



# **An Image is worth 16x16 words: Transformer for image recognition at scale**

*By Alexey Dosovitskiy*

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Representations (ICLR) in 2021**

# Outline

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**1 Motivation of the paper**

**2 Method**

**3 Experiment and Result**

**4 Conclusion**

**5 Discussion**

# Motivation

Motivation



## 1 Limitations of CNNs

- Computationally intensive

## 2 Success of transformer in NLP tasks

- Breakthrough performance in NLP
- Motivate to apply transformer to solve visual problem

## 3 Explore the use of transformer in visual tasks

- Pure transformer has not been applied to visual tasks before
- Only self-attention mechanism has been integrated



# Method

Method



- 1 Construct a Vision Transformer model (ViT)
  - By passing patches of image as an input for the transformer
- 2 Build other models for comparison on image classification tasks

## Modified CNN (BiT)

- Built on **ResNet** architecture
- **Baseline model** for comparison

## Vision Transformer (ViT)

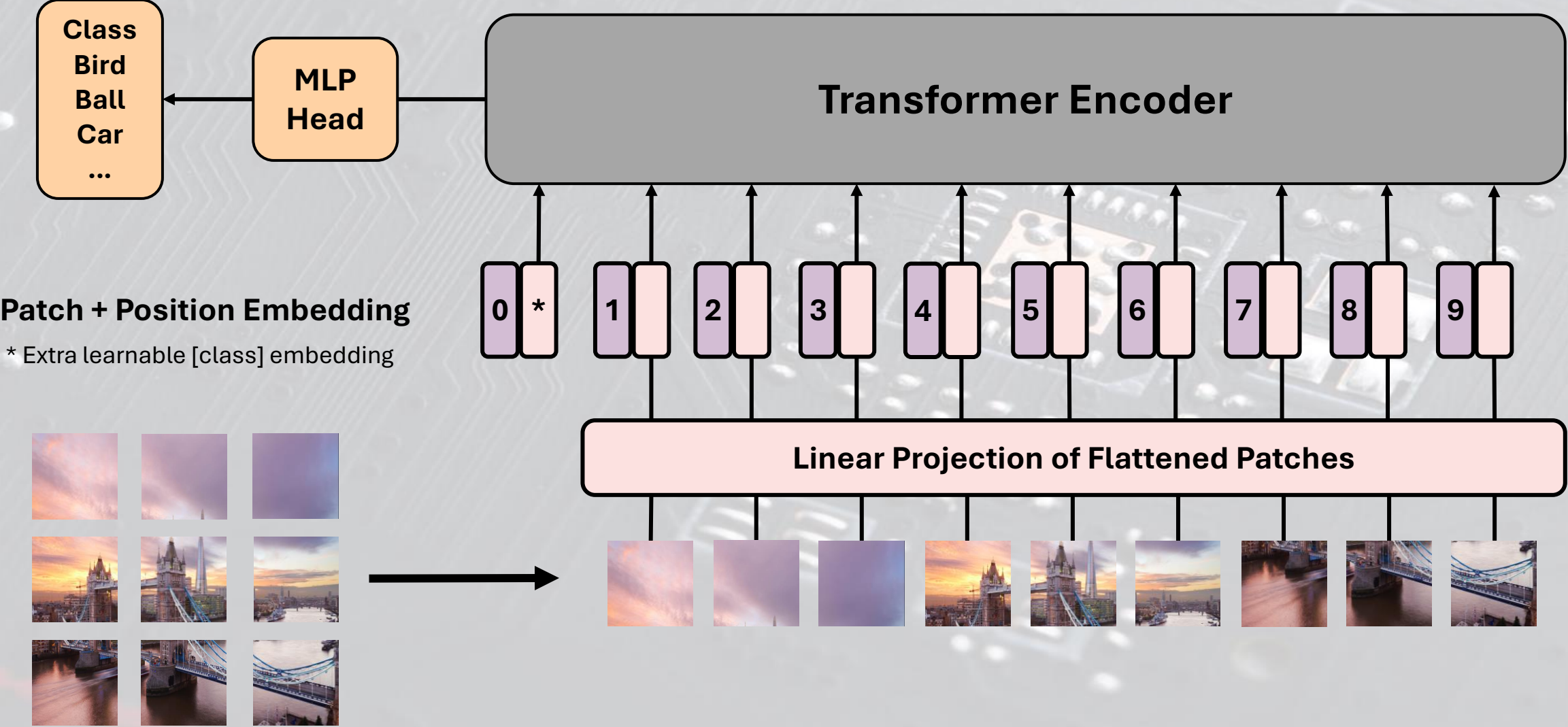
- **ViT-Base** – denoted as ViT-B
- **ViT-Large** – denoted as ViT-L
- **ViT-Huge** – denoted as ViT-H

