

Vision-Language Tasks: Image Captioning & Visual Question Answering

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Review

- Last lecture
 - Explosion of transformers
 - GPT
 - BERT
 - ViT
 - Programming tutorial
- Assignments (Canvas)
 - Problem set 4 due Tuesday
- Questions?

Today's Topics

- Motivating applications
- Image captioning: pioneering dataset and model
- Visual question answering: pioneering dataset and model
- LXMERT: multimodal representations
- Programming tutorial

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Multimodal Tasks: Uses 2+ Modalities

e.g., computer vision + natural language processing tasks



Caption:

A bunch of small light brown mushrooms in a green field.

Answer Visual Question:

Q: Is it edible or poisonous?

A: Poisonous

Applications: Visual Interpretation for People with Vision Loss; e.g.,



Applications: Visual Interpretation for People with Vision Loss; e.g.,



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUSeFnZGIzY>

Describing and Responding to Images Posted to Social Media with “Personality”

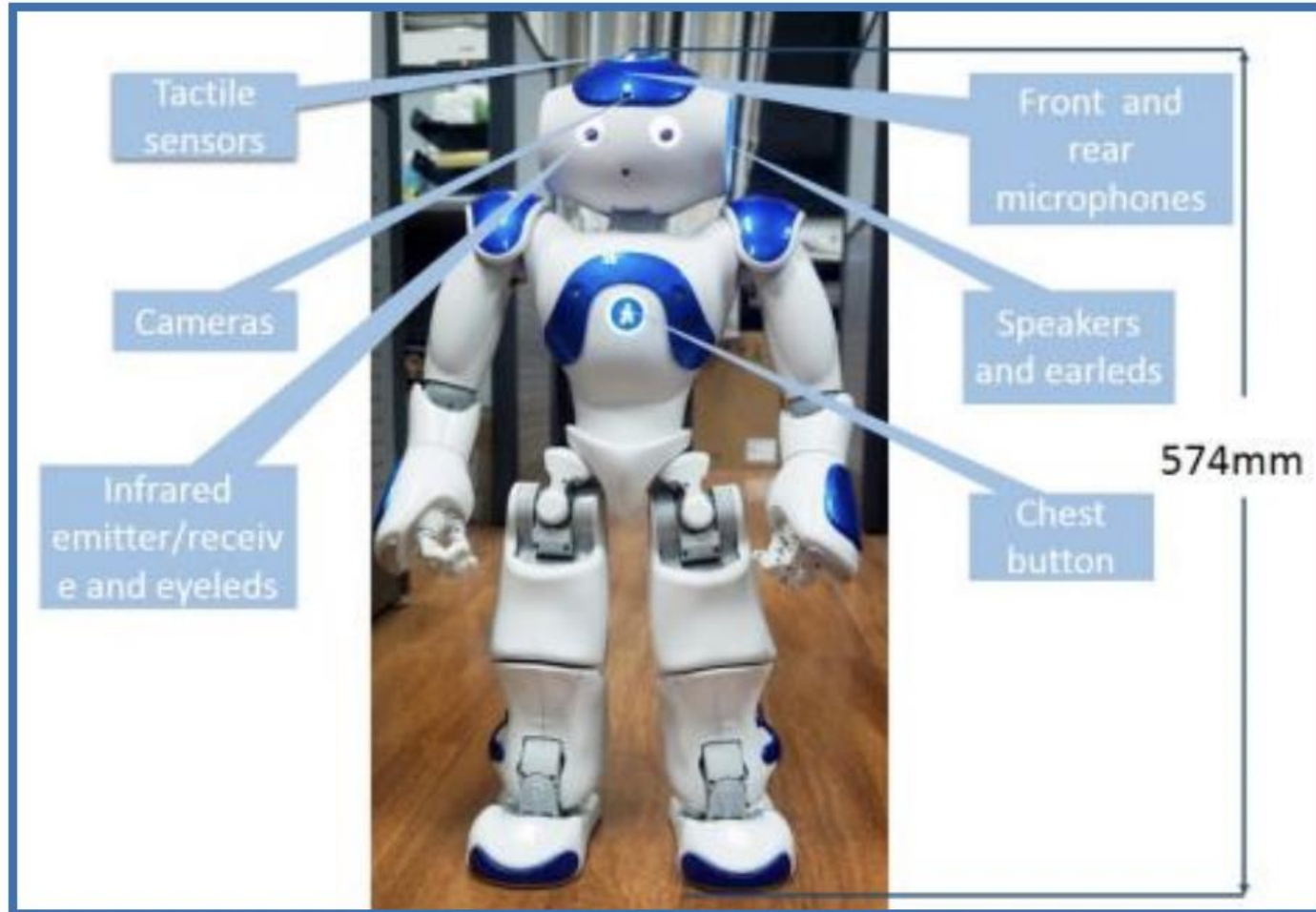


Standard captioning output: A plate with a sandwich and salad on it.

Our model with different personality traits (215 possible traits, not all shown here):

<i>Sweet</i>	That is a lovely sandwich.
<i>Dramatic</i>	This sandwich looks so delicious! My goodness!
<i>Anxious</i>	I’m afraid this might make me sick if I eat it.
<i>Sympathetic</i>	I feel so bad for that carrot, about to be consumed.
<i>Arrogant</i>	I make better food than this
<i>Optimistic</i>	It will taste positively wonderful!
<i>Money-minded</i>	I would totally pay \$100 for this plate.

Education (e.g., for Preschoolers)



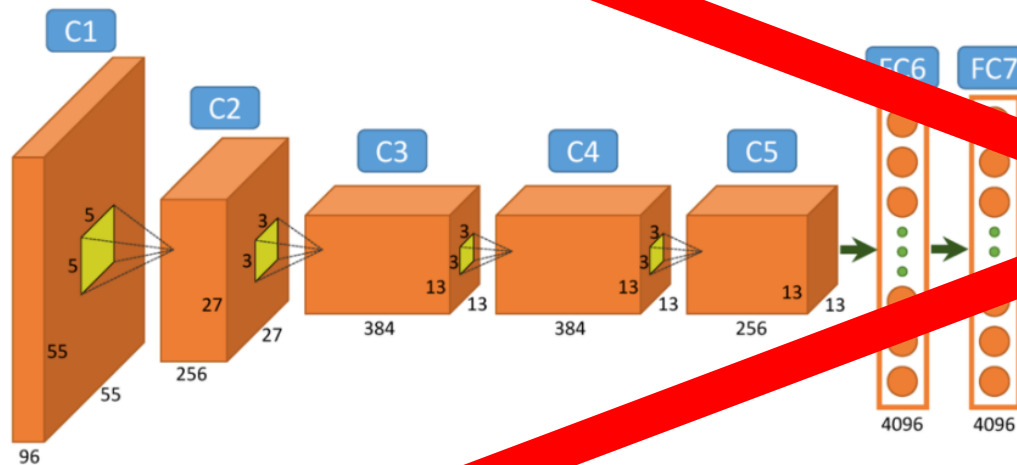
Answers questions about **quantity** and **colors** of detected objects

Education (e.g., Learning Foreign Languages)



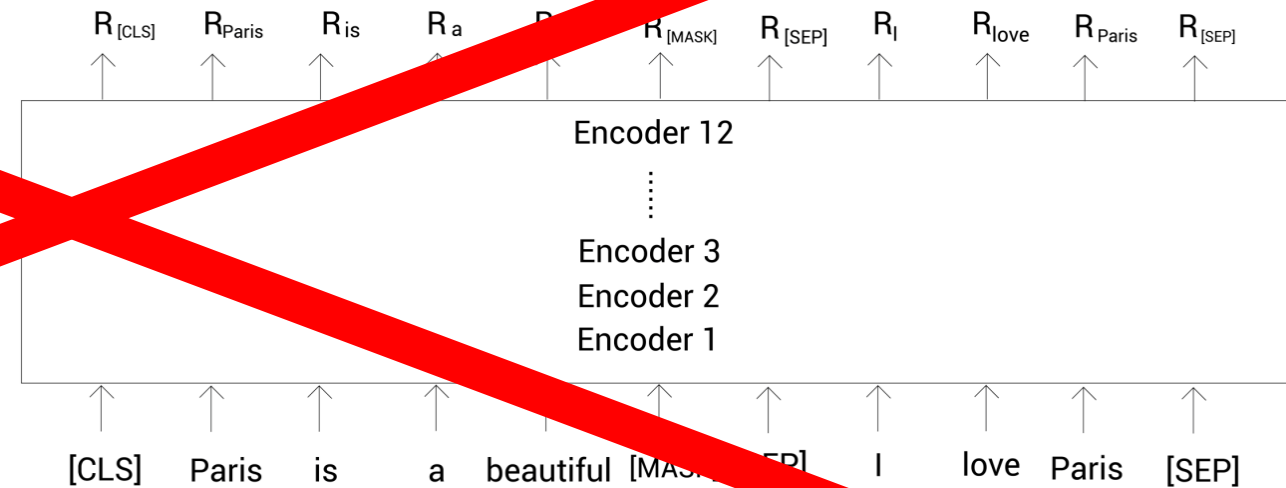
Challenge: Two Modalities in One Framework

e.g., visual representation with AlexNet



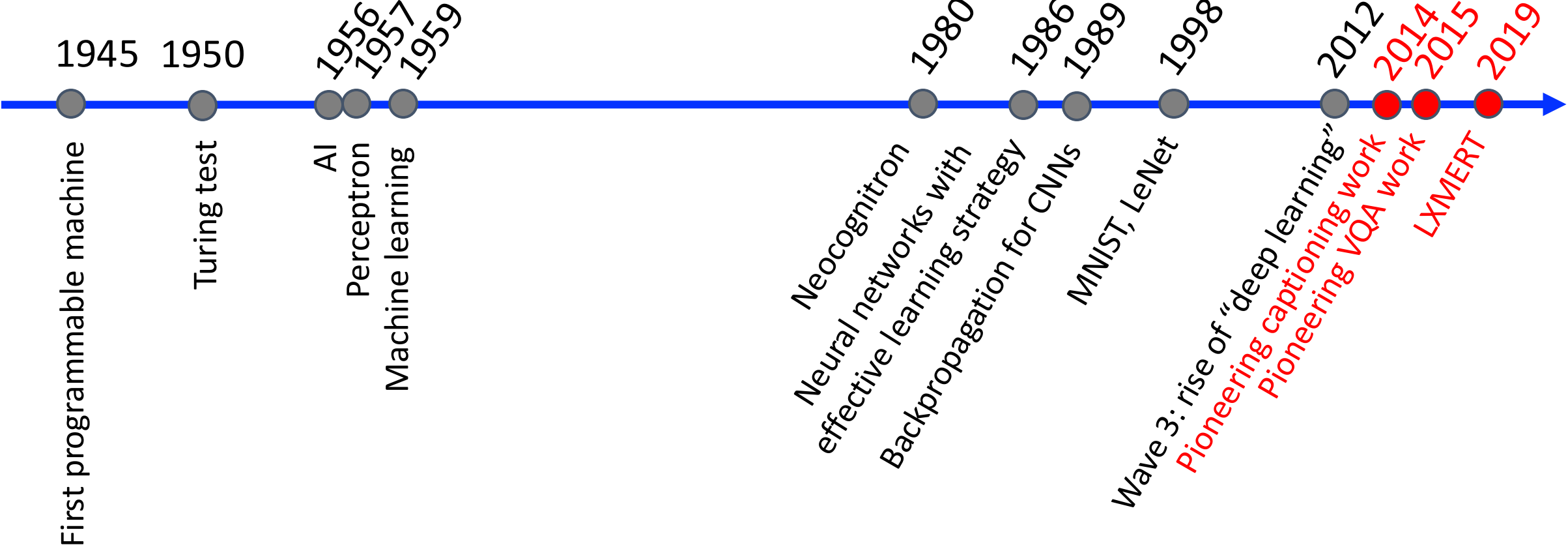
https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Architecture-of-Alexnet-From-left-to-right-input-to-output-five-convolutional-layers-fig2_312303454

e.g., language representation with BERT



https://static.packt-cdn.com/downloads/9781838821511_ColorImages.pdf

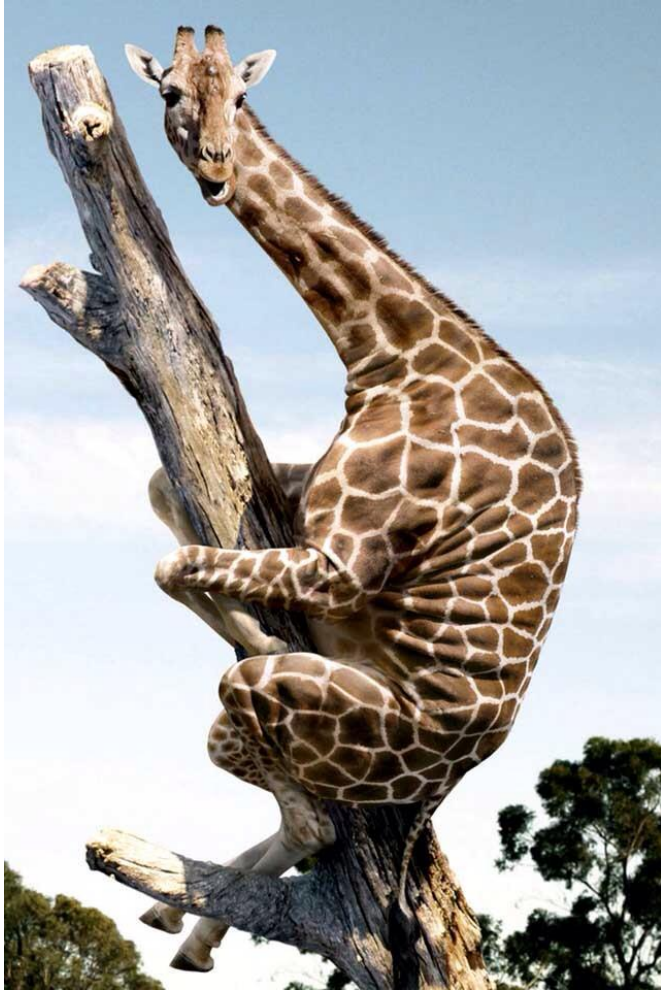
Historical Context



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Class Task: How Would You Describe This Image?



