Abstract—Localizing page elements/objects such as tables, figures, equations, etc. is the primary step in extracting information from document images. We propose a novel end-to-end trainable deep network, (CDeC-Net) for detecting tables present in the documents. The proposed network consists of a multistage extension of Mask R-CNN with a dual backbone having deformable convolution for detecting tables varying in scale with high detection accuracy at higher IoU threshold. We empirically evaluate CDeC-Net on all the publicly available benchmark datasets — ICDAR-2013, ICDAR-2017, ICDAR-2019, UNLV, Marmot, PublayNet, and TableBank — with extensive experiments.

Our solution has three important properties: (i) a single trained model CDeC-Net performs well across all the popular benchmark datasets; (ii) we report excellent performances across multiple, including higher, thresholds of IoU; (iii) by following the same protocol of the recent papers for each of the benchmarks, we consistently demonstrate the superior quantitative performance. Our code and models will be publicly released for enabling the reproducibility of the results.

Keywords— Page object, table detection, Cascade Mask R-CNN, deformable convolution, single model.

I. INTRODUCTION

Rapid growth in information technology has led to an exponential increase in the production and storage of digital documents over the last few decades. Extracting information from such a large corpus is impractical for human. Hence, useful information could be lost or not utilized over time. Digital documents have many other page objects (such as tables and figures) beyond text. These page objects also show wide variations in their appearance. Therefore any attempt to detect page objects such as tables need to be generic and applicable across wide variety of documents and use cases. In this paper, we are interested in detection of tables. It is well known [14]–[16] that the localisation of tables and other page element is challenging due to the high degree of intra-class variability (due to different layouts of the table, inconsistent use of ruling lines). The presence of inter-class similarity (graphs, flowcharts, figures having a large number of horizontal and vertical lines which resembles to table) adds further challenges.

Table detection is still a challenging problem in the research community. This is an active area of research [14]–[16]. However, we observe that most of these attempts develop different table detection solutions for different datasets. We argue that this may be the time to consider the possibility of a single solution (say a trained model) that works across wide variety of documents. We provide a single model CDeC-Net trained with IIT-AR-13K dataset [11] and evaluate on popular benchmark datasets. Table I shows the comparison with the state-of-the-art techniques for respective datasets. We observe from the table that our single model CDeC-Net performs better than state-of-the-art techniques for ICDAR-2019 (GTDark) [13], UNLV [14], and PublayNet [9] dataset. In case of ICDAR-2013 [15], ICDAR-POD-2017 [16], Marmot [17], and TableBank [7], single model CDeC-Net obtains comparable results to the state-of-the-art techniques. By following the same protocol of the state of the art papers, we also report superior performance consistently across all the datasets, as presented in Table I and discussed later in this paper.

II. DATASETS

We empirically evaluate CDeC-Net on all the publicly available benchmark datasets — ICDAR-2013, ICDAR-2017, ICDAR-2019, UNLV, Marmot, PublayNet, and TableBank — with extensive experiments.

| Dataset      | Method             | Score       |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|
|              | R1 | P1 | F1 | mAP |
| ICDAR-2013   | DDeC-Net [8]       | 0.996 | 0.996 | 0.962 | 0.942 |
|              | CDeC-Net (ours)    | 0.942 | 0.932 | 0.868 | 0.848 |
| ICDAR-2017   | VolOD [13]         | 0.965 | 0.975 | 0.971 | 0.942 |
|              | CDeC-Net (ours)    | 0.899 | 0.969 | 0.934 | 0.880 |
| ICDAR-2019   | TableRadar [14]    | 0.940 | 0.950 | 0.945 | -     |
|              | CDeC-Net (ours)    | 0.930 | 0.971 | 0.950 | 0.913 |
| UNLV         | GOD [10]           | 0.910 | 0.946 | 0.928 | -     |
|              | CDeC-Net (ours)    | 0.915 | 0.970 | 0.943 | 0.912 |
| Marmot       | DDeC-Net [8]       | 0.946 | 0.949 | 0.945 | 0.956 |
|              | CDeC-Net (ours)    | 0.779 | 0.943 | 0.861 | 0.756 |
| TableBank    | Li et al. [11]     | 0.975 | 0.987 | 0.989 | -     |
|              | CDeC-Net (ours)    | 0.970 | 0.990 | 0.980 | 0.965 |
| PublayNet    | M-RCNN [9]         | -       | -    | -    | -     |
|              | CDeC-Net (ours)    | 0.975 | 0.993 | 0.984 | 0.978 |

