

# Evaluating Text-to-Image Models

Shobhita Sundaram

# "Generate a photo of a dog playing outside"



- ✓ Shows a dog
- ✗ Not a photo



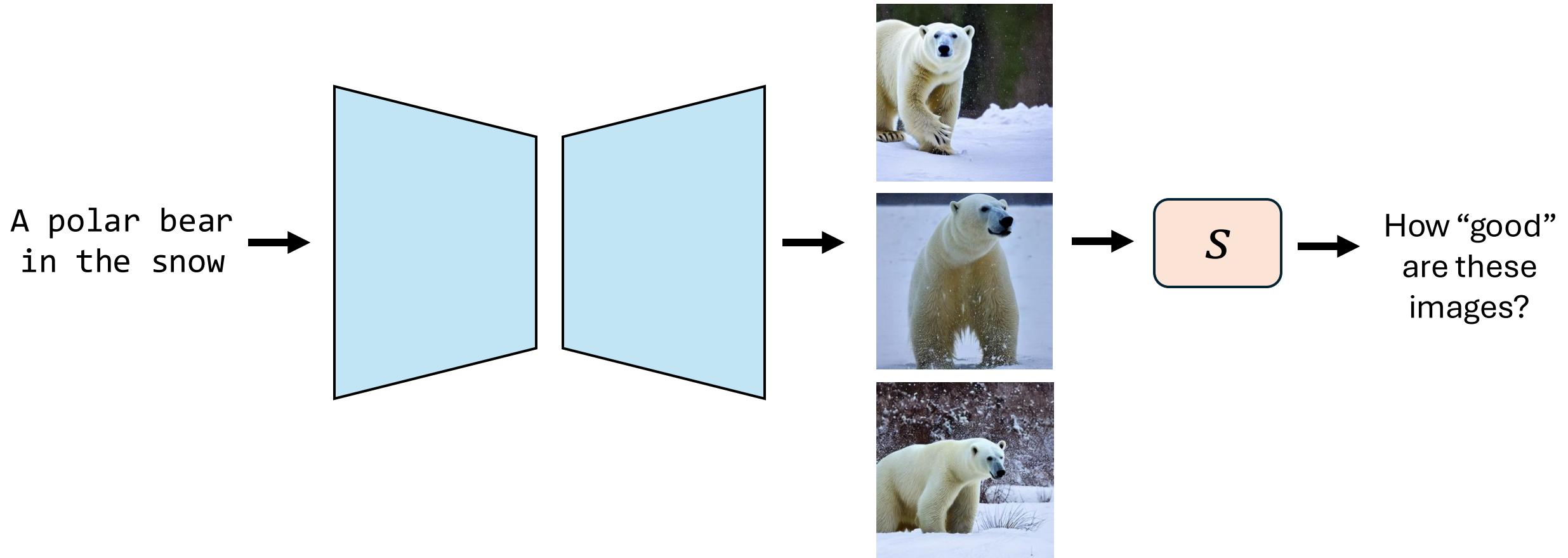
- ✓ Dog is playing
- ✓ Aesthetically pleasing



- ✓ Is a photo
- ✗ Strange lighting/ artifacts

How do we evaluate generative models and their outputs?

# Evaluating T2I models



# Agenda

- What are the current image evaluation metrics?
- What are the best/most popular metrics for T2I models?
- How do you design a good evaluation metric that reflects human preferences?

# Agenda

- **What are the current image evaluation metrics?**
- What are the best/most popular metrics for T2I models?
- How do you design a good evaluation metric that reflects human preferences?

# What are the tools for image evaluation?

|  | <b>Low-Level</b>             | <b>High-Level</b>         |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Unary/Holistic<br>$s(x)$                     | Blurriness, No-Reference IQA | PickScore,<br>ImageReward |
| Image Similarity<br>$s(x, x_{ref})$          | PSNR, SSIM, LPIPS,<br>DISTs  | DreamSim                  |
| Distribution<br>$s(p(x)); s(p(x), p_{ref})$  | InceptionScore, FID, CMMD    |                           |
| Cross-Modal<br>Similarity<br>$s(x, y_{ref})$ |                              | SOA, CLIPScore            |

|                          | <b>Low-Level</b>                 | <b>High-Level</b>         |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Unary/Holistic<br>$s(x)$ | Blurriness, No-<br>Reference IQA | PickScore,<br>ImageReward |

“A cat on a propaganda poster”



“A demon exiting through a portal...”

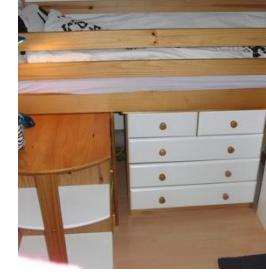


# Agenda

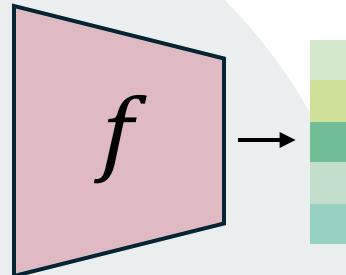
- What are the current image evaluation metrics?
- **What are the best/most popular metrics for T2I models?**
- How do you design a good evaluation metric that reflects human preferences?

|                                    | <b>Low-Level</b>                 | <b>High-Level</b>         |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Unary/Holistic<br>$s(x)$           | Blurriness, No-Reference IQA     | PickScore,<br>ImageReward |
| Similarity<br>$s(x, x_{ref})$      | PSNR, SSIM, LPIPS,<br>DISTS      | DreamSim                  |
| Distribution<br>$s(p(x), p_{ref})$ | <b>FID, InceptionScore, CMMD</b> |                           |
| Text-Alignment<br>$s(x, y_{ref})$  | SOA, CLIPScore                   |                           |

# Why compare image distributions?

| Caption   | Generated Image   | Real Image  |
|---|---|---|
| A shoe rack with some shoes and a dog sleeping on them.               |    |    |
| Bunk bed with a narrow shelf sitting underneath it                    |   |   |
| A table full of food such as peas and carrots, bread, salad and gravy |  |  |

