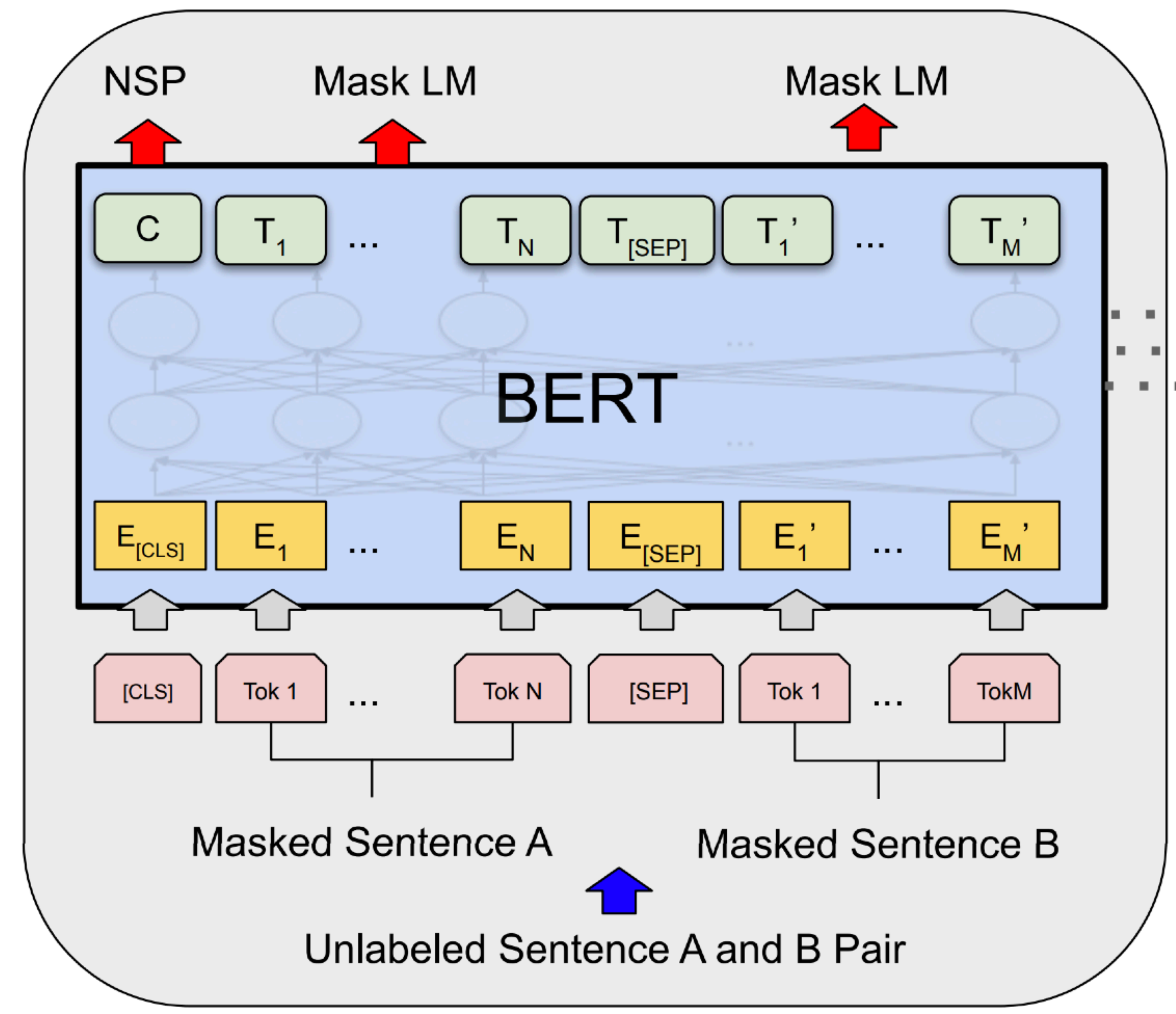
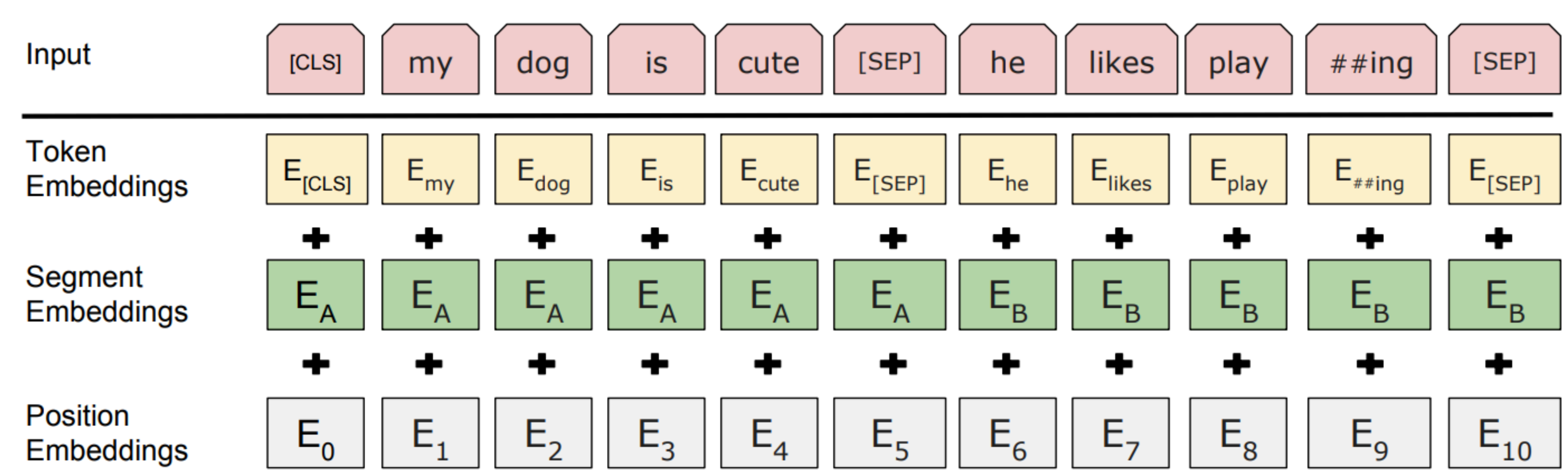
BERT: Model and Applications

