

# 000 001 002 003 004 005 APT: TOWARDS UNIVERSAL SCENE GRAPH GENERA- 006 TION VIA PLUG-IN ADAPTIVE PROMPT TUNING 007 008 009

010 **Anonymous authors**  
011 Paper under double-blind review  
012  
013  
014  
015  
016  
017  
018  
019  
020  
021  
022  
023  
024  
025  
026

## ABSTRACT

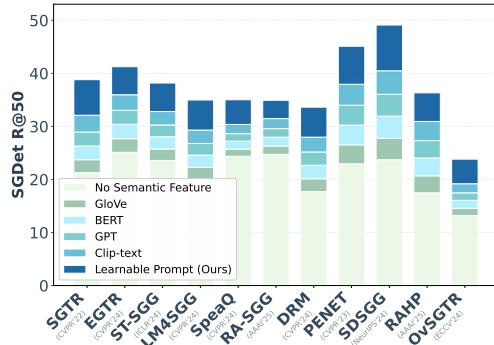
027 Scene Graph Generation (SGG) is pivotal for structured visual understanding, yet  
028 it remains hindered by a fundamental limitation: the reliance on fixed, frozen semantic  
029 representations from pre-trained language models. These semantic priors, while beneficial in other domains, are inherently misaligned with the dy-  
030 namic, context-sensitive nature of visual relationships, leading to biased and sub-  
031 optimal performance. In this paper, we transcend the traditional one-stage v.s.  
032 two-stage architectural debate and identify this representational bottleneck as the  
033 core issue. We introduce Adaptive Prompt Tuning (APT), a universal paradigm  
034 that converts frozen semantic features into dynamic, context-aware representations  
035 through lightweight, learnable prompts. APT acts as a plug-in module that  
036 can be seamlessly integrated into existing SGG frameworks. Extensive experi-  
037 ments demonstrate that APT achieves +2.7 improvement in mR@100 on Pred-  
038 Cls, +3.6 gain in F@100 and up to +6.0 gain in mR@50 in open-vocabulary  
039 novel splits. Notably, it achieves this with less than 0.5M additional parame-  
040 ters (<1.5% overhead) and reduced 7.8%-25% training time, establishing a new  
041 state-of-the-art while offering a unified, efficient, and scalable solution for future  
042 SGG research. The source code of APT is available at <https://anonymous.4open.science/r/APT-1D24>.  
043  
044

## 1 INTRODUCTION

045 Scene Graph Generation (SGG) stands as a foundational pillar in visual understanding, aiming  
046 to represent images as graphs of objects and their interrelationships in a structural manner. For  
047 years, the field has been shaped by two competing paradigms: two-stage methods, which exploit  
048 robust detector features but suffer from contextual fragmentation, and one-stage methods, which  
049 enable end-to-end learning at the expense of computational cost and relation granularity. De-  
050 spite their differences, both methods share a common practice: incorporating static, fixed semantic  
051 representations—typically derived from pre-trained language models like GloVe (Pennington et al.,  
052 2014) and BERT (Devlin et al., 2019)—as semantic priors.

053 While such features have proven useful in  
054 NLP Pennington et al. (2014); Devlin et al.  
055 (2019); Brown et al. (2020) and certain vision-  
056 language tasks Lu et al. (2019); Zhou et al.  
057 (2022b;a), their non-adaptive nature fundamen-  
058 tally limits their effectiveness in SGG, where  
059 context sensitivity, relational nuance, and role-  
060 specific semantics are paramount. As illustrated  
061 in Figure 1, we systematically compare the per-  
062 formance of various SGG methods under differ-  
063 ent semantic feature settings. The results reveal  
064 a consistent performance gap when models are  
065 constrained to use frozen embeddings, under-  
066 scoring their suboptimal adaptability to visual  
067 relational reasoning.

068 The fundamental limitation lies in the rigidity of  
069 these off-the-shelf representations. Whether in a  
070 one-stage transformer or a two-stage detector, frozen word embeddings remain oblivious to visual



071 Figure 1: Performance comparison across differ-  
072 ent semantic features settings (including ours)  
073 based on various SGG methods.

054 context, incapable of distinguishing between fine-grained relations (e.g., "standing on" v.s. "walking  
 055 on"), and fail to capture the semantic asymmetry between subjects and objects. For instance, the  
 056 same "person" embedding remains identically frozen whether the person is riding a horse or holding  
 057 a phone, which highlights a clear misalignment with the dynamic visual world. More revealingly,  
 058 we visualize the feature space, as shown in Figure 2. The static semantic space collapses all 'person'  
 059 instances into a single point, regardless of their diverse contexts. In contrast, the visual feature space  
 060 naturally separates 'person' into clusters based on their relational context (e.g., riding, walking,  
 061 etc.). This stark contrast visually demonstrates the inability of frozen representations to adapt to  
 062 visual contexts and the limitation of static word embeddings in capturing relational context.  
 063

064 Figure 3 illustrates a two-  
 065 dimensional t-SNE projection of  
 066 embeddings from four mainstream  
 067 pre-trained models. It also displays the  
 068 distance from the central point to the  
 069 farthest point within each  
 070 semantic space, alongside the  
 071 cumulative distribution function of  
 072 pairwise distances. A progressive  
 073 loosening of the feature cluster is  
 074 observed when moving from GloVe  
 075 to BERT and further to CLIP-text.  
 076 Moreover, in Table 1, we report the  
 077 silhouette score, participation ratio,  
 078 the number of principal components  
 079 required to explain 90% of the variance (PCA@90), and a  
 080 mutual information proxy  $I(\text{embedding}; \text{predicate})$ . This indicates that more powerful pre-trained  
 081 models encode richer substructures within their representation spaces. However, this internal  
 082 structure remains misaligned with the fine-grained visual-relational context required by the SGG  
 083 task. This suggests that simply replacing one frozen model with another does not address the core  
 084 issue of semantic rigidity. While one-stage models attempt to unify detection and relation modeling,  
 085 their heavy pre-trained backbones and dense attention mechanisms incur prohibitive training costs  
 086 without fundamentally solving the semantic adaptivity problem.  
 087

088 In light of these observations, what the community  
 089 has overlooked is not the architecture, but the **representation paradigm**: the  
 090 need for a lightweight, universally applicable mechanism that injects adaptive  
 091 semantics into any SGG framework. To this end, we transcend the one- v.s. two-stage dichotomy  
 092 and introduce a new unified representation paradigm for SGG: **adaptive prompt tuning**. Rather  
 093 than engineering another architecture, we propose a plug-in module that enables any existing SGG  
 094 model—whether one-stage and two-stage, which are transductive, or the inductive open vocabulary  
 095 setting—to dynamically modulate pre-trained semantic features in response to visual context and  
 096 relational roles. Our key idea is both simple and powerful: a set of lightweight, learnable prompts  
 097 that act as conditional adapters, transforming frozen language model features into context-aware  
 098 representations without backpropagation through the original pre-trained backbone.  
 099

100 Extensive experiments validate the generality and effectiveness of our approach. When plugged into  
 101 leading one- and two-stage models, our prompt module delivers consistent and significant improvements,  
 102 establishing new state-of-the-art results across multiple benchmarks. Importantly, it achieves  
 103 these improvements with reduced training time and minimal parameter overhead, making it highly  
 104 practical for compute-efficient research and applications. The main contributions of this paper are  
 105 summarized as follows:

- 106 • We identify and diagnose the representational limitation of frozen, fixed semantic representations  
 107 as a fundamental bottleneck in SGG, transcending architectural categories.
- We propose a lightweight, universal prompt-based representation paradigm that converts frozen  
 108 semantic representations into dynamic, context-aware features, compatible with both one- and  
 109 two-stage SGG frameworks.

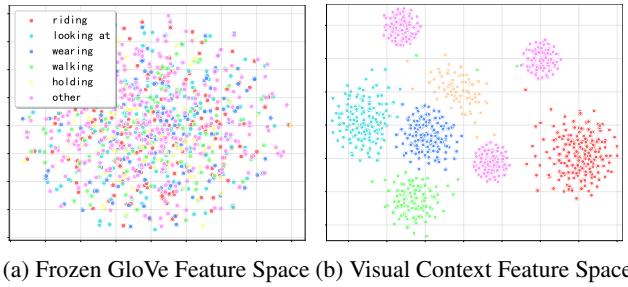


Figure 2: t-SNE visualization of *person* instances with visual contextual features and GloVe embeddings across different relations.

Table 1: Diagnostics across pre-trained models.

Embedding	Silhouette	Participation Ratio	PCA@90%	$I(\text{embedding}; \text{predicate})$ (bits)
GloVe	0.12	9.8	27	0.42
BERT	0.18	15.6	32	0.49
GPT	0.22	23.1	44	0.53
CLIP-text	0.29	48.7	125	0.57

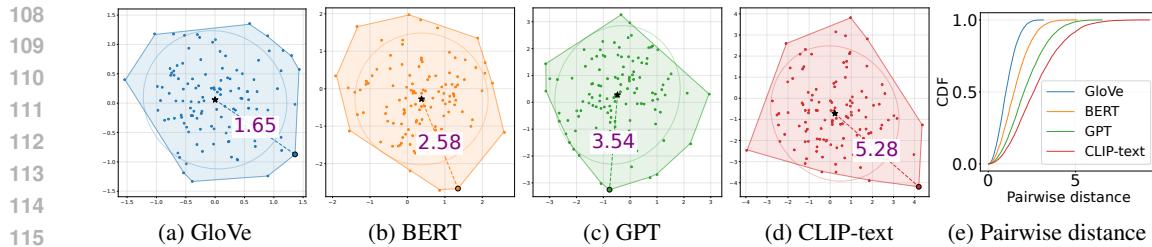


Figure 3: Two-dimensional feature distribution of four mainstream text feature models under t-SNE dimensionality reduction. The number in (a), (b), (c), and (d) represent the distance between the center point and the farthest point, while (e) shows the cumulative distribution function (CDF) of pairwise distance.

- Extensive experiments are conducted on Visual Genome, Open Image V6, and GQA, demonstrating that APT improves mean recall (mR@100) by up to +2.7 on PredCls and boosts harmonic mean (F@100) by up to +3.6, while introducing less than 0.5M additional parameters (<1.5% overhead) and reducing training time by 7.8%–25%. In open vocabulary settings, APT achieves up to +6.0 gain on mR@50 in novel split.

## 2 RELATED WORK

Building on our diagnosis of frozen semantic representations as a fundamental bottleneck, we now review how this issue manifests across different SGG paradigms.

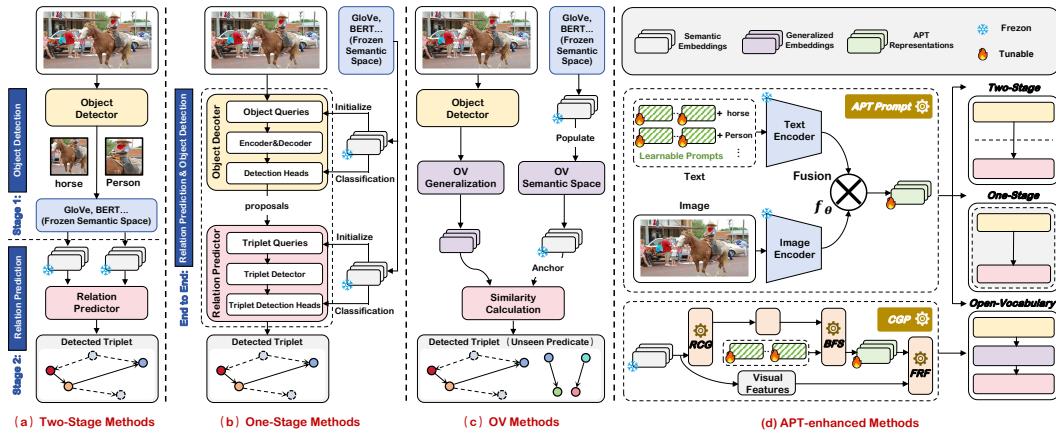
**Two-Stage SGG.** Two-stage methods first detect objects and then predict relations between proposed regions. Pioneering works like MOTIFS Zellers et al. (2018) built upon Faster R-CNN detectors, leveraging visual features and spatial masks to predict predicates. Subsequent efforts Tang et al. (2019) incorporated linguistic priors from pre-trained models (e.g., GloVe (Pennington et al., 2014)) to enrich object representations, while others Yang et al. (2018); Li et al. (2021) employed GNN to propagate contextual information between objects. Recent methods such as PE-Net (Zheng et al., 2023), DRM (Li et al., 2024a), and RA-SGG (Yoon et al., 2025) further explore advanced architectures to enhance relational reasoning. A key limitation is their reliance on frozen semantic representations. Whether used in label initialization or feature fusion, these fixed embeddings remain insensitive to visual context and relational nuance. Despite strong detectors, their representational capacity remains bottlenecked by non-adaptive semantic priors.

