

Introduction to Transformers

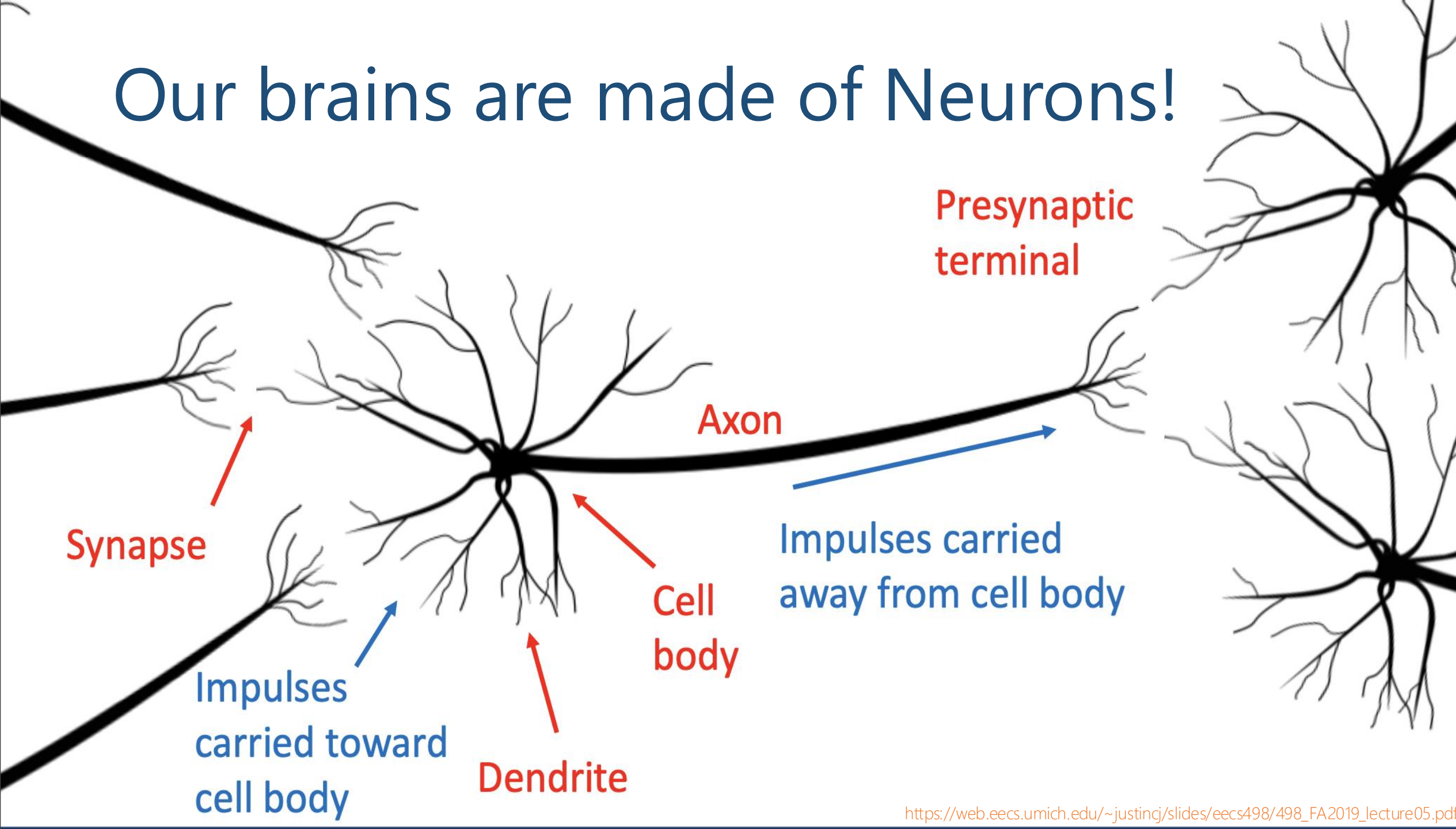
Chirag Agarwal

Assistant Professor

School of Data Science

University of Virginia

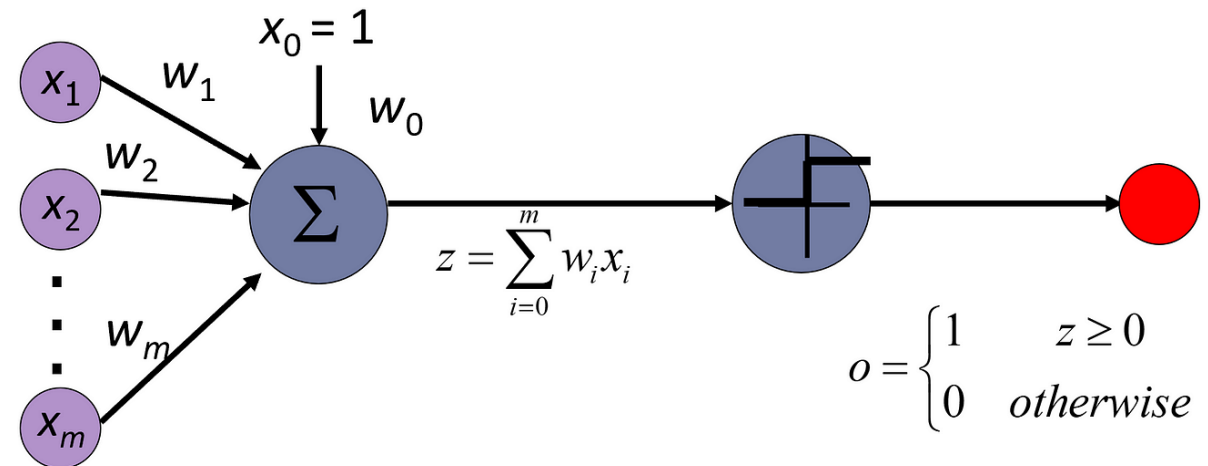
Our brains are made of Neurons!



Biological Neuron



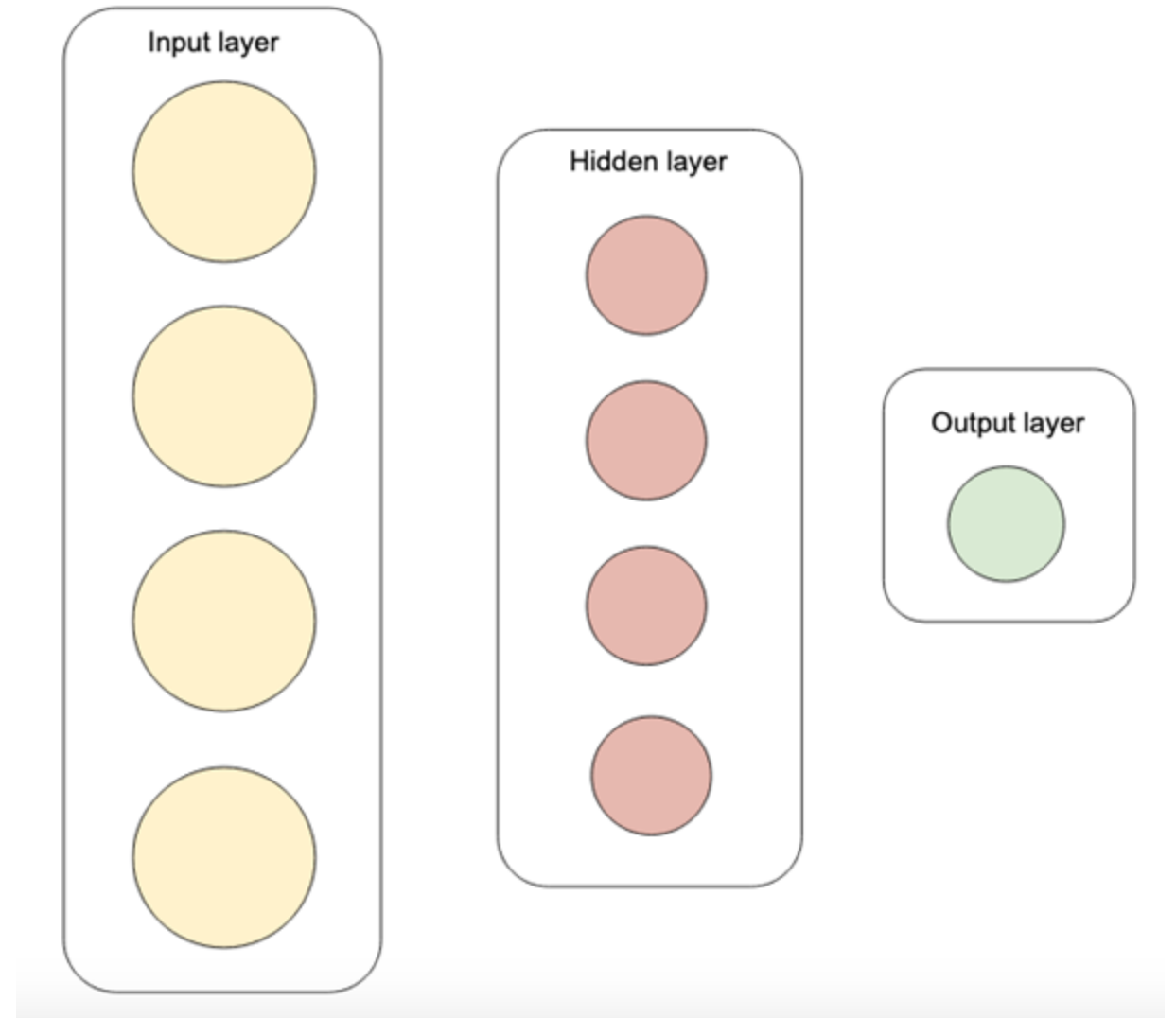
Artificial Neuron



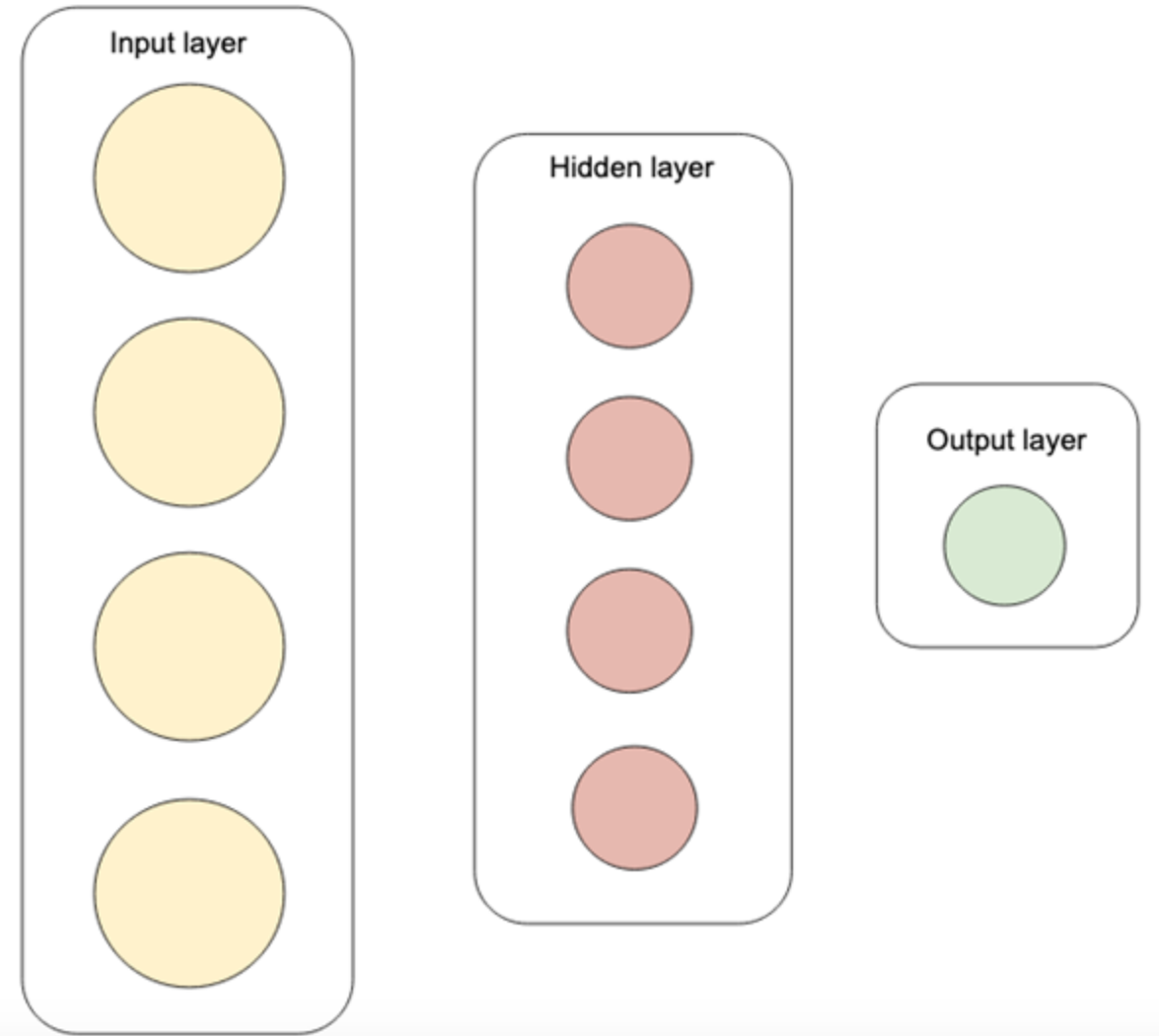


**Let's play
a Game!**

- We have 9 players arranged in three layers
- There is an input layer, a hidden layer, and an output layer.

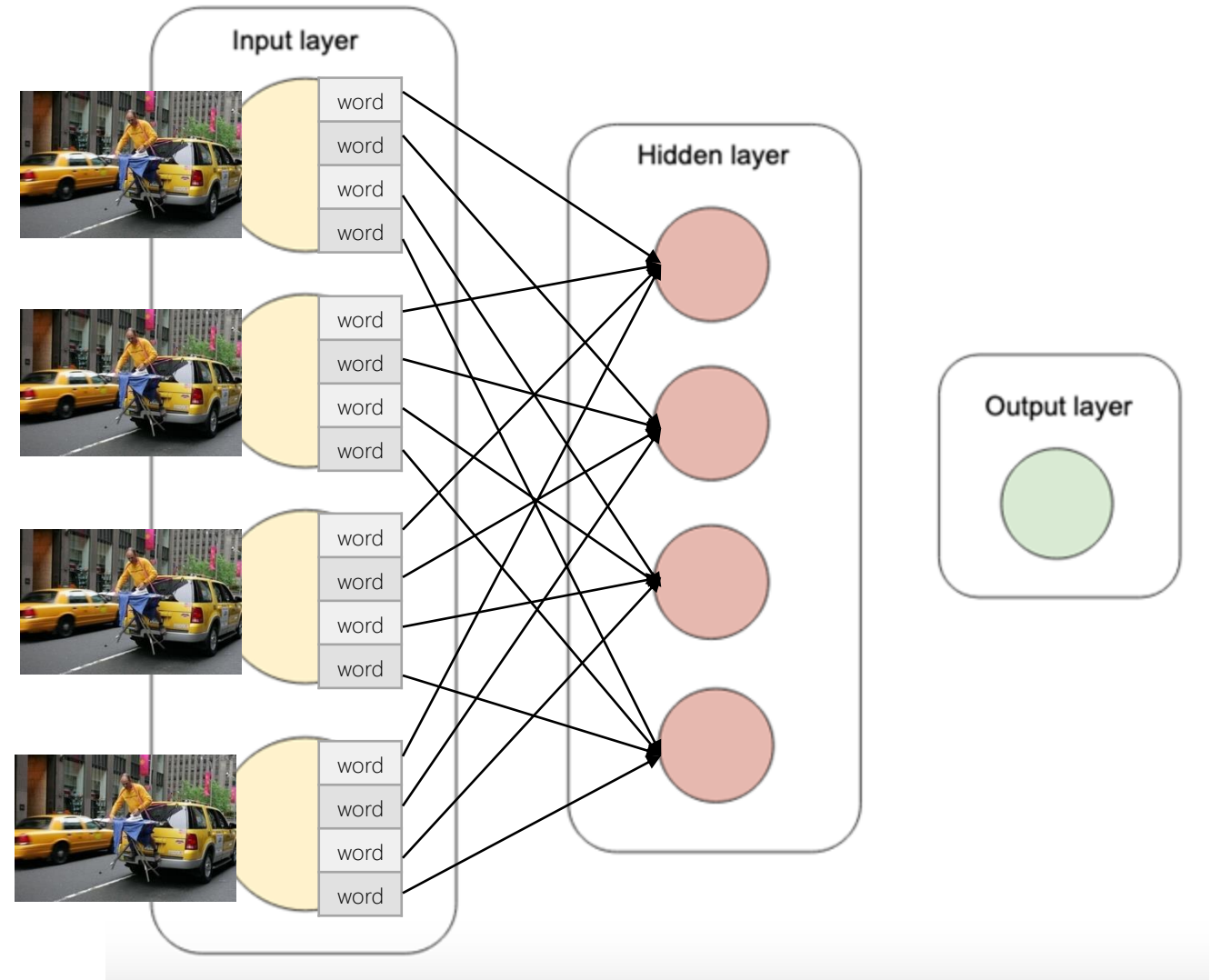


Step 1:



Step 1:

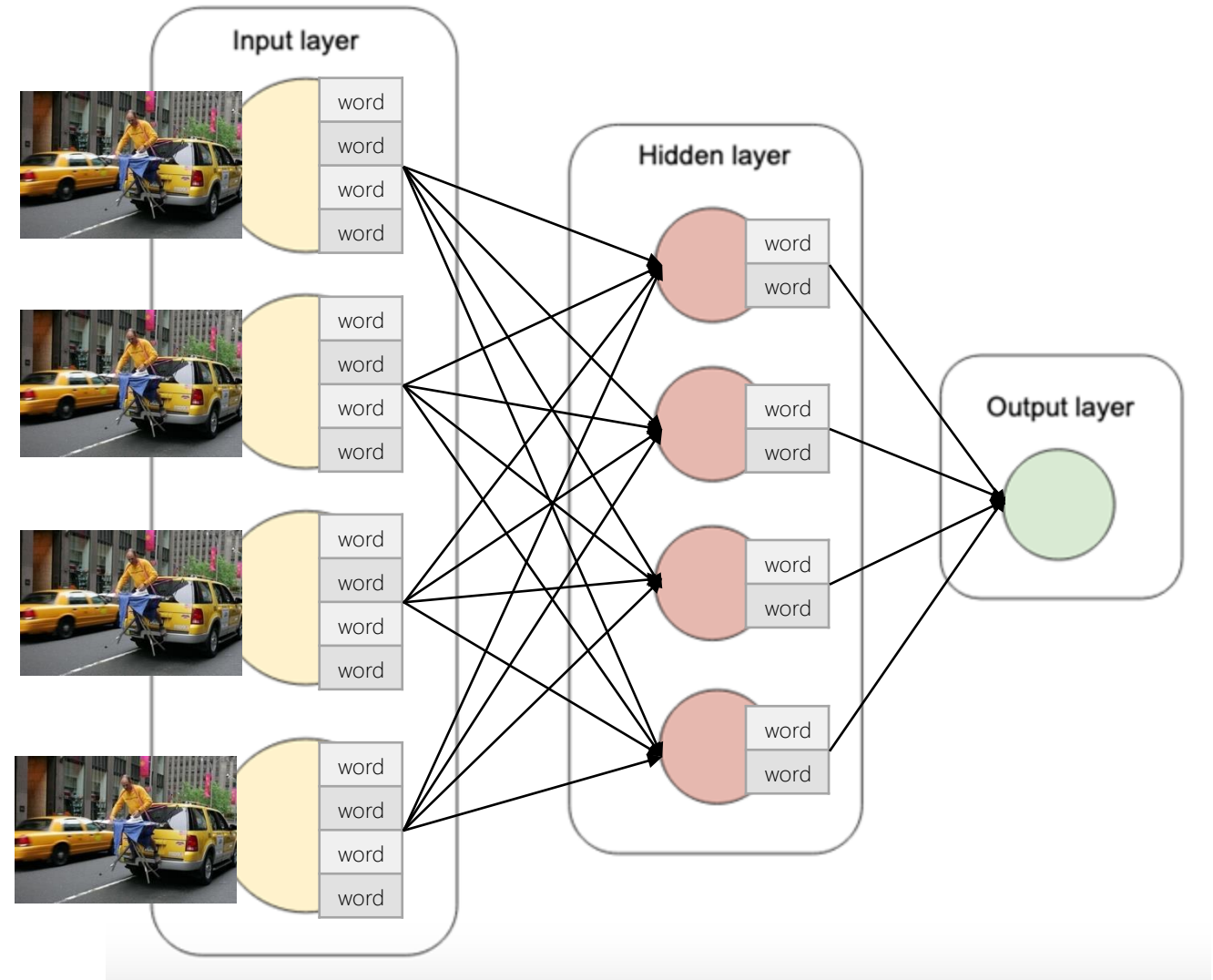
- players in the Input layer receives the image and write down 1 word on each slot (4 slots each)
- send 1 word to each of the 4 players in the hidden layer



Step 2:

Players in the Hidden layer:

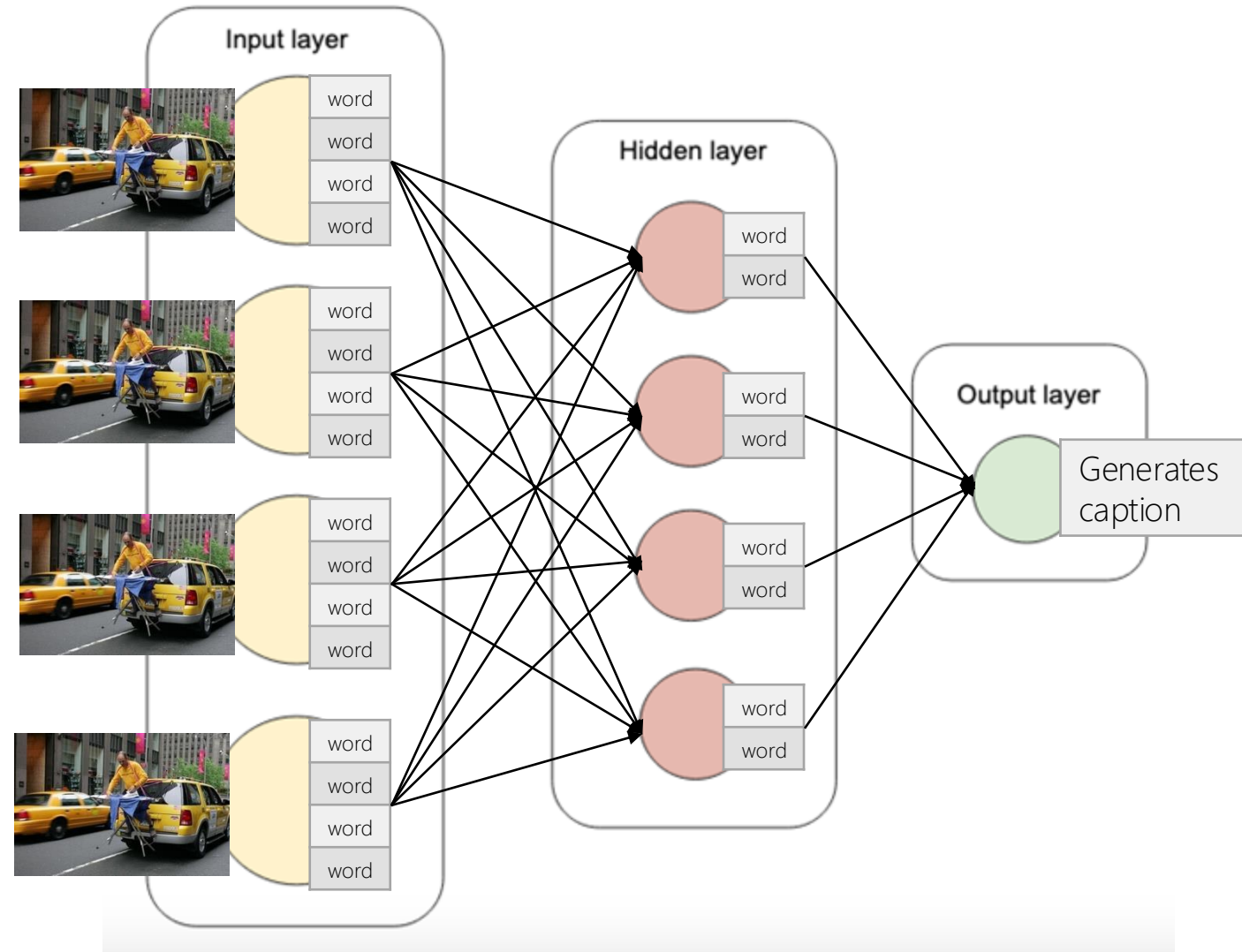
- receive 4 words each
- select 2 words to pass to the output node



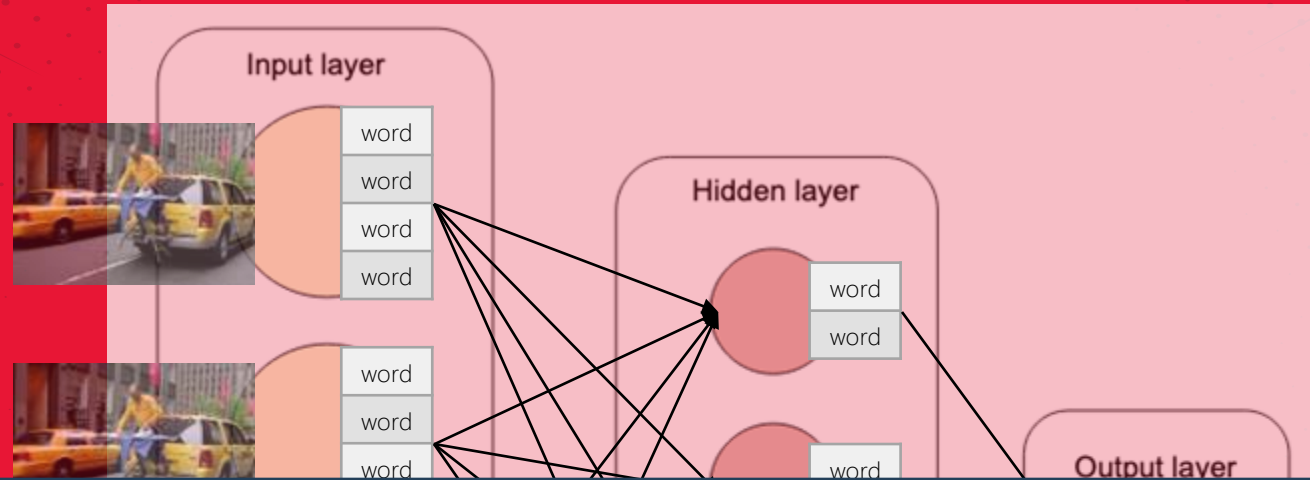
Step 3:

The output node:

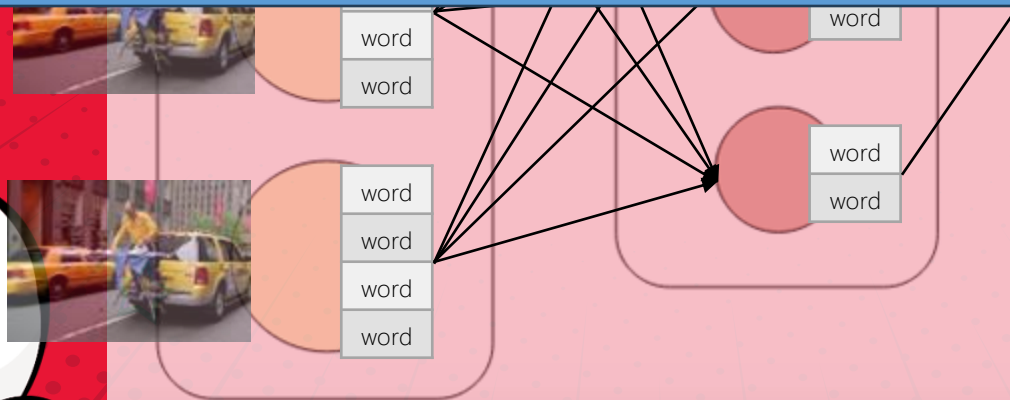
- receive 8 different words
- Picks 4 words to make a caption for an image with some filler words



You just learned what is
Feedforward!!



Feeding Forward!



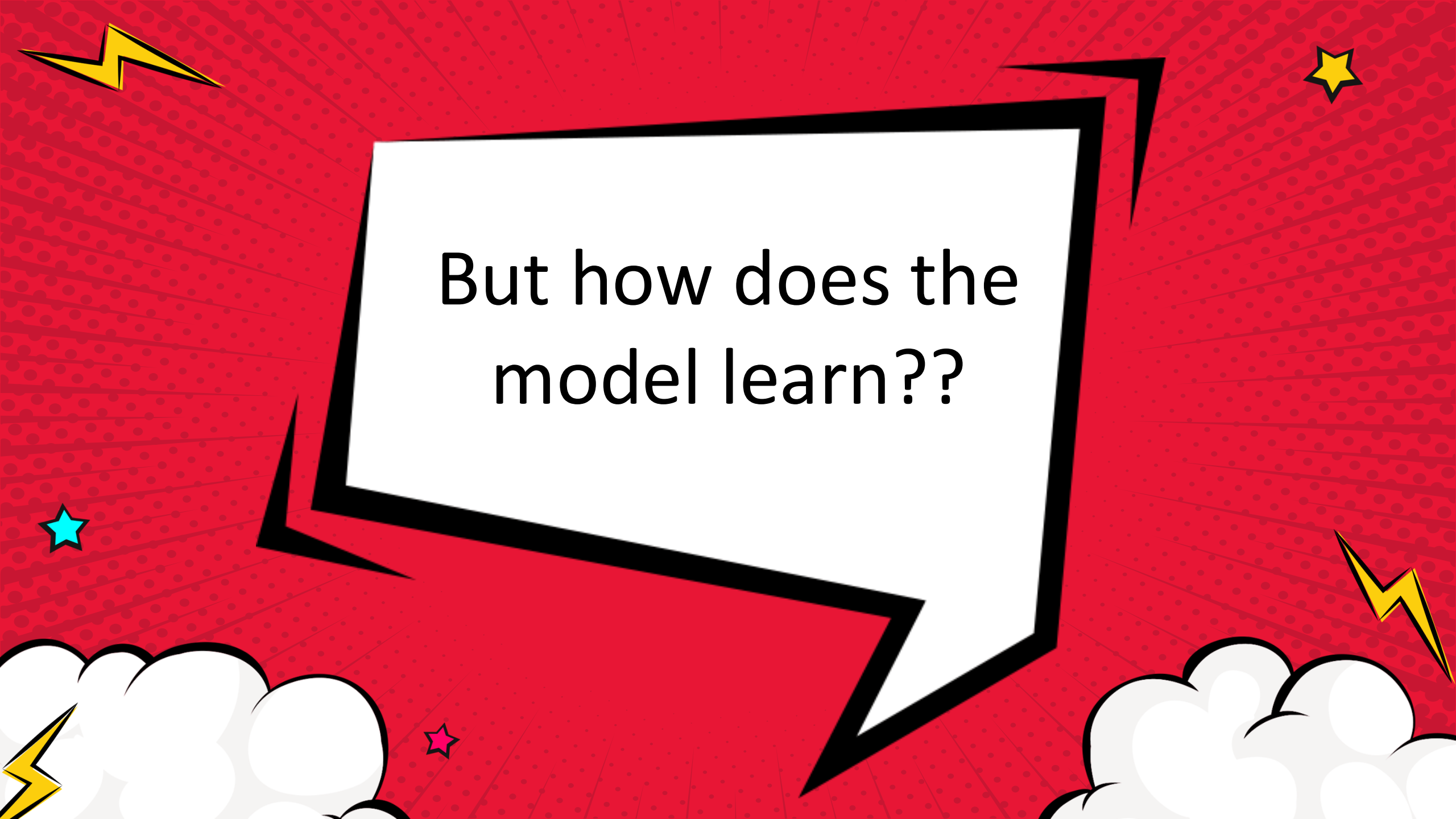
Step 4: Evaluate

Original
Caption

Wrinkles?
Not in
NYC!

Predicted
Caption

Sprinkles?
Got in
NYC!

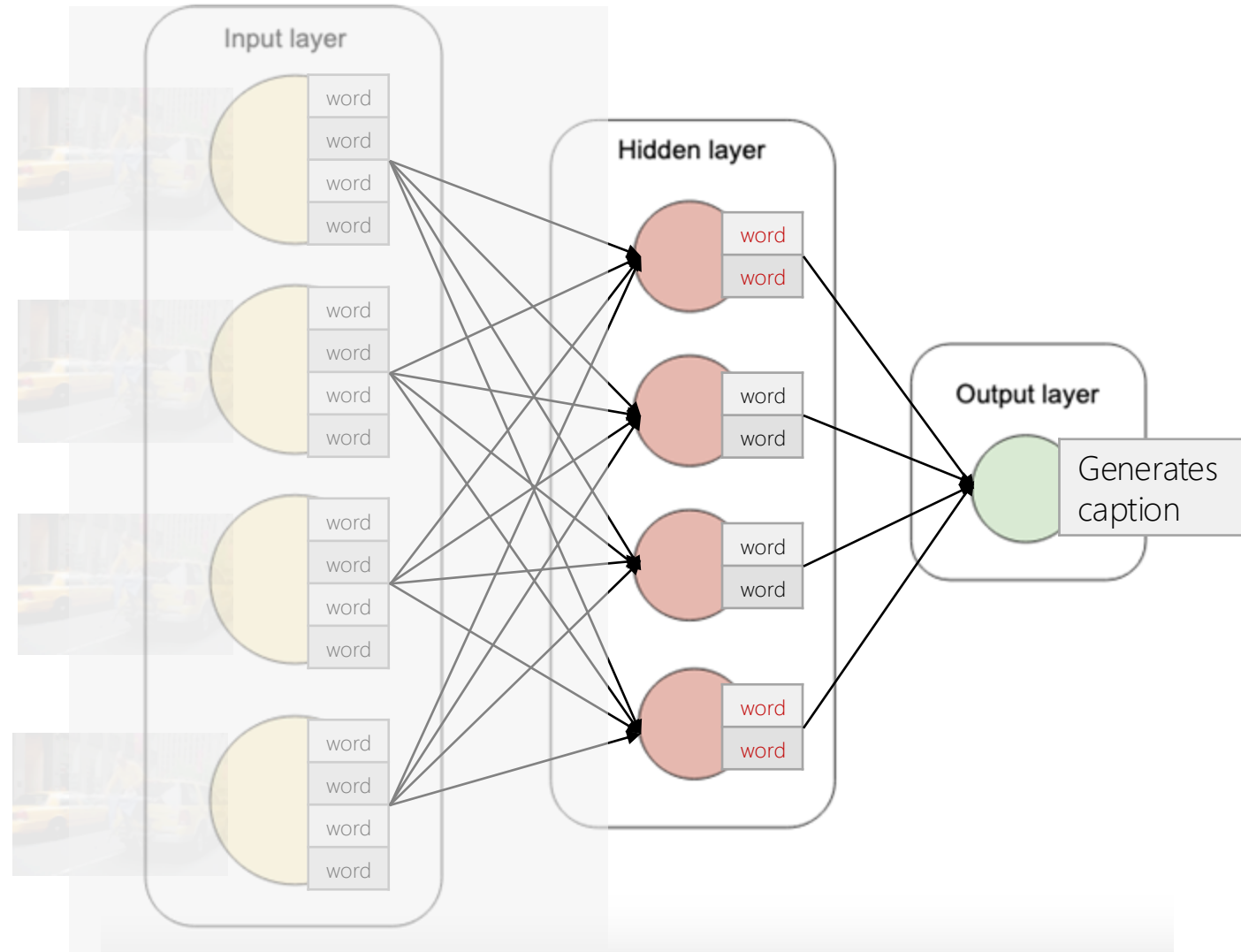


But how does the
model learn??

Step 5:

The output node:

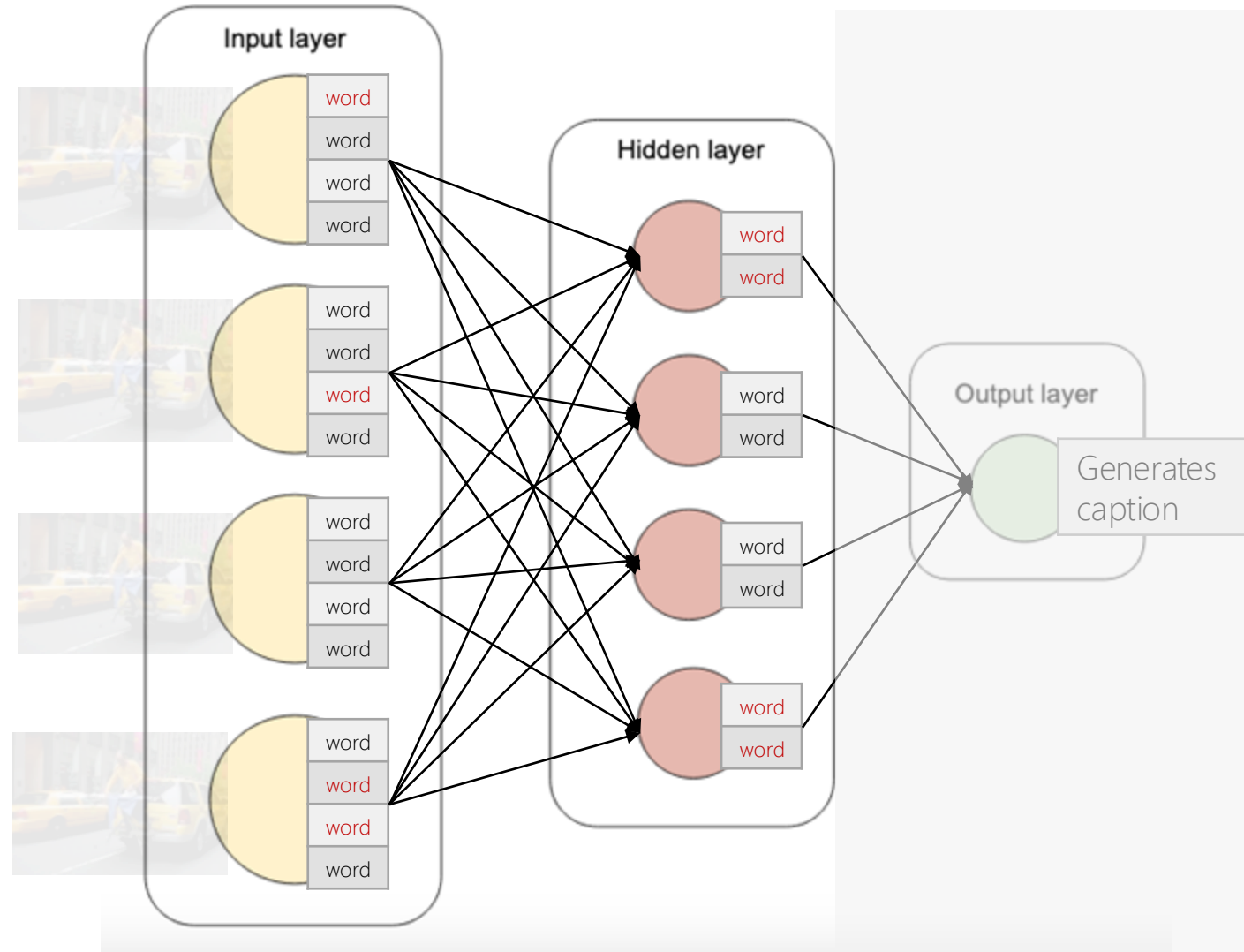
- Identifies the senders' words that were used in the original caption, i.e., the "correct" words
- Identifies which links gave "better" information



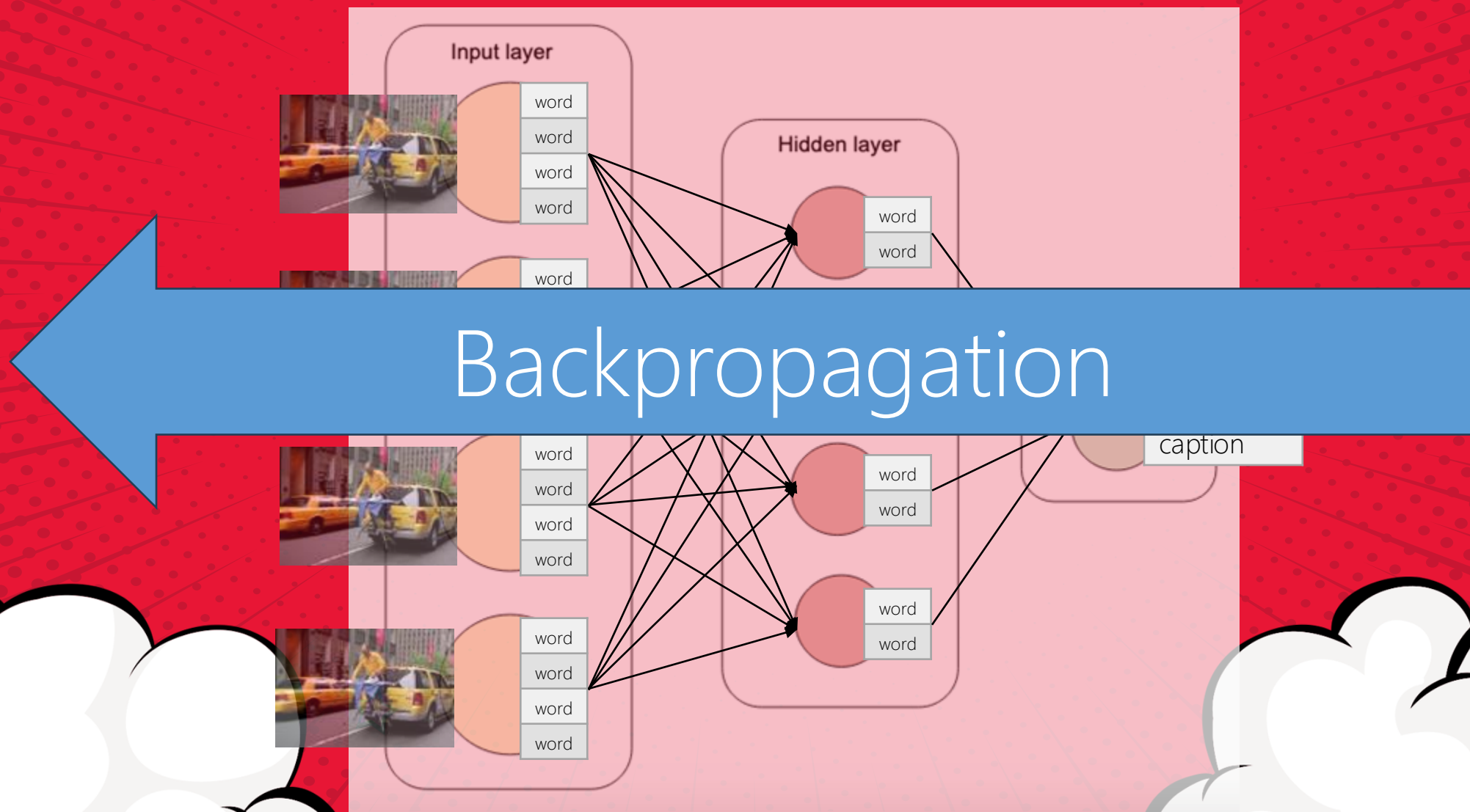
Step 6:

The hidden layer nodes:

- Circles the senders' words that were in the original caption. (these are "correct")
- Identifies which links gave "better" information

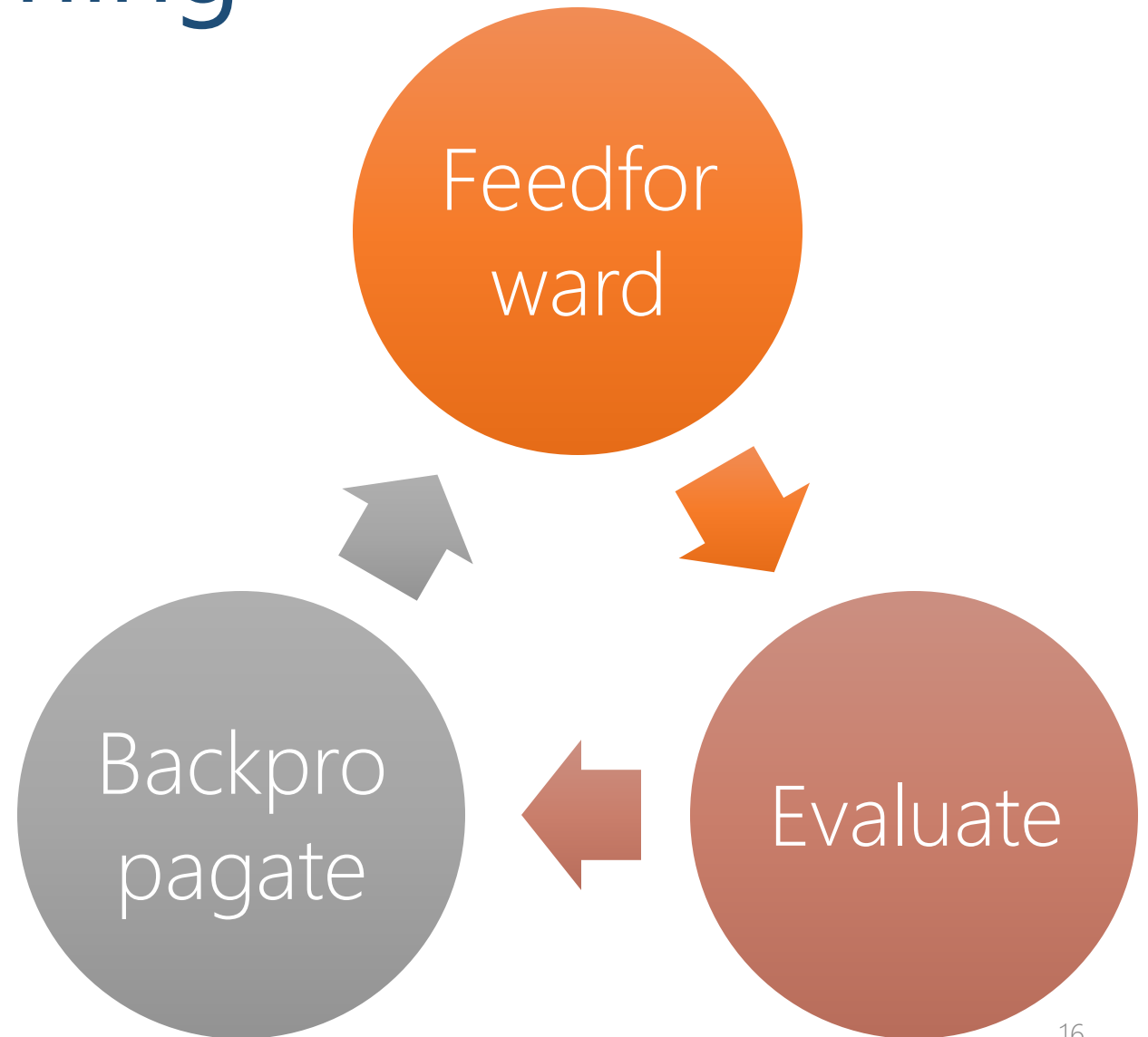


This is essentially Backpropagation!!



