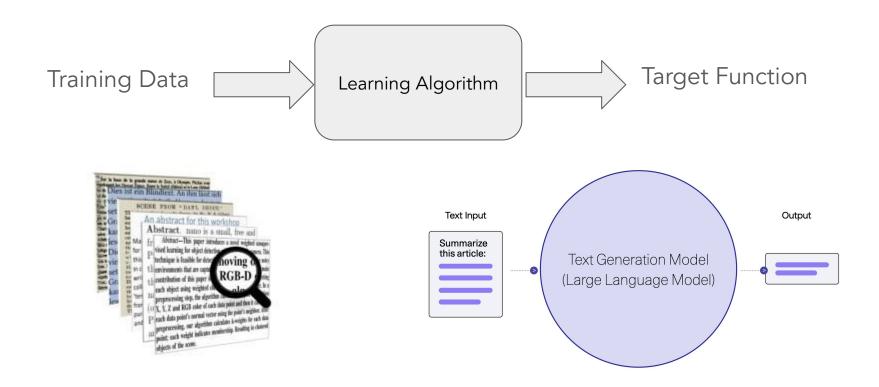
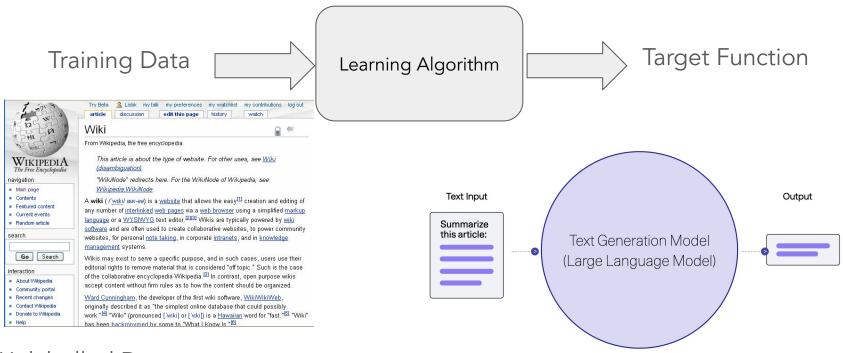


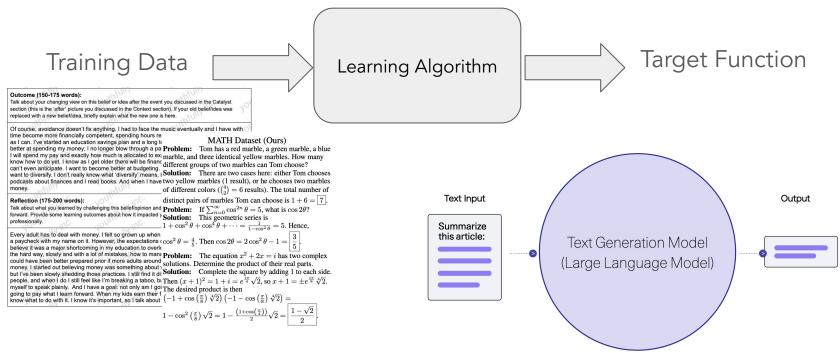
## CS4641 Spring 2025 Generative LLM (Part I): Attention and Transformers

