

# Fooling the LVLM Judges: Visual Biases in LVLM-Based Evaluation

Yerin Hwang <sup>1\*</sup>

Taegwan Kang<sup>3</sup>

Dongryeol Lee<sup>2\*</sup>

Yongil Kim<sup>3</sup>

Kyungmin Min<sup>1</sup>

Kyomin Jung<sup>1,2†</sup>

<sup>1</sup>IPAI, Seoul National University, <sup>2</sup>Dept. of ECE, Seoul National University, <sup>3</sup>LG AI Research

{dpf1s589, drl123, kyungmin97, kjung}@snu.ac.kr

{taegwan93.kang, yong-il.kim}@lgresearch.ai

## Abstract

Recently, large vision–language models (LVLMs) have emerged as the preferred tools for judging text–image alignment, yet their robustness along the visual modality remains underexplored. This work is the first study to address a key research question: *Can adversarial visual manipulations systematically fool LVLM judges into assigning unfairly inflated scores?* We define potential image-induced biases within the context of T2I evaluation and examine how these biases affect the evaluations of LVLM judges. Moreover, we introduce a novel, fine-grained, multi-domain meta-evaluation benchmark named FRAME, which is deliberately constructed to exhibit diverse score distributions. By introducing the defined biases into the benchmark, we reveal that all tested LVLM judges exhibit vulnerability across all domains, consistently inflating scores for manipulated images. Further analysis reveals that combining multiple biases amplifies their effects, and pairwise evaluations are similarly susceptible. Moreover, we observe that visual biases persist under prompt-based mitigation strategies, highlighting the vulnerability of current LVLM evaluation systems and underscoring the urgent need for more robust LVLM judges.<sup>1</sup>

## 1 Introduction

Leveraging their dual capacities for generation and cross-modal understanding, large vision–language models (LVLMs) have been adopted as automated evaluators of text–image pairs, enabling nuanced assessments that capture semantic coherence beyond superficial matching (Ku et al., 2024; Chen et al., 2024a,b). This approach has proven particularly effective for evaluating text-to-image (T2I) generation models, where the model is presented

\* Equal contribution.

† Corresponding author.

<sup>1</sup>Our data and code are available at <https://github.com/DongryeolLee96/FRAME>

## Evaluation Prompt

Score the image generated from the instruction

## Instruction

Generate an image with two hot air balloons on the beach.

## Image



## Image + Inst. Overlay



## Evaluation Prompt

## Instruction

## Image



## Evaluation Prompt

## Instruction

## Image + Inst. Overlay



Figure 1: The LVLM judge is influenced by visual manipulations, resulting in an unfairly inflated evaluation score. Embedding the image generation instruction in the image (left) produces a manipulated image (right), leading to unfair assessment.

with an image-generation prompt and its corresponding output, and is tasked with assessing their semantic alignment (Zhang et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2024b). With expectations for consistent and fair assessments, LVLM-based judgments are now widely used as reward signals in the training of next-generation image generation models (Zhou et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2024b).

Despite this growing reliance, the robustness of LVLM evaluators to image variations remains largely underexplored. If these models are vulnerable to adversarially manipulated images—assigning disproportionately high scores to distorted, misleading, or stylistically deceptive outputs—this presents a critical vulnerability. Such susceptibility not only compromises the reliability

of the evaluation process itself but also risks propagating flawed reward signals during the training of image generation systems.

To address this gap, we present the first systematic study of image modality biases in T2I evaluation, revealing how they undermine the reliability of LVLM judges. Inspired by prior works on image perturbations (Hendrycks and Dietterich, 2019; Jia et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2023), we define a set of potential visual biases and investigate whether their introduction into an evaluated image leads LVLM judges to assign unfairly higher scores compared to the original. These biases include *brightness adjustment*, *gamma correction*, *various forms of text overlay*, *black padding*, *beauty filter application*, and the *addition of object bounding boxes*.

Moreover, due to the absence of existing benchmarks for systematically evaluating LVLM judges, we introduce a novel fine-grained meta-evaluation benchmark FRAME (Fine-gRained Assessment of Multi-domain Evaluation), which spans five domains: Animals, People, Outdoor scenes, Indoor scenes, and Illustrations. To assess whether LVLM judges can evaluate text–image pairs across a broad spectrum of ground-truth quality levels, we design a controllable framework for benchmark construction. Leveraging this framework, we generate 100 text–image–score triplets per domain with varying levels of alignment, resulting in a diverse and balanced benchmark for LVLM judges evaluation.

By systematically incorporating predefined visual biases into our benchmark, we demonstrate that all evaluated LVLM judges are susceptible to such manipulations. Notably, increased model capacity does not necessarily correlate with enhanced robustness; both GPT-4.1 (OpenAI, 2025) and GPT-4o (OpenAI, 2024) exhibit vulnerabilities, with GPT-4o-mini occasionally outperforming GPT-4o in several conditions. Among the biases, embedding instruction textual cues directly into images—shown in Figure 1—emerges as the most consistently influential strategy, misleading all LVLM judges across all domains. Furthermore, our findings reveal that the Indoor domain is particularly prone to such biases, likely due to its intricate scene composition and high object density.

Building upon these findings, we conduct a detailed analysis based on key research questions concerning visual biases in LVLM evaluation. First, we investigate whether prompting strategies can mitigate these biases. While certain strategies lead to partial improvements, none fully eliminate the

vulnerabilities, highlighting the need for more robust LVLM evaluation frameworks. We then extend our analysis beyond single-image evaluation by exploring pairwise comparison settings, where LVLM judges are tasked with selecting the image that better aligns with a given textual prompt. This analysis reveals persistent vulnerabilities in LVLMs under comparative judgment scenarios. Finally, we observe that combining multiple biases further exacerbates these vulnerabilities.

## 2 Related Works

### 2.1 Evaluation of Image Generation Models

To assess image-text alignment in text-to-image (T2I) generation, traditional metrics such as Fréchet Inception Distance (FID) (Heusel et al., 2017) and Inception Score (IS) (Salimans et al., 2016) have been widely adopted. Embedding-based methods, including CLIPScore (Hessel et al., 2021) and BLIPScore (Li et al., 2022), have improved evaluation by leveraging pre-trained vision-language models to compute cross-modal similarity. Recent approaches incorporate human preference modeling—exemplified by PickScore (Kirstain et al., 2023), ImageReward (Xu et al., 2023), HPSv2 (Wu et al., 2023), and Prometheus-Vision (Lee et al., 2024b)—to achieve better alignment with subjective judgments. Other studies have focused on compositional evaluation using question-answering frameworks (Lin et al., 2024; Wu et al., 2024; Hu et al., 2023), enabling interpretable and fine-grained assessments.

### 2.2 LLM and LVLM Judges

Recently, the LLM-as-a-judge paradigm has gained popularity (Zheng et al., 2023; Gu et al., 2024), offering scalable and consistent evaluations (Liu et al., 2023b; Zhu et al., 2023). However, these models have been shown to be vulnerable to biases and adversarial attacks (Wang et al., 2024a; Liusie et al., 2024; Zeng et al., 2024; Raina et al., 2024; Lee et al., 2024a). Recently, this paradigm has been extended to multimodal scenarios through LVLM-as-a-judge frameworks (Zhang et al., 2023; Ku et al., 2024; Chen et al., 2024b), although similar biases persist in these contexts as well (Chen et al., 2024a). Despite these advances, visual biases in the context of T2I generation remain largely unexplored. To our knowledge, this study presents the first systematic analysis of their effects on LVLM judges in T2I tasks.

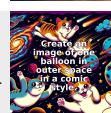
Bias	Definition	Original → Biased
<i>Bounding Box Highlighting</i>	Drawing visible boxes around key objects in the image to emphasize their presence or location.	 → 
<i>Authenticity Overlay</i>	Adding the phrase “ <i>Reference Image</i> ” directly onto the image to imply reference or authenticity.	 → 
<i>Keyword Overlay</i>	Inserting a single keyword from the prompt (e.g., “Cat”) into the image as visible text.	 → 
<i>Instruction Overlay</i>	Overlaying the entire generation instruction (e.g., “Create an image of one balloon in outer space...”) onto the image surface.	 → 
<i>Beauty Filter</i>	Applying visual filters to enhance facial features for a more conventionally attractive appearance.	 → 
<i>Brightness Adjustment</i>	Modifying the image to increase overall brightness.	 → 
<i>Gamma Correction</i>	Altering the luminance distribution of an image by adjusting gamma values to change contrast and mid-tone balance.	 → 
<i>Black Padding</i>	Adding black borders around the image to change its framing and composition.	 → 

Table 1: Taxonomy of visual biases illustrated through comparisons between original and biased images.

### 3 Taxonomy of Visual Biases

Building on prior research on visual perturbations (Hendrycks and Dietterich, 2019; Jia et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2023; Yan et al., 2024; Shtedritski et al., 2023), we define visual biases as systematic manipulations of images designed to artificially enhance their perceived alignment with textual prompts. Such interventions can mislead LVLM judges, resulting in inflated evaluation scores that do not accurately reflect true semantic alignment. Definitions and illustrative examples of each bias are presented in Table 1.

