# **mBLIP: Efficient Bootstrapping of Multilingual Vision-LLMs**

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### Abstract

Modular vision-language models (Vision-LLMs) align pretrained image encoders with (frozen) large language models (LLMs) and post-hoc condition LLMs to 'understand' the image input. With the abundance of readily available high-quality English image-text data as well as strong monolingual English LLMs, the research focus has been on English-only Vision-LLMs. Multilingual vision-language models are still predominantly obtained via expensive end-to-end pretraining, resulting in comparatively smaller models, trained on limited multilingual image data supplemented with text-only multilingual corpora. We present mBLIP, the first Vision-LLM leveraging multilingual LLMs, which we obtain in a computationally efficient manner on consumer-level hardware. To this end, we *re-align* an image encoder previously tuned to an English LLM to a new, multilingual LLM using only a few million multilingual training examples derived from a mix of vision-and-language tasks, which we obtain by machine-translating high-quality English data to 95 languages. On the IGLUE benchmark and XM3600, mBLIP yields results competitive with state-of-the-art models and it greatly outperforms strong Englishonly Vision-LLMs like Llava 1.5. We release our model, code, and train data at https: //github.com/gregor-ge/mBLIP.

# 1 Introduction

The success of model and data scaling in NLP from BERT (Devlin et al., 2019) to more recent Large Language Models (LLMs) (Brown et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2022; Touvron et al., 2023, *inter alia*) has prompted similar endeavors in vision-language pretraining from 'small' BERT-size models (Chen et al., 2020; Li et al., 2020, 2021, 2022) trained on a few million image-text pairs to billion-parameter models trained with billions of examples

(Wang et al., 2021; Yu et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2022; Chen et al., 2022, 2023). The prohibitive cost of such end-to-end (pre)training, however, has resulted in increased interest in efficient modular methods that leverage existing large language models (LLMs). These align the output of a pretrained image encoder to the LLM's input representation space (Tsimpoukelli et al., 2021; Alayrac et al., 2022; Li et al., 2023a), resulting in a Vision-LLM.

Pretraining vision-language models from scratch requires a massive amount of high-quality imagetext data, which is only available in English. Because of this, multilingual pretraining of visionlanguage models (Ni et al., 2021; Zhou et al., 2021; Zeng et al., 2023; Shan et al., 2022; Li et al., 2023c) commonly supplements limited-size multilingual image-text data with multilingual text-only data (the amount of which often surpasses that of imagetext data) to achieve strong results, despite initialization with weights of multilingual text encoders such as XLM-R (Conneau et al., 2020).

In this work, we recognize modular Vision-LLM methods as a potential solution to this problem, observing that: (1) once an image encoder is aligned to one LLM, it requires significantly less data to re-align it to another LLM (Zhang et al., 2023; Zhu et al., 2023) and (2) since image encoding is, in principle, language-agnostic, it may be possible to successfully re-align the image encoder to a strong multilingual LLM, even if it was initially aligned only with English image-text data. Based on these observations, we present mBLIP, the first massively multilingual modular Vision-LLM, which we obtain by (re-)aligning an image encoder to a multilingual LLM. Putting together a range of recent advances in multimodal representation learning, we efficiently bootstrap a massively multilingual Vision-LLM using only ~2.5 million images (and without any additional multilingual text-only data), training only 124 million parameters on consumergrade hardware. We achieve this efficiency by: 1)

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bootstrapping our model from a) an "English" image encoder (Li et al., 2023a), previously aligned to a monolingual English LLM and b) a strong instruction-tuned multilingual LLM (Xue et al., 2021; Scao et al., 2022; Muennighoff et al., 2022); 2) leveraging recent advances in massively multilingual machine translation (Costa-jussà et al., 2022), which we use to translate high-quality English data—both classic captions as well as task instructions (Dai et al., 2023)—to 95 languages; and finally 3) coupling parameter-efficient training methods (Hu et al., 2022) together with quantization (Dettmers et al., 2022, 2023) to enable training on consumer-grade hardware.

We extensively evaluate mBLIP on different multilingual vision-language tasks to confirm the efficacy of our approach: for multilingual image captioning, mBLIP (with mT0-XL) surpasses (zero-shot) PaLI-X (a model with 55B parameters, trained with billions of examples) (Chen et al., 2023) on the XM3600 (Thapliyal et al., 2022). On the visual reasoning and QA tasks of the IGLUE benchmark (Bugliarello et al., 2022), mBLIP matches or surpasses the performance of state-of-the-art models, despite training far fewer parameters on far less pretraining data. We consistently outperform state-of-the-art English Vision-LLMs outside of English, highlighting the multilingual prowess of our model.

#### 2 Related Work

#### 2.1 LLMs and Images

The success of scaling up training data and model parameters has resulted in large vision-language models with billions of parameters (Wang et al., 2021; Yu et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2022). However, with the number of parameters in single-digit billions, these are still an order of magnitude smaller than text-only models (Brown et al., 2020); the compute necessary to pretrain comparably large vision-language models, however, is available only to select few (Chen et al., 2022, 2023).

Instead, much of the vision-language research turned to approaches that can leverage the power of existing LLMs by training an image encoder to map an image into a sequence of tokens in the LLM embedding space (Tsimpoukelli et al., 2021; Alayrac et al., 2022; Li et al., 2023a), while the LLM is kept as-is or is only partially tuned (Alayrac et al., 2022). Most recently, the release of strong publicly available LLMs such as Llama (Touvron et al., 2023) and the success of conversational instruction tuning (Ouyang et al., 2022; Taori et al., 2023; Chiang et al., 2023; Xu et al., 2023), has led to a body of work (Zhu et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2023b; Ye et al., 2023; Dai et al., 2023; Gao et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2023a; Bai et al., 2023) that tries to replicate the vision-language skills of GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2023). The vast majority of research focused on English, where both an abundance of high-quality imagetext data and strong LLMs exist. To the best of our knowledge, we are the first to extend a massively multilingual LLM with "vision capabilities".

