# Appendix of Foundation Model is Efficient Multimodal Multitask Model Selector

Anonymous Author(s) Affiliation Address email

# 1 A Related Work

Transferability Estimation. Model selection is an important task in transfer learning. To perform 2 model selection efficiently, methods based on designing transferability metrics have been extensively З investigated. LEEP [1] pioneers to evaluate the transferability of source models by empirically 4 estimating the joint distribution of pseudo-source labels and the target labels. But it can only handle 5 classification tasks with supervised pre-trained models because the modeling of LEEP relies on the 6 classifier of source models. Recent works propose several improvements over LEEP to overcome the 7 limitation. For example, NLEEP [2] replaces pseudo-source labels with clustering indexes. Moreover, 8 LogME [3], TransRate [4], and PACTran [5] directly measure the compatibility between model 9 features and task labels. Although fast, these metrics can only be used on limited tasks such as 10 classification and regression. This work deals with model selection in multi-task scenarios. We 11 propose EMMS to evaluate the transferability of pre-trained models on various tasks. 12

Label Embedding. Label embedding represents a feature vector of task labels, which can be 13 generated in various ways. The classical approach is to use one-hot encoding to represent the 14 15 labels as sparse vectors, which is widely used in image classification. Another way is to transform 16 labels into vectors by embedding layers. For example, an RNN module is employed to generate label representation in [6], which is encouraged to be compatible with input data vectors in text 17 classification tasks. In addition, it is also common to treat the labels as words and use techniques 18 such as word2vec [7] or GloVe [8] to learn vector representations of the labels. The main obstacle in 19 the multi-task scenario is how to deal with diverse label formats. In this work, we follow the idea 20 of word embedding and treat task labels as texts, which are then transformed into embeddings by 21 publicly available foundation models [9, 10]. 22

Foundation Models. CLIP [9] is the first known foundation model which learns good semantic 23 matching between image and text. The text encoder of CLIP can perform zero-shot label prediction 24 because it encodes rich text concepts of various image objects. By tokenizing multi-modal inputs into 25 homogeneous tokens, recent work on foundation models such as OFA [11] and Uni-Perceiver [12] use 26 a single encoder to learn multi-modal representations. In this work, we utilize the great capacity of 27 foundation models in representing image-text concepts to generate label embedding. It is noteworthy 28 that although foundation models can achieve good performance in various downstream tasks, they 29 may not achieve good zero-shot performance on many tasks[13] and it is still computationally 30 expensive to transfer a large model to the target task [14, 15]. On the contrary, a multi-task model 31 selector can quickly select an optimal moderate-size pre-trained model that can generalize well in 32 target tasks. In this sense, a multi-task model selector is complementary to foundation models. 33

# 34 **B** Method

<sup>35</sup> Here we derive in detail the regression with Unified Noisy Label Embeddings that appear in the

<sup>36</sup> method section of the text in Sec.B.1 and give complete proof of the convergence of the method in <sup>37</sup> Sec.B.2.

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#### **B.1** Regression with Unified Noisy Label Embeddings 38

**Setup.** we assume that label embedding z is a linear mapping of the model feature with additive Gaussian noise with a variance of  $\sigma_0^2$ , as given by  $z = z_0 + \epsilon = w^T \hat{x} + \epsilon$  and  $\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma_0^2 I_L)$  where  $z_0 = w^T \hat{x}$  is the regression prediction,  $w \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times L}$  and  $\epsilon$  are regression weights and regression error, 39

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respectively, and  $I_L$  is a L-by-L identity matrix. 42

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We assume that F-labels  $\{z_k\}_{k=1}^K$  obtained from different foundation models are oracles that independently provide noisy estimates of the label embedding z. Formally, we have  $P(z_k|z) = N(z, \sigma_k^2 I_L)$ . 44

- Without loss of generality, we assume that L = 145
- Then the joint probability over noisy labels for a fixed n, That is, for given  $x^n$ , we have: 46

$$P(z_1^n, \cdots, z_K^n | x^n, w) = \int P(z_1^n, \cdots, z_K^n | z, x^n, w) P(z | x^n, w) dz$$
(1)

Due to the independence between  $z_k$  and x, using the real label z, we can rewrite it as: 47

$$P(z_1^n, \cdots, z_K^n | x^n, w) = \int P(z_1^n, \cdots, z_K^n | z, w) P(z | x^n, w) dz$$
(2)

And using the independencies among  $z_k$ , we have: 48

$$P(z_1^n, \cdots, z_K^n | z, w) = \prod_{k=1}^K P(z_K^n | z, \sigma_1^2, \cdots, \sigma_k^2) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{K}{2}} \prod_{k=1}^K \sigma_k} \exp^{-\sum_{k=1}^K \frac{(z_k^n - z)^2}{2\sigma_k^2}}$$
(3)

Due to  $P(z_k|z) = N(z, \sigma_k^2 I_L)$ , we can rewrite it as : 49

$$P(z_1^n, \dots, z_K^n | x^n, w) = \int \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{K+1}{2}} \prod_{k=0}^K \sigma_k} \exp^{-\sum_{k=1}^K \frac{(z_K^n - z)^2}{2\sigma_k^2} - \frac{(z - z_0)^2}{2\sigma_0^2}} dy$$
(4)

which can be calculated as : 50

$$P(z_1^n, \dots, z_K^n | x^n, w) = A_1 \int e^{-A_2 y^2 + A_3^n y - A_4^n} dz = A_1 \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{A_2}} e^{\frac{(A_3^n)^2}{4A_2} - A_4^n}$$
(5)

where  $A_1 = \prod_{k=0}^{K} 1/\sigma_k, A_2 = \sum_{k=0}^{K} 1/2\sigma_k^2, A_3^n = \sum_{k=0}^{K} z_k^n/\sigma_k^2$ , and  $A_4^n = \sum_{k=0}^{K} (z_k^n)^2/2\sigma_k^2$ 51

