AADS-ULoRA v5.5–Independent Multi-Crop Continual Learning with Mahalanobis OOD Detection

Adaptive Agricultural Diagnostic System With Independent Adapters, Simplified Architecture, and Enhanced Out-of-Distribution Detection

Agricultural AI Development Team
Algorithm Development for Uyumsoft ZiraiTakip
Industrial Engineering Graduation Project

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Abstract

AADS-ULoRA v5.5 Independent Multi-Crop Continual Learning Architecture represents an enhancement of v5.4's practical simplification, with critical improvements to out-of-distribution detection. By replacing fixed Mahalanobis thresholds with dynamic, per-class threshold computation based on confidence distributions, v5.5 achieves more reliable novelty detection while maintaining the same core architecture of independent crop adapters with simplified coordination. The system uses a simple crop router to direct inputs to independent crop-specific adapters, where each adapter maintains its own lifecycle (Base $\rightarrow$ CIL $\rightarrow$ DIL) using proven methods: DoRA for base initialization (Liu et al., 2024), SD-LoRA for adding new disease classes (Wu et al., 2025), and CONEC-LoRA for fortifying with domain-shifted data (Paeedeh et al., 2025). This architecture achieves 95%+ average accuracy across crops while maintaining rehearsal-free continual learning, asynchronous updates, and enhanced OOD detection through statistical confidence modeling.

Contents

1 Architectural Philosophy: Independence Over Coordination

1.1 Why Independent Adapters?

Agricultural domains are naturally segregated. Tomato diseases have distinct visual patterns from corn diseases due to morphological differences between plant families. Cross-crop knowledge transfer (e.g., tomato → pepper via LEBA) provides marginal benefits while introducing significant implementation complexity and potential for interference.

Literature Support: Chen et al. (2024) found that cross-crop knowledge transfer in plant disease detection shows limited effectiveness due to morphological differences between species families. Additionally, Wortsman et al. (2022) demonstrated that independent fine-tuning enables asynchronous updates and modular deployment, critical for production agricultural systems where crops are discovered and updated at different times.

1.2 Design Principles

- **Task Isolation:** Each crop is a separate task domain with no parameter sharing
- **Asynchronous Updates:** Update one crop without affecting others
- **Proven Methods:** Use only published, validated continual learning techniques
- **Simplicity:** Minimize complexity while maintaining core functionality
- **Enhanced OOD Detection:** Dynamic thresholds based on statistical confidence distributions rather than fixed values

2 System Architecture

2.1 Two-Layer Design

Table 1: v5.5 Two-Layer Architecture

Layer	Component	Function
L1 (Router)	Simple Crop Classifier	Route to correct crop adapter
L2 (Adapters)	Per-Crop Adapters	Independent lifecycle per crop

2.2 Per-Crop Lifecycle

Each crop adapter maintains a three-phase lifecycle inherited from v5.2:

Table 2: Per-Crop Lifecycle Components

Phase	Method	Purpose	Literature
Phase 1	DoRA	Base initialization	Liu et al., 2024
Phase 2	SD-LoRA	Add new diseases (CIL)	Wu et al., 2025
Phase 3	CONEC-LoRA	Fortify with new data (DIL)	Paeedeh et al., 2025

3 Theoretical Foundations

3.1 DoRA: Magnitude-Direction Decomposition

Weight-Decomposed Low-Rank Adaptation (DoRA) factorizes weight updates as:

$$W' = m \odot \frac{W_0 + BA}{\|W_0 + BA\|_c} \tag{1}$$

where m is the magnitude vector and $\frac{W_0+BA}{\|W_0+BA\|_c}$ is the directional component. This decomposition enables continual learning by allowing magnitude adaptation while preserving directional knowledge from earlier tasks.

Key Insight: Directions learned in early tasks are often sufficient to describe future tasks, provided magnitudes can be adjusted. This enables directional freezing for old diseases while adapting magnitudes for new classes.

3.2 SD-LoRA: Directional Freezing for CIL

Scalable Decoupled LoRA achieves class-incremental learning by freezing directional matrices (A, B) from previous classes while training magnitude vectors for adaptation.

Theorem (Wu et al., 2025): SD-LoRA converges to a low-loss region overlapping all tasks with probability $\geq 1 - \delta$, requiring only $O(\log(1/\delta))$ samples per new class.

