CSCI 5541: Natural Language Processing

Lecture 15: LLM Compute efficiency and engineering

James Mooney

With slides borrowed from Song Han (MIT)



Announcements

- ☐ Data & Annotation Lecture to be folded into 'Modern Evaluations
- ☐ HW4 due today
- ☐ HW5 out tomorrow morning
- Midterm Office Hours Meeting

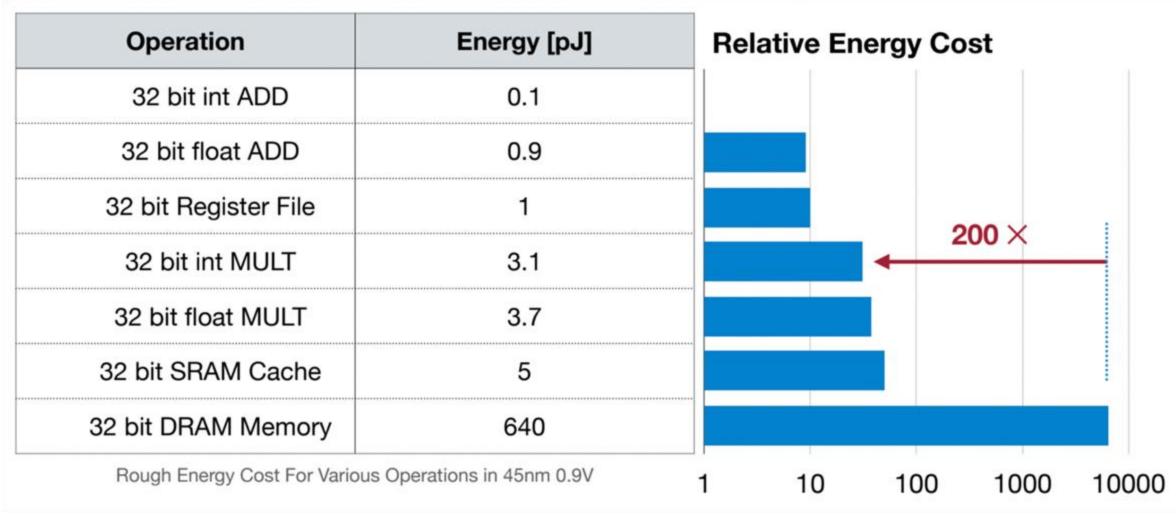
What Is Efficiency and Why Does It Matter?

- ☐ Efficiency for NLP is concerned with delivering faster, cheaper, smaller, less energy intensive solutions to problems involving natural language
- ☐ Faster models means LLM model services (GPT3.5, Claude 2.0, etc.) can meet the demands of many clients more quickly
- ☐ Cheaper models reduce costs for LLM model service providers
- ☐ Smaller model sizes allow for service providers to use fewer resources and can allow for individuals to deploy LLMs to their own (smaller) devices
- Less energy intensive means lower cost and easier to deploy at the edge, where energy is harder to come by

What Is Efficiency and Why Does It Matter?

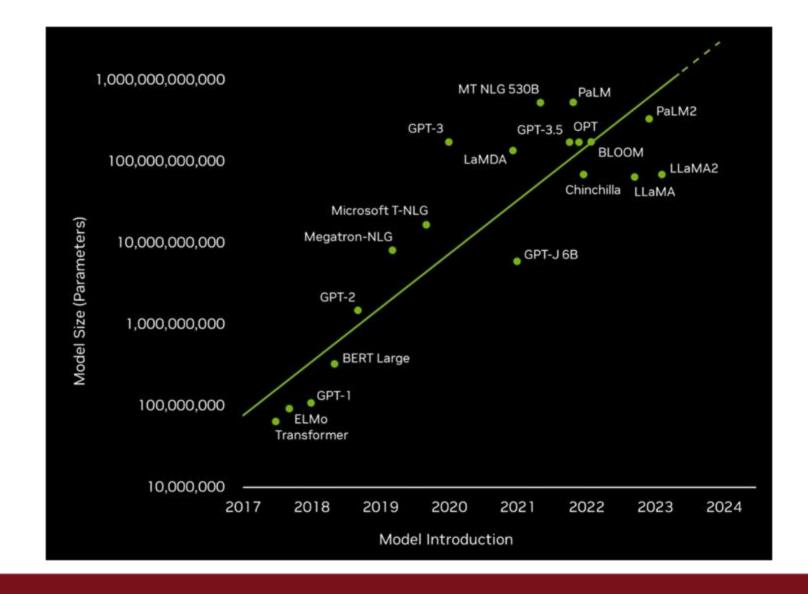
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Model Energy Use

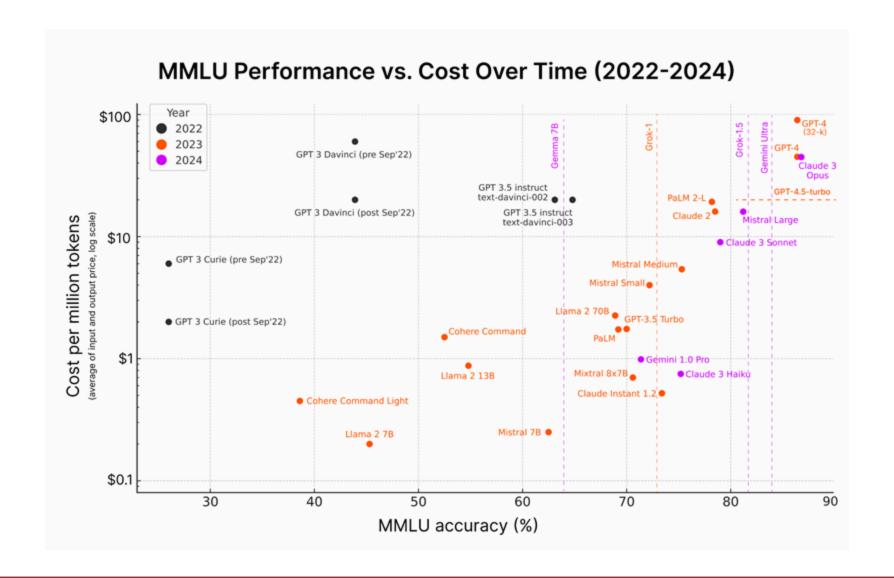


Computing's Energy Problem (and What We Can Do About it) [Horowitz, M., IEEE ISSCC 2014

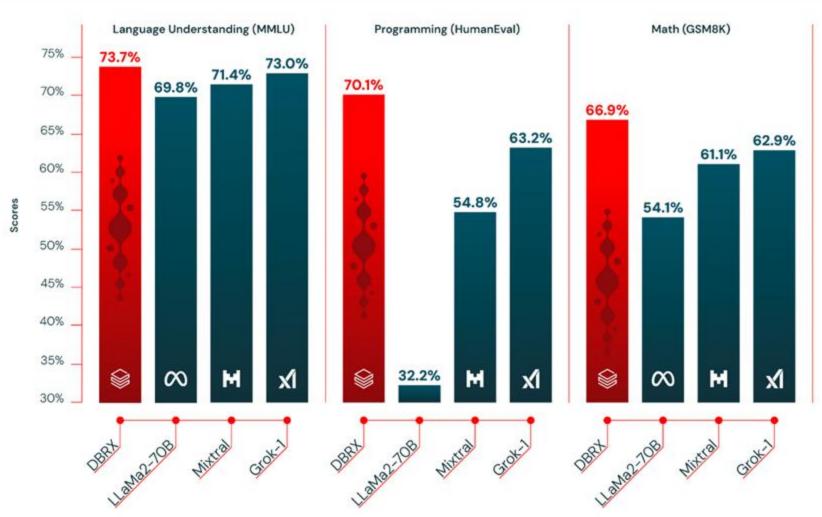
Model Size



Model Cost



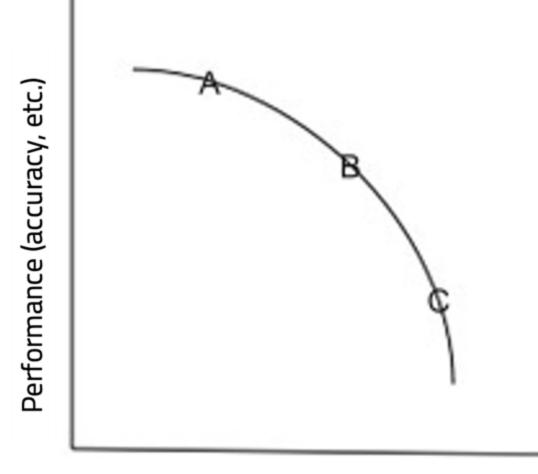
Development Speed



https://www.databricks.com/blog/introducing-dbrx-new-state-art-open-llm

Efficiency Tradeoff

- More efficient models (smaller, faster) typically come at a cost of some performance of the model itself
- ☐ In the other direction, getting more performance from a model architecture likely means it will be larger, and require more computation

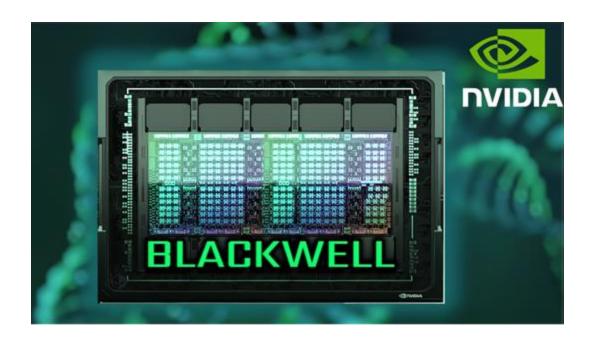


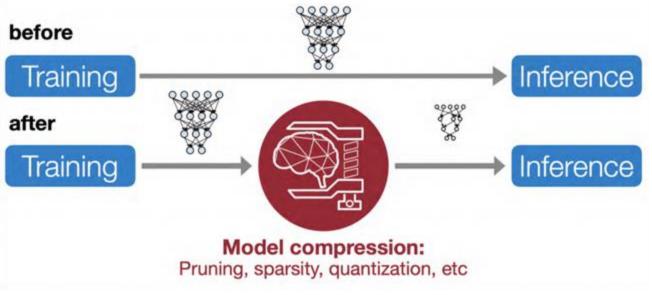
Efficiency (speed, 1/size, etc.)

How to Improve Model Efficiency?

Hardware

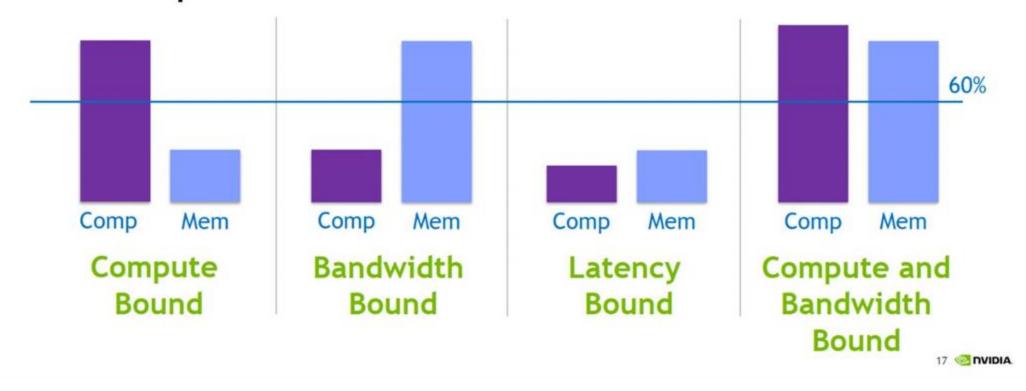
Software





What Makes a Language Model Slow

Memory Utilization vs Compute Utilization Four possible combinations:



Efficient LLMs

- Quantization
 - Background
 - K-Means vs. Linear Quantization
 - Quantization Granularity
 - Quantization Aware Training (QAT) vs Post-Training Quantization (PTQ)
 - LLM Quantization (LLM.int8(), SmoothQuant, AWQ, 1-bit LLMs)
- ☐ Sparsity (Mixture of Experts, Deja Vu: Contextual Sparsity)
- Long Context (PagedAttention, StreamingLLM, MHA/GQA/MQA, H₂O, SSM)
- Speculative Decoding
- ☐ Parameter Efficient Fine-Tuning (BitFit, Adapter, Prompt Tuning, LoRA)
- Distillation



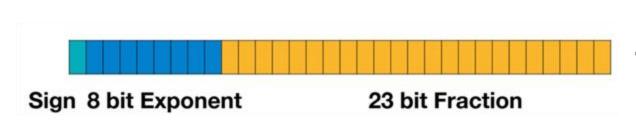
Efficient LLMs

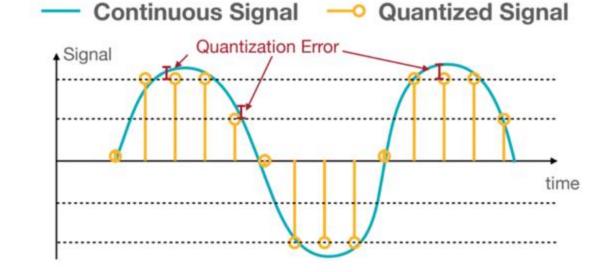
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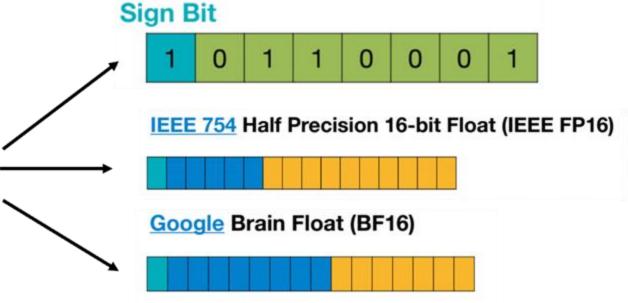


Quantization

Reduce model size by replacing high bit-width representations with low bit-width representations





