EE P 596
LLMs: From Transformers to ChatGPT

Introduction | LLM Motivation | History of LLMs

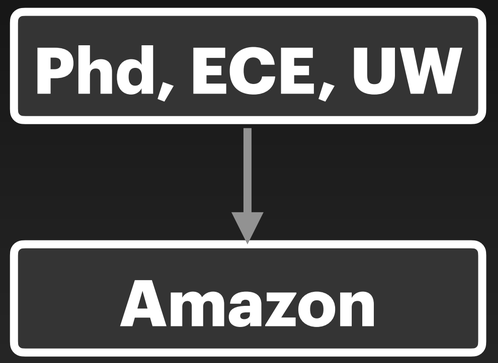
Dr. Karthik Mohan, Jan 6 2025 | Winter Quarter course | PMP, ECE, UW

Bit about Me

Bit about Me

Phd, ECE, UW

Bit about Me



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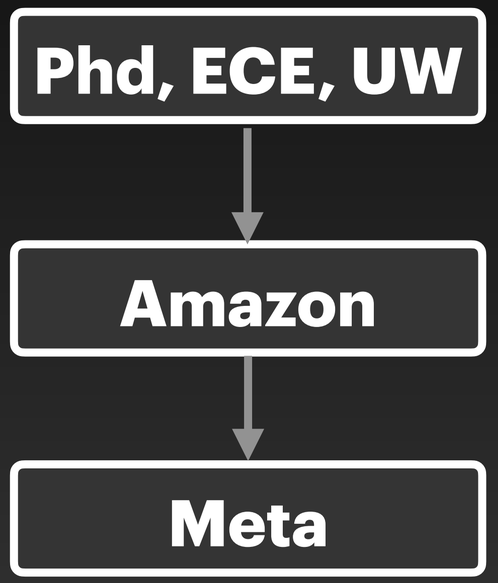

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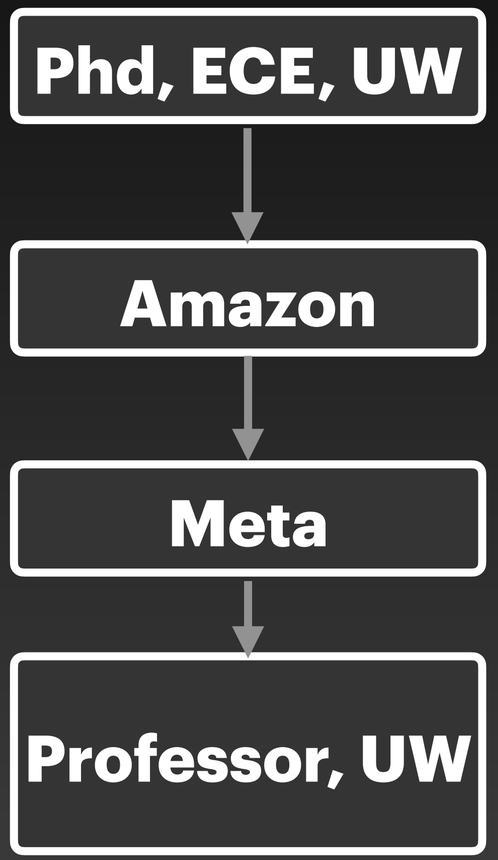

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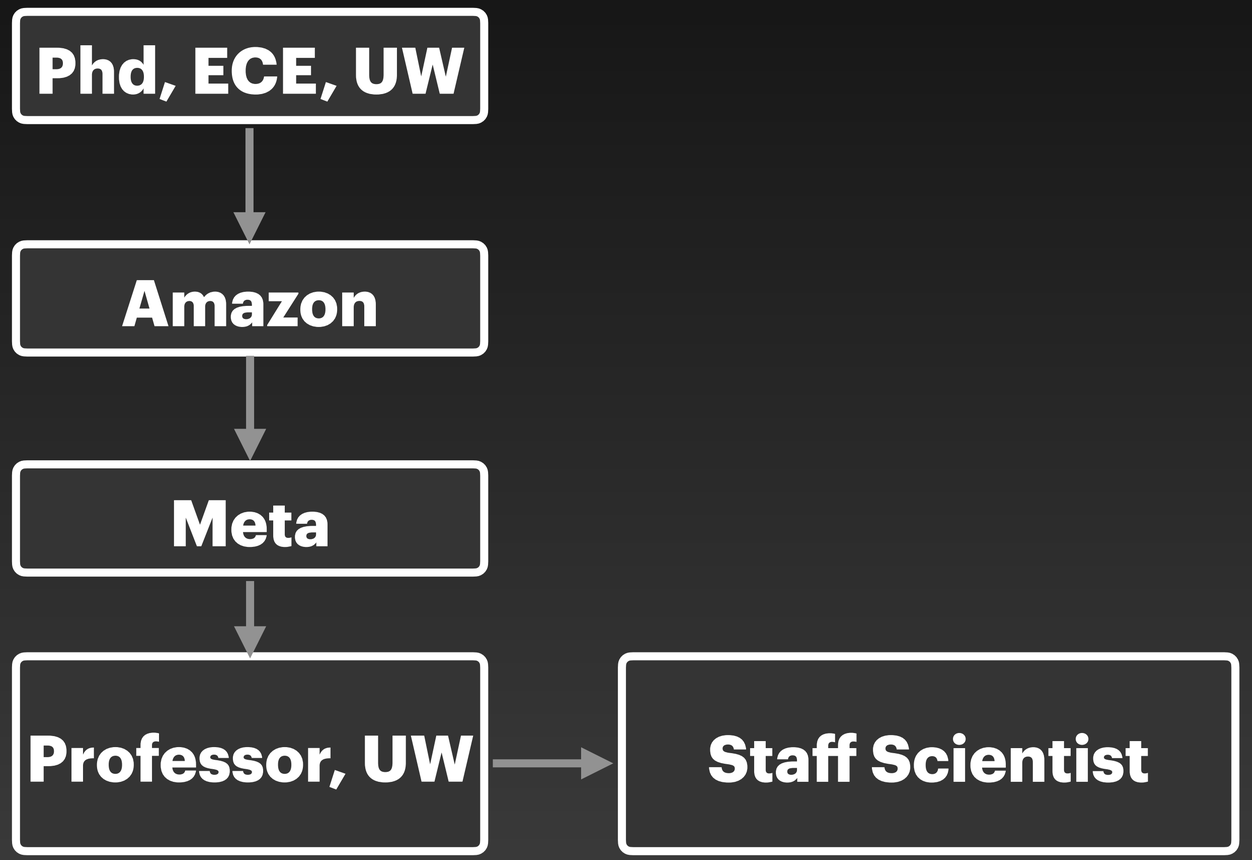

Teaching Support Team

Rahul (TA)

Xiulong (TA)

Bingo (Grader)

ChatGPT and LLMs are everywhere!

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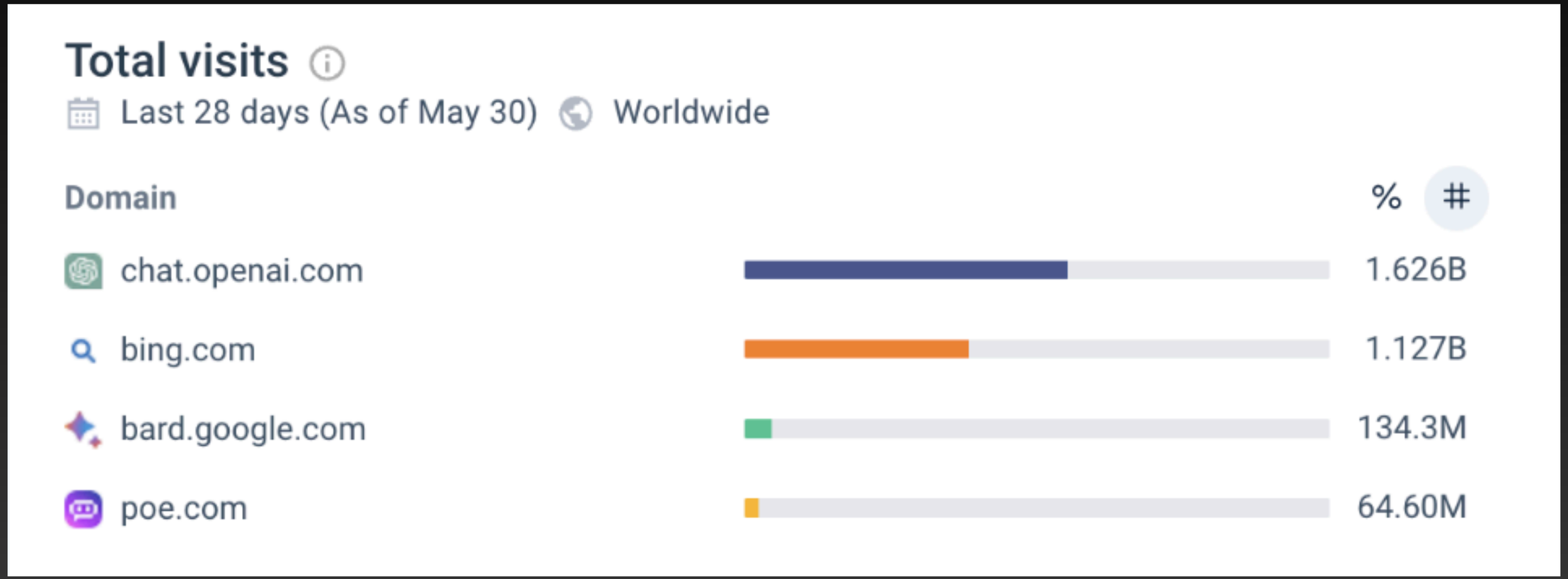

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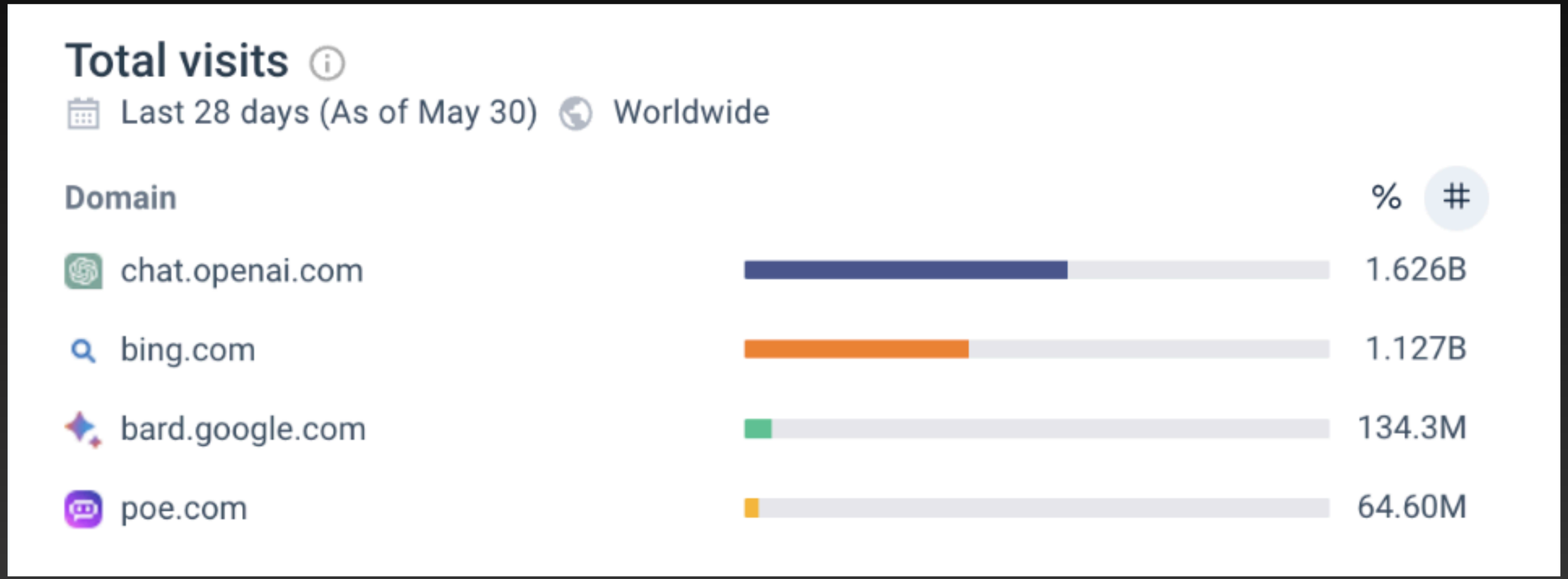


ChatGPT and LLMs are everywhere!

