Personalized LLM Response Generation with Parameterized User Memory Injection

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Abstract

001 Large Language Models (LLMs) have exhibited remarkable proficiency in comprehend-003 ing and generating natural language. On the other hand, personalized LLM response generation holds the potential to offer substantial benefits for individuals. However, existing work struggles with efficiently incorpo-007 rating user information for LLM personalization. In this study, we draw inspirations from real-world bionic memory mechanism to pro-011 pose a novel parameterized Memory-injected approach using parameter-efficient fine-tuning (PEFT), combined with a Bayesian Optimisation searching strategy to achieve LLM Personalization(MiLP). Our MiLP takes advantage from the alignment between real-world memory mechanism and the LLM's architecture. Extensive experiments have shown the superiority and effectiveness of MiLP. To en-019 courage further research into this area, we are releasing our implementations¹.

1 Introduction

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The undeniable capability of large language models in comprehending and producing natural language has been underscored by various studies (Brown et al., 2020; Chowdhery et al., 2022; Touvron et al., 2023). Simultaneously, there exists untapped potential to customize these models for delivering personalized responses to users, enabling them to receive tailored and fitting replies according to their individual requirements (Bender and Koller, 2020). For instance, in an LLM-based medical dialogue scenario, an assistant capable of recognizing the patient's medical history can generate more tailored responses, rather than offering generic and potentially inappropriate suggestions(Huang et al., 2023). Individuals with limited access to the medical resources can benefit significantly from such applications, highlighting the imperative needs for LLM personalization(Chen et al., 2023).



Figure 1: Three types of methods for incorporating user historical content to achieve personalized LLM.

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Incorporating user historical information properly to LLM can be a key towards LLM personalization. Existing works can be concluded into three lines as illustrated in Fig.1. Text-Prompt based methods leverage in-context learning by organizing user historical data into prompts, which are then input to LLMs to consider personal information (Petrov and Macdonald, 2023; Kang et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2023). However, this approach faces limitations due to the constrained context window of LLMs (Liu et al., 2024). Memory-based approaches provide a solution by maintaining a memory that stores user historical content. When a query arises, a retriever selects relevant information from memory to create prompts for LLMs, enabling personalized responses (Dalvi et al., 2022; Madaan et al., 2022; Lewis et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2023). Despite their utility, these methods struggle to capture fine-grained or implicitly relevant details due to their reliance on similarity-based retrieval. For example, a user context like "User has a dog" may seem unrelated to a query such as "Recommendations for houseplants." However, this con-

¹https://anonymous.4open.science/r/MiLP-060F

text implies that toxic plants like tulips should be 064 avoided for the safety of the dog. Additionally, 065 noisy or complex user histories can hinder LLMs 066 from focusing on the most pertinent information without a structured, learnable process. In domains such as healthcare, these challenges are particularly pronounced. LLMs analyzing a patient's longterm medical history for clinical decision-making must integrate detailed and accurate observations to understand disease progression and comorbidity interactions. Fragmented or incomplete records retrieved from memory provide an inadequate or even misleading snapshot of the patient's condition² (Liu et al., 2024; Cosentino et al., 2024). To 077 address this, recent studies have proposed project-078 ing user historical content into a learnable representation space (Ning et al., 2024; Deng et al., 2022; Zhong et al., 2022). Instead of directly retrieving user texts to prompt LLMs, these learned representations enable reasoning over implicitly relevant information for generation. Building on this foundation, our study steps further on bionic memory process: integrating a memorization and searching mechanism directly into LLM. Different from traditional similarity-based retrieval methods, this approach enhances reasoning capabilities by memorizing user information into parameters and activating the needed parameters during personalized response generation³.

Previous studies in neuroscience have indicated that memory is stored in different parts of the brain and is activated accordingly when needed (Levenson and Sweatt, 2005; Nadel et al., 2012). Concurrently, efforts have revealed that the Feed Forward Layers (FFL) of Transformer architecture serve as a memory bank, storing both shallow patterns (e.g., sentences ending with a certain word) and semantic patterns (e.g., sentences about a certain topic) (Tay et al., 2022; Chen et al., 2024). Subsequent attempts have been made to inject external knowledge into LLMs via parameter-efficient fine-tuning (PEFT) (Houlsby et al., 2019; Pfeiffer et al., 2020b; Li and Liang, 2021; Hu et al., 2021), maintaining a modular and adaptable structure without compromising the LLM's original capabilities compared to fully fine-tuning (Ye et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2020; Diao et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2020). Drawing valuable inspiration from

