

# Adapting Vision Language Models via parameter-efficient fine-tuning for Multitask Classification of Age, Gender, and Emotion

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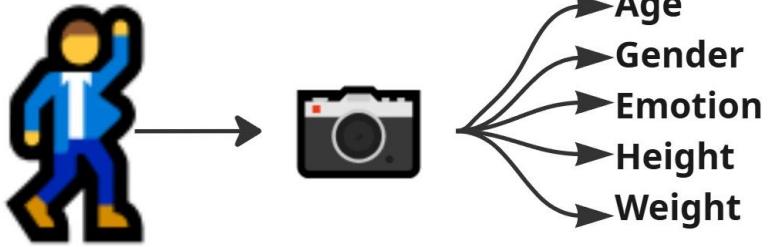
03      Results



# Soft Biometric Recognition, what and why?

## Definition

Soft biometrics are non-unique human attributes that can be indirectly collected from images.



## Applications



### Social Robotics

A robot estimates a user is a child and automatically switches to a simpler speech and more playful voice



### Marketing & Commerce

A digital sign detects a shopper's likely age and gender to show a targeted ad, like for a video game or a new perfume



### Security & Access

A website uses facial age estimation to automatically block a user who appears underage from accessing mature content



### Healthcare & Wellness

A wellness app monitors a user's vocal tone or facial expression through their phone to detect signs of stress or fatigue

# Our domain, facial attributes

Facial Emotion  
Recognition



**Labels (7 classes):**

Happy, Surprise, Disgust,  
Angry, Fear, Sad, Neutral

**Challanges:**



Class imbalances

Small datasets

Low annotator agreements

Age group  
Classification



**Labels (9 classes):**

0-2, 3-9, 10-19, 30-39, 40-49,  
50-59, 60-69, 70+

**Challanges:**



Class imbalances

High class intra-variance

Gender  
Recognition



**Labels (2 classes):**

Male and Female

**Challanges:**

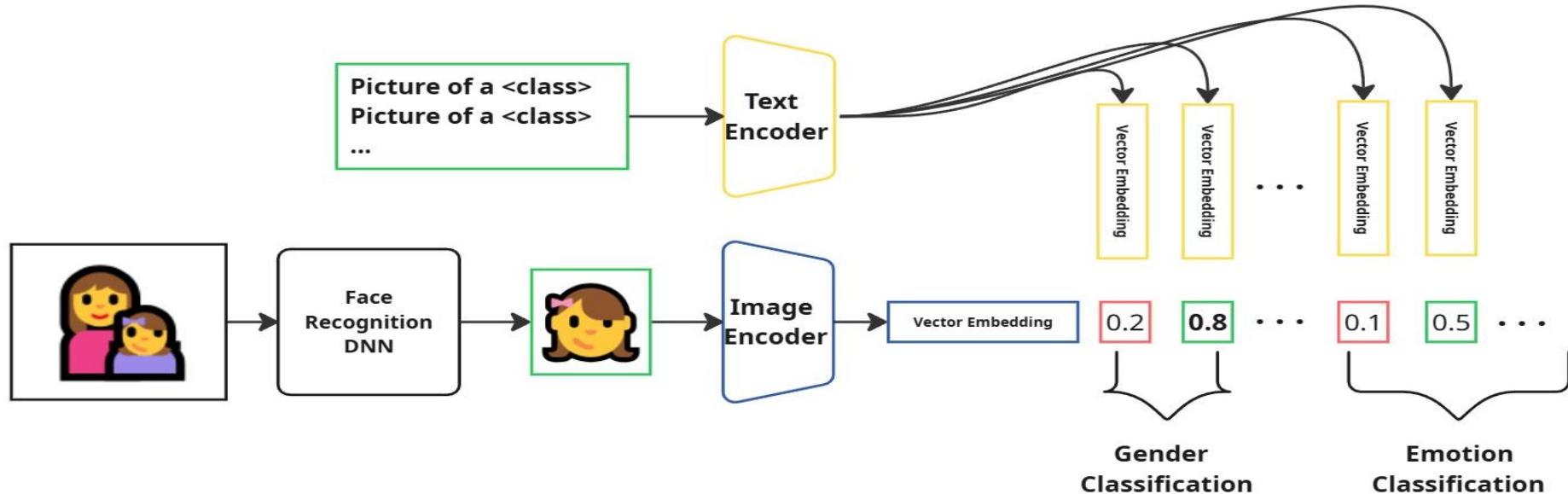


Different age groups  
and ethnicities

# Our Approach, Vision Language Models

Vision language model (VLM) are large neural networks, trained on billion of image-text pairs, that can be used in a **zero-shot manner**.

We can create a soft-biometric recognition system using a **VLM** (we choose **Perception Encoders**).



# Hard-Prompting, not good enough:

## Problems of hard-prompting

👎 Poor accuracy

👎 High memory footprint

👎 High latency

Since **visual understanding stems from the vision encoder**, we can **omit the text encoder** and use the image encoder as a foundation vision model, doing so we **halve the inference time and memory footprint**.

Age*	Gender	Emotion	Global
47.36%	96.67%	66.57%	69.61%

\* Average calculation excludes the VggFace2 dataset as its age-labels data are synthetically obtained.

Component	Parameters
Text Encoder	353,986,561
Visual Encoder	318,212,106
<b>Total Parameters</b>	<b>671,137,793</b>
<b>GFLOPs</b>	<b>699.76</b>

Table 4.3: Number of parameters used by the zero-shot baseline during inference

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# Datasets used to adapt the pre-trained ViT

## Training Set

FairFace	~ 97k	Gender & Age	
Lagenda	~ 67k	Gender & Age	
RAF-DB	~ 17k	Emotion & Gender	
CelebaHQ	~ 17k	Gender	

