

Context-Aware Replanning with Pre-explored Semantic Map for Object Navigation

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Abstract: Pre-explored Semantic Maps, constructed through prior exploration using visual language models (VLMs), have proven effective as foundational elements for training-free robotic applications. However, existing approaches assume the map’s accuracy and do not provide effective mechanisms for revising decisions based on incorrect maps. To address this, we introduce **Context-Aware Replanning (CARE)**, which estimates map uncertainty through confidence scores and multi-view consistency, enabling the agent to revise erroneous decisions stemming from inaccurate maps without requiring additional labels. We demonstrate the effectiveness of our proposed method by integrating it with two modern mapping backbones, VLMaps and OpenMask3D, and observe significant performance improvements in object navigation tasks. More details can be found on the project page: <https://care-maps.github.io/>.

Keywords: Object Navigation, Map Uncertainty Measurement, Replanning

1 Introduction

Object navigation, which involves localizing and navigating to an object in indoor environments, is a critical component of robotic applications. Conventional training-based methods necessitate extensive annotations, meticulous model design, and prolonged training periods to effectively align the control actions with visual perception. Advancements in visual language models (VLMs) have led to the development of modular approaches that separate perception from actions, utilizing pre-trained knowledge. Under this framework, visual perception can be independently learned without direct control, making exploration prior to task execution an effective strategy. Pre-explored Semantic Map [1, 2, 3, 4, 5], constructed through prior exploration and using visual language models (VLMs), has become a fundamental backbone for robotics tasks. By constructing the map during environmental exploration, Pre-explored Semantic Map equips the agent with pre-existing knowledge of the environment, facilitating training-free robotic tasks such as manipulation motion planning [6], interactive exploration [7], and zero-shot object navigation [5]. However, current approaches presume Pre-explored Semantic Map is always accurate and lacks effective mechanisms for revising decisions based on incorrect maps. This assumption is incorrect for real-world applications, as visual perception must contend with varied environments featuring different lighting conditions, textures, weather, and dynamic elements. Consequently, visual perception cannot be assumed to be perfect. In addition, evaluating the quality of the Pre-explored Semantic Map is also challenging, as there are no existing labels for comparison.

Intuitively, the map-based agent plans its path by retrieving the goal from the map, where retrieval is facilitated by sorting confidence scores based on map-query matching. Therefore, should the initial attempt fail, the agent can proceed to another unvisited location with the highest confidence score. Nevertheless, this approach assumes the map is accurate. However, failure to retrieve the map with the highest confidence score may indicate a mismatch or error in the map-query alignment. Given

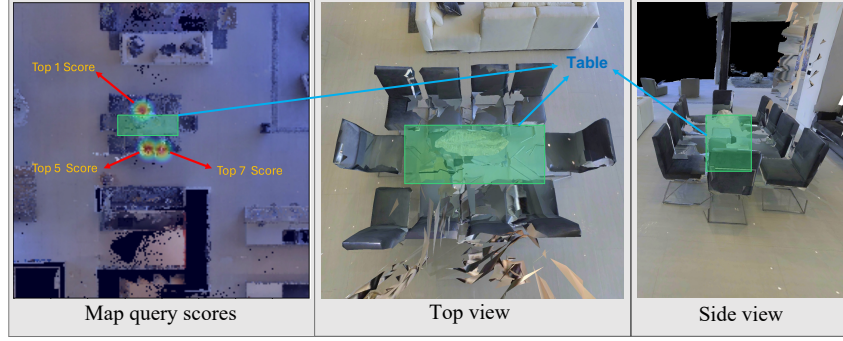


Figure 1: When the initial map query fails, high-confidence regions also tend to fail due to biases in visual perception. (Query: Table, Grounding: Chair)

the observation that the visual observation upon which the map is based fails to satisfy the query, we hypothesize that integrating **Uncertainty** measurement into the decision-making process can enhance the agent’s ability to cope with inaccuracies in the map. By prioritizing areas with the greatest uncertainty, the agent targets high-uncertainty points for maximum information gain. This improves performance because initial prediction failures often result from biases or errors in the map data. Replanning based solely on confidence scores can perpetuate these biases. High-uncertainty areas, however, are less influenced by existing biases, providing new, unbiased information that can correct or enhance the agent’s understanding. Thus, integrating uncertainty measurement reduces bias impact and increases the likelihood of successfully finding the goal. In addition, the same region can be observed from multiple viewpoints. If the VLM predictions from these multiple viewpoints are not aligned, the prediction is likely incorrect. Therefore, **Multi-view Consistency** can also serve as an unsupervised metric for agent replanning.

