
NaViL: Rethinking Scaling Properties of Native Multimodal Large Language Models under Data Constraints

Changyao Tian^{2,1,*†} Hao Li^{1,*†} Gen Luo^{1,*} Xizhou Zhu^{3,1,*} Weijie Su¹
Hanming Deng⁴ Jinguo Zhu¹ Jie Shao^{5,1†} Ziran Zhu⁴ Yunpeng Liu⁴
Lewei Lu⁴ Wenhai Wang^{2,1} Hongsheng Li² Jifeng Dai^{3,1,✉}

¹ Shanghai AI Laboratory ² The Chinese University of Hong Kong
³ Tsinghua University ⁴ SenseTime Research ⁵ Nanjing University
Code: <https://github.com/OpenGVLab/NaViL>

Abstract

Compositional training has been the de-facto paradigm in existing Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs), where pre-trained visual encoders are connected with pre-trained LLMs through continuous multimodal pre-training. However, the multimodal scaling property of this paradigm remains difficult to explore due to the separated training. In this paper, we focus on the native training of MLLMs in an end-to-end manner and systematically study its design space and scaling property under a practical setting, *i.e.*, data constraint. Through careful study of various choices in MLLM, we obtain the optimal meta-architecture that best balances performance and training cost. After that, we further explore the scaling properties of the native MLLM and indicate the positively correlated scaling relationship between visual encoders and LLMs. Based on these findings, we propose a native MLLM called NaViL, combined with a simple and cost-effective recipe. Experimental results on 14 multimodal benchmarks confirm the competitive performance of NaViL against existing MLLMs. Besides that, our findings and results provide in-depth insights for the future study of native MLLMs.

1 Introduction

Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs) have demonstrated remarkable progress in computer vision [12, 43, 63, 50, 54], continuously breaking through the upper limits of various multimodal tasks [47, 68, 38, 45]. The great success of MLLM is inseparable from its compositional training paradigm, which independently pre-trains visual encoders [28] and LLMs [61], and then integrates them through additional multimodal training. Due to the engineering simplicity and effectiveness, this paradigm has dominated MLLM area over the past few years. However, the shortcomings of compositional training have been gradually recognized by the community recently, *e.g.*, unclear multimodal scaling property [19, 56].

Therefore, increasing attention has been directed toward the development of more native MLLMs. As illustrated in Fig. 1, native MLLMs aim to jointly optimize both visual and language spaces in an end-to-end manner, thereby maximizing vision-language alignment. Compared to the compositional paradigm, existing native MLLM methods demonstrate a promising scaling law and a significantly simplified training process [9, 56]. Despite these advancements, the primary benefits of native MLLMs are often evaluated under the assumption of infinite training resources, overlooking the

* Equal contribution. ✉ Corresponding to Jifeng Dai <daijifeng@tsinghua.edu.cn>.

† Work was done when Changyao Tian, Hao Li, and Jie Shao were interns at Shanghai AI Laboratory.

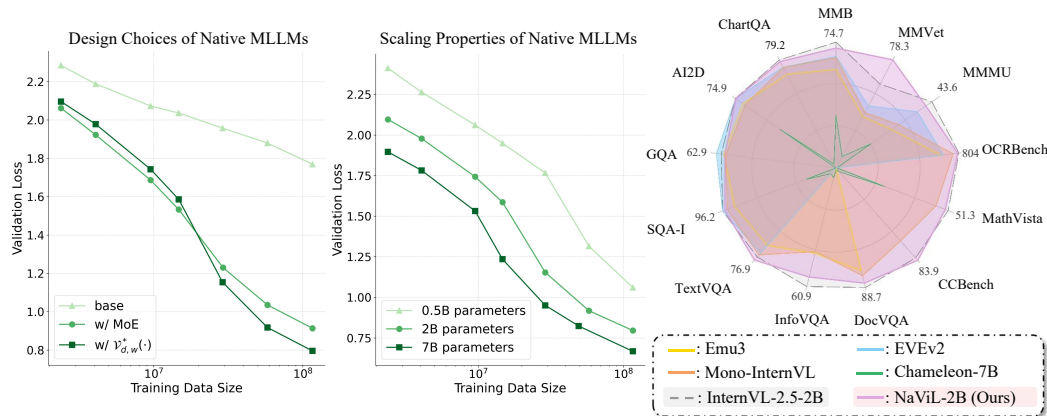


Figure 1: **Comparison of design choices, scaling properties, and performance of our native MLLMs.** We systematically investigate the designs and the scaling properties of native MLLMs under data constraints and yield valuable findings for building native MLLMs. After adopting these findings, our native MLLMs achieve competitive performance with top-tier MLLMs. $\mathcal{V}_{d,w}^*(\cdot)$ denotes the visual encoder with optimal parameter size.

substantial challenges posed by limited data and large-scale training. Consequently, a critical practical question remains: whether and how native MLLMs can feasibly achieve or even surpass the performance upper bound of top-tier MLLMs at an acceptable cost.

To answer this question, in this paper, we aim to systematically investigate the designs and the scaling properties of native MLLMs under data constraint. Specifically, we first explore the choices of key components in the native architecture including the mixture-of-experts, the visual encoder and the initialization of the LLM. Our findings can be summarized in two folds. Firstly, an appropriate pre-training initialization (*e.g.*, the base LLM) of the LLM greatly benefits the training convergence on multimodal data. Secondly, combining visual encoder architectures and MoEs results in obvious gains against the vanilla decoder-only LLM. Following these findings, we build a meta architecture that optimally balances performance and training cost.

Based on the optimal meta architecture, we further explore the scaling properties of the visual encoder, the LLM and the entire native MLLM. Specifically, we first scale up the LLM and the visual encoder independently and observe different scaling properties: while scaling LLM exhibits similar patterns as the conventional language scaling laws, scaling visual encoder shows an upper bound in return due to the limitation of the LLM’s capacity, suggesting that the optimal encoder size varies with the LLM size. Further analysis reveals that the optimal encoder size increases approximately proportionally with the LLM size in log scale. This observation yields a different guidance against compositional paradigm, which employs a visual encoder of one size across all LLM scales.

Based on above principles, we propose a native MLLM called NaViL, combined with a simple and cost-effective recipe. To validate our approach, we conduct extensive experiments across diverse benchmarks to evaluate its multimodal capabilities including image captioning [10, 67, 2], optical character recognition (OCR) [57, 17, 39], *etc.* Experimental results reveal that with $\sim 600\text{M}$ pre-training image-text pairs, NaViL achieves competitive performance compared to current top-tier compositional MLLMs, highlighting the great practicality and capabilities of NaViL. In summary, our contributions are as follows:

- We systematically explore the design space and the optimal choice in native MLLMs under data constraint, including the LLM initialization, the visual encoder and the MoEs, and draw three critical findings that greatly benefit the training of native MLLMs.
- Based on above findings, we construct a novel native MLLM called NaViL. In NaViL, we explore the scaling properties of the visual encoder and the LLM and indicate their positively correlated scaling relationship.
- We conduct large-scale pre-training and fine-tuning experiments on NaViL. Experimental results show that NaViL can achieve top-tier performance with nearly 600M pre-training data. Our findings and results will encourage future work for native MLLMs in the community.

2 Related Work

Multimodal Large Language Models. Recent years have witnessed the significant progresses of Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs) [44, 36, 35, 63, 12], which have dominated various downstream tasks [24, 26, 57, 30]. Starting from LLaVA [36], most existing MLLMs adopt the compositional paradigm, which connects the pre-trained visual encoder [53] and LLM [3] through a projector and finetune them on for alignment. Then, the whole structure will be further fine-tuned on multimodal data for alignment. Based on this paradigm, existing works mainly focus on the improvement of visual encoders [63, 64, 44] and the design of connectors [33, 36]. Despite the progress, such paradigm struggles to explore the joint scaling properties of vision and language. Their potential limitations in training pipeline [56] and vision-language alignment [19] are also gradually recognized by the community.

Native Multimodal Large Language Models. To overcome the limitations of compositional paradigm, native MLLMs have emerged as another candidate solution [20, 19, 43, 32, 62, 56, 9]. Compared to compositional paradigm, native MLLMs aim to pre-train both vision and language parameters in an end-to-end manner, thus achieving better alignment. The most representative methodology [56, 9] is to directly pre-train the LLM from scratch on large-scale multimodal corpora, which typically requires expensive training costs. To address this issue, recent attempt initialize the LLM with a pre-trained checkpoint to facilitate training convergence [20, 19, 43, 32, 62]. Nevertheless, current research still lacks systematic investigation into the architectural design and scaling characteristics of native MLLMs, limiting their performance.

3 Visual Design Principles for native-MLLM

3.1 Problem Setup

We define native MLLMs as models that jointly optimize vision and language capabilities in an end-to-end manner. Despite recent progress that shows promising scaling law and potential better performance compared with their compositional counterparts, how to build competitive native MLLMs compare to the state-of-the-art MLLMs with a practical data scale remains underexplored. In particular, there are two problems requiring to be investigated:

- (Sec. 3.2) How to choose the optimal architectures of the visual and linguistic components?
- (Sec. 3.3) How to optimally scale up the visual and linguistic components?

Meta Architecture. To study these two questions, we first define a general meta architecture of native MLLMs consisting of a visual encoder, an LLM, and a mixture-of-expert architecture injected to the LLM. The visual encoder $\mathcal{V}$ consists of a series of transformer layers and can be defined as

$$\mathcal{V}_{d,w}(I) = \mathcal{C} \odot \mathcal{F}_d^w \odot \cdots \odot \mathcal{F}_2^w \odot \mathcal{F}_1^w \odot \mathcal{P}(I) = \mathcal{C} \bigodot_{i=1\dots d} \mathcal{F}_i^w \odot \mathcal{P}(I), \quad (1)$$

where $\mathcal{F}_i^w$ denotes the i -th transformer layer (out of d layers) with hidden dimension w , $\mathcal{P}$ denotes the Patch Embedding Layer, $I \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times 3}$ denotes the input image. Note that the visual encoder degenerates to a simple patch embedding layer when $d = 0$. For simplicity, we use the same architectures as the LLM for the visual encoder layers $\mathcal{F}$ but with bi-directional attention and vary the hyperparameters d and w . Here $\mathcal{C}$ is the connector which downsamples the encoded image embeddings through pixel shuffle [15] and projects them to the LLM's feature space by a MLP.

Experiment Settings. All the models are trained on web-scale, noisy image-caption pair data [55] with Next-Token-Prediction (NTP) and an image captioning task. We use a held-out subset of the multimodal dataset to calculate the validation teacher-forcing loss for measuring and comparing different design choices. Models with LLM initializations are initialized from InternLM2-Base [8].

3.2 Exploring the Optimal Design of Architecture Components

In this section, we explore the design choices of three key components: 1) the initialization of the LLM; 2) the effectiveness of MoEs; 3) the optimal architecture of the visual encoder.

3.2.1 Initialization of LLM

A straightforward way to construct native MLLMs is to train all modalities from scratch with mixed corpora, as shown in prior work [56]. While this approach theoretically offers the highest performance

ceiling given ample data and computational resources, practical limitations such as data scarcity and large-scale optimization challenges hinder its feasibility. Alternatively, initializing the model from a pre-trained LLM effectively leverages linguistic prior knowledge, significantly reducing data and computational demands.

To evaluate the effectiveness of LLM initialization, we compare model performance in terms of loss and image captioning. As shown in Fig. 2 (left), the model trained from scratch performs significantly worse than the initialized model, requiring over 10x more data to reach comparable loss.

Further analysis of zero-shot image captioning (Fig. 2 (right)) reveals a substantial performance gap favoring the initialized model, even with significantly more data for the non-initialized model. This is likely due to the lower textual quality and diversity of multimodal training data compared to the LLM pre-training corpus, limiting the textual capability of models trained from scratch. These findings highlight the practical advantage of using LLM initialization in multimodal pre-training.

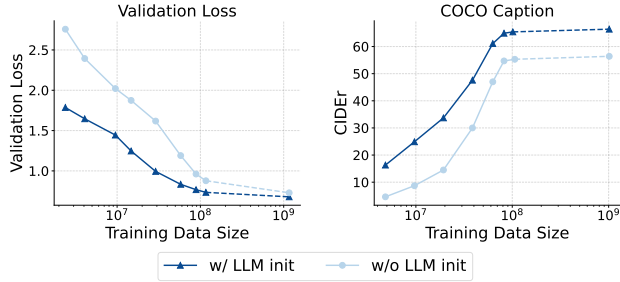


Figure 2: **Effectiveness of LLM initialization.** *Left:* The validation loss. The LLM initialized one converges much faster. *Right:* The zero-shot caption performance. Due to the lack of textual knowledge, the uninitialized model continues to lag behind.

