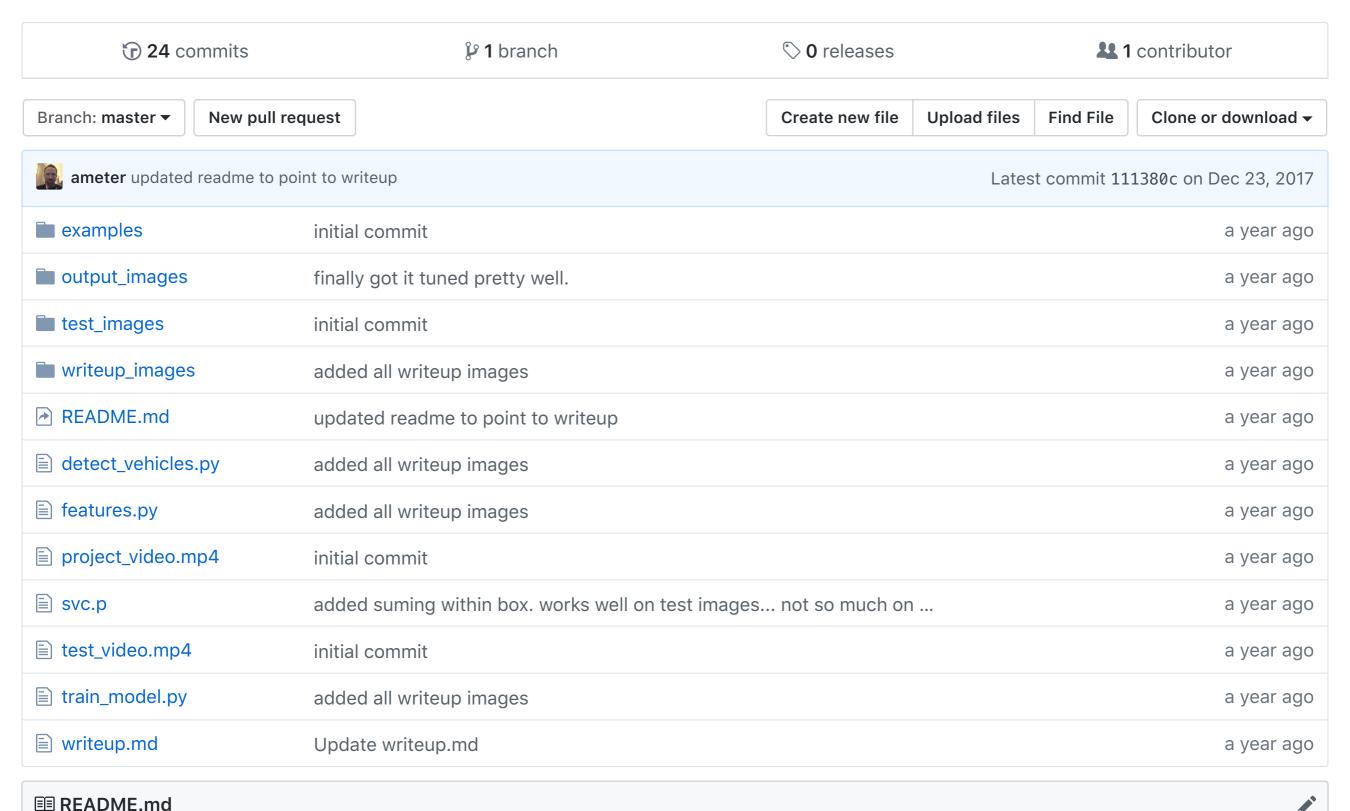
Udacity CarND Project 5

Manage topics



Vehicle Detection Project

The goals / steps of this project are the following:

- Perform a Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) feature extraction on a labeled training set of images and train a classifier Linear SVM classifier
- Optionally, you can also apply a color transform and append binned color features, as well as histograms of color, to your HOG feature vector.
- Note: for those first two steps don't forget to normalize your features and randomize a selection for training and testing.
- Implement a sliding-window technique and use your trained classifier to search for vehicles in images.
- Run your pipeline on a video stream (start with the test_video.mp4 and later implement on full project_video.mp4) and create a heat map of recurring detections frame by frame to reject outliers and follow detected vehicles.
- Estimate a bounding box for vehicles detected.

