

**ICIP2022**

# **CONTINUAL LEARNING IN VISION TRANSFORMER**

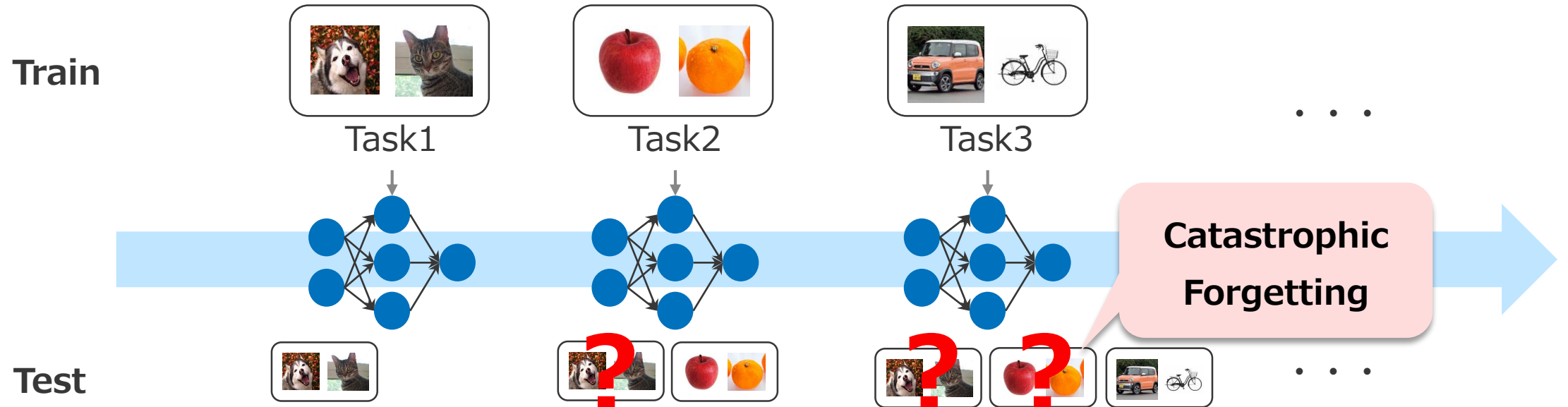
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# 1. INTRODUCTION

- Deep learning models forget previously learned tasks when given a new task (catastrophic forgetting)
- Continual Learning addresses this problem by allowing users to continuously learn new tasks while retaining knowledge of previously learned tasks



# 1. INTRODUCTION

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- Recently, the Vision Transformer, which utilizes the Transformer architecture used in natural language processing for computer vision, has shown accuracy that exceeds that of CNN
- Conventional Continual Learning methods are generally designed to be applied to CNNs, so **methods that can be applied to Vision Transformer are limited**
- Vision Transformer, which has a larger model size than CNN, requires a larger additional model size when applying Continual Learning methods
  - **Need to suppress catastrophic forgetting with fewer parameters** than conventional methods for application to CNN



# 1. INTRODUCTION

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- Conventional Continual Learning methods are generally designed to be applied to CNNs, so **methods that can be applied to Vision Transformer are limited**
- Vision Transformer, which has a larger model size than CNN, requires a larger additional model size when applying Continual Learning methods
  - **Need to suppress catastrophic forgetting with fewer parameters** than conventional methods for application to CNN



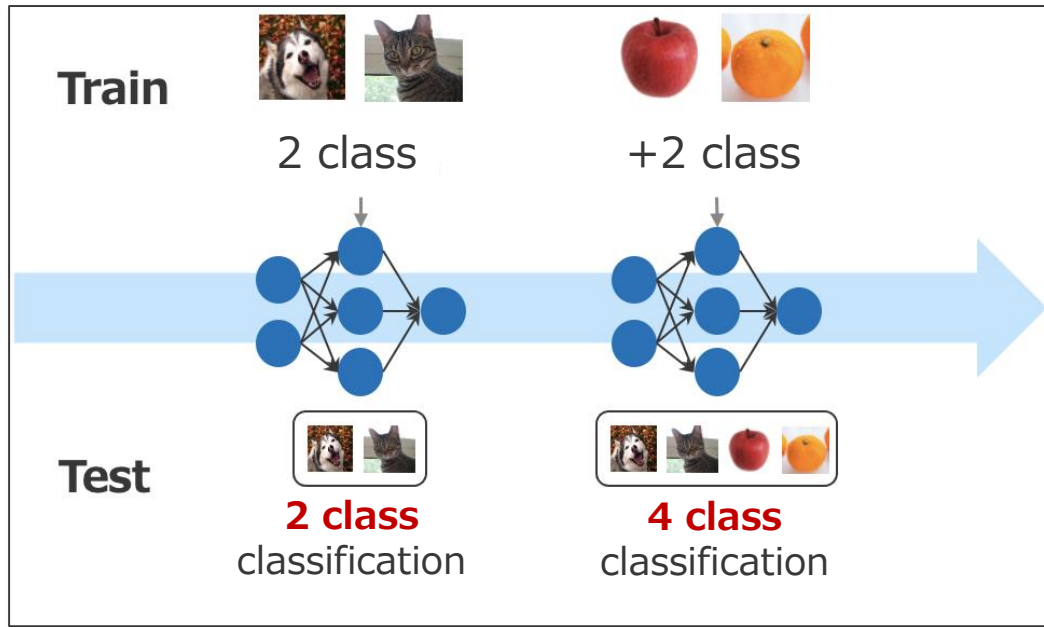
### Objective

**Method to suppress catastrophic forgetting  
with few parameters applicable  
to Vision Transformer**

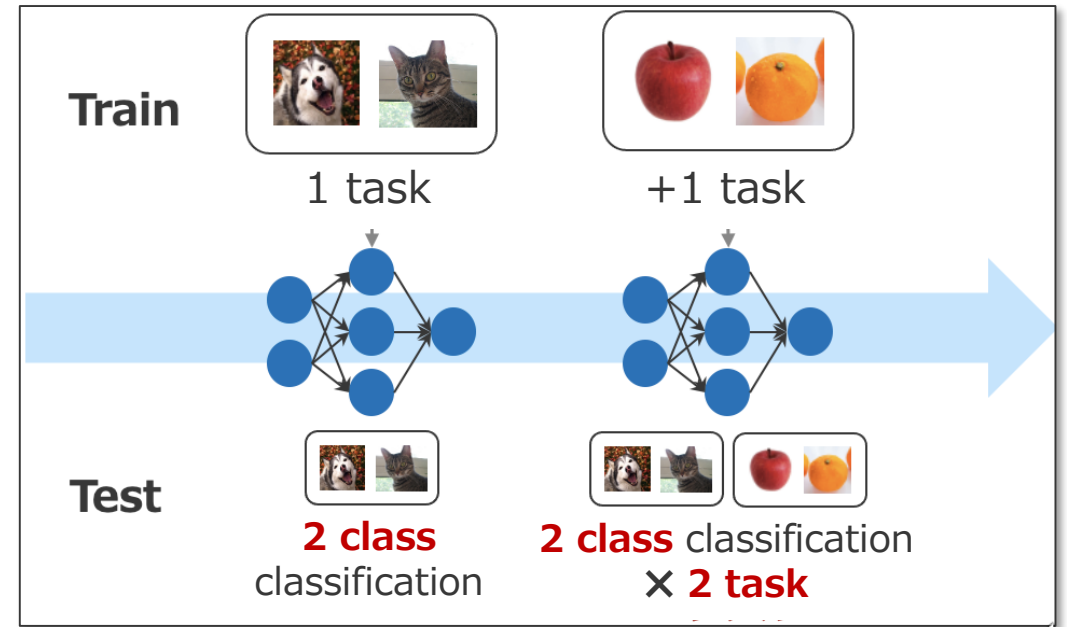


### 3. RELATED WORK - Continual Learning -

- Continual Learning is a method of continuously learning new tasks while retaining knowledge of tasks learned in the past
  - **Class incremental:** a new class is added
  - **Task incremental:** a new task is added