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²https://www.epic.com/epic/post/

cool-stuff-now-epic-and-generative-ai/

³We provide discussions for **Retrieval vs. Parameteriza**tion in Appendix D the alignment between real-world bionic memory 112 mechanisms and LLM's memory mechanisms, we 113 propose to first memorize user historical content as 114 parameters in the LLM by leveraging a Bayesian 115 Optimal search algorithm, an instruction-tuning 116 technique is then used to generate personalized 117 response with consideration from parameterized 118 user historical content. Different memories, with 119 different characteristics highlighting the distinct 120 sensitivity to the allocated parameter budget and 121 the location of the injected layers(He et al., 2021; 122 Zhang et al., 2023). Unfortunately, most PEFT 123 applications are limited to a single PEFT architec-124 ture with fixed decisions on its components (e.g. 125 hidden size, insertion layers) which can not store 126 and activate different memories for personalization. 127 To address this, we propose to leverage multiple 128 PEFT modules (e.g., LoRAs) (Zhou et al., 2023) 129 for different memory storage and utilize a high-130 dimensional multi-objective Bayesian optimization 131 (BO) approach to determine the optimal configu-132 rations for memory storage. In tandem, we draw 133 inspirations from the alignment between bionic 134 memory mechanism and the LLM's memory mech-135 anism to propose a novel parameterized Memory-136 injected method that capitalizes on PEFT, comple-137 mented by a novel Bayesian Optimization-based 138 searching strategy to handle multi-PEFT settings 139 for achieving LLM Personalization (MiLP). Our 140 contributions are threefold: 141

• *Conceptional* In contrast to traditional information retrieval process, we leverage the alignment between bionic memory and the LLM's memorization mechanism to parameterize user memory directly into the LLM which offers a fresh perspective for the community in LLM personalization. 142

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• *Methodological* We propose the MiLP framework, which integrates a comprehensive Bayesian Optimal searching algorithm and an instructiontuning process to handle multi-LoRA settings for personalized response generation.

• *Experimental* Our empirical results demonstrate significant improvements in both generation and personalization tasks. Further analyses, including ablation and scalability analysis, together validate the effectiveness and superiority of MiLP.

2 Methodology

Overview Our proposed MiLP takes user's content including user profile, historical content (e.g., dialogues, posts) $\mathcal{U} = \{c_0, ..., c_n\}$ and a query x as



Figure 2: Illustration of the proposed MiLP: The search space encompasses *the number of LoRAs* n, *inserted layers* α and *the size of injected LoRA*. Given a suggested configuration θ (e.g., two LoRAs with fixed size r are injected into the 0-th and (n-1)-th layer, respectively), the base LLM trains on this configuration and take the performance as target. Then the BO search will make a new suggestion and iterate the process until it converges.

input and the goal is to inject and search for proper memory to output personalized response y. The parameterized user memory injection is achieved by applying multiple Low-Rank Adaption (LoRA) modules into the FFL of the base LLM Φ under an optimal configuration and a modified Bayesian Optimisation approach is utilized to handle the multi-LoRA setting as illustrated in Fig 2. The LLM's performance p (e.g., loss, metrics) will be targeted by the optimal search and this process will iterate until it converges. Finally, an instruction-tuning will be performed for aligning the generated response with human intents.

2.1 LoRA Module

Previous work have provided insights in the success of injecting knowledge into the LLM via PEFT tuning (Yao et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2020). Inspired by the function analysis of feed-forward layers in Transformer(Geva et al., 2021), our MiLP modified the usage of Low-Rank Adaption (LoRA) (Hu et al., 2021) to the feed-forward layers of the base LLM. For a feed-forward layer $h = W_l x$, the forward process is modified to be:

$$h = W_l x + BAx \tag{1}$$

186 where $W_l \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times k}$ denotes the weights of the l-th187 feed-forward layer, $B \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r}$, $A \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times k}$ are the low-rank decomposed matrices and the rank $r \ll \min(d, k)$.

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2.2 Parameterized Memory Injection

Determining how to properly store and activate pertinent information presents a challenge. Inspired by the success of neural architecture search, we start by defining a search space. Subsequently, we employ a Bayesian optimization (BO) approach to identify the optimal configuration for generating personalized responses. In the following sections, we provide a detailed explanation of our search space design, along with the rationale behind it, and describe the process of conducting BO.

2.2.1 Search Space

Search Space plays a pivotal role in searching the optimal configuration for the suitable parameterized memory storage within LLM. Similar to Zhou et al. (2023), our searching space is as follow:

Inserted Layer Different feed-forward layer within the LLM stores distinct information (Geva et al., 2021) where the shallow layers tend to store shallow patterns (e.g., sentences end with a certain word) while deep layers store semantic patterns (e.g., sentences about a certain topic). Consequently, applying LoRA to all layers can lead to suboptimal results. Thus, we introduce a binary parameter α at each layer l_i that controls whether

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LoRA in the layer is active or inactive.

Number of LoRAs Our method is designed for a single user and it is intuitive that the volume of distinct user content can vary, resulting in a range of learnable spaces for injecting such content (Wang et al., 2020). Thus, we incorporate the number of LoRAs, denoted as n, into our search space.