## Hybrid Vision Transformer

- Use CNN to **extract feature**
- **Feed extracted features** to ViT

# Vision Transformer

Method  
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# Vision Transformer

Method



## Input Image

- **Original size:** 48x48
- **Number of patches:** 9
- **Patch size:** 16x16
- Arrange patches in order, from left to right and top to bottom





# Vision Transformer

Method



## Input Image

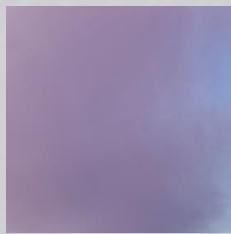
- **Original size:** 48x48
- **Number of patches:** 9
- **Patch size:** 16x16
- Arrange patches in order, from left to right and top to bottom



1



2



3



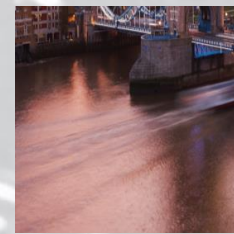
4



5



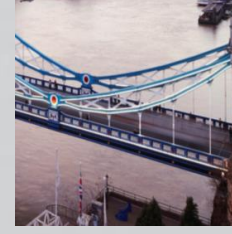
6



7



8



9

# Vision Transformer

Method



## Flattening Patches

- **Grayscale:** Each patch will become a vector with a size of  $(16 \times 16 \times 1) = 256$
- **RGB:** Each patch will become a vector with a size of  $(16 \times 16 \times 3) = 768$





# Vision Transformer

Method



## Linear Projection

- Each vector will be transformed into “**Embedded vector**” by multiplying it with **weight matrix**
- Weight matrix has size (**length of vector, embedding dimension**)
- Where each weight is **trainable**, and embedding dimension is **hyperparameter**

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} [\text{.....}] & & \begin{array}{c} [\text{.....}] \\ [\text{.....}] \\ \vdots \\ [\text{.....}] \end{array} & = & [\text{.....}] \\ \text{Patch Vector} & \times & \text{Weight Matrix} & & \text{Embedded Vector} \\ (1 \times 768) & & (768 \times d) & & (1 \times d) \end{array}$$

