

Hiera: A Hierarchical Vision Transformer without the Bells-and-Whistles

Thomas Kiefer

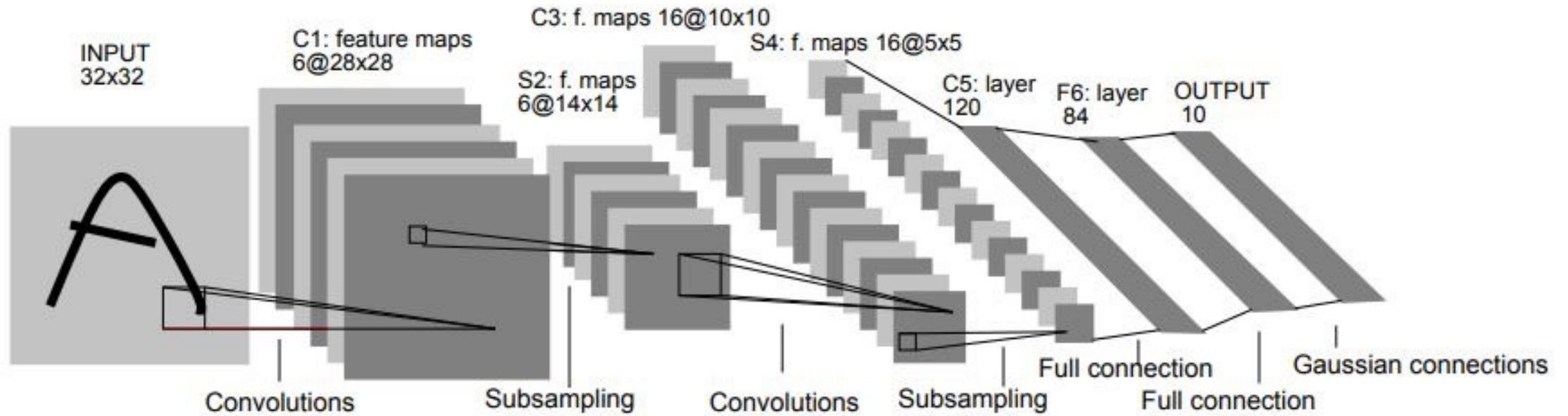
Seminar in Deep Neural Networks (FS 2024)