222Low-Rank Size Prior studies have demonstrated223that the performance of LoRA is greatly influenced224by the number of adjustable parameters (Chen et al.,2252022). Therefore, it is crucial to dynamically ad-226just its capacity to align with the demands of the227specific task to achieve optimal performance. To228address this, we follow Zhou et al. (2023) to include229the rank r as a parameter in our search space, which230signifies LoRA's capability to store user-specific231content in memory.

2.2.2 Bayesian Optimal Search

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While much existing work concentrates on identifying a single PEFT module with the best performance, real-world applications often involve optimizing multiple PEFT models, a scenario that has been rarely explored (Zhou et al., 2023). To address this gap, we opt to employ a modified Bayesian Optimization (BO) approach to determine how different parts of injected memory should be utilized in response to a user's query.

Bayesian Optimization leverages two key com-242 ponents:1) A probabilistic surrogate model to approximate the objective function using previous observations.2) An acquisition function that suggests 245 which point in the search space should be evalu-246 ated next. The fundamental principle of Bayesian 247 Optimization (BO) is to iteratively select points for 248 evaluation, striking a balance between exploration (searching different areas) and exploitation (focusing on areas likely to yield the best results). The surrogate model estimates the objective function 253 and its uncertainty, while the acquisition function identifies the most promising points to evaluate. By continuously updating the surrogate model and selecting points expected to improve the objective, BO efficiently explores the space for the optimal 257 solution while minimizing the number of evalua-258 tions of the costly objective function.

Surrogate Function Applying BO to our defined search space is non-trivial. Thus, we opt
for the usage of Sparse AxisAligned Subspace
(SAAS-GP) (Eriksson and Jankowiak, 2021) to
serve as the surrogate function. SAAS-GP employs robust, sparsity-inducing priors to address

the challenge of modeling high-dimensional data. It assumes that despite the nominal high dimensionality, the effective dimensionality is significantly lower, thereby simplifying the modeling process. Given the user's content \mathcal{U} , a query x and the base LLM Φ with a suggested configuration θ , the performance $p(l, rl|x, \mathcal{U}, \Phi(\theta))$ can be represented by the CrossEntropyLoss $l = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} log P(y_i | y_{< i}, \mathcal{U}, x)$, where N is the the length of targeted length, and ROUGE-L score rl between generated \hat{y} and targeted response y. Thus, we can give the surrogate function in our settings: 266

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$$p(\theta) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu(\theta), \sigma^2(\theta))$$
 (2)

where $\theta \in \Theta$ is a suggested configuration from our defined search space Θ as elaborated in Section 2.2.1, $\mu(\theta)$ is the mean and $\sigma^2(\theta)$ is the variance. For the kernel function, we use log-Normal distribution as the kernel. Then given a new configuration θ_* , the posterior distribution of $p(\theta_*)$ can be updated as follows:

$$p(\theta_*)|\{\theta_i, f(\theta_i)\}_{i=1}^n \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_*, \sigma_*^2)$$
(3)

where n is the number of observed points. The mean and variance of the posterior distribution are computed using the Gaussian process regression. Acquisition Function For acquisition function, we use the Negative Expected Hypervolume Improvement (NEHVI) (Daulton et al., 2021) since it quantifies the negative expected improvement in hypervolume when including a new point in the solution set which in nature is suitable for handling multiobjective optimization setting. The function in our setting can be described as:

$$NEHVI(\theta) = -\mathbb{E}[H(p(\theta^+) \cup p(\theta)) - H(p(\theta^+)] \quad (4)$$

where $H(\cdot)$ is the hypervolume function, $p(\theta^+)$ is a reference point representing the best-known objective values achieved so far and $p(\theta)$ is the predicted function value at θ calculated by the surrogate function.

2.3 Personalized Response Generation

Upon on the learned user representation from historical content, the LLM can be fine-tuned to generate personalized response. We resort to the usage of instruction tuning which has shown great ability for leading LLM to generate desired response in just a few samples(Stiennon et al., 2020; Min et al., 2021; Ouyang et al., 2022). In

	AmazonQA	Reddit	MedDia
# User	46,923	46,818	60
# Samples	51,936	95,881	10,920
# Len(History)	30.7	72.4	182
Avg. Len(Content)	23.6	22.8	27.8
Avg. Len(Response)	50.2	9.1	23.7

Table 1: Statistics comparison of the datasets

312 this work, we fine-tune the memory injected model on instruction-following examples in a supervised 313 manner to aligned the LLM's response with human 314 intents with respect to the user historical content.

Experimental Settings 3

MiLP is tailored to fine-tune the base LLM to generate personalized responses. To evaluate its effectiveness, we compare our method across three public datasets that contain user historical content. For this evaluation, we utilize four different base LLMs of varying scales (Please check Appendix C for detailed scalability justification.).

3.1 Datasets

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AmazonQA/Products(Deng et al., 2022) is a public E-commerce dataset of which each data sample contains user's historical posted content, including questions, answers and reviews as well as the corresponding product's description⁴.

Reddit(Zhong et al., 2022) is a public dataset collect from social media platforms where a user can post question and respond to other users. Each data sample contains a query, a response and a sequence of this user's dialogue history⁵.

