



# *p*-Laplacian Adaptation for Generative Pre-trained Vision-Language Models

Haoyuan Wu\*, Xinyun Zhang\*, Peng Xu,  
Peiyu Liao, Xufeng Yao, Bei Yu

Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Feb. 08, 2024



# Introduction



- ① By leveraging massive amounts of unlabeled data during training, pre-trained vision-language models can learn highly performant and generalizable representations, leading to improvements on various downstream tasks.
- ② As model sizes continue to grow rapidly, fine-tuning is increasingly affected by the parameter-efficiency issue. To address this challenge, researchers proposed parameter-efficient fine-tuning to achieve high parameter efficiency and demonstrated promising results on various downstream tasks.

# Attention in transformer



Given query  $\mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_1 \times d_k}$ , key  $\mathbf{K} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_2 \times d_k}$  and value  $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_2 \times d_v}$ , attention aggregates the features by:

$$\text{Attn}(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{K}, \mathbf{V}) = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{V}, \quad (1)$$

where

$$\mathbf{M} = \text{softmax} \left( \frac{\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^\top}{\sqrt{d_k}} \right) \quad (2)$$

represents the attention weights,  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are the number of the query and key/value features, respectively.



An adapter is a small learnable module containing two matrices  $\mathbf{W}_{\text{down}} \in \mathbb{R}^{l_1 \times l_2}$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_{\text{up}} \in \mathbb{R}^{l_2 \times l_1}$  and a non-linear function  $\sigma(\cdot)$ , where  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are the feature dimensions in pre-trained models and the hidden dimension in adapter (usually  $l_2 < l_1$ ). Given a feature  $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times l_1}$  in the pre-trained model, the adapter encoding process can be represented as:

$$\mathbf{U}' = \sigma(\mathbf{U}\mathbf{W}_{\text{down}})\mathbf{W}_{\text{up}} + \mathbf{U}. \quad (3)$$

---

<sup>1</sup>Neil Houlsby et al. (2019). "Parameter-efficient transfer learning for NLP". In: *Proc. ICML*. PMLR.



From Equation (3) and Equation (1), we can formulate the features sequentially encoded by attention and adapter as:

$$\mathbf{U}' = \sigma(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{V}\mathbf{W}_v\mathbf{W}_o\mathbf{W}_{\text{down}})\mathbf{W}_{\text{up}} + \mathbf{M}\mathbf{V}\mathbf{W}_v\mathbf{W}_o, \quad (4)$$

where  $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_1 \times N_2}$  is the attention matrix computed by the transformed query  $\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{W}_q$  and key  $\mathbf{K}\mathbf{W}_k$  using Equation (2).

# Modeling adapter as graph message passing

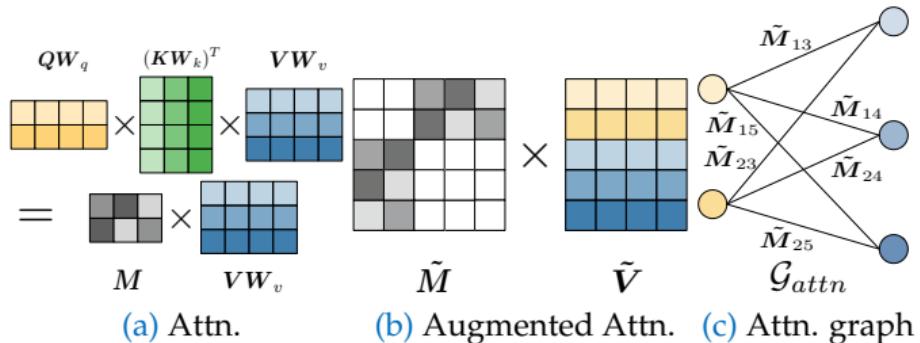


Illustration of the generation of the bipartite attention graph  $\mathcal{G}_{attn}$ .

We define the augmented value feature  $\tilde{V}$  which concatenates the transformed query and value and the augmented attention matrix  $\tilde{M}$  as

$$\tilde{V} = \begin{bmatrix} QW_q \\ VW_v \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{M} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & M \\ M^\top & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

