



# Joint Token Pruning and Squeezing Towards More Aggressive Compression of Vision Transformers

Siyuan Wei, Tianzhu Ye, Shen Zhang, Yao Tang, Jiajun Liang

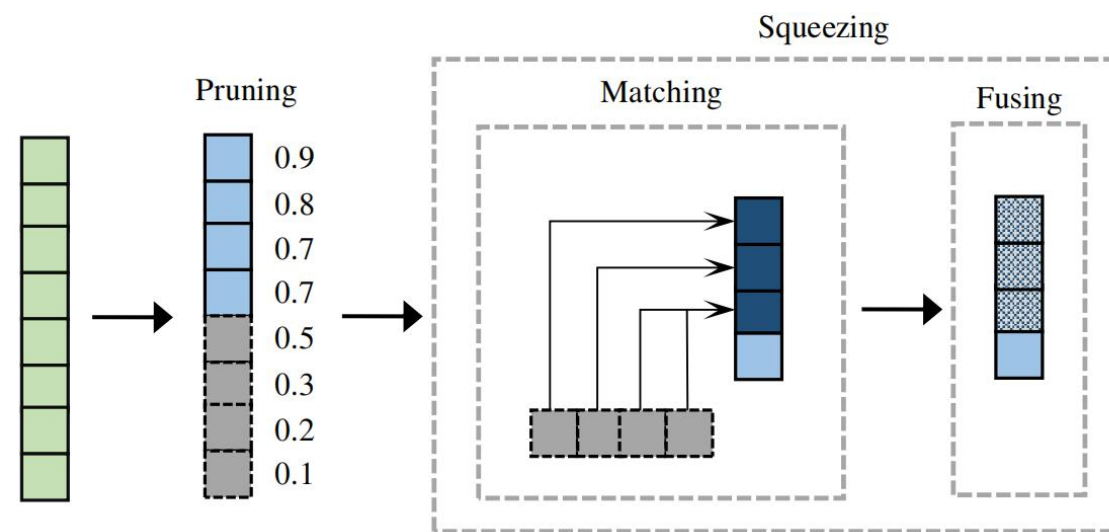
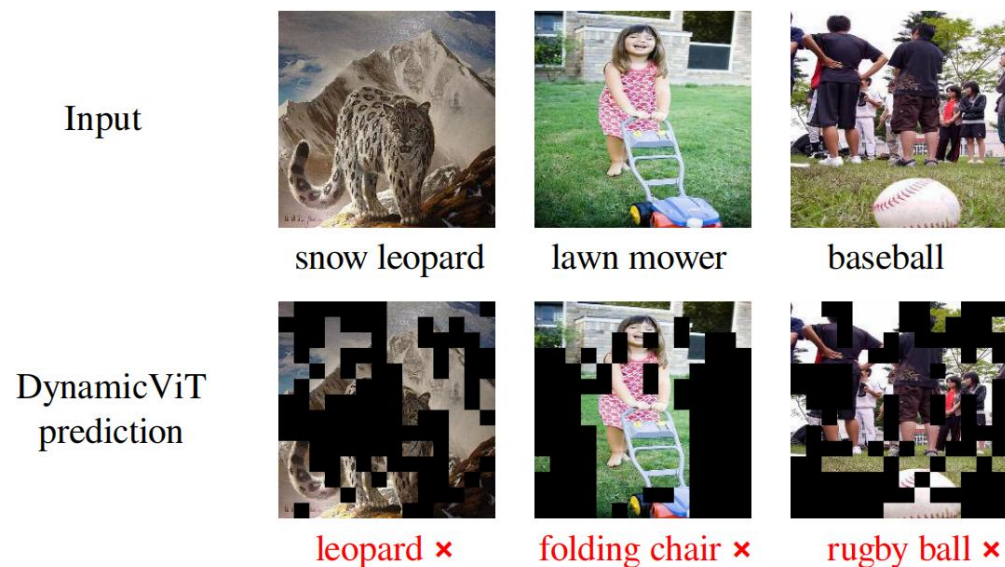
Paper tag: TUE-AM-200



