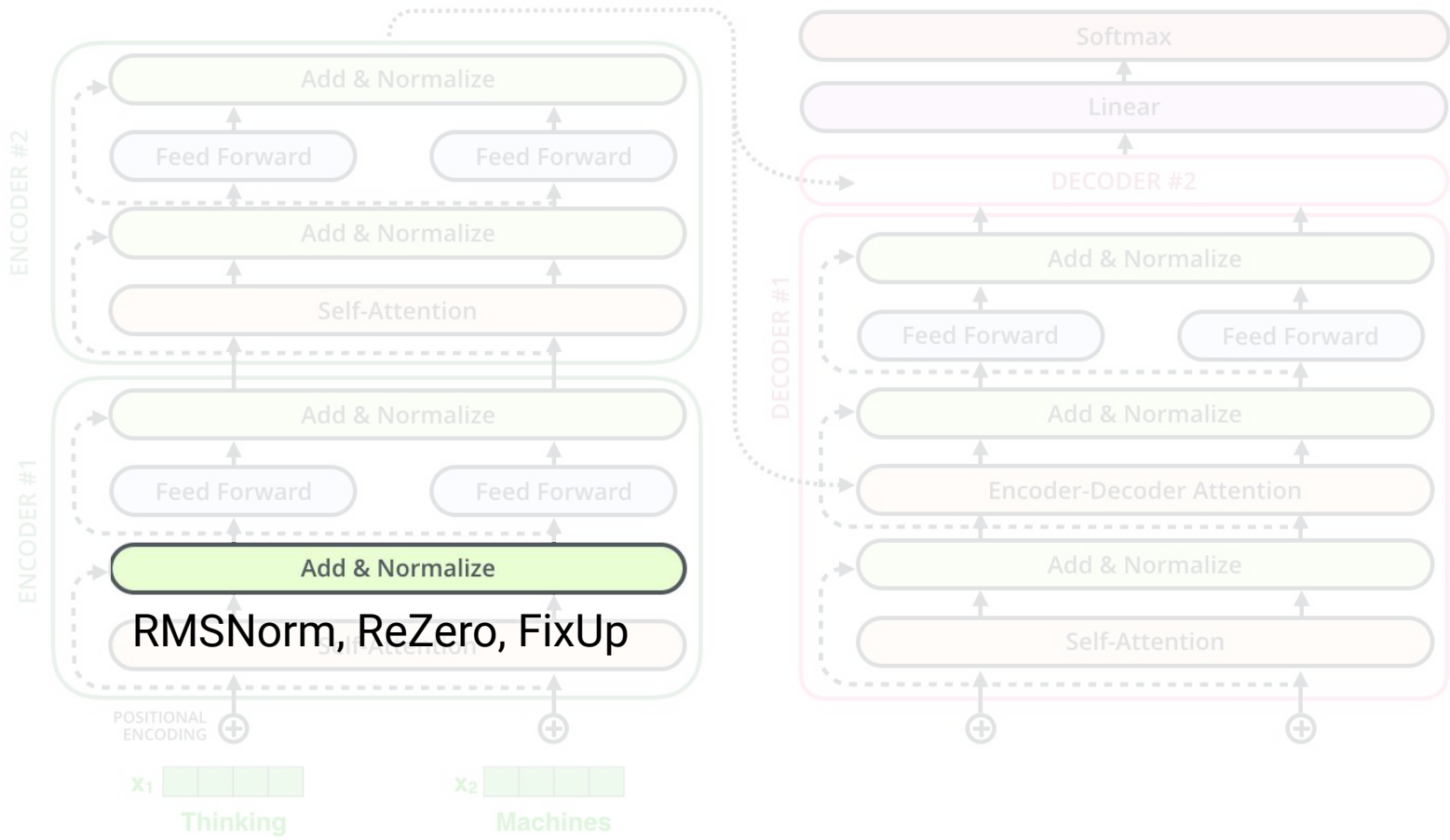


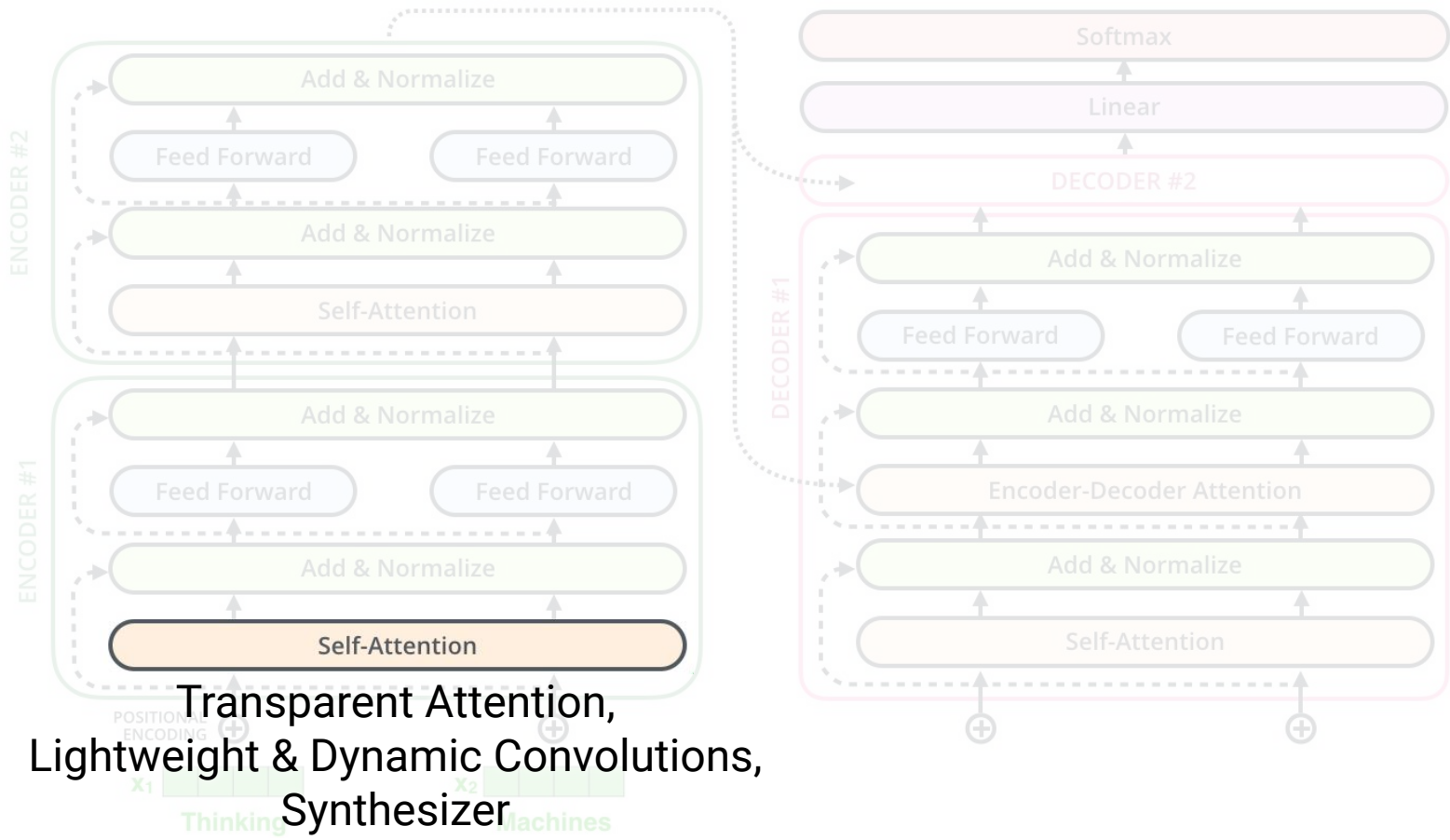