Form:

MSCOCO: Annotation Instructions



Instructions:

- Describe all the **important parts** of the scene.
- **Do not** start the sentences with "There is".
- **Do not** describe unimportant details.
- **Do not** describe things that might have happened in the future or past.
- **Do not** describe what a person might say.
- **Do not** give people proper names.
- The sentence should contain at least **8 words**.

Please describe the image:

Enter description here

prev

next

MSCOCO Dataset

- 1,026,459 captions collected for 164,062 images from AMT workers
- How long do you think data collection took?
 - ~4 years (40 hrs per week, 52 weeks per year) or ~8,500 hours
- How much do you think it cost?
 - ~\$128k (assumes 30 sec per caption and \$15/hour; would yield for one person \$32,000 per year)

How Would You Evaluate Predicted Captions?



FEATURE NAME:	VALUE
Description	<pre>{ "tags": ["outdoor", "giraffe", "animal", "mammal", "standing", "field", "top", "branch", "bird", "eating", "head", "grazing", "neck", "water", "large", "man", "grassy", "tall", "group", "dirt", "zoo"], "captions": [{ "text": "a giraffe standing in the dirt", "confidence": 0.982929349 }] }</pre>

Evaluation: Human Judgments

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6

- The description accurately describes the image (Kulkarni et al., 2011; Li et al., 2011; Mitchell et al., 2012; Kuznetsova et al., 2012; Elliott & Keller, 2013; Hodosh et al., 2013).
- The description is grammatically correct (Yang et al., 2011; Mitchell et al., 2012; Kuznetsova et al., 2012; Elliott & Keller, 2013).
- The description has no incorrect information (Mitchell et al., 2012).
- The description is relevant for this image (Li et al., 2011; Yang et al., 2011).
- The description is creatively constructed (Li et al., 2011).
- The description is human-like (Mitchell et al., 2012).

Evaluation: Automated

- BLEU
- METEOR
- Rouge
- CIDEr
- SPICE

Evaluation: Automated

- BLEU

Idea: compute similarities of n-grams between a predicted caption and each ground truth caption

- METEOR

N = 1 : This is a sentence *unigrams:* this, is, a, sentence

- Rouge

N = 2 : This is a sentence *bigrams:* this is, is a, a sentence

- CIDEr

N = 3 : This is a sentence *trigrams:* this is a, is a sentence

- SPICE

<http://recognize-speech.com/language-model/n-gram-model/comparison>

Evaluation: Automated

- BLEU
- METEOR
- Rouge
- CIDEr
- SPICE

Idea: measure similarity of a predicted caption to how most people describe an image based on n -grams unique to the image



A cow is standing in a field.

A cow with horns and long hair covering its face stands in a field.

A cow with hair over its eyes stands in a field.

This horned creature is getting his picture taken.

A furry animal with horns roams on the range.

Evaluation: Automated

- BLEU

- METEOR

- Rouge

- CIDEr

- SPICE

What content do most people describe in this image?



A cow is standing in a field.

A cow with horns and long hair covering its face stands in a field.

A cow with hair over its eyes stands in a field.

This horned creature is getting his picture taken.

A furry animal with horns roams on the range.

Evaluation: Automated

- BLEU

Do you think these two captions describe the same image?

- METEOR

(a) A young girl *standing on top of a* tennis court.

(b) A giraffe *standing on top of a* green field.

- Rouge

- CIDEr

- SPICE

Evaluation: Automated

- BLEU

Problem: n-gram methods scores these as very similar

- METEOR

(a) A young girl *standing on top of a* tennis court.
(b) A giraffe *standing on top of a* green field.

- Rouge

- CIDEr

- SPICE

Evaluation: Automated

- BLEU

Do you think these two captions describe the same image?

- METEOR

(c) A shiny metal pot filled with some diced veggies.

(d) The pan on the stove has chopped vegetables in it.

- Rouge

- CIDEr

- SPICE

Evaluation: Automated

- BLEU

Problem: n-gram methods scores these as very different

- METEOR

(c) A shiny metal pot filled with some diced veggies.

(d) The pan on the stove has chopped vegetables in it.

- Rouge

- CIDEr

- SPICE

Evaluation: Automated

Idea: compare scene graph of prediction to scene graph of ground truth

- BLEU
- METEOR
- Rouge
- CIDEr
- **SPICE**



"two women are sitting at a white table"

"two women sit at a table in a small store"

"two women sit across each other at a table smile for the photograph"

"two women sitting in a small store like business"

"two woman are sitting at a table"

Evaluation: Automated

What is the meaningful semantic content in these captions?

- BLEU
- METEOR
- Rouge
- CIDEr
- **SPICE**



"two women are sitting at a white table"

"two women sit at a table in a small store"

"two women sit across each other at a table smile for the photograph"

"two women sitting in a small store like business"

"two woman are sitting at a table"

Evaluation: Automated

Meaningful semantic content in these captions:

- BLEU
- METEOR
- Rouge
- CIDEr
- SPICE



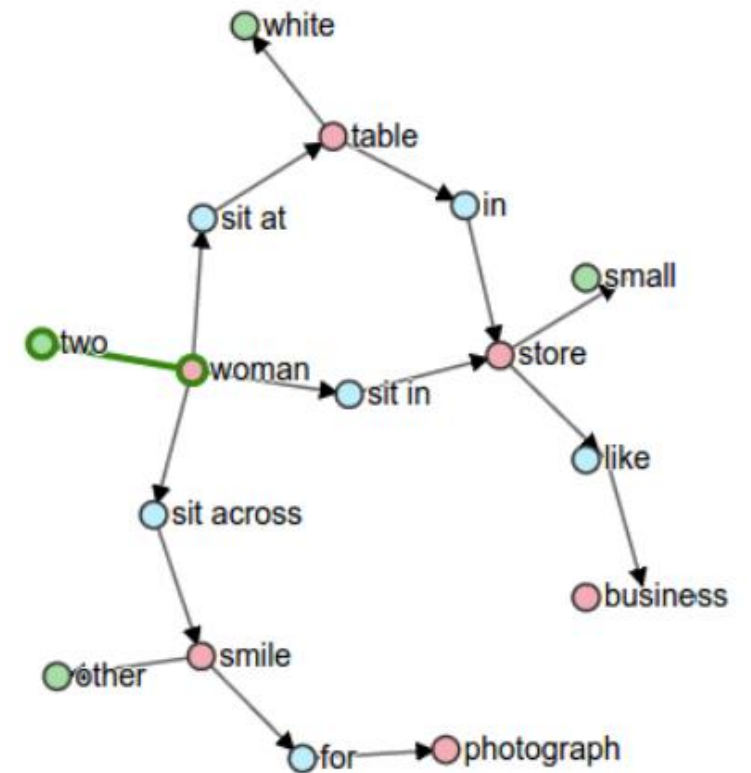
"two women are sitting at a white table"

"two women sit at a table in a small store"

"two women sit across each other at a table smile for the photograph"

"two women sitting in a small store like business"

"two woman are sitting at a table"

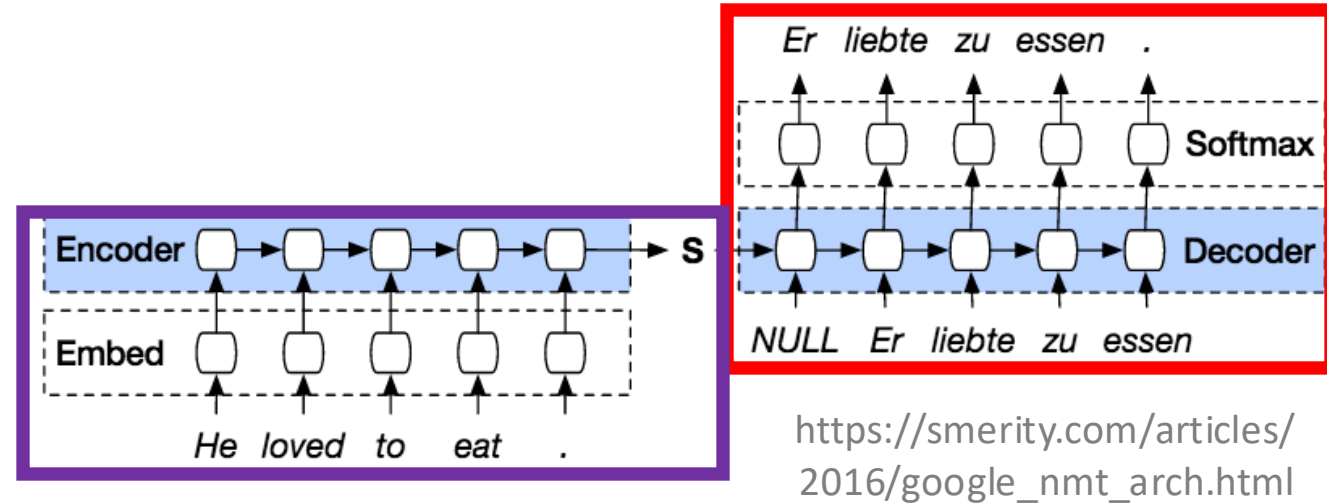


Evaluation: Implementation Detail

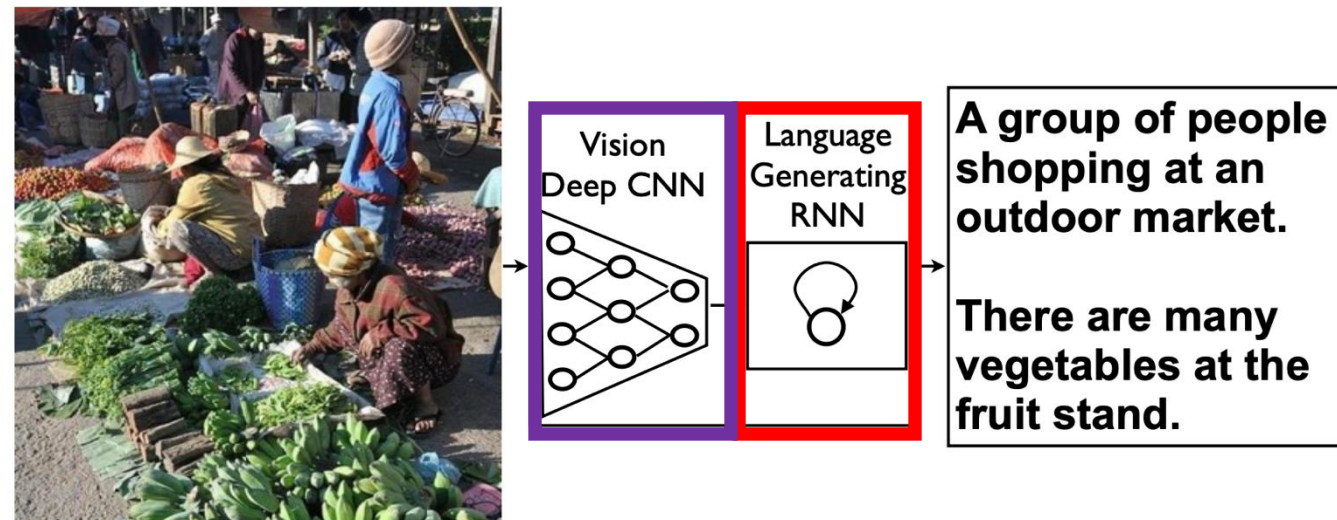
- Text pre-processing; e.g., for COCO-Captions
 - Captions tokenized: word-based Stanford PTBTokenizer
 - Punctuation removed

Pioneering Work: “Show and Tell”

Inspiration is **machine translation**:



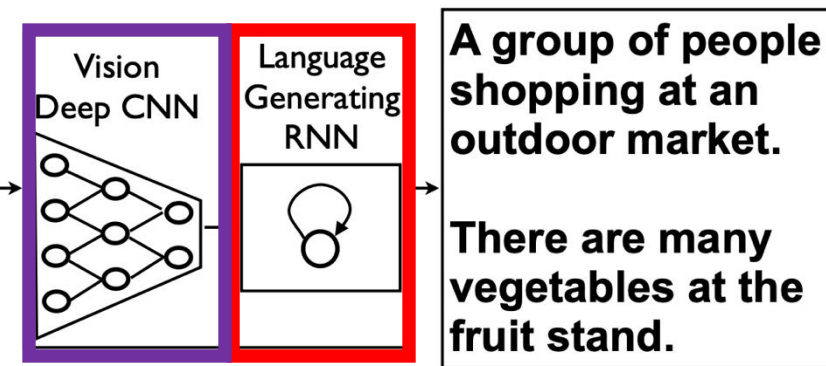
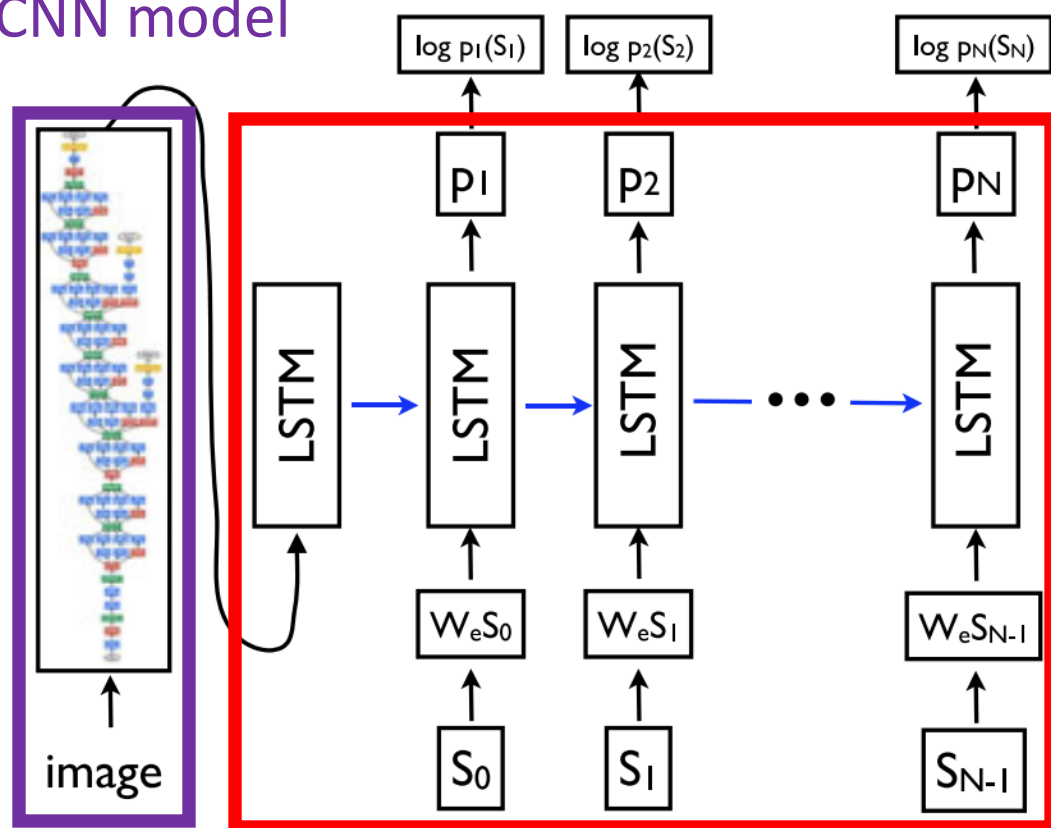
Idea is to translate image to text in an end-to-end trained model:



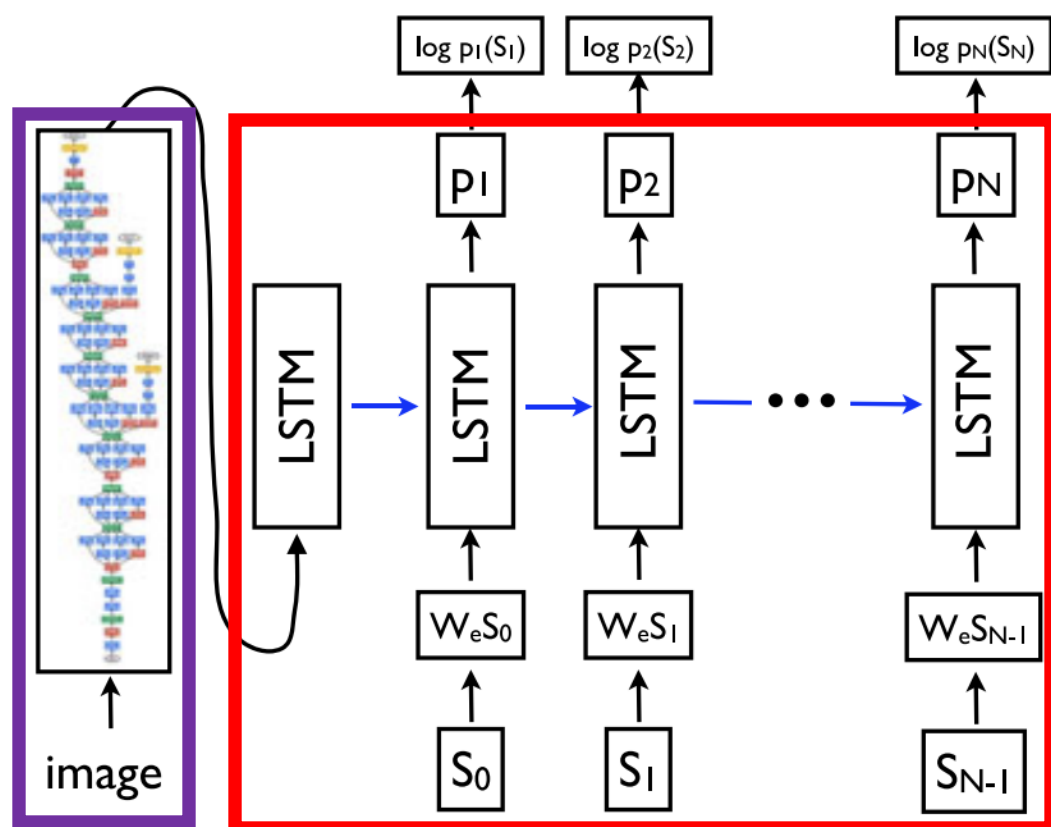
Pioneering Work: “Show and Tell”

Initialized to
ImageNet
2014 winner’s
CNN model

LSTM, predicts next word
(words tokenized, kept if seen <4 times in training data,
and then converted to learned 512-d word embedding)



Pioneering Work: “Show and Tell”



- Trained with **CNN parameters** frozen for 500K steps, and then all parameters for 100K steps;
- Training took over 3 weeks on a K20 GPU
- Training and evaluation datasets:

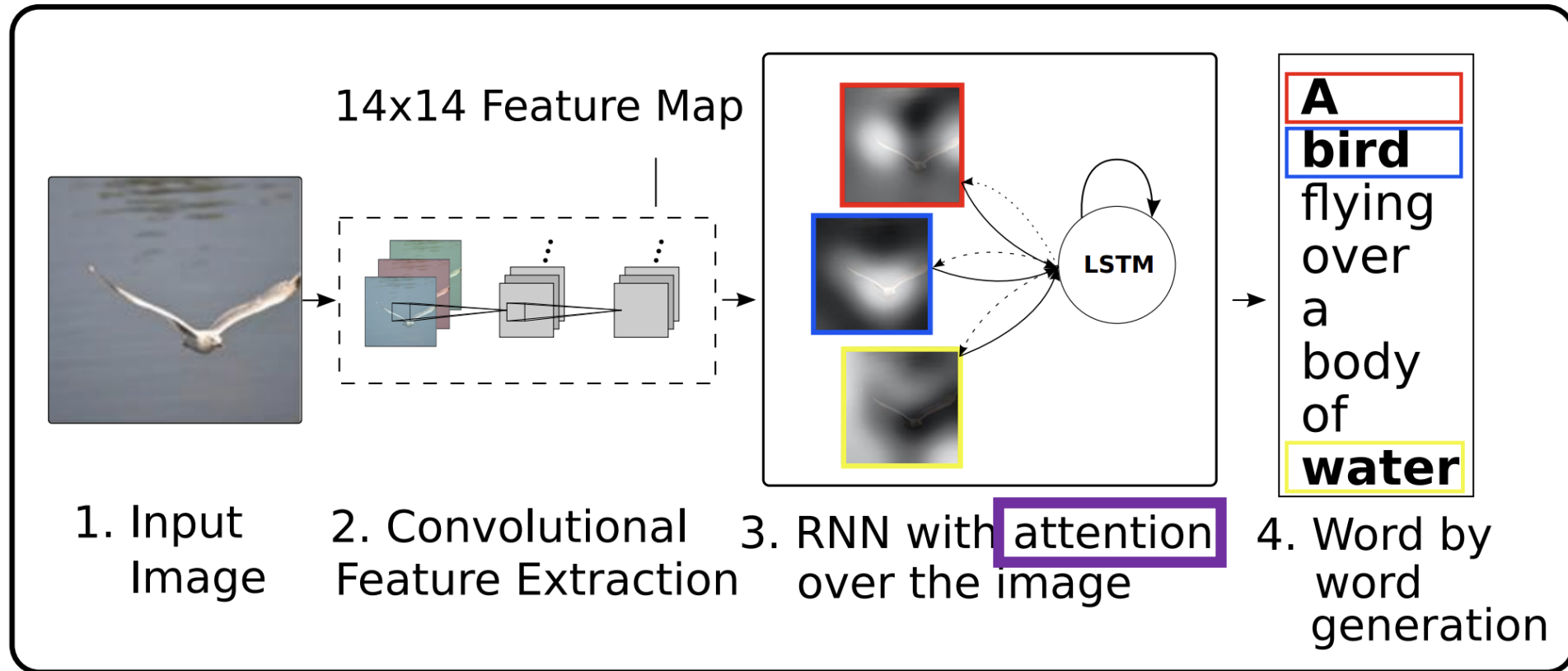
Dataset name	size		
	train	valid.	test
Pascal VOC 2008 [2]	-	-	1,000
Flickr8k [42]	6,000	1,000	1,000
Flickr30k [43]	28,000	1,000	1,000
MSCOCO [44]	82,783	40,504	40,775
SBU [18]	1M	-	-

Pioneering Work: “Show and Tell”

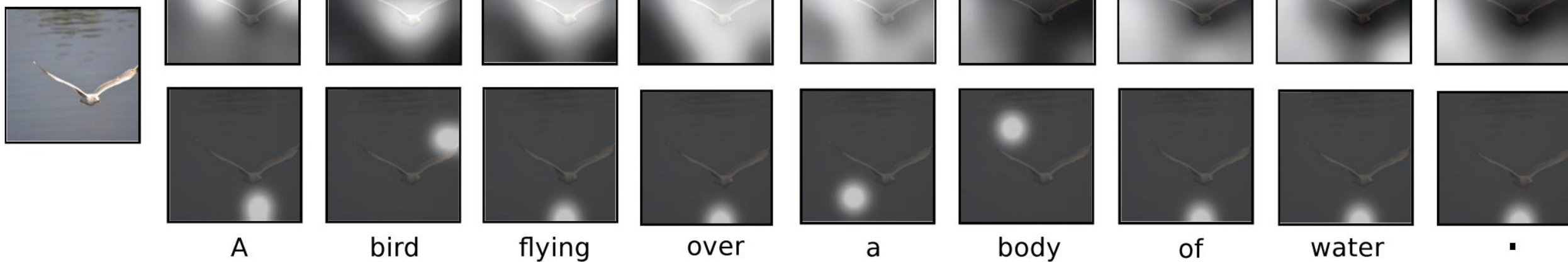
- Achieved state-of-the-art performance
- Hypothesis: more training data would boost performance
- Exemplar nearest neighbor words in learned word embedding space:

Word	Neighbors
car	van, cab, suv, vehicule, jeep
boy	toddler, gentleman, daughter, son
street	road, streets, highway, freeway
horse	pony, donkey, pig, goat, mule
computer	computers, pc, crt, chip, compute

Subsequent Work: “Show, Attend, and Tell”



Subsequent Work: “Show, Attend, and Tell”



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Class Task: Answer Visual Question

Fill out Google form:



Is my monitor on?



Hi there can you please tell me what flavor this is?



Does this picture look scary?



Which side of the room is the toilet on?

e.g., Question Generation

Stump a smart robot! Ask a question about this scene that a human can answer, but a smart robot probably can't!

Updated instructions: Please read carefully

Hide

Show

We have built a smart robot. It understands a lot about scenes. It can recognize and name all the objects, it knows where the objects are, it can recognize the scene type (e.g., kitchen, beach), people's expressions and poses, and properties of objects (e.g., the color of objects, their texture). Your task is to stump this smart robot! **In particular, it already knows answers to some questions about this scene. We will tell you what these questions are.**

Ask a question about this scene that this SMART robot probably can not answer, but any human can easily answer while looking at the scene in the image. **IMPORTANT:** The question should be about this scene. That is, the human should need the image to be able to answer the question – the human should not be able to answer the question without looking at the image.



