



# Parameter Efficient Fine-tuning

LoRA, Adaptors, Prefix-tuning

# Finetuning LLMs

- Typical LLMs has 7B, 70B, 400B parameters.
  - Finetuning 70B will take around 1TB of VRAM with a batch size of 1.
    - My rule of thumb is usually  $\text{params} * 4 * \text{size(float)}$  for full finetune
      - Why? Optimizer states (momentum, etc), activation value, current weight value
    - Calculator <https://github.com/manuelescobar-dev/LLM-Tools>
    - Info on memory requirements <https://blog.scottlogic.com/2023/11/24/llm-mem.html> <https://blog.eleuther.ai/transformer-math/> <https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.10933>
- This is not practical for most users.



## Example Memory breakdown of LLM

		OPT-1.3B, 16bit- float, seq 512
cuDNN and CUDA		~1GB
Model weights	$\text{size(float)} * N$	2.6GB
Gradients	$\text{size(float)} * N_{\text{trainable}}$	2.6GB
Hidden state activations	$\sim \text{size(float)} L (20H \text{ seq} + 3 \text{ seq}^2)$	1 GB
Optimizer states	$2 * \text{size(float)} * N_{\text{trainable}}$	5.2 GB
(Maybe) fp32 copy of the gradients	$4 * N_{\text{trainable}}$	10.2 GB

Estimate 12.4 GB, actual 11.0 GB

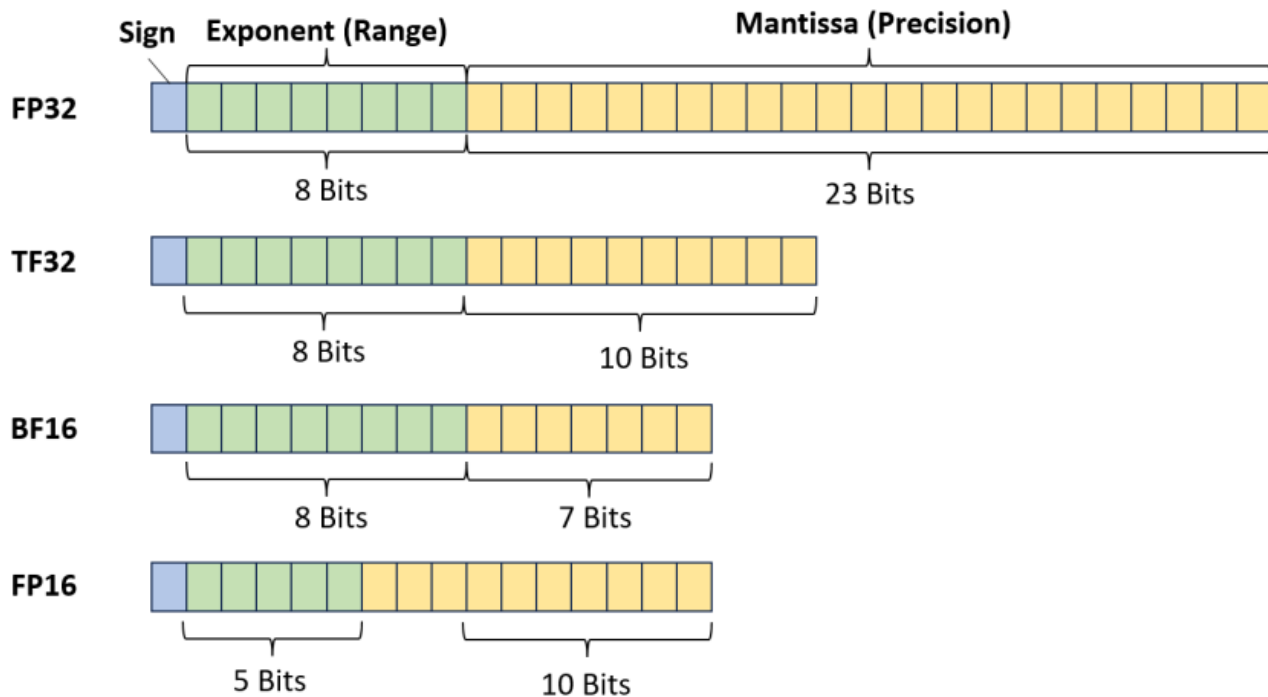
Tricks such as gradient/activation checkpointing can help reduce memory requirements for hidden states

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StdAJZsmw4>

[https://wandl-notebooks.readthedocs.io/en/latest/tutorial\\_notebooks/scaling/JAX/single\\_gpu\\_techniques.html#Gradient-Checkpointing-/-Activation-Recomputation](https://wandl-notebooks.readthedocs.io/en/latest/tutorial_notebooks/scaling/JAX/single_gpu_techniques.html#Gradient-Checkpointing-/-Activation-Recomputation)

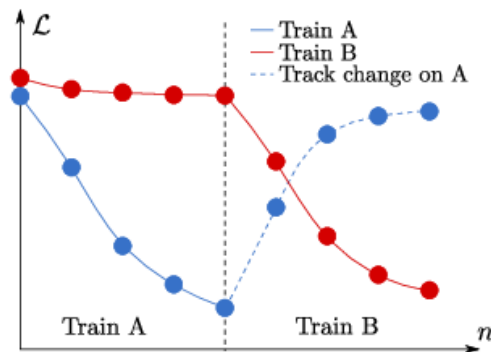
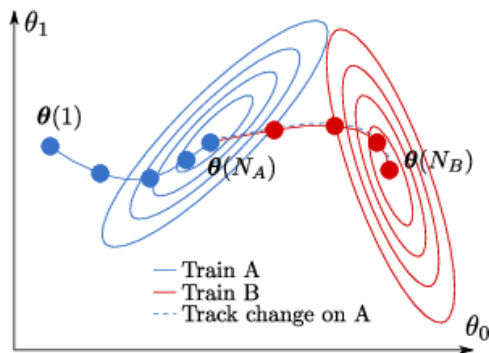
# Notes on precision

