🐱 KITTEN: A Knowledge-Intensive Evaluation of Image Generation on Visual Entities

Abstract

Recent advances in text-to-image generation have improved the quality of synthesized images, but evaluations mainly focus on aesthetics or alignment with text prompts. As a result, it remains unclear whether these models can accurately represent a wide variety of realistic visual entities. To bridge this gap, we propose KITTEN, a benchmark for **K**nowledge-**int**ensive image genera**t**ion on real-world **en**tities. Using KITTEN, we conduct a systematic study of recent text-to-image models, retrieval-augmented models, and unified understanding and generation models, focusing on their ability to generate real-world visual entities such as landmarks and animals. Analyses using carefully designed human evaluations, automatic metrics, and MLLMs as judges show that even advanced text-to-image and unified models fail to generate accurate visual details of entities. While retrieval-augmented models improve entity fidelity by incorporating reference images, they tend to over-rely on them and struggle to create novel configurations of the entities in creative text prompts.

1 Introduction

Recent advances in generative AI have revolutionized multimedia content creation. Large Language Models (LLMs) excel at knowledge-intensive tasks like question answering and summarization. Cutting-edge image generation models, such as Imagen (Saharia et al., 2022; Imagen 3 Team, 2024; Hu et al., 2024), DALL-E (Ramesh et al., 2021; 2022), and Stable Diffusion (Rombach et al., 2022), produce photorealistic and creative images from text. However, as these models become more capable and popular, assessing their reliability is crucial. Research on LLMs shows that even the most advanced models can generate inaccuracies, potentially undermining trust and causing societal harm (Muhlgay et al., 2023; Feng et al., 2023).

Despite increasing attention to factuality in LLMs, the accuracy of image generation models remains underexplored. Existing benchmarks mainly assess alignment with general text descriptions (Lin et al., 2015), compliance with image-editing instructions (Ku et al., 2024), or adherence to spatial relationships (Gokhale et al., 2022). However, they fall short in evaluating how well models generate images that faithfully reproduce the precise visual details of real-world entities, objects, and scenes grounded in trustworthy knowledge sources (see examples in Fig. 1). Recently, HEIM (Lee et al., 2024) introduces an evaluation suite for assessing various aspects of image generation, including the ability to generate entities such as historical figures or well-known subjects. However, real-world visual entities are far more diverse than those covered by HEIM, requiring a broader assessment. Moreover, HEIM primarily evaluates the alignment between generated images and entity names in text prompts. It fails to capture the fine-grained visual details essential for assessing the reproduction of visual-world knowledge, as nuances of real-world entities cannot be conveyed through text alone. Thus, directly evaluating fidelity in the generated images is essential.

To address the gap in evaluating image generation models' ability to reproduce visual-world knowledge, we introduce KITTEN, a benchmark dataset and evaluation suite designed to assess how well models generate visually accurate representations of real-world entities grounded in trustworthy knowledge sources. Unlike prior benchmarks that focus on aesthetics, text alignment, or commonsense reasoning, KITTEN uses prompts derived from visual entities documented in Wikipedia (Hu et al., 2023a), a reliable knowledge base, and

Real Photo   **Stable Diffusion**   **Adobe Firefly**   **DALL·E**

Great Pyramid of Giza

Statue of Equality Ramanuja

Figure 1: **Can text-to-image models generate precise visual details of real-world entities?** State-of-the-art models effectively render well-known entities (e.g., Great Pyramid of Giza) but often struggle with less-known entities, resulting in hallucinated depictions.

evaluates real-world entities across eight visual domains (see Fig. 2). This ensures that generated images are compared with verifiable visual information crowdsourced from the internet. Additionally, we have developed a comprehensive set of human evaluation criteria that focus on the precise visual depiction of entities, capturing subtle but essential details for visual accuracy. By directly assessing entity fidelity in the generated images against established knowledge, KITTEN aims to advance the evaluation of world knowledge in image generation models.

Using KITTEN, we conduct a comprehensive evaluation of various text-to-image models, including standard and customization models fine-tuned or utilizing in-context learning with retrieved reference images (Chen et al., 2022). Our findings show that even the most advanced models (Imagen 3 Team, 2024; Black Forest Labs, 2024) often fail to produce accurate representations, generating images that are missing critical details essential for visual correctness. While retrieval-augmented models improve visual fidelity by incorporating reference images during testing, they tend to over-rely on these references, limiting their ability to generate novel configurations of entities from creative prompts. These findings highlight a key challenge in current image generation models: balancing entity fidelity with creative flexibility, underscoring the need for techniques that can generate precise visual details without sacrificing the ability to respond to diverse and imaginative user inputs.

2 Related Work

Existing evaluation for text-to-image generation. Evaluating text-to-image models has long been challenging, with many efforts aimed at improving performance measurement. Fréchet Inception Distance (FID) (Heusel et al., 2017) is a common metric for assessing perceptual quality by measuring the distribution gap between generated and real-world images. CLIP-T scores (Hessel et al., 2021) evaluate text-image alignment by comparing the CLIP feature similarity between generated images and input prompts. These metrics summarize overall image quality. Several works assess alignment between generated images and text descriptions (Yarom et al., 2024; Gordon et al., 2023; Hu et al., 2023b; Wiles et al., 2024; Cho et al.,

Figure 2: **Kitten benchmark** is constructed from real-world entities across eight domains. For each selected entity, we define five evaluation tasks of image-generation prompts incorporating the entity. KITTEN includes a support set of entity images from the knowledge source for evaluating retrieval-augmented models, and an evaluation set for assessing the fidelity of the generated entities.

2023), but they mainly focus on semantic consistency rather than the fine-grained visual accuracy of depicted entities and specialized visual-world knowledge.

Recent works aim to evaluate models more thoroughly by decomposing the evaluation into subcategories such as attribute binding and numeracy, with corresponding benchmarks. For example, the SR_{2D} dataset (Gokhale et al., 2022) and the VISOR metric evaluate spatial relationships in text-to-image models, assessing whether objects in the generated image adhere to specified relationships (e.g., an orange _above_ a giraffe). T2I-CompBench++ (Huang et al., 2023) contains text prompts from four categories (e.g., attribute binding) along with associated metrics. HRS-Bench (Bakr et al., 2023) evaluates model performance across five major groups (i.e., bias, fairness, generalization, accuracy, and robustness). TIFA v1.0 (Hu et al., 2023b) is a benchmark spanning 12 categories, paired with an automatic evaluation metric that measures image faithfulness via visual question answering. GenAI-Bench (Li et al., 2024) and ConceptMix (Wu et al., 2024) focus on the evaluation of compositional text prompts (e.g., objects with specific colors, shapes, or spatial relationships). Additionally, ImagenHub (Ku et al., 2024) evaluates models across different tasks by measuring semantic consistency and perceptual quality.

Fidelity of entities in text-to-image generation. While text-to-image models enable the generation of creative images from text descriptions, challenges arise when visual-world knowledge is required—i.e., generating accurate visual details of entities. Existing works have identified this issue and proposed solutions to mitigate hallucination (Lim & Shim, 2024). However, no clear methodology exists to systematically assess these models' limitations, which is crucial for improvement. In this work, we propose KITTEN, a benchmark addressing the novel problem of evaluating image generation models' ability to produce fine-grained details of specific visual entities. Using KITTEN, we systematically assess the latest text-to-image, unified, and retrieval-augmented models with carefully designed human evaluations, automatic metrics, and MLLM-based assessments.

World knowledge evaluation for text-to-image generation. Evaluating text-to-image models with prompts that require world knowledge and commonsense reasoning has attracted increasing attention. WISE (Niu et al., 2025) evaluates complex text understanding and semantic reasoning grounded in cultural and scientific knowledge. RISEBench (Zhao et al., 2025) and KRIS-Bench (Wu et al., 2025) focus on assessing knowledge-based reasoning in image editing tasks. Several studies examine commonsense and physical reasoning: WorldGenBench (Zhang et al., 2025a) evaluates prompts involving implicit reasoning; R2I-

Bench (Chen et al., 2025a) studies commonsense, mathematical, and logical reasoning; OmniGenBench (Yang et al., 2025) evaluates instruction-following capabilities involving physical and commonsense knowledge; ABP (Zhang et al., 2025b) assesses implicit reasoning over real-world knowledge across scientific, natural, and cultural scenes.

