

000 001 002 003 004 005 006 007 008 009 010 011 012 013 014 015 016 017 018 019 020 021 022 023 024 025 026 027 028 029 030 031 032 033 034 035 036 037 038 039 040 041 042 043 044 045 046 047 048 049 050 051 052 053 GMSA: ENHANCING CONTEXT COMPRESSION VIA GROUP MERGING AND LAYER SEMANTIC ALIGN- MENT

006
007 **Anonymous authors**
008 Paper under double-blind review

011 ABSTRACT

013 Large Language Models (LLMs) have achieved impressive performance in a wide
014 range of Natural Language Processing (NLP) tasks. However, when applied to
015 long-context scenarios, they face two challenges, *i.e.*, computational inefficiency
016 and redundant information. This paper introduces **GMSA**, a context compres-
017 sion method based on the encoder-decoder architecture, addressing these chal-
018 lenges by reducing input sequence length and redundant information. Structurally,
019 GMSA has two key components: **Group Merging** and **Layer Semantic Align-
020 ment (LSA)**. Group merging is used to extract summary vectors evenly and effi-
021 ciently from the original context. Layer semantic alignment, on the other hand,
022 aligns the high-level abstract summary vectors with the low-level primary input
023 semantics, thus bridging the semantic gap between different layers. In the training
024 process, GMSA first learns soft tokens that contain nearly complete semantics via
025 autoencoder training. To further adapt GMSA to downstream tasks, we propose
026 **Knowledge Extraction Fine-tuning (KEFT)** to extract task-relevant knowledge
027 from these soft tokens. GMSA not only significantly outperforms the traditional
028 compression paradigm in context restoration but also achieves stable and signif-
029 icantly faster convergence with only a few encoder layers. We further evaluate
030 GMSA on question-answering, summarization, and general knowledge retention
031 capabilities across two backbones (*i.e.*, LLaMA-2-7B and Qwen2-7B), demon-
032 strating its effectiveness and superiority, *e.g.*, on the NaturalQuestions dataset,
033 GMSA can achieve approximately a 2x speedup in end-to-end inference while
034 outperforming various methods by a large margin.¹

035 1 INTRODUCTION

036
037 Thanks to powerful reasoning and generalization capabilities, Large Language Models (LLMs) have
038 achieved remarkable performance across various Natural Language Processing (NLP) tasks (Tou-
039 vron et al., 2023; Team et al., 2025; DeepSeek-AI et al., 2025; Qwen et al., 2025). However, directly
040 applying LLMs to long-context scenarios presents two challenges: (1) Computational inefficiency.
041 When processing long prompts, the quadratic complexity of the Transformer’s attention mech-
042 anism (Vaswani et al., 2017) results in long inference latency. (2) Redundant information. Much
043 redundant information in long-context scenarios can degrade model performance (Jiang et al., 2024).

044 Prompt compression methods address these two challenges by significantly reducing input length
045 and removing redundant information. Prompt compression can be categorized into hard prompt
046 compression (Li et al., 2023; Jiang et al., 2023; Pan et al., 2024; Jiang et al., 2024; Tang et al.,
047 2025; Zhou et al., 2025; Cao et al., 2025; Chen et al., 2025; Zhao et al., 2025) and soft prompt
048 compression (Mu et al., 2023; Chevalier et al., 2023; Ge et al., 2024; Zhang et al., 2024; ?). Hard
049 prompt compression involves deleting certain tokens from the original context to achieve compres-
050 sion. However, this explicit compression approach inevitably compromises semantic integrity. In
051 contrast, leveraging the inherent redundancy in high-dimensional vector data, soft prompt com-
052 pression learns a set of soft tokens with a length much shorter than the original context, enabling
053 compression while preserving nearly complete semantics.

¹Core code implementing GMSA and the baselines is provided in the supplementary material.

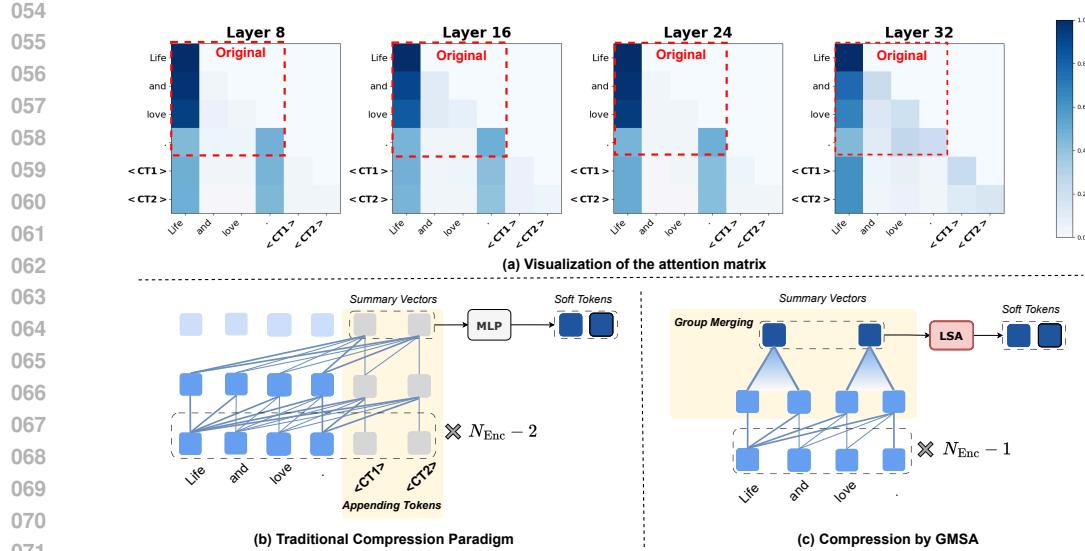


Figure 1: Traditional Compression Paradigm vs. Compression by GMSA. (a) visualizes the attention matrix when processing “Life and love. $\langle \text{CT1} \rangle \langle \text{CT2} \rangle$ ”, where “ $\langle \text{CT1} \rangle$ ” and “ $\langle \text{CT2} \rangle$ ” are randomly initialized tokens. “Original” shows the attention changes during processing of “life and love.” across different layers. (b) refers to the traditional compression paradigm. It first learns summary vectors in an autoregressive manner layer by layer, and then employs coarse-grained semantic alignment via a Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP), where N_{Enc} is the number of encoder layers. (c) denotes the compression paradigm of GMSA, which first learns summary vectors via group merging and achieves semantic alignment between different layers via the Layer Semantic Alignment (LSA) module.

Although existing soft prompt compression methods can effectively reduce the number of input tokens, they have two limitations: (1) Uneven semantic learning in autoencoder training. Soft prompt compression typically relies on autoencoder-based training to ensure that the compressed representations retain as complete semantic information as possible (Ge et al., 2024; Cheng et al., 2024; Li et al., 2025; Liao et al., 2025; Dai et al., 2025; Rau et al., 2025; Choi et al., 2025). As shown in Figure 1, the compression process in traditional paradigm learns summary vectors layer by layer via appending learnable tokens. During this process, LLM tends to aggregate information on a few anchor tokens (Zhang et al., 2023; Xiao et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2023; Huang et al., 2024). Consequently, the semantics of anchor tokens (*i.e.*, “Life” and “.”) are emphasized layer by layer, resulting in the semantics of the summary vectors being dominated by them while the semantics of other tokens are relatively diluted (*i.e.*, uneven semantic learning). Because the compressed representation overly depends on only a few tokens, fine-grained semantic details from the original context struggle to be fully preserved, thereby increasing the difficulty for the autoencoder training (*i.e.*, struggling to reconstruct the original context) (see Appendices B, J, and K for detailed empirical validation); (2) Ignoring the large semantic gap between different layers in the LLMs (Liu et al., 2024b; Jin et al., 2025). The summary vectors, which represent high-level abstract semantics, are directly treated as ordinary tokens (*i.e.*, as low-level semantic information) and fed into the decoder during training and testing, resulting in a large semantic gap. Therefore, two research questions naturally arise: (1) *How can we learn semantics more evenly and efficiently?* (2) *How can we bridge the large semantic gap between different layers?*

To this end, we propose **GMSA** (Context Compression via **G**roup **M**erging and **L**ayer **S**emantic **A**lignment), a context compression framework based on the encoder-decoder architecture, which addresses these limitations from a structural perspective. Specifically, we tackle the first limitation through **Group Merging**. Group merging performs grouping and merging operations on the last hidden state of the encoder (see Figure 1). In particular, Group merging treats each group equally and merges all tokens within each group via averaging pooling, thereby avoiding information dilution and enabling more evenly semantic learning. *This step not only helps preserve more complete semantic information and is highly efficient, achieving more evenly and efficient semantic learning.*

108 Subsequently, to address the second limitation, we bridge the gap between high-level abstract
 109 semantic information and low-level primary input semantics by passing the summary vectors through
 110 the **Layer Semantic Alignment (LSA)** module, which is composed of a few Transformer blocks
 111 initialized with the weights of lower-layer decoder blocks (see Figure 2). *This step allows the sum-
 112 mary vectors containing high-level abstract semantic information to be mapped into a low-level
 113 semantic space, thereby bridging the large semantic gap between different layers.*

114 During the training process, GMSA first employs the autoencoder training to ensure that the gen-
 115 erated soft tokens contain nearly complete semantic information. Building on this foundation, we
 116 further propose **Knowledge Extraction Fine-tuning (KEFT)** to adapt GMSA to downstream tasks.
 117 Specifically, we freeze the encoder and LSA (which, after autoencoder training, can already produce
 118 soft tokens containing nearly complete semantics) and fine-tune the decoder to enhance its ability to
 119 extract task-relevant knowledge from the soft tokens.

120 Our contributions are threefold: (1) Structurally, we introduce the GMSA, which evenly and effi-
 121 ciently learns summary vectors through group merging and bridges the semantic gap between differ-
 122 ent layers via a Layer Semantic Alignment (LSA) module; (2) In the training process, we propose
 123 Knowledge Extraction Fine-tuning (KEFT) to guide the decoder to extract the knowledge required
 124 by downstream tasks from soft tokens; (3) Experimental results on diverse tasks (*e.g.*, QA, summa-
 125 rization, general knowledge retention) demonstrate the effectiveness and superiority of our method,
 126 *e.g.*, on NaturalQuestions with an 8x compression constraint, GMSA achieves approximately 36%
 127 higher Exact Match (EM) compared to the original input prompt, while also realizing a 2x end-to-
 128 end speedup.

130 2 PROBLEM FORMULATION

131 Given a retrieval-augmented prompt $X = (X^{\text{ins}}, X^{d_1}, \dots, X^{d_k}, \dots, X^{d_K}, X^{\text{q}})$, where X^{ins} ,
 132 $\{X^{d_k}\}_{k=1}^K$, and X^{q} represent the instruction, context, and input question respectively. The prompt
 133 has a total token length L . The key aspect of the context compression system lies in generating a
 134 compressed prompt \tilde{X} with length \tilde{L} , where the compression rate is defined as $\tau = \frac{\tilde{L}}{L}$. Let y denote
 135 the ground truth answer given the original input X , and \tilde{y} denote the answer generated by the large
 136 language model (LLM) when input with the compressed prompt \tilde{X} . We aim for the distributions of
 137 y and \tilde{y} to be similar under high compression rates τ . This can be formulated as:

$$140 \min_{\tilde{x}, \tau} \text{KL} \left(P \left(\tilde{y} \mid \tilde{X} \right), P \left(y \mid X \right) \right). \quad (1)$$

142 Due to space limitations, we introduce related work in Appendix A.

144 3 GMSA

146 In this section, we elaborate on our proposed context compression framework, GMSA, which in-
 147 cludes two key components: group merging and layer semantic alignment (LSA). GMSA undergoes
 148 a two-stage training process: autoencoder training (see Figure 2) and Knowledge Extraction Fine-
 149 tuning (KEFT) (see Figure 3). First, GMSA ensures that the generated soft tokens contain the com-
 150 plete semantic representation of the original text through the autoencoder training process. Then, it
 151 applies the knowledge contained in the soft tokens to downstream tasks via KEFT.