- Most transformer are trained in mixed precision. Usually BF16+FP32 or FP16+FP32



# Catastrophic Forgetting

- Finetuning on a new dataset usually makes the model forgets its original capabilities.
- More likely that your model will be dumber if you finetune a model on a small dataset
  - Remember Chinchilla Scaling Law?
- Instead of finetuning the entire model, let's focus on parts of the model instead



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# Parameter Efficient Fine-Tuning

# What if we train on less parameters

Train on 0.2M parameters

		OPT-1.3B, 16bit- float, seq 512
cuDNN and CUDA		~1GB
Model weights	$\text{size(float)} * N$	2.6GB
Gradients	$\text{size(float)} * N_{\text{trainable}}$	0.4MB
Hidden state activations	$\sim \text{size(float)} L (20H \text{ seq} + 3 \text{ seq}^2)$	1 GB
Optimizer states	$2 * \text{size(float)} * N_{\text{trainable}}$	0.8MB
(Maybe) fp32 copy of the gradients	$4 * N_{\text{trainable}}$	1.6MB

Estimate 4.6 GB, actual 5.7 GB

# Parameter Efficient Fine-tuning

0. In-context learning (Prompt Engineering)
1. Prefix-tuning
  - a. Append learnable tokens in the input
2. Adapter Module
  - a. Insert a small number of layers that are relatively small compared to the entire model.
3. Select parts of network to update
  - a. BiTFit, freeze and reconfigure
4. Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA)
  - a. Represent an adaptation weight (gradient) with a low-rank matrix.

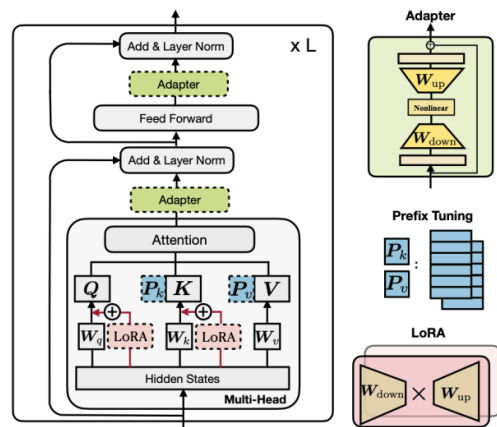
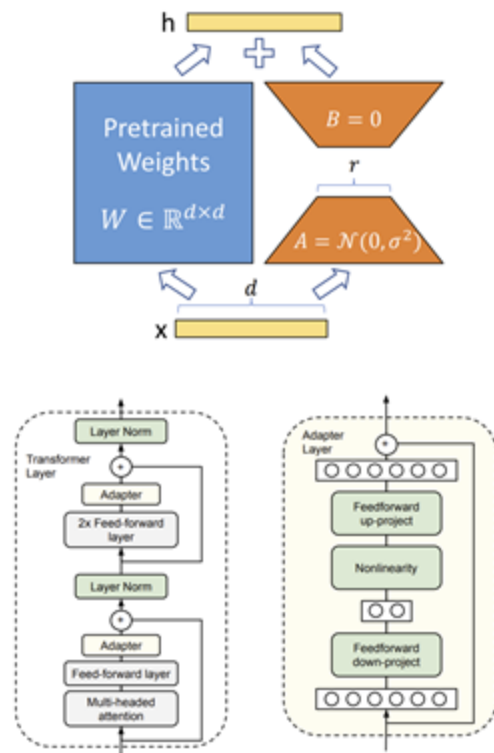


Figure 1: Illustration of the transformer architecture and several state-of-the-art parameter-efficient tuning methods. We use blocks with dashed borderlines to represent the added modules by those methods.





# Adapters

- Add small adapter layers after attention and feed forward layers.
- Only update these layers

