

PAPER · INFOGRAPHIC

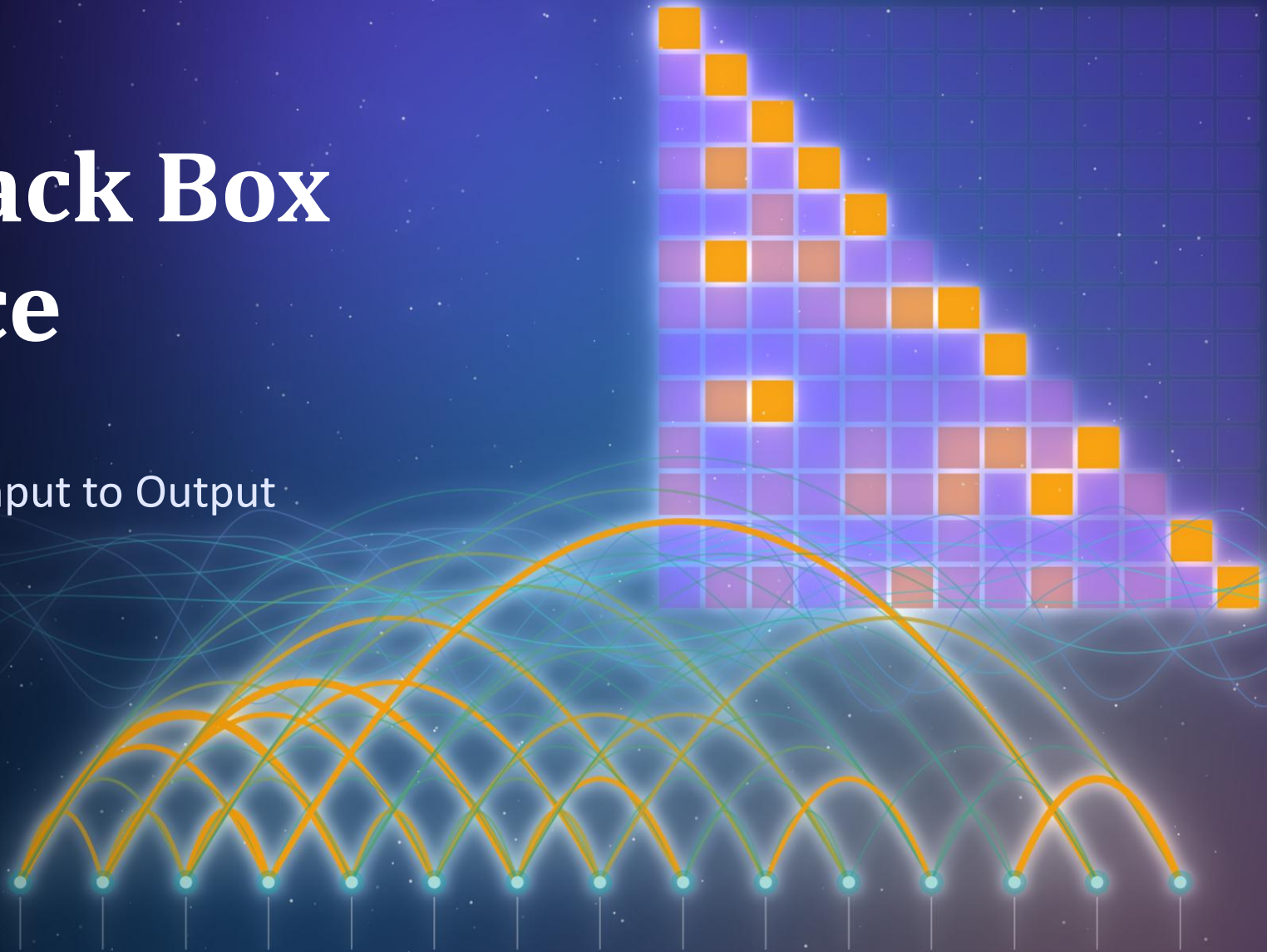
Opening the Black Box of LLM Inference

Anatomy of the Transformer, from Input to Output
Token

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From text to token: 9 steps

1 Tokenization

Text becomes numbers (IDs)

2 Embeddings + position

IDs become vectors with order

3 Self-attention

Each token consults the others

4 Multi-head + masks

Several relations in parallel

5 Add & Norm

Stability with depth

6 FFN

Non-linear per-token transform

7 Stacking

Layer-by-layer refinement

8 Weights and training

What the model has learned

9 Output

Logits $\rightarrow$ softmax $\rightarrow$ word

What this paper answers

“O banco estava lotado”

How does the model decide, without explicit rules, whether “banco” is a bank branch or a bench?



Goal

Open the “black box”: concept, mechanism, technique, numerical example and references for every inference step.



Conventions

n = sequence length; d_{model} = model dimension; d_k = per-head dimension. References as (Author, year).

