

Searching for Effective Multilingual Fine-Tuning Methods: A Case Study in Summarization

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Abstract

001 Recently, a large number of tuning strategies
002 have been proposed to adapt pre-trained lan-
003 guage models to downstream tasks. In this pa-
004 per, we perform an extensive empirical evalua-
005 tion of various tuning strategies for multilin-
006 gual learning, particularly in the context of text
007 summarization. Specifically, we explore the
008 relative advantages of three families of multilin-
009 gual tuning strategies (a total of five models)
010 and empirically evaluate them for summariza-
011 tion over 45 languages. Experimentally, we
012 not only established a new state-of-the-art on
013 the XL-Sum dataset but also derive a series of
014 observations that hopefully can provide hints
015 for future research on the design of multilin-
016 gual tuning strategies.¹

017 1 Introduction

018 Methods that perform fine-tuning of pre-trained lan-
019 guage models (PLMs) now represent the state-of-
020 the-art across a wide variety of NLP tasks (Howard
021 and Ruder, 2018; Han et al., 2021). Because there
022 are a myriad of methods for tackling this impor-
023 tant task of fine-tuning LMs, there is an increas-
024 ing body of research investigating the empirical
025 strengths and weaknesses of different tuning strate-
026 gies across several tasks (Peters et al., 2019; Ma-
027 habadi et al., 2021; Karimi Mahabadi et al., 2021;
028 Li and Liang, 2021; Mao et al., 2021; Hu et al.,
029 2021; Min et al., 2021; He et al., 2021). One of the
030 major design dimensions of these works revolves
031 around *which set of model parameters are updated*;
032 should fine-tuning only adjust a few additional pa-
033 rameters that are not part of the initial LMs (e.g.,
034 Adapters (Houlsby et al., 2019), or Prefix Tuning
035 (Li and Liang, 2021; Xue et al., 2021)), update
036 all parameters of the pre-trained models (Dai and
037 Le, 2015; Devlin et al., 2019; Schick and Schütze,
038 2021), or update only a subset of parameters (Guo
039 et al., 2020)?

¹Code at <https://github.com/anonymous-717/Multi-Sum>

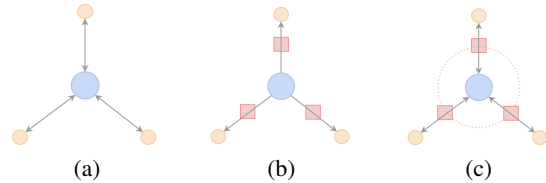


Figure 1: Different frameworks for multilingual learning, where orange circles represent different languages and blue circles denote pre-trained language models (PLMs). Red boxes refer to additional learnable parameters, such as adapters or prefixes. Double sided arrows represent that the parameters of PLMs are tunable.

040 At the same time, there has been much progress
041 in multilingual models based on pre-trained LMs
042 (Lample and Conneau, 2019; Conneau et al., 2020;
043 Liu et al., 2020) However, there is a notable gap
044 in the literature – to our knowledge, there are no
045 comprehensive comparative studies on how differ-
046 ent tuning strategies behave in multi-lingual scenar-
047 ios – there is significant work on multilingual
048 adapters (Pfeiffer et al., 2020b; Ansell et al., 2021)
049 and parameter tying across languages (Sachan and
050 Neubig, 2018; Lin et al., 2021), but few studies
051 comparing different families of methods.

052 In this paper, we try to fill this gap by perform-
053 ing a comprehensive study of different parameter
054 tuning techniques in the context of text summa-
055 rization (Rush et al., 2015; Nallapati et al., 2016;
056 Chopra et al., 2016; Lewis et al., 2020; Zhang et al.,
057 2020; Dou et al., 2021). We focus particularly
058 on summarization as previous work on parameter-
059 efficient tuning has noted that the differences be-
060 tween tuning techniques are particularly salient in
061 more complex generative tasks such as summariza-
062 tion, as opposed to text classification (He et al.,
063 2021). We draw on the techniques examined in
064 the monolingual scenario and combine the unique
065 characteristics of the multilingual scenario (e.g.,
066 shared features across languages) to derive differ-
067 ent architectures for multilingual learning. These

frameworks encompass some existing works on multilingual learning, but also allow us to propose new learning methods and perform comparisons between different frameworks.

Figure 1 (a) shows a commonly-used framework (Hasan et al., 2021) in which one tunable pre-trained model is shared by different languages. Figure 1 (b) introduces a language-specific module with learnable parameters while keeping the PLM’s parameter frozen, i.e. parameter-efficient tuning (Mao et al., 2021; He et al., 2021). In practice, the language-specific module could be instantiated as an adapter, prefix, or other variety of extra parameters. Notably, this kind of language-specific module is independent for each language and cannot share information, thus low-resource languages cannot benefit from other related languages. Figure 1 (c) tries to alleviate this problem in two ways: making parameters of pre-trained models tunable or introducing additional modules whose parameters can be shared by different languages.

Using this framework, we ask these questions:

Q1: How well do different parameter-efficient tuning methods (Figure 1-b) perform compared to PLM fine-tuning models (Figure 1-a) in multilingual summarization? Q2: Will supervised transfer, a commonly used technique in multi-lingual learning, be helpful for parameter-efficient tuning? Q3: Could better results be achieved by enabling information exchange between different languages? How do different choices of parameter-efficient tuning methods interact with this sharing?

