## **Minor Project Report**

on

# TEXT DETECTION FROM SIGNBOARDS IN VERNACULAR LANGUAGES

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of

Master of Technology

In

Computer Science and Engineering
Under the Supervision of

Dr. Nupur Prakash (Professor) USICT, GGSIPU

Submitted by

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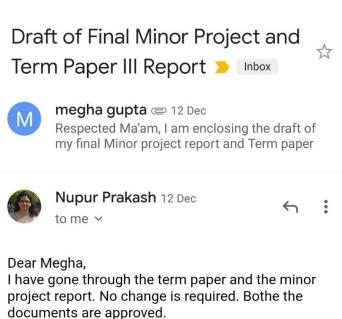
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## **CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that this Minor Project entitled "Text Detection from Signboards in Vernacular Languages" which is submitted by Megha Gupta (00716404819) in partial fulfilment of the requirement for award of degree M. Tech. in Computer Science & Engineering to USICT, GGSIPU, New Delhi is a record of candidate's own work carried out by her under my supervision.



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Assemblage of this nature could never have been attempted without reference to and inspiration

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## **ABSTRACT**

India has 122 major languages with 22 scheduled languages. A traveller, traveling in an area speaking a language not known to him/her gets frustrated by not being able to understand the text on various signboards. It is impractical to have signboards in different languages at every location. Hence, a system can be built to help the visitors to understand and comprehend the signboards in their own languages. The first and foremost task for developing such a system is to detect the text written on the signboard using object detection. In this project, an object detection engine to detect text objects in the given image and isolating the region containing the text enclosed in a bounding box has been implemented. Dataset for this project has been taken from ai4bharat.org. The dataset contains more than 100k images along with their annotations. YOLOv3, one of the state-of-the-art deep learning based object detector is used to detect the text objects. All the configurations required for YOLOv3 are made in Google Colaboratory. Darknet-53 is cloned from GitHub Repository which is used by YOLOv3 as backbone network. The model predicts bounding boxes and class probabilities for those boxes with mean average precision (mAP) of 95.01%. The detection time is 89.65 milliseconds. Code for the text detection is available at:

https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1BtgTdURTKPiZnulqaUMqqJb5U223nXxe?usp=sharing.

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## 1: PROBLEM STATEMENT

In order to perform signboard translation from vernacular languages, the first goal is to detect the text on the signboard. The objective of this project is to develop a system that can detect the message (written in vernacular language) on a signboard.

## 2: INTRODUCTION

India has 122 major languages out of which 22 are scheduled languages in the constitution. Hindi is the most commonly spoken language in India, followed by Bengali and Marathi languages. An average traveller, traveling in an area speaking a language not known to him/her get frustrated by not being able to understand the text on various signboards. This can spoil the experience of visiting a new place and can lead to confusion in navigation and exploration of a new place. People of one region get a wrong signal that the people of other regions are not thoughtful enough to display signboards in their language and vice versa. In reality, it is just impractical to have every signboard in every location in every other language. It may be possible to put signboards in 2-3 languages only. Hence, a system can be made to help the visitors/tourists to understand and comprehend the signboards in their own languages. The first and foremost task for developing this system is to detect the text written on the signboard using object detection. The second task is to recognize individual characters of the detected text using a CNN-RNN encoder decoder model. Therefore, deep learning methods in two popular fields, computer vision and NLP can be applied to find the solution. For this, the dataset needed should contain many images with some text written in different languages. Additionally, annotations in each image will be done as follows:

- (a) A box enclosing the region incorporating text in the image
- (b) The text that is inscribed in this box.

For object detection, i.e., identifying region containing text in the image, training will be done with the help of the first set of annotations.

## 3: LITERATURE REVIEW

To perform text detection task, many methods have been developed and used such as:

- Fully Convolutional Networks [1]
  - The proposed methodology is divided into the following components:
  - Text Block Detection: The network architecture of the Text-Block FCN inherits 5
    convolutional stages from VGG 16-layer model. Each convolutional stage is
    followed by a deconvolutional layer to generate feature maps of the same size. At

the end, to make pixel-level prediction, the fully-connected layers are replaced with a  $1 \times 1$  convolutional layer and a sigmoid layer. In the training phase, pixels within the bounding box of each text line or word are considered as the positive region. The cross-entropy loss function and stochastic gradient descent are used to train the model.

