# **Latent Action Pretraining From Videos**

Anonymous Author(s) Affiliation Address email

Abstract: We introduce Latent Action Pretraining for general Action mod-1 els (LAPA), the first unsupervised method for pretraining Vision-Language-2 3 Action (VLA) models without ground-truth robot action labels. Existing Vision-Language-Action models require action labels typically collected by human tele-4 operators during pretraining, which significantly limits possible data sources and 5 scale. In this work, we propose a method to learn from internet-scale videos 6 that do not have robot action labels. We first train an action quantization model 7 leveraging VQ-VAE-based objective to learn discrete latent actions between im-8 9 age frames, then pretrain a *latent* VLA model to predict these latent actions from observations and task descriptions, and finally finetune the VLA on small-scale 10 robot manipulation data to map from latent to robot actions. Experimental results 11 demonstrate that our method outperforms the state-of-the-art VLA model trained 12 with robotic action labels on real-world manipulation tasks that require language 13 conditioning, generalization to unseen objects, and semantic generalization to un-14 15 seen instructions. Training only on human manipulation videos also shows positive transfer, opening up the potential for leveraging web-scale data for robotics 16 foundation model. 17

18 **Keywords:** Vision-Language-Action Models, Unsupervised Learning

## 19 1 Introduction

Vision-Language-Action Models (VLA) for robotics [1, 2] are trained by aligning large language 20 21 models with vision encoders, and then finetuning it on on diverse robot datasets [3]; this enables generalization to novel instructions, unseen objects, and distribution shifts [4]. However, diverse 22 real-world robot datasets mostly require human teleoperation, which makes scaling difficult. In-23 ternet video data, on the other hand, offers abundant examples of human behavior and physical 24 25 interactions at scale, presenting a promising approach to overcome the limitations of small, specialized robotic datasets [5]. However, it is challenging to learn from internet video data for two 26 27 major challenges: first, much of the raw data on the web lacks explicit action labels; second, the data distribution from the web is fundamentally different from the embodiments and environments 28 of typical robotic systems [6]. We propose Latent Action Pretraining for General Action Models 29 (LAPA), an unsupervised approach to pretraining a robotic foundation model without the need for 30 ground-truth robot action labels. 31

LAPA has two pretraining stages, followed by a fine-tuning stage to map the latent actions to real robot actions. In the first pretraining stage, we use a VQ-VAE-based objective [7] to learn quantized latent actions between raw image frames. Analogous to Byte Pair Encoding [8] used for language modeling, this can be seen as learning to tokenize atomic actions without requiring predefined action priors (e.g., end-effector positions, joint positions). In the second stage, we perform behavior cloning by pretraining a Vision-Language Model to predict latent actions derived from the first stage based on video observations and task descriptions. Finally, we fine-tune the model on a small-scale robot



Figure 1: **Overview of LAPA**. (1) Latent Action Quantization: We first learn discrete latent actions in a fully unsupervised manner using the VQ-VAE objective. (2) Latent Pretraining: The VLM is trained to predict latent actions, essentially performing behavior cloning. After pretraining, we finetune the LAPA model on a small set of action-labeled trajectories to map the latent space to the end effector delta action space.

- <sup>39</sup> manipulation dataset with robot actions to learn the mapping from the latent actions to robot actions.
- <sup>40</sup> In this work, we refer to both the proposed method and the resulting VLA models as LAPA.

41 We measure performance on diverse manipulation videos, including existing robot video datasets

(without utilizing ground-truth actions) and human manipulation datasets. On real-world manipula tion tasks, our method leads to a new monolithic VLA model, outperforming OPENVLA, the current

44 state-of-the-art model Vision Language Action (VLA) model trained on a diverse mixture of datasets

with ground-truth actions. These results demonstrate the effectiveness of learning unified quantized

latent action representations across diverse robotic datasets featuring different embodiments (shown

<sup>47</sup> in Appendix C). We further demonstrate that LAPA remains effective even when pretrained on *only* 

<sup>48</sup> human manipulation video, outperforming models pretrained on Bridgev2, one of the largest open-

49 sourced robotic datasets. We expect that our method opens up the potential for building foundation

50 models for robotics by pretraining on much larger web-scale video data.

<sup>51</sup> Our main contributions and findings are as follows: (1) We propose Latent Action Pretraining for <sup>52</sup> general Action models (LAPA), an unsupervised approach to pretraining a robotic foundation model <sup>53</sup> to encode robotic skills from web-scale video data. (2) Experiments on simulation and real-world <sup>54</sup> robot tasks show that our method not only significantly outperforms baseline methods for training <sup>55</sup> robotic manipulation policies from actionless video, but also leads to a VLA model that outper-<sup>56</sup> forms the current state-of-the-art VLA model trained with ground-truth actions (by +6.22%), while <sup>57</sup> achieving over 30x greater pretraining efficiency.

## <sup>58</sup> 2 LAPA: Latent Action Pretraining for general Action models

<sup>59</sup> LAPA is divided into two stages: Latent Action Quantization and Latent Pretraining (Figure 1).

#### 60 2.1 Latent Action Quantization

To learn latent actions in a fully unsupervised manner, we train a latent action quantization model 61 following Bruce et al. [9] with a few modifications. Our latent action quantization model is an 62 encoder-decoder architecture where the encoder takes the current frame  $x_t$  and the future frame 63  $x_{t+H}$  of a video with a fixed window size H and outputs the latent action  $z_t$ . The decoder is trained 64 to take the latent action  $z_t$  and  $x_t$  and reconstruct  $x_{t+H}$ . Unlike Bruce et al. [9], we use cross at-65 tention to attend  $z_t$  given  $x_t$  instead of additive embedding, which empirically leads to capturing 66 more semantically meaningful latent actions. Our quantization model is a variant of C-ViViT to-67 kenizer [10] where the encoder includes both spatial and temporal transformer while the decoder 68 only contains spatial transformer since our model uses only two image frames as input. Further 69 model details are provided in Appendix G. Our latent action quantization training model is based 70 on the VQ-VAE objective [11]. The VQ-VAE objective enables the latent action  $z_t$  to be discrete 71 tokens (codebooks), making it easy for VLMs to predict  $z_t$ . The latent action is represented using s 72 sequences from |C| codebook vocabulary space. To avoid gradient collapse often observed in VQ-73 VAE, we utilize NSVQ [12] which replaces the vector quantization error to a product of original 74



Figure 2: **Real-world Tabletop Manipulation Results.** We evaluate on a total of 54 rollouts for each model encompassing unseen object combinations, unseen objects and unseen instructions. Average success rate (%) are shown (detailed results provided in Appendix L.3).

error and a normalized noise vector. We also apply codebook replacement technique from NSVQ
 during early training steps to maximize codebook utilization.

#### 77 2.2 Latent Pretraining

We use the encoder of the latent action quantization model as an inverse dynamics model to label all 78  $x_t$ , given  $x_{t+1}$ , with  $z_t$ . Then, we pretrain a VLM to predict the  $z_t$  given the language instruction 79 of a video clip and the current image  $x_t$ . Instead of using the existing language model head of the 80 VLM, we attach a separate latent action head of vocab size |C|. By default, we freeze only the vision 81 encoder and unfreeze the language model during training. Since latent pretraining does not rely on 82 ground truth actions, it opens the possibility of using any type of raw video paired with language 83 instructions. Also, in contrast to traditional action granularity used in robotics (e.g. end-effector 84 positions, joint positions, joint torques, etc.), our approach does not require any priors about the 85 action hierarchy/granularity. 86

#### 87 2.3 Action Finetuning

VLAs that are pretrained to predict latent actions are not directly executable on real-world robots 88 since latent actions are not actual delta end-effector actions or joint actions. To map latent actions 89 to actual robot actions, we finetune LAPA on a small set of labeled trajectories that contain ground 90 truth actions (delta end-effector). For action prediction, we discretize the continuous action space 91 for each dimension of the robot so that the number of data points allocated for each bin is equal 92 following Kim et al. [2], Brohan et al. [1]. We discard the latent action head (a single MLP layer) 93 and replace it with a new action head to generate ground truth actions. As with latent pretraining, 94 95 we freeze the vision encoder and unfreeze all of the parameters of the underlying language model.

## 96 **3** Experiments

In this section, we demonstrate the effectiveness of LAPA as a general-purpose pretaining method. 97 Specifically, we focus on answering the following questions through a real-world tabletop manip-98 ulation setting: Q1. How does LAPA perform when there are cross-embodiment gaps between 99 pretaining and fine-tuning? Q2. Can LAPA learn superior priors compared to using ground-truth 100 actions during pretraining in a multi-embodiment setting? Q3. Can we create a performant LAPA 101 solely from raw human manipulation videos? We provide details of experimental setups and base-102 line models in Appendix H and I. We also provide preliminary experiment results that compare the 103 effect of LAPA with baseline methods of training manipulation policies from actionless videos on 104 Language Table [13] and SIMPLER [14] in Appendix A and analysis regarding the scaling of LAPA 105 in Appendix E. 106

We pretrain our models on (1) Bridgev2 for cross-embodiment performance (WidowX to Franka
embodiment), (2) Open X-Embodiment Dataset [3] to measure the effect of pretraining in a multiembodiment setting and (3) Something-Something V2 dataset [15] to see the potential of LAPA
pretrained on human manipulation videos. Figure 2 shows the average success rate across the 3

tasks where each task encompasses unseen object combination, object, and instruction settings. We provide detailed results depending on the generalization type in Table 12 in Appendix L.3.