Your work **will get rejected** if you do not follow the instructions below:

- **Do not ask questions that are similar to the ones listed** below each image. As mentioned, the robot already knows the answers to those questions for the scene in this image. Please **ask about something different**.
- **Do not repeat questions.** Do not ask the same questions or the same questions with minor variations over and over again across images. Think of a **new question each time** specific to the scene in each image.
- Each question should be a **single question**. **Do not ask questions that have multiple parts** or multiple sub-questions in them.
- **Do not ask generic questions** that can be asked of many other scenes. Ask questions **specific to the scene in each image**.

Below is a list of questions the smart robot can already answer. Please ask a different question about this scene that a human can answer "if" looking at the scene in the image (and not otherwise), but would stump this smart robot:

Q1: What is unusual about this mustache? (The robot already knows the answer to this question.)

Q2: What is her facial expression? (The robot already knows the answer to this question.)

Q3: Write your question, different from the questions above, here to stump this smart robot.

e.g., Answer Generation

10 answers
collected from
10 crowdworkers



Help Us Answer Questions About Images!

Updated instructions: Please read carefully

Hide

Show

Please answer some questions about images **with brief answers**. Your answers should be how most other people would answer the questions. If the question doesn't make sense, please try your best to answer it and indicate via the buttons that you are unsure of your response.

If you don't follow the following instructions, your work will be rejected.

Your work **will get rejected** if you do not follow the instructions below:

- Answer the question based on what is going on in **the scene depicted in the image**.
- Your answer should be **a brief phrase** (not a complete sentence).
 - "It is a kitchen." -> "kitchen"
- For yes/no questions, please **just say yes/no**.
 - "You bet it is!" -> "yes"
- For numerical answers, please use **digits**.
 - "Ten." -> "10"
- If you need to speculate (e.g., "What just happened?"), provide an answer **that most people would agree on**.
- If you don't know the answer (e.g., specific dog breed), provide **your best guess**.
- Respond **matter-of-factly** and **avoid using conversational language or inserting your opinion**.

Please answer the question using as few words as possible:

Q1: What is unusual about this mustache?

A1:

Do you think you were able to answer the question correctly?

(Clicking an option will take you to the next question.)

no

maybe

yes

Page 1/2

Mainstream VQA Challenge (held for 6 years)

The image shows a screenshot of the VQA website. At the top left is the VQA logo with the text "Visual Question Answering". At the top right are the logos for Virginia Tech and Georgia Tech. Below the logos is a navigation menu with items: Home, People, Code, Demo, Download, Evaluation, Challenge, Browse, Visualize, Workshop, Sponsors, Terms, External. The main content area features the title "Visual Question Answering and Dialog Workshop", the location "Seaside Ballroom B, Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center", and the date "at CVPR 2019, June 17, Long Beach, California, USA". Below this is a diagram illustrating the VQA process. On the left, a photo of a woman with a banana mustache is shown with a question box: "What is the mustache made of?". An arrow points from this photo and question to a black box labeled "AI System". An arrow from the "AI System" box points to a white box containing the answer "bananas". To the right of this diagram is a dialogue example. A green robot labeled "Q-BOT" asks "Q1: Any people in the shot?". A pink robot labeled "A-BOT" responds "A1: No, there aren't any." The Q-BOT then asks "Q2: Any other animal?". The A-BOT responds "A2: No, just zebras." A small image of zebras is shown next to the A-BOT.

VirginiaTech
Invent the Future

Georgia
Tech

Home People Code Demo Download Evaluation Challenge Browse Visualize Workshop Sponsors Terms External

Visual Question Answering and Dialog Workshop

Location: **Seaside Ballroom B, Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center**

at CVPR 2019, June 17, Long Beach, California, USA

What is the mustache made of?

AI System

bananas

Two zebra are walking around their pen at the zoo.

Q1: Any people in the shot?

A1: No, there aren't any.

Q2: Any other animal?

A2: No, just zebras.

<https://visualqa.org/workshop.html>

Evaluating Automated Predictions: Basic Equation

$$\text{accuracy} = \min\left(\frac{\# \text{ humans that provided that answer}}{3}, 1\right)$$

Evaluating Automated Predictions: Example



Does this picture
look scary?

- (1) yes
- (2) no
- (3) no
- (4) yes
- (5) no
- (6) yes
- (7) yes
- (8) no
- (9) no
- (10) no

What is the accuracy of an algorithm prediction of

- “yes”?
- “no”?
- “maybe”?

$$\text{accuracy} = \min\left(\frac{\# \text{ humans that provided that answer}}{3}, 1\right)$$

Evaluating Automated Predictions: Example



Which side of the room is the toilet on?

- (1) right
- (2) left
- (3) right
- (4) right
- (5) right
- (6) right
- (7) right side
- (8) right
- (9) center
- (10) right

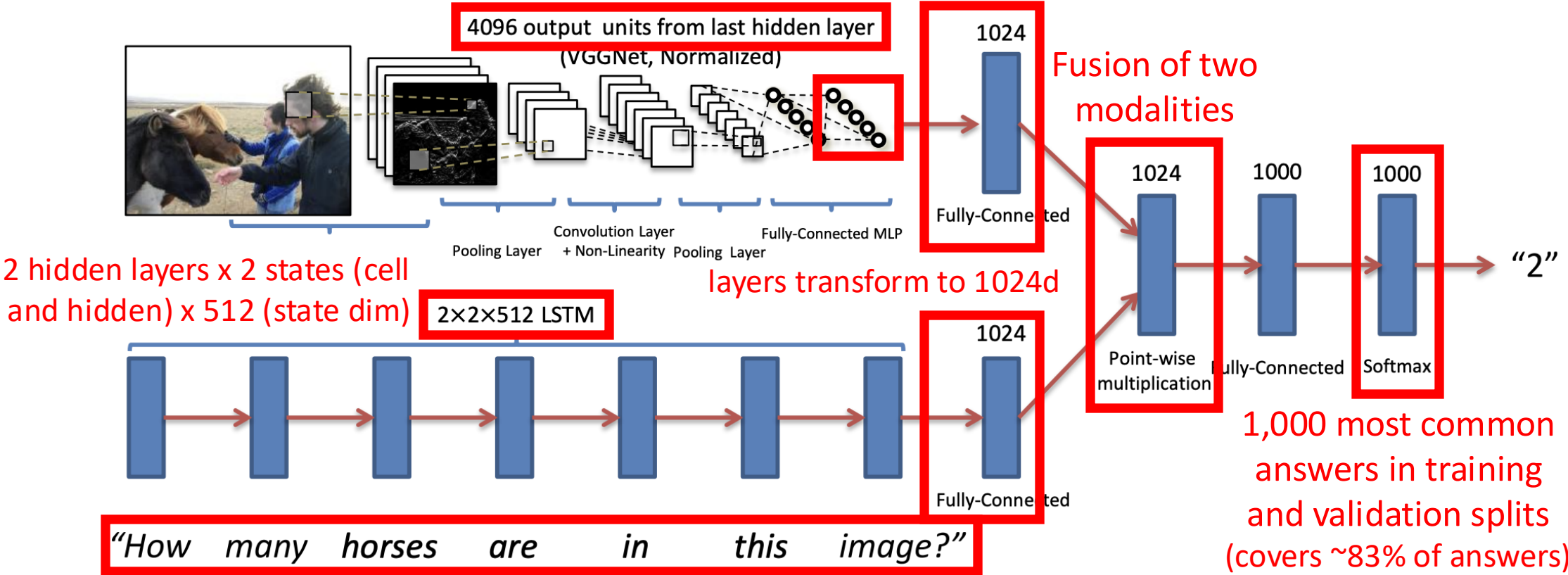
What is the accuracy of an algorithm prediction of

- “right”?
- “left”?
- “right side”?
- “center”?
- “bottom”?

$$\text{accuracy} = \min\left(\frac{\# \text{ humans that provided that answer}}{3}, 1\right)$$

Implementation detail: for fair comparison to humans, 10 rounds of comparing a prediction with each possible set of 9 human-supplied answers

Proposed Model



Words encoded as 300-d embeddings, by fully-connected layer + tanh

Trained end-to-end with cross-entropy loss and VGGNet parameters frozen

Model Analysis

	All
Baseline: most popular answer from train/val splits	prior (“yes”) 29.66
Baseline: 1-hidden layer LSTM and image activations without normalization	LSTM Q + I 53.74
Proposed model	deeper LSTM Q + norm I 57.75

How does the model’s performance compare to the simpler baselines?

Model Analysis

		All	Yes/No	Number	Other
Baseline: most popular answer from train/val splits	prior (“yes”)	29.66	70.81	00.39	01.15
Baseline: 1-hidden layer LSTM and image activations without normalization	LSTM Q + I	53.74	78.94	35.24	36.42
Proposed model	deeper LSTM Q + norm I	57.75	80.50	36.77	43.08

What trends are observed across different question types?

Model Analysis: Group Discussion

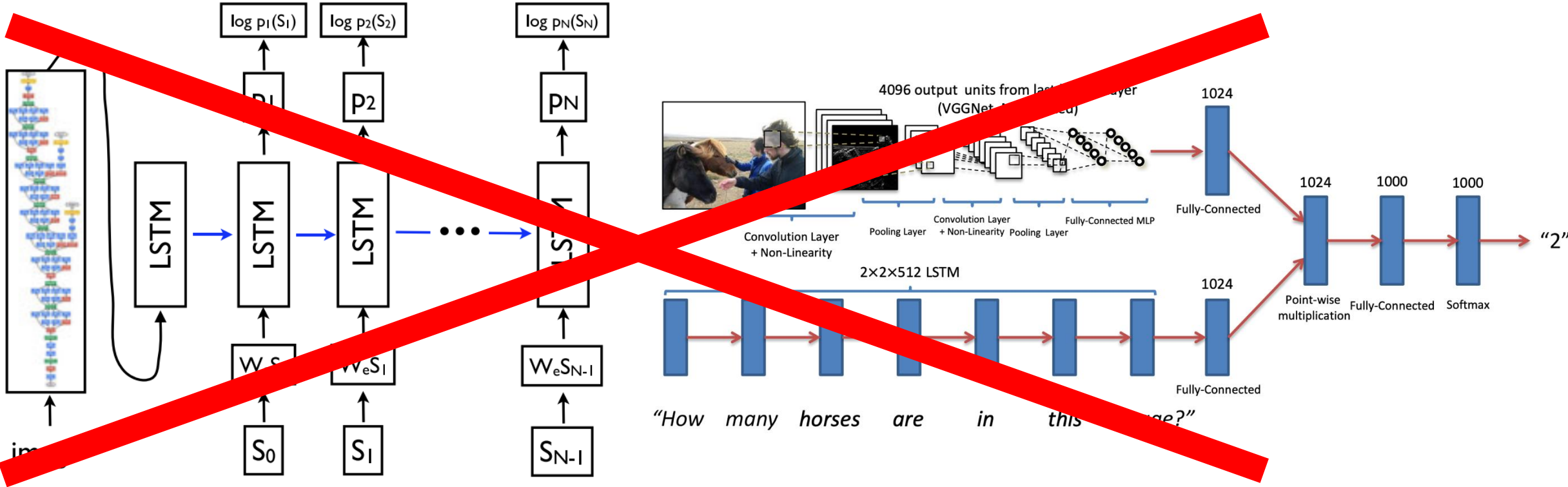
		All	Yes/No	Number	Other
	prior (“yes”)	29.66	70.81	00.39	01.15
Only image	I	28.13	64.01	00.42	03.77
Only question	LSTM Q	48.76	78.20	35.68	26.59
	LSTM Q + I	53.74	78.94	35.24	36.42
Only question	deeper LSTM Q	50.39	78.41	34.68	30.03
	deeper LSTM Q + norm I	57.75	80.50	36.77	43.08

- How does each modality, vision and language, influence performance?
- Which modality is most predictive?

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Idea: Pre-trained Multimodal Representation

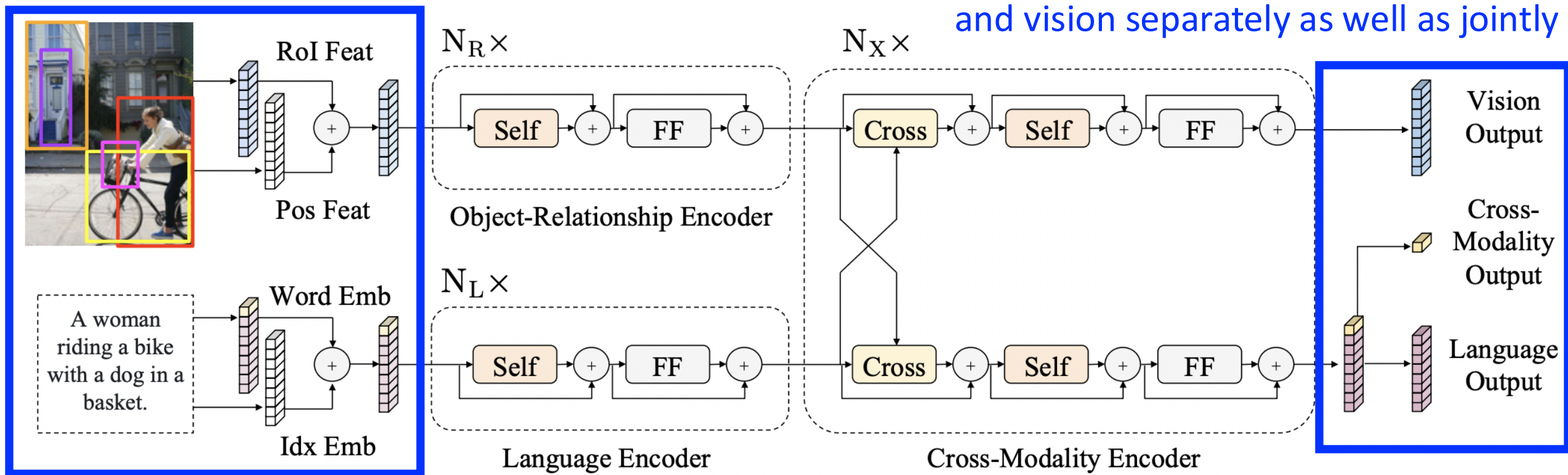


Vinyals et al. Show and Tell: A Neural Image Caption Generator. CVPR 2015.

