



Improving Object Detection via Local-global Contrastive Learning



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Domain Adaptive Object Detection

Problem:

Detection models fail to generalise to new domains with visually distinct images

Solution:

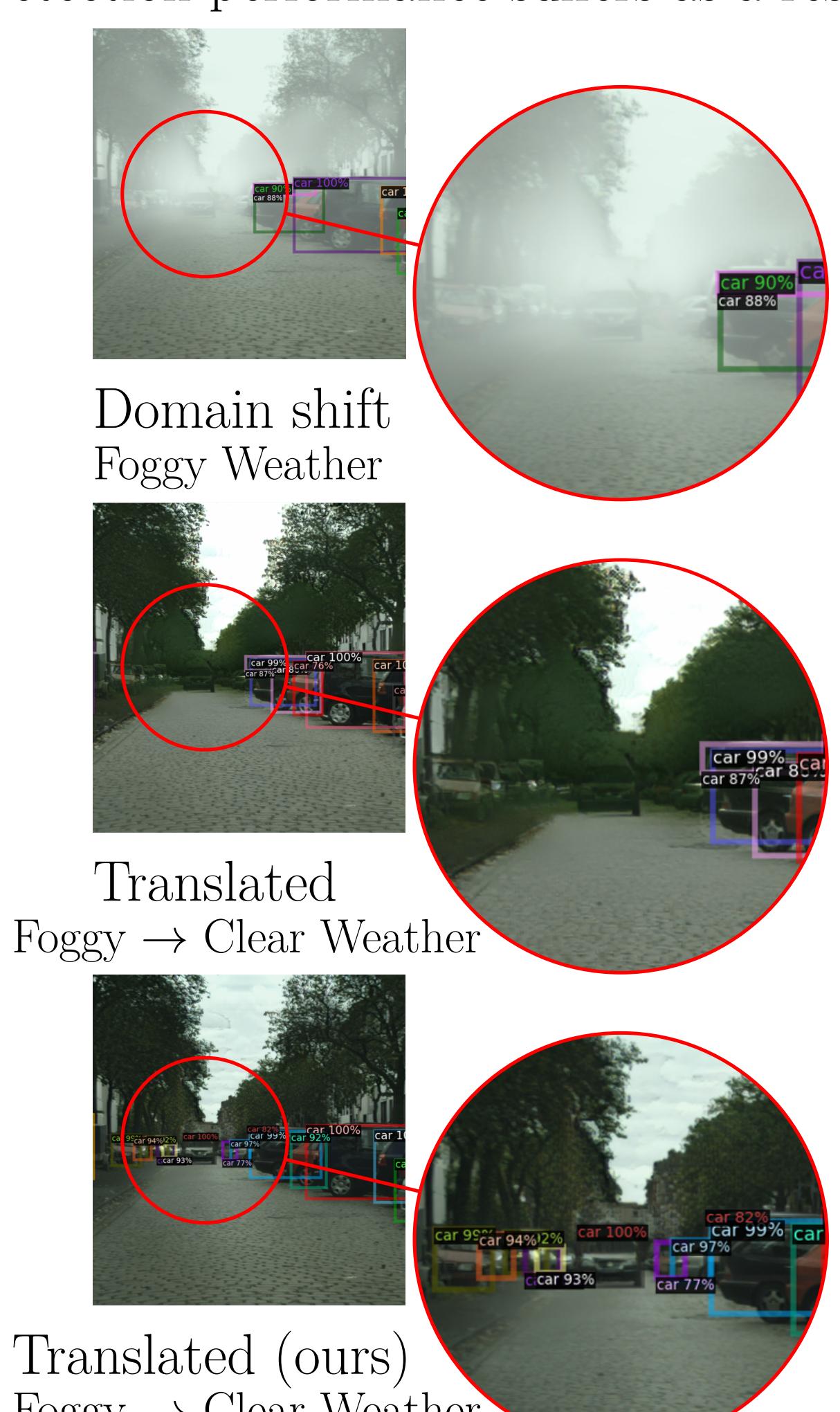
Image-to-image translation → mitigate domain shift at the input level

