

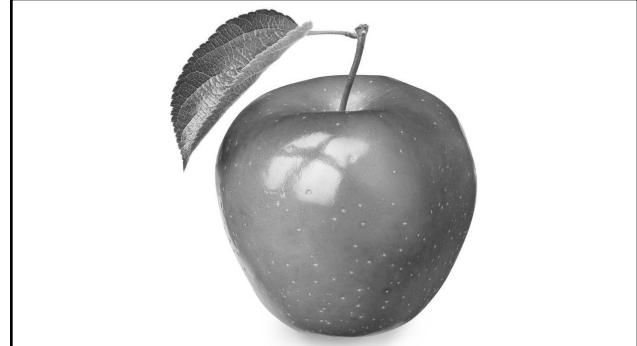
Vision and Language



Rodolfo (Rudy) Corona

with thanks to Daniel Fried
CS 288, 4/12/2022

1

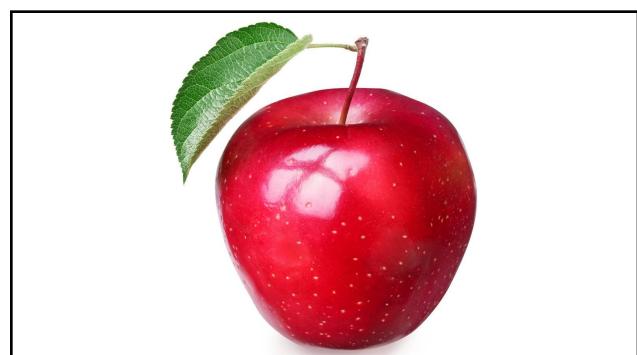


2

The colors of the visible light spectrum ^[1]		
Color	Wavelength interval	Frequency interval
Red	~ 700–635 nm	~ 430–480 THz
Orange	~ 635–590 nm	~ 480–510 THz
Yellow	~ 590–560 nm	~ 510–540 THz
Green	~ 560–520 nm	~ 540–580 THz
Cyan	~ 520–490 nm	~ 580–610 THz
Blue	~ 490–450 nm	~ 610–670 THz
Violet	~ 450–400 nm	~ 670–750 THz

Source: "Color" in Wikipedia

3



4

"Apples are red"

"The numbers this month are in the red"

"Red has a wavelength between 635-700nm"

...

"Pixel (1,1) has R=240, pixel (1,2) has ..."



What is Language Grounding?

- ▶ Tying language to non-linguistic things (e.g. a database in semantic parsing)
- ▶ The world only looks like a database some of the time!
- ▶ Some settings depend on grounding into *perceptual* or *physical* environments:



"Add the tomatoes and mix"



"Take me to the shop on the corner"

- ▶ **Focus today:** Grounding language to *visual perception*.

5

6



Grounding

- ▶ (Some) possible things to ground into:



Grounding

- ▶ (Some) possible things to ground into:
 - **Low-level percepts:** *red* means this set of RGB values, *loud* means lots of decibels on our microphone, *soft* means these properties on our haptic sensor...



7

8



Grounding

- (Some) possible things to ground into:
 - **Low-level percepts:** *red* means this set of RGB values, *loud* means lots of decibels on our microphone, *soft* means these properties on our haptic sensor...
 - **High-level percepts:** *cat* means this type of pattern



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Grounding

- (Some) possible things to ground into:
 - **Low-level percepts:** *red* means this set of RGB values, *loud* means lots of decibels on our microphone, *soft* means these properties on our haptic sensor...
 - **High-level percepts:** *cat* means this type of pattern
 - **Embodiment (effects on the world):** *go left* means the robot turns left, *speed up* means increasing actuation



10



Grounding

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 - **Low-level percepts:** *red* means this set of RGB values, *loud* means lots of decibels on our microphone, *soft* means these properties on our haptic sensor...
 - **High-level percepts:** *cat* means this type of pattern
 - **Embodiment (effects on the world):** *go left* means the robot turns left, *speed up* means increasing actuation
 - **Social (effects on others):** polite language is correlated with longer forum discussions



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Grounding

- (Some) possible things to ground into:
 - **Low-level percepts:** *red* means this set of RGB values, *loud* means lots of decibels on our microphone, *soft* means these properties on our haptic sensor...
 - **High-level percepts:** *cat* means this type of pattern
 - **Embodiment (effects on the world):** *go left* means the robot turns left, *speed up* means increasing actuation
 - **Social (effects on others):** polite language is correlated with longer forum discussions

For a nice taxonomy, related work, and examples, see *Experience Grounds Language* [Bisk et al. 2020]

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Grounding

- (Some) key problems:
 - **Representation:** matching low-level percepts to high-level language (pixels vs *cat*)
 - **Abstraction and Composition:** meaning as a combination of parts
 - **Alignment:** aligning parts of language and parts of the world
 - **Content Selection and Context:** what are the important parts of the environment?
 - **Balance:** it's easy for multi-modal models to "cheat", rely on imperfect heuristics, or ignore important parts of the input
 - **Generalization:** to novel world contexts / input combinations

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14



A Gallery of Tasks

15



Image Captioning



The man at bat readies to swing at the pitch while the umpire looks on.



A large bus sitting next to a very tall building.



A horse carrying a large load of hay and two people sitting on it.



Bunk bed with a narrow shelf sitting underneath it.

Microsoft COCO Captions: Chen et al. 2015

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Visual Question Answering

What is the dog wearing?
life jacket collar



How many skiers are there?



What number is on the train?



What is sitting in the window?



VQA 2.0: Goyal et al. 2017

17



Object Detection (2D)



(a) Query: "street lamp"

(b) Query: "major league logo"

(c) Query: "zebras on savanna"

MDETR: Karath et al. 2021

18



Object Detection (3D)



1. "The chair closest to the door."
2. "The chair under the chalkboard."



1. "The office chair that is green."
2. "Choose the brown office chair pushed under the desk."

Referring3D: Achlioptas et al. 2020

19



Conditional Generation (2D)



a surrealist painting of Salvador Dalí with a chaotic ballerina

a Shiba Inu wearing a beret and thick scarf

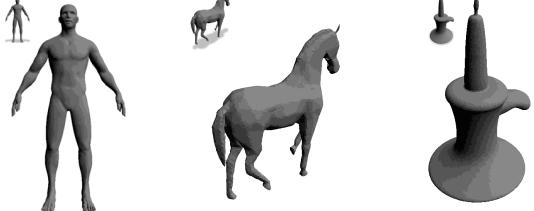
a close-up of a hand holding a plant growing from it



DALL-E 2: Ramesh et al. 2022

20

 Conditional Generation (3D)



"Iron Man"
"Astronaut Horse"
"Colorful Crochet Candle"

Text2Mech: Michel et al. 2021

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 Vision and Language Navigation



"Place a clean ladle on a counter"

ALFRED: Sheidhar et al. 2020

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 Why Grounded Language?

- Much language refers to *the world*.
- Convenient medium to communicate with machines!
- For many tasks, agents will need perceptual understanding and motor control for this interaction.



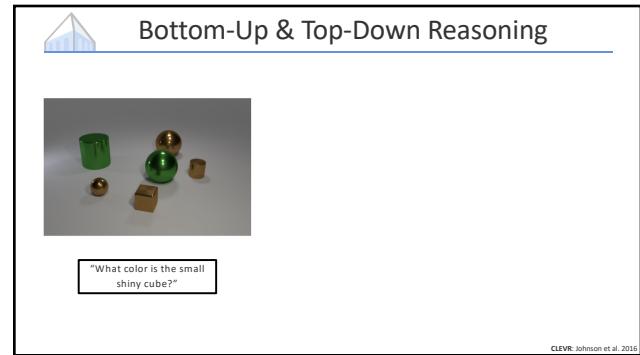
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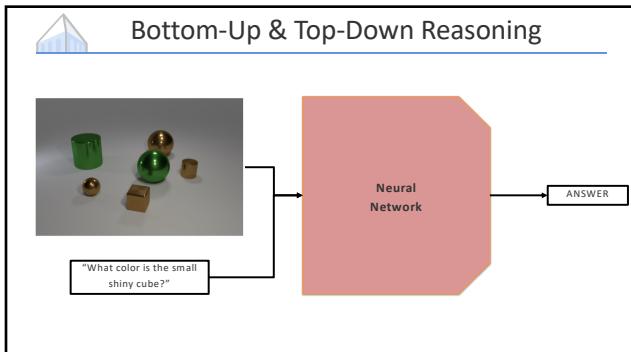
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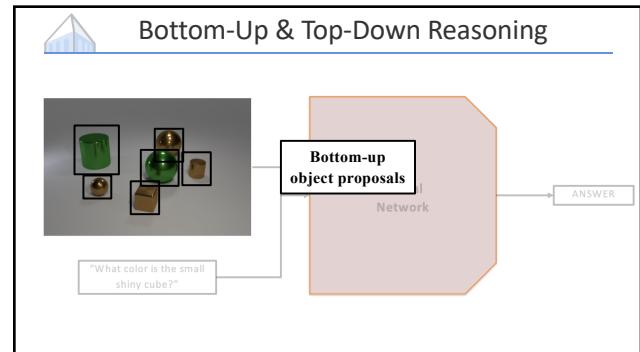
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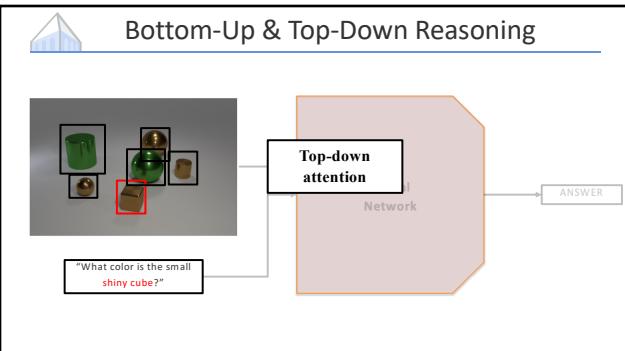
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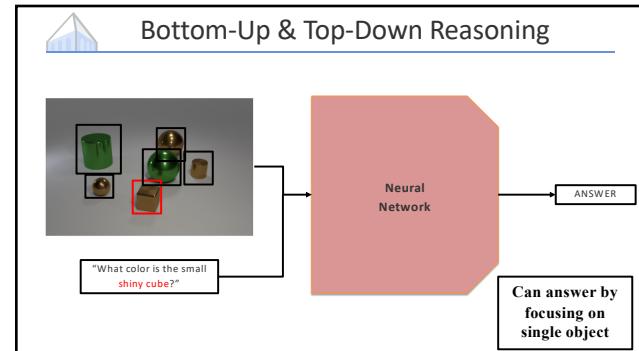
27