To this end, we propose a novel **Context-Aware Replanning (CARE)** to revise the plan when the initial planning fails. Specifically, we first select k candidate regions as a strategy to mitigate the limitations of imperfect perception systems. While the top-ranked region might not always be reliable due to potential inaccuracies in perception, selecting a broader set of top candidates ensures a more robust assessment. Afterward, we measure uncertainty and multi-view consistency for candidate regions. For uncertainty, we sort the regions by the entropy of VLM predictions and select the highest. For multi-view consistency, we measure the average pair-wise KL-divergence and select the lowest. Context-Aware Replanning is modular, portable to different backbones, and leverages the context of Pre-explored Semantic Map without requiring additional annotations. Consequently, Context-Aware Replanning enhances decision-making resilience and, while focused on replanning, holds potential for continuous map refinement in future studies.

To demonstrate the modularity and robustness of CARE, we conducted experiments using two Pre-explored Semantic Map backbones, VLMaps [5] and OpenMask3D [3], showcased their effectiveness in object navigation tasks. The results demonstrate that CARE consistently outperforms the strategy of selecting the highest-scored unvisited region. We tested two different strategies for measuring uncertainty: single-view confidence-based and multi-view consistency. Both approaches proved effective, validating our hypothesis that leveraging uncertainty improves the overall effectiveness of Pre-explored Semantic Map-based applications, with navigation serving as a prime example. Given its modularity and portability, we encourage future research to consider integrating CARE into a broader range of robotic applications.

The contribution of this work is summarized as follow:

- We propose a novel Context-Aware Replanning (CARE), which replans based on the context of an incorrect Pre-explored Semantic Map when the initial task fails.
- We design two variants of Context-Aware Replanning, based on uncertainty and multi-view inconsistency, without requiring additional annotations.

- Our method consistently outperforms the strategy of selecting the highest-scored unvisited region using two different backbones, VLMs [5] and OpenMask3D [3], demonstrating its effectiveness and robustness.

2 Related Work

Visual Language Models (VLMs) serve as the backbone of modern modular training-free robotic applications by aligning visual perception with language, as instructions are typically given in natural language. CLIP [8] achieves this alignment through contrastive learning, forming the foundation for various training-free robotic applications. For instance, OpenMask3D [3] and CLIP-Fields [2] utilize CLIP to construct maps. Additionally, several open-vocabulary visual perception tools, such as GLIP [9] for object detection and LSeg [10] for semantic segmentation, are crucial for robotic applications. VLMs [5] use LSeg to build its maps. While VLMs achieve significant performance on various computer vision tasks, robotic applications must handle diverse environments with varying lighting conditions, textures, weather, and object categories. Therefore, accounting for and replanning with errors in maps is crucial when leveraging maps constructed with VLMs.

3 Method

In this section, we first introduce the background of our method in 3.1. Next, we illustrate the motivating concept behind our method to address a significant issue in current approaches in Section 3.2. We then detail our approach, which primarily focuses on leveraging uncertainty measures to select from a set of high-confidence candidates, as described in Section 3.3. Within this section, we further explain the single and multi-view uncertainty measures that our method utilizes. Subsequently, we outline the strategies we tested to generate the set of high-confidence candidates in Section 3.4. Finally, we describe the maps used in our experiments and discuss how they were adapted to integrate with our method in Section 3.5.

3.1 Map-Based Navigation.

3.1.1 Goal-Oriented Object Navigation as Object Retrieval from Map.

Navigating in a pre-explored environment typically involves an agent’s internal representation of the environment, referred to as the map. Recent methods [3, 5] have reframed the goal-oriented object navigation task into an object retrieval task on the map by employing a path planner that devises a route from the agent’s current position to the target, coupled with a policy that actuates the agent to follow this planned path.

3.1.2 Replanning on Failure.

In practical scenarios, retrieval from the map is not always successful. In such cases, the capability to automatically replan becomes crucial for an autonomous agent, as it circumvents the need for costly human intervention. An intuitive approach to replanning would involve selecting the unvisited candidate location with the highest retrieval score.

3.2 Uncertainty aware object retrieval.

The conventional way to use navigation maps typically involves using a text query to retrieve the candidate with the highest matching score. Such a score is typically calculated with pretrained visual-language grounding models such as CLIP[8]. These grounding models have demonstrated impressive generalization abilities due to the large dataset used in the pertaining phase. This is probably why most of the works navigating with maps assume that the map is perfect. Nevertheless, we argue that despite the size of the training dataset, there might still be bias introduced by the model architecture or the dataset, which causes the user expectation of a query to diverge from the model’s belief. Furthermore, during the construction phase of the map, the model prediction might

be interfered with by surrounding objects or some view-dependent bias, causing the extracted feature to be noisy.