Consider the joint probability over all N instances, we have: 52

$$P(z_1^n, \dots, z_K^n | X, w) = \prod_{i=1}^N A_1 \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{A_2}} e^{\frac{(A_3^n)^2}{4A_2} - A_4^n}$$
(6)

where  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D}$  denotes the feature matrix, N is the number of data points and D is the number 53 of features. 54

Then given N data points, the negative log-likelihood is given by 55

$$-\mathcal{L} = \underbrace{-N\log A_1 + \frac{N}{2}\log A_2}_{\mathcal{L}_1} + \frac{1}{2}\underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^{N} (A_4^n - \frac{(A_3^n)^2}{4A_2})}_{\mathcal{L}_2} + \operatorname{const}$$
(7)

<sup>56</sup> where  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_2$  are given by

$$\mathcal{L}_{1} = \frac{N}{2} \log \sum_{k=0}^{K} \frac{1}{2\sigma_{k}^{2}} + N \sum_{k=0}^{K} \log \sigma_{k}, \quad \mathcal{L}_{2} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \{ \sum_{k=0}^{K} \frac{(z_{k}^{n})^{2}}{\sigma_{k}^{2}} - \frac{(\sum_{k=0}^{K} z_{k}^{n} / \sigma_{k}^{2})^{2}}{\sum_{k=1}^{K} 1 / \sigma_{k}^{2}} \}$$
(8)

Since  $\mathcal{L}_1$  is independent of input data, we focus on  $\mathcal{L}_2$ . To simplify the notation, we re-denote  $\gamma_k = 1/\sigma_k^2$  and  $\Gamma = \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k$ . Using this notation,  $\mathcal{L}_2$  can be rearranged as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{2} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \{ \gamma_{0} z_{0}^{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_{k} (z_{k}^{n})^{2} - \frac{(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_{k} z_{k}^{n} + \gamma_{0} z_{0})^{2}}{\Gamma + \gamma_{0}} \}$$
(9)

$$=\sum_{n=1}^{N} \{ (\gamma_0 - \frac{\gamma_0^2}{\Gamma + \gamma_0}) z_0^2 - (\frac{2\Gamma\gamma_0}{\Gamma + \gamma_0} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \frac{\gamma_0}{\Gamma} z_k^n) z_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k (z_k^n)^2 - (\sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k z_k^n)^2 \}$$
(10)

$$=\sum_{n=1}^{N} \{ \frac{\Gamma \gamma_{0}}{\Gamma + \gamma_{0}} (z_{0} - \sum_{k=1}^{K} \frac{\gamma_{k}}{\Gamma} z_{k}^{n})^{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_{k} (z_{k}^{n})^{2} - (1 + \frac{\gamma_{0}}{\Gamma(\Gamma + \gamma_{0})} (\sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_{k} z_{k}^{n})^{2} \}$$
(11)

$$=\sum_{n=1}^{N} \{ \frac{\Gamma \gamma_0}{\Gamma + \gamma_0} (w^T \hat{x}^n - \sum_{k=1}^{K} \frac{\gamma_k}{\Gamma} z_k^n)^2 + \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k (z_k^n)^2 - (1 + \frac{\gamma_0}{\Gamma(\Gamma + \gamma_0)} (\sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k z_k^n)^2 \}$$
(12)

<sup>59</sup> Hence, the negative likelihood in Eqn.(7 can be written as

$$-\mathcal{L} = \frac{\Gamma\gamma_0}{\Gamma + \gamma_0} \{\underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (w^T \hat{x}^n - \sum_{k=1}^{K} \frac{\gamma_k}{\Gamma} z_k^n)^2}_{s(w,t)}\} + \mathcal{R}(\gamma_k)$$
(13)

where  $\mathcal{R}(\gamma_k) = \mathcal{L}_1 + \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k (z_k^n)^2 - (1 + \frac{\gamma_0}{\Gamma(\Gamma + \gamma_0)} (\sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k z_k^n)^2)$ . The computational intractability of Eqn.(13) comes from the regularization term  $\mathcal{R}(\gamma_k)$ . Note that the coefficient  $\frac{\Gamma\gamma_0}{\Gamma + \gamma_0} > 0$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^K \frac{\gamma_k}{\Gamma} = 1$ . By removing regularizer  $\mathcal{R}(\gamma_k)$  and positive scale parameter  $\frac{\Gamma\gamma_0}{\Gamma + \gamma_0}$ , the minimization of negative log-likelihood can be approximately treated as a weighted linear square regression, as given by  $\min_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \frac{||Xw| - ||Xw|}{||Xw| - ||Xw|} = \frac{||Xw|}{||Xw|} = \frac{||$ 

$$\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times 1}, t \in \Delta^{K-1}} s(w, t) = \frac{1}{2} \|Xw - Zt\|_2^2$$
(14)

In Eqn.(14),  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D}$  is the data matrix whose *n*-th row is model feature  $(\hat{x}^n)^T$ ,  $w \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times 1}$  are weight parameters,  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times K}$  is F-Label matrix whose *k*-th column is the label embedding  $z_k$ , and  $t \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times 1}$  satisfies that  $1_K^T t = 1, t \ge 0$  which is a (K - 1)-D simplex denoted as  $\triangle^{K-1}$ .

#### 68 B.2 Convergence Analysis and Proof Outline

We will prove the convergence property of the function value. Indeed, we demonstrate a stronger condition that the function value decreases after each round of iterations on w and t. From the monotone convergence theorem, the convergence can thus be derived. For other convergence properties of alternating minimization, readers can refer to the literature [16], which can be of independent interest.

- <sup>74</sup> In the proof, we exploit the smoothness of the function and design a projection gradient descent
- <sup>75</sup> method with sufficient decrease for the constraint optimization problem. The sufficient decrease in

<sup>76</sup> the unconstrained problem is a direct corollary.

