

MetaCLUE: Towards Comprehensive Visual Metaphors Research

(project page: <https://metaclue.github.io>)

Arjun Akula, Brendan Driscoll, Pradyumna Narayana, Soravit Changpinyo, Zhiwei Jia, Suyash Damle, Garima Pruthi, Sugato Basu, Leonidas Guibas, William T. Freeman, Yuanzhen Li, Varun Jampani

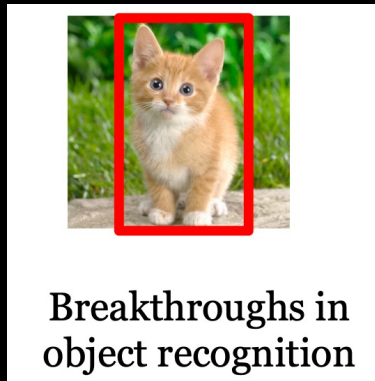
CVPR 2023

Poster Session: THU-PM-248



Much of the computer vision is literal

- Most CV datasets and tasks (Classification, Detection, Segmentation) for semantic understanding focus on literal semantics.



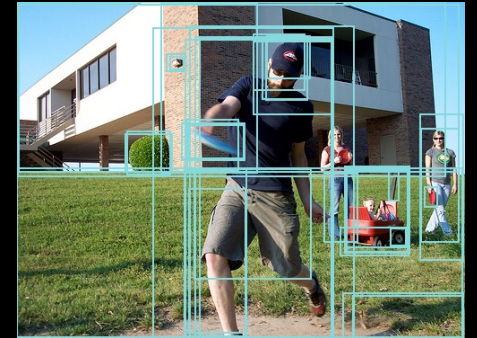
IMAGENET



YouTube-VOS



VQA



Visual Genome



How about metaphorical images like these?



Introducing MetaCLUE



Metaphor: Killing trees is as harmful as killing wildlife

Classification

Is this a visual metaphor? - YES
- NO

Localization

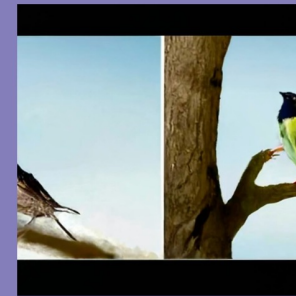
Detect image regions that invoke the concepts:

- Killing trees
- killing wildlife

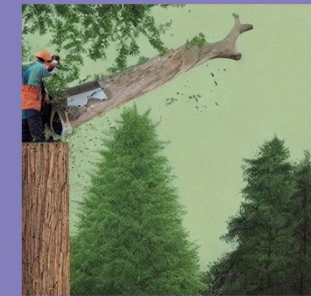


gEneration

Prompt: “An advertisement where killing trees is as harmful as killing wildlife.”



Stable Diffusion



Imagen

Understanding

Retrieval

Pick the right one:

- Killing the forest is as deadly as killing the animals too.
- Birds is as much a part of our world as used cans.

Captioning

Sample predictions:

- Deforestation is as damaging as killing wildlife.
- Deforestation is as bad as ending the death penalty.

Visual Question Answering

Sample Questions:

- What is as harmful as killing wildlife?
- What is compared to killing wildlife?



What is Visual Metaphor?



Metaphor Image



What is Visual Metaphor?



Metaphor Image

Interpretation of this Image?

Metaphor: **Killing trees** is as harmful as killing wildlife



What is Visual Metaphor?



Metaphor Image

Interpretation of this Image?

Metaphor: Killing trees is as harmful as killing wildlife



Why we need Visual Metaphors?

Metaphors provide a sophisticated tool for nuanced human communication.

Metaphorical advertisements help in highlighting *product attributes*.

