

STRUCTViT: LEARNING CORRELATION STRUCTURES FOR VISION TRANSFORMERS

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ABSTRACT

We introduce the structural self-attention (StructSA) mechanism that leverages structural patterns of query-key correlation for visual representation learning. StructSA generates attention by recognizing space-time structures of correlations and performs long-range interactions across entire locations, effectively capturing structural patterns, *e.g.*, spatial layouts, motion, or inter-object relations in images and videos. Using StructSA as a main building block, we develop the structural vision transformer (StructViT) and evaluate its effectiveness on both image and video classification tasks, achieving state-of-the-art results on ImageNet-1K, Kinetics-400, Something-Something V1 & V2, Diving-48, and FineGym.

1 INTRODUCTION

How visual elements interact with each others in space and time is a crucial cue for visual understanding, *e.g.*, recognizing object layouts in an image or human interactions in a video. In computer vision, such meta-patterns are effectively captured by the structure of correlations or similarities across visual elements in different positions (BenAbdelkader et al., 2004; Shechtman & Irani, 2007). A correlation structure of an image reveals spatial layouts of similar patterns (Kim et al., 2017; Kang et al., 2021) and that of a video provides bi-directional motion likelihoods (Kwon et al., 2021; Kim et al., 2021). The ability to recognize those structural patterns allows to better generalize against challenging appearance variations and domain shifts (Geirhos et al., 2021; Tuli et al., 2021).

In this work, we introduce a novel self-attention mechanism, named *structural self-attention* (StructSA), that effectively leverages diverse structural patterns for visual representation learning. We first show that vision transformer networks with self-attention and its convolutional variant (Wu et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021b; Fan et al., 2021; Liang et al., 2021) are both limited in leveraging structural patterns. The standard self-attention mechanism uses raw query-key correlations individually and ignores their structure, whereas its variant with convolutional projection turns out to have only limited access to the structure of query-key correlations. In contrast, the proposed StructSA recognizes diverse structural patterns from the correlations maps between the query and local chunks of keys. This is achieved by extending the convolution projections used with self-attention under our new interpretation. We add a new structure dimension to the convolution projection allowing to capture multiple patterns from a single correlation map. We then develop the structural vision transformer (StructViT) that adopts StructSA as a main neural block, and perform extensive sets of experiments on both image and video classification tasks, showing the effectiveness of learning structural patterns for visual representations. Our main contributions are summarized as follows:

- We provide a new interpretation on the self-attention with convolutional projections and show its potential to learn structural information of the correlations.
- We introduce structural self-attention (StructSA) that learns correlation structures for visual representations with the Vision Transformer (StructViT).
- The proposed StructViT achieves new state-of-the-art results on ImageNet-1K, Kinetics-400, Something-Something V1&V2, Diving-48, and FineGym.

2 RELATED WORK

2.1 TRANSFORMER NETWORKS IN VISION

Since transformer networks (Vaswani et al., 2017) showed remarkable success in natural language processing (Devlin et al., 2018; Brown et al., 2020), they have widely been adopted in various computer vision tasks as an alternative to CNNs (Sun et al., 2019; Dosovitskiy et al., 2020; Arnab et al., 2021; Carion et al., 2020; Strudel et al., 2021). Despite of their success, the pure transformer networks require a large amount of training data compared to CNNs where convolution operations introduce desirable inductive biases such as locality and translation invariance allowing more efficient training (Dosovitskiy et al., 2020; Raghu et al., 2021). This incentivized several methods to inherit the convolutional inductive biases via knowledge distillation (Touvron et al., 2021), local self-attention (Hu et al., 2019; Ramachandran et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2021), and architectural fusion (Dai et al., 2021; Li et al., 2022a; Guo et al., 2022; Chu et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021b; Wu et al., 2021; Fan et al., 2021). Methods using a convolutional projection instead of a linear projection (Wang et al., 2021b; Wu et al., 2021; Fan et al., 2021) show that the convolutional projection effectively encodes position information achieving remarkable results for both image and video representations. In this work, we provide a new interpretation for the self-attention with the convolutional projections and show its missing capability to learn structural patterns in the correlation. We then introduce a novel self-attention mechanism that leverages such structural information for visual representation learning.

2.2 CORRELATION STRUCTURE MODELING

Geometric structure of correlations between visual features, *i.e.*, patterns of how they are similar to each other, allows us to understand relational patterns in visual data for various computer vision tasks. Spatial self-correlation in images is used for suppressing photometric variations and revealing geometric layout of objects in the image (Shechtman & Irani, 2007; Kim et al., 2017; Kang et al., 2021). Spatial cross-correlation between different images is often used for establishing semantic correspondences capturing structural similarities (Han et al., 2017; Seo et al., 2018; Min & Cho, 2021). In the video domain, several methods exploit the structure of spatial cross-correlations between consecutive frames to estimate optical flow (Dosovitskiy et al., 2015; Yang & Ramanan, 2019) or to learn motion features for action recognition (Wang et al., 2020; Kwon et al., 2020). Kwon et al. (2021) propose spatio-temporal self-correlations for learning bi-directional motion features and Kim et al. (2021) introduce relational self-attention that generates attention weights dynamically from the structure of the spatio-temporal self-correlations. However, these two methods use self-correlations between the query and its local spatio-temporal neighborhoods only, thus, are limited in learning global relational patterns between distant features. Inspired by this, we introduce structural self-attention that capturing not only the spatio-temporal local self-correlation but also cross-correlations between features in the distance, utilizing both motion and global spatio-temporal inter-feature relations for learning motion-centric video representations.