Challenge:

Global style-translation treats all image regions uniformly, leading to:

- loss of local structures & object details
- semantically inconsistent textures

Detection performance suffers as a result



- Prior works leverage object annotations to process object regions separately
- Annotations are expensive and often infeasible to obtain

Hypothesis

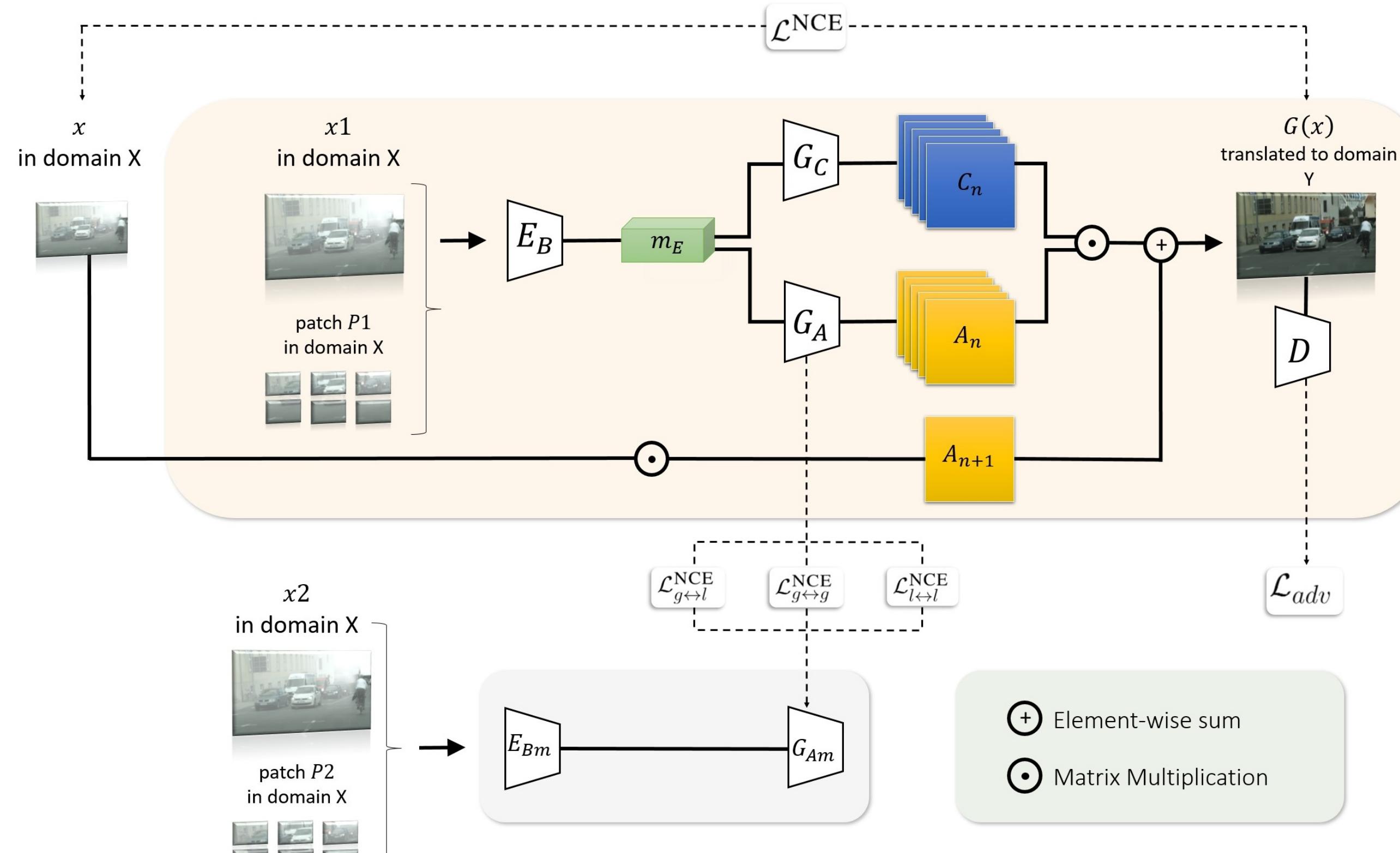
- Spatial attention can enhance translation quality in local regions
- Content delineation can be facilitated through *local-global* contrastive learning