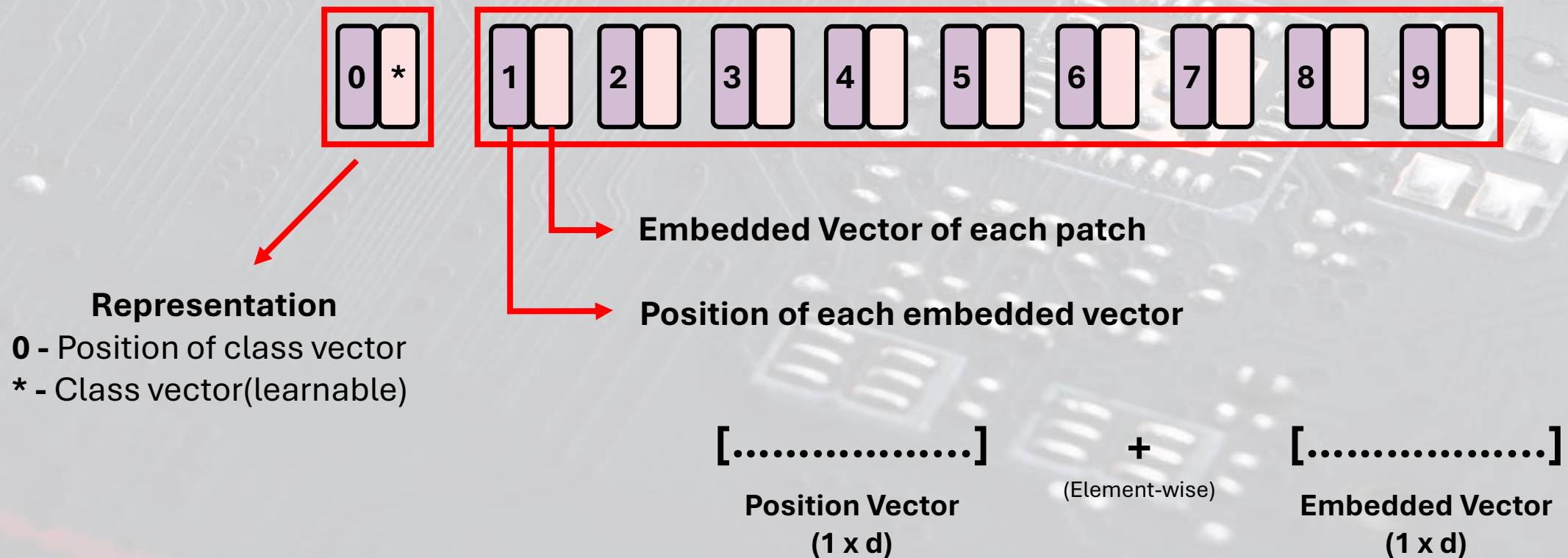
# Vision Transformer

Method



## Patch and Position Embedding

- Embedding class and position of class
- Embedding position for each embedded vector



# Vision Transformer

Method



## Transformer Encoder

- Each embedded vector with embedded position will be passed through the encoder individually

## Main Components

### 1 Multi-Head Attention

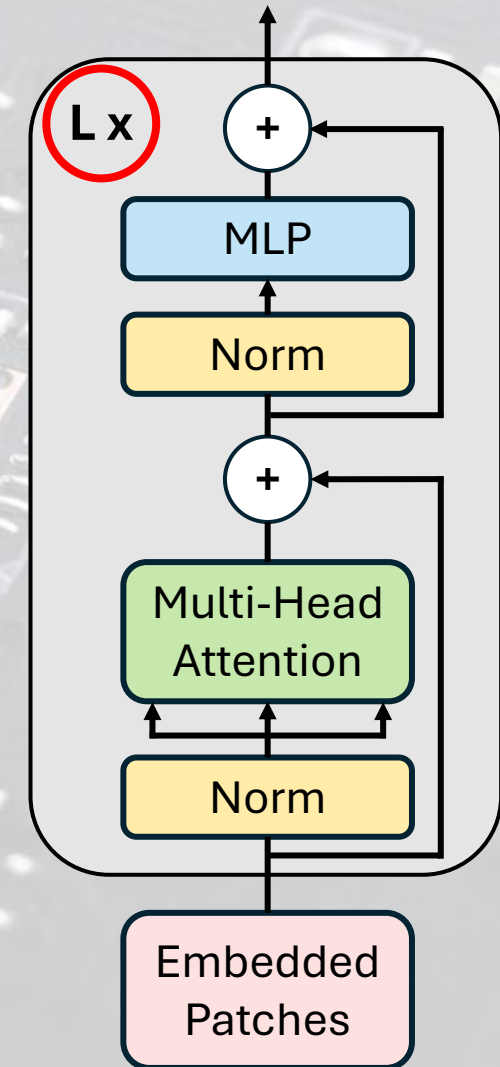
- Process input in parallel
- To capture complex relationship between data

### 2 MLP

- Apply non-linear transformation to the data

### 3 Layer of transformer ( $L \times$ )

- Number of identical encoders stacked on top of each other





# Vision Transformer

Method



Model	Layers	Hidden size D	MLP size	Heads	Params
ViT-Base	12	768	3072	12	86M
ViT-Large	24	1024	4096	16	307M
ViT-Huge	32	1280	5120	16	632M

## 1 Layers

- Number of identical encoders stacked on top of each other in the encoder block

## 2 Hidden size D

- Number of dimension used in linear projection

## 3 MLP size

- The size of MLP in the encoder

## 4 Heads

- Number of multi-head attention used in each encoder

## 5 Params

- Total number of trainable parameters in the vision transformer model

# Experiment

Experiment



## Experiment 1: Image classification tasks on various dataset

### Models

Name	Type	Trained on (dataset)	Patch size	CNN architecture
ViT-H/14(JFT)	Vision transformer	JFT-300M	14	-
ViT-L/16(JFT)	Vision transformer	JFT-300M	16	-
ViT-L/16(I21k)	Vision transformer	ImageNet – 21k	16	-
BiT-L	CNN	-	-	ResNet152
Noisy Student	CNN	-	-	EfficientNet-L2

