

# ViT-22B: Scaling Vision Transformers to 22 Billion Parameters



## Is there headroom for scaling vision models?





## Balancing model scaling and vision/text proportions



Chen et. al.: PaLI: A Jointly-Scaled Multilingual Language-Image Model, ICLR 2023



## Stability: Numerical troubles (8B case)

Hit instabilities past ~8B params. The problem: uncontrolled attention logit growth.





## Stability: The remedy

QK Normalization prevents divergence.





## Stability: The remedy

QK Normalization prevents divergence.

Also helps at smaller scales, partly due to enabling larger learning rates



## Speed: Modeling changes

- Parallel layers (like PaLM)
- No biases on QKV & LN



## Google DeepMind

## Speed: Parallelism implementation details

- Optimized Scenic implementation using jax.xmap
  - Async compute and communication
  - Customized for Transformer blocks
- 1150 tokens/sec/core. 54.9%
  MFU
  - c.f. PaLM: 46.2%,
    ViT-e: 44.0%



(a) The matrix A is row-sharded across the devices.

Wang et. al.: <u>Overlap communication with dependent computation via decomposition in large deep learning models</u> Chowdhery et. al.: <u>PaLM: Scaling Language Modeling with Pathways</u> Chen et. al.: PaLI: A Jointly-Scaled Multilingual Language-Image Model (VIT-e)



## Evaluation

#### Linear eval

Excellent, especially on OOD, almost matches fine-tuning (89.5% ImageNet @224x224)

#### **Classification / OOD**

ImageNet saturating, significant improvements on OOD evaluations

#### Video

Competitive results using per-frame representations (88% Kinetics 400)

#### **Contrastive zero-shot**

Outperforms ViT-e/g, a bit worse than SOTA on ImageNet, but better OOD (87.6% ObjectNet)

#### **Dense prediction**

Competitive (not SOTA) with frozen tower on semantic segmentation, monocular depth estimation

#### Fairness

Favorable trade-off between demographic parity bias & performance

### Human alignment

Highest ever recorded shape bias of artificial NN (close to humans)

### Calibration

Surprisingly, better calibrated than smaller equivalents (as well as more accuracy)

### Reliability (PLEX)

Gains on all metrics

### Distillation

New SOTA at smaller sizes. (ImageNet: 88.1% w/ B/16; 89.3% w/ L/16).

## Alignment to human visual perception

- Humans are at 96% shape / 4% texture bias
- ViT-22B-384 is at 87% shape bias / 13% texture bias
- Other models: 20–30% shape bias / 70–80% texture bias





Geirhos et al.: ImageNet-trained CNNs are biased towards texture; increasing shape bias improves accuracy and robustness. ICLR 2019

## Google DeepMind

## ViT-22B as frozen feature extractor

- Frozen representations approach full fine-tuning numbers
- Training of high-res fine-tuning of ViT-e is more **expensive** than training frozen feature extractor of ViT-22B

Model	IN	ReaL	INv2	ObjectNet	IN-R	IN-A		
224px linear probe (frozen)								
B/32	80.18	86.00	69.56	46.03	75.03	31.2		
B/16	84.20	88.79	75.07	56.01	82.50	52.67		
ALIGN (360px)	85.5	-	-	-	-	-		
L/16	86.66	90.05	78.57	63.84	89.92	67.96		
g/14	88.51	90.50	81.10	68.84	92.33	77.51		
G/14	88.98	90.60	81.32	69.55	91.74	78.79		
e/14	89.26	90.74	82.51	71.54	94.33	81.56		
22B	89.51	90.94	83.15	74.30	94.27	83.80		
High-res fine-tuning								
L/16	88.5	90.4	80.4	-	-	-		
FixNoisy-L2	88.5	90.9	80.8	-	-	-		
ALIGN-L2	88.64	-	-	-	-	-		
MaxViT-XL	89.53	-	-	-	-	-		
G/14	90.45	90.81	83.33	70.53	-	-		
e/14	90.9	91.1	84.3	72.0	-	-		

## Distilled ViT-22B to ViT-B and ViT-L achieve SOTA (for that size)

Model		ImageNet1k	
ViT-B/16	(Dosovitskiy et al., 2021) (JFT ckpt.) (Zhai et al., 2022a) (JFT ckpt.) (Touvron et al., 2022) (INet21k ckpt.) Distilled from ViT-22B (JFT ckpt.)	84.2 86.6 86.7 <b>88.1</b>	ViT-B is 255x smaller (0.39%)
ViT-L/16	(Dosovitskiy et al., 2021) (JFT ckpt.) (Zhai et al., 2022a) (JFT ckpt.) (Touvron et al., 2022) (INet21k ckpt.) Distilled from ViT-22B (JFT ckpt.)	87.1 88.5 87.7 <b>89.3</b>	ViT-L is 71x smaller (1.39%)

Image resolution: 384x384

## Sub-group fairness

- All subgroups benefit from scale
- Subgroup disparity tends to decrease
- ViT-22B performs better at any level of demographic parity (after debiasing)







## ViT-22B in the wild

#### PaLM-E: An Embodied Multimodal Language Model

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https://palm-e.github.io



#### PaLI-X: On Scaling up a Multilingual Vision and Language Model

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#### Abstract

We present the training recipe and results of scaling up PaLI-X, a multilingual vision and language model, both in terms of size of the components and the breadth of its training task mixture. Our model achieves new levels of performance on a wide-range of varied and complex tasks, including multiple image-based captioning and question-answering tasks, image-based document understanding and few-shot (in-context) learning, as well as object detection, video question answering, and video captioning. PaLI-X advances the state-of-the-art on most vision-and-language benchmarks considered (25+ of them). Finally, we observe emerging capabilities, such as complex counting and multilingual object detection, tasks that are not explicitly in the training mix.

#### BLOG >

## Scaling vision transformers to 22 billion parameters

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023

Posted by Piotr Padlewski and Josip Djolonga, Software Engineers, Google Research

Large Language Models (LLMs) like PaLM or GPT-3 showed that scaling transformers to hundreds of billions of parameters improves performance and unlocks emergent abilities. The biggest dense models for image understanding, however, have reached only 4 billion parameters, despite research indicating that promising multimodal models like PaLI continue to benefit from scaling vision models alongside their language counterparts. Motivated by this, and the results from scaling LLMs, we decided to undertake the next step in the journey of scaling the Vision Transformer.

In "Scaling Vision Transformers to 22 Billion Parameters", we introduce the biggest dense vision model, ViT-22B. It is 5.5x larger than the previous largest vision backbone, ViT-e, which has 4 billion parameters. To enable this scaling, ViT-22B incorporates ideas from scaling text models like PaLM, with improvements to both training stability (using QK normalization) and training efficiency (with a novel approach called asynchronous parallel linear operations). As a result of its modified architecture, efficient sharding recipe, and bespoke implementation, it was able to be trained on Cloud TPUs with a high hardware utilization<sup>1</sup>. ViT-22B advances the state of the art on many vision tasks using frozen representations, or with full fine-tuning. Further, the model has also been successfully used in PaLM-e, which showed that a large model combining ViT-22B with a language model can significantly advance the state of the art in robotics tasks.



## Thanks for listening!

## **Scaling Vision Transformers to 22 Billion Parameters**

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