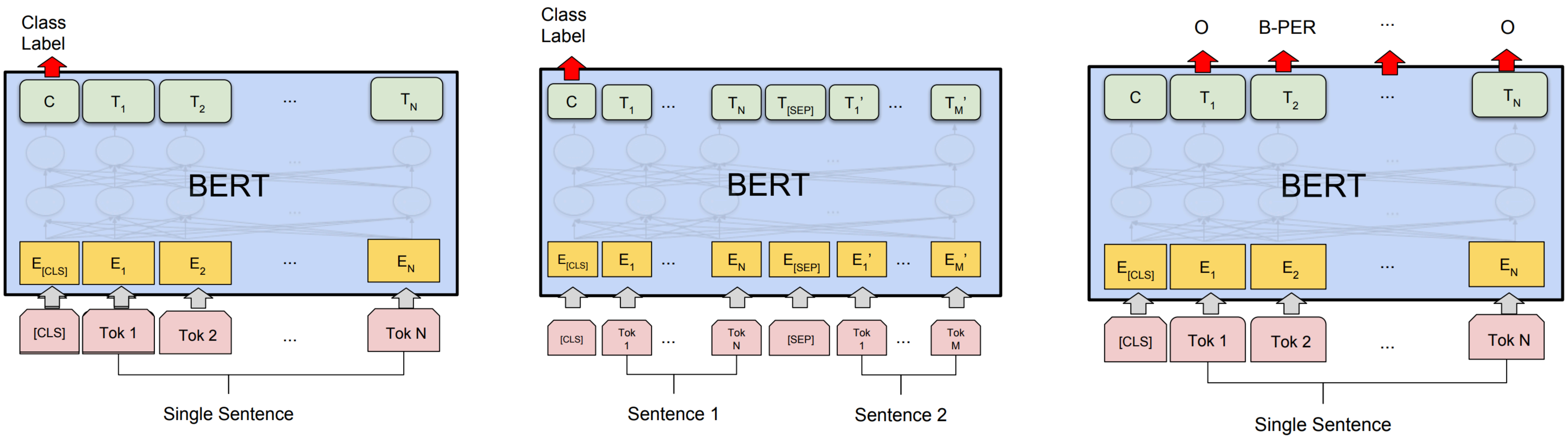
- BERT Base: 12 layers, 768-dim per wordpiece token, 12 heads. Total params = 110M
- BERT Large: 24 layers, 1024-dim per wordpiece token, 16 heads. Total params = 340M
- Positional embeddings and segment embeddings, 30k word pieces
- This is the model that gets **pre-trained** on a large corpus





