

# Lecture 18

## Optical Character Recognition

ECE 1390/2390

# Project Updates (10/30 & 11/4)

10/30

- BokehSwap
- DC not DC
- AutonomousDriving
- RepVision
- FaceEmojiSwap

11/4

- Team Sebastian, Timothy, Jake, & Tyler
- Shopkeepr
- The Riddlers
- Touchfree

## What do I expect?

- Progress update
- 10min informal presentation
- Can use your own laptop or give me slides
- Show off what you have done so far
- Have you tried things that didn't work?
- What class lessons have you incorporated into the project? Any insights?
- Have your objectives changed?
- Has there been any unanticipated issues?

# Tesseract OCR Engine

- Developed by HP 1984-1994
- Purchased by Google 2006-2018
- Now open-source Apache-2.0 license

[2] R. W. Smith, *The Extraction and Recognition of Text from Multimedia Document Images*, PhD Thesis, University of Bristol, November 1987.

## Executable

- <https://github.com/tesseract-ocr>

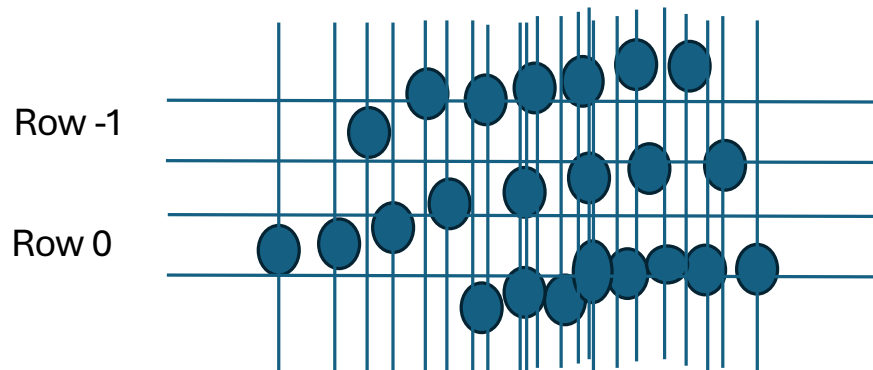
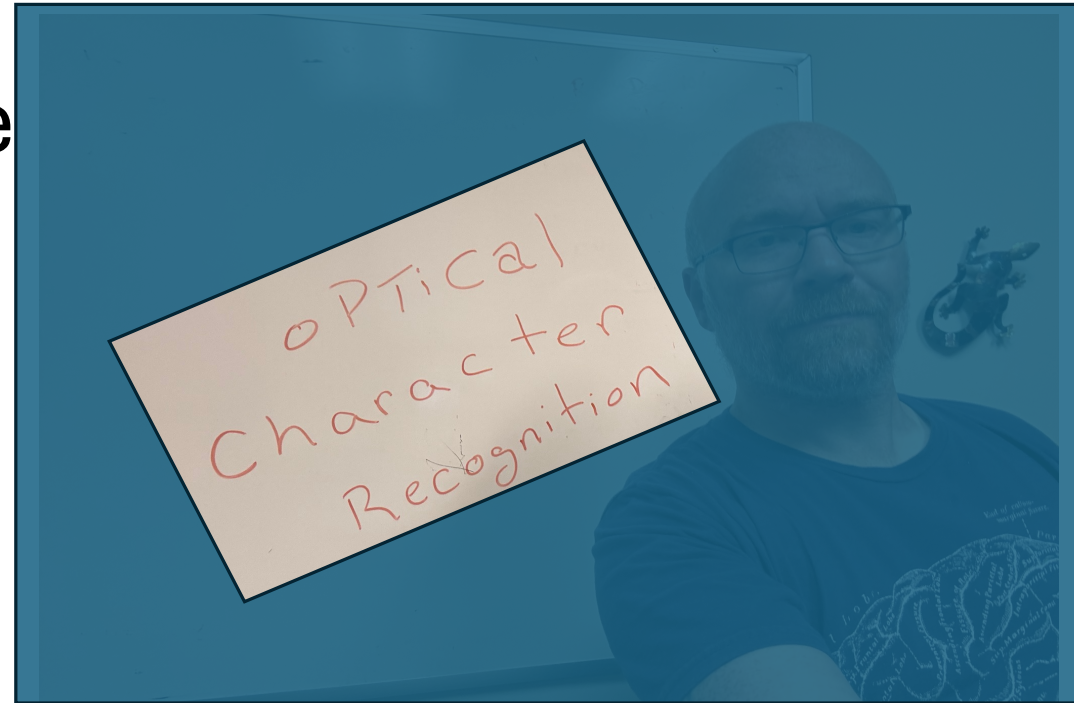
## Python Wrapper

