

Overcoming Shortcut Problem in VLM for Robust Out-of-Distribution Detection

Zhuo Xu¹, Xiang Xiang^{1,2,*}, Yifan Liang¹

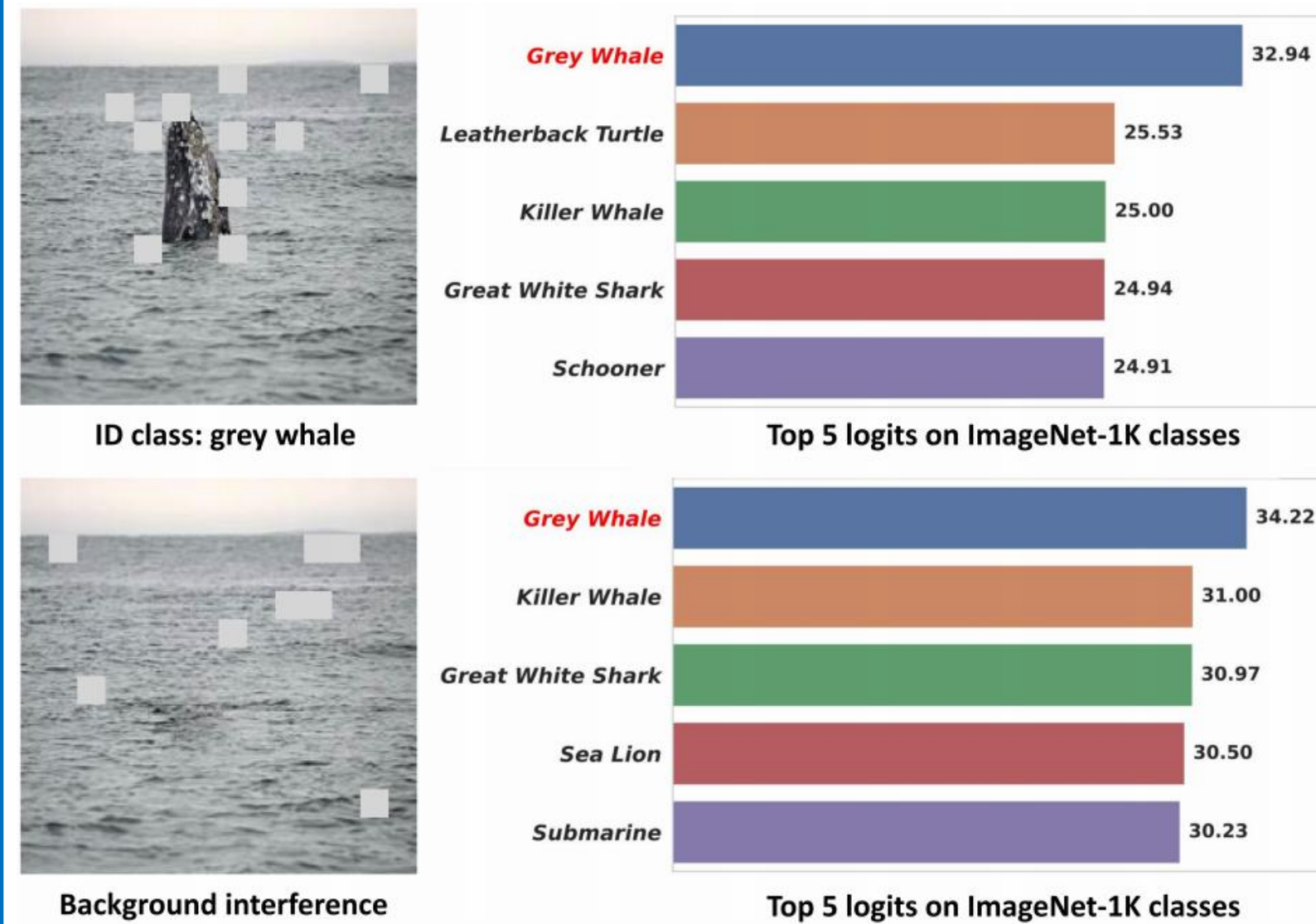
¹ National Key Lab of Multi-Spectral Information Intelligent Processing Technology

School of Artificial Intelligence and Automation, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China

