COS 484

Natural Language Processing

L17: Contextualized Representations and Pre-training

Spring 2023

Announcements

- We assigned each final project 1-2 mentors with initial feedback, and we encourage you to meet with your mentors in their office hours (feel free to go to other OHs too)
- Project poster session scheduled on May 5th 9:30am-11:30am @Friend Center upper atrium
- Computing: We can reimburse each team one month of Colab Pro for your computing needs (see Ed post!)

This lecture

- **Contextualized word embeddings**
- **Pre-training** and **fine-tuning**
- GPT, **ELMo**, **BERT**

- ELMo = **E**mbeddings from **L**anguage **Mo**dels
- GPT = **G**enerative **P**re-**T**raining
- BERT = **B**idirectional **E**ncoder **R**epresentations from **T**ransformers

(ERNIE, Grover, Big Bird, Kermit, RoBERTa, Rosita, …)

Contextualized Word Embeddings

Limitations of word2vec

- One vector for each word type

  (Aka. "Static word embeddings")

$$v(\text{play}) = \begin{pmatrix} -0.224 \\ 0.130 \\ -0.290 \\ 0.276 \end{pmatrix}$$

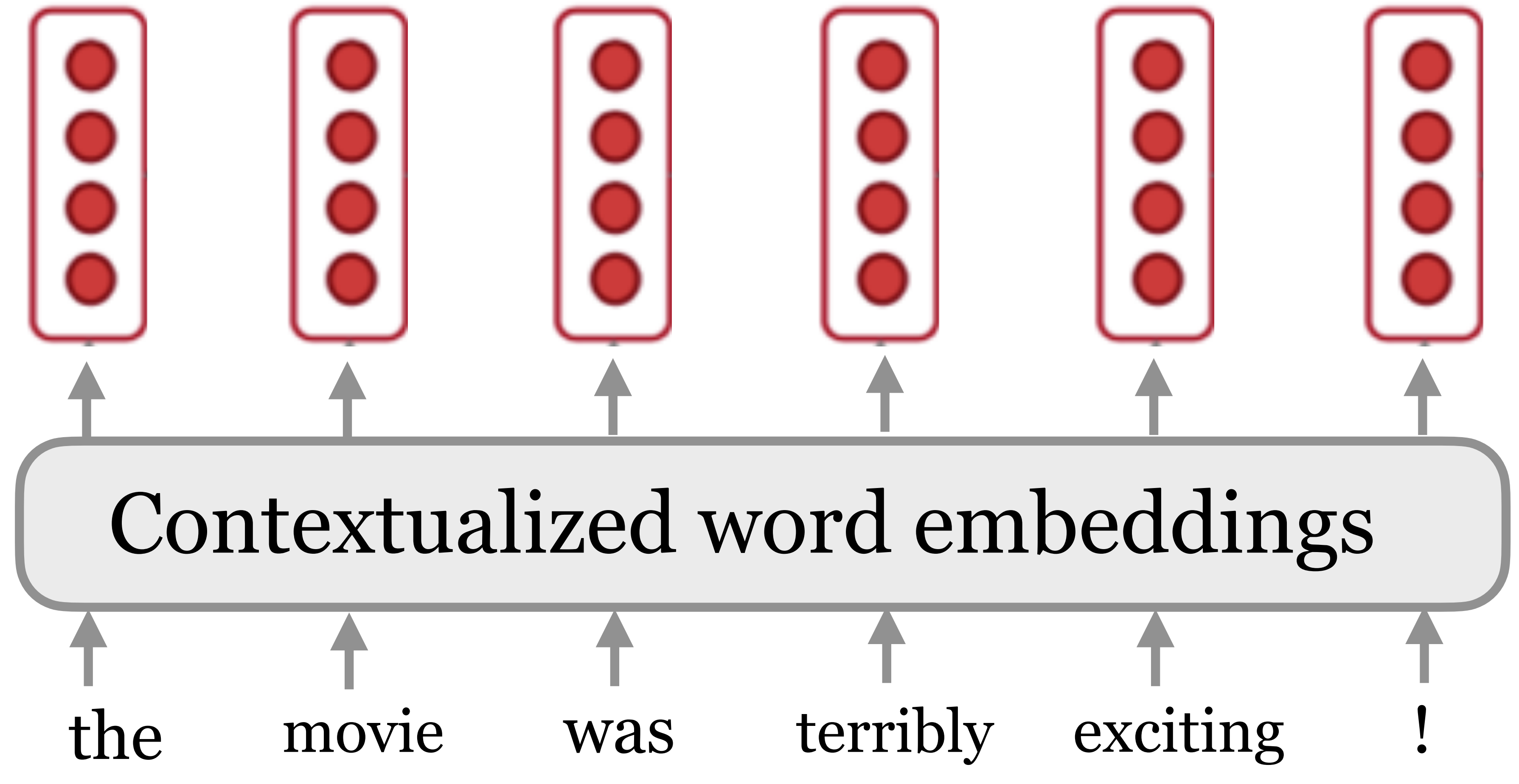
- Complex characteristics of word use: syntax and semantics

- Polysemous words, e.g., bank, mouse

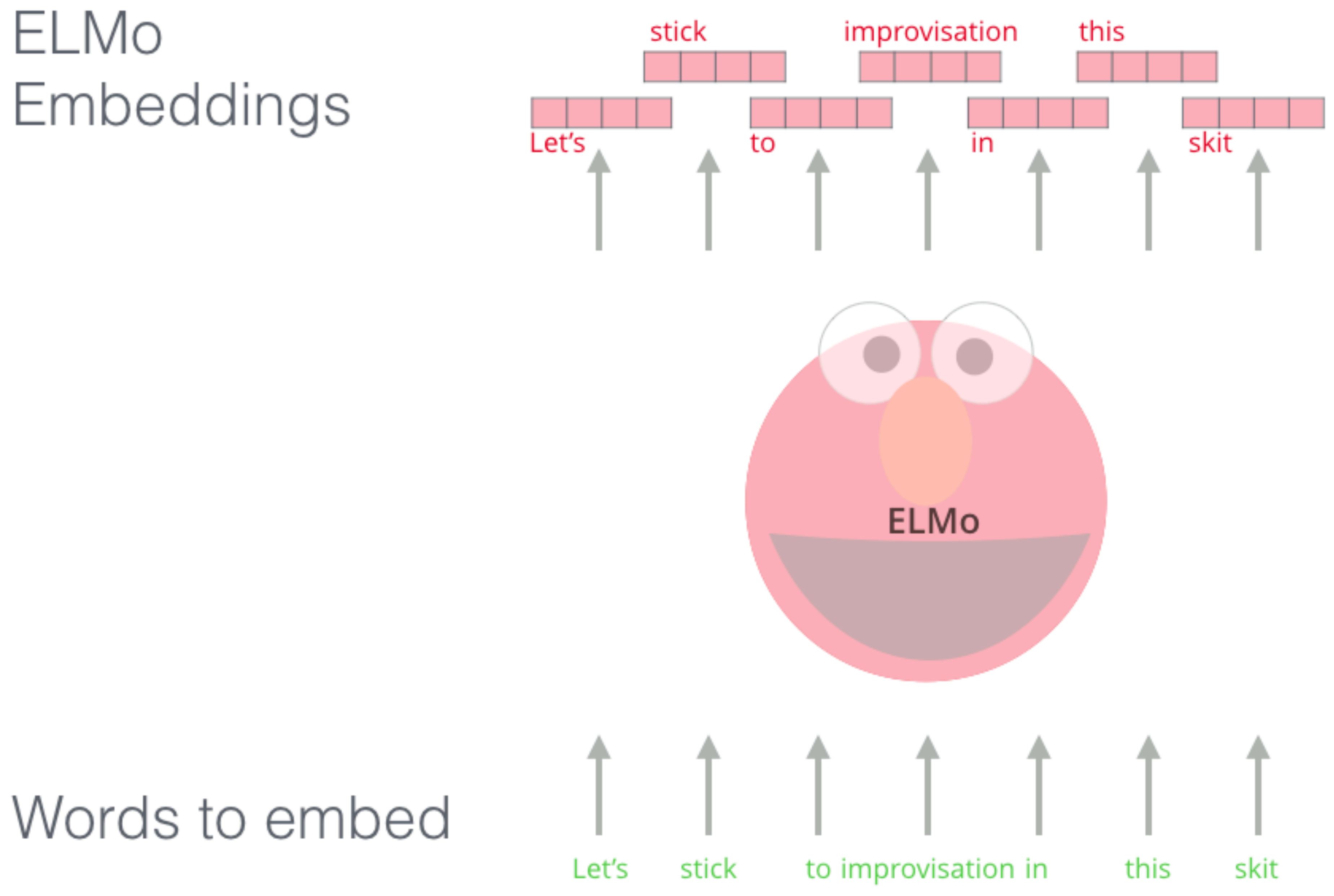
mouse^1 : .... a *mouse* controlling a computer system in 1968.
mouse^2 : .... a quiet animal like a *mouse*
bank^1 : ...a *bank* can hold the investments in a custodial account ...
bank^2 : ...as agriculture burgeons on the east *bank*, the river ...

Contextualized word embeddings

Let's build a vector for each word conditioned on its **context**!



$$f : (w_1, w_2, \ldots, w_n) \longrightarrow \mathbf{x}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_n \in \mathbb{R}^d$$



http://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-bert/

Contextualized word embeddings

Let's build a vector for each word conditioned on its **context**!

http://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-bert/

Contextualized word embeddings

Sent #1: Chico Ruiz made a spectacular **play** on Alusik's grounder {. . . } $v(\textbf{play}) = ?$

Sent #2: Olivia De Havilland signed to do a Broadway **play** for Garson {. . . } $v(\textbf{play}) = ?$

Sent #3: Kieffer was commended for his ability to hit in the clutch , as well as his all-round excellent **play** {. . . } $v(\textbf{play}) = ?$

Sent #4: {. . . } they were actors who had been handed fat roles in a successful **play** {. . . } $v(\textbf{play}) = ?$

Sent #5: Concepts **play** an important role in all aspects of cognition {. . . } $v(\textbf{play}) = ?$

Contextualized word embeddings

Sent #1: Chico Ruiz made a spectacular **play** on Alusik's grounder {. . . }

Which of the following $v(\text{play})$ is expected to have the most similar vector to the first one?

(A) Olivia De Havilland signed to do a Broadway **play** for Garson {. . . }

(B) Kieffer was commended for his ability to hit in the clutch , as well as his all-round excellent **play** {. . . }

(C) {. . . } they were actors who had been handed fat roles in a successful **play** {. . . }

(D) Concepts **play** an important role in all aspects of cognition {. . . }

(B) is correct.

Contextualized word embeddings

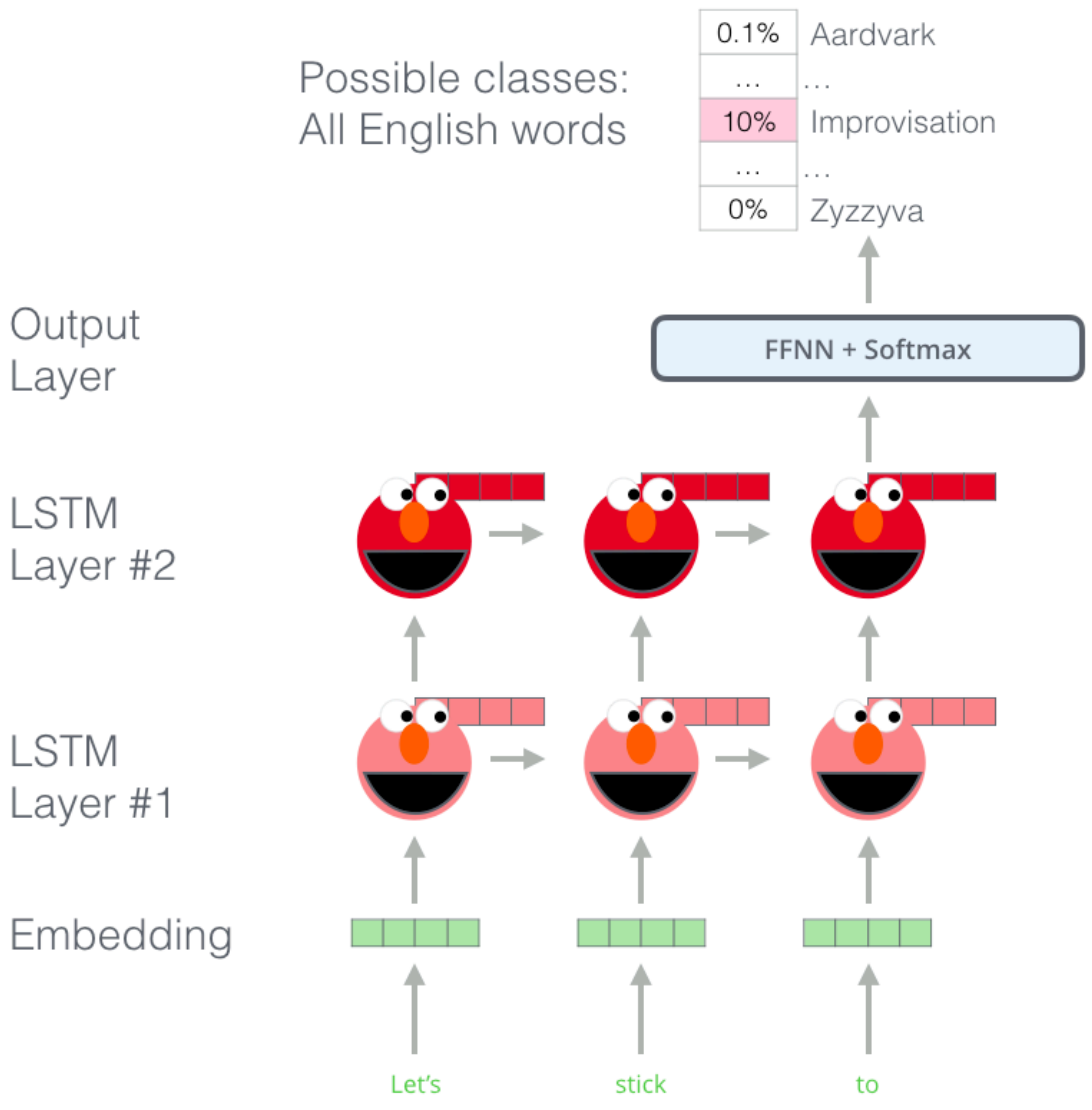
	Source	Nearest Neighbors
GloVe	play	playing, game, games, played, players, plays, player, Play, football, multiplayer
biLM	Chico Ruiz made a spectacular play on Alusik 's grounder {...}	Kieffer , the only junior in the group , was commended for his ability to hit in the clutch , as well as his all-round excellent play .
	Olivia De Havilland signed to do a Broadway play for Garson {...}	{...} they were actors who had been handed fat roles in a successful play , and had talent enough to fill the roles competently , with nice understatement .

