

# Multilingual Multimodal Learning with Machine Translated Text

---

Chen Qiu<sup>a</sup> Dan Oneață<sup>β</sup> Emanuele Bugliarello<sup>c</sup> Stella Frank<sup>c,δ</sup>  
Desmond Elliott<sup>c,δ</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Wuhan University of Science and Technology

<sup>β</sup>University Politehnica of Bucharest

<sup>c</sup>University of Copenhagen

<sup>δ</sup>Pioneer Centre for AI



# Success of Vision-and-language Pretraining



Q1: What color is the plane? A1: White

Q2: How many spots are on this animal? A2: 100



Both images contain a lot of masala vadas.

Label: False

## Visual Question Answering

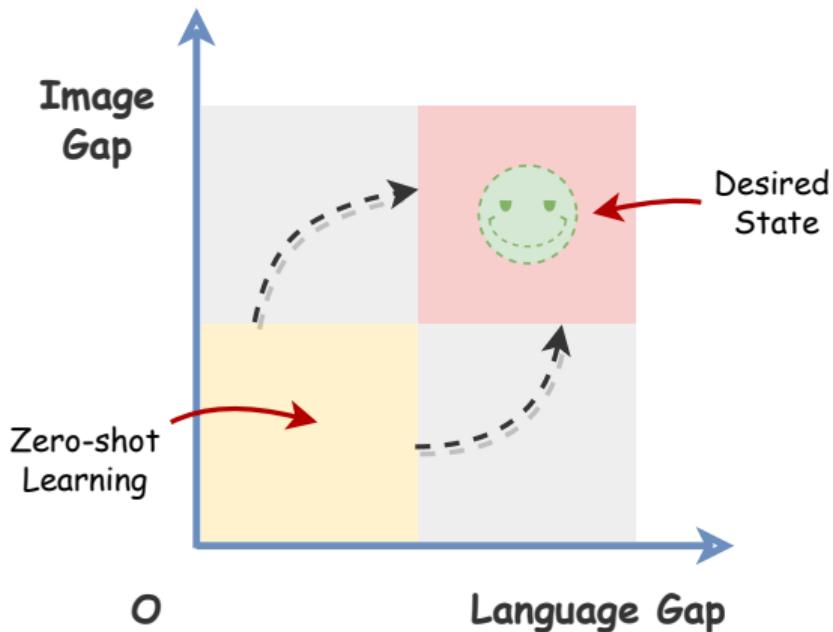
[Rethinking Evaluation Practices in Visual Question Answering: A Case Study on Out-of-Distribution Generalization, Agrawal et al. 2022]

## Reasoning

[Visual Grounded Reasoning across Languages, Liu et al. 2021, EMNLP]

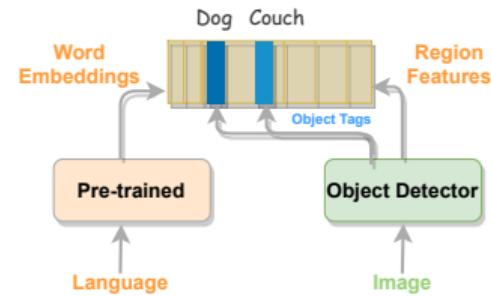
# Issues of V&L Pretraining

How to define pretraining strategies that induce high-quality multilingual multimodal representations?