Let’s look at some examples!

ChatGPT and LLMs are everywhere!

Paraphrasing

ChatGPT and LLMs are everywhere!

Paraphrasing

Math

ChatGPT and LLMs are everywhere!

Paraphrasing

Math

Coding

ChatGPT and LLMs are everywhere!

Sentiment Annotation

LLM as a judge

ChatGPT and LLMs are everywhere!

Let’s go checkout ChatGPT live!

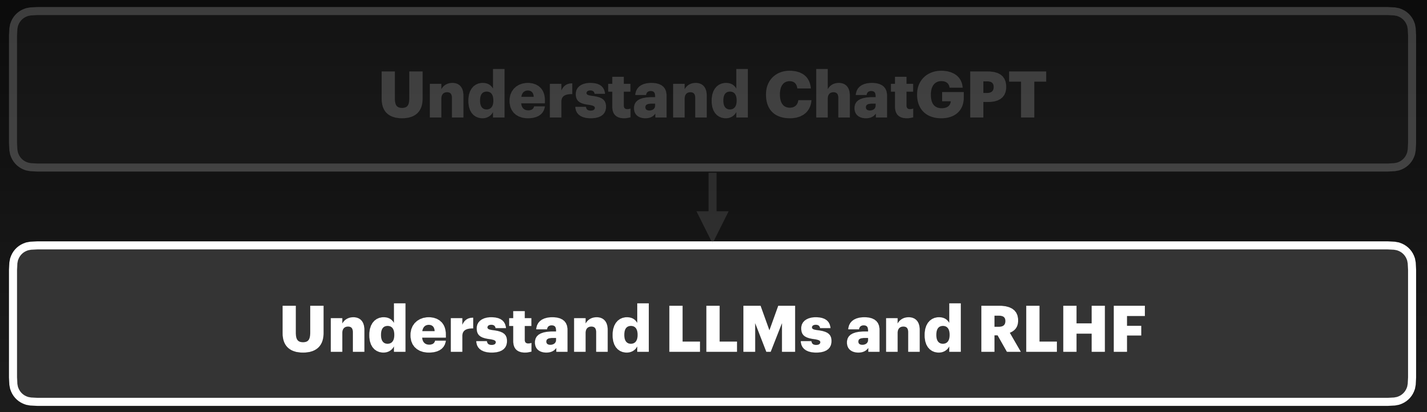
Engine behind ChatGPT

ChatGPT heavily relies on Large Language Models to power its responses to users!

How do you understand ChatGPT?

To Understand ChatGPT?

How do you understand ChatGPT?



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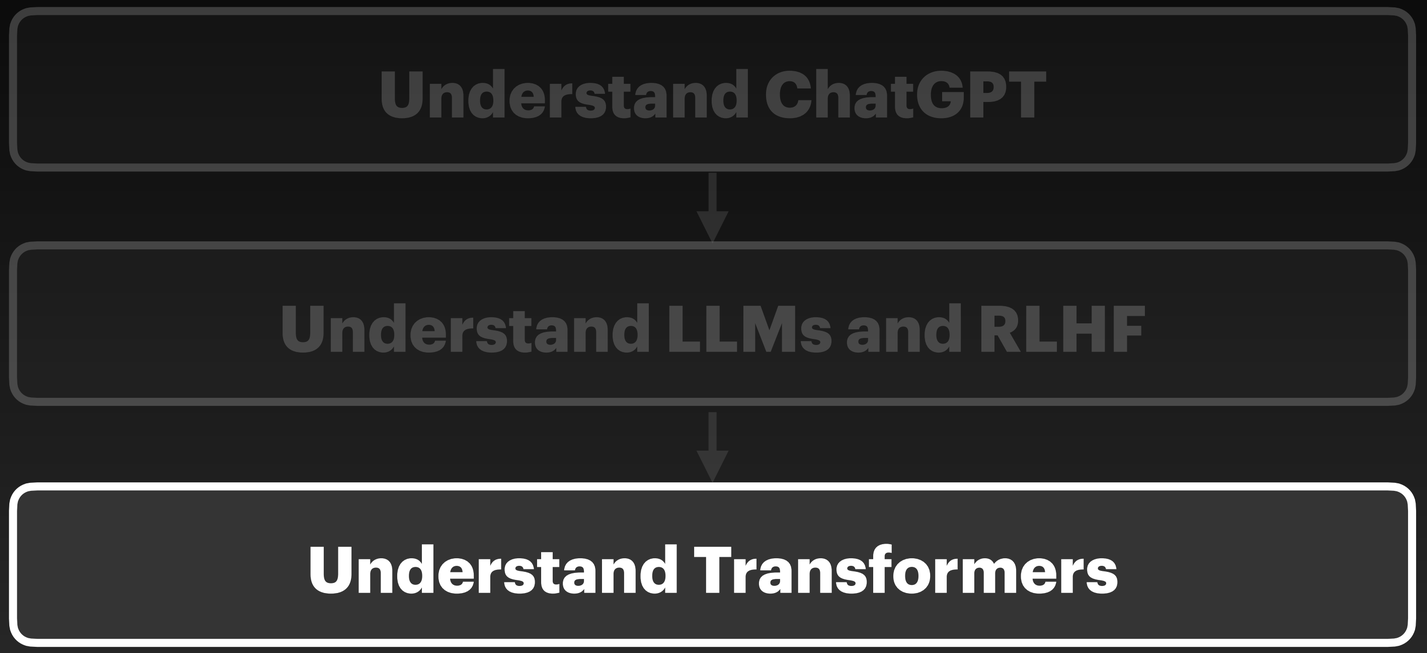

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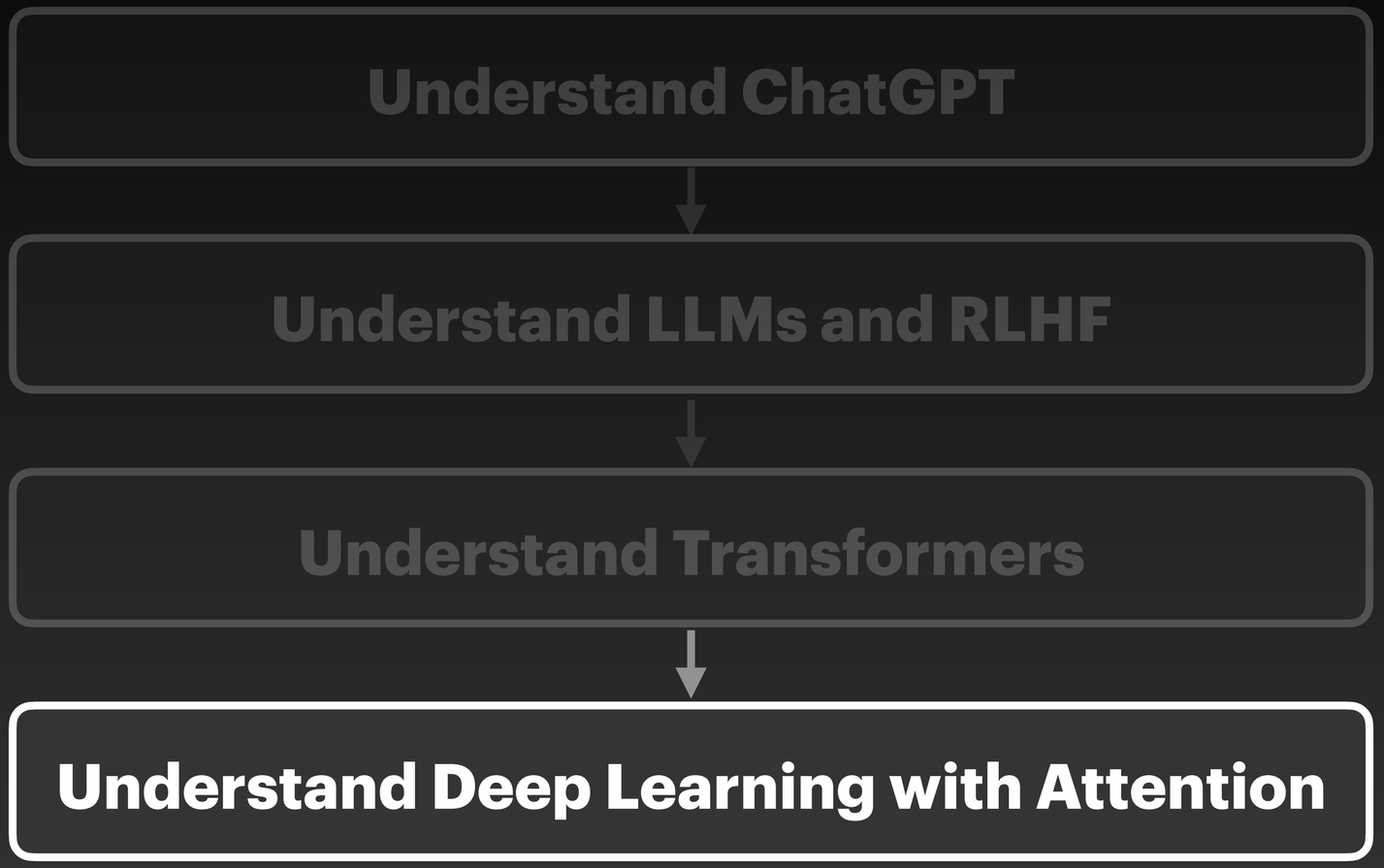