Observation 1: Initializing from pre-trained LLM greatly benefits the convergence on multimodal data, and in most cases delivers better performance even with a large amount of multimodal data.

3.2.2 Effectiveness of MoEs

Mixture-of-Experts (MoEs) are effective for handling heterogeneous data and are widely used in native MLLMs. We evaluate the MoE architecture within our meta architecture by comparing two configurations: one with a visual encoder and a vanilla LLM, and another with a visual encoder and an MoE-extended LLM. We follow Mono-InternVL [43] to adopt the modality-specific MoEs and training settings. However, we empirically found that using only the feed-forward network (FFN) expert would lead to a significant difference in feature scale between visual and language modalities. To mitigate this issue, we further introduced modality-specific attention experts, that is, using different projection layers (*i.e.* qkvo) in the self-attention layer to process visual and text features respectively, and then perform unified global attention calculation. Specifically, the output $x_{i,m}^l \in \mathbb{R}^d$ of the i -th token with modality $m \in \{\text{visual, linguistic}\}$ at the l -th layer of the MoE-extended LLM can be defined as

$$\begin{aligned} x_{i,m}' &= x_{i,m}^{l-1} + \text{MHA-MMoE}(\text{RMSNorm}(x_{i,m}^{l-1})), \\ x_{i,m}^l &= x_{i,m}' + \text{FFN-MMoE}(\text{RMSNorm}(x_{i,m}')), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where $\text{RMSNorm}(\cdot)$ is the layer normalization operation, and $\text{MHA-MMoE}(\cdot)$ and $\text{FFN-MMoE}(\cdot)$ are the modality-specific attention and FFN expert, respectively, formulated by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MHA-MMoE}(x_{i,m}) &= (\text{softmax}(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d}})V)W_O^m, \\ Q_{i,m} &= x_{i,m}W_Q^m, K_{i,m} = x_{i,m}W_K^m, V_{i,m} = x_{i,m}W_V^m, \\ \text{FFN-MMoE}(x_{i,m}) &= (\text{SiLU}(x_{i,m}W_{\text{gate}}^m) \odot x_{i,m}W_{\text{up}}^m)W_{\text{down}}^m. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$



Figure 3: **The validation loss of adding MoE or not.** Using MoE extension will cause the loss to decrease more quickly.

Here $W_Q^m, W_K^m, W_V^m, W_O^m$ and $W_{\text{gate}}^m, W_{\text{up}}^m, W_{\text{down}}^m$ are all modality-specific projection matrices, and $\text{SiLU}(\cdot)$ denotes the activation function, $\odot$ denotes the element-wise product operation. The number of activated experts is set to one to maintain consistent inference costs.

As shown in Fig. 3, the MoE architecture significantly accelerates model convergence compared to the vanilla LLM, achieving the same validation loss with only 1/10 of the data without increasing training or inference cost. This demonstrates that MoE enhances model capacity and effectively handles heterogeneous data, making it suitable for native MLLMs.

Observation 2: MoEs significantly improve model performance without increasing the number of activated parameters.

3.2.3 Optimizing the Visual Encoder Architecture

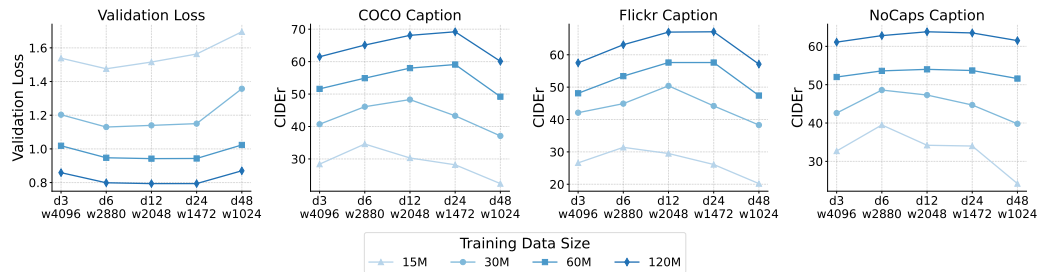


Figure 4: **The validation loss and zero-shot caption performance of different visual encoders.** The loss and performance only differ when the visual encoder is extremely wide or shallow.

The visual encoder precedes the LLM to perform preliminary extraction of visual information, converting raw pixels into semantic visual features aligned with the textual embedding space. Due to its bidirectional attention mechanism and the increased capacity introduced by additional parameters, the visual encoder has the potential to enhance the model’s ability to represent visual information.

In this section, we investigate the optimal architecture of the visual encoder under a given parameter budget. The total parameter count $\mathcal{C}$ can be approximately calculated [29] as $\mathcal{N} = 12 \times d \times w^2$. Given a fixed $\mathcal{N}$, the structure of the visual encoder is mainly determined by its width w and depth d .

Depth (d): Typically, deeper models can capture richer and more complex features, while also being more prone to gradient vanishing problems [58]. When it comes to MLLM, a visual encoder that is too shallow may not be able to extract enough high-level semantics, while a visual encoder that is too deep may cause low-level features to be lost, thus limiting the capture of fine-grained details.

Width (w): Compared to depth, width has relatively little impact on visual transformer performance [21], as long as it does not cause additional information bottlenecks. That is, it cannot be lower than the total number of channels within a single image patch. Under this premise, the width of the visual encoder does not have to be the same as the hidden size of the LLM.

We train various MLLMs with different $\mathcal{V}_{d,w}$ configurations (combinations of depth and width) while keeping the pre-trained LLM and visual encoder parameter count fixed at 600M. The depth d ranges from $\{3, 6, 12, 24, 48\}$, and the width w is adjusted as $\{4096, 2880, 2048, 1472, 1024\}$ to maintain a consistent parameter count. Fig. 4 shows the validation loss for different depth and width combinations as training data size varies. Models with extremely high or low depths perform worse than those with moderate configurations. Among reasonably configured models, shallower ones converge faster in the early phase (less than 30M data), but this advantage diminishes with more data. In zero-shot image captioning benchmarks, deeper visual encoders show slightly better performance, consistent with prior research on compute-optimal LLM architectures [29], which suggests a wide range of optimal width and depth combinations.

Observation 3: Visual encoders achieve near-optimal performance across a wide range of depth and width configurations. Shallower encoders converge faster in early training, while deeper encoders perform slightly better with larger datasets.

3.3 Scaling Up Native MLLMs

In this section, we consider the scaling properties of our meta architecture. Specifically, we investigate: 1) the impact of scaling up the visual encoder and the LLM independently; 2) the optimal way of scaling the visual encoder and the LLM simultaneously. All models follow the optimal architecture discovered in Sec. 3.2, *i.e.*, with LLM initialization, MoEs, and optimal depth-to-width ratios of the visual encoders.

3.3.1 Scaling up Visual Encoder and LLM Independently

We first investigate the scaling properties of the visual encoder and the LLM independently, *i.e.*, scaling up one component while keeping the other fixed. Specifically, we evaluate a series of LLMs with parameter sizes $\{0.5B, 1.8B, 7B\}$ and visual encoders with sizes $\{75M, 150M, 300M, 600M, 1.2B, 2.4B\}$.

Scaling up LLMs. The results are shown in Fig. 5. Scaling up the LLM parameters in native MLLMs exhibits a pattern consistent with the conventional LLM scaling law, where the loss decreases linearly as the parameter size increases exponentially.

Scaling up Visual Encoder. The results are shown in Fig. 6. In contrast to the LLM scaling law, increasing the visual encoder size does not consistently enhance multimodal performance. Instead, with a fixed LLM, the performance gains achieved by enlarging the visual encoder diminish progressively. Beyond a certain encoder size, further scaling results in only marginal loss reduction, indicating that the performance upper limit of the MLLM is constrained by the LLM’s capacity.

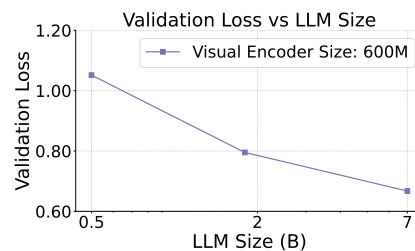


Figure 5: **The validation loss when scaling up LLMs.** With the same visual encoder (*i.e.* 600M), the validation loss decreases log-linearly with the LLM size.

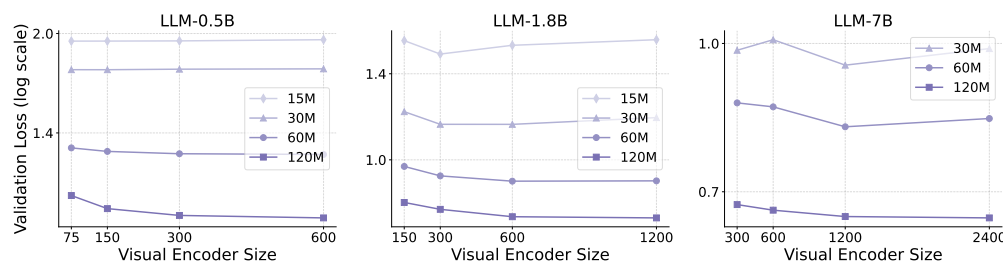


Figure 6: **The validation loss curves of different LLMs with different training data sizes.** As the training data size increases, the loss gap narrows to near zero when the visual encoder size reaches a certain threshold.

Observation 4: Scaling the LLM consistently improves multimodal performance, following the typical LLM scaling law. However, increasing the visual encoder size shows diminishing returns, suggesting that the MLLM’s performance is limited by the LLM’s capacity.

3.3.2 Scaling up Visual Encoder and LLM Together

The diminishing returns from increasing the visual encoder size suggest the existence of an optimal encoder size for a given LLM. We define this optimal size as the smallest encoder whose loss difference compared to an encoder twice its size is less than $\lambda = 1\%$ of the loss with the 75M encoder (the smallest used in our experiments). Fig. 7 shows the relationship between visual encoder size and LLM size.

The logarithm of the optimal visual encoder size scales linearly with the logarithm of the LLM size, indicating

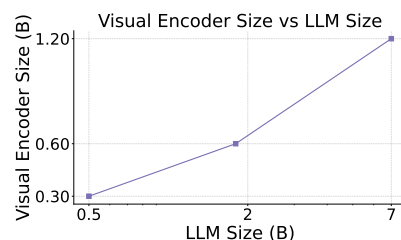


Figure 7: **Relationship of visual encoder size and LLM size.** The optimal visual encoder size increases log-linearly with the LLM size.

that both components should be scaled jointly for balanced performance. This highlights the suboptimality of compositional MLLMs, which typically use a fixed visual encoder size across varying LLM scales.

Observation 5: The optimal size of the visual encoder scales proportionally with the LLM size in log scale, indicating that both components should be scaled jointly. This further implies that the pre-trained visual encoders using a single pre-trained visual encoder across a wide range of LLM scales like existing compositional MLLMs is suboptimal.

4 NaViL: A Novel Native MLLM with Strong Capabilities

4.1 Architecture

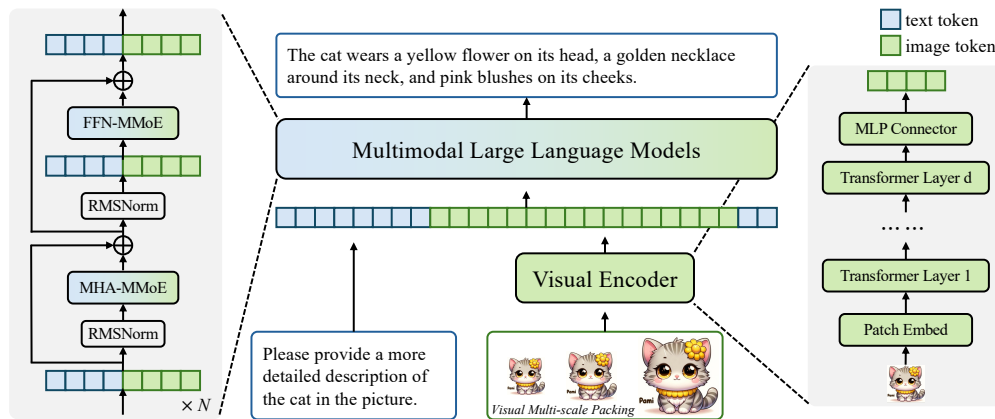


Figure 8: **Architecture of NaViL.** As a native MoE-extended MLLM, NaViL can be trained end-to-end and supports input images of any resolution.

Based on above studies, we construct NaViL with the optimal settings in Sec. 3.1. The architecture is shown in Fig. 8. NaViL inherently supports input images of any resolution. These images are first encoded into visual tokens by the visual encoder and the MLP projector, and then concatenated with the textual tokens to formulate the multimodal token sequence and fed into the LLM. Special tokens `<begin_of_image>` and `<end_of_image>` are inserted before and after each image token subsequence to indicate the beginning and end of the image, respectively. Special token `<end_of_line>` is inserted at the end of each row of image tokens to indicate the corresponding spatial position information.

