

Hand-designed descriptors vs. pre-trained convolutional networks: a comparison of two strategies for colour texture classification

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Outline

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- About the speaker
- Colour and texture
- Hand-designed descriptors
- Convolutional neural networks
- Experiments
- Datasets and experimental conditions
- Accuracy estimation
- Results and discussion
- Conclusions

About the speaker

About the speaker (1/2)

- **Contacts**
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- **Position:** *Professore Associato* (eqv. UK = Senior Lecturer)
 - Currently *Academic Visitor* in the School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering at City, University of London
- **Background** in Industrial Engineering (MEng Mechanical Engineering, PhD Computer-aided Design), but gradually moved to Computer Science

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About the speaker (2/2)

- **Research interests** in the area of image processing, with particular focus on:
 - Colour and texture analysis
 - Theory (*mathematics of textures*)
 - Industrial applications (*surface sorting and grading, defect detection*)
 - Biomedical applications (*histology, radiomics*)

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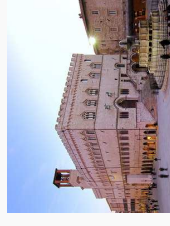
The University of Perugia

- Established in 1308;
- About 26,000 students;
- Sixteen departments:
 - Agricultural Sciences; Ancient and Modern Literatures, Languages and Cultures; Chemistry, Biology and Biotechnologies; Civil and Environmental Engineering; Economics; Engineering; Experimental Medicine; Law; Mathematics and Computer Science; Medicine; Philosophy, Human and Social Sciences; Pharmacy; Physics and Geology; Political Sciences; Surgery and Biomedicine; Veterinary.
- Ranked 1st for the fourth year in a row among the Italian universities with a student population between 20,000 and 40,000 (CENSIS, 2018)

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The city of Perugia

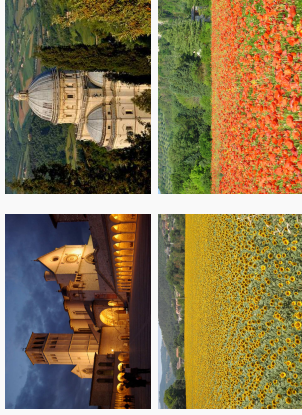


- A well-preserved medieval town
- Population of about 160,000
- Quiet and safe but culturally active
- Good environment for students

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Umbria: 'The green heart of Italy'



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Colour and texture

Colour and texture

- Colour and texture are two fundamental **visual stimuli** that determine most of the appearance of materials, objects and scenes
- **Colour**: property of a **point** or an **area**
- **Texture**: property of an **area**, related to the spatial variation of the visual appearance
- The ability to describe colour and texture plays a fundamental role in many computer-vision tasks, e.g.:
 - **Classification**
 - **Segmentation**
 - **Content-Based Image Retrieval**

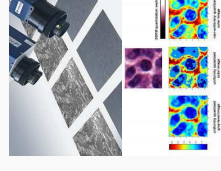
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Applications of colour texture analysis

- Colour texture analysis is of vital importance in a wide range of applications, as for instance:

- Industrial
 - Surface grading
 - Surface inspection
 - Defect detection
- Biomedical
 - Computer-assisted diagnosis
 - Tissue classification

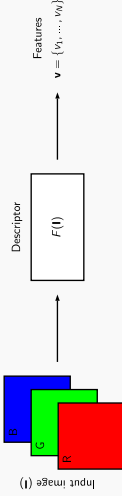


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Objective of colour texture analysis

- To extract **meaningful and discriminative** parameters from the input images (**features**)
 - The images are represented through their features
 - The features usually are the input to some kind of classifier to perform tasks as classification, segmentation or retrieval