Bo Dai School of CSE, Georgia Tech bodai@cc.gatech.edu

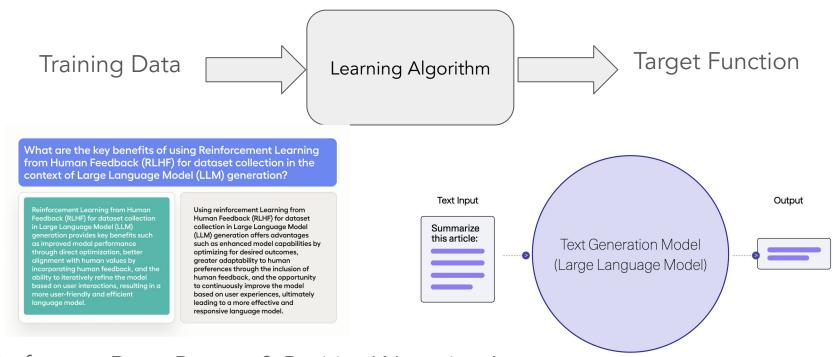




Unlabelled Data: text sequences

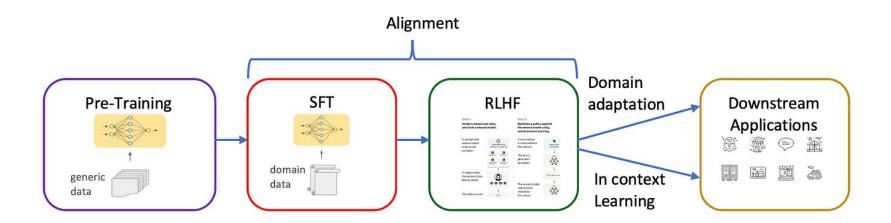


Labelled Data: Prompt & Answer

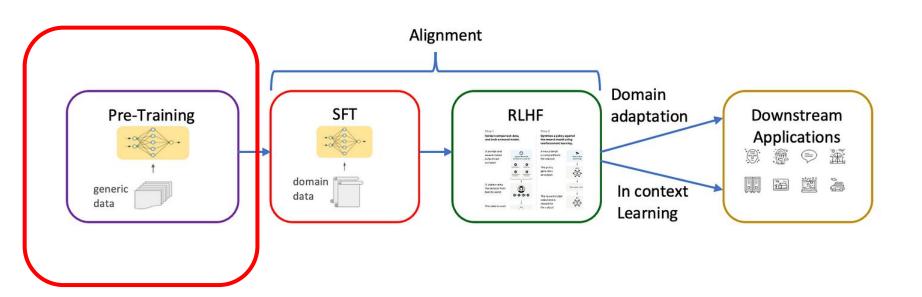


Preference Data: Prompt & Positive/ Negative Answers

## LLM Training



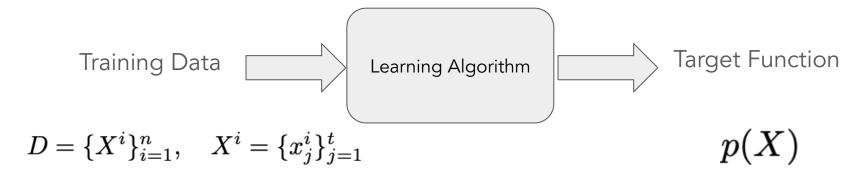
## LLM Training





For a movie that gets no respect there sure are a lot of memorable quotes listed for this gem. Imagine a movie where Joe Piscopo is actually funny! Maureen Stapleton is a scene stealer. The Moroni character is an absolute scream. Watch for Alan "The Skipper" Hale jr. as a police Sgt.

$$D = \{X^i\}_{i=1}^n, \quad X^i = \{x_j^i\}_{j=1}^t$$



- Build probabilistic models
   Categorical Distribution + Autoregressive + RNN/Transformer
- 2. Derive loss function (by MLE or MAP....)
- 3. Select optimizer