We explore these questions by performing extensive experiments over 45 different languages. Our quantitative and qualitative analyses find several observations, such as:

(1) Compared to PLM fine-tuning, both parameter-efficient tuning methods (prefix- and adapter-tuning) are advantageous in low-resource scenarios. Particularly, prefix-tuning outperforms adapter-tuning with extremely few samples over different languages §3.1. (2) Parameter-efficient tuning is possible to fail in the *supervised transfer* setting (§3.2), where pre-trained language models are fine-tuned on the source languages whose scripts are distant from the target language’s. (3) Adding language specific adapters or prefixes while additionally tuning the PLM’s parameters, can maintain multi-lingual PLM fine-tuning’s advantage of sharing information among languages, as well as preserving private parameters for each language to

reduce the negative effect of the limited capacity of one LM shared by all languages. We achieve a new state-of-the-art performance with such a multilingual tuning strategy.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Task Formulation

Abstractive summarization can be formulated as a conditional generation task where the input D is a document, and the output S is a short summary. The majority of state-of-the-art models for abstractive summarization use encoder-decoder models (Sutskever et al., 2014), where an encoder generates representations for the source document $\mathbf{D} = [\mathbf{d}_1, \dots, \mathbf{d}_m]$, and a decoder outputs the summary $\mathbf{S} = [s_1, \dots, s_n]$ one target token at a time. The conditional probability of a single sample is modeled as $p(s^i | \mathbf{d}^i; \theta)$, and hence parameters θ are obtained by maximum likelihood estimation

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \sum_{(\mathbf{d}^i, s^i) \in (D, S)} \log p(s^i | \mathbf{d}^i; \theta), \quad (1)$$

where (D, S) is the parallel training corpus. For multilingual text summarization, D and S can be in any of a number of languages.

2.2 Tuning Strategy

Recently, applying pre-trained language models (PLMs) to abstractive summarization tasks equipped with diverse tuning strategies has achieved a great success, which can be formulated as below:

$$h_i = \text{PLM}(D, s_i, h_{<i}; \theta_{\text{plm}}, \theta_{\text{add}}) \quad (2)$$

where PLM is a sequence to sequence pre-trained LMs (e.g., T5 (Raffel et al., 2019) or BART (Lewis et al., 2020)), θ_{plm} represents the original PLM parameter and θ_{add} denotes the additional parameters added by different tuning strategies.

Based on whether and when parameters θ_{plm} and θ_{add} will be tuned, different tuning strategies as illustrated in Fig. 2 have been explored, which we will detail below for the better introduction of multilingual tuning strategies.

PLM Fine-tuning This is one of the most common tuning strategies that aim to tune all of the parameters θ_{plm} . While PLM fine-tuning has achieved strong performance on many benchmarks, one major limitation lies in the requirement of large

training samples, which is not feasible in the low-resource scenario.

To alleviate this issue, parameter-efficient tuning has been extensively explored recently, among which we select two representative methods which are initially designed for generation tasks, consistent with our goal.

Adapter-tuning Adapter-tuning adds additional lightweight layers between the layers of an existing PLM. Although there is a variety of ways to define “adapter”, we adopt the definition of (Bapna et al., 2019). Specifically, the adapter block consists of (1) a layer normalization $\text{LN}(\cdot)$ for the input of the adapters, (2) an autoencoder whose inner dimension can be adjusted according to the complexity of the target task with a down projection layer, an up projection layer, and a nonlinear activation function between them, and (3) a residual connection. Formally, given $h_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ be the output of i -th layer, the adapter is formulated:

$$\text{ADAPTER}(h_i) = (\text{ReLU}(\text{LN}(h_i)\mathbf{W}_i^{db}))\mathbf{W}_i^{bd} + h_i,$$

where b is the inner dimension, $\mathbf{W}_i^{db} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times b}$ is the weight of down projection layer and $\mathbf{W}_i^{bd} \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times d}$ is the weight of up projection layer.

Prefix-tuning Prefix-tuning (Li and Liang, 2021) prepends a prefix for every layer of a LM. Let $\mathbf{H}_i^{LM} \in \mathbb{R}^{t \times d}$, where d is the hidden dimension of LM, t is the input sequence length, denote the hidden representation of the i -th layer. We prepend prefixes at each layer to obtain $\mathbf{H}_i = [\text{Prefix}_i; \mathbf{H}_i^{LM}] \in \mathbb{R}^{(t+l) \times d}$, where l is the prefix length, $\text{Prefix}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times d}$ is prepended prefix.

We can look up trainable matrix $\mathbf{P}_\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times (d \times n)}$, where n is the number of layers of the LM, to get Prefix_i . However, according to (Li and Liang, 2021), reparameterization has better performance than directly updating \mathbf{P}_θ in practice. So we reparameterize the matrix $\mathbf{P}_\theta = \text{MLP}(\mathbf{P}'_\theta)$, where $\text{MLP}(\cdot)$ has the structure of an autoencoder with a tunable middle dimension size, and \mathbf{P}'_θ is a smaller matrix with dimension $l \times d$.

2.3 Multilingual Tuning Methods

Based on the above-mentioned tuning strategies in single language scenarios, we investigate three different multilingual learning frameworks and explore their applicable scenarios in detail.

Multilingual PLM Fine-tuning (MPF) This is a commonly-used setting (Hasan et al., 2021) when

training samples from different languages are provided. Summarization systems share one multilingual pre-trained language model whose parameters can be updated by any system.

Multilingual Parameter-efficient Tuning (MPE)

In this framework, additional private parameterized modules such as prefix or adapter are introduced for each system besides one shared multilingual pre-trained language model, whose parameters keep frozen. Some existing works (Bapna et al., 2019) follow this framework but mainly focus on the use of adapters.

Multilingual Private-shared Tuning (MPS)

In the above method, although systems of different languages share one pre-training model, their parameters cannot be modified, which results in the lack of information interaction across languages and the difficulty in mining the shared knowledge. In this framework, parameters from both additional modules and pre-trained models can be updated.