28



29



30

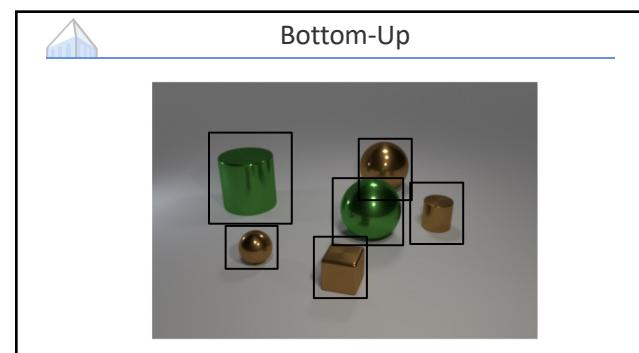
Bottom-Up & Top-Down Reasoning

	Yes/No	Number	Other	Overall
Ours: ResNet (1x1)	76.0	36.5	46.8	56.3
Ours: ResNet (14x14)	76.6	36.2	49.5	57.9
Ours: ResNet (7x7)	77.6	37.7	51.5	59.4
Ours: Up-Down	80.3	42.8	55.8	63.2
Relative Improvement	3%	14%	8%	6%

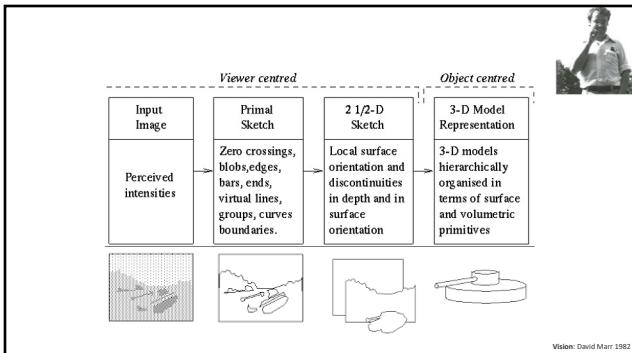
Provides inductive bias in both directions!

Bottom-Up and Top-Down Attention for Image Captioning and Visual Question Answering: Anderson et al. 2018

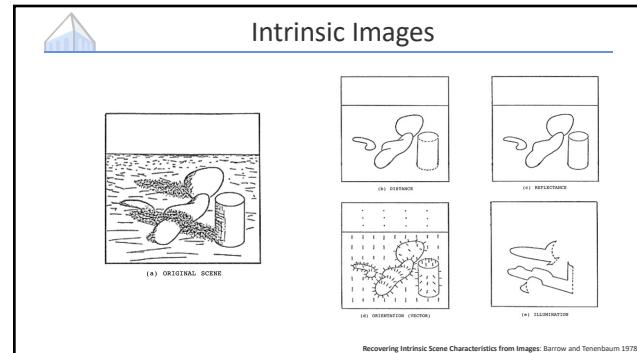
31



32



33



34

"Solved" Perception

Question: Where is the object outlined in red?

Answer: The object outlined in red is

O1 (vase) is highlighted with a red circle.

A list of spatial relations is provided:

- left of
- ✓ right of
- above
- below
- in front of
- behind
- inside of
- on
- under
- across from

A Game-Theoretic Approach to Generating Spatial Descriptions: Golland et al. 2010

35

"Solved" Perception

Question: Where is the object outlined in red?

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A list of spatial relations is provided:

- left of
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- on
- under
- across from

Task: Describe target object unambiguously

A Game-Theoretic Approach to Generating Spatial Descriptions: Golland et al. 2010

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“Solved” Perception

Question: Where is the object outlined in red?

Answer: The object outlined in red is

Relationships between objects known

A Game-Theoretic Approach to Generating Spatial Descriptions: Golland et al. 2010

37

“Solved” Perception

$S(L):$

Right of O2 ✓
On top of O3 ✓
Right of O3 ($p_L=0.5$) X

$S(L)(o) = \operatorname{argmax}_w p_L(o|w)$

Problem reduced to pragmatic reasoning

A Game-Theoretic Approach to Generating Spatial Descriptions: Golland et al. 2010

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“Solved” Perception

“Go to the last butterfly on the right”

[(Cement, Easel, Cement, Butterfly, Wood, Butterfly),
(Wall, Empty, Wall, Butterfly, Wood, Butterfly),
(Cement, Empty, Wall, End, Wall, End)]

What annotators see

Walk the Talk: MacMahon et al. 2006

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“Solved” Perception

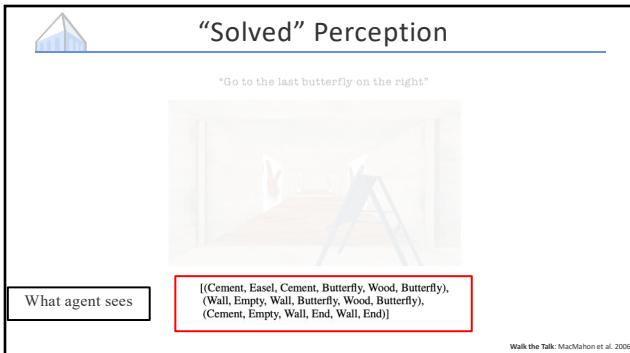
“Go to the last butterfly on the right”

[(Cement, Easel, Cement, Butterfly, Wood, Butterfly),
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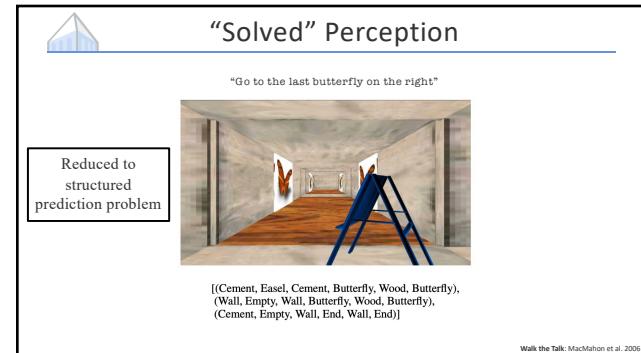
What annotators see

Walk the Talk: MacMahon et al. 2006

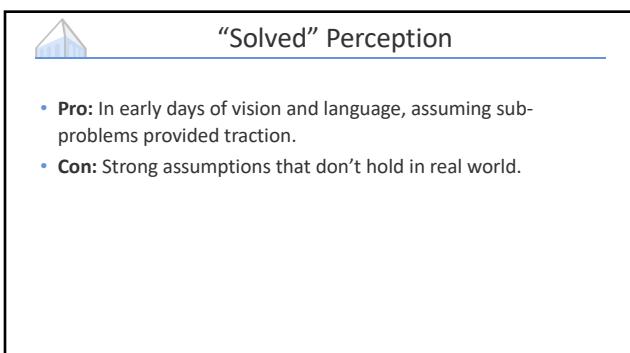
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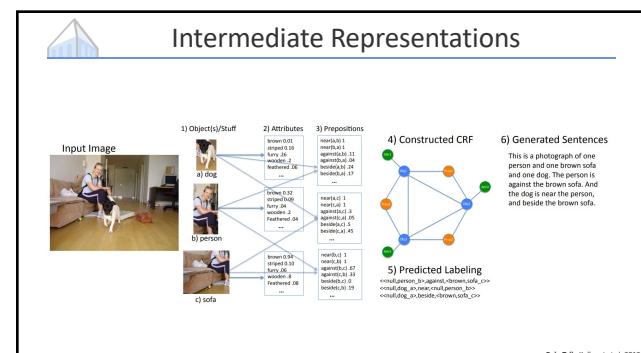
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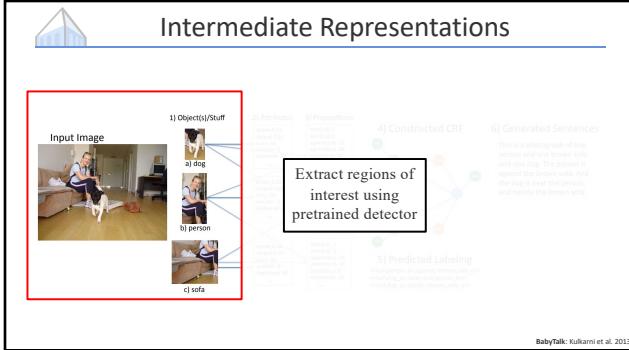
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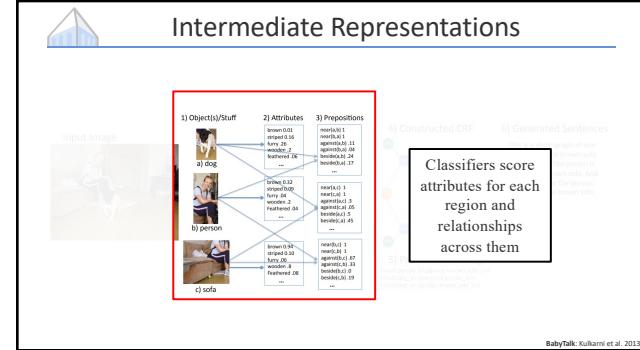
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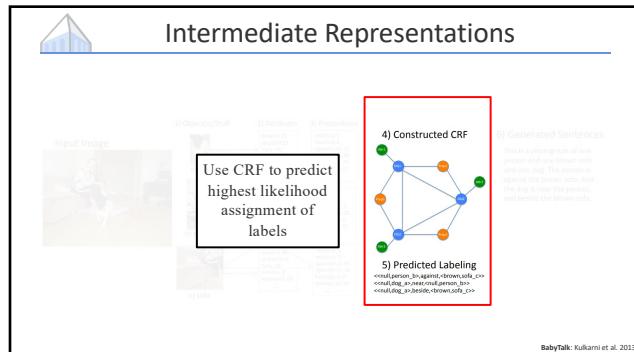
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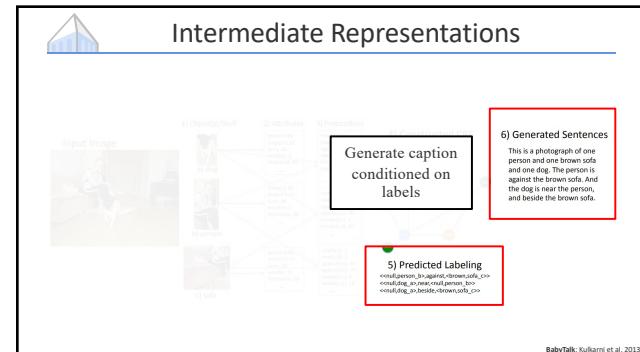
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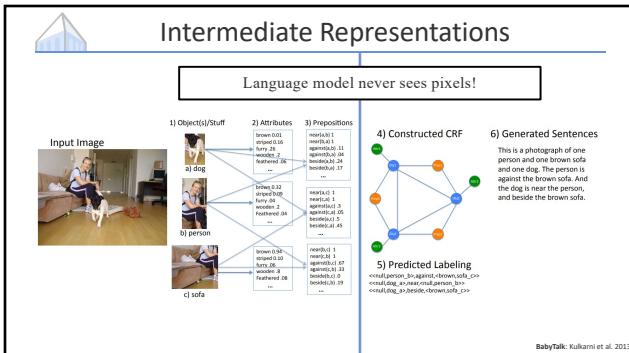
46