Visual Multi-scale Packing is further introduced to improve the model performance during inference. Specifically, given an input image $I_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{H_0 \times W_0 \times 3}$ and downsampling rate τ , a multi-scale image sequence $\{I_i \in \mathbb{R}^{H_i \times W_i \times 3}\}_{i=0}^n$ is obtained by continuously downsampling the original image (*i.e.* $H_i = \tau^i H_0, W_i = \tau^i W_0$) until its area is smaller than a given threshold. These images in the sequence are processed separately by the visual encoder. The obtained visual token embeddings $\{x_{i,v}\}_{i=0}^n$ are then concatenated and fed to the LLM. Special token `<end_of_scale>` is inserted after each scale image to indicate the end of different scales.

4.2 Training

Stage 1: Multi-modal Generative Pre-training. In this stage, the model is initially trained on 500 million image-text pairs to develop comprehensive multimodal representations. Of these training samples, 300 million are directly sampled from web-scale datasets (*i.e.* Laion-2B [55], Coyo-700M [7], Wukong [25] and SA-1B [31]) while the remaining 200 million consist of images from these datasets paired with captions synthesized by existing MLLMs (*i.e.* InternVL-8B [15]). During this process, the textual parameters of the model remain frozen, with only the newly-added vision-specific parameters (*i.e.*, the visual encoder, MLP projector, and MoE visual experts) being trainable.

To enhance the alignment between visual and textual features in more complex multimodal contexts, the model is subsequently trained on 185 million high-quality data consisting of both multimodal

Table 1: **Comparison with existing MLLMs on general MLLM benchmarks.** “#A-Param” denotes the number of activated parameters. [†]InternVL-2.5-2B adopts the same LLM and high-quality data with NaViL, so we mark it as the compositional counterpart. Note that its 300M visual encoder is distilled from another 6B large encoder. **Bold** and underline indicate the best and the second-best performance among native MLLMs, respectively. * denotes our reproduced results. For MME, we sum the perception and cognition scores. Average scores are computed by normalizing each metric to a range between 0 and 100.

Model	#A-Param	Avg	MMVet	MMMU	MMB	MME	MathVista	OCRBench	CCB
<i>Compositional MLLMs:</i>									
MobileVLM-V2-1.7B [16]	1.7B	—	—	—	57.7	—	—	—	—
MobileVLM-V2-3B [16]	3.0B	—	—	—	63.2	—	—	—	—
Mini-Gemini-2B [34]	3.5B	—	31.1	31.7	59.8	1653	29.4	—	—
MM1-3B-MoE-Chat [48]	3.5B	—	42.2	38.6	70.8	1772	32.6	—	—
DeepSeek-VL-1.3B [40]	2.0B	42.3	34.8	32.2	64.6	1532	31.1	409	37.6
PaliGemma-3B [6]	2.9B	45.6	33.1	34.9	71.0	1686	28.7	614	29.6
MiniCPM-V-2 [66]	2.8B	51.1	41.0	38.2	69.1	1809	38.7	605	45.3
InternVL-1.5-2B [14]	2.2B	54.7	39.3	34.6	70.9	1902	41.1	654	63.5
Qwen2VL-2B [63]	2.1B	58.6	49.5	41.1	74.9	1872	43.0	809	53.7
[†] InternVL-2.5-2B [13]	2.2B	67.0	60.8	43.6	74.7	2138	51.3	804	81.7
<i>Native MLLMs:</i>									
Fuyu-8B (HD) [5]	8B	—	21.4	—	10.7	—	—	—	—
SOLO [11]	7B	—	—	—	—	1260	34.4	—	—
Chameleon-7B [†] [9]	7B	13.9	8.3	25.4	31.1	170	22.3	7	3.5
EVE-7B [19]	7B	33.0	25.6	32.3	49.5	1483	25.2	327	12.4
EVE-7B (HD) [19]	7B	37.0	25.7	32.6	52.3	1628	34.2	398	16.3
Emu3 [65]	8B	—	37.2	31.6	58.5	—	—	687	—
VoRA [62]	7B	—	33.7	32.2	64.2	1674	—	—	—
VoRA-AnyRes [62]	7B	—	33.7	32.0	61.3	1655	—	—	—
EVEv2 [20]	7B	53.2	45.0	<u>39.3</u>	66.3	1709	60.0*	702	30.8*
SAIL [32]	7B	53.7	<u>46.3</u>	38.6*	<u>70.1</u>	1719	<u>57.0</u>	<u>783</u>	<u>24.3*</u>
Mono-InternVL [43]	1.8B	<u>56.4</u>	40.1	33.7	65.5	1875	45.7	767	<u>66.3</u>
NaViL-2B (ours)	2.4B	67.1	78.3	41.8	71.2	<u>1822</u>	50.0	796	83.9

alignment samples and pure language data. In this phase, the textual parameters within the self-attention layers are also unfrozen, enabling more refined cross-modal integration.

Stage 2: Supervised Fine-tuning. Following common practice in developing MLLM, an additional supervised fine-tuning stage is adopted. In this stage, all parameters are unfrozen and trained using a relatively smaller (*i.e.* 68 million) but higher quality multimodal dataset.

5 Experiment

5.1 Experimental Setups

Evaluation Benchmarks. We evaluate NaViL and existing MLLMs on a broad range of multimodal benchmarks. Specifically, MLLM benchmarks encompass MMVet [69], MMMU val [70], MMBench-EN test [37], MME [22], MathVista MINI [41], OCRBench [39], and CCBench [37]. Visual question answering benchmarks include TextVQA val [57], ScienceQA-IMG test [42], GQA test dev [27], DocVQA test [47], AI2D test [30], ChartQA test [45], and InfographicVQA test [46]. These benchmarks cover various domains, such as optical character recognition (OCR), chart and document understanding, multi-image understanding, real-world comprehension, *etc.*

Implementation Details. By default, NaViL-2B is implemented upon InternLM2-1.8B [59], using its weights as initialization for the text part parameters. The text tokenizer and conversation format are also the same. The total number of parameters is 4.2B, of which the number of activation parameters is 2.4B (including 0.6B of visual encoder). The input images are first padded to ensure its length and width are multiples of 32. The stride of Patch Embedding layer is set to 16. The visual encoder adopts bidirectional attention and 2D-RoPE to capture global spatial relationships, while the LLM adopts causal attention and 1D-RoPE to better inherit its capabilities. In the pre-training phase, the global batch size is 7000 for stage 1 and 4614 for stage 2, respectively. The downsampling rate τ of

Table 2: **Comparison with existing MLLMs on visual question answering benchmarks.**

[†]InternVL-2.5-2B adopts the same LLM and high-quality data with NaViL, so we mark it as the compositional counterpart. Note that its 300M visual encoder is distilled from another 6B large encoder. * denotes our reproduced results. **Bold** and underline indicate the best and the second-best performance among native MLLMs, respectively.

Model	#A-Param	Avg	TextVQA	SQA-I	GQA	DocVQA	AI2D	ChartQA	InfoVQA
<i>Compositional MLLMs:</i>									
MobileVLM-V2-3B [16]	3.0B	—	57.5	70.0	66.1	—	—	—	—
Mini-Gemini-2B [34]	3.5B	—	56.2	—	—	34.2	—	—	—
MM1-3B-MoE-Chat [48]	3.5B	—	72.9	76.1	—	—	—	—	—
DeepSeek-VL-1.3B [40]	2.0B	—	57.8	—	—	—	51.5	—	—
PaliGemma-3B [6]	2.9B	—	68.1	—	—	—	68.3	—	—
MiniCPM-V-2 [66]	2.8B	—	74.1	—	—	71.9	62.9	—	—
InternVL-1.5-2B [14]	2.2B	71.7	70.5	84.9	61.6	85.0	69.8	74.8	55.4
Qwen2VL-2B [63]	2.1B	73.1	79.7	78.2*	60.3*	90.1	74.7	73.5	65.5
[†] InternVL-2.5-2B [13]	2.2B	76.5	74.3	96.2	61.2	88.7	74.9	79.2	60.9
<i>Native MLLMs:</i>									
Fuyu-8B (HD) [5]	8B	—	—	—	—	—	64.5	—	—
SOLO [11]	7B	—	—	73.3	—	—	61.4	—	—
Chameleon-7B ¹ [9]	7B	17.9	4.8	47.2	—	1.5	46.0	2.9	5.0
EVE-7B [19]	7B	40.8	51.9	63.0	60.8	22.0	48.5	19.5	20.0
EVE-7B (HD) [19]	7B	54.6	56.8	64.9	<u>62.6</u>	53.0	61.0	59.1	25.0
Emu3 [65]	8B	67.6	64.7	89.2	60.3	76.3	70.0	68.6	43.8
VoRA [62]	7B	—	56.3	75.9	—	—	65.6	—	—
VoRA-AnyRes [62]	7B	—	58.7	72.0	—	—	61.1	—	—
EVEv2 [20]	7B	<u>71.7</u>	71.1	96.2	62.9	77.4*	74.8	73.9	45.8*
SAIL [32]	7B	71.5	77.1	93.3	58.0*	78.4*	76.7	69.7*	<u>47.3*</u>
Mono-InternVL [43]	1.8B	70.1	72.6	93.6	59.5	<u>80.0</u>	68.6	73.7	43.0
NaViL-2B (ours)	2.4B	75.1	<u>76.9</u>	<u>95.0</u>	59.8	85.4	74.6	78.0	56.0

visual multi-scale packing is set to $\sqrt{2}/2$. To demonstrate the scaling capability of our approach, we also trained NaViL-9B based on Qwen3-8B [60]. More details are given in the appendix.

5.2 Main Results

In Tab. 1, we compare the performance of our model with existing MLLMs across 7 multimodal benchmarks. Compared to native MLLMs, compositional MLLMs demonstrate superior overall performance. For example, InternVL-2.5-2B outperforms existing native MLLMs on most MLLM benchmarks. This indicates that current native MLLMs still have significant room for performance improvement. In contrast, our proposed NaViL achieves overall performance exceeding all existing native MLLMs with a relatively small paramter size. Compared to the compositional baseline model InternVL-2.5-2B that uses the same LLM, NaViL also achieves comparable performance on most benchmarks. It is worth noting that the 300M visual encoder used by InternVL-2.5-2B is distilled from another pre-trained encoder InternViT-6B [15] with a significantly larger parameter size. This demonstrates the superiority of our visual design methods and visual parameter scaling strategies.

In Tab. 2, we further compare the performance of our model with existing MLLMs on mainstream visual question answering tasks. NaViL’s average performance still leads previous state-of-the-art native MLLMs and is roughly on par with compositional baselines that require pre-trained encoders. Specifically, in tests such as DocVQA [49], ChartQA [45] and InfoVQA [46], NaViL significantly outperforms the previous state-of-the-art native MLLM, demonstrating the superiority of using an optimal size visual encoder in processing high-resolution images. However, NaViL’s performance still has some gap compared to the best compositional MLLMs. We believe that higher-quality instruction data and more powerful LLMs will further narrow this gap.

¹The performance of Chameleon-7B is from [43].

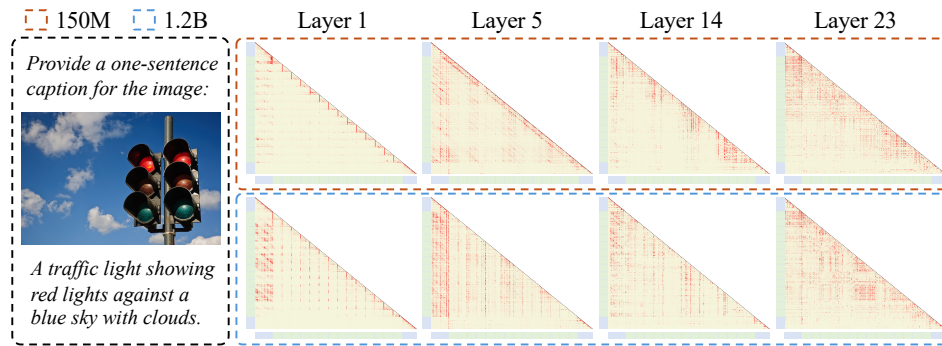


Figure 9: **Visualization of attention maps in LLM-1.8B with different encoder sizes (i.e. 150M and 1.2B).** Text and image tokens are in blue and green, respectively. Larger encoder allows LLMs to attend to global patterns at shallow layers while maintaining higher attention to textual tokens.

