

Drawing as a means of Communication: Towards Sketch-guided Visual Understanding

Anand Mishra



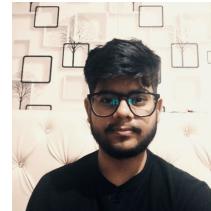
॥ तत् त्वं पूषन् यज्ञमयोऽसि ॥

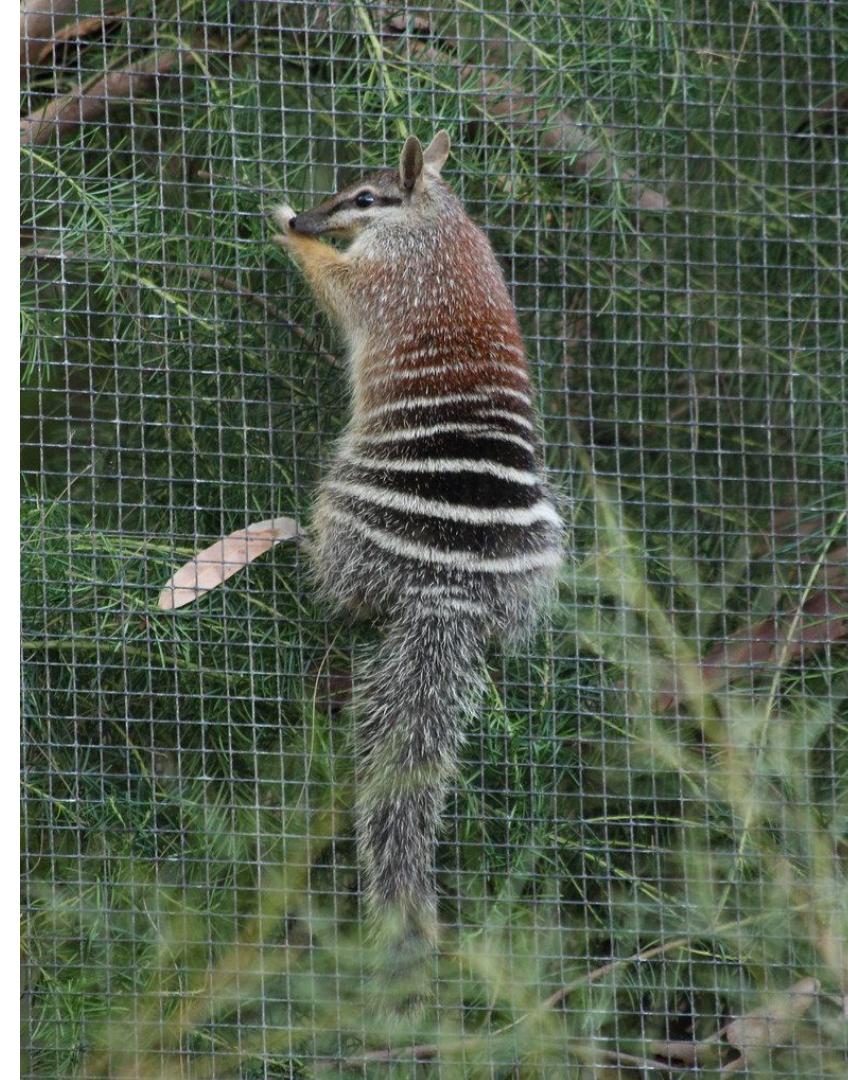
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Joint work with

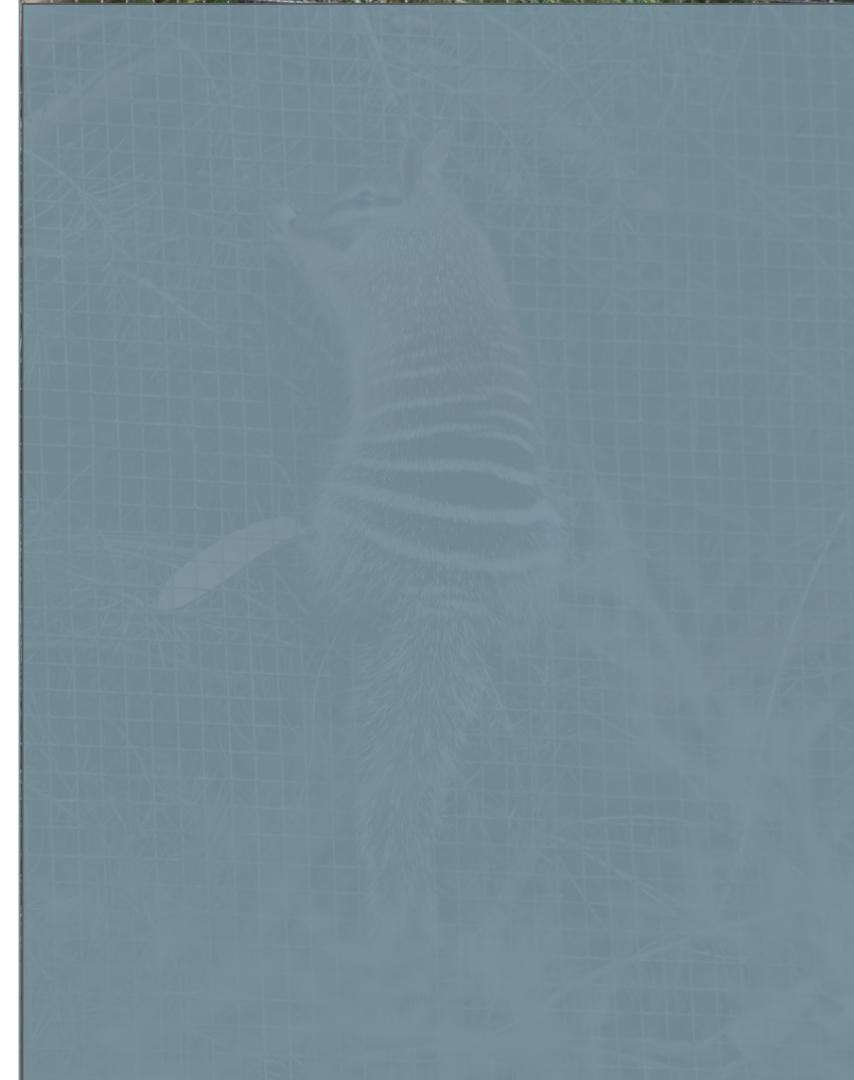




**While hiking in your
Australia trip, you saw
this animal.**



A few days later ...



**You want to search
that animal! How will
you search?**

Option-A

Describe the query in
natural language

Option-A

Describe the query in
natural language

What if

- You do not know the name?
- Your linguistic skills are weak?

Option-A

Describe the query in
natural language

What if

- You do not know the name?
- Your linguistic skills are weak?

Option-B

Draw the query

Option-A

Describe the query in natural language

What if

- You do not know the name?
- Your linguistic skills are weak?

Option-B

Draw the query

Drawing everything is non-trivial, e.g., activities, color, etc.

We take a middle option

Composite Sketch+Text Based Image Retrieval

You can ...

Search via **text**

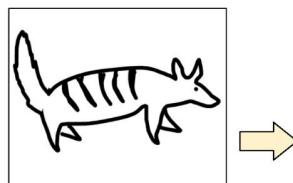
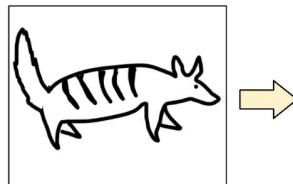
Search via **sketch**

Search via both
Sketch + Text
(Ours)

Search Query 

“Small mammal
with striped
back and long
snout digging in
the ground.”

Retrieved Images 

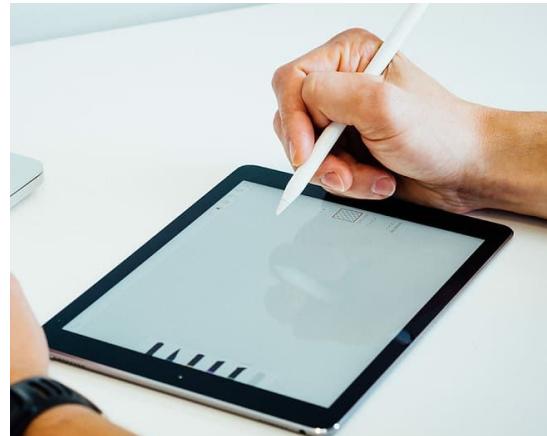
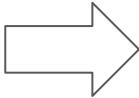


+

“Digging in the ground”

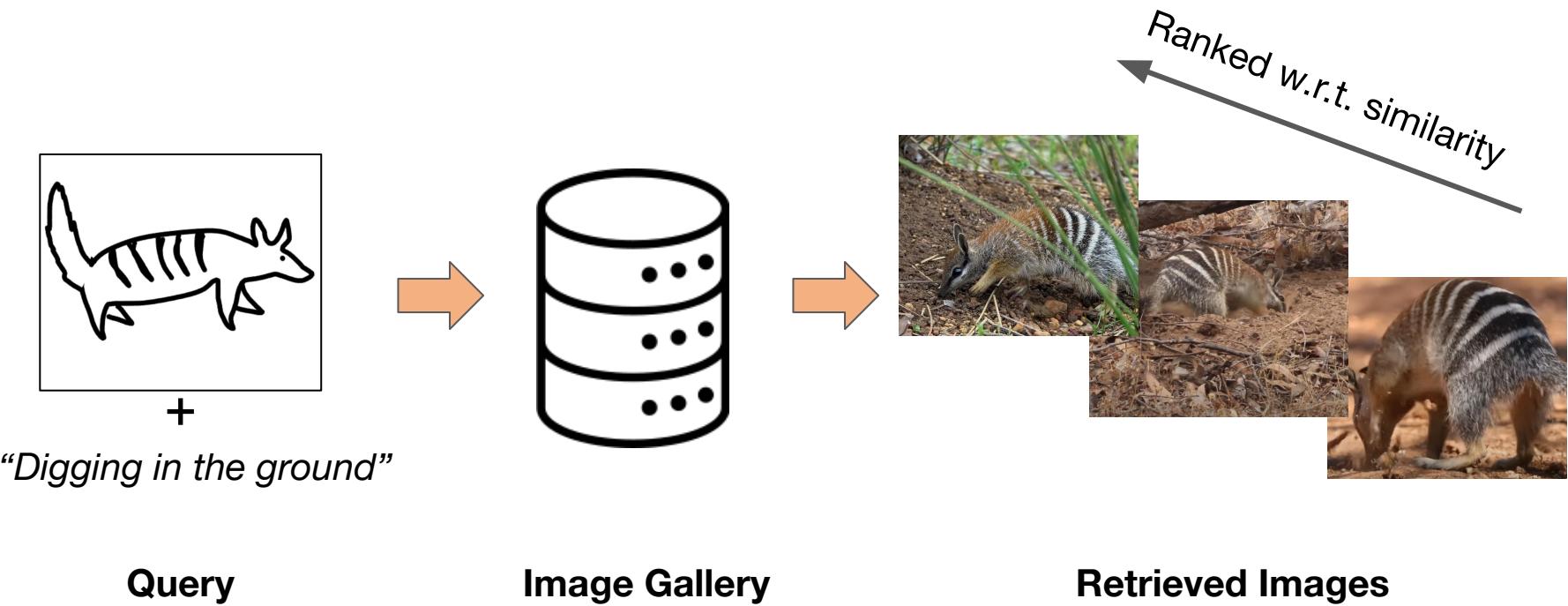


Sketches: from Stone Age to Tablet Age

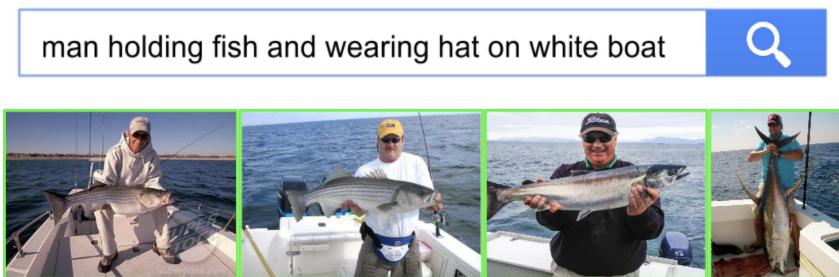


Cave hyena (*Crocuta crocuta spelaea*) painting found in the Chauvet cave (Source: Gutenberg.org) ; now known to be 32,000 year old.