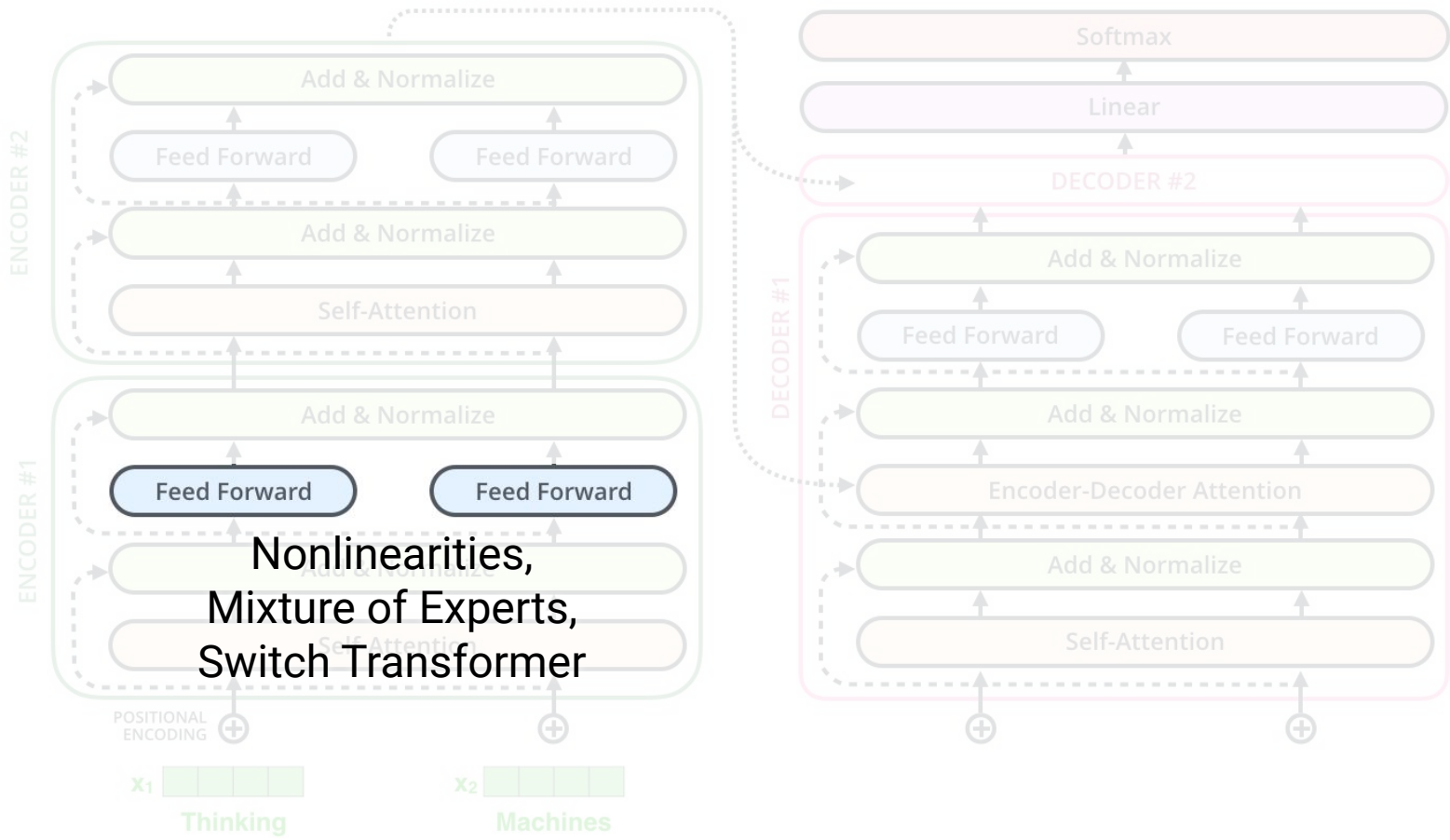
Shared embedding and