3 OUR APPROACH

The query-key correlations of self-attention Vaswani et al. (2017) capture geometric structures that can represent spatial layouts (Shechtman & Irani, 2007) or motions (Kim et al., 2021) of objects in images or videos. However, in vanilla self-attention, individual correlation values are directly used as weights for feature aggregation disregarding the structure within the *correlation map*. In this work, we aim to develop a novel self-attention process that utilizes these geometric structures. To this end, we first provide a novel interpretation of the self-attention with convolutional projections (ConvSA) where ConvSA generates the attention scores (Kim et al., 2021) using local geometric structures in a correlation map. We then extend such a process to encode the local geometric structures into a vector representation instead of a scalar, and call this extended attention process *structural self-attention*. Finally, we propose our model architectures called Structural vision transformers (StructViT), which use our structural self-attention as a basic building block.

3.1 PRELIMINARY: SELF-ATTENTION AND CONVOLUTIONAL PROJECTION

Self-attention (SA) Vaswani et al. (2017) is the neural block for building modern transformer networks (Dosovitskiy et al., 2020; Touvron et al., 2021; Arnab et al., 2021). Given N input features $\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N] \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times C}$, SA first projects the input $\mathbf{X}$ linearly into queries, keys and values, and transforms each C -dimensional input feature $\mathbf{x}_i$ into a contextualized output feature $\mathbf{y}_i$ by

$$\mathbf{y}_i = \sigma(\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{K}^\top) \mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times C}, \quad (1)$$

where σ is a softmax function and $\mathbf{q}_i = \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{W}^Q$, $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{X} \mathbf{W}^K$, $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{X} \mathbf{W}^V$ are query, keys and values linearly projected from the inputs by projection matrices $\mathbf{W}^Q, \mathbf{W}^K, \mathbf{W}^V \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times C}$, respectively. While computing correlations $\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{K}^\top$, this self-attention uses them individually and ignores their structure; this is easily seen by its invariance with respect to permutation of input $\mathbf{X}$.

Despite its success in various tasks (Carion et al., 2020; Dosovitskiy et al., 2020; Arnab et al., 2021; Strudel et al., 2021), pure self-attention transformers are known to suffer from data-hungry and unstable training (Raghu et al., 2021; Chen et al., 2021). To tackle this issue, recent research (Wu et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021b; Fan et al., 2021; Li et al., 2022b; Guo et al., 2022) introduces inductive biases to transformers by adopting self-attention with convolutional projections (ConvSA). Different from SA, ConvSA projects keys and values using a convolution operation over the input feature map $\mathbf{X}$:

$$\mathbf{K}^{\text{conv}} = [\mathbf{k}_1^{\text{conv}}, \dots, \mathbf{k}_N^{\text{conv}}] = \text{conv}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W}^K) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times C}, \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{V}^{\text{conv}} = [\mathbf{v}_1^{\text{conv}}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_N^{\text{conv}}] = \text{conv}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W}^V) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times C}, \quad (3)$$

where conv is a convolution operation, and $\mathbf{W}^K, \mathbf{W}^V \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times C \times C}$ are kernel weights with a kernel size M for key and value projections, respectively. Here, we use 1-dimensional convolution for notational simplicity but the operation can be simply extended to convolutions with a larger dimensionality.

In most previous methods, ConvSA is implemented with a channel-wise separable convolution (Howard et al., 2017), which consists of two factorized convolution operations, *i.e.*, point-wise and channel-wise convolutions (Wu et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021b; Fan et al., 2021; Li et al., 2022b; Guo et al., 2022). In this case, each key $\mathbf{k}_i^{\text{conv}}$ and value $\mathbf{v}_i^{\text{conv}}$ is computed from a local context $\mathbf{X}_i = \mathbf{X}_{i-\lfloor \frac{M}{2} \rfloor : i+\lfloor \frac{M}{2} \rfloor} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times C}$ by

$$\mathbf{k}_i^{\text{conv}} = \mathbf{u}^K \mathbf{X}_i \mathbf{W}^K = \mathbf{u}^K \mathbf{K}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times C}, \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_i^{\text{conv}} = \mathbf{u}^V \mathbf{X}_i \mathbf{W}^V = \mathbf{u}^V \mathbf{V}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times C}, \quad (5)$$

where $\mathbf{W}^K, \mathbf{W}^V \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times C}$ are weights for the linear projection that are equivalent to point-wise convolution, and $\mathbf{u}^K, \mathbf{u}^V \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times M}$ are channel-wise convolution weights that are used to spatially aggregate linearly projected context $\mathbf{K}_i$ and $\mathbf{V}_i$, respectively. Note that here we assume the channel-wise convolution weights are shared across channels for simplicity without loss of generality and the full derivation is available in Appendix A.

3.2 ANALYSIS OF CONVSA

In this section, we provide a novel interpretation of ConvSA with a lens of a dynamic kernel (Kim et al., 2021) and show its potential for learning structures from query-key correlations. From Eq. (1) combined with Eq. (4) and (5), a transformed output $\mathbf{y}_i$ in ConvSA is obtained by

$$\mathbf{y}_i = \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j(\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{k}_j^{\text{conv}^\top}) \mathbf{v}_j^{\text{conv}} = \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j(\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{K}_j^\top \mathbf{u}^{K^\top}) \mathbf{u}^V \mathbf{V}_j = \sum_{j=1}^N \kappa_{i,j}^{\text{conv}} \mathbf{V}_j, \quad (6)$$

where σ_j is j th entry of the softmax over N tokens. This reveals that an attention score $\sigma_j(\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{k}_j^{\text{conv}^\top})$ is computed by projecting a local correlation map $\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{K}_j^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times M}$ by $\mathbf{u}^K$, and a dynamic kernel $\kappa_{i,j}^{\text{conv}}$ for the final feature aggregation of $\mathbf{V}_j$ is obtained by weighting the aggregation pattern presented in $\mathbf{u}^V$ using the computed attention map. Given that correlation map $\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{K}_j^\top$ represents a structural pattern, we can interpret that $\mathbf{u}^K$ acts as a *pattern detector* that extracts a specific correlation pattern from $\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{K}_j^\top$, whereas $\mathbf{u}^V$ plays a role as a *context aggregator* that performs a weighted pooling of local context $\mathbf{V}_j$. Due to the presence of this pattern detector $\mathbf{u}^K$ and its corresponding context aggregator $\mathbf{u}^V$, ConvSA can leverage a structural pattern of input for context aggregation.

