ML2025 HW9 Model Merging

TAs: 黃筱穎、陳又華、謝翔

Email: ntu-ml-2025-spring-ta@googlegroups.com

Deadline: 2025/6/6 23:59:59 (UTC+8)

Links

- Course Website
- NTU COOL
- Colab Sample Code
- Kaggle Sample Code
- Dataset
- <u>ludgeboi</u>
- PEFT ckpts: <u>GSM8K</u>, <u>ARC</u>
- TA version peft package
- How to build a private customized peft package (Tutorial Slide)

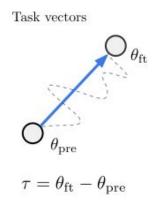
Outline

- Task Description
- Dataset
- Eval Metric and Answer Extraction
- Merging Algorithms, TODO and Hints
- Submission and Grading
- Reference

- Goal: Learn to merge models with distinct capabilities at the parameter level to build a unified, multi-task model without additional training
- Explore various model merging algorithms to develop a unified model that preserves or improves performance across two tasks

Model Merging

 Def. refer to the process of merging models with simple arithmetic on parameters without retraining from scratch or accessing original training data, to preserve or integrate capabilities from each source model (e.g., tasks, domains) into a unified model



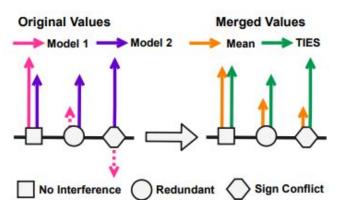
 $au_{
m new} = au_A + au_B$ au_A

Learning via addition

Example: building a multi-task model

Model Merging

- recent emergence of large foundation models and pretraining-finetuning paradigm have motivated more merging techniques \rightarrow *Multi-Task Learning*
- redundant parameter or sign conflicts in different task vectors ⇒
 parameter interference → degraded performance



Lee, Yeoreum, Jinwook Jung, and Sungyong Baik. "Mitigating Parameter Interference in Model Merging via Sharpness-Aware Fine-Tuning." *The Thirteenth International Conference on Learning Representations.*

- Most Important: During merging, avoid problems like parameter interference, etc. to preserve performance on both math (GSM8K) and science (ARC) reasoning tasks
- TAs have finished PEFT on two individual tasks (freeze base model).
 - o base model: <u>llama-2-7b-chat-bnb-4bit</u> (llama-2-7b-chat quant ver.)
 - LoraConfig: r=8, target_modules=["q_proj", "k_proj", "v_proj"],
 lora_alpha=16, lora_dropout=0.05 (LoRA related, refer to HW5)
 - Performances (Accuracy)
 - after FT: science (63%), math (52.5%)
 - base: science (44%), math (37%)

Science (ARC) example after PEFT

Question:

A scientist discovers that a certain substance will be useful in treating nerve damage. What is the best way she can communicate her results to the scientific community? (A) She can call other scientists who also work in nerve research. (B) She can write a letter to hospitals that treat patients with nerve damage. (C) She can put her conclusions on a Web site that focuses on the nervous system. (D) She can publish her results in a scientific journal that covers issues relating to nerves.

Answer after PEFT:

The answer is (D) She can publish her results in a scientific journal that covers issues relating to nerves. Scientific journals are the primary means of communicating scientific research to the scientific community. They provide a platform for scientists to share their findings with other scientists, and they are peer-reviewed, meaning that other scientists review and evaluate the research before it is published. This helps ensure that the research is accurate and reliable. Calling other scientists, writing a letter to hospitals, or putting conclusions on a Web site are not as effective in communicating the results to the scientific community.</s>

Math (GSM8K) example after PEFT

Question:

Lloyd has an egg farm. His chickens produce 252 eggs per day and he sells them for \$2 per dozen. How much does Lloyd make on eggs per week? (A) 294 (B) 312 (C) 320 (D) 432