In contrast, KITTEN addresses a missing gap in concurrent benchmarks (Niu et al., 2025), emphasizing the reconstruction of detailed features (e.g., shape and color) of nameable visual entities. We explicitly collect evaluation images for target entities and directly compare them with generated outputs, enabling a more precise assessment of visual-detail fidelity. In addition, KITTEN evaluates retrieval-augmented models to determine whether explicitly injecting reference images improves entity generation.

3 Kitten Benchmark

We introduce the KITTEN benchmark to evaluate the reliability of text-to-image models in generating knowledge-intensive concepts.

3.1 Design Desiderata of Kitten

The key to creating the benchmark is constructing a set of image-generation prompts that require grounding in visual-world knowledge. Two specific properties differentiate our benchmark from prior evaluation frameworks of image generation. First, while existing benchmarks aim to test the common-sense knowledge of image generation models such as spatial or physical relationships (Gokhale et al., 2022; Huang et al., 2023), we would like to stress-test the image generation models by focusing on generating entities from specific domains. Therefore, we create the benchmark using image concepts from Wikipedia, a rich knowledge-intensive data source, which contains several domain-specific entities and their corresponding images. Second, while most existing benchmarks focus on evaluating the instruction-following capability of the models, we would like to understand how well these models are at faithfully representing real-world concepts grounded in visual knowledge sources. Therefore, we design a specific set of evaluations targeted at capturing the visual fidelity of generated entities. Guided by the above principles, next, we clarify the details of the KITTEN benchmark.

3.2 Creating Entity-based Prompts

Fig. 2 shows the benchmark creation process. To generate a diverse set of prompts focused on faithfulness to knowledge-grounded concepts, we first select entity domains from the OVEN-Wiki dataset (Hu et al., 2023a), the most comprehensive open-domain image recognition dataset. We select 8 domains encompassing 322 entities, covering human-made objects, natural species, and human activities. This selection offers broader coverage than existing benchmarks (Lee et al., 2024). For each entity, we collect an evaluation set of entity images from Wikipedia for human evaluation, and a support set of images to evaluate retrieval-augmented models that leverage external knowledge sources for image generation (see evaluated models in Sec. 4).

After selecting the entities, we design five evaluation tasks of image-generation prompts.

- Basic prompt (4.58%): `Photo of Bandinelli Palace.`
- Entity in a specified location (30.57%): `Bandinelli Palace stands against snow mountains.`
- Composition with other objects (22.78%): `A peacock in front of Bandinelli Palace.`
- Entity in specific styles (21.20%): `An oil painting of Bandinelli Palace.`
- Entity made of specific materials (20.87%): `Bandinelli Palace made of crystal.`

The evaluation tasks are designed to cover key scenarios in customized image generation (Ruiz et al., 2023; Kumari et al., 2023), ensuring relevance to both researchers and real-world applications. For each task, ChatGPT (OpenAI et al., 2023) is instructed to propose prompts for different entity domains, which are then tailored to evaluate knowledge-entity generation by incorporating entity names directly into the prompts. This process resulted in a set of 6,440 prompts to assess the models' ability to handle diverse and imaginative user inputs. The prompts range from 4 to 24 words, with an average length of 9.91 and a standard deviation of 2.86.

Figure 3: **Annotation interface.** Raters are asked to: (1) rate the image's faithfulness to the prompt entity on a 1–5 scale, and (2) indicate whether the image follows the prompt with a yes or no response. We calculate the percentage of responses marked as "yes."

3.3 Human Evaluation

Since no established metrics exist for evaluating the generation of visual entities, human evaluation plays a critical role in reliably assessing model performance. We design human evaluations focusing on the visual fidelity of the target entity in the generated image, decomposing the evaluation into two aspects: 1) faithfulness to the prompt entity, and 2) adherence to prompt instructions beyond the entity. This design allows raters to focus on distinct criteria, enabling more informative comparisons of models, as our results often show trade-offs between these aspects. Raters are shown reference images of the prompt entity and encouraged to verify the entity's faithfulness through their own research. The final evaluation score is the average of five raters per image to ensure robust assessments. The human annotation interface is shown in Fig. 3.

- **Faithfulness to Entity.** We use a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 means completely faithful to the prompt entity, and 1 means the generated image has no similarity to the prompt entity.

- **Instruction-following.** We use a yes/no question to evaluate whether the generated image adheres to the prompt instructions beyond the entity. We calculate the percentage of answers "yes."

3.4 Automatic Metrics

We gather the results of popular automatic metrics for image generation models, which primarily measure the similarity between the generated images and the references or prompts. While these metrics are not specialized for capturing the visual fidelity of the generated entity, we include their results to provide a comprehensive analysis of their alignment with human evaluation.

- **Image-Text Alignment.** We measure the cosine similarity between the generated image and the text prompt in CLIP's feature space (Radford et al., 2021), i.e., *CLIP-T Score* (Hessel et al., 2021).

- **Image-Entity Alignment.** We measure the average pairwise cosine similarity between the generated image and reference images of the target entity in the evaluation set using DINO's feature space (Oquab et al., 2024). This serves as a proxy for how closely fine-grained details match.

3.5 MLLM Evaluation

Multimodal large language models (MLLMs) have recently demonstrated impressive progress in multimodal understanding. We investigate the use of MLLMs as automatic evaluators to reduce human effort and address the limitations of traditional metrics in assessing visual fidelity. Specifically, we prompt GPT-4o-mini (OpenAI et al., 2023) using the same criteria as our human evaluation.

- **MLLM Text Alignment.** Given the text prompt, we use an MLLM to evaluate whether the generated image follows the prompt instructions on a 1–5 scale.

- **MLLM Entity Alignment.** Given reference images of the target entity, we use an MLLM to assess how well the generated image resembles the target entity on a 1–5 scale.

4 Evaluated Models

We present a comprehensive analysis using KITTEN to understand the visual-world knowledge in current state-of-the-art models.

4.1 Text-to-Image Backbone Models

First, we examine general text-to-image backbone models that directly generate images solely based on text prompts without using additional tools or reference images.

- Stable Diffusion (Rombach et al., 2022) maps images to a latent space where a diffusion model is trained. We mainly use SD-1.5 (Rombach et al., 2022) for a fair comparison with retrieval-augmented models, and also include SD-2.1 (Rombach et al., 2022), SD-3 (Esser et al., 2024), and SD-XL (Podell et al., 2023).

- Flux[1] (Black Forest Labs, 2024) is a successor to Stable Diffusion, integrating parallel transformer blocks.

- Imagen (Saharia et al., 2022) uses a T5 encoder and cascaded diffusion models for high-resolution generation.

- Imagen-3 (Imagen 3 Team, 2024) is a successor to Imagen, notable for its ability to handle long prompts.

- DALL · E-2 (Ramesh et al., 2022) is a diffusion model conditioned on CLIP embeddings, notable for its zero-shot compositional abilities.

4.2 Retrieval-augmented Text-to-Image Models

The retrieval-augmented method is a family of image generation approaches that use support images (e.g., retrieved by a search engine) to enhance the model through fine-tuning or in-context learning, improving the fidelity of entities in generated images. Our goal is to evaluate these models and determine whether incorporating such *support* images enhances the fine-grained visual fidelity of the entity during generation. Specifically, we provide some ground-truth reference entity images (held out from the entity images used for evaluation) as the support images to the above methods and then generate new images from them following the evaluation text prompts. We study the following models:

- DreamBooth (Ruiz et al., 2023) **fine-tunes** the SD-1.5 model to learn a special token encoding the target entity. It then generates the entity in new contexts using prompts that include this token.

- Custom-Diff (Kumari et al., 2023), similar to DreamBooth, **fine-tunes** partial weights of SD-1.5.

- Instruct-Imagen (Hu et al., 2024) generates the target entity through **in-context learning** by encoding reference images into a multi-modal instruction: `Generate an image of <entity_name>, referring to the images <ref_image_1>, ..., <ref_image_K>, and follow the caption: <prompt>.`

- BLIP-Diffusion (Li et al., 2023) performs **in-context learning** by training a multimodal encoder to obtain reference image embeddings aligned with text prompt embeddings.

- IP-Adapter (Ye et al., 2023) performs **in-context learning** by training separate cross-attention layers to incorporate reference images as inputs.

