Con-Text : Text Detection Using Background Connectivity for Fine-Grained Object Classification

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OVERVIEW

Goal
Exploit hidden details by text in the scene to improve visual classification of very similar instances.

Approach
• A novel text detection algorithm using background connectivity.
• Additional semantics using the scene text.

Key Idea
• When text is present in natural scenes, it is typically there to give semantic meaning beyond what is obvious from exclusively visual cues.
• Rather than trying to detect all variations in text appearance, we propose to detect the background.

Motivation to Remove Background for Text Detection
• To reduce majority of image regions for further processes.
• To reduce false positives caused by text like image regions (fences, bricks, windows, and vegetation).
• To reduce dependency on text style.

METHODOLOGY

Automatic BG seed selection

BG reconstruction

Text detection by BG subtraction

Automatic BG seed selection

Original image  Color Boosting  Contrast  Objectness

• Color, contrast and objectness cues are used in combination with Random Forest classifier to detect background pixels.

BG Reconstruction

• Intensity-level pixel connectivity with conditional dilation is used to reconstruct the background.

EVALUATION 1: ICDAR 2003 DATASET

• ICDAR03 dataset contains 249 images with 5370 annotated characters.
• Improved ABBYY character recognition from 36% to 63%.
• 87% of the non-text regions are removed where on average 91% of the test set contains non-text regions. It retains approximately 98% of text regions.

EVALUATION 2: ImageNet DATASET

• ImageNet building and place of business dataset contains 24255 images with 28 different classes.
• The dataset is the largest ever used for scene text recognition.
• Visual features : 4000 visual words, standard gray SIFT only.
• Text features: Bag-of-bigrams, ocr results obtained for each image in the dataset.

CONCLUSION

• Background removal is a suitable approach for scene text detection.
• Color, curvature and objectness prove valuable cues for background modeling.
• A new fine-grained classification problem is introduced based on ImageNet subcategories and a baseline for further research is build.
• We have shown that multimodal information fusion of visual and textual cues improves fine-grained classification on this dataset by 6%.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This publication supported by the Dutch National program COMMIT.

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