

# Fake it till you make it: Learning transferable representations from synthetic ImageNet clones

**NAVER LABS**  
Europe

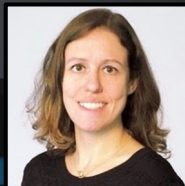
*Inria*



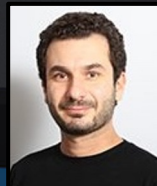
Mert Bulent  
Sariyildiz



Karteek  
Alahari



Diane  
Larlus



Yannis  
Kalantidis

JUNE 18-22, 2023

**CVPR**



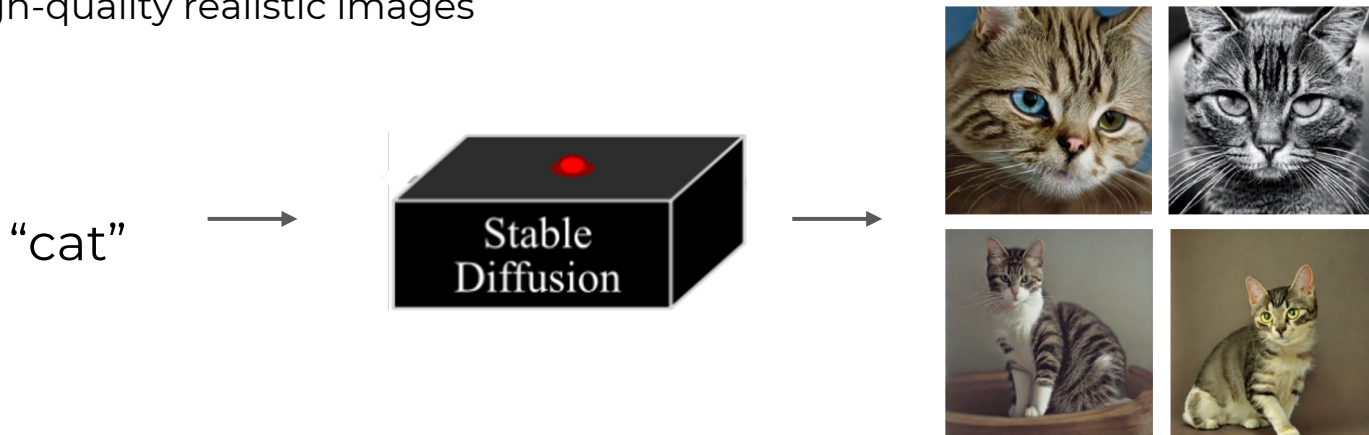
VANCOUVER, CANADA

CVPR Poster ID:  
TUE-PM-372

# Text-to-image generative models

## Stable Diffusion/DALL-E/Imagen

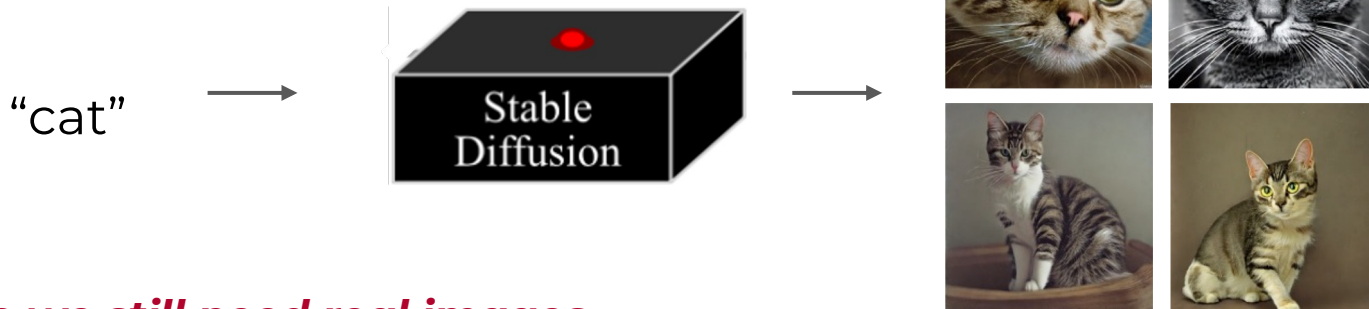
- High-quality realistic images



