



PromptCap: Prompt-Guided Image Captioning for VQA with GPT-3

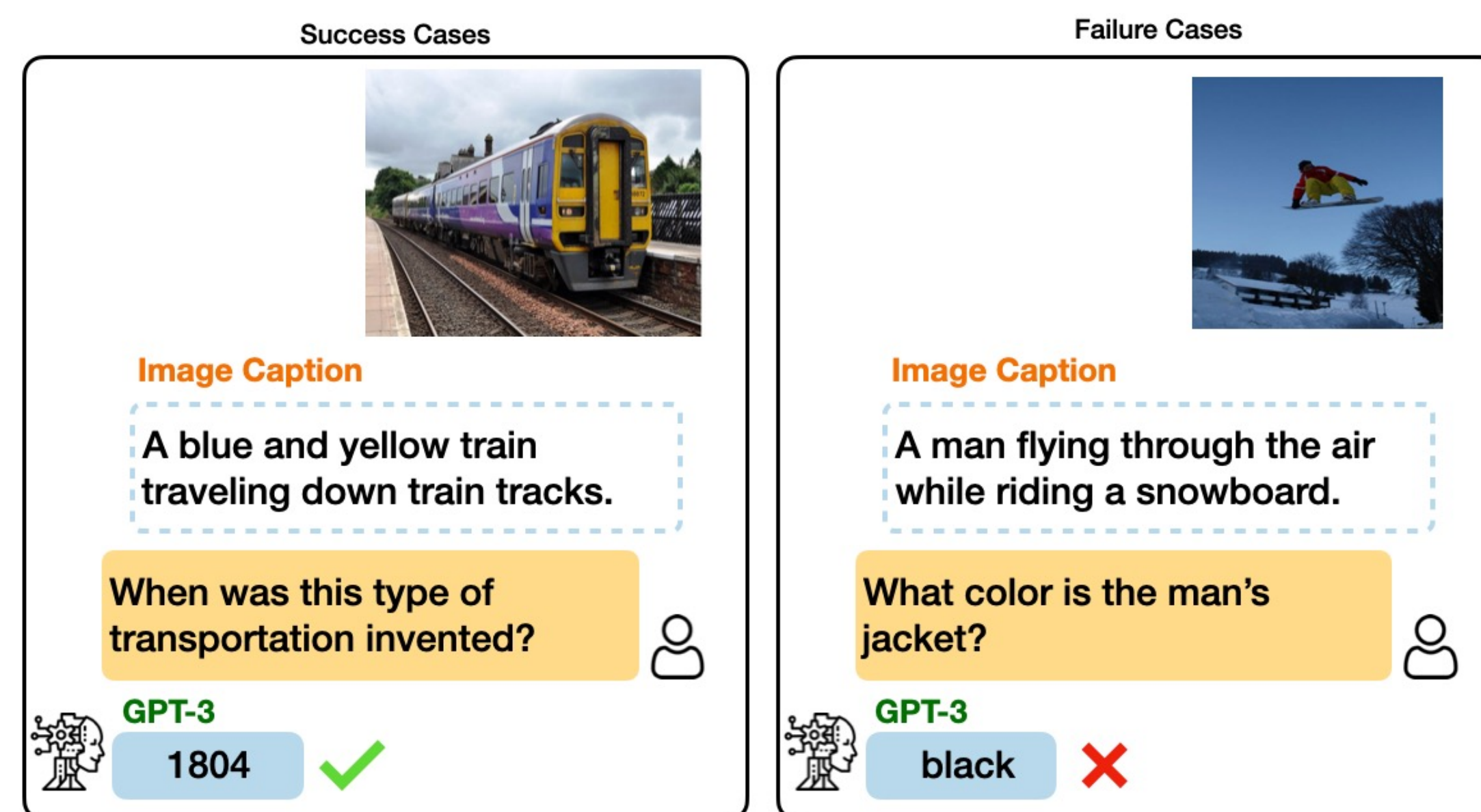
Yushi Hu^{1*}, Hang Hua^{2*}, Zhengyuan Yang³, Weijia Shi¹, Noah A. Smith^{1,4}, Jiebo Luo²

University of Washington¹ University of Rochester² Microsoft³ Allen Institute for AI⁴



