# Measuring Human Perception to Improve Handwritten Document Transcription

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# Has the AI renaissance solved handwritten document transcription?

cum aure. pratil. puludib; quoq: ac falinit onib; a mari ulq: ad muros ouce autatel.7 at onib; pollellionib; poltel in monte la Stephant, plantifs 7 aure Senogalhe de une eping Senogahen, 7 Curre que ucent Trelhalilice, at caltello 98 nocatur Orgiolo at onib; hominub; 7002 bonil, et fuil panentijs, 7 Caltat Vacca rij. Caltrum Ramufert. et Caltellare filme leonel. et Caltellare Scorzaleports.

Liber septimus regestorum domini Honorii pape III

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St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. Sang. 159, p. 22 – Hieronymus, epistolae; Origenes, sermones; Cassiodorus, de anima (https://www.e-codices.ch/en/list/one/csg/0159)

## Objectives

- Segment the text
- Produce a faithful plaintext transcription of what appears on the page
- Perform machine translation
- Explore a text's broader context via distant reading

### script that hasn't been used since the 13th century

cum aure. pratil. puludib; quoq: ac falmut omib; a mari ulq: ad munos ouce cuutant?? at omib; possession; postel in monte fa Stephant, planuis?? aure Senogalhe oe une eping Senogalien?? Cure que ucat Treshafilice. at castello q8 nocatur Orgiolo at omib; hominub; 7002 bonit. et fuit puneutys.? Castra Vacca ry. Castrum Ramuscer. et Castellare film? Leonit. et Castellare Scorzaleporis.

Liber septimus regestorum domini Honorii pape III

### ligature

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Liber septimus regestorum domini Honorii pape III

### abbreviation

cum aure. pratil. puludib; quoq: ac falinit onib; a mari ulq: ad muros ouce autant?? at onib; possession; possession on the far Stephant, plantifs? aure-Senogalhe de une eping Senogalien? Oure que ucent Treshafilice. at castello q8 noenter Orgiolo at onib; hominub; 7002 bonil. et fuil panentijs. 7 Castra Vaca rij. Castrum Ramuscer. et Castellare filme leonil. et Castellare Scorzaleporis.

Liber septimus regestorum domini Honorii pape III

### "-or(um)"

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Liber septimus regestorum domini Honorii pape III

### punctuation

cum aure. pratil. puludih; quoq: ac falinit onih; a mari ulq: ad muros outecuutatel?? at onih; possession; possession on the far Stephane . plans for aure-Senogalhe de une eping Senogalien? Oure que ucent Treshafilice. at castello q8 noentur Orgiolo at onih; hominub; 7002 bonil. et fuil panentijs. 7 Castra Vacca rij. Castrum Ramuscer. et Castellare filme leonel. et Castellare Scorzaleporis.

Liber septimus regestorum domini Honorii pape III

# Machine Learning

- Learn a model for a task based on training data
- Success is often more related to data than the chosen learning algorithm
- Collecting data for problem domains where experts operate with specialized knowledge is difficult
- Special consideration for understanding what is easy and what is difficult







David Cox

### Perceptual Annotation: Measuring Human Vision to Improve Computer Vision

IEEE T-PAMI, August 2014

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# Supervised Learning

### A "sink or swim" approach



No effort to tailor the learning to the human ability to learn from particular images.

# Perceptual Annotation

- Much information about human capacities can be of direct value for machine learning:
  - Some images are learnable, and some are not.
  - Learnability varies with experience.
  - Some things are easily learned, other things take more time.
- Such detailed information reflecting human capacity is what we call a perceptual annotation.

# Visual Psychophysics

Probe psychological and perceptual thresholds through controlled manipulation of stimuli.

Careful management of stimulus construction, ordering and presentation allows for precise determination of perceptual thresholds.







# TestMyBrain.org

### 3 Alternative Forced Choice

Press the number (1, 2 or 3) corresponding to the image with the face.















