

# Adversarial Illusions in Multi-Modal Embeddings

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*Ceci n'est pas une pomme*



*Magnette*

*Magnette*

# Multi-modal Models Are All the Rage

## ImageBind

Research by Meta AI



Titan (Amazon)



Vertex (Google)

Meta ImageBind: An AI Model That Mimics Human Perception

Amazon Titan Embeddings for enhanced content recommendations to power 1:1 personalization

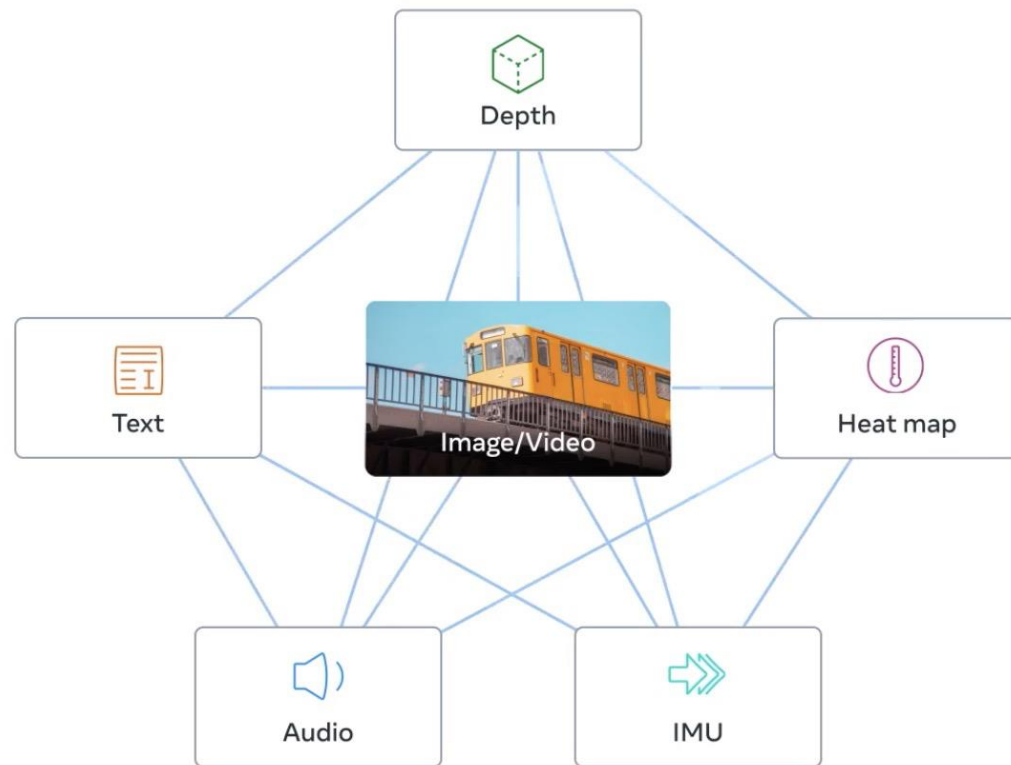
Create Your Own Multimodal Search Engine Using Google's Vertex AI

# Multi-modal Models Are All the Rage

## ImageBind: a new way to 'link' AI across the senses

Introducing ImageBind, the first AI model capable of binding data from six modalities at once, without the need for explicit supervision. By recognizing the relationships between these modalities — images and video, audio, text, depth, thermal and inertial measurement units (IMUs) — this breakthrough helps advance AI by enabling machines to better analyze many different forms of information, together.

Explore the demo to see ImageBind's capabilities across image, audio and text modalities.



# Word Embeddings

## GloVe: Global Vectors for Word Representation

Jeffrey Pennington, Richard Socher, Christopher D. Manning  
 Computer Science Department, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305  
 jpenning@stanford.edu, richard@socher.org, manning@stanford.edu

### Abstract

Recent methods for learning vector space representations of words have succeeded in capturing fine-grained semantic and syntactic regularities in text. We make explicit the model properties needed for such regularities to emerge in word vectors. The result is a new global log-linear regression model that combines the advantages of the two major model families in the literature: global matrix factorization and local context window methods. Our model efficiently leverages statistical information by training only on the nonzero elements in a word-word co-occurrence matrix, rather than on the entire sparse matrix or on individual context windows in a large corpus. The model produces a vector space with meaningful sub-structure, as evidenced by its performance of 75% on a recent word analogy task. It also outperforms related models on similarity tasks and named entity recognition.

