

Standardized Object Detection and Classification for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles



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Problem Statement

- Goal: Detect, localize, and classify the shape, color, and alphanumeric character of a poster object from an aerial image
- Datasets: (1) Extended-MNIST, and (2) created RGB dataset by placing generated geometric shapes with alphanumeric characters onto scraped aerial views of fields. Generated parallel XML files denoting bounding regions.



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Approach

We used the YOLO algorithm model to localize object and classify shapes, K-means clustering for segmenting the image and isolating the alphanumeric, and we used both a convolutional neural network and Siamese convolutional neural network for classifying the alphanumeric.



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(1) YOLO (You Only Look Once) Network

- Based on Darkflow's Tiny-YOLO model
- Processes 1080x1920 RGB images on a 16GB CPU at
- Performed well with detection/localization



(2) Segmentation

- Segmented the image using kmeans clustering (2 clusters):
- Used Euclidean norm to calculate nearest template color to average color of shape:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{3} ||x_i - t_i||^2$$



 $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} ||x_i^{(j)} - c_j||^2$

(3) Convolutional Neural Network

- Used 1 convolutional and pooling layers, 2 dense hidden layers Augmented data in-training
- Performed even better with real data because of EMNIST Bayes
- Used learning reduction on plateau, dropout
- Used cross-entropy loss function:



$$-\sum_{c=1}^{47} y_{o,c} \log(p_{o,c})$$

(4) Siamese Convolutional Neural Network

- Used positive/negative pairings to learn encodings for alphanumeric images
- Same layers as (3)
- These can be visualized using t-SNE →
- Used contrastive loss function:

$$(1 - Y)\frac{1}{2}(D_w)^2 + Y\frac{1}{2}\{max(0, \alpha - D_w)\}^2$$



Results and Discussion

Detection

- Training set: 10,000 images, Dev set: 1,000
- Detection accuracy is good, classification accuracy is poor due to loss function
- Loss convergence, training speed didn't change with addition of classes

	•	Training set: 200,000 pairs		
or	Test set: 10,000 pairs - S-CNN			
	•	Siamese CNN has better		
		accuracy than CNN due to		
		learning encodings		

Model	Training Accuracy	Dev Accuracy
YOLO	92.30%	91.80%
CNN	86.99%	84.65%
Siamese	97.68%	97.08%



Alphanumeric

Training set: 107,159 images

Test set: 5,640 - CNN

Future Work

- (1) Explore using Siamese CNN model for use in alphanumeric character classification
- (2) Implement a separate neural network for classifying the shape, because sometimes YOLO confuses certain shapes with others even if it correctly guesses the bounding boxes for shapes
- (3) Tackle tougher problems like search-and-rescue operation detection, infrastructure assessment using 3-D internal models and capsule networks

References