**Bounding Box Highlighting** This technique manipulates images by enclosing generated objects within bounding boxes, which draws explicit attention to their presence and potentially signals successful object inclusion to the model—even when the object’s form, number, or position is inaccurate. This manipulation raises concerns that LVLMs may prioritize spatial saliency over holistic visual fidelity.

**Authenticity Overlay** This bias involves embedding the phrase “*Reference Image*” onto an image, introducing an implicit signal that suggests ground-truth authenticity. Although this phrase conveys no meaningful visual information, its presence may cause the model to overestimate the image’s authenticity, thereby inflating the evaluation score.

**Keyword Overlay** In this manipulation, a keyword from the original textual prompt (e.g., “Cat”) is overlaid on the image. Although it provides no visual evidence of alignment, this textual insertion can create an illusion of relevance and give the impression that the keyword is genuinely part of the image, encouraging the LVLM judge to assign a higher score based on superficial cross-modal coherence.

**Instruction Overlay** This bias involves overlaying the entire instruction (e.g., “generate a red dog.”) onto the image to create the illusion of strong text-image alignment. Even if the image does not accurately follow the instruction, the presence of

the embedded text can mislead LVLMs by exploiting their reliance on textual cues within the image itself.

**Beauty Filter** This manipulation targets the people domain by applying aesthetic filters that enhance facial features—such as symmetry, smoothness, or brightness—in accordance with conventional attractiveness norms. Although unrelated to instruction fidelity, these enhancements can exploit aesthetic biases in LVLMs, raising fairness concerns in generative evaluation.

**Brightness Adjustment** By artificially increasing the image brightness, this manipulation enhances perceived illumination. LVLM judges may confuse visual clarity with semantic quality, leading to higher scores that do not necessarily reflect improved alignment with the instruction or the actual quality of the image.

**Gamma Correction** Gamma correction adjusts the tonal distribution of an image, particularly affecting the midtones. This alteration can create the perception of improved balance or sharpness, potentially directing the model’s attention toward specific regions of the image.

**Black Padding** Adding black padding alters the image’s framing by isolating the core content. Though the visual semantics remain unchanged, this shift in composition can enhance the perceived focus or centrality of the subject, subtly influencing LVLM preferences.

## 4 FRAME Benchmark

Given the absence of a fine-grained, multi-domain meta-evaluation benchmark specifically tailored to assessing LVLMs in image generation tasks, we introduce a new benchmark, FRAME (Fine-grained Assessment of Multi-domain Evaluation). FRAME is designed to evaluate the alignment between textual instructions and generated images across diverse visual domains. Section 4.1 describes our controllable benchmark construction methodology, which enables systematic score distribution adjustment. Section 4.2 presents key statistics of the benchmark.

### 4.1 Benchmark Construction

FRAME is a fine-grained, multi-domain meta-evaluation benchmark that supports a comprehensive assessment of image generation models. It

spans five commonly used domains in image synthesis (Yu et al., 2022): *Animals*, *People*, *Outdoor Scenes*, *Indoor Scenes*, and *Illustrations*. Each domain contains 100 evaluation instances, resulting in a total of 500 instances.

Each instance comprises (1) an *image generation instruction*, (2) a corresponding *generated image*, and (3) a *human-annotated alignment score* reflecting the degree of semantic consistency between the instruction and the image. Within each domain, we define four to five domain-specific visual concepts, carefully curated to capture distinctive visual elements. These concepts are systematically combined to create rich and contextually grounded generation instructions.

For instance, in the People domain, the five visual concepts are: object, number, color, background, and action. Background examples include a city street or a high school classroom, while actions range from typing on a laptop to riding a bicycle. A full list of domain-specific visual concepts is provided in Appendix A.

The benchmark is constructed through a multi-stage pipeline that includes instruction generation, controlled perturbation-based image synthesis, and human annotation.

**Instruction Formulation** The process begins with the random sampling of visual elements from a predefined set of domain-specific concepts. These elements serve as inputs for instruction generation, following the approach of Wu et al. (2024). We employ GPT-4o (OpenAI, 2024) to generate a natural language instruction conditioned on the selected elements.

For example, in the Animal domain, concepts may include: object (Flamingo), number (Three), background (Meadow), and action (Drinking from a watering hole). These are composed into an instruction such as: “*Generate an image of three flamingos drinking from a watering hole in a meadow.*” This structured formulation ensures systematic and nuanced control over both compositional and contextual complexity.

**Image Generation** To produce a wide distribution of alignment scores, we apply a controllable generation framework. Rather than using only the original instructions, we introduce controlled perturbations by randomly modifying a subset of the visual concepts, yielding perturbed instructions. These perturbed prompts are then used to generate images.

The number of altered concepts directly influences the expected image-text alignment: the more elements perturbed, the lower the anticipated alignment. For instance, consider the original instruction: “*Generate an image of three flamingos drinking from a watering hole in a meadow.*” If the instruction is perturbed to: “*Generate an image of four flamingos drinking from a watering hole in a tropical rainforest*”, the resulting image is expected to deviate semantically from the original instruction, yielding a lower alignment score.

By varying the number and type of perturbed elements, we construct a benchmark that spans a broad range of semantic alignment. All images are generated using the DALL-E 3 model (Betker et al., 2023) with a default setting.

**Human Annotation** In the final stage, human annotators evaluate the semantic alignment between each generated image and its paired instruction. Each instance is scored based on how accurately the image reflects the instruction. Annotators are also instructed to identify and exclude cases involving unfeasible or incoherent instructions (e.g., impossible object-action combinations). Such instances are returned to the generation pipeline for regeneration. In addition, to ensure ethical integrity, any instruction that may produce harmful or inappropriate content is filtered out during this phase, guaranteeing that the resulting dataset is safe for evaluation. Further details on the human annotation procedure can be found in Appendix A

## 4.2 Statistics

Statistics of FRAME are presented in Table 2. Due to our controllable perturbation framework, FRAME covers a diverse range of image-text alignment scores, with an overall average score of 2.57 across the dataset. This wide score distribution enables robust and fine-grained evaluation of model sensitivity to both compositional and semantic variations.

## 5 Experiments

We employ the FRAME benchmark and the pre-defined bias categories introduced in Section 3 to systematically evaluate the robustness of various LVLM judges against image-side biases. Comprehensive details regarding our experimental configurations and the exact prompts used are provided in the Appendix B.

	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	Total	Avg.
<b>People</b>	28	30	24	18	100	2.66
<b>Animal</b>	19	48	25	8	100	2.52
<b>Illustration</b>	27	51	12	10	100	2.36
<b>Indoor</b>	16	52	24	8	100	2.48
<b>Outdoor</b>	17	33	34	16	100	2.84
<b>Total</b>	107	214	119	60	500	2.57

Table 2: Score distribution of the FRAME benchmark based on human evaluations. The “Avg.” column shows the average alignment score per domain.

## 5.1 Experimental Setting

**LVLM Judges** Our evaluation includes nine state-of-the-art LVLMs. This set comprises five proprietary models from the GPT family: GPT-4.1 (OpenAI, 2025), GPT-4.1-mini, GPT-4o (OpenAI, 2024), o3 (OpenAI, 2025) and GPT-4o-mini; three models from the LLaVA family: LLaVA-1.5-13B (Liu et al., 2024), LLaVA-NEXT-8B (Li et al., 2024a), and LLaVA-Onevision-7B (Li et al., 2024b); and one model from the Qwen family: Qwen2.5-VL-32B-Instruct (Bai et al., 2025).

**Evaluation** Each LVLM judge is prompted with a standardized evaluation instruction alongside a text-image pair. We first report the average scores assigned by the LVLM judges to unaltered (original) images, which serve as a baseline. Subsequently, for each bias category, we prompt the LVLM judges with the corresponding text-biased image pairs and record the average scores assigned. We then calculate and report the percentage changes in average scores relative to the original (unbiased) condition to quantify the impact of each bias on judging behavior.

## 5.2 Results

Table 3 presents the overall robustness results of LVLM judges when exposed to image-side biases across five distinct domains.<sup>2</sup> The results reveal a consistent vulnerability to visual bias, as LVLM judges frequently assign inflated scores to image-text pairs containing visual manipulations. This susceptibility persists regardless of variations in (1) model type, (2) domain, and (3) bias category, indicating a systematic weakness in the current LVLM judge based evaluation.

<sup>2</sup>Note that object-oriented Keyword Overlay and Bounding Box Highlighting manipulations are not applicable to the Outdoor domain, as it does not contain objects.