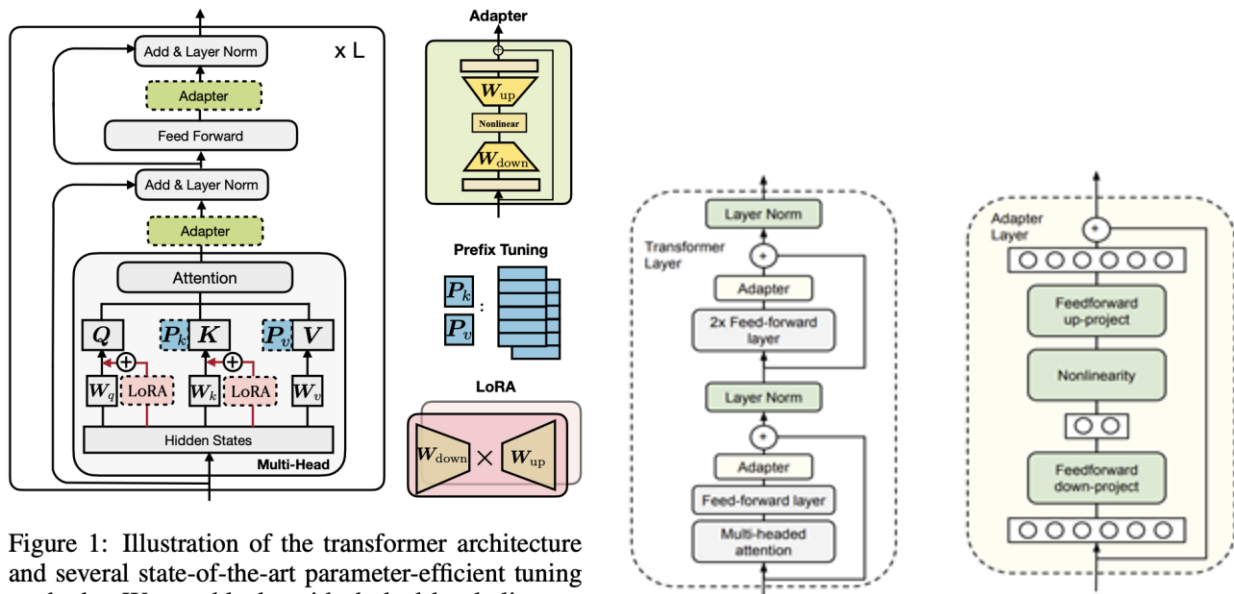
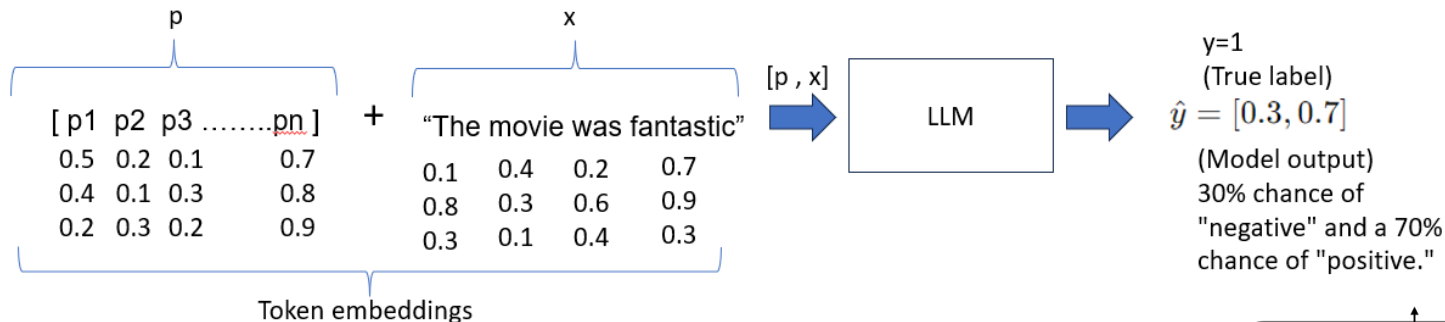


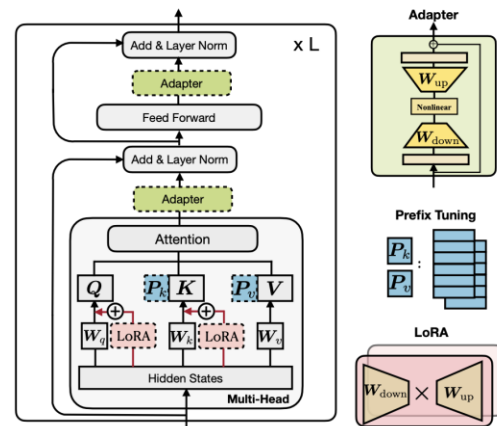
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# Prompt tuning / Prefix tuning

- Original idea: add a learnable token to the input text instead of prompt engineering your prompt



- Modern versions only append the key and value tokens (prefix tuning)
- Some people refer to this as a **soft prompt**



<https://developer.ibm.com/articles/awb-how-prompt-tuning-works/>

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2104.08691>

# Ladder Side-Tuning (LST)

- Add another branch to the original network.
  - Think of original model as multiple feature extractors
- Reduce the requirement to backprop over the entire network

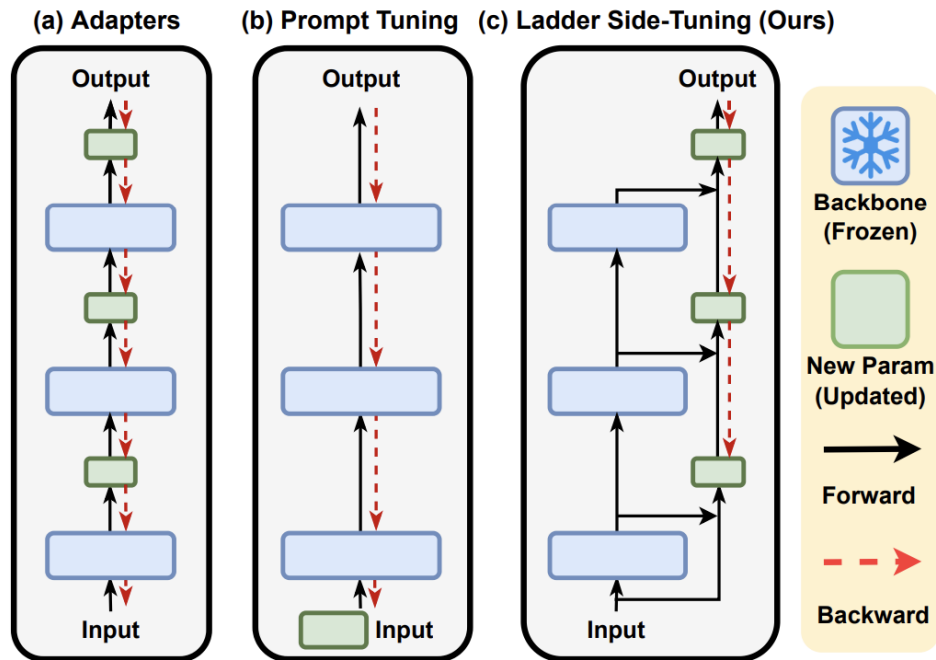


Figure 2: Comparison between transfer learning with (a) Adapters, (b) Prompt Tuning, and our (b) Ladder Side-Tuning (LST). LST reduces memory usage by removing the need of backpropagation through backbone networks.

