

Probabilistic models of visual object categories

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Includes slides from: Mark Everingham, Rob Fergus, Pawan Kumar, Bastian Leibe, Pietro Perona, Josef Sivic and Bernt Schiele

Object Recognition

- identify specific object, or
- identify class (car, face, airplane etc)
- determine location
 - multiple instances in a single image
- determine segmentation





Motivation: Visually defined search

Given an object specified by its image, retrieve all images containing the object in a large image database, or all shots containing the object in a feature film

Visually defined query



e.g. find people and places in your personal photo collection

Why is the recognition problem hard?

- Scale and shape of the imaged object varies with viewpoint
- Occlusion (self- or by a foreground object)
- Lighting changes
- Background "clutter"



Some object classes (Caltech datasets)

Motorbikes

Airplanes

Faces

Difficulties:

- Size/shape variation
- Partial occlusion
- Lighting
- Background clutter
- Intra-class variation



Cars (Side)

Cars (Rear)

Spotted Cats

Background

Class of model: Pictorial Structure

- Intuitive model of an object
- Model has two components
 - 1. parts (2D image fragments)
 - 2. structure (configuration of parts)
- Dates back to Fischler & Elschlager 1973



Is this complexity of representation necessary ?

Deformations























Object Representation

Main issues:

- Parts/fragments
 - appearance, shape
 - exemplars or explicit model
- Structure/configuration
 - model (e.g. implicit or explicit)
 - tight / loose / none
- Model learning
 - degree of supervision
 - from training data
- Model fitting (recognition)
 - complexity

Configuration of 'iconic' parts



Outline

- 1. Bag of visual words model I: recognizing particular objects
 - Vector quantization to get visual vocabulary (parts)
 - Video Google retrieval algorithm
- 2. Bag of visual words model II: recognizing object categories
 - Learn classifier for image according to the object it contains
 - Naïve Bayes and SVM classifiers
- 3. Models of parts and structure
 - Implicit and explicit geometric configurations
- 4. Class based segmentation
 - Pixel level localization
- 5. Summary and open challenges

1. Bag of visual words model I: recognizing particular objects

Review: Retrieval using local invariant descriptors

Image content is transformed into local fragments that are invariant to translation, rotation, scale, and other imaging parameters



Viewpoint covariant segmentation

- Characteristic scales (size of region)
 - Lindeberg and Garding ECCV 1994
 - Lowe ICCV 1999
 - Mikolajczyk and Schmid ICCV 2001
- Affine covariance (shape of region)
 - Baumberg CVPR 2000
 - Matas et al BMVC 2002
 - Mikolajczyk and Schmid ECCV 2002
 - Schaffalitzky and Zisserman ECCV 2002
 - Tuytelaars and Van Gool BMVC 2000

Maximally stable regions

Shape adapted regions

Example of affine covariant regions









Harris-affine

Maximally stable regions

- a region's size and shape are not fixed, but
- automatically adapts to the image intensity to cover the same physical surface
- i.e. pre-image is the same surface region

Represent each region by SIFT descriptor (128-vector) [Lowe 1999]

Outline of an object retrieval strategy



- 1. Compute regions in each image independently
- 2. "Label" each region by a vector of descriptors based on its local intensity neighbourhood
- 3. Find corresponding regions by matching to closest descriptor vector
- 4. Score each frame in the database by the number of matches

Finding corresponding regions transformed to finding nearest neighbour vectors

Example of model matching







target image

"model"

Object recognition

Establish correspondences between object model image and target image by nearest neighbour matching on SIFT vectors



Problem with matching on descriptors alone



- too much individual invariance
- each region can affine deform independently (by different amounts)
- use semi-local and global spatial relations to verify matches, e.g.:
 - common affine transformation (Lowe 99) (strong requirement)
 - spatial neighbours match spatial neighbours (weak requirement)