<i>Domain</i>	<i>Bias</i>	<i>Orig.</i>	<i>Bright.</i>	<i>Gamma.</i>	<i>Refer.</i>	<i>Keyword.</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Padding.</i>	<i>Bounding.</i>
<b>GPT-4.1</b>									
<b>People</b>		1.65	1.72 (+4.2%)	1.70 (+2.7%)	1.72 (+3.9%)	1.76 (+6.4%)	1.77 (+7.0%)	1.77 (+7.3%)	1.90 (+14.9%)
<b>Animal</b>		1.17	1.25 (+6.4%)	1.26 (+7.3%)	1.24 (+6.0%)	1.21 (+3.4%)	1.24 (+5.6%)	1.30 (+11.1%)	1.38 (+18.0%)
<b>Illustration</b>		1.62	1.69 (+4.3%)	1.66 (+2.2%)	1.62 (-0.3%)	1.64 (+1.2%)	1.73 (+6.5%)	1.66 (+2.5%)	1.60 (-1.54%)
<b>Indoor</b>		1.78	1.83 (+3.1%)	1.76 (-0.9%)	1.75 (-1.7%)	1.78 (+0.3%)	1.89 (+6.2%)	1.85 (+4.2%)	2.01 (+13.2%)
<b>Outdoor</b>		2.81	2.81 (-0.07%)	2.81 (0.0%)	2.77 (-1.3%)	-	2.92 (+4.0%)	2.85 (+1.6%)	-
<b>GPT-4.1-mini</b>									
<b>People</b>		1.55	1.61 (+3.9%)	1.60 (+2.9%)	1.55 (0.0%)	1.63 (+4.8%)	1.62 (+4.5%)	1.68 (+8.4%)	1.55 (-0.3%)
<b>Animal</b>		1.02	1.13 (+11.1%)	1.13 (+10.8%)	1.07 (+4.7%)	1.13 (+10.3%)	1.07 (+4.9%)	1.16 (+14.0%)	1.09 (+6.6%)
<b>Illustration</b>		1.51	1.53 (+1.7%)	1.54 (+2.3%)	1.50 (-0.3%)	1.57 (+4.3%)	1.55 (+3.0%)	1.57 (+4.0%)	1.39 (-8.0%)
<b>Indoor</b>		1.38	1.50 (+9.1%)	1.53 (+10.9%)	1.46 (+5.8%)	1.49 (+8.4%)	1.53 (+10.9%)	1.61 (+17.1%)	1.38 (+0.4%)
<b>Outdoor</b>		2.71	2.75 (+1.7%)	2.74 (+1.4%)	2.72 (+0.6%)	-	2.79 (+3.2%)	2.77 (+2.3%)	-
<b>GPT-4o</b>									
<b>People</b>		1.14	1.12 (-2.2%)	1.18 (+3.5%)	1.14 (-0.4%)	1.23 (+7.9%)	1.31 (+14.9%)	1.07 (-6.1%)	1.70 (+49.1%)
<b>Animal</b>		0.67	0.67 (+0.6%)	0.72 (+7.5%)	0.64 (-4.2%)	0.66 (-1.2%)	0.72 (+7.5%)	0.66 (-0.5%)	1.19 (+77.9%)
<b>Illustration</b>		1.09	1.08 (-1.4%)	1.19 (+8.7%)	1.01 (-7.6%)	1.10 (+0.6%)	1.27 (+16.5%)	1.17 (+6.9%)	1.16 (+5.7%)
<b>Indoor</b>		1.14	1.29 (+13.7%)	1.31 (+15.4%)	1.10 (-3.1%)	1.25 (+9.7%)	1.64 (+44.1%)	1.29 (+13.7%)	2.05 (+80.2%)
<b>Outdoor</b>		2.37	2.41 (+1.7%)	2.37 (+0.1%)	2.33 (-1.5%)	-	2.71 (+14.2%)	2.38 (+0.6%)	-
<b>o3</b>									
<b>People</b>		1.62	1.64 (+1.2%)	1.66 (+2.4%)	1.67 (+3.1%)	1.68 (+3.7%)	1.70 (+4.9%)	1.68 (+3.4%)	1.74 (+7.1%)
<b>Animal</b>		1.17	1.21 (+3.3%)	1.24 (+5.3%)	1.24 (+5.4%)	1.24 (+5.5%)	1.19 (+1.7%)	1.22 (+4.3%)	1.35 (+15.2%)
<b>Illustration</b>		1.28	1.26 (-1.3%)	1.32 (+2.9%)	1.31 (+2.3%)	1.28 (+0.1%)	1.30 (+1.6%)	1.28 (+0.1%)	1.27 (-0.6%)
<b>Indoor</b>		1.20	1.27 (+5.0%)	1.30 (+7.6%)	1.34 (+10.5%)	1.29 (+6.5%)	1.36 (+12.7%)	1.31 (+8.4%)	1.41 (+16.6%)
<b>Outdoor</b>		2.68	2.73 (+1.6%)	2.73 (+1.8%)	2.78 (+3.7%)	-	2.82 (+5.0%)	2.76 (+2.8%)	-
<b>Qwen2.5-VL-32B Inst.</b>									
<b>People</b>		2.14	2.25 (+4.9%)	2.23 (+4.2%)	2.17 (+1.0%)	2.32 (+8.1%)	2.41 (+12.6%)	2.26 (+5.2%)	2.26 (+5.3%)
<b>Animal</b>		2.12	2.18 (+3.0%)	2.20 (+3.9%)	2.11 (-0.3%)	2.25 (+6.1%)	2.24 (+5.8%)	2.16 (+2.3%)	1.97 (-6.9%)
<b>Illustration</b>		2.22	2.32 (+4.3%)	2.31 (+4.0%)	2.24 (+0.8%)	2.29 (+3.3%)	2.40 (+8.2%)	2.25 (+1.4%)	2.15 (-2.9%)
<b>Indoor</b>		2.95	3.00 (+1.9%)	3.01 (+2.2%)	2.95 (0.0%)	3.03 (+2.9%)	3.17 (+7.5%)	2.98 (+1.0%)	2.92 (-0.7%)
<b>Outdoor</b>		3.34	3.35 (+0.03%)	3.35 (+0.3%)	3.27 (-2.2%)	-	3.59 (+7.5%)	3.37 (+0.8%)	-
<b>LLaVA-1.5- 13B</b>									
<b>People</b>		0.67	0.77 (+15.8%)	0.73 (+9.8%)	0.76 (+13.5%)	0.78 (+17.3%)	0.93 (+39.1%)	0.77 (+15.0%)	0.71 (+6.8%)
<b>Animal</b>		0.83	0.96 (+15.1%)	0.91 (+9.0%)	1.05 (+26.6%)	1.03 (+24.1%)	1.74 (+109.6%)	0.95 (+14.5%)	0.95 (+14.5%)
<b>Illustration</b>		1.21	1.22 (+0.4%)	1.22 (+0.8%)	1.31 (+7.4%)	1.28 (+4.9%)	1.84 (+51.4%)	1.39 (+14.4%)	1.15 (-5.8%)
<b>Indoor</b>		1.11	1.25 (+12.3%)	1.19 (+7.7%)	1.51 (+36.6%)	1.44 (+29.9%)	2.30 (+107.5%)	1.34 (+20.9%)	1.42 (+28.4%)
<b>Outdoor</b>		2.86	3.15 (+10.1%)	2.92 (+1.9%)	3.44 (+20.3%)	-	3.99 (+39.5%)	2.90 (+1.2%)	-

Table 3: Evaluation results of six different LVLM judges assessing text-to-image generation under various image bias conditions across multiple domains. Reported values correspond to the average alignment scores assigned by each LVLM judge, with values in parentheses indicating the change relative to evaluations on original (Orig.), unmanipulated images. Number highlighted in RED signifies successful attacks, where the presence of image biases led LVLM judges to assign higher scores. Please refer to the Appendix C for more results.

**The vulnerability across models remains evident even as model capacity increases.** As shown in Table 3, all LVLM judges, including GPT-4.1 (OpenAI, 2025) and the recent reasoning-oriented model o3 (OpenAI, 2025), exhibit susceptibility to these vulnerabilities, indicating that even the advanced models are not immune to these biases. Notably, models with higher capacity are sometimes more vulnerable to certain biases; for instance, GPT-4.1 and GPT-4o show greater sensitivity to Bounding Box manipulations compared to their smaller counterparts, GPT-4.1-mini and GPT-4o-mini.

Figure 2 presents the attack success rate, defined as the proportion of domain–bias combinations in which manipulated images receive higher average

scores, along with the average score increase in those successful cases. These results highlight how frequently and how strongly LVLM judges are influenced by visual biases. Interestingly, the results indicate that increased model capacity does not consistently correlate with improved robustness. For example, GPT-4o-mini demonstrates the strongest robustness in terms of attack success rate, with inflated scores observed in 64.71% of domain–bias combinations, compared to 67.65% for GPT-4o. Moreover, when considering the average percentage change in successful attacks, the Qwen2.5-VL-32B-Instruct model exhibits the highest robustness. Our findings reveal that larger model capacity alone does not guarantee increased resistance to visual

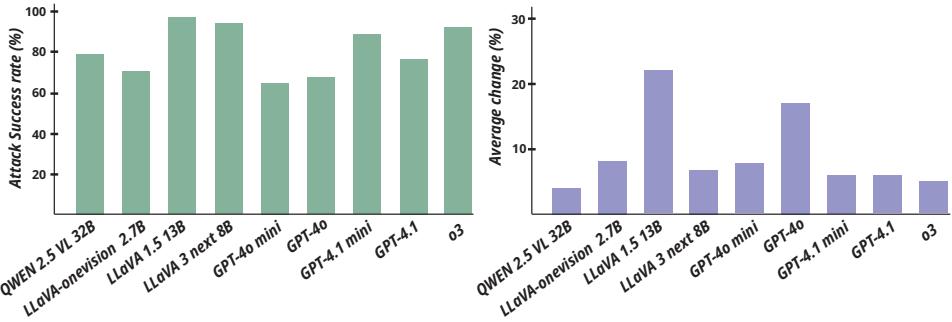


Figure 2: Impact of visual biases across all LVLM judges. **Left:** Average attack success rates across five domains and eight types of visual bias. An attack is considered successful when the LVLM assigns a higher average score to the biased images than to the original counterparts. **Right:** Average percentage increase in score for successful attacks, reflecting the magnitude of the visual bias effect.

