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| **ITU-T Focus Group on AI for Health** | |
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| **DOCUMENT** | | | | |
| **Source:** | | TG-Snake topic driver | | |
| **Title:** | | TDD update: TG-Snake (Snakebite and snake identification) | | |
| **Purpose:** | | Discussion | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This document contains a major update to the description for the snakebite topic area. |

1. **Introduction**
   * **Document Structure**

* This document contains a major update to the TDD for the snakebite case
  + **Topic Description**
* Snakebite envenoming is a major global health issue and neglected humanitarian crisis (https://www.who.int/snakebites/en/). Today, 5 million snake-bites occur globally every year causing 125,000 deaths and 400,000 victims of disability/disfigurement. In India, snakebite is responsible for five deaths/hour and 70% bitten are men and “bread winners” of the family (Menon et al, 2017). Snakebite exacerbates poverty in rural, and increasingly urban, communities in developing countries, which host high snake diversity and limited medical expertise (Gutierrez et al., 2017; Longbottom et al., 2018). Snakebite deaths are preventable using correct antivenoms, which are often expensive, scarce and can have side effects. Antivenom choice is critical and depends first on identifying the biting snake (Bawaskar and Bawaskar 2019). However, healthcare providers are not herpetologists (i.e. snake experts) and often struggle to identify the snake carcass brought by victims/bystanders/relatives or to interpret their description of the biting snake.
* categorization of the topic according to categorization guideline (currently C-0xx)
* Although certain laboratory techniques (i.e. immunoassays and genetic techniques based on snake venom and cells) have been developed to identify certain snakes, they are not adapted to poor countries (i.e. expensive and require several hours and experienced professionals for often insensitive diagnosis). We propose the first mobile app to urgently and reliably (I) identify snakes from photos using AI and crowdsourcing (i.e. global network of herpetologists), and (II) support victims and healthcare providers in the management of snakebite in endemic countries (scenarios: https://unige.ch/medecine/isg/files/2315/2377/5239/Snapp\_diagram.pdf). Our solution is direct, rapid and adapted, empowering communities and healthcare providers. It builds on:
  + Rapid growth in smartphone/Internet use/access in developing countries (ITU 2018).
  + Emerging smartphone-based practices in communities confronted with snakebite (e.g. snakes and/or their carcass are often photographed/filmed by snakebite victims/bystanders or healthcare professionals).
* The current gold standard in handling the health topic of snakebite is identification of the biting snake by a herpetologist acting as a consultant for a medical professional who then integrates this taxonomic identification with best-practice medical treatment (e.g. knowledge about antivenom, supportive care). However, in practice this often does not happen because herpetologists are limited in their number and availability, and medical professionals normally lack expertise in herpetology and snake identification.
* AI can make an impact by speeding up the process of suggesting an identification to a clinician. Snakebite is a health emergency requiring immediate action in the field and at the health centre (e.g. neurotoxic envenomation can produce generalized paralysis, respiratory arrest and death in 30 min to few hours). AI offers an unprecedented opportunity for high-speed snake identification to support snakebite victims and healthcare providers. Interestingly, AI-based animal identification exists for other groups (e.g. birds, Hernández-Serna et al., 2014) but not for snakes, offering an innovative application for a life-threatening situation. AI would be one more resource for clinicians aiming to make a snake identification, although consultation with an expert will remain the gold standard and additional verification by crowds of online snake enthusiasts is an important component that is being explored, with promising results.
* The expected impact of the benchmarking is to evaluate the number of images per class necessary for training, in order to represent the large number of snake species with similar appearance, as well as morphological and colour pattern variation with age and from place to place. Given that some snake species are very rare and very few images of these species exist, a second goal is to evaluate model performance when trained on small data sets. Our AI model would consume taxonomically-identified wild snake images from across the globe and associated geolocation and timestamp metadata to reply to the zoological question: “What snake is that?”. More specifically, we plan to test:

1. How the accuracy of the AI model is affected by the absolute number of training images of a species
2. How the accuracy of the AI model is affected by the ratio of training to testing images of a species
3. How well images that are difficult for humans to identify can be accurately identified by the AI model
4. Whether AI accuracy at identifying images to genus or family is better than identifying them to species, given the same amount of training data
5. How much AI accuracy improves when geographic location information are incorporated (e.g. in India there are about 300 snake species out of 3,700 globally)

* Ultimately, the AI model would provide species- and context-specific recommendations on snakebite management for both victims (i.e. first aid/pre-hospital care, most accessible snakebite treatment centre) and healthcare providers (i.e. expected clinical signs, antivenom choice). For the latter, the mobile app would be developed integrating existing snakebite management guidelines and collaborating closely with snakebite experts from Doctors Without Borders, WHO, and the Global Snakebite Initiative. Data on patients’ evolution and outcomes would be integrated to reinforce and improve clinical recommendations given by the app (i.e. integrated learning system).
  + **Ethical Considerations**
* ethical considerations on usage of AI
* ethical consideration of and benchmarking including its data acquisition
* All data must be of high quality and compliant with ethical and legal standards, including respecting the copyright of the photographers and their ownership of their images (e.g. their right to use them in their own publications, books, online resources in the future).
  + **Existing AI Solutions**
* Current AI-based systems available for animal identification include iNaturalist and HerpMapper, which both have AIs for animal ID. Both take an image as an input, output is a top1 or top5 class list, both have a bias in the data towards North American species, iNaturalist can also go to family/genus and both are starting to integrate geographic location as a filter on the output. Neither one is specific to snakes but both of them include snakes. Our group has access to all the training data from both sources.
* Existing benchmarking consists of the AICrowd challenge, based on a subset of the data with only classes that have >500 images per class. This has a similar bias in the data but covers at least a handful of species on all continents. The current top algorithm has an F1 score of 0.80 and a logloss of 0.894.
  + **Existing work on benchmarking**
* Papers on existing attempts to benchmark solutions on the topic – none at this time, although we are planning one
* Clinical evaluation attempts, RCT, etc. – none at this time, but clinicians are involved in the process as end users
* Existing numbers: we currently have 350,000 training images covering 2,469 species classes, and 12,779 testing images covering 911 species classes (853 in common with training data). There are still 1,211 species classes with no training or testing data (32% of all species classes). We are actively recruiting additional image sources to increase both species class diversity and number of images per class. The ratio of training:testing data ranges from 3,768:1 for the species class with the most training images, to 1:168 for the species class with the fewest training images. 700 species classes have ratios >1 and 82 species classes have ratios <1.

