

# Recognition in Terra Incognita

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# Motivation

State of the art recognition models perform great in **common** contexts...



(A) **Cow: 0.99**, Pasture:  
0.99, Grass: 0.99, No Person:  
0.98, Mammal: 0.98



(B) No Person: 0.99, Water:  
0.98, Beach: 0.97, Outdoors:  
0.97, Seashore: 0.97

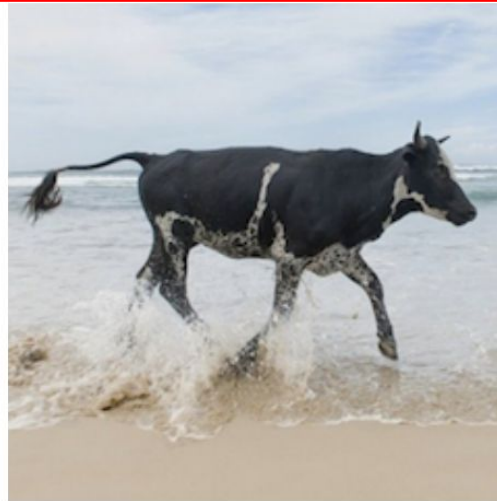


(C) No Person: 0.97,  
**Mammal: 0.96**, Water: 0.94,  
Beach: 0.94, Two: 0.94

...but, in **uncommon** contexts they fail to detect (B) or perform poorly (C)



(A) **Cow: 0.99**, Pasture:  
0.99, Grass: 0.99, No Person:  
0.98, Mammal: 0.98



(B) No Person: 0.99, Water:  
0.98, Beach: 0.97, Outdoors:  
0.97, Seashore: 0.97



(C) No Person: 0.97,  
**Mammal: 0.96**, Water: 0.94,  
Beach: 0.94, Two: 0.94

# What makes generalization difficult?

Variation in...