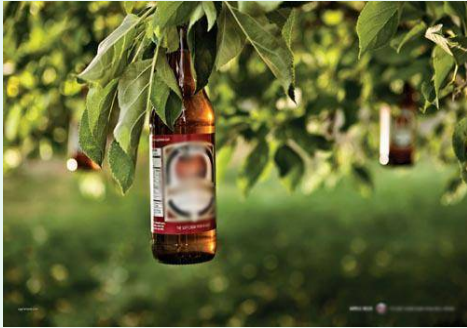
Examples:

- 1) This car is *fast*
- 2) This phone is *futuristic*
- 3) This washer is *smart*

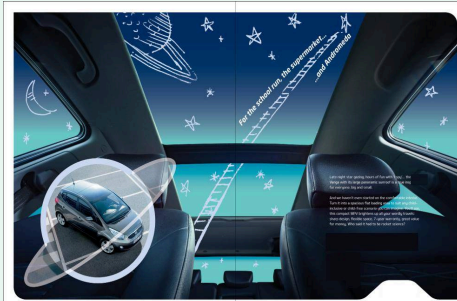


Types of Metaphor

Contextual



This beer is as tasty as a real apple.



This car is as adventurous as a space ship.

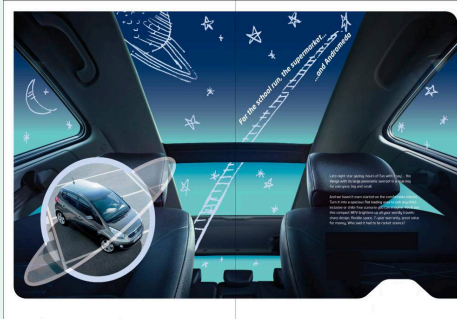


Types of Metaphor

Contextual



This beer is as tasty as a real apple.



This car is as adventurous as a space ship.

Hybrid



Driving this SUV is as smooth as birds flying in the sky.



This pencil is as red as a fire truck.

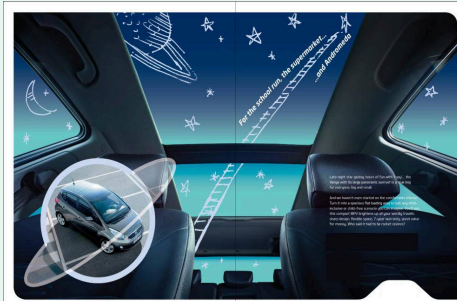


Types of Metaphor

Contextual



This beer is as tasty as a real apple.



This car is as adventurous as a space ship.

Hybrid

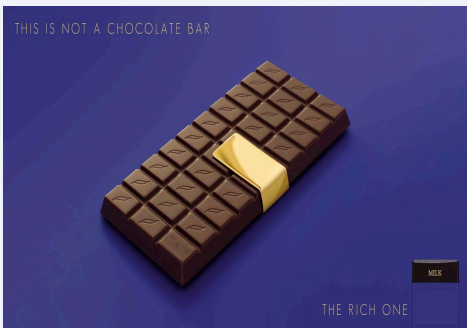


Driving this SUV is as smooth as birds flying in the sky.



This pencil is as red as a fire truck.

Juxtaposition



This chocolate bar is as rich as gold.



This car is as made for the beach as a crab.



Types of Metaphor

Contextual



This beer is as tasty as a real apple.



This car is as adventurous as a space ship.

Hybrid



Driving this SUV is as smooth as birds flying in the sky.



This pencil is as red as a fire truck.

Juxtaposition



This chocolate bar is as rich as gold.



This car is as made for the beach as a crab.

Multimodal



These donuts are as unique as as talk-ing people.



The car is as rugged as this muddy trailer.