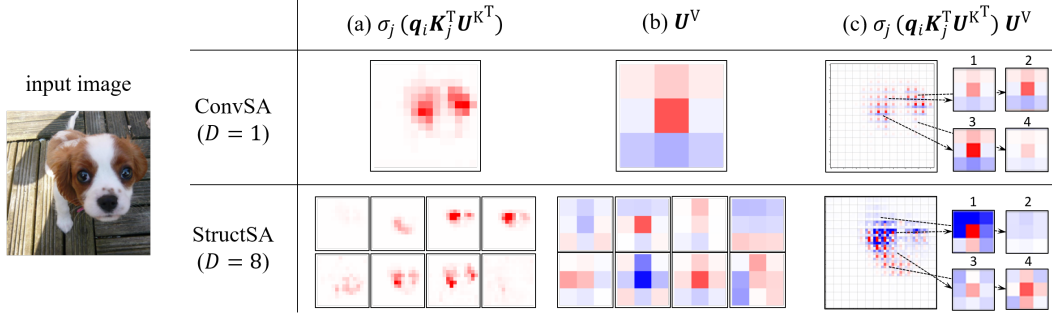


Figure 1: **Visualization of ConvSA and StructSA on ImageNet-1K.** The query location i and the kernel size M are set to the center location and 3×3 . Given the left image as input, we compare ConvSA ($D = 1$) and StructSA ($D = 8$) in terms of (a) D attention maps $\sigma_{jD}(\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{K}_j^T \mathbf{U}^{\mathbf{K}^T})$, (b) local feature aggregation patterns learned in $\mathbf{U}^V$, and (c) the combinations of (a) and (b). Note that each location j has an aggregation map of the kernel size $M = 3 \times 3$ resulting and thus we additionally show enlarged images for four different sample locations j .

Limitation of ConvSA. Although ConvSA can learn, unlike SA, a structural pattern over correlation maps by $\mathbf{u}^{\mathbf{K}}$, it only learns a single pattern and encodes various shapes in correlation maps into a scalar value representing the similarity against the learned pattern; as the result, the final dynamic kernel $\kappa_{i,j}^{\text{conv}}$ for every j reduces to the identical pattern of $\mathbf{u}^V$ with different weighting only. This lack of expressiveness in $\mathbf{u}^{\mathbf{K}}$ and $\mathbf{u}^V$ prevents ConvSA from capturing diverse structural patterns and generating diverse dynamic kernels.

3.3 STRUCTURAL SELF-ATTENTION

We propose a novel self-attention mechanism, named *structural self-attention* (StructSA). The core idea of StructSA is to encode correlations $\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{K}_j^T$ into a D -dimensional vector, rather than a scalar, that recognizes richer structural patterns to produce a dynamic kernel. Note that we call this new vector dimension with D a structure dimension. To compute StructSA, we extend the pattern detector $\mathbf{u}^{\mathbf{K}}$ and the context aggregator $\mathbf{u}^V$ to matrices $\mathbf{U}^{\mathbf{K}}, \mathbf{U}^V \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times M}$ resulting in

$$\mathbf{K}_i^{\text{struct}} = \mathbf{U}^{\mathbf{K}} \mathbf{K}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times C}, \quad (7)$$

$$\mathbf{V}_i^{\text{struct}} = \mathbf{U}^V \mathbf{V}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times C}. \quad (8)$$

Plugging Eq. (7) and (8) into $\mathbf{k}_j^{\text{conv}}$ and $\mathbf{v}_j^{\text{conv}}$ of Eq. (6), the output y_i of StructSA is computed by

$$\mathbf{y}_i = \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j \left(\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{K}_j^{\text{struct}^T} \right) \mathbf{V}_j^{\text{struct}} = \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j \left(\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{K}_j^T \mathbf{U}^{\mathbf{K}^T} \right) \mathbf{U}^V \mathbf{V}_j = \sum_{j=1}^N \kappa_{i,j}^{\text{struct}} \mathbf{V}_j \quad (9)$$

where the softmax function σ_j returns a D -dimensional output for j th location. Note that this softmax is taken over all ND entries in the input matrix as we observe it is empirically more stable compared to D individual softmax operations over N entries.

Compared to ConvSA where only a single structural pattern is learned by the pattern extractor $\mathbf{u}^{\mathbf{K}}$, StructSA learns D different pattern extractors in $\mathbf{U}^{\mathbf{K}}$ and represents various local correlation shapes by a set of D similarity scores. These scores are then combined with the D context aggregators in $\mathbf{U}^V$; different combinations of these context aggregators result in diverse dynamic kernels $\kappa_{i,j}^{\text{struct}}$ for different locations j . In the case of $i = j$, the correlation map corresponds to the local self-similarity (Shechtman & Irani, 2007) that is known to capture geometric structures such as spatial layout (Shechtman & Irani, 2007) or spatio-temporal motion (Kwon et al., 2021), meaning that when $i = j$, the pattern detector $\mathbf{U}^{\mathbf{K}}$ reduces to capturing a self-similarity pattern as in (Kim et al., 2021).