Example I

Matches on descriptors



And with spatial consistency



Example II

In each frame independently

- determine elliptical regions (segmentation covariant with camera viewpoint)
- compute SIFT descriptor for each region [Lowe '99]









1000+ descriptors per frame



Harris-affine

Maximally stable regions

Match regions between frames using SIFT descriptors and spatial consistency



- Multiple fragments overcomes problem of partial occlusion
- Transfer bounding box to localize object

Harris-affine

One-shot learning

Maximally stable regions

New representation: Bag of (visual) words

Visual words are 'iconic' image patches or fragments

- represent the frequency of word occurrence
- but not their position



Collection of visual words

Image representation using visual words



histogram represents the co-occurrence of visual words

Example: Learn words/parts by clustering



- Interest point features: textured neighborhoods are selected
- produces 100-1000 regions per image

Weber, Welling & Perona 2000



Example of visual words learnt by clustering faces



100-1000 images

~100 parts

- Apply this representation to image retrieval from a database
- Advantage is that region matches are now pre-computed



Vector quantize descriptors



Making the search efficient



Vector quantize the descriptor space (SIFT)









The same visual word

Making the search efficient

Vector quantize descriptors - discrete set of visual elements "visual words"



i.e. matches have been pre-computed

Application: Efficient "Google like" object retrieval in a large database or a feature length movie

Example :



"Groundhog Day"

Search feature length movies in 0.1 seconds

• 100K -140K frames, 1000 shots, 5000 keyframes

1. Build a visual vocabulary for the movie

Vector quantize descriptors

• k-means clustering



Implementation

- compute SIFT features on frames from 48 shots of the film
- 6K clusters for Shape Adapted regions
- 10K clusters for Maximally Stable regions

Samples of visual words (clusters on SIFT descriptors):





Shape adapted regions





Maximally stable regions

generic examples - cf textons

Samples of visual words (clusters on SIFT descriptors):





More specific example

2. Assign words and compute histograms for each key frame in the video





Represent frame by histogram of visual word occurrences



Making the search efficient (Google like retrieval)

Vector quantize descriptors - discrete set of visual elements "visual words"



cf words vs documents (e.g. web pages) in text retrieval

Employ text-retrieval techniques e.g.

- Inverted file indexing
- Ranking (here on spatial consistency)
- Stop-list

Video Google Demo
Example : Groundhog Day



Video Google, Sivic & Zisserman, ICCV 2003

retrieved shots







Start frame 52907

Key frame 53026

End frame 53028







Start frame 54342

Key frame 54376

End frame 54644







Start frame 51770

Key frame 52251

End frame 52348



Key frame 54201



End frame 54201





End frame 39300



Start frame 38909

Start frame 40760



Key frame 39126



End frame 41049







Start frame 39301

Key frame 39676

End frame 39730

Searching from other sources

Sony logo





Retrieve shots from Groundhog Day

Retrieved shots in Groundhog Day for search on Sony logo









Object representation



- histogram represents the cooccurrence of visual words
- overlap encodes some structural information



- very weak measure of spatial consistency
- local orderless matching

2. Bag of visual words model II: recognizing object categories

Objectives

- Recognition of visual object classes
- Weakly-supervised learning



Weakly-supervised learning

• Learn model from a set of training images containing object instances



- Know if image contains object or not
- But no segmentation of object or manual selection of features

Visual words

Vector quantize SIFT descriptors to a vocabulary of iconic "visual words".

Design of descriptors makes these words invariant to:

- illumination
- affine transformations (viewpoint)

Size (granularity) of vocabulary is an important parameter

- fine grained represent model instances
- coarse grained represent object categories

Image collection: four object classes + background



Total:	4090
Background	900
Cars (rear)	1155
Airplanes	800
Motorbikes	800
Faces	435

The "Caltech 5"

Building a visual vocabulary

Vector quantize SIFT descriptors

k-means clustering



Implementation – a vocabulary of about 2K visual words

- select random subset of about 1/3rd images of each category
- a total of 300K descriptors

Examples of visual words



More visual words





































Visual synonyms and polysemy



Visual Polysemy: Single visual word occurring on different (but locally similar) parts on different object categories.