- Multi-Oriented Text Line Candidate Generation: Based on text blocks, multioriented text line candidates are formed. The character components are extracted
  present within the text blocks. Then, by component projection the orientation of
  the text lines is estimated. Finally, text line candidates are extracted (minimum
  bounding box).
- Text Line Candidates Classification: Character-Centroid FCN (a small version of Text-Block FCN) is used to remove false candidates.

#### • EAST: An Efficient and Accurate Scene Text Detector

It was proposed by X. Zhou et al. [2], in which an image is fed into the FCN and multiple channels of pixel-level text score map and geometry are generated. The pixel values of the score map are in the range of [0, 1] for one of the predicted channels. The remaining channels represent geometries that encloses the word from the view of each pixel.

## • Faster R-CNN (Faster Region based CNN)

It was proposed by S. Ren et al. [3], as an improved version of Fast R-CNN. They introduced a Region Proposal Network (RPN) which is a FCN that simultaneously predicts object bounds and objectness scores. The RPN generates high-quality region proposals, which are used by fast R-CNN for detection. Therefore, Faster R-CNN consists of two modules. The first module comprises of a deep fully convolutional network that proposes regions, and the second module is the Fast R-CNN detector [4] that uses the proposed regions.

#### • YOLO (You Only Look Once)

It was developed by Redmon et al. [5] Yolo is a single convolutional network that simultaneously predicts multiple bounding boxes and class probabilities for those boxes. It processes images in real-time at 45 frames per second. The detection is

modeled as a regression problem.  $416 \times 416$  images are used for training. The input image is divided into an  $S \times S$  grid. If the center of an object falls into a grid cell, that grid cell is responsible for detecting that object. Each grid cell predicts B bounding boxes and confidence scores for those boxes. These confidence scores reflect how confident the model is that the box contains an object and also how accurate it thinks the box is that it predicts. Each bounding box consists of 5 predictions: x, y, w, h, and confidence. The (x, y) coordinates represent the center of the box relative to the bounds of the grid cell. The width and height are predicted relative to the whole image. Finally, the confidence prediction represents the IOU between the predicted box and any ground truth box (P(Object) \*  $IOU_{pred}^{truth}$ ). Each grid cell also predicts C conditional class probabilities (P(Class<sub>i</sub>|Object)). These probabilities are conditioned on the grid cell containing an object. Only one set of class probabilities per grid cell is predicted, regardless of the number of boxes B. At test time, the conditional class probabilities and the individual box confidence predictions are multiplied.

$$P(Class_i|Object) * P(Object) * IOU_{pred}^{truth} = P(Class_i) * IOU_{pred}^{truth}$$

This gives the class-specific confidence scores for each box. These scores encode both the probability of that class appearing in the box and how well the predicted box fits the object. These predictions are encoded as an  $S \times S \times (B * 5 + C)$  tensor.

The network architecture has 24 convolutional layers followed by 2 fully connected layers. The network is pre-trained on the ImageNet classification task. A linear activation function is used for the final layer and the leaky rectified linear activation is used for all other layers.

YOLO imposes strong spatial constraints on bounding box predictions. Since the model learns to predict bounding boxes from data, it struggles to generalize to objects in new or unusual aspect ratios or configurations.

#### YOLOv2 [6]

Improved version of Yolov1. Some of the improvements made are:

- All fully connected layers are removed and anchor boxes are used to predict bounding boxes.
- Darknet-19 is used as backbone network. It contains 19 convolutional layers.
- Batch normalization is used on all convolutional layers.
- $416 \times 416$  images are used for training.

- One pooling layer is removed to increase the resolution of output.
- Uses logistic activation  $\sigma$  to bound the location.

