Applications Track.

VIDEOGAMEBUNNY understands game context

VIDEOGAMEBUNNY: Towards vision assistants for video games

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Abstract

Large multimodal models (LMMs) hold substantial promise across various domains, from personal assistance in daily tasks to sophisticated applications like medical di-agnostics. However, their capabilities have limitations in the video game domain, such as challenges with scene un-derstanding, hallucinations, and inaccurate descriptions of video game content, especially in open-source models. This paper describes the development of VIDEOGAMEBUNNY, a LLaVA-style model based on Bunny, specifically tailored for understanding images from video games. We release intermediate checkpoints, training logs, and an extensive dataset comprising 185,259 video game images from 413 titles, along with 389,565 image-instruction pairs that include image captions, question-answer pairs, and a JSON representation of 16 elements of 136,974 images. Our ex-periments show that our high quality game-related data has the potential to make a relatively small model outper-form the much larger state-of-the-art model LLaVa-1.6-34b (which has more than 4x the number of parameters). Our study paves the way for future research in video game un-derstanding on tasks such as playing, commentary, and debugging. Code and data are available at: https: //videogamebunny.github.io/

1. Introduction

The video game industry is projected to be valued at \$321 billion by 2026 [12, 38] and continues to contribute more to the global economy. Generative Artificial Intelli-gence (GenAI) [41] is rapidly spreading across various sec-tors, disrupting the ways in which many traditional tasks are executed [6, 11]. In the realm of gaming, GenAI has the potential to enhance many aspects, such as providing a better in-game experience by generating more realistic conver-sations with non-playable characters (NPCs) [34] or better graphical assets [8, 17, 36, 55].

Large language models (LLMs) and large multimodal models (LMMs) represent advancements in GenAI with the



Bunny:(B): Yes, the glowing orb is clipping through the counter. X LLaVA-1.6-34b: (C) Yes, the 'Additional Download' progress bar seems stuck. X

Figure 1. VIDEOGAMEBUNNY is a model specifically fine-tuned on video game content, enabling it to understand game contexts and respond to related questions more accurately.

potential to function as vision assistants and solve complex problems across various domains [1,5,45]. In video games, LMMs can offer significant benefits for both in-game experiences and game development. In-game, LMMs can serve as vision assistants, enhancing players' experiences by guiding them through tasks like crafting new items [32]. They also have the potential to narrate the game, summarize events, and highlight critical gameplay moments [4]. For game development, LMMs have the potential to assist in detecting bugs [42], creating bug reports, and deploying automated in-game bots that interact with the environment [44]. These applications require robust models capable of understanding game content.

Despite advances and promises, existing LMMs, particularly open-source models, encounter challenges in accurately understanding game content, such as scenes and

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108 world physics [42] (e.g., see Fig. 1).

In this study, we make the first important step towards addressing these challenges by releasing a suite of datasets specifically designed for video game content and introducing VIDEOGAMEBUNNY, a model trained for video game content understanding. Our study centers on the following research questions:

- (RQ1) Which type of data has the potential to improve the model's performance?
 - (**RQ2**) Which data type mixture strategy improves the model's performance the most?
 - (**RQ3**) How does VIDEOGAMEBUNNY perform compared to state-of-the-art (SOTA) open-source models on game understanding tasks?

Our main contributions are as follows:

- 1. We release VIDEOGAMEBUNNY, a model specifically fine-tuned for video game question-answering tasks.
- 2. We release a suite of datasets containing 185,259 video game images from 413 games, featuring various gameplay elements and graphical styles. Our datasets include 389,565 image-instruction pairs with captions, question-answering tasks, and JSON representations of images (see Sec. 4).
 - 3. We conduct experiments to demonstrate the effectiveness of different instruction datasets and their impact on the model's performance (see Sec. 6).
 - 4. We release a replication package containing the training logs and intermediate checkpoints at https:// videogamebunny.github.io/.

2. Background and Related Work

2.1. Large multimodal models

Large multimodal models (LMMs) enhance large lan-142 guage models (LLMs) by incorporating additional modal-143 144 ities such as images or audio, enabling them to process multimodal inputs and generate textual outputs. The role 145 of the language model is to comprehend user instructions 146 and produce responses based on the additional modality in-147 puts provided. Standard approaches to create LMMs in-148 volve combining pre-trained models with different modal-149 ities via projection layers. These layers can be imple-150 mented using simple mechanisms such as multilayer per-151 ceptrons (MLP) [24, 27] or transformer layers [25]. Alter-152 natively, a resampler module like Perceiver [3, 20, 21] or 153 Qformer [10, 60] selectively chooses features to reduce the 154 155 number of visual tokens based on the context and instruc-156 tion, enhancing efficiency and maintaining performance.

In this study, we focus on LMMs that accept input images and text to produce responses, particularly using the LLaVA-style architecture [29], which is one of the most popular methods [14, 26, 28, 33]. This architecture employs an MLP layer to integrate vision tokens with a language

model.

2.2. Instruction following data

Large models trained on massive corpora of text, such as GPT-3 [7], T5 [37], and PaLM [9], are not inherently instruction-following, meaning they do not respond to user queries. To enable these models to follow user instructions and answer queries, they usually undergo a process called instruction tuning [35, 56]. This process involves fine-tuning the models to handle specific user instructions, such as questions or commands, allowing them to respond appropriately based on the given instructions.

In the multimodal context, particularly for models that accept visual inputs, there are various types of visual instruction-following data, such as detailed descriptions, conversational style question answering (Q&A), and complex reasoning. Researchers have explored diverse approaches to generate such data, including the use of academic text-oriented visual Q&A datasets [10]. The LLaVA model [24] demonstrated that leveraging a strong text-only LLM and an image dataset annotated with object names and bounding box information can be converted into effective visual instruction-following data.

2.3. LLMs and LMMs in video games

LLMs have shown strong promise for integration with games for a wide range of tasks, from content creation to game-playing agents [13, 19, 30, 39, 43, 47–50, 52, 57, 59]. Large multimodal models (LMMs) can further enhance this integration by providing richer context inputs such as images and videos to enable broader applications. Projects like Cradle [44], which focuses on playing Red Dead Redemption 2 with GPT-4V [1] showcase LMMs' abilities to identify objects, characters, and environmental features and assist in controlling the game. Beyond gameplay, LMMs have found applications in game testing [42, 43], where they are leveraged for detecting and interpreting video game bugs.

Our study is the first to explore enhancing an LMM's general game understanding, rather than focusing on a specific game or task. We use screenshots from 413 games, aiming to improve capabilities across various game-related tasks by developing broader game comprehension skills.

2.4. Empirical analysis of large multimodal models

Some previous studies have conducted experiments to see how different architectural components or data sources affect the general performance of large multimodal models [22,23,33,46]. For example, McKinzie et al. [33] found that the input resolution of the input image plays a crucial role in improving performance, and Laurençon et al. [22] found that utilizing cross-attention between image and language is more effective than the adapter-based method.

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We are the first to systematically investigate the impact of different instruction-following datasets and their combinations on the performance of LMMs in game understanding tasks.

3. VIDEOGAMEBUNNY Model Architecture

In this section, we describe the architectural choices and configurations behind our model, VIDEOGAMEBUNNY. VIDEOGAMEBUNNY is based on Bunny [14], a family of efficient and high-performing LLMs known for their competitive or superior performance on various benchmarks compared to many open-source alternatives.