Bridgev2 Pretraining We compare models that were pretrained on the Bridgev2 dataset. Similar 113 to previous results, all models pretrained on Bridgev2 result in significant performance enhancement 114 compared to SCRATCH. Furthermore, by comparing LAPA which does not leverage action-labeled 115 trajectories during pretraining with models that use action-labeled trajectories during pretraining 116 (ACTIONVLA and OPENVLA), we observe an interesting finding: LAPA outperform VLAs that 117 use action labeled pretraining data on average success rate of the 3 tasks, unlike previous scenar-118 ios where VLAs pretrained on the ground-truth actions were upper bounds. LAPA significantly 119 outperforms the other models in pick-and-place tasks; given that most tasks in Bridgev2 are pick-120 and-place, we hypothesize that VLA models pretrained on ground truth action labels have overfitted 121 to the WidowX action space from the Bridgev2 dataset, hampering cross-embodiment adaptability 122 to action distribution shifts during fine-tuning. In contrast, LAPA avoids this issue by not relying on 123 ground truth action labels during pretraining. 124

**Open-X Pretraining** From Figure 2, we see that VLAs pretrained on the Open-X dataset out-125 performs VLAs pretrained on the Bridgev2 dataset, showing that data scaling during pretraining 126 127 demonstrates positive transfer for downstream tasks [3]. This also suggests there could be significant further improvement when scaling the diversity and scale of the pretraining data, especially 128 with large web-scale video data. When comparing LAPA with OPENVLA, we see that LAPA sig-129 nificantly outperforms OPENVLA on 2 out of 3 tasks (Figure 2). This highlights LAPA's effective-130 ness in a multi-embodiment setting by showcasing its ability to leverage a shared latent action space 131 during pretraining, akin to how language and image representations are utilized. In contrast, contem-132 133 porary action pretraining methods may suffer from reduced positive transfer between datasets due to the variability in action representation spaces across different embodiments and datasets. However, 134 for pick and place task, LAPA underperforms OPENVLA. We observe that most failures of LAPA 135 are due to early grasping. In fact, LAPA outperforms OPENVLA in reaching performance (83.33% 136 vs 66.67%) (Appendix L.3). This suggests that, although LAPA possesses stronger language condi-137 tioning, there is room for improvement in skills such as grasping. Since grasping occurs only once 138 or twice in each trajectory, the 150 labeled trajectories may not be sufficient for LAPA to accurately 139 predict grasp actions based on the physical characteristics of diverse objects. 140

Human Video Pretraining We report the real-world robot experiments in Figure 2. Surprisingly, we can see that LAPA trained with human videos outperforms OPENVLA (Bridge) on average. Despite the larger embodiment gap for LAPA (Human to robot vs. Robot to robot), it learns a better prior for robot manipulation. This result highlights the potential of raw human manipulation videos from the web compared to expensive robot manipulation data, which requires time-intensive teleoperation to collect. Results comparing LAPA (Sthv2) with baseline models also trained with human video are shown in Appendix A.3.

### 148 4 Conclusion

In this paper, we introduce LAPA, a scalable pretraining method for building VLAs using actionless 149 videos. Across three benchmarks spanning both simulation and real-world robot experiments, we 150 show that our method significantly improves transfer to downstream tasks compared to existing 151 approaches. We also present a state-of-the-art VLA model that surpasses current models trained on 152 970K action-labeled trajectories. Furthermore, we demonstrate that LAPA can be applied purely on 153 human manipulation videos, where explicit action information is absent, and the embodiment gap is 154 155 substantial. We also show the pretraining efficiency of LAPA in Appendix B and qualitative analysis in Appendix C. We believe our work can be extended to build scalable robot foundation models. 156

#### 157 **References**

- [1] A. Brohan, N. Brown, J. Carbajal, Y. Chebotar, X. Chen, K. Choromanski, T. Ding, D. Driess,
   A. Dubey, C. Finn, et al. Rt-2: Vision-language-action models transfer web knowledge to
   robotic control. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2307.15818*, 2023.
- [2] M. J. Kim, K. Pertsch, S. Karamcheti, T. Xiao, A. Balakrishna, S. Nair, R. Rafailov, E. Foster,
   G. Lam, P. Sanketi, et al. Openvla: An open-source vision-language-action model. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2406.09246*, 2024.
- [3] O.-E. Collaboration, A. Padalkar, A. Pooley, A. Jain, A. Bewley, A. Herzog, A. Irpan, A. Khazatsky, A. Rai, A. Singh, et al. Open x-embodiment: Robotic learning datasets and rt-x models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.08864*, 2023.
- [4] Z. Michał, C. William, P. Karl, M. Oier, F. Chelsea, and L. Sergey. Robotic control via embod ied chain-of-thought reasoning. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.08693*, 2024.
- [5] S. Yang, J. C. Walker, J. Parker-Holder, Y. Du, J. Bruce, A. Barreto, P. Abbeel, and D. Schuurmans. Position: Video as the new language for real-world decision making. In *Proceedings of the 41st International Conference on Machine Learning*, 2024.
- [6] R. McCarthy, D. C. Tan, D. Schmidt, F. Acero, N. Herr, Y. Du, T. G. Thuruthel, and
   Z. Li. Towards generalist robot learning from internet video: A survey. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2404.19664*, 2024.
- [7] A. Van Den Oord, O. Vinyals, et al. Neural discrete representation learning. Advances in neural information processing systems, 30, 2017.
- [8] R. Sennrich, B. Haddow, and A. Birch. Neural machine translation of rare words with sub word units. In *Proceedings of the 54th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, 2016.
- [9] J. Bruce, M. D. Dennis, A. Edwards, J. Parker-Holder, Y. Shi, E. Hughes, M. Lai,
   A. Mavalankar, R. Steigerwald, C. Apps, et al. Genie: Generative interactive environments. In
   *Forty-first International Conference on Machine Learning*, 2024.
- [10] R. Villegas, M. Babaeizadeh, P.-J. Kindermans, H. Moraldo, H. Zhang, M. T. Saffar, S. Castro,
   J. Kunze, and D. Erhan. Phenaki: Variable length video generation from open domain textual
   descriptions. In *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2023.
- [11] A. van den Oord, O. Vinyals, and k. kavukcuoglu. Neural discrete representation learning. In
   *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2017.
- [12] M. H. Vali and T. Bäckström. Nsvq: Noise substitution in vector quantization for machine
   learning. *IEEE Access*, 10:13598–13610, 2022. doi:10.1109/ACCESS.2022.3147670.
- [13] C. Lynch, A. Wahid, J. Tompson, T. Ding, J. Betker, R. Baruch, T. Armstrong, and P. Florence.
   Interactive language: Talking to robots in real time. *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters*, pages 1–8, 2023. doi:10.1109/LRA.2023.3295255.
- [14] X. Li, K. Hsu, J. Gu, K. Pertsch, O. Mees, H. R. Walke, C. Fu, I. Lunawat, I. Sieh, S. Kirmani, et al. Evaluating real-world robot manipulation policies in simulation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.05941*, 2024.
- [15] R. Goyal, S. Ebrahimi Kahou, V. Michalski, J. Materzynska, S. Westphal, H. Kim, V. Haenel,
   I. Fruend, P. Yianilos, M. Mueller-Freitag, et al. The" something something" video database
   for learning and evaluating visual common sense. In *Proceedings of the IEEE international conference on computer vision*, 2017.

