

Food Watch

A CV app for Allergen Detection

Computer Vision Final Project
2026



GIURISSICH ANDREA
PINTORE MATTEO





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Starting point

ALLERGEN30: DETECTING FOOD ITEMS WITH POSSIBLE ALLERGENS USING DEEP LEARNING-BASED COMPUTER VISION^[1]

- By Mishra, M., Sarkar, T., Choudhury, T. et al. 2022
- Food allergies impose a significant health concern on the community
- Presents a new food allergen dataset
- Develops different CV allergen recognition models

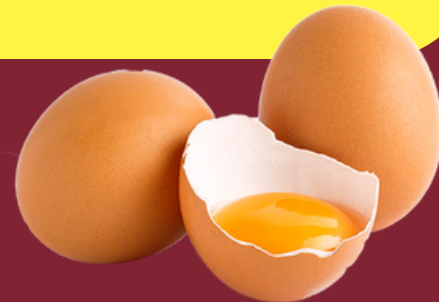


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The Allergens

The paper pinpoints 6 main allergens

Ovomucoid



Lactose



Histamine



Gluten



Salicylate



Caffeine





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The Dataset

Allergen30

Datset Overview

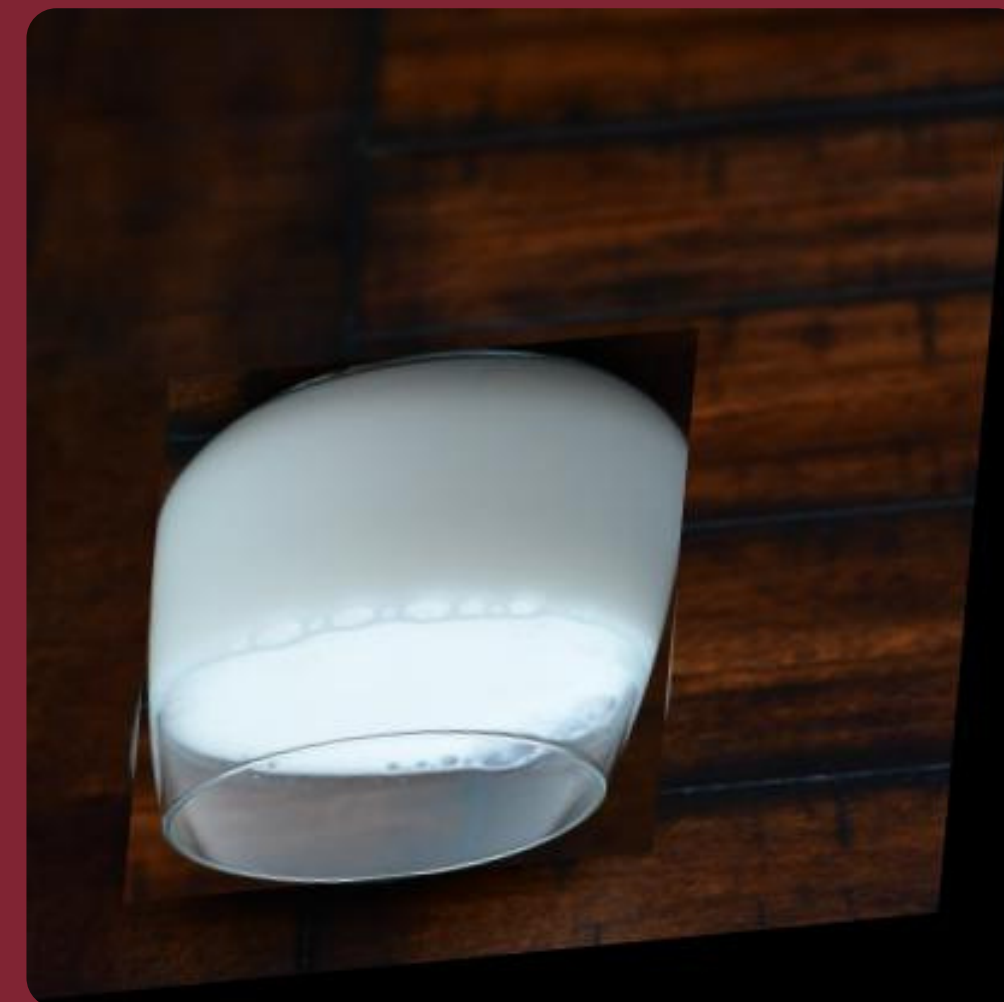
**14.5K 416*416 FOOD
IMAGES**
DIVIDED IN
**30 CLASSES AND
HAND LABELED**