47



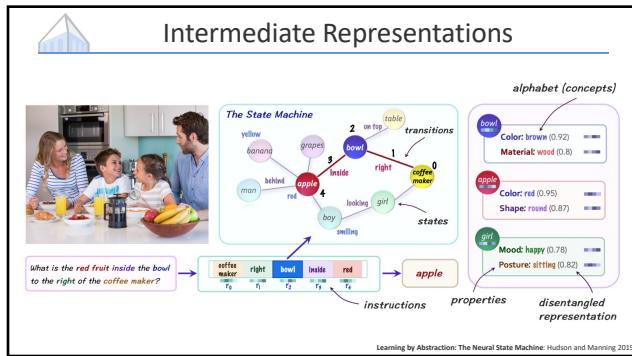
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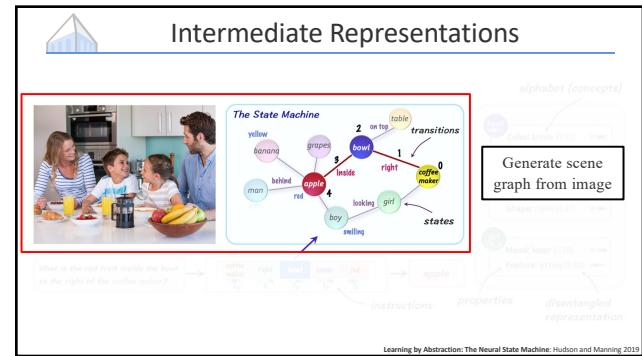
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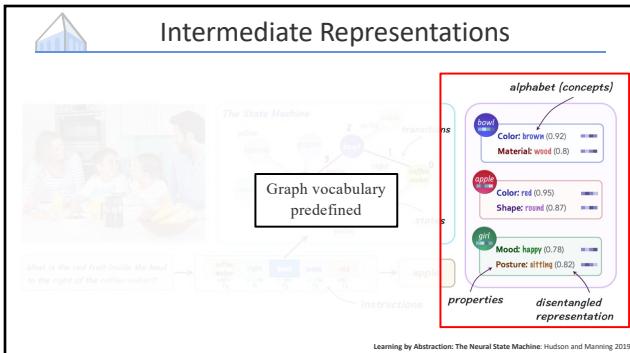
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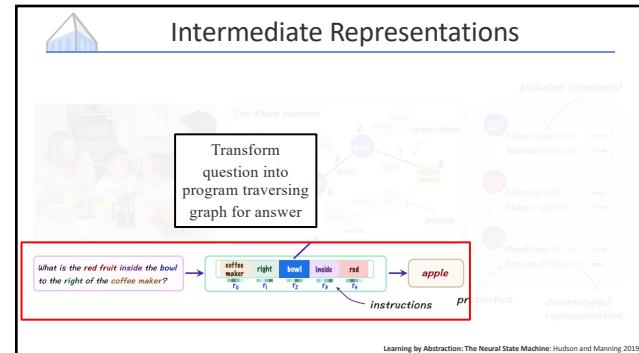
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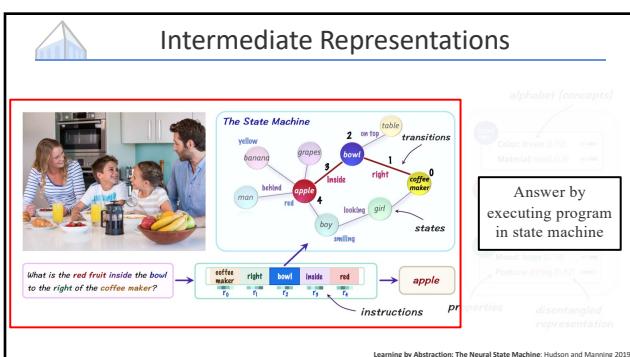
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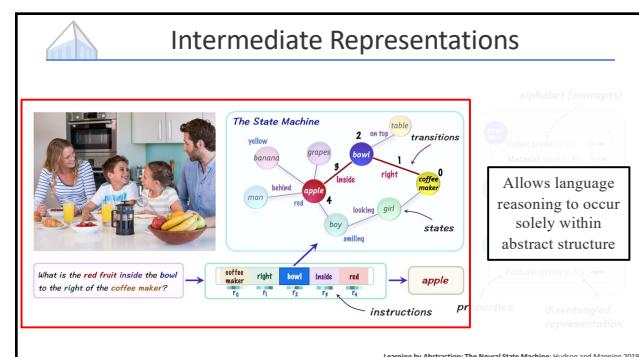
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55



56

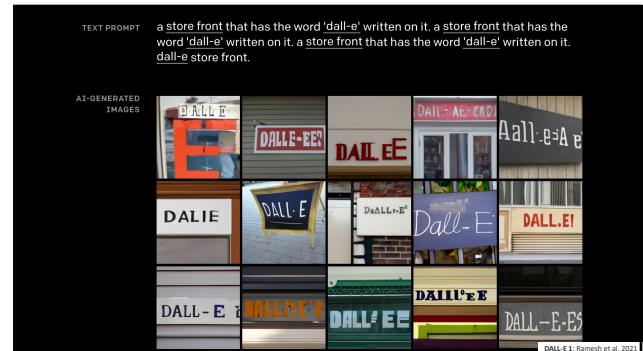
 Intermediate Representations

Table 4: GQA generalization

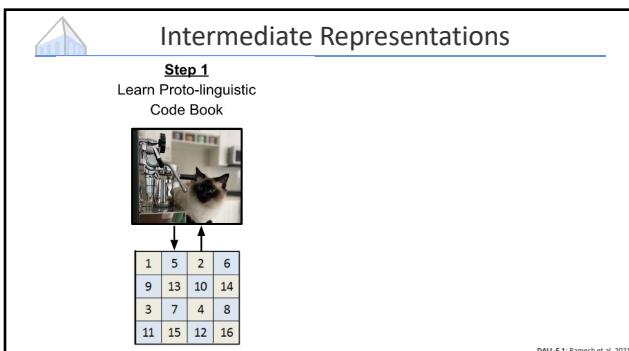
Model	Content	Structure
Global Prior	8.51	14.64
Local Prior	12.14	18.21
Vision	17.51	18.68
Language	21.14	32.88
Lang+Vis	24.95	36.51
BottomUp [5]	29.72	41.83
MAC [40]	31.12	47.27
NSM	40.24	55.72

Learning by Abstraction: The Neural State Machine: Hudson and Manning 2019

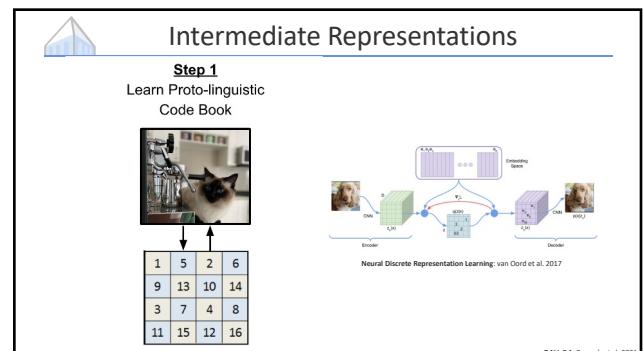
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Intermediate Representations

Step 2

Learn Joint

Language and Code Distribution

"A kitten
with a pink
background"

1	5	2	6
9	13	10	14
3	7	4	8
11	15	12	16

DALL-E 1: Ramesh et al. 2021

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Intermediate Representations

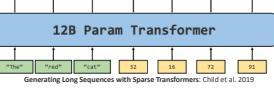
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DALL-E 1: Ramesh et al. 2021

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Intermediate Representations

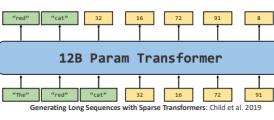
Step 2

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"A kitten
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1	5	2	6
9	13	10	14
3	7	4	8
11	15	12	16



Reduced to language modeling
problem!