Early attempts in localizing tables are based on meta-data extraction and exploitation of the semantic information present in the tables [19]–[21]. However, the absence of meta-data in the case of scanned documents makes these methods futile. In recent years, researchers employ deep neural networks [14]–[16] in an attempt to provide a generic solution for localizing page objects, specifically tables from document images. Siddiqui et al. [3] provide state-of-the-art performance on many benchmark datasets by incorporating deformable convolutions [23] in their network. However, even their work fails to provide a single model that achieves state-of-the-art performance on all the existing benchmark datasets. In general, the existing deep learning models are trained on a single IoU threshold, commonly 0.5, following the practice followed in computer vision literature. This leads to a noisy table detection at higher threshold value during evaluation. This is a drawback of the existing table detection techniques. Liu et al. discuss in [24] that generally, a CNN based object detector uses a backbone network to extract features for detecting objects. These backbones are usually designed for the image classification task and are pre-trained on either ImageNet [24] or MS-COCO [25] datasets. Hence, directly employing them to extract features for table detection [14]–[16] may result in sub-optimal performance. Training a more powerful backbone is also expensive. This is a major bottleneck of these existing table detection techniques.
To address the issues mentioned above, we propose a composite deformable cascade network, called as CDeC-Net, to detect tables more accurately present in document images. The proposed CDeC-Net consists of a multi-stage object detection architecture, cascade Mask R-CNN [26]. The cascade Mask R-CNN network is composed of a sequence of detectors trained with increasing IoU thresholds to address the problem of noisy detection at higher threshold. Inspired by [23] we use composite backbone, which consists of multiple identical backbones having composite connections between neighbor backbones, in CDeC-Net to improve detection accuracy. We also incorporate deformable convolution [22] in the backbones to model geometric transformations. We extensively evaluate CDeC-Net on publicly available benchmark datasets — ICDAR-2013, ICDAR-POD-2017, UNLV, Marmot, ICDAR-2019 (gTzdar), TableBank, and PublayNet under various existing experimental environments. The extensive experiments show that CDeC-Net achieves state-of-the-art performance on all existing benchmark datasets except ICDAR-2017. We also achieve high accuracy and more tight bounding box detection at higher IoU threshold than the previous benchmark results.

We summarise our main contributions as follows:

- We presents an end-to-end trainable deep architecture, CDeC-Net which consists of cascade Mask R-CNN containing composite backbones with deformable convolution to detect tables more accurately in document images.
- We provide a single model trained on HIT-AR-13K and achieve very close competitive results to the state-of-the-art techniques on all existing benchmark datasets (Refer Table I).
- We achieve state-of-the-art results on publicly available benchmark datasets except ICDAR-2017 (Refer Table II).

II. RELATED WORK

Table detection is an essential step towards document analysis. Over the times, many researchers have contributed to the detection of tables in documents of varying layouts. Initially, the researchers have proposed several approaches based on heuristics or meta-data information to solve this particular problem [19], [21], [27]–[32]. Later, the researchers explore machine learning, more specifically deep learning, to make the solution generic [1]–[11].

A. Rule Based Approaches

The research on table detection in document images was started in 1993. In the beginning, Itonori [19] proposed a rule-based approach that led to the text-block arrangement and ruled line position to localize the table in the documents. At the same time, Chandran and Kasturi [27] developed a table detection approach based on vertical and horizontal lines. Following these, several research works [21], [28]–[32] have been done for table detection using improved heuristic rules. Though these methods perform well on the documents having limited variation in layouts, they need more manual efforts to find a better heuristic rule. Moreover, rule-based approaches fail to obtain generic solutions. Therefore, it is necessary to employ machine learning approaches to solve the table detection problem.

B. Learning Based Approaches

Statistical learning approaches have been proposed to alleviate the problems mentioned earlier in table detection. Kieninger and Dengel [33] applied an unsupervised learning approach for the table detection task. This method significantly differs from the previous rule-based approaches [21], [28]–[32] as it uses a clustering of given word segments. Cesari et al. [34] used a supervised learning approach using a hierarchical representation based on the MXY tree. This particular method detects the table with different features by maximizing the performance on a particular training set. Later, the solution of the table detection problem is formulated using various machine learning problems such as (i) sequence labeling [35], (ii) SVM with various hand-crafted features [36], and (iii) ensemble of various models [37]. Learning methods improve table detection accuracy significantly.

| Dataset       | Category Label | Training Set | Validation Set | Test Set |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------|
| ICDAR-2013    | 1: T, F, and E | 1600         | 439            | 1k      |
| ICDAR-POD-2017| 1: T, F, E     | 11K          | 3: T, F, and E | 9K      |
| UNLV          | 1: T, F, E     | 2K           | 2: T, F, E     | 2K      |
| Marmot        | 1: T           | 163K         | 1: T           | 1K      |
| ICDAR-2019 (gTzdar) | 1: T | 1200        | 1: T           | 1K      |
| Tablebank-word | 1: T          | 253K         | 1: T           | 1K      |
| Tablebank-Latex | 1: T       | 417K         | 1: T           | 2K      |
| Tablebank-both | 1: T          | 340K         | 5: T, F, TL, TT, and LT | 2K      |
| PublayNet     | 1: T          | 9K           | 5: T, F, NI, L, and S | 2K      |