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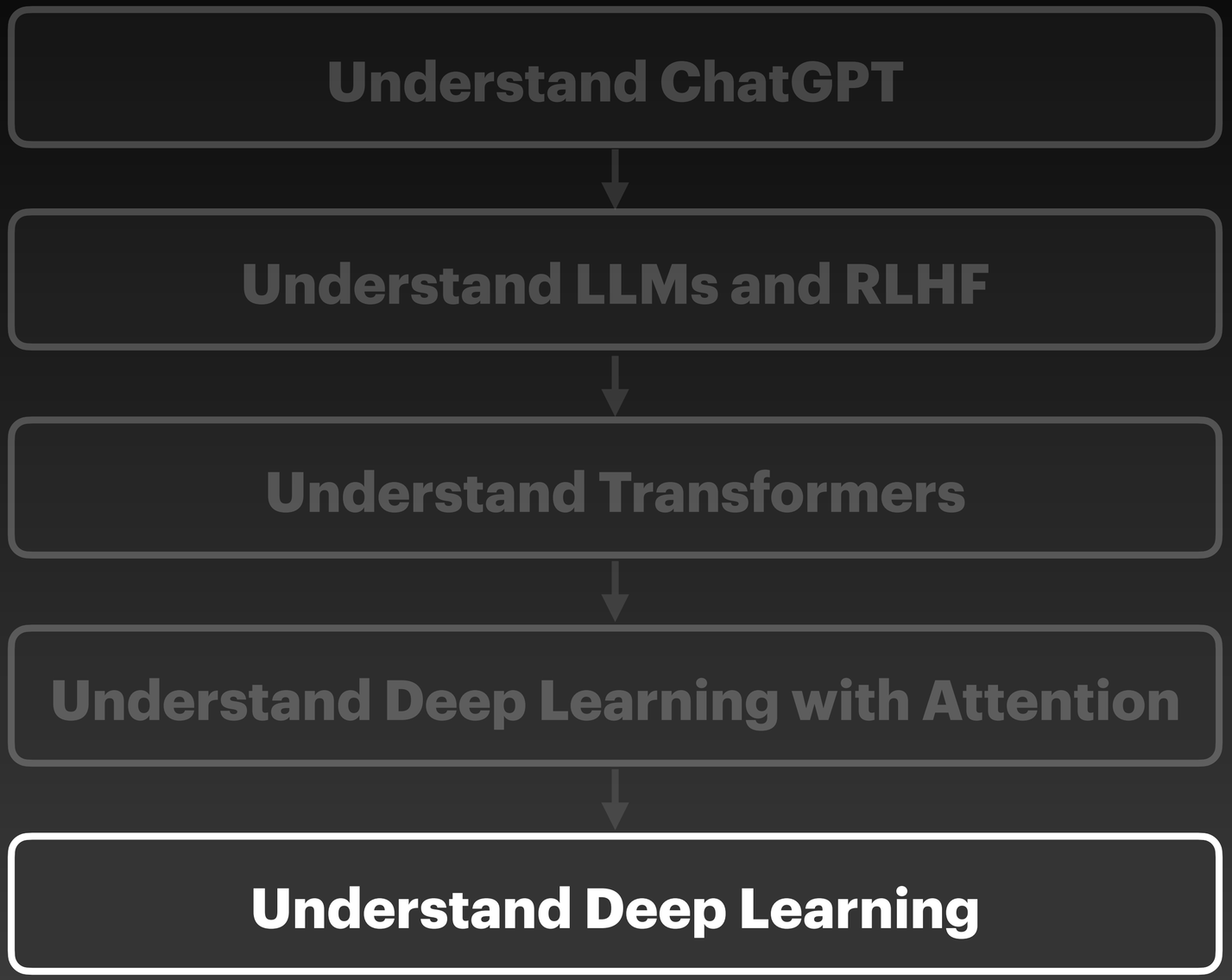

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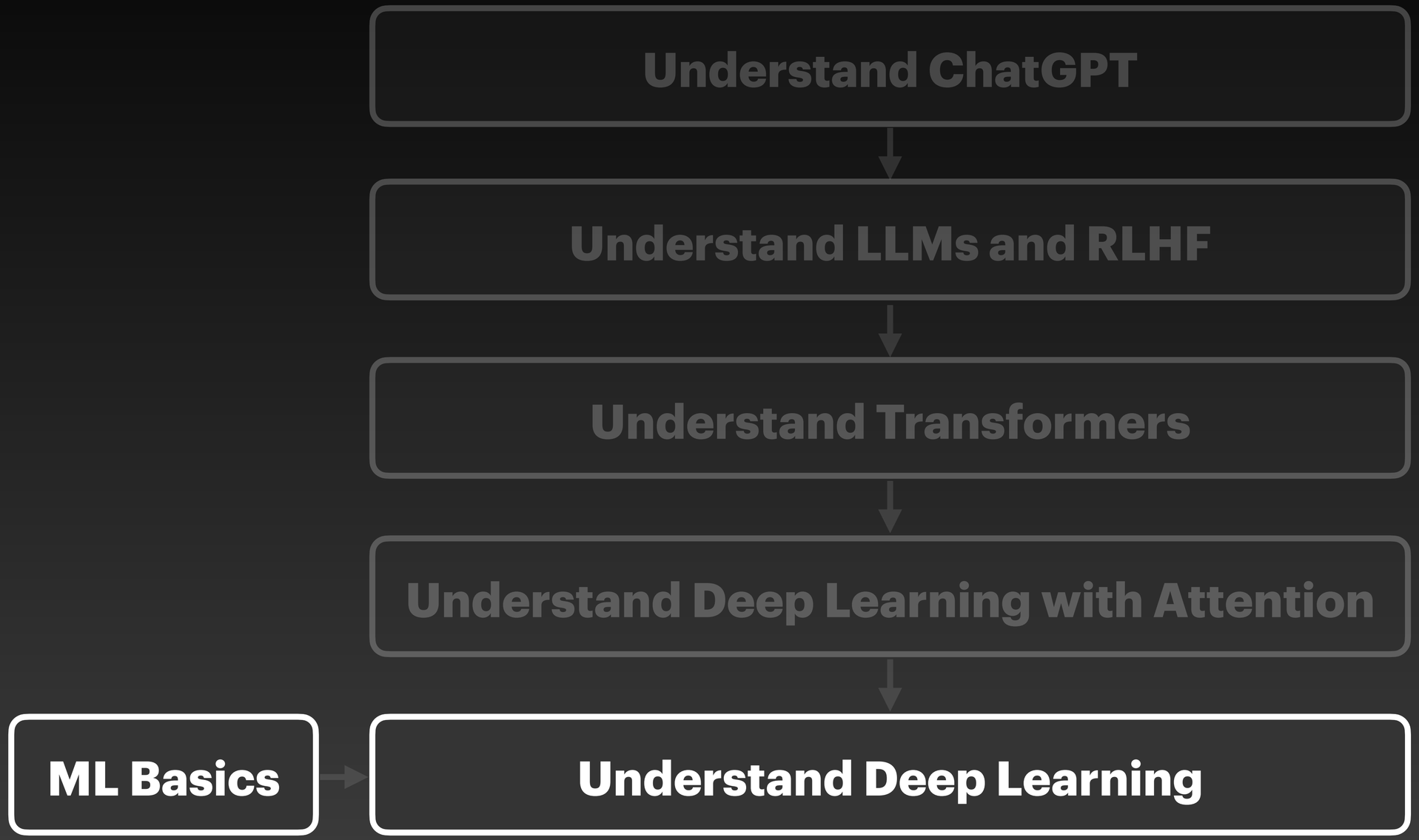

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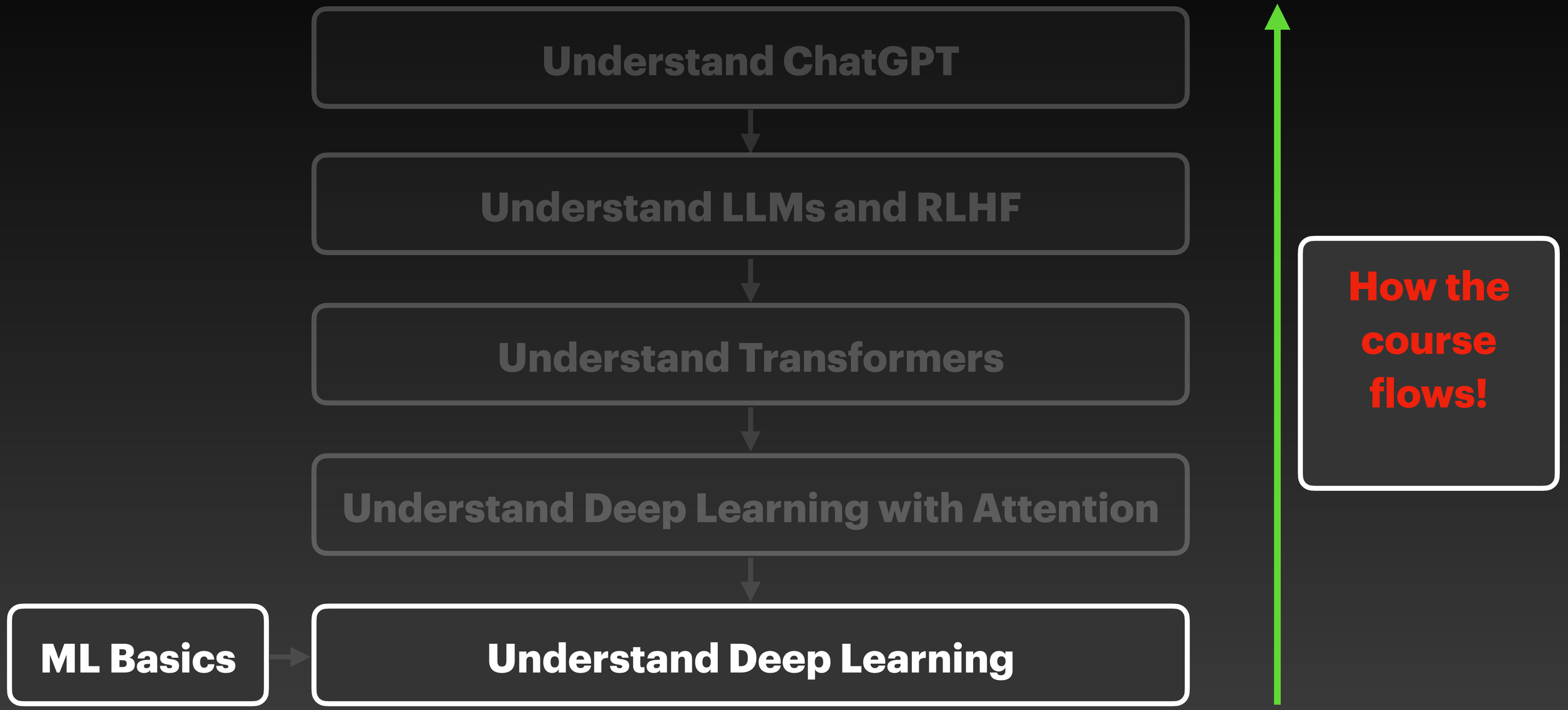