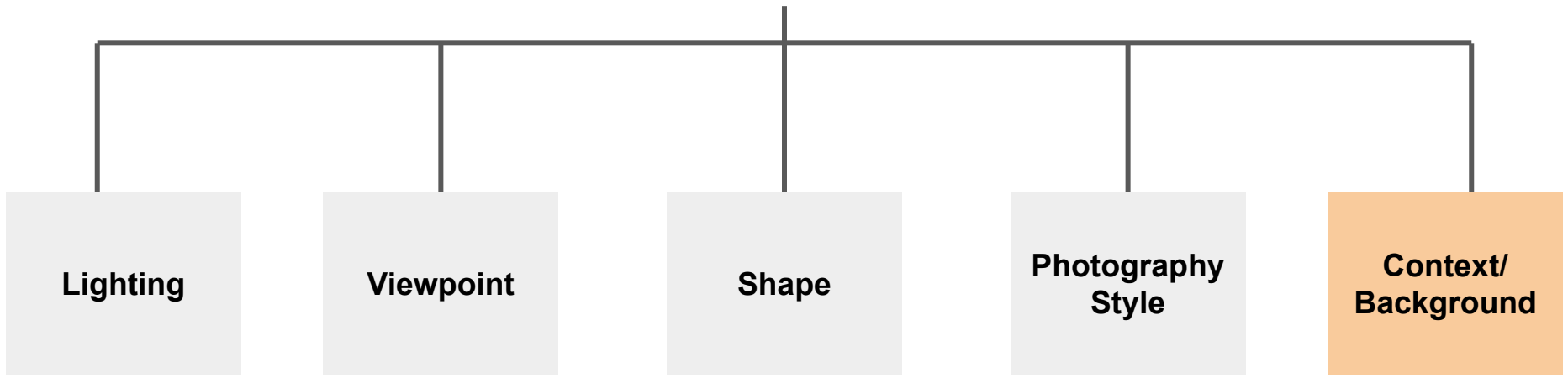
**Lighting**

**Viewpoint**

**Shape**

**Photography  
Style**

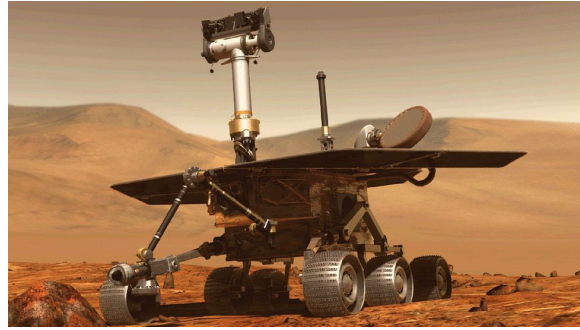
**Context/  
Background**



# Scenarios with varying backgrounds



**Surveillance**



**Automated  
Exploration**



**Home  
Automation**

# Camera Traps



Deployed in wide variety of backgrounds

Controlled for lighting

Eliminates photographer bias

# The Dataset



# Existing Datasets

## Common Benchmarks

Taken in different locations by different people

Biased towards well-lit images with subjects centered

## Natural World Datasets

Large amount of diversity in location & perspective