# How do we compare image distributions?

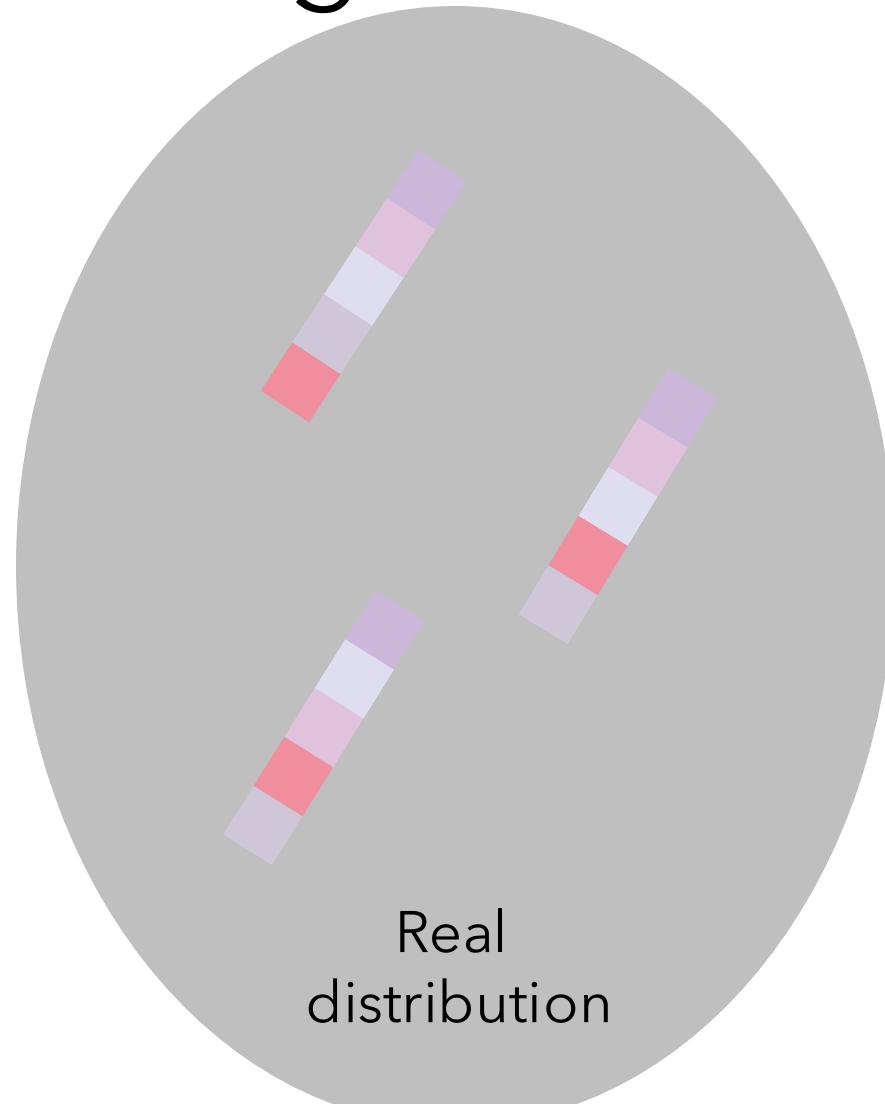


Generated  
distribution



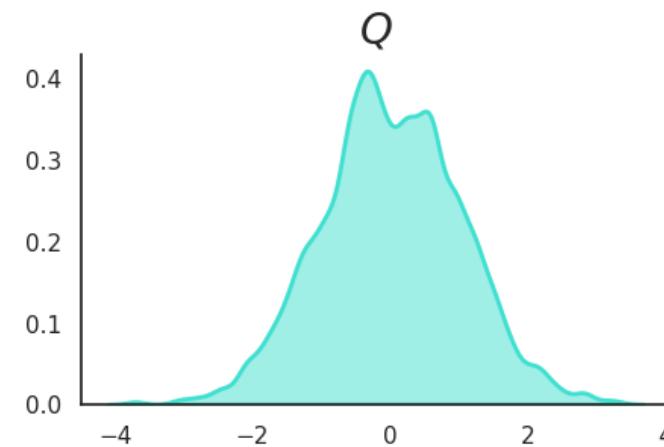
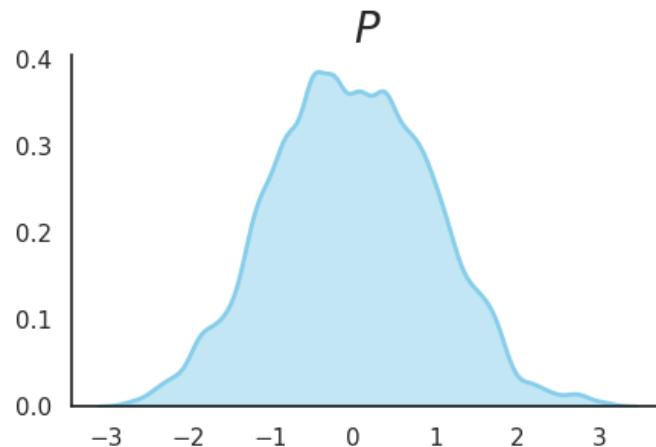
Real  
distribution

# How do we compare image distributions?



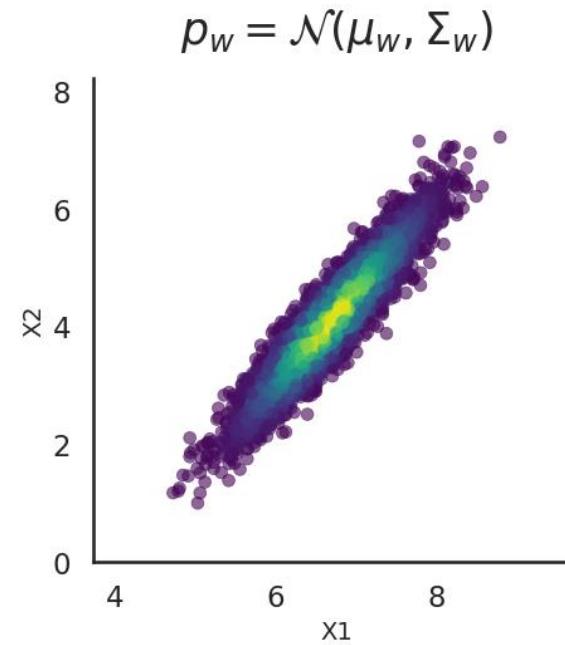
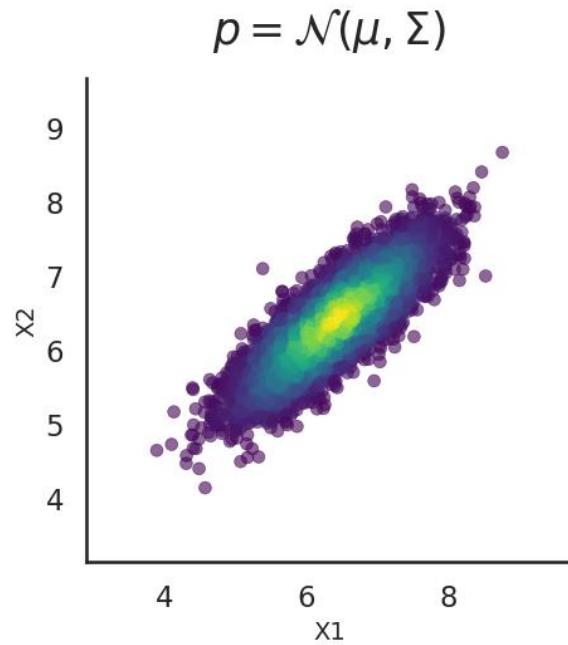
# How do we compare image distributions?

## Fréchet Distance (= Wasserstein-2 Distance)



$$W_2^2(P, Q) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma(P, Q)} \mathbb{E}_{(X, Y) \sim \gamma} [\|X - Y\|_2^2]$$

# How do we compare image distributions?



$$d_F(\mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma), \mathcal{N}(\mu_w, \Sigma_w)) = \|\mu - \mu_w\|_2^2 + \text{Tr} \left( \Sigma + \Sigma_w - 2(\Sigma^{1/2} \Sigma_w \Sigma^{1/2})^{1/2} \right)$$

## Fréchet Distance between Multivariate Gaussians

# Fréchet Inception Distance (FID)

- Fréchet distance between Inception V3 embeddings of our real and generated images.
- **Advantages:**
  - Comparing images embedded in a meaningful representation space
  - Sensitive to both quality and diversity
  - Some GAN studies have shown correlation with human judgements<sup>1,2,3</sup>

1. Martin Heusel, Hubert Ramsauer, Thomas Unterthiner, Bernhard Nessler, and Sepp Hochreiter. GANs Trained by a Two Time-Scale Update Rule Converge to a Local Nash Equilibrium. In *Proc. NIPS*, 2017.

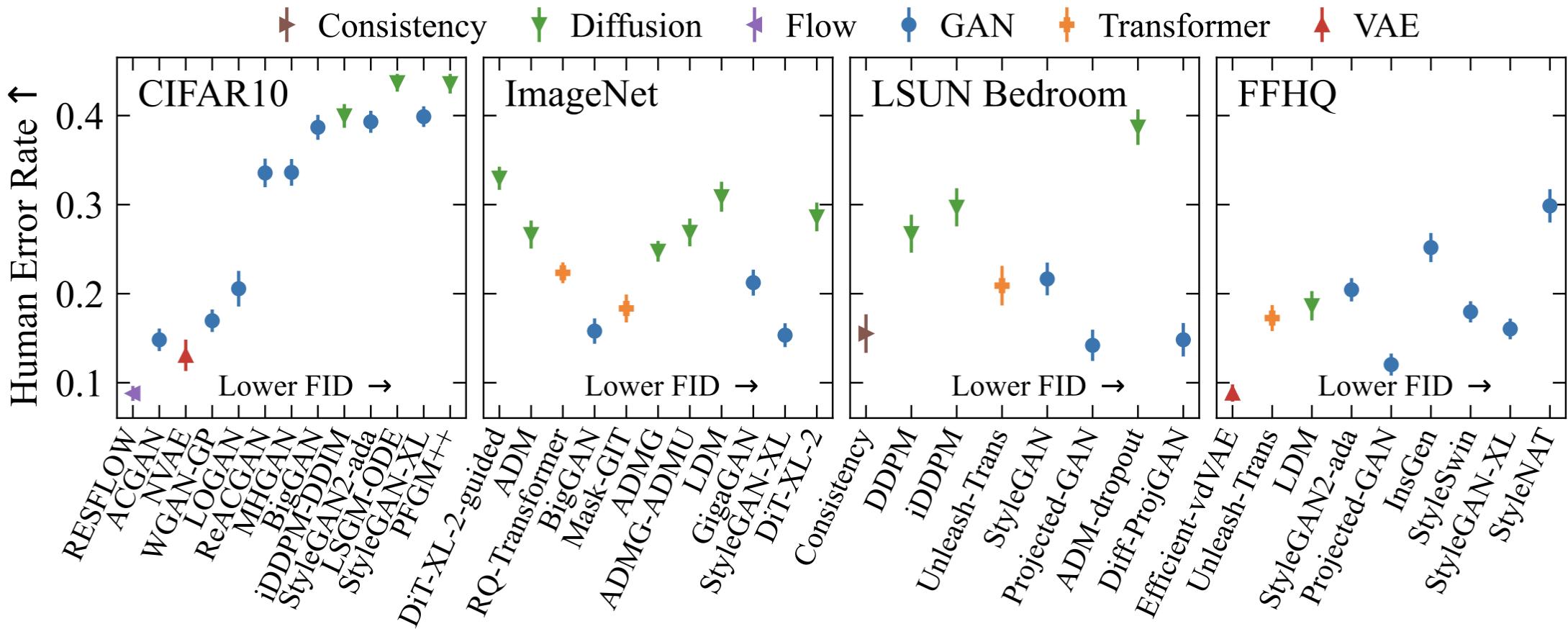
2. Weinberger. An Empirical Study on Evaluation Metrics of Generative Adversarial Networks