MedicalDialogue(Zhang et al., 2023) is a medical dialogue dataset derived from open-source medical corpus of which each data sample contains a 338 patient's profile, preference and the historical dialogues between the patient and the doctor⁶. 340

The detailed comparisons can be seen in Table 341 1.For our experiments, we split the dataset in a 342 user-oriented manner and format each user's histor-343 ical content into a fixed text phrase which allows us to perform next user content prediction task to learn the user's preference. 346

3.2 Baselines

We opt to compare our MiLP with three different configurations for LLM Personalization: Textprompt (TpLP), RAG-based memory (Zhang et al., 351

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3.3 Evaluation Metrics

Automatic Evaluation We resort to the usage of ROUGE-1 and ROUGE-L to measure the word overlaps between the generated response and the ground truth. Further, since the goal is to generate personalized response, the Persona F1 (P-F1)(Ma et al., 2021) is also used to measure the unigram F1 between the generated response and the user's content (e.g., historical dialogues, profile etc.).

Human Evaluation Automatic evaluation can assure the quality of the generated response with respect to the ground-truth, however, we recognize that human evaluation is needed. Thus, we follow the scoring method of Wang et al. (2023) and calculate the **Win Rate**, scoring the generated response and compare the scores between different settings and the standard generation of the Text-prompt based method.

3.4 Implementation Details

For implementation details, we leverage the Transformers (Wolf et al., 2020) and Adapters(Pfeiffer et al., 2020a) as the base code and conduct extensive experiments with the DialoGPT, RoBERTa, LlaMA2-7B and LlaMA2-13B. We use the AdamW optimizer(Loshchilov and Hutter, 2018; Paszke et al., 2017) with a learning rate of 5e-4 and also a linear warm-up scheduler initialized with 10% of the total training steps as warm-up steps and a weight decay of 1e-4 to avoid over-fitting for all the experiments. The batch size per device is set to 8. Further, for all the LLMs, we follow their default settings from the Transformers (Wolf et al., 2020) and add search space factors in the their configurations. We modified the forward logic of injected layers by combing the outputs from both the base model layer and the injected lora module. For BO algorithm implementation, we resorted to the usage of BoTorch (Balandat et al., 2020) and follow the suggested settings from Zhou et al. (2023) for both surrogate function and acquisition function. For prior distributions, we randomly sample 100

^{2023) (}MaLP), User-embedding (UeLP)(Ning et al., 2024) in terms of four LLMs as the base models⁷: DialoGPT(Zhang et al., 2020), RoBERTa(Liu et al., 2019), LLaMA2-7B and LlaMA2-13B(Touvron et al., 2023). For a fair comparison, we use the configuration with the best performance as reported in their paper.

⁴https://cseweb.ucsd.edu/jmcauley/datasets.html

⁵https://github.com/bangbangbang12315/MSP/tree/release/data ⁷Due to the resources limitation, we are unable to test ⁶https://github.com/MatthewKKai/MaLP/tree/main/data larger scale LLMs.

initialisation points for all the experiments. For all datasets used, we split 70% of them as the training 400 set, 10% of them as the validation set and 20% of 401 them as the testing set. For search space, each fac-402 tor is an integer from different ranges. The details 403 can be seen in Table 6. All the experiments are 404 conducted on a computation node configured with 405 four 80G Tesla A100 GPUs. 406

4 **Experimental Results**

Comparative Study 4.1

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Table 2 presents the automatic evaluation compar-409 ative results between baselines and our proposed 410 MiLP on three datasets. It is evident that the inclusion of memory improves performance across 412 all baseline models, highlighting the ability of pro-413 vided personal information to enhance personal-414 ized response generation. MaLP, which incorpo-415 rates long- and short-term memory, outperforms 416 text-prompt based methods, indicating the effectiveness of differentiating stored information. How-418 ever, our proposed MiLP exhibits superior perfor-419 mance compared to them. MiLP achieves average 420 relative improvements of 4.38%, 5.05% and 2.09% in ROUGE-L scores over all base LLMs against the best baselines on three datasets, respectively. One interesting thing we found is that as the base LLMs goes deeper (e.g., the number of hidden lay-425 ers is larger), the relative improvements will also in-426 crease. For example, LlaMA2-13B equipped with MiLP achieves a relative improvement of 0.44% in 428 ROUGE-L score while DialoGPT equipped with MiLP only achieves a relative improvement of 430 1.19% on MedicalDialogue dataset against the best baseline. We attribute this to the deeper layers 432 learning more semantic features (Geva et al., 2021).