# Combating Combinatorial Complexity: Autoregressive Model

$$p(X) = p(\{x_j\}_{j=1}^t)$$
  $O(|V|^T)$ 

# Combating Combinatorial Complexity: Autoregressive Model

$$p(X) = p(\{x_j\}_{j=1}^t)$$
  $O(|V|^T)$ 

$$= \prod_{j=1}^t p(x_j|x_{< j})$$

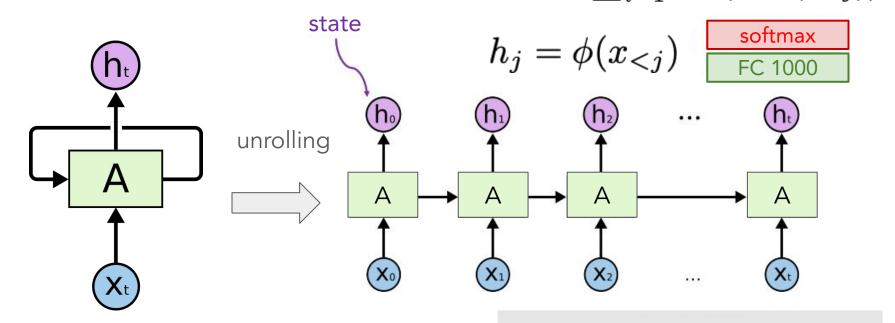
## Categorical Distribution

$$egin{aligned} p(X) &= pig(\{x_j\}_{j=1}^tig) & O(|V|^T) \ &= \prod_{j=1}^t p(x_j|x_{< j}) \ &= \prod_{j=1}^t rac{\exp(W_{x_j}\phi(x_{< j}))}{\sum_{l=1}^V \exp(W_l\phi(x_{< j}))} \end{aligned}$$

#### Recursive Neural Network

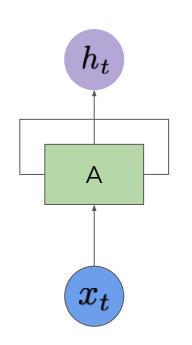
#### Recurrent Neural Network

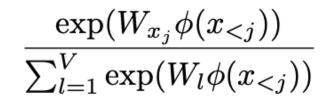
$$\frac{\exp(W_{x_j}\phi(x_{< j}))}{\sum_{l=1}^{V} \exp(W_l\phi(x_{< j}))}$$

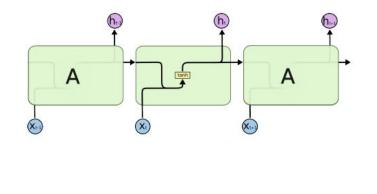


For a movie that gets no respect there sure are a lot of memorable quotes listed for this gem. Imagine a movie where Joe Piscopo is actually funny! Maureen Stapleton is a scene stealer. The Moroni character is an absolute scream. Watch for Alan "The Skipper" Hale jr. as a police Sqt.

#### **RNN Cell**





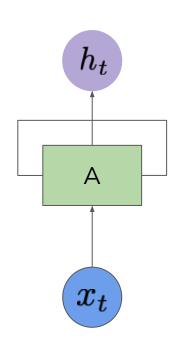


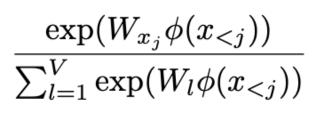
Simple RNN

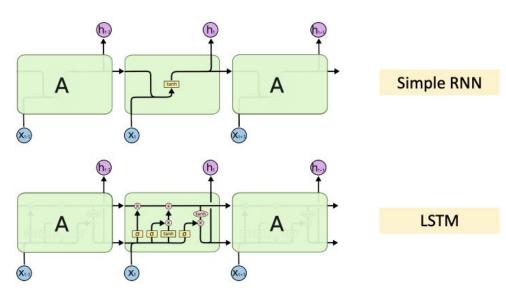
 $\mathbf{h}_{100}$  is almost irrelevant to  $\mathbf{x}_1$ :  $\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}_{100}}{\partial \mathbf{x}_1}$  is near zero.

