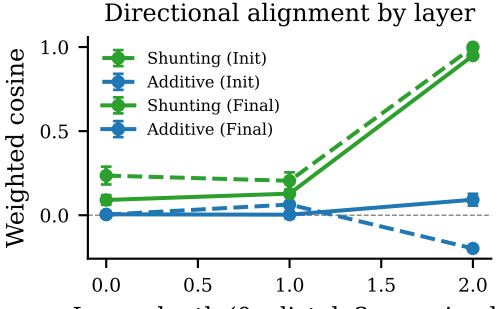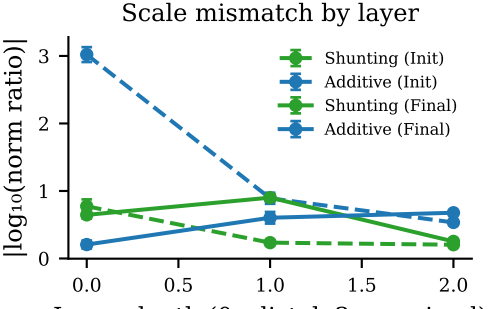Layer-by-layer gradient quality