3. Mario Lucic, Karol Kurach, Marcin Michalski, S. Gelly, and O. Bousquet. Are GANs Created Equal? A Large-Scale Study. In *Proc. NeurIPS*, 2018.  
Slide adapted from "Rethinking FID: Towards a Better Evaluation Metric for Image Generation", Sadeep Jayasuma

# Fréchet Inception Distance (FID)

- Fréchet distance between Inception V3 embeddings of our real and generated images.
- **Disadvantages**
  - InceptionV3 only trained on ImageNet (~1M images)
  - Gaussian assumption (often untrue)
  - Need to estimate a large (2048x2048) covariance matrix
  - Biased estimator<sup>1</sup>

1. Min Jin Chong, David Forsyth. Effectively Unbiased FID and Inception Score and Where to Find Them, CVPR 2020.  
Slide adapted from "Rethinking FID: Towards a Better Evaluation Metric for Image Generation", Sadeep Jayasuma



# CMMMD

## CLIP + Maximum Mean Discrepancy

- CLIP Embeddings
  - Trained on ~400M training images & complex scenes

# CMMMD

## CLIP + Maximum Mean Discrepancy

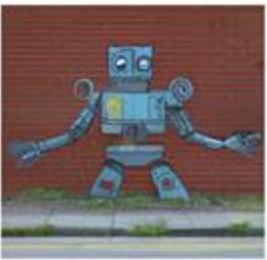
- CLIP Embeddings
  - Trained on ~400M training images & complex scenes
- MMD Distance

$$\hat{\text{dist}}_{\text{MMD}}^2(X, Y) = \frac{1}{m(m-1)} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j \neq i}^m k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) + \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j \neq i}^n k(\mathbf{y}_i, \mathbf{y}_j) - \frac{2}{mn} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_j)$$

- No distributional assumptions
- Sample efficient
- Unbiased estimator

# CMMMD: Human Evaluation

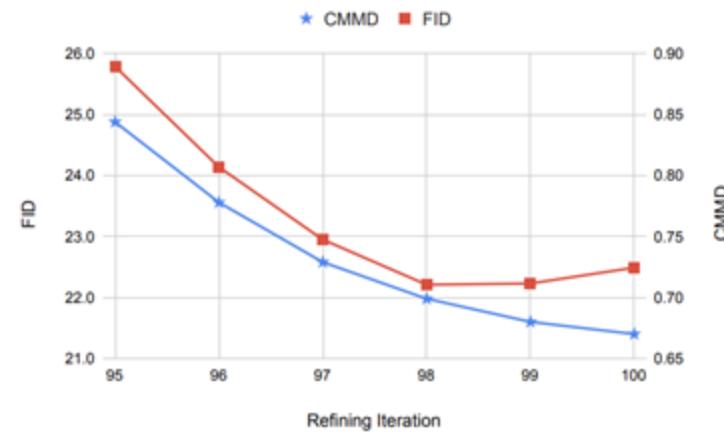
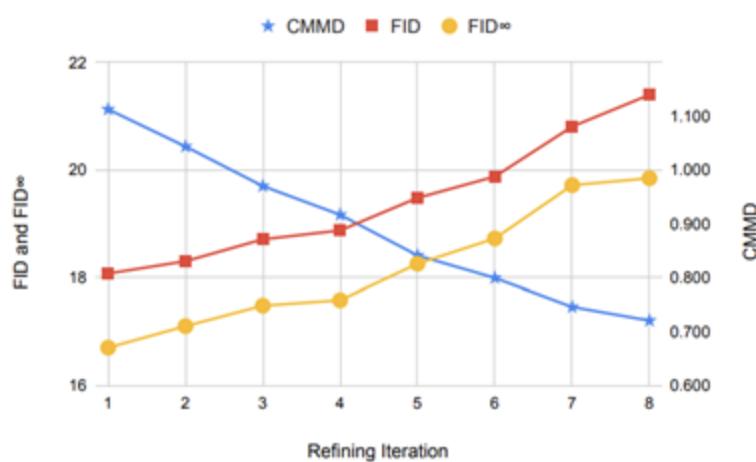
Model-A      Model-B



| Model                  | Model-A | Model-B |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| FID                    | 21.40   | 18.42   |
| $\text{FID}_\infty$    | 20.16   | 17.19   |
| KID                    | 0.0105  | 0.0080  |
| CMMMD                  | 0.721   | 0.951   |
| Human rater preference | 92.5%   | 6.9%    |

Table 3. *Human evaluation. FID and KID contradict human evaluation while CMMMD agrees. Lower is better for all metrics.*

# Measuring Model Improvements



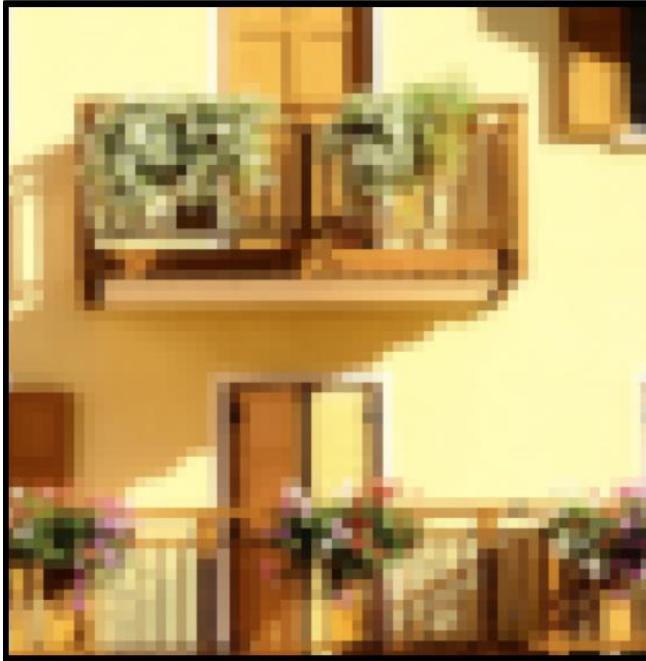
# Agenda

- What are the current image evaluation metrics?
- What are the best/most popular evaluation metrics for T2I models?
- **How do you design a good evaluation metric that reflects human preferences?**

|   | <b>Low-Level</b>                    | <b>High-Level</b>         |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Holistic<br>$s(x)$                          | Blurriness, No-Reference IQA        | PickScore,<br>ImageReward |
| Similarity<br>$s(x, x_{ref})$               | <b>PSNR, SSIM, LPIPS,<br/>DISTS</b> | <b>DreamSim</b>           |
| Distribution<br>$s(p(x)); s(p(x), p_{ref})$ | FID, InceptionScore, CMMMD          |                           |
| Text-Alignment<br>$s(x, y_{ref})$           |                                     | SOA, CLIPScore            |



# Which patch is more similar to the middle?



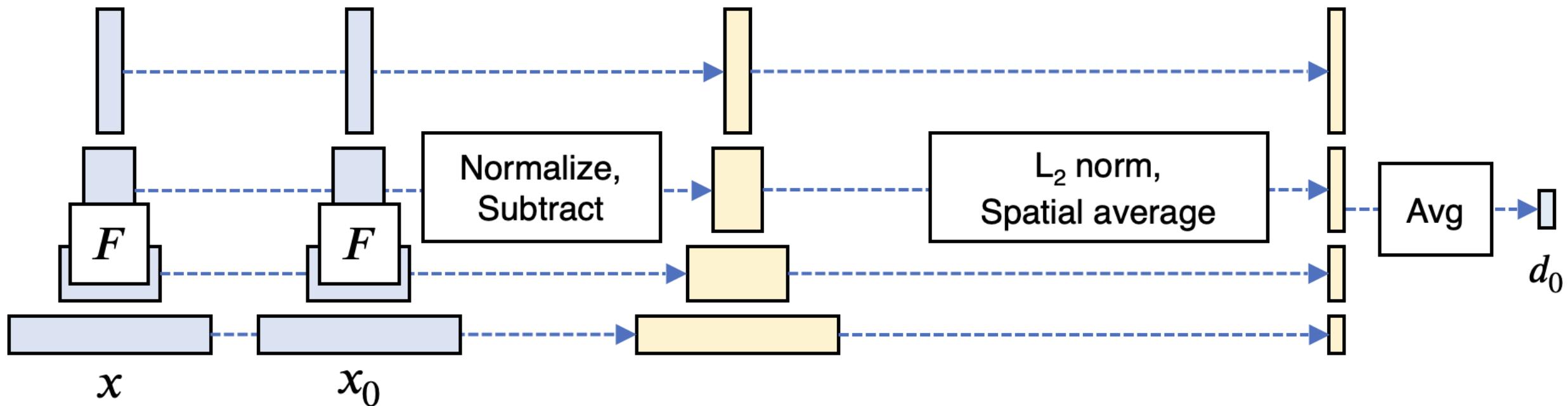
< Clap >



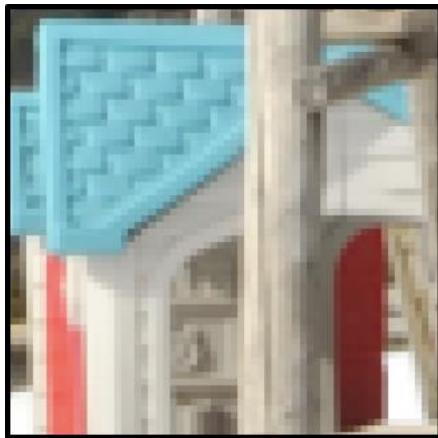
Humans  
L2/PSNR  
SSIM/FSIMc  
*Deep Networks?*

