ICDAR2017 Robust Reading Competition – Challenge on Multi-lingual Scene Text Detection and Script Identification

Why this new challenge in robust reading?

Text detection and recognition in a natural environment is a key component of many applications, ranging from business card digitization to shop indexation in a street. This new challenge aims at assessing the ability of state-of-the-art methods to detect multi-lingual text where a user faces various scripts and languages in a way that prevents using much a priori knowledge, as in modern cities where multiple cultures live and communicate together. This situation is also frequent when analyzing streams of contents gathered on the Internet. This challenge is therefore an extension of the previous challenges of the Robust Reading Competition (RRC) which has been held since 2003.

What is this challenge about?

The scientific challenge of this competition is comprised of the following three independent tasks:

Task-1: Multi-lingual text detection
- **Input:** complete scene image
- **Output:** word-level bounding boxes of all the text in the image

Task-2: Script identification
- **Input:** cropped word images
- **Output:** script class number

Task-3: Joint text detection and script identification
- **Input:** complete scene image
- **Output:** word-level bounding boxes of all the text in the image, and the script class number of corresponding to each box

Dataset: The dataset is composed of full scene images where an image contains text of one or more from 9 different languages representing 6 different scripts. This make the dataset useful for both text detection and script identification. The dataset contains many more images than existing scene text detection datasets. The considered languages are: Arabic, Bangla (Indian), Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Korean.

How to participate?

1. Register your interest by visiting the competition website
2. Download the training/validation sets and adapt your method(s) to the input/output file formats
3. Run your method on the test dataset and submit the results

Who are the organizers?

* Main organizer ** All in alphabetical order

****Scientific Committee:** J-C Burie, C-L Liu and J-M Ogier

****Organizers:** I. Bizid, J. Chazalon, H. Choi, Y. Feng, D. Karatzas, W. Khlif, Z. Luo, M. M. Luqman, N. Nayef*, U. Pal, C. Rigaud and F. Yin

Keywords

- Multi-script text detection
- Script identification

Important dates

❖ Feb 15 to May 31
Registration of interest

❖ Mar 31
Training set, Evaluation protocol available

❖ Apr 1 to Jun 1
Participants prepare methods on training data

❖ Jun 1
Test dataset available

❖ Jun 1 to Jul 1
Participants run methods on test set

❖ Jul 1
Participants submit results and descriptions of their methods

❖ Jul 1 to Aug 1
Organizers analyze results
Write report

❖ Nov 15
Public release of the full dataset

http://rrc.cvc.uab.es/?ch=8