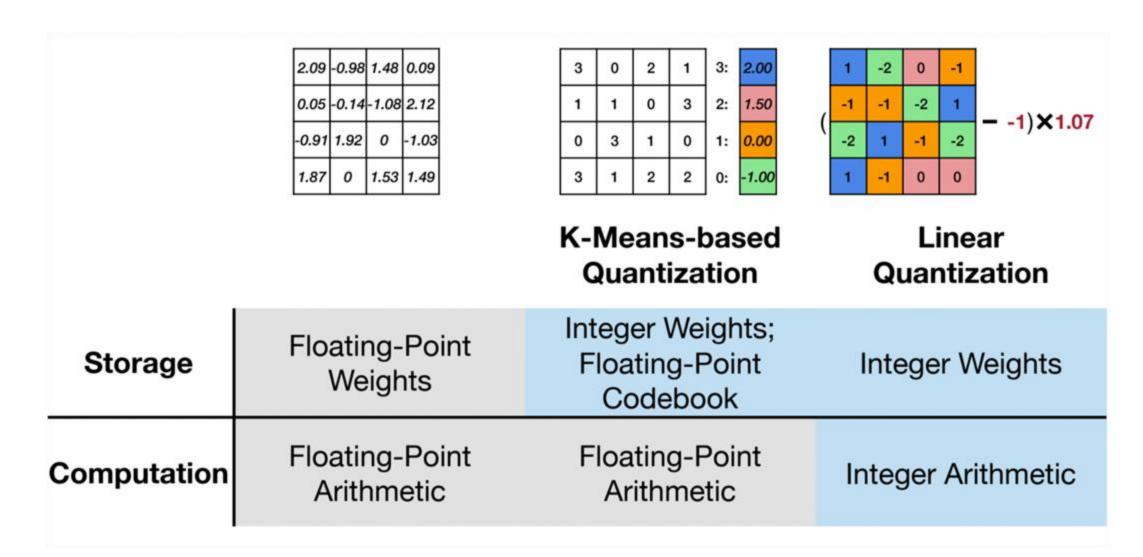


Efficient LLMs

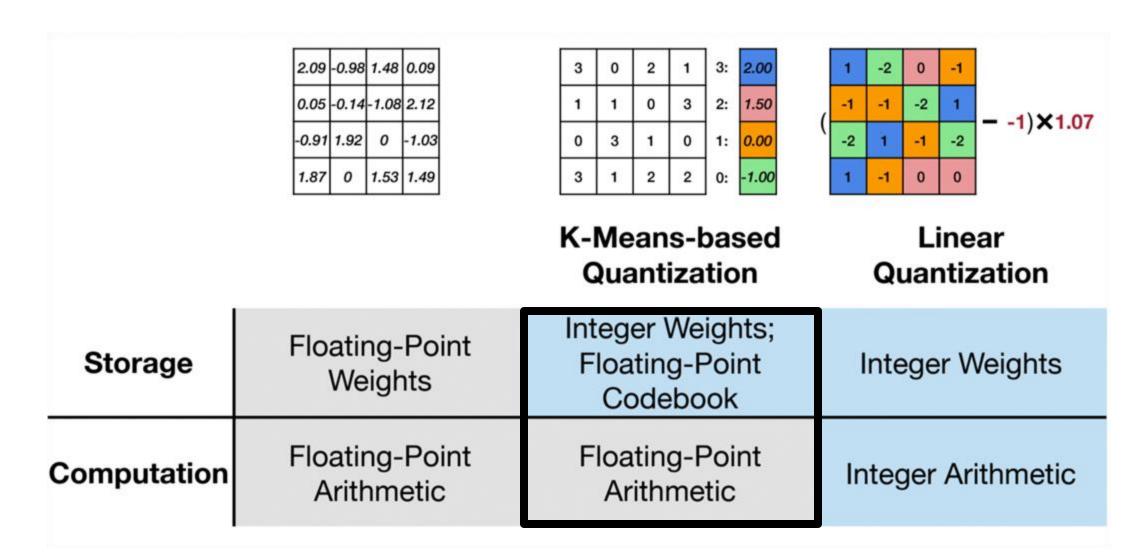
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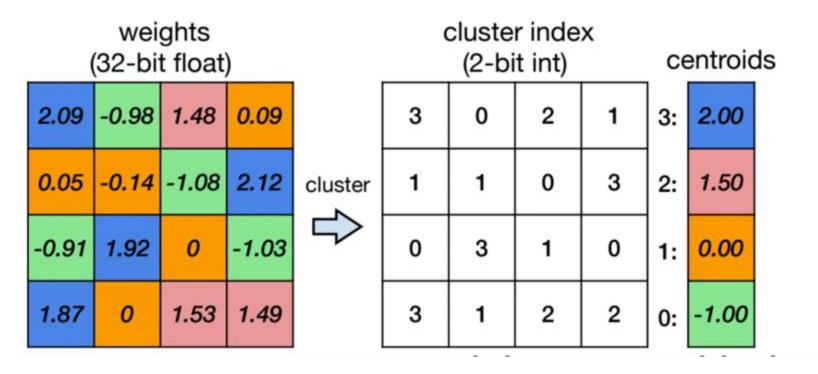


K-Means Quantization vs Linear Quantization



K-Means Quantization vs Linear Quantization





reconstructed weights
(32-bit float)

2.00	-1.00	1.50	0.00
0.00	0.00	-1.00	2.00
-1.00	2.00	0.00	-1.00
2.00	0.00	1.50	1.50

M



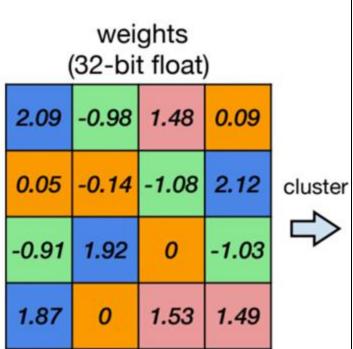
reconstructed weights (32-bit float)

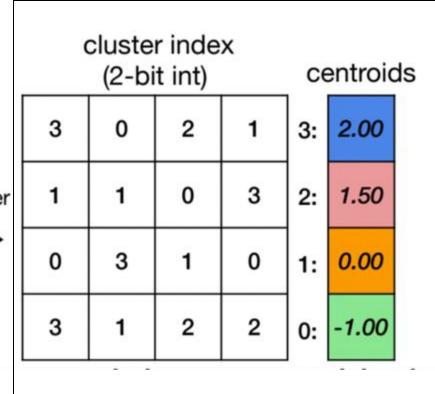
2.00	-1.00	1.50	0.00
0.00	0.00	-1.00	2.00
-1.00	2.00	0.00	-1.00
2.00	0.00	1.50	1.50

Deep Compression [Han et al., ICLR 2016]

Stored weights after clustering





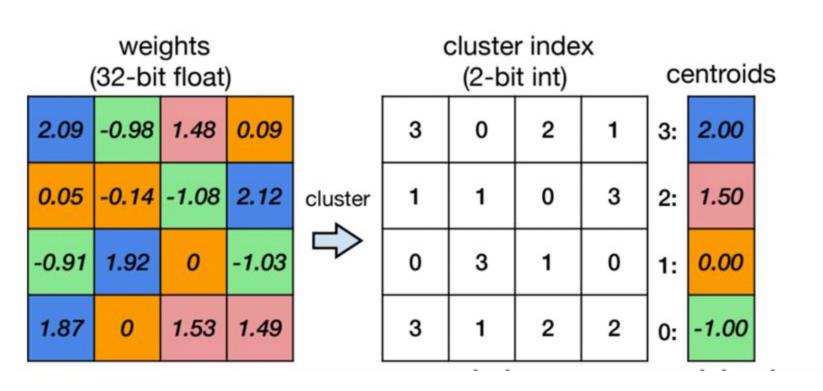


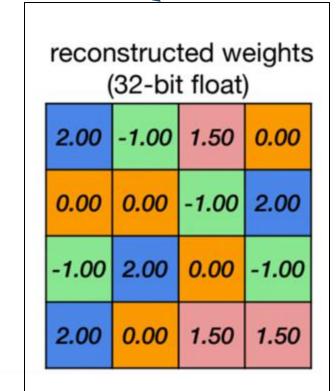
reconstructed weights (32-bit float)

2.00	-1.00	1.50	0.00
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Deep Compression [Han et al., ICLR 2016]

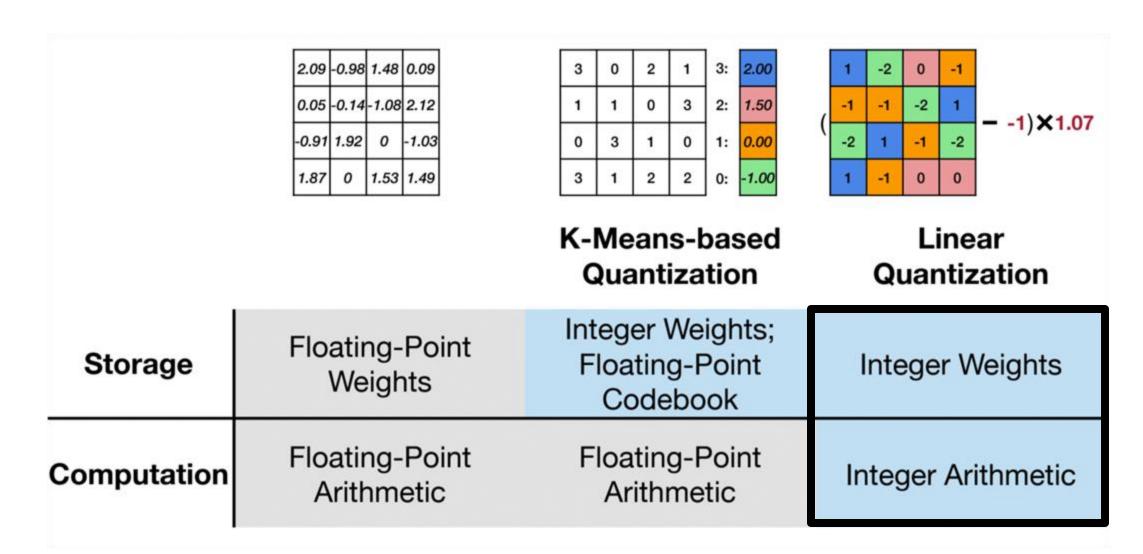
Retrieved weights to be used at inference time



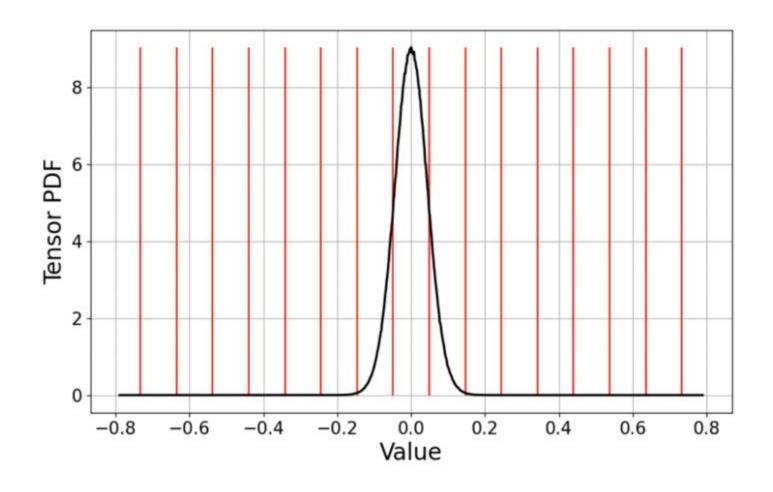


Deep Compression [Han et al., ICLR 2016]

K-Means Quantization vs Linear Quantization

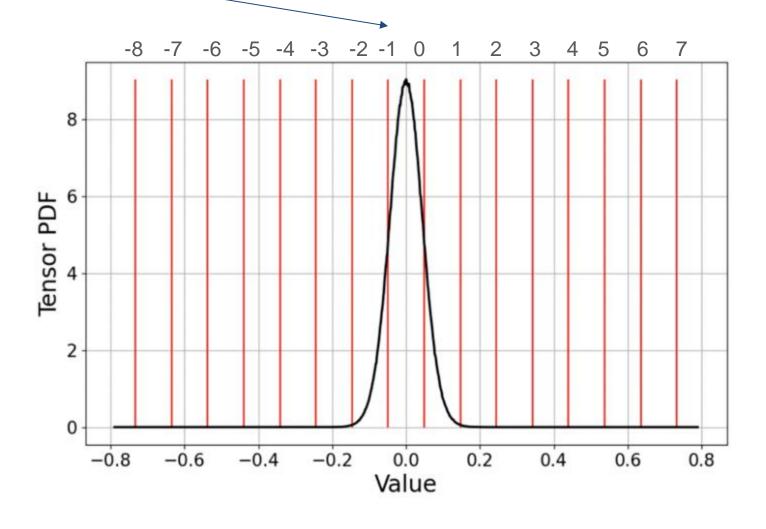


- □ Apply linear function on weights and hidden state activations from floating point values (r) to integer values (q)
- Original weights (black),Quantized bins (red)
- Black weights are mapped to one of the vertical red lines



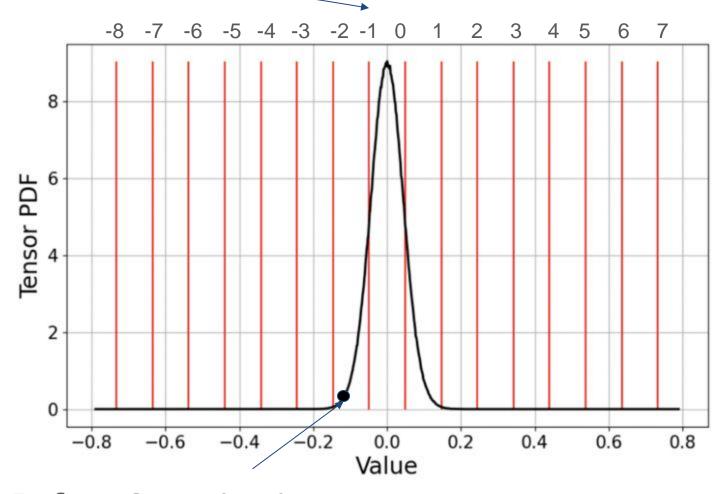
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32-bit float to 4-bit int



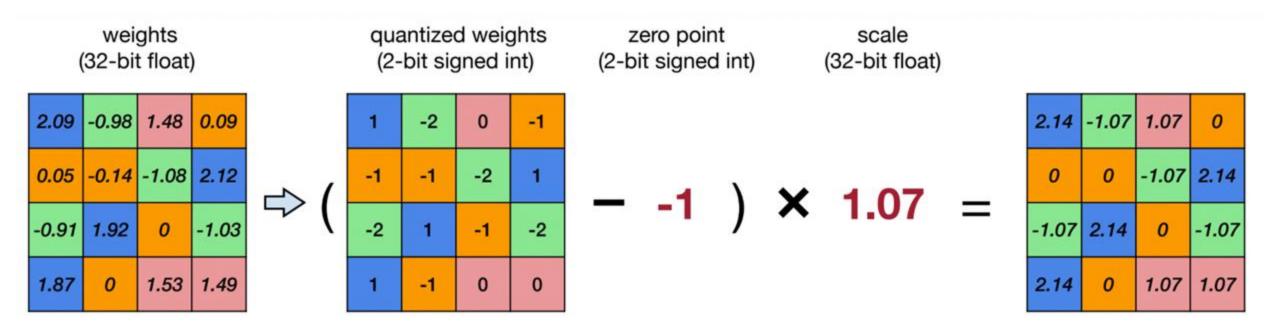
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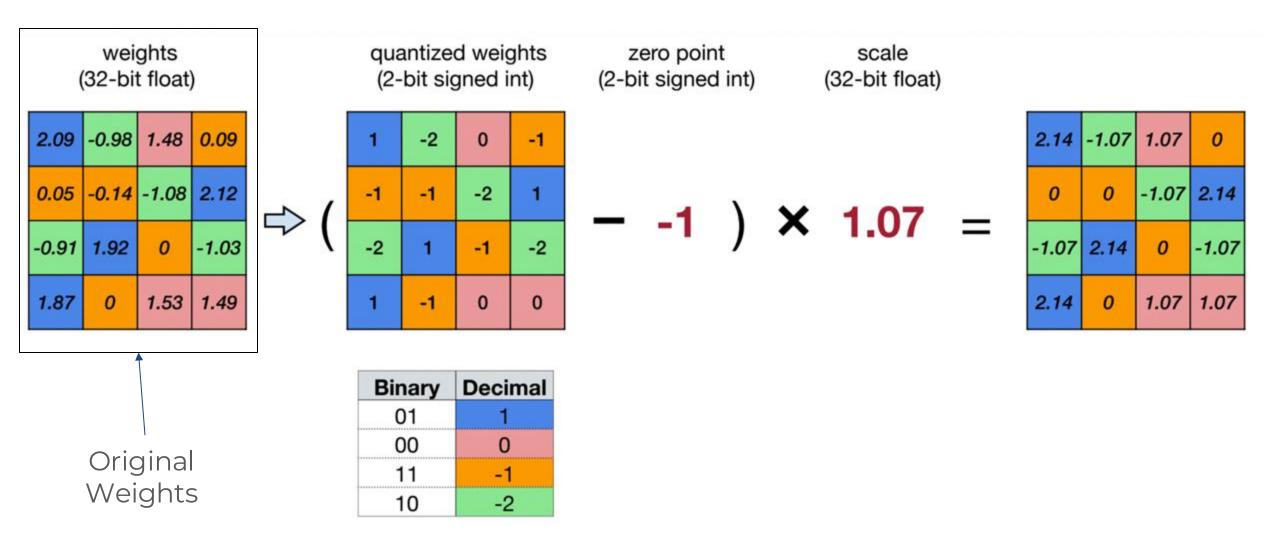