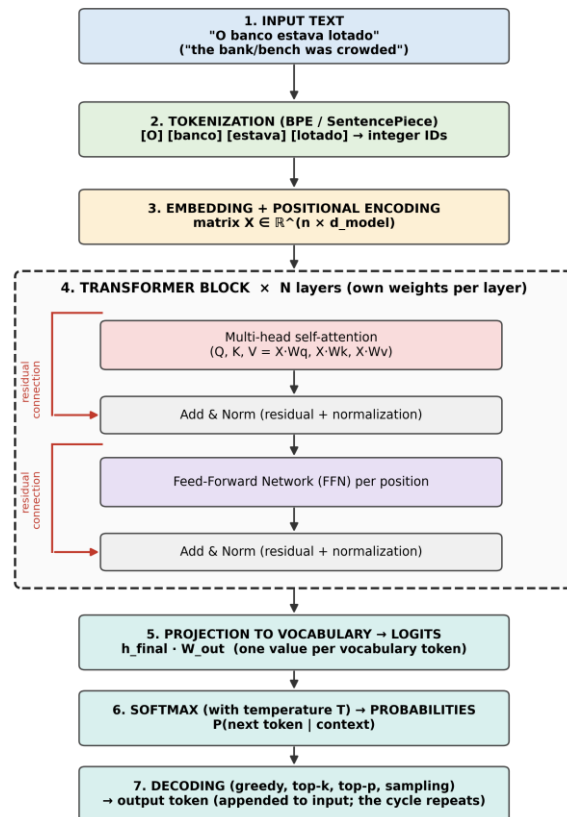


Numerical notice

Numbers are didactic: tiny dimensions, hand-set or random weights, computed by code. They are not measurements of a real model.

The complete inference flow

Figure 1 - Full inference flow in a Transformer (overview)



- **Inference:** running the trained model, with frozen weights, to produce an output.
- **Autoregressive loop:** predicts the next token, picks one, appends it to the input and repeats.
- **Forward pass:** one full pass through the layers.
- **Families:** encoder-only (BERT), decoder-only (GPT) and encoder-decoder (original).
- **Training ≠ inference:** training sets the weights; inference only uses them.

Steps, techniques and references

Step	Main technique	Key reference
1. Tokenization	BPE, SentencePiece	Sennrich et al., 2016; Kudo & Richardson, 2018
2. Embedding and position	Embedding matrix; sinusoidal or RoPE	Mikolov et al., 2013; Vaswani et al., 2017; Su et al., 2021
3. Self-attention	Scaled dot product and softmax	Bahdanau et al., 2015; Vaswani et al., 2017
4. Multi-head	d_k -dimensional subspaces	Vaswani et al., 2017; Voita et al., 2019
5. Add & Norm	Residual; LayerNorm, RMSNorm	He et al., 2016; Ba et al., 2016; Zhang & Sennrich, 2019
6. FFN	MLP with ReLU, GELU or SwiGLU	Geva et al., 2021; Shazeer, 2020
7. Stacking	N layers	Tenney et al., 2019
8. Output	Softmax, temperature, top-k, top-p	Holtzman et al., 2020

Problem solved and cost of absence (1/2)

Step	Problem it solves	Without it
Tokenization	The network only handles numbers; the vocabulary must be finite	No numeric input; rare words unrepresented or sequences too long
Embedding	Integer IDs are arbitrary labels, with no similarity	Sparse one-hot of size $ V $, no similarity between tokens
Positional encoding	Attention does not use word order	Unmasked attention cannot tell orders apart (Vaswani et al., 2017)
Self-attention	Each token needs information from the others	Each token read in isolation: “banco” would always have the same vector
Multi-head	Several relations at once	A single weighted average per layer (Vaswani et al., 2017)

Problem solved and cost of absence (2/2)

Step	Problem it solves	Without it
Add & Norm	Signal and gradient cross many layers	Unstable or degraded training (He et al., 2016; Ba et al., 2016)
FFN	Attention only mixes Values; no per-token transform	Missing ~2/3 of layer parameters (Geva et al., 2021)
Stacking	Complex relations need step-wise composition	Only direct relations; induction heads need ≥ 2 layers (Olsson et al., 2022)
Training	Random weights do not produce language	A circuit with no useful behaviour, as in the examples
Output	A vector must become a token	No distribution and no chosen word

Tokenization: text becomes numbers

1 Concept

Text becomes a token sequence and each token an integer ID. The vocabulary is finite and fixed before training.

2 Why subwords

Whole words leave new terms unrepresented; characters make long sequences. Subwords balance both.

3 Why it is needed

Without IDs there is no network input; long sequences make attention costly (cost $\propto n^2$).

Guiding sentence, 4 words = 4 tokens (illustrative IDs)

0

→ 12

banco

→ 4871

estava

→ 905

lotado

→ 23019

Tokenization does not disambiguate: the ID of “banco” is the same in both senses.

Four subword techniques

1

BPE

Starts from characters and merges the most frequent adjacent pair. Compression: Gage (1994); MT: Sennrich et al. (2016). Byte-level in GPT.

2

WordPiece

Picks merges by likelihood gain rather than frequency (Schuster & Nakajima, 2012; Wu et al., 2016). Used in BERT.

3

Unigram LM

Starts from a large vocabulary and prunes the least useful items (Kudo, 2018).

4

SentencePiece

Implements BPE and Unigram on raw text, without whitespace pre-tokenization; language-independent (Kudo & Richardson, 2018).

BPE on a didactic corpus

Corpus: low (5), lower (2), newest (6), widest (3); </w> marks the end of a word.