5.3 Qualitative Experiments

To further analyze the characteristics of native MLLM, we visualized the attention maps of different LLM layers when using encoders of 150M and 1.2B sizes, as shown in Fig. 9. Two findings can be drawn from the figure. First, similar to previous native-MLLMs [43], despite having an encoder, the attention patterns in shallow layers still exhibit obvious locality, gradually shifting toward global information as the depth increases. For example, when using a 150M encoder, image tokens in the first layer tend to attend to spatially adjacent tokens. However, we observe that when the visual encoder is scaled up to 1.2B, visual tokens in shallow layers already begin to attend more to global information. This indicates that a sufficiently large visual encoder can better pre-extract high-level semantic information from the entire image.

Secondly, from a cross-modal interaction perspective, a larger visual encoder also facilitates earlier interaction between visual and language features. When using a 1.2B visual encoder, the attention weights between visual tokens and text tokens in the first layer are significantly higher than those in the 150M counterpart. Earlier interaction is more beneficial for feature alignment between modalities, thus providing an explanatory perspective for the improved performance achieved when using larger encoder sizes. We believe these findings will provide beneficial insights for developing native MLLMs. More visualizations can be found in the supplementary materials.

6 Conclusion

This paper systematically investigates native end-to-end training for MLLMs, examining its design space and scaling properties under data constraints. Our study reveals three key insights: 1) Initialization with pre-trained LLMs, combined with visual encoders and MoE architecture, significantly improves performance; 2) Visual encoder scaling is limited by the LLM’s capacity, unlike traditional LLM scaling; 3) The optimal encoder size scales log-proportionally with the LLM size. Based on these findings, we propose NaViL, a native MLLM that achieves competitive performance on diverse multimodal benchmarks, outperforming existing compositional MLLMs. We hope these insights will inspire future research on next-generation MLLMs.

Limitations and Broader Impacts. Due to limited computation resources, this paper only investigates the scaling properties of native MLLMs up to 9B parameters. Subsequent experiments with larger scales (e.g., 30 billion, 70 billion, 100 billion, etc.) can be conducted to further validate this scaling trend. In addition, this paper focuses only on visual and linguistic modalities. Future research may explore broader modalities and provide more in-depth insights beyond the current visual-linguistic paradigm.

Acknowledgments The work is supported by the National Key R&D Program of China (NO. 2022ZD0161300, and NO. 2022ZD0160102), by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (U24A20325, 62321005, 62376134), and by the China Postdoctoral Science Foundation (No. BX20250384).

References

- [1] Armen Aghajanyan, Lili Yu, Alexis Conneau, Wei-Ning Hsu, Karen Hambardzumyan, Susan Zhang, Stephen Roller, Naman Goyal, Omer Levy, and Luke Zettlemoyer. Scaling laws for generative mixed-modal language models. In *International Conference on Machine Learning*, pages 265–279. PMLR, 2023.
- [2] Harsh Agrawal, Karan Desai, Yufei Wang, Xinlei Chen, Rishabh Jain, Mark Johnson, Dhruv Batra, Devi Parikh, Stefan Lee, and Peter Anderson. Nocaps: Novel object captioning at scale. In *ICCV*, pages 8948–8957, 2019.
- [3] Jinze Bai, Shuai Bai, Yunfei Chu, Zeyu Cui, Kai Dang, Xiaodong Deng, Yang Fan, Wenbin Ge, Yu Han, Fei Huang, Binyuan Hui, Luo Ji, Mei Li, Junyang Lin, Runji Lin, Dayiheng Liu, Gao Liu, Chengqiang Lu, Keming Lu, Jianxin Ma, Rui Men, Xingzhang Ren, Xuancheng Ren, Chuanqi Tan, Sinan Tan, Jianhong Tu, Peng Wang, Shijie Wang, Wei Wang, Shengguang Wu, Benfeng Xu, Jin Xu, An Yang, Hao Yang, Jian Yang, Shusheng Yang, Yang Yao, Bowen Yu, Hongyi Yuan, Zheng Yuan, Jianwei Zhang, Xingxuan Zhang, Yichang Zhang, Zhenru Zhang, Chang Zhou, Jingren Zhou, Xiaohuan Zhou, and Tianhang Zhu. Qwen technical report. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2309.16609*, 2023.
- [4] Shuai Bai, Keqin Chen, Xuejing Liu, Jialin Wang, Wenbin Ge, Sibao Song, Kai Dang, Peng Wang, Shijie Wang, Jun Tang, et al. Qwen2. 5-vl technical report. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.13923*, 2025.
- [5] Rohan Bavishi, Erich Elsen, Curtis Hawthorne, Maxwell Nye, Augustus Odena, Arushi Somani, and Sağnak Taşlılar. Introducing our multimodal models, 2023.
- [6] Lucas Beyer, Andreas Steiner, André Susano Pinto, Alexander Kolesnikov, Xiao Wang, Daniel Salz, Maxim Neumann, Ibrahim Alabdulmohsin, Michael Tschannen, Emanuele Bugliarello, et al. Paligemma: A versatile 3b vlm for transfer. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.07726*, 2024.
- [7] Minwoo Byeon, Beomhee Park, Haecheon Kim, Sungjun Lee, Woonhyuk Baek, and Saehoon Kim. Coyo-700m: Image-text pair dataset. <https://github.com/kakaobrain/coyo-dataset>, 2022.
- [8] Zheng Cai, Maosong Cao, Haojiong Chen, Kai Chen, Keyu Chen, Xin Chen, Xun Chen, Zehui Chen, Zhi Chen, Pei Chu, et al. Internlm2 technical report. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.17297*, 2024.
- [9] ChameleonTeam. Chameleon: Mixed-modal early-fusion foundation models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.09818*, 2024.
- [10] Xinlei Chen, Hao Fang, Tsung-Yi Lin, Ramakrishna Vedantam, Saurabh Gupta, Piotr Dollár, and C Lawrence Zitnick. Microsoft coco captions: Data collection and evaluation server. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1504.00325*, 2015.
- [11] Yangyi Chen, Xingyao Wang, Hao Peng, and Heng Ji. A single transformer for scalable vision-language modeling. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.06438*, 2024.
- [12] Zhe Chen, Weiyun Wang, Yue Cao, Yangzhou Liu, Zhangwei Gao, Erfei Cui, Jinguo Zhu, Shenglong Ye, Hao Tian, Zhaoyang Liu, et al. Expanding performance boundaries of open-source multimodal models with model, data, and test-time scaling. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2412.05271*, 2024.
- [13] Zhe Chen, Weiyun Wang, Yue Cao, Yangzhou Liu, Zhangwei Gao, Erfei Cui, Jinguo Zhu, Shenglong Ye, Hao Tian, Zhaoyang Liu, et al. Expanding performance boundaries of open-source multimodal models with model, data, and test-time scaling. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2412.05271*, 2024.
- [14] Zhe Chen, Weiyun Wang, Hao Tian, Shenglong Ye, Zhangwei Gao, Erfei Cui, Wenwen Tong, Kongzhi Hu, Jiapeng Luo, Zheng Ma, et al. How far are we to gpt-4v? closing the gap to commercial multimodal models with open-source suites. *arXiv:2404.16821*, 2024.
- [15] Zhe Chen, Jiannan Wu, Wenhai Wang, Weijie Su, Guo Chen, Sen Xing, Muyan Zhong, Qinglong Zhang, Xizhou Zhu, Lewei Lu, Bin Li, Ping Luo, Tong Lu, Yu Qiao, and Jifeng Dai. Internvl: Scaling up vision foundation models and aligning for generic visual-linguistic tasks. *arXiv: 2312.14238*, 2023.
- [16] Xiangxiang Chu, Limeng Qiao, Xinyu Zhang, Shuang Xu, Fei Wei, Yang Yang, Xiaofei Sun, Yiming Hu, Xinyang Lin, Bo Zhang, et al. Mobilevlm v2: Faster and stronger baseline for vision language model. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.03766*, 2024.
- [17] Christopher Clark and Matt Gardner. Simple and effective multi-paragraph reading comprehension. In *ACL*, pages 845–855, 2018.

- [18] Contributors. Opencompass: A universal evaluation platform for foundation models. <https://github.com/open-compass/opencompass>, 2023.
- [19] Haiwen Diao, Yufeng Cui, Xiaotong Li, Yueze Wang, Huchuan Lu, and Xinlong Wang. Unveiling encoder-free vision-language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2406.11832*, 2024.
- [20] Haiwen Diao, Xiaotong Li, Yufeng Cui, Yueze Wang, Haoge Deng, Ting Pan, Wenxuan Wang, Huchuan Lu, and Xinlong Wang. Evev2: Improved baselines for encoder-free vision-language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.06788*, 2025.
- [21] Alexey Dosovitskiy, Lucas Beyer, Alexander Kolesnikov, Dirk Weissenborn, Xiaohua Zhai, Thomas Unterthiner, Mostafa Dehghani, Matthias Minderer, Georg Heigold, Sylvain Gelly, et al. An image is worth 16x16 words: Transformers for image recognition at scale. In *ICLR*, 2020.
- [22] Chaoyou Fu, Peixian Chen, Yunhang Shen, Yulei Qin, Mengdan Zhang, Xu Lin, Zhenyu Qiu, Wei Lin, Jinrui Yang, Xiawu Zheng, Ke Li, Xing Sun, and Rongrong Ji. MME: A comprehensive evaluation benchmark for multimodal large language models. *arXiv: 2306.13394*, 2023.
- [23] Behrooz Ghorbani, Orhan Firat, Markus Freitag, Ankur Bapna, Maxim Krikun, Xavier Garcia, Ciprian Chelba, and Colin Cherry. Scaling laws for neural machine translation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2109.07740*, 2021.
- [24] Yash Goyal, Tejas Khot, Douglas Summers-Stay, Dhruv Batra, and Devi Parikh. Making the v in vqa matter: Elevating the role of image understanding in visual question answering. In *CVPR*, pages 6904–6913, 2017.
- [25] Jiayi Gu, Xiaojun Meng, Guansong Lu, Lu Hou, Niu Minzhe, Xiaodan Liang, Lewei Yao, Runhui Huang, Wei Zhang, Xin Jiang, et al. Wukong: A 100 million large-scale chinese cross-modal pre-training benchmark. *NeurIPS*, 35:26418–26431, 2022.
- [26] Drew A Hudson and Christopher D Manning. Gqa: A new dataset for real-world visual reasoning and compositional question answering. In *CVPR*, pages 6700–6709, 2019.
- [27] Drew A. Hudson and Christopher D. Manning. GQA: A new dataset for real-world visual reasoning and compositional question answering. In *CVPR*, pages 6700–6709, 2019.
- [28] Gabriel Ilharco, Mitchell Wortsman, Ross Wightman, Cade Gordon, Nicholas Carlini, Rohan Taori, Achal Dave, Vaishaal Shankar, Hongseok Namkoong, John Miller, Hannaneh Hajishirzi, Ali Farhadi, and Ludwig Schmidt. Openclip. Zenodo. Version 0.1. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5143773>, 2021. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.5143773.
- [29] Jared Kaplan, Sam McCandlish, Tom Henighan, Tom B Brown, Benjamin Chess, Rewon Child, Scott Gray, Alec Radford, Jeffrey Wu, and Dario Amodei. Scaling laws for neural language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2001.08361*, 2020.
- [30] Aniruddha Kembhavi, Mike Salvato, Eric Kolve, Minjoon Seo, Hannaneh Hajishirzi, and Ali Farhadi. A diagram is worth a dozen images. In *ECCV*, pages 235–251, 2016.
- [31] Alexander Kirillov, Eric Mintun, Nikhila Ravi, Hanzi Mao, Chloé Rolland, Laura Gustafson, Tete Xiao, Spencer Whitehead, Alexander C. Berg, Wan-Yen Lo, Piotr Dollár, and Ross B. Girshick. Segment anything. *arXiv: 2304.02643*, 2023.
- [32] Weixian Lei, Jiacong Wang, Haochen Wang, Xiangtai Li, Jun Hao Liew, Jiashi Feng, and Zilong Huang. The scalability of simplicity: Empirical analysis of vision-language learning with a single transformer. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.10462*, 2025.
- [33] Junnan Li, Dongxu Li, Caiming Xiong, and Steven Hoi. Blip: Bootstrapping language-image pre-training for unified vision-language understanding and generation. In *ICML*, pages 12888–12900, 2022.
- [34] Yanwei Li, Yuechen Zhang, Chengyao Wang, Zhisheng Zhong, Yixin Chen, Ruihang Chu, Shaoteng Liu, and Jiaya Jia. Mini-gemini: Mining the potential of multi-modality vision language models. *arXiv: 2403.18814*, 2024.
- [35] Haotian Liu, Chunyuan Li, Yuheng Li, and Yong Jae Lee. Improved baselines with visual instruction tuning. *arXiv: 2310.03744*, 2023.
- [36] Haotian Liu, Chunyuan Li, Qingyang Wu, and Yong Jae Lee. Visual instruction tuning. In *NeurIPS*, 2023.
- [37] Yuan Liu, Haodong Duan, Yuanhan Zhang, Bo Li, Songyang Zhang, Wangbo Zhao, Yike Yuan, Jiaqi Wang, Conghui He, Ziwei Liu, Kai Chen, and Dahua Lin. Mmbench: Is your multi-modal model an all-around player? *arXiv: 2307.06281*, 2023.