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[1]We use Flux.1-dev.

Figure 4: **Evaluation results** of text-to-image models. **(Left)** Human evaluation illustrates the trade-off between faithfulness and instruction-following. **(Right)** Automatic metrics show the relationship between Image-Entity and Image-Text Alignments.

4.3 Unified Understanding and Generation Models

Finally, we evaluate the unified models that jointly learn multimodal understanding (e.g., image captioning, visual question answering) and generation tasks (e.g., text-to-image generation) within the same framework. These models do not take reference images as inputs. We study the following models:

- Show-o (Xie et al., 2024) tokenizes multimodal data into a sequence, processing text tokens autoregressively and image tokens through discrete diffusion modeling.

- Janus-Pro (Chen et al., 2025b) employs a unified transformer with autoregressive prediction, while using separate visual encoders for understanding and generation components.

- Emu3 (Wang et al., 2024) tokenizes multimodal data into discrete token spaces and trains a single transformer on next-token prediction tasks.

5 Evaluation Results

5.1 Human Evaluation

Retrieval-augmented models enhance faithfulness but weaken instruction-following. Fig. 4 (left) shows that retrieval-augmented models — Custom-Diff, DreamBooth, and Instruct-Imagen — generally produce images more faithful to the entities than their base models, SD-1.5 and Imagen. This is because these models incorporate reference images during testing, enabling them to generate visual concepts not well-represented in the base models' parameters. However, retrieval-augmented models tend to have reduced instruction-following capabilities compared to their backbone models, as they often over-rely on reference images and struggle to create novel configurations of the entity as requested in creative text prompts. Although this trend is consistent across methods, the extent of the impact varies. Notably, Instruct-Imagen shows a significant increase in faithfulness score ($2.81 \rightarrow 4.22$) but also a substantial drop in instruction-following score ($72.2 \rightarrow 46.5$).

Enhancing backbone models improves both faithfulness and instruction-following. Our results show that improvements to base models alone can enhance both instruction-following and faithfulness. For example, Flux outperforms its predecessor SD-1.5 by 0.23, and Imagen-3 surpasses its predecessor Imagen by 0.35 in faithfulness. However, these faithfulness improvements are still minor compared to those achieved by retrieval-augmented methods, such as DreamBooth, which shows a 0.57 improvement over SD-1.5.

On the other hand, Imagen-3 achieves the highest instruction-following score (83.6) and a high faithfulness score (3.17), outperforming the retrieval-augmented models DreamBooth (3.08) and Custom-Diff (2.90). This demonstrates that Imagen-3, as a strong backbone model, can generate specialized entities solely from text prompts. However, a notable gap remains in entity fidelity compared to the highest score achieved by Instruct-Imagen (4.22). These findings show that enhancing the backbone model can improve both instruction-following and entity fidelity, while it is essential to incorporate advanced retrieval-augmented techniques to achieve higher levels of faithfulness. We note that our analysis views model improvements collectively, including architecture, training recipe, data, and other factors.

Balancing faithfulness and instruction-following is achievable. The retrieval-augmented model DreamBooth improves entity faithfulness compared to its baseline, SD-1.5 ($2.51 \rightarrow 3.08$), without compromising SD's instruction-following score ($72.2 \rightarrow 73.8$). This demonstrates that a well-designed retrieval-augmented method can enhance entity fidelity without sacrificing creativity. These findings also suggest future research directions, emphasizing that combining a strong backbone with an effective retrieval-augmented approach can achieve a balance between faithfulness and instruction-following.

5.2 Automatic Metrics

Retrieval-augmented models improve entity alignment but reduce text alignment. Fig. 4 (right) shows that retrieval models increase the entity alignment score while decreasing the text alignment score compared to their base models. These observations align with the human evaluation, where retrieval-augmented models show improved entity faithfulness but reduced instruction-following. In addition, this trend is consistent with observations in recent works (Materzyńska et al., 2023), which indicate that models incorporating additional inputs, such as reference images, tend to have lower text alignment scores than base models due to a trade-off between aligning with the text and with the images.

Alignment between automatic metrics and human evaluation. While the overall observations from the automatic metrics align with the human evaluation, there are notable discrepancies. We observe that improving base models does not necessarily lead to gains in the automatic metrics. For example, Flux (0.329) performs worse than its predecessor SD-1.5 (0.338) in the image-text metric, and Imagen-3 (0.389) shows only a marginal improvement over Imagen (0.386) in the image-entity score. These findings suggest that automatic metrics have a limited ability to capture meaningful variations between models of similar quality. In addition, although DreamBooth achieves a higher instruction-following score compared to its base model SD-1.5, it has a lower image-text alignment score. We hypothesize that the image-text score may not accurately assess the alignment between the generated image and rare entities. For example, with the prompt "The Teufelsmauer landmark shimmers in the sunlight," it is unclear whether the image-text similarity for "Teufelsmauer" is evaluated correctly. This highlights that the traditional metrics (Hessel et al., 2021; Lee et al., 2024) might fail to measure true alignment between the unique entity and the generated image. In addition, Imagen-3 ranks higher in faithfulness in the human evaluation, yet DreamBooth outperforms Imagen-3 in image-entity scores, showing a misalignment between human perception and the learned semantic features (Oquab et al., 2024).

5.3 MLLM Evaluation

Alignment between MLLM and human evaluation. Tab. 1 shows the results of MLLM evaluation. The MLLM score generally shows a high correlation with human evaluation shown in Fig. 4 (left), though slight discrepancies exist. Specifically, DreamBooth (3.37) falls behind SD-1.5 (3.46) and Imagen (3.61) in the MLLM text alignment score. However, in human evaluation, DreamBooth (73.8) outperforms both Imagen and SD-1.5 (72.2). This suggests that while the MLLM can capture overall trends and identify models with clearly stronger or weaker performance, it may struggle to distinguish between models with similar capabilities. On the other hand, Flux (2.04) receives a lower MLLM entity alignment score than SD-1.5 (2.39), despite outperforming SD-1.5 in human evaluation (2.74 vs. 2.51), which suggests that the MLLM may have different preferences or biases compared to human raters.

Table 1: MLLM evaluation shows the trade-off between Entity and Text Alignments.

Metrics	Backbone Models							
	DALL · E-2	SD-1.5	SD-2.1	SD-3	SD-XL	Imagen	Flux	Imagen-3
MLLM Entity Alignment	2.65	2.39	2.45	2.77	2.79	2.53	2.04	2.83
MLLM Text Alignment	3.69	3.46	3.66	4.07	4.19	3.61	3.96	4.17
Metrics	Retrieval Models					Unified Models		
	BLIP-Diffusion	IP-Adapter	Custom-Diff	DreamBooth	Instruct-Imagen	Show-o	Janus-Pro	Emu3
MLLM Entity Alignment	2.52	2.82	2.70	2.82	3.72	1.93	1.89	2.22
MLLM Text Alignment	2.08	2.65	3.29	3.37	2.63	3.55	3.65	3.96

Gradual improvements in the SD series. SD-1.5, SD-2.1, SD-3, and SD-XL show consistent improvements in both MLLM entity and text alignment scores. Notably, SD-XL achieves performance comparable to Imagen-3, with similar entity (2.79 vs. 2.83) and text alignment scores (4.19 vs. 4.17).

In-context methods show weaker text alignment than fine-tuning methods. The retrieval-augmented model BLIP-Diffusion underperforms Imagen in entity alignment (2.53) and lags substantially in text alignment (2.08 vs. 3.61). IP-Adapter achieves a higher entity alignment score, close to DreamBooth (2.82), but exhibits a considerably lower text alignment score (2.65 vs. 3.37). These results indicate that among retrieval-based models, in-context learning approaches (e.g., BLIP-Diffusion, IP-Adapter) generally have weaker instruction-following capabilities than fine-tuning-based methods (e.g., DreamBooth, Custom-Diff).

Unified models struggle to generate accurate visual entities. The unified models Show-o (3.55) and Janus-Pro (3.65) achieve text alignment scores comparable to Imagen (3.61) but lower than Flux (3.96) and Imagen-3 (4.17). Emu3 attains a text alignment score similar to Flux. However, all three unified models exhibit lower entity alignment scores, even below SD-1.5 (2.39). These results suggest that, although unified models may gain broader world knowledge through joint training on understanding and generation tasks, effectively translating this knowledge into accurate visual entity generation remains a significant challenge.

