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Using probing to train a classifier is a powerful approach to tailor generative AI foundation models, like BERT, for specific applications. By adding a modestly-sized neural network, known as a classification head, to a foundation model, one can specialize in particular tasks such as sentiment analysis. This technique involves freezing the original model's parameters and only adjusting the classification head through training with labeled data. Ultimately, this process simplifies adapting sophisticated AI systems to our needs, providing a practical tool for developing efficient and targeted machine learning solutions.

Technical Terms Explained:

Probing: This is a method of examining what information is contained in different parts of a machine learning model.

Linear Probing: A simple form of probing that involves attaching a linear classifier to a pre-trained model to adapt it to a new task without modifying the original model.

Classification Head: It is the part of a neural network that is tailored to classify input data into defined categories.