Neural Network learning

1. Each neuron finds out which words are right/wrong
2. adjusts its weights for how it picks words so the network can do better next time



Back to Transformers

The Early Ages

- Seq2Seq models
- Recurrent Neural Networks
- Long-Short Term Memory
- Gated Recurrent Unit



X Context

X Long term dependencies

The Current Age

- Transformers
- Logical, Mathematical and Commonsense Reasoning
- Alignment using RLHF
- Safety testing and jailbreaks
- Ethical and Fair models

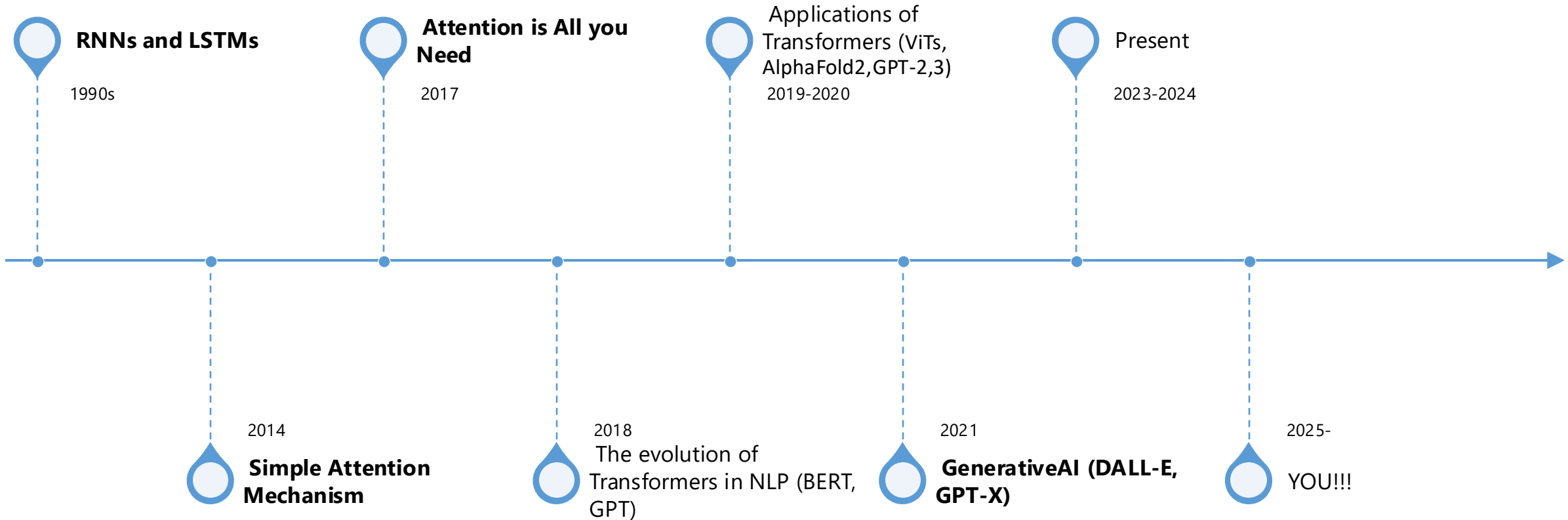


Context



Long term dependencies

Evolution of Attention



QUESTION ANSWERING

ARITHMETIC

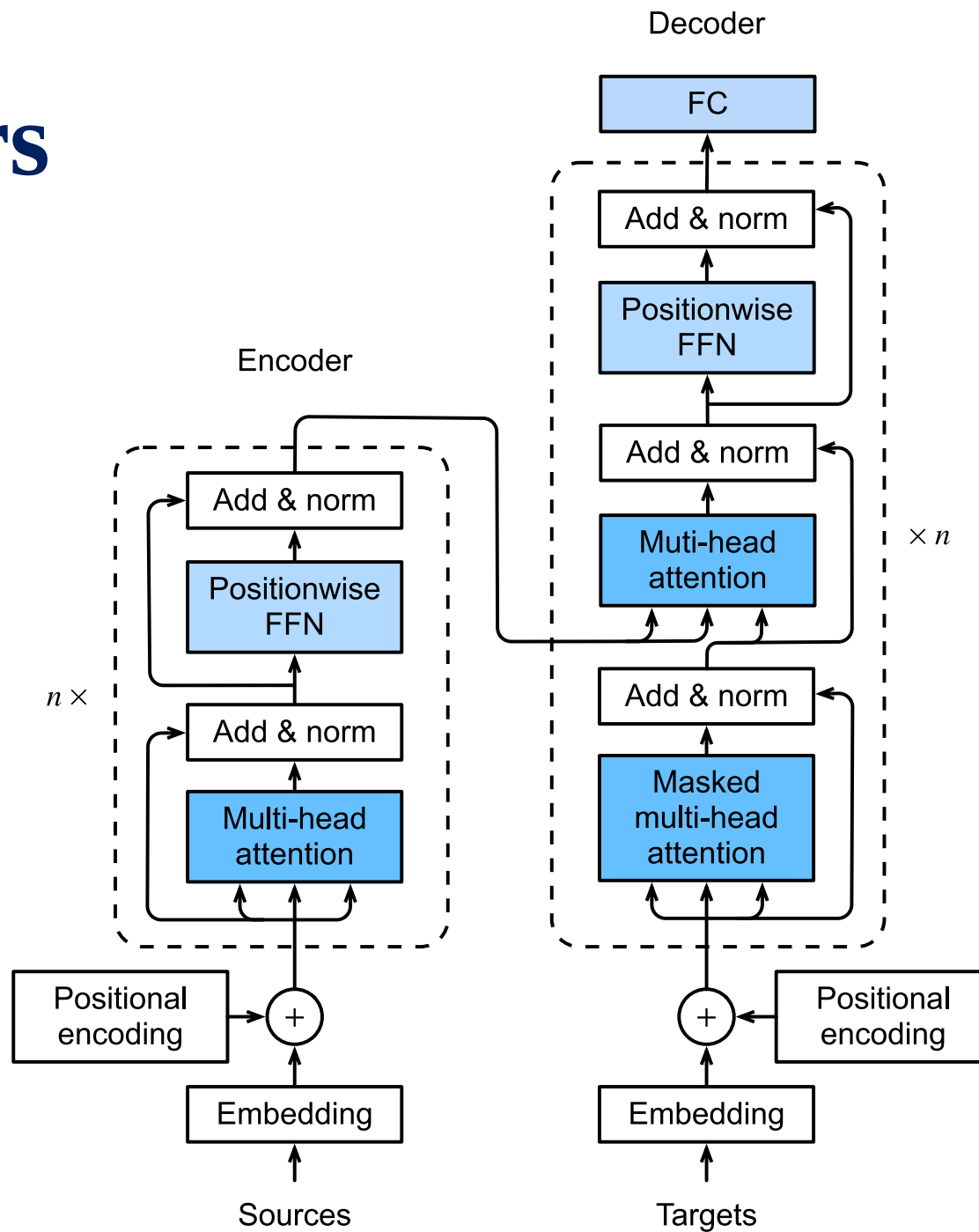


LANGUAGE UNDERSTANDING

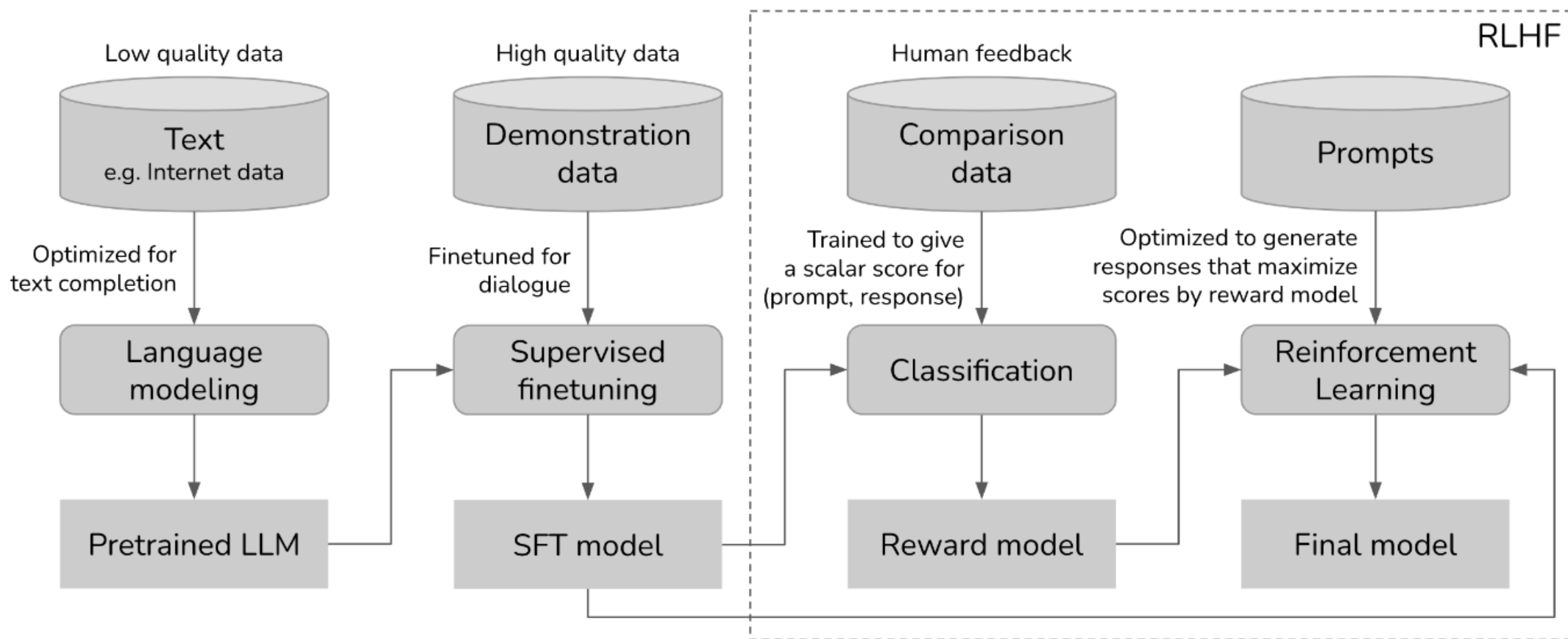
8 billion parameters



Transformers



Training Pipeline of Large Language Models



Input Processing

- Input
- Embedding Layer
- Position Embeddings

Let's consider a Dialogue Completer

Input Dialogue

It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are,

If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at

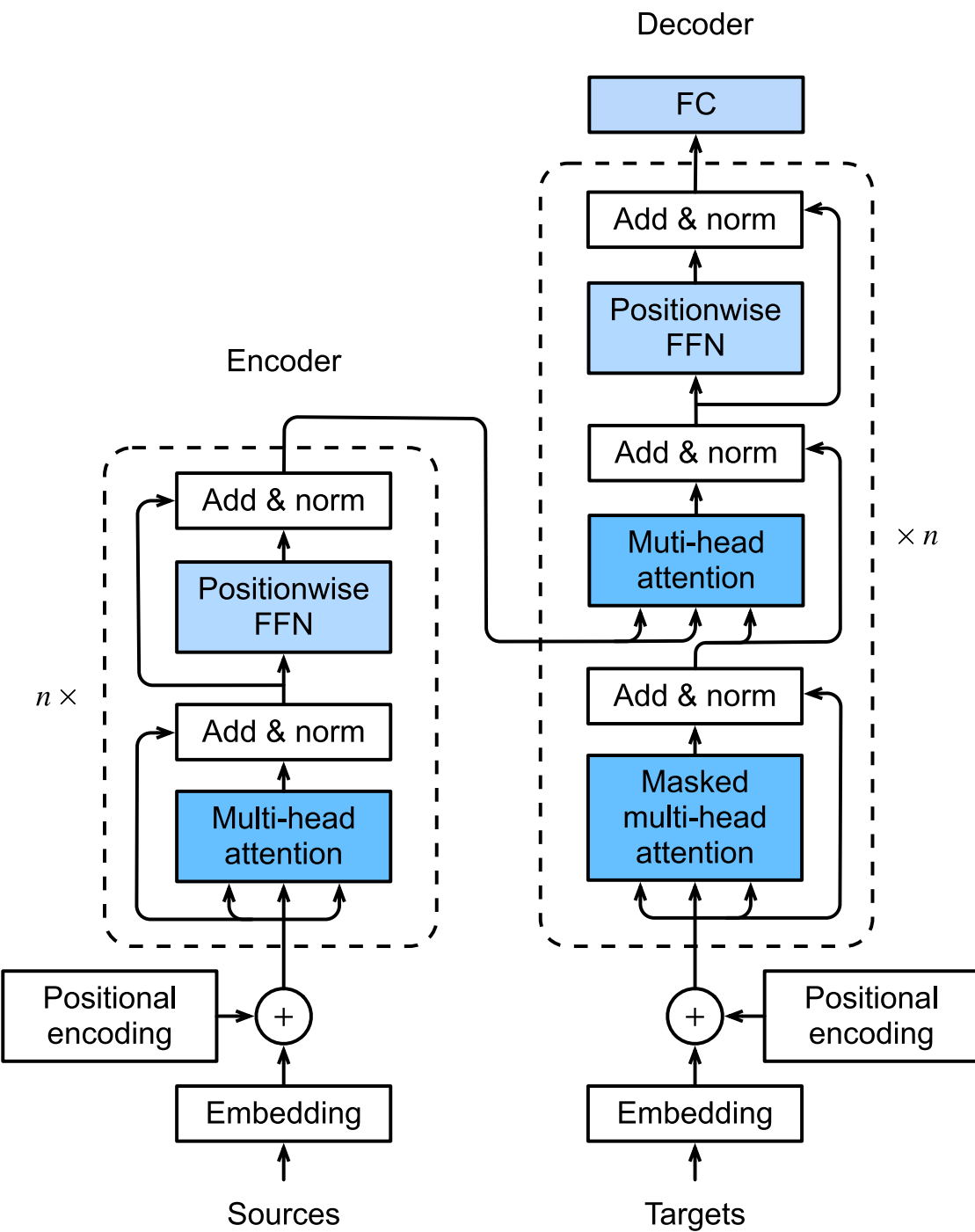
It matters not what someone is born,

Dialogue Completion

<start> far more than our abilities
<end>

<start> how he treats his inferiors, not his equals <end>

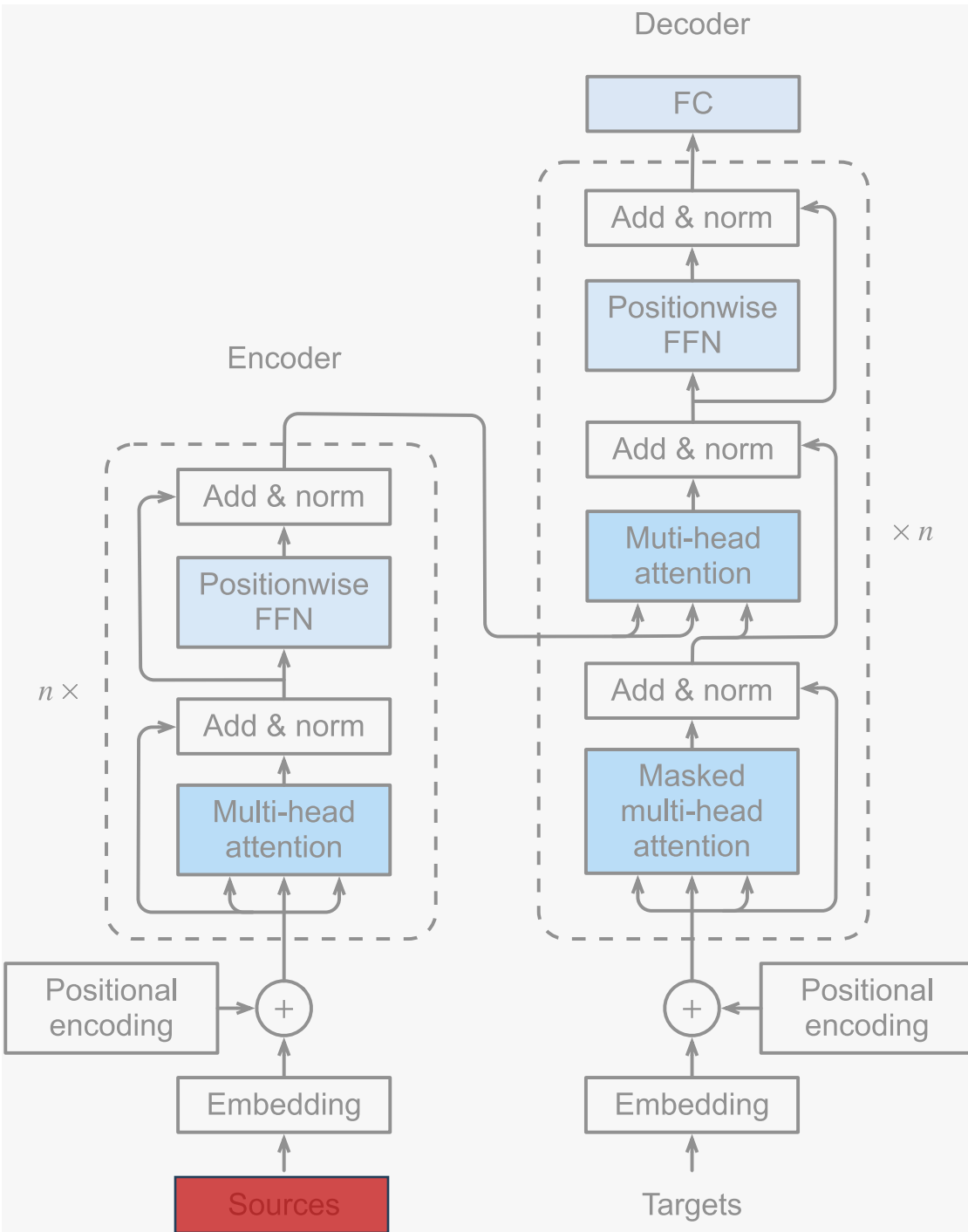
<start> but what they grow to be <end>

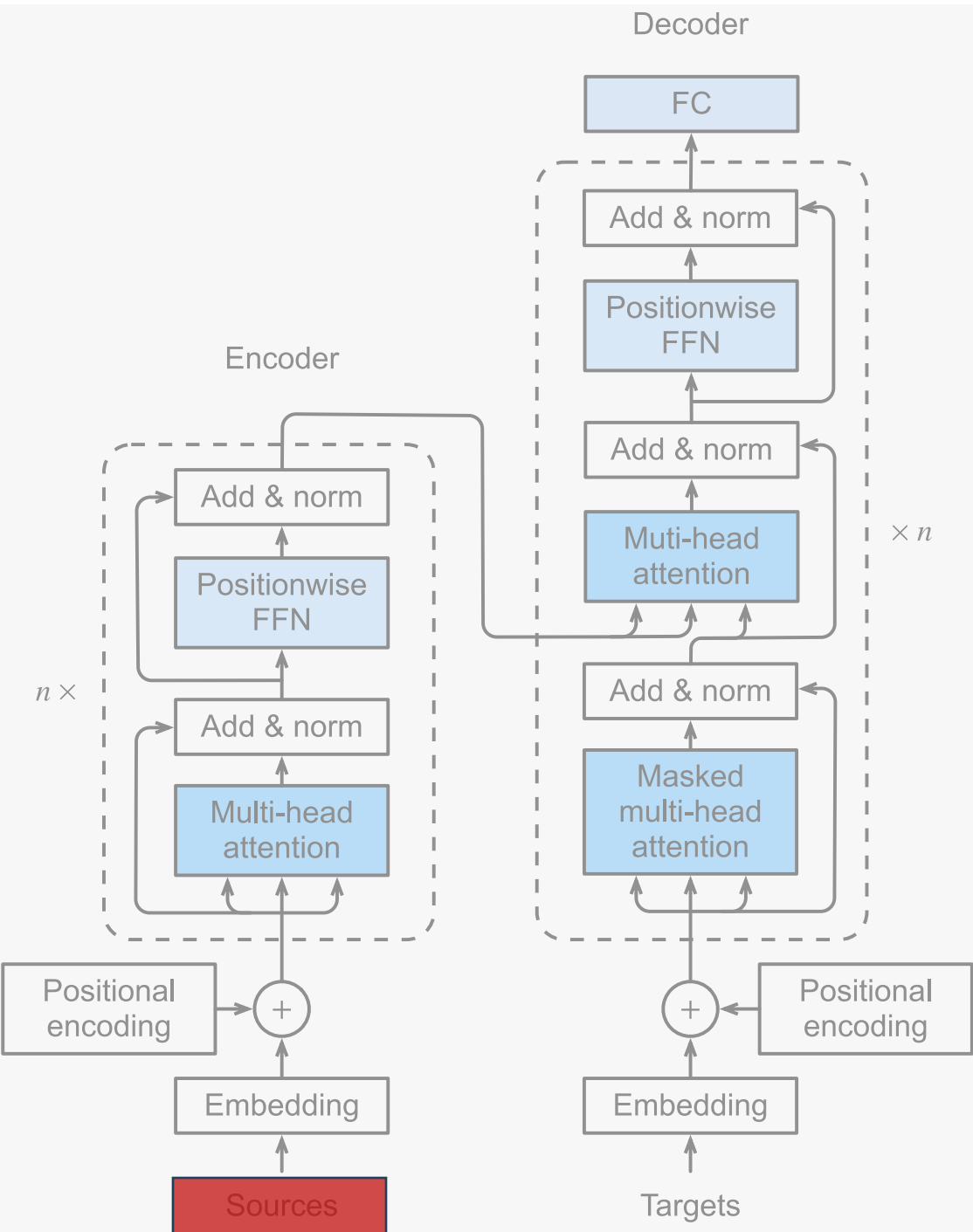


Input

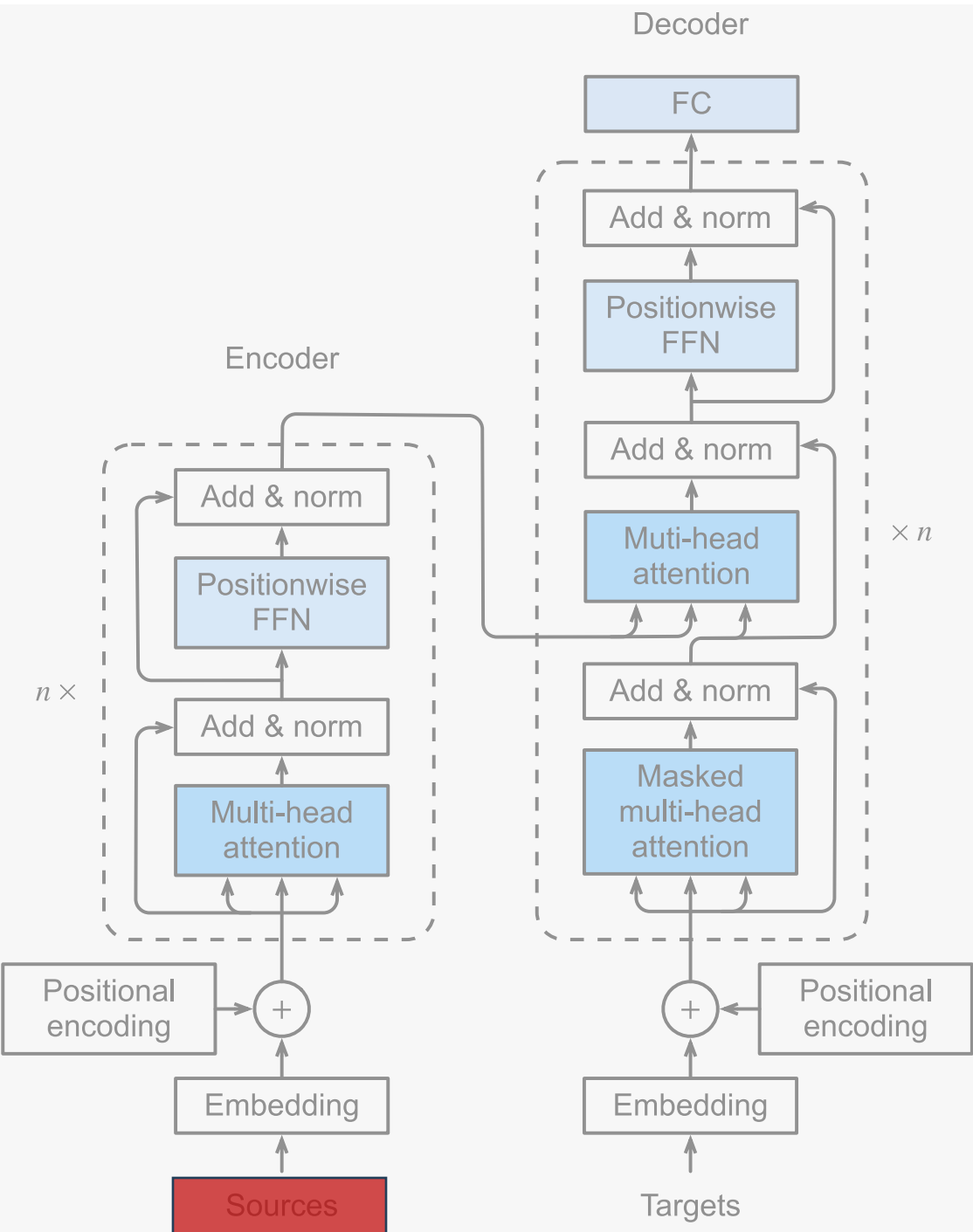
Text

It matters not what someone is born,





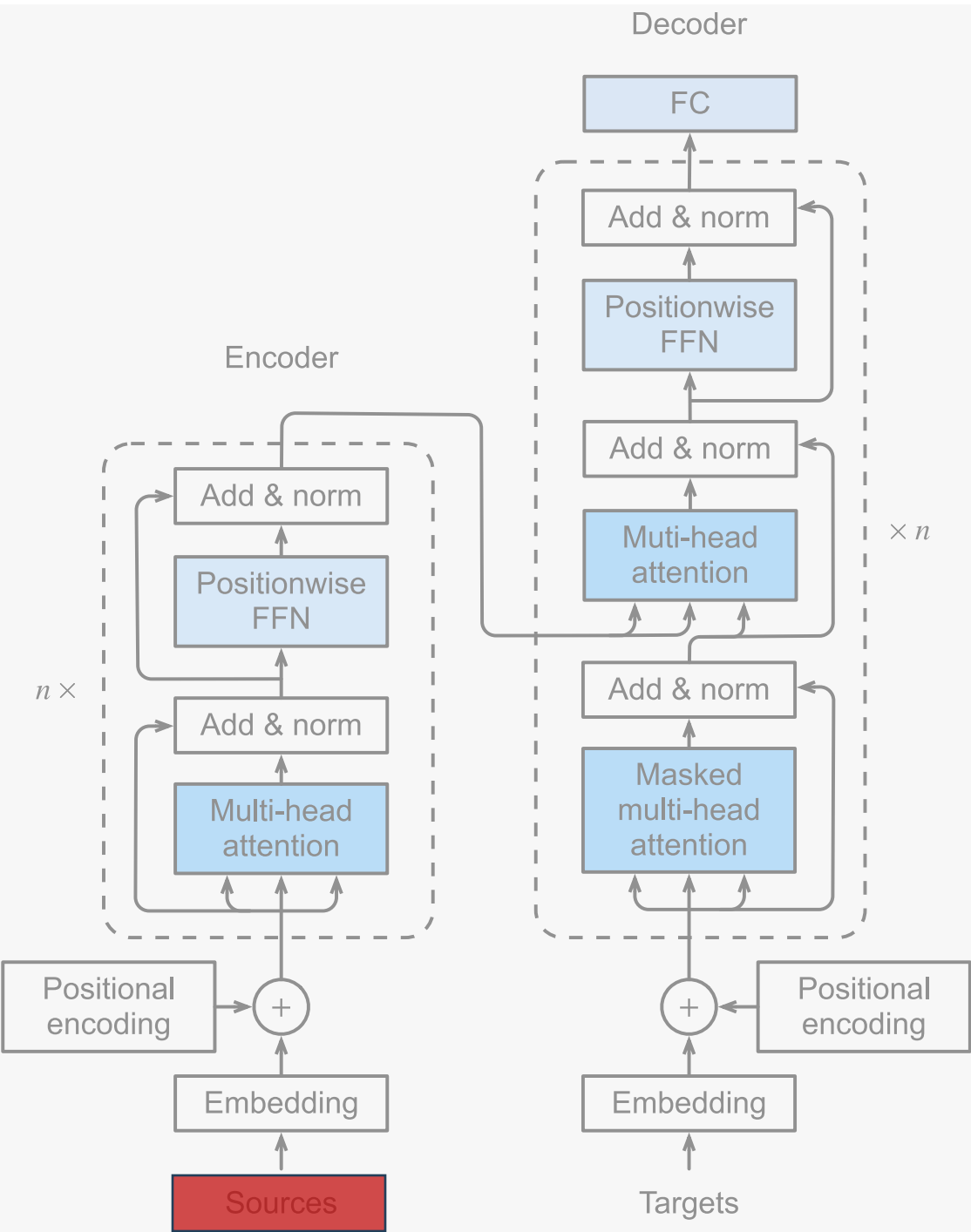
		Input	
Text		It matters not what someone is born,	
Vocabulary	...	...	Indices
	Harry	0	
	It	1	
	matters	2	
	Ron	501	
	not	612	
	what	697	
	...	...	
	someone	891	
	<YouKnow	1111	
	Who>		
	is	1200	
	born	1893	
	Hermione	3019	
	,	5001	



Input

Text	It matters not what someone is born,		
Vocabulary	It matters not what someone is born ,	1 2 612 697 891 1200 1893 5001	Indices

31



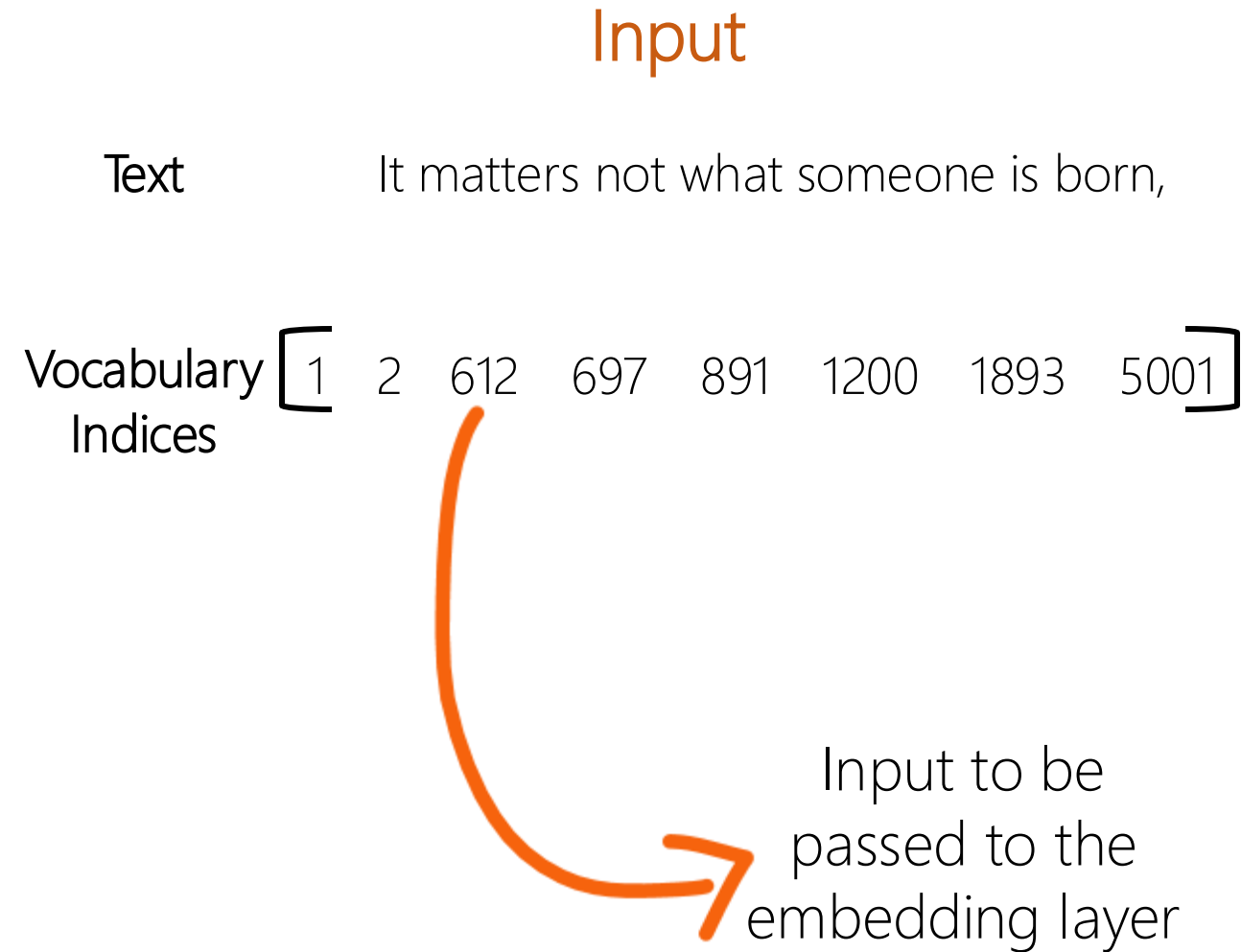
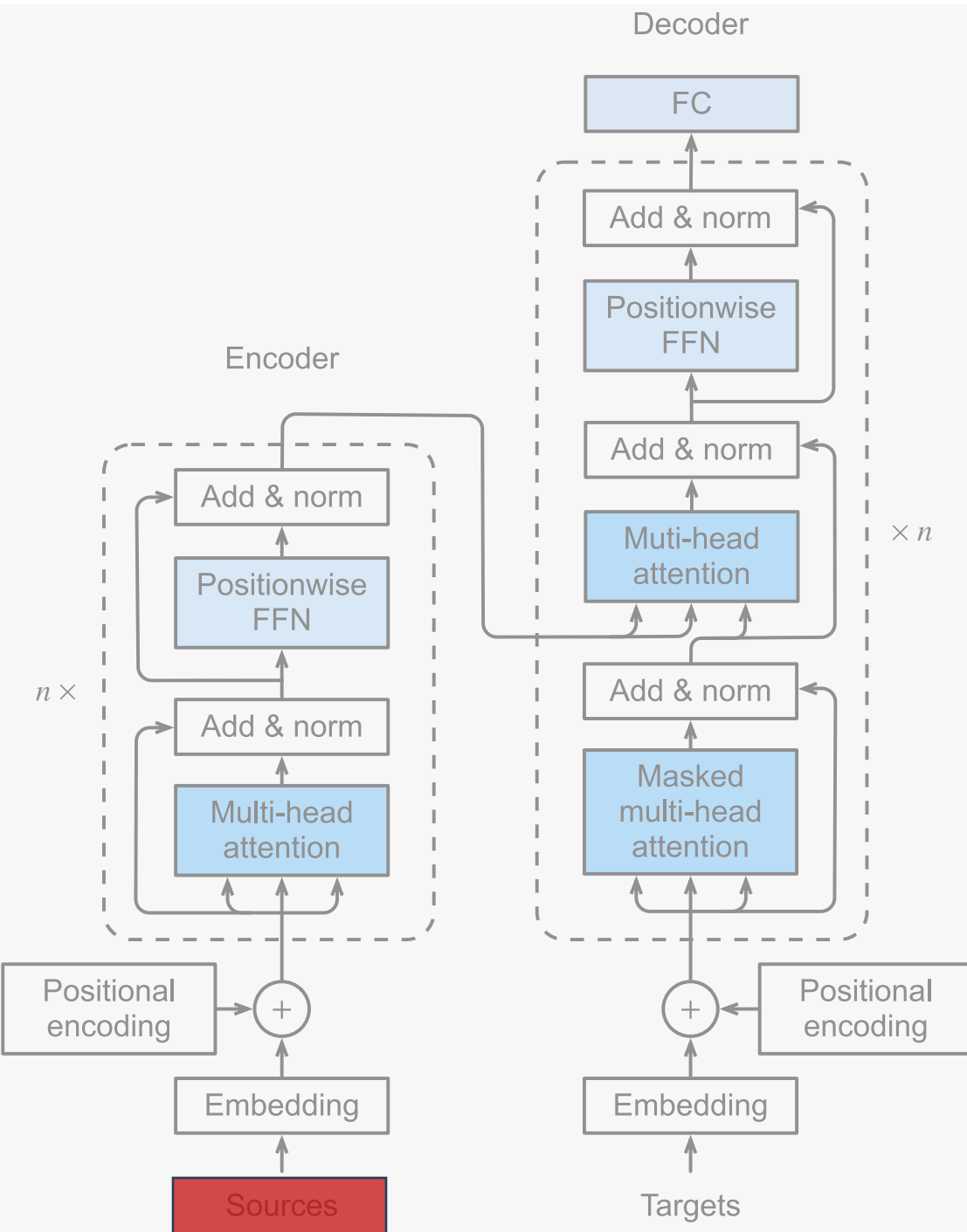
Input

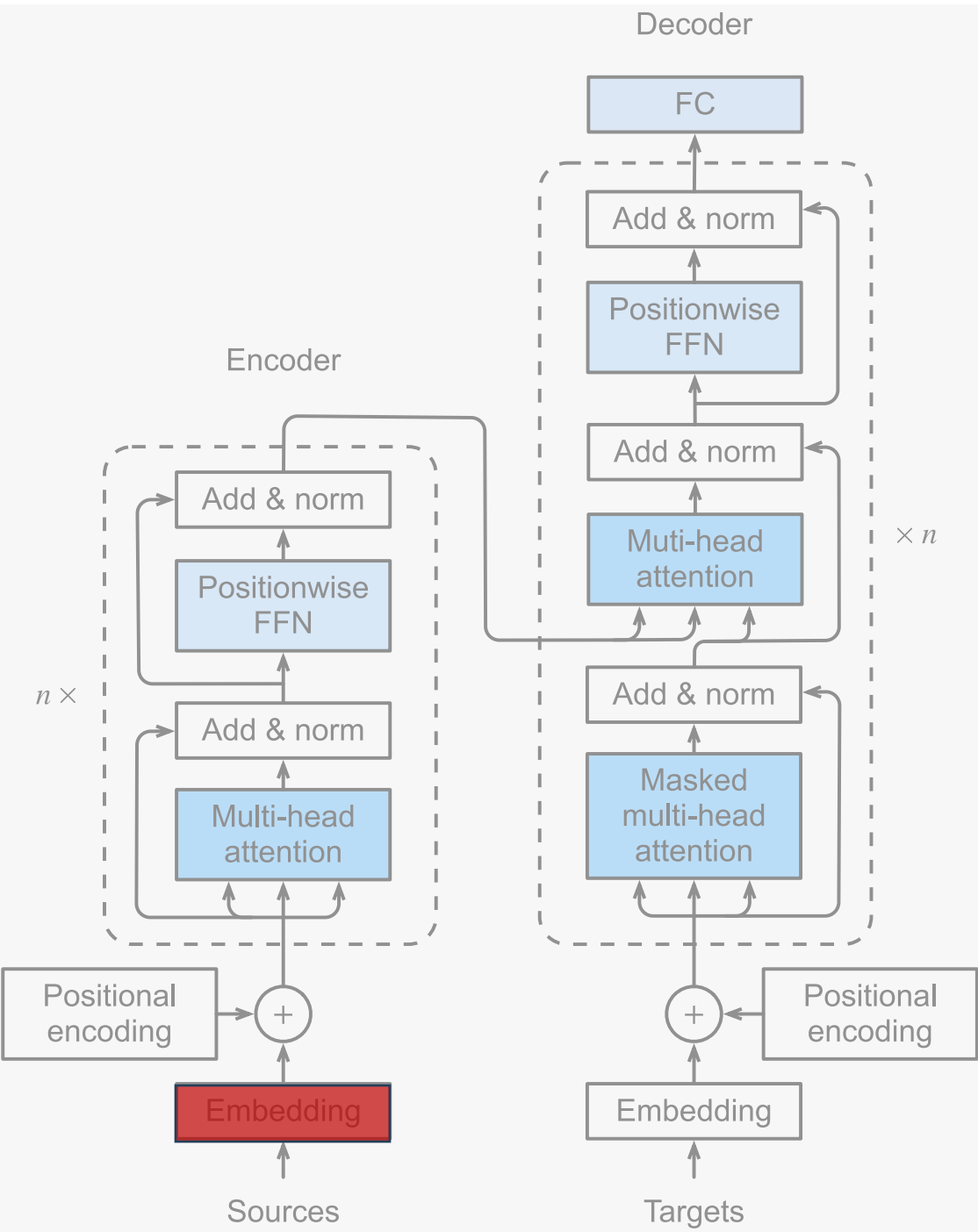
Text

It matters not what someone is born,

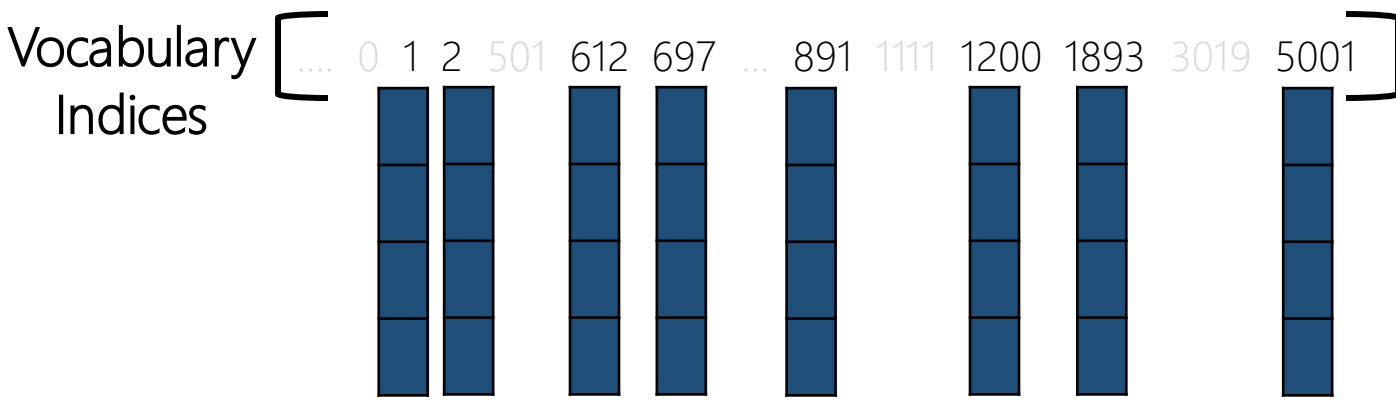
Vocabulary Indices

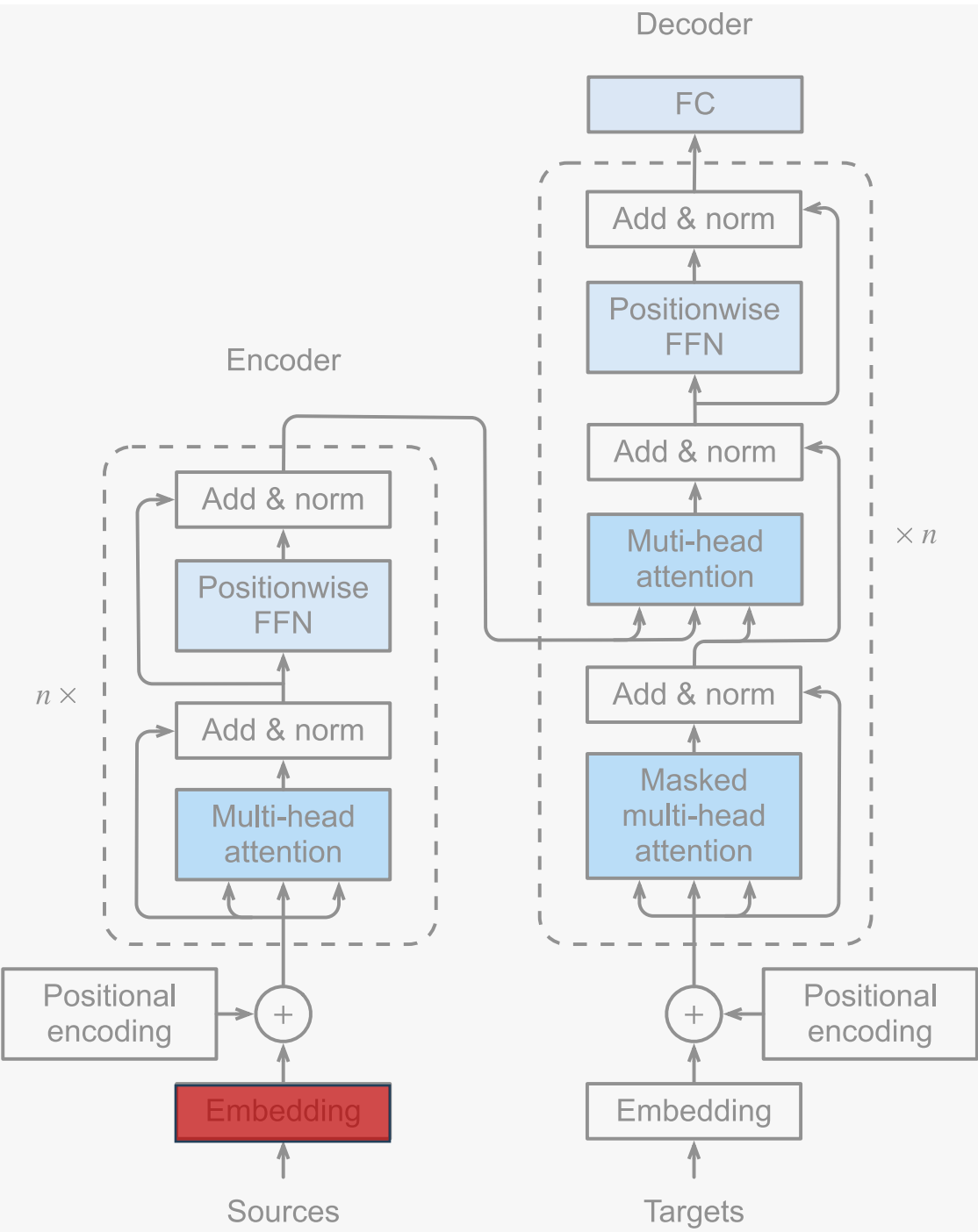
	x_0	x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4	x_5	x_6	x_7
	1	2	612	697	891	1200	1893	5001





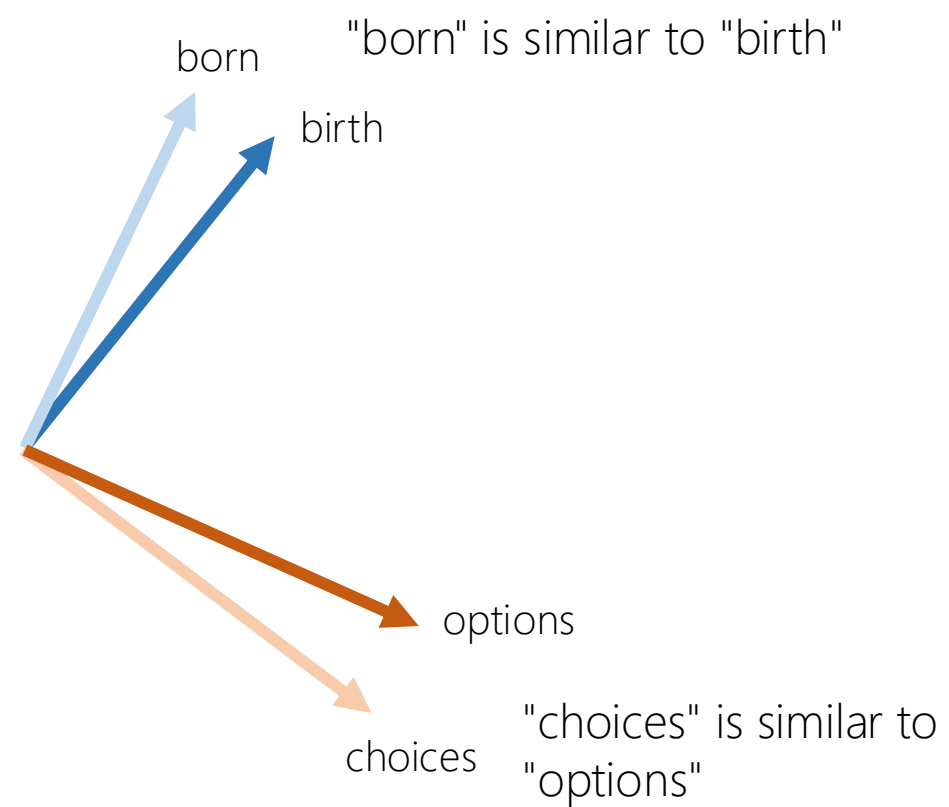
Input Embeddings

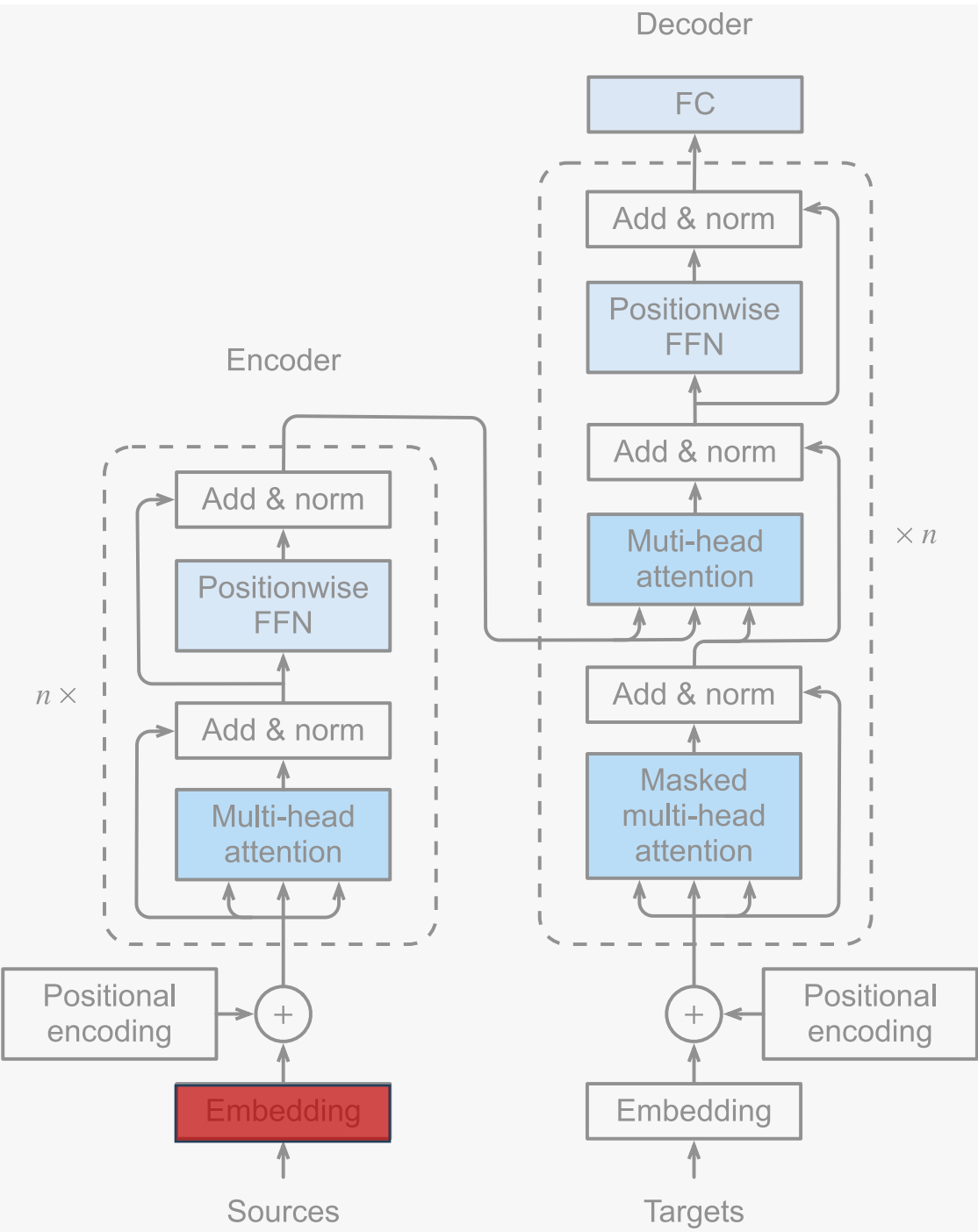




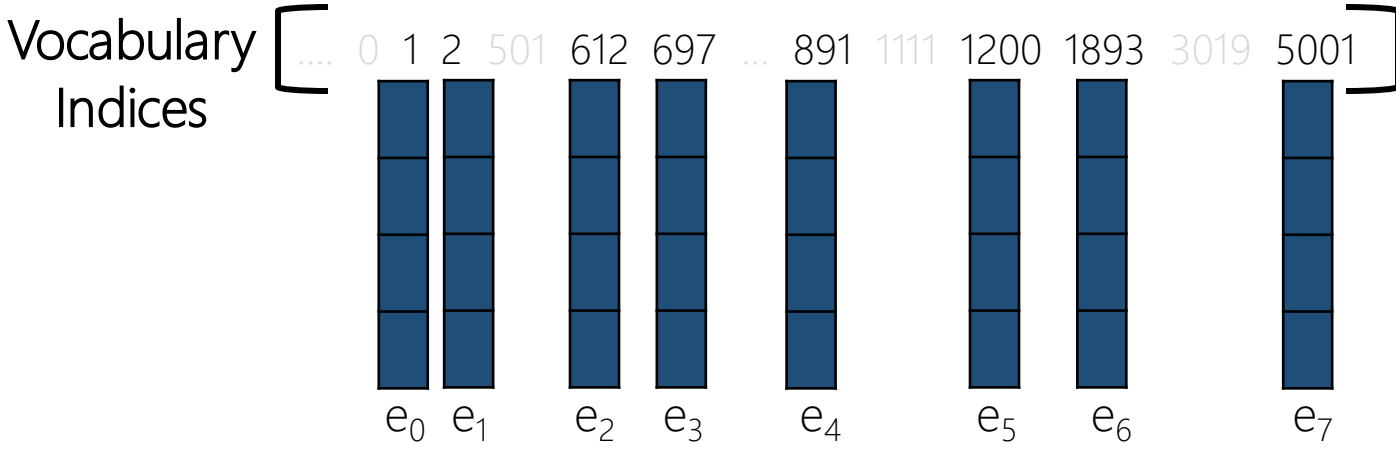
Input Embeddings

Vocabulary Indices [... 0 1 2 501 612 697 ... 891 1111 1200 1893 3019 5001]

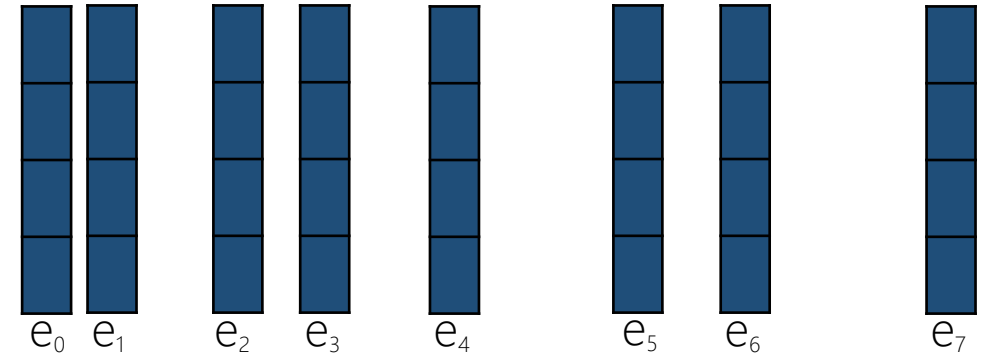




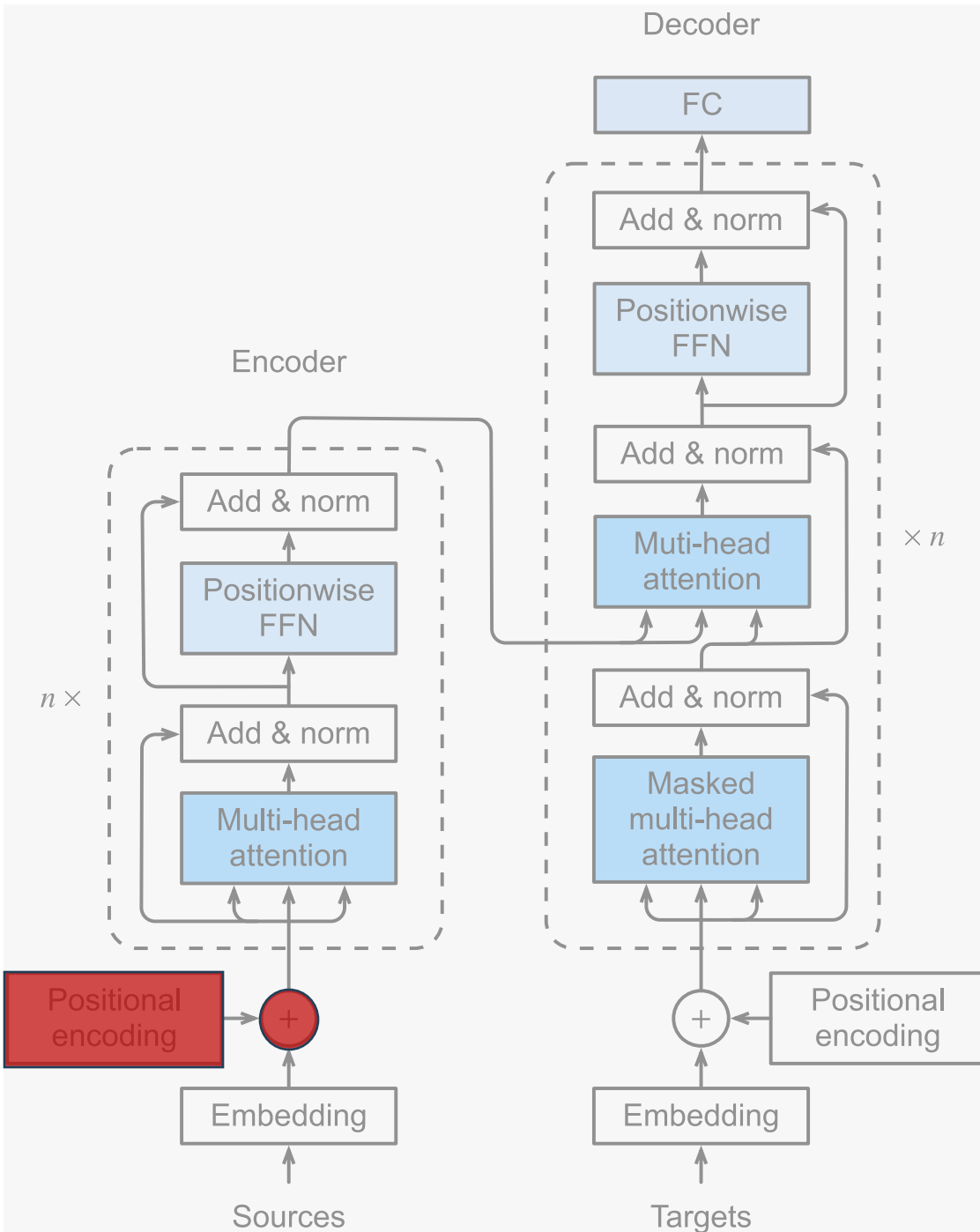
Input Embeddings



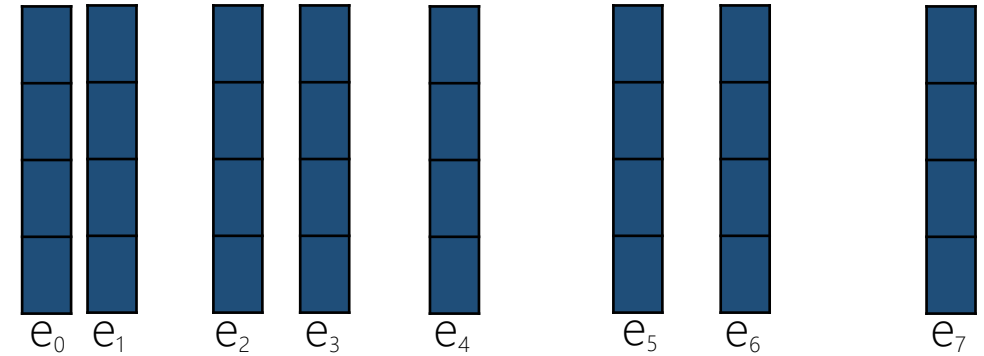
Why do we need Positional Embedding?