3 Experiments

Dataset As our evaluation testbed, we use the XL-Sum corpus (Hasan et al., 2021),² which is a news dataset containing 1.1 million article-summary pairs in 45 languages. The dataset is collected from the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) website, using a bold paragraph at the beginning of each article as the summary and the rest of the article as the input text. We choose XL-sum for its: (1) high language coverage, including low resource, medium resource, and high resource languages, (2) similar intrinsic characteristics, e.g. novel n-gram ratio, abstractivity, and compression among all samples, allowing our analysis to focus on the differences across languages, other than different intrinsic features across samples.

Evaluation Metric As is standard in summarization, we use ROUGE (Lin, 2004) as our evaluation metric, which computes the n-gram similarity between the gold and the generated summary.³

3.1 Exp-I

To answer the question (Q1) of how well different parameter-efficient tuning methods behave compared to standard LM fine-tuning in the multilingual setting, we study the performance of three

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³We use the rouge package provided by XL-Sum(Hasan et al., 2021) to support multiple languages.

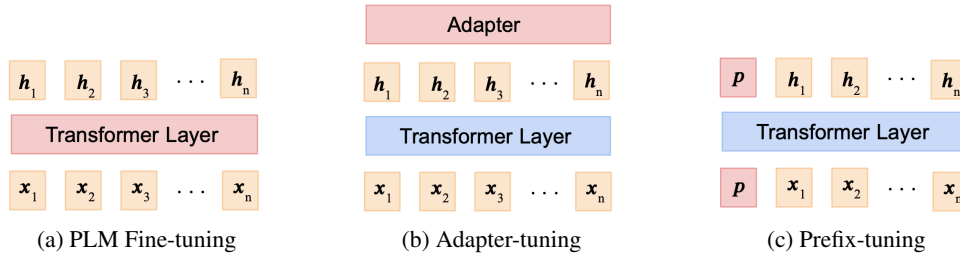


Figure 2: Different tuning methods. Red indicates trainable parameters; blue indicates frozen parameters.

tuning methods: prefix-tuning, adapter-tuning and PLM fine-tuning on different languages.

3.1.1 Experiment Details

Settings and Hyper-parameters We use the base version of multilingual T5 (Xue et al., 2021) as a backbone, which covers most languages in XL-Sum dataset and is the same as (Hasan et al., 2021), allowing us to make a fair comparison. In our experiment, MLP of prefix-tuning is two linear layers with an inner dimension as a hyper-parameter. For prefix-tuning, the hyper-parameters we tune⁴ are the same as (Li and Liang, 2021). For adapter-tuning, the hyper-parameters remain the same as prefix-tuning except the prefix length that is not needed for adapter-tuning. More details are in the appendix. For both adapter-tuning and prefix-tuning, these hyper-parameters lead to about 8% additional parameters compared to the LM’s total parameters, which are tuned during training while the LM’s parameters are frozen. To study whether language features will influence the choice of tuning methods, we choose five languages from different language families: English (Germanic), Chinese simplified (Sino Tibetan), Spanish (Romance), Ukrainian (Balto Slavic) and Urdu (Indo Iranian).

We subsample the full dataset of each language to obtain sub-datasets of various sizes,⁵ and sub-datasets of size ≤ 500 are considered “few-shot” experiments. For each few-shot experiment, we randomly sample 3 different training sets and development set (with dev size = 20% training set size). The reported result is the average of 3 experiments

⁴Specifically, the number of epochs, batch size, learning rate, prefix length and inner dimension during training, beam search size and length penalty during inference.

⁵Concretely, {5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 3000, 6000, 10000, 20000, 30000}. For English, which has far more training samples than other languages, we add two training set size 100000 and 300000.

on the full test set of the chosen language. The performance of few shot experiments is influenced by the training samples chosen (Zhao et al., 2021), so we keep the sampled training set and development set the same for the three tuning methods to have a fair comparison. For non-few shot experiments, each size has one experiment and is tested on the full test set of the chosen language. The hyperparameters are chosen from a single language (Japanese) for each tuning method and applied as is to all languages. We use the result from the checkpoint with the best validation set performance over all training epochs.

3.1.2 Results and Analysis

Results Fig.3 illustrates the performance of three different tuning methods with respect to the available training samples, observations are:

(1) In general when the sample number is less than 200 prefix-tuning achieves the best performance. Between 200 and 10k adapter-tuning is superior, and greater than 10k PLM fine-tuning surpasses the other two. This indicates that *regarding both the performance and parameter efficiency (only tune 8% of the parameters of PLM fine-tuning), prefix-tuning is the best choice when we have extremely few samples, while adapter-tuning is the winner in medium resource settings.* (2) As the training set size increases from few shot to high resource, PLM fine-tuning has the largest performance improvement, while prefix-tuning has the least performance improvement and adapter-tuning is the middle. (3) Compared to PLM fine-tuning, which is almost monotonically increasing with the training set size, both adapter-tuning and prefix-tuning have some fluctuations. From preliminary experiments, we find that adapter-tuning and prefix-tuning are more sensitive to learning rate than PLM fine-tuning. Fixing two separate learning rates for few shot and non-few shot experiments for all languages, a simplification of the normal training process to find