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# GloVe

42K citations

## Efficient Estimation of Word Representations in Vector Space

Tomas Mikolov Google Inc., Mountain View, CA tmikolov@google.com  
 Kai Chen Google Inc., Mountain View, CA kaichen@google.com

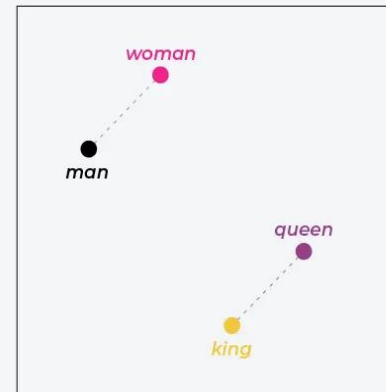
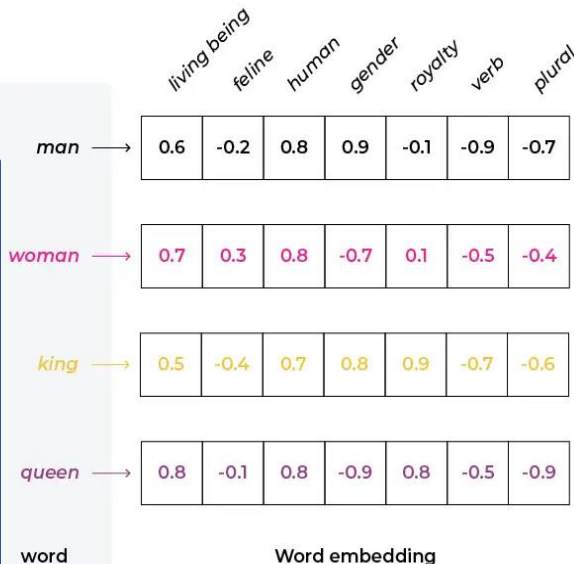
Grigory Sutskever Google Research, Mountain View, CA gsutske@google.com  
 Jeffrey Dean Google Inc., Mountain View, CA jeff@tensorflow.org

# Word2vec

### Abstract

We propose two novel model architectures for computing continuous vector representations of words from very large data sets. The quality of these representations is measured in a word similarity task, and the results are compared to the previously best performing techniques based on different types of neural networks. We observe large improvements in accuracy at much lower computational cost, i.e. it takes less than a day to learn high quality word vectors from a 1.6 billion words data set. Furthermore, we show that these vectors provide state-of-the-art performance on our test set for measuring syntactic and semantic word similarities.

