

PromptKD: Unsupervised Prompt Distillation for Vision-Language Models

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- Problem/Objective
 - CLIP + KD
 - Unsupervised distillation

- Contribution/Key Idea
 - domain-specific prompt-based knowledge distillation
 - reuse pre-stored text features
 - unlabeled로 student모델 학습

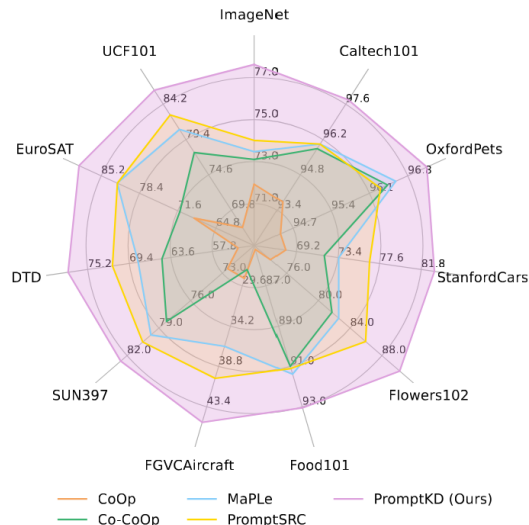


Figure 1. Harmonic mean (HM) comparison on base-to-novel generalization. All methods adopt the **ViT-B/16 image encoder** from the pre-trained CLIP model. PromptKD achieves state-of-the-art performance on 11 diverse recognition datasets.

● Remaining Method

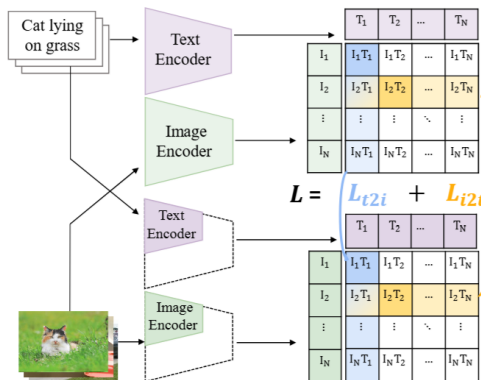




Figure 2. Affinity mimicking for language-image models. The loss includes image-to-text loss (yellow) and text-to-image loss (blue).

TinyCLIP [1]


- 기존 CLIP + KD 연구 → CLIP의 image/text encoder 다시 학습 → Cost ↑
 - → Distillation의 Cost를 줄여보자
- 기존 Prompt 연구 → Hard-to-soft Label로의 전환 등 prompt를 설계/학습
 - → prompt를 distillation 도구로 사용해보자

| Caltech101 | Prompt | Accuracy |
|--|---|--------------|
|  | a [CLASS]. | 82.68 |
| | a photo of [CLASS]. | 80.81 |
| | a photo of a [CLASS]. | 86.29 |
| | [V] ₁ [V] ₂ ... [V] _M [CLASS]. | 91.83 |


(a)

| Describable Textures (DTD) | Prompt | Accuracy |
|--|---|--------------|
|  | a photo of a [CLASS]. | 39.83 |
| | a photo of a [CLASS] texture. | 40.25 |
| | [CLASS] texture. | 42.32 |
| | [V] ₁ [V] ₂ ... [V] _M [CLASS]. | 63.58 |

(c)

| Flowers102 | Prompt | Accuracy |
|---|---|--------------|
|  | a photo of a [CLASS]. | 60.86 |
| | a flower photo of a [CLASS]. | 65.81 |
| | a photo of a [CLASS], a type of flower. | 66.14 |
| | [V] ₁ [V] ₂ ... [V] _M [CLASS]. | 94.51 |

(b)

| EuroSAT | Prompt | Accuracy |
|---|---|--------------|
|  | a photo of a [CLASS]. | 24.17 |
| | a satellite photo of [CLASS]. | 37.46 |
| | a centered satellite photo of [CLASS]. | 37.56 |
| | [V] ₁ [V] ₂ ... [V] _M [CLASS]. | 83.53 |

(d)

Fig. 1 Prompt engineering vs Context Optimization (CoOp). The former needs to use a held-out validation set for words tuning, which is inefficient; the latter automates the process and requires only a few labeled images for learning.