- <https://pypi.org/project/pytesseract/>

# Tesseract OCR Engine

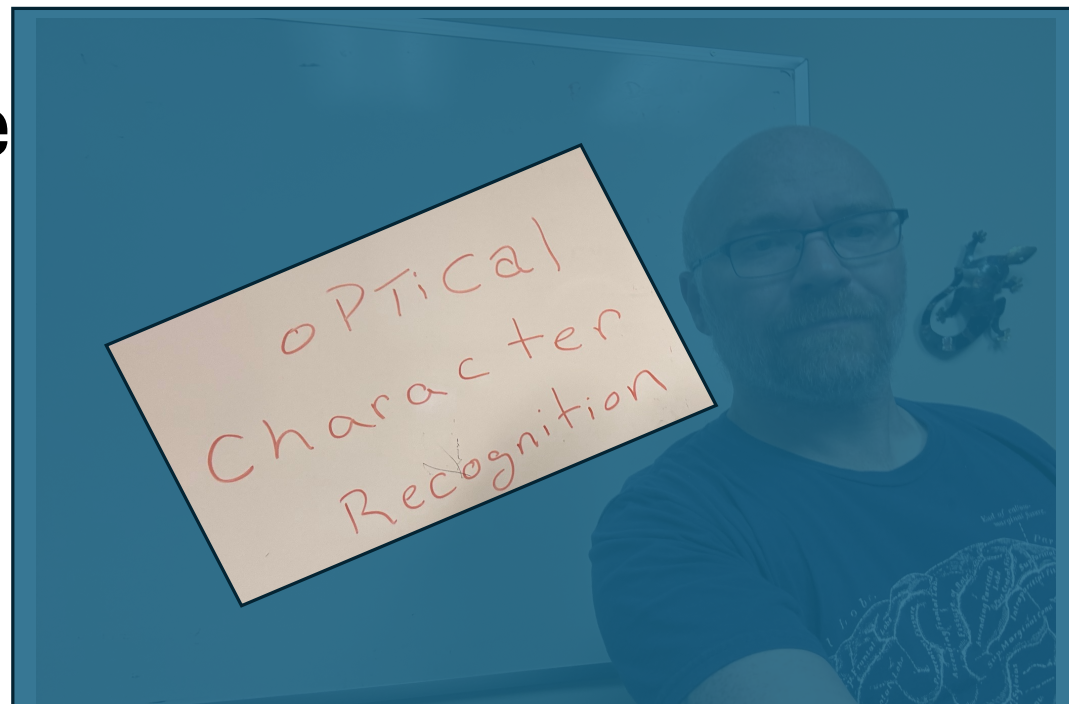
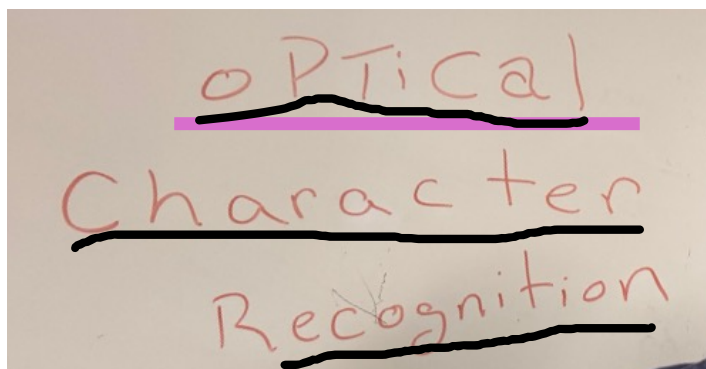
## Step 1. Line Finding

- a) Find connected components in the image → “blobs”
- b) Filter small/large blobs
- c) Sort along horizontal axis
- d) For left to right:
  - If not blob overlaps row
  - make new row
  - Else
  - expand vertical bounds of rowend



# Tesseract OCR Engine

## Step 2. Baseline Fitting



Volume 69, pages 872-879,

Fig. 1. An example of a curved fitted baseline.