We illustrate this dynamic kernel computation process with an example input image from ImageNet-1K (Deng et al., 2009) in Figure 1. We compare ConvSA and StructSA ($D = 8$) show how structural patterns are used in these methods. Given a query-key correlation map, ConvSA generates a single attention map shown in column (a). Then these scores are combined with the context aggregator $\mathbf{u}^V$

(column (b)), that represents a single aggregation pattern. As the result, local features are aggregated with the identical pattern in $\mathbf{u}^V$ for every location and the only differences are their scales as shown in column (c). In contrast, StructSA generates multiple attention maps using D pattern detectors each capturing different structures in the query-key correlation maps (column (a)), and combines them with different context aggregators shown in column (b) resulting in diverse aggregation patterns for different locations j as illustrated in column (c).

3.4 STRUCTURAL VISION TRANSFORMER (STRUCTViT)

Finally, we introduce Structural Vision Transformers (StructViT) that use our StructSA as the basic building block; our StructViT has unified network configurations for both image and video classification tasks. For image input, we simply set the temporal sizes in both input shape and operation parameters (*e.g.*, convolution kernel and stride) are set to 1. We extend the state-of-the-art method Uniformer (Li et al., 2022a) by replacing all vanilla self-attention with StructSA. Note that when we employ StructSA, we use multi-head configurations and do not share weights across channels for the channel-wise convolutions. Our network takes a video clip or an image $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times H \times W \times 3}$ as input, where T , H , and W represent spatiotemporal resolutions of the video clip ($T = 1$ for an image input). We tokenize an input video clip into overlapping 3D tublets of size $3 \times 4 \times 4 \times 3$ with a stride of $2 \times 4 \times 4$ (non-overlapping 2D patches of size $4 \times 4 \times 3$ for image) to feed them into our network. Our network comprises four stages, each of which has multiple neural blocks, and it leverages a hierarchical design to produce feature maps with decreasing resolutions and increasing number of channels from early to late stages following (Li et al., 2022a). For the first two stages, each block consists of a conditional positional encoding layer, a convolutional layer, and an MLP, whereas the convolutional layer is replaced with a StructSA layer in the blocks in the last two stages. For the detailed network design for each block at different stages, please refer to (Li et al., 2022a). We build three different StructViT architectures where the number of channels and blocks for each stage are defined as follows:

- StructViT-S: # channels = {64,128,320,512}, # blocks = {3,4,8,3}
- StructViT-B: # channels = {64,128,320,512}, # blocks = {5,8,20,7}
- StructViT-L: # channels = {128,192,448,640}, # blocks = {5,10,24,7}.

In practice, StructSA introduces additional FLOPs for processing instances compared to the vanilla SA. One way of building an efficient StructSA is to adopt a larger stride in the key/value projections, which effectively reduces the number of keys and values. We test a few variants with a larger stride to see the performances of StructViT with matching FLOPs with their corresponding Uniformer architectures. We denote each model with StructViT- X - D - S where X , D , and S represent the architecture size, the structure dimension, and the stride, respectively.

4 EXPERIMENTS

To validate the effectiveness of the proposed method on visual representation learning, we conduct extensive experiments on image and video classification benchmarks.

4.1 IMAGE CLASSIFICATION

4.1.1 EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

We conduct image classification experiments on ImageNet-1K (Deng et al., 2009). We follow the training strategy of DeiT (Touvron et al., 2021) adopting random clipping, random horizontal flipping, mixup (Zhang et al., 2017), cutmix (Yun et al., 2019), random erasing (Zhong et al., 2020) and label-smoothing (Müller et al., 2019) to augment the input images for training. We train all models from scratch for 300 epochs using AdamW optimizer (Loshchilov & Hutter, 2017) with a cosine learning rate schedule including 5 warm-up epochs. The batch size, learning rate, and weight decay are set to 1024, 1e-3, and 0.05, respectively. We also use stochastic depth (Huang et al., 2016) with the probability of 0.1/0.3/0.4 for StructViT-S/B/L, respectively. We use 8 NVIDIA A100 GPUs for training StructViT-S/B and 16 GPUs for StructViT-L. Our model should be comparable to

Uniformer Li et al. (2022a) in the same sizes as our model configurations are based on Uniformer’s; adding the structure dimension D in StructSA introduces few additional parameters.

4.1.2 RESULTS

In Table 1, we compare StructViT with other state-of-the-art CNNs, ViTs, and hybrid models. The results show that StructViT outperforms other methods in all sizes. Compared to EfficientNets (Tan & Le, 2019; 2021) that are obtained by extensive architecture search, our models show comparable or even better performances in both base and large configurations, requiring much less amount of computational cost. Compared to our baseline, Uniformers, StructViTs consistently bring gains in top-1 accuracy regardless of its size, demonstrating the benefits of learning geometric structures in image understanding. While StructSA introduces some additional FLOPs, we also test variants whose stride for key/value convolutions is set to 2 (S-4-2 and B-4-2) to match its FLOPs to that of the baselines; We still observe some gain with the base model (B-4-2) without additional FLOPs while the small model (S-4-2) shows comparable performance.

