


# Transformers, Vision Transformers and SAMJ

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# Content

- 
- Transformers and Vision Transformers**
  - Segment Anything Model (SAM) and SAM-like models**
  - SAMJ**
  - Hands on activities**

# Transformers and Vision Transformers



# The Transformer

Introduced in 2017 by Vaswani et al, from Google



New architecture “just” for language translation

Currently is the cornerstone of the Artificial Intelligence revolution 🤖



ChatGPT



Music generation



Protein folding

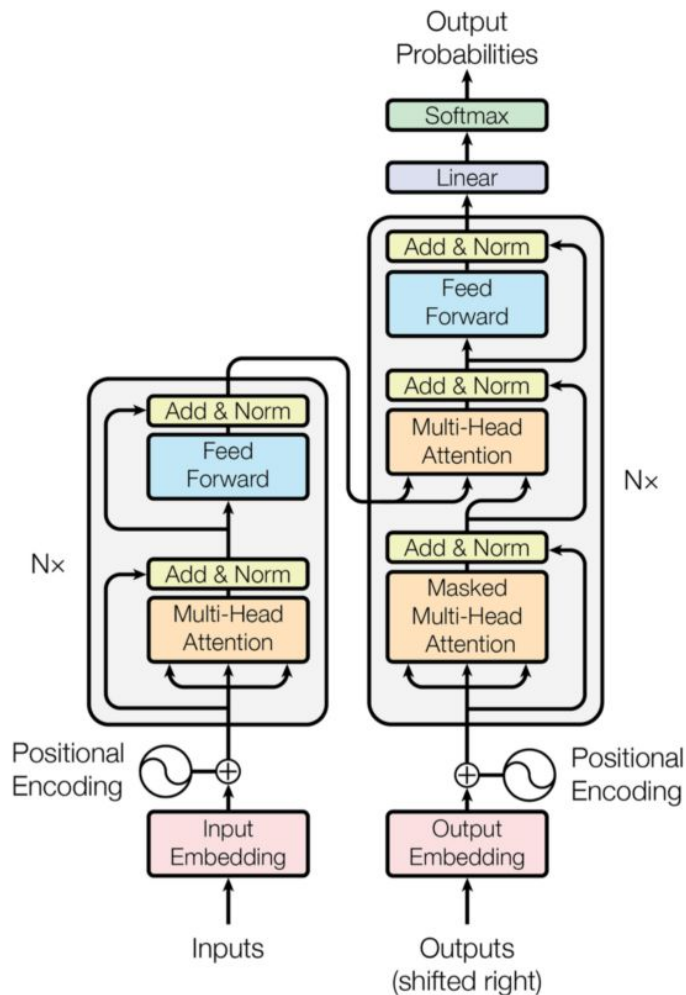
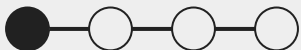


Figure 1: The Transformer - model architecture.

# Attention is all you need

3 key contributions

Self-attention

Multi-head attention

Positional encoding

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## Attention Is All You Need

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# Attention is all you need

Tokenization

letters to numbers

My big black dog is called Harry.

4 chars ~ 1 token

My big black dog is called Harry.

# Attention is all you need

Embedding

tokens (numbers) to tensors

My big black dog is called Harry.

My big black dog is called Harry.

(12228 x 8) tensor

Tries to represent tokens as “ideas”

# Attention is all you need

Embeddings locate similar ideas together

My big black dog is called Harry

Harry Kane



Prince Harry



Harry Potter





# Attention is all you need

Attention blocks

change the “meaning” of words given the context

self-attention + multihead attention

My big black dog is called Harry.

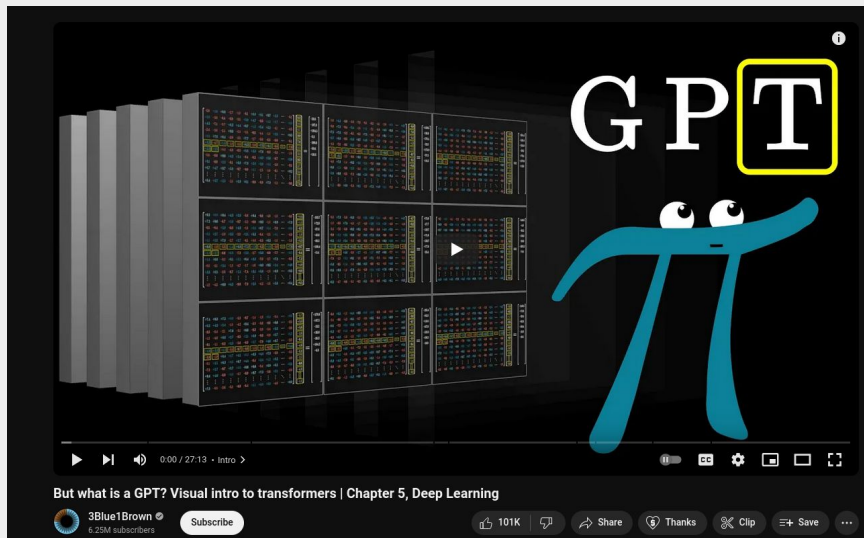
My big black dog is called Harry.



**Harry**

(after the last attention block)

# Attention is all you need



3blue1brown videos on Transformers



Jay Alammar

Visualizing machine learning one concept at a time.  
[@JayAlammar](#) on Twitter. [YouTube Channel](#)

[Blog](#) [About](#)

## The Illustrated Transformer

Discussions: [Hacker News](#) (65 points, 4 comments), [Reddit r/MachineLearning](#) (29 points, 3 comments)

Translations: [Arabic](#), [Chinese \(Simplified\) 1](#), [Chinese \(Simplified\) 2](#), [French 1](#), [French 2](#), [Italian](#), [Japanese](#), [Korean](#), [Persian](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish 1](#), [Spanish 2](#), [Vietnamese](#)

Watch: MIT's [Deep Learning State of the Art](#) lecture referencing this post

Featured in courses at [Stanford](#), [Harvard](#), [MIT](#), [Princeton](#), [CMU](#) and others

The Illustrated Transformer

# Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT)

Decoder-only

Self-supervised

Trained for next token prediction

No need for annotated data(!!)

Works for translation, question answering... (!!!!)

Emerging capabilities

**Improving Language Understanding  
by Generative Pre-Training**

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Karthik Narasimhan  
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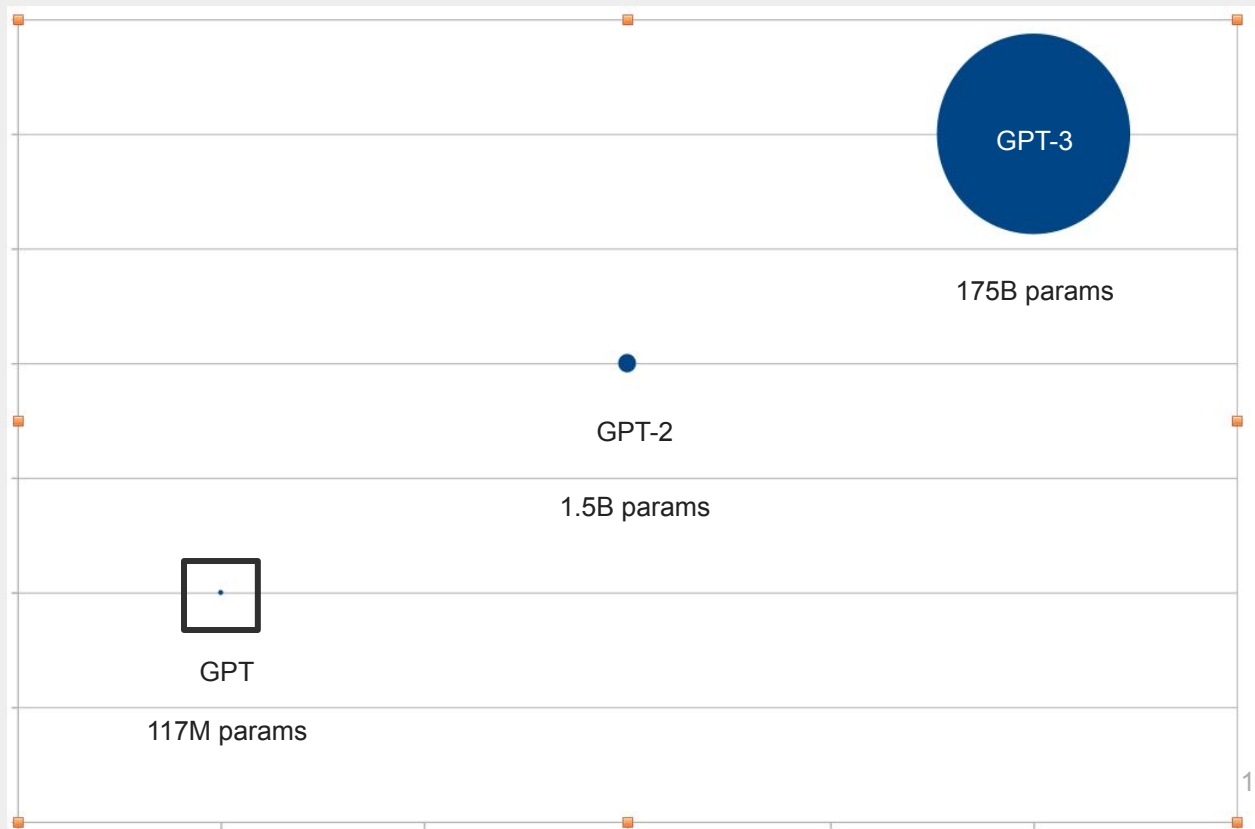
Tim Salimans  
OpenAI  
tim@openai.com

Ilya Sutskever  
OpenAI  
ilyasu@openai.com

# Generative Pre-trained Transformer

Scaling the model works

Both in number of  
**params** and **training  
data**



# Generative Pre-trained Transformer

## Scaling the model works

Prompt : *Python code to find the smallest factor of a number*

### GPT-1:

the lack of a body in the room before me. after several moments of silence, he spoke again. " you are my daughter. the two of us are one. and in time you will

### GPT-2

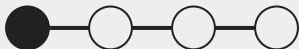
let p = &[ 5 - 3 ] => ( 1, 2, 3 ) The example above uses the "P" module to print the smallest factor of the number:

### GPT-3

```
import math
def lfact ( n ):
    factors = [ 1 ]
    while n % factor <= 0:
        factor = factor * 2 - 1
    while int ( factor ) > n % factor :
        factors . append ( factor )
    return factors
```

What the code does:

Imports math module for math functions. [...]