Train-Test Split

TRAIN SET 70%
VAL SET 20%
TEST SET 10%

Augmentation

**RANDOM SHEAR OF
 $\pm 15^\circ$ HORIZONTALLY
AND $\pm 15^\circ$ VERTICALLY**
**RANDOM 90°
ROTATIONS OF THE
BOUNDING BOXES**



***Sample train image
with shear and 180°
box rotation***



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Paper's models

| <i>MODEL</i> | <i>PRECISION</i> | <i>RECALL</i> | <i>F1</i> | <i>MAP</i> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| YOLOv5s | 0.801 | 0.681 | 0.7361 | 0.747 |
| YOLOv5m | 0.861 | 0.679 | 0.7592 | 0.749 |
| YOLOv5l | 0.845 | 0.707 | 0.7698 | 0.766 |
| YOLOR | 0.830 | 0.741 | 0.7829 | 0.811 |



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The Model

YOLOv5

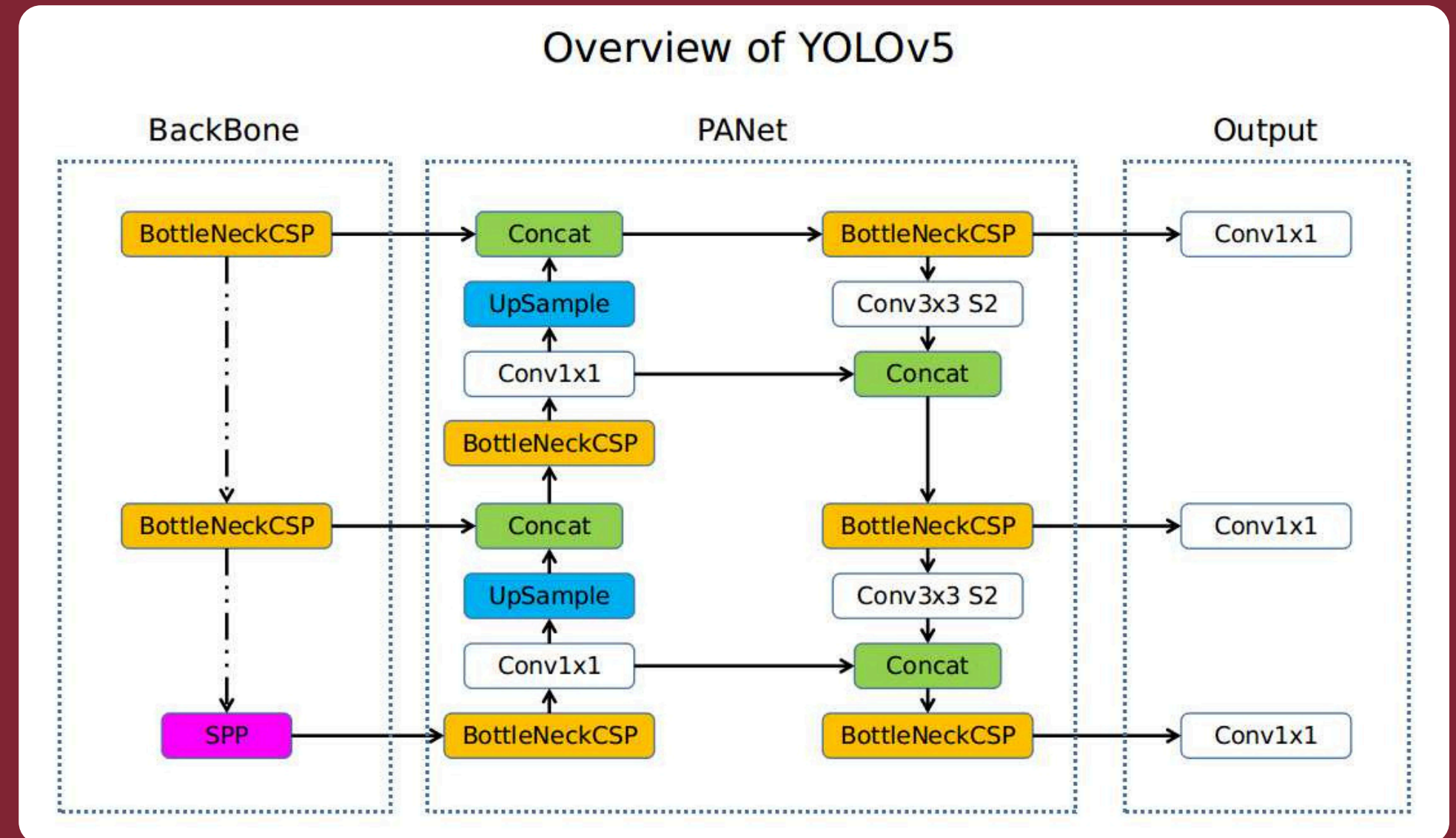
BACKBONE

Feature extraction with **BottleNeckCSP** and **Spatial Pyramid Pooling (SPP)** to capture context at multiple scales

PANet NECK

Feature fusion in two flows:

- one upsamples semantic features then concatenates shallow details.
- the other downsamples and concatenates