Prompt Learning [2]

• Classic KD vs PromptKD

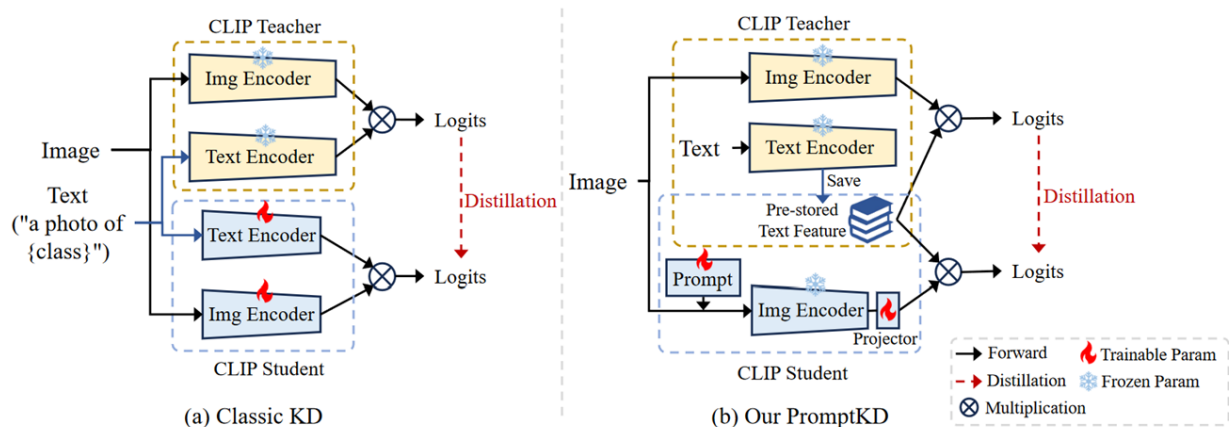
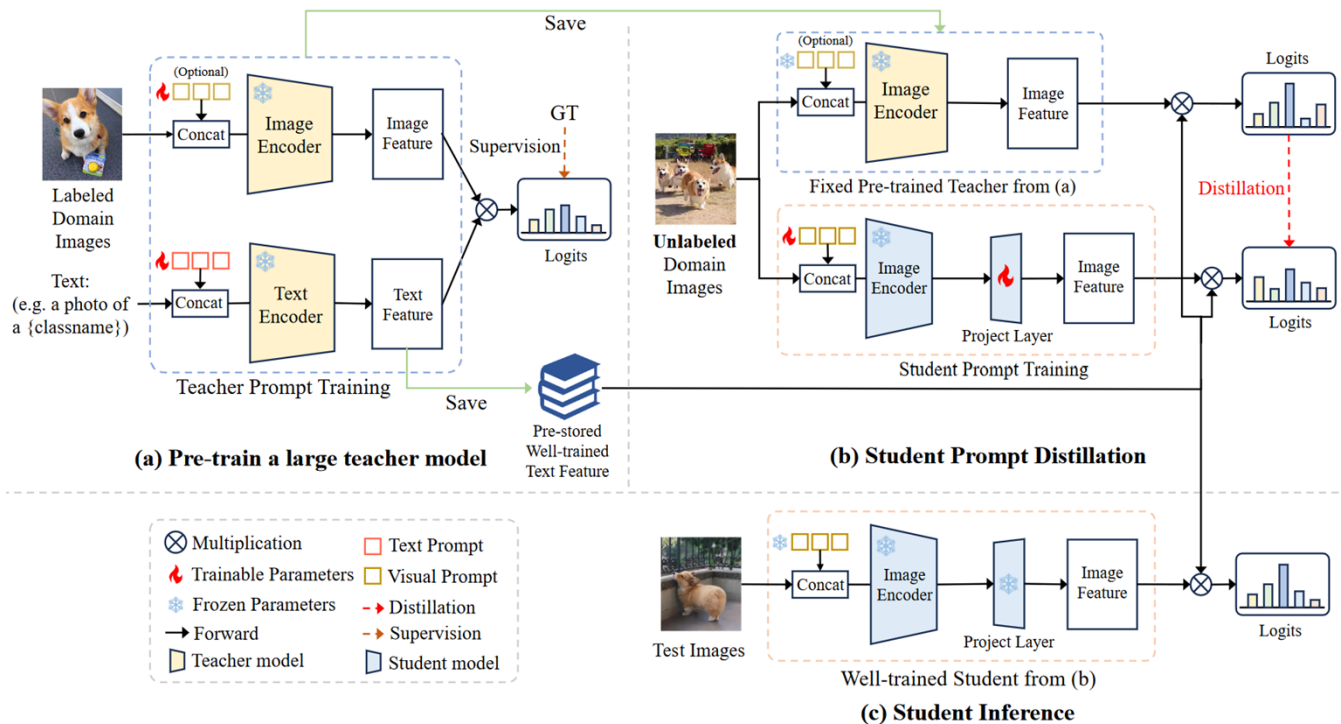