### FDDB





Viola-Jones

Perceptual Annotation





Bingyu Shen

### *Verba Volant, Scripta Manent* : An Open Source Platform For Collecting Data To Train OCR Models For Manuscript Studies Digital Humanities, July 2018

### Measurements From Expert Annotators

- Bounding boxes at multiple levels
- Pixel-level annotation
- Reaction time
- Likert scale rating of difficulty

# The Homer Multi-Text Project <a href="http://www.homermultitext.org/">http://www.homermultitext.org/</a>

Digital services from the Homer Multitext project HMT: home | HMT Digital: home | browse MSS | scholia | browse MS: previous page | next page

Marcianus Graecus Z. 454 (= 822) (Venetus A), folio 12r Iliad 1-1-25

(Image linked to view zoomable up to full resolution.)



Imaging Project was directed by David Jacobs of the British Library.

Cite & Quote Image

Homeric epic Iliad A 61 Μήνιν ἄειδε θεὰ Πηληϊάδεω Άχιλήος ούλομένην ή μυρί Άχαιοῖς άλγε' ἔθηκενπολλάς δ' ίφθίμους ψυχάς Άιδι προίαψεν ήρώων· αύτοὺς δὲ ἑλώρια τεῦχε κύνεσσιν οίωνοϊσί τε πάσι· Διός δ' έτελείετο βουλήέξ ού δή τὰ πρώτα διαστήτην έρίσαντε Άτρείδης τε άναξ άνδρών και δίος Άχιλλεύςτίς τάρ σφωε θεών ἔριδι ξυνἔηκε μάχεσθαι-Αητούς και Διός υίός· ὁ γὰρ βασιλήϊ χολωθείς νούσον άνὰ στρατὸν ὡρσε κακήν- ὀλέκοντο δὲ λαοὶ. 10 ούνεκα τόν Χρύσην ήτίμασεν άρητήρα Άτρείδης- δ γάρ ήλθε θοάς έπὶ νήας Άχαιών λυσόμενός τε θύγατρα· φέρον τ' άπερείσι' άποινα· 13 στέμματ' έχων έν χερσιν έκηβόλου Άπόλλωνος 14 χρυσέψ άνὰ σκήπτρω- καὶ λίσσετο πάντας Άχαιούς-15 Άτρείδα δὲ μάλιστα δύω ποσμήτορε λαών-16 Άτρείδαί τε και άλλοι έϋχνήμιδες Άχαιοίύμιν μεν θεοί δοιεν Όλύμπια δώματ' έχοντες 18 έκπέρσαι Πριάμοιο πόλιν- εὐ δ' οἴκαδ' ϊκέσθαι-20 παίδα δ' έμοι λύσαιτε φίλην- τάδ' άποινα δεχέσθαι. 21 άζόμενοι Διός υίον έκηβόλον Άπόλλωνα-22 Ένθ' άλλοι μέν πάντες έπευφήμησαν Άχαιολ. αίδεῖσθαί θ' ί'ερῆα καὶ άγλαὰ δέχθαι ἄποινα-23 άλλ' ούκ Άτρείδη Άγαμέμνονι ήνδανε θυμώ-24 25 άλλα κακώς άφίει· κρατερόν δ' έπὶ μῦθον ἕτελλε-(urm:cts:greekLit:tlg0012.tlg001.msA:1.1-1.25)

Software version: hmt-digital 1.0.1. Data set in this service: 2014.1 publication of the Homer Multitext project archive. citeservlet is free software developed by Christopher Blackwell and Neel Smith

### Image Citation Tool

Right-click here to copy URN urn:cite:hmt:vaimg.VA012RN-0013@0.17,0.2515,0.325,0.0263 Focus on Selection | See Selection | Selection in Context

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Christopher Blackwell and Neel Smith, https://github.com/cite-architecture/ict2

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ImageArchive	set up the directories		26 days ago
ImageHandler	fixed another little glitch with the do	ockerfile.	5 days ago
Psychometric-Annotator	Added automatic processing of doc	ument images	7 days ago
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Software: https://github.com/grieggs/Psychometric-Annotator



#### Word Selector v.0.0.1

Draw a rectangle around each word. Press "C" to begin. Make sure to select each visible word in the order in which they should be read based off of the source material. When finished, press submit. The image might take a moment to load.