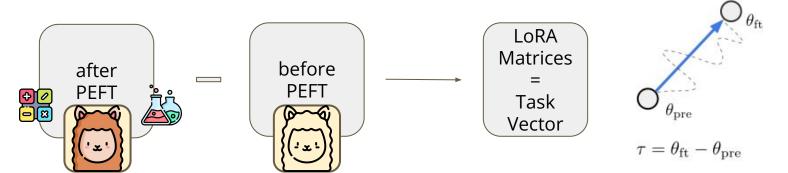
Answer after PEFT:

Lloyd has 252 eggs / 12 eggs = <<252/12=21>>21 dozens of eggs. Lloyd makes 21 dozens of eggs * \$2/dozen = \$<<21*2=42>>42 per day. Lloyd makes \$42/day * 7 days/week = \$<<42*7=294>>294 per week. The answer is (A) 294. </s>

 <u>peft</u>: Parameter-Efficient Fine-Tuning package can help us <u>operate</u> <u>arithmetic</u> on LoRA matrices



- relationship between LoRA weights and task vectors
 - The difference between "before peft" and "after peft" is the newly fine-tuned LoRA weights. → Task information is respectively stored in low-rank matrices. → called as "Task Vector" → When merging task vectors of two tasks, we are merging their corresponding task capabilities.

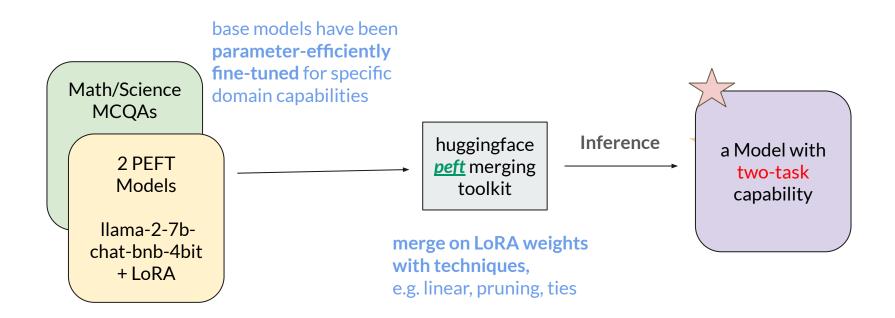


Task Description: Overall

 Use peft package to apply arithmetic operations on LoRA weights and inference the merged model on two tasks.

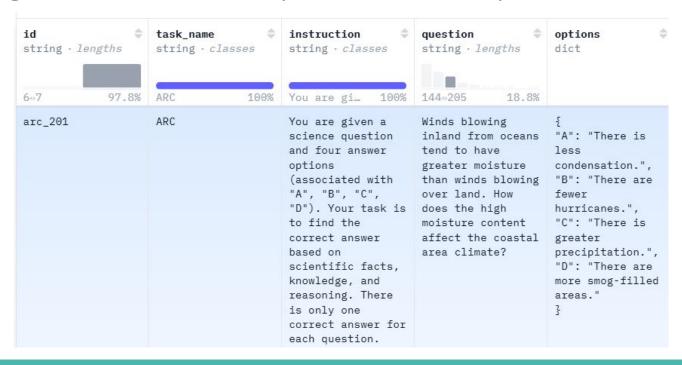
 during inference of all questions, you must use the same merged model (consistent merging setting)

Task Description: Overall

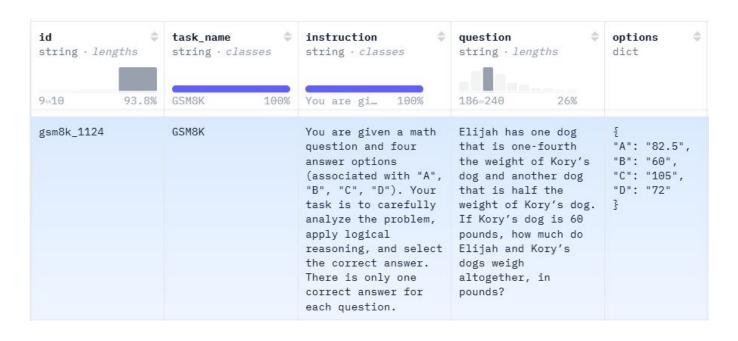


- 400 multi-choice questions from both <u>ARC(Easy, Challenge)</u> and <u>GSM8K(MCQA ver.)</u> datasets
- correct <u>dataset link</u> (huggingface)

