

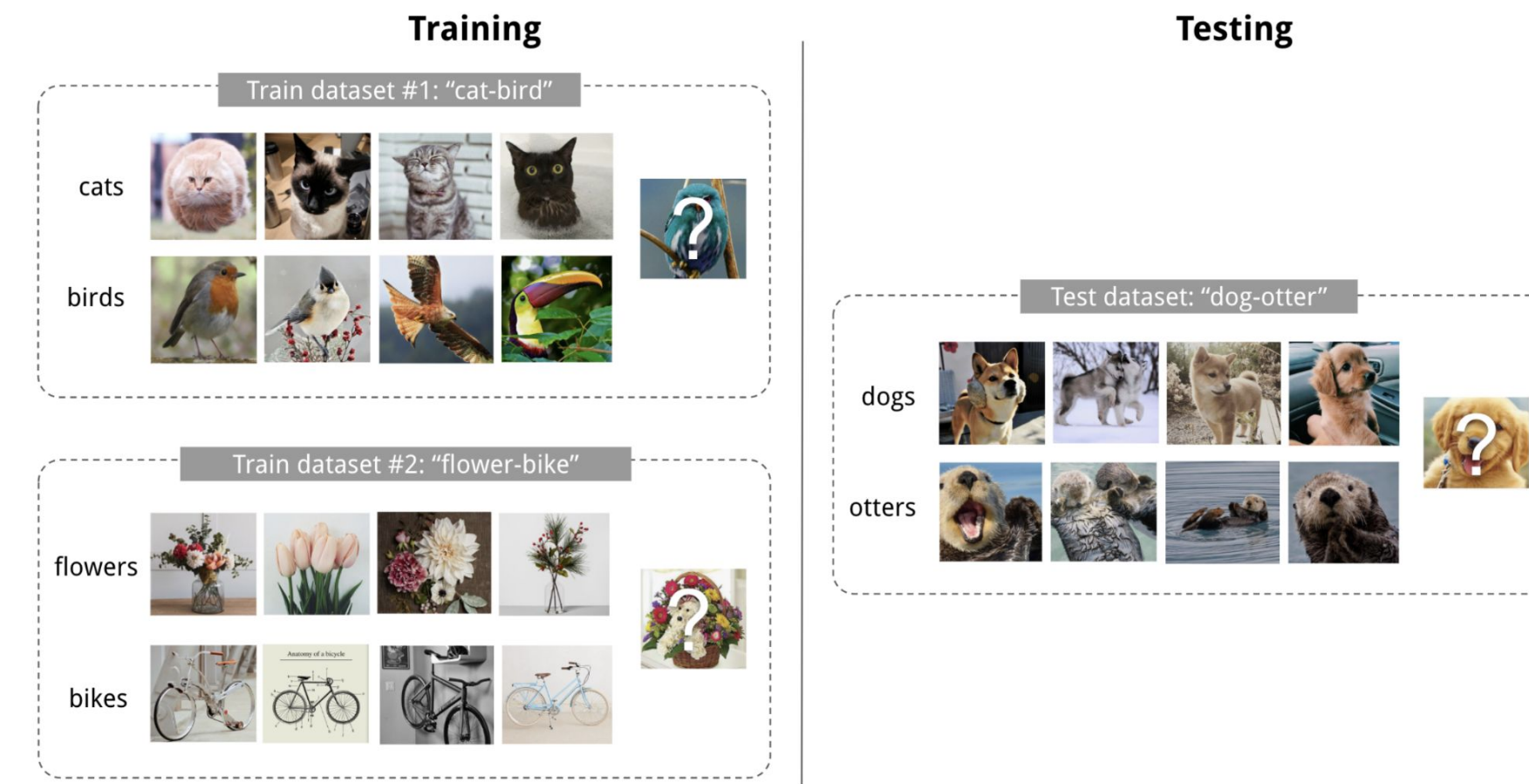
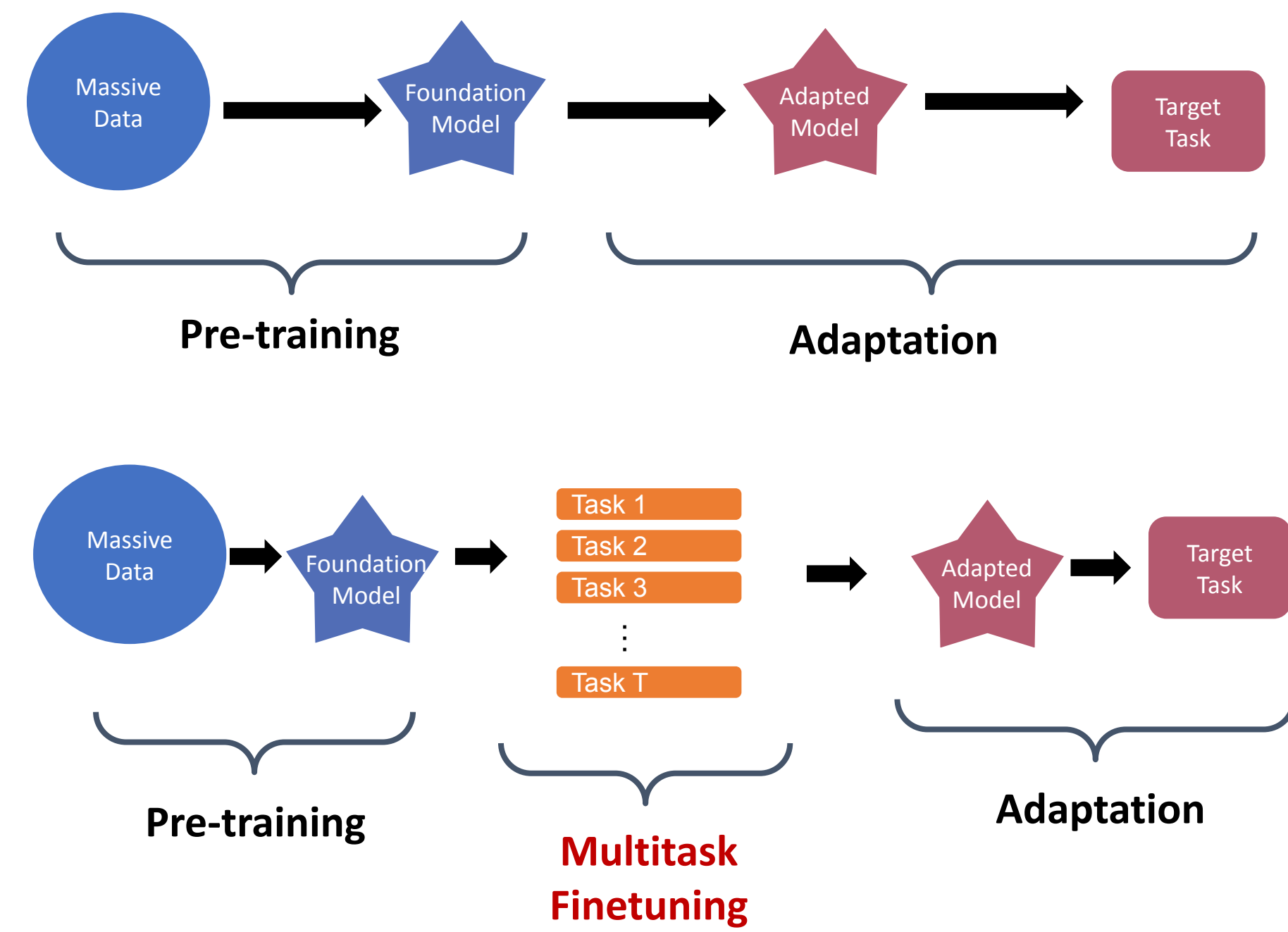