Gradient Vanishing

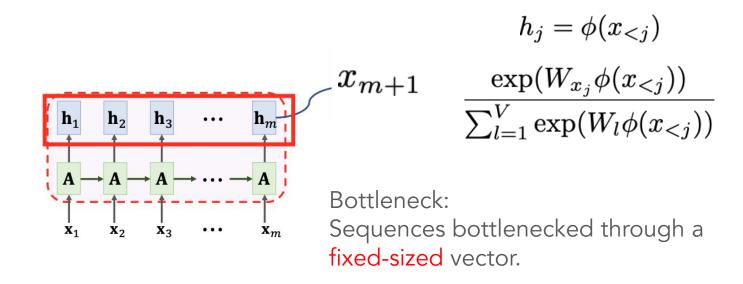
#### **RNN Cell**



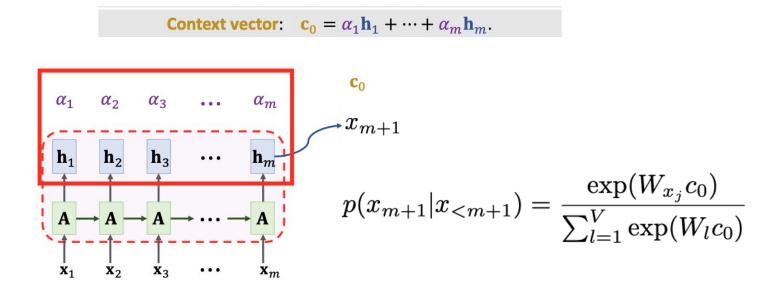




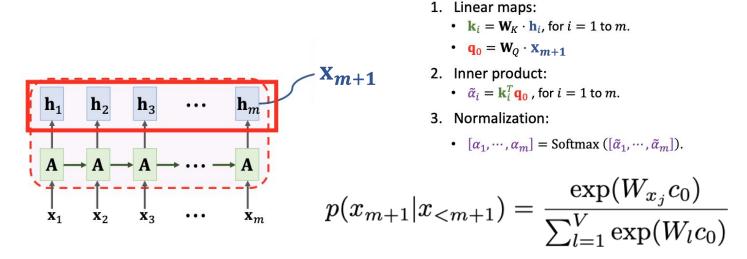
#### **Bottleneck in RNN**



## Attention: Flatten RNN Computation

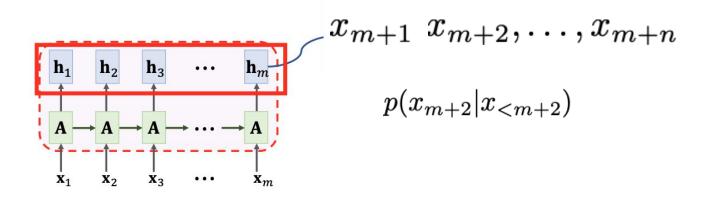


## Attention: Adding Output Dependency

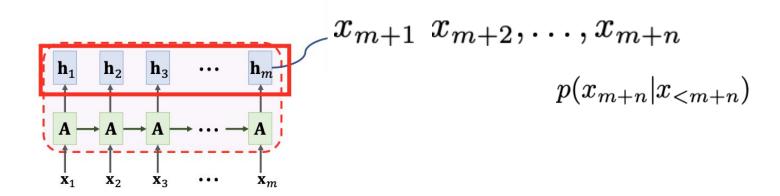


Weight: 
$$\alpha_i = \operatorname{align}(\mathbf{h}_i, \mathbf{x}_{m+1})$$

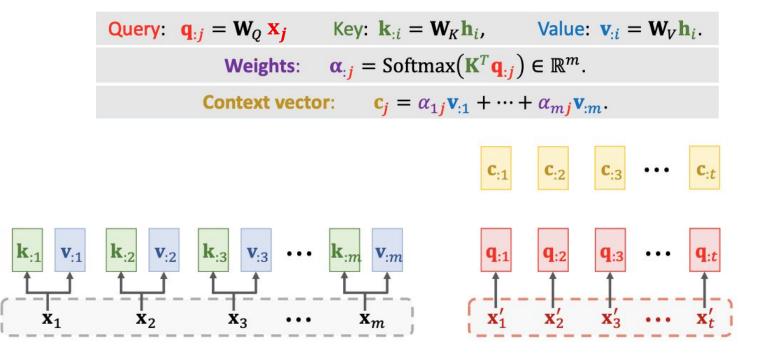
#### Recursive Attention?