# Text-to-image generative models

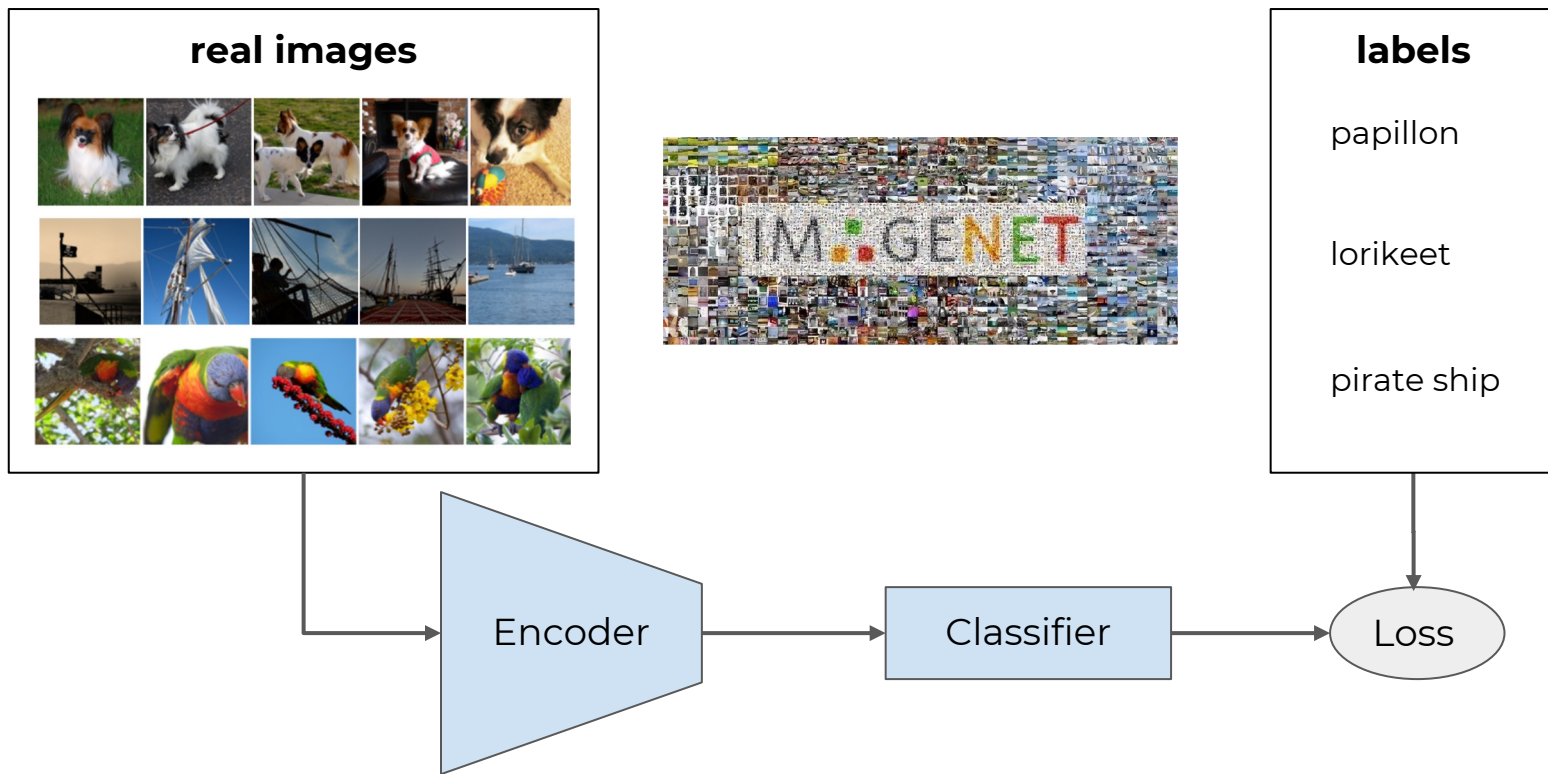
## Stable Diffusion/DALL-E/Imagen

- High-quality realistic images

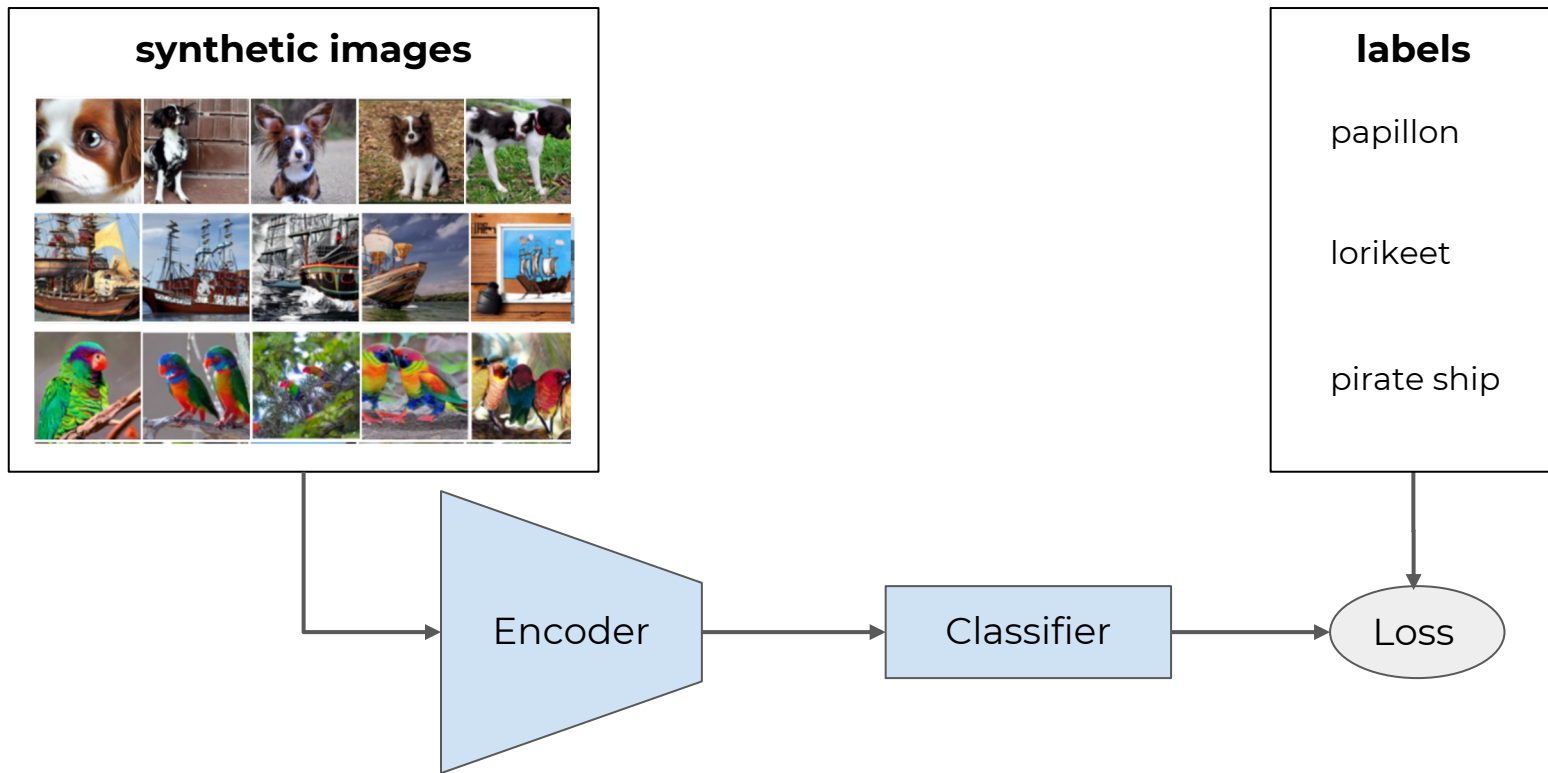


***Do we still need real images  
for learning visual representations?***

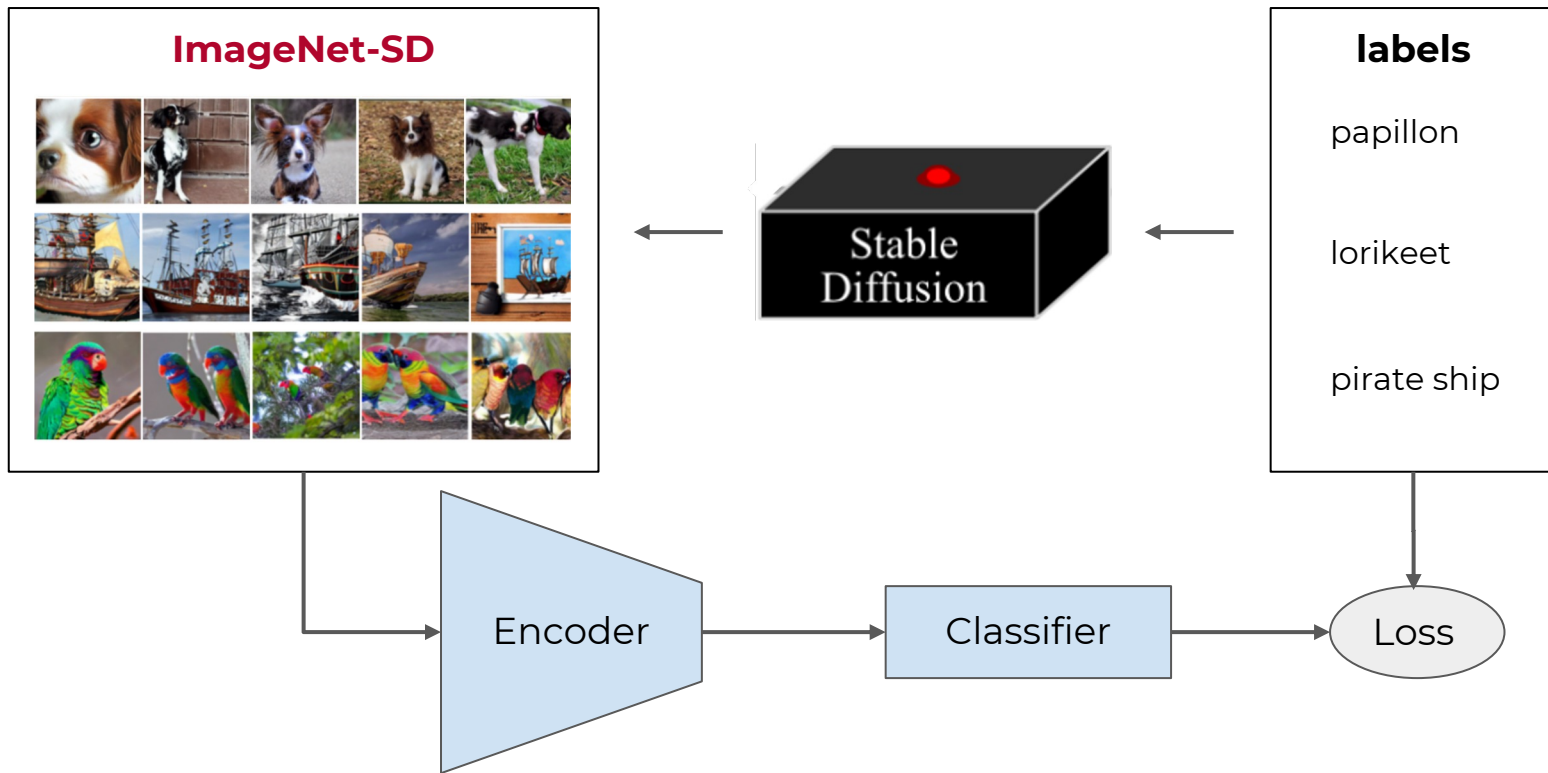
# Supervised learning on **ImageNet-1K**



# Can **ImageNet-1K** be replaced by synthetic images?

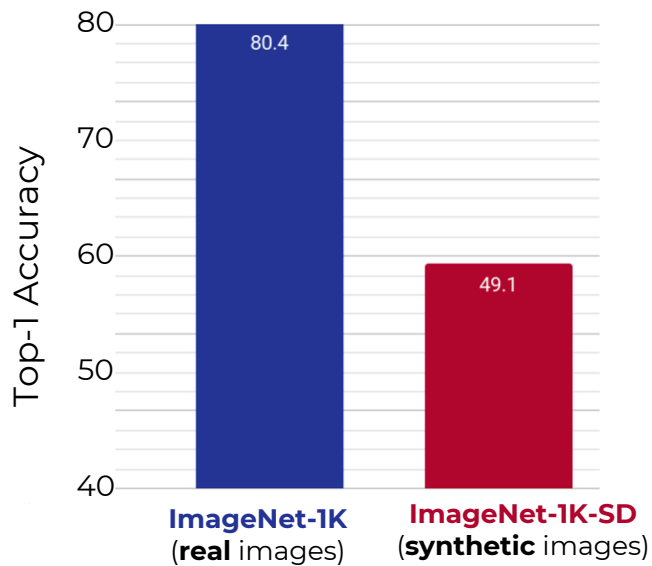


# Training image classifiers on **ImageNet-SD**

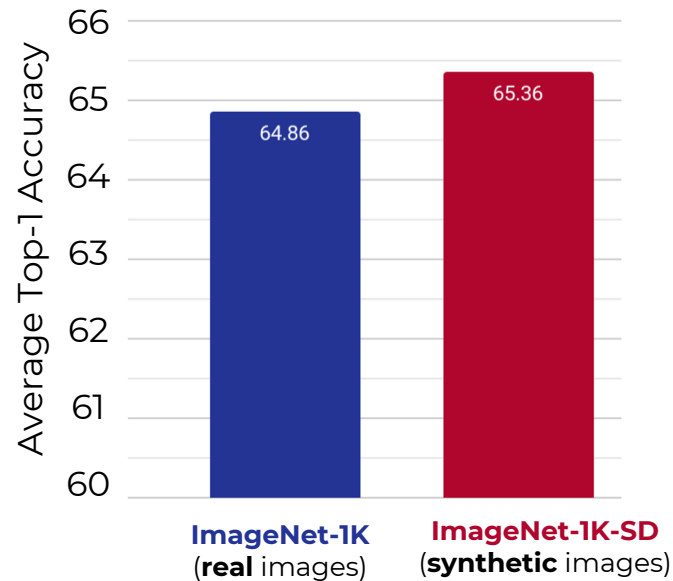


# Overview of the results

Performance on **ImageNet-1K** val. set  
(*real* images)