The success of deep convolutional neural network (CNN) in the field of computer vision, motivates researchers to explore CNN for localizing tables in the documents. It is a data-driven method and has advantages — (i) it is robust to document types and layouts, and (ii) it reduces the efforts of hand-crafted feature engineering in CNN. Initially, Hao et al. [38] used CNN to classify tables like structure regions extracted from PDFs using heuristic rule into two categories — table and non-table. The major drawbacks of this method are (i) use of the heuristic rule to extract table like region, and (ii) work on only non-raster PDF documents. The researchers explore various natural scene object detectors — Fast R-CNN [39] in [5], Faster R-CNN [40] in [1–9], Mask R-CNN [41] in [8–11], YOLOv4 [42] in [11] to localize page objects more specifically tables in the document images. All these methods are data-driven and do not require any heuristics or meta-data to extract table like region similar to [38].

Gilani et al. [4] used Faster R-CNN to detect tables in the document images. Instead of the original document image, distance transformed image is taken as input to easily fine-tune the pre-trained model to work on various types of document images. In the same direction, the transformed document image is taken as input to Faster R-CNN model for detecting tables [6]; and figures and mathematical equations [8] present in document images. Saha et al. [10] experimentally established that Mask R-CNN performs better than Faster R-CNN for detecting graphical objects in the document images. Zhong et al. [9] also experimentally established that Mask R-CNN performs better than Faster R-CNN for extracting semantic regions from the documents. The performance of Faster R-CNN is reduced when documents contain large scale variate tables. Siddiqui et al. [3] incorporated deformable CNN in Faster R-CNN to adapt the different scales and transformations which allows the model to detect scale variate tables accurately. Sun et al. [4] combined the corner information with the detected table region by Faster R-CNN to refine the boundaries of the detected tables to reduce false positives. It is observed that every detection method is sensitive to a certain type of object. Vo et al. [5] combine outputs of two object detectors — Fast R-CNN and Faster R-CNN in order to exploit the advantages of the two models for page object detection. Due to the limited number of images in the existing training set, it is challenging to train such a detection model for table detection. Fine-tune is one solution to such a problem. In [11], the authors discuss the benefit of fine-tuning from a close domain on four different object detection models — Mask R-CNN [41], retinNet [43], SSD [44] and YOLOv4 [42]. The experiments highlight that the close domain fine-tuning approach avoids over-

1Ground truth bounding boxes are annotated automatically.
C. Related Datasets

Various benchmark datasets — ICDAR-2013 [13], ICDAR-PoD-2017 [16], UNLV [14], Marmot [17], ICDAR-2019 (cTDaR) [13], TableBank [7], PubLaNet [9], and IIIT-AR-13K [12] are publicly available for table detection tasks. Table II shows the statistics of these datasets. Among them, ICDAR-2013, UNLV, Marmot, ICDAR-2019, TableBank are popularly used for table detection while ICDAR-PoD-2017, PubLaNet, and IIIT-AR-13K datasets for various page object (including table) detection task. We use all datasets for our experiments.

III. CDEC-NET: COMPOSITE DEFORMABLE CASCADE NETWORK

The success of deep convolution neural networks (CNN)s for solving various computer vision problems inspire researchers to explore and design models for detecting tables in document images [1][11]. All these deep models provide high table detection accuracy. However, all these table detection models suffer from the following shortcomings — (i) all existing table detection networks use a backbone to extract features for detecting tables, which is usually designed for image classification tasks and pre-trained on imagenet dataset. Since almost all of the existing backbone networks are originally designed for the image classification task, directly applying them to extract features for table detection may result in sub-optimal performance. A more powerful backbone is needed to extract more representational features and improve the detection accuracy. However it is very expensive to train a deeper and powerful backbone on imagenet and get better performance. (ii) CNNs have limitations to model large transformation due to the fixed geometric structures of CNN modules — a convolution filter samples the input feature map correspond to a fixed location, a pooling layer reduces the spatial resolution at a fixed ration and a RoI into a fixed spatial bin, etc. This leads to the lack of handling the geometric transformations. (iii) All these table detectors use the intersection over union (IoU) threshold to define positives, negatives, and finally, detection quality. They commonly use a threshold of 0.5, which leads to noisy (low-quality) detection and frequently degrades the performance for higher thresholds. The major hindrance in training a network at higher IoU threshold is the reduction of positive training samples with increasing IoU threshold. All these issues are also a bottleneck of CNNs based object detection techniques [39][41] in natural scene images.