Rubric Points

Edit

Here I will consider the rubric points individually and describe how I addressed each point in my implementation.

Writeup / README

1. Provide a Writeup / README that includes all the rubric points and how you addressed each one. You can submit your writeup as markdown or pdf. Here is a template writeup for this project you can use as a guide and a starting point.

You're reading it!

Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG)

1. Explain how (and identify where in your code) you extracted HOG features from the training images.

The code for this step is contained in lines 27 through 39 of the file called _/features.py), and it's called on lines 39 and 43 of _/train_model.py .

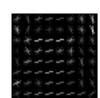
I started by reading in all the vehicle and non-vehicle images (lines 82-85 of ./train_model.py). Here is an example of one of each of the vehicle and non-vehicle classes:





I then explored different color spaces and different skimage.hog() parameters (orientations, pixels_per_cell, and cells_per_block). I grabbed random images from each of the two classes and displayed them to get a feel for what the skimage.hog() output looks like.

Here is an example using the YCrCb color space and HOG parameters of orientations=9, pixels_per_cell=8 and cells_per_block=2:



2. Explain how you settled on your final choice of HOG parameters.

I settled on my final choice of HOG parameters through trial and error. I tried various combinations of parameters and color spaces, including RGB, HSV, HLS, and YCrCb color spaces, and the above combination produced the best results, acheiving approximately 98% prediction accuracy on the test set.

3. Describe how (and identify where in your code) you trained a classifier using your selected HOG features (and color features if you used them).

I trained a linear SVM classifier (lines 112-118 of _/train_model.py) using the HOG features discussed above, as well as spatially binned color features (lines 42-46 of _/features.py) and color histogram features (lines 49-57 of _/features.py). I used GridSearchCV (lines 112-114 of _/train_model.py to optimize the C value for the linear SVM classifier.

Sliding Window Search

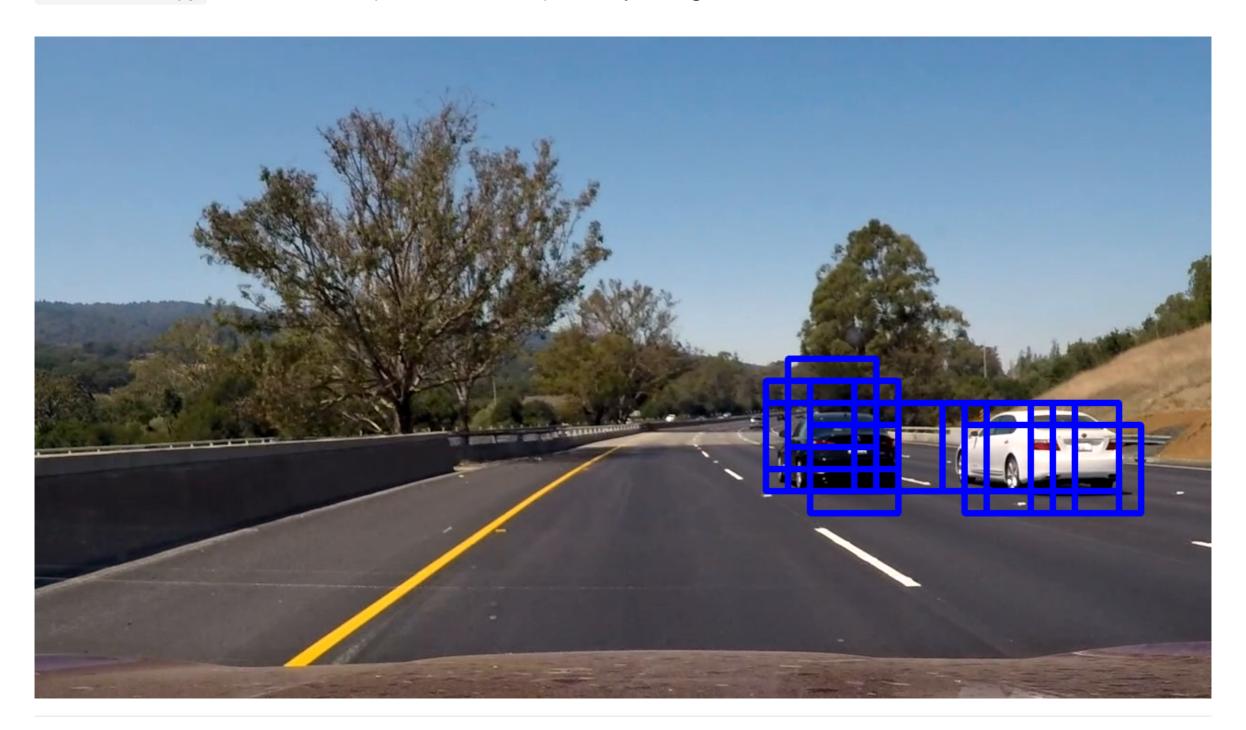
1. Describe how (and identify where in your code) you implemented a sliding window search. How did you decide

