



Artificial intelligence and Large Language Models (LLMs): Advancing colorectal cancer research and quality in practice.

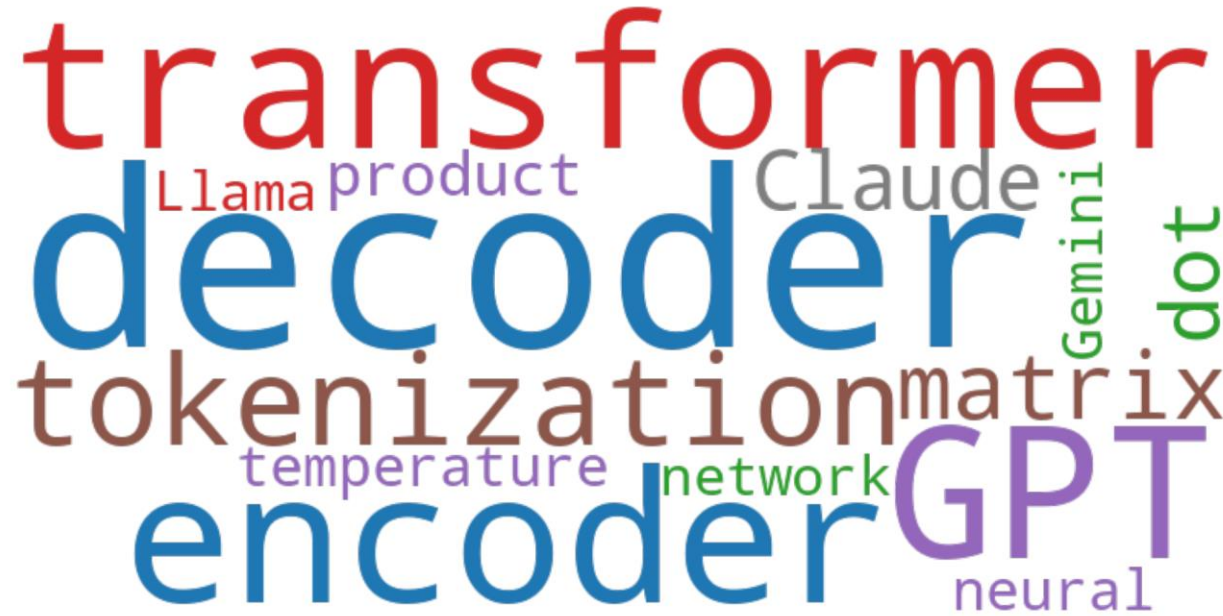
Chiraag Kulkarni, MD

# Outline

- I. How do LLMs work?
- II. What is prompt engineering?
- III. Applications to CRC research and quality



# I. How do LLMs work?



A word cloud illustrating key concepts in Large Language Models (LLMs). The words are arranged in a dense, overlapping manner, with colors ranging from red to purple. The most prominent words are 'transformer' in red at the top, 'decoder' in blue in the center, and 'encoder' in blue at the bottom. Other visible words include 'tokenization' in brown, 'matrix' in brown, 'GPT' in purple, 'neural' in purple, 'temperature' in purple, 'network' in green, 'Claude' in grey, 'Llama' in red, 'product' in purple, 'Gemini' in green, and 'dot' in green.

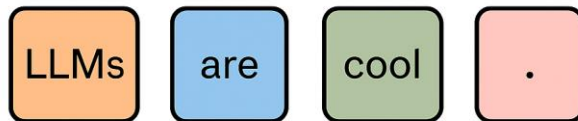
transformer  
decoder  
encoder  
tokenization  
matrix  
GPT  
neural  
temperature  
network  
Claude  
Llama  
product  
Gemini  
dot



# Tokenization

- The first step in processing, taking input text into defined bits, called tokens