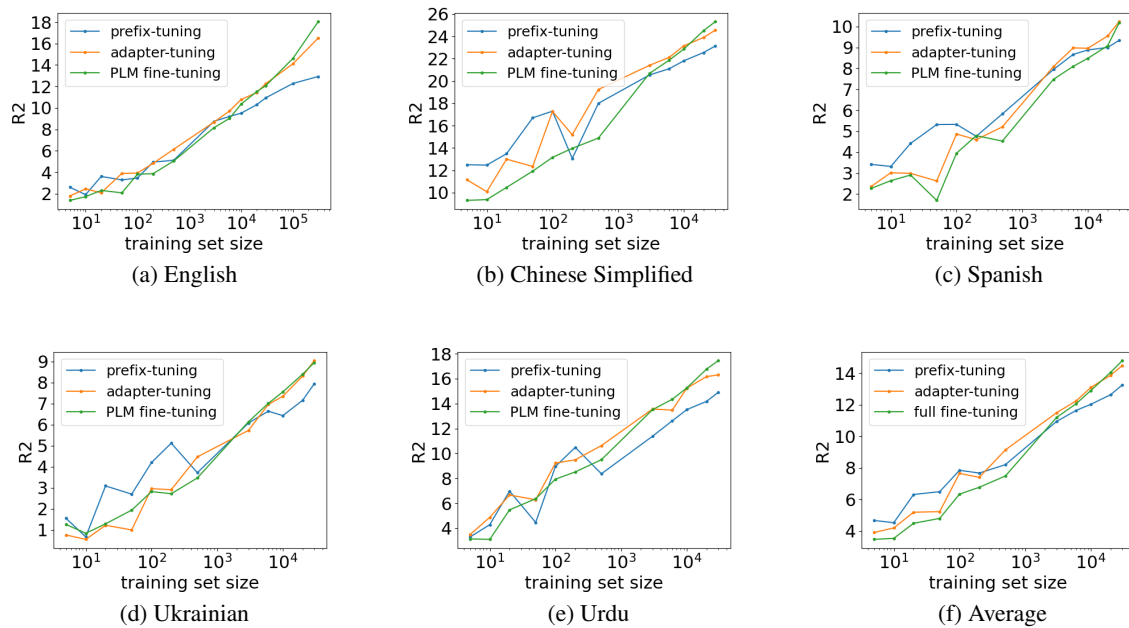


Figure 3: Performance of prefix-tuning, adapter-tuning and PLM fine-tuning on five languages over training set sizes. The x axis is the number of training samples at log scale, the y axis is the ROUGE-2 score.

an optimal learning rate for each training set size and each language on the development set, might cause the unstable performance of the tuning methods that are more sensitive to learning rate. (4) All above observations are roughly true for every language and is especially clear in the average plot.

Discussion & Takeaways The possible explanation of the different behavior of adapter-tuning and prefix-tuning is their structural discrepancy, in which adapter-tuning adds parameters between two transformer layers, while prefix-tuning uses these parameters to generate prefixes and append the prefixes at the front of each transformer layer. Similar to prolong the input, prefix-tuning does not touch the PLM’s architecture, preserving the knowledge in PLM. Thus, by utilizing the PLM better, prefix-tuning has better performance at few shot when there are not enough samples to learn new knowledge. However, while the training set size becomes larger, more flexible structures are needed to learn from these samples, leading to better performance of adapter-tuning. The possible reason why both prefix-tuning and adapter-tuning outperform PLM fine-tuning at the left side is that prefix-tuning and adapter have only 8% parameters to tune, which avoid overfitting when the training samples are not enough.

From this experiment, we can see that prefix-

tuning has both advantages of utilizing the knowledge of PLM better and fewer parameters to tune, while adapter-tuning only benefits from the latter. This reminds us that while designing a prompt, one important thing is to keep the PLM’s architecture and make the prompt as natural as possible to better extract knowledge from PLM.

3.2 Exp-II

When designing models in multi-lingual scenarios, one crucial question is how to make modules of different languages communicate efficiently so that shared knowledge can be fully utilized. There are two ways to do this: (1) by transferring: first fine-tune PLMs on multiple languages except the one we concerned about (a.k.a target language), and then adapt the fine-tuned multi-lingual model to the target language; (2) by multitask learning: jointly train all languages together. In this experiment, we study method 1 and try to answer the Q2: will supervised transfer be helpful for parameter-efficient tuning. In Exp.3.3, we study method 2.

3.2.1 Experiment Details

Settings and Hyper-parameters We first divide XL-Sum dataset into two parts, one of which including 34 languages (75% of total languages) is used to fine-tune PLM jointly on multiple languages to obtain a single multi-lingual model,

Language	Script	mt5-base						mt5-base34					
		prefix-tuning			adapter-tuning			prefix-tuning			adapter-tuning		
		R1	R2	RL	R1	R2	RL	R1	R2	RL	R1	R2	RL
amharic	Geez	15.33	5.42	13.8	16.58	5.88	14.88	16.97	5.88	15.12	17.85	6.2	16.01
azerbaijani	Cyrillic	15.72	6.3	14.47	17.81	7.34	16.13	11.9	3.4	10.93	12.16	3.37	10.96
bengali	Brahmic	23.76	9.11	20.66	25.99	10.07	22.21	0	0	0	0	0	0
burmese	Brahmic	12.74	3.46	11.51	14.07	4.09	12.54	1.57	0.38	1.51	1.14	0.22	1.08
igbo	Latin	23.27	5.25	17.36	25.22	7.08	19.38	28.1	7.98	21.19	28.33	7.93	21.72
japanese	Kan,Hi,Kat	41.23	18.89	32.42	45.6	21.87	35.02	11.39	2.82	9.05	11.84	3.15	9.12
scottish_gaelic	Latin	24.05	7.73	19.45	20.42	4.31	17.02	24.36	7.16	18.87	26.37	8.09	20.22
spanish	Latin	28.09	9.05	21.14	29.28	10.3	22.23	29.75	9.48	22.18	30.26	9.83	22.42
tamil	Brahmic	16.45	6.58	15	19.81	8.83	18.12	0.42	0.02	0.42	0.44	0.02	0.43
ukrainian	Cyrillic	18.73	7.07	16.43	21.84	8.92	19.08	16.46	4.41	13.99	16.96	4.61	14.32
urdu	Arabic	35.05	14.5	28.76	38.81	17.69	32.08	20.19	4.48	15.66	19.57	4.58	15.08