**One-Stage SGG.** In contrast, one-stage methods aim to unify detection and relation prediction within an end-to-end framework. Models such as Qpic (Tamura et al., 2021), SGTR (Li et al., 2022), EGTR (Im et al., 2024), ST-SGG (Kim et al., 2024b), LLM4SGG (Kim et al., 2024c), SpeaQ (Kim et al., 2024a) and HydraSGG Chen et al. (2025) use transformer-based architectures to directly predict relation triples from image features. These methods avoid error propagation and simplify training pipelines by jointly optimizing all components. However, these methods often inherit—and sometimes exacerbate—the problem of semantic rigidity. Many still initialize query embeddings or semantic banks using static word vectors, which cannot adapt to visual context. Moreover, their heavy reliance on self-attention over high-resolution feature maps leads to substantial computational overhead, limiting their practicality for large-scale or resource-constrained applications. The pursuit of architectural unity has thus come at the cost of both representational flexibility and efficiency.

**Open Vocabulary SGG.** Recent interest in open vocabulary SGG seeks to generalize to unseen objects and predicates. OV-SGG He et al. (2022) proposed a two-stage, prompt-based method to bridge the knowledge gap between base and novel object categories, but its prompt-template-based fine-tuning makes it difficult to extend to other paradigms. Methods like Epic Yu et al. (2023), PGSG Li et al. (2024b), SDSGG (Chen et al., 2024a), OvSGTR (Chen et al., 2024b), SpaceSGG Xu et al. (2025), and RAHP (Liu et al., 2025) leverage large pre-trained vision-language models (e.g., CLIP (Radford et al., 2021)) for zero-shot alignment, while others employ probabilistic grounding or knowledge distillation. Yet, these methods still largely depend on frozen backbones and semantic spaces. While powerful, CLIP-based features remain generic and are not explicitly tailored to the structured and context-dependent nature of relational prediction. As a result, they often struggle with fine-grained relational reasoning and exhibit limited adaptability to downstream SGG contexts.

162 Our work does not propose another architecture in the one- v.s. two-stage divide, nor does it simply  
 163 replace one frozen model with another. Instead, we introduce a universal plug-in module based  
 164 on lightweight prompt tuning that can be seamlessly integrated into any SGG framework—whether  
 165 one-stage, two-stage, or open-vocabulary.

### 167 3 ADAPTIVE PROMPT TUNING FRAMEWROK



184 Figure 4: A comparative illustration of different SGG paradigms versus APT framework. (a) Two-  
 185 stage methods suffer from fragmented context propagation and reliance on static features. (b) One-  
 186 stage methods achieve end-to-end learning but at a high computational cost and with semantic rigid-  
 187 ity. (c) Open-Vocabulary methods leverage large VL models but struggle with fine-grained relational  
 188 reasoning due to generic representations. (d) Our APT framework introduces a universal plug-in  
 189 module that injects adaptive semantics into any SGG backbone, enabling dynamic, context-aware  
 190 feature modulation for superior performance and efficiency.

#### 191 3.1 OVERVIEW

193 The **Adaptive Prompt Tuning (APT)** framework centers on lightweight, learnable prompts that  
 194 adapt frozen pre-trained semantic representations into **context-aware, task-specific** features. As  
 195 illustrated in Figure 4, APT is designed as a universal plugin that can be seamlessly integrated  
 196 into both two-stage and one-stage SGG paradigms. The prompts act as conditional adapters, trans-  
 197 forming frozen word embeddings into dynamic representations that are sensitive to visual context,  
 198 fine-grained relationships, and the semantic roles of subjects and objects.

199 Adaptive Prompt Tuning (APT) framework is grounded in the advanced research of **continuous**  
 200 **prompt learning** and **model adaptation**. Unlike traditional methods that discretely modify input  
 201 tokens, continuous prompts introduce a set of learnable vector parameters into the model’s em-  
 202 bedding space, acting as specific instructions to guide the model’s behavior Lester et al. (2021).  
 203 Formally, a pre-trained model can be viewed as a function  $F_\theta$  whose parameters  $\theta$  are fixed after  
 204 pre-training. Prompt learning aims to find an optimal prompt  $P^*$  that enables the frozen model  $F_\theta$   
 205 to perform best on a specific downstream task  $T$ :

$$P^* = \operatorname{argmin}_P \mathcal{L}_T(F_\theta([P; x])) \quad (1)$$

208 APT innovatively adapts this paradigm to the multimodal context and structured prediction task of  
 209 SGG. The prompt  $P$  functions not as a direct prefix to a language model, but as a **feature modu-**  
 210 **lator**. It transforms generic, task-agnostic static semantic features  $e_{static}$  into dynamic features  $\tilde{e}$   
 211 tailored for the downstream SGG task. This process is analogous to the role of a **modem in com-**  
 212 **munications**: the prompt  $P$ , carrying task-specific information from the visual context, "modulates"  
 213 the original semantic signal, enabling it to convey information more effectively for SGG. From the  
 214 viewpoint of the Information Bottleneck principle Chi et al. (2022); Yang et al. (2023); Tishby et al.  
 215 (2000), APT aims to learn an optimal feature representation  $\tilde{e}$  that preserves sufficient information  
 to the current visual relation, and simultaneously incorporating relevant visual contextual informa-

216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266  
267  
268  
269  
tion  $v$ . The prompt  $P$  serves as the adapter achieving this "compression and injection." The objective can be formulated as:

$$\max I(\tilde{\mathbf{e}}; y) - \beta I(\tilde{\mathbf{e}}; \mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}|v, y) \quad (2)$$

In Eq. 2,  $I(\cdot; \cdot)$  denotes mutual information, and  $y$  is the target relation class. The first term requires  $\tilde{\mathbf{e}}$  to be informative for prediction, while the second term encourages  $\tilde{\mathbf{e}}$  to forget redundant information in  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}$  given the visual context  $v$  and the target  $y$ . The learnable prompt  $P$  is optimized through training data to balance this trade-off.

### 3.2 UNIFIED PLUG-IN PROMPTS

APT operates on a simple yet powerful principle: for a given semantic concept, it employs a **lightweight, learnable prompt**  $P$  to condition the frozen, static embedding  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}(c)$  on the current visual context. This process can be universally described by the following equation:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{e}}(c) = f_{\theta}(\mathcal{A}(P(c), \mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}(c), \phi(\mathbf{v}))) \quad (3)$$

In Eq. 3,  $P(c)$  is the learnable prompt for concept  $c$ .  $\mathcal{A}(\cdot)$  is the aggregation function that reduces the prompt sequence to a single vector.  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}(c)$  is the frozen pre-trained semantic embedding.  $\phi(\mathbf{v})$  is the visual feature projector, encoding relevant visual context  $v$ .  $f_{\theta}$  is a small fusion network that generates the final adaptive representation  $\tilde{\mathbf{e}}(c)$

The key is that only the prompt parameters  $P$ , the projector  $\phi$ , and the fusion network  $f_{\theta}$  are learnable. The pre-trained semantic backbone remains entirely frozen, making APT highly parameter-efficient and preventing catastrophic forgetting.

**Detection Prompt  $P_d$ :** This prompt is applied during the object detection phase. For each object class  $c$ , learnable vector  $P_d(c) \in \mathbb{R}^{L_d \times D}$  is defined, where  $L_d$  is the prompt length and  $D$  is the feature dimension. The prompt is fused with the pre-trained semantic embedding  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}(c) \in \mathbb{R}^D$  through a dedicated Multi-Layer Perceptron ( $f_{\theta_{\text{det}}}$ ) to generate an adaptive object representation for the detection head.

**Relation Prompt  $P_r$ :** After objects are detected, relation prediction begins. Here, for each predicate class  $r$ , learnable vector  $P_r(r) \in \mathbb{R}^{L_r \times D}$  is defined. This prompt is specifically designed to capture the nuances of interactions. For a subject-object pair  $(s, o)$  with predicted visual features  $\mathbf{v}_s$  and  $\mathbf{v}_o$ , their adaptive semantic features are generated and fused with visual evidence.

**Unified Relation Prompt  $P_{ur}$ :** Since there is no separate detection stage for one-stage paradigm, a single Relation Prompt  $P_{ur}$  is sufficient and more efficient. This prompt operates on the semantic queries or label embeddings that the model uses for final predicate classification. For a potential relation with subject class  $s$  and object class  $o$ , the model dynamically modulates their semantic embeddings. The adapted embeddings are then used by the transformer decoder for cross-attention with visual features.

In both one- and two-stage cases, the pre-trained semantic embeddings  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}(\cdot)$  remain **frozen**. Only the prompt parameters  $P_d$ ,  $P_r$  and the parameters of the light-weight MLPs ( $f_{\theta}$ ) are learned during training. This makes our APT framework highly parameter-efficient and prevents overfitting. The same pre-trained language model can thus be shared across different SGG architectures, with the prompts specializing its knowledge for the task at hand.

### 3.3 COMPOSITIONAL GENERALIZATION PROMPTER

The Open-Vocabulary (OV) setting demands that the model generalize to unseen object and predicate compositions unseen during training. To equip APT with this capability, we introduce a dedicated **Compositional Generalization Prompter (CGP)**. This module is architected to dynamically synthesize context-aware semantic representations for unseen categories through a structured, multi-stage prompting process. The CGP operates through three specialized sub-modules, which work in concert to achieve robust generalization:

**Relational Context Gating (RCG):** This component generates role-aware prompt weights by integrating visual evidence with initial semantic cues. For a subject entity  $s$  with visual feature  $\mathbf{v}_s$ :

$$\mathbf{w}_s = \sigma(\text{MLP}_{\text{gate}}(\text{Concat}(\mathbf{v}_s, \mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}(s)))), \quad (4)$$

270 The gating vector  $\mathbf{w}_s$  determines the activation of prompt bases, ensuring the modulation is conditioned  
 271 on the immediate visual context of each entity.