Bunny follows the same principle as LLaVA [24, 27] for 230 the integration of image inputs. Using a shallow network of multilayer perceptrons (MLPs) as the projection layer, vi-231 sion embeddings extracted from a strong pre-trained vision 232 233 model are processed and provided as image tokens for the 234 language model. This technique effectively leverages pre-235 trained vision and language models, allowing them to work 236 together efficiently.

237 Bunny offers various combinations of vision and language models and supports images with resolutions up to 238 239 1152×1152 pixels. For creating VIDEOGAMEBUNNY, we 240 selected Bunny configurations that deliver the best performance [14] while being small enough to run on a consumer-241 grade graphics card. We use LLama-3-8B [2] as the lan-242 guage model and SigLIP [54] with the S^2 wrapper [40] 243 for the vision encoder. The S^2 wrapper extracts features 244 from an input image at various scales to form a multi-scale 245 feature. This is potentially useful since video games of-246 ten contain visual elements at different scales, from tiny 247 248 UI icons to large objects. A multi-scale feature could cap-249 ture these diverse elements. Fig. 2 shows the architecture of VIDEOGAMEBUNNY. 250

4. Instruction-following Data for Video Game Content

One of the main challenges limiting the ability of opensource models to generalize effectively to video game content is the lack of instruction-following data specific to 257 video games in public datasets. Our goal is to collect game-specific data to address this challenge. In this section, we explain the process of collecting and generating 260 game-specific instruction-following data.

4.1. Video game images

264 We collect images from YouTube by searching for gameplay walkthroughs with Full-HD, 4K, and 8K quality. These 265 high-resolution videos ensure that downsampled frames re-266 tain more information and details compared to lower quality 267 268 videos. We randomly sample frames from the downloaded 269 videos and label them with the corresponding game name.

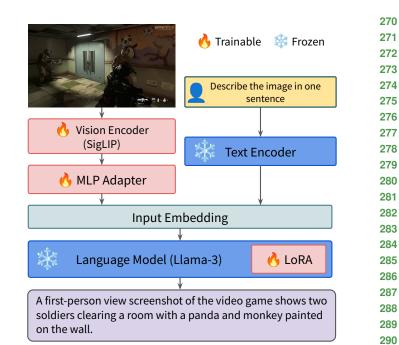


Figure 2. Architecture overview of VIDEOGAMEBUNNY. An image input and a textual instruction are fed into the language model to produce a response. The image is passed through a separate pre-trained vision encoder and a projection layer to align the embedding space between the two models. 🔥 and 🍀 icons show trainable and frozen layers respectively

In total, our dataset contains 185,259 images from 413 different video games, encompassing various genres, graphic styles, and gameplay mechanics. Fig. 3 shows some sample images from our dataset, and Fig. A5 shows the distribution of images per game.

4.2. Generating instructions

Following previous studies [27, 29, 51], we employ another robust model to generate instructions in the form of user queries and responses for images in our dataset. We categorize the instructions into four types: short captions (70,673 samples), long captions (70,799 samples), imageto-JSON (136,974 samples) and image-based question answering (81,122 samples). In this section, we explain how we generate each type of instructions. Fig. 4 shows an overview of the data generation process.

4.2.1 Image captioning

Image captioning is a basic form of instruction-following that generates a description of the input image. An image caption can be short and concise, providing a high-level overview of the image, or very detailed, covering fine-grain details. Our dataset includes both forms of image captioning to meet user queries, whether they seek a detailed cap-





Figure 3. Our dataset includes sample video game images that showcase a wide range of characters, environments, mechanics, camera viewpoints, and artistic styles. These styles vary from western to contemporary and futuristic, and from realistic to fantasy settings.

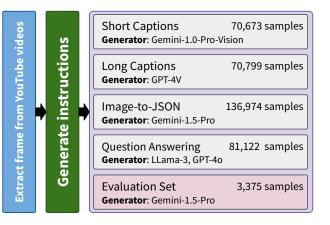


Figure 4. Overview of the dataset generation process.

tion or a short summary. In addition, it includes a structured version where the image is described in 16 predefined fields.

Short captions: We use Gemini-1.0-pro-vision to obtain short descriptions of a subset of images in our dataset, which includes 70,673 images. We use the "*Describe the image*" prompt, which generates captions typically consisting of one or a few sentences.

Long captions: While short captions provide a highlevel overview of the image, it lacks many details in the image which might be useful for the user. To address this, we use GPT-4V to get detailed captions of all images in the previous section (see Fig. A1 for the used prompt).

Image-to-JSON: Another comprehensive method for describing images is converting them into a JSON format. This approach summarizes an input image into a JSON structure, with each key describing an element from the im-age, such as characters in the image or description of Game UI. Unlike typical captioning, this method provides a tem-plate that must be filled. If the image lacks a certain el-ement, that part remains empty, indicating the absence of that element in the image. This ensures a more detailed and structured representation of the image content.

Another benefit of describing an image in JSON is that
this structured representation facilitates integration with
other systems. JSON is a widely adopted format for sharing
information between different software systems. Summarizing the image as JSON can help integrate LMMs in other

systems, such as software testing pipelines, potentially verifying the game output and ensuring that the visual output has the desired properties and information.

To create the image-to-JSON dataset, we use Gemini-1.5-Pro with instructions (Fig. A2) to convert a given image into a JSON file with hierarchical levels of detail and information. The JSON file contains 16 elements that capture both high-level and fine-grained details of the image. These keys are chosen to capture game-specific elements from the image in isolation, which can be used for downstream applications, such as game testing. It starts with an overall summary of the image and then moves to specific aspects such as detailed character descriptions (including facial expressions and clothing), weather information, summaries of UI and player inventory, objects in the scene, and lighting and environmental effects. Tab. A1 shows the keys included in the JSON output. Our dataset contains 136,974 Image-JSON pairs. Fig. 5 shows a sample of information extracted from an image.

4.2.2 Question-Answering conversations

Moving beyond simple image descriptions, a general and capable model should be able to respond to user questions based on the content of the image. Below, we describe how we generate such data for each image (1) from its long caption and (2) directly from the image itself.

Llama-3-assisted visual instruction data generation: We use Llama-3 to convert long captions generated by GPT-4V into a series of question-answering conversations. This approach is similar to the original LLaVA [29] method, but instead of using an object's name and its bounding box information, we directly utilize long captions.

While long captions provide a rich source of information, they lack the structure of question-answer formats. For example, if a caption describes a person in the image with specific details, such as clothing, an LLM can generate a question like, "*What is the color of the dress of the person in the image?*" By utilizing a strong text-only model, we can transform each caption into a multi-turn conversation between a user and an assistant.

We use Llama-3-70B to transform GPT-4V captions into question-answer conversations, with the prompt shown in Fig. A3. The prompt requires questions to directly relate to

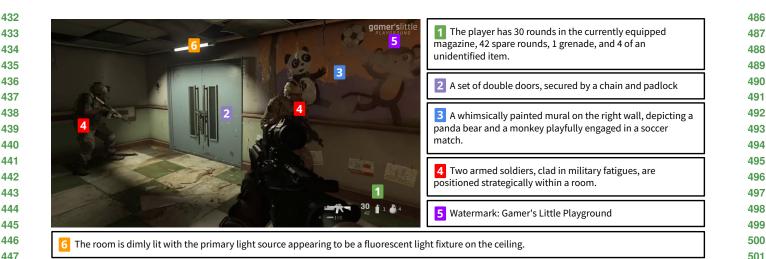


Figure 5. Sample information extracted for the image-to-JSON dataset by Gemini-1.5-Pro. Each sample contains detailed information ranging from minor details to high-level descriptions, such as: 1 player inventory, 2 3 details about the environment, 4 non-player characters, 5 the screenshot's watermark, and 6 lighting.

the image description. We create 496,469 question-answer pairs for 70,232 images, grouping questions for each image into a multi-turn conversation.