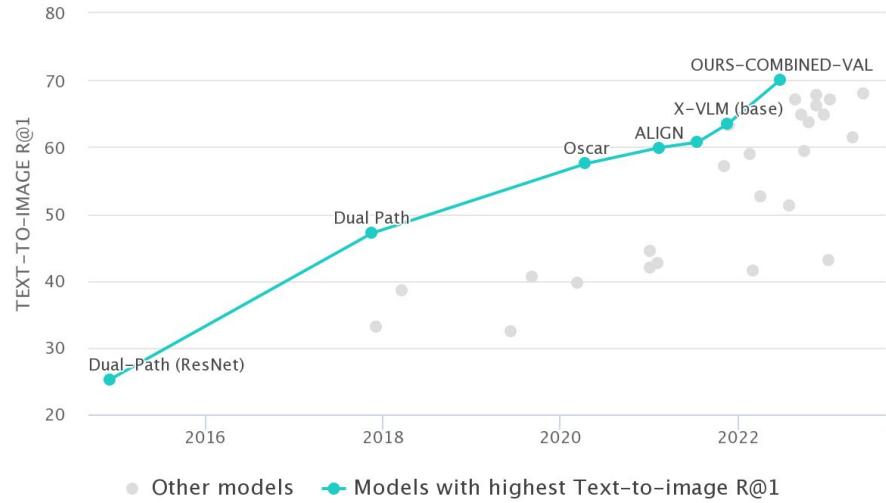
The Problem: CSTBIR



Related Work: Text-based Image Retrieval

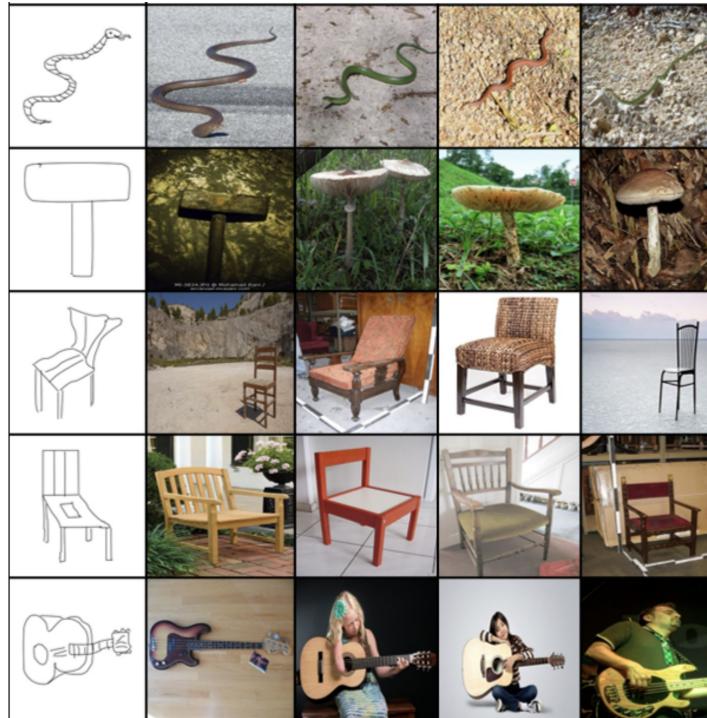


Johnson et al., CVPR'15;
Faghri et al., BMVC'18;
Zhang et al., CVPR'19,
and many more..



MS COCO Benchmark
T2I is a well-studied problem!

Related Work: Sketch-based Image Retrieval

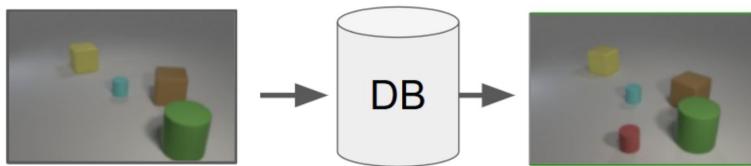


Sangkloy et al., SIGGRAPH'16

Related Work: Multimodal Query for Image Retrieval



No people and switch to night-time



Add red cube to bottom-middle

Image+Text to Image Retrieval
(Vo et al., CVPR'18)

Query with text Top 5 retrieval result



Sketch+Tag to Image Retrieval
(Song et al., BMVC'17)

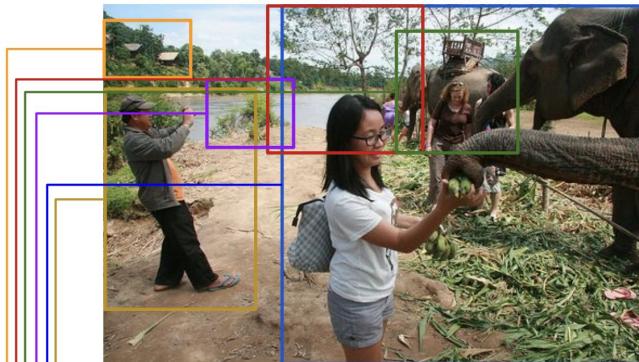
The CSTBIR Dataset

We require a dataset with tuples of the form:



No suitable dataset available...
But can we adopt existing datasets?

The CSTBIR Dataset



Girl feeding elephant
Man taking picture
Hot sun will kill

Huts on a hillside

► A man taking a p

Flip flops on the ground

Hillside with water below

Elephants interacting with people

Young girl in glasses with backpack

Elephant that could carry people

→ An elephant trunk taking two bars

→ A bush next to a river.

People watching elephant

A woman wearing glasses

A woman wearing glasses

Glasses on the hair

→ The elephant with a seat

► The elephant with a seal A woman with a purple dr

A woman with a purple dress
A pair of pink flip flops

A pair of pink flip flops.
A handle of bananas.

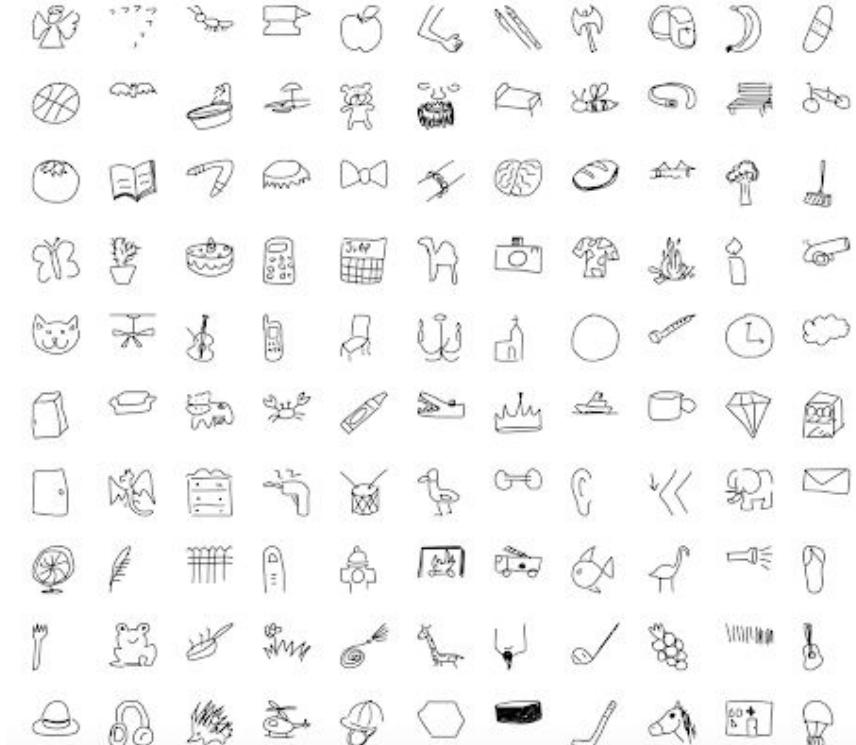
A handle of bananas.

→ Tree near the water

A blue short.

→ Small houses on the hill

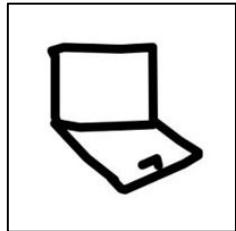
A man wearing an orange shirt
An elephant taking food from a woman
A woman wearing a brown shirt
A woman wearing purple clothes
A man wearing blue flip flops
Man taking a photo of the elephants
Blue flip flop sandals
The girl's white and black handbag
The girl is feeding the elephant
The nearby river
A woman wearing a brown t shirt
Elephant's trunk grabbing the food
The lady wearing a purple outfit
A young Asian woman wearing glasses
Elephants trunk being touched by a hand
A man taking a picture holding a camera
Elephant with carrier on it's back
Woman with sunglasses on her head
A body of water
Small buildings surrounded by trees
Woman wearing a purple dress
Two people near elephants



The CSTBIR Dataset

Multimodal Query

A silver laptop is on the desk



(Object: laptop)

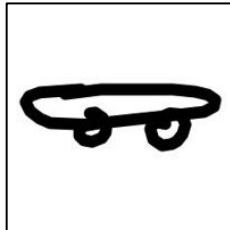
Target Image



The CSTBIR Dataset

Multimodal Query

A man performing a trick



(Object: **Skateboard**)

Target Image



The CSTBIR Dataset

Multimodal Query



A picture hanging above the

(Object: Fireplace)

Target Image



The CSTBIR Dataset in Numbers

Property	Value
Average sentence length (in words/tokens)	5.4 / 7.7
Number of Unique Images	108K
Number of Unique Sketches	562K
Number of Unique Object Categories	258
Number of Training Instances	1.89M
Number of Validation Instances	97K
Number of Test Instances	5000
Avg % Relevant Area in Target Image	36.7

The CSTBIR vs Other Datasets

Query	Dataset	# Instances	Sketch	Text	Target Image
Sketch	TU-Berlin	20K	Object	None	Focused Object
Sketch	QMUL-Shoe-V2	6.7K	Object	None	Focused Object
Text	MS COCO	567K	None	Complete	Complete Scene
Text	Flickr-30K	158K	None	Complete	Complete Scene
Sketch+Text	FS COCO	10K	Scene	Complete	Complete Scene
Sketch+Text	CSTBIR (Ours)	2M	Object	Complementary	Complete Scene

The CSTBIR Dataset

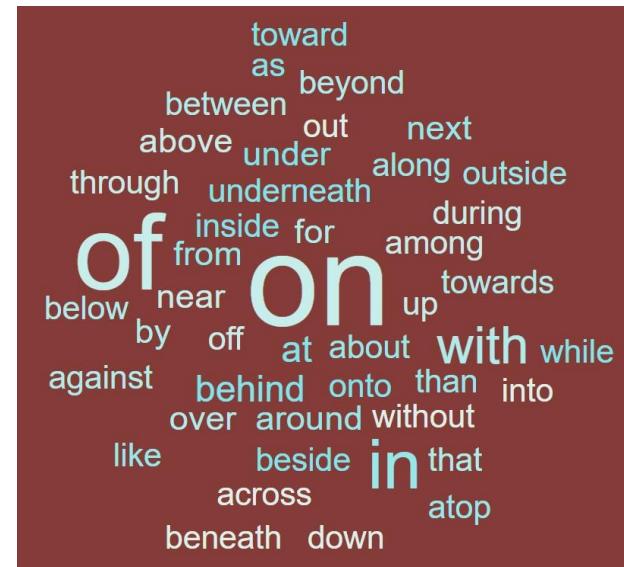
Word Clouds for the text descriptions



adjectives (*attributes*)



verbs *(action words)*

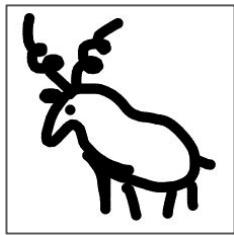


prepositions

(*position indicating words*)

What about Rare Objects?

