RORD: A Real-world Object Removal Dataset

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Abstract

Various convolutional neural networks (CNNs)-based image inpainting techniques have been actively studied to remove unwanted objects or restore missing parts in recent years. The common standard for training image inpainting CNNs is synthesising hole regions on the existing datasets, such as ImageNet and Places2. However, from the viewpoint of the object removal task, such a methodology is suboptimal because actual pixels behind objects, *i.e.*, "ground truth", cannot be used for training. Facing this problem, we introduce Real-world Object Removal Dataset (RORD), a large-scale collection of image pairs with and without objects. RORD consists of a wide range of real-world scenes, plus two types of pixel-accurate annotations, *i.e.*, object mask and segmentation map. Our dataset allows existing image inpainting models to be trained accurately as well as evaluated with high confidence. In this paper, we describe in detail how the dataset is constructed and demonstrate the validity and usability of RORD. RORD is publicly available at https://github.com/Forty-lock/RORD

1 Introduction

In recent years, research attention towards image inpainting for image restoration and object removal has grown faster. Unlike classic image inpainting methods that require human labour or expert knowledge to complete missing image content, recent convolutional neural network (CNN)-based methods have made it possible to reconstruct plausible pixels automatically. Advanced image inpainting technology has already come close to our lives.

Existing deep learning-based image inpainting methods [2, 13, 14, 15, 20, 27, 27, 27, 28] require pairs of inpainting masks and ground truth images with the pixel values in the masks for training. A common practice is creating a hole region of the desired size and shape on the image and using the original image as the ground truth for supervision. Existing image datasets, such as ImageNet [3] and Places2 [23], have thus been used to generate a training

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Figure 1: Toy example for the object removal task: (a) Input image containing the object to be removed (plane), (b) object-removed image, (c) and (d) object removal results. The PSNRs are obtained as 21.10 and 18.69 for (c) and (d), respectively. This inconsistency misleads the training and performance evaluation of inpainting models.

dataset. However, this practice has an obvious drawback when applied to the object removal task. Object removal aims to erase the specified object and fill the hole region such that the region blends seamlessly with the surrounding background. Under the common practice, the ground truth pixels for the hole region are still object pixels. Consequently, inpainting networks are unavoidably trained to synthesise these object pixels, which is not desired for the target task of object removal. Figure 1 depicts a toy example of object removal. Figures 1(c) and (d) show two different inpainting results for the input image and object mask in Figures 1(a) and (b). It is evident that Figure 1(d) is better than Figure 1(c) from the perspective of object removal. However, in terms of the standard performance measure of the peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR), Figures 1(c) and (d) have 21.10 dB and 18.69 dB, respectively. In other words, Figure 1(c) is evaluated to be a better result than Figure 1(d), misleading not only the model training but also performance benchmarking.

This paper introduces the Real-world Object Removal Dataset (RORD), which is the first large-scale real-world image dataset specialised for the object removal task. To the best of our knowledge, RORD is the only dataset that contains a sufficient number of images with and without the objects in the scene. RORD consists of 516,709 images captured under 3,447 unique scenes. Each scene belongs to one of 55 outdoor and 32 indoor categories and has the corresponding ground truth image without objects to be removed. Moreover, two types of pixel-wise annotations are provided for all images: binary object masks and semantic segmentation maps consisting of 42 classes. The images and abundant annotations of RORD are publicly available for researchers to accelerate their studies.

Our contributions are summarised as follows:

- We release RORD, the first real-world image dataset that is specialised for object removal, containing a pair of images with and without objects.
- RORD supports a large number of images captured under a wide variety of indoor and outdoor real-world environments and contains objects of various sizes and classes.
- The two types of pixel-accurate annotations, *i.e.*, object masks and segmentation maps, are further provided to advance the field of image inpainting and other related tasks.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Image Inpainting

Image inpainting techniques can be divided into two approaches: traditional and learningbased approaches. In the traditional approach, diffusion-based methods $[\mathbf{D}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{m}]$ propagate



Figure 2: Three examples of video clips in our RORD. For each clip, with corresponding segmentation maps, we present a ground truth image (first column) without objects as well as object-containing images.

the information from the neighbouring regions to the hole regions, while patch-based methods $[\square, \square, \square, \square, \square]$ paste patches sampled from the background regions into the missing regions. Especially, Barnes *et al.* introduced a fast approximate nearest neighbour patch search algorithm, called PatchMatch $[\square]$. However, the traditional methods have limited performance since they cannot consider semantic information or global structure.