# Vision Transformer (ViT)

Using transformers for vision

AN IMAGE IS WORTH 16X16 WORDS:  
TRANSFORMERS FOR IMAGE RECOGNITION AT SCALE

Alexey Dosovitskiy<sup>\*,†</sup>, Lucas Beyer<sup>\*</sup>, Alexander Kolesnikov<sup>\*</sup>, Dirk Weissenborn<sup>\*</sup>,  
Xiaohua Zhai<sup>\*</sup>, Thomas Unterthiner, Mostafa Dehghani, Matthias Minderer,  
Georg Heigold, Sylvain Gelly, Jakob Uszkoreit, Neil Houlsby<sup>\*,†</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>equal technical contribution, <sup>†</sup>equal advising

Google Research, Brain Team

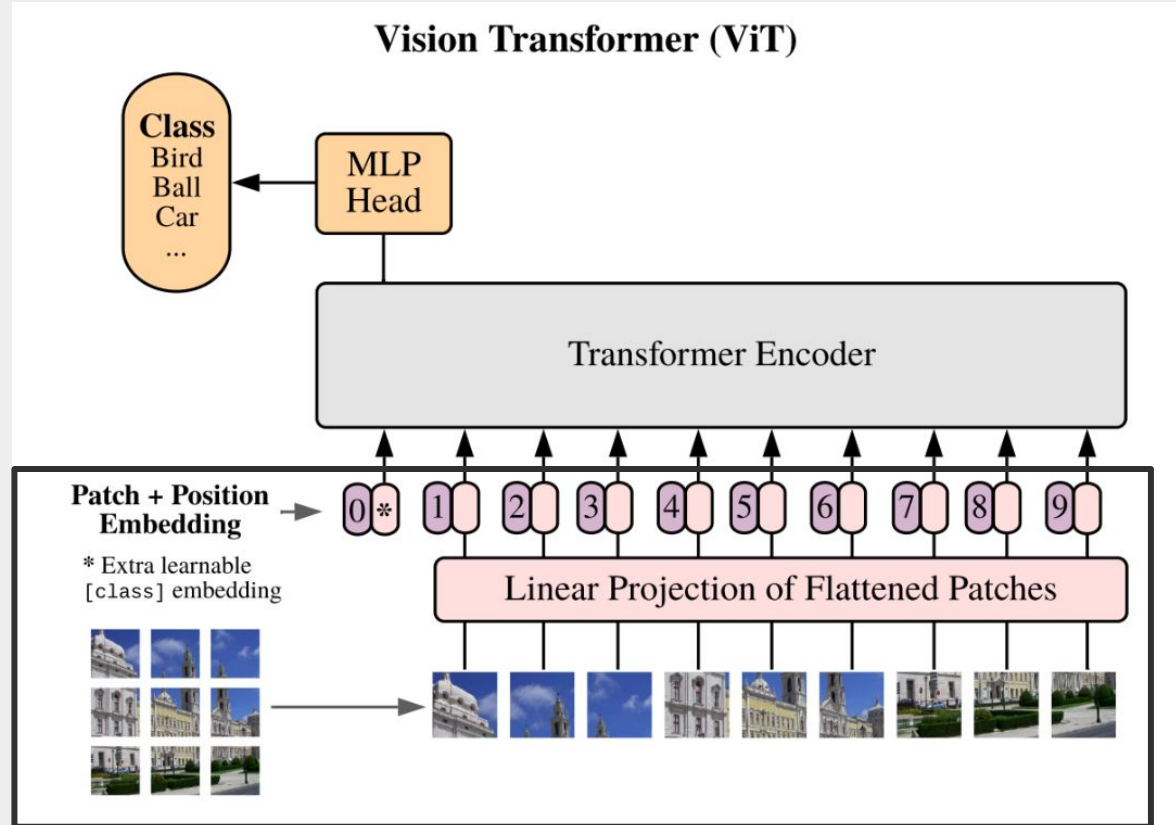
{adosovitskiy, neilhoulby}@google.com

Required **huge amounts of data and params** to outperform CNNs

# Vision Transformer (ViT)

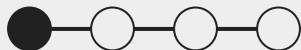
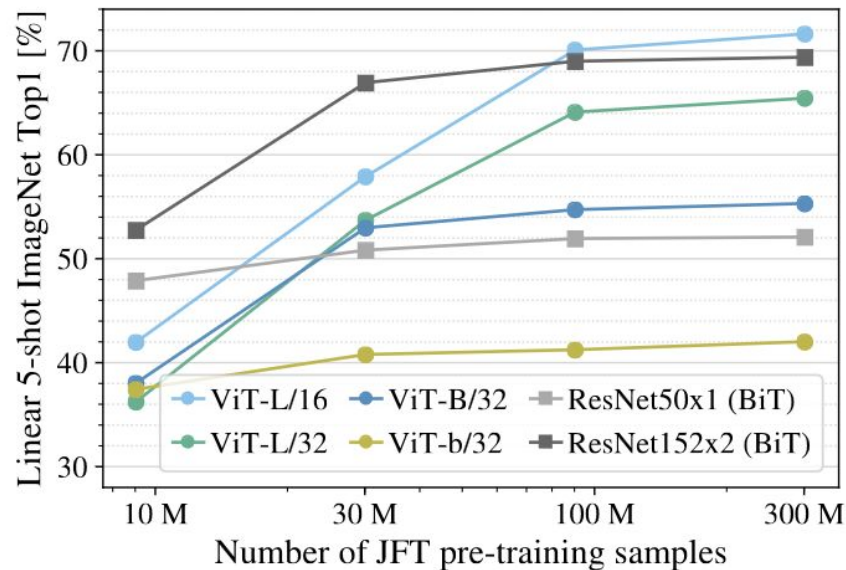
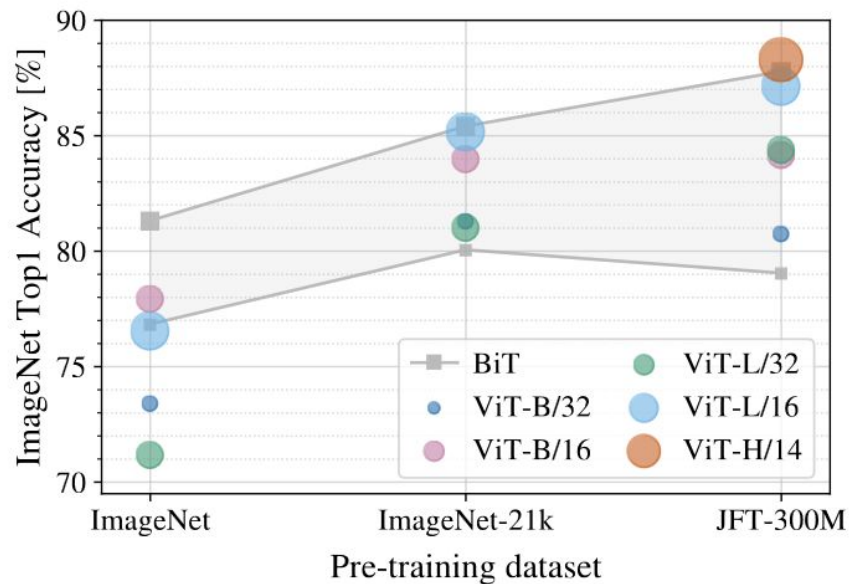
Divide the image  
into patches

Find relations  
between patches



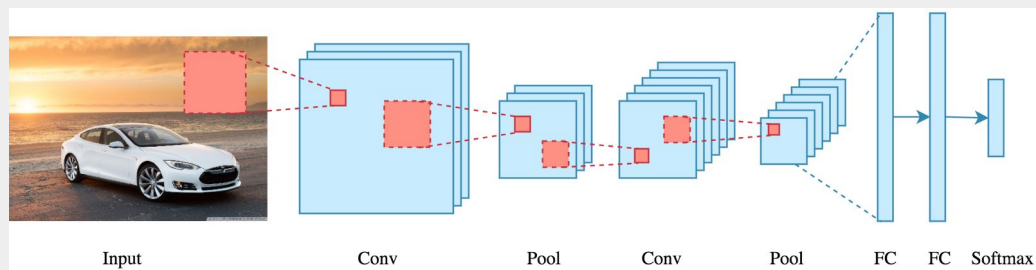
# Transformers vs CNNs

BiT -Big Transfer (CNN)  
ImageNet - 1.2m images  
ImageNet21k - 14m images  
ViT-H > ViT-L > ViT-B