# BitFit

- A kind of **selective finetuning**
- Finetune only the **bias** of the network
- Works well on the paper (BERT) but doesn't work well on LLM scale

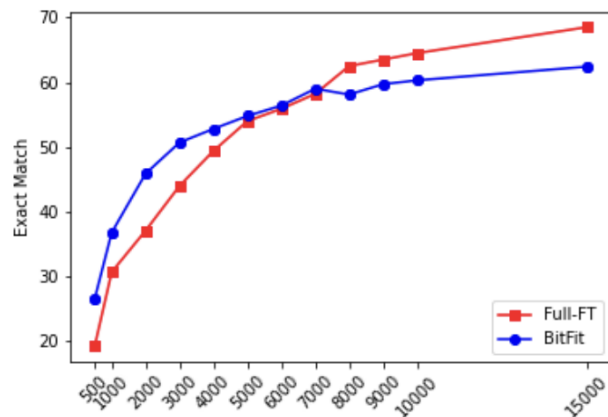
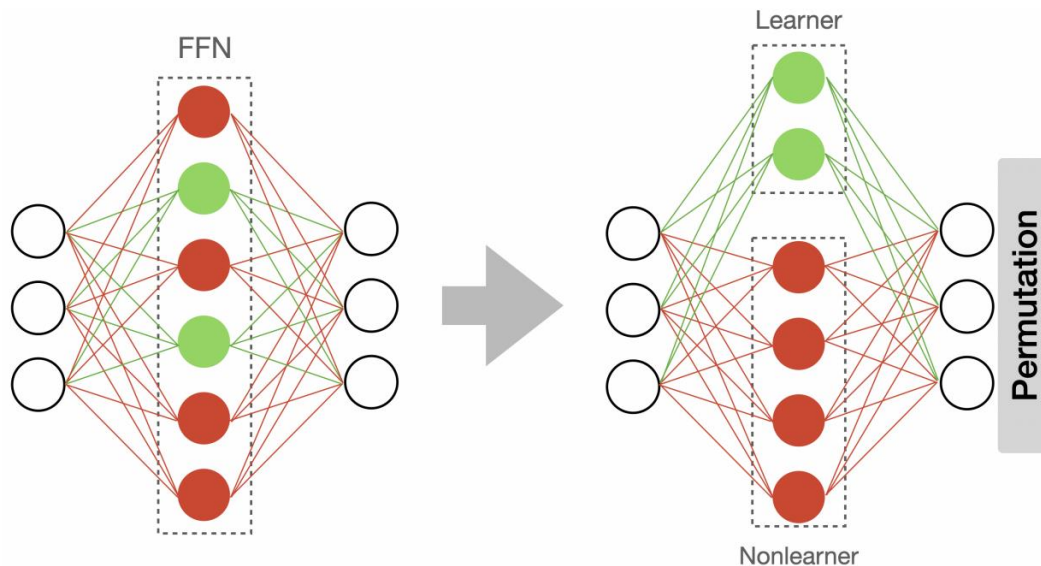


Figure 2: Comparison of BitFit and Full-FT with BERT<sub>BASE</sub> exact match score on SQuAD validation set.

# Squeeze and reconfigure

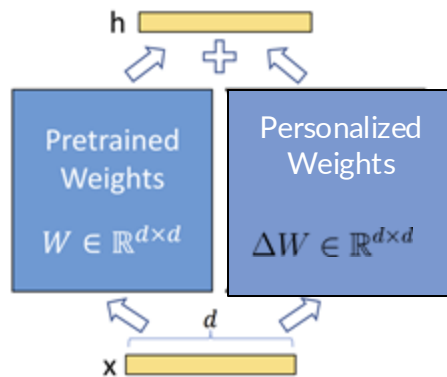
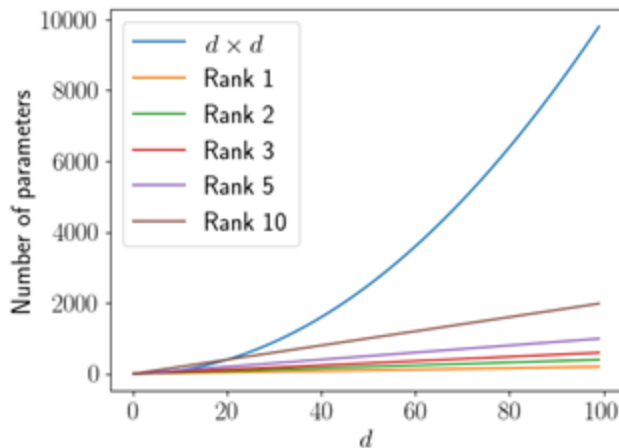
- Selects part of the network based on some criterion.
  - In the paper they used the size of the change in weight in full finetuning
- Only learn on that part



# Low-Rank Adaptation

LoRA compress the update weights using low-rank decomposition. You are essentially updating all weights in a low parameter space.

