

Superpowering Open-Vocabulary Object Detectors for X-ray Vision

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Abstract

Open-vocabulary object detection (OvOD) is set to revolutionize security screening by enabling systems to recognize any item in X-ray scans. However, developing effective OvOD models for X-ray imaging presents unique challenges due to data scarcity and the modality gap that prevents direct adoption of RGB-based solutions. To overcome these limitations, we propose **RAXO**, a training-free framework that repurposes off-the-shelf RGB OvOD detectors for robust X-ray detection. RAXO builds high-quality X-ray class descriptors using a dual-source retrieval strategy. It gathers relevant RGB images from the web and enriches them via a novel X-ray material transfer mechanism, eliminating the need for labeled databases. These visual descriptors replace text-based classification in OvOD, leveraging intra-modal feature distances for robust detection. Extensive experiments demonstrate that RAXO consistently improves OvOD performance, providing an average mAP increase of up to 17.0 points over base detectors. To further support research in this emerging field, we also introduce **DET-COMPASS**, a new benchmark featuring bounding box annotations for over 300 object categories, enabling large-scale evaluation of OvOD in X-ray. Code and dataset available at: <https://github.com/PAGF188/RAXO>.

1. Introduction

Automated object detection technologies for X-ray imaging are essential to maintain public safety, enabling the identification of prohibited items at checkpoints in high-risk environments such as airports, train stations, museums and stadiums [28]. These systems improve security while simultaneously reducing the workload of human inspectors.

Conventional X-ray object detectors rely on supervised learning [2, 13, 19] and are inherently limited by the object categories present in their training datasets (see Fig. 1a). This limitation is exacerbated by the high cost of X-ray machinery and the requirement for expert annotation, often restricting these systems to fewer than 20 object classes [31],

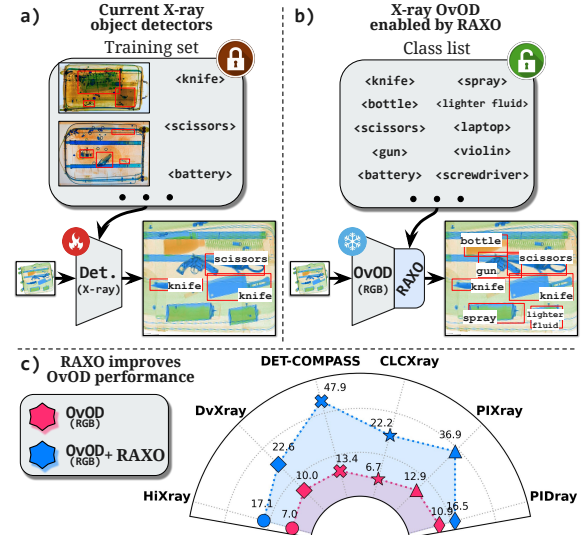


Figure 1. (a) Traditional X-ray object detectors are constrained by the limited categories in their training datasets. (b) We introduce the task of open-vocabulary object detection (OvOD) for X-ray imaging and propose RAXO, a training-free method that adapts off-the-shelf RGB OvOD models to X-ray data. (c) RAXO greatly improves detection performance across multiple benchmarks.

thereby hindering broader real-world applications.

In light of the expanding diversity of man-made objects and evolving security demands, an open-vocabulary object detection (OvOD) framework capable of recognizing arbitrary X-ray object categories defined by the user is imperative. Despite its importance, open-vocabulary detection in the X-ray domain remains largely unexplored. Concurrent works aiming to extend beyond base categories have managed to generalize to at most four unseen classes [15], thereby highlighting the inherent challenges of the task.

Recent advances in OvOD for conventional RGB images have been driven by large-scale annotated datasets, which facilitate effective alignment between visual and textual features [14, 17, 43]. However, these advancements do not directly transfer to X-ray imagery. In practice, applying state-of-the-art RGB-based OvOD models to X-ray scans leads to significant performance degradation, as illustrated

in Fig. 1c. Moreover, retraining these models on X-ray data is often impractical given the scarcity of large-scale annotated X-ray datasets.

Motivated by these challenges, this work opens up open-vocabulary object detection for X-ray imaging by repurposing robust, off-the-shelf RGB-based detectors. To this end, we propose **RAXO** (tRAining-free adaptation for X-ray Open-vocabulary detection), a training-free method that seamlessly adapts RGB OvOD models to X-ray. (Fig. 1b).

We find that the main reason RGB-based OvOD detectors fail in the X-ray domain is the disruption of text-visual feature alignment. The appearance disparity between the same object in RGB and X-ray modalities causes textual embeddings, aligned with RGB features, to mismatch with X-ray visual features. RAXO addresses this issue on three simple steps: (1) *visual sample acquisition*, which involves obtaining X-ray images that represent user-defined categories; (2) *class descriptor modeling*, which uses these images to construct descriptors that effectively encode the visual appearance of each category within the X-ray domain; and (3) *classifier construction*, where the computed descriptors are used to build a visual classifier that replaces the inter-modal (*i.e.*, text-to-visual) classification of conventional OvODs. This new classifier exploits the fact that, despite the modality shift, intra-modal (*e.g.*, visual-to-visual) feature distances remain reliable indicators for object identification. In this way RAXO enables any OvOD to successfully detect X-ray objects based on their inherent visual properties.

To facilitate comprehensive evaluation, we also introduce DET-COMPASS, a detection dataset comprising 370 distinct object classes with paired X-ray and RGB annotations. Extensive experiments demonstrate that our approach consistently improves detection performance by an average of $\uparrow 8.4$ AP across multiple benchmarks and OvOD models, with gains that scale as the underlying detectors become more powerful (Tab. 2). In summary, our contributions are:

- We formally introduce the problem of open-vocabulary object detection for X-ray imagery without training, addressing a critical need for security in real-world scenarios.
- We introduce DET-COMPASS, a novel benchmark with bounding box annotations across 370 object categories, enabling standardized evaluation of OvOD methods in the X-ray modality.
- We propose RAXO, a novel training-free approach that repurposes off-the-shelf RGB-based OvOD models for X-ray detection by constructing robust visual descriptors. RAXO achieves new state-of-the-art results across multiple benchmarks.

2. Related work

Open-vocabulary Object Detection has advanced rapidly with the advent of Vision-Language Models (VLMs), enabling detectors to generalize beyond fixed categories.

OvOD detectors leverage weak supervision signals to improve detection accuracy. Based on the type of weak supervision utilized, OvOD methods can be categorized into (i) region-aware training, (ii) pseudo-labeling, (iii) knowledge distillation, and (iv) transfer learning.

Region-aware training methods aim to improve localization and feature representation by refining the alignment between image regions and their corresponding textual descriptions. Approaches such as DetCLIP [39], DetCLIPv2 [40], CORA [38], and VLDet [14] adopt this strategy. Pseudo-labeling methods, rely on large pretrained VLMs to generate pseudo-labels, effectively expanding the training set. Methods like RegionCLIP [42], PromptDet [5], CoDET [20], GLIP [12], Detic [43], and Grounding DINO [17] follow this approach. Knowledge distillation techniques, such as BARON [36], DK-DETR [11], CLIPSelf [37], and SIC-CADS [4], employ VLMs as teachers in a teacher-student framework, transferring knowledge from the VLM image encoder to enhance the detector backbone. In contrast, transfer learning approaches integrate the VLM encoder directly, either through fine-tuning, as seen in OWL-ViT [22], or by freezing the encoder, as in F-VLM [10].

Regardless of the training strategy, OvOD methods heavily depend on VLMs trained on large-scale datasets. However, such datasets are unavailable in the X-ray modality, making this approach impractical. To address this, RAXO seamlessly adapts existing RGB-based OvOD methods for X-ray object detection without requiring additional training.

X-ray object detection. Several datasets have been developed to tackle the challenge of object detection in X-ray imagery [1, 32]. SIXray [21], OPIXray [35], and CLCXray [41] focused on detecting occluded objects, introducing strategies to identify deliberately hidden prohibited object. To enhance dataset scale and diversity, PIDray [33] and HiXray [29] provided larger benchmarks, significantly increasing the number of annotated images. Meanwhile, PIXray [18] pioneered the introduction of an X-ray segmentation dataset and proposed a real-time framework for segmenting prohibited objects, further advancing automated threat detection in security screening applications.

Previous X-ray object detectors [27, 30, 34] considered mainly a closed-set paradigm, thus being limited to localize objects of a small set of predefined categories. More recently, Lin *et al.* [15] proposed fine-tuning a CLIP adapter to bridge the modality gap between CLIP’s training data and X-ray images, thereby achieving OvOD in X-ray data. They demonstrated generalization on four novel object classes, but both training and evaluation were limited by the lack of large-scale, well-annotated X-ray data. To address these issues, RAXO leverages data retrieval from the web to expand detection capabilities to a broader range of common objects. Furthermore, our proposed re-labeled DET-COMPASS dataset enables evaluation across a wider variety of classes.

	Venue	Images	Classes	Modality
DvXray [19]	TIFS'24	32,000	15	X-ray
PIXray [18]	TMM'22	5,046	15	X-ray
CLCXray [41]	TIFS'22	9,565	12	X-ray
FSOD [31]	ACMMM'22	12,333	20	X-ray
EDS [30]	CVPR'22	14,219	10	X-ray
PIDray [33]	ICCV'21	47,677	12	X-ray
HiXray [29]	ICCV'21	45,365	8	X-ray
DET-COMPASS (Ours)	–	1,928	370	X-ray+RGB

Table 1. **Existing X-ray detection datasets.** DET-COMPASS is the dataset with the highest number of categories and the only one providing pixel-level alignment between X-ray and RGB data.

3. DET-COMPASS

Object detection in security X-ray scans has advanced significantly in recent years. However, evaluating OvOD detectors in this modality remains challenging due to the limited number of annotated object categories in existing X-ray benchmarks. For instance, the largest X-ray detection dataset, FSOD [31], includes annotations for only 20 classes (see Tab. 1). This limitation severely constrains the comprehensive evaluation of OvOD methods, which require a broad and diverse category set (or say vocabulary) to assess generalization to unseen object semantics.

To address this gap, we introduce *DET-COMPASS*, a novel benchmark that repurposes the COMPASS-XP classification dataset [8] for object detection through meticulous *manual bounding box annotation*. DET-COMPASS comprises 370 distinct object classes, offering an *order-of-magnitude increase in vocabulary size* over previous X-ray detection benchmarks. Additionally, it provides pixel-aligned RGB images, ensuring precise spatial correspondence across modalities and facilitating the development of multimodal models. Each object is also labeled with a visibility attribute, indicating whether it produces a discernible signature in the X-ray spectrum. Further details are provided in Appendix C.