what scales to search and how much to overlap windows?

I implemented a sliding window search of in input images (lines 70-146 of ./detect_vehicles.py). I searched the region of the image from just above the horizen down to slightly in front of the camera (ystart = 350, ystop = 656) and ignored the opposite side of the road (xstart = 459). I tested different scales, and settled on a scale of 1.5.

2. Show some examples of test images to demonstrate how your pipeline is working. What did you do to optimize the performance of your classifier?

Ultimately I searched on a scale of 1.5 using YCrCb 3-channel HOG features plus spatially binned color and histograms of color in the feature vector, which provided a nice result. I used GridSearchCV (lines 112-114 of __/train_model.py to optimize the C value for the linear SVM classifier. I also normalized features using StandardScaler() (lines 94-98 of train_model.py) Here is an example of the raw output of my sliding window search:



Video Implementation

1. Provide a link to your final video output. Your pipeline should perform reasonably well on the entire project video (somewhat wobbly or unstable bounding boxes are ok as long as you are identifying the vehicles most of the time with minimal false positives.)

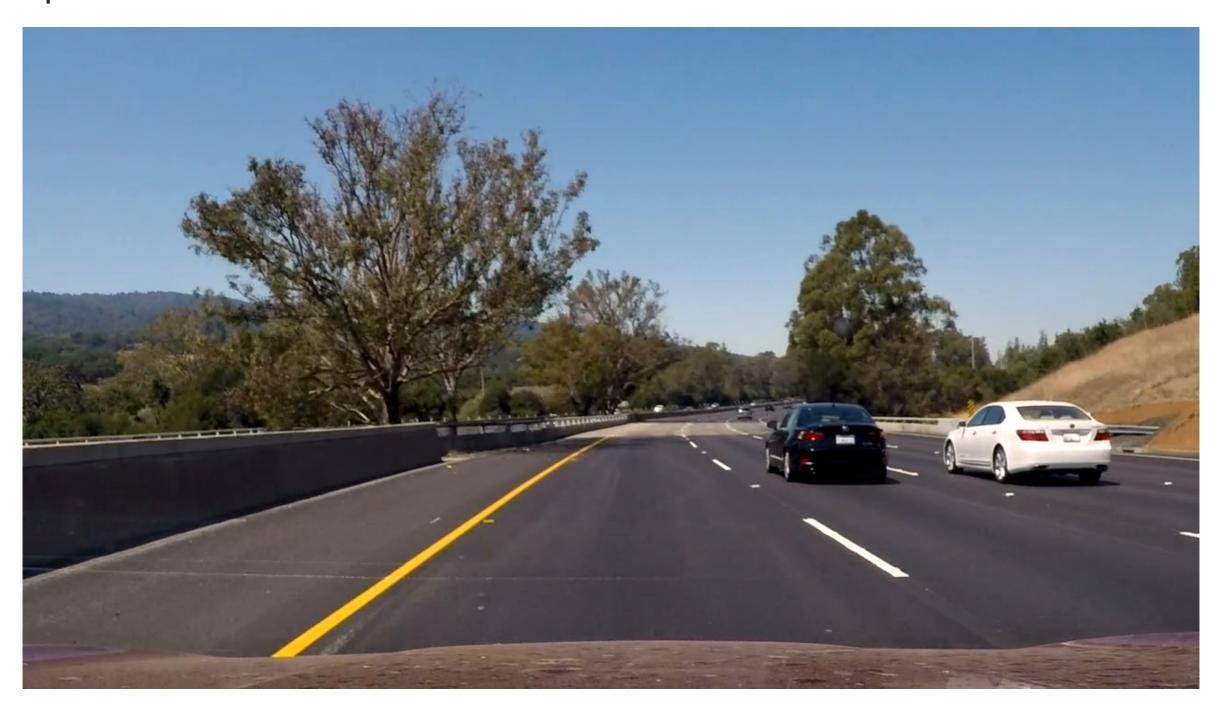