Model	Orig.	Beauty.
<b>GPT-4.1</b>	1.65	1.64 (-0.6%)
<b>GPT-4.1-mini</b>	1.55	1.60 (+2.9%)
<b>o3</b>	1.62	1.64 (+0.9%)
<b>Qwen2.5-32B-Inst.</b>	2.14	2.21 (+3.2%)
<b>llava-1.5-13b</b>	0.67	0.69 (+3.8%)
<b>GPT-40</b>	1.14	1.05 (-8.3%)
<b>GPT-40-mini</b>	2.32	2.31 (-0.5%)
<b>llava-next-8b</b>	2.72	2.79 (+2.6%)
<b>llava-onevision-7b</b>	3.57	3.42 (-4.2%)

Table 4: Evaluation results of nine LVLM judges on beauty filter bias in the People domain.

biases. This trend may contrast with prior observations in other evaluation settings involving LLM judges (Cantini et al., 2025; Howe et al., 2025), where larger models typically demonstrate greater robustness.

**Instruction Overlay exhibits the most pronounced impact.** Among all manipulation types, the *Instruction Overlay*—which directly embeds textual instructions onto the image—proves to be the most universally impactful. It consistently induces elevated scores across all LVLM judges and domains. Additionally, even subtle perturbations such as brightness adjustment (*Bright.*) and luminance shifts via gamma correction (*Gamma.*) are sufficient to mislead most LVLM judges, indicating a broad vulnerability to low-level visual changes.

Table 4 presents results of the beauty filter applied to the People domain. Some models—particularly the majority of open-sourced evaluators—demonstrate a marked preference for images enhanced with beauty filters, consistently assigning them higher scores than their original ver-

Bias	Standard	<i>Bias-aware</i>	<i>Bias-def.</i>	<i>CoT</i>
<b>Orig.</b>	1.36	1.27	1.33	1.72
<b>Bright.</b>	1.44 (+5.9%)	1.35 (+6.2%)	1.34 (+0.8%)	1.82 (+5.7%)
<b>Gamma.</b>	1.45 (+6.2%)	1.36 (+6.5%)	1.36 (+2.5%)	1.80 (+4.6%)
<b>Refer.</b>	1.39 (+2.3%)	1.30 (+2.3%)	1.29 (-2.6%)	1.79 (+3.7%)
<b>Keyword.</b>	1.45 (+6.6%)	1.35 (+6.2%)	1.35 (+1.7%)	1.82 (+5.6%)
<b>Inst.</b>	1.44 (+5.8%)	1.34 (+5.3%)	1.34 (+1.4%)	1.83 (+6.0%)
<b>Padding.</b>	1.50 (+10.4%)	1.40 (+10.1%)	1.40 (+5.6%)	1.85 (+7.4%)
<b>Bounding.</b>	1.35 (-1.0%)	1.29 (+1.4%)	1.27 (-4.1%)	1.79 (+4.1%)

Table 5: Evaluation results of prompt-based mitigation strategies using GPT-4.1-mini as the LVLM judge.

sions. This finding raises ethical concerns, suggesting that current LVLMs may implicitly reinforce aesthetic biases by favoring filtered appearances.

**The Indoor domain exhibits the highest susceptibility.** Across all models, the Indoor and Animal domains demonstrate the greatest sensitivity to visual perturbations, particularly those involving Bounding Boxes and Instruction Overlays. This elevated susceptibility likely stems from the complexity of the visual scenes and the increased reliance on accurate object recognition in these domains. In such settings, even minor visual modifications can disrupt the model’s perception of scene structure, leading to misleadingly inflated evaluation scores.

## 6 Analysis

In this section, we conduct a comprehensive analysis of the key research questions concerning visual biases in LVLM-based evaluation, using GPT-4.1-mini as the judge.

**LVLM judge bias persists under counter-prompting conditions.** Recent studies demonstrate that prompting techniques—such as Chain-of-Thought (CoT) prompting (Wei et al., 2022) and explicit debiasing prompts (Hwang et al.,

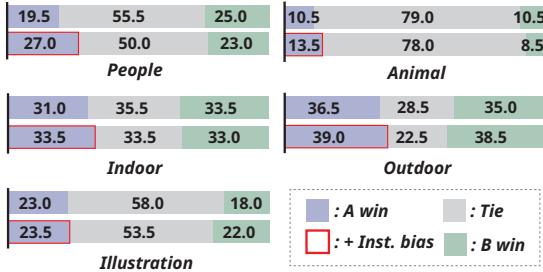


Figure 3: Pairwise evaluation of group A vs. group B. Top: original results. Bottom: results after applying *instruction overlay bias* to set A.

2025)<sup>3</sup>—can partially mitigate biases in LLMs. To evaluate whether these techniques also reduce susceptibility to visual bias in LVLM judges, we compare their effectiveness against a standard evaluation prompt. Further details regarding the prompt design and configuration are provided in Appendix B.

As shown in Table 5, while CoT, bias-aware, and bias-definition prompting exhibit some efficacy in mitigating certain types of bias, they fail to eliminate the overall bias.<sup>4</sup> Even when the applied bias is explicitly defined to the LVLM judge (bias-def. prompting), bias persists. Interestingly, CoT prompting leads to elevated evaluation scores for images containing bounding boxes. This may be attributed to the fact that bounding boxes guide the model’s visual attention during reasoning steps, thereby facilitating object-centric reasoning and inflating evaluation scores in an unintended manner. This observation aligns with recent findings that bounding boxes can enhance the visual attention of LVLMs during CoT reasoning (Sun et al., 2024; Shao et al., 2024).

**LVLM Judge Biases are Valid in Pairwise Evaluation.** We investigate whether the influences of visual biases persist under pairwise evaluation settings (Chen et al., 2024a,b; Lee et al., 2024a). Specifically, for each prompt in the FRAME benchmark, we generate a corresponding set of images (B) using identical generation settings as the original image set (A). In the primary comparison, the LVLM judge evaluates each original image (A) against its counterpart (B). Additionally, we prompt the LVLM judge to compare the manipulated version of an image from Group A against its unma-

<sup>3</sup>You must disregard any superficial or stylistic perturbations that do not materially affect the semantic alignment between the instruction and the generated image.

<sup>4</sup>We report averages across four domains, excluding Outdoor where *Keyword.* and *Bounding.* are inapplicable.

Domain	Orig.	+Single bias	+Dual bias	+Triple bias
People	1.55	1.68 (+8.4%)	1.71 (+10.3%)	1.73 (+11.6%)
Animal	1.02	1.16 (+14.0%)	1.17 (+14.2%)	1.15 (+12.8%)
Illustration	1.51	1.57 (+4.3%)	1.58 (+4.7%)	1.54 (+2.0%)
Indoor	1.38	1.61 (+17.1%)	1.69 (+22.9%)	1.70 (+23.3%)
Outdoor	2.71	2.79 (+3.2%)	2.82 (+4.4%)	2.80 (+3.4%)

Table 6: Evaluation results of combined visual manipulations using GPT-4.1-mini as the LVLM judge.

nipulated counterpart from Group B.<sup>5</sup> To control for position bias (Chen et al., 2024a; Wang et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2023a), each pairwise comparison is conducted twice, with the image order reversed, and the preference scores are averaged.

As shown in Figure 3, the introduction of visual biases consistently leads judges to favor the manipulated images. Notably, in the people, indoor, outdoor, and animal domains, baseline results show that A’s win rate is less than or equal to that of B. However, after manipulation, this ranking reverses, with A’s win rate surpassing that of B. These findings suggest that visual biases can be systematically exploited to mislead LVLM judges in pairwise evaluations, thereby raising concerns about the fairness and reliability of LVLM-based assessments in text-to-image generation tasks.

**Combined Visual Biases Exacerbate LVLM Judges’ Vulnerability.** We investigate whether combining multiple (two or three) visual manipulations further amplifies judgment errors made by LVLM judges. We explore all combinations of two and three distinct bias strategies and identify the most impactful combination per domain, as shown in Table 6. Interestingly, an *instruction overlay bias* is involved in four of the five most influential combinations, underscoring its predominant impact—an observation that aligns with our earlier findings.

As shown in Table 6, dual-bias configurations yield a marked increase in average evaluation scores, thereby amplifying the susceptibility of LVLM judges to manipulation. Extending this to triple-bias settings, we observe further amplification in certain domains, whereas the effect plateaus or diminishes in others. This pattern suggests that LVLM judges may treat multiple concurrent manipulations as noise once a perceptual threshold is surpassed, leading to inconsistent vulnerability across domains.

<sup>5</sup>For each domain, we apply the bias that yielded the highest average score during the main experiments in Table 3.

