# George Mason University

# DAEN 690

# Summer 2020

# **Accure Autoencoder for denoising OCR**

**DRAFT Report – 6/8/2020**

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**June 8, 2020**

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# Problem Definition

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology enables the extraction of text data from images. There are endless uses for this type of technology, from the digital processing of historical documents to the digital processing of text in personal photos. It is designed to capture numbers, letters, and punctuation and transfer these characters into data that can be searched, processed, analyzed, and stored.

OCR technology is valuable in any instance where documents or images have text. This is especially useful as society moves out of the physical document age and into the digital data space. Using OCR technology, entire archives of documents once relegated to boxes or file cabinets can instead be harvested for its digital text. OCR technology creates opportunities for non-digital text to be transformed and leveraged by other computer-enabled technologies.

This technology is not perfect, and it is difficult to translate text character images into a digital text character without some inaccuracies or errors. Image “noise,” which can occur if image resolution or coloring issues interfere with the characters, is one reason that OCR technology may have trouble reading character text.

This project aims to build a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) auto-encoder that removes image noise during the OCR process. We will evaluate the fidelity of our CNN by conducting OCR text extraction on a dataset before and after the implementation of our method.

# Assumptions

This project assumes the availability of compute resources through Google Collab and the instruction and guidance of commercial and academic stakeholders.

# Scope

Our effort will develop and implement a CNN auto-encoder for application on OCR applications. The project will be based on the development and optimization of an autoencoder that will input a set of character images and classify the images.

The project will use K-means clustering, Tesseract library (i.e., pytesseract), and denoise imager as components for this prototype. We plan to leverage Google Collab computing resources. [1]; [2]; [3]; [4]; [5]; [6]; [7]

In addition to the project prototype the project team will evaluate model(s) with respect to accuracy and performance.

# Risks

This project acknowledges the existence of facets that may negatively affect project completion. These include the unavailability of compute resources, internet access, or adequate means for team and stakeholder communication. We consider these risks to be low. Risk Matrix to follow.

# Possible Data Sources

The University of California, Irvine Machine Learning Repository hosts multiple OCR-related datasets, including handwritten digits and others. <https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets.php>

Kaggle hosts datasets associated with a competition on OCR denoising. <https://www.kaggle.com/c/denoising-dirty-documents/data>

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