153 3.1 GROUP MERGING

155 **Extraction of Semantic Features.** First, we extract the semantic features of the original text
 156 through a k -layer language modeling model as the encoder. The encoder is trained using LoRA.

$$157 \quad H = \text{Encoder}_k(X), \quad (2)$$

159 where X is the original text and H is the obtained last hidden state.

161 **Merging.** We divide the obtained H into several groups according to the size of the compression
 162 limit, as the group length L_G (*e.g.*, when the compression rate is 4, the group length is also 4). To

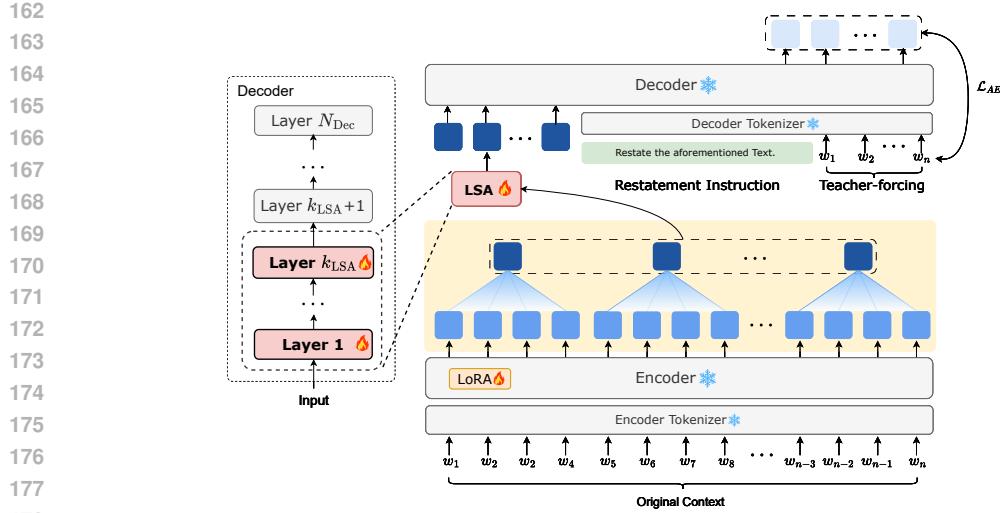


Figure 2: The Autoencoder Training Process of GMSA. GMSA consists of an encoder and a decoder, trained in an autoencoder manner using cross-entropy loss. GMSA first generates a set of summary vectors that meet the compression rate by performing group merging on the last hidden state of the encoder, and then achieves cross-layer semantic alignment through the Layer Semantic Alignment (LSA) module, which is composed of several Transformer blocks initialized with the weights of lower-layer decoder blocks. Remarkably, we find that using just a single layer of LSA can achieve excellent semantic preservation (see Appendix C), hence $k_{LSA} \ll N_{Dec}$.

this end, original text representations are organized as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \left[H_1, \dots, H_{G_j}, \dots, H_{G_{N_g}} \right] \\ &= \left[H_{1:L_G}, \dots, H_{(j-1) \times L_G:j \times L_G}, \dots, H_{N_d-L_G+1:N_d} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

We take the average of each dimension of each group token to obtain the initial compressed representation.

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{H} &= \left[\bar{H}_{G_1}, \dots, \bar{H}_{G_i}, \dots, \bar{H}_{G_N} \right] \\ &= \left[\frac{1}{L_G} \sum H_{G_1}, \dots, \frac{1}{L_G} \sum H_{G_i}, \dots, \frac{1}{L_G} \sum H_{G_N} \right], \end{aligned}$$

where \tilde{H} is the obtained initial compressed representation.

3.2 LAYER SEMANTIC ALIGNMENT

The Layer Semantic Alignment (LSA) module is used to complete the alignment from the soft tokens generated by the encoder (high-level semantics) to the primary semantics of the decoder. Given the significant differences in semantic representation between different layers of LLMs, the LSA is trained via full fine-tuning.

$$\tilde{m} = \mathcal{F}_{k_{LSA}}(\tilde{H}), \quad (3)$$

where H is the final compressed representation, $\mathcal{F}_{k_{LSA}}$ denotes Transformer blocks initialized with the weights from the first k layers of the decoder, and \tilde{m} denotes the generated soft tokens. Just one layer of LSA is sufficient to achieve excellent semantic preservation (for space limitations, please refer to Appendix C), so in this work, we can just set $k_{LSA} = 1$.

3.3 AUTOENCODER TRAINING

The Autoencoder Training process, which aims to encode the complete information of the original text into memory embeddings, is achieved through autoencoder-based training. We hope to mini-

216 mize the loss of the reconstructed text, which can be expressed as:
 217

$$218 \quad \mathcal{L}_{AE} = - \sum_{i=1} \log p_{\phi}(x_i | \tilde{m}, X^{\text{ins}}, x_{<i}), \quad (4)$$

219 where $p_{\phi}(\cdot)$ is the Decoder probability distribution obtained after the softmax function, and x_i is
 220 the i -th token in the original text.
 221

223 3.4 KNOWLEDGE EXTRACTION
 224

225 3.4.1 KNOWLEDGE EXTRACTION PROCESS
 226

227 Through autoencoder training, we can ensure that the soft tokens obtained via the encoder and LSA
 228 contain complete semantic information. Therefore, the next challenge to address is: *how to extract*
 229 *knowledge from the existing soft tokens?*

230 To guarantee that the generated soft tokens always retain adequate information, we **freeze** the en-
 231 coder and LSA during the knowledge extraction process, allowing the decoder to complete Knowl-
 232 edge Extraction (KE). Due to space limitations, we elaborate on the differences between KEFT and
 233 the recent work LLoCO (Tan et al., 2024) in Appendix I.

234 We only train the decoder’s self-attention module. As shown in Figure 3, the i -th token decoding
 235 progress can be formulated as:
 236

$$237 \quad \text{Decoder}(\underbrace{\tilde{m}_1, \tilde{m}_2, \tilde{m}_3, \tilde{m}_4, \dots, \tilde{m}_{k-1}, \tilde{m}_k}_{\text{soft tokens from the encoder}}, \underbrace{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n}_{\text{question tokens}}, \underbrace{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{i-1}}_{\text{answer tokens}}). \quad (5)$$

238 Let d denote the decoder’s hidden size, $H \in \mathbb{R}^{(k+n+i-1) \times d}$ denote input hidden states to the self-
 239 attention module of the decoder in an arbitrary layer. The above hidden states will be projected into
 240 queries, keys, and values as follows:
 241

$$242 \quad \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{W}_Q H, \quad \mathbf{K} = \mathbf{W}_K H, \quad \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{W}_V H, \quad (6)$$

243 where \mathbf{W}_Q , \mathbf{W}_K , and \mathbf{W}_V are the projection heads for knowledge extraction. Thus, we now for-
 244 mally present our self-attention computation:
 245

$$246 \quad \mathbf{V}' = \text{softmax} \left(\text{mask} \left(\frac{\mathbf{Q} \mathbf{K}^T}{\sqrt{d}} \right) \right) \mathbf{V}, \quad (7)$$

247 where \mathbf{V}' denotes the output of the self-attention mechanism, which is a refined, context-aware
 248 representation of the input values \mathbf{V} after applying attention weights.
 249

250 3.4.2 KNOWLEDGE EXTRACTION FINE-TUNING
 251

252 After completing autoencoder training, we need to teach the decoder how to utilize the soft tokens.
 253 We achieve this by performing full fine-tuning of the \mathbf{W}_Q , \mathbf{W}_K , and \mathbf{W}_V projection matrices in
 254 each layer of the decoder, which can be specifically expressed as:
 255

$$256 \quad \mathcal{L}_{KE} = - \sum_{i=1}^n \log p_{\phi}(a_i | \tilde{m}, q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n, a_{<i}), \quad (8)$$

257 where $p_{\phi}(\cdot)$ is the decoder probability distribution obtained after the softmax function, and a_i de-
 258 notes the i -th token in the predicted answer.
 259

260 4 EXPERIMENTS
 261

262 In this section, we attempt to answer the following research questions (RQs): (1) How effective is
 263 GMSA in context restoration? (RQ1) (2) How does GMSA utilize knowledge compared with other
 264 baselines? (RQ2) (3) How effective are the individual components of GMSA? (RQ3)

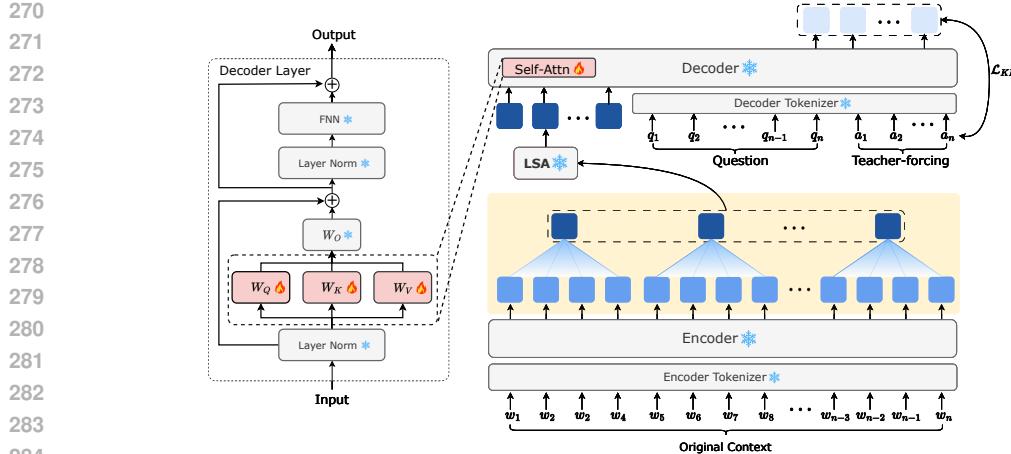


Figure 3: The process of Knowledge Extraction Fine-tuning (KEFT). By fine-tuning only the W_Q , W_K , and W_V in the attention module of the decoder while keeping other modules frozen, the decoder performs teacher-forcing training using soft tokens \tilde{m} , question tokens, and the ground truth answer.

4.1 SETTINGS

Training. GMSA involves a two-stage training process: autoencoder training and knowledge extraction fine-tuning (KEFT). We utilize seven datasets: PwC (Ge et al., 2024), NaturalQuestions (Liu et al., 2024a), 2WikiMQA (Ho et al., 2020), HotpotQA (Yang et al., 2018), MMLU (Hendrycks et al., 2021a;b), NarrativeQA (Kočiský et al., 2018), GSM8K (Cobbe et al., 2021), and CNN/DailyMail (See et al., 2017) (for more details about the datasets, please refer to Appendix E). Among these, we use PwC to evaluate the performance of context restoration, while the other datasets are used to measure knowledge application. The experimental results in Table 1 are obtained by training GMSA on a mixed dataset composed of NaturalQuestions, 2WikiMQA, and HotpotQA, whereas results on other datasets are obtained by training GMSA on their respective training datasets. During training, we randomly sample compression rates (i.e., 4x compression and 8x compression) for each training sample. Due to space constraints, detailed training settings can be found in Appendix D.

Implementation. Built on LLaMA-2-7B (Chat) and Qwen2-7B (Instruct). The maximum lengths for various trainings can be found in Appendix D. All baselines re-implemented from official code for fair comparison.