Step	Merged pair	Freq.	New symbol
1	e + s	9	es
2	es + t	9	est
3	est + </w>	9	est</w>
4	l + o	7	lo
5	lo + w	7	low
6	n + e	6	ne
7	ne + w	6	new
8	new + est</w>	6	newest</w>

newest</w>

“newest” becomes a single token

w · i · d · est</w>

“widest” was never seen whole, but reuses est</w>

Result computed by code (ties broken by order of occurrence).

From ID to dense vector

E

Embedding

Each ID selects a row of W_E ($|V| \times d_{\text{model}}$): a learned dense vector (Bengio et al., 2003; Mikolov et al., 2013).

512

d_{model} in the original Transformer

≡

Static

“banco” gets the same vector in any sentence. Contextualization only happens later, in attention.

768

d_{model} of BERT-base

?

Why it is needed

ID 4871 is not “similar” to 4872. Vectors allow similarity and the sums and products that follow.

12.288

d_{model} of GPT-3 (largest)

Positional encoding: order matters

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

Why? “the cat eats the fish” and “the fish eats the cat” have the same tokens; without position, unmasked attention treats them equivalently (Vaswani et al., 2017).

1 Learned

Trainable table (BERT, GPT-2)

2 Relative

Attention depends on distance
(Shaw et al., 2018)

3 RoPE

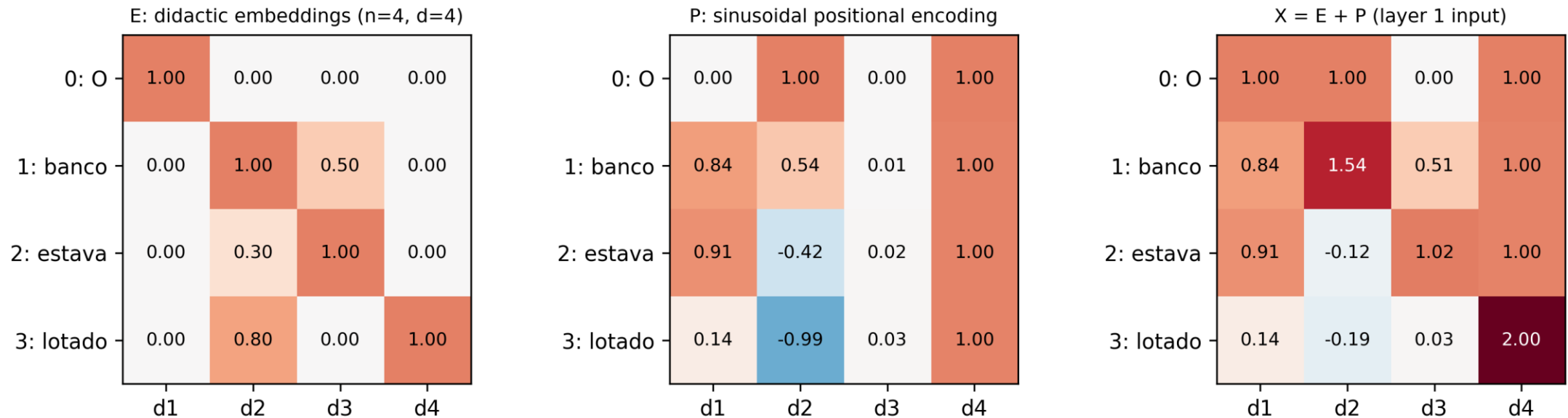
Rotates Q and K by position
(Su et al., 2021); used in
LLaMA

4 ALiBi

Linear distance bias;
extrapolates to long contexts
(Press et al., 2022)

$X = E + P$ for “O banco estava lotado”

Figure 2 – Step 2: embeddings and positional encoding (computed values; didactic weights)



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“banco” (position 1): PE = [0.841; 0.540; 0.010; 1.000]; embedding [0; 1; 0.5; 0] → $x = [0.841; 1.540; 0.510; 1.000]$

$d_{model} = 4$ (didactic; the original uses 512). X , of size 4×4 , is the input of the first layer.

Query, Key and Value: three roles



Query = $X \cdot W_q$

What this token is looking for.



Key = $X \cdot W_k$

What this token offers to be found.