Figure 3: Examples of the image pairs and segmentation maps with and without objects. In the first row, each image contains a person or airplane as a target object to be removed. The second row shows background images without target objects.

| Charateristic | | Number | Rate(%) | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|--|
| | | 516,705 | 100 | |
| Location | Outdoor | 334,376 | 64.7 | |
| | Indoor | 182,329 | 35.3 | |
| Object proportion | $\sim 10\%$ | 121,453 | 23.5 | |
| | $10\%\sim 20\%$ | 122,873 | 23.7 | |
| | $20\%\sim 30\%$ | 103,905 | 20.1 | |
| | $30\% \sim$ | 168,474 | 32.7 | |

Table 1: Image distributions in terms of location and object proportion. RORD provides a sufficient number of images for each level, making it especially useful to train object removal models robust to scenes and object sizes.

tion, but also utilises the fine-grained details captured by edge extraction. Moreover, these methods could not evaluate their models with the conventional metrics such as PSNR and SSIM [24, 51].

2.2 Datasets for Image Inpainting

Various vision datasets can be employed for deep-learning-based image inpainting. Indeed, state-of-the-art image inpainting methods have used popular large-scale datasets developed for image classification, such as ImageNet [3] and Places2 [23]. By creating rectangular or free-form holes in the image, hole and mask images are obtained to be used as input for training or evaluation. The original image without holes serves as the ground truth. Although this procedure is simple as well as effective for general image inpainting, there is a glaring error in its application to remove dispensable objects. When the entire object belongs to the hole, the ground truth image still contains the object that cannot and should not be restored. These mismatched pairs lead to miscalculated losses resulting in inaccurate learning of models. Moreover, since there is no segmentation information, these datasets cannot be employed at all for the evaluation of object removal tasks. On the one hand, object segmentation datasets like MS-COCO [12] or cityscapes [5] easily derive hole images masking the object, but there are still no correct ground truth images with objects removed.



Figure 4: Image statistics in terms of scene categories for the outdoor (top) and indoor (bottom) environments. The Same colored bar means the same category. The outdoor dataset consists of 55 subcategories for 12 scene categories. Several infeasible categories are excluded for the indoor environments, resulting in 32 subcategories for 9 scene categories.

3 Real-world Object Removal Dataset

3.1 Dataset Statistics

RORD consists of 516,705 images captured under 3,447 unique scenes. Each scene was first captured without any target objects, serving as a ground truth image for object removal. Then, the same scene was captured multiple times with the target objects at different positions. In this manner, RORD provides real image pairs with and without objects, which are vital for the supervised learning of object removal models. We collected full HD videos and equalised their resolution to 1920×1080 . The high-resolution images of RORD leave a greater room for posterior data augmentation. Figure 2 shows three scenes in RORD. As can be seen, we captured controlled scenes without any camera motion and located target objects at multiple positions such that multiple image pairs can be provided for each scene. Figure 3 shows more examples of the images with and without the objects. To maximise the diversity of the dataset, we define 12 scene categories: Sports, business, activity, leisure, pet, animal, vehicle, flight, ship, two-wheeler, things, and others. Figure 4 shows image distributions for outdoor and indoor environments. The outdoor dataset consists of 55 subcategories for 12 scene categories. Several infeasible categories are excluded for the indoor environments, resulting in 32 subcategories for 9 scene categories. In total, RORD provides 334,376 outdoor and 182,329 indoor images, which are sufficient to train object removal networks.

In addition, RORD supports images composed of objects of various sizes. The object size is classified into four different levels: ~10%, 10~20%, 20~30%, and 30%~, according



Figure 5: Number of pixels per annotation labels, which are grouped by scene categories and sorted according to the frequency for each category. The pixel distribution of semantic classes is widely spread over diverse classes.