As summarized in Tab. 1, DET-COMPASS sets a new standard in class diversity and uniquely integrates multimodal, pixel-aligned X-ray and RGB data. The dataset will be released under an open license, serving as a valuable resource for advancing OvOD research in security screening and industrial inspection.

4. OvOD for X-ray imaging

Preliminaries: OvOD in the RGB domain. Most RGB OvOD detectors [43, 44] follow a two-stage pipeline. During training, a region proposal network (RPN) is learned to yield a set of M proposals by $\{\mathbf{z}_m\}_{m=1}^M = \Phi_{\text{RPN}}(\mathbf{I}^{\text{RGB}})$, where $\mathbf{z}_m \in \mathbb{R}^D$ is a D -dimensional region-of-interest (RoI) feature embedding. Then, a bounding box regressor predicts coordinates for each proposed region via $\hat{\mathbf{b}}_m = \Phi_{\text{REG}}(\mathbf{z}_m)$. A set of text-based classifiers $\mathbf{W} = \{\mathbf{w}_c | \mathbf{w}_c \in \mathbb{R}^D\}_{c=1}^{|C^{\text{train}}|}$ are used

to compute classification scores for each region as $\langle \mathbf{w}_c, \mathbf{z}_m \rangle$, where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the cosine similarity function and C^{train} denotes the training vocabulary. In this way, each region’s class is determined by the class with the highest score. Here, the classifier $\mathbf{W}$ is constructed by encoding class names in C^{train} using a pre-trained VLM text encoder, e.g., CLIP [25]. During training, OvOD models update all parameters while keeping $\mathbf{W}$ frozen. This enables RGB-region-class alignment by leveraging large-scale RGB data and the pre-aligned vision-language semantic space of VLMs, facilitating open-vocabulary inference with any test vocabulary C^{test} . The vocabularies C^{train} and C^{test} may be disjoint or overlapping.

Problem formulation. In this work, we study open-vocabulary object detection (OvOD) in X-ray modality. Specifically, given an input X-ray image $\mathbf{I}$ and a vocabulary C^{test} defined by users at test time, an X-ray OvOD detector $\mathcal{F}_{\text{X-ray}}$ aims to detect objects specified in C^{test} from $\mathbf{I}$ (e.g., a “Power bank” in a passenger’s backpack scan at an airport security checkpoint). Theoretically, this detection process can be formulated as $\mathcal{F}_{\text{X-ray}}: \mathbf{I} \rightarrow \{(\mathbf{b}_m, c_m)\}_{m=1}^M$, where $\mathbf{b}_m \in \mathbb{R}^4$ denotes the coordinates of each bounding box, and $c_m \in C^{\text{test}}$ denotes the class label of each bounding box.

X-ray OvOD presents significant challenges due to the following reasons: *i)* Directly applying a pre-trained RGB OvOD detectors to X-ray images leads to suboptimal performance due to the visual modality gap, as shown in Fig. 1; *ii)* The scarcity of large-scale security X-ray datasets limits the application of RGB OvOD training techniques. These techniques typically rely on extensive image-text annotated data for strong supervision. To tackle these challenges, we introduce RAXO, a plug-and-play module that adapts any off-the-shelf RGB OvOD detectors to X-ray modalities. RAXO requires no training or in-domain detection annotations. Next, we present our approach.

5. RAXO: Training-free Modality Adaptation

As illustrated in Fig. 2, RAXO enables X-ray OvOD by constructing high-quality visual descriptors, $\mathcal{X}_c$, for each class c in the user-defined vocabulary, C^{test} . To achieve this, RAXO first **acquires** X-ray samples in an open-ended manner, leveraging both *in-house* and *web-based* retrieval sources (Sec. 5.1). Then, it extracts the features of these samples and segments the relevant information, **modeling** the visual descriptor $\mathcal{X}_c$ (Sec. 5.2). Once the visual descriptors are constructed offline, they can be directly applied to any *off-the-shelf* OvOD detector by replacing the conventional text-based classifier $\mathbf{W}$, with our **visual-based classifier** $\mathcal{X}$ (Sec. 5.3). Thus, RAXO effectively overcomes the misalignment between X-ray features and text semantics, enabling OvOD detectors pre-trained with RGB data to accurately identify X-ray objects based on their intrinsic visual characteristics.

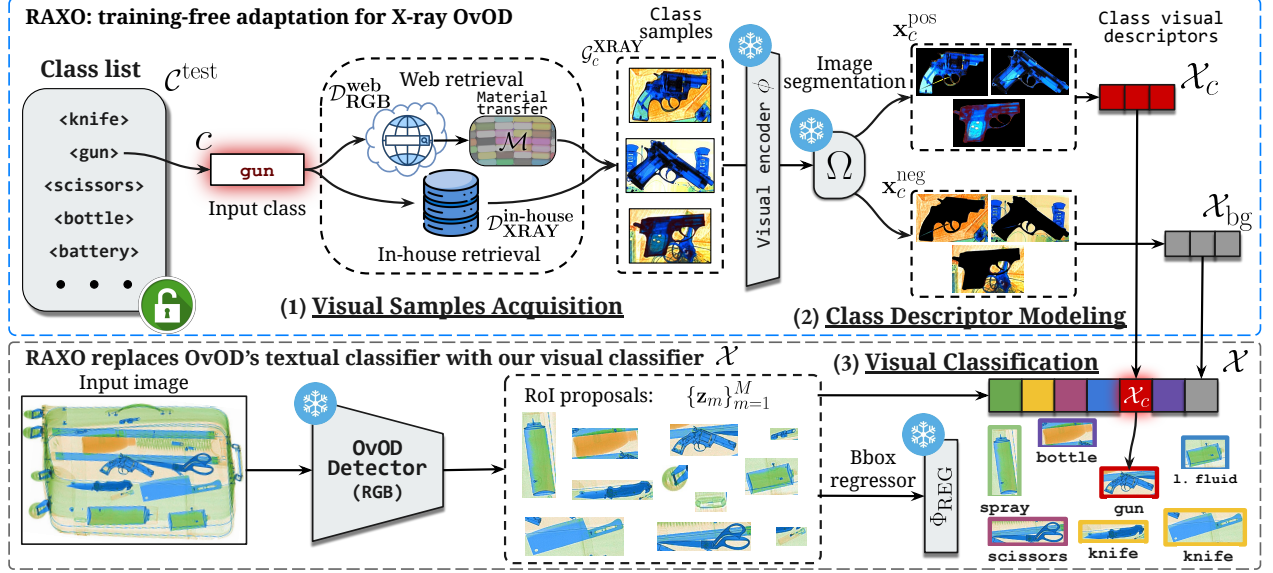


Figure 2. **Architecture of RAXO.** For a given user-defined class $c \in C^{\text{test}}$, RAXO first retrieves its corresponding X-ray images G_c^{XRAY} from in-house and web sources, using its (1) *Visual Samples Acquisition* pipeline (Sec. 5.1). Following this, RAXO extracts the features of the images and segments them with its (2) *Class Descriptor Modeling* module (Sec. 5.2), creating ensemble visual descriptors for the class X_c and the background X_{bg} . Finally, the text-based classifier from the baseline RGB OvOD detector is replaced with our (3) *Visual-based Classifier* (Sec. 5.3) X , which yields accurate predictions on the X-ray modality.

5.1. Visual Sample Acquisition

Obtaining informative and representative images is crucial for generating robust visual descriptors. To this end, we propose a *dual-source* acquisition pipeline that retrieves a gallery of relevant X-ray samples G_c^{XRAY} for each user-specified class $c \in C^{\text{test}}$. This pipeline consists of two modules: an *in-house* retrieval module and a *web-powered* retrieval module.

In-house retrieval. Given an in-domain X-ray dataset, $D_{\text{XRAY}}^{\text{in-house}}$, containing categories $C^{\text{in-house}}$, our sample acquisition pipeline first attempts to retrieve the K most relevant images for the user-specified class c based on class name matching: $G_c^{\text{XRAY}} = \{I | (I, c) \in D_{\text{XRAY}}^{\text{in-house}}\}^K$.

However, since the user-defined vocabulary C^{test} is open-ended, we cannot assume that every user-specified category will be present in $C^{\text{in-house}}$. Consequently, for some categories, the retrieved set G_c^{XRAY} may be empty. To overcome this limitation and fully support open-vocabulary user input, RAXO further incorporates a novel *web-powered* retrieval module. This module retrieves RGB images from the web and applies a material transfer mechanism to synthesize X-ray-style representations, which we introduce next.

Web-powered retrieval. To obtain high-quality visual samples for a category c that is not present in the in-house vocabulary $C^{\text{in-house}}$, we leverage the vast availability of web-based RGB image data $D_{\text{RGB}}^{\text{web}}$ as an open-ended auxiliary source. Specifically, we perform text-based web retrieval using the class name c as a search

query, retrieving the top K results from Google Images as $\tilde{G}_c^{\text{web}} = \{I^{\text{RGB}} | (I^{\text{RGB}}, c) \in D_{\text{RGB}}^{\text{web}}\}^K$.

The raw web-retrieved results $\tilde{G}_c^{\text{web}}$ are often noisy and may not always contain clear instances of the target class c . To refine these results, we apply a filtering step using an RGB OvOD detector $\mathcal{F}_{\text{RGB}}$. Specifically, we discard images in the raw web-retrieved results where class c is *not* confidently detected, retaining only those where the detection confidence exceeds a threshold τ as $G_c^{\text{web}} = \text{Filter}(\tilde{G}_c^{\text{web}}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{RGB}}, c, \tau)$.

Material-transfer mechanism for web-retrieved images. The substantial visual disparity between RGB and X-ray modalities prevents direct use of web-retrieved RGB samples G_c^{web} for constructing X-ray class descriptors. Style transfer methods [6] fall short in bridging this gap, as they fail to capture the underlying material properties of objects (as shown in Tab. 4). To address this, we introduce a novel material-transfer mechanism for generating synthetic X-ray samples from web-retrieved images. As shown in Fig. 3, our approach consists of two key steps: *i*) constructing an offline material database $\mathcal{M}$ that encapsulates the expected X-ray appearance of various *materials*, and *ii*) adapting RGB samples G_c^{web} to X-ray style by applying the corresponding material properties from $\mathcal{M}$.