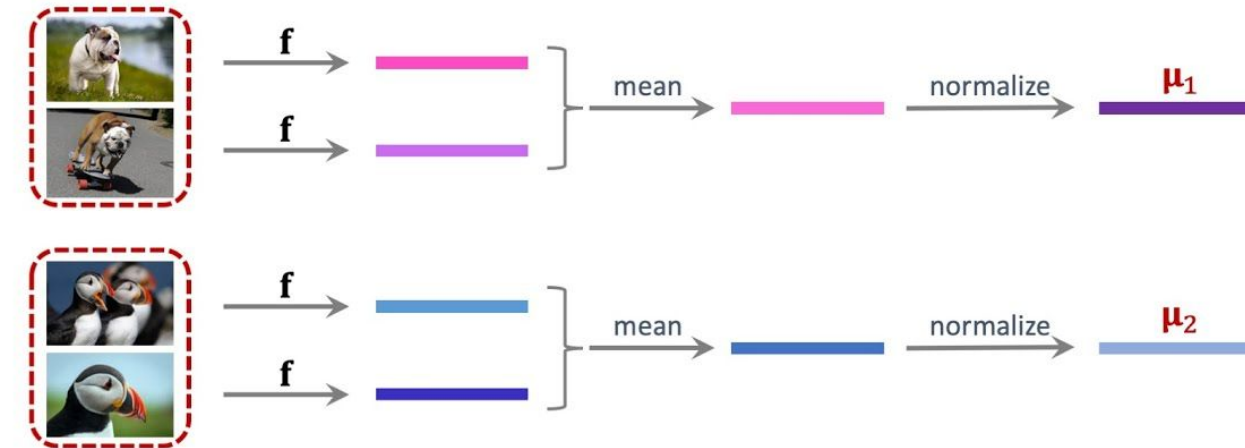
# Towards Few-Shot Adaptation of Foundation Models via Multitask Finetuning