Evaluation Metrics. For the context restoration task on the PwC dataset, we employ BLEU (Papineni et al., 2002), Prefix Exact Match, BERT Score (Zhang* et al., 2020), and ROUGE (Lin, 2004). For the QA tasks across NaturalQuestions, HotpotQA, and 2WikiMQA, we utilize Accuracy (Acc) (Liu et al., 2024a), Exact Match (EM) (Lewis et al., 2020), and F1 score (Yang et al., 2018). We adopt the repository-provided metrics for MMLU (Hendrycks et al., 2021a;b). For other datasets, we use BERT Score for CNN/DailyMail, Accuracy (Acc) for GSM8K, and F1 score for NarrativeQA.

Baselines. For the task of context restoration, we train a **Traditional Compression Paradigm AutoEncoder** (i.e., TCP-AE, see Appendix F for details) as a baseline, employing autoencoder training and the same training hyperparameters as GMSA. We conduct comprehensive comparisons with various methods in text compression and KV-cache compression fields on NaturalQuestions, 2WikiMQA, and HotpotQA, including: hard prompt compression (e.g., LongLLMLingua (Jiang et al., 2024), LLMLingua-2-large (Pan et al., 2024)), soft prompt compression (e.g., AutoCompressor (Chevalier et al., 2023), ICAE (Ge et al., 2024)), and KV-cache compression approaches (e.g., StreamLLM (Xiao et al., 2023), SnapKV (Li et al., 2024), Activation Beacon (Zhang et al., 2024)).

324 We also further compare with the strong baseline Activation Beacon on CNN/DailyMail, MMLU,
 325 GSM8K, and NarrativeQA.
 326

328 Table 1: Experimental results on three QA benchmark datasets. We **bold** the optimal and underline
 329 the suboptimal of baselines. **Acc** refers to accuracy, **EM** refers to exact match, and **F1** denotes the
 330 F1 score. **Closed-book** indicates using only the input question as the input, while **Original Prompt**
 331 indicates using all retrieved documents as the input. All backbones in this experiment are LLaMA-2-
 332 7B, as some important baselines (*e.g.*, Autocompressor, ICAE, and StreamLLM) are only available
 333 in LLaMA-2-7B implementations.

334 Methods	335 NaturalQuestions			336 2WikiMQA			337 HotpotQA		
	338 Acc	339 EM	340 F1	341 Acc	342 EM	343 F1	344 Acc	345 EM	346 F1
Closed-book	24.14	20.23	21.88	25.37	24.96	27.82	18.34	17.22	24.02
Original Prompt	55.40	15.07	26.81	37.54	30.84	37.79	44.21	34.35	47.49
<i>4x compression constraint</i>									
<i>KV-cache Compression Methods</i>									
StreamLLM	29.53	7.87	15.38	28.47	26.49	30.78	28.90	23.87	34.32
SnapKV	<u>58.64</u>	12.58	23.07	29.86	27.61	32.62	37.35	30.51	42.08
Activation Baecon	56.20	25.65	34.17	34.45	24.42	32.05	<u>44.45</u>	25.80	39.82
<i>Prompt Compression Methods</i>									
AutoCompressor	13.79	0.00	1.34	<u>41.56</u>	0.00	8.07	20.98	0.01	6.80
ICAE	17.33	1.24	7.05	<u>35.17</u>	10.25	22.04	34.16	13.02	26.69
LongLLMLingua	53.41	<u>39.62</u>	<u>43.03</u>	33.88	<u>31.71</u>	<u>37.05</u>	40.31	<u>35.55</u>	<u>48.68</u>
LLMLingua-2-large	41.77	29.49	34.79	31.07	28.88	33.37	33.15	28.80	40.89
GMSA	69.98	58.12	57.59	55.95	49.55	57.17	53.52	44.60	59.31
<i>8x compression constraint</i>									
<i>KV-cache Compression Methods</i>									
StreamLLM	31.22	7.72	14.93	27.43	25.82	29.76	26.58	21.78	32.21
SnapKV	<u>57.21</u>	11.86	22.49	28.19	26.56	30.97	34.54	28.10	40.16
Activation Baecon	51.22	23.01	31.45	33.20	25.12	32.20	<u>40.30</u>	24.40	37.63
<i>Prompt Compression Methods</i>									
AutoCompressor	17.51	0.00	1.63	<u>41.76</u>	0.00	8.09	22.04	0.00	6.93
ICAE	17.74	0.72	3.23	<u>33.56</u>	5.74	17.19	30.40	4.42	15.80
LongLLMLingua	46.55	<u>36.65</u>	<u>40.72</u>	31.53	<u>29.93</u>	<u>34.08</u>	34.73	<u>31.60</u>	<u>43.85</u>
LLMLingua-2-large	30.73	21.92	27.61	27.45	26.57	29.64	24.14	22.11	31.69
GMSA	62.34	51.00	53.09	51.33	46.67	54.22	46.52	38.39	53.77

365 366 4.2 MAIN RESULT

367 We highlight the findings of GMSA in two aspects: context restoration and downstream knowledge
 368 application.
 369

370 For RQ1, GMSA-AE significantly outperforms the Traditional Compression Paradigm AutoEncoder (TCP-AE) in context restoration. (Due to space constraints, we defer the detailed analysis
 371 to Appendix B). In terms of quality (Figure 4), GMSA-AE surpasses TCP-AE by over 20% on
 372 token-matching metrics (BLEU, ROUGE, Prefix EM²) and by 5% on semantic similarity (BERT
 373 Score F1), indicating superior memory for both precise tokens and overall semantics. Furthermore,
 374 GMSA-AE demonstrates substantially faster convergence and greater robustness (Figure 5). It con-
 375

376 ²Prefix Exact Match represents the ratio of the correctly matched prefix length to the total length. For
 377 example, in a 512-token sequence, if the first 128 tokens are an exact match but the 129th token is not, the
 Prefix Exact Match score is calculated as 128/512 = 0.25.

378

379 Table 2: Performance comparison between GMSA and Activation Beacon on CNN / DailyMail.

380 Dataset	381 Backbone	382 Comp. Constraint	383 Activation Beacon	384 GMSA
CNN / DailyMail	LLaMA-2-7B	4x	87.0	89.1
		8x	86.5	88.8

385

verges in 1000 steps, while TCP-AE fails to converge even after 5000 steps. Crucially, GMSA-AE’s performance is robust to reducing encoder layers—a setting where TCP-AE’s performance severely degrades. Appendix K and J provide further evidence, including perplexity scores and case studies.

389

For RQ2, GMSA’s knowledge utilization typically shows significantly better performance than other baselines across various compression rate constraints (see Table 1, Table 2 and Table 3). In the KV-cache compression methods, the compressed representation and the target model must be consistent. Although this avoids the problem of cross-layer semantic alignment, it severely limits the flexibility of applying the compressed representation.

402

Compared with the KV-cache compression methods (*i.e.*, streamLLM, SnapKV, and Activation Beacon), GMSA achieves the best performance while maintaining flexibility. In contrast to prompt-based compression algorithms, whether they are query-independent prompt compression algorithms (*i.e.*, ICAE, AutoCompressor, and LLMLingua-2-large) or query-dependent LongLLMLingua, their performance is far below that of GMSA. It is worth noting that GMSA adopts a query-independent compression mechanism and still significantly outperforms the query-dependent LongLLMLingua, which sufficiently illustrates the effectiveness and superiority of GMSA. We further evaluate GMSA on a diverse set of tasks, including summarization (CNN / DailyMail), general knowledge (MMLU) and mathematical reasoning (GSM8K), with the strong baseline Activation Beacon.

411

As results in Table 2 and Table 3, GMSA demonstrates robust performance across tasks. On generation-centric task such as summarization, GMSA consistently outperforms Activation Beacon under both 4x and 8x compression constraint. We directly evaluate the decoder of GMSA (after two-stage training) on multidisciplinary benchmark (MMLU) and mathematical reasoning (GSM8K) to assess its ability to retain general knowledge in short texts. On MMLU, GMSA not only surpasses the baseline but even outperforms the original uncompressed input, suggesting that compression may help focus on core semantics. A slight performance drop is observed on GSM8K, which we attribute to the lack of mathematical-domain data in GMSA’s training corpus.

419

Even in ultra-long scenarios (NarrativeQA, see Appendix H.2), GMSA not only achieves a 2x speedup over the original prompt input, but also attains substantially higher F1 scores.

421

422

4.3 EFFICIENCY ANALYSIS

424

In this section, we discuss the efficiency of our proposed method. By using soft tokens instead of the long original context to enhance the inference process, our method reduces the inference cost of the original context during the generation process by a factor of r . The overall floating-point operations (FLOPs) are calculated through two processes: compression and generation.

428

The compression process can be expressed as:

430

431

$$\text{FLOPs}^{\text{comp}} = F^{\text{Encoder}}(L) + F^{\text{LSA}}\left(\left\lceil \frac{L}{r} \right\rceil\right)$$

432 Here, L denotes the original context length, L_q denotes the question length, and $F^*(\cdot)$ represents the FLOPs complexity measure for module $*$, with the specific calculation process detailed in Appendix G. The symbol $*$ indicates the architectural components, where $* \in \{\text{Decoder, Encoder, LSA}\}$. For the generation process, assuming the answer length is L_a , the generation process requires L_a forward passes. The FLOPs for the i -th forward pass are given by:

$$\text{FLOPs}_i^{forward} = F^{\text{Decoder}}\left(\left\lceil \frac{L}{r} \right\rceil, L_q, i\right)$$

433 Combining the costs of all components, the total FLOPs complexity is:

$$\text{FLOPs} = \sum_{i=1}^{L_a} \text{FLOPs}_i^{forward} + \text{FLOPs}^{comp}$$

434 Thanks to the ability to retain complete semantics with only a few encoder layers (e.g., 8 layers),
435 GMSA achieves the lowest end-to-end inference latency, which is approximately 2x faster than other
436 methods on NaturalQuestions and NarrativeQA (see Appendix H).

437 4.4 ABLATION STUDY

438 For RQ3, to investigate the impact of each component in GMSA, we conduct the following four ablation experiments (see Table 4): (1) Ours w/o Autoencoder Training refers to performing knowledge extraction fine-tuning on GMSA directly without knowledge memory training. (2) Ours w/o Knowledge Extraction Fine-tuning means only performing Autoencoder-Training on GMSA. (3) Ours w/o Group Merging indicates that we replace group merging with appending meaningless learnable tokens when generating summary vectors. (4) Ours w/o Layer Semantic Alignment means we do not use the Layer Semantic Alignment module and directly employ summary vectors as soft tokens. (5) Ours w/ Qwen2-7B-Instruct refers to replacing the decoder with Qwen2-7B-Instruct.

439 Table 4: The impact of different components in GMSA on the PwC test set under 4x compression constraint, measured by BERT Score F1.

Method	BERT Score F1
Default	0.91
w/o Autoencoder Training	0.87
w/o Knowledge Extraction Fine-tuning	0.83
w/o Group Merging	0.82
w/o Layer Semantic Alignment	0.84
w Qwen2-7B-Instruct	0.90

440 In summary, the removal of any single component leads to a significant drop in performance, which
441 fully demonstrates the necessity and effectiveness of each component. Removing Autoencoder
442 Training makes it difficult for GMSA to generate summary vectors that encompass complete
443 semantics, while eliminating Knowledge Extraction Fine-tuning causes GMSA to lose its ability to
444 extract knowledge in downstream tasks, both of which would deteriorate performance. Replacing
445 Group Merging with appending learnable tokens would increase the difficulty of learning, and
446 discarding the LSA module would result in misalignment between the high-level semantic information
447 represented by summary vectors and the low-level semantic space of the decoder’s input. When the
448 encoder and decoder are different, GMSA can still maintain high performance, which fully demon-
449 strates its robustness and generalization ability.