Multimodal Query



Pair of climbing cliffs on a sunny day.

(Object: **Markhor**)

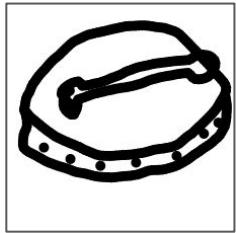
Target Image



What about Rare Objects?

Multimodal Query

People admiring a
on a table.



displayed

(Object: **Bodhran**)

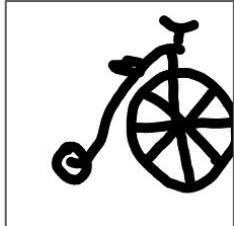
Target Image



What about Rare Objects?

Multimodal Query

Person dressed in a suit standing
beside a



(Object: **Penny Farthing**)

Target Image



What about Rare Objects?

Multimodal Query

Students observing an
a Desert Classroom.



in

Target Image

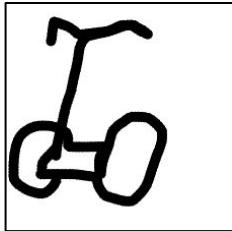


(Object: **echidna**)

What about Rare Objects?

Multimodal Query

Police officers riding their
across a busy street

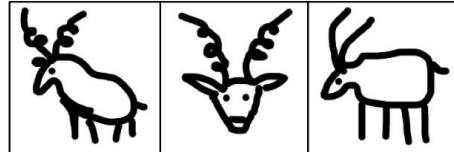


(Object: **segway**)

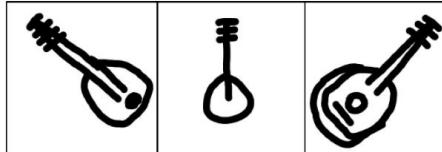
Target Image



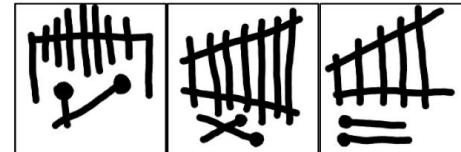
What about Rare Objects?



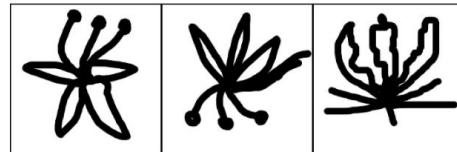
markhor



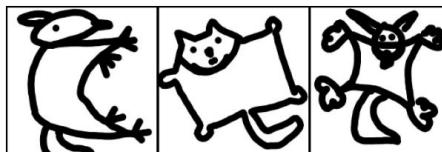
bouzouki



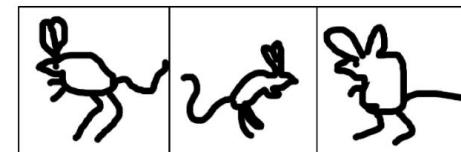
marimba



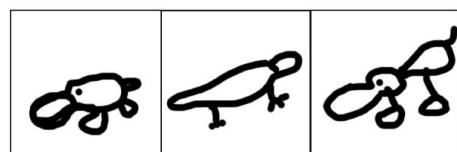
flame lily



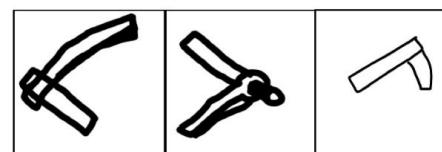
sugarglider



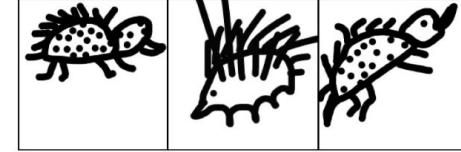
jerboa



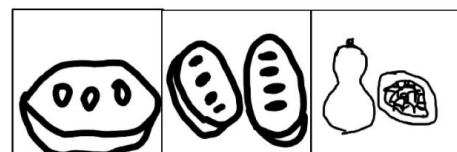
platypus



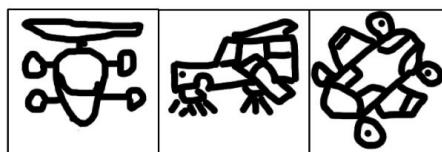
froe



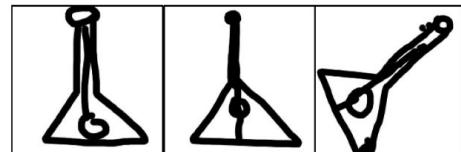
echidna



pawpaw

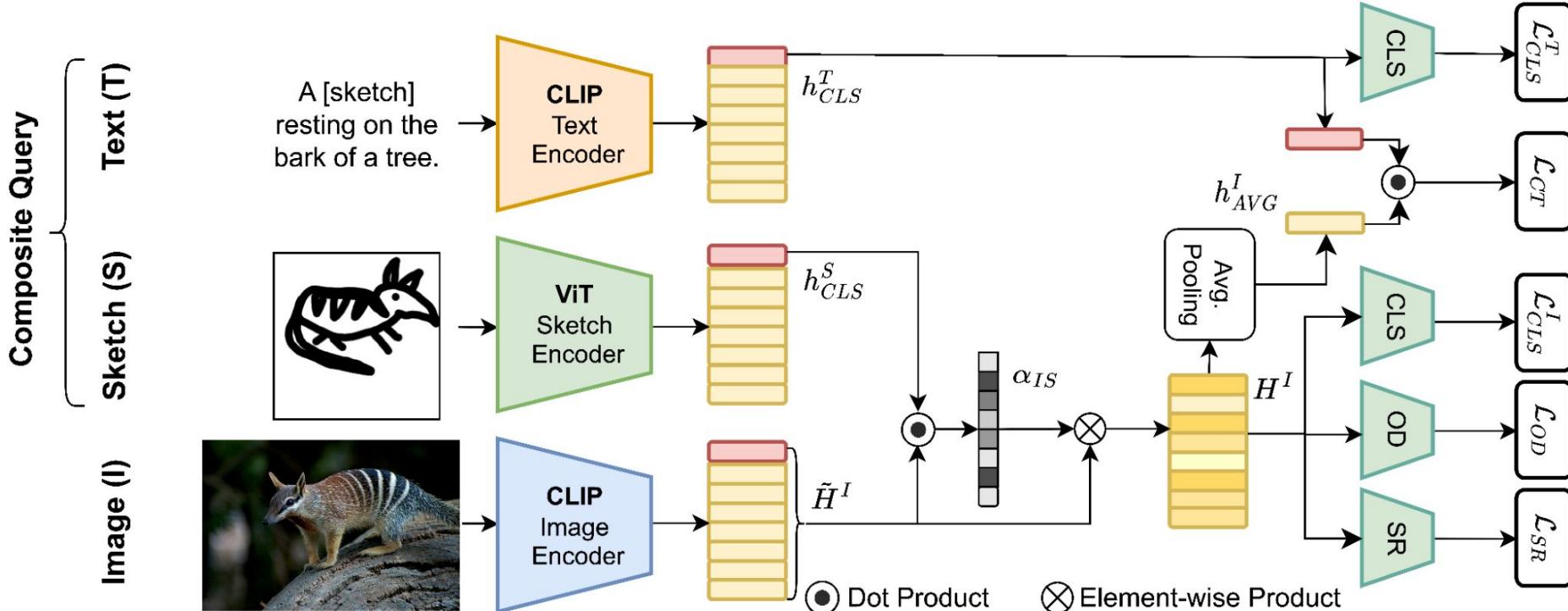


skycar

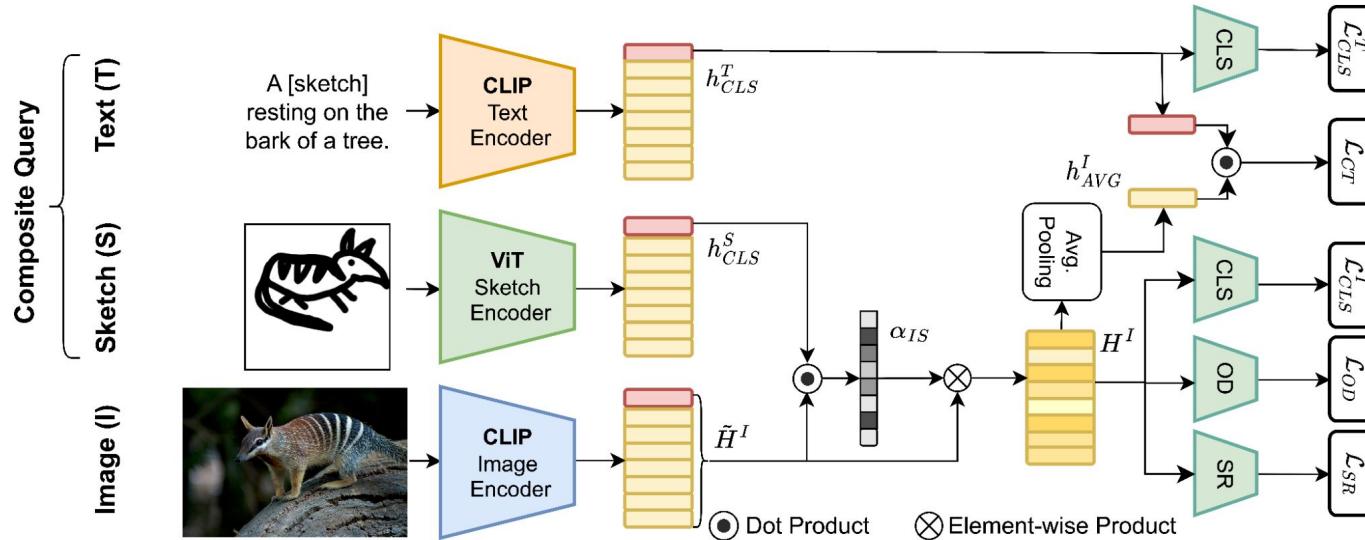


balalaika

STNet: Sketch+Text based Image Retrieval Network



Training Objectives for STNet



We follow the InfoNCE objective of CLIP.