Devlin et al. (2019)

What can BERT do?



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

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

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

- Artificial [CLS] token is used as the vector to do classification from
- Sentence pair tasks (entailment): feed both sentences into BERT
- BERT can also do tagging by predicting tags at each word piece

Devlin et al. (2019)

What can BERT do?

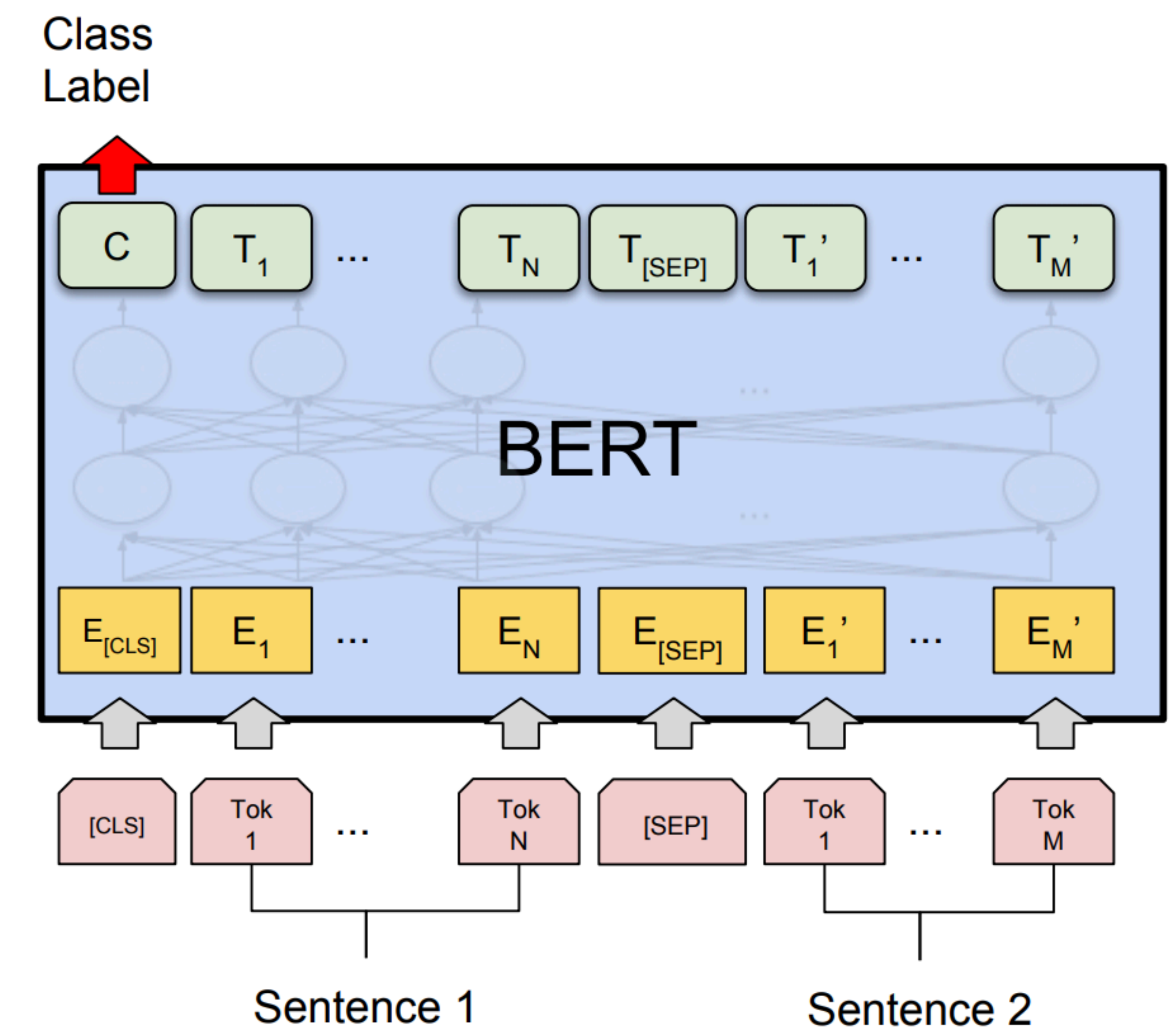
Entails (first sentence implies second is true)