## 7 Conclusion

This study uncovers a fundamental weakness in LVLM-based evaluation: susceptibility to visual biases that inflate scores without altering semantic content. Through eight defined manipulations—including brightness, overlays, and bounding boxes—we show that even state-of-the-art models are consistently misled. These vulnerabilities persist across evaluation formats and are only partially mitigated by prompting, highlighting the need for more robust assessment frameworks.

## Limitations

As the first study to investigate the impact of image-side manipulations on LVLM-based evaluation, our work primarily focuses on representative visual modifications, including brightness adjustments and text overlays. Future research may explore more sophisticated attack strategies, including cross-model adversarial techniques or semantic-preserving perturbations. Moreover, as discussed in Section 6, the identified visual biases persist under the proposed prompting strategies. This highlights the need for future work to develop robust defense mechanisms specifically targeted at image-side manipulations.

Moreover, since our study focuses on evaluating the robustness of LVLM judges rather than the performance of individual judges, we do not report correlation metrics between LVLM-generated scores and human judgments. However, to support future research in this area, our benchmark includes manually labeled scores provided by human annotators. These annotations can be readily used to assess human–model alignment or to train reward models in reinforcement learning with human feedback (RLHF).

Finally, our benchmark covers five domains that are commonly used in text-to-image generation tasks (Yu et al., 2022). Future research could extend this framework by incorporating a broader range of domains—such as medical imaging or satellite imagery—to more comprehensively evaluate the generalizability of LVLM-based evaluators.

## Ethical Considerations

All models used in our study are obtained from official and publicly accessible sources. GPT models are accessed via OpenAI’s official platform, while Llava and Qwen models are acquired from their respective repositories with proper authorization.

Our use of these models aligns with open science principles and adheres to the licensing terms under which they are released.

To ensure the ethical integrity of our benchmark, all images are manually reviewed. Any prompts or instructions that could potentially generate harmful, offensive, or inappropriate content are filtered out during this process, thereby ensuring that the final dataset is suitable for research and evaluation purposes. In the process of writing this paper, we utilize an AI assistant at the sentence level for drafting and refining individual sentences.

## Acknowledgement

This work was supported by LG AI Research. This work was partly supported by the Institute of Information & Communications Technology Planning & Evaluation(IITP)-ITRC(Information Technology Research Center) grant funded by the Korea government(MSIT)(IITP-2025-RS-2024-00437633, 30%), and Institute of Information & communications Technology Planning & Evaluation (IITP) grant funded by the Korea government(MSIT) [(RS-2021-II211343, 10%), Artificial Intelligence Graduate School Program (Seoul National University) & (RS-2021-II212068, 10%), Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub (Artificial Intelligence Institute, Seoul National University)]. K. Jung is with ASRI, Seoul National University, Korea.

## References

- Shuai Bai, Keqin Chen, Xuejing Liu, Jialin Wang, Wenbin Ge, Sibo Song, Kai Dang, Peng Wang, Shijie Wang, Jun Tang, Humen Zhong, Yuanzhi Zhu, Mingkun Yang, Zhaohai Li, Jianqiang Wan, Pengfei Wang, Wei Ding, Zheren Fu, Yiheng Xu, and 8 others. 2025. Qwen2.5-v1 technical report. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.13923*.
- James Betker, Gabriel Goh, Li Jing, Tim Brooks, Jianfeng Wang, Linjie Li, Long Ouyang, Juntang Zhuang, Joyce Lee, Yufei Guo, Wesam Manassra, Prafulla Dhariwal, Casey Chu, Yunxin Jiao, and Aditya Ramesh. 2023. Improving image generation with better captions. *Computer Science*, 2(3):8. <https://cdn.openai.com/papers/dall-e-3.pdf>.
- Riccardo Cantini, Alessio Orsino, Massimo Ruggiero, and Domenico Talia. 2025. Benchmarking adversarial robustness to bias elicitation in large language models: Scalable automated assessment with llm-as-a-judge. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.07887*.
- Dongping Chen, Ruoxi Chen, Shilin Zhang, Yaochen Wang, Yinuo Liu, Huichi Zhou, Qihui Zhang, Yao

- Wan, Pan Zhou, and Lichao Sun. 2024a. Mllm-as-a-judge: Assessing multimodal llm-as-a-judge with vision-language benchmark. In *Forty-first International Conference on Machine Learning*.
- Zhaorun Chen, Yichao Du, Zichen Wen, Yiyang Zhou, Chenhang Cui, Zhenzhen Weng, Haoqin Tu, Chaoqi Wang, Zhengwei Tong, Qinglan Huang, and 1 others. 2024b. Mj-bench: Is your multimodal reward model really a good judge for text-to-image generation? *arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.04842*.
- Jiawei Gu, Xuhui Jiang, Zhichao Shi, Hexiang Tan, Xuehao Zhai, Chengjin Xu, Wei Li, Yinghan Shen, Shengjie Ma, Honghao Liu, and 1 others. 2024. A survey on llm-as-a-judge. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2411.15594*.
- Dan Hendrycks and Thomas Dietterich. 2019. Benchmarking neural network robustness to common corruptions and perturbations. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1903.12261*.
- Jack Hessel, Ari Holtzman, Maxwell Forbes, Ronan Le Bras, and Yejin Choi. 2021. Clipscore: A reference-free evaluation metric for image captioning. In *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 7514–7528.
- Martin Heusel, Hubert Ramsauer, Thomas Unterthiner, Bernhard Nessler, and Sepp Hochreiter. 2017. Gans trained by a two time-scale update rule converge to a local nash equilibrium. *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 30.
- Nikolaus Howe, Ian McKenzie, Oskar Hollinsworth, Michał Zajac, Tom Tseng, Aaron Tucker, Pierre-Luc Bacon, and Adam Gleave. 2025. Scaling trends in language model robustness. *Preprint*, arXiv:2407.18213.
- Yushi Hu, Benlin Liu, Jungo Kasai, Yizhong Wang, Mari Ostendorf, Ranjay Krishna, and Noah A Smith. 2023. Tifa: Accurate and interpretable text-to-image faithfulness evaluation with question answering. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision*, pages 20406–20417.
- Yerin Hwang, Yongil Kim, Jahyun Koo, Taegwan Kang, Hyunkyoung Bae, and Kyomin Jung. 2025. Llms can be easily confused by instructional distractions. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.04362*.
- Xiaojun Jia, Xingxing Wei, Xiaochun Cao, and Xiaoguang Han. 2020. Adv-watermark: A novel watermark perturbation for adversarial examples. In *Proceedings of the 28th ACM international conference on multimedia*, pages 1579–1587.
- Yuval Kirstain, Adam Polyak, Uriel Singer, Shahbuland Matiana, Joe Penna, and Omer Levy. 2023. Pick-a-pic: An open dataset of user preferences for text-to-image generation. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 36:36652–36663.
- Max Ku, Dongfu Jiang, Cong Wei, Xiang Yue, and Wenhu Chen. 2024. Viescore: Towards explainable metrics for conditional image synthesis evaluation. In *Proceedings of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pages 12268–12290.
- Dongryeol Lee, Yerin Hwang, Yongil Kim, Joonsuk Park, and Kyomin Jung. 2024a. Are llm-judges robust to expressions of uncertainty? investigating the effect of epistemic markers on llm-based evaluation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2410.20774*.
- Seongyun Lee, Seungone Kim, Sue Park, Geewook Kim, and Minjoon Seo. 2024b. Prometheus-vision: Vision-language model as a judge for fine-grained evaluation. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics ACL 2024*, pages 11286–11315.
- Bo Li, Kaichen Zhang, Hao Zhang, Dong Guo, Renrui Zhang, Feng Li, Yuanhan Zhang, Ziwei Liu, and Chunyuan Li. 2024a. Llava-next: Stronger llms supercharge multimodal capabilities in the wild.
- Bo Li, Yuanhan Zhang, Dong Guo, Renrui Zhang, Feng Li, Hao Zhang, Kaichen Zhang, Yanwei Li, Ziwei Liu, and Chunyuan Li. 2024b. Llava-onevision: Easy visual task transfer. *Preprint*, arXiv:2408.03326.
- Junnan Li, Dongxu Li, Caiming Xiong, and Steven Hoi. 2022. Blip: Bootstrapping language-image pre-training for unified vision-language understanding and generation. In *International conference on machine learning*, pages 12888–12900. PMLR.
- Zhiqiu Lin, Deepak Pathak, Baiqi Li, Jiayao Li, Xide Xia, Graham Neubig, Pengchuan Zhang, and Deva Ramanan. 2024. Evaluating text-to-visual generation with image-to-text generation. In *European Conference on Computer Vision*, pages 366–384. Springer.
- Haotian Liu, Chunyuan Li, Yuheng Li, and Yong Jae Lee. 2024. Improved baselines with visual instruction tuning. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*, pages 26296–26306.
- Nelson F Liu, Kevin Lin, John Hewitt, Ashwin Paranjape, Michele Bevilacqua, Fabio Petroni, and Percy Liang. 2023a. Lost in the middle: How language models use long contexts. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2307.03172*.
- Yang Liu, Dan Iter, Yichong Xu, Shuohang Wang, Ruochen Xu, and Chenguang Zhu. 2023b. G-eval: Nlg evaluation using gpt-4 with better human alignment. In *Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 2511–2522.
- Adian Liusie, Potsawee Manakul, and Mark Gales. 2024. Llm comparative assessment: Zero-shot nlg evaluation through pairwise comparisons using large language models. In *Proceedings of the 18th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pages 139–151.