# Transformers vs CNNs



CNNs enforce inductive biases

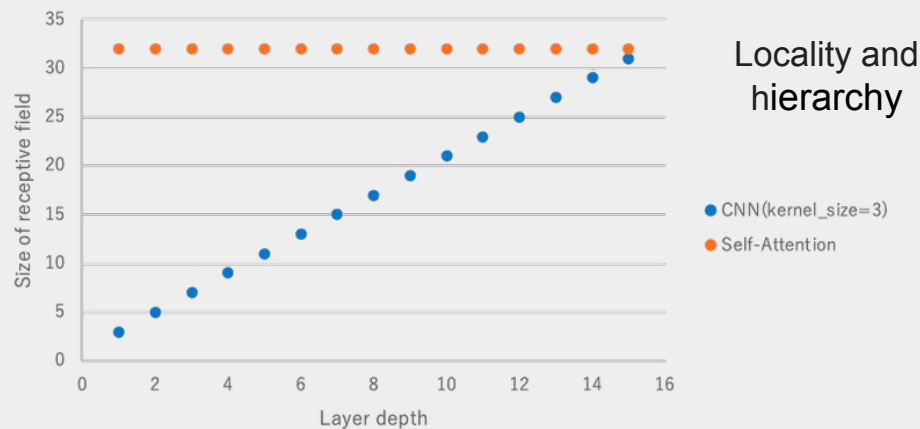
Useful assumptions for image data

ViTs have to learn them

CNNs enforce:

- Locality
- Translational equivariance
- Hierarchy

Size of receptive field by depth of layer



# Transformers in Vision - Useful resources

[Overview of ViTs with one of the authors](#)

[ViT explanation with code](#)

[ViTs for small datasets](#)

[ViTs for small datasets](#) (the whole channel is quite good)

Foundational models for Vision: [SAM](#) and [Dino](#)

Extra:  
[ConvNexts](#)

# Transformers are data hungry

Transformers need a LOT of data

The bigger they are and the more data they see the more they learn about it

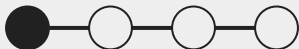
Transformers **can learn relationships between anything**

aminoacids -> protein folding

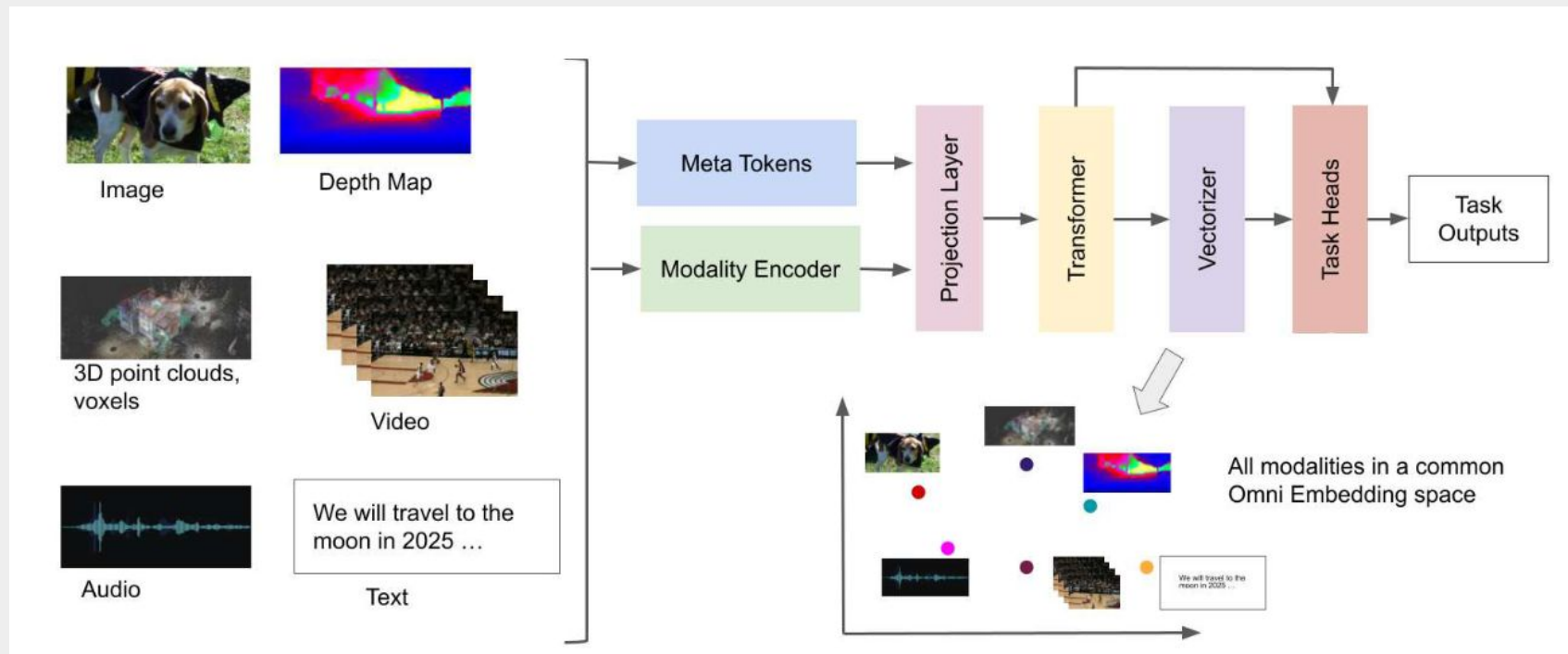
text

images

audio




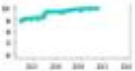
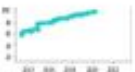
# Everything to everything models -Multimodal transformers



# State of the art in Computer Vision

Natural images




Image classification

Trend	Dataset	Best Model	
	ImageNet	OmniVec(ViT)	Multi-modal transformer
	CIFAR-10	ViT-H/14	ViT
	CIFAR-100	EffNet-L2 (SAM)	CNN

# State of the art in Computer Vision

Natural images





Semantic segmentation

Trend	Dataset	Best Model	
	ADE20K	ONE-PEACE	Multi-modal transformer
	NYU Depth v2	GeminiFusion (Finetune-Swin-Large)	ViT
	Cityscapes test	VLTseg	Vision-Language (multimodal) transformer

# State of the art in Computer Vision

Natural images





Object detection

Trend	Dataset	Best Model	
	COCO test-dev	Co-DETR	ViT
	COCO minival	Co-DETR	ViT
	COCO-O	EVA	ViT
	PASCAL VOC 2007	Cascade Eff-B7 NAS-FPN (Copy Paste pre-training, single-scale)	CNN

# State of the art in Computer Vision

Colonoscopy  
images

Medical Image segmentation

Trend	Dataset	Best Model	
	Kvasir-SEG	DUCK-Net	CNN
	CVC-ClinicDB	DUCK-Net	CNN
	CVC-ColonDB	DUCK-Net	CNN
	ETIS-LARIBPOLYPDB	DUCK-Net	CNN



# State of the art in Computer Vision

## Medical Image segmentation

CT scans

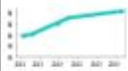


Synapse multi-organ CT

Swin UNETR

CNN

MRI cardiac images

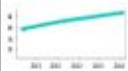


Automatic Cardiac Diagnosis Challenge (ACDC)

FCT

CNN

Tissue images



MoNuSeg

Hi-gMISnet

CNN

Nuclei images

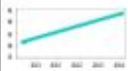


2018 Data Science Bowl

DuAT

ViT

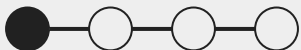
Gland segmentation in  
Colon Histology images



GlaS

Hi-gMISnet

CNN



# State of the art in Computer Vision

Tasks with **millions of images available**  
are dominated by **transformers**

Specific tasks with **more difficult data acquisition** are still dominated by **CNNs**

# Transformers in Microscopy - Cell segmentation

ViT


Transformers still **underperform** CNN methods for cell segmentation

**Cellpose (CNN) method is still the king**

Cellpose with transformer backbone underperforms CNN backbone

Analysis | Published: 26 March 2024

## The multimodality cell segmentation challenge: toward universal solutions

[Jun Ma](#), [Ronald Xie](#), [Shamini Ayyadbury](#), [Cheng Ge](#), [Anubha Gupta](#), [Ritu Gupta](#), [Song Gu](#), [Yao Zhang](#), [Gihun Lee](#), [Joonkee Kim](#), [Wei Lou](#), [Haofeng Li](#), [Eric Upschulte](#), [Timo Dickscheid](#), [José Guilherme de Almeida](#), [Yixin Wang](#), [Lin Han](#), [Xin Yang](#), [Marco Labagnara](#), [Vojislav Gligorovski](#), [Maxime Scheder](#), [Sahand Jamal Rahi](#), [Carly Kempster](#), [Alice Pollitt](#), ... [Bo Wang](#)  [+ Show authors](#)

[Nature Methods](#) (2024) | [Cite this article](#)

13k Accesses | 65 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Debunked by

## Transformers do not outperform Cellpose

**Carsen Stringer<sup>†</sup>, Marius Pachitariu<sup>†</sup>**

HHMI Janelia Research Campus, Ashburn, VA, USA

<sup>†</sup> correspondence to ([stringerc](#), [pachitariu](#)) @ [janelia.hhmi.org](#)