▲ Class incremental



▲ Task incremental



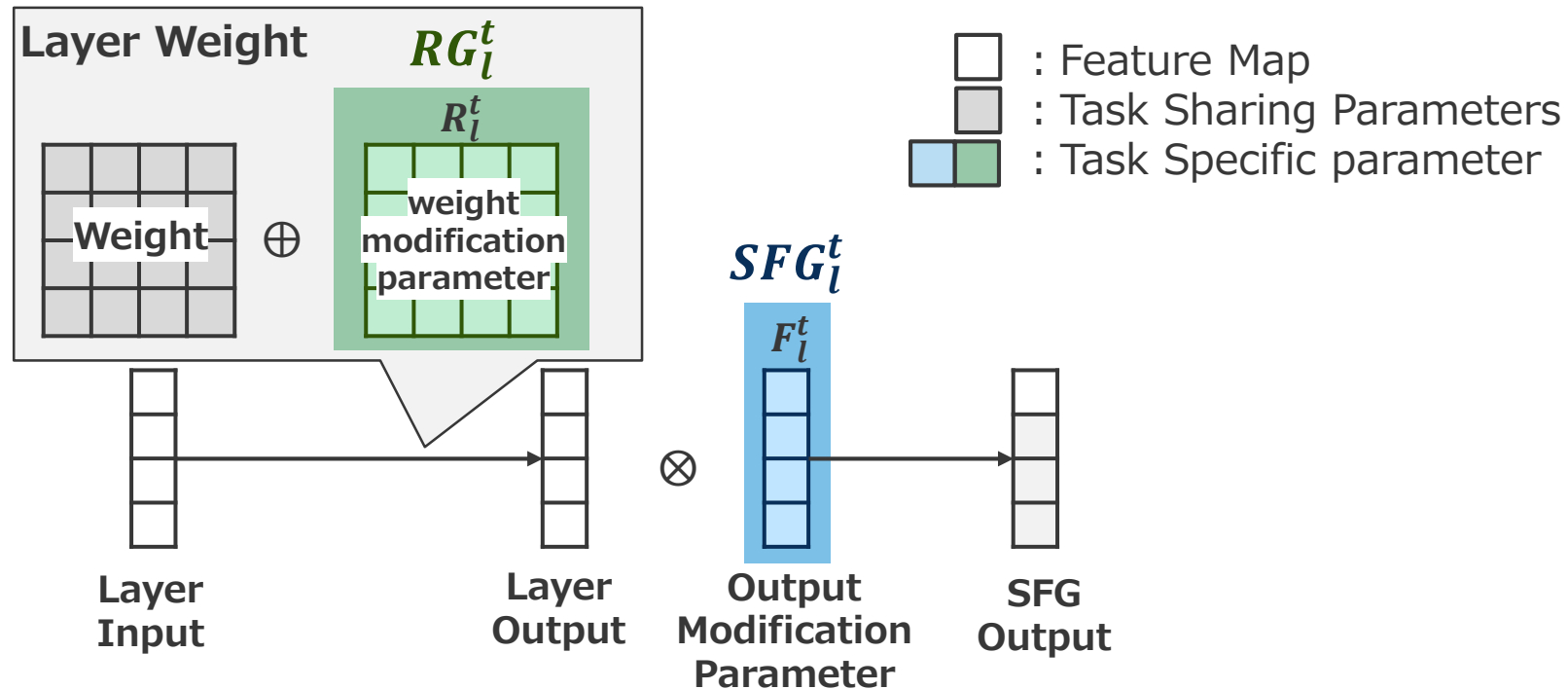
### 3. RELATED WORK - Continual Learning -

- **Rectification-based Knowledge Retention (RKR)**

[1] Singh et al. Rectification-based Knowledge Retention for Continual Learning. CVPR 2021

– Apply task-specific modification parameters to the base parameters

- **Rectification Generator (RG)** : Parameters to modify weights
- **Scaling Factor Generator (SFG)** : Parameters to modify intermediate outputs

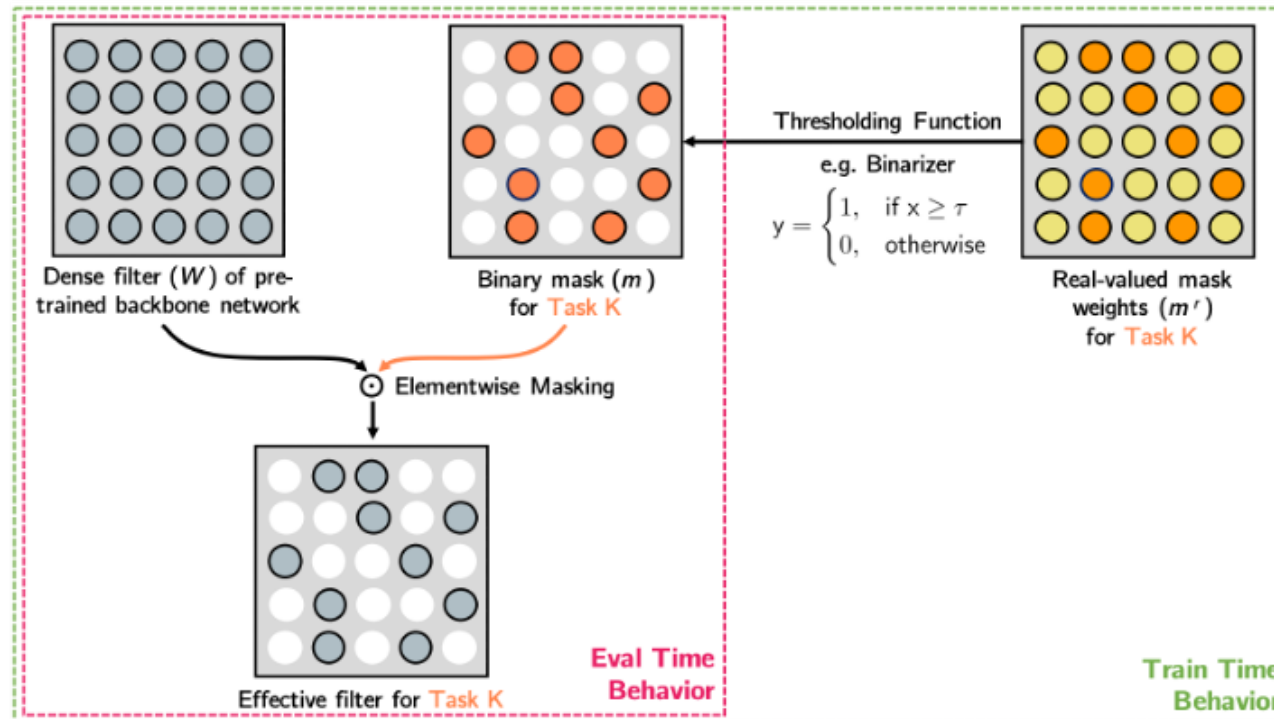


### 3. RELATED WORK - Continual Learning -

- **Piggyback**

[3] Arun et al. Piggyback: Adding multiple tasks to a single, fixed network by learning to mask. ECCV 2018

- Apply the learned weight masks to the weights of the base model to transform the output
- The weight mask is represented by a binary mask, so the number of additional parameters is small