Moreover, the improvements in persona-F1 score confirm that incorporating a memory mechanism allows for the integration of more userspecific information into the generated response, thereby enhancing personalization. However, we observed that MiLP demonstrates better coverage of personalized information compared to the best baselines, achieving average increases of 0.090, 0.088, and 0.117 in persona-F1 score across the three datasets, respectively. This can be attributed to the fact that the approach of retrieving pre-stored memory to augment LLM personalization relies on the quality of retrieval and the LLM's understanding of the retrieved prompts, which may lead to sub-optimal results. In contrast, user-embeddingbased method anticipated in the LLM's decoding process leading to a better performance. Additionally, our MiLP injects memory directly into the intricate LLM and achieves a better understanding of the injected information through our proposed BO approach, thereby producing more relevant userspecific information when generating personalized responses. The comprehensive results validate the effectiveness and superiority of our proposed MiLP. 449

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Quality Study⁸ 4.2

We further conduct quality study to examine the quality of generated responses as illustrated in Table 3. We observed that leveraging a memory achieves above 50% win rate for all base LLMs over three datasets. We attribute this to the nature that introducing user-specific information as prompts can enhance LLM response generation in terms of personalization. However, relying solely on memory can lead to misunderstandings by the LLM when generating responses, resulting in suboptimal outcomes. Our MiLP not only utilizes user-specific information from the user's historical content but also leverages the natural language understanding and inference abilities of the LLM itself through our proposed BO method. This enables the LLM to comprehend which information should be considered when generating a response, leading to optimal performance compared to other baselines in most scenarios. However, we also notice that as the base LLM becomes more complicated, its greater natural language understanding and inferring ability are not always accompanied with better performance. For example, the results of LlaMA2-13B are incomparable with LLaMA2-7B on MedicalDialogue dataset. We attribute this disparity to the greater sparsity of user-specific information in the historical user content of the MedicalDialogue dataset compared to the other two datasets. Consequently, the configuration space for LlaMA2-13B is relatively sparser than that of other models, leading to suboptimal performance. The base LLM size selection with respect to the scale of input information (e.g., user numbers, the memory size etc.) is worthy to be explored in the future. Despite these challenges, the increase in win rate confirms the effectiveness of our proposed MiLP.

Human validation To validate the alignment of our automatic scoring schema with human judgments, we adopted the methodology of Wang et al.

⁸Please check Appendix E for Case Study

Madal	Tumo	Α	AmazonQA		Reddit		MedDia			
Model	Type	ROUGE-1	ROUGE-L	P-F1	ROUGE-1	ROUGE-L	P-F1	ROUGE-1	ROUGE-L	P-F1
DialoGPT	TpLP	16.44	14.63	0.741	14.57	13.89	0.337	15.47	14.31	0.890
	MaLP	17.02	16.31	0.843	16.12	13.40	0.399	17.15	15.87	0.929
	UeLP	18.02	17.74	0.901	15.95	13.71	0.389	16.92	15.04	0.916
	MiLP	18.61	17.83	0.925	16.38	14.51	0.409	17.67	15.94	1.072
RoBERTa	TpLP	17.35	15.41	0.704	13.91	12.81	0.391	14.81	13.99	0.947
	MaLP	18.50	15.76	0.828	14.17	13.96	0.462	17.79	16.80	1.141
	UeLP	18.97	16.19	0.899	15.96	14.86	0.491	16.21	14.33	0.971
	MiLP	19.73	17.59	0.974	16.83	15.09	0.531	18.96	17.18	1.187
LlaMA2-7B	TpLP	19.61	17.71	1.817	14.37	13.70	0.533	17.19	16.77	1.818
	MaLP	19.80	17.06	1.834	13.91	13.09	0.533	19.98	18.89	1.917
	UeLP	20.91	18.79	2.083	16.61	14.74	0.613	18.27	16.73	2.081
	MiLP	21.69	19.96	2.176	18.63	16.81	0.756	20.98	19.73	2.274
LlaMA2-13B	TpLP	24.91	23.36	2.107	20.87	20.19	0.678	22.77	21.32	2.009
	MaLP	22.61	21.29	2.061	21.18	20.78	0.671	23.77	22.69	2.250
	UeLP	25.02	23.74	2.089	22.03	21.80	0.704	22.18	20.88	2.131
	MiLP	25.51	24.25	2.283	22.28	21.83	0.864	24.13	22.96	2.337

Table 2: Comparative results on different datasets using automatic metrics.

Model	Туре	AmazonQA	Reddit	MedDia
	TpLP	-	-	-
DialoCDT	MaLP	57.37	51.95	69.33
Dialouri	UeLP	63.20	60.17	75.02
	MiLP	63.97	60.76	75.78
	TpLP	-	-	-
DODEDTO	MaLP	57.91	56.39	63.83
NUDENIA	UeLP	59.99	60.11	66.75
	MiLP	61.97	60.19	67.63
	TpLP	-	-	-
LIMAD 7D	MaLP	64.74	59.67	88.93
LIaWIA2-7D	UeLP	65.91	61.870	89.43
	MiLP	66.17	59.81	91.83
	TpLP	-	-	-
LlaMA2-13B	MaLP	71.82	72.96	87.89
	UeLP	74.37	75.13	89.18
	MiLP	75.48	76.61	90.67

Table 3: Quality study results on different datasets using the Win Rate metric.