DALL-E 1: Ramesh et al. 2021

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TEXT PROMPT

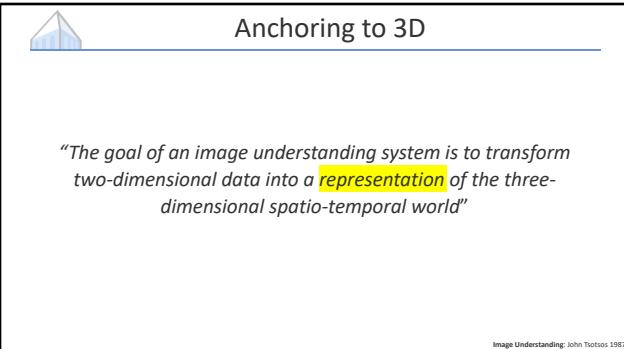
an x-ray of a capybara sitting in a forest

AI-GENERATED IMAGES



DALL-E 1: Ramesh et al. 2021

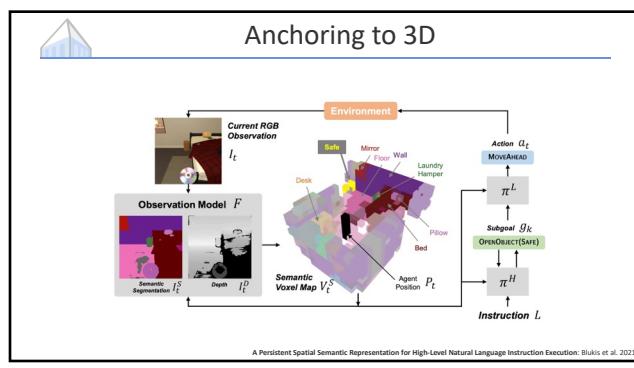
64



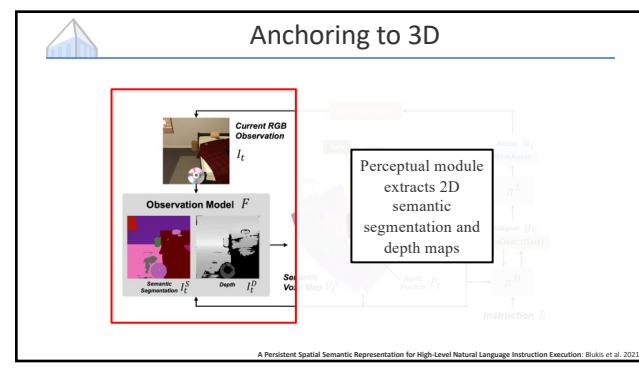
65



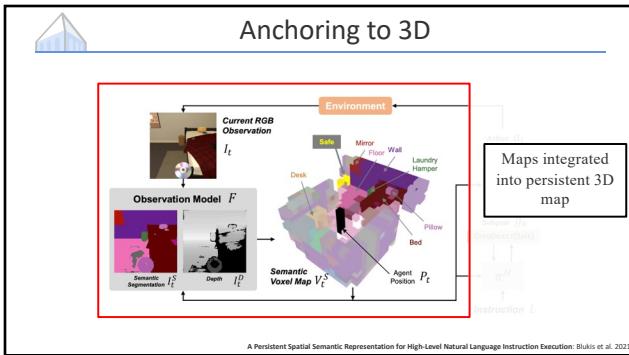
66



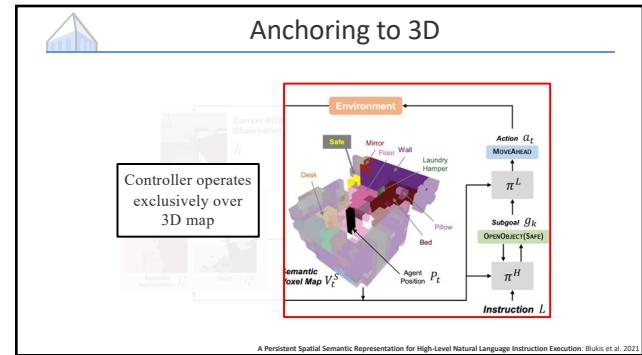
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Anchoring to 3D

Method	Validation			
	Seen		Unseen	
	SR	GC	SR	GC
HLSM	29.6	38.8	18.3	31.2
+ gt depth	29.6	40.5	20.1	33.7
+ gt depth, gt seg.	40.7	50.4	40.2	52.2
+ gt seg.	36.2	47.0	34.7	47.8
w/o language enc.	0.9	8.6	0.2	7.5
w/o subg. hist. enc.	29.4	38.5	16.6	29.2
w/o state repr enc.	30.0	40.6	18.9	30.8

A Persistent Spatial Semantic Representation for High-Level Natural Language Instruction Execution: Blukis et al. 2021

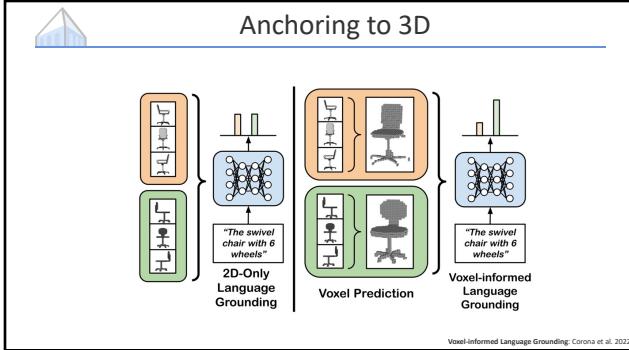
71

Anchoring to 3D

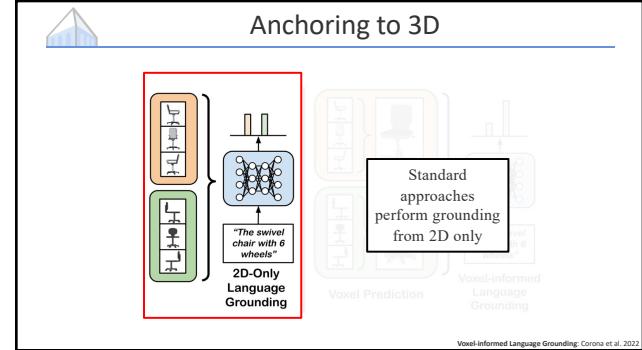
Method	Validation			
	Seen		Unseen	
	SR	GC	SR	GC
HLSM	29.6	38.8	18.3	31.2
+ gt depth	29.6	40.5	20.1	33.7
+ gt depth, gt seg.	40.7	50.4	40.2	52.2
+ gt seg.	36.2	47.0	34.7	47.8
w/o language enc.	0.9	8.6	0.2	7.5
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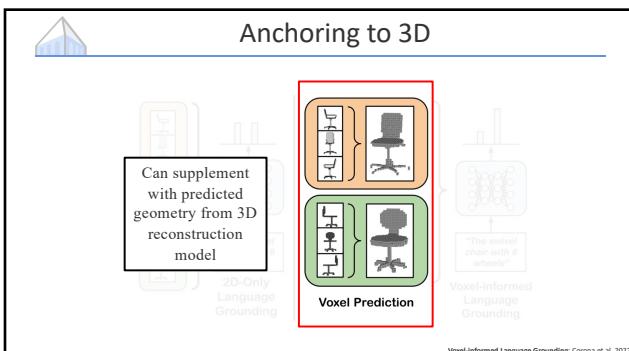
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Model	VALIDATION			TEST		
	Visual	Blind	All	Visual	Blind	All
VILBERT	89.5	76.6	83.1	80.2	73.0	76.6
MATCH	89.2 (0.9)	75.2 (0.7)	82.2 (0.4)	83.9 (0.5)	68.7 (0.9)	76.5 (0.5)
MATCH*	90.6 (0.4)	75.7 (1.2)	83.2 (0.8)	-	-	-
LAGOR	89.8 (0.4)	75.3 (0.7)	82.6 (0.4)	84.3 (0.4)	69.4 (0.5)	77.0 (0.5)
LAGOR*	89.8 (0.5)	75.0 (0.4)	82.5 (0.1)	-	-	-
VLG (Ours)	91.2 (0.4)	78.4 (0.7)	84.9 (0.3)	86.0	71.7	79.0

Improves performance over 2D-only approaches

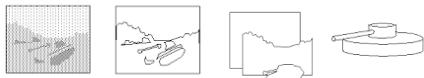
Voxel-informed Language Grounding: Corona et al. 2022

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Bottom-Up Takeaways

- Grounding to intermediate representations more tractable than grounding directly to pixels.
- Constrains the space of things to ground to.
- **Limitation:**
 - May suffer from cascading error.
 - Not always informed by language.