< C✓ >

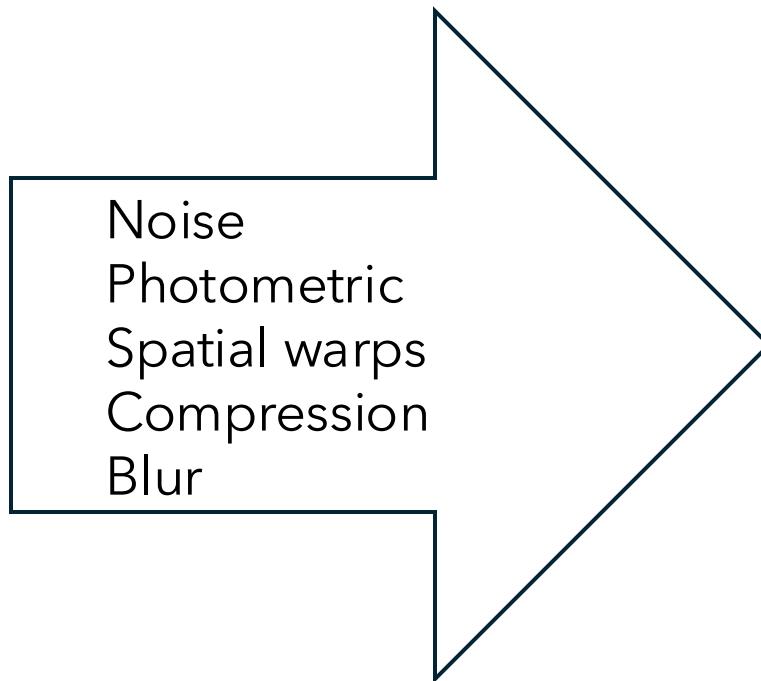
# Deep Networks as a Perceptual Metric



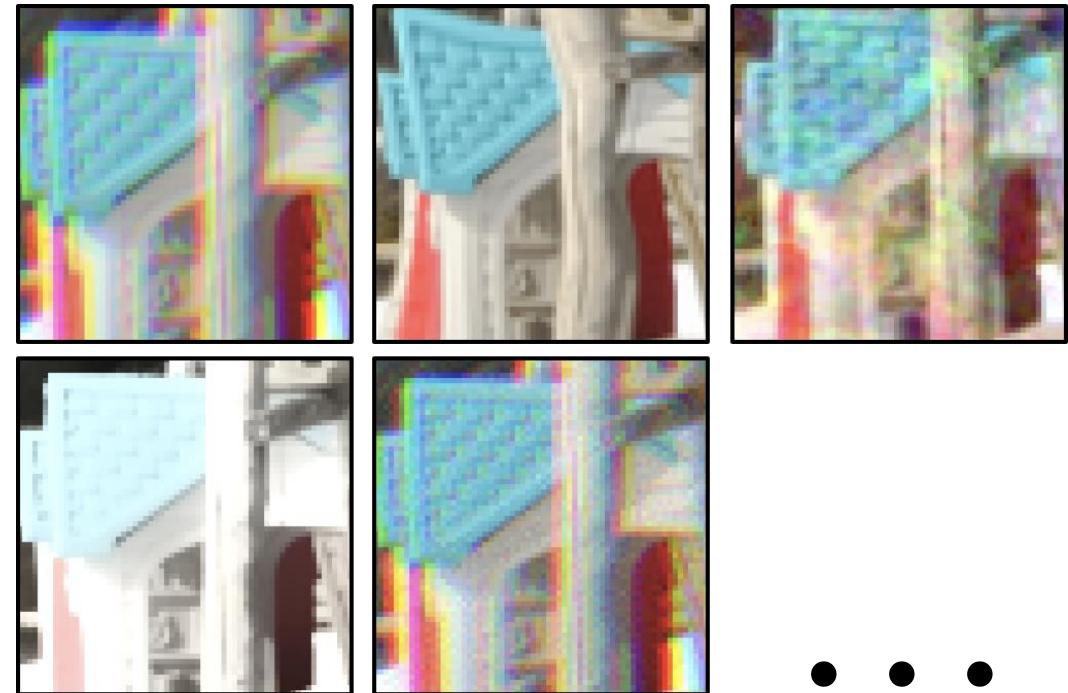
# Distortions



Original Patch

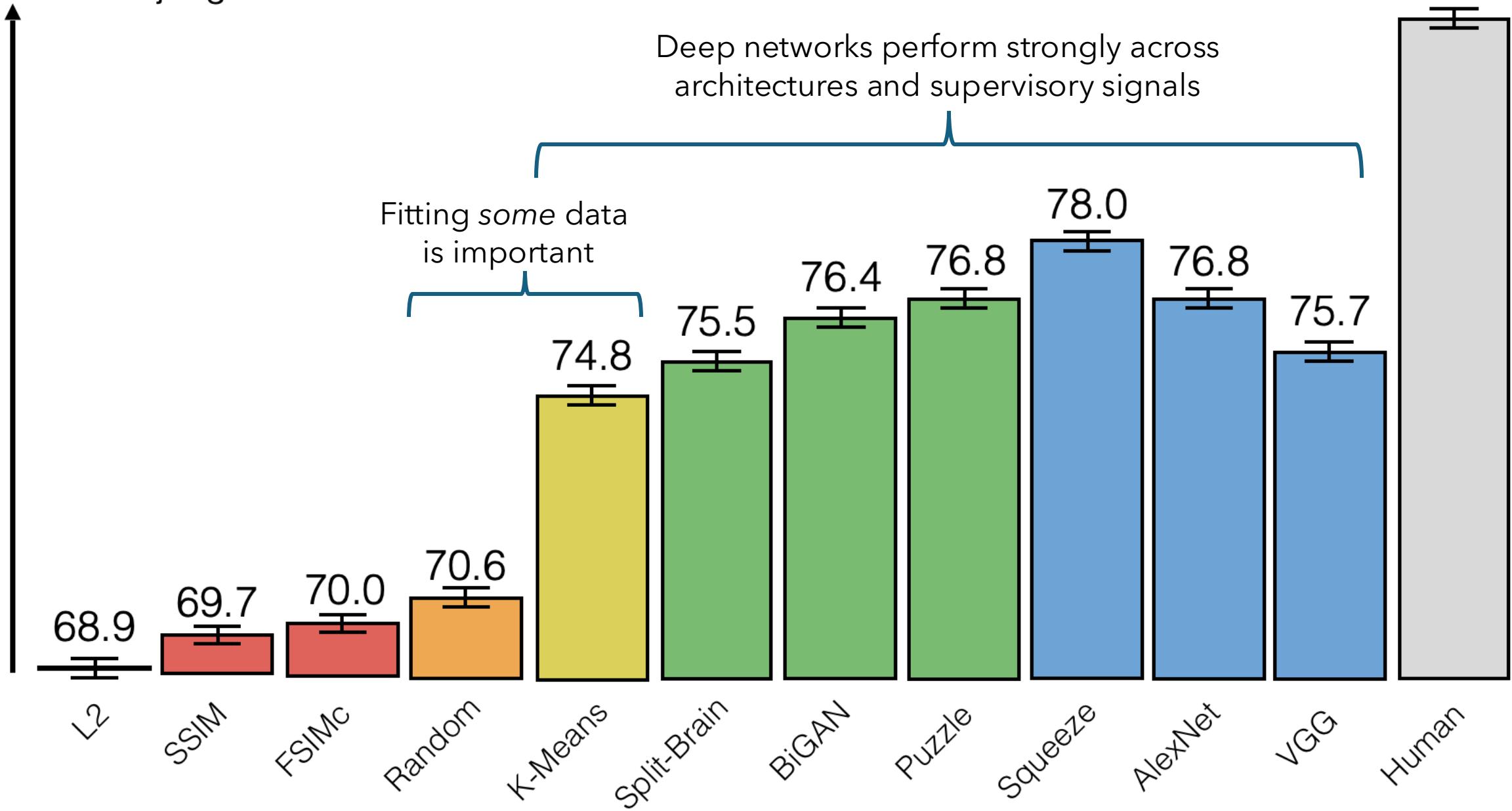


- Noise
- Photometric
- Spatial warps
- Compression
- Blur



Distorted Patches

% agreement with  
human judges



# How different are *these* images?



# DreamSim: Learning New Dimensions of Human Visual Similarity using Synthetic Data



<https://dreamsim-nights.github.io/>



Stephanie Fu<sup>\*1</sup>



Netanel Y. Tamir<sup>\*2</sup>



Shobhita Sundaram<sup>\*1</sup>



Lucy Chai<sup>1</sup>



Richard Zhang<sup>3</sup>



Tali Dekel<sup>2</sup>



Phillip Isola<sup>1</sup>

\*Equal contribution, order decided by random seed



Which image, A or B, is more similar to the reference?