## Test Set

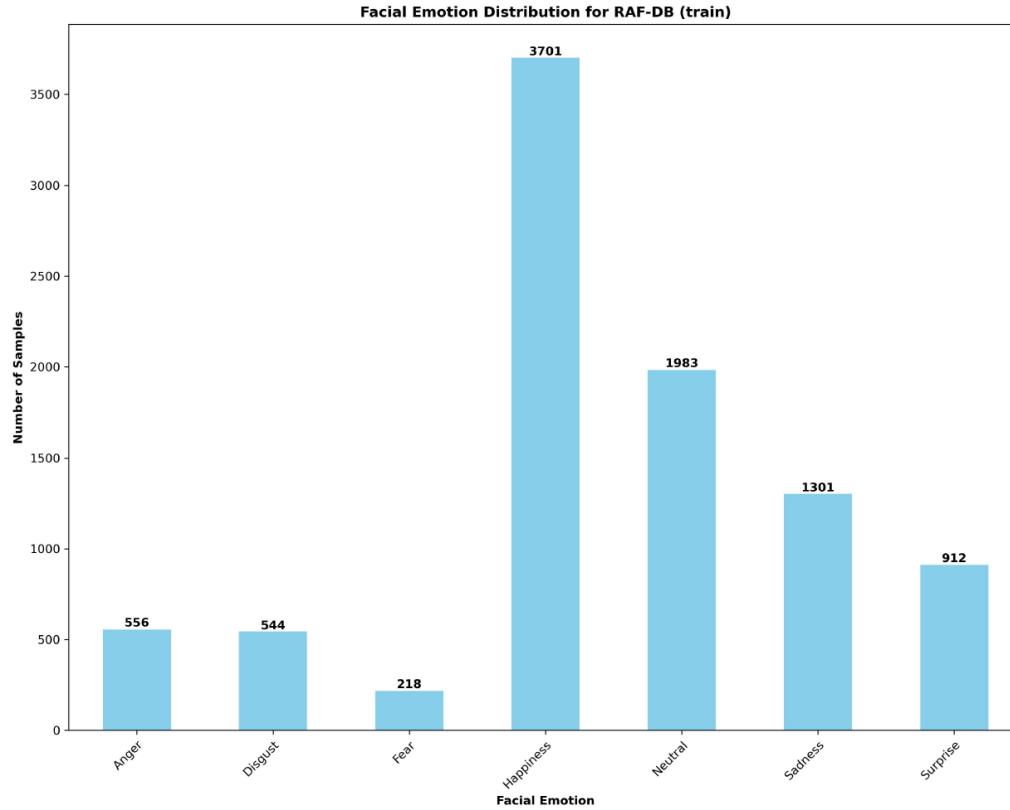
VggFace2	~ 170k	Gender & Age	
UTKFace	~ 24k	Gender & Age	
FairFace & RAF-DB; Test-splits			

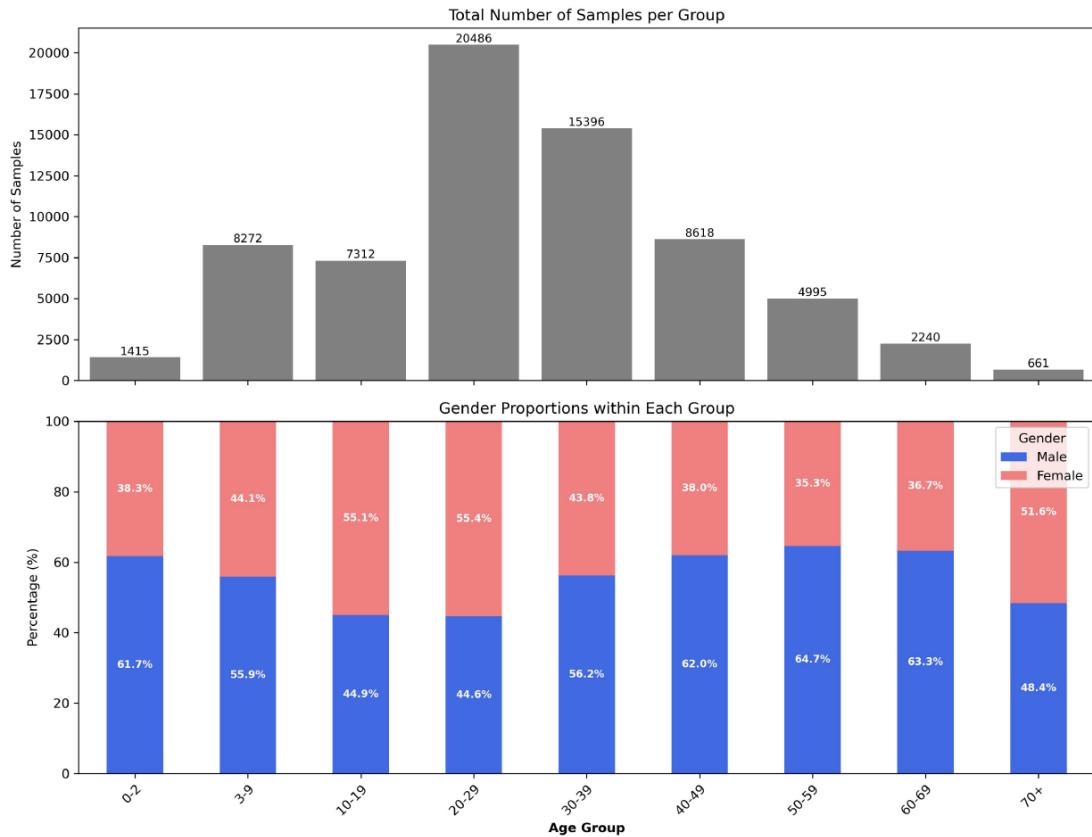


- . Low amount of celebrity data
- . Diverse ethnicities represented
- . High annotator agreements
- . Cross-dataset generalization