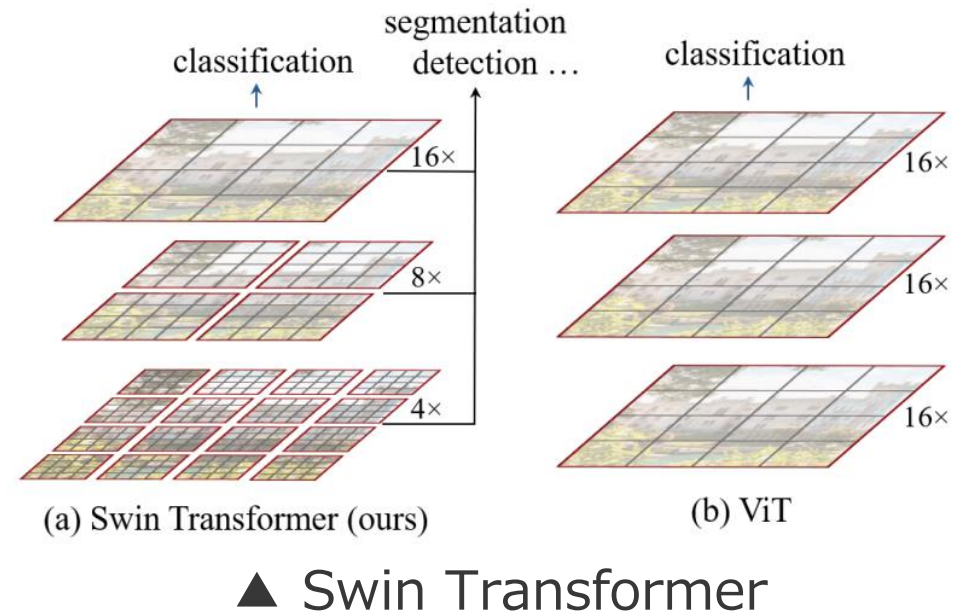
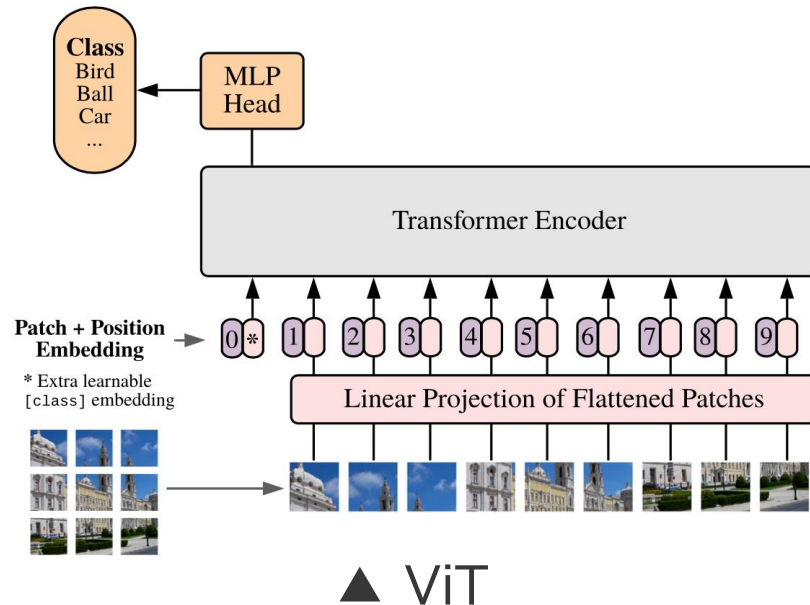
# 3. RELATED WORK - Vision Transformer -

- **ViT**

- [2] Dosovitskiy et al. An Image is Worth 16x16 Words: Transformers for Image Recognition at Scale. ICLR 2021.
  - Method directly applying the standard Transformer to a sequence of image patches

- **Swin Transformer**

- [3] Liu et al. Swin Transformer: Hierarchical Vision Transformer using Shifted Windows. CVPR 2021.
  - A method that solves the problems of ViT, such as limited resolution of object detection and a large number of input patches



# 3. RELATED WORK - Continual Learning in Vision Transformer -

- **DyTox**

[19] Arthur et al. Dytox: Transformers for continual learning with dynamic token expansion. CVPR 2022.

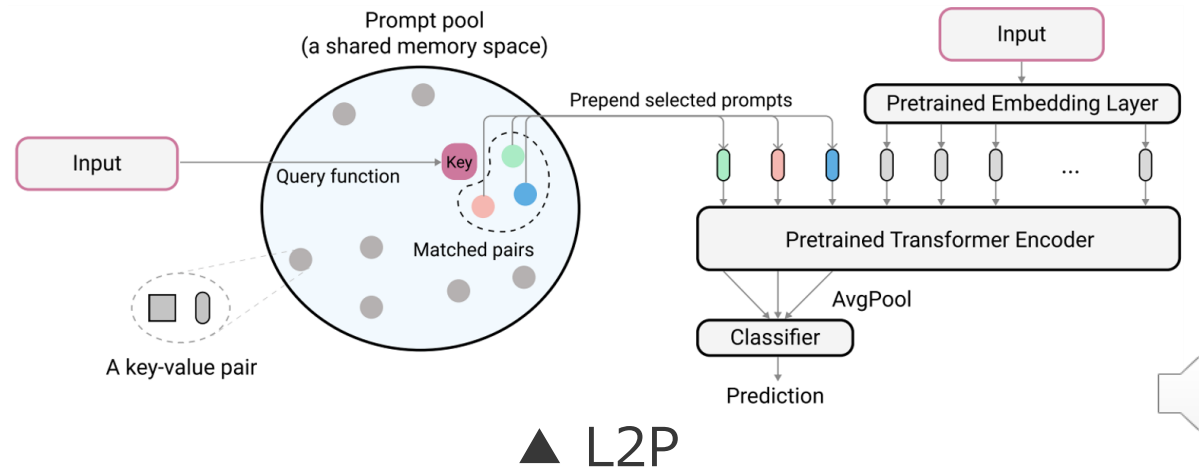
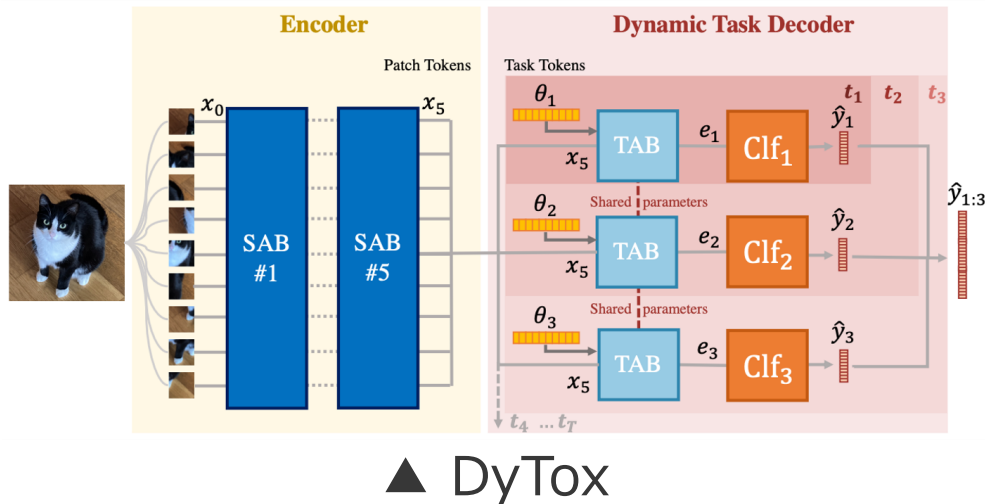
- Use task-specific tokens to generate task-specific embedding

- **Learning to Prompt for Continual Learning (L2P)**

[20] Zifeng et al. Learning to prompt for continual learning. arXiv:2112.08654, 2021.

