## Modeling Context in Referring Expression

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## Referring Expression



## Referring Expression Game


woman washing dishes

## Referring Expression Game



## Datasets

- RefCOCO $\mathbb{T}$ UNC
- 142210 referring expressions for 50000 objects in 19994 images
- RefCOCO+ WNC
- 141564 referring expressions for 49856 objects in 19992 images
- RefCOCOg Google
- 104560 referring expressions for 54822 objects in 26711 images

UNC's datasets are available at https://github.com/lichengunc/refer

## Difference between three datasets



RefCOCO: giraffe on the left
RefCOCO+: giraffe with lowered head down
RefCOCOg: an adult giraffe scratching its back with its horn

| Dataset | Collection way | Expression Style | Allow location words |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| RefCOCO (UNC) | Interactive Game | Free style | yes |
| RefCOCO + (UNC) | Interactive Game | Free style | no |
| RefCOCOg (Google) | Non-interactive | COCO-caption style | yes |

## Two tasks

Task 1: comprehension
Which object is "Girl on the left" indicating?


Task 2: Expression Generation
Generate referring expression for this target person.


## Baseline model



$$
\left(o_{i}, g_{i}, l_{i}\right)=\left(\left[\frac{x^{2}}{W}, \frac{y_{t l}}{H}, \frac{x_{b r}}{w}, \frac{y_{b r}}{H}, \frac{w \cdot h}{W \cdot H}\right]\right)
$$

## Our model: visual comparison

Man in blue Man on the left

Girl in pink
Girl in the middle


## Visual Comparison

- Object comparisons are critical for producing unambiguous referring expression

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \delta v_{i}=\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{o_{i}-o_{j}}{\left\|o_{i}-o_{j}\right\|} \\
& \delta l_{i j}=\left[\frac{\left[\Delta x_{t l}\right]_{i j}}{w_{i}}, \frac{\left.\left[\Delta y_{t t}\right]_{i j}\right]}{h_{i}}, \frac{\left.\left[\Delta x_{b r}\right]_{i j}\right]}{w_{i}}, \frac{\left[\Delta y_{b r}\right]_{i j}}{h_{i}}, \frac{w_{j} h_{j}}{w_{i} h_{i}}\right]
\end{aligned}
$$



## Language Tying

- Tying language generation together by adding the connections between expressions.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& h_{d i f_{i_{t}}}=\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{h_{i_{t}}-h_{j_{t}}}{\left\|h_{i_{t}}-h_{j_{t}}\right\|} \\
& P\left(w_{i_{t}} \mid w_{i_{t-1}}, \ldots, w_{i_{1}}, v_{i},\left\{h_{j_{t}, j \neq i}\right\}\right)=\operatorname{softmax}\left(W_{h}\left[h_{i_{t}}, h_{d i f_{i_{t}}}\right]+b_{h}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$



Task1: Comprehension

|  | RefCOCO |  | RefCOCO+ |  | RefCOCOg |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Test A | Test B | Test A | Test B | Validation |
| Baseline[22] | $63.15 \%$ | $64.21 \%$ | $48.73 \%$ | $42.13 \%$ | $55.16 \%$ |
| visdif | $67.57 \%$ | $71.19 \%$ | $52.44 \%$ | $47.51 \%$ | $59.25 \%$ |
| MMI[22] | $71.72 \%$ | $71.09 \%$ | $58.42 \%$ | $51.23 \%$ | $62.14 \%$ |
| visdif+MMI | $\mathbf{7 3 . 9 8 \%}$ | $\mathbf{7 6 . 5 9 \%}$ | $\mathbf{5 9 . 1 7 \%}$ | $\mathbf{5 5 . 6 2 \%}$ | $\mathbf{6 4 . 0 2 \%}$ |

Task2: Generation
RefCOCO

|  | Test A |  |  |  | Test B |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Bleu 1 | Bleu 2 | Rouge | Meteor | Bleu 1 | Bleu 2 | Rouge | Meteor |
| Baseline [22] | 0.477 | 0.290 | 0.413 | 0.173 | 0.553 | 0.343 | 0.499 | 0.228 |
| MMI [22] | 0.478 | 0.295 | 0.418 | 0.175 | 0.547 | 0.341 | 0.497 | 0.228 |
| visdif | 0.505 | $\mathbf{0 . 3 2 2}$ | 0.441 | 0.184 | 0.583 | 0.382 | 0.530 | 0.245 |
| visdif+MMI | 0.494 | 0.307 | 0.441 | 0.185 | 0.578 | 0.375 | 0.531 | 0.247 |
| Baseline+tie | 0.490 | 0.308 | 0.431 | 0.181 | 0.561 | 0.352 | 0.505 | 0.234 |
| visdif+tie | $\mathbf{0 . 5 1 0}$ | 0.318 | $\mathbf{0 . 4 4 6}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 1 8 9}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 5 9 3}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 3 8 6}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 5 3 3}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 2 4 9}$ |
| visdif+MMI+tie | 0.506 | 0.312 | 0.445 | 0.188 | 0.579 | 0.370 | 0.525 | 0.246 |

RefCOCO+

|  | Test A |  |  |  | Test B |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Bleu 1 | Bleu 2 | Rouge | Meteor | Bleu 1 | Bleu 2 | Rouge | Meteor |
| Baseline [22] | 0.391 | 0.218 | 0.356 | 0.140 | 0.331 | 0.174 | 0.322 | 0.135 |
| MMI [22] | 0.370 | 0.203 | 0.346 | 0.136 | 0.324 | 0.167 | 0.320 | 0.133 |
| visdif | 0.407 | 0.235 | 0.363 | 0.145 | 0.339 | 0.177 | 0.325 | 0.145 |
| visdif+MMI | 0.386 | 0.221 | 0.360 | 0.142 | 0.327 | 0.172 | 0.325 | 0.135 |
| Baseline+tie | 0.392 | 0.219 | 0.361 | 0.143 | 0.336 | 0.177 | 0.325 | 0.140 |
| visdif+tie | $\mathbf{0 . 4 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 2 3 2}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 3 7 2}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 1 5 0}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 3 4 0}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 1 7 8}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 3 2 8}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 1 4 3}$ |
| visdif+MMI+tie | 0.393 | 0.220 | 0.360 | 0.142 | 0.327 | 0.175 | 0.321 | 0.137 |

## RefCOCO <br> - Ground-truth <br> - Prediction <br> RefCOCO+


guy in white on far right

blurry person
with sleeveless and sitting

## RefCOCO

## RefCOCO+


head on left
woman in middle person on right

closest sheep
sheep behind other sheep

# Thank you! 

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