# Result

Experiment



## Experiment 1: Image classification tasks on various dataset

### Result

	Ours-JFT (ViT-H/14)	Ours-JFT (ViT-L/16)	Ours-I21k (ViT-L/16)	BiT-L (ResNet152x4)	Noisy Student (EfficientNet-L2)
ImageNet	<b>88.55</b> $\pm 0.04$	87.76 $\pm 0.03$	85.30 $\pm 0.02$	87.54 $\pm 0.02$	88.4/88.5*
ImageNet ReaL	<b>90.72</b> $\pm 0.05$	90.54 $\pm 0.03$	88.62 $\pm 0.05$	90.54	90.55
CIFAR-10	<b>99.50</b> $\pm 0.06$	99.42 $\pm 0.03$	99.15 $\pm 0.03$	99.37 $\pm 0.06$	—
CIFAR-100	<b>94.55</b> $\pm 0.04$	93.90 $\pm 0.05$	93.25 $\pm 0.05$	93.51 $\pm 0.08$	—
Oxford-IIIT Pets	<b>97.56</b> $\pm 0.03$	97.32 $\pm 0.11$	94.67 $\pm 0.15$	96.62 $\pm 0.23$	—
Oxford Flowers-102	99.68 $\pm 0.02$	<b>99.74</b> $\pm 0.00$	99.61 $\pm 0.02$	99.63 $\pm 0.03$	—
VTAB (19 tasks)	<b>77.63</b> $\pm 0.23$	76.28 $\pm 0.46$	72.72 $\pm 0.21$	76.29 $\pm 1.70$	—
TPUv3-core-days	2.5k	0.68k	0.23k	9.9k	12.3k



# Experiment

Experiment



## Experiment 2: Using different pre-trained dataset

### Models

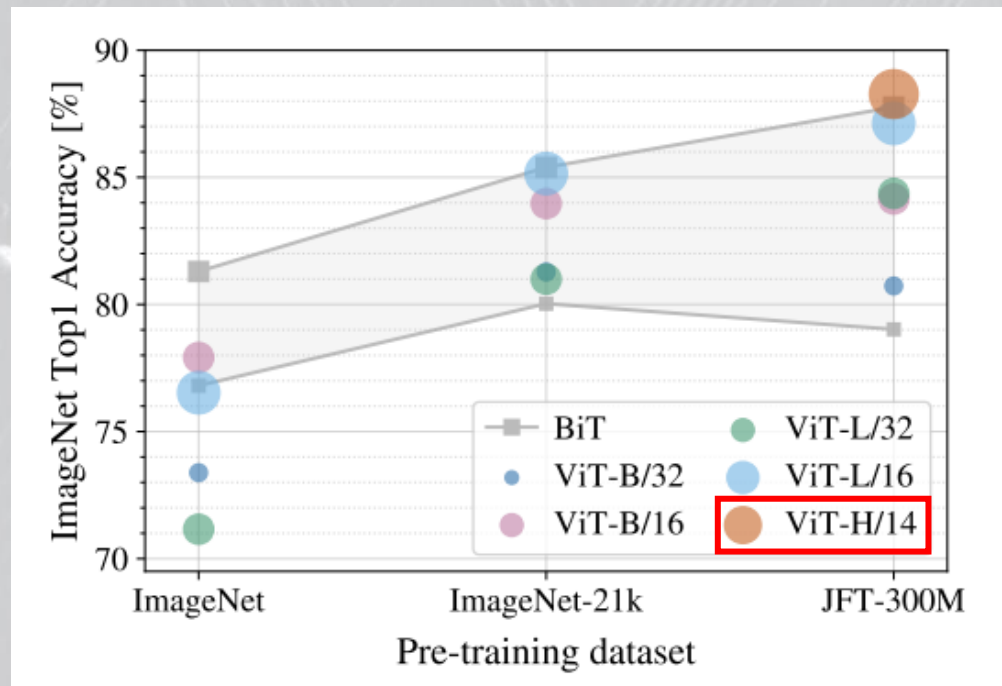
Name	Type	Patch size	CNN architecture
ViT-H/14	Vision transformer	14	-
ViT-L/16	Vision transformer	16	-
ViT-L/32	Vision transformer	32	-
ViT-B/16	Vision transformer	16	-
ViT-B/32	Vision transformer	32	-
BiT	CNN	-	ResNet152

# Result

Experiment  
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## Experiment 2: Using different pre-trained dataset