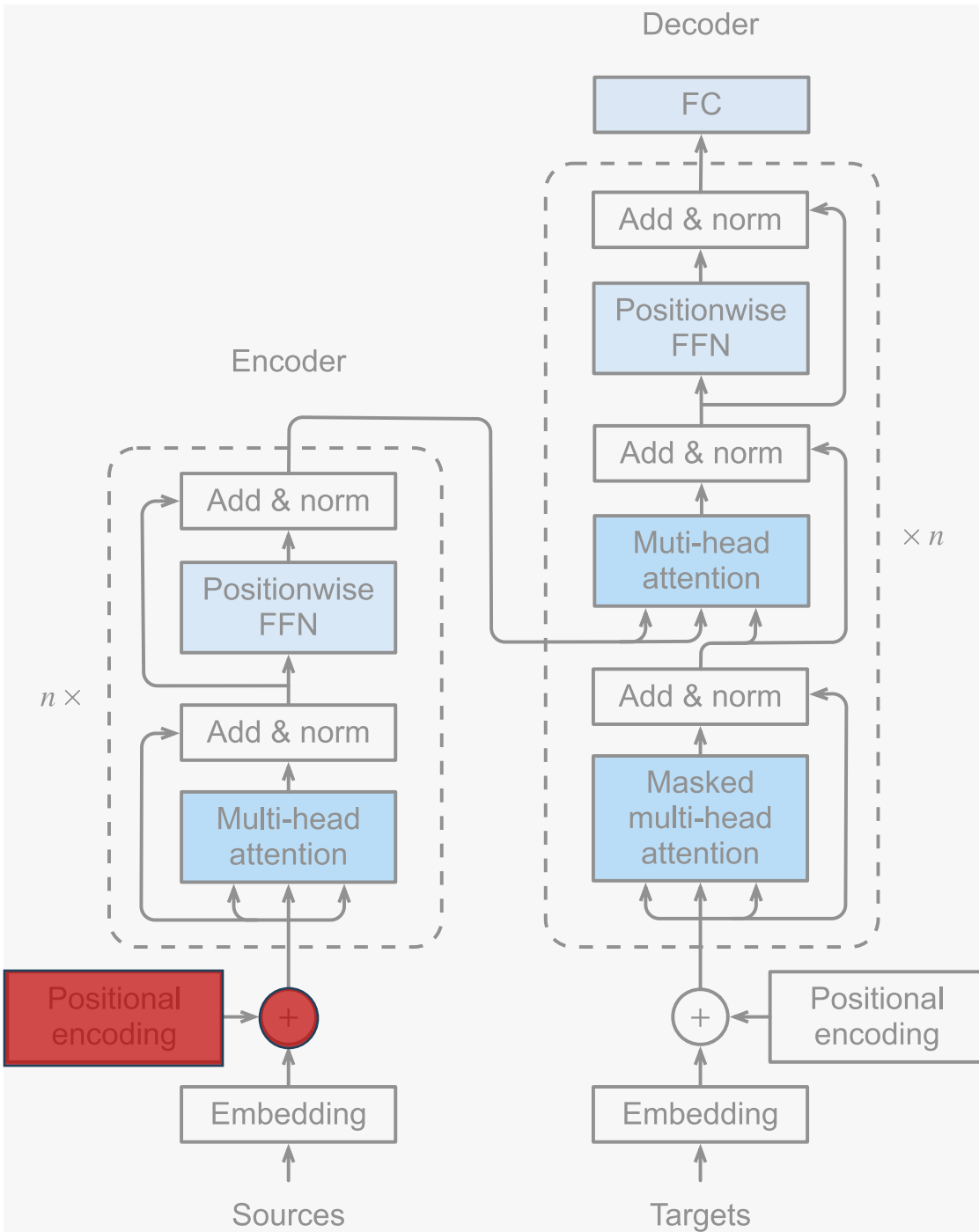
Recurrent Neural Network
or
Long-Short Term Memory



Why do we need Positional Embedding?



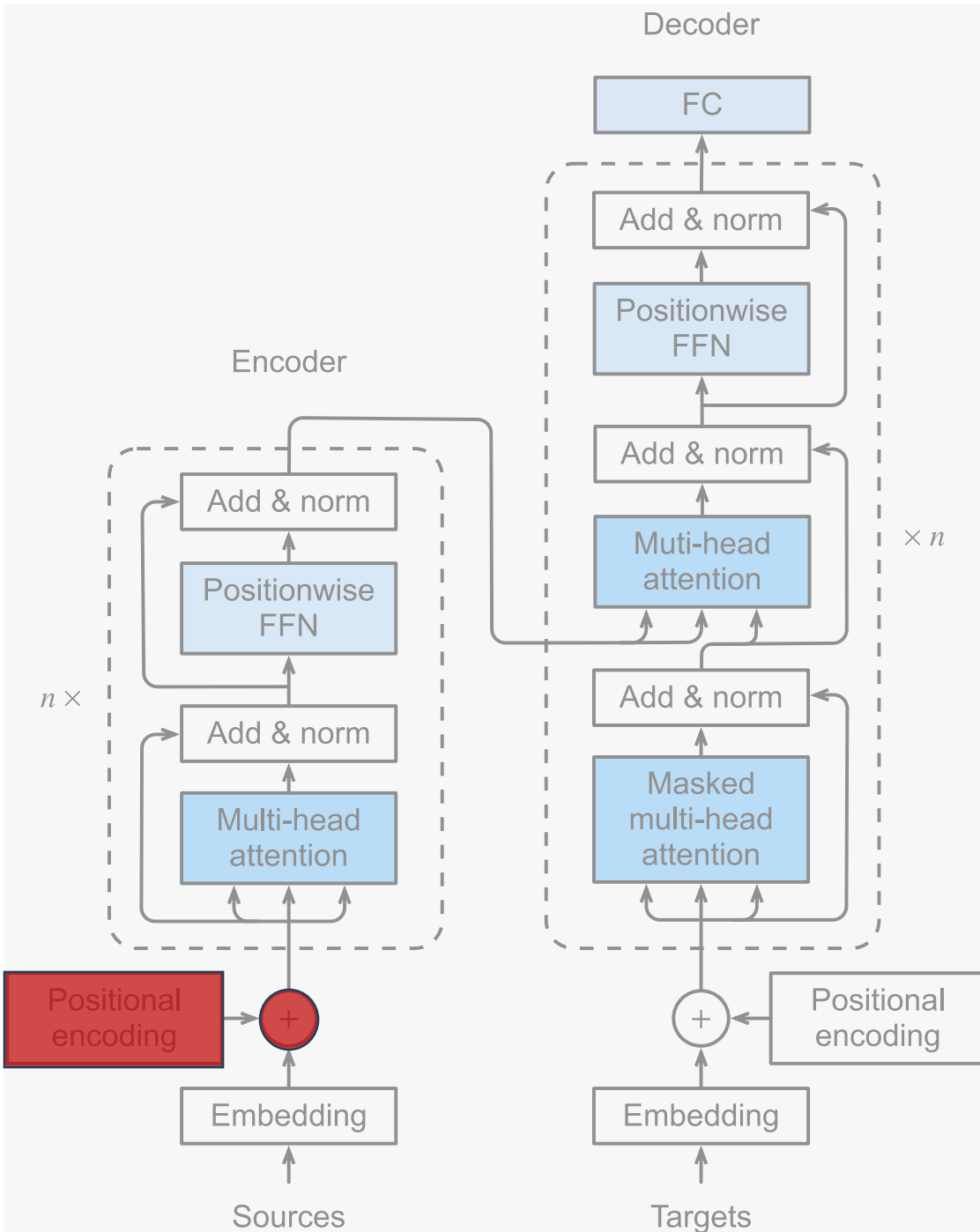
Transformers



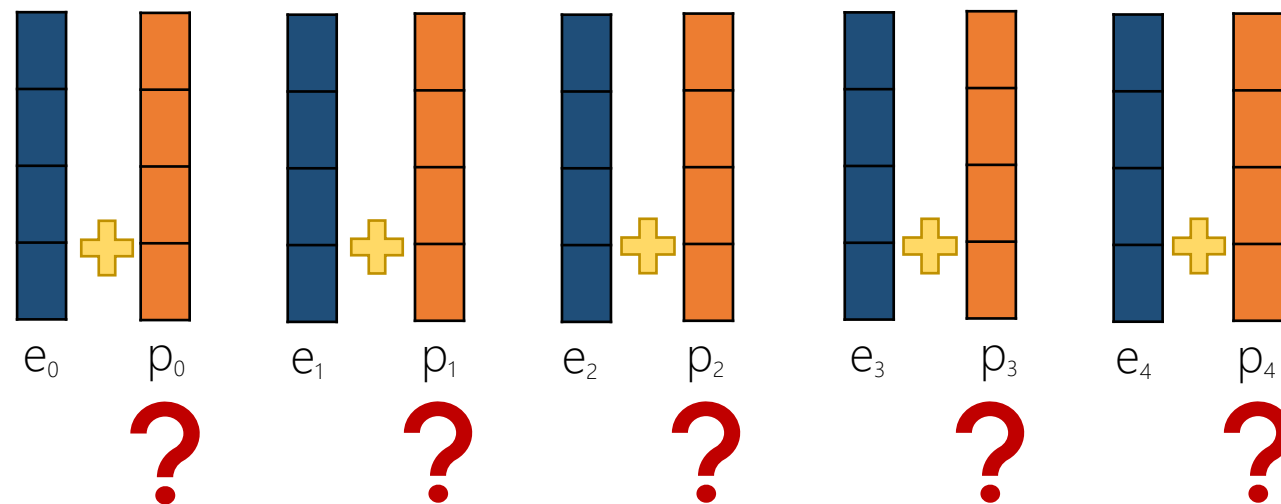
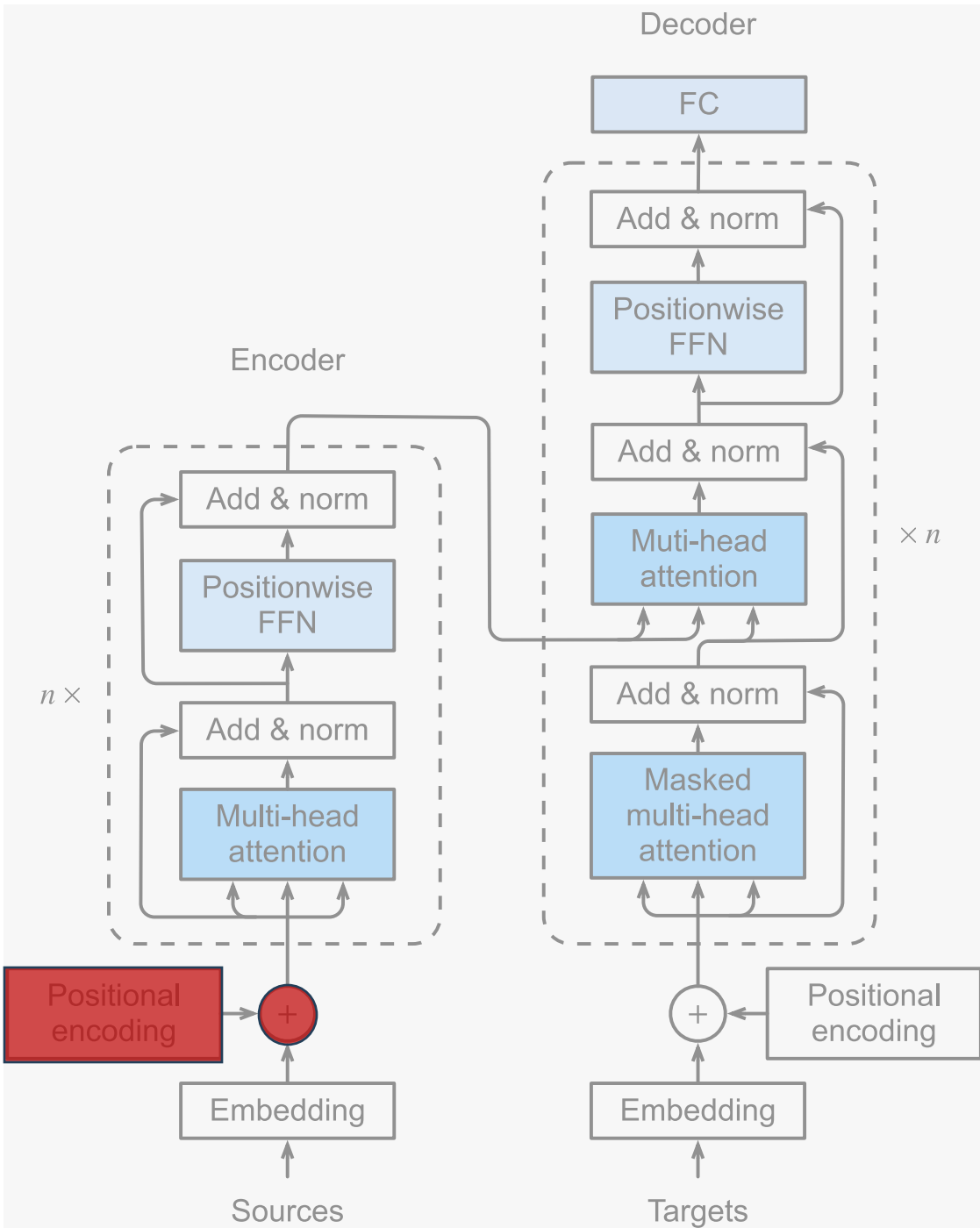
Why do we need Positional Embedding?

England invented Football, which is now played in 211 countries, including the USA, Canada, and **Brazil**.

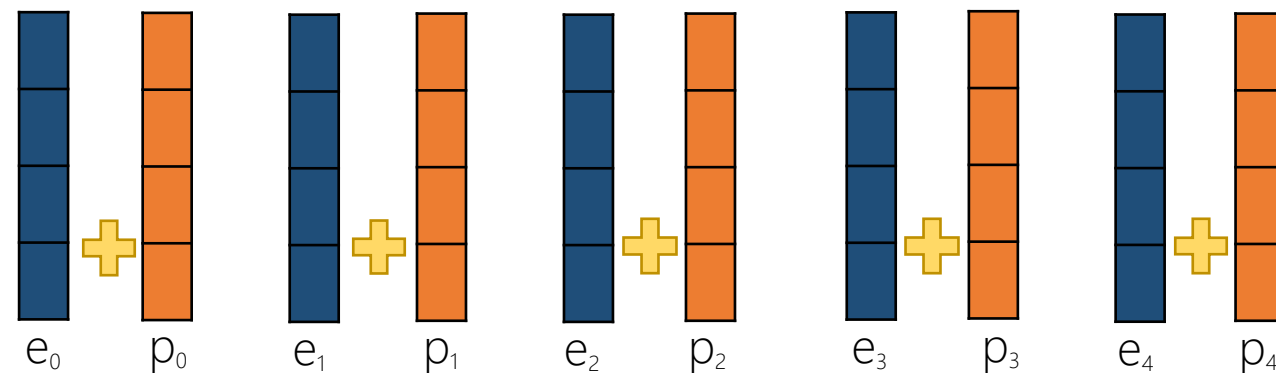
Brazil invented Football, which is now played in 211 countries, including the USA, Canada, and **England**.



What to use as Positional Embedding?

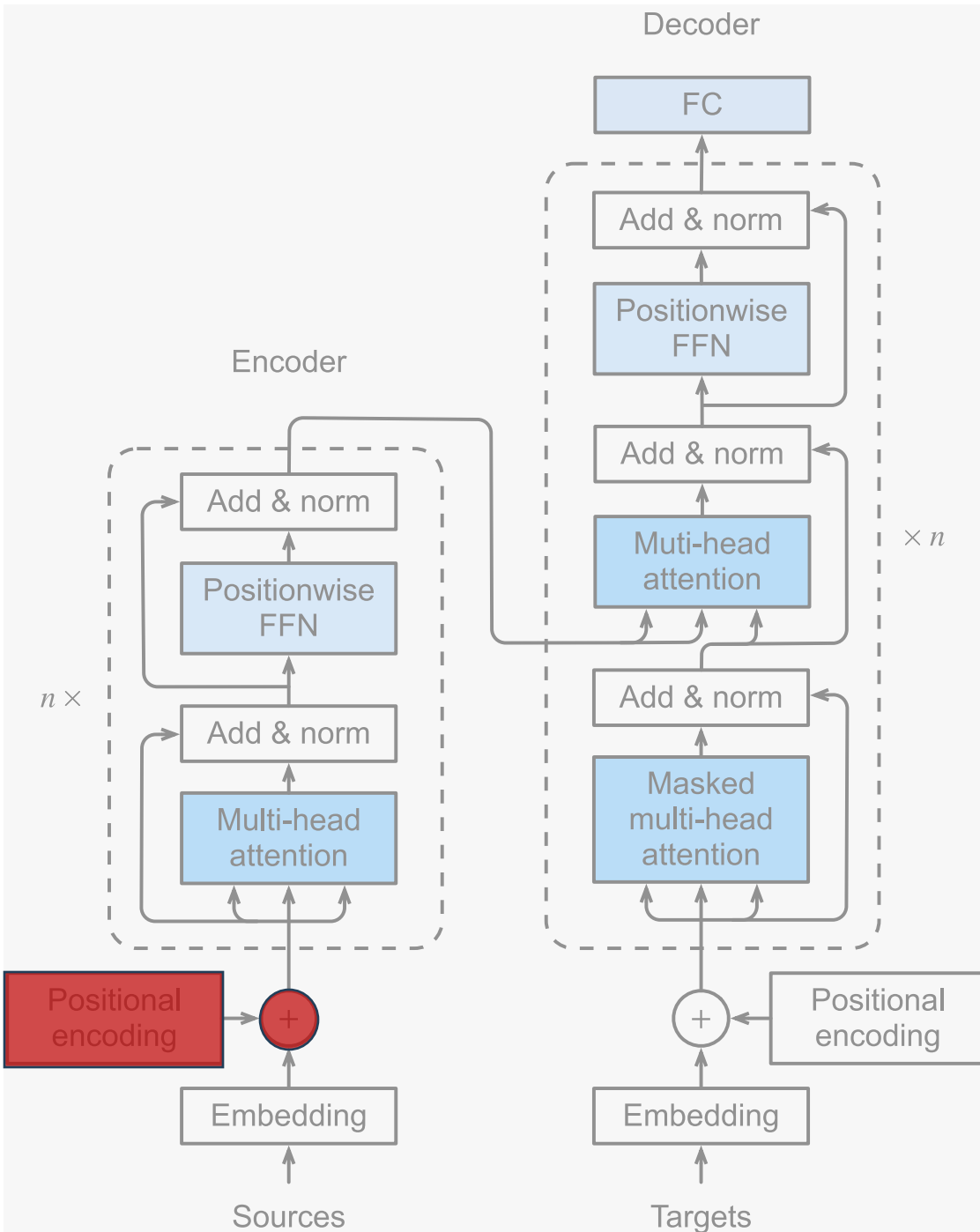


Frequencies for Positional Embedding

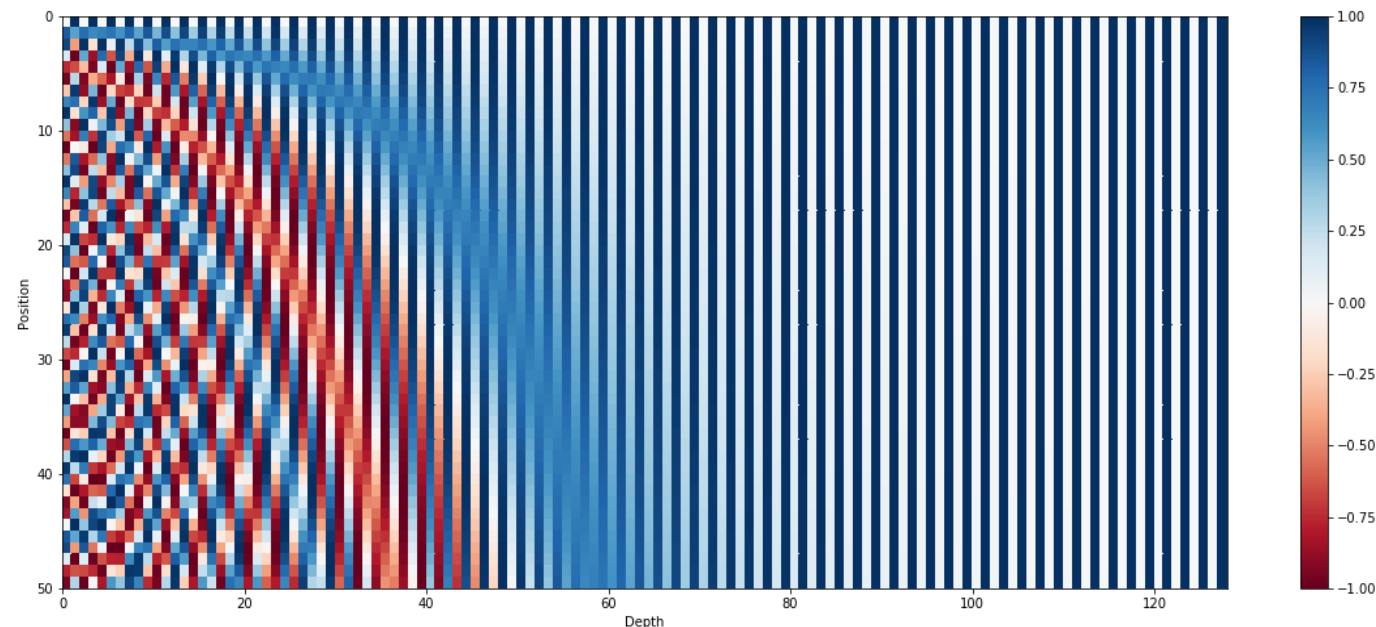


$$PE_{(pos, 2i)} = \sin(pos/10000^{2i/d_{\text{model}}})$$

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

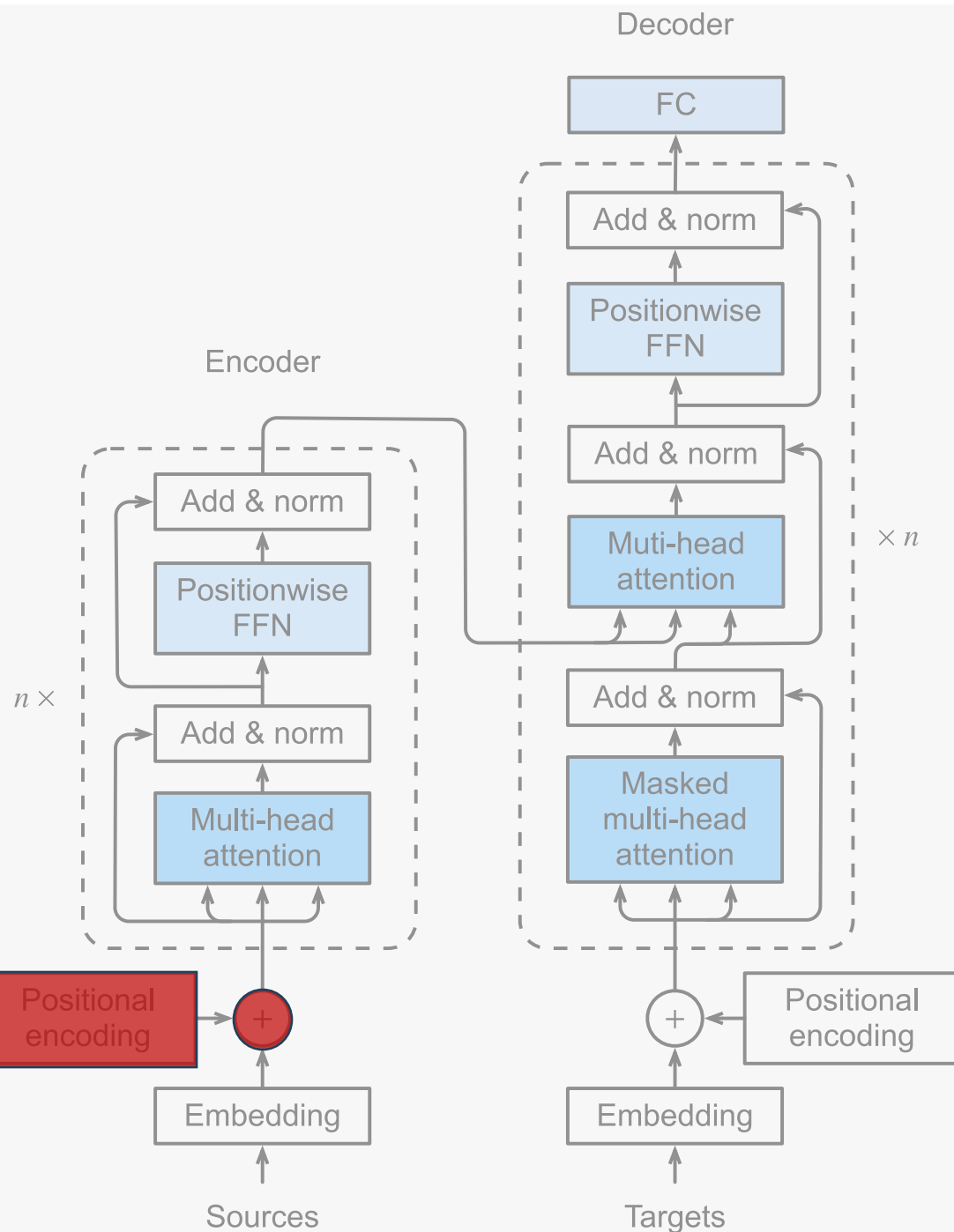


Frequencies for Positional Embedding



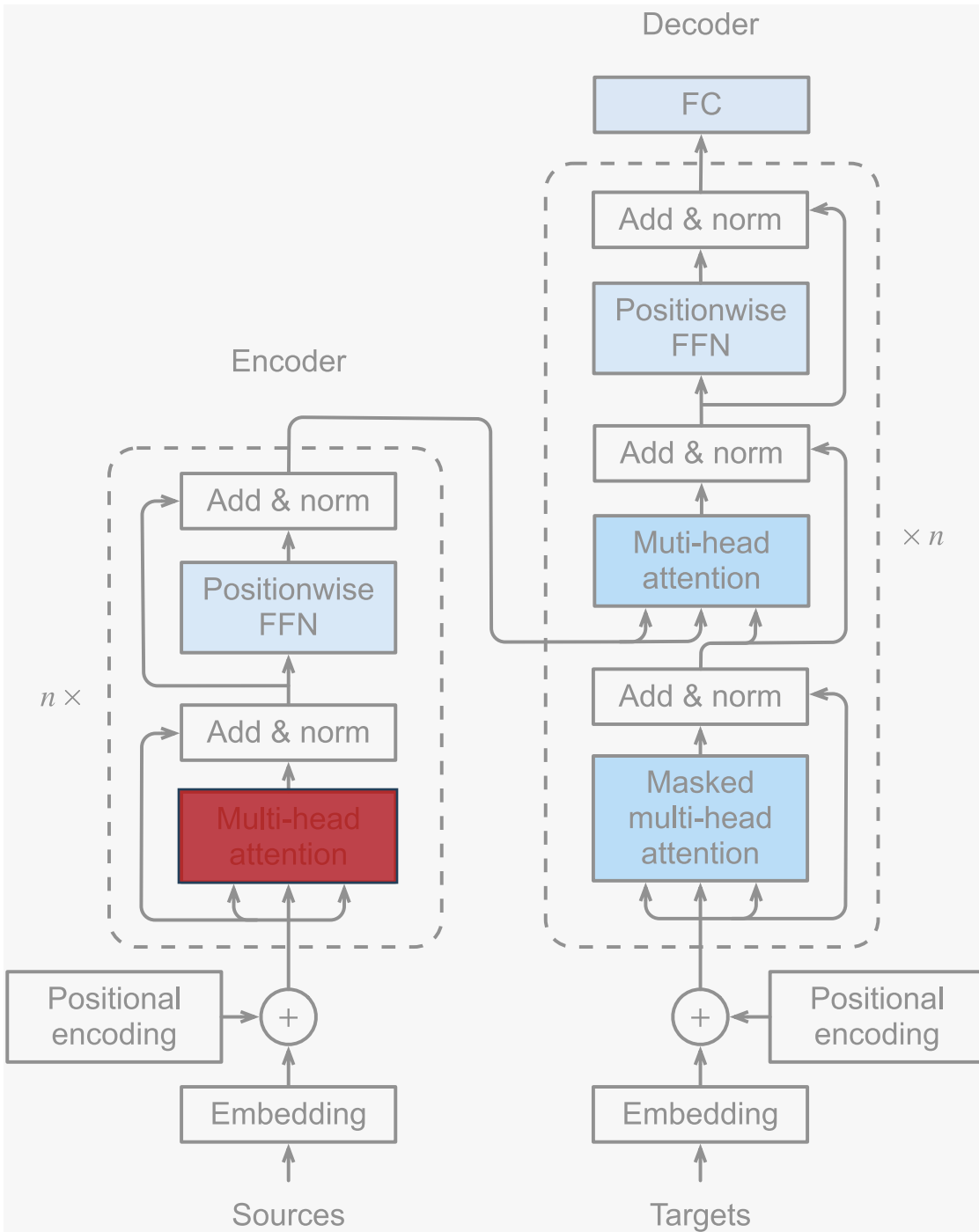
$$PE_{(pos, 2i)} = \sin(pos/10000^{2i/d_{\text{model}}})$$

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



Multi-Head Attention

But before that what is attention
and why do we need it?



Spotlight Effect!



Psychology lessons: Selective Attention

The act of focusing on a particular object for a period of time while simultaneously ignoring irrelevant information that is also occurring

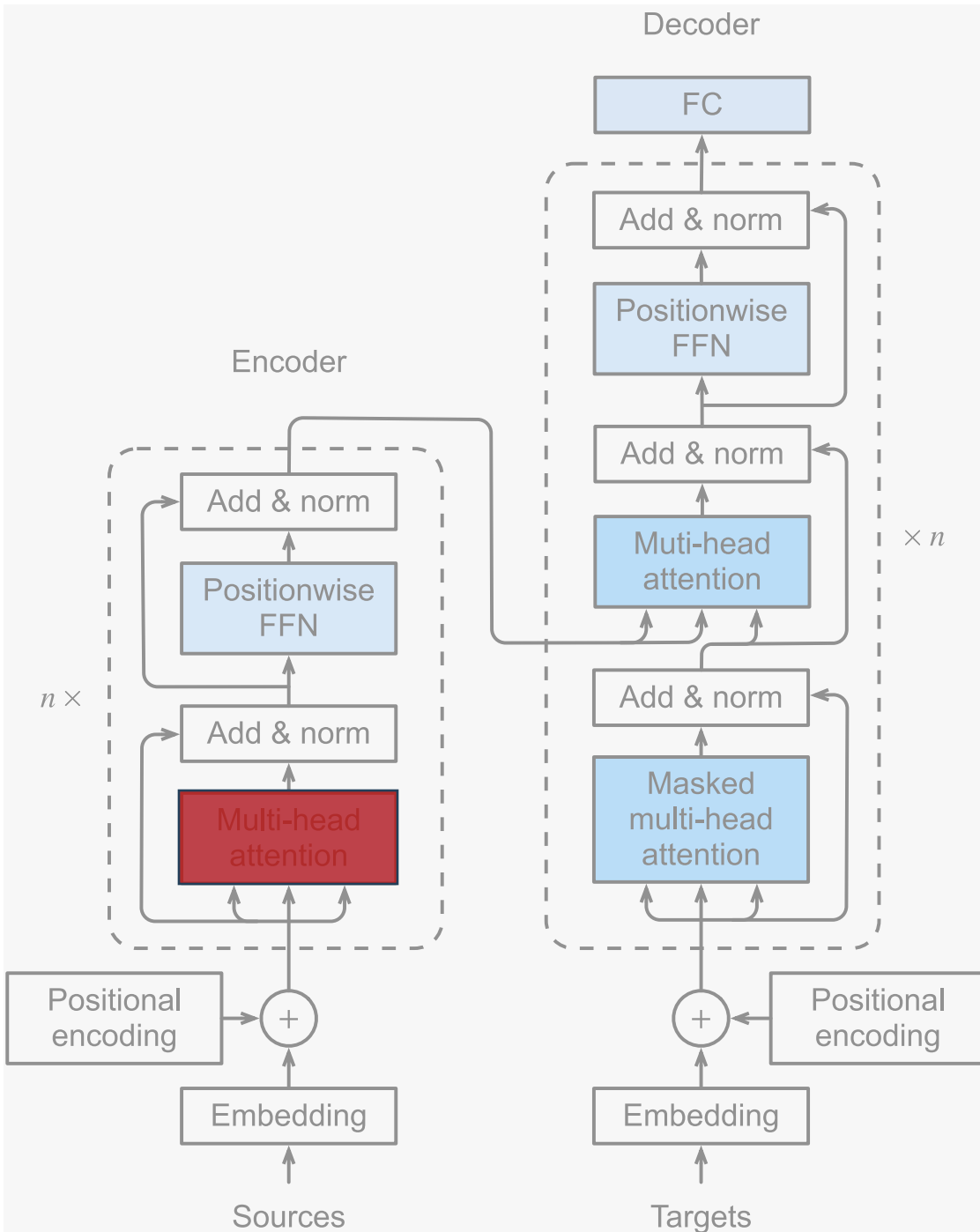




Attention

Who is this Harry Potter character?

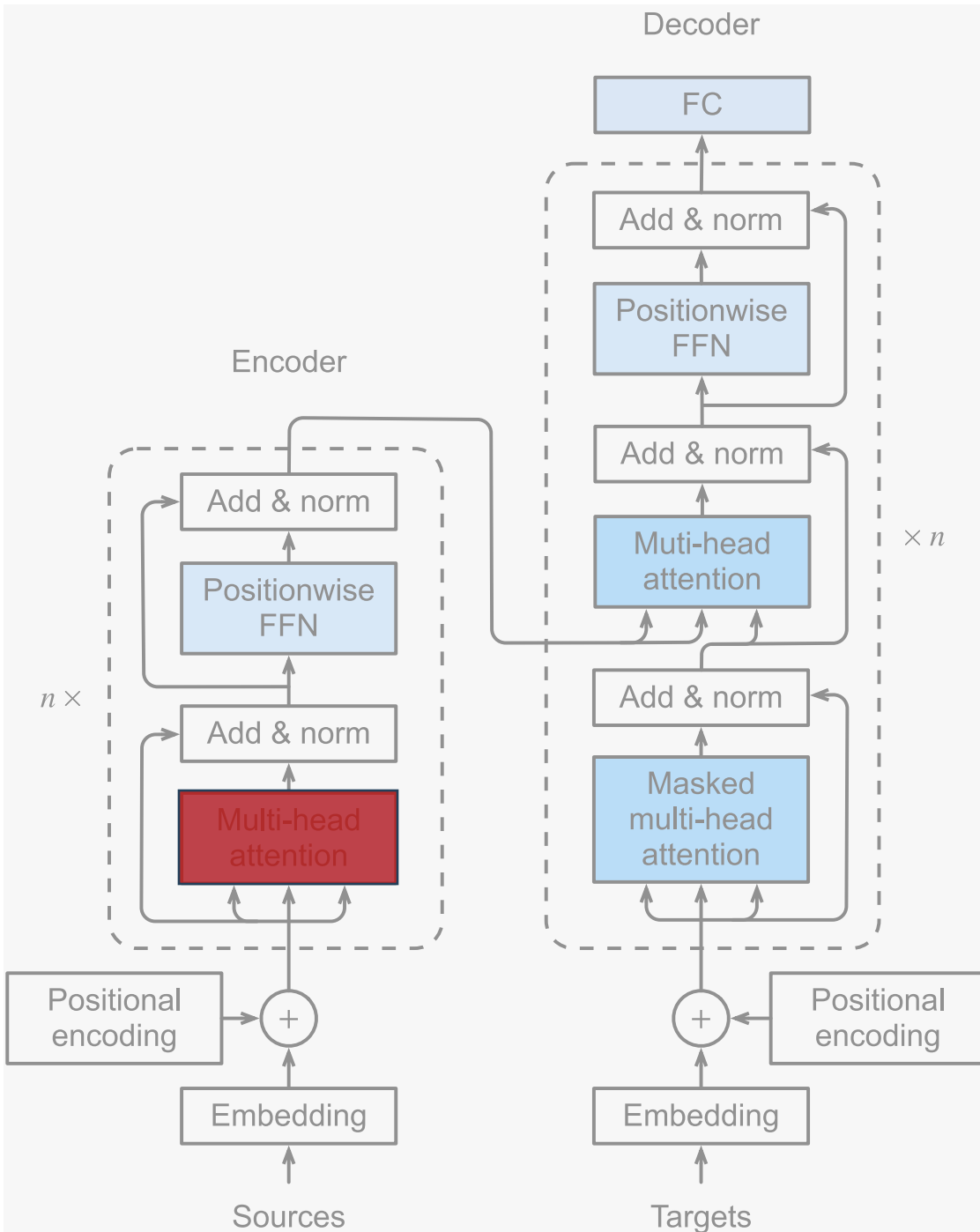
Now if you two don't mind, I'm going to bed before either of you come up with another clever idea to get us killed - or worse, expelled.



Attention

Who is this Harry Potter character?

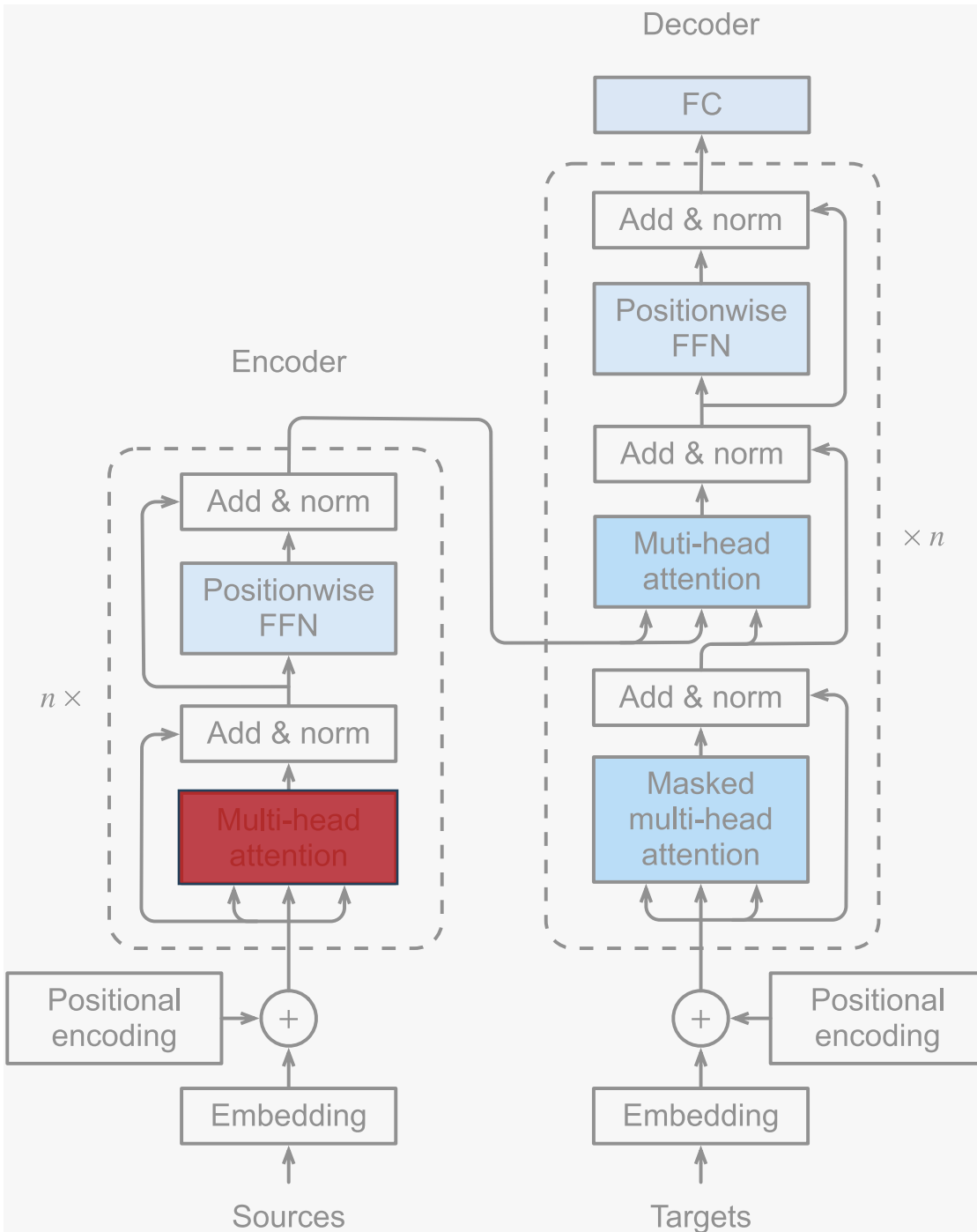
Now if you two don't mind, I'm going to bed before either of you come up with another clever idea to get us killed - or worse, expelled.





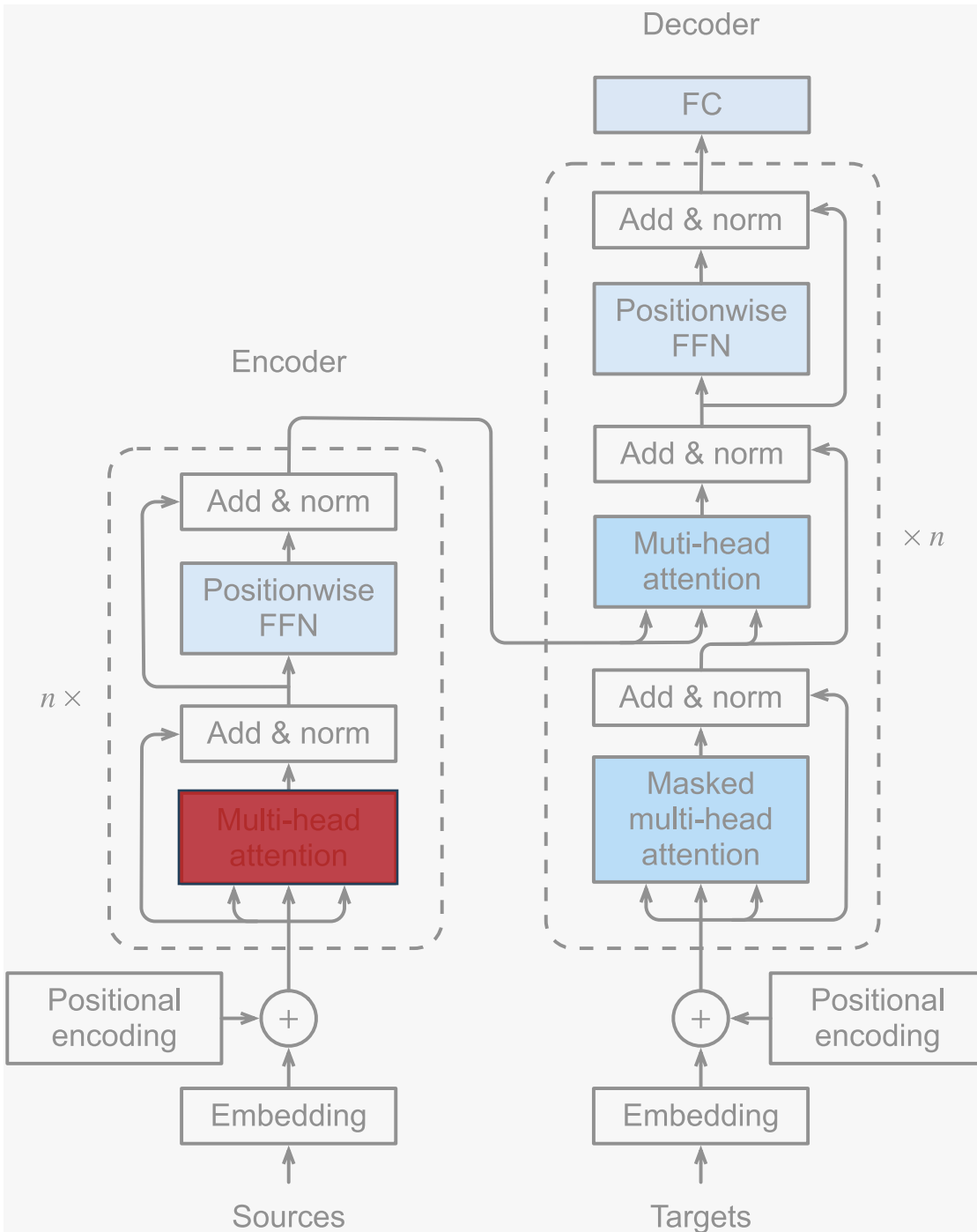
Who is this Harry Potter character?

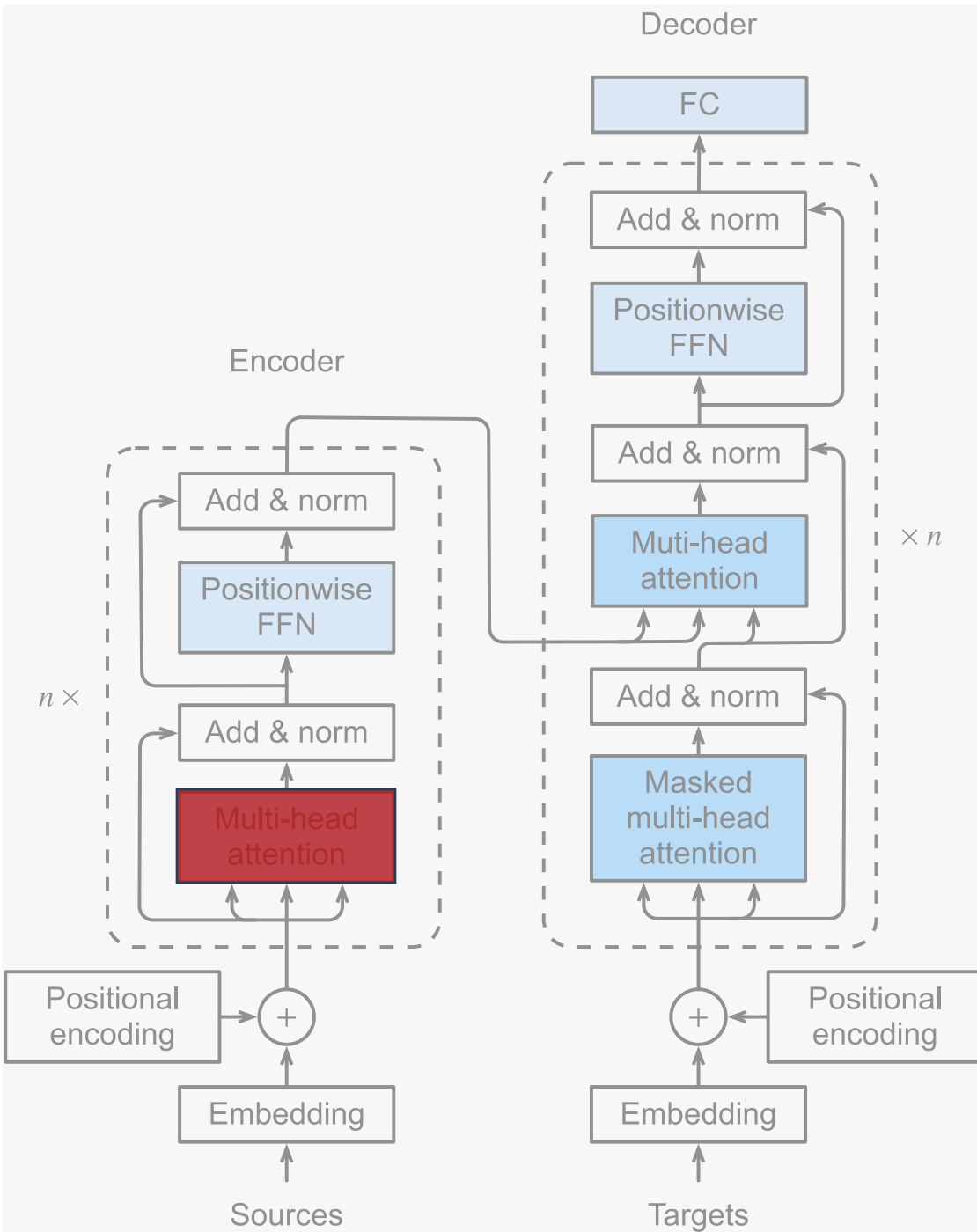
Now if you two don't mind, I'm going to bed before either of you come up with another clever idea to get us killed - or worse, expelled.