Transformer

…

Transformer

[CLS] A boy plays in the snow [SEP] A boy is outside



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

- How does BERT model sentence pair tasks?
- Transformers can capture interactions between the two sentences (even though the NSP objective doesn't really cause this to happen)

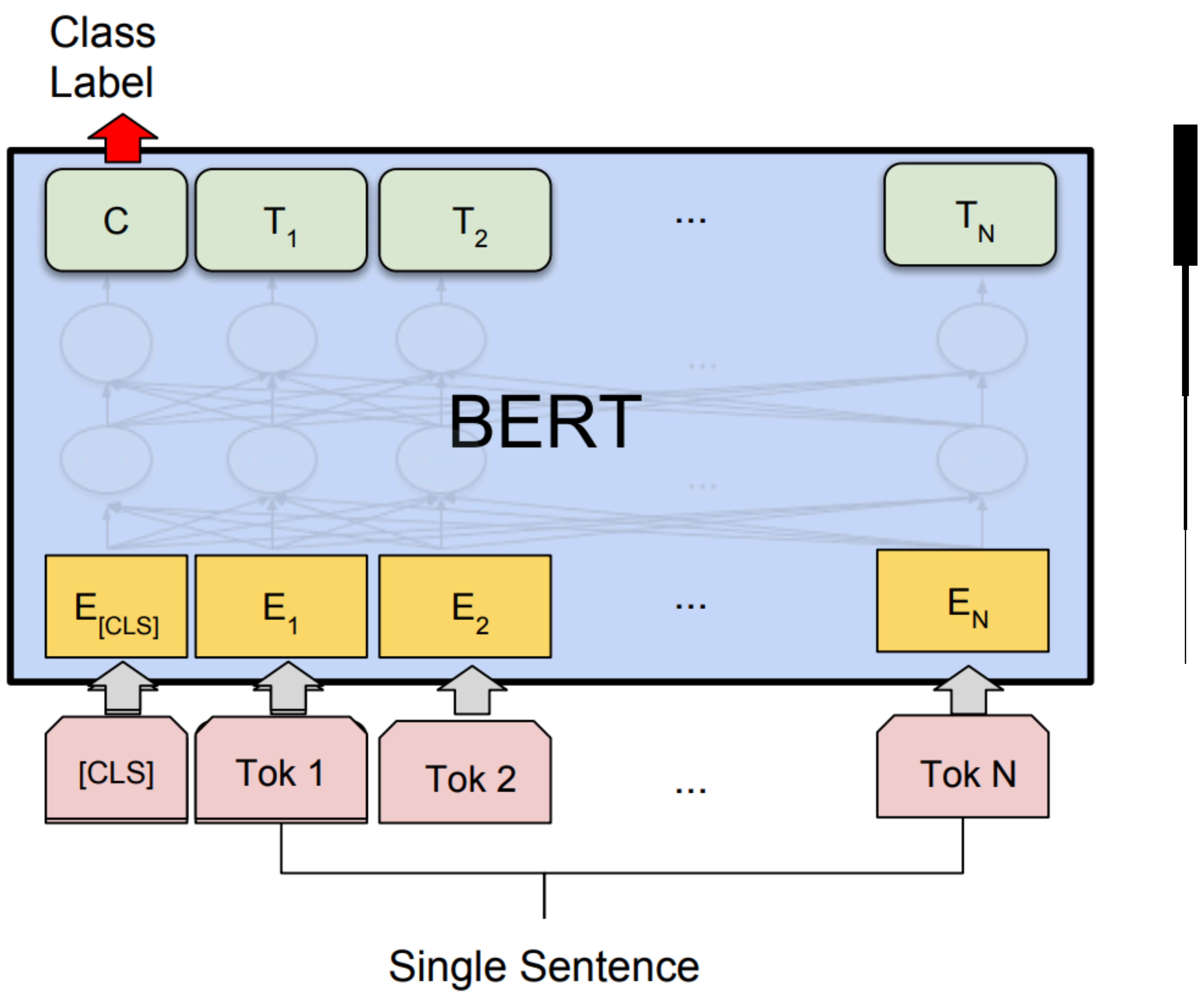
Devlin et al. (2019)