ARC (grade-school level, multiple-choice science questions)



GSM8K (grade school math word problems, multiple-choice questions ver.)



Eval Metric and Answer Extraction

- Evaluation Metric
 - Accuracy on 400 MCQA problems
- Answer Extraction Methods (on Judgeboi)
 - LLM Judge (GPT-40) to retrieve the actual predicted option

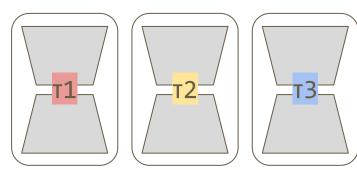
Merging Algorithms, TODO and Hints

- In HW9, we implement merging on LoRA A/B matrices of the two fine-tuned checkpoints (task vectors of the science and math mcqa tasks).
- <u>peft</u> package helps apply merging algorithms directly on tensor (matric) level, on all task vectors.

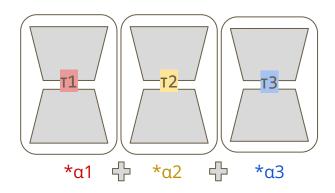
Terminology in Merging Algorithms

3 common variables from the implementation in *peft*...

- task vector т
 - LoRA A and B matrices within [q_proj, k_proj, v_proj] modules in all attention layers, each matrix with shape (4096,8) (tensor)
- weights list(α)
 - weights or scalar coefficients of task vectors
- density d
 - fraction of values to preserve in a matrix



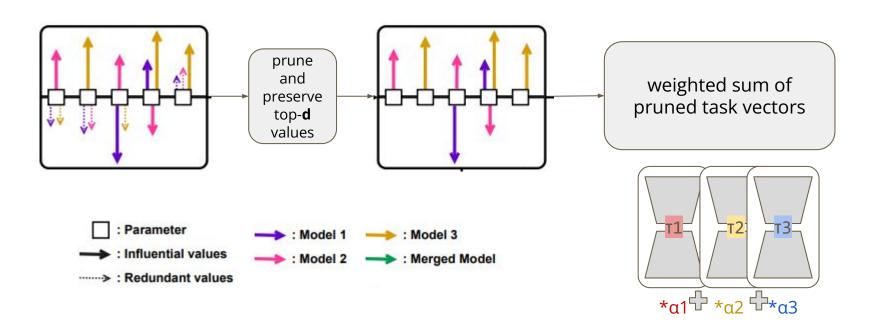
Task Arithmetic / linear (weights)



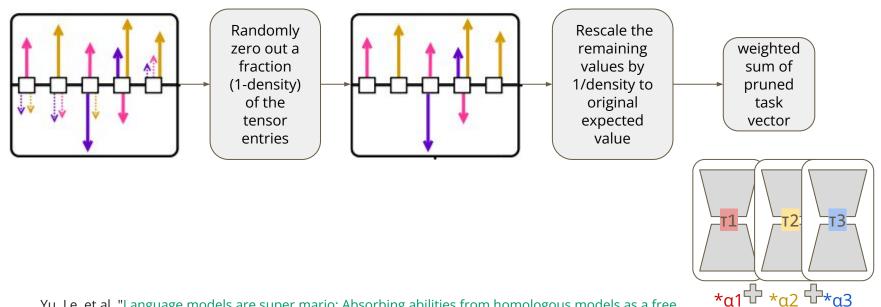
weighted sum of task vectors

Arrow: direction \rightarrow sign, length \rightarrow magnitude

Magnitude Prune (density, weights)