Figure 2. Architecture comparison between classic KD paradigm for CLIP (likewise CLIP-KD [44]) and our prompt distillation framework. (a) Classic KD methods perform distillation between independent teacher and student models. Students are typically fully fine-tuned by teachers' soft labels. (b) PromptKD breaks the rules of teacher-student independence. We propose to reuse the previously well-trained text features from the teacher pre-training stage and incorporate them into the student image encoder for both distillation and inference.

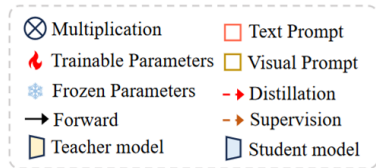
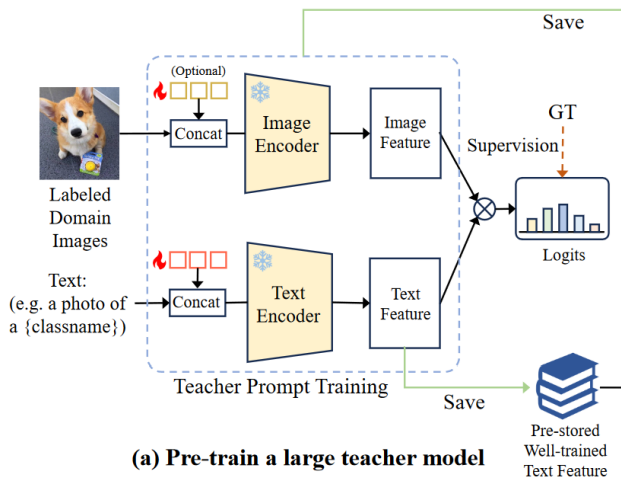
- Cost 감소
 - Unsupervised
 - Text feature saving
- Prompt 활용
 - Img Encoder Frozen → visual prompt + project

Method



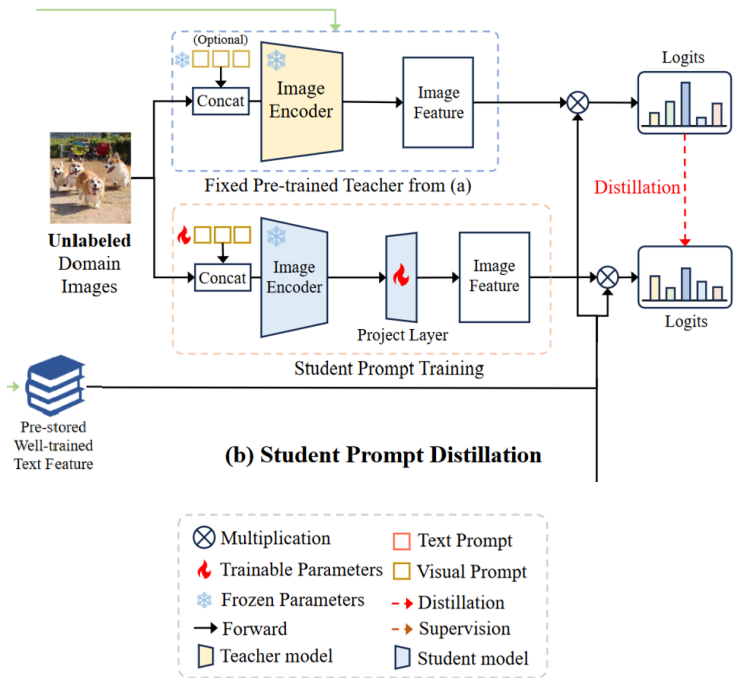
2 Stage Training

Method - Stage 1 (Teacher model Training)