(2023) for point-wise evaluation. We hired two master's students to evaluate 50 response pairs, consisting of responses generated by standard settings and MiLP using LLaMA2-13B, along with the corresponding user content for each pair. The students were asked to indicate which response they deemed better by selecting 1 (win), 0 (tie), or -1 (lose) for each pair. Subsequently, we calculated the Pearson Correlation Coefficient (P.C) and the accuracy between human selections and automatic selections. The high P.C of 0.86 and an accuracy of 91% collectively indicate the feasibility and high confidence of our evaluation method.

511 4.3 Ablation Study on Search Space

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To explore the effectiveness of each factor within the search space, an ablation study is conducted. As can be observed in Table 4, search number n or size

Space	AmazonQA	Reddit	MedDia
Num	2.011	0.604	2.027
Size	2.017	0.601	2.034
Layer	1.921	0.597	2.001
Num+Size	2.016	0.604	2.073
Num+Layer	2.130	0.731	2.196
Size+Layer	2.195	0.767	2.197
Num+Size+layer	2.283	0.864	2.337

Table 4: Ablation study of using LlaMA2-13B as the base on different search space using Persona-F1 score as the metric.

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r only achieves similar personal information coverage which we attribute to these two factors are more related to the scale of stored memory. In contrast, the choice of which layer to inject influences how the LLM understands the injected memory. During our experiments, when only searching which layers to inject, as the number of LoRAs and LoRA size become larger, the overall performance will be better. However, performance eventually dropped once n and r reached a threshold. This observation aligns with our understanding that there should be a balance between the size of input information and trainable parameters. Meanwhile, without being aware of what memory should be used when generating responses will lead to a sub-optimal result. These findings verify the necessity and effectiveness of the comprehensive search space.

4.4 Ablation Study on MiLP Components⁹

To determine whether the effectiveness of MiLP is due to instruction-tuning or the parameterized memory injection component, we conducted an ablation study. The results are presented in Ta-

⁹Please check Appendix B and C for Scalability Analysis.

Components	ROUGE-1	ROUGE-L	P-F1
Instruction Tuning	23.67	22.07	2.107
Memory Injection	22.81	19.90	2.331
Full MiLP	24.13	22.96	2.337

Table 5: Ablation study of using LlaMA2-13B as the base on different components on MedDia dataset.

ble 5. As shown, neither instruction-tuning alone nor parameterized memory injection alone can outperform the fully configured MiLP. Additionally, we observed that ROUGE scores are higher with instruction-tuning, while the Persona-F1 score is higher with parameterized memory injection. We attribute this to instruction-tuning aligning the generated response with human intents, while parameterized memory provides more personal information. With all components incorporated, our MiLP demonstrates the highest effectiveness.

5 Conclusion & Future Work

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In a nutshell, we propose a novel frame called MiLP to achieve Memory-injected LLM personalization. MiLP uses LoRA as the base PEFT module and leverages a Bayesian Optimisation based approach to iterative inject and search user historical information towards personalized response generation from our defined search space. Additionally, we conduct extensive experiments to compare our method with three baselines on three datasets and the results verify the effectiveness and superiority of our MiLP. Further, an ablation study is conducted for validating the the necessity of each factor within the defined search space.

In the future, exploring scalability with a larger number of users and larger LLMs is essential. Additionally, enhancing the inference ability to better understand user-specific needs is crucial. This includes integrating shared information and user graphs into the LLM to improve personalized response generation.

6 Related Work

Memory-Augmented LLM refers to apply a memory that stores extra information for enhancing LLM's output (Ouyang et al., 2022). Various efforts have been made to utilize memory in this context. Tandon et al. (2021) proposed leveraging a corrector that can rectify the model's output based on similar mistakes stored in memory. However, this method focuses on repairing wrong outputs. In contrast, Madaan et al. (2022) argued that stored experiences can be used to prevent incorrect outputs by incorporating feedback into the new query. Another usage of memory is to include the memory into a learning frame such as self-learning or teacher-student paradigm so that the LLM can learn by iterative refinement(Madaan et al., 2023; Dalvi et al., 2022). In tandem, the key for better usage of memory is to equip powerful retrievers(Guu et al., 2020; Lewis et al., 2020; Yuan et al., 2022) and improve the effectiveness of storing memory (Zhang et al., 2023). Unlike previous studies, our MiLP framework parameterizes and injects memory directly into the LLM through PEFT modules while accounting for memory budgets. 580

