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Reconstructing Animals and the Wild

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Figure 1. We train an LLM to decode a frozen CLIP embedding of a natural image into a structured, compositional scene representation encompassing explicit representations of both animals and their surrounding environment, reconstructing animals *and* the wild (RAW).

Abstract

The notion of 3D reconstruction as scene understanding is foundational in computer vision. Reconstructing 3D scenes from 2D visual observations necessitates strong priors to disambiguate structure. Much work has been focused on the anthropocentric, which, characterized by smooth surfaces, coherent normals, and regular edges, allows for the integration of strong geometric inductive biases. Here, we consider a more challenging problem where such assumptions do not hold: the reconstruction of natural scenes containing trees, bushes, boulders, and animals. While numerous works have attempted to tackle the problem of reconstructing animals in the wild, they have focused solely on the animal, neglecting environmental context. This limits their usefulness for analysis tasks, as animals exist inherently within the 3D world, and information is lost when environmental factors are disregarded. We propose a method to reconstruct

natural scenes from single images. We base our approach on recent advances leveraging the strong world priors ingrained in Large Language Models and train an autoregressive model to decode a CLIP embedding into a structured, compositional scene representation, encompassing both animals and the wild. To enable this, we propose a synthetic dataset comprising one million images and thousands of assets. Through our introduction of a CLIP-projection head, we demonstrate that our approach generalizes to the task of reconstructing animals and their environments in realworld images, despite having been trained solely on synthetic data. We release our dataset and code to encourage future research at https://raw.is.tue.mpg.de/.

1. Introduction

The 3D reconstruction of the physical world from visual observations plays a fundamental role in computer vision, providing the foundation for Marr and Nishihara [56]'s computational model of visual perception. The process culminates in a structured 3D representation of the environment. Compositional 3D reconstructions of scenes, where objects are distinguished into semantic classes, are particularly amenable to analysis, enabling editing and simulation. When such reconstructions are represented in a compact form that encapsulates and can be used to reproduce the scene, they become expressive models of 3D reality, supporting applications in modeling of physical behavior [47].

Recent work has built on developments in Large Language Models (LLMs) to reconstruct simple scenes composed of a few objects from a monocular image by inferring graphics code [41], or to reproduce architectural layouts of indoor scenes represented in an ad-hoc vector format [4].

We consider a more challenging problem, the reconstruction of outdoor natural scenes containing diverse vegetation and animals. These open settings present distinct difficulties: unlike man-made scenes, natural environments are harder to interpret, as animals often blend into their surroundings with camouflaging colors and patterns; objects may be positioned at varying distances, some very close and others very far, or under a range of lighting conditions; and natural scenes can feature complex interactions between elements, such as trees, animals, and other natural objects. Unlike Avetisyan et al. [4] and in line with Kulits et al. [41], we reconstruct scenes in compositional graphics code from a single image, producing interpretable, editable, and animatable scenes that integrate with existing graphics assets.

While reconstructing natural scenes is itself an unsolved computer-vision problem, we are motivated by the goal of enabling a next-generation computational ethology [2]. Early vision-aided animal-behavior analysis methods relied on 2D pose observations [65]. However, 2D pose provides only limited information and, given that the solution is view-dependent, it is typically only applicable in controlled environments for problems like animal-gait analysis from a fixed camera [19]. The transition to 3D reconstruction of animals represents a natural progression [13, 38, 102], offering a more comprehensive picture. However, reconstructing animals in isolation presents limitations for analysis; for example, studying animal behavior in an empty volume cannot account for occlusions, physical boundaries, or natural interactions. Precise environmental context is useful for understanding animal behavior, yet natural environments pose challenges for both representation and reconstruction. To date, no work has attempted to concurrently reconstruct both 3D animals and their 3D environment. Instead, research in recent years has largely focused on creating increasingly detailed 3D representations of isolated animals. We take a step back, opting instead to work in a complementary direction: rather than pursuing ever-finer models of animals, we prioritize estimat-



Figure 2. **Dataset Samples.** Training images from our synthesized dataset. See the Supp. Mat. for additional sample visualizations.

ing precise layout of the greater scene context with relatively coarse shape representations, to capture the overall environment. In this work, we are the first to tackle the problem of compositionally reconstructing natural scenes from monocular images, presenting the first approach to Reconstruct Animals *and* the Wild (RAW); see Fig. 1.