**Definition 1.** A function  $f(x) : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$  is said to be  $\beta$ -smooth with constant  $\beta$  if

$$|\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y)| \le \beta ||x - y||, \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

**Lemma 1.** Suppose X is the simplex constraint, and  $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\Pi$  denotes the projection operator. Then the inequality holds:

$$(\Pi_X(y) - x)^T (\Pi_X(y) - y) \le 0.$$

*Proof.* For the projection  $\Pi_X(y)$ , it is a convex optimization problem and can be formulated to

$$\min_{x} f(x) = \|x - y\|_2^2,$$

where  $x^T 1 = 1$  and x > 0. We denote  $x^*$  as the optimal solution to the problem. For the convex optimization problem, it holds for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$  that

$$\nabla f(x^{\star})^T (x^{\star} - x) \le 0.$$

Therefore we can derive

$$2(x^{\star} - y)^T (x^{\star} - x) \le 0$$

77 Then this lemma is proved.

**Lemma 2.** Let f be the  $\beta$ -smooth function. For any  $x, y \in \text{dom}(f)$ 

$$|f(x) - f(y) - \nabla f(y)^{T}(x - y)| \le ||x - y||^{2}.$$

Proof.

$$\begin{split} \left| f(x) - f(y) - \nabla f(y)^T (x - y) \right| &= \left| \int_0^1 \nabla f(y + t(x - y))^T (x - y) dt - \nabla f(y)^T (x - y) \right| \\ &\leq \int_0^1 \| \nabla f(y + t(x - y)) - \nabla f(y) \| \| x - y \| dt \\ &\leq \int_0^1 \beta t \| x - y \|^2 dt = \frac{\beta}{2} \| x - y \|^2. \end{split}$$

<sup>78</sup> The last inequality holds because f is a  $\beta$ -smooth function.

**Lemma 3.** Suppose the function f is the  $\beta$ -smooth function, and X is the simplex constraint. For any  $x, y \in X$ , let  $x^+ = \prod_X (x - \frac{1}{\beta} \nabla f(x))$  and  $g_X(x) = \beta(x - x^+)$ . Then the inequality holds

$$f(x^+) - f(y) \le g_X(x)^T(x-y) - \frac{1}{2\beta} ||g_X(x)||^2.$$

Proof. Using Lemma. 1, we have

$$(x^{+} - (x - \frac{1}{\beta}\nabla f(x)))^{T}(x^{+} - y) \le 0.$$

which is equivalent to

$$\nabla f(x)^T (x^+ - y) \le g_X(x)^T (x^+ - y).$$

79 By using Lemma. 2 and the fact  $f(x^+) - f(y) = f(x^+) - f(x) + f(x) - f(y)$ , we have

$$f(x^{+}) - f(y) \leq \nabla f(x)^{T} (x^{+} - x) + \frac{\beta}{2} ||x^{+} - x||^{2} + \nabla f(x)^{T} (x - y)$$

$$= \nabla f(x)^{T} (x^{+} - y) + \frac{1}{2\beta} ||g_{X}(x)||^{2}$$

$$\leq g_{X}(x)^{T} (x^{+} - y) + \frac{1}{2\beta} ||g_{X}(x)||^{2}$$

$$= g_{X}(x)^{T} (x^{+} - x + x - y) + \frac{1}{2\beta} ||g_{X}(x)||^{2}$$

$$= g_{X}(x)^{T} (x^{+} - x) + g_{X}(x)^{T} (x - y) + \frac{1}{2\beta} ||g_{X}(x)||^{2}$$

$$= g_{X}(x)^{T} (x - y) - \frac{1}{\beta} ||g_{X}(x)||^{2} + \frac{1}{2\beta} ||g_{X}(x)||^{2}$$

$$= g_{X}(x)^{T} (x - y) - \frac{1}{2\beta} ||g_{X}(x)||^{2}.$$

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**Theorem 1.** Suppose  $s(w,t) = \frac{1}{2} ||Xw - Zt||_F^2$  where  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D}$ ,  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times K}$ ,  $w \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times 1}$  and  $t \in \triangle^{K-1}$ , the inner loop of t in Algorithm lines 7 - 10 decreases after each iteration. Specifically, denote  $\beta = 1/||2Z^TZ||$  and  $t^+ = \prod_{\triangle K^{-1}}(t - \beta \nabla s(w, t))$ . For any  $t \in \triangle^{K-1}$ ,  $s(w, t^+) - s(w, t) \leq -\frac{1}{2\beta}||t - t^+||^2 \leq 0$ .

*Proof.* Since we fix w to optimize t at this point, we define s(t) = s(w,t), thus,  $\nabla s(t) = -2Z^T(Xw^* - Zt)$ . For any  $t_1, t_2 \in \text{dom}(s)$ 

$$\|\nabla s(t_1) - \nabla s(t_2)\| = \|2Z^T Z t_1 - 2Z^T Z t_2\| \le \|2Z^T Z\| \|t_1 - t_2\|.$$

According to the definition 1, it shows that the f(t) is  $\beta$ -smooth, where  $\beta = ||2Z^TZ||$ . We denote  $t \in \triangle^{K-1}$  to be the initial point and  $t^+$  to be the result of one iteration of t, where  $t^+ = \prod_{\triangle K^{-1}} (t - \frac{1}{\beta} \nabla f(t))$ . From Lemma 3, we can replace  $x^+, y$  and x with  $t^+, t$ , and t, repsectively. In this way, the inequality holds

$$0 \le s(t^+) \le s(t) - \frac{1}{2\beta} \|\beta(t - t^+)\|^2 \le s(t)$$

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Therefore, according to **Monotone convergence theorem**, the iterative optimization in the algorithm for t is convergent

**Theorem 2.** Suppose  $s(w,t) = \frac{1}{2} ||Xw - Zt||_2^2$  where  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D}$ ,  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times K}$ ,  $w \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times 1}$  and t  $\in \triangle^{K-1}$ , the function value in Algorithm will be convergent. Specifically, denote  $w^*, t^*$  as the result after one iteration of w, t respectively, we have  $0 \le s(w^*, t^*) \le s(w^*, t) \le s(w, t)$ .