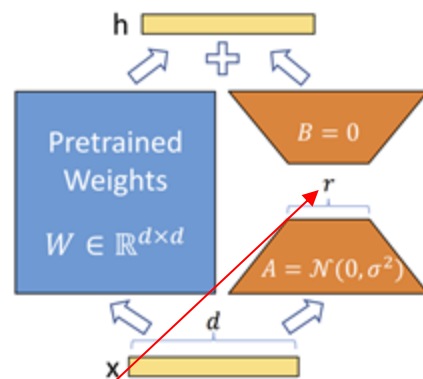
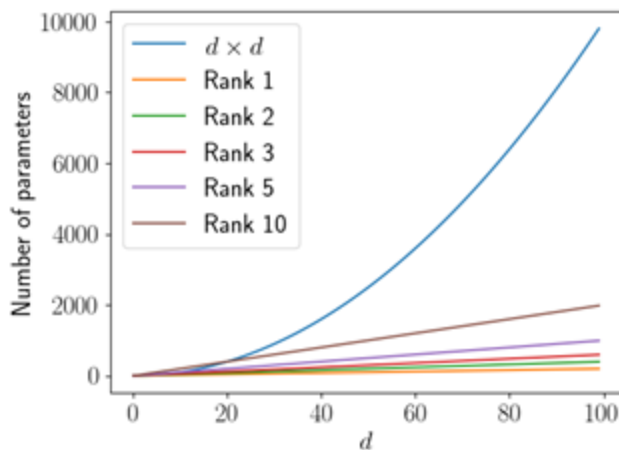
$$\Delta W = BA \quad B \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r} \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times d}$$



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$$\Delta W = BA \quad B \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r} \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times d}$$



$r$  – rank parameter in LoRA

# Low-Rank Adaptation

In the initialization process, we use a random Gaussian initialization for A and zero for B.

$$h = W_0x + \underset{0}{\cancel{\Delta W}}x = W_0x + BAx$$

Therefore, the model is initialized to be identical to the pretrained weights.

In addition, the paper proposes to scale low-rank matrices by  $\alpha/r$ , claiming that it helps reduce the need to adjust hyperparameters when varying  $r$ .

Can be seen as Learning Rate

Works well. Popularized by stable diffusion finetuning.

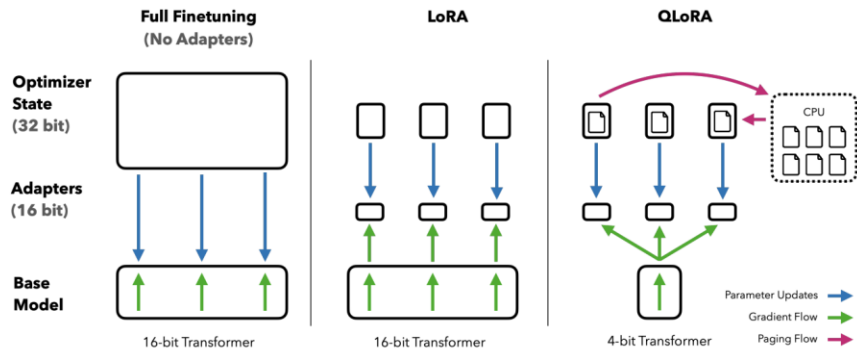
$$h = W_0x + \frac{\alpha}{r}BAx$$

Newer variants introduce dropout (peft library drops input  $x$ ). New paper drops B and A columns/rows.

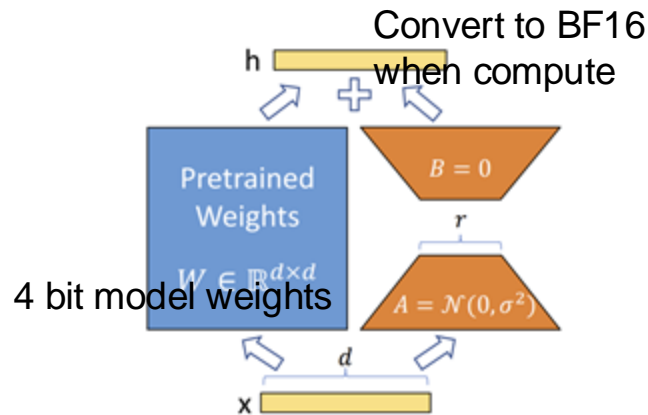
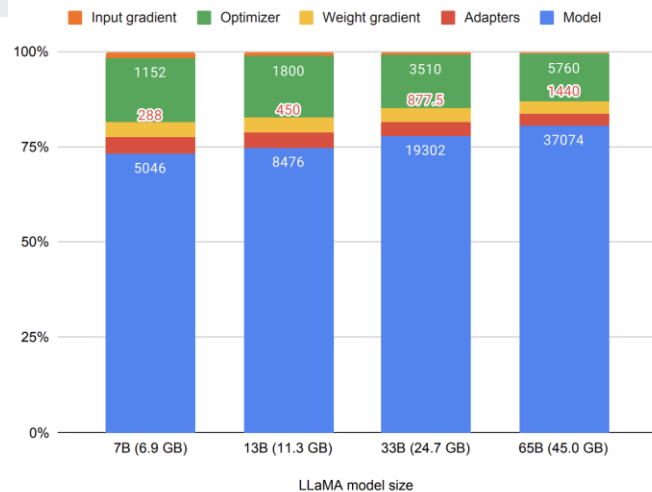


# QLoRA

- QLoRA is an implementation of LoRA that focuses on compute efficiency
- Quantize both the value and the quantization scaling (double quantization)
- LoRA that is done on a quantized weights of the original model
- Uses 4-bit NormalFloat (for weight storage) and BF16 (for compute)