272 **Basis Prompt Synthesis (BPS):** A set of learnable basis prompts  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times L_{ov} \times D}$  serves as a  
 273 repository of fundamental relational concepts. The final prompt for an entity is synthesized as a  
 274 weighted combination of these bases:  
 275

$$276 \quad \mathbf{P}_{cgp}(s) = \sum_{i=1}^N w_s^i \cdot \mathbf{B}^i, \quad \overline{\mathbf{P}_{cgp}(s)} = \text{MeanPool}(\mathbf{P}_{cgp}(s)) \quad (5)$$

$$277$$

$$278$$

279 To obtain a compact pooled prompt we use a normalized, token-weighted pooling with normalization-  
 280 tion ( $L_b$  the basis prompt length):  
 281

$$282 \quad \bar{\mathbf{p}} = \text{LayerNorm}\left(\frac{1}{L_b} \sum_{t=1}^{L_b} \mathbf{P}_{cgp}(s)\right) \in \mathbb{R}^D. \quad (6)$$

$$283$$

$$284$$

285 This allows the model to generate a virtually unlimited variety of tailored prompts from a finite set  
 286 of bases, enabling compositional generalization.  
 287

288 **Feature Refinement & Fusion (FRF):** This sub-module performs the final integration of the syn-  
 289 thesized prompt, the frozen semantic embedding, and the projected visual feature:  
 290

$$290 \quad \tilde{\mathbf{e}}_{ov}(s) = f_{\theta_{\text{frf}}}(\text{Concat}(\overline{\mathbf{P}_{cgp}(s)}, \mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}(s), \phi_v(\mathbf{v}_s))) \quad (7)$$

$$291$$

292 The refined feature  $\tilde{\mathbf{e}}_{ov}(s)$  is context-sensitive, semantically grounded, and primed for relational  
 293 reasoning with unseen concepts.  
 294

295 The CGP module is designed as a plug-in component that can seamlessly augment the standard  
 296 Relation Prompt ( $P_r$ ) in both two-stage and one-stage architectures. All pre-trained embeddings  
 297 remain frozen. Only the basis prompts  $\mathbf{B}$ , the gating network, visual projectors  $\phi_v$ , and the fusion  
 298 MLPs  $f_{\theta_{\text{frf}}}$  are introduced as new learnable parameters, upholding the parameter-efficient nature of  
 299 the APT framework.  
 300

301 By integrating **Relational Context Gating**, **Basis Prompt Synthesis**, and **Feature Refinement &**  
 302 **Fusion**, our CGP module provides a principled and unified solution for open-vocabulary general-  
 303 ization, ensuring robust performance on both common and unseen compositional queries.  
 304

305 The overall training objective augments the loss  $\mathcal{L}$  with several prompt and gating regularizers.  
 306 Formally, the empirical objective—expressed as an expectation over the data distribution  $\mathcal{D}$ —is  
 307

$$308 \quad \mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim \mathcal{D}} [\mathcal{L}_{\text{cls}}(x, y)] \quad (8)$$

$$309$$

$$310 \quad + \lambda_p \|\mathbf{B}\|_F^2 + \lambda_{pd} \|P_{\text{det}}\|_F^2 + \lambda_{pr} \|P_{\text{rel}}\|_F^2 \quad (9)$$

$$311$$

$$312 \quad + \lambda_d \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim \mathcal{D}} [\|\tilde{\mathbf{e}} - \mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}\|_2^2] \quad (10)$$

$$313$$

$$314 \quad + \lambda_{\text{orth}} \sum_{i < j} \|\mathbf{B}_i^\top \mathbf{B}_j\|_F^2 \quad (11)$$

$$315$$

$$316 \quad - \beta \sum_{i=1}^N w_i \log w_i \quad (12)$$

$$317$$

$$318 \quad + \gamma \text{KL}(\mathbf{w} \parallel \mathbf{u}_{\text{prior}}) + \lambda_w \|\mathbf{W}_v\|_F^2, \quad (13)$$

$$319$$

320 where  $\lambda_{\{\cdot\}}$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ , and  $\lambda_{\text{orth}}$  are non-negative hyperparameters;  $\mathbf{u}_{\text{prior}}$  denotes an optional prior (e.g.,  
 321 uniform) over the gating distribution. The KL (entropy) terms serve to encourage sparsity and  
 322 diversity and to penalize deviations from the prior.  
 323

## 324 4 EXPERIMENT

### 325 4.1 EXPERIMENT SETTINGS

326 **Datasets.** Our experiments are carried out on three publicly available benchmarks: (1) **Visual**  
 327 **Genome (VG)** Krishna et al. (2017) comprises 150 object categories and 50 types of relations. The  
 328 dataset is partitioned into 57,723 images for training, 5,000 for validation, and 26,446 for testing.  
 329 (2) **Open Images V6** Kuznetsova et al. (2020) includes 288 entity classes and 30 relation categories.  
 330 It provides 126,368 training images, 1,813 validation images, and 5,322 test images annotated with  
 331 relational triples. (3) **GQA** Hudson & Manning (2019) contains 200 distinct entity types and 100  
 332 kinds of relations. It offers 52,623 training samples, 5,000 validation images, and 8,209 test images  
 333 with scene graph annotations. We report only the results on VG due to the page limit.  
 334

335 **Evaluation Protocol.** The evaluation is con-  
 336 ducted on three conventional SGG sub-tasks, in-  
 337 cluding Predicate Classification (**PredCls**), Scene  
 338 Graph Classification (**SGCls**), and Scene Graph  
 339 Detection (**SGDet**). **PredCls** predicts the predi-  
 340 cate classes given all ground-truth object bound-  
 341 ing boxes and the object classes. **SGCls** aims at  
 342 predicting the predicate classes given the ground-  
 343 truth object bounding boxes. **SGDet** detects all  
 344 entities and their pairwise predicates given an im-  
 345 age.

346 **Evaluation Metrics.** We evaluate SGG mod-  
 347 els on the three metrics: (1) Recall@K (R@K)  
 348 calculates the proportion of top-K predicted  
 349 triplets that are in ground truth. (2) Mean Re-  
 350 call@K (mR@K) calculates the average recall for  
 351 each predicate class, which is designed to mea-  
 352 sure the performance of SGG models under the  
 353 long-tailed predicate distribution Liu et al. (2019). (3) F@K calculates the harmonic average of  
 354 R@K and mR@K. ST-SGG (Kim et al., 2024b) suggests that there is a trade-off between R@K and  
 355 mR@K. Thus, recent works have focused on achieving greater F@K.

356 **Baselines.** APT is compared with methods from three categories: (1) Two-stage SGG methods,  
 357 including MOTIFS (Zellers et al., 2018), PE-Net (Zheng et al., 2023), DRM (Li et al., 2024a) and  
 358 RA-SGG (Yoon et al., 2025); (2) One-stage methods including SGTR (Li et al., 2022), EGTR (Im  
 359 et al., 2024), ST-SGG (Kim et al., 2024b), LLM4SGG (Kim et al., 2024c), SpeaQ (Kim et al., 2024a)  
 360 and HQSG (Fu et al., 2025); (3) Open Vocabulary methods including SDSGG (Chen et al., 2024a),  
 361 OvSGTR (Chen et al., 2024b) and RAHP (Liu et al., 2025).

362 Table 2: Performance (%) of state-of-the-art SGG models with & without APT on Visual  
 363 Genome Krishna et al. (2017). † denotes the results are produced using official code.

364 <b>Methods</b>	365 <b>Predicate Classification</b>			366 <b>Scene Graph Classification</b>			367 <b>Scene Graph Detection</b>		
	368 R@50/100	369 mR@50/100	370 F@50/100	371 R@50/100	372 mR@50/100	373 F@50/100	374 R@50/100	375 mR@50/100	376 F@50/100
<i>377 <b>Two-stage methods</b></i>									
Motif <sup>†</sup> Zellers et al. (2018)CVPR'18	64.6/66.0	15.2/16.2	24.6/26.0	38.0/38.9	8.7/9.3	14.2/15.0	31.0/35.1	6.7/7.7	11.0/12.6
Motif+APT	66.5/68.2	17.4/18.1	26.4/28.1	40.3/40.8	10.5/11.1	16.4/17.3	33.3/37.6	9.2/10.3	13.2/15.1
PE-Net <sup>†</sup> (Zheng et al., 2023)CVPR'23	65.8/67.6	17.7/19.2	27.9/29.9	36.7/37.4	9.4/10.0	15.0/15.8	27.1/29.8	6.4/7.3	10.4/11.7
PE-Net+APT	67.5/69.2	19.3/20.5	29.7/31.6	37.2/38.4	10.4/10.7	16.2/17.1	28.0/31.3	7.1/8.6	11.3/12.5
DRM <sup>†</sup> Li et al. (2024a)CVPR'24	65.8/67.6	17.7/19.2	27.9/29.9	36.7/37.4	9.4/10.0	15.0/15.8	27.1/29.8	6.4/7.3	10.4/11.7
DRM+APT	68.7/70.5	19.4/21.9	28.9/30.5	39.4/40.1	11.3/11.7	17.2/18.6	29.6/31.7	8.2/9.7	12.5/13.3
RA-SGG <sup>†</sup> Yoon et al. (2025)AAAI'25	66.1/68.0	18.2/19.8	28.4/30.5	37.3/37.9	9.8/10.6	15.4/16.1	27.5/30.2	6.8/7.4	10.6/12.2
RA-SGG+APT	66.7/69.4	18.5/20.2	29.0/30.2	37.7/38.1	10.1/11.3	16.1/17.4	28.8/29.8	8.2/8.9	11.3/12.5
<i>378 <b>One-stage methods</b></i>									
SGTR <sup>†</sup> Li et al. (2022)CVPR'22	59.2/61.3	30.4/32.9	40.2/42.8	37.4/38.5	14.3/16.5	20.7/23.1	31.0/35.8	10.7/12.6	15.9/18.6
SGTR+APT	62.3/63.5	32.7/35.3	43.5/45.9	39.8/40.3	17.1/18.7	22.9/25.4	33.5/36.8	12.9/14.8	18.4/20.3
EGTR <sup>†</sup> Im et al. (2024)CVPR'24	54.1/56.6	35.7/38.2	40.0/45.6	34.9/36.1	17.0/18.4	22.9/24.4	27.4/31.8	13.2/15.5	17.8/20.8
EGTR+APT	56.4/58.3	37.5/40.1	45.2/47.7	36.7/38.6	19.5/20.3	24.6/26.2	29.7/33.5	15.7/16.9	19.4/22.3
LLM4SSG <sup>†</sup> Kim et al. (2024c)CVPR'24	62.2/64.1	36.2/39.1	45.7/48.6	38.2/39.1	20.9/22.5	27.0/28.6	26.0/30.3	14.4/17.1	18.5/21.9
LLM4SSG+APT	65.1/66.9	38.1/42.2	47.9/50.3	40.1/41.8	22.7/24.8	29.5/30.3	28.8/32.4	16.7/19.8	20.3/23.6
ST-SGG <sup>†</sup> Kim et al. (2024b)ICLR'24	53.9/57.7	28.1/31.5	36.9/40.8	33.4/34.9	16.9/18.0	22.4/23.8	26.7/30.7	11.6/14.2	16.2/19.4
ST-SGG+APT	58.7/62.3	31.3/34.6	39.9/43.7	36.6/38.4	20.3/21.5	26.3/26.9	30.2/34.4	14.8/18.1	19.3/22.2
SpeaQ <sup>†</sup> Kim et al. (2024a)CVPR'24	55.7/57.9	30.9/33.4	39.7/42.4	33.1/34.4	17.5/18.8	22.9/24.3	24.5/28.9	14.1/16.5	17.9/21.0
SpeaQ+APT	57.8/60.8	34.2/36.8	42.5/45.3	36.5/37.6	20.3/21.7	26.3/27.5	27.5/31.9	18.0/19.5	20.2/23.3
HQSG <sup>†</sup> Fu et al. (2025)CVPR'25	57.6/58.9	32.7/34.6	41.5/43.2	35.2/36.1	19.2/20.4	25.4/27.2	34.1/38.3	16.0/20.5	21.8/26.7
HQSG+APT	58.7/61.2	35.1/37.3	43.3/45.4	37.7/38.3	21.9/22.7	26.9/28.7	36.5/39.9	18.2/21.7	22.6/28.2

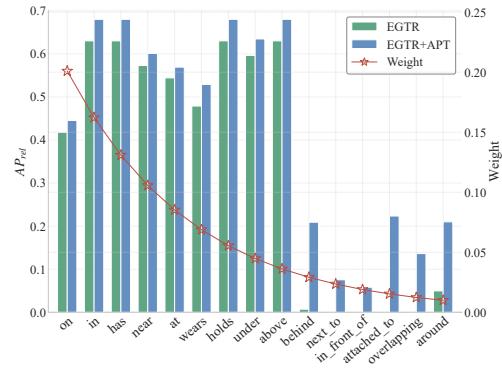


Figure 5:  $AP_{rel}$  performance comparison per class. The Weight (i.e., right y-axis) represents the frequency ratio in the test data.

(3) F@K calculates the harmonic average of R@K and mR@K. ST-SGG (Kim et al., 2024b) suggests that there is a trade-off between R@K and mR@K. Thus, recent works have focused on achieving greater F@K.

**Baselines.** APT is compared with methods from three categories: (1) Two-stage SGG methods, including MOTIFS (Zellers et al., 2018), PE-Net (Zheng et al., 2023), DRM (Li et al., 2024a) and RA-SGG (Yoon et al., 2025); (2) One-stage methods including SGTR (Li et al., 2022), EGTR (Im et al., 2024), ST-SGG (Kim et al., 2024b), LLM4SGG (Kim et al., 2024c), SpeaQ (Kim et al., 2024a) and HQSG (Fu et al., 2025); (3) Open Vocabulary methods including SDSGG (Chen et al., 2024a), OvSGTR (Chen et al., 2024b) and RAHP (Liu et al., 2025).