# Tesseract OCR Engine

## Step 3. Pitch Detection and Chopping

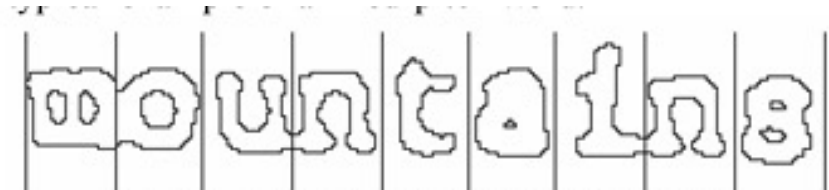
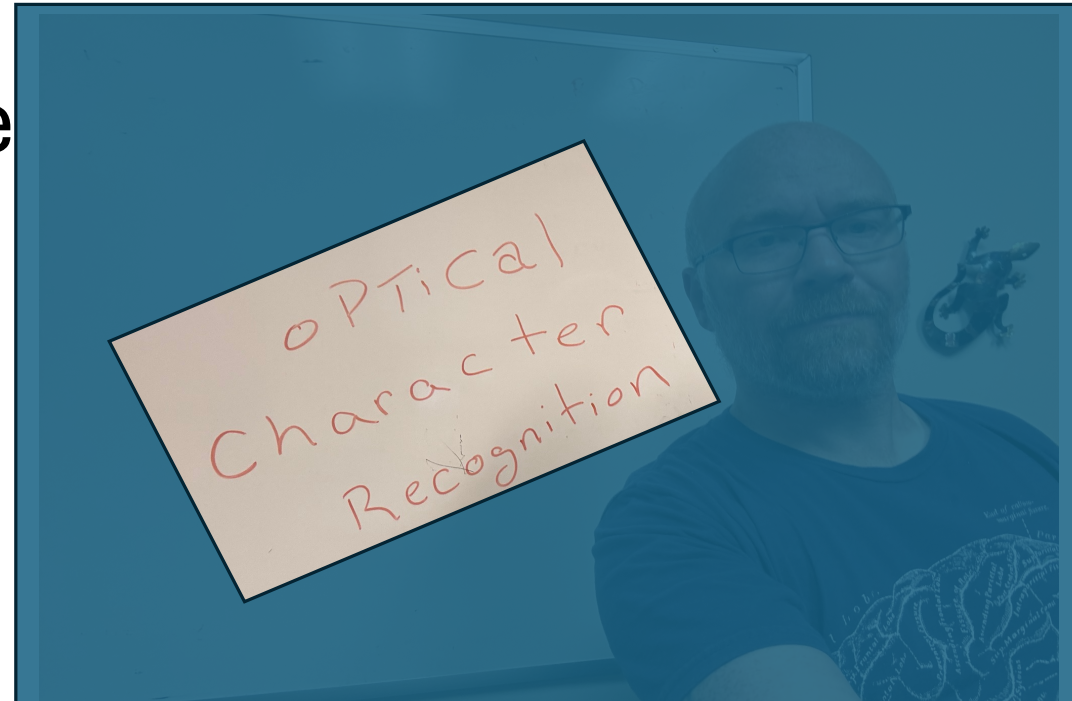
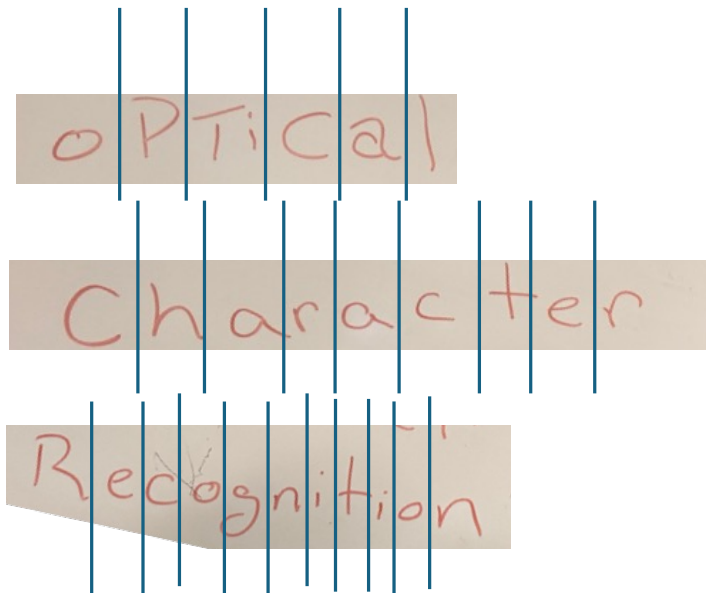


Fig. 2. A fixed-pitch chopped word.