CNN

# Transformers in Microscopy - Cell segmentation

Article | Published: 14 December 2020

## Cellpose: a generalist algorithm for cellular segmentation

[Carsen Stringer](#), [Tim Wang](#), [Michalis Michaelos](#) & [Marius Pachitariu](#) 

[Nature Methods](#) **18**, 100–106 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

82k Accesses | 990 Citations | 176 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

## Transformers do not outperform Cellpose

Carsen Stringer<sup>†</sup>, Marius Pachitariu<sup>†</sup>

HHMI Janelia Research Campus, Ashburn, VA, USA

<sup>†</sup> correspondence to ([stringerc](#), [pachitariu](#)) @ [janelia.hhmi.org](#)

Cellpose authors claim that **ViTs success may not translate to biological images**

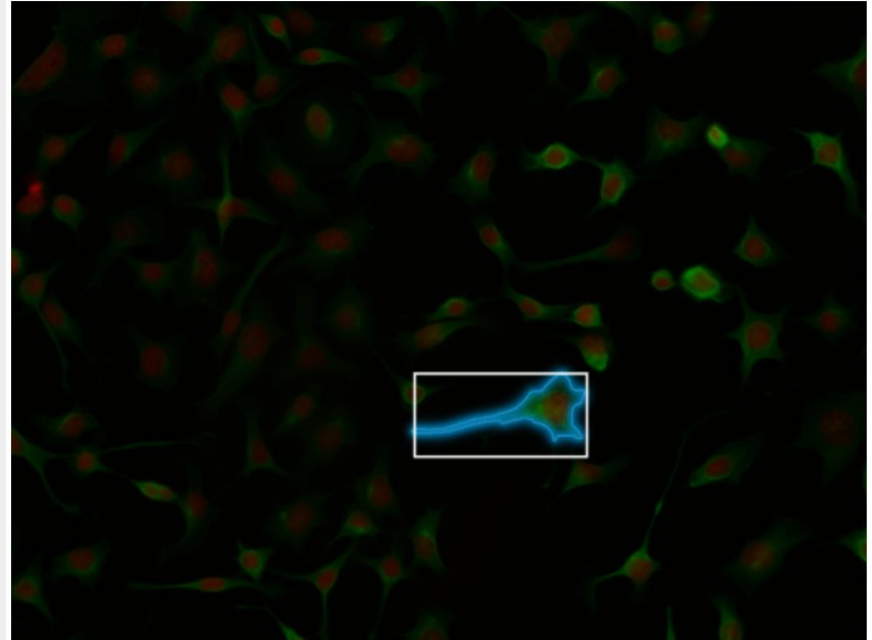
It may be impossible to collect millions of diverse biological images for training

# Transformers in Microscopy - Cell segmentation

SAM (Segment Anything model)  
**performs well** on cell data

**Training data of natural images**, cell  
images were a small percentage

There might be hope for ViTs in cell  
images



<https://segment-anything.com/demo#>

# The story of Uncle SAM



Rule-based

Model-based

Machine Learning

Deep Learning

Trained Models

Foundation Models

# Segment-Anything Model (SAM)

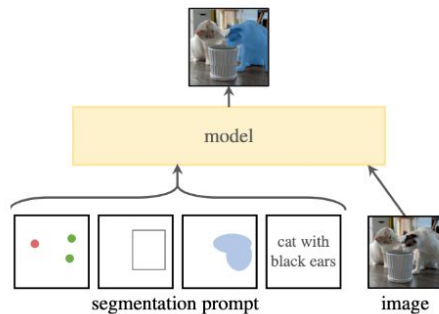


Foundation model from MetaAI



Transform: encoding / decoding

**BIG DATA**



**PROMPT**

The ChatGPT of the Computer Vision



## Model SA-1B

- Natural photographs
- Huge model (~1GB)
- 11M diverse, high-res. images
- 1.1B segmentation masks
- Open, privacy



Alexander Kirillov et al. IEEE/CVF, 2023, 2700 citations

Rule-based

Model-based

Machine Learning

Deep Learning

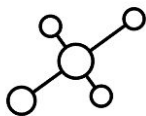
Trained Models

Foundation Models

# SAM for Science?

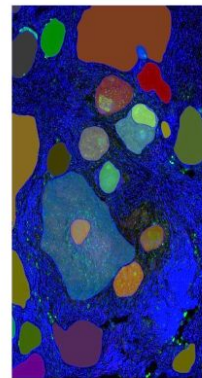


Web interface  
Python package  
QuPath  
Napari  
Fiji

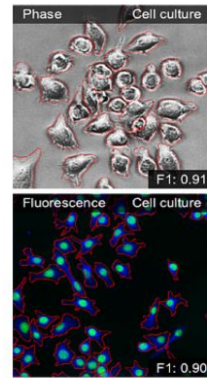


## Variants of SAM Models

- MicroSAM
- MedSAM
- CellSAM
- EfficientSAM
- MobileSAM
- ...



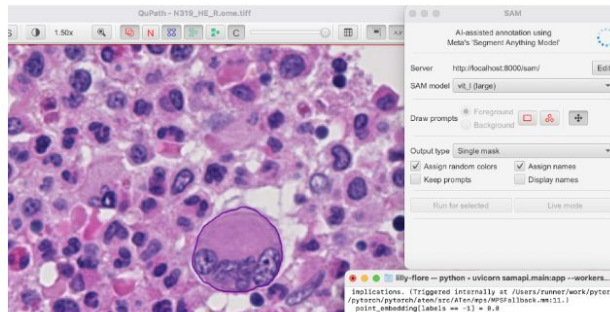
MicroSAM  
C. Pape



CellSAM



ARCGIS



## Acceleration of annotations

**Megakaryocytes on human biopsis**

SAM Large model

SAM extension of WuPath

SAM on server

R. Sarkis, CHUV, L-F. Celma, EPF

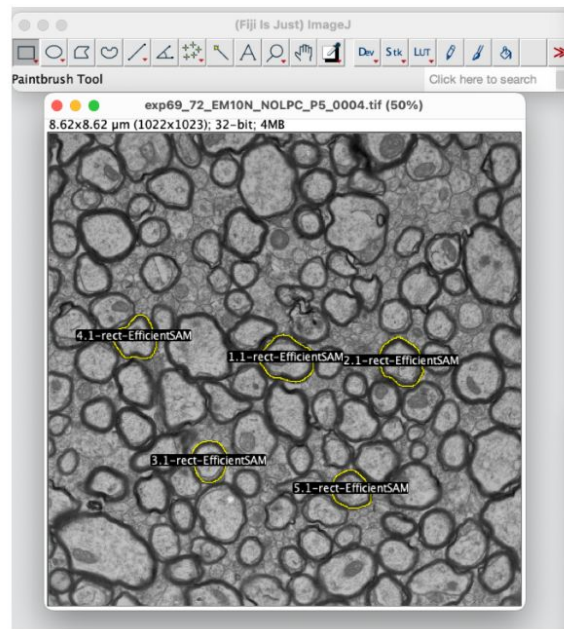
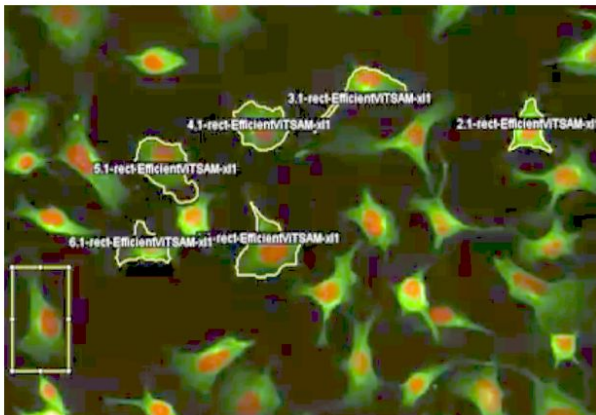
April 2024



# SAMJ Annotation with SAM on FIJI (CPU)

## SAMJ

- FIJI Plugin and ICY plugin
- Model Efficient SAM (run on CPU)
- Automatic installation of the Python environment
- Smart strategy for tiling



**SAMJ Team:** Carlos, Caterina, Arrate, Vladimir  
Ulman, Adrian Ines, Jonathan Heras,  
Curtis Rueden, Jean-Christophe, Daniel



# Segment Anything Model (SAM) and SAM-like models

# Segment Anything Model

<https://segment-anything.com>

by Meta AI



# Segment Anything Model



Promptable Segmentation  
(bounding box and points)



1 Billion masks, 11 Million images



Manual to automatic annotation process



Real-time web browser interaction



Real-world scenarios



Real-time interaction  
(~50 milliseconds)