5.4 Ablation Study

Selection of image-entity alignment metrics. In Tab. 2, two popular visual features are tested for calculating cosine similarity scores between reference and generated images as the image-entity alignment metric: *CLIP-I* (Radford et al., 2021) and *DINO* (Oquab et al., 2024). We find that DINO scores provide a clearer separation between models compared to CLIP-I scores, making it a more discriminative metric at capturing subtle differences in faithfulness. For example, the difference between Custom-Diff and Instruct-Imagen is much larger when using DINO (0.19) compared to CLIP-I (0.11). This may be due to DINO's focus on primary entities, allowing for a more accurate estimation of similarity between the generated entities and reference images.

Table 2: Selection of Image-Entity metrics.

Models	CLIP-I	DINO
SD-1.5	0.646	0.350
Imagen	0.646	0.386
Flux	0.639	0.380
Imagen-3	0.650	0.389
Custom-Diff	0.643	0.388
DreamBooth	0.674	0.412
Instruct-Imagen	0.751	0.582

Correlation of automatic metrics with human evaluation. While manual evaluation ensures high accuracy, automated methods provide a cost-effective alternative, albeit with slightly lower alignment to human perception. To quantify the consistency between automatic metrics and human evaluation, we computed Pearson and Spearman correlations in Tab. 3. CLIP-T and CLIP-I show moderate alignment with user evaluations, while DINO demonstrates stronger alignment with human judgments of faithfulness compared to CLIP-I.

Table 3: Correlation of automatic and MLLM metrics with human evaluation.

Metrics	Models	Pearson	Spearman
Entity Alignment	GPT-4o	**0.703**	**0.695**
	Qwen-2.5	0.531	0.520
	DINO	0.510	0.504
	CLIP-I	0.239	0.340
Text Alignment	GPT-4o	**0.618**	**0.589**
	Qwen-2.5	0.515	0.513
	CLIP-T	0.337	0.384

Correlation of MLLM metrics with human evaluation. We assess the correlation between MLLM-based evaluation and human judgments using two different MLLMs, GPT-4o (OpenAI et al., 2023) and Qwen-2.5 (Team, 2025). MLLM-based evaluation shows strong alignment with human preferences, highlighting its potential to capture subtle visual details when assessing the

Figure 5: **Performance analysis across domains and tasks. (Top)** Retrieval models achieve higher Image-Entity scores in the insect, landmark, and plant domains but perform worse in the cuisine and sport domains, possibly due to the varying occurrence of these entities in common image datasets. **(Bottom)** *Location* scoring highest and *Composition* the least.

faithfulness of generated knowledge entities. This demonstrates that our evaluation framework can be reliably scaled using MLLMs as automatic evaluators. Furthermore, GPT-4o achieves significantly higher correlations with human evaluation compared to Qwen-2.5, while Qwen-2.5 still outperforms traditional CLIP and DINO metrics. These results indicate that our benchmark can be effectively extended using open-source MLLMs for automatic evaluation.

5.5 Analysis of Performance Variations

Performance across entity domains. Fig. 5 (top) shows that the performance of each method is domain-dependent. Retrieval-augmented models generally achieve higher image-entity alignment scores than backbone models in the insect, landmark, and plant domains. Since these domains contain less frequent terms in common image datasets, these visual concepts are therefore underrepresented in the backbone model's parameters. The retrieval-augmented models improve performance by incorporating reference images during inference. Additionally, the insect and landmark domains have lower average image-entity scores, likely due to the inherent challenges of generating fine-grained details of insects and the many specifications and features of landmarks.

On the other hand, the retrieval-augmented method, Custom-Diff, performs worse than its base model, SD-1.5, in the cuisine and sport domains. These domains contain common terms, such as snowboarding and guacamole, which the SD-1.5 model has well memorized. The Custom-Diff model's performance degrades, potentially due to fine-tuning on a smaller reference set. This variability suggests that the effectiveness of a retrieval-augmented method may be influenced by the nature of the domain-specific content, and the optimal choice of retrieval-augmented method remains an open question.

Performance across evaluation tasks. Fig. 5 (bottom) shows that image-entity scores across evaluation tasks generally align with the overall ranking. *Location* scores highest (0.431), followed by *Material* (0.417), *Style* (0.399), and *Composition* (0.364), highlighting the challenge of maintaining entity fidelity when prompts involve complex compositions.

We observe that *Style* prompts show a distinct score distribution. Retrieval-augmented methods, DreamBooth and Custom-Diff, along with their base model SD-1.5, receive lower image-entity scores (0.371, 0.359, and 0.311), indicating that models based on SD-1.5 struggle to generate faithful entities when changing their styles. However, SD-1.5 achieves the highest image-text score (0.346), followed by DreamBooth (0.341) and Custom-Diff (0.335), suggesting these models are strong in generating accurate styles but may sacrifice entity fidelity.

Figure 6: **Qualitative results. (Top)** The backbone models (SD-1.5, Imagen, Flux, and Imagen-3) show lower Faithfulness to Entity, with Wakame's appearance differing from the reference image. **(Bottom)** The retrieval models (Custom-Diff, DreamBooth, and Instruct-Imagen) struggle with Instruction-following, over-relying on references and failing to create a composition between the entity and the giant sandcastle.

5.6 Qualitative Results

We present the visual results in Fig. 6. In the above example, the backbone models (second row) show lower faithfulness to the entity, with Wakame's appearance differing from the reference image. In contrast, retrieval-augmented models (first row), using reference images during testing, achieve better visual alignment with the target. Instruct-Imagen demonstrates a balance between entity fidelity and creative flexibility in the generated images. These findings highlight future research directions, showing that enhancing the backbone

A waiter is keeping the Churro dish on the table in a restaurant.

Figure 7: **Additional qualitative results.** The SD series (SD-2.1, SD-3, SD-XL) show gradual improvements in faithfulness to the entity. Retrieval-augmented models based on in-context learning (BLIP-Diffusion and IP-Adapter) achieve strong entity fidelity but fail to follow the prompt. Unified models (Show-o, Janus-Pro, Emu3) generate incorrect visual details of the target entity, Churro.

model can improve both instruction-following capability and entity fidelity. Furthermore, combining a strong backbone with an advanced retrieval-augmented method enables the coexistence of these two aspects.

In the example below, Custom-Diff and DreamBooth show reduced instruction-following compared to their backbone model, SD-1.5. In particular, Custom-Diff struggles to create novel compositions of the entity and the giant sandcastle. In contrast, the backbone models excel in both instruction-following and entity faithfulness, likely because "Rolls-Royce Phantom Drophead Coupé" is well-represented in their training data. The retrieval-augmented models underperform due to over-relying on the reference images and experiencing knowledge forgetting during fine-tuning on small sets of reference images. These results suggest that the success of retrieval-augmented methods heavily depends on the entity domain and the customization approach.

We show additional results in Fig. 7. The SD series demonstrates gradual improvements in capturing the correct details of the target entity. Retrieval-augmented models based on in-context learning (BLIP-Diffusion and IP-Adapter) achieve strong entity fidelity but struggle to follow the prompt, failing to generate the waiter. Unified models (Show-o, Janus-Pro, Emu3) produce incorrect visual details of the target entity, Churro.

6 Conclusion

We propose KITTEN, a benchmark for evaluating entity fidelity in text-to-image generation, focusing on visual concepts that require specialized knowledge. We design prompts based on Wikipedia entities and introduce a human evaluation framework to assess visual faithfulness. Extensive analysis reveals that while backbone models can generate specialized entities, retrieval-augmented models achieve higher faithfulness. However, these methods often struggle with creative prompts, highlighting the need for techniques that enhance entity fidelity without compromising instruction-following ability.

Limitations and Future Work. We leave the evaluation of prompts requiring knowledge-based reasoning (e.g., "the tallest building in Manhattan") for future work, as such prompts can often be transformed into straightforward, entity-focused prompts through language preprocessing and prompt rewriting.

