VALHALLA: Visual Hallucination for Machine Translation
Supplemental Material

Yi Li\textsuperscript{1} Rameswar Panda\textsuperscript{2} Yoon Kim\textsuperscript{3} Chun-Fu (Richard) Chen\textsuperscript{2}
Rogerio Feris\textsuperscript{2} David Cox\textsuperscript{2} Nuno Vasconcelos\textsuperscript{1}

\textsuperscript{1}UC San Diego \hspace{1cm} \textsuperscript{2}MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab \hspace{1cm} \textsuperscript{3}MIT CSAIL

http://www.svcl.ucsd.edu/projects/valhalla

| Section | Content |
|---------|---------|
| A       | Dataset Details |
| B       | Implementation Details |
| C       | Additional Results |
| D       | Limitations |
| E       | Broader Impact |

Table 1: Supplementary Material Overview.

A. Dataset Details

We evaluate the performance of our proposed approach (VALHALLA) using three machine translation datasets, namely Multi30K [3], Wikipedia Image Text (WIT) [14] and WMT2014 [1]. These datasets present a diversity of challenges in machine translation: Multi30K requires models to learn to aggregate vision-language information from a relatively small number of training samples, while WIT and WMT contains translation tasks with different data scales. WMT additionally focuses on translating news articles, which may not be as readily grounded through visual data (compared to Multi30K and WIT), and thus presents an especially challenging test bed for MMT systems. Below we provide more details on each of the dataset.

A.1. Data Preprocessing

Table 2 summarizes the list of all machine translation tasks. We use byte-pair encoding (BPE) [5, 13] to tokenize all source and target sentences\textsuperscript{1}, with vocabulary size provided in the last row of the table. All sentences are preprocessed and cleaned using standard scripts\textsuperscript{2}.

Multi30K. This is a multilingual translation dataset with 29000 training samples of images and their annotations in English, German, French and Czech. Each English description is manually translated to German by a professional translator, then expanded to French and Czech. We use English-German (EN→DE) and English-French (EN→FR) for our experiments. Besides showing results on Test2016 and Test2017 sets, we use MSCOCO for evaluation which is a small dataset collected in WMT2017 multimodal machine translation challenge for testing out-of-domain performance of translation models. This evaluation set includes 461 more challenging out-of-domain instances with ambiguous verbs.

WIT. We construct multimodal translation datasets for 7 language pairs from WIT [14] data. Sentence-image data for MMT are obtained from reference descriptions of the dataset, i.e., captions which are visible on the wiki page directly below the image. We empirically find these to contain richest visually grounded concepts compared to other types of captions provided in WIT. First, we generate raw ground-truth translation pairs by sampling from images with captions annotated in both source and target languages. For images associated with multiple captions in the same language, we sample one sentence at random. Finally, a cleaning process filters out noise by ranking the sentence pairs by their length ratios \(\frac{S}{T}\), and discarding top and bottom 5% samples.

The validation and test splits for the original WIT are not publicly available, so we partition the training data to construct new splits for WIT with sizes provided in table 2.

WMT. We use the official train, validation and test data for standard WMT tasks. Under-resourced variants are created by downsampling the training sets of EN→DE and EN→FR tasks by approximately \(3 \times 10^{-2}\) and \(3 \times 10^{-3}\) respectively, creating subsets of 100k samples each. Validation and test

\[\text{https://github.com/rsennrich/subword-nmt}\]  
[2]https://github.com/moses-smt/mosesdecoder
Table 2: Datasets and Tasks. We use 3 datasets with total 13 tasks that covers various languages with different scales of training data.

Table 3: Model Architectures and Optimization Hyperparameters. Hyperparameters are selected by grid search on the respective validation set. Note that our Small model in Multi30K is different from that used by Wu et al. [16].

sets kept the same as full WMT.

Images. Discrete visual encoders (VQGAN VAE) are trained on images randomly cropped and resized to 128 pixels, with pixel values rescaled to [0, 1]. At test time, we use center cropping for all images instead.