- Methods for applying prompt learning in the field of natural language processing

- These methods are not comparable because they are class incremental methods



## 4. METHOD - Method Overview -

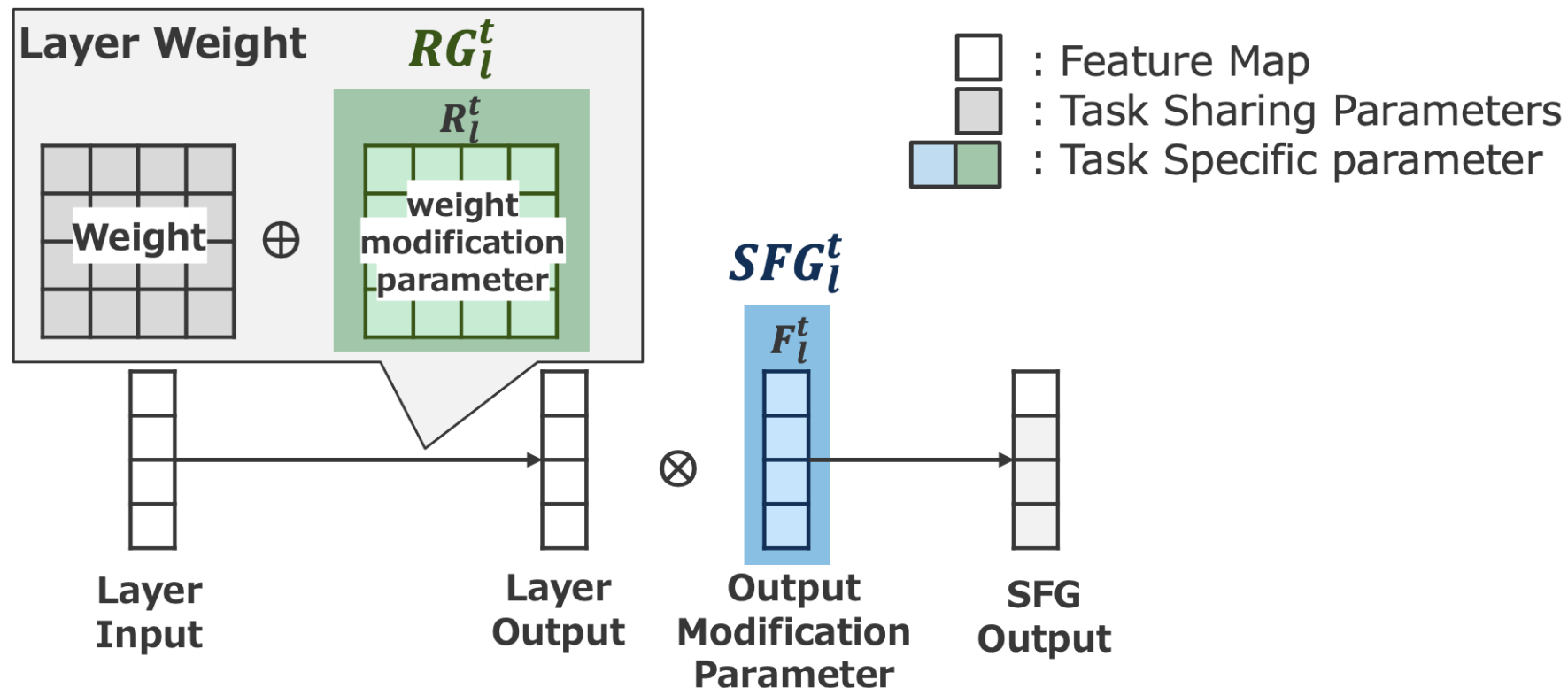
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- In this work, we propose **Mask-RKR** as a method to perform task incremental Continual Learning
- Mask-RKR is a method that applies Piggyback to the base RKR
- Main features of Mask-RKR
  - Adaptation to task by RKR
  - Parameter reduction by Piggyback



## 4. METHOD - Adaptation to task by RKR -

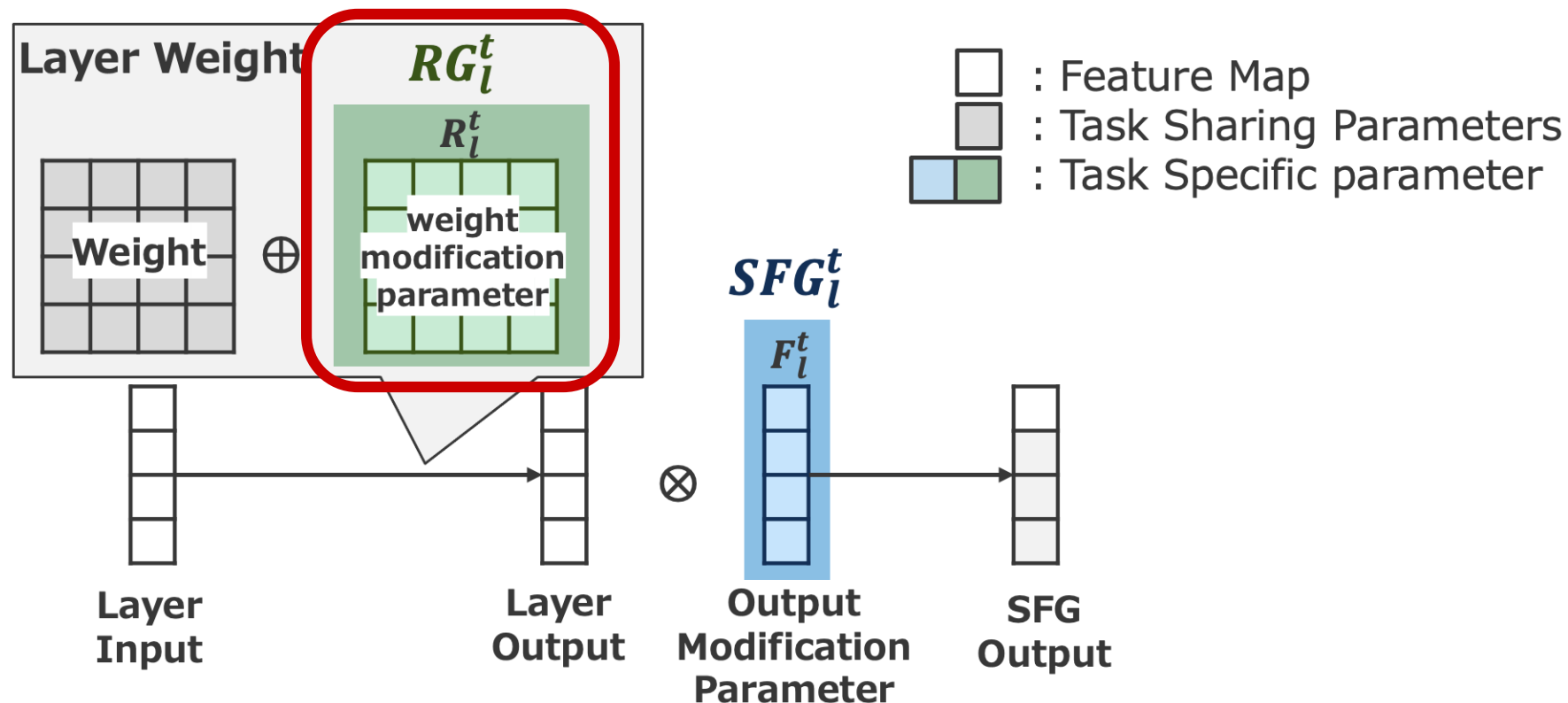
- Mask-RKR adapts the network to each task by using RKR as the base.
- RKR uses two generators, the **Rectification Generator (RG)** and the **Scaling Factor Generator (SFG)**, to modify the weights and intermediate outputs of the network



