

CSCI 5561: Project #3

Scene Recognition

1 Submission

- Assignment due: Thursday, November 13, 2025 (11:59pm)
- Individual assignment
- Please submit your assignment to the Gradescope **Autograder**.
- You will complete p3.py that contains the following functions:
 - `get_tinyImage`
 - `predict_kNN`
 - `classify_kNN_tiny`
 - `compute_d sift`
 - `build_visual_dictionary`
 - `compute_bow`
 - `classify_kNN_bow`
 - `predict_svm`
 - `classify_svm_bow`

p3.py is attached with the Canvas assignment for you to download.

- Any function that does not comply with its specification will not be graded (no credit).
- The code must be run with the Python 3 interpreter.
- You are not allowed to use computer vision related package functions unless explicitly mentioned here. Please consult with TA if you are not sure about the list of allowed functions.

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2 Overview



Figure 1: You will design a visual recognition system to classify the scene categories.

The goal of this assignment is to build a set of visual recognition systems that classify scene categories. The scene classification dataset consists of 15 scene categories including office, kitchen, and forest as shown in Figure 1 [1]. The system will compute a set of image representations (tiny image and bag-of-word visual vocabulary) and predict the category of each testing image using the classifiers (k -nearest neighbor and SVM) built on the training data. A simple pseudo-code of the recognition system can be found below:

Algorithm 1 Scene Recognition

- 1: Load training and testing images
 - 2: Build image representation
 - 3: Train a classifier using the representations of the training images
 - 4: Classify the testing data.
 - 5: Compute accuracy of testing data classification.
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For the kNN classifier, step 3 and 4 can be combined.

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3 Scene Classification Dataset

You can download the training and testing data from the project 3 page on Canvas.

The data folder includes two text files (`train.txt` and `test.txt`) and two folders (`train` and `test`). Each row in the text file specifies the image and its corresponding label, i.e., (label) (image_path). The text files can be used to load images. Each folder contains 15 classes (Kitchen, Store, Bedroom, LivingRoom, Office, Industrial, Suburb, InsideCity, TallBuilding, Street, Highway, OpenCountry, Coast, Mountain, Forest) of scene images.

Note: The image paths inside `train.txt` and `test.txt` were recorded in Windows format (use \ instead of /). You may need to use functions `Path` and `PureWindowsPath` imported from `pathlib` to deal with that if you use Linux or Mac. However, you do not need to worry about this, as we have provided a function called `extract_dataset_info`, which can read information from those two txt files for you.

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4 Tiny Image kNN Classification



Figure 2: You will use tiny image representation to get an image feature.

```
def get_tiny_image(img, output_size):  
    ...  
    return feature
```

Input: `img` is a gray scale image, `output_size=(w, h)` is the size of the tiny image.
Output: `feature` is the tiny image representation by vectorizing the pixel intensity. The resulting size will be $w \times h$.

Description: You will simply resize each image to a small, fixed resolution (e.g., 16×16). You need to normalize the image to have zero mean and unit length. This is not a particularly good representation, because it discards all of the high frequency image content and is not especially invariant to spatial or brightness shifts.

```
def predict_kNN(feature_train, label_train, feature_test, k):  
    ...  
    return label_test_pred
```

Input: `feature_train` is a $n_{tr} \times d$ matrix where n_{tr} is the number of training data samples and d is the dimension of image feature, e.g., 256 for 16×16 tiny image representation. Each row is the image feature. `label_train` is a n_{tr} vector that specifies the label of the training data. `feature_test` is a $n_{te} \times d$ matrix that contains the testing features where n_{te} is the number of testing data samples. `k` is the number of neighbors for label prediction.

Output: `label_test_pred` is a n_{te} vector that specifies the predicted label for the testing data.

Description: You will use a k-nearest neighbor classifier to predict the label of the testing data.

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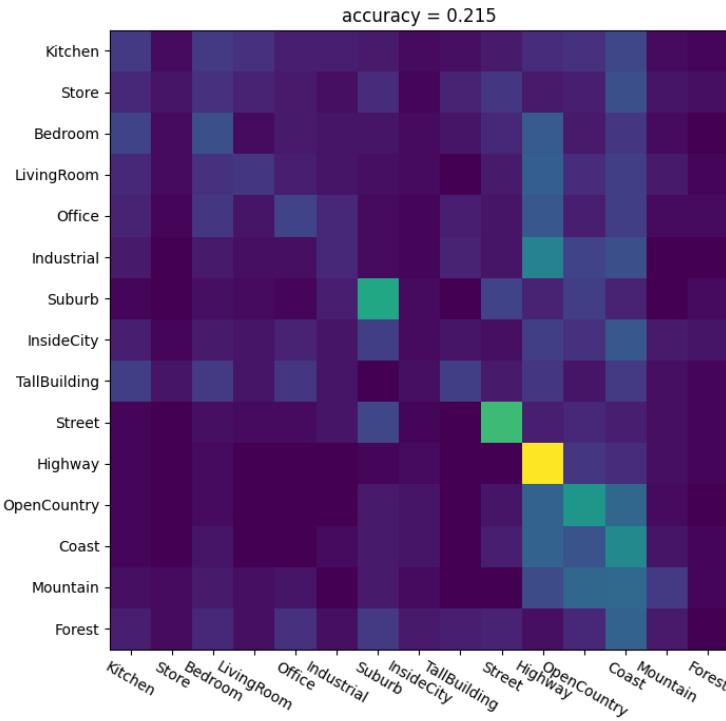