23 April 2024, ETH Zurich

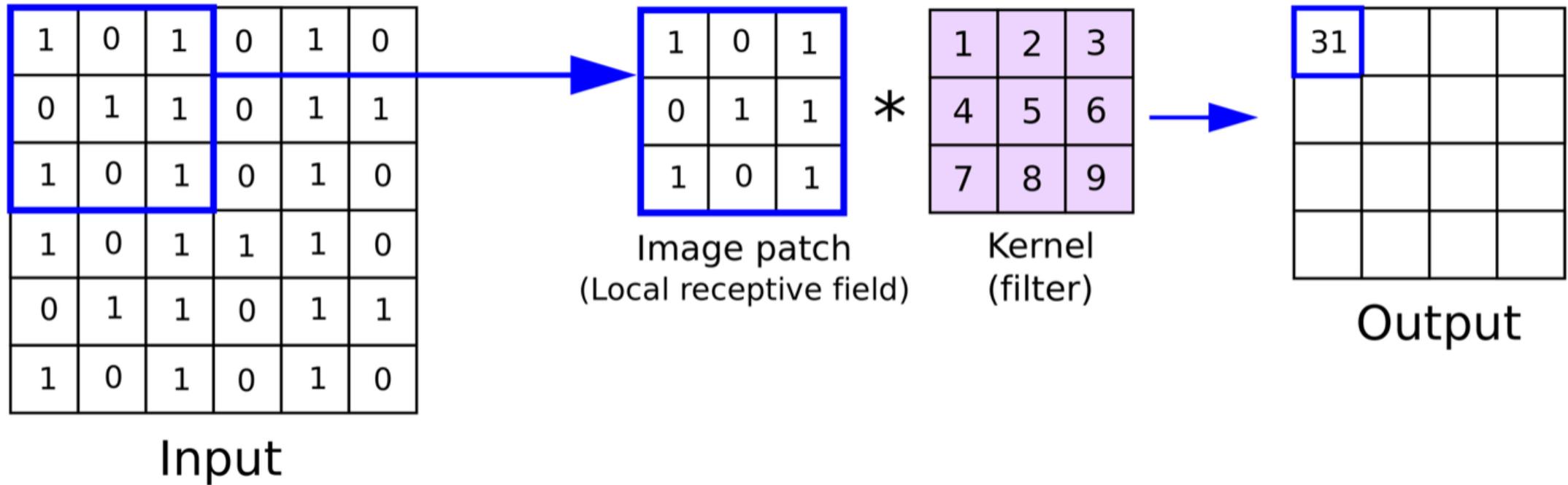


Architectures for Image Classification

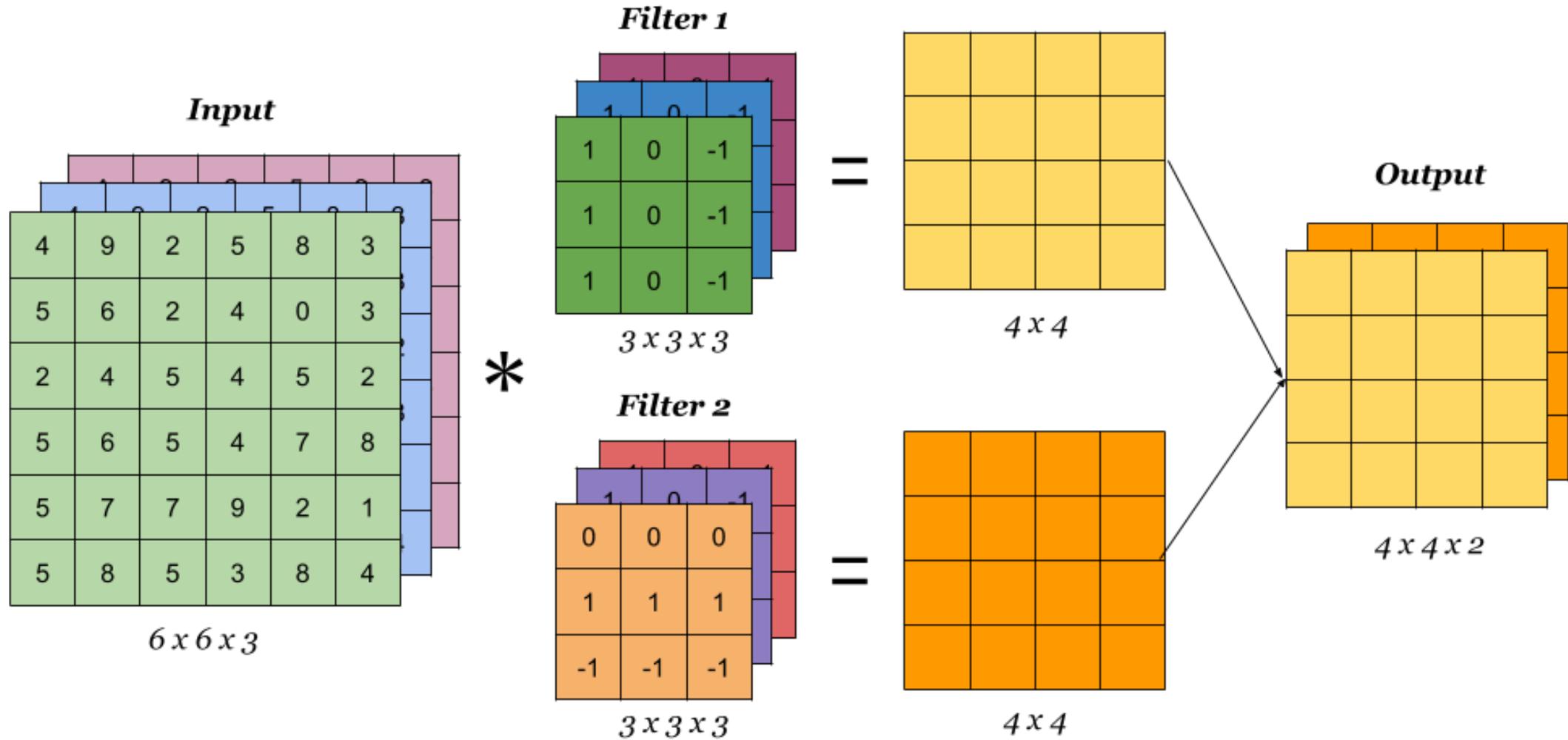
LeNet-5



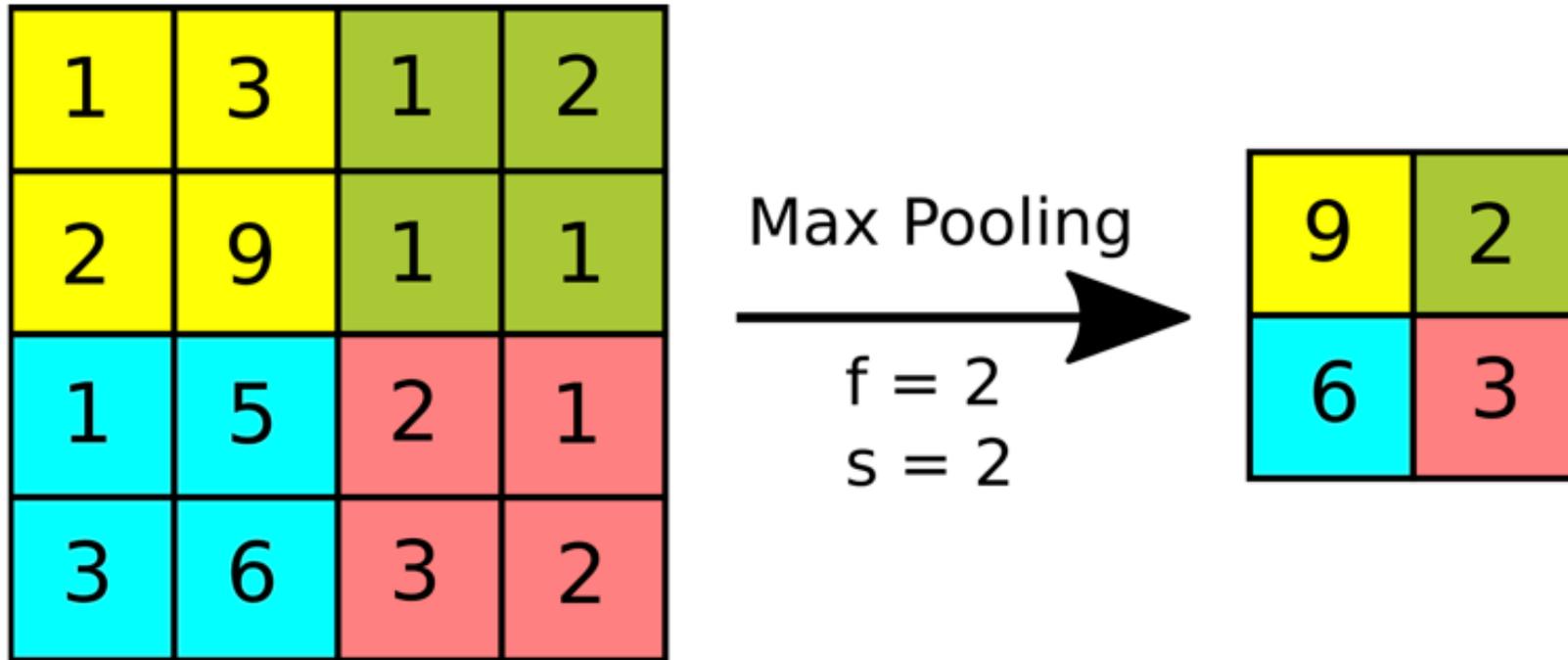
Convolutions



Convolutions



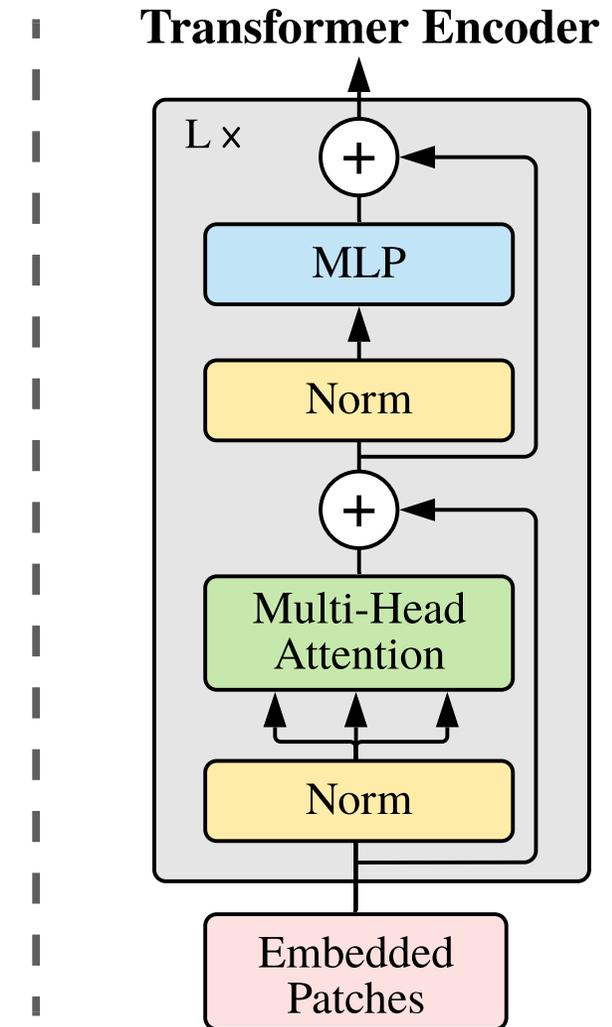
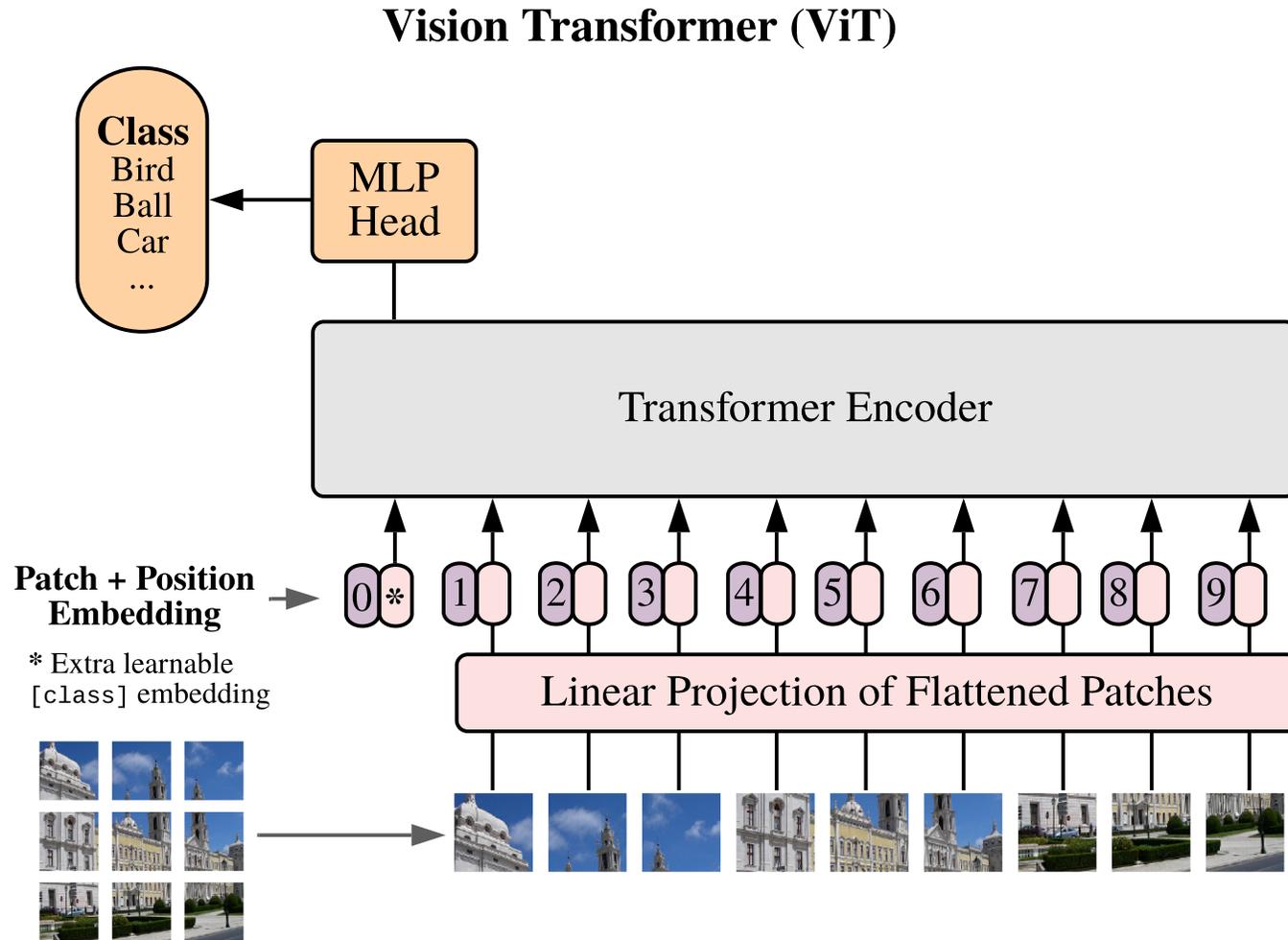
Pooling



Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)

- Local connectivity
- Parameter efficiency
- Translation invariance
- Handling of long-range dependencies

Vision Transformers (ViTs)

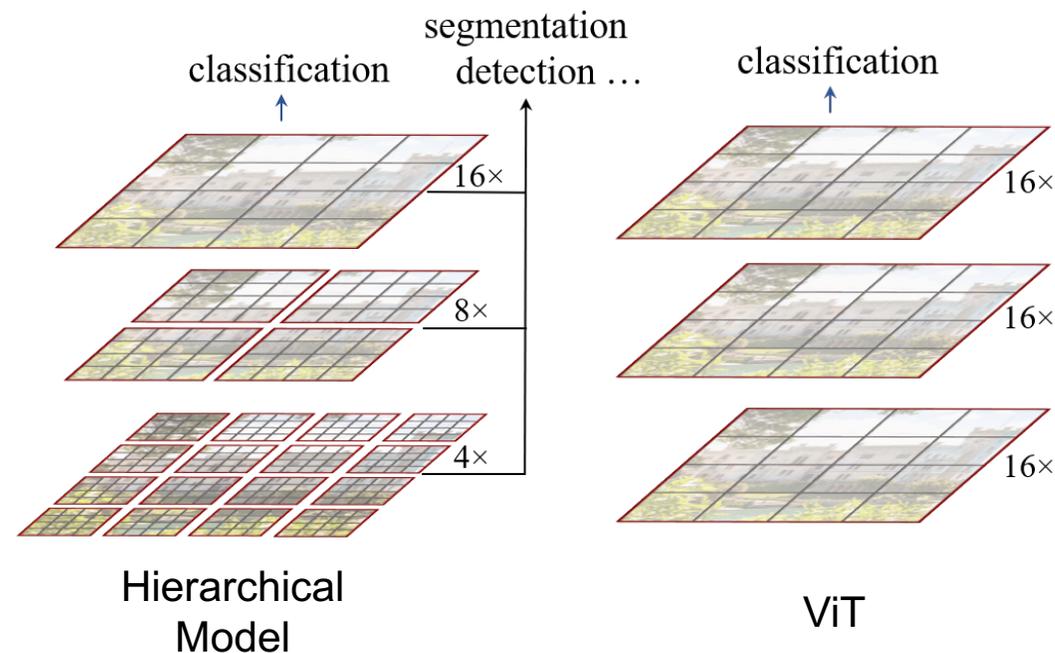


Vision Transformers (ViTs)

- Good accuracy
- Simple
- Cost of simplicity:
 - Inefficient use of parameters
 - Constant resolution and channel capacity

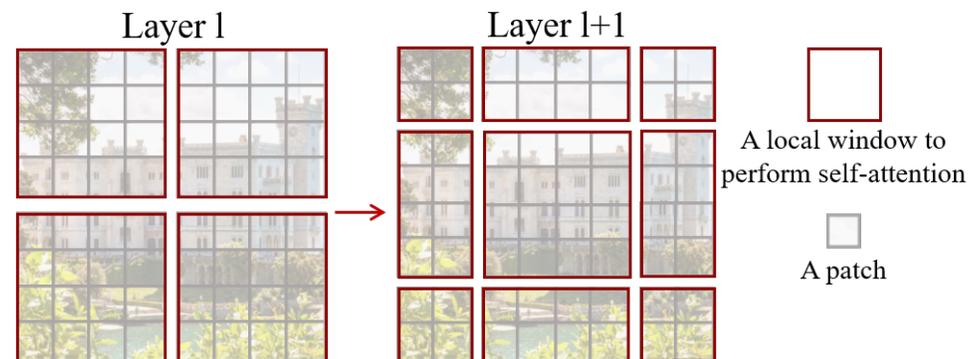
Hierarchical Models

- Start from higher resolution and simple features
- End at lower resolution and complex features



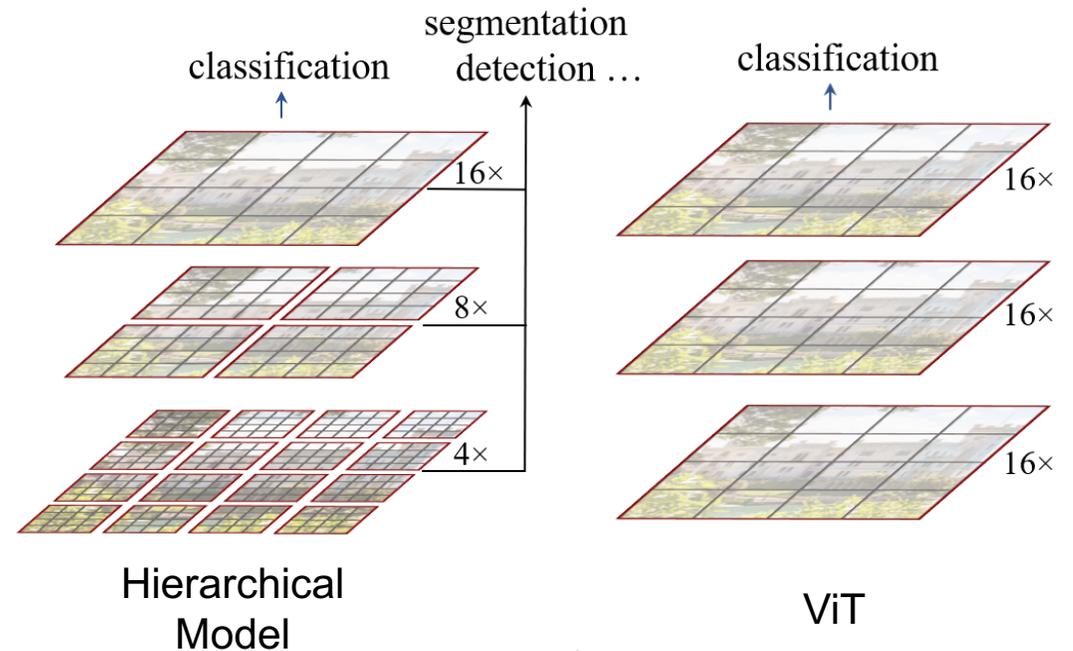
Examples:

- Swin (**Shifted-Windows**)