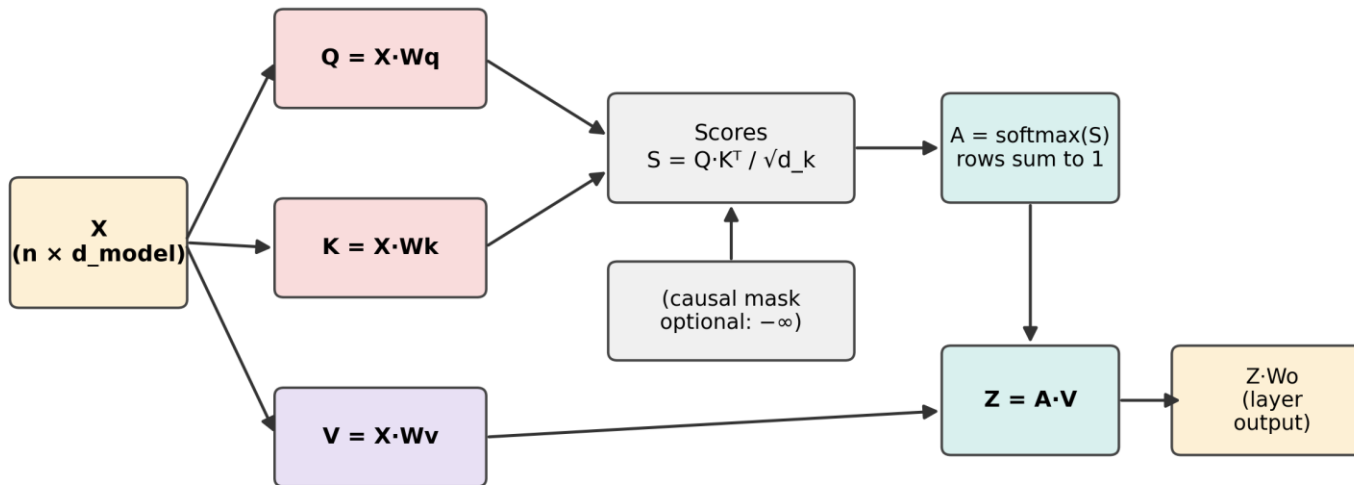
Value = $X \cdot W_v$

The content the token passes on if selected.

Why it is needed. A word's sense depends on its neighbours, yet the input embedding is static. Each token must consult the others, with weights that depend on content. In attention, any two positions connect in one step, and the computation is parallelizable (Vaswani et al., 2017).

Scaled dot-product

Figure 3 - Scaled dot-product attention mechanism (Vaswani et al., 2017)



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$$\text{softmax}(QK^T / \sqrt{d_k}) \cdot V$$

- QK^T : compatibility between each Query and each Key.
- $\div \sqrt{d_k}$: keeps softmax from saturating when d_k is large.
- **softmax**: positive weights summing to 1 per row.
- $\times V$: weighted average of the Values: the contextualized token.

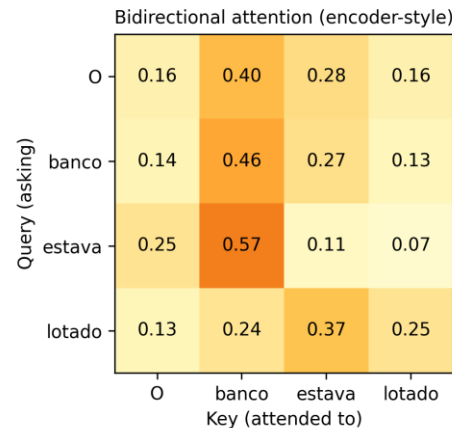
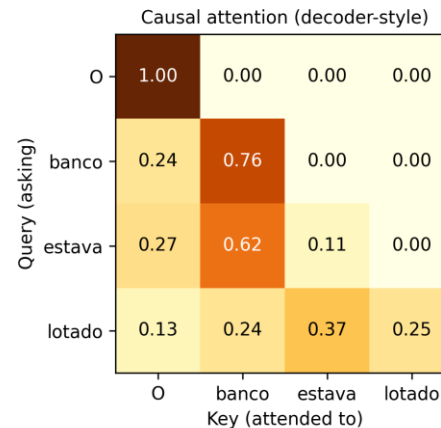
“banco” attention in numbers

Step (token “banco”)	O	banco	estava	lotado
Score $q \cdot k$ (QKT)	4.476	6.130	5.353	4.375
Score / $\sqrt{2}$	3.165	4.334	3.785	3.093
Weight (softmax)	0.143	0.459	0.265	0.133

$$\mathbf{Z} = [1.043; 1.360]$$

output for “banco”: Values averaged with $0.143 \cdot 0.459 \cdot 0.265 \cdot 0.133$

Figure 4 - Attention map $\text{softmax}(QK^T/\sqrt{d_k})$: each row sums to 1.00



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Hand-set weights: do not read linguistic meaning into the pattern. In a trained model, W_q , W_k and W_v learn which relations matter.

Several relations in parallel

$$\text{MultiHead}(X) = \text{Concat}(\text{head}^1, \dots, \text{head}^h) \cdot W^0$$

8 × 64

heads × d_k in the base Transformer (d_{model} = 512)

1,048,576

weights in the 4 attention projections: 4 × 512 × 512

h | d_{model}

h must divide d_{model}: 12 heads need d_{model} = 768 (BERT-base)

?

Why it is needed

A single attention gives one average per token and inhibits different subspaces; several heads, in smaller dimension, do not raise total cost.

≈

What is observed

Heads focus on delimiters, fixed offsets and syntactic relations (Clark et al., 2019); many are redundant (Voita et al., 2019; Michel et al., 2019).

Who may look at whom



Bidirectional

Every position sees all others. BERT regime (encoder).



Causal

Future scores get $-\infty$ and weights 0. Prevents “seeing” the token to predict (leakage).



Padding

Ignores empty positions used to equalize batch sizes.

“banco” row: [3.165; 4.334; 3.785; 3.093] → with causal mask → **[0.237; 0.763; 0; 0]**

In a generative model, “banco” cannot look at “lotado”.

Efficient inference: MQA, GQA and KV cache

Multi-Query

All heads share a single K and V pair (Shazeer, 2019).