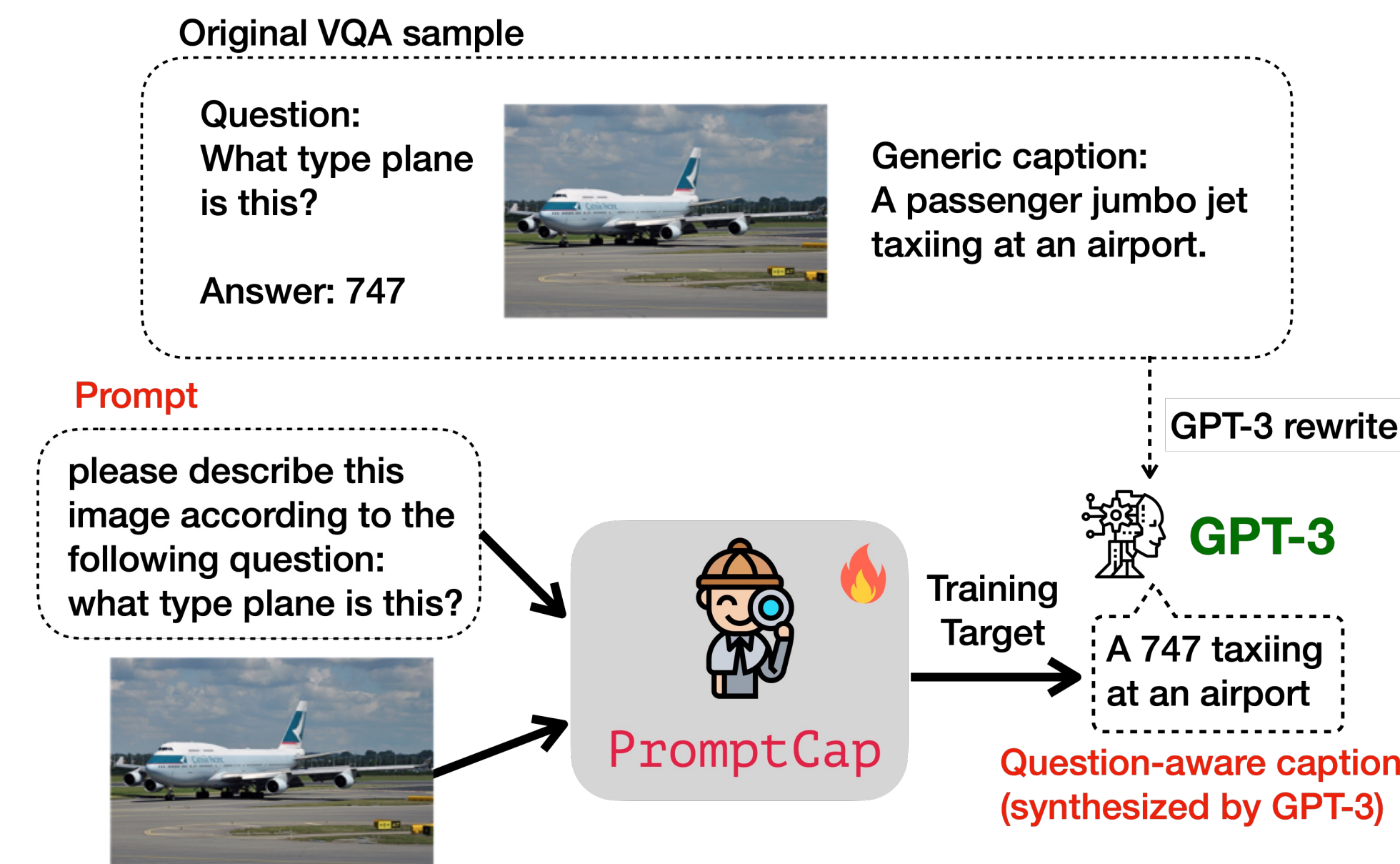
Background: Knowledge-based VQA

- VQA that requires **world knowledge beyond the image** to get the correct answer
- Prior SOTA method: prompt LLMs (e.g., GPT-3) with image captions
- Challenge: **Generic image captions often miss visual details** essential for the LM to answer visual questions correctly.



