# Lost In Translation The Difficulty of Evaluating Image Captioning

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New Frontiers for Zero-Shot Image Captioning @CVPR2023 June 18, 2023, Vancouver, Canada



## What I want to achieve in this session?

To convince you that Image Captioning Evaluation is Difficult

• To discuss Possible Ways Forward

- [if time permits] To show relevant problems in text to image generation
  - How good Text-to-Image models are in terms of simple spatial relationships? <u>https://github.com/microsoft/VISOR</u>

#### What do you see in this image?



#### What do you see in this image?



#### A group of men standing in a room

#### How about this one?



#### How about this one?



#### A group of people standing in a room

CodaLab			Search Competitions	My Competitions	Help	Sign Up	Sign Ir
	Microsoft COCO Image Ca Organized by tl483 - Current server time: Jur	aptioning Challenge ne 17, 2023, 2:05 a.m. UTC					
	Challenge March 15, 2015, midnight UTC	End Competition Ends Never					
Learn the Deta	ils Phases Participate Results	Forums 🎝					
Phase descrip None Max submission	ntion <b>ns per day:</b> 1						
Max submissior	ns total: 5						

#### Download CSV

	Results																
#	User	Entries	Date of	BLEU-1		BLEU-2		BLEU-3		BLEU-4		METEOR	र	ROUGE-	۰L	CIDEr-D	
			Last Entry	c5 🔺	c40 🔺												
1	MS_Cog_Svcs-GIT2- Single_Model	1	08/22/22	0.843 (2)	0.981 (1)	0.700 (2)	0.944 (1)	0.557 (2)	0.876 (2)	0.432 (3)	0.783 (3)	0.319 (2)	0.421 (2)	0.620 (2)	0.784 (3)	1.464 (2)	1.498 (1)
2	OFA-Sys_OFA	4	05/31/22	0.845 (1)	0.981 (2)	0.701 (1)	0.944 (2)	0.559 (1)	0.878 (1)	0.436 (1)	0.787 (1)	0.321 (1)	0.427 (1)	0.625 (1)	0.790 (1)	1.472 (1)	1.496 (2)
3	MS_Cog_Svcs-GIT- Single_Model	3	05/30/22	0.840 (5)	0.979 (3)	0.698 (3)	0.944 (3)	0.556 (3)	0.876 (3)	0.432 (2)	0.783 (2)	0.319 (3)	0.420 (3)	0.620 (3)	0.784 (2)	1.455 (3)	1.488 (3)

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#### **OFA-Image\_Caption**

Gradio Demo for OFA-Image\_Caption. Upload your own image or click any one of the examples, and click "Submit" and then wait for the generated caption.



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- Three important sources of difficulty:
  - **1. Metrics**: How helpful are evaluation metrics for the usage goal?
  - 2. Data: Is the data a good representative of real world and/or target usage?
  - **3. Models**: How much of the issues from different model components (e.g., object detector, tagger, etc) propagates in the output? Can model architectures game the metrics?

- BLEU, METEOR, ROUGE and CIDEr are doing evaluation based on n-grams focusing on lexical similarities
- SPICE uses scene graph of the image and runs dependency parser on the caption
- BERTScore and similar model based metrics use pretrained models to measure semantic similarity between reference captions (5 in the case of COCO) and generated caption

- Commonsense and Context Understanding in the generated captions is complex and challenging to measure
- Evaluations are usually **Subjective** given the creativity of the task
- **Coverage** is an important factor, e.g., are the 5 reference captions in COCO covering all the aspects of the image?
- Measuring Visual Grounding is challenging when aspects beyond object name grounding in the generated captions are considered
- In object/attribute/relationship detection there are ground truth labels, in image captioning (and text generation in general) there is No Gold Label.

- Captions are Challenging to Interpret, e.g., out of all the objects/attributes/relations detected by a given detector, why the language model did or did not select specific set of them as salient to include in the caption?
- User Studies are essential but time consuming, how to address different aspects of this problem?
- Evaluation metrics should cover Different Languages and various aspects of each language.
- Metrics that account for various Deployment Constraints, what are different inference time shipping thresholds for image captioning systems in practice?

- How to measure **Creativity vs Factuality**?
- How to evaluate **Rare and Out Of Distribution (OOD)** scenarios? Their importance is not reflected in the aggregate metrics.
- How to evaluate Robustness to Real World Perturbations? E.g., does a JPEG compression and decompression have a huge impact on the performance?
- How to Incorporate User Feedback in the metrics and evaluation process?
- Do current metrics account for Interactive and Dialogue Scenarios? Is it trivial to extend them to measure quality of an image grounded conversation?