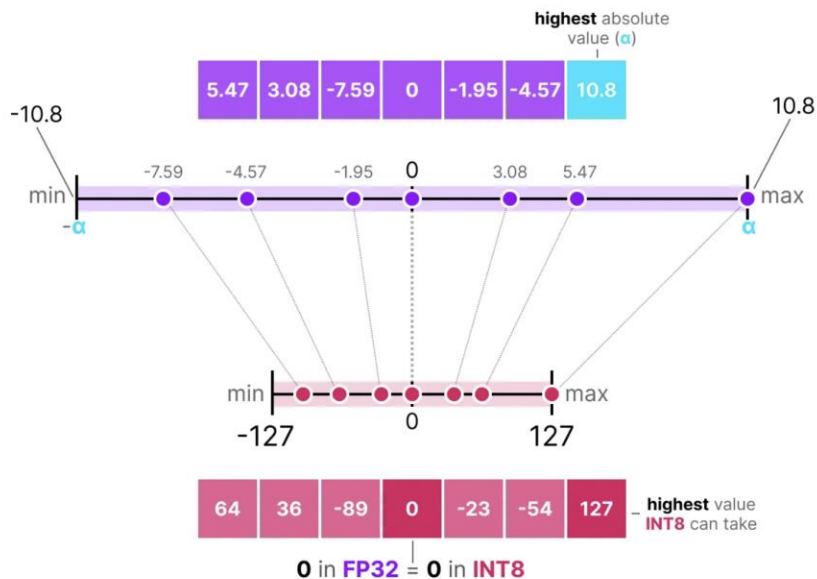


**Figure 1:** Different finetuning methods and their memory requirements. QLoRA improves over LoRA by quantizing the transformer model to 4-bit precision and using paged optimizers to handle memory spikes.



# Quick slide on Quantization

- Symmetric quantization keeps track of the  $\text{abs}(\text{max})$  for scaling to the quantized value



Note the [-127, 127] range of values represents the restricted range. The unrestricted range is [-128, 127] and depends on the quantization method.

$$s = \frac{2^{b-1} - 1}{\alpha} \quad (\text{scale factor})$$

$$x_{\text{quantized}} = \text{round}(s \cdot x) \quad (\text{quantization})$$

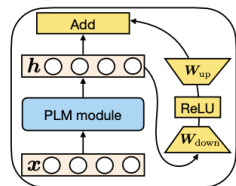
Filling in the values would then give us the following:

$$s = \frac{127}{10.8} = 11.76 \quad (\text{scale factor})$$

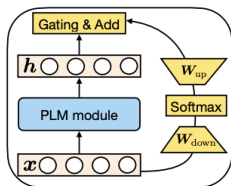
$$x_{\text{quantized}} = \text{round}(11.76 \cdot x) \quad (\text{quantization})$$

# Hybrid approaches

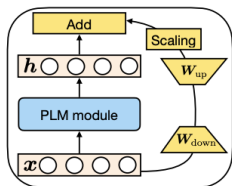
- There are MANY approaches that are based on these simple methods.
- Example MAM adaptors (Mix-and-Match adaptors)
  - Saced parallel adapter + prefixed finetuning
- S4 finds optimal combinations of PEFT



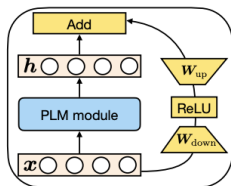
(a) Adapter



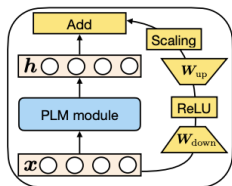
(b) Prefix Tuning



(c) LoRA



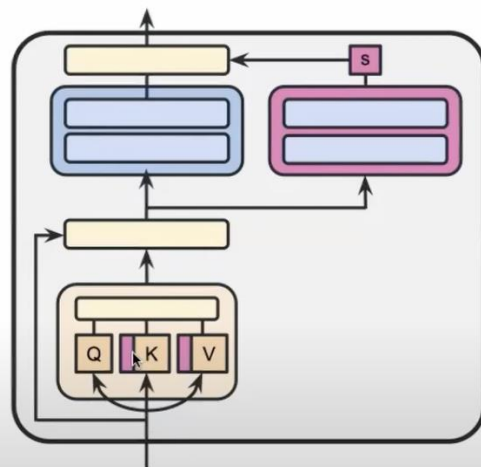
(d) Parallel Adapter



(e) Scaled PA

Table 2: Accuracy on the dev set of MNLI and SST2. MAM Adapter is proposed in §4.6. Bitfit numbers are from Ben Zaken et al. (2021).

Method (# params)	MNLI	SST2
Full-FT (100%)	87.6 $\pm$ .4	94.6 $\pm$ .4
Bitfit (0.1 %)	84.7	93.7
Prefix (0.5%)	86.3 $\pm$ .4	94.0 $\pm$ .1
LoRA (0.5%)	87.2 $\pm$ .4	94.2 $\pm$ .2
Adapter (0.5%)	87.2 $\pm$ .2	94.2 $\pm$ .1
MAM Adapter (0.5%)	<b>87.4<math>\pm</math>.3</b>	94.2 $\pm$ .3



# Performance comparison

- These depend on application and exact benchmarks, but people tends to fine LoRA to perform well.

Method	T5 <sub>LARGE</sub>	T5 <sub>3B</sub>	T5 <sub>11B</sub>
<b>Additive methods</b>			
Adapters (Houlsby)	<b>67.34</b> $\pm 9.58$	<u>74.66</u> $\pm 1.68$	<b>76.16</b> $\pm 1.47$
Adapters (Pfeiffer)	62.93 $\pm 3.52$	<u>69.92</u> $\pm 5.61$	50.72 $\pm 1.69$
Parallel Adapter	<u>66.78</u> $\pm 3.85$	<u>74.15</u> $\pm 0.88$	<u>68.74</u> $\pm 12.73$
IA3	55.06 $\pm 1.80$	41.77 $\pm 0.50$	61.05 $\pm 3.42$
Prefix Tuning	45.05 $\pm 3.89$	48.90 $\pm 5.37$	51.93 $\pm 2.21$
Prompt Tuning	8.97 $\pm 30.91$	8.38 $\pm 0.50$	-
<b>Selective methods</b>			
LN Tuning	<u>64.68</u> $\pm 4.59$	72.95 $\pm 1.38$	<b>73.77</b> $\pm 0.93$
<b>Reparametrization-based methods</b>			
LoRA (q and v)	<b>67.42</b> $\pm 2.32$	<b>75.49</b> $\pm 1.71$	<b>76.20</b> $\pm 1.27$
LoRA (all linear)	<b>68.76</b> $\pm 1.83$	<b>75.22</b> $\pm 1.28$	<b>76.58</b> $\pm 2.16$
KronA	<u>65.68</u> $\pm 3.27$	71.98 $\pm 0.57$	<u>72.13</u> $\pm 7.30$
<b>Hybrid methods</b>			
MAM	46.90 $\pm 6.47$	45.57 $\pm 4.67$	51.49 $\pm 0.54$
Compacter	64.48 $\pm 1.81$	70.72 $\pm 0.87$	<b>74.33</b> $\pm 1.40$
Compacter++	64.78 $\pm 2.23$	71.00 $\pm 1.62$	<b>74.72</b> $\pm 0.82$
Unipelt	44.10 $\pm 15.48$	47.16 $\pm 4.84$	52.29 $\pm 3.09$
Full tuning	67.22	74.83	73.25

