Rendering Handwritten Equations

Martijn de Vries

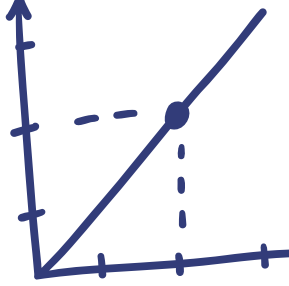Capstone Project Presentation
June 12th, 2023

Problem Statement

Develop a tool that can render handwritten equations in digital format.

Input: an image containing an equation

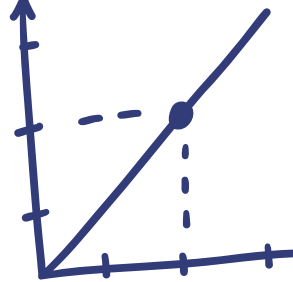**Output:** the equation in digital format, using LaTeX math notation

For example..

$$\log_2 8 + \log_3 9 + \log_4 16$$

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$$\log_2 8 + \log_3 9 + \log_4 16$$

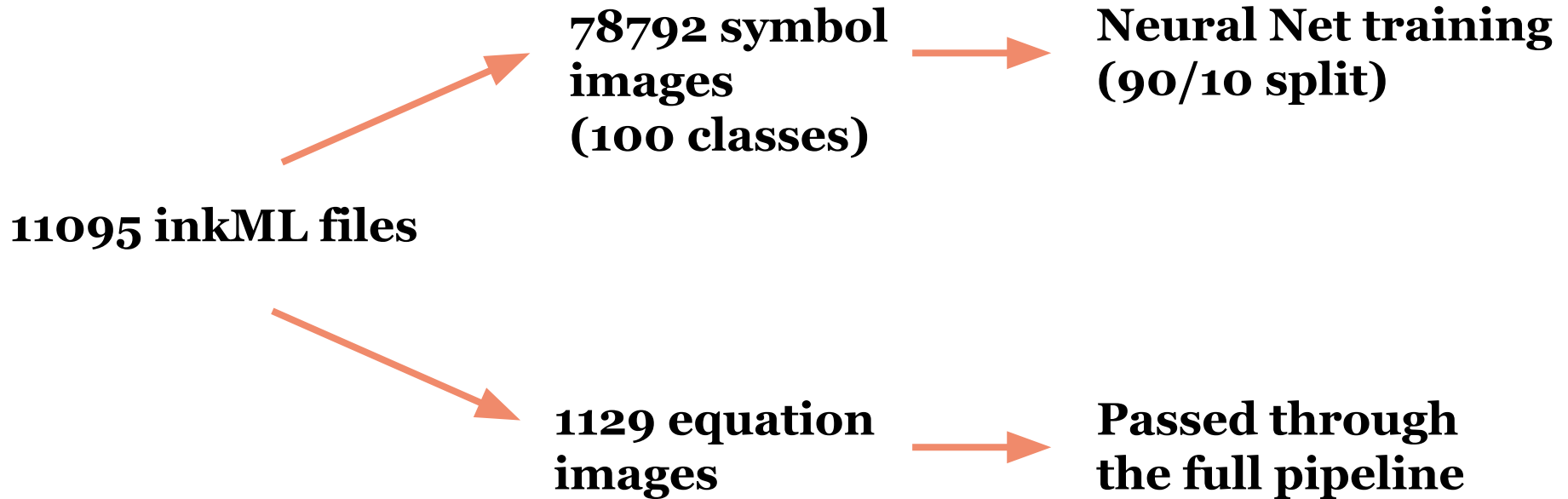# Why is this complicated?