Visual Synonyms:Two different visual words representing a similar part of an object (wheel of a motorbike).

Represent an image as a histogram of visual words



iconic image fragments



- Detect affine covariant regions
- Represent each region by a SIFT descriptor
- Build visual vocabulary by k-means clustering (K~1,000)
- Assign each region to the nearest cluster centre

Bag of words model

Current Paradigm for learning an object category model



Levels of supervision for training object category model

• Object label + segmentation



[Viola & Jones]



[Agarwal & Roth, Leibe & Schiele, Torralba et al., Winn et al.]

 Object label only



weak supervision

[Csurka et al., Dorko & Schmid, Fergus et al., Opelt et al., Winn and Jojic]



TIGER CAT WATER GRASS TIGER CAT WATER GRASS TIGER CAT GRASS TREES

[Barnard et al.]

• None? Images only

Training data: vectors are histograms, one from each training image

positive



negative



Train classifier, e.g.

- Naïve Bayes
- SVM

Example: weak supervision

Training

- 50% images
- No identification of object within image

Motorbikes



Airplanes



Frontal Faces



Testing

- 50% images
- Simple object present/absent test

Cars (Rear)

Background



Learning

- SVM classifier
- Gaussian kernel using χ^2 as distance between histograms

Result

• Between 98.3 – 100% correct, depending on class



The Naïve Bayes Model – implementation

compute as sum over positive (negative) histogram bins in training data

$$\prod_{i=1}^{n} p(w_i|C) = \prod_{i=1}^{V} p(w_i|C)^{n_i}$$

n: number of regions detectedV: size of vocabulary

 $p(w_i|C)$

bin count for word i in testing data

Image classification decision – ratio of posteriors

$$\ln \frac{p(\mathsf{object}|w_1, \dots, w_n)}{p(\mathsf{background}|w_1, \dots, w_n)} > 0 \quad \mathsf{object} < 0 \text{ background}$$

Comparison on the CalTech5 database

Categories	[Zhang et al '05]	[Csurka et al '04]	[Fergus et al '03]
Airplanes	98.8	97.1	90.2
Cars(rear)	98.3	98.6	90.3
Faces	100	99.3	96.4
Motorbikes	98.5	98.0	92.5

SVM classifier

naïve Bayes classifier

PASCAL Visual Object Classes Challenge 2006



Dog













Sheep





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Dataset Statistics

	train		val		trainval		test	
	img	obj	img	obj	img	obj	img	obj
Bicycle	127	161	143	162	270	323	268	326
Bus	93	118	81	117	174	235	180	233
Car	271	427	282	427	553	854	544	854
Cat	192	214	194	215	386	429	388	429
Cow	102	156	104	157	206	313	197	315
Dog	189	211	176	211	365	422	370	423
Horse	129	164	118	162	247	326	254	324
Motorbike	118	138	117	137	235	275	234	274
Person	319	577	347	579	666	1156	675	1153
Sheep	119	211	132	210	251	421	238	422
Total	1277	2377	1341	2377	2618	4754	2686	4753

Evaluation

- Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC)
 - Area Under Curve (AUC)



Competition 1: Car

• All methods



Competition 1: Car

• Top 5 methods by AUC QMUL_HSLS (0.977) QMUL_LSPCH (0.975) INRIA_Marszalek (0.971) INRIA_Nowak (0.971) XRCE (0.967) 0.98 0.96 0.94 0.92 true positive rate 0.9 0.88 0.86 0.84 0.82 0.8 0.02 0.04 0.1 0.12 0.14 0.2 0.06 0.08 0.16 0.18 0 false positive rate