# Tesseract OCR Engine

## Loop.

Classify blobs to letters

if blob doesn't match any letter  
cut the blob

if cut blob doesn't match any letter  
associate broken segments

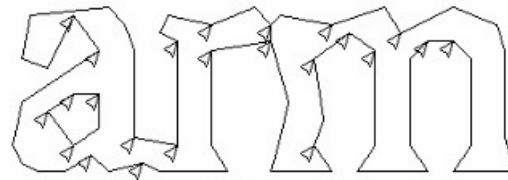
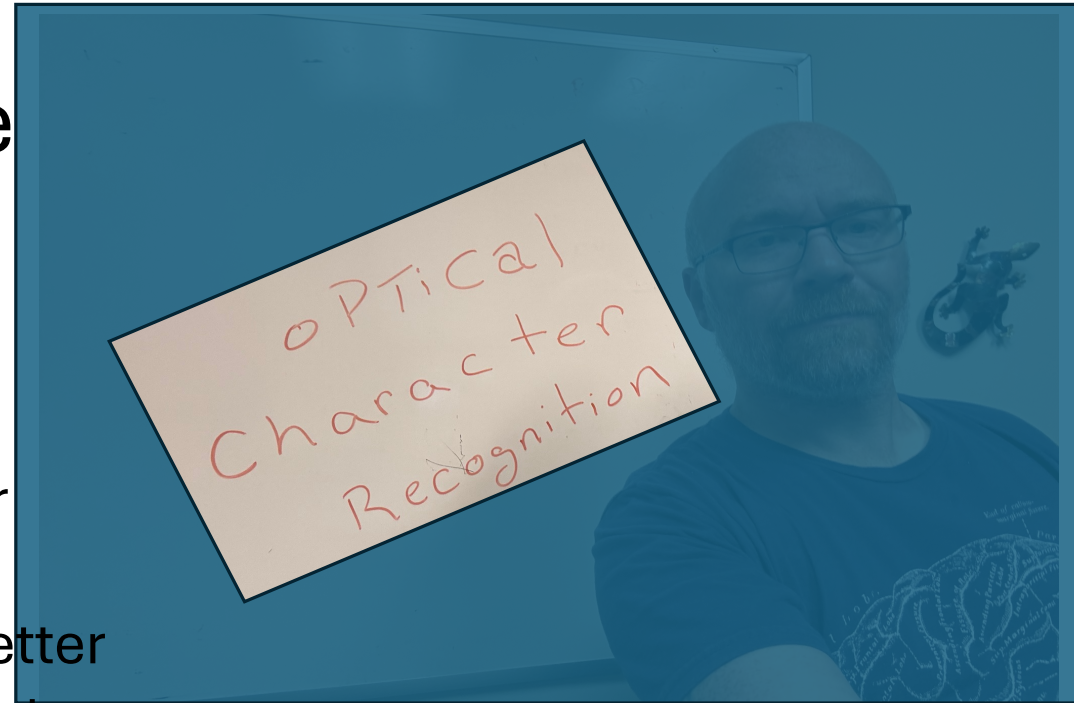


Fig. 4. Candidate chop points and chop.

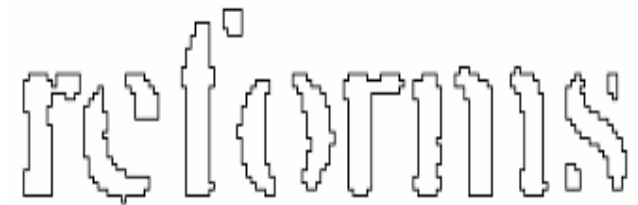


Fig. 5. An easily recognized word.