# Quick Preview

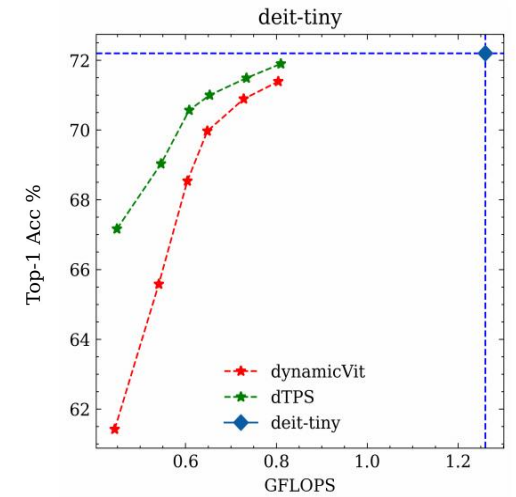
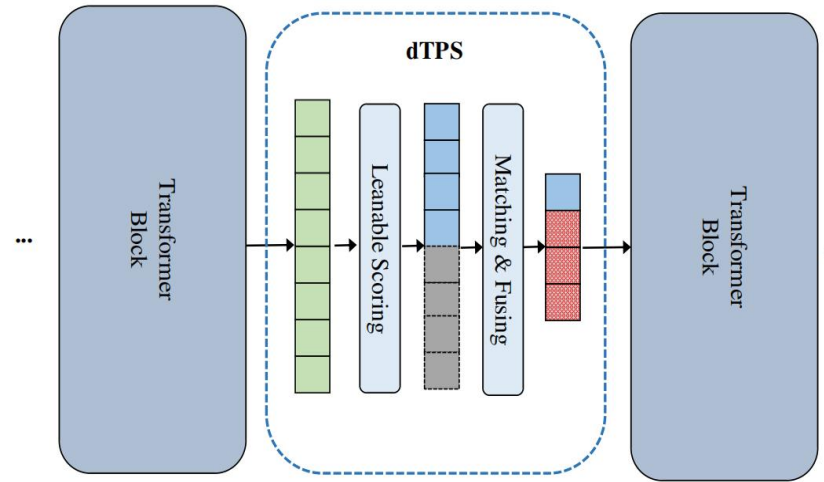
- For token pruning in vision transformers, discarding tokens leads to incomplete subject and background context loss.

- We propose TPS: a nearest-neighbor matching algorithm to dispatch each pruned token to the most similar reserved token.

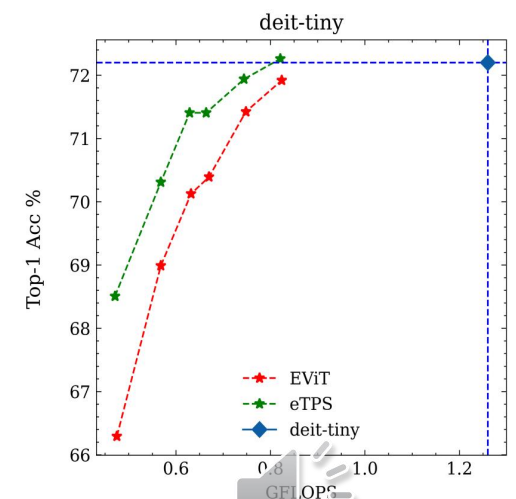
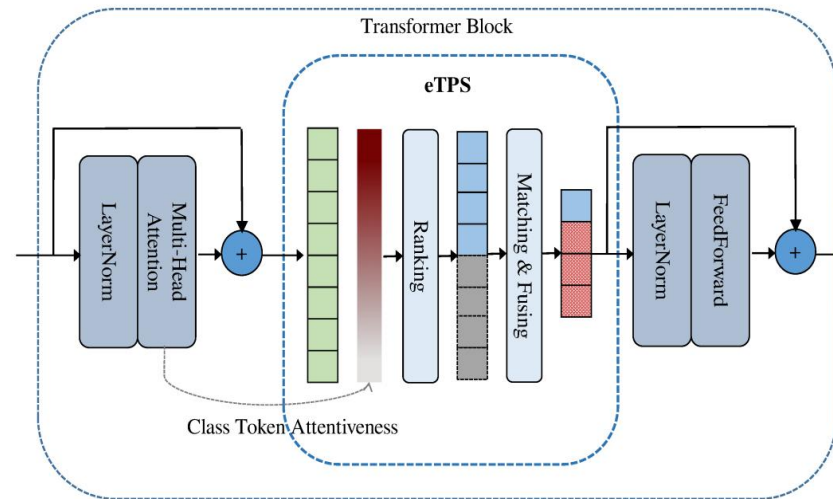


# Quick Preview

- Two flexible variants: the inter-block version dTPS and the intra-block version eTPS, which are plug-and-play blocks for both **vanilla ViTs** and **hybrid ViTs**.



- dTPS and eTPS surpass baselines dynamicViT and EViT by a large margin.



# Quick Preview

- TPS can be extended to more vanilla ViTs...

Method	Param(M)	GFLOPs	Top-1 Acc.(%)
LV-ViT-S	26.17	6.6	83.3
Dynamic ViT	26.89	<b>3.8</b>	82.0
EViT	<b>26.17</b>	3.9	<b>82.5</b>
eTPS (ours)	<b>26.17</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>82.5</b>
dTPS* (ours)	26.89	<b>3.8</b>	<b>82.6</b>
PS-ViT-B/14	21.34	5.4	81.7
ATS	<b>21.34</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>81.5</b>
dTPS* (ours)	22.07	<b>3.7</b>	<b>81.5</b>

- Compared with previous methods, our TPS demonstrates robustness under random policies.

- ...and hybrid ViTs.