Table 1: R1, R2, and RL scores of prefix-tuning, adapter-tuning of mt5-base and mt5-base34 for 11 languages. “Kan, Hi, Kat” is the abbreviation of Kanji, Hiragana, and Katakana.

while another part including 11 languages (25% of total languages) is used to investigate the fine-tuned PLM’s ability to generalize to new languages. The 11 left-out languages that do not participate in fine-tuning are chosen according the principle that they are from different language family and have different training set size.⁶ The hyper parameters used to fine-tune PLM is the same as the Multilingual training of XL-Sum (Hasan et al., 2021). We refer to mt5-base as the original PLM without fine-tuning and mt5-base34 as the fine-tuned version on 34 languages. We then performed prefix-tuning and adapter-tuning on mt5-base and mt5-base34 for 11 left-out languages. Hyper parameters used for these tuning methods remain the same as those in non-few shot experiments of Sec.(3.1).

3.2.2 Results and Analysis

Results Table.1 illustrates the performance of multi-lingual models mt5-base and mt5-base34 to adapt to 11 new languages by prefix-tuning and adapter-tuning. The main observations in Table.1 are as follows:

- (1) For four languages, Amharic, Igbo, Scottish Gaelic, and Spanish, mt5-base34 will bring gains against their counterparts by 0.3 to 6.0 R1 score.
- (2) Fine-tuning mt5-base on 34 languages of XL-Sum dataset jeopardizes the performance of seven languages, among which Bengali, Burmese, Tamil’s R1 score becomes near zero.
- (3) Three of the four languages with performance improvement adapted from fine-tuned PLM are of Latin script, while all three languages with dramatic performance drop down are of Brahmic

⁶Concretely, 7 languages (Amharic, Azerbaijani, Bengali, Burmese, Igbo, Japanese, Scottish Gaelic, Spanish, Tami) are low resource (< 15, 000 training samples), 2 languages (Spanish, Tamil) are medium resource (15, 000 ~ 40, 000) and 2 languages (Ukrainian, Urdu) are high resource (> 40, 000).

script, indicating the important role script plays to determine whether supervised transfer is helpful for parameter-efficient tuning.

Discussion & Takeaways Although intuitively new languages will benefit from PLM fine-tuned on XL-Sum dataset, the practical results shows that not all languages will obtain improvements. Transfer learning in such a way might cause catastrophic forgetting of the previously acquired knowledge in PLM (McCloskey and Cohen, 1989; Santoro et al., 2016). If there are not enough training samples of a certain script during PLM fine-tuning, the PLM might lose the ability generalizing to languages of this script by parameter-efficient tuning methods and freezing PLM. This indicates that *the effectiveness of parameter-efficient tuning methods under multi-lingual scenarios is highly dependent on the multi-lingual model we use and under some situations, parameter-efficient tuning might lose their adaptivity*. We leave how to alleviate this problem for future work.

3.3 Exp-III

In this experiment, we study jointly multi-lingual training to see if different languages can benefit from each other and how does adding private parameters for each language influence the performance of multi-lingual training (Q3).

3.3.1 Experiment Details

With respect to Fig.1, we have 6 different settings to compare single language training with multi-lingual training.

PLM Fine-tuning (PLF): mt5-base is fine-tuned on all languages to obtain separate models for each language as the baseline. **Multi-lingual**

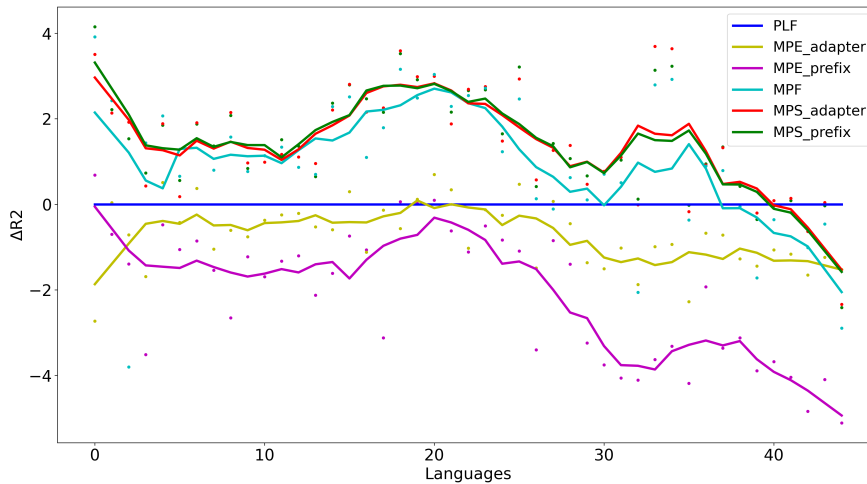


Figure 4: Trend-lines depicting performance improvement. X-axis is the languages, which are arranged in increasing order of available training data from left to right. Y-axis depicts the R2 score relative to the singular language PLM fine-tuning baseline.

