

Scalable Hyperparameter Optimization for LLM Fine-Tuning



Bayesian and Partition-based optimization


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Summary

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3. Problem Definition
4. Methodology
5. Experiments
6. Conclusion

01 Introduction



Large Language Models

Summary

- ▶ State-of-the-art of Natural Language Processing (NLP) problems
- ▶ Architecture : Transformers[18] block, mixed with classical layers (MLP, Conv)
- ▶ Huge size : Billions of parameters (1B to 405B for Llama 3)
- ▶ 2 phases of training : pre-training and **fine-tuning**

Self Attention

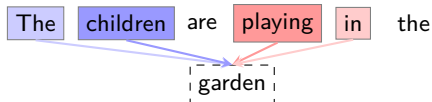


Figure: Self Attention mechanism illustration

Self attention is the key of LLM, used to compute the context of each token.

Fine-Tuning

Fine-tuning is used to correct behavior or add in-domain data to a model, with limited resources.

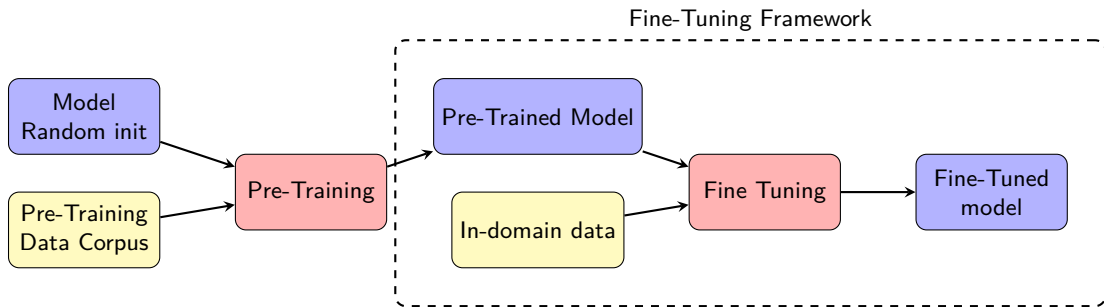


Figure: Pre-training and Fine-tuning generic workflow



Parameters Efficient Fine-Tuning (PEFT)

Set of methods aims to reduce the computation cost of fine-tuning. 2 approaches : *Additive* and *reparametrization*.

Reparametrization

Use lower-cost proxy as trainable weights, and merge at the end. Most famous method : LoRA [9]. These methods are hyperparameter-dependent.

Additive

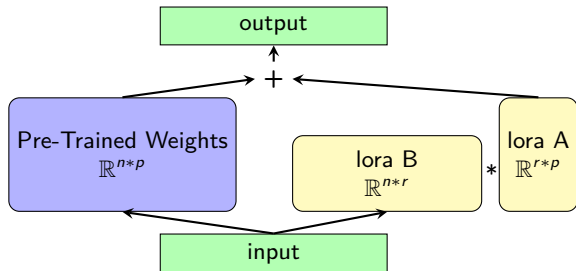
Add part of the model, often linear layer, to train these. One con is to add inference to generation.



Low Rank Adaptation (LoRA)

Principle

Merging Fine-tuning layers with pre-trained ones can be written as $W = W_0 + \Delta W$, with W_0 the pre-trained weights and ΔW the fine-tuned ones.



LoRA hyperparameters

- ▶ rank : the common dimension between A and B .
- ▶ alpha : apply a weighting between fine-tuning and pre-trained weights

Figure: LoRA Decomposition

02

Review of Related Works





Prompt Engineering

Prompt : process of interacting with an artificial intelligence (AI) system by providing specific instructions or queries to achieve a desired outcome.

Example with article [5], when a second LLM is used to modify the prompt.

Pros

Don't need to deal with architecture,
weights : act like the LLM is a generating
blackbox

Cons

Low impact, locate this work as the
end-user, not so much usable



LLM applied to Optimization

Multiples articles show the use of LLM to develop or code optimization algorithms, in particular Evolutionnary Algorithm. One intersting impact is to popularize the development of optimization algorithm.

Pros

Extend the fields of Meta-Heuristics, with new kinds of operators.

Cons

Low impact, don't achieve remarkable performance.