softmax layer

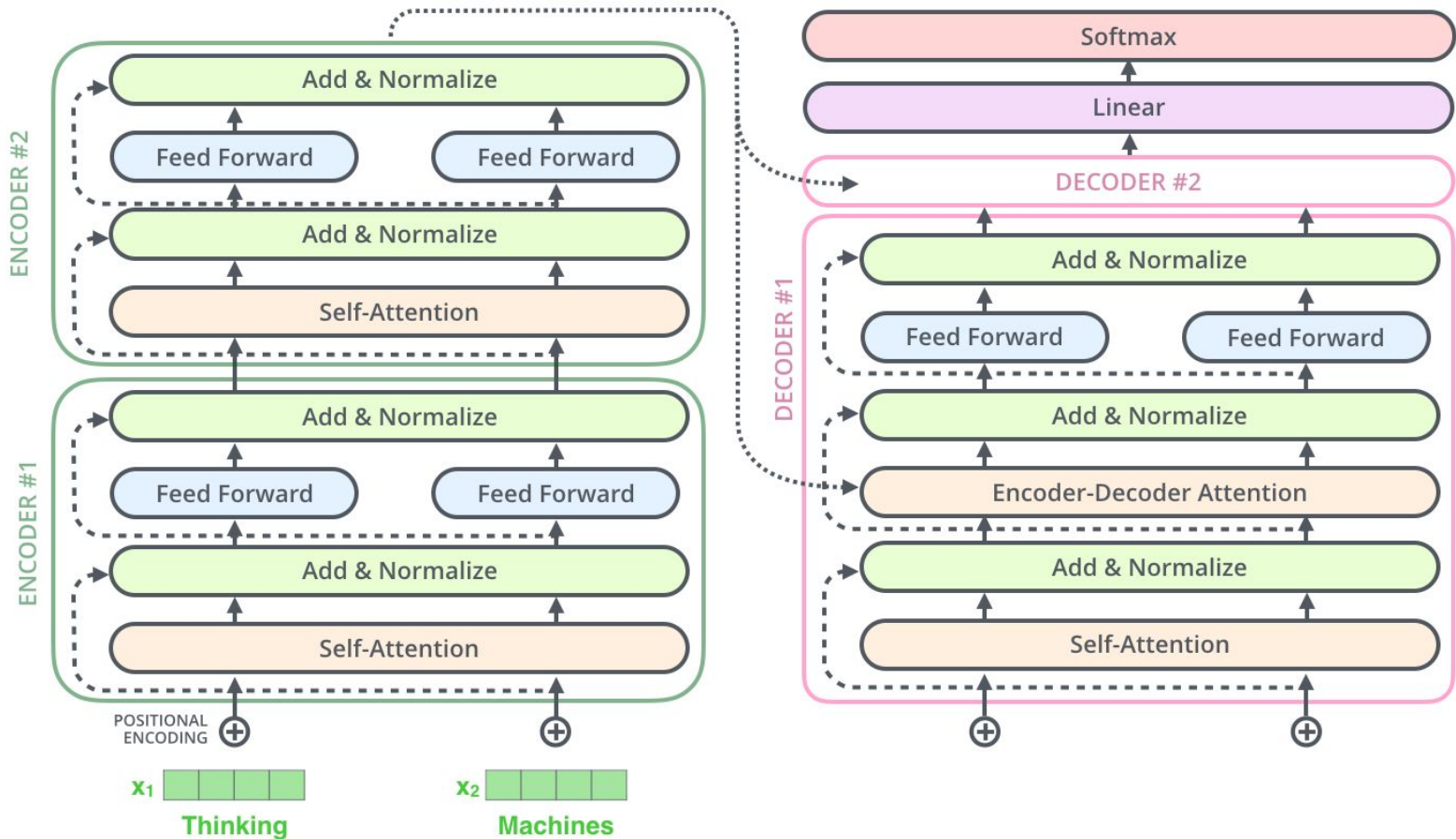