Agrawal et al. VQA: Visual Question Answering. ICCV 2015.

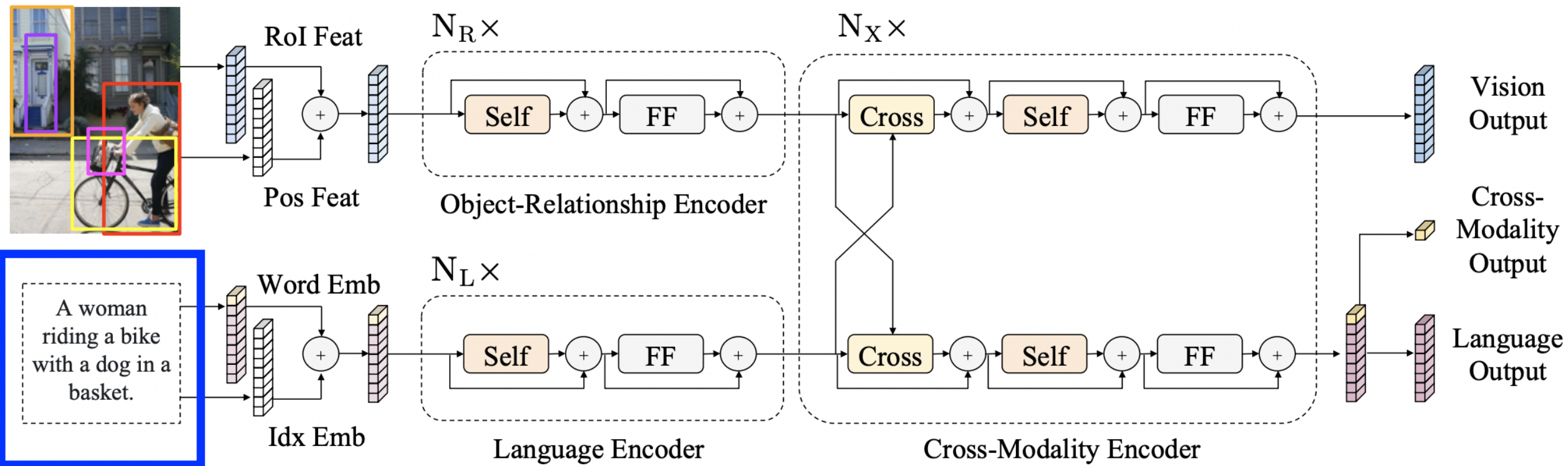
LXMERT: Learning Cross-Modality Encoder Representations from Transformers

Generates representations for image and vision separately as well as jointly



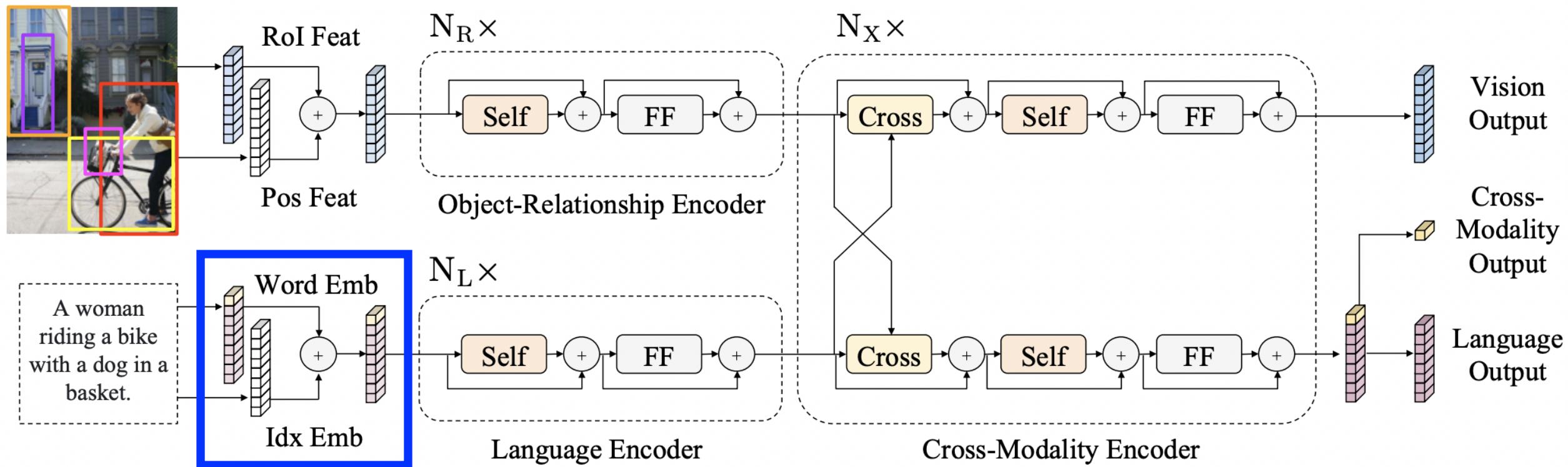
Pretrains using language and vision input

LXMERT: Language Input



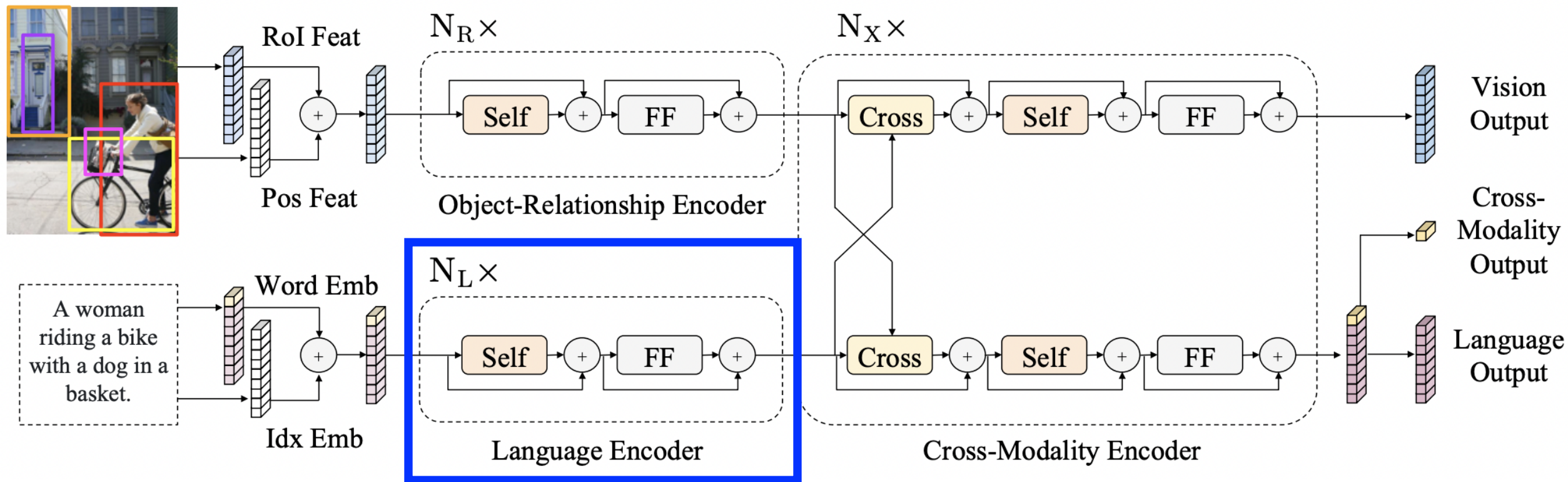
[CLS] is added to the start of the sequence

LXMERT: Language Input



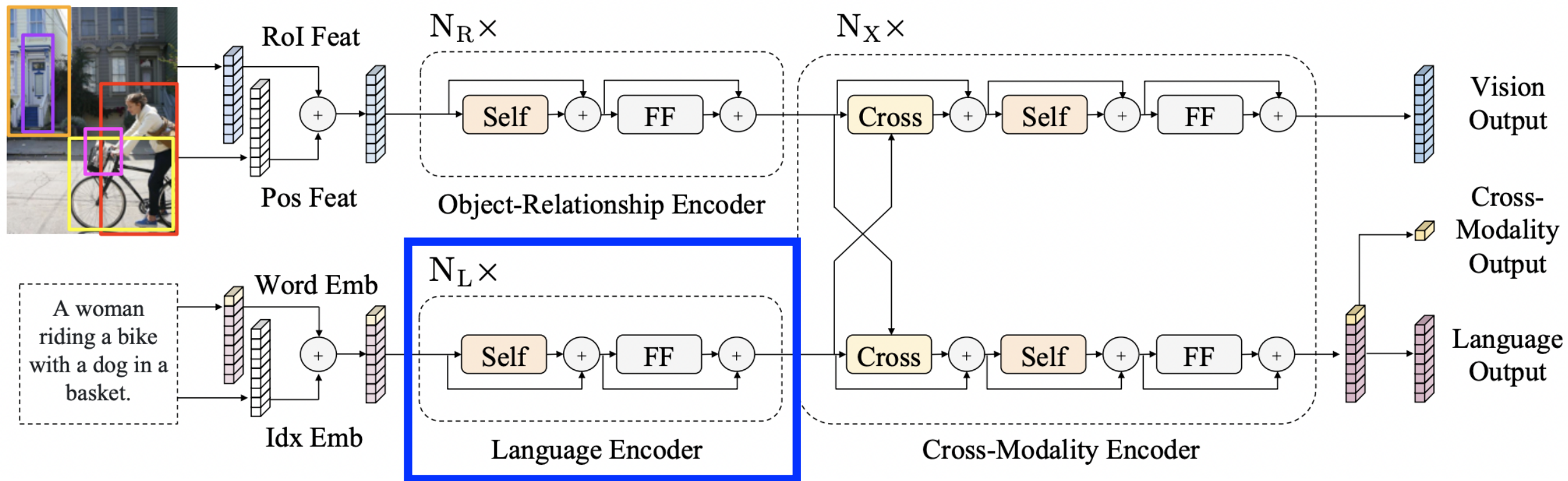
Subword tokenization with WordPiece followed by representing each token as sum of its word embedding and position encoding

LXMERT: Language Input



Transformer encoder (i.e., BERT);
what does its output represent?