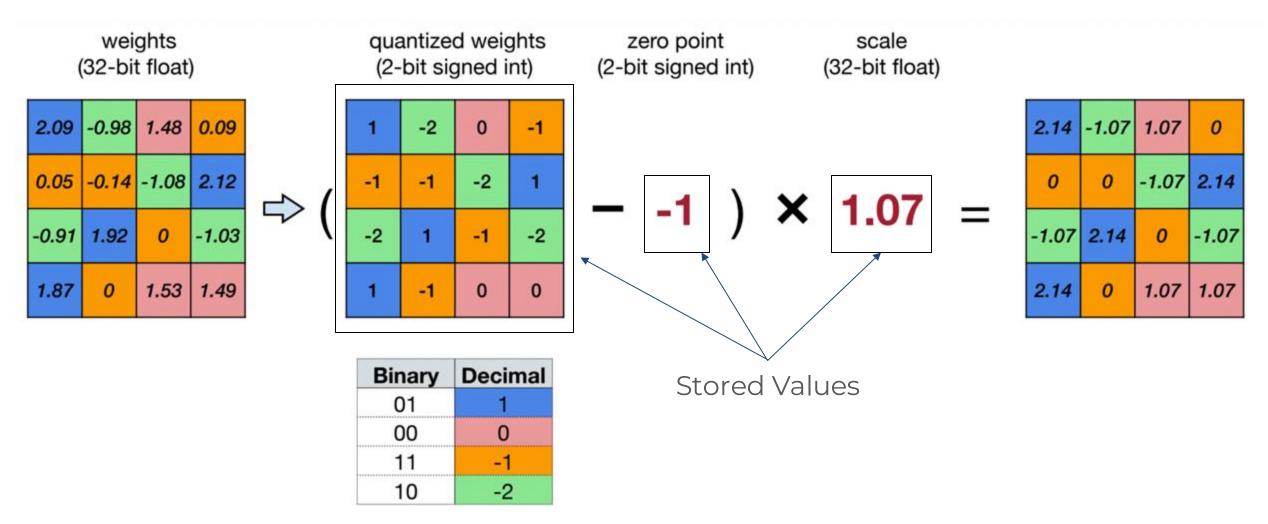
Before Quantization: -.14

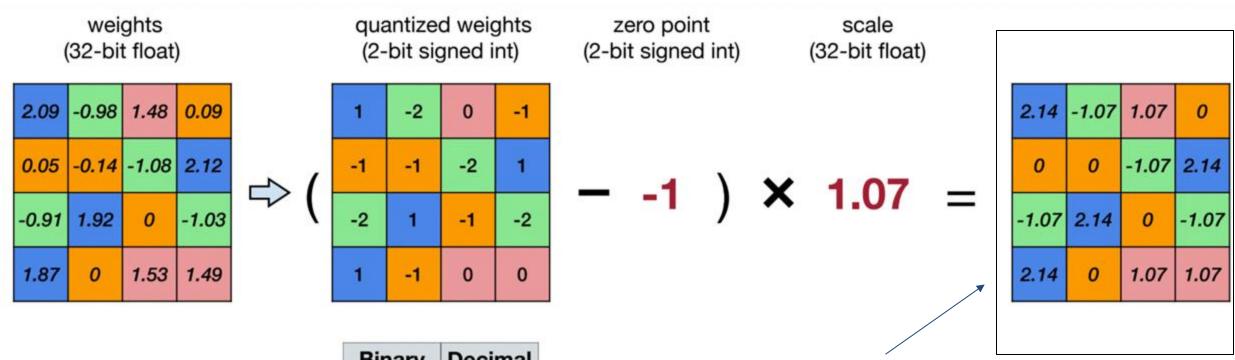
After Quantization: -2



Binary	Decimal	
01	1	
00	0	
11	-1	
10	-2	







Binary	Decimal
01	1
00	0
11	-1
10	-2

Retrieved weights to be used at inference time

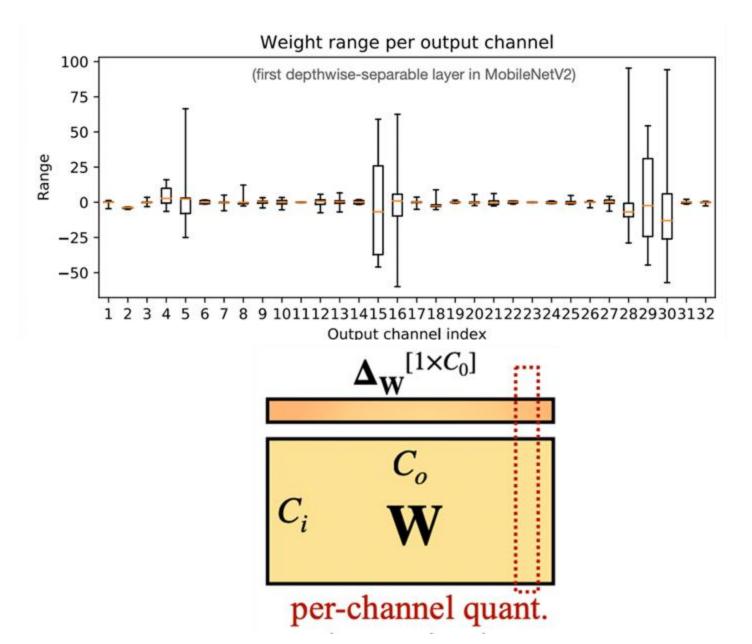
Efficient LLMs

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Weight Granularity

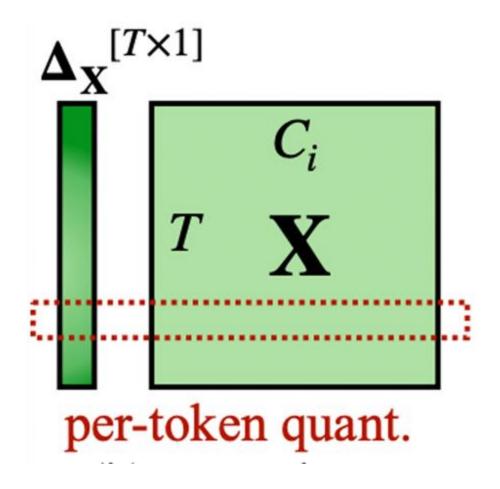
- Weight matrices will often have different variances along each output channel
- High variance in weights means that applying linear quantization will result in large performance degradation
- □ To fix this, we can perform linear quantization along each channel of the weight tensor separately



SmoothQuant: Accurate and Efficient Post-Training Quantization for Large Language Models[Xiao et. al., ICML 2023]

Activation Granularity

- Activations can have a similar problem whereby the variance by channel can be quite different
- The variance by token can also differ dramatically
- When applying quantization, we should split up channels, tokens to take this into account



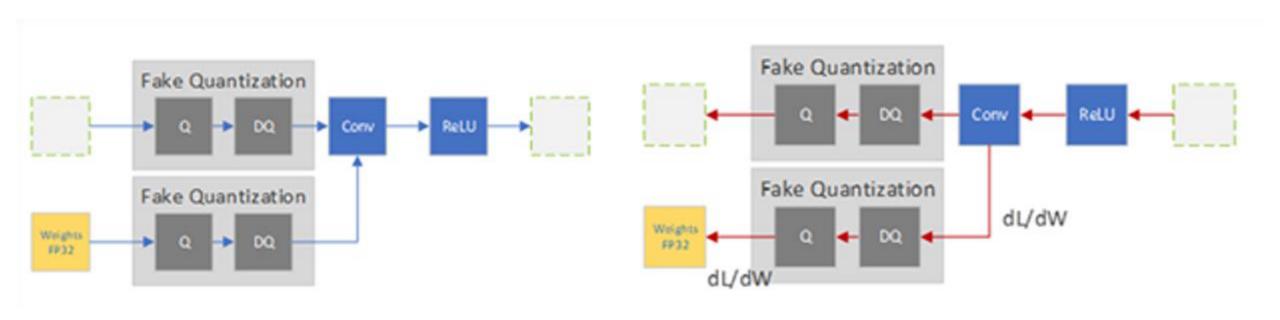
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Quantization Aware Training (QAT)

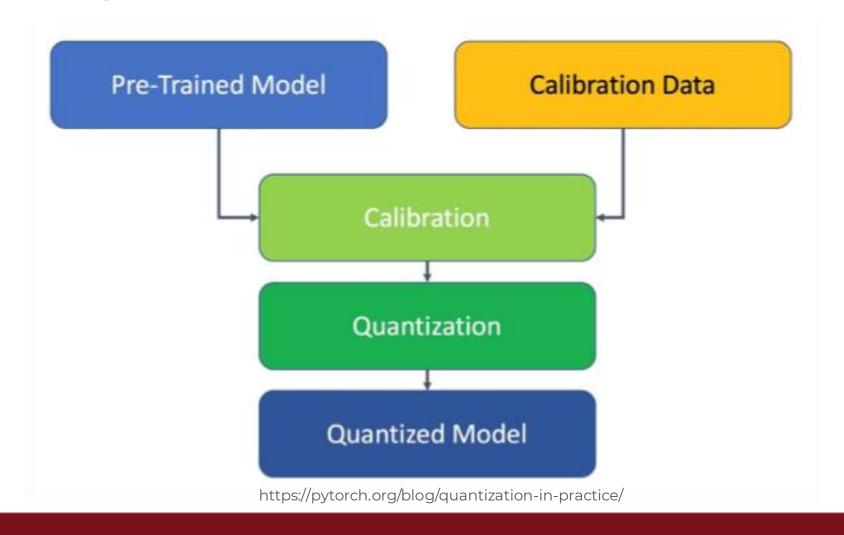
Quantize while training



https://pytorch.org/blog/quantization-in-practice/

Post Training Quantization (PTQ)

Quantize after training

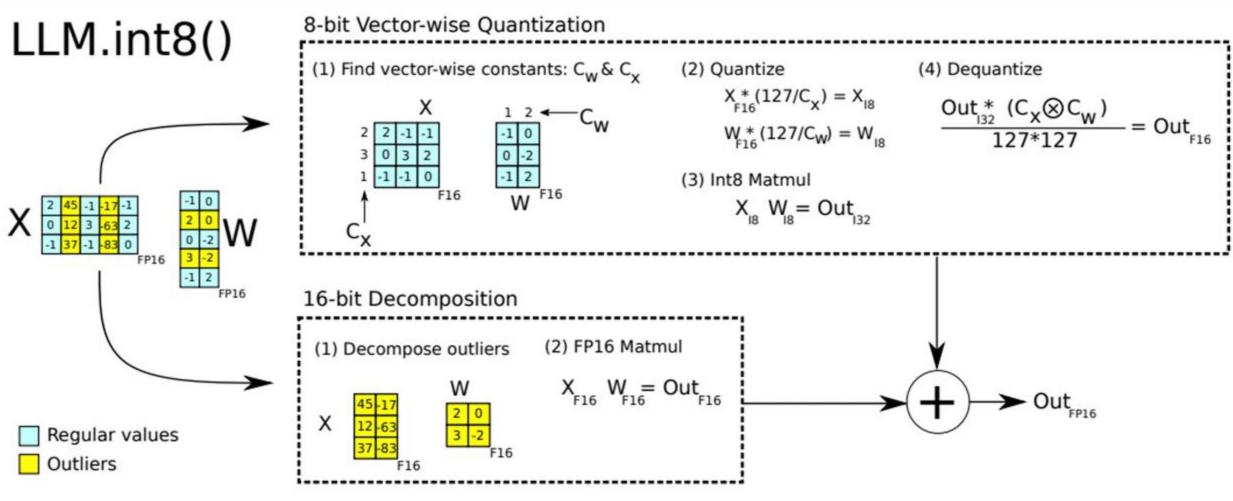


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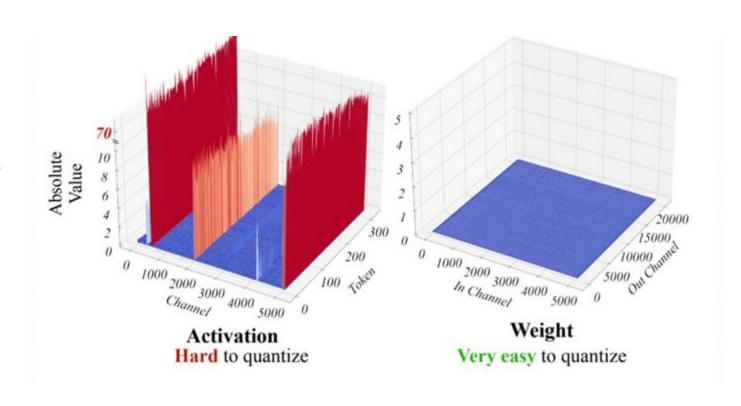
LLM.int8() (W8A8)



LLM.int8(): 8-bit Matrix Multiplication for Transformers at Scale [Dettmers et. al., NeurIPS 2022]

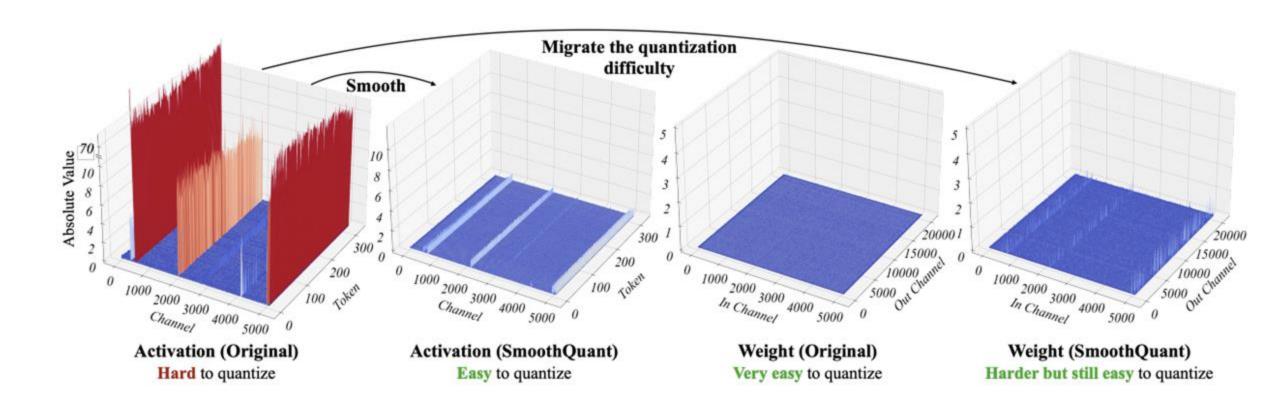
SmoothQuant (W8A8)

Observation: High variance channels are fixed in activations in LLM FFN layers-weights have relatively little difference in variance



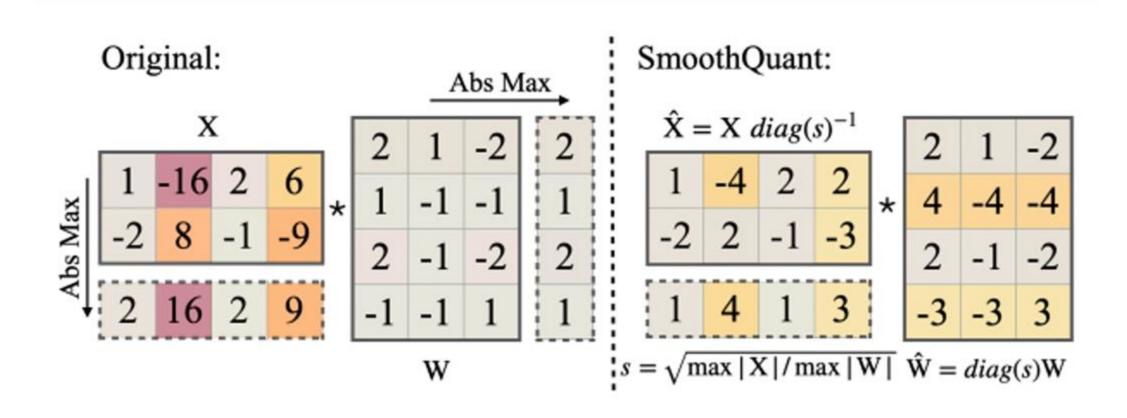
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SmoothQuant (W8A8)