Diverse and high-resolution images



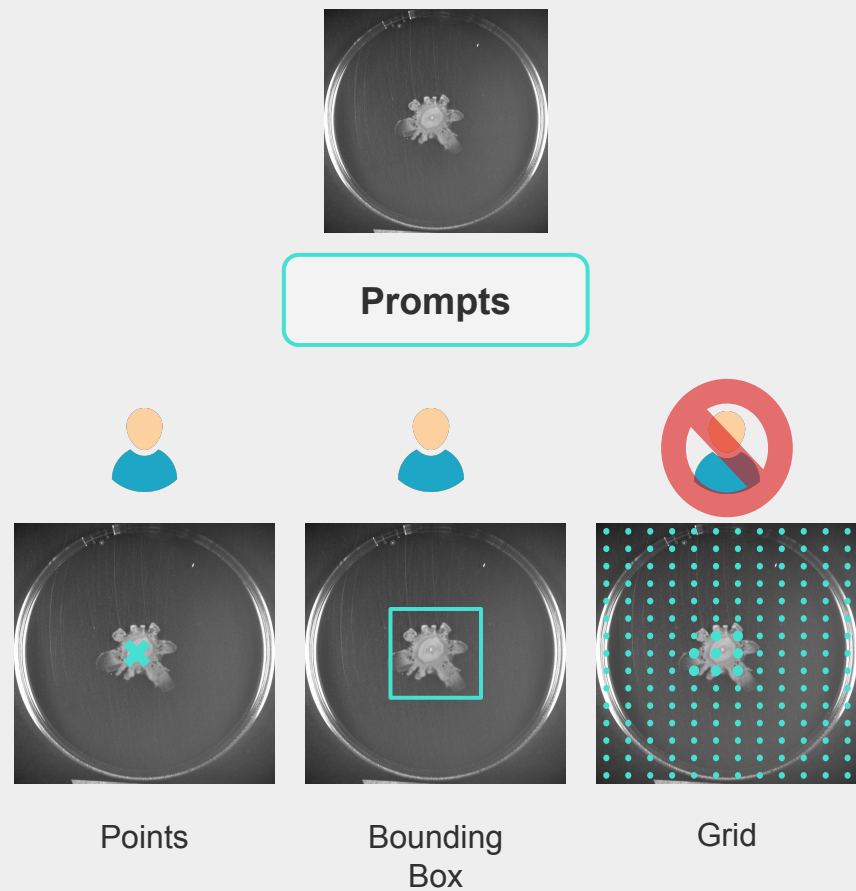
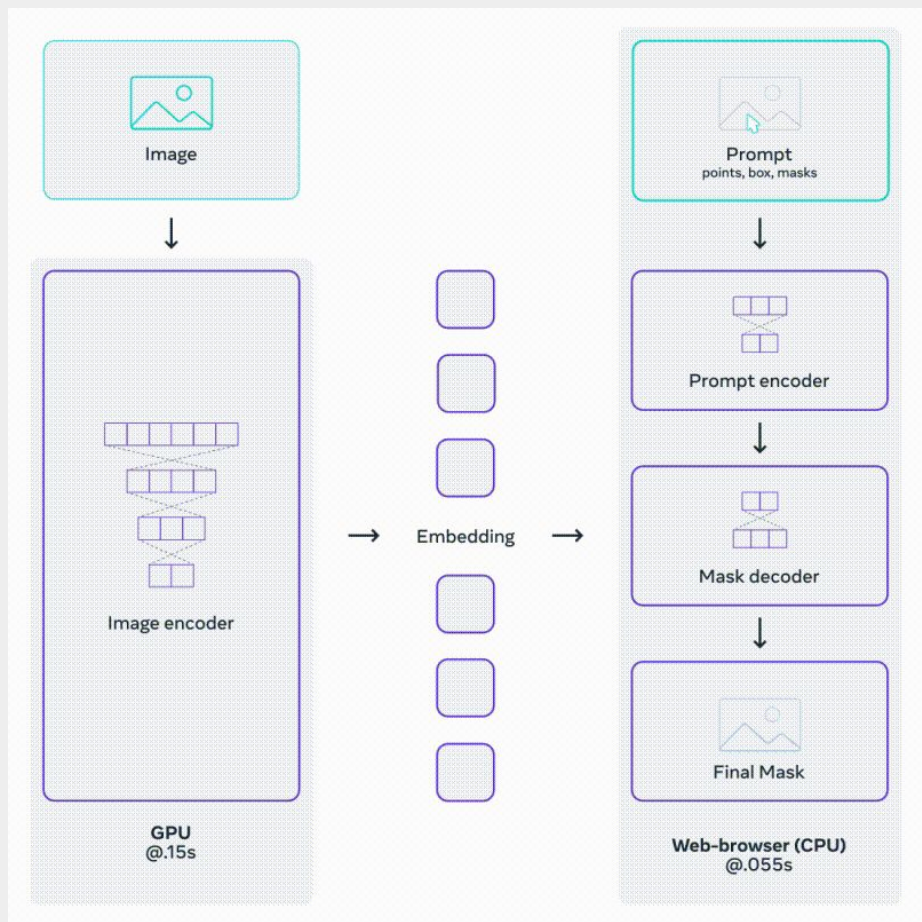
Vision Transformer-based Architecture  
(ViT)

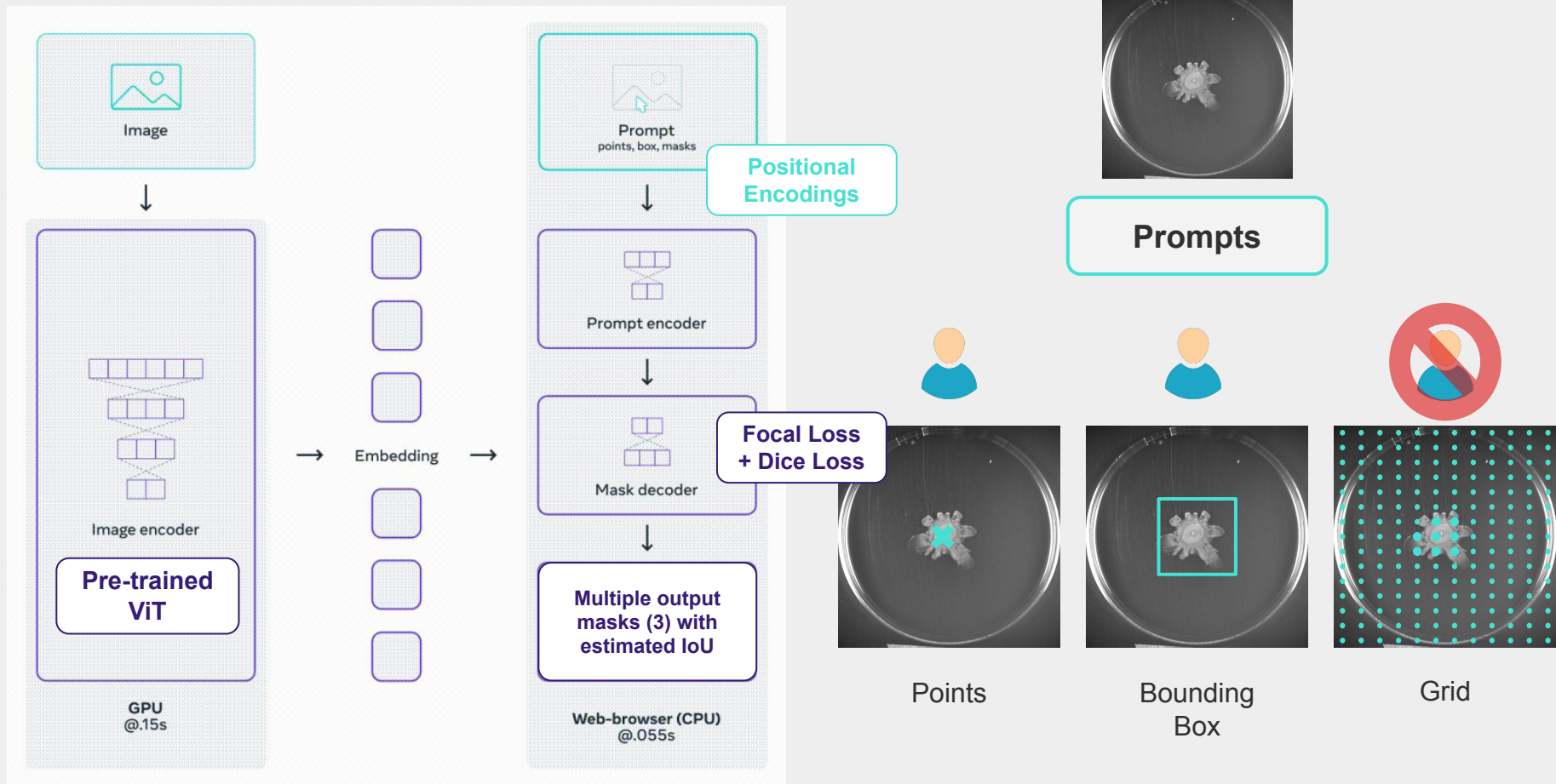


Zero-Shot Capabilities



Ethical and fairness focus





# Segment Anything Data Engine

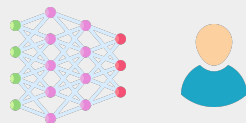
1

Model-assisted  
**manual**  
annotation stage



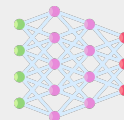
2

Semi-automatic  
stage with a mix  
of **automatically  
predicted masks**  
and  
**model-assisted  
annotation**