Modeling Natural Environments in 3D. The 3D reconstruction of natural environments from monocular images presents challenges, stemming both from the fundamental ill-posedness of inverting 2D images into their originating 3D scenes and from a lack of adequate graphics models for representing natural environments. The natural world is notably more complex and varied than anthropocentric environments with their geometric regularity. Consequently, modeling natural environments in a manner conducive to analysis is not straightforward. To address this, we propose a compositional approach that represents environments as ordered sets of objects in conjunction with various scenelevel attributes. This explicit, object-based representation is interpretable and low-dimensional, abstracting away complexity in a manner facilitating downstream analysis [90].

Data. Teaching a model to decompose single images of animals and their natural environments into structured 3D representations requires it having broad compositional understanding, yet acquiring suitable training data presents its own obstacles. Because the 3D scanning of nature at scale is impractical, here we exploit synthetic-data generation. Building upon tools introduced by the Infinigen project [64], we design a data generator to construct RAW, a million-image dataset comprising both synthetic animals and their environments. Our scenes encompass a range of elements types, including birds, carnivores, herbivores, bushes, boulders, and trees. See Fig. 2 for dataset samples. Reconstruction. Our goal is to approximately reconstruct 3D animals, scene objects, and layout from a single natural image. To that end, we design a structured graphicsprogram representation, or language. Akin to [41], we train an LLM to decode CLIP [63] image features into graphics code where objects are represented by their asset identities.

However, when naively training the language model to produce this sequence, we observe that, while it may learn to capture well the scene layout, it fails to generalize to estimating out-of-distribution objects in a semantically meaningful way, preventing real-world generalization. This manifests as reconstructing a tiger with a bush or a bird with a boulder; see Fig. 5a. We hypothesize this inconsistency arises due to limitations in representation/train-time supervision. Built upon a causal LLM, the model operates autoregressively, reconstructing scenes in incremental chunks (Fig. 1). These discretized units, known as tokens, represent bits of text. During training, language models typically are optimized through a cross-entropy next-token objective, whereby they are trained to predict the probabilities of the subsequent token, conditioned on the preceding ones. Although this discrete text-based representation and supervision excel in capturing distinct categorical attributes such as "small," "purple," "shiny," or "cube," difficulties arise when representing quantities that are naturally continuous [41].

Asset names, represented as discrete tokens, lack a meaningful distance metric between one another. This becomes problematic when the objective is not to retrieve the precise object, for which no dataset match may exist, but to provide the best estimate. We hypothesize that, rather than training the LLM to infer exact assets by their IDs, the model can be taught to estimate continuous visual appearance, representing assets by their CLIP encodings and supervising prediction by a loss in semantic CLIP space. We do so by adding a unique token, [CLIP], which signals LLM hidden state should bypass the discretizing tokenization process and be projected as a CLIP embedding (Fig. 3).

We observe that with the incorporation of the CLIPprojection head, the model demonstrates the ability to scale, estimating objects in scenes featuring much-expanded diversity. Our approach successfully reconstructs animals and their environments in real images. We will release our dataset and code to encourage further research in this area.

2. Related Work

Animal Pose and Shape. Many works have attempted to estimate animal pose and shape from visual observations, evolving from primitive 2D representations to parametric 3D models. Early work by Ramanan et al. [65] focused on recovering 2D articulated models of animals from video. Research later progressed to 3D representations, with Cashman and Fitzgibbon [13] developing a 3D morphable model of a dolphin from images. Kanazawa et al. [38] extended the idea, additionally learning to model articulations and posedependent deformations. Zuffi et al. [102] advanced this further by constructing an articulatable multi-species 3D morphable model from scans of toy animals, used to recover 3D shape and pose of quadrupeds [8, 9, 58, 68, 103], while others built models to estimate the shape of birds [5, 89].

Recent approaches have somewhat diverged from a clear progression. Kanazawa et al. [39] learned to recover 3D shape and texture of deformable objects from an image. Sanakoyeu et al. [71] adapted 2D dense pose from humans to animals and Kulkarni et al. [42] developed canonicalized surface mappings across articulated objects. Yang et al. [95] extracted template-free 3D neural models of articulated shape from video, while Yao et al. [97] and Wu et al. [91] learned articulated shape models using DINO [12]-featureaided part discovery or correspondence. Sharing an assetbased approach, Wu et al. [92] estimated shape and pose from video by retrieving proximal 3D templates from a collection of video-game assets and deforming the templates.