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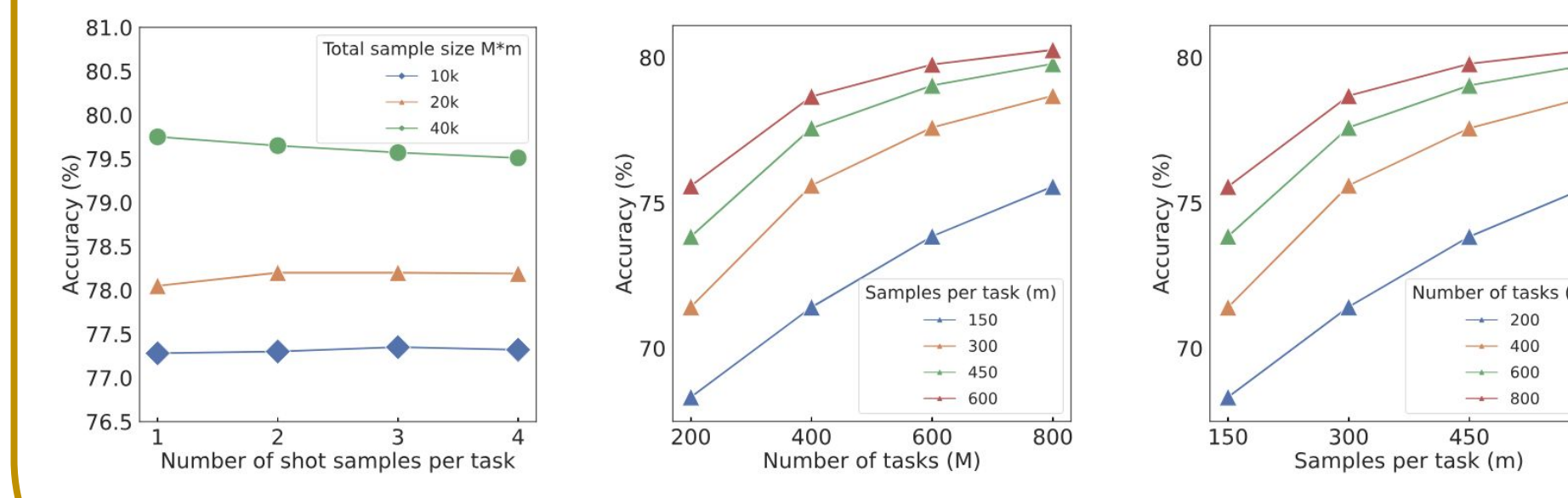
## Motivation