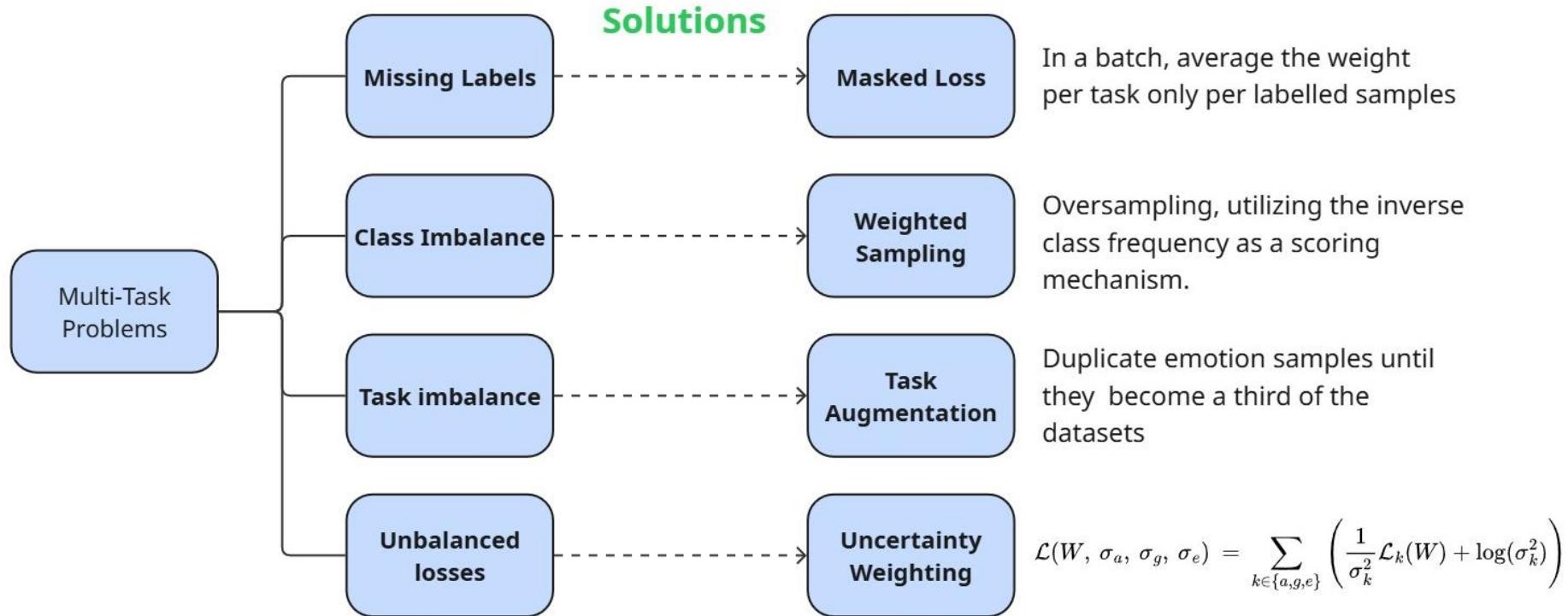


- . Intra task-class imbalance
- . Task imbalance
- . Missing labels

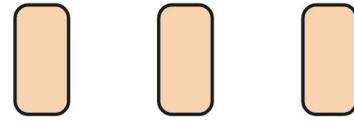




# Multi-task learning, problems and solutions



MLP HEAD    MLP HEAD    MLP HEAD



ATTENTION POOLING

TRANSFORMERS

TRANSFORMERS

TRANSFORMERS

TRANSFORMERS

Trained  
Frozen

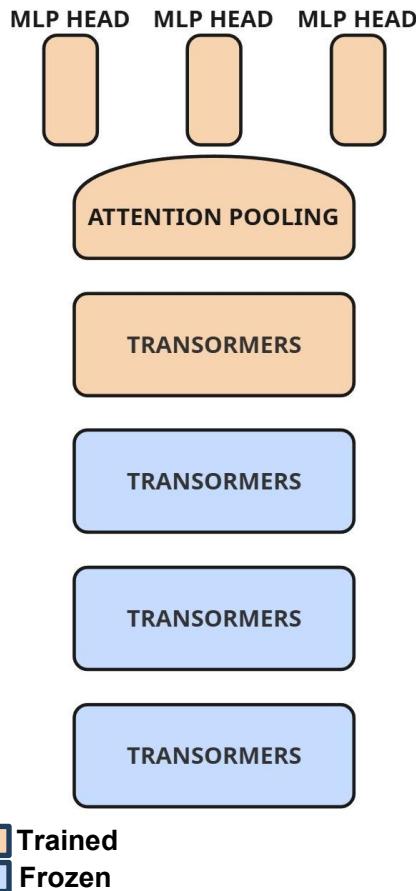


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**Linear Probing:** attaching a MLP classifier per task to the output of the model, to harness the out-of-the box features of the vision transformers. As there can be no benefit to train the classification head simultaneously, as there is no parameter sharing, they are **trained sequentially** on fully labelled datasets split.

**Training: 0.33% of parameters**





**Partial fine-tune:** unfreezing the attention pooling layer and last four transformers block of the ViT, using a differential LR strategy (using 1/10 of the LR for transformers blocks)

**Training: 20.13% of parameters**

# Can we go deeper with **full fine-tune**?

## Not really: Not enough VRAM

- ? Use gradient checkpointing and mixed precision? Still not enough.
- ? Use a smaller batch size? Noisy gradients, accentuated by the multi-task setting.

## Do we want to go deeper? **Yes\***

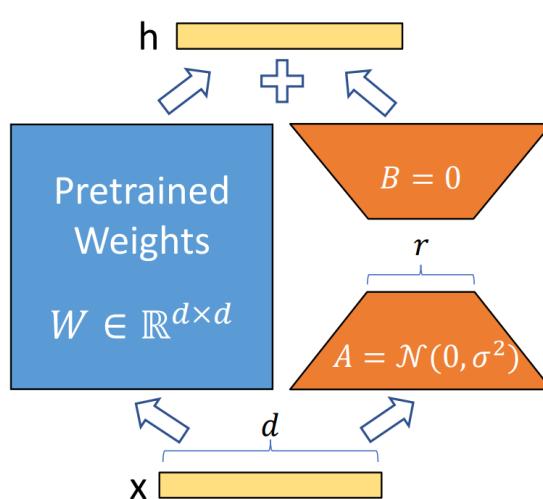
Adjusting the early-layer feature representations within the vision encoder may offer significant benefits.

**Increase capacity** with relatively **small dataset**, possible **overfitting**.

- \* Full fine-tuning could allow task-specific gradients to destroy the network powerful, generalized knowledge, “**Catastrophic forgetting**”

# Parameter Efficient Fine-tune with Low Rank Adaptation

**Main Idea:** the weight updates for large pre-trained model can be effectively represented in a low-dimensional subspace.



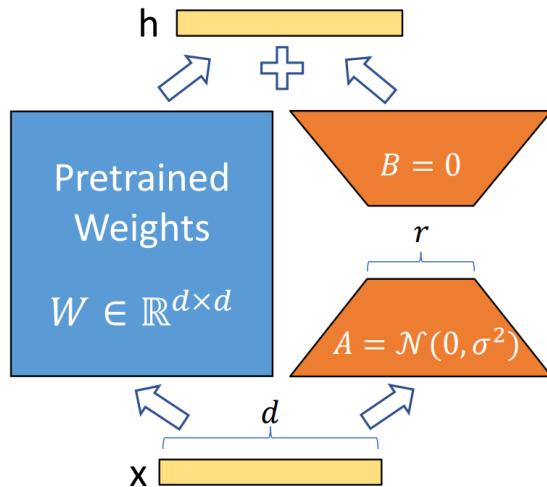
$$h = Wx + BAx$$

## Benefits of LoRA:

- Small checkpoints
- **No added inference latency and memory footprint**
- **Lower VRAM consumption** due to parameter-efficient updates
- **Prevents «catastrophic forgetting»** by limiting weight update in a low-rank space

# Enhancements for LoRA: LoRA+ & DoRA

**Main Idea of LoRA+:** we can achieve a better LoRA fine-tune by employing a differential learning rate strategy for the LoRA matrices.