The inverse-graphics **Inverse-Graphics** Approaches. problem - the task of *inverting* an image into physical variables that, when rendered, enable reproduction of the observed scene - has a long history, dating back to Larry Roberts's Blocks-World thesis [67]. Considerable efforts have focused on tasks such as estimating object pose [46, 49, 53, 61, 79, 85–87, 93] and reconstructing shape from single images [16, 25, 30, 57, 60, 76, 88]. However, works addressing multi-object scenes [21, 28, 74] often neglect object semantics and relationships, limiting deeper reasoning. Holistic 3D-scene understanding aims to reconstruct individual objects along with scene layout. Initial efforts centered on 3D bounding boxes [18, 33, 48, 55, 66], with recent advancements emphasizing finer shape reconstruction [29, 51, 98]. Relatedly, some methods also involve retrieving CAD or mesh models, followed by 6-DoF pose estimation for objects or scenes [3, 6, 24, 31, 36, 37, 43– 45, 50, 70, 82]. In contrast, our work, like IG-LLM [41], explores the use of LLMs for the inverse-graphics problem, seeking a possibly simpler and more generalizable solution.

Synthetic Data in Vision. The use of synthetic data for training transferable models has proven successful in recent years. Applications involve learning to detect [81], segment [14], track objects [101], navigate [20, 69], and estimate optical flow [22], depth [64], and human pose and shape [10, 84]. We extend this paradigm by learning to extract compositional 3D scene representations from natural images using procedurally generated Blender [17] scenes, building off tools introduced by the Infinigen project [64].

LLMs and 3D Understanding. Recent applications of LLMs have extended to various 3D-related tasks. These tasks include 3D question answering [23, 34], task planning [34, 52, 99], text-to-3D scene synthesis [35, 78, 96], procedural model editing [40], multi-modal representation learning [34, 94], and 3D scene reconstruction from calibrated RGB-D image sequences [4]. These applications demonstrate the broad applicability of LLMs to tasks not traditionally considered text-based. We continue along the line of IG-LLM [41] and employ an LLM to decode CLIP embeddings into structured 3D scene representations.



Figure 3. **CLIP Head.** Rather than teaching the LLM to generate asset names as discrete tokens without a semantic distance metric, we train the model to produce a special token to signal when the hidden state should instead be projected into a continuous CLIP embedding.

3. Method

3.1. Preliminaries

Autoregressive Language Generation. Causal language models generate text in an autoregressive manner, proceeding chunk by chunk. Each generated chunk, known as a token, is conditioned on the preceding sequence of generated chunks. Individual tokens can represent bytes, or one or more characters [72]. The models are typically trained with only a simple next-token prediction objective [7], conditioned on the sequence of previously observed tokens:

$$p(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} p(s_i | s_1, \dots s_{i-1})$$
(1)

The loss is cross-entropy over predicted token probabilities. **Inverse Graphics With LLMs.** LLMs are known for their robust zero-shot generalization capabilities [1, 11, 62], owing to their scale in parameters and the vast amounts of data on which they are trained. Departing from traditional approaches, the success of LLMs to diverse tasks stems from training on large, diverse datasets with a simple objective, followed by fine-tuning on smaller, task-specific sets. This contrasts with previous paradigms that relied heavily on increasing task-specific data for improvements on that task.

Motivated by the remarkable generalization ability of LLMs, IG-LLM [41] treats inverse graphics as LLMbacked inductive program synthesis. It employs an LLM, aligns a CLIP [63] vision encoder to its token space as a visual tokenizer, and finetunes it on primitive demonstrations of images paired with graphics programs, teaching the LLM to decode CLIP embeddings into structured code representations that can be used to reproduce the observed scene using a standard 3D graphics engine. The demonstrations are produced using procedurally generated image–code pairs.