4.2 VIDEO CLASSIFICATION

4.2.1 EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

We conduct experiments for video classification on Kinetics-400 (Kay et al., 2017), Something-Something V1&V2 (Goyal et al., 2017; Mahdisoltani et al., 2018), Diving48 (Li et al., 2018), and FineGym (Shao et al., 2020). For training, we follow the strategy in MViT (Fan et al., 2021). For Kinetics, we sample 16 or 32 frames using the dense sampling strategy (Wang et al., 2018). We use random cropping and horizontal flipping for data augmentation. We temporally inflate the model weights pretrained on ImageNet-1K and finetune it for 110 epochs including 10 warm-up epochs. We use AdamW (Loshchilov & Hutter, 2017) optimizer with cosine learning rate schedule. We set the total batch size, learning rate, weight decay, and stochastic depth rate to 64, $2e-4$, 0.05, and 0.1, respectively. For Something-Something V1&V2, Diving48, and FineGym, we utilize the segment-based sampling strategy (Wang et al., 2016). We only use random cropping for data augmentation. We initialize the model with the weights pretrained on Kinetics-400 and finetune the model for 60 epochs including 5 warm-up epochs. Other training hyperparameters are the same as those for Kinetics-400. For testing, we sample multiple clips by sampling different temporal indices for each

Table 1: **Comparisons to the state-of-the-art methods on ImageNet-1K.** *Trained with token labeling (Jiang et al., 2021).

method	#param (M)	FLOPs (G)	IN1K Top-1
RegNetY-4G (Radosavovic et al., 2020)	21	4.0	80.0
EfficientNet-B4 (Tan & Le, 2019)	19	4.2	82.9
EfficientNet-B5 (Tan & Le, 2019)	30	9.9	83.6
DeiT-S (Touvron et al., 2021)	22	4.6	79.9
PVT-S (Wang et al., 2021b)	25	3.8	79.8
T2T-14 (Yuan et al., 2021)	22	5.2	80.7
Swin-T (Liu et al., 2021)	29	4.5	81.3
Focal-T (Yang et al., 2021)	29	4.9	82.2
CSwin-T (Dong et al., 2022)	23	4.3	82.7
CvT-13 (Wu et al., 2021)	20	4.5	81.6
CoAtNet-0 (Dai et al., 2021)	25	4.2	81.6
LV-ViT-S Jiang et al. (2021)	26	6.6	83.3
Uniformer-S (Li et al., 2022a)	22	3.6	82.9
StructViT-S-4-2 (ours)	23	3.6	82.9
StructViT-S-4-1 (ours)	23	4.3	83.2
StructViT-S-8-1 (ours)	24	5.4	83.3
RegNetY-8G (Radosavovic et al., 2020)	39	8.0	81.7
EfficientNet-B7 (Tan & Le, 2019)	66	39.2	84.3
PVT-L (Wang et al., 2021b)	61	9.8	81.7
T2T-24 (Yuan et al., 2021)	64	13.2	82.2
Swin-S (Liu et al., 2021)	50	8.7	83.0
Focal-S (Yang et al., 2021)	51	9.1	83.5
CSwin-S (Dong et al., 2022)	35	6.9	83.6
CvT-21 (Wu et al., 2021)	32	7.1	82.5
Container (Gao et al., 2021)	22	8.1	82.7
CoAtNet-1 (Dai et al., 2021)	42	8.4	83.3
LV-ViT-M (Jiang et al., 2021)	56	16.0	84.1
Uniformer-B (Li et al., 2022a)	50	8.3	83.8
StructViT-B-4-2 (ours)	51	8.3	84.0
StructViT-B-4-1 (ours)	51	9.9	84.2
StructViT-B-8-1 (ours)	52	12.0	84.3
RegNetY-16G (Radosavovic et al., 2020)	84	16.0	82.9
EfficientNetV2-L (Tan & Le, 2021)	121	52	85.7
Swin-B (Liu et al., 2021)	88	15.4	83.3
Focal-B (Yang et al., 2021)	90	16.0	83.8
CSwin-B (Dong et al., 2022)	78	15.0	84.2
CoAtNet-3 (Dai et al., 2021)	168	34.7	84.5
LV-ViT-L $\uparrow$ 288 (Jiang et al., 2021)	150	59.0	85.3
VOLO-D3 (Yuan et al., 2022)	86	20.6	85.4
Uniformer-L* (Li et al., 2022a)	100	12.6	85.6
StructViT-L-4-1* (ours)	103	15.4	86.0

Table 2: Comparisons to the state-of-the-art methods on Kinetics-400.