Image-based question-answering: We use GPT-4o to generate questions and their answers based on an input image in a *single* prompt. In the prompt (Fig. A4), we first ask GPT-4o to examine the image and provide a detailed description of its content, then to generate relevant questions based on the content of the image and provide answers for each question. In the prompt, we emphasize that the questions should focus on understanding the image to avoid questions that might not be directly relevant to the image.

4.3. Evaluation dataset

To assess model performance on video game understanding tasks, we created a multiple-choice question evaluation
set using Gemini-1.5-Pro [45]. This approach allows for an
efficient comparison of various models. While Gemini-1.5Pro offers significant advantages over open-source models
for data generation, it does have limitations. We reduce
noise in the generated questions as follows:

1. **Initial Generation:** We use Gemini-1.5-Pro to create 4,000 questions across 10 categories related to video game content understanding (see Tab. 1).

2. Quality Assessment:

- (a) Self-evaluation: We test Gemini-1.5-Pro on its own questions and found it achieves an accuracy of 84%.
- (b) Manual validation: A random sampling of questions and answers revealed a 14% error rate (incorrect or indeterminate answers).
- 3. Noise Reduction:

- (a) We remove 625 samples that Gemini-1.5-Pro had answered incorrectly.
- (b) We conduct a second manual analysis and found that the error rate dropped to 9%.

5. Experiments

In this section, we describe our experiments to explore how our collected instruction-following datasets can improve a model's understanding of game context. We focus on three research questions:

(RQ1) Which type of data has the potential to improve the model's performance? In addressing this question, we fine-tune Bunny using a single dataset at a time to observe overall performance trends. Since the primary goal of this experiment is to identify general trends, we fine-tune Bunny on different subset sizes for each dataset only *once*. We increase the subset size from 2K to 60K samples and stop the experiment if we observe a sharp decline in performance.

(RQ2) Which data type mixture strategy improves the model's performance the most? We evaluate different data mixing strategies at various sizes to see how both mixture and subset size change the performance of the model. We use the following four strategies:

- 1. **Random:** We randomly sample without replacement from the combined dataset pool. This serves as a control group, using no specific selection strategy.
- 2. **Equal:** We select an equal number of samples from each dataset to ensure a balanced representation.
- 3. **Stratified:** Datasets are mixed based on *video games*,, maintaining the game distribution in the final dataset. This balances game representation and ensures diverse image types. We focus on game variety rather than

Table 1. Categories of questions in our dataset, along with a sample question for each category.

Category	Description	Count
Action Understanding	Recognizing and describing the actions taking place within the image.	356
	Sample: What action is the character in the foreground performing?	
Anomalies and Glitches	Identifying errors, bugs, glitches, or placeholder elements within the game environment.	223
	Sample: Describe any anomalies or glitches present in the image.	
Character Analysis	Recognizing characters, understanding their roles, and interpreting their expressions and poses.	312
	Sample: What is Aloy's emotional state based on her facial expression?	
Common Sense Reasoning	Understanding the image using general knowledge and everyday logic.	430
	Sample: Based on the score and time remaining, which team is likely to win the match?	
Gameplay Mechanics	Understanding the rules and mechanics that govern the game.	273
	Sample: What game mechanic is most likely being utilized by the player character?	
OCR and UI	Reading and interpreting on-screen text and user interface elements.	334
	Sample: What is written in the caption box at the bottom of the image?	
Miscellaneous	Any other type of question that does not fit into the previous categories.	239
	Sample: What material are the containers in the image primarily made of?	
Scene Understanding	Recognizing and interpreting the overall environment or setting in the image.	566
	Sample: The racetrack depicted in the image is set in what type of environment?	
Small Details	Identifying and interpreting small but significant details within the image.	356
	Sample: What color is the jacket worn by the character in the foreground?	
Spatial Reasoning	Testing the ability to understand spatial relationships of objects present in the image.	286
-	Sample: What is the spatial relationship between the two red markers visible in the image?	

instruction types. Games with insufficient samples are excluded.

4. Weighted: We use the three most effective datasets from **RQ1**: image-based question-answering (GPT-40), long captions, and image-to-JSON. We assign weights: 30% each for GPT-40 and long captions, 40% for image-to-JSON. This prioritizes valuable datasets to assess their impact on model performance.

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We fine-tune Bunny on the above dataset mixture strategies with sizes ranging from 2K to 30K. We repeat each experiment three times, using different samples for each strategy to report the mean performance and standard deviation. We stop at 30K since our smallest dataset (generated by GPT-40) contains 10K samples, and at 30K, we will exhaust the *Equal* and *Weighted* strategies.

(RQ3) How does VIDEOGAMEBUNNY perform compared to SOTA open-source models on game understanding tasks? Building on insights from our experiments, we create VIDEOGAMEBUNNY, a model fine-tuned on a dataset of 50K image-instruction samples compiled from all previously introduced datasets. To assess the effectiveness of fine-tuning a smaller model on game-specific data, we evaluate VIDEOGAMEBUNNY against LLaVA-1.6-34b, a SOTA open-source model with 4.2× more parameters.

Experiment setup: We instruction tune Bunny with
LoRA [18] using the PEFT [31] library. Given that Bunny
has been trained on real images, we unfreeze the vision encoder (SigLIP [54]) to adapt to the diverse visual styles of
different games. To prevent overfitting and memorization,
we fine-tune for only one epoch in all experiments.

592 Given the importance of reproducibility and accessibil-593 ity for all researchers, we perform all experiments on a



Figure 6. Relative performance improvement (pp) of Bunny finetuned on different subsets of each dataset. The image-to-JSON dataset shows a strong positive trend, while the short captions dataset degrades performance. The best performance achieved in the experiment is highlighted in bold.

single NVIDIA A100 GPU (80GB), ensuring a balance between computational power and accessibility. The total GPU hours needed to conduct all experiments, including some preliminary tests, is approximately 900 hours, which is roughly \$2,000 when using cloud providers.

6. Results

RQ1: Which type of data has the potential to improve the model's performance?

The image-to-JSON dataset has the greatest potential to improve the base model's performance. Fig. 6 shows the performance after fine-tuning Bunny using a single dataset at a time. Fine-tuning on a subset of the image-

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Table 2. Performance of models fine-tuned on a mixture of data with various strategies. The Weighted strategy leads to better performance with smaller dataset sizes, but as size increases, all strategies perform similarly. We use a strategy similar to Weighted to train VIDEOGAMEBUNNY with 50K samples.