Figure 3: Confusion matrix for Tiny+kNN.

```
def classify_kNN_tiny(label_classes, label_train_list,
                      img_train_list, label_test_list, img_test_list):
    ...
    return confusion, accuracy
```

Input: `label_classes` is a list of all kinds of classes, `img_train_list` and `img_test_list` are lists of paths to training and test images, `label_train_list` and `label_test_list` are corresponding lists of image scene labels.

Output: `confusion` is a 15×15 confusion matrix and `accuracy` is the accuracy of the testing data prediction.

Description: You will combine `get_tiny_image` and `predict_kNN` for scene classification. Your goal is to **achieve the accuracy $>18\%$** .

Note: We have provided a function called `extract_dataset_info` which takes in path to dataset directory and outputs `label_classes`, `label_train_list`, `img_train_list`, `label_test_list`, `img_test_list` for you (those will be the input arguments to function `classify_kNN_bow` and `classify_svm_bow` as well). To make your life and ours easier, please make sure you use that function.

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5 Bag-of-word Visual Vocabulary



Figure 4: Each row represents a distinctive cluster from bag-of-word representation.

```
def compute_dsift(img, stride, size):  
    ...  
    return dense_feature
```

Input: `img` is a gray scale image. `stride` and `size` are both integers controls the locations on image to compute sift features and diameter of the meaningful keypoint neighborhood.

Output: `dense_feature` is a collection of sift features whose size is $n \times 128$. `n` is total number of locations to compute sift features on `img`.

Description: Given an image, instead of detecting keypoints and computing sift descriptor, this function directly compute sift descriptor on a dense set of locations on image. You can use sift related functions from opencv for computing sift descriptor for each location.

```
def build_visual_dictionary(dense_feature_list, d_size):  
    ...  
    return vocab
```

Input: `dense_feature_list` is a list of dense sift feature representation of training images (each image is represented as a $n \times 128$ array) and `d_size` is the size of the dictionary (the number of visual words). Function `compute_dsift` is provided to extract dense sift features from an image.

Output: `vocab` lists the quantized visual words whose size is $d_size \times 128$.

Description: Given a list of dense sift feature representation of training images, you will build a visual dictionary made of quantized SIFT features. You may start with `d_size=50`. You can use `KMeans` function imported from `sklearn.cluster`.

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Algorithm 2 Visual Dictionary Building

- 1: For each image, compute dense SIFT over regular grid
 - 2: Build a pool of SIFT features from all training images
 - 3: Find cluster centers from the SIFT pool using kmeans algorithms.
 - 4: Return the cluster centers.
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Note: It takes more than half an hour to build bag-of-word visual vocabulary, if you use default parameters of KMeans function (`n_init=10, max_iter=300`). You may want to play around with those parameter and use `np.save` to save current `vocab` if you think it is good. Then you can use `np.load` to load that saved `vocab` in the future to save time.

```
def compute_bow(feature, vocab):  
    ...  
    return bow_feature
```

Input: `feature` is a set of SIFT features for one image, and `vocab` is visual dictionary.

Output: `bow_feature` is the bag-of-words feature vector whose size is `d_size`.

Description: Give a set of SIFT features from an image, you will compute the bag-of-words feature. The BoW feature is constructed by counting SIFT features that fall into each cluster of the vocabulary. Nearest neighbor can be used to find the closest cluster center. The histogram needs to be normalized such that BoW feature has a unit length.

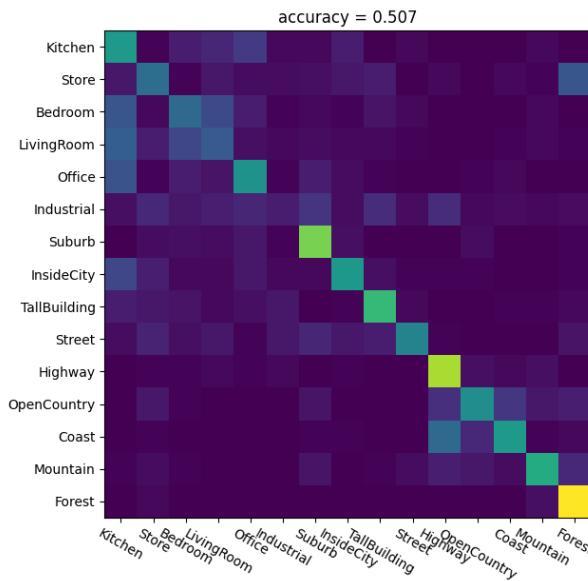


Figure 5: Confusion matrix for BoW+kNN.