**Few-Shot Learning:**  
Pretraining + Fine Tuning



## Experiments

**Pretrained Method** MoCo v3, DINO v2, supervised pretraining  
**Model** ViT-S, ViT-B, ResNet50  
**Dataset** minilImageNet, tieredImageNet, DomainNet, Meta-dataset

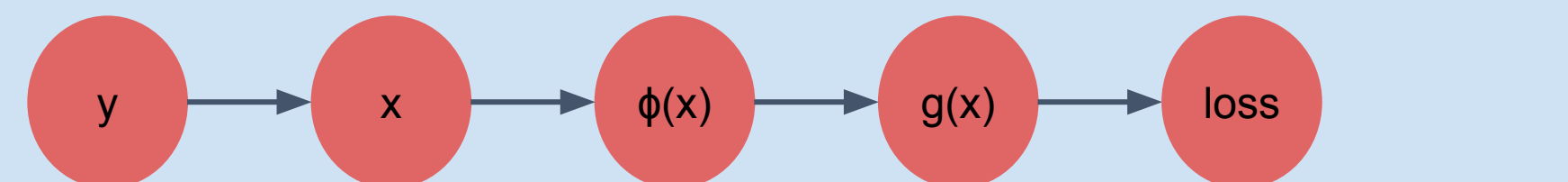


| pretrained                         | backbone | method      | miniImageNet        |                     | tieredImageNet      |                     | DomainNet           |                     |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                    |          |             | 1-shot              | 5-shot              | 1-shot              | 5-shot              | 1-shot              | 5-shot              |
| MoCo v3                            | ViT-B    | Adaptation  | 75.33 (0.30)        | 92.78 (0.10)        | 62.17 (0.36)        | 83.42 (0.23)        | 24.84 (0.25)        | 44.32 (0.29)        |
|                                    |          | Standard FT | 75.38 (0.30)        | 92.80 (0.10)        | 62.28 (0.36)        | 83.49 (0.23)        | 25.10 (0.25)        | 44.76 (0.27)        |
|                                    |          | Ours        | <b>80.62</b> (0.26) | <b>93.89</b> (0.09) | <b>68.32</b> (0.35) | <b>85.49</b> (0.22) | <b>32.88</b> (0.29) | <b>54.17</b> (0.30) |
| ResNet50                           | ViT-B    | Adaptation  | 68.80 (0.30)        | 88.23 (0.13)        | 55.15 (0.34)        | 76.00 (0.26)        | 27.34 (0.27)        | 47.50 (0.28)        |
|                                    |          | Standard FT | 68.85 (0.30)        | 88.23 (0.13)        | 55.23 (0.34)        | 76.07 (0.26)        | 27.43 (0.27)        | 47.65 (0.28)        |
|                                    |          | Ours        | <b>71.16</b> (0.29) | <b>89.31</b> (0.12) | <b>58.51</b> (0.35) | <b>78.41</b> (0.25) | <b>33.53</b> (0.30) | <b>55.82</b> (0.29) |
| DINO v2                            | ViT-S    | Adaptation  | 85.90 (0.22)        | 95.58 (0.08)        | 74.54 (0.32)        | 89.20 (0.19)        | 52.28 (0.39)        | 72.98 (0.28)        |
|                                    |          | Standard FT | 86.75 (0.22)        | 95.76 (0.08)        | 74.84 (0.32)        | 89.30 (0.19)        | 54.48 (0.39)        | 74.50 (0.28)        |
|                                    |          | Ours        | <b>88.70</b> (0.22) | <b>96.08</b> (0.08) | <b>77.78</b> (0.32) | <b>90.23</b> (0.18) | <b>61.57</b> (0.40) | <b>77.97</b> (0.27) |
| Supervised pretraining on ImageNet | ViT-B    | Adaptation  | 90.61 (0.19)        | 97.20 (0.06)        | 82.33 (0.30)        | 92.90 (0.16)        | 61.65 (0.41)        | 79.34 (0.25)        |
|                                    |          | Standard FT | 91.07 (0.19)        | 97.32 (0.06)        | 82.40 (0.30)        | 93.07 (0.16)        | 61.84 (0.39)        | 79.63 (0.25)        |
|                                    |          | Ours        | <b>92.77</b> (0.18) | <b>97.68</b> (0.06) | <b>84.74</b> (0.30) | <b>93.65</b> (0.16) | <b>68.22</b> (0.40) | <b>82.62</b> (0.24) |
| ResNet50                           | ViT-B    | Adaptation  | 94.06 (0.15)        | 97.88 (0.05)        | 83.82 (0.29)        | 93.65 (0.13)        | 28.70 (0.29)        | 49.70 (0.28)        |
|                                    |          | Standard FT | 95.28 (0.13)        | 98.33 (0.04)        | 86.44 (0.27)        | 94.91 (0.12)        | 30.93 (0.31)        | 52.14 (0.29)        |
|                                    |          | Ours        | <b>96.91</b> (0.11) | <b>98.76</b> (0.04) | <b>89.97</b> (0.25) | <b>95.84</b> (0.11) | <b>48.02</b> (0.38) | <b>67.25</b> (0.29) |
| ResNet50                           | ViT-B    | Adaptation  | 81.74 (0.24)        | 94.08 (0.09)        | 65.98 (0.34)        | 84.14 (0.21)        | 27.32 (0.27)        | 46.67 (0.28)        |
|                                    |          | Standard FT | 84.10 (0.22)        | 94.81 (0.09)        | 74.48 (0.33)        | 88.35 (0.19)        | 34.10 (0.31)        | 55.08 (0.29)        |
|                                    |          | Ours        | <b>87.61</b> (0.20) | <b>95.92</b> (0.07) | <b>77.74</b> (0.32) | <b>89.77</b> (0.17) | <b>39.09</b> (0.34) | <b>60.60</b> (0.29) |