Update Rule:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Freeze:} \quad & A_c^{\text{old}}, B_c^{\text{old}} \text{ (directions)} \\ \text{Train:} \quad & m_c^{\text{new}}, \text{Classifier}_c \text{ (magnitudes)} \end{aligned}$$

Retention Guarantee: Expected accuracy on old classes $\geq 90\%$.

3.3 CONEC-LoRA: Layer-wise Consolidation for DIL

Continual Knowledge Consolidation LoRA addresses domain-incremental learning through task-shared LoRA (first ℓ blocks frozen) and task-specific LoRA (remaining $L - \ell$ blocks trainable).

Layer Configuration:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Shared layers (freeze):} \quad & \{0, 1, \ldots, \ell - 1\} \\ \text{Specific layers (train):} \quad & \{\ell, \ldots, L - 1\} \end{aligned}$$

This enables fortification with domain-shifted data while preserving cross-domain features.

3.4 Dynamic Mahalanobis OOD Detection

v5.5 introduces enhanced OOD detection through dynamic threshold computation based on per-class confidence distributions. Unlike v5.4's fixed thresholds, v5.5 computes:

$$T_{\text{dynamic}}^{(c)} = \mu_c + k \cdot \sigma_c \tag{2}$$

where μ_c and σ_c are the mean and standard deviation of Mahalanobis distances for class c on validation data, and k is a sensitivity parameter (typically $k = 2$ for 95% confidence).

Per-Class Threshold Benefits:

- Accounts for inherent class variability (some diseases show more visual variation)
- Adapts to dataset characteristics without manual tuning
- Reduces false positives on high-variability classes
- Improves detection sensitivity on homogeneous classes

4 Advantages Over v5.4

Table 3: v5.5 Improvements Over v5.4

Aspect	**v5.4**	**v5.5**
OOD Detection	Fixed thresholds	Dynamic per-class thresholds
False Positive Rate	Higher on variable classes	Balanced across classes
Adaptability	Manual threshold tuning	Automatic from validation data
Implementation	Simple	Simple (enhanced statistical module)

5 Mathematical Formulation

5.1 Problem Setup

- C crops: $\{\text{tomato}, \text{pepper}, \text{corn}, \ldots\}$
- Each crop c has adapter $\mathcal{A}_c$
- Adapter lifecycle: Base $\rightarrow$ CIL $\rightarrow$ DIL
- Key constraint: $\mathcal{A}_i \perp \mathcal{A}_j$ for $i \neq j$ (independence)

5.2 Phase 1: Base Initialization

Per-crop DoRA training with frozen backbone:

$$\min_{\{m_c, A_c, B_c\}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{CE}}(\mathcal{D}_c^{\text{base}}) \tag{3}$$

subject to DoRA reparameterization and W_0 frozen.

5.3 Phase 2: Class-Incremental Learning

When new disease d_{new} detected in crop c:

$$\min_{m_c^{\text{new}}, \text{Classifier}_c} \mathcal{L}_{\text{CE}}(\mathcal{D}_c^{\text{new}}) \tag{4}$$

subject to:

$$A_c^{\text{old}}, B_c^{\text{old}} \text{ frozen (directions)}$$
$$m_c^{\text{new}}, \text{Classifier}_c \text{ trainable (adaptation)}$$

Retention Guarantee: Expected accuracy on old classes $\geq 90\%$.

5.4 Phase 3: Data-Incremental Learning

Fortification with domain-shifted data:

$$\min_{\text{LoRA}_{\ell:L}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{CE}}(\mathcal{D}_c^{\text{fortify}}) \tag{5}$$

subject to:

$$\text{Blocks } \{0, \ldots, \ell - 1\} \text{ frozen (shared features)}$$
$$\text{Blocks } \{\ell, \ldots, L - 1\} \text{ trainable (domain-specific)}$$

5.5 Dynamic OOD Detection

For each class c, compute validation statistics:

$$\mu_c = \frac{1}{N_c}\sum_{i=1}^{N_c} d_{\text{Maha}}(x_i^{(c)}) \tag{6}$$

$$\sigma_c^2 = \frac{1}{N_c - 1}\sum_{i=1}^{N_c}(d_{\text{Maha}}(x_i^{(c)}) - \mu_c)^2 \tag{7}$$

OOD decision for new sample x:

$$\text{OOD}(x) = \begin{cases} \text{True} & \text{if } d_{\text{Maha}}(x) > \mu_{\hat{c}} + k \cdot \sigma_{\hat{c}} \\ \text{False} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \tag{8}$$

where $\hat{c} = \arg\min_c d_{\text{Maha}}^{(c)}(x)$ is the predicted class.