### Result



**ImageNet**  
• Images – 1.2M  
• Classes – 1k

**ImageNet-21k**  
• Images - 14M  
• Classes – 21k

**JFT-300M**  
• Images - 300M  
• Classes – 18k

***“ Vision transformer performs better when being trained on a larger dataset ”***

*\*Test the accuracy on ImageNet dataset*

# Experiment

Experiment



**Experiment 3:** Using the same pre-trained dataset, but different sample size

## Models

Name	Type	Hidden dimension	Patch size	CNN architecture
ViT-L/16	Vision transformer	1024	16	-
ViT-L/32	Vision transformer	1024	32	-
ViT-B/32	Vision transformer	768	16	-
ViT-b/32	Vision transformer	384	32	-
BiT	CNN	-	-	ResNet152
BiT	CNN	-	-	ResNet50

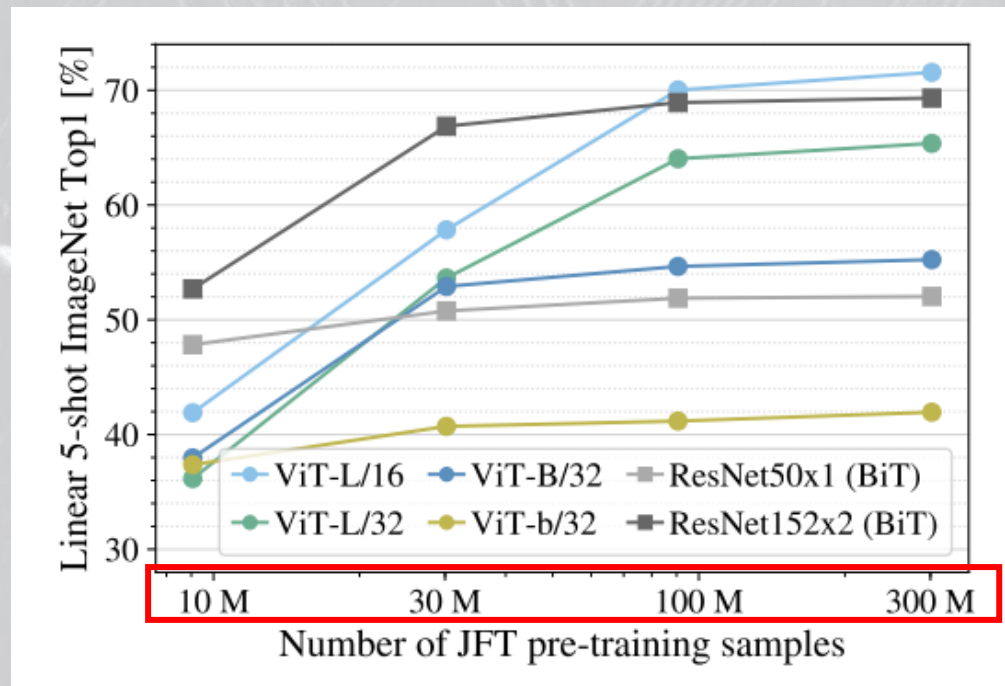


# Result

Experiment  
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**Experiment 3:** Using the same pre-trained dataset, but different sample size

## Result



- **ResNet152** model outperform when being trained on **10M and 30M samples**.
- **Large vision transformer** surpasses when the samples size increase to **100M and 300M**