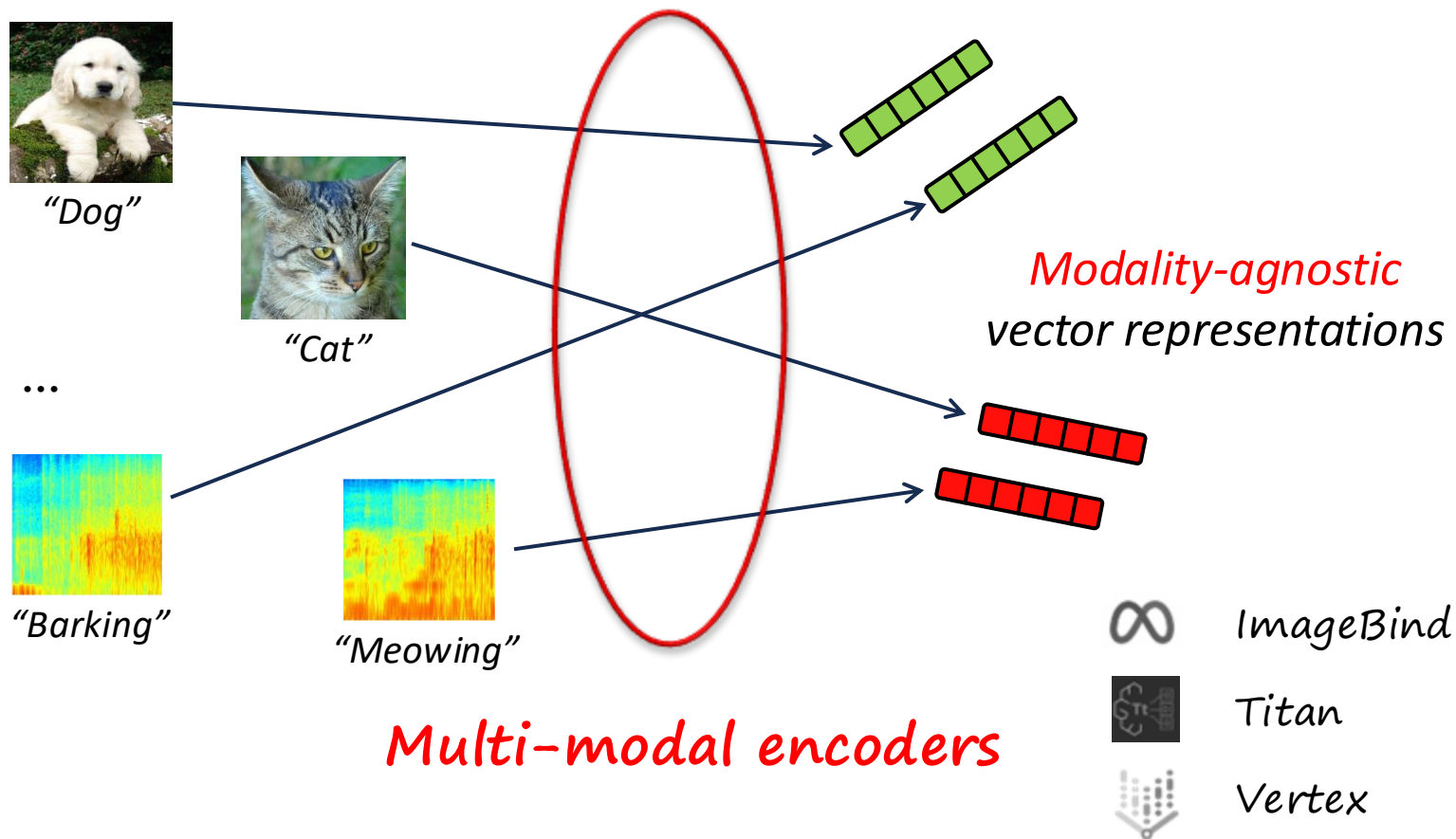
43K citations



Visualization of word embedding

Words → Vector representations

# Multi-modal Embeddings

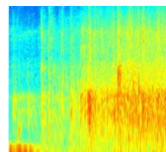


# Alignment

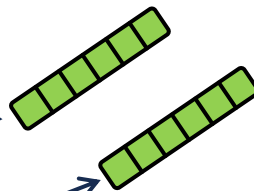


"Dog"

...



"Barking"