A.2. Licenses

All the datasets considered in this work are publicly available. WIT\(^3\) [14] is available under the CC BY-SA 3.0 license. Licenses for WMT 2014\(^4\) [1] and Multi30K\(^5\) [3] are unknown. Use of images from Flickr30K\(^6\) [17] are subject to Flickr terms of use\(^7\).

B. Implementation Details

In this section, we provide more implementation details regarding model architectures, training, inference procedures and hyperparameter selections.

B.1. Model Architecture

In Table 3 we provide the detailed architectures of all translation models \(f_T\) used for each dataset. For all experiments, we use a hallucination transformer \(f_H\) of depth 2 and VQGAN VAE visual encoder \(f_V\) of encoder depth 6.

Sinusoidal positional embeddings (PE) \(^{15}\) are added to the multimodal input sequence to the translation transformer \(f_T\). Using a learnable PE \(^6\) did not improve translation performance in preliminary experiments. For visual tokens, we follow \(^{12}\) to compute 2D positional encoding as the sum of row and column embeddings.

B.2. Training Procedure

For all models and tasks, we optimize the VALHALLA system using Adam \(^7\) with inverse square root learning rate schedule and warm-up steps. Table 3 lists important optimization hyperparameters used for each task and model, determined in preliminary experiments by grid search on the respective validation set.

B.3. Inference and Evaluation

During inference we use beam search with a beam size of 5 to generate translation outputs for each task. Length penalty \(\alpha\) is set to 0.6 on full WMT dataset, 2 on WIT dataset, and 1 on all other translation tasks. We use standard
scripts to compute BLEU\(^8\) [9] and METEOR\(^9\) [2] scores as evaluation metrics for machine translation.

### B.4. Code and Models

Our VALHALLA framework is implemented on top of fairseq [8] using PyTorch [10]. Code and pretrained models are available at our project page: http://www.svcl.ucsd.edu/projects/valhalla.

### C. Additional Results

#### C.1. Numerical Scores

**METEOR Scores.** Tables 4 and 5 summarizes METEOR scores of models evaluated on Multi30K [3] and WIT [14], respectively. Similar to the trend in BLEU scores (Tables 1 and 3 in the main paper), VALHALLA outperforms text-only and multimodal baselines consistently on all tasks.

**Sentence Length.** We repeat the study of translation performance vs. length of source sentence (Figure 3 in main paper) on Test2017 and MSCOCO evaluation sets. Figure 1 shows the results. Similar to the observations in Test2016 set, VALHALLA generally produces larger gains over text-only baselines for longer sentences (> 10 source tokens).

**Progressive Masking.** Figure 2 compares the performance of VALHALLA and text-only model under progressive masking, evaluated on Test2017 and MSCOCO splits. Similar
to the observations in main paper (Figure 4), we observe a larger gap between VALHALLA and text-only model with low context sizes \(k\), validating its effectiveness in translating ambiguous or out-of-context sentences.

**Number of Parameters vs Performance.** Larger model size does not guarantee stronger translation performance due to overfitting. As shown in Table 1 of main paper, among all three backbone architectures experimented on Multi30K, Transformer-Tiny with the least number of parameters achieved the highest scores, consistent with the findings of [16]. Our proposed, VALHALLA achieves 10 BLEU points (8 METEOR points) higher than the text-only baseline transformer on Multi30K EN→DE, and 3 BLEU points (2 METEOR points) higher on EN→FR tasks, while using 2\(\times\) fewer parameters.

#### C.2. Ablation Studies

**Effect of External Data on WIT Tasks.** Table 6 shows full results on WIT with a universal visual encoder pretrained on the union of images from all tasks. While this improves performance on 4 out of 7 tasks, average score over all tasks is only marginally better than individually trained encoders.