Self-Attention

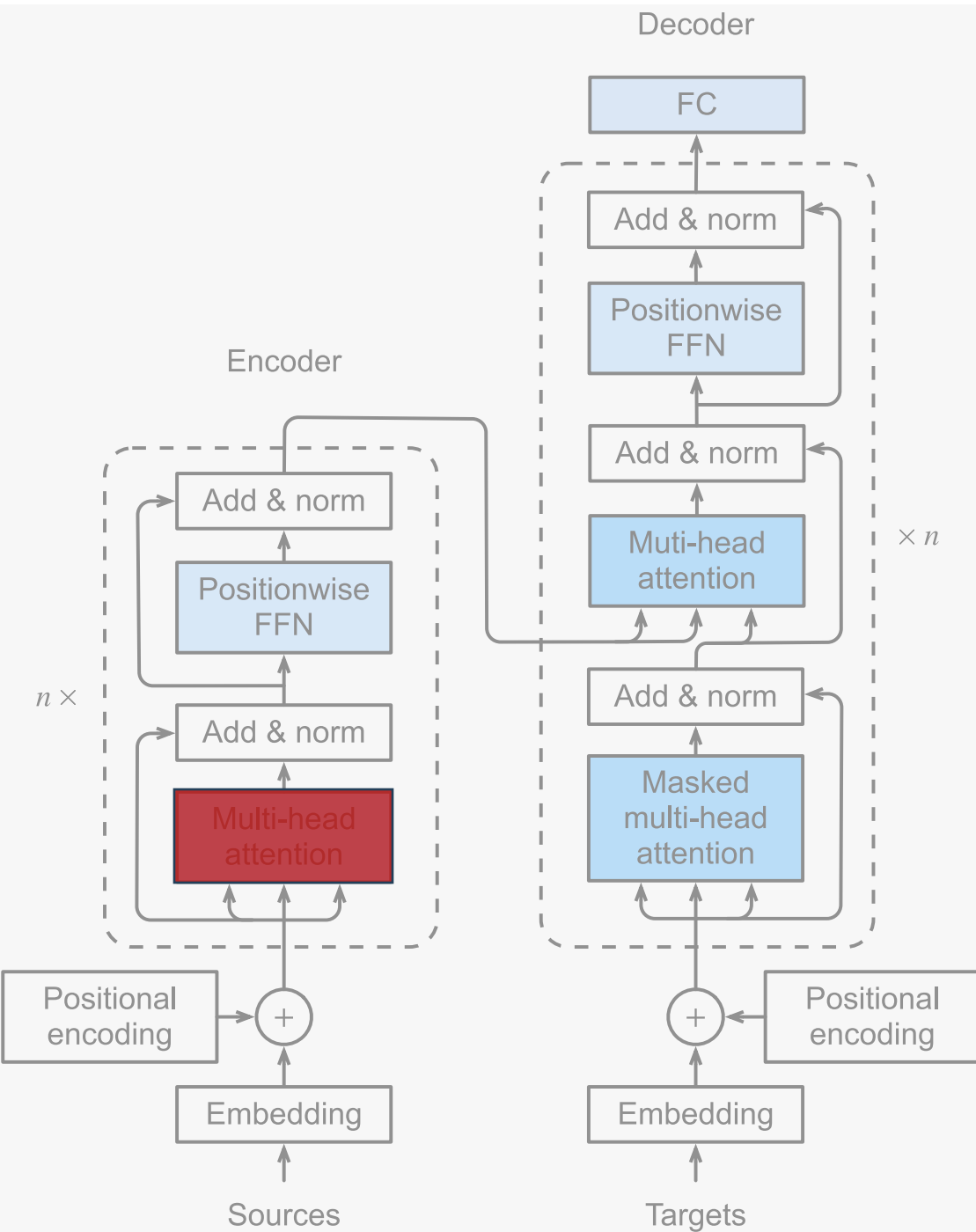
The dog began to **bark** loudly when it saw someone approaching the tree with rough **bark**.



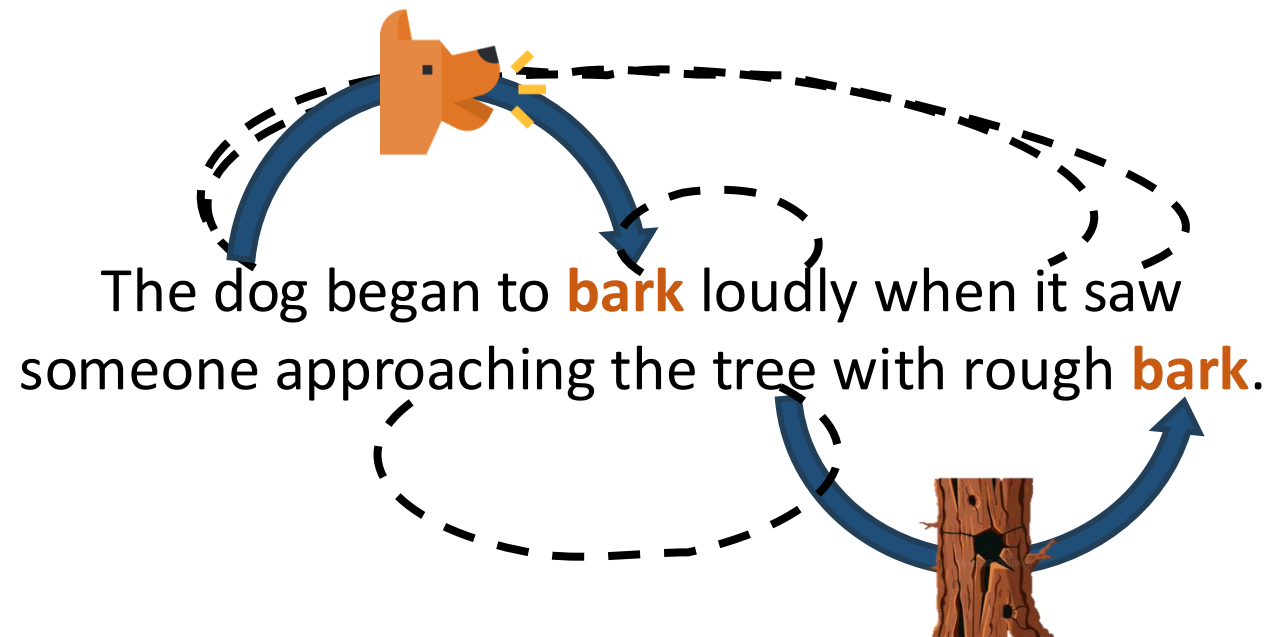


Self-Attention





Self-Attention



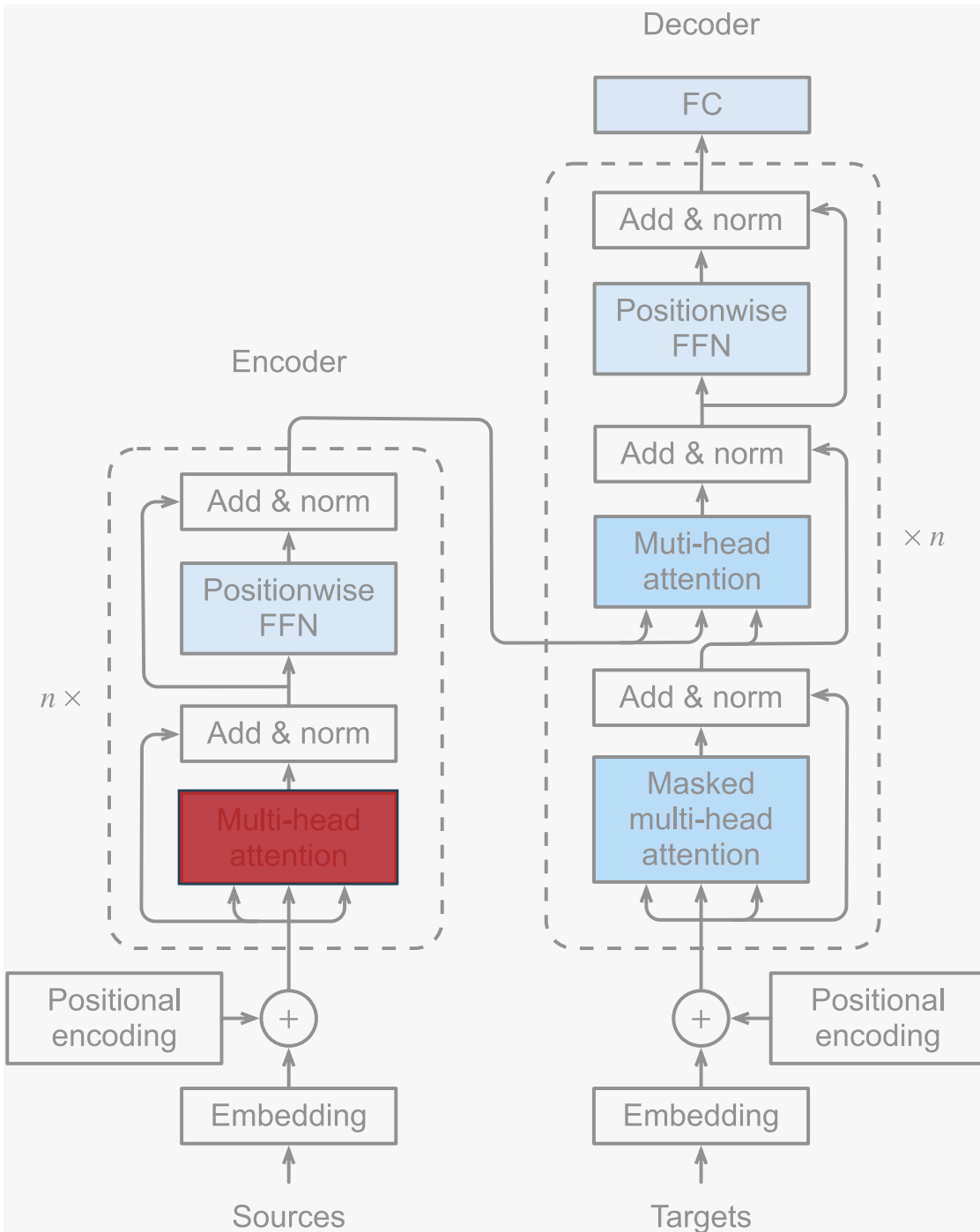
Simple Attention

Who is this Harry Potter character?

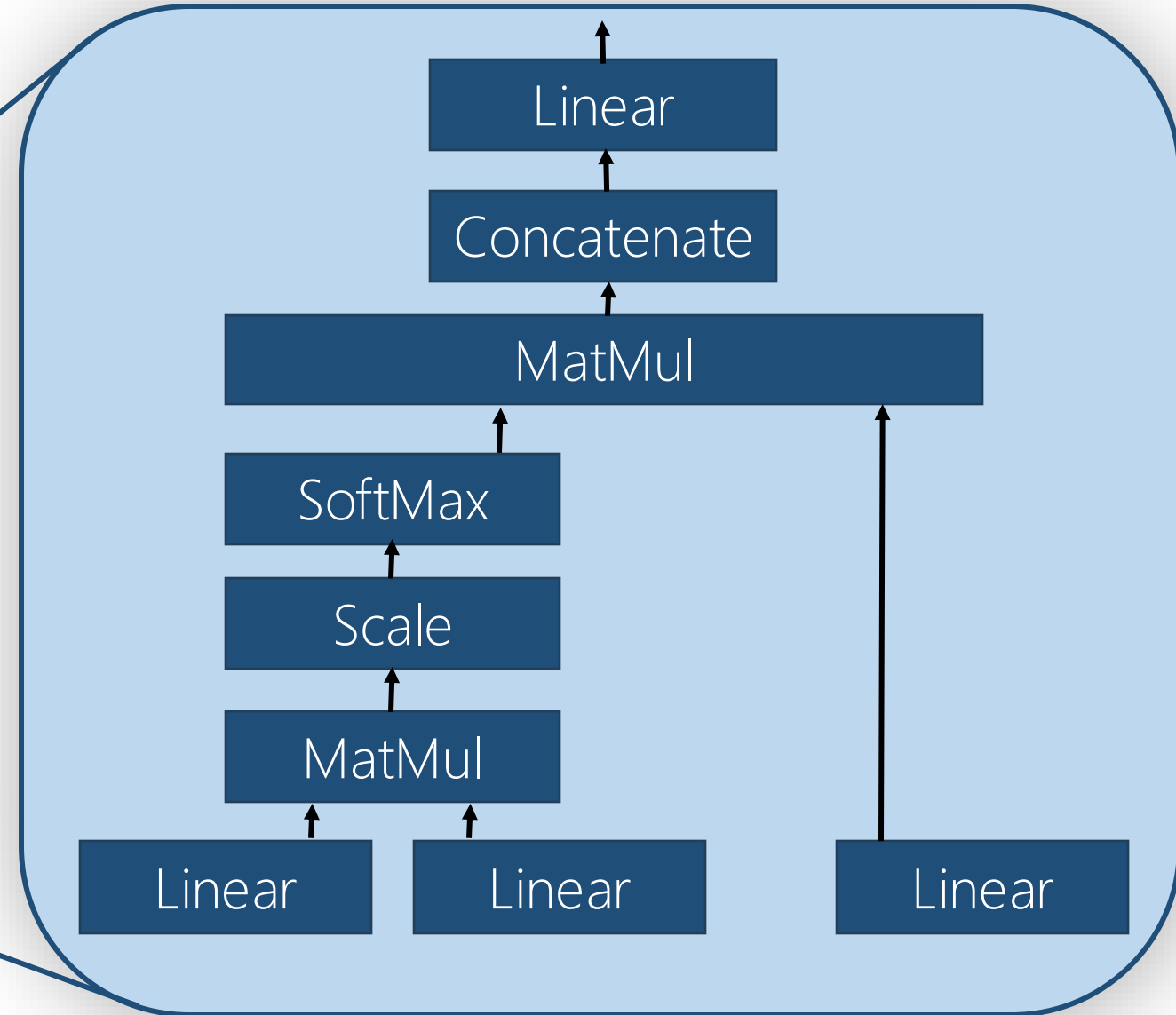
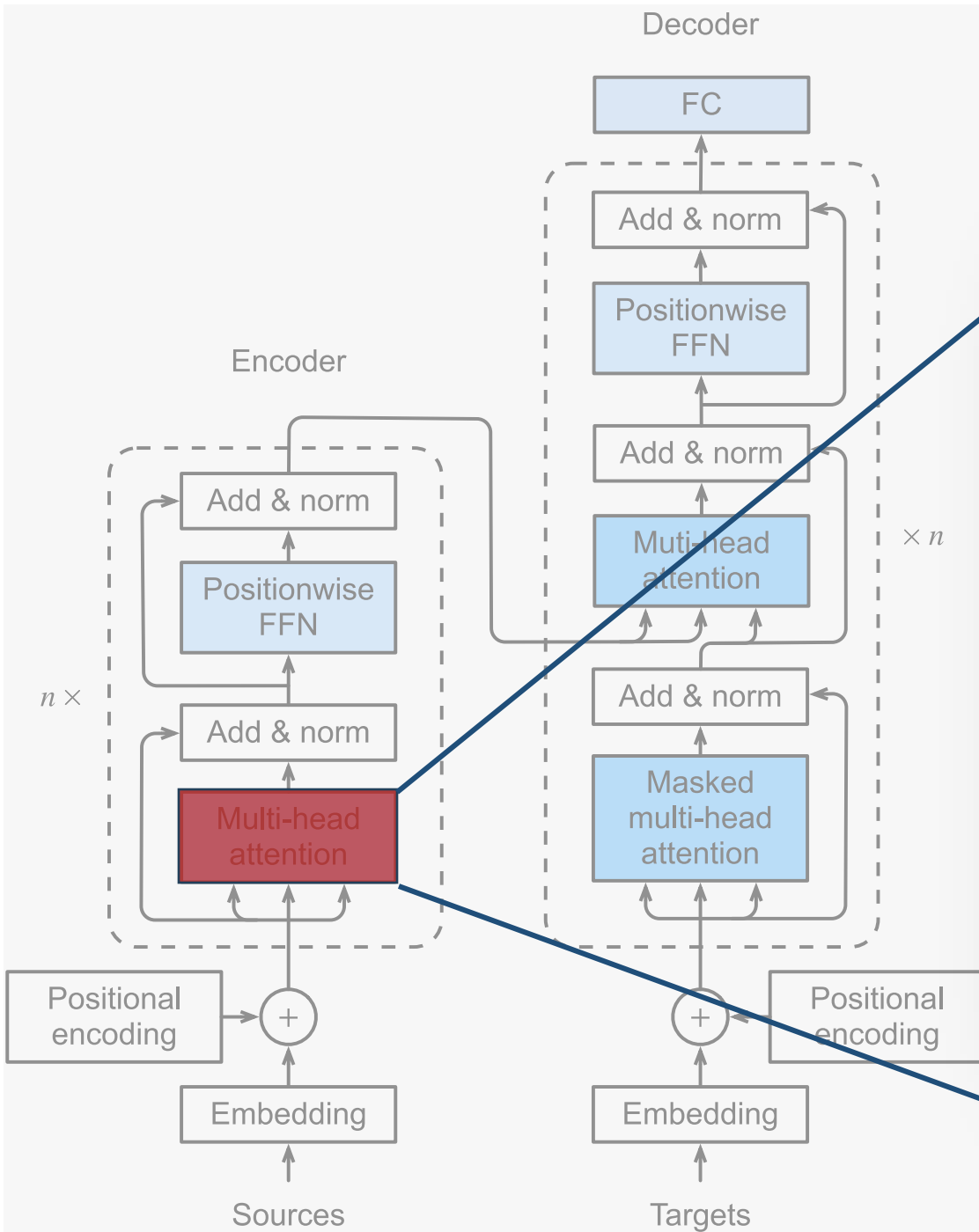
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Self-Attention

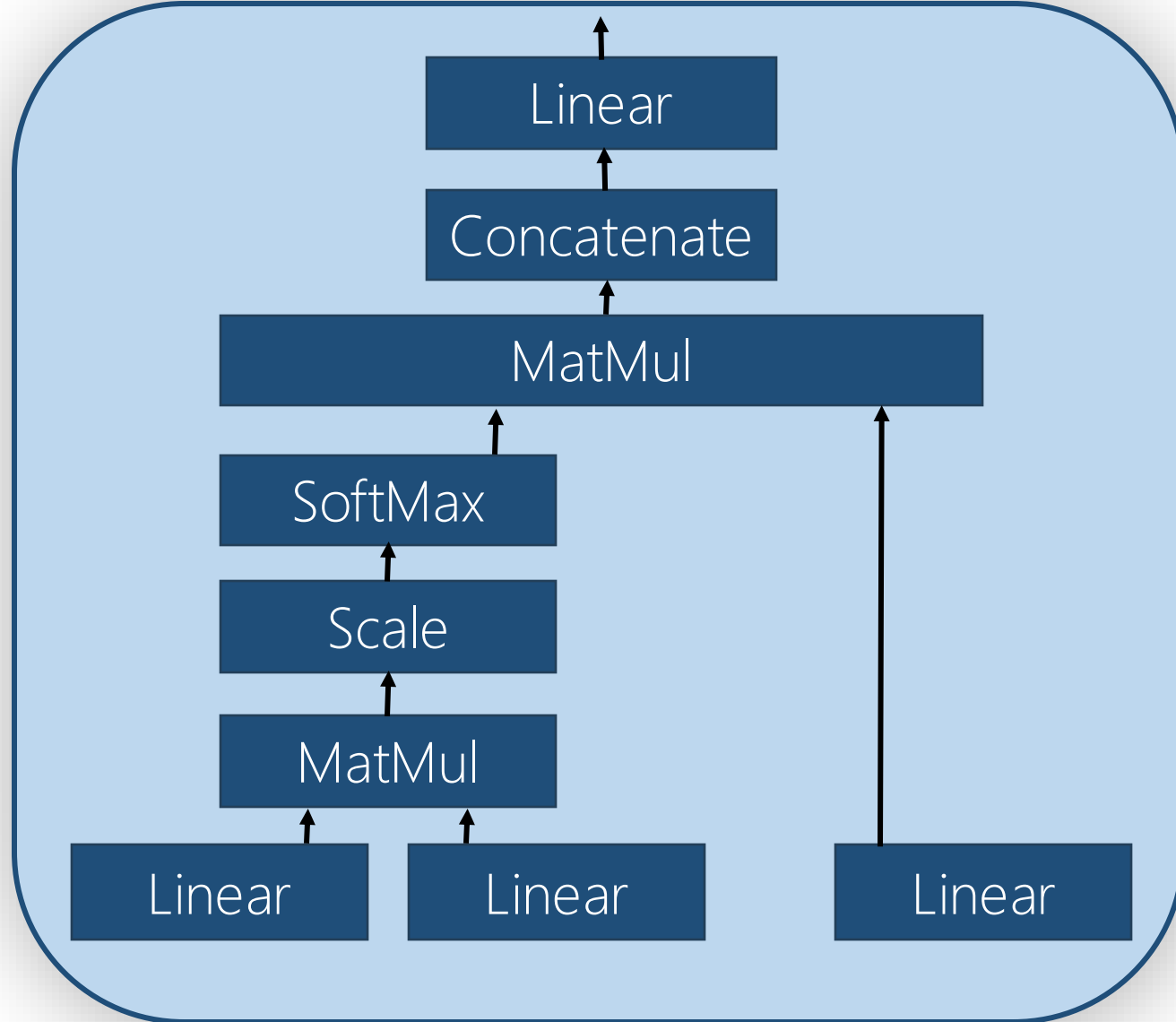
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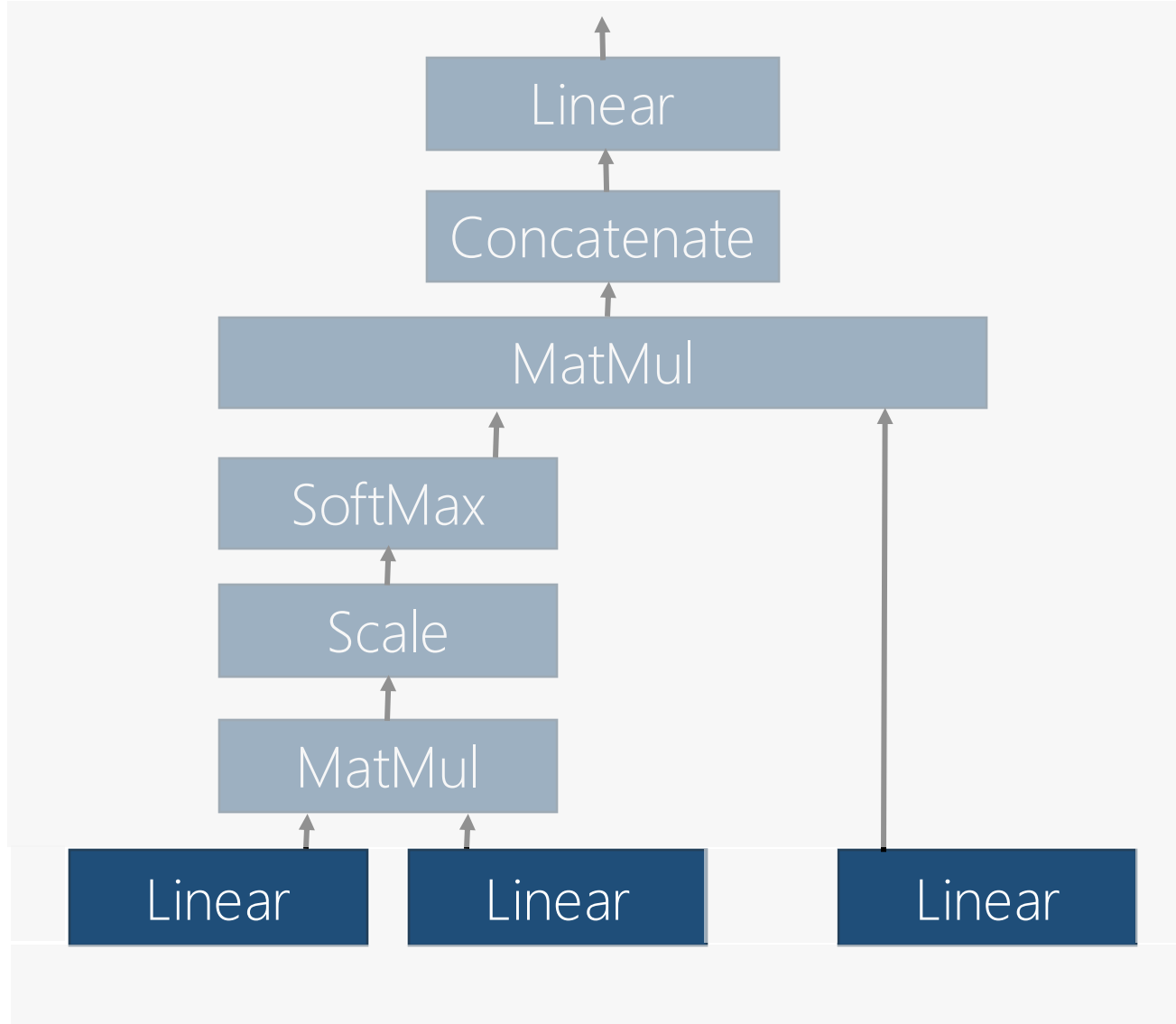
Multi-Head Attention



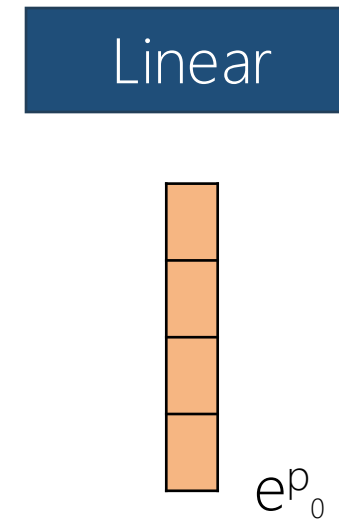
Multi-Head Attention



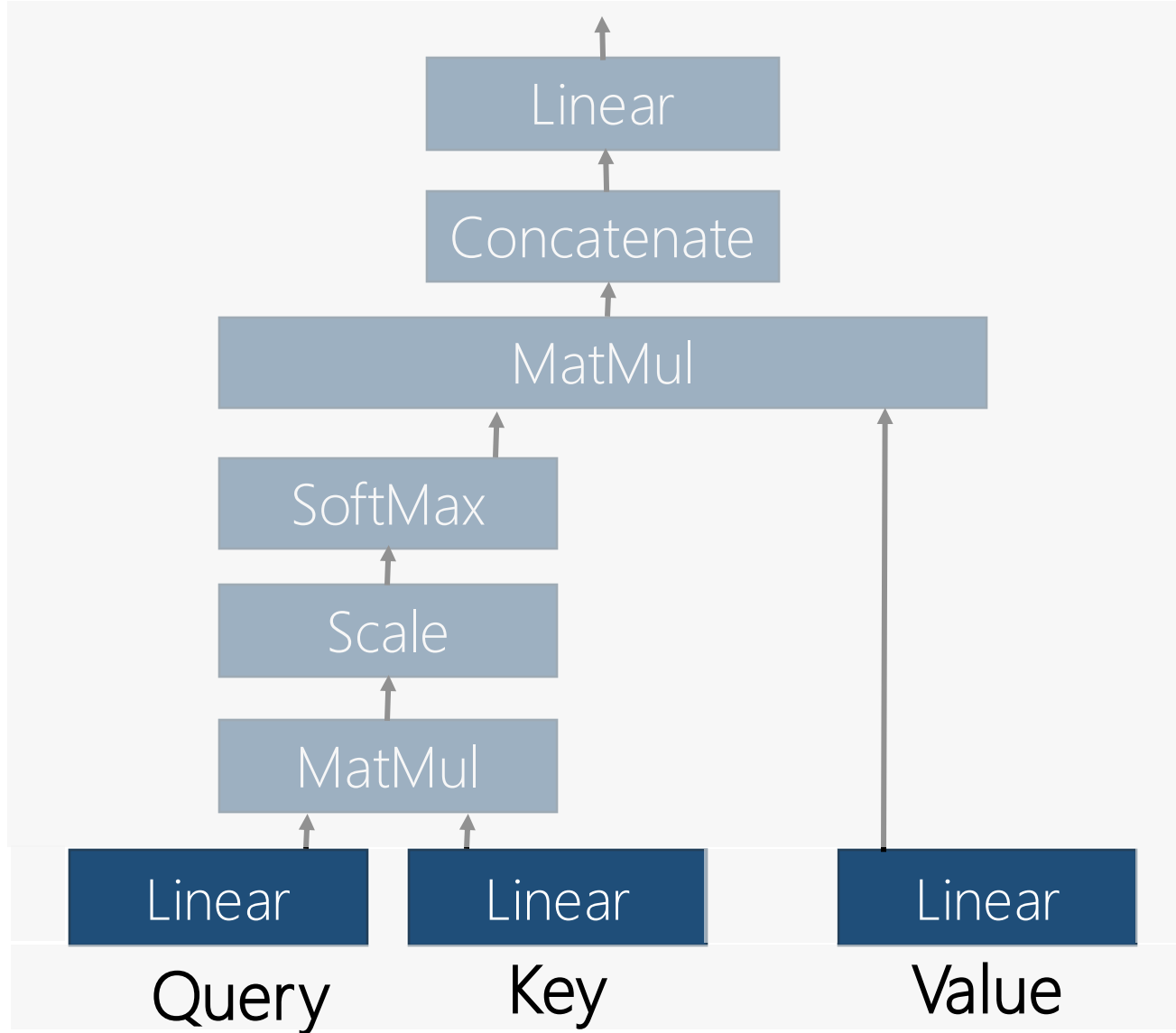
Multi-Head Attention



What does a linear layer do?

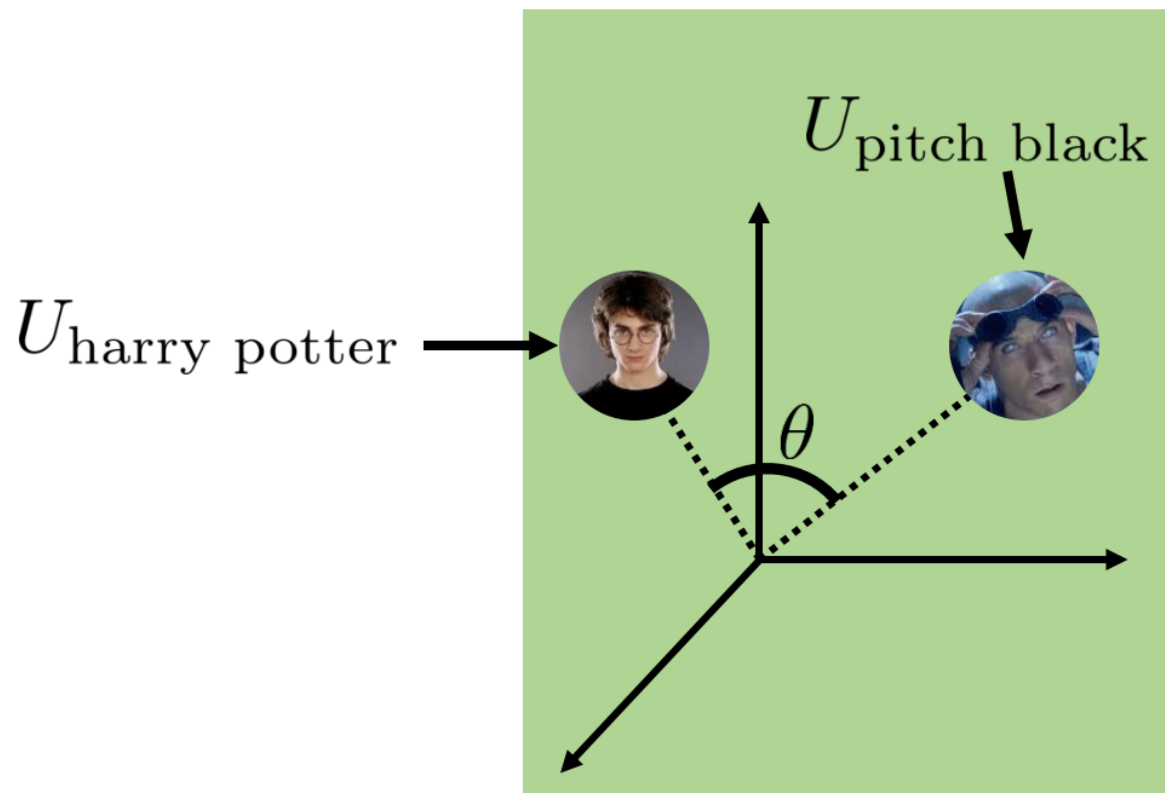


Multi-Head Attention



Analogous to Data Retrieval/Search

Similarity between Query and Key?



$$\cos(\theta) = 1$$

(theta = 0) → *A* and *B* point in exactly the same direction

$$\cos(\theta) = -1$$

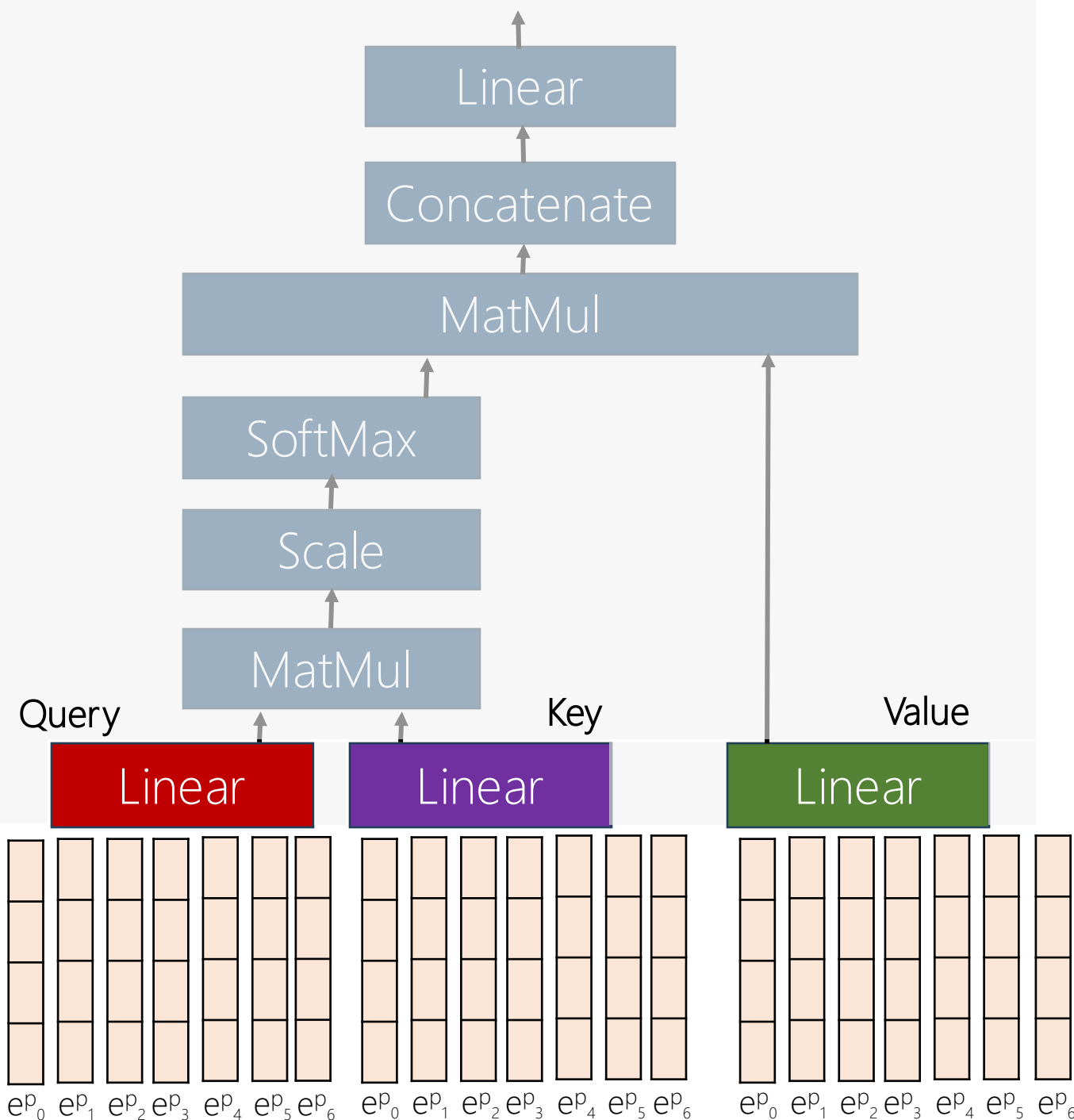
(theta = 180) → *A* and *B* point in opposite directions (won't actually happen for 0/1 vectors)

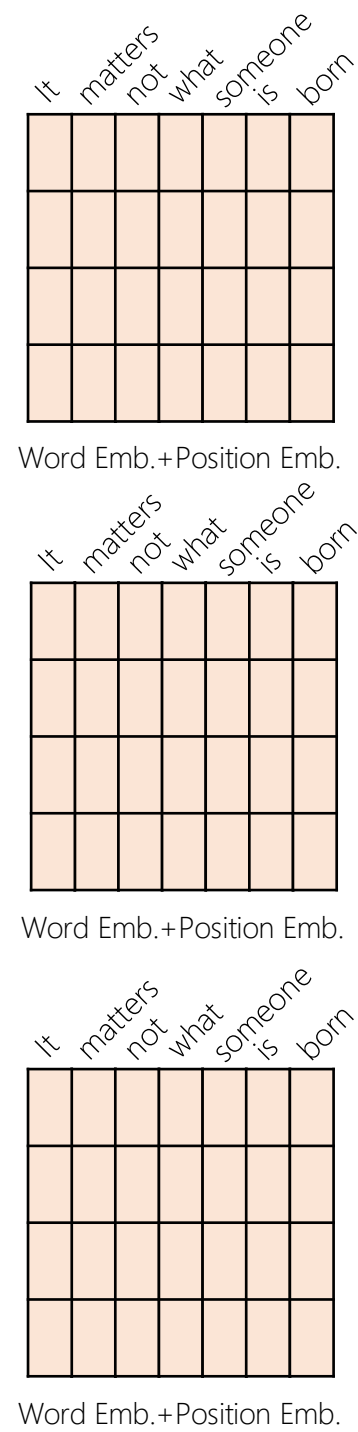
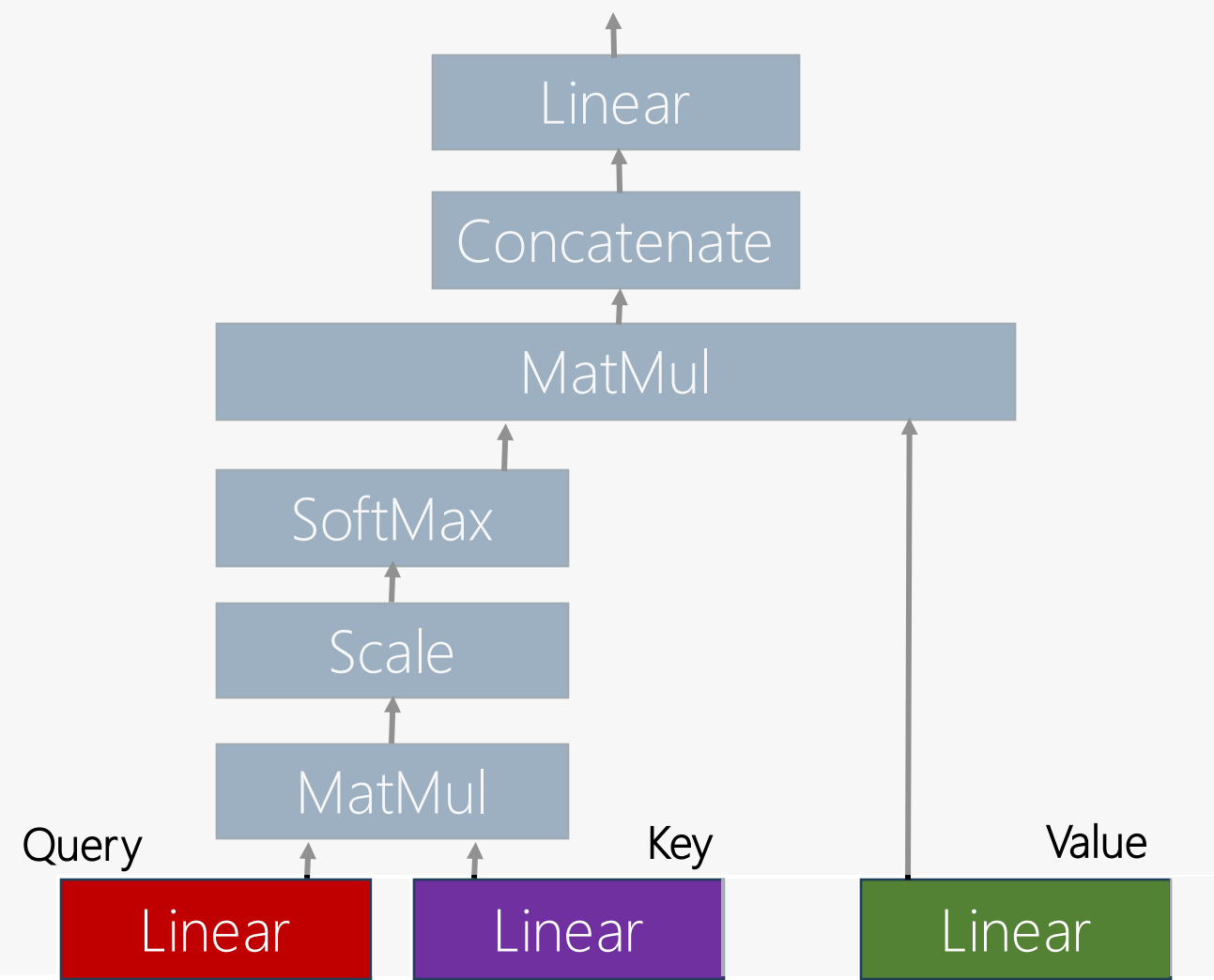
$$\cos(\theta) = 0$$

(theta = 90) → *A* and *B* are orthogonal

Multi-Head Attention

Analogous to Data Retrieval/Search

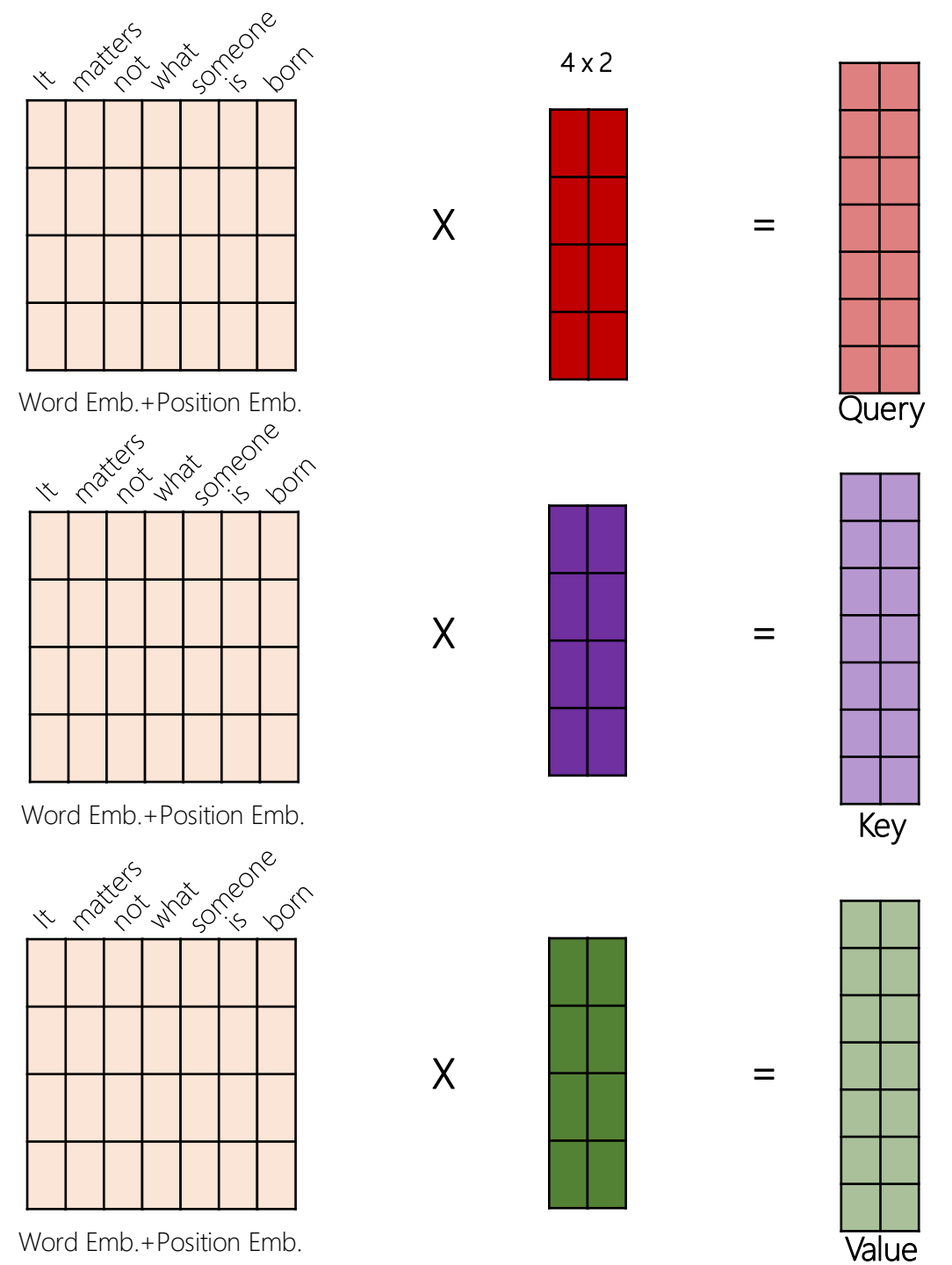
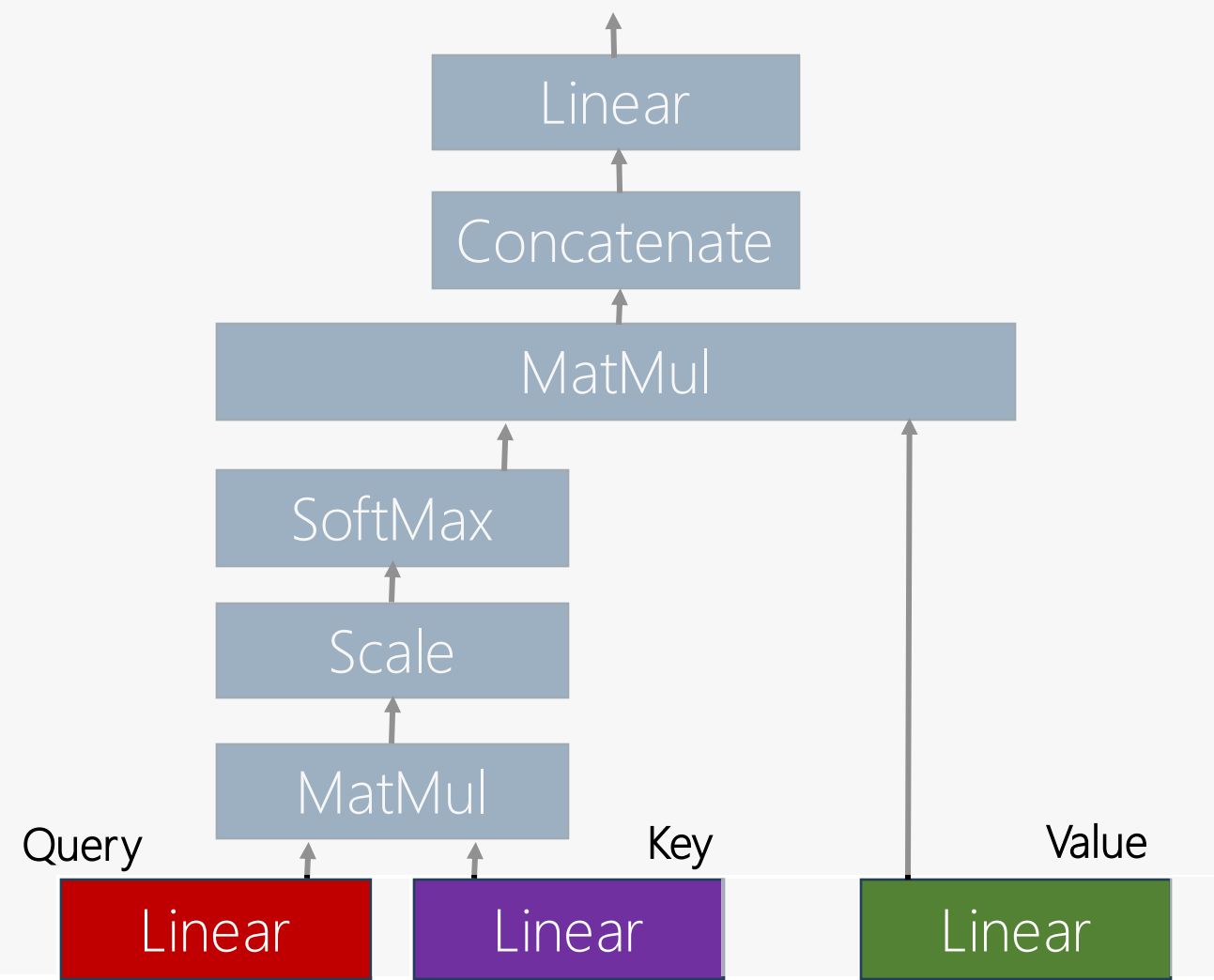