Localization according to visual word probability

Naïve Bayes sparse segmentation



- foreground word more probable
- background word more probable

Summary

- Universal vocabulary over all classes
- Bag of visual words model:
 - Learns and uses co-occurrence of visual words
 - Very successful in classifying images according to the objects they contain
 - Still requires further testing for large changes in scale and viewpoint
 - No explicit use of configuration of visual word positions
 - Poor at localizing objects within an image

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3. Models of parts and structure

- implicit configuration models
 - Leibe & Schiele, Agarwal & Roth
- explicit configuration models
 - Fergus et al, Crandall et al

Leibe & Schiele 2003/2004



- Extraction of local object patches
 - Interest Points (Harris detector)



- Example: training set of 160 car images
 - > 16 views of 10 cars
 - results in 8'269 training patches





Visual Vocabulary (Codebook Entries) ERCEPTUAL COMPUTING COMPUTER VISION

- Visual Clustering procedure
 - > agglomerative clustering: most similar clusters are merged (t > 0.7)

$$similarity(C_1, C_2) = \frac{\sum_{p \in C_1, q \in C_2} NGC(p, q)}{|C_1| \times |C_2|} > t$$

$$NGC(p,q) = \frac{\sum_{i} (p_i - \overline{p_i})(q_i - \overline{q_i})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i} (p_i - \overline{p_i})^2 \sum_{i} (q_i - \overline{q_i})^2}}$$

- Examples (from 2519 codebook entries)
 - visual similarity preserved
 - wheel parts,
 window corners,
 fenders, ...

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Structure: Generalized Hough Transformer

• Learning: For every cluster, store possible "occurrences"



- > Object Identity
- > Pose
- Relative position

• Recognition: For new image, let the matched patches vote for possible object positions





Visual Object Categorization

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Object Categorization Procedure







Voting Space (continuous)



Backprojection of Maximum



Refined Hypothesis (uniform sampling)

Backprojected Hypothesis



Detection Results

- Qualitative Performance
 - Recognizes different kinds of cars
 - Robust to clutter, occlusion, low contrast, noise



(1) search over scale


(2) Feature detector determines position and scale

Leibe & Schiele extension: Scale Invariance

- Scale-invariant feature selection
 - Scale-invariant interest points
 - Rescale extracted patches
 - Match to constant-size codebook
- Generate scale votes
 - Scale as 3rd dimension in voting space

$$x_{vote} = x_{img} - x_{occ}(s_{img}/s_{occ})$$

$$y_{vote} = x_{img} - y_{occ}(s_{img}/s_{occ})$$

$$s_{vote} = (s_{img}/s_{occ})$$

Search for maxima in 3D voting space



PERCEPTUAL COMPUTING

COMPUTER VISION



/isual Object Categorization



Qualitative Detection Results



Altogether, objects detected with factor 5.0 scale differences

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Agarwal & Roth 2002

• Interest points detected



• Extracted fragments from training images



• Clustered Fragments (Dictionary) – 270 parts



Learning: Structure

- Representation: binary feature vector
- Feature vector components
 - Part present/absent (270)
 - Pair wise relation between parts (20 of these for each pair)



Coarse representation of:

- angles (4 bins)
- distance (5 bins)

Use sliding window to measure feature vectors from positive and negative examples

Recognition

- Detect parts
- Apply sliding window
- Linear classifier on feature vector for window
- Use SNoW (Sparse network of Winnows)
 - suited to very large, very sparse vectors

Comparison with Leibe & Schiele

Agarawal & Roth:

- looser geometric relations
- more tolerant of structure deformation



Explicit structure

 $p(C|w_i, x_i) \alpha p(C)p(w_i|C)p(x_i|C)$ configuration appearance independence assumption depends on relative position of parts $p(x_i|C)$ usually Gaussian HAIR EYE EYE LEFT EDGE $G(x_1 - x_r, x_2 - x_r, x_3 - x_r)$

RIGHT

EDGE

Constellation model

- Explicit structure: joint Gaussian over all part positions
 - dates back to Weber, Welling & Perona 2000 and earlier
- Also, explicit appearance model Gaussian
- Simultaneous learning of parts and structure