Over the time, various solutions [22][23][26] are proposed to handle the above stated problems for object detection in natural images. Li et al. [23] proposed CBNet which comprises of stacking multiple identical backbones by creating composite connections between them. It helps in creating a more powerful backbone for feature extraction without much additional computational cost. Dai et al. [22] introduced deformable convolution in the object detection network to make it more scale-invariant. It captures the features using a variable receptive field and makes detection independent of the fixed geometric transforms. Cai and Vasconcelos [26] proposed a multi-stage object detection architecture in which subsequent detectors are trained with increasing IoU thresholds to solve the last problem. The output of one detector is feed as an input to the subsequent detector, maintaining the number of positive samples at higher thresholds. Inspired by the solutions provided by [22][23][26] for issues discussed earlier in natural scene images, we propose a novel architecture CDEC-Net for detecting tables accurately in the document images. It is composed of Cascade Mask R-CNN with a composite backbone having deformable convolution filters instead of conventional convolution filters. Figure 1 displays an overview of our proposed architecture CDEC-Net in detail.

A. Cascade Mask R-CNN

Cai and Vasconcelos [26] proposed Cascade R-CNN which is a multi-stage extension of Faster R-CNN [40]. Cascade Mask R-CNN has a similar architecture as Cascade R-CNN, but along with an additional segmentation branch, denoted by ‘S’, for creating masks of the detected objects. CDEC-Net comprises of a sequence of three detectors trained with increasing IoU thresholds of 0.5, 0.6, and 0.7, respectively. The proposals generated by RPN network are passed through RoI pooling layer. The network head takes RoI features as input and makes two predictions — classification score (C) and bounding box regression (B). The output of one detector is used as a training set for the next detector. The deeper detector stages are more selective against close false positives. Each regressor is optimized for the bounding box distribution generated by the previous regressor, rather than the initial distribution. The bounding box regressor trained for a certain IoU threshold, tends to produce bounding boxes of higher IoU threshold. It helps in re-sampling an example distribution of higher IoU threshold and uses it to train the next stage. Hence, it results in a uniform distribution of training samples for each stage of detectors and enabling the network to train on higher IoU threshold values.

B. Composite Backbone

We use a dual backbone based architecture [23] which creates a composite connection between the parallel stages of two adjacent ResNetX-101 backbones (one is called assistant backbone and other is called lead backbone). The assistant backbone’s high-level output features are fed as an input to the corresponding lead backbone’s stage. In a conventional network, the output (denoted by $x_l$) of previous $l-1$ stages is feed as input to the $l$-th stage, given by:

$$x_l = F_l(x_{l-1}), l \geq 2.$$  (1)
where $F^l(\cdot)$ is a non-linear transformation operation of $l$-th stage. However, our network takes input from previous stages as well as parallel stage of assistant backbone. For a given stage $l$ of lead backbone($bl$), input is a combination of the output of previous $l-1$ stages of lead backbone and parallel $l$-th stage of assistant backbone($ba$), given by:

$$x_{lab} = F^l_{ba}(x_{lb}^{l-1} + g(x_{lab}^l)), l \geq 2,$$

(2)

where $g(\cdot)$ represents composite connection. It helps the lead backbone to take advantage of the features learned by the assistant backbone. Finally, the output of the lead backbone is used for further processing in the subsequent network.

C. Deformable Convolution

The commonly used backbone, resNeXt architectures, have conventional convolution operation, in which the effective receptive field of all the neurons in a given layer is same. The grid points are generally confined to a fix $3 \times 3$ or $5 \times 5$ square receptive field. It performs well for layers at the lower hierarchy, but when the objects appear at the arbitrary scales and transformations, generally at the higher-level, the convolution operation does not perform well in capturing the features. We replace the fixed receptive field CNN with deformable CNN in each of our dual backbone architectures. The grid is deformable as each grid point can be moved by a learnable offset. In a conventional convolution, we sample over the input feature map $x$ using a regular grid $R$, given by

$$y(p_0) = \sum_{p_n \in R} w(p_n)x(p_0 + p_n).$$

(3)

Whereas in a deformable convolution, for each location $p_0$ on the output feature map $y$, we augment the regular grid using the offset $\Delta p_0$ such that $\{\Delta p_n|n = 1, ..., N\}$, where $N = |R|$, given by

$$y(p_0) = \sum_{p_n \in R} w(p_n)x(p_0 + p_n + \Delta p).$$

(4)

Deformable convolution is operated on $R$ but with each points augmented by a learnable offset $\Delta p$. The offset value, $\Delta p$ is itself a trainable parameter. This helps in enabling each neuron to alter its receptive field based on the preceding feature map by creating an explicit offset. It makes the convolution operation agnostic for varying scales and transformations. The deformable convolution is shown in Figure 2.