Symbols are not just read left-to-right

$$\int_{\log 3}^{0} \frac{1}{e^t + 1}\, dt$$

Data

- **CROHME**

- **'inkML' format**

- **Full equation label**

- **Labels for each symbol**

- **100 different symbols**

$$A = \sqrt{a + \cfrac{1}{\sqrt{a + \cfrac{1}{\sqrt{a}}}}} + \sqrt{b}$$

Data Processing

78792 symbol images (100 classes) → **Neural Net training (90/10 split)**

11095 inkML files

1129 equation images → **Passed through the full pipeline**

Pipeline Overview

1. Image tresholding

Change image into black/white values

2. Resolving Symbols

Figure out the symbol on the image and their order

3. Model Prediction

Use an EfficientNetB0 CNN to predict labels

4. Rendering the equation

Stitch the predictions together into an equation
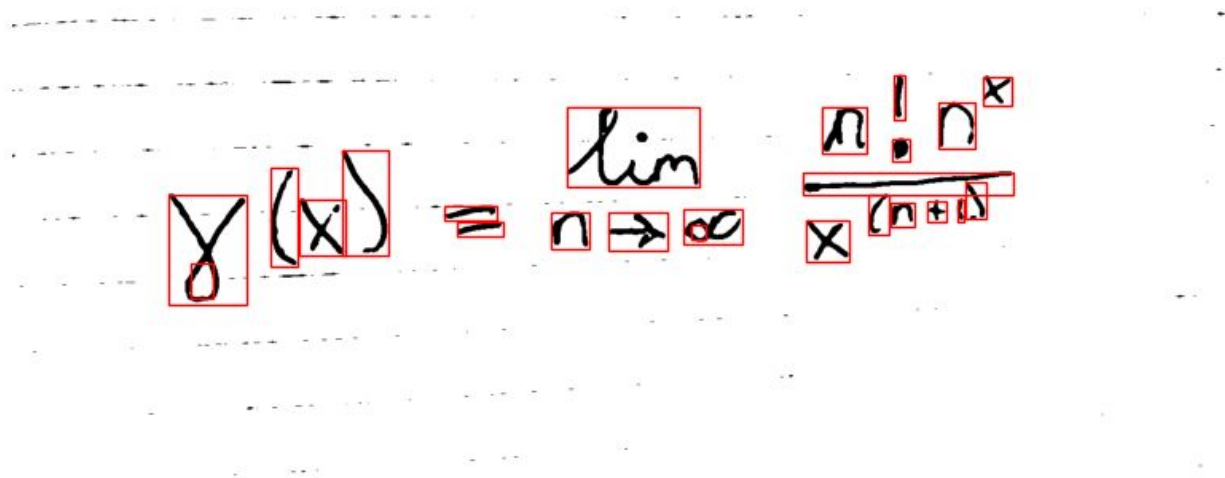
1) Image Tresholding
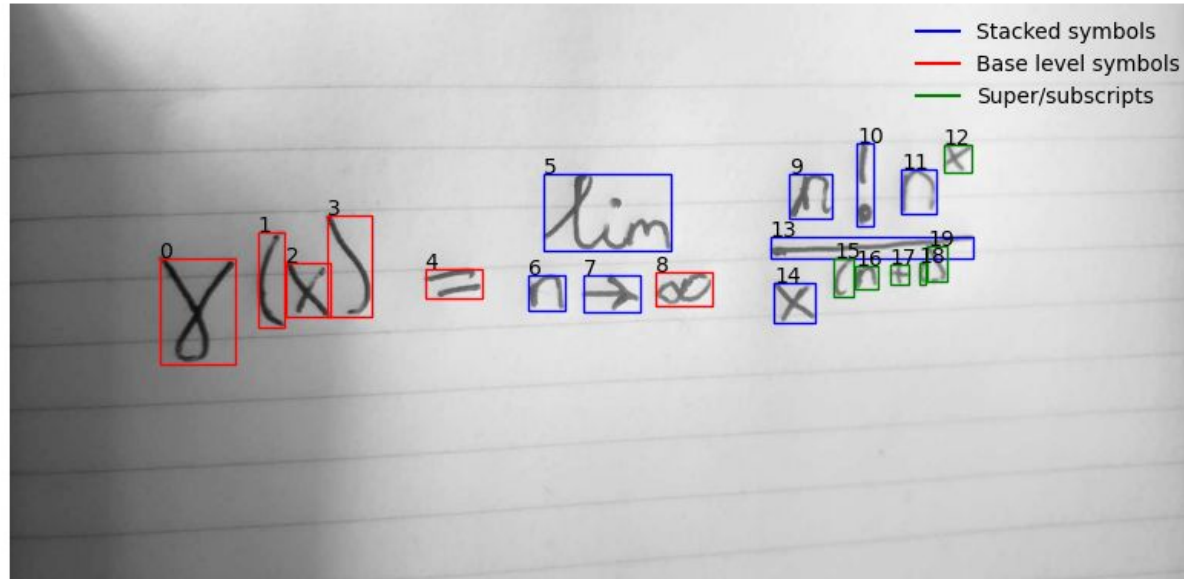

Adaptive Gaussian Tresholding

2) Resolving Symbols

Find Contours and Bounding Boxes

i) Remove Inner Contours
ii) Merge Boxes

iii) Determine Symbol order
iv) Determine Script level

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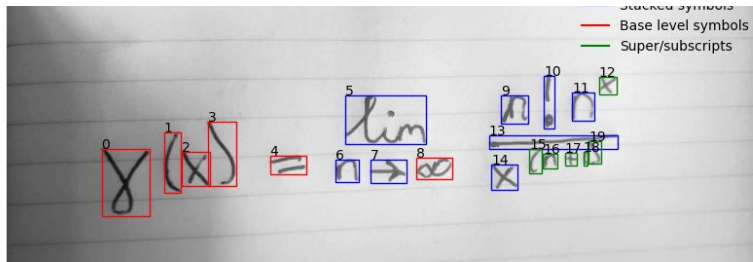
3) Model Predictions

Model: EfficientNetB0 CNN

95% accuracy on validation data
(*individual symbol images*)

Prediction Step:

Symbol Images ->
List of class labels

4) Render the Equation
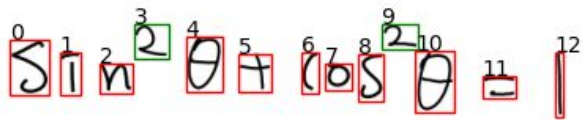

$\gamma(X)=\lim_{n-}\infty\frac{n!n^{k}}{\times^{(n+1\prime}}$

Two more examples

Stacked symbols
Base level symbols
Super/subscripts

Prediction: $\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1$

Stacked symbols
Base level symbols
Super/subscripts
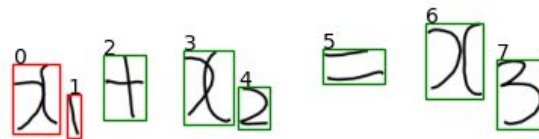
Prediction: $x1^{+x2\,^{=x}3}$

Overall Pipeline Performance

Damerau-Levenshtein distance

Eg:
'fish'<-> 'ifsh'

Edit distance = 1
normalized distance = ¼ = 0.25

DL distance	% of equations
0	**15.7%**
< 0.10	**20.9%**
< 0.50	**65.9%**

Final thoughts..
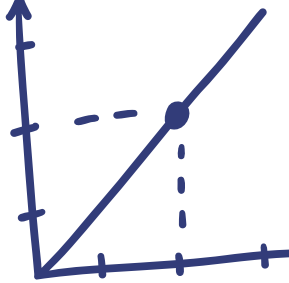
This is a difficult problem to solve!

Errors compound through the 4 pipeline steps

Different linewidths seem to make the predictions less accurate than the 95% accuracy in NN

Multiple Object Detection algorithms