- [38] Yuan Liu, Haodong Duan, Yuanhan Zhang, Bo Li, Songyang Zhang, Wangbo Zhao, Yike Yuan, Jiaqi Wang, Conghui He, Ziwei Liu, et al. Mmbench: Is your multi-modal model an all-around player? *arXiv preprint arXiv:2307.06281*, 2023.
- [39] Yuliang Liu, Zhang Li, Hongliang Li, Wenwen Yu, Mingxin Huang, Dezhi Peng, Mingyu Liu, Mingrui Chen, Chunyuan Li, Lianwen Jin, et al. On the hidden mystery of ocr in large multimodal models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2305.07895*, 2023.
- [40] Haoyu Lu, Wen Liu, Bo Zhang, Bingxuan Wang, Kai Dong, Bo Liu, Jingxiang Sun, Tongzheng Ren, Zhuoshu Li, Yaofeng Sun, et al. Deepseek-vl: Towards real-world vision-language understanding. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.05525*, 2024.
- [41] Pan Lu, Hritik Bansal, Tony Xia, Jiacheng Liu, Chunyuan Li, Hannaneh Hajishirzi, Hao Cheng, Kai-Wei Chang, Michel Galley, and Jianfeng Gao. Mathvista: Evaluating mathematical reasoning of foundation models in visual contexts. *arXiv: 2310.02255*, 2023.
- [42] Pan Lu, Swaroop Mishra, Tony Xia, Liang Qiu, Kai-Wei Chang, Song-Chun Zhu, Oyvind Tafjord, Peter Clark, and Ashwin Kalyan. Learn to explain: Multimodal reasoning via thought chains for science question answering. In *NeurIPS*, 2022.
- [43] Gen Luo, Xue Yang, Wenhan Dou, Zhaokai Wang, Jiawen Liu, Jifeng Dai, Yu Qiao, and Xizhou Zhu. Mono-intervl: Pushing the boundaries of monolithic multimodal large language models with endogenous visual pre-training. In *CVPR*, 2025.
- [44] Gen Luo, Yiyi Zhou, Yuxin Zhang, Xiawu Zheng, Xiaoshuai Sun, and Rongrong Ji. Feast your eyes: Mixture-of-resolution adaptation for multimodal large language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.03003*, 2024.
- [45] Ahmed Masry, Xuan Long Do, Jia Qing Tan, Shafiq Joty, and Enamul Hoque. Chartqa: A benchmark for question answering about charts with visual and logical reasoning. In *ACL*, pages 2263–2279, 2022.
- [46] Minesh Mathew, Viraj Bagal, Rubèn Tito, Dimosthenis Karatzas, Ernest Valveny, and CV Jawahar. Infographicvqa. In *WACV*, pages 1697–1706, 2022.
- [47] Minesh Mathew, Dimosthenis Karatzas, and CV Jawahar. Docvqa: A dataset for vqa on document images. In *WACV*, pages 2200–2209, 2021.
- [48] Brandon McKinzie, Zhe Gan, Jean-Philippe Fauconnier, Sam Dodge, Bowen Zhang, Philipp Dufter, Dhruvi Shah, Xianzhi Du, Futang Peng, Floris Weers, Anton Belyi, Haotian Zhang, Karanjeet Singh, Doug Kang, Ankur Jain, Hongyu He, Max Schwarzer, Tom Gunter, Xiang Kong, Aonan Zhang, Jianyu Wang, Chong Wang, Nan Du, Tao Lei, Sam Wiseman, Guoli Yin, Mark Lee, Zirui Wang, Ruoming Pang, Peter Gräsch, Alexander Toshev, and Yinfei Yang. MM1: methods, analysis & insights from multimodal LLM pre-training. *arXiv: 2403.09611*, 2024.
- [49] Anand Mishra, Shashank Shekhar, Ajeet Kumar Singh, and Anirban Chakraborty. Ocr-vqa: Visual question answering by reading text in images. In *ICDAR*, pages 947–952, 2019.
- [50] OpenAI. Gpt-4v(ision) system card. https://cdn.openai.com/papers/GPTV_System_Card.pdf, 2023.
- [51] Maxime Oquab, Timothée Darcet, Théo Moutakanni, Huy V Vo, Marc Szafraniec, Vasil Khalidov, Pierre Fernandez, Daniel HAZIZA, Francisco Massa, Alaaeldin El-Nouby, et al. Dinov2: Learning robust visual features without supervision. *TMLR*, 2023.
- [52] Alec Radford, Jong Wook Kim, Chris Hallacy, Aditya Ramesh, Gabriel Goh, Sandhini Agarwal, Girish Sastry, Amanda Askell, Pamela Mishkin, Jack Clark, et al. Learning transferable visual models from natural language supervision. In *ICML*, pages 8748–8763, 2021.
- [53] Alec Radford, Jong Wook Kim, Chris Hallacy, Aditya Ramesh, Gabriel Goh, Sandhini Agarwal, Girish Sastry, Amanda Askell, Pamela Mishkin, Jack Clark, Gretchen Krueger, and Ilya Sutskever. Learning transferable visual models from natural language supervision. In *ICML*, volume 139, pages 8748–8763, 2021.
- [54] Machel Reid, Nikolay Savinov, Denis Teplyashin, Dmitry Lepikhin, Timothy Lillicrap, Jean-baptiste Alayrac, Radu Soricut, Angeliki Lazaridou, Orhan Firat, Julian Schrittwieser, et al. Gemini 1.5: Unlocking multimodal understanding across millions of tokens of context. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.05530*, 2024.

- [55] Christoph Schuhmann, Romain Beaumont, Richard Vencu, Cade Gordon, Ross Wightman, Mehdi Cherti, Theo Coombes, Aarush Katta, Clayton Mullis, Mitchell Wortsman, et al. Laion-5b: An open large-scale dataset for training next generation image-text models. *NeurIPS*, 35:25278–25294, 2022.
- [56] Mustafa Shukor, Enrico Fini, Victor Guilherme Turrissi da Costa, Matthieu Cord, Joshua Susskind, and Alaaeldin El-Nouby. Scaling laws for native multimodal models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.07951*, 2025.
- [57] Amanpreet Singh, Vivek Natarajan, Meet Shah, Yu Jiang, Xinlei Chen, Dhruv Batra, Devi Parikh, and Marcus Rohrbach. Towards VQA models that can read. In *CVPR*, 2019.
- [58] Mingxing Tan and Quoc Le. Efficientnet: Rethinking model scaling for convolutional neural networks. In *International conference on machine learning*, pages 6105–6114. PMLR, 2019.
- [59] InternLM Team. Internlm: A multilingual language model with progressively enhanced capabilities. <https://github.com/InternLM/InternLM>, 2023.
- [60] Qwen Team. Qwen3 blog. <https://qwenlm.github.io/blog/qwen3/>, 2025.
- [61] Hugo Touvron, Thibaut Lavril, Gautier Izacard, Xavier Martinet, Marie-Anne Lachaux, Timothée Lacroix, Baptiste Rozière, Naman Goyal, Eric Hambro, Faisal Azhar, et al. Llama: Open and efficient foundation language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2302.13971*, 2023.
- [62] Han Wang, Yongjie Ye, Bingru Li, Yuxiang Nie, Jinghui Lu, Jingqun Tang, Yanjie Wang, and Can Huang. Vision as lora. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2503.20680*, 2025.
- [63] Peng Wang, Shuai Bai, Sinan Tan, Shijie Wang, Zhihao Fan, Jinze Bai, Keqin Chen, Xuejing Liu, Jialin Wang, Wenbin Ge, et al. Qwen2-vl: Enhancing vision-language model’s perception of the world at any resolution. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2409.12191*, 2024.
- [64] Wenhai Wang, Jifeng Dai, Zhe Chen, Zhenhang Huang, Zhiqi Li, Xizhou Zhu, Xiaowei Hu, Tong Lu, Lewei Lu, Hongsheng Li, et al. Internimage: Exploring large-scale vision foundation models with deformable convolutions. In *CVPR*, pages 14408–14419, 2023.
- [65] Xinlong Wang, Xiaosong Zhang, Zhengxiong Luo, Quan Sun, Yufeng Cui, Jinsheng Wang, Fan Zhang, Yueze Wang, Zhen Li, Qiyang Yu, Yingli Zhao, Yulong Ao, Xuebin Min, Tao Li, Boya Wu, Bo Zhao, Bowen Zhang, Liangdong Wang, Guang Liu, Zheqi He, Xi Yang, Jingjing Liu, Yonghua Lin, Tiejun Huang, and Zhongyuan Wang. Emu3: Next-token prediction is all you need. *arXiv: 2409.18869*, 2024.
- [66] Yuan Yao, Tianyu Yu, Ao Zhang, Chongyi Wang, Junbo Cui, Hongji Zhu, Tianchi Cai, Haoyu Li, Weilin Zhao, Zhihui He, et al. Minicpm-v: A gpt-4v level mllm on your phone. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2408.01800*, 2024.
- [67] Peter Young, Alice Lai, Micah Hodosh, and Julia Hockenmaier. From image descriptions to visual denotations: New similarity metrics for semantic inference over event descriptions. *TACL*, 2:67–78, 2014.
- [68] Weihao Yu, Zhengyuan Yang, Linjie Li, Jianfeng Wang, Kevin Lin, Zicheng Liu, Xinchao Wang, and Lijuan Wang. Mm-vet: Evaluating large multimodal models for integrated capabilities. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2308.02490*, 2023.
- [69] Weihao Yu, Zhengyuan Yang, Linjie Li, Jianfeng Wang, Kevin Lin, Zicheng Liu, Xinchao Wang, and Lijuan Wang. Mm-vet: Evaluating large multimodal models for integrated capabilities. *arXiv: 2308.02490*, 2023.
- [70] Xiang Yue, Yuansheng Ni, Kai Zhang, Tianyu Zheng, Ruqi Liu, Ge Zhang, Samuel Stevens, Dongfu Jiang, Weiming Ren, Yuxuan Sun, et al. Mmmu: A massive multi-discipline multimodal understanding and reasoning benchmark for expert agi. *arXiv: 2311.16502*, 2023.
- [71] Xiaohua Zhai, Alexander Kolesnikov, Neil Houlsby, and Lucas Beyer. Scaling vision transformers. In *CVPR*, pages 12104–12113, 2022.
- [72] Xiaohua Zhai, Basil Mustafa, Alexander Kolesnikov, and Lucas Beyer. Sigmoid loss for language image pre-training. In *ICCV*, pages 11975–11986, 2023.

NeurIPS Paper Checklist

1. Claims

Question: Do the main claims made in the abstract and introduction accurately reflect the paper's contributions and scope?

Answer: [\[Yes\]](#)

Justification: The main claims made in the abstract and introduction accurately reflect the paper's contributions and scope.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the abstract and introduction do not include the claims made in the paper.
- The abstract and/or introduction should clearly state the claims made, including the contributions made in the paper and important assumptions and limitations. A No or NA answer to this question will not be perceived well by the reviewers.
- The claims made should match theoretical and experimental results, and reflect how much the results can be expected to generalize to other settings.
- It is fine to include aspirational goals as motivation as long as it is clear that these goals are not attained by the paper.

2. Limitations

Question: Does the paper discuss the limitations of the work performed by the authors?

Answer: [\[Yes\]](#)

Justification: Please refer to the conclusion section.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the paper has no limitation while the answer No means that the paper has limitations, but those are not discussed in the paper.
- The authors are encouraged to create a separate "Limitations" section in their paper.
- The paper should point out any strong assumptions and how robust the results are to violations of these assumptions (e.g., independence assumptions, noiseless settings, model well-specification, asymptotic approximations only holding locally). The authors should reflect on how these assumptions might be violated in practice and what the implications would be.
- The authors should reflect on the scope of the claims made, e.g., if the approach was only tested on a few datasets or with a few runs. In general, empirical results often depend on implicit assumptions, which should be articulated.
- The authors should reflect on the factors that influence the performance of the approach. For example, a facial recognition algorithm may perform poorly when image resolution is low or images are taken in low lighting. Or a speech-to-text system might not be used reliably to provide closed captions for online lectures because it fails to handle technical jargon.
- The authors should discuss the computational efficiency of the proposed algorithms and how they scale with dataset size.
- If applicable, the authors should discuss possible limitations of their approach to address problems of privacy and fairness.
- While the authors might fear that complete honesty about limitations might be used by reviewers as grounds for rejection, a worse outcome might be that reviewers discover limitations that aren't acknowledged in the paper. The authors should use their best judgment and recognize that individual actions in favor of transparency play an important role in developing norms that preserve the integrity of the community. Reviewers will be specifically instructed to not penalize honesty concerning limitations.