method	pretrain	#frame $\times$ #crop $\times$ #clip	FLOPs (G)	K400 top-1 top-5
TDN _{EN} (Wang et al., 2021a)	IN-1K	(8+16) $\times$ 3 $\times$ 10	5940	79.4 94.4
SlowFast(Feichtenhofer et al., 2019)	-	8 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 10	3180	77.9 93.2
SlowFast+NL(Feichtenhofer et al., 2019)	-	16 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 10	7020	79.8 93.9
ip-CSN(Tran et al., 2019)	Sports1M	32 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 10	3270	79.2 93.8
CorrNet(Wang et al., 2020)	Sports1M	32 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 10	6720	81.0 -
X3D-M(Feichtenhofer, 2020)	-	16 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 10	186	76.0 92.3
X3D-XL(Feichtenhofer, 2020)	-	16 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 10	1452	79.1 93.9
MoViNet-A5(Kondratyuk et al., 2021)	-	120 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 1	281	80.9 94.9
MoViNet-A6(Kondratyuk et al., 2021)	-	120 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 1	386	81.5 95.3
ViT-B-VTN (Neimark et al., 2021)	IN-21K	250 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 1	3992	78.6 93.7
TimeSformer-HR(Bertasius et al., 2021)	IN-21K	16 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 1	5109	79.7 94.4
TimeSformer-L(Bertasius et al., 2021)	IN-21K	96 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 1	7140	80.7 94.7
X-ViT(Bulat et al., 2021)	IN-21K	16 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 1	850	80.2 94.7
Mformer-HR(Patrick et al., 2021)	IN-21K	16 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 10	28764	81.1 95.2
ViViT-L(Arnab et al., 2021)	IN-21K	16 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 4	17352	80.6 94.7
Swin-B(Liu et al., 2022)	IN-1K	32 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 4	3384	80.6 94.6
MTV-B (Yan et al., 2022)	IN-21K	32 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 4	4790	81.8 95.0
MViT-B,16 $\times$ 4(Fan et al., 2021)	-	16 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 5	353	78.4 93.5
MViT-B,32 $\times$ 3(Fan et al., 2021)	-	32 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 5	850	80.2 94.4
Dualformer-S (Liang et al., 2021)	IN-1K	32 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 4	636	80.6 94.9
Dualformer-B (Liang et al., 2021)	IN-1K	32 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 4	1072	81.1 95.0
Uniformer-S (Li et al., 2022a)	IN-1K	16 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 4	167	80.8 94.7
Uniformer-B (Li et al., 2022a)	IN-1K	32 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 4	1036	82.9 95.4
StructViT-S-4-2 (ours)	IN-1K	16 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 4	169	81.1 95.5
StructViT-S-4-1 (ours)	IN-1K	16 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 4	327	81.4 95.7
StructViT-S-8-1 (ours)	IN-1K	16 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 4	541	81.6 95.8
StructViT-B-4-2 (ours)	IN-1K	32 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 4	1045	83.1 95.5
StructViT-B-4-1 (ours)	IN-1K	32 $\times$ 1 $\times$ 4	2658	83.3 95.6
StructViT-B-4-1 (ours)	IN-1K	32 $\times$ 3 $\times$ 4	7974	83.4 95.8

clip or cropping different spatial regions and then obtain the final score by computing an average over the scores for each clip. We train all models once using 8 to 16 NVIDIA A100 GPUs.

4.2.2 RESULTS ON KINETICS-400

Table 2 compares our method with previous state-of-the-art methods on Kinetics-400. Each block in the table groups methods based on their network structures: CNNs, ViTs, and hybrid methods. We first observe that our best model (B-4-1) achieves the state-of-the-art performance. Our method outperforms CNN based approaches even with less computational cost (S-4-2) in most cases. Compared to MoViNets (Kondratyuk et al., 2021) that are the most advanced CNNs obtained by an extensive NAS, our method shows comparable scores with fewer FLOPs (S-4-1).

When we compare our model to the ViT-based ones, our model outperforms them by large margins while using significantly fewer compute. For instance, StructViT-B-4-1 with single crop (second last row in Table 2) shows 1.6% absolute accuracy gain while using only 55% of computes compared to MTV-B, the best performing ViT-based model. Note also that our model is pretrained on ImageNet-1K, which is much smaller than ImageNet-21K on which the ViT-based models are pretrained.

Finally, our best models (S-8-1 and B-4-1) show 0.5% to 0.8% absolute gains over the baseline Uniformer models in different size configurations. When we use larger strides (S-4-2 and B-4-2) to match the FLOPs of the baselines, we still observe some absolute gains ranging from 0.2% to 0.3%.

4.2.3 RESULTS ON SOMETHING-SOMETHING, DIVING-48 AND FINEGYM

Table 3a summarizes the results on Something-Something V1&V2. We observe the same trends as on Kinetics-400. Our full model sets a new state-of-the-art performances on both V1 and V2 while the gains are slightly smaller when tested with matching FLOPs compared to the Uniformer models.

Table 3b and Table 3c show the results on Diving-48 (Li et al., 2018) and FineGym (Shao et al., 2020). Our model sets new state-of-the-art performances with large margins (4.1% on Diving-48;

Table 3: **Comparisons to the state-of-the-art methods on three motion-centric video classification benchmarks.** Our StructViT achieves new state-of-the-art on all the benchmarks. For FineGym, we measure averaged per-class accuracy while top- k accuracy is measured for Something-Something and Diving-48. *Trained with additional bounding box annotations.

(a) **Something-Something V1 & V2**

method	pretrain	#frame× #crop×#clip	FLOPs (G)	Something V1		Something V2	
				top-1	top-5	top-1	top-5
TSN(Wang et al., 2016)	IN-1K	16×1×1	66	19.9	47.3	30.0	60.5
TSM(Lin et al., 2019)	IN-1K	16×1×1	66	47.2	77.1	-	-
GST(Luo & Yuille, 2019)	IN-1K	16×1×1	59	48.6	77.9	62.6	87.9
TEA(Li et al., 2020)	IN-1K	16×1×1	70	51.9	80.3	-	-
MSNet(Kwon et al., 2020)	IN-1K	16×1×1	101	52.1	82.3	64.7	89.4
CT-Net(Li et al., 2021)	IN-1K	16×1×1	75	52.5	80.9	64.5	89.3
TDN(Wang et al., 2021a)	IN-1K	16×1×1	72	53.9	82.1	65.3	89.5
SELFNet (Kwon et al., 2021)	IN-1K	16×1×1	77	54.3	82.9	65.7	89.8
RSANet (Kim et al., 2021)	IN-1K	16×1×1	72	54.0	81.1	66.0	89.9
TimeSformer-HR(Bertasius et al., 2021)	IN-21K	16×3×1	5109	-	-	62.5	-
TimeSformer-L(Bertasius et al., 2021)	IN-21K	96×3×1	7140	-	-	62.3	-
ViViT-L(Arnab et al., 2021)	K400	16×3×4	11892	-	-	65.4	89.8
X-ViT(Bulat et al., 2021)	IN-21K	16×3×1	850	-	-	65.2	90.6
X-ViT(Bulat et al., 2021)	IN-21K	32×3×1	1270	-	-	65.4	90.7
Mformer-HR(Patrick et al., 2021)	K400	16×3×1	2876	-	-	67.1	90.6
Mformer-L(Patrick et al., 2021)	K400	32×3×1	3555	-	-	68.1	91.2
Swin-B(Liu et al., 2022)	K400	32×3×1	963	-	-	69.6	92.7
MViT-B,64×3(Fan et al., 2021)	K400	64×1×3	1365	-	-	67.7	90.9
MViT-B-24,32×3(Fan et al., 2021)	K600	32×1×3	708	-	-	68.7	91.5
Uniformer-S (Li et al., 2022a)	K400	16×3×1	125	57.2	84.9	67.7	91.4
Uniformer-B (Li et al., 2022a)	K400	32×3×1	777	60.9	87.3	71.2	92.8
StructViT-S-4-2 (ours)	K400	16×3×1	126	57.2	85.0	67.9	91.3
StructViT-S-4-1 (ours)	K400	16×3×1	246	57.5	85.3	68.2	91.8
StructViT-S-8-1 (ours)	K400	16×3×1	405	57.6	85.5	68.4	92.0
StructViT-B-4-2 (ours)	K400	32×3×1	784	61.1	87.7	71.1	92.7
StructViT-B-4-1 (ours)	K400	32×3×1	1963	61.3	87.8	71.5	93.1

