TrueType Transformer: Character and Font Style Recognition in Outline Format

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Introduction

Outline is formed by control points



- On-curve point $oldsymbol{\circ}$
- Off-curve point •

Explained later

Each contour is a sequence of control points



Each contour is a sequence of control points



Two types of control points

- On-curve point = Passing points and corners
- Off-curve point = Curvature control point



Combination of these types realizes fine and various contour shapes

#Control points is (very) variable



Outline is resolution-free





Why, how, and when

- Why (merits)
 - Resolution-free recognition
 - Fine shape structure (good for style recognition)
- How (methodology)
 - Transformer, for dealing with variable-length sequences
- When (applications)
 - Direct character recognition of born-digital documents
 - Font style recognition

Proposed method: TrueType Transformer (T³)



Experiments

Google fonts[*] (True Type Font format)



• Followed STEFANN[**] for data split.

[*]https://github.com/google/fonts

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[**] Roy P. et al., "STEFANN: Scene Text Editor using Font Adaptive Neural Network", CVPR(2020)



Character recognition accuracy



Font style recognition accuracy



Control points with larger attentions

| | Sans serif | Serif | HandW | Disp |
|------------------------|------------|-------|-------|------|
| All points | | | | |
| Character recognition | AB | A.B. | A.B. | A.B |
| Font style recognition | ÅB | ÅB | A | B |

Attention regardless of the styles



Character recognition focuses on the bottom

| | Sans serif | Serif | HandW | Disp |
|------------------------|------------|-------|--------|------|
| All points | | | | |
| Character recognition | AB | A.B. | | A B |
| Font style recognition | ÅB | ÅB | AB-000 | B |





T³ can accept a sequence of an arbitrary number of control points

- For the outline-based recognition, we developed T³ which is a Transformer-based classification model.
- The outline format is suitable for font style recognition.

| | Sans serif | Serif | HandW | Disp |
|------------------------|------------|-------|---|------|
| Font style recognition | ÅB | ÅB | 6006 9 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 5 - | B |

T³ can use the fine structure of the font shape.