Mostly taken by humans under good lighting

## Snapshot Serengeti Dataset

Largest-scale camera trap dataset ever collected

Not yet suitable for controlled experiments

# CCT-20: CalTech Camera Traps-20

CalTech Camera Traps



- 243,187 Images
- 140 Camera Locations



Subset to American Southwest

CCT-20



- 57,868 Images
- 20 Camera Locations
- 16 Species Classes
- Bounding Boxes

# Challenges



(1) Illumination



(2) Blur



(3) ROI Size



(4) Occlusion

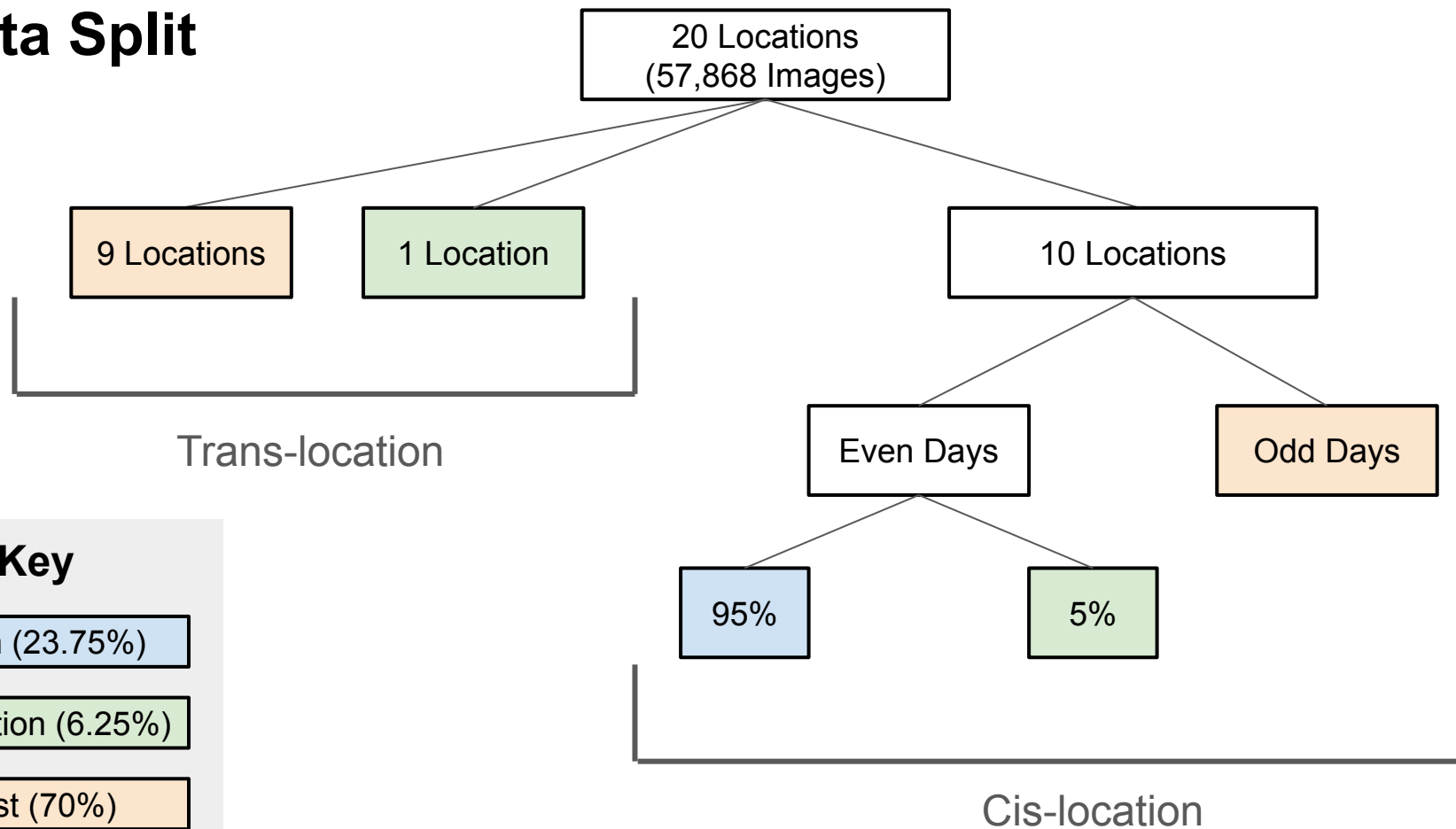


(5) Camouflage



(6) Perspective

# Data Split



## Key

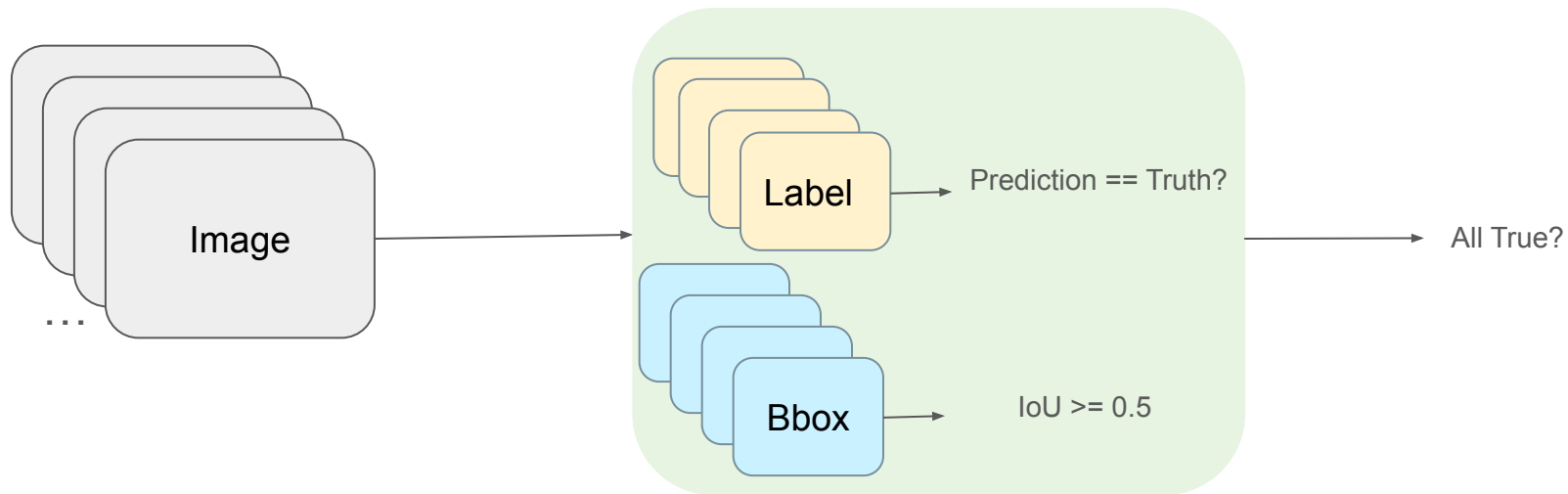
Train (23.75%)