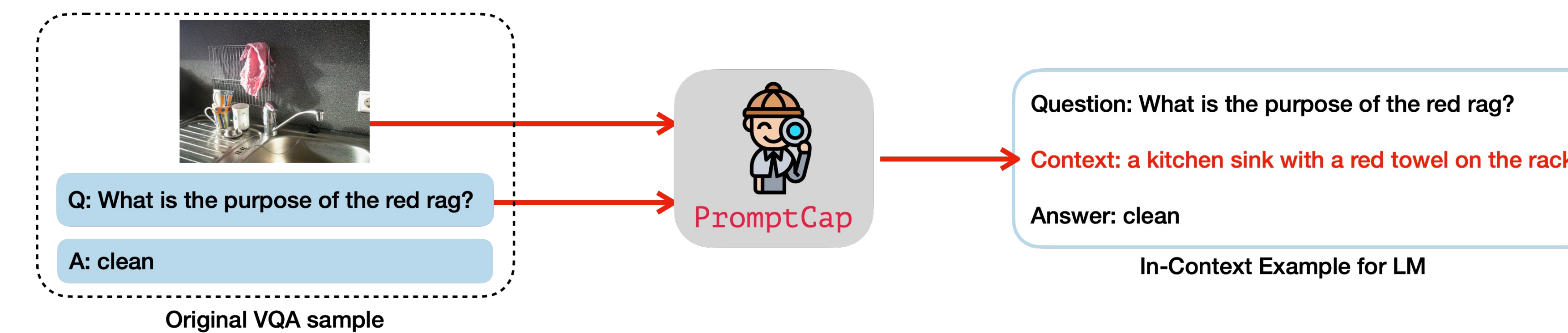
How is PromptCap trained?

- We augment VQAv2 with GPT-3
- PromptCap is trained on synthesized captions
- No human annotation needed