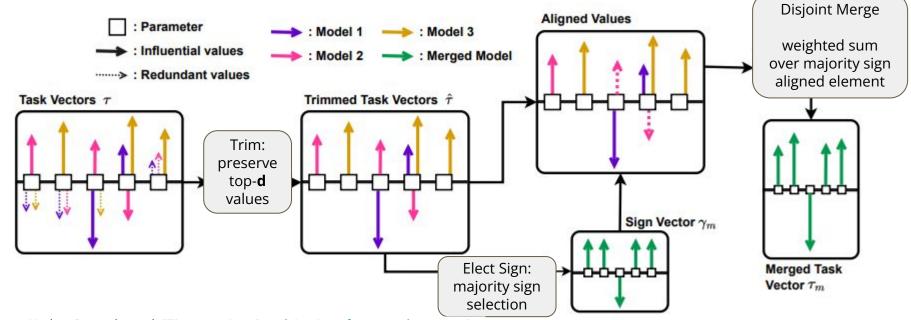
DARE Linear (density, weights)



Yu, Le, et al. "<u>Language models are super mario: Absorbing abilities from homologous models as a free lunch</u>." Forty-first International Conference on Machine Learning. 2024.

- DARE Linear
 - derive task vectors
 - Drop: randomly zero out a fraction (1 d) (Bernouli(d) masks) of the tensor entries to preserve vector elements with density d
 - And
 - REscale: rescale remaining ones by 1/d to approximate expected value of the original embeddings
 - weighted sum refined task vectors

TIES (density, weights)



Yadav, Prateek, et al. "<u>Ties-merging: Resolving interference when merging models.</u>" *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems* 36 (2023): 7093-7115.

- TIES
 - derive task vectors
 - Trlm: prune task vector by magnitude, preserve top-d important parameters
 - Elect Sign: Determine +/- for each parameter by summing up (total/frequency)
 - Disjoint Merge: weighted sum over majority sign aligned elements

TIES

```
Algorithm 1 TIES-MERGING Procedure.
```

Input: Fine-tuned models $\{\theta_t\}_{t=1}^n$, Initialization θ_{init} , k, and λ .

Output: Merged Model θ_m for all t in 1, ..., n do

```
D Create task vectors.  \tau_t = \theta_t - \theta_{\text{init}}  D Step 1: Trim redundant parameters.  \hat{\tau}_t \leftarrow \text{keep\_topk\_reset\_rest\_to\_zero}(\tau_t, k)   \hat{\gamma}_t \leftarrow sgn(\hat{\tau}_t)   \hat{\mu}_t \leftarrow |\hat{\tau}_t|
```

end

D Step 2: Elect Final Signs.

$$\gamma_m = sgn(\sum_{t=1}^n \hat{\tau}_t)$$

D Step 3: Disjoint Merge.

forall p in 1, ..., d do

$$\begin{vmatrix} \mathcal{A}^p = \{t \in [n] \mid \hat{\gamma}_t^p = \gamma_m^p\} \\ \tau_m^p = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}^p|} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{A}^p} \hat{\tau}_t^p \end{vmatrix}$$

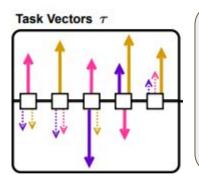
end

D Obtain merged checkpoint

$$\theta_m \leftarrow \theta_{\text{init}} + \lambda * \tau_m$$

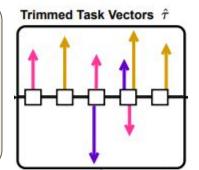
return θ_m

SCE (density)