- $N \rightarrow$ dimensionality of the descriptor

Strategies to colour texture analysis

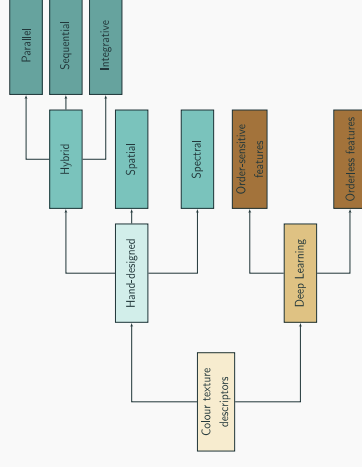
- Traditional approach:** 'hand-designed' (also referred to as 'hand-crafted' or 'engineered') features
 - Dominant from the early 70's (Haralick et al., 1973) up until not long ago
 - Defined by hand (**a priori, unlearned**)
- Convolutional Neural Networks** ('Deep Learning')
 - Increasing attention in the last few years
 - Parameters estimated by training (**a posteriori, learnt**)
 - Unprecedented performance in object, scene and face recognition
 - Not quite clear yet if/how this model can scale well to textures

Hand-designed descriptors vs. Deep Learning: an overview

Hand-designed	Deep learning
---------------	---------------

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly defined a priori (little or no training needed) Relatively intuitive / interpretable features Low computational demand Unconstrained input field Accuracy can be very dataset-dependent Need to find the right method for any specific task | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on modules and sets of free parameters (to be determined by training) Features difficult to interpret Require large datasets for training and dedicated hardware Constrained (fixed) input field Unprecedented accuracy in many tasks Generalizable results |
|--|---|

A taxonomy of colour texture descriptors



Spectral methods (colour descriptors)

- Statistical distribution of **colour only** – no spatial information
 - Rather resilient to rotation, changes in scale and/or viewpoint
 - Sensitive to illumination changes

Method	Acronym	N	Ref./Year
Mean of each channel	Mean	3	Kulkarni et al. (2003)
Mean and std. dev. of each channel	Mean+Std	6	Kulkarni et al. (2003)
Mean and 2 nd + 5 th moments of each channel	Mean+Moments	15	Léger et al. (2008)
Quartiles of each channel	Quartiles	9	Niskane et al. (2003)
256-bin marginal histogram of each channel	Marginal-Hist-256	768	Pietikainen et al. (1996)
10-bin joint colour histogram	Full-Hist-10	1000	Swain and Ballard (1991)

Spatial methods (texture descriptors) (1/2)

- Computed on the **luminance channel** – colour is discarded
 - Rather resilient to illumination changes
 - Sensitive to rotation, changes in scale and/or viewpoint (some degree of invariance can be achieved)

Method	Acronym	N	Ref./Year
Completed Local Binary Patterns	CLBP	324	Gao et al. (2010)
Gradient-Based Local Binary Patterns	GLBP	108	Jin et al. (2004)
Improved Local Binary Patterns	ILBP	213	Jin et al. (2004)
Local Binary Patterns	LBP	108	Ojala et al. (2002)
Local Ternary Patterns	LTP	216	Tan and Triggs (2010)
Texture Spectrum	TS	2502	He and Wang (1990)
Grey-Level Co-occurrence Matrices	GLCM	60	Haralick et al. (1973)
Gabor features	Gabor	70	Manjunath and Ma (1996)
Image Patch-Based Classifier	IPBC-J	4096	Varma and Zisserman (2009)
Histograms of Oriented Gradients	HOG	768	Dalal (2005)
Dense SIFT	SIFT	4096	Lowé (2004)
VZ Classifier	VZ-MR8	4096	Varma and Zisserman (2005)
Wavelet-statistical and co-occ. feats.	WSF+WCF	84	Arinazhagan and Ganesan (2003)

Spatial methods (texture descriptors) (2/2)

- *GLCM*, *HOG*, *IPBC-J*, *LBP-variants* and *SIFT*: concatenation of features computed at resolution 1px, 2px and 3px
- *Gabor*: bank of five freqs. and seven orms.; with and without DFT normalisation for rotation-invariance; with and without contrast normalisation
- *LBP-variants*: rotation-invariant features ('ri' version)
- *Wavelets*: statistical and co-occurrence features of a three-level decomposition ('haar' and 'bi-orthogonal')
- *IPBC-J*, *SIFT* and *VZ-MR8*: features aggregated over a pre-defined (external) dictionary of 4096 visual words

Hybrid methods (colour texture descriptors)

- Combine colour and texture in different ways (Palm, 2004)
 - **Parallel**: extract colour and texture separately then concatenate
 - **Sequential**: convert to single-channel then extract texture features
 - **Integrative**: extract texture features from each colour channel and/or couples of channels