Performance on **15 transfer datasets**  
(*real* images)



# Prompts for synthesizing ImageNet clones

Textual  
Prompt





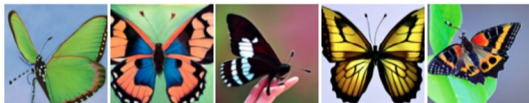
# Prompts for synthesizing ImageNet clones

Textual  
Prompt



prompt = class name

"papillon"



"lorikeet"



"pirate, pirate ship"



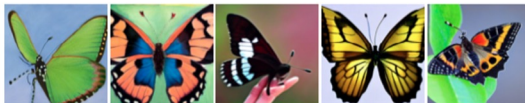
# Prompts for synthesizing ImageNet clones

Textual Prompt



prompt = class name

“papillon”



“lorikeet”



“pirate, pirate ship”



Semantic errors

Lack of diversity

Domain issues

“papillon” class in ImageNet



“pirate, pirate ship” class in ImageNet



# Tackling semantic & domain issues

Textual  
Prompt



Synthetic Image

prompt = class name, hypernym\*

“papillon, <hypernym<sup>papillon</sup>>”



“lorikeet, <hypernym<sup>lorikeet</sup>>”



“pirate ship, <hypernym<sup>pirate-ship</sup>>”



\* from **Wordnet** lexical database

# Tackling semantic & domain issues

Textual  
Prompt



Synthetic Image

prompt = class name, hypernym\*

“papillon, <hypernym<sup>papillon</sup>>”



“lorikeet, <hypernym<sup>lorikeet</sup>>”

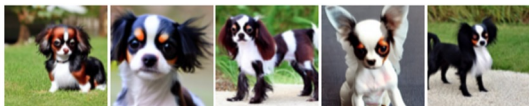


“pirate ship, <hypernym<sup>pirate-ship</sup>>”

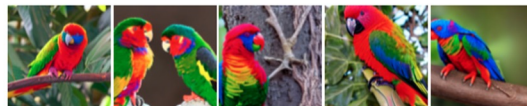


prompt = class name, description\*

“papillon, <description<sup>papillon</sup>>”



“lorikeet, <description<sup>lorikeet</sup>>”



“pirate ship, <description<sup>pirate-ship</sup>>”



\* from **Wordnet** lexical database

# Increasing diversity

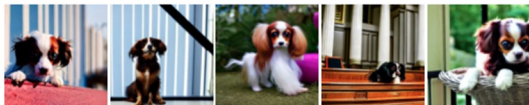
Textual  
Prompt



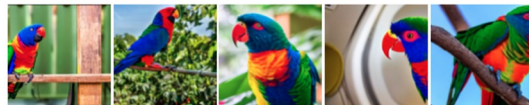
Synthetic Image

prompt = class name, **hypernym inside background**\*\*

“papillon, <hypernym<sup>papillon</sup>>  
inside <background>”



“lorikeet, <hypernym<sup>lorikeet</sup>>  
inside <background>”



“pirate ship, <hypernym<sup>pirate-ship</sup>>  
inside <background>”



\*\* from **Places 365** dataset

# Increasing diversity

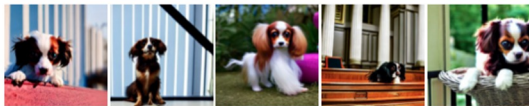
Textual  
Prompt



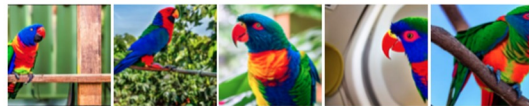
Synthetic Image

prompt = class name, **hypernym inside background**\*\*

“papillon, <hypernym<sup>papillon</sup>>  
inside <background>”



“lorikeet, <hypernym<sup>lorikeet</sup>>  
inside <background>”



“pirate ship, <hypernym<sup>pirate-ship</sup>>  
inside <background>”

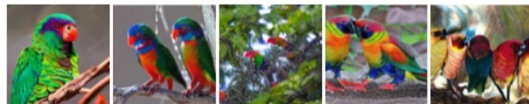


prompt = class name, **description (+ reduce guidance scale)**

“papillon, <description<sup>papillon</sup>>”



“lorikeet, <description<sup>lorikeet</sup>>”



“pirate ship, <description<sup>pirate-ship</sup>>  
ship>”



\*\* from **Places 365** dataset

# The **ImageNet-SD** datasets



## **ImageNet-SD** datasets:

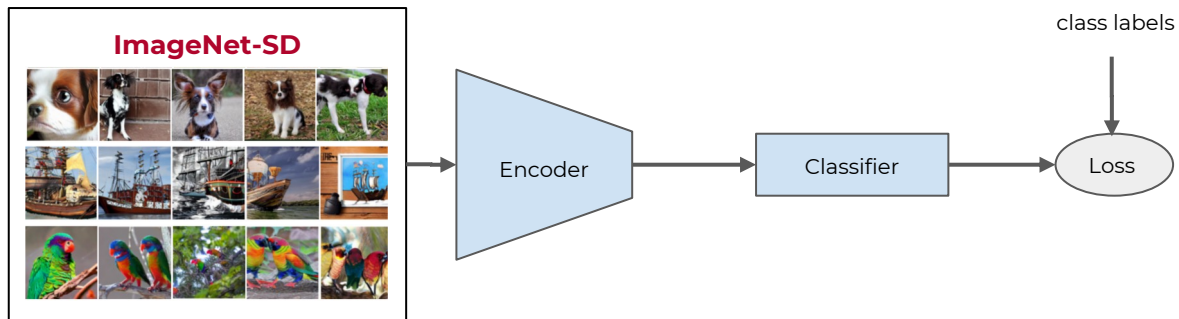
Synthetic clones of different ImageNet subsets

- **ImageNet-100-SD**: 100 classes, 130k images
- **ImageNet-1K-SD**: 1000 classes, 1.2M images