(Peters et al, 2018): Deep contextualized word representations

ELMo: Embeddings from Language Models (Released in 2018/2)

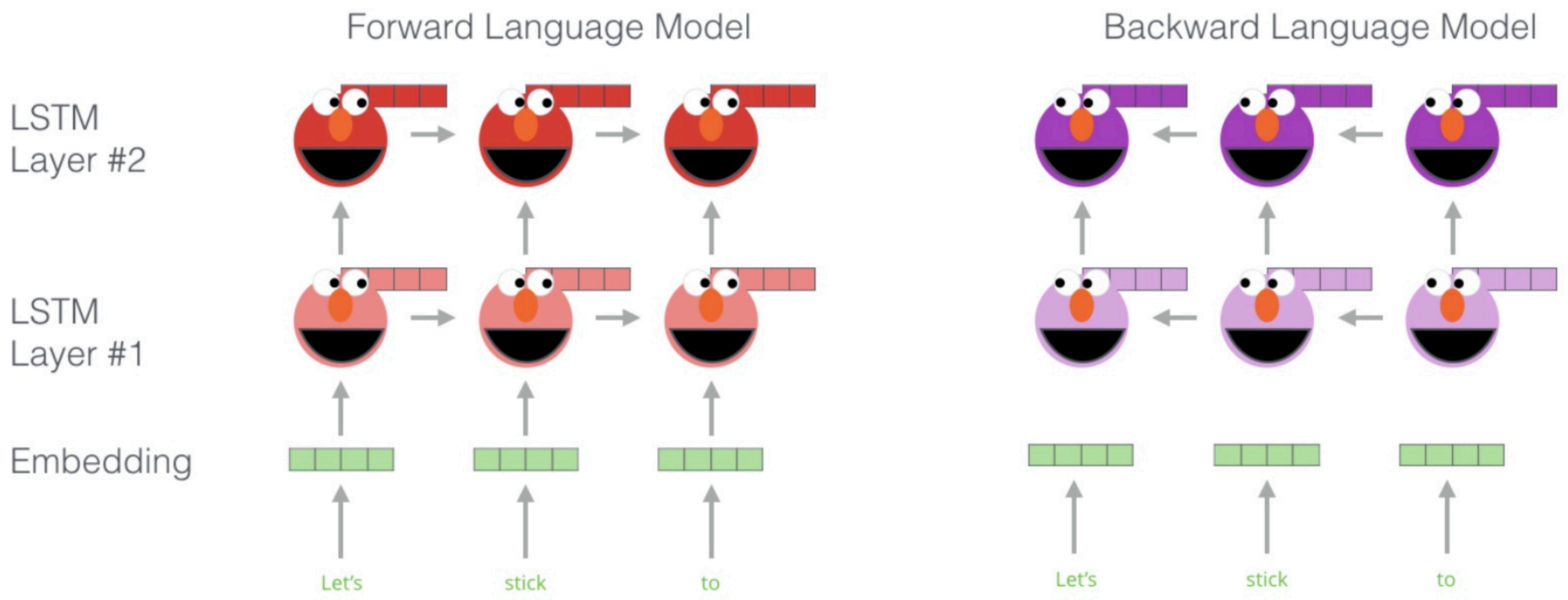
The key idea of ELMo:

- Train *two* stacked LSTM-based language models on a **large** corpus
- Use the **hidden states** of the LSTMs for each token to compute a vector representation of each word



http://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-bert/

How does ELMo work?



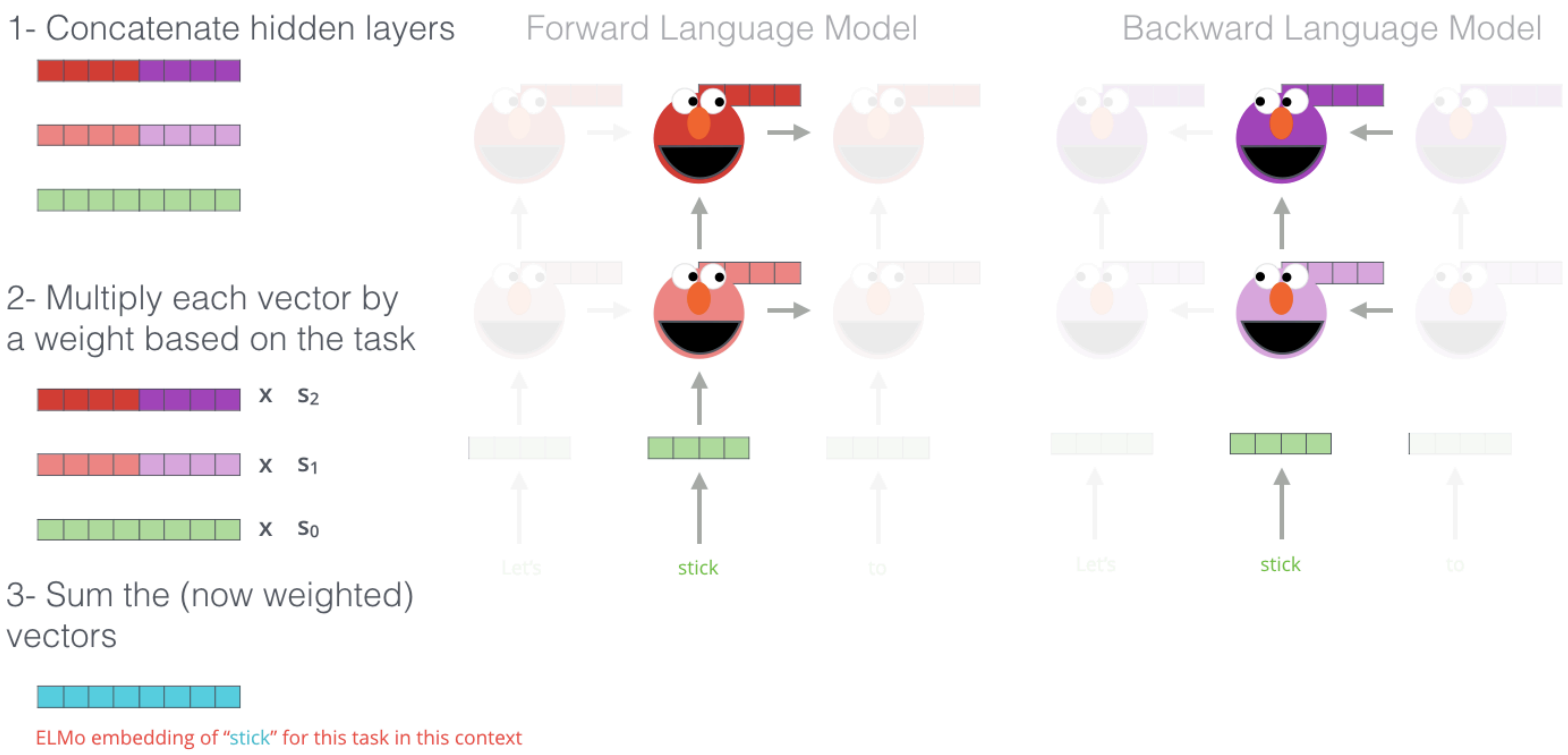
$$\mathbf{ELMo}_k^{task} = E(R_k; \Theta^{task}) = \gamma^{task} \sum_{j=0}^{L} s_j^{task} \mathbf{h}_{k,j}^{LM}$$

Contextualized word embeddings = The weighted average of input embeddings + all hidden representations

The weights γ^{task}, s_j^{task} are task-dependent and learned

http://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-bert/

How does ELMo work?

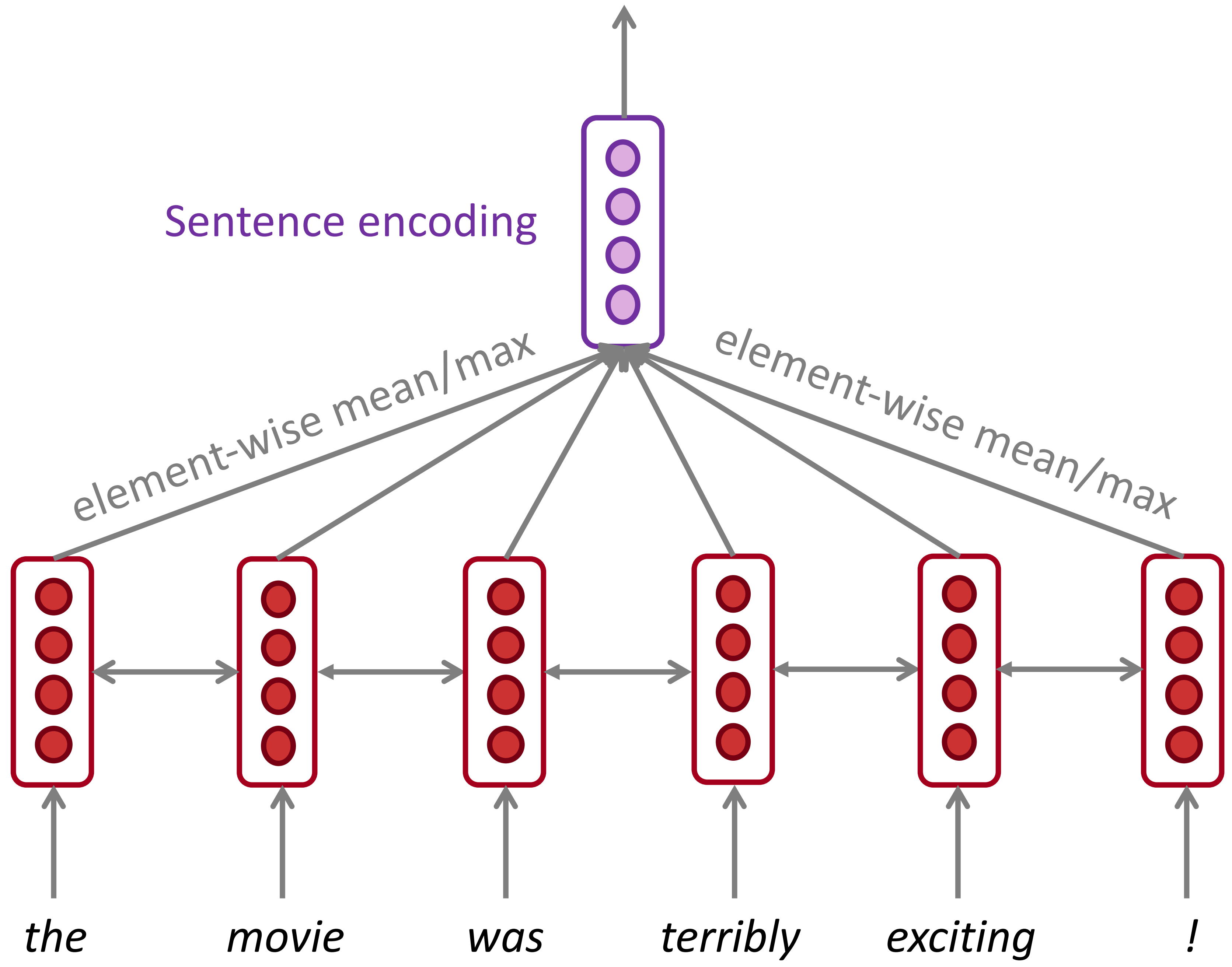


http://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-bert/

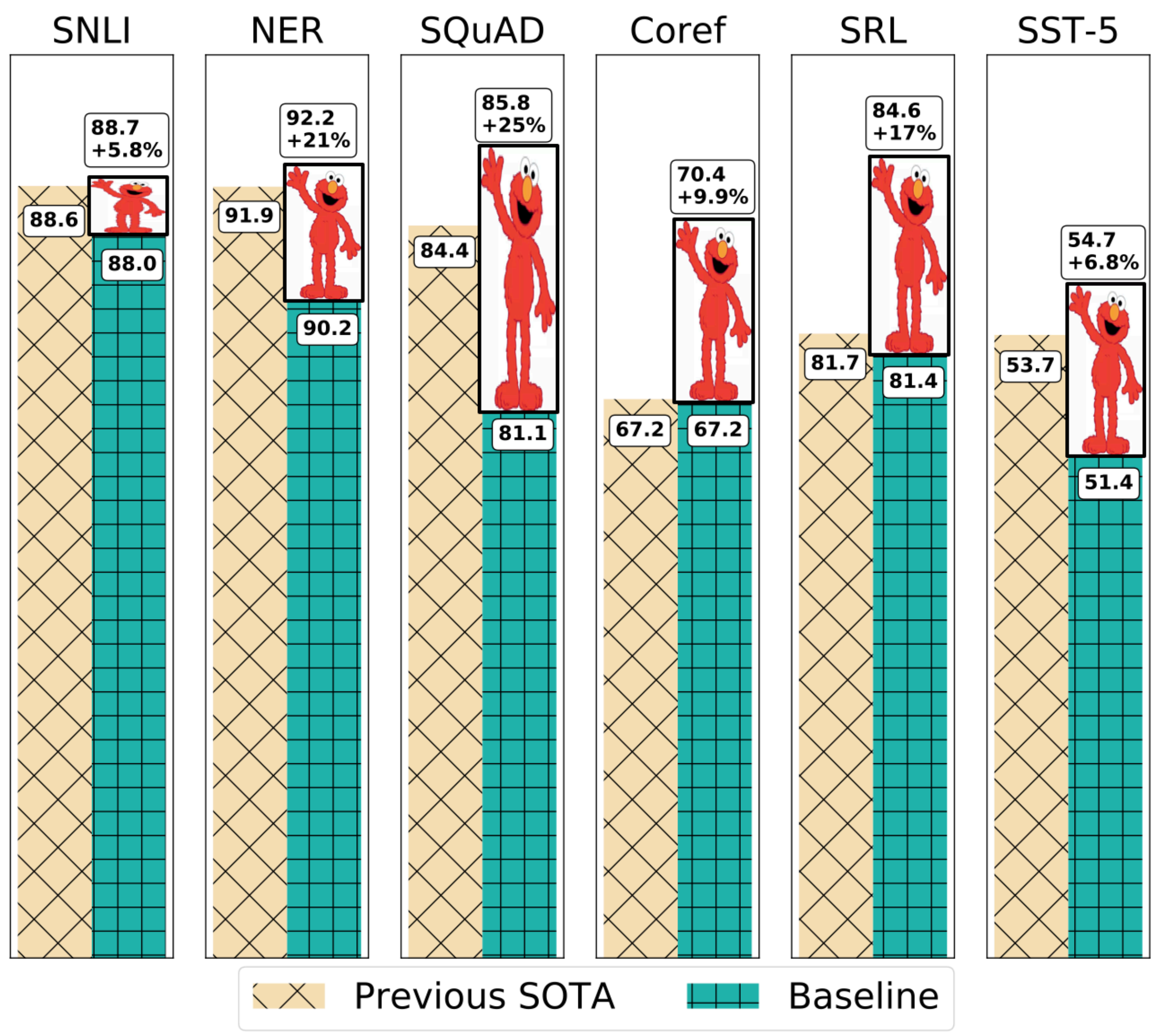
ELMo: pre-training and the use

- Data: 10 epoches on 1B Word Benchmark (trained on **single sentences**)
- Training time: 2 weeks on 3 NVIDIA GTX 1080 GPUs

Example use: A BiLSTM model for sentiment classification



$$[e(\text{terribly}); \text{ELMo}_4^{\text{task}}]$$



(Peters et al, 2018): Deep contextualized word representations

ELMo: some take-aways

Q: Why use both forward and backward language models?