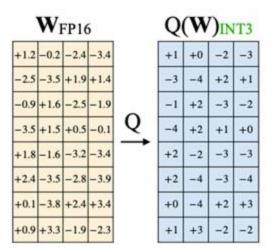


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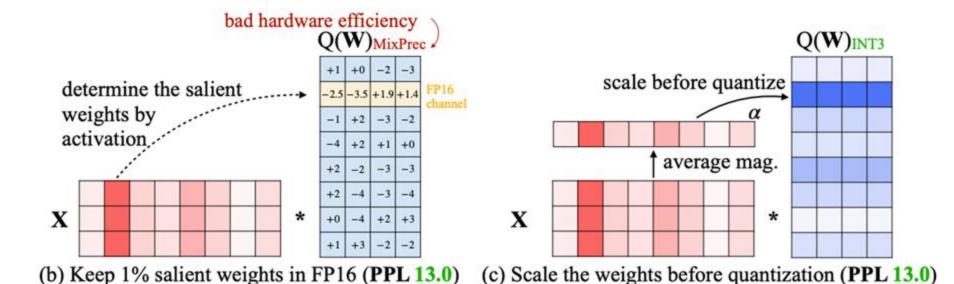
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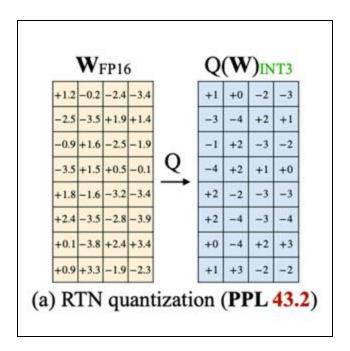
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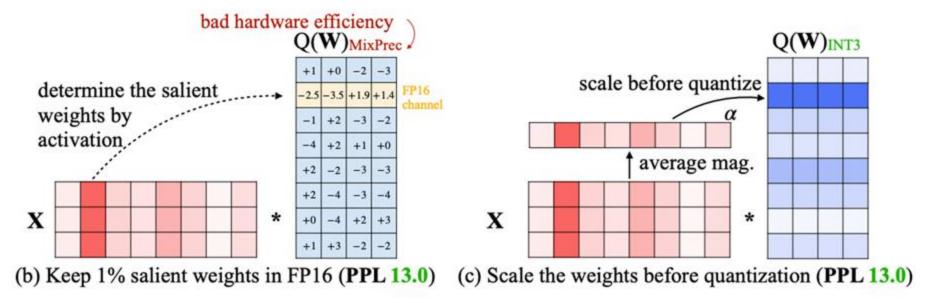


(a) RTN quantization (PPL 43.2)

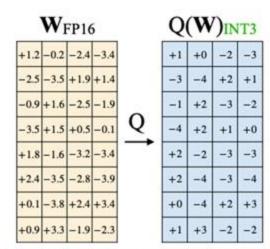


Normal quantization on LLMs performs poorly due to outliers in the model's hidden state

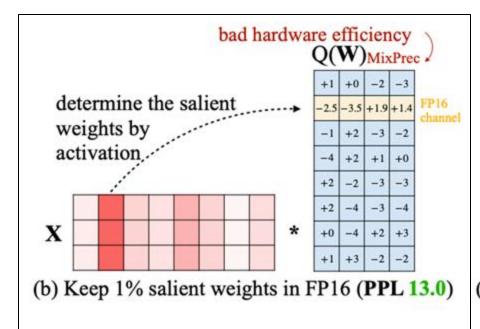


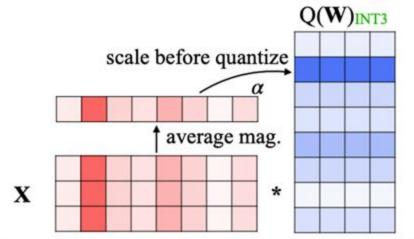


LLM.int8() can resolve these issues, but mixed precision matrix multiplication is hardware inefficient



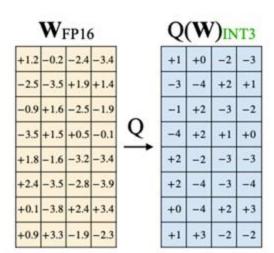
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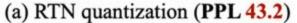


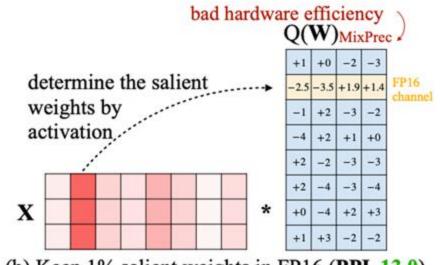


(c) Scale the weights before quantization (PPL 13.0)

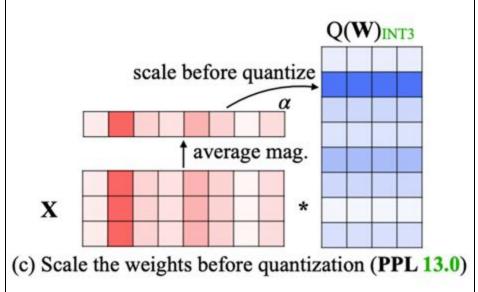
As in SmoothQuant, we can resolve this issue by shifting the difficulty to the weights using a scaling factor.



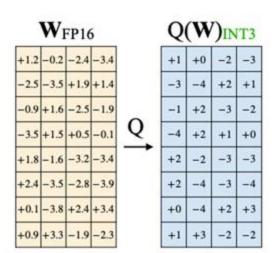




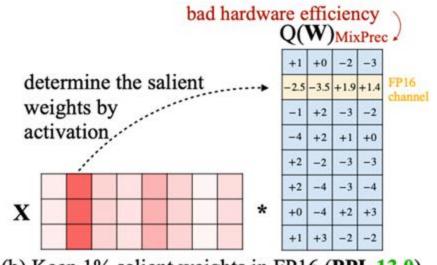
(b) Keep 1% salient weights in FP16 (PPL 13.0)



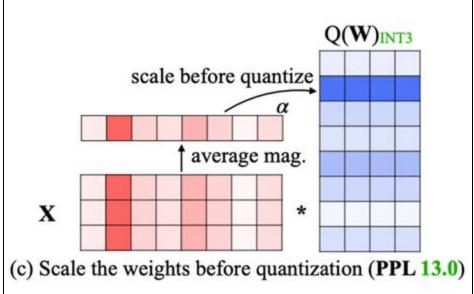
Where Smoothquant quantizes both activations and weights, AWQ only quantizes the weights



(a) RTN quantization (PPL 43.2)

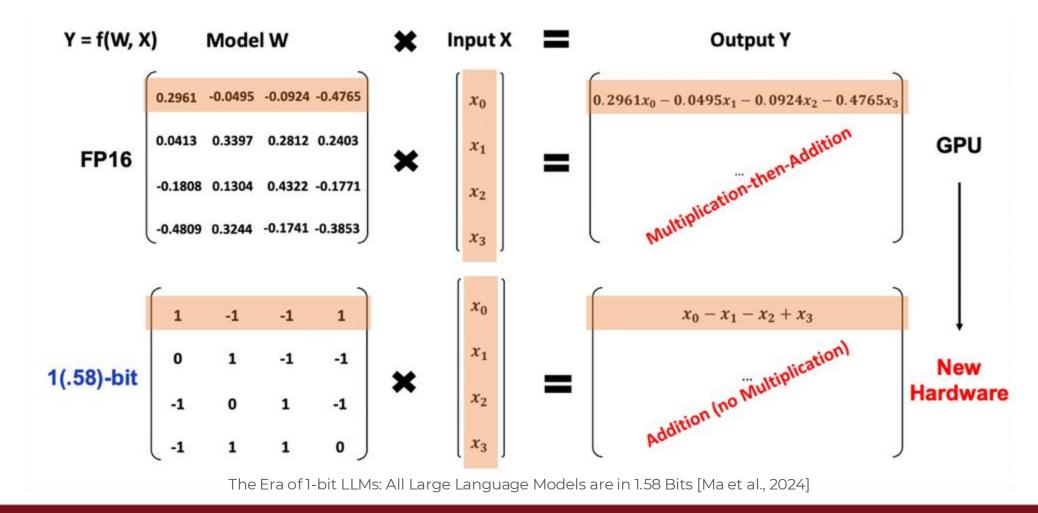


(b) Keep 1% salient weights in FP16 (PPL 13.0)



Era of 1-bit LLMs (W1.58A8)

Weight-only QAT algorithm that uses only weights in {-1, 0, 1}



Era of 1-bit LLMs (W1.58A8)

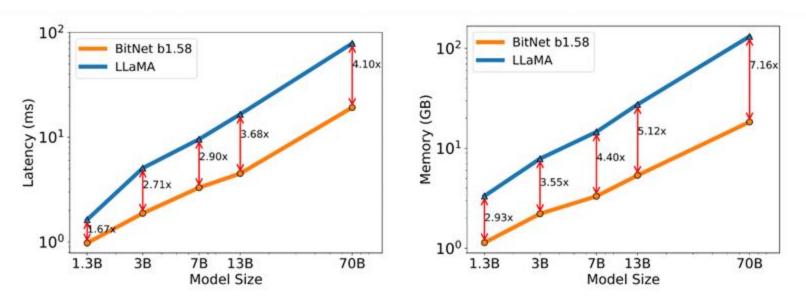


Figure 2: Decoding latency (Left) and memory consumption (Right) of BitNet b1.58 varying the model size.

Models	Size	Max Batch Size	Throughput (tokens/s)
LLaMA LLM	70B	16 (1.0x)	333 (1.0x)
BitNet b1.58	70B	176 (11.0x)	2977 (8.9x)

Table 3: Comparison of the throughput between BitNet b1.58 70B and LLaMA LLM 70B.

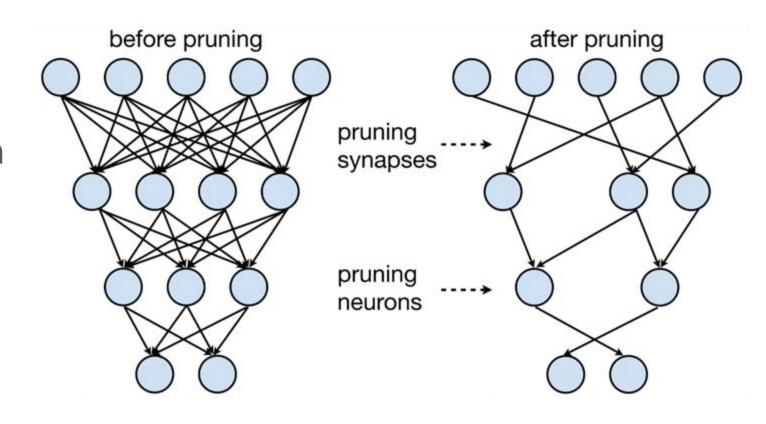
The Era of 1-bit LLMs: All Large Language Models are in 1.58 Bits [Ma et al., 2024]

Efficient LLMs

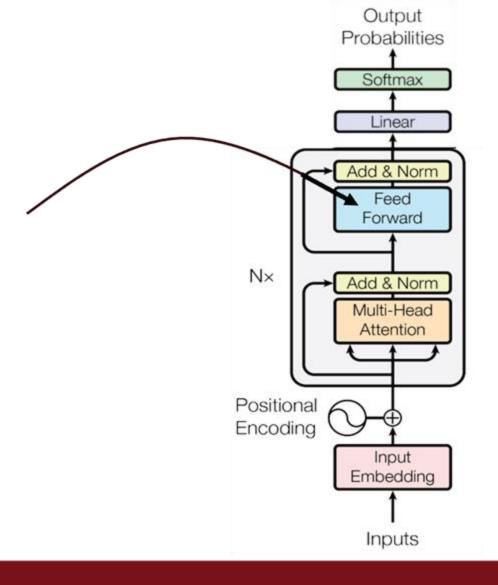
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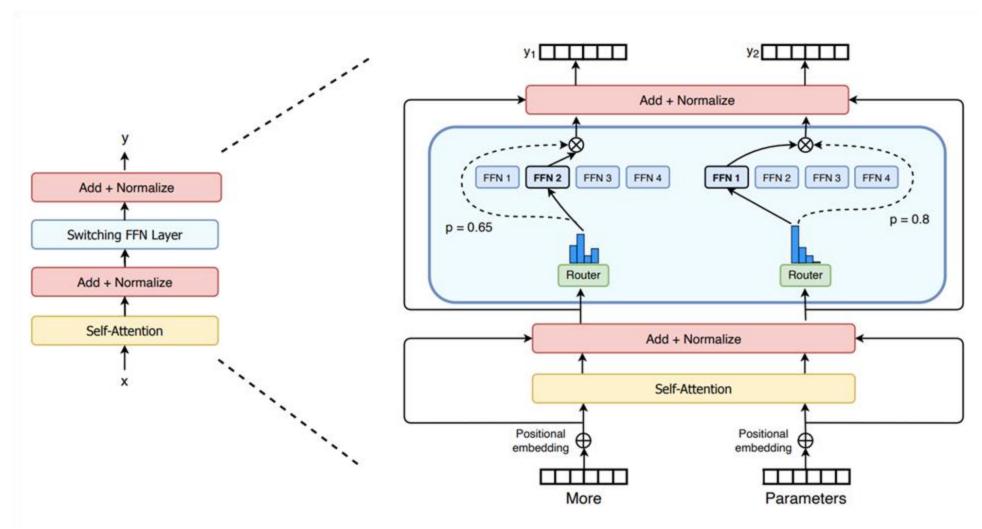
Sparsity

Even though our model may have many parameters, we can get speedups by only using a much smaller number of those parameters for a given instance

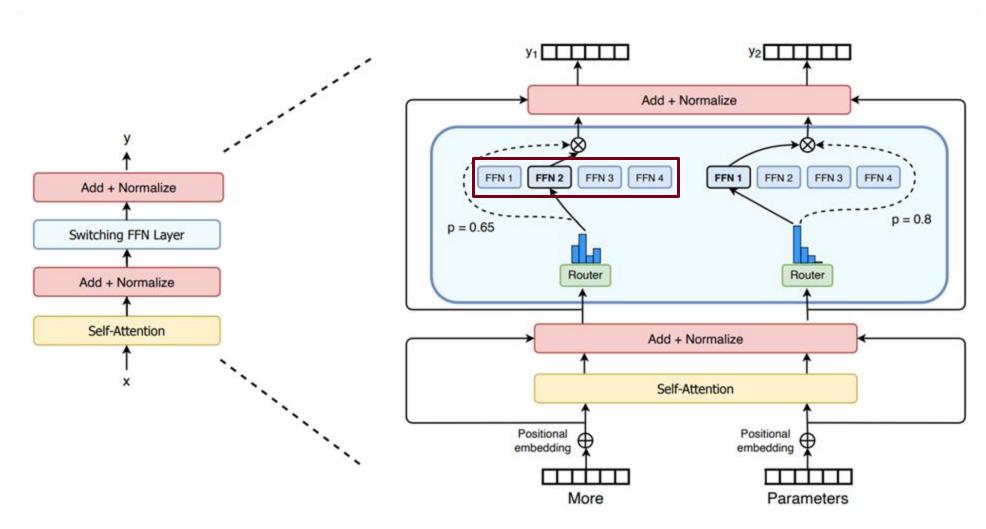


Replace FFN layers in traditional transformers with a switching FFN layer (more generally called an MoE layer)