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Appendix

7 Additional Qualitative Examples

We present additional qualitative examples evaluating the backbone models—SD-1.5, Imagen, Flux, and Imagen-3—as well as the retrieval models—Custom-Diff, DreamBooth, and Instruct-Imagen—across various domains in the KITTEN benchmark. The results for the aircraft, vehicle, cuisine, flower, insect, landmark, plant, and sport domains are shown in Fig. 8, Fig. 9, Fig. 10, Fig. 11, Fig. 12, Fig. 13, Fig. 14, Fig. 15, respectively.

Fig. 10 presents the results for the cuisine domain. For the prompt, "A Wakame dish with a cherry flower on top of it," retrieval-based models such as Custom-Diff, DreamBooth, and Instruct-Imagen successfully generate the entity Wakame. However, Custom-Diff fails to capture the composition of the cherry flower. In contrast, the backbone models—Imagen, Flux, and Imagen-3—correctly generate the cherry flower, but the representation of Wakame does not align with its real-world appearance. In the example prompt, "photo of a Hot and sour soup," the backbone models introduce incorrect ingredients that significantly deviate from a real-world hot and sour soup, demonstrating how these models hallucinate entities instead of reproducing real-world knowledge accurately.

Fig. 12 shows the results for the insect domain. For the prompt, "Satyrium liparops sitting at the beach with a view of the sea," all models correctly generate the beach scene as instructed. However, the backbone models hallucinate the insect's appearance, generating a completely different insect, while the retrieval models accurately depict the visual details of the Satyrium liparops. For the prompt, "Promachus hinei wearing sunglasses," the backbone models demonstrate strong instruction-following ability, with Imagen and Imagen-3 correctly composing the sunglasses on the insect. In contrast, the retrieval models fail to generate this composition. However, the backbone models do not generate an accurate representation of the insect itself, while the retrieval models correctly generate the entity.

Fig. 14 presents the results for the plant domain. In the example, "An impressionistic painting of Cirsium andersonii," none of the models effectively follow the prompt in generating the "impressionistic painting," highlighting the challenge of rendering specific artistic styles. However, the retrieval models generate the entity more accurately than the backbone models. In another example, "Penstemon rydbergii on a rustic wooden table next to a rose plant," although the generated entity lacks the fine details of the reference, the backbone models successfully capture the composition of "next to a rose," demonstrating their stronger instruction-following ability.

These observations align with the quantitative results, further demonstrating that while advanced backbone models can generate specialized entities, there is a notable gap in the fidelity of entities compared to retrieval-augmented models. Although retrieval-augmented methods improve faithfulness to entities, they often struggle with creative prompts, highlighting the need for techniques that enhance entity accuracy without compromising instruction-following abilities.

In addition, we have provided examples illustrating a balance between entity fidelity and creative flexibility in the generated images. Specifically, Instruct-Imagen's results for prompts such as "A Wakame dish with a cherry flower on top of it" in Fig. 10, "Alstroemeria on top of a mountain with sunrise in the background" in Fig. 11, and "Satyrium liparops sitting at the beach with a view of the sea" in Fig. 12 demonstrate enhanced entity fidelity while maintaining creative flexibility. These examples are supported by the highest alignment scores across both metrics when compared to other models.

8 Details of the Human Evaluation Scores Across Domains

We have presented the human evaluation results for backbone and retrieval-augmented text-to-image models, comparing their performance in terms of entity faithfulness and instruction-following accuracy. Here, we provide a detailed breakdown of the human evaluation results across eight domains of the KITTEN benchmark in Tab. 4.

We observe that the performance of each method varies across domains. For instance, while the overall faithfulness scores of Custom-Diff and DreamBooth are lower than the backbone model Imagen-3, these retrieval models consistently perform better in the insect, landmark, and plant domains. When comparing backbone models, Flux outperforms SD-1.5 in the overall score; however, SD-1.5 demonstrates higher faithfulness in the insect, landmark, and plant domains, suggesting that Flux struggles to generate less frequent entities. Additionally, the retrieval models, DreamBooth and Custom-Diff, improve faithfulness over SD-1.5 in some cases but show reduced performance in the cuisine and sport domains. In terms of instruction-following score, Instruct-Imagen performs notably lower in the flower (31.3) and insect (21.9) domains, while Imagen-3 achieves significantly higher scores in the cuisine (93.8) and sport (96.9) domains.

Table 4: Detailed breakdown of human evaluation.

Model	Aircraft	Vehicle	Cuisine	Flower	Insect	Landmark	Plant	Sport	Overall
Faithfulness to entity									
■ SD	2.07	3.57	3.42	2.36	1.61	1.95	2.09	3.02	2.51
■ Imagen	3.19	3.62	3.55	3.21	1.54	2.11	2.04	3.3	2.82
■ Flux	3.51	3.89	3.35	2.52	1.44	1.77	1.83	3.59	2.74
■ Imagen-3	3.74	4.04	4.26	3.37	1.63	2.31	1.98	4.04	3.17
● Custom-Diff	2.59	3.90	2.52	3.82	2.37	3.02	2.85	2.10	2.90
● DreamBooth	3.26	3.88	3.23	3.18	2.46	3.06	2.64	2.93	3.08
● Instruct-Imagen	4.23	4.70	4.43	4.48	3.78	4.06	4.02	4.08	**4.22**
Instruction-following									
■ SD	68.8	75.0	62.5	87.5	62.5	65.6	84.4	71.9	72.2
■ Imagen	59.4	84.4	75.0	84.4	53.1	59.4	84.4	78.1	72.2
■ Flux	56.3	87.5	96.9	78.1	59.4	71.9	84.4	81.3	76.9
■ Imagen-3	78.1	87.5	93.8	84.4	71.9	71.9	84.4	96.9	83.6
● Custom-Diff	59.4	75.0	65.6	78.1	71.9	65.6	81.3	59.4	69.5
● DreamBooth	68.8	71.9	71.9	81.3	68.8	75.0	78.1	75.0	73.8
● Instruct-Imagen	46.9	56.3	56.3	31.3	21.9	50.0	59.4	50.0	46.5

(■: Text-to-Image Models, ●: Retrieval-augmented Models)

9 Details of the Automatic Metric Scores Across Domains

We have presented the automatic metric evaluation for backbone and retrieval-augmented text-to-image models, including image-text alignment and image-entity alignment scores. Here, we include a detailed breakdown of the automatic metrics across eight domains of the KITTEN benchmark in Tab. 5. Specifically, we include a detailed ablation study of the image-entity alignment metric using cosine similarity scores based on two popular image features: the CLIP-Image and the DINO features.

The retrieval models—Custom-Diff, DreamBooth, and Instruct-Imagen—consistently outperform the backbone models in DINO score across the insect, landmark, and plant domains. In contrast, Custom-Diff shows notably worse DINO and CLIP-T scores in the cuisine and sport domains. These results are consistent with human evaluations.

10 Details of the MLLM Evaluation Scores Across Domains

We report MLLM evaluation results for both the backbone and retrieval-augmented text-to-image models, including scores for text alignment and entity alignment. Tab. 6 presents a detailed breakdown of these scores across the eight domains of the KITTEN benchmark. Notably, retrieval-augmented models consistently outperform backbone models in entity alignment within the vehicle, insect, landmark, and plant domains. In contrast, Custom-Diff shows substantially lower entity alignment scores in the cuisine and sport domains.

Table 5: Detailed breakdown of automatic metrics.