450 5 CONCLUSION

451 This paper introduces GMSA, a context compression framework based on an encoder-decoder struc-
452 ture. It evenly and efficiently learns summary vectors and bridges the significant gap between the
453 semantics representation of different layers via group merging, and a LSA module. GMSA first
454 undergoes autoencoder training to ensure that the generated soft tokens contain nearly complete
455 semantics, and then adapts to downstream tasks via KEFT. Experiments demonstrate that GMSA con-
456 verges quickly, can stably converge even with random sampling compression rates for each sample
457 and using only a few encoder layers, and has excellent context restoration capabilities. It outper-
458 forms existing baselines by a large margin in downstream tasks, paving the way for the efficient
459 application of LLMs.

486 ETHICS STATEMENT
487

488 This paper introduces GMSA, a context compression framework based on the encoder-decoder ar-
489 chitecture. It effectively and efficiently learns summary vectors and bridges the significant gap
490 between different layers via group merging, and a LSA module. The data and models used in our
491 research are released under open-source licenses and sourced from open platforms. Although our
492 work may have various societal impacts, it does not introduce any additional ethical concerns com-
493 pared to existing text compression methods. Therefore, we believe it is unnecessary to specifically
494 highlight any particular ethical issues here.

495
496 REPRODUCIBILITY STATEMENT
497

498 Core code implementing GMSA and the baselines is provided in the supplementary material.
499

500 REFERENCES
501

502 Joshua Ainslie, James Lee-Thorp, Michiel de Jong, Yury Zemlyanskiy, Federico Lebron, and Sumit
503 Sanghai. GQA: Training generalized multi-query transformer models from multi-head check-
504 points. In *The 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, 2023.
505 URL <https://openreview.net/forum?id=hm0wOZWzYE>.

506 William Brandon, Mayank Mishra, Aniruddha Nrusimha, Rameswar Panda, and Jonathan Ragan-
507 Kelley. Reducing transformer key-value cache size with cross-layer attention. In *The Thirty-
508 eighth Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2024. URL <https://openreview.net/forum?id=M2UzLRoqic>.

511 Yun-Hao Cao, Yangsong Wang, Shuzheng Hao, Zhenxing Li, Chengjun Zhan, Sichao Liu, and Yi-Qi
512 Hu. Efpc: Towards efficient and flexible prompt compression, 2025. URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.07956>.

514 Lizhe Chen, Binjia Zhou, Yuyao Ge, Jiayi Chen, and Shiguang Ni. Pis: Linking impor-
515 tance sampling and attention mechanisms for efficient prompt compression. *arXiv preprint
516 arXiv:2504.16574*, 2025.

518 Xin Cheng, Xun Wang, Xingxing Zhang, Tao Ge, Si-Qing Chen, Furu Wei, Huishuai Zhang, and
519 Dongyan Zhao. xRAG: Extreme context compression for retrieval-augmented generation with
520 one token. In *The Thirty-eighth Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*,
2024. URL <https://openreview.net/forum?id=6pT1Xqr00p>.

522 Alexis Chevalier, Alexander Wettig, Anirudh Ajith, and Danqi Chen. Adapting language models
523 to compress contexts. In Houda Bouamor, Juan Pino, and Kalika Bali (eds.), *Proceedings of
524 the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pp. 3829–3846,
525 Singapore, December 2023. Association for Computational Linguistics. doi: 10.18653/v1/2023.
526 emnlp-main.232. URL <https://aclanthology.org/2023.emnlp-main.232>.

527 Eunseong Choi, June Park, Hyeri Lee, and Jongwuk Lee. Conflict-aware soft prompting for
528 retrieval-augmented generation. *CoRR*, abs/2508.15253, 2025.

530 Karl Cobbe, Vineet Kosaraju, Mohammad Bavarian, Mark Chen, Heewoo Jun, Lukasz Kaiser,
531 Matthias Plappert, Jerry Tworek, Jacob Hilton, Reiichiro Nakano, Christopher Hesse, and John
532 Schulman. Training verifiers to solve math word problems. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2110.14168*,
2021.

534 Yuhong Dai, Jianxun Lian, Yitian Huang, Wei Zhang, Mingyang Zhou, Mingqi Wu, Xing Xie,
535 and Hao Liao. Pretraining context compressor for large language models with embedding-based
536 memory. In Wanxiang Che, Joyce Nabende, Ekaterina Shutova, and Mohammad Taher Pilehvar
537 (eds.), *Proceedings of the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics
(Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pp. 28715–28732, Vienna, Austria, July 2025. Association for Com-
538 putational Linguistics. ISBN 979-8-89176-251-0. doi: 10.18653/v1/2025.acl-long.1394. URL
539 <https://aclanthology.org/2025.acl-long.1394/>.

- 540 DeepSeek-AI, Daya Guo, Dejian Yang, Haowei Zhang, Junxiao Song, Ruoyu Zhang, Runxin Xu,
 541 Qihao Zhu, et al. Deepseek-r1: Incentivizing reasoning capability in llms via reinforcement
 542 learning. *CorR*, abs/2501.12948, 2025.
- 543 Tao Ge, Hu Jing, Lei Wang, Xun Wang, Si-Qing Chen, and Furu Wei. In-context autoencoder
 544 for context compression in a large language model. In *The Twelfth International Conference
 545 on Learning Representations*, 2024. URL <https://openreview.net/forum?id=uREj4ZuGJE>.
- 546 Mor Geva, Roei Schuster, Jonathan Berant, and Omer Levy. Transformer feed-forward layers
 547 are key-value memories. In Marie-Francine Moens, Xuanjing Huang, Lucia Specia, and Scott
 548 Wen-tau Yih (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Lan-
 549 guage Processing*, pp. 5484–5495, Online and Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, November
 550 2021. Association for Computational Linguistics. doi: 10.18653/v1/2021.emnlp-main.446. URL
 551 <https://aclanthology.org/2021.emnlp-main.446/>.
- 552 Dan Hendrycks, Collin Burns, Steven Basart, Andrew Critch, Jerry Li, Dawn Song, and Jacob
 553 Steinhardt. Aligning ai with shared human values. *Proceedings of the International Conference
 554 on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2021a.
- 555 Dan Hendrycks, Collin Burns, Steven Basart, Andy Zou, Mantas Mazeika, Dawn Song, and Jacob
 556 Steinhardt. Measuring massive multitask language understanding. *Proceedings of the Interna-
 557 tional Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2021b.
- 558 Xanh Ho, Anh-Khoa Duong Nguyen, Saku Sugawara, and Akiko Aizawa. Constructing a multi-
 559 hop QA dataset for comprehensive evaluation of reasoning steps. In Donia Scott, Nuria Bel,
 560 and Chengqing Zong (eds.), *Proceedings of the 28th International Conference on Computational
 561 Linguistics*, pp. 6609–6625, Barcelona, Spain (Online), December 2020. International Com-
 562 mittee on Computational Linguistics. doi: 10.18653/v1/2020.coling-main.580. URL <https://aclanthology.org/2020.coling-main.580/>.
- 563 Qidong Huang, Xiaoyi Dong, Pan Zhang, Bin Wang, Conghui He, Jiaqi Wang, Dahua Lin, Weiming
 564 Zhang, and Nenghai Yu. Opera: Alleviating hallucination in multi-modal large language models
 565 via over-trust penalty and retrospection-allocation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference
 566 on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*, pp. 13418–13427, 2024.
- 567 Huiqiang Jiang, Qianhui Wu, Chin-Yew Lin, Yuqing Yang, and Lili Qiu. LLMLingua: Com-
 568 pressing prompts for accelerated inference of large language models. In Houda Bouamor,
 569 Juan Pino, and Kalika Bali (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Meth-
 570 ods in Natural Language Processing*, pp. 13358–13376, Singapore, December 2023. Associa-
 571 tion for Computational Linguistics. doi: 10.18653/v1/2023.emnlp-main.825. URL <https://aclanthology.org/2023.emnlp-main.825>.
- 572 Huiqiang Jiang, Qianhui Wu, , Xufang Luo, Dongsheng Li, Chin-Yew Lin, Yuqing Yang, and Lili
 573 Qiu. LongLLMLingua: Accelerating and enhancing LLMs in long context scenarios via prompt
 574 compression. In Lun-Wei Ku, Andre Martins, and Vivek Srikumar (eds.), *Proceedings of the 62nd
 575 Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pp.
 576 1658–1677, Bangkok, Thailand, August 2024. Association for Computational Linguistics. URL
 577 <https://aclanthology.org/2024.acl-long.91>.
- 578 Mingyu Jin, Qinkai Yu, Jingyuan Huang, Qingcheng Zeng, Zhenting Wang, Wenyue Hua, Haiyan
 579 Zhao, Kai Mei, Yanda Meng, Kaize Ding, Fan Yang, Mengnan Du, and Yongfeng Zhang. Explor-
 580 ing concept depth: How large language models acquire knowledge and concept at different layers?
 581 In Owen Rambow, Leo Wanner, Marianna Apidianaki, Hend Al-Khalifa, Barbara Di Eugenio,
 582 and Steven Schockaert (eds.), *Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Compu-
 583 tational Linguistics*, pp. 558–573, Abu Dhabi, UAE, January 2025. Association for Computational
 584 Linguistics. URL <https://aclanthology.org/2025.coling-main.37/>.
- 585 Tomáš Kočiský, Jonathan Schwarz, Phil Blunsom, Chris Dyer, Karl Moritz Hermann, Gábor Melis,
 586 and Edward Grefenstette. The NarrativeQA reading comprehension challenge. *Transactions of
 587 the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 6:317–328, 2018. doi: 10.1162/tacl_a_00023.
 588 URL <https://aclanthology.org/Q18-1023>.