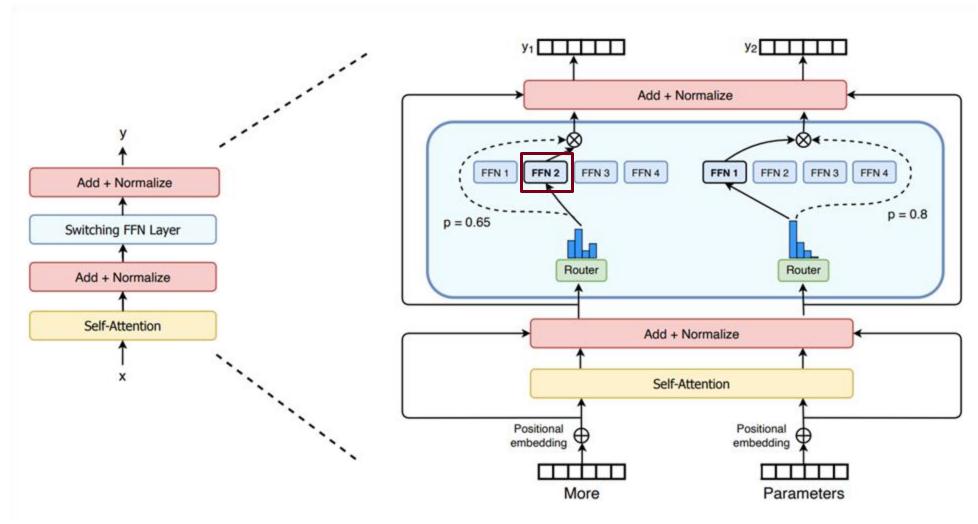




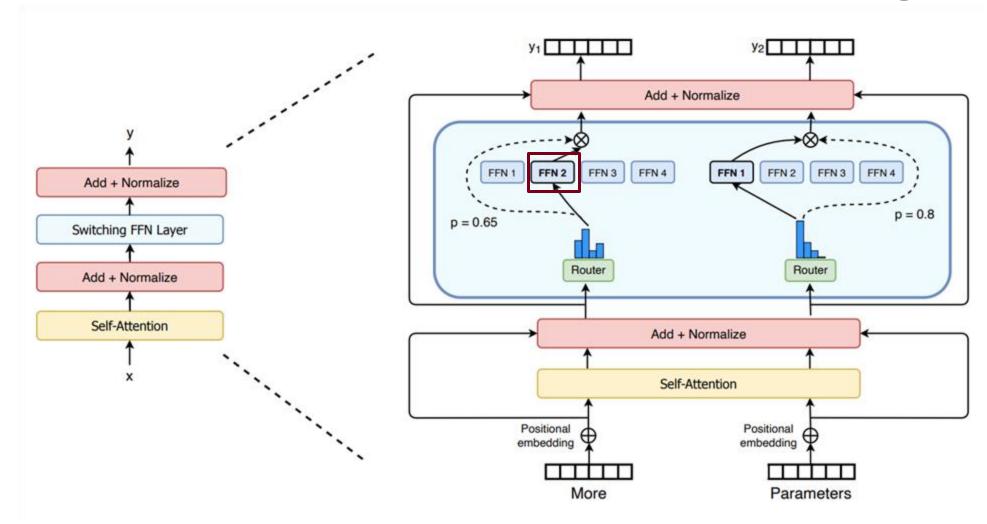
Four FFN layers



Only one is used per token

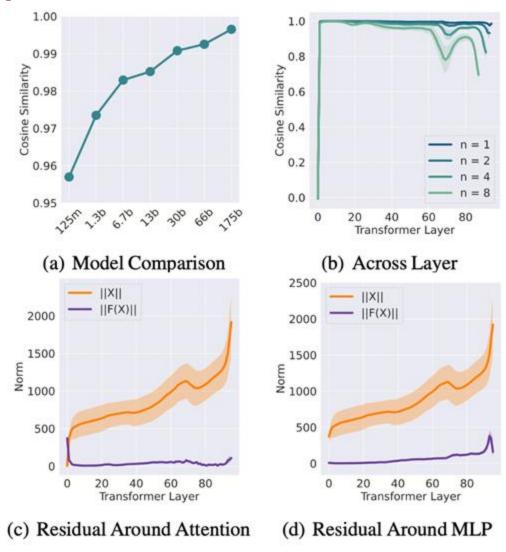


Only 25% of the FFN parameters are used for a single token



Deja Vu: Contextual Sparsity

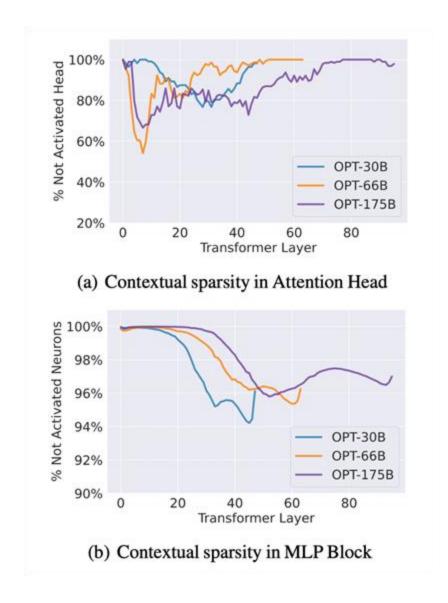
Observation 1: Model activations change very little between consecutive layers of a network



Deja Vu: Contextual Sparsity for Efficient LLMs at Inference Time [Liu et al., 2023]

Deja Vu: Contextual Sparsity

Observation 2: Most attention heads and most neurons are not used

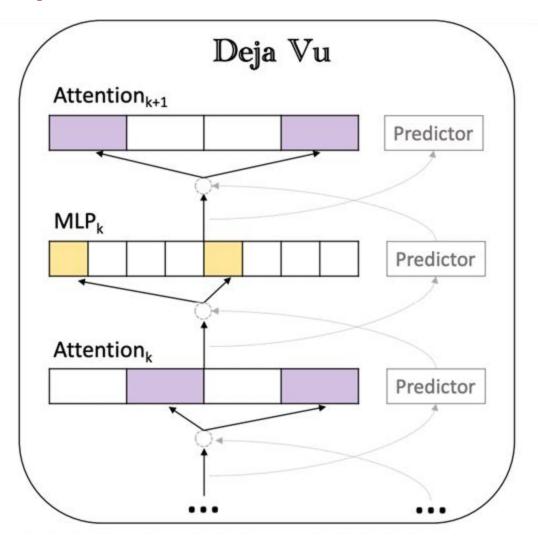


Deja Vu: Contextual Sparsity for Efficient LLMs at Inference Time [Liu et al., 2023]



Deja Vu: Contextual Sparsity

Sparsification: Use predictors in each layer to determine which neurons to activate and which attention heads to use – ignore all unpredicted heads/neurons



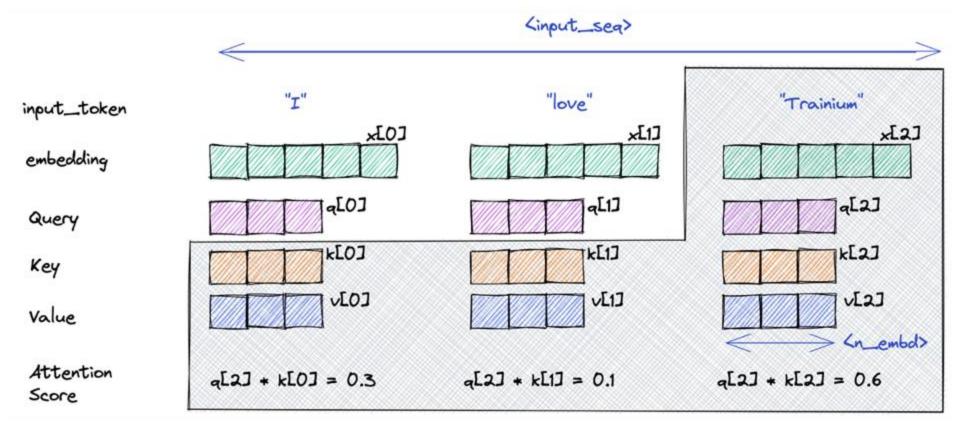
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- ☐ Parameter Efficient Fine-Tuning (BitFit, Adapter, Prompt Tuning, LoRA)
- Distillation

The KV-Cache

The transformer needs to have access to the keys and values for all previous tokens in all layers for all heads when



https://awsdocs-neuron.readthedocs-hosted.com/en/latest/general/appnotes/transformers-neuronx/generative-Ilm-inference-with-neuron.html

The KV-Cache

In total, we must store

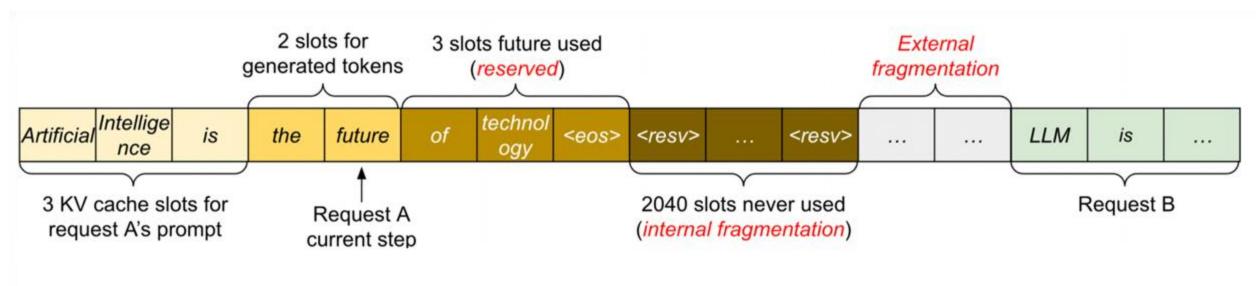
Batch_size * seq_len * num_heads * num_layers * emb_dim * 2

separate values in the kv cache

PagedAttention

How does a large LLM service (large ChatGPT) handle multiple incoming requests with respect to the KV-cache?

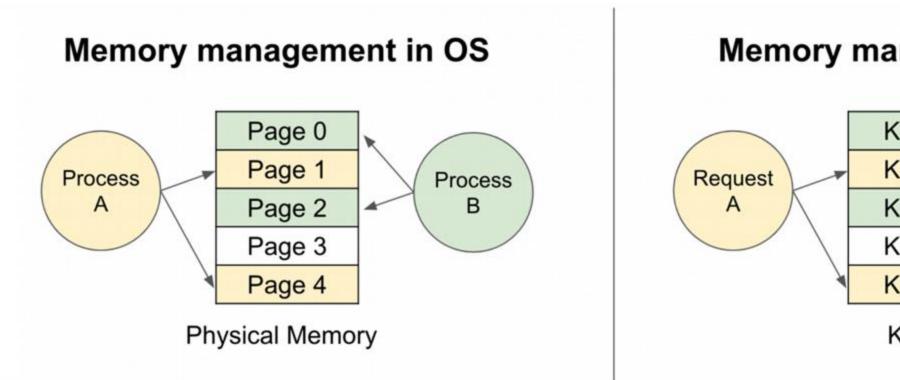
-Originally, most systems just assign fixed sized blocks of memory to each incoming request. How to improve?

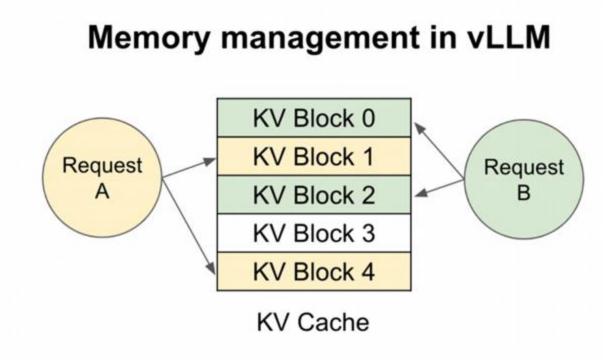


Efficient Memory Management for Large Language Model Serving with PagedAttention (Kwon et al., 2023)

PagedAttention

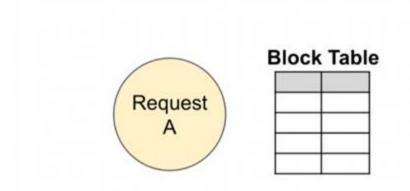
Let's adopt a similar approach to that found in virtual memory!





Efficient Memory Management for Large Language Model Serving with PagedAttention (Kwon et al., 2023)

PagedAttention

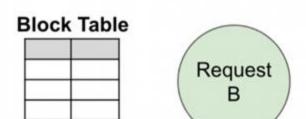


Logical KV blocks

Alan	Turing	is	а
computer	scientist	and	mathema tician
renowned			

Physical KV blocks

computer	scientist	and	mathem atician
Artificial	Intellige nce	is	the
renowned			
future	of	technolog y	
Alan	Turing	is	а

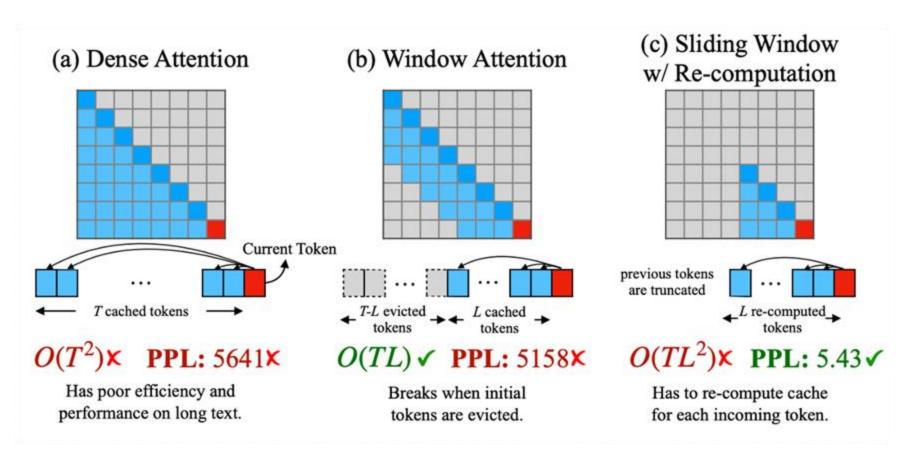


Logical KV blocks

Artificial	Intelligence	is	the
future	of	technology	

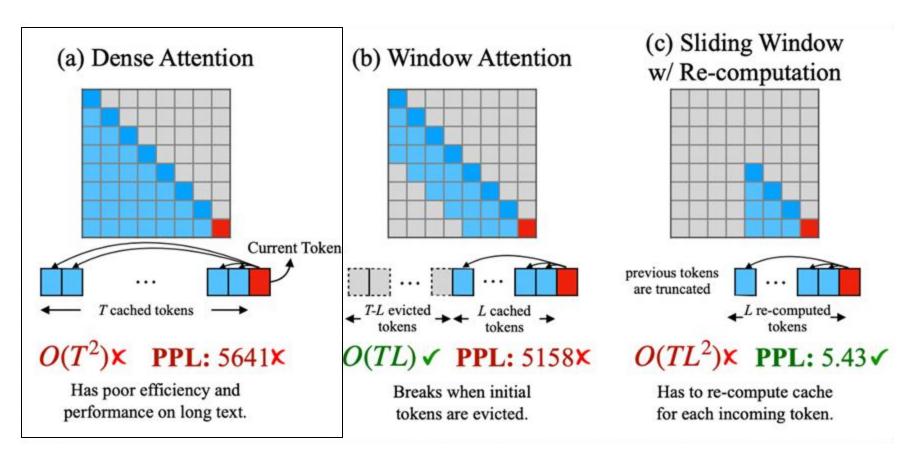
Efficient Memory Management for Large Language Model Serving with PagedAttention (Kwon et al., 2023)

How can we extend models to have much longer context length at minimal cost?

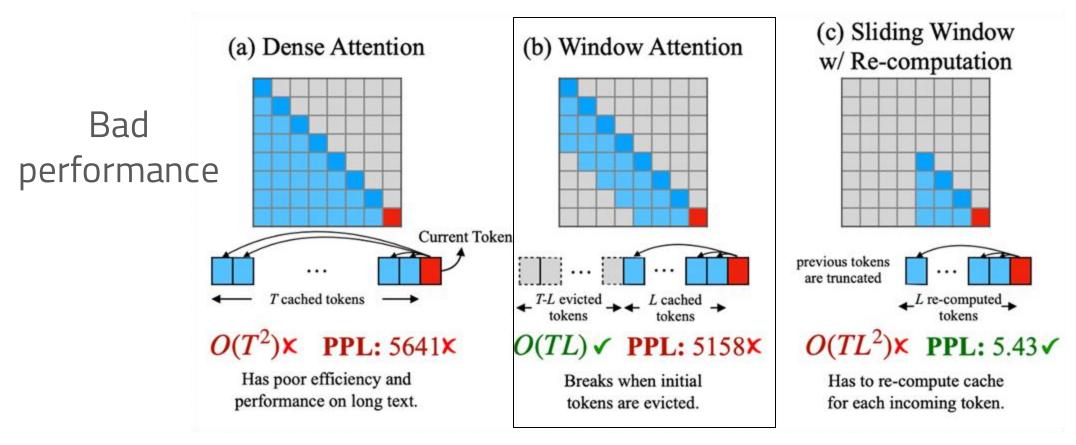


How can we extend models to have much longer context length at minimal cost?