Size	Random	Equal	Stratified	Weighted
2K	76.7 ± 0.9	77.8 ± 0.8	78.0 ± 0.2	79.0 ± 0.6
5K	79.2 ± 0.4	79.9 ± 0.4	80.0 ± 0.5	79.8 ± 0.6
10K	79.8 ± 0.8	80.8 ± 0.6	80.8 ± 0.1	81.4 ± 0.5
20K	81.5 ± 0.1	81.3 ± 0.7	81.8 ± 0.8	82.3 ± 0.9
30K	81.8 ± 0.4	81.2 ± 1.1	81.6 ± 0.7	82.6 ± 0.3
50K	_	_	_	85.1

to-JSON dataset shows the greatest improvements, as this leads to an accuracy above 82% (+8.7 percentage points (pp) above the baseline of 73.3%) for subset sizes over 10K, with the best performance achieved at 60K (+11.7 pp).

While all datasets lead to performance improvement, short captions can degrade it. Fine-tuning Bunny on a dataset of 10K or 20K short captions degrades performance (-35.5 pp and -30 pp), suggesting that short captions do not contain enough signal for the models to improve and can negatively affect the model.

RQ2: Which data type mixture strategy improves the model's performance the most?

There is a general improvement trend as we increase the size across all strategies. Tab. 2 shows the performance of the models that were fine-tuned using our data mixture strategies. As we increase the dataset size, the mean performance of all mixtures improves. For instance, the Random strategy improves from 76.7% at 2K samples to 81.9% at 30K samples and the Weighted strategy shows an improve-ment from 79.0% at 2K samples to 82.6% at 30K samples. This trend demonstrates the value of additional data regard-less of the mixing strategy employed.

As the size of dataset increases, different strategies perform similarly. The performance difference between various strategies converges as we increase the size of the datasets, and they perform similarly in terms of mean and standard deviations. Yet, the Weighted method achieves the highest average among other strategies (82.6%). This convergence suggests that the choice of mixing strategy becomes less critical as more data becomes available. In contrast, smaller dataset sizes such as 2k indicate that the Weighted strategy outperforms other mixture strategies, achieving an accuracy of 79.0 ± 0.6 .

Having a uniform distribution of games does not significantly improve performance. The *Stratified* strategy,
which aims to balance the representation of different games
in the dataset, does not significantly enhance performance

Table 3. Average improvement for different sizes for each category

Action Understanding 1.6 2.5 2.5 3.7 Anomalies and Glitches 23.4 33.0 33.2 34.0 33.2					
Anomalies and Glitches 23.4 33.0 33.2 34.0	10K 20	10K	5K	2K	Category/Dataset Size
	2.5 3	2.5	2.5	1.6	Action Understanding
Character Analysis 2.6 3.9 4.2 4.7	33.2 34	33.2	33.0	23.4	Anomalies and Glitches
	4.2 4	4.2	3.9	2.6	Character Analysis
Common Sense Reasoning 3.7 4.2 3.8 4.3	3.8 4	3.8	4.2	3.7	Common Sense Reasoning
Gameplay Mechanics 4.2 5.0 6.4 8.2	6.4 8	6.4	5.0	4.2	Gameplay Mechanics
HUD and UI 9.3 12.9 16.5 18.9	16.5 18	16.5	12.9	9.3	HUD and UI
Miscellaneous 7.2 7.9 9.6 9.9	9.6 9	9.6	7.9	7.2	Miscellaneous
Scene Understanding -0.2 0.6 1.3 2.0	1.3 2	1.3	0.6	-0.2	Scene Understanding
Small Details 0.3 1.2 2.4 3.4	2.4 3	2.4	1.2	0.3	Small Details
Spatial Reasoning 5.3 6.2 7.1 7.8	7.1 7	7.1	6.2	5.3	Spatial Reasoning

Table 4. Performance of various models on the evaluation set (%).

Model	Accuracy	Model	Accuracy
Bunny-1.1-Llama-3-8B	73.3	LLaVA-v1.5-13b	64.6
VIDEOGAMEBUNNY	85.1	LLaVA-v1.6-vicuna-13b	71.7
LLaVA-v1.5-7b	61.3	LLaVA-v1.6-34b	83.9

compared to other strategies. For example, in the 2k dataset, the *Stratified* strategy (78.0 \pm 0.2) is outperformed by the *Weighted* strategy (79.0 \pm 0.6). Similarly, in the 30k dataset, the performance of both strategies is comparable (81.6 \pm 0.7 vs 82.6 \pm 0.3).

Fine-tuning improves performance across all categories, with *Anomalies and Glitches* **improving the most.** Fig. A6 shows that fine-tuning improves Bunny's performance across all categories for almost all dataset sizes. The *Anomalies and Glitches* and *HUD and UI* categories improve the most, with average improvements of +32.0 and +21.0, using a dataset size of 30K (Tab. 3).

RQ3: How does VIDEOGAMEBUNNY **perform compared to SOTA open-source models on game understanding tasks?**

VIDEOGAMEBUNNY achieves **85.1%** (Tab. 2) on the evaluation set, outperforming all trained models and surpassing various open-source models (Tab. 4). It outperforms even LLaVA-1.6-34b, despite its larger parameter count, by +1.2. Breakdown of accuracy per category reveals that the most significant benefits come from game-specific categories, such as anomaly and glitch detection (+16.6) and HUD and UI (+3.0) (Tab. A2). Fig. 7 shows a sample from evaluation set where VIDEOGAMEBUNNY correctly answers a common-sense reasoning question while both Bunny and LLaVA-1.6-34b fail.

We also conduct an informal qualitative analysis, prompting the models with more open-ended questions, which underlines that VIDEOGAMEBUNNY demonstrates an improved understanding of video game content and provides better answers (Fig. 8, and Sec. A3).



Models comparison in video game understanding

Question: Based on the score and time remaining, which team is likely to win the match? VIDEOGAMEBUNNY: (B): The blue team is likely to win ✓ Bunny: (C): The red team is likely to win. ✗ LLaVA-1.6-34b: (C): The red team is likely to win. ✗

Figure 7. VIDEOGAMEBUNNY correctly utilizes information on the HUD to answer the question, while the basemodel Bunny and the larger model LLaVA-1.6-34b fail to provide a correct answer.

7. Discussion

Potential negative impacts: Our study initiates the development of a model for understanding game content, with applications in game playing, testing, and commentary. The short-term implications for the gaming industry include enhancing the productivity of game testers and enhancing quality assurance processes. One possible negative impact of such advancement is the facilitation of in-game cheating. As AI models becomes more adept at understanding game contents, there is a risk that they could be used to create sophisticated cheating tools.

Biases and mistakes in dataset generation: In this study, we use existing models to annotate our dataset. While this approach aligns with previous studies [29, 61] and follows the same principles as the teacher-student learning paradigm [16], we acknowledge that our data may contain biases and mistakes introduced by these existing models.

Quality of images: Images in our dataset, sourced from YouTube videos, may include low-quality frames despite filtering for high-quality videos. Motion blur in video games and sampling during scene transitions can result in some blurry or less-than-ideal images.

803 Use of various models for annotation: In the annota804 tion process, we utilize various models depending on their
805 availability and cost. While this process brings diversity to
806 the labels, it is not meant to compare the different models
807 against each other in terms of performance.