# Limitations

- Works best for printed characters (uniform spacing, uniform height, stylized lines)
- Can handle oblique lines (or curves in baseline; book bindings)
- Does not work with other stuff is in the image

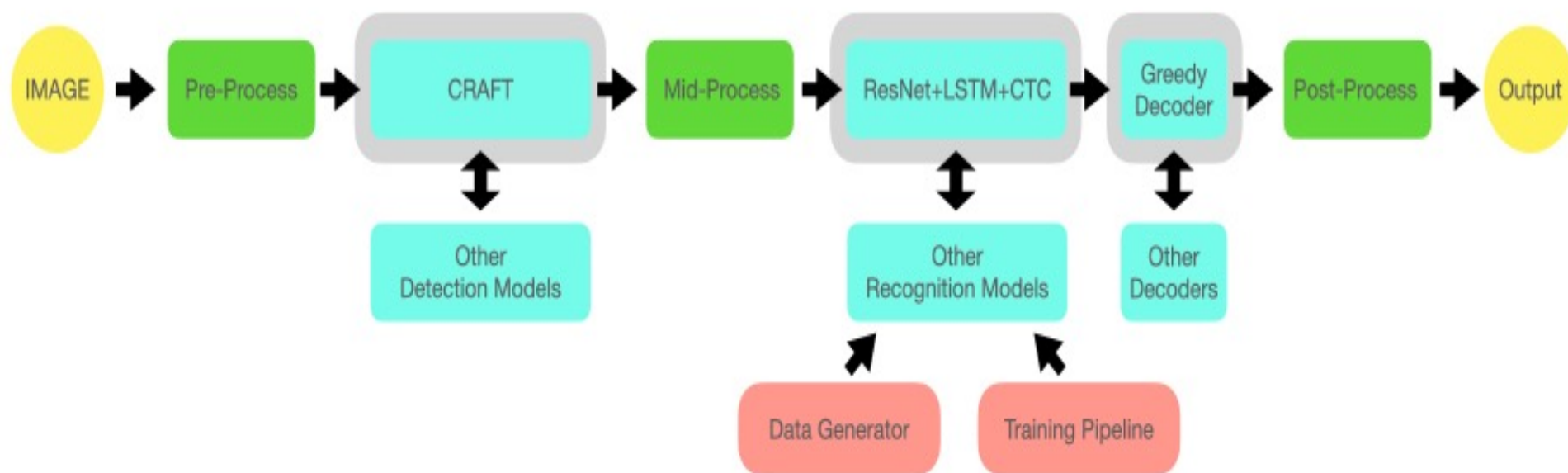


# EasyOCR

- <https://github.com/JaidedAI/EasyOCR>
- `pip install easyocr`
- Trained on 80+ languages