## YOLOv3 [7]

Improved version of Yolov2. Instead of using Darknet-19 as backbone network, Darknet-53 is used. Darknet-53 consists of 53 convolutional layers, thus increasing the accuracy.

### • Curve Text Detector

Y. Liu et al. [8] constructed a curve text dataset named CTW1500, which includes over 10k text annotations in 1,500 images (1000 for training and 500 for testing). Based on this dataset, they proposed a simple but effective polygon based curve text detector (CTD) which can directly detect curve text without empirical combination.

#### • Single Shot Text Detector with Regional Attention

P. He et al. [9] proposed a single-shot text detector that directly outputs word-level bounding boxes in a natural image. The detector is composed of three main parts: a convolutional component, a text-specific component, and a box prediction component. The convolutional and box prediction components mainly inherit from SSD detector. They proposed the text-specific component which contains two modules: a text attention module and a hierarchical inception module.

## Connectionist Text Proposal Network to detect text in natural image

Z. Tian et al. [10] proposed a novel connectionist text proposal network (CTPN) that accurately localizes text lines in natural image. It includes three key modules: detecting text in fine-scale proposals, recurrent connectionist text proposals, and side-refinement. The CTPN is a fully convolutional network. It allows an input image of arbitrary size. It detects a text line by sliding a small window in the convolutional feature maps and outputs a sequence of fine-scale text proposals.

## 4: METHODOLOGY

The problem can be implemented as follows:

• Text region detection: An object detection engine to detect signboard objects in the given image and isolating the region containing the text enclosed in a bounding box.

Text region detection is implemented using **YOLOv3 model** [7].

It is an improved version of Yolov2. The backbone network used is Darknet-53, which has 53 convolutional layers. The whole system can be divided into two major components: Feature Extractor and Detector. Darknet-53 is used as feature extractor. These features are fed into detector to get bounding boxes and class information. The input image is divided into  $S \times S$  grid. Each grid cell predicts three bounding boxes.

#### Darknet-53

It is mainly composed of a series of convolution layers at dimensions of 1 x 1 and 3 x 3, with a total of 53 layers (including the last fully connected layer but excluding the residual layer). Each convolution layer is followed by a batch normalization (BN) layer and LeakyReLU layer. A number of residual network modules are introduced i.e., the residual layer, which is derived from ResNet. The purpose of adding the residual layer is to solve the gradient disappearance or gradient explosion problem in the network, such that the propagation of gradient can be done in more controlled manner.

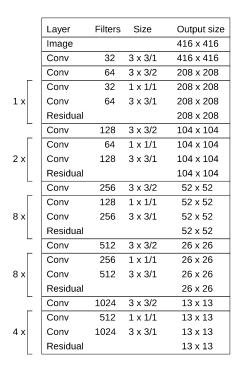


Figure 1: Structure of Darknet-53 network

A detection head is appended to this feature extractor. Features from last three residual blocks are all passed to the detector (consists of 21 convolutional layers) to get bounding boxes at three different scales. Nine anchor boxes are used per grid cell (Three for each scale). For each anchor box, three things are predicted:

- 1. The location offset against the anchor box: tx, ty, tw, th.
- 2. The objectness score to indicate if box contains an object.
- 3. The class probabilities.

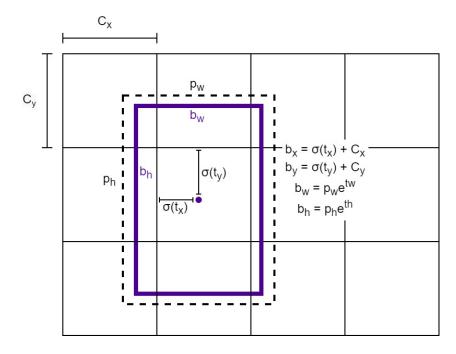


Figure 2: Bounding box location prediction

 $(c_x, c_y)$  represents the absolute location of the top-left corner of the current grid cell. The network predicts 4 coordinates for each bounding box,  $t_x$ ,  $t_y$ ,  $t_w$ ,  $t_h$ .  $b_w$  and  $b_h$  are the absolute width and height to the whole image.  $p_w$  and  $p_h$  are the width and height of the anchor box. Since it is a regression problem, sum of squared error loss function is used.