Table 4: Average model performance on our collection of datasets (Section 11.1) with 95% confidence intervals (two standard deviations). We **bold** values that outperform full-tuning by mean value. We underline values that achieve full-tuning performance within the confidence interval.

# Some consideration on picking PEFT approaches

- Does it save storage size compared to full finetune (Disk)
- Whether it increases inference overhead (with additional parameters)
- Does it save memory when training (RAM)
- Some method does not require you to backprop through parts of the original model (BP)

Method	Type	Efficiency			Inference overhead
		Disk	RAM	BP	
Adapters (Houlsby et al., 2019)	A	✓	✓	✗	+ FFN
AdaMix (Wang et al., 2022)	A	✓	✓	✗	+ FFN
SparseAdapter (He et al., 2022b)	AS	✓	✓	✗	+ FFN
Cross-Attn tuning (Gheini et al., 2021)	S	✓	✓	✗	No overhead
BitFit (Ben-Zaken et al., 2021)	S	✓	✓	✗	No overhead
DiffPruning (Guo et al., 2020)	S	✓	✗	✗	No overhead
Fish-Mask (Sung et al., 2021)	S	✓	✗ <sup>5</sup>	✗	No overhead
LT-SFT (Ansell et al., 2022)	S	✓	✗ <sup>5</sup>	✗	No overhead
Prompt Tuning (Lester et al., 2021)	A	✓	✓	✗	+ input
Prefix-Tuning (Li and Liang, 2021)	A	✓	✓	✗	+ input
Spot (Vu et al., 2021)	A	✓	✓	✗	+ input
IPT (Qin et al., 2021)	A	✓	✓	✗	+ FFN and input
MAM Adapter (He et al., 2022a)	A	✓	✓	✗	+ FFN and input
Parallel Adapter (He et al., 2022a)	A	✓	✓	✗	+ FFN
Intrinsinc SAID (Aghajanyan et al., 2020)	R	✓	✗	✗	No overhead
LoRa (Hu et al., 2022)	R	✓	✓	✗	No overhead
DoRA (Liu et al., 2024)	R	✓	✓	✗	No overhead
UniPELT (Mao et al., 2021)	AR	✓	✓	✗	+ FFN and input
Compacter (Karimi Mahabadi et al., 2021)	AR	✓	✓	✗	+ FFN
PHM Adapter (Karimi Mahabadi et al., 2021)	AR	✓	✓	✗	+ FFN
KronA (Edalati et al., 2022)	R	✓	✓	✗	No overhead
KronA <sub>res</sub> <sup>B</sup> (Edalati et al., 2022)	AR	✓	✓	✗	+ linear layer
(IA) <sup>3</sup> (Liu et al., 2022)	A	✓	✓	✗	+ gating
Attention Fusion (Cao et al., 2022)	A	✓	✓	✓	+ decoder
LeTS (Fu et al., 2021)	A	✓	✓	✓	+ FFN
Ladder Side-Tuning (Sung et al., 2022)	A	✓	✓	✓	+ decoder
FAR (Vucetic et al., 2022)	S	✓	✓	✗	No overhead
S4-model (Chen et al., 2023)	ARS	✓	✓	✗	+ FFN and input

# More on PeFT

- Refer to the paper <https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.15647> for overview of other methods.
- <https://github.com/symbol/Parameter-Efficient-Transfer-Learning-Benchmark> for computer vision benchmarks