² Peng Cheng National Laboratory, Shenzhen, China

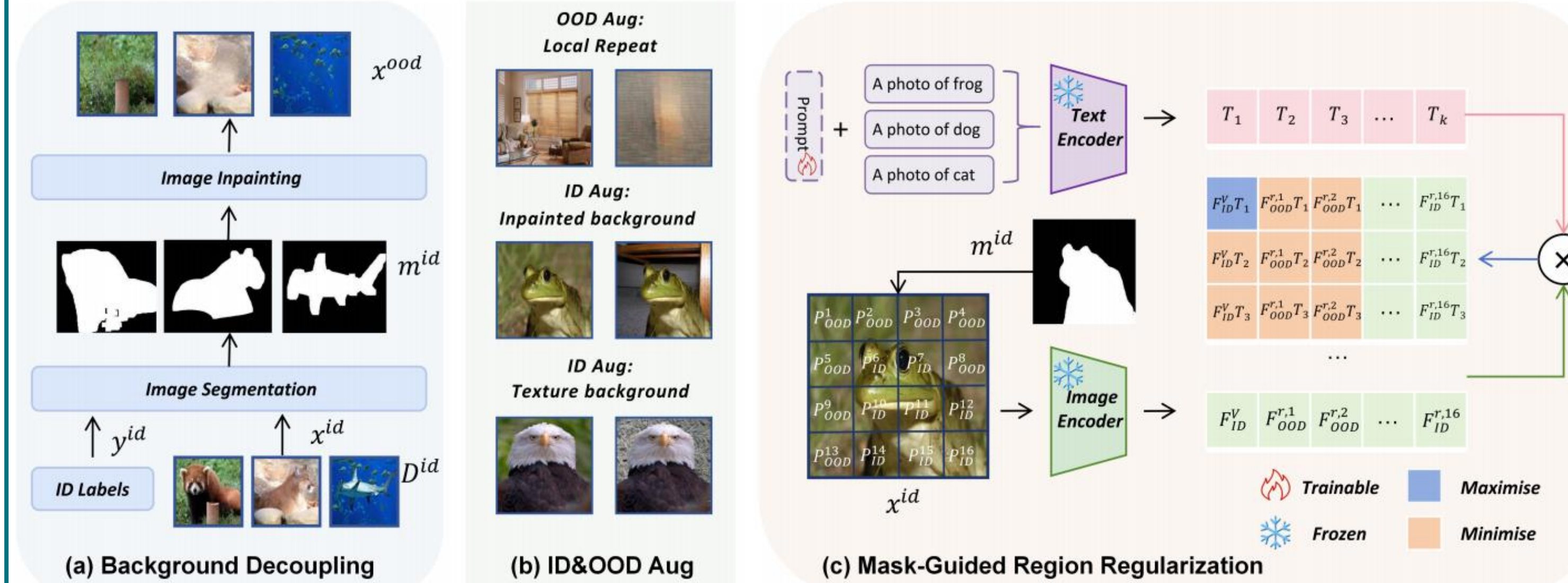


Motivation



- VLMs (e.g CLIP) suffers from serious shortcut problem, may output ridiculous higher logits on background interference.
- Existing methods neglect this critical problem.