3. Theory assumptions and proofs

Question: For each theoretical result, does the paper provide the full set of assumptions and a complete (and correct) proof?

Answer: [\[NA\]](#)

Justification: The paper does not include theoretical results.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the paper does not include theoretical results.
- All the theorems, formulas, and proofs in the paper should be numbered and cross-referenced.
- All assumptions should be clearly stated or referenced in the statement of any theorems.
- The proofs can either appear in the main paper or the supplemental material, but if they appear in the supplemental material, the authors are encouraged to provide a short proof sketch to provide intuition.
- Inversely, any informal proof provided in the core of the paper should be complemented by formal proofs provided in appendix or supplemental material.
- Theorems and Lemmas that the proof relies upon should be properly referenced.

4. Experimental result reproducibility

Question: Does the paper fully disclose all the information needed to reproduce the main experimental results of the paper to the extent that it affects the main claims and/or conclusions of the paper (regardless of whether the code and data are provided or not)?

Answer: [Yes]

Justification: Please refer to Sec. 3, Sec. 4, Sec. 5 and the supplementary materials.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the paper does not include experiments.
- If the paper includes experiments, a No answer to this question will not be perceived well by the reviewers: Making the paper reproducible is important, regardless of whether the code and data are provided or not.
- If the contribution is a dataset and/or model, the authors should describe the steps taken to make their results reproducible or verifiable.
- Depending on the contribution, reproducibility can be accomplished in various ways. For example, if the contribution is a novel architecture, describing the architecture fully might suffice, or if the contribution is a specific model and empirical evaluation, it may be necessary to either make it possible for others to replicate the model with the same dataset, or provide access to the model. In general, releasing code and data is often one good way to accomplish this, but reproducibility can also be provided via detailed instructions for how to replicate the results, access to a hosted model (e.g., in the case of a large language model), releasing of a model checkpoint, or other means that are appropriate to the research performed.
- While NeurIPS does not require releasing code, the conference does require all submissions to provide some reasonable avenue for reproducibility, which may depend on the nature of the contribution. For example
 - (a) If the contribution is primarily a new algorithm, the paper should make it clear how to reproduce that algorithm.
 - (b) If the contribution is primarily a new model architecture, the paper should describe the architecture clearly and fully.
 - (c) If the contribution is a new model (e.g., a large language model), then there should either be a way to access this model for reproducing the results or a way to reproduce the model (e.g., with an open-source dataset or instructions for how to construct the dataset).
 - (d) We recognize that reproducibility may be tricky in some cases, in which case authors are welcome to describe the particular way they provide for reproducibility. In the case of closed-source models, it may be that access to the model is limited in some way (e.g., to registered users), but it should be possible for other researchers to have some path to reproducing or verifying the results.

5. Open access to data and code

Question: Does the paper provide open access to the data and code, with sufficient instructions to faithfully reproduce the main experimental results, as described in supplemental material?

Answer: [No]

Justification: Due to company policy, the training data cannot be fully released. However, we will specify all training and testing details in the paper.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that paper does not include experiments requiring code.
- Please see the NeurIPS code and data submission guidelines (<https://nips.cc/public/guides/CodeSubmissionPolicy>) for more details.
- While we encourage the release of code and data, we understand that this might not be possible, so 'No' is an acceptable answer. Papers cannot be rejected simply for not including code, unless this is central to the contribution (e.g., for a new open-source benchmark).
- The instructions should contain the exact command and environment needed to run to reproduce the results. See the NeurIPS code and data submission guidelines (<https://nips.cc/public/guides/CodeSubmissionPolicy>) for more details.
- The authors should provide instructions on data access and preparation, including how to access the raw data, preprocessed data, intermediate data, and generated data, etc.
- The authors should provide scripts to reproduce all experimental results for the new proposed method and baselines. If only a subset of experiments are reproducible, they should state which ones are omitted from the script and why.
- At submission time, to preserve anonymity, the authors should release anonymized versions (if applicable).
- Providing as much information as possible in supplemental material (appended to the paper) is recommended, but including URLs to data and code is permitted.

6. Experimental setting/details

Question: Does the paper specify all the training and test details (e.g., data splits, hyper-parameters, how they were chosen, type of optimizer, etc.) necessary to understand the results?

Answer: [Yes]

Justification: We specify all the training and test details. Please refer to Sec. 5 and the supplementary materials.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the paper does not include experiments.
- The experimental setting should be presented in the core of the paper to a level of detail that is necessary to appreciate the results and make sense of them.
- The full details can be provided either with the code, in appendix, or as supplemental material.

7. Experiment statistical significance

Question: Does the paper report error bars suitably and correctly defined or other appropriate information about the statistical significance of the experiments?

Answer: [No]

Justification: Due to limited resources, we do not report error bars.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the paper does not include experiments.
- The authors should answer "Yes" if the results are accompanied by error bars, confidence intervals, or statistical significance tests, at least for the experiments that support the main claims of the paper.
- The factors of variability that the error bars are capturing should be clearly stated (for example, train/test split, initialization, random drawing of some parameter, or overall run with given experimental conditions).
- The method for calculating the error bars should be explained (closed form formula, call to a library function, bootstrap, etc.)
- The assumptions made should be given (e.g., Normally distributed errors).

- It should be clear whether the error bar is the standard deviation or the standard error of the mean.
- It is OK to report 1-sigma error bars, but one should state it. The authors should preferably report a 2-sigma error bar than state that they have a 96% CI, if the hypothesis of Normality of errors is not verified.
- For asymmetric distributions, the authors should be careful not to show in tables or figures symmetric error bars that would yield results that are out of range (e.g. negative error rates).
- If error bars are reported in tables or plots, The authors should explain in the text how they were calculated and reference the corresponding figures or tables in the text.

8. Experiments compute resources

Question: For each experiment, does the paper provide sufficient information on the computer resources (type of compute workers, memory, time of execution) needed to reproduce the experiments?

Answer: [No]

Justification: Due to company policy, we cannot provide too many details about the compute resources. But we will elaborate on the training details.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the paper does not include experiments.
- The paper should indicate the type of compute workers CPU or GPU, internal cluster, or cloud provider, including relevant memory and storage.
- The paper should provide the amount of compute required for each of the individual experimental runs as well as estimate the total compute.
- The paper should disclose whether the full research project required more compute than the experiments reported in the paper (e.g., preliminary or failed experiments that didn't make it into the paper).

9. Code of ethics

Question: Does the research conducted in the paper conform, in every respect, with the NeurIPS Code of Ethics <https://neurips.cc/public/EthicsGuidelines>?

Answer: [Yes]

Justification: The research conducted in the paper conform, in every respect, with the NeurIPS Code of Ethics.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the authors have not reviewed the NeurIPS Code of Ethics.
- If the authors answer No, they should explain the special circumstances that require a deviation from the Code of Ethics.
- The authors should make sure to preserve anonymity (e.g., if there is a special consideration due to laws or regulations in their jurisdiction).

10. Broader impacts

Question: Does the paper discuss both potential positive societal impacts and negative societal impacts of the work performed?

Answer: [NA]

Justification: There is no societal impact of the work performed.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that there is no societal impact of the work performed.
- If the authors answer NA or No, they should explain why their work has no societal impact or why the paper does not address societal impact.
- Examples of negative societal impacts include potential malicious or unintended uses (e.g., disinformation, generating fake profiles, surveillance), fairness considerations (e.g., deployment of technologies that could make decisions that unfairly impact specific groups), privacy considerations, and security considerations.

- The conference expects that many papers will be foundational research and not tied to particular applications, let alone deployments. However, if there is a direct path to any negative applications, the authors should point it out. For example, it is legitimate to point out that an improvement in the quality of generative models could be used to generate deepfakes for disinformation. On the other hand, it is not needed to point out that a generic algorithm for optimizing neural networks could enable people to train models that generate Deepfakes faster.
- The authors should consider possible harms that could arise when the technology is being used as intended and functioning correctly, harms that could arise when the technology is being used as intended but gives incorrect results, and harms following from (intentional or unintentional) misuse of the technology.
- If there are negative societal impacts, the authors could also discuss possible mitigation strategies (e.g., gated release of models, providing defenses in addition to attacks, mechanisms for monitoring misuse, mechanisms to monitor how a system learns from feedback over time, improving the efficiency and accessibility of ML).

11. Safeguards

Question: Does the paper describe safeguards that have been put in place for responsible release of data or models that have a high risk for misuse (e.g., pretrained language models, image generators, or scraped datasets)?

Answer: [NA]

Justification: The paper poses no such risks.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the paper poses no such risks.
- Released models that have a high risk for misuse or dual-use should be released with necessary safeguards to allow for controlled use of the model, for example by requiring that users adhere to usage guidelines or restrictions to access the model or implementing safety filters.
- Datasets that have been scraped from the Internet could pose safety risks. The authors should describe how they avoided releasing unsafe images.
- We recognize that providing effective safeguards is challenging, and many papers do not require this, but we encourage authors to take this into account and make a best faith effort.

12. Licenses for existing assets

Question: Are the creators or original owners of assets (e.g., code, data, models), used in the paper, properly credited and are the license and terms of use explicitly mentioned and properly respected?

Answer: [Yes]

Justification: We properly credited and respected them in the paper.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the paper does not use existing assets.
- The authors should cite the original paper that produced the code package or dataset.
- The authors should state which version of the asset is used and, if possible, include a URL.
- The name of the license (e.g., CC-BY 4.0) should be included for each asset.
- For scraped data from a particular source (e.g., website), the copyright and terms of service of that source should be provided.
- If assets are released, the license, copyright information, and terms of use in the package should be provided. For popular datasets, paperswithcode.com/datasets has curated licenses for some datasets. Their licensing guide can help determine the license of a dataset.
- For existing datasets that are re-packaged, both the original license and the license of the derived asset (if it has changed) should be provided.

- If this information is not available online, the authors are encouraged to reach out to the asset's creators.

13. **New assets**

Question: Are new assets introduced in the paper well documented and is the documentation provided alongside the assets?

Answer: [NA]

Justification: The paper does not release new assets.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the paper does not release new assets.
- Researchers should communicate the details of the dataset/code/model as part of their submissions via structured templates. This includes details about training, license, limitations, etc.
- The paper should discuss whether and how consent was obtained from people whose asset is used.
- At submission time, remember to anonymize your assets (if applicable). You can either create an anonymized URL or include an anonymized zip file.

14. **Crowdsourcing and research with human subjects**

Question: For crowdsourcing experiments and research with human subjects, does the paper include the full text of instructions given to participants and screenshots, if applicable, as well as details about compensation (if any)?

Answer: [NA]

Justification: The paper does not involve crowdsourcing nor research with human subjects.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the paper does not involve crowdsourcing nor research with human subjects.
- Including this information in the supplemental material is fine, but if the main contribution of the paper involves human subjects, then as much detail as possible should be included in the main paper.
- According to the NeurIPS Code of Ethics, workers involved in data collection, curation, or other labor should be paid at least the minimum wage in the country of the data collector.

15. **Institutional review board (IRB) approvals or equivalent for research with human subjects**

Question: Does the paper describe potential risks incurred by study participants, whether such risks were disclosed to the subjects, and whether Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals (or an equivalent approval/review based on the requirements of your country or institution) were obtained?

Answer: [NA]

Justification: The paper does not involve crowdsourcing nor research with human subjects.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the paper does not involve crowdsourcing nor research with human subjects.
- Depending on the country in which research is conducted, IRB approval (or equivalent) may be required for any human subjects research. If you obtained IRB approval, you should clearly state this in the paper.
- We recognize that the procedures for this may vary significantly between institutions and locations, and we expect authors to adhere to the NeurIPS Code of Ethics and the guidelines for their institution.
- For initial submissions, do not include any information that would break anonymity (if applicable), such as the institution conducting the review.

16. **Declaration of LLM usage**

Question: Does the paper describe the usage of LLMs if it is an important, original, or non-standard component of the core methods in this research? Note that if the LLM is used only for writing, editing, or formatting purposes and does not impact the core methodology, scientific rigorousness, or originality of the research, declaration is not required.

Answer: [NA]

Justification: The core method development in this research does not involve LLMs as any important, original, or non-standard components.

Guidelines:

- The answer NA means that the core method development in this research does not involve LLMs as any important, original, or non-standard components.
- Please refer to our LLM policy (<https://neurips.cc/Conferences/2025/LLM>) for what should or should not be described.

Technical Appendices and Supplementary Material

A NaViL-9B: Scaling up to 9B parameters

To further demonstrate the scaling capability of our method, we trained NaViL-9B based on Qwen3-8B [60]. The total number of activation parameters is 9.2B, of which 1.2B belongs to the visual encoder. The training recipe is similar to NaViL-2B, as shown in Tab. 8, except the visual multi-scaling packing is disabled in the first sub-stage of pre-training for acceleration.