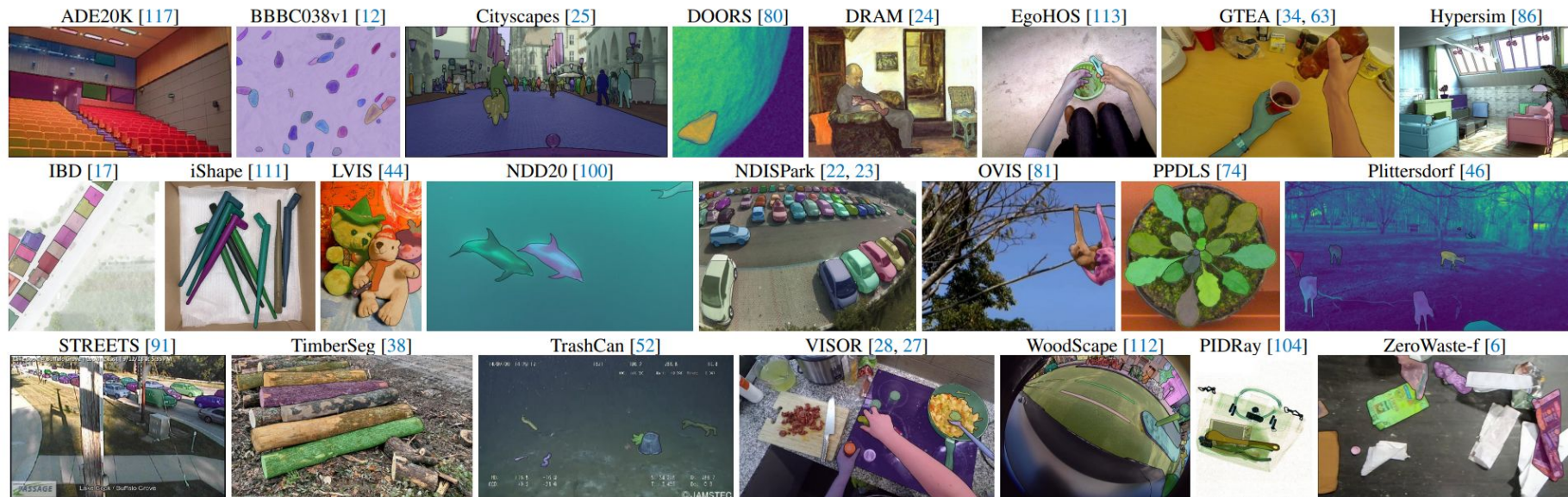
3

Fully automatic  
stage, model  
generates masks  
**without**  
**annotator** input





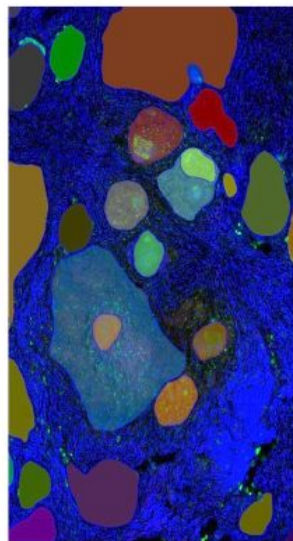
# SAM's Zero-Shot transfer capabilities on image types



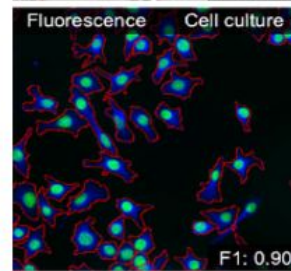
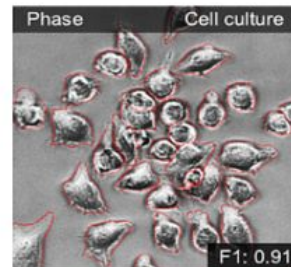


# SAM for Science

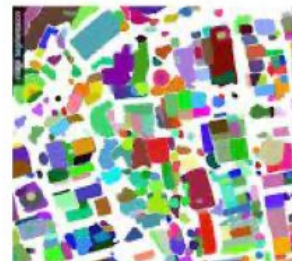
- MicroSAM
- CellSAM
- MedSAM
- ...



MicroSAM  
C. Pape



CellSAM



ARCGIS

# EfficientSAM

<https://yformer.github.io/efficient-sam/>

by Y. Xiong et al.



# EfficientSAM

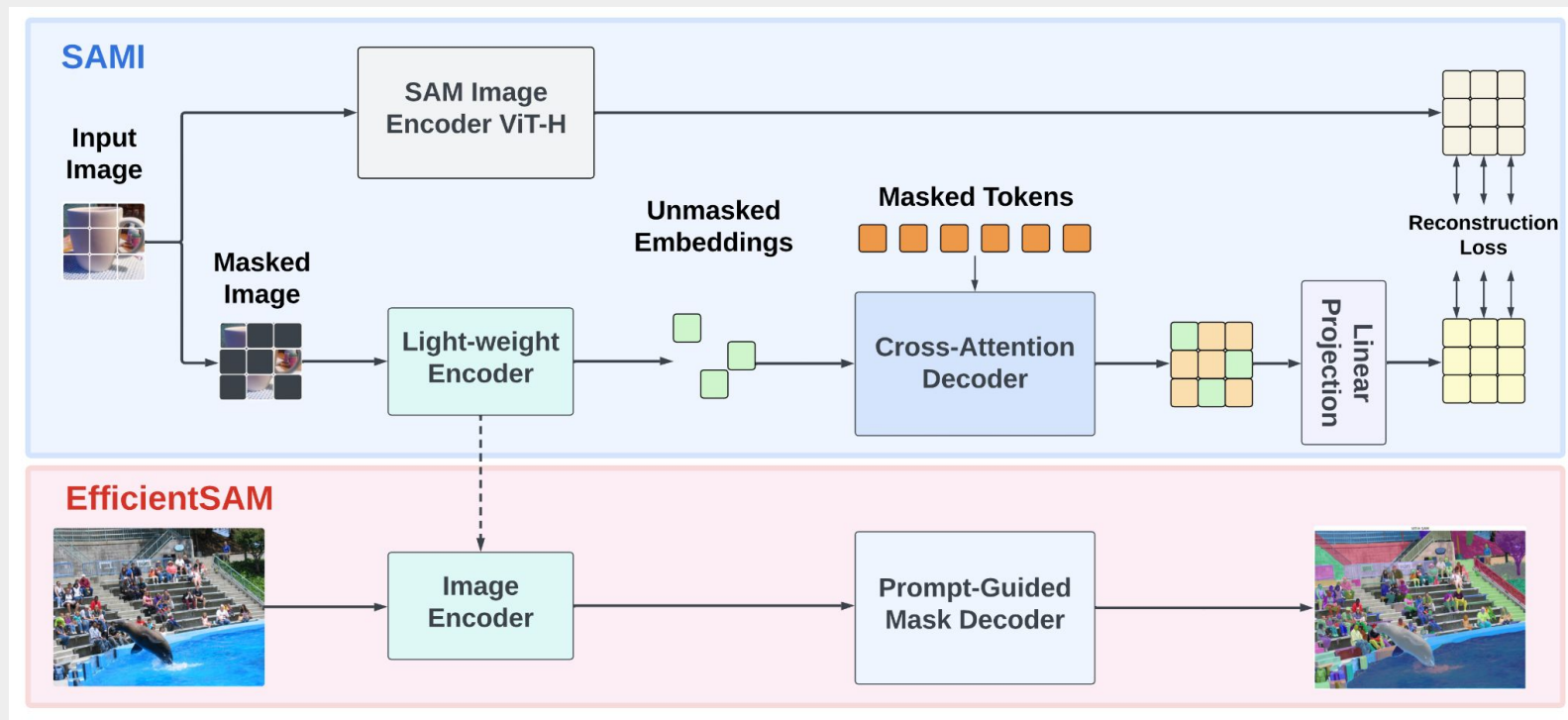
Develop SAMI, a **masked image pretrained framework** to reconstruct features from SAM ViT-H image encoder

SAMI-pretrained backbone generalize to **many tasks** including classification

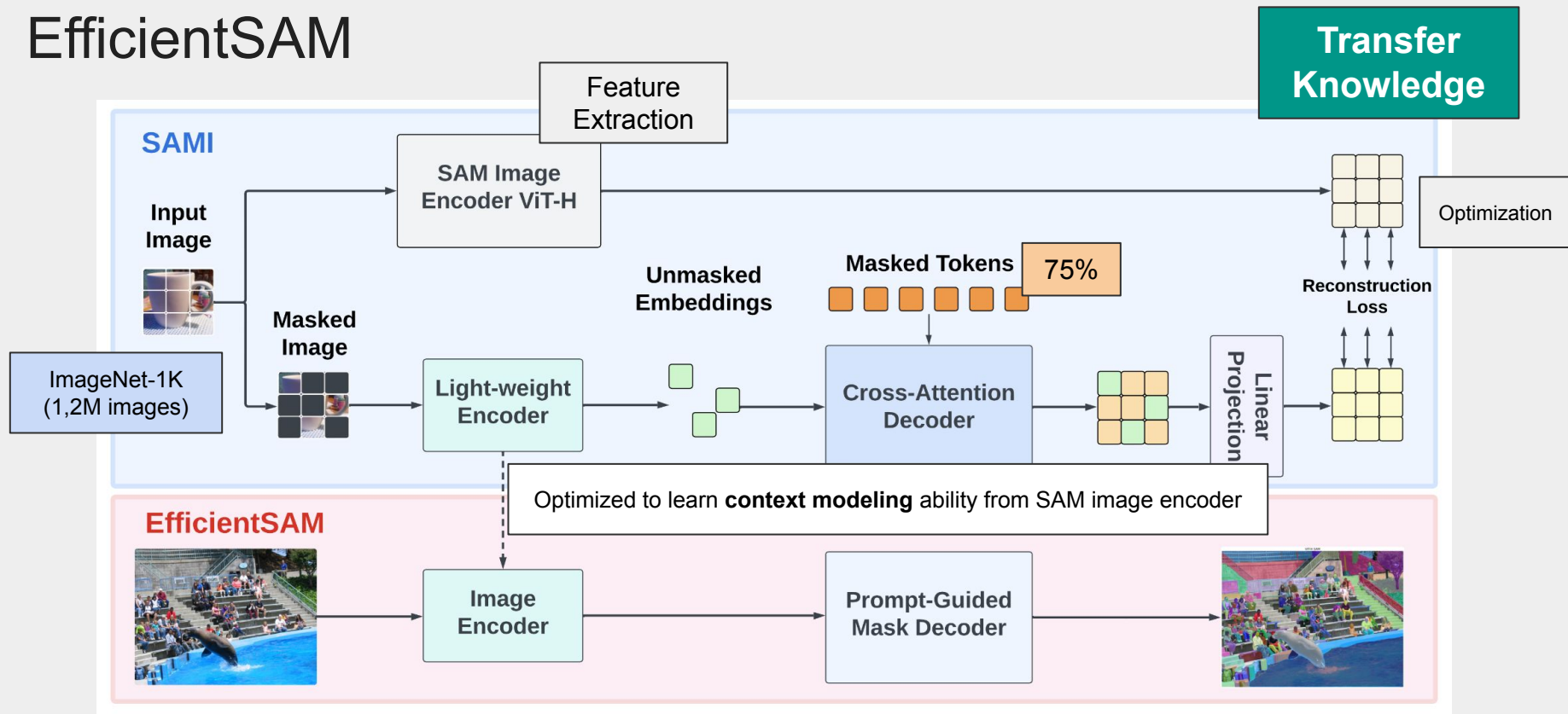
Deliver EfficientSAM, a **light-weight SAM** model for practical deployment