D. Implementation Details

We implement CDeC-Net in Pytorch using MMDetection toolbox\cite{5}. We use NVIDIA GeForce RTX 2080 Ti GPU with 12 GB memory for our experiments. We use pre-trained ResNeXt-101 (with blocks 3, 4, 23 and 3) on MS-COCO \cite{23} with FPN as the network head. We train CDeC-Net with document images scaled to $1200 \times 800$, while maintaining the original aspect ratio, as the input. We use 0.00125 as an initial learning rate with a learning rate decay at 25 epoch and 40 epoch. We use 0.0033 as warmup schedule for first 500 iterations. CDeC-Net is trained for 50 epochs. However, for the larger datasets such as Publi筑.net and Tabletank, the model is trained for 8 epochs in total with learning rate decay at 4 epoch and 6 epoch. In case of fine-tuning, we use 12 epochs in total. We use three IoU threshold values — 0.5, 0.6, and 0.7 in our model. We use 0.5, 1.0 and 2.0 as anchor ratio with a single anchor scale of 8. The batch size of 1 is used for training our models.

IV. EXPERIMENTS

A. Evaluation Measures

Similar to the existing table localization tasks\cite{1}-\cite{11} in document images, we also use recall, precision, F1, and mean average precision (mAP) to evaluate the performance of CDeC-Net. For fair comparison, we evaluate the proposed CDeC-Net on same IoU threshold values as mentioned in the respective existing papers. We perform multi-scale testing at 7 different scales (with 3 smaller scales, original scale, and 3 larger scales). We select detection output as final result if it presents in at least 4 test cases out of 7 scales. It helps in eliminating the false positives and provide consistent results.

B. Comparison with State-of-the-Arts on Benchmark Datasets

| Dataset     | Method      | Score |
|-------------|-------------|-------|
|             |             | R@1  | P@1 | F1@1 | mAP@1 |
| ICDDR-2013  | DeCNet \cite{1} | 0.996 | 0.996 | 0.996 | - |
| CDeC-Net (our) | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | - |
| ICDDR-2017  | ToloY\cite{18} | 0.968 | 0.975 | 0.971 | 0.912 |
| CDeC-Net (our) | 0.924 | 0.970 | 0.947 | - |
| ICDDR-2019  | Tabletank\cite{25} | 0.934 | 0.953 | 0.944 | 0.922 |
|             | CDeC-Net (our) | - | - | - | - |
| UNLV        | GOD\cite{10} | 0.910 | 0.946 | 0.928 | - |
| Marmot      | DeCNet \cite{1} | 0.925 | 0.952 | 0.938 | 0.912 |
| CDeC-Net (our) | 0.930 | 0.975 | 0.952 | - |
| Tabletank   | Li et al. \cite{7} | 0.975 | 0.987 | 0.984 | - |
| CDeC-Net (our) | 0.979 | 0.995 | 0.997 | 0.976 |
| Publi.net   | M-RCNN\cite{9} | 0.970 | 0.988 | 0.978 | 0.967 |
| CDeC-Net (our) | - | - | - | - |

TABLE III: ILLUSTRATES COMPARISON BETWEEN CDeC-Net AND STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNIQUES ON THE EXISTING BENCHMARK DATASETS.

Comparison with current state-of-the-art techniques on various benchmark datasets is shown in Table III. We observe from the table that CDeC-Net outperforms state-of-the-art techniques on ICDDR-2013, UNLV, Marmot, Tabletank, and Publi.net datasets. For ICDDR-2019, CDeC-Net obtains very close performance to the state-of-the-art techniques. In case of ICDDR-2017 dataset, the performance of CDeC-Net is 2.4% lower than the state-of-the-art method.

C. Thorough Comparison with State-of-the-Art Techniques

Tables IV and V presents the comparative results between the proposed CDeC-Net and the existing techniques on various benchmark datasets under the existing experimental environments. In most of the cases, CDeC-Net performs better than the existing techniques. The

\footnote{Our code is available publicly at \url{https://github.com/mdv3101/CDeCNet}.}
| Method | Training | Fine-tuning | Test | IoU  |
|--------|----------|------------|------|------|
| D2C LSTM+ | -        | -          | ICDAR-2013 | 238  | 0.8 |
| M-R-CNN | -        | -          | -     | -    |
| RetinaNet | -        | -          | -     | -    |
| SSD | -        | -          | -     | -    |
| YOLOv3 | -        | -          | -     | -    |
| CDEC-NET (our) | -        | -          | -     | -    |