Model	Aircraft	Vehicle	Cuisine	Flower	Insect	Landmark	Plant	Sport	Overall
Image-Text Alignment: CLIP-T									
■ SD	0.341	0.354	0.343	0.336	0.322	0.330	0.332	0.342	0.338
■ Imagen	0.329	0.344	0.338	0.337	0.323	0.312	0.316	0.335	0.329
■ Flux	0.341	0.346	0.329	0.327	0.320	0.308	0.314	0.343	0.329
■ Imagen-3	0.345	0.351	0.352	0.343	0.325	0.315	0.324	0.352	0.338
● Custom-Diff	0.333	0.349	0.314	0.339	0.321	0.315	0.326	0.298	0.324
● DreamBooth	0.333	0.347	0.335	0.333	0.322	0.318	0.324	0.335	0.331
● Instruct-Imagen	0.293	0.324	0.315	0.320	0.295	0.294	0.302	0.316	0.307
Image-Entity Alignment: CLIP-I									
■ SD	0.640	0.655	0.673	0.719	0.619	0.616	0.628	0.618	0.646
■ Imagen	0.678	0.650	0.671	0.733	0.630	0.632	0.630	0.545	0.646
■ Flux	0.652	0.653	0.663	0.738	0.609	0.614	0.618	0.561	0.639
■ Imagen-3	0.677	0.656	0.665	0.726	0.623	0.638	0.632	0.582	0.650
● Custom-Diff	0.688	0.678	0.593	0.759	0.619	0.655	0.662	0.491	0.643
● DreamBooth	0.698	0.676	0.692	0.742	0.660	0.681	0.657	0.589	0.674
● Instruct-Imagen	0.776	0.719	0.746	0.825	0.810	0.735	0.751	0.648	0.751
Image-Entity Alignment: DINO									
■ SD	0.449	0.540	0.367	0.386	0.181	0.306	0.189	0.379	0.350
■ Imagen	0.610	0.559	0.359	0.469	0.198	0.353	0.207	0.331	0.386
■ Flux	0.524	0.576	0.382	0.477	0.153	0.343	0.218	0.369	0.380
■ Imagen-3	0.588	0.590	0.351	0.435	0.194	0.366	0.215	0.369	0.389
● Custom-Diff	0.555	0.576	0.285	0.490	0.263	0.382	0.267	0.288	0.388
● DreamBooth	0.580	0.567	0.406	0.435	0.280	0.407	0.250	0.371	0.412
● Instruct-Imagen	0.758	0.711	0.539	0.646	0.526	0.545	0.450	0.482	0.582

(■: Text-to-Image Models, ●: Retrieval-augmented Models)

Table 6: Detailed breakdown of MLLM evaluation.

Model	Aircraft	Vehicle	Cuisine	Flower	Insect	Landmark	Plant	Sport	Overall
MLLM Text Alignment									
■ SD	3.06	3.62	2.97	4.22	2.84	3.78	3.69	3.47	3.46
■ Imagen	3.16	3.78	3.75	4.12	2.88	3.53	3.94	3.75	3.61
■ Flux	3.31	4.31	4.28	4.12	3.5	3.94	4.44	3.75	3.96
■ Imagen-3	3.41	4.25	4.25	4.38	4.09	3.88	4.72	4.41	4.17
● Custom-Diff	3.22	3.5	3.53	3.72	2.66	3.44	3.47	2.75	3.29
● DreamBooth	3.16	3.66	3.31	3.88	2.94	3.53	3.41	3.09	3.37
● Instruct-Imagen	2.53	3.25	2.75	2.41	1.91	2.94	3.0	2.28	2.63
MLLM Entity Alignment									
■ SD	2.34	3.12	3.09	2.28	1.22	1.97	1.69	3.44	2.39
■ Imagen	2.81	3.16	3.25	2.72	1.12	2.41	1.59	3.19	2.53
■ Flux	2.41	2.97	2.47	1.75	1.12	1.72	1.22	2.69	2.04
■ Imagen-3	3.19	3.34	4.06	3.03	1.31	2.25	1.69	3.75	2.83
● Custom-Diff	2.94	3.41	1.78	3.28	1.88	3.34	2.91	2.03	2.7
● DreamBooth	3.12	3.5	2.66	2.59	1.91	3.53	2.59	2.66	2.82
● Instruct-Imagen	3.88	4.06	3.91	4.03	3.22	4.09	3.31	3.25	3.72

(■: Text-to-Image Models, ●: Retrieval-augmented Models)

11 Details of the Human Evaluation Scores Across Prompts

We provide a detailed breakdown of human evaluation results across five evaluation tasks in the KITTEN benchmark, as shown in Tab. 7. For the faithfulness score, the ranking across prompts remains consistent with the overall ranking. Instruct-Imagen achieves the highest score, followed by Imagen-3. The retrieval-based methods, DreamBooth and Custom-Diffusion, come next, while the other base models—Imagen, Flux, and Stable-Diffusion—score comparatively lower.

The instruction-following scores across prompts align with the average performance, with Imagen-3 emerging as the top performer. Notably, Flux and Imagen-3 excel in *Location*, achieving scores of 90 and 87.8, respectively, whereas Imagen and other models fall below 80. Similarly, Imagen-3 demonstrates strong performance in *Composition*, with a score of 94.6, highlighting its robust instruction-following capabilities in these aspects. In contrast, DreamBooth leads in *Style* with the highest score of 90.2, followed by Custom-Diffusion (84.3) and Stable-Diffusion (80.4), showcasing the strong ability of Stable Diffusion and its retrieval-augmented variants to generate accurate styles. In the *Material* category, all models struggle with instruction adherence, though Imagen-3 achieves a relatively higher score.

Table 7: Detailed breakdown of human evaluation.

Model	Basic	Location	Composition	Style	Material	Overall
Faithfulness to entity						
■ SD	3.08	2.87	2.03	2.16	2.65	2.51
■ Imagen	3.96	3.16	2.38	2.53	2.76	2.82
■ Flux	3.50	3.04	2.67	2.32	2.54	2.74
■ Imagen-3	4.08	3.55	2.78	2.79	3.13	3.17
● Custom-Diff	4.34	2.77	2.73	3.12	2.80	2.90
● DreamBooth	4.18	3.33	2.72	2.95	2.94	3.08
● Instruct-Imagen	4.90	4.18	4.16	4.23	4.21	4.22
Instruction-following						
■ SD	100.0	80.0	64.3	80.4	53.1	72.2
■ Imagen	90.0	75.6	80.4	66.7	59.2	72.2
■ Flux	90.0	90.0	83.9	58.8	61.2	76.9
■ Imagen-3	90.0	87.8	94.6	76.5	69.4	83.6
● Custom-Diff	100.0	72.2	66.1	84.3	46.9	69.5
● DreamBooth	90.0	77.8	67.9	90.2	53.1	73.8
● Instruct-Imagen	100.0	46.7	58.9	47.1	20.4	46.5

(■: Text-to-Image Models, ●: Retrieval-augmented Models)

12 Details of the Automatic Metric Scores Across Prompts

We provide a detailed breakdown of automatic metrics across five evaluation tasks in the KITTEN benchmark, as shown in Tab. 8. We observe that *Location* achieves the highest average image-text score (0.334), followed by *Composition* (0.330), *Style* (0.326), and *Material* (0.319). This pattern suggests that generating entities within a given context is relatively easier, whereas accurately modifying materials remains more challenging. In the categories of *Location*, *Composition*, and *Material*, the base models tend to achieve higher image-text scores, with Imagen-3 attaining the highest score among them. Among retrieval-based models, DreamBooth outperforms Custom Diffusion and Instruct-Imagen. Notably, in *Material*, Imagen scores lower (0.317) than DreamBooth (0.319) and Custom Diffusion (0.320), indicating greater difficulty for Imagen in this category.

For the image-entity score, we find that *Location* again ranks highest with an average score of 0.431, followed by *Material* (0.417), *Style* (0.399), and *Composition* (0.364). This ranking highlights the challenge of maintaining entity fidelity when prompts require complex compositions. In the categories of *Location*, *Composition*, and *Material*, retrieval-augmented models generally outperform base models, with Instruct-Imagen achieving

the highest score, followed by DreamBooth and Custom Diffusion. Imagen-3 and Flux also surpass their respective predecessors, Imagen and Stable-Diffusion. However, in an unexpected result for *Composition*, Imagen (0.333) outperforms Imagen-3 (0.317).

While most categories exhibit higher image-entity scores for *Material* compared to *Style*, Imagen-3 and Flux surprisingly perform better on styles. Additionally, other models tend to achieve higher image-entity scores on *Style* than on *Composition*, with DreamBooth being an exception. These results highlight the varying strengths of different models in preserving entity fidelity across diverse prompt types.

Table 8: Detailed breakdown of automatic metrics.