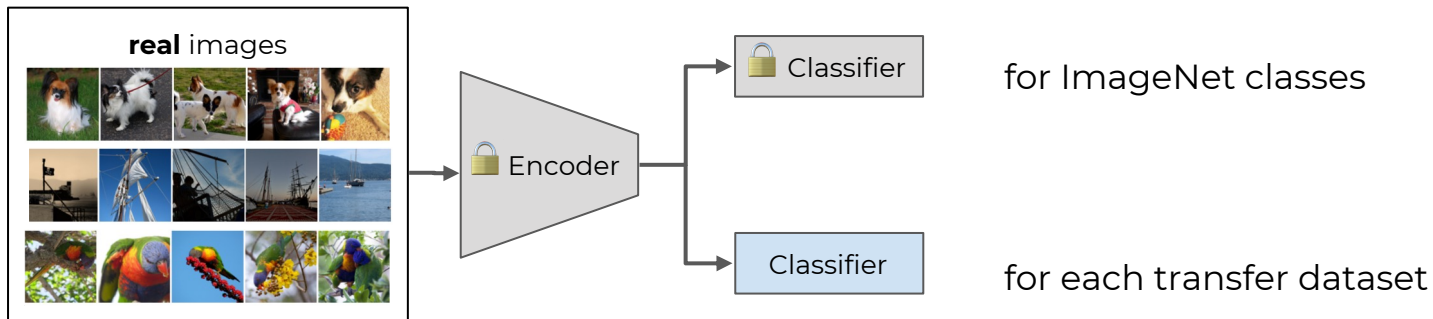


# Training and evaluation protocols

## Training with synthetic data

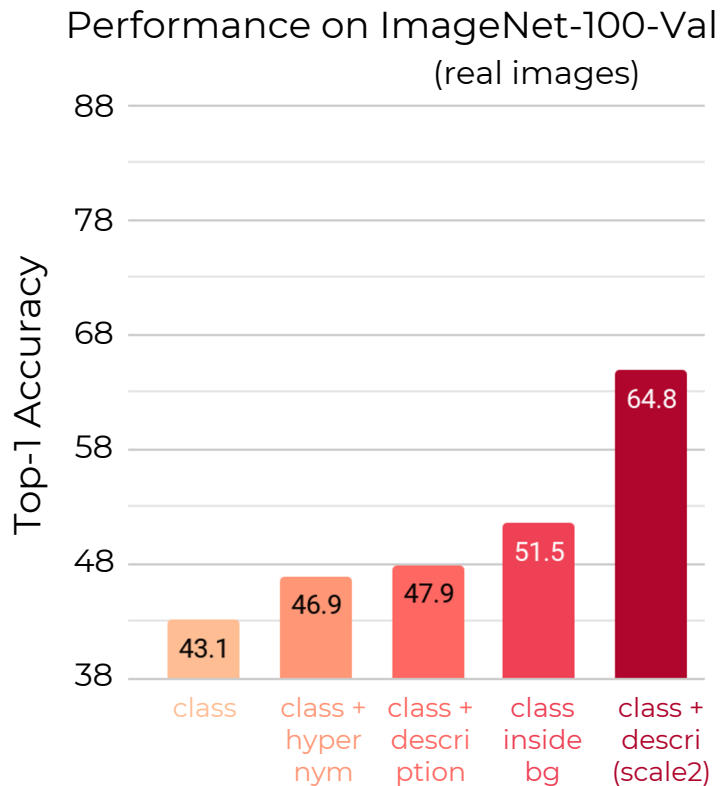


## Evaluation protocol

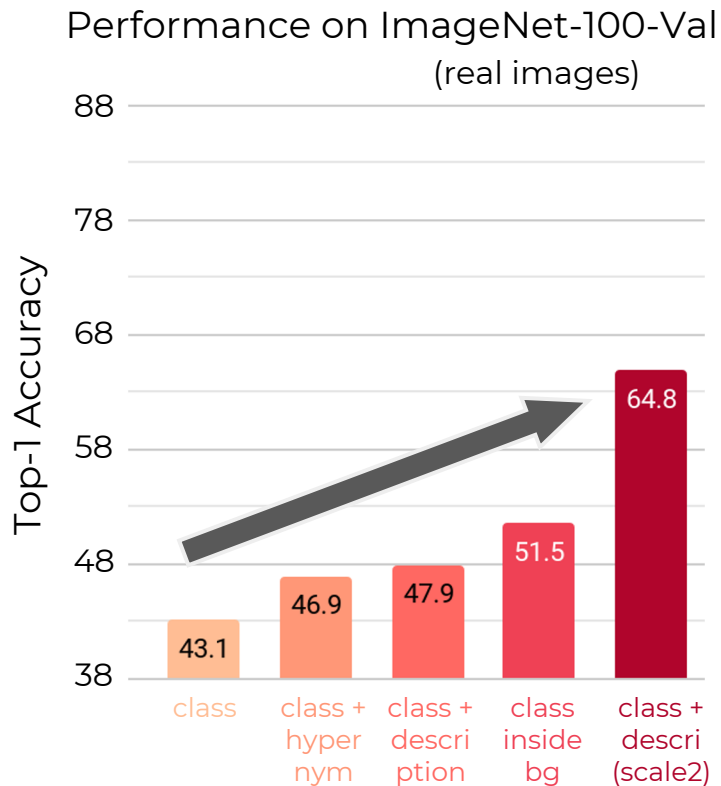




# ImageNet-100: Results for different prompts



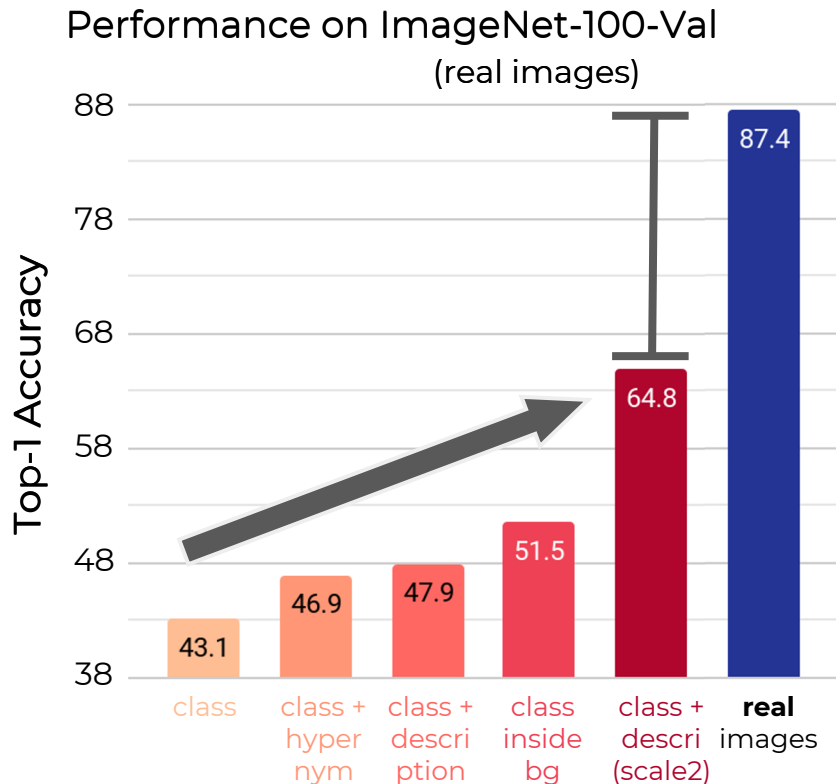
# ImageNet-100: Results for different prompts



## Observations:

- Addressing semantic, domain and diversity issues leads to better performance

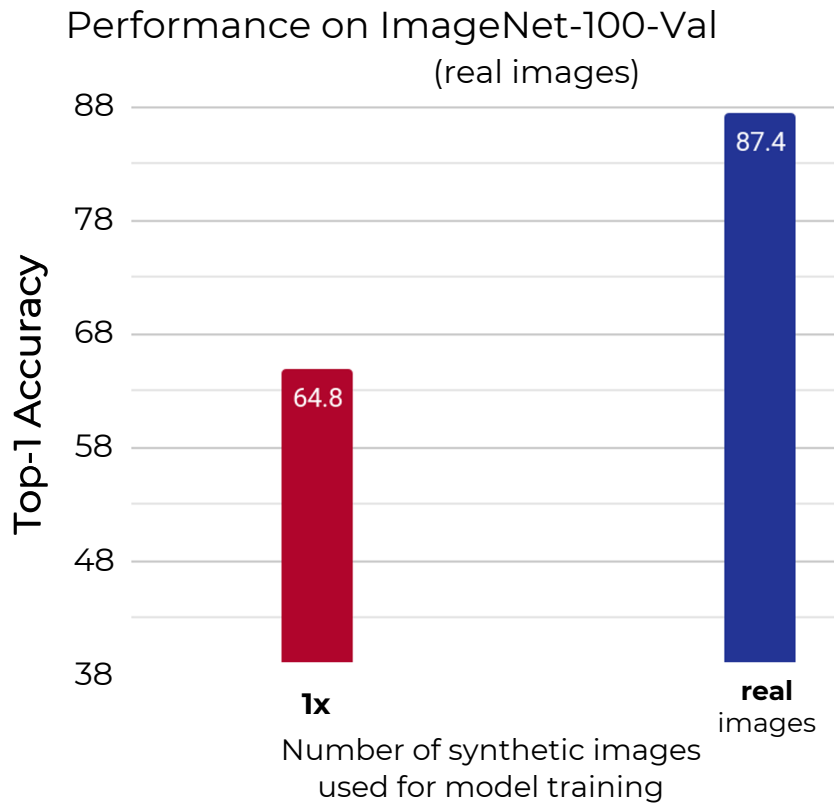
# ImageNet-100: Results for different prompts



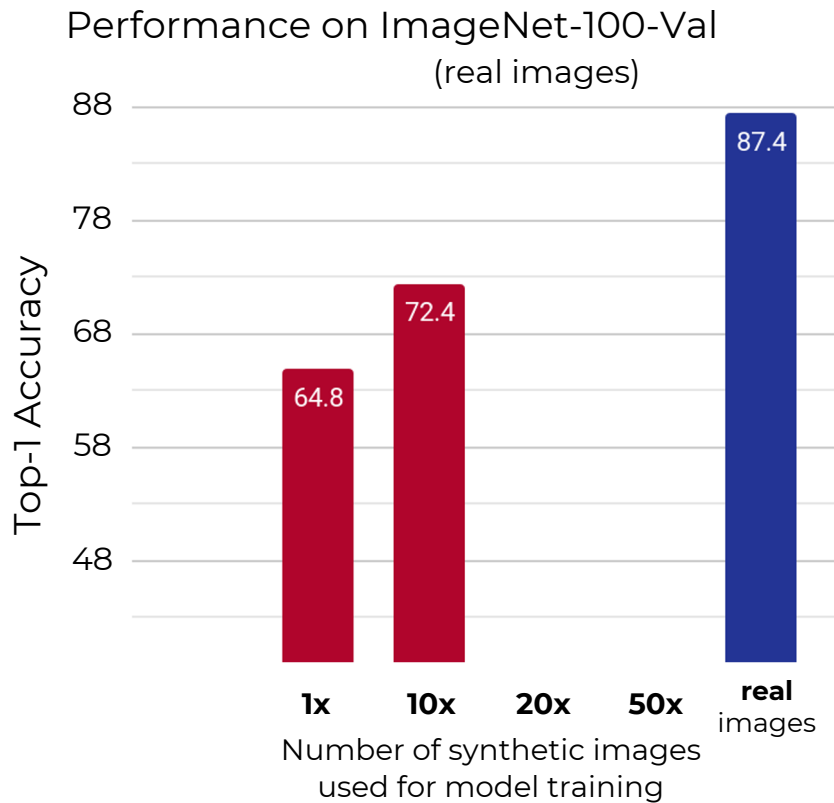
## Observations:

- Addressing semantic, domain and diversity issues leads to better performance
- Significant gap between the models trained on **real** vs. **synthetic** images for the training classes

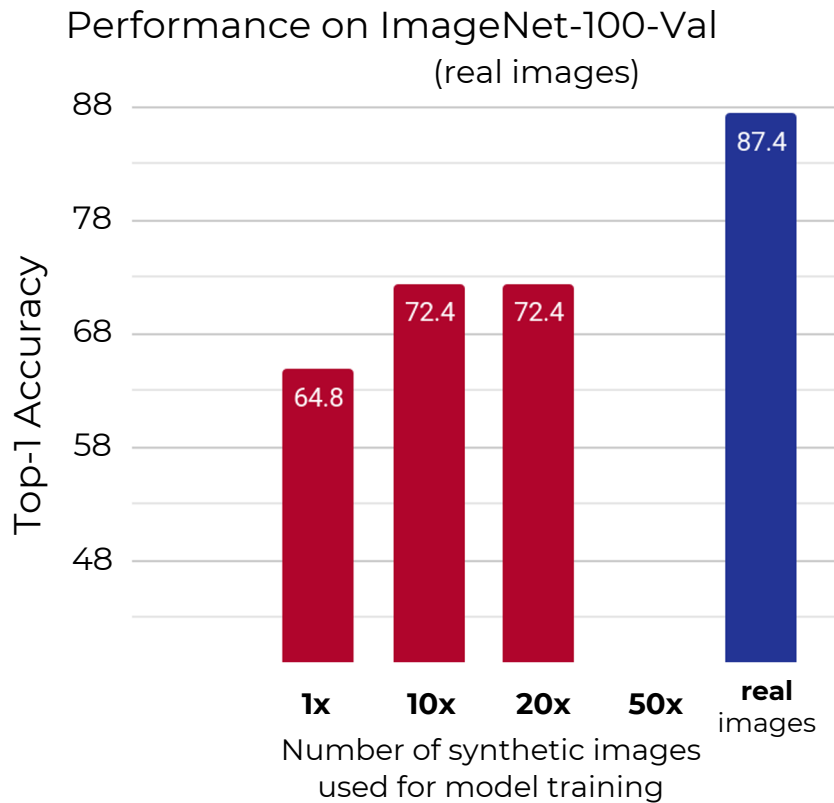
# ImageNet-100: Scaling the number of synthetic images



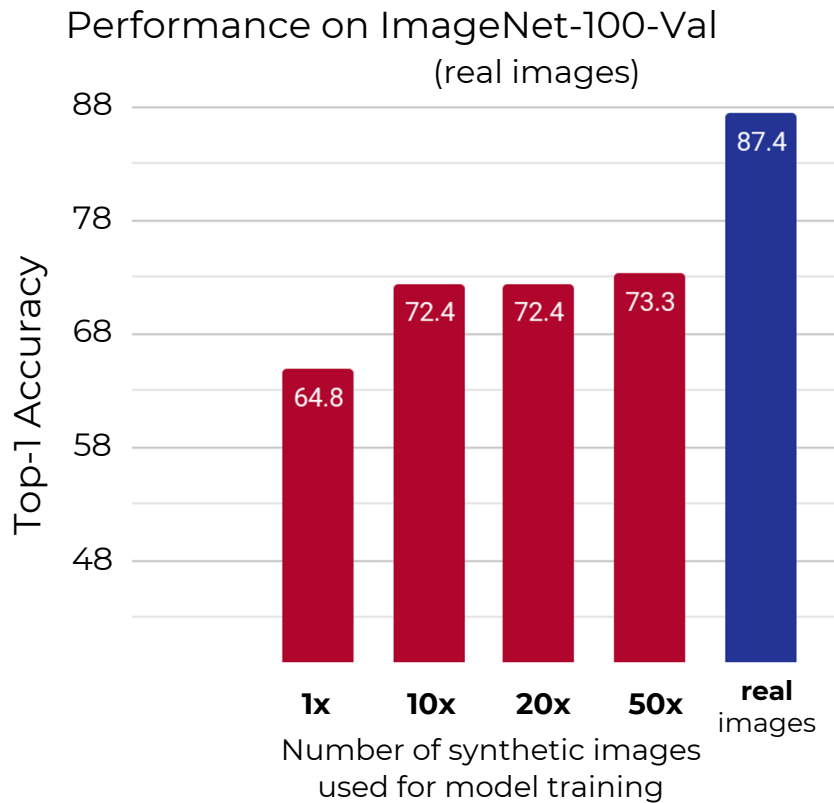
# ImageNet-100: Scaling the number of synthetic images



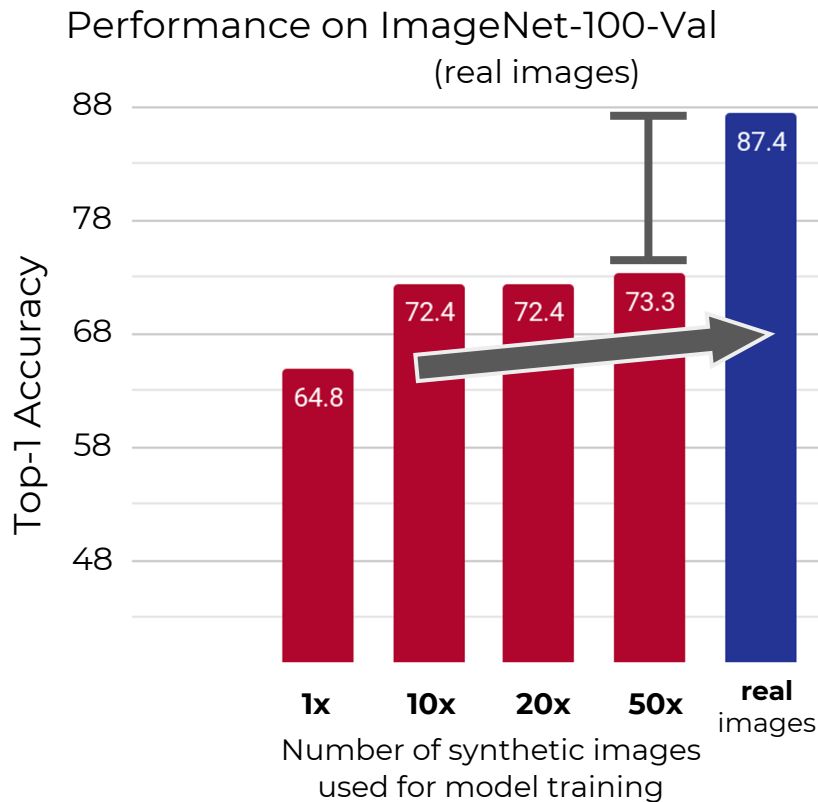
# ImageNet-100: Scaling the number of synthetic images