378 4.2 COMPARISON WITH BASELINES ON VISUAL GENOME  
379

380 As comprehensively detailed in Table 2, we evaluate the effectiveness of APT by integrating it  
381 into a diverse set of state-of-the-art SGG models, encompassing both two-stage and one-stage  
382 paradigms. The integration of APT consistently enhances the performance of all base models across  
383 the three canonical SGG tasks: PredCIs, SGCIIs, and SGDet. This universal applicability solidifies  
384 our method’s role as a powerful and general-purpose plugin for the SGG community.

385 The most notable improvements are observed on the mean recall (mR@K) metric, which is a more  
386 robust measure of a model’s ability to predict a balanced set of predicates beyond the head classes.  
387 For instance, APT elevates the mR@100 of EGTR Im et al. (2024) by +1.9 and +1.9 on PredCIs  
388 and SGCIIs, respectively. The striking improvement confirms that our adaptive prompts effectively  
389 mitigate the inherent bias of static features towards frequent predicates, enabling the models to  
390 perform more fairly and accurately on tail categories. This implication can be further explored  
391 by referring to Figure 5, which displays the performance  $AP_{rel}$  for each class. Specifically, for  
392 the head predicates, EGTR+APT achieves competitive results. For the tail predicates, EGTR+APT  
393 significantly enhances the performance, particularly in the cases where EGTR struggles to make  
394 accurate predictions, such as **attached\_to**, **overlapping** predicates. Furthermore, the superior F@K  
395 scores demonstrate that APT does not achieve gains in mR@K at the expense of R@K but instead  
396 fosters a more comprehensive and balanced relational understanding.

397 APT yields substantial gains on both two-stage and one-stage methods. This validates our core  
398 hypothesis that the limitation of frozen semantic priors is a fundamental bottleneck transcending  
399 architectural choices. Our method successfully alleviates this bottleneck, empowering diverse archi-  
400 tectures with adaptive semantic representations.

400 Table 3: Performance (%) of state-of-the-art Open Vocabulary SGG models with & without APT on  
401 Visual Genome Krishna et al. (2017).  $\dagger$  denotes that the results are produced using official code.

402 Methods	403 Base			404 Novel		
	405 R@20/50/100	406 mR@20/50/100	407 F@20/50/100	408 R@20/50/100	409 mR@20/50/100	410 F@20/50/100
SDSGG $\dagger$ Chen et al. (2024a)NeurIPS’24	18.7/26.5/31.6	9.2/12.4/14.8	12.3/16.9/20.2	18.4/25.4/29.6	17.1/25.2/31.2	17.7/25.3/30.4
SDSGG+APT	19.5/27.3/32.2	10.1/13.2/15.6	13.4/18.0/21.9	19.4/26.6/31.1	18.6/26.7/32.3	19.1/27.1/32.3
OvSGTR $\dagger$ Chen et al. (2024b)ECCV’24	19.0/22.9/26.7	12.6/16.4/19.7	15.7/19.1/22.7	17.0/20.5/23.9	10.9/13.5/16.2	13.4/16.3/19.3
OvSGTR+APT	20.0/24.0/27.9	13.4/17.3/20.1	16.8/20.1/23.4	17.8/21.2/25.0	11.6/14.3/17.2	14.1/17.1/20.4
SGTR+RAHP $\dagger$ Liu et al. (2025)AAAI’25	34.6/41.3/47.7	16.4/20.5/25.2	22.0/27.4/33.0	12.4/15.5/20.4	9.1/11.8/15.5	10.5/13.4/17.6
SGTR+RAHP+APT	35.4/42.0/48.4	17.0/21.1/26.0	22.7/28.1/33.8	13.1/16.1/21.1	9.7/12.4/16.3	11.2/14.0/18.4

408 4.3 COMPARISON WITH OPEN VOCABULARY SGG MODELS ON VISUAL GENOME  
409

410 To evaluate the model’s capability to generalize to unseen relationships, we follow the common  
411 practice Chen et al. (2024a;b) and partition the VG dataset into Base and Novel splits. The Base split  
412 contains 70% of the relation categories for training, while the Novel split comprises the remaining  
413 30% of categories that are held out from training. This setting tests the model’s true compositional  
414 reasoning ability. The results are presented in Table 3.

415 APT improves performance on the **Novel** split across all base models, which is the core challenge of  
416 OV-SGG. This demonstrates that our adaptive prompting mechanism and CGP module effectively  
417 unlock the compositional knowledge embedded in pre-trained models, enabling them to generalize  
418 to unseen predicate combinations. APT is compelling across different OV-SGG architectures, from  
419 transformer-based one-stage models to methods incorporating external knowledge, substantiating  
420 that the proposed adaptive prompting paradigm addresses a fundamental bottleneck in OV-SGG—  
421 the inability of frozen representations to dynamically adapt to unseen compositional contexts.

422 Table 4: Ablation study of APT on VG.  $\dagger$  denotes the results are produced using official code.

423 Model	424 Predicate Classification			425 Scene Graph Classification		
	426 R@50/100	427 mR@50/100	428 F@50/100	429 R@50/100	430 mR@50/100	431 F@50/100
Vanilla PE-Net $\dagger$	64.9/67.2	31.5/33.8	42.4/45.0	37.7/38.7	17.8/18.9	24.5/25.8
+D-Prompt only	65.2/67.1	30.4/32.6	41.0/43.8	38.5/39.4	16.6/17.9	24.0/25.3
+R-Prompt only	64.6/66.7	33.4/36.4	43.6/46.0	38.6/39.5	19.6/20.8	25.1/26.3
<b>+Full APT</b>	<b>62.2/64.1</b>	<b>36.2/39.1</b>	<b>45.7/48.6</b>	38.2/39.1	<b>20.9/22.5</b>	<b>27.0/28.6</b>

## 432 4.4 ABLATION STUDY ON COMPONENTS OF APT

433 The ablation experiments are conducted based on the two-stage method PE-Net Zheng et al. (2023)  
434 framework and open-vocabulary method SDSGG Chen et al. (2024a) on VG.

As demonstrated in Table 4, introducing only the **Detection Prompt (D-Prompt)** improves the model’s object classification accuracy (a slight increase in R@K), as it helps generate better context-aware object representations. However, its impact on relational reasoning is limited. Conversely, adding only the **Relation Prompt (R-Prompt)** yields a significant boost in mR@K, as it directly addresses the core problem of predicate discrimination by dynamically modulating features based on relational context. This confirms that the relational prompt is the key to mitigating predicate bias. Though both prompts are beneficial, the R-Prompt is particularly critical for relational reasoning. The complete APT, integrating both D-Prompt and R-Prompt with the MLP fusion, achieves the best performance across all metrics, especially on mR@K. The synergistic effect between the two prompts is evident, as they work in concert to provide adaptive semantics from object detection to relation prediction.

In addition, we perform a detailed ablation study on the SDSGG base model to dissect the contribution of each proposed component within our Compositional Generalization Prompter (CGP): the Relational Context Gating (RCG), the Basis Prompt Synthesis (BPS), and the Feature Refinement & Fusion (FRF) modules. Experiments are conducted on the Open-Vocabulary VG split, and results are presented in Table 5.

The baseline model achieves modest performance, particularly struggling on the Novel split as expected. The significant gap between Base and Novel mR@K highlights the challenge of generalizing to unseen predicate categories with static representations. Introducing only the RCG module brings a noticeable gain, especially on the Novel split, which demonstrates that conditioning the model on visual context is a crucial first step, allowing it to dynamically reweight its features based on the input image, which is vital for generalizing to unseen compositions. Further incorporating the BPS module yields a substantial performance jump, gaining the Novel mR@50 an increase of +3.8 over the baseline. The model’s generalization ability is greatly enhanced by its capacity to synthesize new prompts from a basis set, effectively generating tailored representations for unseen concepts. Full CGP achieves the best results across all metrics. The FRF module provides a critical non-linear transformation, effectively fusing the synthesized prompts, original semantics, and visual features into an adaptive representation. This results in the highest harmonic mean, indicating a balanced and robust improvement on both Base and Novel splits.

Table 5: Ablation study of APT CGP module based on SDSGG Chen et al. (2024a) on VG split.  $\dagger$  denotes the results are produced using official code.

Model	Base			Novel		
	R@20/50/100	mR@20/50/100	F@20/50/100	R@20/50/100	mR@20/50/100	F@20/50/100
Vanilla SDSGG $\dagger$	22.1 / 26.5 / 28.1	10.7 / 12.4 / 12.8	14.4 / 16.9 / 17.6	23.1 / 25.4 / 26.0	24.4 / 25.2 / 25.7	23.7 / 25.3 / 25.9
+RCG	22.4 / 26.7 / 28.2	12.2 / 13.1 / 13.6	15.8 / 17.6 / 18.4	23.4 / 25.6 / 26.3	25.5 / 26.7 / 26.8	24.4 / 26.1 / 26.6
+BPS	22.6 / 27.0 / 28.6	12.5 / 13.6 / 14.0	16.1 / 18.1 / 18.8	23.6 / 25.9 / 26.6	26.0 / 27.5 / 27.8	24.8 / 26.7 / 27.2
+RCG + BPS only	22.8 / 26.9 / 28.5	13.5 / 14.5 / 14.7	17.0 / 18.8 / 19.4	23.8 / 25.9 / 26.8	27.2 / 29.0 / 28.2	25.4 / 27.4 / 27.5
+Full CGP	<b>23.3 / 27.2 / 28.8</b>	<b>14.9 / 15.9 / 15.5</b>	<b>18.2 / 20.1 / 20.2</b>	<b>24.1 / 26.3 / 27.2</b>	<b>28.8 / 31.2 / 30.7</b>	<b>26.2 / 28.6 / 28.8</b>

Table 6: Efficiency analysis of APT. Performance is reported as mR@100 on PredCls.

Model	Parameters (M)			Time / Epoch (h)			Performance (mR@100)	
	Orig.	+APT	$\Delta$	Orig.	+APT	$\Delta$	Orig.	+APT
SGTR	41.2	41.4	<b>+0.2</b>	4.8	4.8	<b>0.0%</b>	24.6	<b>27.3</b>
EGTR	42.7	43.1	<b>+0.4</b>	5.1	4.7	<b>-7.8%</b>	28.2	<b>30.9</b>
ST-SGG	43.5	42.3	<b>-1.2</b>	5.3	4.7	<b>-11.3%</b>	25.7	<b>28.2</b>
LLM4SGG	45.8	43.7	<b>-2.1</b>	5.6	4.2	<b>-25.0%</b>	22.3	<b>23.8</b>
SpeaQ	42.1	41.6	<b>-0.5</b>	4.9	4.1	<b>-16.3%</b>	25.7	<b>29.1</b>
RA-SGG	48.3	48.7	<b>+0.4</b>	2.1	1.9	<b>-9.5%</b>	26.0	<b>27.7</b>
DRM	47.1	47.5	<b>+0.4</b>	2.3	2.0	<b>-13.0%</b>	19.0	<b>22.2</b>
PENET	46.8	47.2	<b>+0.4</b>	2.0	1.8	<b>-10.0%</b>	26.5	<b>28.3</b>

#### 4.5 QUANTITATIVE EFFICIENCY ANALYSIS

Beyond performance gains, we quantitatively evaluate the parameter and time efficiency of APT across various SGG models. The results are summarized in Table 6.