- 594 Patrick Lewis, Ethan Perez, Aleksandra Piktus, Fabio Petroni, Vladimir Karpukhin, Naman Goyal,
 595 Heinrich Kütller, Mike Lewis, Wen-tau Yih, Tim Rocktäschel, et al. Retrieval-augmented gener-
 596 ation for knowledge-intensive nlp tasks. *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 33:
 597 9459–9474, 2020.
- 598 Yucheng Li, Bo Dong, Frank Guerin, and Chenghua Lin. Compressing context to enhance in-
 599 ference efficiency of large language models. In Houda Bouamor, Juan Pino, and Kalika Bali
 600 (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Pro-
 601 cessing*, pp. 6342–6353, Singapore, December 2023. Association for Computational Linguis-
 602 tics. doi: 10.18653/v1/2023.emnlp-main.391. URL <https://aclanthology.org/2023.emnlp-main.391/>.
- 603 Yuhong Li, Yingbing Huang, Bowen Yang, Bharat Venkitesh, Acyr Locatelli, Hanchen Ye, Tianle
 604 Cai, Patrick Lewis, and Deming Chen. Snapkv: Llm knows what you are looking for before
 605 generation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2404.14469*, 2024.
- 606 Zongqian Li, Yixuan Su, and Nigel Collier. 500xCompressor: Generalized prompt compression
 607 for large language models. In Wanxiang Che, Joyce Nabende, Ekaterina Shutova, and Moham-
 608 mad Taher Pilehvar (eds.), *Proceedings of the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Com-
 609 putational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pp. 25081–25091, Vienna, Austria, July 2025.
 610 Association for Computational Linguistics. ISBN 979-8-89176-251-0. doi: 10.18653/v1/2025.
 611 acl-long.1219. URL <https://aclanthology.org/2025.acl-long.1219/>.
- 612 Huanxuan Liao, Wen Hu, Yao Xu, Shizhu He, Jun Zhao, and Kang Liu. Beyond hard and soft:
 613 Hybrid context compression for balancing local and global information retention, 2025. URL
 614 <https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.15774>.
- 615 Chin-Yew Lin. Rouge: A package for automatic evaluation of summaries. In *Text summarization
 616 branches out*, pp. 74–81, 2004.
- 617 Nelson F. Liu, Kevin Lin, John Hewitt, Ashwin Paranjape, Michele Bevilacqua, Fabio Petroni, and
 618 Percy Liang. Lost in the middle: How language models use long contexts. *Transactions of the
 619 Association for Computational Linguistics*, 12:157–173, 2024a. doi: 10.1162/tacl_a_00638. URL
 620 <https://aclanthology.org/2024.tacl-1.9/>.
- 621 Zhu Liu, Cunliang Kong, Ying Liu, and Maosong Sun. Fantastic semantics and where to find them:
 622 Investigating which layers of generative LLMs reflect lexical semantics. In Lun-Wei Ku, Andre
 623 Martins, and Vivek Srikumar (eds.), *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics:
 624 ACL 2024*, pp. 14551–14558, Bangkok, Thailand, August 2024b. Association for Computational
 625 Linguistics. doi: 10.18653/v1/2024.findings-acl.866. URL <https://aclanthology.org/2024.findings-acl.866/>.
- 626 Jesse Mu, Xiang Lisa Li, and Noah Goodman. Learning to compress prompts with gist tokens.
 627 In *Thirty-seventh Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2023. URL <https://openreview.net/forum?id=2DtxPCL3T5>.
- 628 Zhuoshi Pan, Qianhui Wu, Huiqiang Jiang, Menglin Xia, Xufang Luo, Jue Zhang, Qingwei Lin,
 629 Victor Ruhle, Yuqing Yang, Chin-Yew Lin, H. Vicky Zhao, Lili Qiu, and Dongmei Zhang.
 630 LLMLingua-2: Data distillation for efficient and faithful task-agnostic prompt compression. In
 631 Lun-Wei Ku, Andre Martins, and Vivek Srikumar (eds.), *Findings of the Association for Compu-
 632 tational Linguistics ACL 2024*, pp. 963–981, Bangkok, Thailand and virtual meeting, August 2024.
 633 Association for Computational Linguistics. URL <https://aclanthology.org/2024.findings-acl.57>.
- 634 Kishore Papineni, Salim Roukos, Todd Ward, and Wei-Jing Zhu. Bleu: a method for automatic
 635 evaluation of machine translation. In *Proceedings of the 40th annual meeting of the Association
 636 for Computational Linguistics*, pp. 311–318, 2002.
- 637 Qwen, An Yang, Baosong Yang, Beichen Zhang, Binyuan Hui, Bo Zheng, Bowen Yu, Chengyuan
 638 Li, Dayiheng Liu, Fei Huang, Haoran Wei, Huan Lin, Jian Yang, Jianhong Tu, Jianwei Zhang,
 639 Jianxin Yang, Jiaxi Yang, Jingren Zhou, Junyang Lin, Kai Dang, Keming Lu, Keqin Bao, Kexin
 640 Yang, Le Yu, Mei Li, Mingfeng Xue, Pei Zhang, Qin Zhu, Rui Men, Runji Lin, Tianhao Li,

- 648 Tianyi Tang, Tingyu Xia, Xingzhang Ren, Xuancheng Ren, Yang Fan, Yang Su, Yichang Zhang,
 649 Yu Wan, Yuqiong Liu, Zeyu Cui, Zhenru Zhang, and Zihan Qiu. Qwen2.5 technical report, 2025.
 650 URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/2412.15115>.
 651
- 652 David Rau, Shuai Wang, Hervé Déjean, Stéphane Clinchant, and Jaap Kamps. Context embeddings
 653 for efficient answer generation in retrieval-augmented generation. In *Proceedings of the Eighteenth ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining*, WSDM '25, pp. 493–502,
 654 New York, NY, USA, 2025. Association for Computing Machinery. ISBN 9798400713293. doi:
 655 10.1145/3701551.3703527. URL <https://doi.org/10.1145/3701551.3703527>.
 656
- 657 Abigail See, Peter J. Liu, and Christopher D. Manning. Get to the point: Summarization with
 658 pointer-generator networks. In *Proceedings of the 55th Annual Meeting of the Association for
 659 Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pp. 1073–1083, Vancouver, Canada, July
 660 2017. Association for Computational Linguistics. doi: 10.18653/v1/P17-1099. URL <https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/P17-1099>.
 661
- 662 Noam Shazeer. Fast transformer decoding: One write-head is all you need. *arXiv preprint
 663 arXiv:1911.02150*, 2019.
 664
- 665 Sijun Tan, Xiuyu Li, Shishir G Patil, Ziyang Wu, Tianjun Zhang, Kurt Keutzer, Joseph E. Gon-
 666 zalez, and Raluca Ada Popa. LLoCO: Learning long contexts offline. In Yaser Al-Onaizan,
 667 Mohit Bansal, and Yun-Nung Chen (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2024 Conference on Empirical
 668 Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pp. 17605–17621, Miami, Florida, USA, November
 669 2024. Association for Computational Linguistics. doi: 10.18653/v1/2024.emnlp-main.975. URL
 670 <https://aclanthology.org/2024.emnlp-main.975>.
 671
- 672 Jiwei Tang, Jin Xu, Tingwei Lu, Zhicheng Zhang, Yiming Zhao, LinHai LinHai, and
 673 Hai-Tao Zheng. Perception compressor: A training-free prompt compression framework in long
 674 context scenarios. In Luis Chiruzzo, Alan Ritter, and Lu Wang (eds.), *Findings of the Association
 675 for Computational Linguistics: NAACL 2025*, pp. 4093–4108, Albuquerque, New Mexico, April
 676 2025. Association for Computational Linguistics. ISBN 979-8-89176-195-7. URL <https://aclanthology.org/2025.findings-naacl.229>.
 677
- 678 Kimi Team, Yifan Bai, Yiping Bao, Guanduo Chen, Jiahao Chen, Ningxin Chen, et al. Kimi k2:
 679 Open agentic intelligence, 2025. URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.20534>.
 680
- 681 Hugo Touvron, Louis Martin, Kevin Stone, Peter Albert, Amjad Almahairi, Yasmine Babaei, Niko-
 682 lay Bashlykov, Soumya Batra, Prajjwal Bhargava, Shruti Bhosale, Dan Bikel, Lukas Blecher,
 683 Cristian Canton Ferrer, Moya Chen, Guillem Cucurull, David Esiobu, Jude Fernandes, Jeremy
 684 Fu, Wenyin Fu, Brian Fuller, Cynthia Gao, Vedanuj Goswami, Naman Goyal, Anthony Hartshorn,
 685 Saghar Hosseini, Rui Hou, Hakan Inan, Marcin Kardas, Viktor Kerkez, Madian Khabsa, Isabel
 686 Kloumann, Artem Korenev, Punit Singh Koura, Marie-Anne Lachaux, Thibaut Lavril, Jenya Lee,
 687 Diana Liskovich, Yinghai Lu, Yuning Mao, Xavier Martinet, Todor Mihaylov, Pushkar Mishra,
 688 Igor Molybog, Yixin Nie, Andrew Poulton, Jeremy Reizenstein, Rashi Rungta, Kalyan Saladi,
 689 Alan Schelten, Ruan Silva, Eric Michael Smith, Ranjan Subramanian, Xiaoqing Ellen Tan, Binh
 690 Tang, Ross Taylor, Adina Williams, Jian Xiang Kuan, Puxin Xu, Zheng Yan, Iliyan Zarov, Yuchen
 691 Zhang, Angela Fan, Melanie Kambadur, Sharan Narang, Aurelien Rodriguez, Robert Stojnic,
 692 Sergey Edunov, and Thomas Scialom. Llama 2: Open foundation and fine-tuned chat models,
 693 2023. URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.09288>.
 694
- 695 Ashish Vaswani, Noam Shazeer, Niki Parmar, Jakob Uszkoreit, Llion Jones, Aidan N Gomez,
 696 Łukasz Kaiser, and Illia Polosukhin. Attention is all you need. *Advances in neural information
 697 processing systems*, 30, 2017.
- 698 Lean Wang, Lei Li, Damai Dai, Deli Chen, Hao Zhou, Fandong Meng, Jie Zhou, and Xu Sun.
 699 Label words are anchors: An information flow perspective for understanding in-context learning.
 700 In Houda Bouamor, Juan Pino, and Kalika Bali (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2023 Conference
 701 on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pp. 9840–9855, Singapore, December
 2023. Association for Computational Linguistics. doi: 10.18653/v1/2023.emnlp-main.609. URL
<https://aclanthology.org/2023.emnlp-main.609>.
 702

- 702 Guangxuan Xiao, Yuandong Tian, Beidi Chen, Song Han, and Mike Lewis. Efficient streaming
 703 language models with attention sinks. *arXiv*, 2023.
- 704
- 705 Fangyuan Xu, Weijia Shi, and Eunsol Choi. Recomp: Improving retrieval-augmented lms with
 706 context compression and selective augmentation. In *The Twelfth International Conference on*
 707 *Learning Representations*, 2024.
- 708 Zhilin Yang, Peng Qi, Saizheng Zhang, Yoshua Bengio, William Cohen, Ruslan Salakhutdinov,
 709 and Christopher D. Manning. HotpotQA: A dataset for diverse, explainable multi-hop question
 710 answering. In Ellen Riloff, David Chiang, Julia Hockenmaier, and Jun’ichi Tsujii (eds.), *Proceed-
 711 ings of the 2018 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pp. 2369–
 712 2380, Brussels, Belgium, October–November 2018. Association for Computational Linguistics.
 713 doi: 10.18653/v1/D18-1259. URL <https://aclanthology.org/D18-1259/>.
- 714 Xubing Ye, Yukang Gan, Xiaoke Huang, Yixiao Ge, and Yansong Tang. Voco-llama: Towards
 715 vision compression with large language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2406.12275*, 2024.
- 716
- 717 Chanwoong Yoon, Taewho Lee, Hyeyon Hwang, Minbyul Jeong, and Jaewoo Kang. CompAct:
 718 Compressing retrieved documents actively for question answering. In Yaser Al-Onaizan, Mohit
 719 Bansal, and Yun-Nung Chen (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2024 Conference on Empirical Meth-
 720 ods in Natural Language Processing*, pp. 21424–21439, Miami, Florida, USA, November 2024.
 721 Association for Computational Linguistics. doi: 10.18653/v1/2024.emnlp-main.1194. URL
 722 <https://aclanthology.org/2024.emnlp-main.1194/>.
- 723 Peitian Zhang, Zheng Liu, Shitao Xiao, Ninglu Shao, Qiwei Ye, and Zhicheng Dou. Long context
 724 compression with activation beacon. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2401.03462*, 2024.
- 725
- 726 Tianyi Zhang*, Varsha Kishore*, Felix Wu*, Kilian Q. Weinberger, and Yoav Artzi. Bertscore:
 727 Evaluating text generation with bert. In *International Conference on Learning Representations*,
 728 2020. URL <https://openreview.net/forum?id=SkeHuCVFDr>.
- 729 Zhenyu Zhang, Ying Sheng, Tianyi Zhou, Tianlong Chen, Lianmin Zheng, Ruisi Cai, Zhao Song,
 730 Yuandong Tian, Christopher Ré, Clark Barrett, Zhangyang "Atlas" Wang, and Beidi Chen. H2o:
 731 Heavy-hitter oracle for efficient generative inference of large language models. In A. Oh,
 732 T. Naumann, A. Globerson, K. Saenko, M. Hardt, and S. Levine (eds.), *Advances in Neu-
 733 ral Information Processing Systems*, volume 36, pp. 34661–34710. Curran Associates, Inc.,
 734 2023. URL https://proceedings.neurips.cc/paper_files/paper/2023/file/6ceefaa7b15572587b78ecfcbb2827f8-Paper-Conference.pdf.
- 735
- 736 Yunlong Zhao, Haoran Wu, and Bo Xu. Leveraging attention to effectively compress prompts
 737 for long-context llms. *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 39(24):
 738 26048–26056, Apr. 2025. doi: 10.1609/aaai.v39i24.34800. URL <https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/AAAI/article/view/34800>.
- 739
- 740 Fengwei Zhou, Jiafei Song, Wenjin Jason Li, Gengjian Xue, Zhikang Zhao, Yichao Lu, and Bailin
 741 Na. Mooscomp: Improving lightweight long-context compressor via mitigating over-smoothing
 742 and incorporating outlier scores. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.16786*, 2025.
- 743
- 744
- 745
- 746
- 747
- 748
- 749
- 750
- 751
- 752
- 753
- 754
- 755

