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PACE: marrying generalization in PArAmeter-efficient fine-tuning with Consistency rEgularization

Yao Ni[†] Shan Zhang^{‡,†} Piotr Koniusz^{§,†}

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NeurIPS 2024 Spotlight



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Yao Ni Seeking PostDoc Position. Scan his CV.



Background: Parameter-Efficient Fine-Tuning

- Models (GPTs, Vision Transformers) are becoming increasingly **large**.
- Full parameter fine-tuning is **resource-intensive**.

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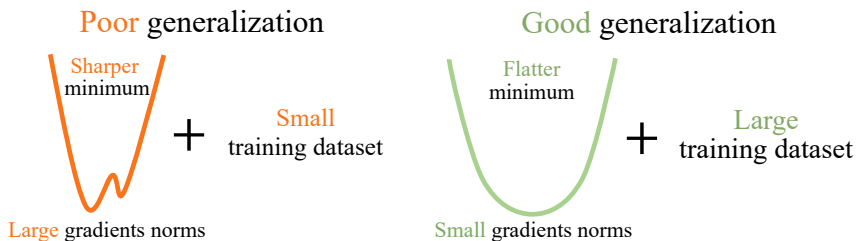
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Goal: improve generalization & retain pre-trained knowledge.

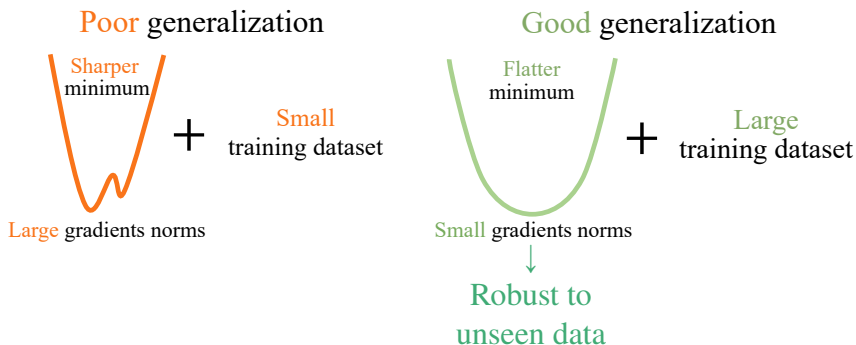
Motivation: Theorem 1

Theorem 1: Smaller gradient norm and larger dataset lead to better generalization on unseen data.



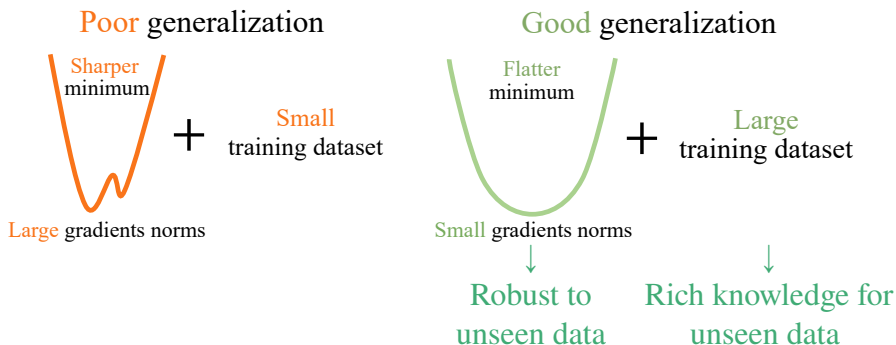
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Solution for better generalization and retain knowledge

Smaller Gradients Norms

Larger dataset

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Retain knowledge by fine-tuned pre-trained alignment (FPA)

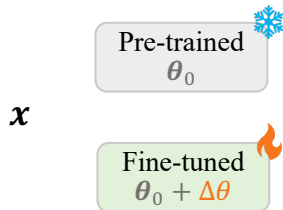
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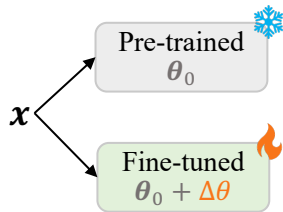
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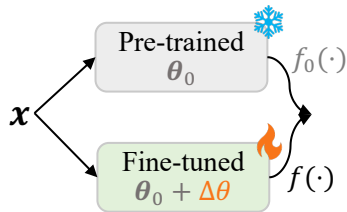
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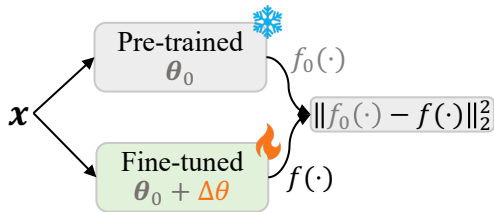
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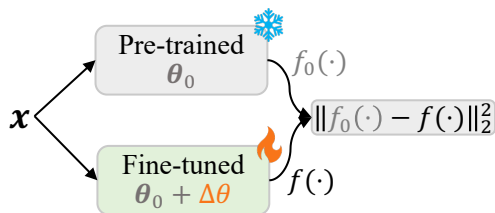
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Prop 1. Naive alignment does not guarantee smaller gradient norms