Hybrid methods	Acronym	N
Improved Opponent Colour Local Binary Patterns	IOCLBP	1287
Opponent Colour Local Binary Patterns	OCLBP	648
Local Binary Patterns + Local Colour Contrast	LBP+LCC	876
Local Colour Vector Binary Patterns	LCVBP	432
Integrative Co-occurrence Matrices	ICM	360
Opponent Color features	OppColor	630

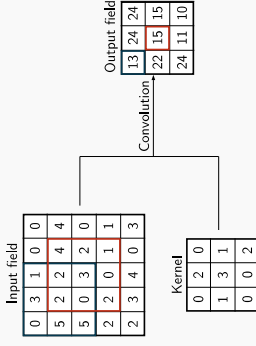
Convolutional Neural Networks: overall architecture

- Based on sets of modules that can be combined together, e.g.: **convolutional layers**, **pooling layers**, **rectifying units**, and **fully-connected layers**
- Some modules (**learnable layers**) include parameters that need to be set by training



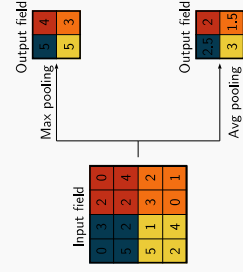
Convolutional layers

- Banks of linear filters
 - Structure of the kernel defined a priori (e.g. $3px \times 3px$)
 - Weights learned by training



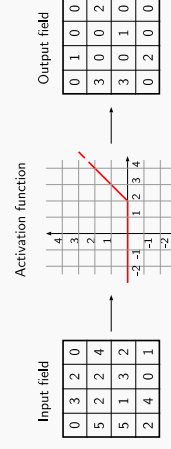
Pooling layers

- Reduce the spatial size of the representation



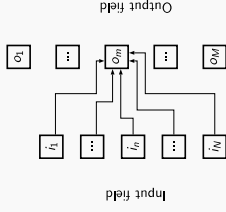
Rectifying units

- Implement some kind of activation function (e.g.: piecewise linear, hyperbolic tangent or sigmoidal)



Fully-connected layers

- Each value of the output field depends on all the values of the input field
 - Can be implemented as convolutional layer where the kernel is the same size as the input field



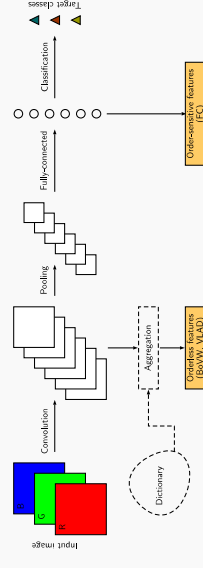
Approaches to convolutional networks

- **Full training:** the network is trained from scratch, all the parameters need to be 'learned'
 - Requires large datasets of images
 - Computationally expensive
- **Transfer learning:** take a network trained for one task (e.g. face recognition) and use it as is for another task (e.g. texture classification)
 - No training, little overhead
 - Computationally cheap
- **Fine tuning:** take a network trained for one task and optimise some of its parameters for another task
 - Requires medium-sized datasets
 - Computationally not so expensive

Pre-trained CNN as feature extractors (1/2)

- Common approaches (Cimpoi et al., 2016):
 - **Order-sensitive:** take the output of the **last fully-connected layer** ('FC', *global* representation)
 - **Orderless:** Take the output of the **last convolutional layer** and **aggregate** it over a pre-defined dictionary of visual words (*local* representation)
 - Bag of visual words ('BoVW')
 - Vector of locally-aggregated descriptor encoder ('VLAD')

Pre-trained CNN as feature extractors (2/2)



Convolutional Neural Networks: pre-trained models (1/2)

- Eleven pre-trained models (10 trained for object recognition, one for face recognition)
- Input field of 224px × 224px