- Difficulty of creating metrics to measure Fairness-Related Harms:
  - 1. Generated captions reflect the most salient aspect of the image, which is by nature a subjective choice: the system might show differential treatment toward various social groups.
  - 2. Generated attributes and verbs for specific objects might be systematically assigned to specific social groups but not others.
  - 3. The issues mentioned in (1) and (2) above might be caused by the object detector, tagger, language model, or the complex interactions among them. What are good metrics to disentangle them?
  - 4. Would the language model erase objects and tags related to specific groups of people?

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  - How good Text-to-Image models are in terms of simple spatial relationships? <u>https://github.com/microsoft/VISOR</u>

Enforcing the desired characteristics explicitly, e.g., Relations



a baseball player swinging a bat



a baseball player holding a bat

Enforcing the desired characteristics explicitly, e.g., Relations



#### Girl feeding elephant Man taking picture Huts on a hillside

#### A man taking a picture.

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 bananas.

A bush next to a river. People watching elephants eating

A woman wearing glasses. A bag

Glasses on the hair.

- The elephant with a seat on top A woman with a purple dress. A pair of pink flip flops. A handle of bananas.
- A blue short.

Small houses on the hillside A woman feeding an elephant

A woman wearing a white shirt and shorts A man taking a picture 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's white and black handbag 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 A man wearing a hat A woman wearing glasses Leaves on the ground

Туре	Examples	Classes	Instances
	Entities		
Part	arm, tail, wheel	32	200k (25.2%)
Artifact	basket, fork, towel	34	126k (16.0%)
Person	boy, kid, woman	13	113k (14.3%)
Clothes	cap, jean, sneaker	16	91k (11.5%)
Vehicle	airplane, bike, truck,	12	44k (5.6%)
Flora	flower, plant, tree	3	44k (5.5%)
Location	beach, room, sidewalk	11	39k (4.9%)
Furniture	bed, desk, table	9	37k (4.7%)
Animal	bear, giraffe, zebra	11	30k (3.8%)
Structure	fence, post, sign	3	30k (3.8%)
Building	building, house	2	24k (3.1%)
Food	banana, orange, pizza	6	13k (1.6%)
	Relations		
Geometric	above, behind, under	15	228k (50.0%)
Possessive	has, part of, wearing	8	186k (40.9%)
Semantic	carrying, eating, using	24	39k (8.7%)
Misc	for, from, made of	3	2k (0.3%)

Table 1. Object and relation types in Visual Genome, organized by super-type. Most, 25.2% of entities are parts and 90.9% of relations are geometric or possessive.

- Enforcing the desired characteristics explicitly, e.g., Relations
  - Discarding relationships classified with high confidence using a simple prior network.
  - From top 1600 objects and 500 relations in VG
    - Showing each predicate by Glove, run clustering to remove duplicates, e.g., "wears" and "is wearing a"
       → 180 rels
    - Running prior network, removing relations that can be predicated with > 50% accuracy → 117 rels
    - 58,983 images



• Enforcing the desired characteristics explicitly, e.g., Relations

9				has			wearing			ę	5	near	with	behind	riding wears sitting on above	under
top of	sit on	under	hang on	other side of	inside	attach	walk toward	lay in	beside	belong to fly in play with	beneath paint between against	mounton				

Metrics	SGDet	SGCls	PredCls	Metrics	SGDet	SGCls	PredCls
R50	27.2	35.8	65.2	R50	14.8	16.5	46.7
R100	30.3	36.5	67.1	R100	17.4	19.2	52.5

• Enforcing the desired characteristics explicitly, e.g., Relations [Lee, Palangi, et al 2019]





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Baseline: a man standing onthe side of a roadNew: a man repairing a traffic lightat an intersection



**Baseline**: a woman standing on a sidewalk talking on a cell phone

**New**: a woman standing on a sidewalk looking at her cell phone



**Baseline**: a man holding a nintendo wii game controller **New**: a man sitting on a couch holding a wii remote

• Having a unified architecture where different tasks help each other, e.g., VQA helping Image Captioning [Zhou, Palangi, et al 2020]





• Collecting data that reflects a specific failure case, e.g., **NICE dataset** including about 2 million images and corresponding text that reflects qualities like empathy and emotion [Chen, Huang, et al 2021]



• Collecting data that reflects a specific failure case, e.g., AdaVision that is a human in the loop tool for data collection [Gao, Ilharco, et al 2022]



- Collecting data that reflects a specific failure case, e.g., measuring specific **Representational Harms** [Wang, Barocas, et al 2022]
  - *Stereotyping*: which occurs when oversimplified beliefs about social groups reproduce harmful social hierarchies
  - *Demeaning*: which occurs when social groups are cast as being lower status and less deserving of respect



 Collecting data that reflects a specific failure case, e.g., using explainability methods like SHAP to interpret the captions w.r.t the input image [Lundberg, Lee, 2017]



 Leveraging the recent large scale language models and perform instruction tuning, e.g., using LLaVA to interact about the input image [Liu, Li, et al 2023]
 LLaVA: Large Language and Vision Assistant

[Project Page] [Paper] [Code] [Model]



- Let's take a closer look at LLaVA [Liu, Li, et al 2023]
- The red boxes show a combination of errors caused by the vision components (e.g., most of the people are not smiling or looking at the camera) and Hallucination caused by the LLM.
- The model still totally loses the point about only two people looking at each other in the group.