Method	Param (M)	GFLOPs	Top-1 Acc. (%)
PVT-T	13.23	1.94	75.1
dTPS* (ours)	13.85	<b>1.69 (-13%)</b>	<b>75.2 (+0.1)</b>
PVT-S	24.49	3.83	79.8
dTPS* (ours)	25.11	<b>3.14 (-18%)</b>	79.2 (-0.6)
CvT-13	20.00	4.58	81.6
dTPS* (ours)	20.72	<b>3.04 (-34%)</b>	80.8 (-0.8)
CvT-21	31.62	7.21	82.5
dTPS* (ours)	32.35	<b>4.10 (-43%)</b>	80.9 (-1.6)

Methods	Policy	Top-1 Acc. (%)
Dynamic ViT	Original	79.42
	Random	76.51 (-3.7)
dTPS	Original	79.68
	Random	78.19 (-1.9)
EViT	Original	79.51
	Random	77.47 (-2.6)
eTPS	Original	79.66
	Random	78.06 (-2.0)

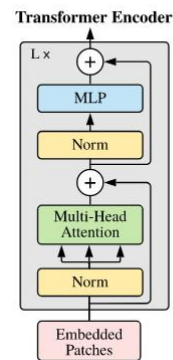
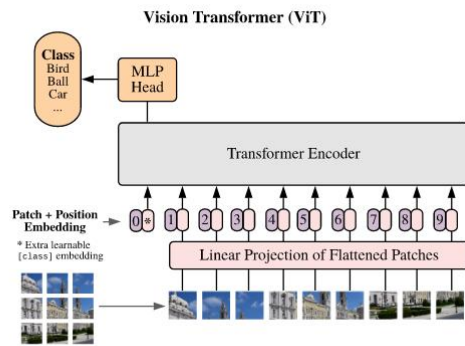


# Motivation

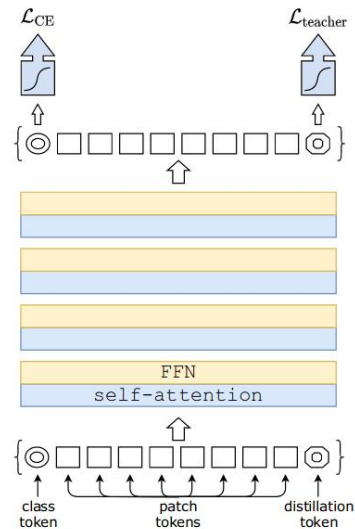
- Vision Transformer: new arch from NLP
- Strong performance but high computation cost

## Vanilla ViTs

ViT (ICLR 2021)

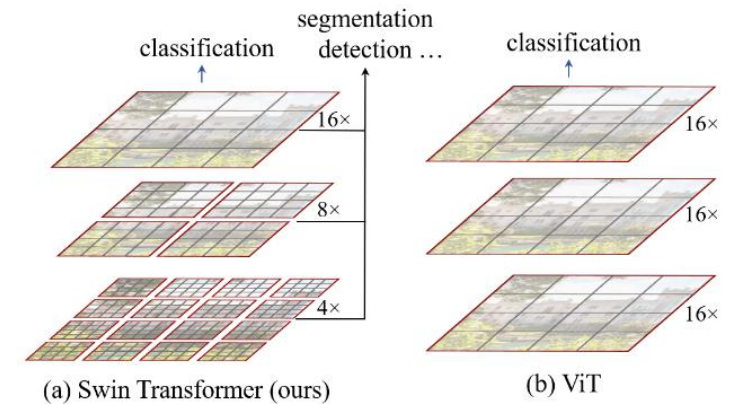


DeiT (ICML2021)



## Hybrid ViTs

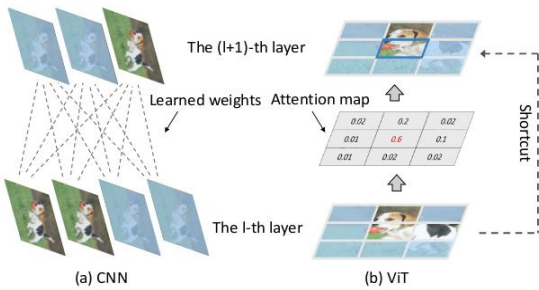
Swin (ICCV2021)



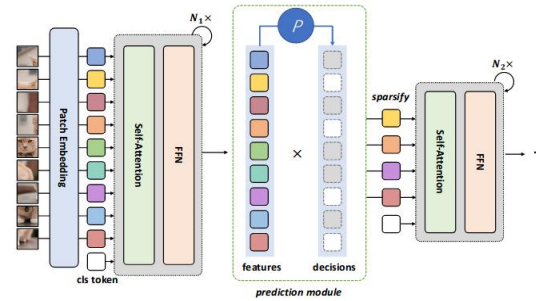
# Motivation

## Speed up ViTs from the perspective of token redundancy

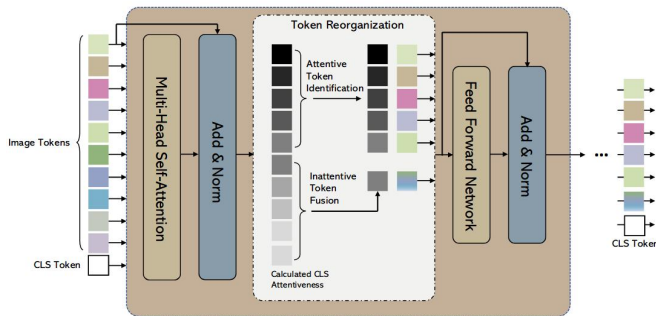
PatchSlimming (CVPR2022)