Pre-trained model	No. of features	Ref./Year
GoogLeNet-FC	1024	Szegedy et al. (2015)
GoogLeNet-BoVW	1024	Szegedy et al. (2015)
CaffeNet-FC	4096	Krizhevsky et al. (2012)
CaffeNet-BoVW	4096	Krizhevsky et al. (2012)
CIFAR-10-VLAD	4224	Krizhevsky et al. (2012)
CIFAR-100-VLAD	4224	Krizhevsky et al. (2012)
ResNet-50-FC	2048	He et al. (2016)
ResNet-50-BoVW	2048	He et al. (2016)
ResNet-101-FC	2048	He et al. (2016)
ResNet-101-BoVW	2048	He et al. (2016)
ResNet-152-FC	2048	He et al. (2016)
ResNet-152-BoVW	2048	He et al. (2016)
VGG-F-FC	4096	Chatfield et al. (2014)
VGG-F-BoVW	4096	Chatfield et al. (2014)
VGG-F-VLAD	4096	Chatfield et al. (2014)

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Convolutional Neural Networks: pre-trained models (2/2)

Pre-trained model	No. of features	Ref./Year
VGG-M-FC	4096	Chatfield et al. (2014)
VGG-M-BoVW	4096	Chatfield et al. (2014)
VGG-M-VLAD	4096	Chatfield et al. (2014)
VGG-S-FC	4096	Chatfield et al. (2014)
VGG-S-BoVW	4096	Chatfield et al. (2014)
VGG-S-VLAD	4096	Chatfield et al. (2014)
VGG-VD-16-FC	4096	Simonyan and Zisserman (2015)
VGG-VD-16-BoVW	4096	Simonyan and Zisserman (2015)
VGG-VD-16-VLAD	4096	Simonyan and Zisserman (2015)
VGG-VD-19-FC	4096	Simonyan and Zisserman (2015)
VGG-VD-19-BoVW	4096	Simonyan and Zisserman (2015)
VGG-VD-19-VLAD	4096	Simonyan and Zisserman (2015)
VGG-Face-FC	4096	Parkhi et al. (2015)
VGG-Face-BoVW	4096	Parkhi et al. (2015)
VGG-Face-VLAD	4096	Parkhi et al. (2015)

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Experiments

- To investigate the effectiveness of **hand-designed descriptors** vs. **pre-trained convolutional networks** for colour texture classification
 - To evaluate accuracy with **stationary** and **non-stationary** textures
 - Under **ideal** conditions (steady acquisition settings)
 - Under **realistic** conditions (with changes in illumination, rotation, scale and/or viewpoint)

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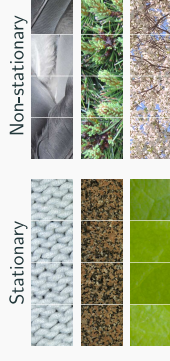
Objectives

Colour texture datasets

- **Fifty-eight datasets** of colour textures from **31** image repositories
 - Generic textures (materials and scenes)
 - Biomedical textures
- **Ten experimental conditions** depending on:
 - The stationariness of the texture – i.e: stationary vs. non-stationary
 - The presence/absence of variations in the imaging conditions such as changes in **illumination**, **rotation**, **viewpoint** and/or **scale**

Stationary vs. non-stationary textures

- **Stationary texture:** 'an image which contains a single type of texture ... and so its local statistical properties are the same everywhere' (Petrou and Garcia Sevilla, 2006)



Variations in the imaging conditions

Symbol	Imaging conditions	Abb.
None	Steady	N
	Variable illumination	I
	Rotation	R
	Changes in scale	S
	Change in viewpoint	–
–	Multiple variations	M

Group #1: Stationary textures acquired under steady imaging conditions (1/2)

- Twenty-five datasets

Name	Var.	Sample images	Name	Var.	Sample images
ALOT (95)	None		Parquet (38)	None	
CBT (100)	None		PlantLeaves (20)	None	
Diesel (18)	None		RawFoot (68)	None	
KyllbergSimons (25)	None		STex (202)	None	
MET (120)	None		USPTex (137)	None	
MondialMarini (25)	None		VisTex (69)	None	
Outex (192)	None		V2C-T5G (42)	None	

Group #1: Stationary textures acquired under steady imaging conditions (2/2)

Name	Var.	Sample images	Name	Var.	Sample images
BioMediTechRPE (4)	None		Kathier (8)	None	
BreakHis0X (2)	None		LiverAgeing (4)	None	
BreakHis100X (2)	None		LiverGender-AL (2)	None	
BreakHis200X (2)	None		LiverGender-CR (2)	None	
BreakHis400X (2)	None		Lymphoma (3)	None	
Episroma (2)	None				