Figure 6: Examples of the object masks in RORD. We annotate the object with an enough margin for each image (as highlighted in yellow) and generate a binary mask to cover the object and artifacts from it completely.

to the proportion of the number of pixels in the object over the number of pixels in the image. As shown in Table 1, RORD provides a sufficient number of images for each level, making it especially useful to train object removal models robust to object sizes.

Last, to boost the performance of deep neural networks, elaborate data augmentation or post-processing is frequently applied. To support any desired data processing, we distribute full HD images without applying any post-processing. We intend to leave the choice of optimal handling of our images to researchers who deploy our dataset.

3.2 Annotations

RORD provides binary object masks to indicate object pixels to be removed, which are usually assumed as given in the image inpainting task. In general, object mask is generated from the segmentation label. However, the object mask from the segmentation map does not completely cover the object and artifacts from it. For complete object removal, not only the objects but also their reflection and shadow need to be annotated. As shown in Figure 6, our object masks cover whole objects with proper margins. By using the object mask in RORD, object removal models can be evaluated properly.

Having pixel-wise semantic labels extends the feasibility of the dataset by allowing the development of various vision applications and multi-modal tasks. In this regard, RORD

| | | MS-COCO | | Places2 | | RORD | |
|------------------|------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | PSNR | SSIM | PSNR | SSIM | PSNR | SSIM |
| Deepfill-v1 [27] | PASCAL-VOC | 17.01 | 0.774 | 17.10 | 0.777 | 16.87 | 0.773 |
| | MS-COCO | 19.17 | 0.832 | 19.25 | 0.835 | 19.07 | 0.831 |
| | RORD | 24.43 | 0.864 | 24.49 | 0.868 | 24.81 | 0.869 |
| Partial Conv [| PASCAL-VOC | 16.59 | 0.745 | 17.03 | 0.770 | 16.78 | 0.755 |
| | MS-COCO | 18.81 | 0.812 | 19.24 | 0.830 | 18.81 | 0.814 |
| | RORD | 24.00 | 0.854 | 24.39 | 0.860 | 24.65 | 0.861 |
| Deepfill-v2 [27] | PASCAL-VOC | 16.88 | 0.774 | 17.01 | 0.776 | 16.90 | 0.770 |
| | MS-COCO | 19.08 | 0.832 | 19.10 | 0.834 | 19.08 | 0.828 |
| | RORD | 24.46 | 0.865 | 24.43 | 0.868 | 24.80 | 0.866 |
| PEPSI [20] | PASCAL-VOC | 16.81 | 0.772 | 17.03 | 0.781 | 16.69 | 0.767 |
| | MS-COCO | 19.06 | 0.831 | 19.23 | 0.838 | 18.96 | 0.828 |
| | RORD | 24.45 | 0.865 | 24.80 | 0.838 | 24.87 | 0.868 |
| RN [28] | PASCAL-VOC | 16.31 | 0.759 | 16.44 | 0.744 | 16.54 | 0.757 |
| | MS-COCO | 18.53 | 0.823 | 18.59 | 0.813 | 18.68 | 0.820 |
| | RORD | 23.32 | 0.856 | 22.26 | 0.831 | 23.91 | 0.858 |

Table 2: PSNR and SSIM results of cross-validation test. Each model is respectively trained on MS-COCO, Places2 or RORD and evaluated on three other datasets, including PASCAL-VOC, MS-COCO, and RORD. The big numeric margin between the results evaluated with conventional methods or RORD is caused by the absence of ground truth data.

includes precise annotations, which can be divided into two types; 1) dynamic objects that appear in the scene or not, *e.g.*, humans, vehicles, and 2) static backgrounds that remain in every frame, *e.g.*, sky and ground. Accordingly, we separate annotation labels into two super labels, *i.e.*, objects and backgrounds, as depicted in Figure 5, covering 42 semantic classes selected from existing datasets, including MS-COCO [12], PASCAL-VOC [12], Places2 [29], and ADE20K [51]. Note that the pixel distribution of semantic classes is widely spread over diverse classes. Paid and experienced workers annotated all images, and unreliable annotations were manually excluded from the collections. We also reviewed the data by supervisors who are independent of the annotator to double-check for errors.