Here's a link to my video result

2. Describe how (and identify where in your code) you implemented some kind of filter for false positives and some method for combining overlapping bounding boxes.

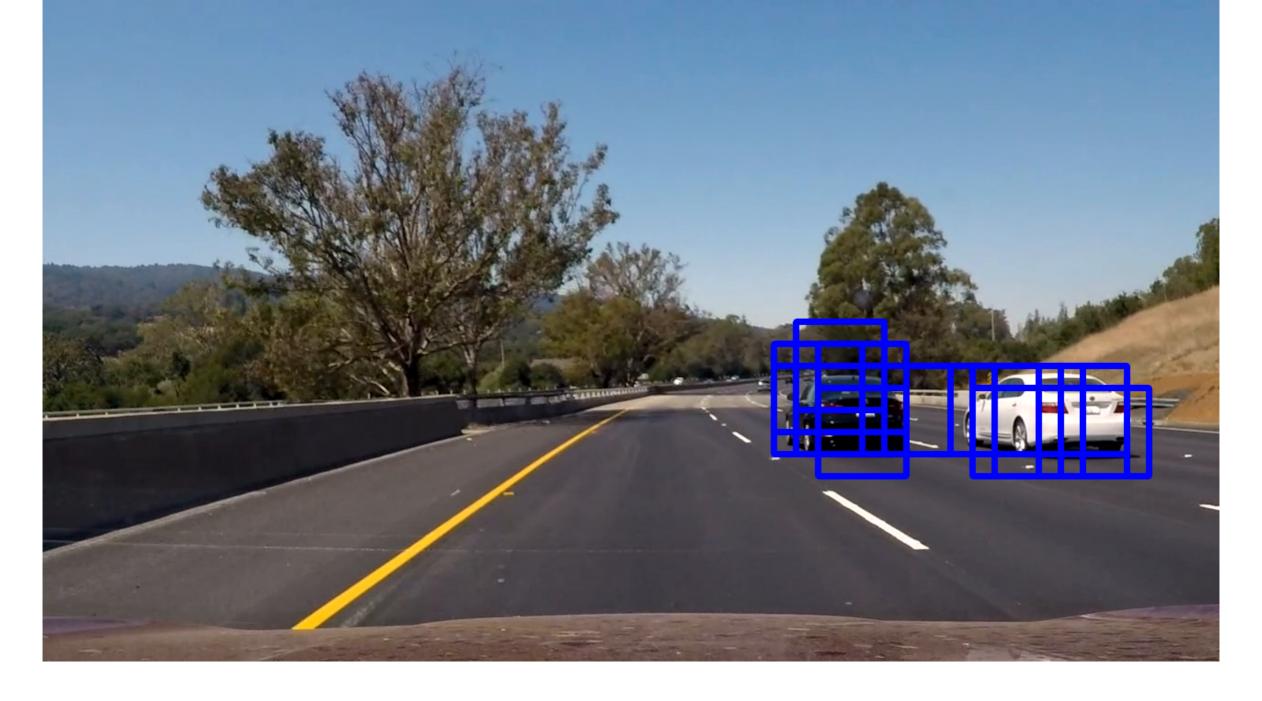
I recorded the positions of positive detections in each frame of the video (lines 137-143 of detect_vehicles.py). From the positive detections I created a heatmap (line 144 of detect_vehicles.py) and then thresholded that map to identify vehicle positions (line 164-171 of detect_vehicles.py). I then used scipy.ndimage.measurements.label() and scipy.ndimage.measurements.find_objects() to identify individual blobs in the heatmap (lines 174-175 of detect_vehicles.py). I then assumed each blob corresponded to a vehicle. I conducted a second level of false positive filtering based on the overall heat and position of the detections, determined whether they were for vehicles already being tracked, and then added the new positions to position arrays for either new or existing vehicles (lines 178-227 of detect_vehicles.py). I created a Vehicle class to maintain data on each tracked vehicle (lines 27-65 of detect_vehicles.py). Finally, I constructed bounding boxes to display the mean position of tracked vehicles smoothed over several frames (line 248 of detect_vehicles.py).