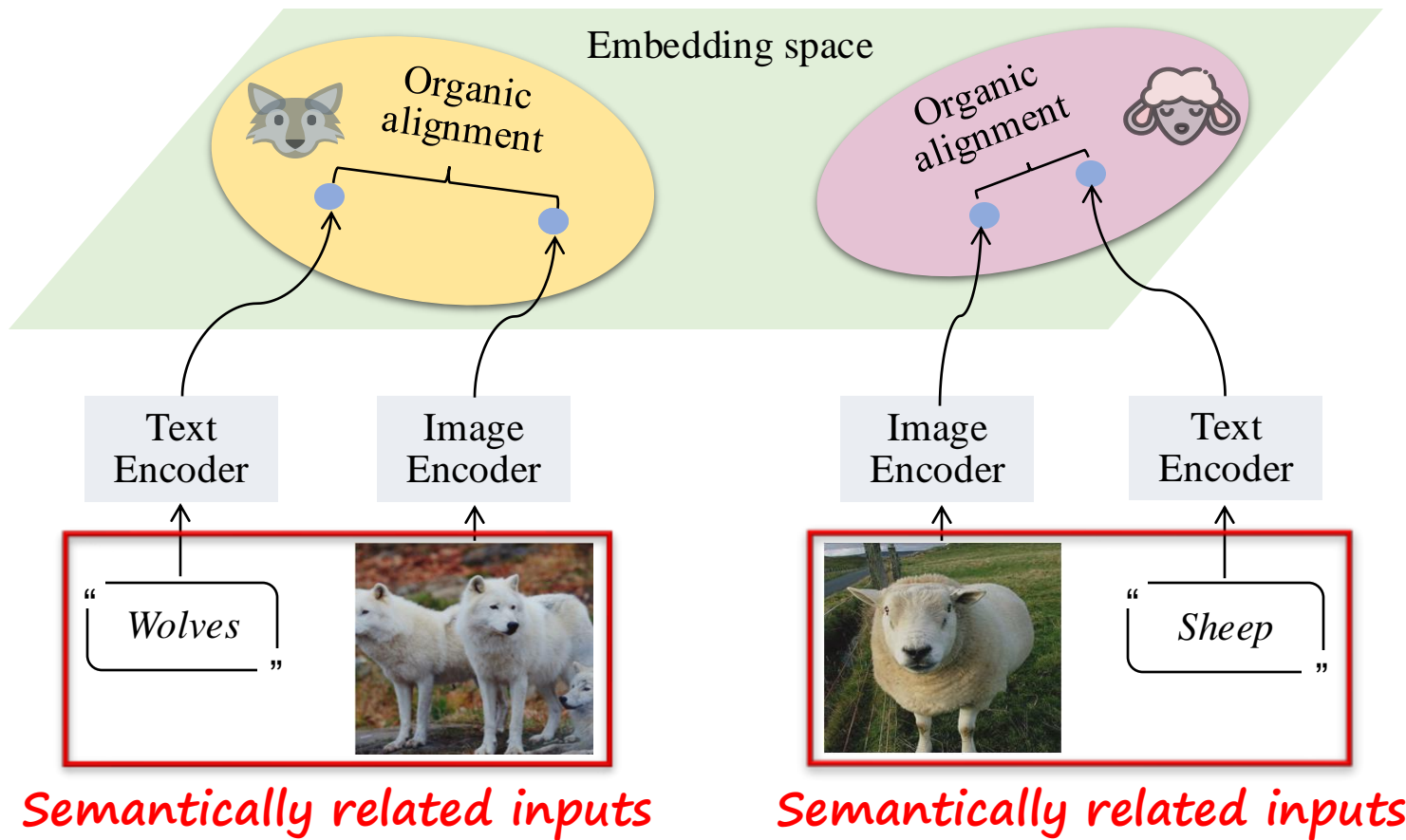


*Key concept: alignment*

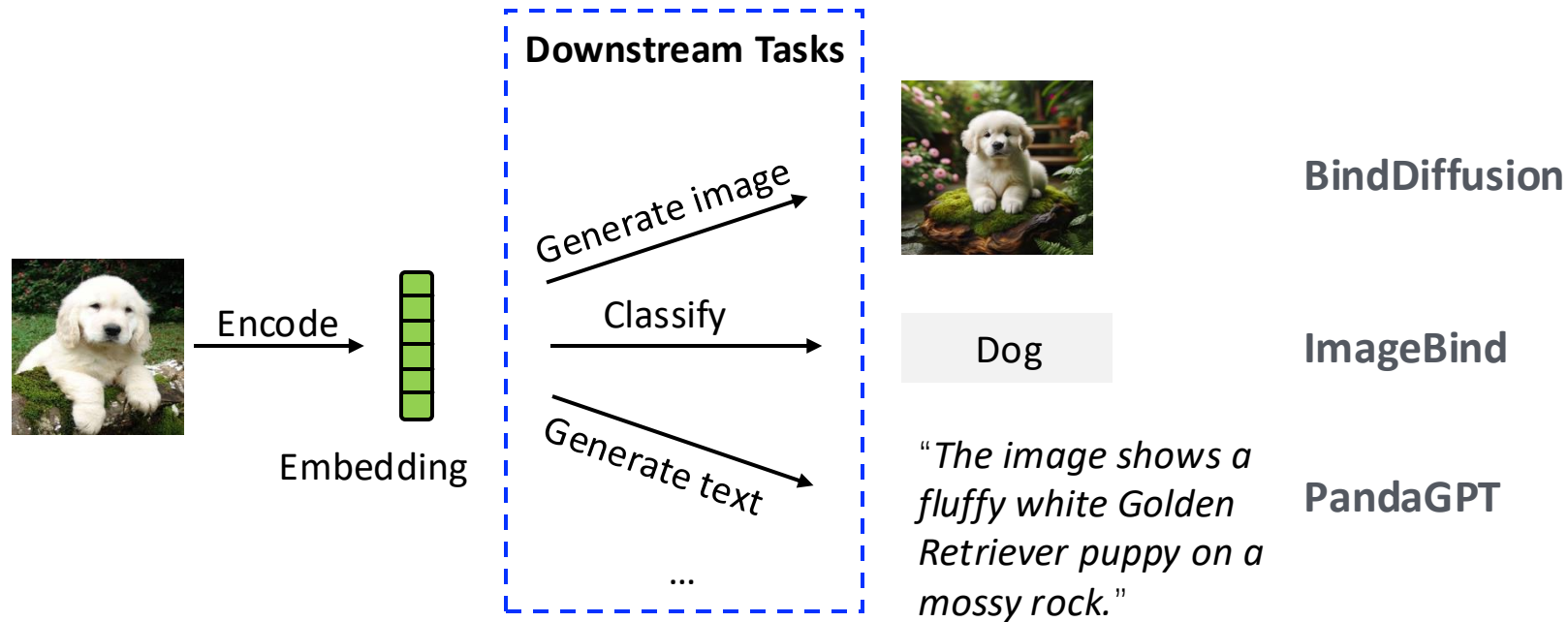
Semantically similar inputs are encoded into similar vectors