Proof. In the first step, we denote  $t \in \triangle^{K-1}$  is the initial point, then use gradient descent algorithm to calculate  $w^*$ . Since the optimization problem for w is a convex optimization problem and use lemma 2, the decreasing property for the gradient part can be derived. That is, for each  $w \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times 1}$ , we have  $s(w^*,t) \leq s(w,t)$ . In the second step, we fix w as  $w^*$ , from Theorem 1, we have  $s(w^*,t^*) \leq s(w^*,t)$ . Therefore, the value of s(w,t) satisfies:  $0 \leq s(w^*,t^*) \leq s(w^*,t) \leq s(w,t)$ , from **Monotone convergence theorem**, s(w,t) converges to the limiting point. As shown above, the overall convergence of our algorithm is guaranteed.

# 98 C Experiment

In this section, we present more experimental results in Sec. C.1, detailed descriptions of datasets
 in Sec. C.2, pre-trained models and baselines in Sec. C.3, and ground-truth scores in Sec. C.4 in
 various target tasks. More ablation studies can be found in Sec. D.

Foundation Models. On image classification, image captioning, referring expression comprehension, 102 and visual question answering, we use foundation models CLIP [9], BERT [17] and GPT-2 [10]. On 103 text question answering, we use foundation models GPT-2 [10], BART [18], and ELECTRA [19]. 104 CLIP was trained on a large dataset of images and their corresponding captions, which can understand 105 the relationship between images and text. BERT is a pre-trained language model that can understand 106 and generate natural language. GPT-2 was trained on a large corpus of text and can be fine-tuned for 107 specific tasks such as text completion and text summarization. Bart is a sequence-to-sequence model, 108 which is both auto-regressive and bidirectional. Electra is a different type of language model that key 109 idea is to pre-train a generator model to produce fake data and shows promising results in various 110 NLP tasks. 111

Interpretation of weighted Kendall's tau. The Kendall's  $\tau$  represents the ratio of concordant pairs minus discordant pairs when enumerating all pairs of  $\{T_m\}_{m=1}^M$  and  $\{G_m\}_{m=1}^M$  as given by

$$\tau = \frac{2}{M(M-1)} \sum_{1 \le i < j \le M} \operatorname{sgn}(G_i - G_j) \operatorname{sgn}(T_i - T_j)$$
(15)

where sgn(x) returns -1 if x < 0 and 1 otherwise. In this work, a weighted version of Kendall's r, denoted as  $\tau_w$ , is employed to assess transferability metrics considering that a top-performing model is always preferred for target tasks in transfer learning. In principle, a larger  $\tau_w$  implies the transferability metric can rank pre-trained models better. And if a metric can rank top-performing models better,  $\tau_w$  would be also larger. We also use other measurements to assess the performance of transferability metrics in Table 9 of Sec. D.

Table 1: Comparison of different transferability metrics on VQA models in rank correlation  $\tau_w$  with the ground truth and the wall-clock time. The LogME denotes using LogME with F-Label. Our proposed EMMS performs better than PACTran head over 3 target tasks with much less time.

	DAQUAR	COCO-QA	CLEVR	DAQUAR	COCO-QA	CLEVR
	Weight	ed Kendall's ta	au $ au_w$	Wal	l-Clock Time	(s)
LogME	0.586	0.591	0.281	116.72	716.35	4665.06
PACTran(Dir)	0.671	0.296	0.347	633.16	1169.91	428.03
PACTran(Gam)	0.595	0.419	0.319	614.23	1061.72	428.49
PACTran(Gau)	0.478	0.378	0.415	637.39	1075.88	418.34
EMMS	0.712	0.812	0.804	50.54	263.72	274.56

Table 2: Comparison of different transferability metrics on CNN models regarding  $\tau_w$  and the wallclock time where EMMS(One) denotes EMMS with the one-hot label. Our proposed EMMS achieves the best transfer-ability assessment over 11 target tasks and exhibits higher efficiency than NLEEP.

	Aircraft	Caltech	Cars	CF-10	CF-100	DTD	Flowers	Food	Pets	SUN	VOC	Avg.
Weighted Kendall's tau $ au_w$												
LEEP	-0.234	0.605	0.367	0.824	0.677	0.486	-0.243	0.491	0.389	0.722	0.371	0.409
LogME	0.506	0.435	0.576	0.852	0.677	0.647	0.111	0.385	0.411	0.487	0.669	0.509
NLEEP	-0.41	0.614	0.265	0.818	0.805	0.796	0.122	0.214	0.753	0.925	0.687	0.611
TransRate	0.172	0.269	0.172	0.513	0.197	0.336	-0.176	-0.071	0.173	0.612	0.651	0.236
EMMS(One)	0.481	0.546	0.304	0.963	0.804	0.701	0.498	0.588	0.574	0.638	0.707	0.618
EMMS	0.556	0.562	0.565	0.963	0.840	0.720	0.498	0.608	0.604	0.667	0.735	0.664
				Wall-	Clock Tim	ne (s)						
LEEP	5.1	4.9	8.3	22.3	23.8	3.5	3.8	37.1	3.9	21.1	4.8	10.4
LogME	30.36	31.24	56.26	90.34	188.3	15.16	22.27	334.53	17.55	180.01	20.05	289.64
NLEEP	253.8	488.7	973.8	1.1e4	1.7e4	146.0	294.0	2.0e4	580.8	8.6e3	678.8	5455.9
TransRate	147.90	163.41	300.29	65.25	193.64	75.48	166.24	195.92	60.53	430.33	18.72	165.24
EMMS(One)	17.43	20.53	35.22	70.01	78.24	12.75	18.04	116.23	15.04	70.98	18.42	42.99
EMMS	65.85	63.49	79.79	245.49	295.37	46.38	63.52	417.80	59.64	173.59	64.60	143.2

#### 120 C.1 More Experiments

#### 121 C.1.1 Performance on Visual Question Answering

To further demonstrate the generality of EMMS in multi-model tasks, we show how EMMS can work for VQA. We follow previous practice ([5]) which treats VQA as a classification task (vocab-based VQA). That is, we construct a vocabulary based on the top answers in the training sets and classify them into some of those labels. The models to be selected and the architecture is the same as in the image captioning.