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Personalized LLM has garnered increasing attention for its ability to provide tailored experiences that align with user expectations and needs (Salemi et al., 2023). Previous works focused on identifying user preferences using Ceteris Paribus (CP)-nets (Asher et al., 2010) and modeling user historical content into language models (Zhong et al., 2022; Deng et al., 2022). However, these methods suffer from limited natural language understanding ability of language models. With the emergence of LLMs, prompt-based methods have been developed to design detailed prompts that guide LLMs in producing desired outputs while being aware of user status and contextual content (Wang et al., 2023; Wu et al., 2023; Aher et al., 2023). Another line of approach attempts to leverages memory to store user relevant information. When a new user query arises, a retriever will retrieve relevant user information from the memory to prompt the LLM to produce personalized responses (Dalvi et al., 2022; Madaan et al., 2022; Lewis et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2023). Moreover, recent studies have explored projecting user information into embeddings, allowing parameterized user data to participate in the decoding process of the LLM to generate personalized responses (Korbak et al., 2023; Salemi et al., 2023; Xu et al., 2023; Ning et al., 2024). In contrast to previous works, we build on the alignment between real-world bionic memory mechanisms and LLM memory mechanisms. We leverage a novel Bayesian Optimization strategy to inject parameterized user memory into the LLM, enabling it to produce personalized responses.

In tandem, our work stands out from previous research as we pioneer a parameterized memory injection method. By leveraging this novel method, user information can be stored and activated effectively to produce personalized responses. 631

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Limitations

Despite the empirical success, our approach has two notable limitations that warrant attention. Firstly, our approach relies on the user's historical content, and the sparsity of user-specific information within this content can influence the quality of the generated response. In the near future, recent efficient search strategies on LoRAs, such as LoNAS (Munoz et al., 2024) and Shears (Muñoz et al., 2024), should be considered for more efficient and robust memory injection.

Secondly, our method is designed for a single user. Therefore, it would be valuable to explore how the number of users and the scale of the LLM can impact the generated response (Please check the Appendix C for more justifications of scalability.). For example, when dealing with a larger group of users, it would be important to consider how to assign Personalized Fine-Tuning (PEFT) modules (e.g., type, number) for each user and how to select the base LLM (e.g., one single small LLM for one user or one single layer within a large LLM for one user). However, due to computational and data resource limitations, we are unable to explore this at present. We hope to address this in future work and see increasing attention given to this aspect.

Ethics Statement

After carefully reviewing the ACL Ethics Policy, we are committed to show our respect and obey to consent all.

Acknowledgements

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A Supplementary Experimental Settings

Factor	Range
α	[0, 1]
n	$[0 \sim 32]$
r	[8, 16, 32, 64, 96]

Table 6: Search range for each factor from the space.

B Scalability Analysis

Methods	Trainable Parameters (M)
Fully Training	7,000
multi-LoRA	50.38
multi-LoRA w BO	43.17

Table 7: The number of trainable parameters comparison using LlaMA2-7B in terms of fully training, multi-LoRA and multi-LoRA with BO search.

To further evaluate the advantages of leveraging multi-LoRAs combined with Bayesian Optimization (BO) search, scalability emerges as a critical factor. Compared to fully training an LLM for a single user towards personalization, as in UeLP (Ning et al., 2024), MiLP adopts a bionic memoryinspired mechanism to inject user information into parameters through pluggable PEFT modules, reducing computational costs by up to 93%. Furthermore, the BO search algorithm ensures the optimal configuration of multi-LoRA settings, achieving an average relative 14.3% reduction in trainable parameters compared to a full multi-LoRA setup (i.e., apply lora module to all layers) as can be seen in Table 7.

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While retrieval-based methods are straightforward to deploy, we acknowledge that personalization requirements can vary significantly across realworld applications. For instance, in a medical assistant context, retrieving incorrect information could lead to catastrophic consequences, such as errors in dosage recommendations for downstream tasks. In such high-stakes scenarios, relying solely on retrievers—despite their simplicity and effectiveness—may raise accuracy concerns. Thus, it is often more advantageous to leverage the LLM's inherent natural language understanding and inference capabilities to utilize personal information effectively, rather than depending exclusively on similarity-based retrieval methods.

C Scalability Justification

First, the proposed MiLP offers a unique approach 1019 distinct from existing works. MiLP is not attempt-1020 ing to undermine the value of existing training-1021 free/user embedding works; rather, it aims to pro-1022 vide a fresh perspective to the community on the 1023 benefits of parameterized memory. Secondly, we recognize that the requirements for personalization 1025 can vary across different real-world scenarios. For 1026 example, in a medical assistant context, retriev-1027 ing incorrect information can lead to catastrophic outcomes (e.g., dosage recommendation etc.) in 1029 downstream tasks. In such high-stakes scenarios, 1030 relying solely on retrievers, despite their simplic-1031 ity and effectiveness, may raise accuracy concerns. 1032 Therefore, it might be more beneficial to leverage 1033 the LLM's natural language understanding and in-1034 ference capabilities to utilize personal information 1035 effectively, rather than depending on similaritybased methods. We believe that our team, as well 1037 as the broader community, will continue to explore 1038 and build upon MiLP and other existing works to 1039 discover more applicable and effective methods for 1040 various scenarios. 1041

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Figure 3: The estimated memory usage between MaLP and MiLP as user historical content becomes longer.