(b) **Diving-48**

model	top-1
SlowFast-R101 (Feichtenhofer et al., 2019)	77.6
TimeSformer (Bertasius et al., 2021)	75.0
TimeSformer-HR (Bertasius et al., 2021)	78.0
TimeSformer-L (Bertasius et al., 2021)	81.0
RSANet-R50 (Kim et al., 2021)	84.2
ORViT* (Herzig et al., 2022)	88.0
StructViT-B-4-1	88.3

(c) **FineGym**

model	Gym288	Gym99
TRN (Zhou et al., 2018)	33.1	68.7
I3D (Carreira & Zisserman, 2017)	27.9	63.2
TSM (Lin et al., 2019)	34.8	70.6
TSM _{Two-stream} (Lin et al., 2019)	46.5	81.2
RSANet-R50 (Kim et al., 2021)	50.9	86.4
StructViT-B-4-1	54.2	89.5

3.3% and 3.1% on FineGym) over the previous methods without additional box annotations on both datasets. Note that ORViT Herzig et al. (2022) uses additional object bounding box annotations to train an object detector.

4.3 ABLATION STUDIES

We conduct ablation studies to investigate the impact of different parameters of StructSA. We test StructViT-S on ImageNet-1K and Something-Something V1 while varying the structure dimension D and the kernel size M . For ImageNet-1K, we train our model from scratch whereas we initialize the model with weights pretrained on ImageNet-1K when testing on Something-Something V1. We use 16 frames as input for video experiments.

Table 4a shows the effect of the structure dimension D . When simply applying ConvSA ($D = 1$) to our baseline with SA ($D = 0$), both methods show similar performances on both datasets whereas StructSA ($D > 1$) clearly brings large improvements. This confirms the limitation of ConvSA and the effectiveness of StructSA. As we increase D , the model shows larger improvements on both

Table 4: **Ablation studies on ImageNet-1K and Something-Something V1.** Top-1 and top-5 accuracies (%) are shown. For (b), we fix the structure dimension D to 4.

(a) Structure dimension D .					(b) Kernel size M .				
D	ImageNet-1K		Something V1		M	ImageNet-1K		Something V1	
	top-1	top-5	top-1	top-5		top-1	top-5	top-1	top-5
0	82.9	96.2	52.0	80.2	$1 \times 1 (\times 1)$	83.0	96.2	52.2	80.4
1	82.9	96.3	52.1	80.2	$3 \times 3 (\times 3)$	83.2	96.6	52.7	81.2
2	83.1	96.4	52.5	80.9	$5 \times 5 (\times 5)$	83.1	96.5	52.8	81.2
4	83.2	96.6	52.7	81.2	$7 \times 7 (\times 7)$	83.1	96.5	52.6	81.0
8	83.3	96.6	52.9	81.3					

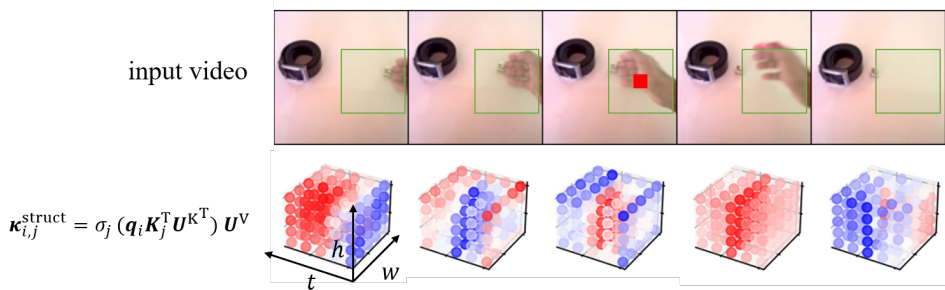


Figure 2: **Visualization of dynamic kernels $\kappa_{i,j}^{\text{struct}}$ in StructSA on Something-Something V1.** The top row shows the input frames that contain the input spatiotemporal local context (indicated by green boxes) used in the dynamic kernel computation. The bottom row presents the resulting dynamic kernels $\kappa_{i,j}^{\text{struct}}$ for a StructSA head when $i = j$. Note that the computed dynamic kernels are computed with self-similarity map ($i = j$) to illustrate its effectiveness in capturing motions in videos. We use StructViT-S-4-1 with $M = 5 \times 5 \times 5$.

datasets. In Table 4b, we also investigate different kernel sizes M . Compared to the baseline, enlarging kernel size to $M = 3 \times 3 \times 3$ improves the accuracy on both datasets; this validates the effectiveness of learning geometric structures. The performance saturates as the kernel size gets larger than $5 \times 5 \times 5$.