To address these issues, our framework integrates uncertainty measures to enhance retrieval accuracy. These measures can potentially reflect biases or noise associated with a candidate, thereby improving retrieval performance.

3.3 Uncertainty Measures.

3.3.1 Single-View Uncertainty Measures.

We hypothesize that when the grounding model retrieves the wrong object with high confidence, the model might have shown some bias in the object category. This is a common failure mode in conventional map-based navigation because the algorithm always chooses the candidate with the highest score/confidence. When the model bias occurs, solely looking at the confidence/score might give misleading retrieval results. On the other hand, completely ignoring the confidence/score might also be suboptimal, as it disregards valuable information from the strong grounding model. In this case, encouraging the retrieval of high confidence and high classification uncertainty candidates might be helpful as it both leverages the confidence information and mitigates the impact of potential biases by encouraging the exploration of uncertain candidates. Specifically, we first identify a list of high-confidence candidates and choose the candidate in the list with the highest entropy.

3.3.1.1 Entropy: Let $C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n\}$ be the set of high-confidence candidates. For each candidate c_i , we compute the entropy $H(c_i)$ of its classification distribution $P_i = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k\}$ as:

$$H(c_i) = - \sum_{j=1}^k p_j \log p_j$$

where p_j is the probability of candidate c_i belonging to class j .

Finally, we select the candidate c^* with the highest entropy:

$$c^* = \arg \max_{c_i \in C_{\text{high}}} H(c_i)$$

With this definition, a high entropy indicates that the classification distribution resembles a spread-out probability distribution, suggesting that the model considers several classes as plausible alternatives, thereby reflecting uncertainty.

This approach ensures that we are not only considering candidates with high confidence but also those with high uncertainty, thereby reducing the likelihood of biased retrievals. For the specific method of selecting high-confidence candidates, please refer to Section 3.4.

3.3.2 Multi-View Uncertainty Measures.

When the feature of a candidate is extracted by a small number of views, the resulting feature can easily be interfered by nearby objects or view-dependent model bias. To mitigate this issue, we propose to encourage multi-view consistency when retrieving the candidate. Similar to the single-view case, we first identify a list of high-confidence candidates and then encourage the retrieval of low-multi-view inconsistency (uncertainty) candidates. We experimented two kinds of multi-view uncertainty measures: channel-average feature standard error and mean pairwise KL divergence on multi-view classification probabilities.

Let $C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n\}$ be the set of candidates, and $V_i = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{m_i}\}$ be the set of views for candidate c_i . For a candidate c_i with only a single view feature, we set the uncertainty score $U(c_i)$ to infinity.

3.3.2.1 Channel-average Feature Standard Error: For each candidate c_i with multiple views, the standard error $SE(c_i)$ is computed as:

$$SE(c_i) = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{k=1}^d \frac{\sigma_k}{\sqrt{m_i}}$$

where σ_k is the standard deviation of the k -th feature across all views, d is the dimensionality of the feature vector, and m_i is the number of views for candidate c_i . And in the case of VLMaps, we incorporate the distance weighting [1, 5] information of each feature which is utilized when building the map, that is we replace the standard deviation and the sample size with the weighted version:

$$SE^w(c_i) = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{k=1}^d \frac{\sigma_k^w}{\sqrt{m_i^{eff}}}$$

where σ_k^w is the weighted standard deviation and m_i^{eff} is the effective sample size, calculated as follow:

$$m_i^{eff} = \frac{(\sum_{i=1}^n w_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}$$

Finally, we choose the candidate c^* with the lowest standard error.

Since most maps utilize the mean feature from multiple views for retrieval, a low standard error on these multi-view features indicates that the mean feature is statistically more reliable. Therefore encouraging low standard error could potentially reduce noisy retrievals.

3.3.2.2 Mean Pairwise KL Divergence: For each candidate c_i , let $P_{ij} = \{p_{ij1}, p_{ij2}, \dots, p_{ijk}\}$ be the classification probability distribution for view v_j . The mean pairwise KL divergence $D_{KL}(c_i)$ is computed as:

$$D_{KL}(c_i) = \frac{2}{m_i(m_i - 1)} \sum_{j=1}^{m_i-1} \sum_{l=j+1}^{m_i} \left(\frac{1}{2} D_{KL}(P_{ij} \parallel P_{il}) + \frac{1}{2} D_{KL}(P_{il} \parallel P_{ij}) \right)$$

where $D_{KL}(P \parallel Q)$ is the KL divergence between two probability distributions P and Q .

Finally, we choose the candidate c^* with the lowest mean pairwise KL divergence.

A low mean pairwise KL divergence indicates that the classification distribution is consistent across multiple views. Similar to the standard error, promoting consistency in the classification distribution could help reduce noisy retrievals.