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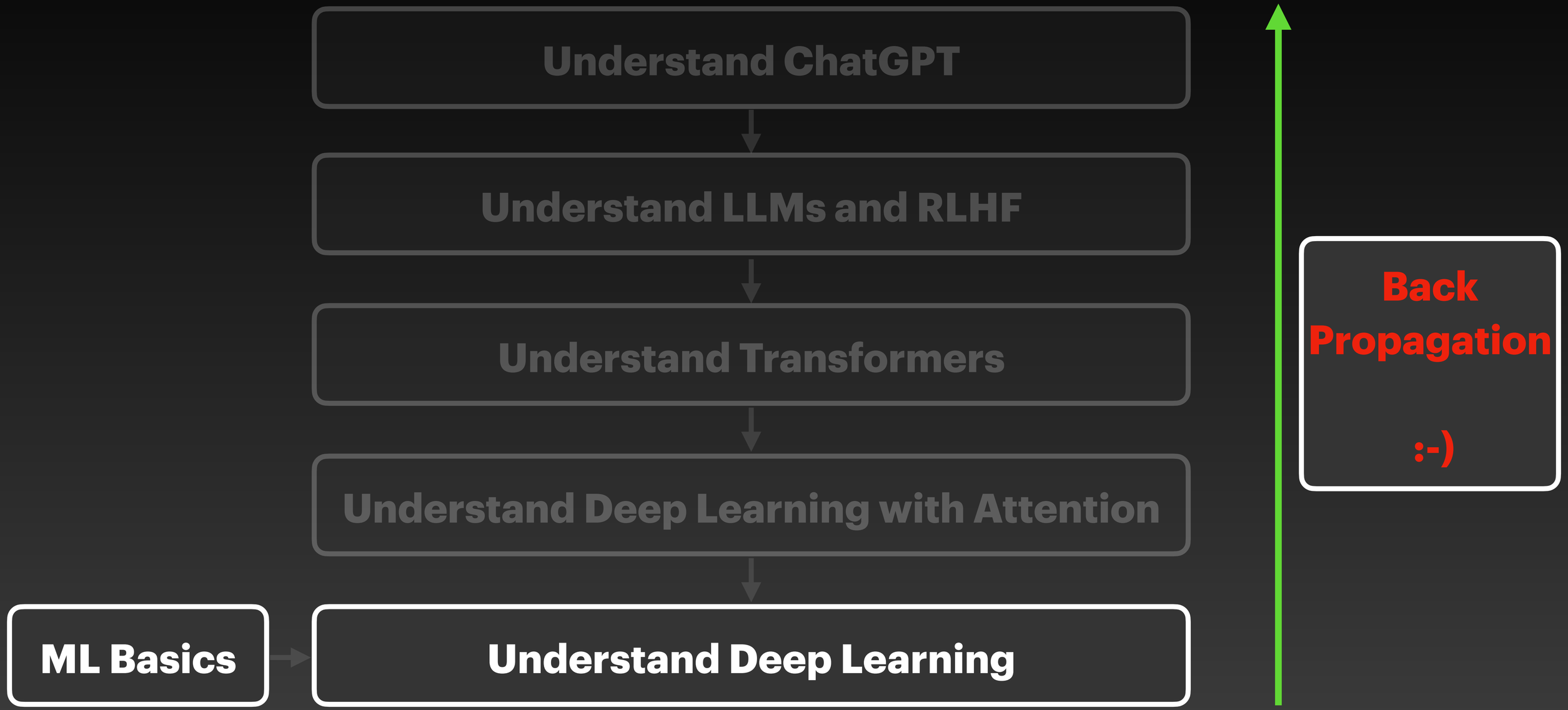

Course Outline

1. Building the foundations

- Logistics and Motivation
- ML fundamentals
- Logistic Regression
- Deep Learning

2. Transformers

- Transformers
- Discriminative and Generative
- Embeddings
- Applications

3. Generative AI

- LLMs
- GPT, GPT-2,GPT-3
- GPT 3.5, GPT 4
- Prompt Engineering
- Fine-tuning and Evaluating LLMs
- Open source vs closed LLMs

4. LVMs

- Auto Encoders
- Stable Diffusion
- Text to Image models
- Applications

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4. LVMs and Other Topics

- Auto Encoders
- Stable Diffusion
- Text to Image models
- SLMs
- Applications

Course Webpage and Resources

https://bytesizeml.github.io/llm2025

(Almost) Every Class

First 60 Minutes

- Theory
- Code samples

Next 15 minutes

- In-Class Exercise

Next 35 minutes

- Theory
- In-class Coding Exercise

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What I would like you to take away!

Conceptually

- Better understanding of LLMs
- Of LLM application areas
- Of APIs
- Intuition behind LLM models
- Theory behind LLMs

Implementation

- Coding up baselines in Colab
- Comfort with APIs
- Use of Hugging Face models
- Showcasing your work on webpage
- Fine-tuning LLM models

Ideas

- Where can you apply LLMs next?
- How can you chain LLMs
- to solve a problem?

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Survey Results

Find a AI buddy

Find a buddy and catch up on your AI goals

Discord Setup and Message

Set up your access to the class discord channel
&
send a link to an interesting article on LLMs on the channel

What are you looking to learn/work on ?

Discuss in groups of 3 or 4

Assignments (Still in the works)

1. Conceptual Assignment (20%)

- Typically once a week
- Tests your understanding of concepts
- Typically multiple choice questions
- Assigned on Thu, due next Sat
- Portion of this grade from
- In-class exercises

2. Coding Assignments (35%)

- Typically once a week
- Google colab based assignments
- Working with pytorch, LLM apis, etc
- Assigned on Thu, due next Sat

3. Mini-projects (30%)

- 2 or 3 for this class
- Get 2 weeks to work on it
- More involved than a coding assignment
- Could include a Kaggle Contest
- Could include a web demo

4. Project Presentation (15%)

- Present on one of the mini-projects
- Presentation on Tu or Th of finals week
- 7 minutes per team + 3 minute questions
- Methodology + working demo and results

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ChatGPT and LLMs are everywhere!

Engine vs API

Engines are different from APIs and we shouldn’t confuse the two.

Engine vs API

Engines are different from APIs and we shouldn’t confuse the two.

BERT and Llama are Engines/Foundation Models whereas ChatGPT 3.5 is an API

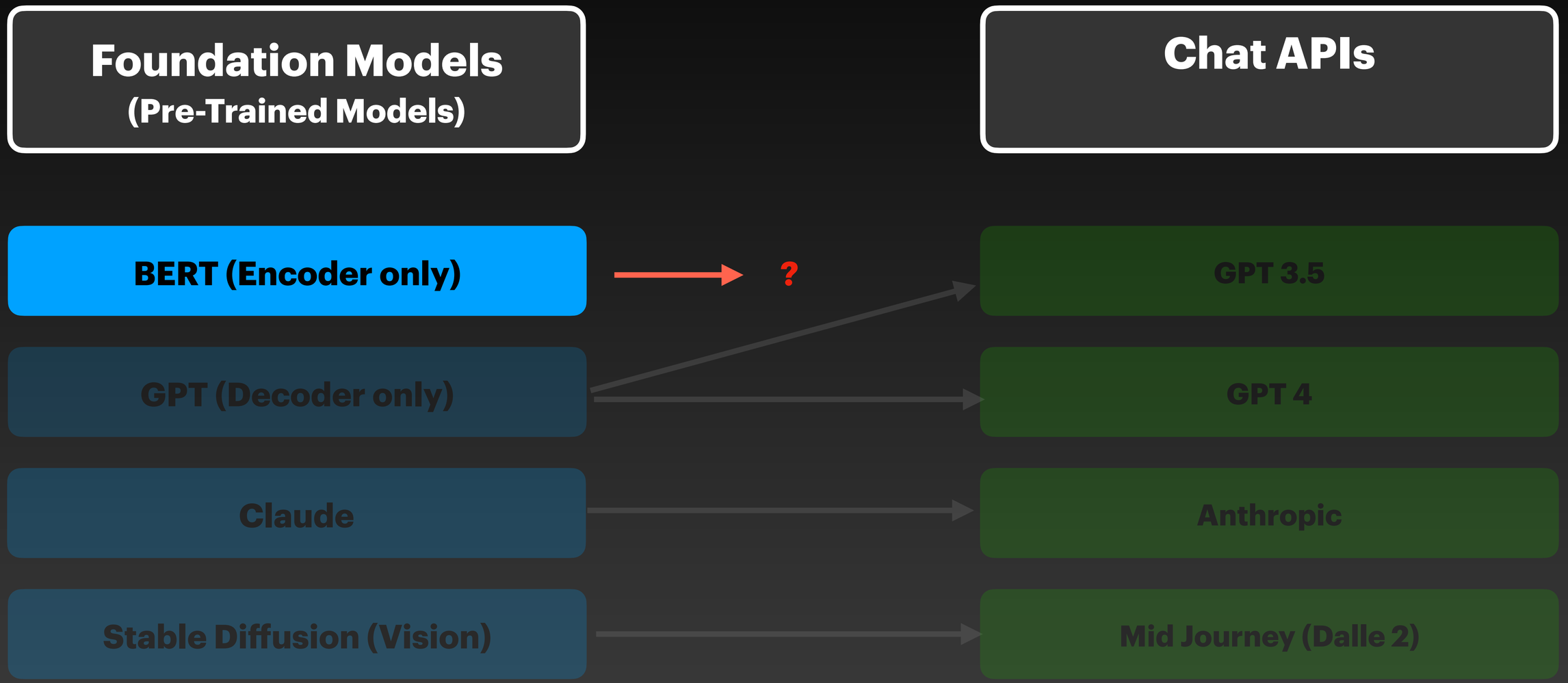
Engine vs API

Foundation Models
(Pre-Trained Models)

- BERT (Encoder only)
- GPT (Decoder only)
- Claude
- Stable Diffusion (Vision)