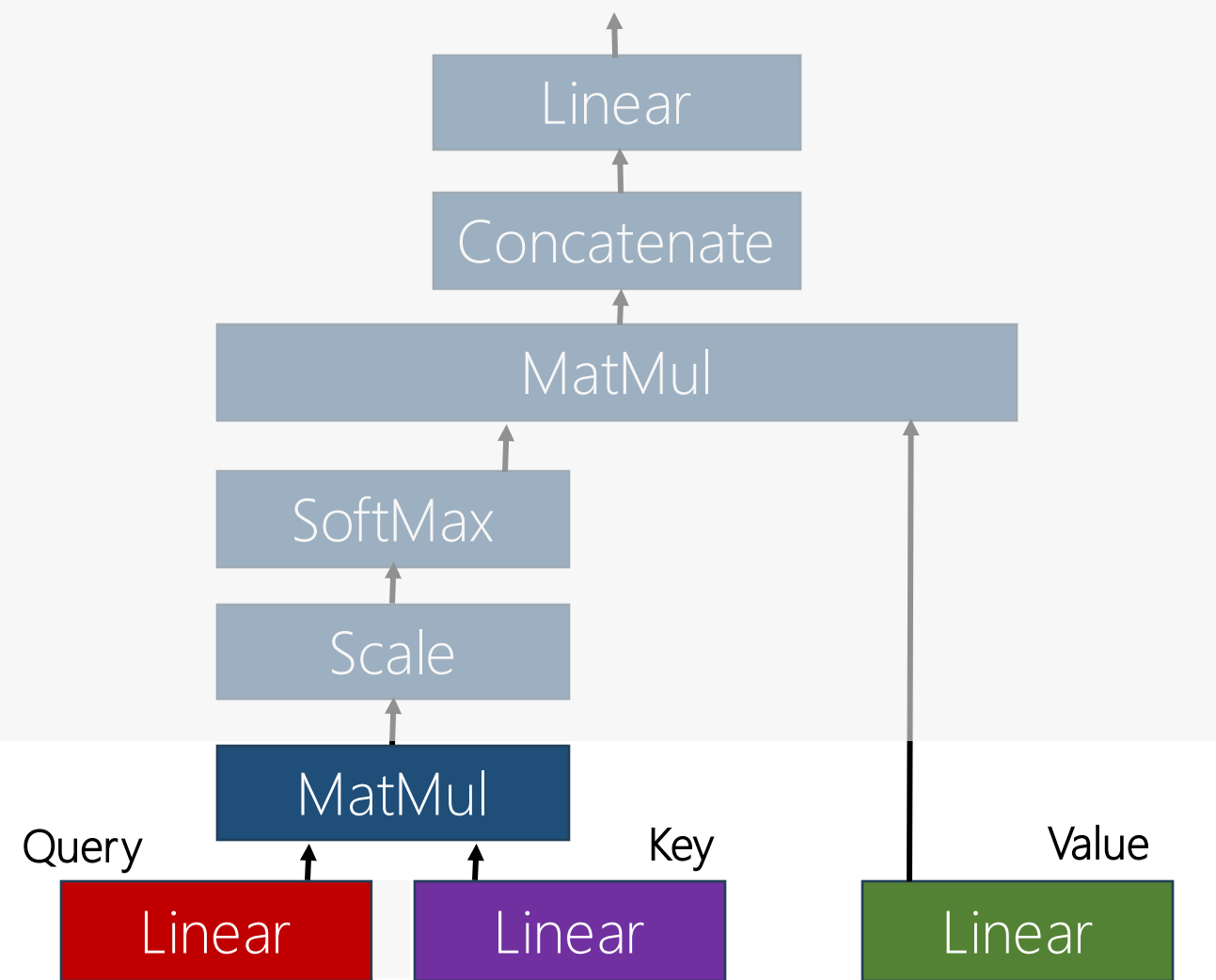


$$\begin{matrix} & 4 \times 2 \\ & \text{red} \end{matrix}
 \begin{matrix} \times \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{matrix}
 \begin{matrix} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{matrix}
 =$$

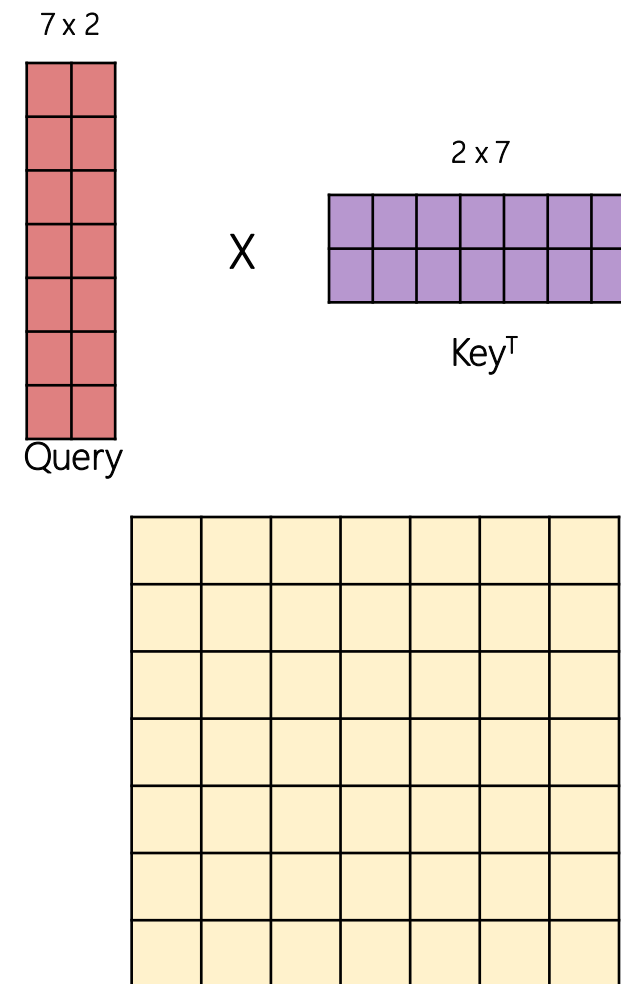
$$\begin{matrix} \times \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{matrix}
 \begin{matrix} \text{purple} \\ \text{purple} \\ \text{purple} \\ \text{purple} \end{matrix}
 =$$

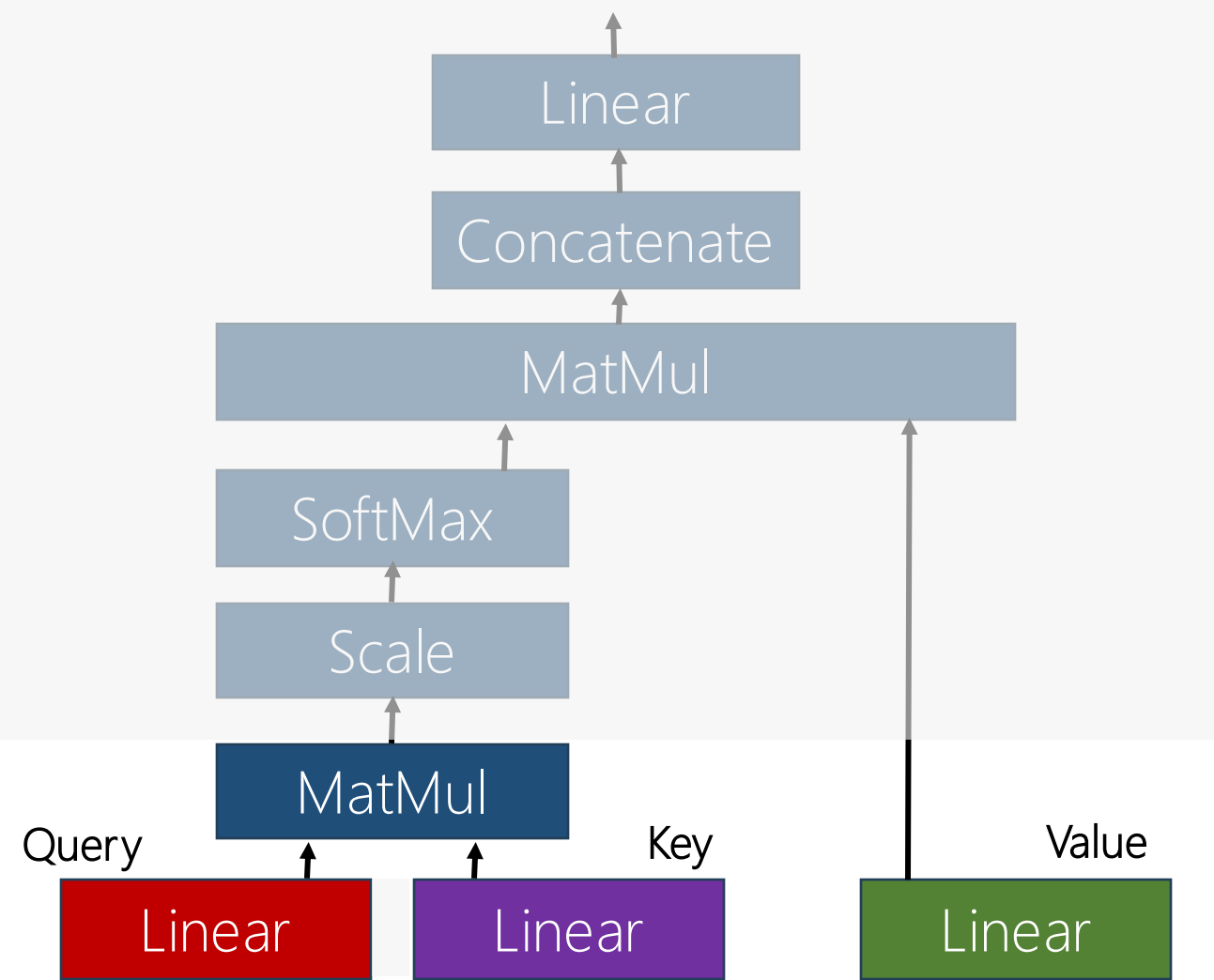
$$\begin{matrix} \times \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{matrix}
 \begin{matrix} \text{green} \\ \text{green} \\ \text{green} \\ \text{green} \end{matrix}
 =$$



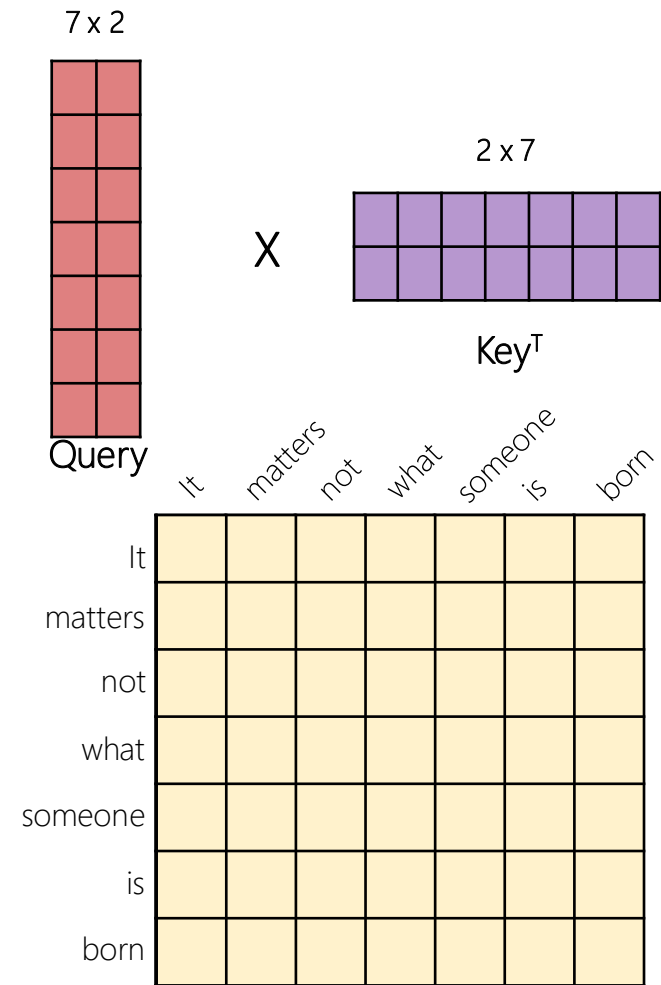


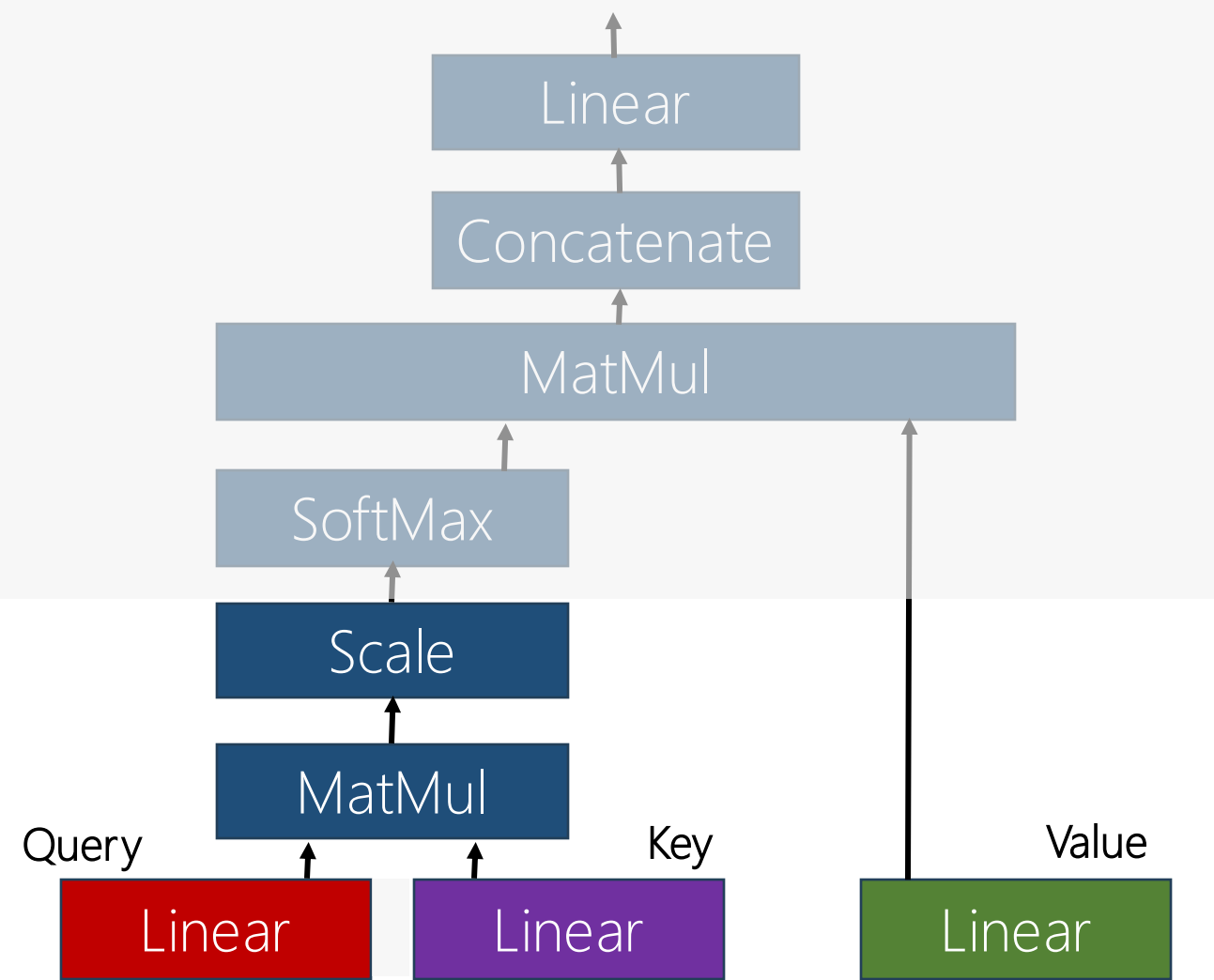
Attention Filter





Attention Filter

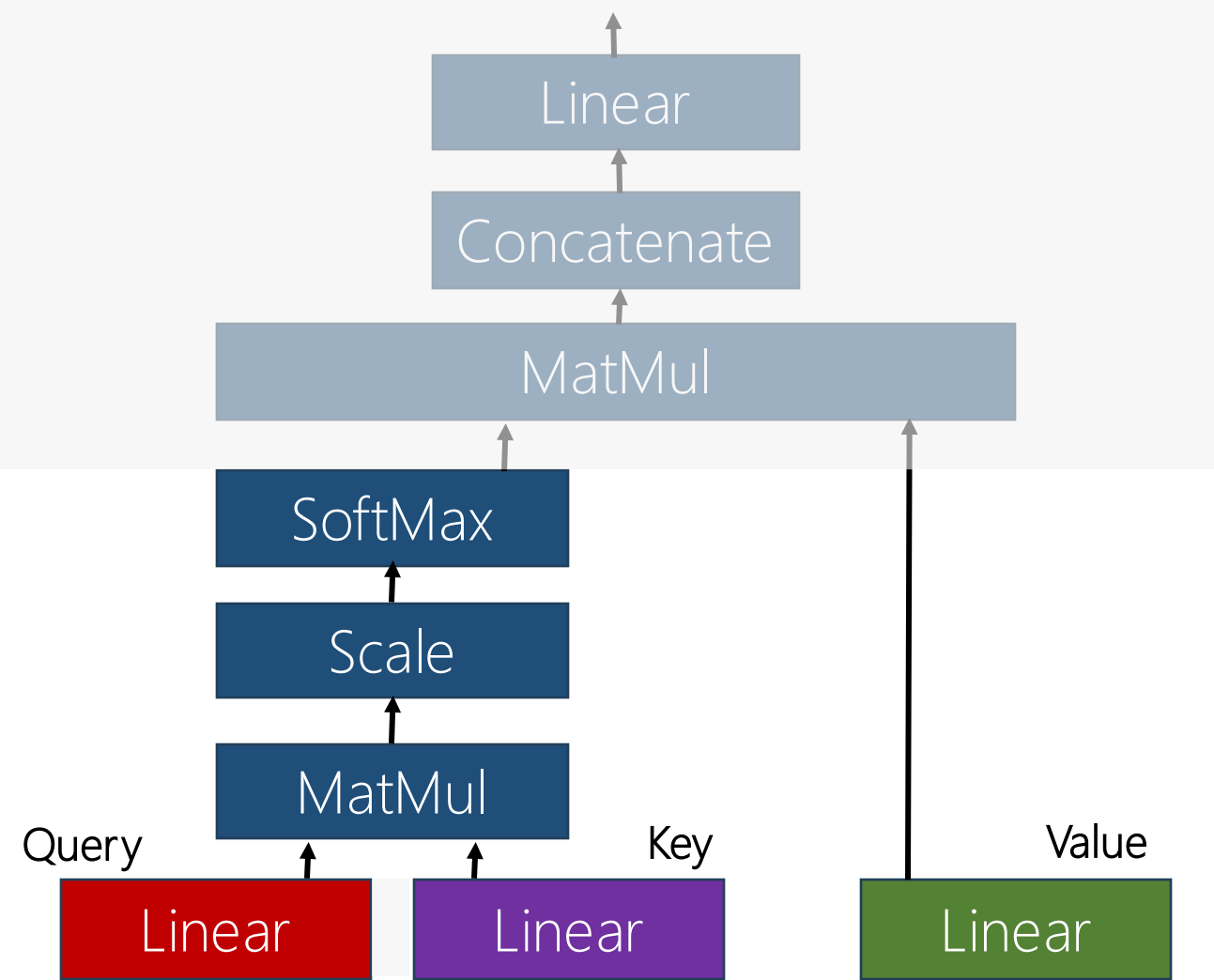




Attention Filter

	It	matters	not	what	someone	is	born
It							
matters							
not							
what							
someone							
is							
born							

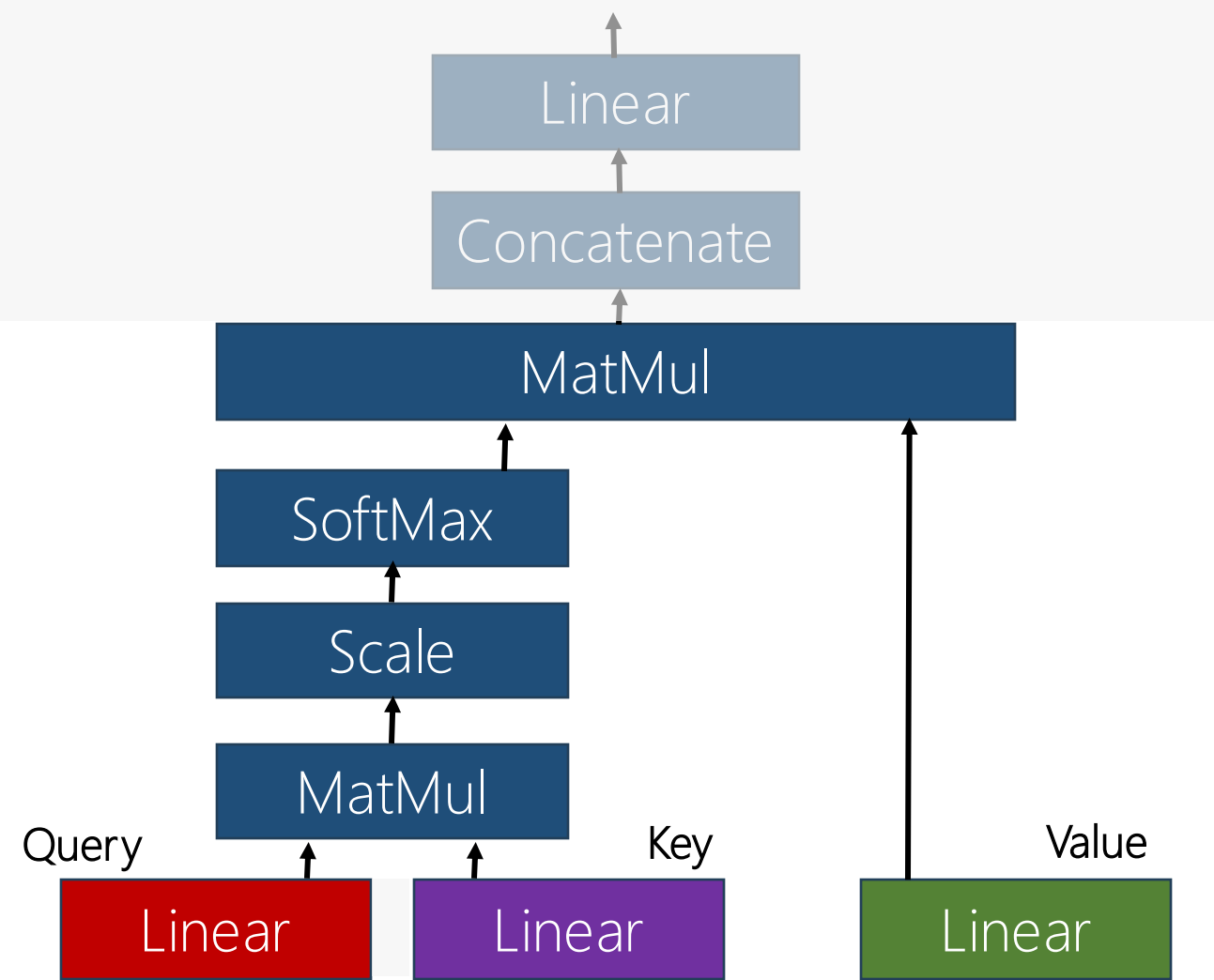
Scale using dimension!



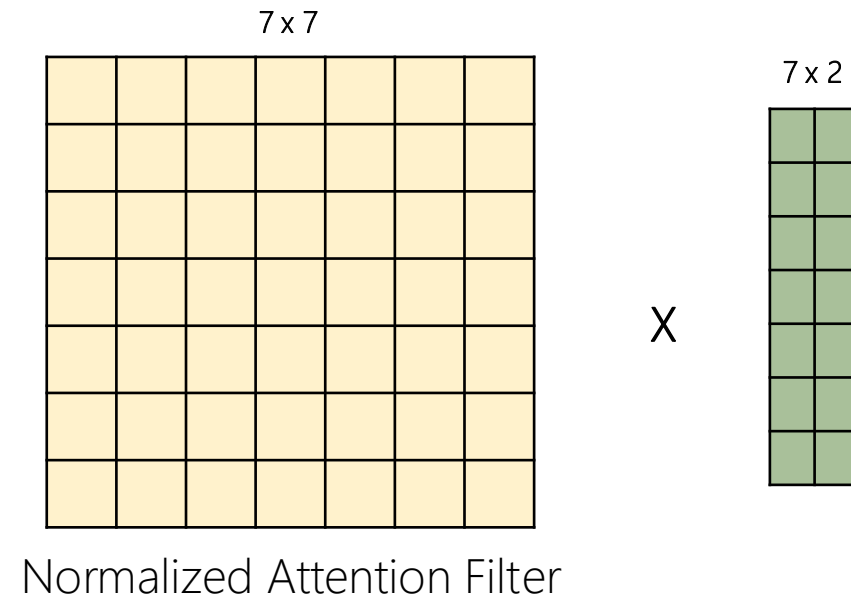
Attention Filter

	It	matters	not	what	someone	is	born
It							
matters							
not							
what							
someone							
is							
born							

Normalize using SoftMax!

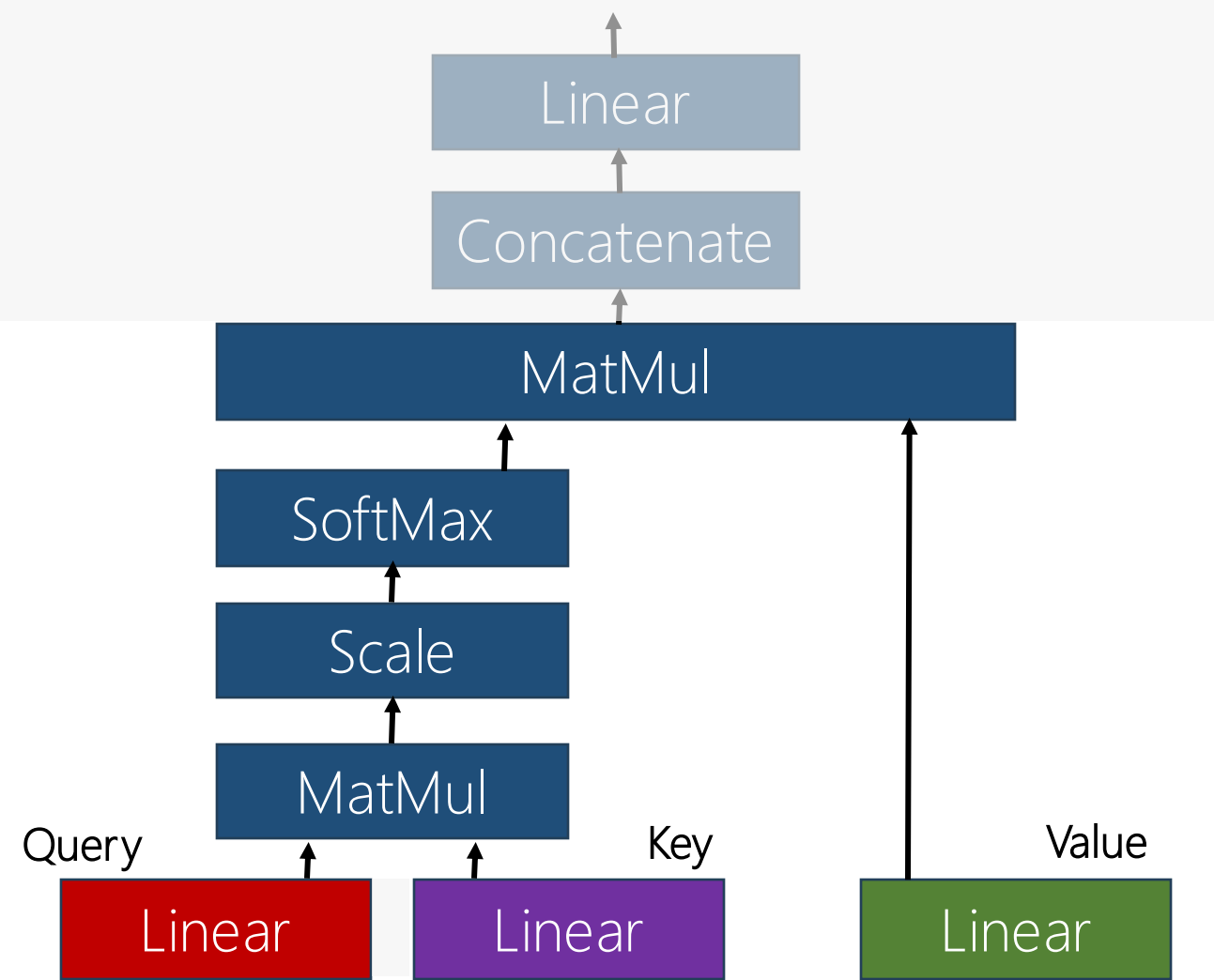


Weighted Value

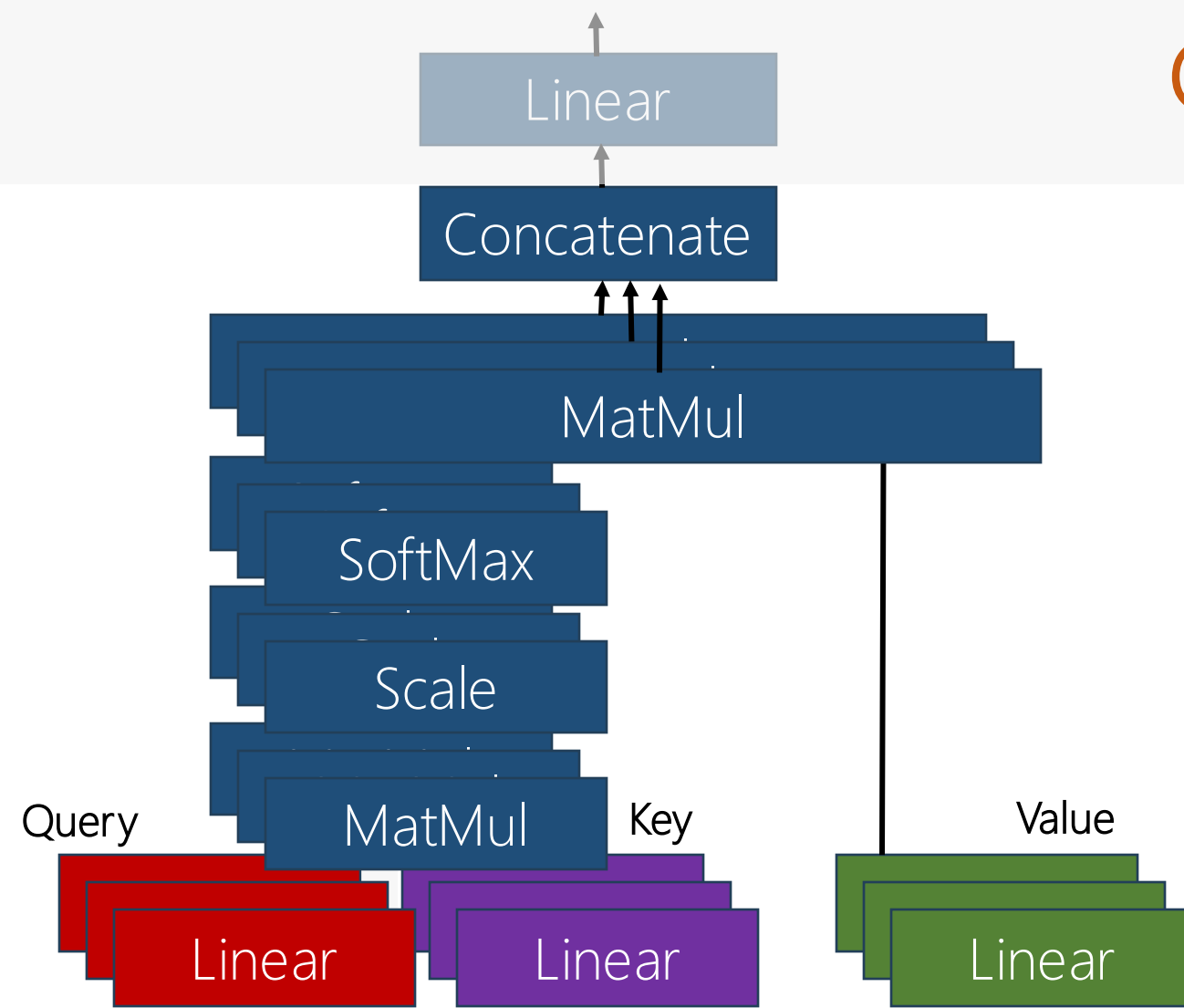


$$\text{Attention}(Q, K, V) = \sigma \left(\frac{Q \cdot K^T}{\sqrt{d_k}} \right) \cdot V$$

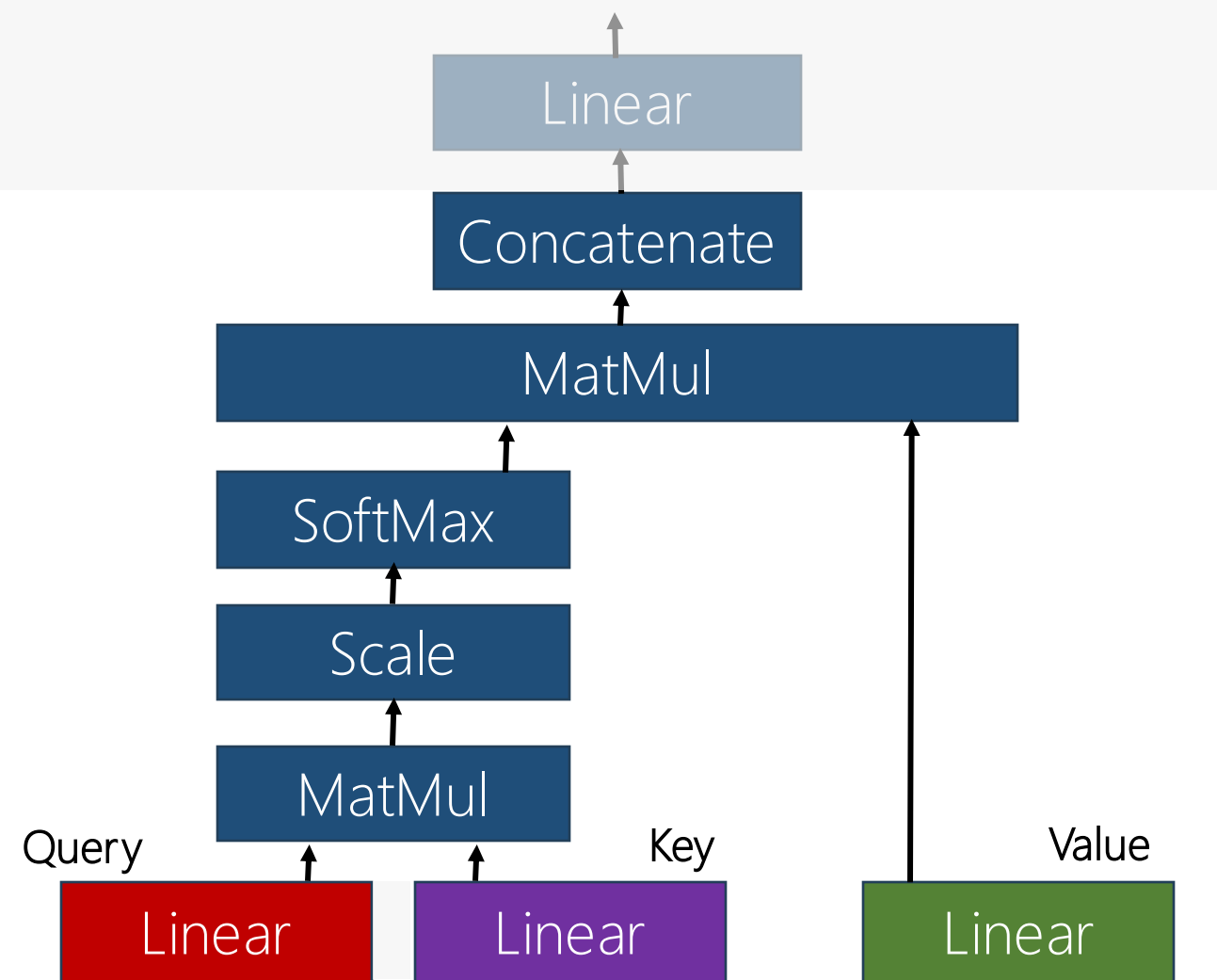
What's to Concatenate??

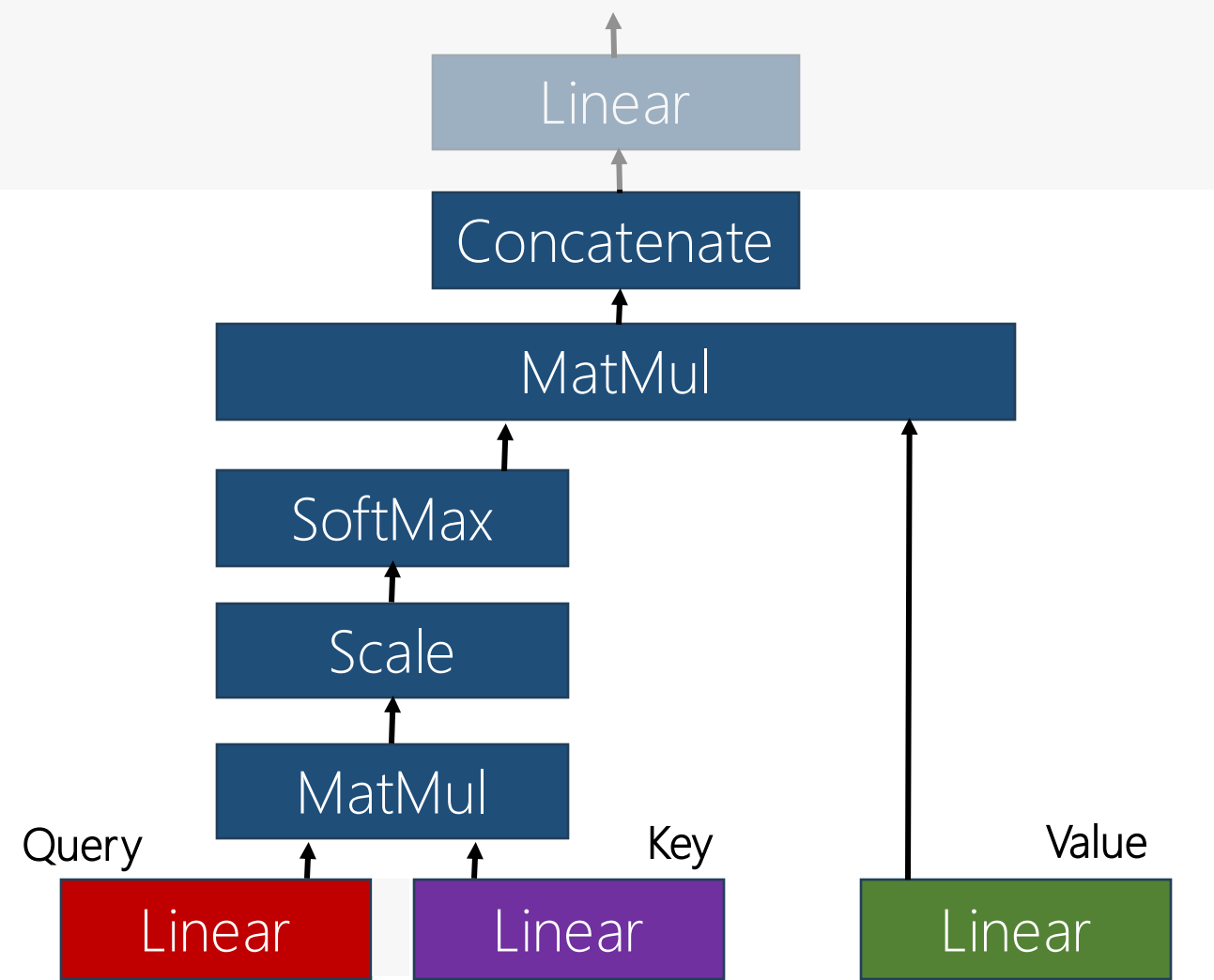


Concatenate Outputs from all Attention Heads

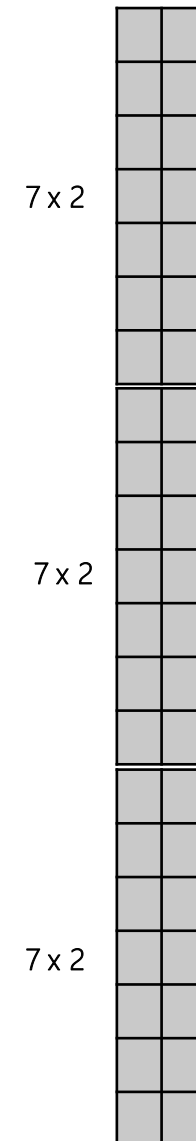


Another Linear layer??
Why? Why? Why?

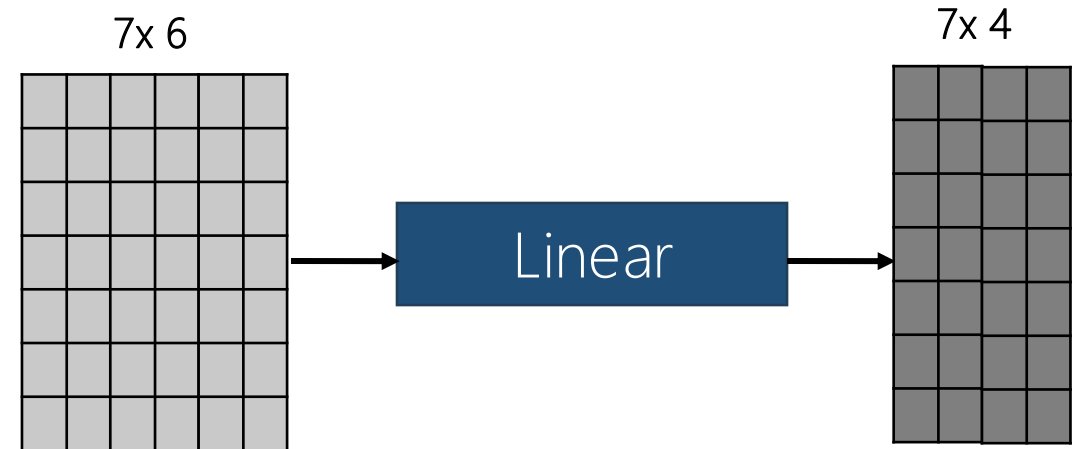
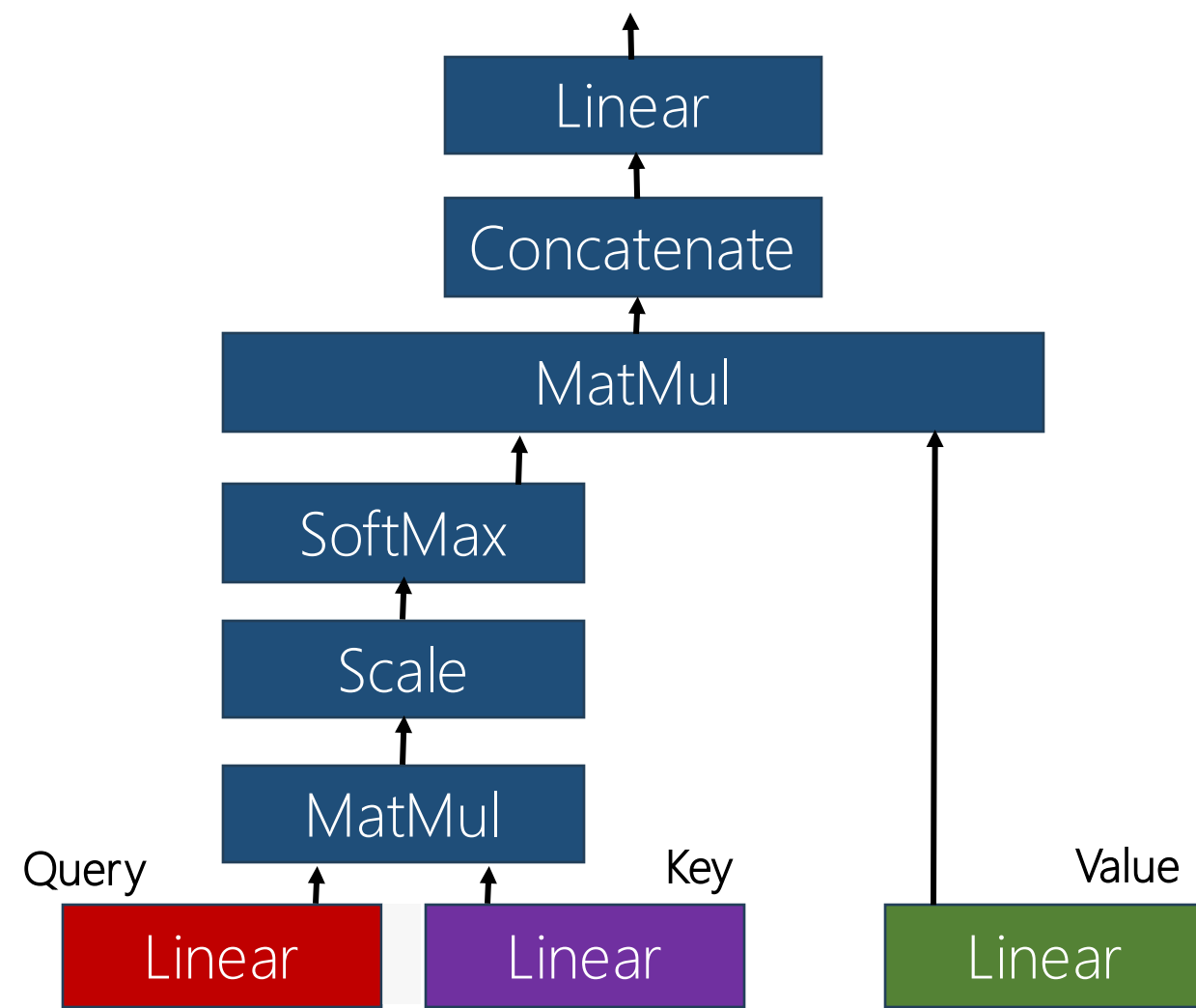




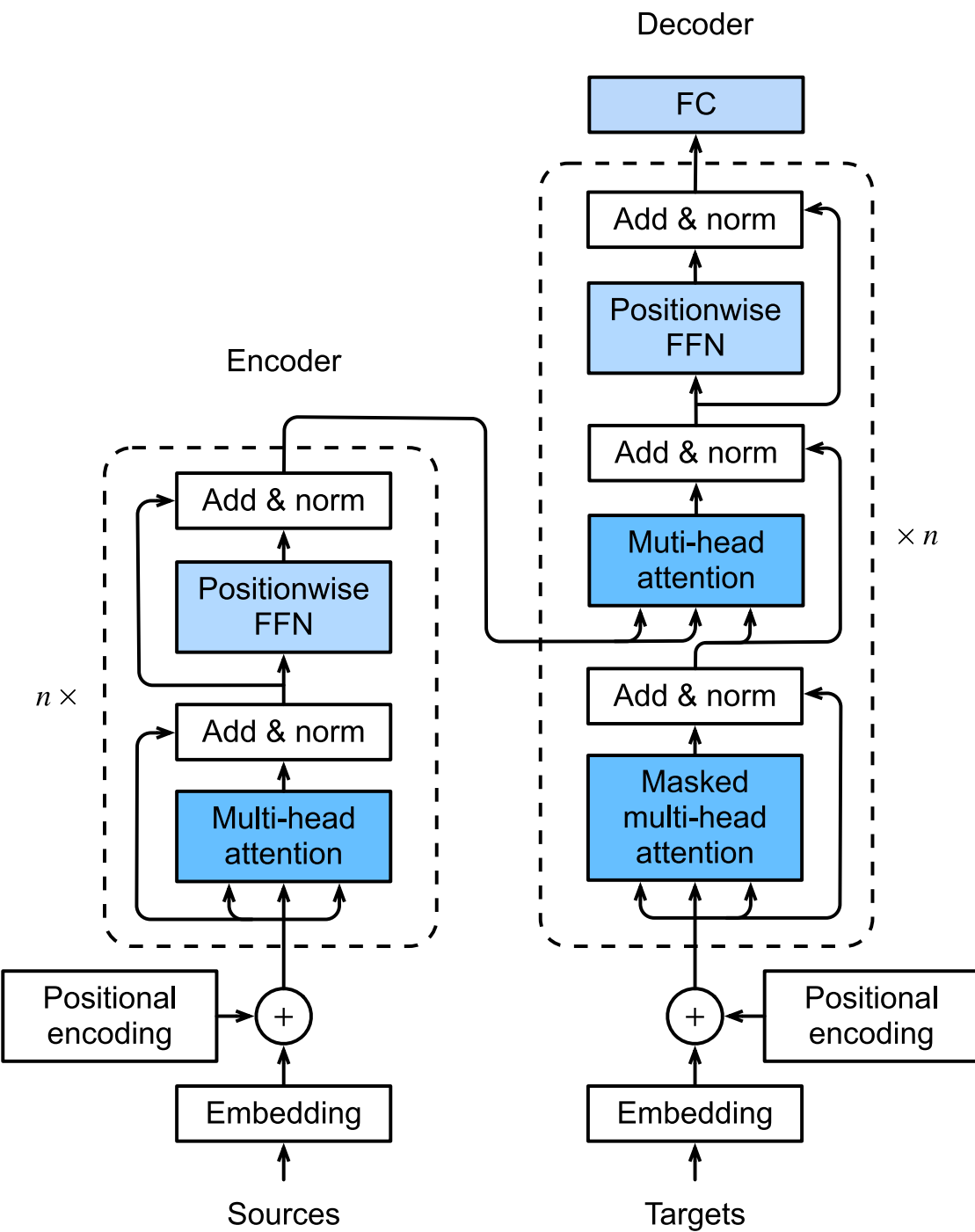
Another Linear layer??
Why? Why? Why?

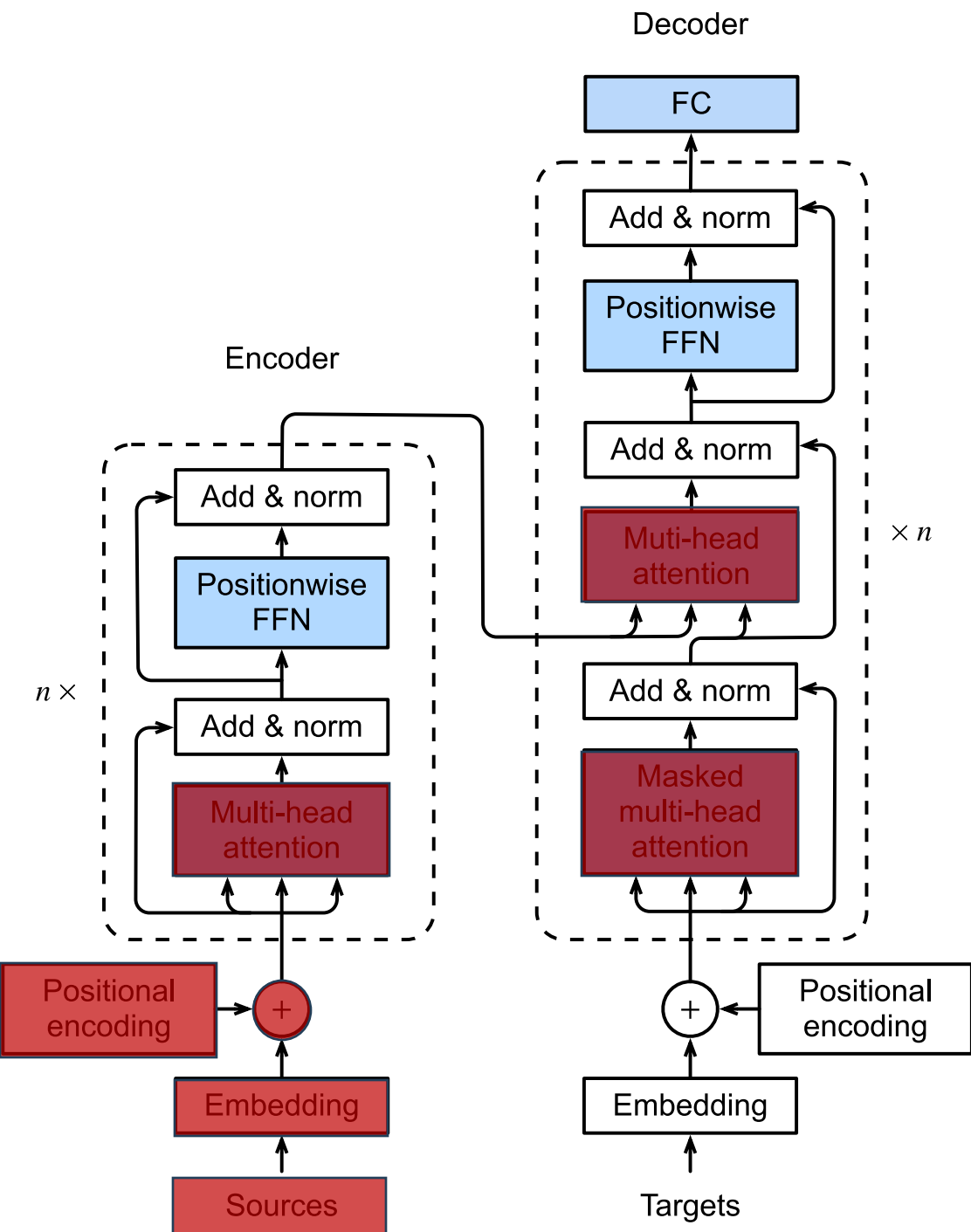


Another Linear layer??
Why? Why? Why?