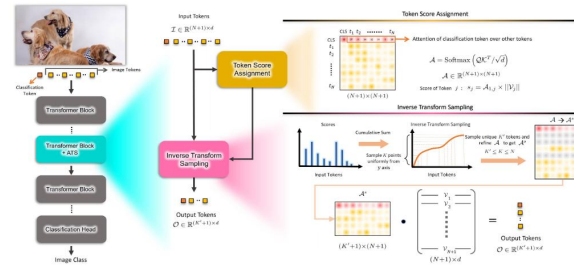
DynamicViT (NeurIPS2021)



EViT (ICLR2022)



ATS (ECCV2022)



## Limitations of Prior Works

- context information loss
- extra package tokens in EViT, SPViT
- non-constant-shape models
- complex training techniques



# Introduction

## Wrong predictions led by pruning

Input



snow leopard

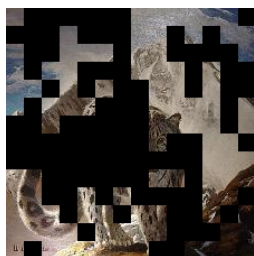


lawn mower



baseball

DynamicViT prediction



leopard ✘



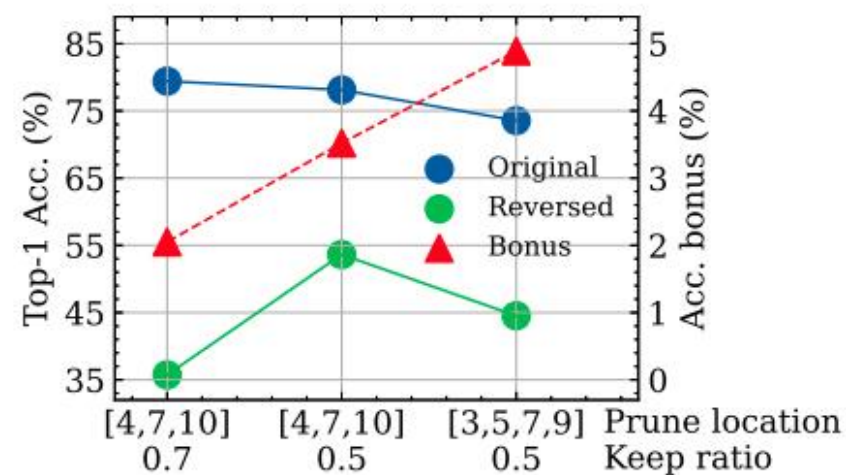
folding chair ✘



rugby ball ✘

## Toy Experiments

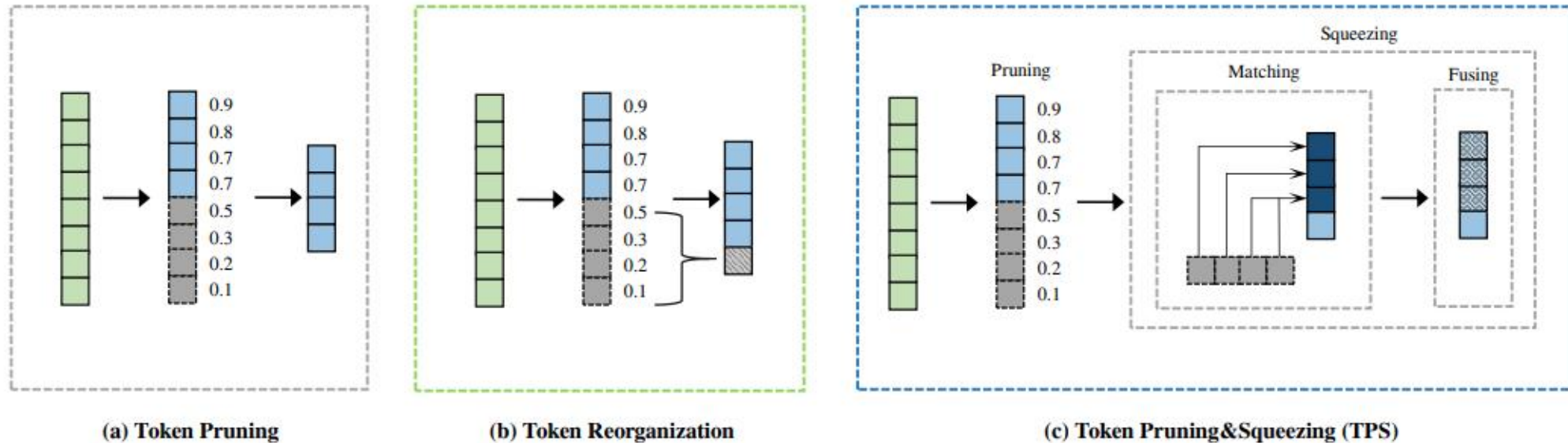
Bonus accuracy from pruned tokens increases along with more aggressive pruning strategies.