- [16] Y. Du, S. Yang, P. Florence, F. Xia, A. Wahid, brian ichter, P. Sermanet, T. Yu, P. Abbeel,
   J. B. Tenenbaum, L. P. Kaelbling, A. Zeng, and J. Tompson. Video language planning. In *The Twelfth International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2024.
- [17] H. R. Walke, K. Black, T. Z. Zhao, Q. Vuong, C. Zheng, P. Hansen-Estruch, A. W. He, V. My ers, M. J. Kim, M. Du, et al. Bridgedata v2: A dataset for robot learning at scale. In *Conference on Robot Learning*, 2023.
- [18] H. Liu, C. Li, Q. Wu, and Y. J. Lee. Visual instruction tuning. In *Thirty-seventh Conference* on Neural Information Processing Systems, 2023.
- <sup>208</sup> [19] C. Team. Chameleon: Mixed-modal early-fusion foundation models. *arXiv preprint* <sup>209</sup> *arXiv:2405.09818*, 2024.
- [20] H. Liu, W. Yan, M. Zaharia, and P. Abbeel. World model on million-length video and language
   with ringattention. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.08268*, 2024.
- [21] M. Abdin, S. A. Jacobs, A. A. Awan, J. Aneja, A. Awadallah, H. Awadalla, N. Bach, A. Bahree,
  A. Bakhtiari, H. Behl, et al. Phi-3 technical report: A highly capable language model locally
  on your phone. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2404.14219*, 2024.
- [22] O. M. Team, D. Ghosh, H. Walke, K. Pertsch, K. Black, O. Mees, S. Dasari, J. Hejna,
  T. Kreiman, C. Xu, et al. Octo: An open-source generalist robot policy. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.12213*, 2024.
- [23] D. Niu, Y. Sharma, G. Biamby, J. Quenum, Y. Bai, B. Shi, T. Darrell, and R. Herzig. Llarva:
   Vision-action instruction tuning enhances robot learning. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2406.11815*, 2024.
- [24] X. Li, C. Mata, J. Park, K. Kahatapitiya, Y. S. Jang, J. Shang, K. Ranasinghe, R. Burgert,
   M. Cai, Y. J. Lee, et al. Llara: Supercharging robot learning data for vision-language policy.
   *arXiv preprint arXiv:2406.20095*, 2024.
- [25] K. Grauman, A. Westbury, E. Byrne, Z. Chavis, A. Furnari, R. Girdhar, J. Hamburger, H. Jiang,
   M. Liu, X. Liu, et al. Ego4d: Around the world in 3,000 hours of egocentric video. In
   *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*, 2022.
- [26] S. Nair, A. Rajeswaran, V. Kumar, C. Finn, and A. Gupta. R3m: A universal visual representation for robot manipulation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2203.12601*, 2022.
- [27] S. Dasari, M. K. Srirama, U. Jain, and A. Gupta. An unbiased look at datasets for visuo-motor
   pre-training. In *Conference on Robot Learning*, 2023.
- [28] H. Wu, Y. Jing, C. Cheang, G. Chen, J. Xu, X. Li, M. Liu, H. Li, and T. Kong. Unleashing large scale video generative pre-training for visual robot manipulation. In *The Twelfth International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2024.
- [29] J. Liang, R. Liu, E. Ozguroglu, S. Sudhakar, A. Dave, P. Tokmakov, S. Song, and C. Von drick. Dreamitate: Real-world visuomotor policy learning via video generation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2406.16862*, 2024.
- [30] J. Zeng, Q. Bu, B. Wang, W. Xia, L. Chen, H. Dong, H. Song, D. Wang, D. Hu, P. Luo, et al.
   Learning manipulation by predicting interaction. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2406.00439*, 2024.
- [31] S. Bahl, R. Mendonca, L. Chen, U. Jain, and D. Pathak. Affordances from human videos as a
   versatile representation for robotics. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*, 2023.
- [32] A. Kannan, K. Shaw, S. Bahl, P. Mannam, and D. Pathak. Deft: Dexterous fine-tuning for real-world hand policies. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.19797*, 2023.

- [33] M. K. Srirama, S. Dasari, S. Bahl, and A. Gupta. Hrp: Human affordances for robotic pretraining. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.18911*, 2024.
- [34] K. Shaw, S. Bahl, and D. Pathak. Videodex: Learning dexterity from internet videos. In
   *Conference on Robot Learning*, 2023.
- [35] C. Wen, X. Lin, J. So, K. Chen, Q. Dou, Y. Gao, and P. Abbeel. Any-point trajectory modeling for policy learning. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2401.00025*, 2023.
- [36] H. Bharadhwaj, R. Mottaghi, A. Gupta, and S. Tulsiani. Track2act: Predicting point
   tracks from internet videos enables diverse zero-shot robot manipulation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.01527*, 2024.
- [37] C. Wang, L. Fan, J. Sun, R. Zhang, L. Fei-Fei, D. Xu, Y. Zhu, and A. Anandkumar. Mimicplay:
   Long-horizon imitation learning by watching human play. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2302.12422*, 2023.
- [38] Y. Zhu, A. Lim, P. Stone, and Y. Zhu. Vision-based manipulation from single human video
   with open-world object graphs. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.20321*, 2024.
- [39] H. Bharadhwaj, A. Gupta, S. Tulsiani, and V. Kumar. Zero-shot robot manipulation from passive human videos. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2302.02011*, 2023.
- [40] J. Ye, J. Wang, B. Huang, Y. Qin, and X. Wang. Learning continuous grasping function with
   a dexterous hand from human demonstrations. *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters*, 8(5):
   2882–2889, 2023.
- [41] Y. Qin, Y.-H. Wu, S. Liu, H. Jiang, R. Yang, Y. Fu, and X. Wang. Dexmv: Imitation learning
   for dexterous manipulation from human videos. In *European Conference on Computer Vision*,
   2022.
- [42] J. Yang, Z.-a. Cao, C. Deng, R. Antonova, S. Song, and J. Bohg. Equibot: Sim (3)-equivariant diffusion policy for generalizable and data efficient learning. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.01479*, 2024.
- [43] Y. Du, S. Yang, B. Dai, H. Dai, O. Nachum, J. B. Tenenbaum, D. Schuurmans, and P. Abbeel.
   Learning universal policies via text-guided video generation. In *Thirty-seventh Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2023.
- [44] P.-C. Ko, J. Mao, Y. Du, S.-H. Sun, and J. B. Tenenbaum. Learning to act from actionless
   videos through dense correspondences. In *The Twelfth International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2024.
- [45] S. Yang, Y. Du, S. K. S. Ghasemipour, J. Tompson, L. P. Kaelbling, D. Schuurmans, and
   P. Abbeel. Learning interactive real-world simulators. In *The Twelfth International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2024.
- [46] H. Bharadhwaj, D. Dwibedi, A. Gupta, S. Tulsiani, C. Doersch, T. Xiao, D. Shah, F. Xia,
  D. Sadigh, and S. Kirmani. Gen2act: Human video generation in novel scenarios enables
  generalizable robot manipulation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2409.16283*, 2024.
- [47] B. Baker, I. Akkaya, P. Zhokov, J. Huizinga, J. Tang, A. Ecoffet, B. Houghton, R. Sampedro,
   and J. Clune. Video pretraining (vpt): Learning to act by watching unlabeled online videos. In
   *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2022.
- [48] A. D. Edwards, H. Sahni, Y. Schroecker, and C. L. Isbell. Imitating latent policies from observation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1805.07914*, 2018.
- [49] D. Schmidt and M. Jiang. Learning to act without actions. In *The Twelfth International Con- ference on Learning Representations*, 2024.

- [50] K. Cobbe, C. Hesse, J. Hilton, and J. Schulman. Leveraging procedural generation to bench mark reinforcement learning. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1912.01588*, 2019.
- [51] C. Lynch, M. Khansari, T. Xiao, V. Kumar, J. Tompson, S. Levine, and P. Sermanet. Learning
   latent plans from play. In *Conference on robot learning*, pages 1113–1132. PMLR, 2020.
- [52] Z. Jiang, Y. Xu, N. Wagener, Y. Luo, M. Janner, E. Grefenstette, T. Rocktäschel, and Y. Tian.
   H-gap: Humanoid control with a generalist planner. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2312.02682*, 2023.
- [53] S. Lee, Y. Wang, H. Etukuru, H. J. Kim, N. M. M. Shafiullah, and L. Pinto. Behavior generation
   with latent actions. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.03181*, 2024.
- [54] A. Mete, H. Xue, A. Wilcox, Y. Chen, and A. Garg. Quest: Self-supervised skill abstractions
   for learning continuous control. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.15840*, 2024.
- [55] J. Kaplan, S. McCandlish, T. Henighan, T. B. Brown, B. Chess, R. Child, S. Gray, A. Rad ford, J. Wu, and D. Amodei. Scaling laws for neural language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2001.08361*, 2020.
- [56] R. Villegas, M. Babaeizadeh, P.-J. Kindermans, H. Moraldo, H. Zhang, M. T. Saffar, S. Castro,
   J. Kunze, and D. Erhan. Phenaki: Variable length video generation from open domain textual
   descriptions. In *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2022.
- [57] S. Belkhale, T. Ding, T. Xiao, P. Sermanet, Q. Vuong, J. Tompson, Y. Chebotar, D. Dwibedi,
   and D. Sadigh. Rt-h: Action hierarchies using language. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.01823*,
   2024.
- [58] E. J. Hu, yelong shen, P. Wallis, Z. Allen-Zhu, Y. Li, S. Wang, L. Wang, and W. Chen. LoRA:
   Low-rank adaptation of large language models. In *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2022.
- [59] H. Kress-Gazit, K. Hashimoto, N. Kuppuswamy, P. Shah, P. Horgan, G. Richardson, S. Feng,
   and B. Burchfiel. Robot learning as an empirical science: Best practices for policy evaluation.
   *arXiv preprint arXiv:2409.09491*, 2024.