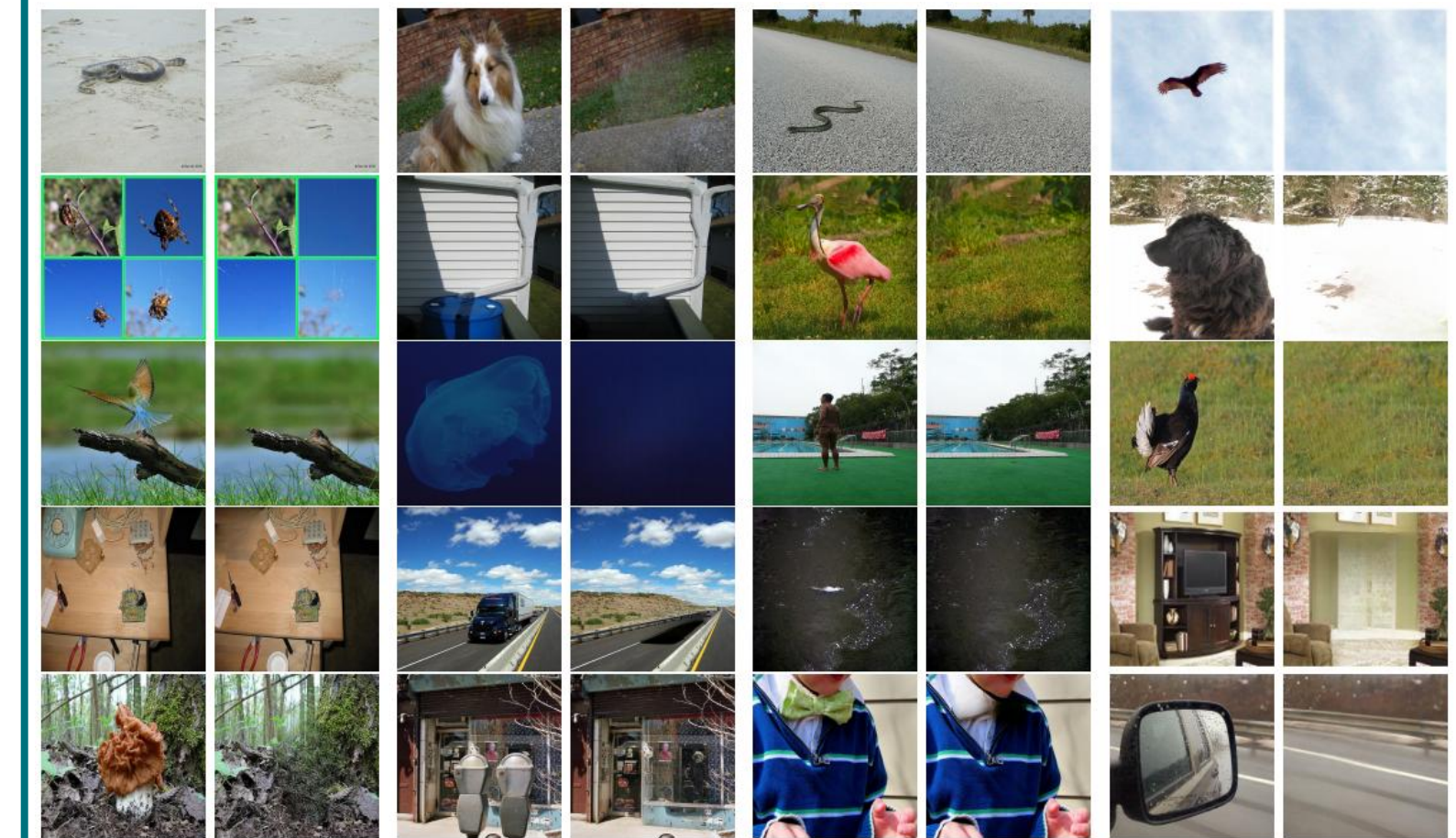
Methods



- Decoupling images into foreground and background, removing the foreground with ID information to generate background-only images. Inpainting the removed ID region with background information to generate natural background samples.
- Repeat the local regions and replace the background of ID samples with diverse background for data augmentation.
- Mask-guided region regularization to constrain ID-irrelevant areas and reduce the model's response to these regions.