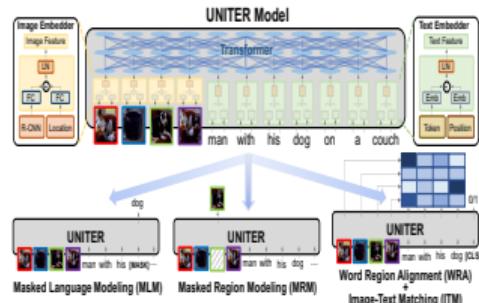


# Related Work

## BERT+ENG image-text

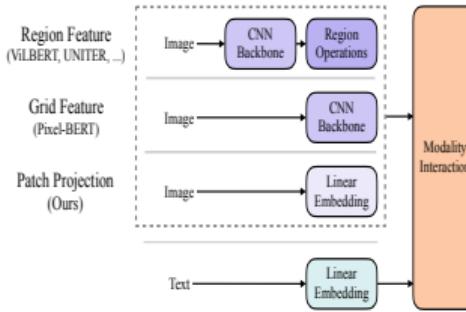


Oscar: Li et al., ECCV2020

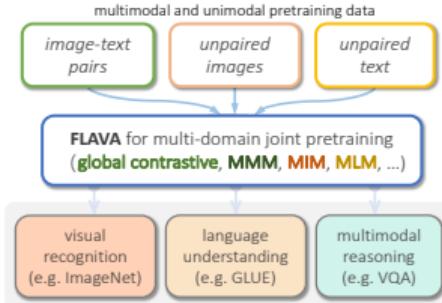


UNITER: Chen et al., ECCV2020

## Vision Transformer

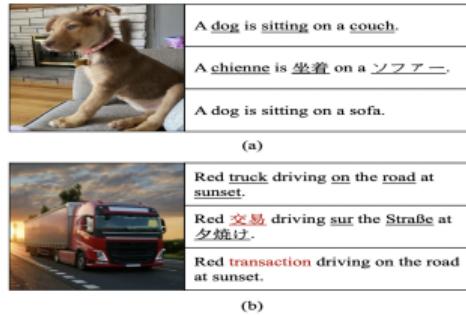


ViLT: Kim et al., ICML2021

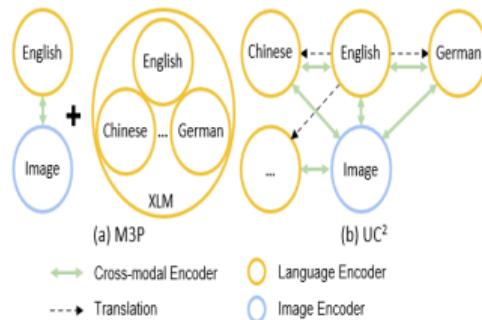


FLAVA: Singh et al., CVPR2022

## Multilingual+Image



M3P: Ni et al., CVPR2021



UC2: Zhou et al., CVPR2021

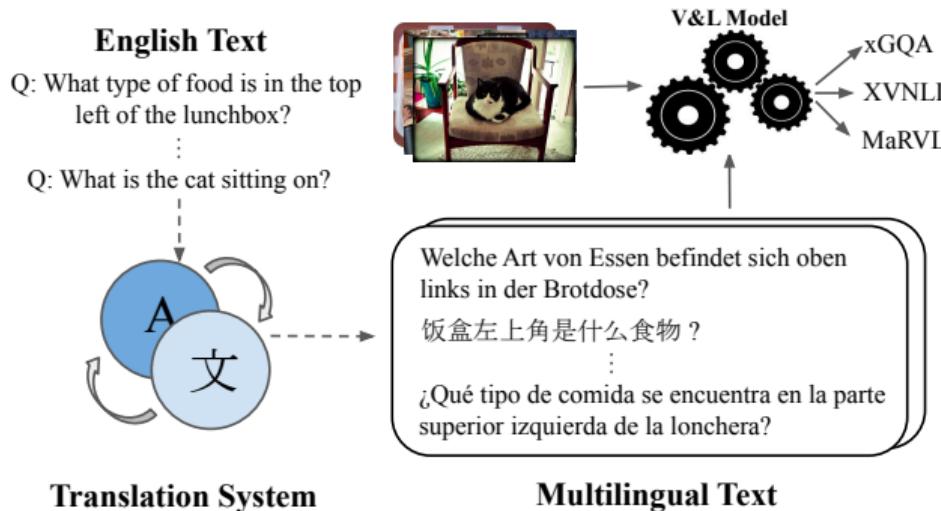
## Research Questions:

1. Is translated data useful for fine-tuning and pretraining?
2. How to pretrain on many millions of multilingual translated examples?

## Our Contributions:

1. narrow the gap between English and non-English languages on the IGLUE Benchmark [Bugliarello et al. 2022];
2. a reliable approach to filtering out bad translations;
3. provide inexpensive and impressive improvements when evaluating in zero-shot and machine translated scenarios.

# TD-MML: Translated Data for Multilingual Multimodal Learning



1. Initial Experiment: Fine-Tuning with Translated Data
2. Translation and Data Preparation
3. Pretraining with Translated Data
4. TD Pretraining and English Fine-tuning *vs* MT Fine-tuning TD-MML

# Multilingual Fine-tuning only: Initial Experiments on MaRVL and xGQA

Fine-tuning on multilingual machine-translated data: *inexpensive and viable!*

Approach	ENG	IND	SWA	TAM	TUR	CMN	avg
English	<b>71.6</b>	55.1	55.5	53.1	56.2	53.1	54.6
MT	67.9	<b>59.6</b>	<b>61.4</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>61.0</b>

MaRVL accuracy

Approach	ENG	BEN	DEU	IND	KOR	POR	RUS	CMN	avg
English	<b>54.8</b>	10.8	34.8	33.7	12.1	22.1	18.8	19.6	21.7
MT	48.1	<b>41.8</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>45.3</b>

xGQA accuracy

# Pretraining: Translation and Data Preparation

- ◎ Translate 2.77M English sentences from the Conceptual Captions datasets into the twenty languages in IGLUE using M2M-100<sub>LARGE</sub> [Fan et al. 2021]
- ◎ Filter out potential bad data by *Complement of the token-to-type ratio* and *BLEU*

Examples:

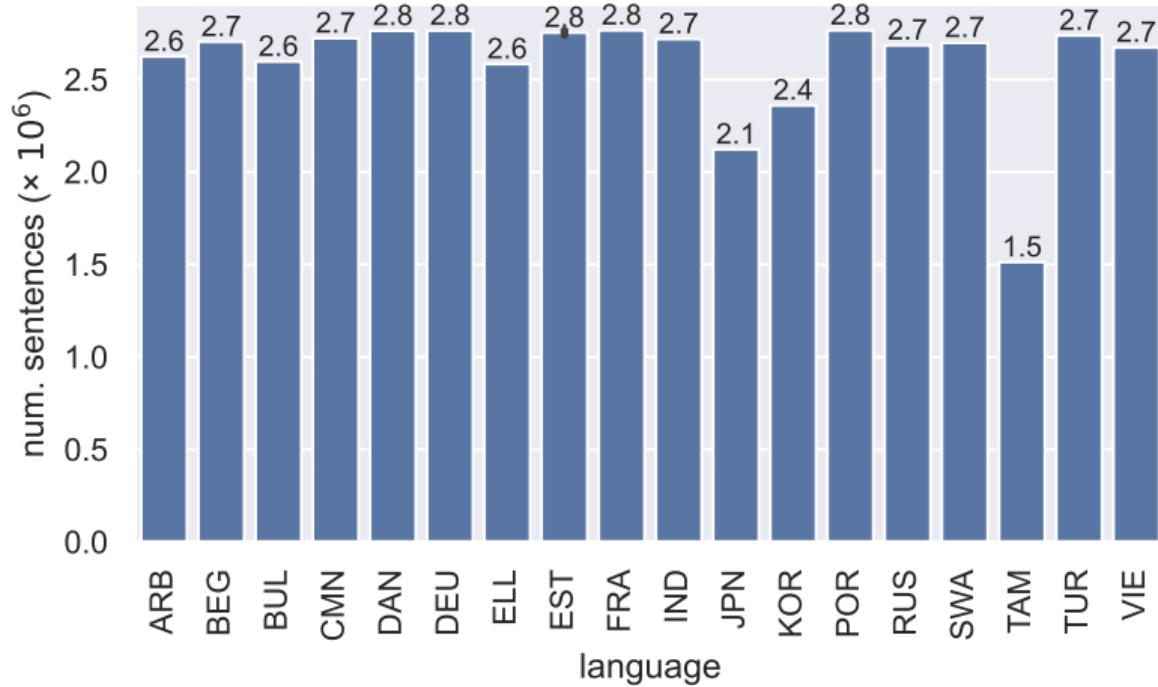
---

x	<i>funny animals of the week,</i> <i>funny animal photo, cute animal pictures</i>	→ <i>Animaux drôles, Animaux drôles,</i> <i>Animaux drôles, Animaux drôles (FRA)</i>
x	<i>damask seamless floral pattern, ornament</i>	→ <i>Mifano ya Mifano ya Mifano ya Mifano ya</i> <i>Mifano ya Mifano ya Mifano ya Mifano ya Mifano ya Mifano (SWA)</i>
x	<i>plaid, over garment , outfit idea cute fall outfit idea</i>	→ <i>方格, over garment, cute fall (CMN)</i>

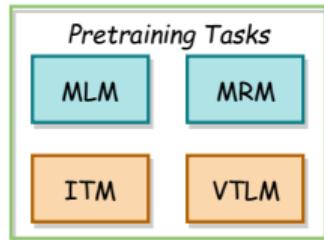
---

# Pretraining: Translation and Data Preparation

Number of sentences for pretraining on nineteen non-English IGLUE languages.