Select (prune)

consider element variances between task vectors



 $\eta_{j,m} = rac{\sum \hat{\delta}_{j,m}^2}{\sum_j \sum \hat{\delta}_{j,m}^2}$

Calculate coefficient

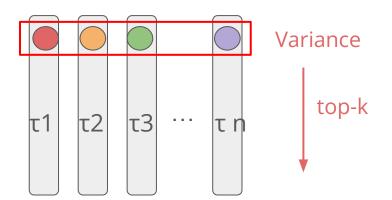
calculate the sum of squares of elements Erase minority elements

select majority sign of elements Disjoint Merge

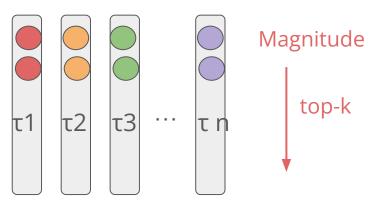
weighted sum over majority sign aligned element

- SCE v.s. TIES
 - Select similar to pruning, further consider variations across different task vectors
 - Trim prune each task vector individually

SCE (select across vectors)



TIES (trim individually)



- SCE
 - derive task vectors
 - S: select top-k variance elements in matrices (among different task vectors)
 - v.s. TIES (pruning individually)
 - C: sum of squares of elements to obtain merging coefficient for each target LLM
 - **E**: filter elements with minority directions

SCE

Algorithm 1 SCE Procedure

Input: target LLMs parameters $\{\phi_j\}_{j=1}^{K-1}$, pivot

LLM parameters θ_v , threshold τ . **Output:** merged LLM parameters Φ

D Create fusion vectors

$$\{\delta_j\}_{j=1}^{K-1} = \{\phi_j - \theta_v\}_{j=1}^{K-1} \tag{5}$$

 ▷ Calculate parameter matrix-level merging coefficients

for
$$\{\delta_{j,m}\}_{j=1}^{K-1} \in \{\delta_j\}_{j=1}^{K-1}$$
 do

$$\{\hat{\delta}_{j,m}\}_{j=1}^{K-1} = \text{Select}(\{\delta_{j,m}\}_{j=1}^{K-1}, \tau)$$
 (6)

$$\{\eta_{j,m}\}_{j=1}^{K-1} = \text{Calculate}(\{\hat{\delta}_{j,m}^2\}_{j=1}^{K-1}) \quad (7) \quad \eta_{j,m} = \frac{\sum \hat{\delta}_{j,m}^2}{\sum_j \sum \hat{\delta}_{j,m}^2}$$

$$\{\delta'_{i,m}\}_{i=1}^{K-1} = \text{Erase}(\{\hat{\delta}_{i,m}\}_{i=1}^{K-1})$$
 (8)

□ Update merged LLM parameters

$$\Phi_{m} = \theta_{v,m} + \sum_{j=1}^{K-1} \eta_{j,m} \delta'_{j,m}$$
 (9)

end

return Φ

Merging Algorithms - TODO

Reference Repo: acree-ai mergekit (Recommend)

• Implement SCE in *peft*

```
@merge method(
    name="sce",
    pretty name="SCE",
    reference url="https://arxiv.org/abs/2408.07990",
def sce merge(
    tensors: List[torch.Tensor],
    base tensor: torch.Tensor,
    int8 mask: bool = False,
    select topk: float = 1.0,
) -> torch.Tensor:
    if not tensors:
        return base tensor
    mask dtype = torch.int8 if int8 mask else base tensor.dtype
    task vectors = torch.stack([t - base tensor for t in tensors], dim=0)
    if select topk < 1:
        mask = sce mask(task vectors, select topk, mask dtype)
        task vectors = task vectors * mask.unsqueeze(0)
    erase mask = sign consensus mask(task vectors, method="sum", mask dtype=mask dtype)
    tv weights = sce weight(task vectors)
```