## Problem Setup

Hidden representation data model

- Class  $y \in \mathcal{C}$  over distribution  $y \sim \eta$ , sample  $x \sim \mathcal{D}(y)$
- $\phi \in \Phi$  hypothesis class of representation functions: e.g. ResNet, ViT
- $g(x) = W\phi(x)$  as prediction logits of class



**Dog**  $\begin{bmatrix} \phi_1 \\ \phi_2 \\ \vdots \\ \phi_d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} g_1 \\ g_2 \\ \vdots \\ g_K \end{bmatrix} \ell(g(x), y) = -\log \left\{ \frac{\exp(g(x)_y)}{\sum_{k=1}^K \exp(g(x)_k)} \right\}$

- Contrastive Loss:**  $\mathcal{L}_{con-pre} = \mathbb{E}_{x,y} \left[ -\log \left( \frac{e^{\phi(x)^T \phi(x^+)}}{e^{\phi(x)^T \phi(x^+)} + e^{\phi(x)^T \phi(x^-)}} \right) \right]$
- Supervised Loss:**  $\mathcal{L}_{sup-pre}(\phi) = \min_W \mathbb{E}_{x,y} [\ell(W\phi(x), y)]$
- Task  $\mathcal{T} = (y_1, \dots, y_K) \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ , loss w.r.t a task:  $\mathcal{L}_{sup}(\mathcal{T}, \phi) = \min_W \mathbb{E}_{x,y} [\ell(W\phi(x), y)]$
- Multitask Finetuning:**  $M$  tasks  $\{\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_M\}$ , each task with  $m$  sample  $\mathcal{S}_i := \{(x_j^i, y_j^i) : j \in [m]\}$   

$$\min_{\phi \in \Phi} \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M \hat{\mathcal{L}}_{sup}(\mathcal{T}_i, \phi), \quad \text{where } \hat{\mathcal{L}}_{sup}(\mathcal{T}_i, \phi) := \min_{W_i \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \ell(W_i^T \phi(x_j^i), y_j^i)$$
- Suppose target task is  $\mathcal{T}_0$
- Let  $\phi^* \in \Phi$  denote the model with the lowest target task loss
- Denote error on target task  $\mathcal{E}(\phi) = \mathcal{L}_{sup}(\mathcal{T}_0, \phi) - \mathcal{L}_{sup}(\mathcal{T}_0, \phi^*)$