*Note: not to be confused with "safety alignment"*

# Alignment



# Multi-Modal Pipeline

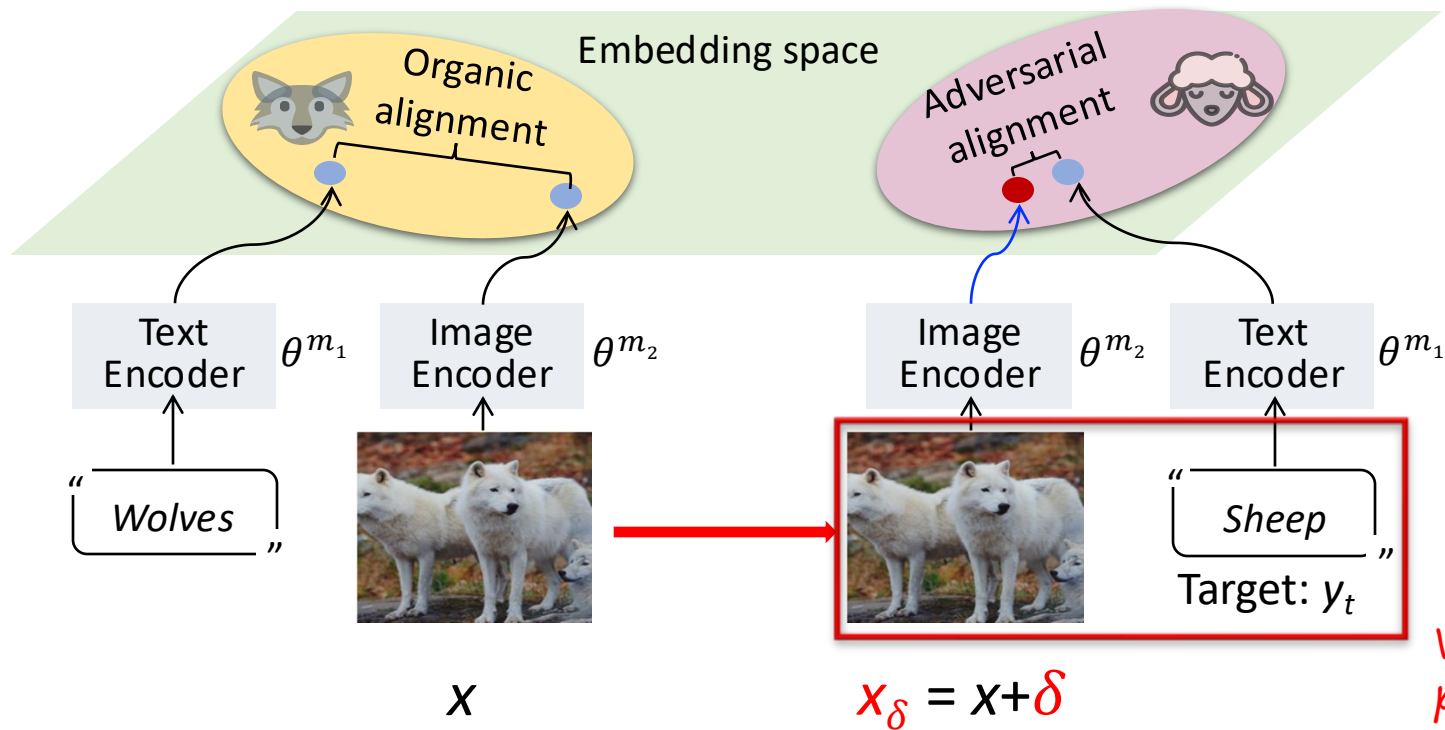


Any task on any input modality

*Even modalities the task was NOT trained on.*



# Adversarial Alignment



What if adversary perturbs an input to align it with an unrelated target?

# Multi-Modal Adversarial Illusions

Clean input                      Alignment                      Target

$$\theta^m (x + \delta) \sim \theta^{\bar{m}} (y_t)$$

Encoder for the input modality                      perturbation                      Encoder for the target modality

The diagram shows the equation  $\theta^m (x + \delta) \sim \theta^{\bar{m}} (y_t)$  on a light yellow background. Above the equation, three labels are positioned: 'Clean input' with a black arrow pointing to  $x$ , 'Alignment' centered above the tilde symbol, and 'Target' with a red arrow pointing to  $y_t$ . Below the equation, three labels are positioned: 'Encoder for the input modality' under  $\theta^m$ , 'perturbation' in red text under  $\delta$  with a red arrow pointing up to it, and 'Encoder for the target modality' under  $\theta^{\bar{m}}$ .

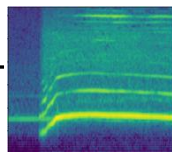
We call these **multi-modal adversarial illusions**

# Turning Wolves Into Sheep

Cross-modal

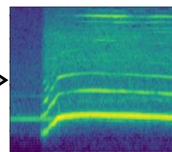
Image

Audio



Wolf howling

Align in embedding space



Ram, tup (sheep)



White wolf, arctic wolf

Works for all downstream tasks

Downstream Tasks		
Generate image	Zero-shot (on ImageNet)	Can you describe this sound?

*The sound is a dog barking.*

*The sound of a sheep bleating.*

Text (not one of the input modalities)

## Aren't these just adversarial examples?

Different target — embedding alignment!