- [x] urn:cite2:ecod:vaimg.v1:einstift\_018r@0.4372,
- [x] urn:cite2:ecod:vaimg.v1:einstift\_018r@0.5177,
- [x] urn:cite2:ecod:vaimg.v1:einstift\_018r@0.5817,
- [x] urn:cite2:ecod:vaimg.v1:einstift\_018r@0.6211, [x] urn:cite2:ecod:vaimg.v1:einstift\_018r@0.6527,
- [x] urn:cite2:ecod:vaimg.v1:einstift\_018r@0.6837.

Document: Einsiedeln, Stiftsbibliothek, Codex 629(258), f.4r - [Jacobus de Voragine] Legenda aurea sive lombardica (http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en/list/one/sbe/0629) License: CC-BY-NC

Trace out each individual letter to segment them. To start on to the next letter click the "Add Annotation" button. Include accents with the characters they are most associated with. Press submit when finished.



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#### Character Annotator v.0.0.1

Simply input the character shown into the text box and then rate on a scale of 1-10 how difficult it was to transcribe. Click The button below to start. Note that the button might take a moment to load.









Sam Grieggs



Bingyu Shen





Brian Price

### Measuring Human Perception to Improve Handwritten Document Transcription arXiv, April 2019

# Objective: Psychophysical Loss for Neural Networks

- Incorporate measurements of human vision into the training process of a CNN
  - Original perceptual annotation approach only applied to classifiers
- Build a transcription pipeline that really works
  - Too much emphasis on beating datasets in this area

### Perceptual Annotation for a Neural Network



## Assigning Penalties for a Reading Task



## CTC Loss



### Psychophysical Loss

Calculate a psychophysical penalty for images

Sorted reaction times:

Maximum reaction time:

Psychophysical penalty:  $z_i = m - r_i$ 

 $R = \{r_1, \ldots, r_n\}$ 

 $m = \max(R)$ 

### Psychophysical Loss

 $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{psych}} =$ 

 $\sum -\log p(\mathbf{l}_i|\mathbf{y}_i) + (\epsilon_i \times z_i)$  $x_i, \epsilon_i, \mathbf{l}_i \in \mathcal{X}$ 

Associated Character Error Rate

### Network Architecture



# Another choice for transcription: CRNN Shi et al. T-PAMI 2017



## Results

He slapped himself in the face and cuffed the sides of his head. Then by degrees the rotating objects slowed, and coming into focus took the form of the furnishings in Dan Brown's living room. He stood up unsteadily and looked about the room, trying to gather his wits. Outside the dusk was settling over Dow's Lake and the heights beyond were in silhouette, already a solid black.

He slapped himself in the face and cuffed the sides of his head. Then by degrees the rotating objects slowed, and coming into focus took the form of the prinishings in Dan Brawn's living room. He stood up unsteadily and looked about the room, trying to gather his with Outside the dust was settling over Dav's Late and the heights beyond were in site sichauette, already a solid black.

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A. Fischer, V. Frinken, A. Fornes, and H. Bunke. Transcription alignment of latin manuscripts using hidden Markov models. In Proceedings of the 2011 Workshop on Historical Document Imaging and Processing, pages 29–36. ACM, 2011.