- Large CLIP 모델 → pretrain
- CLIP → (+ domain-specific few-shot fine-tuning) → teacher 완성
 - 16 few-shot 사용
- 각 class 이름 → prompt에 넣어서 class 별 feature vector 추출/저장

Method - Stage 2 (Student prompt distillation)



Frozen Image encoder

- 앞에 visual prompt 학습 (visual soft prompt)
- 뒤에 project layer 학습 (MLP)

Text **Algorithm 1** Pseudocode of PromptKD in PyTorch.

r 사용

```
# tea_t: text encoder of teacher CLIP
# tea_i: image encoder of teacher CLIP
# stu_i: image encoder of student CLIP
# l_tea: teacher output logits
# l_stu: student output logits
# Proj: Feature Projector

# init
f_txt_t = tea_t(txt_of_all_classes)

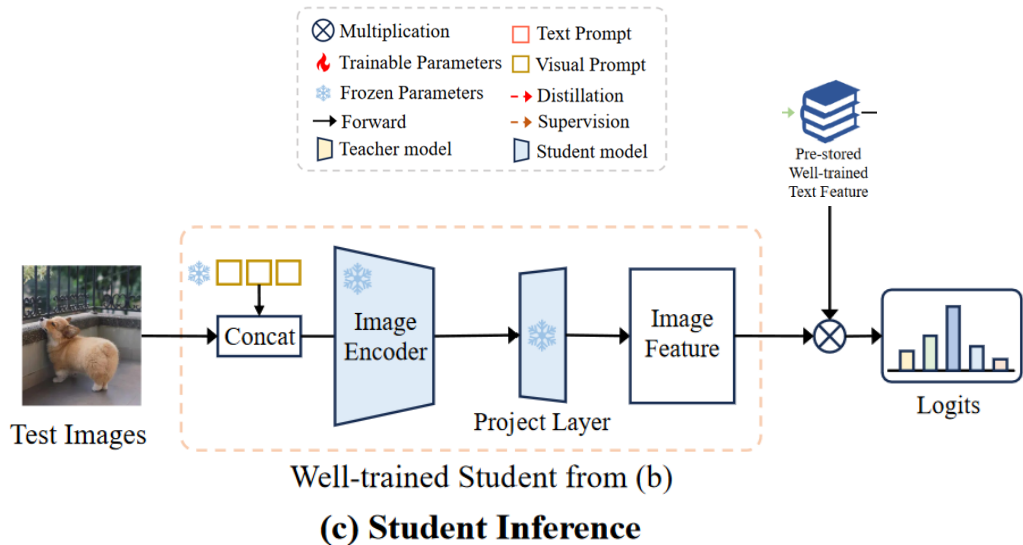
# forward
for img in unlabeled_dataset:
    f_img_t = tea_i(img)
    f_img_s = stu_i(img)

    f_img_s = Proj(f_img_s)

    # get output predictions
    l_tea = f_img_t * f_txt_t.t()
    l_stu = f_img_s * f_txt_t.t()

    # calculate distillation loss
    loss = KLDivergence(l_stu, l_tea)
    loss.backward()
```

• **Method - Stage 3 (Inference)**



● Experiment

| ViT-B/16 | Base | Novel | HM |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 69.34 | 74.22 | 71.70 |
| CoOp | 82.69 | 63.22 | 71.66 |
| CoCoOp | 80.47 | 71.69 | 75.83 |
| MaPLe | 82.28 | 75.14 | 78.55 |
| PromptSRC | 84.26 | 76.10 | 79.97 |
| PromptKD | 86.96 | 80.73 | 83.73 |
| Δ | +2.70 | +4.63 | +3.76 |

(a) Average over 11 datasets.