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Group #2: Non-stationary textures acquired under steady imaging conditions

- Eight datasets

Name	Variations	Sample images
ALOT (40)	None	
ForestSpecies (112)	None	
MBT (34)	None	
NewBarkTex (6)	None	
Outex (59)	None	
STex (141)	None	
USPTex (33)	None	
VisTex (78)	None	

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Group #3: Stationary textures acquired under variable illumination

- Five datasets

Name	Variations	Sample images
ALOT-95-S-I	5x	
Outex-192-S-I	3x	
RawFoot-698-S-I	4x	
RawFoot-698-S-I2	6x	
RawFoot-698-S-I3	3x	

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Group #4: Non-stationary textures acquired under variable illumination

- Two datasets



Name	Variations	Sample images
ALOT-60-NS-I	5x	
Outex-59-NS-I	3x	

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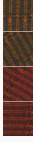
Group #5: Stationary textures with rotation

- Four datasets

Name	Variations	Sample images
ALOT-95-S-R	4× 	
KyllbergSimom-25-S-R	4× 	
MondalMiami-25-S-R	4× 	
Outex-192-S-R	4× 	









Group #6: Non-stationary textures with rotation

- Two datasets

Name	Variations	Sample images
ALOT-40-NS-R	4× 	
Outex-59-NS-R	4× 	

Group #7: Stationary textures with variations in scale

- Four datasets

Name	Variations	Sample images
KTH-TIPS-10-S-S	9× 	
KTH-TIPS20-11-S-S	9× 	
Outex-192-S-S	4× 	
BreakHis-2-S-N	4× 	









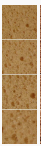









Group #8: Non-stationary textures with variations in scale

- One dataset

Name	Variations	Sample images
Outex-59-NS-S	4× 	

Group #9: Stationary textures acquired under multiple variations

- Six datasets

Name	Variations	Sample Images
CURat-6L-S-M	 	
Falrics-1968-S-M	 	
KTH-TIPS-10-S-M	 	
KTH-TIPS2b-1L-S-M	 	
LMT-9M-S-M	 	
RDAD-27-S-M	 	

Group #10: Non-stationary textures acquired under multiple variations

- One dataset

Name	Variations	Sample Images
DTD-47-NS-M	  	

Experimental set-up

- Supervised image classification (10 experiments, one for each experimental condition)
- Accuracy estimation based on split sample validation with stratified sampling:
 - A fraction f of the samples of each class for training the classifier (**train set**)
 - The remaining fraction $(1 - f)$ for accuracy estimation (**test set**)
 - Results averaged of 100 random splits into train and test set
 - $f = 1/8$
- Classifier: nearest-neighbour rule with L_1 ('cityblock') distance

Evaluation protocol

- For each dataset a **ranking** was computed through an **all-play-all** tournament
 - **Win:** +1 point
 - **Draw:** 0 points
 - **Loss:** -1 point
- Win (loss) assigned if the accuracy of one descriptor was significantly higher (lower) than the other's
 - Non-parametric Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney rank sum test ($\alpha = 0.05$)
- Across-dataset ranking obtained by summing up the points that every descriptor obtained in each dataset

Results and discussion

Overall ranking: ten best CNN-based descriptors

Descriptor	Average accuracy*	Average rank*	Overall position
ResNet-50-FC	83.6	63.1	1
ResNet-101-FC	83.2	62.5	2
ResNet-152-FC	83.1	61.8	3
VGG-VD-16-FC	80.3	58.0	4
VGG-VD-19-FC	79.9	56.7	5
VGG-M-FC	78.6	56.5	6
VGG-S-FC	78.4	55.8	7
VGG-F-FC	77.6	54.5	8
VGG-S-VLAD	75.8	51.4	10
Caffe-Alex-FC	75.8	50.8	11

* Results averaged over the 10 datasets

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Overall ranking: ten best hand-designed descriptors

Descriptor	Average accuracy	Average rank	Overall position
IOCLBP	73.9	51.8	9
OCLBP	72.3	47.7	13
ICM ^{DTT}	69.9	42.9	16
LCVBP	69.6	42.9	17
Full-Hist-10	69.3	40.7	19
ICM	68.4	38.7	21
SIFT-BoVW	68.8	38.1	23
Marginal-Hists-256	66.4	38.1	24
ILBP	67.6	38.0	25
LBP+LCC	67.3	37.6	26