Performance and wall-clock time comparison. As shown in Table.1, EMMS is clearly ahead of PACTran in terms of results and time, proving that EMMS has the ability to handle multi-modal tasks very well. We can find that EMMS outperforms PACTran on all datasets. In particular, EMMS achieves 93.8% and 93.7% gain over PACTran on the COCO-QA and CLEVR datasets with rank correlation  $\tau_w$  while reducing time consumption by 75.1% and 34.3% respectively compared to Pactran. This indicates that EMMS performs well on both ordinary VQA datasets(DAQUAR, COCO-QA) as well as VQA datasets(CLEVR) that focus on inference capabilities.

#### 134 C.1.2 Performance on Image Classification with CNN Models

Performance and wall-clock time comparison. We compare EMMS with previous LEEP, NLEEP, LogME, and TransRate. As shown in Table.2, our EMMS achieve the best average  $\tau_w$  on 11 target datasets and the best  $\tau_w$  on 6 target datasets. Compared to NLEEP, which is the most effective other than EMMS, we have almost 1/40 of the time of NLEEP.

#### 139 C.2 Descriptions of Datasets

#### 140 C.2.1 Image Classification

For image classification, we adopt 11 classification benchmarks , including FGVC Aircraft [20], Caltech-101 [21], Stanford Cars [22], CIFAR-10 [23], CIFAR-100 [23], DTD [24], Oxford 102 Flowers [25], Food-101 [26], Oxford-IIIT Pets [27], SUN397 [28], and VOC2007 [29]. These datasets cover a broad range of classification tasks, which include scene, texture, and coarse/finegrained image classification, which are widely used in transfer learning. In particular, CF10 and VOC2007 are typical coarse-grained classification datasets, Aircraft, and Cars are typical fine-grained classification datasets, and CF100 contains both coarse- and fine-grained classifications.

#### 148 C.2.2 Image Captioning

For image captioning, We use Flickr8k [30], Flickr30k [31], FlickrStyle10K-Humor [32], FlickrStyle10K-Romantic [32] and RSICD [33]. Among them, Flickr8k and Flickr30k have commonly used image captioning datasets for natural images and have no emotional color; RSICD is a commonly used image captioning dataset in remote sensing; Flickr10k-H and Flickr10k-R are also image captioning datasets for natural images, but their images are depicted with humorous and romantic emotional colors, respectively.

#### 155 C.2.3 Visual Question Answering

For visual question answering, we apply COCOQA [34], DAQUAR [35] and CLEVR [36].Among
them, DAQUAR is an early VQA dataset on real images; CLEVR is a synthetic dataset, which is a
visual scene composed of some simple geometric shapes, focusing on evaluating the inference ability
of VQA models; the questions and answers of COCO-QA are generated by NLP algorithms, and the
images are from the COCO dataset, which is also a commonly used VQA dataset.

## 161 C.2.4 Text Question Answering

For text question answering, we separately use SQuAD1.1 [37], SQuAD2.0 [38], which are collections of question-answer pairs derived from Wikipedia articles and are widely used in text question answer.

## 164 C.2.5 Referring Expression Comprehension

For referring expression comprehension, we separately use RefCOCO [39], RefCOCO+ [39] and RefCOCOg [40].Specifically, RefCOCO includes instances where there is only one object of its kind in the image, while RefCOCO+ includes instances where multiple objects of the same kind exist in the image.

#### 169 C.3 Pre-trained Models and Baselines

#### 170 C.3.1 Image Classification

Pre-trained Models. For CNN-based models, We select 11 widely-used CNN models includ-171 ing ResNet-34 [41], ResNet-50 [41], ResNet-101 [41], ResNet-152 [41], DenseNet-121 [42], 172 DenseNet-169 [42], DenseNet-201 [42], MNet-A1 [43], MobileNetV2 [44], GoogleNet [45], and 173 InceptionV3 [46]. All these models are trained on ImageNet dataset [47], which are widely used 174 within the field of migration learning. For ViT-based models, we collect 10 ViT models including 175 ViT-T [48], ViT-S [48], ViT-B [48], DINO-S [49], MoCov3-S [50], PVTv2-B2 [51], PVT-T [51], 176 PVT-S [51], PVT-M [51], and Swin-T [52], which are widely used in various vision tasks. Besides, 177 we append EMMS with one-hot label, which degenerates to a linear regression whose label is the 178 one-hot vector. We fine-tune these models on the 11 target datasets to obtain the ground truth. 179

Comparison Baselines. Here we use some of the latest methods as baselines, including LEEP [1],
 NLEEP [2], LogME [3], and TransRate [4], which have been experimented with model selection on
 image classification tasks.

#### 183 C.3.2 Image Captioning

**Pre-trained Models.** We use a classic and effective image captioning model architecture, which contains an image encoder and a language encoder to extract the features of the image and the corresponding caption, then fuses the image feature and the text feature and input it to the classifier. We aim to choose the best combination of image encoder and language encoder. Besides, We finetune each model in COCO Caption [53] and use these as the pre-trained models.

Specifically, We separately use ViT-B [48],Swin-B [52], Swinv2-B [54] as image encoder and Bert [17], Roberta [55], Bart [18] as language encoder, and use VisionEncoderDecoderModel from HuggingFace as the model architecture. Following the setting in PACTran [5], We finetune the model in COCO Caption [53] and use these as the pre-trained models. Following common practice( [56]) , we treat image captioning as a vocab-based classification task. That is we use a vocabulary and classify the caption into the index of some words in the vocabulary. Afterward, training is done according to the classification task criteria.

