

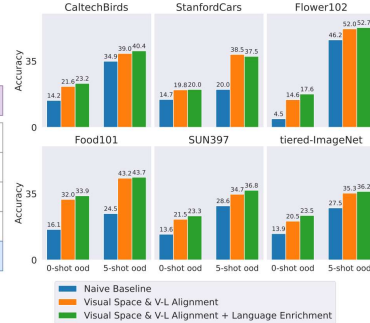
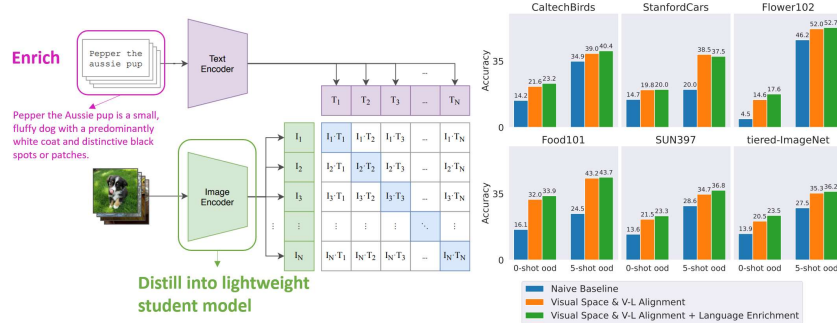
Distilling Large Vision-Language Model with Out-of-Distribution Generalizability

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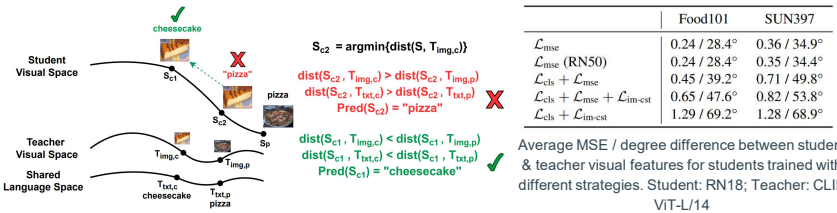
Overview

- Goal: Distill visual representations in large vision-language teachers into lightweight student models, while allowing students to possess **strong open-vocabulary generalization ability towards out-of-distribution (OOD) concepts**.
 - Potential for deployment on mobile / IoT devices and robotics scenarios.
 - Experiments are conducted on small-to-medium datasets, allowing for fast research & development (R&D) cycles and is practical for lower-data regimes like 3D and robotics.
- Main Findings: **2 principles** to enhance student's OOD generalizability:
 - Better imitate teacher's visual representation space**, and carefully promote **better vision-language alignment coherence** with the teacher.
 - Enrich teacher's language representations** with more finegrained & meaningful attributes to effectively distinguish between different labels, both during distillation and inference. **This can be accomplished by prompting LLMs like ChatGPT.**

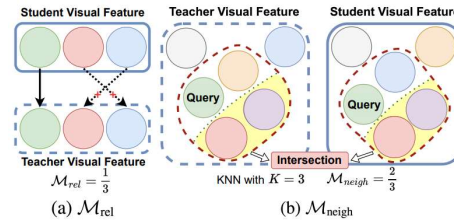


Teacher-Student Visual Space Alignments

- Precisely matching teacher and student's high-dimensional visual spaces is inherently challenging (with high MSE feature matching loss).
- In this case, **minimizing student-teacher visual feature distance does NOT yield the best OOD generalization ability for students.**



- However, teacher-student coherence in **local visual space structures** and **relative visual feature relationships** is crucial for student OOD generalization, as they *implicitly* enhance vision-language alignments.
- We find that **Contrastive losses** like $L_{\text{img-cst}}$ are especially helpful for student OOD generalization, as it **enables much better student-teacher proximity in both local and relative visual feature structures**.



$$M_{\text{rel}}(\mathcal{X}) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{X}|} \mathbf{1}[i = \arg\min_j \|T_{\text{img}}(\mathbf{x}_j) - S(\mathbf{x}_i)\|_2^2]}{|\mathcal{X}|}$$

$$M_{\text{neigh}}(\mathcal{X}, k) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{X}|} |\text{KNN}(S, \mathbf{x}_i, k) \cap \text{KNN}(T_{\text{img}}, \mathbf{x}_i, k)|}{k|\mathcal{X}|}$$

$\mathcal{M}_{\text{rel}} \uparrow$ $\mathcal{M}_{\text{neigh}} \uparrow$ $\mathcal{X}_{\text{train}}$ \mathcal{X}_{ood} $k = 3$ $k = 5$ $k = 10$					
$\mathcal{L}_{\text{cls}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{mse}}$	0.030	0.004	0.13 / 0.06	0.18 / 0.07	0.27 / 0.08
$\mathcal{L}_{\text{cls}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{mse}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{im-cst}}$	0.305	0.022	0.20 / 0.10	0.25 / 0.11	0.34 / 0.13

Teacher-Student Vision-Language Alignments

- Explicitly** enhance teacher-student vision-language alignment coherence.
- Carefully** preserve teacher's vision-language alignment structure by **accounting for teacher misalignments** (through e.g., L_{viprox}).

