Multilingual Brain Surgeon: Large Language Models Can be Compressed Leaving No Language Behind

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Abstract

Large Language Models (LLMs) have ushered in a new era in Natural Language Processing, but their massive size demands effective compression techniques for practicality. Although numerous model compression techniques have been investigated, they typically rely on a calibration set that overlooks the multilingual context and results in significant accuracy degradation for low-resource languages. This paper introduces Multilingual Brain Surgeon (MBS), a novel calibration data sampling method for multilingual LLMs compression. MBS overcomes the English-centric limitations of existing methods by sampling calibration data from various languages proportionally to the language distribution of the model training datasets. Our experiments, conducted on the BLOOM multilingual LLM, demonstrate that MBS improves the performance of existing English-centric compression methods, especially for low-resource languages. We also uncover the dynamics of language interaction during compression, revealing that the larger the proportion of a language in the training set and the more similar the language is to the calibration language, the better performance the language retains after compression. In conclusion, MBS presents an innovative approach to compressing multilingual LLMs, addressing the performance disparities and improving the language inclusivity of existing compression techniques. The codes are available at: https://github.com/X-LANCE/MBS.

Keywords: Large Language Model, Multilingual Model Compression

1. Introduction

Large Language Models (LLMs) have revolutionized Natural Language Processing (NLP) with their remarkable performance. However, their colossal size and computational demands necessitate effective Model Compression (MC) techniques for practical use. In the case of multilingual LLMs, the vast size is crucial for retaining information from various languages and mitigating the curse of multilinguality (Conneau et al., 2020; Goyal et al., 2021). Moreover, wide language coverage and interference among languages pose a harder challenge for compressing multilingual LLMs.

Existing approaches for MC have predominantly focused on model quantization (Frantar et al., 2023; Dettmers et al., 2022; Xiao et al., 2023; Yao et al., 2022), where model parameters are mapped to lower bit-level representations, and network pruning, which reduces the size of neural networks by eliminating unnecessary connections. Inspired by the classic Optimal Brain Damage (OBD) and Optimal Brain Surgeon (OBS) pruning framework (Hassibi et al., 1993; Le Cun et al., 1989), various approaches, namely GPTQ (Frantar et al., 2023) for model quantization, SparseGPT (Frantar and Alistarh, 2023) and Wanda (Sun et al., 2023) for network pruning, have been proposed to compress LLMs. These compression methods utilize a calibration dataset to determine the priority of parameters and thus are retraining-free, avoiding expensive fine-tuning cost especially for LLMs.

However, neither of these methods has considered the multilingual scenario: all of them use a single-language (e.g., English) calibration dataset to determine the priority of parameters for multilingual models. A significant performance drop on multilingual tasks is observed due to this Englishcentric approach, especially in the case of lowresource languages.

In this paper, we propose Multilingual Brain Surgeon (MBS), which has successfully achieved significant sparsity levels when compressing multilingual LLMs while simultaneously minimizing the performance drop across different languages in the models, leaving no language behind after compression. Specifically, as shown in Figure 1, MBS samples the calibration data of different languages proportionally to the language distribution of the model training dataset. This approach effectively addresses the multilingual compression problem compared to previous monolingual sampling methods. Furthermore, we observed the dynamics of language interaction during compression and drew two main conclusions: 1) The larger the proportion of a language in the model training dataset, the more resistant it is to compression. 2) The

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Figure 1: MBS samples calibration data from different languages proportionally to the language distribution of training datasets. This approach (right part) effectively addresses the multilingual compression problem compared to previous monolingual sampling methods (left part).

more similar the downstream language is to the calibration language, the less performance drop it obtained after compression. We further propose a measure of similarity among languages to explain and predict the performance drop.

The experiments were conducted on BLOOM (BigScience Workshop, 2022), one of the most effective open-source multilingual LLM models. We sample the calibration data from CC-100 (Wenzek et al., 2020), a widely used dataset of web-crawled data containing 100+ languages. The perplexity of languages is tested on XL-Sum (Hasan et al., 2021), a dataset that contains high-quality articles from BBC covering 45 languages. Experimental results demonstrate that MBS enhances the performance of GPTQ, SparseGPT, and Wanda compared to using only English calibration data. We want to further highlight that MBS is applicable to all compression methods that involve the use of calibration data, especially those following the OBS/OBD framework (Hassibi et al., 1993; Le Cun et al., 1989), which necessitates approximations of second-derivative information.

2. Background

2.1. Optimal Brain Surgeon (OBS)

Optimal Brain Surgeon (Hassibi et al., 1993) is a classic network pruning algorithm. It assumes that a network's error converges to a local minimum and calculates the second-order derivatives (Hessian matrix **H**) of the error (*E*) with respect to each parameter (*w*) to determine which connections can be safely pruned without significantly affecting performance. The increase in error (L_j) when a parameter (w_j) is set to zero, and the optimal adjustment (δw) of the remaining weights to compensate for

the removal are given by:

$$L_j = \frac{1}{2} \frac{{w_j}^2}{[\mathbf{H}^{-1}]_{jj}} \tag{1}$$

$$\delta w = -\frac{w_j}{[\mathbf{H}^{-1}]_{jj}} \mathbf{H}_{:,j}^{-1}.$$
 (2)

2.2. Error Measurement

The network's error can be expressed in terms of the l_2 -error between the outputs before and after compression (Hubara et al., 2021). Given inputs X (the training dataset), the original weights \mathbf{W} , the updated weights $\hat{\mathbf{W}}$, and a sparsity mask M of the same size as \mathbf{W} , the error is defined as:

$$E = ||\mathbf{W}\mathbf{X} - (\mathbf{M} \odot \hat{\mathbf{W}})\mathbf{X}||_2^2.$$
(3)

In the case of quantization, the mask is a matrix filled with ones. The second-order derivatives (H) of the error with respect to the parameters are therefore represented as $H = 2XX^T$, which forms the basis of our approximation objective.