# Modeling adapter as graph message passing

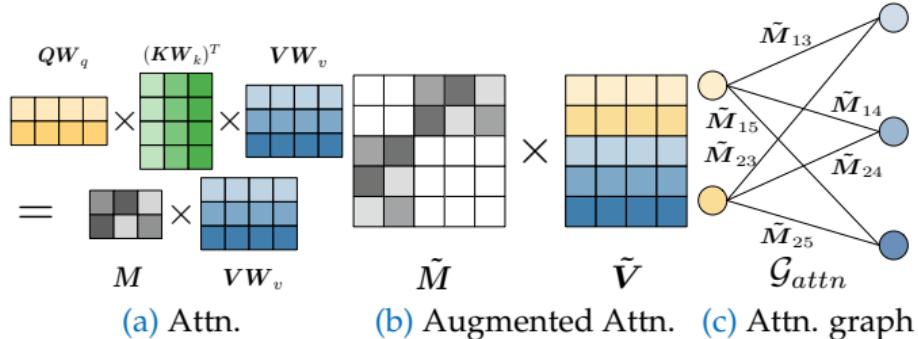


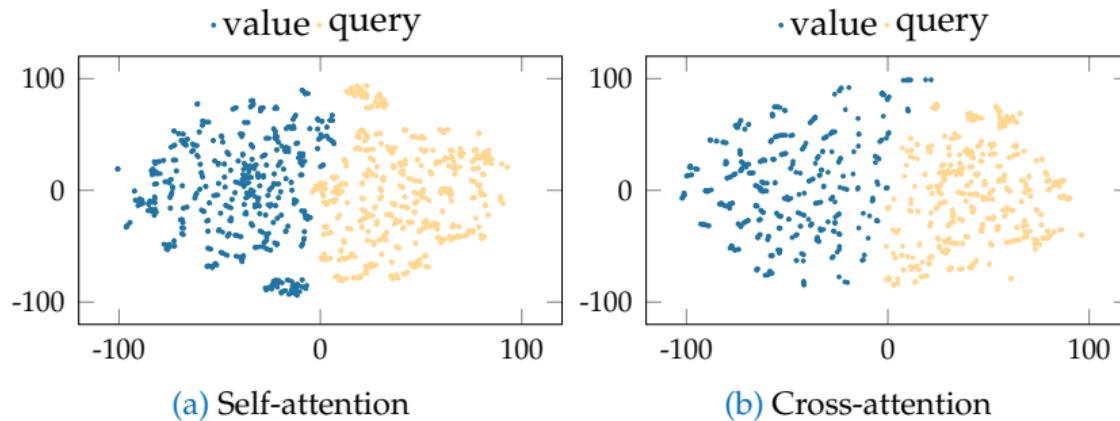
Illustration of the generation of the bipartite attention graph  $\mathcal{G}_{attn}$ .

Defining the projected augmented value feature  $\hat{V} = \tilde{V}W_o$ , with the augmented attention mechanism, we can further define the augmented adapter encoding process by:

$$\tilde{U}' = \sigma(\tilde{M}\hat{V}W_{\text{down}})W_{\text{up}} + \tilde{M}\hat{V}. \quad (6)$$

Comparing Equation (4) and Equation (6), we indicate that the adapter encoding process and the augmented one are equal. Since  $\tilde{M}$  is a square and symmetric matrix, we can regard it as the adjacency matrix of the attention graph  $\mathcal{G}_{attn}$

# Problem formulation



The t-SNE<sup>2</sup> visualization of the features in the projected query and value space for self- and cross-attention. The VLM is BLIP<sub>CapFilt-L</sub><sup>3</sup> and data come from COCO Captions<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>2</sup>Laurens Van der Maaten and Geoffrey Hinton (2008). “Visualizing data using t-SNE.”. In: *Journal of machine learning research* 9.11.

<sup>3</sup>Junnan Li et al. (2022). “Blip: Bootstrapping language-image pre-training for unified vision-language understanding and generation”. In: *Proc. ICML*.

<sup>4</sup>Tsung-Yi Lin et al. (2014). “Microsoft coco: Common objects in context”. In: *Proc. ECCV*. Springer, pp. 740–755.

# Method



For *p*-adapter, we take the attention matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  and the projected augmented value feature  $\hat{\mathbf{V}}$ , as the output of attention. Note that this transformation does not alter any learned parameters in attention. Then, we augment the attention matrix to  $\tilde{\mathbf{M}}$ , as shown in Equation (5). Following *p*-Laplacian message passing, we normalize the augmented attention matrix by:

$$\bar{M}_{i,j} = \tilde{M}_{i,j} \left\| \sqrt{\frac{\tilde{M}_{i,j}}{\tilde{D}_{i,i}}} \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{i,:} - \sqrt{\frac{\tilde{M}_{i,j}}{\tilde{D}_{j,j}}} \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{j,:} \right\|^{p-2}, \quad (7)$$