**Comparison Baselines.** In this common setup, each caption is converted to a matrix  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{L \times N}$ , where L denotes the length of the caption after padding or truncation and N denotes the size of the vocabulary, and each row in the matrix is a one-hot vector. Since N is generally very large, Existing model selection metrics do not scale to this case due to the huge amount of time spent. The only baseline we use is to model the fused feature with F-label using LogME since only LogME can handle the regression task. Here we calculate the average  $\tau_w$  and time of it with K single F-label from K foundation models we use respectively.

#### 203 C.3.3 Visual Question Answering

**Pre-trained Models.** The model architecture and the model selection settings are the same as in the image captioning, Following the setting in PACTran [5], here we use the model after finetune on VQA-v2 [56] as the pre-trained model waiting for selection and treat VQA as a vocab-based classification task.

**Comparison Baselines.** Here we calculate the average  $\tau_w$  and time of it with K single F-label from K foundation models we use respectively. And in addition to that, the three methods proposed in PACTran [5] are added here, which are the only methods currently applied to VQA tasks.

#### 211 C.3.4 Text Question Answering

**Pre-trained Models.** The selected models include BERT-Large [17], RoBERTa-Large [55], XLNet-Large [57], DeBERTa [58] (XLarge), DeBERTa-V2 [58] (XLarge and XXLarge), DeBERTa-V3 [59] (Base, Small, XSmall). More specifically, we simultaneously input the question and passage into the aforementioned models, utilizing the distinctive symbol [SEP] to demarcate them. By stacking the predicted head onto each model, we could further fine-tune the model such that it can predict the start and end positions of the answer within the passage. This is achieved by using two binary classifiers, where one is dedicated to identifying the start position and the other to pinpointing the end.

**Comparison Baselines.** Here we calculate the average  $\tau_w$  and time of it with F-labels from K foundation models respectively.

#### 221 C.3.5 Referring Expression Comprehension

Pre-trained Models. The candidate multi-modal architectures considered for REC task incorporate
 Blip [60], ALBEF [61], CLIP [9] (ViT-B-32, ViT-B-16, ViT-L-14, ViT-L-14-336, RN50), OFA [62]
 (Base, Large, Huge). In practice, we respectively extract the visual and textual representations from
 each of these models and feed them into a multi-modal interaction module followed by a stacked
 detection head, and further fine-tune the model to generate the ground truth of model selection.

**Comparison Baselines.** Here we calculate the average  $\tau_w$  and time of LogME with K single F-label from K foundation models we use respectively.

Table 3: The fine-tuning accuracy of supervised CNN models on 11 target tasks.

	Aircraft	Caltech	Cars	CF-10	CF-100	DTD	Flowers	Food	Pets	SUN	VOC
ResNet-34	84.06	91.15	88.63	96.12	81.94	72.96	95.2	81.99	93.5	61.02	84.6
ResNet-50	84.64	91.98	89.09	96.28	82.8	74.72	96.26	84.45	93.88	63.54	85.8
ResNet-101	85.53	92.38	89.47	97.39	84.88	74.8	96.53	85.58	93.92	63.76	85.68
ResNet-152	86.29	93.1	89.88	97.53	85.66	76.44	96.86	86.28	94.42	64.82	86.32
DenseNet-121	84.66	91.5	89.34	96.45	82.75	74.18	97.02	84.99	93.07	63.26	85.28
DenseNet-169	84.19	92.51	89.02	96.77	84.26	74.72	97.32	85.84	93.62	64.1	85.77
DenseNet-201	85.38	93.14	89.44	97.02	84.88	76.04	97.1	86.71	94.03	64.57	85.67
MNet-A1	66.48	89.34	72.58	92.59	72.04	70.12	95.39	71.35	91.08	56.56	81.06
MobileNetV2	79.68	88.64	86.44	94.74	78.11	71.72	96.2	81.12	91.28	60.29	82.8
Googlenet	80.32	90.85	87.76	95.54	79.84	72.53	95.76	79.3	91.38	59.89	82.58
InceptionV3	80.15	92.75	87.74	96.18	81.49	72.85	95.73	81.76	92.14	59.98	83.84

Table 4: The fine-tuning accuracy of vision transformer models on 11 target tasks.

	Aircraft	Caltech	Cars	CF-10	CF-100	DTD	Flowers	Food	Pets	SUN	VOC
ViT-T	71.26	89.39	82.09	96.52	81.58	71.86	95.5	81.96	91.44	58.4	83.1
ViT-S	73.12	92.7	86.72	97.69	86.62	75.08	96.79	86.26	94.02	64.76	86.62
ViT-B	78.39	93.47	89.26	98.56	89.96	77.66	97.98	88.96	94.61	68.62	87.88
PVTv2-B2	84.14	93.13	90.6	97.96	88.24	77.16	97.89	88.67	93.86	66.44	86.44
PVT-T	69.76	90.04	84.1	94.87	75.26	72.92	95.8	83.78	91.48	61.86	84.6
PVT-S	75.2	93.02	87.61	97.34	86.2	75.77	97.32	86.98	94.13	65.78	86.62
PVT-M	76.7	93.75	87.66	97.93	87.36	77.1	97.36	85.56	94.48	67.22	87.36
Swin-T	81.9	91.9	88.93	97.34	85.97	77.04	97.4	86.67	94.5	65.51	87.54
MoCov3-S	76.04	89.84	82.18	97.92	85.84	71.88	93.89	82.84	90.44	60.6	81.84
DINO-S	72.18	86.76	79.81	97.96	85.66	75.96	95.96	85.69	92.59	64.14	84.8

#### 229 C.4 Fine-tuning Score on Various Target Tasks

#### 230 C.4.1 Image Classification

Fine-tuning Details. The ground truth of the problem of pre-trained model ranking is to fine-tune all 231 pre-trained models with a hyper-parameters sweep on target datasets. Given the model and the target 232 dataset, two of the most important parameters would be learning rate and weight decay in optimizing 233 the model [63]. Therefore, we carefully fine-tune pre-trained models with a grid search of learning 234 rate in  $\{1e-1, 1e-2, 1e-3, 1e-4\}$  and weight decay in  $\{1e-3, 1e-4, 1e-5, 1e-6, 0\}$ . 235 And using SGD optimizer. After determining the best hyper-parameters candidate, we fine-tune 236 the pre-trained model on the target dataset with the candidate and then obtain the test accuracy as 237 the ground truth. We use a Tesla V100 with a batch size of 128 to perform finetuning. All input 238 images are resized to  $224 \times 224$ . To avoid random error, we repeat the above fine-tuning procedure 239 three times and take an average to obtain the final fine-tuning accuracy. For reference, we list the 240 fine-tuning accuracy of supervised CNN models in Table.3, and vision transformer models in Table 4, 241 respectively. 242