D Retrieval vs Parameterized Memory

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To better understand the efficiency of parameterized methods compared to retrieval-based methods, beyond the generation quality discussed in Sections ?? and ??, we further analyze storage usage as user historical content increases. For retrieval-based methods, memory usage primarily arises from incorporating more user information as prompts during the LLM's inference process. We calculate the memory usage for inference as follows:

$$M_{inference} = Embeddings_{seq} + Activations + Embeddings_{att}$$

(5)

where $Embeddings_{seq}$ and $Embeddings_{att}$ represent the embeddings of the input sequence and attention layers, respectively, the embedding dimension and byte size remain at default settings.

In contrast, parameterized memory methods store user information as parameters, making the memory usage dependent primarily on the storage of these parameters. The memory usage for parameterized memory methods can be expressed as:

$$M_{parameterization} = Parameters/LoRA \times n$$
(6)

where *Parameters/LoRA* represents the parameters per LoRA module, determined by the low-rank size and the model settings, and *n* denotes the number of LoRA modules.

We use MiLP and MaLP with LLaMA2-7B as representative models. As shown in Figure 3, MiLP

demonstrates a significantly smaller memory foot-1069 print compared to MaLP, highlighting its storage 1070 efficiency while maintaining competitive perfor-1071 mance against baselines. Furthermore, prior stud-1072 ies have shown that parameterized memory can be seamlessly integrated into LLMs, either through 1074 a cross-attention mechanism (Xu et al., 2024) or 1075 adapter-based approaches (Kim et al., 2024). This 1076 allows user-specific memory to be encapsulated 1077 within modules that can be dynamically loaded and 1078 integrated into an LLM for personalization. For 1079 retrievability, unlike traditional similarity-based 1080 methods, the retrieval process in parameterized 1081 memory involves activating relevant parameters in response to a given query, yielding a personalized 1083 output. When a new user is introduced, the corresponding parameterized module can be loaded into 1085 the base model to generate personalized responses 1086 (notably, if no prior user records exist, our method 1087 requires training).

In summary, MiLP presents two key advantages over retrieval-based methods: 1) By parameterizing user information, it perceives more implicitly relevant context, mitigating the risk of incorrect outputs caused by the similarity-comparison nature of retrieval-based methods; 2) MiLP offers optimal memory efficiency compared to maintaining a user memory, making it a practical and scalable solution for personalization. 1089

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E Case Study

As can be seen in Figure 4, Tex-prompt-based mem-1099 ory only perceives that this patient has skin dis-1100 ease and give general reasons as well suggestions. 1101 MaLP, on the other hand, captures the *respiratory* 1102 infection information due to its long- and short-1103 term memory coordination and gives a more tar-1104 geted analysis. However, the suggestions are still 1105 in general. Our MiLP, with the ability of under-1106 standing and inferring user-specific information, 1107 produces more detailed responses such as "blood 1108 sugar control", "circulation" etc. It analyzes the po-1109 tential causes and gives suggestions from both dia-1110 betes and skin infection aspects. The response of 1111 MiLP covers the most personal information against 1112 other two settings which show the high quality of 1113 generated responses in terms of penalization and 1114 further confirm the power of our proposed method. 1115

Background: A patient with *diabetes*, who has previously experienced *demopathy*, is consulting a doctor about recent symptoms of *red spots* appearing on his skin. He also has a history of *skin disease* due to *respiratory tract infection*. The LLM with different settings will respond to the following query. New Query: I got *red spots on my skin* recently, can you help me with this?

TpLP

Response:

As a doctor, I would recommend scheduling an appointment for a thorough examination. *Red spots on the skin* can be caused by a variety of factors, including *infections, allergic reactions*, or other skin conditions. It's important to determine the underlying cause in order to provide the appropriate treatment. In the meantime, avoid scratching or irritating the affected area, and keep the skin clean and moisturized. If you experience any other symptoms or if the red spots worsen, seek medical attention promptly.

MaLP

Response: The sudden appearance of red spots on your

skin could probobaly due to the recurrence of respiratory infections. Red spots on the skin can be caused by a variety of factors, including infections, allergic reactions, or other underlying health issues. It's important to have these spots examined by a healthcare professional to determine the exact cause and appropriate treatment. I recommend scheduling an appointment with a dermatologist as soon as possible. In the meantime, avoid scratching or irritating the affected area, keep your skin clean and moisturized.

MiLP

Response: Given your history of *diabetes* and previous experience with *demopathy*, the appearance of *red spots on your skin* raises additional concerns. In individuals with *diabetes*, skin conditions can sometimes be more complex and may indicate underlying issues with circulation, immune function, or nerve damage. *Red spots on your skin* could signify a range of possibilities, including *skin infections, allergic reactions, or even a complication related to your diabetes*. Please monitor the spots closely and avoid any further irritation. Ensure that your *blood sugar* levels are well-controlled.

Figure 4: Case study of generated responses by LlaMA2-13B under three different settings based on provided background information.