#### 2.2 Multilingual Vision-Language Models

While the majority of research on vision-language models targets English only, a number of multilingual models have been proposed too. M3P (Ni et al., 2021), the first transformer-based (Vaswani et al., 2017) multilingual vision-language model, adopts the architecture and pretraining objectives of English counterparts (Chen et al., 2020; Li et al., 2020). but trains on (i) the code-switched imagetext data in which words in English image captions are replaced with translations from various languages as well as (ii) additional text-only multilingual corpora. UC2 (Zhou et al., 2021) uses a similar architecture and a mix of training objectives but instead of code-switching, it machine translates the 3M captions of CC3M (Sharma et al., 2018) to 5 languages (German, French, Czech, Japanese, and Chinese). Li et al. (2023c) and CCLM (Zeng et al., 2023), which adopt the ALBEF architecture (Li et al., 2021) that incorporates additional contrastive learning objectives, use the same translated CC3M data but they additionally supplement 19M parallel sentences (pairing English with all of the languages spanned by their respective downstream evaluation tasks). ERNIE-UniX2 (Shan et al., 2022), with an encoder-decoder architecture, adopts the same pretraining objectives but scales up the data to more translated captions and more text-only data (both aligned and monolingual). Finally, PaLI (Chen et al., 2022) (17B parameters) and PaLI-X (Chen et al., 2023) (55B parameters) represent two huge encoder-decoder models trained using a mixture of vision-and-language tasks, with billions of webcrawled multilingual captions, machine translated data, automatically extracted data (e.g., OCR and object detection), and generated visual QA (VQA) examples. With the exception of the PaLI models and ERNIE-UniX2 - both of which are not publicly

available – all other multilingual vision-language models represent encoder-only architectures, which cannot perform image captioning out of the box.

# 3 mBLIP

We first briefly describe the modular BLIP-2 architecture (Li et al., 2023a) which we adopt in this work, followed by the description of training tasks and data, which we translate to 95 languages.

### 3.1 Architecture

We follow the modular BLIP-2 architecture (Li et al., 2023a) depicted in Figure 1: A Query-Former (Q-Former) is an encoder-only transformer (Vaswani et al., 2017) with 32 learned query tokens as input: it contextualizes the query tokens – via the cross-attention mechanism – with the representations of the image patches encoded by a large (frozen) Vision Transformer (ViT) (Dosovitskiy et al., 2020). The visual tokens that are the output of the Q-Former are then projected into the LLM embedding space with a single linear projection matrix  $\mathbf{W}_P \in \mathbb{R}^{h_v \times h_l}$ , with  $h_v$  and  $h_l$  as hidden dimensions (i.e., embedding dimensionality) of the Q-Former and LLM, respectively.

During training, only the the Q-Former (including the 32 query tokens) and the linear projection  $W_P$  are updated; all ViT and LLM parameters are kept frozen. Although the Q-Former and projection have initially been aligned to a monolingual English LLM, they only produce *visual* tokens: we believe that as such they are not overly tailored to English and can therefore be effectively re-aligned to a different, multilingual LLM.

Because the LLM is frozen in the BLIP-2 training, its parameters cannot adapt to task-specific idiosyncrasies, e.g., in fine-tuning for VQA or for instruction-following (Dai et al., 2023). Instead, task-specific fine-tuning of BLIP-2 requires that the text input is not just fed into the LLM but also into the Q-Former in order to enable encoding of task-specific visual information from the input. The Q-Former, however, is based on the English BERT (Devlin et al., 2019), preventing the application of this same approach in the multilingual setting (i.e., we cannot feed the text in other languages into the Q-Former nor efficiently make it massively multilingual, i.e., without a large multilingual pretraining effort). Because of this, we opt for a different approach: instead of feeding the text of the image-text instance (e.g., in VQA) to the Q-Former, we partially update the LLM with the parameterefficient LoRA (Hu et al., 2022), which trains lowrank reparametrization of the LLM matrices.

#### 3.2 Training Tasks and Data

We create a small but high-quality mix of tasks for our re-alignment training. We start from existing high-quality English data and machine-translate it to 95 languages in order to obtain multilingual training data for re-alignment of the Q-Former to the multilingual LLM.<sup>1</sup> We hypothesized that the re-alignment to a new LLM can be done with significantly less data than what is needed to train the original Q-Former (Zhu et al., 2023; Zhang et al., 2023). Accordingly, we create a small, high-quality English datasets and make it multilingual via MT rather than training with largescale but very noisy multilingual image-caption datasets like LAION5B (Schuhmann et al., 2022). In addition, in line with findings from languageonly instruction-tuning (Sanh et al., 2022; Muennighoff et al., 2022; Chung et al., 2022) and visionlanguage training (Dai et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2023b,a; Bai et al., 2023), we expect the training on a mixture of vision-and-language tasks (as opposed to training only for image captioning), with different task instructions, to result in better generalization abilities of the model and improve its (zero-shot) downstream performance and usability. Task Mix: We select below the tasks and datasets used to create our training mix for re-alignment (naturally, we ensure that the data does not overlap with our downstream evaluation data; see §4.1). For every task, we create a set of instruction templates with which we generate the training examples (we provide the templates in §D.1 in the Appendix, along with additional details about the training data). In total, across all tasks, we use 5.1M examples encompassing 2.7M unique images.

1. Image Captioning: We use MSCOCO (Lin et al., 2014) along with 2.3 million examples sampled from the synthetic CapFilt dataset (Li et al., 2022) with the noun phrase method by Liu et al. (2023b) to ensure concept diversity. Additionally, we use LLaVA-Instruct-Detail (Liu et al., 2023b), which contains longer and more detailed captions. 2. Visual Question Answering and Generation: For VQA and the inverse task of question generation (given the answer, the model is supposed to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Training with only English data, even without LoRA, results in the LLM producing only English output.



Figure 1: The mBLIP architecture: A Q-Former encodes the image in learned query tokens which are projected to the LLM space. We initialize the Q-Former from a BLIP-2 model and *re-align* it to the multilingual LLM with a multilingual task mix. The image encoder and LLM (aside from LoRA weights) are frozen during training.

produce the question), we use VQAv2 (Goyal et al., 2017). Additionally, we split the conversations from LLaVA-Instruct-Conversation into separate VQA pairs. We use A-OKVQA (Schwenk et al., 2022), a knowledge-intensive VQA dataset with rationales behind the answers, to create data for two additional task variants: 1) given the question, generate the answer and the rationale behind it, 2) given the question and the answer, generate the rationale. Finally, we use ImageNet (Deng et al., 2009) with the multilingual labels from Babel-ImageNet (Geigle et al., 2023) framed as an open-ended QA task (with questions like "What is in the image?" and no predefined answer choices).

**3. Matching:** Inspired by image-text matching (Lu et al., 2019), where an encoder has to classify if caption and image match, we propose a *yes/no* matching task so that the model learns what is and what is not in the image to reduce hallucinations when interrogating for image content (Li et al., 2023b). For this, we use the Web CapFilt captions for "standard" caption matching with hard negatives. We also use the ImageNet examples with multilingual class labels, where the model has to predict if a given class is in the image or not.