To construct $\mathcal{M}$, we employ a Large Language Model (LLM) to cluster the class names of $C^{\text{in-house}}$ into subsets $C_m \subset C^{\text{in-house}}$, where C_m contains classes that share the same m material – i.e., “ $C_{\text{metal}} = \{\text{gun}, \text{knife}, \text{fork}\}$ ” or “ $C_{\text{leather}} = \{\text{boot}, \text{belt}\}$ ”. Each material m is then associated

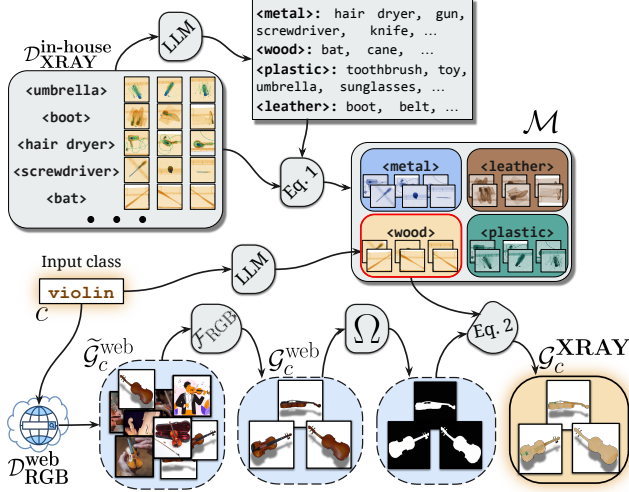


Figure 3. **Web-powered retrieval and material-transfer mechanism** for the class “violin”. We retrieve violin samples from the web, filter them using $\mathcal{F}_{\text{RGB}}$, and inpaint the retrieved appearance into the object masks to generate synthetic X-ray samples.

with the corresponding set of images $\mathcal{K}_m = \{\mathbf{I} \mid (\mathbf{I}, c_k) \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{XRAY}}^{\text{in-house}}, c_k \in C_m\}$. These images are used to compute the appearance, $\mathcal{A}_m \in \mathbb{R}^3$, of the material as:

$$\mathcal{A}_m = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{K}_m|} \sum_{\mathbf{I} \in \mathcal{K}_m} \left(\frac{\sum_{i,j}^{H,W} (\mathbf{I}_{i,j} \odot \Omega(\mathbf{I}_{i,j}))}{\sum \Omega(\mathbf{I})} \right), \quad (1)$$

where $\odot$ denotes element-wise multiplication and $\Omega : \mathbf{I} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{H \times W}$ is a segmentation function that produces a binary mask, to isolate the object of interest in $\mathbf{I}$. The resulting material-appearance pairs $(m, \mathcal{A}_m)$ collectively form our material database $\mathcal{M}$.

Once $\mathcal{M}$ is computed offline, it can be used to adapt the web-retrieved RGB samples, $\mathcal{G}_c^{\text{web}}$, to the X-ray modality. To achieve this, we first prompt the LLM to link the class c with its corresponding material $m_c \in \mathcal{M}$ (e.g., $c = \text{“violin”}$ is linked with the material $m_c = \text{“wood”}$). Subsequently, the X-ray appearance $\mathcal{A}_m^c$ of the linked material is used to render the characteristic X-ray style on each web-retrieved RGB samples as:

$$\mathcal{G}_c^{\text{XRAY}} = \{\Omega(\mathbf{I}^{\text{RGB}}) \odot (\mathcal{A}_m^c \cdot \mathbf{1}) \mid \mathbf{I}^{\text{RGB}} \in \mathcal{G}_c^{\text{web}}\}, \quad (2)$$

Finally, the X-ray visual gallery for every class freely specified by the user is built as $\mathcal{G} = \bigcup_{c \in C^{\text{test}}} \mathcal{G}_c^{\text{XRAY}}$ through our dual-source retrieval pipeline, seamlessly integrating high-quality in-house X-ray samples with synthetic images derived from web data.

5.2. Class Descriptor Modeling

The effectiveness of RAXO hinges on leveraging its visual gallery $\mathcal{G}$ to construct a robust visual descriptor $\mathcal{X}_c$ that accurately captures the visual X-ray properties of class c . A

naïve approach, such as averaging the feature representations of all $\mathcal{G}_c^{\text{XRAY}}$ instances, fails to account for intra-class variability (e.g., distinct shapes of utility knives versus chef knives) and does not differentiate between foreground and background regions. To address these limitations, we propose a novel class descriptor modeling strategy shown in Fig. 2(2).

First, we process each sample $\mathbf{I} \in \mathcal{G}_c^{\text{XRAY}}$ with Ω to separate the X-ray object from its background. Simultaneously, a feature extractor ϕ extracts per-patch embeddings $\phi(\mathbf{I}) \in \mathbb{R}^{H' \times W' \times D}$, where $H' \times W'$ represents the number of spatial tokens, and D is the embedding dimension. Following [9], we resize (denoted by ζ) the segmentation mask to match the spatial dimensions of the feature map, and subsequently we use it to compute both a positive and a negative prototype. The *positive prototype*, designed to capture the significant visual features of the object without background interference, is computed as the average embedding over the foreground region as:

$$\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{I}}^{\text{pos}} = \frac{\sum_{i,j}^{H',W'} \zeta(\Omega(\mathbf{I}_{i,j})) \odot \phi(\mathbf{I}_{i,j})}{\sum \zeta(\Omega(\mathbf{I}))}, \quad (3)$$

On the other hand, the *negative prototype* is obtained as the average embedding over the complementary region (background) as:

$$\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{I}}^{\text{neg}} = \frac{\sum_{i,j}^{H',W'} (1 - \zeta(\Omega(\mathbf{I}_{i,j}))) \odot \phi(\mathbf{I}_{i,j})}{\sum (1 - \zeta(\Omega(\mathbf{I})))}. \quad (4)$$

Subsequently, to construct the final visual descriptor $\mathcal{X}_c$ of class c , we compute the average positive prototype $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_c^{\text{pos}}$ from $\mathcal{G}_c^{\text{XRAY}}$ and unite it with all the individual positive prototypes as:

$$\mathcal{X}_c = [\bar{\mathbf{x}}_c^{\text{pos}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{I}}^{\text{pos}} \mid \mathbf{I} \in \mathcal{G}_c\}]. \quad (5)$$

This formulation effectively captures both fine-grained object details and a holistic class-level representation, handling intra-class variability. Additionally, we also construct a global *background descriptor* by using the negative prototypes across the entire visual sample gallery as $\mathcal{X}_{bg} = [\bar{\mathbf{x}}^{\text{neg}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{I}}^{\text{neg}} \mid \mathbf{I} \in \mathcal{G}\}]$. This negative prototype is used to further improve detection reliability by filtering out low-quality proposals (e.g., a region proposed on the background) during inference. A key advantage of this approach is its modularity: visual descriptors $\mathcal{X}_c$ are computed *offline* and can be incrementally expanded with new object categories, seamlessly integrating with the OvOD paradigm without training or requiring X-ray detection data.

5.3. Classification is All You Need

As shown in Fig. 2(3), once the visual descriptors are constructed for each class in the user-specified vocabulary, along with the background class, the RAXO classifier

$\mathcal{X} = \{[\mathcal{X}_c, \mathcal{X}_{bg}] \mid c \in \mathcal{C}^{\text{test}}\}$ can be directly applied to any OvOD detector to classify proposals $\mathbf{z}_m$ as:

$$\hat{c} = \arg \max_{c \in \mathcal{C}^{\text{test}'}} \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \langle \mathbf{z}_m, \mathbf{x} \rangle, \quad (6)$$

where $\mathcal{C}^{\text{test}'}$ denotes the test-time vocabulary $\mathcal{C}^{\text{test}}$ extended with the additional “background” class. If a proposal matches the background, it is removed. This simple-yet-effective strategy enables any pre-trained OvOD detectors to achieve strong performance on X-ray object detection with minimal modifications and no need for re-training.

Descriptor Consistency Criterion. To further reduce incorrect proposals from the OvOD detector, RAXO introduces a novel *Descriptor Consistency Criterion* (DCC) to enforce class consistency in predictions. DCC evaluates how well a proposal aligns with its predicted class relative to others, suppressing weakly aligned proposals. For a proposal $\mathbf{z}_m$, we measure its similarity to the closest prototype as $s_1 = \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_{\hat{c}}} \langle \mathbf{z}_m, \mathbf{x} \rangle$. We also compute its mean similarity to the average prototypes of all other classes as $s_2 = \text{avg}_{c \in \mathcal{C}^{\text{test}}, c \neq \hat{c}} \langle \mathbf{z}_m, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_c^{\text{pos}} \rangle$. The difference $\Delta = s_1 - s_2$ serves as a confidence measure, where a higher value indicates greater alignment with its predicted class than with any other. Proposals with Δ below a threshold σ are discarded.

6. Experiments

Evaluation protocol. Conventional OvOD models are typically assessed using a *Cross-Dataset Transfer Evaluation* (CDTE) protocol, where the model is trained on one dataset and evaluated on a different dataset in a zero-shot manner [44]. In contrast, our setting involves a more challenging scenario where both the datasets and their underlying modalities differ. To address this, we introduce a novel *Cross-Modality Transfer Evaluation* (CMTE) protocol. Under CMTE, an OvOD model is trained on a *source RGB* dataset and subsequently evaluated on *target X-ray* datasets without any additional training or fine-tuning. For performance assessment, we employ the standard MS COCO [16] metrics: AP, AP50, and AP75.

Implementation details. Unless stated otherwise, RAXO’s default configuration employs SAM 2 [26] as the object segmentation module Ω , ViT-B/14 [3] pretrained with DINOv2 [24] as the visual encoder ϕ , and GPT-4 [23] as the LLM. We set the consistency threshold to $\sigma = 0.15$, the similarity threshold to $\tau = 0.5$, and use $K = 30$ samples to construct the visual descriptors. $\mathcal{D}_{\text{XRAY}}^{\text{in-house}}$ is composed of hold-out samples sourced from the evaluation X-ray datasets and is completely disjoint from the test split. $\mathcal{D}_{\text{RGB}}^{\text{web}}$ is constructed by collecting images from the web using the public Google Custom Search API [7]. A detailed analysis of the impact of hyperparameter choices is provided in Sec. 6.2. Further implementation details can be found in Supp. D.

Datasets and baselines. We evaluate RAXO by integrating it with four different state-of-the-art OvOD detectors that were exclusively trained on RGB images: GroundingDINO [17], Detic [43], VLDet [14], and CoDet [20]. Our CMTE evaluation is performed across six diverse X-ray datasets: PIXray [18], PIDray [33], CLCXray [41], DvXray [19], HiXray [29], and our proposed DET-COMPASS, which together comprise 343 visible unique classes and over 140k images. A detailed description of these datasets is provided in Tab. 1.

6.1. Open-Vocabulary Detection Results

RAXO equips OvOD models with X-ray vision. We evaluate the X-ray adaptation capabilities of RAXO on the aforementioned datasets and baselines in Tab. 2. Since RAXO is training-free, we report the results directly on the test splits, accounting for all available categories. Furthermore, we analyze the influence of the gallery composition by varying $\mathcal{G}$ from a *0/100* configuration (*i.e.*, all samples in $\mathcal{G}$ are retrieved from the web, as $\mathcal{C}^{\text{test}} \cap \mathcal{C}^{\text{in-house}} = \emptyset$) to a *100/0* configuration (*i.e.*, all samples in $\mathcal{G}$ are retrieved from the in-house database, as $\mathcal{C}^{\text{test}} \subset \mathcal{C}^{\text{in-house}}$). Each experiment is repeated three times with different random distributions of in-domain and web categories, and we report the averaged results.