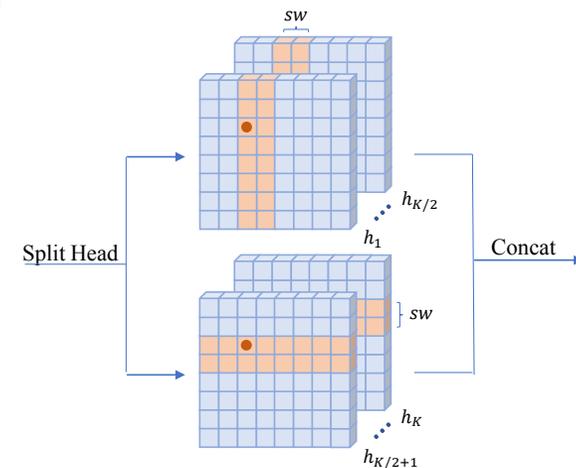
Hierarchical Models

- Start from higher resolution and simple features
- End at lower resolution and complex features



Examples:

- Swin (**Shifted-Windows**)
- CSWin (**Cross-Shaped Windows**)



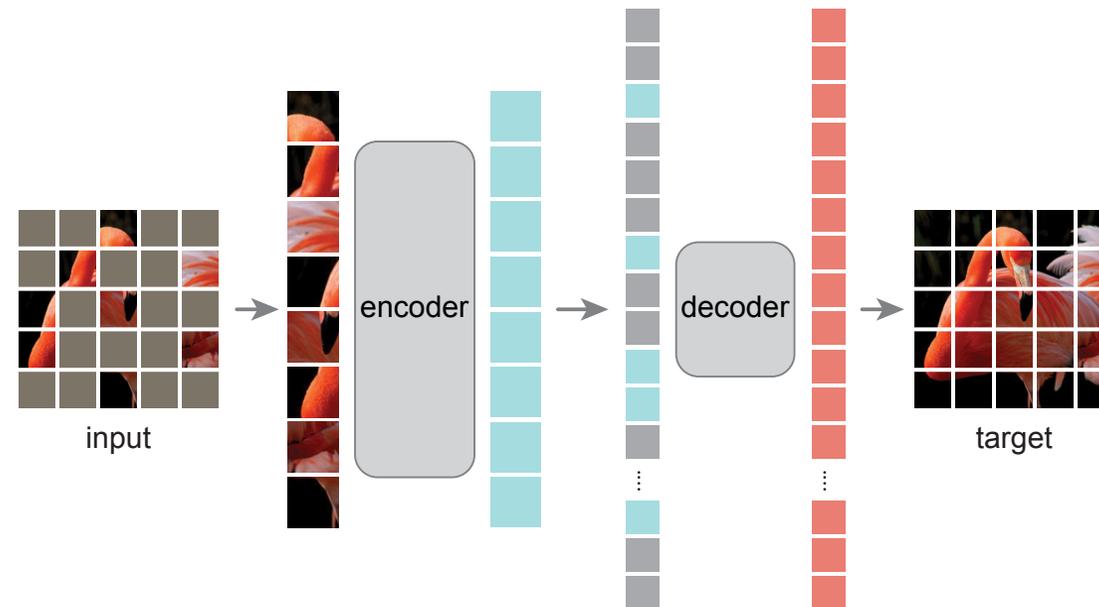
Dynaic Stripe Window + Parallel Grouping Heads = CSWin

Hierarchical Models

- More attractive FLOP counts compared to ViTs
- More inductive bias
- Slower

Hypothesis

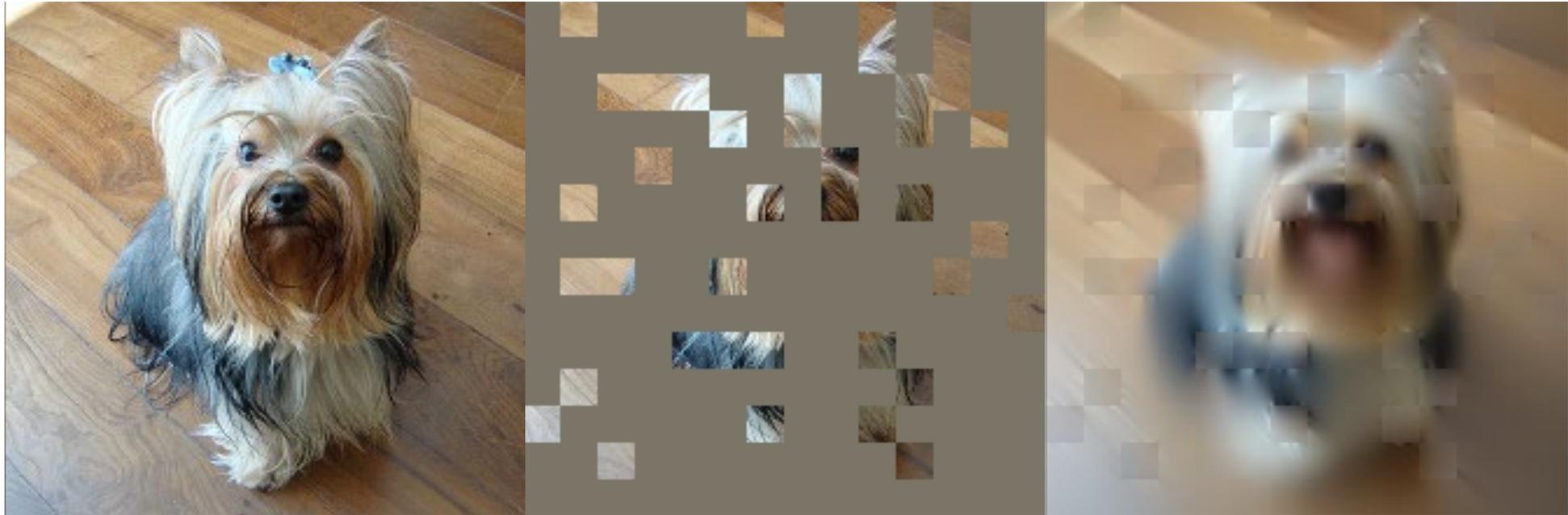
- ViT lacks inductive bias
- Possible to **learn spatial bias** instead of manually adding it back
- Use **Masked Autoencoding (MAE)** as pretraining task



Concepts

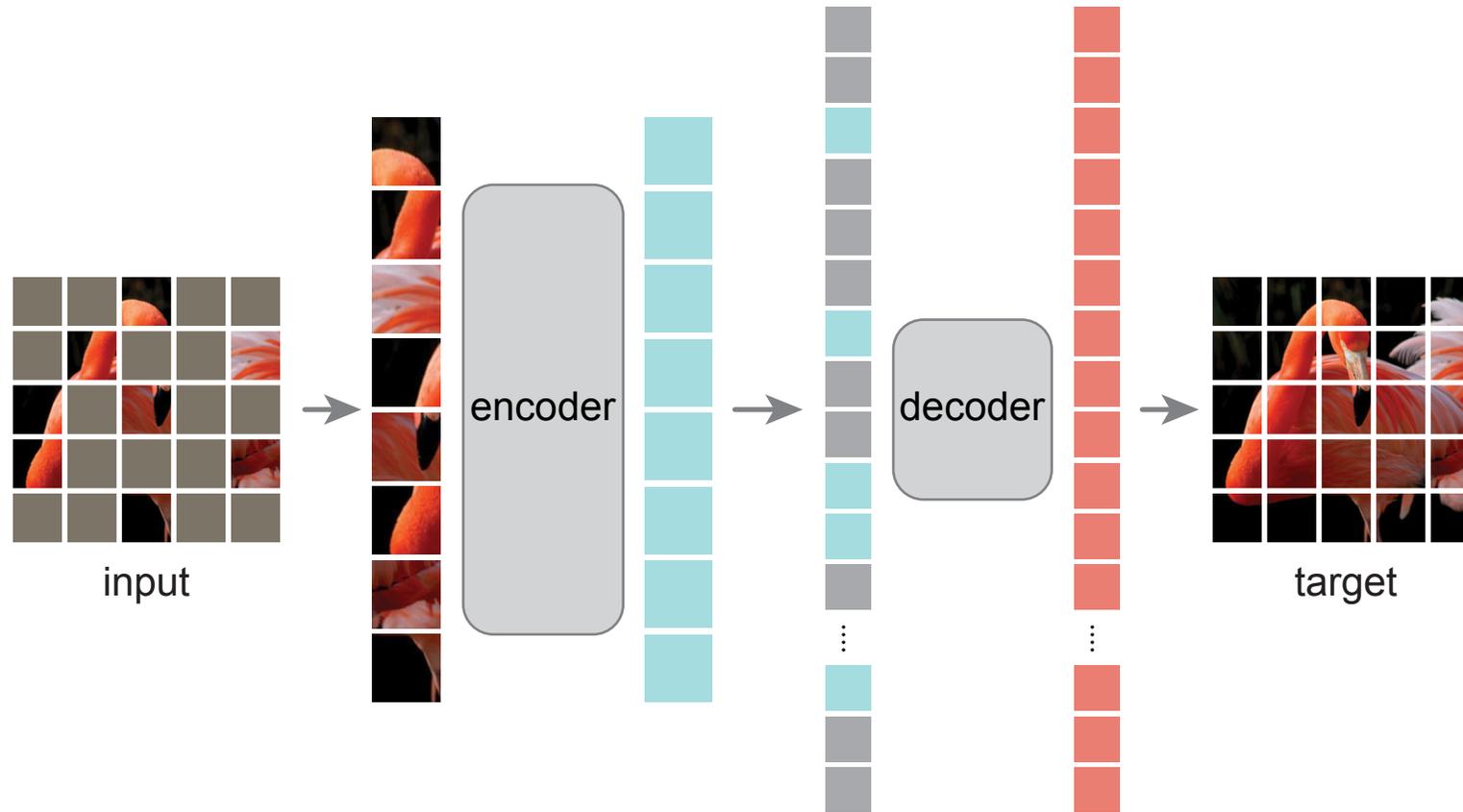
Masked Autoencoders (MAE)

Previous Work



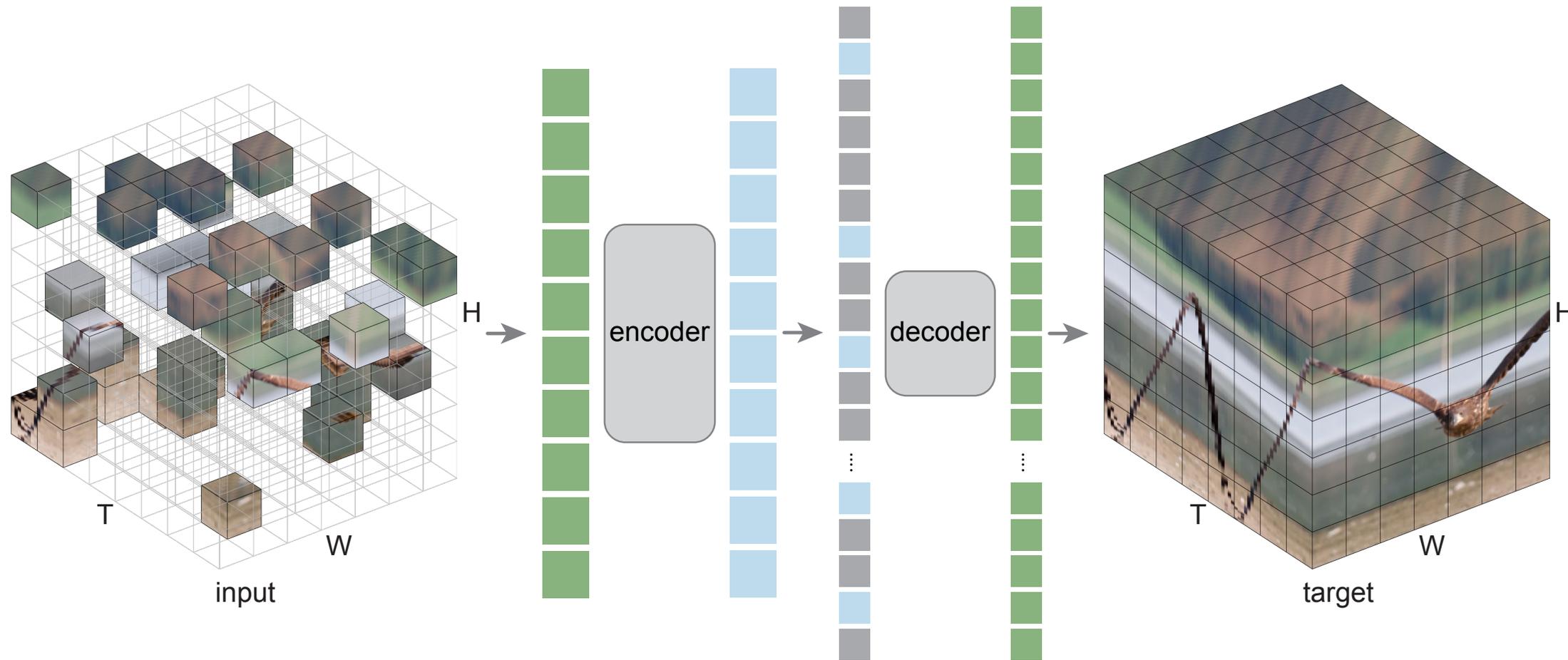
Masked Autoencoders (MAE)