3.4 Selection of High Confidence Candidates.

In perception process, the highest-ranked class may not always be accurate because of potential errors or limitations in the system’s capabilities. By selecting the top k candidate instead of relying solely on the top-ranked one, we mitigate the risk of inaccuracies and enhance the robustness of the assessment. This approach allows us to account for possible errors and improve the overall reliability by considering multiple promising candidates.

3.4.1 Top-k Confidence:

Following the conventional and intuitive method, we simply choose the point with the highest confidence:

$$\arg \max_i \text{conf}_i^{\text{cls}}$$

where $\text{conf}_i^{\text{cls}}$ is the confidence, which is the probability or LSeg[10] score in the case of OpenMask3D[11] and VLMaps[5] respectively, of a single point i with the specified goal class cls in the task.

3.4.2 Top-k Category:

Similar to the concept of top-k accuracy (Acc@K), we filter the point by whether its top-k confident predicted class contains the specified goal class or not, which can be formulated as follows:

$$\text{Filter}(cls, \text{conf}_i, k) = \begin{cases} \text{True}, & \text{if } cls \in (\text{argsort}_{cls} \text{ conf}_i) [0 : k] \\ \text{False}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where cls is the target class and $(\text{argsort}_{cls} \text{ conf}_i) [0 : k]$ is the highest k class prediction for the point i .

3.5 Maps.

We experimented with the proposed uncertainty-aware navigation method on two popular maps for object navigation: OpenMask3D [11] and VLMaps [5]. As described in Section 3.1.1, we focus on retrieval from the map by assuming successful path planning and following in OpenMask3D. In VLMaps, we employed the built-in path planner and follower from the HabitatSim simulator [12, 13, 14].

3.5.1 OpenMask3D.

OpenMask3D[11] takes in the scene point cloud and posed RGB images, generates class-agnostic 3D masks on the point cloud, and uses the posed RGB images where the object is visible to provide semantic features. The features are calculated with CLIP with cropped images of the corresponding object and thus enable retrieval later on. If the object is visible in multiple views, OpenMask3D takes the average of multi-view features.

We augmented OpenMask3D to not take the average of the multi-view features, but simply record features from all visible views for each object mask.

Let:

- P be the scene point cloud.
- $I = \{I_1, I_2, \dots, I_n\}$ be the set of posed RGB images.
- $M = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k\}$ be the set of class-agnostic 3D masks generated on the point cloud.
- V_i be the set of views where object m_i is visible.

For each visible object m_i : 1. Extract the semantic features using CLIP with cropped images from the corresponding views:

$$F_{ij} = \text{CLIP}(\text{crop}(I_j, m_i)), \quad \forall I_j \in V_i$$

where F_{ij} is the feature vector for object m_i from view I_j .

To handle multi-view features: - Instead of averaging the features, record all feature vectors for each object mask:

$$F_i = \{F_{ij} \mid I_j \in V_i\}$$

This recorded set of features F_i for each object m_i enables both single-view and multi-view uncertainty calculations as described in the previous sections.

3.5.2 VLMaps.

VLMaps takes the RGB-D image and its corresponding pose as input. It first generate the local point cloud which is then projected to the world coordinate frame and the map position with the information of camera poses. After that, the RGB image is fed into Visual Encoder of LSeg[10] to get its image feature, which will then be projected to the corresponding map position. Though we do not modify the process of building the map, we store some more data such as the standard error and KL divergence of each point on the map to decrease the size of the map and avoid repetitive computation in the evaluation process.

4 Experiments

4.1 OpenMask3D Object Retrieval Benchmark.

To validate our method, we conducted an experiment in the Matterport3D environment [13, 14, 12] using OpenMask3D on a two-shot object retrieval task. In this task, a second retrieval attempt is allowed if the first one fails. Each room is benchmarked separately, and the results are presented in Table 1. Note that in all baselines, the first candidate is always retrieved based on maximum confidence in the query class.

We utilized the Matterport raw_category, which contains 1658 classes, as the vocabulary required by OpenMask3D. In total, 10 scans (houses), 214 rooms, and 5370 object instances were evaluated in this experiment.

4.1.1 Evaluation Metric.

Given an object mask retrieved with the text query, we calculate its point cloud IoU with the GT mask corresponding to the query. We count it a success if the IoU between GT mask and the retrieved mask is greater than 0.25.