2.3. SparseGPT, Wanda and GPTQ

To assess the importance of parameters, SparseGPT and Wanda employ different pruning metrics. Taking inspiration from OBS, SparseGPT defines its metric as $S_{i,j} = [|\mathbf{W}|^2/\text{diag}((\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X} + \lambda\mathbf{I})^{-1})]_{i,j}$, with λ being the Hessian dampening factor to prevent inverse computation collapse. On the other hand, Wanda uses $S_{i,j} = |\mathbf{W}_{i,j}| \cdot ||\mathbf{X}_j||_2$ as its pruning metric.

Remarkably, these two metrics are essentially equivalent when λ is set to 0, and only the diagonal elements of the Hessian matrix $X^T X + \lambda I$ are

retained:

$$\operatorname{diag}(((\mathbf{X}^{\mathbf{T}}\mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I}) \odot \mathbf{I})^{-1}) = (||\mathbf{X}_j||_2^2)^{-1}.$$
 (4)

This assumption aligns with the practice of Optimal Brain Damage (Le Cun et al., 1989), which retains only the diagonal elements of the second-order derivatives matrix. Consequently, we can conclude that:

$$\mathbf{S}_{SparseGPT} = \mathbf{S}_{Wanda}^2 \tag{5}$$

if we disregard the non-diagonal elements of H.

The primary distinctions between SparseGPT and Wanda are as follows:

- SparseGPT retains the non-diagonal elements of the Hessian metrics, whereas Wanda takes the opposite approach.
- SparseGPT performs adjustments (δw) on non-pruned parameters to compensate for removal, while Wanda does not.

Equally inspired by OBD, the quantization formulas provided by GPTQ are as follows:

$$w_j = \operatorname{argmin}_{w_j} \frac{\left(\operatorname{quant} (w_j) - w_j\right)^2}{\left[\mathbf{H}^{-1}\right]_{jj}} \qquad (6)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\delta}_{F} = -\frac{w_{j} - \mathbf{quant}\left(w_{j}\right)}{\left[\mathbf{H}^{-1}\right]_{jj}} \cdot \left(\mathbf{H}^{-1}\right)_{:,j} \qquad (7)$$

Here, w_j represents the greedy-optimal weight to quantize next, δ_F denotes the corresponding optimal update of weights, and quant(w) rounds the value of w to the nearest point on the quantization grid. It's evident that these formulas follow a similar pattern to the OBD/OBS approach, and the information of the Hessian matrix **H** is crucial in all these methods.

3. Is Monolingual Calibrating Applicable to Multilingual MC?

Previous model compression methods only use English corpus as the sole calibration data, neglecting other languages. This raises the question: **how does monolingual calibration impact the performance of other languages during multilingual model compression?** In this section, we aim to explore this issue theoretically, focusing on two main aspects: the proportion of languages in the training data, and the similarity between languages. Further experimental analysis will be provided in Section 5.3.

We denote the total error of the model as E, and the error on language m as E_m . We know that model training convergence applies to the whole training dataset. Thus, E resides in a local minimum. However, for languages m and n, E_m and E_n may not necessarily be in their own local minima. This also explains the presence of the multilingual curse (Conneau et al., 2020), where the performance of a multilingual model in all languages is lower than that of a monolingual model with the same configuration. This occurs because the model is in a global local minimum, rather than individual local minima for each language. Due to their differing distributions, the local minima for each language do not overlap. The reason why using larger language models can alleviate this problem might be that, with a huge amount of parameters, they can simulate a distribution sophisticated enough where different languages' local minima are close.

3.1. Proportion in training data

Due to the fact that the size of English corpus is much larger than low-resource languages, we may suppose a language pair m and n with a significantly different training corpus size $(p_n >> p_m)$.

Intuitively, we can assume that languages with larger corpora in the training set tend to have their minimum error closer to the minimum of E because they contribute more weight to the total error. This characteristic makes them more robust against compression. Conversely, languages with smaller corpora inherently have their minimum error farther from the minimum of E, and compression can potentially push them even further away.



Figure 2: Languages with larger corpora have their minimum error closer to the minimum of E. Monolingual compression effectively "pushed" the model's state towards the minimum error of that particular language.

This phenomenon is manifested in the following way illustrated in Figure 2: when compressing models with only the calibration data of the wellrepresented¹ language n, it has a significant impact on the performance of the underrepresented language m. However, compressing models with only

¹In the rest of the paper, we call a language "wellrepresented" when its proportion is relatively big in the model training set, and "underrepresented" when its proportion is relatively small.

the calibration data of the underrepresented language m has a comparatively minor impact on the performance of the well-represented language n.

3.2. Similarity between languages

In the second scenario, we may suppose that the two languages are as well-represented as each other $(p_m \approx p_n)$. According to Equation 1, the priority of compression is fully determined by H, so it is sufficient to compare H_m and H_n . We may suppose the non-diagonal elements are trivial (Le Cun et al., 1989) to calculate the inverse of H. The metric is thus simplified to $S = |W| \cdot ||X||_2$, so we can directly compare $||X||_2$, which is a vector of length q (number of parameters), and each of the elements is the sum of the square of the inputs at the corresponding position.

A classic method to compare the similarity of two vectors is cosine similarity. The choice of cosine similarity over Euclidean distance is motivated by the need to compare two vectors based on the likelihood that their largest components remain consistent after undergoing the same element-wise multiplication with unknown vectors (model parameters). This can be modeled as the comparison of two vectors after they have experienced the same coordinate axis transformation, assessing whether their largest components remain identical. Clearly, when two vectors have a smaller angle between them, the likelihood that their largest components remain the same after undergoing the same coordinate axis transformation is relatively higher (demonstrated in Figure 3).



Figure 3: The angle between language 2 and language 3 is smaller than that between language 1 and language 2. After element-wise multiplication, language 2 and 3 are more likely to prioritize the same parameter w_1 because their angle before multiplication is smaller.