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{viprox}}(\mathbf{x}, k) = I(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathcal{D}_{\text{KL}}(P_{T, \text{topk}}(\cdot|\mathbf{x}) || P_{S, \text{topk}}(\cdot|\mathbf{x}))$$

$$I(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{1}[\arg\max_y P_T(y|\mathbf{x}) = \text{label}(\mathbf{x})]$$

$$P_{\cdot, \text{topk}}(y|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mathbf{1}_{y \in Y_{\text{topk}}}}{\sum_{y \in Y_{\text{topk}}} P_{\cdot}(y|\mathbf{x})}; Y_{\text{topk}} = \arg\text{topk}_y P_T(y|\mathbf{x})$$

$M_{\text{valign}} \downarrow$	$k=2$	$k=3$	$k=5$
$\mathcal{L}_{\text{cls}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{mse}}$	0.20 / 0.50	0.68 / 1.45	2.67 / 4.73
$\mathcal{L}_{\text{cls}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{mse}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{img-cst}}$	0.18 / 0.43	0.62 / 1.3	2.52 / 4.24
$\mathcal{L}_{\text{cls}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{mse}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{img-cst}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{viprox}}$	0.17 / 0.39	0.59 / 1.17	2.17 / 4.20

$$M_{\text{valign}}(\mathcal{X}, k) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{X}|} \#\text{reverse_pairs}(\text{arrS}(i, k))}{|\mathcal{X}|}$$

$$\text{arrS}(i, k) = \{ \|S(\mathbf{x}_i) - T_{\text{img}}(\ell(y_j))\|_2 \}_{j \in \mathcal{I}(i, k)}$$

$$\mathcal{I}(i, k) = \arg\text{topk}_k \{ \|T_{\text{img}}(\mathbf{x}_i) - T_{\text{img}}(\ell(y_j))\|_2 \}_{j=1}^{|\mathcal{Y}|}$$

Language Representation Enrichment

- Prompt ChatGPT to enrich label descriptions:** "Use a single sentence to describe the appearance and shape of {cls}. Only describe the shape and appearance."
- ChatGPT-enriched descriptions are **significantly more informative** than e.g., auxiliary captions generated by OFA, supplying comprehensive details to distinguish finegrained categories.



Original Description:

"A photo of an Acura Integra Type R 2001"

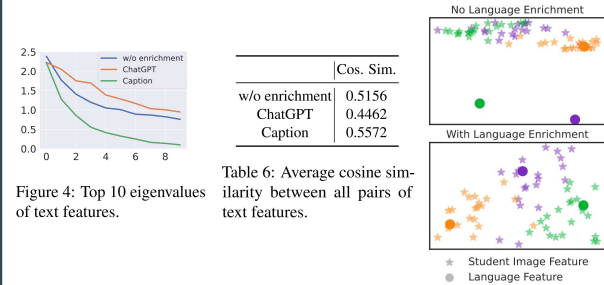
ChatGPT-Enriched:

"A photo of an Acura Integra Type R 2001. The 2001 Acura Integra Type R features a compact and sporty design with a sleek, aerodynamic body, sharp angles, and a distinctive rear spoiler."

Auxiliary Caption from OFA:

"A white car is parked in a field."

- ChatGPT-enriched language representation space confers more **independent & meaningful attributes to distinguish labels**, allowing OOD text features to be more precisely aligned with image features.



Applications (e.g., Robotics)



	\mathcal{X}_{id}	\mathcal{Y}_{id} on \mathcal{X}_{ood}	\mathcal{Y}_{ood} on \mathcal{X}_{ood}
Closed-Set	96.4 / 96.5	NA / 86.2	NA / 87.7
\mathcal{L}_{cls}	96.9 / 97.2	79.3 / 85.3	71.7 / 87.3
+ $\mathcal{L}_{\text{img-cst}}$	99.2 / 99.2	84.0 / 91.9	76.3 / 88.3
+ Semantic Enrich	98.2 / 99.0	84.3 / 92.0	83.0 / 89.6

(a) Overall accuracy over all YCB objects

	\mathcal{X}_{id}	\mathcal{Y}_{id} on \mathcal{X}_{ood}	\mathcal{Y}_{ood} on \mathcal{X}_{ood}
Closed-Set	91.6 / 91.9	NA / 57.8	NA / 35.9
\mathcal{L}_{cls}	94.0 / 94.4	46.5 / 54.7	23.3 / 32.8
+ $\mathcal{L}_{\text{img-cst}}$	98.1 / 98.0	55.3 / 70.8	23.7 / 47.3
+ Semantic Enrich	97.2 / 97.4	55.6 / 70.8	11.7 / 50.7

(b) F1-measure over objects that exist in observations.