### 5: IMPLEMENTATION

#### **Dataset**

Dataset is taken from ai4bharat.org (Link: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1E5kI8CLoC-XffqQMTWwSpBIPp1Wb2tne) [12] which consists of 1,16,132 images along with their annotations. Each image contains some Hindi language words. The dataset is divided into 25 parts. Each part consists of two folders 1. Image 2. Annotation. The Images and Annotations

are distributed among 25 folders, which have serial no. 1 to 25. Annotation for a particular image can be found in corresponding serial no.

#### Understanding Annotation file.

Each line in the annotation file represents a word bounding box. Suppose there are four lines of text in a file, then there will be 4-word bounding boxes in the image. The last word of each line represents ground truth. The first four values of line represent x1, x2, x3, x4, which are x-coordinates in clockwise order. x1 represent top-left, x2 represent top-right, x3 represent bottom-right, x4 represent bottom left. Similarly, after the first four, next four represents y1, y2, y3, y4, which are y-coordinates in clockwise order. y1 represent top-left, y2 represent top-right, y3 represent bottom-right, y4 represent bottom left. A line can be seen as x1\_x2\_x3\_x4\_y1\_y2\_y3\_y4\_groundTruth, where '\_' represents single space.

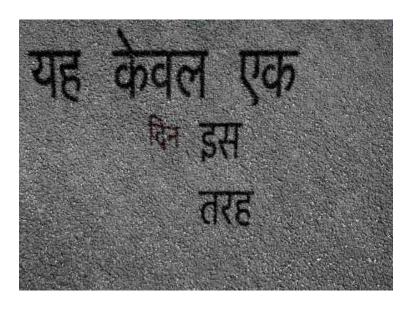


Figure 3: Example image in the dataset

Example of an annotation file is.

206.34122 258.02145 258.1178 206.43756 151.50044 151.41408 209.05013 209.13649 दिन 15.015945 103.20639 103.33369 15.143242 49.214314 49.079666 132.45021 132.58485 यह 147.70013 303.9722 304.1776 147.90555 12.001665 11.717926 124.84769 125.131424 केवल 350.8119 449.03406 449.10852 350.88635 48.632027 48.551636 139.54865 139.62903 एक 289.1196 359.50034 359.5085 289.12778 165.57788 165.5686 227.73221 227.74149 इस 288.36942 378.91788 378.88058 288.33212 275.58444 275.64536 331.0419 330.981 तरह

<class> <x\_center> <y\_center> <width> <height>

Where,  $\langle class \rangle = integer number from 0 to (classes - 1)$ 

<x\_center> <y\_center> <width> <height> - float values relative to width and height of the
image. Example: <x\_center> = <absolute\_x>/<image\_width> and <y\_center> =
<absolute\_y>/<image\_height>, <width> = <adsolute\_width>/<image\_width>, <height> =
<adsolute\_height>/<image\_height> [15]

Using python script, the annotations were changed to the above format as needed by yolo.

0 0.3870491833333333 0.4153808410138249 0.0862942999999999 0.13300094470046075

 $0\, 0.0986246958333333\, 0.2092909170506912\, 0.14719624166666667\, 0.19240825806451609$ 

 $0.0.37656477499999996\ 0.15766054147465436\ 0.2607957833333333\ 0.2613214239631336$ 

0 0.66660035 0.21679800230414747 0.16382770000000002 0.2098557465437788

0.0.54052341666666670.453122223502304130.1173148333333340.14325550691244238

 $0.0.5560416666666667\ 0.698878271889401\ 0.15097626666666655\ 0.12778216589861757$ 

The annotation files and the images files should be in same directory. The annotation file name should be of same name as the image file name with .txt extension.