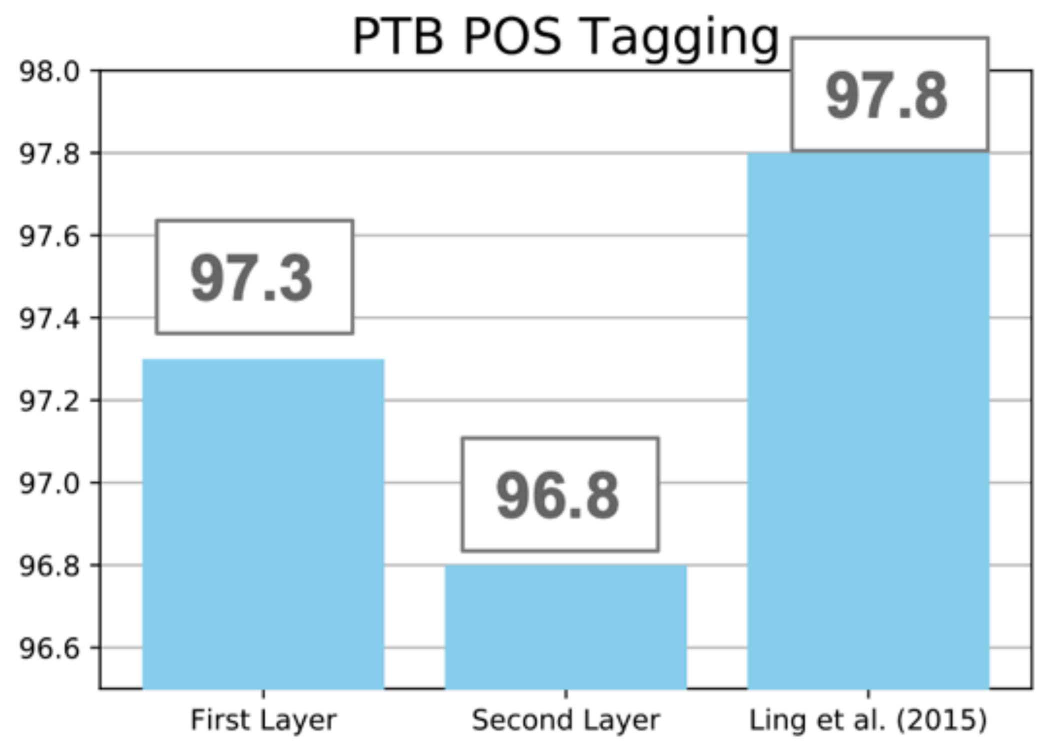
Because it is important to model both left and right context!

Bidirectionality is very important in language understanding tasks!

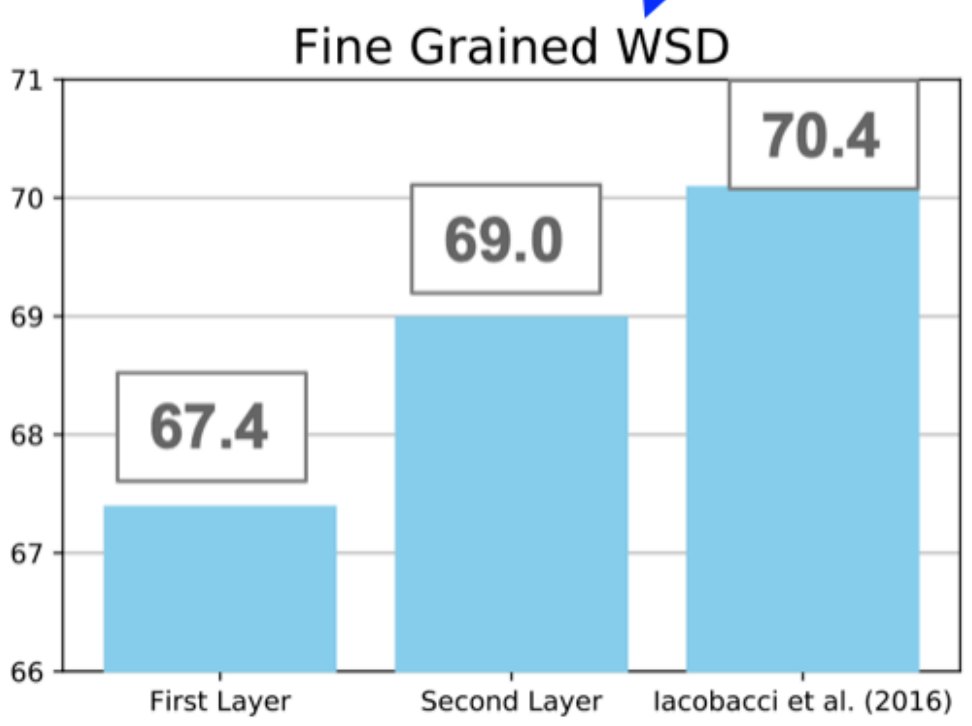
Q: Why use the weighted average of different layers instead of just the top layer?

Because different layers are expected to encode different information.

WSD = word sense disambiguation



first layer > second layer



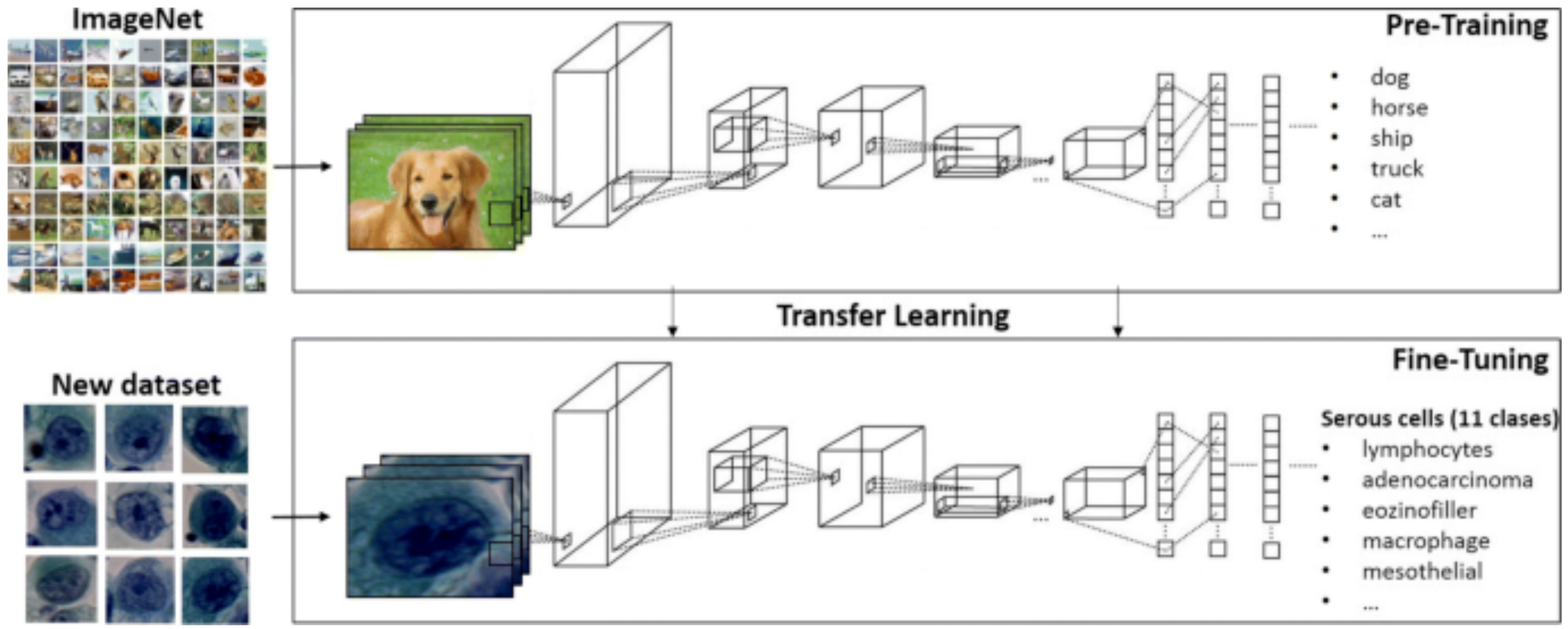
second layer > first layer

Pre-training and Fine-tuning

What is pre-training / fine-tuning?

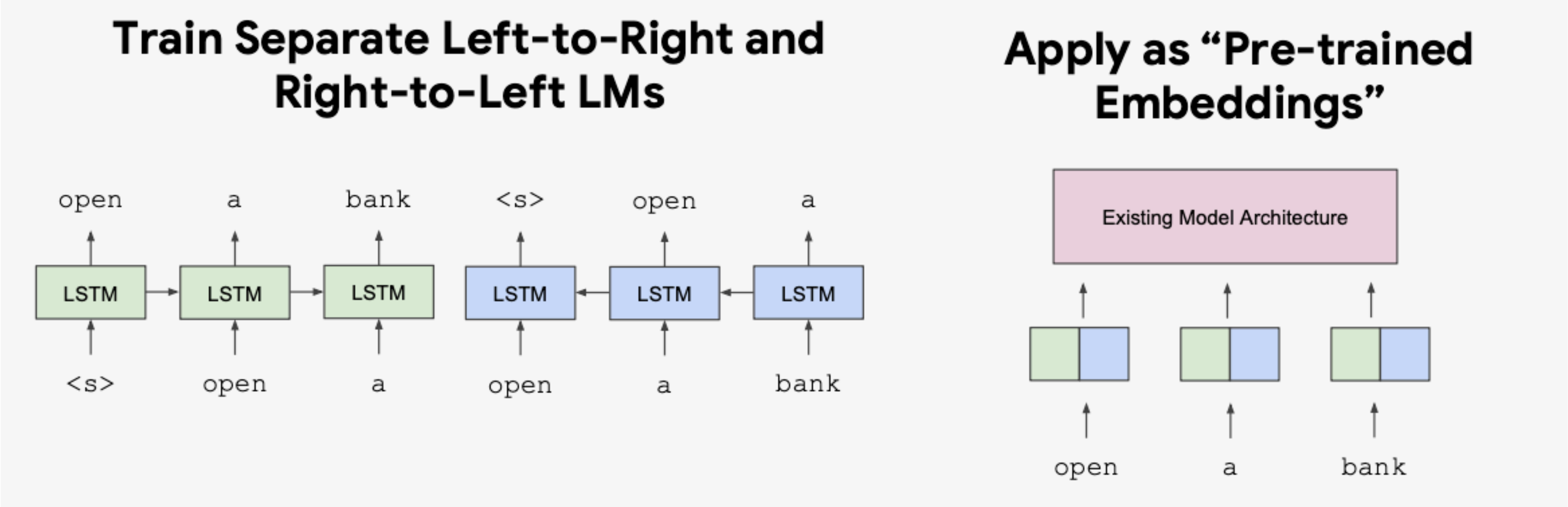
- “Pre-train” a model on a large dataset for task X, then “fine-tune” it on a dataset for task Y
- Key idea: X is somewhat related to Y, so a model that can do X will have some good neural representations for Y as well
- ImageNet pre-training is huge in computer vision: learning generic visual features for recognizing objects

Can we find some task X that can be useful for a wide range of downstream tasks Y?