Previous Work



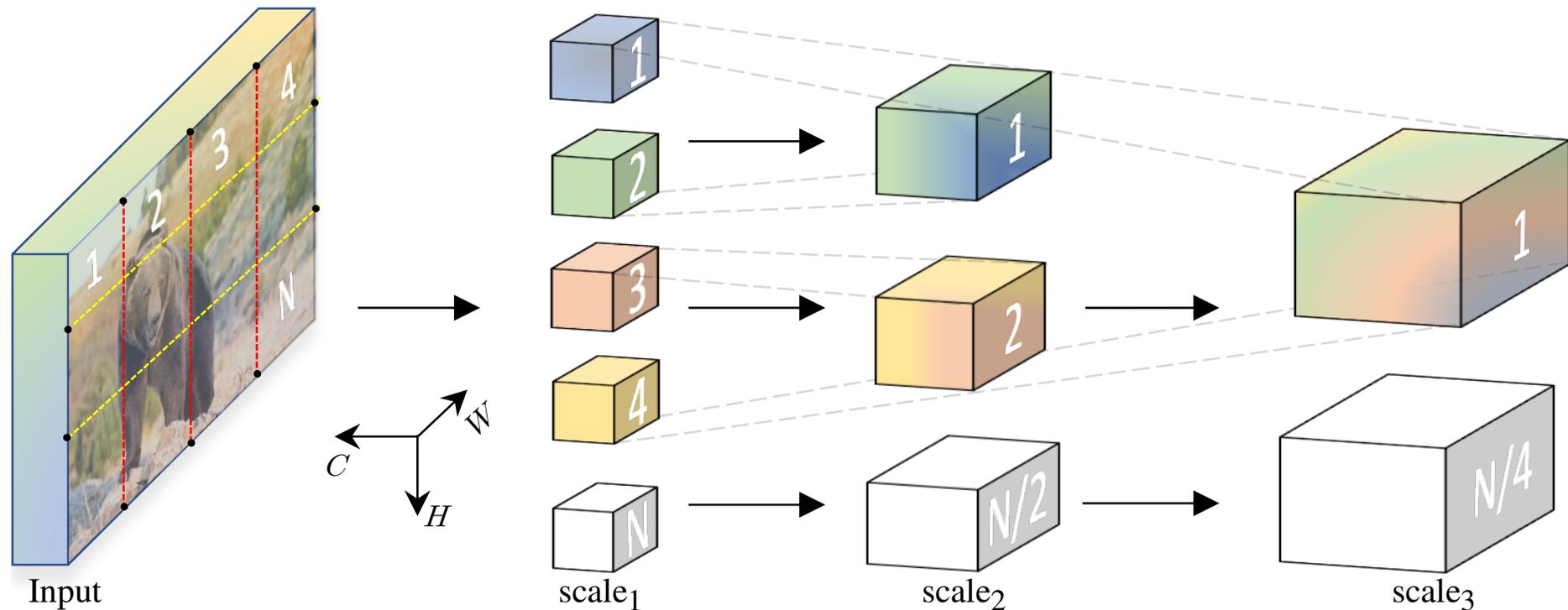
MAE on Video

Previous Work



Multiscale Vision Transformers (MViT)

Previous work



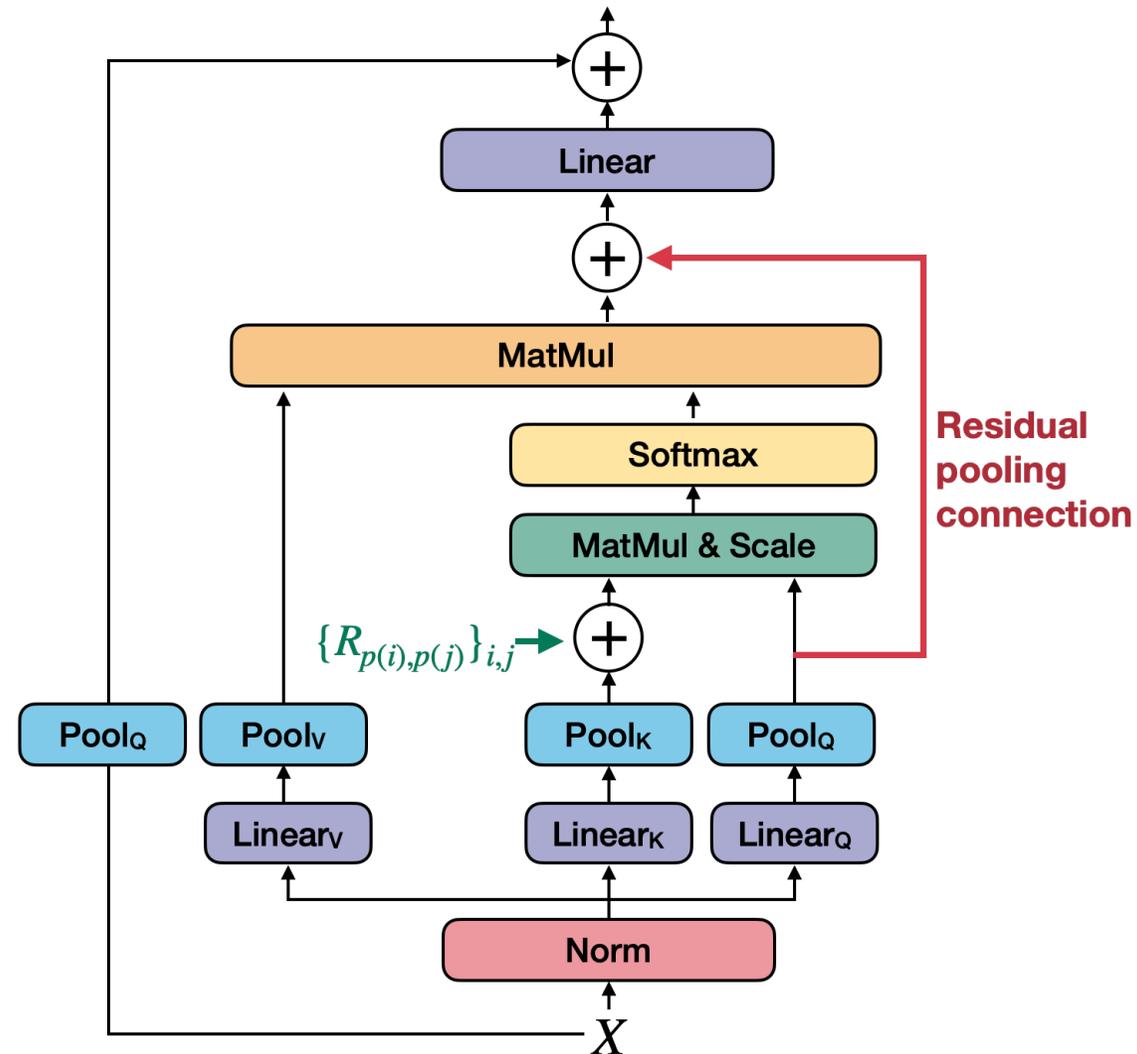
Fewer Channels
Higher Resolution
Simple Features



More Channels
Lower Resolution
Complex Features

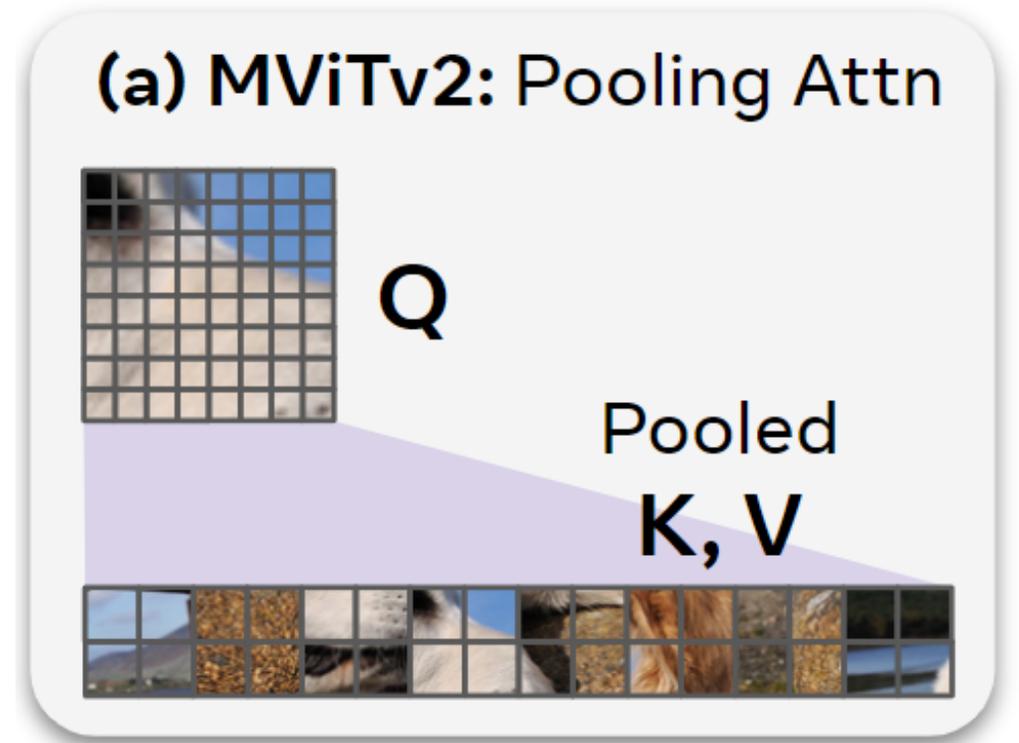
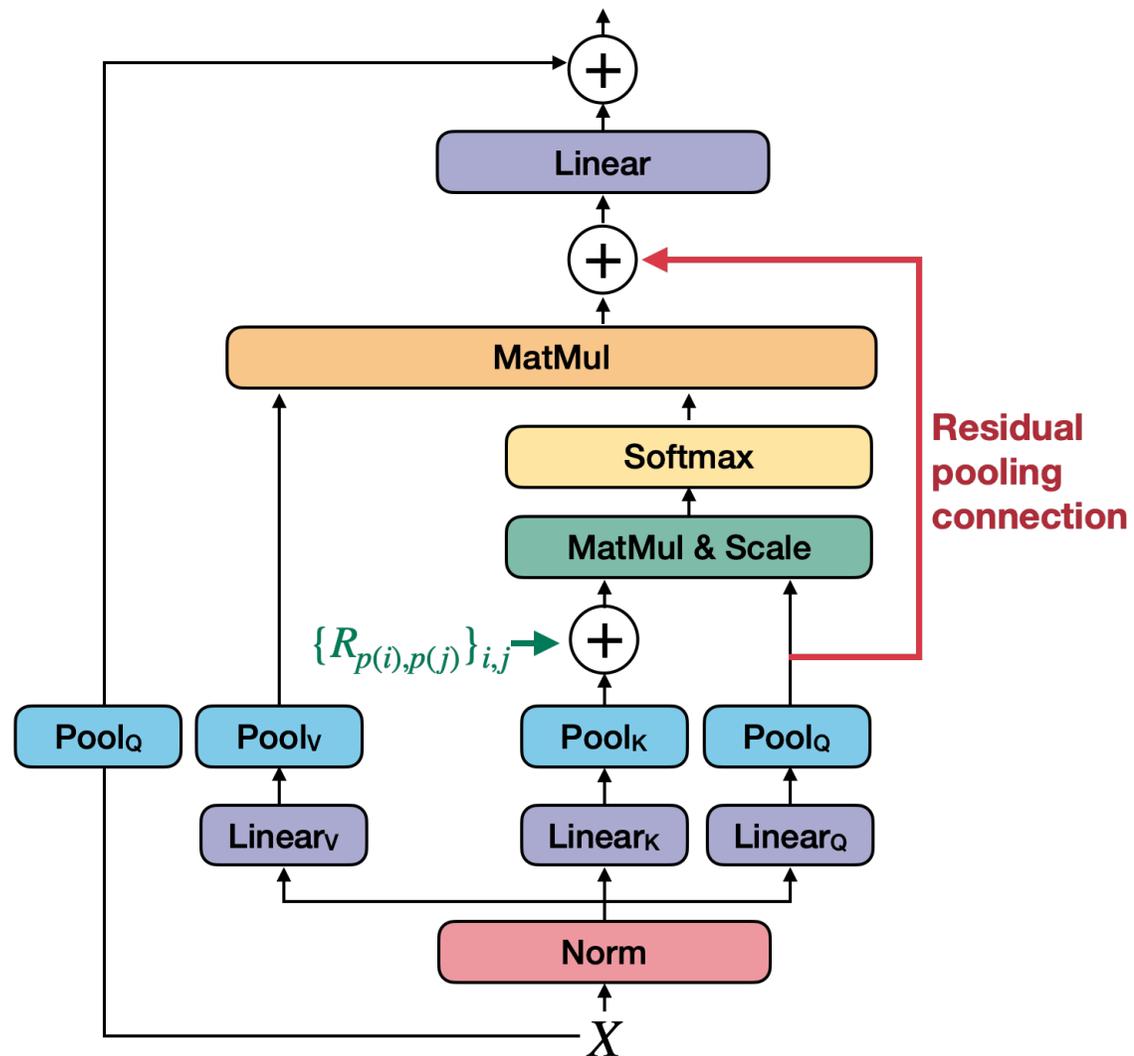
Multiscale Vision Transformers (MViT)