Continuous-Parameter Estimation in LLMs. Tokens are discrete entities, and the cross-entropy loss applied does not

impose any particular ordering. In this loss space, a '4' token is equally distant from a '5' as it is from an '8.' The discrete nature of the tokens makes it difficult to enforce metric supervision. IG-LLM [41] addresses this challenge by introducing a numeric module for continuous-parameter estimation. Rather than passing numbers through the text tokenizer, IG-LLM trains the model to produce a special mask token, [NUM], indicating that the token embedding should bypass the gradient-breaking token discretization and be processed by an MLP to produce a continuous, gradientpreserving parameter estimate. By circumventing tokenizer discretization, IG-LLM maintains differentiability, facilitating the use of metric supervision on floats. This adaptation led to stronger parameter-space generalization and smoother training dynamics. We adopt a similar approach of using a special token to signal the re-routing of a token embedding. See Sec. 3.4 for details on our design decisions.

3.2. Base Architecture

We adopt the framework established by IG-LLM and base our architecture on an instruction-tuned version [15]¹ of LLaMA-7b [80], incorporating a frozen CLIP [63] visual tokenizer² and applying a learnable linear projection to link the vision embeddings with the word-embedding space of the LLM. Following IG-LLM's coarse vision–language alignment strategy, we pre-train the projector using image– caption pairs sourced from the Conceptual Captions dataset (CC3M) [73]. See also IG-LLM [41] for additional details.

3.3. Data-Generation Setting

We design an image–code training-data generator, building upon the tooling of the Infinigen project [64]. Infinigen is a procedural data-generation framework designed to create realistic 3D Blender [17] scenes of the natural world. The

https://huggingface.co/lmsys/vicuna-7b-v1.3

²https://huggingface.co/openai/clip-vit-largepatch14-336

framework not only generates diverse terrain but produces a broad range of 3D assets to populate these environments, including various types of plants, trees, rocks, and creatures. These assets are fully parameterized through mathematical rules. The framework boasts 182 unique procedural asset generators and 1,070 interpretable parameter degrees of freedom, in addition to those parameterized by seeds.

The complexity of the scenes is notable, with the authors reporting an average "wall time" of 4.5 hours to create a single image. Although experiments were conducted on 30k generated images, only ten samples were released, none having 3D-object ground truth. To effectively model the natural world, data generation must be made scalable.

In its public iteration, Infinigen renders an image from a single camera location within each scene; the scene is generated around the camera's field of view to mitigate unnecessary rendering complexity. This setup presents challenges for randomly placing multiple cameras within the scene ad hoc, as scenes are designed for a single camera perspective. To improve efficiency, we implement a number of simplifying modifications, which primarily include the following:

- We limit the generated assets to the object types of boulders, bushes, trees, carnivores, herbivores, and birds.
- We pre-generate 1,000 instances of each above asset type.
- We produce two resolutions for each individual asset.
- In each scene, we sample five types of tree, bush, boulder, or creature from those pre-generated. Unlike Infinigen, where assets are individually unique, we instance them.

• We populate the entire scene with assets, rather than solely in the area observed from a single camera location. Following our modifications, we generate 100 images of each of 10,000 distinct scenes, resulting in 1M total images. Each scene is backed by an explicit Blender representation.

Only the carnivore, herbivore, and bird assets are natively orientable, that is, have a canonical "front." The trees, boulders, and bushes may have very different visual appearances from different angles, such as a left-leaning tree. To be able to incorporate and estimate this information, we assign labels to each object based on its yaw (rotation around the vertical axis) relative to the camera. We divide the yaw into increments of five degrees, resulting in 72 orientations for each object. This increases the total effective number of assets to 432,000. In constructing our ground truth, we zero the yaw of the non-orientable objects local to the camera.

3.4. RAW

Here we define our model objective. We show a partial scene representation in Fig. 4, where [ROT] represents a variation of the [NUM] token as applied in IG-LLM, signaling the token embedding to instead be put through an MLP to regress a nine-parameter rotation matrix. This choice was motivated pragmatically by reducing code dimensionality to enable the use of up to twenty-five objects per sequence

set sun intensity(0.981) set_sun_elevation(0.691) set_sun_size(0.811) set_camera(88.130) set_atmospheric_density(0.009) set_ozone(1.499) set_sun_rotation(231.110) set dust (0.169) set_sun_strength(0.212) set_air(0.771) set_ground([CLIP]) add(pixels=1582, loc=(-0.553, -0.809, -22.591), height=1.365, rotation=[ROT], appearance=[CLIP]) add(pixels=111, loc=(-1.524, -0.939, -30.159), \leftrightarrow height=1.224, rotation=[ROT], appearance=[CLIP]) . . .