# EasyOCR

## EasyOCR Framework

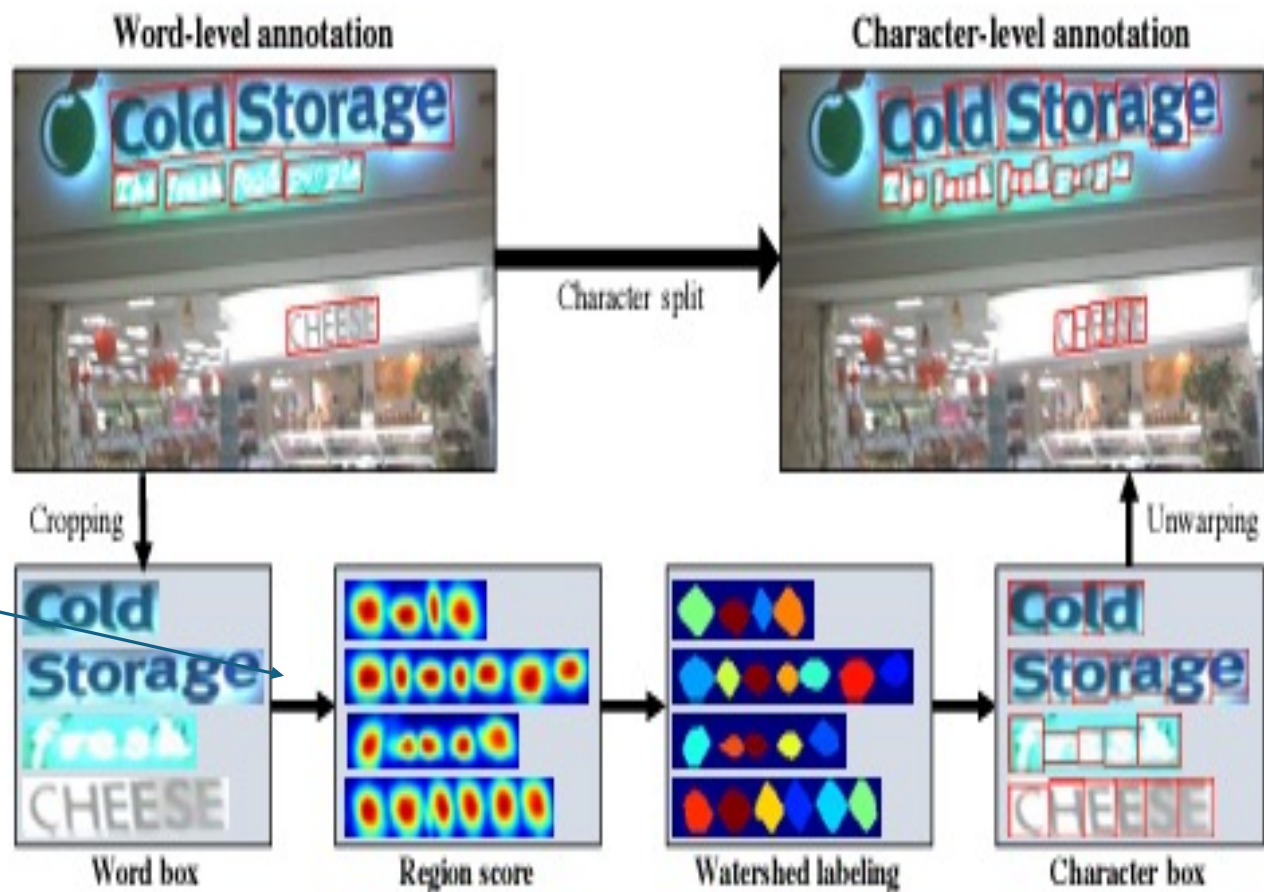


# EasyOCR

## CRAFT Detection

(Character Region Awareness for Text)