Task agnostic

Cross-modal



*For example, use text to  
attack image-only models*

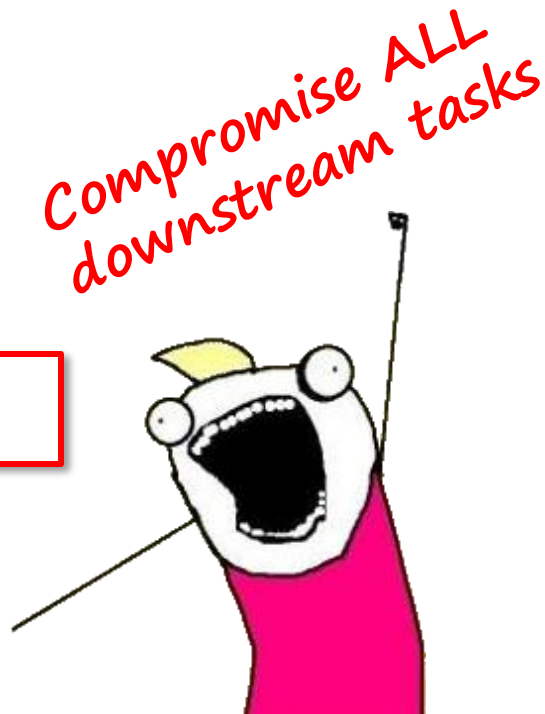
*Defenses??*

Adversarial alignment >>> organic alignment



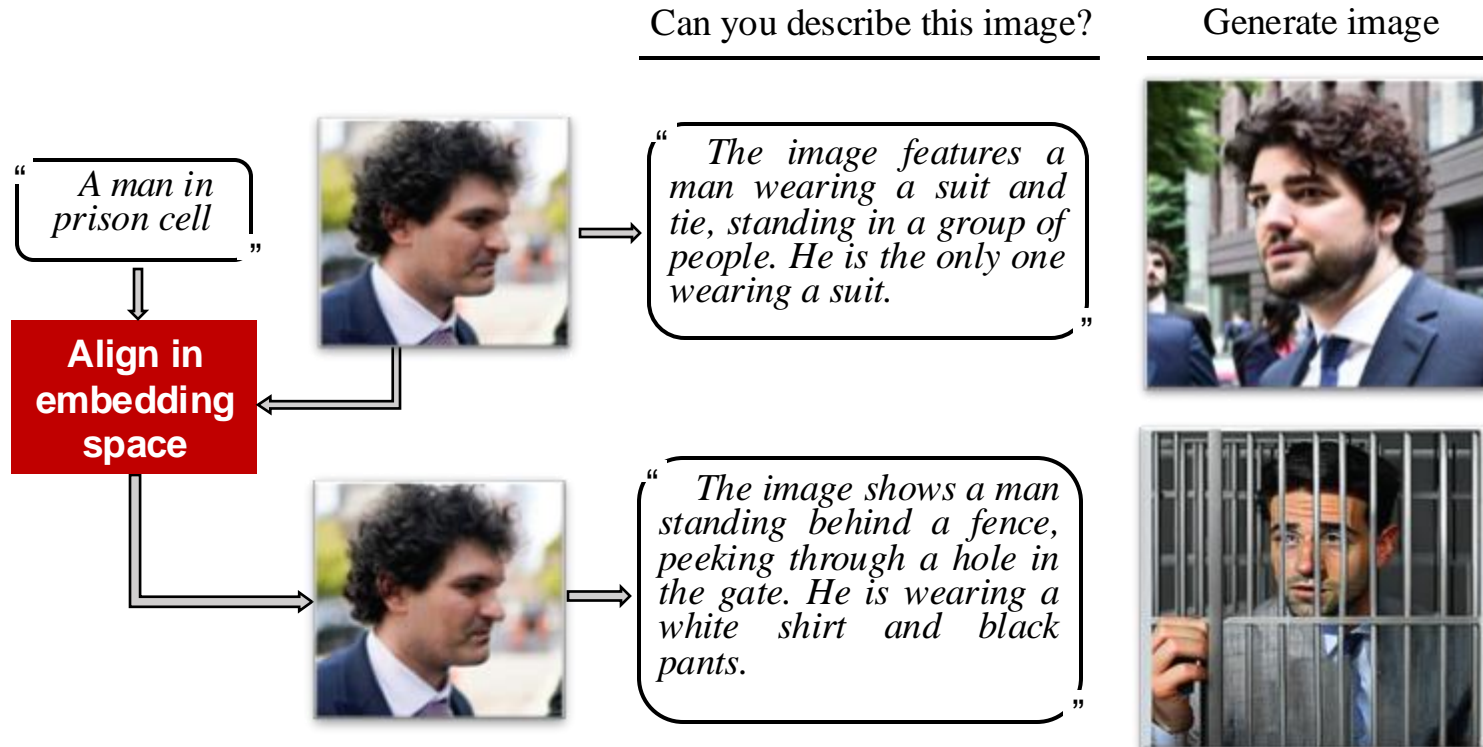
# Multi-Modal Adversarial Illusions

Align any input with any target