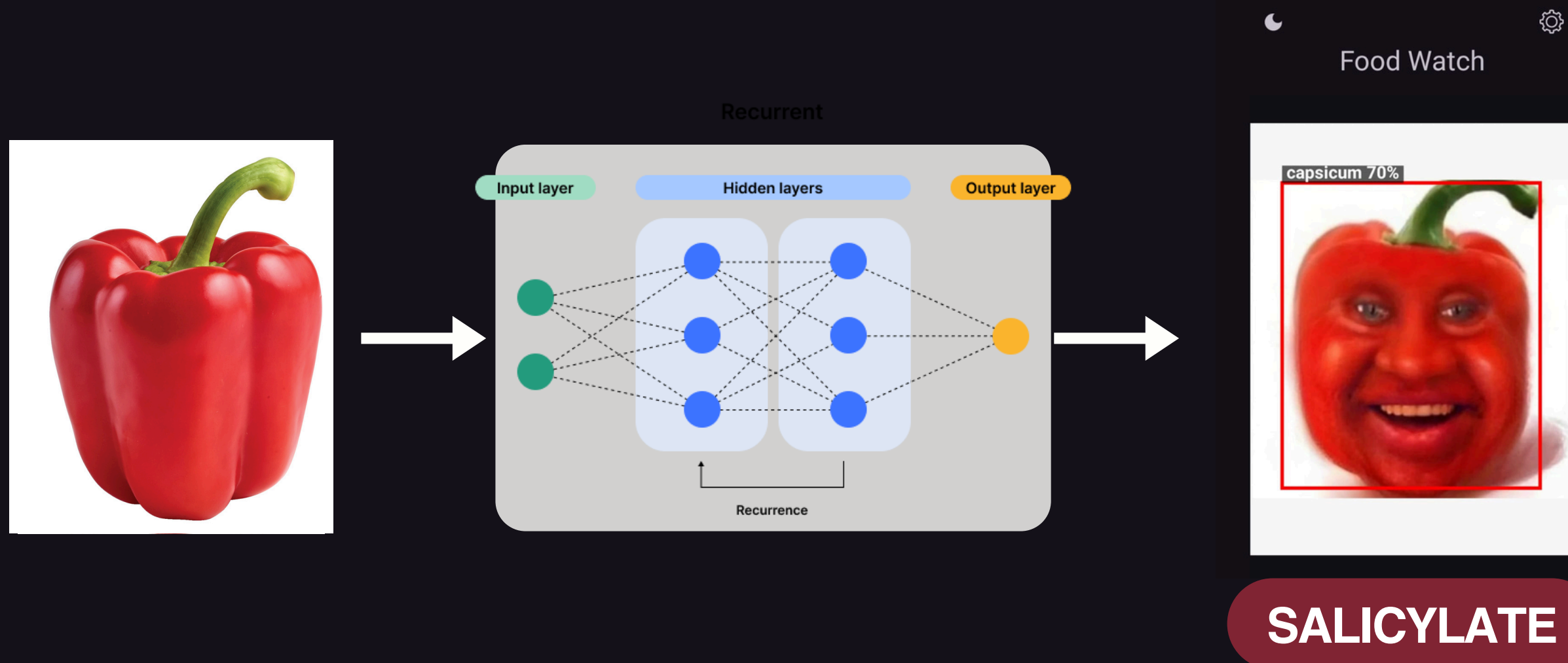
OUTPUT

Three heads to make predictions on different scales simultaneously



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Our Goal



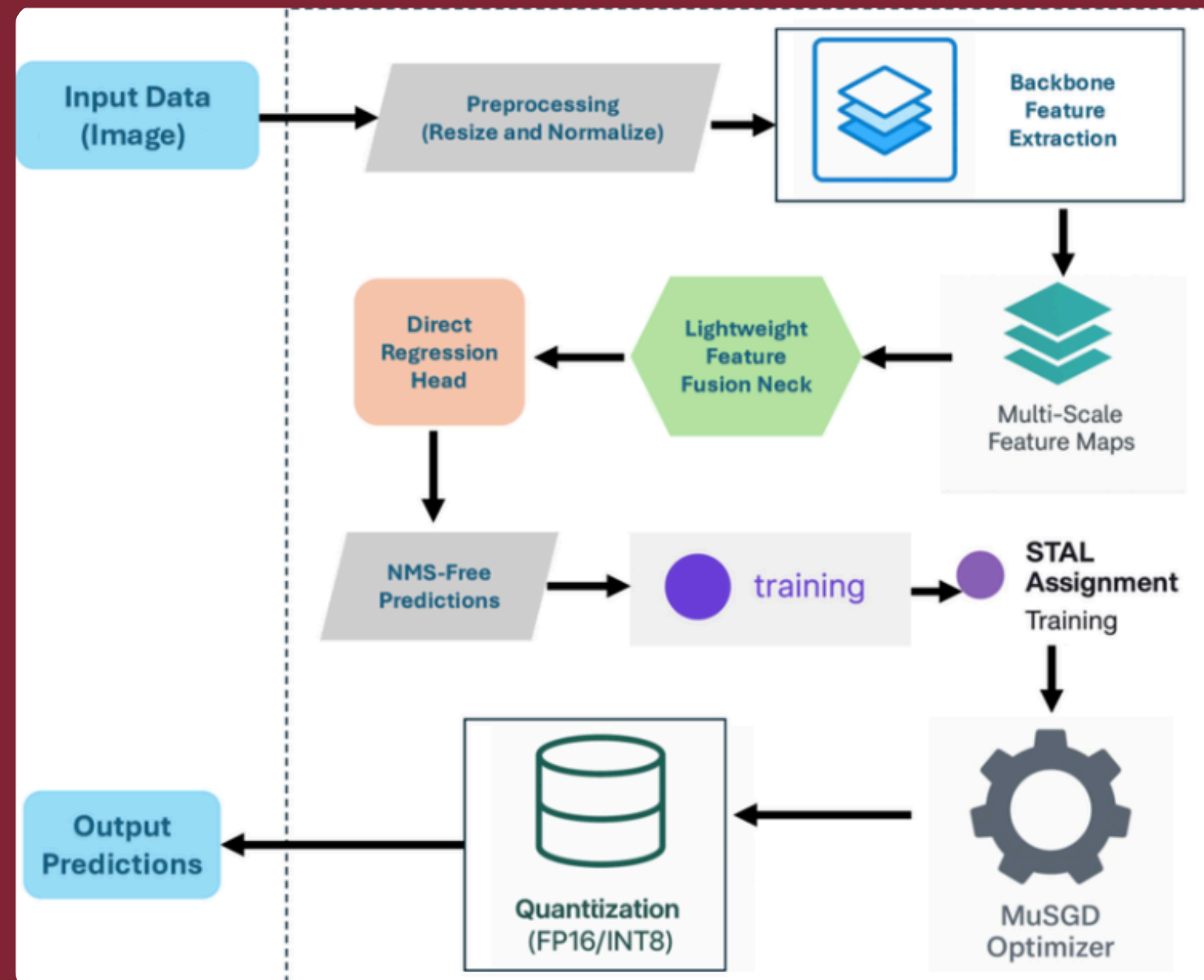
- Develop a fast object detection model for mobile use
- Beat the previous models' performances



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The Model

YOLO26



- Using **lightweight backbone** and feature fusion neck enables feature extraction with minimal CPU usage
- It removes **Distribution Focal Loss (DFL)** for faster CPU inference.
- Adopts a native end-to-end **NMS-free** design based on one to one matching
- **Quantization** enables faster computation with simpler types like INT8
- Aims to **directly predict the final box** avoiding complex post processing steps