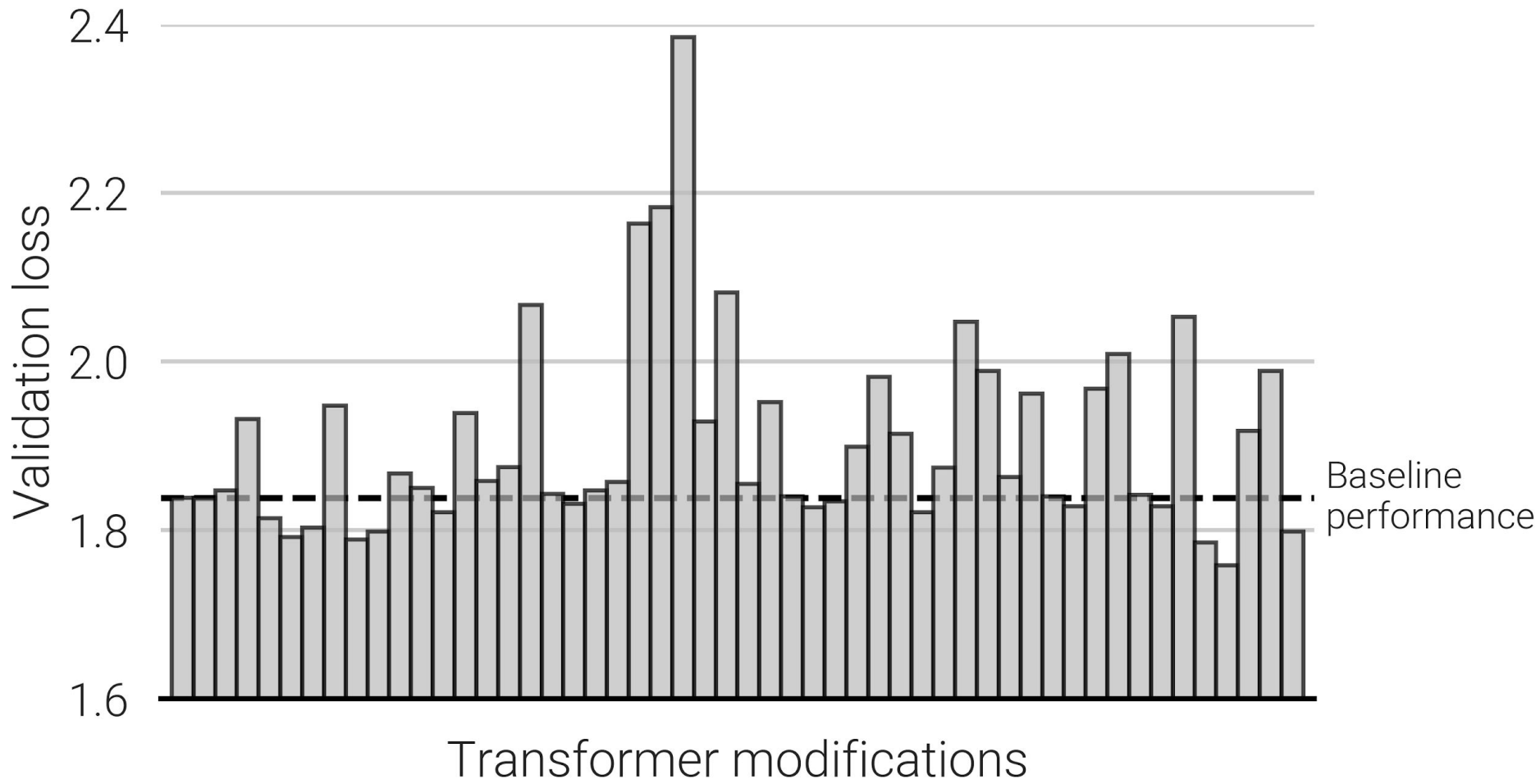


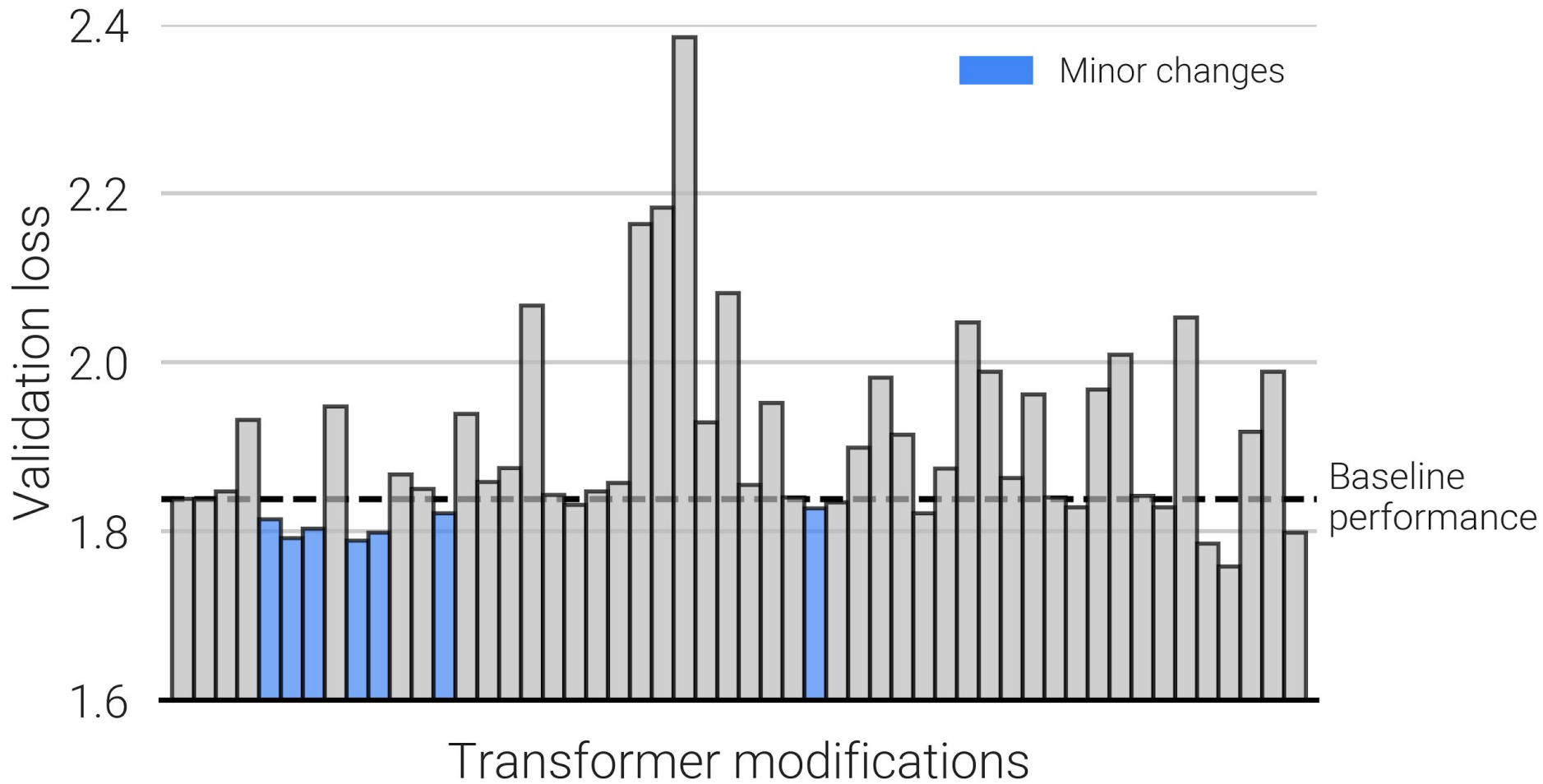
Transparent Attention,  
 Lightweight & Dynamic Convolutions,  
 Synthesizer