**CLIP Hallucination.** A naive method to predict visual features from an input sentence is to utilize a CLIP model [11], learned with a cross-modal contrastive loss that aligns the embedding space of text and image. We train a multimodal translation model with a gating strategy on top of image features extracted from the pretrained CLIP visual encoder, and replace this with text embeddings from CLIP language en-

---

8[https://github.com/moses-smt/mosesdecoder/blob/RELEASE-4.0/scripts/generic/multi-bleu.perl](https://github.com/moses-smt/mosesdecoder/blob/RELEASE-4.0/scripts/generic/multi-bleu.perl)

9[https://github.com/cmu-mtlab/meterr](https://github.com/cmu-mtlab/meterr)
We report BLEU scores on different groups divided according to source sentence lengths on Multi30K Test2017 and MSCOCO split.

Figure 1: Performance vs. Sentence Length. We report BLEU scores on different groups divided according to source sentence lengths on Multi30K Test2017 and MSCOCO split.

Figure 2: Evaluation with Progressive Masking. We plot the METEOR scores of VALHALLA and text-only models evaluated on Test2017 and MSCOCO splits, as well as the relative improvements over the text-only baseline on both EN→DE and EN→FR tasks.

Hallucinating Multiple Images. We study the possibility of modifying the hallucination transformer $f_T$ to predict multiple images for each input sentence. While this in theory enhances the diversity of hallucination, we did not observe significant improvement over baselines. By hallucinating 5 images per example, Transformer-Small model achieved 39.4 ± 0.3 and 60.4 ± 0.2 BLEU score on EN→DE and EN→FR tasks respectively, evaluated on Test2016 split. On Test2017 split, the scores are 31.8 ± 0.4 and 52.2 ± 0.1. Both results are comparable to the results reported in main paper, suggesting that a single hallucination per sample is adequate to capture diverse visual concepts in the input sentence.

Pretrained VAEs. Using the pretrained VAE from DALL-E as the visual encoder gives poor results (58.8 BLEU on Multi30K ‘16 EN→FR). We attribute this to the large visual sequence length (32×32) used by DALL-E, which prevents the MMT transformer to attend to text tokens, as analyzed in Table 5b of main paper. Likewise, use of pre-trained VQGAN VAE [4] with 16×16 latent visual sequence also does not improve results from training on Multi30K alone (59.5 vs. 60.5 BLEU), likely due to the larger sequence length or domain gap between pretraining datasets.

C.3. Qualitative Examples

Translation under Limited Visual Context. Figure 3 shows additional qualitative translation results under both progressive masking and visual entity masking. We observe that in both EN→DE and EN→FR tasks, our proposed VALHALLA models are often capable of generating more fluent and logical translations than the text-only baseline transformer, by choosing plausible phrases to replace the masked tokens in the source sentences.

Reconstructed Visual Hallucinations. Figure 4 visualizes the hallucinated visual tokens using the VQGAN VAE decoder, which is pretrained jointly with VAE encoder $f_V$. As seen from the examples, VALHALLA captures abstract concepts such as “surfer” and “red ribbons”, despite not being trained for high-quality image generation.

D. Limitations

Effectiveness of our approach depends on availability of good quality images to train the visual hallucination transformer, which is often difficult to collect especially for languages beyond English. Another potential limitation is training complexity which we believe could be greatly improved if we pre-extract VQGAN-VAE tokens, like existing methods did with ResNet-based visual encoders.

E. Broader Impact

Our approach not only leads to more accurate translation systems on top of the existing text-only methods, but also breaks the major bottleneck of using visual information in
multimodal machine translation. Our research can have a positive impact on many real-world applications of neural machine translation involving a broad range of languages. It improves translation performance in both well- and under-resourced scenarios which is of great practical importance. Negative impacts of our research are difficult to predict, however, it shares many of the pitfalls associated with standard MT models such as dataset/social bias and susceptibility to adversarial attacks. While we believe that these issues should be mitigated, they are beyond the scope of this paper.