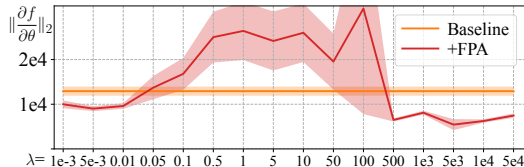
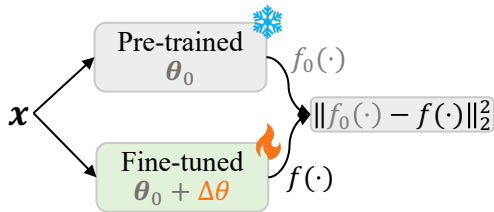
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Gradient norms & reg. strength λ (CIFAR-100, ViT-B/16)

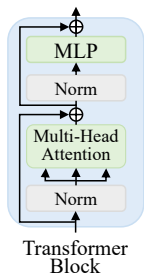
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Our method: PACE

To regularize gradients and align fine-tuned pre-trained models,
PACE perturbs adapter features and enforces consistency across perturbations.

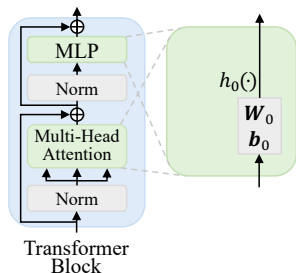
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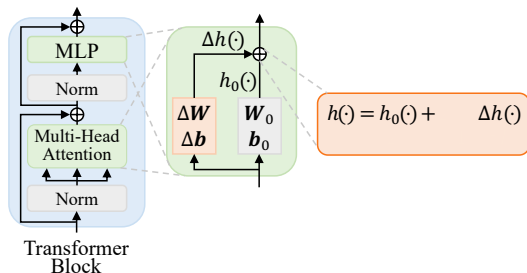
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W_0 & b_0 , ΔW & Δb : pre-trained/adaptor linear weights;

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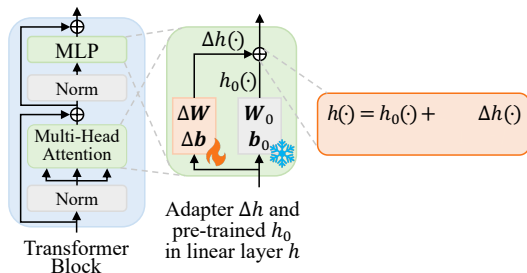
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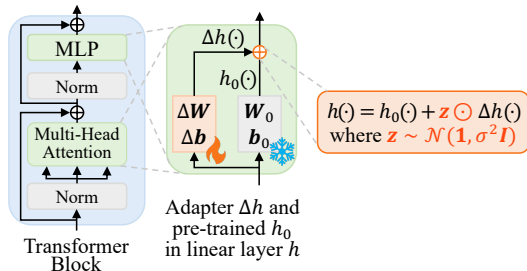


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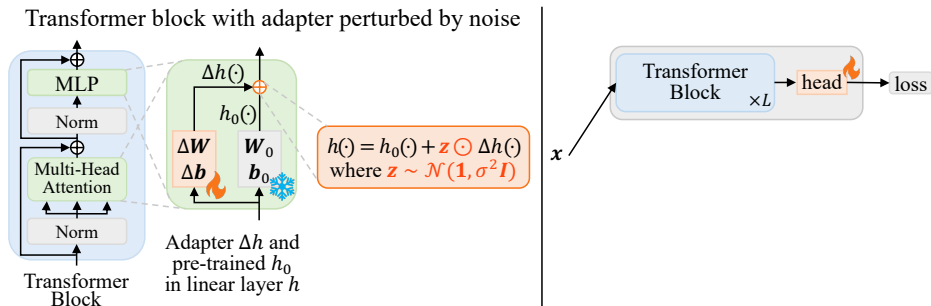
Transformer block with adapter perturbed by noise