Merging Algorithms - TODO

Additional functions for implementing SCE Algorithms

```
def sce_weight(task_tensors: torch.Tensor) -> torch.Tensor:
   # Implementation of C step
   # Compute squared magnitude (energy) per task
  weights = torch.mean(task tensors**2, dim=list(range(1, task tensors.dim())))
   # Sum all weights to normalize
  weight_sum = torch.sum(weights).item()
   # Handle edge case: if all task tensors are 0, fallback to uniform weights
  if abs(weight sum) < 1e-6:
      return torch.ones_like(weights) / weights.shape[0]
   # Normalize to form a probability distribution over tasks
  return weights / weight sum
```

Ref 1: <u>acree-ai mergekit</u> (Recommend)

Ref 2: FuseChat mergekit

Merging Algorithms - TODO

```
def sce mask(task tensors: torch.Tensor, density: float, mask dtype: Optional[torch.dtype] = None):
    # Implementation of S step (sce mask)
    if density <= 0: # If density is zero, mask out everything
        return torch.zeros like(task tensors, dtype=mask dtype)
    if density >= 1: # If density is one, keep everything
        return torch.ones like(task tensors, dtype=mask dtype)
    var = torch.var(task tensors, dim=0, unbiased=False) # Compute variance over the task dimension (T) for
each parameter
    nonzero = torch.count nonzero(var) # Count how many parameters have non-zero variance
    k = int(nonzero * density) # Compute number of parameters to keep based on density
    if k == 0:
        return torch.zeros like(task tensors, dtype=mask dtype)
    _, indices = torch.topk(var.abs().view(-1), k=k, largest=True) # Select the indices of top-k variances
    # Build binary mask with 1s in selected indices
    mask = torch.zeros like(var, dtype=mask dtype)
    mask.view(-1)[indices] = 1
    return mask
```

TODO - clone and modify peft package

Q. how to build a private customized peft package for accessing modified peft package on Colab/Kaggle? \rightarrow <u>Tutorial Slides</u>

- Generate a private peft github repo from <u>TA-version peft repo(Use this template)</u>, clone and modify certain .py modules in peft to include your own merging methods in the package
- Push your local modification to remote (private repo)
- Either modify existing algorithms or add new algorithms into peft package
- modules to be modified
 - add functions to include your own merging methods peft/src/peft/utils/merge_utils.py
 - o add combination_type: peft/src/peft/tuners/lora/model.py LoraModel.add_weighted_adapter()

TODO - clone and modify peft package

```
in peft/src/peft/utils/merge utils.py:
def ties(
   task tensors: List[torch.Tensor],
   weights: torch. Tensor,
    density: float,
   majority_sign_method: Literal["total", "frequency"] = "total",
) -> torch.Tensor:
     # sparsify
     # Elect Sign
     # weighted task tensors
      # Disjoint Merge
      return...
#### todo: Add new methods, reuse modules in other algorithms ####
#### e.g. if you want to implement "sce" algorithm ####
def sce(task tensors, density, majority sign method) -> torch.Tensor:
      return ...
```

TODO - clone and modify peft pachage

```
in peft/src/peft/tuners/lora/model.py:
#### todo: import function of new methods here ####
from peft.utils.merge utils import magnitude prune, ties
class LoraModel:
     def add weighted adapter(self, adapters, weights, adapter name, combination type, density,
     majority_sign_method):
           if ...
           #### todo: remember to add func names of new methods here ####
           elif combination type in ["linear", "ties", "dare linear", "dare ties", "magnitude prune"]:
      def generalized task arithmetic weighted adapter(self, combination type, adapters, weights, target,
      density, majority sign method):
           #### todo: remember to add corresponding combination type to call functions here ####
           elif combination type == "ties":
                lora deltas[i] = ties(task tensors, valid weights, density, majority sign method)
```

TODO - push modified peft to the remote private repo

• How to access the private customized peft package on colab notebook

On colab/kaggle

```
username = "github_user_name"
peft_repo = "private_peft_repo_name"
token = "your_github_repo_access_token"
repo = f"github.com/{username}/{peft_repo}.git"
pip install git+https://{username}:{token}@{repo}
for example:
pip install git+https://monica0325:{token}@github.com/monica0325/peft_private.git
```