Introducing MetaCLUE



Metaphor: Killing trees is as harmful
as killing wildlife



Introducing MetaCLUE



Metaphor: Killing trees is as harmful as killing wildlife

Classification

Is this a visual metaphor? - YES
- NO



MetaCLUE Classification

Annotated Dataset

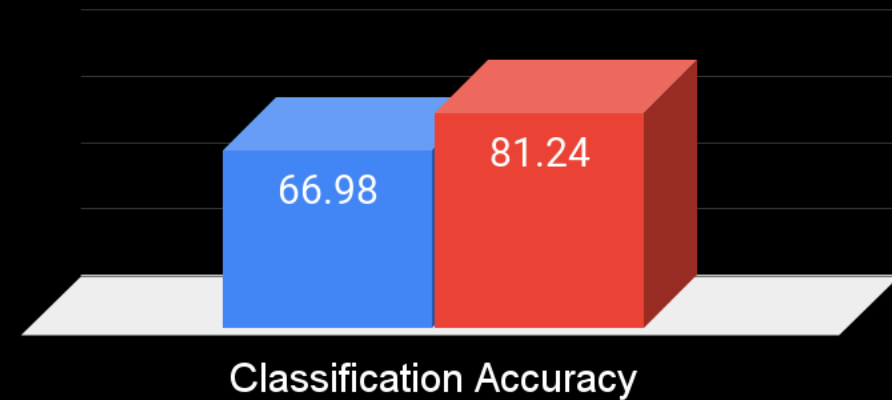
5061 metaphor Images

3.5k non-metaphor but symbolic images

2k non-metaphor, non-symbolic, literal images

ViT-L/16 [1]

■ Metaphors vs Symbolic ■ Metaphors vs Literal



Models find it relatively easier to distinguish metaphor images from literal images, with more than 81% accuracy.



Introducing MetaCLUE



Metaphor: Killing trees is as harmful as killing wildlife

Classification

Is this a visual metaphor? - YES
- NO

Localization

Detect image regions that invoke the concepts:

- Killing trees
- killing wildlife



MetaCLUE Localization

Two key differences compared to standard localization in literal images:

1. Explicit, Contextual boxes
2. Text, Logo boxes

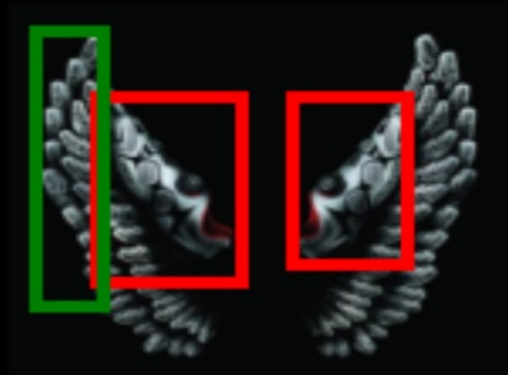
Annotated Dataset

30k bounding box annotations



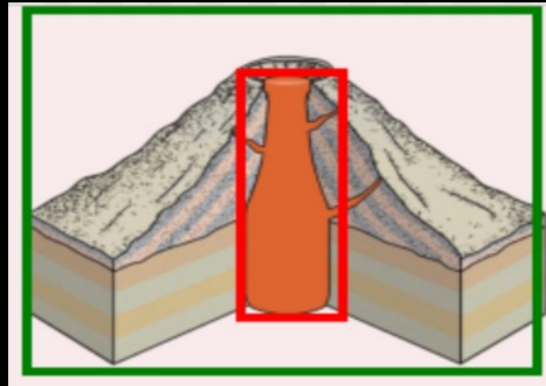
MetaCLUE Localization

Few Examples from our Annotations



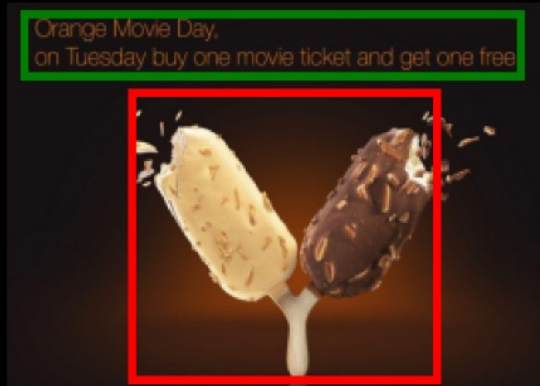
The shoe is as light as feathers

Explicit



Ketchup is as hot as a volcano

Contextual



Getting two ice creams is as exciting as getting two movie tickets for one

Text



This car is as out of this world as three dimensional

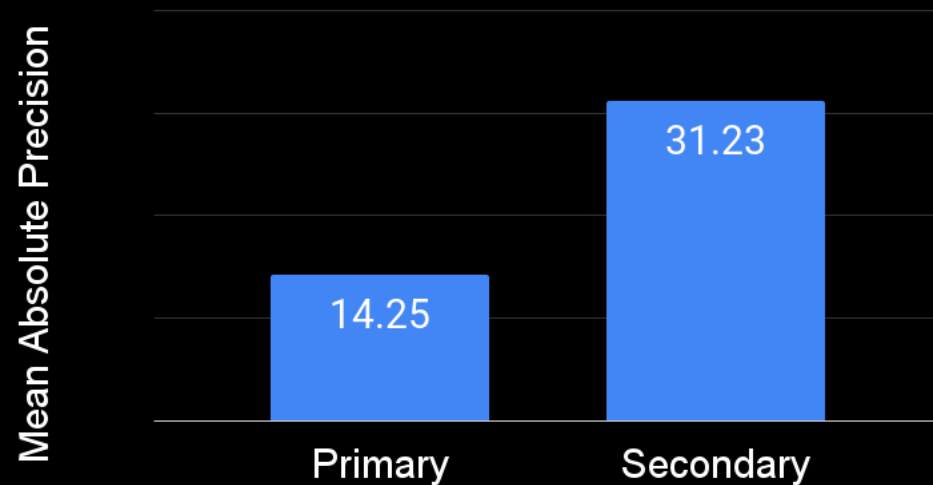
Logo



MetaCLUE Localization

Results

CLIP based Phrase Grounding [1]



We find relatively better performance in localizing secondary objects compared to primary objects



MetaCLUE Localization

Results

CLIP based Phrase Grounding [1]



We find relatively better performance in localizing secondary objects compared to primary objects



Introducing MetaCLUE



Metaphor: Killing trees is as harmful as killing wildlife

Classification

Is this a visual metaphor? - YES
- NO

Localization

Detect image regions that invoke the concepts:

- Killing trees
- killing wildlife



Understanding

Retrieval

Pick the right one:

- Killing the forest is as deadly as killing the animals too.
- Birds is as much a part of our world as used cans.

Captioning

Sample predictions:

- Deforestation is as damaging as killing wildlife.
- Deforestation is as bad as ending the death penalty.

Visual Question Answering

Sample Questions:

- What is as harmful as killing wildlife?
- What is compared to killing wildlife?



MetaCLUE Retrieval

Annotated Dataset

26k metaphor Annotations
Pilot studies
Multi-stage filtering

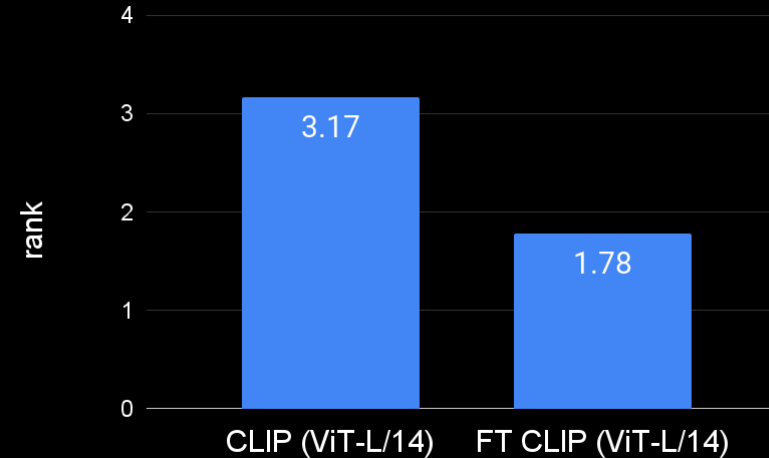
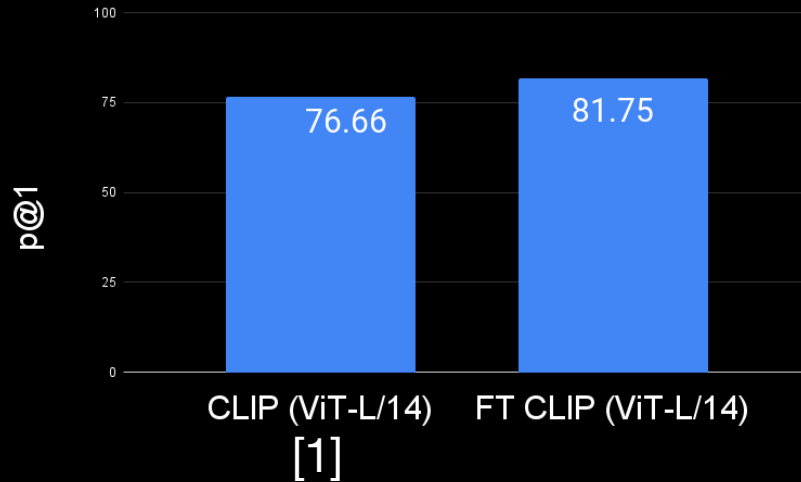
Validation Phase:

Is the grammar correct?
Are primary and secondary concepts correct?
Is the relationship correct?.



MetaCLUE Retrieval

Retrieval on 50 candidates



Key Findings:

1. Models tend to rely more on primary object than secondary object
2. Fine-tuning helps
3. Performance drops greatly by increasing number of negatives (K)
4. Ample room for improvement



MetaCLUE Captioning and VQA

Results with PaLI-17B [1]

	PaLI-17B
Captioning	CIDEr: 1.076
VQA	Accuracy: 19.9%



Metaphor: Smoking cigarettes is as life-shortening as sharpening a pencil

Captioning Result

Prediction: *Smoking is as dangerous as burning a pencil.*

Visual Question Answering Result

Q1: What is a smoker's life compared to a sharpened pencil?

Pred: *Sharp* GT: Shortened

Q2: What is used as a visual metaphor for a sharpened pencil?

Pred: *Not smoking* GT: Smoker's life



Metaphor: Smoking is as deadly as injecting drugs

Captioning Result

Prediction: *Drinking and driving is as bad as injecting drugs.*

Visual Question Answering Result

Q1: What is a cigarette as compared to injecting drugs?

Pred: *Scary* GT: Deadly

Q2: What is used as a visual metaphor for injecting drugs?

Pred: *Drinking* GT: Cigarette



Introducing MetaCLUE



Metaphor: Killing trees is as harmful as killing wildlife

Classification

Is this a visual metaphor? - YES
- NO

Localization

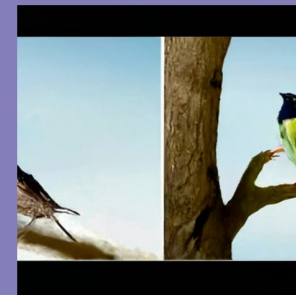
Detect image regions that invoke the concepts:

- Killing trees
- killing wildlife



gEneration

Prompt: “An advertisement where killing trees is as harmful as killing wildlife.”



Stable Diffusion



Imagen

Understanding

Retrieval

Pick the right one:

- Killing the forest is as deadly as killing the animals too.
- Birds is as much a part of our world as used cans.

Captioning

Sample predictions:

- Deforestation is as damaging as killing wildlife.
- Deforestation is as bad as ending the death penalty.

Visual Question Answering

Sample Questions:

- What is as harmful as killing wildlife?
- What is compared to killing wildlife?



MetaCLUE Generation

Can recent text-to-image models also work well in metaphorical image generation?