Chat APIs

Engine vs API



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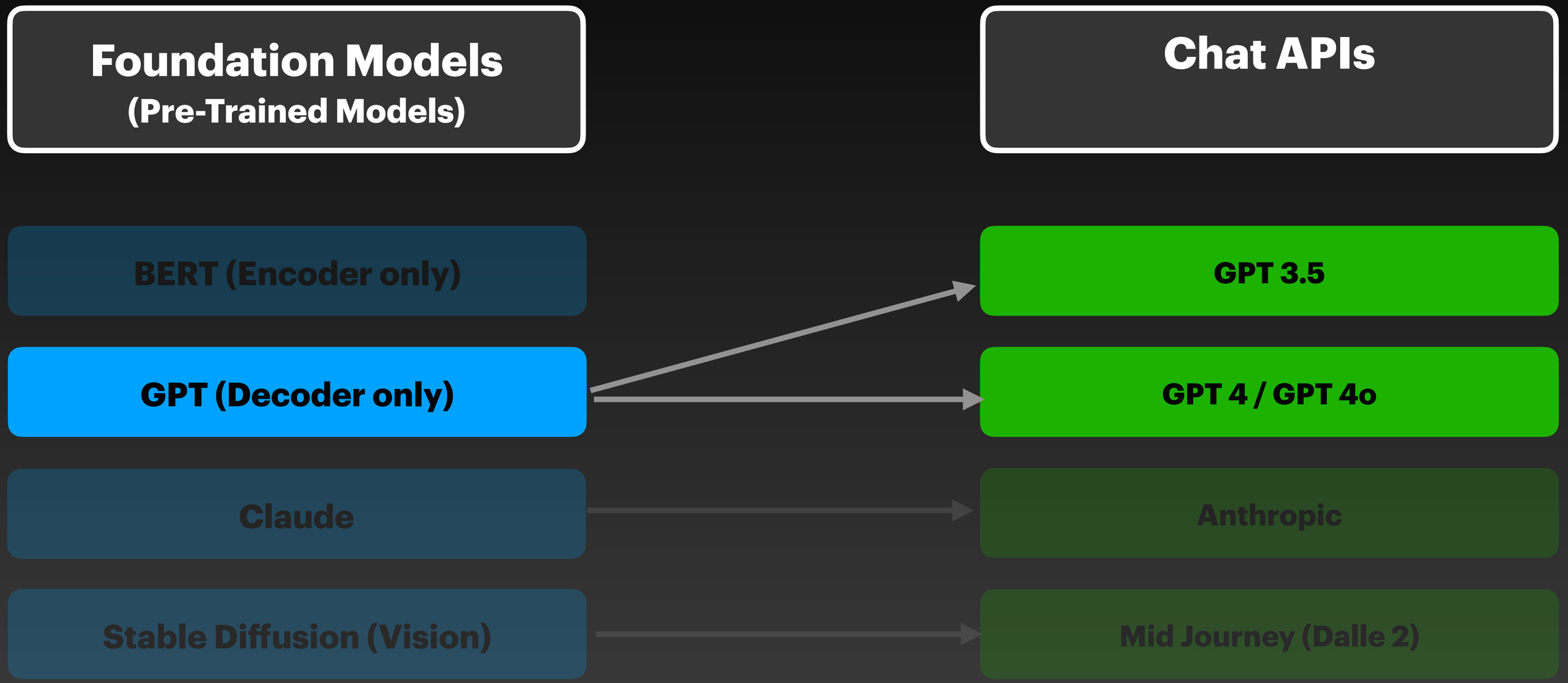

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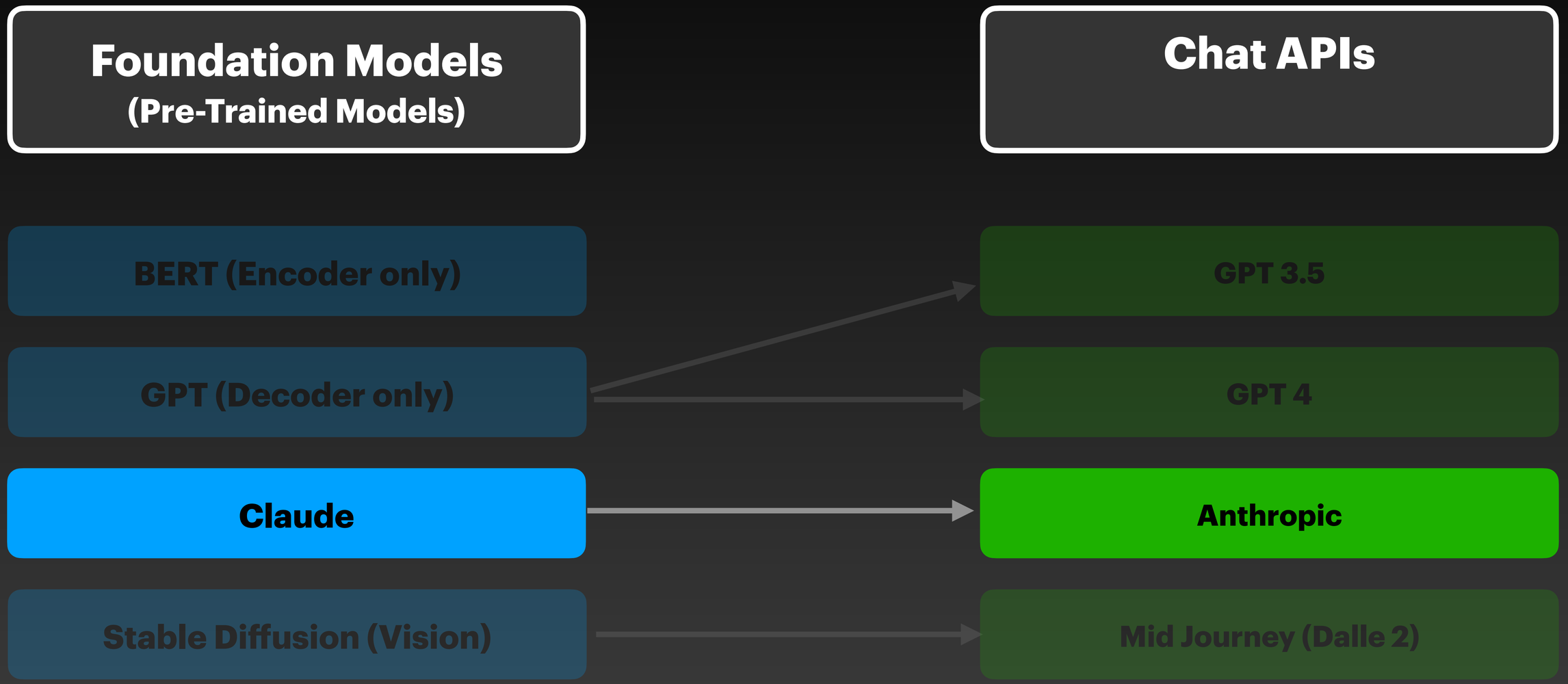


Engine vs API

Foundation Models
(Pre-Trained Models)

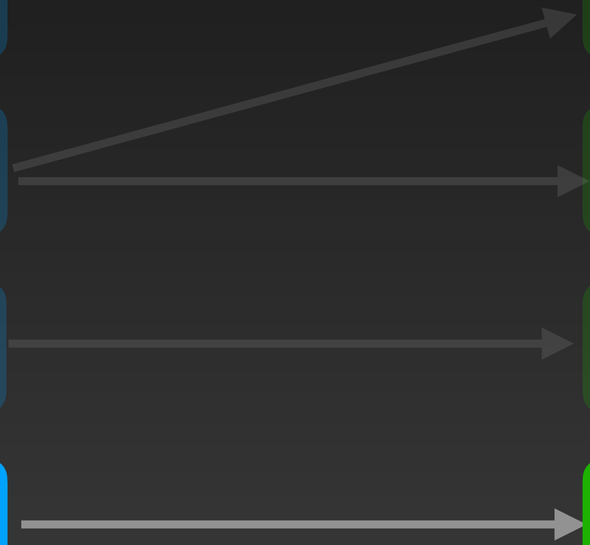
Chat APIs

BERT (Encoder only)

GPT (Decoder only)

Claude

Stable Diffusion (Vision)



GPT 3.5

GPT 4

Anthropic

Mid Journey (Dalle 2)

Engine vs API

Foundation Models
(Pre-Trained Models)

Chat APIs

BERT (Encoder only)

GPT (Decoder only)

Large Vision Model (LVM)
Pre-Trained Model
Foundation Model

GPT 3.5

GPT 4

Claude

Anthropic

Stable Diffusion (Vision)

Mid Journey (Dalle 2)

Engine vs API

Foundation Models
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t APIs

LLM - Large Language Model
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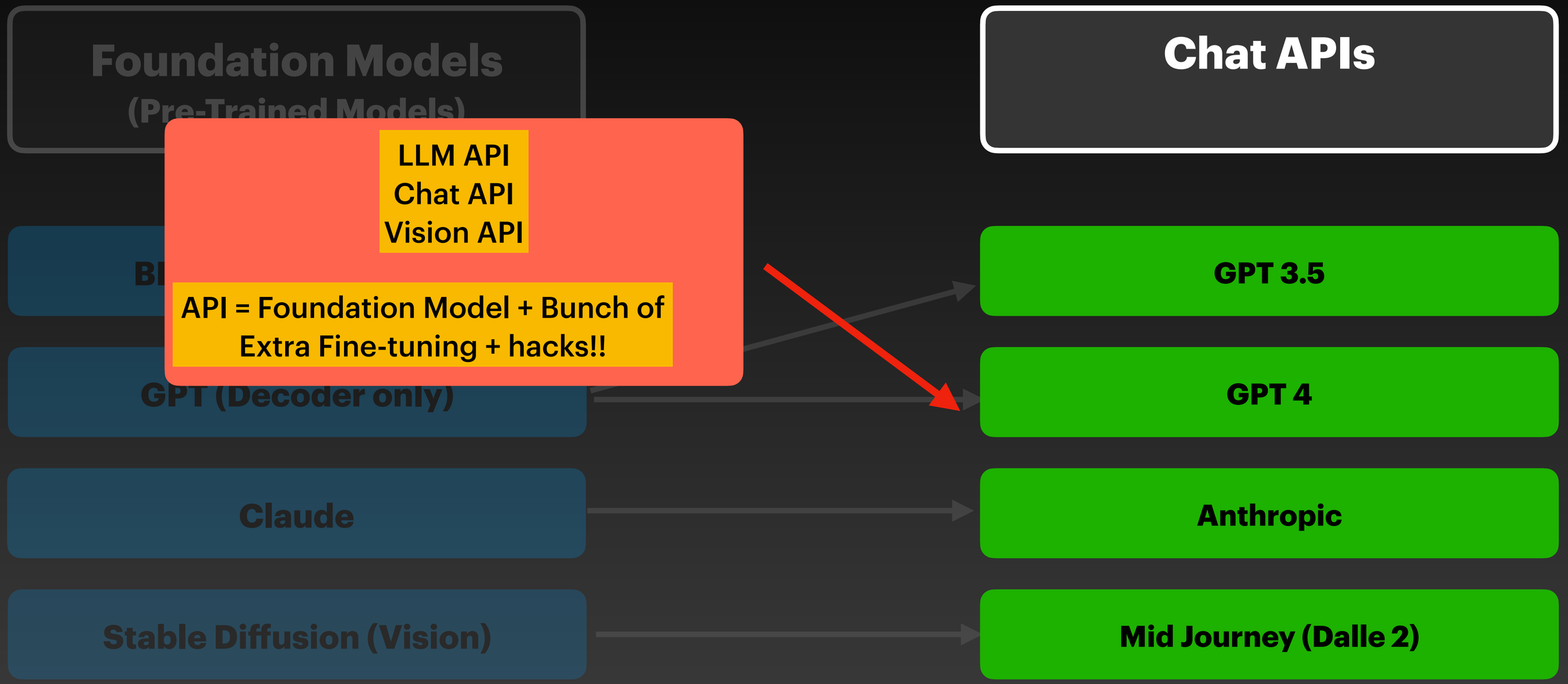


What is a Language Model?

Scientific Data-driven Model that helps machines understand language and patterns in sentence construction

What is a Language Model?