However, it's important to acknowledge that cosine similarity does not fulfill the properties of a distance metric, particularly the triangle inequality. Consequently, we cannot directly deduce the similarity between languages 1 and 3 from the similarities between 1 and 2, and 2 and 3. However, the property of a distance metric is less critical in the context of our work, since our goal is only to compare the similarity between the calibration language and the non-calibration languages, rather than among non-calibration languages.

We can compute the cosine similarity between $||\mathbf{X}_m||_2$ and $||\mathbf{X}_n||_2$. When they are similar, using only data of language m as calibration data will introduce little performance drop in language n, and vice versa. That is to say, when two languages are very different, employing data from just one of the two languages as calibration data will lead to a significant performance decrease in the other.

4. Multilingual Brain Surgeon (MBS)

To mitigate interference among languages in multilingual model compression, we introduce Multilingual Brain Surgeon (MBS), a method that proportionally samples calibration data from different languages based on their distribution in the model training dataset. We provide additional theoretical details as follows.

In the OBD/OBS framework, we treat the error (E) as a whole. This makes sense for monolingual models since they contain only one language. However, for multilingual models, the error can be regarded as the sum of errors (E_n) associated with different languages. For a model trained on multiple languages, we can express the total error as follows:

$$E = E_1 + E_2 + E_3 + \ldots + E_n.$$
 (8)

Consequently, the Hessian matrix can be represented as the sum of Hessian matrices for each language:

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H_1} + \mathbf{H_2} + \mathbf{H_3} + \ldots + \mathbf{H_n}, \qquad (9)$$

where $\mathbf{H_n} = \mathbf{X_n}^T \mathbf{X_n}$. Here, $\mathbf{X_n}$ represents the inputs (training data) for language n, with a shape of $q \times p_n$, where q is the total number of network parameters, and p_n is the total number of training samples for language n.

Let's denote a subset of training data as $X_n^{[k]}$. Then, we have:

$$\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{n}} = \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{n}}^{T} \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{n}} = \sum_{k=1}^{p_{n}} X_{n}^{[k]^{T}} X_{n}^{[k]}, \qquad (10)$$

which leads to:

$$\mathbf{H} = \sum_{k=1}^{p_1} X_1^{[k]T} X_1^{[k]} + \sum_{k=1}^{p_2} X_2^{[k]T} X_2^{[k]} + \ldots + \sum_{k=1}^{p_n} X_n^{[k]T} X_n^{[k]}$$
(11)

It's evident that each language's contribution to H depends on its representation in the model's training data. Therefore, when selecting calibration data, it's essential to choose samples from each language in proportion to its presence in the training set. Specifically, for language n, the percentage of its representation in the training set is p_n/p , where p is the total number of training samples. Thus, we should allocate a proportionate amount of data from language n (i.e., p_n/p percent) in the calibration data used for compression.

5. Experiments

5.1. Experimental Setup

Models. The experiments were conducted using the BLOOM (BigScience Workshop, 2022) model family, which is recognized as one of the most effective open-source multilingual LLMs. Our primary tests were performed on both the BLOOM-560m and BLOOM-7b1 models to provide insights into the performance of smaller and larger models. For the network pruning experiments, a pruning sparsity of 50% was applied. In the quantization experiments, the models were quantized to 3 bits precision with groupings of size 1024.

Datasets & Language Selection. For calibration data, we selected CC-100 (Wenzek et al., 2020), a dataset comprising web-crawled content in over 100 languages, similar to the setup used by previous studies like Frantar and Alistarh (2023), Sun et al. (2023), and Frantar et al. (2023) which used a monolingual English dataset called C4 (Raffel et al., 2019).

To evaluate multilingual perplexity, we employed XL-Sum (Hasan et al., 2021), a dataset containing high-quality articles from BBC covering 45 languages, as our benchmark. Additionally, we assessed perplexity on the test sets of raw-WikiText2 (Merity et al., 2016), a widely used English perplexity benchmark. Due to resource limitations for certain languages in the BLOOM model, we conducted experiments on a subset of 20 languages, which were those available in CC-100, XL-Sum, and BLOOM. These languages include Arabic (ar), Bengali (bn), Chinese simplified (zh-Hans), Chinese traditional (zh-Hant), French (fr), Gujarati (gu), Hindi (hi), Igbo (ig), Indonesian (id), Marathi (mr), Nepali (ne), Portuguese (pt), Spanish (es), Swahili (sw), Tamil (ta), Telugu (te), Urdu (ur), Vietnamese (vi), and Yoruba (yo).

Evaluation. We evaluated the perplexity of the compressed model separately for each language using XL-Sum. We also conducted zero-shot evaluations, employing the widely recognized EleutherAleval-harness (Gao et al., 2021), with a focus on multilingual tasks to assess the performance of less-represented languages. The zero-shot tasks that we have chosen to evaluate the compressed model are specified in Table 1.

Calibration data & Baselines. Our calibration data consisted of 256 segments, each containing

2048 tokens, sampled from CC-100. We used our MBS sampling method and sampled 87, 47, 37, 31, 14, 13, 7, 4, 3, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 segments respectively for en, zh-Hans, fr, es, pt, ar, vi, hi, id, bn, ta, te, ur, ne, mr, gu, zh-Hant, sw, yo and ig. Additionally, we conducted tests in the *Equal MBS* setting, in which an equal number of segments were sampled from each language. We also implemented the monolingual compression setting, using 256 segments from the same language.

Language Similarity Study. To study language similarity, we conducted monolingual pruning on English and Igbo, representing the best-represented and worst-represented languages in our dataset, respectively. We also performed similar experiments on Urdu and Tamil, which respectively represent the least and most similar languages to the others (further explanation is provided in the results section). To compare language similarity, we utilized the representations after the embedding layer of the BLOOM model, as the compression algorithms do not affect the embedding layer.

5.2. Main results

We conducted our MBS sampling technique to compress both BLOOM-7b1 and BLOOM-560m models, using GPTQ, SparseGPT, and Wanda. The trends observed in the results for these two models are similar. For the sake of better formatting, we will present the results for the 7b1 model in the main text and provide the results for the 560M model in the appendices.