## **313 A Preliminary Experiments**

#### 314 A.1 Language Table Results

Table 1: Language Table Results. Average Success Rate (%) across the three different pretrain-finetune combinations from the Language Table benchmark as described in Table 2. We also note the # of trajectories used for fine-tuning next to each category.

	In-domain (1k)		Cross-ta	ask (7k)	Cross-env (1k)		
	Seen	Unseen	Seen	Unseen	Seen	Unseen	
SCRATCH	$15.6_{\pm 9.2}$	$15.2_{\pm 8.3}$	$27.2_{\pm 13.6}$	$22.4_{\pm 11.0}$	$15.6_{\pm 9.2}$	$15.2_{\pm 8.3}$	
UniPi	$22.0_{\pm 12.5}$	$13.2_{\pm 7.7}$	$20.8_{\pm 12.0}$	$16.0_{\pm 9.1}$	$13.6_{\pm 8.6}$	$12.0_{\pm 7.5}$	
Vpt	$44.0_{\pm 7.5}$	$32.8_{\pm 4.6}$	$72.0_{\pm 6.8}$	$60.8_{\pm 6.6}$	$18.0_{\pm 7.7}$	$18.4_{\pm 9.7}$	
LAPA	$\textbf{62.0}_{\pm 8.7}$	$\textbf{49.6}_{\pm 9.5}$	$73.2_{\pm 6.8}$	$54.8_{\pm 9.1}$	$\textbf{33.6}_{\pm 12.7}$	$\textbf{29.6}_{\pm 12.0}$	
ACTIONVLA	$77.0_{\pm 3.5}$	$58.8_{\pm 6.6}$	$77.0_{\pm 3.5}$	$58.8_{\pm 6.6}$	$64.8_{\pm 5.2}$	$54.0_{\pm 7.0}$	

In-Domain Performance First, we assess LAPA's ability to learn from a small subset of in-315 domain action label data by pretraining on 181k trajectories and finetuning on 1k action-labeled 316 trajectories (0.5%). As shown in Table 1, LAPA largely outperforms SCRATCH and narrows the 317 gap with ACTIONVLA despite not using action labels during pretraining. Additionally, LAPA sur-318 passes UNIPI and VPT. Notably, while UNIPI handles simple tasks well, its diffusion model often 319 generates incorrect plans for longer-horizon tasks, aligning with Du et al. [16]. VPT, with the same 320 backbone VLM as LAPA, outperforms UNIPI, showing the superiority of the VLA model, but still 321 underperforms LAPA, highlighting the effectiveness of latent actions. 322

**Cross-Task Performance** We investigate whether LAPA's broad skills can be retained after fine-323 tuning on a specific task. Pretraining LAPA on 181k trajectories and finetuning on only separate 324 tasks (7k), we evaluate all 5 task categories, similar to the in-domain setup, to assess latent pretrain-325 ing's benefits for unseen tasks. When comparing LAPA and SCRATCH in Table 1 and Table 6, 7 326 in Appendix L.1, latent pretraining significantly benefits the separate task as well the other 4 task 327 categories, resulting in a significant boost in both seen and unseen setups. Like before, UNIPI is 328 constrained by its diffusion model's planning limitations, while VPT performs strongly, even sur-329 passing ACTIONVLA in the unseen setting. This is likely due to using more labeled data (7k vs. 330 1k), helping the IDM generate more accurate pseudo labels. 331

**Cross-Environment Performance** We further investigate if LAPA benefits downstream perfor-332 mance when the pretraining and fine-tuning environments are different. We pretrain LAPA on 440k 333 real-world trajectories, and then finetune on 1k simulation trajectories, which can be seen as testing 334 on a setup where a real2sim gap is present (Figure 7 (a)). From Table 1, we observe that LAPA still 335 significantly outperforms SCRATCH, showing that latent pretraining leads to positive transfer even 336 on cross-environment setting. Notably, both UNIPI and VPT significantly underperforms LAPA, 337 showing that learning to predict latent actions is more robust to cross-environment transfer. VPT 338 339 only results in minor positive transfer, indicating that the IDM is not robust to environment shifts.

#### 340 A.2 SIMPLER Results

We pretrain our models on the Bridgev2 [17] dataset and fine-tune on 100 trajectories collected from 341 the SIMPLER environment [14]. As shown in Figure 3a, UNIPI significantly underperforms all 342 other baselines on the SIMPLER Environment. We observe that, although the generated plans from 343 the diffusion models are quite accurate, the IDM lacks the capability to predict 7 DOF continuous 344 actions accurately when given only 100 action-labeled trajectories. This implies the effectivness 345 of using VLAs in scenarios with insufficient action-labeled data. Similar to the results of Section 346 A.1, LAPA outperforms baseline models that pretrain on actionless videos (UNIPI and VPT) and 347 closes the performance gap with ACTIONVLA, which is pretrained on all of the 60K action-labeled 348 trajectories from the Bridgev2 dataset. This highlights the effectiveness of LAPA, even when the 349 complexity of the action space increases. 350



Figure 3: **SIMPLER Results.** Average success rate (%) of LAPA and baselines pretrained on bridge and fine-tuned on SIMPLER (left). We also pretrain on human manipluation videos where the embodiment and environment gap is extreme and fine-tune on SIMPLER (right).

#### 351 A.3 Human Manipulation Videos

We first evaluate the performance of LAPA pretrained on human videos on SIMPLER. In addition 352 to SCRATCH, we also compare with UNIPI and VPT pretrained with the same human video dataset. 353 As shown in Figure 3b, LAPA outperforms SCRATCH, showing that although the distribution of the 354 pretraining data is distinct from the deployment setup, leveraging human videos for latent action 355 pretraining results in positive transfer. Also, consistent with the result of Section A.2, LAPA shows 356 the best performance, implying that Latent Action Pretraining is robust to human to robot embodi-357 ment shifts. Note that it is impossible to train ACTIONVLA because the human videos do not have 358 any robot action labels. 359

## **360 B Pretraining Efficiency**

The benefit of LAPA extends beyond downstream task performance to include pretraining efficiency. 361 For pretraining LAPA (Open-X), the best-performing model, we use 8 H100 GPUs for 34 hours with 362 a batch size of 128 (total of 272 H100-hours). In contrast, OPENVLA required a total of 21,500 363 A100-hours with a batch size of 2048. Despite being approximately 30-40 times more efficient for 364 pretraining, LAPA still outperforms OPENVLA. We believe this efficiency stems from two factors. 365 First, the training objective during LWM pretraining which corresponds to generating the next frame 366 in a video, enables the model to implicitly understand high-level actions in a video. Notably, AC-367 TIONVLA (Bridge), which uses LWM as the backbone reaches optimal performance in significantly 368 fewer epochs (3 epochs) compared to OPENVLA (Bridge), which uses Prismatic as the backbone 369 (30 epochs). Second, the action space for LAPA is much smaller than that for OPENVLA ( $8^4$  vs. 370  $256^7$ ), making learning the perception-and-language to action generation problem easier to learn. 371 For all LAPA models (BridgeV2, Open-X, Human Videos), we observe that a single epoch of train-372 ing is sufficient to achieve optimal performance. 373

#### 374 C Latent Action Analysis

We qualitatively analyze the alignment of quantized latent actions with real continuous actions. For 375 interpretation, we condition the current image observation  $x_1$  and each latent action on the decoder 376 of the latent action quantization model, and present the reconstructed images. In Language Table, 377 we observe that each latent action corresponds to a distinct movement of the robot arm (shown 378 in Figure 11, 12 of Appendix K). Next, for human manipulation videos, we observe that camera 379 viewpoints also correspond to a latent action (shown in Figure 13 of Appendix K). We also analyze 380 the latent actions learned from the Open-X embodiment, which encompasses multiple embodiments, 381 tasks, and environments. As shown in Figure 4, even though the embodiment and environment 382 differ, conditioning on the same latent action results in a similar action in the reconstructed image. 383 This supports our previous claim that latent actions are learned in a shared representation space, 384 facilitating stronger positive transfer across diverse datasets. 385



Figure 4: Latent Action Analysis. We condition the current observation  $x_1$  and quantized latent action to the decoder of the latent action quantization model. We observe that each latent action can be mapped into a semantic action. For example, latent action [1,1,3,2] corresponds to going down and left while [3,2,0,1] corresponds to going up a little bit.

We qualitatively analyze LAPA's coarse-grained planning through a closed-loop rollout using a pretrained model without action finetuning. Since latent actions aren't directly executable, we condition the current observation  $x_1$  and LAPA's predicted latent action with the decoder of the quantization model. As shown in Figure 10 in Appendix, when instructed to "take the broccoli out of the pot," LAPA generates robot trajectories that reach for the broccoli, grab it, and, as the arm moves away, the broccoli disappears. This demonstrates LAPA's potential as a general-purpose robotic *world model*, predicting both actions and their outcomes.