**Machine Translation**: We translate the above English data with NLLB (Costa-jussà et al., 2022) (*nllb-200-distilled-1.3B*), a recent massively multilingual MT model that exhibits strong performance also for low(er)-resource languages. To extend the utility of mBLIP to languages beyond what is covered by existing multilingual evaluation benchmarks, we translate the English data to all languages from the mC4 corpora (Xue et al., 2021),<sup>2</sup> excluding only a handful of languages not

supported by NLLB.<sup>3</sup> Our final training dataset thus covers 96 languages (English and 95 translation languages). Translating all English training instances to every target language would result in a 96 times larger dataset (w.r.t. the original English data) and, consequently, prohibitively expensive re-alignment training. We thus translate English instances to target languages in proportion to the languages' representation in mC4 (e.g., we translate 6% of English instances to German, because German represents 6% of the mC4 corpus). We do not translate the short answers in A-OKVQA nor most VQAv2 examples<sup>4</sup> because translating them without context is overly error-prone.

**Output Language**: Essential for multilingual models is control over the output language and minimizing language hallucinations (,i.e., output in an unwanted language) (Xue et al., 2021; Vu et al., 2022; Pfeiffer et al., 2023; Li and Murray, 2023). We achieve this by combining English prompts that explicitly specify the target language (e.g., "Answer in French.") and translating the instructions for image captioning and LLaVA (Liu et al., 2023b) to the target languages (other templates contain placeholders that make translation difficult).

#### 4 **Experiments**

#### 4.1 Evaluation Tasks and Setup

We evaluate our model on a range of languages on (1) classification-style VQA and image understanding tasks, where the model generates a short answer in response to a question or premise and (2) image captioning tasks, where the model de-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Excluded are (ISO-1/3 codes): *fy*, *haw*, *hmn*, *la*, and *co*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>See §D.1 for details. In short, we limit to the top-1500 answers and use consistency with back-translations to filter incorrect translation. We also still use English half the time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>tensorflow.org/datasets/catalog/c4#c4multilingual

scribes an image. For VQA and image captioning, we ensured that no evaluation instances were used in re-alignment training. In contrast to VQA and image captioning, the model was not exposed to image understanding during re-alignment: these tasks thus test the model's cross-task generalization abilities. To generate outputs, we use beam search with the beam width of 5 and a length penalty of -1 for classification-style tasks to encourage short answers. We provide the exact instruction-tuning templates for each task/dataset in §D.2.

Image Captioning: XM3600 (Thapliyal et al., 2022) is a captioning dataset covering 36 languages, 3600 images, and  $\sim$ 2 captions per image and language. xFlickrCo (Bugliarello et al., 2022) combines the 1000 Flickr30k (Plummer et al., 2015) test images with 1000 images from the MSCOCO (Lin et al., 2014) test split<sup>5</sup> and provides one new caption for each image in 8 languages. For the English xFlickrCo results, we use the standard Flickr30k test split (i.e., without MSCOCO images and with 5 reference captions per image). We use CIDEr (Vedantam et al., 2015) as the evaluation metric<sup>6</sup> For Chinese, Japanese, and Thai, which do not use white space for tokenization, we use the default spaCy 3.5.3 segmenter for the respective languages; our results on those languages are thus not directly comparable to previous work - which, unfortunately, does not disclose the used tokenizer (Thapliyal et al., 2022; Chen et al., 2022, 2023).

**VQA**: we leverage xGQA (Pfeiffer et al., 2022) and MaXM (Changpinyo et al., 2022), two VQA datasets with 8 and 7 languages, respectively. While answers in xGQA are in English (as only the original GQA (Hudson and Manning, 2019) questions were translated), answers in MaXM are in the language of the question. We evaluate our model in zero-shot inference (i.e., without any additional fine-tuning other than the VQA training included in the re-alignment mix) on both datasets. For xGQA, we additionally fine-tune the model on the training portion of the English GQA and perform cross-lingual zero-shot transfer.<sup>7</sup> We use exact match accuracy with open generation, that is, we do not constrain the generation to a fixed set of labels like, e.g., Zeng et al. (2023). For MaXM, an exact match to any one of the answer candidates is correct, as proposed by Changpinyo et al. (2022). Image Understanding: XVNLI (Bugliarello et al., 2022; Xie et al., 2019) is a visual entailment task that covers 5 languages: given an image and a statement, the model has to decide if the image entails, contradicts or is neutral to the statement. MaRVL (Liu et al., 2021) is based on NLVR2 (Suhr et al., 2019) with new images and concepts spanning different cultures in 6 languages: given two images, the model has to decide if a statement is true or false. We *separately* encode the two images with the Q-Former and then concatenate their visual tokens together as input for the LLM. Like for xGQA, we evaluate the models on XVNLI and MaRVL with (1) zero-shot inference (i.e., no finetuning for XVNLI and MaRVL) and (2) supervised cross-lingual transfer: we fine-tune the re-aligned model on the English training portions (of XVNLI and NLVR2, respectively) and evaluate its performance on the test portions of target languages. We report the results in terms of exact match accuracy.

#### 4.2 Implementation Details

Architecture: We initialize the mBLIP's ViT (EVA CLIP ViT-g/14 (Fang et al., 2022)) and Q-Former with the BLIP-2 Flan-T5-XL checkpoint. For the multilingual LLM, we experiment with mT0-XL and BLOOMZ-7B (Muennighoff et al., 2022), the instruction-tuned versions of mT5-XL (Xue et al., 2021) and BLOOM-7B (Scao et al., 2022). We use 8/4-bit quantization (Dettmers et al., 2022, 2023). Warmup: Similar to Zhang et al. (2023); Liu et al. (2023b), we first train only the linear projection between the Q-Former and LLM. with 1M captions. Re-Alignment Training: We train on the realignment task mixture for 80k steps (2 epochs), which takes 4 days (mT0) and 6 days (BLOOMZ) with 4 consumer-grade NVIDIA RTX 3090 cards. Fine-tuning: We train 3 runs—reporting their average-and select the optimal checkpoint based only on the English validation data for true zeroshot cross-lingual transfer (Schmidt et al., 2022).

Full hyperparameters are listed in Appendix A.

## 4.3 Results

**Baselines.** We compare with various multilingual baselines: PaLI (Chen et al., 2022), PaLI-X (Chen et al., 2023), Thapliyal et al. (2022), LMCap (Ramos et al., 2023), UC2 (Zhou et al., 2021), Li et al. (2023c), CCLM (Zeng et al.,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>These captions were created from scratch and not by translating existing MSCOCO captions so this does not constitute leakage from the MSCOCO data of the training mix.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Implementation: pycocoeval

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Note that by zero-shot cross-lingual transfer here we refer to the fact that the model has been fine-tuned only on the English GQA data; in re-alignment training, however, it has been exposed to VQA from other datasets.