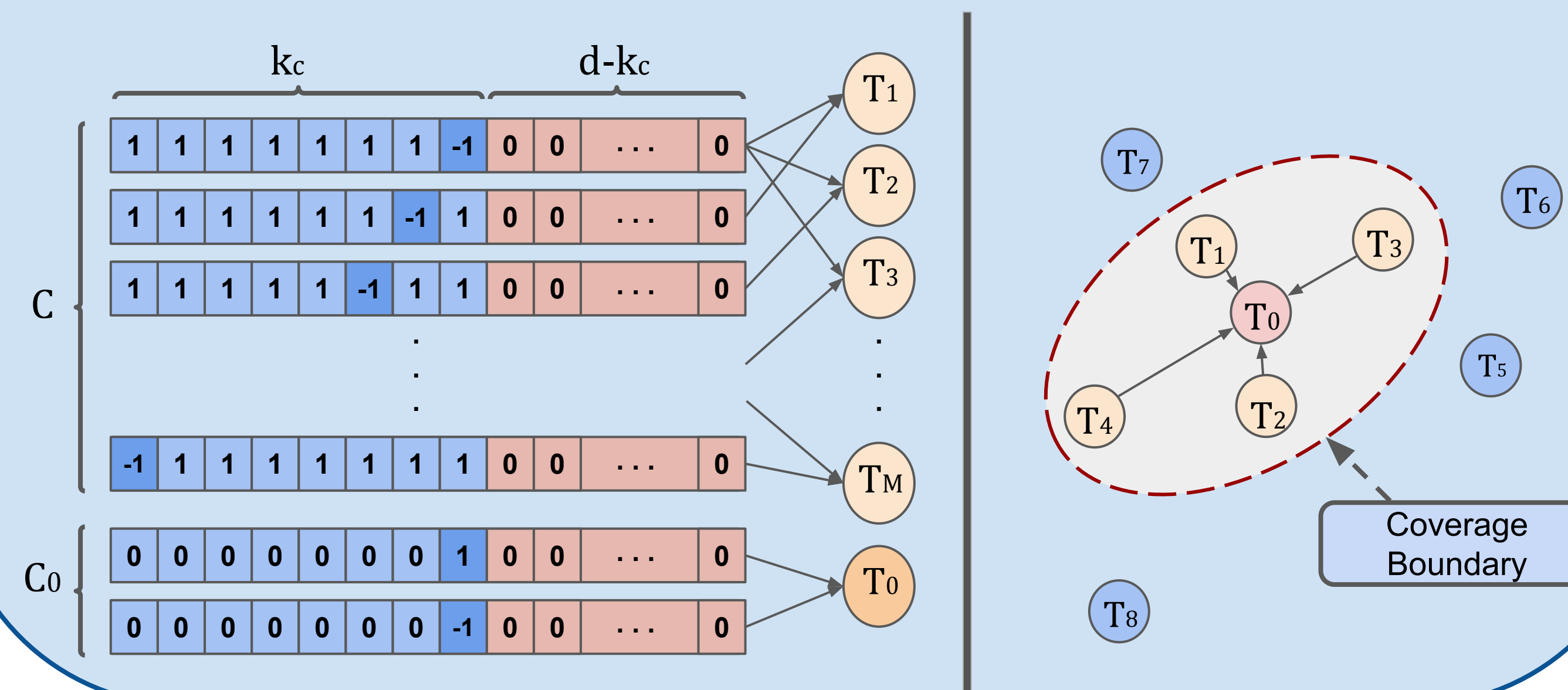
## Theoretical Analysis

### Definition 1 (Diversity and Consistency (Informal))

Consider the latent feature space. **Diversity** refer to the coverage of the finetuning tasks on the target task. **Consistency** refer to similarity.