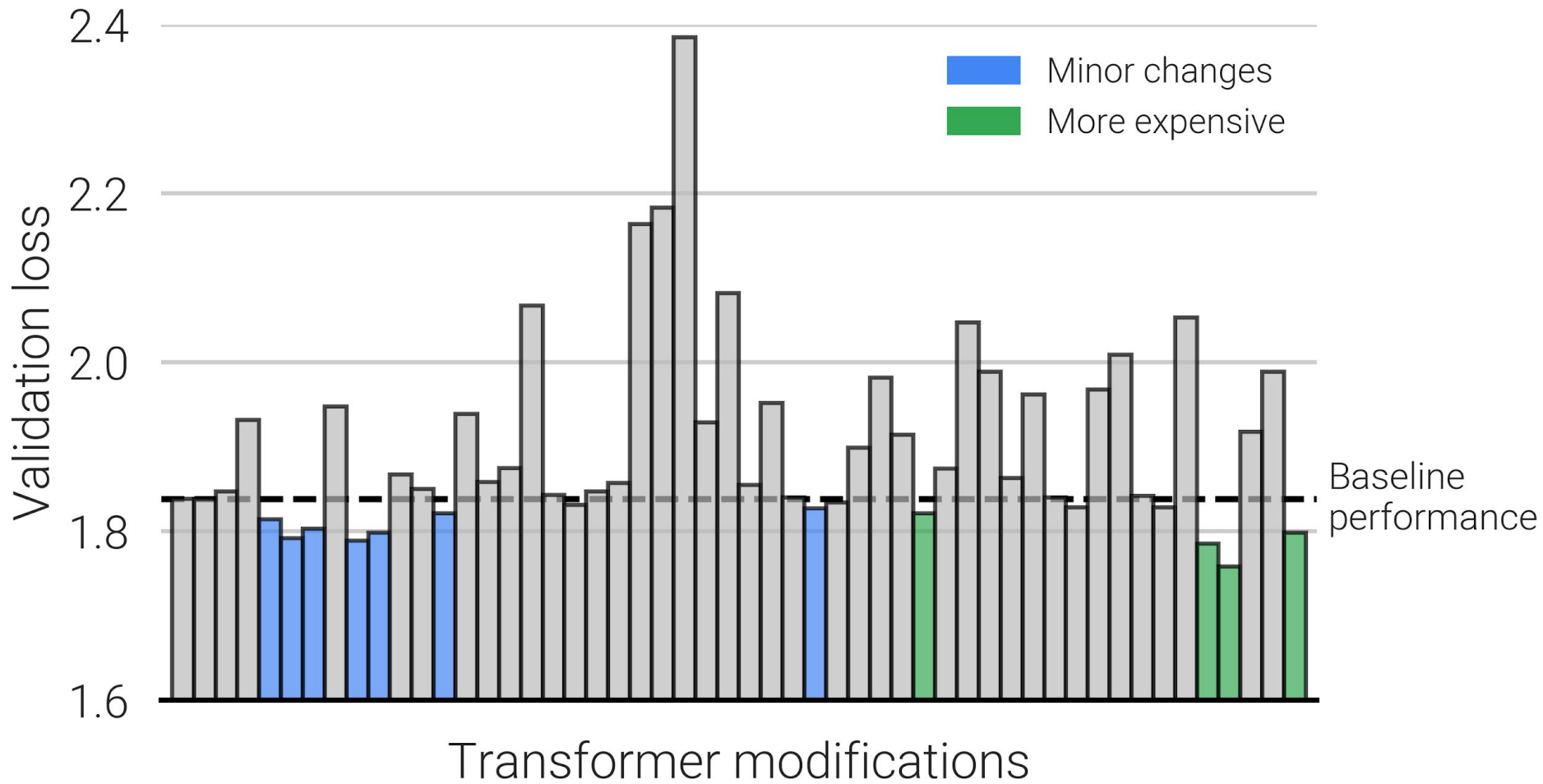


Funnel Transformer, Evolved Transformer, Universal Transformer, block sharing ...