#### **393 D Related Work**

Vision-Language Action Models Vision-Language Models (VLMs), trained on large-scale inter-394 net datasets have shown strong capabilities in understanding and generating both text and mul-395 timodal data [18, 19, 20, 21]. Leveraging this, recent advancements have introduced Vision-396 Language-Action Models (VLAs), which extend VLMs by fine-tuning them with robotic action data 397 [1, 2, 22, 3]. Incorporating auxiliary objectives, such as visual traces [23], language reasoning paths 398 [4], or creating conversational-style instruction datasets [24], have further improved VLA perfor-399 mance. However, these methods remain dependent on labeled action data. In contrast, our approach 400 reduces reliance on human-teleoperated data by requiring labeled actions only for fine-tuning. 401

Training Robot Policies From Videos Videos offer rich data for robot learning, but most lack 402 action labels [6]. Related work pretrains a vision encoder on egocentric human videos [25, 26, 403 27], or video generative models to generate future robot trajectories [28, 29]. Methods also extract 404 diverse features from human videos such as interactions [30], affordances [31, 32, 33, 34], or visual 405 traces [35, 36]. Some perform retargeting of human motions to robot actions [37, 38, 34, 39, 40, 41] 406 or motion capture systems [42]. Finally, some train inverse dynamics models (IDMs), optical flow, 407 or reinforcement learning models that predict actions from future state rollouts generated by world 408 models [43, 44, 45, 46, 47]. 409

**Latent Actions** Previous works have employed latent actions across diverse scenarios. GENIE [9] 410 maps user inputs (ground-truth actions) to a latent space, allowing generative models to create in-411 teractive environments. We adopt a similar latent action model but apply it to label actionless data 412 for training a VLA to solve robotic tasks. Similarly, some works use latent actions to pretrain and 413 fine-tune policies for video games [48, 49, 50]. In contrast, we focus on learning latent actions 414 from real-world human motions for more complex, continuous robotic tasks. Unlike other work that 415 leverages latent actions by converting ground-truth actions into latent actions [51, 52, 53, 54], our 416 approach derives latent actions directly from observations. 417

## 418 E Scaling Model, Data, and Latent Action Size



Figure 5: Scaling Ablation Results of LAPA. We scale 3 dimensions of LAPA: model parameters (in millions), data size (ratio among Bridgev2), and the latent action representation space, and show the downstream average success rate (%) on the SIMPLER fine-tuning tasks.

Large Language Models (LLMs) have demonstrated scaling laws [55], where performance improves
with increases in model size, dataset size, and computational resources used for training. Similarly,
we attempt to analyze whether LAPA benefits from scaling across three dimensions: latent action
quantization model size, data size, and latent action representation space. For a controlled setup, we

<sup>423</sup> apply our method to Bridgev2 and then fine-tune it on SIMPLER except for Language Table result <sup>424</sup> of Figure 5c.

As shown in Figure 5, scaling benefits LAPA across the three dimensions. Interestingly, we observe 425 that the optimal scale of the latent action space depends on the complexity of the action dimension 426 contained in the pretraining dataset. For example, increasing the latent action size for Language 427 Table pretraining eventually harms the performance after a certain point. Except for Language Table, 428 we maintain the generation space of LAPA at  $8^4$  throughout all of our main experiments. These 429 results imply that when scaling pretraining to Internet-scale videos that go beyond manipulation 430 videos, scaling LAPA in terms of model, dataset, and latent action space could improve performance, 431 especially to capture higher action dimensions such as whole-body locomotion and manipulation. 432

## 433 F Limitations

We still face certain limitations. First, LAPA underperforms compared to action pretraining when 434 it comes to fine-grained motion generation tasks like grasping. We believe that increasing the la-435 tent action generation space could help address this issue. Second, similar to prior VLAs, LAPA 436 also encounters latency challenges during real-time inference. Adopting a hierarchical architecture, 437 where a smaller head predicts actions at a higher frequency, could potentially reduce latency and 438 improve fine-grained motion generation. Lastly, while we qualitatively demonstrate that our latent 439 action space captures camera movements (Figure 13), we have not yet explored the application of 440 LAPA beyond manipulation videos, such as those from self-driving cars, navigation, or landscape 441 scenes. We leave these explorations for future work. We hope that our work can help overcome the 442 data bottleneck in robotics and accelerate the development of generalist robot policies. 443

## 444 G Latent Action Quatization Model Details

We show model architecture details of our latent action quantization model in Figure 6. We utilize the C-ViViT model architecture from Villegas et al. [56] to replicate the latent action model from GENIE [9]. After latent model training, we utilize the  $z_2$  as the latent action label for  $x_1$ . The encoder can be seen as the inverse dynamics model and the decoder can be seen as the world model.

#### 449 H Experimental Setup

We evaluate the effectiveness of LAPA on 9 different task categories in 2 different simulation environments and 3 different real-world robotic tasks. Table 2 shows an overview of the pretraining and



Figure 6: Model architecture of our Latent Action Quantization Model.

Environment Category		Pretrainin	g	Fine-tuning		
		Dataset	# Trajs	Dataset	# Trajs	
	In-Domain	Sim (All 5 tasks)	181k	5 Tasks (MT, MI)	1k	
LangTable	Cross-Task	Sim (All 5 tasks)	181k	1 Task (MI)	7k	
	Cross-Env	Real (All 5 tasks)	442k	5 tasks (MT, MI)	1k	
SIMDI ED	In-Domain	Bridgev2	60k	4 Tasks (MT)	100	
SIMI LER	Cross-Emb	Something v2	200k	4 Tasks (MT)	100	
	Cross-Emb	Bridgev2	60k	3 tasks (MI)	450	
Real-World	Multi-Emb	Open-X	970k	3 tasks (MI)	450	
	Cross-Emb	Something v2	200k	3 tasks (MI)	450	

Table 2: **Pretraining and fine-tuning dataset for each environment.** Cross-Env denotes cross-environment, Cross-Emb denotes cross-embodiment, and Multi-Emb denotes multi-embodiment. For fine-tuning, MT denotes multi-task training and MI denotes tasks with diverse multi-instructions.

fine-tuning dataset for each setup and Figure 7 visualizes the simulation benchmark and real-world
 setups.

Language Table [13] is a simulation where a robot performs 2 DOF actions to push blocks with 5 subtask categories (see Figure 7) (a)). Figure 7 (a) shows examples of the Language Table setup. During evaluation, we evaluate models for both *seen* and *unseen* scenarios, where *unseen* includes new objects (color and shape) and unseen combinations of seen objects. It includes 5 subtask categories: BlocktoBlock, BlocktoAbsolute, BlocktoBlockRelative, BlocktoRelative, and Separate. For Language Table experiments, we train VLA-based models to generate language directions (e.g. 'move up') before actual actions following Belkhale et al. [57], which significantly improved the



Figure 7: **Experimental Setups**. (a) shows an example from the 440k real-world trajectories (top) and the 181k simulation trajectories (bottom) from the Language Table Benchmark. (b) shows the 4 different evaluation tasks we use with the SIMPLER environment. (c) shows the three different tasks that we perform in the real-world.

<sup>461</sup> performance <sup>1</sup>. For evaluation, we evaluate on 50 evaluation rollouts for each subtask category <sup>462</sup> where the initial locations of the objects are randomized for each evaluation. Further details can be <sup>463</sup> found in https://github.com/google-research/language-table.

**SIMPLER** [14] is a set of simulated environments for evaluating generalist robot manipulation poli-464 cies. We assess our models on 4 tasks (Figure 7 (b)) using the 7 DOF WidowX robot arm. Since 465 SIMPLER lacks fine-tuning trajectories, we collect 100 multi-task trajectories using successful roll-466 outs from a VLA model trained on BridgeV2 data [17]. Figure 7 (B) shows examples of the SIM-467 PLER setup. The SIMPLER environment does not provide any fine-tuning data for their evaluation 468 pipeline, Thus, we first train our underlying VLM on the Bridgev2 dataset and perform zero-shot 469 rollout on the 4 tasks in SIMPLER. Note that we use held-out trajectories differing in object orienta-470 tion and position from the evaluation setup. We filter 25 successful trajectories for each task (total of 471 472 100) and use them as the fine-tuning dataset for all of our experiments. For evaluation, we evaluate on 24 rollouts per task while randomizing the initial object locations. We consider Bridgev2 and 473 SIMPLER to be *in-domain* since they show a high correlation between real-world and simulation 474 results with their simulation benchmark. Further details can be found in https://github.com/simpler-475 env/SimplerEnv. 476

Real-World Tabletop Manipulation experiments used a 7 DOF Franka Emika Panda robot arm in 477 three environments (shown in Figure 7 (c)). We utilize three pretraining data sources: Bridgev2 [17], 478 Open-X [3], and Something Something v2 [15]. Following Kim et al. [2], we finetune on three multi-479 instruction tasks: (1) 'Pick <object> into Sink', (2) 'Cover <object> with Towel', and (3) 'Knock 480 <object> Over'. Each task involves 150 trajectories across 15 objects. We use a task-specific partial 481 success criterion for evaluation, following Kim et al. [2]. Figure 7 (C) shows examples of the real-482 world tabletop manipulation experimental setup. For the teleoperation, we use the polymetis robotic 483  $stack^2$  to collect 150 trajectories for each of the tasks. All of the tasks require multi-instruction 484 following capabilities since there are 3 objects in the scene and the model has to condition on the 485 task description to infer which object to interact with. Figure 8 shows samples of each task. For 486 each task, we aim to quantify 3 distinct capabilities: 487