**TABLE IV**

Illustrates comparison between the proposed CDEC-NET and state-of-the-art techniques on ICDAR-2013 dataset. Asterisk (*) indicates the authors reported 0.996 in Table however in discussion they mentioned 0.994. CDEC-NET\(^2\) indicates a single model which is trained with IIT-AR-13K dataset.

| Method | Training | Fine-tuning | Test | IoU  |
|--------|----------|------------|------|------|
| TableRadar | -        | -          | ICDAR-2019 | 1200 | 439  |
| NLPR-PAL | -        | -          | ICDAR-2019 | 1200 | 439  |
| Lenov Ocean | -        | -          | ICDAR-2019 | 1200 | 439  |
| CDEC-NET (our) | -        | -          | ICDAR-2019 | 1200 | 439  |
| M-R-CNN | -        | -          | -     | -    |
| RetinaNet | -        | -          | -     | -    |
| SSD | -        | -          | -     | -    |
| YOLOv3 | -        | -          | -     | -    |
| CDEC-NET (our) | -        | -          | -     | -    |

**TABLE V**

Illustrates comparison between the proposed CDEC-NET and state-of-the-art techniques on ICDAR-2019 dataset. CDEC-NET\(^2\) indicates a single model which is trained with IIT-AR-13K dataset.
cascade Mask R-CNN in CDEC-Net leads to significant reduction in number of false positives, which is evident from the high precision values. Table IV presents the obtained results under various experimental settings for ICDAR-2013. We observe that for all experimental settings, CDEC-Net obtains the best results. In case of ICDAR-2019, CDEC-Net performs only 0.1% F1 score lower than state-of-the-art technique - TableRadar [13] at IoU threshold 0.8. At higher threshold value 0.9, CDEC-Net performs significantly (1.8% greater F1 score) better than the state-of-the-art technique - TableRadar [13]. For all other experimental settings, CDEC-Net also obtain the best results. For UNLV dataset, CDEC-Net performs (2.7% F1 score) better than the state-of-the-art method - DeeC [3]. For Tablebank dataset, CDEC-Net performs significantly better that state-of-the-art technique - Li et al. [7].

D. Effect of IoU Threshold on Table Detection

We evaluate the trained CDEC-Net on the existing benchmark datasets under varying IoU thresholds to test robustness of the proposed network. Our experiments on various benchmark datasets shows that CDEC-Net gives consistent results over varying IoU thresholds. Table VIII shows that in case of ICDAR-2019 datasets, the CDEC-Net consistently obtains high detection accuracy under varying thresholds (in range 0.5-0.9). Our model also obtains consistent results (in range of 0.5-0.8) on ICDAR-2013 and UNLV datasets. Only at threshold 0.9, there is a performance drop on ICDAR-2013 and UNLV datasets.
E. Qualitative Results

A visualization of detection results on ICDAR-2013, ICDAR-POD-2017, UNLV (first row, left to right), ICDAR-2019 (cTdaR), PubLayNet and TableBank (second row, left to right) obtained by CDec-Net is shown in Figure 3. The figure highlights that the CDec-Net properly detects complex table with high confidence score.

Third row of Figure 3 shows some examples where CDec-Net model fails to properly detect the tables. In the first image, it detects two false positives that are visually similar to tables. The second, and third images contain multiple closely spaced tables where CDec-Net detects them as single table.

F. Results of Single Model

Tables IV-VII presents the comparative results between the proposed CDec-Net and the existing techniques on various benchmark datasets under the existing experimental environments. The last row of each table presents obtained results using our single model CDec-Net trained with IIIT-AR-13K dataset, fine-tuned with training images and evaluated on test images of the respective datasets. Table IV highlights that our single model CDec-Net attains very close results to our best model CDec-Net on ICDAR-2013 dataset. In case of ICDAR-2019, our single model CDec-Net obtains the best performance at IoU threshold 0.8. In case of UNLV and Tablebank datasets, the performance of single model CDec-Net are very close
to our best performing model CDec-Net.

Figure 4 presents the visual results obtained using our single model CDec-Net1 and our best model CDec-Net. We select the best model under various existing experimental environments. First row of Figure 4 shows examples where single model CDec-Net1 performs better than the best model CDec-Net. In those examples, our best model CDec-Net predicts single bounding box for multiple tables. While single model CDec-Net1 predicts multiple bounding box corresponding to each table present in the document. The second row of Figure 4 presents examples where our best model CDec-Net accurately predicts bounding box corresponding to each table present in the document. While our single model CDec-Net1 fails to predict bounding boxes corresponding to tables present in the documents.