Example: I just got promoted. I am feeling so ———

What is a Language Model?

Example: I just got promoted. I am feeling so happy

What is a Language Model?

Example: I just checked my application status and it got ———. It’s frustrating!

What is a Language Model?

Example: I just checked my application status and it got rejected. It's frustrating!

What is a Large Language Model (LLM)?

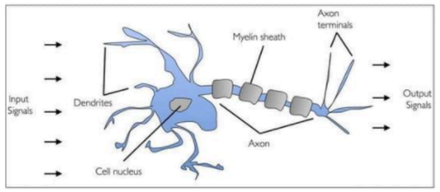
LLMs are language models that are learned from massive corpuses of text, that are mined from the web. They are known to be sophisticated in understanding language and can be **generative** in nature.

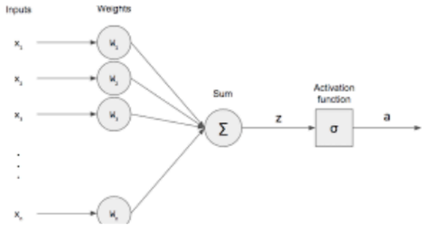
History of (Large) Language Models

How did machines work with language before and how we do it now?

History of (Large) Language Models

Perceptron





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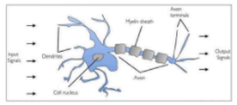
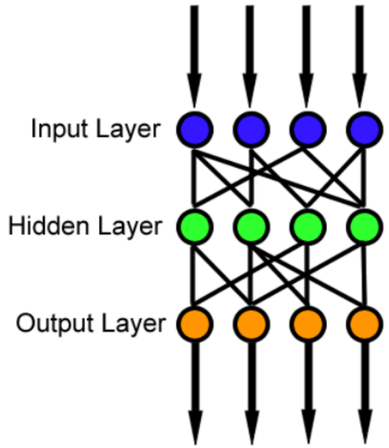
Perceptron



Feed Forward NN



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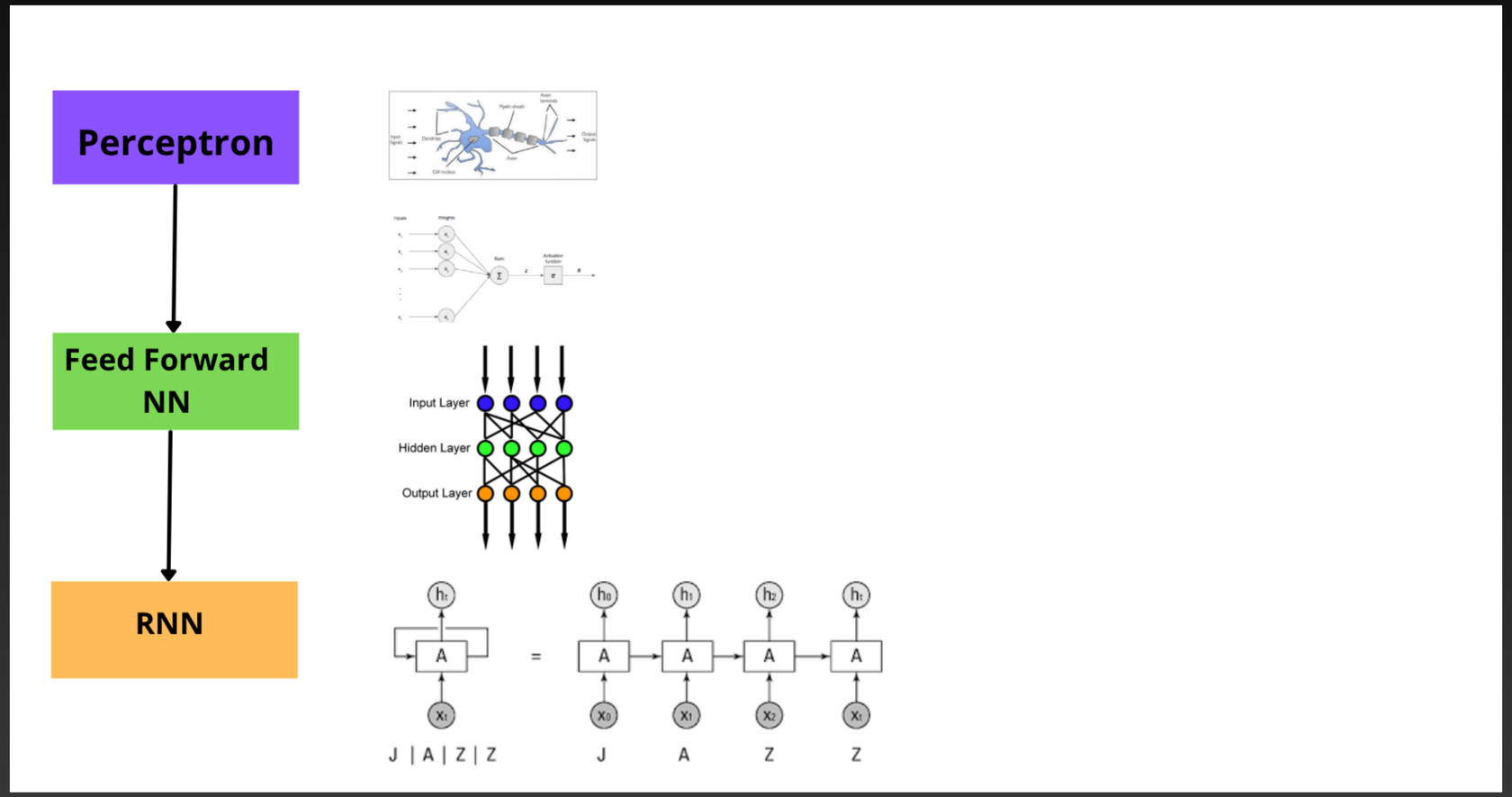


History of (Large) Language Models

RNN Issue:

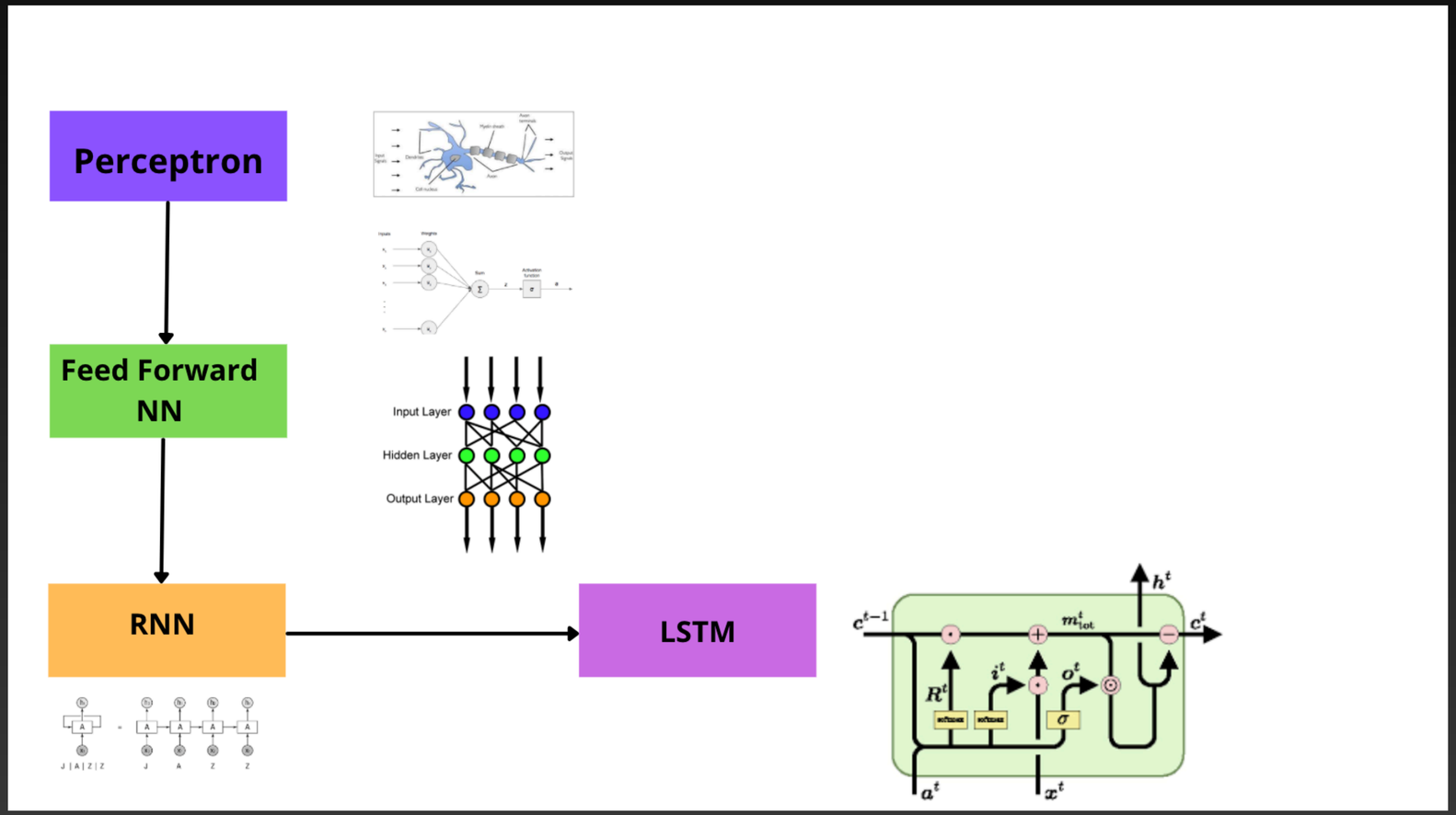
I just arrived in NY. In a few days, I would like to visit the city, ———

History of (Large) Language Models

RNN Issue:

I just arrived in NY. In a few days, I would like to visit the city, NY

History of (Large) Language Models



History of (Large) Language Models

LSTM

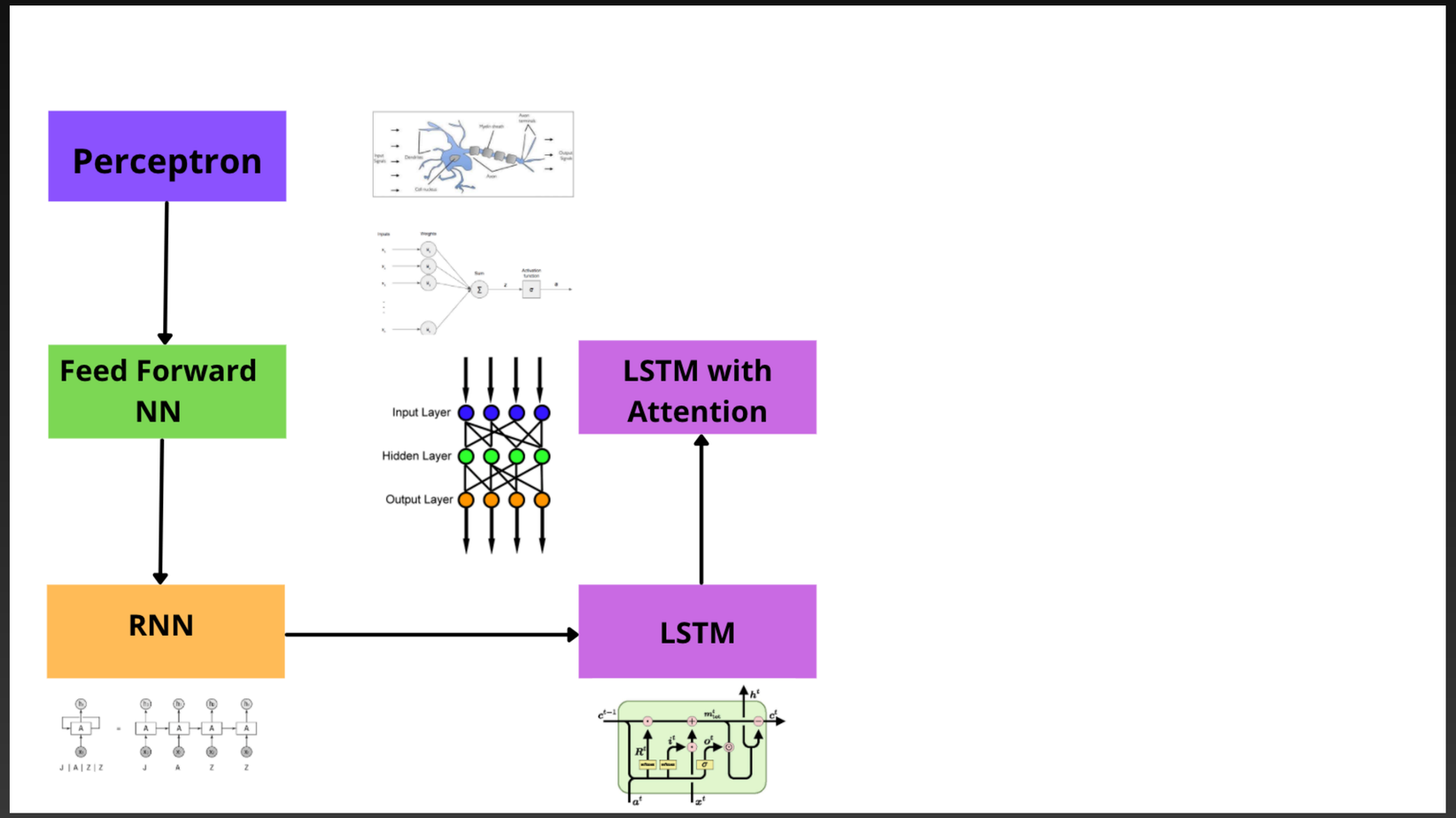
I just arrived in NY. In a few days, I would like to visit the city, ———

History of (Large) Language Models

LSTM

I just arrived in NY. In a few days, I would like to visit the city, Seattle

History of (Large) Language Models



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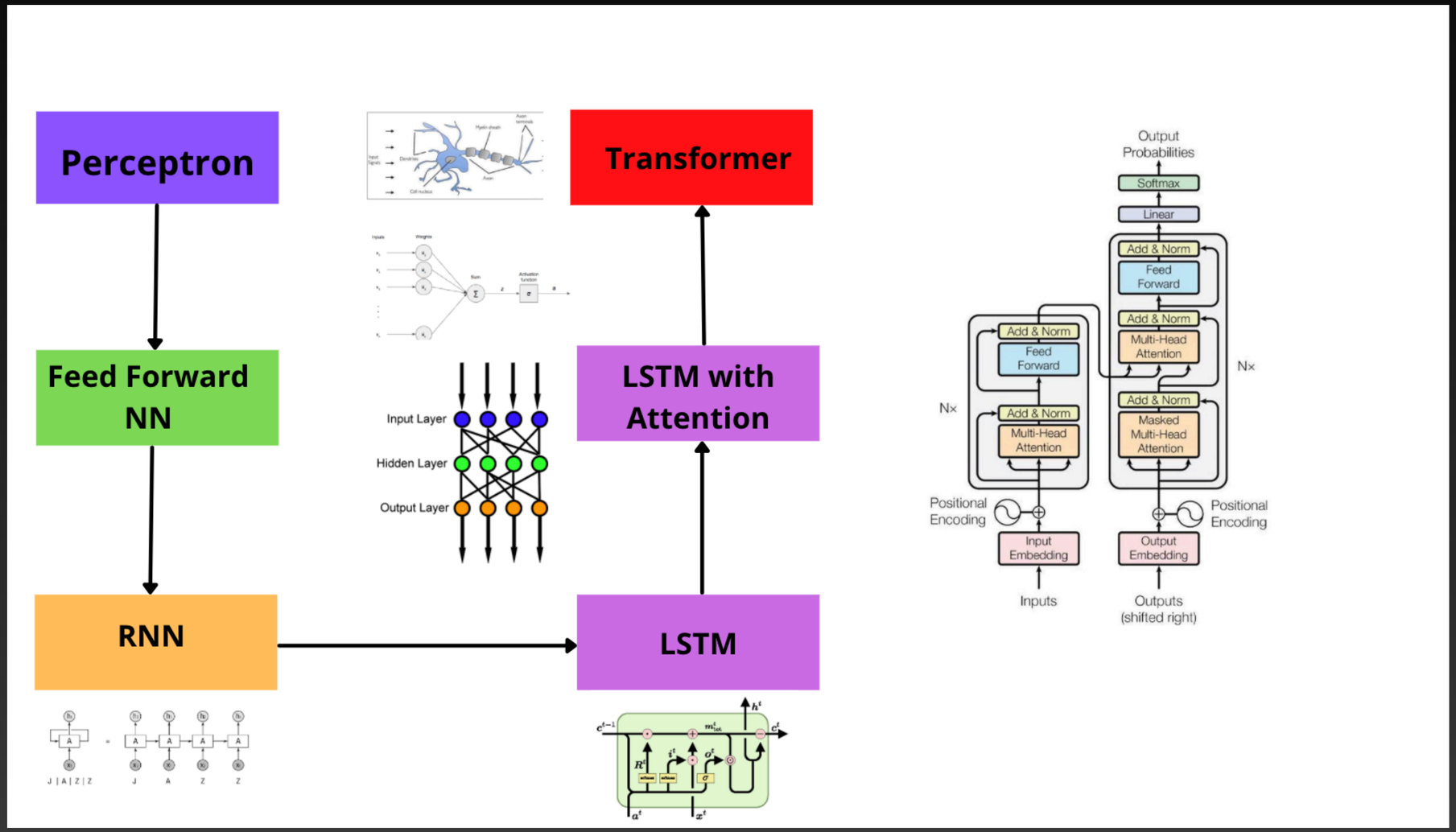

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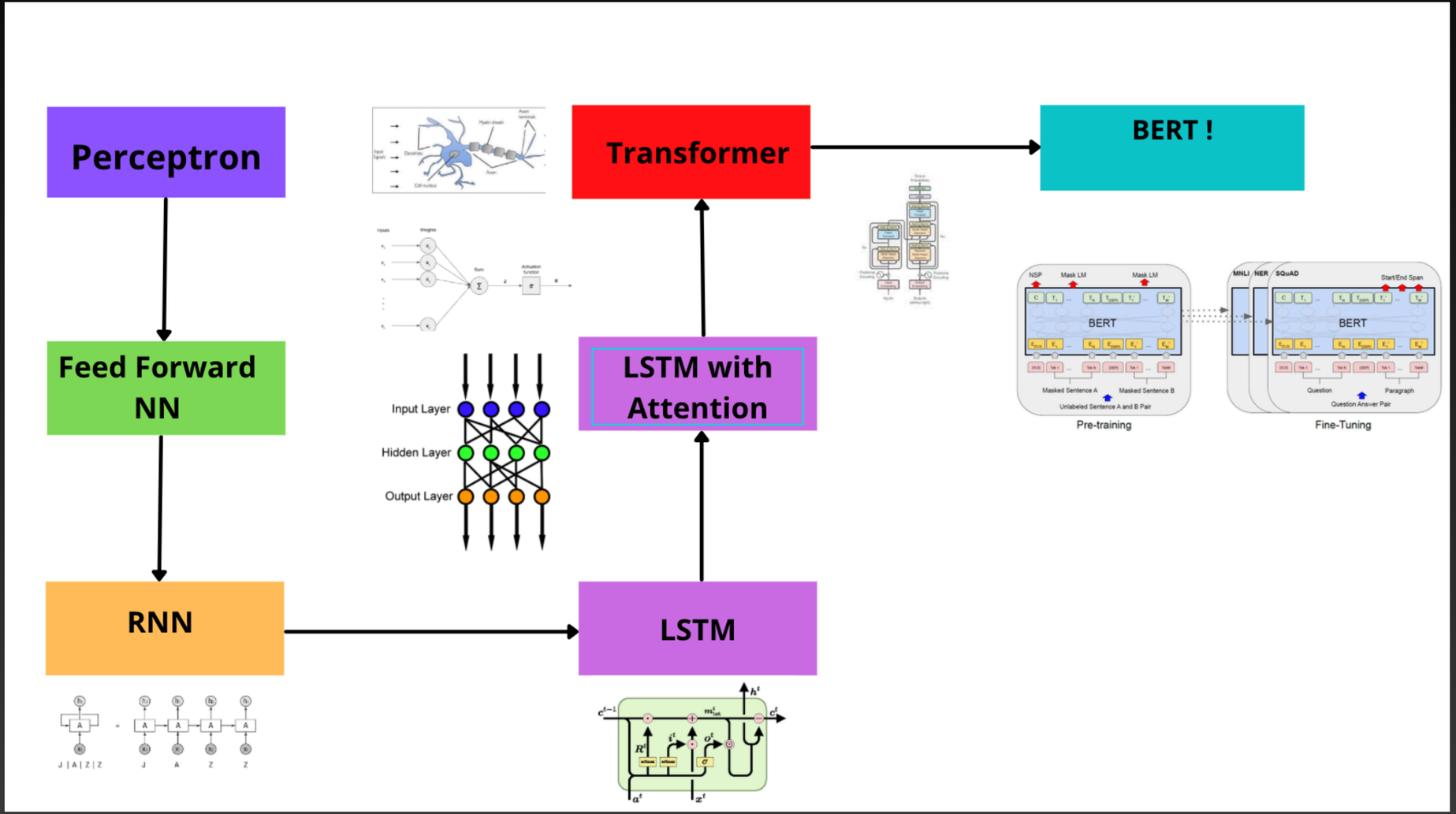