Here's an example result showing the processing pipeline for a single video frame:

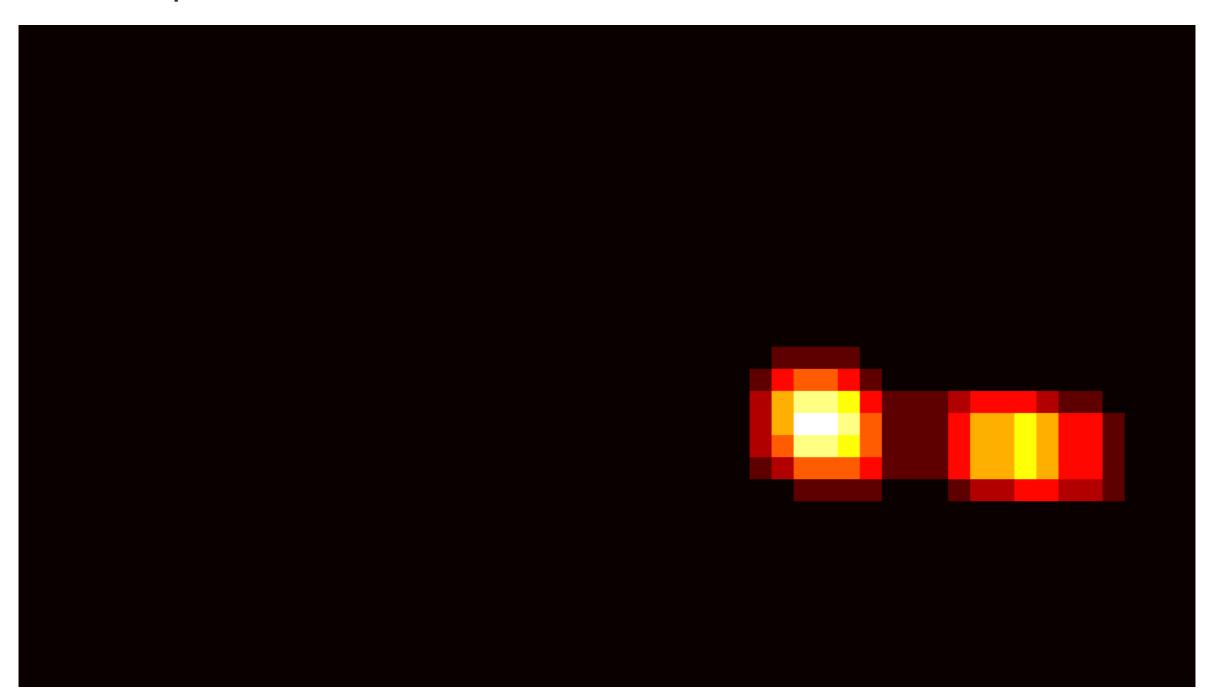
Input video frame:



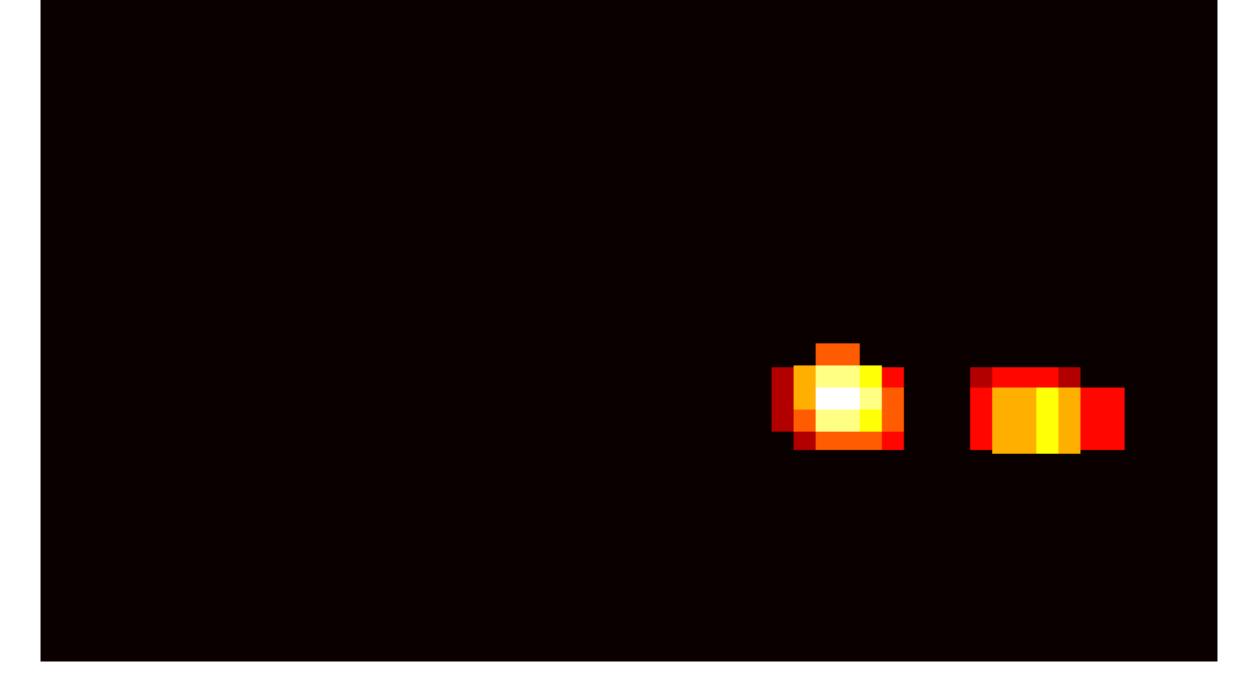
Raw Detections:



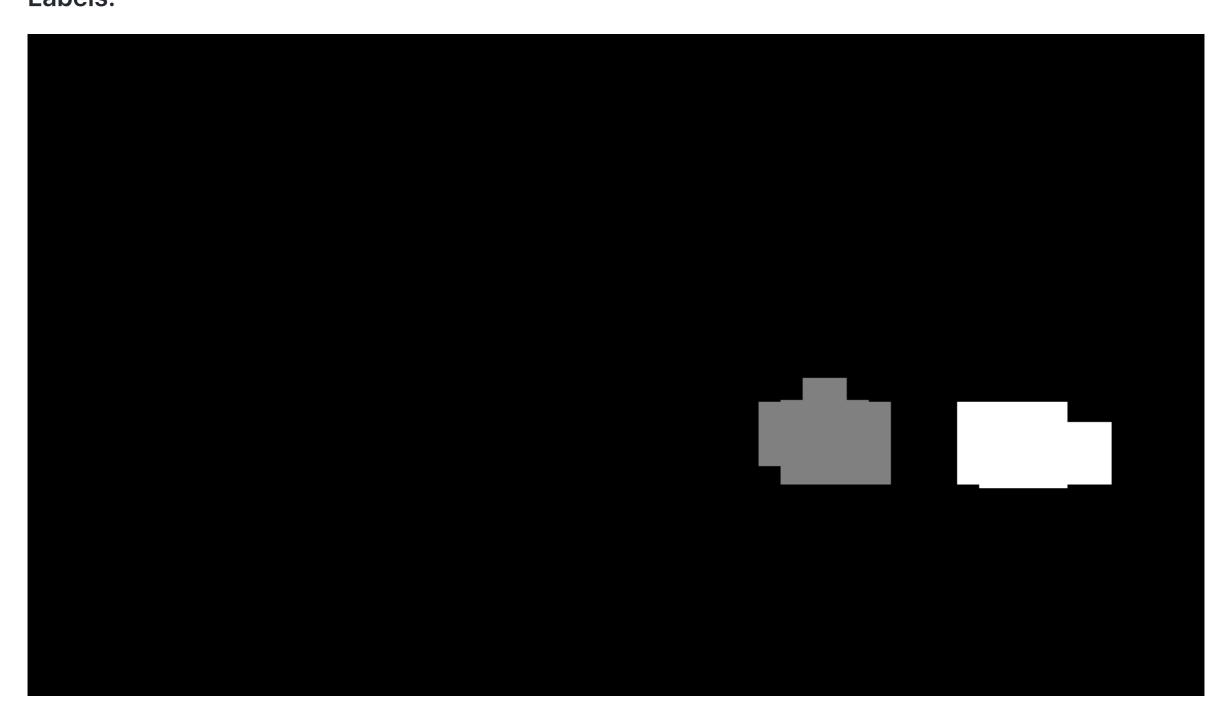
Raw Heatmap:



Thresholded Heatmap:



Labels:



Resulting bounding boxes:



Discussion

1. Briefly discuss any problems / issues you faced in your implementation of this project. Where will your pipeline likely fail? What could you do to make it more robust?

I had a lot of trouble tuning my processing and thresholding such that false positives were filtered out without filtering out without losing tracking of vehicles. I initally tried smoothing by storing several heatmaps and then combining them before passing the combined heatmap to labels(). However, I was unable to get consistently good, smooth results with this approach. Ultimately, I switched to tracking multiple positions for detected vehicles in a Vehicle class, and using that to smooth the results. This provided much better results. I also applied different heat thresholds to different regions of the image, so, for example, I applied a lower threshold to detections new the horizon than to detections closer to the camera (lines 165-172 of ./detect_vehicles.py). Finally, in addition to thresholding heat values for individual pixles, I applied a second level filter based on the total heat within a detection and the position of the detection (line 188 of ./detect_vehicles.py). These measures were helpful in achieving more consistent results.

Ultimately, my detection pipeline is tuned for the images and video included in this project. To create a more robust solution, more data, including different weather, road, lighting conditions, etc. would need to be included and tested.