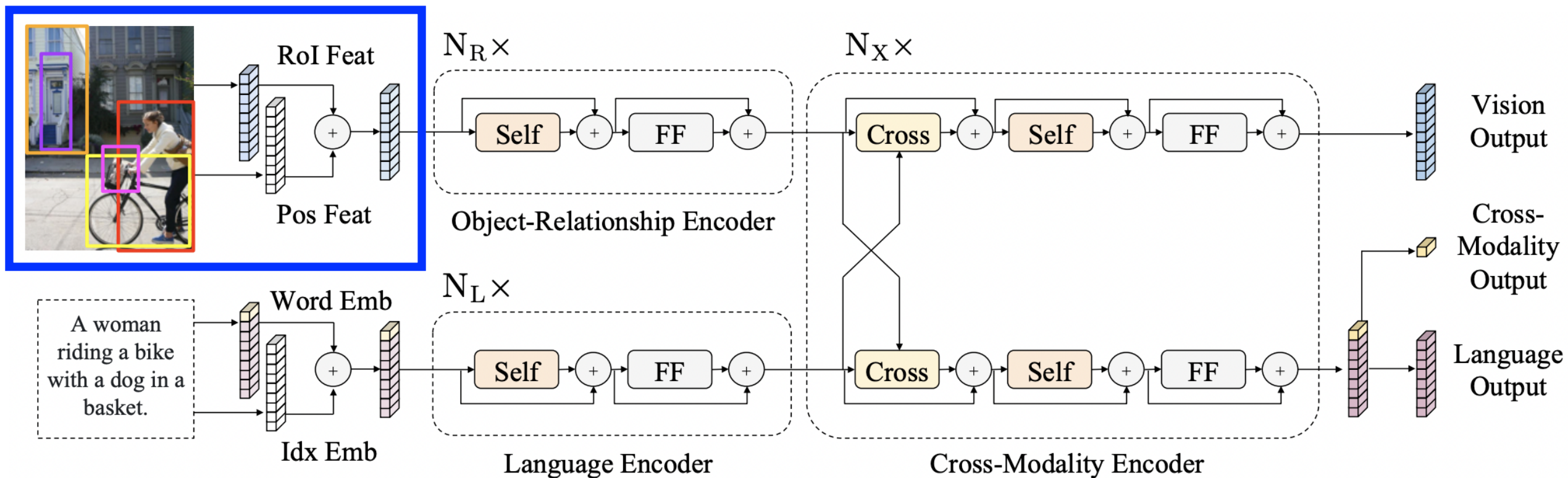
LXMERT: Language Input



Transformer encoder (i.e., BERT); represents words with their relationships to all words

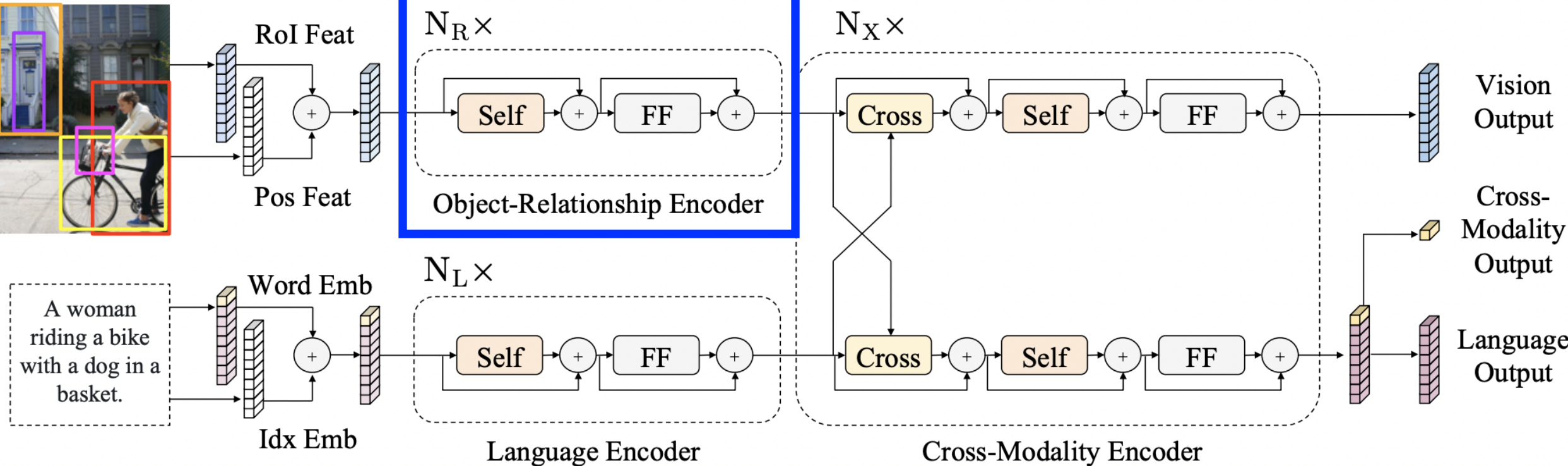
LXMERT: Vision Input

Each image is represented as a description of m objects detected with Faster R-CNN using features from Faster R-CNN and position encodings



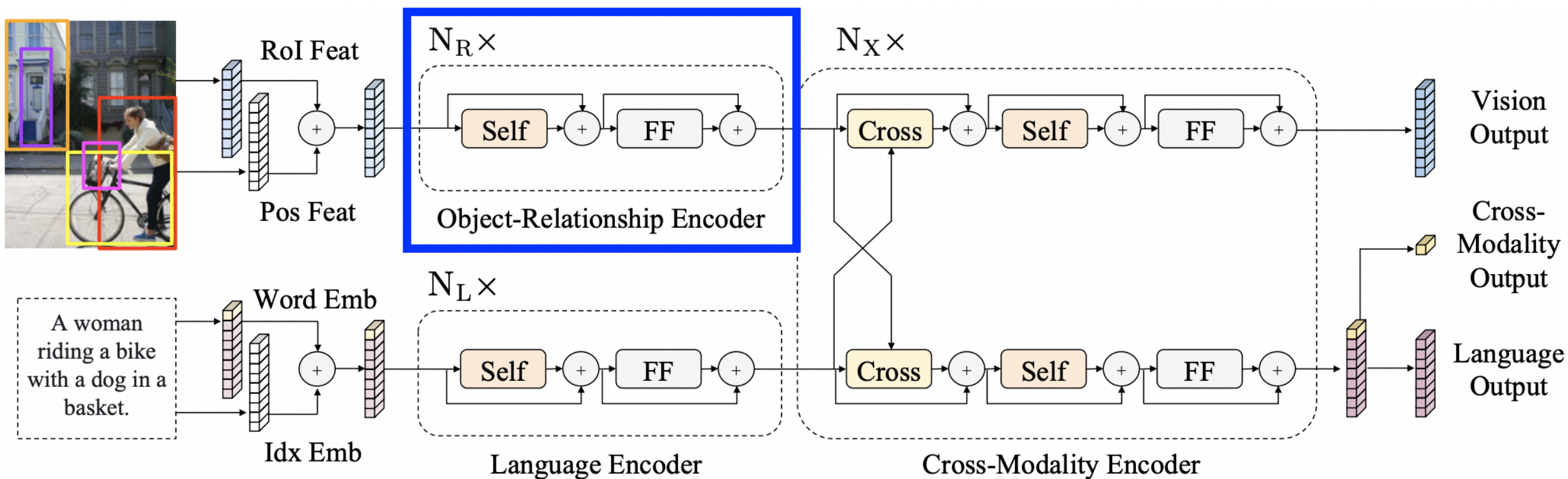
LXMERT: Architecture

Transformer encoder (i.e., BERT);
what does its output represent?

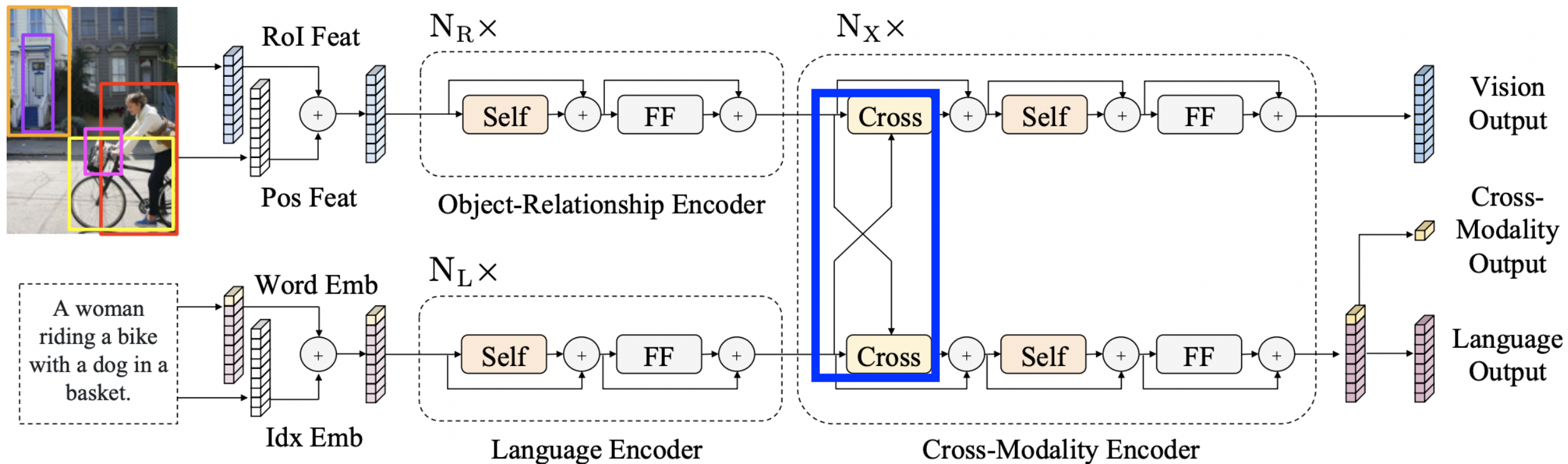


LXMERT: Architecture

Transformer encoder (i.e., BERT); represents objects with their relationships to all objects

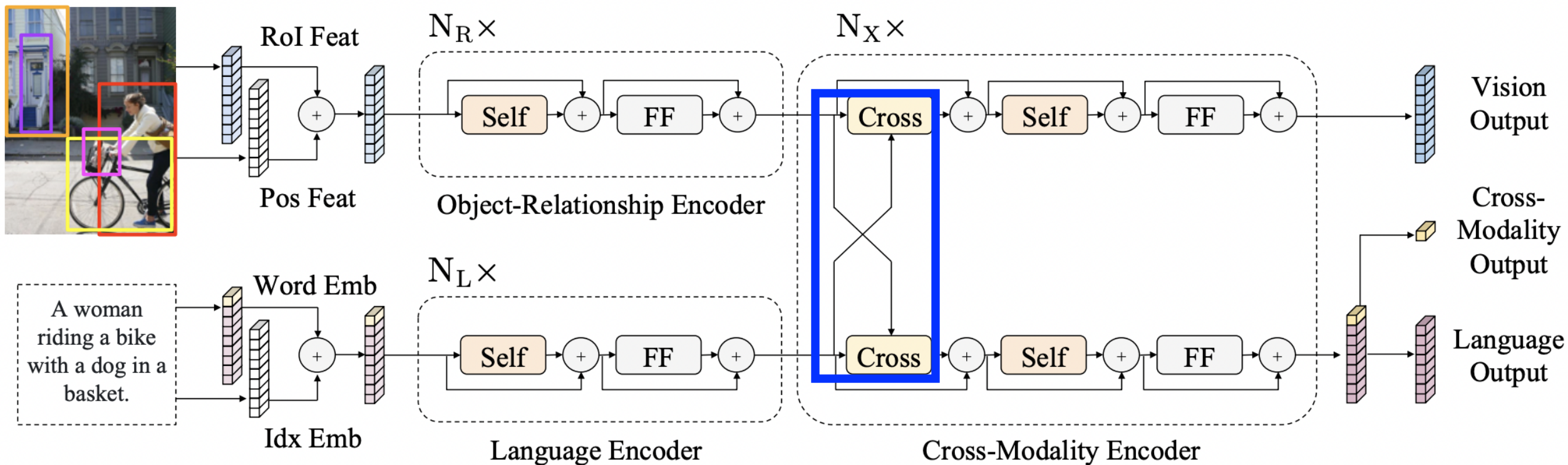


LXMERT: Architecture



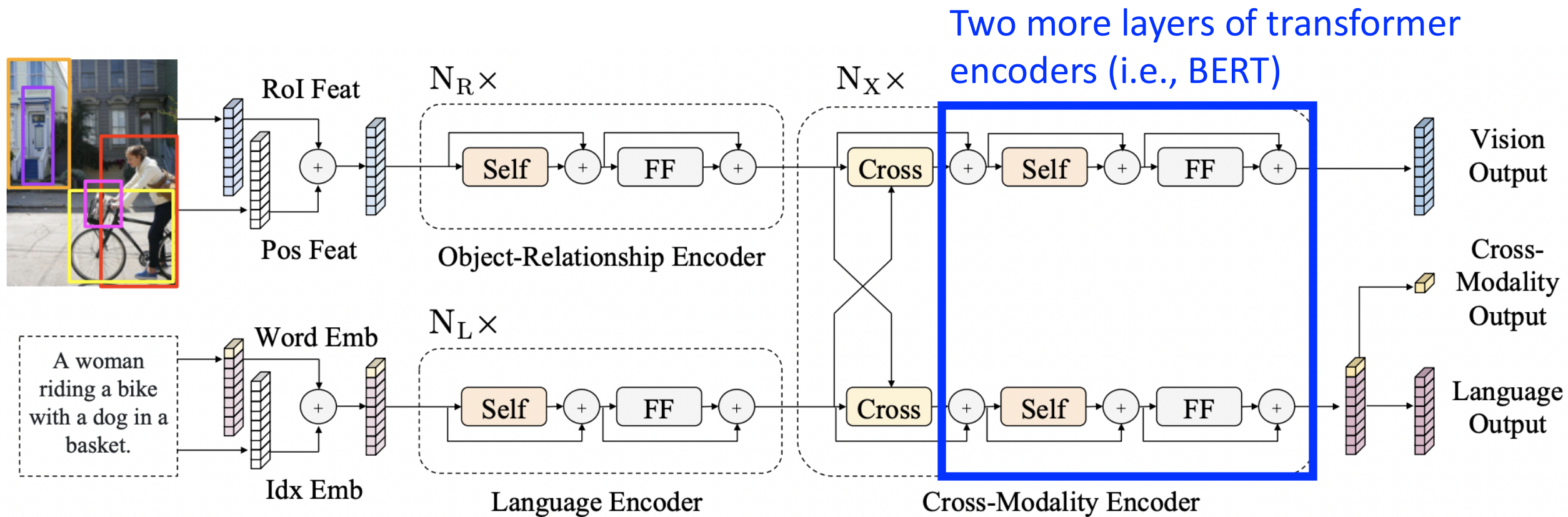
Learns cross-modality representations
by aligning entities in the two modalities