A



< LPIPS >

Reference



B



Humans

Which image, A or B, is more similar to the reference?

A



Reference



B



Humans >



< LPIPS



DINO



CLIP

Which image, A or B, is more similar to the reference?

A



Reference



B



< LPIPS >

DINO CLIP

Humans

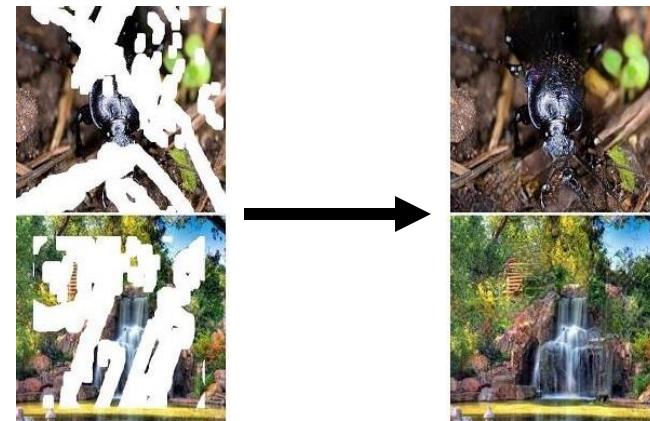
DreamSim

$$f(\text{French Fries}, \text{French Fries}) = d$$

Image retrieval



Loss function

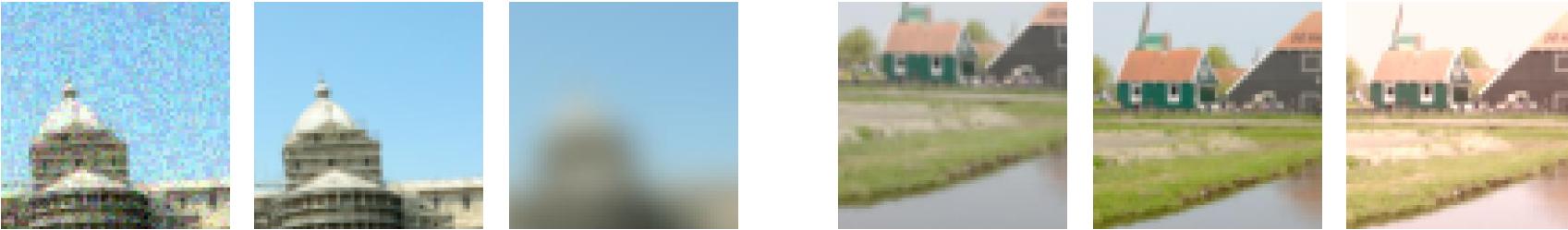


Liu et al, Image Inpainting for Irregular Holes Using Partial  
Convolutions, ECCV 2018

# Perceptual similarity datasets

We can improve  $f$  by finetuning on perceptual similarity datasets

- BAPPS - images & low-level variations (blurring, saturation, shifting, etc..)

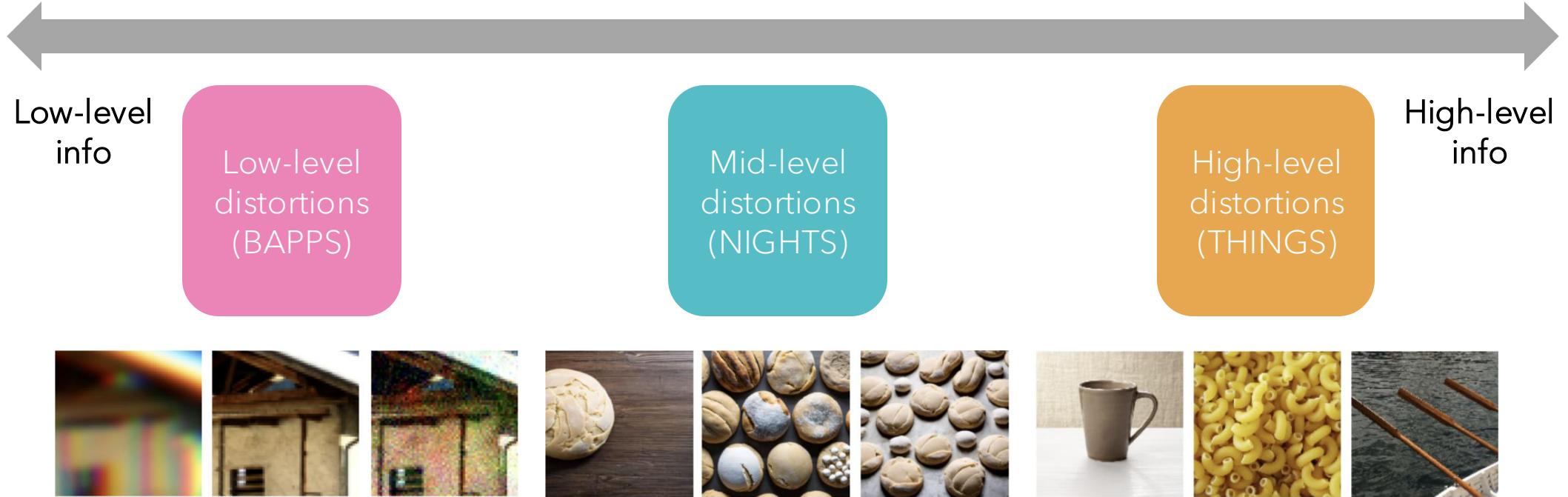


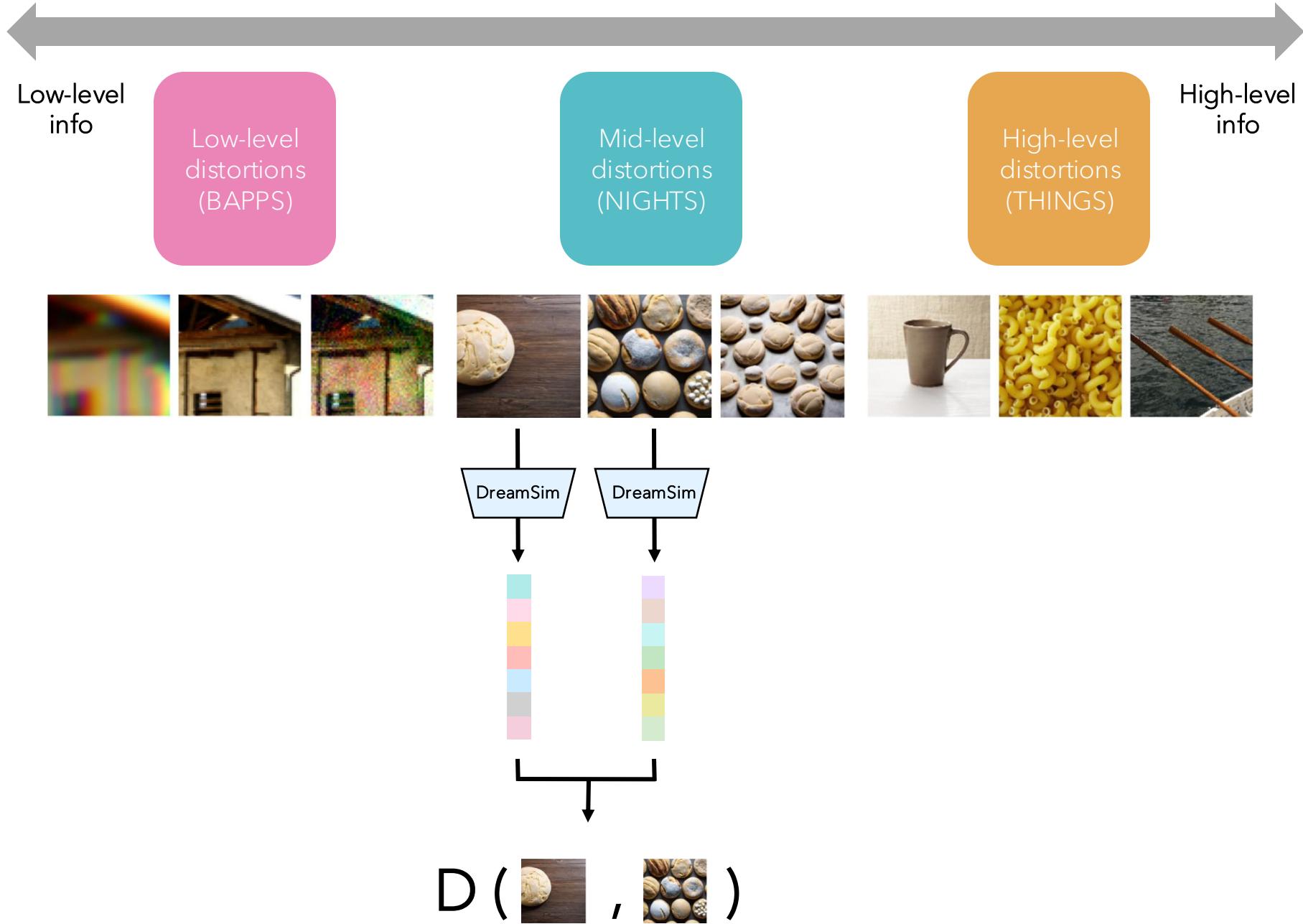
- THINGS - images depicting classes (more conceptual)