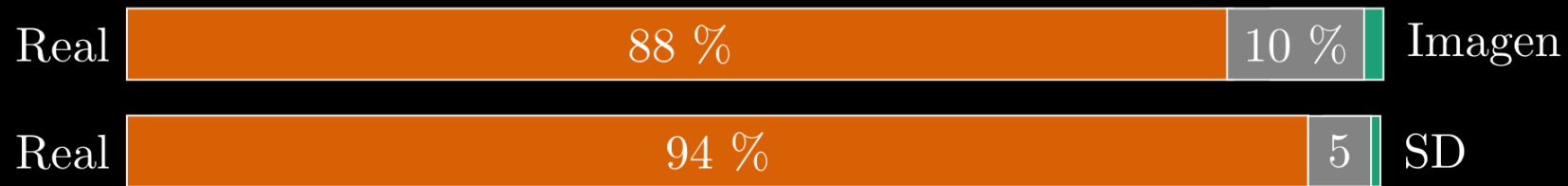
	FID	CLIP Similarity
Imagen [1]	153.1	32.1
Stable Diffusion [2]	161.6	30.8
Stable Diffusion - FT	154.3	32

1. Chitwan Saharia, William Chan, Saurabh Saxena, Lala Li, Jay Whang, Emily Denton, Seyed Kamyar Seyed Ghasemipour, Burcu Karagol Ayan, S Sara Mahdavi, Rapha Gontijo Lopes, et al. Photorealistic text-to-image diffusion models with deep language understanding. arXiv preprint arXiv:2205.11487, 2022.
2. Robin Rombach, Andreas Blattmann, Dominik Lorenz, Patrick Esser, and Bjorn Ommer. High-resolution image synthesis with latent diffusion models. In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, pages 10684–10695, 2022.