Perplexity. Figure 4 presents the evaluation of perplexity for each language after compression on the BLOOM-7b1 model. The baselines consist of monolingual compression using English-only calibration data.

- 1. Across various compression methods, the MBS sampling technique consistently leads to minimal increases in perplexity. This holds true whether we utilize Wanda or SparseGPT for pruning or GPTQ for quantization.
- 2. For **underrepresented languages** (located on the right side of the axis), MBS can notably reduce the increase in perplexity after compression, thus preserving the model's capacity for lower-resourced languages, **leaving no languages behind**.
- Even for the most well-represented language, specifically English (on both datasets "en" and "wikitext2"), using MBS sampling introduces a lower perplexity than its monolingual English-centric sampling counterpart.

Zero shot tasks. Table 1 provides an overview of the performance of zero-shot tasks after the



Figure 4: Perplexity for each language and their respective increases when compared to the dense BLOOM-7b1 model after pruning (left) or quantization (right). From left to right, languages are ranked in order from the most well-represented to the least represented.

compression process. The results demonstrate that, in the majority of tasks, utilizing MBS sampling yields superior performance compared to other sampling techniques. Furthermore, the performance after compression closely approximates that of the dense model, highlighting the effectiveness of our approach.

Equal MBS. Table 2 provides the results for *Equal MBS*, where an equal number of samples are taken from each language. While Equal MBS is not the optimal setting, it generally improves the performance of the compressed model. This demonstrates that even without access to the distribution of languages in the training set, Equal MBS can still enhance compression results for the chosen languages, showcasing the versatility of our method.

5.3. Monolingual Compression Study

5.3.1. Factor 1: Proportion in training data

To investigate how the proportion of a language in the training data affects compression results, we selected English (en) and Igbo (ig), which have the largest and smallest proportions in the training data among the languages in our experiments, respectively. The results are presented in Figure 5.

It is evident that if we use only English as our calibration data, it significantly impacts less well-represented languages, causing substantial increases in perplexity, particularly for Marathi (mr) and Gujarati (gu). However, for better-represented languages, English (en) has a relatively smaller influence, as observed with Chinese simplified (zh-Hans), French (fr), and Spanish (es). Conversely, when we use only Igbo as our calibration data, the increase in perplexity for the other languages is relatively small. Clearly, languages with a lower representation in the training set tend to experience a more substantial increase in perplexity.

5.3.2. Factor 2: Similarity between languages

We calculated the cosine similarity of $||\mathbf{X}_n||_2^2$ for different languages using BLOOM-7b1, and then converted this similarity into degrees. This allowed us to create a distance map between languages. To visualize the relative positions of different languages, we employed Multidimensional scaling (Mead, 1992) and generated a 2-dimensional figure (Figure 6). The original distance map is included in the appendices.

Upon observing this graph, we can identify some interesting clusters. Typically, languages from different language families tend to form distinct clusters. For instance, there is a cluster comprising Indo-European languages such as English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese, a cluster for Chinese simplified and Chinese traditional, both of which are Chinese languages, and another cluster consisting of Niger-Congo languages like Yoruba, Igbo, and Swahili. This clustering may be attributed to the following factors:

- Shared Grammar Structure: Languages within the same language family often share similar grammar structures.
- Shared Tokens: During the tokenization process, these languages frequently share tokens, including prefixes, suffixes, and other wordbuilding elements.

To investigate how language similarity impacts compression outcomes, we chose to examine two extreme cases: Tamil (ta), which is the language that is "closest" to all other languages (with an average distance of 7.25), and Urdu (ur), which is the language that is "farthest" from all other languages (with an average distance of 15.45). The results for Wanda are displayed in Figure 7, while the results for SparseGPT, which exhibit similar patterns to those of Wanda, are provided in the appendices.

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$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		12 00%	10 100/	10.99%	04.0770 11 60%	19 750/	10 070/	/1 250/
Averane* 57 63% 55 36% 55 49% 55 38% 56 13% 42.21% 41.33%		40.90%	42.19%	42.04%	55 38%	42.75%	42.21%	57 08%

Table 1: 0-shot task performance of BLOOM-7b1 with different model compression methods.

It is evident that when we use Tamil (ta) as our sole calibration data, the increase in perplexity for other languages is relatively small, especially for languages that are "closer" to Tamil, such as Bengali (bn) and Hindi (hi). Conversely, when Urdu (ur) serves as our sole calibration data, the increase in perplexity for other languages is relatively significant on average. The consistent pattern across all four graphs reveals that **languages more distant from the language being compressed tend to exhibit a more significant increase in perplexity.**

An intriguing case study can be conducted on Chinese simplified and Chinese traditional. Despite their close proximity on the language map, they significantly differ in corpus size. Chinese simplified enjoys a much larger proportion, resulting in a more pronounced impact on Chinese traditional after the compression process, while Chinese simplified remains relatively unaffected. These experiments demonstrate the validity and accuracy of our theory.

6. Related Work

Large Language Model. Large Language Models(Zhao et al., 2023) like GPT-4(OpenAI et al., 2024), LLaMA(Touvron et al., 2023) and OPT(Zhang et al., 2022), which have revolutionized Natural Language Processing through their ability



Figure 5: Monolingual pruning results using Wanda with calibration data in English or Igbo. The size of each bubble corresponds to the magnitude of the increase in perplexity for the model in that particular language, while the vertical axis represents the size of training data in log(bytes) from the language in the training set of BLOOM. The languages with a smaller proportion in the training set experience a greater increase in perplexity.