Grouped-Query

Groups of heads share K and V: a trade-off between quality and memory (Ainslie et al., 2023).

KV cache

Stores the K and V already computed and avoids recomputing the past for each token (Pope et al., 2023).

Why it is needed. In generation, rereading and recomputing the whole past at every token would be prohibitive; fewer K and V shrink the cache and speed up inference.

Residual connection and normalization

+

Residual

$y = x + f(x)$: a shortcut for signal and gradient; each sublayer learns only a correction (He et al., 2016).

 σ

LayerNorm / RMSNorm

Normalize each token over its `d_model` components (Ba et al., 2016). RMSNorm omits the mean (Zhang & Sennrich, 2019).

 $\rightleftarrows$

Pre-LN × Post-LN

Normalizing before each sublayer (Pre-LN) trains more stably, without careful warm-up (Xiong et al., 2020).

Why it is needed. Without a shortcut, deep networks degrade in training; without normalization, value scales drift. The depth that gives the model capacity would no longer be trainable.

LayerNorm × RMSNorm for “banco”

Vector	Values (d_model = 4)
x (input)	[0.841; 1.540; 0.510; 1.000]
o (attention output)	[1.074; 1.912; 0.537; 0.956]
r = x + o	[1.915; 3.453; 1.047; 1.956]
LayerNorm(r)	[-0.205; 1.572; -1.209; -0.158]
RMSNorm(r)	[0.846; 1.525; 0.462; 0.864]

$\mu = 2.093$
mean of r

$\sigma^2 = 0.748$
variance of r

2.264
root mean square (RMS)

After LayerNorm: mean 0 and variance 1. RMSNorm keeps the proportion between components, without centering.

The per-token feed-forward network

$$FFN(x) = \max(0, x \cdot W^1 + b^1) \cdot W^2 + b^2$$



What it does

Attention mixes information between tokens; the FFN transforms information within each token: expands ($d_{ff} = 4 \times d_{model}$), applies the non-linearity and compresses.



Why it is needed

In attention, the output is an average of Values via linear projections; the only non-linearity is the weights' softmax. The FFN adds a per-token non-linear transform.



Key-value memory

Columns of W_1 detect patterns (keys); rows of W_2 bring the associated information (values). Hypothesis by Geva et al. (2021).

$d_{model} = 512$



$d_{ff} = 2048 \cdot \text{ReLU}$



$d_{model} = 512$

Parameters and a didactic calculation

1,048,576

W1: 512 × 2048

1,048,576

W2: 2048 × 512

≈ 2/3

of the ≈ 3.15 million weights of a layer are in the FFN
(Geva et al., 2021)

Didactic calculation (d_model = 4, d_ff = 8, random weights, seed 0)

Token	FFN input	Hidden layer (ReLU)	FFN output
estava	[1.389; -0.901; -0.999; 0.511]	[0.907; 0.660; 0.330; 0; 0.623; 0; 1.541; 0.759]	[0.231; 0.954; 0.437; -0.291]
banco	[-0.205; 1.572; -1.209; -0.158]	[0; 0; 0; 0; 0; 0; 0; 0]	[0; 0; 0; 0]

“estava”: 6 of 8 units active. “banco”: all zeroed by the ReLU, so the output is 0 and the vector crosses the sublayer via the residual path.

Multi-layer stacking

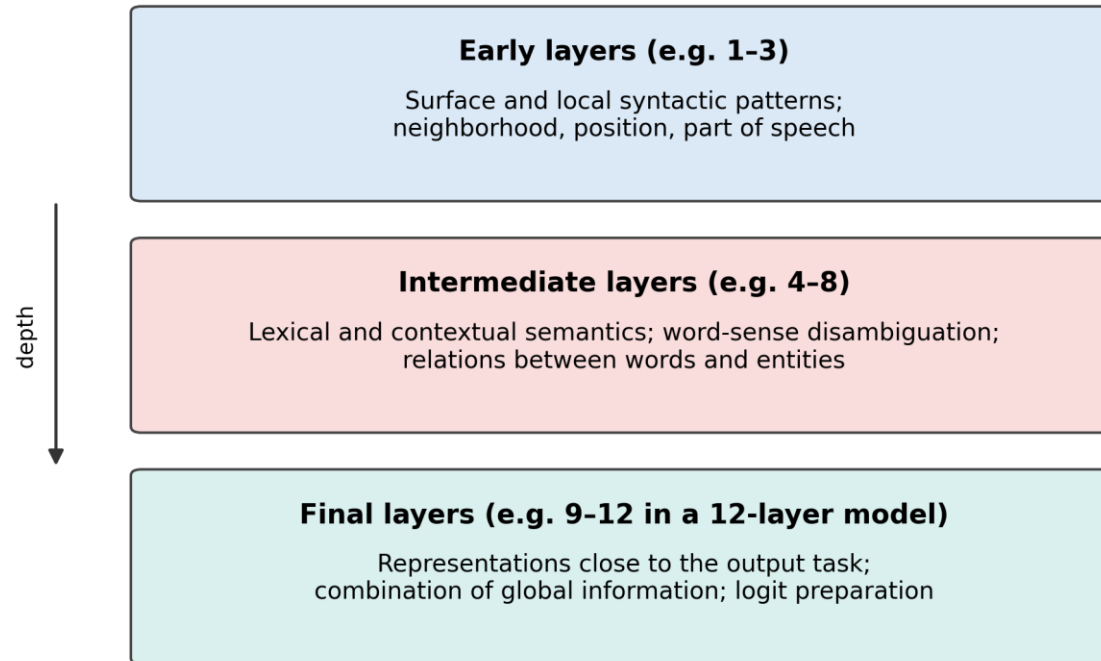
Model	Layers	d_model	Heads	Parameters	Source
Base Transformer	6 + 6	512	8	65 million	Vaswani et al., 2017
BERT-base	12	768	12	110 million	Devlin et al., 2019
BERT-large	24	1024	16	340 million	Devlin et al., 2019
GPT-3 (largest)	96	12,288	96	175 billion	Brown et al., 2020