LXMERT: Architecture

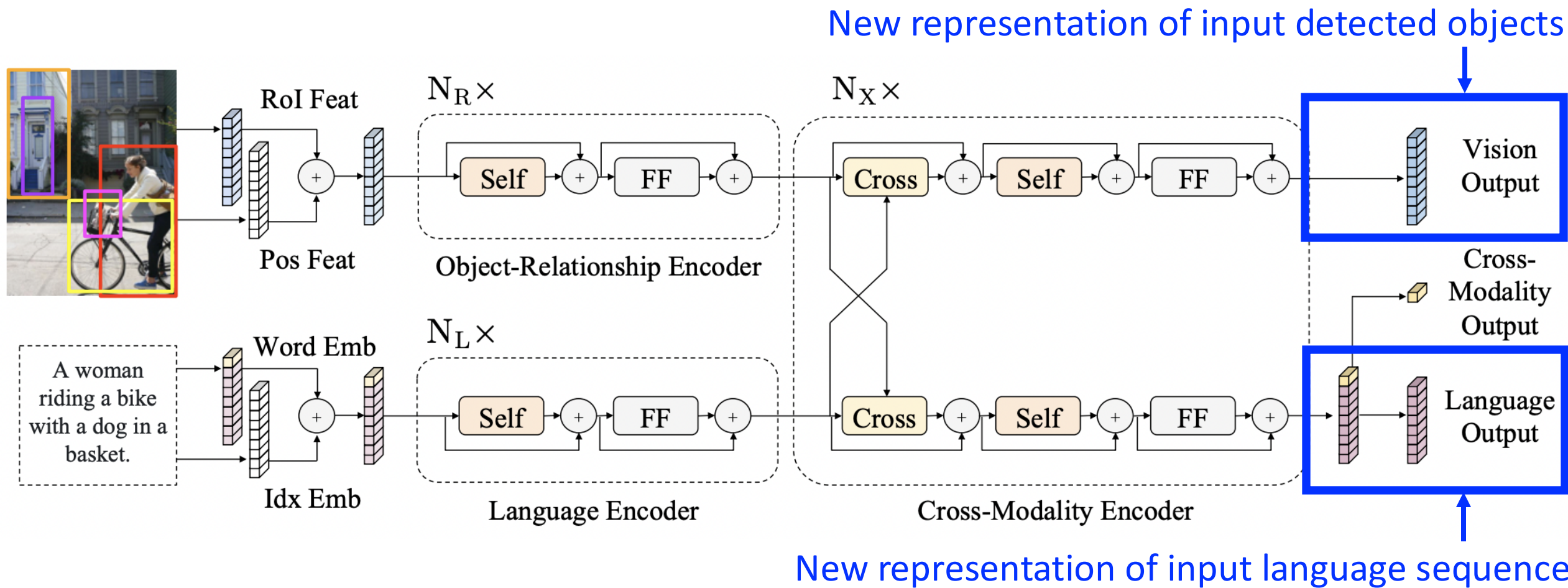


Two cross-attention layers are functions of the “query” with “keys” and “values” from the opposite modalities’ features

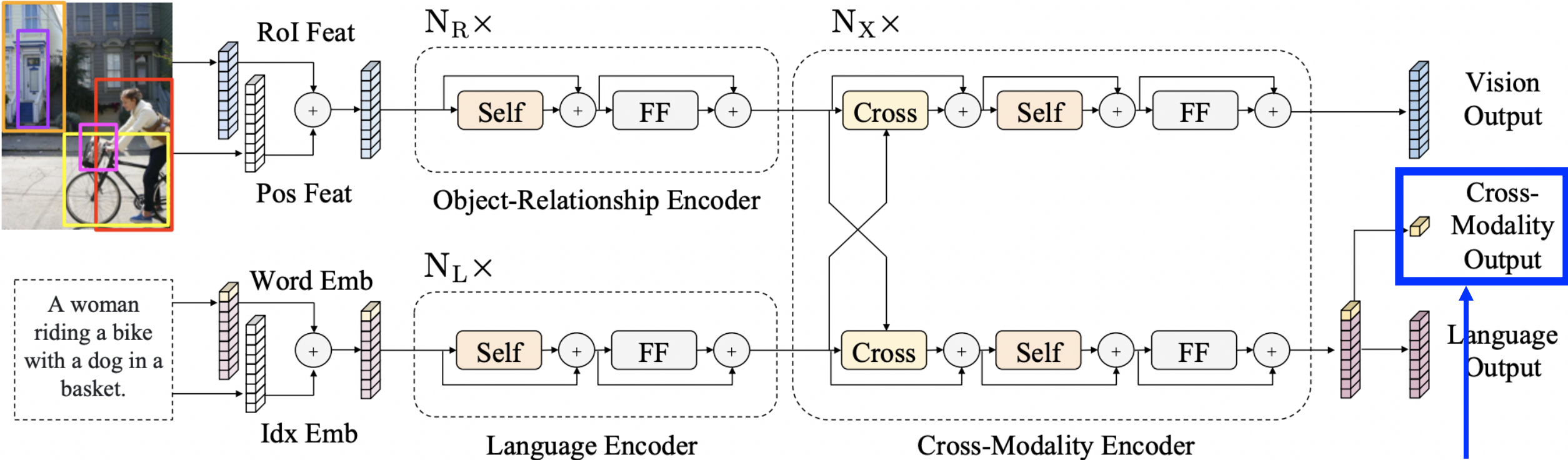
LXMERT: Architecture



LXMERT: Output



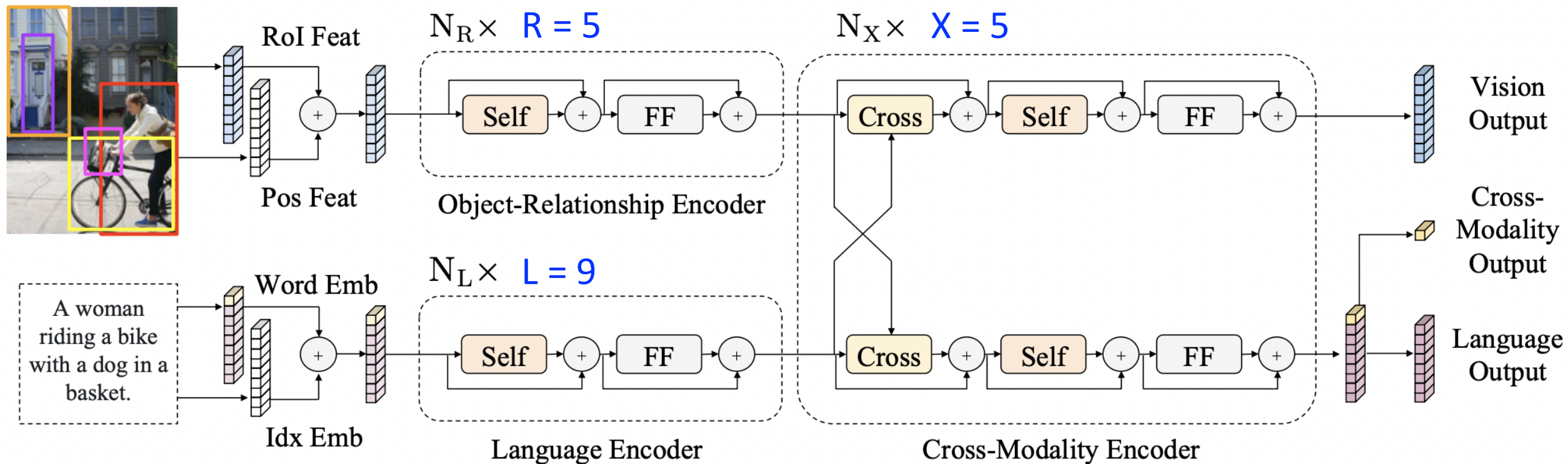
LXMERT: Output



Cross-modality representation is the [CLS] token appended at the start of the sentence

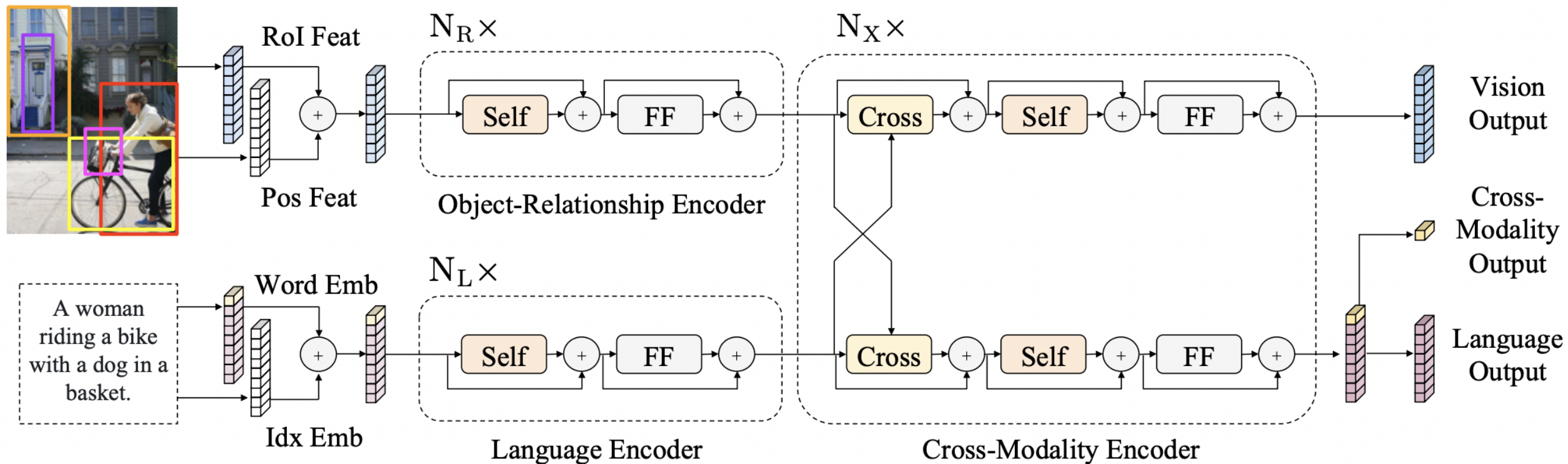
LXMERT: Implementation Details

Pretrained Faster R-CNN can locate 1,600 categories and only 36 object detections are kept per image



Number of layers mimics the size of BERT (base), with 12 layers;
i.e., $(5+9)/2 + 5$

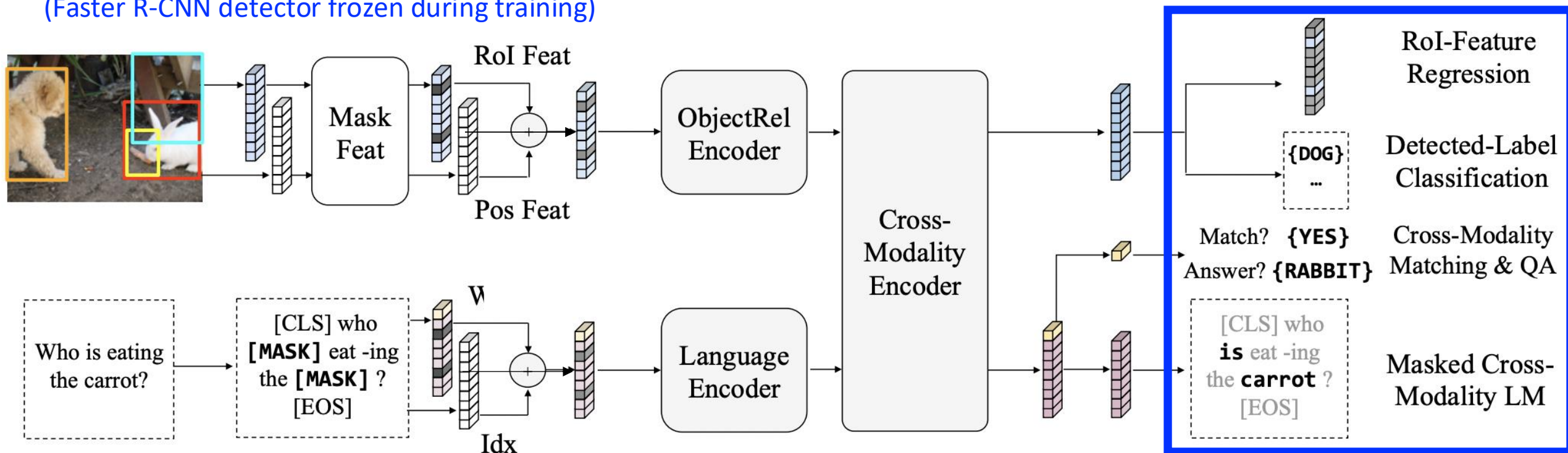
LXMERT: Implementation Details



What might be strengths and limitations of the resulting feature representations based on the architecture used?