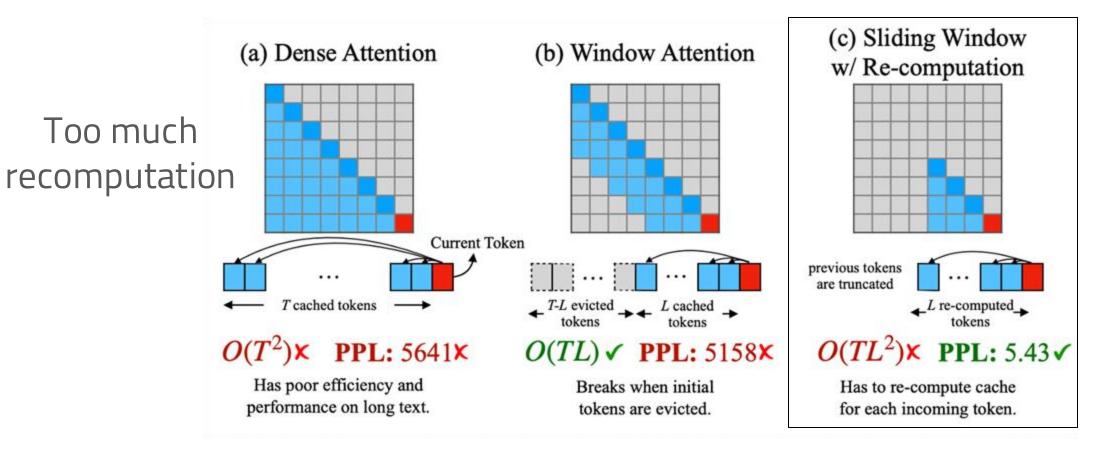
Too much storage



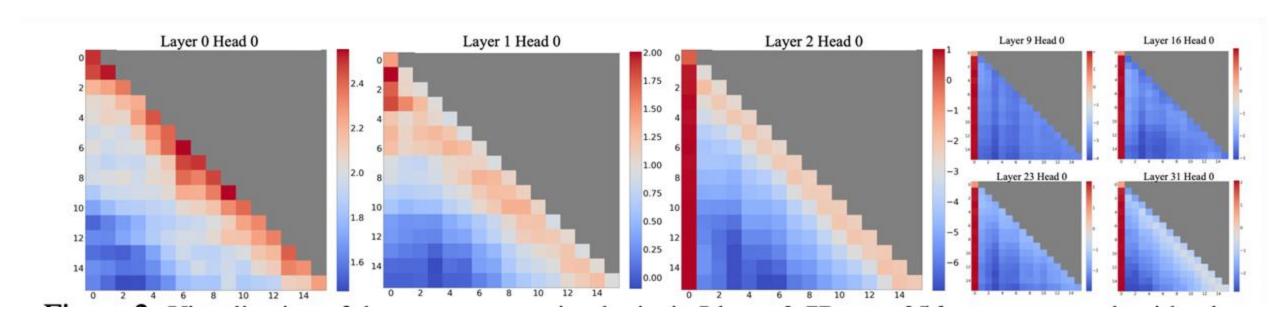
How can we extend models to have much longer context length at minimal cost?

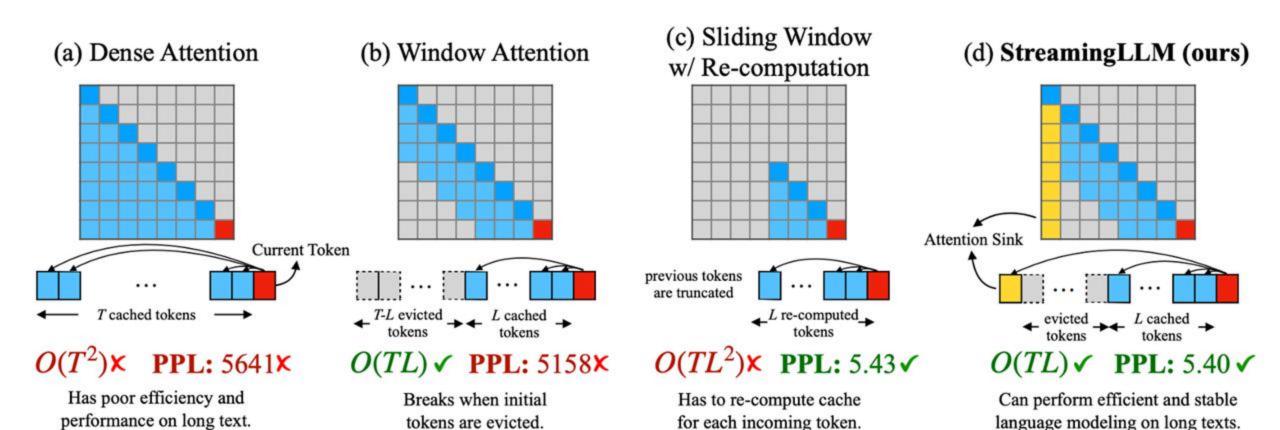


How can we extend models to have much longer context length at minimal cost?



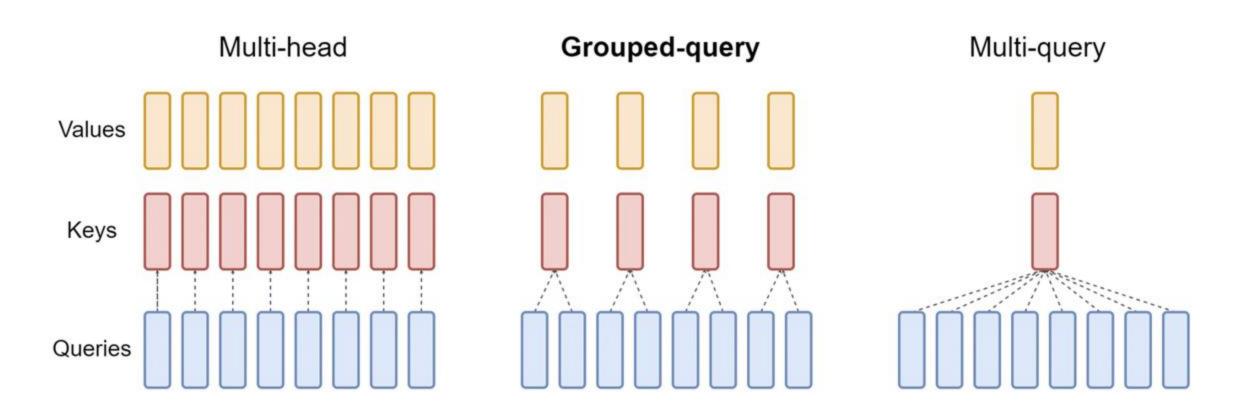
Observation: Most attention is either placed on the first token or to tokens that the model has recently seen.







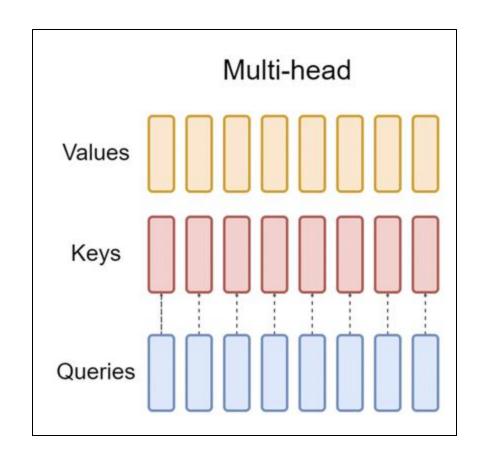
MHA/GQA/MQA

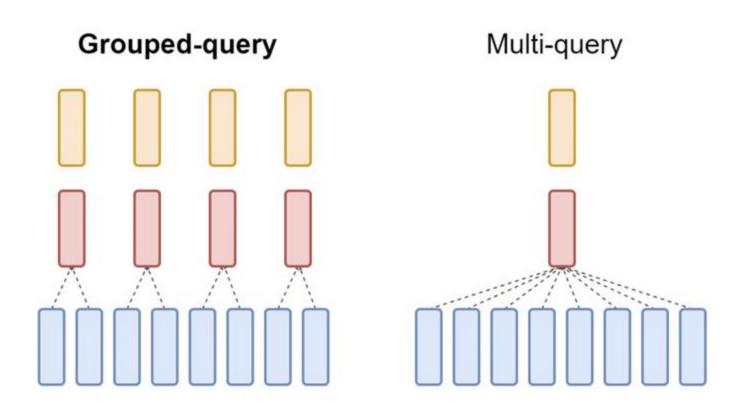


GQA: Training Generalized Multi-Query Transformer Models from Multi-Head Checkpoints

MHA/GQA/MQA

Each attention head calculates separate keys and values for each token

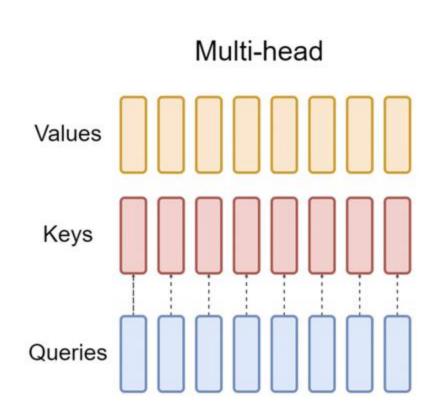


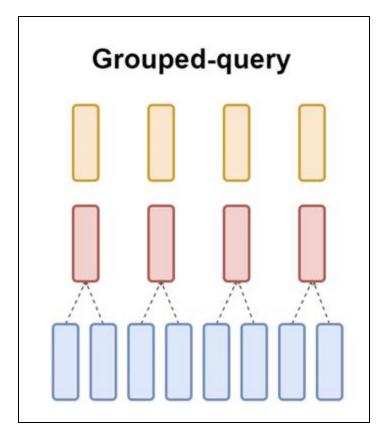


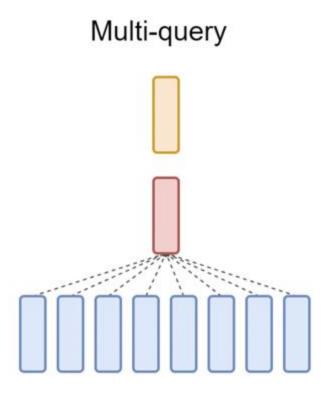
GQA: Training Generalized Multi-Query Transformer Models from Multi-Head Checkpoints

MHA/GQA/MQA

Attention heads are split into groups. Each group has one key/value per token.



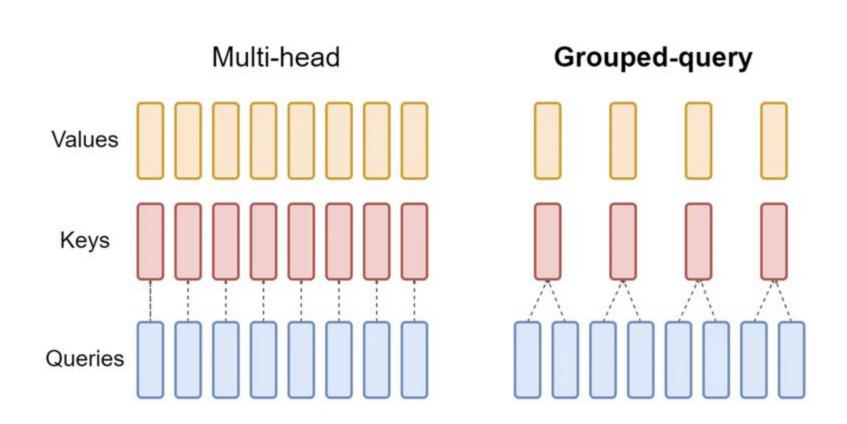


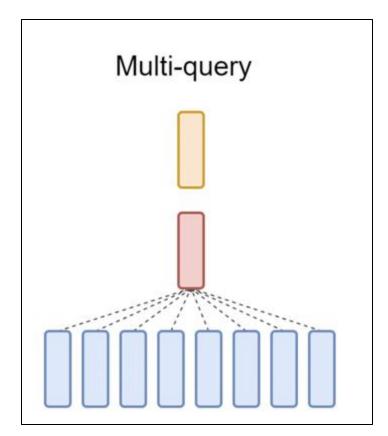


GQA: Training Generalized Multi-Query Transformer Models from Multi-Head Checkpoints

MHA/GQA/MQA

Attention heads share the same keys and values for each token

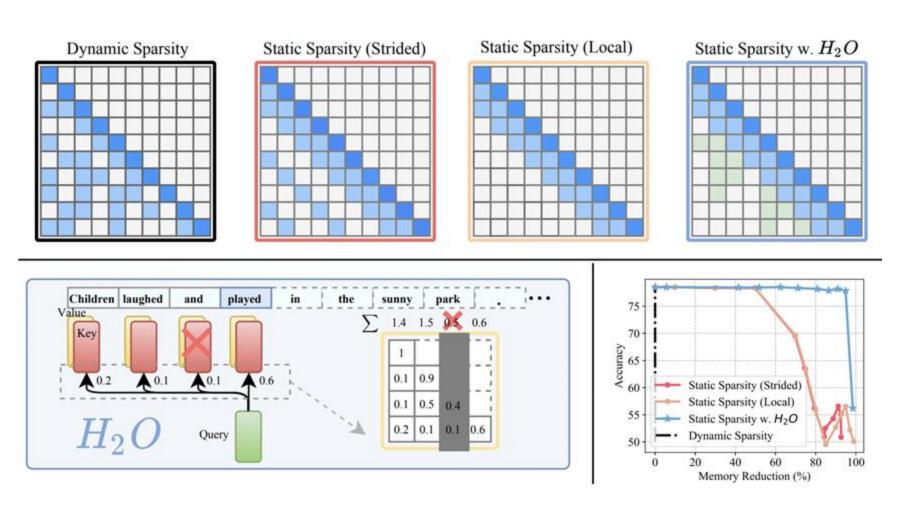




GQA: Training Generalized Multi-Query Transformer Models from Multi-Head Checkpoints

H₂0: Heavy Hitter Oracle

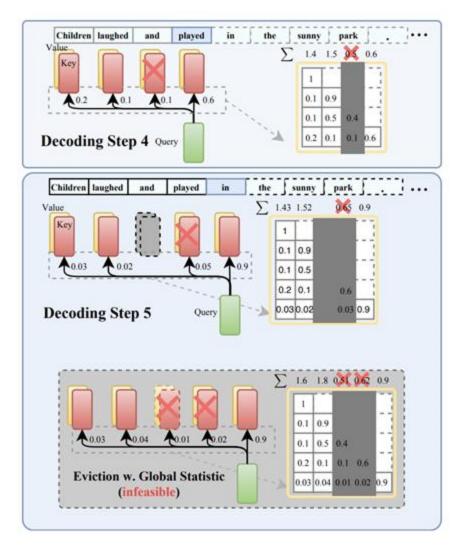
Evict all but k-highest cumulative attention tokens from cache



H2O: Heavy-Hitter Oracle for Efficient Generative Inference of Large Language Models [Zhang et. al, 2023]

H₂0: Heavy Hitter Oracle

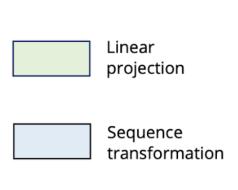
Evict all but k-highest cumulative attention tokens from cache

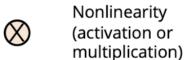


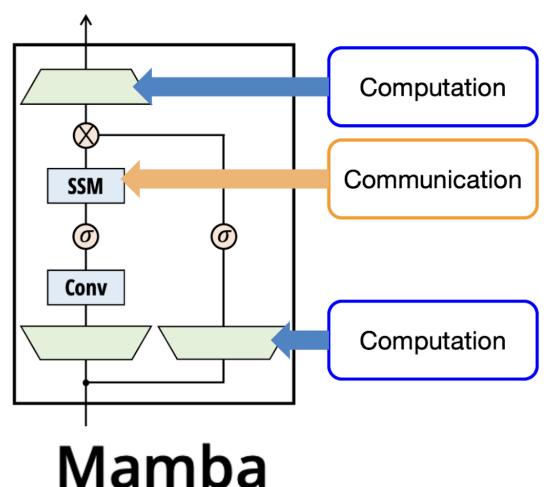
H2O: Heavy-Hitter Oracle for Efficient Generative Inference of Large Language Models [Zhang et. al, 2023]

State Space Model (SSM)