756 A RELATED WORK
757

758 **Hard Prompt Compression.** Hard prompt compression refers to the removal of some less important tokens from the original prompt or the generation of summaries to achieve compression. The
759 compressed prompt is explicit text. It can mainly be divided into the following four categories: (1)
760 Perplexity-based methods. Selective-Context (Li et al., 2023) removes certain lexical units based
761 on perplexity, while methods such as LLMLingua (Jiang et al., 2023), LongLLMLingua (Jiang
762 et al., 2024), and Perception Compressor (Tang et al., 2025) adopt a coarse-to-fine framework to
763 gradually eliminate less important parts. (2) Bidirectional semantic-based methods. Considering
764 the unidirectional nature of perplexity, some approaches employ bidirectional semantic information
765 for compression, such as LLMLingua-2 (Pan et al., 2024), MOOSComp (Zhou et al., 2025), and
766 EFPC (Cao et al., 2025). (3) Methods based on intrinsic attention mechanisms. Compression is
767 achieved through the intrinsic attention mechanisms of LLMs, such as PIS (Chen et al., 2025) and
768 AttnComp (Zhao et al., 2025). (4) Summary generation. This involves generating linguistic sum-
769maries that contain useful information for long text content, such as CompACT (Yoon et al., 2024)
770 and RECOMP (Xu et al., 2024). *Although these methods improve the computational efficiency of in-
771ference through prompt compression, they compromise the semantic integrity of the original prompt.*
772

773 **Soft Prompt Compression.** Soft prompt compression has become a research hotspot in the field
774 of Natural Language Processing (NLP). The goal of soft prompt compression is to learn a set of soft
775 tokens (with a sequence length much shorter than the original text) to achieve compression, where
776 the compressed soft prompts cannot be explicitly converted into text. Among them, xRAG (Cheng
777 et al., 2024) focuses on processing short texts and extreme compression. More recent methods learn
778 soft tokens by appending randomly initialized learnable tokens, including GIST (Mu et al., 2023),
779 AutoCompressor (Chevalier et al., 2023), 500xCompressor (Li et al., 2025), ICAE (Ge et al., 2024),
780 LLoCO (Tan et al., 2024), and others (Ye et al., 2024; Liao et al., 2025; Dai et al., 2025; Rau et al.,
781 2025; Choi et al., 2025). This leads to the semantics of anchor tokens in the input sequence being
782 increasingly emphasized layer by layer, while the semantics of other tokens are diluted and cannot
783 be fully preserved in the summary vectors. Moreover, these methods only use Multi-Layer Percep-
784 trons (MLPs) for coarse-grained semantic alignment when semantic alignment is required, ignoring
785 the significant differences in representations across different layers of large models. *Our proposed
786 method evenly and effectively extracts summary vectors through group merging. By employing a
787 group average pooling merging strategy, it addresses the issue of uneven semantic learning. Addi-
788 tionally, it bridges the large semantic gap between different layers of LLMs through a Layer Seman-
789 tic Alignment (LSA) module.*

790 **KV-cache Compression.** Research in this direction focuses on directly compressing the KV-cache
791 in each transformer layer, considering factors such as layer-wise compression, attention heads, the
792 importance of different KVs, or token-level approaches. Examples include CLA (Brandon et al.,
793 2024), which shares KV-cache across layers; GQA (Ainslie et al., 2023) and MQA (Shazeer,
794 2019), which reduce the number of heads for keys and values; StreamLLM (Xiao et al., 2023)
795 and SnapKV (Li et al., 2024), which discard unimportant KVs for efficient compression; and Acti-
796 vation Beacon, which appends some meaningless tokens (shorter than the original length) and learns
797 compressed representations in the KV-cache of these tokens for each layer. While KV-cache-based
798 compression methods can accelerate inference, they require the compression and response models
799 to be identical. *This limitation restricts practical applications and increases resource consumption,
800 e.g., in prompt compression for large models (e.g., 70B), a smaller model (e.g., 7B) cannot be used
as the compression model; instead, the same oversized model must be employed.*

801
802 B CONTEXT RESTORATION CAPABILITY
803

804 In the context restoration task, GMSA-AE significantly outperforms the Traditional Compression
805 Paradigm AutoEncoder (TCP-AE) in multiple aspects, including restoration quality (see Figure 4),
806 convergence speed, and robustness (see Figure 5). As shown in Figure 4, GMSA-AE outperforms
807 TCP-AE in all evaluation metrics. BLEU Score (Papineni et al., 2002), Prefix Exact Match, and
808 ROUGE (Lin, 2004) are token-matching-based metrics, and GMSA-AE’s performance in these met-
809 rics is at least 20% higher than TCP-AE under all compression constraints, indicating that GMSA-
AE has a stronger ability to precisely remember each token. The BERT Score F1 (Zhang* et al.,

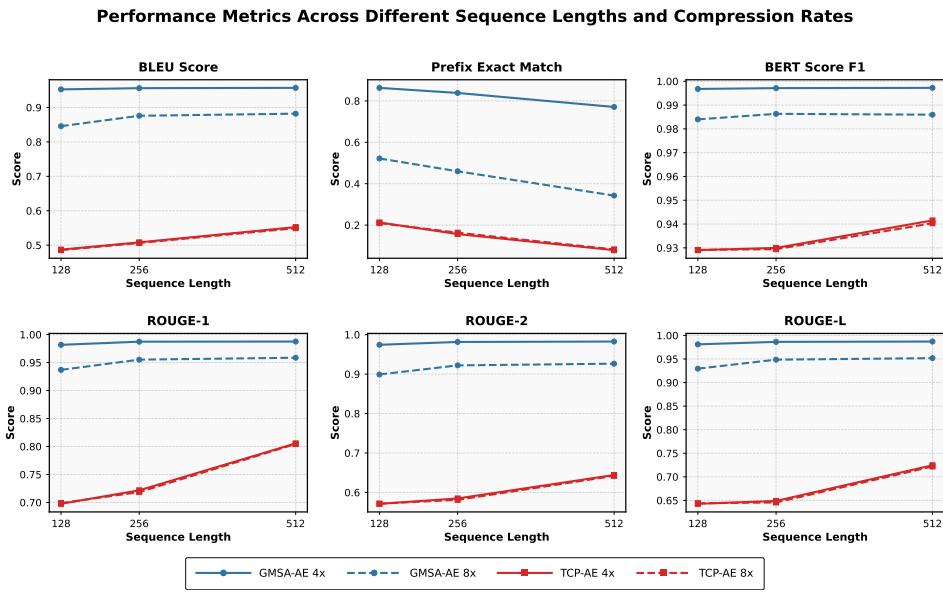


Figure 4: GMSA-AE v.s. TCP-AE on the context restoration task. Sequence Length represents different context restoration lengths (*i.e.*, 128, 256, 512), and the models are trained with a maximum length of 512.

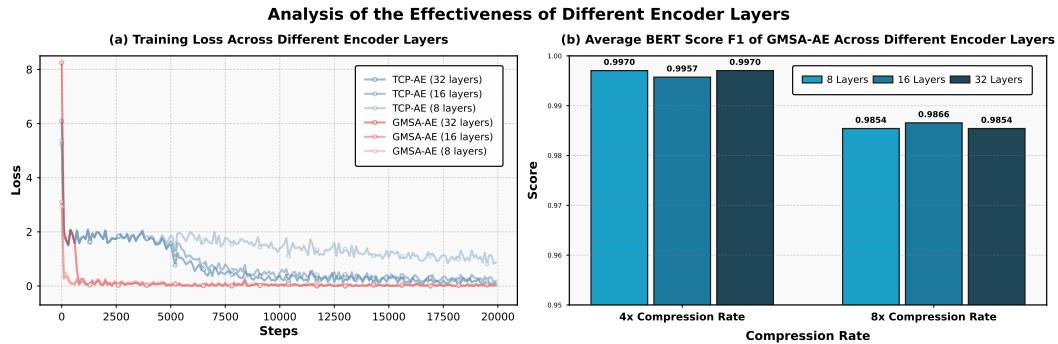


Figure 5: Analysis of the Effectiveness of Different Encoder Layers. (a) represents the comparison of convergence speed between GMSA-AE with different encoder layers and TCP-AE. (b) denotes the impact of different encoder layers on the semantic retention of GMSA-AE. The average BERT Score F1 refers to the average F1 score across different context restoration lengths (*i.e.*, 128, 256, and 512).

2020), which measures semantic similarity and reflects the model’s ability to remember overall semantics, is also about 5% higher for GMSA-AE than TCP-AE. As shown in Figure 5, GMSA-AE converges much faster than TCP-AE. GMSA-AE convergence around 1000 training steps, while TCP-AE has not fully converged even after 5000 steps. Moreover, significantly reducing the number of encoder layers (*e.g.*, to 8 encoder layers) makes TCP-AE converge much more slowly. In contrast, GMSA-AE demonstrates robustness under different settings. In terms of convergence speed, reducing the number of encoder layers even further accelerates the convergence of GMSA-AE: versions with 8 or 16 encoder layers converge faster than those with 32 layers, possibly because the cross-layer semantic alignment challenge is alleviated with fewer encoder layers. From the perspective of semantic retention, the Average BERT Score F1 of different encoder layers remains consistent under various compression rates, indicating that even with a small number of encoder layers (*e.g.*, 8 layers), GMSA-AE can still effectively retain semantic information and complete high-quality memory tasks. We also evaluate the quality of the reconstructed text using perplexity, and the results show that GMSA-AE significantly outperforms TCP-AE (see Appendix K). Moreover, we conduct