Parameter-efficient (Adapter/Prefix) Tuning (MPE_adapter/MPE_prefix): We add adapters/prefixes (with parameters = 8% parameters of LM) for each language and tune adapters/prefixes separately for each language while freezing mt5-base which is shared by all languages. **Multi-lingual PLM Fine-tuning (MPF):** A single model is trained with training samples from multiple languages. The training strategy proposed by (Lample and Conneau, 2019) to use a smoothing factor (alpha) of 0.5 to balance the sampling rate of low resource languages and high resource languages is followed by every multilingual setting.⁷ **Multi-lingual Private-shared (Adapter/Prefix) Tuning (MPS_adapter/MPS_prefix):** Private adapters/prefixes (with parameters = 2% parameters of LM) for each language (in total 45 languages in XL-Sum dataset \times 2% parameters for each languages = 90% additional parameters) are added to a single LM. The LM is tuned jointly for multiple languages, while the adapters/prefixes are tuned separately for each language.⁸

⁷We use the results of XL-Sum (Hasan et al., 2021). In order to have a fair comparison and remove the influence of different rouge packages, we use their model-generated outputs on test set to calculate the rouge score, instead of using their reported rouge score directly.

⁸One thing to notice is that during training, in each iteration we sample from one language with a certain probability. The LM shared by all languages is tuned every iteration, while the private parameters for each language are tuned whenever the language is sampled.

3.3.2 Results and Analysis

The summarization performance on different languages with different settings is plotted in Figure 4. With combinations of different experiment settings, we have the following results:

PLF v.s. MPE_prefix v.s. MPE_adapter: PLF outperforms MPE_prefix and MPE_adapter overall, with a gap larger for more available training samples. MPE_adapter outperforms MPE_prefix for almost every language, except a few languages with few samples. This conforms to the result in Sec.3.1 that fine-tuning has the advantage with large training set size, while prefix-tuning has the advantage with small training set size. One thing to notice is that adapter-tuning has comparable or even higher performance when the training set size is smaller than 10k, consistent with the result in Sec.3.1 and adapter’s sensitivity to training set size is not as high as prefix-tuning. The latter is reflected in that the adapter’s performance does not drop down dramatically as the training set size increases and keeps within -2 R2 of the baseline for almost all languages, which is even true for English with the highest training set size of 300,000. This means the parameter efficient adapter is a reasonable substitute of PLM fine-tuning regardless of the training set size.

MPF v.s. PLF: Multi-lingual model MPF significantly outperforms the baseline PLF in the low and medium resource languages with the gain

507 decreases as the training set size becomes larger. 508 This is expected because low and medium resource 509 languages can benefit from joint training by 510 positive transfer between sister languages (Lample 511 and Conneau, 2019). A deterioration is also 512 observed in the high resource languages. However, 513 the multilingual model within -1 R2 drop down for 514 6 high resource languages and -3 R2 drop down for 515 English, does not trail a lot. It is a good indication 516 that by training a single multilingual model, the 517 low and medium resource languages have been 518 significantly improved without too much sacrifice 519 of high resource languages. Similar to the low 520 resource experiment of (Hasan et al., 2021), our 521 result is stronger than theirs, which only selects 5 522 low resource languages to fine-tune individual LM.

523 **MPF v.s. MPS_adapter v.s. MPS_prefix:** By 524 adding language-specific parameters under multi- 525 lingual scenarios, compared to MPF, MPS_adapter 526 and MPS_prefix have performance improvements 527 R1:0.73, R2:0.46, RL:0.45 and R1:0.67, R2:0.47, 528 RL:0.46 respectively for 45 languages on average. 529 From each language performance, we can see that 530 all high resource languages have performance im- 531 provements at the cost of jeopardizing the perfor- 532 mance of a few low resource languages a little. 533 This indicates that sharing LM as well as adding 534 private language-specific parameters will maintain 535 the jointly multi-lingual training’s advantage of 536 sharing information among languages, while re- 537 ducing the harm of sharing all parameters to high 538 resource languages due to the limit model capacity. 539 Besides, the two ways to add additional parameters: 540 private adapter, private prefix for each language 541 have roughly the same overall performance on the 542 whole dataset and the same trend lines depicted in 543 Fig.4, despite their differences we have discussed 544 in Sec.3.1. The possible explanation is that the dis- 545 advantage of prefix-tuning lacking the flexibility to 546 modify freeze LM addressed in Sec.3.1, is allevi- 547 ated or removed by tuning shared LM. Both prefix 548 and adapter’s advantage comes from adding private 549 parameters, so they have similar behavior. 550

551 4 Related Work

552 4.1 Multilingual Tasks

553 With rapid development of pre-trained LMs, multi- 554 lingual LMs have emerged to leverage the power 555 of pre-training on a large number of languages, 556 exemplified by mBERT (Devlin et al., 2019),

557 XLM-R (Conneau et al., 2020), XLM-R (Conneau 558 et al., 2020), which adopt masked language model 559 paradigm, and mBART (Liu et al., 2020), mT5 560 (Xue et al., 2021), which utilize a sequence-to- 561 sequence framework. However, a few works have 562 focused on multilingual summarization given the 563 lack of benchmark datasets for other languages ex- 564 cept English. (Giannakopoulos et al., 2015) bench- 565 marked summarization systems over 40 languages, 566 with limitation of dataset scale having 10k samples 567 in total. (Scialom et al., 2020) released the multilin- 568 gual summarization dataset spanning 5 languages 569 with 1.5M article-summary pairs. (Cao et al., 2020) 570 created a new dataset for two languages with 400k 571 samples. (Hasan et al., 2021) introduced XL-Sum 572 spanning 45 languages containing 1.1M article- 573 summary pairs. More recently, (Varab and Schluter, 574 2021) released MassiveSumm containing 28.8 mil- 575 lion articles across 92 languages.