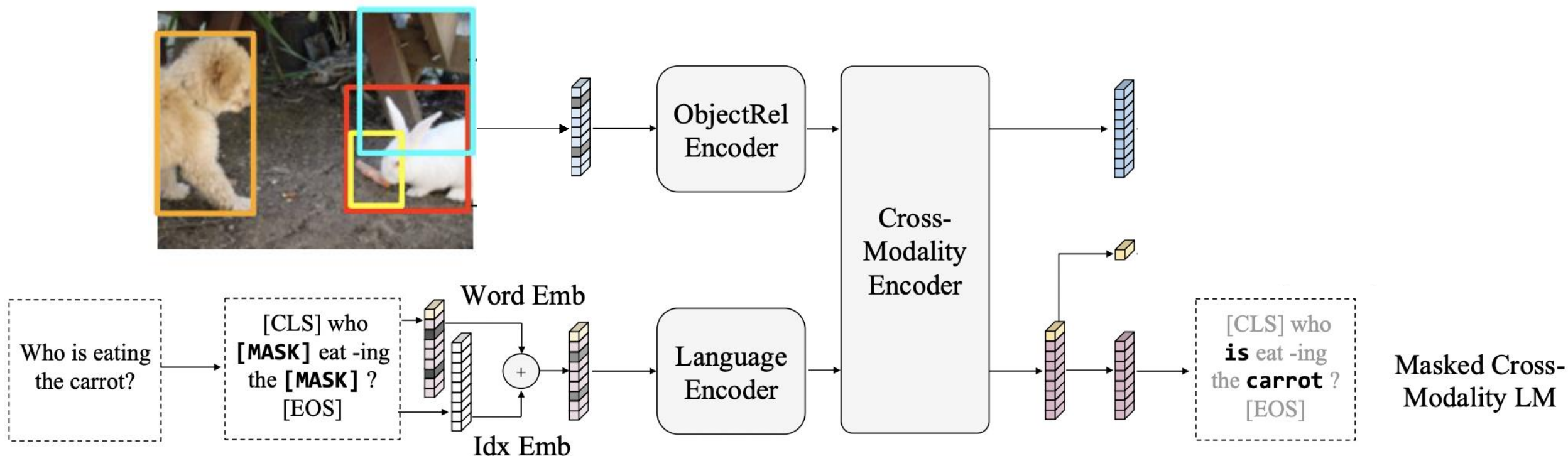
LXMERT: Pretraining Uses Sum of 5 Task Losses

(Faster R-CNN detector frozen during training)



Took 10 days on 4 Titan Xp GPUs

LXMERT: Pretraining Task 1 (Language)

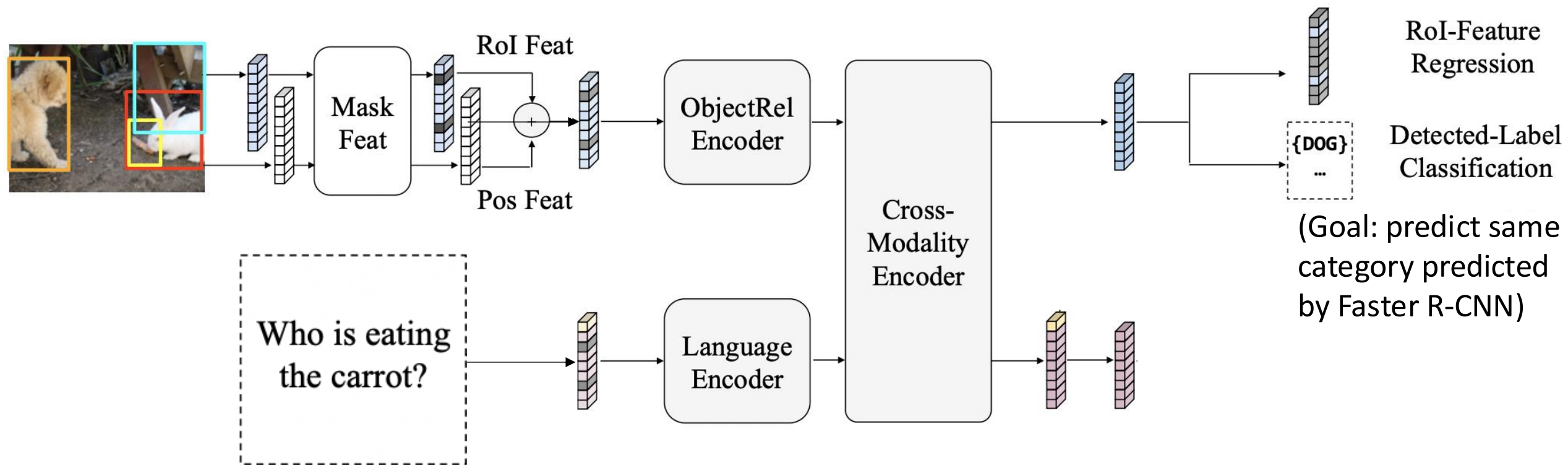


Task used for BERT: mask 15% of input words and then predict them

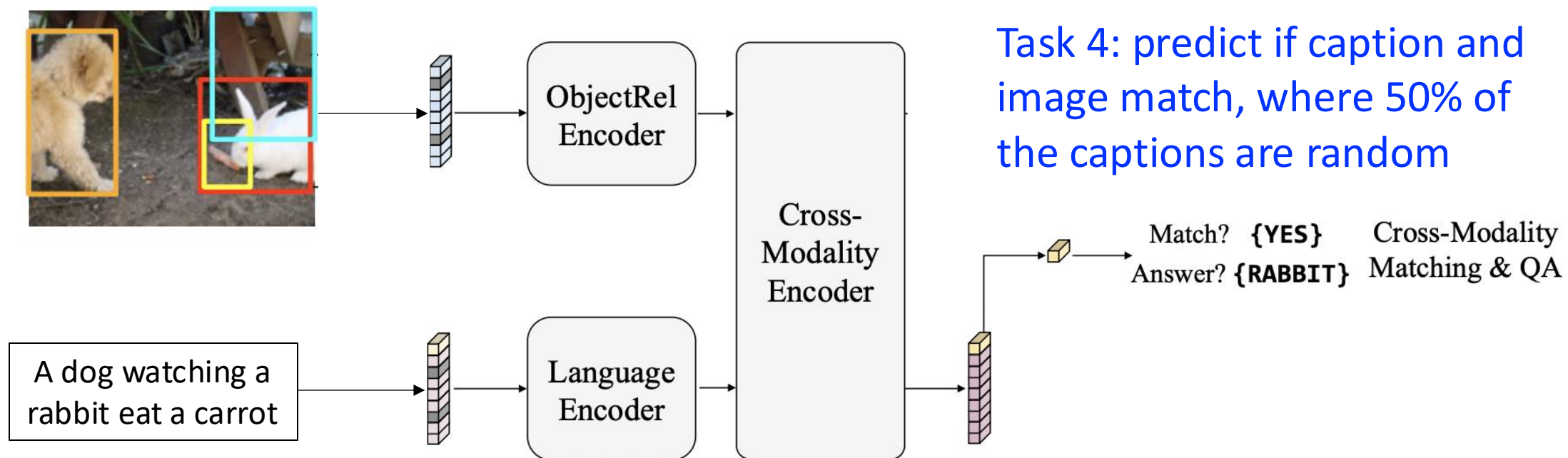
Unlike BERT, vision modality can resolve language ambiguity; e.g., shows what is being eaten

LXMERT: Pretraining Tasks 2 & 3 (Vision)

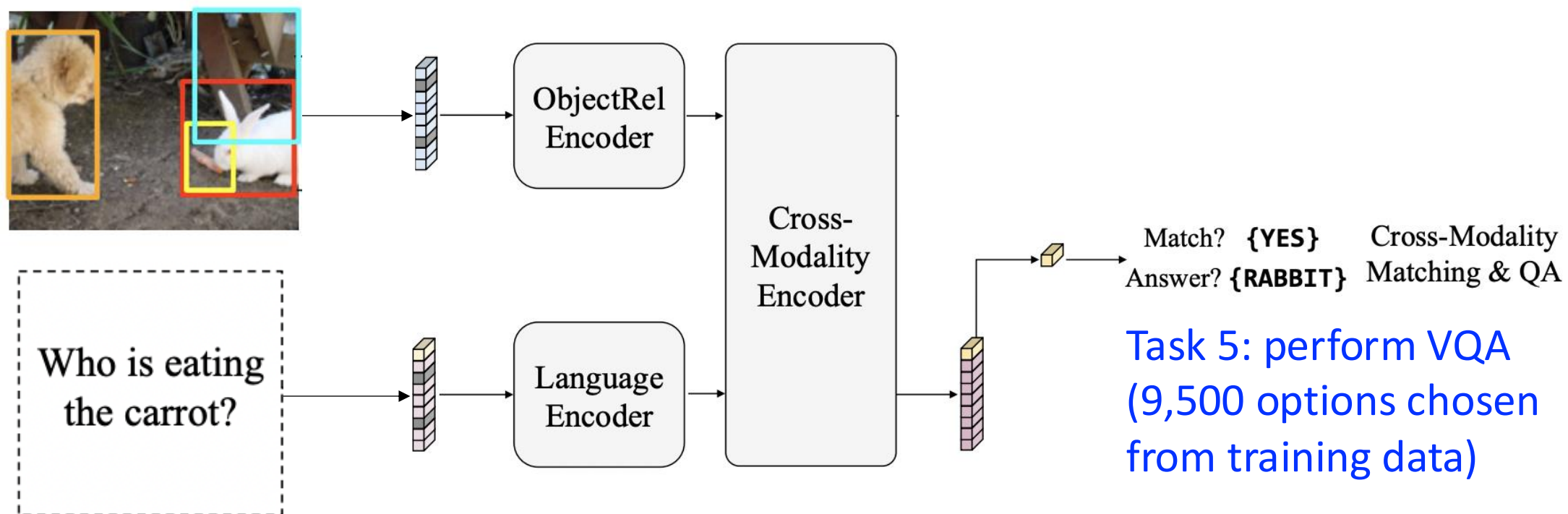
Mask 15% of input objects and then predict their original feature values and categories
Knowledge about other objects and the language should help predict masked objects



LXMERT: Pretraining Tasks 4 & 5 (Both Modalities)



LXMERT: Pretraining Tasks 4 & 5 (Both Modalities)



LXMERT: Pretraining Data

Image Split	Images	Sentences (or Questions)					
		COCO-Cap	VG-Cap	VQA	GQA	VG-QA	All
MS COCO - VG	72K	361K	-	387K	-	-	0.75M
MS COCO \cap VG	51K	256K	2.54M	271K	515K	724K	4.30M
VG - MS COCO	57K	-	2.85M	-	556K	718K	4.13M

All images from MS COCO and Visual Genome, which were collected by scraping images from the photo-sharing website Flickr

(Visual Genome includes the MS COCO images)

LXMERT: Pretraining Data

Image Split	Images	Sentences (or Questions)					
		COCO-Cap	VG-Cap	VQA	GQA	VG-QA	All
MS COCO - VG	72K	361K	-	387K	-	-	0.75M
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VG - MS COCO	57K	-	2.85M	-	556K	718K	4.13M

Language annotations came from 2 image captioning and 3 VQA datasets, authored by crowdworkers paid to create captions, questions, and answers

LXMERT: Pretraining Data

Image Split	Images	Sentences (or Questions)					
		COCO-Cap	VG-Cap	VQA	GQA	VG-QA	All
MS COCO - VG	72K	361K	-	387K	-	-	0.75M
MS COCO \cap VG	51K	256K	2.54M	271K	515K	724K	4.30M
VG - MS COCO	57K	-	2.85M	-	556K	718K	4.13M
All	180K	617K	5.39M	658K	1.07M	1.44M	9.18M

A total of 9.18M image-sentence pairs are included for 180,000 images (questions in VQA datasets are used for the image-sentence pairs)

LXMERT: Fine-Tuning Experimental Results

Method	VQA			
	Binary	Number	Other	Accu
Human	-	-	-	-
Image Only	-	-	-	-
Language Only	66.8	31.8	27.6	44.3
State-of-the-Art	85.8	53.7	60.7	70.4
LXMERT	88.2	54.2	63.1	72.5

State-of-the-art performance, with stronger gains over prior work for questions leading to “binary” and “other” answers

LXMERT: Fine-Tuning Experimental Results

Method	VQA				GQA			NLVR ²	
	Binary	Number	Other	Accu	Binary	Open	Accu	Cons	Accu
Human	-	-	-	-	91.2	87.4	89.3	-	96.3
Image Only	-	-	-	-	36.1	1.74	17.8	7.40	51.9
Language Only	66.8	31.8	27.6	44.3	61.9	22.7	41.1	4.20	51.1
State-of-the-Art	85.8	53.7	60.7	70.4	76.0	40.4	57.1	12.0	53.5
LXMERT	88.2	54.2	63.1	72.5	77.8	45.0	60.3	42.1	76.2

State-of-the-art performance for an additional VQA dataset and a visual reasoning task (i.e., does statement describe two images or not?)

Today's Topics

- Motivating applications
- Image captioning: pioneering dataset and model
- Visual question answering: pioneering dataset and model
- LXMERT: multimodal representations
- **Programming tutorial**

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The End