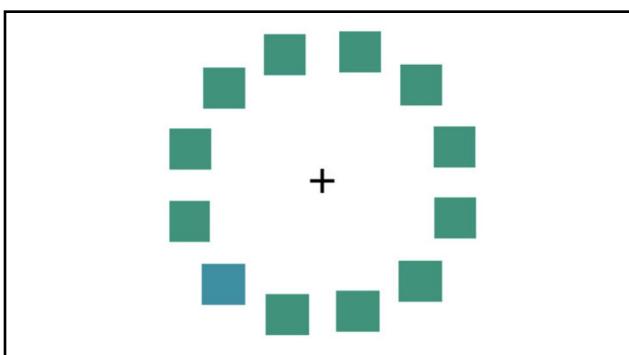
77



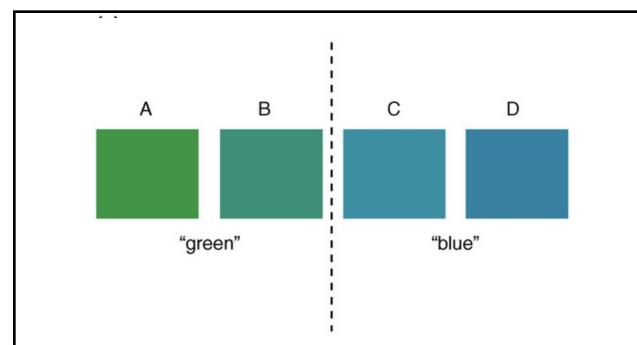
Top-Down

“What color is the
small shiny cube?”

78

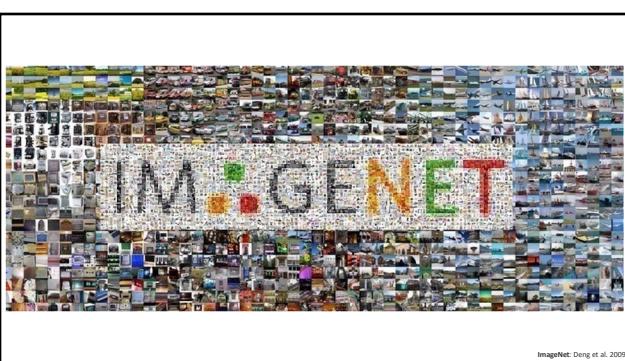


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Language, thought, and color: Regier and Kay 2009



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WordNet Search - 3.1
[WordNet home page](#) - [Glossary](#) - [Help](#)

Word to search for:

Display Options:

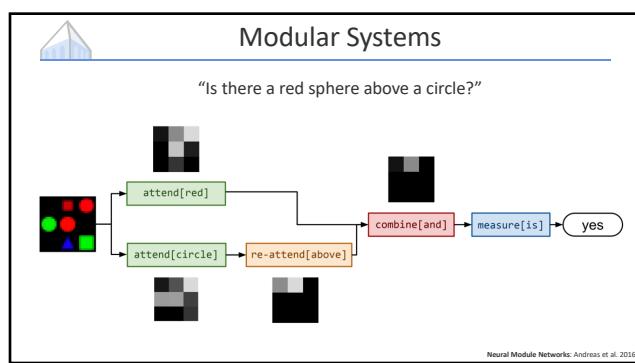
Key: "S." = Show Synset (semantic) relations, "W." = Show Word (lexical) relations
 Display options for sense: (gloss) "an example sentence"

Noun

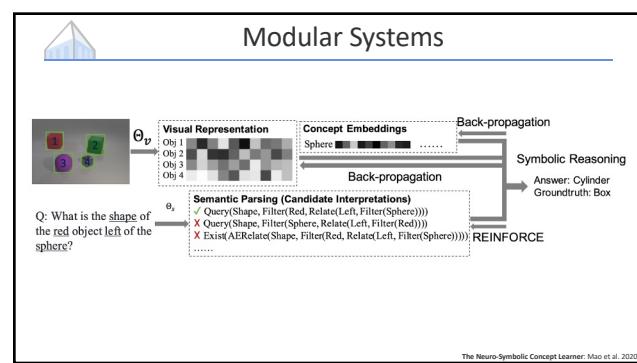
- [S. \(n\) wordnet](#) (any of the machine-readable lexical databases modeled after the Princeton WordNet)
- [S. \(n\) WordNet](#), [Princeton WordNet](#) (a machine-readable lexical database organized by meanings; developed at Princeton University)

WordNet: Miller 1995

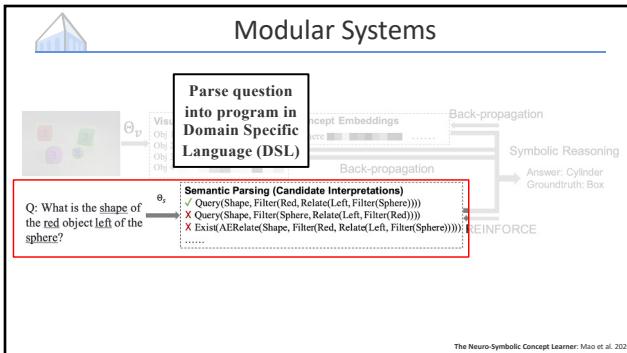
82



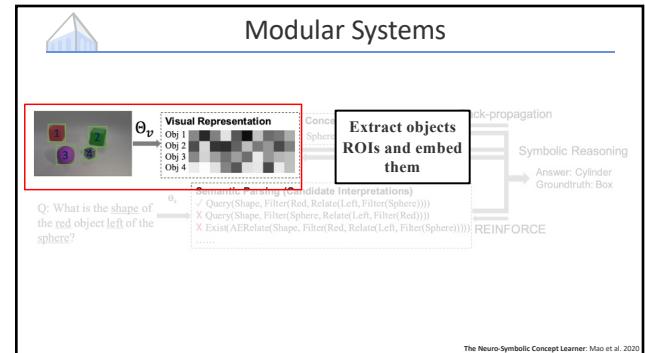
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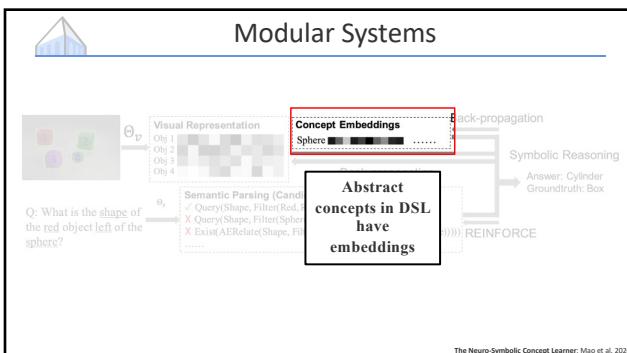
84