1. **AI4H Topic group**

* Topic group structure
  + Subtopic 1: What is the ideal ratio of training to testing images per species class?
  + Subtopic 2: What additional sources of testing data can we create or access?
    - Natural history museums are interested in helping by digitizing slides with verified identification and which can be tied to physical preserved specimens (in alcohol) that could later be used to sort out future taxonomic changes
    - Gold standard data set of testing images should be representative and long-term.
    - Ensuring taxonomic consistency long-term (could this be relevant to other TGs? e.g. classification system for cancers could change in the future)
* Topic group participation
* Tools/process of TG cooperation
* TG interaction with WG, FG
* Current topic group and topic status
* Contributors so far
* Next meetings
* Next steps for the work on this document:
  + CVPR conference in Long Beach in June, to enrich data set and connect to expertise in fine-grained visual categorization (<https://sites.google.com/view/fgvc6/home>)
  + AICrowd data update in May, including geography at the continent level
  + AICrowd direct ingestion of algorithms & live leaderboard top algorithm available via API
  + CERN collaboration to develop better algorithms and annotate images using techniques for segmentation, including watersheding and image segmentation (e.g. the head, body, and tail of the snake)

1. **Method**

* Overview of the benchmarking
  + **AI Input Data Structure**
* Inputs for benchmarking include the public dataset available on AICrowd (<https://www.aicrowd.com/challenges/snake-species-identification-challenge/>), consisting of data from Flickr, iNaturalist, and HerpMapper. We intend to soon add Twitter data scraped using CrowdBreaks platform using a list of keywords and crowdsourced to tag each image with the appropriate species class.
* ontologies, terminologies: classes are species of snakes; there are 3,763 described species worldwide and this number is continuously growing, just 85 have enough images to be included in the public dataset available on AICrowd
* data format – JSON or CSV with image URLS, country, photographer, image source
  + **AI Output Data Structure**
* outputs to benchmark – F1, logloss
* ontologies, terminologies: see above
* data format: AICrowd now supports direct ingestion of algorithms (as a superior replacement to previous “solution files” containing metrics but not the algorithm itself) will soon support the implementation of the top algorithm available live from the leaderboard via an API
  + **Test Data Labels**
* label types – species (class), country (see above)
* ontologies, terminologies: see above
* data format: JSON or CSV
  + **Scores & Metrics**
* which metrics & scores to use for benchmarking – F1 and logloss (see above)
* considering relation to parameters stakeholders need for decision making – ideal F1 for clinicians is 1, because both false positive and false negative misidentifications can have serious consequences and must be avoided
* considering scores that providers use
* considering the scope providers designed their solutions for
* considering the state of the art in RCT, statistics, AI benchmarking etc.
* considering bias transparency: a plot of the dataset bias is available on the AICrowd challenge page
  + **Undisclosed Test Data Set Collection**
* raw data acquisition / acceptance – already about 6000 images in hand from experts + 5000 from IndianSnakes.org
* test data source(s): availability, reliability,
* labelling process / acceptance – all training data are already labelled, but citizen crowd tagging platform underway to verify IDs and to tag new images from Twitter & Facebook (CrowdBreaks)
* bias documentation process – by species, by global region
* quality control mechanisms – citizen crowd tagging platform underway (see above)
* discussion of the necessary size of the test data set for relevant benchmarking results – will never approach the size of the training data set, see above for consideration of the ideal ratio
* specific data governance derived by general data governance document (currently C-004)
* **Benchmarking Methodology and Architecture**
* technical architecture - AICrowd
* hosting (IIC, etc.)
* possibility of an online benchmarking on a public test dataset – will soon be available on AICrowd
* protocol for performing the benchmarking (who does what when etc.)
* AI submission procedure including contracts, rights, IP etc. considerations
* **Reporting Methodology**
* Report publication in papers or as part of ITU documents
* Online reporting is accomplished through a public online leaderboard (<https://www.aicrowd.com/challenges/snake-species-identification-challenge/leaderboards>)
* Credit-Check like on approved sharing with selected stakeholders
* Report structure including an example
* Frequency of benchmarking: new AICrowd round once per month

1. **Results**

* Reports of the different benchmarking runs: the current AICrowd leading algorithm has an F1 score of 0.800 and a log-loss of 0.894

1. **Discussion**

* Discussion of the insights from executing the benchmarking on
  + external feedback on the whole topic and its benchmarking
  + technical architecture: AICrowd (see above), CrowdBreaks, pybossa
  + data acquisition: see above
  + benchmarking process: see above
  + benchmarking results: see above
  + field implementation success stories: coming soon!

1. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

We hereby declare that each contributor to this document has no relevant conflicts of interest.

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