Tab. 3 presents a comparison of the total training tokens required by our method versus two compositional counterparts. Notably, our approach achieves comparable performance while using substantially fewer training tokens, demonstrating improved training efficiency.

Table 3: Comparison between NaViL and existing MLLMs on the number of training tokens.

Models	Train ViT	Train MLLM	Total
Qwen2.5VL [4]	unknown	4.1T	>4.1T
InternVL2.5-8B [12]	>3.3T	140B	>3.5T
NaViL-2B (ours)	0	800B	800B
NaViL-9B (ours)	0	450B ¹	450B

The performance results on multimodal and visual question answering benchmarks are shown in Tab. 4. With a similar parameter size, our NaViL-9B outperforms all existing native MLLMs by a large margin on almost all benchmarks. Besides that, compared to the compositional baseline model InternVL-2.5-8B with a similar parameter size, NaViL-9B also achieves competitive performance. Such results show that our proposed native MLLM can be scaled up to larger parameter sizes and achieve consistent performance gains.

B More discussions on Compositional MLLMs and Native MLLMs

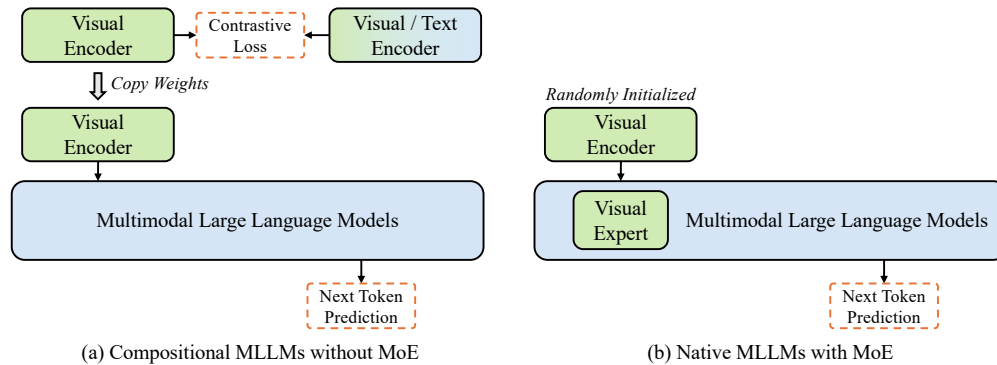


Figure 10: **Paradigm Comparison between Compositional MLLMs and Native MLLMs.** Compositional MLLMs adopt different training objectives and strategies (*e.g.* Contrastive Loss or Next-Token-Prediction) to pre-train the visual encoder and LLM separately, while native MLLMs optimize both image and text components in an end-to-end manner using a unified training objective (*i.e.* Next-Token-Prediction).

Fig. 10 further illustrates the difference between compositional MLLMs and native MLLMs. Compositional MLLMs typically have different components initialized by separate unimodal pre-training, where different training objectives and strategies are employed to train the LLM and visual encoder. For example, the visual encoder can be trained using an image-text contrastive learning objective (*e.g.*, CLIP [52], SigLIP [72]) or a self-supervised learning objective (*e.g.*, DINOv2 [51]). The complexity

¹Due to limited computational resource and time, current version of NaViL-9B in this paper is only trained with 450B tokens.

of such training process increases the difficulty of scalability. On the other hand, as discussed in [56], native MLLM optimizes both image and text modalities end-to-end using a unified training objective (i.e., next-token prediction (NTP)). This avoids introducing additional bias and significantly simplifies the scaling effort.

C More Related Works

Research on Neural Scaling Laws. The foundational work on Neural Scaling Laws began in the Natural Language Processing (NLP) domain, where [29] established predictable power-law relationships demonstrating that performance loss (L) scales reliably with model size (N) and data size (D), and that larger, decoder-only Transformer models are more compute-efficient. Following works [23] further extended such research to encoder-decoder architectures, observing consistency in scaling exponents on Neural Machine Translation (NMT) tasks. Driven by these successes, in the vision domain, [71] confirmed the applicability of scaling laws to Vision Transformers (ViT), systematically demonstrating continuous performance improvement by scaling both model size (up to 2 billion parameters) and training data. Most recently, these principles have been generalized to Large Multimodal Models, where [1] developed scaling laws that unify the contributions of text, image, and speech modalities by explicitly modeling synergy and competition as an additive term. Furthering this, [56] explored Native Multimodal Models (NMMs) using Mixture of Experts (MoEs), finding an unbalanced scaling law that suggests scaling training tokens (D) is more critical than scaling active parameters (N) as the compute budget grows.

D Implementation Details

The hyperparameters of model architecture for NaViL-2B and NaViL-9B are listed in Tab. 6, while the hyperparameters of training recipe for NaViL-2B and NaViL-9B are provided in Tab. 7 and Tab. 8, respectively. The high-quality multimodal data used in Pre-training and Supervised Fine-tuning is from InternVL-2.5 [12], which is sourced from various domains, such as image captioning, general question answering, multi-turn dialogue, charts, OCR, documents, and knowledge, *etc.*; while the pure language data is primarily from InternLM2.5 [8].

E The NLP capability

We also evaluate the NLP capability of our model on three popular NLP tasks, as shown in Tab. 5. Thanks to the modality-specific MoE architecture, NaViL maintains the NLP capabilities of its initialization LLM (Qwen3-8B). Despite not using a large amount of high-quality text data, NaViL performs well on the common NLP tasks and show much stronger NLP capabilities compared to other native MLLMs, showing its data efficiency.

F More Qualitative Results

More visualization results of multimodal understanding are provided below.

²The performance of Chameleon-7B is from [43].

Table 4: **Comparison between NaViL-9B and existing MLLMs on multimodal benchmarks.** “#A-Param” denotes the number of activated parameters. [†]InternVL-2.5-8B adopts the same high-quality data with NaViL-9B, so we mark it as the compositional counterpart. Note that its 300M visual encoder is distilled from another 6B large encoder. * denotes our reproduced results. **Bold** and underline indicate the best and the second-best performance among native MLLMs, respectively. For MME, we sum the perception and cognition scores. Average scores are computed by normalizing each metric to a range between 0 and 100.

Model	#A-Param	Avg	MMVet	MMMU	MMB	MME	MathVista	OCR-B	TVQA	DocVQA	AI2D	ChartQA	InfoVQA
<i>Compositional MLLMs:</i>													
MobileVLM-V2 [16]	1.7B	—	—	—	57.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MobileVLM-V2 [16]	3.0B	—	—	—	63.2	—	—	—	57.5	—	—	—	—
Mini-Gemini [34]	3.5B	—	31.1	31.7	59.8	1653	29.4	—	56.2	34.2	—	—	—
MM1-MoE-Chat [48]	3.5B	—	42.2	38.6	70.8	1772	32.6	—	72.9	—	—	—	—
DeepSeek-VL [40]	2.0B	—	34.8	32.2	64.6	1532	31.1	409	57.8	—	51.5	—	—
PaliGemma [6]	2.9B	—	33.1	34.9	71.0	1686	28.7	614	68.1	—	68.3	—	—
MiniCPM-V-2 [66]	2.8B	—	41.0	38.2	69.1	1809	38.7	605	74.1	71.9	62.9	—	—
InternVL-1.5 [14]	2.2B	61.3	39.3	34.6	70.9	1902	41.1	654	70.5	85.0	69.8	74.8	55.4
Qwen2VL [63]	2.1B	67.3	49.5	41.1	74.9	1872	43.0	809	79.7	90.1	74.7	73.5	65.5
InternVL-2.5 [13]	2.2B	69.6	60.8	43.6	74.7	2138	51.3	804	74.3	88.7	74.9	79.2	60.9
Qwen2VL [63]	8.2B	77.1	62.0	54.1	83.0	2327	58.2	866	84.3	94.5	83.0	83.0	76.5
Qwen2.5-VL [4]	8.2B	80.2	67.1	58.6	83.5	2347	68.2	864	84.9	95.7	83.9	87.3	82.6
[†] InternVL-2.5 [13]	8.1B	77.3	62.8	56.0	84.6	2344	64.4	822	79.1	91.9	84.5	84.8	75.7
<i>Native MLLMs:</i>													
Fuyu-8B (HD) [5]	8B	—	21.4	—	10.7	—	—	—	—	—	64.5	—	—
SOLO [11]	7B	—	—	—	—	1260	34.4	—	—	—	61.4	—	—
Chameleon-7B ² [9]	7B	14.0	8.3	25.4	31.1	170	22.3	7	4.8	1.5	46.0	2.9	5.0
EVE-7B [19]	7B	34.6	25.6	32.3	49.5	1483	25.2	327	51.9	22.0	48.5	19.5	20.0
EVE-7B (HD) [19]	7B	45.2	25.7	32.6	52.3	1628	34.2	398	56.8	53.0	61.0	59.1	25.0
Emu3 [65]	8B	—	37.2	31.6	58.5	—	—	687	64.7	76.3	70.0	68.6	43.8
VoRA [62]	7B	—	33.7	32.2	64.2	1674	—	—	56.3	—	65.6	—	—
VoRA-AnyRes [62]	7B	—	33.7	32.0	61.3	1655	—	—	58.7	—	61.1	—	—
EVEv2 [20]	7B	62.3	45.0	39.3	66.3	1709	60.0*	702	71.1	77.4*	74.8	73.9	45.8*
SAIL [32]	7B	63.7	46.3	38.6*	70.1	1719	57.0	783	77.1	78.4*	76.7	69.7*	47.3*
Mono-InternVL [43]	1.8B	60.6	40.1	33.7	65.5	1875	45.7	767	72.6	80.0	68.6	73.7	43.0
NaViL-2B (ours)	2.4B	<u>68.8</u>	<u>78.3</u>	<u>41.8</u>	<u>71.2</u>	1822	50.0	<u>796</u>	76.9	<u>85.4</u>	74.6	<u>78.0</u>	<u>56.0</u>
NaViL-9B (ours)	9.2B	77.0	79.6	54.7	76.5	2225	66.7	837	77.2	90.6	82.4	85.4	70.2

Table 5: **Comparison of NaViL and existing native MLLMs on three common NLP tasks.** Except for Chameleon, models are evaluated using OpenCompass toolkit [18].

Models	#A-Param	MMLU	CMMLU	MATH
InternLM2-Chat [59]	1.8B	47.1	46.1	13.9
Qwen3-8B (non-thinking) [60]	8B	76.5	76.8	71.1
EVE [19]	7B	43.9	33.4	0.7
Chameleon [9]	7B	52.1	-	11.5
Mono-InternVL [43]	2B	45.1	44.0	12.3
NaViL-9B (ours)	9.2B	74.9	75.1	66.2

Table 6: **Hyper-Parameters of Model Architecture.**

Component	Hyper-Parameter	NaViL-2B	NaViL-9B
visual encoder	# Params	0.6B	1.2B
	depth	24	32
	width	1472	1792
	MLP width	5888	7168
	# attention heads	23	28
LLM (w/ MoE)	# experts	2	2
	# A-Params	1.8B	8.0B
	depth	24	36
	width	2048	4096
	MLP width	8192	12288
	# attention heads	16	32

Table 7: **Hyper-parameters for training NaViL-2B.**

Configuration	Multi-modal Generative Pre-training (S1)		Supervised Fine-tuning (S2)
	S1.1	S1.2	
Maximum number of image patches	4096	12188	24576
Training steps	70k	40k	30k
Global batch size	7,000	4,614	2,234
Weight decay	0.05	0.1	0.01
Learning rate schedule	constant with warm-up		cosine decay
Peak learning rate	$5e^{-5}$		$2e^{-5}$
Visual Multi-scale Packing	✓		
LLM max sequence length	16,384		
Warm-up steps	200		
Optimizer	AdamW		
Optimizer hyperparameters	$\beta_1 = 0.9, \beta_2 = 0.95, eps = 1e^{-8}$		
Gradient accumulation	1		
Numerical precision	bfloat16		

Table 8: **Hyper-parameters for training NaViL-9B.**

Configuration	Multi-modal Generative Pre-training (S1)		Supervised Fine-tuning (S2)
	S1.1	S1.2	
Maximum number of image patches	4096	12188	24576
Training steps	50k	33k	6k
Weight decay	0.05	0.1	0.01
Global batch size	10,300	1,792	3,520
Visual Multi-scale Packing	✗	✓	✓
Learning rate schedule	constant with warm-up		cosine decay
Peak learning rate	$5e^{-5}$		$2e^{-5}$
LLM max sequence length	16,384		
Warm-up steps	200		
Optimizer	AdamW		
Optimizer hyperparameters	$\beta_1 = 0.9, \beta_2 = 0.95, eps = 1e^{-8}$		
Gradient accumulation	1		
Numerical precision	bfloat16		

Image Captioning and Visual Question Answering



Prompt: Describe this image in detail.