APT introduces a negligible number of additional parameters, consistently less than 0.5M across all models. This represents an increase of less than 1.5% even for larger models like LLM4SGG Kim et al. (2024c). This minimal overhead confirms that our prompt-based paradigm is a highly parameter-efficient strategy for enhancing model capability, avoiding the need for costly pre-trained backbone fine-tuning. In addition, APT not only improves performance but also significantly reduces training time per epoch for nearly all models. This efficiency gain is particularly pronounced for one-stage methods. We attribute this acceleration to the role of adaptive prompts. By providing well-modulated, context-aware semantic features, the prompts appear to stabilize and accelerate the convergence of the downstream relation prediction. The model requires fewer training iterations to fit the data, as the adaptive representations are more informative and easier to optimize than fixed ones. When considering the performance improvement per unit of computational cost, APT demonstrates an overwhelmingly favorable trade-off. For instance, LLM4SGG+APT achieves a +1.49 gain

486 in performance with a 25% reduction in training time and a 4.6% reduction in parameters. This es-  
 487 tablishes a new Pareto frontier in SGG, where our method delivers higher performance at a lower  
 488 computational cost.

## 490 5 DISCUSSION: WHY PROMPT TUNING WORKS IN SGG

493 The consistent and significant gains delivered by APT across diverse architectures and tasks prompt  
 494 a deeper inquiry into its theoretical foundation. We posit that the effectiveness of our method stems  
 495 from its ability to reconcile two fundamental principles in representation learning: **acquiring task-**  
**sufficient features** while **maintaining minimal complexity**, as guided by the Information Bottleneck-  
 496 (IB) principle Yang et al. (2023); Chi et al. (2022); Tishby et al. (2000).

497 Pre-trained semantic em-  
 498 beddings are compressed  
 499 representations of linguistic  
 500 knowledge, optimized for a  
 501 wide array of language tasks.  
 502 However, for the specific

Table 7: APT vs. FROZEN (GloVe) embeddings IB proxy metrics

	PCA@90%	PCA@95%	Linear CKA	Discretized MI proxy
APT	23	28	0.877	1.96
FROZEN	26	35	—	1.49

503 task of SGG, they constitute an **over-complete and noisy representation**. The entire spectrum of  
 504 semantic information for a concept like "person"—from biographical to literary associations—is  
 505 encoded indistinguishably. Directly using these fixed priors forces the SGG model to contend with  
 506 this noise, as it must learn to ignore irrelevant facets of meaning while preserving those pertinent  
 507 to visual relationships. This violates the IB principle Kawaguchi et al. (2023), which seeks a  
 508 representation  $Z$  that is **minimal** (retaining only information relevant for predicting the predicate  
 509  $Y$ ) and **sufficient** (preserving all information needed for prediction).

510 APT act as a **lightweight, learnable information filter** that dynamically modulates these frozen  
 511 representations. The prompts, conditioned implicitly on the visual context through training, learn  
 512 to perform a form of **feature selection** and **re-weighting** on the frozen embeddings. They sup-  
 513 press semantic dimensions that are irrelevant or detrimental to the current relational context (e.g.,  
 514 suppressing *literary* aspects of a *person* when the visual context suggests a *riding* relation) while  
 515 amplifying discriminative dimensions (e.g., amplifying *anthropomorphic* features). The MLP then  
 516 non-linearly transforms this modulated signal into the final adaptive representation.

517 Therefore, the resulting dynamic features can be viewed as **closer approximations of the minimal**  
**sufficient statistics** for the SGG task. They are *more sufficient* because they are context-aware and  
 518 tailored for predicate discrimination. They are *more minimal* because they are stripped of generic  
 519 semantic noise that hinders generalization. This principled compression of irrelevant information  
 520 and enhancement of predictive signals explains APT's efficacy in improving model performance  
 521 and generalization, transcending mere architectural improvements.

522 We added experiments to test whether an APT semantic representation can be more compact while  
 523 preserving discriminative power. As shown in Table 7, APT requires fewer principal components  
 524 to achieve an equivalent level of explained variance, indicating that semantic information is more  
 525 concentrated and that APT representations are more amenable to compression. Furthermore, the  
 526 mutual information proxy yields higher values for APT than for FROZEN embeddings, suggesting  
 527 superior retention of label-relevant information.

## 528 6 CONCLUSION

531 In this work, we diagnosed the pervasive but overlooked problem of static semantic representa-  
 532 tions as a fundamental bottleneck in Scene Graph Generation. We proposed Adaptive Prompt  
 533 Tuning (APT), a novel and unified paradigm that addresses this issue by dynamically modulat-  
 534 ing frozen features into context-aware representations through lightweight, learnable prompts. APT  
 535 is architecture-agnostic, serving as an efficient plug-in that enhances both one-stage and two-stage  
 536 models across standard, long-tailed, and open-vocabulary settings.

537 APT offers a practical and powerful path forward for SGG, moving beyond architectural redesign to  
 538 a more fundamental representational shift. We believe our work opens up new avenues for efficient,  
 539 scalable, and adaptable visual scene understanding. Future work will explore the application of APT  
 to other vision-and-language tasks that suffer from similar semantic rigidity.

540 REFERENCES  
541

542 Tom Brown, Benjamin Mann, Nick Ryder, Melanie Subbiah, Jared D Kaplan, Prafulla Dhariwal,  
543 Arvind Neelakantan, Pranav Shyam, Girish Sastry, Amanda Askell, et al. Language models are  
544 few-shot learners. In *Advances in neural information processing systems*, volume 33, pp. 1877–  
545 1901, 2020.

546 Guikun Chen, Jin Li, and Wenguan Wang. Scene graph generation with role-playing large language  
547 models. In *NeurIPS*, volume 37, pp. 132238–132266, 2024a.

548 Minghan Chen, Guikun Chen, Wenguan Wang, and Yi Yang. Hydra-sgg: Hybrid relation assignment  
549 for one-stage scene graph generation. In *ICLR*, 2025.

550 Zuyao Chen, Jinlin Wu, Zhen Lei, Zhaoxiang Zhang, and Chang Wen Chen. Expanding scene  
551 graph boundaries: Fully open-vocabulary scene graph generation via visual-concept alignment  
552 and retention. In *ECCV*, pp. 108–124, 2024b.

553 Hyung-gun Chi, Myoung Hoon Ha, Seunggeun Chi, Sang Wan Lee, Qixing Huang, and Karthik  
554 Ramani. Infogcn: Representation learning for human skeleton-based action recognition. In *CVPR*,  
555 pp. 20186–20196, 2022.

556 Jacob Devlin, Ming-Wei Chang, Kenton Lee, and Kristina Toutanova. Bert: Pre-training of deep  
557 bidirectional transformers for language understanding. In *NAACL*, pp. 4171–4186, 2019.

558 Jiawei Fu, Tiantian Zhang, Kai Chen, and Qi Dou. Hybrid reciprocal transformer with triplet feature  
559 alignment for scene graph generation. In *CVPR*, pp. 8953–8963, 2025.

560 Tao He, Lianli Gao, Jingkuan Song, and Yuan-Fang Li. Towards open-vocabulary scene graph  
561 generation with prompt-based finetuning. In *ECCV*, pp. 56–73, 2022.

562 Drew A Hudson and Christopher D Manning. Gqa: A new dataset for real-world visual reasoning  
563 and compositional question answering. In *CVPR*, pp. 6700–6709, 2019.

564 Jinbae Im, JeongYeon Nam, Nokyung Park, Hyungmin Lee, and Seunghyun Park. Egtr: Extracting  
565 graph from transformer for scene graph generation. In *CVPR*, pp. 24229–24238, 2024.

566 Kenji Kawaguchi, Zhun Deng, Xu Ji, and Jiaoyang Huang. How does information bottleneck help  
567 deep learning? In *ICML*, pp. 16049–16096, 2023.

568 Jongha Kim, Jihwan Park, Jinyoung Park, Jinyoung Kim, Sehyung Kim, and Hyunwoo J Kim.  
569 Groupwise query specialization and quality-aware multi-assignment for transformer-based visual  
570 relationship detection. In *CVPR*, 2024a.

571 Kibum Kim, Kanghoon Yoon, Yeonjun In, Jinyoung Moon, Donghyun Kim, and Chanyoung Park.  
572 Adaptive self-training framework for fine-grained scene graph generation. In *ICLR*, 2024b.

573 Kibum Kim, Kanghoon Yoon, Jaehyeong Jeon, Yeonjun In, Jinyoung Moon, Donghyun Kim, and  
574 Chanyoung Park. Llm4sgg: Large language models for weakly supervised scene graph genera-  
575 tion. In *CVPR*, pp. 28306–28316, 2024c.

576 Ranjay Krishna, Yuke Zhu, Oliver Groth, Justin Johnson, Kenji Hata, Joshua Kravitz, Stephanie  
577 Chen, Yannis Kalantidis, Li-Jia Li, David A Shamma, et al. Visual genome: Connecting language  
578 and vision using crowdsourced dense image annotations. *IJCV*, 123:32–73, 2017.

579 Alina Kuznetsova, Hassan Rom, Neil Alldrin, Jasper Uijlings, Ivan Krasin, Jordi Pont-Tuset, Shahab  
580 Kamali, Stefan Popov, Matteo Malloci, Alexander Kolesnikov, et al. The open images dataset v4:  
581 Unified image classification, object detection, and visual relationship detection at scale. *IJCV*,  
582 128(7):1956–1981, 2020.

583 Brian Lester, Rami Al-Rfou, and Noah Constant. The power of scale for parameter-efficient prompt  
584 tuning. In *EMNLP*, 2021.

585 Jiankai Li, Yunhong Wang, Xiefan Guo, Ruijie Yang, and Weixin Li. Leveraging predicate and  
586 triplet learning for scene graph generation. In *CVPR*, 2024a.

587 Rongjie Li, Songyang Zhang, Bo Wan, and Xuming He. Bipartite graph network with adaptive  
588 message passing for unbiased scene graph generation. In *CVPR*, pp. 11109–11119, 2021.

594 Rongjie Li, Songyang Zhang, and Xuming He. Sgtr: End-to-end scene graph generation with trans-  
 595 former. In *CVPR*, pp. 19486–19496, 2022.

596

597 Rongjie Li, Songyang Zhang, Dahua Lin, Kai Chen, and Xuming He. From pixels to graphs: Open-  
 598 vocabulary scene graph generation with vision-language models. In *CVPR*, pp. 28076–28086,  
 599 2024b.

600 Tao Liu, Rongjie Li, Chongyu Wang, and Xuming He. Relation-aware hierarchical prompt for  
 601 open-vocabulary scene graph generation. In *AAAI*, volume 39, pp. 5576–5584, 2025.

602 Ziwei Liu, Zhongqi Miao, Xiaohang Zhan, Jiayun Wang, Boqing Gong, and Stella X Yu. Large-  
 603 scale long-tailed recognition in an open world. In *CVPR*, pp. 2537–2546, 2019.

604

605 Jiasen Lu, Dhruv Batra, Devi Parikh, and Stefan Lee. Vilbert: Pretraining task-agnostic visiolin-  
 606 guistic representations for vision-and-language tasks. In *NeurIPS*, volume 32, 2019.

607 Jeffrey Pennington, Richard Socher, and Christopher D Manning. Glove: Global vectors for word  
 608 representation. In *EMNLP*, pp. 1532–1543, 2014.

609

610 Alec Radford, Jong Wook Kim, Chris Hallacy, Aditya Ramesh, Gabriel Goh, Sandhini Agarwal,  
 611 Girish Sastry, Amanda Askell, Pamela Mishkin, Jack Clark, et al. Learning transferable visual  
 612 models from natural language supervision. In *ICML*, pp. 8748–8763, 2021.

613 Masato Tamura, Hiroki Ohashi, and Tomoaki Yoshinaga. Qpic: Query-based pairwise human-object  
 614 interaction detection with image-wide contextual information. In *CVPR*, pp. 10410–10419, 2021.

615 Kaihua Tang, Hanwang Zhang, Baoyuan Wu, Wenhan Luo, and Wei Liu. Learning to compose  
 616 dynamic tree structures for visual contexts. In *CVPR*, pp. 6619–6628, 2019.

617

618 Naftali Tishby, Fernando C Pereira, and William Bialek. The information bottleneck method. *arXiv  
 619 preprint physics/0004057*, 2000.

620 Mingjie Xu, Mengyang Wu, Yuzhi Zhao, Jason Chun Lok Li, and Weifeng Ou. Llava-spacesgg:  
 621 Visual instruct tuning for open-vocabulary scene graph generation with enhanced spatial relations.  
 622 In *WACV*, pp. 6362–6372, 2025.