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Experiments #1 and #2: steady conditions

Type of texture	Hand-designed		CNN-based	
	Competitive	Best methods	Competitive	Best methods
Stationary	Yes	IOCLBP (91.9%) OCLBP (91.5%)	Yes	ResNets-50-FC (91.2%) ResNets-101-FC (90.5%)
Non-stationary	Nope	LCVBP (82.1%) IOCLBP (78.6%)	Yes	ResNets-50-FC (87.9%) ResNets-101-FC (87.1%)

*Figures between parentheses indicate average accuracy

**Competitive yes/nope indicates a difference > 5pp between the best hand-designed descriptor and the best CNN-based method

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Experiments #3 and #4: variable illumination

Type of texture	Hand-designed		CNN-based	
	Competitive	Best methods	Competitive	Best methods
Stationary	Nope	SIFT (87.1%) IOCLBP (84.4%)	Yes	ResNet-50-FC (94.8%) ResNet-101-FC (94.4%)
Non-stationary	Nope	SIFT (72.4%) IOCLBP (71.6%)	Yes	ResNet-50-FC (84.8%) ResNet-101-FC (84.0%)

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Experiments #5 and #6: rotation

Type of texture	Hand-designed		CNN-based	
	Competitive	Best methods	Competitive	Best methods
Stationary	Yes	IOCLBP (97.2%) IOCLBP (96.8%)	Yes	ResNet-50-FC (95.1%) ResNet-101-FC (95.9%)
Non-stationary	Yes	Full-Hist-10 (84.4%) IOCLBP (82.4%)	Yes	ResNet-50-FC (84.6%) ResNet-50-FC (83.9%)

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Experiments #7 and #8: changes in scale

Type of texture	Hand-designed		CNN-based	
	Competitive	Best methods	Competitive	Best methods
Stationary	Nope	Marginal-Hist-256 (76.2%) Full-Hist-10 (74.9%)	Yes	ResNet-101-FC (86.0%) ResNet-152-FC (85.5%)
Non-stationary	Yes	Full-Hist-10 (73.3%) Marginal-Hist-256 (73.2%)	Yes	ResNet-50-FC (70.4%) ResNet-152-FC (69.5%)

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Experiments #9 and #10: multiple variations ('in the wild')

Type of texture	Hand-designed		CNN-based	
	Competitive	Best methods	Competitive	Best methods
Stationary	Nope	IOCLBP (67.0%) IOCLBP (66.3%)	Yes	ResNet-152-FC (83.6%) ResNet-101-FC (83.4%)
Non-stationary	Nope	SIFT (31.6%) VZ-MRE (27.8%)	Yes	ResNet-50-FC (60.8%) ResNet-152-FC (60.4%)

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Computational demand

- Hand-designed descriptors approximately as fast as CNN-based methods in feature extraction
- CNN-based methods slower in classification (longer feature vectors)

Discussion (1/2)

- Results generally favourable to the **CNN-based** methods
 - Consistent with Napolitano (2017)
- Features from **fully-connected layers** better than features from convolutional layers
 - In line with Cusano et al. (2016)
 - Significantly different from Cimpoi et al. (2016)
- Colour variants of LBP (IOCLBP, OCLBP) best among the hand-crafted methods

Discussion (2/2)

- | Hand-designed methods | CNN-based descriptors |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good with stationary textures and steady imaging conditions• Non-competitive with non-stationary textures and large variations in the imaging conditions• Accuracy strongly dependent on the experimental conditions: no all-purpose method, need to find the right descriptor for each specific task | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good accuracy both with stationary and non-stationary textures• Resilient to changes in the imaging conditions• Stable performance across different experimental conditions (ResNet always best model) |

Conclusions






Conclusions

- The use of pre-trained convolutional neural networks as generic feature extractors is a **viable** approach to colour texture classification
- **Pre-trained CNNs**
 - Good with **non-stationary** textures and in the presence of **multiple variations** in the imaging conditions
- **Hand-designed descriptors**
 - Competitive with **stationary textures** and **steady** imaging conditions

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



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



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
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


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


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