| ViT-B/16 | Base | Novel | HM |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 91.17 | 97.26 | 94.12 |
| CoOp | 93.67 | 95.29 | 94.47 |
| CoCoOp | 95.20 | 97.69 | 96.43 |
| MaPLe | 95.43 | 97.76 | 96.58 |
| PromptSRC | 95.33 | 97.30 | 96.30 |
| PromptKD | 96.30 | 98.01 | 97.15 |
| Δ | +0.97 | +0.71 | +0.85 |

(d) OxfordPets

| ViT-B/16 | Base | Novel | HM |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 90.10 | 91.22 | 90.66 |
| CoOp | 88.33 | 82.26 | 85.19 |
| CoCoOp | 90.70 | 91.29 | 90.99 |
| MaPLe | 90.71 | 92.05 | 91.38 |
| PromptSRC | 90.67 | 91.53 | 91.10 |
| PromptKD | 92.43 | 93.68 | 93.05 |
| Δ | +1.76 | +2.15 | +1.95 |

(g) Food101

| ViT-B/16 | Base | Novel | HM |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 53.24 | 59.90 | 56.37 |
| CoOp | 79.44 | 41.18 | 54.24 |
| CoCoOp | 77.01 | 56.00 | 64.85 |
| MaPLe | 80.36 | 59.18 | 68.16 |
| PromptSRC | 83.37 | 62.97 | 71.75 |
| PromptKD | 85.84 | 71.37 | 77.94 |
| Δ | +2.47 | +8.40 | +6.19 |

(j) DTD

| ViT-B/16 | Base | Novel | HM |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 72.43 | 68.14 | 70.22 |
| CoOp | 76.47 | 67.88 | 71.92 |
| CoCoOp | 75.98 | 70.43 | 73.10 |
| MaPLe | 76.66 | 70.54 | 73.47 |
| PromptSRC | 77.60 | 70.73 | 74.01 |
| PromptKD | 80.83 | 74.66 | 77.62 |
| Δ | +3.23 | +3.93 | +3.61 |

(b) ImageNet

| ViT-B/16 | Base | Novel | HM |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 63.37 | 74.89 | 68.65 |
| CoOp | 78.12 | 60.40 | 68.13 |
| CoCoOp | 70.49 | 73.59 | 72.01 |
| MaPLe | 72.94 | 74.00 | 73.47 |
| PromptSRC | 78.27 | 74.97 | 76.58 |
| PromptKD | 82.80 | 83.37 | 83.13 |
| Δ | +4.53 | +8.40 | +6.55 |

(e) StanfordCars

| ViT-B/16 | Base | Novel | HM |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 27.19 | 36.29 | 31.09 |
| CoOp | 40.44 | 22.30 | 28.75 |
| CoCoOp | 33.41 | 23.71 | 27.74 |
| MaPLe | 37.44 | 35.61 | 36.50 |
| PromptSRC | 42.73 | 37.87 | 40.15 |
| PromptKD | 49.12 | 41.81 | 45.17 |
| Δ | +6.39 | +3.94 | +5.02 |

(h) FGVC Aircraft

| ViT-B/16 | Base | Novel | HM |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 56.48 | 64.05 | 60.03 |
| CoOp | 92.19 | 54.74 | 68.69 |
| CoCoOp | 87.49 | 60.04 | 71.21 |
| MaPLe | 94.07 | 73.23 | 82.35 |
| PromptSRC | 92.90 | 73.90 | 82.32 |
| PromptKD | 97.54 | 82.08 | 89.14 |
| Δ | +4.64 | +8.18 | +6.82 |

(k) EuroSAT

| ViT-B/16 | Base | Novel | HM |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 96.84 | 94.00 | 95.40 |
| CoOp | 98.00 | 89.81 | 93.73 |
| CoCoOp | 97.96 | 93.81 | 95.84 |
| MaPLe | 97.74 | 94.36 | 96.02 |
| PromptSRC | 98.10 | 94.03 | 96.02 |
| PromptKD | 98.91 | 96.65 | 97.77 |
| Δ | +0.81 | +2.62 | +1.75 |