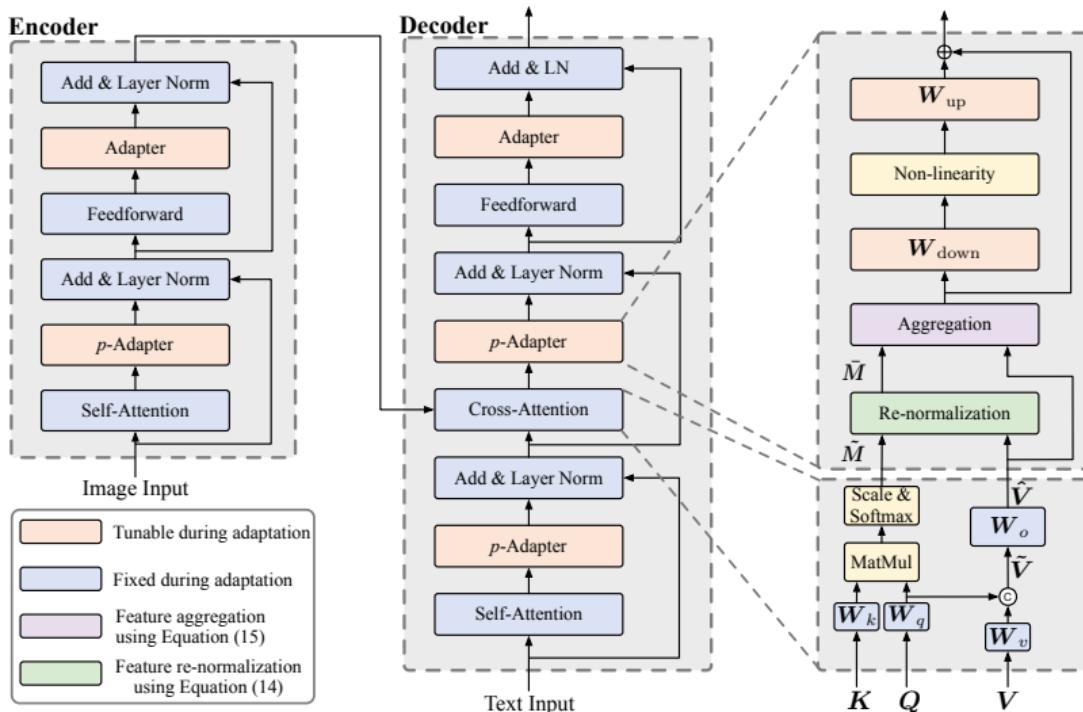
where  $\tilde{\mathbf{D}}$  is the degree matrix of  $\tilde{\mathbf{M}}$ . Further, we can aggregate the features using the calibrated attention matrix  $\bar{\mathbf{M}}$  by

$$\bar{\mathbf{U}} = \tilde{\alpha} \tilde{\mathbf{D}}^{-1/2} \bar{\mathbf{M}} \tilde{\mathbf{D}}^{-1/2} \hat{\mathbf{V}} + \tilde{\beta} \hat{\mathbf{V}}, \quad (8)$$

where  $\tilde{\alpha}$  and  $\tilde{\beta}$  are calculated according to the algorithm in *p*-Laplacian message passing. With the aggregated feature  $\bar{\mathbf{U}}$ , we encode it with the learnable adapter weights by:

$$\bar{\mathbf{U}}' = \sigma(\bar{\mathbf{U}} \mathbf{W}_{\text{down}}) \mathbf{W}_{\text{up}} + \bar{\mathbf{U}}. \quad (9)$$

# $p$ -Adapter architecture



Overall architecture of  $p$ -adapter

# Experiments



- ① For VQA, we consider it as an answer generation problem. We test our model on VQA2.0<sup>5</sup> with the widely-used Karpathy split and VizWizVQA<sup>6</sup>.
- ② For VE, we adopt SNLI-VE<sup>7</sup> as the evaluation benchmark.
- ③ For image captioning, we conduct extensive experiments on three benchmarks, i.e., COCO Captions<sup>8</sup> with Karpathy split<sup>9</sup>, TextCaps<sup>10</sup>, and VizWizCaps<sup>11</sup>.

---

<sup>5</sup>Yash Goyal et al. (2017). “Making the v in vqa matter: Elevating the role of image understanding in visual question answering”. In: *Proc. CVPR*, pp. 6904–6913.

<sup>6</sup>Danna Gurari, Qing Li, et al. (2018). “Vizwiz grand challenge: Answering visual questions from blind people”. In: *Proc. CVPR*, pp. 3608–3617.