Auto DNN

Sub-domains

- ▶ **HyperParameter Optimization(HPO)** : Automatically define best hyper-parameters, from training to inference
- ▶ **Neural Architecture Search(NAS)** : Define the best architecture, from scratch or from pruning an existing one

Metrics

- ▶ Performance metrics : Accuracy, Latency
- ▶ Ressource metrics : inference time, memory usage, energy consumption

Summary

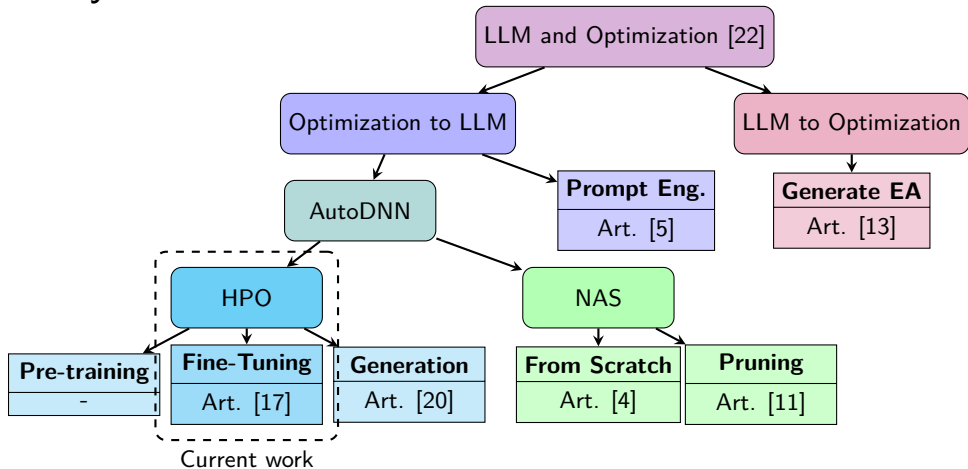


Figure: Summary of links between LLM and Optimization

03

Problem Definition





Problem Definition

This problem can be characterized the optimization of an **expensive, mixed-variable, noisy, blackbox** function.

Problem Formulation

The HPO problem can be defined as

$$\eta^* \in \arg \min_{\eta \in \mathcal{H}} \mathcal{F}(\eta) \quad (1)$$

Search Space \mathcal{H}

\mathcal{H} is the set of all values the solution tuple η can take. This stage includes method to handle the mixed-variables aspect of the problems.

Search Strategy

With η_i all the tested solutions, the search strategy is the method used to define the next solution η_{next} to evaluate.

Performance Evaluation Strategy

\mathcal{F} represent the objective function, how the function is implemented. Also includes method like multi-fidelity that affect the fidelity of the evaluation.

Search Space

The search space is composed of variables of different type.

Hyper-parameters

Hyper-parameter	Optimization range		Conversion
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	
Learning Rate	-10	-1	$f(x) = 10^x$
LoRA Rank	2	512	$f(x) = \text{round}(x)$
LoRA scale (α)	1	64	$f(x) = \text{round}(x)$
LoRA Dropout	0	0.5	$f(x) = x$
Weight Decay	-5	-1	$f(x) = 10^x$

Table: Summary of Hyperparameter Search Space

Conversion and naming convention is taken from LitGPT framework.

Search Strategy

The search strategy of an optimization problem can be seen as a balance between the exploration, i.e. going to unexplored regions, and exploitation, i.e. going close to promising areas. Here are the fields of optimization to tackle HPO problems. Standard optimization fields :

- ▶ sampling/exploratory : Grid Search, Random Search, Latin Hypercube Sampling
no exploitation, give a lower bound
- ▶ Bayesian Optimization : use surrogate to approximate the objective function, and optimize it.
weak parallel ability, strong exploitation
- ▶ Partition-Based Optimization : FDA, SOO, DiRect
innate parallel ability, slow convergence



Performance Evaluation Strategy

Evaluation context

In this part, there are many options, like the number of epochs (if not an hyperparameters), the precision of the model, the datasets of training or evaluation.

Objective function


For this problem, there are 2 ways to evaluate a solution :

- ▶ Loss (validation or testing) : the loss is computed through the training, and we can keep a small part of the datasets unused to use it the evaluate the model. Cons : dataset dependant, difficult to put in global context
- ▶ **Benchmark dataset (GLUE[19], MMLU[7])** : the accuracy on a literature benchmark dataset can be used to evaluate the training. It's interesting, since it's a good measure of generalization, since the model has not read this type of questions. Warning : the benchmark used during the optimization can't be used as a final testing.