(1) We test the ability to infer the correct object from the task description between an unseen com bination of seen objects during fine-tuninig, (2) We test the ability to infer the correct object from
 totally unseen objects during fine-tuning that may or may have not been observed during pretraining.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>For 7 DOF robot experiments, we found the benefit of generating language directions to be marginal compared to the increased inference cost. Therefore, we only generate delta end-effector actions on other experiments.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://github.com/facebookresearch/polymetis

Specifically, the *knocking* tasks was conducted with real-world objects that were highly unlikely to 491 have been in any of the pertaining datasets. (3) We test the ability to infer the correct object (among 492 seen objects, unseen combinations) from a totally unseen instruction that requires semantic reason-493 ing (e.g. Pick up a spicy object). For each evaluation criteria, 6 rollouts are performed for each 494 models, resulting in a total of 18 rollouts for each task category. Since there are three tasks, each 495 model is evaluated with 54 rollouts in the real-world. We provide the full list of all of the seen and 496 unseen objects used for each rollout in Table 13, 14, 15, and the total average success rates in Table 497 16. 498

Furthermore, for a fair comparison, we match the image resolution during training of all of our models and use the exact same object initial positions for all of our evaluation, mostly on the same day to minimize variability. For evaluation metrics, we adapt a partial success criteria for finegrained evaluation, following Kim et al. [2], which we describe in detail below.

- 503 Knock down the <object>.
- For knocking, we give 0.5 partial score if the robot reaches to the correct object and 1 if the robot knocks down the correct object.
- 506 *Cover the <object> with a towel.*

For covering, we give 0.33 partial score if the robot picks up the towel correctly, 0.66 if the robot reaches to the correct object or if the towel partially covers the object, and 1 if the correct object is completely covered by the towel.

510 *Pick up the <object> and put it in the sink.* 

For pick and place, we give 0.25 for reaching to the correct object, 0.5 for grasping the object, 0.75 for grasping and moving the object towards the sink, but failing to place the object in the sink, and

<sup>513</sup> 1 for placing the correct object in the sink.

## 514 I Baseline Models

<sup>515</sup> For the underlying VLM, we use the 7B Large World Model (LWM-Chat-1M) [20].

516 **SCRATCH** denotes the baseline model where we finetune our backbone VLM only on the down-517 stream tasks, to quantify the gains we get from the pretraining stage.

**UNIPI** [43] uses a video diffusion model during pretraining to generate video rollouts given a lan-518 guage instruction, which does not require any action labels during pretraining similar to our ap-519 proach. For finetuning, an inverse dynamics model (IDM) is trained to extract the ground truth 520 actions given adjacent frames. We also finetune the diffusion model on the downstream task to 521 match the target distribution. We use diffusion model from Ko et al. [44] which can be trained on 522 4 A100 GPUs. For all experiments, we train with 128 batch. We use the same inverse dynamics 523 model as VPT during inference. To mediate estimation errors between the predicted video plans and 524 executed actions being accumulated, we periodically conduct replanning by regenerating new video 525 plans after executing two actions. 526

VPT [47] trains an IDM on action labeled data, and uses the IDM model to extract pseudo actions on raw videos. Then, we use the pseudo actions labeled by the IDM to pretrain our backbone VLM on the pretraining data, identical to Latent Pretraining of LAPA. We use ResNet18 followed by an MLP layer for the inverse dynamics model(IDM). The IDM is trained to predict an action when given two frames on a single A6000 GPU using using Adam optimizer with a learning rate 1e-4.

ACTIONVLA denotes the baseline that uses the actual ground-truth robot action labels during pretraining with the same backbone VLM. ACTIONVLA denotes the baseline that uses the actual ground-truth robot action labels during pretraining with the same backbone VLM. For ACTION-VLA and LAPA, we train with a batch size of 128 and with image augmentation for real-world finetuning. This may be seen as the upper bound, since it utilizes the actual ground-truth labels.

**OPENVLA** [2] is a state-of-the-art VLA model that was pretrained on 970k real-world robot demon-537 strations from the Open X-Embodiment Dataset and having a comparable model size to LAPA (7B). 538 We compare against OPENVLA for real-world robot experiments by fine-tuning the pretrained 539 OPENVLA on our downstream tasks. For OpenVLA (Bridge), we pretrain on Bridgev2 for 30 540 epochs with a batch size of 1024. For OpenVLA (Open-X), we use the pretrained checkpoint from 541 Kim et al. [2]. For finetuning, we use LoRA finetuning [58] with batch size of 32. We have observed 542 that full-finetuning and lora finetuning leads to similar performance, so we use LoRA finetuning as 543 default for efficient fine-tuning. We finetune the model until the training action accuracy reaches 544 95%. 545

## 546 J Experimental Result Analysis

Table 3: **Pretraining trajectories statistics for downstream tasks.** Number of trajectories that are the same task with evaluation task for each pretraining dataset: Bridgev2, Open-X, and Something Something V2 (Sthv2) dataset.

Task	Bridgev2	Open-X	Sthv2
Knocking	2	7,969	6,655
Covering	898	5,026	6,824
Pick & Place	10,892	911,166	3,272

We further analyze the real-world robot results shown in Figures 2, focusing on how the task dis-547 tribution in pretraining data impacts downstream performance. Table 3 presents the number of tra-548 jectories corresponding to each evaluation task (Knocking, Covering, and Pick & Place) across pre-549 training datasets (Bridgev2, Open-X, and Something Something V2 (Sthv2)), determined through 550 *lexical* matching. We expect future work to use other methods of analyzing the relationship between 551 pertaining and fine-tuning task distributions that capture *semantics* of the task rather than simple lex-552 ical matching. We perform this analysis to get a sense of how the task distribution in the pretraining 553 data affects downstream task performance. 554

**Knocking** There are almost no knocking-related trajectories in Bridgev2. This scarcity may explain why models trained on Bridgev2 performed worse compared to those trained on Sthv2, despite a larger embodiment gap in the Sthv2 dataset (Figure 2).

**Covering** A similar trend is observed for the covering task. Given that the number of covering trajectories in Bridgev2 is relatively small compared to the Sthv2 dataset, models trained on Bridgev2 occasionally underperform compared to LAPA trained on Sthv2.

**Pick & Place** For the pick and place task, the trend reverses. The number of pick and place tasks in Sthv2 is relatively small compared to Bridgev2 and Open-X, which might explain why LAPA trained on Sthv2 significantly underperforms models trained on Bridgev2 or Open-X. Based on these results, we expect that pretraining on videos encompassing a wide range of skills will lead to a more robust generalist policy compared to training on robot videos with narrower skill sets. We also expect future research to provide a more in-depth analysis of the relationship between task distribution in pretraining data and performance on downstream tasks.

We also present the win rate of LAPA (Open-X) against OpenVLA (Open-X). As illustrated in Fig-568 ure 9, LAPA outperforms OpenVLA in 65.4% when disregarding the ties. When considering the 569 ties, LAPA outperforms OpenVLA in 31.5% of cases, while OpenVLA prevails in only 16.7%. In-570 terestingly, they tie in 51.9% of the trials, suggesting that in about half the instances, both models 571 either fail or achieve a similar partial success score. Note that these evaluations were performed 572 while ensuring that the target and distractor objects were in identical initial locations during eval-573 uation, alternating the models during evaluation. These results provide insight into the statistical 574 significance of the comparison, supporting the use of multiple metrics to ensure a more compre-575

hensive evaluation of physical robot performance in real-world scenarios [59], not only the average
 success-rate across all of the evaluation rollouts.

### 578 K Detailed Latent Action Analysis

We provide further qualitative analysis of LAPA. First, we analyze latent actions learned from Lan-579 guage Table with vocabulary size of 8 and sequence length of 1. In Figure 11, we show that each 580 latent action corresponds to a semantic action (0: Move left and forward, 1: Move left and back, 581 2: Move right and back, 3: Move right slightly, 4: Move right, 5: Move back, 6: Do not move, 582 583 7: Move forward). We observe that increasing the latent action vocabulary size leads to capturing a more fine-grained information. We analyze the relationship between latent actions with ground-584 truth 2 DOF actions by mapping each instance into latent action space. As shown in Figure 12, 585 we observe that latent actions are well-clustered in the actual 2D action space, indicating that latent 586 actions are meaningful representations that are highly related to actual continuous actions. 587

We further analyze the latent actions learned from human manipulation videos using the Something-Something V2 dataset. As illustrated in Figure 13, these latent actions capture not only hand movements but also camera movements. Since the camera viewpoint varies throughout the videos in the Something-Something V2 dataset due to the videos being egocentric, our latent action quantization model also learns to represent camera movements. For instance, latent actions [3,5,2,7] and [5,6,7,6] correspond to slight downward camera movement, [4,0,0,4] and [2,3,6,6] indicate rightward movement, and [4,2,0,0] and [5,7,0,5] represent subtle upward camera shifts.