		XM3600	
Train P.	Total P.	en	35-avg
0.8B	0.8B	57.60	28.90
3B	3B	92.80	47.00
17B	17B	98.10	53.60
55B	55B	94.20	53.10
55B	55B	48.80	22.70
0	3B	45.20	17.60
107M	4.1B	85.22	1.10
7B	7.3B	55.87	9.78
124M	4.9B	80.17	26.77
124M	8.3B	76.40	21.87
	0.8B 3B 17B 55B 55B 0 107M 7B 124M	0.8B         0.8B           3B         3B           17B         17B           55B         55B           55B         55B           0         3B           107M         4.1B           7B         7.3B           124M         4.9B	Train P.         Total P.         en           0.8B         0.8B         57.60           3B         3B         92.80           17B         17B         98.10           55B         55B         94.20           55B         55B         48.80           0         3B         45.20           107M         4.1B         85.22           7B         7.3B         55.87           124M         4.9B         80.17

(a) mBLIP outperforms all models except those fine-tuned on MSCOCO translated to all 36 languages (†). Different tokenizers for *zh*, *ja*, *th* make results not perfectly comparable.

			xFlickrCo			
Model	Train P.	Total P.	en	7-avg		
InstructBLIP Flan-T5-XL	107M	4.1B	<b>84.71</b>	1.46		
Llava 1.5 7B	7B	7.3B	64.47	22.23		
mBLIP mT0-XL	124M	4.9B	77.00	<b>44.39</b>		
mBLIP BLOOMZ-7B	124M	8.3B	76.75	42.11		

(b) No multilingual baseline on xFlickrCo exists at the time of writing but mBLIP is competitive with English models.

Table 1: Captioning results (CIDEr) on XM3600 and xFlickrCo for English and other languages.

2023), Ernie-UniX2 (Shan et al., 2022), Changpinyo et al. (2022); and also evaluate two strong English Vision-LLMs (InstructBLIP (Dai et al., 2023) and Llava 1.5 (Liu et al., 2023a) (LLM is Vicuna 1.5 (Touvron et al., 2023; Chiang et al., 2023))).

Image Captioning. Table 1 summarizes our image captioning results. On XM3600 (Table 1a), mBLIP mT0 outperforms the (training-free) captioning pipeline LMCap (Ramos et al., 2023) as well as PaLI-X (in zero-shot inference): these results are very encouraging, considering that PaLI-X trains orders of magnitude more parameters (55B vs. 124M for mBLIP), on billions of multilingual vision-and-language examples. mBLIP, however, substantially trails the performance of the PaLI models fine-tuned on MSCOCO with full translations to all 35 languages (yielding  $3 \times$  more training examples than we do from our entire realignment task mix). While mBLIP is also trained on MSCOCO with translated captions, PaLI models consume orders of magnitude more data in most languages, especially the low-resource ones. With proportionally less mBLIP training for lowerresource languages (according to the languagespecific corpus portions in mC4), this yields especially large gains for PaLI models for low-resource languages; mBLIP is more competitive for highresource languages like Spanish or German.

The English models show strong English results

(as expected) but fail for other languages as they either do not generate captions in the target language or, for high-resource languages like German where captioning works, still underperform mBLIP.

We additionally evaluate on xFlickrCo (Table 1b). While we are the first to use it for multilingual captioning (in Bugliarello et al. (2022), it is used for image-text retrieval), on the English Flickr30k captions, mBLIP achieves performance that is comparable to that of the English LLMs while outclassing them for other languages.

Finally, between the two mBLIP models, the mT0 variant beats the BLOOMZ variant. We believe this is due to the fact that mT5 (the base LLM from which mT0 was derived) was trained on almost 3 times more text (1 trillion tokens vs. 366 billion) and in nearly twice as many languages as BLOOM (the LLM of BLOOMZ). On a handful of languages like Indonesian or Hindi, however, BLOOMZ outperforms mT0, suggesting that the choice of the mBLIP variant is language-specific.

VQA and Image Understanding. Table 2 summarizes the results on VQA and image understanding tasks. On xGQA, mBLIP (zero-shot) outperforms the UC2 model that has been fine-tuned on the GQA data (Zhou et al., 2021; Bugliarello et al., 2022) for all target languages. When finetuned, our mBLIP variants are only outperformed by CCLM (large) (Zeng et al., 2023); CCLM (large) trains nearly nine-times more parameters and leverages more multilingual pretraining data<sup>8</sup>. Crucially, however, CCLM resorts to constrained generation w.r.t. the available answers, which is an easier yet computationally much more demanding evaluation protocol than our open generation. mBLIP exhibits relatively poor zero-shot XVNLI performance, as it fails to predict the neutral class. After fine-tuning for XVNLI, however, mBLIP mT0 yields multilingual performance (over 4 languages) comparable to that of CCLM (large). The MaRVL zero-shot performance of mBLIP variants is surprisingly good, considering that they were never trained for any task involving multiple images as input; Zero-shot performance of mBLIP mT0 on MaRVL is comparable to that of multiple fine-tuned baselines. When also fine-tuned, mBLIP achieves state-of-the-art MaRVL results, on par with CCLM (large).

 $<sup>^{8}</sup>$ CCLM is also initialized with the English X2-VLM (Zeng et al., 2022a) which is trained on >1B images; the BLIP-2 weights, from which we start the mBLIP training, in contrast, were trained using only 129M images.

			XV	NLI	Mal	RVL	xG	QA	Ma	XM
Model	Train P.	Total P.	en	4-avg	en	5-avg	en	7-avg	en	6-avg
Fine-tuned on train split										
UC2 (Bugliarello et al., 2022)	270M	270M	76.38	62.05	70.56	57.28	55.19	29.35	_	
Li et al. (2023c)	330M	330M	_	69.50		62.10	_	42.10	_	
CCLM (4M) †	520M	520M	_	73.32	83.22	67.17	_	46.24	_	
CCLM base	420M	420M	_	74.78	_	68.49	_	48.12	_	
CCLM large	970M	970M	_	78.95	_	74.83	—	56.25	—	_
Ernie-UniX2	910M	910M	87.73	77.42	—	_	56.68	45.25	—	—
mBLIP mT0-XL	124M	4.9B	82.41	76.41	85.20	75.13	56.54	47.71	_	_
mBLIP BLOOMZ-7B	124M	8.3B	75.45	66.96	86.69	73.94	57.89	44.91	—	—
Zero-shot										
Changpinyo et al. (2022) ‡	1.5B	1.5B	_		_		41.50	39.44	36.60	42.42
PaLI-17B <sup>+</sup> ‡	17B	17B	—		—		54.20	50.77	56.40	57.27
InstructBLIP Flan-T5-XL	107M	4.1B	62.09	48.65	_	_	48.23	18.63	55.03	1.4
Llava 1.5 7B *	7B	7.3B	56.43	49.33	—		*57.37	*27.53	52.01	16.22
mBLIP mT0-XL	124M	4.9B	60.61	57.65	67.26	66.66	42.55	39.20	47.99	41.04
mBLIP BLOOMZ-7B	124M	8.3B	58.26	55.46	62.26	58.61	43.35	37.73	55.70	27.91

Table 2: VQA and image understanding results for English and averaged over all other languages: The metric is (exact match) accuracy with open generation for mBLIP & PaLI and constrained generation to a set of labels for CCLM on xGQA. **Bold** indicates the best score in each column. †: From (Zeng et al., 2022b) v1 (arXiv). ‡: Fine-tuned on VQAv2 translated to all MaXM & xGQA languages. \*: GQA included in training data.