(c) Caltech101

| ViT-B/16 | Base | Novel | HM |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 72.08 | 77.80 | 74.83 |
| CoOp | 97.60 | 59.67 | 74.06 |
| CoCoOp | 94.87 | 71.75 | 81.71 |
| MaPLe | 95.92 | 72.46 | 82.56 |
| PromptSRC | 98.07 | 76.50 | 85.95 |
| PromptKD | 99.42 | 82.62 | 90.24 |
| Δ | +1.35 | +6.12 | +4.29 |

(f) Flowers102

| ViT-B/16 | Base | Novel | HM |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 69.36 | 75.35 | 72.23 |
| CoOp | 80.60 | 65.89 | 72.51 |
| CoCoOp | 79.74 | 76.86 | 78.27 |
| MaPLe | 80.82 | 78.70 | 79.75 |
| PromptSRC | 82.67 | 78.47 | 80.52 |
| PromptKD | 83.69 | 81.54 | 82.60 |
| Δ | +1.02 | +3.07 | +2.08 |

(i) SUN397

| ViT-B/16 | Base | Novel | HM |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 70.53 | 77.50 | 73.85 |
| CoOp | 84.69 | 56.05 | 67.46 |
| CoCoOp | 82.33 | 73.45 | 77.64 |
| MaPLe | 83.00 | 78.66 | 80.77 |
| PromptSRC | 87.10 | 78.80 | 82.74 |
| PromptKD | 89.71 | 82.27 | 86.10 |
| Δ | +2.61 | +3.47 | +3.36 |

(l) UCF101

$$HM = \frac{2 \cdot \text{Base} \cdot \text{Novel}}{\text{Base} + \text{Novel}}$$

- Experiment

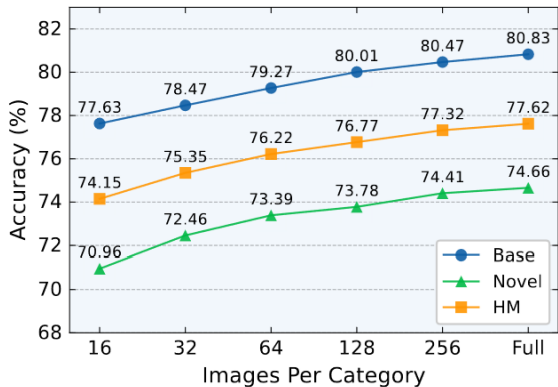


Figure 4. Improved ImageNet classification accuracy of the student model with increasing numbers of unlabeled images per category used for distillation.

- Unlabeled 수 많을수록 good, 일정해짐

• Experiment

| ZSL | ViT-B/16 | Target Dataset | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Caltech 101 | Oxford Pets | Stanford Cars | Flowers 102 | Food101 | FGVC Aircraft | SUN397 | DTD | Euro SAT | UCF101 | Avg. |
| Inductive | CoOp | 93.70 | 89.14 | 64.51 | 68.71 | 85.30 | 18.47 | 64.15 | 41.92 | 46.39 | 66.55 | 63.88 |
| | CoCoOp | 94.43 | 90.14 | 65.32 | 71.88 | 86.06 | 22.94 | 67.36 | 45.73 | 45.37 | 68.21 | 65.74 |
| | MaPLe | 93.53 | 90.49 | 65.57 | 72.23 | 86.20 | 24.74 | 67.01 | 46.49 | 48.06 | 68.69 | 66.30 |
| | PromptSRC | 93.60 | 90.25 | 65.70 | 70.25 | 86.15 | 23.90 | 67.10 | 46.87 | 45.50 | 68.75 | 65.81 |
| Transductive | PromptKD | 93.61 | 91.59 | 73.93 | 75.33 | 88.84 | 26.24 | 68.57 | 55.08 | 63.74 | 76.39 | 71.33 |
| | Δ | +0.01 | +1.34 | +8.23 | +5.08 | +2.69 | +2.34 | +1.47 | +8.21 | +18.24 | +7.64 | +5.52 |

Table 2. Comparison of PromptKD with existing advanced approaches on cross-dataset benchmark evaluation. Based on our pipeline, we perform unsupervised prompt distillation using the unlabeled domain data respectively (i.e., the transductive setting). The source model is trained on ImageNet [4]. “ZSL” denotes the setting type for Zero-Shot Learning. PromptKD achieves better results on 9 of 10 datasets.