Compression Methods	Average 0-shot Task Accuracy↑	Average ppl↓
Wanda	55.36%	64.70
Wanda+ Equal MBS	55.20%	24.97
Wanda+ MBS	55.49%	26.28
SparseGPT	55.38%	59.84
SparseGPT+ Equal MBS	55.86%	22.62
SparseGPT+ MBS	56.13%	23.82
GPTQ	55.59%	31.17
GPTQ+ Equal MBS	56.52%	23.15
GPTQ+ MBS	57.08%	24.26

Table 2: Performance of *Equal MBS*, where an equal number of segments are sampled from each language.

to understand and generate nuanced text. Alongside, multilingual language models(Doddapaneni et al., 2021) such as BLOOM(BigScience Workshop, 2022) and XLM-R(Conneau et al., 2020) are breaking language barriers by learning universal representations from texts across numerous languages. These developments underscore a significant shift towards creating more versatile and inclusive NLP systems, with research focusing on architectural innovations, training efficiencies, and cross-lingual capabilities to enhance global digital interaction.

We would like to emphasize that MBS can be applied to any model compression method that utilizes calibration data, particularly methods based on the OBS/OBD framework, where the approximation of



Figure 6: Distance map of different languages associated with their corresponding language families. We can see that languages with the same family cluster together from this map.

second-derivative information is required. Thanks to a survey on model compression for large language models by (Zhu et al., 2023), we examined the state-of-the-art model compression methods for large language models, and we found that our MBS is useful for almost all of them.

Pruning and quantization are two major model compression methods for LLMs.

Pruning. Pruning reduces model size and complexity by eliminating unnecessary or redundant components. It can be categorized into **structured pruning**, where higher-granularity structures like rows or columns of weight matrices are removed, and **unstructured pruning**, which eliminates in-

Least Similar Language to the Others: Urdu Most Similar Language to the Others: Tamil Language size in log(byte) Language size in log(byte) 12 12 zh-Hans zh-Hans 11 11 pt bn (hi 10 10 (ta Averag ur ne gu gu h-dan zh-Hant Average ppl: 45.19 Average ppl: 36.49 8 Average increase: 90% Average increase: 63% **Distance to Urdu Distance to Tamil** Perplexity increase(%) after pruned by Urdu data 0 Perplexity increase(%) after pruned by Tamil data 2.81

Figure 7: Similarly to Figure 5, but focusing on Urdu or Tamil. The languages less similar to the calibration language experience a greater increase in perplexity.

dividual weights, leading to irregular sparse structures. In the domain of **unstructured pruning**, MBS can be applied to Wanda (Sun et al., 2023) and SparseGPT (Frantar and Alistarh, 2023) that we presented in the background section, and also LoRAPrune (Zhang et al., 2023). In the **structured pruning** domain, MBS can empower LLM-Pruner (Ma et al., 2023).

Quantization. Quantization involves converting floating-point numbers into lower bit-level representations, integers, or other discrete forms and can be categorized into Quantization-Aware Training and Post-Training Quantization. MBS finds numerous applications in guantization, particularly in post-training quantization. In post-training quantization, certain approaches focus on quantizing only the weights of LLMs. Among these methods, MBS can be applied to AWQ (Lin et al., 2023), GPTQ (Frantar et al., 2023), OWQ (Lee et al., 2023), SpQR (Dettmers et al., 2023), SqueezeLLM (Kim et al., 2023), QuIP (Chee et al., 2023), and SignRound (Cheng et al., 2023). Some other methods try to quantize both weights and activations of LLMs. Among them, MBS can be applied to SmoothQuant (Xiao et al., 2023), RPTQ (Yuan et al., 2023), OliVe (Guo et al., 2023), ZeroQuant-V2 (Yao et al., 2023), Outlier Suppression+ (Wei et al., 2023), FPTQ (Li et al., 2023), QuantEase (Behdin et al., 2023), and OmniQuant (Shao et al., 2023).

7. Conclusions

In summary, the Multilingual Brain Surgeon (MBS) is a groundbreaking approach for improving multilingual LLMs. It tackles the English-centric bias in existing techniques and enhances LLM performance after compressing. Our experiments on the BLOOM model highlight the effectiveness of MBS, benefiting pruning and quantization methods like SparseGPT, Wanda, and GPTQ. We also studied language interaction during compression, finding that language proportion in the training dataset and language similarity are crucial factors. Languages with larger proportion are less affected by compression, while similar languages perform better when only one language is used in calibration data. Our proposed similarity measure accurately predicts performance drops in such scenarios.

This research not only enhances the practicality of multilingual LLMs compression methods but also maintains language coverage, making multilingual NLP applications more inclusive and powerful.

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A. Details of Calibration Data

Language	Size in Bytes in BLOOM training data	MBS sampling	Equal sampling
en	4.85E+11	87	13
zh-Hans	2.61E+11	47	13
fr	2.08E+11	37	13
es	1.75E+11	31	13
pt	7.93E+10	14	13
ar	7.49E+10	13	13
vi	4.37E+10	7	13
hi	2.46E+10	4	13
id	2.00E+10	3	13
bn	1.86E+10	3	13
ta	7.99E+09	1	13
te	2.99E+09	1	13
ur	2.78E+09	1	13
ne	2.55E+09	1	13
mr	1.78E+09	1	13
gu	1.20E+09	1	13
zh-Hant	7.62E+08	1	12
SW	2.36E+08	1	12
уо	8.97E+07	1	12
ig	1.41E+07	1	12

Table 3: The number of segments taken from each language by each sampling method.

The number of segments taken from each language is detailed in Table 3. We rounded up the segment counts for languages with fewer than one segment to ensure their representation in the calibration data. In the equal sampling scenario, to maintain comparability, some languages have one segment less than others to achieve a total of 256 segments.

B. MBS results tables

Perplexity. Table 6 showcases the perplexity evaluation for each language after pruning on the BLOOM-560m model. The observed trends align closely with those observed on the BLOOM-7b1 model.

Zero shot tasks. Table 7 illustrates the zero-shot task results for the pruned BLOOM-560m model. It is noticeable that the average accuracy using the MBS sampling method continues to outperform the baselines, although the results appear to exhibit more variability. This variability can be attributed to the reduced capacity of smaller models to maintain their multilingual capabilities.