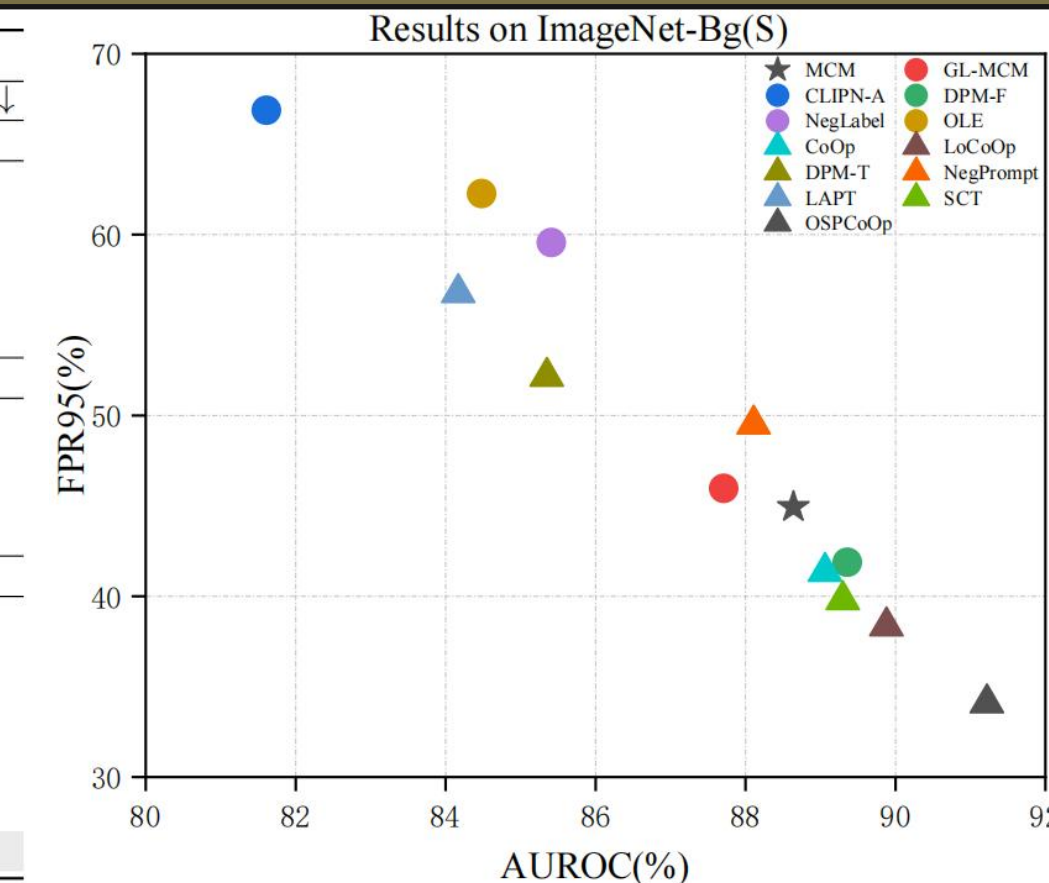
Background Datasets

- Removing corresponding ID-relevant regions from samples in the ImageNet validation set to evaluate the robustness of the model against background interference.
- ImageNet-Bg, with 48,285 background images.
- ImageNet-Bg(S), sampling from ImageNet-Bg, with 24,863 cleaner background images.