Why it is needed. One layer captures relations in a single step, but many tasks require composition: identify, relate, infer the sense and only then predict. Some capabilities need at least two layers, such as induction heads (Elhage et al., 2021; Olsson et al., 2022). More layers add capacity but cost more: depth is a design choice.

What each depth tends to represent

Figure 5 - Approximate specialization by depth in stacked Transformers

*Conceptual sketch: trend observed in probing studies on BERT
(Tenney et al., 2019); layer boundaries are NOT exact.*



- **Probing:** early layers capture local patterns; middle ones, syntax; upper ones, semantics (Jawahar et al., 2019).
- **Classic pipeline:** POS, parsing, entities, semantic roles, coreference, in that order (Tenney et al., 2019).
- **Refinement:** the next-token prediction improves layer by layer (Belrose et al., 2023).
- **Caveat:** boundaries vary by model, task and method; “layer 6 resolves banco” is an illustration.

The objective: predict the next token

$$L = - (1/T) \sum^T \log p(x^t | x^{<t}) \quad PPL = e^L$$

3.806

loss if the target were “lotado” ($p = 0.022$)

0.473

loss if the target were “cheio” ($p = 0.623$)

$p - y$

gradient of the loss at the logits: $[-0.978; 0.114; 0.623; 0.094; 0.147]$ for target “lotado”

? Why it is needed

With random weights the architecture does not produce language. Training turns it into a useful model; the signal comes from the text itself, with no human labels.

□ BERT is different

Uses masked tokens and looks both ways (Devlin et al., 2019). Disambiguation is a strategy to reduce prediction error.

How the weights are adjusted



Backpropagation

Gradients by chain rule through all layers (Rumelhart et al., 1986); required for millions to billions of parameters.



Optimization

Adam (Kingma & Ba, 2015) with warm-up, decay, dropout and label smoothing (Vaswani et al., 2017); AdamW today (Loshchilov & Hutter, 2019).



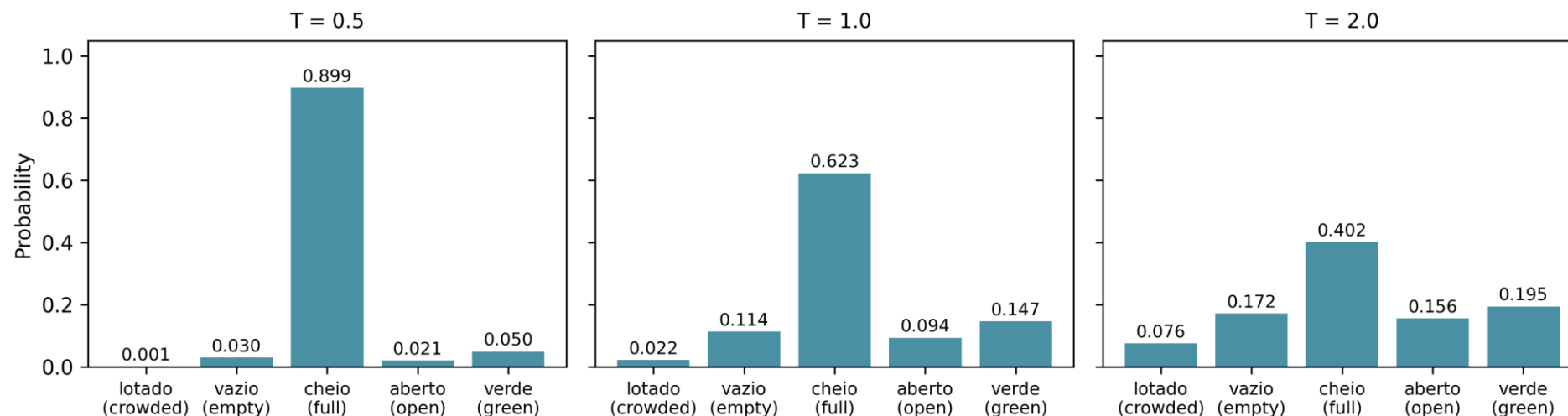
Scale

Loss falls as a power law with parameters, data and compute (Kaplan et al., 2020); data and parameters should grow together (Hoffmann et al., 2022).

Training: all positions in parallel (causal mask). Inference: one token at a time, with KV cache. Then: pre-training → fine-tuning → alignment (RLHF; Ouyang et al., 2022).