Response: The image shows an aerial view of a modern architectural complex situated near a coastal area. The building has a distinctive design with a series of curved, wave-like structures on its roof, giving it a futuristic appearance. The exterior is primarily composed of light-colored materials, possibly concrete or stone, with large glass windows.

In front of the building, there is a wide, multi-lane road lined with palm trees, suggesting a warm, coastal climate. The road appears to be a major thoroughfare, with designated bike lanes and pedestrian pathways. There are also train tracks running parallel to the road, indicating the presence of a public transportation system.

The background features a large body of water, likely a bay or ocean, with several boats and yachts docked at a marina. The coastline is lined with more buildings, and there are hills or mountains visible in the distance, adding to the scenic view. The overall setting suggests a bustling urban area with a focus on modern infrastructure and a strong connection to the waterfront.

Prompt: Which city is this building most likely in?

Response: This building is most likely in San Diego, California. The architectural style and the surrounding landscape, including the water and palm trees, are characteristic of San Diego.



Prompt: Who is the person in black in the middle?

Response: The person in black in the middle is Lionel Messi.

Prompt: What are they celebrating about?

Response: The image shows a group of soccer players celebrating with a trophy, wearing medals and jerseys. They are likely celebrating a victory in a soccer tournament or championship.



Prompt: What is the content in this image?

Response: The image appears to be a screenshot from a video game, likely Grand Theft Auto V (GTA V), given the visual style and interface elements. It shows a character standing on a sidewalk in a small town or suburban area. The environment includes a street with tram tracks, a few buildings with signs, and some cars parked along the road. The buildings have signs for businesses like "Wine" and "On The Bone." The scene has a somewhat deserted look, with no other characters or significant activity visible.

OCR

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION		
Serving size: 10 g		Servings per package: 25
	Average Quantity Per Serving	Average Quantity Per 100g
Energy	143kJ	1430 kJ
Protein	less than 0.1g	0.16g
Fat, total	less than 0.1g	0.37g
- saturated	less than 0.1g	0.26g
Carbohydrates	8.31g	83.1g
Sugars	8.11g	81.1g
Sodium	0.41mg	4.04mg
INGREDIENTS: 100% Pure New Zealand Honey		
Keep Stored Below 20 deg°C, BPA-Free Container.		
Not suitable for children under 1 year of age.		

Prompt: Extract all the text in this image.

Response: NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION

Serving size: 10 g

Servings per package: 25

Average Quantity Per Serving | Average Quantity Per 100g

Energy | 143kJ | 1430 kJ

Protein | less than 0.1g | 0.16g

Fat, total | less than 0.1g | 0.37g

- saturated | less than 0.1g | 0.26g

Carbohydrates | 8.31g | 83.1g

Sugars | 8.11g | 81.1g

Sodium | 0.41mg | 4.04mg

INGREDIENTS: 100% Pure New Zealand Honey

Keep Stored Below 20 deg°C, BPA-Free Container.

Not suitable for children under 1 year of age.

Food = Lunch x 5 people		
CHAPELBANK HOTEL		
69 EAST HIGH STREET		
FORFAR DD8 2EP		
TEL NO 01307 463151		

TABLE		5
RESTAURANT		
3x SOUP	3.95	11.85
Lunch Main		
Lasagne (V)		6.95
MISC FOOD		6.95
2x CHIPS / ONION RINGS	1.75	3.50
-FOOD		29.25--
Prev Bal:		29.25
SUBTOTAL		29.25

Prompt: Describe the image.

Response: The image is a receipt from Chapelbank Hotel for a lunch order for five people. The items listed on the receipt include 3x soup at £3.95 each, totaling £11.85; lunch main course at £6.95; lasagne (V) at £6.95; misc food at £6.95; and 2x chips/onion rings at £1.75 each, totaling £3.50. The subtotal for the food is £29.25. The receipt also includes a previous balance of £29.25, making the total amount due £29.25. The hotel's address is 69 East High Street, Forfar DD8 2EP, and the telephone number is 01307 463151.

Prompt: How many people are attending this lunch?

Response: There are 5 people attending this lunch. This is indicated at the top of the receipt where it says "Food = Lunch x 5 people".



Prompt: Where is the left exit going to?

Response: The left exit is going to Reston, Herndon, and Dulles Airport.

Prompt: Which road leads to the EXIT 46 B?

Response: The road that leads to EXIT 46 B is Chain Br Rd North.

Multi-lingual OCR

作文(60分)

题目 专注目标, 享受生命.

目标之光, 如月光清辉; 生命之辉, 如群星闪耀。失去了群星, 月色便清冷孤寂; 不见了明月, 群星也势必黯然失色。只有专注于月光, 方有方向; 只有欣赏群星, 方可享受生命。星月交辉, 夜空撩人; 专注目标, 享受生命, 方可体味人间清欢。

Prompt: 请先提取里面的文本, 再翻译为英文。

Response:

文本内容:

作文 (60分) 题目: 专注目标, 享受生命。

目标之光, 如月光清辉; 生命之辉, 如群星闪耀。失去了群星, 月色便显得冷寂; 不见了明月, 群星也势必黯然失色。只有专注于月光, 方有方向; 只有欣赏群星, 方可享受生命。星月交辉, 夜空撩人; 专注目标, 享受生命, 方可体味人间清欢。

翻译为英文:

Essay (60 points)

Title: Focus on your goal, enjoy life.

The light of the goal is like the clear glow of moonlight; the brilliance of life is like the dazzling stars. Without the stars, the moonlight becomes cold and desolate; without the moon, the stars will inevitably become dull. Only by focusing on the moonlight can you find direction; only by appreciating the stars can you enjoy life. The stars and moon shine together, making the night sky enchanting; focusing on your goal, enjoying life, allows you to savor the quiet joy of life.

Document Understanding

KBA MARKETING GROUP — 2001 VENUE SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

THIS VENUE SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is entered into as of the following Date of Agreement, by and between KBA Marketing Group ("KBA") and the owner ("Venue Owner") of the business establishment ("Venue") described below. Below are various defined terms for the purposes of this Agreement.

Date of Agreement: 3/1/01
Term of Agreement: January 1, 2001 — December 31, 2001
Sponsorship Program: Camel Club Program ("CCP")

I. VENUE INFORMATION
Venue Name: Vitucci's Venue Code: 438
Venue Address: 1832 East North Avenue
City/State/Zip Code: Milwaukee WI 53202
RSTIN or SIC: PERIODICAL/CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL REDACTED
Venue Owner Name: Vitucci's, Inc.
Venue Owner Category: Corporation

II. SPONSORSHIP FUNDS AND EXTRA VALUE ITEMS

Special Events Fund: \$ 1,000.00 to offset costs for a minimum of 1 Special Events from Jan. 1 — June 30, 2001.
\$ 1,000.00 to offset costs for a minimum of 1 Special Events from July 1 — Dec. 31, 2001.
Printed Materials Fund: \$ 800.00 to offset costs for the printing and display of certain items, as well as the purchase of local media, including quarter-page advertisements, and additional printed material and display advertising, as available, at the discretion of KBA, from Jan. 1 — Dec. 31, 2001.
Total Direct Payments: \$ 2,800.00, payable on or before the following payment dates in the following amounts:
March 31, 2001: \$ 500.00 June 30, 2001: \$ 500.00
September 30, 2001: \$ 500.00 December 31, 2001: \$ 500.00

TOTAL SPONSORSHIP FUNDS: \$ 6,900.00 [This amount includes all sub-totals set forth above]

KBA will also provide the following items, value items at no charge to Venue:
Exhibits License Fee: All state and local retail tobacco licensing fees for the Venue (if Venue is currently without a license), plus assistance with tobacco licensing application procedures.

Bar Essentials: Branded ashtrays, beverage napkins, generic branded matchbooks, and other bar essentials delivered to Venue for use within the Venue, as available, at the discretion of KBA;

Custom Matchbooks: 3 sets of custom branded matchbooks that display the Venue's name and logo, delivered to Venue;

Flyer Distribution: Public distribution of flyers for Special Events and activities at Venue, at discretion of KBA;

Cigarette Delivery: Free delivery of Camel cigarette brand styles (the "Product") purchased by Venue Owner for resale to Venue. Free (Retail) Product that KBA will distribute to Venue to adult smokers (as permitted by law).

COPY
ORIGINAL

Initialed: KBA *[Signature]* Venue Owner *[Signature]*

Source: <https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/fmj0226>

Prompt: What is the duration of this venue sponsorship agreement?

Response: January 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001

Prompt: Where is Vitucci's located (complete address)?

Response: 1832 East North Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53202

Prompt: What cigarette brand is mentioned in the agreement for delivery and distribution?

Response: Camel cigarette brand styles purchased by Venue Owner for resale in Venue

Prompt: Who has discretion over the distribution of flyers for special events?

Response: KBA Marketing Group ("KBA") has discretion over the distribution of flyers for special events.

LaTeX and Math

$$\mathcal{J}_{GRPO}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}[q \sim P(Q), \{o_i\}_{i=1}^G \sim \pi_{\theta_{old}}(O|q)]$$

$$\frac{1}{G} \sum_{i=1}^G \frac{1}{|o_i|} \sum_{t=1}^{|o_i|} \left\{ \min \left[\frac{\pi_{\theta}(o_{i,t}|q, o_{i,<t})}{\pi_{\theta_{old}}(o_{i,t}|q, o_{i,<t})} \hat{A}_{i,t}, \text{clip} \left(\frac{\pi_{\theta}(o_{i,t}|q, o_{i,<t})}{\pi_{\theta_{old}}(o_{i,t}|q, o_{i,<t})}, 1 - \epsilon, 1 + \epsilon \right) \hat{A}_{i,t} \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{KL} [\pi_{\theta} || \pi_{ref}] \right\}, \quad (3)$$

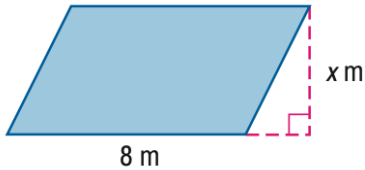
Prompt: Convert the formula in the figure to latex format.

Response:

```

““\latex
\begin{equation*}
\begin{split}
&\mathcal{J}_{\text{GRPO}}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{q} \sim P(Q), \{o_i\}_{i=1}^G \\
&\sim \pi_{\theta_{old}}(O|\mathbb{q})] \\
&\frac{1}{G} \sum_{i=1}^G \frac{1}{|o_i|} \sum_{t=1}^{|o_i|} \left\{ \min \left[ \frac{\pi_{\theta}(o_{i,t}|\mathbb{q}, o_{i,<t})}{\pi_{\theta_{old}}(o_{i,t}|\mathbb{q}, o_{i,<t})} \hat{A}_{i,t}, \text{clip} \left( \frac{\pi_{\theta}(o_{i,t}|\mathbb{q}, o_{i,<t})}{\pi_{\theta_{old}}(o_{i,t}|\mathbb{q}, o_{i,<t})}, 1 - \epsilon, 1 + \epsilon \right) \hat{A}_{i,t} \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{KL} [\pi_{\theta} || \pi_{ref}] \right\}, \\
&\end{split}
\end{equation*}
””

```



Prompt: Find x . $A = 148 \text{ m}^2$. Please think step by step.

Response: To find the value of x in the parallelogram, we can use the formula for the area of a parallelogram:

$$A = \text{base} \times \text{height}$$

Given: - Area $A = 148 \text{ m}^2$ - Base = 8 m - Height = x m
Substitute the given values into the formula:

$$148 = 8 \times x$$

Solve for x :

$$x = \frac{148}{8}$$

$$x = 18.5 \text{ m}$$

So, $x = 18.5 \text{ m}$.

Weight of winning dog at a dog show	
Year	Weight (kg)
2013	27
2014	28
2015	34
2016	29
2017	40

Prompt: A dog show enthusiast recorded the weight of the winning dog at recent dog shows. According to the table, what was the rate of change between 2016 and 2017? (Unit: kilograms per year)

Response: To determine the rate of change between 2016 and 2017, we use the formula for rate of change:

$$\text{Rate of Change} = \frac{\text{Weight in 2017} - \text{Weight in 2016}}{\text{Year 2017} - \text{Year 2016}}$$

From the table: - Weight in 2016 = 29 kg - Weight in 2017 = 40 kg

Substitute these values into the formula:

$$\text{Rate of Change} = \frac{40 \text{ kg} - 29 \text{ kg}}{2017 - 2016} = \frac{11 \text{ kg}}{1 \text{ year}}$$

$$\text{Rate of Change} = 11 \text{ kg/year}$$

Thus, the rate of change between 2016 and 2017 is

11 kg/year.