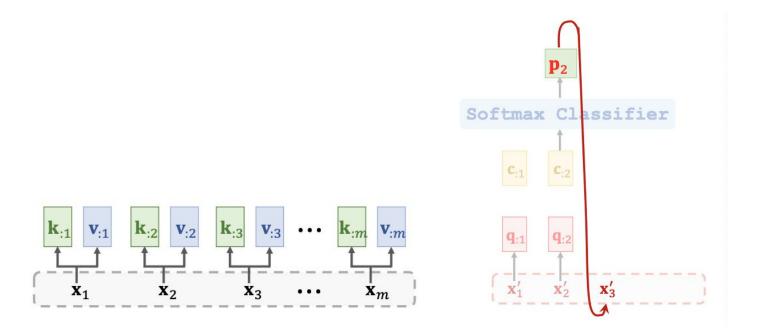
#### Recursive Attention?



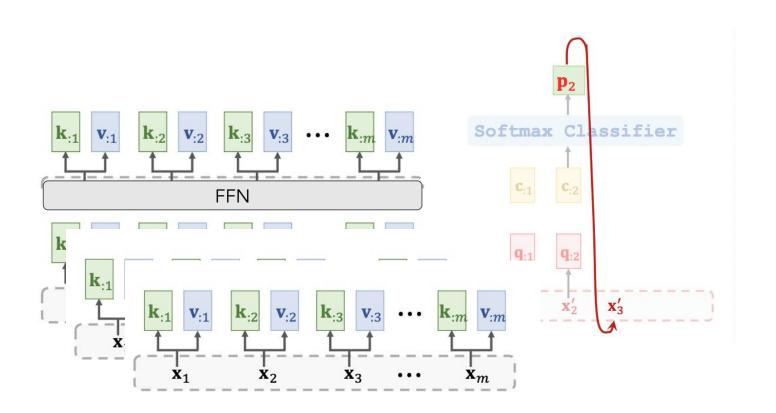
#### Parallel Attention

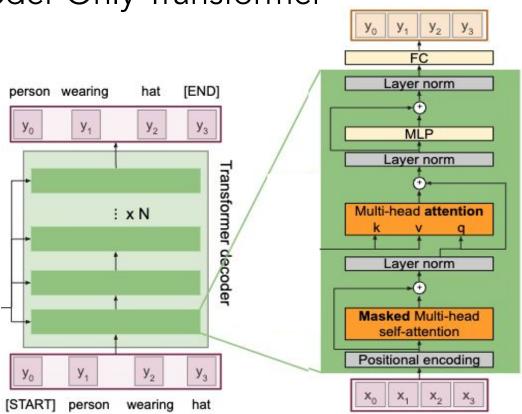


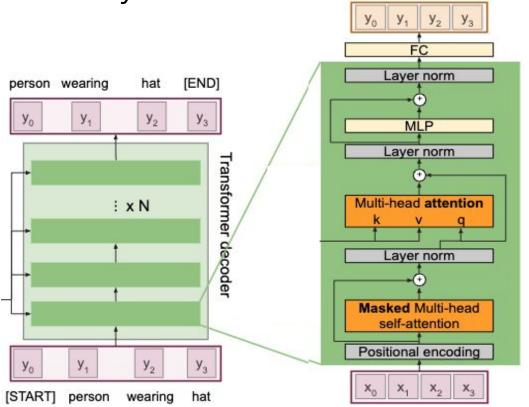
#### Parallel Attention



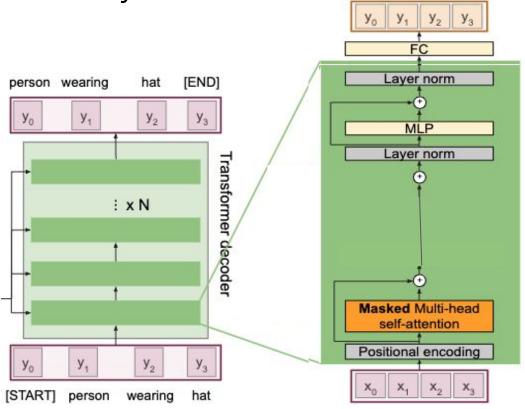
## Transformer: Multi-Headed Multi-Layer Parallel Attention!