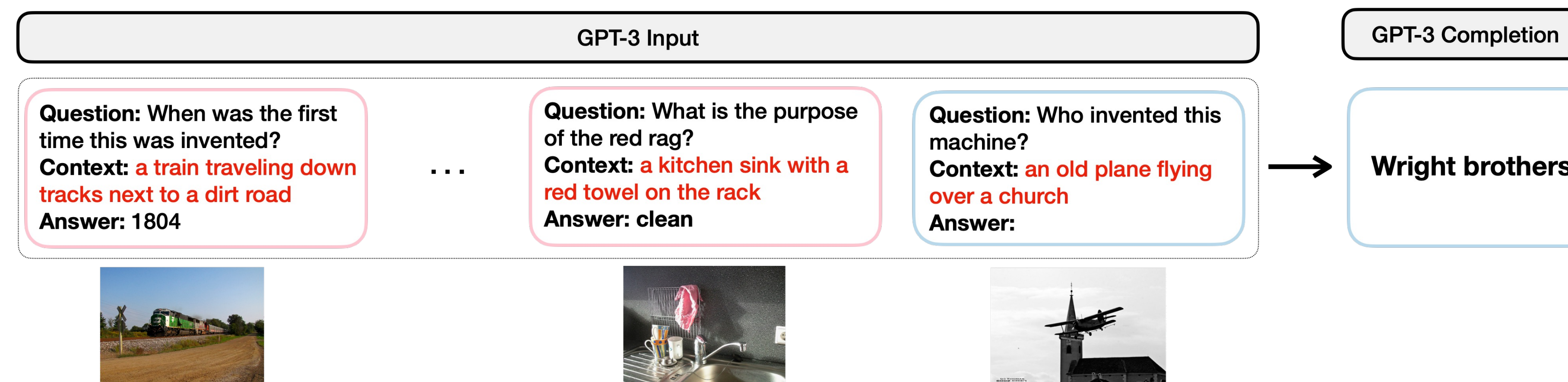


VQA pipeline: PromptCap + GPT-3

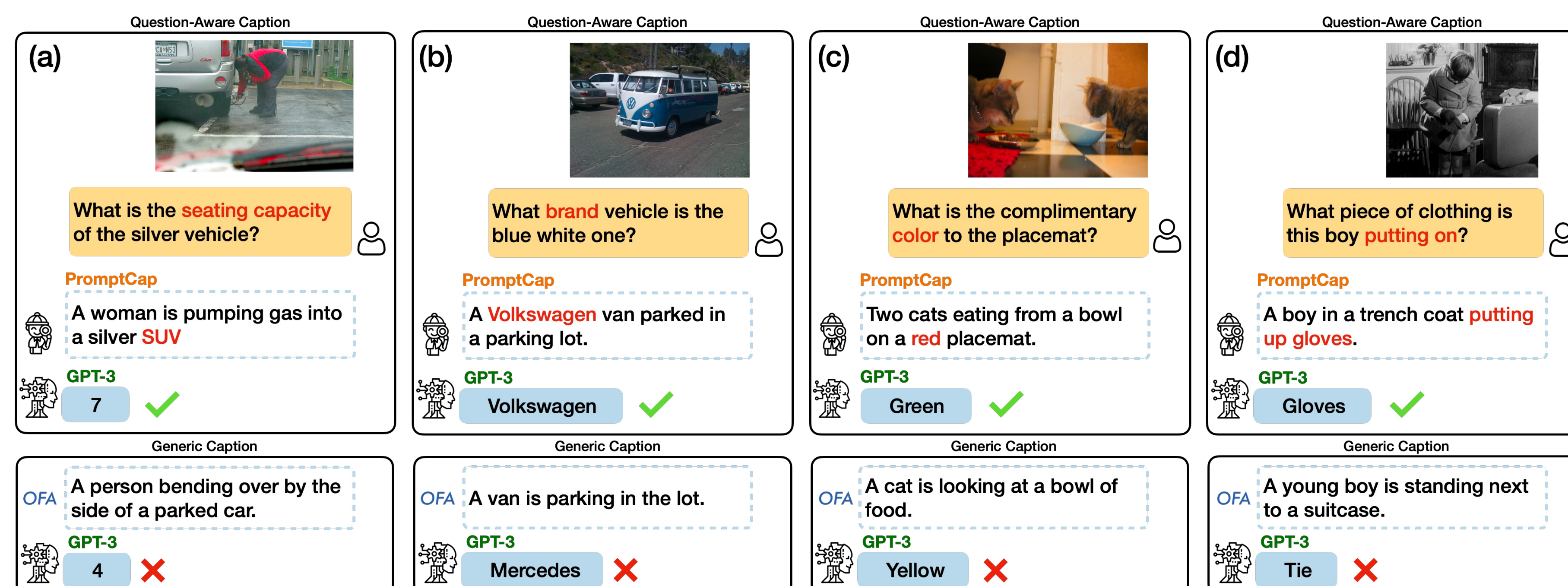
(a) Step 1: Using **PromptCap** to convert images into texts



(b) Step 2: VQA with **PromptCap** and in-context learning on GPT-3



Demos



Evaluation on VQA and Captioning

SOTA Results on OK-VQA

Method	Image Representation	Knowledge Source	Accuracy (%)
End-to-End Finetuning			
Question only [36]	-	-	14.9
ConceptBERT [13]	Feature	ConceptNet	33.7
KAT (Ensemble) [15]	Caption + Tags + Feature	GPT-3 (175B) + Wikidata	54.4
REVIVE (Ensemble) [28]	Caption + Feature	GPT-3 (175B) + Wikidata	58.0
In-Context Learning & Zero-Shot			
BLIP-2 VIT-G FlanT5 _{XXL} [25] (zero-shot)	Feature	FlanT5-XXL (11B)	45.9
PICa-Full [66]	Caption + Tags	GPT-3 (175B)	48.0
Flamingo (80B) [1] (32-shot)	Feature	Chinchilla (70B)	57.8
PromptCap + GPT-3	Caption	GPT-3 (175B)	60.4