What can BERT NOT do?

- BERT **cannot** generate text (at least not in an obvious way)
  - Can fill in MASK tokens, but can't generate left-to-right (you can put MASK at the end repeatedly, but this is slow)
- Masked language models are intended to be used primarily for "analysis" tasks

Devlin et al. (2019)

Fine-tuning BERT



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

- Fine-tune for 1-3 epochs, small learning rate
- Large changes to weights up here (particularly in last layer to route the right information to [CLS])
- Smaller changes to weights lower down in the transformer
- Small LR and short fine-tuning schedule mean weights don't change much
- More complex "triangular learning rate" schemes exist

Fine-tuning BERT

Pretraining	Adaptation	NER	SA	Nat. lang. inference		Semantic textual similarity		
		CoNLL 2003	SST-2	MNLI	SICK-E	SICK-R	MRPC	STS-B
Skip-thoughts	❄️	-	81.8	62.9	-	86.6	75.8	71.8
ELMo	❄️	91.7	**91.8**	**79.6**	**86.3**	**86.1**	**76.0**	**75.9**
	🔥	**91.9**	91.2	76.4	83.3	83.3	74.7	75.5
	Δ=🔥-❄️	0.2	-0.6	-3.2	-3.3	-2.8	-1.3	-0.4
BERT-base	❄️	92.2	93.0	**84.6**	84.8	86.4	78.1	82.9
	🔥	**92.4**	**93.5**	**84.6**	**85.8**	**88.7**	**84.8**	**87.1**
	Δ=🔥-❄️	0.2	0.5	0.0	1.0	2.3	6.7	4.2

- BERT is typically better if the whole network is fine-tuned, unlike ELMo

Peters et al. (2019)

Evaluation

Corpus	|Train|	|Test|	Task	Metrics	Domain
			Single-Sentence Tasks		
CoLA	8.5k	**1k**	acceptability	Matthews corr.	misc.
SST-2	67k	1.8k	sentiment	acc.	movie reviews
			Similarity and Paraphrase Tasks		
MRPC	3.7k	1.7k	paraphrase	acc./F1	news
STS-B	7k	1.4k	sentence similarity	Pearson/Spearman corr.	misc.
QQP	364k	**391k**	paraphrase	acc./F1	social QA questions
			Inference Tasks		
MNLI	393k	**20k**	NLI	matched acc./mismatched acc.	misc.
QNLI	105k	5.4k	QA/NLI	acc.	Wikipedia
RTE	2.5k	3k	NLI	acc.	news, Wikipedia
WNLI	634	**146**	coreference/NLI	acc.	fiction books

Wang et al. (2019)