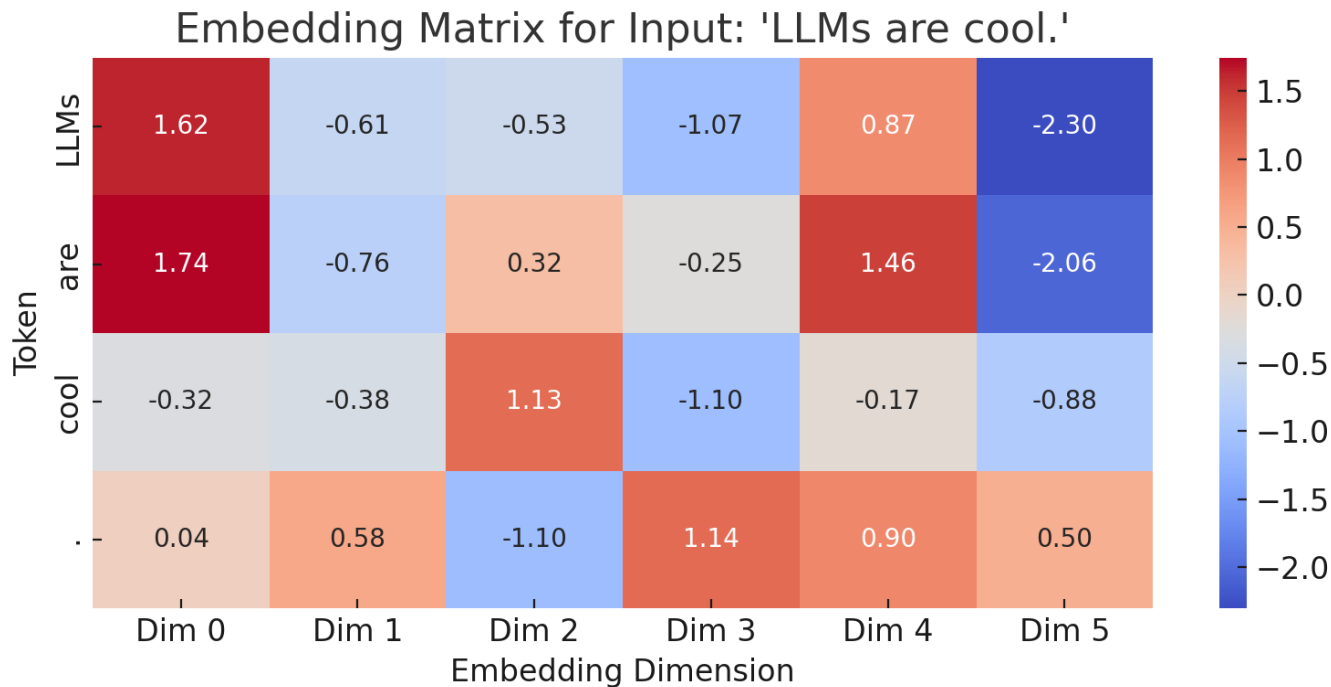
“LLMs are cool.”



Tokenized text

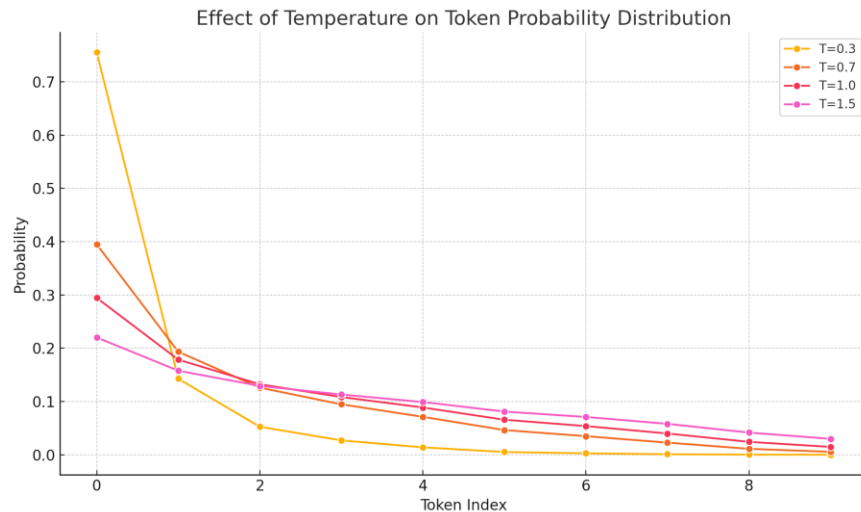


# Embedding



# Decoder and temperature

- Decoders generate text by predicting one token at a time
- Temperature modifies the probability distribution of the next-token choice



# The future of artificial intelligence is

## Temperature 0.3:


“The future of artificial intelligence is closely tied to advancements in machine learning, data processing, and ethical regulation. It is expected to improve efficiency and decision-making across industries.”

## Temperature 1.0:

“The future of artificial intelligence is a kaleidoscope of possibilities, from sentient machines co-authoring novels to neural webs dreaming up new realms of physics.’

## II. What is prompt engineering?

Designing a prompt to optimize



Stanford  
MEDICINE



# X-shot prompting

- X refers to the number of examples given before asking the question

**Task:** Recommend colon cancer screening

**Example 1:**

**Patient:** 52-year-old average-risk individual

**Recommendation:** Routine colonoscopy screening every 10 years.

**Example 2:**

**Patient:** 45-year-old with a first-degree relative diagnosed with colon cancer at age 50

**Recommendation:** Begin colonoscopy now; screen every 5 years.

**Patient:** 60-year-old with no FHx, prior normal colonoscopy at age 50

**Recommendation:**



# Chain of thought

**Patient:** A 40-year-old woman with a father who was diagnosed with colon cancer at age 52.

## Step-by-step reasoning:

1. The patient is 40 years old.
2. She has a **first-degree relative** (father) with CRC diagnosed at age 52.
3. Guidelines recommend **starting screening at age 40 or 10 years before the relative's diagnosis**, whichever comes first.
4. Since she is already 40 and her father was diagnosed at 52, it is time to begin screening.

**Answer:** Yes, she should begin colorectal cancer screening now.

# III. Applications

- LLMs are able to effectively extract colonoscopy and pathology data
  - Accelerate research cohort curation
  - Ease ability to participate in quality reporting
  - Real-time feedback, note generation (MLLMs)
- Major limitation is the current inability to deploy LLMs widely, rather than the ability of the LLMs themselves

# Questions?