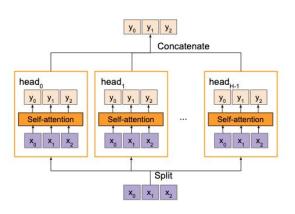


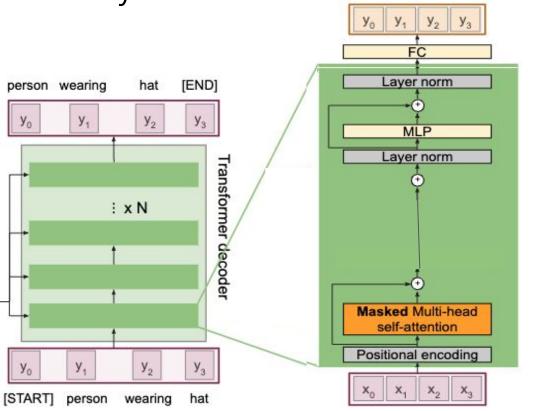




$$PE_{(pos,2i)} = sin(pos/10000^{2i/d_{model}}) \ PE_{(pos,2i+1)} = cos(pos/10000^{2i/d_{model}})$$



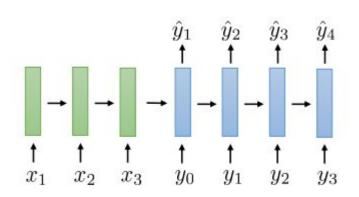


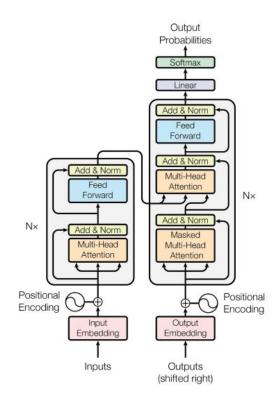


residual connect

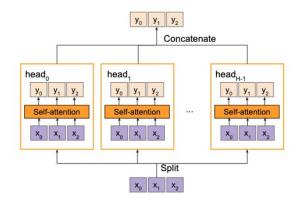
residual connect

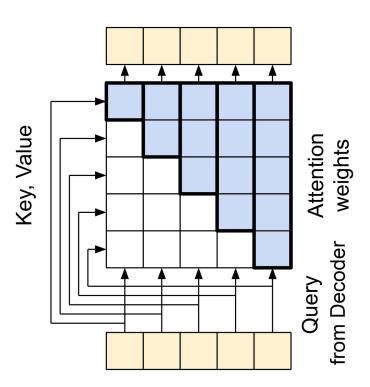
## Original Transformer



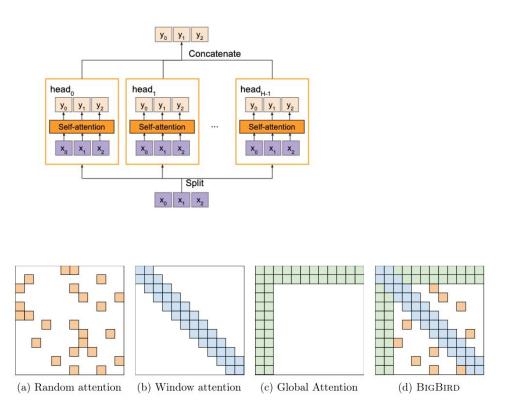


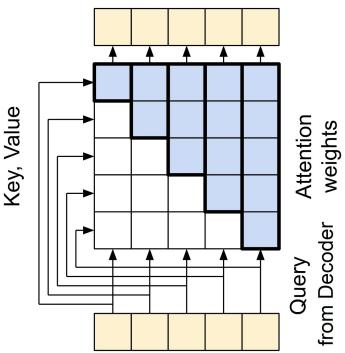
#### Limitations? Expensive Computation

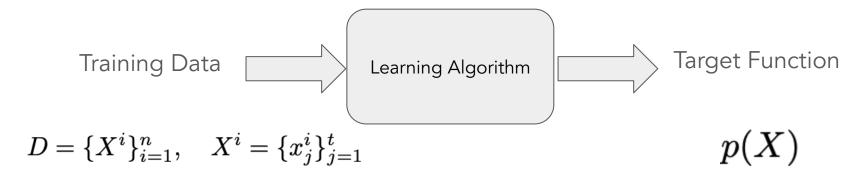




#### Limitations?







- 1. Build probabilistic models
- 2. Derive loss function (by MLE or MAP....)
  MLE
- 3. Select optimizer

#### **MLE**

• Given all input data  $D = \{X^i\}_{i=1}^n$ ,  $X^i = \{x_j^i\}_{j=1}^t$ 

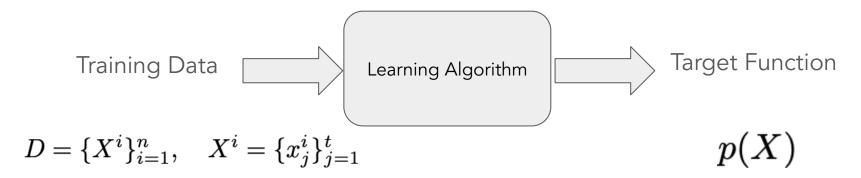
$$p(X^{i}) = \prod_{j=1}^{t} \frac{\exp\left(W_{x_{j}^{i}}\phi\left(x_{< j}^{i}\right)\right)}{\sum_{l=1}^{V} \exp\left(W_{l}\phi\left(x_{< j}^{i}\right)\right)}$$

Log-likelihood