As shown in Tab. 2, off-the-shelf OvOD detectors trained on RGB images perform poorly on X-ray data. In contrast, even without access to any in-domain data from $\mathcal{C}^{\text{test}}$ (*0/100* setting), RAXO enhances baseline OvOD methods, yielding an average improvement of $\uparrow 2.1$ points. This gain is further amplified when in-domain samples are incorporated into $\mathcal{G}$, which facilitates the construction of more robust materials in $\mathcal{M}$ and yields higher-quality visual descriptors. Notably, even a limited number of in-domain samples (*20/80* setting) results in an average improvement of $\uparrow 4.8$ points. Moreover, increasing the in-domain samples (*50/50* setting) yields even more significant gains, particularly in datasets with a large number of classes, such as DET-COMPASS, where RAXO offers an average boost of $\uparrow 14.9$ points. Finally, when $\mathcal{G}$ consists entirely of in-domain samples, RAXO delivers an average improvement of $\uparrow 14.7$ points across all OvOD methods and datasets, all in a training-free manner.

RAXO works with any OvOD detector. The consistent gains of RAXO across all evaluated detectors in Tab. 2, along with its simple integration (Sec. 5.3), confirm the generalization of our approach to any RGB OvOD model. Moreover, RAXO scales with the baseline method, yielding larger gains when integrated with more robust detectors (*e.g.*, RAXO enhances G-DINO $\uparrow 9.4$ points on average across all $\mathcal{G}$ settings, compared to $\uparrow 7.5$ points for Detic). This highlights the advantage of our training-free method, which can leverage the rapid advancements in RGB OvOD detectors without needing large amounts of labeled X-ray data.

$\mathcal{G}$	Method	D-COMPASS	PIXray	PIDray	CLCXray	DvXray	HiXray	Avg.
G-DINO [17]		13.4	12.9	10.9	6.7	10.0	7.0	10.2
$\mathcal{D}_{\text{in-h}}^{\text{XRAY}} 100/0$ $\downarrow$ $\mathcal{D}_{\text{web}}^{\text{RGB}} 0/100$	+ RAXO	47.9 $\uparrow 34.5$	36.9 $\uparrow 24.0$	16.5 $\uparrow 5.6$	22.2 $\uparrow 15.5$	22.6 $\uparrow 12.6$	17.1 $\uparrow 10.1$	27.2 $\uparrow 17.0$
		41.0 $\uparrow 27.6$	33.8 $\uparrow 20.9$	15.4 $\uparrow 4.5$	18.0 $\uparrow 11.3$	21.0 $\uparrow 11.0$	14.5 $\uparrow 7.5$	24.0 $\uparrow 13.8$
		31.4 $\uparrow 18.0$	25.4 $\uparrow 12.5$	15.5 $\uparrow 4.6$	17.0 $\uparrow 10.3$	16.1 $\uparrow 6.1$	13.4 $\uparrow 6.4$	19.8 $\uparrow 9.6$
		20.5 $\uparrow 7.1$	21.6 $\uparrow 8.7$	13.9 $\uparrow 3.0$	10.0 $\uparrow 3.3$	15.0 $\uparrow 5.0$	9.8 $\uparrow 2.8$	15.1 $\uparrow 4.9$
		14.0 $\uparrow 0.6$	16.1 $\uparrow 3.2$	13.4 $\uparrow 2.5$	7.1 $\uparrow 0.4$	12.4 $\uparrow 2.4$	7.9 $\uparrow 0.9$	11.8 $\uparrow 1.6$
VLDet [14]		10.6	9.8	6.9	4.4	7.4	5.1	7.4
$\mathcal{D}_{\text{in-h}}^{\text{XRAY}} 100/0$ $\downarrow$ $\mathcal{D}_{\text{web}}^{\text{RGB}} 0/100$	+ RAXO	36.4 $\uparrow 25.8$	32.3 $\uparrow 22.5$	11.7 $\uparrow 4.8$	15.4 $\uparrow 11.0$	20.1 $\uparrow 12.7$	14.8 $\uparrow 9.7$	21.8 $\uparrow 14.4$
		31.8 $\uparrow 21.2$	29.2 $\uparrow 19.4$	11.0 $\uparrow 4.1$	12.7 $\uparrow 8.3$	16.8 $\uparrow 9.4$	13.1 $\uparrow 8.0$	19.1 $\uparrow 11.7$
		23.7 $\uparrow 13.1$	24.0 $\uparrow 14.2$	10.4 $\uparrow 3.5$	11.1 $\uparrow 6.7$	12.1 $\uparrow 4.7$	11.2 $\uparrow 6.1$	15.4 $\uparrow 8.0$
		16.2 $\uparrow 5.6$	21.6 $\uparrow 11.8$	9.4 $\uparrow 2.5$	5.2 $\uparrow 0.8$	10.6 $\uparrow 3.2$	9.3 $\uparrow 4.2$	12.1 $\uparrow 4.7$
		11.1 $\uparrow 0.5$	14.1 $\uparrow 4.3$	8.9 $\uparrow 2.0$	4.4 $\uparrow 0.0$	9.0 $\uparrow 1.6$	8.3 $\uparrow 3.2$	9.3 $\uparrow 1.9$
Detic [43]		11.5	9.3	7.1	4.7	7.0	4.8	7.4
$\mathcal{D}_{\text{in-h}}^{\text{XRAY}} 100/0$ $\downarrow$ $\mathcal{D}_{\text{web}}^{\text{RGB}} 0/100$	+ RAXO	35.3 $\uparrow 23.8$	27.3 $\uparrow 18.0$	11.3 $\uparrow 4.2$	14.0 $\uparrow 9.3$	19.4 $\uparrow 12.4$	14.2 $\uparrow 9.4$	20.3 $\uparrow 12.9$
		30.7 $\uparrow 19.2$	23.9 $\uparrow 14.6$	10.8 $\uparrow 3.7$	12.3 $\uparrow 7.6$	18.0 $\uparrow 11.0$	12.1 $\uparrow 7.3$	18.0 $\uparrow 10.6$
		24.4 $\uparrow 12.9$	19.5 $\uparrow 10.2$	10.3 $\uparrow 3.2$	9.2 $\uparrow 4.5$	14.6 $\uparrow 7.6$	11.0 $\uparrow 6.2$	14.8 $\uparrow 7.4$
		16.4 $\uparrow 4.9$	15.2 $\uparrow 5.9$	9.6 $\uparrow 2.5$	8.0 $\uparrow 3.3$	12.7 $\uparrow 5.7$	9.9 $\uparrow 5.1$	12.0 $\uparrow 4.6$
		11.9 $\uparrow 0.4$	13.4 $\uparrow 4.1$	9.1 $\uparrow 2.0$	5.2 $\uparrow 0.5$	9.4 $\uparrow 2.4$	7.9 $\uparrow 3.1$	9.5 $\uparrow 2.1$
CoDet [20]		8.4	7.3	5.7	3.1	5.6	3.4	5.6
$\mathcal{D}_{\text{in-h}}^{\text{XRAY}} 100/0$ $\downarrow$ $\mathcal{D}_{\text{web}}^{\text{RGB}} 0/100$	+ RAXO	35.8 $\uparrow 27.4$	27.9 $\uparrow 20.6$	10.3 $\uparrow 4.6$	14.8 $\uparrow 11.7$	17.6 $\uparrow 12.0$	13.2 $\uparrow 9.8$	19.9 $\uparrow 14.3$
		32.2 $\uparrow 23.8$	25.1 $\uparrow 17.8$	9.5 $\uparrow 3.8$	12.0 $\uparrow 8.9$	15.4 $\uparrow 9.8$	11.7 $\uparrow 8.3$	17.7 $\uparrow 12.1$
		24.0 $\uparrow 15.6$	20.0 $\uparrow 12.7$	9.5 $\uparrow 3.8$	9.2 $\uparrow 6.1$	11.5 $\uparrow 5.9$	9.9 $\uparrow 6.5$	14.0 $\uparrow 8.4$
		17.8 $\uparrow 9.4$	14.8 $\uparrow 7.5$	8.5 $\uparrow 2.8$	5.1 $\uparrow 2.0$	9.4 $\uparrow 3.8$	8.1 $\uparrow 4.7$	10.6 $\uparrow 5.0$
		12.2 $\uparrow 3.8$	11.5 $\uparrow 4.2$	8.1 $\uparrow 2.4$	4.0 $\uparrow 0.9$	6.9 $\uparrow 1.3$	6.5 $\uparrow 3.1$	8.2 $\uparrow 2.6$

Table 2. **X-ray OvOD performance under the Cross-Modality Transfer Evaluation (CMTE) setting** on DET-COMPASS (ours), PIXray [18], PIDray [33], CLCXray [41], DvXray [19], and HiXray [29] datasets. We integrate RAXO into different baselines using different gallery $\mathcal{G}$ compositions, from using only $\mathcal{D}_{\text{in-house}}^{\text{XRAY}}$ data (100/0) to exclusively $\mathcal{D}_{\text{web}}^{\text{RGB}}$ samples (0/100). RAXO consistently improves the performance of all baseline OvOD detectors across every dataset. AP is used.

	PIXray				
	Scissors	Wrench	Battery	Pliers	AP50
OVXD [†]	16.9	46.2	14.6	6.4	21.0
BARON + RAXO	18.2	39.4	8.3	22.0	22.0
CoDet + RAXO	43.6	52.6	9.0	18.6	30.9
Detic + RAXO	46.3	60.5	7.9	36.6	37.8
VLDet + RAXO	48.3	62.7	10.6	38.5	40.0
G-DINO + RAXO	49.7	61.6	11.3	51.5	43.5

Table 3. **Comparison under OVXD [15] setting**, where the methods do not have access to in-domain data from the displayed categories. [†]OVXD is a supervised method explicitly trained on X-ray images for alignment. AP50 is used.