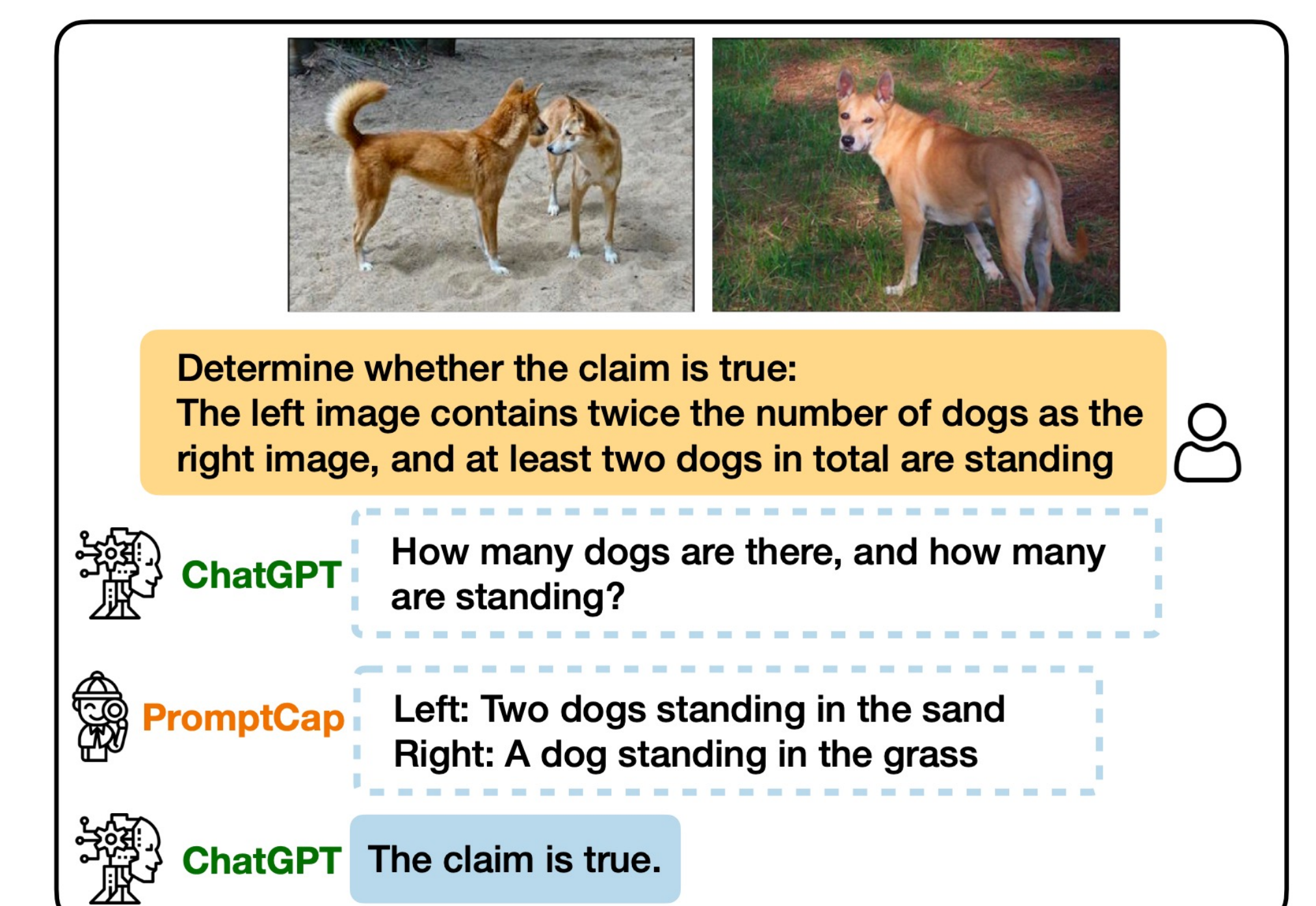
SOTA Results on A-OKVQA

Method	Multiple Choice val	Multiple Choice test	Direct Answer val	Direct Answer test
ClipCap [45]	44.0	43.8	18.1	15.8
Pythia [19]	49.0	40.1	25.2	21.9
ViLBERT [32]	49.1	41.5	30.6	25.9
LXMERT [52]	51.4	41.6	30.7	25.9
KRISP [35]	51.9	42.2	33.7	27.1
GPV-2 [20]	60.3	53.7	48.6	40.7
PromptCap + GPT-3	73.2	73.1	56.3	59.6