G. Ablation Study

We perform a series of experiments to check the effectiveness of the proposed method. We train three models on Marmot dataset and evaluate on ICDAR-2013. Our baseline model — cascade Mask R-CNN achieves F1 score of 0.981 at IoU threshold 0.5. We incorporate the dual backbone in the baseline model and obtain F1 score of 0.984. Again we incorporate deformable convolution instead of convolution in the dual backbone and call it as CDec-Net, which attains the best F1 score of 1.000. This particular experiment highlights the utility of incorporating the key components — dual backbone and deformable convolution into the baseline model Cascade Mask R-CNN. We finally select CDec-Net as our final model for table detection task.

V. Conclusion

We introduce a CDec-Net, which consists of a cascade Mask R-CNN with a dual backbone having deformable convolution to detect tables present in documents with high accuracy at higher IoU threshold. The proposed CDec-Net achieves state-of-the-art performance for most of the benchmark datasets under various existing experimental environments and significantly reduces the false positive detection even at the higher IoU threshold. We also provide a single model CDec-Net1 for all benchmark datasets, which obtains very close
performance to the state-of-the-art techniques. We expect that our single model sets a standard benchmark and improves the accuracy of table detection and other page objects—figures, logos, mathematical expressions, etc. For future work, the current framework can be extended to a more challenging table structure recognition task.

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APPENDIX A: EXPERIMENTS

Thorough Comparison with State-of-the-Art Techniques: We have done extensive experiments to check the performance of DeeC-Net. Our model is trained and evaluated on different experimental environments proposed by different researchers. The detailed results are shown in Tables [X][XII]. To provide a fair comparison, we have used two strategies while training—(i) Train a model on the same dataset as proposed by a given researcher. The best model among them is later called as state-of-the-art model. (ii) Train a model on IIT-AR-13K dataset and then evaluate the model.
directly on the dataset. After that, we fine-tune it using the training split of the dataset used by the respective researcher. The model is again evaluated on the testing split. This model is called as single CDec-Net\textsuperscript{1}. The results are shown in the last rows of Tables X-XII. It may be noted that for a given dataset, the single CDec-Net\textsuperscript{1} model which is trained on IIIT-AR-13K dataset and fine tuned only on the training split of the respective dataset (if available).

CDec-Net is trained and evaluated on ICDAR-2017 dataset (Table XII). Our model does not achieve state-of-the-art performance. The main reason behind this is most of the methods used are quite focused on the ICDAR-2017 dataset, while CDec-Net is generic in nature. We achieve the best result (F1 score of 0.959 at 0.6 IoU and 0.955 at 0.8 IoU) using the single CDec-Net\textsuperscript{1} model which is trained on IIIT-AR-13K and fine-tuned using ICDAR-2017 training dataset.

CDec-Net was evaluated on Marmot dataset under various experimental environments and it achieves state-of-the-art results (Table X). The best performance was observed by the single CDec-Net\textsuperscript{1} model, which achieves an F1 score of 0.953.

Recently, two large datasets were released for table detection: TableBank and PubLayNet. We have evaluated the performance of CDec-Net on them as well. CDec-Net get an mAP of 0.967 when trained on PubLayNet dataset and hence getting better results than the current benchmark as shown in table XI. Our single model CDec-Net\textsuperscript{1} gets even better mAP score of 0.978.

**Effect of IoU Threshold on Table Detection**: We evaluate the trained CDec-Net on the existing benchmark datasets under varying IoU thresholds to test robustness of the proposed network. Our experiments on various benchmark datasets shows that CDec-Net gives consistent results over varying IoU thresholds. Table XIII highlights the obtained results under varying IoU thresholds using CDec-Net.
Table X

ILLUSTRATES COMPARISON BETWEEN THE PROPOSED CDEC-Net AND STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNIQUES ON ICDAR-POD-2017. D2: INDICATES ICDAR-2013+ICDAR-POD-2017+UNLV+MARMOT; T: INDICATES MODEL TRAINED WITH MULTIPLE CATEGORIES. CDEC-Net\( ^2 \): INDICATES A SINGLE MODEL WHICH IS TRAINED WITH IIT-AR-13K DATASET.