*\*Few-shot evaluation on ImageNet dataset*

# Experiment

*Experiment*



**Experiment 4:** Using the same computational budget

## Models

**Modified CNN  
(BiT)**

**Vision  
Transformer  
(ViT)**

**Hybrid Vision  
Transformer**

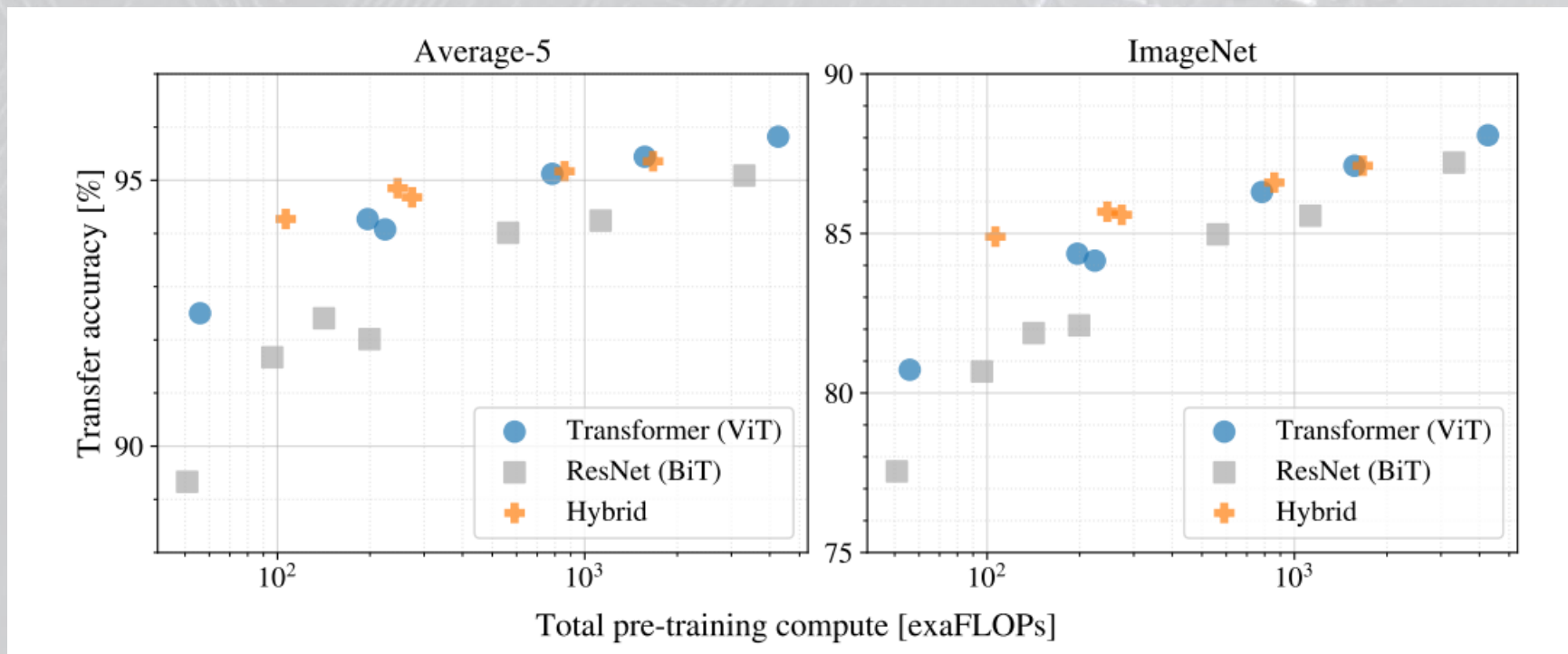
# Result

Experiment



## Experiment 4: Using the same computational budget

### Result





# Conclusion

Conclusion



- 1 Vision Transformers (ViT) **achieve state-of-the-art performance** on image classification tasks, outperforming conventional CNNs when pre-trained on large datasets.
- 2 ViT models **scale effectively** with the size of the pre-training dataset
- 3 Introduced **various ViT models**, including **Base, Large, and Huge**, each with increasing capacity and complexity
- 4 Within the **same computing budget**, ViT achieves **better performance** in comparison to CNN model
- 5 ViT learns to recognise image **without relying on the assumption**, which is suitable for new kind of image task

- 1 Model Scalability:** Vision Transformers show improved performance with increased model complexity, indicating potential for ***even greater accuracy with future refinements*** in architecture and training techniques.
- 2 Data Demands:** As models grow in complexity, they ***require larger datasets for optimal training***, highlighting the need for more efficient data utilization strategies or semi-supervised learning approaches
- 3 Application Potential:** The adaptability of Vision Transformers to various scales of data ***suggests extensive applications***, from healthcare diagnostics to automated systems in transportation and manufacturing

# Reference

Reference



Dosovitskiy, A., Beyer, L., Kolesnikov, A., Weissenborn, D., Zhai, X., Unterthiner, T., Dehghani, M., Minderer, M., Heigold, G., Gelly, S., Uszkoreit, J. and Houlsby, N., 2020. *An Image is Worth 16x16 Words: Transformers for Image Recognition at Scale*. arXiv [Online]. Available from: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.11929> [14 April 2024].





**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING**

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a dark-colored printed circuit board (PCB). The board is covered with intricate, light-colored circuit traces. In the lower right quadrant, a large, square microchip is prominently featured, surrounded by numerous small, metallic solder points. The lighting creates a strong sense of depth and texture, highlighting the metallic surfaces against the dark background.