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Project Plan

Visual Computing and Games Technology (MSc)

Tell me mAI story

by

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2023-12-06

1 Work Packages

1.1 Functional Area - Processing and Storage of Children's Drawings

This section covers the topic of ingesting new previously unseen children's drawings, i.e. when a child has created a drawing and first presents it to our AI.

1.1.1 Work Package - Basic dialog for uploading a new, previously unseen drawing

Upon starting a new session, the tool initiates with a warm welcome greeting to users (children). It will then explain the concept and present to children a catalog of animals to choose from and draw on their paper. After the user uploads their drawings (supported image formats are JPEG and PNG), one of these scenarios could happen:

- If there is no detectable object, tell the user to draw an animal chosen from the catalog. (Note that the term object here refers to any recognized object from the drawing, it could be anything from a shape to an animal that is from the catalog or not)
- If there are detected objects, based on the classification score for each object, verify with the user if the classification is correct (by showing the detected animal region and the predicted animal name)

The tool provides a friendly farewell when the interaction session concludes.

1.1.2 Work Package - Curation of the training dataset of drawings

First batch of dataset is collected from a kindergarten. To prepare the dataset for training, some preprocessing steps are required:

- Resize the image to a fixed size
- Annotating bounding boxes coordinates and labels of animals in a csv file
- Split the dataset into training and test set

For a wider range of recognition ability and better accuracy, we could take use of public dataset. Some available datasets are: [Google Quick, Draw! dataset](#) (hand drawn doodles) and [TU-Berlin Human Sketch Recognition](#).

1.1.3 Work Package - Experiments with preprocessing of drawings

1.1.4 Work Package - Preprocessing pipeline of drawings

1.2 Functional Area - Recognition of animals

This section covers the solution to the problem of recognizing animals in children's drawings, that is recognizing that an animal is present and classifying the animal.

1.2.1 Work Package - Experiments with a first CNN for recognizing animals

Implement a first CNN for recognizing animals in terms of a binary classification (animal present vs. animal not present) and evaluate its performance. Frameworks could be tested are: PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, etc.

1.2.2 Work Package - CNN for recognizing animals in terms of a multi-class classification

Implement a CNN for recognizing animals in terms of a multi-class classification, i.e. detecting an animal and classifying it, and evaluate its performance.

1.2.3 Work Package - CNN for recognizing multiple animals in a single drawing

Implement an advanced CNN model (e.g. Faster R-CNN, Mask R-CNN) for recognizing multiple animals in a single drawing, localize the animal with bounding boxes and classify each one of them. Evaluate its performance.

1.3 Functional Area - Advanced recognition of animals (optional)

This section is optional. We want to look at alternative advanced models for recognizing animals in children's drawings, in particular we want to consider recent state-of-the-art models and concepts that have been developed by researchers and companies in the years 2020-2023.

1.3.1 Work Package - Theoretical consideration of alternative models for animal recognition

- ConvNet: [arXiv link](#)
- CoTNet: [arXiv link](#)
- VAN: [arXiv link](#)
- MAE: [arXiv link](#)
- ViT: [arXiv link](#)
- Faster R-CNN [arXiv link](#)
- YOLO (lightweight, real time recognition but might be not as accuracy as Faster RCNN) [arXiv link](#)
- EfficientDet (lightweight, suitable for small size dataset) [arXiv link](#)

1.4 Functional Area - Annotating animals with digits to denote their importance

This section covers the topic of annotating animals with digits to provide the model a clue about their importance in the story. An animal annotated with a 9 would be a main character, while an animal annotated with a 1 would just appear somewhere in the background of the story.

1.4.1 Work Package - Model for recognizing handwritten digits in terms of a multi-class classification

Implement a model for recognizing handwritten digits in terms of a multi-class classification, i.e. detecting a digit and classifying it, and evaluate its performance.

1.4.2 Work Package - Advanced model for recognizing multiple handwritten digits in a single drawing

Implement an advanced model for recognizing multiple handwritten digits in a single drawing, localize the digits with bounding boxes and classify each one of them. Evaluate its performance.

1.4.3 Work Package - Associate recognized digits with recognized animals

Using a measure of shortest spatial distance in an image, i.e. between each digit and animal, or some other applicable measure, possibly using a clustering method, each recognized digit is associated with one of the recognized animals, in such a way that every animal is associated with exactly one digit. If there are not enough digits, the default digit 5 is assumed for all animals that have no digits, and a warning is written to the log. If there are too many digits, digits with the greatest spatial distances to any animals are ignored, as many as applicable, and a warning is written to the log. In normal cases, each animal is associated with at most one digit, and each digit is associated with exactly one animal. It is a 1-to-1 relationship between digits and animals. More concretely, 1 animals to 0..1 digits. Only in the special case where there are more digits than animals in the drawing, a digit may be associated with 0 animals.