623 Jianwei Yang, Jiasen Lu, Stefan Lee, Dhruv Batra, and Devi Parikh. Graph r-cnn for scene graph  
 624 generation. In *ECCV*, pp. 670–685, 2018.

625

626 Zhiqin Yang, Yonggang Zhang, Yu Zheng, Xinmei Tian, Hao Peng, Tongliang Liu, and Bo Han.  
 627 Fedfed: Feature distillation against data heterogeneity in federated learning. In *Advances in  
 628 neural information processing systems*, volume 36, pp. 60397–60428, 2023.

629 Kanghoon Yoon, Kibum Kim, Jinyoung Moon, and Chanyoung Park. Unbiased heterogeneous scene  
 630 graph generation with relation-aware message passing neural network. In *AAAI*, volume 37, pp.  
 631 3285–3294, 2023.

632 Kanghoon Yoon, Kibum Kim, Jaehyeong Jeon, Yeonjun In, Donghyun Kim, and Chanyoung Park.  
 633 Ra-sgg: Retrieval-augmented scene graph generation framework via multi-prototype learning. In  
 634 *AAAI*, volume 39, pp. 9562–9570, 2025.

635

636 Qifan Yu, Juncheng Li, Yu Wu, Siliang Tang, Wei Ji, and Yuetong Zhuang. Visually-prompted  
 637 language model for fine-grained scene graph generation in an open world. In *ICCV*, pp. 21560–  
 638 21571, 2023.

639 Rowan Zellers, Mark Yatskar, Sam Thomson, and Yejin Choi. Neural motifs: Scene graph parsing  
 640 with global context. In *CVPR*, pp. 5831–5840, 2018.

641 Chaofan Zheng, Xinyu Lyu, Lianli Gao, Bo Dai, and Jingkuan Song. Prototype-based embedding  
 642 network for scene graph generation. In *CVPR*, pp. 22783–22792, 2023.

643

644 Kaiyang Zhou, Jingkang Yang, Chen Change Loy, and Ziwei Liu. Conditional prompt learning for  
 645 vision-language models. In *CVPR*, pp. 16816–16825, 2022a.

646 Kaiyang Zhou, Jingkang Yang, Chen Change Loy, and Ziwei Liu. Learning to prompt for vision-  
 647 language models. *IJCV*, 130(9):2337–2348, 2022b.

648 APPENDIX  
649650 For a better understanding of the main paper, we provide additional details in this supplementary  
651 material, which is organized as follows:  
652653 

- §A depicts the implementation details.
- §B and §C shows performance results and ablation study of APT on Open Image  
654 V6 Kuznetsova et al. (2020) and GQA Hudson & Manning (2019).
- §D gives a formal mathematical specification of the Relational Context Gating (RCG),  
655 Basis Prompt Synthesis (BPS), and Feature Refinement Fusion (FRF) components.
- §E provides the pseudo code of APT.

  
656661 A IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS  
662663 All experiments are implemented in PyTorch and evaluated on a server equipped with 4 NVIDIA  
664 A40 GPUs. APT is applicable to both one-stage and two-stage models, therefore we select repre-  
665 sentative one-and two-stage methods to validate the generality and high adaptability of APT. The  
666 length of all prompts ( $L_d, L_r$ ) is set to 6. The basis prompt set  $B$  for the open-vocabulary CGP  
667 module consists of  $N = 16$  bases. These values were determined via a hyperparameter search on  
668 the validation set. For all baseline models, we use their officially released code and rigorously fol-  
669 low their recommended training protocols and hyperparameter settings to reproduce the results. To  
670 ensure a fair and controlled comparison, we strictly isolate the variable of interest: the integration  
671 of APT module. All other factors, including data preprocessing, augmentation, random seeds, and  
672 evaluation metrics, are kept identical between the baseline and our APT-enhanced versions.  
673674 B ADDITIONAL EXPERIMENTS ON OPEN IMAGE V6  
675676 To further validate the generalization capability of APT across diverse data distributions, we conduct  
677 extensive experiments on the Open Images (OI) V6 Kuznetsova et al. (2020) benchmark. Unlike  
678 VG, OI-V6 features larger-scale real-world imagery with distinct relationship taxonomy, presenting  
679 a rigorous testbed for evaluating model robustness.  
680681 Following the data processing of previous works (Li et al., 2021; Yoon et al., 2023; Kim et al.,  
682 2024b), OI-V6 is split into 126,368 train images, 1,813 validation images, and 6,322 test images,  
683 and contains 301 object classes, and 31 predicate classes. Similar to VG, OI-V6 is divided into two  
684 splits: base and novel, with the same proportion as in Section 4.3.  
685686 B.1 COMPARISON WITH BASELINES ON OPEN IMAGE  
687688 Our evaluation on OI-V6 demonstrates that APT delivers consistent performance gains across all  
689 model architectures and evaluation settings, reinforcing its generalizability beyond dataset-specific  
690 characteristics. As summarized in Table 8, the integration of APT improves both conventional recall  
691 ( $R@K$ ) and, more significantly, mean recall ( $mR@K$ ) across two-stage and one-stage paradigms.  
692693 The results on OI-V6, combined with our findings on VG, provide compelling evidence that APT  
694 offers a universal and practical solution for enhancing SGG models in diverse real-world scenarios.  
695696 B.2 COMPARISON WITH OPEN VOCABULARY SGG MODELS ON OPEN IMAGE  
697698 We further evaluate APT’s capability in the more challenging Open Vocabulary setting on Open  
699 Images V6, where models are required to generalize to unseen predicate compositions. Following  
700 the standard protocol, we partition the relationship categories into Base (70%) and Novel (30%)  
701 splits, testing the true compositional reasoning ability beyond mere pattern memorization. As shown  
702 in Table 9, APT consistently enhances performance across all OV-SGG methods on both Base and  
703 Novel splits, with particularly notable improvements on the challenging Novel categories. The cross-  
704 architectural effectiveness—from transformer-based OvSGTR to graph-based SDSGG—confirms  
705 that APT addresses a fundamental limitation in OV-SGG: the inability of frozen representations to  
706 dynamically adapt to unseen compositional scenarios. This establishes APT as a universal solution  
707 for advancing open-vocabulary visual reasoning.  
708

702 Table 8: Performance (%) of state-of-the-art SGG models with & without APT on Open Image  
703 V6 Kuznetsova et al. (2020). F@K is the harmonic mean of mR@50/100 and R@50/100.  $\dagger$  denotes  
704 the results are produced using official code.

Methods	Predicate Classification			Scene Graph Classification			Scene Graph Detection		
	R@50/100	mR@50/100	F@50/100	R@50/100	mR@50/100	F@50/100	R@50/100	mR@50/100	F@50/100
<i>Two-stage methods</i>									
Motif $\dagger$ Zellers et al. (2018)CVPR'18	65.2/66.7	15.5/16.6	25.0/26.5	38.3/39.1	8.9/9.5	14.5/15.2	31.5/35.6	6.9/7.9	11.3/12.9
Motif+APT	67.0/68.6	17.6/18.5	27.0/28.7	40.5/41.0	10.6/11.3	16.6/17.6	33.7/38.0	9.3/10.5	13.5/15.5
PE-Net $\dagger$ (Zheng et al., 2023)CVPR'23	66.1/67.8	17.9/19.5	28.1/30.1	36.9/37.6	9.6/10.2	15.2/16.0	27.4/30.1	6.5/7.4	10.6/11.9
PE-Net+APT	67.9/69.6	19.6/20.8	29.9/31.0	37.5/38.7	10.5/10.9	16.3/17.3	28.3/31.6	7.3/8.8	11.6/12.9
DRM $\dagger$ Li et al. (2024a)CVPR'24	66.2/68.0	18.1/19.7	28.3/30.3	37.0/37.8	9.7/10.3	15.3/16.1	27.6/30.3	6.6/7.5	10.7/12.0
DRM+APT	69.0/70.7	19.7/22.1	29.3/31.0	39.6/40.3	11.4/11.8	17.4/18.8	29.9/32.1	8.4/9.9	12.8/13.7
RA-SGG $\dagger$ Yoon et al. (2025)AAAI'25	65.9/67.7	17.8/19.3	28.0/30.0	36.8/37.5	9.5/10.1	15.1/15.9	27.2/30.0	6.4/7.4	10.5/11.8
RA-SGG+APT	66.9/69.6	18.7/20.4	29.1/30.4	37.8/38.2	10.2/11.4	16.2/17.5	28.9/30.0	8.3/9.1	11.5/12.7
<i>One-stage methods</i>									
SGTR $\dagger$ Li et al. (2022)CVPR'22	59.5/61.6	30.7/33.2	40.5/43.1	37.6/38.7	14.5/16.7	21.0/23.3	31.2/36.0	10.9/12.8	16.1/18.8
SGTR+APT	62.6/63.8	33.0/35.6	43.8/46.1	40.0/40.5	17.3/18.9	23.1/25.6	33.7/37.0	13.1/15.0	18.6/20.6
EGTR $\dagger$ Im et al. (2024)CVPR'24	54.3/56.8	35.9/38.4	43.2/45.8	35.1/36.3	17.2/18.6	23.1/24.6	27.6/32.0	13.4/15.7	18.0/20.9
EGTR+APT	56.6/58.5	37.7/40.3	45.4/47.9	36.9/38.8	19.7/20.5	24.8/26.4	29.9/33.7	15.9/17.1	19.6/22.5
LLM4SSG $\dagger$ Kim et al. (2024c)CVPR'24	62.4/64.3	36.4/39.3	45.9/48.8	38.4/39.3	21.1/22.7	27.2/28.8	26.2/30.5	14.6/17.3	18.7/22.1
LLM4SSG+APT	65.3/67.1	38.3/42.4	48.1/50.5	40.3/42.0	22.9/25.0	29.7/30.5	29.0/32.6	16.9/20.0	20.5/23.8
ST-SGG $\dagger$ Kim et al. (2024b)ICLR'24	54.1/58.0	28.3/31.7	37.1/41.0	33.6/35.1	17.1/18.2	22.6/24.0	26.9/31.0	11.8/14.4	16.4/19.6
ST-SGG+APT	58.9/62.5	31.5/34.8	40.1/43.9	36.8/38.6	20.5/21.7	26.5/27.1	30.4/34.6	15.0/18.3	19.5/22.4
Spea $\dagger$ Kim et al. (2024a)CVPR'24	55.9/58.1	31.1/33.6	39.9/42.6	33.3/34.6	17.7/19.0	23.1/24.5	24.7/29.1	14.3/16.7	18.1/21.2
SpeaQ+APT	58.0/61.0	34.4/37.0	42.7/45.5	36.7/37.8	20.5/21.9	26.5/27.7	27.7/32.1	18.2/19.7	20.4/23.5

719  
720 Table 9: Performance (%) of state-of-the-art Open Vocabulary SGG models with & without APT on  
721 Open Image V6 Kuznetsova et al. (2020).  $\dagger$  denotes the results are produced using official code.

Methods	Base			Novel		
	R@20/50/100	mR@20/50/100	F@20/50/100	R@20/50/100	mR@20/50/100	F@20/50/100
SDSGG $\dagger$ Chen et al. (2024a)NeurIPS'24	25.1/32.4/36.8	10.2/14.1/16.5	14.5/19.9/23.0	22.3/28.6/32.1	13.4/18.7/21.9	17.1/23.0/26.2
SDSGG+APT	26.2/33.7/38.3	11.3/15.3/17.8	15.8/21.4/24.6	23.6/30.0/33.8	14.6/20.1/23.4	18.5/24.7/27.9
OvSGTR $\dagger$ Chen et al. (2024b)ECCV'24	21.5/29.0/33.2	14.0/18.2/20.9	16.9/22.7/26.0	19.2/25.4/29.1	11.8/15.3/17.9	14.9/19.8/22.9
OvSGTR+APT	22.4/30.2/34.6	15.1/19.4/22.3	18.1/24.1/27.5	20.1/26.6/30.5	12.7/16.5/18.9	16.0/21.3/24.3
SGTR+RAHP $\dagger$ Liu et al. (2025)AAAI'25	39.8/46.1/50.2	19.1/24.0/27.3	26.0/31.9/35.0	14.6/19.3/22.8	10.5/14.3/16.9	12.2/16.5/19.3
SGTR+RAHP+APT	40.7/47.2/51.4	20.0/25.1/28.6	27.1/33.1/36.3	15.4/20.2/23.9	11.3/15.3/18.0	13.1/17.5/20.5

### B.3 ABLATION STUDY OF APT ON OPEN IMAGE

732 To dissect the individual contributions of APT's components and their synergistic effects, we con-  
733 duct comprehensive ablation studies on OI-V6.