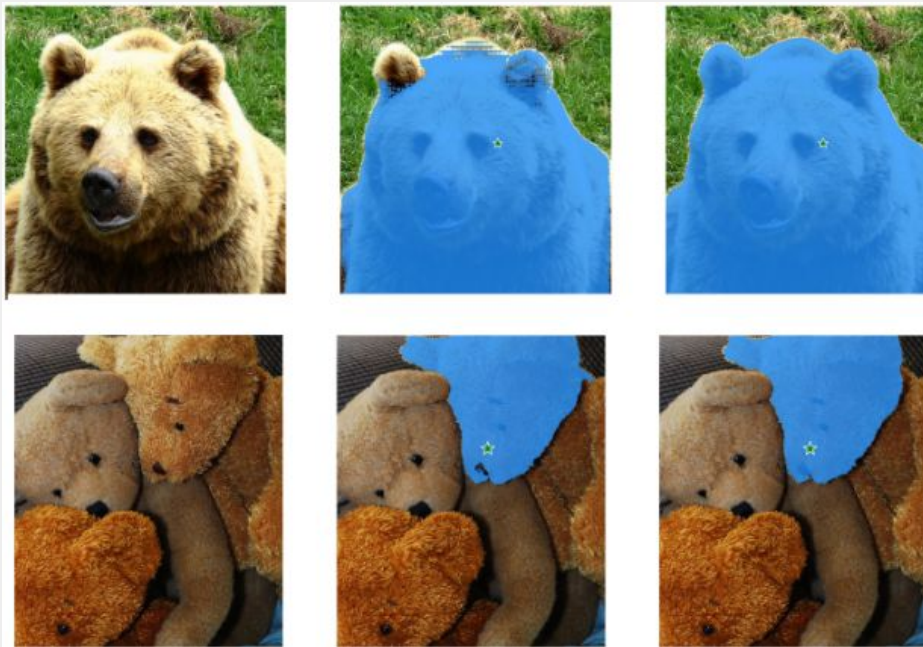
# EfficientSAM



# EfficientSAM

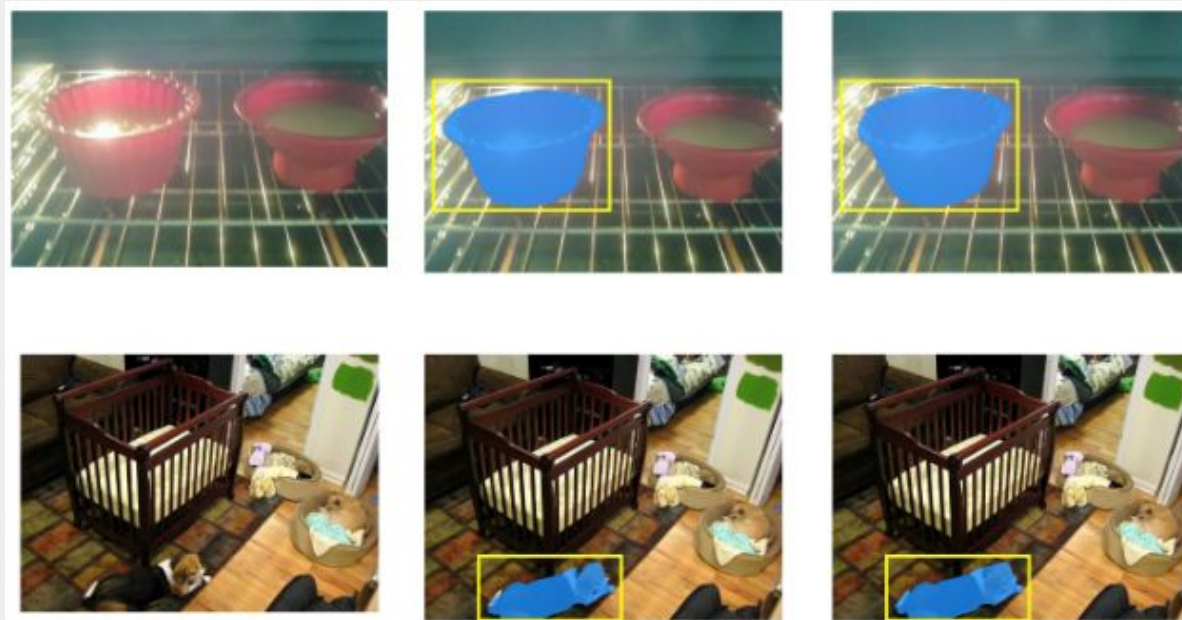


# EfficientSAM: points



Input (left), SAM (middle), EfficientSAM (right)

# EfficientSAM: ROIs



Input (left), SAM (middle), EfficientSAM (right)



# EfficientSAM: Everything

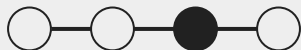
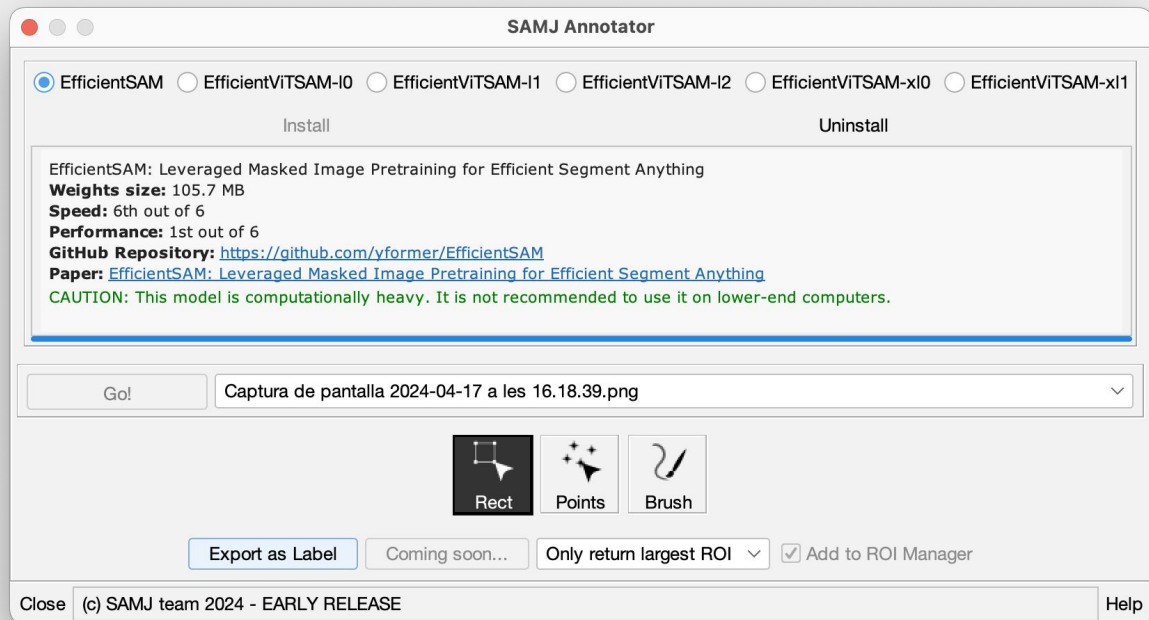


Input (left), SAM (middle), EfficientSAM (right)



# SAMJ

<https://github.com/segment-anything-models-java/SAMJ-IJ>



# SAMJ Functionalities

## SAM-like models implementation

**Different models** based on SAM (e.g. EfficientSAM) available for your annotations

## Semi-automatic annotation

Annotation of objects through **different prompts** (bounding box, points, etc) in seconds