Figure 4. Code Sample. The figure displays a partial scene code. height is estimated as embeddings do not capture object scale.

in model context, and through the greater generalization demonstrated in IG-LLM. The semantic token, [CLIP], is used to signal whether the token embedding should be projected to CLIP space with a projection layer. During training, we set the target of the embedding head to be that of the rendered asset image at the given yaw of the scene asset. See Fig. 3 for a visualization of the projection head.

Scene-level attributes are estimated at the beginning of the sequence prior to defining objects. These include sun parameters (intensity, elevation, size, strength, and rotation relative to the camera) and atmospheric conditions (density, ozone, dust content, and air density). Additionally, a CLIP embedding is estimated to retrieve ground texture, improving the visual realism of the resulting scene reconstruction.

Objects are ordered in the code-sequence objective by the number of pixels they occupy: from the visually largest to the least significant. In this way, the model is taught to first focus on the most-salient objects before attempting to explain bushes in the background. See the project page for a step-wise reconstruction visual, highlighting the ordering.

3.5. RAW-RW

To complement our synthetic test setting and enable quantitative evaluation of image syn-to-real generalization, we curate a set of online, permissively licensed photos of animals in their natural habitats, which we refer to as RAW-RW.

3.6. Supervision

In addition to the next-token prediction objective loss applied to the text of the generated code, our introduction of additional heads for rotation and CLIP-appearance estimation enables – and necessitates – further supervision. Following Geist et al. [26], we apply a mean-squared-error loss on rotation matrices after performing symmetric orthogonalization. The CLIP estimation is supervised by a cosine-similarity loss between the estimated and target embeddings and an additional regularization term because similarity is vector-norm invariant. See Supp. Mat. for further details.



Figure 5. **Qualitative Comparison.** (a) In-distribution, the discrete-name baseline confuses classes: a tiger and a bush; a bird and a boulder. (b) When tasked with the reconstruction of real scenes, it well-estimates layout, but struggles to generalize in an aligned manner.

4. Evaluations

In this section, we evaluate the ability of our model to reconstruct both held-out synthetic in-distribution (ID) and natural real-world (RAW-RW) scenes. We begin by measuring the effect of representing assets by semantic CLIP embeddings in Sec. 4.2. In Sec. 4.3, we evaluate the effect of conditioning-memorization on model generalization. Later, in Sec. 4.4, we test how introducing additional conditioning into the sequence affects learning. Finally, in Sec. 4.5, we compare alternatives to CLIP for appearance estimation.

4.1. Metrics

To evaluate our method quantitatively, we render the reconstructed scene and evaluate it primarily with perceptual metrics against the source image. Prior to rendering, we warp a ground plane to the estimated object locations using an RBF kernel. Central to our evaluation is LPIPS [100], which measures perceptual similarity between two images – the source and rendered reconstruction – using learned VGG [75] features. LPIPS serves as a spatial metric as it is patch-based. We additionally compute cosine similarity between the input and reconstruction using CLIP [63], Bio-CLIP [77], and DINOv2 [59]. We however de-emphasize the metrics due to their indirect usage in model ablations, but find they offer a complementary perspective to LPIPS. See Supp. Mat. for object-wise 3D evaluations and a quantitative comparison against a YOLOX-6D-Pose [54] baseline.

4.2. Discrete Names and Continuous Embeddings

We begin with evaluating the naive discrete-shape-name version of our pipeline (IG-LLM) trained on our synthetic dataset. In this template, rather than set_ground and appearance being parametrized by [CLIP] tokens and corresponding embeddings, the assets are named by integers, which represent the scene ID in the case of ground texture. See representative scene reconstructions in Figs. 5 and 7.