## 4. METHOD - Adaptation to task by RKR -

### RG Overview(1/2)

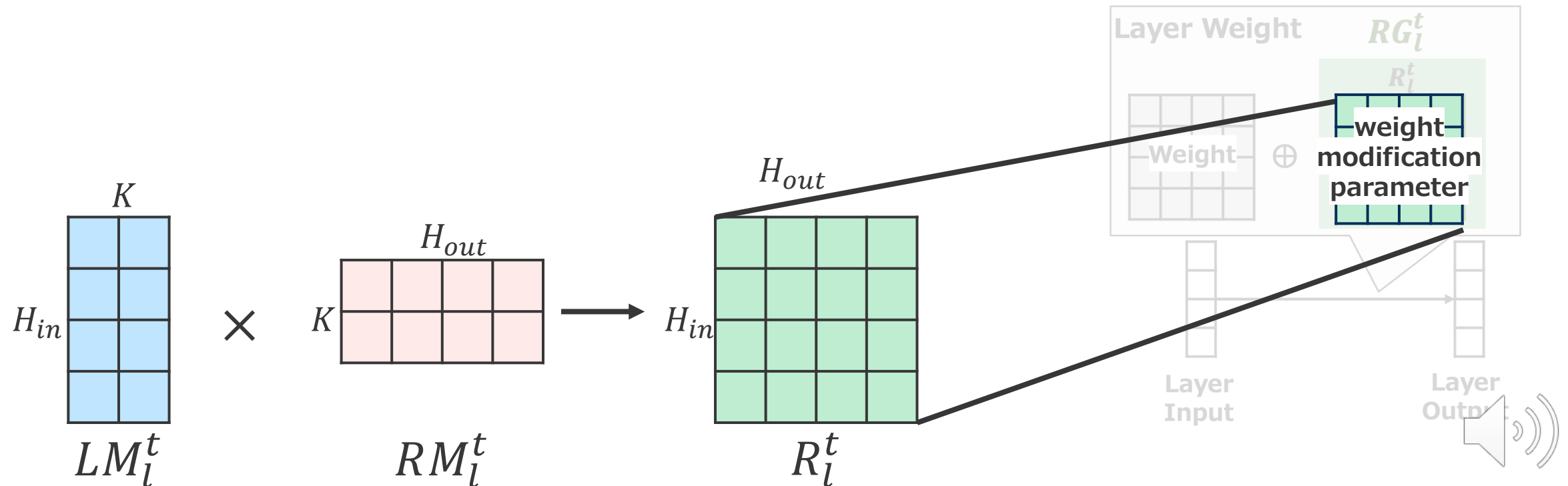
- In RG, task- and layer-specific weight modification parameters are added to the weights of each task and layer that have already been pre-trained on the large data set



## 4. METHOD - Adaptation to task by RKR -

### RG Overview(2/2)

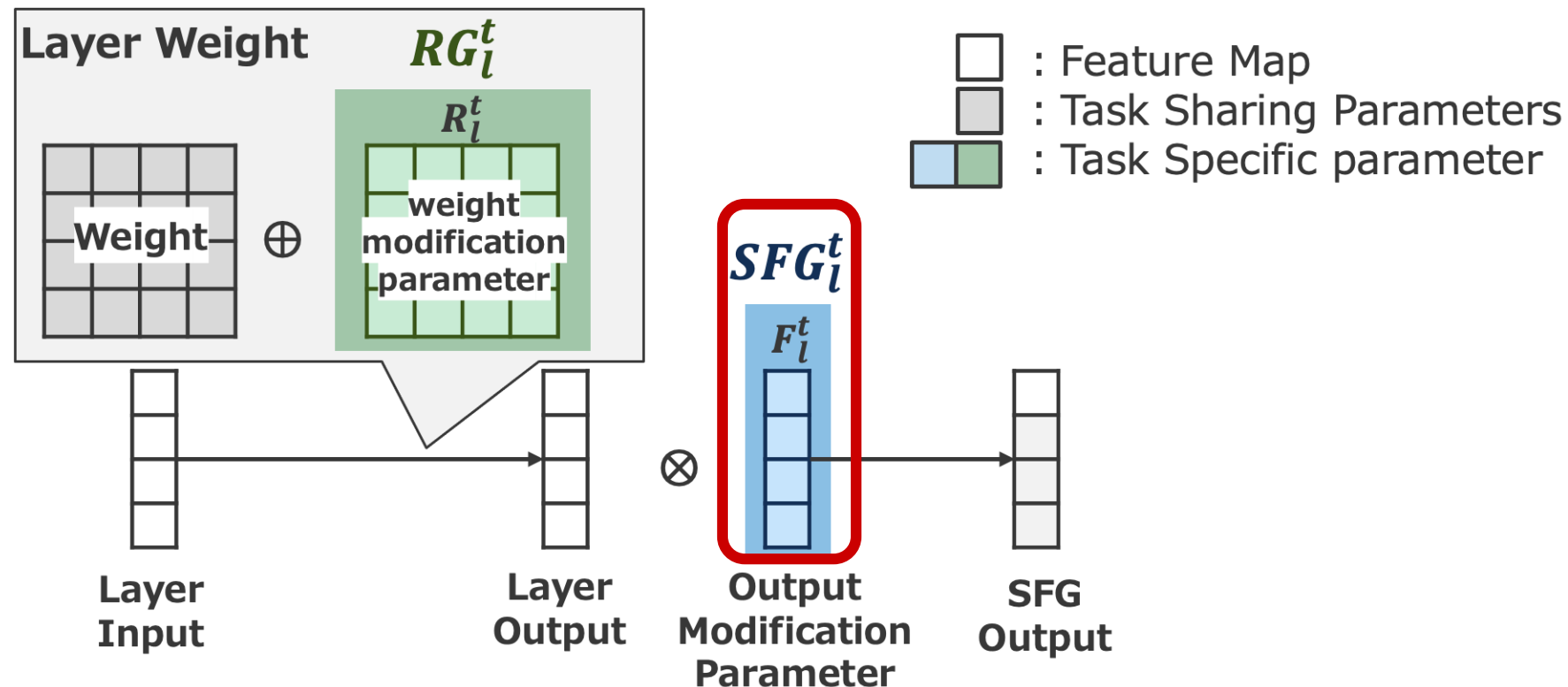
- Parameter reduction with **low-rank approximation**
- Learn two matrices  $LM$  and  $RM$  of small size and use their product to generate parameters for weight modification