Additionally, we introduce **three new task-specific objectives**:

1. Object Classification (CLS)
2. Sketch Object Detection (OD)
3. Sketch Reconstruction (SR)

Baselines

Based on Modality:

1. **Text-only**
 - a. VisualBERT (Li et al., 2019)
 - b. ViLT (Kim et al., 2021)
 - c. CLIP (Radford et al., 2021)
2. **Sketch-only**
 - a. Doodle2Search
 - b. DeepSBIR
 - c. ViT-Siamese (*our vision transformer-based baseline*)

Baselines

3. Multimodal (Sketch + Text) baselines

a. TIRG (Vo et al., CVPR 2019)

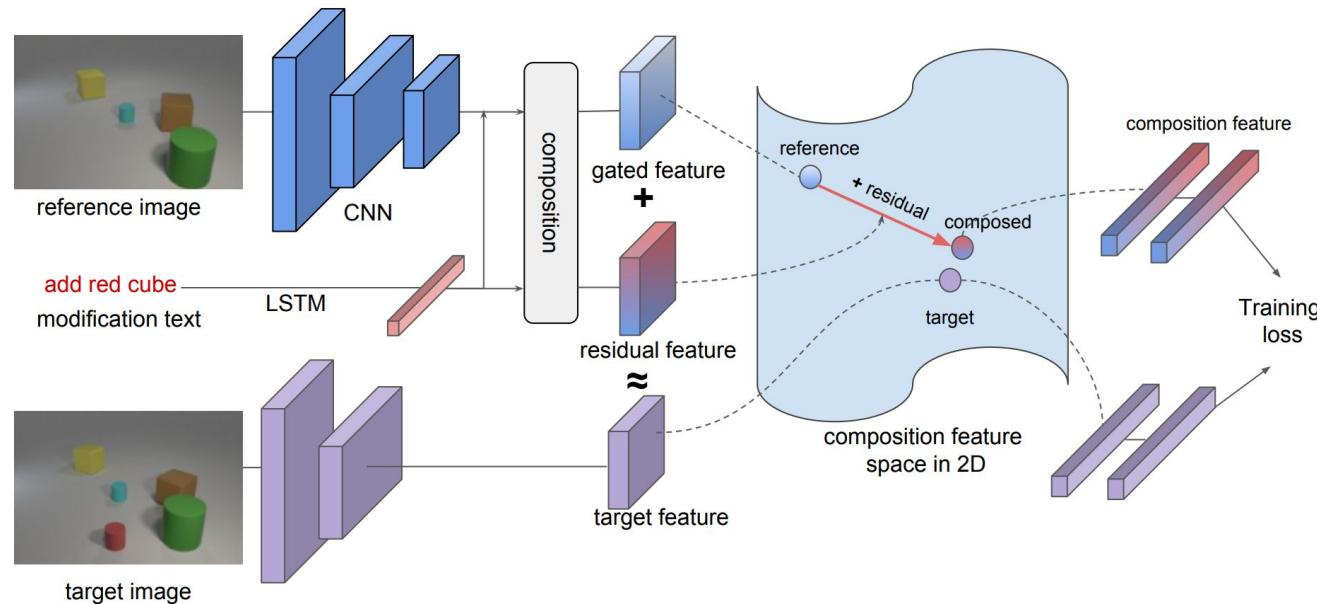


Figure: [Vo et al. CVPR 2019]

Baselines

4. Multimodal (Sketch + Text) baselines b. Taskformer (Sangkloy et al., ECCV'22)

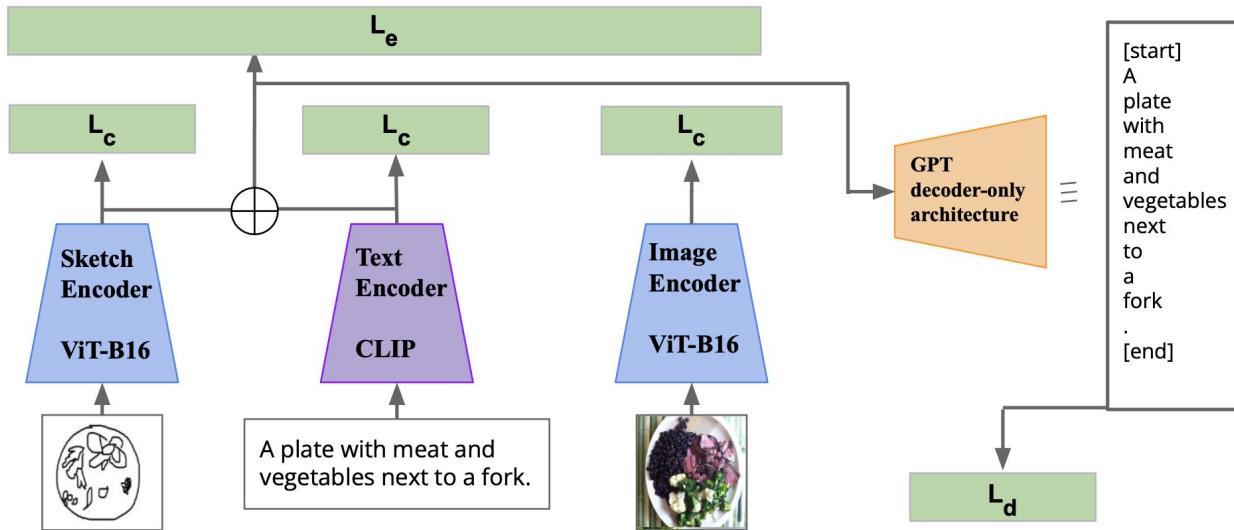
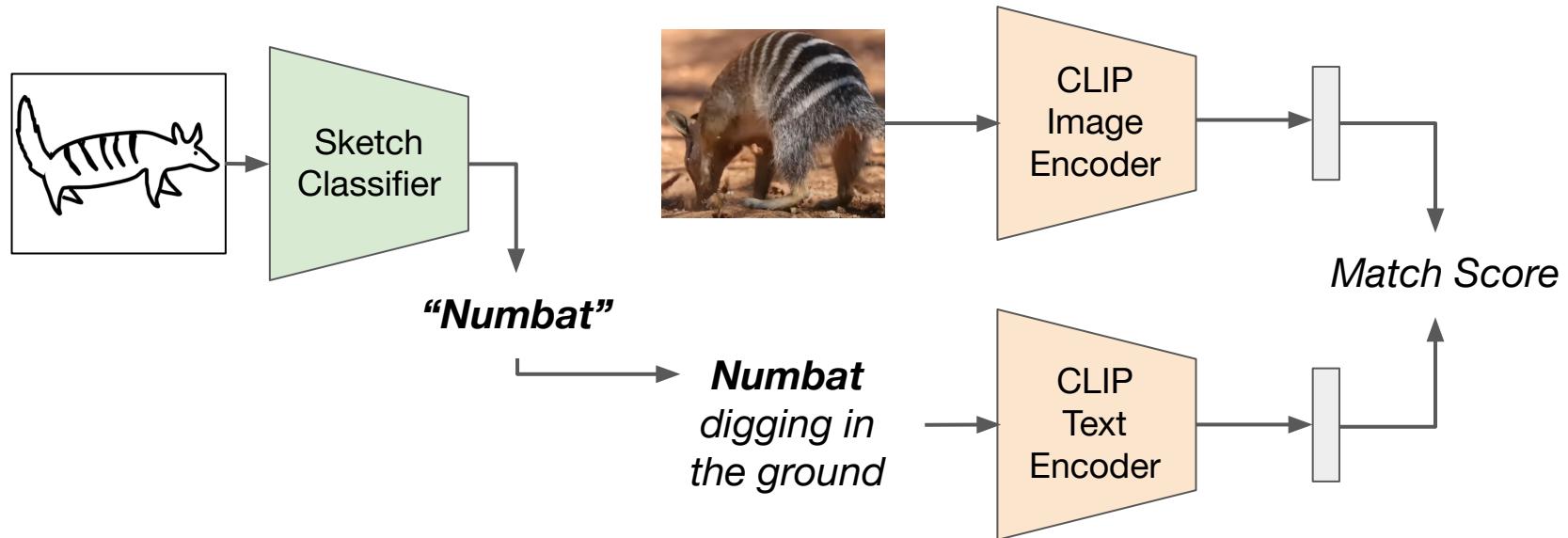


Figure: [Sangkloy et al., ECCV'22]

Baselines

5. Multimodal (Sketch + Text) baselines

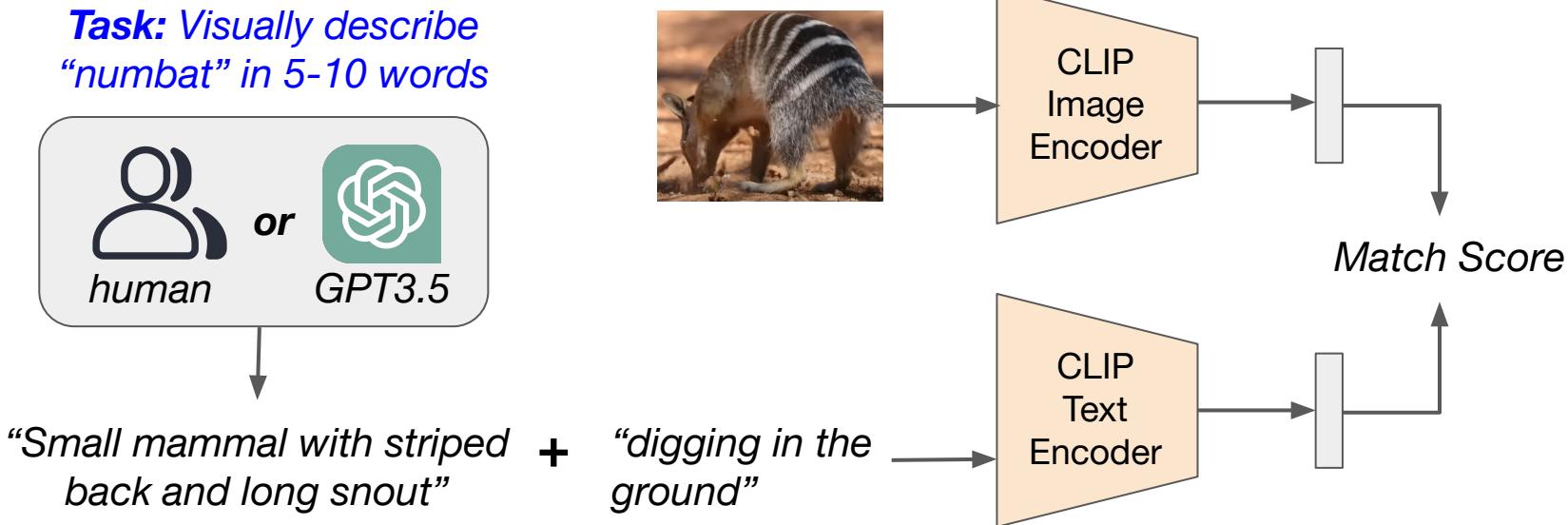
c. Two-step Model (Categorize-then-Retrieve)



Baselines

6. Multimodal (Sketch + Text) baselines

d. Two-step (Description-based baseline)



Results

Comparison with baselines on the CSTBIR Test-1K set.

Input Modality	Method	Test-1K				
		R@10 ↑	R@20 ↑	R@50 ↑	R@100 ↑	MdR ↓
Sketch	Doodle2Search [10]	14.3	24.5	36.2	45.7	129.0
	DeepSBIR [63]	5.2	8.8	18.9	27.4	258.5
	ViT-based Siamese Network	20.4	34.2	51.0	62.6	48.0
Text	VisualBERT [32]	23.3	35.9	40.8	54.0	46.0
	ViLT [24]	28.1	42.7	60.2	74.3	30.0
	CLIP [47]	50.6	63.1	78.8	86.7	10.0
Sketch+Text	TIRG [61]	31.9	44.2	62.8	73.2	27.5
	Taskformer [53]	22.4	35.6	42.3	53.8	48.0
	Two-stage Model	67.0	77.4	88.6	93.7	5.0
	Two-stage Model (desc)	60.1	73.7	85.5	91.6	7.0
	STNET (Ours)	73.7	80.6	89.4	93.5	3.0

STNet has better overall performance on CSTBIR

Ablation Study

Modality and loss ablation on CSTBIR Test-1K split.