MetaCLUE Generation

User-studies



■ Left preferred

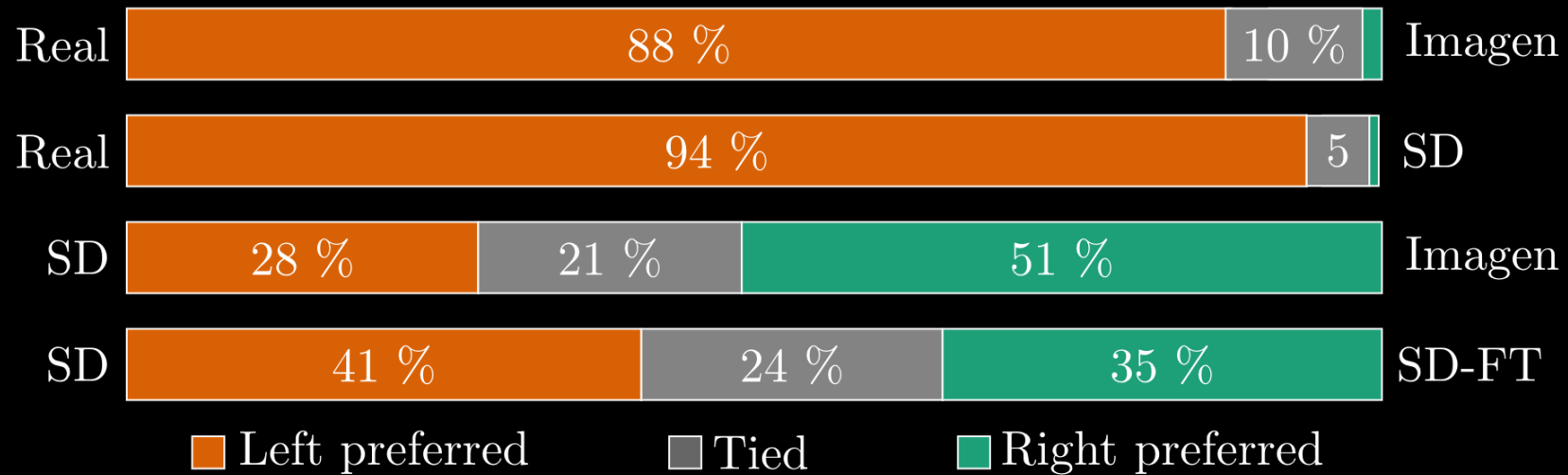
■ Tied

■ Right preferred



MetaCLUE Generation

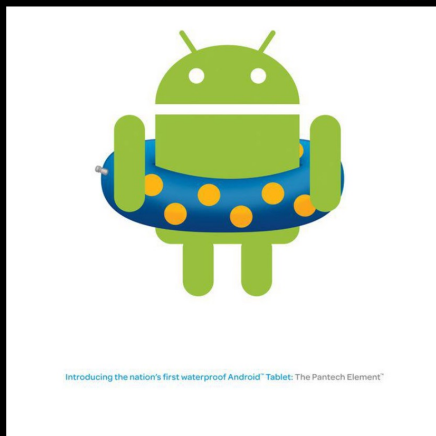
User-studies



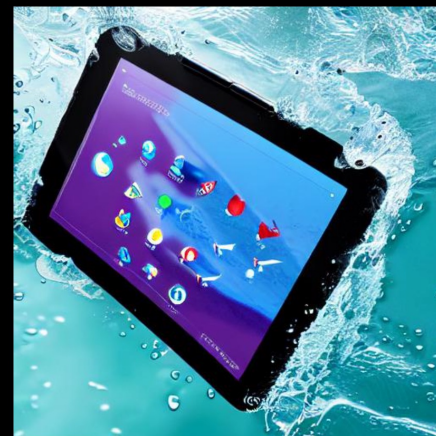
MetaCLUE Generation

Metaphor: This android tablet is as waterproof as someone in a swimtube

Qualitative Results



Real



Imagen



Stable Diffusion

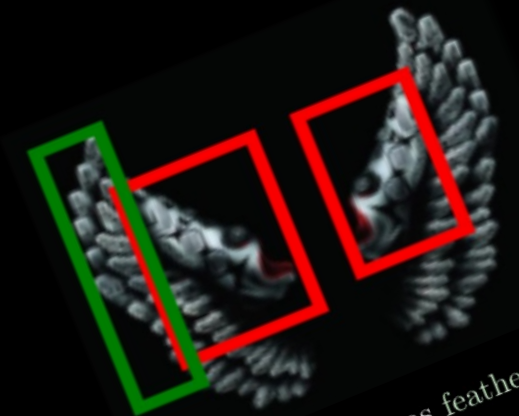


Stable Diffusion - FT



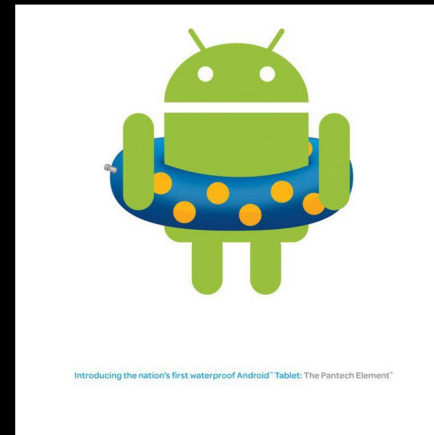
Summary – MetaCLUE

- Comprehensive and Measurable progress
- High quality and rich annotations
- Collection of tasks
 - Classification
 - Understanding
 - Localization
 - Generation
- Existing methods demonstrate poor results
- Concrete first step towards further AI research on Visual Metaphors

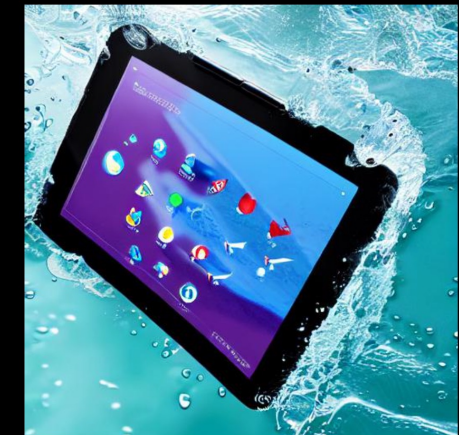


shoe is as light as feathers

Metaphor: This android tablet is as waterproof as someone in a swimtube



Real



Imagen



MetaCLUE: Towards Comprehensive Visual Metaphors Research

(project page: <https://metaclue.github.io>)

Thank you

CVPR 2023

Poster Session: THU-PM-248