808 Use of multiple-choice questions to evaluate game un-809 derstanding: We use multiple-choice questions to evaluate

Models comparison in image captioning



Ouestion: Write a short summary of the image VIDEOGAMEBUNNY: The image is a screenshot from a video game, showing a character in mid-air, equipped with a wingsuit, flying over a mountainous landscape. The game's HUD elements are visible, including a distance marker and a weapon indicator. ... **Bunny:** A video game scene shows a man in a green shirt and blue pants jumping off a cliff. He is *holding a parachute* and is in mid-air. ... LLaVA-1.6-34b: The image appears to be a screenshot from a video game, showing *a first-person perspective* of a character in mid-air, likely after jumping or falling from a height. The character is equipped with a parachute, which is open and slowing their descent. ...

Figure 8. VIDEOGAMEBUNNY provides a detailed description of video game content in the image, while other models show inaccuracies (highlighted in *red*). Responses are truncated to save space.

a model's game understanding, as it allows for a clear comparison. While this format has been extensively for benchmarks [15, 53], it might not be the best proxy for game understanding. Future work needs to focus on human evaluation or the use of LLMs as judges [58].

8. Conclusion

We introduce a new instruction-following dataset, with 389,565 image-instruction pairs, specifically designed for video game understanding. We investigate the effectiveness of fine-tuning LMMs on different instruction-following dataset types and mixtures of them, and finally introduce VIDEOGAMEBUNNY, an 8B parameter model that outperforms a SOTA model, LLaVA-1.6-34b, on a game-related question answering benchmark.

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Supplementary Material

A1. Additional details

A1.1. Prompts used to generated datasets

Figure A1. Long caption generation with GPT-4V

Please provide a detailed description of the image, ensuring that no details are omitted. Describe every element you observe within the image to provide a comprehensive account of its contents. Don't be lazy and it is important to get everything well done.

Figure A2. image-to-JSON data generation

First, provide a detailed description of the image, including every small detail possible. Next, create ten multiplechoice questions based on the content of the image. Each question should test the understanding of the image's content. Follow this JSON format: { "description": "Full Image Description", "short_description": "Short Image Description", "dialogue": ["Any visible dialogue text as a json list"], "on_screen_subtitle": "any subtitle on the image or n/a", "minimap_details": "Information from the minimap", "inventory_display": "Information about the player's inventory", "score_or_progress": "Details about scores or progress indicators", "NPC_status": "Information about NPCs", "event_indicators": "Indicators of any special events", "interaction_prompts": "Visible prompts for player interactions", "game_mode": "Current game mode or context", "HUD_description": "description of the game HUD or n/a if there is no HUD", "on_screen_watermark": "any watermark on the image or n/a", "summary_of_ui_values": "summary of the UI values as json or empty json if there is no UI", "scene_description": "A high-level overview of the entire scene", "character_list": [{ "name": "Character Name", "appearance": "Description of appearance", "clothing": "Description of clothing", "facial_expression": "Description of facial expression" }], "object_list": ["Object 1", "Object 2", ...], "texture_details": "a json list of object name and texture patterns that they have", "lighting_details": "Specific information about the light sources and shadows in the scene", "color_palette": ["hexadecimal color code", "hexadecimal color code", ...], "weather_conditions": "Description of any weather effects present, or say cannot be determined", "environmental_effects": "Description of any environmental effects like fog, rain, fire, etc.", "animation_states": "Descriptions of any static poses or actions implied by character positions", "error_log": "Any noticeable glitches or anomalies in the image", "glitches": "any glitch or buggy aspect of the image or none if there is nothing", "player_status": { "health": "Player's health value", "equipment": "Player's equipment details", "other_status": "Other status indicators" } }

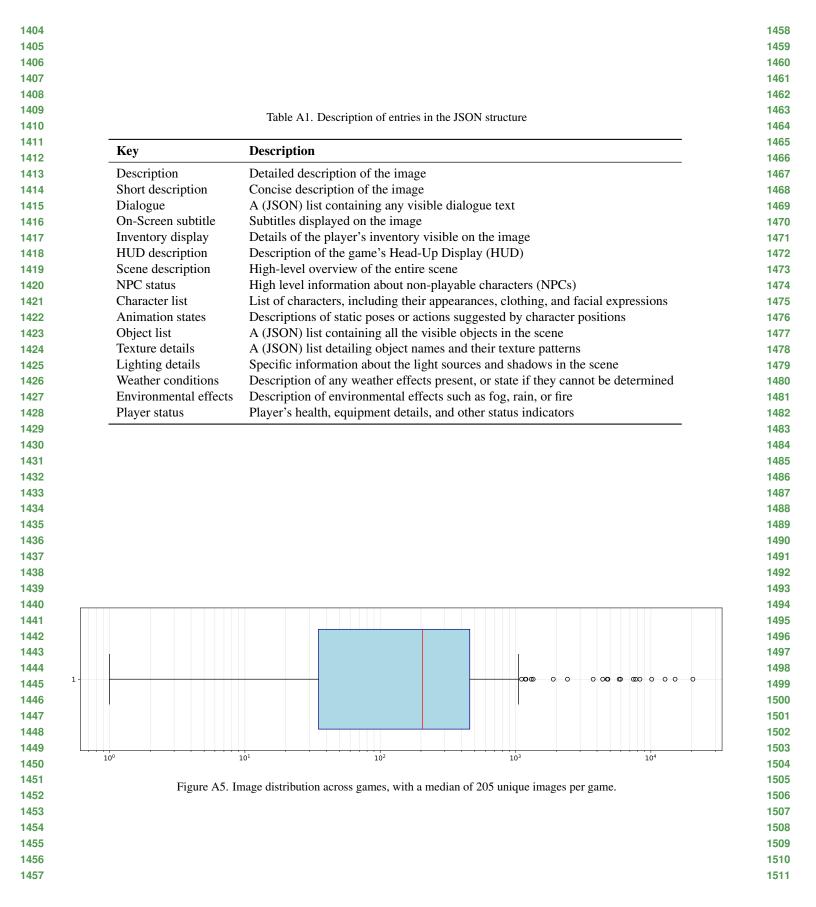
Figure A3. LLama-3-based data generation

Using the image description provided below, create 10 questions and their corresponding answers that pertain exclusively to the details given in the description. Format your response using JSON. **Image description**: <image description here >

Ensure your questions are relevant and directly related to the image description. For example, do not ask about elements not explicitly mentioned in the description.

Figure A4. GPT-4o-based data generation

First, provide a detailed description of the image, including every small detail possible. Next, create 10 questions answers based on the content of the image. Each question should test the understanding of the image's content.



40.38

- 32.13

- 23.88 Accuracy - 15.63

7.38

¹⁵¹² A2. Additional results

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In this section, we provide complementary results for the experiments conducted in the main text.

Applications Track.