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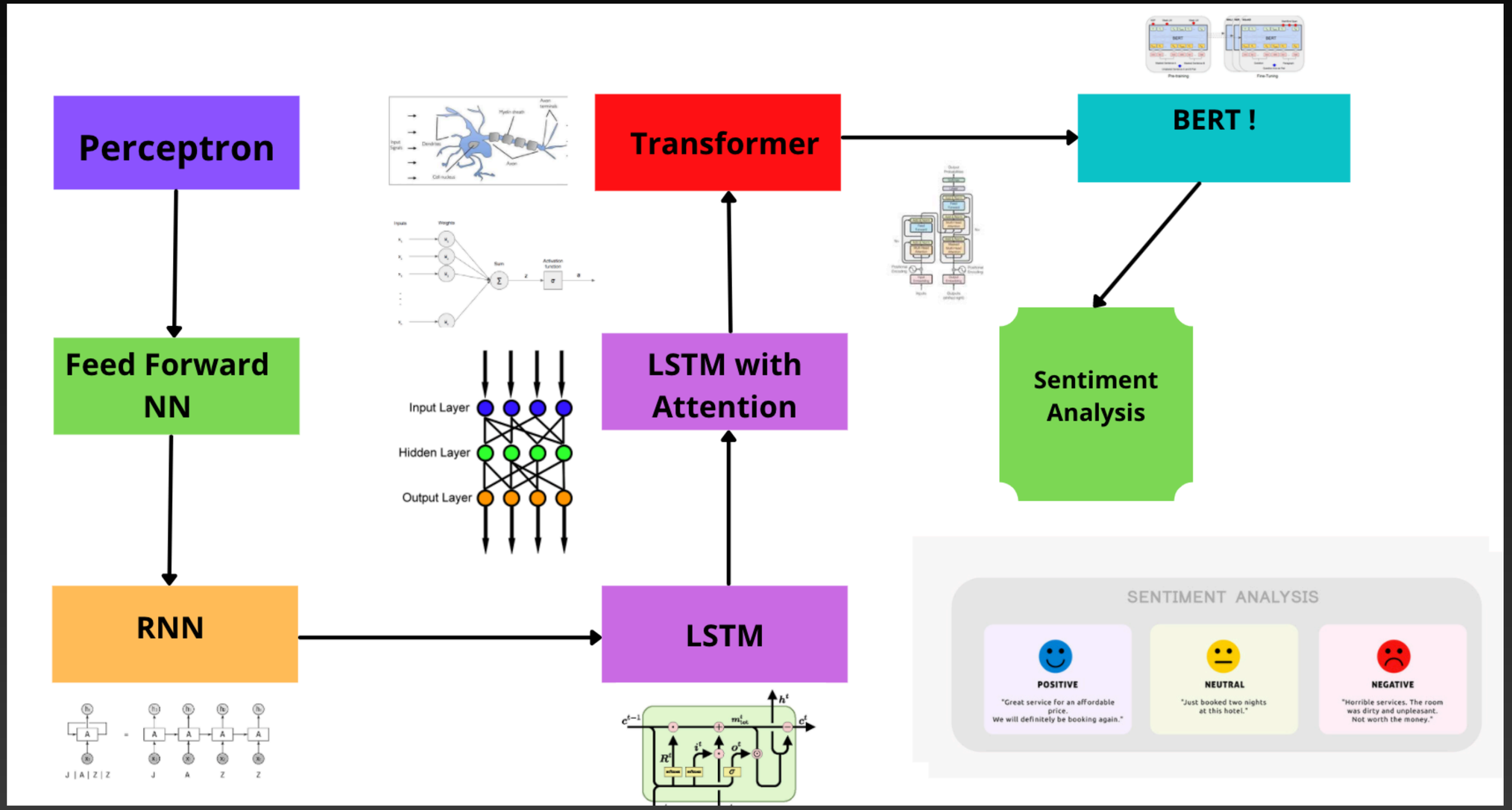


History of (Large) Language Models

Perceptron

Feed Forward NN

RNN

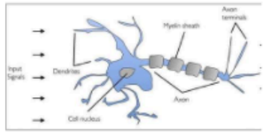
LSTM

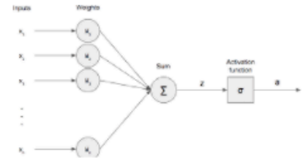
LSTM with Attention

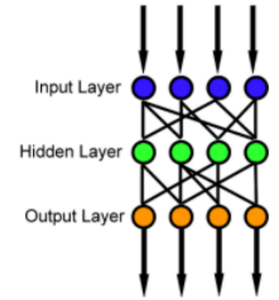
Transformer

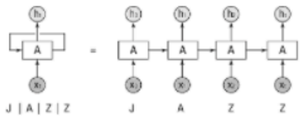
BERT !

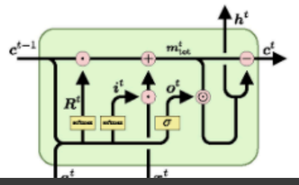
Extractive Summarization

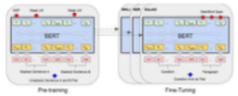


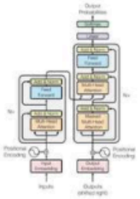


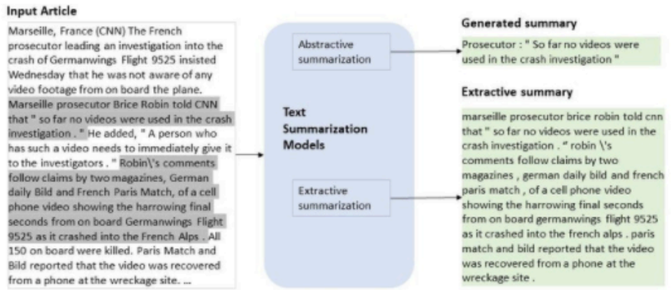




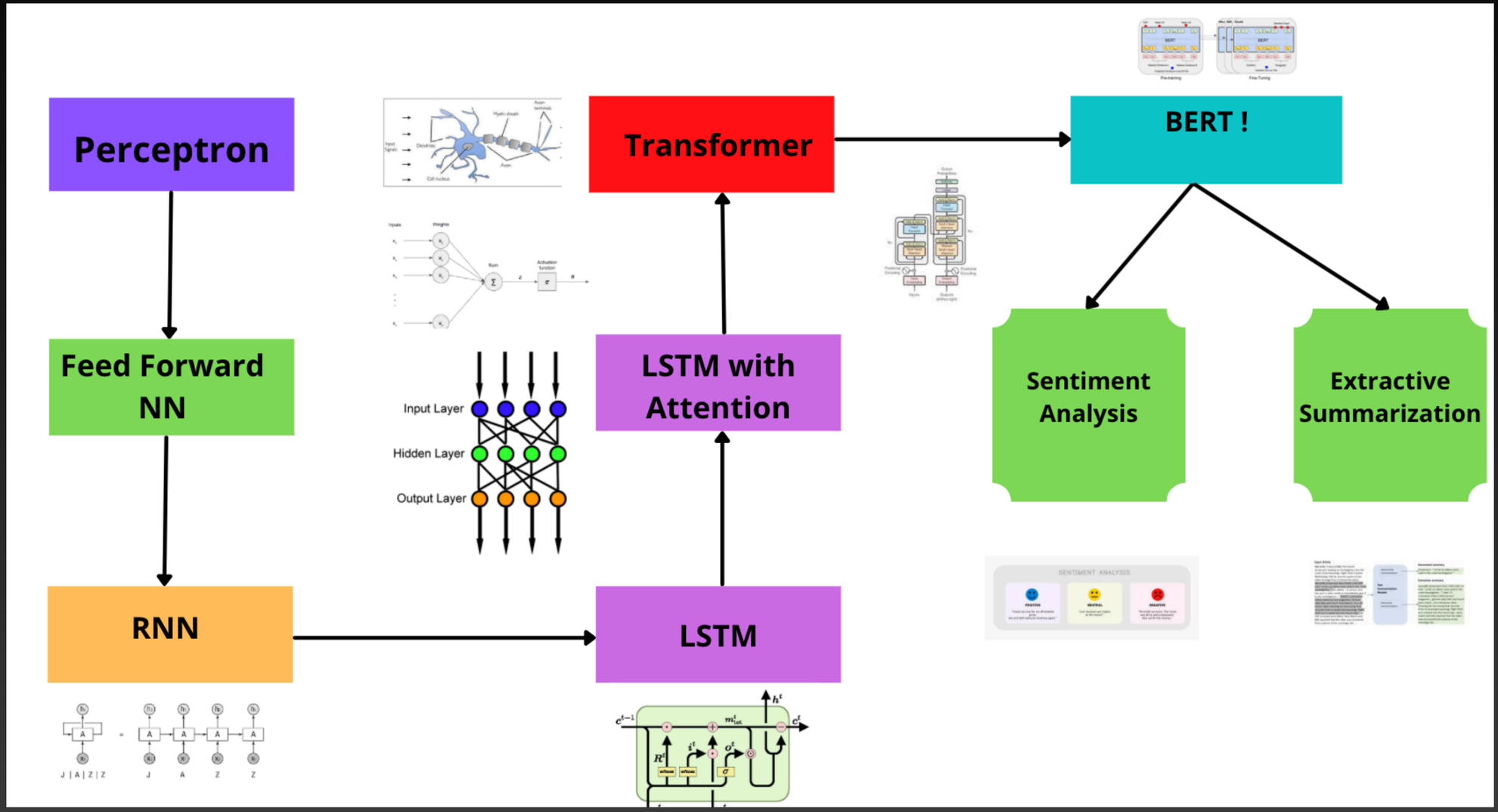








History of (Large) Language Models



History of (Large) Language Models

GPT vs BERT

While BERT is purely about encoding and is called an encoding Transformer. GPT is purely a decoder and is called a decoding transformer.

History of (Large) Language Models

GPT-x

GPT-x (GPT, GPT-2, GPT-2.5, etc) are decoding transformers that are trained to predict the next token given the past and do a very good job at it! That's how they can generate entire paragraphs that look logical, grammatical and structured.

1 Trillion Tokens!

	RedPajama	LLaMA*
CommonCrawl	878 billion	852 billion
C4	175 billion	190 billion
Github	59 billion	100 billion
Books	26 billion	25 billion
ArXiv	28 billion	33 billion
Wikipedia	24 billion	25 billion
StackExchange	20 billion	27 billion
Total	1.2 trillion	1.25 trillion

1 Trillion Tokens requires how many books?

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1 Book ~ 50k Tokens

15 Million Books ~ 1 Trillion Tokens

ChatGPT use cases for NLP

ChatGPT use cases for NLP

Table 1: Distribution of use case categories from our API prompt dataset.

Use-case	(%)
Generation	45.6%
Open QA	12.4%
Brainstorming	11.2%
Chat	8.4%
Rewrite	6.6%
Summarization	4.2%
Classification	3.5%
Other	3.5%
Closed QA	2.6%
Extract	1.9%

Table 2: Illustrative prompts from our API prompt dataset. These are fictional examples inspired by real usage—see more examples in Appendix A.2.1.

Use-case	Prompt
Brainstorming	List five ideas for how to regain enthusiasm for my career
Generation	Write a short story where a bear goes to the beach, makes friends with a seal, and then returns home.
Rewrite	This is the summary of a Broadway play: """ {summary} """ This is the outline of the commercial for that play: """

The distribution of prompts used to finetune InstructGPT

Dialing it back a bit...

Deep Learning Foundations