#### 595 L Detailed Experimental Results

#### 596 L.1 Language Table

We provide the detailed results of the experiments performed on the Language Table benchmark in Table 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. For all of the tables in the appendix, we **bold** the best result among the comparisons and <u>underline</u> the second best. Each value denotes the success rate (%). 50 evaluation rollouts are performed for each task category, resulting in 250 total evaluation rollouts per model for each table.

We also show the qualitative result of UNIPI where the diffusion model generates the correct plan for simple and short-horizon tasks (e.g. separate tasks). However, the diffusion model generates the wrong plan corresponding to the instruction when the task requires longer horizon planning (Figure 14).

	Table 4. Language Table In-Domain Seen Results.						
	SCRATCH	UniPi	VPT	LAPA	ACTIONVLA		
Block2Block	4.0	14.0	36.0	<u>58.0</u>	76.0		
Block2Absolute	6.0	4.0	38.0	<u>56.0</u>	72.0		
Block2BlockRelative	10.0	12.0	48.0	52.0	76.0		
Block2Relative	6.0	10.0	26.0	48.0	70.0		
Separate	52.0	72.0	70.0	96.0	<u>90.0</u>		
AVG	15.6	22.4	43.6	<u>62.0</u>	76.8		

Table 4: Language Table In-Domain Seen Results.

#### 606 L.2 SIMPLER

We provide detailed results of various models evaluated on SIMPLER environment. Table 10 shows the setting where baseline models are pretrained on Bridgev2 and then finetuned on SIMPLER rollouts (100 videos). The results show detailed results for each task (stack green to yellow block, put carrot on plate, put spoon on otowel, put eggplant in basket) and subtasks (grasping and moving).

We also provide detailed results of the setting where baseline models are pretrained on human manipulation videos (Something Something V2 dataset) and then finetuned on SIMPLER rollouts (100

	0 0				
	SCRATCH	UniPi	VPT	LAPA	ACTIONVLA
Block2Block	8.0	4.0	26.0	<u>50.0</u>	62.0
Block2Absolute	10.0	6.0	42.0	48.0	58.0
Block2BlockRelative	2.0	6.0	20.0	28.0	48.0
Block2Relative	8.0	6.0	32.0	38.0	44.0
Separate	48.0	44.0	44.0	84.0	<u>82.0</u>
AVG	15.2	13.2	32.8	49.6	58.8

Table 5: Language Table In-Domain Unseen Results.

Table 6: Language Table Cross-Task Seen Results.

	SCRATCH	UniPi	VPT	LAPA	ACTIONVLA
Block2Block	18.0	12.0	74.0	74.0	76.0
Block2Absolute	8.0	6.0	56.0	62.0	72.0
Block2BlockRelative	6.0	2.0	62.0	72.0	76.0
Block2Relative	24.0	16.0	72.0	60.0	<u>70.0</u>
Separate	80.0	68.0	96.0	98.0	<u>90.0</u>
AVG	27.2	20.8	72.0	<u>73.2</u>	76.8

Table 7: Language Table Cross-Task Unseen Results.

	SCRATCH	UniPi	VPT	LAPA	ACTIONVLA
Block2Block	16.0	4.0	66.0	46.0	62.0
Block2Absolute	10.0	10.0	<u>56.0</u>	52.0	58.0
Block2BlockRelative	8.0	10.0	46.0	48.0	48.0
Block2Relative	12.0	4.0	52.0	38.0	<u>44.0</u>
Separate	66.0	52.0	84.0	90.0	<u>82.0</u>
AVG	22.4	16.0	60.8	54.8	58.8

Table 8: Language Table Cross-Environment Seen Results.

8				
SCRATCH	UniPi	VPT	LAPA	ACTIONVLA
4.0	4.0	16.0	26.0	66.0
6.0	4.0	8.0	16.0	58.0
10.0	8.0	6.0	20.0	62.0
6.0	4.0	12.0	22.0	54.0
52.0	48.0	48.0	84.0	84.0
15.6	13.6	18.0	<u>33.6</u>	64.8
	SCRATCH 4.0 6.0 10.0 6.0 52.0 15.6	SCRATCH         UNIPI           4.0         4.0           6.0         4.0           10.0         8.0           6.0         4.0           52.0         48.0           15.6         13.6	SCRATCH         UNIPI         VPT           4.0         4.0         16.0           6.0         4.0         8.0           10.0         8.0         6.0           6.0         4.0         12.0           52.0         48.0         48.0           15.6         13.6         18.0	SCRATCH         UNIPI         VPT         LAPA           4.0         4.0         16.0         26.0           6.0         4.0         8.0         16.0           10.0         8.0         6.0         20.0           6.0         4.0         12.0         22.0           52.0         48.0         48.0         84.0           15.6         13.6         18.0         33.6

Table 9: Language Table Cross-Environment Unseen Results.

	SCRATCH	UniPi	VPT	LAPA	ACTIONVLA
Block2Block	8.0	2.0	2.0	<u>30.0</u>	38.0
Block2Absolute	10.0	6.0	4.0	14.0	48.0
Block2BlockRelative	2.0	6.0	2.0	10.0	50.0
Block2Relative	8.0	4.0	40.0	18.0	54.0
Separate	48.0	42.0	44.0	<u>76.0</u>	80.0
AVG	15.2	12.0	18.4	<u>29.6</u>	54.0

videos) in Table 11. We only compare to UNIPI, VPT, and LAPA since ACTIONVLA could not be trained without ground-truth action labels.

#### 615 L.3 Real-world

We provide the detailed result of real world evaluation depending on the generalization type: (1) seen objects but unseen combinations, (2) unseen objects, and (3) seen objects but unseen instructions. The results are shown in Table 12. As shown in the table, LAPA (Open-X) outperforms OpenVLA (Open-X) on all types of generalization settings. Also, LAPA (Human Videos) shows

Table 10: **SIMPLER results of Bridgev2 Pretraining.** Success, Grasping, and Moving Rates (%) in SIM-PLER environment. We pretrain UNIPI, VPT, and LAPA on Bridgev2 dataset without using ground-truth action labels and ACTIONVLA on Bridgev2 using action labels. The main 4 tasks are: stack green to yellow block, put carrot on plate, put spoon on towel, and put eggplant in basket. Best is **bolded** and second best is underlined.

Success Rate	SCRATCH	UniPi	Vpt	LAPA	ACTIONVLA
Stack G2Y	29.2	2.7	45.8	<u>54.2</u>	75.0
Carrot2Towel	29.2	2.7	37.5	45.8	58.0
Spoon2Plate	50.0	0.0	70.8	70.8	70.8
Eggplant2Bask	29.2	0.0	50.0	58.3	50.0
AVG	34.4	1.3	51.0	<u>57.3</u>	63.5
Grasping Rate					
Grasp Green Block	66.6	20.8	62.5	62.5	87.5
Grasp Carrot	45.8	33.2	54.1	58.3	75.0
Grasp Spoon	70.8	22.2	79.2	83.3	83.3
Grasp Eggplant	62.5	16.0	70.8	83.3	<u>75.0</u>
AVG	61.4	23.1	<u>66.7</u>	71.9	80.2
Moving Rate					
Move Green Block	58.3	29.1	58.3	66.6	91.6
Move Carrot	45.8	48.6	<u>66.6</u>	70.8	91.6
Move Spoon	70.8	34.6	79.2	83.3	79.2
Move Eggplant	87.5	58.0	70.8	87.5	91.6
AVG	65.6	42.6	68.7	77.1	88.5

Table 11: **SIMPLER results of Human Manipulation Video Pretraining.** Success, Grasping, and Moving Rates (%) in SIMPLER environment. We pretrain UNIPI, VPT, and LAPA on Something-Something V2 dataset without using ground-truth action labels. The main 4 tasks are: stack green to yellow block, put carrot on plate, put spoon on towel, and put eggplant in basket. Best is **bolded** and second best is <u>underlined</u>.

Success Rate	VPT	UniPi	LAPA
StackG2Y	50.0	0.0	50.0
Carrot2Towel	<u>29.1</u>	1.3	50.0
Spoon2Plate	<u>37.5</u>	1.3	50.0
Eggplant2Bask	66.6	0.0	<u>58.3</u>
AVG	<u>45.8</u>	0.7	52.1
Grasping Rate			
Grasp Green Block	66.6	2.7	58.3
Grasp Carrot	<u>45.8</u>	31.7	62.5
Grasp Spoon	70.8	21.7	75.0
Grasp Eggplant	91.6	6.8	<u>70.8</u>
AVG	68.7	15.7	66.7
Moving Rate			
Move Green Block	62.5	2.7	62.5
Move Carrot	<u>58.3</u>	37.5	70.8
Move Spoon	<u>54.1</u>	18.1	75.0
Move Eggplant	91.6	<u>50.3</u>	83.3
AVG	<u>66.6</u>	27.1	72.9

good generalization performance, especially for unseen objects. We conjecture that this is because
 Something Something V2 dataset interacts with much diverse objects compared to Bridgev2.