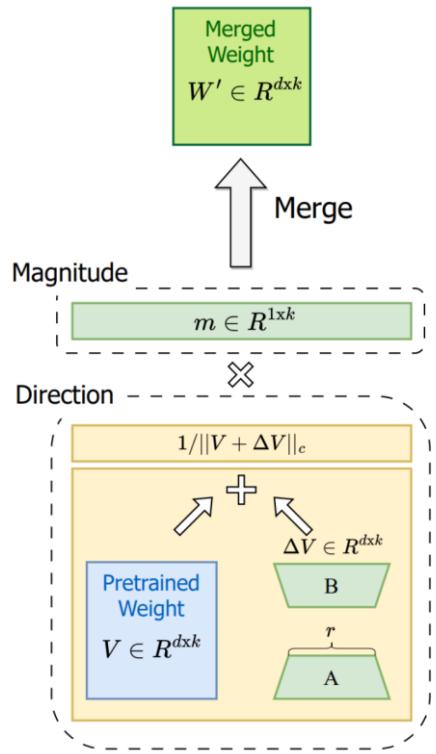


**Training update for LoRA+:**

$$\begin{aligned} B^t &= B^{t-1} - \lambda \eta G_B \\ A^t &= A^{t-1} - \eta G_A \end{aligned}$$

In our implementation, we set  $\lambda = 6$

# Enhancements for LoRA: LoRA+ & DoRA

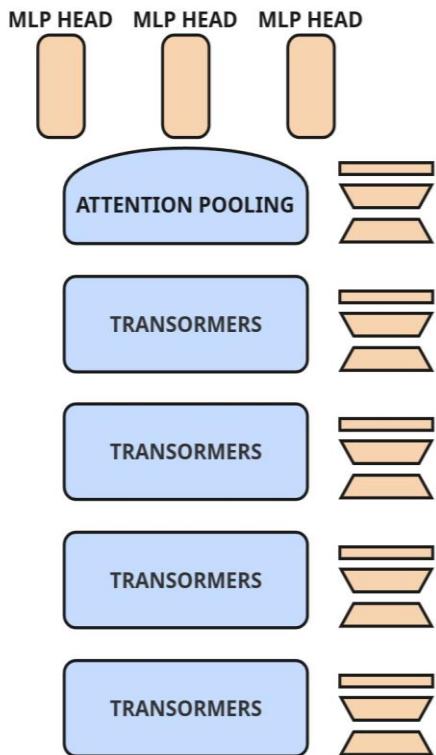


**Main Idea:** enhance the weight update by separately training the direction and magnitude of the update.

$$h = x \left( m \cdot \frac{W + BA}{\|W + BA\|_C} \right)$$

## Benefits of DoRA:

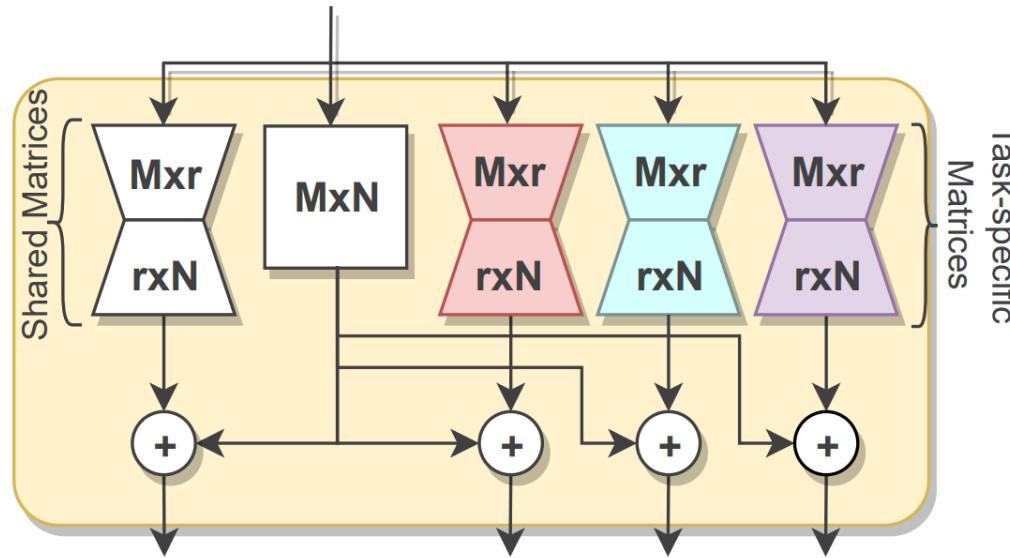
- Same benefits of LoRA
- Increased learning capacity



**DoRA & LoRA+ :** adding DoRA adapters with **rank=64** to each linear layer of the Vision Transformer and using a learning rate x6 to train the B matrices of the adapters.  
**Training: 8.47% of parameters (less than half of FT4)**



# PEFT & Multi-task: MTLoRA



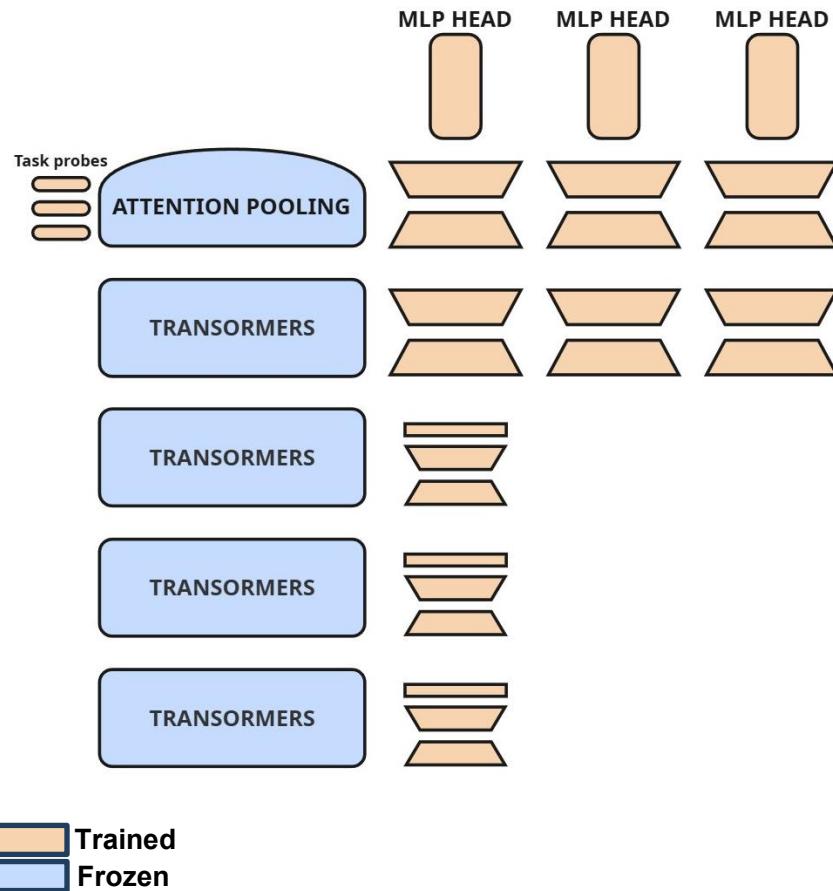
**Main Idea:** disentangle the parameter space through **Task-Specific LoRA matrices**