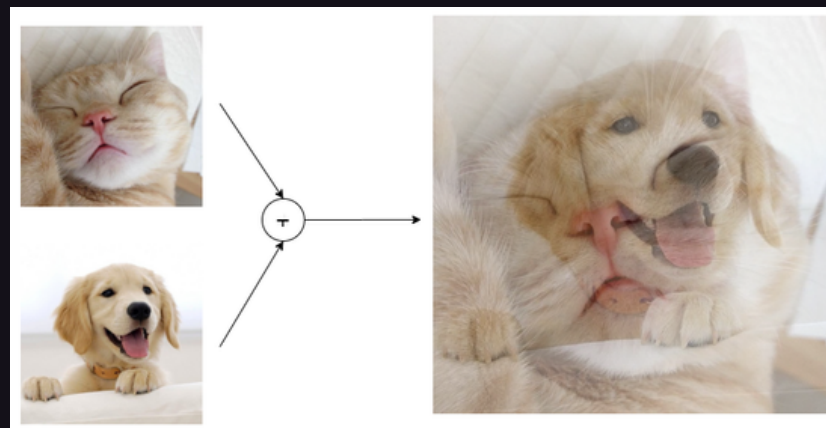


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Training YOLO26

- 100 Epochs, 32 Batch size with Patience of 25 to enable Early Stopping
- AdamW optimizer with a Starting Learning Rate of 0.001 and a Cosine Scheduler for smooth convergence
- Label Smoothing to prevent overfitting
- To be more robust on smaller objects we combined Mixup and Mosaic



MIXUP

MOSAIC





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Evaluation

3 models

| <i>MODEL</i> | <i>PRECISION</i> | <i>RECALL</i> | <i>F1</i> | <i>MAP</i> |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| YOLO26n | 0.823 | 0.636 | 0.717 | 0.730 |
| YOLO26s | 0.835 | 0.664 | 0.740 | 0.769 |
| YOLO26m | 0.838 | 0.640 | 0.726 | 0.746 |
| YOLOv5s | 0.801 | 0.681 | 0.736 | 0.747 |



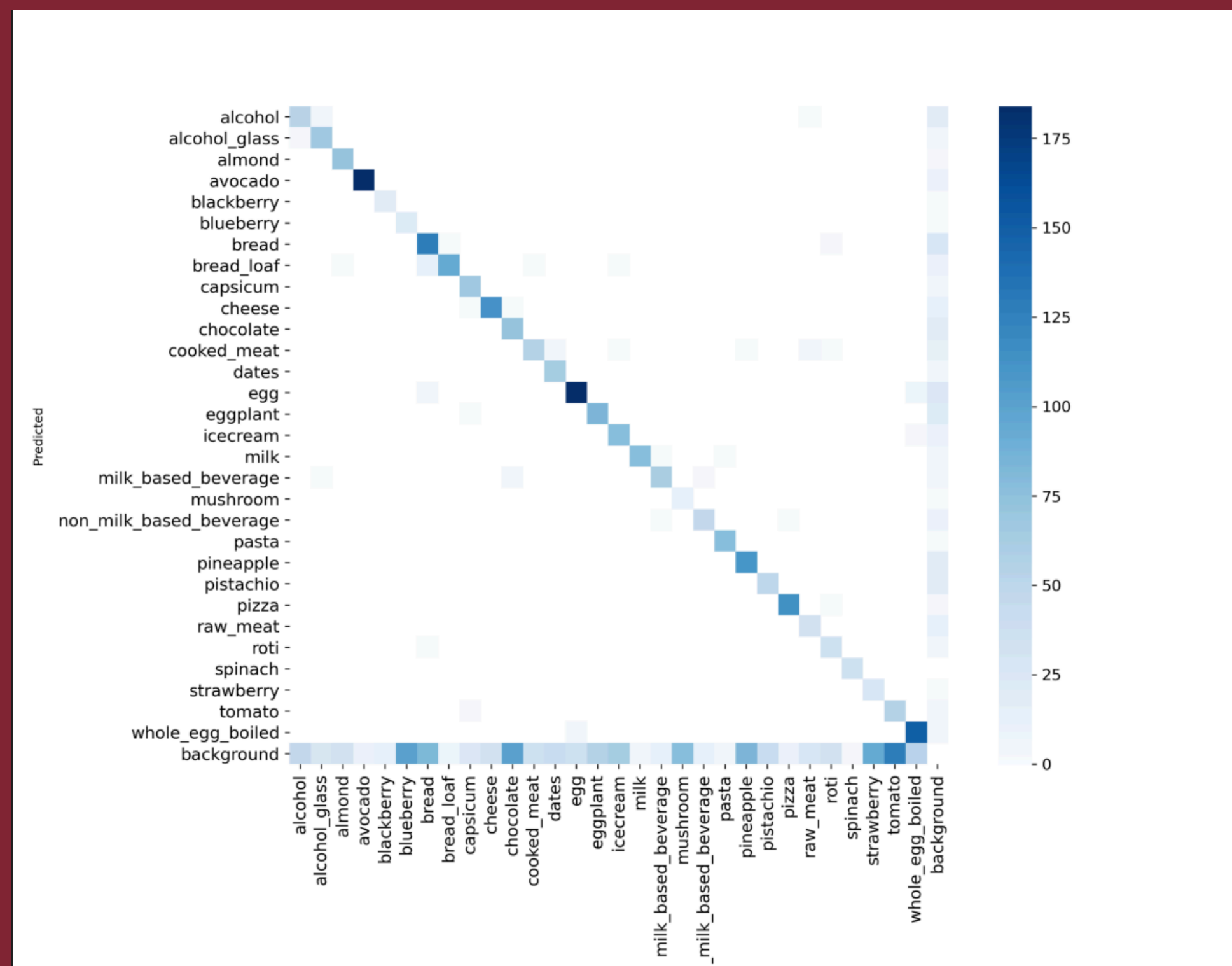
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Evaluation