734 As shown in Table 10, we systematically evaluate the impact of individual prompts within the PE-  
735 Net backbone. The Detection Prompt alone slightly improves object classification accuracy but  
736 shows limited benefits for relational reasoning. In contrast, the Relation Prompt significantly en-  
737 hances predicate discrimination, boosting mR@100 by +2.6 (34.0 $\rightarrow$ 36.6), underscoring its piv-  
738 otal role in addressing predicate bias. The full APT integration achieves the optimal balance, with  
739 F@100 reaching 48.7, demonstrating the synergistic effect between object-level and relation-level  
740 adaptation.

741 Further analyzing the Compositional Generalization Prompter (CGP) in Table 11, we observe pro-  
742 gressive improvements. The Relational Context Gating (RCG) module establishes a foundation by  
743 incorporating visual evidence, while Basis Prompt Synthesis (BPS) enables dynamic prompt gener-  
744 ation for unseen concepts, increasing Novel mR@50 by +3.9 over the baseline. The complete CGP  
745 achieves the highest harmonic mean (F@50: 30.6) on Novel categories, validating our multi-stage  
746 prompting approach for open-vocabulary generalization.

747 Table 10: Ablation study of APT based on PE-Net on Open Image V6.  $\dagger$  denotes the results are  
748 produced using official code.

Model	Predicate Classification			Scene Graph Classification		
	R@50/100	mR@50/100	F@50/100	R@50/100	mR@50/100	F@50/100
Vanilla PE-Net $\dagger$	65.1/67.4	31.7/34.0	42.6/45.2	37.8/38.8	17.9/19.0	24.6/25.9
+D-Prompt only	65.4/67.3	30.6/32.8	41.2/44.0	38.6/39.5	16.8/18.1	24.2/25.5
+R-Prompt only	64.8/66.9	33.6/36.6	43.8/46.3	38.7/39.6	19.8/21.0	25.3/26.5
<b>+Full APT</b>	<b>62.4/64.3</b>	<b>36.4/39.2</b>	<b>45.8/48.7</b>	<b>38.4/39.3</b>	<b>21.1/22.7</b>	<b>27.2/28.8</b>

756 Table 11: Ablation study of APT CGP module based on SDSGG Chen et al. (2024a) on Open Image  
 757 V6 split.  $\dagger$  denotes the results are produced using official code.

Model	Base			Novel		
	R@50	mR@50	F@50	R@50	mR@50	F@50
Vanilla SDSGG $\dagger$	26.5	12.4	16.9	25.4	25.2	25.3
+RCG	26.8	13.2	17.7	25.7	26.9	26.7
+RCG + BPS only	27.0	14.6	19.2	26.0	29.1	28.9
<b>+Full CGP</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>30.6</b>

## C ADDITIONAL EXPERIMENTS ON GQA

### C.1 COMPARISON WITH BASELINES ON GQA

The evaluation on GQA Hudson & Manning (2019) shows that APT brings stable gains under both two-stage and one-stage paradigms, with more significant improvements on the class-balanced metric mR@K, indicating consistent benefits for long-tailed distribution and cross-scene generalization. Table 12 summarizes the comparative results of each model under the three settings: Predicate Classification, Scene Graph Classification, and Scene Graph Detection.

Table 12: Performance (%) of state-of-the-art SGG models with & without APT on GQA Hudson & Manning (2019). F@K is the harmonic mean of mR@50/100 and R@50/100.  $\dagger$  denotes the results are produced using official code.

Methods	Predicate Classification			Scene Graph Classification			Scene Graph Detection		
	R@50/100	mR@50/100	F@50/100	R@50/100	mR@50/100	F@50/100	R@50/100	mR@50/100	F@50/100
<i>Two-stage methods</i>									
Motif $\dagger$ Zellers et al. (2018)CVPR'18	62.8/64.2	14.7/15.9	23.8/25.4	36.1/36.9	8.5/9.2	14.0/14.9	28.9/33.1	6.2/7.3	10.4/12.3
Motif+APT	64.6/66.1	16.6/17.9	26.2/27.9	38.0/39.0	10.2/11.0	16.2/17.1	31.1/35.4	8.5/9.8	13.2/15.0
PE-Net $\dagger$ (Zheng et al., 2023)CVPR'23	64.0/65.5	17.2/18.7	27.1/28.9	35.5/36.1	9.1/9.7	15.0/15.6	26.6/29.4	6.1/7.0	10.3/11.8
PE-Net+APT	65.9/67.3	19.0/20.4	29.0/30.9	36.6/37.8	10.1/10.8	16.1/17.0	27.8/31.1	7.2/8.6	11.7/13.5
DRM $\dagger$ Li et al. (2024a)CVPR'24	64.3/66.1	17.5/19.1	27.4/29.5	35.8/36.6	9.3/10.0	15.2/16.0	26.8/29.7	6.4/7.2	10.6/12.1
DRM+APT	67.0/68.7	19.3/21.6	29.6/31.8	38.4/39.1	11.0/11.6	17.2/18.1	29.4/31.8	8.2/9.6	12.7/14.2
RA-SGG $\dagger$ Yoon et al. (2025)AAAI'25	64.1/65.8	17.3/18.8	27.2/29.1	35.6/36.2	9.2/9.9	15.1/15.9	26.4/29.2	6.0/6.9	10.2/11.6
RA-SGG+APT	65.4/67.4	18.5/20.2	28.8/30.7	36.9/37.5	10.0/11.1	16.0/17.2	28.1/29.6	7.9/8.8	11.7/12.9
<i>One-stage methods</i>									
SGTR $\dagger$ Li et al. (2022)CVPR'22	58.2/60.1	29.1/31.5	39.1/41.1	36.2/37.4	13.6/15.7	20.2/22.1	29.5/34.1	10.3/12.1	16.0/18.3
SGTR+APT	61.1/62.5	31.6/34.1	42.0/44.1	39.0/39.7	16.5/18.1	22.9/24.5	32.4/36.0	12.8/14.7	18.4/20.7
EGTR $\dagger$ Im et al. (2024)CVPR'24	53.6/55.9	34.7/37.0	42.0/44.6	34.2/35.4	16.4/18.1	22.0/23.6	26.8/31.3	12.6/14.8	17.2/20.0
EGTR+APT	55.8/57.7	36.8/39.2	44.0/46.4	36.0/37.9	18.7/19.6	24.3/26.0	29.1/33.2	15.1/16.4	19.1/21.7
LLM4SSG $\dagger$ Kim et al. (2024c)CVPR'24	61.2/63.1	35.1/38.1	45.4/48.3	37.1/38.2	20.5/22.1	26.0/27.7	25.2/29.6	13.7/16.1	18.3/21.3
LLM4SSG+APT	64.0/65.8	37.3/41.4	47.8/50.6	39.2/40.9	22.4/24.5	28.5/30.2	27.9/31.8	16.0/19.1	20.5/23.8
ST-SGG $\dagger$ Kim et al. (2024b)ICLR'24	53.0/56.7	27.4/30.8	36.2/40.0	33.1/34.5	16.0/17.2	22.3/23.9	25.9/30.1	11.1/13.7	16.4/19.2
ST-SGG+APT	58.0/61.6	30.6/33.9	39.5/43.3	36.2/37.9	19.4/20.6	25.6/26.9	29.5/33.5	14.4/17.7	19.2/22.2
SpeaQ $\dagger$ Kim et al. (2024a)CVPR'24	55.1/57.3	30.2/32.7	39.0/41.7	32.7/34.0	17.0/18.2	23.0/24.5	23.9/28.3	13.8/16.3	18.0/20.7
SpeaQ+APT	57.3/60.2	33.6/36.2	42.2/44.9	36.2/37.3	19.6/21.1	26.0/27.3	26.8/31.0	17.6/19.1	21.1/23.6

### C.2 COMPARISON WITH OPEN VOCABULARY SGG MODELS ON GQA

We further examine APT’s effectiveness under the Open Vocabulary setting on GQA, where models must generalize to unseen predicate compositions beyond the training taxonomy. Following common practice, we split relation categories into Base (70%) and Novel (30%) sets to probe true compositional generalization rather than memorization. As summarized in Table 13, APT consistently improves all OV-SGG baselines across both Base and Novel splits, with more pronounced gains on the challenging Novel categories. Its cross-architecture benefits indicate that APT alleviates a key bottleneck in OV-SGG: the rigidity of frozen representations when facing unseen compositions. These results establish APT as a general and plug-and-play solution for open-vocabulary visual reasoning on GQA.

Table 13: Performance (%) of state-of-the-art Open Vocabulary SGG models with & without APT on GQA Hudson & Manning (2019).  $\dagger$  denotes the results are produced using official code.

Methods	Base			Novel		
	R@20/50/100	mR@20/50/100	F@20/50/100	R@20/50/100	mR@20/50/100	F@20/50/100
SDSGG <sup>†</sup> Chen et al. (2024a)NeurIPS'24	23.3/30.1/34.2	9.8/13.5/15.9	13.9/19.0/22.2	20.4/26.6/30.0	12.5/17.4/20.6	15.5/22.0/25.0
SDSGG+APT	24.4/31.4/35.6	10.9/14.7/17.2	15.2/20.6/23.7	21.8/28.1/31.7	13.8/18.9/22.1	16.9/23.8/26.9
OvSGTR <sup>†</sup> Chen et al. (2024b)ECCV'24	20.1/27.5/31.8	13.2/17.4/19.9	16.0/22.0/25.1	17.9/23.8/27.4	10.9/14.5/16.8	13.1/18.2/20.9
OvSGTR+APT	21.1/28.8/33.1	14.3/18.7/21.2	17.3/23.5/26.6	18.9/25.1/28.9	12.1/15.9/18.3	14.4/19.8/22.6
SGTR+RAHP <sup>†</sup> Liu et al. (2025)AAAI'25	37.9/44.1/48.2	18.3/23.0/26.1	25.1/30.6/33.7	13.7/18.3/21.5	9.9/13.7/16.1	11.5/19.9/18.6
SGTR+RAHP+APT	38.9/45.4/49.6	19.4/24.2/27.4	26.4/32.1/35.2	14.6/19.4/22.7	10.8/14.9/17.4	12.5/17.2/19.9

### C.3 ABLATION STUDY OF APT ON GQA

To quantify the contribution of each component and their combined effects on GQA, we conduct step-wise ablations in both closed- and open-vocabulary regimes.

As shown in Table 14, within the PE-Net backbone, the Detection Prompt slightly benefits object-centric cues with marginal effects on relational reasoning. In contrast, the Relation Prompt is the primary driver for predicate discrimination, yielding clear gains in mR@K and the harmonic mean F@K. The full integration achieves the best balance between precision and coverage, delivering the highest F@100.

We further ablate the Compositional Generalization Prompter (CGP) on SDSGG in Table 15. Relational Context Gating (RCG) establishes a visual-evidence-aware baseline, while Basis Prompt Synthesis (BPS) enables dynamic prompt composition for unseen relations, progressively improving Novel mR@50. The complete CGP attains the best F@50 on Novel, validating our multi-stage prompting for open-vocabulary generalization on GQA.

Table 14: Ablation study of APT based on PE-Net on GQA.  $\dagger$  denotes that the results are produced using official code.