These datasets don't capture the variations we saw in our experiment!

# Perceptual similarity datasets





# NIGHTS - Novel Image Generations with Human-Tested Similarity

Goal: create a dataset of triplets which exhibit changes in **mid-level** information

“An image of  
a **ski lodge**”



Stable  
Diffusion



3 seeds

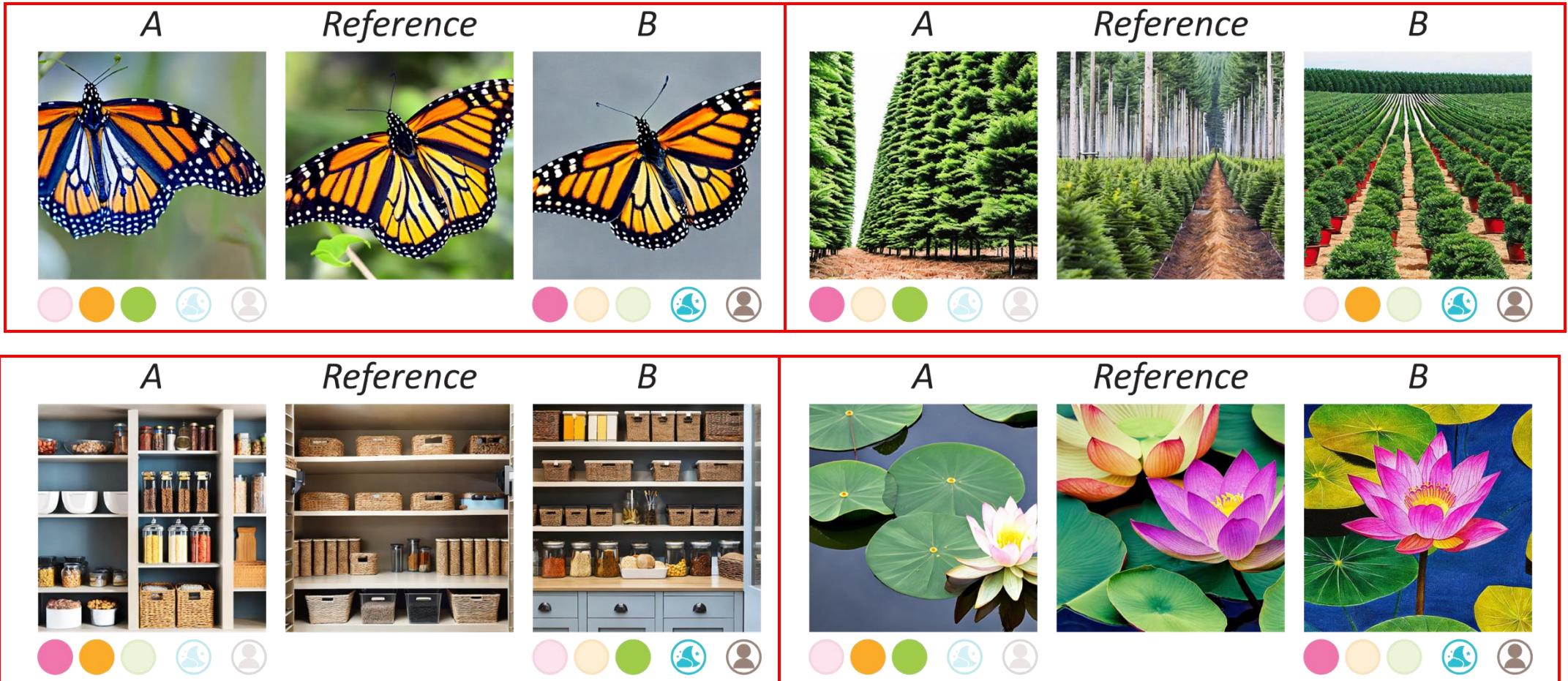
Two-alternative forced choice (2AFC) test

Which image, A or B, is more similar to the  
reference? A      Reference      B



- ~20k **synthetic** image triplets with unanimous human votes
- Average of 7 votes per triplet
- Classes taken from ImageNet, Food-101, SUN397, etc.