### Benefit:

- Train specialized parameters for a task, and use them to create **task-specifics feature-maps**

### Deficit:

- The task specific LoRA matrices cannot be merged, **small increase in memory footprint and inference latency**



**MTLoRA:** TS-LoRA ( $r=64$ ) applied to last transformer block and attention pooling layers. TA-DoRA using the same setup described earlier.

**Training: 10.38% of parameters**



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# Multi-task Vs. Single-task

Model	Avg. Age	Avg. Gender	Emotion	Global Avg	
Baseline	47.36%	96.67%	66.57%	69.59%	
LP	60.10%	97.51%	84.82%	80.81%	
FT_4 (ST)	62.80%	97.57%	88.78%	83.05%	-0.11%
FT_4 (MTL)	63.00%	97.41%	88.43%	82.94%	+0.03%
LoRA (ST)	63.72%	97.56%	90.83%	84.04%	
LoRA (MTL)	63.53%	97.49%	91.21%	<u>84.07%</u>	
MTLoRA	64.03%	97.51%	90.06%	83.86%	-0.18%

**Multi-task approach was successful in preventing negative-transfer**, all of our multi-task model achieve **perfomance parity compared to their single-task equivalent**

# Efficiency Comparison

Model	GLOPS	PARAMS	AVG. ACC
Baseline	700	671 M	69.61%
LoRA	352 (-50%)	320 M (-52%)	84.07% (+20%)
MTLoRA	368 (-47%)	329 M (-50%)	83.89% (+20%)



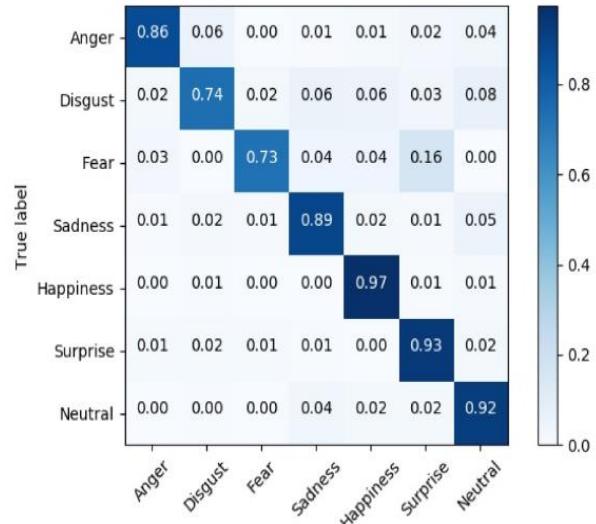
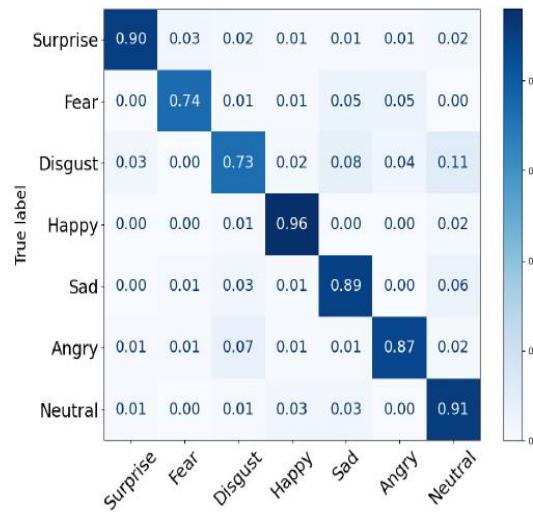
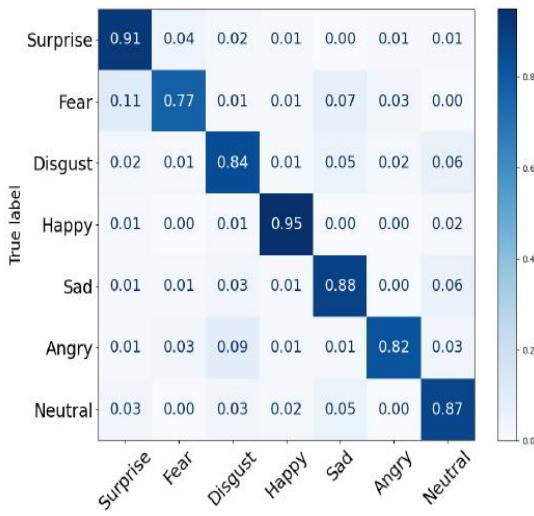
# Multi-task model detailed results

Model	FairFace (Age)	FairFace (Gender)	RAF-DB (Emotion)	UTKFace (Age)	UTKFace (Gender)	VggFace2 (Age)	VggFace2 (Gender)
Baseline	46.11%	97.60%	66.57%	48.43%	96.63%	42.01%	95.78%
LP	61.00%	97.70%	84.82%	61.56%	<b>97.00%</b>	57.75%	97.82%
FT_4 (MTL)	63.45%	<b>97.71%</b>	88.42%	62.54%	96.68%	61.68%	97.81%
LoRA (MTL)	63.73%	97.57%	<b>91.21%</b>	63.34%	96.90%	61.69%	<b>98.00%</b>
MTLoRA	<b>64.11%</b>	97.62%	90.06%	<b>63.96%</b>	96.93%	<b>62.74%</b>	<b>98.00%</b>

# Comparison with the state of the art

Model	FairFace (Age)	FairFace (Gender)	RAF-DB (Emotion)
MIVOLO	62.28%	97.50%	-
CLIP-ViT-L/14	63.45%	97.10%	-
ResEmoteNet	-	-	<b>94.76%</b>
ApViT	-	-	92.21%
Baseline	46.11%	97.60%	66.57%
LoRA	63.73%	97.57%	91.21%
MTLoRA	<b>64.11%</b>	<b>97.62%</b>	90.06%