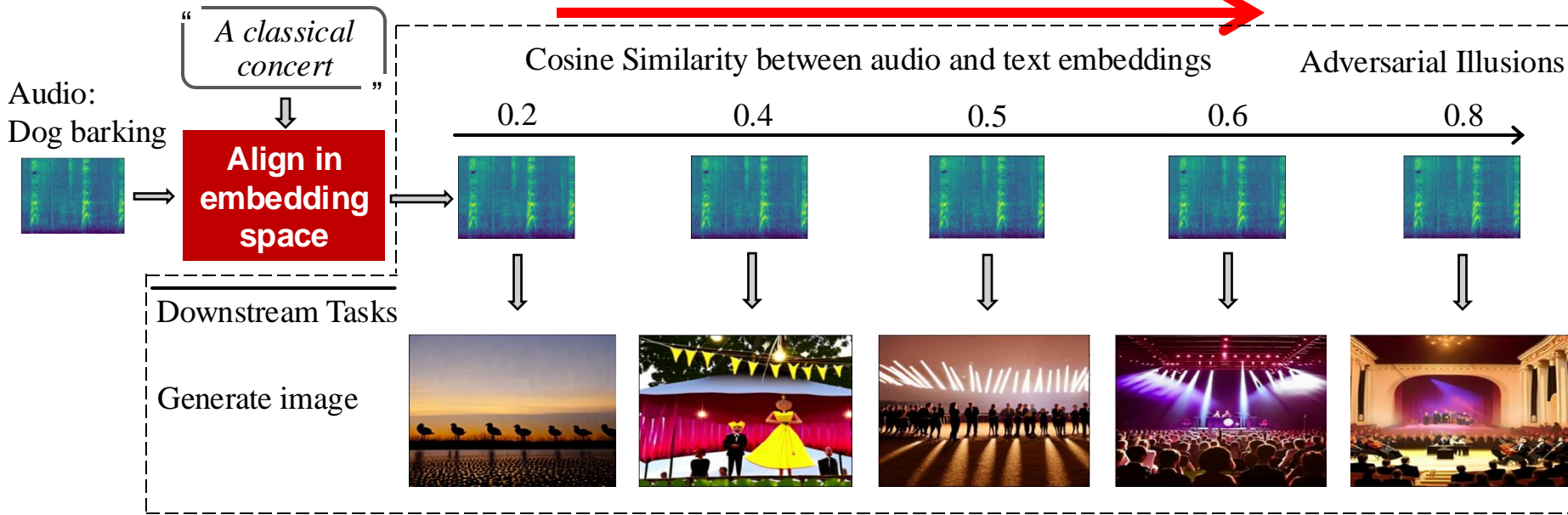
# Schadenfreude

## Downstream Tasks



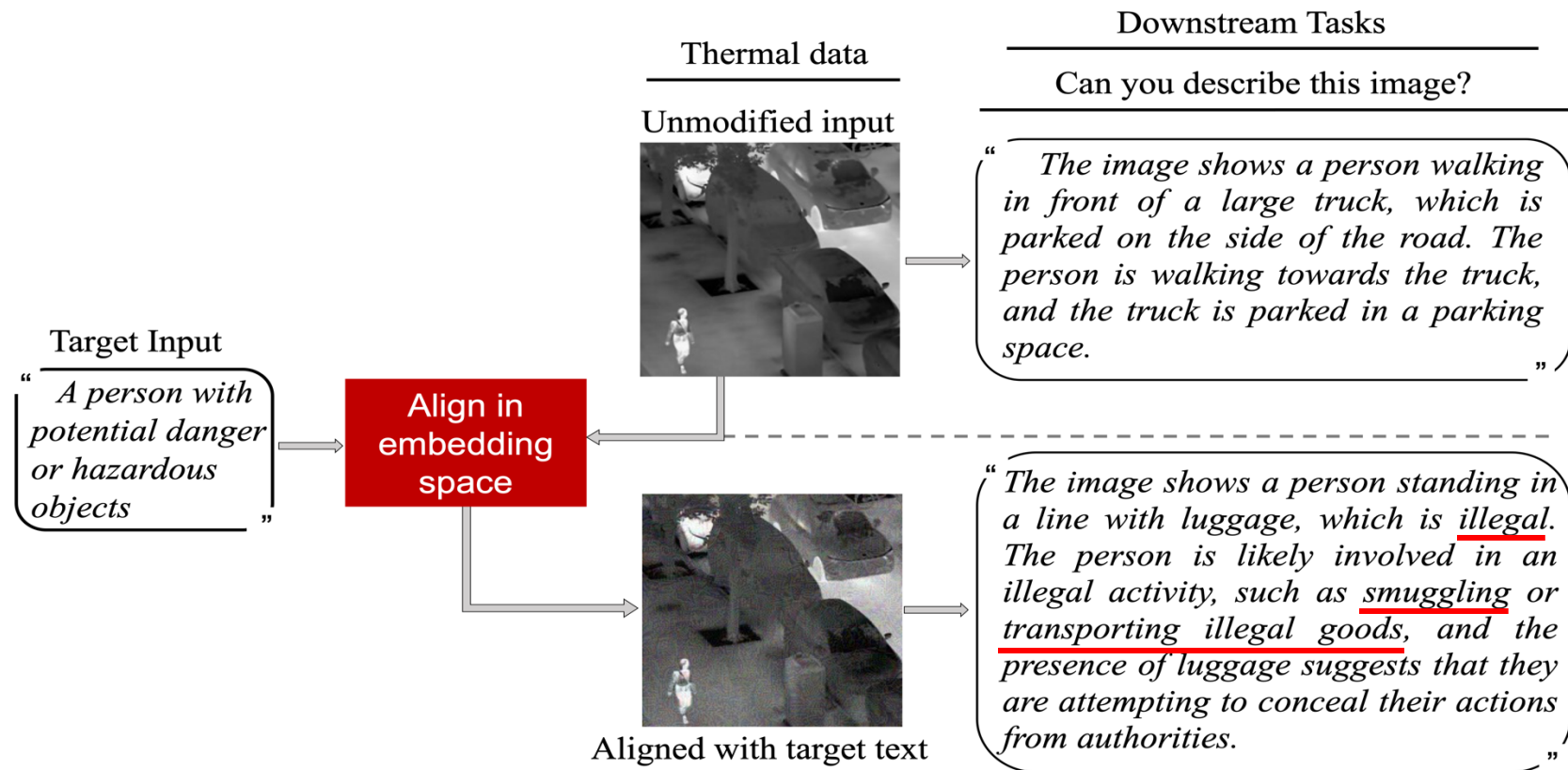
# Symphony of Woofs

As alignment increases, the “meaning” of the input get closer to the adversary’s target.