4.4 VISUALIZATIONS OF STRUCTSA

Figure 2 visualize example dynamic kernels $\kappa_{i,j}^{\text{struct}}$ computed from self-similarity map ($i = j$) on Something-Something V1. We observe that StructSA builds kernels for spatiotemporal gradient filters that are similar to those that are already known to be effective for capturing different types of motions (Szeliski, 2010), *e.g.*, Sobel filters (first example) or Laplacian filters (second and third), over local contexts similarly to Kim et al. (2021).

5 CONCLUSION

We introduce a novel self-attention mechanism, named structural self-attention (StructSA), that exploits structural patterns of the pixel-wise correlations for visual representation learning. Instead of using a correlation individual to aggregate each feature element, StructSA leverages spatial (and temporal) structures of local correlations and aggregates chunks of local features globally across entire locations, effectively capturing relational information, *e.g.*, spatial layouts, motion, or inter-object relations in images and videos. Based on StructSA, we present a new architecture, named Structural Vision Transformer (StructViT), and demonstrate its effectiveness on both image and video classification tasks, achieving state-of-the-art results on ImageNet-1K, Kinetics-400, Something-Something V1 & V2, Diving-48, and FineGym.

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APPENDIX A FULL DERIVATION OF CONVSA AND STRUCTSA

APPENDIX A.1 CONVSA

In this section, we provide a full derivation of ConvSA with a conventional channel-wise convolution, of which weights are not shared across channels. Given the channel-wise convolution weights $\mathbf{H}^K, \mathbf{H}^V \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times M}$, c -th channel of each key k_i^{conv} and value v_i^{conv} is computed as,

$$\mathbf{k}_{i,c}^{\text{conv}} = \mathbf{H}_c^K \mathbf{K}_{i,:,c} \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (10)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_{i,c}^{\text{conv}} = \mathbf{H}_c^V \mathbf{V}_{i,:,c} \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (11)$$

where $\mathbf{K}_{i,:,c}$ and $\mathbf{V}_{i,:,c}$ indicates M elements of c th dfdf. Plugging Eqs. 10 and 11 into Eq. 6, each channel of ConvSA output is computed as,

$$\mathbf{y}_{i,c} = \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j \left(\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{k}_j^{\text{conv}^\top} \right) \mathbf{v}_j^{\text{conv}} \quad (12)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j \left(\sum_{c=1}^C \mathbf{q}_{i,c} \mathbf{H}_c^K \mathbf{K}_{j,:,c} \right) \mathbf{v}_j^{\text{conv}} \quad (13)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j \left(\sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{c=1}^C \mathbf{q}_{i,c} \mathbf{H}_{c,m}^K \mathbf{K}_{i,m,c} \right) \mathbf{v}_j^{\text{conv}} \quad (14)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j \left(\text{vec}(\mathbb{1} \mathbf{q}_i \odot \mathbf{K}_j) \text{vec}(\mathbf{H}^K) \right) \mathbf{H}_c^V \mathbf{V}_{j,:,c}, \quad (15)$$

where $\mathbb{1} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times 1}$ is column-wise one vector.

APPENDIX A.2 STRUCTSA

$\mathbf{H}^K, \mathbf{H}^V \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times M}$ To compute StructSA, we extend the pattern detector $\mathbf{H}^K$ and the context aggregator $\mathbf{H}^V$ to matrices $\mathbf{H}^K, \mathbf{H}^V$ and compute keys $\mathbf{K}_{i,c}^{\text{struct}}$ and values $\mathbf{V}_{i,c}^{\text{struct}}$, as,

$$\mathbf{H}^K = [\mathbf{H}_1^K, \dots, \mathbf{H}_D^K] \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times C \times M} \quad (16)$$

$$\mathbf{H}^V = [\mathbf{H}_1^V, \dots, \mathbf{H}_D^V] \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times C \times M} \quad (17)$$

$$\mathbf{K}_{i,c}^{\text{struct}} = \mathbf{H}_{:,c}^K \mathbf{K}_{i,:,c} \in \mathbb{R}^D, \quad (18)$$

$$\mathbf{V}_{i,c}^{\text{struct}} = \mathbf{H}_{:,c}^V \mathbf{V}_{i,:,c} \in \mathbb{R}^D, \quad (19)$$

From Eq. 18, 19 and 9, each channel of StructSA output can be formulated as,

$$\mathbf{y}_{i,c} = \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j \left(\mathbf{q}_i \mathbf{K}_j^{\text{struct}^\top} \right) \mathbf{V}_j^{\text{struct}} \quad (20)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j \left(\sum_{c=1}^C \mathbf{q}_{i,c} \mathbf{H}_{:,c}^K \mathbf{K}_{j,:,c} \right) \mathbf{V}_j^{\text{struct}} \quad (21)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j \left(\sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{c=1}^C \mathbf{q}_{i,c} \mathbf{H}_{:,c,m}^K \mathbf{K}_{i,m,c} \right) \mathbf{V}_j^{\text{struct}} \quad (22)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j \left(\text{vec}(\mathbb{1} \mathbf{q}_i \odot \mathbf{K}_j) f(\mathbf{H}^K)^\top \right) \mathbf{H}_c^V \mathbf{V}_{j,:,c}, \quad (23)$$

$$\text{where } f(\mathbf{H}^K)^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times MC}. \quad (24)$$