LLaVA Chatbot

Please generate a caption for this image.





- Let's take a closer look at LLaVA [Liu, Li, et al 2023]
- One more round to show case the Hallucination.



The image features a group of people standing in a circle, all smiling and looking at the camera. They appear to be posing for a group photo, with some of them wearing ties. The group consists of both adults and children, suggesting it might be a family gathering or a social event. The people are positioned closely together, creating a sense of unity and camaraderie among the group members.

Where did the man and the woman looking at each other did their graduate school?

The man and the woman looking at each other did their graduate school at the University of Wisconsin.

#### • Let's take a closer look at LLaVA [Liu, Li, et al 2023]

One more round to show case • the Hallucination.



en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill\_Murray

As a youth, Murray read children's biographies of American heroes like Kit Carson, Wild Bill Hickok, and Davy Crockett.<sup>[12]</sup> He attended St. Joseph's grade school and Loyola Academy. During his teen years, he worked as a golf caddy to fund his education at the Jesuit high school, [12][14] and was the lead singer of a rock band called the Dutch Masters and took part in high school and community theater.<sup>[15]</sup> One of his sisters had polio and his mother suffered several miscarriages.<sup>[12]</sup>

After graduating from Lovola Academy, Murray attended Regis University in Denver, Colorado, taking premedical courses, but quickly dropped out and returned to Illinois.<sup>[12]</sup> Decades later, in 2007, Regis awarded him an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.<sup>[16]</sup> On September 21, 1970, his 20th birthday, the police

Scarlett Johansson

G 🕀 🛱 🕁

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The image features a group of people standing in a circle, all smiling and looking at the camera. They appear to be posing for a group photo, with some of them wearing ties. The group consists of both adults and children, suggesting it might be a family gathering or a social event. The people are positioned closely together, creating a sense of unity and camaraderie among the group members.

Where did the man and the woman looking at each other did their graduate school?

The man and the woman looking at each other did their graduate school at the University of Wisconsin



Johansson a	t the 2019 San Diego Comic-Con
Born	Scarlett Ingrid Johansson
	November 22, 1984 (age 38)
	New York City, U.S.
Citizenship	United States · Denmark
Education	Professional Children's School

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- One more round to show case the Hallucination.

🗊 LLaVA Chatbot



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Where did the man and the woman looking at each other did their graduate school?

The man and the woman looking at each other did their graduate school at the University of Wisconsin.

who are they?

The man and the woman looking at each other are a couple and they are both wearing ties. They could be

the hosts of the gathering or possibly the parents of the child in the group.

🗊 LLaVA Chatbot

together, creating a sense of unity and camaraderie among the group members.

• Let's take a closer look at LLaVA [Liu, Li, et al 2023]

• One more round to show case the Hallucination.

Where did the man and the woman looking at each other did their graduate school?

The man and the woman looking at each other did their graduate school at the University of Wisconsin.

who are they?

The man and the woman looking at each other are a couple, and they are both wearing ties. They could be the hosts of the gathering or possibly the parents of the child in the group.

how old is the child?

The child is described as a "little girl" and a "small child," indicating that she is likely between the ages of 4 and 10 years old.

The

LLaVA Chatbot

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how old is the child?

The child is described as a "little girl" and a "small child," indicating that she is likely between the ages of 4 and 10 years old.

where her parents go to the graduate school?

The parents of the small child went to the graduate school at the University of Wisconsin.

where is she btw?

The small child is in Japan.

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# Text-to-Image (T2I) Models: Transforming Words into Images

#### 2016

this small bird has a pink breast and crown, and black primaries and secondaries.



the flower has petals that are bright pinkish purple with white stigma



this magnificent fellow is almost all black with a red crest, and white cheek patch.



this white and yellow flower have thin white petals and a round yellow stamen



Eggs fruit A street sign A group of candy nuts on a stoplight A picture of a people on skis and meat pole in the stand in the served on middle of a very clean white dish living room day snow

"StackGAN" Zhang et al. ICCV 2017 https://arxiv.org/abs/1612.03242

#### Text-to-Image (T2I) Models: Transforming Words into Images 2022



panda mad scientist mixing sparkling chemicals, artstation



a corgi's head depicted as an explosion of a nebula



- A giant cobra snake on a farm. The snake is made out of corn.
- A chrome-plated duck with a golden beak arguing with an angry turtle in a forest.