# Examples of NIGHTS triplets



LPIPS

DINO

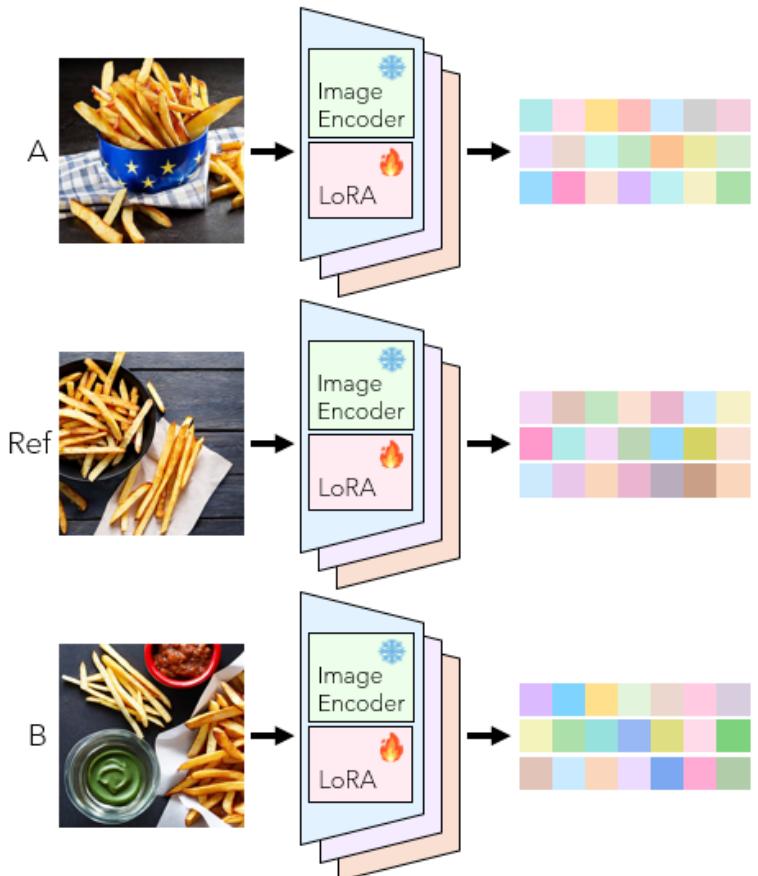
CLIP

DreamSim

Humans

# Training & Inference

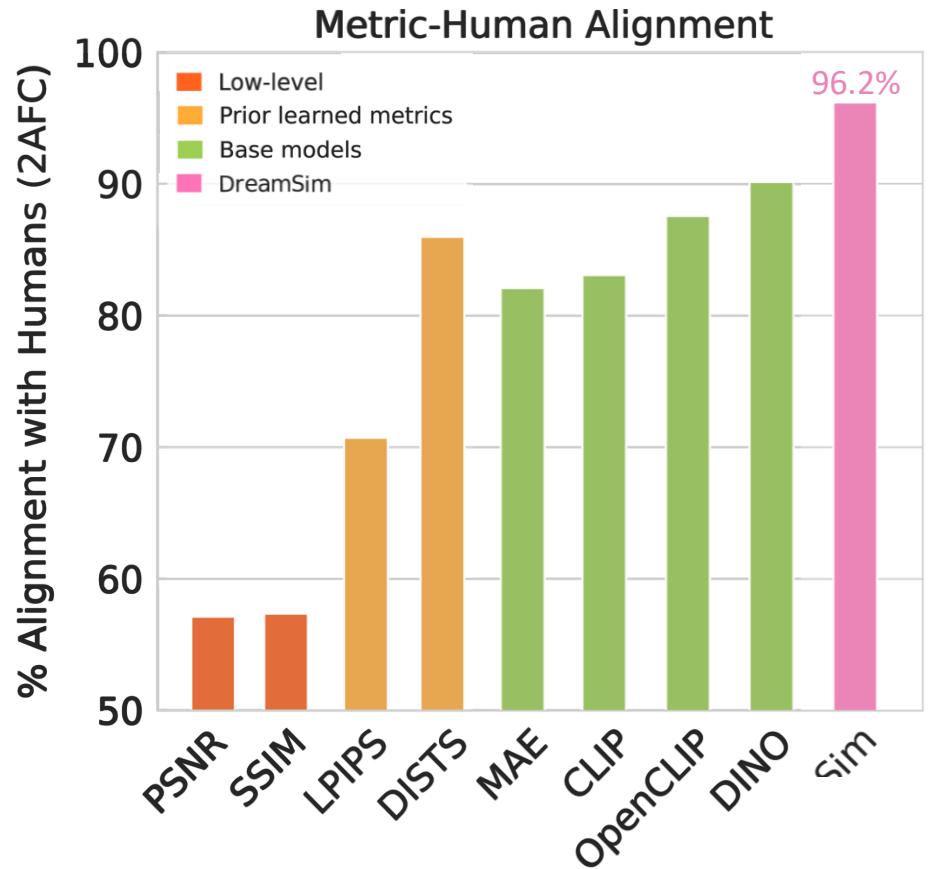
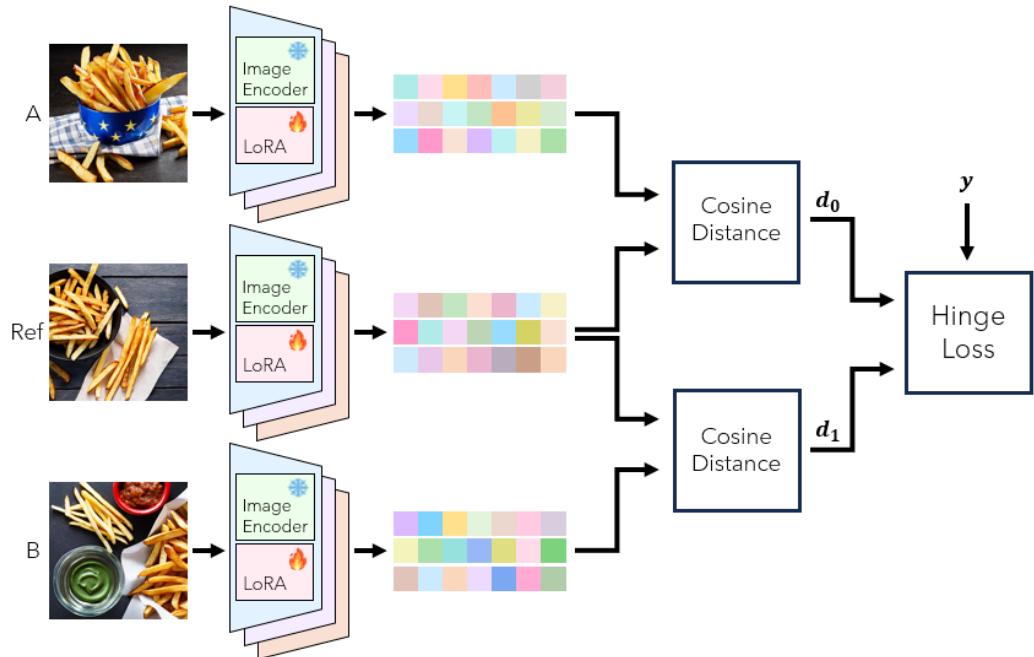
Training: use hinge loss between distances (= triplet loss between embeddings)



Use Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA)  
Tunes 0.5% of ViT parameters