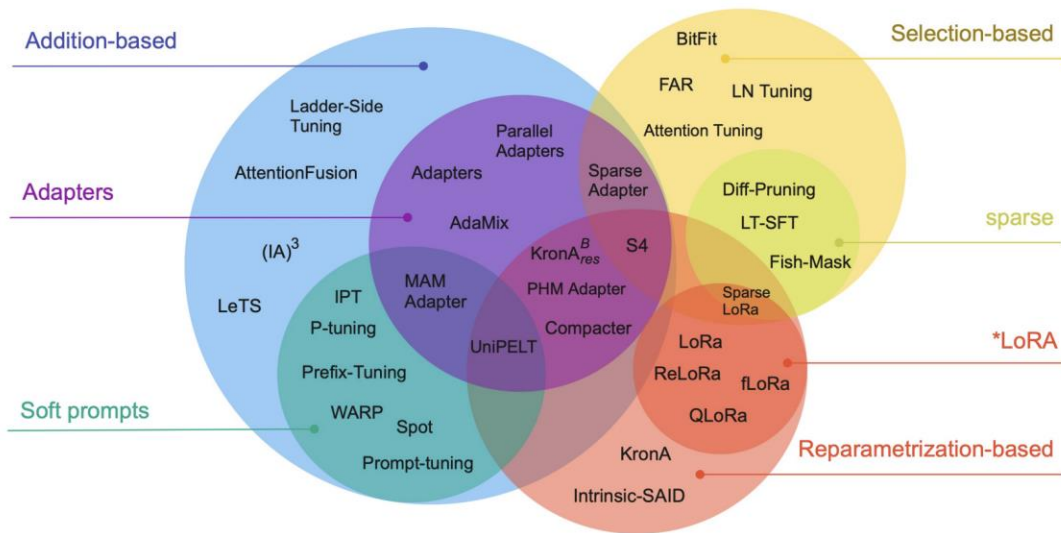
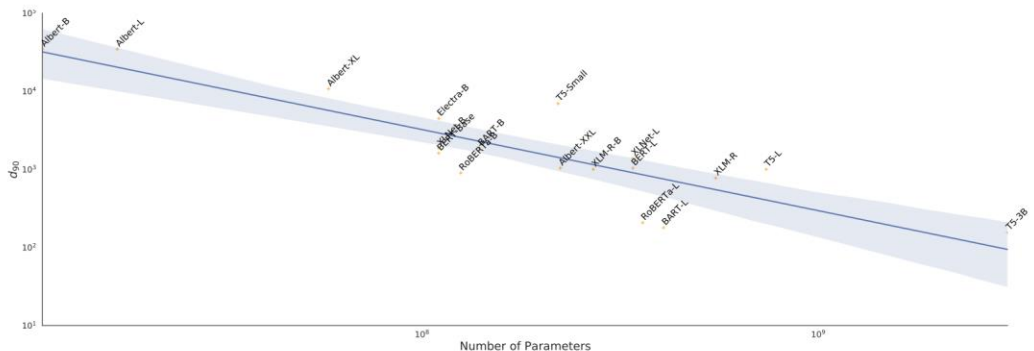
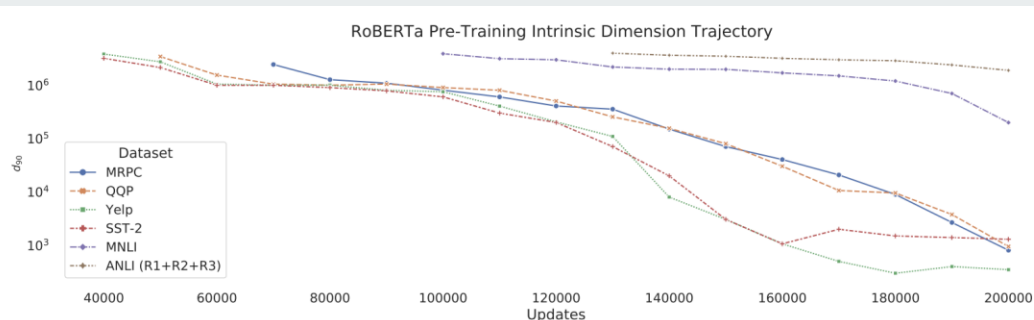


Figure 2: Parameter-efficient fine-tuning methods taxonomy. We identify three main classes of methods: **Addition-based**, **Selection-based**, and **Reparametrization-based**. Within additive methods, we distinguish two large included groups: **Adapter-like** methods and **Soft prompts**.

# Scaling and PEFT

- Large/better pre-trained models require a small amount of parameters to be finetuned
  - The larger the model the smaller the amount of parameters need to be changed
  - Ex Typhoon-2 uses LoRA rank = 8 to finetune from base models (LLAMA 3 and Qwen2)
- Implications
  - PEFT should always be used in finetuning large models



<https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.13255>

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2412.13702>

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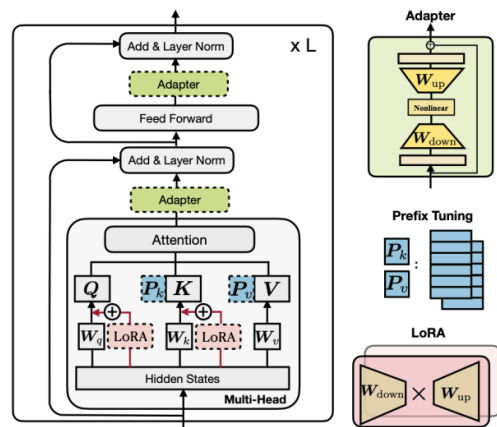
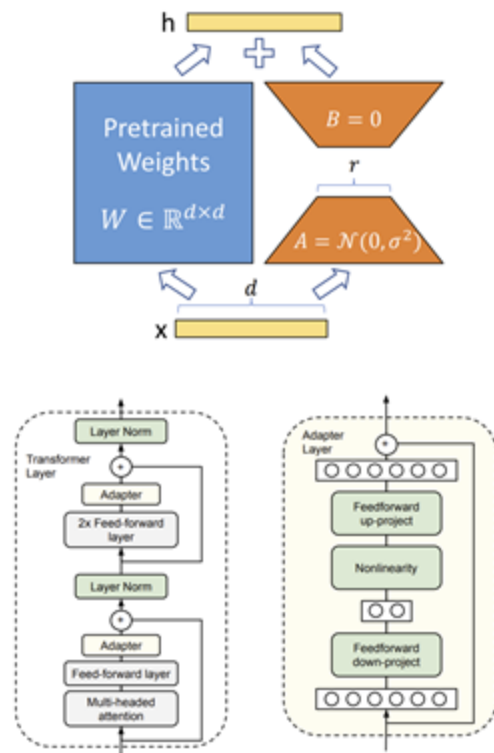


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# Prompt engineering

- Prompt engineer does not learn any weight updates
- But you don't have to train!
  - If you have a long prompt, you are paying for it in inference compute.
  - KV Caching can help.