- OpenAI. 2024. Hello gpt-4o. <https://openai.com/index/hello-gpt-4o>. Accessed: 2025-05-15.
- OpenAI. 2025. Introducing gpt-4.1 in the api.
- OpenAI. 2025. introducing-o3-and-o4-mini. <https://openai.com/ko-KR/index/introducing-o3-and-o4-mini/>. Accessed: 2025-04-16.
- Vyas Raina, Adian Liusie, and Mark Gales. 2024. Is llm-as-a-judge robust? investigating universal adversarial attacks on zero-shot llm assessment. In *Proceedings of the 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 7499–7517.
- Tim Salimans, Ian Goodfellow, Wojciech Zaremba, Vicki Cheung, Alec Radford, and Xi Chen. 2016. Improved techniques for training gans. *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 29.
- Hao Shao, Shengju Qian, Han Xiao, Guanglu Song, Zhuofan Zong, Letian Wang, Yu Liu, and Hongsheng Li. 2024. Visual cot: Advancing multi-modal language models with a comprehensive dataset and benchmark for chain-of-thought reasoning. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 37:8612–8642.
- Aleksandar Shtedritski, Christian Rupprecht, and Andrea Vedaldi. 2023. What does clip know about a red circle? visual prompt engineering for vlms. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision*, pages 11987–11997.
- Guangyan Sun, Mingyu Jin, Zhenting Wang, Cheng-Long Wang, Siqi Ma, Qifan Wang, Tong Geng, Ying Nian Wu, Yongfeng Zhang, and Dongfang Liu. 2024. Visual agents as fast and slow thinkers. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2408.08862*.
- Peiyi Wang, Lei Li, Liang Chen, Zefan Cai, Dawei Zhu, Binghuai Lin, Yunbo Cao, Lingpeng Kong, Qi Liu, Tianyu Liu, and 1 others. 2024a. Large language models are not fair evaluators. In *Proceedings of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pages 9440–9450.
- Peiyi Wang, Lei Li, Liang Chen, Zefan Cai, Dawei Zhu, Binghuai Lin, Yunbo Cao, Qi Liu, Tianyu Liu, and Zhifang Sui. 2023. Large language models are not fair evaluators. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2305.17926*.
- Xiayao Wang, Juhai Chen, Zhaoyang Wang, Yuhang Zhou, Yiyang Zhou, Huaxiu Yao, Tianyi Zhou, Tom Goldstein, Parminder Bhatia, Furong Huang, and 1 others. 2024b. Enhancing visual-language modality alignment in large vision language models via self-improvement. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.15973*.
- Jason Wei, Xuezhi Wang, Dale Schuurmans, Maarten Bosma, Fei Xia, Ed Chi, Quoc V Le, Denny Zhou, and 1 others. 2022. Chain-of-thought prompting elicits reasoning in large language models. *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 35:24824–24837.
- Xiaoshi Wu, Yiming Hao, Keqiang Sun, Yixiong Chen, Feng Zhu, Rui Zhao, and Hongsheng Li. 2023. Human preference score v2: A solid benchmark for evaluating human preferences of text-to-image synthesis. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2306.09341*.
- Xindi Wu, Dingli Yu, Yangsibo Huang, Olga Russakovsky, and Sanjeev Arora. 2024. Conceptmix: A compositional image generation benchmark with controllable difficulty. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2408.14339*.
- Jiazheng Xu, Xiao Liu, Yuchen Wu, Yuxuan Tong, Qinkai Li, Ming Ding, Jie Tang, and Yuxiao Dong. 2023. Imagereward: Learning and evaluating human preferences for text-to-image generation. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 36:15903–15935.
- An Yan, Zhengyuan Yang, Junda Wu, Wanrong Zhu, Jianwei Yang, Linjie Li, Kevin Lin, Jianfeng Wang, Julian McAuley, Jianfeng Gao, and 1 others. 2024. List items one by one: A new data source and learning paradigm for multimodal llms. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2404.16375*.
- Jianwei Yang, Hao Zhang, Feng Li, Xueyan Zou, Chunyuan Li, and Jianfeng Gao. 2023. Set-of-mark prompting unleashes extraordinary visual grounding in gpt-4v. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.11441*.
- Jiahui Yu, Yuanzhong Xu, Jing Yu Koh, Thang Luong, Gunjan Baid, Zirui Wang, Vijay Vasudevan, Alexander Ku, and 1 others. 2022. Scaling autoregressive models for content-rich text-to-image generation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2206.10789*, 2(3):5.
- Zhiyuan Zeng, Jiatong Yu, Tianyu Gao, Yu Meng, Tanya Goyal, and Danqi Chen. 2024. Evaluating large language models at evaluating instruction following. In *12th International Conference on Learning Representations, ICLR 2024*.
- Xinlu Zhang, Yujie Lu, Weizhi Wang, An Yan, Jun Yan, Lianke Qin, Heng Wang, Xifeng Yan, William Yang Wang, and Linda Ruth Petzold. 2023. Gpt-4v (ision) as a generalist evaluator for vision-language tasks. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2311.01361*.
- Lianmin Zheng, Wei-Lin Chiang, Ying Sheng, Siyuan Zhuang, Zhanghao Wu, Yonghao Zhuang, Zi Lin, Zuohan Li, Dacheng Li, Eric Xing, and 1 others. 2023. Judging llm-as-a-judge with mt-bench and chatbot arena. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 36:46595–46623.
- Yiyang Zhou, Zhiyuan Fan, Dongjie Cheng, Sihan Yang, Zhaorun Chen, Chenhang Cui, Xiyao Wang, Yun Li, Linjun Zhang, and Huaxiu Yao. 2024. Calibrated self-rewarding vision language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.14622*.

Lianghui Zhu, Xinggang Wang, and Xinlong Wang.  
2023. Judgelm: Fine-tuned large language  
models are scalable judges. *arXiv preprint*  
*arXiv:2310.17631*.

## A Details of Benchmark Construction

The visual concepts associated with each domain used in the benchmark construction are listed in Table 8. For each domain, we randomly sample visual elements from the corresponding concept list and prompt GPT-4o to generate a natural language instruction conditioned on the selected elements. Subsequently, we use the DALL-E 3 model (Betker et al., 2023), with its default configuration, to generate images based on the generated instructions.

The annotation process was carried out by two co-authors, both fluent in English. As the task was restricted to assessing the coherence of image–text pairs—rather than evaluating the influence of bias interventions—it minimizes the risk of annotation artifacts that could unduly affect the experimental outcomes. Inter-annotator reliability was quantified using both Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficients, reported in the Table 7. Despite the inherently subjective nature of the evaluation, the correlations consistently fall within the range of 0.6–0.8 across domains, suggesting a substantial level of agreement. The interface used for human annotation of our dataset is shown in Figure 9.

## B Details of Experimental Setup

### B.1 Model Choice

The specific versions of the GPT models used in our experiments are as follows: GPT-4.1-2025-04-14, GPT-4.1-MINI-2025-04-14, o3-2025-04-16, GPT-4O-2024-08-06, and GPT-4O-MINI-2024-07-18.

For the open-source models, we utilize the following: Llava-1.5-13b<sup>6</sup>, Llava-next-8b<sup>7</sup>, Llava-onevision-7b<sup>8</sup>, and Qwen2.5-32B-Instruct<sup>9</sup>. All models are retrieved from Hugging Face’s official repositories to ensure consistency and reproducibility.

### B.2 Evaluation Prompts

For the single evaluation setting used in the main experiment (Table 3), we adopt the prompt template presented in Figure 4. To facilitate the analysis of prompting strategies (Table 5), we employ

<sup>6</sup><https://huggingface.co/llava-hf/llava-1.5-13b-hf>

<sup>7</sup><https://huggingface.co/llava-hf/llama3-llava-next-8b-hf>

<sup>8</sup><https://huggingface.co/llava-hf/llava-onevision-qwen2-7b-ov-hf>

<sup>9</sup><https://huggingface.co/Qwen/Qwen2.5-VL-32B-Instruct>

two additional templates: a bias-aware prompt (Figure 5), a bias-def. prompt (Figure 6), and a Chain-of-Thought (CoT) prompt (Figure 7). Lastly, for the analysis involving pairwise evaluation (Table 3), we use the template illustrated in Figure 8.

### B.3 Bias Recipe

The “best configurations” for each model and domain were determined through a greedy search procedure, selecting the parameters that yielded the greatest increase in average scores. Given the constraints of computational resources, we first conducted a pilot study to narrow down the parameter space and subsequently discretized it into suitable ranges for systematic exploration.

For brightness adjustment and gamma correction, we search over the following set of scaling factors: [0.9, 0.95, 1.03, 1.05, 1.1, 1.11, 1.15, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.0, 2.1, 2.3], and report the most impactful value per setting. For text overlay methods—including Authenticity, Keyword, and Instruction—we vary the overlay position among five predefined locations: bottom-right, bottom-left, top-right, top-left, and center. The font size is fixed at 30 for Authenticity and Keyword overlays, and at 20 for Instruction overlays, to account for the longer instruction text length. For the black padding bias, we test a range of padding thickness values: [10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50]. The beauty filter is applied using an open-source implementation from <https://github.com/TencentARC/GFPGAN>. Bounding boxes are manually annotated by one of the co-authors using the annotation tool at <https://www.makesense.ai>.