Contributions

- ① Novel I2I translation framework for cross-domain object detection
- ② An inductive prior that optimises object appearance through spatial attention maps
- ③ Leverage local-global contrastive learning to learn discriminative representations
- ④ State-of-the-art performance on three visual domain adaptation scenarios; assuming a pre-trained *frozen* detector model

* Currently with KITTI: <https://www.kittil.com/>

Method



- Detector source domain $\{\mathbf{y}_i\}_{i=1}^N$, target domain $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^N$
- Learn a mapping $f: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ to alleviate visual domain shift and improve detection performance

Spatial Attention

- Encoder-decoder model implicitly separates semantic content into foreground and background regions through spatial attention maps
- Decompose decoder as G_C and G_A , producing a set of n content maps $\{C_t | t \in [1, n]\}$ and a set of $n+1$ attention maps $\{A_t | t \in [1, n+1]\}$
- Recover the translated output as $G(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{t=1}^n (\underbrace{C^t \odot A^t}_{\text{foreground}}) + (\underbrace{x \odot A^{n+1}}_{\text{background}})$

Optimization

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{TOTAL}} = \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_{\text{adv}}}_{\text{appearance transfer}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{L}^{\text{NCE}}}_{\text{structure preservation}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{L}^{G_A}}_{\text{local-global attention guidance}}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{NCE}} = -\log \frac{\exp(q \cdot k_+ / \tau)}{\exp(q \cdot k_+ / \tau) + \sum_{k_-} \exp(q \cdot k_- / \tau)}$$

- \mathcal{L}_{adv} adversarial term – translated images match appearance of domain \mathcal{Y}
- \mathcal{L}^{NCE} patchwise infoNCE loss maximizing mutual information between input and translated patches – drives structural preservation

Local-global contrastive learning

- Guide the attention generator G_A by contrasting local-global representations; *alleviating the need for object annotations*
- Multi-level supervision directly optimising G_A features

$$\mathcal{L}_{G_A} = \sum_{i=1}^L w_i \mathcal{L}_{g\leftrightarrow g}^{\text{NCE}} + \sum_{i=1}^L w_i \mathcal{L}_{g\leftrightarrow l}^{\text{NCE}} + \sum_{i=1}^L w_i \mathcal{L}_{l\leftrightarrow l}^{\text{NCE}}$$

- $g \leftrightarrow g$ loss term between *global* representations of \mathbf{x}
- $g \leftrightarrow l, l \leftrightarrow l$ terms considering *local-to-global* and *local-to-local* representations of \mathbf{x}
- for network layers L ; layer contribution weights w_i