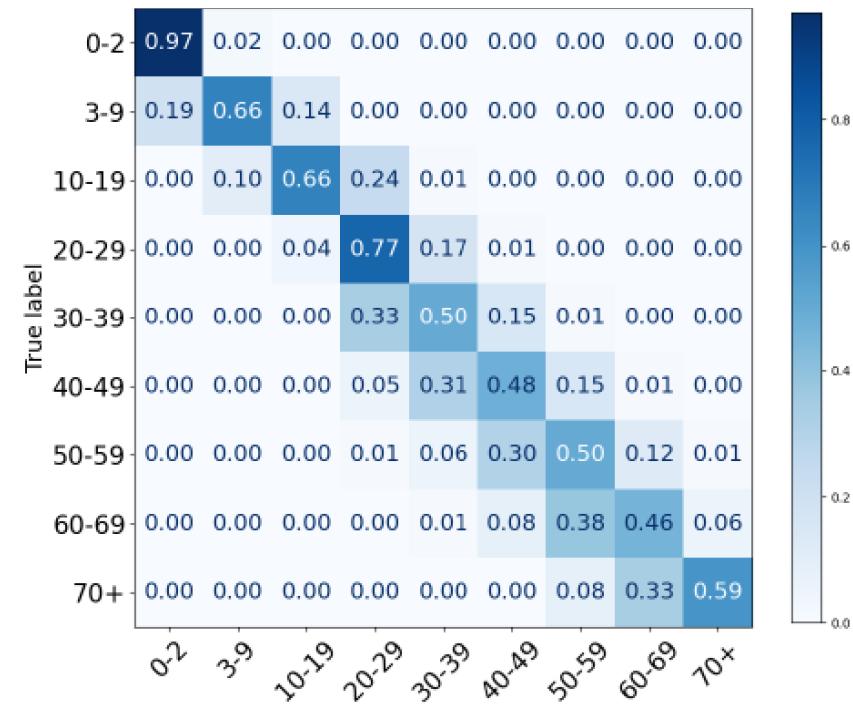
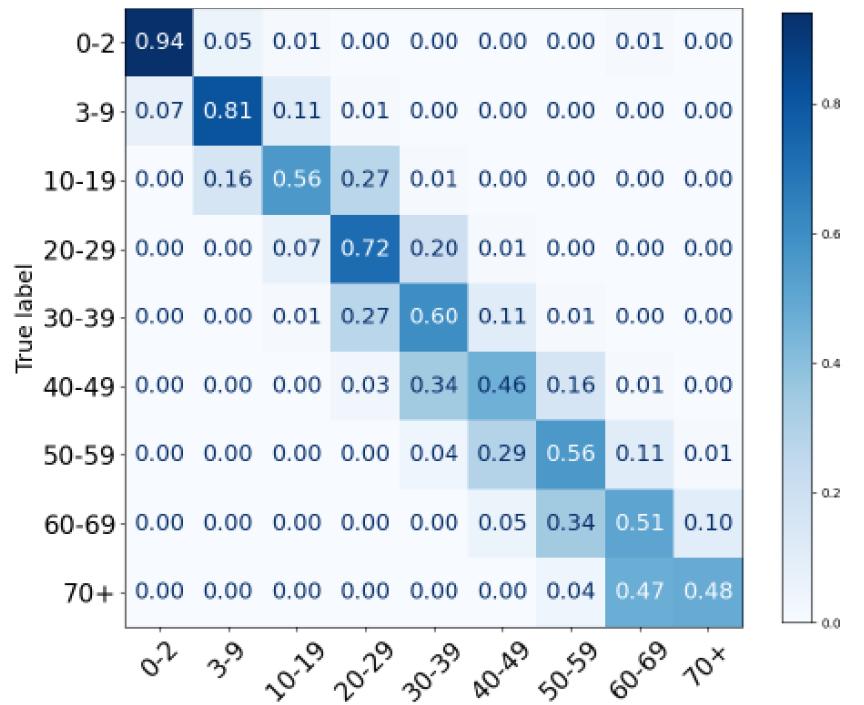
(a) MTLoRA confusion matrix on RAF-DB, balanced accuracy of 86.17 (Acc. 90.06)

**-0.19%**

(b) LoRA confusion matrix on RAF-DB, balanced accuracy of 85.90 (Acc. 91.21)

**-0.46%**

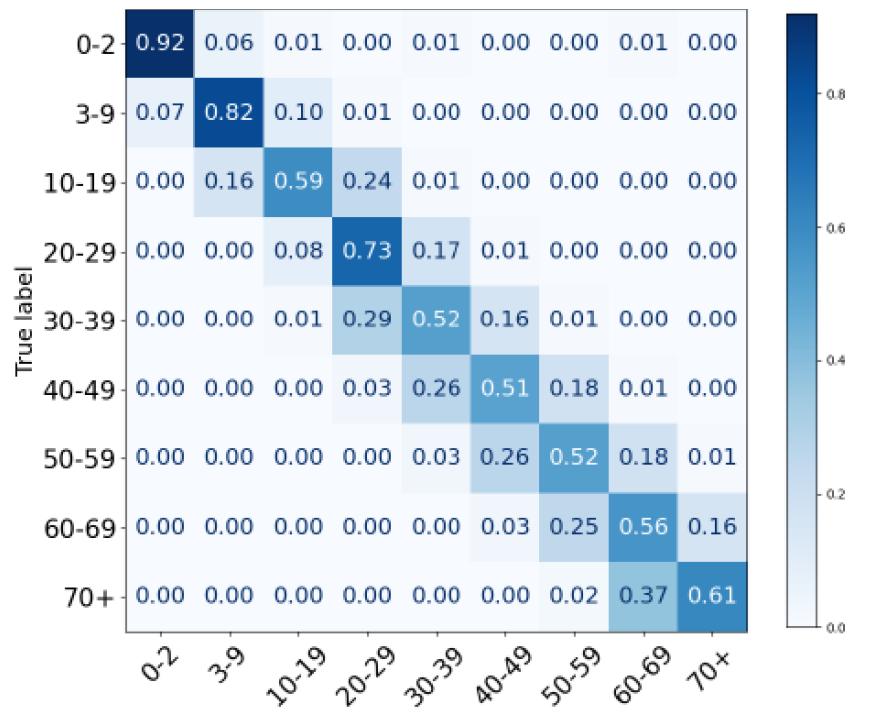
(c) APViT confusion matrix on RAF-DB, balanced accuracy of 86.36 (Acc. 92.21)