References

[1] Ondřej Bojar, Christian Buck, Christian Federmann, Barry Haddow, Philipp Koehn, Johannes Leveling, Christof Monz, Pavel Pecina, Matt Post, Herve Saint-Amand, et al. Findings of the 2014 workshop on statistical machine translation. In Proceedings of the ninth workshop on statistical machine translation, pages 12–58, 2014. 1, 2

[2] Michael Denkowski and Alon Lavie. Meteor universal: Language specific translation evaluation for any target language. In Proceedings of the ninth workshop on statistical machine translation, pages 376–380, 2014. 3

[3] Desmond Elliott, Stella Frank, Khalil Sima’an, and Lucia Specia. Multi30k: Multilingual english-german image descriptions. arXiv preprint arXiv:1605.00459, 2016. 1, 2, 3

[4] Patrick Esser, Robin Rombach, and Bjorn Ommer. Taming transformers for high-resolution image synthesis. In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, pages 12873–12883, 2021. 4

[5] Philip Gage. A new algorithm for data compression. C Users Journal, 12(2):23–38, 1994. 1

[6] Jonas Gehring, Michael Auli, David Grangier, Denis Yarats, and Yann N Dauphin. Convolutional sequence to sequence learning. In International Conference on Machine Learning, pages 1243–1252. PMLR, 2017. 2

[7] Diederik P Kingma and Jimmy Ba. Adam: A method for stochastic optimization. arXiv preprint arXiv:1412.6980, 2014. 2

[8] Myle Ott, Sergey Edunov, Alexei Baevski, Angela Fan, Sam Gross, Nathan Ng, David Grangier, and Michael Auli. fairseq: A fast, extensible toolkit for sequence modeling. In Proceedings of NAACL-HLT 2019: Demonstrations, 2019. 3

[9] Kishore Papineni, Salim Roukos, Todd Ward, and Wei-Jing Zhu. Bleu: a method for automatic evaluation of machine translation. In Proceedings of the 40th annual meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, pages 311–318, 2002. 3

[10] Adam Paszke, Sam Gross, Francisco Massa, Adam Lerer, James Bradbury, Gregory Chanan, Trevor Killeen, Zeming Lin, Natalia Gimelshein, Luca Antiga, et al. Pytorch: An imperative style, high-performance deep learning library. Advances in neural information processing systems, 32:8026–8037, 2019. 3

[11] Alec Radford, Jong Wook Kim, Chris Hallacy, Aditya Ramesh, Gabriel Goh, Sandhini Agarwal, Girish Sastry, Amanda Askell, Pamela Mishkin, Jack Clark, et al. Pytorch: An imperative style, high-performance deep learning library. Advances in neural information processing systems, 32:8026–8037, 2019. 3

[12] Aditya Ramesh, Mikhail Pavlov, Gabriel Goh, Scott Gray, Chelsea Voss, Alec Radford, Mark Chen, and Ilya Sutskever. Zero-shot text-to-image generation. arXiv preprint arXiv:2102.12092, 2021. 2

[13] Rico Sennrich, Barry Haddow, and Alexandra Birch. Neural machine translation of rare words with subword units. arXiv preprint arXiv:1508.07909, 2015. 1

[14] Krishna Srivivasan, Karthik Raman, Jieciao Chen, Michael Bendersky, and Marc Najork. Wit: Wikipedia-based image text dataset for multimodal multilingual machine learning. arXiv preprint arXiv:2103.01913, 2021. 1, 2, 3

[15] Ashish Vaswani, Noam Shazeer, Niki Parmar, Jakob Uszkoreit, Llion Jones, Aidan N Gomez, Luksaz Kaiser, and Illia Polosukhin. Attention is all you need. In Proceedings of the 27th international conference on machine learning, pages 116–124. Omnipress, 2010. 3

[16] Zhiyong Wu, Lingpeng Kong, Wei Bi, Xiang Li, and Ben Kao. Good for misconceived reasons: An empirical revisiting on the need for visual context in multimodal machine translation. In Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation, pages 2552–2563, 2014. 4

Table 6: Training Visual Encoder (VQGAN VAE) with External Data on WIT.