Previous Work



Multiscale Vision Transformers (MViT)

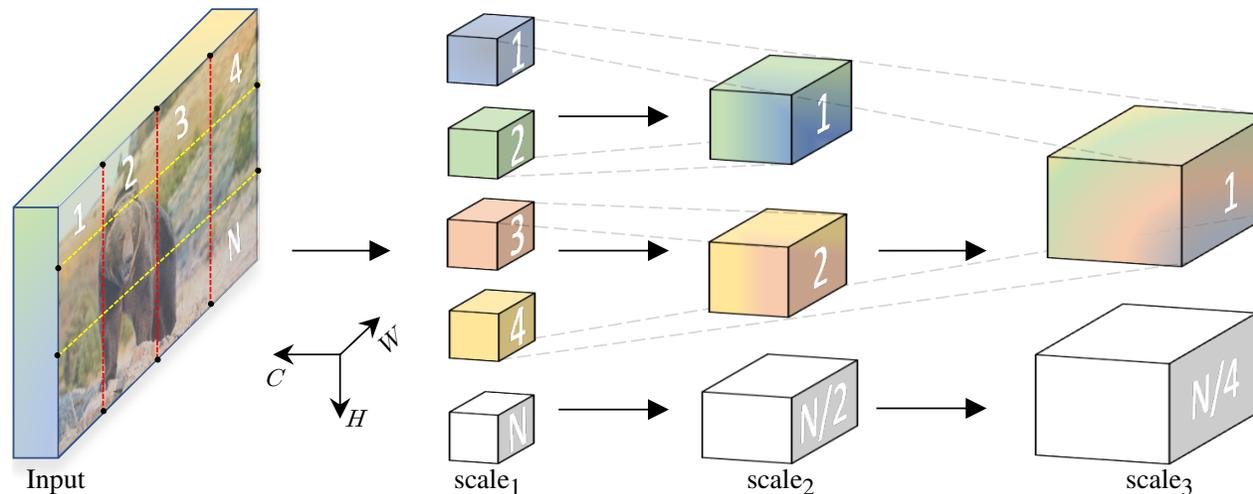
Previous Work



Approach

Contribution

- Take **existing** hierarchical ViT (MViTv2)
- **Remove** non-essential components
- **Supply spatial bias** through pretraining with MAE



MAE for Hierarchical Models

Adapting MAE

Contribution

(a) Use Mask Units instead of tokens.



Adapting MAE

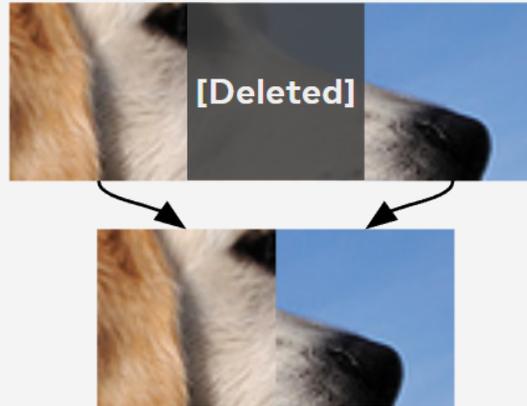
- MViTv2 downsamples by 2×2 three times
- Token size 4×4
- Mask unit size 32×32
- 8^2 , 4^2 , 2^2 , 1^2 tokens in stages 1, 2, 3, 4 respectively

Contribution

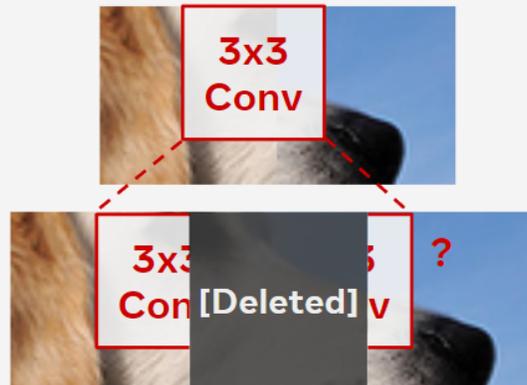
Adapting MAE

Contribution

(b) **Problem:** MAE *deletes* mask units.



This **breaks the 2D grid**, causing errors for hierarchical models (e.g., w/ convs).



Adapting MAE

Contribution

(c) **MaskFeat**: Fill with [mask].



Not sparse: *VERY* slow training.

Adapting MAE

Contribution

(d) **Baseline:** Separate units & pad.



Sparse, but padding has overhead.

Adapting MAE

Contribution

(e) **Hiera**: Just set *kernel size* = *stride*.

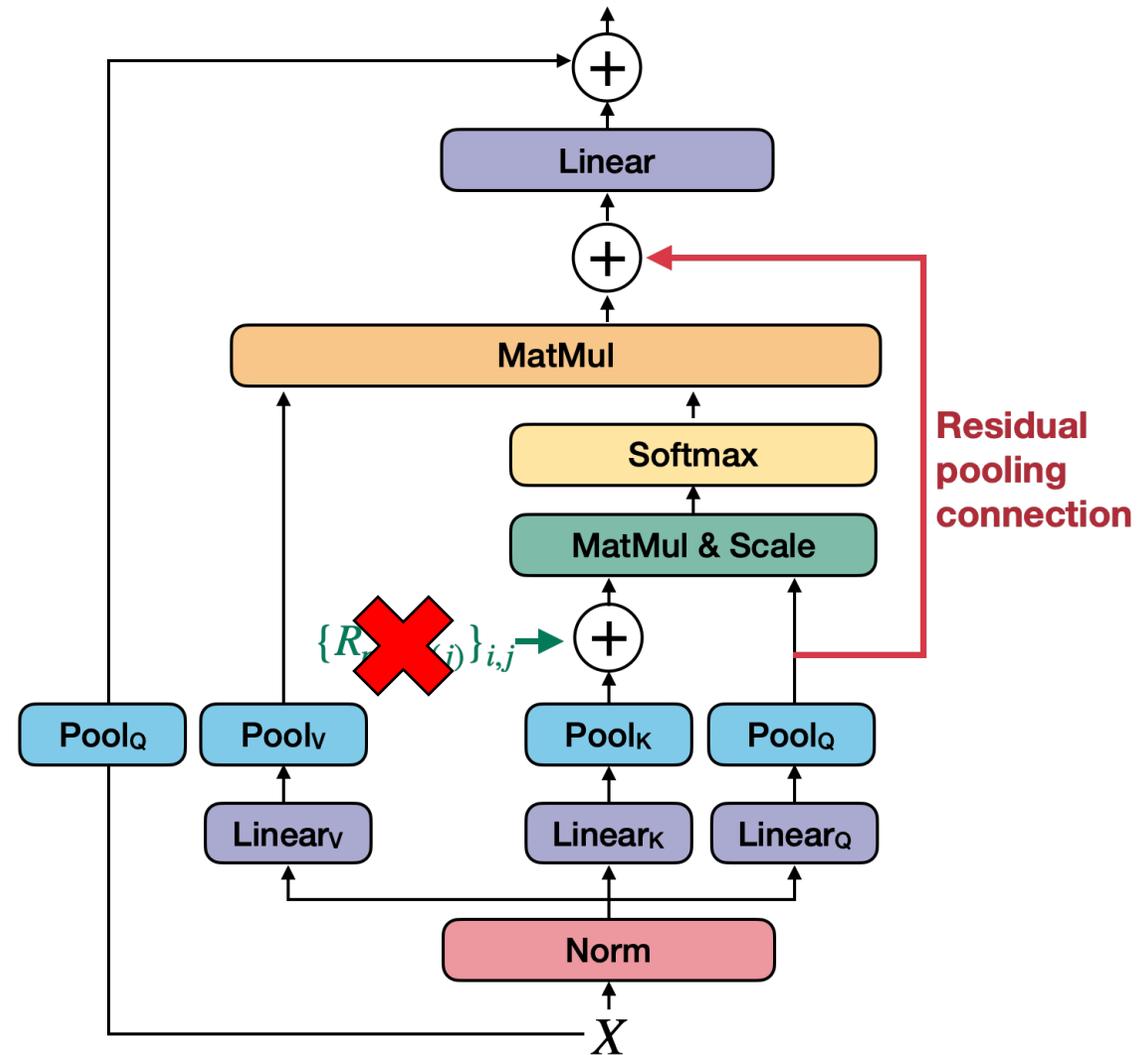


Sparse, no overhead, simple.