Model	Text	Sketch	Objective	R@10↑	R@20↑	R@50↑	R@100↑	MdR↓
1	X	✓	\mathcal{L}_{CT}	20.2	33.7	50.9	62.9	50.5
2	✓	X	\mathcal{L}_{CT}	50.6	63.1	78.8	86.7	10.0
3	✓	✓	\mathcal{L}_{CT}	68.4	77.2	85.6	89.8	5.0
4	✓	✓	$\mathcal{L}_{CT} + \mathcal{L}_{OD} + \mathcal{L}_{SR}$	69.4	80.4	85.6	90.4	5.0
5	✓	✓	$\mathcal{L}_{CT} + \mathcal{L}_{CLS}^T + \mathcal{L}_{CLS}^I + \mathcal{L}_{SR}$	70.4	79.6	86.2	91.1	5.0
6	✓	✓	$\mathcal{L}_{CT} + \mathcal{L}_{CLS}^T + \mathcal{L}_{CLS}^I + \mathcal{L}_{OD}$	71.2	79.0	87.0	93.0	4.0
7	✓	✓	$\mathcal{L}_{CT} + \mathcal{L}_{CLS}^T + \mathcal{L}_{CLS}^I + \mathcal{L}_{OD} + \mathcal{L}_{SR}$	73.7	80.6	89.4	93.5	3.0

- Without either sketch or text inputs, STNet performance drops.
- Object Classification loss is the most effective additional loss.

Selected Visual Results

Search Query



on a slide being fed red ice cream

Top-5 Retrieved Images

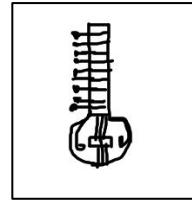


(Object: **capybara**)

Selected Visual Results

Search Query

Bearded man on the bank of a river playing besides a man playing tabla.



Top-5 Retrieved Images

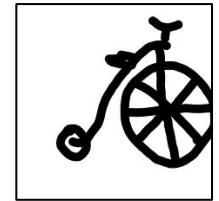


(Object: **sitar**)

Selected Visual Results

Search Query

Person dressed in a suit standing beside a



Top-5 Retrieved Images

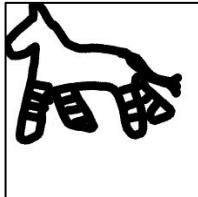


(Object: **penny farthing**)

Selected Visual Results

Search Query

Pair of



feeding on green grass.

Top-5 Retrieved Images



(Object: **okapi**)

Where do the errors come from?

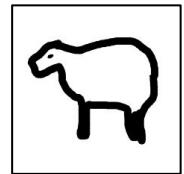
Error analysis of predictions on 100 randomly chosen samples from the CSTBIR Test-1K set.

Method	Missing labels	Misrecognized sketch category	Object Ambiguity
Two-stage	22	12	2
STNET (Ours)	31	9	0

- **Missing labels:** query matches multiple images; missing annotation in VG
- **Misrecognized sketches:** sketches may be misrecognized

Where do the errors come from?

Search Queries

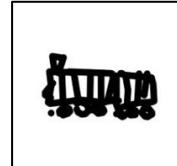


(sketch: capybara)

resting in green grass

A

Platform next to



yard

Top-3 Retrieved Results

Error Type: Misrecognized sketch



Error Type: Missing labels



Summary so far ...

- **Deeper exploration into** composite modality/
sketch+text based image retrieval
- **Object localization based transformer framework**
- Moving towards **retrieval for open world category
images**
- **Future directions:** extension of sketch+text retrieval
and localization to videos

Work under review, stay tuned for code and datasets.

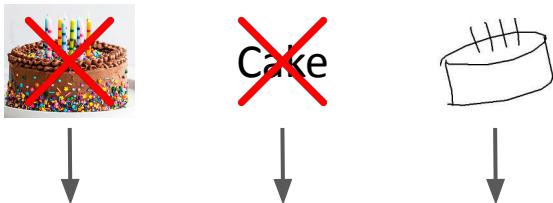
Sketch-Guided Object Localization in Natural Images

Aditay Tripathi¹, Rajath R Dani¹, Anand Mishra² and Anirban Chakraborty¹

¹Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

²Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur

Query-Guided Object Localization



Using natural image as query
[Hsieh et al., NeurIPS 2019]

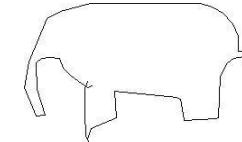


Using text as query
[Wang et al., TPAMI 2017]

Sketch-guided object localization
(this work)

Challenges

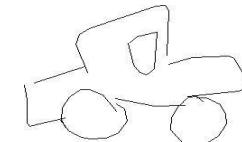
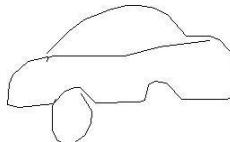
Domain Gap



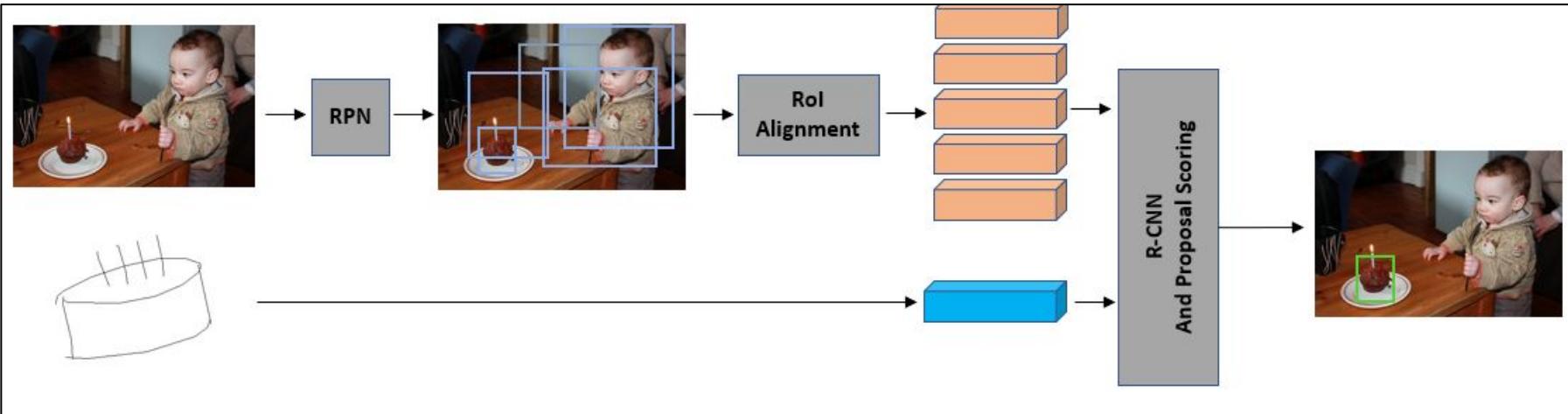
Unseen object



Significant Variability

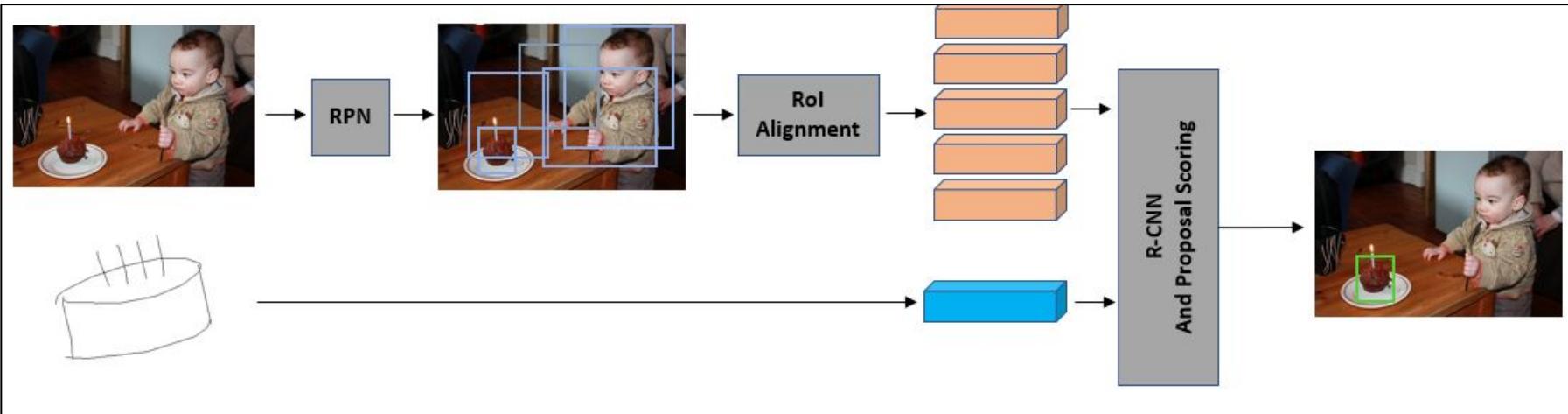


Plausible Solution: Modified Faster R-CNN ?



- Modified to allow Query-guided object localization
- Score RoI features with sketch features

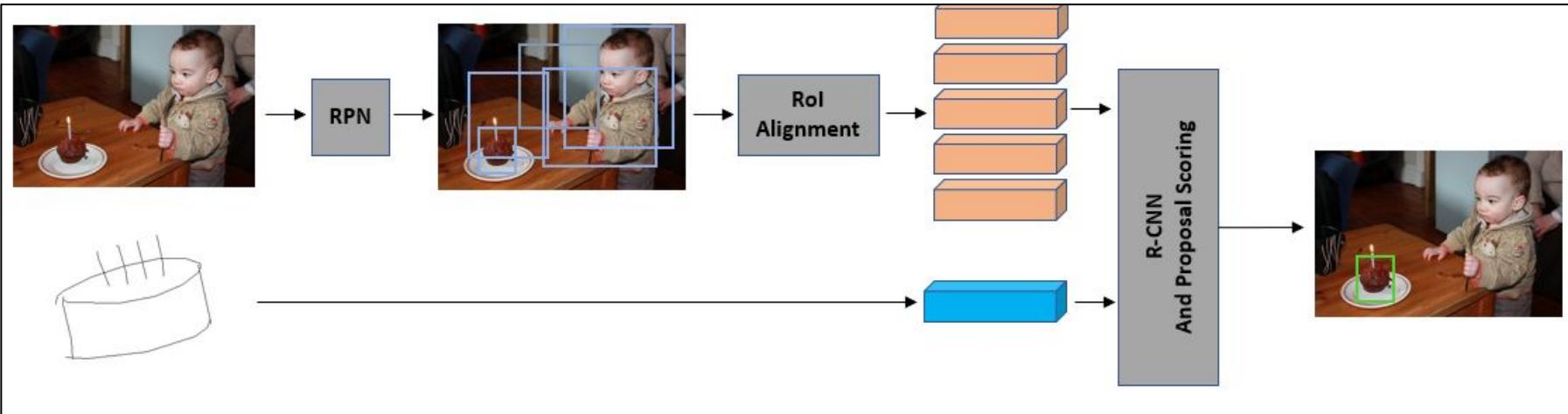
Plausible Solution: Modified Faster R-CNN ?



- Modified to allow Query-guided object localization
- Score RoI features with sketch features

Is the problem solved?

Plausible Solution: Modified Faster R-CNN ?