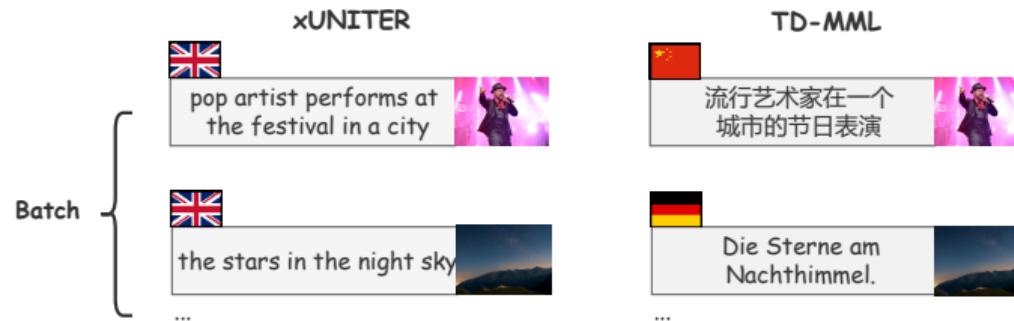


# Model: Pretraining with Translated Data



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ITM}}(\theta) = -\mathbb{E}_{(x^l, v) \sim D} \left[ c \log s_{\theta}(x^l, v) + (1 - c) \log (1 - s_{\theta}(x^l, v)) \right] \quad (1)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{VTLM}}(\theta) = -\mathbb{E}_{(x^{\text{ENG}}, x^l, v) \sim D} \log P_{\theta} \left( x_a^{\text{ENG}}, x_b^l | x_{\setminus a}^{\text{ENG}}, x_{\setminus b}^l, v \right) \quad (2)$$



xUNITER is trained over 2.77M image–English caption pairs, while TD-MML is pretrained on 52M image–multilingual caption pairs.

# Results: Translated Data Pretraining & English Fine-tuning

We evaluate the zero-shot language understanding abilities of the TD-MML model.

Model	NLI		Reasoning	Retrieval			
	XVNLI	xGQA		xFlickr&CO		WIT	
	IR	TR		IR	TR	IR	TR
mUNITER	53.69	9.97	53.72	8.06	8.86	9.16	10.48
xUNITER	58.48	21.72	54.59	14.04	13.51	8.72	9.81
UC <sup>2</sup>	62.05	29.35	57.28	20.31	17.89	7.83	9.09
M <sup>3</sup> P	58.25	28.17	56.00	12.91	11.90	8.12	9.98
TD-MML	64.84	<b>35.95</b>	<b>59.67</b>	<b>21.30</b>	<b>26.35</b>	<b>9.76</b>	10.35
- w/o VTLM	<b>66.28</b>	33.01	58.14	20.90	24.61	9.14	<b>10.61</b>

A substantial improvement for TD-MML across all tasks!

## Results: MT Fine-tuning TD-MML

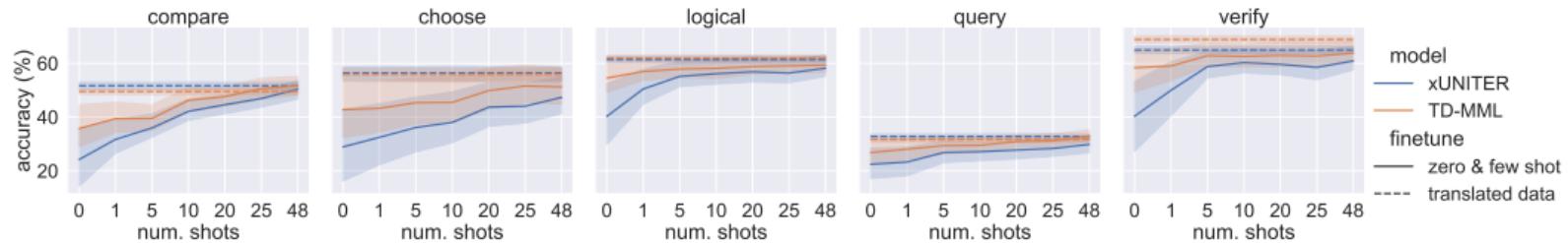
We can combine the machine translated pretraining strategy of TD-MML with additional machine translated fine-tuning.