Confusion matrix



- Mushrooms are problematic due to intra-class variance





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The App Logic

**INITIALLY THE SYSTEM DETECTED LOW CONFIDENCE PREDICTIONS
FOR VARIOUS BACKGROUND TEXTURES**

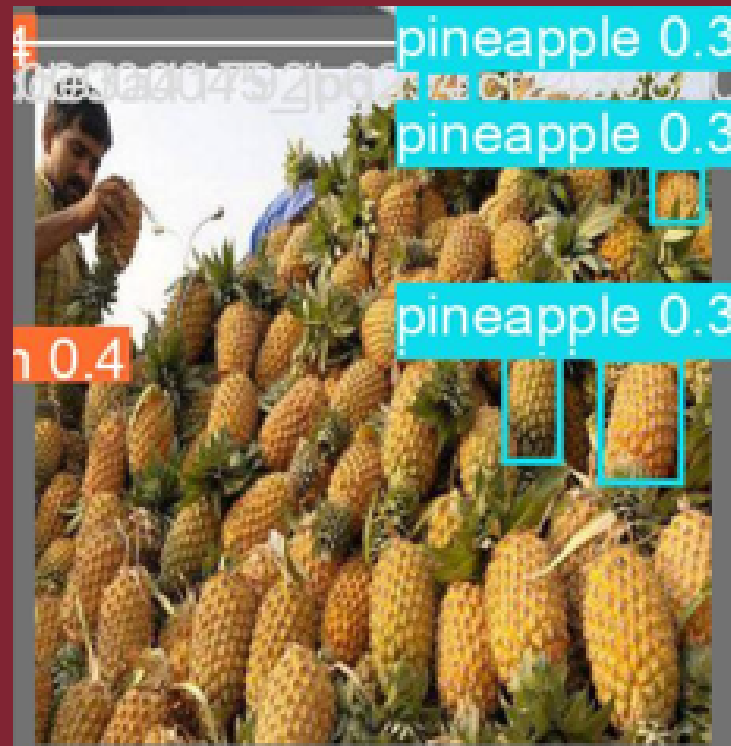
- We couldn't rely on a global threshold because it would cut out smaller objects
- We implemented a post processing layer directly in Kotlin
- We applied a Hybrid Filtering composed of **Confidence Thresholds** and **Aspect Ratio Physics**



Conclusions

And further developments

- Our YOLO26s performance is **slightly better** than the paper's results
- We suggest using the small model for mobile production



- Smaller models tend to have low recall on images with multiple instances

EXPAND THE DATASET

- Real scenario images
- Align with EU regulations on allergens^[2]



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Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

[1] Mishra, M., Sarkar, T., Choudhury, T. et al. Allergen30: Detecting Food Items with Possible Allergens Using Deep Learning-Based Computer Vision. *Food Anal. Methods* 15, 3045–3078 (2022); doi: [10.1007/s12161-022-02353-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12161-022-02353-9)

[2] EFSA NDA Panel (EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies), 2014. Scientific Opinion on the evaluation of allergenic foods and food ingredients for labelling purposes. *EFSA Journal* 2014; doi:[10.2903/j.efsa.2014.3894](https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2014.3894)