Logits, softmax and temperature

Figure 6 - Effect of temperature on softmax(logits/T) (computed logits; random output weights)



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Logits (position “estava”): lotado -0.818 · vazio 0.815 · cheio 2.516 · aberto 0.626 · verde 1.070

$T < 1$ concentrates probability (more deterministic); $T > 1$ spreads it. Random output weights: in a trained model, “lotado” would get a high probability.

From vector to chosen word

Strategy	How it works	In the example
Greedy	Always picks the most probable token	“cheio”
Sampling	Draws according to the probabilities	lotado 0.022 ... cheio 0.623
Top-k (Fan et al., 2018)	Restricts to the k most probable and renormalizes	k = 2: cheio 0.809 · verde 0.191
Top-p (Holtzman et al., 2020)	Smallest set with cumulative probability $\geq p$	p = 0.9: {cheio, verde, vazio, aberto} $\rightarrow$ 0.637; 0.150; 0.117; 0.096
Beam search	Several candidate sequences; picks the highest total probability	—

Why it is needed. Always picking the most probable tends to repetitive text; unrestricted sampling includes unlikely tokens. Top-k and top-p balance the extremes.

Disambiguating “banco”

Didactic toy: 4 axes [money, seat, people, wood]; attention with $W_q = W_k = 2 \cdot I$, $W_v = I$; cosine comparison against two sense prototypes.

Context	Contextualized vector	cos. bank	cos. seat
Isolated: “banco”	[0.700; 0.700; 0; 0]	0.632	0.632
“O banco estava lotado de clientes”	[0.524; 0.351; 0.229; 0]	0.851	0.468
“O banco da praça estava velho de madeira”	[0.310; 0.509; 0.006; 0.175]	0.452	0.858



Isolated

Equidistant from both senses (0.632×0.632).



Only the neighbours change

Same mechanism: with customers it moves toward the bank; with square and wood, toward the seat.

Care when reading attention maps

1 Attention $\neq$ explanation

Different weights can give the same prediction; attention is only part of the computation (Jain & Wallace, 2019; Wiegrefe & Pinter, 2019).

2 Empirical evidence

In trained models, vectors of the same word cluster by sense (Reif et al., 2019) and get more context-specific in upper layers (Ethayarajh, 2019).

3 Intervention and circuits

Knowing what the model “uses” requires intervention experiments and circuit analysis (Elhage et al., 2021; Olsson et al., 2022).

Visualization tool: Vig (2019).

Capabilities nobody programmed

A Concept

A property of the whole that is in no component (Anderson, 1972). Nothing in the code mentions senses or syntax.

W With scale

Abilities absent in smaller models and present in larger ones (Wei et al., 2022a): few-shot, chain-of-thought.

S Debate

Part of the jumps may come from discontinuous metrics (Schaeffer et al., 2023). The topic remains open.

G ≠ grokking

Grokking is delayed generalization during training on small tasks (Power et al., 2022; Nanda et al., 2023). Emergence by scale occurs along model size.

B And “banco”?

Disambiguation already appears in BERT-base (110 million parameters): there is no fixed layer threshold. The capability comes from training and grows with scale.

What this work does not show

D Of this document

- Examples with tiny dimensions, a single head, hand-set or random weights.
- Omitted: biases, dropout, cross-attention, mixture of experts and attention alternatives such as state-space models (Gu & Dao, 2023).
- Layer, normalization and position details vary across models.

M Of the mechanism itself

- **n^2 cost:** long context may use the middle poorly (Liu et al., 2024).
- **Hallucination:** no step checks truthfulness (Ji et al., 2023).
- **“Just statistics”?** Bender & Koller (2020) deny understanding from form alone; Li et al. (2023) find internal domain states (Othello).
- **Emergence:** nature of the jumps is debated.

Key takeaways

1 No explicit rule

“Banco” is resolved by context: attention mixes neighbours into the token’s vector.

2 Every step has a reason

Numbers, vectors, order, context, stability, non-linearity, depth and output.

3 Weights are the knowledge

Training adjusts weights to predict the next token; inference only uses them.

4 Emergence, with caution

Capabilities arise from training and scale; the debate on jumps remains open.

5 Check the sources

12 of 64 references checked at source; 14 links audited. Numbers are didactic.

Terms and concepts (1/8)

Term	Definition	§
Adam / AdamW	Optimizers with per-parameter adaptive rate; AdamW decouples weight decay.	10
ALiBi	Linear bias on attention scores, proportional to the distance between tokens.	4
Attention	Weighted average of vectors, with weights from query–key compatibility.	5
Attention head	One of h parallel attentions, with its own W_q , W_k and W_v .	6
Autoregressive	Generates one element at a time, conditioned on those already generated.	2, 11
Backpropagation	Computes loss gradients for all weights, propagating the error by the chain rule.	10
Beam search	Keeps several candidate sequences and picks the most probable one.	11
BERT	Encoder-only model trained with masked tokens and bidirectional attention.	2, 10
BPE (Byte Pair Encoding)	Tokenization that iteratively merges the most frequent adjacent symbol pair.	3
Causal mask	Blocks attending to future positions by giving $-\infty$ to the corresponding scores.	6

Terms and concepts (2/8)