An oil painting of two rabbits in the style of American Gothic, wearing the same clothes as in the original



a portrait of a statue of the Egyptian god Anubis wearing aviator goggles, white t-shirt and leather jacket. The city of Los Angeles is in the background. hi-res dslr photograph.



a propaganda poster depicting a cat dressed as french emperor napoleon holding a piece of cheese



a teddy bear on a skateboard in times square



A dog looking curiously in the mirror, seeing a

cat.

An extremely angry bird.





A dignified beaver wearing glasses, a vest, and colorful neck tie. He stands next to a tall stack of books in a library, dslr



The buildings of downtown Manhattan situated below Mount Everest. The Great Pyramid is in the foreground. DSLR photograph

"Imagen": Saharia et al. preprint 2022 https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.11487

"PARTI": Yu et al. preprint 2022 https://arxiv.org/abs/2206.10789 37/43

#### Survey of Existing Metrics for T2I Evaluation

	StackGAN (Zhang et al. ICCV 2017)	<b>DM-GAN</b> (Zhu et al. CVPR 2019)	OP-GAN (Hinz et al. TPAMI 2020)	<b>GLIDE</b> (Nichol et al. NeurIPS 2021)	CogView-1/2 (Ding et al. NeurIPS 2021)	DALLE v1/v2 (Ramesh et al. 2021/2022)	Stable Diffusion (Rombach et al. CVPR 2022)
IS: Inception Score (Salimans et al. NeurIPS 2016)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
FID: Frechet Inception Distance (Heusel et al. NeurIPS 2017)		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
<b>R-Precision</b> (Xu et al. CVPR 2018)		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$			
Image Captioning Metrics (Hong et al. CVPR 2018)			$\checkmark$				
CLIPscore (Hessel et al. EMNLP 2021)				$\checkmark$			
SOA: Semantic Object Accuracy (Hinz et al. T-PAMI 2020)			$\checkmark$				
Human Study	$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$

Four categories of existing evaluation metrics

- 1. Purely Visual Metrics for Photorealism
- 2. Image-text matching
- 3. Object-Level
- 4. Human study

- : IS, FID
- : Image Captioning / CLIPscore
- : SOA

#### Spatial Relationships Directly Impact Practical Applications!

- Humans often communicate using spatial relationships between objects
  - "The Windows start button is on the bottom left of the screen"
  - "The toaster in my kitchen is to the left of the stove"
  - "Can you move the chart to the right of the text in your PPT?"
- Spatial relationships are also important for robotics and applications





Standing in front of the family picture, turn left and walk straight through the bathroom past the tub and mirrors. Go through the doorway and stop when the door to the bathroom is on your right and the door to the closet is to your left.

Walk with the family photo on your right. Continue straight into the bathroom. Walk past the bathtub. Stop in the hall between the bathroom and toilet doorways.

Walk straight passed bathtub and stop with closet on the left and toilet on the right.

Anderson et al. CVPR 2018

#### CLIPScore is not effective

- CLIPscore is a recent T2I evaluation metric that uses CLIP to obtain scores for text—image pairs
- Consider text t
- Let *x* be the image generated for *t*
- Let t<sub>flipped</sub> be the text with the same objects, but a flipped relation –
- Compute *CLIPscore*(*x*, *t*) and *CLIPscore*(*x*, *t*<sub>flipped</sub>)



 $t_{flipped}$  does not match with x (it has the opposite relationship) Yet, CLIPscore(x,t) ~ CLIPscore( $x,t_{flipped}$ )

→ CLIPscore is not a good metric for evaluating spatial relationships generated by T2I models



t="A toaster to the left of a fire hydrant"

#### CLIPscore(x, t) = 0.8052

t<sub>flipped</sub> = "A toaster to the right of a fire hydrant"

CLIPscore(x, t<sub>flipped</sub>) = 0.8086

#### VerifyIng Spatial Object Relationships (VISOR)

$$VISOR = P(R_{gen} = R_{GT} \mid \exists A \cap \exists B) = -$$

Model	ΟΑ	SRA	VISOR <sub>1</sub>	VISOR <sub>2</sub>	VISOR <sub>3</sub>	VISOR <sub>4</sub>
GLIDE	3.36	1.98	6.72	1.02	0.17	0.03
DALLE- mini	27.1	16.17	38.31	17.5	6.89	1.96
CogView2	18.47	12.17	33.47	11.43	3.22	0.57
DALLE-v2	63.93	37.89	73.59	47.23	23.26	7.49
Stable Diffusion	29.86	18.81	40.6	20.11	6.89	1.63



#### a skateboard below a mouse

Stable

# DALLE-v2 Diffusion

a mouse to the left of a couch



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