<sup>7</sup>Ning Xie et al. (2019). “Visual entailment: A novel task for fine-grained image understanding”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1901.06706*.

<sup>8</sup>Tsung-Yi Lin et al. (2014). “Microsoft coco: Common objects in context”. In: *Proc. ECCV*. Springer, pp. 740–755.

<sup>9</sup>Andrej Karpathy and Li Fei-Fei (2015). “Deep visual-semantic alignments for generating image descriptions”. In: *Proc. CVPR*, pp. 3128–3137.

<sup>10</sup>Oleksii Sidorov et al. (2020). “Textcaps: a dataset for image captioning with reading comprehension”. In: *Proc. ECCV*. Springer, pp. 742–758.

<sup>11</sup>Danna Gurari, Yinan Zhao, et al. (2020). “Captioning images taken by people who are blind”. In: *Proc. ECCV*. Springer, pp. 417–434.



- ① Our experiments are implemented in PyTorch<sup>12</sup> and conducted on 8 Nvidia 3090 GPUs.
- ② We validate our method on two generative pre-trained VLMs, BLIP<sub>CapFilt-L</sub><sup>13</sup> and mPLUG<sub>ViT-B</sub><sup>14</sup>.

---

<sup>12</sup>Adam Paszke et al. (2019). “Pytorch: An imperative style, high-performance deep learning library”. In: *Proc. NeurIPS 32*.

<sup>13</sup>Junnan Li et al. (2022). “Blip: Bootstrapping language-image pre-training for unified vision-language understanding and generation”. In: *Proc. ICML*.

<sup>14</sup>Chenliang Li et al. (2022). “mPLUG: Effective and Efficient Vision-Language Learning by Cross-modal Skip-connections”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2205.12005*.

# Comparison with transfer learning methods



Method	Updated Params (%)	VQA2.0 Karpathy test Acc. (%)	VizWizVQA test-dev Acc. (%)	SNLI_VE test-P Acc. (%)	COCOCaps Karpathy test BLEU@4 CIDEr	TextCaps test-dev BLEU@4 CIDEr	VizWizCaps test-dev BLEU@4 CIDEr	Avg.
BLIP <sub>CapFilt-L</sub>								
Full fine-tuning	100.00	<b>70.56</b>	<b>36.52</b>	<b>78.35</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>128.7</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>91.6</b>
Prefix tuning	0.71	60.49	22.45	71.82	39.4	127.7	24.8	80.0
LoRA	0.71	66.57	33.39	77.36	38.3	128.3	24.6	82.2
Adapter	6.39	69.53	35.37	78.85	38.9	128.8	25.4	86.7
<i>p</i> -Adapter (Ours)	6.39	<b>70.39</b>	<b>37.16</b>	<b>79.40</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>130.9</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>87.0</b>
							<b>44.5</b>	<b>164.1</b>
								<b>75.54</b>

**Table:** The main results on various datasets for full fine-tuning, adapter<sup>15</sup>, prefix tuning<sup>16</sup>, LoRA<sup>17</sup>, and our proposed *p*-adapter. We bold the scores for full fine-tuning and the highest scores separately for approaches with PETL methods.

<sup>15</sup>Yi-Lin Sung, Jaemin Cho, and Mohit Bansal (2022). “Vi-adapter: Parameter-efficient transfer learning for vision-and-language tasks”. In: *Proc. CVPR*.

<sup>16</sup>Xiang Lisa Li and Percy Liang (2021). “Prefix-Tuning: Optimizing Continuous Prompts for Generation”. In: *Proc. ACL*.

<sup>17</sup>Edward J Hu et al. (2022). “Lora: Low-rank adaptation of large language models”. In: *Proc. ICLR*.

# Comparison with transfer learning methods



Method	Updated Params (%)	VQA2.0 Karpathy test Acc. (%)	VizWizVQA test-dev Acc. (%)	SNLI_VE test-P Acc. (%)	COCOCaps Karpathy test BLEU@4 CIDEr	TextCaps test-dev BLEU@4 CIDEr	VizWizCaps test-dev BLEU@4 CIDEr	Avg.
mPLUG <sub>VIT-B</sub>								
Full fine-tuning	100.00	<b>70.91</b>	<b>59.79</b>	<b>78.72</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>134.8</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>74.0</b>
Prefix tuning	0.71	60.95	47.42	72.11	39.8	133.5	18.8	51.9
LoRA	0.71	66.67	52.49	75.29	39.4	129.4	21.0	64.4
Adapter	6.39	70.65	56.50	78.56	40.3	134.7	22.9	71.5
<i>p</i> -Adapter (Ours)	6.39	<b>71.36</b>	<b>58.08</b>	<b>79.26</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>135.3</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>73.3</b>
							<b>43.1</b>	<b>160.1</b>
								<b>76.01</b>

**Table:** The main results on various datasets for full fine-tuning, adapter<sup>18</sup>, prefix tuning<sup>19</sup>, LoRA<sup>20</sup>, and our proposed *p*-adapter. We bold the scores for full fine-tuning and the highest scores separately for approaches with PETL methods.