The role of parameter compensation. We have observed a notable distinction in the effects of SparseGPT and Wanda. In monolingual pruning, SparseGPT, which involves parameter updates and employs a more precise pruning metric, appears

Detect	Donoo	Wondo	*	SparacOT	*	MBS +	*	MBS +	*
Dalasel	Dense	wanua	I	Sparseuri	I	Wanda	I	SparseGPT	I
en	13.68	15.67	15%	14.92	9%	15.55	14%	15.01	10%
zh-Hans	23.70	34.75	47%	35.56	50%	26.59	12%	25.87	9%
fr	9.59	13.16	37%	13.41	40%	10.68	11%	10.39	8%
es	10.71	13.82	29%	13.75	28%	11.91	11%	11.59	8%
pt	10.97	14.58	33%	17.37	58%	12.25	12%	11.96	9%
ar	14.40	29.19	103%	25.33	76%	16.45	14%	15.88	10%
vi	10.16	14.76	45%	15.00	48%	11.59	14%	11.24	11%
hi	10.96	18.26	67%	19.09	74%	12.52	14%	12.19	11%
id	20.48	29.37	43%	37.27	82%	23.76	16%	22.97	12%
bn	17.27	33.37	93%	40.50	134%	20.29	17%	19.51	13%
ta	16.55	42.23	155%	44.10	167%	20.10	21%	19.34	17%
te	18.10	64.97	259%	69.20	282%	24.59	36%	22.05	22%
ur	13.26	27.03	104%	30.56	130%	15.83	19%	15.10	14%
ne	27.22	152.67	461%	148.00	444%	34.90	28%	32.91	21%
mr	23.07	176.78	666%	144.65	527%	32.25	40%	28.91	25%
gu	21.52	184.62	758%	118.48	450%	30.84	43%	26.97	25%
zh-Hant	21.84	113.34	419%	102.26	368%	24.96	14%	24.30	11%
SW	34.35	145.54	324%	135.84	295%	54.32	58%	44.23	29%
уо	53.29	128.12	140%	126.54	137%	79.62	49%	67.52	27%
ig	39.16	90.41	131%	90.89	132%	59.00	51%	49.10	25%
wikitext2	11.37	16.15	42%	13.91	22%	13.82	22%	13.26	17%
Average	20.08	64.70	222%	59.84	198%	26.28	31%	23.82	19%

Table 4: Perplexity for each language and their respective increases when compared to the dense BLOOM-7b1 model after pruning. Evaluation performed on XL-Sum and WikiText2 datasets. From top to bottom, languages are ranked in order from the most well-represented to the least represented.

Dataset	Dense	GPTQ	GPTQ+MBS
en	13.68	15.3	15.37
zh-Hans	23.7	28.69	26.28
fr	9.59	10.94	10.46
es	10.71	12.49	11.9
pt	10.97	13.05	12.36
ar	14.4	17.35	16.12
vi	10.16	11.97	11.15
hi	10.96	13.72	12.27
id	20.48	25.36	23.45
bn	17.27	22.88	19.83
ta	16.55	24.5	19.53
te	18.1	32.83	22.67
ur	13.26	18.29	15.4
ne	27.22	45.5	33.97
mr	23.07	43.32	29.57
gu	21.52	40.4	27.83
zh-Hant	21.84	26.85	24.75
SW	34.35	68.42	46.19
уо	53.29	98.46	67.82
ig	39.16	71.56	49.96
wikitext2	11.37	12.6	12.56
Average	20.08	31.17	24.26

Table 5: Perplexity for each language of BLOOM-7b1 model before and after quantization.

to have a more detrimental impact on less wellrepresented languages. However, when we apply MBS, SparseGPT continues to outperform Wanda. This phenomenon may be attributed to the fact that smaller models are more sensitive to parameter updates. A biased Hessian matrix can exacerbate the model's divergence from the correct direction through these updates. Conversely, a correctly approximated Hessian matrix can effectively guide the pruning in the correct direction.

C. Monolingual pruning results

Distance map of BLOOM-560m model. The distance map depicting the relationships between languages in the BLOOM-560m model is depicted in Figure 8. We can discern a similar clustering pattern to that observed in the BLOOM-7b1 model.

The original distance matrices are provided in the following tables(12, 13).

Datacot	Donso	Wanda	SparsoGPT	MBS +	MBS +
Dalasel	Dense	vvanua	Sparseuri	Wanda	SparseGPT
en	13.68	34.30	32.02	35.08	32.87
zh-Hans	23.70	72.92	101.79	62.39	59.28
fr	9.59	22.89	24.99	21.66	20.37
es	10.71	25.41	27.94	23.98	22.56
pt	10.97	27.47	34.99	25.82	24.27
ar	14.40	80.09	1.13E+14	41.36	47.57
vi	10.16	43.26	127.59	30.75	29.64
hi	10.96	44.10	1.20E+15	29.17	43.84
id	20.48	109.13	76038.83	64.40	79.85
bn	17.27	102.78	4.42E+23	56.65	121.11
ta	16.55	176.25	1.71E+07	64.40	209.90
te	18.10	355.98	6.96E+05	116.20	355.54
ur	13.26	97.65	3.62E+20	44.60	61.35
ne	27.22	555.21	1.27E+17	135.67	200.16
mr	23.07	503.51	4.25E+12	142.76	619.28
gu	21.52	327.11	2.17E+13	136.47	197.21
zh-Hant	21.84	137.00	266.49	61.30	58.56
SW	34.35	919.14	6011.36	357.63	336.80
уо	53.29	1.02E+03	3557.88	542.40	450.00
ig	39.16	728.01	1306.30	370.35	307.76
wikitext2	11.37	30.58	29.75	31.09	29.90
Average	20.08	257.99	2.11E+22	114.01	157.51

Table 6: Perplexity for each language and their respective increases when compared to the dense BLOOM-560m model after pruning. Evaluation performed on XL-Sum and WikiText2 datasets. From top to bottom, languages are ranked in order from the most well-represented to the least represented.



Figure 8: The graph illustrates the relative positions of different languages. Different dot shapes represent different language families. The closer they are on the graph, the more similar they are to each other.