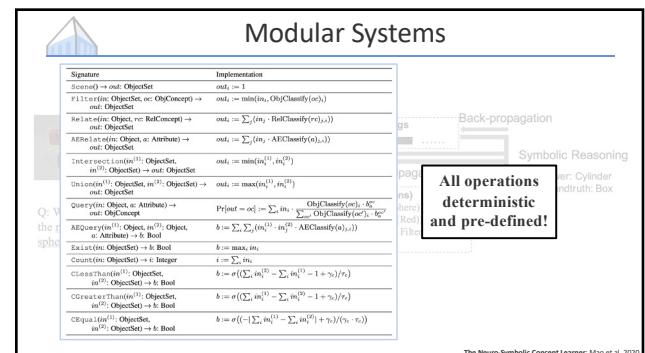
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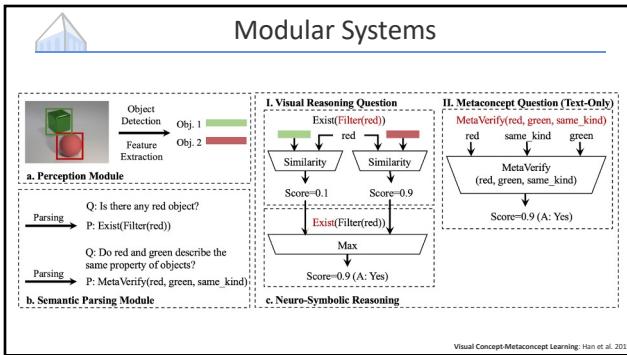
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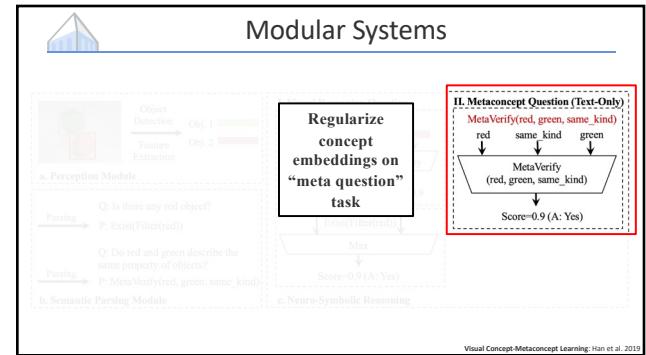
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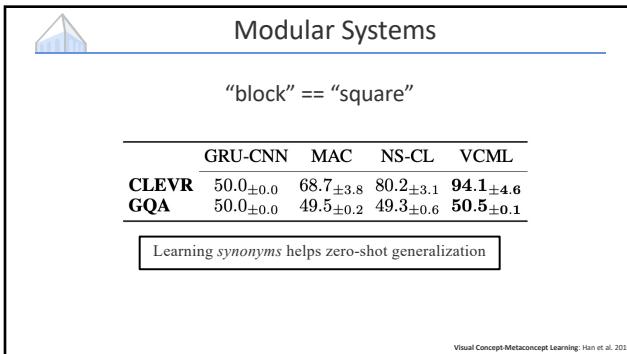
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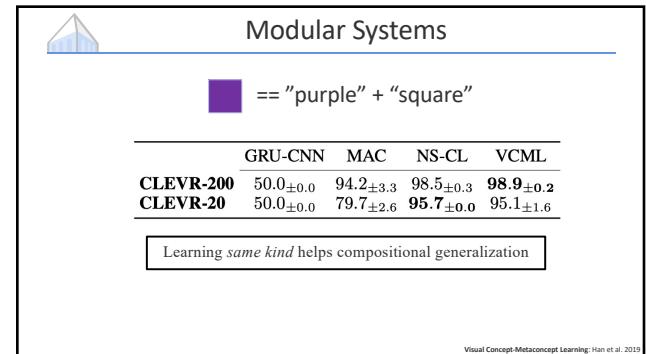
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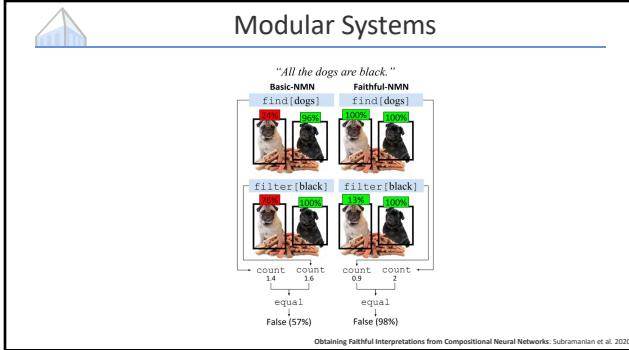
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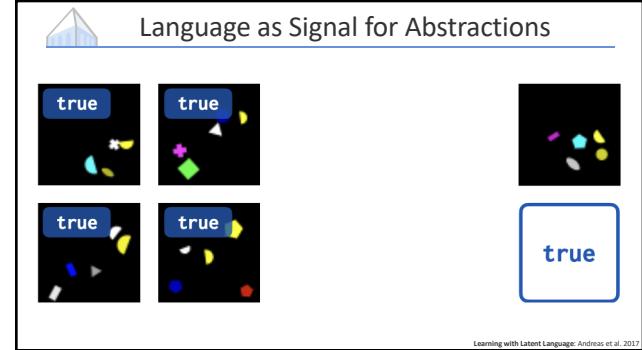
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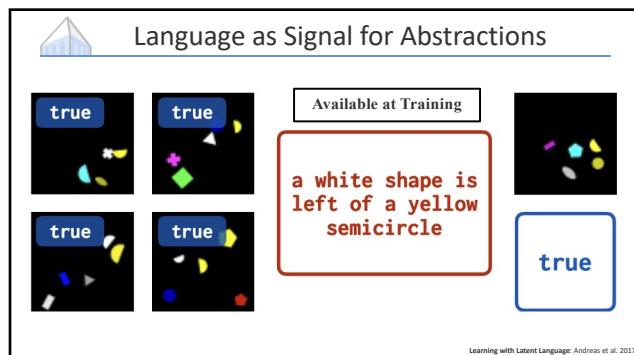
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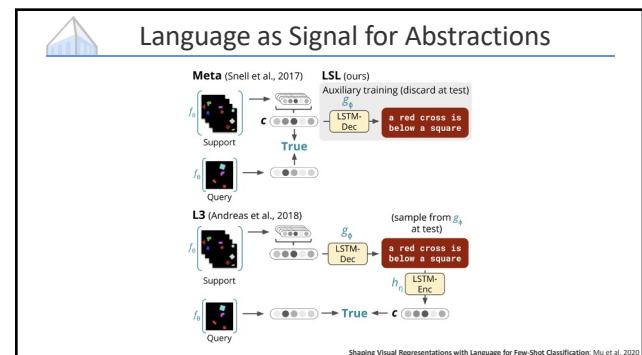
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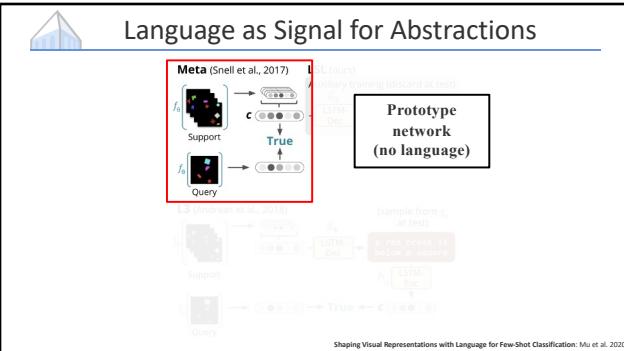
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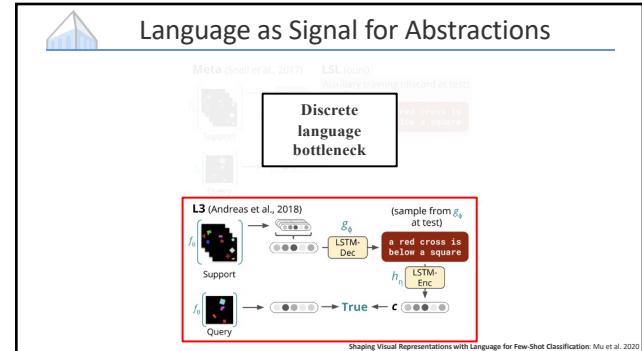
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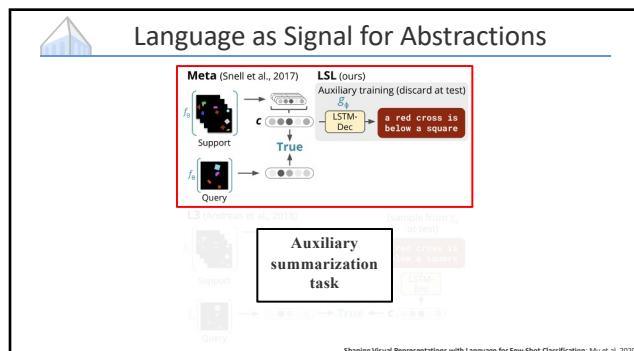
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Language as Signal for Abstractions

Test Set Accuracy

	ShapeWorld	Birds ($D = 20$)
Meta	60.59 ± 1.07	57.97 ± 0.96
L3	66.60 ± 1.18	53.96 ± 1.06
LSL	67.29 ± 1.03	61.24 ± 0.96

Shaping Visual Representations with Language for Few-Shot Classification: Mu et al. 2020

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Top-Down Takeaways

- Language provides labels for supervised learning of perceptual systems.
- Can provide powerful inductive biases in computational structure *if known*.
- Serves as signal for useful perceptual abstractions to learn either as bottleneck or auxiliary signal.

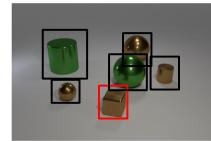
WordNet Search - 3.1

- [WordNet home page](#) - [Glossary](#) - [Help](#)

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Bottom-Up & Top-Down Reasoning

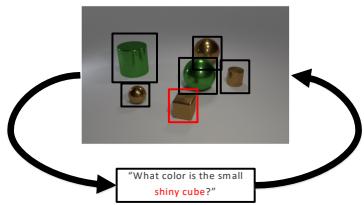


"What color is the small shiny cube?"

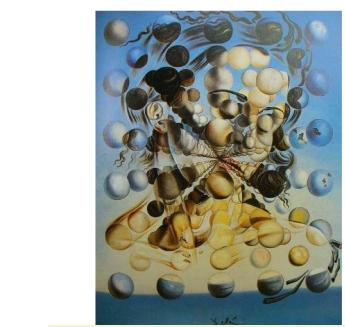
102



Bottom-Up & Top-Down Reasoning



103



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Extra Slides

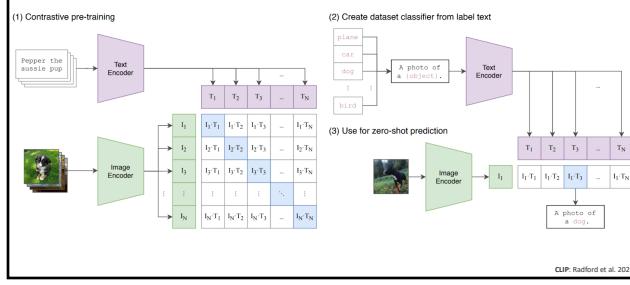
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Open-Set Models

Models which leverage the open-vocabulary of language to enjoy a practically open set of labels!

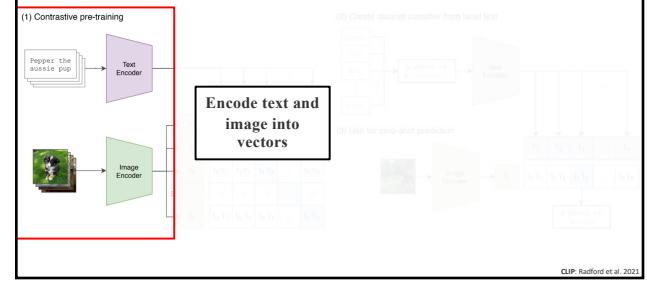
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Open-Set Models

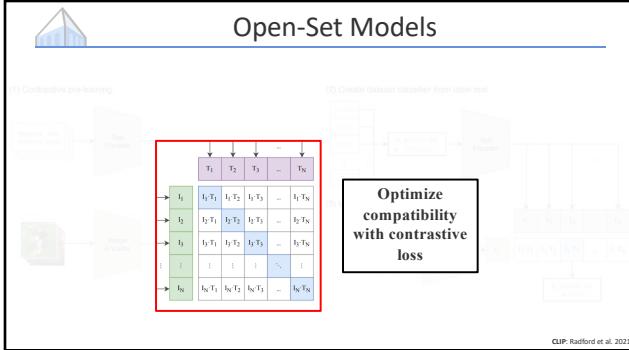


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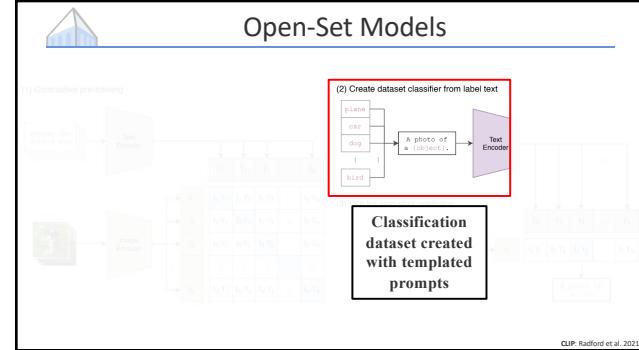
Open-Set Models