# Introduction

## TPS: Joint Token Pruning and Squeezing

1. preserve information from pruned tokens
2. constant-shape
3. no extra tokens



Legend:  
Input Token (Green), Reserved Token (Blue), Pruned Token (Grey), Host Token (Dark Blue), Fusion Token by Reorganization (Light Grey), Fusion Token by Squeezing (Dark Grey)



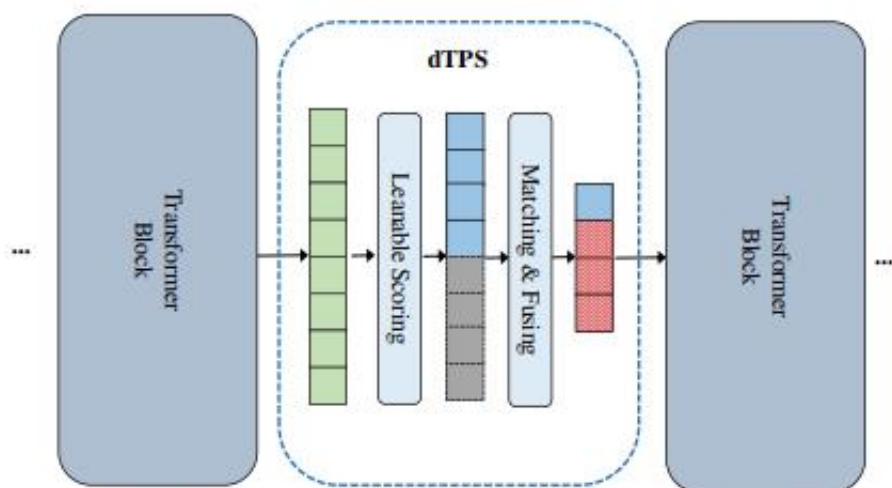


# Method

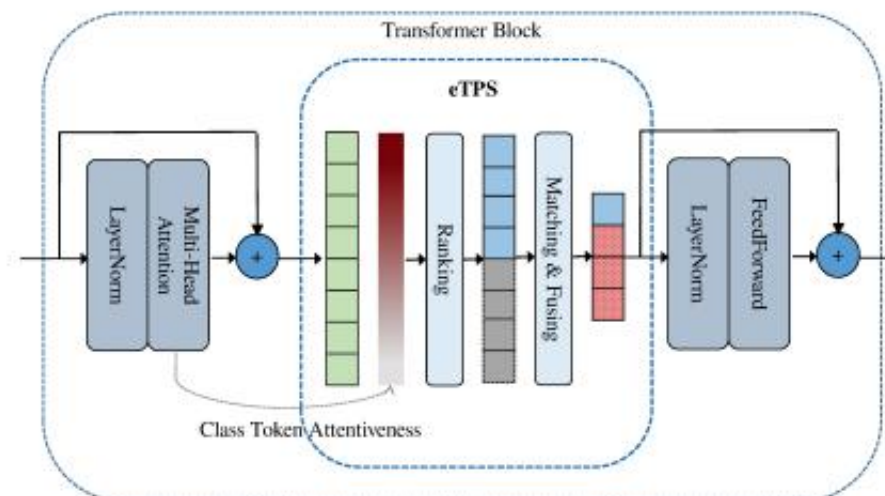
## Step1: Pruning:

Two variants for covering both inter-block & intra-block pruning

- **dTPS** vs DynamicViT: learnable scoring, inter-block
- **eTPS** vs EViT: attention scoring, intra-block



(a) The inter-block variant of our TPS: dTPS.



(b) The intra-block variant of our TPS: eTPS.



# Method

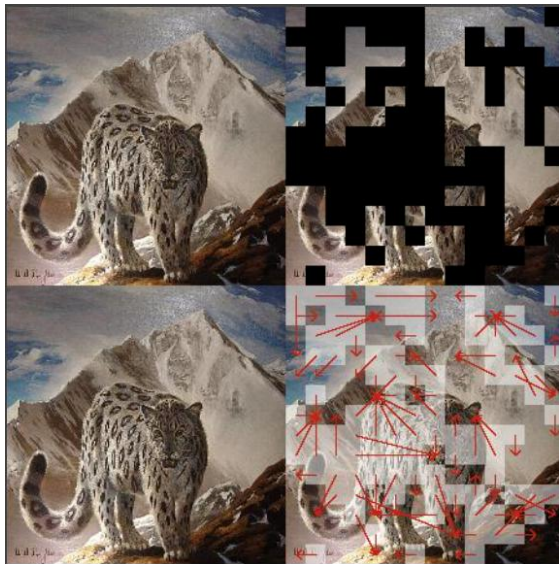
## Step2: Squeezing: Matching + Fusing

- **Matching:**

- a unidirectional nearest-neighbor matching algorithm from pruned set to reserved set in a many-to-one manner
- derive the matching relations based on a similarity matrix (cosine > previous attention)