Adversary does not operate with *image* modality.

# Surveillance





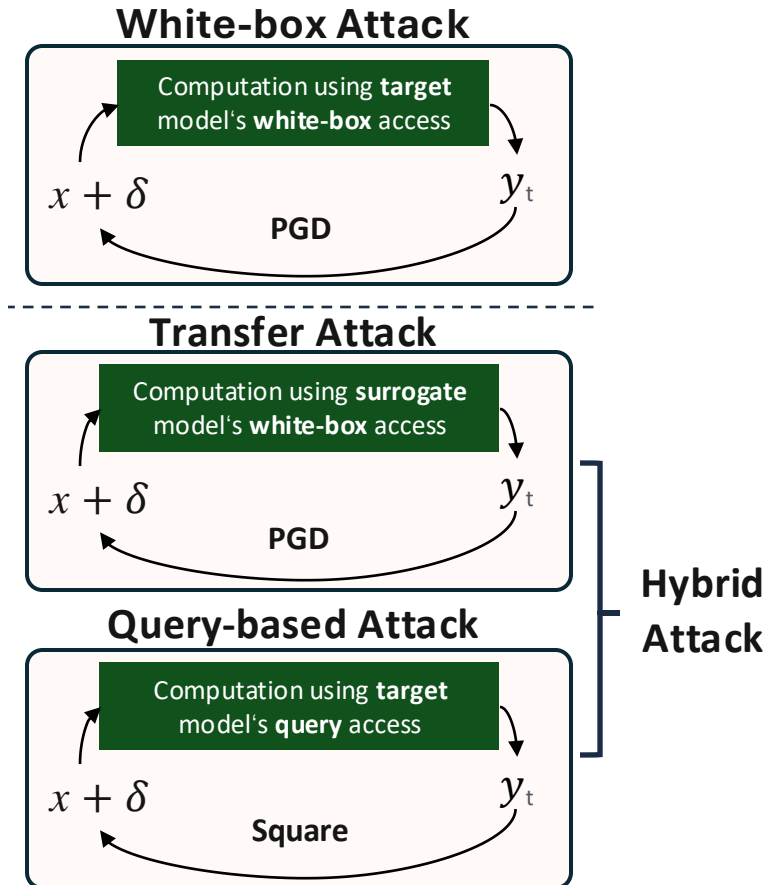
**White-box** (full access to the target model)

**Black-box**

- Transfer (access to surrogate models only)
- Query-based (can query the target model with limited queries)
- Hybrid (Transfer + Query-based)

# Crafting Cross-Modal Illusions

- **White-box:** iteratively update perturbation  $\delta$  with PGD
- **Transfer:** generate illusions with local surrogate model
- **Query-based:** iteratively update perturbation  $\delta$  with a variation of Square
- **Hybrid:** “warm-start” a query-based attack with locally generated illusion



# White-Box Results

- **99%** success against zero-shot classification (images, thermal images, audio) and audio retrieval
- **68%** success against classification of generated text
- **64%** Top-1 success and **92%** Top-5 success against classification of generated images

*If downstream models were better, attack would be more successful*

# Transfer Results



**AudioCLIP:**

adversarial alignment=0.2857

*Transfer*

“ Centipede ”

**ImageBind:**

adversarial alignment=0.6784

Our illusions successfully fool all victim models with **97.5%** success rate.

# Black-box Results

- **98%** success rates against black-box ImageBind and AudioCLIP with 18,942 and 4,112 queries (on average)
- **38%** Top-1 success and **58%** Top-5 success against classification of generated images with 100,000 queries

Amazon's Titan Embedding



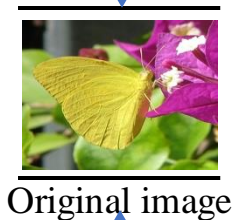
*Commercial,  
proprietary, black-box  
embedding*

- 30% success against zero-shot classification with 20,919 queries
- **Hybrid attack:** 42% success with 18,019 queries

# Certified Robustness



Force alignment  
between all  
inputs within  
small distance



Original image



0.01



0.05



0.1



Should NOT be aligned



0.3



0.5



Should be aligned

These images have the  
same distance from the  
original...

should "robust" embedding  
align them or not??



0.1

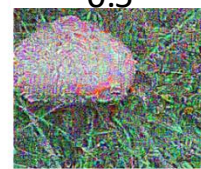


0.3



0.5

Should NOT be aligned



Should be aligned

# Takeaways

- Multi-modal embeddings are highly vulnerable to cross-modal adversarial illusions
- Embedding attacks are **task-agnostic**: adversary need not know the task or even which modalities the task accepts
  - Text, images, audio, thermal images...
  - Attacks on retrieval, zero-shot classification, generation
- What did we learn from 10 years of research and 10 million papers on adversarial robustness?



# Thank You!

Our code is available!



*“The Treachery of Images”  
by René Magritte*