Also, a good generic captioner. SOTA on COCO

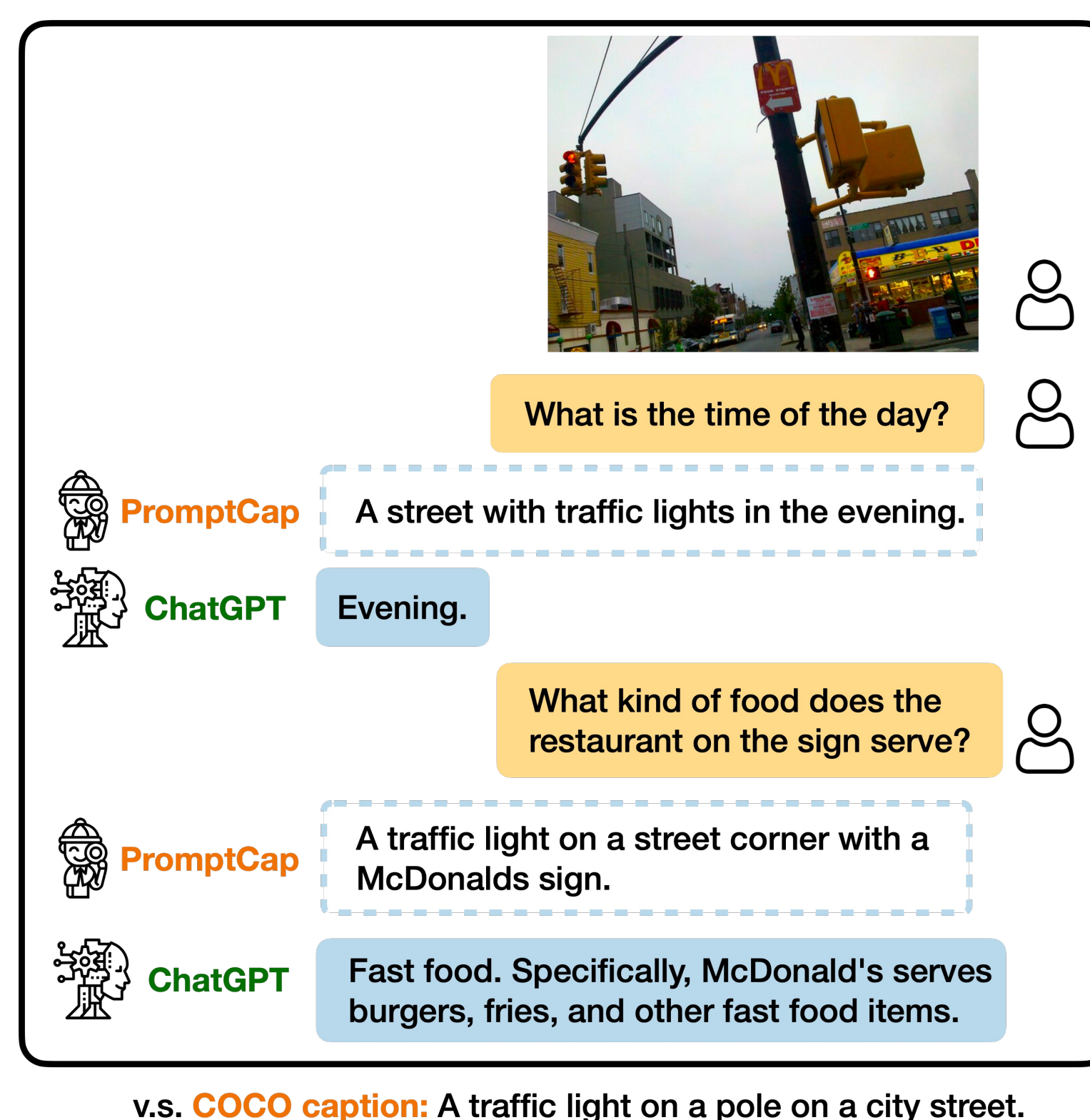
Captions		B	M	C	S
Comparison between "gold captions"					
GPT-3-Syn	COCO-GT	67.1	44.3	182.9	32.1
Inferred captions vs. "gold captions"					
OFA-Cap	GPT-3-Syn	26.2	25.3	231.0	40.2
PROMPTCAP	GPT-3-Syn	33.0	29.7	307.1	47.3
OFA-Cap	COCO-GT	44.5	30.9	147.9	24.6
PROMPTCAP	COCO-GT	45.4	31.6	150.1	25.2

A Lightweight module (~400M) for multimodal agents



Solving NLVR2 with PromptCap and GPT-3

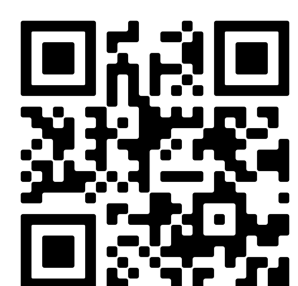
PromptCap: Prompt-Guided Question-Aware image captioning



v.s. COCO caption: A traffic light on a pole on a city street.

- PromptCap customizes image captions according to the question, designed as plug-in for LLMs

Code
Model



Contact



yushihu@uw.edu



@huyushi98