## Configuring YOLOv3 in Google Colab

#### 1. Installing cuDNN

(Download file - cudnn-10.0-linux-x64-v7.5.0.56.tgz from Nvidia website)

The NVIDIA CUDA® Deep Neural Network library (cuDNN) is a GPU-accelerated library of primitives for deep neural networks. cuDNN provides highly tuned implementations for standard routines such as forward and backward convolution, pooling, normalization, and activation layers. cuDNN accelerates widely used deep learning frameworks, including Caffe2, Chainer, Keras, MATLAB, MxNet, PyTorch, and TensorFlow.

### 2. Installing darknet

Darknet is cloned from GitHub repository (<a href="https://github.com/kriyeng/darknet/">https://github.com/kriyeng/darknet/</a> [16]) and compiled.

### 3. Preparing data and configuration files

Dataset is loaded into the session. Dataset is in the form of tar file. The tar file is extracted.

```
import tarfile
my_tar = tarfile.open("/content/gdrive/My Drive/Colab Notebooks/Deep Learning/Synthetic_Dataset_Hindi_Yolo.tar")
my_tar.extractall('./')
```

```
#rename directory name
os.rename("Images","obj")
```

Figure 4: Dataset Loaded in Google Colab

The weights file (darknet53.conv.74) [13] is downloaded and loaded in the darknet directory. The default configuration file (yolov3.cfg) present in the darknet folder is downloaded and changes are made according to the custom dataset. The changes made are:

```
batch=64
subdivisions=16
learning rate=0.01
```

In the yolo layer, classes variable is set to 1 and in the layer above it filters variable is set to 18 ((classes + 5) \* 3). This is done at 3 places.

```
[convolutional]
size=1
stride=1
pad=1
filters=18
activation=linear
[yolo]
mask = 0, 1, 2
anchors = 10,13,
                  16,30, 33,23, 30,61, 62,45, 59,119, 116,90,
156,198, 373,326
classes=1
num=9
jitter=.3
ignore thresh = .7
truth thresh = 1
random=1
```

The modified configuration file (yolo-obj.cfg) is then loaded into the darknet directory.

```
[ ] !cp /content/gdrive/My\ Drive/Colab\ Notebooks/Deep\ Learning/Darknet/bin/darknet/yolo-obj.cfg /content/darknet

[ ] !cp /content/gdrive/My\ Drive/Colab\ Notebooks/Deep\ Learning/Darknet/bin/darknet/darknet53.conv.74 /content/darknet
```

Figure 5: Weights file and Configuration file loaded in google colab

Yolo needs four files – train.txt, test.txt, obj.names, obj.data. The file train.txt consists of the paths of all the images used for training the model and the file test.txt consists of the paths of

all the images for testing the model. The dataset is divided into two parts. 95 percent of the dataset is used for training the model and 5 percent is used for testing the model.

In obj.names file the names of all the classes are written in separate lines. For this dataset the file consists of only one line i.e., HINDI. The file obj.data consists of the following:

```
classes = 1
train = data/train.txt
valid = data/test.txt
names = data/obj.names
backup = backup/
```

### 4. Training the yolov3 model [14]

The training is done using the line:

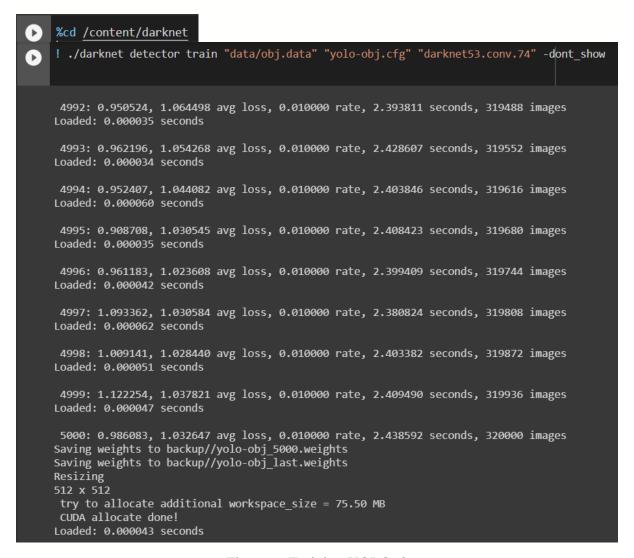


Figure 6: Training YOLOv3

The model is trained till 5000 iterations. The weights after every 100 epochs are stored in backup directory (yolo-obj\_last.weights). For every 1000 epochs the weights are stored in a separate file (for example: yolo-obj\_5000.weights).

