

Mafat (DDR&D) Challenge

Detection and fine grained classification of objects in aerial imagery

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Background...

1 The Task

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2 The Dataset

2.1 Brief

Dataset contains of 9xxx images, bla bla..

2.2 Analyses

Most of the dataset does not contain objects at all. Only 51 images are fully tagged. 2161 images are partially tagged, 7121 images were verified to contain no objects at all, and 36 images are untagged.

Regarding labels, the dataset definitely biases towards small vehicles, which appear more than the other classes, combined. Distribution can be seen in Figure 1:

As mentioned before, large and small vehicles are further tagged with fine-grained labels, consisted of 3 categories: subclass, feature and color.

The large vehicle class has only hundreds of subclass tags, while small vehicle has many thousands, as seen in Figure 2:

The same goes with feature tags, as seen in Figure 3:

And also with color tags, as seen in Figure 4.

On average, there are 8 objects in an image, while the most crowded image contains 164 objects altogether.

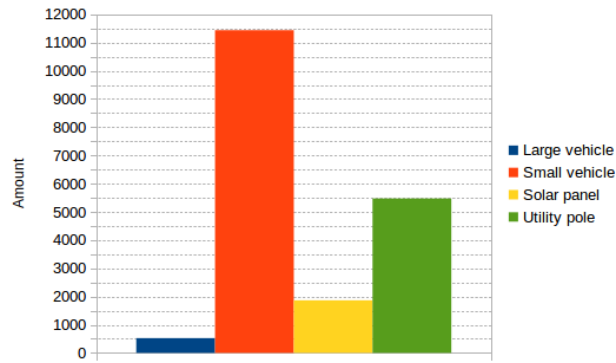


Figure 1: Dataset Coarse Grained Labels Distribution

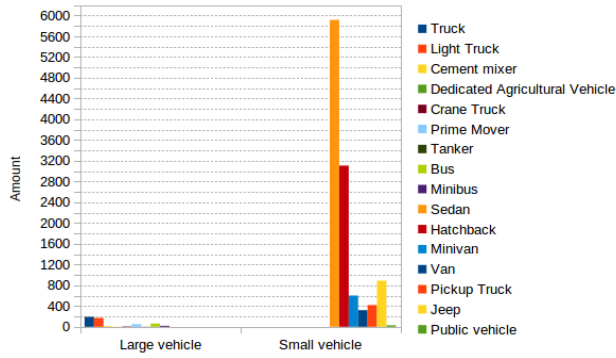


Figure 2: Dataset Subclass Labels Distribution

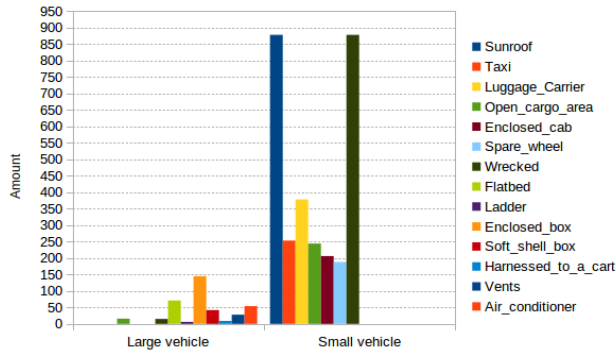


Figure 3: Dataset Feature Labels Distribution

Complete chart regarding objects frequency per image, make bins and then calculate frequencies;

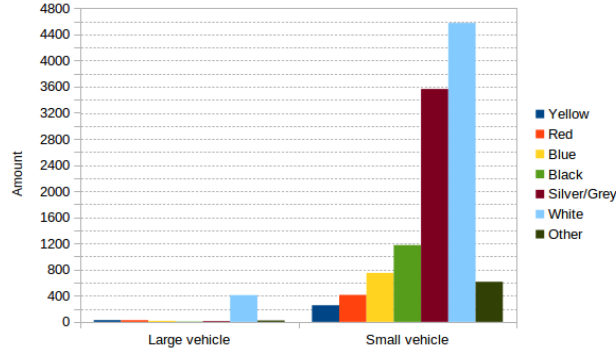


Figure 4: Dataset Color Labels Distribution

In Figure 5 we can see just how small are our objects, and what is their frequency in terms of square rooted area. The large vehicle objects spans roughly on all the size range, with more appearances around sizes 40-100. Small vehicle objects, however, mostly appear in sizes 20-70. Lastly, our solar panel objects are relatively very small, ranging around sizes 10-40.

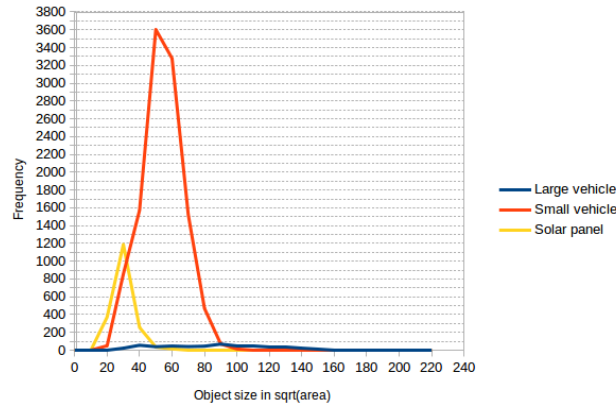


Figure 5: Dataset Objects Size Distribution

2.3 Dataset splits

I chose to randomly split 90

3 Challenges

1. Oriented Bounding Box

The dataset consisted of Oriented Bounding Boxes (Bounding Boxes which are not axis aligned).

All the known formats however supports axis aligned Bounding Boxes only, called Horizontal Bounding Boxes. Therefore, I had to wrap each OBB in HBB.

2. Classes with a point instead of Bounding Box

The utility pole class objects are marked with a point instead of 4 points Bounding Box. Therefore, for the beginning I've decided to remove all the utility poles objects from the dataset (and also images which contained only utility poles, 533 in total), as they are extremely difficult to detect.

3. Subclasses

I decided to ignore the fine-grained classification for now, since most of the detection networks modules do not support them.

4. Falsely annotated images

Some image annotations contained bounding boxes with coordinates outside of the image. I decided to crop these coordinates to fit inside image.

5. Small objects

The objects appeared in the images are much smaller than standard images networks handle. Therefore, the Region Proposal Network missed all the objects. I had to fine-tune some RPN related hyper-parameters in order to be able to detect the small objects in the dataset.

4 State Of The Art Computer Vision Networks

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5 Experiments Results

I mostly used default learning-related hyper parameters in the following experiments, and fine-tuned the hyper parameters which would help the network to better learn the small sized objects of the dataset. There are more than 30 hyper parameters, so I'll mention the default of the most important ones, and of course each experiment will describe the hyper parameters tuned for the experiment.

Learning rate was 0.001, optimizer was SGD with 0.9 momentum, weight decay was $5e-4$,