**Removing non-
essential components**

Multiscale Vision Transformers (MViT)

Previous Work



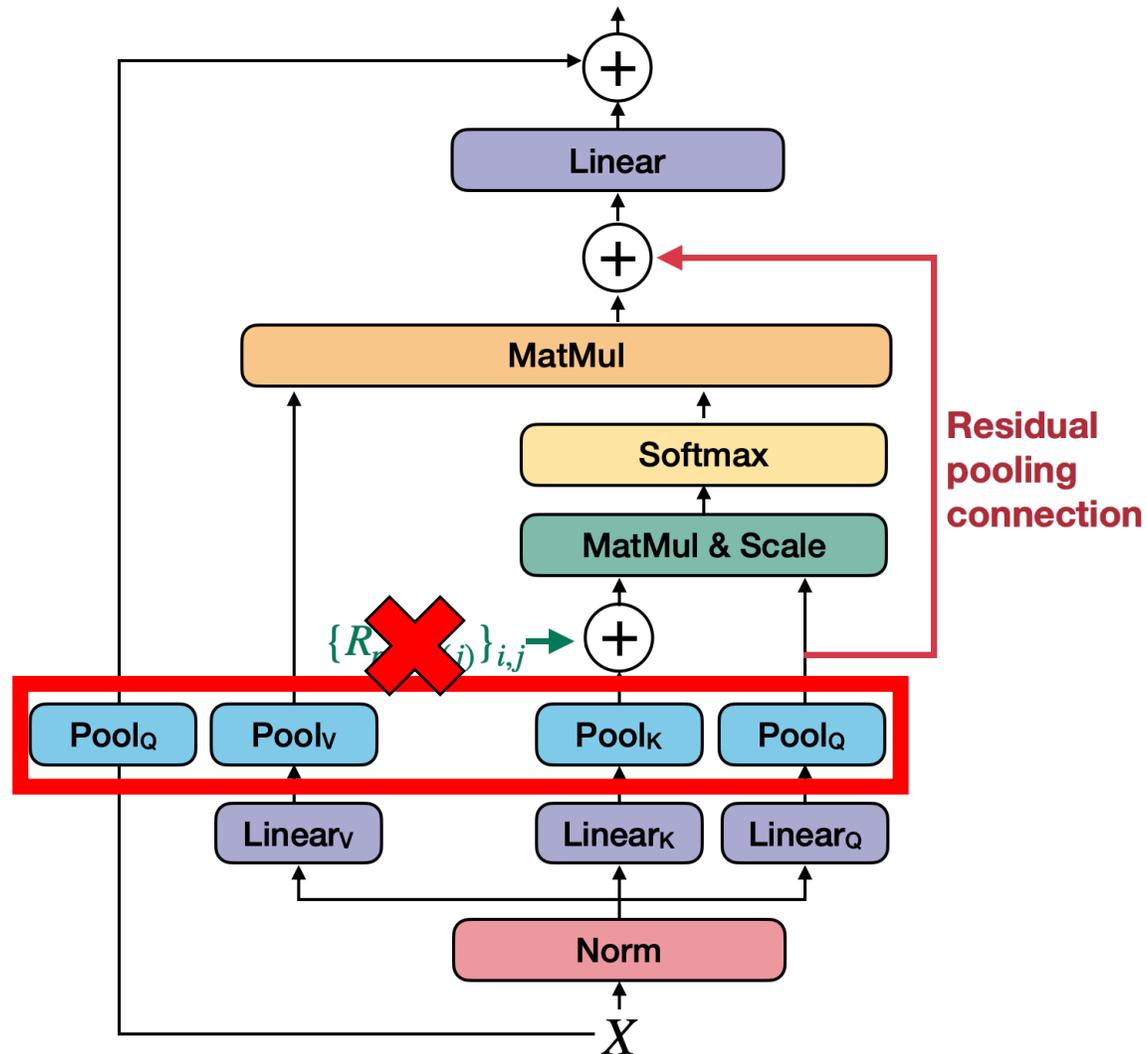
Relative Position Embeddings

Contribution

Setting	Image		Video	
	acc.	im/s	acc.	clip/s
MViTv2-L Supervised	85.3	219.8	80.5	20.5
Hiera-L MAE				
a. replace rel pos with absolute *	<u>85.6</u>	253.3	<u>85.3</u>	20.7

Multiscale Vision Transformers (MViT)

Previous Work



• Previously: **Conv**

• Now: **Maxpool**

Relative Position Embeddings

Contribution

Setting	Image		Video	
	acc.	im/s	acc.	clip/s
MViTv2-L Supervised	85.3	219.8	80.5	20.5
Hiera-L MAE				
a. replace rel pos with absolute *	<u>85.6</u>	253.3	<u>85.3</u>	20.7
b. replace convs with maxpools *	84.4	99.9 [†]	84.1	10.4 [†]

Remove Convolutions

Contribution

Setting	Image		Video	
	acc.	im/s	acc.	clip/s
MViTv2-L Supervised	85.3	219.8	80.5	20.5
Hiera-L MAE				
a. replace rel pos with absolute *	<u>85.6</u>	253.3	<u>85.3</u>	20.7
b. replace convs with maxpools *	84.4	99.9 [†]	84.1	10.4 [†]
c. delete stride=1 maxpools *	85.4	309.2	84.3	26.2

Adapting MAE

Contribution

(d) **Baseline:** Separate units & pad.



Sparse, but padding has overhead.

Adapting MAE

Contribution

(e) **Hiera**: Just set *kernel size* = *stride*.



Sparse, no overhead, simple.

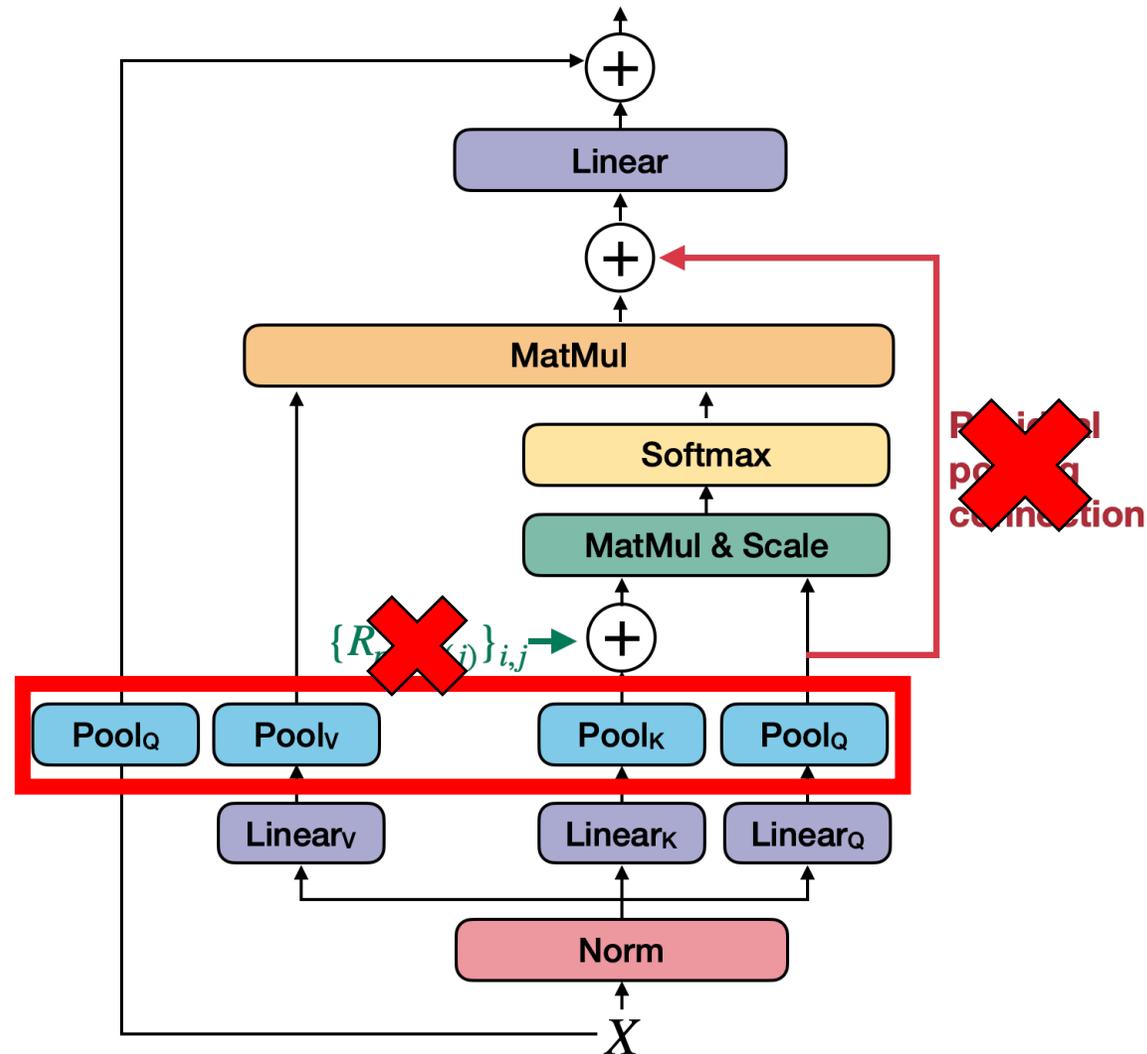
Remove Overlap

Contribution

Setting	Image		Video	
	acc.	im/s	acc.	clip/s
MViTv2-L Supervised	85.3	219.8	80.5	20.5
Hiera-L MAE				
a. replace rel pos with absolute *	<u>85.6</u>	253.3	<u>85.3</u>	20.7
b. replace convs with maxpools *	84.4	99.9 [†]	84.1	10.4 [†]
c. delete stride=1 maxpools *	85.4	309.2	84.3	26.2
d. set kernel size equal to stride	85.7	369.8	85.5	29.4

Multiscale Vision Transformers (MViT)

Previous Work



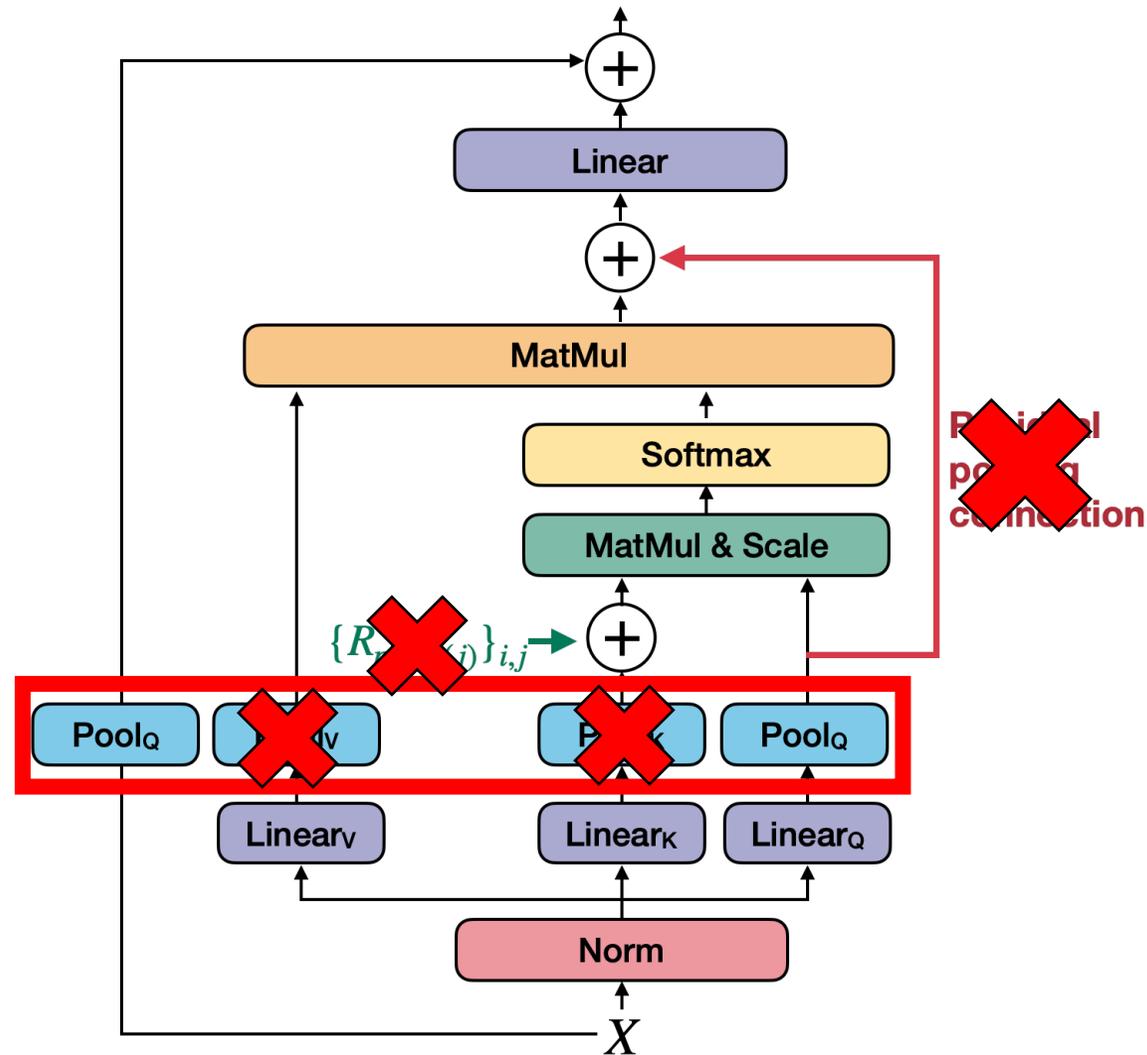
Remove Attention Residual

Contribution

Setting	Image		Video	
	acc.	im/s	acc.	clip/s
MViTv2-L Supervised	85.3	219.8	80.5	20.5
Hiera-L MAE				
a. replace rel pos with absolute *	<u>85.6</u>	253.3	<u>85.3</u>	20.7
b. replace convs with maxpools *	84.4	99.9 [†]	84.1	10.4 [†]
c. delete stride=1 maxpools *	85.4	309.2	84.3	26.2
d. set kernel size equal to stride	85.7	369.8	85.5	29.4
e. delete q attention residuals	<u>85.6</u>	374.3	85.5	29.8