4 Evaluation

4.1 Evaluation Models

We tested the state-of-the-art image inpainting models, *i.e.*, Deepfill-v1 [26], Partial Conv [13], Deepfill-v2 [23], PEPSI [20], and RN [23], to evaluate the validity of RORD. Deepfill-v1 introduces the coarse-to-fine network and the contextual attention module to reconstruct the hole region using the patches in the background. Partial Conv applies a masked convolution with renormalisation to use only valid pixels, *i.e.*, the pixels outside the hole region. Deepfill-v2 utilises the gated convolution to better handle valid pixels for inpainting. PEPSI modifies the coarse-to-fine network into the parallel network to reduce the inference time. RN computes the mean and variance separately for valid and invalid pixels for normalisation to overcome the mean and variance shifts caused by the conventional feature normalisation.



Figure 7: Visual comparison of results from various models trained with RORD. The numbers under the images represent PSNR between the result and the ground truth. RORD has higher reliability of performance measurement than the conventional datasets.

4.2 Implementation Details

We evaluated the aforementioned models trained on RORD, Places2 [23], or MS-COCO [23]. Specifically, since there is no background information behind the objects in Places2 and MS-COCO, we generated random object masks to train the models. On the contrary, for the RORD-trained models, we used pairs of images with and without objects. We divide RORD 412,304 images for training and 104,401 images for the test. For a fair comparison, we trained the inpainting models while keeping all settings unchanged.

The object-containing and object-less frames can have a slight misalignment and brightness shifts. For example, in an outdoor scene, brightness and background clutters can be changed by cloud or wind during the video clip. Therefore, we cropped the object region from the object-less image and pasted it to the object-containing image to alleviate the misalignment of the background. In addition, if the brightness of the images is different, simply pasting the object region can create unnatural boundaries. To cope with this problem, we applied the Poisson image editing [L] for seamless cloning.

4.3 Evaluation Results

To demonstrate the effectiveness of RORD, we have conducted cross-validation studies on various inpainting models by switching the training and test datasets. More specifically, existing models trained on MS-COCO [12], Places2 [29] or RORD were assessed on three datasets including PASCAL-VOC [12]. Table 2 represents that evaluation results



Figure 8: Visual comparison of results from the PEPSI models [22] trained with MS-COCO and RORD, respectively. The evaluation is conducted on RORD to compare the results to the object-free ground truth. Training with RORD allows the model to fill hole regions more effectively.

on PASCAL-VOC [1] and MS-COCO [1] datasets show poor performance than results on RORD. As mentioned in Section 1, the significant performance gap between the results evaluated with the conventional method or RORD is caused by the absence of ground truth background pixels behind objects. Especially, the evaluation by PASCAL and MS-COCO shows low validity to the point where there is no performance change regardless of the training dataset. Figure 7 shows several inpainting results from each dataset and its PSNR represented under the images. As can be seen in Figure 7, the image which has blur or artifacts shows rather higher PSNR when evaluated with conventional datasets. For example, in the third column, although RN results in the failure case, its PSNR value surpasses results from other methods. This tendency of the conventional datasets leads to critical drawbacks in evaluating inpainting models. In contrast, RORD has high reliability of performance measurement including appropriate ground truth images.

In this valid evaluation of object removal, training on RORD improves performance in all image inpainting models. Figure 8 shows a visual comparison of results from PEPSI model trained with MS-COCO or RORD. Indeed, the model trained on RORD synthesises more visually pleasing images than the model trained on MS-COCO. These results indicate that, as mentioned in Section 2.2, the conventional methodology for training image inpainting networks can lead to inaccurate learning, but the proposed RORD is an effective dataset for training models with large-scale and real task-specific image pairs.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we introduced the RORD, a new large-scale object removal dataset, including paired images with and without objects along with dense annotations. RORD focuses on compensating for the absence of correct information behind the objects. Our dataset is elaborately collected to cover diverse real-world scenes and carefully annotated by experienced annotators. We demonstrate the benefits of RORD with both quantitative and qualitative performance evaluations. We expect that RORD can contribute to the field of object removal by not only providing precise ground truth for training but also serving as a benchmark for accurate performance evaluation.

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