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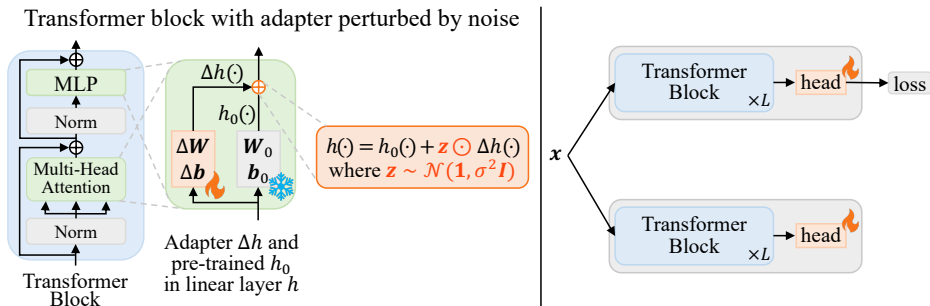
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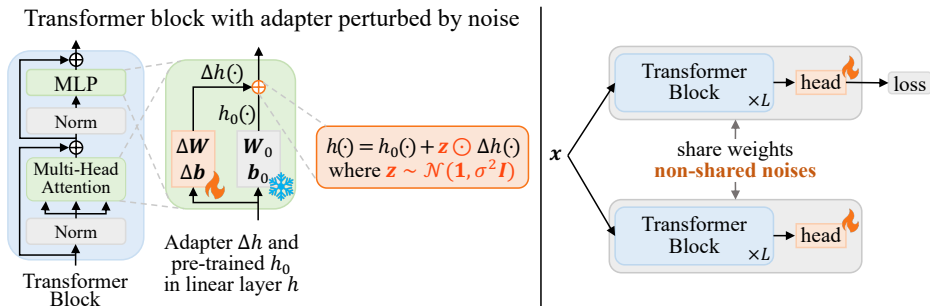
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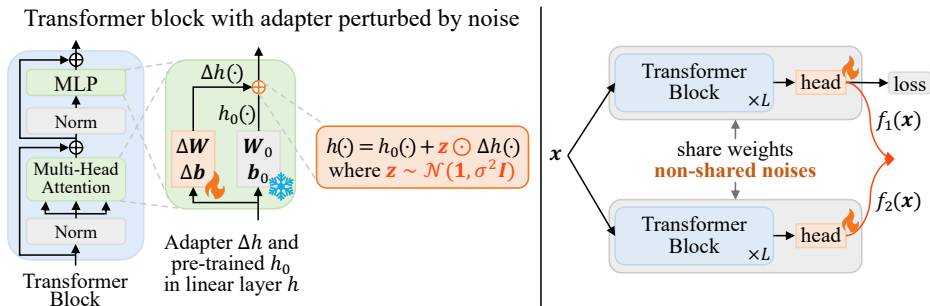
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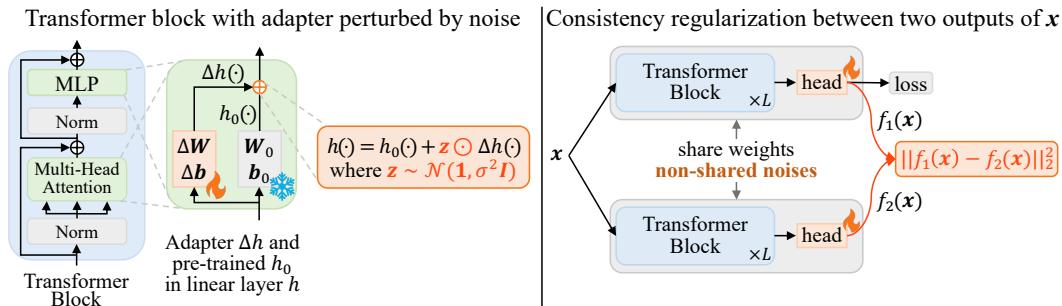
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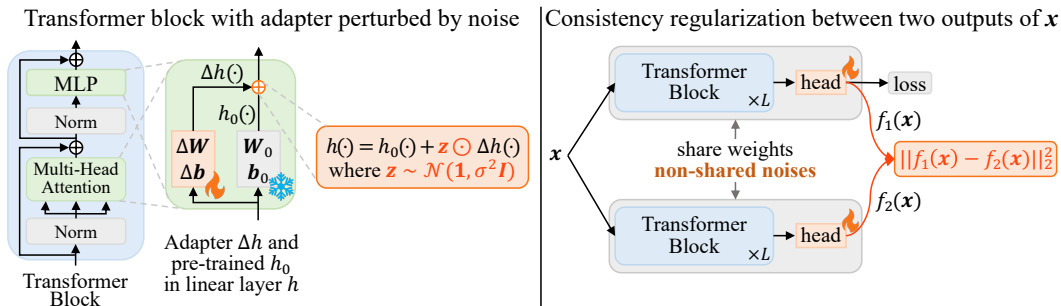
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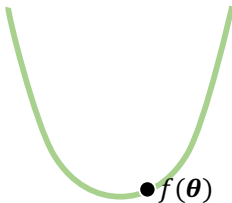
PACE improves generalization and retains pre-trained knowledge