Quantitative Results

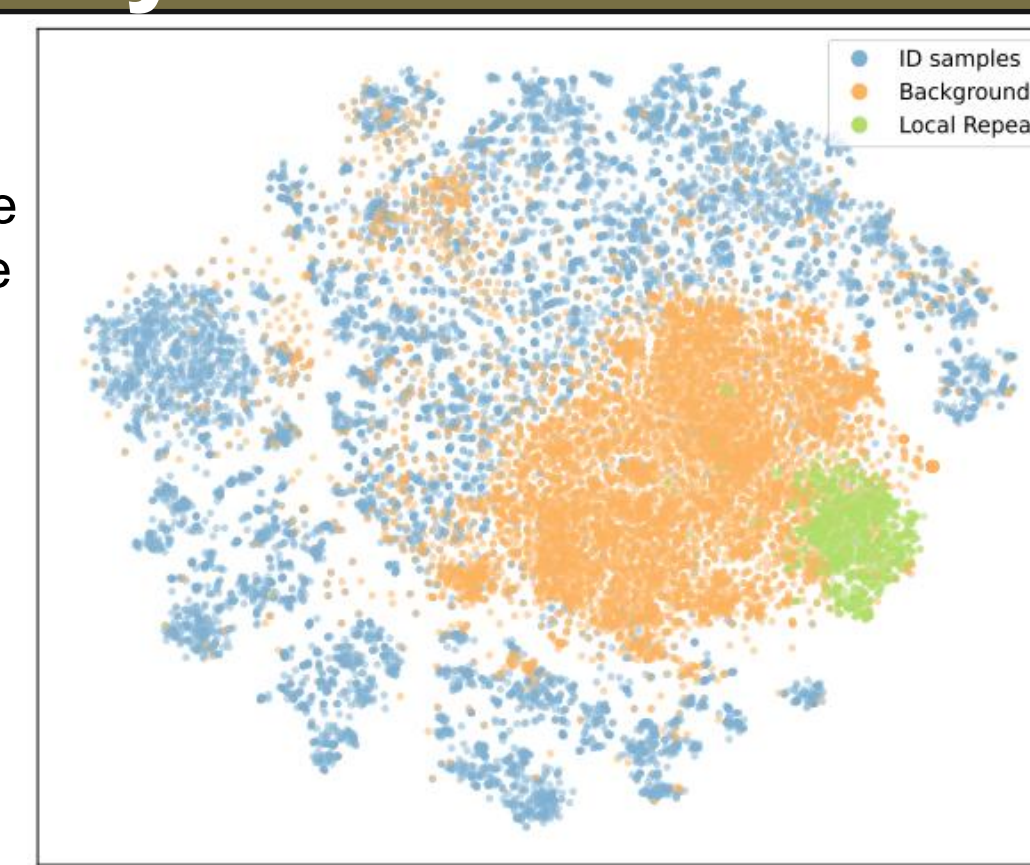
Method	iNaturalist		SUN		Places		Texture		Avg	
	AUROC↑	FPR95↓	AUROC↑	FPR95↓	AUROC↑	FPR95↓	AUROC↑	FPR95↓	AUROC↑	FPR95↓
Training-free methods										
ZOC [10]	86.09	87.30	81.20	81.51	83.39	73.06	76.46	98.90	81.79	85.19
MCM [33]	94.61	30.94	92.56	37.67	89.76	44.76	86.10	57.91	90.76	42.82
GL-MCM [39]	96.71	15.18	93.09	30.42	89.90	38.85	83.63	57.93	90.83	35.47
CLIPN-A [49]	95.27	23.94	93.93	26.17	90.93	40.83	92.28	33.45	93.10	31.10
DPM-F [57] †	96.84	15.26	91.78	42.58	89.60	45.99	85.74	57.55	90.99	40.35
Outlier-label exposure methods										
NegLabel [21]	99.48	1.99	95.43	21.05	91.95	34.95	90.90	44.79	94.25	25.69
LAPT [55]	99.63	1.16	96.01	19.12	92.01	33.01	91.06	40.32	94.68	23.40
EOE [4]	97.52	12.29	95.73	20.40	92.94	30.16	85.64	57.53	92.96	30.09
OLE [8]	98.33	7.61	94.87	22.44	92.45	31.73	92.40	34.70	94.51	24.12
Requires few-shot training (or w/ fine-tuning)										
CoOp [60]	96.62	14.60	92.65	28.48	89.98	36.49	88.03	43.13	91.82	30.67
LoCoOp [35]	96.86	16.05	95.07	23.44	91.98	32.87	90.19	42.28	93.52	28.66
SCT [51]	95.86	13.94	95.33	20.55	92.24	29.86	89.06	41.51	93.37	26.47
DPM-T [57] †	97.04	14.47	93.19	33.06	89.78	39.46	87.49	49.73	91.88	34.18
ID-like [2]	98.19	8.98	91.64	42.03	91.15	41.74	94.38	26.77	93.84	29.88
NegPrompt [27] †	90.69	45.97	92.18	39.43	91.65	37.49	90.01	44.84	91.13	41.93
OSPCoOp (Ours)	97.13	15.25	96.74	18.26	94.01	25.74	91.13	41.26	94.75	25.13



Analysis

- The pseudo-OOD data partly show a clustering trend, with a small portion distributed around the ID samples, which are easy to take shortcuts.
- Constrain both regional and global logits for backgrounds can mitigate shortcuts.

λ_{ood}^r	λ_{ood}^g	AUROC↑	FPR95↓
×	×	92.05	32.78
✓	×	93.94	28.45
×	✓	94.14	25.35
✓	✓	94.75	25.13



Conclusions

- We observe that VLMs (e.g CLIP) often relies on background information, which can lead to failures in OOD detection, especially for background interference.
- we present ImageNet-Bg, a novel OOD evaluation benchmark designed to facilitate a comprehensive assessment of model robustness against background interference.
- Decoupling background information to generate pseudo-OOD supervision, constraining the model's responses to ID-irrelevant regions, can effectively mitigate the shortcut problem.

* Correspondence to xex@hust.edu.cn