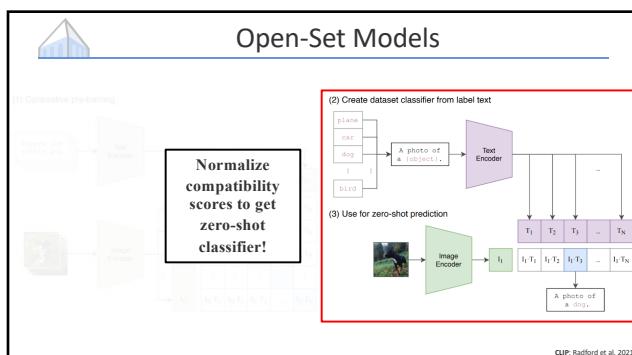
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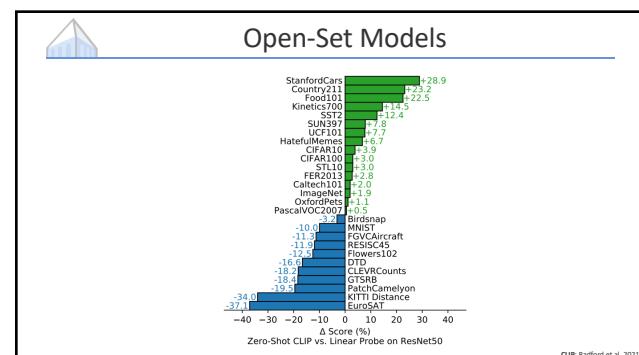
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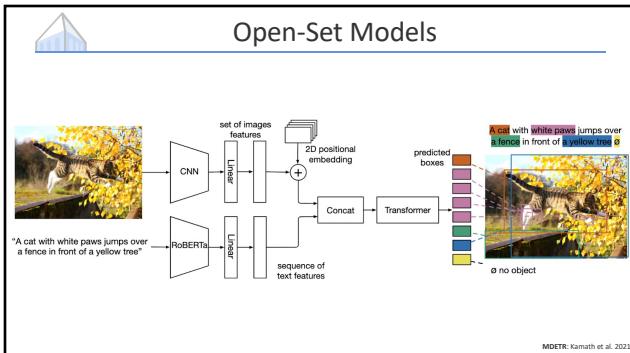
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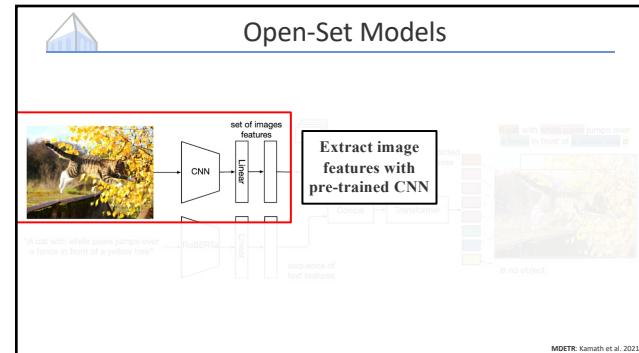
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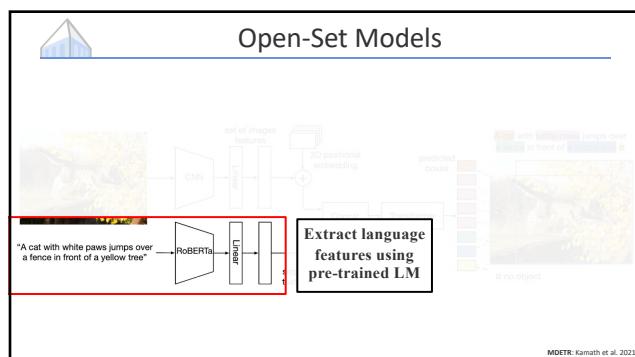
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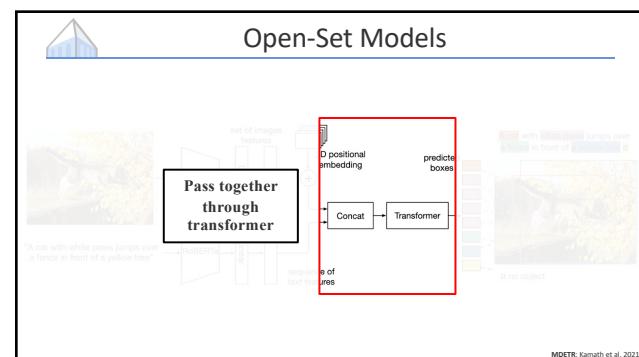
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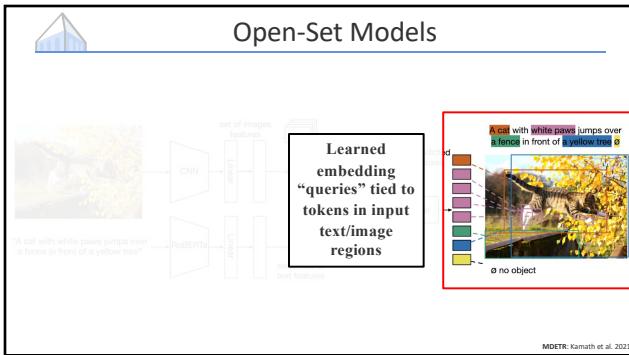
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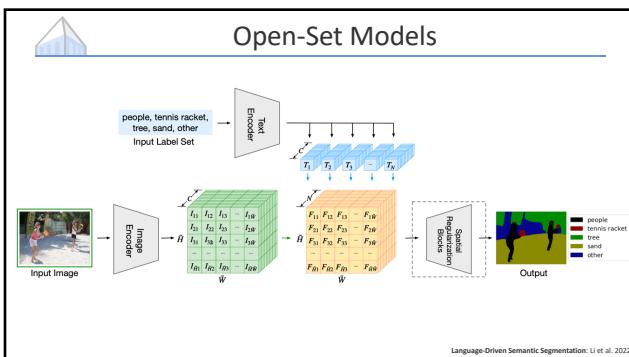
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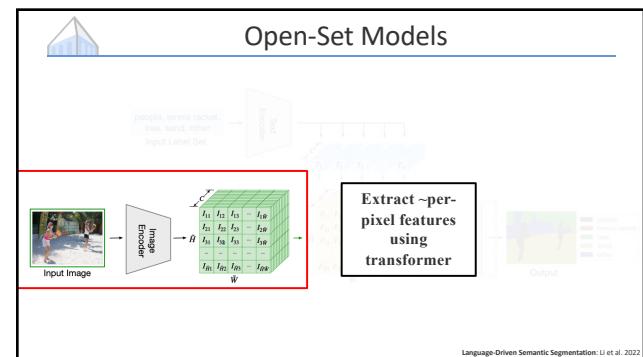
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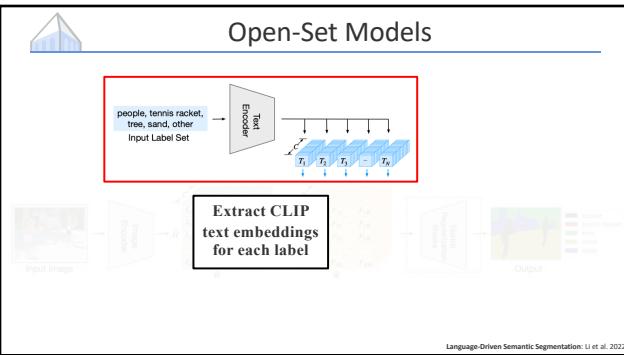
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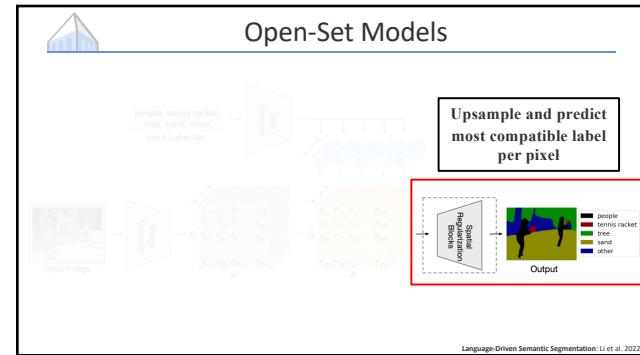
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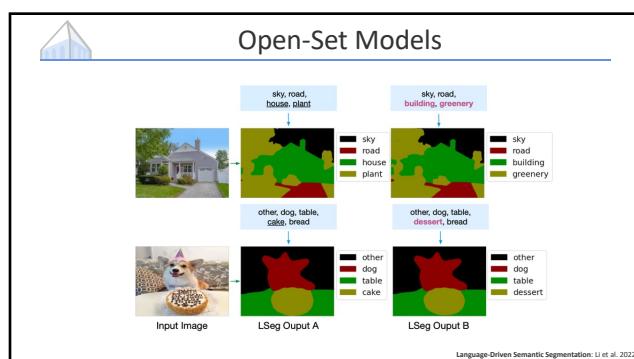
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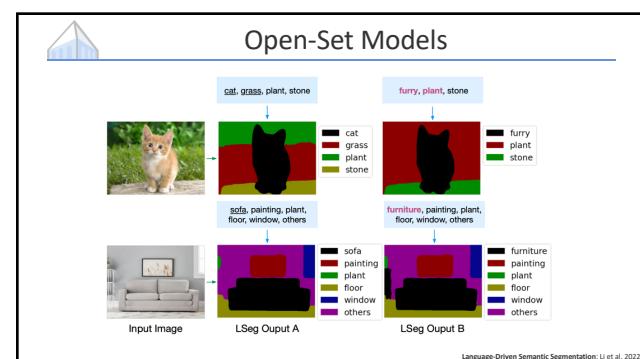
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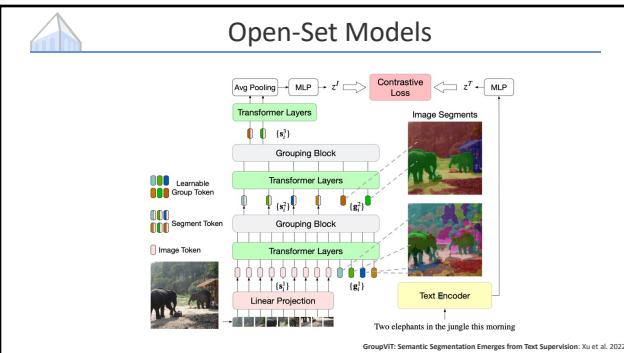
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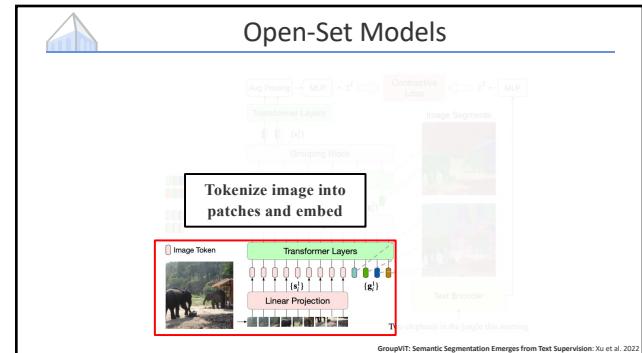
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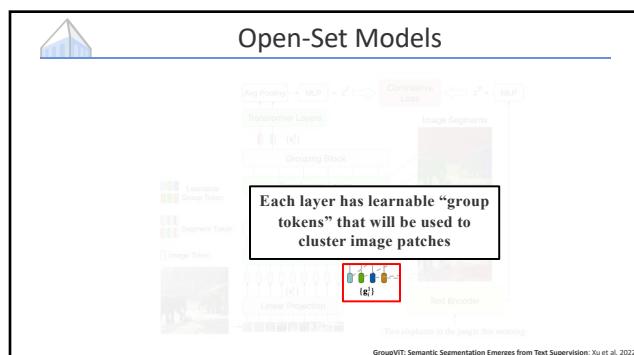
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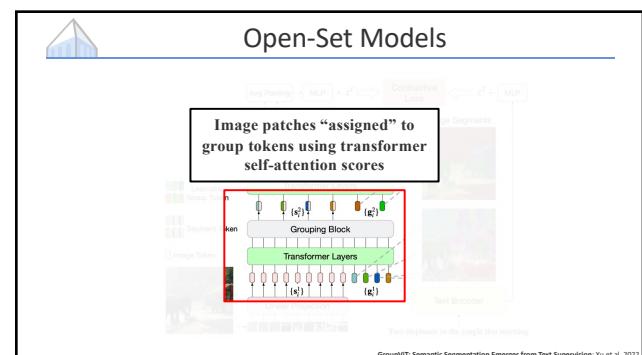
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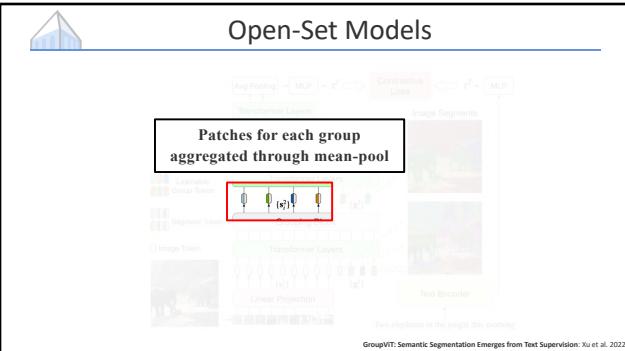