Type	Method	ENG	IND	SWA	TAM	TUR	CMN	avg
<i>Fine-tune with English-only data (zero-shot)</i>								
—	xUNITER	<b>71.55</b>	55.14	55.51	53.06	56.19	53.06	54.59
—	TD-MML	69.00	59.04	61.01	56.44	61.95	59.88	59.67
<i>Fine-tune with machine translated data</i>								
Full	xUNITER	67.92	59.57	61.37	60.39	64.32	59.39	61.01
	TD-MML	67.52	59.40	<b>62.18</b>	60.55	<b>66.27</b>	59.59	<b>61.60</b>
Filtered	xUNITER	67.52	<b>60.82</b>	61.55	60.63	63.48	59.88	61.27
	TD-MML	67.09	57.62	61.91	<b>61.35</b>	64.58	<b>60.28</b>	61.15

MaRVL accuracy results for zero-shot cross-lingual evaluation

# Few-Shot vs Machine Translated Data

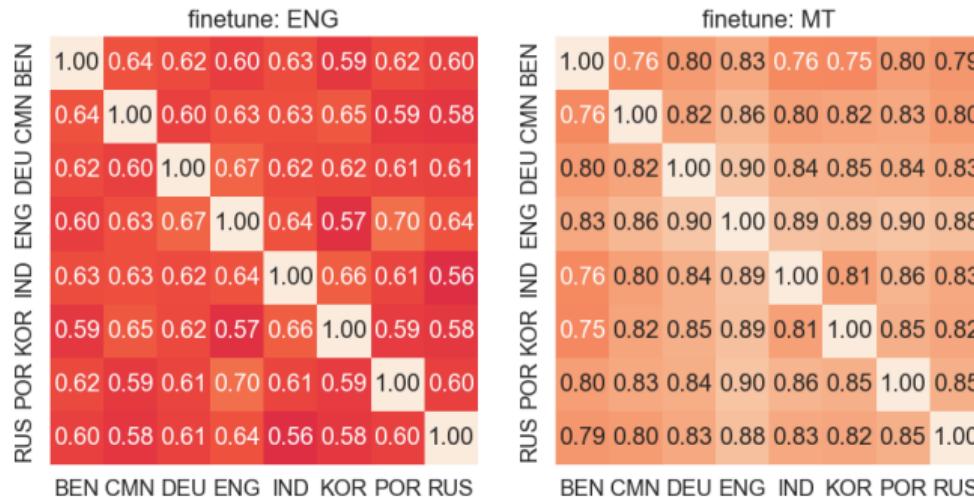
xGQA average accuracy across the languages on the five question types.



- The performance improves with the quantity of training data.
- The machine translated fine-tuning upper bounds the performance of the few-shot approach.

# Cross-Language Correlation Analysis

Are the same questions easy or difficult across languages?<sup>1</sup>



- MT fine-tuned results show much higher agreement across languages.

<sup>1</sup>We use Cohen's kappa coefficient  $\kappa$  to measure agreement between languages on the xGQA

# Qualitative Examples

Qualitative results on the xGQA dataset.

Q1



Q2



Q3



Q4



Q    What is the sign behind  
      the young person?  
A    traffic sign

Is the black and white  
cat unhappy or happy?  
                    unhappy

What is covering the man  
that is wearing jeans?  
                    jacket

How is this cooking  
utensil called?  
                    baking pan

	fine-tune: ENG	fine-tune: MT						
BEN	car	pole	no	lush	bag	umbrella	paper	pretzel
CMN	pole	stop sign	white	happy	coat	umbrella	book	stove
DEU	fire hydrant	stop sign	unhappy	happy	jacket	umbrella	mirror	tea kettle
ENG	stop sign	stop sign	unhappy	happy	towel	umbrella	pan	tea kettle
IND	street sign	stop sign	unhappy	happy	blanket	umbrella	yes	yes
KOR	pole	stop sign	gray	happy	backpack	umbrella	drum	drum
POR	car	car	happy	happy	suitcase	umbrella	table	tea kettle
RUS	stop sign	stop sign	happy	happy	umbrella	umbrella	shelf	pan

## Summary

- ◎ Translated data improves multilingual multimodal representation learning
- ◎ A simple and effective strategy for filtering low-quality translated data
- ◎ Results shed light in the importance of explicitly grounding multilingual text

# Research Labs



武汉科技大学大数据科学与工程研究院  
INSTITUTE OF BIG DATA SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING , WUST



国家新闻出版署富媒体数字出版内容组织与知识服务重点实验室  
KEY LABORATORY OF RICH-MEDIA KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION AND SERVICE OF DIGITAL PUBLISHING CONTENT,  
NATIONAL PRESS AND PUBLICATION ADMINISTRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

CoAStaL



Chen Qiu  
chen@wust.edu.cn  
ONTOWEB



Dan Oneață  
dan.oneata@gmail.com  
CoAStaL



Emanuele Bugliarello  
emanuele@di.ku.dk  
CoAStaL



Desmond Elliott  
de@di.ku.dk  
CoAStaL

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.13134>