RAXO surpasses training-based approaches. We also compare RAXO with OVXD [15], the only concurrent work that extends X-ray detection beyond base categories. OVXD is a *fully-supervised* method trained directly on X-ray data, and its generalization capabilities are evaluated on a hold-out set comprising only four categories (*i.e.*, Scissors, Wrench, Battery, and Pliers). In Tab. 3, we follow this setting and evaluate RAXO on PIXray [18], excluding the aforementioned classes from the in-house dataset $\mathcal{D}_{\text{in-house}}^{\text{XRAY}}$. Our results demonstrate that RAXO outperforms OVXD even when both approaches utilize the same BARON detector [36]. Notably, unlike OVXD, our method does not retrain BARON or any other component. Yet, our training-free RAXO performs remarkably well, achieving an AP50

		Mod.	Filt.	Trans.	AP	AP50	AP75
G-DINO [17]					12.9	14.9	13.4
+ RAXO	X-ray				7.9 $\downarrow 5.0$	9.8 $\downarrow 5.1$	8.3 $\downarrow 5.1$
	RGB				13.9 $\uparrow 1.0$	17.4 $\uparrow 2.5$	14.3 $\uparrow 0.9$
	RGB	✓			14.3 $\uparrow 1.4$	17.6 $\uparrow 2.7$	14.7 $\uparrow 1.3$
	RGB	✓	$\mathcal{S}$		14.6 $\uparrow 1.7$	18.3 $\uparrow 3.4$	15.1 $\uparrow 1.7$
	RGB	✓	$\mathcal{M}$		16.1 $\uparrow 3.2$	19.8 $\uparrow 4.9$	16.8 $\uparrow 3.4$

Table 4. **Ablation of web-based retrieval** on PIXray [18] using only web-based samples (setting 0/100). **Mod.** indicates retrieval of a specific modality from the web, **Filt.** refers to filtering retrieved images with $\mathcal{F}_{\text{RGB}}$, and **Trans.** specifies style-transfer via: $\mathcal{S}$ a diffusion-based method [6] or $\mathcal{M}$ our material-transfer mechanism.

of 43.5 when paired with G-DINO [17].

6.2. Ablation study

In this section we study the core components of RAXO. We conduct our experiments on PIXray [18], using GroundingDINO [12] as our baseline OvOD. Consistent findings are reported in Supp. E and F.

Web-based samples. Tab. 4 presents an ablation study on the components of our web-based visual sample acquisition pipeline (Sec. 5.1). Notably, directly retrieving X-ray samples from the web (Mod. = X-ray) leads to a $\downarrow 5.0$ point decrease in AP. In contrast, retrieving RGB images from the web (Mod. = RGB) provides a modest AP improvement of

	Ω	x^{neg}	$\mathcal{X}$	DCC	AP	AP50	AP75
G-DINO [17]					12.9	14.9	13.4
+ RAXO					25.2 $\uparrow$ 12.3	31.4 $\uparrow$ 16.5	26.2 $\uparrow$ 12.8
	✓				27.1 $\uparrow$ 14.2	33.6 $\uparrow$ 18.7	28.4 $\uparrow$ 15.0
	✓	✓			27.8 $\uparrow$ 14.9	34.5 $\uparrow$ 19.6	29.3 $\uparrow$ 15.9
	✓		✓		27.5 $\uparrow$ 14.6	34.0 $\uparrow$ 19.1	28.8 $\uparrow$ 15.4
	✓	✓	✓		28.5 $\uparrow$ 15.6	35.3 $\uparrow$ 20.4	29.9 $\uparrow$ 16.5
	✓	✓	✓	✓	36.9$\uparrow$24.0	45.0$\uparrow$30.1	39.0$\uparrow$25.6

Table 5. **Ablation of class representation construction** on PIXray [18] using in-domain samples (setting 100/0). Ω indicates building positive prototypes using segmentation masks. x^{neg} indicates use of negative prototypes. $\mathcal{X}$ indicates ensemble multiple prototypes in class descriptors. DCC indicates use of prototype consistency criterion.

$\uparrow$ 1.0 point. We hypothesize that directly using X-ray examples obtained from the web is ineffective due to the limited availability of high-quality X-ray images online. Filtering the retrieved RGB images using $\mathcal{F}_{\text{RGB}}$ increases AP by an additional $\uparrow$ 0.4 points. Nonetheless, they still exhibit a significant visual gap compared to their X-ray counterparts. A style-transfer approach using StyleShot [6] (Trans. = $\mathcal{S}$) provides a marginal AP gain of $\uparrow$ 0.3 points, likely due to its limited capacity to understand the intrinsic material properties of the objects. Conversely, our proposed material-transfer mechanism (Trans. = $\mathcal{M}$) yields a substantial AP improvement of $\uparrow$ 1.8 points, underscoring its effectiveness in bridging the X-ray modality gap.

Class descriptor modeling. Tab. 5 presents an ablation study analyzing the impact of the various components used to construct class representations. As shown, using a simple per-class average of all the features from each sample already results in a significant AP improvement of $\uparrow$ 12.3 points over the baseline OvOD. Refining the representation by applying an object segmentation method to isolate the foreground features (Ω) further boosts the AP by $\uparrow$ 1.9 points. Moreover, leveraging background features to construct negative prototypes (x^{neg}) adds an additional $\uparrow$ 0.7 points.

Replacing the averaged class prototypes with our proposed visual descriptor ($\mathcal{X}$) yields another $\uparrow$ 0.7 point improvement, demonstrating its enhanced capability to capture intra-class visual variability. Finally, incorporating our descriptor consistency criterion to suppress low-quality proposals (DCC) provides a further AP increase of $\uparrow$ 8.4 points, underscoring the effectiveness of our proposed framework.

Hyperparameter study. Fig. 4 analyzes the effect of varying the number of samples K used to construct the visual descriptors. Even with just a single sample per class, RAXO improves AP by $\uparrow$ 6.5 points over the baseline. As K increases, performance continues to improve, reaching saturation at $K = 30$ with a total AP gain of $\uparrow$ 24.0 points.

Furthermore, Fig. 5 explores the influence of the threshold σ in the *Descriptor Consistency Module*. Higher values of σ impose stricter consistency requirements, de-

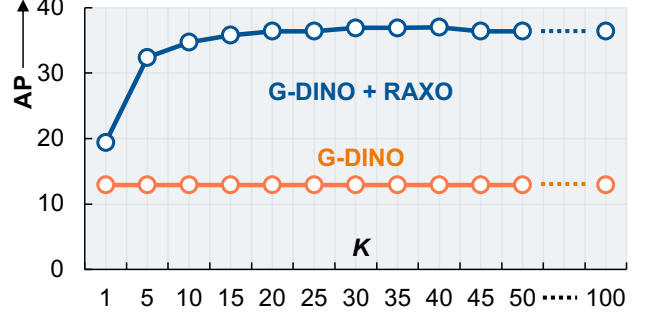


Figure 4. **Impact of K in class representations** evaluated on PIXray [18] using a G-DINO [17] baseline in the 100/0 setting.

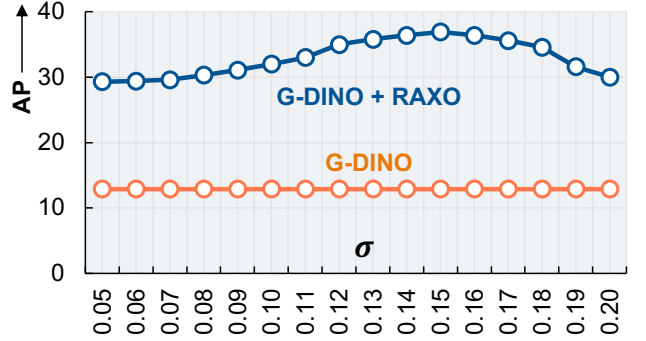


Figure 5. **Impact of σ in Descriptor Consistency Module** on PIXray [18] using a G-DINO [17] baseline in the 100/0 setting.

manding greater separation between the predicted class and other classes before accepting a proposal. We observe that $\sigma = 0.15$ provides an optimal balance between false positives and false negatives, yielding an AP of 36.9 points.

7. Conclusions

In this work, we pioneered the task of open-vocabulary object detection (OvOD) for X-ray imagery, a challenge shaped by the unique characteristics of X-ray data and the scarcity of annotated examples. To address this, we introduced RAXO, a training-free method that repurposes off-the-shelf RGB-based OvOD detectors for the X-ray domain. By leveraging intra-modal feature distances, a novel material-transfer mechanism, and robust class descriptor modeling, RAXO effectively bridges the modality gap between RGB and X-ray imagery. Our extensive experiments, conducted across multiple benchmarks and the newly proposed DET-COMPASS dataset, demonstrate that RAXO consistently enhances detection performance, achieving average mAP improvements of up to 17.0 points over baseline methods.

Looking ahead, the modularity of RAXO opens promising avenues for future research, including further refinement of visual descriptors and adaptation to additional modalities. Overall, our work not only sets a new state-of-the-art for X-ray open-vocabulary detection but also lays the groundwork for a thriving research direction in this emerging domain.

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Superpowering Open-Vocabulary Object Detectors for X-ray Vision

Supplementary Material

This supplementary material is organized into the following sections: Supp. A outlines ethical considerations related to our work; Supp. B provides the reproducibility statement; Supp. C describes the process of constructing and the main characteristics of our proposed dataset, DET-COMPASS; Supp. D presents additional technical implementation details of RAXO; Supp. E offers further analyses of RAXO’s effectiveness; and Supp. F presents insights into its performance through qualitative examples.

A. Ethics Statement

We do not anticipate any immediate negative societal impact from our work. However, we encourage future researchers building upon this study to exercise the same level of caution we have maintained, recognizing that RAXO has the potential to be applied for both beneficial and harmful purposes.

The primary motivation behind our research is to enhance open-world perception in X-ray prohibited object detection, addressing the growing diversity of objects in security screening. By improving detection capabilities, our work aims to strengthen public safety in critical security scenarios. Notably, the proposed pipeline and model can be executed entirely on local systems, ensuring that user or institutional privacy remains well protected.

For evaluation, we rely on publicly available, well-established benchmarks, strictly adhering to their licensing terms. Regarding the new DET-COMPASS benchmark introduced in this work, we source images from the publicly available COMPASS-XP [8] X-ray classification dataset, complying fully with its license. Our contribution lies in providing additional bounding box annotations to COMPASS-XP through our human annotation efforts. Importantly, we do not introduce or collect any new images. The human annotation process for DET-COMPASS was conducted following the approval of our institution’s ethics board after a thorough committee review.

Lastly, for web-retrieved images, we only retain those explicitly permitted for non-commercial use in this project. Each retrieved image was manually reviewed, ensuring that none contain private information such as human faces or vehicle license plates. We will release our proposed benchmark and prototypes under an appropriate license.