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1515																									
1516	Action Understanding -	1.5	1.1	1.4	2.5		1.5	3.3	3.3	1.9		1.9	2.2	1.3	4.6		2.2	3.8	4.8	4.1		3.2	4.3	3.7	4.6
1517																									
1518	Anomalies and Glitches -	11.1	27.4	22.5	32.5		24.3	35.0	35.9	36.7		22.9	40.4	36.2	33.2		27.6	39.0	30.2	39.4		33.0	28.3	29.9	36.7
1519	Character Analysis -	2.3	2.4	3.1	2.5		4.2	3.5	3.9	3.9		3.4	4.2	4.4	4.9		6.5	4.4	4.1	3.9		4.5	3.1	4.1	5.7
1520																									
1521	Common Sense Reasoning -	3.5	3.8	3.7	4.0		4.3	4.3	4.2	3.8		3.8	4.2	2.3	4.8		4.0	3.6	4.2	5.4		4.0	4.3	4.8	2.9
1522	Gameplay Mechanics -	4.6	2.9	4.2	5.3		4.7	4.9	5.8	4.5		6.2	6.0	5.3	8.0		8.8	7.9	8.2	7.9		8.8	9.0	9.6	8.1
1523	HUD and UI -	10.0	8.2	9.6	9.4		13.4	12.3	13.5	12.4		17.5	15.0	16.9	16.6		18.1	17.0	20.8	19.5		21.2	20.5	21.1	21.0
1524	HOD and UI -	10.0	0.2	9.0	9.4		15.4	12.5	15.5	12.4		17.5	15.0	10.9	10.0		10.1	17.0	20.8	19.5		21.2	20.5	21.1	21.0
1525	Miscellaneous -	7.3	7.1	6.6	7.8		8.0	7.5	9.0	7.3		8.8	10.2	8.8	10.6		9.5	9.3	10.2	10.8		10.2	8.7	9.8	10.4
1526	Scene Understanding -	0.1	-0.8	-0.4	0.1		0.8	0.4	-0.1	1.2		1.6	0.8	1.9	1.0		2.8	1.5	2.5	1.0		2.8	1.2	2.3	1.8
1527																									
1528	Small Details -	-0.9	0.1	0.2	1.7		0.9	1.2	-0.4	3.2		1.3	3.6	2.5	2.3		4.6	3.5	2.4	3.3		2.6	3.3	2.8	3.4
1529	Spatial Reasoning -	4.2	5.0	6.1	5.8		6.1	7.0	6.1	5.6		6.4	5.8	8.6	7.4		8.3	5.2	9.3	8.3		7.4	7.1	7.9	7.0
1530		6	*				~	à	- A			6			að.		~	à				6	 *		
1531	¢3	ndol.	Equal St	stified we	eighted	Ran	don .	EQUAL ST	atthed we	onted	¢	andom	Equal St	atified we	onted	4 ³	ndom	Equal St	atthed we	othed	4.3 ⁵	ndom	EQUAL ST	athed we	Intred
1532																									
1533			Size	e: 2k				Size	: 5k				Size	: 10k				Size	20k				Size	: 30k	

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Figure A6. Breakdown of improvement (percentage points) compared to the basemodel Bunny, after fine-tuning it on different mixture strategies by different question categories. As we increase the size of the dataset, all categories show improvement, with *Anomalies and Glitches* showing the greatest gains.

Table A2. Comparison of VIDEOGAMEBUNNY and LLaVA-1.6-34b

Category	VIDEOGAMEBUNNY	LLaVA-1.6-34b
Action Understanding	84.6 (+2.9)	81.7
Anomalies and Glitches	82.1 (+16.6)	65.5
Character Analysis	84.9 (+0.6)	84.3
Common Sense Reasoning	89.1 (-2.8)	91.9
Gameplay Mechanics	80.6 (-5.8)	86.4
HUD and UI	84.1 (+3.0)	81.1
Miscellaneous	86.2 (+1.7)	84.5
Scene Understanding	92.4 (+0.2)	92.2
Small Details	80.1 ↓(-0.2)	80.3
Spatial Reasoning	78.3 (+1.0)	77.3

A3. Qualitative samples

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In this section, we provide qualitative results from VIDEOGAMEBUNNY.

Qualitative results where VIDEOGAMEBUNNY provides a detailed description of the image.

Applications Track.

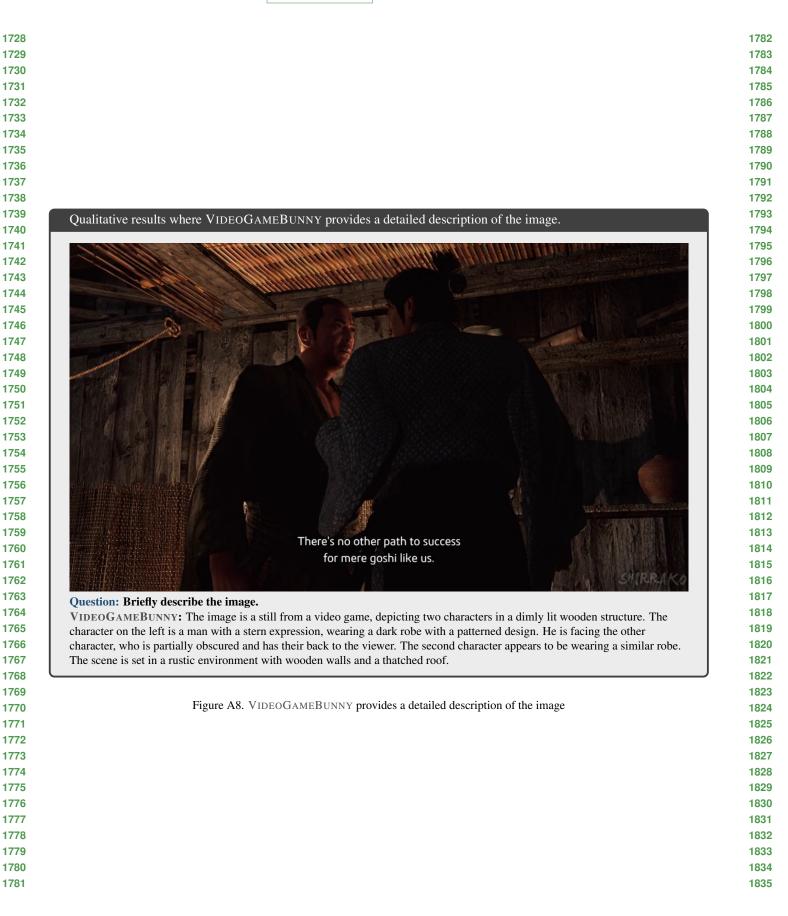
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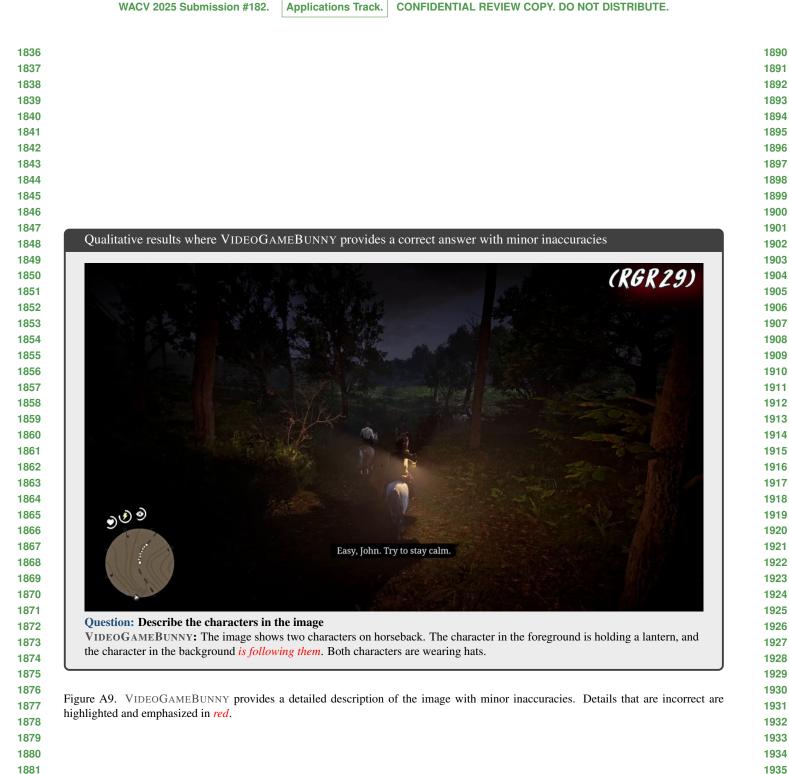


Question: Briefly describe the image.