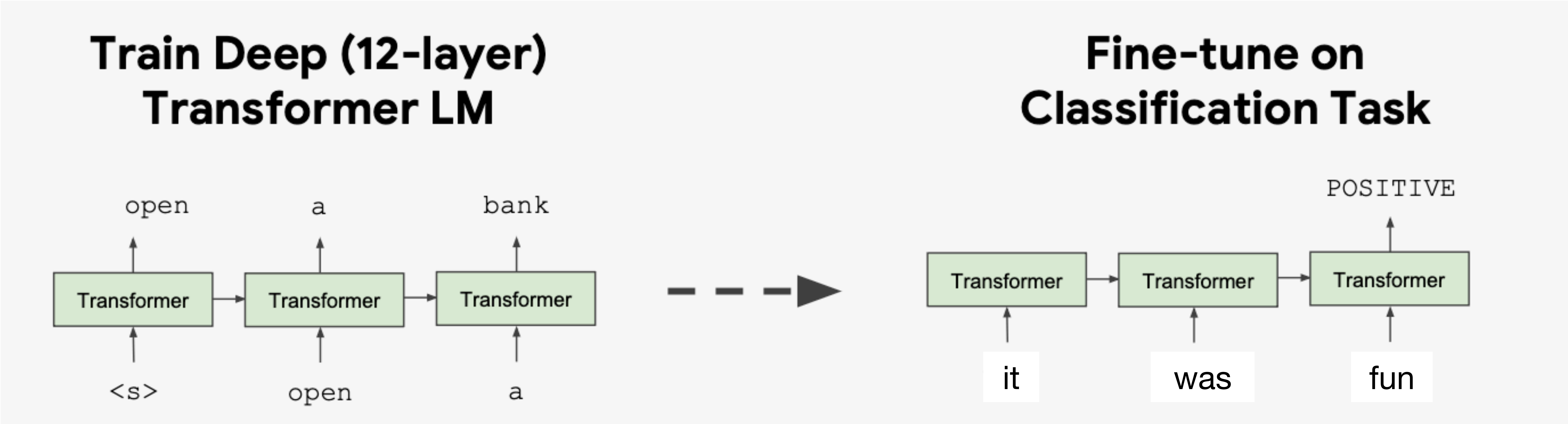
Feature-based vs fine-tuning approaches

- ELMo is a feature-based approach which only produces word embeddings that can be used as **input representations** of existing neural models



Feature-based vs fine-tuning approaches

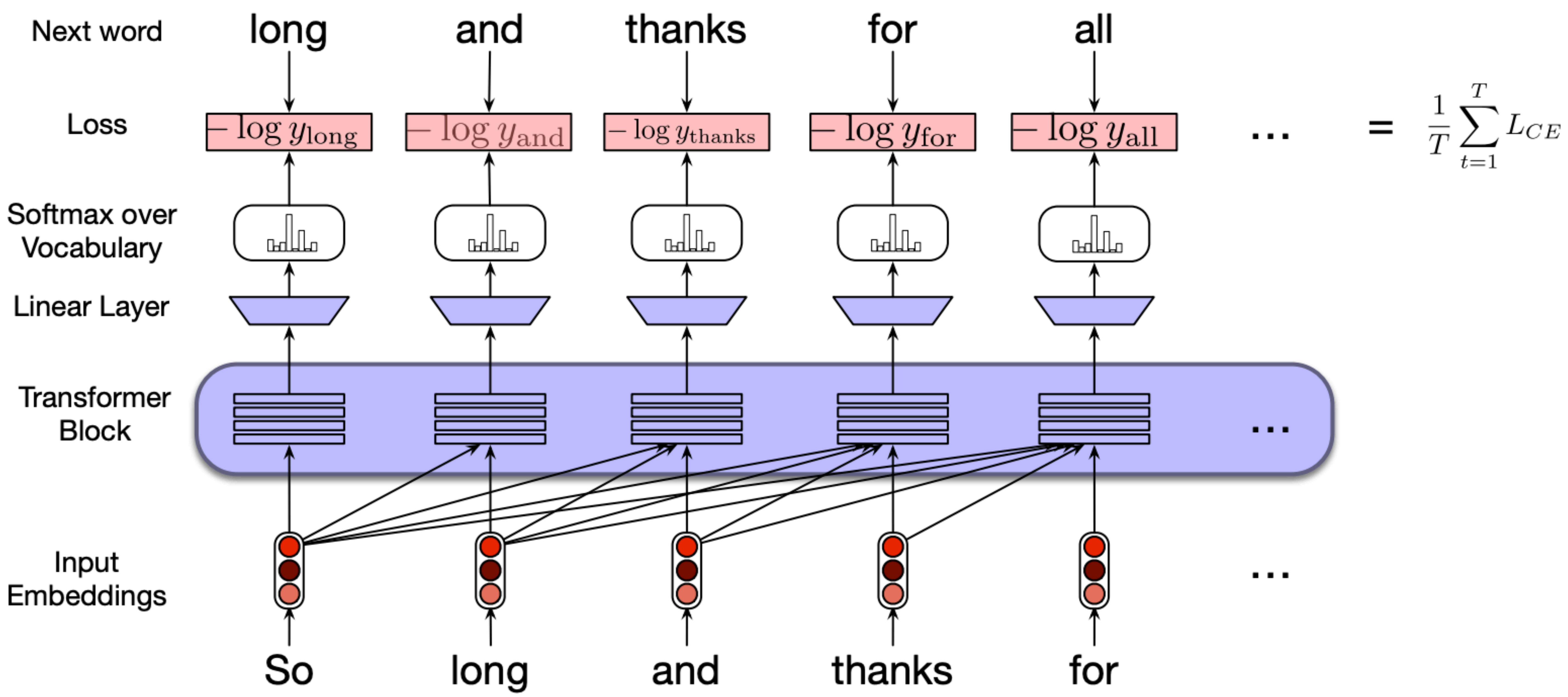
- GPT / BERT (and most of following models) are **fine-tuning approaches**
  - Almost all model weights will be **re-used**, and only a small number of task-specific will be added for downstream tasks



Generative Pre-Training (GPT)

(Released in 2018/6)

- Use a **Transformer decoder** (unidirectional; left-to-right) instead of LSTMs
- Use **language modeling** as a pre-training objective
- Trained on longer segments of text (**512 BPE tokens**), not just single sentences

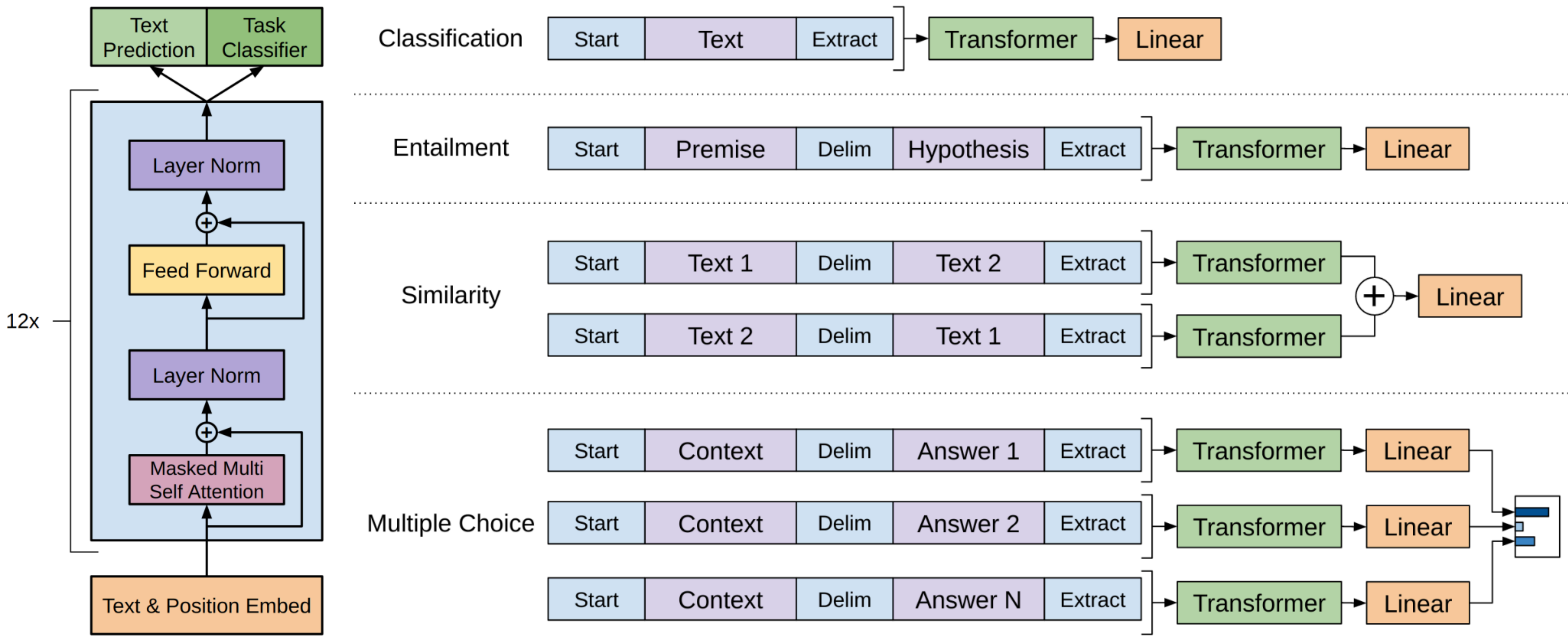


(Radford et al, 2018): Improving Language Understanding by Generative Pre-Training

Generative Pre-Training (GPT)

(Released in 2018/6)

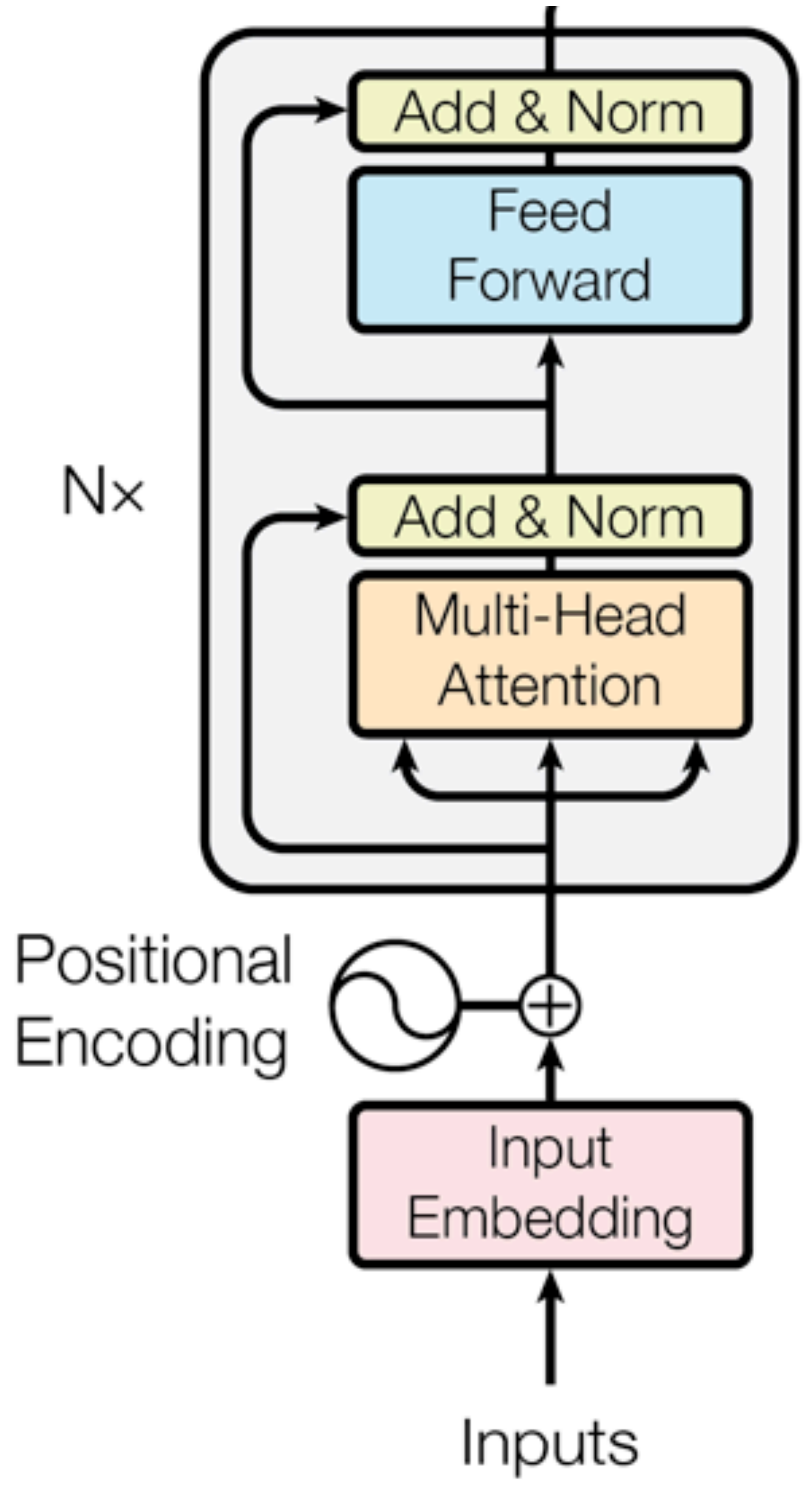
- "Fine-tune" the entire set of model parameters on various downstream tasks



(Radford et al, 2018): Improving Language Understanding by Generative Pre-Training

BERT: Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers

(Released in 2018/10)



- It is a fine-tuning approach based on a deep **bidirectional Transformer encoder** instead of a Transformer decoder
- The key: learn representations based on **bidirectional contexts**

Example #1: we went to the river bank.

Example #2: I need to go to bank to make a deposit.

- Two new pre-training objectives:
  - **Masked language modeling (MLM)**
  - Next sentence prediction (NSP) - Later work shows that NSP hurts performance though..

(Devlin et al, 2019): BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding

Masked Language Modeling (MLM)

- Q: Why we can’t do language modeling with bidirectional models?