$$\ell(\phi) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} p(X^{i}; \phi) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{t} \log \left( x_{j}^{i} \mid x_{< j}^{i}; \phi \right)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{t} \log \frac{\exp \left( W_{x_{j}^{i}} \phi \left( x_{< j}^{i} \right) \right)}{\sum_{l=1}^{V} \exp \left( W_{l} \phi \left( x_{< j}^{i} \right) \right)}$$

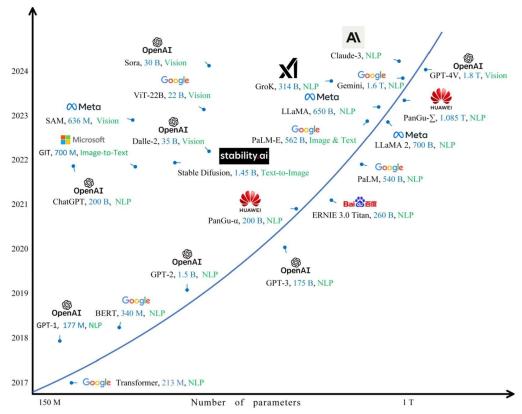
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{t} W_{x_{j}^{i}} \phi \left( x_{< j}^{i} \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{t} \log \sum_{l=1}^{V} \exp \left( W_{l} \phi \left( x_{< j}^{i} \right) \right)$$



- 1. Build probabilistic models
- 2. Derive loss function (by MLE or MAP....)
- 3. Select optimizer

Stochastic Gradient Descent

#### Large and Larger LMs



Tu, Xiaoguang, et al. "An overview of large Al models and their applications." Visual Intelligence 2.1 (2024): 1-22.

#### Summary

Pretraining of LLM: MLE for unsupervised learning

- RNNs requires sequential processing
- RNNs have bottleneck, restricting the flexibility
- Attention is actually flattening RNN
- Transformer is deep attention

## A&D