Theorem 2: PACE regularizes first- and second-order gradients

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Large grad norm



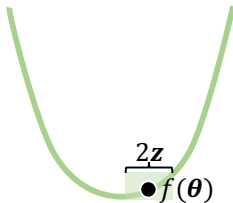
Small grad norm

θ : model weights;

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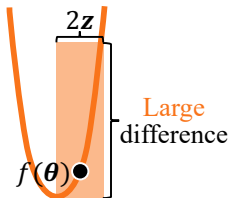


Small grad norm

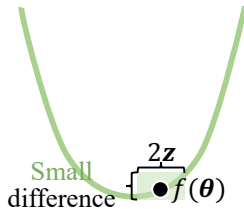
θ : model weights; z : noise.

PACE: Theorem 2

Theorem 2: PACE regularizes first- and second-order gradients



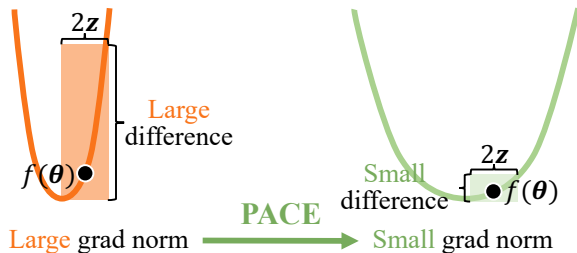
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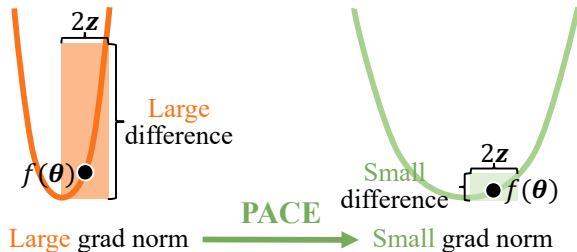
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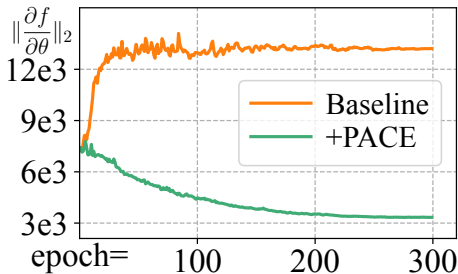


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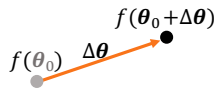
Gradient norms on CIFAR-100 w/ ViT-B/16

Theorem 3: PACE minimize fine-tuned pre-trained distance to retain knowledge.

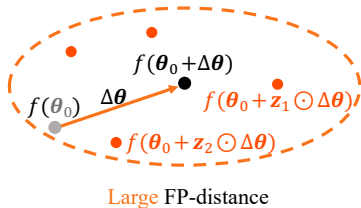
$$f(\theta_0)$$


PACE:Theorem 3

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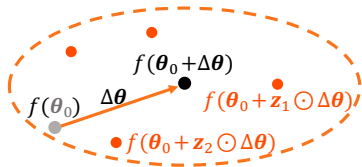


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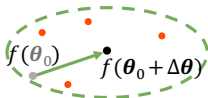


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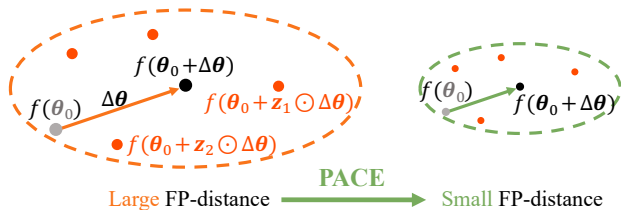
Large FP-distance



Small FP-distance

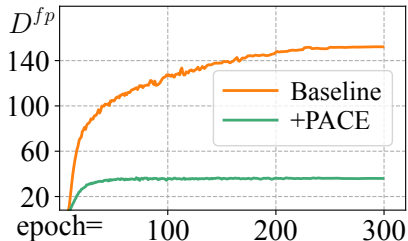
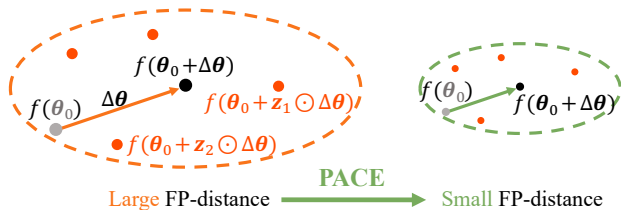
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Distance between fine-tuned and pre-trained models (D^{fp}) on CIFAR-100 w/ ViT-B/16.