| Method | Training | Fine-tuning | Test | IoU | Score |
|--------|----------|-------------|------|-----|-------|
|       | Dataset  | #Image      | Dataset | #Image |      | \( R^\uparrow \)| \( P^\uparrow \)| \( F1^\uparrow \)| \( mAP^\uparrow \) |
| FastDetectors [16] | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.6 | 0.940 | 0.903 | 0.921 | 0.925 |
| PAL\(^1\) [16] | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.6 | 0.953 | 0.968 | 0.969 | 0.933 |
| GOD\(^1\) [10] | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.6 | - | 0.971 | 0.989 |
| DSP-S\(^1\) [51] | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.6 | 0.962 | 0.974 | 0.968 | 0.946 |
| YOLO\(^3\) + A\(^+\)P\(^[18]\) | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.6 | 0.972 | 0.978 | 0.975 | - |
| CDEC-Net\(^1\) (our) | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.6 | 0.931 | 0.977 | 0.954 | 0.920 |
| FastDetectors\(^1\) [16] | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.8 | 0.915 | 0.879 | 0.896 | 0.884 |
| PAL\(^1\) [16] | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.6 | 0.943 | 0.958 | 0.951 | 0.911 |
| GOD\(^1\) [10] | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.8 | - | 0.968 | 0.974 |
| DSP-S\(^1\) [51] | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.8 | 0.953 | 0.965 | 0.959 | 0.923 |
| YOLO\(^3\) + A\(^+\)P\(^[18]\) | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.8 | 0.968 | 0.975 | 0.971 | - |
| CDEC-Net\(^1\) (our) | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.8 | 0.924 | 0.970 | 0.947 | 0.912 |
| YOLOv3 \( ^2 \) & A\(^+\)P\(^[18]\) | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 1600 | - | ICDAR-POD-2017 | 817 | 0.8 | 0.974 | 0.978 | 0.975 | 0.934 |

Table XI

ILLUSTRATES COMPARISON BETWEEN THE PROPOSED CDEC-Net AND STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNIQUES ON PUBLAYNET DATASET. D2: INDICATES ICDAR-2013+ICDAR-POD-2017+UNLV+MARMOT; T: INDICATES MODEL TRAINED WITH MULTIPLE CATEGORIES. CDEC-Net\(^2\): INDICATES A SINGLE MODEL WHICH IS TRAINED WITH IIT-AR-13K DATASET.
Training

| Method                  | CDNet-Net (ours) | MFCN+contour+CRF (ours) | MFCN+contour+CRF (ours) |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dataset                 | IIIT 16K         | Marmot                   | Marmot                   |
| #Image                  | 3079             | 2000                     | 2000                     |
| IoU                     | 0.965            | 0.887                    | 0.836                    |
| Score                   | 0.975            | 0.960                    | 0.845                    |
| R                      | 0.911            | 0.836                    | 0.716                    |
| P                      | 0.983            | 0.952                    | 0.952                    |
| F1                      | 0.977            | 0.952                    | 0.952                    |
| mAP                     | 0.911            | 0.952                    | 0.952                    |

Fine-tuning

| Method                  | CDNet-Net (ours) | MFCN+contour+CRF (ours) | MFCN+contour+CRF (ours) |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dataset                 | Various Doc      | Marmot                   | Marmot                   |
| #Image                  | 130              | 2000                     | 2000                     |
| IoU                     | 0.765            | 0.774                    | 0.769                    |
| Score                   | 0.774            | 0.769                    | 0.760                    |
| R                      | 0.916            | 0.911                    | 0.905                    |
| P                      | 0.977            | 0.977                    | 0.977                    |
| F1                      | 0.977            | 0.977                    | 0.977                    |
| mAP                     | 0.977            | 0.977                    | 0.977                    |

Test

| Method                  | CDNet-Net (ours) | MFCN+contour+CRF (ours) | MFCN+contour+CRF (ours) |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dataset                 | Various Doc      | Marmot                   | Marmot                   |
| #Image                  | 130              | 2000                     | 2000                     |
| IoU                     | 0.942            | 0.942                    | 0.942                    |
| Score                   | 0.942            | 0.942                    | 0.942                    |
| R                      | 0.977            | 0.977                    | 0.977                    |
| P                      | 0.993            | 0.993                    | 0.993                    |
| F1                      | 0.993            | 0.993                    | 0.993                    |
| mAP                     | 0.993            | 0.993                    | 0.993                    |

TABLE XII

*Illustrates comparison between the proposed CDEC-net and state-of-the-art techniques on Marmot dataset. d3: indicates ICDAR-2013+ICDAR-2017+UNLV. CDEC-net*: indicates a single model which is trained with IIT-AR-13K dataset.

Performance on Various Benchmark Datasets

| IoU | ICDAR-2013 | ICDAR-2017 | ICDAR-2019 | Marmot | UNLV | TableBank | PubLayNet |
|-----|------------|------------|------------|--------|------|-----------|-----------|
| 0.9 | 0.946      | 0.987      | 0.966      | 0.916  | 0.991| 0.953     | 0.959     |
| 0.8 | 0.946      | 0.987      | 0.956      | 0.916  | 0.991| 0.953     | 0.959     |
| 0.7 | 0.946      | 0.987      | 0.956      | 0.916  | 0.991| 0.953     | 0.959     |
| 0.6 | 0.946      | 0.987      | 0.956      | 0.916  | 0.991| 0.953     | 0.959     |

TABLE XIII

*Illustrates the performance of CDEC-net under varying IoU thresholds.