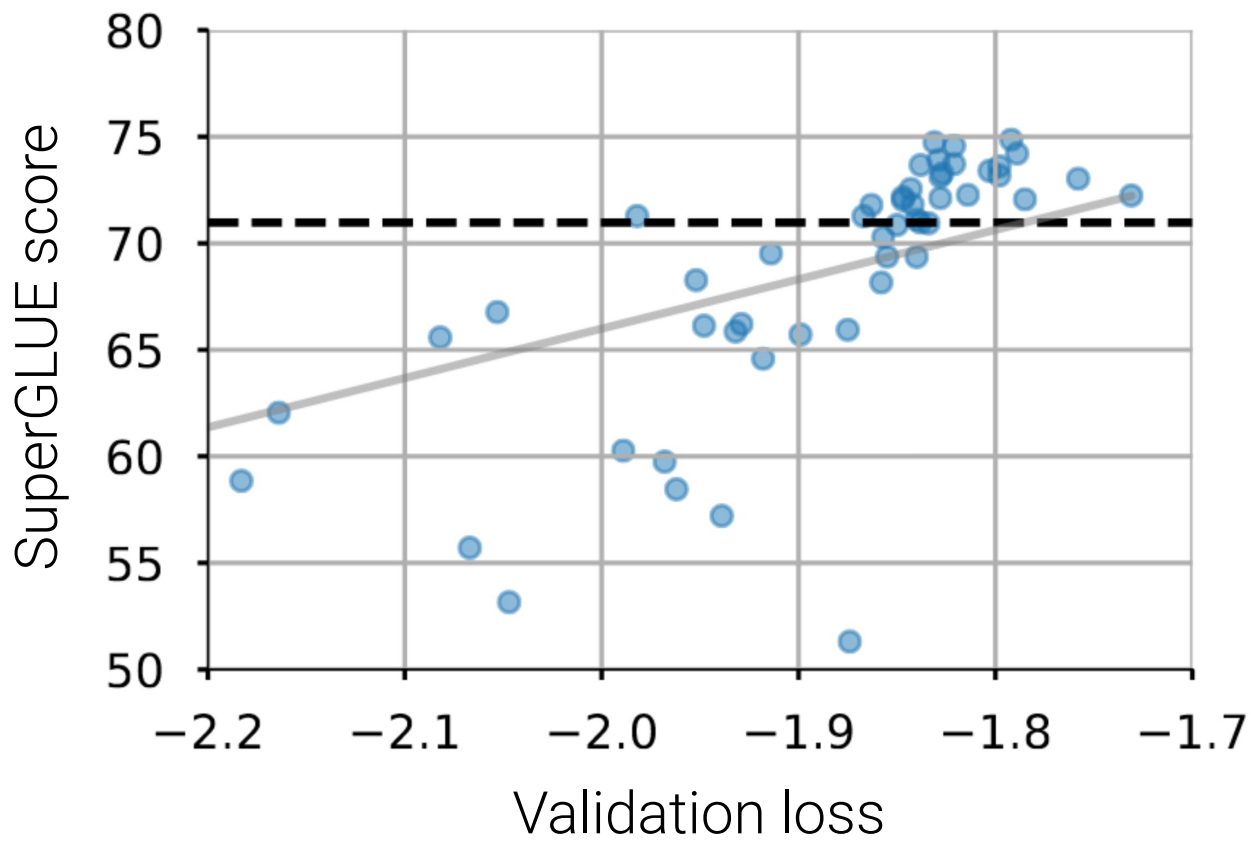


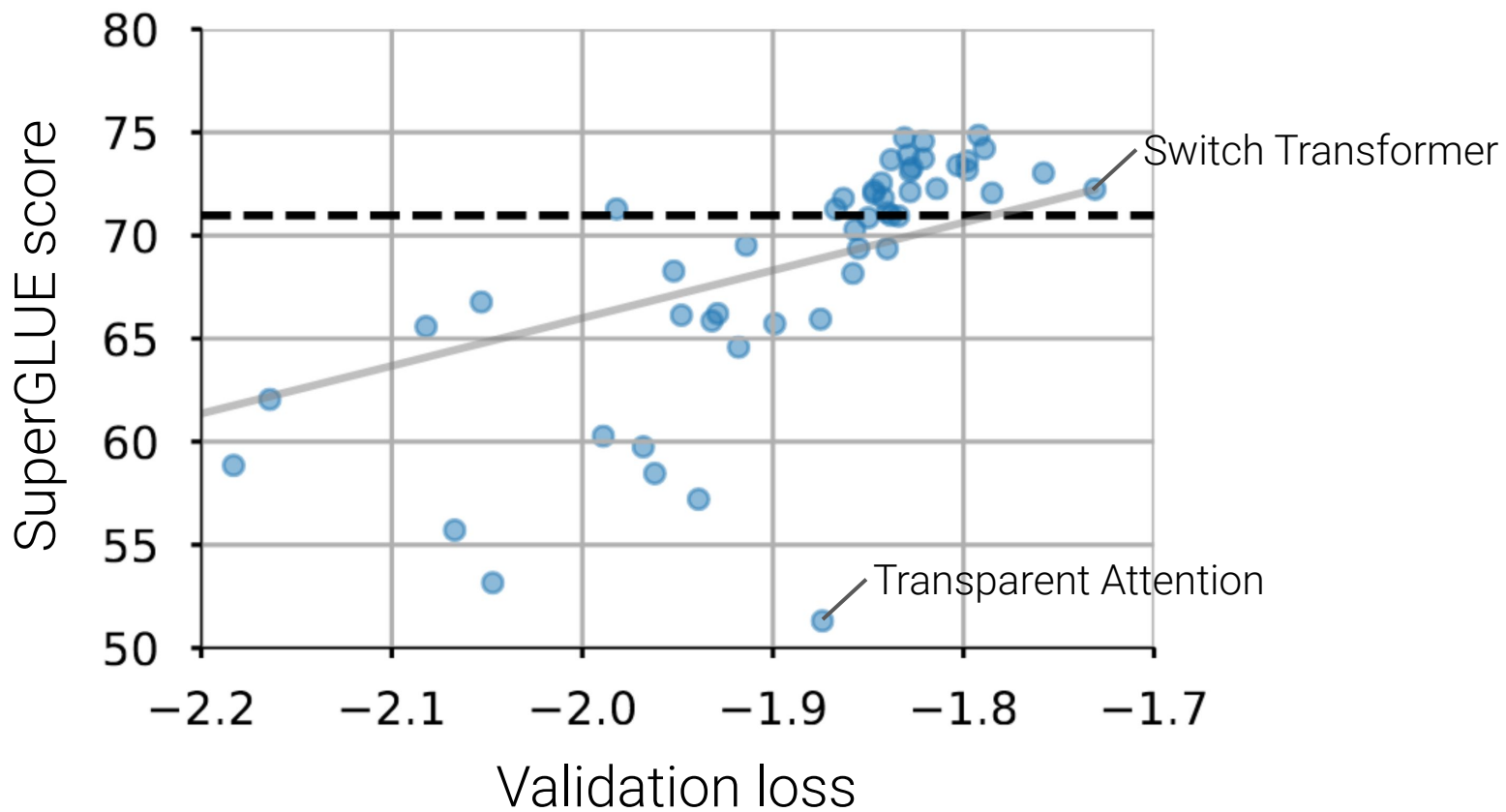


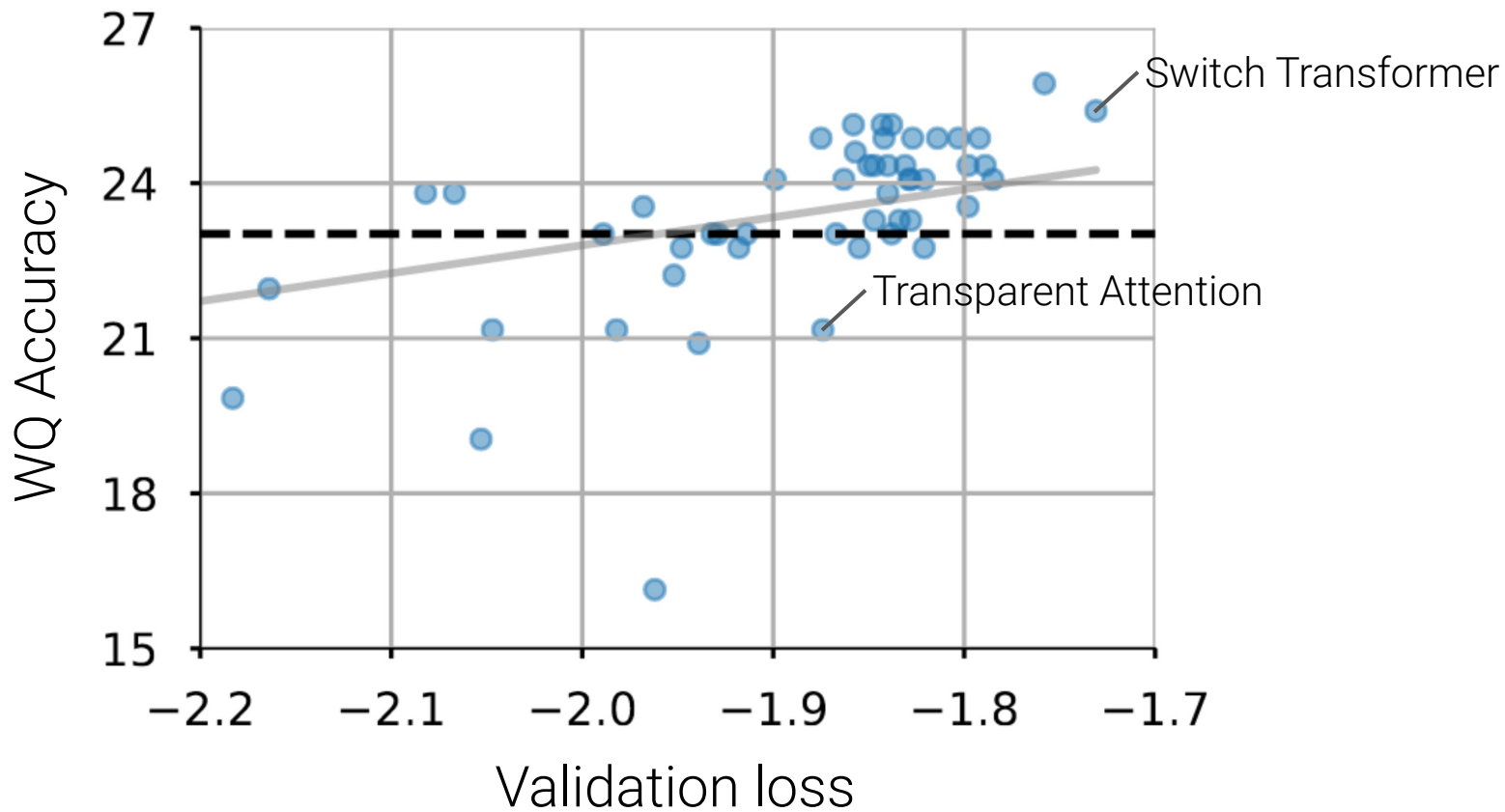












- Is our codebase unusual?
- Are our tasks non-standard?
- Do we need to tune hyperparameters?
- Did we implement the modifications correctly?
- Do Transformer modifications not “transfer”?

[Exploring the Limits of Transfer Learning with a Unified Text-to-Text Transformer](#)

[mT5: A massively multilingual pre-trained text-to-text transformer](#)

[How Much Knowledge Can You Pack Into the Parameters of a Language Model?](#)

[Extracting Training Data from Large Language Models](#)

[Do Transformer Modifications Transfer Across Implementations and Applications?](#)

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# Questions?