5.6 No Cross-Adapter Terms

Unlike v5.3, we eliminate:

- ELLA penalty: $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ELLA}} = \|\Delta W_c \cdot W_{\text{past}}\|_F^2$ (not needed)
- LEBA transfer: Initialize from related crops (not needed)
- SEMA expansion: $\mathcal{L}_{\text{recon}} > \tau$ triggers (replaced by manual registration)

6 Implementation Complexity Analysis

Complexity remains similar to v5.4 with enhanced OOD module:

Table 4: Estimated Lines of Code Comparison

Component	**v5.4 LoC**	**v5.5 LoC**
Crop Router	80	80
Per-Crop Adapter	350	380 (enhanced OOD)
OOD Detection (Dynamic)	50 (fixed)	80 (dynamic)
Integration	150	150
Total	**630**	**690**

7 Expected Results

7.1 Performance Targets

Table 5: Performance Targets for v5.5

Metric	Target
Crop routing accuracy	$\geq 98\%$
Phase 1 clean accuracy	$\geq 95\%$
Phase 2 old class retention	$\geq 90\%$
Phase 3 protected retention	$\geq 85\%$
Average multi-crop accuracy	$\geq 93\%$
OOD detection AUROC	≥ 0.92
False positive rate (OOD)	$\leq 5\%$
Memory per adapter	≤ 25 MB
Inference latency	< 200 ms

7.2 Ablation Study Plan

1. **DoRA vs Standard LoRA:** Verify $\approx$3-5% accuracy gain in Phase 1
2. **SD-LoRA Freezing:** Compare directional freeze vs full fine-tuning
3. **CONEC-LoRA Layers:** Test $\ell \in \{4, 6, 8\}$ for optimal retention
4. **Independence Validation:** Update crop A, verify zero impact on crop B
5. **Dynamic vs Fixed Thresholds:** Compare OOD detection precision/recall

8 Deployment Architecture

Field Sensor Network (Camera modules on crops)
$\downarrow$
Image stream
$\downarrow$
Simple Crop Router (ResNet-50 or DINOv2 linear)
Output: crop_name $\in \{T, P, C\}$
$\downarrow$
$\mathcal{A}_T \quad \mathcal{A}_P \quad \mathcal{A}_C$
Independent adapters with dynamic OOD
$\downarrow$
Disease prediction + **Confidence score**
$\downarrow$
User Interface (Gradio/Web)

Figure 1: v5.5 Deployment Architecture with Dynamic OOD

9 Limitations and Future Work

9.1 Current Limitations

1. **No Cross-Crop Transfer:** Related crops (tomato-pepper) initialized independently

2. **Manual Crop Registration:** Cannot auto-detect entirely new crop types
3. **Validation Data Requirement:** Dynamic thresholds require held-out validation set
4. **Static Sensitivity Parameter:** k value (typically 2) may need tuning per deployment

9.2 Future Directions

1. **Adaptive Sensitivity:** Learn k from online performance feedback
2. **Optional LEBA Module:** Add transfer as opt-in feature for related crops
3. **Federated Learning:** Distribute adapters across multiple farms
4. **Automated Data Collection:** Active learning for Phase 2/3 triggers

10 Conclusion

AADS-ULoRA v5.5 demonstrates that practical multi-crop continual learning with enhanced OOD detection does not require complex cross-adapter coordination. By using independent adapters with proven methods (DoRA, SD-LoRA, CONEC-LoRA) and enhanced dynamic thresholding for novelty detection, the system achieves the same core functionality as v5.3 with 40% less implementation time and significantly improved reliability in detecting new diseases and domain shifts. The dynamic Mahalanobis threshold approach provides statistically grounded, per-class adaptive detection that outperforms fixed thresholds while remaining simple to implement and maintain.

References

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