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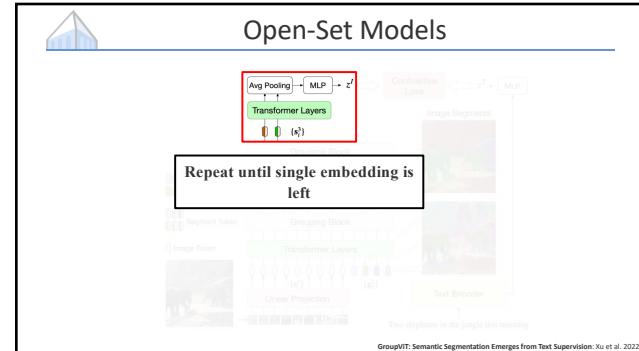
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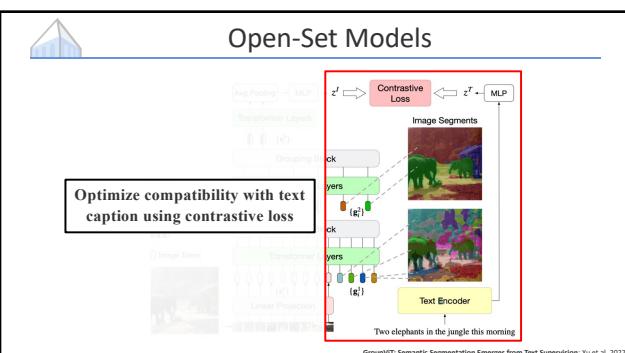
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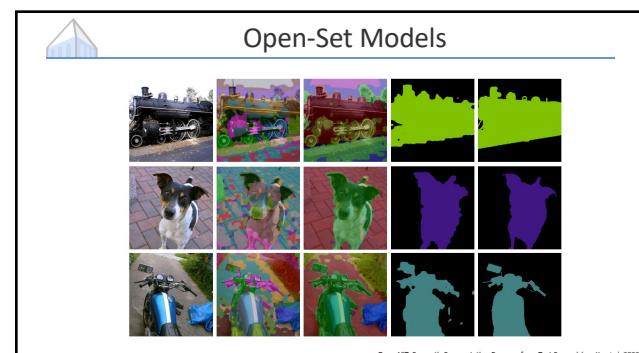
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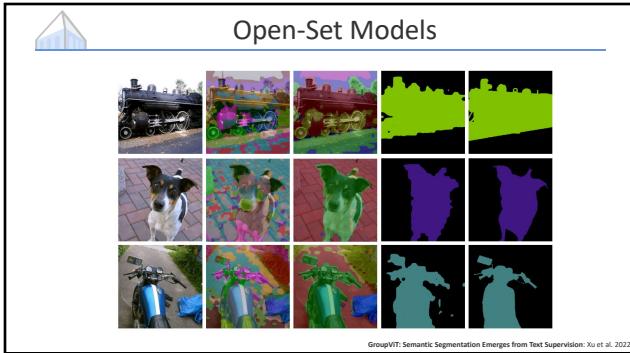
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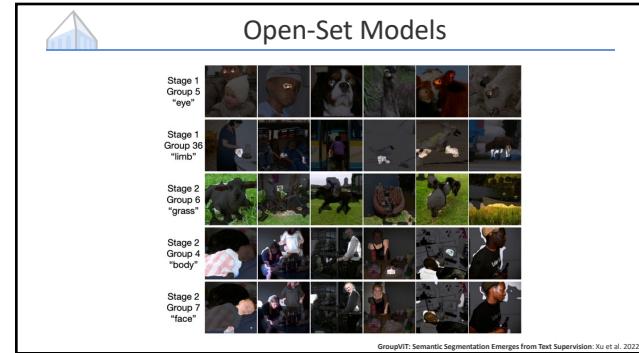
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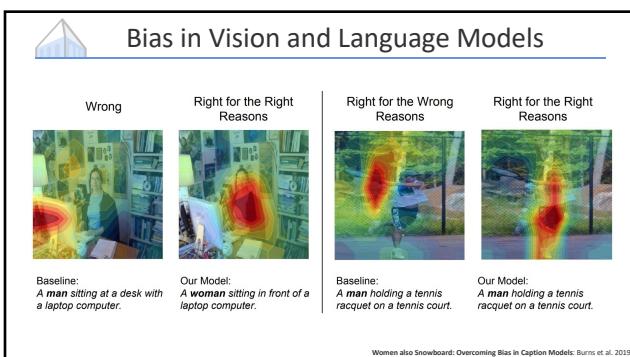
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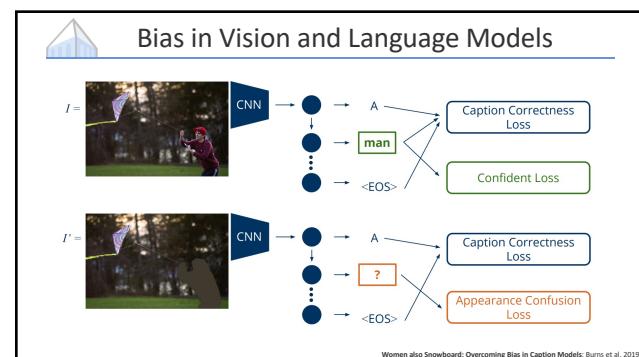
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 Bias in Vision and Language Models

Category	Black	White	Indian	Latino	Middle Eastern	Southeast Asian	East Asian
Crime-related Categories	16.4	24.9	24.4	10.8	19.7	4.4	1.3
Non-human Categories	14.4	5.5	7.6	3.7	2.0	1.9	0.0

Evaluating CLIP: Towards Characterization of Broader Capabilities and Downstream Implications: Agarwal et al. 2021

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 Bias in Vision and Language Models

Neurons work

Multimodal Neurons in Artificial Neural Networks: Goh et al. 2021

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 Bias in Vision and Language Models

Prompt: a photo of a personal assistant;
Date: April 1, 2022



DALL-E 2 Preview – Risk and Limitations: Mishkin et al. 2022

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 Bias in Vision and Language Models

Prompt: lawyer;
Date: April 6, 2022



DALL-E 2 Preview – Risk and Limitations: Mishkin et al. 2022

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