Multi-fidelity approaches can be used to reduce the cost of evaluation in earlier steps. Algorithms like Bayesian Optimization and HyperBand (BOHB[2]) achieve cost-efficient optimization by reducing the part of the datasets in early stages.

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Methodology





Global HPO workflow

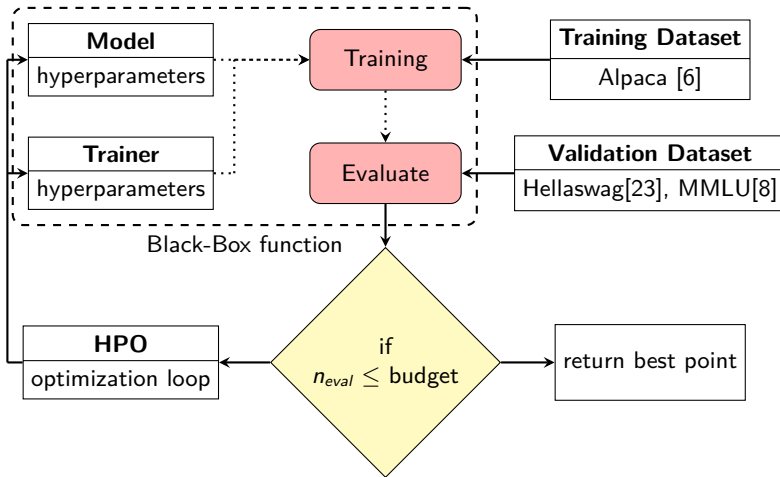


Figure: HPO workflow



Evaluate the solution

Use LitGPT framework with it's CLI to perform an evaluation of a solution. All models and datasets are taken from HuggingFace Hub.

Training

- ▶ Model : Llama-3.2-3B
- ▶ dataset : Alpaca
- ▶ 1 epochs of training
- ▶ Fully Sharded Data Parallelism (FSDP) as distributed strategy

Evaluating

Based on lm_eval library

- ▶ validation dataset : Hellaswag
- ▶ testing dataset : MMLU



Optimization algorithms I

Partition Based Algorithm : Simultaneous Optimistic Optimization (SOO)

Perform a K-inary partition of the space, evaluating every center of partition during the expansion of a node.

Algorithm 3.3: SOO

Input: Ω, f, K, n_{\max}

// initiate

- 1 $x_{0,0} \leftarrow \text{center}(\Omega)$
- 2 $f_{0,0} \leftarrow f(x_{0,0})$
- 3 $\mathcal{T}_1 \leftarrow \{x_{0,0}, f_{0,0}, \Omega\}$
- 4 $n \leftarrow 1$
- 5 **while** $n < n_{\max}$ **do**
- 6 $\nu_{\max} \leftarrow -\infty$
- 7 **for** $h \leftarrow 0$ **to** $\text{depth}(\mathcal{T}_n)$ **do**
- 8 $j \leftarrow \arg \max_{j \in \{j | (h,j) \in L_n\}} f(x_{h,j})$ // select function
- 9 **if** $f(x_{h,j}) > \nu_{\max}$ **then**
- 10 $\Omega_{h+1,j+1}, \dots, \Omega_{h+1,j+K} \leftarrow \text{section}(\Omega_{h,j}, K)$
- 11 **for** $i \leftarrow 1$ **to** K **do**
- 12 $n \leftarrow n + 1$
- 13 $x_{h+1,j+i} \leftarrow \text{center}(\Omega_n)$
- 14 $f_{h+1,j+i} \leftarrow f(x_{h+1,j+i})$ // Scoring function
- 15 $\mathcal{T}_n \leftarrow \{(x_{h+1,j+i}, f_{h+1,j+i}, \Omega_{n+1})\}$ // add_leaf function
- 16 $\nu_{\max} \leftarrow f_{h,j}$
- 17 **end**
- 18 **end**
- 19 **end**
- 20 **end**
- 21 **return** best of $x_{h,j}, f(x_{h,j})$



Optimization algorithms II

Surrogate Model Based Optimization : Bayesian Optimization with Gaussian Process (BO-GP)

Use Gaussian Process as a surrogate for the objective function, and optimize it to found the most promising point to evaluate

Algorithm 3.2: BO

Input: $\Omega, f, K_D, \mathcal{O}, f_{\text{acq}}, n_{\text{init}}, n_{\text{opt}}$
// initiate function

```
1 for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $n_{\text{init}}$  do
2    $\lambda' \leftarrow \text{LHS}(\Omega, \mathcal{D})$  // Sample one point
3    $\mathcal{D} \leftarrow \mathcal{D} \cup \{(\lambda', f(\lambda'))\}$  // Add solution and evaluation to set of data
4 end
5 for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $n_{\text{opt}}$  do
6    $\mu_D, K_D \leftarrow \text{Update}(K_D, \mathcal{D})$ 
7    $K_D \leftarrow \text{Fit}(\text{GP}(K_D), \mathcal{D})$ 
8    $\lambda' \leftarrow \text{Optimize}(f_{\text{acq}}(K_D), \mathcal{O})$  // Generate new point
9    $\mathcal{D} \leftarrow \mathcal{D} \cup \{(\lambda', f(\lambda'))\}$  // scoring function
10 end
11 return best of  $\{(\lambda^*, f(\lambda^*)) \in \mathcal{D}\}$ 
```



Optimization algorithms III

Hybridation : Bayesian Multi-Scale Optimistic Optimization(BaMSOO)

Replace the scoring of SOO with a BO-GP based approximation to determine if it's relevant to evaluate the point.

$$\mathcal{UCB}(x|\mathcal{D}_t) = \mu(x|\mathcal{D}_t) + B_N * \sigma(x|\mathcal{D}_t) \quad (2)$$

with $B_N = \sqrt{2 \log(\pi^2 N^2 / 6\eta)}$, $\eta \in (0, 1)$


Algorithm 3.4: BamSOO scoring

```

1 if  $\mathcal{UCB}(x_{h+1,j+i}, \mu, \sigma) \geq f^+$  then
2   |  $g_{h+1,j+i} \leftarrow f(x_{h+1,j+i})$ 
3   |  $t \leftarrow t + 1$ 
4 end
5 else
6   |  $g_{h+1,j+i} \leftarrow \mathcal{LCB}(x_{h+1,j+i}, \mu, \sigma)$ 
7 end
8 if  $g_{h+1,j+i} > f^+$  then
9   |  $f^+ \leftarrow g_{h+1,j+i}$ 
10 end
11  $n \leftarrow n + 1$ 
12  $\mathcal{T}_n \leftarrow \{(x_{h+1,j+i}, f_{h+1,j+i}, \Omega_{h+1,j+i})\}$ 
13 return best of  $x_{h,j}, g(x_{h,j})$ 

```

05 Experiments





Experimental Setup

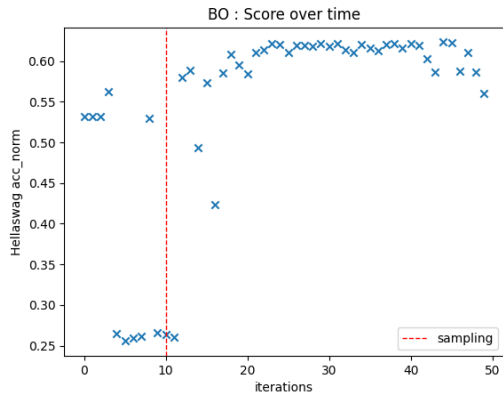
Experiments presented in this paper were carried out using the Grid'5000 testbed, supported by a scientific interest group hosted by Inria and including CNRS, RENATER and several Universities as well as other organizations (see <https://www.grid5000.fr>).

One evaluation on chuc cluster, using 4*A100 40G of VRAM GPU, is taking around 1 hour. Each algorithms have a budget of 50 evaluations, including the 10 sampling evaluation of BO.

Hellaswag bounds

- ▶ Upper bound : best accuracy on Hellaswag : 95.3%. Done with GPT4 model, with 10-shot evaluation
- ▶ Lower bound : Sampling without exploitation : 55,7%. Using one-shot LHS, with 10 picks to evaluate.

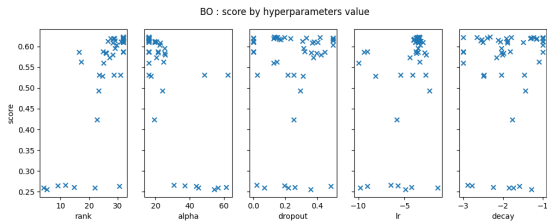
Score evolution



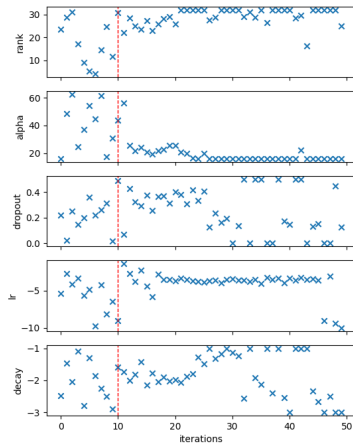
Results

Best score : 62.3%

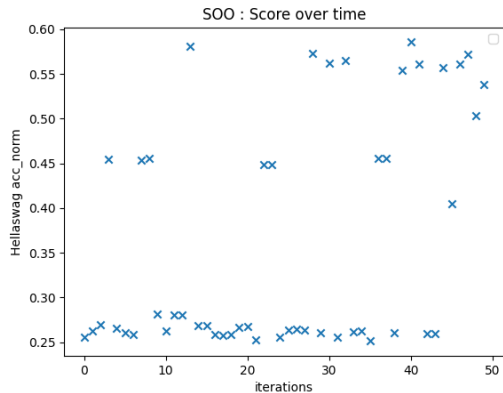
Score by variables and Variables over iterations



BO : hyperparameters over iterations



Score evolution

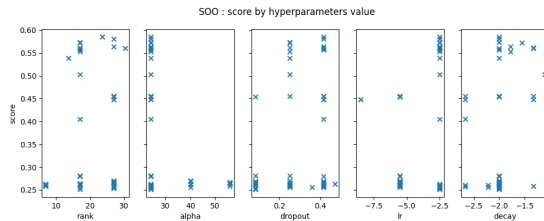


Results

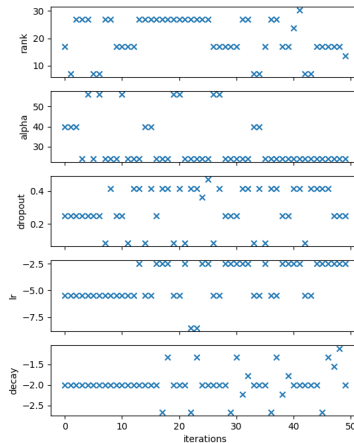
Best score : 58.4%

Slow convergence

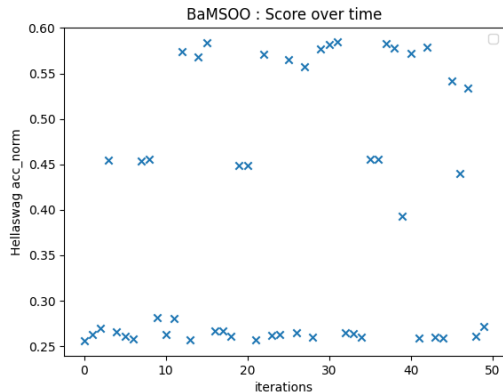
Score by variables and Variables over iterations



SOO : hyperparameters over iterations



Score evolution



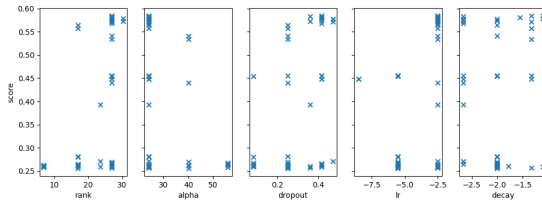
Results

Best score : 58.5%

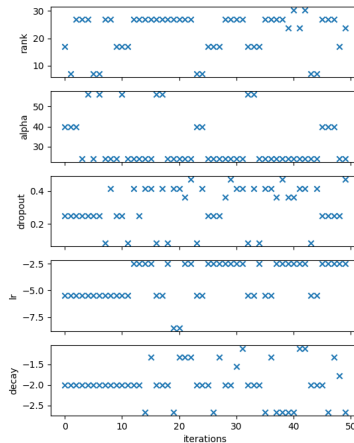
Not so much approximations, need to increase η in equation 2 to speed the convergence

Score by variables and Variables over iterations

BaMSOO : score by hyperparameters value



BaMSOO : hyperparameters over iterations





Conclusion

On a sequential comparison, BO-GP algorithms is the most efficient between these 3 algorithms, even considering the exploitation made by BamSOO algorithms. But this kind of performance needs to efficiently scale to be able to be usable with very expensive function, especially if the evaluation can't be distributed.

With it's acceleration using GP, BaMSOO keep most of the SOO abilities, in particular it's parallelism innate abilities, but achieve to be efficient with a smaller number of evaluation. To be able to effectively compare theses approaches, it's necessary to look at higher dimensionnal problem.



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Thank You.