576 4.2 Parameter Efficient Tuning

577 Parameter-efficient tuning methods only tune a 578 small number parameters to achieve comparable 579 results. It can be roughly divided into two cate- 580 gories, methods without additional parameters and 581 methods with additional parameters. The former 582 tune part of the pre-trained LM. (Lee et al., 2019) 583 fine-tunes a few of the final layers, while (Min 584 et al., 2021) only fine-tunes the bias terms of the 585 LM. The latter introduces extra parameters while 586 fixing the pre-trained LM. Popular methods include 587 **adapter-tuning** (Houlsby et al., 2019; Bapna et al., 588 2019; Pfeiffer et al., 2020a) **prefix-tuning** (Li and 589 Liang, 2021) **prompt-tuning** (Lester et al., 2021), 590 and others (Mao et al., 2021; Hu et al., 2021; Guo 591 et al., 2020). Among these works, a comprehensive 592 discussion in the context of multilingual summa- 593 rization is relatively missing.

594 5 Discussion

595 In this paper, we investigate the applicable scope 596 of different families of tuning strategies for multi- 597 lingual learning. We specifically ask three research 598 questions, and by extensive experiments on sum- 599 marization datasets with 45 languages we obtain 600 diverse observations which, hopefully, would pro- 601 vide a useful instruction for future designing of 602 multilingual tuning strategies. One limitation of 603 our work is that we only conduct experiments on 604 one summarization dataset, and more other NLP 605 tasks could be explored as future work.

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A Supplementary Material 860

A.1 Hyper-parameters 861

In Table2, we report the hyper-parameters used in
862 Sec.3.1. 863

A.2 Additional Results 864

Table3 supplements Fig.4 in Sec.3.3. 865

	learning rate	epoch	batch size	grad acc	prefix length	inner dim	beam size	length penalty
prefix-tuning								
few shot setting	3.00e-4	20	2	1	20	800	4	0.6
not few shot setting, low resource	2.00e-4	15	8	1	200	800	4	0.6
not few shot setting, not low resource	2.00e-4	15	16	4	200	800	4	0.6
adapter-tuning								
few shot setting	1.00e-3	20	2	1	-	1200	4	0.6
not few shot setting, low resource	1.00e-3	15	8	1	-	1200	4	0.6
not few shot setting, not low resource	1.00e-3	15	16	4	-	1200	4	0.6
PLM fine-tuning								
few shot setting	5.00e-4	20	2	1	-	-	4	0.6
not few shot setting, low resource	5.00e-4	15	8	1	-	-	4	0.6
not few shot setting, not low resource	5.00e-4	15	16	4	-	-	4	0.6

Table 2: Hyper-parameter settings for Sec.3.1. Grad acc is the abbreviation of gradient accumulation size, inner dim is the abbreviation of inner dimension.