On MAXM, mBLIP mT0 (zero-shot) performs comparably to the 1.5B parameter baseline model of Changpinyo et al. (2022) but falls short of the performance of the huge PaLI-17B model. mBLIP BLOOMZ exhibits strong English performance, but surprisingly poor results for other languages. We should emphasize here that training on the translated VQAv2 answers is crucial: without it, the LLM consistently generate answers in English. Even though only ~25% of examples in VQAv2 have non-English answers, this is already sufficient to eliminate language hallucination, where the model only answers in English regardless of the instruction language<sup>9</sup>.

The English Vision-LLMs, like in captioning, show strong results for English but fall behind in other languages. This is particular evident in MAXM, which has non-English answers (unlike xGQA and XVNLI) that the models fail to consistently generate. For high-resource languages like German, mBLIP still outperforms them, highlighting its strong multilingual capabilities.

Looking at results for individual languages on the three IGLUE tasks in Figure 2, we see that mBLIP with mT0 greatly improves crosslingual transfer over prior work, especially for lower-resource languages: while CCLM and ErnieUniX2 exhibit a gap of 20-25% on xGQA between the best and worst language (German and Bengali), the same gap is only 5% for our fine-tuned mBLIP. Similarly, on MaRVL, CCLM has a gap of 11% between Indonesian and Tamil, while the largest gap for mBLIP amounts to 2%. The same holds for XVNLI, but to a lesser degree: the largest gap between languages for mBLIP (mT0) is 4%, compared to 8% for CCLM/Ernie-UniX2. The BLOOMZ-based variant, however, exhibits much weaker transfer ability and has in fact larger gaps than prior work; this highlights the importance of deriving mBLIP from a strong multilingual LLM.

# 5 Ablation

We ablate the various components and design decisions for mBLIP, namely: 1) using our instruction mix compared to the 'classic' setting used for BLIP-2 with only image-caption data (using the 2M Web CapFilt examples as training data) and compared to the instruction mix translated following the mT5 language distribution, 2) using LoRA on (all) LLM matrices to better align the LLM to the visual input, and 3) using the warm-start where the projection between Q-Former and LLM is trained briefly in a preliminary stage before the full re-alignment training. We use the zero-shot results on xGQA, XVNLI, and XM3600 for evaluation. Results are shown in Table 3. In §C.1, we provide an additional ablation that investigates the effect of adding the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Training with only English VQAv2 answers during realignment results in an mBLIP mT0 instances that achieves only 15.5% accuracy for 6-avg, due to the LLM predominantly generating English answers.



Figure 2: Cross-lingual transfer of models fine-tuned on English. The smaller gap of mBLIP mT0 between highand low-resource languages suggests better transfer capabilities. (CCLM 4M from (Zeng et al., 2022b) v1 on arXiv.)

matching tasks to re-alignment mix, demonstrating their effectiveness in reducing hallucinations. In §C.2, we consider the effect of our design choices on fine-tuned models (on xGQA).

Design & Training: For zero-shot xGQA and XVNLI, our complete mBLIP configuration yields the best performance. Not using LoRA (i.e., preventing any updates to the LLM) as well as training only on image captioning (compared to the full instruction task mix) both lead to substantially worse performance. Moreover, training (with LoRA) only for image captioning results in a model that does not follow instructions but merely generates captions, making it (zero-shot) useless for other tasks, barring task-specific fine-tuning. For image captioning, both the warm-start and LoRA fine-tuning boost the performance. Unsurprisingly, the realignment on captioning alone yields similar or slightly better captioning performance compared to re-alignment based on the full task mix (i.e., other tasks in the mix do not contribute to captioning ability of mBLIP). While the task mix brings additional quality captions from MSCOCO and LLaVA (in addition to the Web CapFilt examples), the model also has to learn the other tasks; Importantly, the ablation shows that including other tasks to re-alignment training does not harm the captioning abilities of the model.

Language Distribution: Our translation, proportional to the mC4 language distribution, results in 44% examples in English and, e.g., only 0.003% Lao examples. To test how the language distribution affects performance, we adopt another distribution: that of the mT5's pretraining corpus (reduces English to 8% and pushes Lao to 0.3%). As expected, this reduces the performance for higherresource languages, and improves it for low(er)-

Task	LoRA	Warm-	xGQA		XV	NLI	XM3600		
Mix		start	en	avg	en	avg	en	avg	
×	x	1	26.92	9.43	34.17	35.26	86.78	22.01	
X	all	1	1.51	0.00	33.04	25.72	85.53	24.69	
1	X	1	37.33	33.77	52.02	54.26	84.14	21.35	
1	q,v	1	39.83	36.50	57.91	55.22	81.45	23.46	
1	all	X	40.89	37.88	57.74	54.50	80.68	24.38	
mT5	all	1	40.91	37.67	58.00	54.96	80.13	25.85	
1	all	1	41.98	38.46	58.87	56.28	81.51	25.02	

Table 3: Ablations for mBLIP (mT0) w.r.t.: (i) instruction mix ( $\checkmark$ ) vs. only captions ( $\checkmark$ ) (i.e., the 2M Web CapFilt examples) vs. instruction mix using the mT5 distribution (mT5), (ii) LoRA (no LoRA  $\checkmark$ , standard LoRA on query&value matrices, LoRA on all matrices), and (iii) using the warm-start where the projection between Q-Former and LLM is trained alone first. All model variants are trained (i.e., re-aligned) for 30k steps.

resource languages. However, the changes in performance are relatively small. This would suggest that it is the language distribution of the (much larger) multilingual pretraining of the LLM that determines the downstream performance for individual languages rather than the language distribution of our (much smaller) re-alignment training.

# 6 Conclusion

In this work, we presented mBLIP, the first modular and massively multilingual vision-language model based on multilingual LLMs. Using a small task mix from quality English datasets, made massively multilingual by means of MT, we re-align an English BLIP-2 model to an instruction-tuned multilingual LLM. Our approach is highly efficient in compute and data requirements and – using recent engineering advances such as 8-bit quantization – can be trained in a few days on consumer-grade hardware (e.g., NVIDIA RTX 3090 cards). We extensively evaluate mBLIP on multilingual visionlanguage tasks covering image captioning, visual QA, and image understanding to confirm the efficacy of our approach. Results render mBLIP comparable or better than state-of-the-art multilingual vision-language models and strong English Vision-LLMs, despite the fact that we train only a fraction of their number of parameters and on far less data.