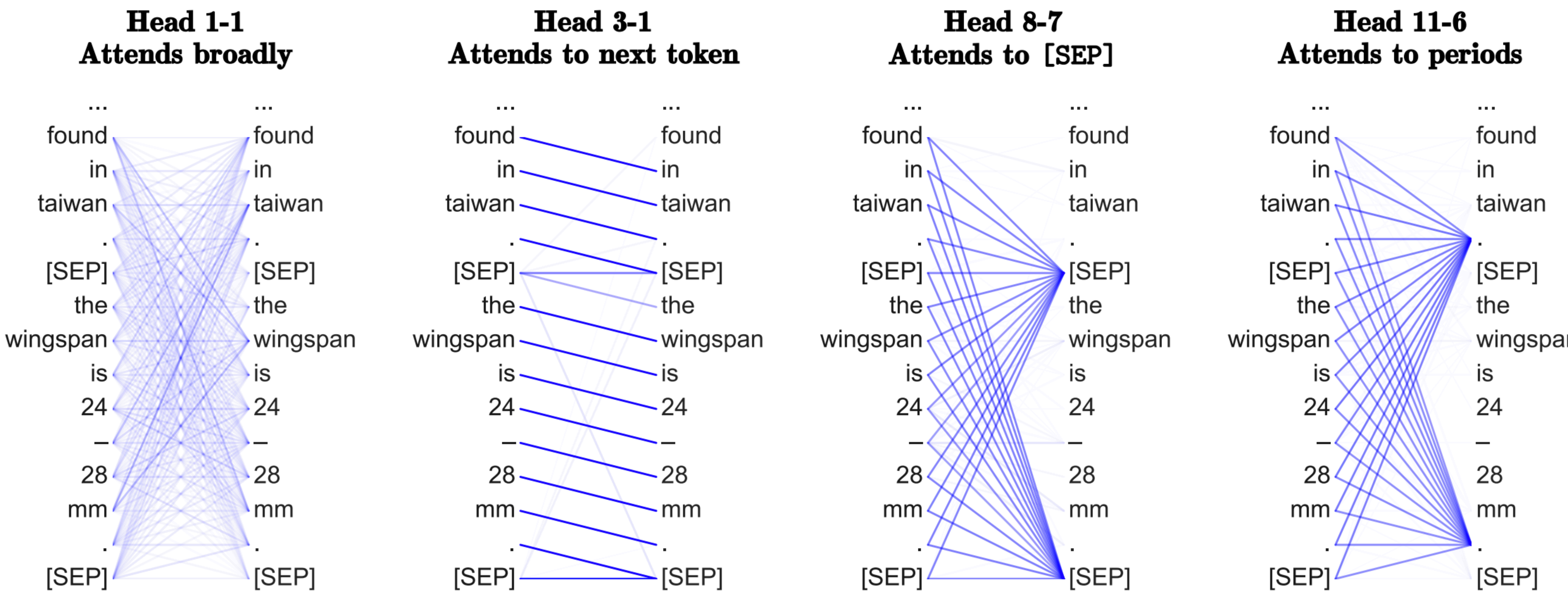
Evaluation

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	79.9	90.4	36.0	73.3	84.9	56.8	71.0
OpenAI GPT	82.1/81.4	70.3	88.1	91.3	45.4	80.0	82.3	56.0	75.2
$\text{BERT}_{\text{BASE}}$	84.6/83.4	71.2	90.1	93.5	52.1	85.8	88.9	66.4	79.6
$\text{BERT}_{\text{LARGE}}$	**86.7/85.9**	**72.1**	**91.1**	**94.9**	**60.5**	**86.5**	**89.3**	**70.1**	**81.9**

- Huge improvements over prior work (even compared to ELMo)
- Effective at "sentence pair" tasks: textual entailment (does sentence A imply sentence B), paraphrase detection

Devlin et al. (2019)