• remember to add new if/else conditions in the sample code to merge weights with new algorithms in peft package

TODO - experiment with different algorithms

- merge in possible (weights, density) pairs and inference on two tasks
- modify generation config
- select the optimal results, save 400 {"id": "response"} pairs to a json file and submit to Judgeboi
 - e.g. {{"arc_1": "Therefore, option (A) is the correct answer."}, ...}

Estimate inference time: 2~4 hr /400 samples (Colab T4)

Hints

- Experiment with or without some steps in an algorithm to understand which step plays more important role in merging.
- "Pruning" sometimes mitigate parameter interference effectively, but this condition may change in other algorithms.
- Modify GenerationConfig (hyperparamter tuning) (<u>ref 1</u>, <u>ref 2</u>, hw5 ppt)
 - decoding strategy: greedy decoding (do_sample=None), temperature, top-k, top-p, beam search(num_beam > 0)
 - max length of generation: max_new_len (also affect inference time)
- Print and observe the generated responses during inference to assess whether a new merging configuration might lead to improved performance.

Hints

- Possible reasons for long inference (> 4 hr):
 - o max new length (default: 400)
 - o beam search (when num_beam > 1)
 - degeneration (repetition, illogical or redundant texts) because of strong parameter interference

[Reminder!] For arithmetic reasoning tasks like GSM8K, a step-by-step reasoning process is essential. The correctness of intermediate steps plays a critical role, as any logical or computational mistake along the way can ultimately result in an incorrect final answer.

[Suggestion!] Pay particular attention to the consistency between intermediate reasoning steps and the final selected option. (If the predicted answer doesn't exactly match one of the provided choices, model may choose the closest matching answer rather than the correct one.)

Grading and Submission

Grading and Submission - Baselines & Grading

	ARC Acc.	GSM8K Acc.	Score	Hint	
Public Simple Baseline	≥ 49%	≥ 38%	+1	Task Arithmetic, Magnitude Prune, TIES, DARE, SCE	Estimated Inference Time 2~4hr /400q
Private Simple Baseline			+1		
Public Medium Baseline	≥ 53%	≥ 42%	+1		
Private Medium Baseline			+1		
Public Strong Baseline	≥ 56%	≥ 48%	+1		
Private Strong Baseline			+1		
Code Submission	-	-	+4		

Grading and Submission - Judgeboi

- Please submit the pred.json to judgeboi. (only .json file is allowed)
- The prediction file (pred.json) must follow the below structure:
 - Root must be a dictionary ({}).
 - Each key must be a string representing an ID (e.g., "arc_1", "gsm8k_32").
 - Each value must be a string containing the model-generated response without input prompt.

- **5** submission quota per day, reset at 23:59 (UTC+8).
- Each submission takes about a minimum of 6~7 minutes to evaluate.

submit before deadline: 2025/06/06 23:59:59 (UTC+8).

No late submission is allowed.

- Submit your code to NTU COOL. (4 points)
 - Please remember to submit all the .py files you have modified or added in the peft package. These files will be used by the TAs to reproduce your code (merging settings). During the reproduction process, the TA will replace the corresponding files in the original TA version of the peft package with the ones you submitted.
 - Remember to submit the main .ipynb file or .py scripts that cover the complete inference process.
 - DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR PRIVATE TOKEN IN YOUR SUBMISSION.
 - You need to provide a README, regardless of the program execution environment.
 - In the README, you must specify the absolute path (peft package) of modified files. This is to help the TAs correctly replace and overwrite the corresponding files during the reproduction process.
 - We can only see your last submission.
 - Compress your code into _hw9.zip. (e.g. b13901001_hw9.zip)
 - After TAs unzip your _hw9.zip, all your files should locate under a directory called _hw9.
 - All the English alphabets in your student ID should be in lowercase.

