# IDEA: An Invariant Perspective for Efficient Domain Adaptive Image Retrieval

Haixin Wang<sup>1</sup>, Hao Wu<sup>2</sup>, Jinan Sun<sup>1</sup>, Shikun Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Chong Chen<sup>1</sup>, Xian-Sheng Hua<sup>3</sup>, Xiao Luo<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup>University of Science and Technology of China <sup>3</sup>Terminus Group <sup>1</sup>Peking University

<sup>4</sup>UCLA

## TL;DR

In this paper, we introduce the Invariance-acquired Domain Adaptive Hashing (IDEA) model to address the challenges of unsupervised domain adaptive retrieval. IDEA distinguishes between causal and non-causal image effects, using causal features for generating discriminative hash codes enhanced by consistency learning, and employs a generative model for synthetic sample intervention, minimizing non-causal impact to achieve domain invariance. Comprehensive experiments validate IDEA's superiority over competitive baselines in cross-domain retrieval tasks.



### **Overview**

#### **Problem Definition**

Given a source domain  $\mathcal{D}^s = \{(\boldsymbol{x}_i^s, y_i^s)\}_{i=1}^{N_s}$  with  $N_s$  fullylabeled images and a target domain  $\mathcal{D}^t = \{(\boldsymbol{x}_j^t)\}_{j=1}^{N_t}$  with unlabeled  $N_t$  images, both domain share a common label space  $\mathcal{Y} = \{1, 2, \cdots, C\}$  despite potential distribution shifts. The objective is to develop a hashing-based retrieval model that projects an input image x onto a compact binary code  $b \in$  $\{-1,1\}^L$ , where L represents the code length.

#### **Contribution:**

**Problem Connection.** We pioneer a novel perspective that connects invariant learning with domain adaptive hashing for efficient image retrieval.

Novel Methodology. Our method not only disentangles causal and non-causal features in each image following the principle of the information bottleneck, but also ensures hash codes are sufficiently invariant to the intervention of noncausal features.

High Performance. Comprehensive experiments across numerous datasets demonstrate that our method outperforms a range of competitive baselines in different settings.

. IDEA addresses unsupervised domain adaptive retrieval, separating images into caus causal features using a Structural Causal Model (SCM) and information bottleneck generate domain-invariant hash codes.

2. It employs consistency learning  $(\mathcal{L}_{CL})$  and invariant learning under intervention  $(\mathcal{L}_V)$  to ensure the hash codes are discriminative and invariant to non-causal features.

3. The overall training objective combines causal feature disentanglement, consistency learning, image reconstruction, and invariance under intervention, formulated as:

## **Our Approach**

Figure 1. The framework of the proposed IDEA.

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_D + \mathcal{L}_{CL} + \mathcal{L}_{RE} + \mathcal{L}_V$$

**Theoretical Analysis** 

We define:

$$\hat{I}(\boldsymbol{F}^{n},\boldsymbol{Y}) = \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{F}^{n},\boldsymbol{Y})} \left[ \log p(\boldsymbol{y} \mid \boldsymbol{f}^{n}) \right] - \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{F}^{n})} \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{Y})} \left[ \log p(\boldsymbol{y} \mid \boldsymbol{f}^{n}) \right]$$

Then, we show that  $\hat{I}(\mathbf{F}^n, \mathbf{Y})$  is an upper bound of  $I(\mathbf{F}^n, \mathbf{Y})$ . In formulation, we calculate their difference as follows:

$$\begin{split} \hat{I}(\boldsymbol{F}^{n},\boldsymbol{Y}) &- I(\boldsymbol{F}^{n},\boldsymbol{Y}) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{F}^{n},\boldsymbol{Y})} \left[ \log p(\boldsymbol{y} \mid \boldsymbol{f}^{n}) \right] - \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{F}^{n})} \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{Y})} \left[ \log p(\boldsymbol{y} \mid \boldsymbol{f}^{n}) \right] \\ &- \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{F}^{n},\boldsymbol{Y})} \left[ \log p(\boldsymbol{y} \mid \boldsymbol{f}^{n}) - \log p(\boldsymbol{y}) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{F}^{n},\boldsymbol{Y})} \left[ \log p(\boldsymbol{y}) \right] - \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{F}^{n})} \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{y})} \left[ \log p(\boldsymbol{y} \mid \boldsymbol{f}^{n}) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{Y})} \left[ \log p(\boldsymbol{y}) - \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{F}^{n})} \left[ \log p(\boldsymbol{y} \mid \boldsymbol{f}^{n}) \right] \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{Y})} \left[ \log \left( \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{F}^{n})} \left[ p(\boldsymbol{y} \mid \boldsymbol{f}^{n}) \right] \right) - \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{F}^{n})} \left[ \log p(\boldsymbol{y} \mid \boldsymbol{f}^{n}) \right] \right] \\ &\geq 0 \text{ (Jensen's Inequality),} \end{split}$$

where the last inequality holds due to Jensen's Inequality with a convex function  $\log(\cdot)$ .



# Results

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Table 1. MAP performances on two bench-marking datasets with 64-bit hash

Unsupervised Hashing Methods

Transfer Hashing Methods

Code Length | 16 32

Unsupervised Hashing Methods

Transfer Hashing Methods

SH [62]

ITQ [17]

DSH [34]

LSH [16]

SGH [24]

OCH [35]

ITQ+ [79]

LapITQ+ [79]

GTH-g [74]

DAPH [21]

PWCF [22]

DHLing 22

PEACE [58]

SH [62]

ITQ [17]

DSH 34

LSH [16]

SGH 24

OCH [35]

ITQ+ [79]

LapITQ+ [79]

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	8.4	49 .24	5.47 6.94	9.67 11.45	8.26 13.45	5.28 7.24	9.69 11.49	16.66 16.04	15.09 15.35	39.24 38.80	16.33 13.60	13.58 14.67	41.07 43.99	15.74
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3]	53. <b>59</b>	.04 . <b>18</b>	38.72 45.71	2 42.68	54.39 61.84	28.36 <b>32.77</b>	45.97 <b>51.19</b>	46.69 <b>48.70</b>	48.89 <b>54.43</b>	78.82 <b>84.97</b>	46.91 53.53	46.95 53.71	83.18 <b>88.69</b>	51.22 57.03
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1	12. 14	40 24	13.54	15.89	16.01 19.70	18.54 21.00	20.44 21.95	12.76	14.86 17 71	14.77 18 22	16.89 19.01	16.32 21.69	19.67 22.09	16.01
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<mark>79</mark> ]	22. 24.	84 26	21.20 24.03	20.68 23.76	19.15 24.59	17.99 23.33	18.52 22.73	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.06
]	20.	45	17.64	16.60	17.25	17.26	17.06	15.17	14.07	15.02	15.01	14.80	17.34	16.47
	23. 47.	47	51.99	51.44	51.75	50.55 50.89	59.35	47.14	20.43 50.86	52.06	52.18	57.14	58.96	52.60
2] ]	49. 52.	24 87	54.90 59.72	) 56.30 2 60.69	58.28 62.84	58.80 65.13	59.14 68.16	50.14 53.97	51.35 54.82	53.67 58.69	58.65 60.91	58.42 62.65	59.17 65.70	55.67 60.51
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gure 2. Top 10 Images and Precision@10 Examples on the Office-31 Dataset											t			