#### 243 C.4.2 Image Captioning and Visual Question Answering

**Fine-tuning Details.** The setting of finetune here is approximately the same as in image classification. 244 We carefully fine-tune pre-trained models with a grid search of learning rate in  $\{1e-4, 1e-5, 1e-6\}$ 245 and weight decay in  $\{1e - 4, 1e - 5, 1e - 6\}$ . And using AdamW optimizer. After determining 246 the best hyper-parameters candidate, we fine-tune the pre-trained model on the target dataset with 247 the candidate and then obtain the test BLEU-4 and accuracy as the ground truth. However, since 248 Flickr10k-H and Flickr10k-R do not provide a test set, we use a 6:1 ratio to divide the original training 249 set of 7000 images into a training set and a test set. For visual question answering, Due to the lack of 250 a test set for CLEVR dataset, we also assign its training set as training set and test set in the ratio 251 of 6:1. We use an Nvidia A100 with a batch size of 64 to perform finetuning. All input images are 252 resized to  $224 \times 224$ . To avoid random error, we repeat the above fine-tuning procedure three times 253 and take an average to obtain the final fine-tuning accuracy. For inference, We use BLEU-4 as the 254 score for the model with image captioning and accuracy as the score for the model with VQA. we 255 list result of image captioning models in Table.5, and visual question answering models in Table 6, 256 respectively. 257

Table 5: The fine-tuning BLEU-4 of image
captioning models on 5 target tasks.

captioning models on 5 target tasks.											
	F8k	F30k	RSD	F10k-H	F10k-R						
Vit-Bert	18.51	26.65	31.39	5.31	5.18	Vit-Be					
Vit-Roberta	20.53	23.70	29.92	5.88	5.48	Vit-Ro					
Vit-Bart	21.90	25.13	31.35	5.75	5.53	Vit-Ba					
Swinvit-Bert	22.91	26.61	33.54	6.24	5.67	Swinvi					
Swinvit-Roberta	23.99	28.84	33.07	7.11	5.49	Swinvi					
Swinvit-Bart	24.68	28.03	32.99	6.10	5.95	Swinvi					
Swin2vit-Bert	25.69	31.33	35.45	5.86	5.49	Swin2y					
Swin2vit-Roberta	23.40	28.81	36.22	6.80	7.13	Swin2y					
Swin2vit-Bart	26.24	30.35	34.72	7.90	5.96	Swin2v					

Table 6: The fine-tuning accuracy of visual question answering models on 3 target tasks.

	DAQUAR	COCO-QA	CLEVR
Vit-Bert	25.01	55.11	59.29
Vit-Roberta	26.38	57.30	62.80
Vit-Bart	26.30	59.60	64.98
Swinvit-Bert	28.05	61.72	68.25
Swinvit-Roberta	27.75	62.81	66.09
Swinvit-Bart	27.06	60.62	67.17
Swin2vit-Bert	26.45	63.1	67.4
Swin2vit-Roberta	26.33	66.54	65.91
Swin2vit-Bart	26.25	64.4	70.34

#### C.4.3 Text Question Answering 258

Fine-tuning Details. The accuracy of most models in TQA is provided by DeBERTa [58, 59], except 259 for DeBERTa-V3 [59] (Base, Small, XSmall). Following the setting of Bert [17], we finetune these 260 models with a batch size of 24 for 2 epochs. We use AdamW optimizer with an initial learning rate of 261 3e-5, polynomial decay. The Dev F1 score is used for pre-trained model ranking. All experiments 262 are implemented on an NVIDIA Tesla A100 GPU. The finetune accuracy is shown in Table 7. 263

Table 7: The standard metric the Dev F1 score of text question answering models on 2 target tasks.

Table 8: The standard metric Acc@0.5 of referring expression comprehension models on 3 target tasks.

	SQu1.1	SQu2.0		RefCOCO	RefCOCO+	RefCOCOg
BERT-Large	90.9	81.8	Blip	88.67	84.68	85.08
RoBERTa-Large	94.6	89.4	ALBEF	87.98	82.20	82.89
XLNet-Large	95.1	90.6	CLIP-ViT-B-32	83.20	74.56	76.98
DeBERTa-Large	95.5	90.7	CLIP-ViT-B-16	87.35	80.12	81.69
DeDERTa V2 VI arra	05.0	01.4	CLIP-ViT-L-14	90.17	86.09	87.13
DEDERTA-V2-ALarge	95.8	91.4	CLIP-ViT-L-14-336	91.67	87.60	87.89
DeBERTa-V2-XXLarge	96.1	92.2	CLIP-RN50	84.69	76.72	79.39
DeBERTa-V3-Base	93.9	88.4	OFA-Base	88.48	81.39	82.29
DeBERTa-V3-Small	89.8	82.9	OFA-Large	90.05	85.80	85.89
DeBERTa-V3-XSmall	91.5	84.8	OFA-Huge	92.04	87.86	88.07

#### C.4.4 Referring Expression Comprehension 264

Fine-tuning Details. For referring expression comprehension, the standard metric Acc@0.5 on the 265 validation set is used as the ground truth. For finetuning, we use a batch size of 128 with a resolution 266 of  $512 \times 512$  for each image. We finetune the models on each dataset for 12 epochs with a learning 267 rate of  $\{3e-5, 5e-5\}$  and weight decay in  $\{1e-3, 1e-5\}$  using Adam optimizer. The best 268 performance on the validation set for each task is reported among these hyper-parameters. Table 8 269

shows the performance of referring expression comprehension models. 270

Table 10: The effect of Label Embedding in EMMS. Three variants of EMMS are considered: (1) EMMS with one-hot label; (2) EMMS with single F-Label; (3) EMMS with multiple F-Labels which is the original. We see that label embedding brings some performance improvement to EMMS