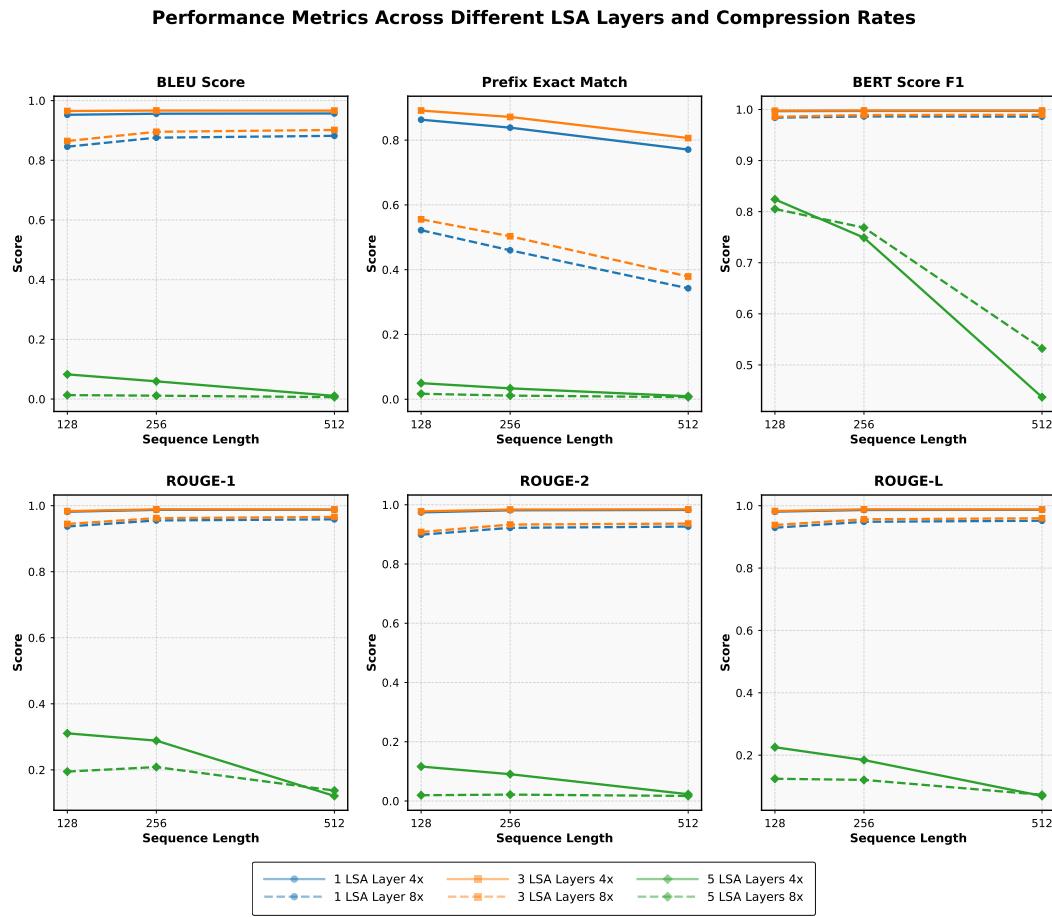


Figure 6: The impact of different layers of LSA on semantic retention in GMSA-AE. Sequence Length represents different context restoration lengths (*i.e.*, 128, 256, 512), and the model is trained with a maximum length of 512.

specific case studies to further verify the performance gap between GMSA-AE and TCP-AE (see Appendix J).

C IMPACT OF DIFFERENT LAYER SEMANTIC ALIGNMENT LAYERS

We conduct experiments to investigate the impact of layer semantic alignment (LSA) module with varying numbers of layers on the retention of complete semantics, and the results are shown in Figure 6. We can draw the following conclusions: (1) Only one layer of LSA is sufficient to achieve good retention of complete semantics (with a BERT Score F1 close to 1, and it already performs the best among different numbers of LSA layers). (2) When the number of LSA layers becomes too high, *e.g.*, using five layers of LSA, it may actually lead to a decrease in the GMSA’s ability to retain semantics. This is likely because as the LSA module becomes deeper, it contains more high-layer semantics and fewer low-layer semantics, thereby increasing the difficulty of semantic alignment.

D IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

We train GMSA on two NVIDIA A100 GPUs (80GB) using bf16 precision. For the PwC dataset, we train on the full dataset with 10,000 steps for Autoencoder Training and 5,000 steps for Knowledge Extraction Fine-tuning (KEFT). For the QA datasets (*i.e.*, NaturalQuestions, 2WikiMQA, and HotpotQA), we sample 15,000 examples from each to form the training set, using 20,000 steps for Autoencoder Training and 1,000 steps for KEFT, respectively. Other parameters are listed in Table 5.

918
919
920
921
922
923
924
925
926
927
928
929

Table 5: Training Hyperparameters.

Hyperparameter	Value
Optimizer	AdamW
Learning Rate	1×10^{-4} (Autoencoder Training) 1×10^{-5} (KEFT)
Batch Size	4 (Autoencoder Training) 16 (KEFT)
Scheduler	Linear
Gradient Clip Norm	2.0

930 The relationship between the maximum training token length and the dataset is shown in Table 6.
931

Table 6: The relationship between the maximum token length and the dataset.

Dataset	Maximum Training Token Length
PwC	512
CNN / Daily	1024
NaturalQuestions, 2WikiMQA, HotpotQA	3072
NarrativeQA	32768

941 E DATASETS DETAILS
942943 **PwC dataset.** In the PwC dataset (Ge et al., 2024), each sample is a triplet (context, prompt,
944 answer), where the context is sampled from the Pile and the prompt and answer are generated by
945 GPT-4. The training set contains 241,564 samples, the test set contains 18,146 samples, and the
946 average token length of the dataset is 609³.
947948 **NaturalQuestions.** NaturalQuestions (Liu et al., 2024a), in which each question corresponds to
949 20 relevant documents, 19 of which are distractors and only one contains the ground truth answer.
950 The training set contains 75,322 samples, the test set contains 2,655 samples, and the average token
951 length of the dataset is 3,253.
952953 **HotpotQA.** HotpotQA (Yang et al., 2018) is a two-hop reasoning dataset, where the answers are
954 scattered across two documents. Specifically, each question corresponds to 10 relevant documents,
955 two of which are the ground truth documents. The training set contains 89,609 samples, the test set
956 contains 7,345 samples, and the average token length of the dataset is 1,567.
957958 **2WikiMQA.** Compared with HotpotQA, 2WikiMQA (Ho et al., 2020) includes more complex
959 reasoning paths, and the combination of structured and unstructured data, usually involving two
960 or more hops and having higher difficulty. The training set contains 167,454 samples, the test set
961 contains 12,576 samples, and the average token length of the dataset is 1098.
962963 **MMLU.** MMLU (Hendrycks et al., 2021a;b) is a benchmark designed to measure a language
964 model’s knowledge and problem-solving abilities across a wide range of subjects, including humani-
965 ties, social sciences, STEM, and more. It consists of multiple-choice questions that cover 57 diverse
966 tasks, aiming to evaluate a model’s general competence in understanding and responding to complex
967 prompts that require factual recall, reasoning, and common sense.
968969 **GSM8K.** GSM8K (Cobbe et al., 2021) is a dataset of elementary mathematics word problems,
970 specifically curated to test the reasoning capabilities of language models. Each problem requires
971 multi-step arithmetic operations and logical deduction to arrive at the correct answer. The dataset is³We uniformly use the tokenizer of LLaMA-2-7B (chat) to calculate the token length of the text.

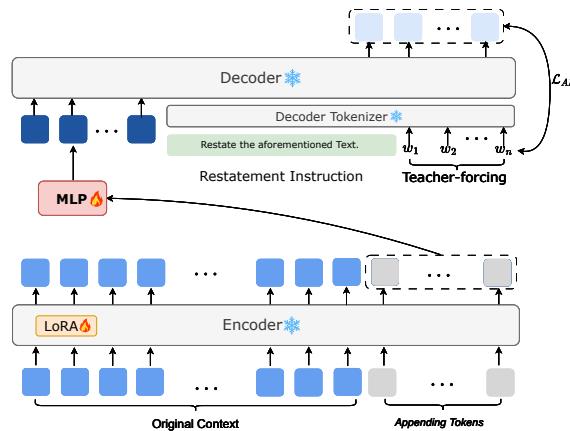


Figure 7: The training process of Traditional Compression Paradigm Autoencoder (TCP-AE). The traditional compression paradigm first adds appending tokens after the Original Context, then employs an encoder (e.g., LLaMA) to autoregressively learn summary vectors. These summary vectors are then processed through a Multilayer Perceptron (MLP) layer to achieve coarse-grained semantic alignment, resulting in soft tokens. On the decoder side, context restoration training is conditioned on soft tokens, with cross-entropy used as the final loss.

designed to be challenging enough to distinguish between models with strong quantitative reasoning skills and those that struggle with sustained logical deduction.

NarrativeQA. NarrativeQA (Kočiský et al., 2018) is a question-answering dataset focused on understanding long-form narratives. It comprises pairs of books and questions about their content, where the answers often require synthesizing information from multiple parts of the text. The dataset aims to assess a model’s ability to comprehend complex storylines, identify key characters and events, and answer questions that go beyond simple fact retrieval.

CNN / DailyMail. CNN / DailyMail (See et al., 2017) is a popular dataset for abstractive summarization, consisting of news articles from CNN and the Daily Mail. Each article is paired with a human-written summary, acting as the ground truth. The task involves generating a concise and coherent summary of the input news article, requiring models to identify the most important information and rephrase it effectively.

F TRADITIONAL COMPRESSION PARADIGM AUTOENCODER TRAINING

As shown in Figure 7, to fully measure the context restoration capability of GMSA after Autoencoder Training, we conduct Autoencoder Training following the traditional compression paradigm, using the same training method as GMSA (*i.e.*, randomly sampling compression rates for training examples and other hyperparameters in the training process are also the same) to obtain Traditional Compression Paradigm Autoencoder (TCP-AE)⁴.

G FLOPs CALCULATION

Let L_{in} denote the input sequence length. We calculate the floating-point operations (FLOPs) for a single layer can be decomposed into Attention and Feed Forward Network (FFN) operations. The calculation process for the Attention operation is:

⁴The entire structure is similar to the pretraining structure of ICAE, but the training paradigm is different. For example, we randomly sample the compression rate for training, which increases the difficulty of training.

$$\begin{aligned}
1026 \quad & F^{Attention}(L_{in}) = F^{qkv}(L_{in}) + F^{qk}(L_{in}) + F^{softmax}(L_{in}) + F^{av}(L_{in}) + F^{out}(L_{in}), \\
1027 \quad & F^{qkv}(L_{in}) = 2 \times L_{in} \times D \times d \times h^q + 2 \times 2 \times L_{in} \times D \times d \times h^k, \\
1028 \quad & F^{qk}(L_{in}) = 2 \times h^q \times L_{in} \times L_{in} \times d, \\
1029 \quad & F^{softmax}(L_{in}) = h^q \times L_{in} \times L_{in}, \\
1030 \quad & F^{av}(L_{in}) = 2 \times h^q \times L_{in} \times L_{in} \times d, \\
1031 \quad & F^{out}(L_{in}) = 2 \times L_{in} \times d \times h^q \times D.
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

1035 The calculation process for the FFN can be formulated as:

$$\begin{aligned}
1037 \quad & F^{FFN}(L_{in}) = F^{up}(L_{in}) + F^{down}(L_{in}), \\
1038 \quad & F^{up}(L_{in}) = 2 \times L_{in} \times D \times 2 \times I, \\
1039 \quad & F^{down}(L_{in}) = 2 \times L_{in} \times D \times I.
\end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

1042 Denote the original context length as L , the compression rate as r , question length as L_q , answer
1043 length as L_a , the number of layers in the LSA as N_{LSA} , the number of decoder layers as N_{Dec} , the
1044 number of encoder layers as N_{Enc} , query head number as h^q , key/value head number as h^k , the
1045 hidden size as D , head dimension as d , intermediate size as I , and vocabulary size as V . Therefore,
1046 the FLOPs of the encoder, LSA, and decoder can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned}
1048 \quad & F^{Encoder}(L) = (F^{Attention}(L) + F_E^{FFN}(L)) \times N_{Enc}, \\
1049 \quad & F^{LSA}(\lceil L/r \rceil) = (F_L^{Attention}(\lceil L/r \rceil) + F_L^{FFN}(\lceil L/r \rceil)) \times N_{LSA}, \\
1050 \quad & F^{Decoder}(\lceil L/r \rceil, L_q, L_a) = \sum_{i=1}^{L_a} (F_D^{Attention}(\lceil L/r \rceil, L_q, i) + F_D^{FFN}(\lceil L/r \rceil, L_q, i)) \times N_{Dec}.
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

1055 where $N_{Enc} \ll N_{total}$ uses only shallow layers (e.g., 8/32 in LLaMA), N_{LSA} is generally set to
1056 1 follows from LSA's layer-agnostic property (see Appendix C), and $r > 1$ represents standard
1057 compression rates.