## Adaptable to different use cases

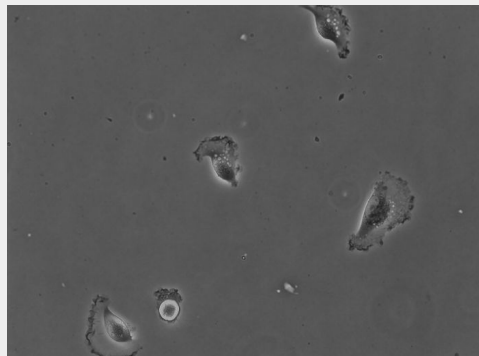
Capable of performing annotations over **different images**, cell types, morphologies, etc

## No need of GPU

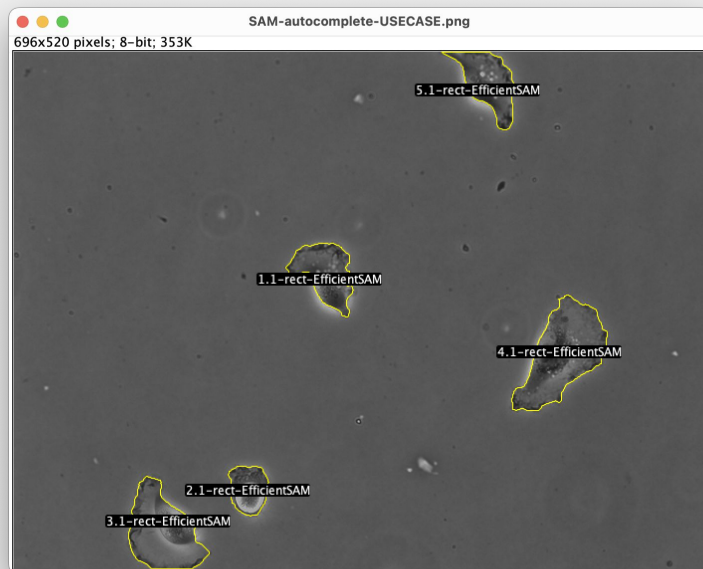
Using different **SAM-like models with a CPU** as using lighter versions



# SAMJ usage example



Original Image\*

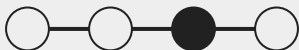


SAMJ Annotations

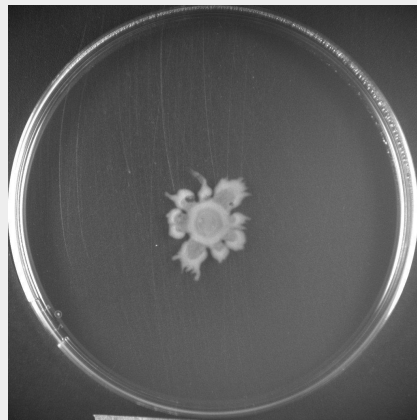


Generated Mask

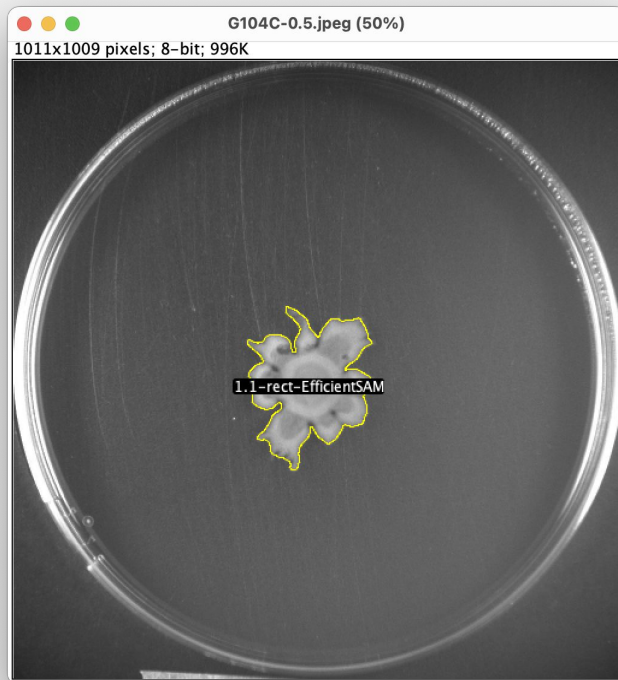
\*Original Image obtained from the Cell Tracking Challenge



# SAMJ usage example



Original Image\*

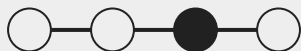


SAMJ Annotations



Generated Mask

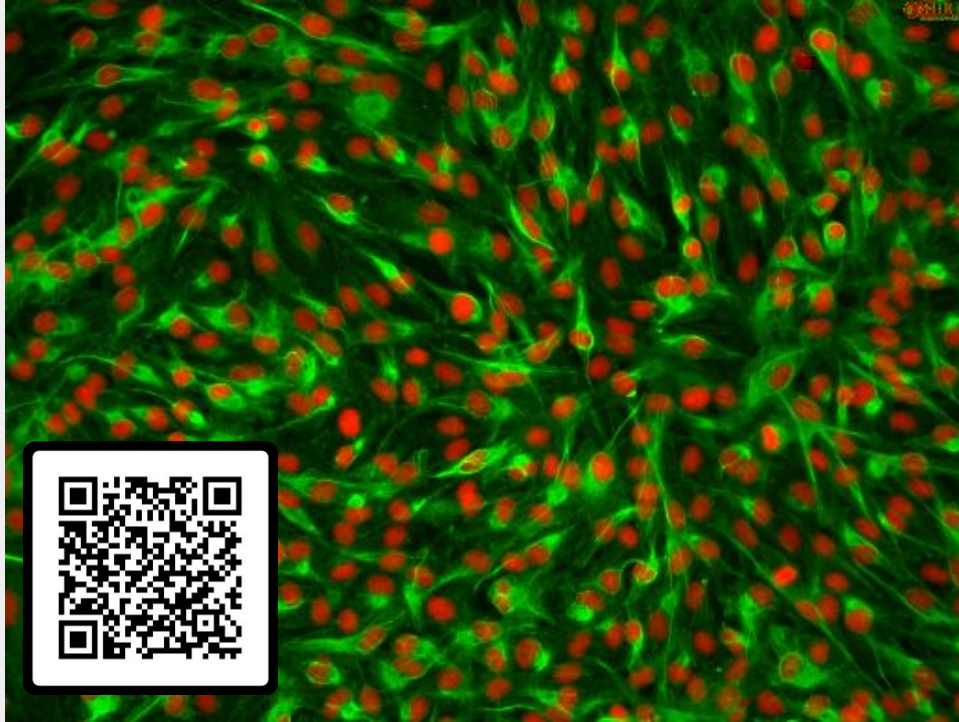
\*Original Image obtained from [doi.org/10.1016/j.compbio.2021.104673](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compbio.2021.104673)



# Hands on activities



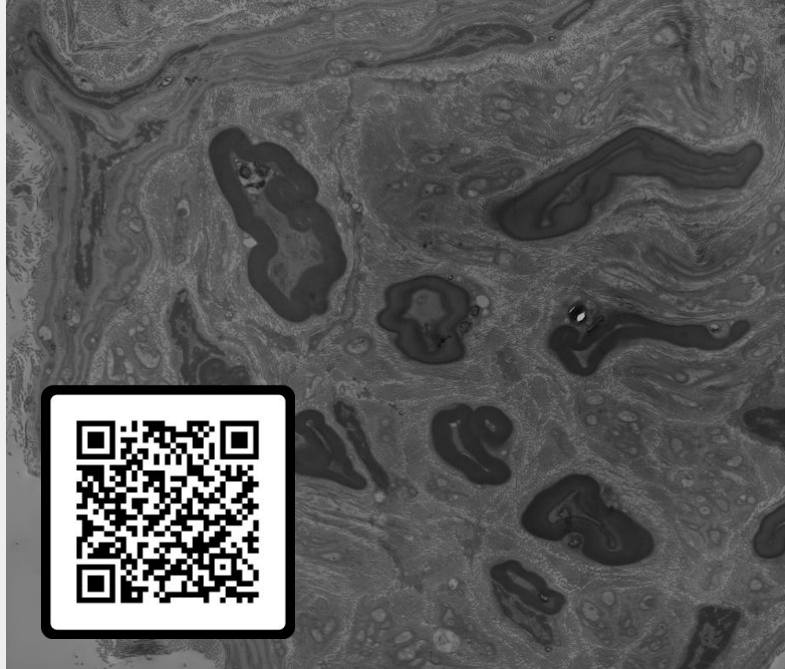
# Counting nuclei!



1. Download the image from the GitHub repository.
2. Open Fiji and SAMJ plugin.
3. Open the image and encode it with the SAMJ plugin.
4. Start annotating nuclei for 20 seconds.

**Who can annotate more?**

# Annotation of myelin sheaths on Fiji!



1. Segment by using few preprocessing set and then threshold
2. Annotate by hand (mouse).
3. Annotate using the magic wand of Fiji (select the tolerance) and then interpolate the selection (menu Edit>Selection>Interpolate)
4. Annotate using SAMJ
5. Comment these 4 methods in term of speed of annotation, accuracy of segmentation, and required resources.



# Bibliography

Kirillov, A., Mintun, E., Ravi, N., Mao, H., Rolland, C., Gustafson, L., ... & Girshick, R. (2023). Segment anything. In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision (pp. 4015-4026).

Xiong, Y., Varadarajan, B., Wu, L., Xiang, X., Xiao, F., Zhu, C., ... & Chandra, V. (2023). Efficientsam: Leveraged masked image pretraining for efficient segment anything. arXiv preprint arXiv:2312.00863.