### Theorem (Multitask finetuning loss (Informal))

Suppose in pretraining we have empirical pretraining loss  $\hat{\mathcal{L}}_{pre}(\hat{\phi}) \leq \epsilon_0$ . The error will be  $\mathcal{E}(\hat{\phi}) \leq \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_0)$ . After sufficient multitask finetuning and get  $\phi'$ , the error will be  $\mathcal{E}(\phi') \leq \mathcal{O}(\alpha\epsilon_0)$  with high probability. The finetuning sample complexity will be  $\Omega\left(\frac{1}{\alpha\epsilon_0}\right)$ .



## Practical Solution

| Pretrained | Selection | INet         | Omglot       | Acraft       | CUB          | QDraw        | Fungi        | Flower       | Sign         | COCO         |
|------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| CLIP       | Random    | 56.29        | 65.45        | 31.31        | 59.22        | 36.74        | 31.03        | 75.17        | 33.21        | 30.16        |
|            | No Con.   | 60.89        | 72.18        | 31.50        | 66.73        | 40.68        | 35.17        | 81.03        | 37.67        | 34.28        |
|            | No Div.   | 56.85        | 73.02        | 32.53        | 65.33        | 40.99        | 33.10        | 80.54        | 34.76        | 31.24        |
|            | Selected  | <b>60.89</b> | <b>74.33</b> | <b>33.12</b> | <b>69.07</b> | <b>41.44</b> | <b>36.71</b> | <b>80.28</b> | <b>38.08</b> | <b>34.52</b> |
| DINOv2     | Random    | 83.05        | 62.05        | 36.75        | 93.75        | 39.40        | 52.68        | 98.57        | 31.54        | 47.35        |
|            | No Con.   | 83.21        | 76.05        | 36.32        | 93.96        | 50.76        | 53.01        | 98.58        | 34.22        | 47.11        |
|            | No Div.   | 82.82        | 79.23        | 36.33        | 93.96        | 55.18        | 52.98        | 98.59        | 35.67        | 44.89        |
|            | Selected  | <b>83.21</b> | <b>81.74</b> | <b>37.01</b> | <b>94.10</b> | <b>55.39</b> | <b>53.37</b> | <b>98.65</b> | <b>36.46</b> | <b>48.08</b> |
| MoCo v3    | Random    | 59.66        | 60.72        | 18.57        | 39.80        | 40.39        | 32.79        | 58.42        | 33.38        | 32.98        |
|            | No Con.   | 59.80        | 60.79        | 18.75        | 40.41        | 40.98        | 32.80        | 59.55        | 34.01        | 33.41        |
|            | No Div.   | 59.57        | 63.00        | 18.65        | 40.36        | 41.04        | 32.80        | 58.67        | 34.03        | 33.67        |
|            | Selected  | <b>59.80</b> | <b>63.17</b> | <b>18.80</b> | <b>40.74</b> | <b>41.49</b> | <b>33.02</b> | <b>59.64</b> | <b>34.31</b> | <b>33.86</b> |

Table 1: Results evaluating our task selection algorithm on Meta-dataset using ViT-B backbone. No Con.: Ignore consistency. No Div.: Ignore diversity. Random: Ignore both consistency and diversity.

## Take-Home Message

We provide the theoretical justification and practical solution of multitask finetuning for adapting pretrained foundation models to downstream tasks with limited labels.

### Key Intuition

- Pre-training uses unlabeled and noisy data for general purpose learning, where the model learns general structure rather than task-specific knowledge. Its performance on a specific task may not be perfect.
- Despite the target data is limited, we have a clear understanding of the target task and its associated data.
  - We actively select extra data from a relevant source that covers target data characteristic features.
  - We then design specialized tasks for multitask finetuning to equip the model to address the specific types of target tasks effectively.