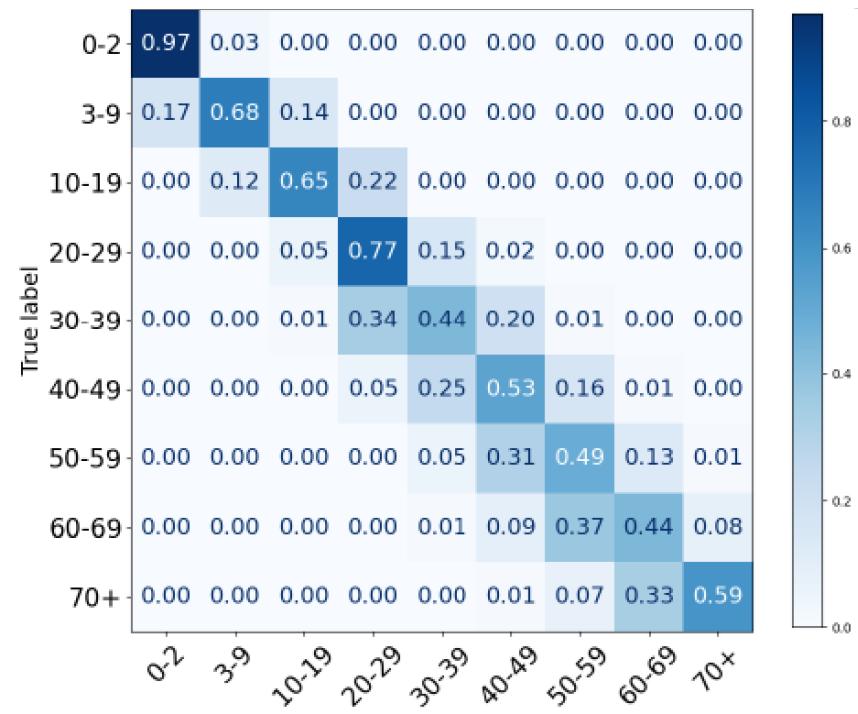
(a) MTLoRA confusion matrix on FairFace, balanced accuracy of **62.78** (Acc. 64.11)

(b) MTLoRA confusion matrix on UTKFace, balanced accuracy of **61.98** (Acc. 63.96)