- **Fusing:**

- Similarity-based weighting, implementation with regular operations



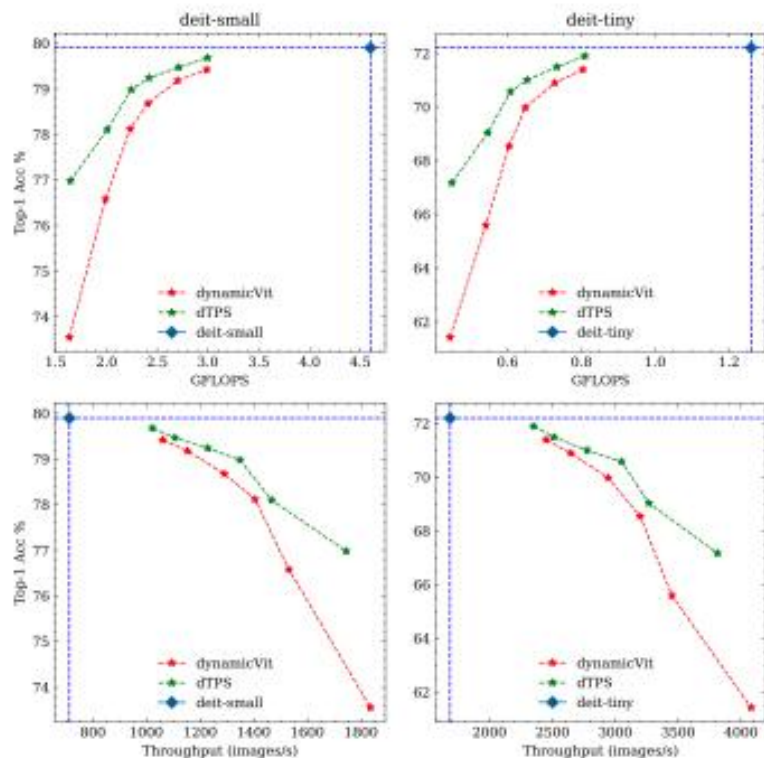
$$\mathbf{y}_j = w_j \mathbf{x}_j + \sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in S^p} w_i \mathbf{x}_i, \quad (4)$$

$$w_i = \frac{\exp(c_{i,j}) m_{i,j}}{\sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in S^p} \exp(c_{i,j}) m_{i,j} + e}. \quad (5)$$

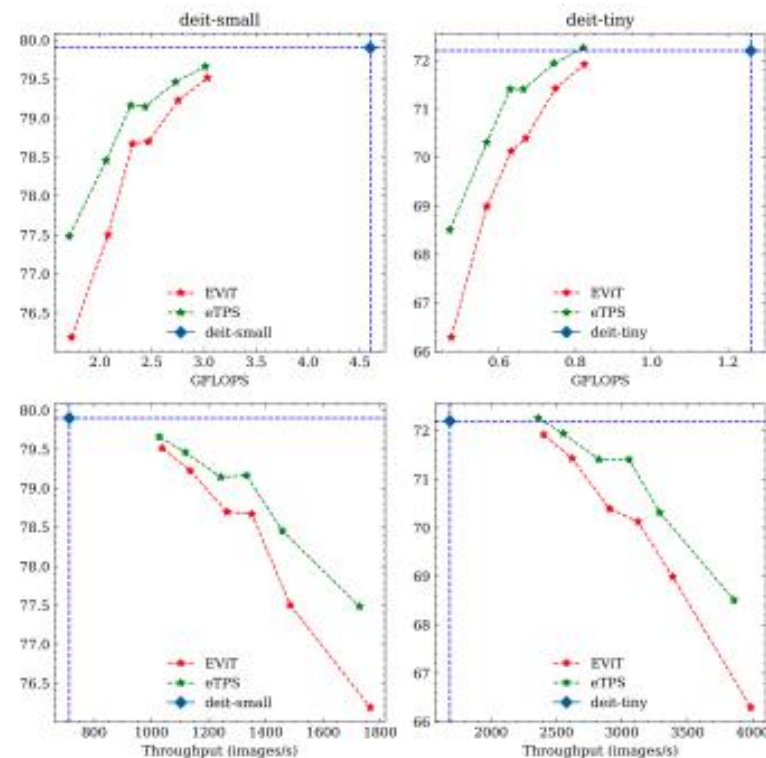
$$w_j = \frac{e}{\sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in S^p} \exp(c_{i,j}) m_{i,j} + e}. \quad (6)$$



## Main Results



(a) Comparison between our dTPS and dynamicViT on DeiT.