Term	Definition	§
Chain-of-thought	Prompting where the model writes reasoning steps before answering.	13
Context	Tokens that condition a prediction (previous ones, or the whole sequence if bidirectional).	5, 12
Contextualized token	A token's vector after attention, carrying information from the other tokens.	5
Cosine similarity	Alignment between vectors: dot product over the norms, from -1 to 1 .	12
Cross-attention	Queries from one sequence (decoder); Keys and Values from another (encoder).	14
Cross-entropy	Loss measuring how far the predicted distribution is from the correct token: $-\log p$.	10
d_{model} , d_{k} , d_{ff}	Model dimension, per-head dimension (d_{model}/h) and FFN hidden dimension.	4, 6, 8
Decoding	Rule that picks the output token (greedy, top-k, top-p, beam).	11
Dot product	Sum of component-wise products; measures alignment.	5
Dropout	Regularization that randomly zeroes activations during training.	10

Terms and concepts (3/8)

Term	Definition	§
Embedding	Learned dense vector representing a token (or a position).	4
Emergence	System-level property arising from many interacting components, not programmed.	13
Encoder / decoder	Encoder reads with bidirectional attention; decoder generates with causal attention.	2
Feed-forward (FFN)	Two linear layers with a non-linearity, applied to each position.	8
Few-shot	Using the model with a few examples in the prompt, without updating weights.	13
Fine-tuning	Additional training, after pre-training, for a task or behaviour.	10
Forward pass	Passing the input through the layers to the output, without updating weights.	2
GELU	Smooth activation function used in BERT and GPT.	8
Gradient	Derivatives of the loss with respect to the weights; shows how to adjust them.	10
Grokking	Delayed generalization, long after memorization, on small algorithmic tasks.	13

Terms and concepts (4/8)

Term	Definition	§
Hallucination	Fluent output that is factually wrong or unsupported by the context.	14
Induction head	Two-head circuit that finds past occurrences of a pattern and predicts its continuation.	9
Inference	Running the trained model, with frozen weights, to generate an output.	2
Interpretability	Methods to understand what the model computes and why.	12
Key	Projection $X \cdot W_k$: what each token offers to be found.	5
KV cache	Already computed Keys and Values, reused for each newly generated token.	6
Label smoothing	Softens the training target, reducing extreme confidence.	10
Layer	One Transformer block: attention, Add & Norm, FFN, Add & Norm.	9
LayerNorm	Per-token normalization across dimensions, with learned scale γ and shift β .	7
Logit	Unbounded real score per vocabulary token, before the softmax.	11

Terms and concepts (5/8)

Term	Definition	§
Logit lens / tuned lens	Project intermediate states onto the vocabulary to see per-layer predictions.	9
Masked language modeling	Hidden tokens are reconstructed from context on both sides.	10
Mixture of experts (MoE)	Each token activates only a subset of specialized FFN sub-networks.	14
Multi-head attention	h attentions in parallel in distinct subspaces, concatenated and projected by W_o .	6
One-hot	Vector with 1 at the correct token's position and 0 elsewhere.	10
Parameter / weight	Adjustable number learned during training.	10
Perplexity (PPL)	Exponential of the mean per-token loss; measures the model's "surprise".	10
Positional encoding	Vector added to the embedding to convey the token's position.	4
Pre-LN / Post-LN	Normalization before (Pre-LN) or after (Post-LN) the residual sum.	7
Pre-training	Initial training phase on a large volume of raw text.	10

Terms and concepts (6/8)

Term	Definition	§
Probing	Simple classifiers on internal representations to test what they contain.	9
Query	Projection $X \cdot W_q$: what each token is looking for.	5
ReLU	Activation function $\max(0, x)$.	8
Residual connection	Adds a sublayer's input to its output: $y = x + f(x)$.	7
RLHF	Reinforcement learning from human feedback, to align with preferences.	10
RMSNorm	Normalizes by the root mean square, without subtracting the mean.	7
RoPE	Position by rotating Q and K, expressing relative position.	4
Scaling law	Regular (power-law) relation between loss and parameters, data and compute.	10, 13
Self-attention	Attention where Queries, Keys and Values come from the same sequence.	5
SentencePiece	Subword library (BPE or Unigram) operating on raw text.	3

Terms and concepts (7/8)

Term	Definition	§
Softmax	Converts numbers into positive probabilities that sum to 1.	5, 11
SwiGLU	Gated activation (GLU) using Swish, common in recent models.	8
Temperature (T)	Divisor of the logits before softmax; controls how peaked the distribution is.	11
Token	Vocabulary unit (word, subword, byte or symbol).	3
Tokenization	Converting text into a sequence of tokens and IDs.	3
Top-k / Top-p (nucleus)	Sampling restricted to the k most probable or the smallest set with cumulative probability p.	11
Transformer	Attention-based architecture, with no recurrence or convolution.	1, 2
Unigram LM	Tokenization that starts from a large vocabulary and prunes less useful items.	3
Value	Projection $X \cdot W_v$: the content each token passes on.	5
Vocabulary	Finite set of tokens the model recognizes.	3

Terms and concepts (8/8)

Term	Definition	§
Warm-up	Initial training phase with a growing learning rate.	7, 10
Weight tying	Shares the embedding matrix with the output projection.	4, 11
WordPiece	Subwords with merges chosen by likelihood gain.	3

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