Model	Basic	Location	Composition	Style	Material	Overall
Image-Text Alignment: CLIP-T						
■ SD	0.308	0.342	0.333	0.346	0.332	0.338
■ Imagen	0.304	0.338	0.329	0.328	0.317	0.329
■ Flux	0.299	0.340	0.340	0.308	0.324	0.329
■ Imagen-3	0.303	0.347	0.345	0.322	0.333	0.338
● Custom-Diff	0.308	0.326	0.324	0.335	0.320	0.324
● DreamBooth	0.308	0.336	0.327	0.341	0.319	0.331
● Instruct-Imagen	0.302	0.312	0.311	0.305	0.291	0.307
Image-Entity Alignment: DINO						
■ SD	0.467	0.379	0.295	0.311	0.349	0.350
■ Imagen	0.472	0.409	0.333	0.376	0.385	0.386
■ Flux	0.464	0.394	0.316	0.383	0.368	0.380
■ Imagen-3	0.483	0.412	0.317	0.403	0.391	0.389
● Custom-Diff	0.578	0.411	0.348	0.359	0.400	0.388
● DreamBooth	0.597	0.440	0.376	0.371	0.417	0.412
● Instruct-Imagen	0.626	0.573	0.566	0.593	0.606	0.582

(■: Text-to-Image Models, ●: Retrieval-augmented Models)

13 Details of the MLLM Evaluation Across Prompts

We provide a detailed breakdown of MLLM evaluation results across five evaluation tasks in the KITTEN benchmark, as shown in Tab. 9. For MLLM text alignment, the ranking across prompt types largely mirrors the overall trend. Imagen-3 consistently achieves the highest overall score (4.17), followed by Flux (3.96) and Imagen (3.61). Among retrieval-augmented models, DreamBooth and Custom-Diffusion perform moderately (3.37 and 3.29, respectively), while Instruct-Imagen scores the lowest (2.63). Imagen-3 leads across most prompt types, particularly excelling in *Composition* (4.59) and *Material* (3.78). Flux also performs well, especially in *Location* (4.31) and *Composition* (4.23). In contrast, Custom-Diffusion and DreamBooth show weaker alignment, particularly in *Composition* and *Material*, with scores below 3.5. The MLLM entity alignment scores follow a similar pattern, with Instruct-Imagen achieving the highest overall score (3.72), outperforming all other models across all prompt types. It particularly excels in *Composition* (3.91), *Style* (3.67), and *Material* (3.65), demonstrating strong grounding of entity representations in the image. Among the base models, Imagen-3 performs best (2.83), while Flux consistently underperforms across all prompts. These results further underscore the effectiveness of retrieval augmentation for enhancing entity alignment, especially for complex instructions involving *Style* and *Material*.

14 Details of the Correlation with Human Evaluation

To quantify the consistency between automatic metrics and human evaluation results, we computed Pearson and Spearman correlations. CLIP-T and CLIP-I show moderate alignment with user evaluations. Here, we provide a detailed breakdown of the correlation across eight domains in Tab. 10. While these metrics show

Table 9: Detailed breakdown of MLLM evaluation.

Model	Basic	Location	Composition	Style	Material	Overall
MLLM Text Alignment						
■ SD	4.6	3.61	3.3	3.86	2.69	3.46
■ Imagen	5.0	3.7	3.86	3.45	3.06	3.61
■ Flux	5.0	4.31	4.23	3.35	3.41	3.96
■ Imagen-3	5.0	4.28	4.59	3.75	3.78	4.17
● Custom-Diff	4.6	3.3	3.2	3.84	2.51	3.29
● DreamBooth	4.7	3.34	3.25	3.94	2.69	3.37
● Instruct-Imagen	4.6	2.6	2.86	2.82	1.84	2.63
MLLM Entity Alignment						
■ SD	2.9	2.87	2.16	1.84	2.27	2.39
■ Imagen	3.2	2.89	2.48	1.94	2.41	2.53
■ Flux	2.0	2.24	2.43	1.71	1.59	2.04
■ Imagen-3	3.82	3.18	2.63	2.41	2.63	2.83
● Custom-Diff	3.7	2.7	2.57	2.8	2.51	2.7
● DreamBooth	4.1	3.09	2.55	2.45	2.76	2.82
● Instruct-Imagen	4.2	3.61	3.91	3.67	3.65	3.72

(■: Text-to-Image Models, ●: Retrieval-augmented Models)

some alignment with human evaluations, discrepancies remain in certain categories. Notably, the correlation between CLIP-T and the instruction-following score in the landmark domain, as well as the correlation between CLIP-I and the faithfulness score in the plant domain, is negative. This underscores the limitations of automatic metrics in fully capturing human judgment. Although DINO demonstrates stronger alignment with user evaluations of faithfulness, correlation variability persists across categories. For instance, correlations are lower in the vehicle and landmark domains, highlighting the need for more accurate automatic metrics to better reflect human evaluations and assess model performance.

Additionally, both MLLM entity alignment and text alignment scores show higher correlations with human evaluations in most domains, indicating stronger consistency as automatic proxies. However, exceptions arise in the aircraft and vehicle domains, where the correlation values are noticeably lower. This suggests that while MLLM-based scores generally align well with human judgments, their effectiveness may be reduced in domains characterized by complex or diverse visual features, such as aircraft and vehicles. Further refinement of these metrics could enhance their robustness and reliability across all categories.

Table 10: Per-category correlation with human evaluation.

Metric	Type	Aircraft	Vehicle	Cuisine	Flower	Insect	Landmark	Plant	Average
CLIP-T	Pearson	**0.138**	0.499	0.105	0.788	0.567	**-0.299**	0.564	0.337
	Spearman	**0.168**	0.454	0.286	0.836	0.554	**-0.166**	0.558	0.384
CLIP-I	Pearson	0.330	0.195	**0.100**	0.215	0.528	0.356	**-0.051**	0.239
	Spearman	0.548	0.323	**0.238**	0.287	0.503	0.623	**-0.143**	0.340
DINO	Pearson	0.655	**0.367**	0.549	0.551	**0.277**	0.680	0.492	0.510
	Spearman	0.575	**0.311**	0.735	0.430	**0.210**	0.700	0.565	0.504
MLLM-T	Pearson	0.477	0.687	0.583	0.673	0.586	0.790	0.575	0.618
	Spearman	0.478	0.605	0.536	0.604	0.577	0.748	0.510	0.589
MLLM-I	Pearson	0.468	0.467	0.754	0.783	0.746	0.742	0.705	0.703
	Spearman	0.475	0.393	0.711	0.764	0.686	0.748	0.704	0.695

15   Dataset Statistics

KITTEN benchmark focuses on evaluating faithfulness to knowledge-grounded concepts. To ensure diversity, we select entities from eight specialized domains and construct diverse prompts in each domain for evaluation. For each entity, we collect a set of support images as inputs to assess retrieval-augmented models, where support images are used to enhance the model's predictions. In addition, we collect a set of evaluation images for conducting human evaluation. A detailed breakdown of the data statistics is provided in Tab. 11.

Next, we present the distribution of different evaluation tasks in Tab. 12. The types of evaluation tasks include: 1) generating the knowledge entity, 2) the knowledge entity in context, 3) the composition of entities, 4) creation in different styles, and 5) creation in different materials.

Table 11: Statistics of KITTEN benchmark.

Domain	#Entities	#Prompts	#Support Images	#Eval Images	# (Entitiy, Prompt)
Aircraft	48	20	469	237	960
Vehicle	50	20	500	250	1000
Flower	18	20	180	90	360
Insect	50	20	500	250	1000
Plant	48	20	480	240	960
Landmark	50	20	500	250	1000
Cuisine	31	20	310	155	620
Sport	27	20	270	135	540

Table 12: Statistics of KITTEN evaluation tasks.

Evaluation task	#Prompts	Percentage (%)
Basic	295	4.58
Location	1969	30.57
Composition	1467	22.78
Style	1365	21.20
Material	1344	20.87

16   Details on Human Evaluation

We employ five annotators per image to ensure robust assessments. The raters are hired through Prolific.com, a third-party rating service. For the binary task ("Adherence to Prompt Beyond References"), we observe agreement among at least 4 out of 5 annotators in 75% of cases and perfect agreement (5 out of 5) in 44% of cases. For the Likert scale task ("Faithfulness to Reference Entity"), we calculate Krippendorff's Alpha at 0.60, indicating a good agreement for a subjective task of this complexity. Additionally, we achieve an IoU-like score of 0.53, which penalizes outliers and demonstrates moderate consensus, and an average pairwise Cohen's Kappa of 0.25, reflecting fair pairwise agreement. The average standard deviation of ratings is 0.74, reflecting moderate variability in annotator judgments. These metrics collectively demonstrate the reliability of our human evaluation.