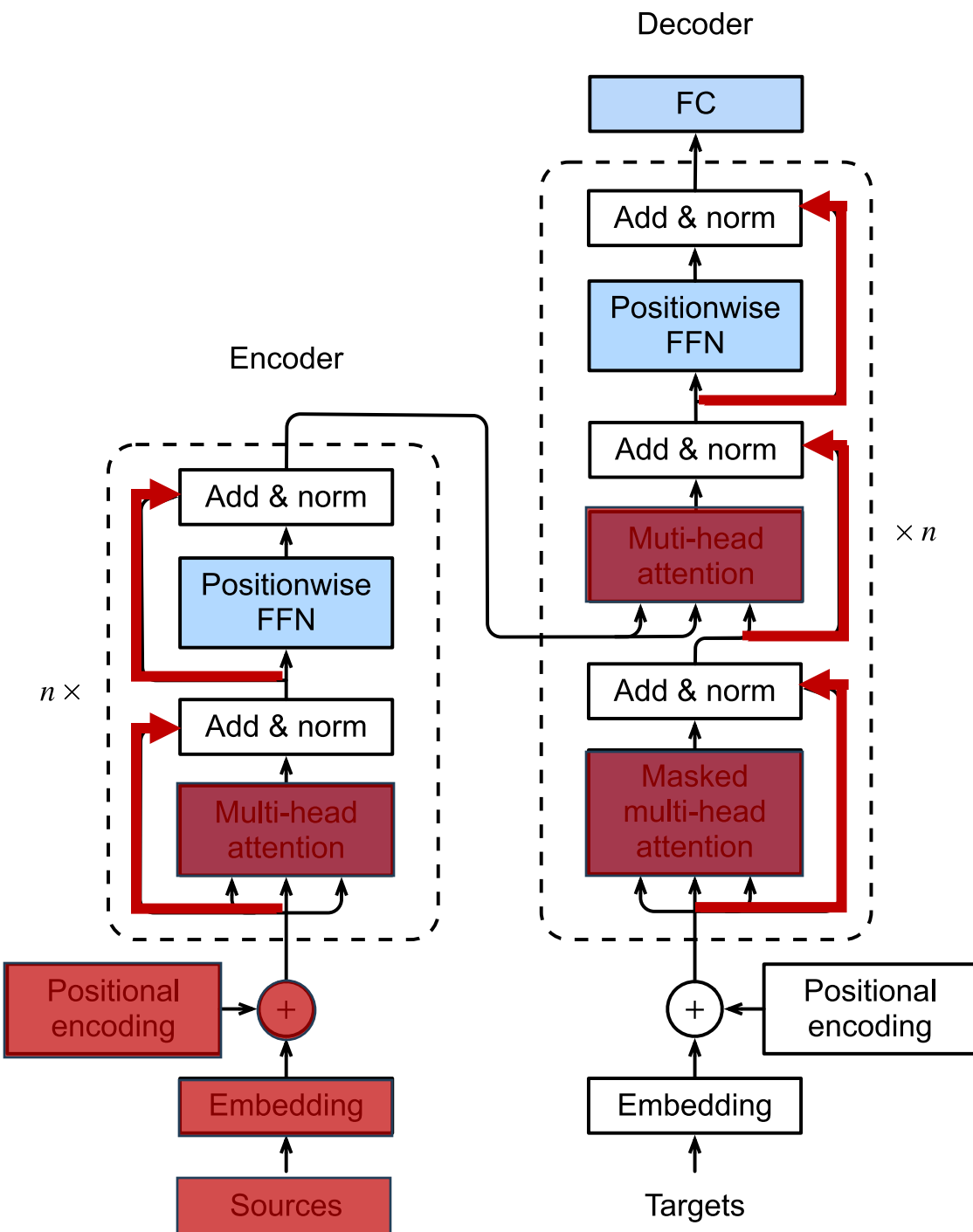
What about the rest of
the Transformer?



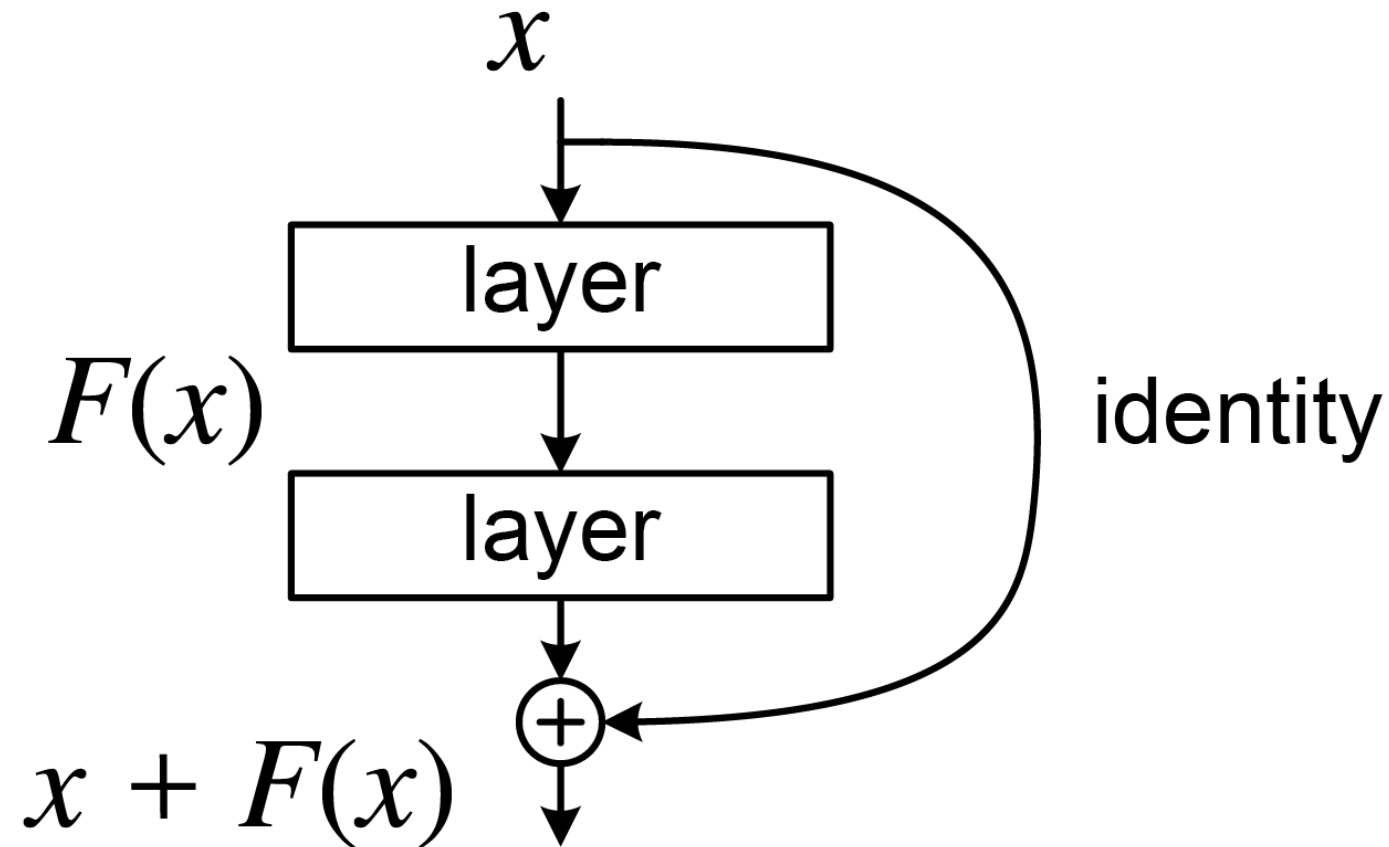


Residual Connection

Let's go down the memory lane...

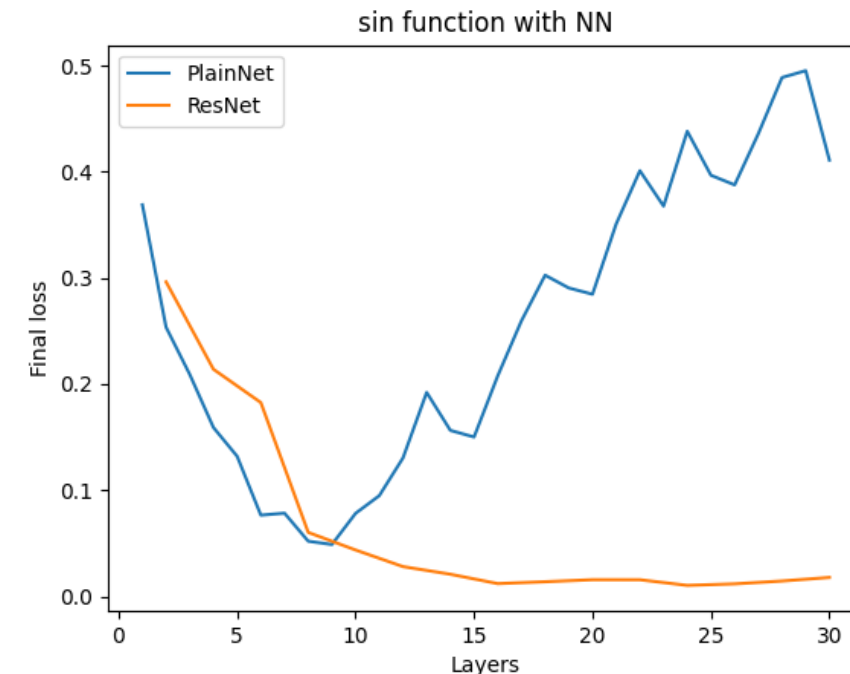
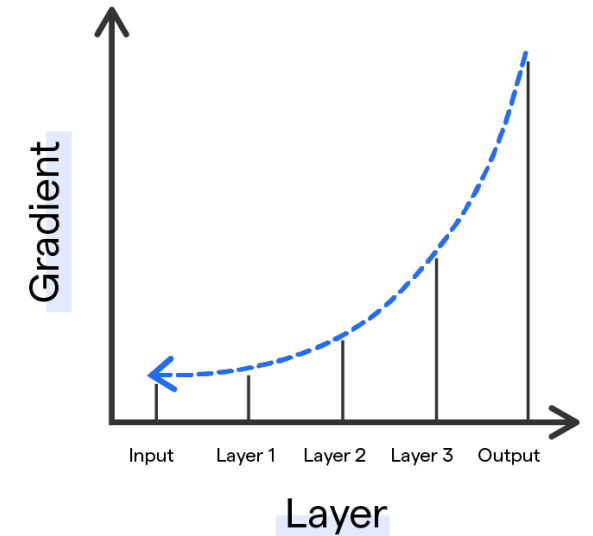


Residual neural network

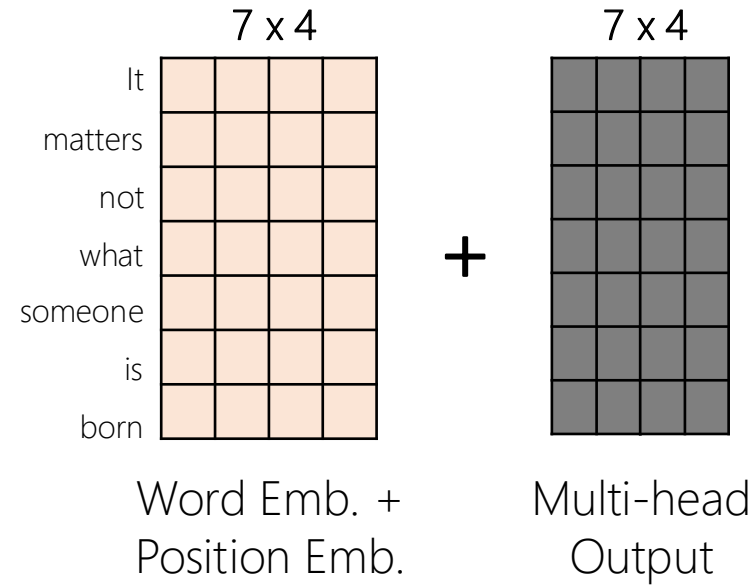
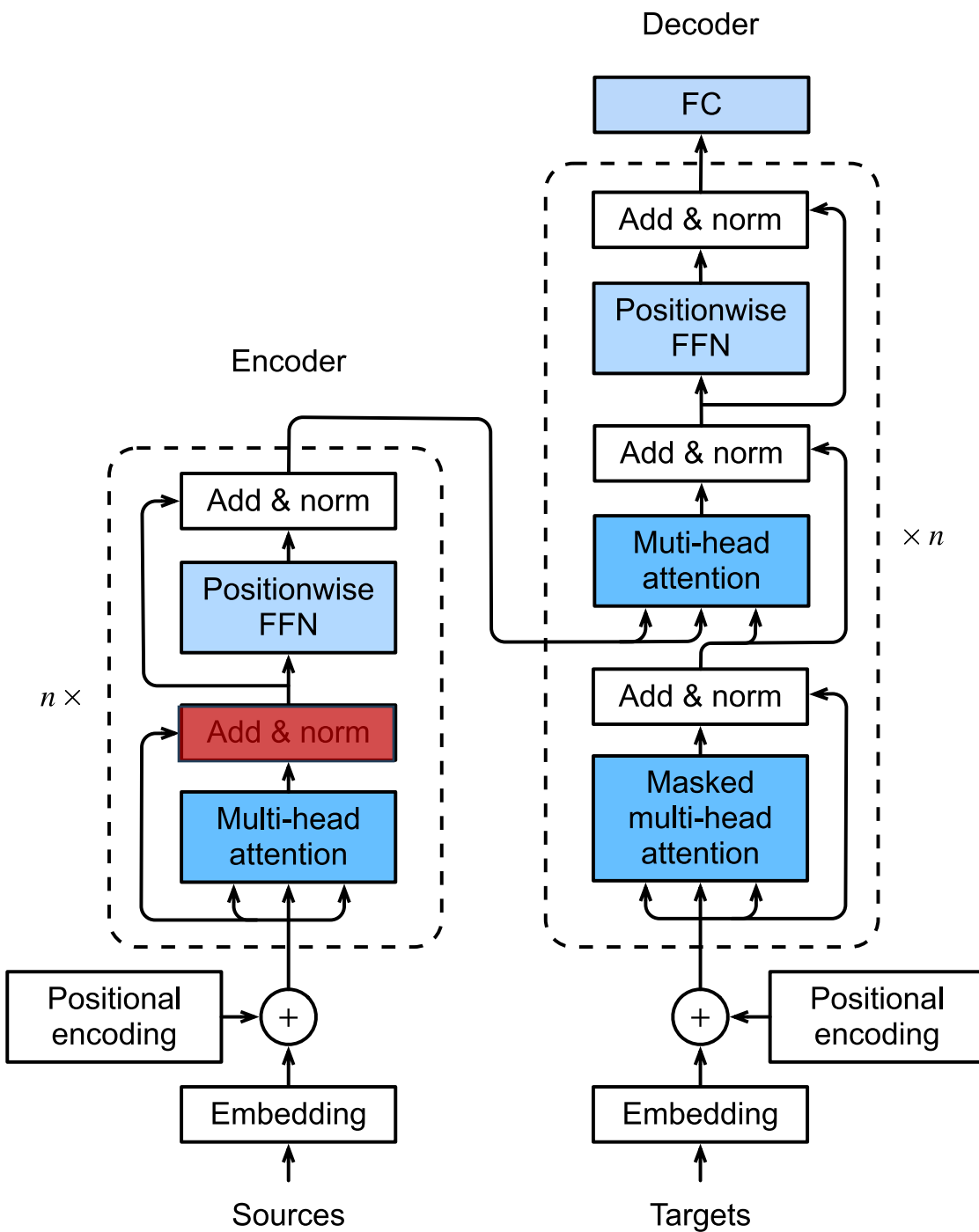


Residual neural network

- **Vanishing Gradient:** As we backpropagate the gradients back through the network from the output layer towards the input the repeated multiplication of these small derivative values leads to increasingly smaller gradients
- **Degradation problem:** As a network deepens, the accuracy can start to decline even when training properly, which is not simply overfitting

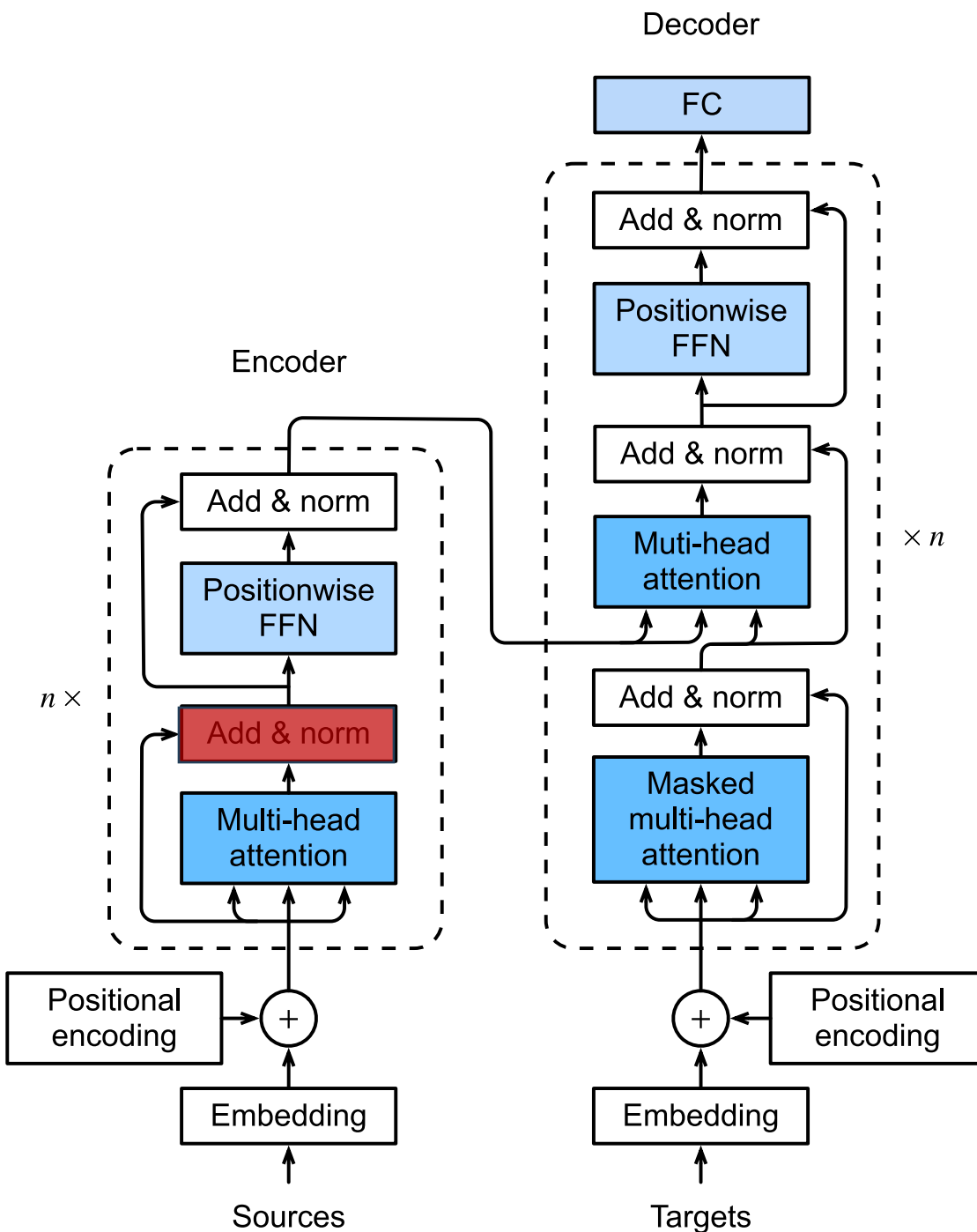


Add & Norm



Add & Norm

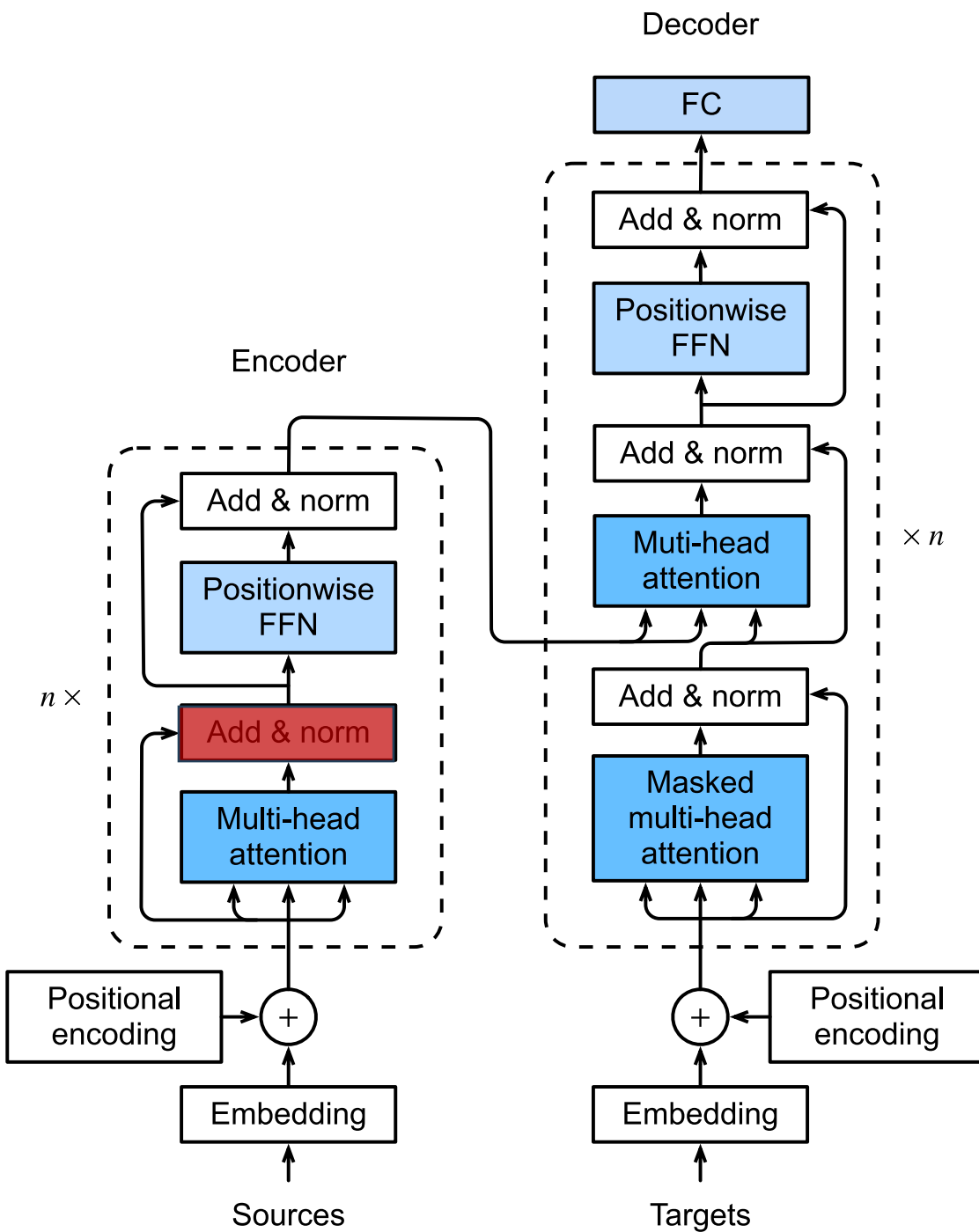
LayerNorm is used to stabilize the training process and addresses the internal covariate shift (ICS) problem, where the distribution of activations within a layer changes during training, making it difficult for the network to learn effectively.



7 x 4

1.56	2.12	0.91	2.87
0.45	1.23	2.76	0.67
2.03	0.58	1.41	1.29
0.92	2.31	0.14	2.55
1.80	0.61	2.98	1.52
2.67	0.33	1.99	1.74
0.48	2.40	1.68	0.29

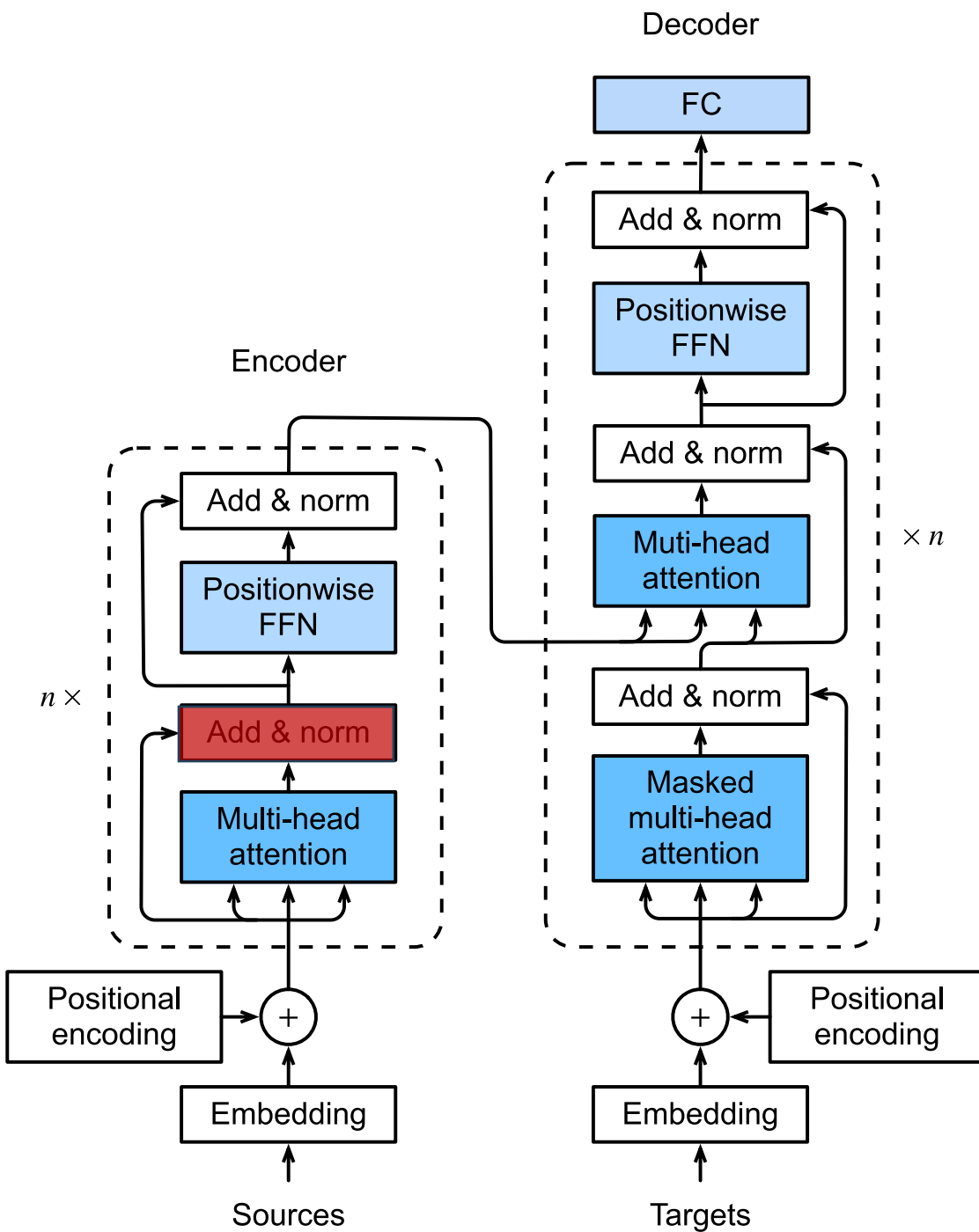
Add & Norm



7 x 4

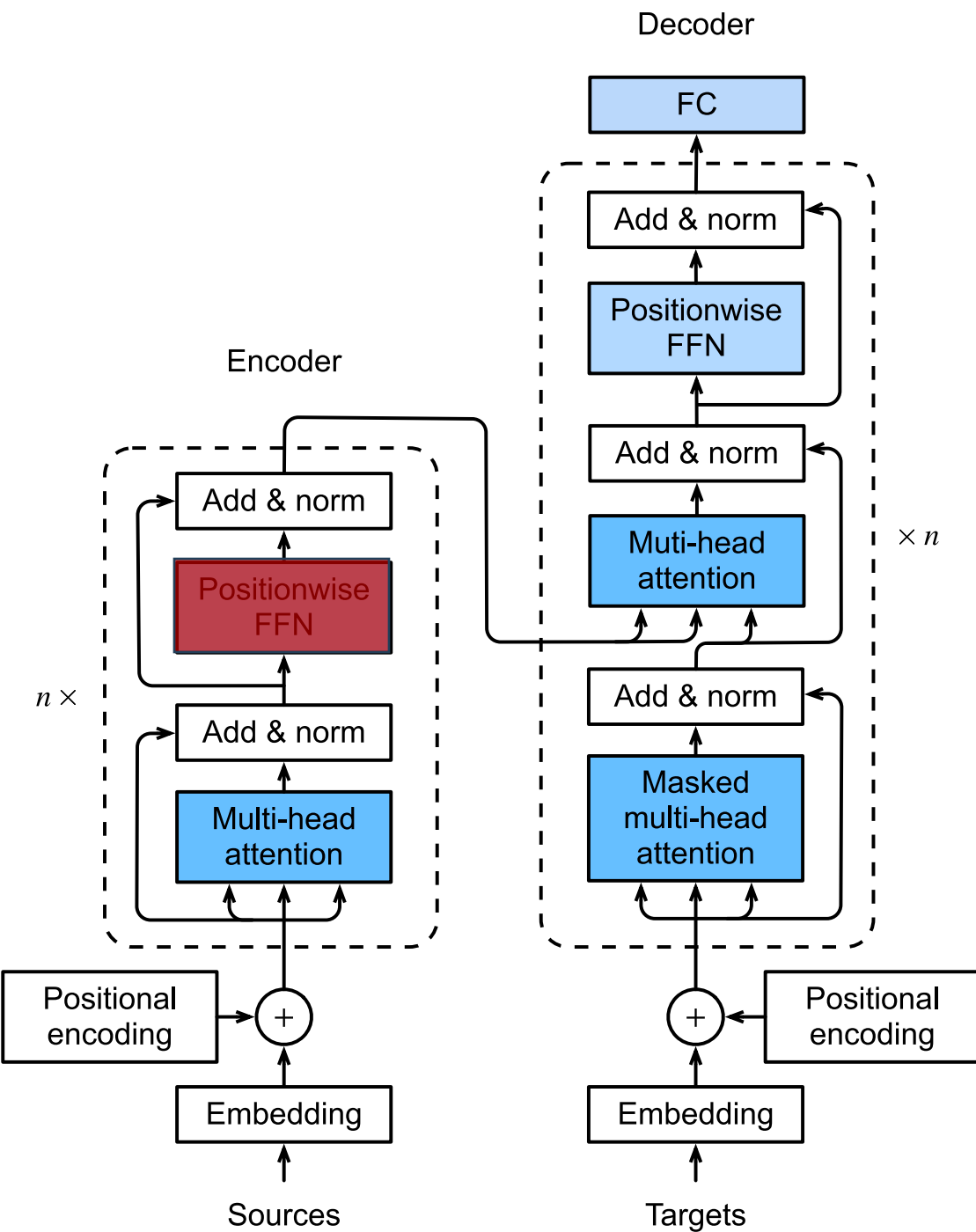
It	1.56	2.12	0.91	2.87
matters	0.45	1.23	2.76	0.67
not	2.03	0.58	1.41	1.29
what	0.92	2.31	0.14	2.55
someone	1.80	0.61	2.98	1.52
is	2.67	0.33	1.99	1.74
born	0.48	2.40	1.68	0.29

Add & Norm

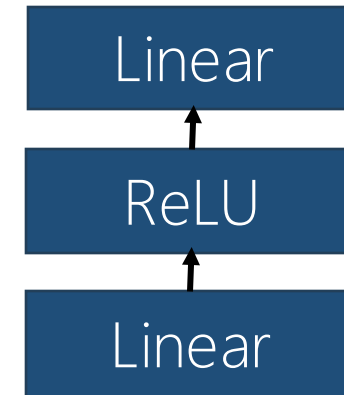


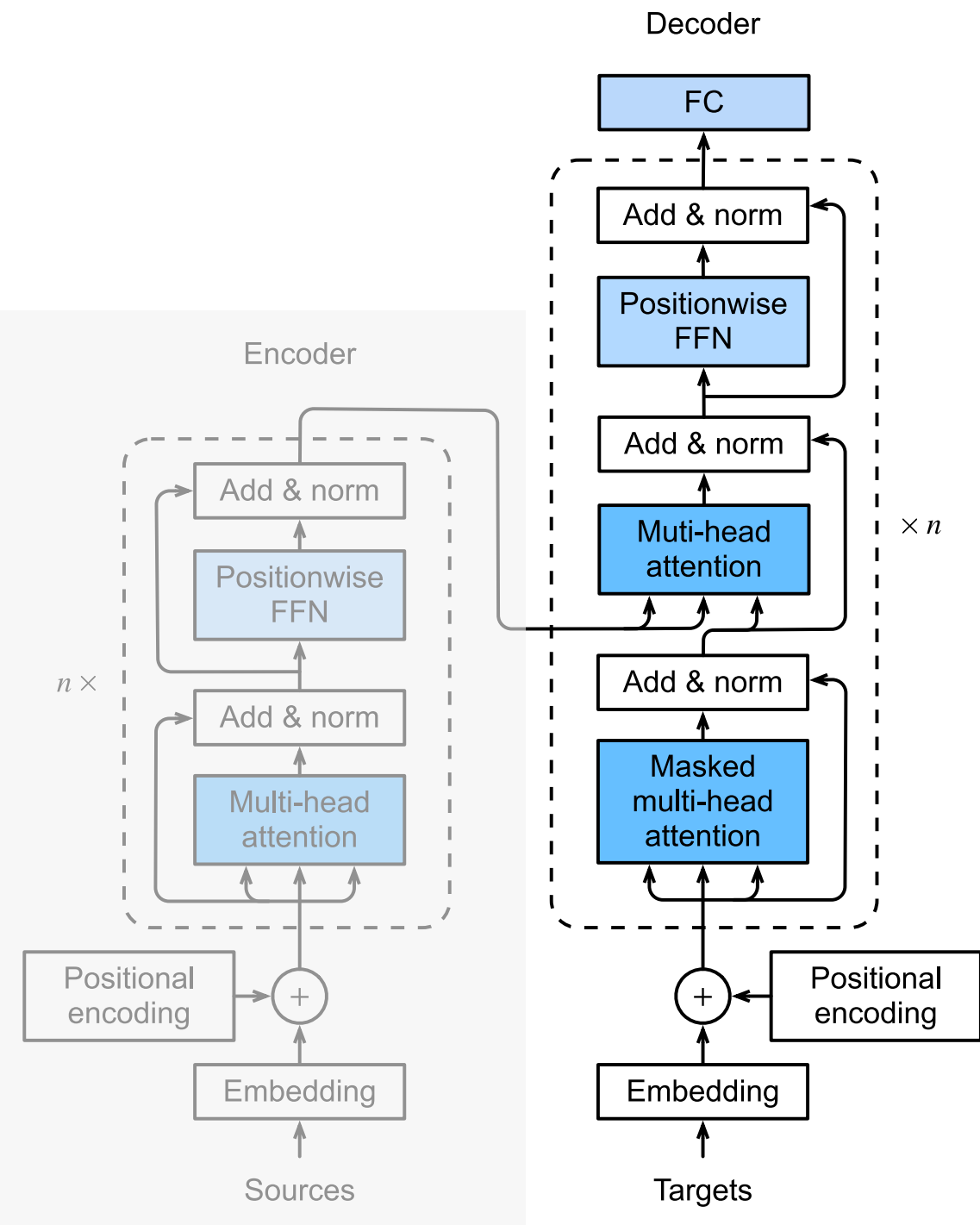
	7 x 4				Mean (μ)	Stdev. (σ)
It	1.56	2.12	0.91	2.87	1.865	0.673
matters	0.45	1.23	2.76	0.67	1.028	0.867
not	2.03	0.58	1.41	1.29	1.578	0.504
what	0.92	2.31	0.14	2.55	1.730	0.838
someone	1.80	0.61	2.98	1.52	1.978	0.811
is	2.67	0.33	1.99	1.74	1.930	0.656
born	0.48	2.40	1.68	0.29	1.198	0.822

$$x'_i = \frac{x_i - \mu_i}{\sqrt{\sigma_i^2 + \varepsilon}}$$



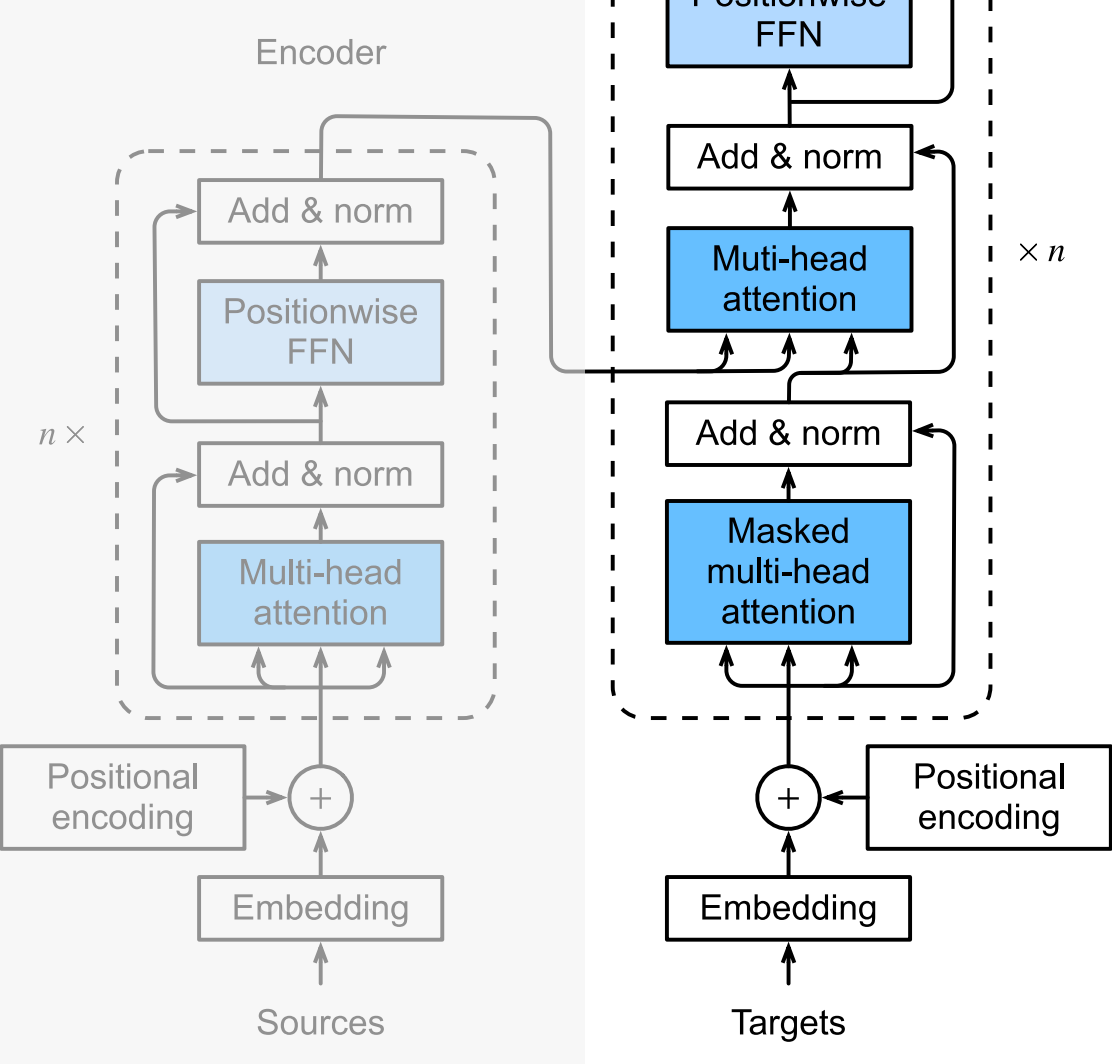
A bunch of Linear is all we need!





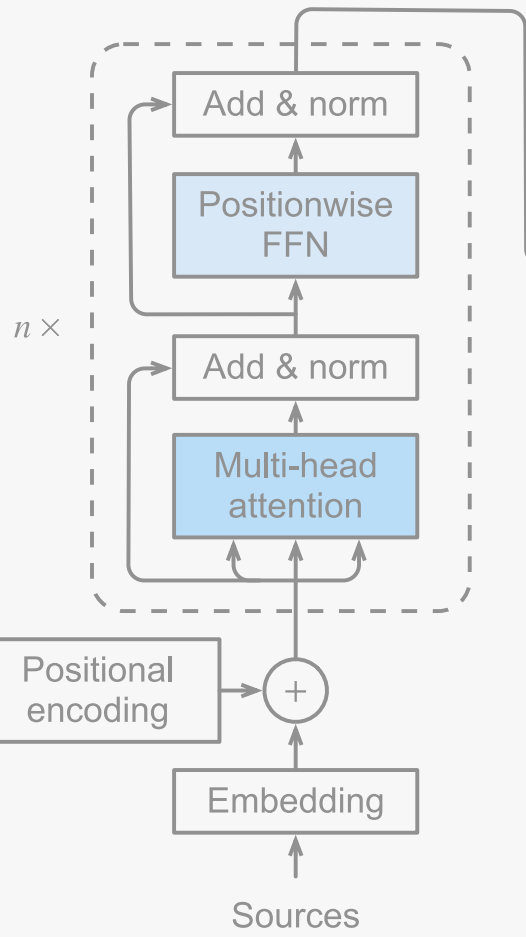
That covers our Encoder part of the Transformer!

It	-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
matters	-0.910	-0.943	1.325	-1.785
not	0.249	-1.927	-0.673	-0.843
what	-1.404	0.662	-2.608	1.024
someone	-0.095	-1.873	1.620	-0.511
is	0.119	-2.263	-0.119	-0.379
born	-0.905	0.771	-0.217	-2.326

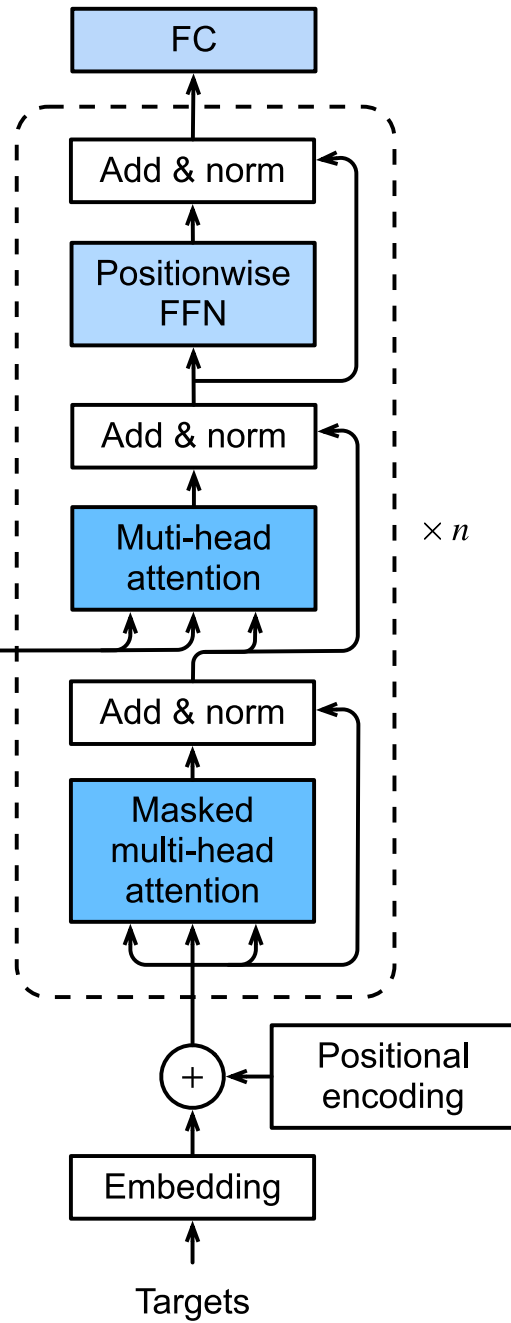


	-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
→	-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
0	-0.910	-0.943	1.325	-1.785
→	0.249	-1.927	-0.673	-0.843
→	-1.404	0.662	-2.608	1.024
0	-0.095	-1.873	1.620	-0.511
→	0.119	-2.263	-0.119	-0.379
→	-0.905	0.771	-0.217	-2.326

Encoder



Decoder



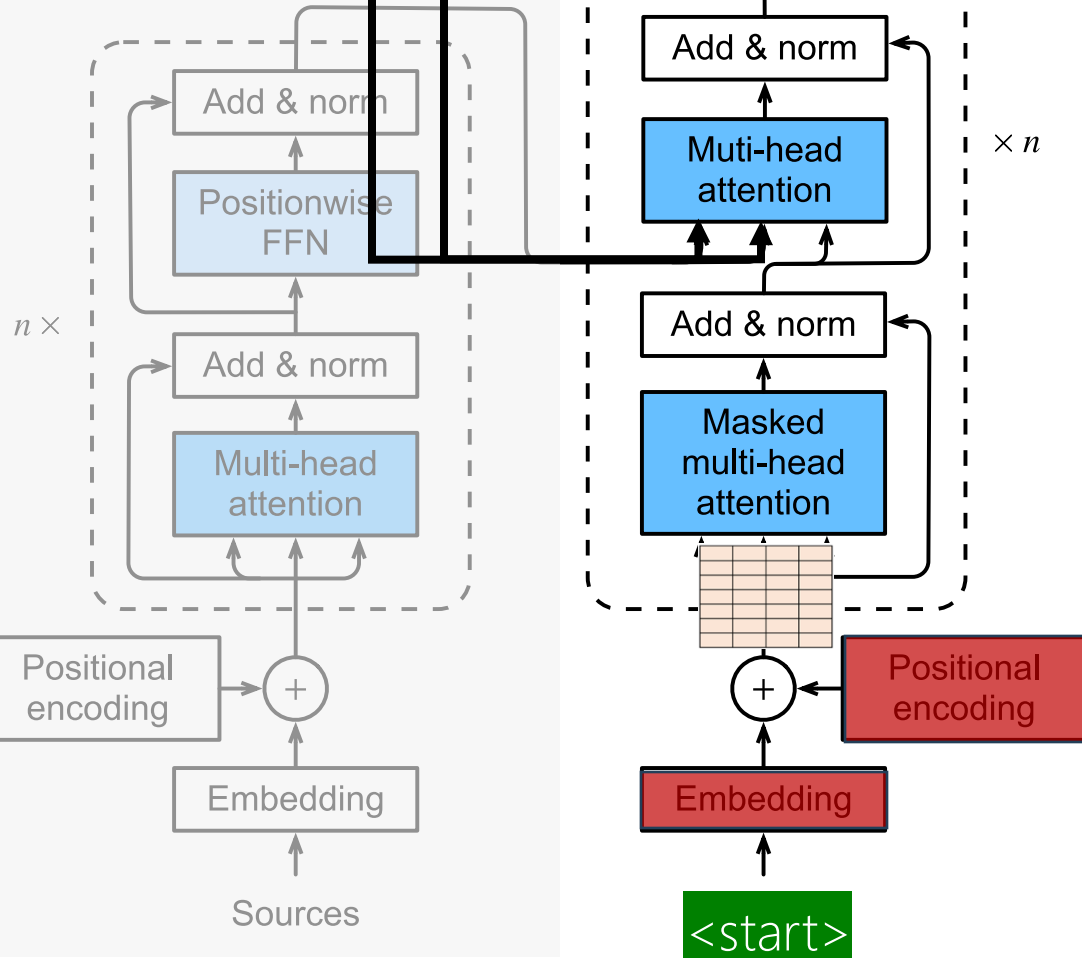
<start>

Timestamp = 1

	-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
→	-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
0	-0.910	-0.943	1.325	-1.785
→	0.249	-1.927	-0.673	-0.843
→	-1.404	0.662	-2.608	1.024
0	-0.095	-1.873	1.620	-0.511
→	0.119	-2.263	-0.119	-0.379
→	-0.905	0.771	-0.217	-2.326

Encoder

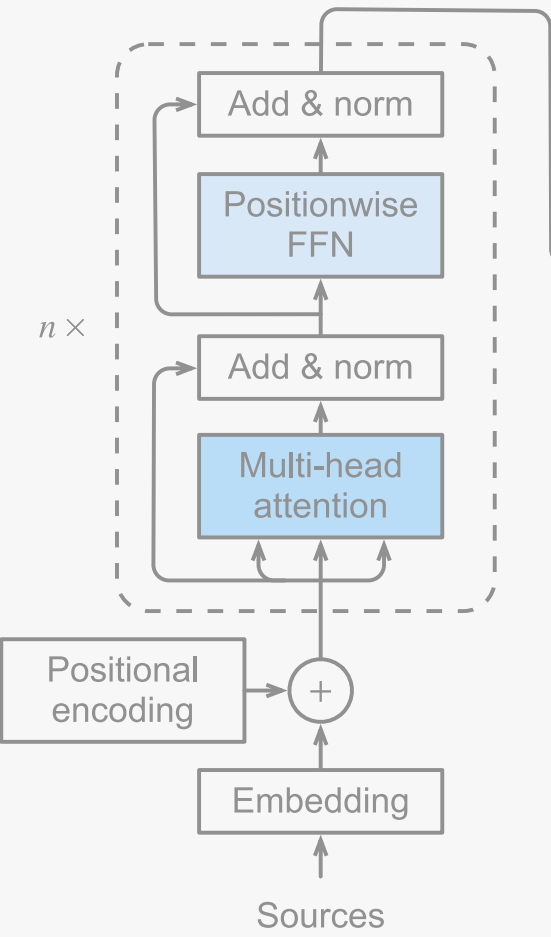
Decoder



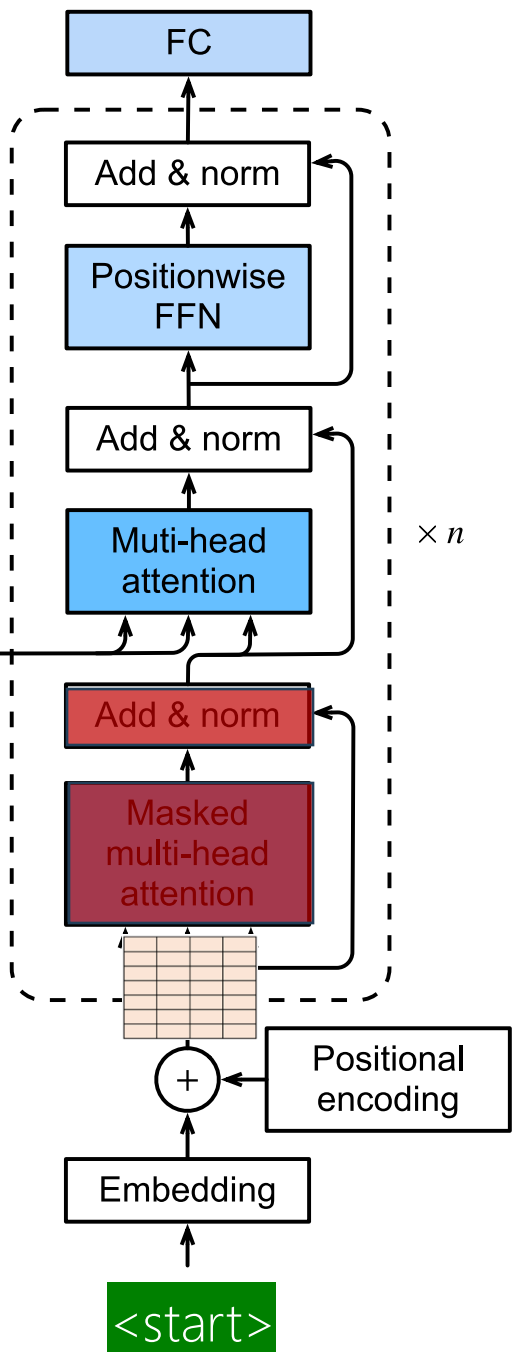
Timestamp = 1

	-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
→	-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
0	-0.910	-0.943	1.325	-1.785
→	0.249	-1.927	-0.673	-0.843
→	-1.404	0.662	-2.608	1.024
0	-0.095	-1.873	1.620	-0.511
→	0.119	-2.263	-0.119	-0.379
→	-0.905	0.771	-0.217	-2.326