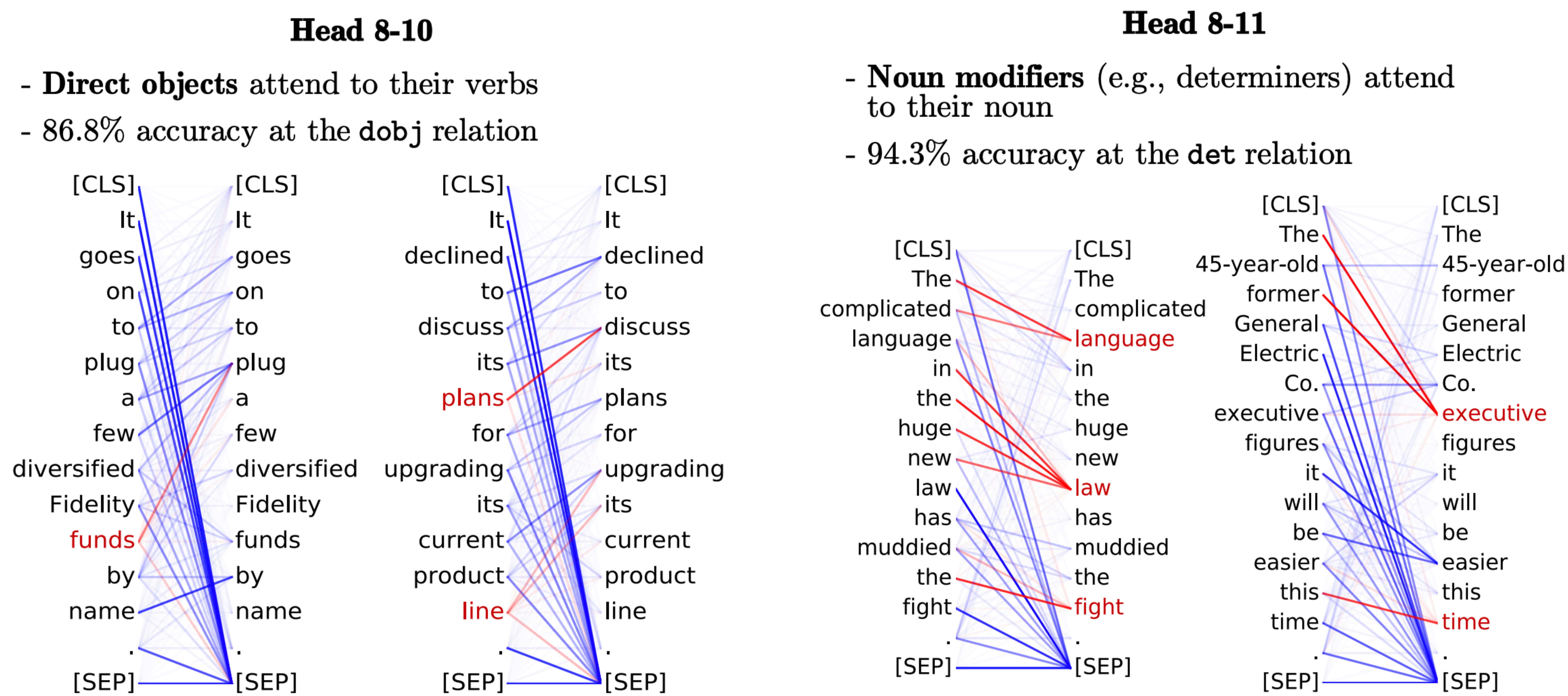
Analysis



- Heads on transformers learn interesting and diverse things: content heads (attend based on content), positional heads (based on position), etc.

Clark et al. (2019)

Analysis



- Still way worse than what supervised parsing systems can do, but interesting that this is learned organically

RoBERTa

- “Robustly optimized BERT”
- 160GB of data instead of 16 GB
- Dynamic masking: standard BERT uses the same MASK scheme for every epoch, RoBERTa recomputes them

Model	data	bsz	steps	SQuAD (v1.1/2.0)	MNLI-m	SST-2
RoBERTa						
with Books + Wiki	16GB	8K	100K	93.6/87.3	89.0	95.3
+ additional data (§3.2)	160GB	8K	100K	94.0/87.7	89.3	95.6
+ pretrain longer	160GB	8K	300K	94.4/88.7	90.0	96.1
+ pretrain even longer	160GB	8K	500K	**94.6/89.4**	**90.2**	**96.4**
$\text{BERT}_{\text{LARGE}}$						
with Books + Wiki	13GB	256	1M	90.9/81.8	86.6	93.7

- New training + more data = better performance
- For this and more: check out Huggingface Transformers or fairseq

Liu et al. (2019)