- How to write a README?
 - For the submitted files related to the peft package, clearly specify its absolute path within the peft package, e.g. "b13901001_hw9_1.py: /peft/src/peft/utils/merge_utils.py"
 - Specify your environment(colab, kaggle...) and GPU(T4, T4*2, P100...).
 - List all references used to finish the homework.
 - Which part of code is generated by which model(GPT, Gemini, Grok...). Shared link for the chat is better.
 - Website link, NTU Cool discussion, Offline discussion with classmates(Student IDs)...
 - If you run the code in your environment instead of colab or kaggle.
 - Specify the python version.
 - Provide a requirements.txt for additional installed packages.
 - If you decompose sample code into multiple scripts.
 - Specify the function of each file.
 - Provide a step-by-step instruction for running your scripts with correct commands and execution order.
 - If you have no idea.
 - Ask <u>README Generator</u>.

- README Example
 - To assist TAs in automatically reproducing your results, please clearly list any files you have modified or added within the PEFT package.
 - Provide a code block tagged as `replace` with the following format:

```
```replace <your_filename.py>: <absolute_path_in_peft> ```
```

```
In README.md
Main file
```main
b13901001_hw9_1.ipynb

## PEFT Package Modification for TA Reproduction
```replace
b13901001_hw9_2.py: /peft/src/peft/utils/merge_utils.py
b13901001_hw9_3.py: /peft/src/peft/tuners/lora/model.py
```

- Structure of the zipped file:
  - \_hw9
    - \_hw9\_1.ipynb or .py or .sh
    - hw9\_2.ipynb or .py or .sh
    - **...**
    - README.md
- Examples for valid structure of the zipped file:
  - o b13901001 hw9
    - b13901001\_hw9\_1.ipynb
    - README.md
  - o b13901001\_hw9
    - b13901001\_hw9\_1.py
    - b13901001\_hw9\_2.py
    - b13901001\_hw9\_3.sh
    - README.md

- If your code is not reasonable or reproducible, you will receive 0 points for this homework.
- Deadline: 2025/06/06 (Fri.) 23:59 (UTC +8)

### Regulations

- Do NOT share codes or prediction files with any living creatures.
- Do NOT use any approaches to submit your results more than 5 times a day.
- During the inference of 400 questions, you must use the same merged model. (consistent merging setting, any cheating is not allowed)
- You are NOT allowed to fine-tune your own ckpts of two tasks in this homework.
- You are NOT allowed to modify instructions, questions and options (prompts) in HW9.
- All refining code should also be included in the code submission, involving all modified files/modules in your peft package.
- You should NOT modify your input file or prediction files manually.
- Do NOT search for the answers for the inference data.
- Make sure that TAs can reproduce the predictions using the code you submit.
- Please protect your own work and ensure that your answers are not accessible to others. If your work is found to have been copied by others, you will be subject to the same penalties.
- You will receive 0 points for this homework if you violate any of the above rules.
- Prof. Lee & TAs preserve the rights to change the rules & grades.

### If any questions, you can ask us via...

- NTU COOL (recommended)
- Email
   <u>ntu-ml-2025-spring-ta@googlegroups.com</u>

   The title should begin with "[hw9]"
- TA hours
   Each Friday During Class
   Time: 13:30 14:10; 17:30 18:00

# Reference

### Reference

base model: <a href="https://huggingface.co/unsloth/llama-2-7b-chat-bnb-4bit">https://huggingface.co/unsloth/llama-2-7b-chat-bnb-4bit</a>

PEFT related:

https://huggingface.co/docs/peft/index,

https://huggingface.co/docs/peft/developer\_guides/model\_merging

papers of Merging Algorithms: <u>Task Arithmetic</u>, <u>TIES</u>, <u>DARE</u>, <u>SCE</u>

Mergitkit: acree-ai mergekit, FuseChat mergekit