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St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. Sang. 159, p. 22 – Hieronymus, epistolae; Origenes, sermones; Cassiodorus, de anima (https://www.e-codices.ch/en/list/one/csg/0159)

# Does it work?

Input	comparing the faiture of a subaidized duke	dn's admemoria illius declaraut			
URNN	comporing the farlure of a qubsidiged dukle	domins ad memoriem illius dedarauit			
LM	composing the failure of a subsidized duke	dominus ad memoriam illius dedarauit			
GT	comparing the failure of a subsidized duke	dominus ad memoriam illius declaravit			
Input	a grey superimposition of respectability over	& missis post urum di legatis eum aduemre deuote rogard?			
URNN	a grey superimposs fion of sesectsia lity over	et missis post virum dei legatis eium ad venire devuote rogaret			
LM	a grey superimposition of sessentiality over	et missis post virum dei legatis eius advenire devote rogaret			
GT	a grey superimposition of respectability over	et missis post virum dei legatis eum advenire devote rogaret			
Input	Reoriginal colour of Sis own natural vowels,	Largutur norsimilitudinem aurifaciemus; nonhabemus aurum;			
URNN	theoriginal colocer of Sis ocern nalasal vowels,	largiatiur nossimilitudehnem auri faciemus non habemus aurum			
LM	the original coloner of his occern natural vowels,	largiatur nos similitudinem auri faciemus non habemus aurum			
GT	the original colour of his own natural vowels,	largiatur nos similitudinem auri faciemus non habemus aurum			

# What impact does psychophysical loss have?

### IAM

	CRNN			UR		
	val1	val2	test	val1	val2	test
CER (% Improvement)	3.06	5.29	4.19	5.65	8.27	4.74
WER (% Improvement)	2.83	3.73	3.76	3.65	6.46	3.47

Practical impact: average of 598 character errors and 295 word errors were eliminated

### What impact does the language model have?

### IAM

	CRNN	N W	/ Langu	age Model Correction			URNN w/ Language Model Correct					rrection
	w/o	w/o Psych. Loss		w/ Psych. Loss		w/o Psych. Loss			w/ Psych. Loss			
	val1	val2	test	val1	val2	test	val1	val2	test	val1	val2	test
CER (% Improvement )	-0.67	-0.93	-1.45	-1.02	-0.20	-1.87	-6.92	-7.36	-7.10	-4.47	-4.77	-4.95
WER(% Improvement )	27.99	24.32	24.38	27.21	24.38	23.72	22.98	22.11	21.71	27.31	25.44	23.68

### Off-the-Shelf tools popular in Digital Humanities

### St. Gall

Ocular		OCRopus		Tesser	act	CRNN + LM		URNN + LM		
	CER	WER	CER	WER	CER	WER	CER	WER	CER	WER
IAM [39]	92.83	122	33	43.1	55.71	96.10	9.7 (9.9)	30.8 (23.49)	<b>7.8</b> (7.86)	24.7 (18.71)
St. Gall [26]	90.2	143.8	71	102.4	39.71	94.74	9.1 (9.42)	35.7 (28.04)	8.7 (9.09)	30.0 (26.04)
All Latin	90.9	138.2	62.9	94.2	51.69	124.09	12.4 (12.87)	44.0 (37.4)	10.4 (10.63)	34.7 ( <b>30.51</b> )

# Where do we go after we transcribe the registers?

### Tesserae Project





Jeff Kinnison

Nozomu Okuda

				target phras	e		
	TESSERAE	verq. q. 1.423 et laetae pecudes et ovantes gutture corvi.					
	×		source phras	se .			
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	target phrase		source phrase	)	matched on	score	
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2.	verg.g.1.40 da facilem cursum atque audacibus adnue coeptis	cat. 68b.48 coeperat ad sese	Troia ciere viros,		ad, coepi	9	
3.	verg.g.1.423 et laetae pecudes et ovantes gutture corvi.	cat. 108.5 effossos oculos vo	oret atro gutture co	rvus,	guttur, coruus	9	

https://tesserae.caset.buffalo.edu/







# Supported by:

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