## 4. METHOD - Adaptation to task by RKR -

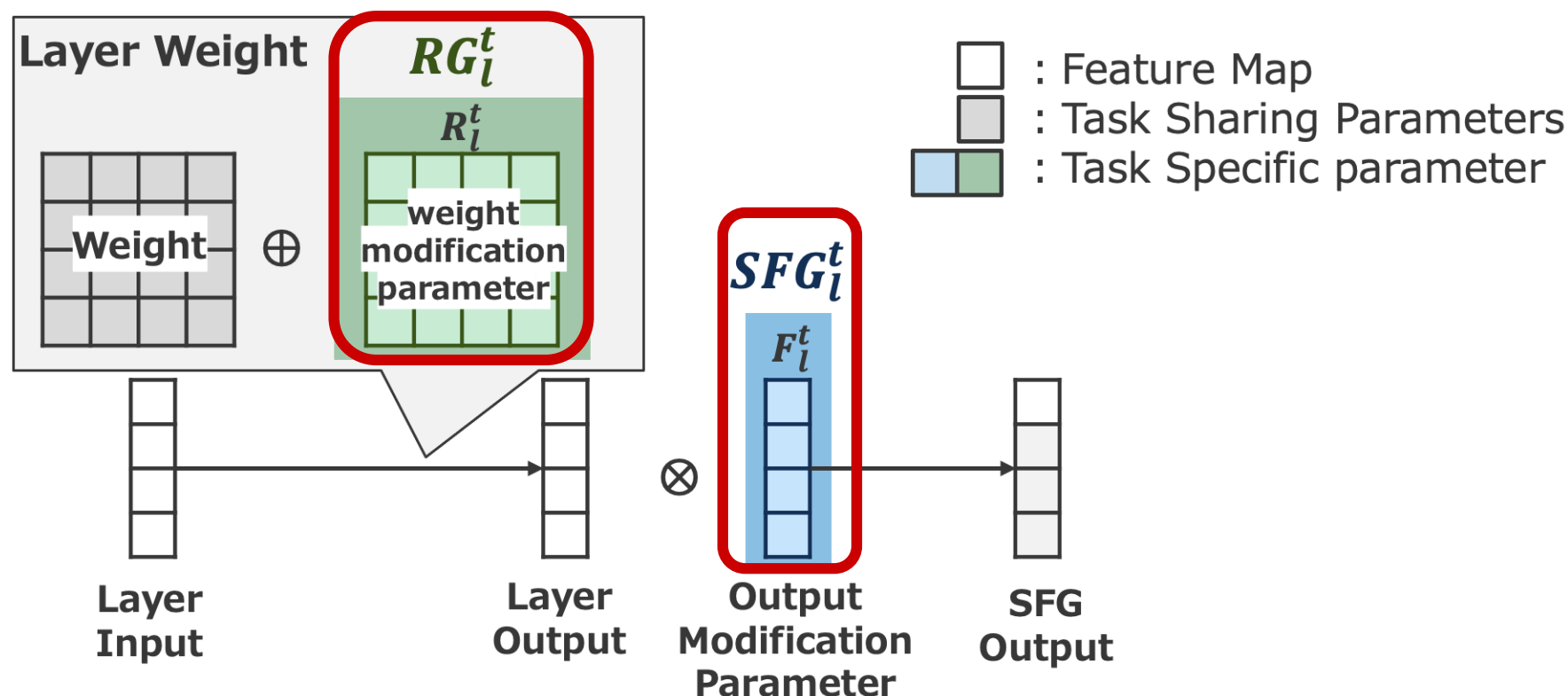
### SFG Overview

- In SFG, the intermediate output of each task and layer is multiplied by the intermediate output modification parameters specific to each task and layer



## 4. METHOD - Parameter reduction by Piggyback -

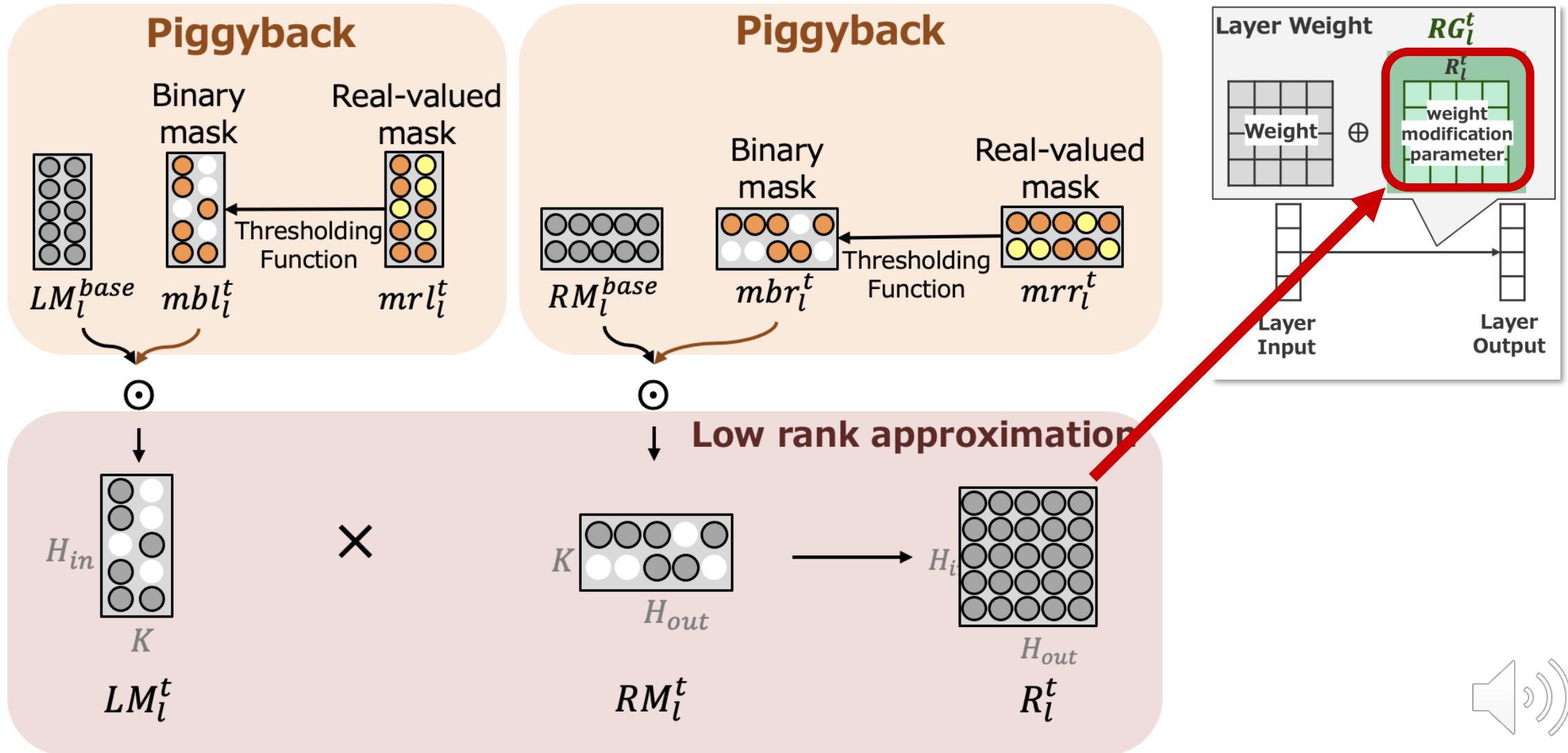
- Piggyback transforms the output by applying a learned weight mask to the base weights
- Mask-RKR further reduces the number of parameters by applying Piggyback to the RKR parameters





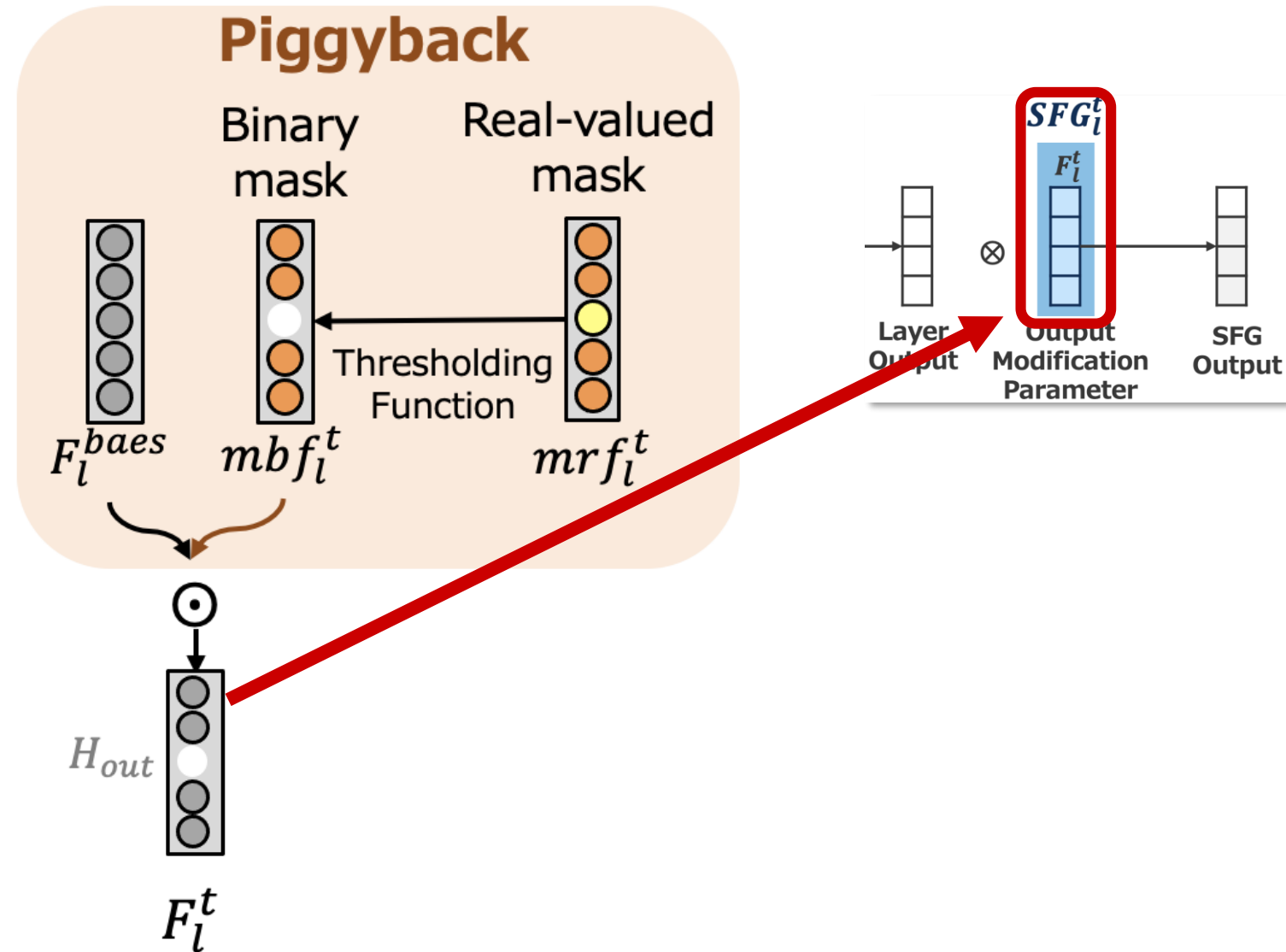
# 4. METHOD - Parameter reduction by Piggyback -