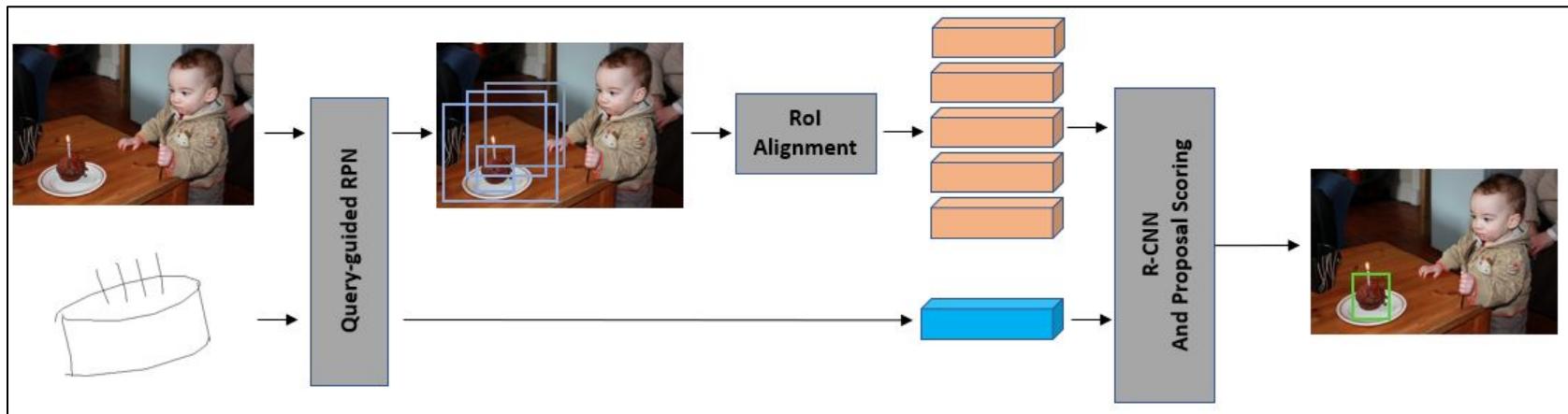
- Modified to allow Query-guided object localization
- Score RoI features with sketch features

Is the problem solved?: NO

Vanilla RPN may not generate proposals relevant to the object of interest

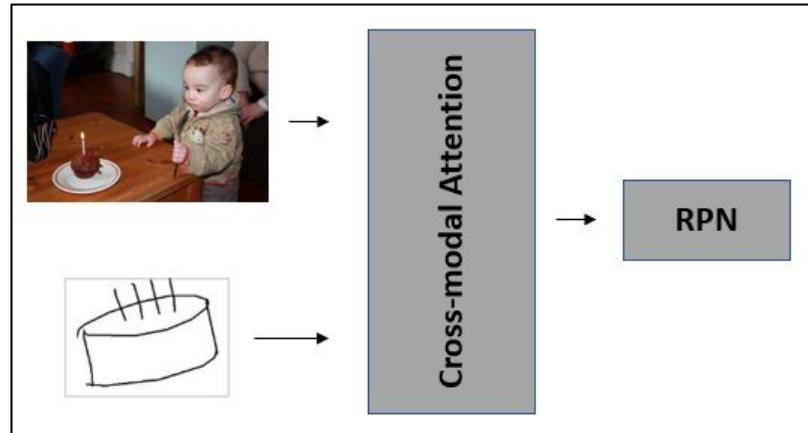
Proposed Model

- **Query-guided RPN**
- Proposed ***Cross-modal attention*** to incorporate query information in RPN



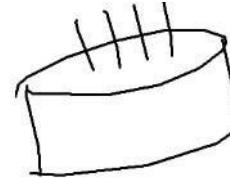
Query-guided RPN

- Cross-Modal Attention
learns a spatial compatibility
between global sketch
features and local image
features
- The attended features are
passed through RPN



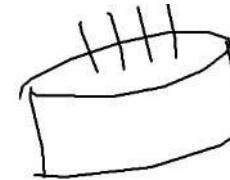
Cross-Modal Attention

- Find locations in image that are similar to the sketch query



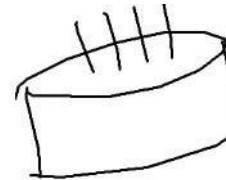
Cross-Modal Attention

- Assigns **high score** to the locations **compatible** to the sketch

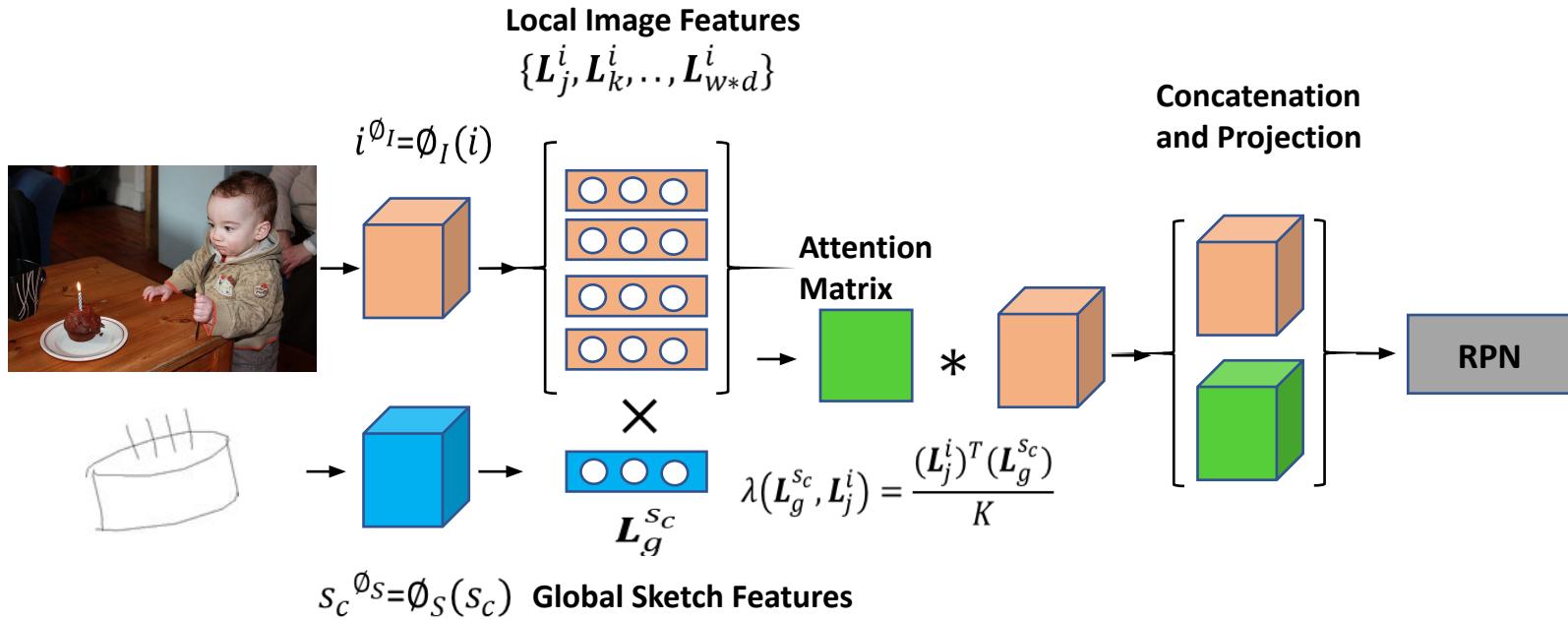


Cross-Modal Attention

- Assigns **high score** to the locations **compatible** to the sketch
- Low score to **incompatible** locations



Cross-Modal Attention - in detail



*<http://visual-computing.in/sketch-guided-object-localization/>

Proposal Scoring

- **Subsets of proposals** are pooled from proposals generated by query-guided RPN.
- Proposals are labelled **1(or 0)** based on **IoU** of the proposal with GT bounding box.
- A **margin-ranking** loss between the pooled proposals and sketch query is minimized.

Proposal Scoring

- Let Θ be the **scoring function** that scores the sketch query to an object proposal.

$$a_k = \theta(g_m(p_k); g'_m(s))$$

- The margin ranking loss is given as follows:

$$L(R, s) = \sum_k \{y_k \max(m^+ - a_k, 0) + (1 - y_k) \max(a_k - m^-, 0) + L_{MR}^k\}$$

$$L_{MR}^k = \sum_{l=k+1} \{1_{[y_l=y_k]} \max(|a_k - a_l| - m^-, 0) + 1_{[y_l \neq y_k]} \max(m^+ - |a_k - a_l|, 0)\}$$

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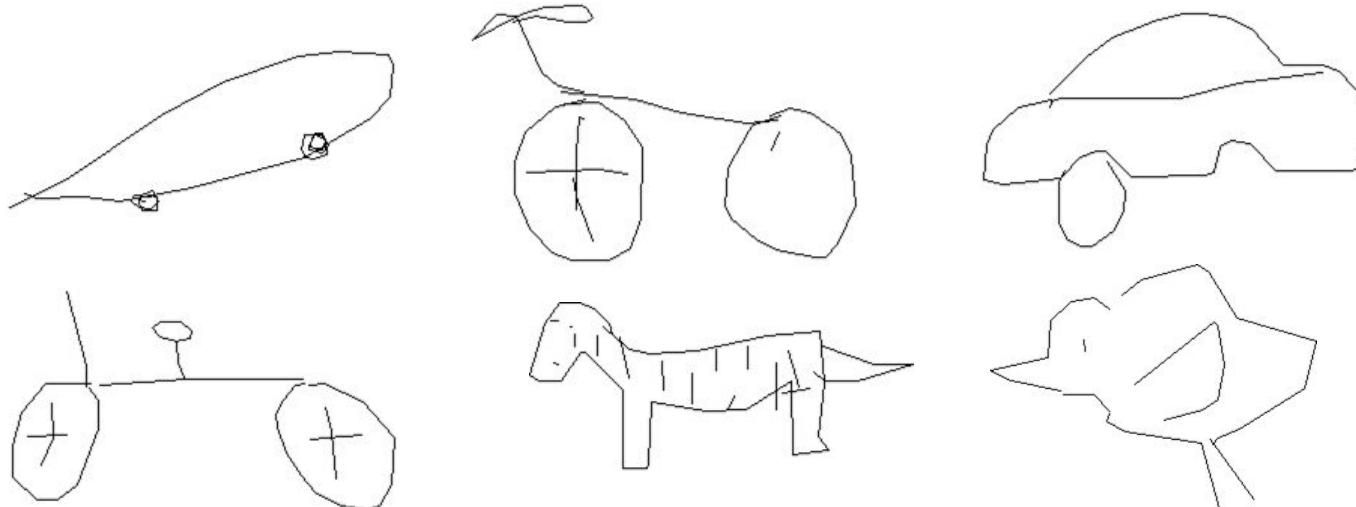
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Proposal Scoring

- Along with the proposal scoring additional losses are used in training.
- Cross-entropy loss on the labeled (**background** or **foreground**) feature vectors of the region proposals
- Regression loss on the predicted bounding box locations with respect to the ground truth bounding box.

Dataset

- Sketches from QuickDraw dataset are used in our experiments.
- Consists of 50 M drawing across 345 categories.
- Selected a subset of 800k sketches for our experiments.



Dataset

- Images are chosen from MS-COCO [*Lin et al. ECCV2014*] dataset and Pascal-VOC [*Everingham et al. ICCV 2010*] datasets.
- MS-COCO: 330K images across 80 categories.
- Pascal-VOC: 9,963 images across 20 categories.
- Commonly used datasets in Object detection research.
- MS-COCO has 56 categories common with QuickDraw.
- Pascal-VOC has 9 categories common with QuickDraw.