## 6: RESULTS

Testing the model

The testing is done using the line:

```
[72] ! ./darknet detector test data/obj.data yolo-obj.cfg backup/yolo-obj_5000.weights -ext_output data/obj/60139.jpg
   data/obj/60139.jpg: Predicted in 89.655000 milli-seconds.
   HINDI: 100%
                     (left x:
                                       top y:
                                                110
                                                       width:
                                                                132
                                                                       height:
                                                                                   92)
                                  12
   HINDI: 100%
                                                       width:
                                                                       height:
                                                                                  90)
                      (left_x:
                                  18
                                       top_y:
                                                  8
                                                                123
   HINDI: 99%
                      (left x:
                                194
                                       top y:
                                                 10
                                                       width:
                                                                198
                                                                       height:
                                                                                 112)
   HINDI: 100%
                     (left x:
                                206
                                                172
                                                       width:
                                                                184
                                                                       height:
                                                                                  91)
                                       top y:
   HINDI: 100%
                                                       width:
                                                                 48
                                                                       height:
                      (left x:
                                 423
                                       top y:
                                                  65
                                                                                   26)
   HINDI: 96%
                      (left x:
                                423
                                                 93
                                                       width:
                                                                 58
                                                                       height:
                                       top y:
                                                                                   32)
   HINDI: 98%
                                                       width:
                                                                 42
                                                                                   29)
                      (left x:
                                423
                                       top y:
                                                131
                                                                       height:
   HINDI: 98%
                      (left x:
                                451
                                       top y:
                                                177
                                                       width: 123
                                                                       height:
                                                                                   81)
   HINDI: 100%
                                                       width:
                                                                       height:
                      (left x:
                                 479
                                       top y:
                                                141
                                                                 41
                                                                                   24)
   HINDI: 100%
                                 482
                                                       width:
                                                                 90
                                                                       height:
                                                                                   33)
                      (left x:
                                       top y:
   HINDI: 92%
                                495
                                       top y:
                                                  94
                                                       width:
                                                                 28
                                                                       height:
                                                                                   26)
                      (left x:
```

Figure 7: Testing

The predicted image is stored as predictions.jpg file.



Figure 8: Bounding box predicted

For calculation of mean average precision:

```
! ./darknet detector map data/obj.data yolo-obj.cfg backup/yolo-obj_5000.weights

calculation mAP (mean average precision)...

5808
detections_count = 86084, unique_truth_count = 33518
class_id = 0, name = HINDI, ap = 95.01% (TP = 30839, FP = 857)

for thresh = 0.25, precision = 0.97, recall = 0.92, F1-score = 0.95
for thresh = 0.25, TP = 30839, FP = 857, FN = 2679, average IoU = 80.02 %

IoU threshold = 50 %, used Area-Under-Curve for each unique Recall
mean average precision (mAP@0.50) = 0.950089, or 95.01 %
Total Detection Time: 422.0000000 Seconds
```

Figure 9: Mean average precision calculated

The mean average precision at IOU 0.5 = 95.01%

The predictions on the test data can be stored in a separate file (result.txt) as shown below:

| ./darknet detector test data/obj.data yolo-obj.cfg backup/yolo-obj\_5000.weights -dont\_show -ext\_output <data/test.txt> result.txt

```
3 Enter Image Path: data/obj/19.jpg: Predicted in 17.525000 milli-seconds.
4 HINDI: 47% (left_x: 5 top_y: 102 width: 46 height:
                                                               56)
5 HINDI: 59% (left_x: 36 top_y: 205
                                          width: 244
                                                       height: 241)
6 HINDI: 88% (left x: 43 top y: 117
                                          width: 44 height: 30)
                                    83 width: 53
7 HINDI: 96% (left x: 46 top y:
                                                      height:
                                                                30)
8 HINDI: 47% (left x: 212 top y: 230 width: 67
                                                      height:
                                                                43)
9 HINDI: 94% (left x: 268 top y: 133 width: 55
                                                      height:
                                                                50)
10 HINDI: 99% (left x: 345
                             top_y:
                                   248
                                          width: 129
                                                       height:
                                                               83)
11 HINDI: 100% (left x: 348
                             top_y:
                                   140
                                          width: 132
                                                       height:
                                                               93)
12 HINDI: 54% (left_x: 491
                             top y:
                                     -9
                                          width: 91
                                                       height: 136)
13 HINDI: 25% (left x: 538
                             top y:
                                     45
                                          width:
                                                  63
                                                       height: 132)
14 Enter Image Path: data/obj/39.jpg: Predicted in 17.278000 milli-seconds.
                                          width: 72 height:
width: 62 height:
width: 27 height:
width: 50 height:
15 HINDI: 85% (left x: 5 top y: 126
                                                               55)
                       6
6
16 HINDI: 68% (left x:
                             top y:
                                     88
                                                                47)
   HINDI: 28% (left x:
                                     52
                                                                28)
                            top_y:
                       55 top_y:
   HINDI: 66%
              (left x:
                                     85
                                                                47)
                                          width: 196
width: 106
  HINDI: 100% (left_x: 60 top_y: 230
                                                       height: 106)
20 HINDI: 40% (left x:
                       78 top y: 371
                                                       height:
                                                               48)
21 HINDI: 97%
              (left x: 242 top y: 320
                                          width: 148
                                                       height: 117)
22 HINDI: 100% (left x: 253
                             top_y: 189
                                          width: 190
                                                       height: 126)
23 HINDI: 43% (left_x: 499
                                          width: 85
                                                       height: 131)
                             top_y: 9
```

Figure 10: Predictions stored in a file

The predicted bounding boxes are then cropped from the image by running a python script. These cropped images can then be passed on to recognition system for recognition of the words.

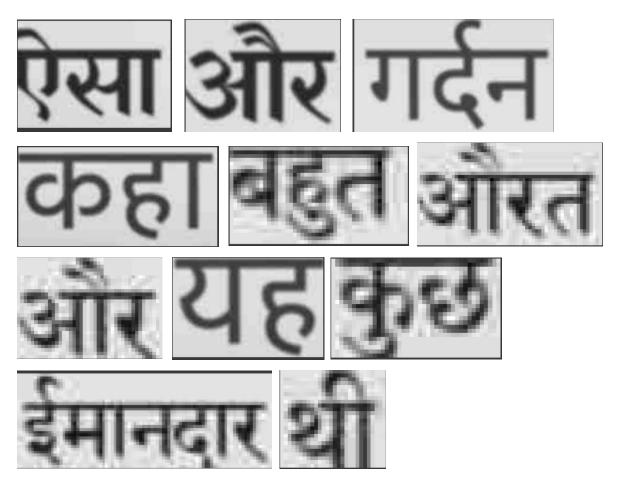


Figure 11: Cropped Bounding box

## 7: CONCLUSION

The first and foremost task for signboard translation problem is to detect the text objects present in the image. In this project, an object detection engine is implemented which is used to detect text objects in the given image and isolating the region containing the text enclosed in a bounding box. The model used for this task is deep learning based object detector YOLOv3 (You Only Look Once). The model predicts bounding boxes and class probabilities for those boxes with mean average precision (mAP) of 95.01%. The detection time is 89.65 milliseconds. Hence, YOLOv3 can be used for detection of text on the signboards with high precision in a very short time span.

## 8: FUTURE WORK

The next step for signboard translation problem is text recognition and translation. The output of text detection engine can be passed to text recognition system (encoder-decoder model). The output of text recognition system can then be translated. This task is extended to Major project.

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