

# Stopify - Real time road sign detection

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# Introduction

Our clients, ON Semiconductor requested that we research and implement computer vision algorithms to be able to detect street signs from video or still images intended to be captured from a low cost camera inside an automobile. The algorithms were required to run on low cost development boards like the Beaglebone Black and the NVIDIA Jetson TK1. ON Semiconductor recently acquired Aptina, the leading producer of CMOS image sensors and hope to enter into the Automotive Safety industry sometime in the future. They intended this to be a research project in which we can research, develop and test a variety of stop sign detection algorithms and analyze them to determine which algorithms seem most promising, which development boards are most promising and provide a base for future senior design projects to contribute to.

Our clients at ON Semiconductor were Matthew Zochert, Carl Price and Don Reid. The members of our team were Joshua Deare, Lane Breneman and Hari Caushik. Throughout the year, we each contributed to the creation of the algorithm development framework, testing framework, capturing of images and video for the test dataset and presenting our work. Our clients tracked our progress, provided suggestions for our algorithms, use of hardware, and the presentation of our work and even provided us with starter code early on to ramp up on programming with the OpenCV C++ library.

## Main Project Changes

## Weekly Blog Posts

## Project Documentation

Our project consists of four main components: the development framework, algorithms, testing framework and test dataset. The development framework provides a well defined interface to develop the computer vision algorithms and runs the algorithms on provided images and displays the output. The algorithm used by the development framework is linked based on rules provided by a Makefile. The algorithms process the images and determine whether they contain a stop sign or not. The testing framework is used to test the effectiveness of each of our algorithms based on a number of evaluation metrics. It essentially invokes the development framework and the algorithm linked to it on each image in the test dataset.

## Development Framework

**Usage** The development framework, written in `framework_images/framework_cpp/framework.cpp` from the root project directory, is a C++ program that takes a command line argument, the path of the image to process, and returns a 1 if the algorithm determined that the image contained a stop sign or a 0 if not. An optional third argument can be provided to display the image being classified. For example, to classify `framework_images/framework_cpp/pos_sample.jpg`, an image containing a stop sign, the proper usage is

```
./framework pos_sample.jpg
```

to simply return the classification result without displaying it. To display the image, this would be

```
./framework pos_sample.jpg 1
```

although the actual value of the third argument does not matter, just its presence.

**Implementation Details** The development framework includes the `framework_images/framework_cpp/algorithm.h` header file that provides the interface the algorithms must be written to. This is the `processImage` function, with the signature

```
int processImage(Mat &img);
```

The framework loads the test image from the path specified in the command line argument onto memory with the OpenCV `imread` function as follows:

```
Mat img = imread(argv[1], CV_LOAD_IMAGE_COLOR);
```

The second argument specifies the loaded image to be a 3 channel color image and the output is stored in an OpenCV `Mat` object, a wrapper around a multi-channel 2-dimensional image array.

## Algorithms

## Testing Framework

## Test Dataset

## Resources

The following resources were particularly helpful:

## What We Learned

### Hari Caushik

By contributing to this project, I learned a fair bit of technical information. I improved my C++ programming skills and gained a familiarity with the OpenCV library. In addition, I learned about the major concepts in computer vision algorithms as well as image processing techniques. Throughout this project, I also learned about software design practices and made practical use of algorithmic complexity analysis.

A lot of non-technical information was also learned by doing this project. This project required a lot of documentation at the start while we were determining the specifications, during the implementation when we documented the pseudocode and algorithmic complexity of the algorithms as well as our final report. My technical writing skills have improved as a result. We also presented our project, particularly towards the end of the year at the Engineering Expo to the general public, at ON Semiconductor to ON employees and our final presentation video.

Doing a nine month project for an actual client in industry has taught me most of all that the main challenge is carefully defining an initially very loosely defined problem. Decisions that we make early on can have a very significant effect on the way our project may turn out. I have also learned that projects in the real world are very malleable. While the high level decisions we make early on guide

our project in certain directions, specific requirements frequently change as we gain more knowledge through implementation.

This project allowed each of use to take a project management role at different times throughout the year. I learned most of all that establishing clear communication among all team members is essential to moving the project along smoothly. It is much easier to perform when each of us knows what is expected of us and have clearly defined responsibilities. When this breaks down, there tends to be a lot of confusion and consequently inaction.

## **Lane Breneman**

Before this project I had used OpenCV for object recognition. That said I had no experience working with the C++ interface and very little C++ experience in general. Through this project I learned a lot about linking libraries, creating make files and using classes in C++. On a different note I also learned a lot about SVMs and machine learning. I had attempted to use these tools but had never made much progress, but after this project I feel I have the skills to employ them in future projects.

I learned about taking notes and extracting the important information from research papers in order to reimplement their algorithms. I also learned how important communication between team members is. This largely came from the fact the two of our basic algorithms turned out to be very similar and two of our advanced algorithms are also kind of similar. This limited the variety of algorithms we explored, thus lowering the quality of the project.

Our project integrated really nicely together, a large part of this I attribute to our good design. We found that we almost never needed to fight the framework in order to get our code to run, which is nice. Even when last minute we need to make a way to export videos it took about 5 minutes to extend the framework. This reinforced the most import fact that I knew about project work, that a good design is important.

Project management was a very mixed bag for our project. In the beginning we had very good project management, planning everything, dividing work and communicating often. This lead to the best parts of out project namely the framework and testing framework. Our later work were less thought out and more divided and I feel that it can be seen in quality of the work, as our algorithms could have been better.

Communication is key. We had a really great group and I enjoyed working on the project, but for most of the term the project became mostly individual. This lead to two of our algorithms being pretty much the same. If we had communicated in more detail we could have seen this sooner and adapted.

If I could make one change I would have done 1 advanced algorithm each that we worked on over the year. By advanced I mean more complicated than even the HOG or SURF algorithms. I feel the project would of had more to show and been more rewarding if we had.

## **Joshua Deare**

## **Appendix 1: Essential Code Listings**

## **Appendix 2: Other Material**