B. Reproducibility Statement

Upon publication, we will make all necessary resources available to facilitate the full reproduction of our experimental results. This includes the source code, precise prompts, and benchmark datasets with their splits. Our proposed framework, RAXO, is developed using *open-source*,

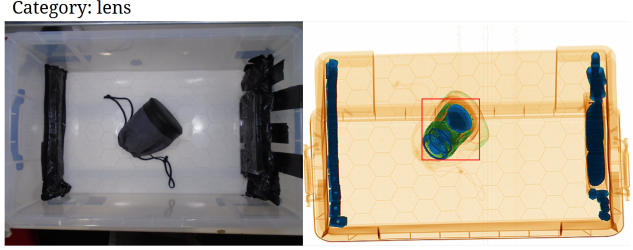


Figure 6. **Ocluded RGB object.** In this pair of images, the object `lens` is completely occluded in the RGB image, preventing the annotation of a bounding box

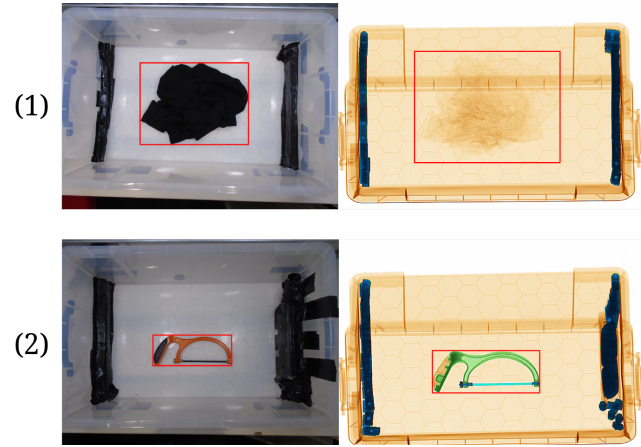


Figure 7. **Visibility attribute.** In (1), the cardigan does not have a discernible signature in the X-ray spectrum, thus `visible=False`. In (2), the hacksaw does, so `visible=True`.

publicly accessible models and data, reinforcing its reproducibility. A comprehensive breakdown of our pipeline’s construction is provided in Sec. 5. Additionally, our supplementary material offers further implementation specifics, including the exact prompts, to assist practitioners in replicating our approach effortlessly. By offering detailed methodological explanations, extensive experimental results, and a fully open-source framework and data, we aim to ensure that our work is easily reproducible, empowering researchers and practitioners to adapt our method across diverse applications.

C. DET-COMPASS Details

To construct our new DET-COMPASS dataset, we sourced images from the publicly available COMPASS-XP [8] dataset. Both the images and their metadata are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International

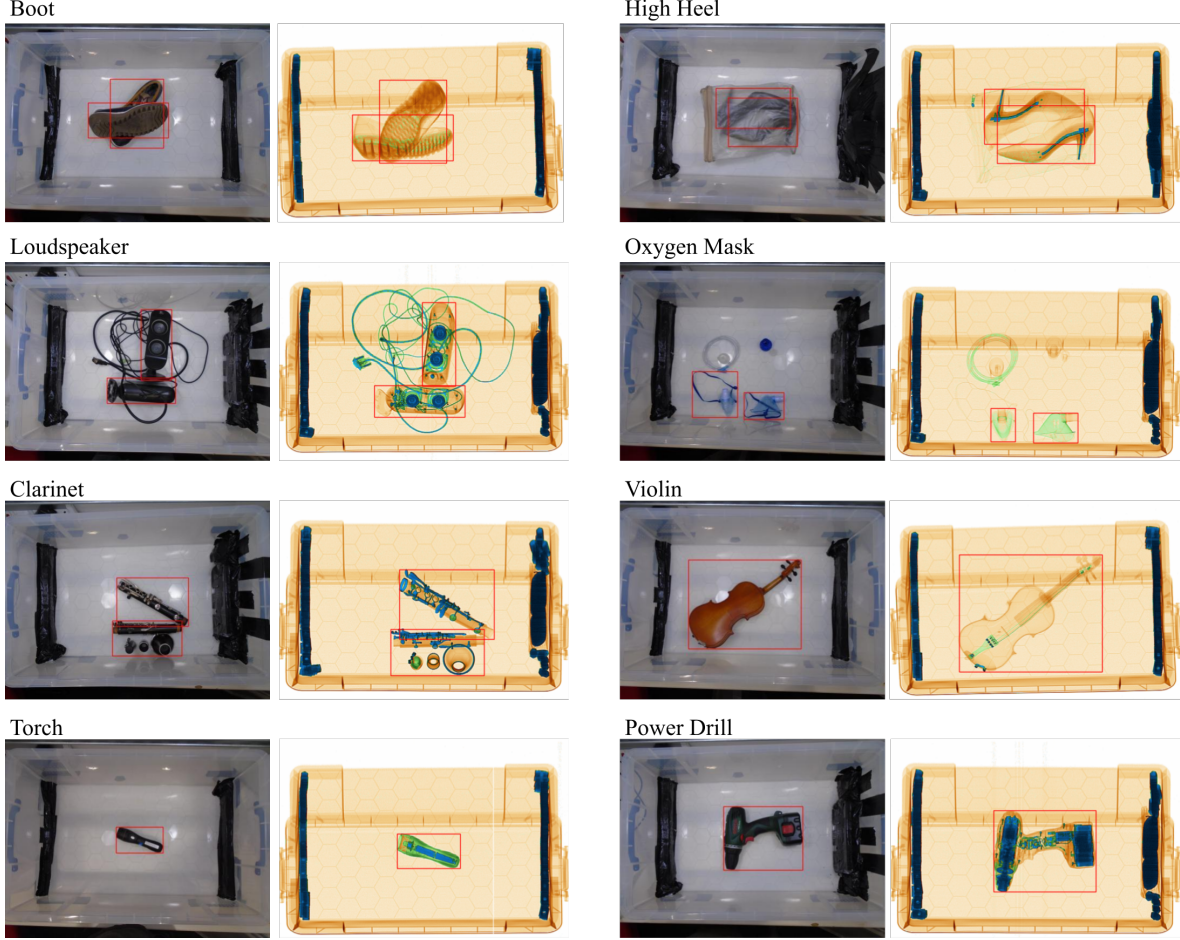


Figure 8. Examples from our **DET-COMPASS** dataset, showing RGB-X-ray pairs with annotated bounding boxes.

License, permitting unrestricted use for research and commercial applications. COMPASS-XP comprises 1,928 image pairs, each consisting of an X-ray image captured with a Gilardoni FEP ME 536 scanner and a corresponding natural image taken with a Sony DSC-W800 digital camera. A key limitation of COMPASS-XP is that it provides only classification labels and the (RGB X-ray) pairs are not spatially aligned.

Our DET-COMPASS dataset builds upon COMPASS-XP by extending the annotations with manually labeled bounding boxes (Fig. 8). The annotation process was conducted by hiring three experts, each responsible for labeling 50% of the RGB-X-ray pairs. To ensure accurate alignment between the RGB and X-ray images, each expert annotated both modalities simultaneously. After completing their respective sets, all three experts reviewed the annotations collectively. One of them acted as a middle ground, overseeing the review process and resolving any remaining discrepancies to ensure annotation consistency.

In total, DET-COMPASS comprises 3,856 annotated im-

ages, including 1,928 X-ray and 1,928 RGB images. The average annotation time per image, regardless of modality, was 20 seconds. Given that each expert annotated half of the dataset, the total annotation time amounted to 32.13 hours. The review process required an additional 3 seconds per image, and since all experts participated in reviewing the entire dataset, the total review time was 9.64 hours.

The total number of annotated objects (bounding boxes) in the X-ray images is 1,907, while in the RGB images, it is 1,870. This discrepancy arises because some objects are occluded in the RGB modality, making their localization impossible (Fig. 6). Each annotated object in the X-ray modality includes a *visibility* attribute, indicating whether it produces a discernible signature in the X-ray spectrum. An example of an object marked as visible is shown in Fig. 7(2), while an example of an object marked as non-visible is presented in Fig. 7(1). DET-COMPASS comprises a total of 370 object classes (detailed in Tab. 7), of which 307 contain at least one annotated visible object.

D. Further Implementation Details of RAXO

D.1. Pseudo-code of RAXO

In Algorithm 1, we present the pseudocode for the core implementation of RAXO, detailing both the construction of visual descriptors and their use to classify detector proposals.

D.2. Material-Transfer Mechanism

To construct the material database $\mathcal{M}$, we cluster $\mathcal{C}^{\text{in-house}}$ into groups of materials identified by a large language model (LLM). The average appearance of objects within each group is used as an estimator of the corresponding material. To perform this clustering, we utilize GPT-4 with the prompt specified in Tab. 8(1).

Once the material database is computed, it can be used to adapt RGB objects to the X-ray modality by inpainting them with their expected material. These expected materials are retrieved from $\mathcal{M}$ using an LLM with the prompt provided in Tab. 8(2).

Material database construction when $\mathcal{D}_{\text{XRAY}}^{\text{in-house}} = \emptyset$. When no samples are available from $\mathcal{D}_{\text{XRAY}}^{\text{in-house}}$, we construct our material database using the standardized color scheme of security X-ray scans. These scans operate by irradiating objects with X-rays and rendering them in pseudo-colors based on their spectral absorption rates. Typically, three primary pseudo-colors are used [1, 32]: **orange** for organic substances (e.g., food, explosives), **green** for inorganic materials (e.g., laptops, smartphones), and **blue** for metals (e.g., knives, guns). We leverage this modality knowledge to build our material database around these three broad materials.

D.3. Web-retrieval details

To retrieve images from the web, we utilize the Google Custom Search API [7], configuring specific query parameters to refine the results. We set the search type to images (searchType: image) and restrict the results to photos (imgType: photo) in common JPEG and PNG formats (fileType: jpg|png). To ensure relevance, we limit searches to English-language sources (lr: lang_en) and prioritize images from the past seven years (dateRestrict: y7).

D.4. In-domain descriptor details

In-domain descriptors from $\mathcal{D}_{\text{XRAY}}^{\text{in-house}}$ are built offline by combining the training sets from the six evaluation datasets (PIXray [18], PIDray [33], CLCXray [41], DvXray [19], HiXray [29], and DET-COMPASS) and removing overlapping categories. Combining the datasets ensures a fair evaluation through dataset-agnostic prototypes that capture generic concepts, rather than dataset-specific representations.

Algorithm 1: Pseudo-code of RAXO.