- Solution: Mask out k% of the input words, and then predict the masked words

store ↑ gallon ↑

the man went to [MASK] to buy a [MASK] of milk

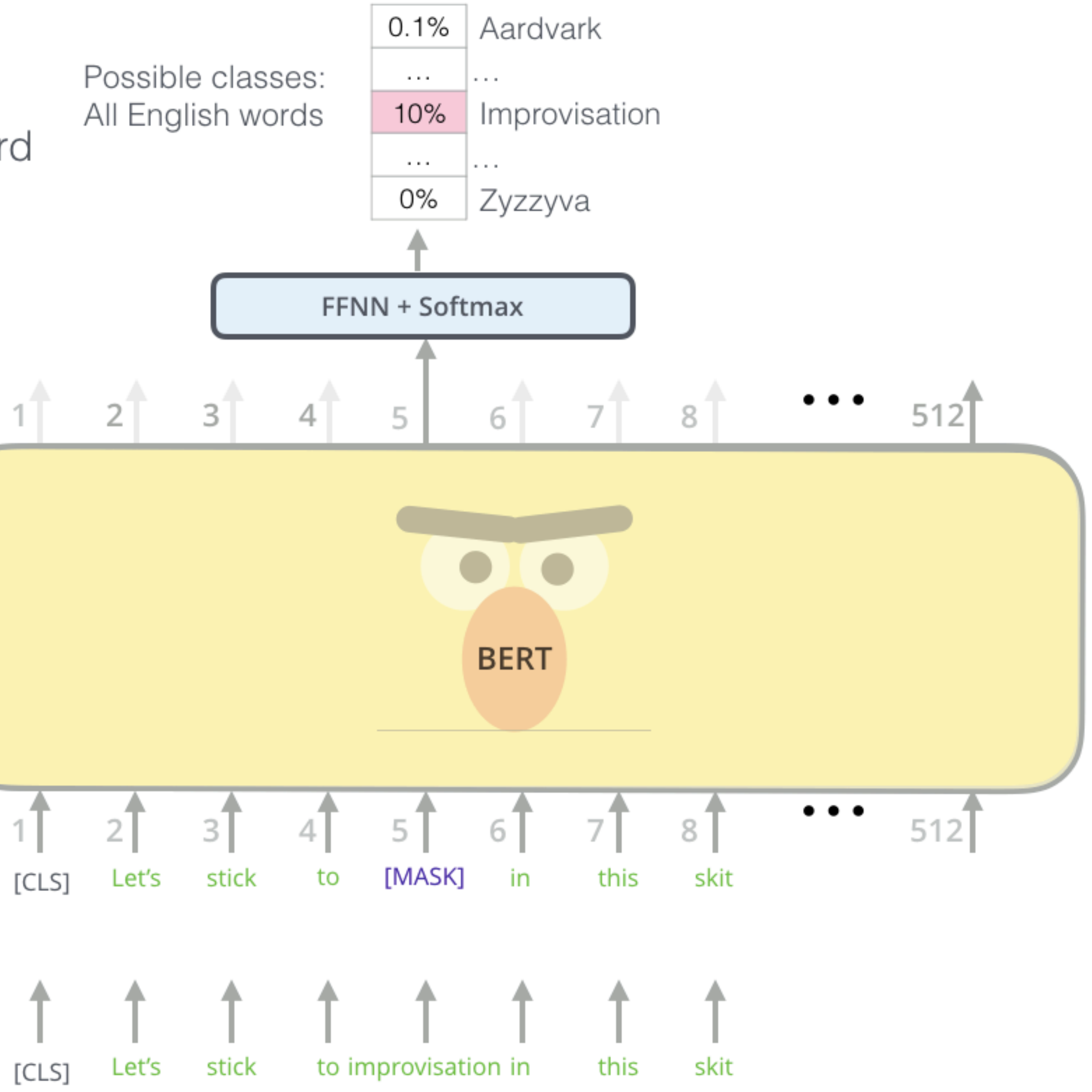
k = 15% in practice

Masked Language Modeling (MLM)

Use the output of the masked word's position to predict the masked word

Randomly mask 15% of tokens

Input



http://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-bert/

MLM: 80-10-10 corruption

For the 15% predicted words,

- 80% of the time, they replace it with [MASK] token

  went to the store $\longrightarrow$ went to the [MASK]

- 10% of the time, they replace it with a random word in the vocabulary

  went to the store $\longrightarrow$ went to the running

- 10% of the time, they keep it unchanged

  went to the store $\longrightarrow$ went to the store

Why? Because [MASK] tokens are never seen during fine-tuning

(See Table 8 of the paper for an ablation study)

Next Sentence Prediction (NSP)

- Motivation: many NLP downstream tasks require understanding the relationship between two sentences (natural language inference, paraphrase detection, QA)

- NSP is designed to reduce the gap between pre-training and fine-tuning

[CLS]: a special token always at the beginning

[SEP]: a special token used to separate two segments

Input = `[CLS] the man went to [MASK] store [SEP]`

`he bought a gallon [MASK] milk [SEP]`

Label = `IsNext`

Input = `[CLS] the man [MASK] to the store [SEP]`

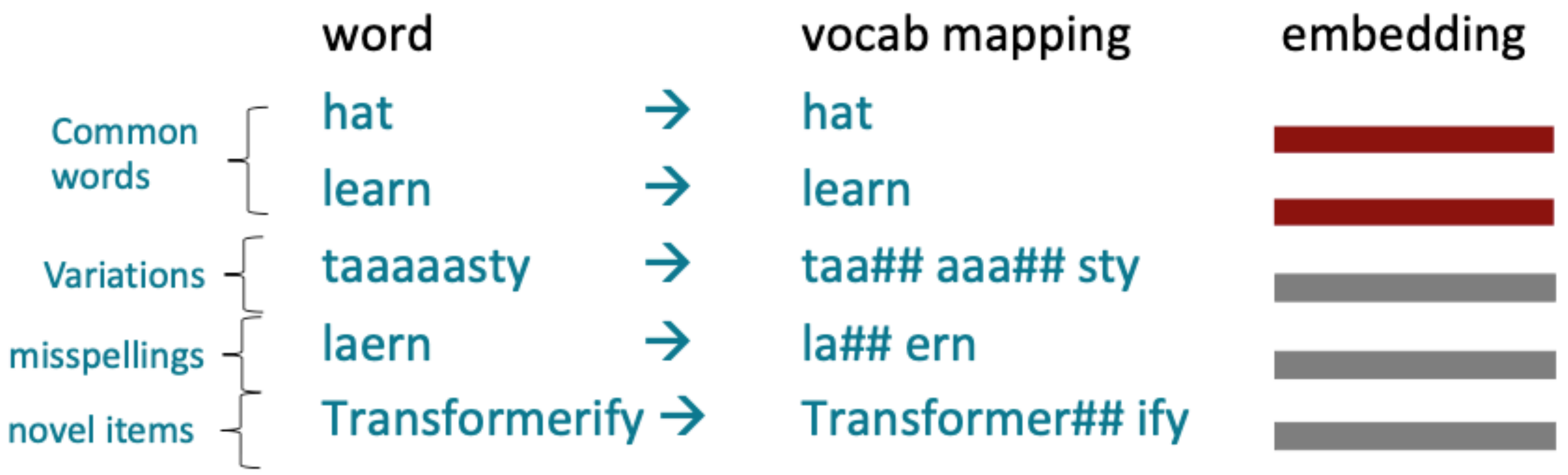
`penguin [MASK] are flight ##less birds [SEP]`

Label = `NotNext`

They sample two contiguous segments for 50% of the time and another random segment from the corpus for 50% of the time

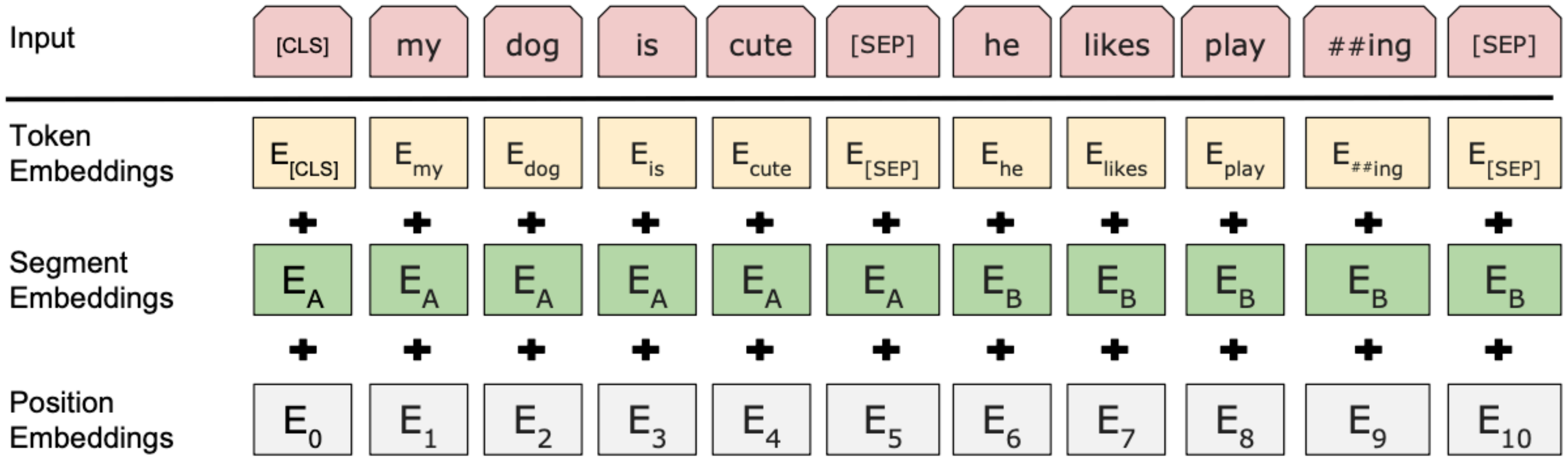
BERT pre-training

- Vocabulary size: 30,000 wordpieces (common sub-word units) (Wu et al., 2016)



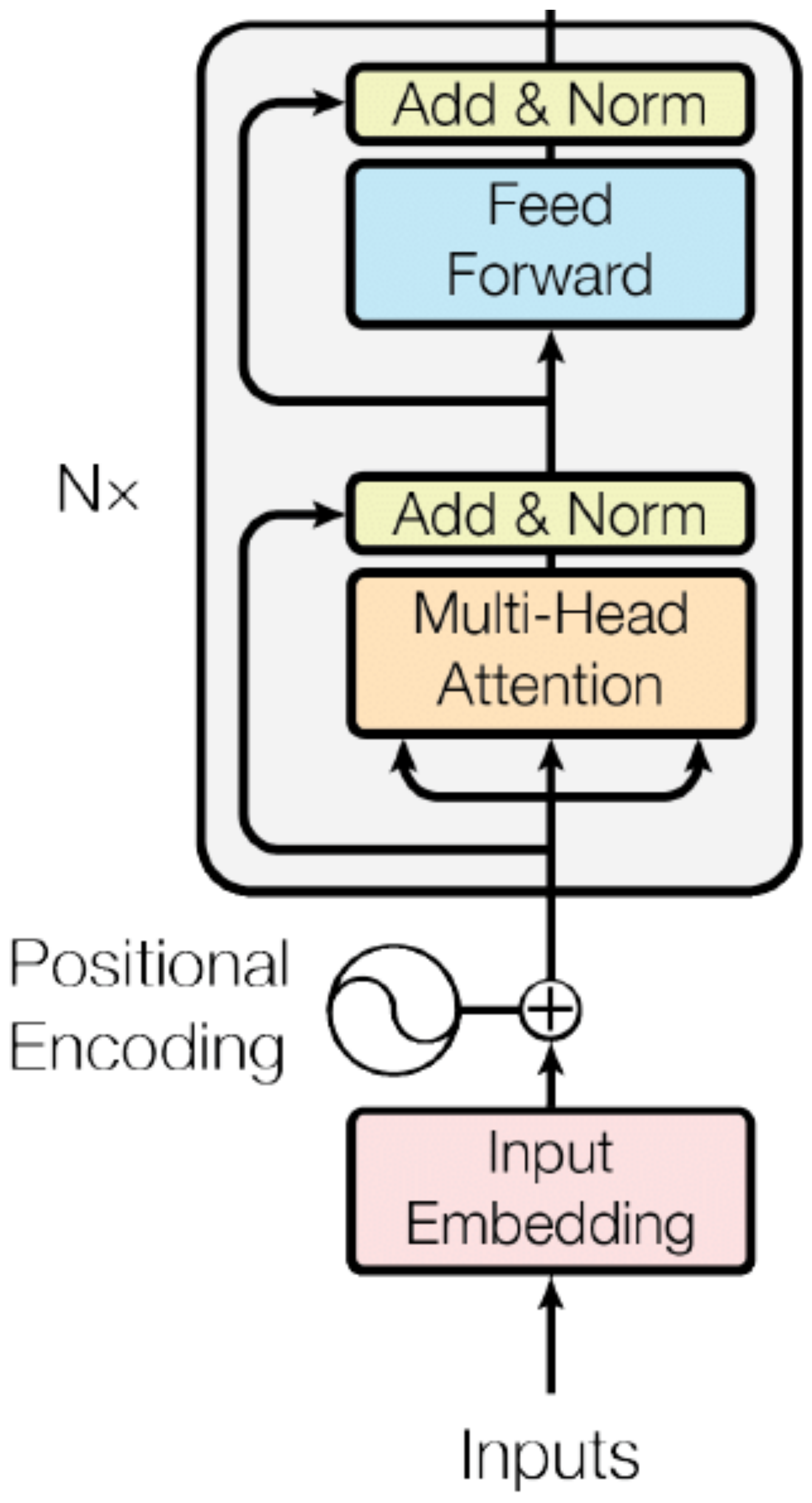
(Image: Stanford CS224N)

- Input embeddings:



Separate two segments

BERT pre-training



- BERT-base: 12 layers, 768 hidden size, 12 attention heads, 110M parameters

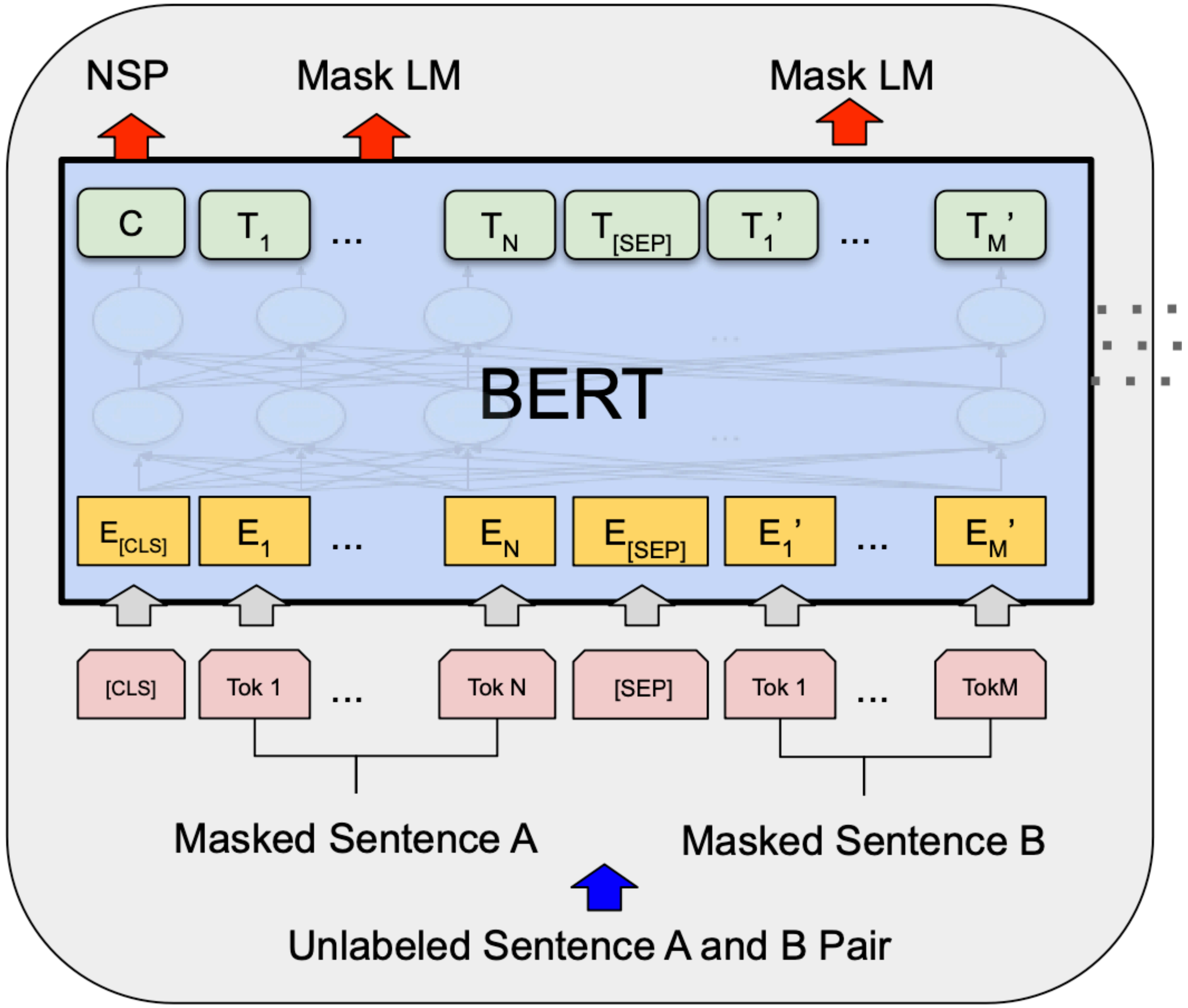
Same as OpenAI GPT

- BERT-large: 24 layers, 1024 hidden size, 16 attention heads, 340M parameters

OpenAI GPT was trained on BooksCorpus only!