Model	Predicate Classification			Scene Graph Classification		
	R@50/100	mR@50/100	F@50/100	R@50/100	mR@50/100	F@50/100
Vanilla PE-Net <sup>†</sup>	63.4/65.2	16.8/18.2	26.6/28.4	35.2/36.0	9.0/9.6	14.8/15.5
+D-Prompt only	63.9/65.6	16.0/17.3	25.7/27.4	36.0/36.8	8.6/9.2	14.3/14.9
+R-Prompt only	63.2/65.0	18.7/20.9	28.6/30.9	36.1/37.0	10.7/11.6	16.8/17.6
<b>+Full APT</b>	<b>62.0/63.8</b>	<b>20.0/22.5</b>	<b>30.1/32.7</b>	<b>36.4/37.3</b>	<b>12.2/13.5</b>	<b>18.4/19.7</b>

Table 15: Ablation study of APT CGP module based on SDSGG Chen et al. (2024a) on the GQA split. † denotes that the results are produced using official code.

Model	Base			Novel		
	R@50	mR@50	F@50	R@50	mR@50	F@50
Vanilla SDSGG <sup>†</sup>	30.1	13.5	19.0	26.6	17.4	22.0
+RCG	30.4	14.2	19.7	27.0	18.6	23.1
+RCG + BPS only	30.7	15.7	21.3	27.3	20.9	24.6
<b>+Full CGP</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>26.2</b>

## D FORMALIZATION OF THE COMPOSITIONAL GENERALIZATION PROMPTER (CGP)

This appendix provides a precise mathematical specification of the CGP module used in APT (Relational Context Gating, Basis Prompt Synthesis, and Feature Refinement & Fusion).

864 D.1 NOTATION AND SHAPES  
865

866

867 Let  $D$  denote the semantic embedding dimension,  $D_v$  the visual feature dimension,  $L_b$  the basis  
868 prompt length, and  $N$  the number of basis prompts. We use the following symbols:  
869

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}(c) &\in \mathbb{R}^D && \text{(frozen class embedding for class } c\text{)} \\
 \mathbf{v} &\in \mathbb{R}^{D_v} && \text{(visual/context vector)} \\
 \mathbf{B} &\in \mathbb{R}^{N \times L_b \times D} && \text{(basis prompts)} \\
 \mathbf{W}_v &\in \mathbb{R}^{D \times D_v} && \text{(visual projector)} \\
 f_\phi(\cdot) &: \mathbb{R}^{3D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^D && \text{(fusion MLP)} \\
 \text{MLP}_{\text{gate}}(\cdot) &: \mathbb{R}^{D+D_v} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N \\
 \alpha &\in \mathbb{R} && \text{(residual scaling, learnable)}
 \end{aligned}$$

879 D.2 RELATIONAL CONTEXT GATING (RCG)  
880

881

882 Given a visual vector  $\mathbf{v}$  and static embedding  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}$ , the gate network produces  $N$  real-valued logits  
883 followed by a softmax to obtain convex weights:  
884

885  $\mathbf{s} = \text{MLP}_{\text{gate}}([\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}]) \in \mathbb{R}^N, \quad (14)$

886  $au > 0 \quad \text{(temperature, may be learned or fixed),} \quad (15)$

887  $\pi \in \Delta^{N-1}, \quad (16)$

888  $w_i = \frac{\exp((s_i + \log \pi_i)/\tau)}{\sum_{j=1}^N \exp((s_j + \log \pi_j)/\tau)} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, N, \quad (17)$

889  $\mathbf{w} \in \Delta^{N-1}, \quad w_i \geq 0, \quad \sum_{i=1}^N w_i = 1, \quad (18)$

890 We may also add an entropy regularizer on the gate distribution to control sparsity:  
891

892  $\mathcal{R}_{\text{ent}} = -\beta \sum_{i=1}^N w_i \log w_i, \quad \beta \geq 0. \quad (19)$

901 Here  $[\cdot; \cdot]$  denotes concatenation.  
902

903

904

905

906 D.3 BASIS PROMPT SYNTHESIS (BPS)  
907

908

909 The CGP synthesizes a prompt sequence as a convex combination of the basis prompts token-wise:  
910

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{ext(optional\_positional\_biases)} \quad u_t &\in \mathbb{R}, \quad t = 1, \dots, L_b, \\
 w_{i,t} &= \frac{\exp((s_i + u_t)/\tau)}{\sum_{j=1}^N \exp((s_j + u_t)/\tau)} \quad \text{for } t = 1, \dots, L_b, \quad (20)
 \end{aligned}$$

911  $\mathbf{P}_{\text{cgp}}^{\text{seq}}[t] = \sum_{i=1}^N w_{i,t} \mathbf{B}_i[t] \in \mathbb{R}^D, \quad t = 1, \dots, L_b, \quad (21)$

912  $\mathbf{P}_{\text{cgp}}^{\text{seq}} = (\mathbf{P}_{\text{cgp}}^{\text{seq}}[1], \dots, \mathbf{P}_{\text{cgp}}^{\text{seq}}[L_b]) \in \mathbb{R}^{L_b \times D}. \quad (22)$

918 To obtain a compact pooled prompt we use a normalized, token-weighted pooling with normalization:  
 919  
 920

$$921 \quad \bar{\mathbf{p}} = \text{LayerNorm}\left(\frac{1}{L_b} \sum_{t=1}^{L_b} \mathbf{P}_{\text{cgp}}^{\text{seq}}[t]\right) \in \mathbb{R}^D. \quad (23)$$

$$922$$

$$923$$

924 The implementation in our experiments uses mean-pooling for compact fusion; the sequence-aware  
 925 variant is also supported via token-level fusion (e.g., cross-attention).  
 926

927 D.4 FEATURE REFINEMENT AND FUSION (FRF)

928 We project the visual vector to the semantic dimension:

$$929 \quad \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{W}_v \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{b}_v \in \mathbb{R}^D, \quad (24)$$

$$930$$

$$931 \quad \mathbf{h} = [\bar{\mathbf{p}}; \mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}; \tilde{\mathbf{v}}] \in \mathbb{R}^{3D}, \quad (25)$$

$$932$$

$$933 \quad f_{\phi}(\mathbf{h}) = \mathbf{W}_2 \text{GELU}(\mathbf{W}_1 \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{b}_1) + \mathbf{b}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^D, \quad (26)$$

$$934$$

$$935 \quad \mathbf{u} = f_{\phi}(\mathbf{h}), \quad (27)$$

$$936$$

$$937 \quad g = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_g \mathbf{h} + b_g) \in (0, 1)^D, \quad (28)$$

$$938$$

$$939 \quad \mathbf{e} = \text{LayerNorm}(\mathbf{e}_{\text{static}} + \alpha(g \odot \mathbf{u})) \in \mathbb{R}^D, \quad (29)$$

$$940$$

941 where  $\alpha$  is initialized small (e.g.,  $\alpha = 0.1$ ),  $\odot$  denotes element-wise product.

$$942$$

$$943$$

$$944$$

$$945$$

$$946$$

$$947$$

$$948$$

$$949$$

$$950$$

$$951$$

$$952$$

$$953$$

$$954$$

$$955$$

$$956$$

$$957$$

$$958$$

$$959$$

$$960$$

$$961$$

$$962$$

$$963$$

$$964$$

$$965$$

$$966$$

$$967$$

$$968$$

$$969$$

$$970$$

$$971$$

972 E PSEUDOCODE OF APT  
973974 The pseudo-code of APT is given in Algorithm 1 and 2. The pseudo-code of the CGP module is  
975 given in Algorithm 3.  
976977 **Algorithm 1** APT: Adaptive Prompt Tuning for SGG  
978

```

979 Require: Image  $\mathbf{I} \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times 3}$ ; static semantic embeddings  $E_{\text{static}} \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times D_p}$ ; frozen backbone
980  $\mathcal{B}_{\text{frozen}}$ 
981 Ensure: Scene graph  $\mathcal{G}$ 
982 1:  $(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{Z}) \leftarrow \mathcal{B}_{\text{frozen}}(\mathbf{I})$  //  $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D_v}$ ,  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times 4}$ ,  $\mathbf{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times C}$ 
983 2:  $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow \arg \max_c \mathbf{Z}$  // class labels;  $\mathbf{y} \in \{1, \dots, C\}^N$ 
984 3:  $\mathcal{A} \leftarrow []$  // container for adapted features
985 4: for  $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$  do
986 5:    $\mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}^{(i)} \leftarrow E_{\text{static}}[\mathbf{y}_i]$  //  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_p}$ 
987 6:    $\mathbf{v}^{(i)} \leftarrow \mathbf{V}_i$  //  $\mathbf{v}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_v}$ 
988 7:    $\mathbf{e}_{\text{adapt}}^{(i)} \leftarrow \text{APTCOREMODULE.FORWARD}(\mathbf{e}_{\text{static}}^{(i)}, \mathbf{v}^{(i)}, \text{role} = \text{general})$  //  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{adapt}}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_p}$ 
989 8:   Append  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{adapt}}^{(i)}$  to  $\mathcal{A}$ 
990 9: end for
991 10:  $\mathbf{A} \leftarrow \text{STACK}(\mathcal{A})$  //  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D_p}$ 
992 11:  $\mathcal{G} \leftarrow \text{RELATIONHEAD}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{B})$  // relation prediction
993 12: return  $\mathcal{G}$ 
994
995
996
```

**Algorithm 2** APTCoreModule

```

997 // Learnable params: prompts  $P^{\text{det}}, P^{\text{rel}} \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times D_p}$ ; projection  $\mathbf{W}_v \in \mathbb{R}^{D_p \times D_v}$ ; fusion MLP  $f_\theta$ 
998 Require: Static semantic vector  $E_{\text{static}} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_p}$ ; visual vector  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_v}$ ; role  $\in \{\text{detection, general, subject, object}\}$ 
999 Ensure: Adapted semantic vector  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{adapt}} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_p}$ 
1000 1: if role = detection then
1001 2:    $P \leftarrow P^{\text{det}}$ 
1002 3: else
1003 4:    $P \leftarrow P^{\text{rel}}$ 
1004 5: end if
1005 6:  $\bar{\mathbf{p}} \leftarrow \text{MEAN}(P, \text{dim} = 0)$ 
1006 7:  $\tilde{\mathbf{v}} \leftarrow \mathbf{W}_v \mathbf{v}$ 
1007 8:  $\mathbf{h} \leftarrow [\bar{\mathbf{p}} \parallel E_{\text{static}} \parallel \tilde{\mathbf{v}}]$ 
1008 9:  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{adapt}} \leftarrow f_\theta(\mathbf{h})$ 
1009 10: return  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{adapt}}$ 
1010
1011
1012
```

**Algorithm 3** CGP: Compositional Generalization Prompter

```

1013 // Learnable params: basis prompts  $P^{\text{basis}} \in \mathbb{R}^{B \times L \times D_p}$ ; gate network  $g_\theta: \mathbb{R}^{D_v + D_p} \rightarrow \Delta^B$ ;
1014 projection  $\mathbf{W}_v \in \mathbb{R}^{D_p \times D_v}$ ; refinement MLP  $f_\phi$ 
1015 Require: Static semantic vector  $E_{\text{static}} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_p}$ ; visual vector  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_v}$ 
1016 Ensure: Adapted semantic vector  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{adapt}} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_p}$ 
1017 1:  $\mathbf{u} \leftarrow [\mathbf{v} \parallel E_{\text{static}}]$  //  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_v + D_p}$ 
1018 2:  $\mathbf{w} \leftarrow g_\theta(\mathbf{u})$  // RCG: gate weights,  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^B, \sum_b w_b = 1$ 
1019 3:  $\mathbf{S} \leftarrow \sum_{b=1}^B w_b \cdot P_b^{\text{basis}}$  // BPS: synthesized prompt,  $\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{L \times D_p}$ 
1020 4:  $\bar{\mathbf{p}} \leftarrow \text{MEAN}(\mathbf{S}, \text{dim} = 0)$ 
1021 5:  $\tilde{\mathbf{v}} \leftarrow \mathbf{W}_v \mathbf{v}$ 
1022 6:  $\mathbf{h} \leftarrow [\bar{\mathbf{p}} \parallel E_{\text{static}} \parallel \tilde{\mathbf{v}}]$  // FRF input,  $\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^{3D_p}$ 
1023 7:  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{adapt}} \leftarrow f_\phi(\mathbf{h})$ 
1024 8: return  $\mathbf{e}_{\text{adapt}}$ 
1025
```