## Parameter reduction in RG



# 4. METHOD - Parameter reduction by Piggyback -

## Parameter reduction in SFG



## 5. COMPARISON WITH BASELINE - Experimental Overview -

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- Experiments were conducted in three Continual Learning settings to verify the performance of Mask-RKR
- Model
  - ResNet-18, ViT, Swin Transformer
- Baseline
  - **Single** : Learning each task with a unique model
  - **Multi Head** : Only the final output layer is replaced for each task
  - **RKR(K=2)** : A method to modify network weights and intermediate outputs for each task
  - **Piggyback** : A method of transforming output by applying learned weight masks
  - Ours
    - **Ours(K=2)** : Mask-RKR of the proposed method
    - **Ours K+** : Mask-RKR with the same number of parameters as "RKR" by adjusting the value of K



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## 5. COMPARISON WITH BASELINE – EX1 : Experiment using CIFAR-100 -

- Using CIFAR-100, which contains 100 classes of plants, animals, equipment, etc.
  - Divided into 10 tasks with 10 classes and studied in sequence  
(Task 1 → Task 2 → ... → Task 10)

| Method \ Model | Ave. Acc     |              |              | Params.[M]           |                      |                     |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|                | ResNet-18    | ViT          | Swin         | ResNet-18            | ViT                  | Swin                |
| Single         | 0.833        | 0.857        | 0.876        | 111.72<br>(+900.00%) | 856.59<br>(+900.00%) | 11.98<br>(+900.00%) |
| Multi Head     | 0.727        | 0.791        | 0.768        | 11.22<br>(+0.41%)    | 85.73<br>(+0.08%)    | 1.22<br>(+1.45%)    |
| RKR(K=2)       | 0.794        | <u>0.843</u> | <u>0.858</u> | 11.74<br>(+5.05%)    | 89.88<br>(+4.92%)    | 1.43<br>(+19.72%)   |
| Piggyback      | <b>0.804</b> | 0.838        | <b>0.875</b> | 14.71<br>(+31.65%)   | 112.27<br>(+31.07%)  | 1.56<br>(+30.29%)   |
| Ours(K=2)      | 0.781        | 0.840        | 0.841        | 11.28<br>(+1.01%)    | 86.26<br>(+0.70%)    | 1.24<br>(+3.79%)    |
| Ours K+        | <u>0.796</u> | <b>0.845</b> | <u>0.858</u> | 11.74<br>(+5.05%)    | 89.87<br>(+4.92%)    | 1.43<br>(+19.56%)   |

## 5. COMPARISON WITH BASELINE – EX1 : Experiment using CIFAR-100 -

- Using CIFAR-100, which contains 100 classes of plants, animals, equipment, etc.
  - Divided into 10 tasks with 10 classes and studied in sequence  
(Task 1 → Task 2 → ... → Task 10)

| Method \ Model | Ave. Acc     |              |              | Params.[M]           |                      |                     |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|                | ResNet-18    | ViT          | Swin         | ResNet-18            | ViT                  | Swin                |
|                |              |              | 0.876        | 111.72<br>(+900.00%) | 856.59<br>(+900.00%) | 11.98<br>(+900.00%) |
|                |              |              | 0.768        | 11.22<br>(+0.41%)    | 85.73<br>(+0.08%)    | 1.22<br>(+1.45%)    |
| RKR            | 0.794        | <u>0.843</u> | <u>0.858</u> | 11.74<br>(+5.05%)    | 89.88<br>(+4.92%)    | 1.43<br>(+19.72%)   |
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| Ours(K=2)      | ↓ 0.781      | ↓ 0.840      | ↓ 0.841      | ↓ 11.28<br>(+1.01%)  | ↓ 86.26<br>(+0.70%)  | ↓ 1.24<br>(+3.79%)  |
| Ours K+        | <u>0.796</u> | <b>0.845</b> | <u>0.858</u> | 11.74<br>(+5.05%)    | 89.87<br>(+4.92%)    | 1.43<br>(+19.56%)   |

**Reduces parameter increase  
but decreases accuracy**

## 5. COMPARISON WITH BASELINE – EX1 : Experiment using CIFAR-100 -

- Using CIFAR-100, which contains 100 classes of plants, animals, equipment, etc.
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| Method \ Model | Ave. Acc       |                |                | Params.[M]           |                      |                     |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|                | ResNet-18      | ViT            | Swin           | ResNet-18            | ViT                  | Swin                |
|                | 0.796          | 0.843          | 0.858          | 111.72<br>(+900.00%) | 856.59<br>(+900.00%) | 11.98<br>(+900.00%) |
| RKR(K=2)       | 0.794          | <u>0.843</u>   | <u>0.858</u>   | 11.22<br>(+0.41%)    | 85.73<br>(+0.08%)    | 1.22<br>(+1.45%)    |
| Piggyback      | <b>0.804</b>   | 0.838          | <b>0.875</b>   | 11.74<br>(+5.05%)    | 89.88<br>(+4.92%)    | 1.43<br>(+19.72%)   |
| Ours(K=2)      | 0.781          | 0.840          | 0.841          | 14.71<br>(+31.65%)   | 112.27<br>(+31.07%)  | 1.56<br>(+30.29%)   |
| Ours K+        | ↑ <u>0.796</u> | ↑ <b>0.845</b> | ↑ <u>0.858</u> | ↓ 11.28<br>(+1.01%)  | ↓ 86.26<br>(+0.70%)  | ↓ 1.24<br>(+3.79%)  |
|                |                |                |                | ↓ 11.74<br>(+5.05%)  | ↓ 89.87<br>(+4.92%)  | ↓ 1.43<br>(+19.56%) |