- 도메인 간 Generalization 성능 평가, Source : ImageNet → Target : Each Dataset
- Inductive
 - 모델 학습때 **unlabeled test 데이터** x
- Transductive
 - 모델 학습때 **test 도메인 데이터** 이용

• Experiment

| Method | Domain Data | Base | Novel | HM |
|--------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | Zero-shot | 72.08 | 77.80 | 74.83 |
| PromptSRC | Few-shot | 98.07 | 76.50 | 85.95 |
| CLIP-PR [13] | Unlabeled | 65.05 | 71.13 | 67.96 |
| UPL [9] | | 74.83 | 78.04 | 76.40 |
| LaFTer [27] | | 79.49 | 82.91 | 81.16 |
| FPL [26] | Few-shot | 97.60 | 78.27 | 86.87 |
| IFPL [26] | | 97.73 | 80.27 | 88.14 |
| GRIP [26] | | 97.83 | 80.87 | 88.54 |
| PromptKD | Unlabeled | 99.42 | 82.62 | 90.24 |
| Δ | | +1.59 | +1.75 | +1.70 |

Table 3. Comparison with existing works using unlabeled data on Flowers102. Our method performs better than previous methods.

| Method | Base | Novel | HM |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| CLIP | 72.43 | 68.14 | 70.22 |
| Projector Only | 78.48 | 72.79 | 75.53 |
| Full Fine-tune | 75.90 | 70.95 | 73.34 |
| w/o Shared Text Feature | 78.79 | 73.37 | 75.98 |
| PromptKD | 79.27 | 73.39 | 76.22 |

Table 5. Ablation study of different distillation ways.

• Experiment

| Role (Method) | Img Backbone | Base | Novel | HM |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| CLIP | ViT-B/16 | 72.43 | 68.14 | 70.22 |
| PromptSRC | ViT-B/16 | 77.60 | 70.73 | 74.01 |
| Teacher (CLIP) | ViT-L/14 | 79.18 | 74.03 | 76.52 |
| Student | ViT-B/16 | 76.53 | 72.58 | 74.50 |
| Teacher (MaPLe) | ViT-L/14 | 82.79 | 76.88 | 79.73 |
| Student | ViT-B/16 | 78.43 | 73.61 | 75.95 |
| Teacher (PromptSRC) | ViT-L/14 | 83.24 | 76.83 | 79.91 |
| Student | ViT-B/16 | 79.27 | 73.39 | 76.22 |

Table 6. Comparison of different pre-training methods. Teacher pre-training with PromptSRC brings the best student performance.

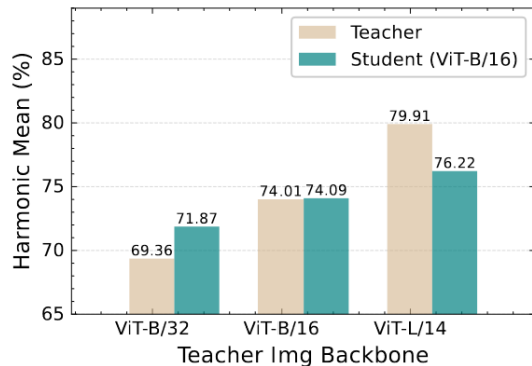


Figure 5. Comparison of distillation results for teachers with different capacities. Better teachers lead to better performance.

- 좋은 모델을 teacher에 사용 → 좋은 result

- 좋은 backbone 사용 → 좋은 result

- **Experiment**

| Method | GFLOPs (test) | FPS | HM |
|-----------|---------------|-------|-------|
| CoOp | 162.5 | 1344 | 71.66 |
| CoCoOp | 162.5 | 15.08 | 75.83 |
| PromptSRC | 162.8 | 1380 | 79.97 |
| PromptKD | 42.5 | 1710 | 83.73 |

Table 7. Comparison of computation costs among existing methods on the SUN397 dataset. Our PromptKD is more efficient than previous methods during testing.

- PromptKD는 test-time에서 매우 가볍고 빠르며 성능도 좋다