Inference: cosine distance between embeddings of two images

# Training & Inference



# Nearest Neighbors



Nearest Neighbors

LPIPS



DISTS



OpenCLIP



DINO



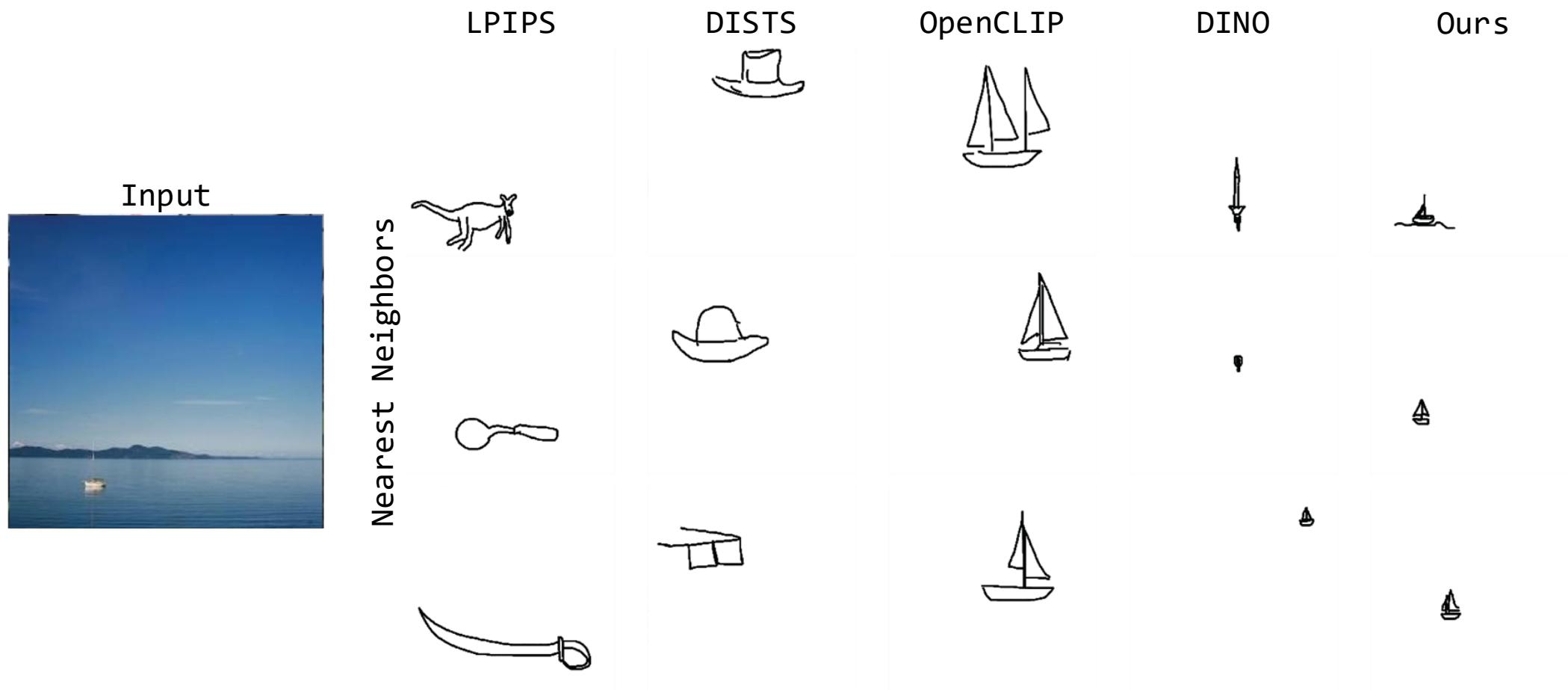
Ours



# Nearest Neighbors (COCO + ImageNet-R)



# Nearest neighbors (Photos → Sketches)



# Generation

Target

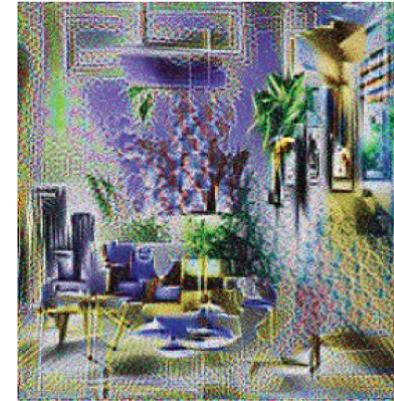


Guided Diffusion Optimization

OpenCLIP



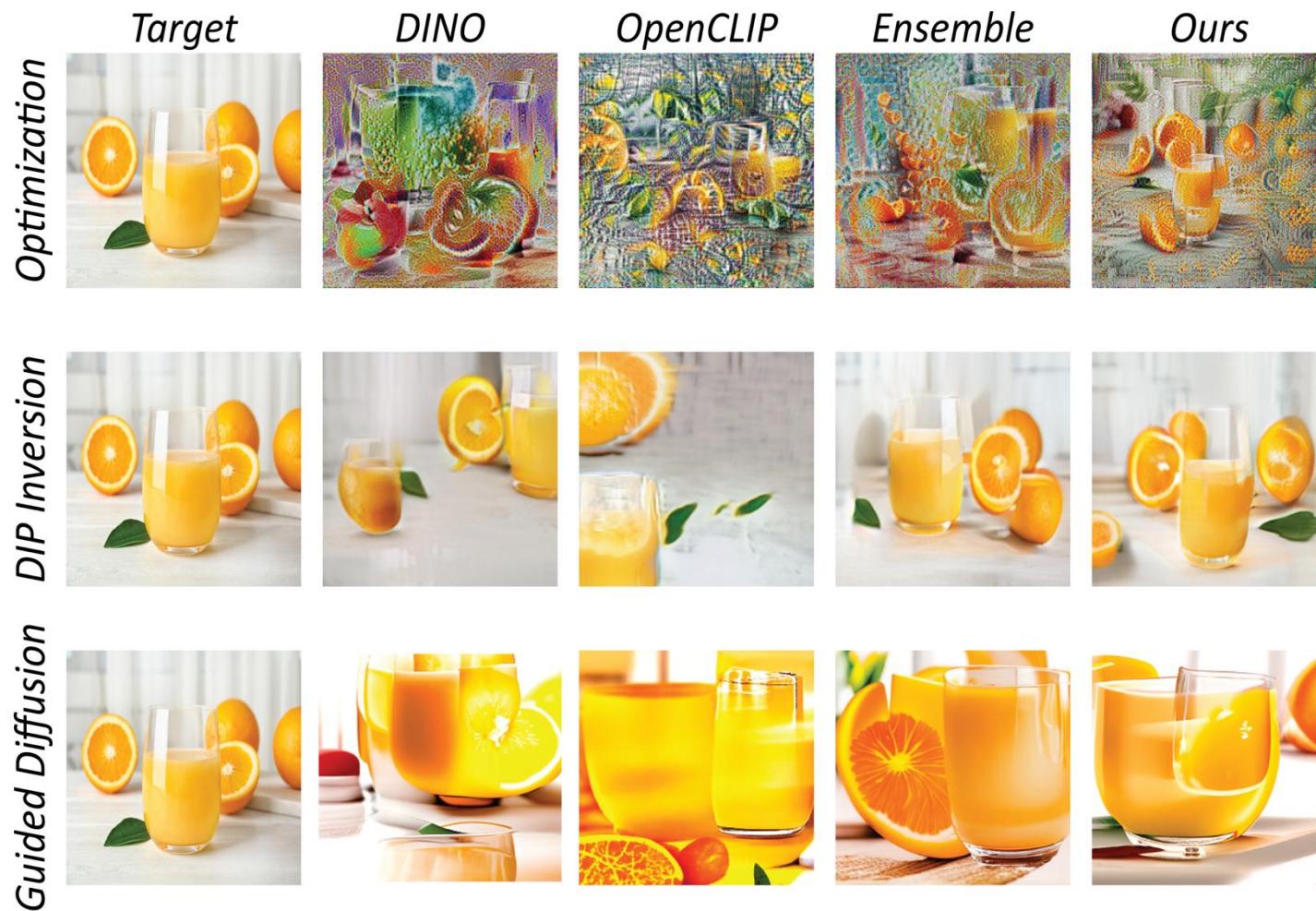
DINO



Ours



# Inversion



# Evaluating Generated Images

RealFill: Reference-Driven Generation for Authentic Image Completion

LUMING TANG, Cornell University, US  
NATANIEL RUIZ, Google Research, US  
QINGHAO CHU, Google Research, US  
YUANZHEN LI, Google Research, US  
ALEKSANDER HOŁYŃSKI, Google Research, US  
DAVID E. JACOBS, Google Research, US  
BHARATH HARIHARAN, Cornell University, US  
YAEL PRITCH, Google Research, Israel  
NEAL WADHWA, Google Research, US  
KFIR ABERMAN, Snap Research, US  
MICHAEL RUBINSTEIN, Google Research, US

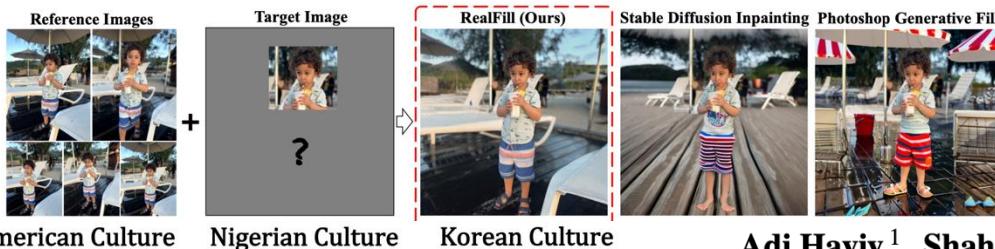
SC

Zhixu

<sup>1</sup>Carr

Original  
Stable Diffusion

SCoFT (Ours)

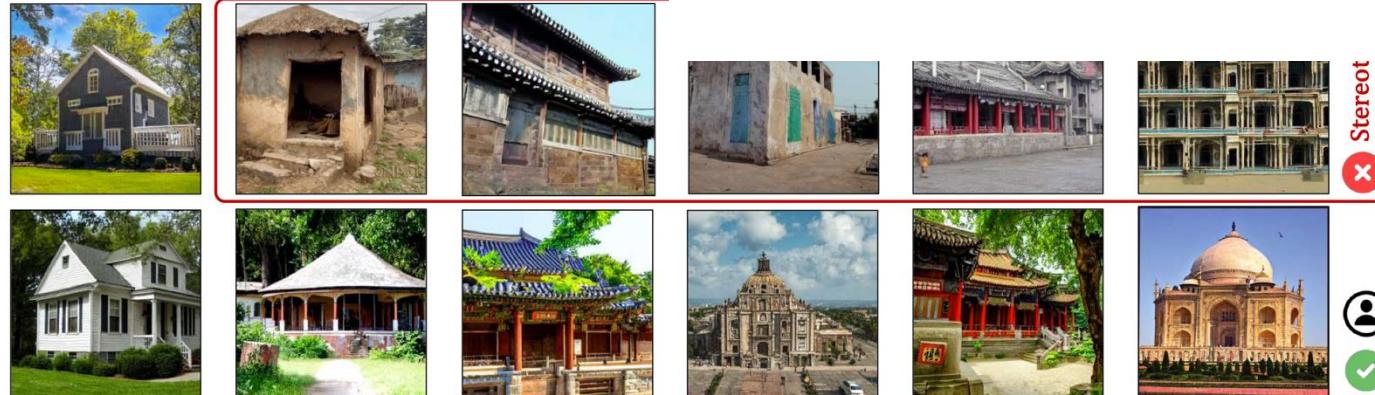


American Culture

Nigerian Culture

Korean Culture

Adi Haviv<sup>1</sup> Shahar Sarfaty<sup>1</sup> Uri Hacohen<sup>2</sup> Niva Elkin-Koren<sup>2</sup> Roi Livni<sup>3</sup> Amit H Bermano<sup>1</sup>



(a) "Photo of a traditional building, in [Culture]"

Customizing Text-to-Image Models  
with a Single Image Pair

Sheng-Yu Wang<sup>1</sup> Nupur Kumari<sup>1</sup>  
David Bau<sup>2</sup> Jun-Yan Zhu<sup>1</sup>

age Generation

Every Image is Worth a Thousand Words:  
Quantifying Originality in Stable Diffusion

ng<sup>1</sup>, Zhifei Zhang<sup>2</sup>, Zhe Lin<sup>2</sup>, Scott Cohen<sup>2</sup>, Brian Price<sup>2</sup>,  
ang<sup>2</sup>, Soo Ye Kim<sup>2</sup>, He Zhang<sup>2</sup>, Wei Xiong<sup>2</sup>, Daniel Aliaga<sup>1</sup>  
Purdue University<sup>1</sup>, Adobe Research<sup>2</sup>



# Conclusion

|  | <b>Low-Level</b>             | <b>High-Level</b>         |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Unary/Holistic<br>$s(x)$                     | Blurriness, No-Reference IQA | PickScore,<br>ImageReward |
| Image Similarity<br>$s(x, x_{ref})$          | PSNR, SSIM, LPIPS,<br>DISTS  | DreamSim                  |
| Distribution<br>$s(p(x)); s(p(x), p_{ref})$  | InceptionScore, FID, CMMMD   |                           |
| Cross-Modal<br>Similarity<br>$s(x, y_{ref})$ |                              | SOA, CLIPScore            |

# What's Next?

- How can evaluation metrics be incorporated more directly into generation pipelines?
  - RLHF
  - Reward functions

# What's Next?

- How can evaluation metrics be incorporated more directly into generation pipelines?
  - RLHF
  - Reward functions
- Multiple different eval metrics v. one holistic eval metric?

# What's Next?

- How can evaluation metrics be incorporated more directly into generation pipelines?
  - RLHF
  - Reward functions
- Multiple different eval metrics v. one holistic eval metric?
- Cross-model alignment