**Achieves high accuracy while minimizing parameter increases**

## 5. COMPARISON WITH BASELINE – EX2 : Experiment using ImageNet-1k -

- Using ImageNet-1k, a large dataset with 1000 classes
  - Split into 10 tasks with 100 classes and train them in sequence  
(Task 1 → Task 2 → ... → Task 10)

| Method \ Model | Ave. Acc  |         |         | Params.[M]           |                      |                      |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                | ResNet-18 | ViT     | Swin    | ResNet-18            | ViT                  | Swin                 |
| Single         | 0.678     | 0.888   | 0.902   | 112.18<br>(+900.00%) | 858.76<br>(+900.00%) | 868.46<br>(+900.00%) |
| Piggyback      | 0.87      | 0.881   | 0.87    | 11.68<br>(+4.12%)    | 86.57<br>(+0.81%)    | 87.77<br>(+1.06%)    |
|                | 0.92      | 0.881   | 0.87    | 12.20<br>(+8.73%)    | 90.71<br>(+5.64%)    | 92.34<br>(+6.33%)    |
| Ours(K=2)      | 0.440     | 0.881   | 0.805   | 15.17<br>(+35.22%)   | 113.11<br>(+31.71%)  | 113.94<br>(+31.20%)  |
| Ours(K=2)      | 0.557     | 0.879   | 0.870   | 11.75<br>(+4.71%)    | 87.10<br>(+1.42%)    | 88.35<br>(+1.74%)    |
| Ours K+        | ↑ 0.582   | ↑ 0.885 | ↑ 0.894 | ↓ 12.43<br>(+10.83%) | ↓ 90.71<br>(+5.63%)  | ↓ 92.34<br>(+6.28%)  |

**Achieves high accuracy while minimizing parameter increases**



## 5. COMPARISON WITH BASELINE – EX3 : Experiments with different domain datasets -

- Use datasets from different domains

- 5 tasks trained in sequence

(D. Textures → GTSRB → SVHN → UCF101 → VGG-Flower)

| Method \ Model | Ave. Acc  |         |         | Params.[M]           |                      |                      |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                | ResNet-18 | ViT     | Swin    | ResNet-18            | ViT                  | Swin                 |
| Single         | 0.776     | 0.816   | 0.842   | 111.91<br>(+900.00%) | 857.39<br>(+900.00%) | 594.62<br>(+900.00%) |
| Piggyback      | 0.682     | 0.840   | 0.840   | 11.32<br>(+1.17%)    | 85.89<br>(+0.18%)    | 59.59<br>(+0.22%)    |
|                | 0.723     | 0.809   | 0.839   | 11.58<br>(+3.49%)    | 87.97<br>(+2.60%)    | 61.49<br>(+3.41%)    |
| Ours(K=2)      | 0.695     | 0.775   | 0.824   | 13.07<br>(+16.76%)   | 99.16<br>(+15.66%)   | 68.75<br>(+15.62%)   |
| Ours(K+)       | ↓ 0.720   | ↓ 0.778 | ↓ 0.831 | ↓ 11.52<br>(+2.95%)  | ↓ 87.67<br>(+2.25%)  | ↓ 61.30<br>(+3.24%)  |

**Reduces parameter increase  
but decreases accuracy**

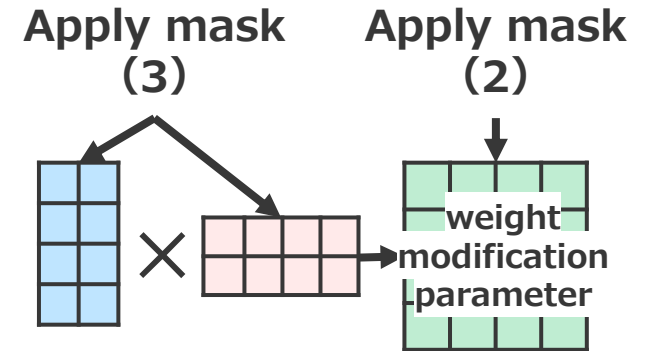
## 6. ABLATION EXPERIMENT - Verification of the usefulness of the mask -

- The usefulness was verified by comparing RG and SFG w/ and w/o applying masks to each.
  - "RG w/ Mask": Apply mask to RG
  - "SFG w/ Mask": Apply mask to SFG
- In this experiment, the model with **Piggyback applied to RG and SFG** with the lowest number of parameters is used

| RG<br>w/ Mask | SFG<br>w/ Mask | Ave. Acc     |              |              | Params.[M]          |                     |                    |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|               |                | ResNet-18    | ViT          | Swin         | ResNet-18           | ViT                 | Swin               |
| x             | x              | <b>0.794</b> | 0.843        | <b>0.858</b> | 11.74<br>(+5.05%)   | 89.88<br>(+4.92%)   | 1.43<br>(+19.72%)  |
| ✓             | x              | 0.780        | <u>0.844</u> | <u>0.846</u> | 11.33<br>(+1.38%)   | 87.07<br>(+1.64%)   | 1.28<br>(+6.59%)   |
| x             | ✓              | <b>0.794</b> | <b>0.845</b> | <b>0.858</b> | 11.69<br>(+4.68%)   | 89.15<br>(+4.08%)   | 1.40<br>(+17.20%)  |
| ✓             | ✓              | <u>0.781</u> | 0.840        | 0.841        | ↓ 11.28<br>(+1.01%) | ↓ 86.26<br>(+0.70%) | ↓ 1.24<br>(+3.79%) |

## 6. ABLATION EXPERIMENT - Verification of Piggyback application locations -

- Verified where masks are applied in RG
  - (1) Not applied
  - (2) Applied to weight modified parameters
  - (3) Applied to low-rank approximated parameters (Mask-RKR)



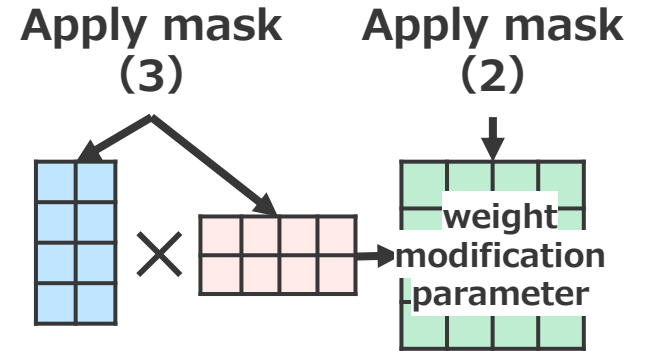
- To reduce the number of parameters, it is more effective to **apply Piggyback to each of LM and RM**

| Method | Ave. Acc     |              |              | Params.[M]         |                     |                   |
|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|        | ResNet-18    | ViT          | Swin         | ResNet-18          | ViT                 | Swin              |
| (1)    | 0.794        | <b>0.845</b> | <b>0.858</b> | 11.69<br>(+4.68%)  | 89.15<br>(+4.08%)   | 1.40<br>(+17.20%) |
| (2)    | <b>0.805</b> | <b>0.845</b> | 0.847        | 14.41<br>(+29.00%) | 110.05<br>(+28.48%) | 1.55<br>(+29.32%) |
| (3)    | 0.781        | 0.840        | 0.841        | 11.28<br>(+1.01%)  | 86.26<br>(+0.70%)   | 1.24<br>(+3.79%)  |



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| Method | Ave. Acc       |                |              | Params.[M]                  |                              |                            |
|--------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
|        | ResNet-18      | ViT            | Swin         | ResNet-18                   | ViT                          | Swin                       |
| (1)    | 0.794          | <b>0.845</b>   | <b>0.858</b> | 11.69<br>(+4.68%)           | 89.15<br>(+4.08%)            | 1.40<br>(+17.20%)          |
| (2)    | ➡ <b>0.805</b> | ➡ <b>0.845</b> | ➡ 0.847      | ↑ <b>14.41</b><br>(+29.00%) | ↑ <b>110.05</b><br>(+28.48%) | ↑ <b>1.55</b><br>(+29.32%) |
| (3)    | 0.781          | 0.840          | 0.841        | ↓ 11.28<br>(+1.01%)         | ↓ 86.26<br>(+0.70%)          | ↓ 1.24<br>(+3.79%)         |



## 7. CONCLUSION

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- We proposed Mask-RKR, a continual learning method that can be applied to both CNN and Vision Transformer
- Experimental results show that Mask-RKR can achieve higher accuracy than conventional methods while minimizing the increase in the number of parameters
- In the future, we would like to improve Mask-RKR to make it flexible enough to handle continuous learning using datasets from different domains