Validation (6.25%)

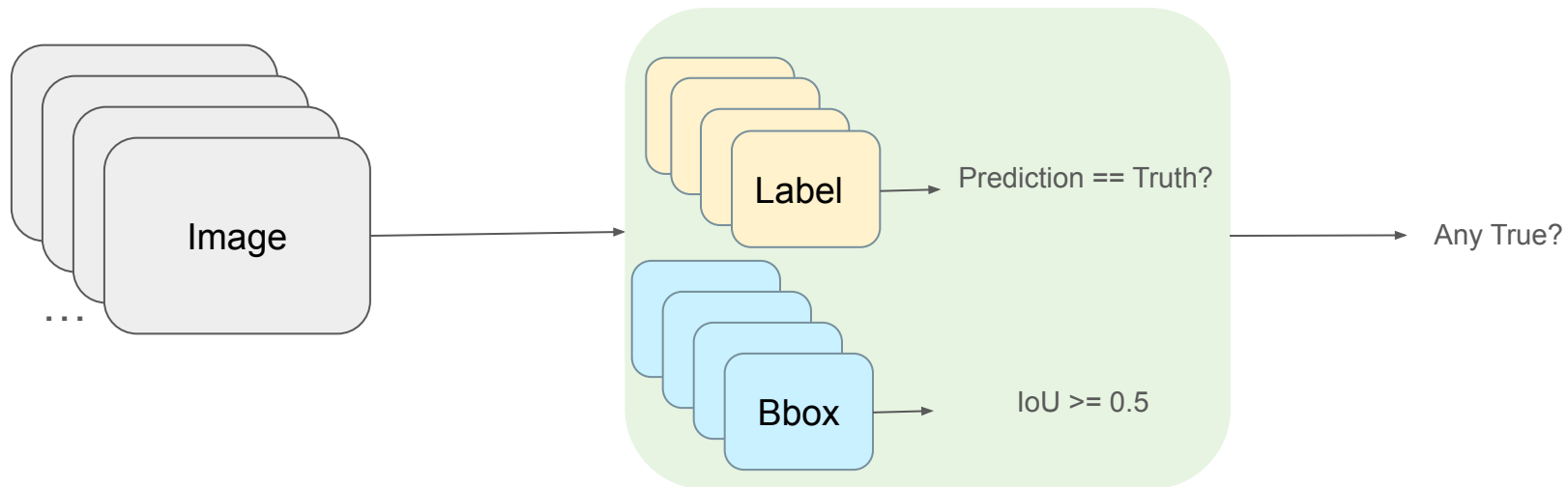
Test (70%)

# Evaluation Protocol

# Most Confident



# Oracle



# Experiments



# Classification

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	Cis-Locations		Trans-Locations		Error Increase	
Sequence Information	Images	Bboxes	Images	Bboxes	Images	Bboxes
None	19.06	8.14	41.04	19.56	115%	140%
Most Confident	17.7	7.06	34.53	15.77	95%	123%
Oracle	14.92	5.52	28.69	12.06	92%	118%

# Detection

Sequence Information	Cis-Locations		Trans-Locations		Error Increase	
	ResNet	Inception	ResNet	Inception	ResNet	Inception
None	77.10	77.57	70.17	71.37	30%	27.6%
Most Confident	84.78	86.22	84.09	85.44	4.5%	5.6%
Oracle	94.95	95.04	92.13	93.09	55.8%	39.3%

Detection mAP at IoU=0.5 across experiments.

# Number of Training Examples