Input: vocabulary $\mathcal{C}^{\text{test}}$; OvOD detector $\mathcal{F}$; test image $\mathbf{I}$;
in-house database $\mathcal{D}_{\text{XRAY}}^{\text{in-house}}$; web-database $\mathcal{D}_{\text{RGB}}^{\text{web}}$
Output: Detections $\mathcal{T}$ of image $\mathbf{I}$

```

1 Initialization:  $\mathcal{T} \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
2 Initialization:  $\mathcal{X} \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
3 Initialization:  $\mathcal{X}_{bg} \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
4  $\mathcal{M} = \text{CreateMaterialDatabase}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{XRAY}}^{\text{in-house}})$ 
   /* Visual class descriptors construction */
5 for class  $c \in \mathcal{C}^{\text{test}}$  do
   /* VSA refers to the Visual samples
   acquisition pipeline */
6    $\mathcal{G}_c^{\text{XRAY}} \leftarrow \text{VSA}(c, \mathcal{D}_{\text{XRAY}}^{\text{in-house}})$ 
7   if  $\mathcal{G}_c^{\text{XRAY}}$  is  $\emptyset$  then
8      $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_c^{\text{web}} \leftarrow \text{VSA}(c, \mathcal{D}_{\text{RGB}}^{\text{web}})$ 
9      $\mathcal{G}_c^{\text{web}} = \text{Filter}(\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_c^{\text{web}}, \mathcal{F}, c, \tau)$ 
10     $\mathcal{A}_m^c = \text{GetMaterialAppearance}(\mathcal{M}, c)$ 
11    for sample  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{G}_c^{\text{web}}$  do
12      /*  $\Omega$  denotes segmentation */
13       $\tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \Omega(\mathbf{u}) \odot (\mathcal{A}_m^c \cdot \mathbf{1})$ 
14       $\mathcal{G}_c^{\text{XRAY}} \leftarrow \mathcal{G}_c^{\text{XRAY}} \cup \{\tilde{\mathbf{u}}\}$ 
15    end
16  end
   /* Visual class modeling */
17   $\mathcal{X}_c \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
18  for sample  $\mathbf{I} \in \mathcal{G}_c^{\text{XRAY}}$  do
19     $\mathbf{x}_I^{\text{pos}} = \text{Eq. (3)}$ 
20     $\mathbf{x}_I^{\text{neg}} = \text{Eq. (4)}$ 
21     $\mathcal{X}_c \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_c \cup \{\mathbf{x}_I^{\text{pos}}\}$ 
22     $\mathcal{X}_{bg} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{bg} \cup \{\mathbf{x}_I^{\text{neg}}\}$ 
23  end
24   $\mathcal{X}_c \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_c \cup \{\text{Avg}(\mathcal{X}_c)\}$ 
25   $\mathcal{X} \leftarrow \mathcal{X} \cup \mathcal{X}_c$ 
26 end
   /* Detection on image  $\mathbf{I}$  */
27  $\mathbf{z} = \mathcal{F} | \Phi_{\text{RPN}}(\mathbf{I})$ 
28  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{test}'} \leftarrow \mathcal{C}^{\text{test}} \cup \{\text{background}\}$ 
29 for proposal  $\mathbf{z}_m \in \mathbf{z}$  do
30    $\hat{c}_m \leftarrow \arg \max_{c \in \mathcal{C}^{\text{test}'}} \max_{\mathbf{x}_c^i \in \mathcal{X}_c} \langle \mathbf{z}_m, \mathbf{x}_c^i \rangle$ 
31    $\hat{\mathbf{b}}_m \leftarrow \mathcal{F} | \Phi_{\text{REG}}(\mathbf{z}_m)$ 
   /* DCC refers to the Descriptor
   Consistency Criterion */
32   if  $\hat{c}_m$  is not background and  $\text{DCC}(\mathbf{z}_m, \mathcal{X})$  then
33      $\mathcal{T} \leftarrow \{\hat{c}_m \cup \hat{\mathbf{b}}_m\}$ 
34   end
35 end
36 Return:  $\mathcal{T}$ 

```

E. Extended Experimental Results

Maintaining the same experimental setup as in Sec. 6.1, we extend our main results to report AP, AP50, and AP75. Additionally, since the experiments are repeated three times with different random distributions of in-domain and web categories for the intermediate gallery settings, we also re-

$\mathcal{G}$	Method	PIXRAY			PIDRAY			CLCXray			COMPASS-XP			HiXray			DVXray		
		AP	AP50	AP75	AP	AP50	AP75	AP	AP50	AP75	AP	AP50	AP75	AP	AP50	AP75	AP	AP50	AP75
$\mathcal{D}_{Xray}^{in-house}$ $\downarrow$ $\mathcal{D}_{RGB}^{web}$	G-DINO [17]	12.9	14.9	13.4	10.9	13.6	11.7	6.7	8.4	7.1	13.4	14.2	13.9	7.0	10.8	8.2	10.0	11.2	10.4
	100/0	36.9	45.0	39.0	16.5	21.4	17.9	22.2	29.6	24.4	47.9	54.2	48.8	17.1	27.2	19.4	22.6	26.6	24.1
	80/20	33.8±0.6	40.9±0.9	35.5±0.6	15.4±0.4	19.8±0.6	16.6±0.4	18.0±2.1	23.7±2.3	19.5±2.2	41.0±2.2	46.2±2.4	41.7±2.2	14.5±0.6	23.5±1.0	16.3±0.6	21.0±0.6	24.8±0.9	22.3±0.6
	50/50 + RAXO	25.4±2.0	31.2±1.9	26.7±2.0	15.5±0.9	19.8±1.0	16.8±1.0	17.0±1.8	22.9±3.2	18.7±2.3	31.4±0.7	35.3±0.9	32.1±0.6	13.4±0.1	21.3±0.1	15.3±0.2	16.1±1.8	18.8±2.3	17.0±2.0
	20/80	21.6±0.6	26.1±1.1	22.6±0.6	13.9±0.5	17.9±0.7	14.9±0.6	10.0±0.4	13.1±1.5	10.7±0.7	20.5±0.6	22.9±0.7	21.1±0.7	9.8±1.0	15.8±1.4	11.1±1.2	15.0±1.0	17.2±1.1	15.8±1.2
0/100	16.1	19.8	16.8	13.4	17.1	14.3	7.1	9.7	7.5	14.0	15.4	14.5	7.9	13.0	8.7	12.4	14.1	12.9	
$\mathcal{D}_{Xray}^{in-house}$ $\downarrow$ $\mathcal{D}_{RGB}^{web}$	Detic [43]	9.3	11.6	9.5	7.1	9.7	7.6	4.7	7.3	4.6	11.5	13.4	13.3	4.8	8.6	5.2	7.0	8.5	7.5
	100/0	27.3	34.5	28.2	11.3	15.8	12.2	14.0	20.6	14.7	35.3	39.9	35.4	14.2	23.9	15.5	19.4	23.9	21.2
	80/20	23.9±1.3	30.2±1.5	24.6±1.3	10.8±0.1	15.0±0.2	11.7±0.1	12.3±1.6	18.1±1.8	12.8±1.9	30.7±1.4	34.4±1.3	30.8±1.5	12.1±1.1	20.8±1.8	13.1±1.2	18.0±2.2	22.1±2.6	19.7±2.4
	50/50 + RAXO	19.5±1.6	24.8±1.9	20.1±1.7	10.3±0.3	14.3±0.3	11.0±0.3	9.2±1.2	13.5±2.3	9.5±1.2	24.4±2.7	27.1±2.7	24.8±2.6	11.0±0.9	18.9±1.3	11.9±1.2	14.6±1.1	17.9±1.2	15.9±1.2
	20/80	15.2±0.9	19.4±0.9	15.5±1.0	9.6±0.1	13.3±0.2	10.3±0.2	8.0±0.1	12.5±0.1	8.0	16.4±1.0	18.3±1.0	16.4±1.0	9.9±0.8	16.8±1.4	10.7±0.9	12.7±0.6	15.5±0.8	13.9±0.7
0/100	13.4	16.8	13.6	9.1	12.6	9.8	5.2	8.1	5.1	11.9	13.1	12.1	7.9	13.8	8.4	9.4	11.4	10.1	
$\mathcal{D}_{Xray}^{in-house}$ $\downarrow$ $\mathcal{D}_{RGB}^{web}$	CoDet [20]	7.3	8.7	7.6	5.7	7.6	6.2	3.1	5.7	2.7	8.4	8.9	8.7	3.4	5.9	3.7	5.6	6.8	6.0
	100/0	27.9	33.6	29.2	10.3	14.6	10.9	14.8	22.4	15.9	35.8	41.0	36.7	13.2	22.0	14.8	17.6	21.7	19.0
	80/20	25.1±1.5	30.2±1.7	26.2±1.7	9.5±0.3	13.4±0.5	10.1±0.3	12.0±1.9	18.3±2.8	12.7±2.1	32.2±0.9	36.5±1.5	33.1±0.6	11.7±1.3	19.4±2.2	13.2±1.5	15.4±1.4	18.8±1.7	16.7±1.6
	50/50 + RAXO	20.0±0.7	24.1±0.9	20.8±0.7	9.5±0.5	13.4±0.7	10.1±0.5	9.2±1.4	14.2±2.1	9.6±1.7	24.0±0.2	26.7±0.3	24.7±0.2	9.9±0.4	16.7±0.8	11.1±0.4	11.5±0.8	14.2±1.1	12.4±0.8
	20/80	14.8±2.4	17.8±2.8	15.3±2.5	8.5±0.3	11.9±0.4	9.0±0.4	5.1±1.4	9.0±2.5	5.0±1.6	17.8±0.7	19.4±0.9	18.2±0.6	8.1±0.6	13.8±1.0	8.8±0.6	9.4±1.5	11.3±1.8	10.1±1.6
0/100	11.5	14.0	11.9	8.1	11.3	8.7	4.0	7.1	3.8	12.2	13.0	12.6	6.5	11.2	7.1	6.9	8.3	7.5	
$\mathcal{D}_{Xray}^{in-house}$ $\downarrow$ $\mathcal{D}_{RGB}^{web}$	VLDet [14]	9.8	12.1	10.3	6.9	9.4	7.4	4.4	7.8	4.0	10.6	11.4	10.8	5.1	9.0	5.5	7.4	9.2	8.1
	100/0	32.3	40.1	34.0	11.7	16.8	12.6	15.4	23.3	15.9	36.4	41.4	37.2	14.8	24.5	16.3	20.1	25.1	22.0
	80/20	29.2±1.2	36.3±1.2	30.7±1.3	11.0±0.3	15.7±0.3	11.7±0.3	12.7±0.5	19.6±1.2	13.0±0.5	31.8±0.8	36.0±1.0	32.5±0.9	13.1±1.2	21.8±1.9	14.3±1.3	16.8±0.2	21.0±0.1	18.4±0.1
	50/50 + RAXO	24.0±1.5	29.9±1.7	25.2±1.5	10.4±0.7	14.6±1.0	11.1±0.8	11.1±1.1	16.9±0.4	11.5±1.7	23.7±0.9	26.5±0.8	24.3±1.1	11.2±1.5	19.0±2.1	12.1±1.9	12.1±0.5	15.0±0.4	13.2±0.4
	20/80	21.6±1.0	26.8±0.9	22.6±1.0	9.4±0.3	13.3±0.4	10.1±0.3	5.2±0.1	9.1±0.2	4.8±0.0	16.2±0.9	18.2±1.2	16.6±1.0	9.3±0.2	15.9±0.2	9.9±0.3	10.6±0.5	13.1±0.6	11.5±0.5
0/100	14.1	17.8	14.5	8.9	12.5	9.5	4.4	8.1	3.9	11.1	12.2	11.4	8.3	14.5	8.7	9.0	11.0	9.8	

Table 6. **X-ray OvOD performance under the Cross-Modality Transfer Evaluation (CMTE) setting** on DET-COMPASS (ours), PIXray [18], PIDray [33], CLCXray [41], DvXray [19], and HiXray [29] datasets. We integrate RAXO into different baselines using different gallery $\mathcal{G}$ compositions, from using only $\mathcal{D}_{XRAY}^{in-house}$ data (100/0) to exclusively $\mathcal{D}_{RGB}^{web}$ samples (0/100). RAXO consistently improves the performance of all baseline OvOD detectors across every dataset. We report the AP, AP50 and AP75. We also include the deviations because each experiment is repeated three times with different random distributions of in-domain and web categories for the intermediate gallery settings.

port the standard deviation. Tab. 6 show the results. The low standard deviations, combined with RAXO’s consistent improvement over all baselines, further validate the effectiveness of RAXO in adapting *off-the-shelf* open-vocabulary detectors to the X-ray modality.