1.5 Functional Area - Annotating animals with markers to vaguely denote their relations

Markers are used to indicate which characters should meet with which other characters during the story. Note that, while more elaborate functionality could be conceived, for example a formation of fixed groups of animals, or a notion of typed relations between animals, such as friends, family, colleagues, in the case of this project, the markers just stand for a vague association. This is to give the AI a lot of room for interpretation, or better said, more freedom for the generation of the story.

1.5.1 Work Package - Evaluate different marker types and choose the marker type to use

Different marker types need to be considered. A particular applicable marker type is to be chosen. A respective evaluation of markers, on which the decision can be based, may be kept simple and brief. For the marker type, the most probably choice is colored boxes, e.g. empty post-it notes, because such are usually available in many households, and if not, can be produced easily by the children or the parents. Animals with markers of the same color would be vaguely associated.

1.5.2 Work Package - Model for recognizing markers in terms of a multi-class classification

Implement a model for recognizing markers in terms of a multi-class classification, i.e. detecting a marker and classifying it, and evaluate its performance.

1.5.3 Work Package - Advanced model for recognizing markers in a single drawing

Implement an advanced model for recognizing multiple markers in a single drawing, localize the markers with bounding boxes and classify each one of them. Evaluate its performance.

1.5.4 Work Package - Associate recognized markers with recognized animals

Each animal is associated with zero or more markers, while each marker is associated with exactly one animal. It is a 1-to-n relationship between animals and markers. More concretely 1 animals to 0..n markers.

1.5.5 Work Package - Determine groups of animals with respect to the recognized and associated markers

Using a measure of shortest spatial distance in an image, i.e. between each marker and animal, or some other applicable measure, possibly using a clustering method, each recognized marker is associated with one of the recognized animals, in such a way that every animal is associated with zero, one or more markers. Each animal is associated with zero or more markers, while each marker is associated with exactly one animal. It is a 1-to-n relationship between animals and markers. More concretely 1 animals to 0..n markers.

1.6 Functional Area - Annotating animals with activity cards to denote their actions

Pre-defined activity cards can be placed onto the picture to indicate which characters should engage in which activities (e.g. eating, drinking, jumping, going for a walk) during the story. (The activity cards are considered a potential feature, still to be prioritized with respect to other features and details.)

1.6.1 Work Package - Sketch and design various activity cards

1.6.2 Work Package - Experiment with various styles in terms of art

1.6.3 Work Package - Create the activity cards digitally

1.6.4 Work Package - Define and make first use of a process for producing physical activity cards

1.6.5 Work Package - Model for recognizing activity cards in terms of a multi-class classification

Implement a model for recognizing activity cards in terms of a multi-class classification, i.e. detecting an activity card and classifying it, and evaluate its performance.

1.6.6 Work Package - Advanced model for recognizing activity cards in a single drawing

Implement an advanced model for recognizing multiple activity cards in a single drawing, localize the activity cards with bounding boxes and classify each one of them. Evaluate its performance.

1.6.7 Work Package - Associate recognized activity cards with recognized animals

Using a measure of shortest spatial distance in an image, i.e. between each activity card and animal, or some other applicable measure, possibly using a clustering method, each recognized activity card is associated with one of the recognized animals, in such a way that every animal is associated with zero, one or more activity cards. Each animal is associated with zero or more activity cards, while each activity card is associated with exactly one animal. It is a 1-to-n relationship between animals and activity cards. More concretely 1 animals to 0..n activity cards.

1.7 Functional Area - Generating a children's story based on a children's drawing in text form

1.8 Functional Area - Telling a previously generated children's story using elegant text-to-speech

1.9 Functional Area - Scientific research

Continuous research for different aspects of the project for different written assignments. For example:

- Deep learning algorithms for analyzing of drawings
- AI for creative storytelling with focus on children stories
- User Interfaces for interaction between children and AI systems
- more to follow

1.10 Functional Area - Project evaluation

1.10.1 Work Package - Preparation of evaluation method

This includes the preparation of a consent form for the parents, the acquisition of child testers and scheduling of the evaluation.

1.10.2 Work Package - Evaluation of draw2story

Evaluation of the project including drawing of animals, recognizing by the system, annotation with different markers and the prompt of the final story. The aim is for a test group of 10 to 15 or more children.

1.10.3 Work Package - Analyzing of evaluation feedback

Collecting, analysing and processing the evaluation data.