VIDEOGAMEBUNNY: The image is a screenshot from a video game, showing a character standing in front of a large, ornate painting. The painting depicts a man with long hair and a beard, wearing a period outfit with a high collar and a sash. The character is facing the painting, with their back to the viewer, and appears to be observing it. The room has a dimly lit, old-fashioned ambiance, with a sconce on the wall and a large, framed painting on the wall behind the character.

Figure A7. VIDEOGAMEBUNNY provides a detailed description of the image





Qualitative results where VIDEOGAMEBUNNY provides a correct answer with some inaccuracies LOCAL SURVEILLANCE Criminal: Oh, yeah. I heard a'him. Big guy with a big mouth. Calls himself... Electric ...? **Question:** Describe the characters in the image VIDEOGAMEBUNNY: The image shows Batman, who is in the center of the frame, flying through the air. He is wearing his iconic black suit with a yellow utility belt. Below him, there is a character named Penguin, who is wearing a tuxedo and a bowler hat.

Figure A10. VIDEOGAMEBUNNY hallucinates extra characters and a Batman utility belt in the image, which are not actually present. Details that are incorrect are highlighted and emphasized in *red*.



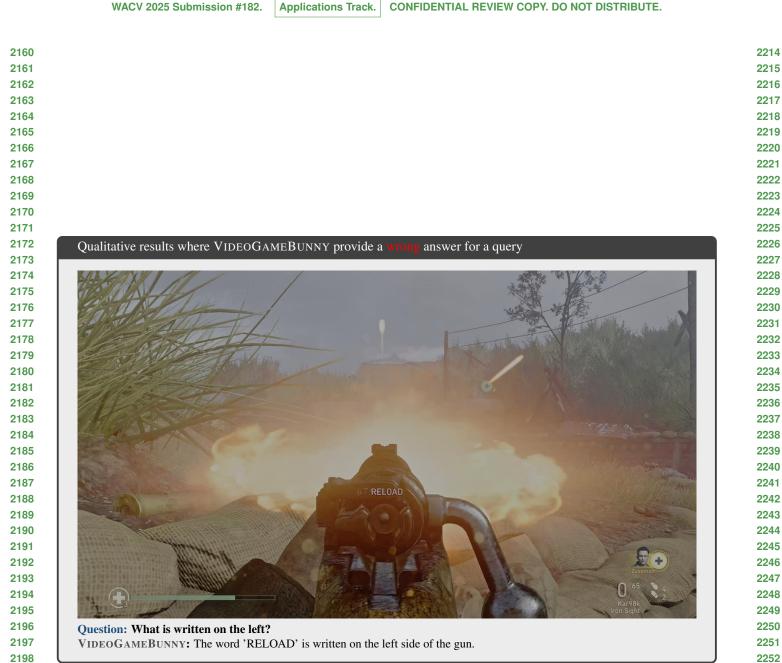
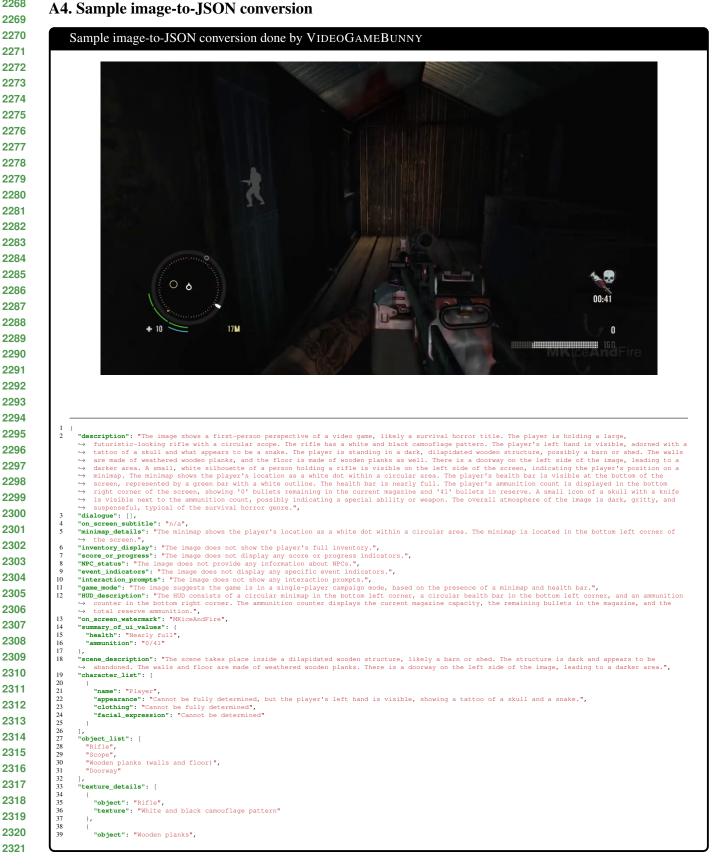


Figure A12. A sample showing that VIDEOGAMEBUNNY fails to provide a correct answer. While the word RELOAD is written in the center of the image, the query asks, What is written on the left? which should be answered with nothing.

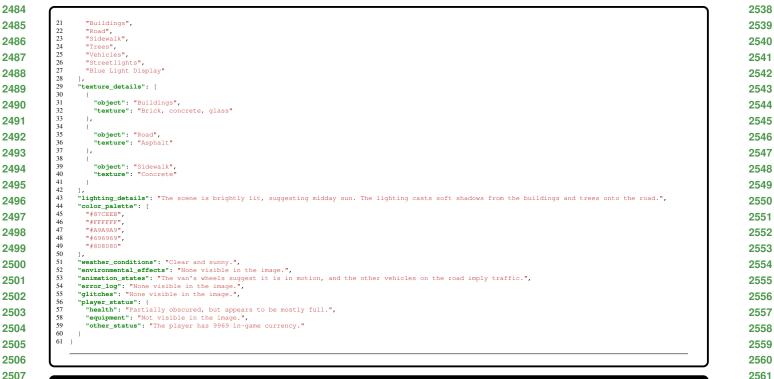
WACV 2025 Submission #182.