F. Qualitative Analysis of RAXO

Fig. 9 presents qualitative visualizations of detected X-ray objects before and after applying RAXO with GroundingDINO [17] on the PIXray [18] dataset. For proper visualization, we display detections with a confidence score higher than 0.15 in both cases. These images lead to two key conclusions: (1) RAXO significantly improves the classification of detected proposals. In the baseline images, many objects are correctly localized but misclassified. RAXO successfully corrects these misclassifications by constructing robust visual descriptors. (2) The use of both background descriptors and the Descriptor Consistency Criterion (DCC) effectively eliminates false positives that do not correspond to actual X-ray objects. These observations strongly support the reliability of RAXO.

DET-COMPASS Categories						
abacus	abaya	amplifier	analog watch	apron	baby monitor	backpack
bag of sweets	baking dish	ballpoint	banana	Band Aid	baseball bat	baseball cap
bath towel	bathing cap	beanie	beer bottle	beer glass	bell pepper	belt
bib	bicycle helmet	bikini	binder	binoculars	bird feeder	biscuits
blowtorch	boardgame	book	book jacket	boot	bow tie	bowl
bowler hat	box cutter	bracelet	brassiere	bread knife	brush	bumbag
butternut squash	cable	caliper	camcorder	camera	can opener	candle
canned food	capo	cardigan	cards	carving knife	cassette	cassette player
cd drive	cellular telephone	cereal	chain	charger	chewing gum	chisel
chocolate	chocolate sauce	Christmas stocking	cigarettes	clarinet	coat hanger	cocktail shaker
coffee mug	coffeepot	colander	comb	combination lock	comic book	compact disc
condoms	corkscrew	cotton buds	cotton wool	cowboy hat	craft knife	crayon
crisps	crossword puzzle	crowbar	cucumber	dagger	denture	deodorant
diaper	digital watch	dinner jacket	dishrag	dressing gown	dvd player	e cigarette
e liquid	electric fan	electric toothbrush	empty	envelope	espresso maker	extension cord
face powder	fascinator	feather boa	first aid kit	floss	flute	fork
French loaf	frisbee	frying pan	fur coat	gaffer tape	game console	gameboy
gas canister	glove	glue gun	goggles	hacksaw	hair clippers	hair gel
hair spray	hairbrush	hammer	hand blower	handkerchief	hard disc	harmonica
hatchet	headphones	hearing aid	high heel	hook	hourglass	ipad
iPod	iron	jean	jersey	jewellery box	jigsaw puzzle	joystick
jumper	kettle	keys	kimono	kindle	kiwi	knee pad
knife	lab coat	ladle	lampshade	laptop	laser pointer	leather jacket
lemon	lens	lens cap	letter opener	lighter	lime	lipstick
lotion	loudspeaker	loupe	magazine	magnetic compass	maillot	mallet
marker	mask	matchstick	measuring cup	microphone	milk can	milk carton
mitten	mixing bowl	modem	mortar	mosquito net	mouse	mousetrap
mouthwash	multimeter	music stand	nail	nail clippers	nail file	nail scissors
necklace	notebook	orange	oxygen mask	padlock	paint can	paintbrush
pajama	paper towel	passport	pasta	pencil	pencil box	pencil sharpener
penknife	pepper grinder	perfume	pick	pickaxe	piggy bank	pill bottle
pillow	plane	plastic bag	plate	plate rack	pliers	plunger
Polaroid camera	polo shirt	pomegranate	poncho	pop bottle	pot	power drill
power socket	power supply	prayer rug	quill	quilt	quilted jacket	radio
rasp	razor	razor blades	recorder	red wine	reflex camera	remote control
rice	roll of sweets	roller skate	rubber eraser	rubber gloves	rubik cube	rugby ball
rugby shirt	rule	running shoe	safety pin	salad bowl	saltshaker	sandal
sandwich	sarong	saucepan	saw	sax	scale	scarf
scissors	screw	screwdriver	secateurs	sellotape	sewing machine	shampoo
shaver	shawl	shirt	shorts	shovel	shower cap	sieve
ski mask	skipping rope	sleeping bag	slide	slotted spoon	smartphone	snorkel
soap	soap dispenser	sock	solder	soldering iron	sombrero	soup bowl
spatula	spectacles	spirit level	splitter block	spoon	spotlight	staple gun
stapler	stethoscope	stockings	stole	stopwatch	strainer	strings
stylophone	suit	sunglasses	sunscreen	swab	sweatshirt	swimming trunks
switch	syringe	table lamp	tampon	tape measure	tea towel	teapot
teaspoon	teddy	telephone	telescope	tennis ball	thermals	thermometer
thermos	tin of sweets	toaster	toilet tissue	toner cartridge	toothbrush	toothpaste
top hat	torch	tracksuit	tray	tripod	tuner	ukulele
umbrella	underpants	vacuum	vase	velvet	vinyl record	violin
waffle iron	walking boot	wall clock	wallet	washbag	water bottle	water jug
wellington boot	wet wipes	whetstone	whistle	wig	wineglass	wire wool
wirecutter	wok	wooden spoon	wool	wrench	wrist guard	

Table 7. Category names of DET-COMPASS.

(1): Material-database clustering prompt

“You are a computer expert specializing in material classification. Your task is to analyze a given list of objects, determine their primary material composition, and group them accordingly.

Instructions:

Identify the main materials present among the objects (e.g., metal, organic, inorganic, plastic, ceramic, etc.). Assign each object to the most appropriate material category. Each object should belong to only one category based on its primary composition. Return the results in JSON format, where the keys are material categories, and the values are lists of objects belonging to those categories.

Example:

Input: Objects: gun, bat, pressure vessel, beer glass, fur coat, lemon

Expected Output (JSON):

metal: [gun, bat],

inorganic: [pressure vessel, beer glass],

organic: [fur coat, lemon]

Now, classify the following list of objects: $\{D^{\text{in-house}}\}$. Return only the json format.”

(2): Object material identification prompt

“You are a computer vision assistant. Given a $\{object\}$, classify it into one of the following materials: $\{M.materials_names\}$. Return only the material. You must always select one.”

Table 8. **Prompts used for material clustering and retrieval.** (1) The clustering prompt provided to GPT-4 to group $C^{\text{in-house}}$ into material categories. (2) The retrieval prompt used to query M and infer the expected material of unknown RGB objects.

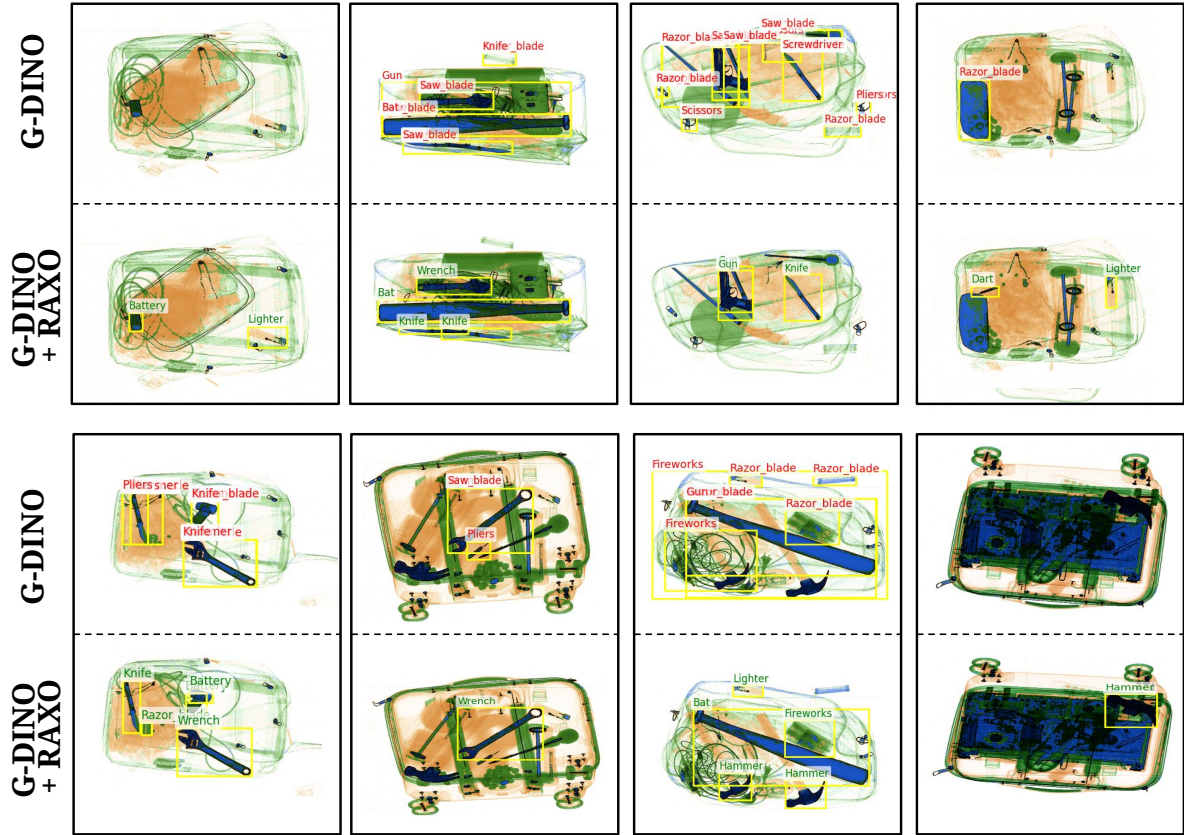


Figure 9. Qualitative comparison of G-DINO [17] and G-DINO+RAXO.