Fergus, Perona & Zisserman 2003

Representation of regions



Location

(x,y) coords. of region centre

Scale

Radius of region (pixels)

Appearance (monochrome)



Generative probabilistic model

Foreground model



Example – Learnt Motorbike Model



Recognition

• Detect regions in target image

• Evaluate the likelihood of the model (a search over assignments of parts to regions)

• Threshold on the likelihood ratio

Recognized Motorbikes Shape model











position of object determined

Background images evaluated with motorbike model



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Airplanes

INCORRECT



Correct









Correct



Correct



Correct





Sampling from models



Faces

Motorbikes

The correspondence problem

- •Model with P parts
- •Image with N possible locations for each part



Different graph structures



- Sparser graphs cannot capture all interactions between parts,
- but far cheaper to recognize (and learn)

Some class-specific graphs

- Articulated motion
 - People
 - Animals
- Special parameterisations
 - Limb angles



How much does shape help?

- Crandall, Felzenszwalb, Huttenlocher CVPR'05
- Shape variance increases with increasing model complexity



6 part models

Planes		Bikes	Faces
0-fans	90.5%	96.5%	98.2%
1-fans	91.3 %	97.0%	98.2%
2-fans	93.3%	97.0%	98.2%



4. Class based segmentation

Objective

• Given an image, to recognize and segment the object



Cow Image

Segmented Cow

- Combine object detection with segmentation
 - Borenstein and Ullman, ECCV '02
 - Leibe and Schiele, BMVC '03

Background: Borenstein & Ullman 2002

- Training
- Learn fragments from segmented images









- 1. Obtain approximate foreground segmentation using parts
- 2. Refine using bottom up segmentation







Object segmentation using graph cuts

foreground Seed Pixels





Background Seed Pixels

Boykov and Jolly, ICCV 01

user provides foreground/background regions



Binary Markov Random Field

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \{m_i(x_i) + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} \phi_i(x_i, x_j)\}$$



 $\mathcal{N}(i)$

- $x_i = 1$ for foreground pixels, $x_i = 0$ for background
- $m_i(x_i)$ is likelihood that pixel at *i* is foreground (if $x_i = 1$), or background (if $x_i = 0$), e.g. using colour histogram of seed regions
- $\phi(x_i, x_j)$ penalizes a change of state:

$$\phi(x_i, x_j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if} x_i = x_j \\ \gamma e^{-\beta(I_i - I_j)^2} & \text{if} x_i \neq x_j. \end{cases}$$

Can be optimized globally with graph cuts algorithm

ObjCut

- Recognize object using category model (LPS)
- Provides foreground/background for colour and texture
- Apply graph cuts segmentation

Image





Segmentation





Kumar et al CVPR 05

Using LPS Model for Horse

Image





Segmentation





5. Summary and open challenges

- ③ Single visual aspects (e.g. car rear/front)
 - Can learn and recognize from unsegmented images
 - Translation and scale invariance
 - Partial occlusion tolerated
 - Background clutter tolerated
 - Heterogeneous models

- - Multiple 2D models ?
 - 3D models ?

Open Research Areas

- Structure model
 - tight parametric model (e.g. complete Gaussian)
 - loose model (e.g. pairwise relations)
- Greater viewpoint invariance
 - scale invariant \rightarrow similarity invariant \rightarrow affine invariant
- Multiple class/Hierarchical class models
- Ease of learning
 - learn from 'contaminated' data sets
 - learn multiple object classes simultaneously
- Difficulty of training/testing sets

Datasets and software

- All image datasets:
 - http://www.pascal-network.org/challenges/VOC/
- Caltech image datasets:
 - http://www.robots.ox.ac.uk/~vgg/data.html, and
 - http://www.vision.caltech.edu/html-files/archive.html
- Feature detectors (scale and affine covariant)
 - http://www.robots.ox.ac.uk/~vgg/research/affine