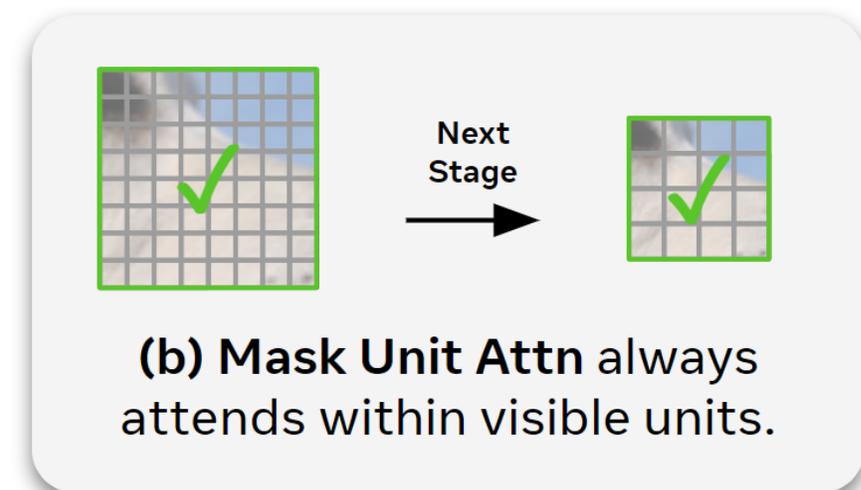
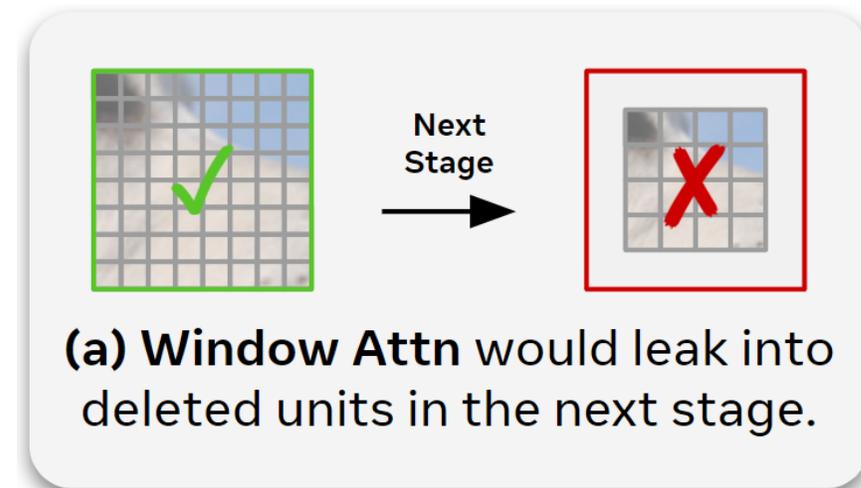
Multiscale Vision Transformers (MViT)

Previous Work



Mask Unit Attention

Contribution



Mask Unit Attention

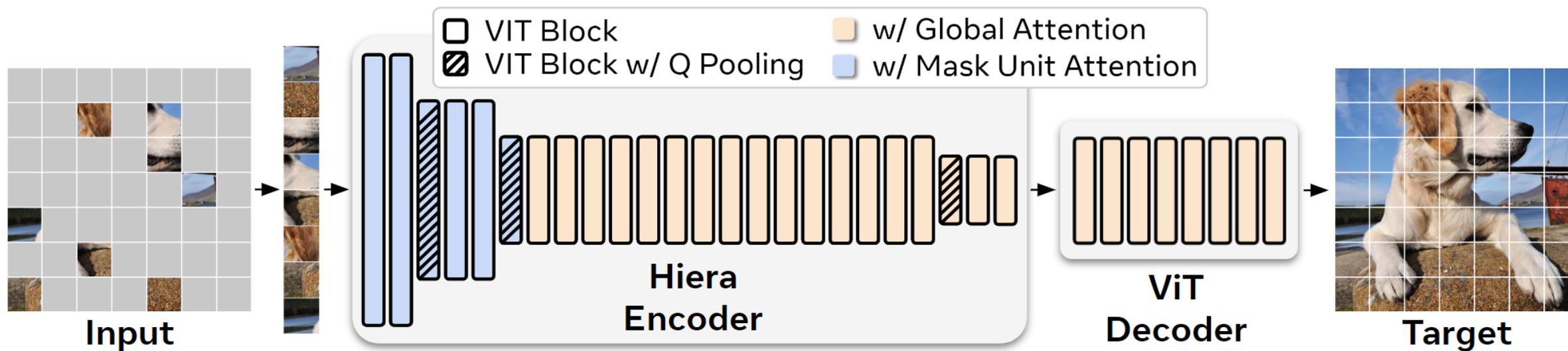
Contribution

Setting	Image		Video	
	acc.	im/s	acc.	clip/s
MViTv2-L Supervised	85.3	219.8	80.5	20.5
Hiera-L MAE				
a. replace rel pos with absolute *	<u>85.6</u>	253.3	<u>85.3</u>	20.7
b. replace convs with maxpools *	84.4	99.9 [†]	84.1	10.4 [†]
c. delete stride=1 maxpools *	85.4	309.2	84.3	26.2
d. set kernel size equal to stride	85.7	369.8	85.5	29.4
e. delete q attention residuals	<u>85.6</u>	374.3	85.5	29.8
f. replace kv pooling with MU attn	<u>85.6</u>	531.4	85.5	40.8

Hiera

Setup

Contribution



Training Time

Contribution

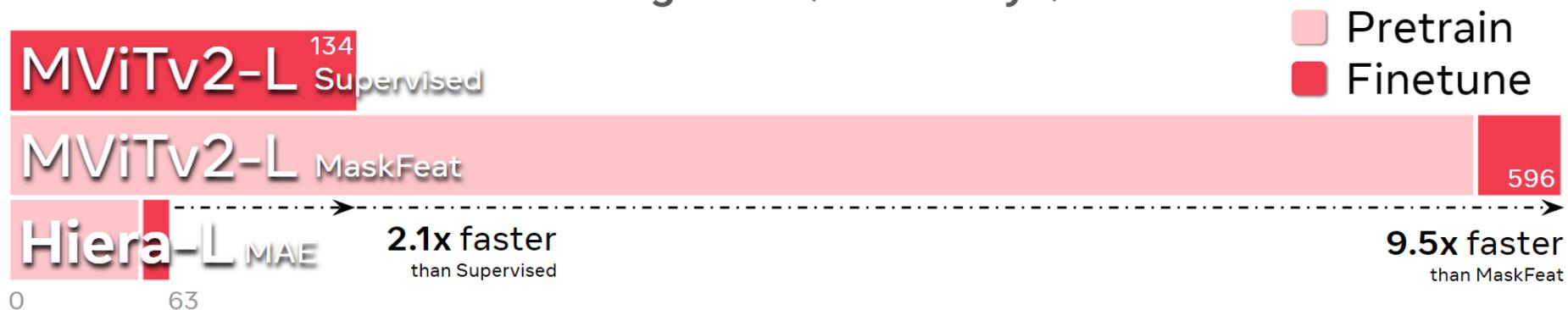
Images

Training Time (A100 Days)



Video

Training Time (A100 Days)