17   Details on Evaluated Models

To facilitate the reproducibility of the KITTEN benchmark experiments, we provide detailed descriptions of the training and inference setups for all evaluated models. For retrieval-augmented methods (DreamBooth and Custom-Diffusion), we follow their original implementations and fine-tune each model per entity using 10 reference images that are disjoint from the evaluation set. We use the AdamW optimizer with a learning rate of 5×10^{-6} and default β values ($\beta_1 = 0.9$, $\beta_2 = 0.999$). Training is conducted for 1,000 steps with a

batch size of 5. Instruct-Imagen is used solely in inference mode with the provided reference images and does not require fine-tuning. Backbone models (e.g., Imagen, Imagen-3, and Flux) are used as released, without additional training. All images are generated using evaluation text prompts, with no overlap in prompts or images between the test and support sets. Evaluation with GPT-4o-mini is performed via API calls. Experiments are conducted on a cluster of eight NVIDIA A100 GPUs (each with 40GB of memory). Fine-tuning takes approximately 20 minutes per entity, and inference requires roughly 5 seconds per image. To support full reproducibility, we will release our benchmark data, evaluation code, and generation scripts.

18 Human Annotation Instructions

We provide the complete instructions given to human raters for evaluating the generated images in the KITTEN benchmark.

Rater Instructions

In this task, you will be provided with a Prompt, Reference Images, and a Generated Image. Your job is to assess the factual accuracy of the generated image with respect to the prompt and the reference images. The goal is to ensure that the entity described in the prompt is factually correct and accurately represented. While the reference images offer a visual starting point, you may conduct your own research (e.g., Google Search) to clarify the appearance of the entity and ensure its accurate depiction in the generated image.

Part 1: Reference Alignment

Faithfulness to Prompt Entity (Factuality)

Your first task is to evaluate how faithfully the generated image represents the reference entity. Consider whether the reference entity's key features and overall appearance are accurately depicted.

Question: How faithfully does the generated image represent the entity mentioned in the prompt?

Candidate Answers:
1 (Not faithful at all): The generated image does not represent the reference entity at all. There are no discernible visual similarities to the reference entity.
2 (Barely faithful): The generated image faintly represents the reference entity, with significant effort needed to see any resemblance. Minor visual elements may be present, but crucial features or characteristics are missing or significantly misrepresented.
3 (Somewhat faithful): The generated image somewhat represents the reference entity, but it's not prominent. There is a clear visual connection in terms of composition, style, or some key elements, but there are noticeable differences, omissions, or misinterpretations.
4 (Mostly faithful): The generated image mostly represents the reference entity and presents it. The generated image draws strong visual inspiration with a strong connection in terms of overall composition, style, key elements, and/or subject matter, despite some variations in details.
5 (Completely faithful): The generated image fully represents the reference entity accurately. It captures all key elements, composition, and style in a way that is almost identical to the reference entity.

Open Questions for Reference Alignment

Visual Similarities: Describe any visual similarities between the generated image and the reference images, focusing on elements that enhance the recognizability of the entity. Be specific about shape, color, texture, composition, objects, or overall style.
Visual Differences: Describe any differences in the generated image that negatively impact its faithfulness to the entity in the prompt and are not specified by the prompt. Focus on aspects that affect recognizability, and avoid mentioning changes that do not impact identification (e.g., angle or color for cars or aircraft).

Part 2: Text-Image Adherence

Adherence to Prompt Beyond References

Next, evaluate whether the generated image accurately and comprehensively depicts all aspects of the scene or entity described in the prompt that are not already reflected in the reference images. This involves checking for details in the prompt that go beyond what is shown in the reference images.

Question: Does the generated image accurately and comprehensively depict any aspects of the scene or entity described in the prompt that are not already reflected in the reference images?

Candidate Answers:

Yes: The generated image accurately and comprehensively depicts aspects of the scene or entity described in the prompt that are not already reflected in the reference images.
No: The generated image fails to accurately and comprehensively depict aspects of the scene or entity described in the prompt that are not already reflected in the reference images.

If the answer is No:

Misalignments: Explain the misalignments between the generated image and the prompt text. Focus on elements or concepts that are not present in the reference images. Be specific about which aspects are missing, inaccurate, or misrepresented.

Optional: Open-Ended Feedback

Question: Do you have any other comments or observations about the generated image? (optional)

19 MLLM Annotation Instructions

We provide the complete instructions given to GPT-4o-mini for evaluating the generated images in the KITTEN benchmark.

Rater Instructions

Your job is to assess the factual accuracy of the generated image with respect to the prompt and the reference images. The goal is to ensure that the entity described in the prompt is factually correct and accurately represented.

Part 1:

In this task, you will be provided with a Prompt, Reference Images, and a Generated Image. Evaluate how faithfully the generated image represents the reference entity. Consider whether the key features and overall appearance of the reference entity are accurately depicted.

Question 1: How faithfully does the generated image represent the entity mentioned in the prompt?

Candidate Answers:
1 (Not faithful at all): The generated image does not represent the reference entity at all. There are no discernible visual similarities to the reference entity.
2 (Barely faithful): The generated image faintly represents the reference entity, with significant effort needed to see any resemblance. Minor visual elements may be present, but crucial features or characteristics are missing or significantly misrepresented.
3 (Somewhat faithful): The generated image somewhat represents the reference entity, but it's not prominent. There is a clear visual connection in terms of composition, style, or some key elements, but there are noticeable differences, omissions, or misinterpretations.
4 (Mostly faithful): The generated image mostly represents the reference entity and clearly presents it. The generated image draws strong visual inspiration with a strong connection in terms of overall composition, style, key elements, and/or subject matter, despite some variations in details.
5 (Completely faithful): The generated image fully represents the reference entity accurately. It captures all key elements, composition, and style in a way that is almost identical to the reference entity.

Answer in the exact format below:
Question 1:

Answer: [1–5]
Reason: [Provide a clear explanation for your answer]

Part 2:

In this task, you will be provided with a Prompt and a Generated Image. Evaluate how well the generated image captures all aspects described in the prompt. Focus on background elements, contextual details, materials, styles, and other visual features.

Question 2: How well does the generated image depict the details described in the prompt?

Candidate Answers:
1 (Not at all): None of the described elements are present in the image.
2 (Slightly): A few minor elements are present, but most are missing or inaccurate.
3 (Moderately): Some elements are present and somewhat accurate, but others are missing or misrepresented.
4 (Mostly): Most of the described elements are clearly and accurately depicted.
5 (Completely): All relevant aspects of the prompt are thoroughly and accurately represented.

Answer in the exact format below:
Question 2:
Answer: [1–5]
Reason: [Provide a clear explanation for your answer]

20 Discussion of Entity and Domain Selections

In KITTEN, entities refer to nameable semantic categories such as landmarks, animal species, or other meaningful visual concepts. They represent groups of objects that share common characteristics and can be identified by a specific name, rather than individual instances. For example, animals within the same entity category may differ in appearance, and landmarks can exhibit substantial variation across photos due to changes in viewpoint, lighting, or surrounding context. Therefore, we allow reasonable variation within the same generated entity. Our human evaluation does not require raters to strictly match the reference image; instead, we explicitly instruct them to conduct their own research (e.g., via Google Search) to verify the entity's appearance and assess whether the generated image accurately depicts it. This includes acceptable variations such as different flower colors or buildings representing the same landmark. Furthermore, KITTEN includes domains with varying degrees of intra-entity variation to ensure a comprehensive evaluation. Domains with higher or lower variation may present different levels of difficulty for models.

Figure 8: **Qualitative results** for the aircraft domain, including the DINO and CLIP-T scores.

Figure 9: **Qualitative results** for the vehicle domain, including the DINO and CLIP-T scores.

Figure 10: **Qualitative results** for the cuisine domain, including the DINO and CLIP-T scores.

Figure 11: **Qualitative results** for the flower domain, including the DINO and CLIP-T scores.

Figure 12: **Qualitative results** for the insect domain, including the DINO and CLIP-T scores.

Figure 13: **Qualitative results** for the landmark domain, including the DINO and CLIP-T scores.

Figure 14: **Qualitative results** for the plant domain, including the DINO and CLIP-T scores.

Figure 15: **Qualitative results** for the sport domain, including the DINO and CLIP-T scores.