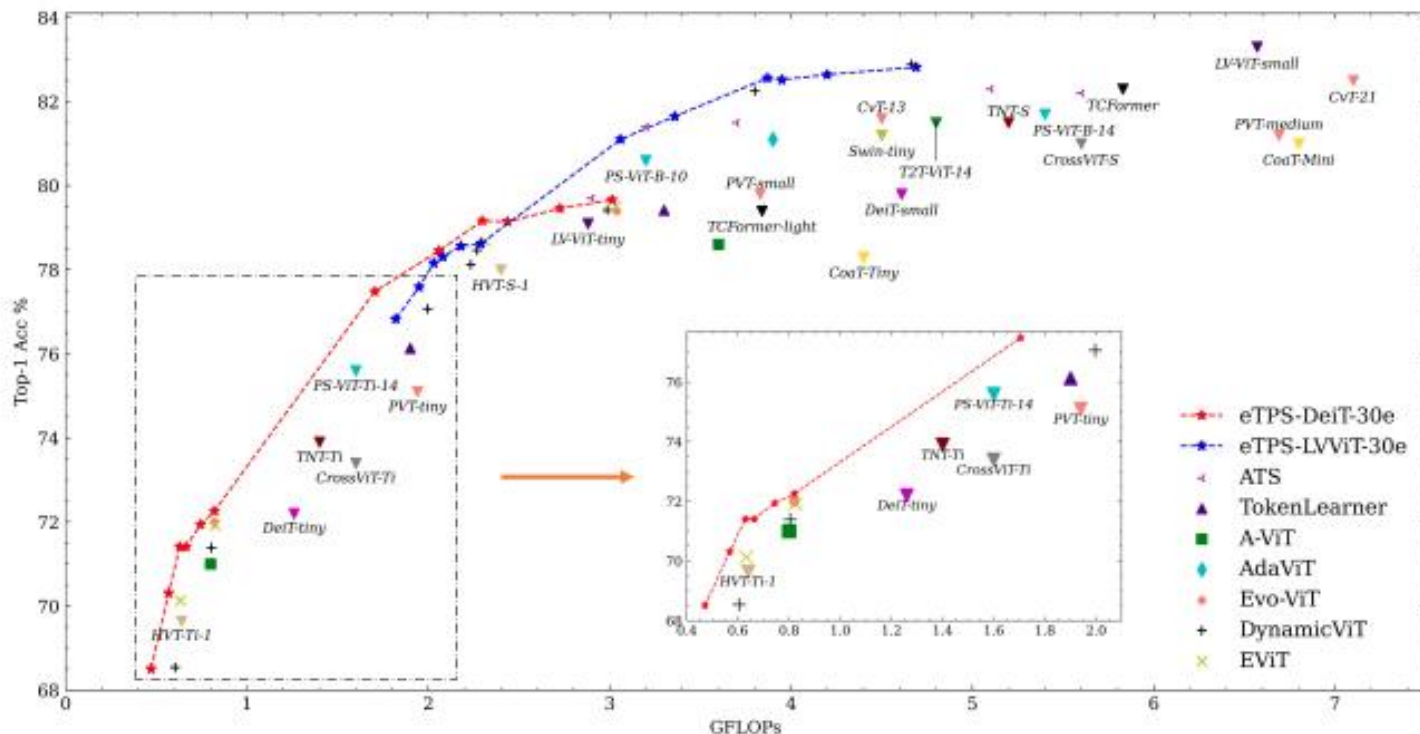
(b) Comparison between our eTPS and EViT on DeiT.