## Acknowledgements

This work was in part supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

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### A Training and Evaluation Details

**Training**: We use AdamW (Loshchilov and Hutter, 2019) with weight decay 0.1, learning rate 2e-4 for LoRA and 1e-5 for other parameters; 1000 warm-up steps before a cosine decay; batch size 128 (accomplished via gradient accumulation and checkpointing); we limit the max. target sequence length to 128. For LoRA, which we apply to *all* LLM matrices and not just the query and value matrices of self-attention heads, we set r = 8,  $\alpha = 16$ and use dropout with the 0.05 rate.

**Warmup**: We use 1M captions to train for 8k steps with a learning rate of 5e-3 (and otherwise the same hyperparameters).

**Fine-tuning**: We train 3 runs (seeds)—reporting their average—for 5/10/20 epochs and batch size 256/128/128 for xGQA/XVNLI/MaRVL, respectively. Other hyperparameters are identical as in re-alignment training. We merge the LoRA weights obtained in instruction-based re-alignment training into the LLM before we execute LoRA fine-tuning for downstream tasks.

**Implementation:** We use the HuggingFace Transformers (Wolf et al., 2020) and PEFT<sup>10</sup> libraries for model implementation and LoRA, respectively.

# **B** Qualitative Analysis

In addition to the quantitative evaluation on multilingual datasets of previous sections, we perform a qualitative analysis to better understand the model's visual and multilingual capabilities. As shown in Figure 3, our model can understand instructions in a wide range of languages and describe diverse images, perform simple reasoning, and correctly ground images to world knowledge in those languages. We also see some limitations. The capabilities decrease notably for lower-resource languages. The Urdu example is only a short sentence despite asking for a detailed description. Similarly, the Azerbaijani caption is completely incorrect (and

	POPE							CI	IAIR	
	rand	random popular		adver	sarial	sh	ort	long		
	acc	yes	acc	yes	acc	yes	$C_i$	$C_s$	$C_i$	- C <sub>s</sub>
without matching with matching	71.00 87.30		70.40 83.30	75% 52%	63.70 76.10	81% 59%	3.10 2.40	4.50 3.50	14.90 14.10	54.70 50.50

Table 4: Effect of decision tasks on object hallucination evaluated with POPE (Li et al., 2023b) and CHAIR (Rohrbach et al., 2018) metrics. POPE results improve because the yes-bias is reduced but CHAIR metrics for both short and long captions barely decrease (lower is better).

non-sensical), while the model produces a meaningful caption for that same image in many other languages. The Romanian example shows the limitations of the model's world knowledge as the famous portrait of Vlad III is not recognized (neither when asked in Romanian nor in English with various prompts). Finally, the Croatian example shows the difficulty with controlling the output language that we also saw in the quantitative evaluation: despite being asked in Croatian, the model answers in (related but still distinct) Slovenian.

#### C Further Ablation Results

# C.1 Matching Tasks and Object Hallucinations

We introduce the matching tasks with the aim of reducing object hallucinations. We evaluate the effectiveness of the measure using two hallucination metrics for English: POPE (Li et al., 2023b) uses interrogative questions ("Is there X in the image?") with random, popular, and adversarial negative objects (using MSCOCO images and object annotations), reporting accuracy and the portion of 'yes' answers due to a yes-bias in most models. CHAIR (Rohrbach et al., 2018) generates captions from MSCOCO images (we use 1k images from the validation split) and then counts hallucinated objects using MSCOCO object annotations. They report the ratio of hallucinated object instances  $C_i$ , that is of all occurring objects, how many are hallucinated, and the ratio of sentences with hallucinations  $C_s$ . We generate both short (Prompt: Caption in English:) and long captions (Prompt: Describe the image in English with as much detail as possible.). We train two models for 30k steps with and without the matching tasks and report results in Table 4. The matching tasks greatly improve results for POPE as they reduce the yes-bias but CHAIR metrics decrease only slightly. This seems to indicate that while matching tasks help for the interrogative POPE questions, they do not noticeably decrease

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>https://github.com/huggingface/peft



Spanish Input: ¿Cómo se llama este edificio y dónde lo encuentro? (What is the name of this building and where

do I find it?) Output: El edificio se llama Sagradia[sic], y

se encuentra en la ciudad de Barcelona, España.

España. (The building is called Sagradia, and it is located in the city of Barcelona, Spain.)



Urdu تفصیلی وضاحت لکیں۔ Input: تیمیلی وضاحت لکیں۔ (Write a detailed description.) Output: ہے جو بیاڑوں : اللہ کے واقع کے کلیے واقع ہے۔ (It is a beautiful lake situated on the edge of mountains.) Mot detailed



Arabic Input: ماذا تسمى هذه الهياكل (What are these structures called?) Output: هذه الهياكل تسمى هرم. (These structures are called the Giza pyramids)



Romanian Input: Cine este prezentat în acest portret? (Who is shown in this portrait?) Output: Acest portret prezintă o imagine a unui bărbat cu păr lung, care poartă o haină roşie. (This portrait shows an image of a man with long hair wearing a red coat) Viad III not recognized



German Input: Was ist am Pferd ungewöhnlich? (What is unusual about the horse?) Output: Ein ungewöhnliches Merkmal am Pferd ) ist, dass es mit einem Kostüm gekleidet ist. (An unusual feature of the horse is that it is dressed in a costume)



Azerbaijani Input: Şəkil üçün başlıq yazın. (Write a caption for the image) Output: Satranc şəkilləri ilə bir şəhərin görüntüsü (Image of a city with chess pictures) Wrong (but only in Azerbaijani)



**Farsi** Input: تصویر از کجا گرفته شده است؟ (Where is the image taken?) Output: تصویر از یک منطقه تاریخی گرفته شده است (The image is taken from a historical area.)



Croatian Input: Opišite sliku što detaljnije.

Input: Opištie sliku što detaljnije. (Describe the picture in as much detail as possible.) Output: Na sliki je čudovit vodni park, ki se razteza preko velike reke. Reka je polna vodnih slapov, ki se razlikujejo po barvi in velikosti. V okolici se nahajajo številne razlikujejo, vključno z drevesi, ki ustvarjajo čudovit ozemlje. (The picture shows a beautuful water park stretching across a large river. The river is full of water falls that vary in color and size. There are many plants in the area, including trees, which create a beautiful area.) Answer in Slovenian

Figure 3: Multilingual examples (with translations from Google Translate in parentheses). While the first row shows that the model can handle captioning and QA in diverse languages, the second row shows some failure cases. We use beam search (5 beams) with a repetition penalty of 1.5.