# ImageNet-100: Scaling the number of synthetic images



# ImageNet-100: Scaling the number of synthetic images

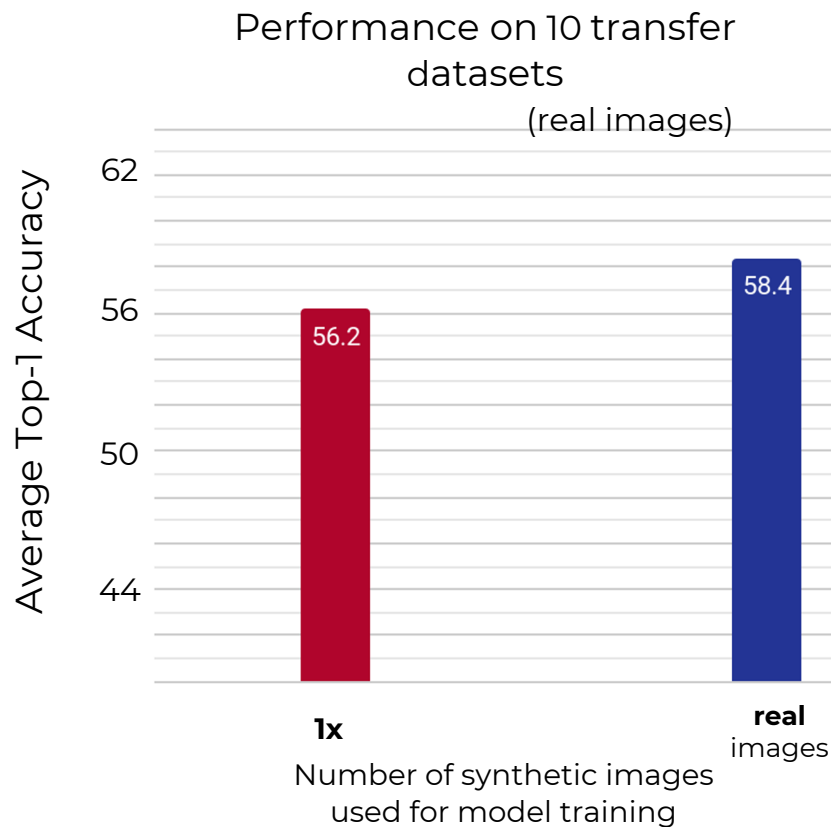


## Observations:

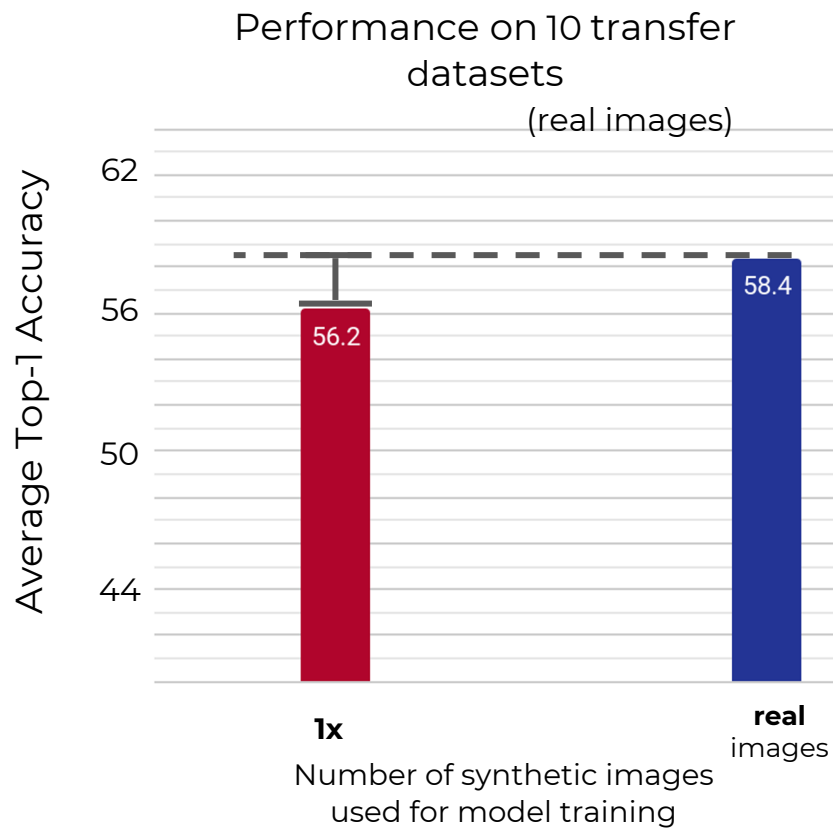
- Increasing the number of synthetic images slightly reduces the gap
- Unlikely to close it



# ImageNet-100: Results for transfer learning



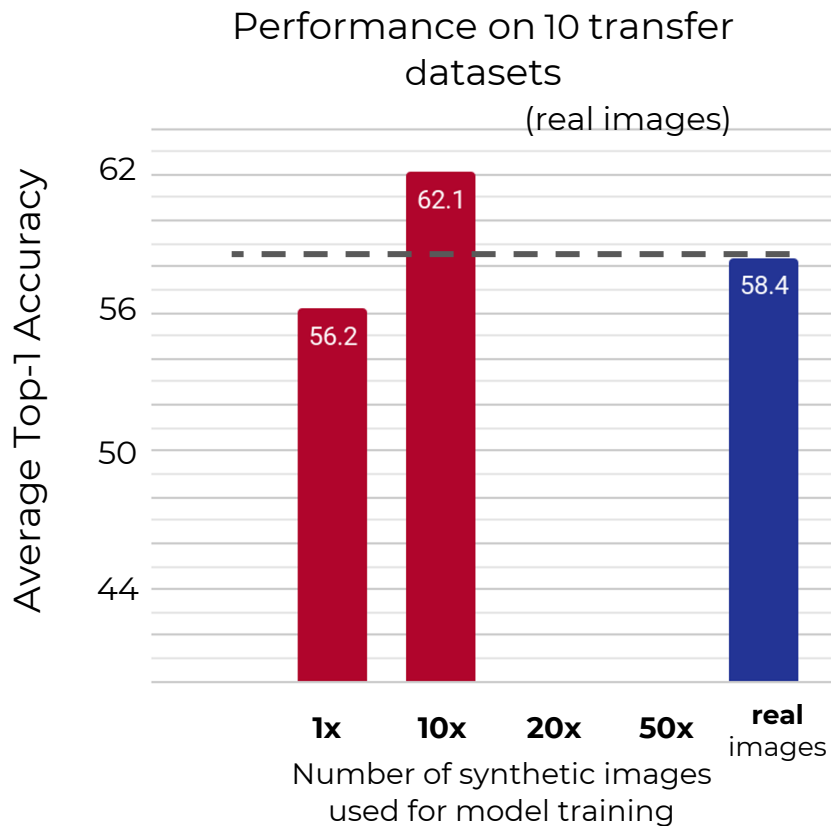
# ImageNet-100: Results for transfer learning



# Results for transfer learning

## Observations:

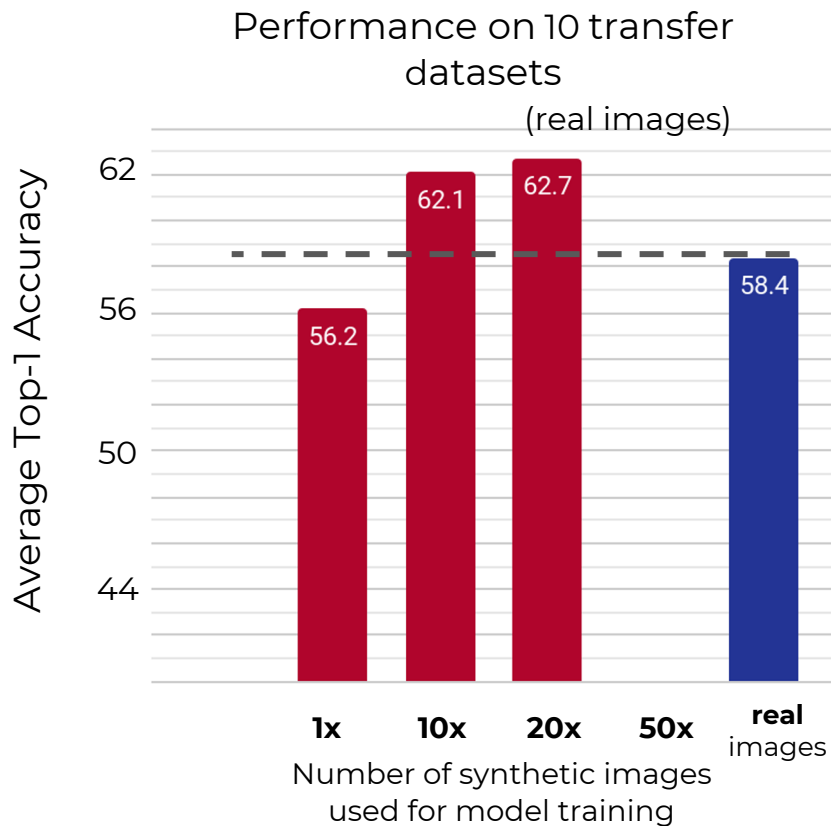
- Increasing the number of synthetic images leads to higher transfer learning performance
- Representations from the model trained **synthetic** images *outperform* the ones from **real** for transfer learning