Linearity Strikes back



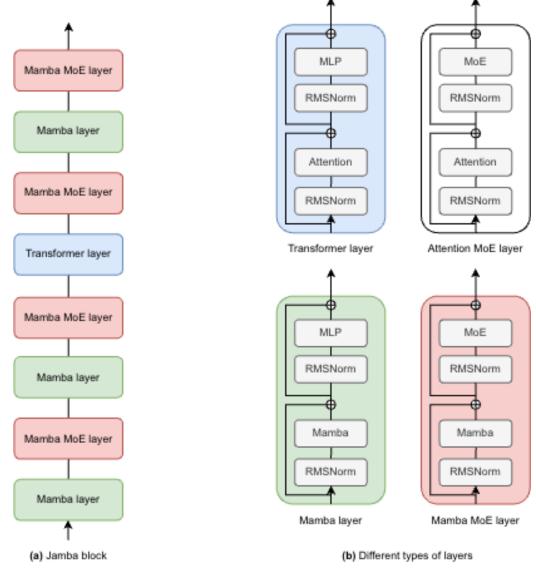




Mamba: Linear-Time Sequence Modeling with Selective State Spaces (Gu et. Al)

SSM

- SSMs are growing in popularity
- Linear complexity makes them excellent candidates for very long tasks
- If they can begin outperforming transformers in practical settings, these could displace the transformer architecture



Jamba: A Hybrid Transformer-Mamba Language Model

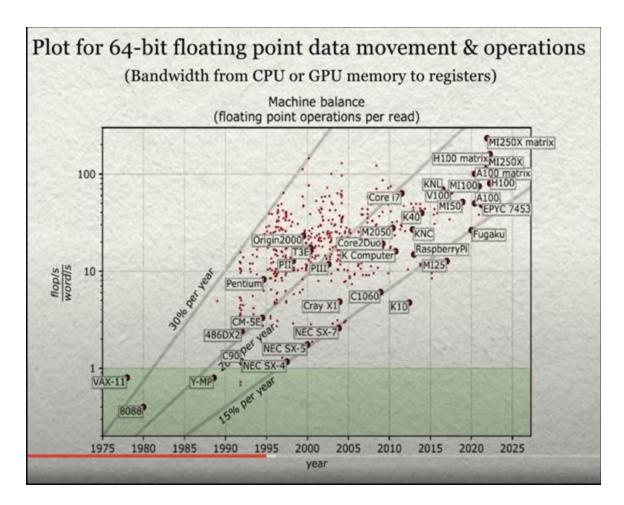
Efficient LLMs

- Quantization
 - Background
 - K-Means vs. Linear Quantization
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 - Quantization Aware Training (QAT) vs Post-Training Quantization (PTQ)
 - LLM Quantization (LLM.int8(), SmoothQuant, AWQ, 1-bit LLMs)
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The Memory Bandwidth Bottleneck

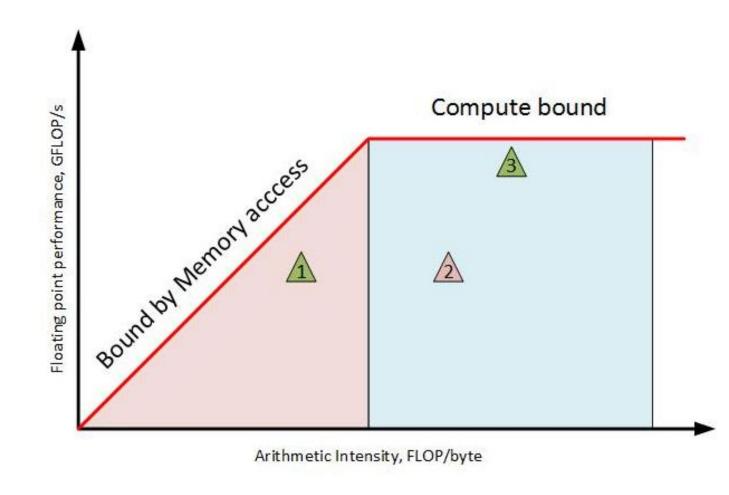
- Two parts of computing each add time to any given task →
 - Memory loading (Gb/s)
 - Computation (FLOPS)
- Over time, memory loading has gotten slower relative to computation
- This means memory loading can be more of a bottleneck if we are only using things we load from memory one time



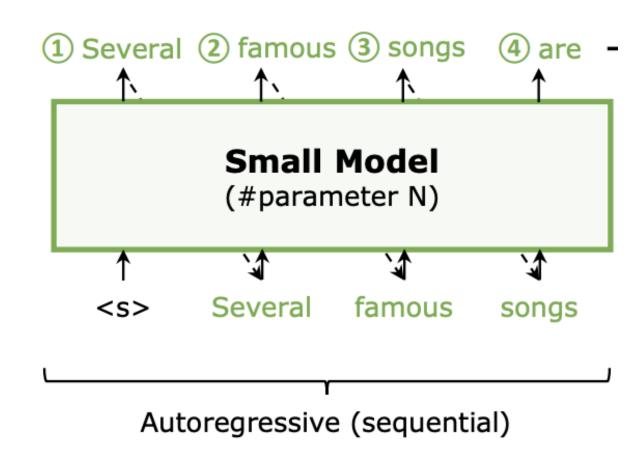
Turing Award Presentation, 2021 [Dongarra]

Compute vs. 10

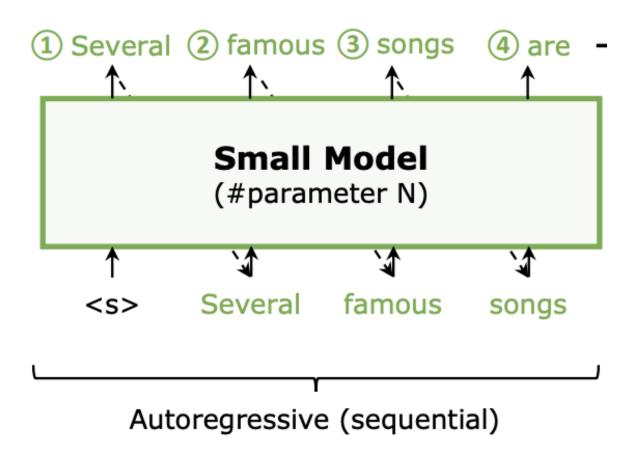
- One way to alleviate this is to increase the amount of computation we perform for each byte we load from memory
- This is called the *arithmetic intensity* of a given
 program/function
- Generally, we would prefer to be in the compute bound region more often as this is where work is being done



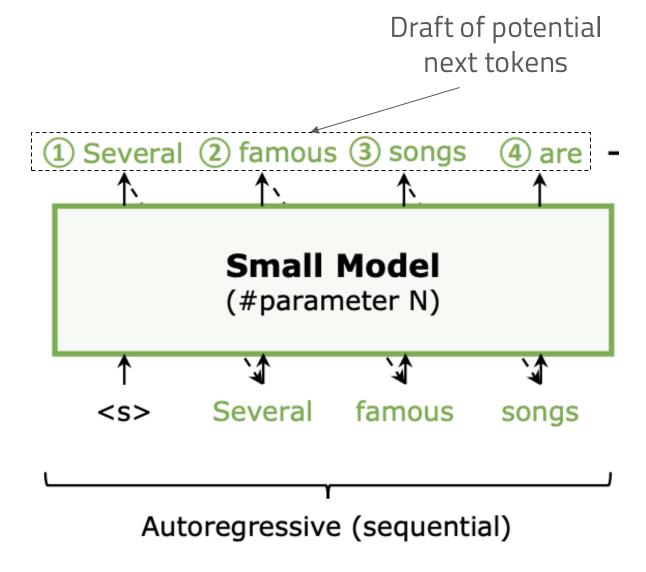
- In standard autoregressive decoding, we are only using each parameter one time when the batch size is 1
- This means standard decoding has a *low* arithmetic intensity and is memory bound
- We have a bunch more compute we could be getting for free given how massively parallel GPUs are



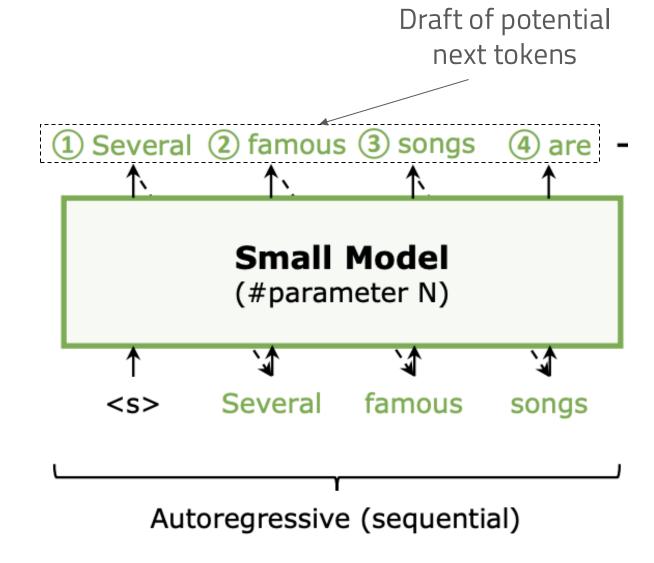
 Speculative decoding resolves this by 'speculating' multiple tokens into the future with a smaller, cheaper model



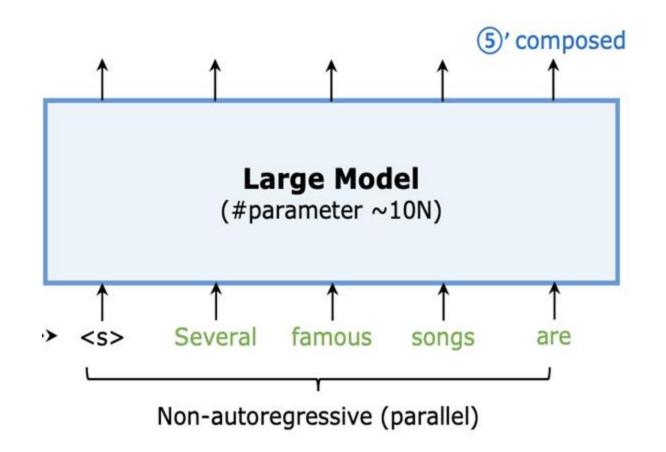
 Speculative decoding resolves this by 'speculating' multiple tokens into the future with a smaller, cheaper model



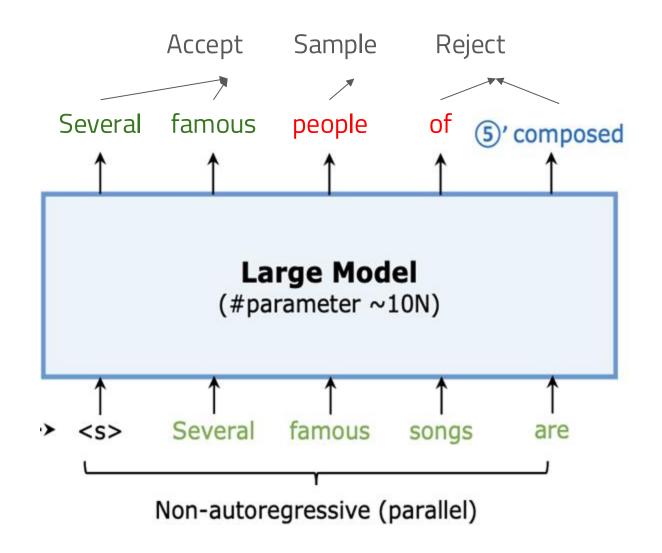
- Speculative decoding resolves this by 'speculating' multiple tokens into the future with a smaller, cheaper model
- We can now send this set of tokens on to a much larger model to verify the sequence



- Because the sequence will be run in parallel the arithmetic intensity will be proportional to the number of draft tokens
- We run each token through and see if the output of the large model matches that of the smaller, draft model

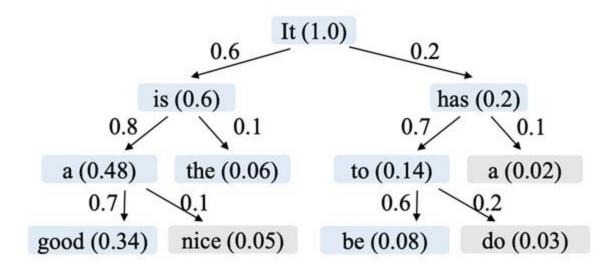


- Because the sequence will be run in parallel the arithmetic intensity will be proportional to the number of draft tokens
- We run each token through and see if the output of the large model matches that of the smaller, draft model
- We accept the matching tokens



Advanced Approaches

More advanced approaches will use draft trees, rather than draft sequences

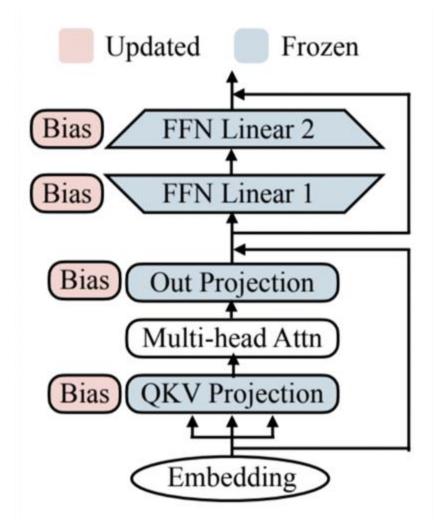




Efficient LLMs

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- Distillation

BitFit



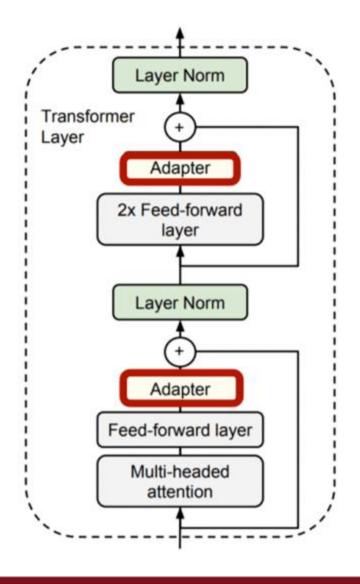
Update only the bias parameters

	Train size	%Param	QNLI 105k	SST-2 67k	MNLI _m 393k	MNLI _{mm} 393k	CoLA 8.5k	MRPC 3.7k	STS-B 7k	RTE 2.5k	QQP 364k	Avg.
(V)	Full-FT†	100%	93.5	94.1	86.5	87.1	62.8	91.9	89.8	71.8	87.6	84.8
(V)	Full-FT	100%	91.7±0.1	93.4±0.2	85.5±0.4	85.7±0.4	62.2±1.2	90.7±0.3	90.0±0.4	71.9 ± 1.3	87.5±0.4	84.1
(V)	Diff-Prune†	0.5%	93.4	94.2	86.4	86.9	63.5	91.3	89.5	71.5	86.6	84.6
(V)	BitFit	0.08%	91.4±2.4	93.2±0.4	84.4±0.2	84.8±0.1	63.6±0.7	91.7±0.5	90.3±0.1	73.2±3.7	85.4±0.1	84.2
(T)	Full-FT‡	100%	91.1	94.9	86.7	85.9	60.5	89.3	87.6	70.1	72.1	81.8
(T)	Full-FT†	100%	93.4	94.1	86.7	86.0	59.6	88.9	86.6	71.2	71.7	81.5
(T)	Adapters‡	3.6%	90.7	94.0	84.9	85.1	59.5	89.5	86.9	71.5	71.8	81.1
(T)	Diff-Prune†	0.5%	93.3	94.1	86.4	86.0	61.1	89.7	86.0	70.6	71.1	81.5
(T)	BitFit	0.08%	92.0	94.2	84.5	84.8	59.7	88.9	85.5	72.0	70.5	80.9

Table 1: BERT_{LARGE} model performance on the GLUE benchmark validation set (V) and test set (T). Lines with † and ‡ indicate results taken from Guo et al. (2020) and Houlsby et al. (2019) (respectively).