	Aircraft	Caltech	Cars	CF-10	CF-100	DTD	Flowers	Food	Pets	SUN	VOC	Avg.
				Weig	ghted Ken	dall's ta	u $ au_w$					
(1)	0.481	0.546	0.304	0.963	0.804	0.701	0.498	0.588	0.574	0.638	0.707	0.618
(2)	0.531	0.562	0.426	0.952	0.804	0.720	0.481	0.602	0.535	0.667	0.726	0.636
(3)	0.556	0.562	0.565	0.963	0.840	0.720	0.498	0.608	0.604	0.667	0.735	0.664

#### More Ablation Analysis D 271

The Efftiveness of EMMS under Various Measurements. In addition to weighted Kendall's tau, 272 we employ various other measures to evaluate our EMMS. These include Kendall's tau  $(\tau)$ , Pearson's 273 correlation (r), weighted Pearson's correlation  $(r_w)$ , and top-k relative accuracy, denoted as Rel@k, 274 which represents the ratio between the best fine-tuning accuracy achieved on the downstream task 275 using the top-k ranked models and the best fine-tuning precision achieved with all models. We test 276

Table 9: EMMS under different measurements of transferability assessment. The results are obtained on Flickr8k and RSICD datasets with image captioning task and Aircraft and DTD datasets with image classification task with ViT-based models. EMMS outperforms LogME and other baselines under various measures.

Data	Method	Rel@1	Rel@3	r	$r_w$	$\tau$	$ au_w$	Data	Method	Rel@1	Rel@3	r	$r_w$	τ	$\tau_w$
E91.	LogME	0.928	1.0	0.735	0.799	0.537	0.483	DCD	LogME	0.957	1.0	0.727	0.708	0.518	0.501
гок	EMMS	1.0	1.0	0.741	0.823	0.667	0.660	KSD	EMMS	1.0	1.0	0.783	0.765	0.611	0.705
	LogME	0.852	0.993	0.407	0.060	0.378	0.299		LogME	0.992	1.0	0.641	0.694	0.556	0.569
Aircraft	TransRate	0.926	0.967	0.457	0.499	0.289	0.244	DTD	TransRate	0.992	1.0	0.607	0.676	0.422	0.533
	EMMS	0.926	0.967	0.622	0.608	0.511	0.481		EMMS	0.992	1.0	0.704	0.785	0.644	0.621

the robustness of our transferability metrics to different measurements on the Flickr8k and RSICD
datasets for image captioning tasks, as shown in Table 9. Our EMMS consistently outperforms
the previous transferability metric, including LogME and TransRate. Under the aforementioned
measurements, demonstrating the superiority of our EMMS.

The Effect of Label Embedding In some multimodal tasks or text tasks, including image captioning 281 or text question answering. Label emebdding directly affects the applicability of existing model 282 selection metric to these tasks. In addition, even in classification tasks, the use of F-Label can also 283 bring improvements in results. Here we focus on the comparison between label embedding and direct 284 one-hot vectors for image classification tasks in CNN-based models. As shown in Table 10, the 285 use of F-Label can bring performance improvement compared to One-Hot vector, the average  $\tau_{m}$ 286 increase from 0.618 to 0.636; furthermore, the use of multiple F-Label also brings some improvement 287 compared to the average of single F-Label with  $\tau_w$  increasing from 0.636 to 0.664. 288

**The Effect of Computational Speedup.** Here we experimentally demonstrate the effect of our accelerated algorithm. As shown in Table 11, the algorithm is similar to the in-accelerated version in terms of results, but much shorter in terms of the wall-clock time.

The Wall-clock Time of Label Embedding. For classification tasks, since the maximum number of categories is often only a few hundred, Label Embedding is very fast. Here we focus on documenting the time required for multimodal tasks, e.g. image captioning, text question answering, and referring expression comprehension, where label embedding is more time-consuming. For each task, we use 8 Nvidia A100 GPUs for label embedding, with a batch size of 512 for each GPU. The running time of label embedding for image captioning, text question answering, and referring expression comprehension is shown in Table 12.

Table 11: The effect of computational speedup in image classification with ViT models. We can see that the accelerated version of the algorithm achieves a significant reduction in time while guaranteeing results. Two variants of EMMS are considered: (1) EMMS with normal algorithm; (2) EMMS with fast algorithm;

	Aircraft	Caltech	Cars	CF-10	CF-100	DTD	Flowers	Food	Pets	SUN	VOC	Avg.
				W	eighted K	Cendall'	s tau $ au_w$					
(1)	0.564	0.463	0.706	0.718	0.745	0.589	0.592	0.531	0.755	0.532	0.730	0.629
(2)	0.481	0.444	0.706	0.718	0.745	0.621	0.562	0.673	0.740	0.619	0.730	0.639
					Wall-Clo	ock Tin	ne (s)					
(1)	102.06	114.72	177.25	718.34	724.5	50.24	87.28	944.57	83.37	336.92	104.9	313.10
(2)	21.31	17.23	28.06	154.61	182.11	13.87	15.95	265.99	17.93	63.86	16.63	72.55

Table 12: The wall-clock time (s) of label embedding in image captioning on 5 target tasks, text question answering on 2 target tasks, and referring expression comprehension on 3 target tasks, respectively.

Task		Im	age Cap	otioning		Text	t QA	Referring EC			
Dataset	F8k	F30k	RSD	F10k-H	F10k-R	SQuAD1.1	SQuAD2.0	RefCOCO	RefCOCO+	RefCOCOg	
Time	14.56	89.31	18.92	3.37	3.13	35.67	53.87	49.19	48.88	31.63	

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