Task	LoRA	Warm-	xGQA (f	finetune)
Mix		start	en	avg
×	X	1	56.68	46.50
X	all	$\checkmark$	56.55	44.78
$\checkmark$	X	1	55.72	45.36
1	all	1	56.47	46.84

Table 5: Ablations for mBLIP (mT0) w.r.t.: (i) instruction mix ( $\checkmark$ ) vs. only captions ( $\checkmark$ ) (i.e., the 2M Web CapFilt examples) vs. instruction mix using the mT5 distribution (mT5), (ii) LoRA (no LoRA  $\checkmark$ , standard LoRA on query&value matrices, LoRA on all matrices), and (iii) using the warm-start where the projection between Q-Former and LLM is trained alone first. All model variants are trained (i.e., re-aligned) for 30k steps.

hallucinations when generating captions.

# C.2 Fine-tuning

Looking at supervised xGQA fine-tuning, we observe that all variants exhibit similar performance, regardless of the instruction-tuning (i.e., re-alignment) design. The variants re-aligned only via captioning (first two rows of Table 3) yield even slightly better results than the variants for which VQA was included in the re-alignment training. Contradicting the findings of Dai et al. (2023), our results suggest that more 'complex' instructionbased re-alignment involving a multitude of tasks brings limited gains (if any) for downstream task with large fine-tuning data.

# D Training and Evaluation Data and Template Details

# **D.1** Training

We present our instruction mix in more detail with Table 6 listing the datasets with additional information, and Table 7 listing the templates used to generate the examples.

# **D.2** Evaluation

We present the templates used for the different evaluation datasets in Table 8. Templates for XVNLI and MaRVL are selected using English validation zero-shot performance. XVNLI templates are based on Muennighoff et al. (2022).

We use the same templates for training and inference.

Dataset	Tasks	#Images	#Examples	Details
Web CapFilt (Li et al., 2022)	Image captioning	2.27m	2.27m	Subset of the CC3M+CC12M+SBU Web CapFilt dataset <sup>11</sup> . Like Liu et al. (2023b), we use spaCy to extract noun phrases and then sample from every phrase with at least 10 occurrences at most 30 captions for a subset covering diverse concepts.
	Caption Matching	600k	600k	Subset of our image captioning data. We use the CLIP ViT-L/14 by Gadre et al. (2023) to encode images and text to find similar examples for hard negatives. We match every image randomly with the correct caption (50% of the time) or with equal probability a random caption or the 3/10/30/100/300 most similar cap- tion for a mix of very hard to random negatives.
MSCOCO (Lin et al., 2014)	Image Captioning	83k†	414k	Karpathy training split of MSCOCO (Karpathy and Fei-Fei, 2017) with 5 cap- tions per image.
VQAv2 (Goyal et al., 2017)	VQA, VQG	83k†	2×443k	Question-answer pairs with ~5 ques- tions per image. For VQA and VQG, each example is translated to a different language to increase language diversity. We use Google Translate to translate the
				most common 1500 answers to the 95 languages. We then back-translate them to English and keep only the translations where the back-translation is the orig- inal answer; this is to ensure that the answer is (likely) translated correctly. We randomly use either the translated or English answer when generating ex- amples. 83k of the 443k examples have non-English answers.
A-OKVQA (Schwenk et al., 2022)	Rational generation, VQA with rational	11k†	2×33k	Knowledge-intense VQA questions with additional answer rationals. We generate examples for all three given rationales. We only use the subset of the training split overlapping with the MSCOCO training split. A-OKVQA examples are not translated to any language.
LLaVA (Liu et al., 2023b) detail	Image captioning	23k†	23k	Subset of LLaVA instructions with de- tailed multi-sentence image captions.
LLaVA (Liu et al., 2023b) conversations	VQA	56k†	219k	Subset of LLaVA instructions with multi-turn dialog; we split the dialogs into independent pairs and keep all pairs with an answer length of max. 3 sen- tences.
ImageNet (Deng et al., 2009) and Babel- ImageNet (Geigle et al., 2023)	VQA	300k	300k	Image classification framed as open- ended VQA tasks (i.e., no answer options are given). Babel-ImageNet provides partial translations of the ImageNet classes to the 95 lan- guages. We select one image for every class+language combination (that is, we
	Matching	300k	300k	do not use the full training set). The model has to decide if a given Im- ageNet class is correctly in the image. We use the correct label or a random la- bel with equal probability. This uses the same images as the VQA examples but shuffles the image-language pairs.

Table 6: Detailed information about the datasets used for training. †: Dataset uses MSCOCO images.

Task	Templates
Image Captioning	Caption the image in \$LANGUAGE. Short \$LANGUAGE image caption: Image caption (in \$LANGUAGE): Briefly describe the image in \$LANGUAGE. Write a short \$LANGUAGE image description. Summarize the image in \$LANGUAGE. Caption the image.† Short image caption:† Briefly describe the image.† Write a short image description.† Summarize the image.†
Caption Matching Question   Yes Answer   No Answer	Does "\$CAPTION" accurately describe the image?   Yes, it does.   No, it does not. Does the caption "\$CAPTION" fit the picture?   Yes, it does.   No, it does not. Does "\$CAPTION" correctly summarize the image?   Yes, it does.   No, it does not. Is "\$CAPTION" a good image description?   Yes, it is.   No, it is not. Is "\$CAPTION" a correct caption for the picture?   Yes, it is.   No, it is not. Is the caption "\$CAPTION" a good match for the image?   Yes, it is.   No, it is not. Decide if the following caption accurately describes the image: \$CAPTION. Answer:   Yes, it does.   No, it does not. Is this caption a good match for the picture? \$CAPTION. Answer:   Yes, it is.   No, it is not. Decide if this caption is a correct summary of the image: \$CAPTION.   Yes, it is.   No, it is not. Decide if this caption is a correct summary of the image: \$CAPTION.   Yes, it is.   No, it is not. Would "\$CAPTION" be a good image summary?   Yes, it would.   No, it would not. Could you use "\$CAPTION" as a caption for the image?   Yes, you could.   No, you could not.
VQA	\$QUESTION. Short English answer: Question: \$QUESTION. Brief answer (in \$LANGUAGE): Give a short answer in \$LANGUAGE to the following question. \$QUESTION Answer the provided question in \$LANGUAGE with three words or less. \$QUESTION What is the \$LANGUAGE answer to this question? \$QUESTION Briefly answer in \$LANGUAGE. \$QUESTION
VQG	Given the image, generate a question in \$LANGUAGE whose answer is: \$ANSWER. Question: Based on the image, create a question (in \$LANGUAGE) for which the answer is "\$ANSWER". From the image provided, come up with a \$LANGUAGE question that leads to the reply: \$ANSWER. Question: What is a \$LANGUAGE question for the image with the answer "\$ANSWER"? Given the image, what would be a \$LANGUAGE question that has as answer "\$ANSWER"?
VQA with rational (instruction templates) VQA with rational (label templates)	Reason the answer to the following question. \$QUESTION Use reasoning to come to an answer for this question. \$QUESTION Think step-by-step to answer this question. \$QUESTION Answer the following question and explain your answer. \$QUESTION \$QUESTION What is the answer and why? \$ANSWER. So the answer and why? \$ANSWER so \$RATIONAL \$ANSWER so \$RATIONAL \$ANSWER so \$RATIONAL \$RATIONAL. This means the answer is \$ANSWER The answer is \$ANSWER The answer is \$ANSWER because \$RATIONAL. \$ANSWER because \$RATIONAL.
Rational Generation	Question: \$QUESTION Answer: \$ANSWER. Explanation: Question: \$QUESTION: Answer: \$ANSWER. The reason is because The answer to the question "\$QUESTION" is "\$ANSWER". Why? Why is the answer to the question "\$QUESTION" "\$ANSWER"? Explain why the answer to the question "\$QUESTION" is "\$ANSWER"
ImageNet Classification	What is the main focus of the image? Short \$LANGUAGE answer: What is in the image? Answer briefly in \$LANGUAGE. This is an image of what? Answer briefly in \$LANGUAGE. What is the central object in the image? Give a short \$LANGUAGE answer. The focus of the image is on what? Answer briefly in \$LANGUAGE answer: Question: This is an image of what? Answer briefly in \$LANGUAGE. What is at the center of this picture? Short \$LANGUAGE answer: Give a short answer in \$LANGUAGE to the following question. What is the main thing shown in the image? Complete the sentence in \$LANGUAGE. This is a photo of a Name the main thing of this photo in \$LANGUAGE: In less than 3 words in \$LANGUAGE, what can be seen in this image?
ImageNet Matching Question   Yes Answer   No Answer	Does this image show a \$LABEL?   Yes, it does.   No, it does not. Is there a \$LABEL?   Yes, there is.   No, there is not. Are there any \$LABEL in the picture?   Yes, there are.   No, there are not. Does the image contain a \$LABEL?   Yes, it does.   No, it does not. Yes or no, there is a \$LABEL in the photo.   Yes   No Yes or no, there is a \$LABEL visible in the image.   Yes   No Does this picture have a \$LABEL in it?   Yes, it does.   No, it does not. Can you see a \$LABEL in the image?   Yes, you can.   No, you can not.