language	PLF	MPE_adapter	MPE_prefix	MPF	MPS_adapter	MPS_prefix
amharic	17.46/6.64/16	16.58/5.88/14.88	15.33/5.42/13.8	20.08/7.41/18.05	20.6/7.61/18.5	20.33/7.48/18.34
arabic	34.82/15.13/29.22	32.29/12.85/26.43	29.02/10.94/24.14	34.89/14.76/29.15	35.16/14.96/29.27	35.36/15.11/29.49
azerbaijani	16.93/7.04/15.36	17.81/7.34/16.13	15.72/6.3/14.47	21.4/9.55/19.37	21.77/9.85/19.62	21.58/9.83/19.76
bengali	25.9/9.73/22.12	25.99/10.07/22.21	23.76/9.11/20.66	29.46/12.02/25.1	29.11/11.61/24.64	29.57/11.88/24.89
burmese	14.35/4.51/13.08	14.07/4.09/12.54	12.74/3.46/11.51	16.17/5.17/14.42	15.84/4.7/14.08	16.12/5.07/14.39
chinese simplified	40.87/25.97/34.09	39.81/24.98/33	36.3/22.34/30.22	43.8/28.76/36.9	44.95/29.66/37.79	44.37/29.1/37.18
chinese traditional	40.04/25.11/33.31	39.16/24.17/32.3	35.99/21.79/29.7	43.21/28.03/36.17	44.26/28.75/37.01	43.83/28.33/36.66
english	40.67/18.04/32.72	38.96/16.52/31.06	34.6/12.93/27.38	37.61/15.15/29.88	38.29/15.71/30.41	38.29/15.63/30.39
french	32.02/13.47/25.29	31.85/13.34/25.13	30.63/12.97/24.49	35.33/16.19/28.2	36.06/16.22/28.4	35.69/16.15/28.16
gujarati	19.38/6.49/17.6	19.31/6.23/17.62	18.03/5.65/16.45	21.96/7.72/19.9	22.45/7.97/20.21	22.38/8.14/20.31
hausa	36.16/15.43/29.13	35.75/14.84/28.21	34.08/13.82/27.07	39.41/17.72/31.64	39.75/17.64/31.85	39.63/17.8/31.96
hindi	38.64/17.33/32.38	37.57/16.09/31.1	34.32/13.23/28.23	38.57/16.87/32.03	39.18/17.37/32.49	39.02/17.3/32.35
igbo	27.16/8.76/21.37	25.22/7.08/19.38	23.27/5.25/17.36	31.64/10.2/24.51	30.17/9.2/22.98	30.11/9.5/23.1
indonesian	35.69/16.23/29.92	34.86/15.51/28.85	30.96/12.87/25.72	37.01/17.02/30.75	37.83/17.55/31.37	37.69/17.57/31.46
japanese	45.86/22.01/35.39	45.6/21.87/35.02	41.23/18.89/32.42	48.08/23.8/37.32	48.65/24.26/37.33	48.41/24.16/37.39
kirundi	28.97/12.84/23.6	28.94/12.23/23.06	26.18/10.18/20.51	32/14.41/25.82	32.65/14.98/26.22	32.65/14.91/26.26
korean	19.04/9.42/18.06	19.92/9.93/18.59	18.07/8.95/17.08	23.7/11.49/22.34	23.57/11.31/21.78	23.11/11.27/21.6
kyrgyz	13.66/5.58/12.43	13.89/5.62/12.69	11.77/4.88/10.87	18.34/8.01/16.5	18.4/7.72/16.0	18.3/7.8/16.11
marathi	20.21/8.94/18.31	20.03/8.49/18.19	18.3/7.55/16.83	22.06/9.57/20.01	23.13/10.32/20.8	22.82/10.02/20.54
nepali	23.16/9.06/21.14	23.63/8.69/21.51	20.91/7.37/19.25	26.57/10.2/24.22	26.5/10.05/24.06	26.59/10.2/24.21
oromo	16.55/5.35/14.61	16.2/5.14/14.13	13.7/4.14/12	18.74/6.21/16.19	19.68/6.45/16.91	19.49/6.71/16.88
pashto	37.69/15.38/31.19	36.74/14.02/29.85	33.85/12.14/27.88	38.28/15.49/31.77	38.85/15.85/32.05	38.92/16.05/32.16
persian	37.08/16.78/30.44	35.72/15.34/28.81	32.98/12.89/26.27	35.71/15.06/29.1	37.25/16.58/30.42	37.32/16.43/30.3
pidgin	34.55/12.67/27.03	35.11/13.14/27.41	32.85/11.57/25.79	37.97/15.13/29.86	38.56/15.6/30.14	38.89/15.88/30.47
portuguese	37.04/16.25/28.82	36.3/15.18/27.7	32.99/12.57/25.07	37.15/15.89/28.53	37.71/16.33/28.97	37.59/16.21/28.91
punjabi	26.18/9.61/21.95	25.75/8.58/20.97	25.94/8.49/21.43	30.77/12.15/25.57	31.14/12.3/25.33	30.77/12.27/25.29
russian	32.18/13.83/26.11	30.56/12.67/24.73	26.5/9.79/21.44	32.21/13.64/26.16	32.82/13.97/26.44	32.61/13.92/26.39
scottish gaelic	23.16/7.04/19.25	20.42/4.31/17.02	24.05/7.73/19.45	29.01/10.96/22.87	28.85/10.55/22.65	30.08/11.2/23.83
serbian cyrillic	18.64/4.83/15.51	17.83/4.26/14.49	18.52/4.89/15.58	23.79/7.99/20.13	24.5/8.42/20.73	24.4/8.35/20.62
serbian latin	17.13/4.19/14.24	18.09/4.31/14.82	18.04/4.21/14.9	21.64/6.68/18.23	22.91/7.18/19.26	22.57/7.11/19.02
sinhala	23.78/11.87/21.27	23.29/11.16/19.81	21.86/10.48/19.06	21.51/8.07/18.9	27.7/13.8/23.61	27.43/13.41/23.7
somali	29.08/10.21/22.45	29.06/9.97/22.13	28.09/8.88/21.45	31.54/11.55/24.22	32.1/11.38/24.42	32.48/11.72/24.55
spanish	30.05/10.98/23.13	29.28/10.3/22.23	28.09/9.05/21.14	31.51/11.87/24.07	31.63/11.9/24.11	31.59/11.92/24.07
swahili	33.82/14.82/27.78	34.79/15.52/28.24	33.43/14.91/27.19	37.68/17.86/30.92	38.24/17.82/31.16	37.74/17.65/30.8
tamil	22.47/10.33/20.58	19.81/8.83/18.12	16.45/6.58/15	24.31/11.04/22.07	24.58/11.11/22.3	24.48/11.08/22.11
telugu	16.66/5.84/15.1	17.02/5.91/15.24	15.14/4.99/13.77	17.73/5.73/15.84	20.09/7.1/17.78	20.17/2.6/17.85
thai	35.17/15.18/26.85	36.08/14.06/25.7	33.47/14.12/25.7	36.43/16.28/28.22	37.84/17.34/28.81	37.99/17.65/29.07
tigrinya	22.3/7.19/19.04	21.37/6.14/17.89	19.97/5.65/16.51	25.26/7.99/21.1	25.85/8.51/21.6	25.48/8.55/21.78
turkish	31.41/15.07/28	30.53/14.04/26.97	26.12/11/23.29	32.92/15.57/29.28	33.63/16.17/29.95	33.58/16.1/29.81
ukrainian	23.58/10.2/20.59	21.84/8.92/19.08	18.73/7.07/16.43	23.99/10.14/20.92	24.73/10.72/21.58	24.75/10.62/21.57
urdu	40.19/19.34/33.6	38.81/17.69/32.08	35.05/14.5/28.76	39.49/18.33/32.83	40.04/18.71/33.15	40.12/18.71/33.21
uzbek	13.48/4.84/12.32	14.44/5.21/13.1	11.77/3.98/10.88	16.82/6.35/15.38	17.45/6.74/15.73	17.63/6.71/15.87
vietnamese	32.53/16.45/25.94	30.78/14.57/23.78	27.33/12.34/21.27	30.24/14.39/24.13	33.62/16.43/26.46	33.49/16.57/26.38
welsh	31.58/11.46/25.6	30.19/9.97/24.17	27.92/8.06/22.24	32.64/11.59/26.12	33.09/12.03/26.41	33.13/11.88/26.35
yoruba	29.06/10.96/23.3	29.94/10.43/23.31	26.77/8.84/20.85	31.62/11.66/25.06	31.95/11.92/25.24	31.71/11.61/24.91
average	28.14/11.96/23.45	27.58/11.23/22.66	25.35/9.84/20.92	30.23/12.93/25.11	30.96/13.39/25.56	30.89/13.4/25.57

Table 3: R1/R2/RL of six models on 45 languages and the average score of all languages.