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```
def classify_kNN_bow(label_classes, label_train_list,
                      img_train_list, label_test_list, img_test_list, vocab):
    ...
    return confusion, accuracy
```

Input: refer to function `classify_knn_tiny`. `vocab` is the precomputed visual word dictionary, if it has already been generated.

Output: `confusion` is a 15×15 confusion matrix and `accuracy` is the accuracy of the testing data prediction.

Description: Given BoW features, you will combine `build_visual_dictionary`, `compute_bow`, and `predict_kNN` for scene classification. Your goal is to **achieve the accuracy >50%**.

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6 BoW+SVM

```
def predict_svm(feature_train, label_train, feature_test):  
    ...  
    return label_test_pred
```

Input: `feature_train` is a $n_{tr} \times d$ matrix where n_{tr} is the number of training data samples and d is the dimension of image feature. Each row is the image feature. `label_train` is a n_{tr} vector that specifies the label of the training data. `feature_test` is a $n_{te} \times d$ matrix that contains the testing features where n_{te} is the number of testing data samples.

Output: `label_test_pred` is a n_{te} vector that specifies the predicted label for the testing data.

Description: You will use a SVM classifier to predict the label of the testing data. You don't have to implement the SVM classifier. Instead, you can use functions such as `LinearSVC` or `SVC` imported from `sklearn.svm`. Linear classifiers are inherently binary and we have a 15-way classification problem. To decide which of the 15 categories a test case belongs to, you will train 15 binary, 1-vs-all SVMs. 1-vs-all means that each classifier will be trained to recognize 'forest' vs 'non-forest', 'kitchen' vs 'non-kitchen', etc. All 15 classifiers will be evaluated on each test case and the classifier which is most confidently positive "wins". For instance, if the 'kitchen' classifier returns a score of -0.2 (where 0 is on the decision boundary), and the 'forest' classifier returns a score of -0.3, and all of the other classifiers are even more negative, the test case would be classified as a kitchen even though none of the classifiers put the test case on the positive side of the decision boundary. When learning an SVM, you have a hyperparameter 'lambda' (argument `C` in function `LinearSVC` and `SVC`) which controls how strongly regularized the model is. Your accuracy will be very sensitive to lambda, so be sure to test many values.

Note: `LinearSVC` and `SVC` can do multi-class classification if your input labels have more than 2 classes. However, you should NOT take advantage of that. Instead, you should create binary labels for each of those 15 binary 1-vs-all SVMs.

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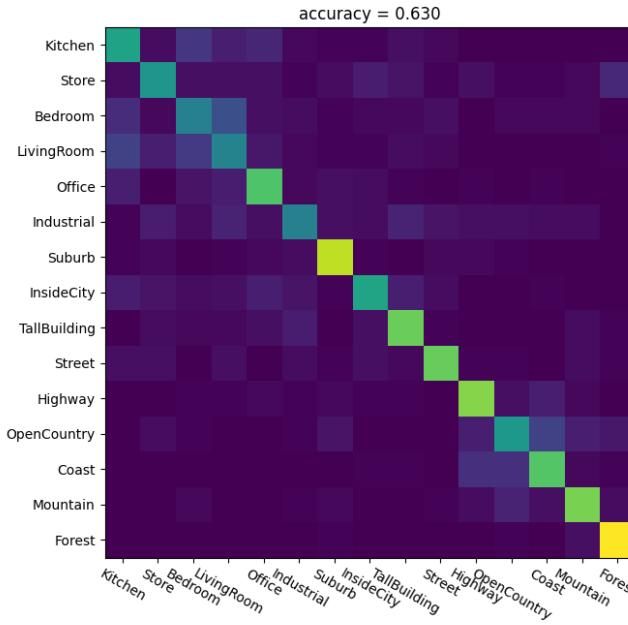


Figure 6: Confusion matrix for BoW+SVM.

```
def classify_svm_bow(label_classes, label_train_list,
                     img_train_list, label_test_list, img_test_list, vocab):
```

```
    ...
```

```
    return confusion, accuracy
```

Input: refer to function `classify_kNN_bow`

Output: `confusion` is a 15×15 confusion matrix and `accuracy` is the accuracy of the testing data prediction.

Description: Given BoW features, you will combine `build_visual_dictionary`, `compute_bow`, `predict_svm` for scene classification. Your goal is to **achieve the accuracy $>60\%$** .

References

- [1] S. Lazebnik, C. Schmid, and J. Ponce, “Beyond bags of features: Spatial pyramid matching for recognizing natural scene categories,” *CVPR*, 2006.