Encoder



Decoder

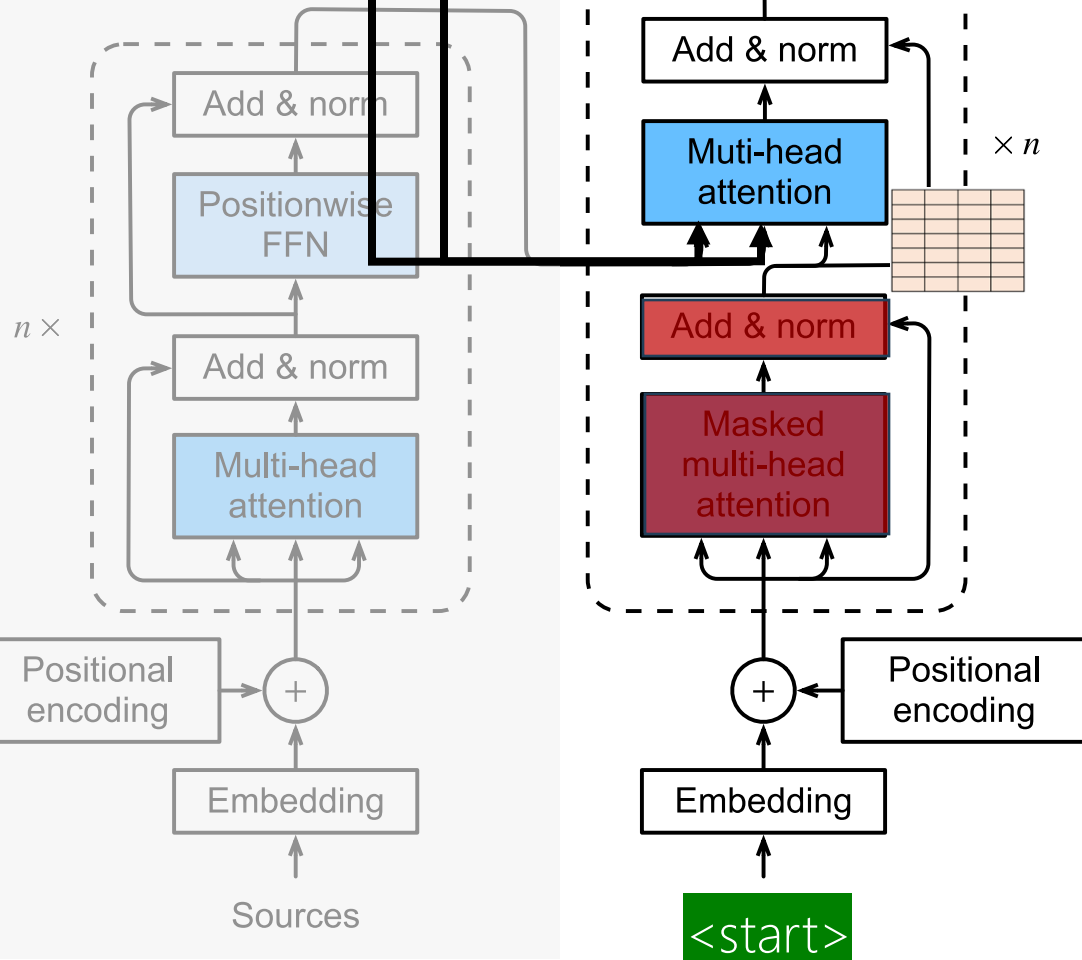


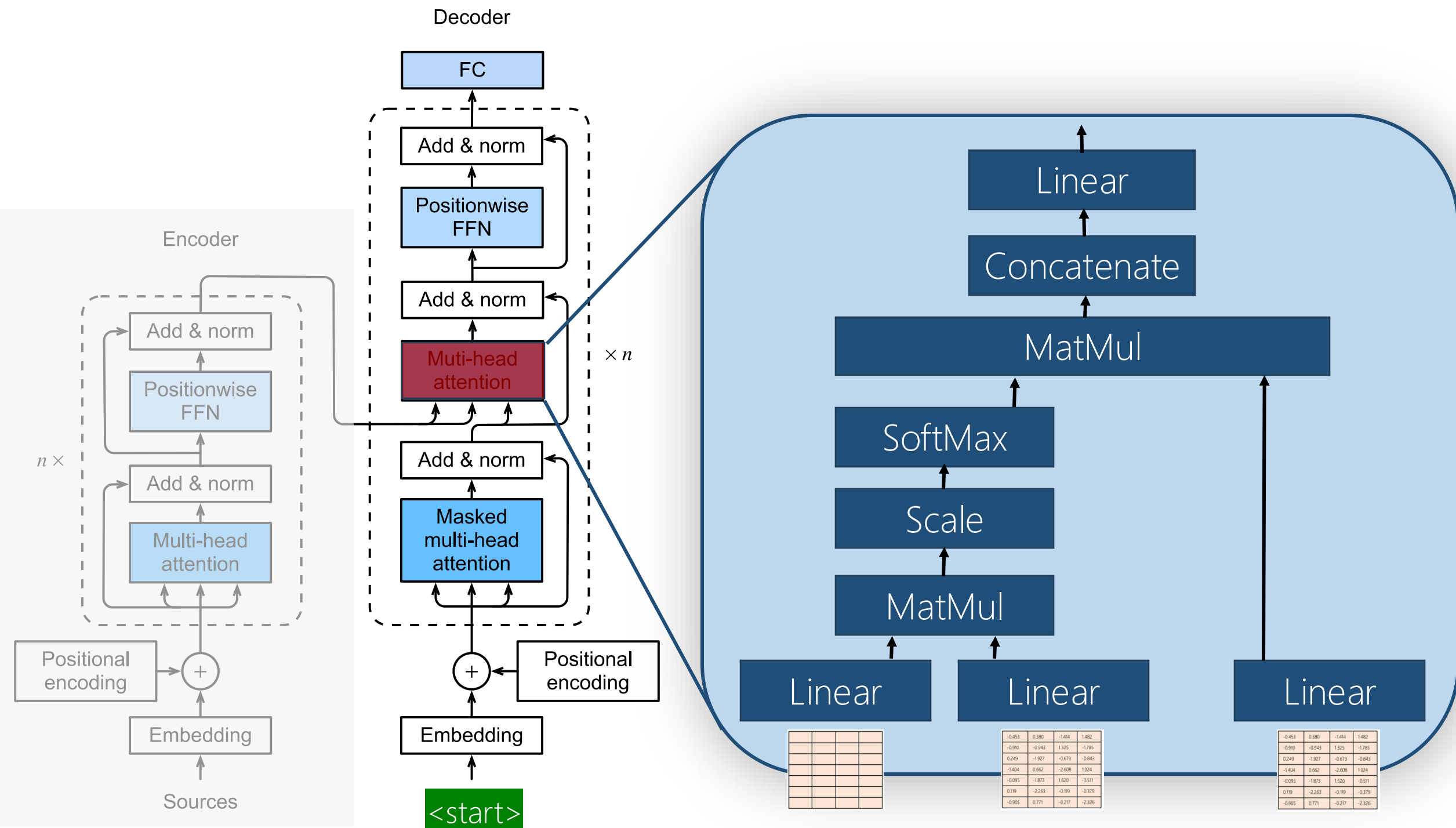
Timestamp = 1

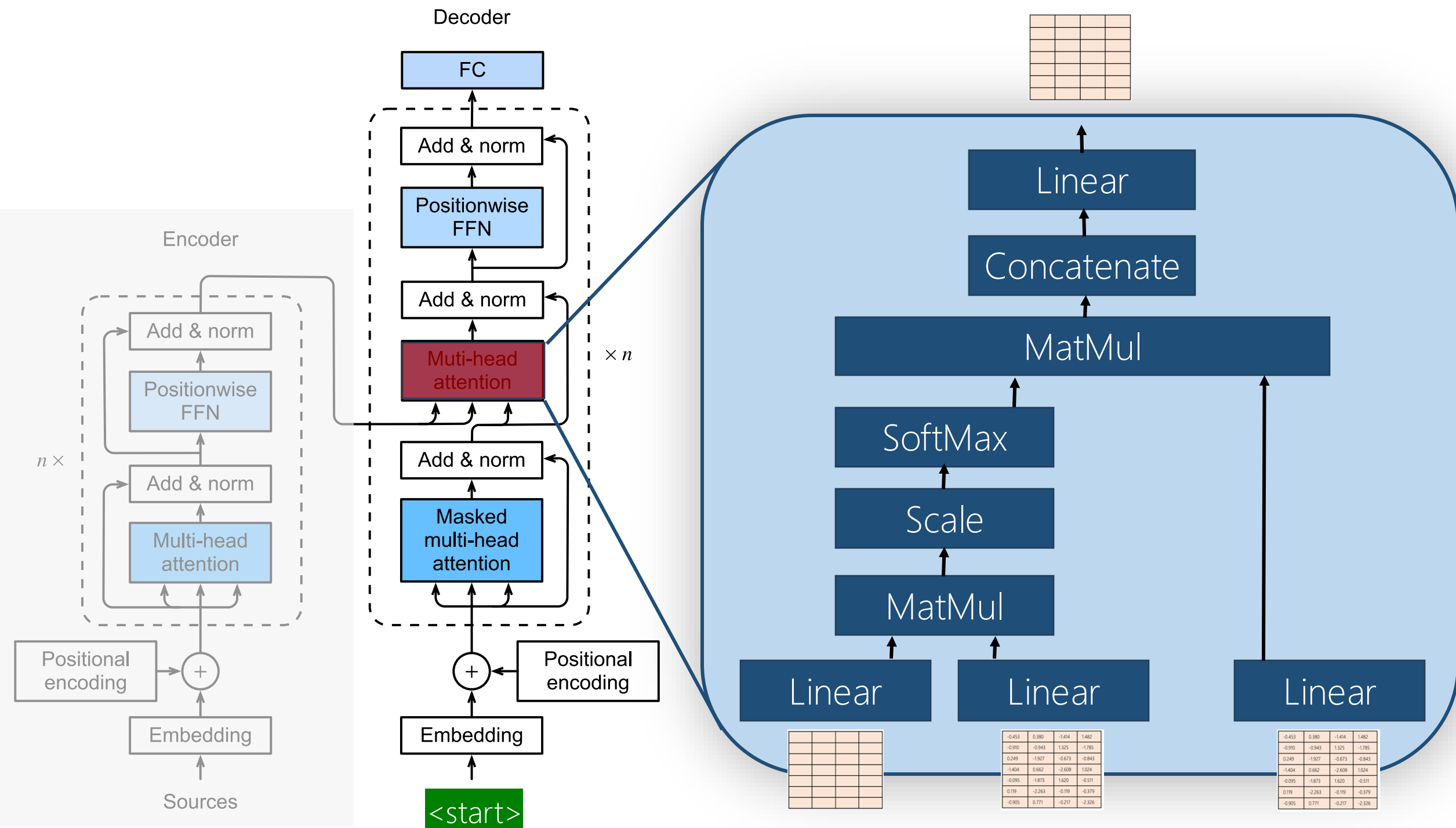
	-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
→	-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
0	-0.910	-0.943	1.325	-1.785
→	0.249	-1.927	-0.673	-0.843
→	-1.404	0.662	-2.608	1.024
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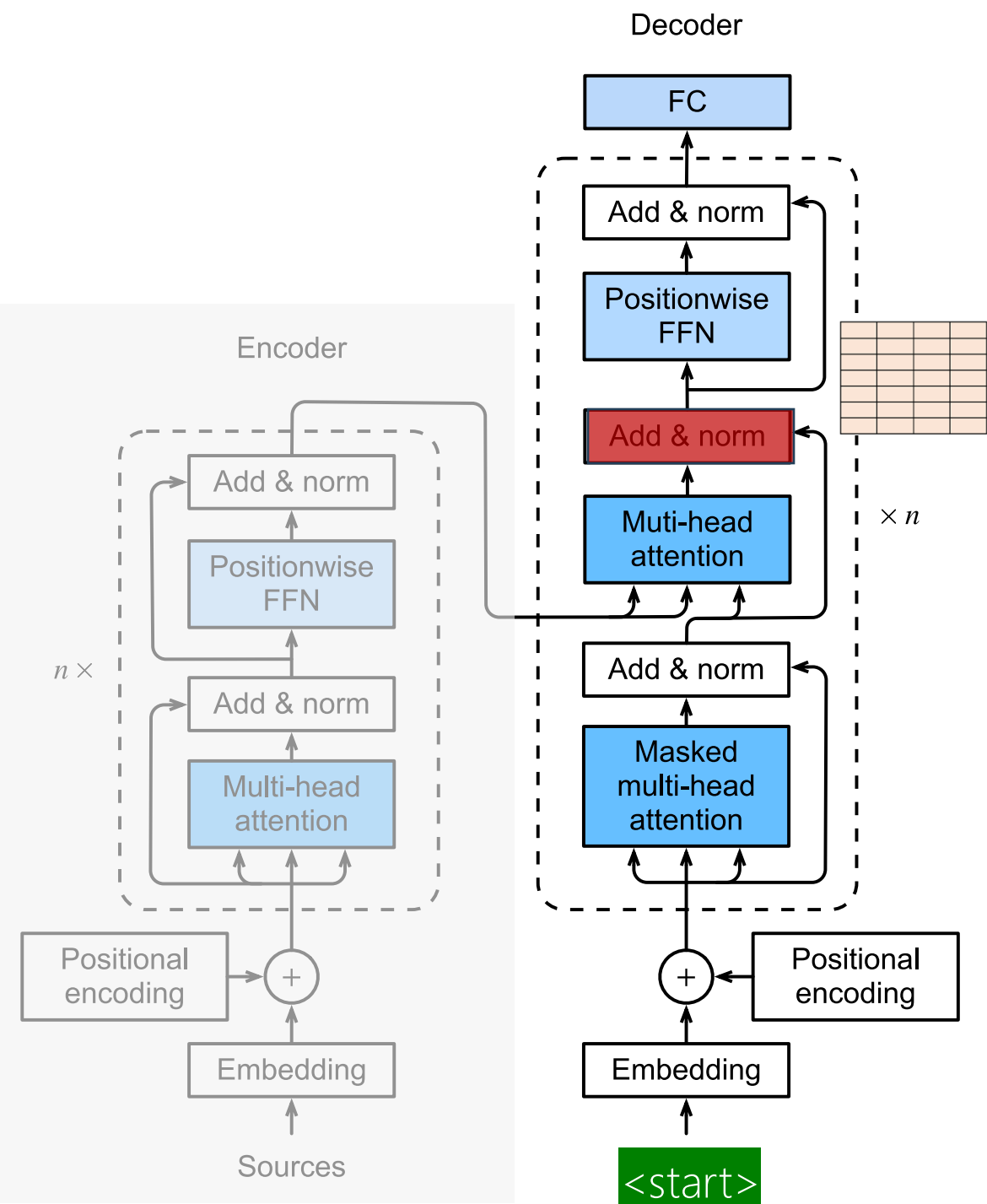
Encoder

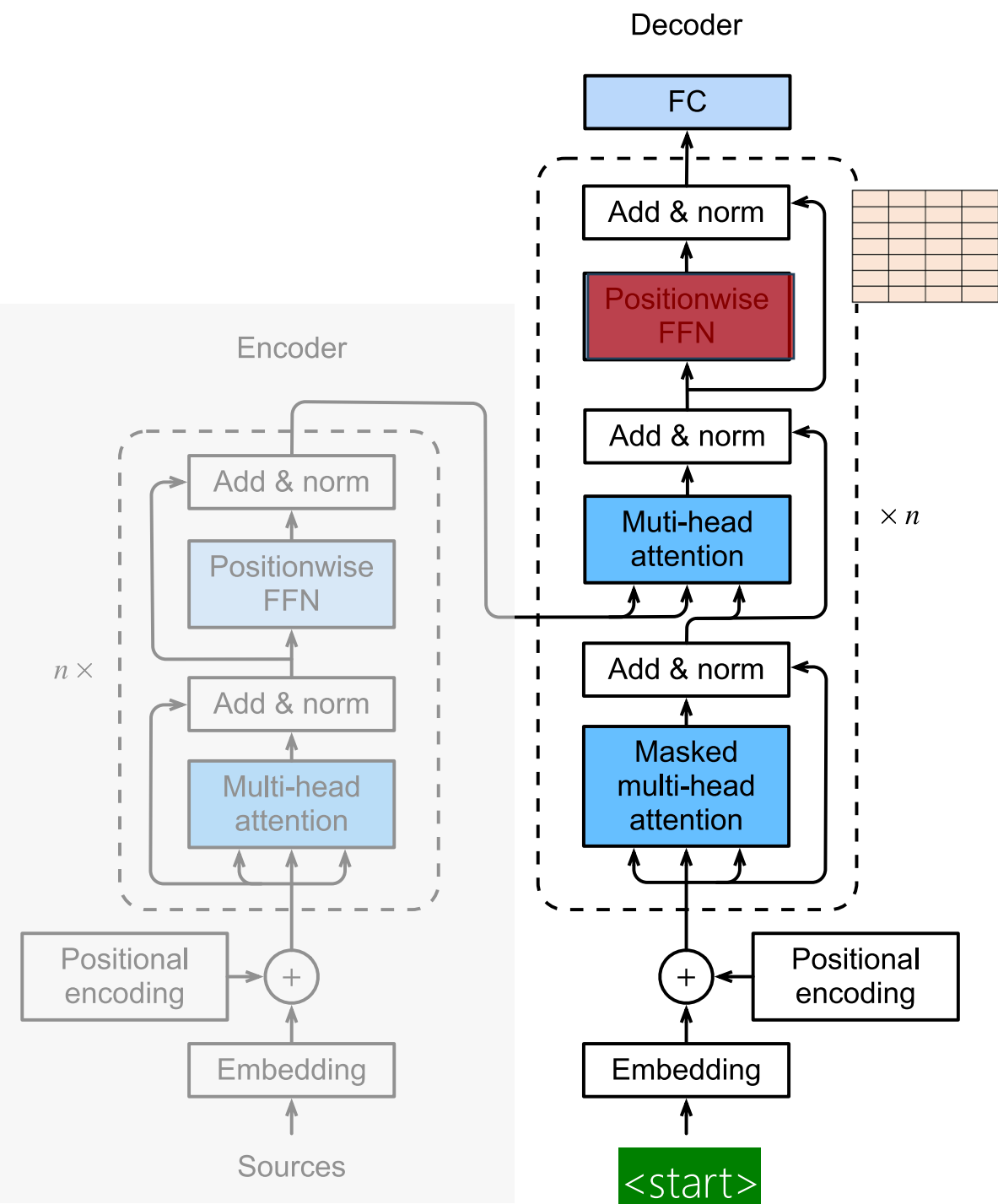
Decoder

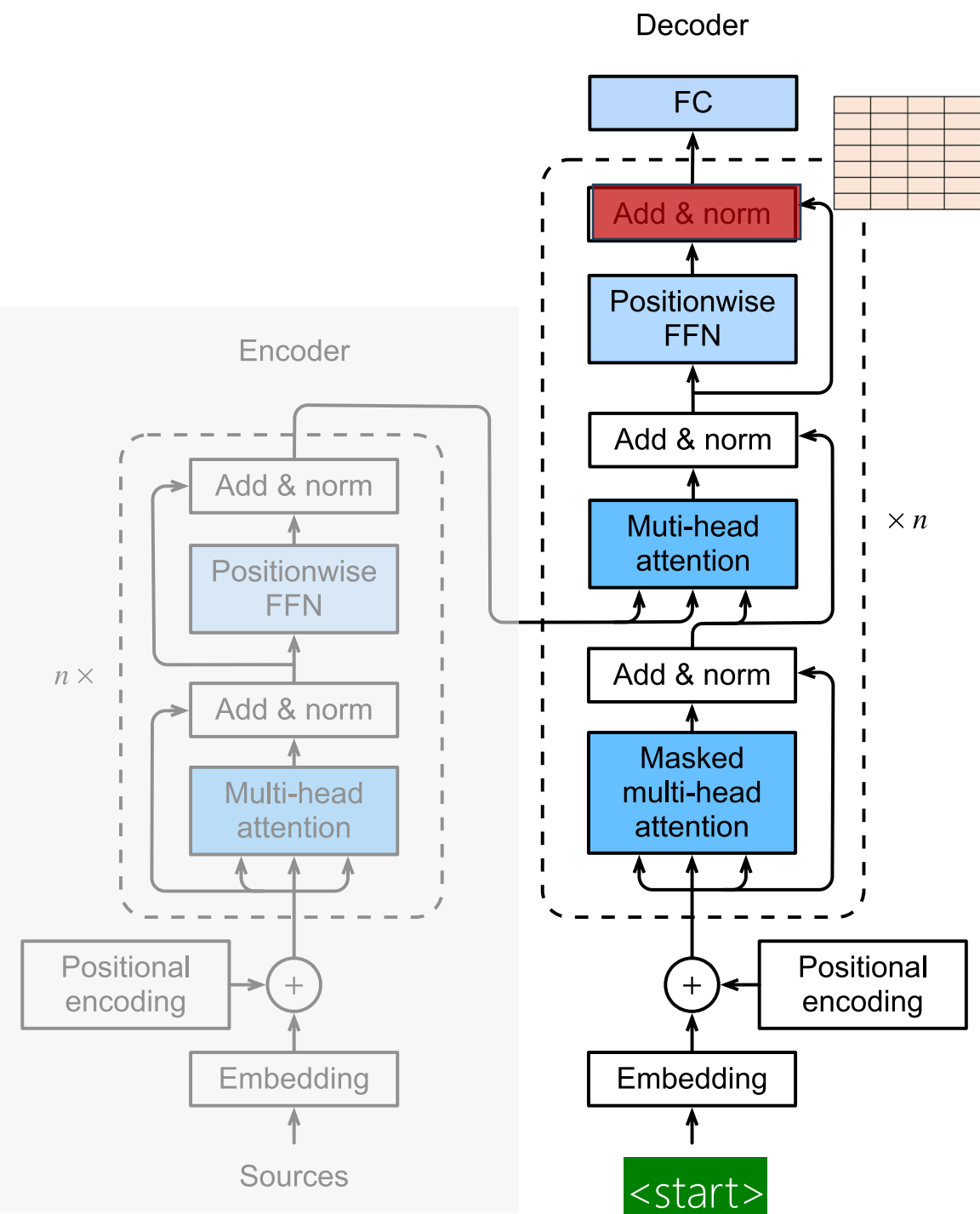




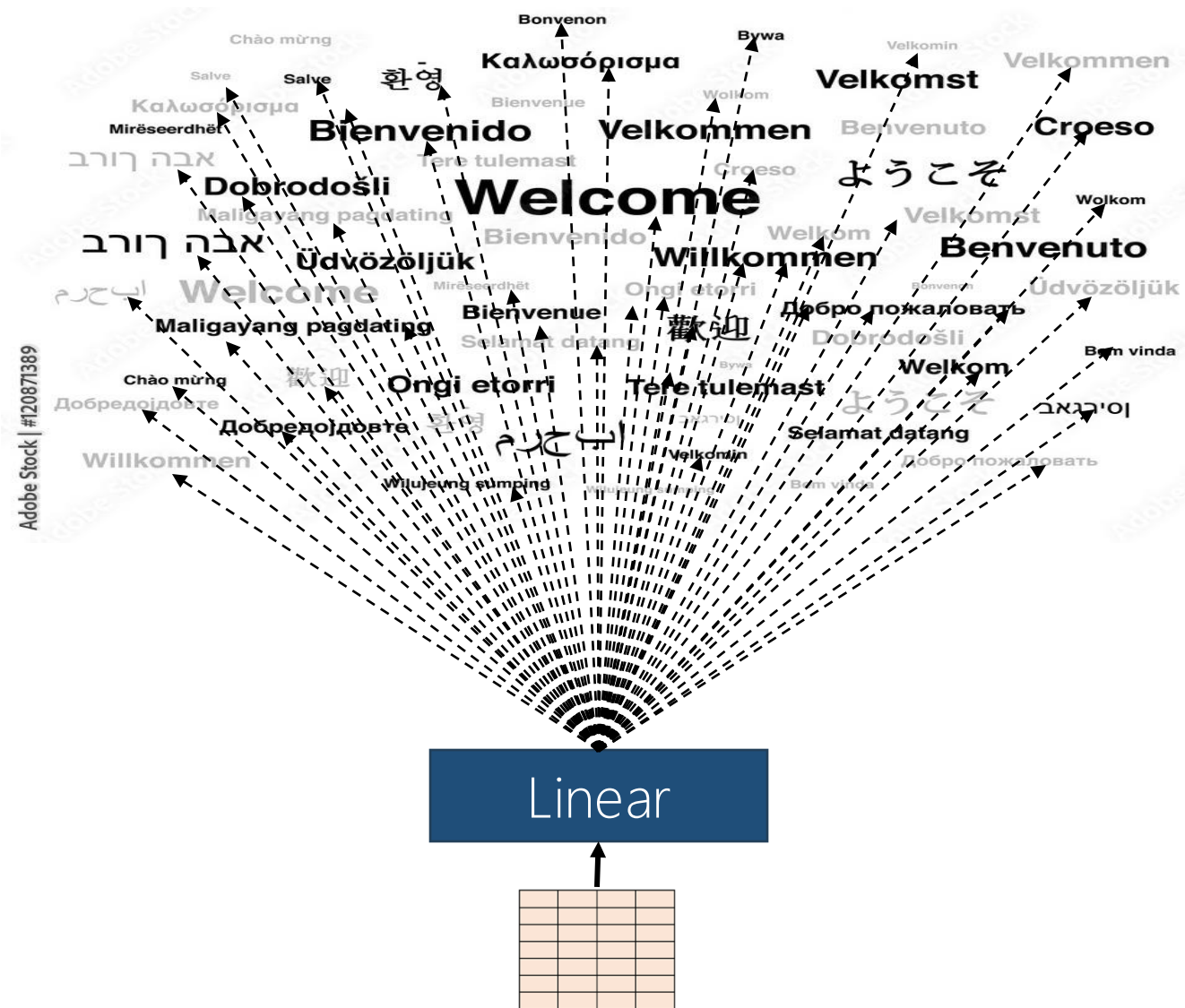
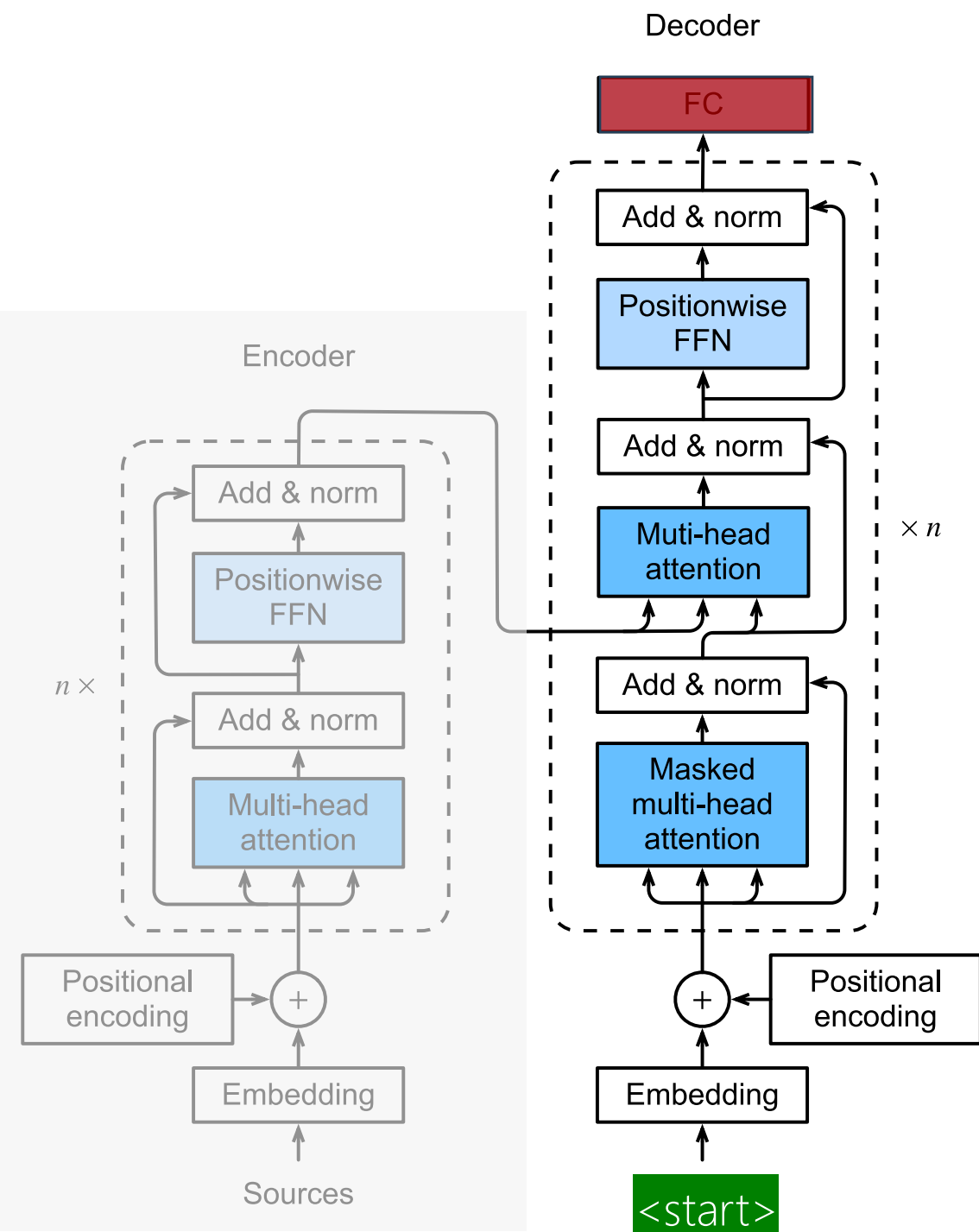


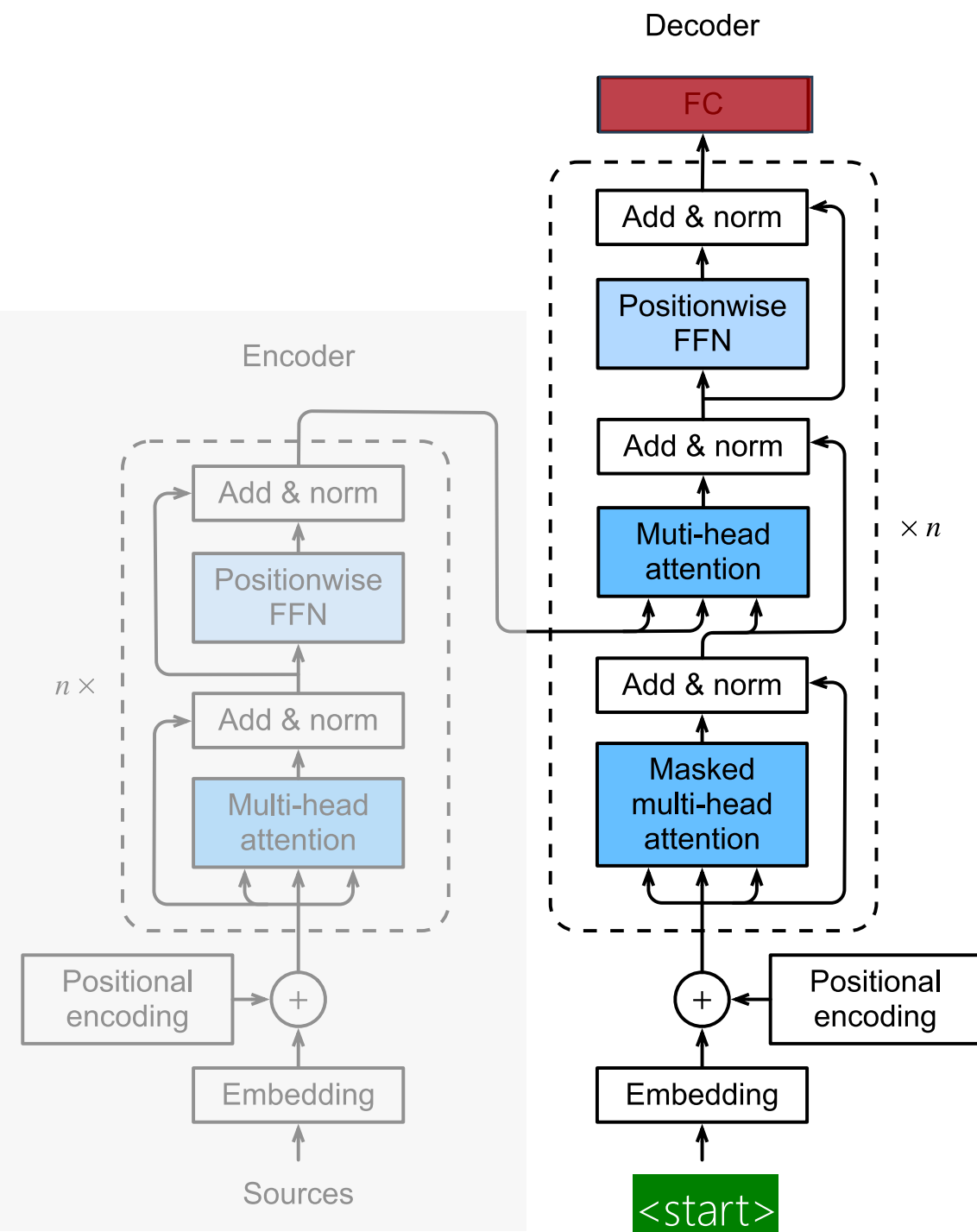




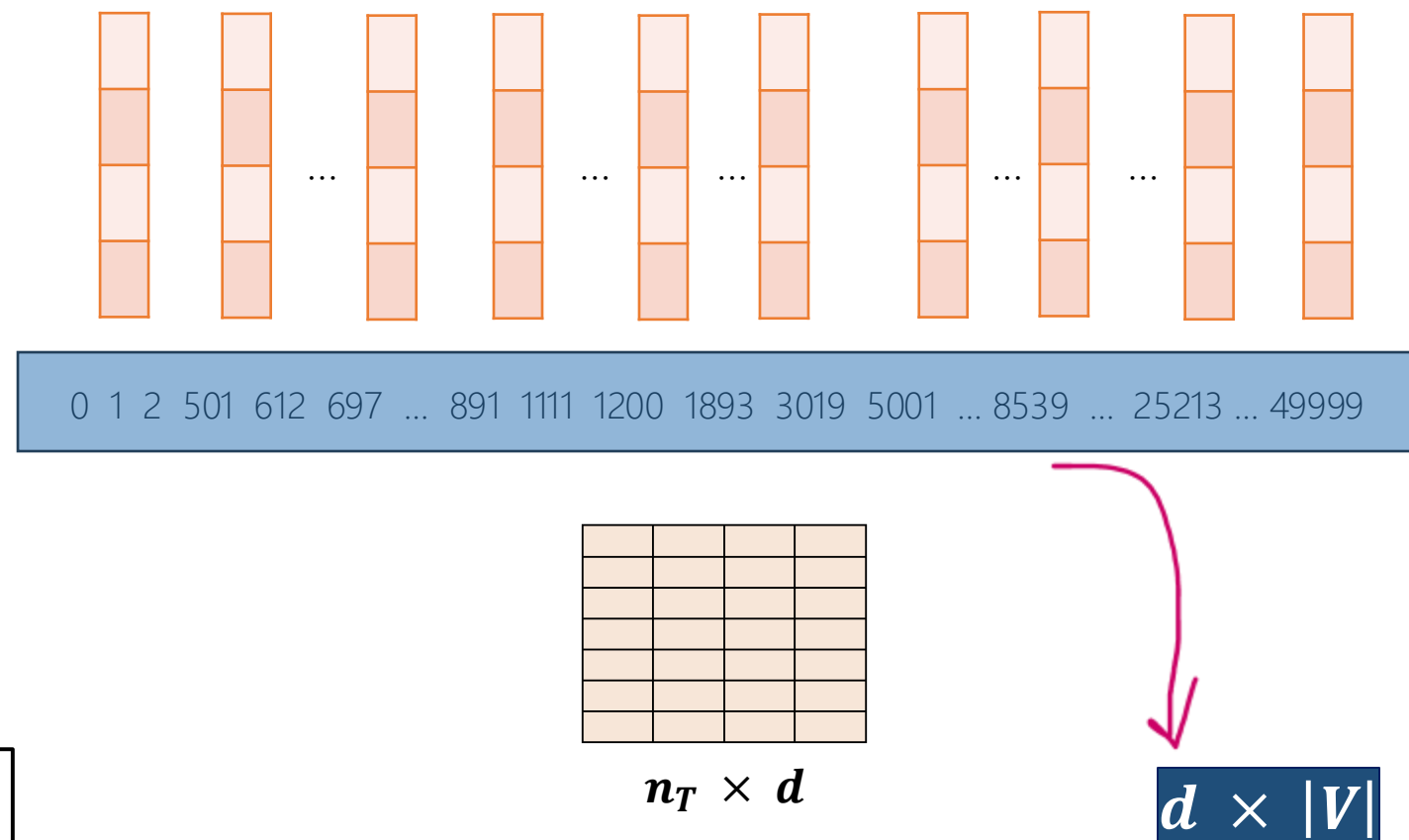
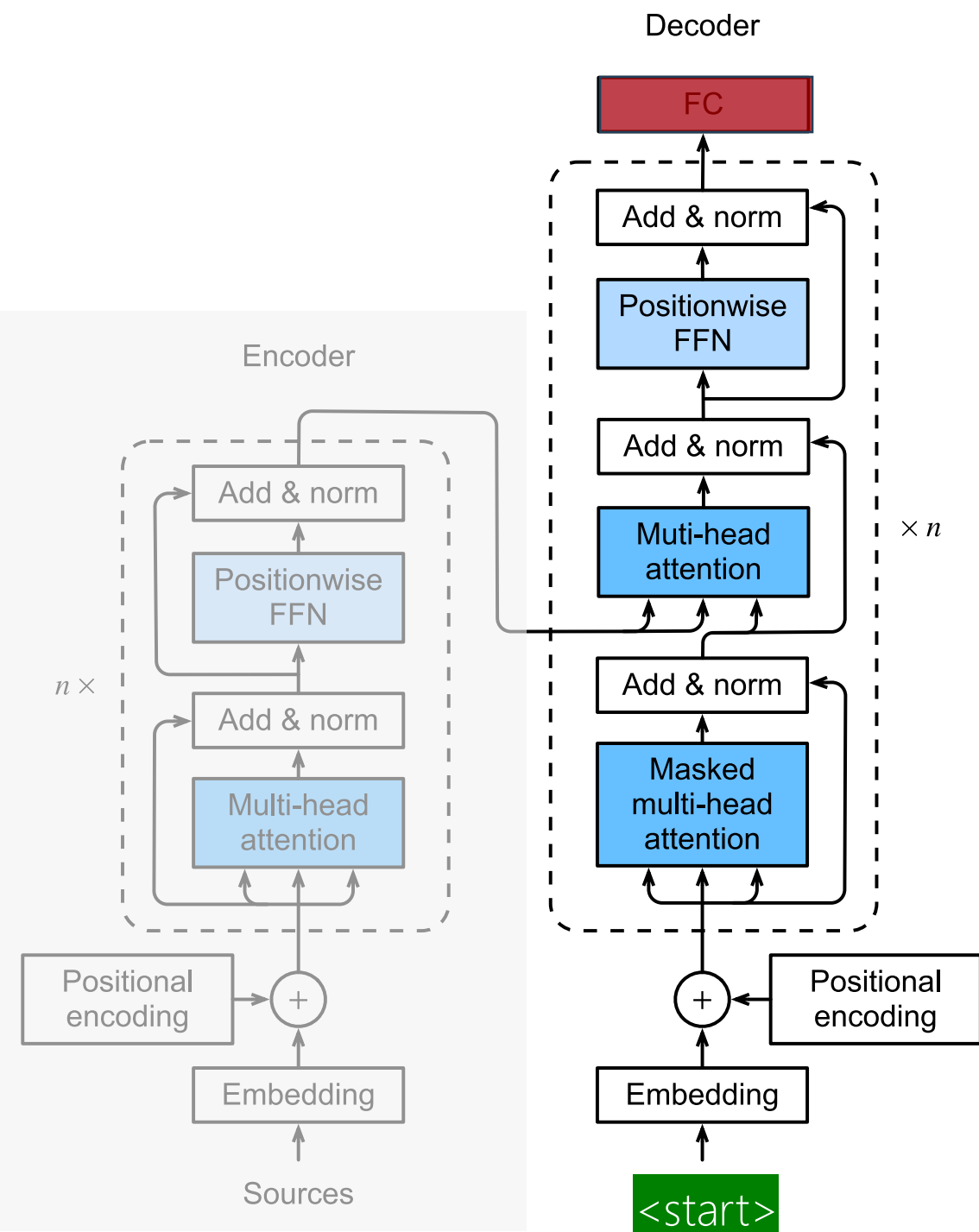


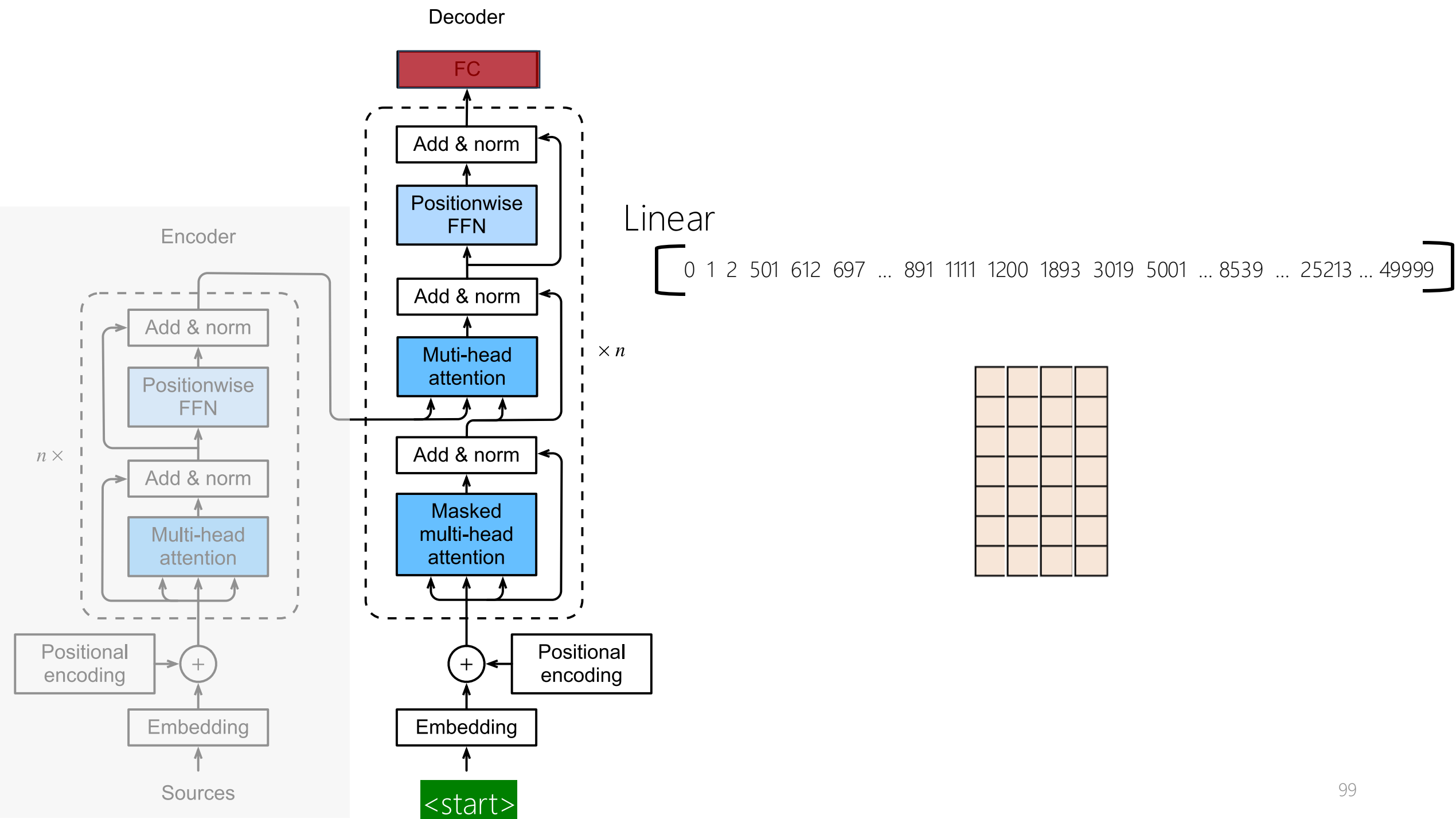
What to do now? 🤔

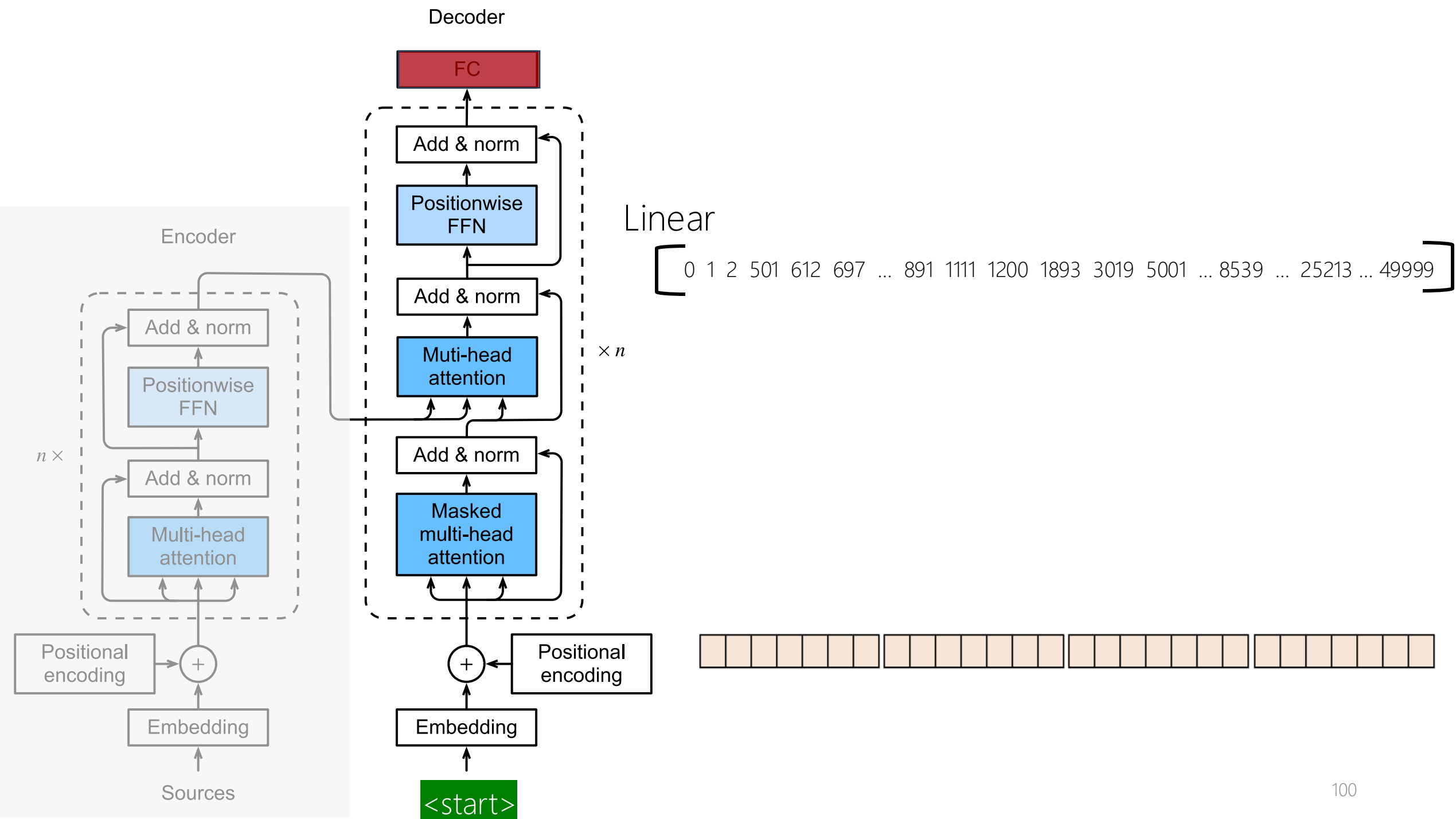


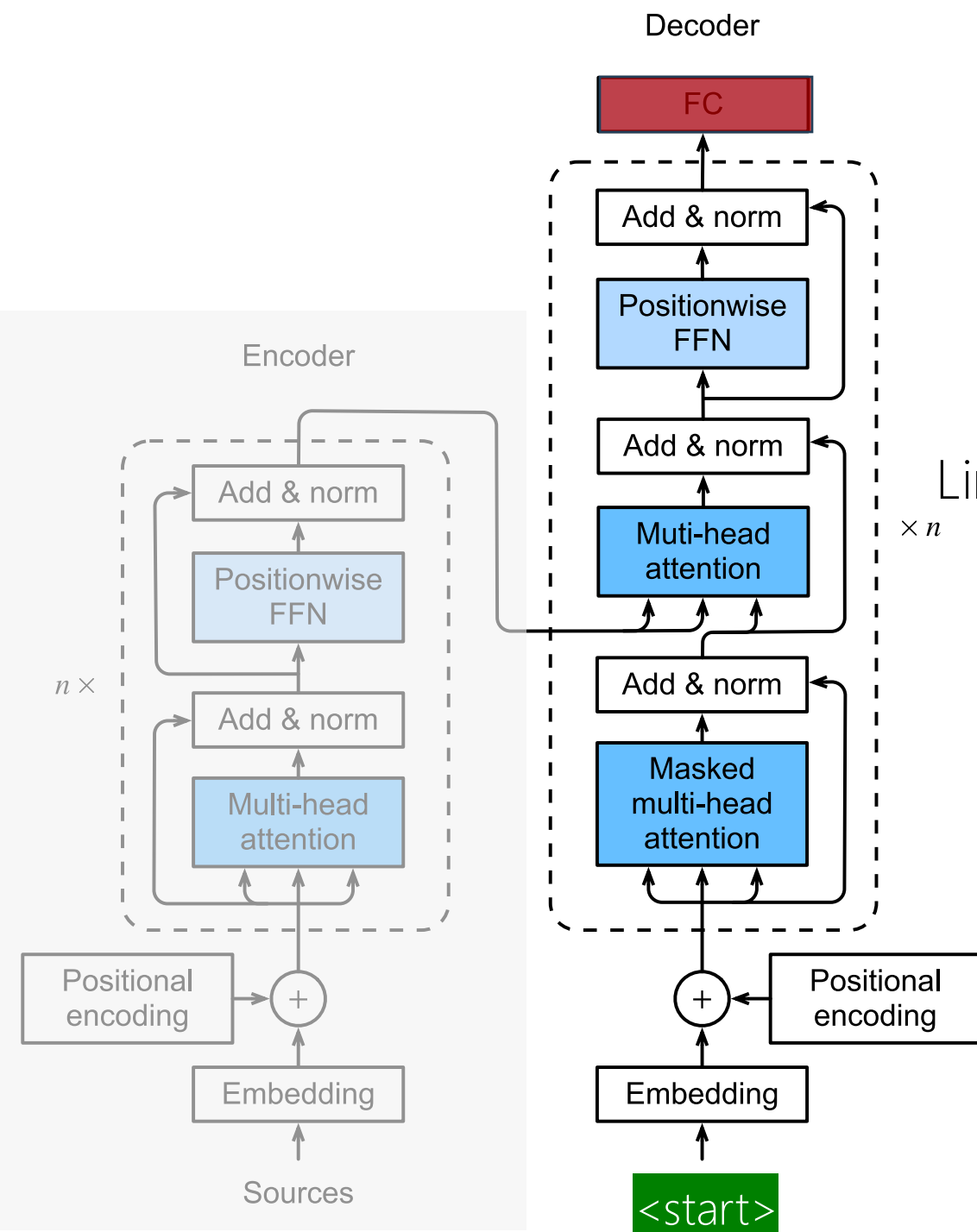


Wait a minute!!! Is this even possible?