<sup>18</sup>Yi-Lin Sung, Jaemin Cho, and Mohit Bansal (2022). “VI-adapter: Parameter-efficient transfer learning for vision-and-language tasks”. In: *Proc. CVPR*.

<sup>19</sup>Xiang Lisa Li and Percy Liang (2021). “Prefix-Tuning: Optimizing Continuous Prompts for Generation”. In: *Proc. ACL*.

<sup>20</sup>Edward J Hu et al. (2022). “Lora: Low-rank adaptation of large language models”. In: *Proc. ICLR*.

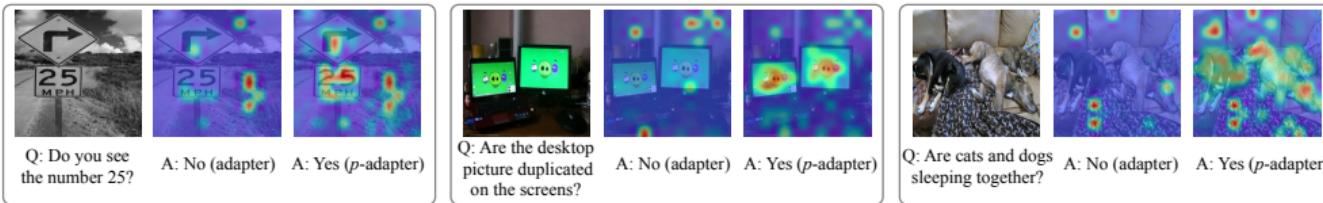
# Ablation studies



GNN	VQA2.0 Acc.(%)	SNLI_VE Acc.(%)	COCOCaps		Avg.
			BLEU@4	CIDEr	
GCN	69.53	78.85	38.9	128.8	79.02
APPNP	70.22	79.03	39.4	129.1	79.44
GCNII	70.13	79.12	39.7	129.7	79.66
<sup>p</sup> GNN	<b>70.39</b>	<b>79.40</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>130.9</b>	<b>80.27</b>

**Table:** Ablation study on the graph neural networks.

# Visualization



Visualization of the attention.

- 1 To validate the effectiveness of *p*-adapter, we visualize<sup>21</sup> the cross-attention weights at the last transformer layer on some VQA<sup>22</sup> data.
- 2 We take the [CLS] token as the query since it represents the whole question and plot the attention weights on the image features in the key/value space.

<sup>21</sup>Hila Chefer, Shir Gur, and Lior Wolf (2021). "Transformer interpretability beyond attention visualization". In: *Proc. CVPR*, pp. 782–791.

<sup>22</sup>Yash Goyal et al. (2017). "Making the v in vqa matter: Elevating the role of image understanding in visual question answering". In: *Proc. CVPR*, pp. 6904–6913.

# Conclusion



- ① We first propose a new modeling framework for adapter tuning<sup>23</sup> after attention modules in pre-trained VLMs. Within this framework, we can identify the heterophilic nature of the attention graphs, posing challenges for vanilla adapter tuning<sup>24</sup>.
- ② To mitigate this issue, we propose a new adapter architecture,  $p$ -adapter, appended after the attention modules. Inspired by  $p$ -Laplacian message passing<sup>25</sup>,  $p$ -adapters re-normalize the attention weights using node features and aggregate the features with the calibrated attention matrix.
- ③ Extensive experimental results validate our method's significant superiority over other PETL methods on various VL tasks.

---

<sup>23</sup>Yi-Lin Sung, Jaemin Cho, and Mohit Bansal (2022). “VI-adapter: Parameter-efficient transfer learning for vision-and-language tasks”. In: *Proc. CVPR*.

<sup>24</sup>Yi-Lin Sung, Jaemin Cho, and Mohit Bansal (2022). “VI-adapter: Parameter-efficient transfer learning for vision-and-language tasks”. In: *Proc. CVPR*.

<sup>25</sup>Guoji Fu, Peilin Zhao, and Yatao Bian (2022). “ $p$ -Laplacian Based Graph Neural Networks”. In: *Proc. ICML*.

**THANK YOU!**