Table 7: Templates used for the training examples. For each example, we randomly select one template. LLaVA examples are used as is since they are already in instruction form. †: Template is translated to the 95 languages.

Dataset	Template
xFlickrCo, XM3600	Caption in \$LANGUAGE:
xGQA, MaXM	Question: \$QUESTION Short answer in \$LANGUAGE:
XVNLI	Is it guaranteed true that "\$HYPOTHESIS"? Yes, no, or maybe? Answer in English:
MaRVL	Based on the two images, is it correct to say "\$STATEMENT"? Yes or no? Answer in English:

Table 8: Templates used for evaluation. XVNLI labels 'entailment', 'contradiction', and 'neutral' are remapped to 'yes', 'no', 'maybe', respectively; MaRVL labels 'true' & 'false' are remapped to 'yes', 'no', respectively.

### **E** Image Attribution

Image attribution for Figure 3 in order of appearance from top-left to bottom-right:

- Sagrada Familia: https://de. wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei: Sagrada\_Familia\_8-12-21\_ (1).jpg. Canaan, CC BY-SA 4.0 https://creativecommons.org/ licenses/by-sa/4.0, via Wikimedia Commons
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Krk\_waterfalls.jpg. Version13 at English Wikipedia, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

# F Full Results

	bn	de	id	ko	pt	ru	zh
mBLIP mT0-XL (zero-shot)	38.51	40.53	38.34	38.31	40.15	39.59	38.99
mBLIP mT0-XL (finetuned)	45.21	50.32	46.80	46.28	49.12	48.94	47.28
mBLIP BLOOMZ-7B (zero-shot)	38.96	37.04	39.99	29.06	41.78	37.55	39.72
mBLIP BLOOMZ-7B (finetuned)	46.90	42.86	48.01	31.56	51.99	43.44	49.64

Table 9: Results in all languages for xGQA. Finetuned results are averaged over 3 seeds.

	ar	es	fr	ru
mBLIP mT0-XL (zero-shot)	56.26	57.57	58.52	58.26
mBLIP mT0-XL (finetuned)	73.80	77.62	76.87	77.33
mBLIP BLOOMZ-7B (zero-shot)	56.26	56.17	57.74	51.65
mBLIP BLOOMZ-7B (finetuned)	68.90	68.81	71.57	58.55

Table 10: Results in all languages for XVNLI. Finetuned results are averaged over 3 seeds.

	id	SW	ta	tr	zh
mBLIP mT0-XL (zero-shot)	64.89	64.80	69.65	68.05	65.91
mBLIP mT0-XL (finetuned)	75.09	74.61	75.93	74.32	75.72
mBLIP BLOOMZ-7B (zero-shot)	59.13	56.23	60.31	57.71	59.68
mBLIP BLOOMZ-7B (finetuned)	80.08	69.71	77.38	61.38	81.16

Table 11: Results in all languages for MaRVL. Finetuned results are averaged over 3 seeds.

	fr	hi	iw	ro	th	zh
mBLIP mT0-XL (zero-shot) mBLIP BLOOMZ-7B (zero-shot)	40.61 22.87			41.74 31.83		26.06 24.76

Table 12:	Results	in all	languages	for	MaXM.

	de	es	id	ja	ru	tr	zh
mBLIP mT0-XL (zero-shot) mBLIP BLOOMZ-7B (zero-shot)	58.23 50.50		47.44 54.42				

Table 13: Results in all languages for xFlickrCo.

	ar	bn	cs	da	de	el	es	fa	fi	fil	fr	he
mBLIP mT0-XL (zero-shot) mBLIP BLOOMZ-7B (zero-shot)	21.13 27.78	11.30 16.12	31.84 21.77	44.19 25.25	32.48 30.04	23.36 14.12	62.61 60.03	0.00 13.84	16.78 4.69	17.71 1.99	57.64 60.42	18.69 7.16
	hi	hr	hu	id	it	ja	ko	mi	nl	no	pl	pt
	16.07 24.91	5.18 2.13	21.54 10.99	38.53 45.29	45.19 42.40	33.23 25.43	10.39 2.54	4.09 0.02	55.72 45.54	46.15 25.01	31.22 20.65	53.13 47.79
	quz	ro	ru	sv	sw	te	th	tr	uk	vi	zh	
	1.08 0.02	21.71 17.62	27.25 22.83	48.38 31.77	11.76 8.45	11.20 8.65	41.93 8.16	22.64 14.21	0.00 8.97	39.24 54.29	13.48 14.65	

Table 14: Results in all languages for XM3600.