# Results for transfer learning

## Observations:

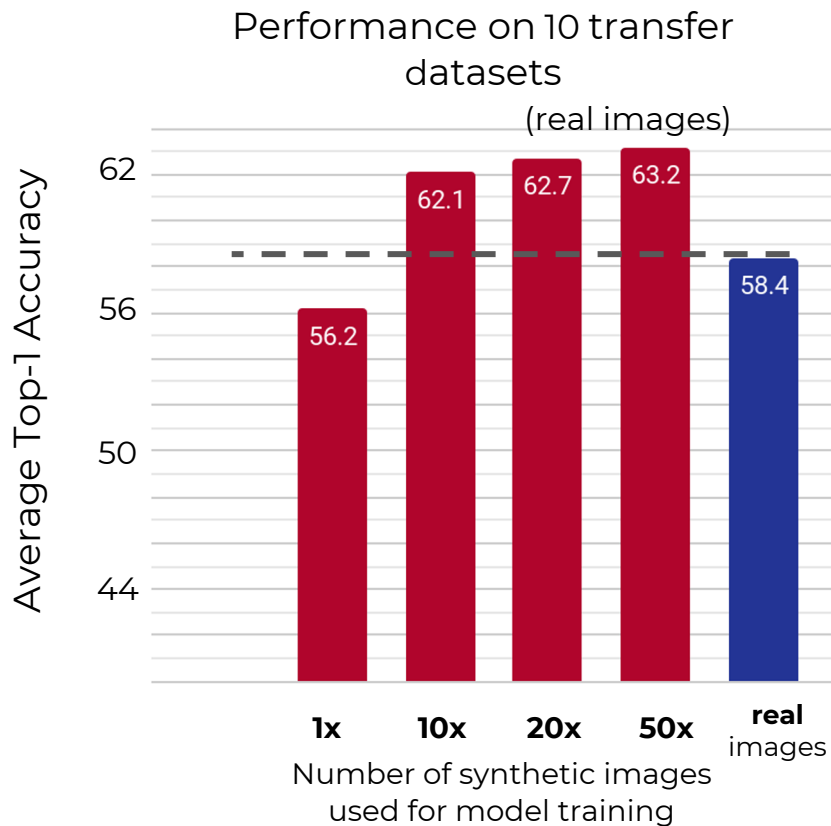
- Increasing the number of synthetic images leads to higher transfer learning performance
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# Results for transfer learning

## Observations:

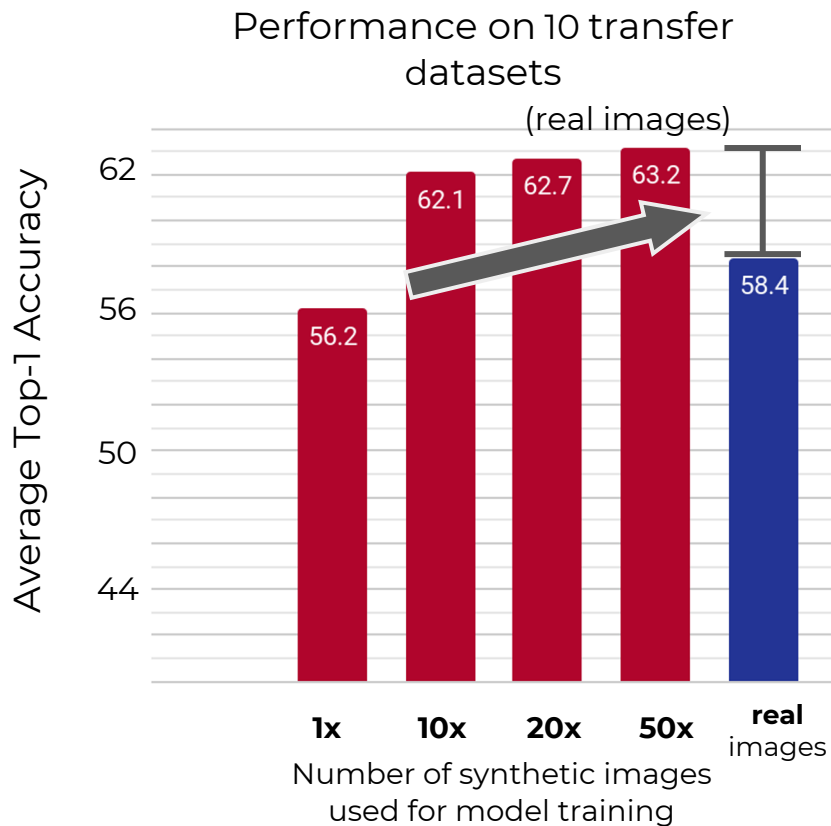
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# Results for transfer learning

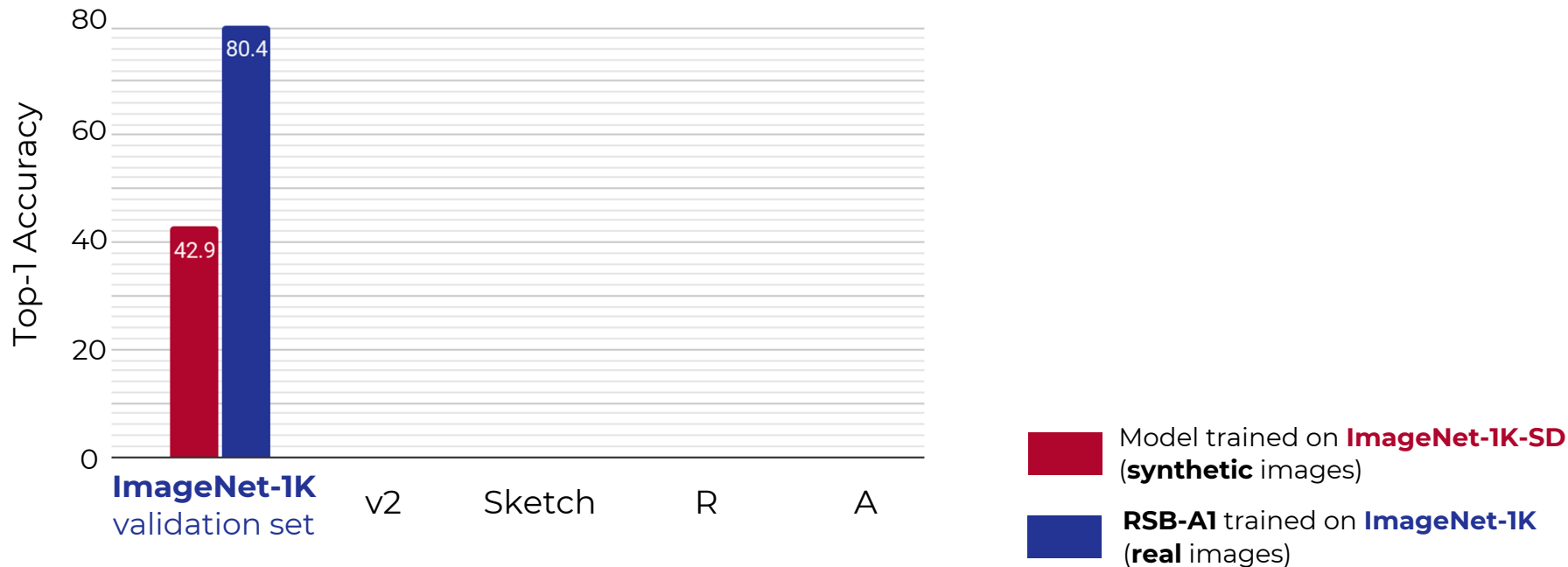
## Observations:

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- Representations from the model trained **synthetic** images *outperform* the ones from **real** for transfer learning



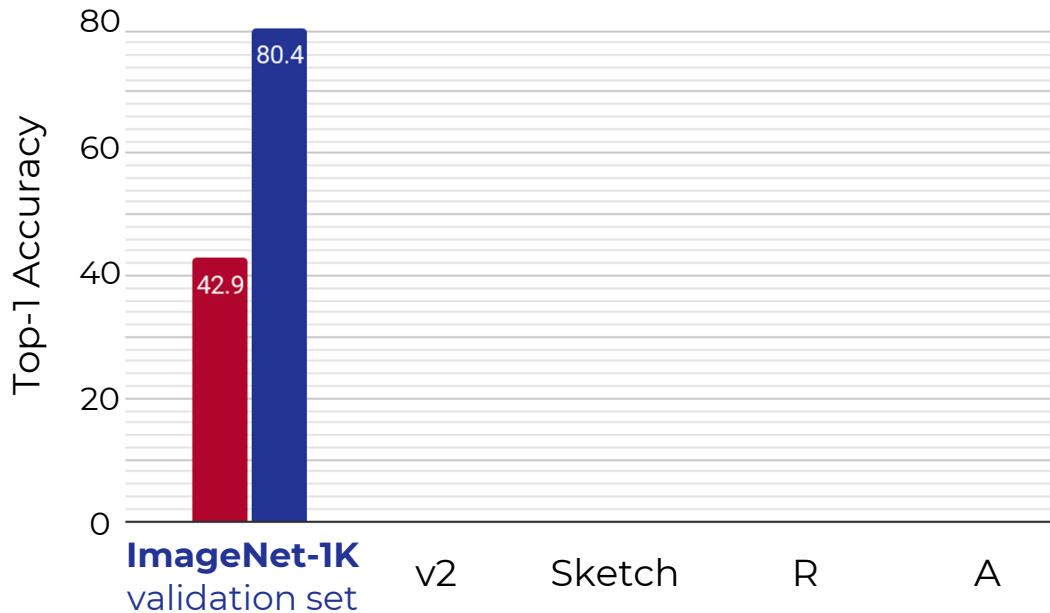
# ImageNet-1K: Comparison to the state-of-the-art