4.1.2 Baselines.

- **No replan:** This is the top-1 retrieval accuracy without a second retrieval attempt.
- **Oracle:** This is the upper-bound baseline where we count it success if any of the predicted 3D masks, regardless of its class scores, matches the GT one. This can also be seen as a top-infinity accuracy baseline.
- **Max confidence (top2 acc):** This is a naive baseline where the candidate with the second-highest confidence is selected when the first one fails, which matches the typical usage of navigation maps.
- **Random replan:** This baseline randomly selects a candidate from all unvisited candidates as the second attempt.
- **Random from top-k:** This baseline randomly selects a candidate from the high-confidence candidates set with the corresponding selection criteria as described in 3.4.

4.1.3 Results.

The best baseline entry from Table 1 is the "Random from top-2 confidence" method, which surpasses the naive maximum confidence baseline. This suggests that the map begins to provide biased confidence after the first failed retrieval.

Our experiments demonstrate that both single-view and multi-view methods can enhance replanning performance. Specifically, 20 out of 25 experiment entries outperformed the best baseline entry, highlighting the efficacy and robustness of replanning with uncertainty and multi-view consistency.

4.2 VLMaps.

To show the effectiveness of our method on the downstream task brought by the improvement of the object retrieval performance, we further conducted some experiments on object navigation tasks using VLMaps. Following the setup of [5], we randomly generate 10 scenes as well as some random poses for building the maps, and 10 object navigation tasks with some subtasks and subgoals for each scene. We use the Matterport3D dataset with HabitatSim simulator [13, 14, 12] for the agent to perceive and navigate. If the navigation fails, we then propose a new position of the specified class and check whether it is near the correct object. Due to the computational budget, we only select those methods with competitive results in the previous section.

Replan Strategy	Selection Criteria	k=2	k=4	k=8	k=16	k=40
No replan (top1 acc)	-	12.09	12.09	12.09	12.09	12.09
Oracle	-	36.40	36.40	36.40	36.40	36.40
Max confidence (top2 acc)	-	17.05	17.05	17.05	17.05	17.05
Random replan	-	13.77	13.77	13.77	13.77	13.77
Random from top-k	confidence (3.4.1)	17.12	16.92	16.81	16.34	14.97
	category (3.4.2)	13.79	13.72	13.54	13.63	13.44
Max entropy (3.3.1)	confidence	17.49	18.11	18.20	17.66	15.20
	category	17.77	17.71	17.78	17.69	17.09
Min stderr (3.3.2.1)	confidence	17.64	17.71	17.65	16.40	15.19
	category	18.07	18.00	18.00	17.86	18.07
Min pwKL (3.3.2.2)	confidence	17.49	17.36	17.73	17.44	16.07
	category	18.09	18.13	18.29	18.33	18.75

Table 1: **OM3D Object Retrieval Success Rates.** The upper half of the table presents the baseline methods, as described in 4.1.2, while the lower half displays variants of our method. The 'Replan Strategy' column indicates the replanning strategies used, as detailed in 3.3. The 'Selection Criteria' column specifies the criteria employed to generate the high-confidence candidate set, as described in 3.4. The best-performing entry for each column, excluding the Oracle, is **bolded** to emphasize the best-performing method given k . The best-performing entry for each row is highlighted to showcase the performance of each method when a hyper-parameter search on k is available. Finally, the best-performing baseline entry is *italicized* for easier comparison.

4.3 Evaluation Metric.

Given a proposed point for replanning, we follow the settings of VLMaps which checks whether the distance from the point to the nearest specified object is less than 1 meter.

4.3.1 Baselines.

- **No replan:** This is the success rate without any replanning.
- **Max confidence (top2 score):** This is a naive baseline where the point with the largest score is selected when the first trial fails, which matches the typical usage of navigation maps.
- **Random replan:** This baseline randomly selects a candidate as the second attempt.

4.3.2 Results.

Table 2 showcases the effectiveness of various replanning strategies compared to the "Max confidence (highest score)" baseline. The "Max entropy from top-k confidence" and "Max entropy from top-k category" strategies both demonstrate significant improvements over the baseline, reducing bias by considering entropy.

The "Min stderr" strategy along with "confidence" selection criteria consistently outperforms all other methods, including the baseline, by focusing on minimizing the standard error in confidence predictions. This approach proves to be the most robust and effective, highlighting the importance of incorporating uncertainty and multi-view consistency in replanning for superior outcomes.

4.4 Ablation Studies.

4.4.1 Different Choice on choosing Maximal/Minimal Uncertainty.

To further support our assumptions, we conducted an ablation study with the OpenMask3D setting by examining different directions of the uncertainty metric.