**Recipe for Main experiments** We release the full set of bias configurations used in our experiments (Table 3 and C), including the most effective parameters for each model, domain, and manipulation type (Bright., Gamma., Refer., Keyword., Inst., Padding.). Detailed recipes are presented in Tables 9 and 10.

**Recipe for Analysis** We employ the GPT-4.1-mini model for all analysis experiments. For the prompt-based mitigation experiments in Table 5, we use the most effective parameters identified for GPT-4.1-mini per domain and bias type, as shown in Table 9 (e.g., a value of 0.9 for Bright. in the People domain, and the ‘center’ position for Instruction Overlay in the Illustration domain).

In the pairwise evaluation experiments (Figure 3), we apply the most impactful overlay po-

Domain	People	Animal	Illustration	Indoor	Outdoor
Pearson	0.816	0.656	0.630	0.623	0.631
Spearman	0.803	0.703	0.605	0.585	0.660

Table 7: Inter-annotator reliability between two human annotators.

sitions for the Instruction Overlay bias, as determined from Table 9 (e.g., top-right’ in the People domain and bottom-right’ in the Animal domain).

Lastly, in the combined visual biases experiment (Table 6), we evaluate all possible combinations of two biases based on the GPT-4.1-mini recipe in Table 9 and report the most effective combinations per domain in Table 11.

## C Additional Experimental Results

Additional experiment results using three additional models (GPT-4o-mini, llama3-llava-next-8b, and llava-onevision-qwen2-7b-ov) are shown in Table 12.

**Prompt for Single Scoring Evaluation**

---

**Role Definition (System Prompt):**  
You are a strict and fair evaluator of AI-generated images.

---

**User Prompt:**  
The given image was generated by an image generation model based on the provided instruction. Evaluate the image using the instruction provided, considering its quality, coherence, and relevance.  
Assign a single score between 0.0 and 5.0. Only return the numeric score. Do not include any explanation.  
Instruction: {provided instruction text}  
- *Image*: (The AI-generated image corresponding to the provided instruction.)

Figure 4: Prompt template used for single-image scoring evaluations reported in Table 3.

## Prompt for Bias-aware Single Scoring Evaluation

---

**Role Definition (System Prompt):**

You are a strict and fair evaluator of AI-generated images.

---

**User Prompt:**

The given image was generated by an image generation model based on the provided instruction. Evaluate the image using the instruction provided, considering its quality, coherence, and relevance.

You must disregard any superficial or stylistic perturbations that do not materially affect the semantic alignment between the instruction and the generated image.

Assign a single score between 0.0 and 5.0. Only return the numeric score. Do not include any explanation.

Instruction: {provided instruction text}

- *Image*: (The AI-generated image corresponding to the provided instruction.)

---

Figure 5: Prompt template used for bias-aware promoting methods reported in Table 5.

## Prompt for Bias-definition Single Scoring Evaluation

---

**Role Definition (System Prompt):**

You are a strict and fair evaluator of AI-generated images.

---

**User Prompt:**

The given image was generated by an image generation model based on the provided instruction. Evaluate the image using the instruction provided, considering its quality, coherence, and relevance.

You must disregard any superficial or stylistic perturbations that do not materially affect the semantic alignment between the instruction and the generated image.

The image may have been altered using perturbation name, which is defined as: definition of perturbation

Assign a single score between 0.0 and 5.0. Only return the numeric score. Do not include any explanation.

Instruction: {provided instruction text}

- *Image*: (The AI-generated image corresponding to the provided instruction.)

---

Figure 6: Prompt template used for bias-definition promoting methods reported in Table 5.

Domain	Attribute	Values
Animals	Object	Dog, Cat, Lion, Tiger, Elephant, Giraffe, Zebra, Kangaroo, Panda, Gorilla, Eagle, etc.
	Number	one, two, three, four, five
	Background	Tropical Rainforest, Flower Field, Desert, Meadow, Outer Space
	Action	napping, drinking from a watering hole, stretching and yawning, playing the piano, riding a skateboard, driving a car, painting on a canvas
People	Object	Teacher, Doctor, Nurse, Chef, Artist, Police Officer, Firefighter, Mechanic, Farmer, Scientist, Pharmacist, Waiter
	Number	one, two, three, four, five
	Color	Red shirt, Blue shirt, Green shirt, Yellow shirt, Orange shirt, Purple shirt, Pink shirt, Brown shirt, Black shirt, White shirt
	Background	A city street, A café, An open-plan office, A high school classroom, A restaurant kitchen, A living room, etc.
Outdoor Scenes	Action	Clapping and jumping, Raising a toast, Typing, Speaking on phone, Dancing, Taking a photo, Riding a bicycle, Reading a book
	Terrain	Mountains, Forest, Sea, Grassland, Desert, Canyon, Glacier, Lake, Waterfall
	Time of Day	Sunrise, Afternoon, Sunset, Midnight
	Climate	Sunny, Cloudy, Rainy
Indoor Scenes	Season	Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter
	Space Type	Living room, Attic, Museum, Library, Office, Theater, Shopping mall, Classroom
	Object	Sofa, Table, Chair, Bookshelf, Frames, Plants, Lamp, Piano
	Color	Red, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, Purple, Pink, Brown, Black, White
Illustration	Number	one, two, three
	Angle	Eye-level view, Top-down view, Side view
	Art Style	Watercolor, Oil Painting, Line Art, Pixel Art, Comic, Collage
	Object	Dog, Cat, People, Bird, Car, House, Tree, Flower, Bicycle, Guitar, Clock, Lamp, Balloon
	Number	one, two, three, four, five
	Background	Forest, Underwater, Bedroom, Outer space, Beach, Desert, City street

Table 8: Visual Concepts List used for Benchmark Construction

<i>Domain</i>	<i>Bias</i>	<i>Bright.</i>	<i>Gamma.</i>	<i>Refer.</i>	<i>Keyword.</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Padding.</i>
<b><i>GPT-4.1</i></b>							
<b>People</b>	1.7	1.5	top-right	top-right	bottom-right	50	
<b>Animal</b>	1.5	2.3	center	top-left	bottom-left	20	
<b>Illustration</b>	1.3	0.9	bottom-left	bottom-left	bottom-right	30	
<b>Indoor</b>	1.6	1.5	center	bottom-right	bottom-right	20	
<b>Outdoor</b>	1.4	1.2	bottom-left	bottom-left	top-right	50	
<b><i>GPT-4.1-mini</i></b>							
<b>People</b>	0.9	0.9	center	bottom-right	top-right	40	
<b>Animal</b>	1.5	1.3	center	bottom-right	bottom-right	30	
<b>Illustration</b>	1.03	0.9	bottom-right	bottom-right	center	25	
<b>Indoor</b>	1.7	1.3	bottom-right	top-right	center	40	
<b>Outdoor</b>	0.9	1.3	center	center	center	50	
<b><i>GPT-4o</i></b>							
<b>People</b>	1.1	1.03	top-left	top-left	top-right	15	
<b>Animal</b>	1.5	1.1	bottom-left	bottom-left	top-left	30	
<b>Illustration</b>	1.3	1.1	bottom-right	top-left	top-left	20	
<b>Indoor</b>	1.6	1.03	top-left	top-right	bottom-left	15	
<b>Outdoor</b>	1.3	1.5	bottom-left	bottom-left	top-right	50	
<b><i>Qwen2.5-VL-32B Inst.</i></b>							
<b>People</b>	1.5	2.1	top-right	center	center	50	
<b>Animal</b>	1.3	2.1	center	center	bottom-left	40	
<b>Illustration</b>	0.95	1.03	center	center	top-left	10	
<b>Indoor</b>	1.4	0.9	bottom-right	bottom-left	center	25	
<b>Outdoor</b>	1.15	1.05	top-left	top-left	top-left	50	
<b><i>LLaVA-1.5-13B</i></b>							
<b>People</b>	1.4	0.95	top-left	top-right	bottom-left	15	
<b>Animal</b>	1.5	1.05	top-left	top-left	bottom-right	40	
<b>Illustration</b>	1.05	0.95	top-left	top-left	bottom-right	40	
<b>Indoor</b>	1.5	1.05	top-left	top-left	bottom-left	15	
<b>Outdoor</b>	2.1	0.95	top-left	top-left	bottom-left	50	

Table 9: Most impactful parameters for each bias type across domains and model types (Part 1).