Training with *the exact same number* of **real** and **synthetic** images per class




# ImageNet-1K: Comparison to the state-of-the-art


Training with *the exact same number* of **real** and **synthetic** images per class



## Observations:

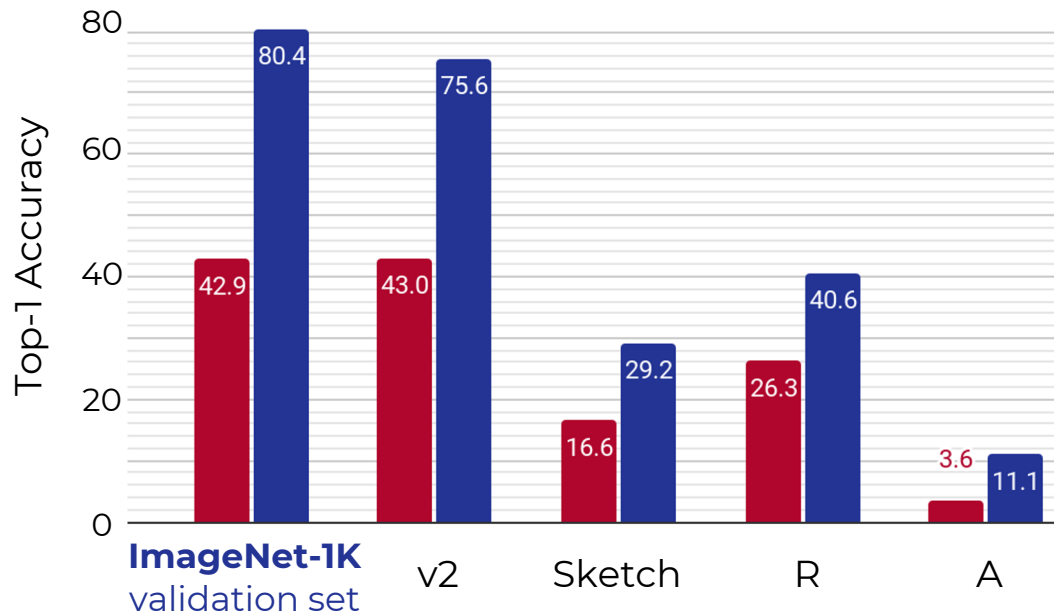
- Significant gap between the models trained on **real** vs. **synthetic** images for the training classes

 Model trained on **ImageNet-1K-SD** (**synthetic** images)

 **RSB-A1** trained on **ImageNet-1K** (**real** images)

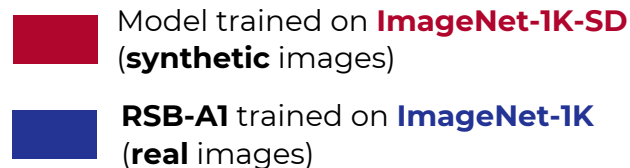


# ImageNet-1K: Comparison to the state-of-the-art



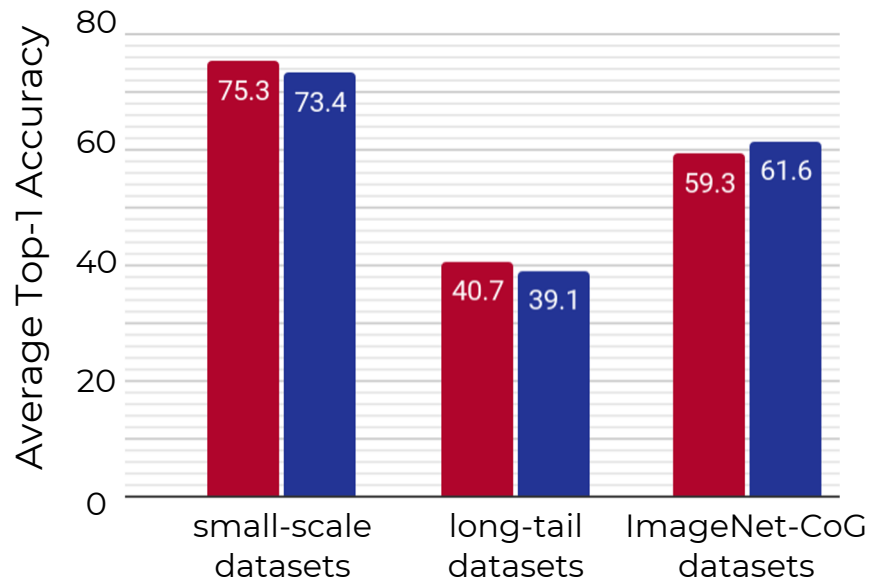
## Observations:

- Significant gap between the models trained on **real** vs. **synthetic** images for the training classes
- Relative gap is smaller for other variants especially ones with domain shifts




# ImageNet-1K: Comparison to the state-of-the-art

Performance on 15 transfer datasets  
(real images)



 Model trained on **ImageNet-1K-SD**  
(**synthetic** images)

 **RSB-A1** trained on **ImageNet-1K**  
(**real** images)

[ImageNet-CoG] Sariyildiz et al., “**Concept Generalization in Visual Representation Learning**”, ICCV, 2021

[Long-tail] Horn et al., “**The iNaturalist species classification and detection dataset**”, CVPR, 2018

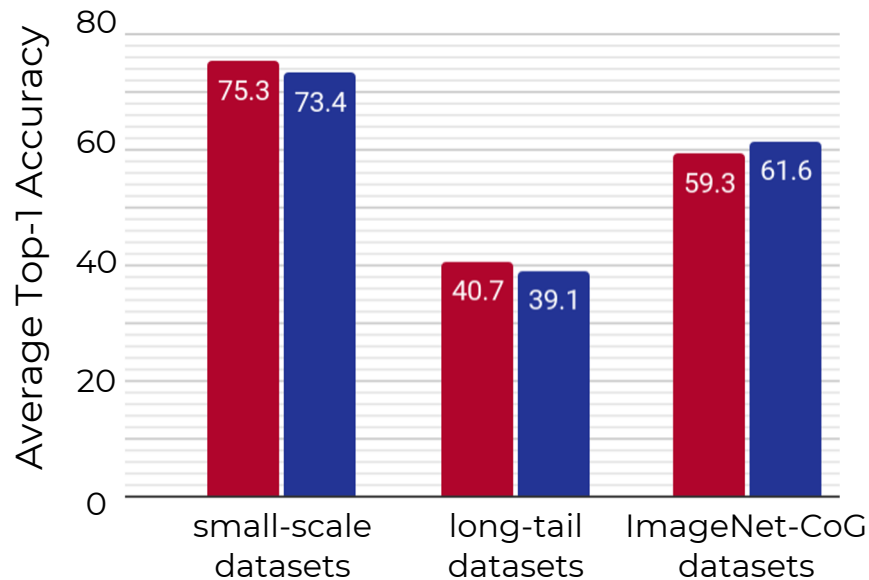
[Small-scale] Kornblith et al., “**Do better ImageNet models transfer better?**”, CVPR, 2019

# ImageNet-1K: Comparison to the state-of-the-art


## Observations:

- The model trained on **synthetic** images is *on-par or better* than the publicly available, state-of-the-art, **RSB-A1** model
- Synthesizing more images could lead to further gains

Performance on 15 transfer datasets  
(real images)



 Model trained on **ImageNet-1K-SD** (**synthetic** images)

 **RSB-A1** trained on **ImageNet-1K** (**real** images)

[ImageNet-CoG] Sariyildiz et al., “**Concept Generalization in Visual Representation Learning**”, ICCV, 2021

[Long-tail] Horn et al., “**The iNaturalist species classification and detection dataset**”, CVPR, 2018

[Small-scale] Kornblith et al., “**Do better ImageNet models transfer better?**”, CVPR, 2019

What if we replace the **ImageNet** dataset with **synthetic data** from **Stable Diffusion**?

**ImageNet-SD:**  
Synthetic ImageNet clones  
with Stable Diffusion images

## Result summary:

- Decent but inferior performance on the ImageNet classes
- On-par or better performance than the state-of-the-art for transfer learning

## Bigger picture:

- Image-free distillation of a generic text-to-image generation model into a visual encoder of arbitrary architecture, for solving a specific task



What if we replace the **ImageNet** dataset with **synthetic data** from **Stable Diffusion**?

**ImageNet-SD:**  
Synthetic ImageNet clones with Stable Diffusion images

Come to our poster!  
**TUE-PM-372**

Project page:  
<https://europe.naverlabs.com/imagenet-sd>