- Training corpus: Wikipedia (2.5B) + BooksCorpus (0.8B)
- Max sequence size: 512 wordpiece tokens (roughly 256 and 256 for two non-contiguous sequences)
- Trained for 1M steps, batch size 128k

BERT pre-training



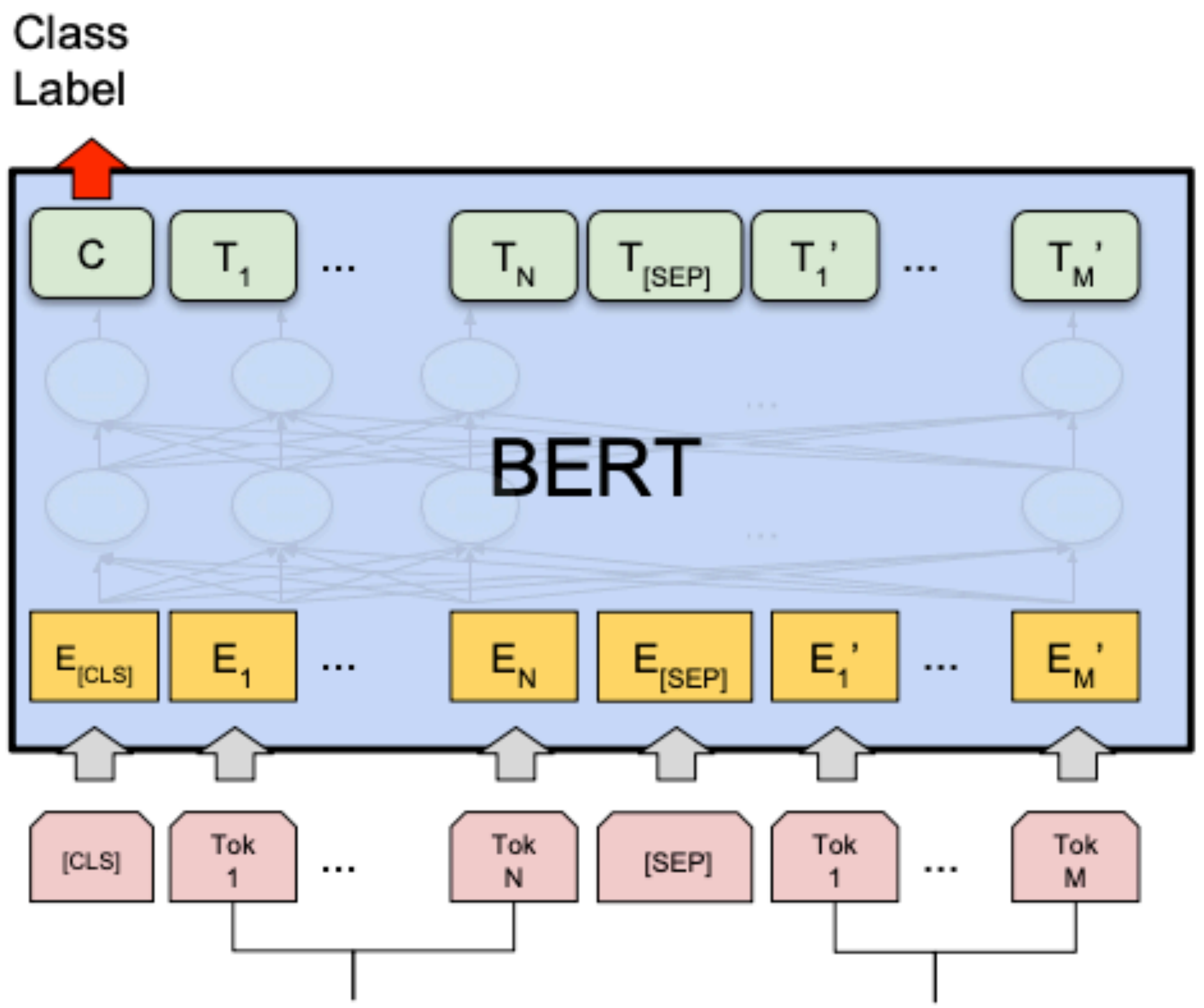
Pre-training

- MLM and NSP are trained together
- [CLS] is pre-trained for NSP
- Other token representations are trained for MLM

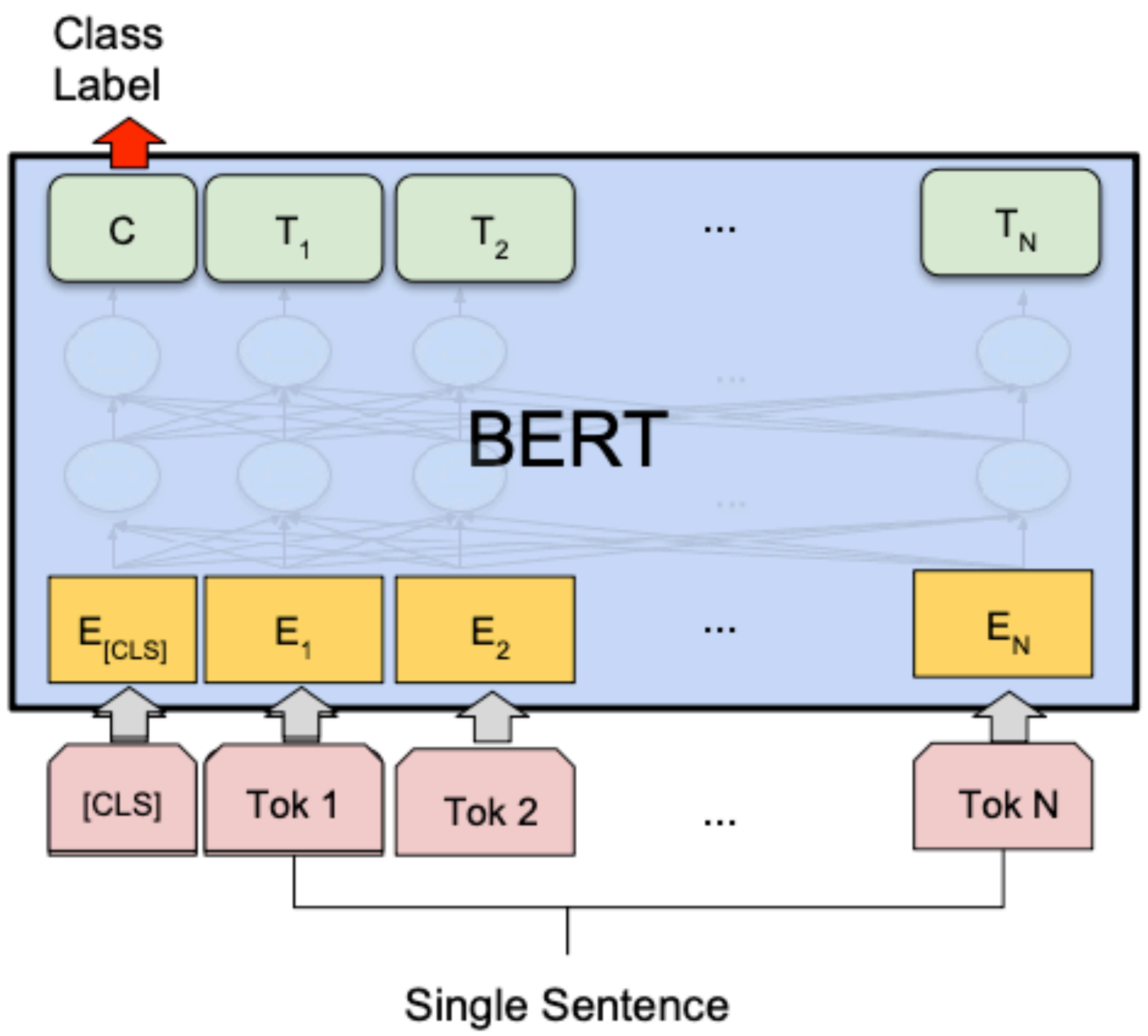
BERT fine-tuning

"Pretrain once, finetune many times."