MAE Ablations

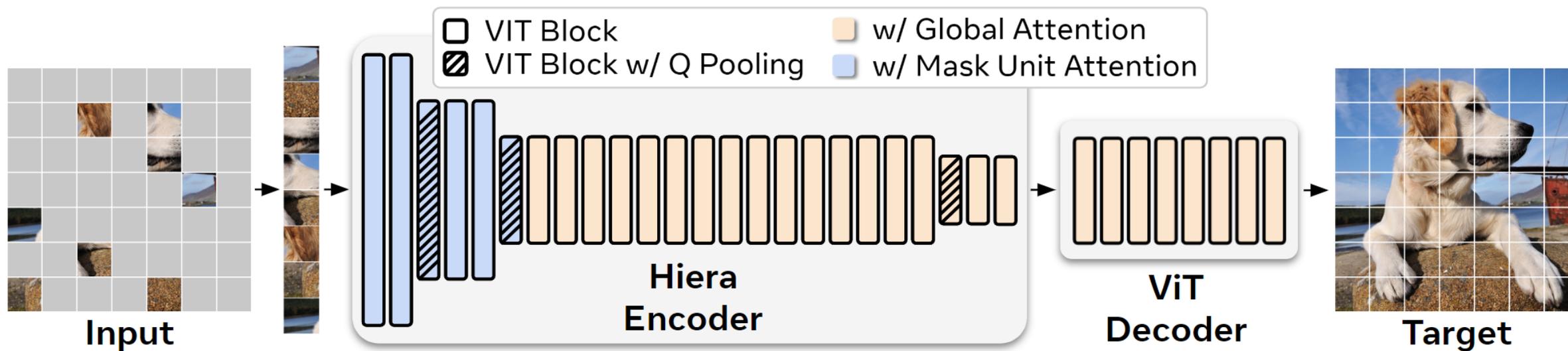
Multi-Scale Decoder

Contribution

multi-scale	image	video
<i>X</i>	85.0	83.8
<i>✓</i>	85.6	85.5

Setup

Contribution



Multi-Scale Decoder

Contribution

multi-scale	image	video
<i>X</i>	85.0	83.8
<i>✓</i>	85.6	85.5

Mask ratio

Contribution

mask	image	mask	video
0.5	85.5	0.75	84.9
0.6	85.6	0.9	85.5
0.7	85.3	0.95	84.4

Pretraining schedule

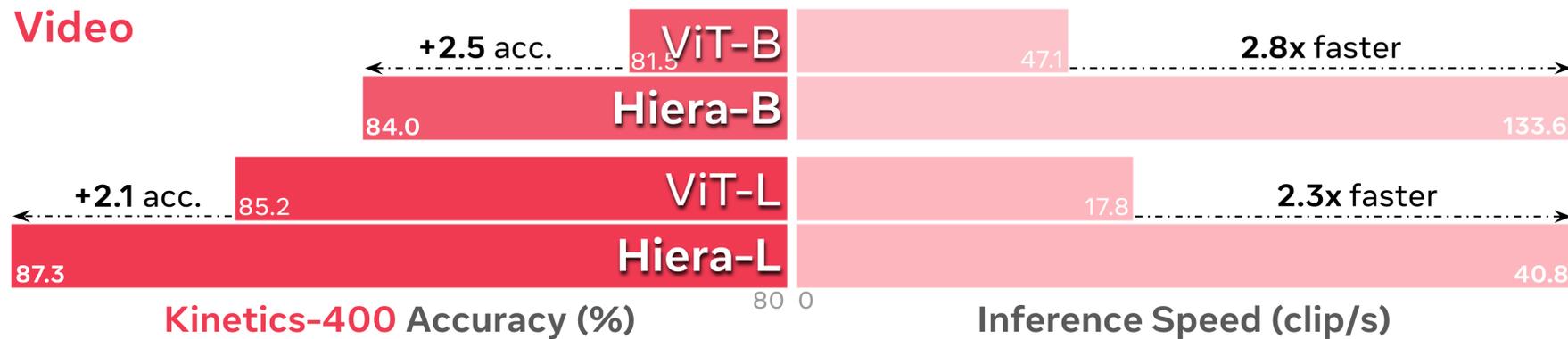
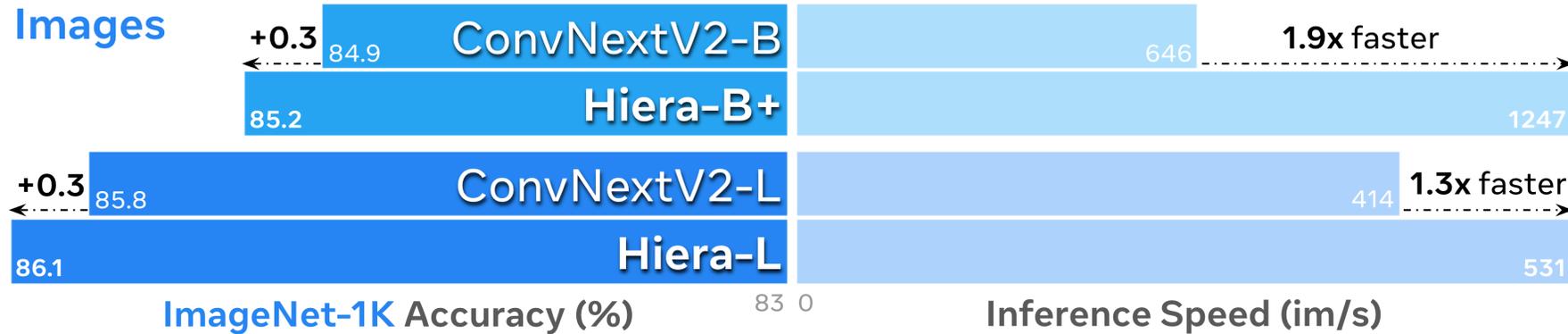
Contribution

epochs	image	video
400	85.6	84.0
800	85.8	85.5
1600	86.1	86.4
3200	86.1	87.3

Results

Results

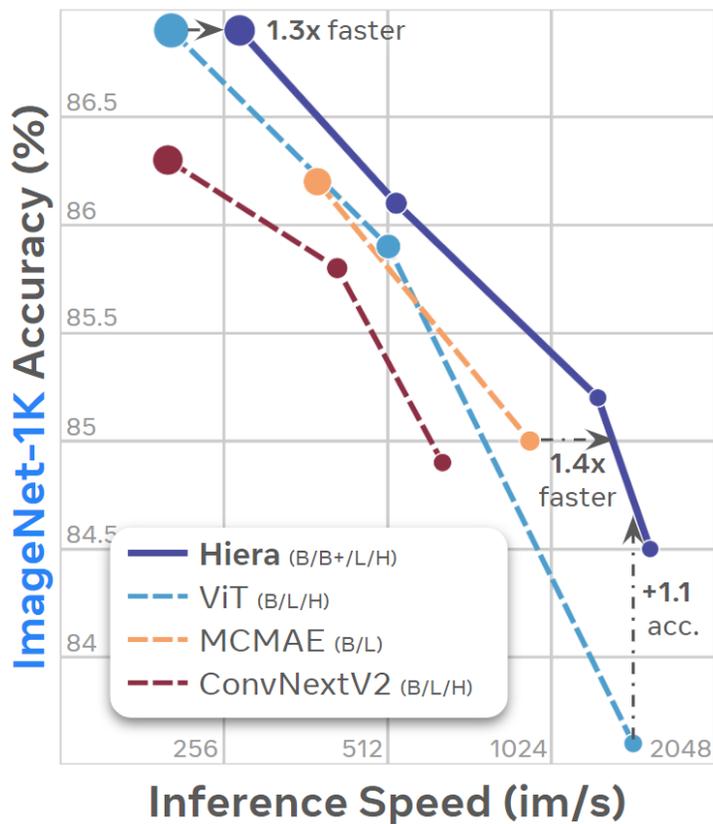
Contribution



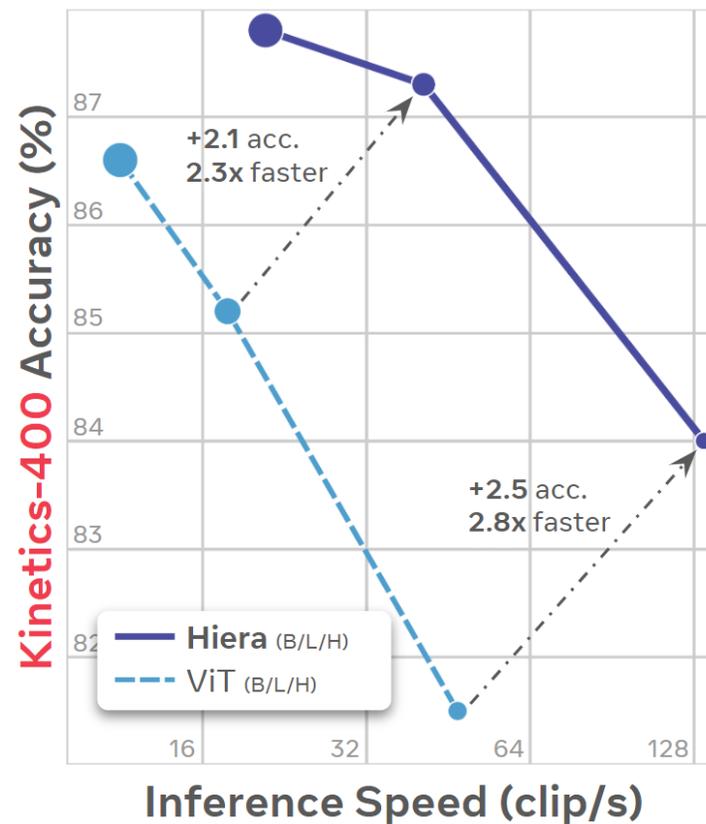
Results

Contribution

Hiera outperforms
The SotA on **Images**



Hiera establishes a
new frontier on **Video**



Conclusion

Conclusion

Contribution

- Showed comprehensively that spatial bias can be learned through strong pretraining task such as MAE
- Either increased throughput or higher accuracy for similar model size (or both)
- Testing on even larger datasets might still be interesting

Questions?

Variants

model	#Channels	#Blocks	#Heads	FLOPs	Param
Hiera-T	[96-192-384-768]	[1-2-7-2]	[1-2-4-8]	5G	28M
Hiera-S	[96-192-384-768]	[1-2-11-2]	[1-2-4-8]	6G	35M
Hiera-B	[96-192-384-768]	[2-3-16-3]	[1-2-4-8]	9G	52M
Hiera-B+	[112-224-448-896]	[2-3-16-3]	[2-4-8-16]	13G	70M
Hiera-L	[144-288-576-1152]	[2-6-36-4]	[2-4-8-16]	40G	214M
Hiera-H	[256-512-1024-2048]	[2-6-36-4]	[4-8-16-32]	125G	673M

ImageNet-1K

Appendix

backbone	pretrain	acc.	FLOPs (G)	Param
Swin-T		81.3	5	29M
MViTv2-T		<u>82.3</u>	5	24M
Hiera-T	MAE	82.8	5	<u>28M</u>
Swin-S		83.0	9	<u>50M</u>
MViTv2-S		<u>83.6</u>	<u>7</u>	35M
Hiera-S	MAE	83.8	6	35M
ViT-B		82.3	18	87M
Swin-B		83.3	15	88M
MViTv2-B		84.4	<u>10</u>	52M
ViT-B	BEiT, DALLE	83.2	18	87M
ViT-B	MAE	83.6	18	87M
ViT-B	MaskFeat	84.0	18	87M
Swin-B	SimMIM	83.8	15	88M
MCMAE-B	MCMAE	<u>85.0</u>	28	88M
Hiera-B	MAE	84.5	9	52M
Hiera-B+	MAE	85.2	13	<u>70M</u>
ViT-L		82.6	62	304M
MViTv2-L		85.3	42	218M
ViT-L	BEiT, DALLE	85.2	62	304M
ViT-L	MAE	85.9	62	304M
ViT-L	MaskFeat	85.7	62	304M
Swin-L	SimMIM	85.4	36	197M
MCMAE-L	MCMAE	86.2	94	323M
Hiera-L	MAE	<u>86.1</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>214M</u>
ViT-H		<u>83.1</u>	<u>167</u>	632M
ViT-H	MAE	86.9	<u>167</u>	632M
Hiera-H	MAE	86.9	125	<u>673M</u>

Transfer Learning

backbone	iNat17	iNat18	iNat19	Places365
ViT-B	70.5	75.4	80.5	57.9
Hiera-B	<u>73.3</u>	<u>77.9</u>	<u>83.0</u>	<u>58.9</u>
Hiera-B+	74.7	79.9	83.1	59.2
ViT-L	75.7	80.1	83.4	59.4
Hiera-L	76.8	80.9	84.3	59.6
ViT-H	79.3	83.0	85.7	59.8
Hiera-H	79.6	83.5	85.7	60.0
ViT-H ₄₄₈	83.4	86.8	88.3	60.3
Hiera-H ₄₄₈	83.8	87.3	88.5	60.6

K400

backbone	pretrain	acc.	FLOPs (G)	Param
ViT-B	MAE	81.5	$180 \times 3 \times 5$	87M
Hiera-B	MAE	<u>84.0</u>	102 $\times 3 \times 5$	51M
Hiera-B+	MAE	85.0	<u>133</u> $\times 3 \times 5$	<u>69M</u>
MViTv2-L	-	80.5	377 $\times 1 \times 10$	<u>218M</u>
MViTv2-L	MaskFeat	84.3	377 $\times 1 \times 10$	<u>218M</u>
ViT-L	MAE	<u>85.2</u>	$597 \times 3 \times 5$	305M
Hiera-L	MAE	87.3	<u>413</u> $\times 3 \times 5$	213M
ViT-H	MAE	86.6	$1192 \times 3 \times 5$	633M
Hiera-H	MAE	87.8	1159 $\times 3 \times 5$	672M

Transferring to Action Detection (AVA v2.2)

Appendix

backbone	pretrain	mAP	FLOPs (G)	Param
<i>K400 pretrain</i>				
ViT-L	supervised	22.2	598	304M
MViTv2-L _{40,312}	MaskFeat	<u>38.5</u>	2828	<u>218M</u>
ViT-L	MAE	37.0	<u>597</u>	305M
Hiera-L	MAE	39.8	413	213M
ViT-H	MAE	39.5	1192	633M
Hiera-H	MAE	42.5	1158	672M
<i>K600 pretrain</i>				
ViT-L	MAE	38.4	<u>598</u>	304M
MViTv2-L _{40,312}	MaskFeat	<u>39.8</u>	2828	<u>218M</u>
Hiera-L	MAE	40.7	413	213M
ViT-H	MAE	40.3	1193	632M
Hiera-H	MAE	42.8	1158	672M
<i>K700 pretrain</i>				
ViT-L	MAE	39.5	598	304M
Hiera-L	MAE	41.7	413	213M
ViT-H	MAE	40.1	1193	632M
Hiera-H	MAE	43.3	1158	672M

Reconstruction target

Ablations

target	image	video
pixel	85.6	85.5
HOG	85.7	86.1

Drop path rate

Ablations

dpr	image	video
0.0	85.2	84.5
0.1	85.6	85.4
0.2	85.6	85.5
0.3	85.5	85.2

Decoder depth

Ablations

depth	image	video
4	85.5	84.8
8	85.6	85.5
12	85.5	85.4