**Weekly report**

*Work on TFRecords and CASIA dataset*

TFRecords is now being successfully written and successfully read into the file.

We think (!) that it is being successfully used to train the neural network, but we haven’t been able to process enough files yet to test this.

There are still some bugs left, we haven’t been able to incorporate tensorboard yet.

But we are able to do some image augmentation (rotation) and hope to do more soon (translation and scaling)

Batching and shuffling seem to work

We have the ability to incorporate all of the isolated characters in the CASIA offline database and plan to do this as soon as time permits.

*Work on transfer learning*

I have continued to work on transfer learning. I have done more work on incorporating TFRecords into the transfer learning scripts however this is not yet complete. In addition, we have decided that when it comes to retraining the final layer, this will have to be done using .npz files as the bottlenecks cannot easily be saved as TFRecords format. However, as the bottlenecks do not need augmenting and as they are used to train only one layer, this is not significant.

**Action points for the next week**

1.Finish the bottleneck script so we can read in a TFRecord file and save the bottlenecks

2. train a final layer using these saved bottlenecks

3. Test the neural network with TFRecord files to make sure they work