Replan Strategy	Selection Criteria	k=4	k=8	k=16	k=40	k=100
No replan	-	54.4	54.4	54.4	54.4	54.4
Max confidence	-	67.0	67.0	67.0	67.0	67.0
Random replan	-	56.2	56.2	56.2	56.2	56.2
Max entropy (3.3.1)	confidence (3.4.1)	81.0	67.6	67.9	66.8	65.4
	category (3.4.2)	70.4	67.3	64.2	63.3	63.3
Min stderr (3.3.2.1)	confidence	82.7	79.9	80.5	79.7	77.7

Table 2: **VLMaps Replanning Subgoal Success Rates.** Similar to table 1, the baseline methods and ‘Replan Strategy’ column are explained in 4.3.1 and 3.3, respectively. The ‘Selection Criteria’ column describes the criteria for generating the high-confidence candidate set, as detailed in 3.4. The best-performing entry in each column is **bolded** and in each row is highlighted. The best-performing baseline entry is *italicized* for easier comparison.

Single-view Entropy: If a model is biased, selecting low-entropy candidates from it might further reinforce the bias and ultimately degrade performance. Figure 2 illustrates the performance of choosing minimum entropy targets from top-k confidence candidates. This approach consistently underperforms the random baseline.

Multi-view Consistency: When scores from different views are inconsistent, it may indicate that the resulting scores are noisier and more likely to provide false information. Figure 3 depicts the performance of selecting the least consistent candidate (i.e., maximum mean pairwise KL divergence) from top-k confidence candidates. Similar to the single-view case, this variant, which discourages multi-view consistency, underperforms the baselines.

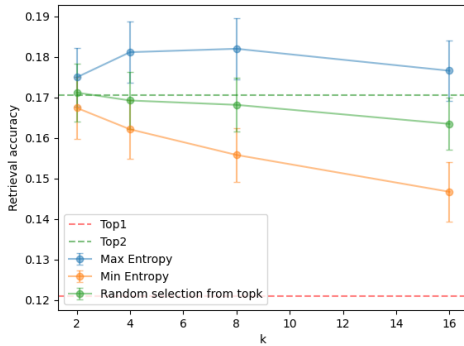


Figure 2: Entropy vs. K

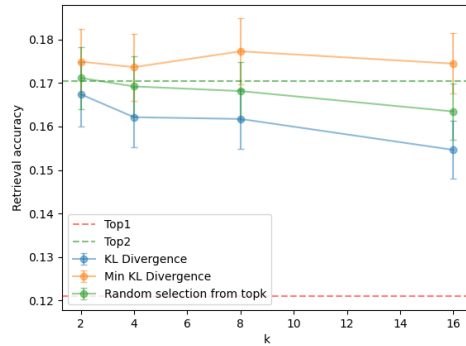


Figure 3: KL Divergence vs. K

5 Conclusion

Summary: We propose a novel method, Context-Aware Replanning (CARE), which accounts for unavoidable errors in Pre-explored Semantic Map and revises the plan. By leveraging uncertainty and multi-view consistency in Pre-explored Semantic Map, we replan the agent without additional human effort. We demonstrate the effectiveness and robustness of CARE by integrating it with two Pre-explored Semantic Map backbones, VLMaps [5] and OpenMask3D [3]. This integration consistently outperforms all baselines with various hyperparameters, achieving a peak success rate of 18.75% and a subgoal success rate of 82.7%.

Future Work: Given the portability of CARE, we are optimistic about its potential benefits for future robotic research and applications. By leveraging CARE, future research areas such as visual-and-language navigation (VLN) and applications like healthcare robots could facilitate replanning with reduced labeling costs. For example, a VLN system can leverage Pre-explored Semantic Map and enhance its success rate and Success weighted by Path Length (SPL) by replanning. The concept of CARE can also be adopted in the pre-exploring stage to enhance the quality of the Pre-explored Semantic Map by measuring with uncertainty and re-exploring.

Limitations: While our proposed CARE effectively cooperates with existing pre-explored semantic maps and navigation models in a training-free manner to achieve better performance, it may be limited by one major assumption: CARE assumes that the navigation model has consistent decision biases. This assumption holds true when working with a frozen model. However, if the navigation model is updated, these decision biases may be eliminated or changed, resulting in less significant performance improvements from CARE. While our proposed uncertainty measures are theoretically modality-agnostic and applicable to various 2D or 3D modalities, practical challenges such as sensitivity to channel scale in feature-based methods and the need for classifiers or alternative approaches in distribution-based methods should be considered to ensure their effectiveness. Additionally, because the structure of the semantic map may vary, CARE only uses the fixed semantic map for re-planning and does not further update the map with new information during the process. This research direction has the potential to continuously improve performance but is beyond the scope of this study. We will discuss and verify this direction in our future work.

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Appendix

Part I

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A More Method Details.

A.1 Pseudocode of CARE.

To further enhance the reproducibility of our work, we present CARE’s pseudocode in Algorithm 1. Additionally, we will open-source the code once our work is accepted.