0-shot task	Dense	Wanda	SparseGPT	Wanda	SparseGPT	MBS+ Wanda	MBS+ SparseGPT
хсора				cquai	cquai	Wanda	oparsear i
id	59.20%	56.20%	51.80%	58.40%	57.40%	58.60%	55.80%
sw	51.60%	52.60%	52.60%	51.80%	52.80%	52.20%	52.20%
ta	55.80%	57.20%	54.00%	56.00%	56.00%	54.80%	56.20%
vi	61.00%	55.40%	51.60%	57.60%	56.20%	56.00%	55.60%
zh	58.60%	52.80%	53.00%	53.40%	53.60%	53.80%	55.00%
Average	57.24%	54.84%	52.60%	55.44%	55.20%	55.08%	54.96%
xstory_cloze							
ar	52.08%	48.25%	49.57%	49.24%	48.31%	48.97%	48.84%
en	61.22%	57.78%	59.23%	56.92%	57.97%	57.51%	59.70%
es	55.86%	53.67%	54.40%	53.81%	54.14%	54.27%	55.00%
hi	55.00%	52.68%	48.31%	53.21%	54.00%	53.08%	52.88%
id	55.53%	53.14%	48.31%	53.14%	52.42%	53.34%	52.22%
SW	49.83%	49.11%	48.78%	49.24%	49.24%	49.44%	48.51%
te	55.72%	54.33%	53.28%	54.80%	55.46%	54.07%	55.46%
zh	54.53%	51.95%	51.29%	51.56%	52.68%	51.95%	53.54%
Average	54.97%	52.61%	51.65%	52.74%	53.03%	52.83%	53.27%
xwinograd							
en	65.89%	61.98%	62.58%	62.28%	63.44%	62.02%	62.92%
fr	60.24%	56.63%	51.81%	56.63%	56.63%	59.04%	57.83%
pt	60.08%	55.51%	60.46%	54.75%	57.41%	55.13%	59.70%
zh	67.66%	66.27%	66.87%	66.87%	63.49%	66.07%	69.64%
Average	63.47%	60.10%	60.43%	60.13%	60.24%	60.57%	62.52%
pawsx	E0.000/	40.000/	40.000/	40 1 50/	40.05%	47 000/	E0.0E0/
en	52.00%	49.90%	48.60%	49.15%	49.85%	47.60%	50.85%
es fr	00.20% 47.05%	40.75%	40.03%		40.75%	JU.70%	30.00% 45.25%
11 7b	47.90%	47.70/0	40.4J /0 // 050/	40.45 /0	40.75%	40.45 /0	43.33 /0
Average	40.20%	43.13%	44.00%	43.30 %	43.70%	43.33%	44.75%
xnli	43.0078	47.0078	47.0378	40.1076	47.7078	47.50%	47.3478
ar	33 35%	33 47%	33 55%	33 59%	33 57%	33 41%	33 67%
en	49.50%	46.53%	45.89%	45.43%	46.09%	45.31%	46.37%
es	45.23%	45.71%	41.72%	43.11%	42.87%	44.45%	42.95%
fr	45.29%	45.51%	42.20%	45.07%	45.27%	45.71%	43.75%
hi	40.84%	38.64%	33.35%	37.90%	36.45%	38.78%	34.77%
SW	33.17%	33.65%	33.51%	33.45%	33.21%	33.63%	33.29%
ur	37.13%	33.75%	33.27%	35.23%	34.77%	35.11%	34.01%
vi	40.52%	40.28%	33.05%	38.44%	36.61%	39.14%	37.15%
zh	33.95%	33.33%	33.45%	33.29%	33.47%	33.29%	33.61%
Average	39.89%	38.99%	36.67%	38.39%	38.04%	38.76%	37.73%
Total Average	51.24%	49.26%	47.95%	49.26%	49.15%	49.31%	49.41%

Table 7: 0-shot tasks performance on each task of BLOOM-560m pruned model.

Dataset	Dense	en	\uparrow	ig	\uparrow	ta	\uparrow	ur	\uparrow
en	13.68	15.67	15%	17.61	29%	17.20	26%	18.93	38%
zh-Hans	23.70	34.75	47%	33.97	43%	31.99	35%	31.70	34%
fr	9.59	13.16	37%	12.70	32%	13.94	45%	14.84	55%
es	10.71	13.82	29%	14.16	32%	15.83	48%	17.17	60%
pt	10.97	14.58	33%	14.60	33%	15.78	44%	18.20	66%
ar	14.40	29.19	103%	26.27	82%	22.82	58%	17.65	23%
vi	10.16	14.76	45%	12.74	25%	13.48	33%	14.62	44%
hi	10.96	18.26	67%	15.82	44%	13.18	20%	13.97	28%
id	20.48	29.37	43%	27.30	33%	27.48	34%	33.96	66%
bn	17.27	33.37	93%	26.71	55%	21.94	27%	30.11	74%
ta	16.55	42.23	155%	27.14	64%	19.31	17%	24.44	48%
te	18.10	64.97	259%	39.77	120%	25.58	41%	37.68	108%
ur	13.26	27.03	104%	25.07	89%	19.70	49%	15.38	16%
ne	27.22	152.67	461%	64.74	138%	46.59	71%	46.60	71%
mr	23.07	176.78	666%	66.86	190%	45.71	98%	68.97	199%
gu	21.52	184.62	758%	48.30	124%	35.17	63%	37.96	76%
zh-Hant	21.84	113.34	419%	49.41	126%	56.20	157%	36.81	69%
SW	34.35	145.54	324%	58.74	71%	91.94	168%	125.09	264%
уо	53.29	128.12	140%	72.86	37%	127.05	138%	180.01	238%
ig	39.16	90.41	131%	51.30	31%	91.28	133%	149.15	281%
wikitext2	11.37	16.15	42%	16.25	43%	14.14	24%	15.68	38%
Average	20.08	64.70	189.1%	34.40	68.7%	36.49	63.4%	45.19	90.2%

Table 8: Monolingual pruning results using Wanda on BLOOM-7b1 with calibration data in en, ig, ta, and ur. Perplexity evaluated on XL-sum and wikitext2. Languages are ranked from the most well-represented to the least represented, from top to bottom.