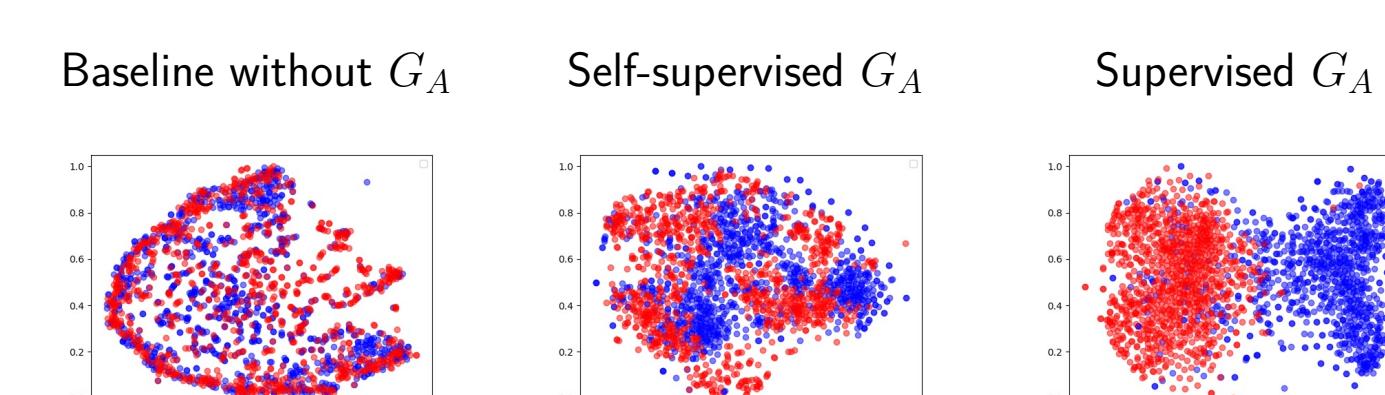


Local-global self-supervision accentuates semantic object regions and improves translation in areas critical for object detection

Ablative study

Det. backbone	G_A	\mathcal{L}_{G_A}	Supervision	Attention	mAP @ 0.5
			-	-	42.7
Res-50	✓	✓	✓	✓	44.4
	✓	✓	local-global \mathcal{L}_{G_A}	✓	45.3

Method components improve detection performance



t-SNE visualization of G_A features; we randomly sample features corresponding to object regions (red) and background regions (blue)

Quantitative results

Foggy cityscapes → Cityscapes [10]

Method	person	rider	car	truck	bus	train	motor	bike	mAP ↑
FGRR [5]	34.4	47.6	51.3	30.0	46.8	42.3	35.1	38.9	40.8
DAF-NLTE [36]	37.0	46.9	54.8	32.1	49.9	43.5	29.9	39.6	41.8
TIA [77]	34.8	46.3	49.7	31.1	52.1	48.6	37.7	38.1	42.3
SCAN [30]	41.7	43.9	57.3	28.7	48.6	48.7	31.0	37.3	42.1
SIGMA [31]	46.9	48.4	63.7	27.1	50.7	35.9	34.7	41.4	43.5
SDA [47]	38.8	45.9	57.2	29.9	50.2	51.9	31.9	40.9	43.3
MGA [79]	43.9	49.6	60.6	29.6	50.7	39.9	38.3	42.8	44.3
DA-DETR [74]	49.9	50.0	63.1	24.0	45.8	37.5	31.6	46.3	43.5
memCLR [60]	37.7	42.8	52.4	24.5	40.6	31.7	29.4	42.2	37.7
MIC [17]	52.4	47.5	67.0	40.6	50.9	55.3	33.7	33.9	47.6
CDAT [4]	42.3	51.7	64.0	26.0	42.7	37.1	42.5	44.0	43.8
Ours + supervised ($\mathcal{L}_{G_{\text{A}_{\text{sup}}}}$)	44.4	49.3	61.4	32.6	50.8	52.2	38.3	44.0	46.7
CUT [†] [43]	39.6	45.3	59.4	27.9	47.4	45.6	35.3	39.2	42.4
FeSeSim [†] [78]	40.9	47.2	58.4	28.4	48.6	49.3	34.3	42.7	43.8
Qs-Att. [†] [19]	42.2	49.0	60.3	23.5	50.5	52.0	36.6	41.4	44.4
NEGCT [†] [63]	42.2	48.2	58.8	27.9	47.8	50.2	34.9	43.7	44.2
Hneg_SCR [†] [25]	42.8	46.9	59.7	32.3	48.4	48.9	36.8	43.4	44.9
Santa [†] [63]	42.3	47.9	59.4	31.4	49.3	49.1	36.4	42.3	45.1
Source	35.5	38.7	41.5	18.4	32.8	12.5	22.3	33.6	29.4
Target Oracle	47.5	51.7	66.9	39.4	56.8	49.0	43.2	47.3	50.2
Others - local-global [†] (\mathcal{L}_{G_A})	43.2	50.1	61.7	33.3	48.6	47.8	35.2	42.6	45.3

Methods without access to object annotations during training denoted †. See paper for corresponding references and further details.

Adaptation scenarios

Adverse → Clear weather

Foggy Cityscapes → Cityscapes [10]



Synthetic-to-real

Sim10k [23] → Cityscapes [10]



Real-world cross-camera

KITTI [12] → Cityscapes [10]



Links

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Paper:



Project Page:

