

Based on the paper "DynamicViT: Efficient Vision Transformers with Dynamic Token Sparsification", the loss function that constrains the pruning proportion is implemented as a Mean Squared Error (MSE) loss between the target pruning ratio and the actual pruning ratio at each stage. Here's the mathematical implementation:

The ratio constraint loss ( $L_{ratio}$ ) is defined as:

$$L_{ratio} = (1/BS) * \sum_{s=1}^S (\langle \hat{r}_s - r_s \rangle_{i=1}^N D_{b,i}(s))^2$$

Where:

- B is batch size
- S is number of sparsification stages
- $\langle \hat{r}_s - r_s \rangle$  is the pruning ratio at stage s
- N is number of tokens
- $D_{b,i}(s)$  is the binary decision mask (0 or 1) for token i in sample b at stage s

This loss ensures the model maintains the desired pruning ratio  $\langle \hat{r}_s - r_s \rangle$  allowing dynamic adjustment based on input content. The full loss combines this with classification loss ( $L_{cls}$ ), distillation loss ( $L_{distill}$ ), and KL divergence loss ( $L_{KL}$ ):

$$L_{total} = L_{cls} + \mu_{distill} * L_{distill} + \mu_{ratio} * L_{ratio}$$

Where they used  $\mu_{distill} = 0.5$ ,  $\mu_{ratio} = 2$  in their experiments.

The implementation uses Gumbel-Softmax to make the discrete pruning decisions differentiable during training, while during inference they simply keep the top-k tokens based on the predicted keeping probabilities.