One-shot Common Train-Test Categories

- Both “**seen**” and “**unseen**” categories used in training.
- **Single sketch** as a query.

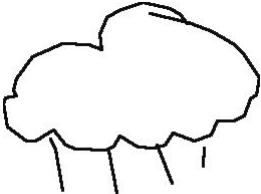
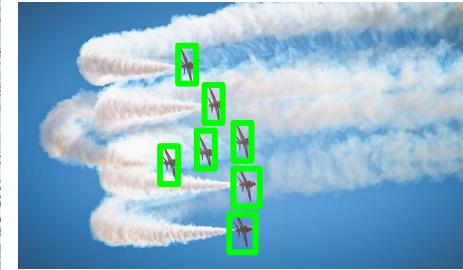
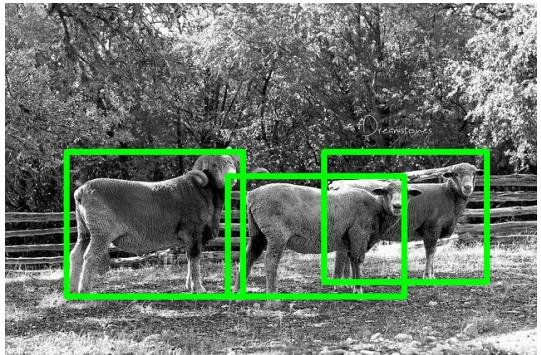
Model	COCO val2017		VOC test2007
	mAP	%AP@50	mAP
Modified Faster-RCNN	0.18	31.5	0.65
Matchnet <small>[Hsieh et al., NeurIPS 2019]</small>	0.28	48.5	0.61
Cross-Modal Attention	0.3	50	0.65

One-shot Disjoint Train-Test Categories

- “**Unseen classes**” not used during training.
- **Single** sketch as a query.

Model	%AP@50	
	unseen classes	seen classes
Modified Faster-RCNN	7.4	34.5
Matchnet <small>[Hsieh et al., NeurIPS 2019]</small>	12.4	49.1
Cross-Modal Attention	15	48.8

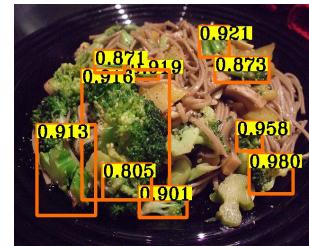
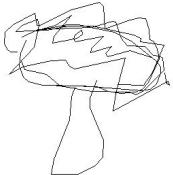
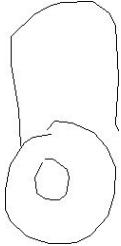
Selected Results



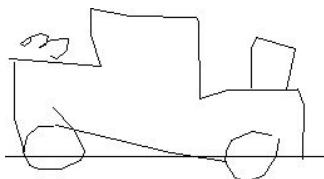
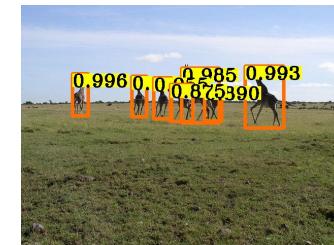
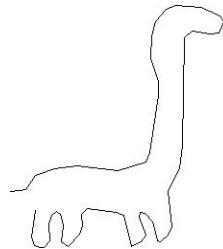
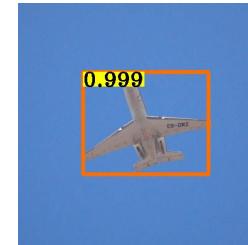
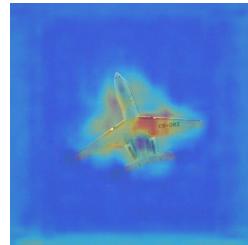
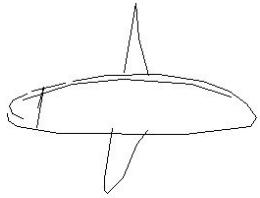
Multiple
instance

Occluded object Unseen Object Small Object

More Results

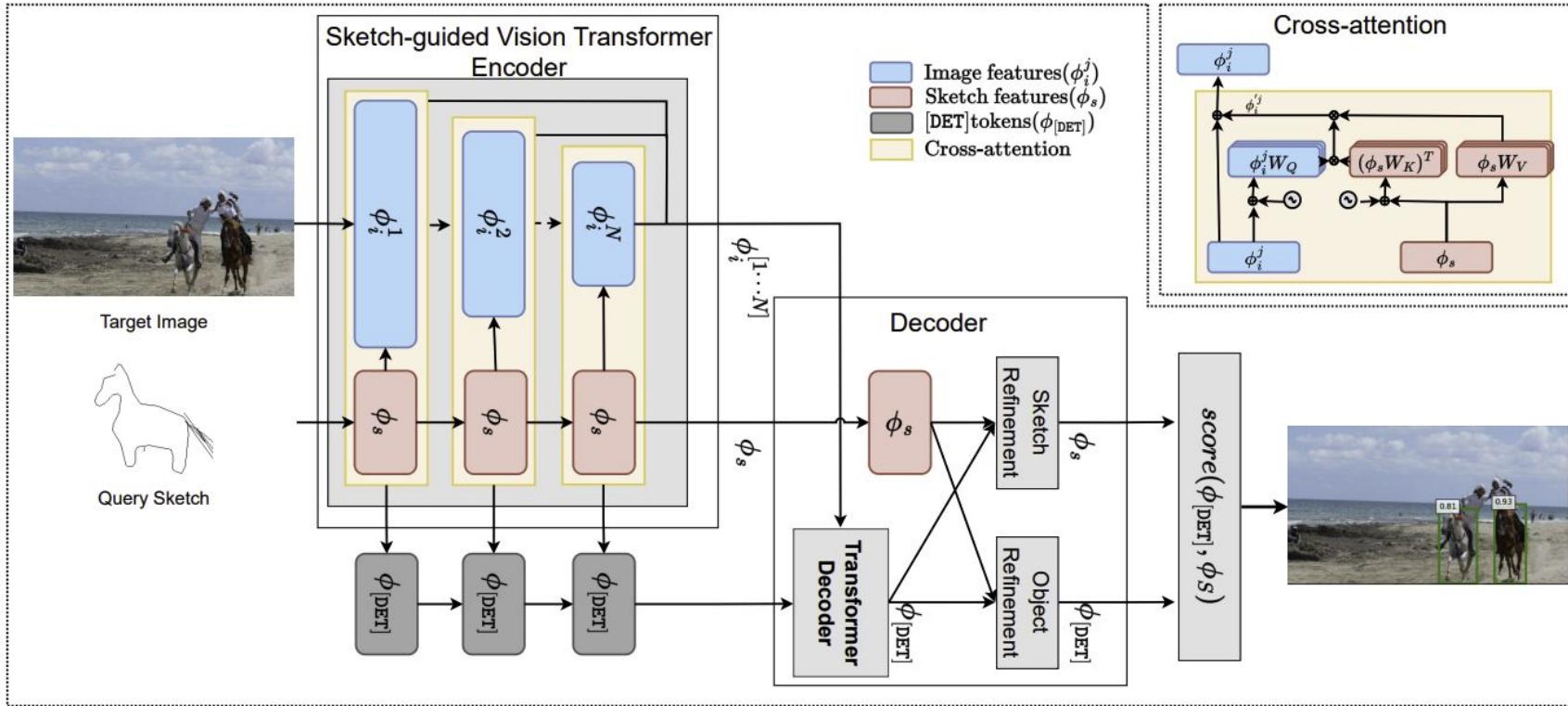


More Results



**What about modern architectures
for this task?**

Sketch-guided Vision Transformer (under review)



Much better results, but far from being solved!

Models	mAP	AP@50	AP ^L
Modified FasterRCNN	3.3	7.4	6.2
CoAT (Hsieh et al. 2019)	5.9	12.4	10.6
CMA (Tripathi et al. 2020)	7.5	15.0	12.4
Ours	12.2	18.3	24.6

Summary so far ...



- **Novel Task:** Sketch-Guided Object Localization
- **Query-Guided Region Proposal Network**
- **Cross-Modal Attention**
- A step towards **open-world object localization**
- **Future direction:** bridging sketch and language

Code Available!

Sketch-Guided Image Inpainting

Sketch-Guided Image Inpainting

Reference Image



Corrupted Image



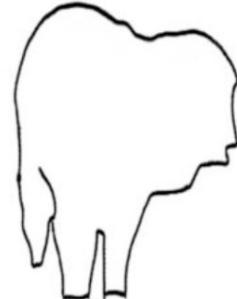
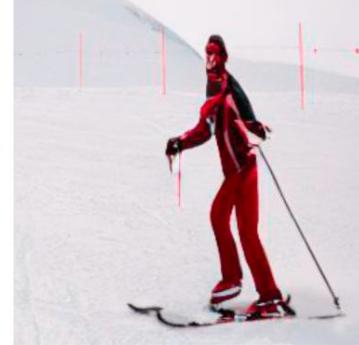
Sketch



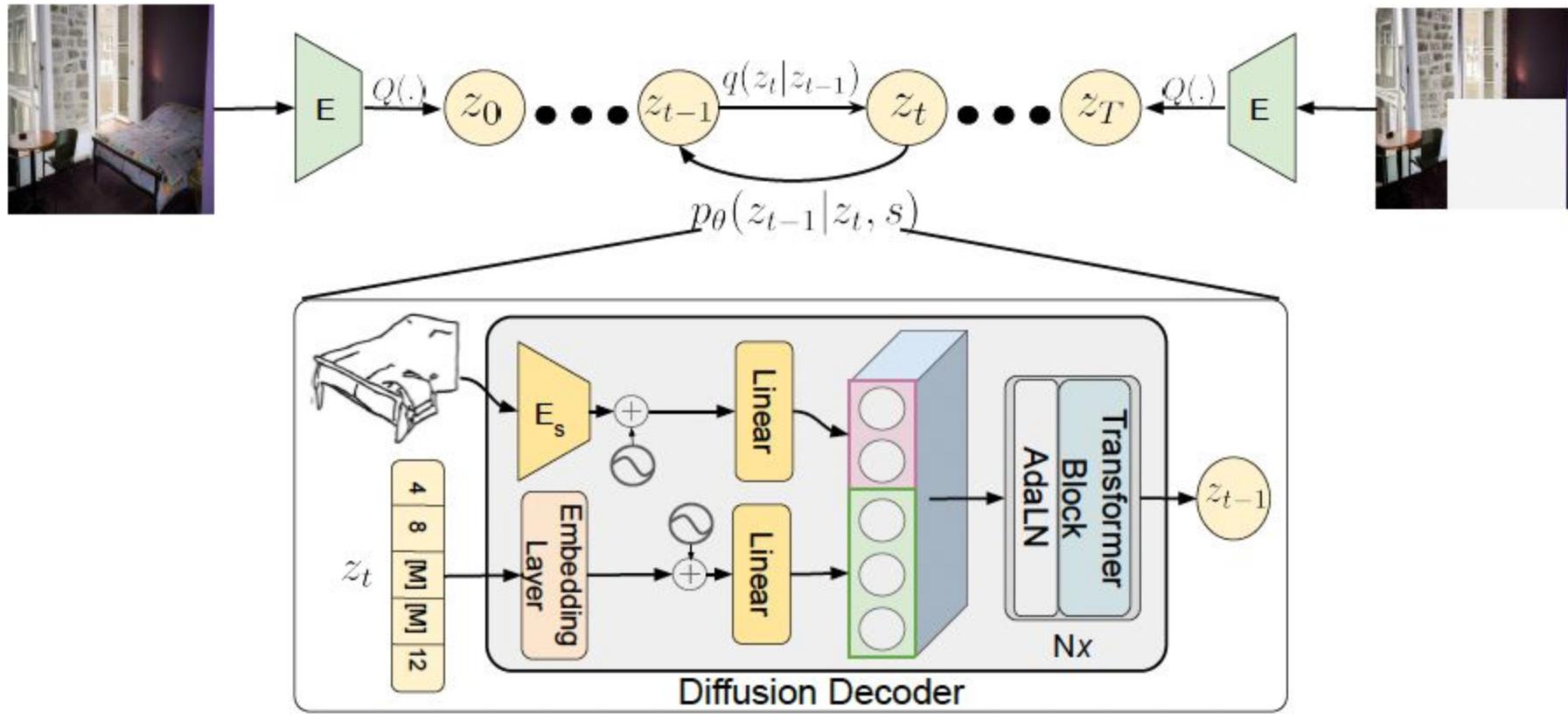
LaMa (unconditional)