sentence-level tasks



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

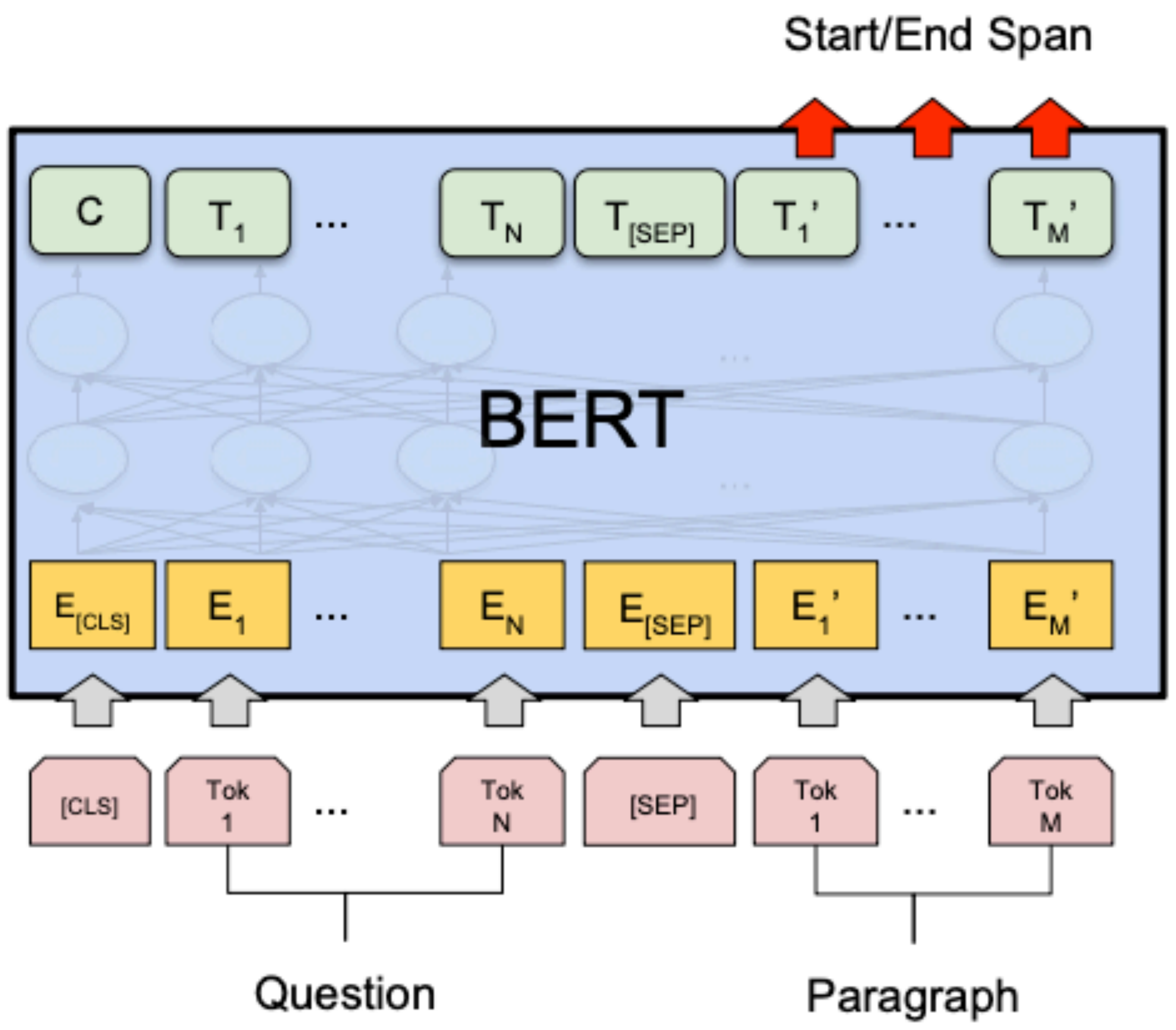


(b) Single Sentence Classification Tasks: SST-2, CoLA

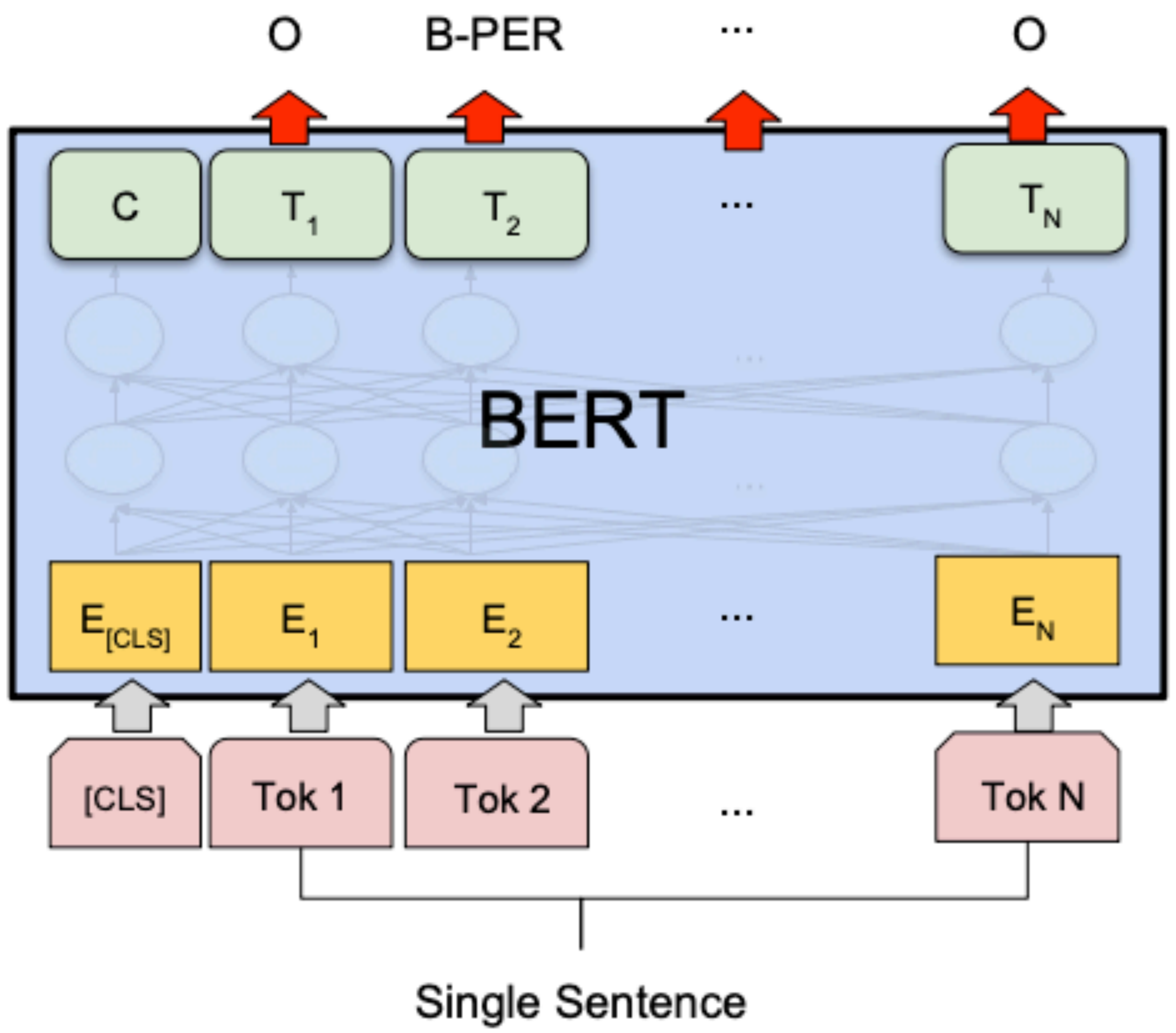
BERT fine-tuning

"Pretrain once, finetune many times."

token-level tasks



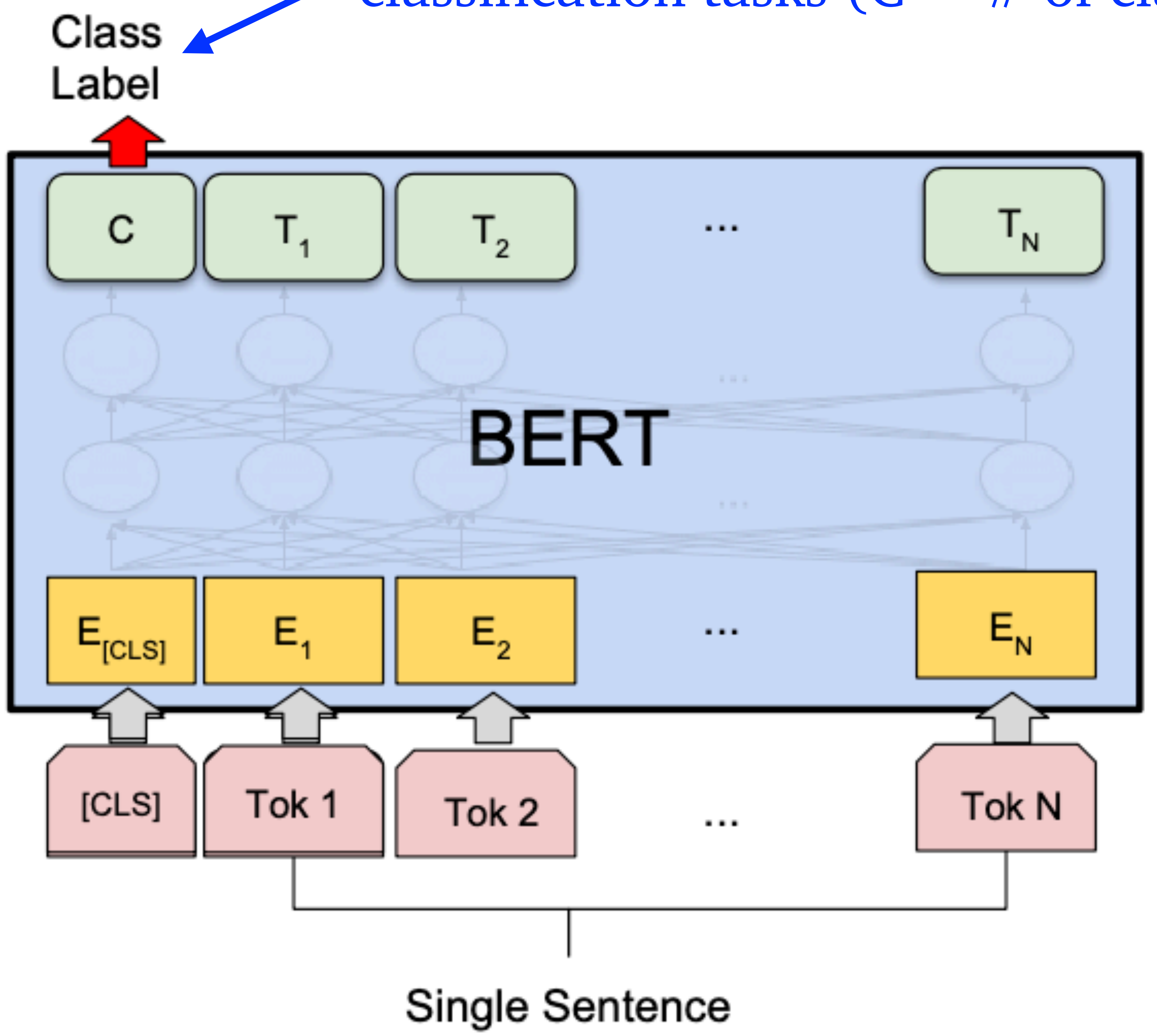
(c) Question Answering Tasks:
SQuAD v1.1



(d) Single Sentence Tagging Tasks:
CoNLL-2003 NER

Example: sentiment classification

We just need to introduce $C \times h$ parameters for classification tasks (C = # of classes, h = hidden size)!



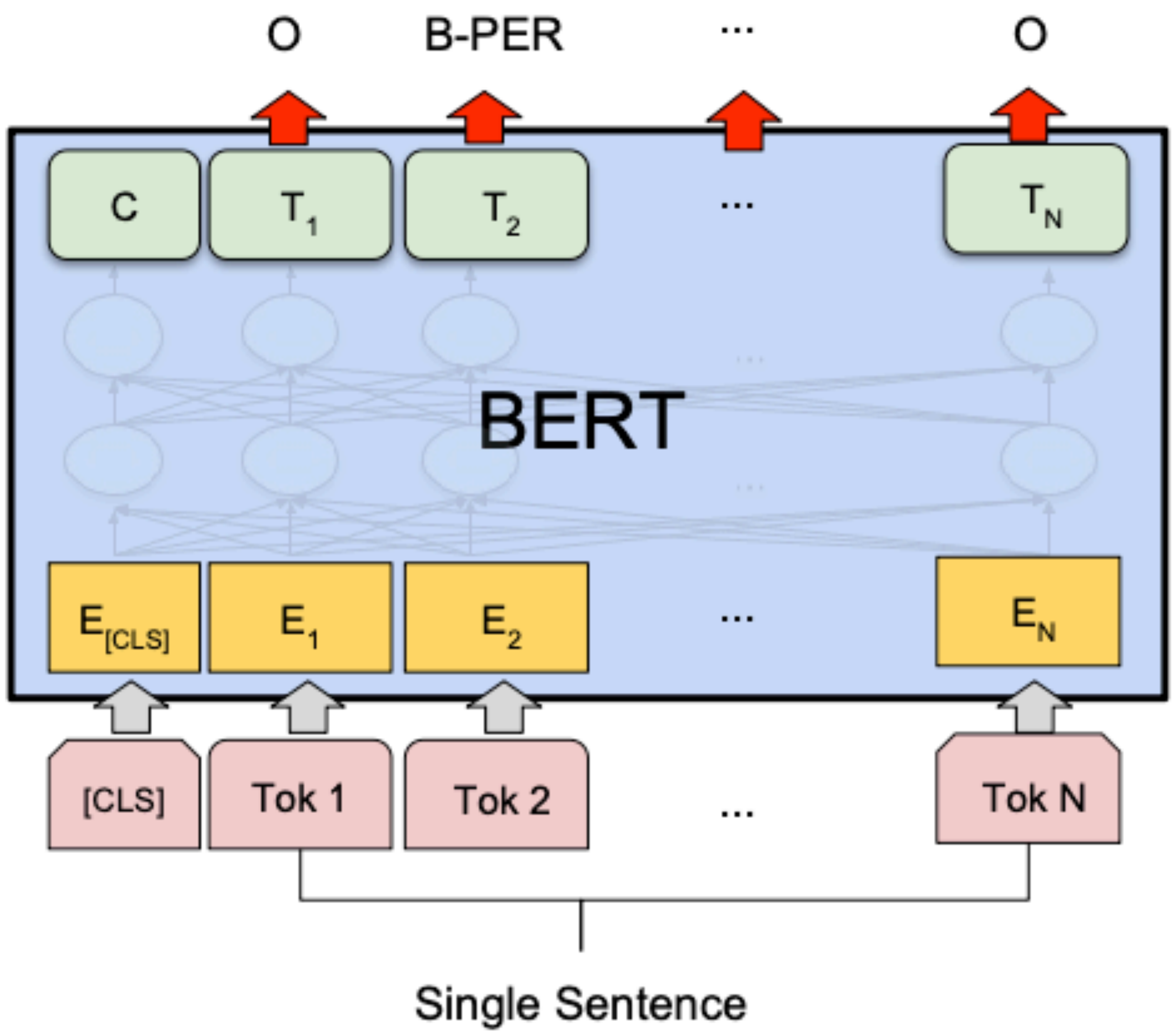
$$P(y = k) = softmax_k(\mathbf{W}_o \mathbf{h}_{[CLS]})$$

$$\mathbf{W}_o \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times h}$$

All the parameters will be learned together (original BERT parameters + new classifier parameters)

Example: named entity recognition (NER)

We just need to introduce $C \times h$ parameters for classification tasks (C = # of classes, h = hidden size)!



$$P(y_i = k) = softmax_k(\mathbf{W}_o \mathbf{h}_i)$$

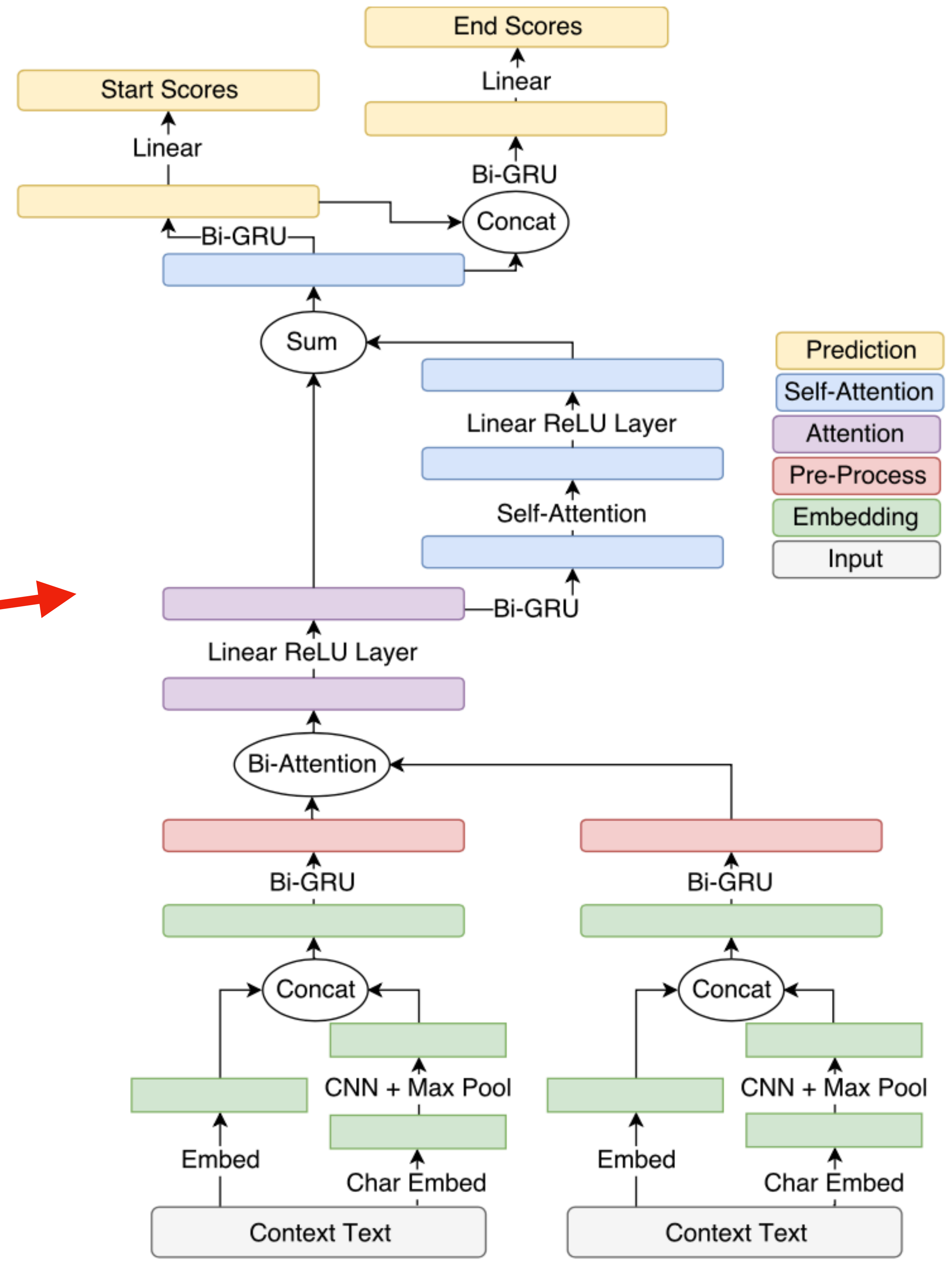
$$\mathbf{W}_o \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times h}$$

Experimental results: GLUE

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	79.8	90.4	36.0	73.3	84.9	56.8	71.0
OpenAI GPT	82.1/81.4	70.3	87.4	91.3	45.4	80.0	82.3	56.0	75.1
$\text{BERT}_{\text{BASE}}$	84.6/83.4	71.2	90.5	93.5	52.1	85.8	88.9	66.4	79.6
$\text{BERT}_{\text{LARGE}}$	**86.7/85.9**	**72.1**	**92.7**	**94.9**	**60.5**	**86.5**	**89.3**	**70.1**	**82.1**

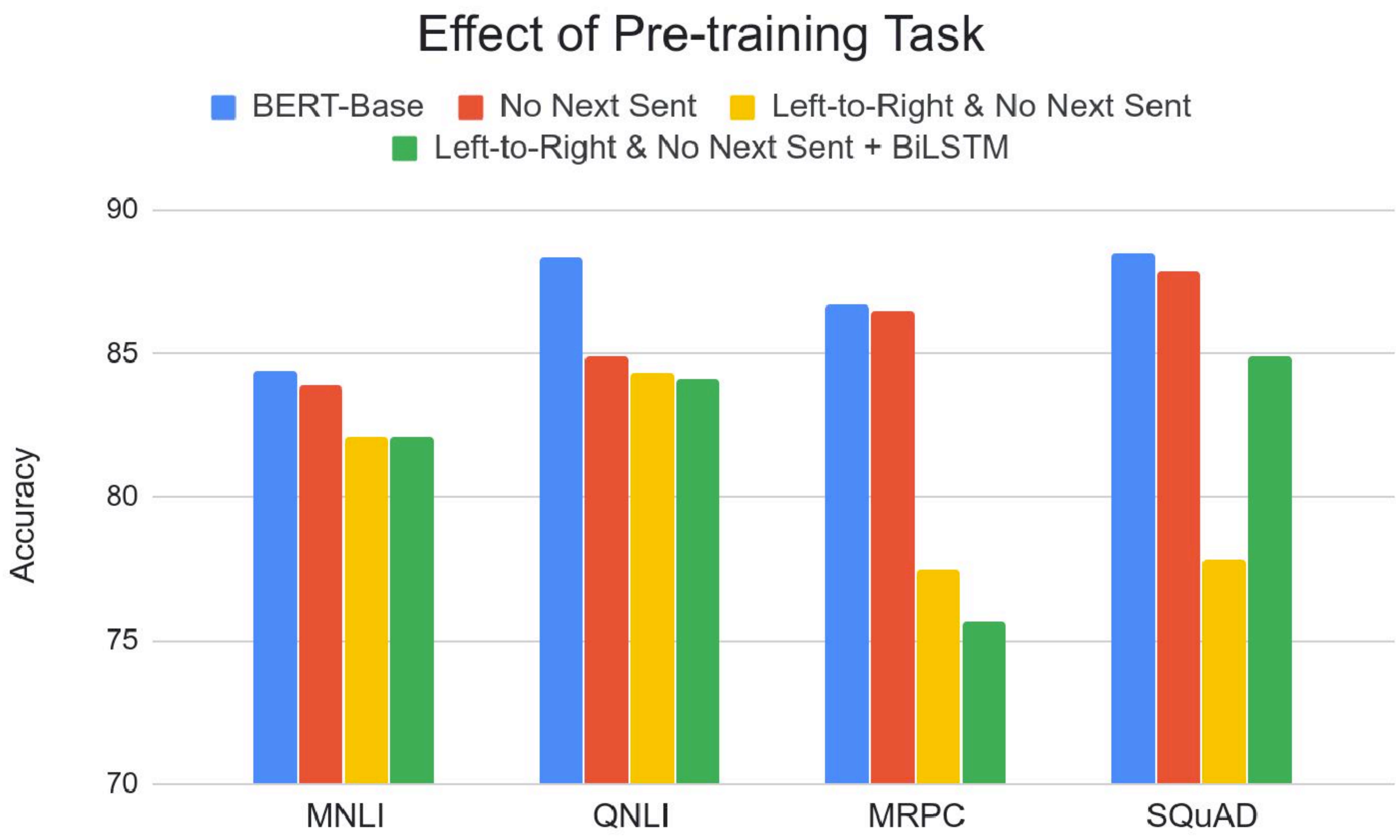
Experimental results: SQuAD

System	Dev EM	Dev F1	Test EM	Test F1
Top Leaderboard Systems (Dec 10th, 2018)				
Human	-	-	82.3	91.2
#1 Ensemble - nlnet	-	-	86.0	91.7
#2 Ensemble - QANet	-	-	84.5	90.5
Published				
BiDAF+ELMo (Single)	-	85.6	-	85.8
R.M. Reader (Ensemble)	81.2	87.9	82.3	88.5
Ours				
$\text{BERT}_{\text{BASE}}$ (Single)	80.8	88.5	-	-
$\text{BERT}_{\text{LARGE}}$ (Single)	84.1	90.9	-	-
$\text{BERT}_{\text{LARGE}}$ (Ensemble)	85.8	91.8	-	-
$\text{BERT}_{\text{LARGE}}$ (Sgl.+TriviaQA)	**84.2**	**91.1**	**85.1**	**91.8**
$\text{BERT}_{\text{LARGE}}$ (Ens.+TriviaQA)	**86.2**	**92.2**	**87.4**	**93.2**



SQuAD = Stanford Question Answering dataset

Ablation study: pre-training tasks



- MLM >> left-to-right LMs
- NSP improves on some tasks
- Note: later work (Joshi et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2019) argued that NSP is not useful

Ablation study: model sizes

layers

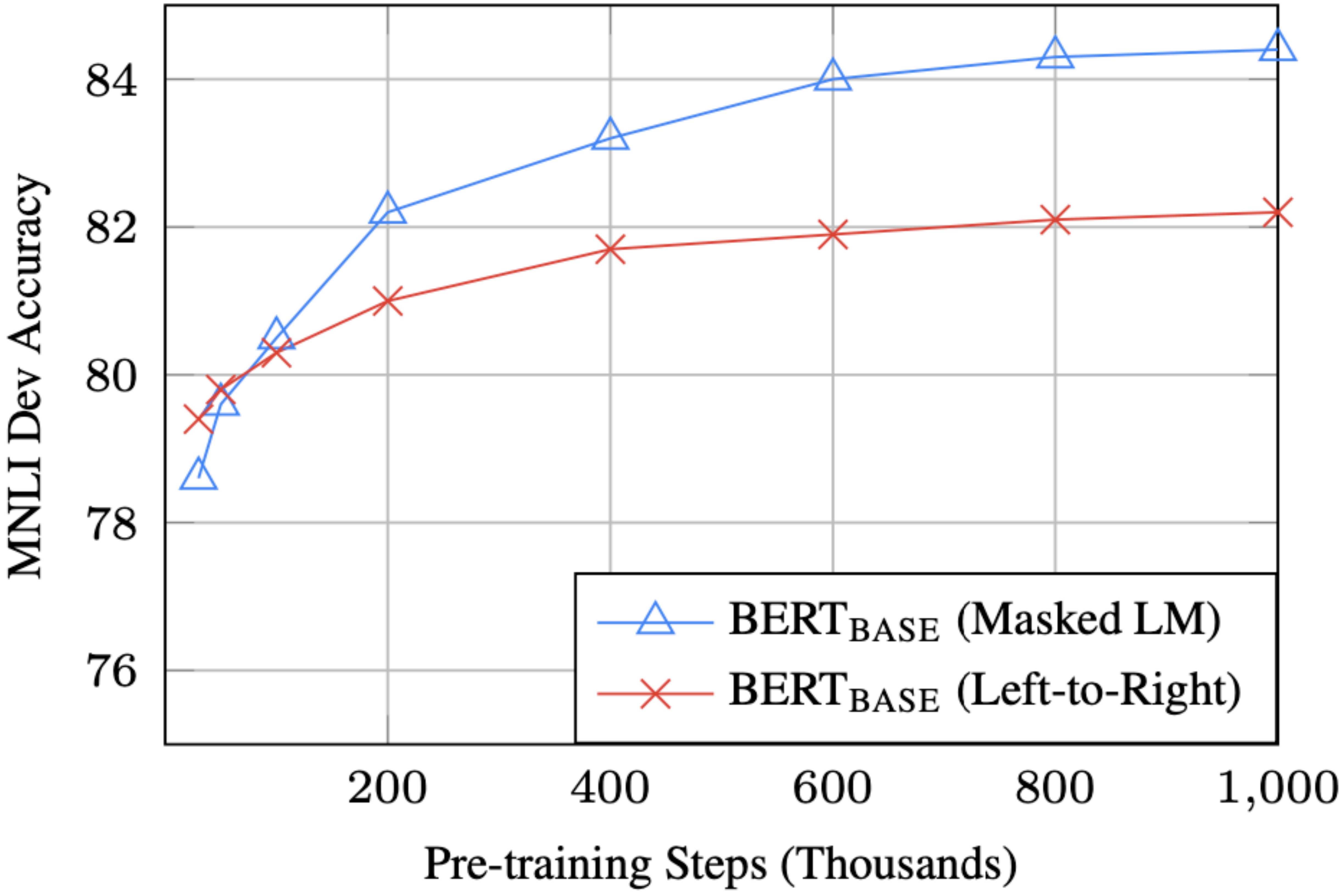
hidden size

# of heads

Hyperparams				Dev Set Accuracy		
#L	#H	#A	LM (ppl)	MNLI-m	MRPC	SST-2
3	768	12	5.84	77.9	79.8	88.4
6	768	3	5.24	80.6	82.2	90.7
6	768	12	4.68	81.9	84.8	91.3
12	768	12	3.99	84.4	86.7	92.9
12	1024	16	3.54	85.7	86.9	93.3
24	1024	16	3.23	86.6	87.8	93.7

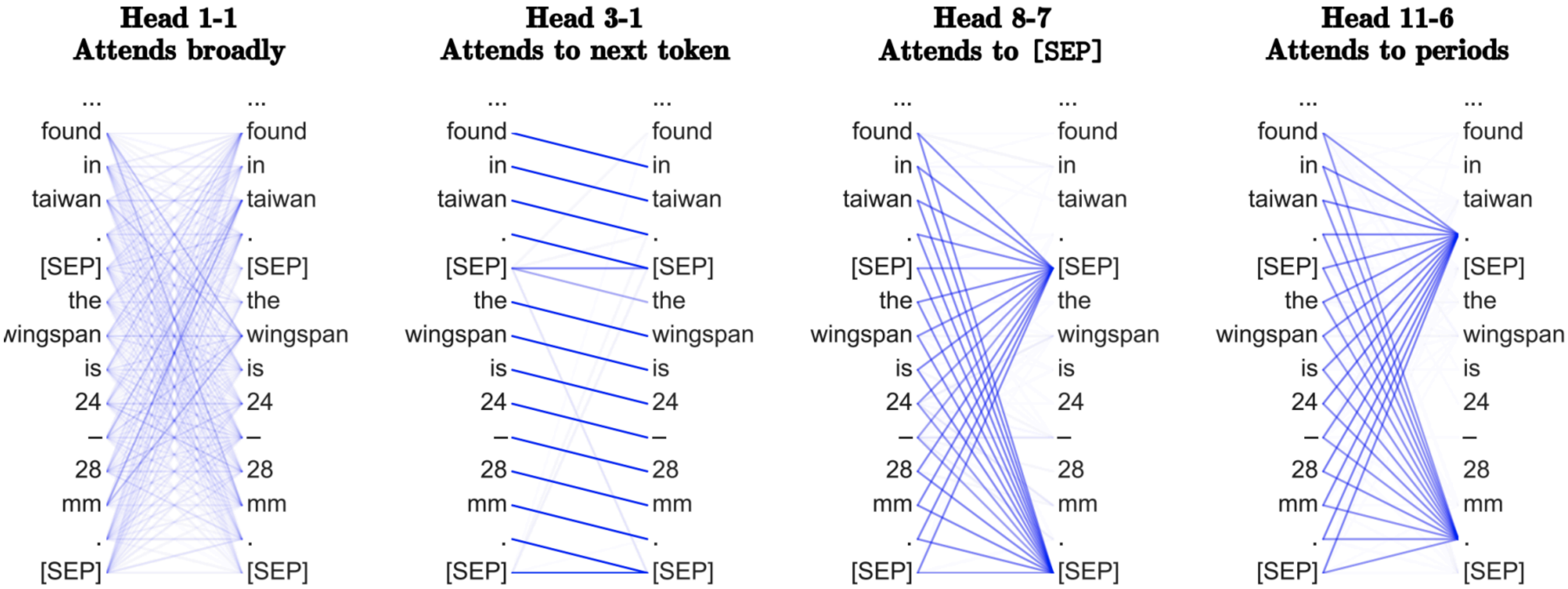
The bigger, the better!

Ablation study: training efficiency



MLM takes slightly longer to converge because it only predicts 15% of tokens

What does BERT learn?



(Clark et al., 2019) What Does BERT Look At? An Analysis of BERT's Attention

ELMo vs GPT vs BERT

Which of the following statements is INCORRECT?

(A) BERT was trained on more data than ELMo

(B) BERT builds on Transformer encoder, and GPT builds on Transformer decoder

(C) ELMo requires different model architectures for different tasks

(D) BERT was trained on data with longer contexts compared to GPT

(D) is correct.