<i>Domain</i>	<i>Bias</i>	<i>Bright.</i>	<i>Gamma.</i>	<i>Refer.</i>	<i>Keyword.</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Padding.</i>
<b><i>GPT-4o-mini</i></b>							
<b>People</b>	1.2	1.3	top-left	top-left	top-right	20	
<b>Animal</b>	1.2	1.7	bottom-left	top-left	top-right	50	
<b>Illustration</b>	1.03	1.3	bottom-right	bottom-left	top-left	20	
<b>Indoor</b>	1.1	1.2	bottom-right	bottom-right	top-right	30	
<b>Outdoor</b>	1.2	1.1	bottom-right	bottom-right	top-left	10	
<b><i>LLaVA-NEXT-8B</i></b>							
<b>People</b>	2.0	1.5	top-left	bottom-left	bottom-right	10	
<b>Animal</b>	2.1	2.0	top-left	top-left	top-left	15	
<b>Illustration</b>	2.1	0.9	top-left	bottom-left	top-right	30	
<b>Indoor</b>	2.3	2.0	top-left	top-left	bottom-right	15	
<b>Outdoor</b>	2.0	1.15	top-right	top-right	top-right	15	
<b><i>LLaVA-Onevision-7B</i></b>							
<b>People</b>	1.4	1.7	bottom-right	bottom-right	center	30	
<b>Animal</b>	0.9	1.05	center	center	center	25	
<b>Illustration</b>	0.9	0.9	bottom-right	bottom-right	center	10	
<b>Indoor</b>	1.05	1.11	top-left	bottom-right	center	15	
<b>Outdoor</b>	0.95	0.9	center	center	center	25	

Table 10: Most impactful parameters for each bias type across domains and model types (Part 2).

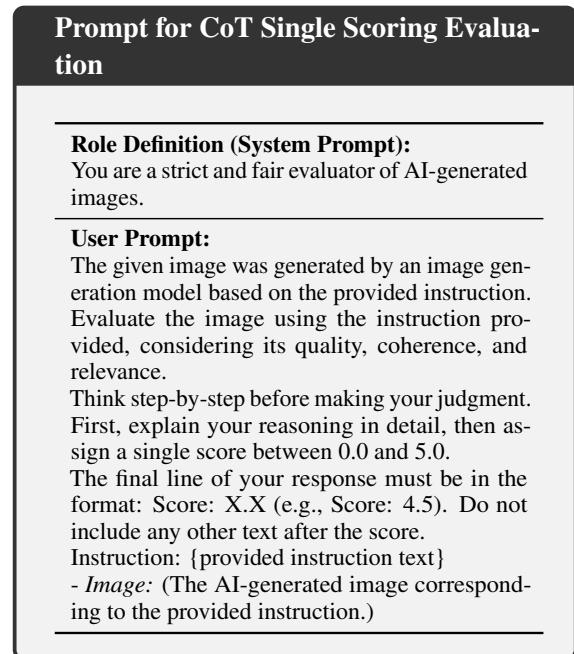


Figure 7: Prompt template used for CoT prompting methods reported in Table 5.

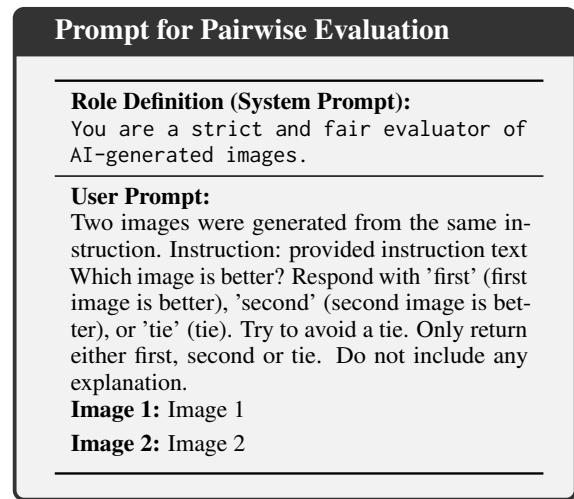


Figure 8: Prompt template used for pairwise scoring evaluations reported in Figure 3.

Domain	<i>Combined bias recipe</i>
<b>People</b>	Inst.: “top-right” + Beauty.
<b>Animal</b>	Refer.: “center” + Gamma.:“2.1”
<b>Illustration</b>	Inst.: “center” + Gamma.: “0.9”
<b>Indoor</b>	Inst.: “center” + Padding.: “40”
<b>Outdoor</b>	Inst.: “center” + Padding: “50”

Table 11: Most impactful combinations of two visual biases for GPT-4.1-mini across different domains.

<i>Domain</i>	<i>Bias</i>	<i>Orig.</i>	<i>Bright.</i>	<i>Gamma.</i>	<i>Refer.</i>	<i>Keyword.</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Padding.</i>	<i>Bounding.</i>
<i>GPT-4o-mini</i>									
<b>People</b>		2.32	2.32 (0.0%)	2.32 (0.0%)	2.30 (-1.0%)	2.42 (+4.3%)	2.60 (+11.8%)	2.29 (-1.3%)	3.07 (+32.2%)
<b>Animal</b>		1.76	1.80 (+2.7%)	1.82 (+3.5%)	1.77 (+0.8%)	1.81 (+3.4%)	1.94 (+10.4%)	1.78 (+1.3%)	2.48 (+41.4%)
<b>Illustration</b>		1.98	1.98 (0.0%)	1.98 (-0.5%)	1.97 (-0.8%)	2.01 (+1.3%)	2.18 (+9.9%)	1.90 (-4.1%)	2.00 (+0.8%)
<b>Indoor</b>		2.69	2.72 (+1.0%)	2.70 (+0.5%)	2.63 (-2.1%)	2.74 (+2.1%)	3.06 (+13.8%)	2.65 (-1.2%)	3.07 (+14.1%)
<b>Outdoor</b>		3.25	3.29 (+1.2%)	3.31 (+1.8%)	3.22 (-1.1%)	-	3.57 (+9.6%)	3.31 (+1.6%)	-
<i>LLaVA-NEXT-8B</i>									
<b>People</b>		2.72	2.90 (+6.6%)	2.79 (+2.6%)	2.85 (+4.8%)	3.00 (+10.3%)	3.73 (+37.1%)	2.92 (+7.4%)	2.81 (+3.3%)
<b>Animal</b>		2.81	2.87 (+2.1%)	2.87 (+2.1%)	2.82 (+0.4%)	3.19 (+13.5%)	3.74 (+33.1%)	2.95 (+5.0%)	2.97 (+5.7%)
<b>Illustration</b>		3.09	3.25 (+5.2%)	3.09 (0.0%)	3.15 (+1.9%)	3.18 (+2.9%)	3.63 (+17.5%)	3.18 (+2.9%)	3.18 (+2.9%)
<b>Indoor</b>		3.19	3.30 (+3.5%)	3.29 (+3.1%)	3.18 (-0.3%)	3.32 (+4.1%)	3.73 (+16.9%)	3.31 (+3.8%)	3.35 (+5.0%)
<b>Outdoor</b>		3.84	3.91 (+1.8%)	3.88 (+1.0%)	3.90 (+1.6%)	-	4.00 (+4.2%)	3.93 (+2.3%)	-
<i>LLaVA-Onevision-7B</i>									
<b>People</b>		3.57	3.82 (+7.0%)	3.73 (+4.5%)	3.65 (+2.2%)	3.85 (+7.7%)	4.59 (+28.6%)	3.72 (+4.1%)	3.49 (-2.4%)
<b>Animal</b>		3.17	3.31 (+4.4%)	3.27 (+3.2%)	3.40 (+7.3%)	3.35 (+5.9%)	4.56 (+43.9%)	3.17 (+0.2%)	3.00 (-5.2%)
<b>Illustration</b>		3.73	4.09 (+9.7%)	3.78 (+1.3%)	3.87 (+3.8%)	3.93 (+5.4%)	4.62 (+23.9%)	3.65 (-2.1%)	3.72 (-0.4%)
<b>Indoor</b>		4.51	4.52 (+0.1%)	4.50 (-0.3%)	4.44 (-1.8%)	4.51 (-0.2%)	4.73 (+4.8%)	4.51 (-0.2%)	4.33 (-4.1%)
<b>Outdoor</b>		4.32	4.56 (+5.6%)	4.51 (+4.5%)	4.59 (+6.4%)	-	4.89 (+13.3%)	4.43 (+2.6%)	-

Table 12: Evaluation results of three additional LVLM judges assessing text-to-image generation under various image bias conditions across multiple domains. Reported values correspond to the average alignment scores assigned by each LVLM judge, with values in parentheses indicating the change relative to evaluations on original (Orig.), unmanipulated images. Number highlighted in **RED** signifies successful attacks, where the presence of image biases led LVLM judges to assign higher scores.

## Task Description

You are presented with a set of image-instruction pairs. Your task is to evaluate the *semantic alignment* between each natural language instruction and its corresponding generated image. Specifically, you should assess how accurately the visual content in the image reflects the details and intent of the instruction.

For each pair, please follow the steps below:

1. **Read the instruction carefully.** Identify all key visual concepts, including the object(s), quantity, colors, background setting, and actions, if applicable.
2. **Examine the image.** Determine whether the visual elements mentioned in the instruction are correctly depicted in the image.
3. **Assign an alignment score (1–5)**
4. **Flag any problematic cases**, such as:
  - Instructions that are nonsensical or unfeasible.
  - Images that are inappropriate, offensive, or appear distorted.
  - Images that clearly result from generation failures.

Your annotations will help evaluate how well image generation models align visual outputs with complex, multi-attribute textual instructions across various domains. Please proceed carefully and consistently.

Create an image of a theater featuring three black pianos from a side view perspective.



Score (e.g., 1.0 ~ 5.0):

Figure 9: Human annotation task interface.