_	↓LPIPS	$\uparrow S_{\text{CLIP}}$	$\uparrow S_{\text{BioCLIP}}$	$\uparrow S_{\mathrm{DINOv2}}$		
IG-LLM	0.720	0.748	0.421	0.833		
+ CLIP	0.654	0.806	<u>0.537</u>	0.858		
+ Fuzz.	<u>0.612</u>	<u>0.807</u>	0.526	0.849		
+ Cond.	0.598	0.815	0.539	0.858		
(a) ID						
	↓LPIPS	$\uparrow S_{\text{CLIP}}$	$\uparrow S_{\mathrm{BioCLIP}}$	$\uparrow S_{\mathrm{DINOv2}}$		
IG-LLM	0.772	0.385	0.254	0.559		
+ CLIP	0.762	0.445	0.335	0.561		
+ Fuzz.	0.762	0.445	0.349	0.565		
+ Cond.	0.724	0.490	0.409	0.631		

(b) RAW-RW

Table 1. Quantitative Ablation Effects. Each change impacts performance. S_{CLIP} , S_{BioCLIP} , and S_{DINOv2} represent cosine similarity between embeddings of the input and rendered reconstruction.



Figure 6. **ID Class-Confusion Matrices.** While the discrete model variant estimates objects with another of the same type on average, it biases heavily toward those with the greatest frequency.

We observe that both models estimate scene layout fairly consistently both in- and out-of-distribution. However, while the majority of assets estimated by each of the models appear as reasonable approximations in the ID case (Fig. 5a), the discrete variant often confuses classes of similar sizes (Fig. 6). Rather than another instance of the type of object portrayed, the reconstructions mix assets with distinct semantics: a tiger with a bush or a bird with a boulder.



Figure 7. Additional Reconstructions. Additional real-world-generalization samples (top: input; bottom: output). Note how our model is able to reconstruct scenes where the animal is very far or close to the camera, under severe occlusion, and with difficult lighting conditions.

Moving to the OOD case, while the baseline continues to somewhat consistently predict layout, it fails to reconstruct the scene with meaningful assets (Fig. 5b). In its uncertainty it will often select a tree for a tree, but not the right tree.

Predicting instead semantic asset appearance in the CLIP-estimation variant yields improved results. Images are explained with similar layout, but by assets with noticeably greater perceptual alignment. This is reflected by a jump across metrics in both evaluation settings (Tab. 1a).

4.3. Value Fuzzing

We next investigate the effect of memorization of conditioning. Producing the graphics-code sequence autoregressively, the model conditions the generation of any token on all preceding it. In causal-language model training, the context tokens the model sees are always ground-truth values.

In estimating the value of atmospheric_density, the model should have all the information necessary to produce the quantity based on only the conditioned-on However, in practice, if the model image features. knew that the sun_intensity was 0.981, and that the sun_intensity is only ever 0.981 in scene 3,389, it may be simpler to memorize a table mapping scene identities to scene attributes. While some token conditioning is necessary - the model must know that it is now estimating atmospheric_density and hasn't already done so conditioning on ground-truth scene-level values might hurt the model's ability to estimate these values in new scenes. If the training scenes were unique, and each of the million images were from distinct scenes, this could not be expected to be such an issue, but as one hundred images are produced in each scene, we suspect it may harm generalization ability.

We hypothesize that adding a small amount of noise, or "fuzzing" to the target scene-level attributes during training will force the model to pay more attention to image features, and learn to better avoid memorization of exact scenes. For each value, we add a uniformly distributed $\pm 0.5\%$ of noise to each of the scene-level attributes. The magnitude of the noise added is small enough to not have a noticeable effect on the values themselves, but results in a measurable improvement in LPIPS (Tab. 1a), supporting our intuition.

4.4. Additional Conditioning

We then evaluate the effect of introducing additional value conditioning to the sequences. The model, when generating, conditions object predictions off all preceding objects in the sequence. In the base version, it is able to leverage positional information (loc) and estimated object height (height) to determine where in the sequence it is and what should be produced next. As the objects are ordered in the objective by the count of their pixels visible in the source image, the model is expected to reason about – and disentangle – objects by saliency. It must follow the GT sequence during training, and can not learn its own object ordering.

We hypothesize that reasoning about this ordering from only the list of what came before is difficult for the model to learn. Motivated by this, we task the model to additionally estimate the number of pixels visible for each object. In doing so, it must explicitly model visibility, and it can also condition off the information during training to reduce uncertainty. We evaluate adding pixel count to the sequence (pixels), and find quantitative improvement (Tab. 1).