Comparison to baselines



# Experiments

## Main Results



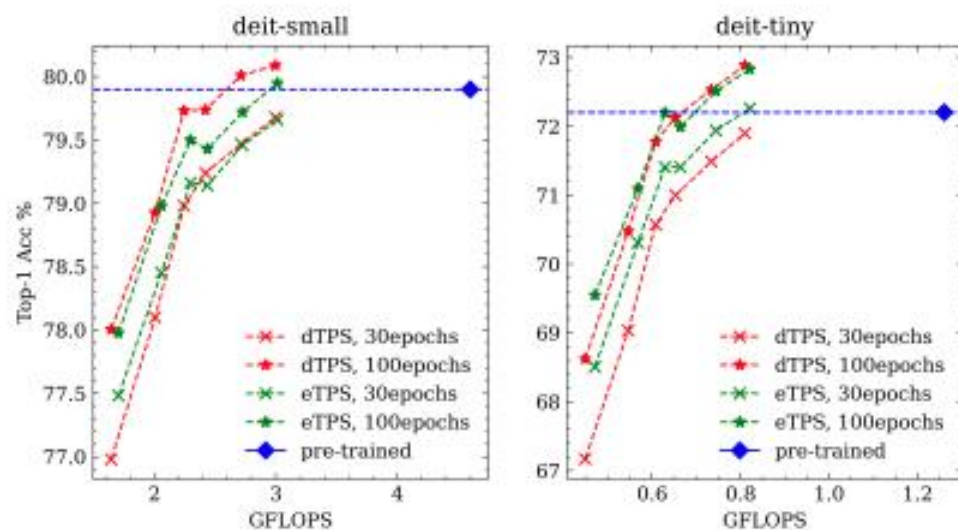
Comparison to current SOTAs

Method	Param(M)	GFLOPs	Top-1 Acc (%)
DeiT-S	22.05	MEGVII 旷视	79.7
DynamicViT [25]	22.77	2.9	79.3
EViT [16]	22.05	3.0	79.5
ATS <sup>†</sup> [8]	22.05	2.9	79.7
A-ViT <sup>†</sup> [36] (100 epochs)	22.05	3.6	78.6
Evo-ViT [35] (300 epochs)	22.05	3.0	79.4
SPViT [14] (75 epochs)	22.13	2.7	79.3
IA-RED <sup>2</sup> [21] (90 epochs)	-	-	79.1
eTPS (ours)	22.05	3.0	79.7
dTPS* (ours)	22.77	3.0	80.1
DeiT-T	5.72	1.3	72.2
DynamicViT(re-impl) [25]	5.90	0.8	71.4
EViT(re-impl) [16]	5.72	0.8	71.9
A-ViT <sup>†</sup> [36] (100 epochs)	5.00	0.8	71.0
Evo-ViT [35] (300 epochs)	5.72	0.8	72.0
SPViT [14] (75 epochs)	-	0.9	72.1
eTPS (ours)	5.72	0.8	72.3
dTPS* (ours)	5.90	0.8	72.9
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EViT [16]	26.17	3.9	82.5
eTPS (ours)	26.17	3.8	82.5
dTPS* (ours)	26.89	3.8	82.6
LV-ViT-T	8.53	2.9	79.1
DynamicViT(re-impl) [25]	8.82	2.0	77.1
eTPS (ours)	8.53	2.0	78.0
dTPS* (ours)	8.82	2.0	78.7
PS-ViT-B/14 [39]	21.34	5.4	81.7
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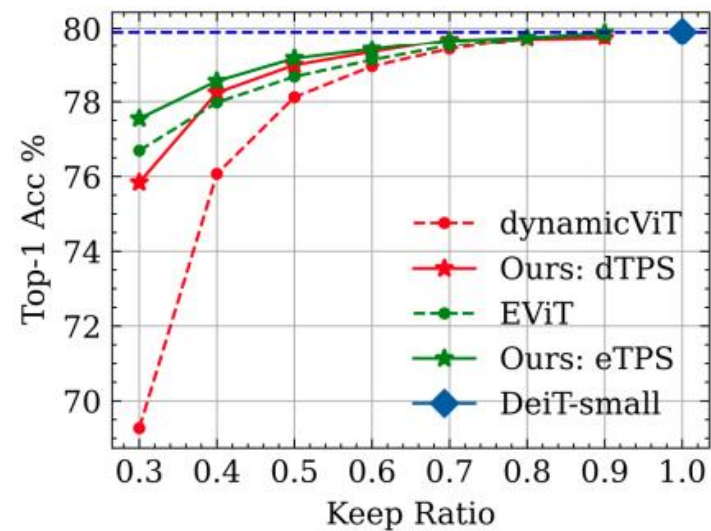


Extension on more backbones

## Ablation Study



Epochs of training



Different keeping ratios



## Ablation Study

Feature Type	Top-1 Acc. (%)
Full	<b>71.90</b>
Content	71.73
Position	70.92

Feature type used in matching

Matching Method	Acc. (%)
N:1	<b>71.90</b>
1:1	69.02

Differen matching methods

TPM Variant	Similarity Matrix	GFLOPs	Top-1 Acc.(%)
dTPS	Cosine similarity	0.810	<b>71.90</b>
	Previous attention	0.807	71.35
eTPS	Cosine similarity	0.821	<b>72.26</b>
	Previous attention	0.818	71.67

Different similarity matrix

Fusing Method	Policy	Acc. (%)
Weighting	Original	70.58
	Random	<b>65.56 (-5.02)</b>
Average	Original	70.47
	Random	65.173 (-5.30)

Different fusing methods



# Experiments

## More Visualizations

Input



snow leopard



lawn mower



baseball



pineapple

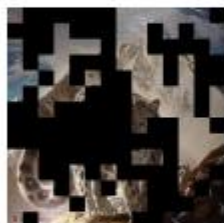


agama



castle

DynamicViT prediction



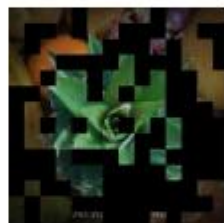
leopard ×



folding chair ×



rugby ball ×



orange ×



common iguana ×



palace ×

TPS prediction



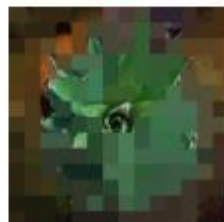
snow leopard ✓



lawn mower ✓



baseball ✓



pineapple ✓



agama ✓



castle ✓



**Thanks**