Dataset	Dense	en		ig		ta		ur	
en	13.68	14.92	9%	16.28	19%	16.53	21%	16.80	23%
zh-Hans	23.70	35.56	50%	30.31	28%	31.45	33%	33.05	39%
fr	9.59	13.41	40%	11.42	19%	12.71	32%	12.75	33%
es	10.71	13.75	28%	12.82	20%	14.12	32%	14.58	36%
pt	10.97	17.37	58%	13.49	23%	14.86	35%	15.38	40%
ar	14.40	25.33	76%	18.54	29%	19.31	34%	16.87	17%
vi	10.16	15.00	48%	12.07	19%	13.26	31%	13.07	29%
hi	10.96	19.09	74%	14.44	32%	12.73	16%	12.46	14%
id	20.48	37.27	82%	25.56	25%	27.34	33%	26.84	31%
bn	17.27	40.50	134%	24.21	40%	21.07	22%	21.85	26%
ta	16.55	44.10	167%	26.36	59%	17.84	8%	22.58	36%
te	18.10	69.20	282%	31.56	74%	24.12	33%	28.66	58%
ur	13.26	30.56	130%	19.20	45%	17.32	31%	14.12	7%
ne	27.22	148.00	444%	47.77	76%	42.62	57%	40.12	47%
mr	23.07	144.65	527%	43.74	90%	37.81	64%	49.41	114%
gu	21.52	118.48	450%	39.39	83%	34.87	62%	32.87	53%
zh-Hant	21.84	102.26	368%	30.51	40%	50.00	129%	43.85	101%
SW	34.35	135.84	295%	46.74	36%	72.81	112%	72.94	112%
уо	53.29	126.54	137%	61.08	15%	105.97	99%	113.09	112%
ig	39.16	90.89	132%	41.37	6%	74.44	90%	86.14	120%
wikitext2	11.37	13.91	22%	13.56	19%	13.66	20%	13.95	23%
Average	20.08	59.84	169.3%	27.64	37.8%	32.14	47.3%	33.40	51.1%

Table 9: Monolingual pruning results using SparseGPT on BLOOM-7b1 with calibration data in en, ig, ta, and ur. Perplexity evaluated on XL-sum and wikitext2. Languages are ranked from the most well-represented to the least represented, from top to bottom.

Dataset	Dense	en		ig		te		id	
en	13.68	34.30	151%	49.17	259%	53.12	288%	38.50	181%
zh-Hans	23.70	72.92	208%	87.98	271%	126.56	434%	79.06	234%
fr	9.59	22.89	139%	32.46	238%	41.75	335%	24.91	160%
es	10.71	25.41	137%	38.29	258%	47.38	343%	28.18	163%
pt	10.97	27.47	150%	42.04	283%	57.68	426%	30.47	178%
ar	14.40	80.09	456%	79.26	451%	66.66	363%	55.03	282%
vi	10.16	43.26	326%	39.63	290%	150.26	1379%	38.05	275%
hi	10.96	44.10	303%	50.54	361%	32.37	195%	36.25	231%
id	20.48	109.13	433%	108.26	429%	952.66	4551%	60.77	197%
bn	17.27	102.78	495%	141.25	718%	68.01	294%	83.81	385%
ta	16.55	176.25	965%	147.99	794%	60.52	266%	163.29	887%
te	18.10	355.98	1866%	260.31	1338%	95.77	429%	445.67	2362%
ur	13.26	97.65	636%	143.11	979%	49.14	271%	63.39	378%
ne	27.22	555.21	1940%	320.61	1078%	143.19	426%	237.41	772%
mr	23.07	503.51	2083%	290.52	1159%	140.02	507%	220.62	856%
gu	21.52	327.11	1420%	215.13	900%	124.55	479%	286.66	1232%
zh-Hant	21.84	137.00	527%	156.15	615%	227.56	942%	167.85	668%
SW	34.35	919.14	2576%	419.52	1121%	897.07	2511%	465.66	1256%
уо	53.29	1024.94	1823%	529.35	893%	711.20	1235%	573.17	976%
ig	39.16	728.01	1759%	285.28	629%	773.60	1876%	409.11	945%
wikitext2	11.37	30.58	169%	40.70	258%	46.07	305%	33.40	194%
Average	20.08	257.99	883.9%	165.60	634.4%	231.67	850.2%	168.63	610.0%

Table 10: Monolingual pruning results of Wanda on BLOOM-560m.

Dataset	Dense	en	ig	te	id
en	14	32	43	48	40
zh-Hans	24	102	128	108	110
zh-Hant	22	266	162	227	279
fr	10	25	28	39	28
es	11	28	34	48	32
pt	11	35	37	54	35
ar	14	1.13E+14	8.10E+07	247	3.52E+07
vi	10	128	70	948	78
hi	11	1.20E+15	3.93E+10	128	2.98E+09
id	20	76039	7049	11397	62
bn	17	4.42E+23	2.16E+10	1788	6.12E+15
ta	17	17114940	361068	85	1.80E+08
te	18	696319	180476	75	2.40E+07
ur	13	3.62E+20	55283	807	1.55E+07
ne	27	1.27E+17	1.70E+09	636	6.43E+10
mr	23	4.25E+12	2.13E+08	1250	3.76E+11
gu	22	2.17E+13	3051	252	4.96E+06
SW	34	6011	467	1363	1502
уо	53	3558	342	882	1463
ig	39	1306	205	990	753
wikitext2	11	30	36	41	34
Average	20	2.11E+22	2.99E+09	1020	2.92E+14

Table 11: Monolingual pruning results of SparseGPT on BLOOM-560m.



Table 12: Original distance matrix generated from the BLOOM-7b1 model.



Table 13: Original distance matrix generated from the BLOOM-560m model.