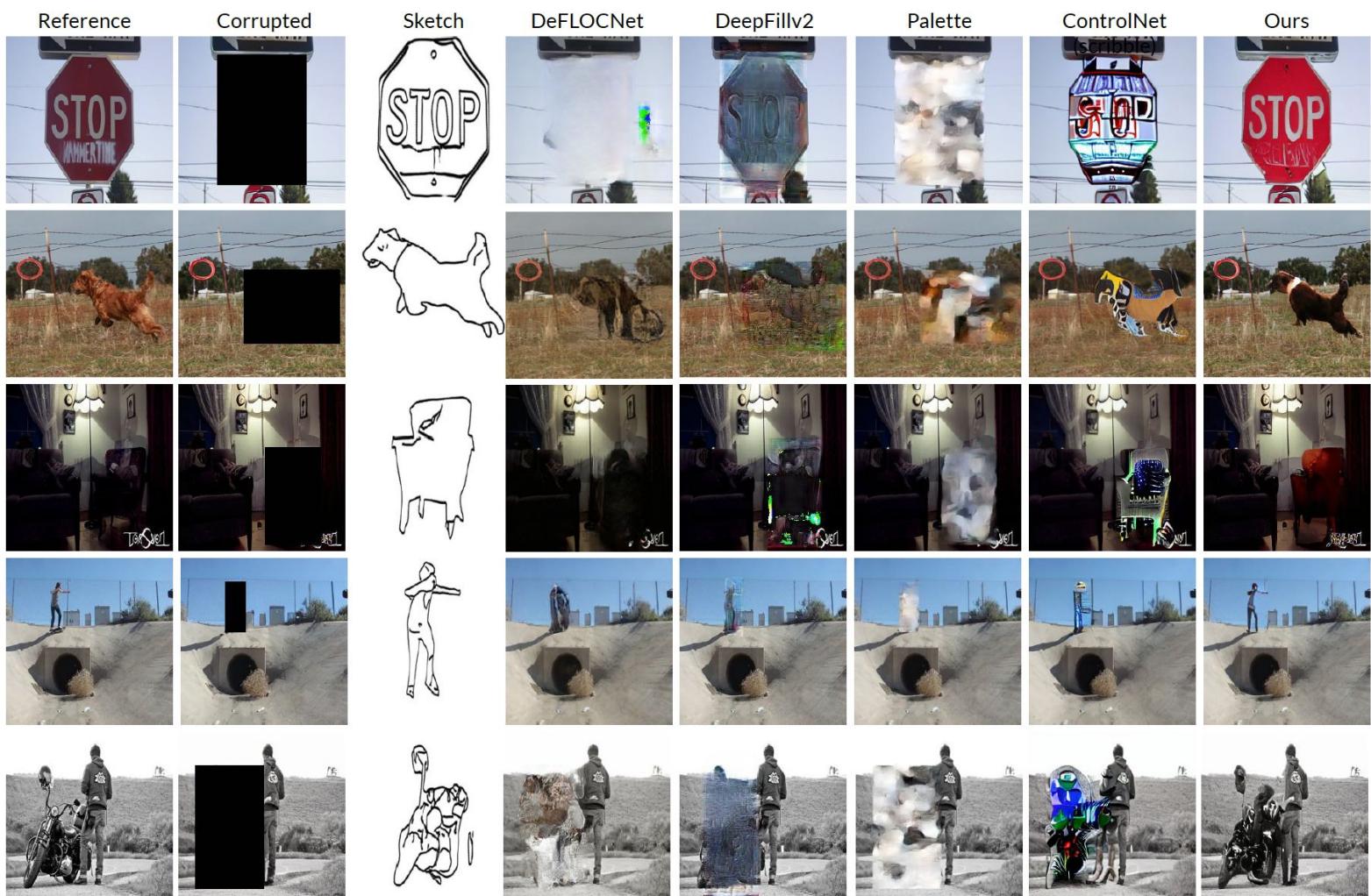


Ours



Partial Discrete Diffusion





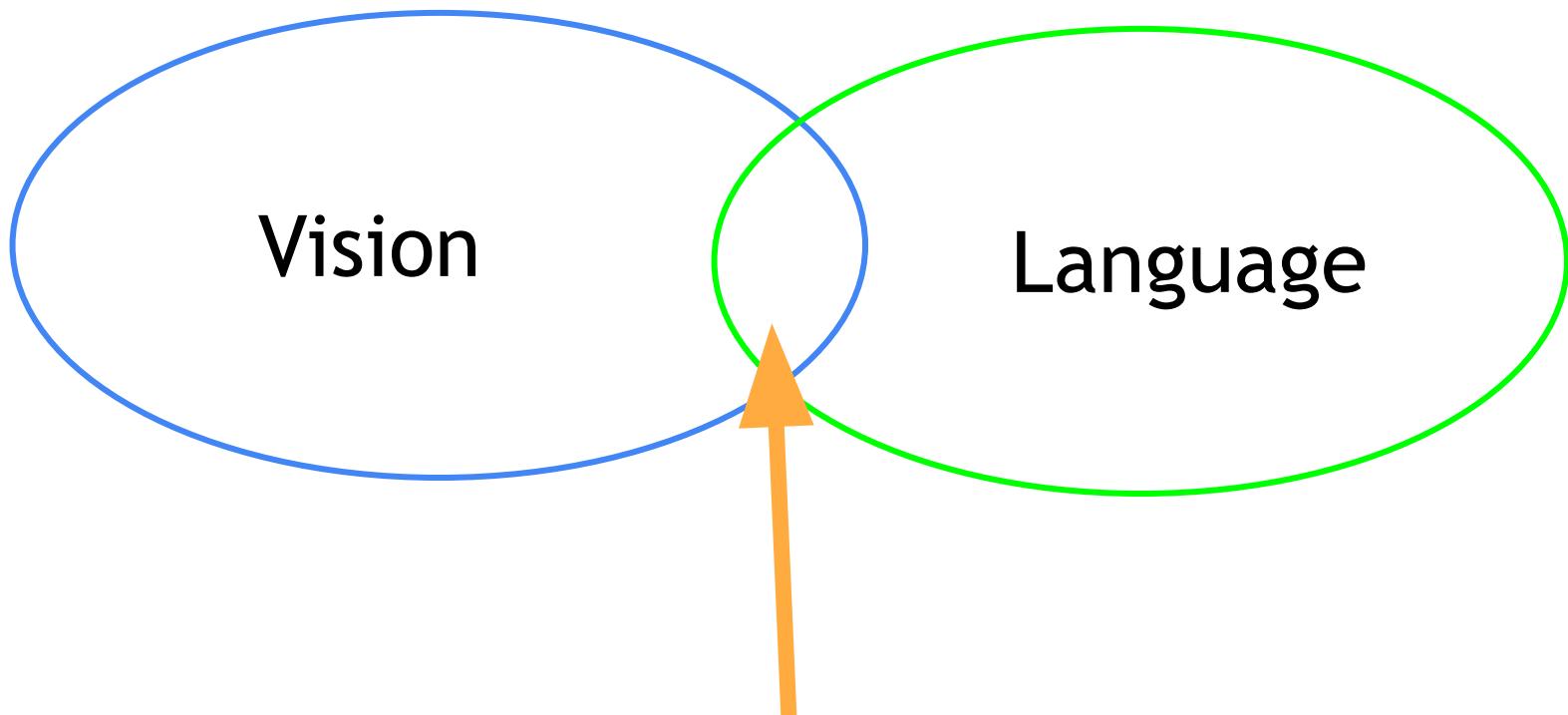
Open Areas

- Large-scale self-supervised models and foundation models using sketchified unlabelled images
- Open-set tasks (detection, segmentation, recognition)
- Creative Sketch Generation
- **Applications:** educational content search and creation

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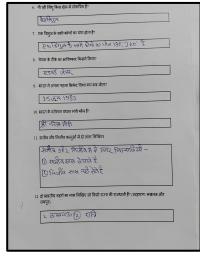


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Our Focus: Vision and Language

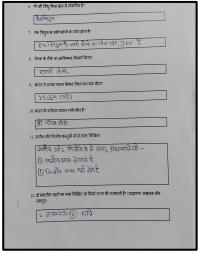
Language inside Images



Multilingual H/W,
Scene Text,
Visual
Translation

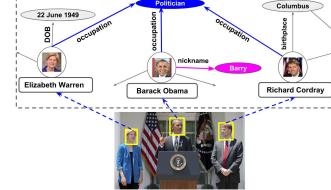
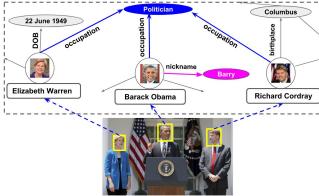
Our Focus: Vision and Language

Language inside Images



Multilingual H/W,
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Visual
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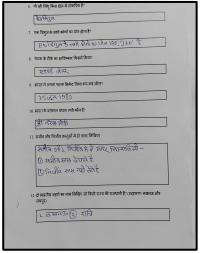
Language outside Images



Integrating vision with
World Knowledge for
Commonsense and
factual reasoning

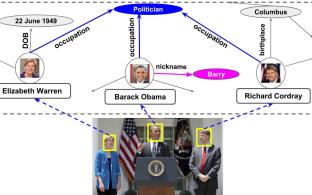
Our Focus: Vision and Language

Language inside Images



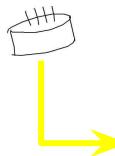
Multilingual H/W,
Scene Text,
Visual
Translation

Language outside Images



Integrating vision with
World Knowledge for
Commonsense and
factual reasoning

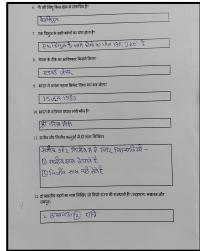
Sketch as a Language



Sketch for
localization,
retrieval and
inpainting

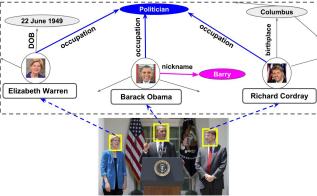
Our Focus: Vision and Language

Language inside Images



Multilingual H/W,
Scene Text,
Visual
Translation

Language outside Images



Integrating vision with
World Knowledge for
Commonsense and
factual reasoning

Sketch as a Language



Sketch for
localization,
retrieval and
inpainting

Video and Language



Twist Shower Head
Clockwise

Core Video Tasks,
Localization,
Grounding

Thank You

Questions/comments/ Suggestions?

Full-time RA and PhD Positions available in the group!
Consider applying.

Contact: mishra@iitj.ac.in

Group Website: <https://vl2g.github.io/>