1059 H LATENCY EVALUATION

1062 H.1 EFFICIENCY ANALYSIS ON GENERAL SCENARIOS

1063 We conduct an empirical test on the NaturalQuestions
1064 to evaluate the impact of GMSA on inference efficiency
1065 under 4x and 8x compression constraints.⁵ In this effi-
1066 ciency test, we fix the generation length to 100. Table 7
1067 shows that the context compression by GMSA helps im-
1068 prove the inference efficiency of LLMs. Compared with
1069 all settings, including the original prompt, Kv-cache com-
1070 pression algorithms (*i.e.*, StreamLLM, SnapKV, and Ac-
1071 tivation Beacon), and the encoder-decoder-based ICAE,
1072 GMSA achieves more than a 2x end-to-end inference
1073 speedup.

1074 H.2 EFFICIENCY 1075 ANALYSIS ON ULTRA-LONG SCENARIOS

1077 To evaluate GMSA on ultra-long scenarios, we conduct
1078 experiments on NarrativeQA (Kočiský et al., 2018) with

1079 Table 8: Performance and Latency on
NarrativeQA (32K max length, Qwen2-
7B as backbone).

Method	F1	Latency (s)
Original Prompt	9.7	5.2
<i>4x compression constraint</i>		
GMSA	15.5	2.7
<i>8x compression constraint</i>		
GMSA	14.1	2.3

⁵We test the latency on two NVIDIA A800 GPUs (80G).

1080
 1081 Table 7: Latency Evaluation. Latency evaluation of different methods under varying compression
 1082 constraints on the Natural Questions dataset. The symbol \times indicates that the specific processing
 1083 time is unavailable.

Methods	Compression Time	Decoding Time	End-to-End Inference Time
Original Context	-	1.14	1.14
<i>4x compression constraint</i>			
StreamLLM	\times	\times	1.47
SnapKV	\times	\times	0.99
Activation Beacon	\times	\times	3.06
ICAE	0.73	1.06	1.79
GMSA	0.27	0.18	0.45
<i>8x compression constraint</i>			
StreamLLM	\times	\times	1.41
SnapKV	\times	\times	0.99
Activation Beacon	\times	\times	1.92
ICAE	0.56	2.60	3.16
GMSA	0.27	0.15	0.42

1104 a maximum context length of 32K tokens, using Qwen2-7B as the backbone⁶. We report end-to-end
 1105 inference latency (in seconds).

1106 As shown in Table 8, GMSA achieves significant acceleration. Under both 4x and 8x compression
 1107 rates, GMSA is 2x faster than processing the original prompt while attaining substantially higher F1
 1108 scores.

1109 This demonstrates that, despite the quadratic complexity retained in a few layers of the encoder, the
 1110 overall end-to-end efficiency gain from compressing the context into a small set of soft tokens is
 1111 substantial—even for ultra-long sequences.

I COMPARISON WITH LLoCO

1116 We provide a detailed comparison with the recent work LLoCO (Tan et al., 2024), which also em-
 1117 ploys an encoder-decoder architecture and a decoder-only fine-tuning strategy for downstream tasks,
 1118 conceptually similar to our Knowledge Extraction Fine-tuning (KEFT).

1119 Despite this high-level similarity, GMSA introduces sev-
 1120 eral key structural and methodological innovations that
 1121 lead to significant performance improvements:

1123 **Group Merging.** GMSA proposes a novel Group
 1124 Merging strategy to evenly retain semantics from the orig-
 1125 inal context. By dividing the encoder’s last hidden state
 1126 into groups and applying average pooling, this method ef-
 1127 fectively mitigates the problem of uneven semantic learn-
 1128 ing, where the semantics of anchor tokens are dispro-
 1129 portionately emphasized at the expense of others. This is
 1130 a common limitation in autoregressive summary vector
 1131 learning approaches, including LLoCO.

1132 Table 9: Performance comparison
 1133 with LLoCO on the NaturalQuestions
 (LLaMA-2-7B as backbone).

Method	Acc	EM	F1
LLoCO	41.7	38.1	39.1
<i>4x compression constraint</i>			
GMSA	70.0	58.1	57.6
<i>8x compression constraint</i>			
GMSA	62.3	51.0	53.1

1134 ⁶To avoid out-of-memory issues on ultra-long scenarios, we evaluate latency on two NVIDIA H20 GPUs
 1135 (94GB).

1134 **Layer Semantic Alignment (LSA).** A core innovation
 1135 of GMSA is the explicit Layer Semantic Alignment mod-
 1136 ule. This component is designed to bridge the large se-
 1137 mantic gap between the high-level, abstract summary vectors generated by the encoder and the
 1138 low-level semantic space expected by the decoder’s input layers. LLoCO does not incorporate such
 1139 a dedicated mechanism for cross-layer semantic alignment.

1140

1141 **Knowledge Extraction Fine-tuning (KEFT).** The KEFT process in GMSA is specifically de-
 1142 signed to fine-tune *only* the weight matrices W_Q , W_K , and W_V in the self-attention modules of
 1143 each decoder layer. This design is motivated by the understanding that the attention mechanism
 1144 primarily governs information flow and context integration, while the feed-forward network (FFN)
 1145 acts more as a static knowledge storage module (Geva et al., 2021). By selectively tuning only
 1146 the attention projections, KEFT efficiently adapts the decoder to extract task-specific knowledge
 1147 from the compressed soft tokens without altering the core knowledge representations. In contrast,
 1148 LLoCO applies Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA) to the entire decoder, including both attention and
 1149 FFN components.

1150 To provide a quantitative comparison, we trained and
 1151 evaluated LLoCO on the NaturalQuestions (NQ) dataset
 1152 using its official open-source code and default settings,
 1153 with LLaMA-2-7B as the backbone model. The results,
 1154 presented in Table 9, demonstrate the superior perfor-
 1155 mance of GMSA.

1156 This comparison clearly highlights the effectiveness of
 1157 GMSA’s architectural components in achieving state-of-
 1158 the-art results for context compression and knowledge ex-
 1159 traction.

1160

1161 J PERPLEXITY EVALUATION
 1162

1163 For the task of context restoration, we evaluate model per-
 1164 formance from the perspective of perplexity. The exper-
 1165 imental results are shown in Table 10. “Condition Type”
 1166 represents the basic conditions under which the LLMs re-
 1167 covers the text, which are divided into three types: recov-
 1168 ering from the Original Context, recovering from the soft
 1169 tokens generated by TCP-AE, and recovering from the
 1170 soft tokens generated by GMSA-AE. Different Sequence
 1171 Lengths represent different lengths of the context restora-
 1172 tion task. We can draw two key findings: (1) Under differ-
 1173 ent compression constraints and restoration lengths, the perplexity of the recovered text conditioned
 1174 on TCP-AE-generated soft tokens is significantly higher than that of the recovered text conditioned
 1175 on the Original Context. (2) Except for the case where the compression constraint is 8x and the
 1176 restoration length is 512, where GMSA-AE’s recovered text perplexity is slightly lower than that
 1177 of the Original Context (by only 0.02), in all other cases, GMSA-AE’s recovered text perplexity is
 1178 lower than that of the Original Context. Furthermore, in all scenarios, GMSA-AE’s recovered text
 1179 perplexity is significantly lower than that of the recovered text conditioned on TCP-AE-generated
 1180 soft tokens.

1181

1182 K CASE STUDY
 1183

1184 As shown in Table 11, we use the restoration of a specific text to study the performance of GMSA-
 1185 AE in context restoration. In the restored text, GMSA-AE only has the last word inconsistent with
 1186 the original text, *i.e.*, restoring “it” to its plural form “they”. In contrast, TCP-AE not only exhibits
 1187 inconsistencies in some word expressions (such as “medication” and “drugs”) but also displays large
 1188 segments of discrepancies with the original text.

Table 10: Comparison of the average to-
 ken perplexity under different condition
 types on the PwC test set.

Condition Type	Sequence Length		
	128	256	512
Original Context	1.12	1.06	1.03
<i>4x compression constraint</i>			
TCP-AE	1.36	1.34	1.35
GMSA-AE	1.01	1.01	1.00
<i>8x compression constraint</i>			
TCP-AE	1.36	1.34	1.35
GMSA-AE	1.08	1.06	1.05

1188
1189
1190
1191
1192
1193
1194
1195
1196
1197
1198
1199
1200
1201
1202
1203
1204
1205
1206
1207
1208
1209
1210
1211
1212
1213
1214
1215
1216
1217
1218
1219Table 11: An example showing GMSA-AE and TCP-AE’s context restoration performance. Text highlighted in yellow indicates discrepancies from the **Original Context**.

Original Context	GMSA-AE	TCP-AE
<p>Craig F. Walker Boston Globe Getty Images</p> <p>The Trump administration is making good on its latest effort to lower out-of-pocket drug costs for Medicare recipients, but its approach could also limit drug options or even risk eliminating coverage of some prescriptions. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services proposed late Monday changes to Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D. Among the changes, it would allow insurers to stop covering certain "protected" classes of drugs used to treat common ailments like depression, cancer and HIV. When Congress added a prescription drug benefit to Medicare in 2003, it required insurers to cover at least two different drugs to treat any particular ailment. It also set aside six protected classes of medication where insurers were required to cover "all or substantially all" of the drugs offered to ensure seniors got whatever treatment they needed, like for cancer. The Trump administration thinks that gives drug manufacturers greater negotiating power on prices. The proposal is meant to give insurers more leverage and drive prices down by allowing them to drop coverage of certain drugs in a protected class if they</p>	<p>Craig F. Walker Boston Globe Getty Images</p> <p>The Trump administration is making good on its latest effort to lower out-of-pocket drug costs for Medicare recipients, but its approach could also limit drug options or even risk eliminating coverage of some prescriptions. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services proposed late Monday changes to Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D. Among the changes, it would allow insurers to stop covering certain "protected" classes of drugs used to treat common ailments like depression, cancer and HIV. When Congress added a prescription drug benefit to Medicare in 2003, it required insurers to cover at least two different drugs to treat any particular ailment. It also set aside six protected classes of medication where insurers were required to cover "all or substantially all" of the drugs offered to ensure seniors got whatever treatment they needed, like for cancer. The Trump administration thinks that gives drug manufacturers greater negotiating power on prices. The proposal is meant to give insurers more leverage and drive prices down by allowing them to drop coverage of certain drugs in a protected class if they</p>	<p>Craig Walker Boston Globe Getty Images</p> <p>The Trump administration is making good on its latest effort to lower out-of-pocket medication costs for Medicare recipients, but its approach could also limit drug options or even risk eliminating coverage of some prescriptions. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services proposed late Monday changes to Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D. Among the changes, it would allow insurers to stop covering certain "protected" drugs used to treat common ailments like depression, cancer and HIV. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services proposed changes to Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D. Among the changes, it would allow insurers to stop covering certain drugs that are used to treat common ailments like depression, cancer and HIV. The proposal would have added a prescription drug benefit to Medicare Part B, which currently covers only doctor visits and lab tests. Congress added the prescription drug benefit in 2003 to require insurers to cover at least two different drugs to treat any of the "essential drugs" offered to seniors, regardless of whether they were covered by Medicare</p>

1220
1221
1222
1223
1224
1225
1226
1227
1228
1229
1230
1231
1232
1233
1234
1235
1236
1237
1238
1239
1240
1241

L LANGUAGE MODEL USAGE STATEMENT

During the preparation of this manuscript, we utilize a large language model as a writing assistant. Its primary role is to refine and polish our paper, including the descriptions of our methodology and the presentation of mathematical derivations. This is done to improve the overall clarity, precision, and readability of the paper. All core ideas, experimental designs, and results are original work of the authors.