	↓LPIPS	$\uparrow S_{\text{CLIP}}$	$\uparrow S_{\mathrm{BioCLIP}}$	$\uparrow S_{\mathrm{DINOv2}}$		
CLIP	<u>0.598</u>	0.815	0.539	0.858		
BioCLIP	0.676	0.795	0.512	0.833		
DINOv2	0.597	0.850	0.603	0.865		
(a) ID						
	↓LPIPS	$\uparrow S_{\mathrm{CLIP}}$	$\uparrow S_{\rm BioCLIP}$	$\uparrow S_{\mathrm{DINOv2}}$		
CLIP	0.724	0.490	0.409	0.631		
BioCLIP	<u>0.730</u>	0.443	0.339	0.575		
DINOv2	0.743	<u>0.473</u>	0.387	<u>0.611</u>		

(b) RAW-RW

Table 2. Embedding Ablation. While DINOv2 [59] features are most discriminative, we suspect they are more difficult to interpret.

4.5. Choice of Embedding

Finally, we explore the use of alternate embeddings for appearance estimation, namely DINOv2 [59] and Bio-CLIP [77], to determine both their efficacy and the LLM's ability to estimate them effectively. For clarity, this evaluation does not examine the differences in behavior of alternatives to the CLIP visual tokenizer, which remains fixed throughout. DINOv2 was trained with a self-supervised learning objective roughly based on masked-image modeling [32], and BioCLIP is a fine-tuned version of CLIP trained on image–label data of taxonomic species from the iNaturalist [83] and BIOSCAN-1M [27] image databases.

We quantitatively evaluate the variants in terms of the earlier evaluation setting. Results can be seen in Tab. 2. Contrary to our initial speculation, we find that BioCLIP performs worst as the target embedding across metrics. We suspect that the finetuning applied to the model hinders its generalization ability. On the other hand, DINOv2, performed best in-distribution (Tab. 2a), but did not effectively generalize (Tab. 2b). We suggest that, while the features may increase the separability of the assets, the space is less interpretable, and more difficult to learn a general mapping.

5. Limitations and Future Work

While assets produced using Infinigen tooling are parametrically defined, reconstructing them solely as code presents challenges, as they are frequently the result of complex noninvertible physical processes, including seeded noise operations. Consequently, while the assets may have compact low-dimensional representations, the parameters are not smooth: small seed changes might result in an object with dramatically different shape or appearance. Future work could explore a compromise between retrieval and asset generation (predicting some parameters while retrieving others), rely on differentiable proxies for the non-invertible steps, or employ models with fully interpretable parameters.



Figure 8. Limitations Samples. Our model struggles reconstructing images with highly out-of-distribution layout or camera pose.

The creature-articulation system in Infinigen is nonfunctional (as pictured throughout Raistrick et al. [64], all creatures are of static pose, many with feet visibly off the ground). This restricts the expressivity of the data framework. Future work may involve inferring articulated pose.

While we observe fairly consistent semantically aligned reconstruction of real-world environments, our model can struggle to reconstruct images of scenes with highly outof-distribution configurations, such as those in which the pose of the camera is outside the distribution seen during training. We suspect that some such generalization issues might be abated with better layout sampling during datageneration, but without a more-diverse pool of assets, the model will not be able to sufficiently explain all relevant aspects of the scene, such as a vehicle on the road (Fig. 8).

While our goal was to compositionally reconstruct natural scenes from monocular images, we expect our findings may generalize to other domains too. Future work should expand to additionally model the anthropocentric world.

6. Conclusion

Our investigation represents the first compositional reconstruction of natural scenes from a monocular image that captures both animals and their environments, bridging the gap between reconstructing animals *and* the wild (RAW). In summary, we make the following key contributions:

First, we identify and address a limitation in scaling LLM-backed inverse graphics [41] to real-world scenes. By teaching an LLM to "name" objects in terms of semantic CLIP appearance, rather than as a sequence of discrete tokens, we overcame limitations inherent in pure token-based supervision, making the problem effectively continuous.

Second, we introduce a million-image synthetic dataset built on tooling introduced in the Infinigen project [64], addressing data limitations. Despite training exclusively on synthetic data, our approach demonstrated successful generalization to reconstructing natural scenes from an image.

Finally, by enabling comprehensive scene reconstruction that includes both animals and their environmental context, we lay the groundwork for a next generation of computational ethology. This opens new possibilities for automated interpretation of animal behavior grounded in their habitat.

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