Experiments: Image Classification

Results on VTAB-1K with ViT-B/16.

Method	Natural							Specialized				Structured								Mean Acc.
	Cifar100	Caltech101	DTD	Flowers102	Pets	SVHN	Sun397	Camelyon	EuroSAT	Resisc45	Retinopathy	Clevr-Count	Clevr-Dist	DMLab	KITTI-Dist	dSpr-Loc	dSpr-Ori	sNORB-Azim	NsORB-Ele	
Full	68.9	87.7	64.3	97.3	86.9	87.4	38.8	79.7	95.7	84.2	73.9	56.3	58.6	41.7	65.5	57.5	46.7	25.7	29.1	68.9
Linear	64.4	85.0	63.2	97.0	86.3	36.6	51.0	78.5	87.5	68.5	74.0	34.3	30.6	33.2	55.4	12.5	20.0	9.6	19.2	57.6
VPT-Deep	78.8	90.8	65.8	98.0	88.3	78.1	49.6	81.8	96.1	83.4	68.4	68.5	60.0	46.5	72.8	73.6	47.9	32.9	37.8	72.0
Adapter	69.2	90.1	68.0	98.8	89.9	82.8	54.3	84.0	94.9	81.9	75.5	80.9	65.3	48.6	78.3	74.8	48.5	29.9	41.6	73.9
AdaptFormer	70.8	91.2	70.5	99.1	90.9	86.6	54.8	83.0	95.8	84.4	76.3	81.9	64.3	49.3	80.3	76.3	45.7	31.7	41.1	74.7
LoRA	67.1	91.4	69.4	98.8	90.4	85.3	54.0	84.9	95.3	84.4	73.6	82.9	69.2	49.8	78.5	75.7	47.1	31.0	44.0	74.5
NOAH	69.6	92.7	70.2	99.1	90.4	86.1	53.7	84.4	95.4	83.9	75.8	82.8	68.9	49.9	81.7	81.8	48.3	32.8	44.2	74.2
RepAdapter	69.0	92.6	75.1	99.4	91.8	90.2	52.9	87.4	95.9	87.4	75.5	75.9	62.3	53.3	80.6	77.3	54.9	29.5	37.9	76.1
RLRR	75.6	92.4	72.9	99.3	91.5	89.8	57.0	86.8	95.2	85.3	75.9	79.7	64.2	53.9	82.1	83.9	53.7	33.4	43.6	76.7
GLoRA	76.4	92.9	74.6	99.6	92.5	91.5	57.8	87.3	96.8	88.0	76.0	83.1	67.3	54.5	86.2	83.8	52.9	37.0	41.4	78.0
Baseline	74.9	93.3	72.0	99.4	91.0	91.5	54.8	83.2	95.7	86.9	74.2	83.0	70.5	51.9	81.4	77.9	51.7	33.6	44.4	76.4
+PACE	79.0	94.2	73.6	99.4	92.4	93.7	58.0	87.4	96.4	89.3	77.1	84.9	70.9	54.9	84.3	84.7	57.3	39.3	44.8	79.0

Experiments: Text classification & generation

Results for GLUE w/ RoBERTa_{base}. Matthew's/Pearson correlation for COLA/STSB, and accuracy for others.

Method	COLA	STSB	MRPC	RTE	QNLI	SST2	Avg.
Full	63.6	91.2	90.2	78.7	92.8	94.8	85.2
BitFit	62.0	90.8	92.7	81.5	91.8	93.7	85.4
Adapt	62.6	90.3	88.4	75.9	93.0	94.7	84.2
VeRA	65.6	90.7	89.5	78.7	91.8	94.6	85.2
LoRA	63.4	91.5	89.7	86.6	93.3	95.1	86.6
+PACE	66.2	92.0	91.4	86.9	93.6	95.6	87.6

Results for GSM-8K w/ Phi-3-mini-4k-instruct.

Method	Accuracy
Pre-trained	62.01
Full	73.16
LoRA	75.66
+PACE	78.77

Conclusions:

- PACE perturbs adapter features and enforces consistency regularization across perturbations.
- PACE regularizes gradients for improved generalization and reduces fine-tuned pre-trained distance to retain knowledge.