A.2 CARE with OpenMask3D.

Method Overview: Following OpenMask3D [3], a transformer-based 3d instance segmentation model is used to propose 3d masks. After the masks are proposed, up to 5 views where the object is visible can be selected for calculating the mask feature.

View Selection: Given a 3d object mask, the 3d points in the mask are projected back to 2d for all posed RGB images in the scene. We then validate whether the object is visible in a view by checking if any of the points projected to 2d lies within the image. If there are more than 5 views where the object is visible, we rank the images by the number of object pixels and choose the top 5 views. This not only helps us manage the computation cost but also encourages the selection of views that are closer to the object, which might be helpful in filtering out far-away views that might not capture the object clearly.

Feature Extraction: Following the original OpenMask3D implementation, we used CLIP-ViT-L/14 for encoding images and texts. The 3d to 2d projection operation mentioned in the last paragraph has also allowed us to calculate the bounding-box of the object which we refer to as ”object crops”. For feature extraction, we encode the object crops with the CLIP visual encoder and save them all instead of taking the average of them. In the original OpenMask3D implementation, they also used multi-scale cropping for each object crop as a data augmentation. Since data augmentation is orthogonal to the direction of this work, we omitted this part for simplicity.

Algorithm 1 Pipeline of CARE

```
1:  $S = \text{SelectionMethod} \in \{\text{TopConfidence}, \text{TopPrediction}\}$ 
2:  $k = \text{The boundary of ranking for the selection method}$ 
3:  $U = \text{UncertaintyMeasure} \in \{\text{Entropy}, \text{StandardError}, \text{KL}\}$ 
4:  $N = \text{Number of all the points}$ 
5:  $f = \text{Feature dimensions}$ 
6:  $m = \text{Number of all possible classes}$ 
7:  $O = \text{Set of every point, shape } (N, f)$ 
8: if original plan fails then
9:   if  $S == \text{TopConfidence}$  then ▷ Filter with selection method
10:      $C = \text{score of } O \text{ from high to low, shape } (N, 1)$ 
11:      $O' = \text{points with top } k \text{ highest scores, shape } (N', f)$ 
12:   else if  $S == \text{TopPrediction}$  then
13:      $P = \text{predicted class from high to low for each point in } O, \text{ shape } (N, m)$ 
14:      $O' = \text{points where their top } k \text{ predicted classes include the target class, shape } (N', f)$ 
15:   end if
16:   if  $U == \text{Entropy}$  then ▷ Choose a point with uncertainty measure
17:      $E = \text{entropy of } O', \text{ shape } (N', 1)$ 
18:      $O^* = \text{argmax}(E), \text{ shape } (1, f)$ 
19:   else if  $U == \text{StandardError}$  then
20:      $SE = \text{standard error of } O', \text{ shape } (N', 1)$ 
21:      $O^* = \text{argmin}(SE), \text{ shape } (1, f)$ 
22:   else if  $U == \text{KL}$  then
23:      $KL = \text{KL divergence of } O', \text{ shape } (N', 1)$ 
24:      $O^* = \text{argmin}(KL), \text{ shape } (1, f)$ 
25:   end if
26:   return  $O^*$ 
27: end if
```

A.3 CARE with VLMaps.

Method Overview: Following the original VLMaps [5], we first select 10 scenes and randomly generate several poses, which includes position and rotation, with their corresponding RGBD observations. Then, the image features generated by LSeg[10] model are projected to the global frame.

Map Generation: As previously mentioned, we build the map by the method that is identical to VLMaps. However, we further save some metrics for each grid which are utilized in our work, such as entropy, standard error, and KL divergence. Additionally, to align with the method of feature fusion [1] adopted in VLMaps, we calculate the above metrics in their weighted version.

Navigation and Planning: In the navigation stage, VLMaps first generate a mask indicating the presence of a specific object class, and it then plans a path to the boundary of the nearest object. With the provided path, it further calculate the angle and distance between two subsequent halfway point, generating the low-level actions that is used in the HabitatSim [13, 14, 12].

Evaluation and Re-proposing: After all the actions are executed, we calculate the distance between the agent and the approximate boundary of the nearest object with the ground truth data provided by the simulator. Following the settings in VLMaps, we count it success when the distance is less than or equal to 1 meter. If it fails, we then generate a new proposal of where the object may be by our method CARE. Similarly, we calculate the distance between the new point and its nearest object, checking whether the distance is less than or equal to 1 meter.

B Experimental Details.

Quantitative Results: In the setting of VLMaps, we also conduct the KL divergence method as our uncertainty measure as shown in Table 3. However, some scenes with larger space or more data, may cause the calculation of pairwise KL divergence become quite computational intensive. Thus, we have to skip two larger scenes due to the limitation of memory size, which makes the result not comparable to others.