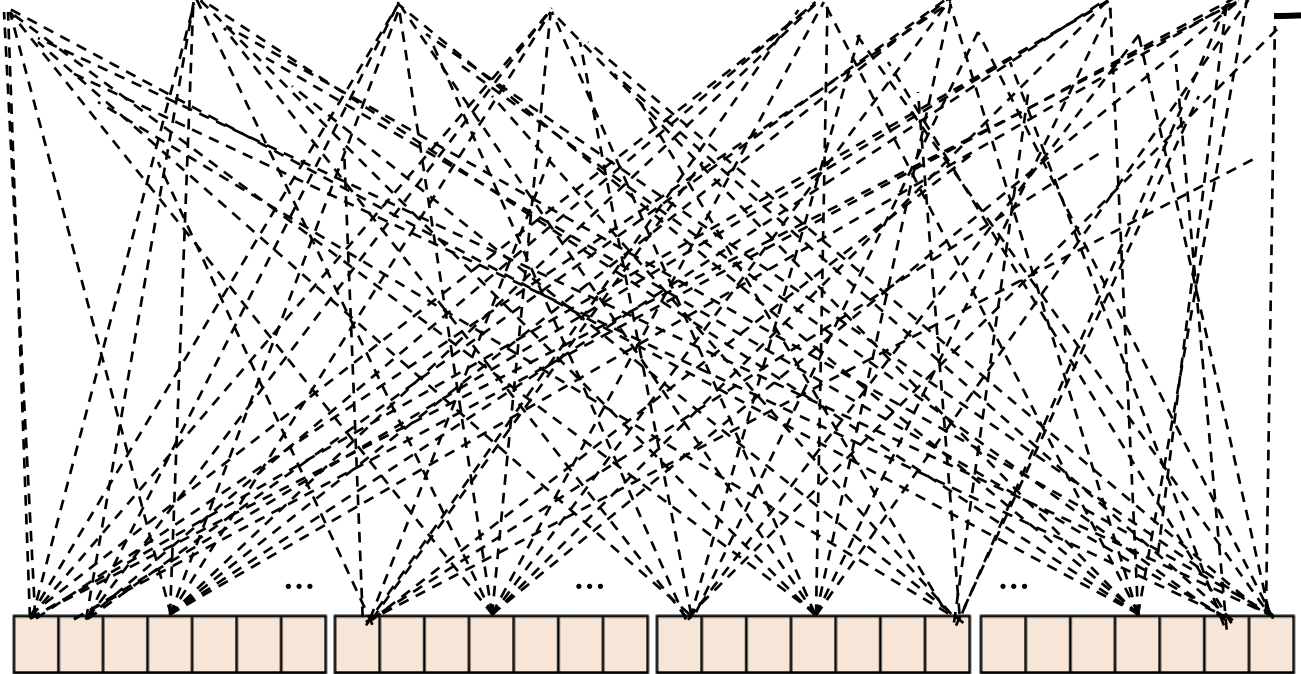


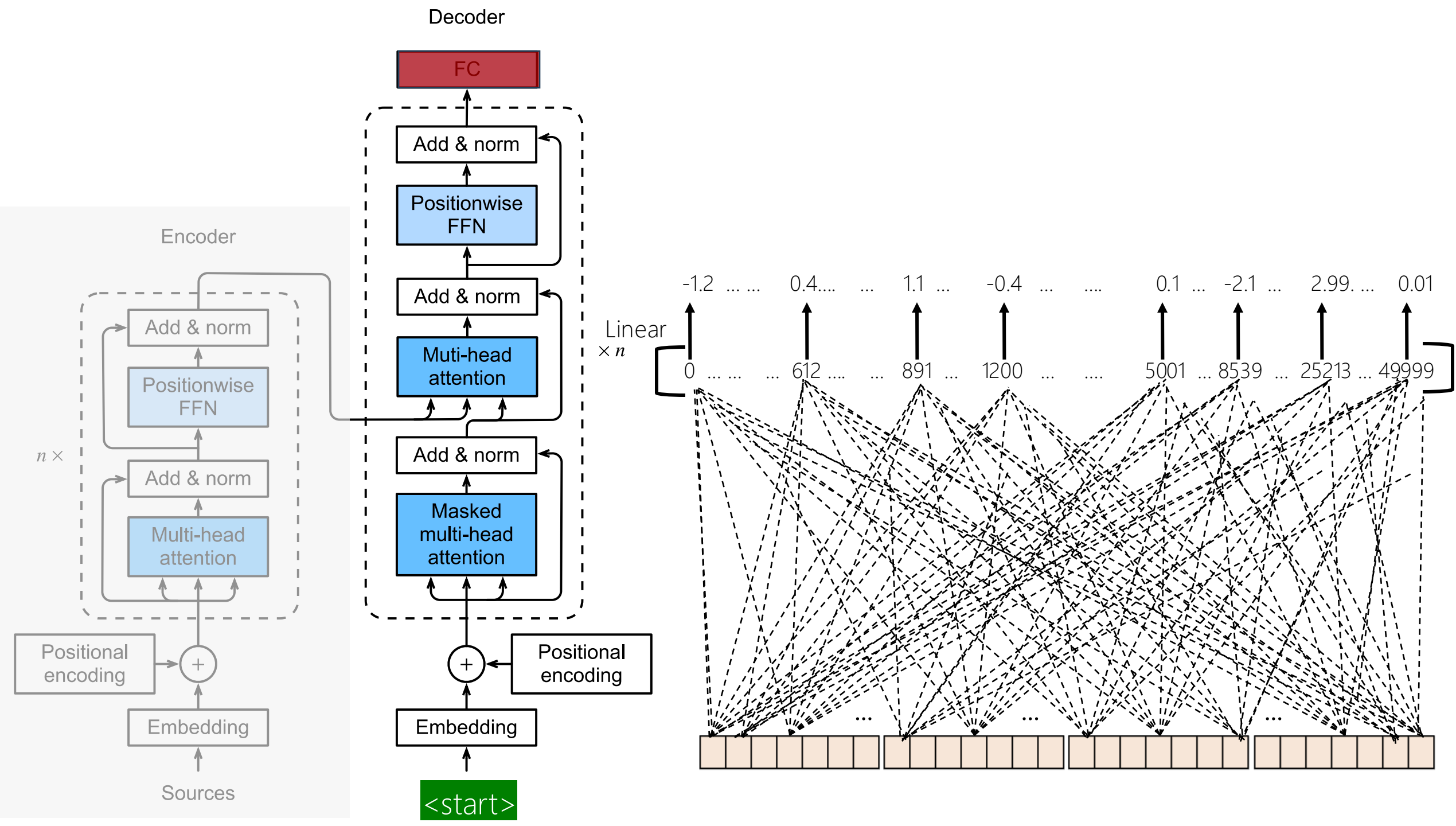


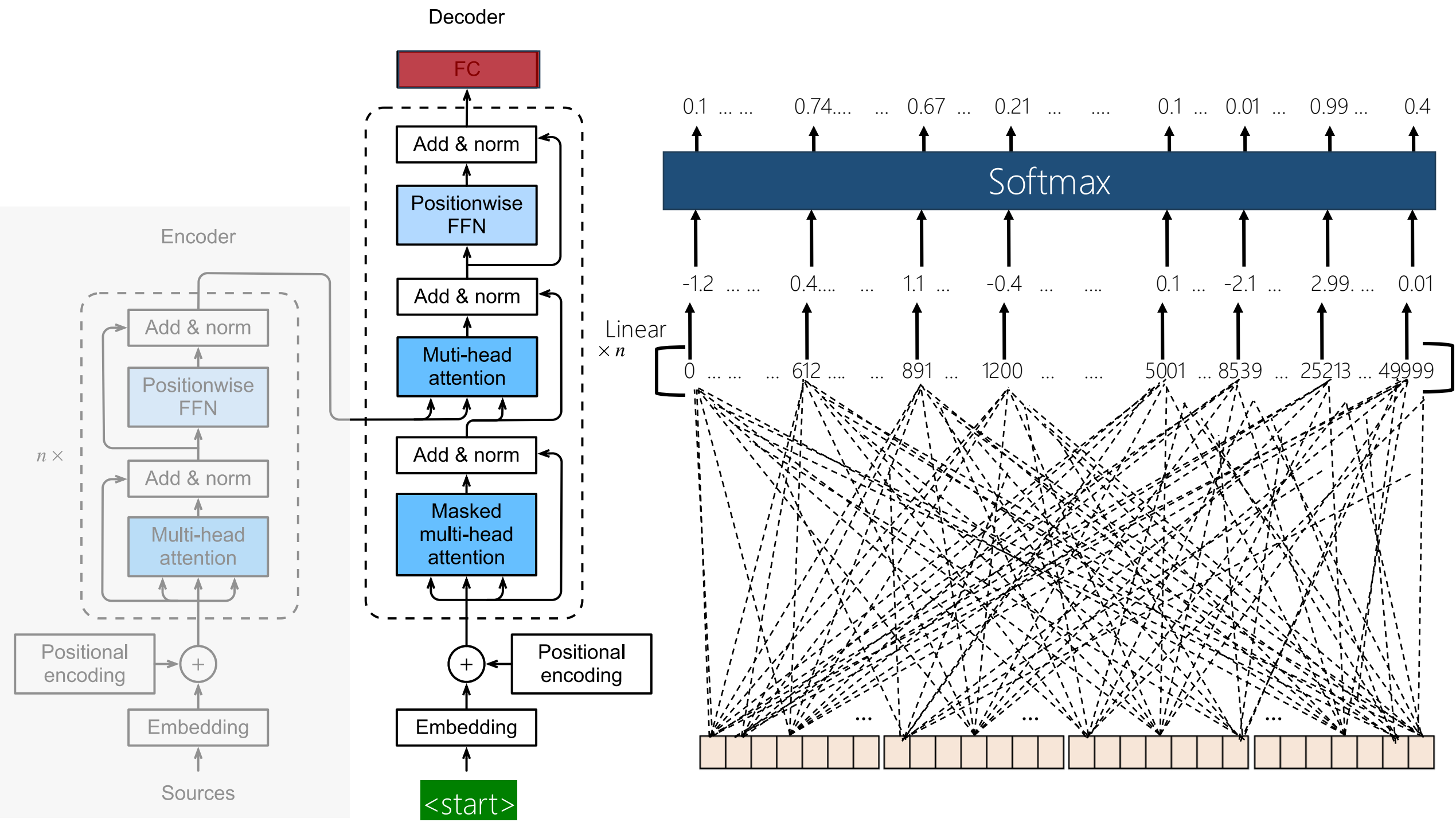
Linear

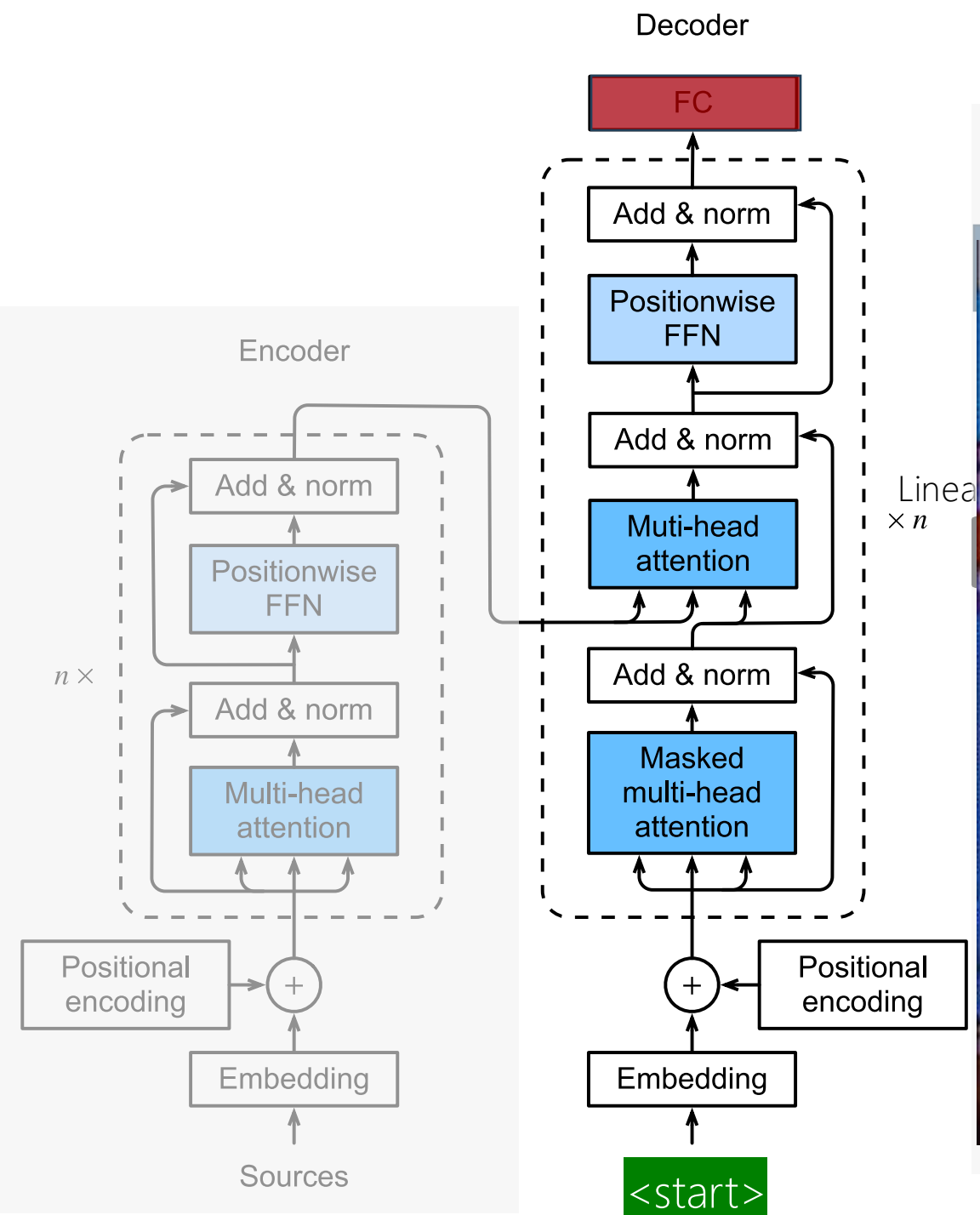
$\times n$

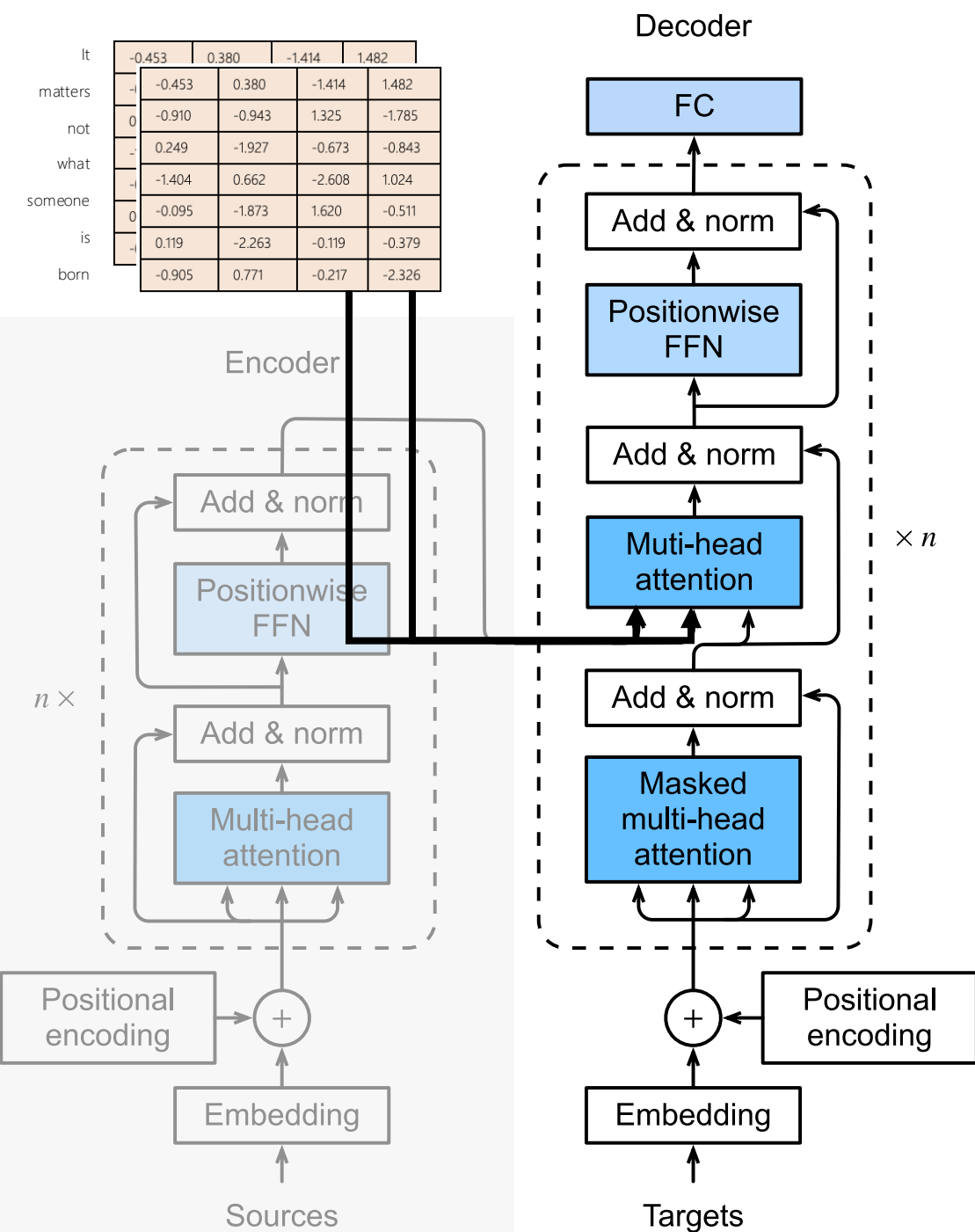
0 612 891 ... 1200 5001 ... 8539 ... 25213 ... 49999











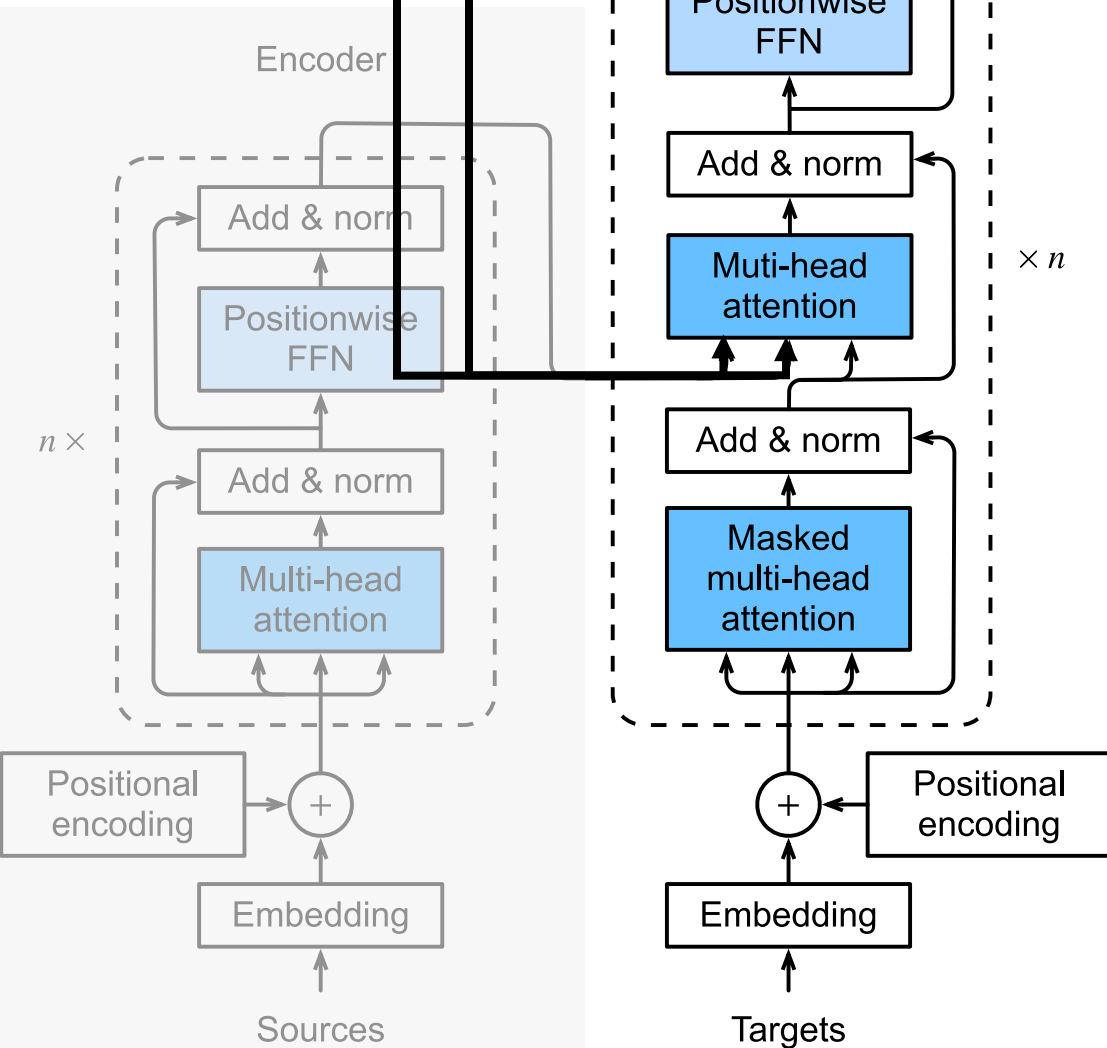
<start>

It		-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
matters	→	-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
not	0	-0.910	-0.943	1.325	-1.785
what	→	0.249	-1.927	-0.673	-0.843
someone	→	-1.404	0.662	-2.608	1.024
is	0	-0.095	-1.873	1.620	-0.511
born	→	0.119	-2.263	-0.119	-0.379
		-0.905	0.771	-0.217	-2.326

Encoder

Decoder

<start> but

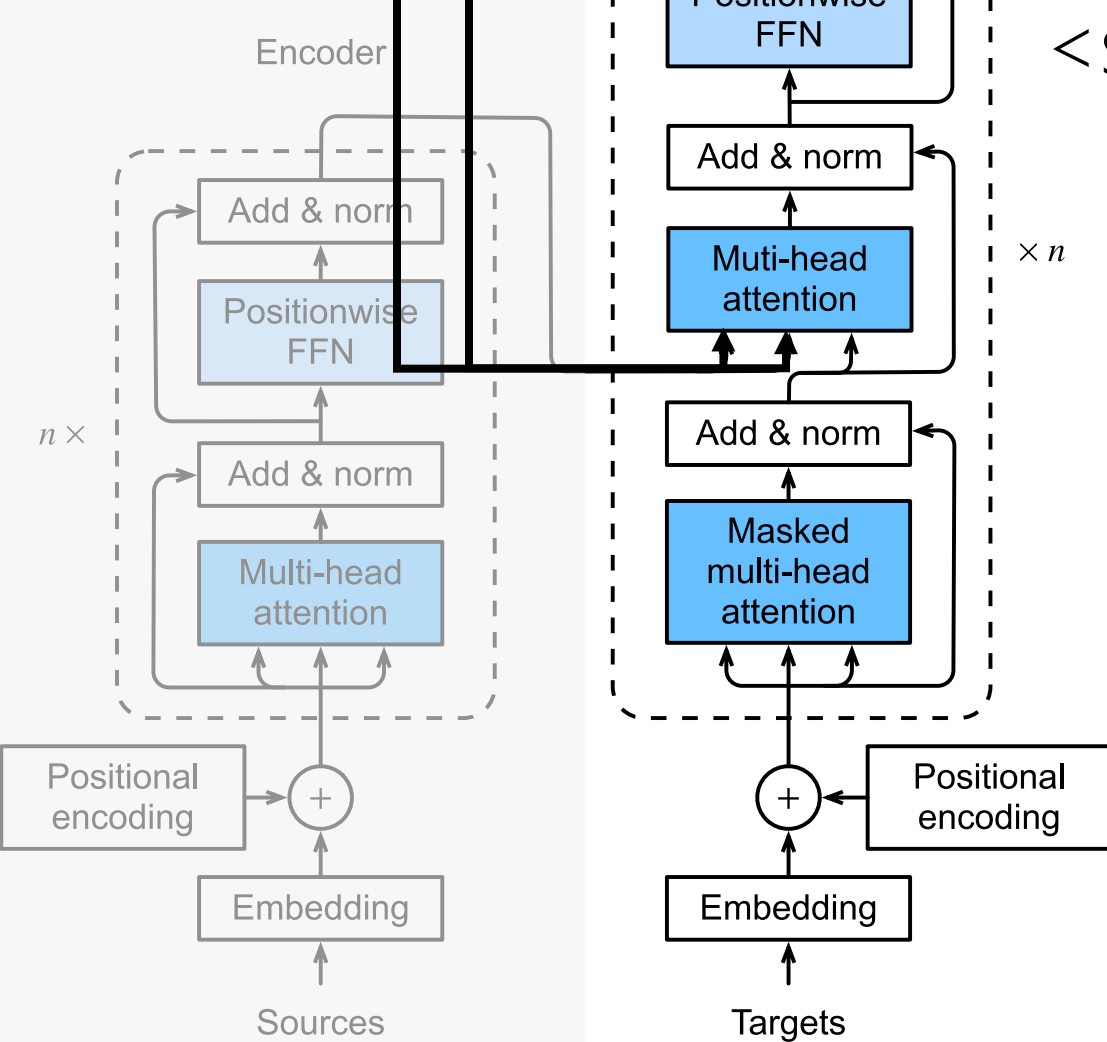


It		-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
matters	→	-0.453	0.380	-1.414	1.482
not	0	-0.910	-0.943	1.325	-1.785
what	→	0.249	-1.927	-0.673	-0.843
someone	→	-1.404	0.662	-2.608	1.024
is	0	-0.095	-1.873	1.620	-0.511
born	→	0.119	-2.263	-0.119	-0.379
		-0.905	0.771	-0.217	-2.326

Encoder

Decoder

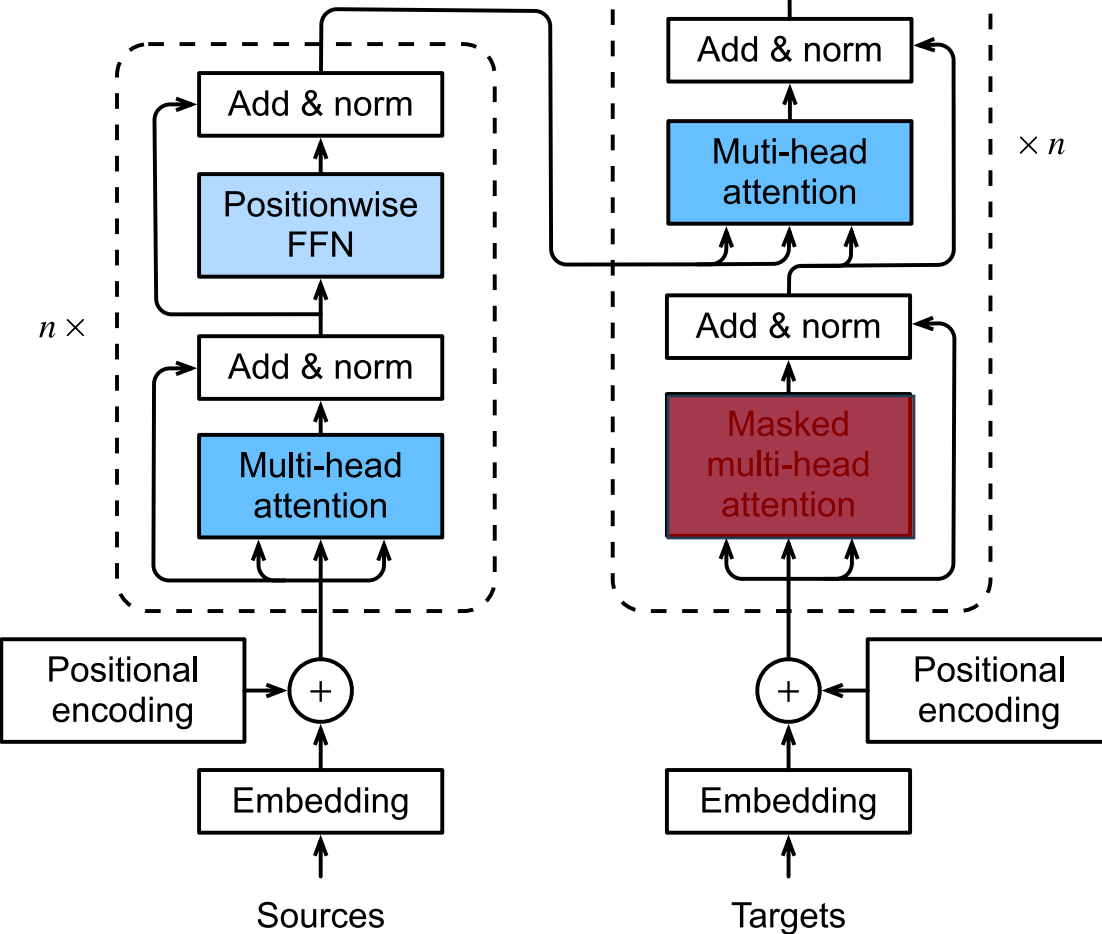
<start> but what they grow to be <end>



Decoder

Oh wait, we never discussed the masked multi-head attention!!!

Encoder



The Dialogue Completer Task

Input Dialogue

It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are,

If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at

It matters not what someone is born,

Dialogue Completion

?

?

?

The Dialogue Completer Task

Input Dialogue

It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are,

If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at

It matters not what someone is born,

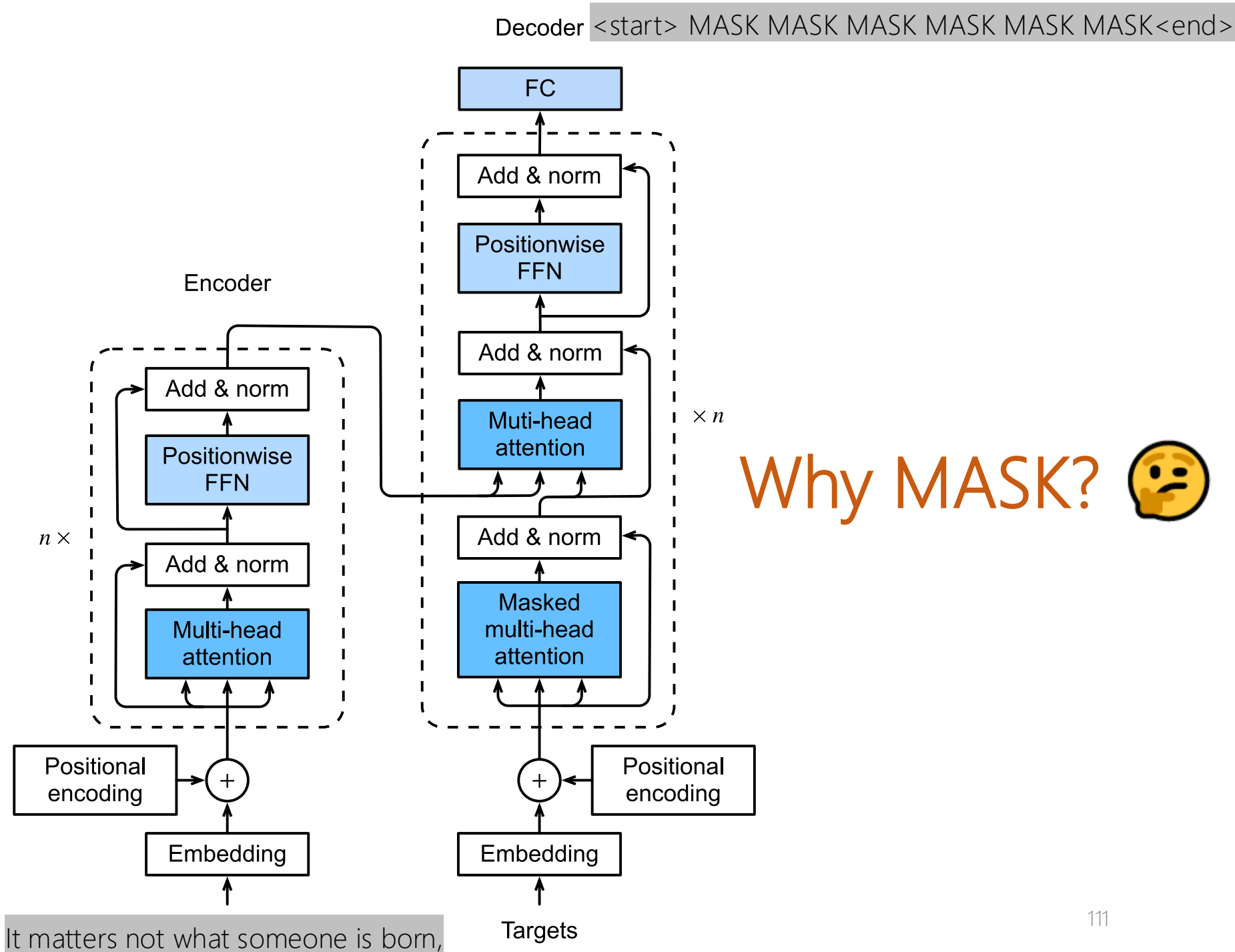
Dialogue Completion

<start> far more than our abilities
<end>

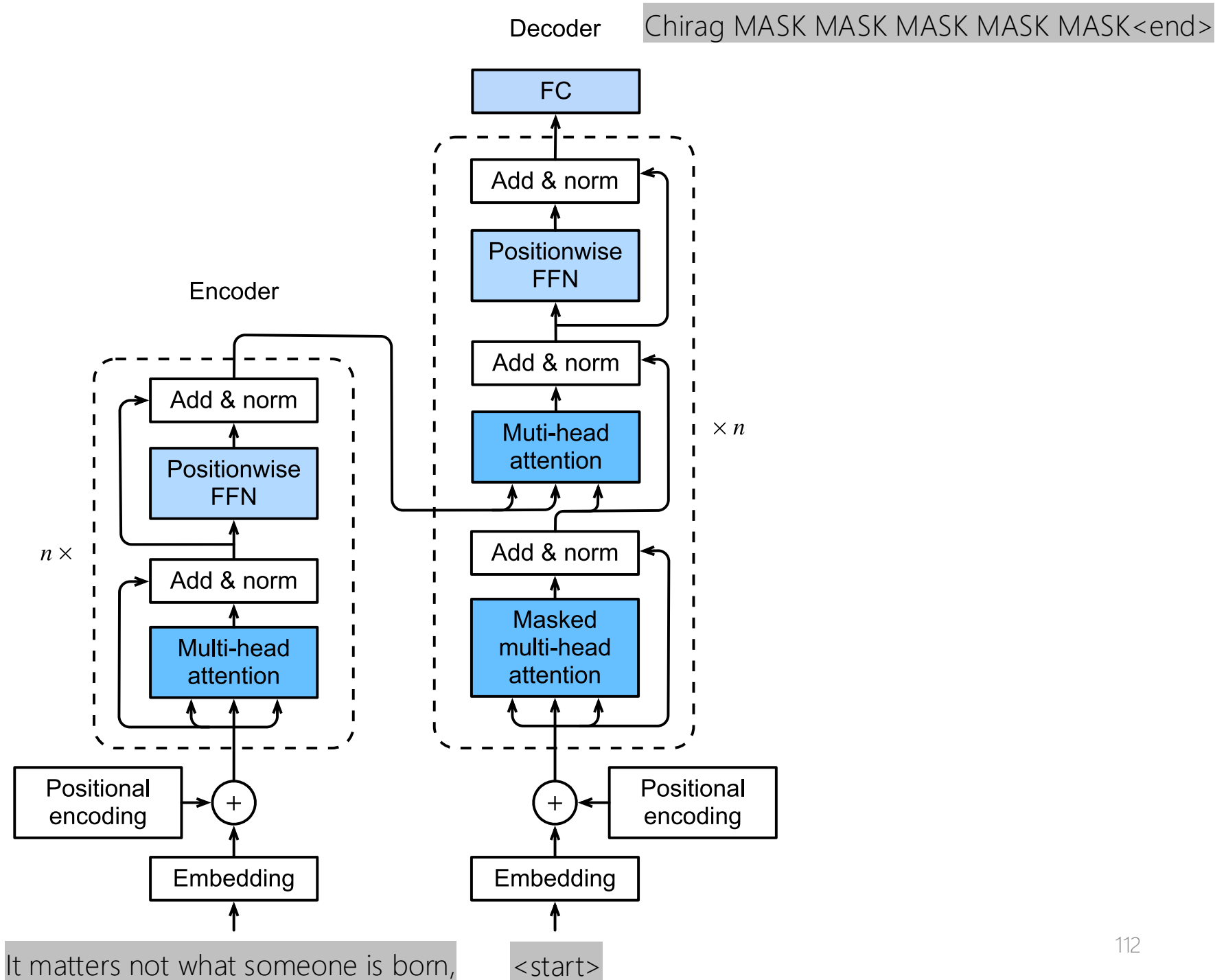
<start> how he treats his inferiors, not his equals <end>

<start> but what they grow to be <end>

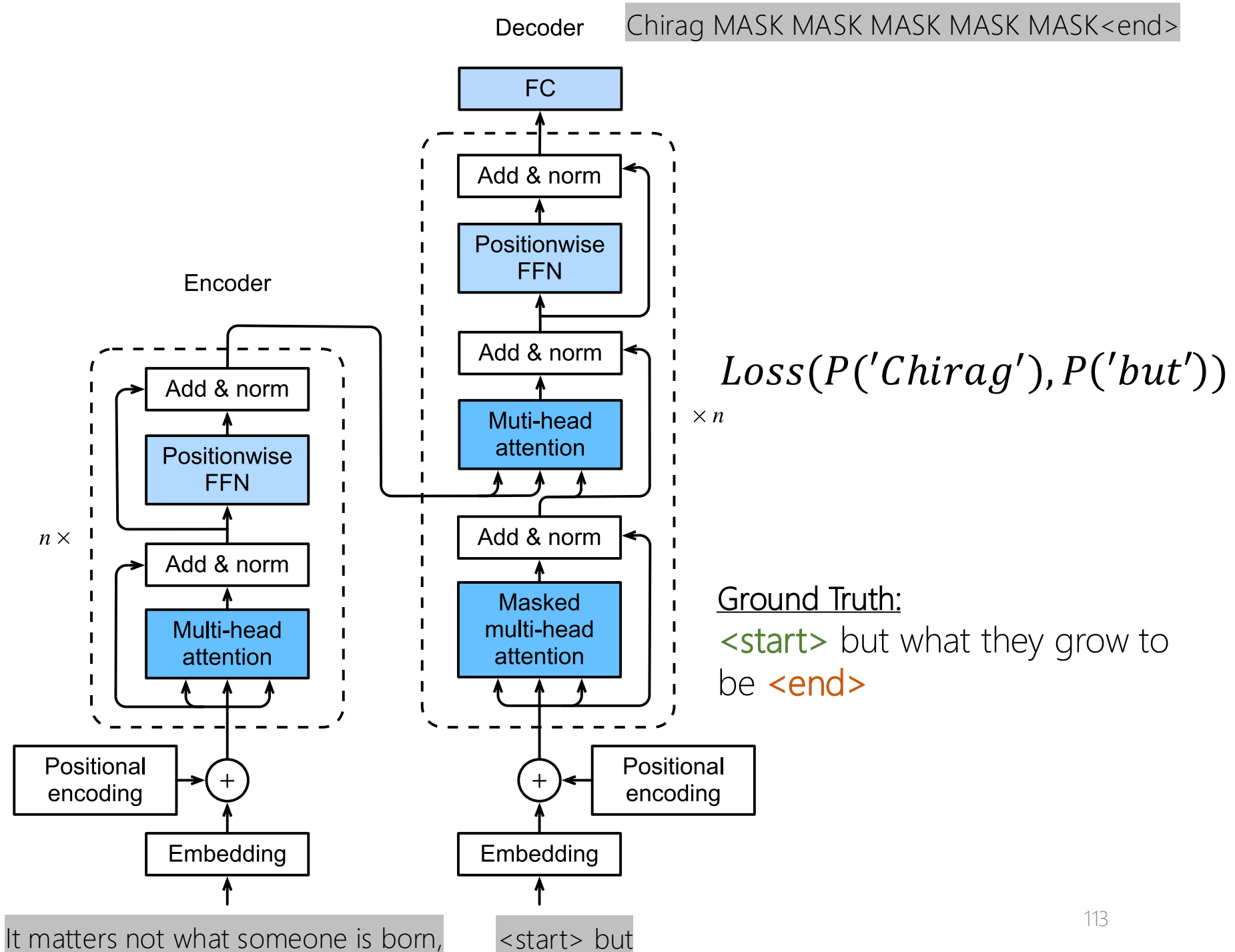
Training



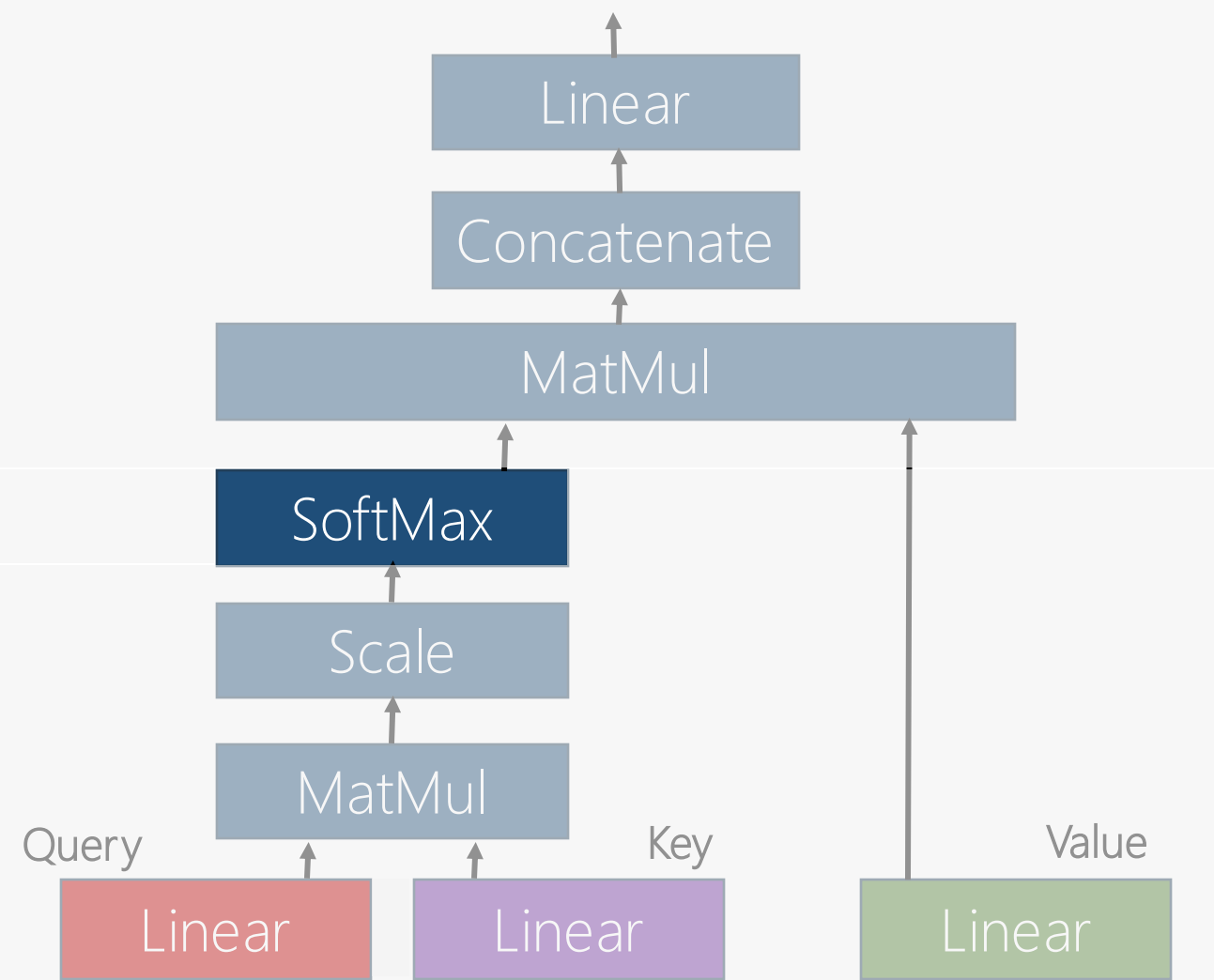
Training



Training



Masked Attention



	<start>	but	what	they	grow	to	be	<end>
<start>	92	35	54	11	39	91	58	7
but	20	21	67	47	13	61	62	3
what	94	54	76	85	39	49	0	58
they	51	53	72	69	97	46	94	32
grow	8	39	22	85	66	95	7	27
to	1	77	5	73	41	20	50	36
be	21	90	3	7	92	69	56	97
<end>	91	68	0	56	77	59	81	28

Masked Attention

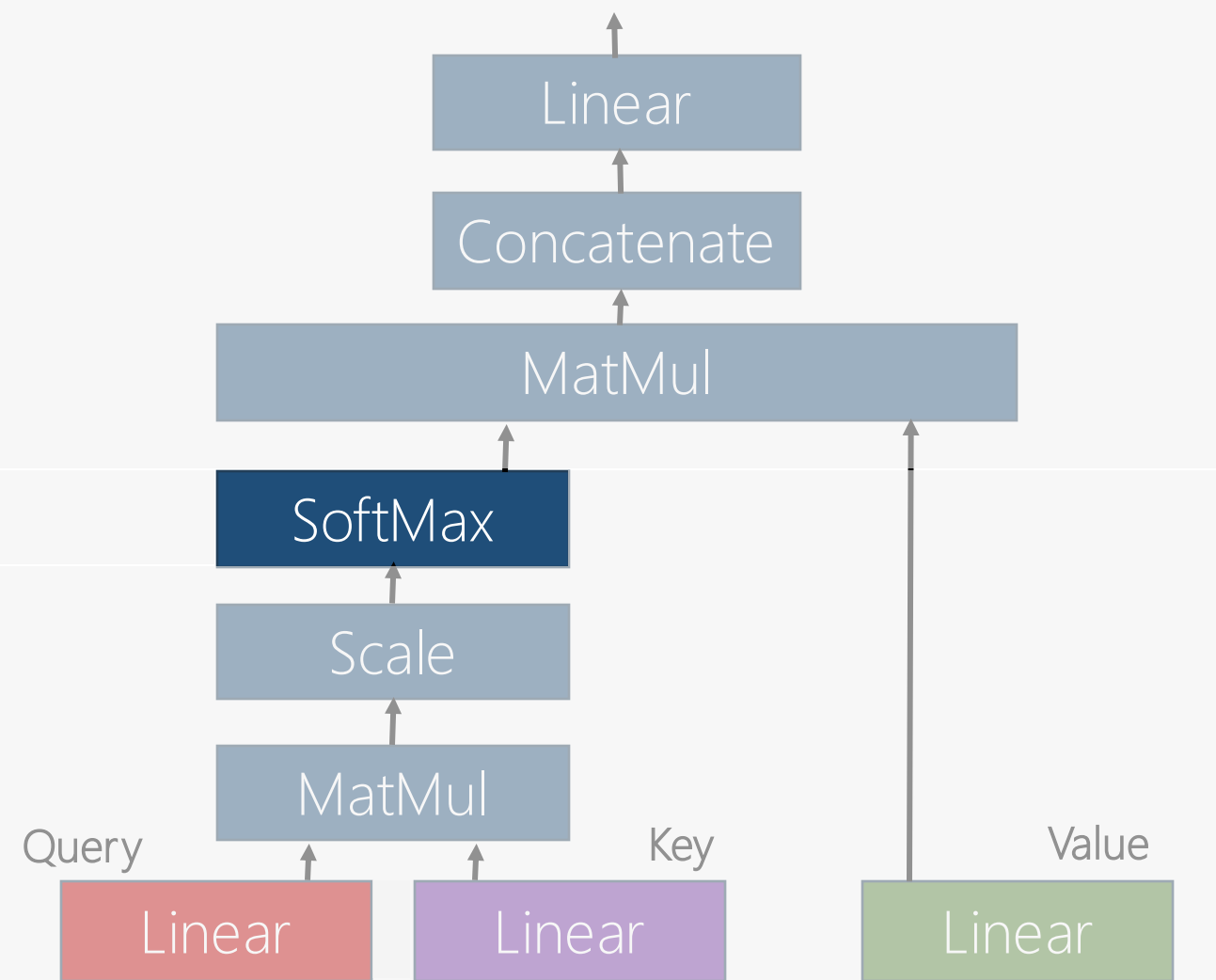
	<start>	but	what	they	grow	to	be	<end>
<start>	92	35	54	11	39	91	58	7
but	20	21	67	47	13	61	62	3
what	94	54	76	85	39	49	0	58
they	51	53	72	69	97	46	94	32
grow	8	39	22	85	66	95	7	27
to	1	77	5	73	41	20	50	36
be	21	90	3	7	92	69	56	97
<end>	91	68	0	56	77	59	81	28

Attention Filter

+

	<start>	but	what	they	grow	to	be	<end>
<start>	0	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
but	0	0	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
what	0	0	0	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
they	0	0	0	0	-inf	-inf	-inf	-inf
grow	0	0	0	0	0	-inf	-inf	-inf
to	0	0	0	0	0	0	-inf	-inf
be	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-inf
<end>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Mask Filter



Masked Attention

	<start>	but	what	they	grow	to	be	<end>
<start>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
but	0.27	0.73	0	0	0	0	0	0
what	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
they	0	0	0.95	0.05	0	0	0	0
grow	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
to	0	0.98	0	0.02	0	0	0	0
be	0	0.12	0	0	0.88	0	0	0
<end>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Masked Attention Filter

Thank you!