Trained U-net  
model to find  
center of  
character

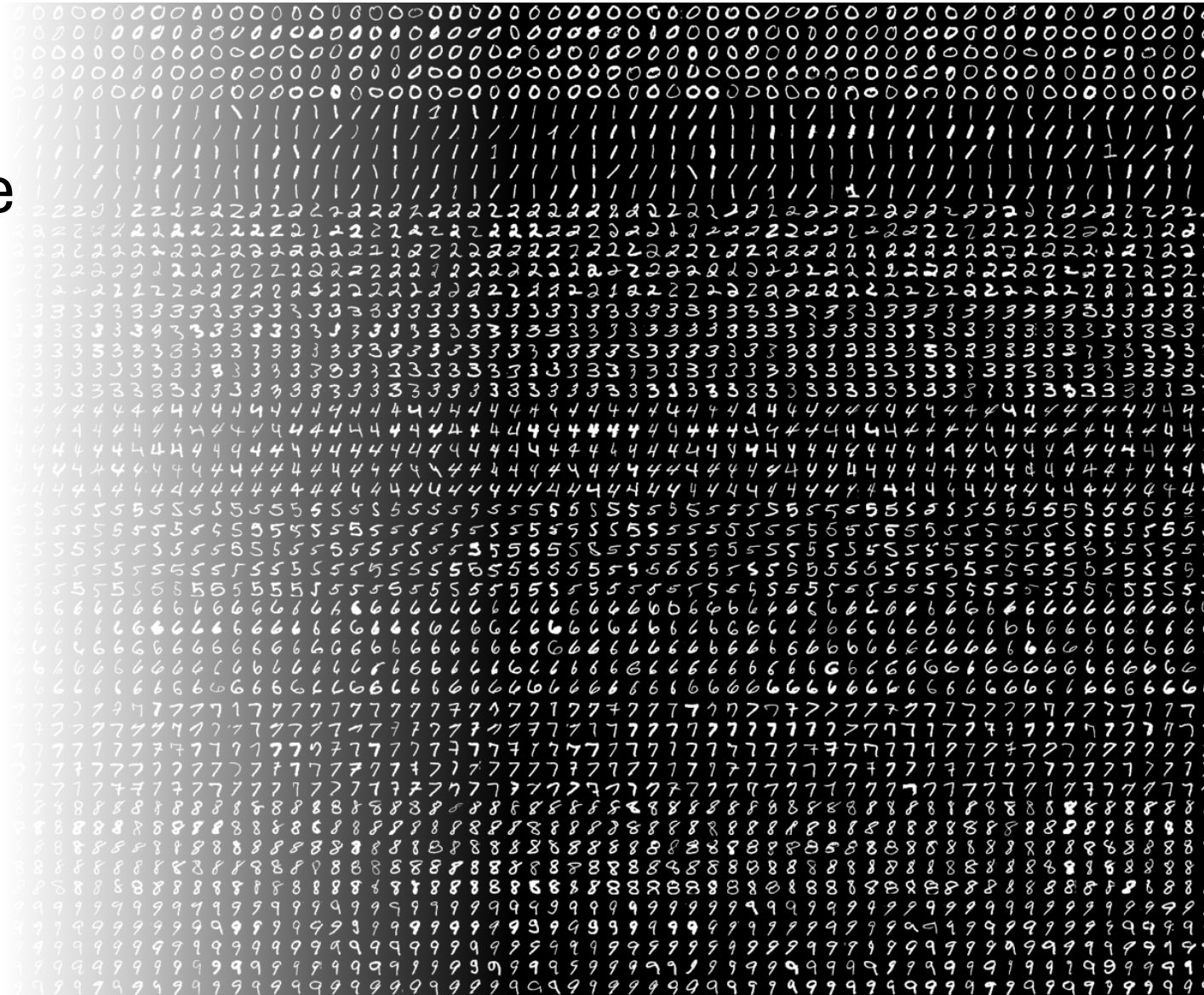


# Limitations

- Works much better for real-world text
- Code is a lot slower than Tesseract

# Digits example

- From OpenCV Git samples
- Example of HOG classifier



```
def preprocess_hog(digits):
```

```
    samples = []
```

```
    for img in digits:
```

```
        gx = cv.Sobel(img, cv.CV_32F, 1, 0)
```

```
        gy = cv.Sobel(img, cv.CV_32F, 0, 1)
```

```
        mag, ang = cv.cartToPolar(gx, gy)
```

Compute the  
directions of edges  
in the image

```
        bin_n = 16
```

```
        bin = np.int32(bin_n*ang/(2*np.pi))
```

```
        bin_cells = bin[:10,:10], bin[10:,:10], bin[:10,10:], bin[10:,10:]
```

```
        mag_cells = mag[:10,:10], mag[10:,:10], mag[:10,10:], mag[10:,10:]
```

```
        hists = [np.bincount(b.ravel(), m.ravel(), bin_n) for b, m in  
                  zip(bin_cells, mag_cells)]
```

```
        hist = np.hstack(hists)
```

```
        eps = 1e-7
```

```
        hist /= hist.sum() + eps
```

```
        hist = np.sqrt(hist)
```

```
        hist /= norm(hist) + eps
```

```
        samples.append(hist)
```

```
    return np.float32(samples)
```

Normalize  
histograms

Make histogram of  
the distribution of  
magnitudes found  
at each angle

```

class SVM(object):
    def __init__(self, C = 1, gamma = 0.5):
        self.model = cv.ml.SVM_create()
        self.model.setGamma(gamma)
        self.model.setC(C)
        self.model.setKernel(cv.ml.SVM_RBF)
        self.model.setType(cv.ml.SVM_C_SVC)
    def train(self, samples, responses):
        self.model.train(samples, cv.ml.ROW_SAMPLE, responses)
    def predict(self, samples):
        return self.model.predict(samples)[1].ravel()
    def load(self, fn):
        self.model = cv.ml.SVM_load(fn)
    def save(self, fn):
        self.model.save(fn)

```

OpenCV is using a One-verses-All SVM model

```

model = SVM(C=2.67, gamma=5.383)
model.train(samples_train, labels_train)

```



*From OpenCV's Help description:*

Gamma:

**Role:** Defines the influence of a single training example. It controls the "width" of the RBF kernel (the most commonly used kernel with SVMs).

**Interpretation:**

**Low gamma:** The influence of a single training example reaches far, leading to a smoother decision boundary and a more generalized model.

**High gamma:** The influence of a single training example is localized, leading to a more complex decision boundary that closely fits the training data (potentially overfitting).

C:

**Role:** Controls the trade-off between maximizing the margin and minimizing the classification error.

**Interpretation:**

**Low C:** A larger margin is encouraged, potentially leading to misclassifications on the training data but creating a simpler model that generalizes better.

**High C:** The model tries to correctly classify all training examples, potentially leading to a more complex decision boundary and overfitting.