BitFit: Simple Parameter-efficient Fine-tuning for Transformer-based Masked Language-models [Zeken et al, ACL 2021]

Adapter



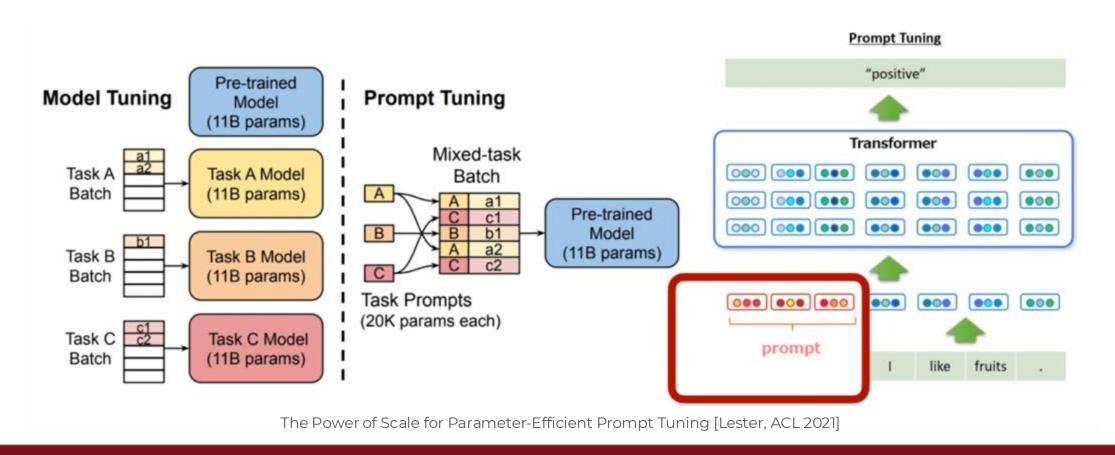
Add trainable layers after each feedforward layer

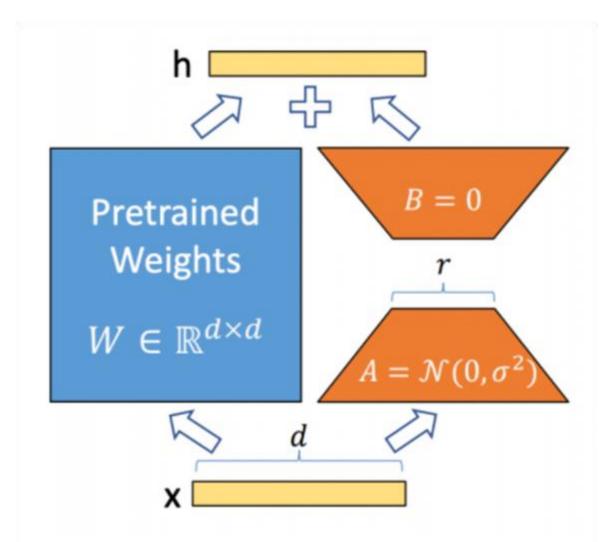
	Total num params	Trained params / task	CoLA	SST	MRPC	STS-B	QQP	$MNLI_{m}$	$MNLI_{mm}$	QNLI	RTE	Total
BERTLARGE	9.0×	100%	60.5	94.9	89.3	87.6	72.1	86.7	85.9	91.1	70.1	80.4
Adapters (8-256)	1.3×	3.6%	59.5	94.0	89.5	86.9	71.8	84.9	85.1	90.7	71.5	80.0
Adapters (64)	1.2×	2.1%	56.9	94.2	89.6	87.3	71.8	85.3	84.6	91.4	68.8	79.6

Parameter-Efficient Transfer Learning for NLP [Houlsby et al, ICML 2019]

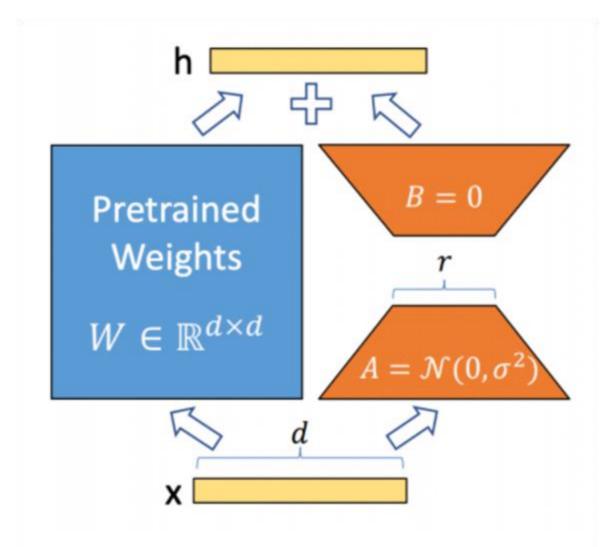
Prompt Tuning (Soft Prompting)

Train a continuous, learnable prompt in embedding space for each task we are training on

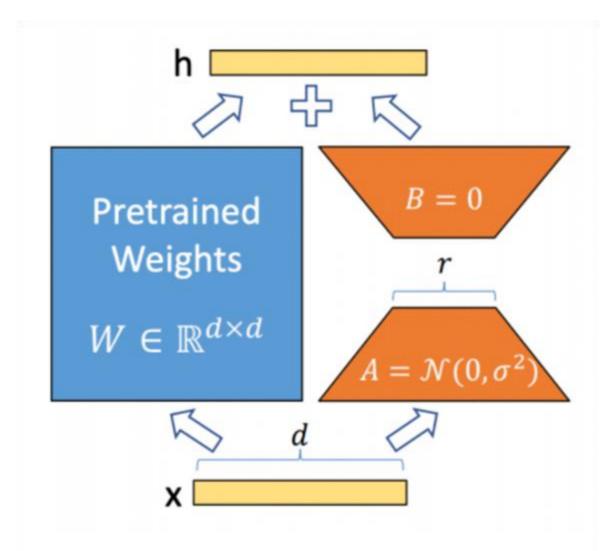




- ☐ Hypothesizes that fine-tuning results in only low rank updates
- ☐ Thus, we may approximate the updates themselves as low-rank and train on this low-rank approximation directly



Normal Finetuning:



Normal Finetuning:

LoRA Finetuning:

$$h = Wx + BAx$$

Update B,A Leave W unchanged

Model & Method	# Trainable Parameters	MNLI	SST-2	MRPC	CoLA	QNLI	QQP	RTE	STS-B	Avg.
RoB _{base} (FT)*	125.0M	87.6	94.8	90.2	63.6	92.8	91.9	78.7	91.2	86.4
RoB _{base} (BitFit)*	0.1M	84.7	93.7	92.7	62.0	91.8	84.0	81.5	90.8	85.2
RoB _{base} (Adpt ^D)*	0.3M	87.1±.0	$94.2_{\pm .1}$	$88.5_{\pm 1.1}$	$60.8 \scriptstyle{\pm.4}$	$93.1_{\pm .1}$	$90.2_{\pm .0}$	$71.5_{\pm 2.7}$	$89.7_{\pm .3}$	84.4
$RoB_{base} (Adpt^{D})*$	0.9M	87.3±.1	94.7±.3	$88.4_{\pm .1}$	62.6±.9	93.0±.2	$90.6_{\pm .0}$	$75.9_{\pm 2.2}$	$90.3_{\pm .1}$	85.4
RoB _{base} (LoRA)	0.3M	87.5 _{±.3}	$\textbf{95.1}_{\pm .2}$	$89.7_{\pm.7}$	$63.4_{\pm 1.2}$	$\textbf{93.3}_{\pm.3}$	$90.8 \scriptstyle{\pm .1}$	$\textbf{86.6}_{\pm.7}$	$\textbf{91.5}_{\pm .2}$	87.2
RoB _{large} (FT)*	355.0M	90.2	96.4	90.9	68.0	94.7	92.2	86.6	92.4	88.9
RoB _{large} (LoRA)	0.8M	90.6±.2	$96.2 \scriptstyle{\pm .5}$	$\textbf{90.9}_{\pm 1.2}$	$\textbf{68.2}\scriptstyle{\pm 1.9}$	$\textbf{94.9}_{\pm.3}$	$91.6 \scriptstyle{\pm .1}$	$\textbf{87.4} \scriptstyle{\pm 2.5}$	$\textbf{92.6}_{\pm .2}$	89.0
RoB _{large} (Adpt ^P)†	3.0M	90.2±.3	96.1±.3	90.2±.7	68.3 _{±1.0}	94.8±.2	91.9 _{±.1}	83.8 _{±2.9}	92.1 _{±.7}	88.4
RoB _{large} (Adpt ^P)†	0.8M	90.5±.3	$96.6_{\pm .2}$	$89.7_{\pm 1.2}$	$67.8_{\pm 2.5}$	94.8±.3	$91.7_{\pm .2}$	$80.1_{\pm 2.9}$	$91.9_{\pm .4}$	87.9
RoB _{large} (Adpt ^H)†	6.0M	89.9±.5	$96.2_{\pm .3}$	$88.7_{\pm 2.9}$	$66.5_{\pm 4.4}$	$94.7_{\pm .2}$	$92.1_{\pm .1}$	$83.4_{\pm 1.1}$	$91.0_{\pm 1.7}$	87.8
RoB _{large} (Adpt ^H)†	0.8M	90.3±.3	96.3±.5	$87.7_{\pm 1.7}$	$66.3_{\pm 2.0}$	$94.7_{\pm .2}$	$91.5_{\pm .1}$	$72.9_{\pm 2.9}$	$91.5_{\pm .5}$	86.4
RoB _{large} (LoRA)†	0.8M	90.6±.2	$96.2 \scriptstyle{\pm .5}$	$\textbf{90.2}_{\pm 1.0}$	$68.2{\scriptstyle\pm1.9}$	$\textbf{94.8}_{\pm.3}$	$91.6 \scriptstyle{\pm .2}$	$\textbf{85.2}{\scriptstyle\pm1.1}$	$\textbf{92.3}_{\pm.5}$	88.6
DeB _{XXL} (FT)*	1500.0M	91.8	97.2	92.0	72.0	96.0	92.7	93.9	92.9	91.1
DeB _{XXL} (LoRA)	4.7M	$91.9_{\pm .2}$	$96.9_{\pm.2}$	$\textbf{92.6}_{\pm.6}$	$72.4_{\pm 1.1}$	$\textbf{96.0}_{\pm.1}$	$\textbf{92.9}_{\pm.1}$	$94.9_{\pm .4}$	$93.0_{\pm .2}$	91.3

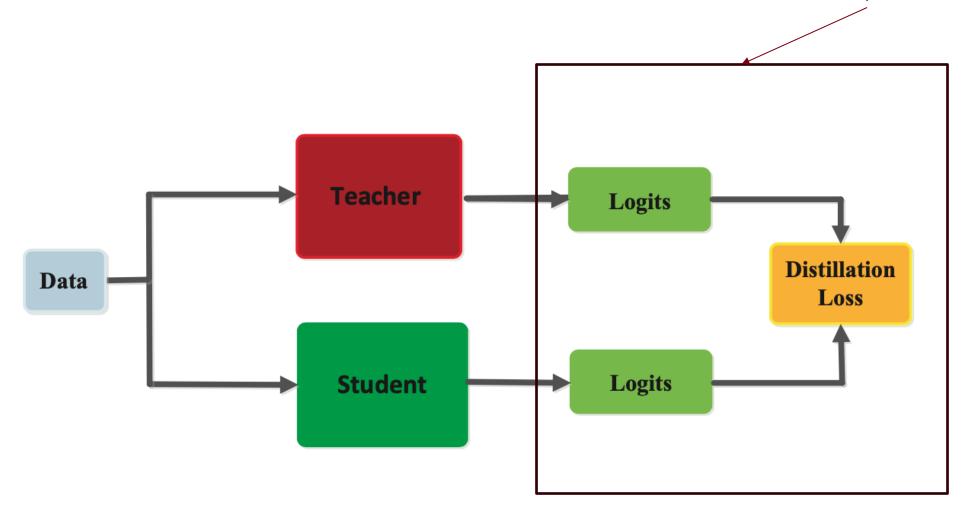
Table 2: RoBERTa_{base}, RoBERTa_{large}, and DeBERTa_{XXL} with different adaptation methods on the GLUE benchmark. We report the overall (matched and mismatched) accuracy for MNLI, Matthew's correlation for CoLA, Pearson correlation for STS-B, and accuracy for other tasks. Higher is better for all metrics. * indicates numbers published in prior works. † indicates runs configured in a setup similar to Houlsby et al. (2019) for a fair comparison.

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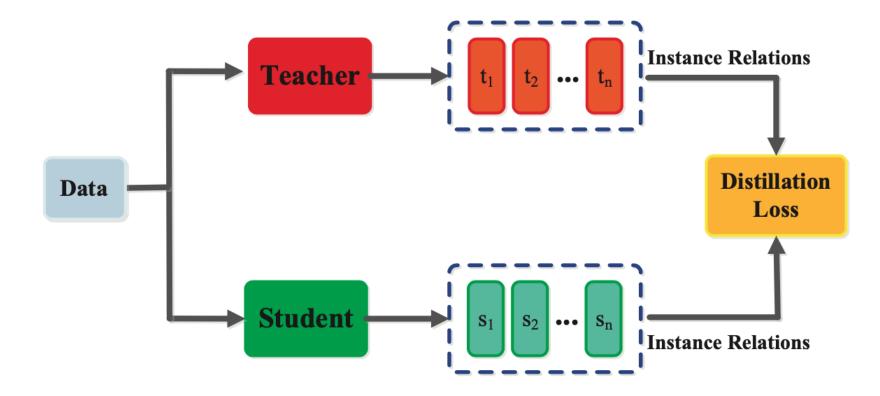
Logit Distillation

Don't use labels, use the modeling distribution of a better 'Teacher' model to train a smaller, 'Student' model

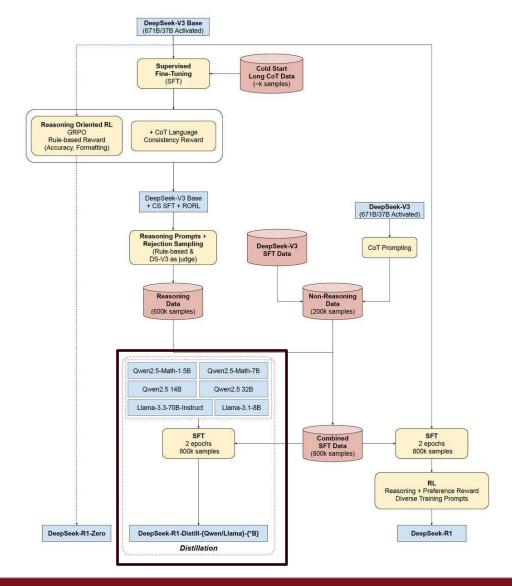


Layer Wise Distillation (LWD)

This can be expanded to trying to match the hidden states of the student and teacher model as well



Output Tokens as Distillation (Synthetic Data)



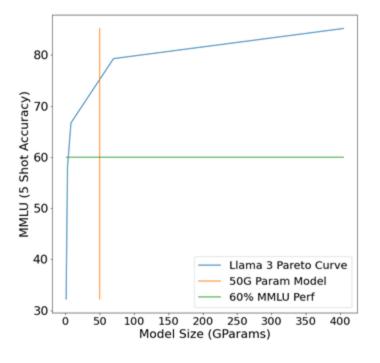
DeepSeekR1 outputs tokens for a given set of problems. In this case 'distillation', just means performing Supervised fine tuning on the tokens create by the larger V3 Models

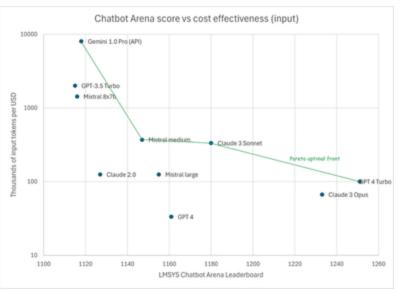
Summary

- Efficient inference algorithms in LLMs lead to lower cost, faster inference, and smaller models
- Quantization and sparsity are the primary techniques for realizing these efficiencies
- □ PEFT techniques allow for faster fine-tuning with smaller storage requirements

Future Directions

- Better, more adaptive inference systems
 - Adaptive speculative decoding
 - Variable Model Serving
- ☐ Improved efficiency benchmarking
- More efficient architectures







Open Source Models/Inference Systems

- Models
 - o <u>Llama3.2</u>
 - o <u>Qwen2.5</u>
 - Mixtral
- Quantization
 - o AWQ
 - <u>LLM.int8()</u>
 - o QLoRA
 - GGUF

- ☐ Inference Systems
 - o vLLM
 - o **SGLang**
 - Tensor-RT LLM
 - o <u>Llama.cpp</u>
 - o oLLama
 - Huggingface TGI