We also provide the full list of objects and the partial success recorded for each of the evaluation

rollout: Knocking (Table 13), Covering (Table 14), and Pick & Place (Table 15). The total average success rate is provided in Table 16).

	Seen Obj. Unseen Combo	Unseen Obj.	Seen Obj. Unseen Instr.	AVG
SCRATCH	18.0	20.3	25.4	21.2
ACTIONVLA (Bridge) OPENVLA (Bridge) LAPA (Bridge)	38.3 35.6 43.4	31.8 34.6 31.4	27.7 22.1 35.6	32.6 30.8 36.8
OPENVLA (Open-X) LAPA (Open-X)	<u>46.2</u> <b>57.8</b>	<u>42.1</u> <b>43.9</b>	<u>43.4</u> <b>48.5</b>	<u>43.9</u> <b>50.1</b>
LAPA (Human Videos)	36.5	37.4	28.1	34.0

Table 12: **Evaluation Results divided into eval types**. We average the success rate across the 3 tasks depending on what capability we are trying to quantify: (1) seen objects but unseen combinations, (2) unseen objects, and new instructions requiring semantic reasoning. Best is **bolded** and second best is <u>underlined</u>.

Tuble 15. Informing Tuble Reputs									
	OpenVLA (OpenX)	LAPA (OpenX)	OpenVLA (Bridge)	ActionVLA (Bridge)	LAPA (Bridge)	Scratch	LAPA (Sthv2)		
Seen									
flamingo	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0	0.5		
pistachios	0.5	1	0.5	0	1	0	1		
soft scrub	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	0.5		
white cup	1	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0		
mustard	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
water bottle	1	1	0.5	0	0	0.5	0		
SUM	2.5	3.5	1.5	1	2	1	2		
Unseen									
pringles	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0		
hersey's chocolate syrup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
popcorn	0	1	1	1	1	0	1		
skittles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
green board marker	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5		
paper towel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
SUM	1	2	2	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.5		
Seen Semantic									
a drink that contains orange	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
food to eat with milk	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0		
a object used for cleaning	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
something to wash dishes	1	1	0	0.5	1	0.5	0		
the nuts	1	1	0.5	1	1	0.5	1		
rectangle object	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	1		
SUM	3.5	4	1	2	2.5	1	2		
Success Rate (Strict)	27.78%	44.44%	5.56%	11.11%	22.22%	0.00%	22.22%		
Success Rate	38.89%	52.78%	25.00%	25.00%	33.33%	13.89%	30.56%		
Reaching Success Rate	50.00%	61.11%	44.44%	38.89%	44.44%	27.78%	38.89%		

Table 13: Knocking Task Results



Figure 8: Real-world Tabletop Manipulation Examples.



Figure 9: **Pairwise win rate** (%). We compare a pairwise win-rate of OpenVLA and LAPA across the 54 evaluation rollouts in the real-world. (a) shows the win-rate while ignoring the ties and (b) shows the ties together with the individual wins.



Figure 10: Closed loop rollout of LAPA. LAPA is conditioned on current image  $x_1$  and language instruction of 'take the broccoli out of the pot'. We generate rollout images by conditioning the decoder of Latent Action Quantization Model with latent actions generated by LAPA.



Figure 11: Latent Action Analysis in Language Table. We condition the current observation  $x_1$  and quantized latent action to the decoder of the latent action quantization model. We observe that each latent action can be mapped into a semantic action. For example, latent action 0 corresponds to moving a bit left and forward and corresponds to moving a bit left and back.



Figure 12: **Correlation of latent action with ground-truth actions** When we map latent actions to ground-truth 2 DOF actions of Language Table, we observe that latent actions are well-clustered in the actual 2D action space.



Figure 13: Latent Action Analysis in Human Manipulation Videos. We condition the current observation  $x_1$  and quantized latent action to the decoder of the latent action quantization model. We observe that each latent action can be mapped into a semantic action including camera movements. For example, latent action [3,5,2,7] corresponds to moving the camera a bit down while [4,2,0,0] corresponds to moving the camera slightly up.



Figure 14: **Success and Failure Cases of UNIPI.** (Top) Given the instruction of 'move the green block away from the red cube and red pentagon', the diffusion model of UNIPI successfully generates the plan. (Bottom) Given the instruction of 'put the blue moon toward the yellow block', the diffusion model fails to generate the correct plan.

	OpenVLA (OpenX)	LAPA (OpenX)	OpenVLA (Bridge)	ActionVLA (Bridge)	LAPA (Bridge)	Scratch	LAPA (Sthv2)			
Seen										
icecream	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0			
strawberry	0.33	1	0.33	1	0.33	1	1			
pepper	0.33	0	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33			
watermelon	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0	0.33			
blue lego block	0.66	1	1	1	1	0.33	0.33			
pink duck	0.33	1	0.33	0.33	0.33	0	0.33			
SUM	2.31	3.66	2.65	3.32	2.65	1.99	2.32			
Unseen										
donut	0.33	1	0.66	1	0.66	0.66	0.33			
orange	0.33	0.33	1	0	0.33	1	1			
mushroom	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33			
yellow lego block	0.33	1	1	0.33	0	0.33	0.33			
peas	1	0	0.66	1	1	0.33	1			
egg	0	1	0.33	0	0.66	0	1			
SUM	2.32	3.66	3.98	2.66	2.98	2.65	3.99			
Seen Semantic										
drink	0.33	0	0.66	1	0.33	0.33	0.66			
yellow object	0.66	0.66	0	0	0.33	0	0.33			
fruit	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33			
vegetable	0.33	0.33	0	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33			
edible object	0.33	0.33	0.66	0	0.33	1	0.33			
condiment	0.33	0.33	0.33	0	0.33	0.33	0.33			
SUM	2.31	1.98	1.98	1.66	1.98	2.32	2.31			
Success Rate (Strict)	5.56%	33.33%	16.67%	27.78%	11.11%	16.67%	22.22%			
Success Rate	38.56%	51.67%	47.83%	42.44%	42.28%	38.67%	<u>47.89%</u>			
Reaching Success Rate	16.66%	38.89%	38.89%	<u>27.78%</u>	22.22%	22.22%	27.78%			

Table 14: Covering Task Results

Table 13. There we have blirk fask results									
	OpenVLA (OpenX)	LAPA (OpenX)	OpenVLA (Bridge)	ActionVLA (Bridge)	LAPA (Bridge)	Scratch	LAPA (Sthv2)		
		(-1-)	Soon	( 8)	(	1			
			Seen						
milk	1	1	1	1	1	0	1		
orange lego block	1	1	0	1	0	0	0		
ketchup	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0	0	0		
corn	1	0.75	1	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25		
icecream	0.25	0	0	0	1	0	1		
salt	0	0.25	0	1	0	0	0		
SUM	3.5	3.25	2.25	3.5	2.25	0.25	2.25		
Unseen									
carrot	1	0.25	0	0.25	1	0.25	0.25		
yellow paprika	1	1	0	0.25	0.25	0	1		
yellow cube	1	0.5	0.25	0.5	0	0	0		
salmon sushi	0	0.25	0	0.5	0	0	0		
orange	1	0	0	0	0	0.25	0		
blue cube	0.25	0.25	0	0	0	0	0		
SUM	4.25	2.25	0.25	1.5	1.25	0.5	1.25		
Seen Semantic									
an object that is yellow	1	1	0	1	0.25	0	0		
an object that is round	0	0.25	0	0	0	0.25	0		
an object that is a fruit	1	1	1	1	0	1	0.75		
an object that you can drink	0	0.25	0	0.5	0	0	0		
an object that is a vegetable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
an object that is an animal	0	0.25	0	0.25	0.25	0	0		
SUM	2	2.75	1	2.75	0.5	1.25	0.75		
Success Rate (Strict)	50.00%	27.78%	16.67%	27.78%	16.67%	5.56%	16.67%		
Success Rate	54.17%	45.83%	19.44%	43.06%	22.22%	11.11%	23.61%		
Reaching Success Rate	66.67%	83.33%	27.78%	<u>72.22%</u>	38.89%	27.78%	33.33%		

## Table 15: Pick & Place Sink Task Results

 Table 16: Summary of Total Success Rates (%)

	OpenVLA (OpenX)	LAPA (OpenX)	OpenVLA (Bridge)	ActionVLA (Bridge)	LAPA (Bridge)	Scratch	LAPA (Sthv2)
Total Success Rate Total Success Rate (Strict)	$\frac{43.87\%}{27.78\%}$	50.09% 35.19%	30.76% 12.96%	36.83% 22.22%	32.61% 16.67%	21.22% 7.41%	34.02% 20.37%