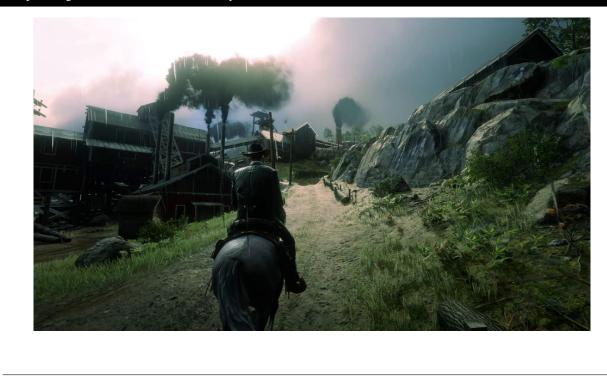


- "summary of ui values": { "money": "9969" 17 ,, "scene_description": "The scene depicts a typical urban environment with buildings, roads, and vehicles. The player is driving a van on a multi-lane ↔ road, heading towards a large, modern-looking building with a blue light display.", "character_list": [], 'object_list": ["Van",

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Sample image-to-JSON conversion done by VIDEOGAMEBUNNY

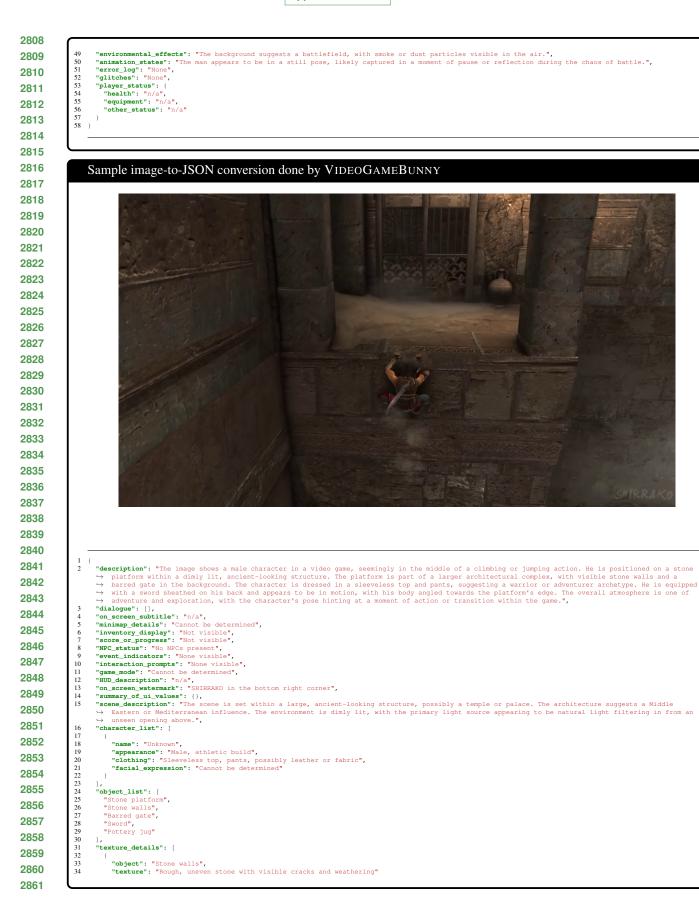


"description": "The image captures a scene from the video game Red Dead Redemption 2, showcasing the protagonist, Arthur Morgan, riding his horse, Black → Jack, along a dirt path. The path leads towards a small, industrial settlement built on a cliffside. The settlement features wooden buildings with → corrugated metal roofs, characteristic of the late 19th-century American frontier. A plume of black smoke rises from a chimmey in the background, → suggesting industrial activity. The surrounding environment is a mix of rocky terrain and lush vegetation, with a dense forest visible in the → distance. The sky is overcast, with a hazy, diffused light suggesting either early morning or late afternoon. The overall atmosphere is one of quiet → anticipation, as if Arthur is about to enter a new chapter in his journey.", "dialogue": [],
"on_screen_subtitle": "n/a",

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2592			2646
2593	5	"minimap_details": "n/a",	2647
2594	7	"inventory_display": "n/a", "score_or_progress": "n/a", "NPC_status": "n/a",	2648
2595	9 10	<pre>"event_indicators": "n/a", "interaction_prompts": "n/a",</pre>	2649
2596	10 11 12	"game_mode": "n/a",	2650
2597	13	"HUD_description": "n/a", "on_screen_watermark": "n/a",	2651
2598	14 15	"summary_of_ui_values": {}, "scene_description": "Arthur Morgan riding his horse Black Jack towards a small industrial settlement on a cliffside.",	2652
2599	16 17	"character_list": [{	2653
2600	18 19	"name": "Arthur Morgan", " appearance ": "A rugged man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark hat and a dark coat.",	2654
2601	20 21	"clothing": "Dark hat, dark coat, dark pants, and boots.", "facial_expression": "Cannot be determined as his back is to the camera."	2655
2602	22 23	}],	2656
2603	24 25	"object_list": ["Horse",	2657
2604	26 27	"Dirt path", "Wooden buildings",	2658
2605	28 29	"Corrugated metal roofs", "Smoke plume",	2659
2605	30 31	"Chimney", "Forest",	2660
2607	32 33	"Rocks", "Vegetation",	2661
2608	34 35	"Trees"],	2662
	36 37	"texture_details": [{	2663
2609	38 39	"object": "Horse", "texture": "Short, dark brown fur"	
2610	40 41), {	2664
2611	42 43	"object": "Dirt path", "texture": "Uneven, dusty, with patches of grass"	2665
2612	43 44 45),	2666
2613	46	{ "object": "Wooden buildings", ""	2667
2614	47 48	"texture": "Weathered wood planks" },	2668
2615	49 50	{ "object": "Corrugated metal roofs",	2669
2616	51 52	"texture": "Rusted and dented metal sheets" },	2670
2617	53 54	{ "object": "Rocks",	2671
2618	55 56	<pre>"texture": "Rough, jagged, with moss and lichen" },</pre>	2672
2619	57 58	{ "object": "Vegetation",	2673
2620	59 60	"texture": "A mix of grass, shrubs, and trees" }	2674
2621	61 62], "lighting_details": "The scene is lit by diffused sunlight, suggesting an overcast sky. The light is soft and even, with no strong shadows.",	2675
2622	63 64	"color_palette": ["#AOAOAO",	2676
2623	65 66	"#808080", "#606060",	2677
2624	67 68	"#404040", "#202020",	2678
2625	69 70	"#008000", "#006400",	2679
2626	71 72	"#004000"],	2680
2627	73 74	"weather_conditions": "Overcast", "environmental_effects": "Smoke plume rising from a chimney",	2681
2628	75 76	"animation_states": "Arthur Morgan is sitting upright on his horse, suggesting a calm and controlled ride.", "error_log": "None",	2682
2629	77 78	"glitches": "None", "player_status": {	2683
2630	79 80	"health": "n/a", "equipment": "n/a",	2684
2631	81 82	"other_status": "n/a"	2685
2632	83		2686
2633			2687
2634			2688
2635			2689
2636			2690
2637			2691
2638			2692
2639			2693
2640			2694
2641			2695
2642			2696
2643			2697
2644			2698
2645			2699
			2000





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35	} <i>r</i>
36 37	{ "object": "Stone platform",
38 39	<pre>"texture": "Similar to the walls, but with a slightly smoother appearance" }</pre>
40 41], "lighting_details": "The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source appearing to be natural light coming from an unseen opening above. This
42	↔ creates a sense of depth and highlights the textures of the stone surfaces.", "color_palette": [
43 44	"#5C4A3A", "#3B322A",
45 46	"#7A6D5B", "#A1887F"
47 48], "weather_conditions": "Cannot be determined",
49 50	<pre>"environmental_effects": "None visible", "animation_states": "The character's pose suggests a dynamic action, either in the middle of a jump or a climbing maneuver.",</pre>
51 52	"error_log": "None visible", "glitches": "None",
53 54	"player_status": { "health": "Not visible",
55 56	"equipment": "Sword visible on back", "other_status": "Not visible"
57 58 }	}
-	