Replan Strategy	k=4	k=8	k=16	k=40	k=100
No replan	54.4	54.4	54.4	54.4	54.4
Max confidence (highest score)	67.0	67.0	67.0	67.0	67.0
Random replan	56.2	56.2	56.2	56.2	56.2
Min KL from topk confidence	82.7	83.1	85.2	84.5	82.7
Min KL from topk category	79.2	77.1	73.9	64.4	64.4

Table 3: VLMaps Replanning Subgoal Success Rates with KL divergence

Qualitative Results: We provide more qualitative results on the [anonymized project page](#)¹, including the process of our proposed CARE solving an object navigation task. These qualitative results support our claims and make our work more convincing.

C Supplementary Experiments and Analysis.

C.1 Computational Complexity Analysis.

Our method incorporates a replanning phase when the initial retrieval attempt is unsuccessful. Such replanning phase includes the calculation of uncertainty measures, which introduces additional computational time compared to the baseline methods. To evaluate the computational overhead introduced by our approach, we performed a supplementary experiment and analysis.

Replanning Strategy	entropy	stderr	pwKL
Time Complexity	$O(n)$	$O(n)$	$O(n^2)$
Space Complexity	$O(n)$	$O(n)$	$O(n^2)$

Table 4: Complexity Analysis with Respect to Candidate Count n .

Table 4 presents a theoretical analysis for each replanning strategy. The computational complexity for the **entropy** and **stderr** measures increases linearly, whereas, for the **pwKL** measure, the complexity grows quadratically due to the need for pairwise computations between candidates. While the pairwise KL divergence method provides superior retrieval performance in the main experiments, this theoretical analysis suggests that it might suffer from larger computational costs when the candidate count n is too large. In this case, users could consider using the **stderr** metric with linear complexity to measure multi-view consistency.

To further demonstrate the real-time applicability of our method, we measured the time requirements in the OpenMask3d experiment setting. We assumed that object features are precomputed and stored in the maps, with uncertainty measures such as entropy and KL divergence computed on the fly. Figures 4 and 5 present the results under different top-k strategies. For all uncertainty measures, both top-k selection criteria and all tested values of k , a retrieval attempt typically takes less than 15 milliseconds. Considering that real-world physical navigation involves seconds or minutes of path-following interactions after determining a destination, we believe that the millisecond-level computational overhead introduced by our method is negligible.

¹<https://carmaps.github.io/supplements/>

Note that in practice, the uncertainty measures can also be precomputed like the object features. In this case, the latency for our method could be further decreased. In latency-critical scenarios, users of our method can trade space for time by precomputing and storing the uncertainty measures.

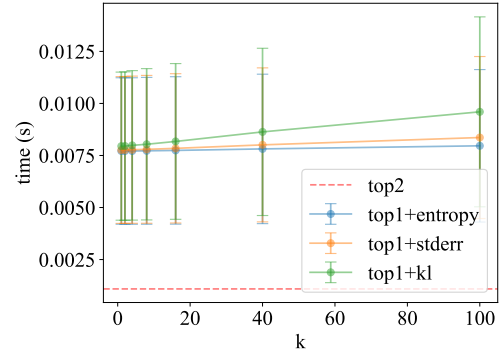
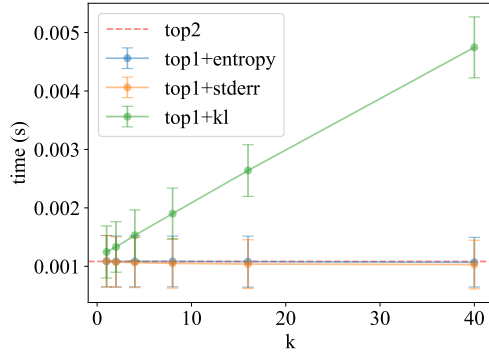


Figure 4: Retrieval Latency for Top-k Confidence. Figure 5: Retrieval Latency for Top-k Category.

D Limitations and Future Works.

While our proposed CARE effectively cooperates with existing pre-explored semantic maps and navigation models in a training-free manner to achieve better performance, it may be limited by one major assumption: CARE assumes that the navigation model has consistent decision biases. This assumption holds true when working with a frozen model. However, if the navigation model is updated, these decision biases may be eliminated or changed, resulting in less significant performance improvements from CARE. Additionally, because the structure of the semantic map may vary, CARE only uses the fixed semantic map for re-planning and does not further update the map with new information during the process. This research direction has the potential to continuously improve performance but is beyond the scope of this study. We will discuss and verify this direction in our future work.