| Method | External Data | EN→DE | EN→ES | EN→FR | DE→ES | ES→FR | EN→RO | EN→AF | Average |
|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| VALHALLA | X | 17.5 ± 0.4 | 27.5 ± 0.2 | 18.8 ± 0.2 | 11.3 ± 0.2 | 16.6 ± 0.8 | 14.4 ± 1.0 | 14.0 ± 0.5 | 17.2 ± 0.4 |
| | ✓ | 18.0 ± 0.3 | 27.7 ± 0.4 | 19.1 ± 0.3 | 11.3 ± 0.7 | 17.4 ± 0.4 | 13.9 ± 0.4 | 13.9 ± 0.4 | 17.3 ± 0.4 |
| VALHALLA (M) | X | 17.4 ± 0.4 | 27.5 ± 0.2 | 18.8 ± 0.2 | 11.3 ± 0.2 | 16.6 ± 0.8 | 14.4 ± 1.0 | 14.0 ± 0.4 | 17.2 ± 0.4 |
| | ✓ | 18.0 ± 0.3 | 27.8 ± 0.4 | 19.1 ± 0.3 | 11.3 ± 0.7 | 17.4 ± 0.4 | 13.9 ± 0.4 | 13.9 ± 0.4 | 17.3 ± 0.4 |

Table 7: BLEU score with CLIP Hallucination, evaluated with Transformer-Small models on Multi30K.

| Method | EN→DE | EN→FR |
|--------|--------|--------|
| Test2016 | Test2017 | MSCOCO | Average | Test2016 | Test2017 | MSCOCO | Average |
| Text-Only | 38.2 ± 0.4 | 28.8 ± 0.4 | 25.8 ± 0.3 | 30.9 ± 0.4 | 38.7 ± 0.2 | 30.1 ± 0.3 | 27.3 ± 0.6 | 32.1 ± 0.3 | 60.5 ± 0.1 | 52.3 ± 0.7 | 43.1 ± 0.3 | 52.0 ± 0.4 |
| CLIP | 38.7 ± 0.2 | 30.1 ± 0.3 | 27.3 ± 0.6 | 32.1 ± 0.3 | 59.0 ± 0.6 | 51.6 ± 0.3 | 42.6 ± 0.6 | 51.1 ± 0.5 | 60.5 ± 0.1 | 52.3 ± 0.7 | 43.1 ± 0.3 | 52.0 ± 0.4 |
| VALHALLA | 39.4 ± 0.3 | 31.7 ± 0.2 | 27.9 ± 0.3 | 33.0 ± 0.3 | 58.4 ± 0.4 | 50.9 ± 0.3 | 41.6 ± 0.4 | 50.3 ± 0.4 | 60.5 ± 0.1 | 52.3 ± 0.7 | 43.1 ± 0.3 | 52.0 ± 0.4 |

Table 7: BLEU score with CLIP Hallucination, evaluated with Transformer-Small models on Multi30K.
A boy wearing a red shirt digs into the sand with a yellow shovel.  

Source: EN  
Reference: DE  
Text-Only: Ein junge in einem roten hemd gräbt mit einer gelben schaufel im sand.  
(A boy wearing a red shirt is digging in the sand with a yellow shovel.)

A child is riding a bike down an alleyway with graffiti in it.  

Source: EN  
Reference: FR  
Text-Only: Un enfant en bleu et un enfant en blanc sont debout sur un mur de béton.  
(A child in blue and a child in a white t-shirt are standing on a concrete wall.)

A guy in a white shirt is walking with a drink in his hand.  

Source: EN  
Reference: FR  
Text-Only: Un gars en t-shirt blanc marche avec une boisson dans sa bouche.  
(A man in a white t-shirt is walking with a drink in his mouth.)

Figure 3: Qualitative Translation Results with Progressive Masking and Visual Entity Masking. Phrases in gray in the source sentence are masked with <v> at model input. VALHALLA models generate more fluent and logical translations than text-only baseline transformer.

Figure 4: Reconstruction of Hallucinated Visual Tokens. We use the pretrained VQGAN VAE image decoder to visualize the hallucinated visual sequence (the image decoder is not fine-tuned jointly with VALHALLA). VALHALLA captures abstract concepts such as “skateboarder” and “red ribbons”, despite not being trained for high-quality image generation. Best viewed in color.