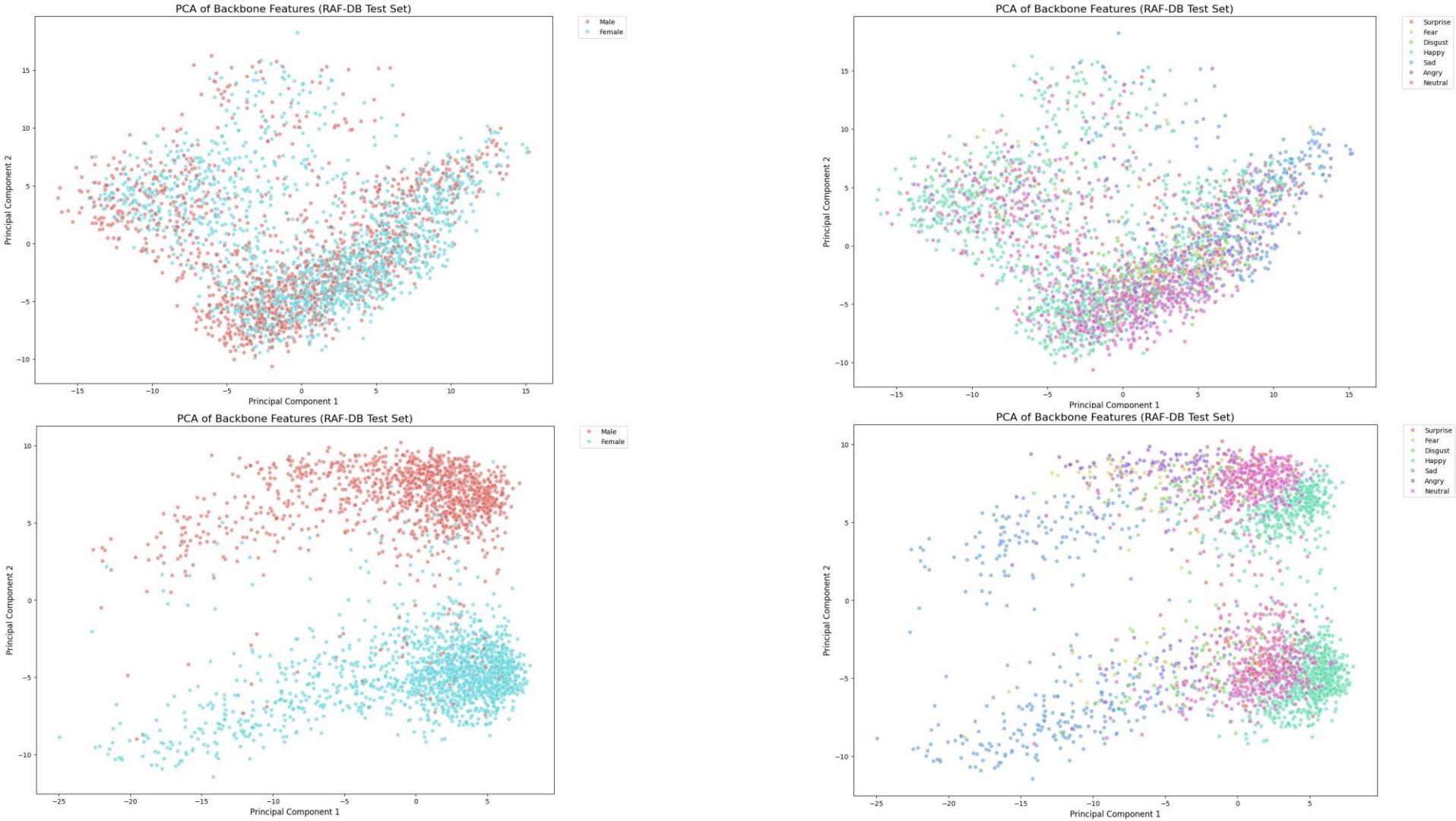


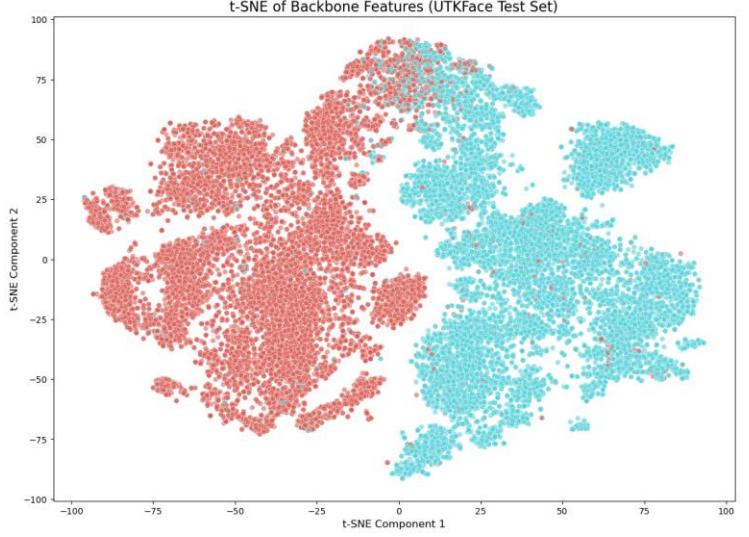
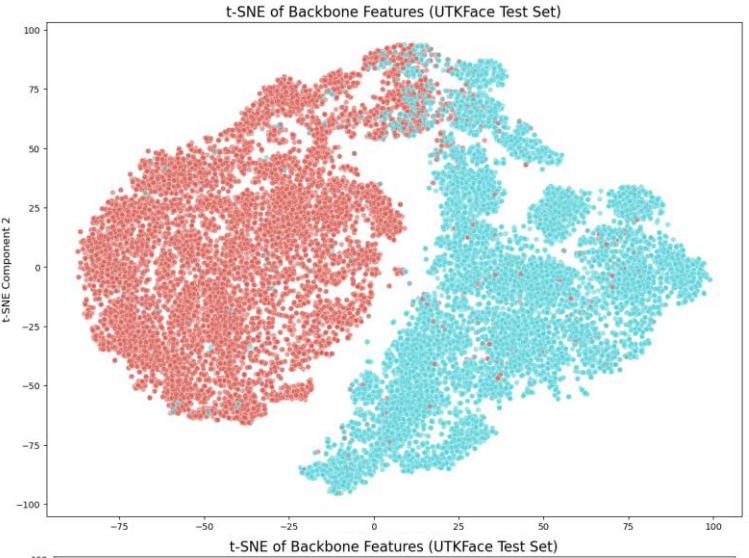
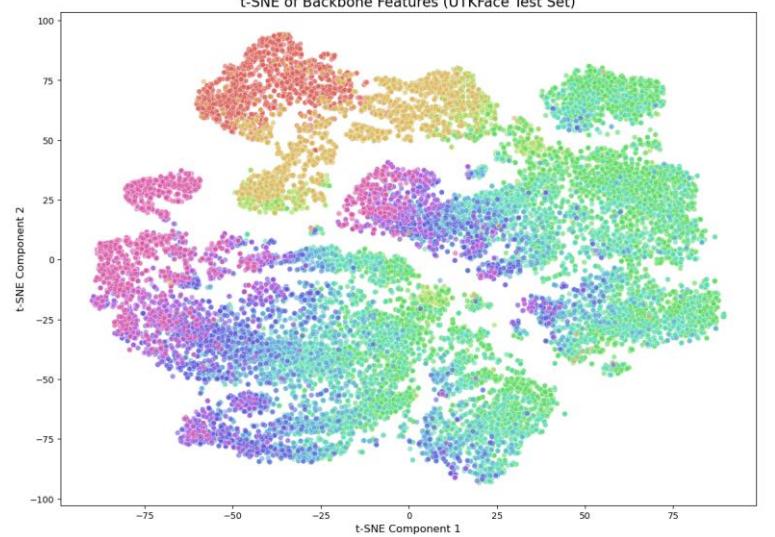
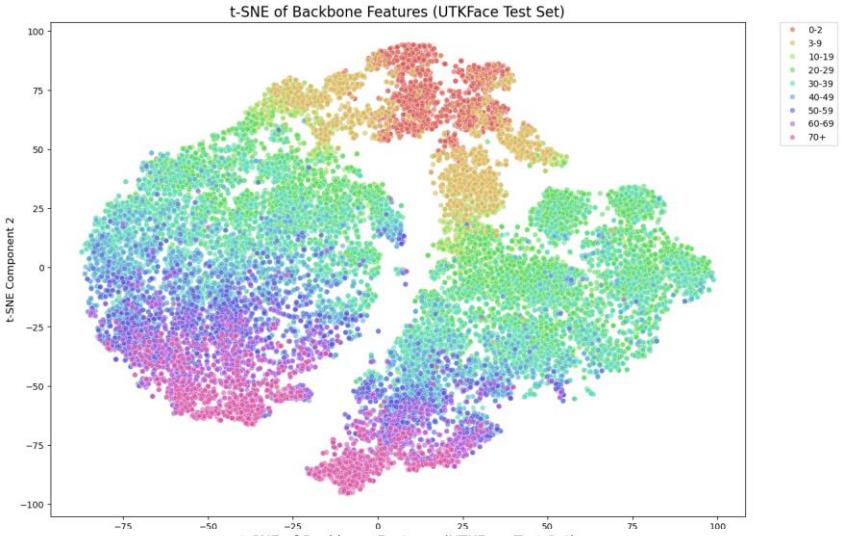
(c) LoRA confusion matrix on FairFace, balanced accuracy of **64.26** (Acc. 63.73)



(d) LoRA confusion matrix on UTKFace, balanced accuracy of **61.91** (Acc. 63.34)







# Dimostratore



<https://huggingface.co/spaces/Antuke/FaR-FT-PE>

<https://youtu.be/V6-9QTf1xaQ>



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# Face Classification System

Select Model Checkpoint

mtlora.pt

Model Status

Successfully loaded: mtlora.pt

## Features

- **Age Classification:** 9 categories (0-2, 3-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+) + Age estimation with weighted centroid average
- **Gender Classification:** M/F
- **Emotion Recognition:** 7 categories (Surprise, Fear, Disgust, Happy, Sad, Angry, Neutral)
- **Automatic Face Detection:** Detects and analyzes multiple faces
- **Detailed Probability Distributions:** View confidence for all classes

## Instructions

1. (Optional) Select a model checkpoint from the dropdown.
2. Upload an image or capture from webcam (or select an example below)
3. Click "Classify Image"
4. View detected faces with age, gender, and emotion predictions below

Upload Image



Drop Image Here

- OR -

Click to Upload

Annotated Image



Classify Image

Try with example images

Examples

