AMRNet: Chips Augmentation in Areal Images Object Detection

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1 Abstract

Detecting object in aerial image is challenging task due to 1) objects are often small and dense relative to images. 2) object scale varies in a large range. 3) object number in different classes is imbalanced. Current solutions almost adopt cropping method: splitting high resolution images into serials subregions (chips) and detecting on them. However, few works notice that some problems including scale variation, object sparsity exist when directly train network with chips. In this work, Three augmentation methods are introduced. Specifically, we propose a scale adaptive module compatable with all existing cropping method. It dynamically adjust cropping size to balance cover proportion between objects and chips, which narrows object scale variation in training and improves performance without bells and whistles; In addition, we introduce mosaic effective sloving object sparsity and background similarity problems in areial dataset; To balance catgory, we present mask resampling in chips providing higher quality training sample; Our model achieves state-of-the-art perfomance on two popular aerial images datasets of VisDrone and UAVDT. Remarkably, All methods can independent apply to detectors increasing performance steady without the sacrifice of inference efficiency.

2 Introduction

The object detection in aerial images has widely application, including smart cities assistance, traffic monitoring, disaster search and rescue due to flexible shooting view and wide receptive field. Many effective solutions have been proposed in nature scene detection(e.g., Faster RCNN \[4\], RetinaNet \[5\], SSD \[6\]). However, aerial datasets have special challenges different from nature images in COCO \[4\] and Pascal VOC \[5\] datasets. Aerial detectors get bad performance when applying the same strategies with nature images.

These characteristics raise severe problems in areial images object detection: (1) Images are general high spatial resolution, and most of objects are small scale relative to the image. (2) Object scale varies in a widely range due
to the change of shooting angle and elevation. (3) Object number in different category is imbalance in many case.

"Cropping and then detection” is proposed to deal with the problems of small object. More specifically, detector first crop high resolution images into several subregions, denoted as chips, and detect on them. The final result is fused by chips and original images. For most of cases, cropping strategies help to improve detection accuracy of small object, because compared with the original images, chips get bigger zoom factor when resize to fixed resolution in inference. Small objects are easily detected when chips are rescaled in high resolution.

In [8], the authors split the images uniformly to show power in small object detection. [9] use K-means to generate object gathering clusters and train a network to predict cluster regions. The work of [10] introduce object density map to describe object distribution and crops connected region. [11] predict potential hard regions and detect on them.

Compared with the original images, object have smaller scale variation inside chips due to the similar magnitude of scale in certain local region. However, severe scale variation still exists among different chips. Training network with those chips which exist scale gap will degrade detector performance [12, 13]. In addition, some chips are sparse samples which contain few objects due to objects nonuniformly distributed in aerial images and shortcoming of cropping method. As show in figure 1 object scale varies from extremely small to relatively large. Some chips contain many background information but less foreground object.

Figure 1: (a)(b) show the scale variation in a large range. (c)(d) present sparse samples which contain few objects
A nature idea to alleviate scale gap is individual resizing chips in training. Assigning a appropriate zoom factor for every chip, makes object scale as similar as possible. We denote the average object scale as the chip scale. However, the current training processes is first resizing samples in a fixed resolution and feed into network. The zoom factor is determined by the size of chips. Compatible with training setting, an feasible method is dynamic adjust chip sizes to affect zoom factor. For low quality sparse sample, intuitive measures is pasting object in chips, increasing object number and balance object number in different class. Motivated by [21], a alterative method is cropping meaning regions from chips and combines them in a new image.

In this paper, we introduce three augmentation methods to relieve problems including scale variation, object sparsity, and class imbalance for aerial detectors based on cropping ideas. We propose a scale aware module, called adaptive cropping, which is compatible with existing cropping approach. It dynamically enlarge or narrow chip size according object average scale. To improve sample quality, we introduce mosaic to augment dataset and effective slove object sparsity and background similarity problems. In addition, we resample object masks in chips to balance class. We abbreviate our network as AMRNet due to three augmentation methods: adaptive cropping, mosaic augmentation, mask resampling.

We evaluate our approaches on two popular aerial images detection datasets: VisDrone and UAVDT. On both datasets AMRNet significantly outperforms prior arts detectors with a large margin. Remarkably, All methods can independent apply to detectors increasing performance steady without the sacrifice of inference efficiency.

In summary, the contributions of our works are:

- A scale adaptive cropping method, which is compatible with all current existing cropping approaches. Without bells and whistles, it improves detector performance directly.
- First introduce mosaic augmentation into aerial images detection. It effectively solves object sparsity and background similarity problems in VisDrone [14] and UAVDT [15] dataset.
- A mask resampling method to relieve class imbalance: pasting mask in images and adjusting category, scale, lumination of mask according local context information.
- State-of-the-art object detection performance on VisDrone [14] and UAVDT [15] dataset.
3 Relate work

3.1 General object detection

Detection can be categorized in two classes: region-based and region-free. The region-based family, including Faster RCNN [1], Mask RCNN [16], Cascade RCNN [17], first predicts object potential region and then detects on those proposals. Region-based detectors perform well in object classification and location but too time consuming. So a series of region-free detectors e.g. SSD [3], YOLO [4], RetinaNet [2] appear getting faster detection speed at the cost of degenerative accurateness. Recently some point-base detectors (e.g., cornerNet [18], repPoints [19]) show their special advantage (anchor-free) in object detection. All above mentioned detectors mainly focus on natural images and get bad performance when directly apply in aerial images.

3.2 Object detection in aerial images

Comparing with detection in nature images, there are more challenges in aerial images. First, many objects are in small scale relative to high-resolution images. Second, severe scale variation caused by the change of viewpoint and elevation exists in dataset. Third, class imbalance is common in many aerial datasets. Recent works attempt to solve those problems to improve detection performance.

Sub-region detection. An effective and leading method to alleviate scale variance and small object detection problem is cropping high resolution images into series chips and detection on them. Many researchers have detected object on image sub-region and studied how to reasonable cropping image [5, 7, 9, 10, 11]. In [8], the authors uniformly crop images into six chips for detection and show validation in small object detection. The work of [9] crops images by training a network to predict potential object cluster region. The method in [10] introduces object density map and crops connected regions. The approach of [11] trains a network to predict hard region and detects on it. Above works narrow scale variances in chips compared with the original image, but not consider scale variances among chips. Training network with those "scale gap" chips will degenerate detection performance [12, 13]. Therefore, we propose an adaptive cropping method, which adjusts chips size to balance object scale, which effectively improves detector performance.

Data augmentation. Researchers have implemented many data augmentation methods including random cropping, flipping, and inputs with multiple scale. In [20], the authors cut a part of image and paste with other image subregion for augmentation. The work of [21] augments dataset by random combining multiple image subregions into a new image. Some special augmentation methods also appear in aerial datasets. The method of [22] crops images into four uniform chips to enlarge dataset. The approach of [23] pastes object randomly in images to improve small object detection performance. In [24], the authors take advantage semantic segmentation to paste object on road regions, avoiding
the mismatch of semantic information. Motivate by [21], we introduce mosaic augmentation to aerial images detection and effective slove sparse sample and similar background problem. We adjust object scale into a reasonable range and combine multiple image regions into a mosaic image, providing higher quality and quantity training samples.

Class Imbalance. A significant problem in aerial images is imbalance of category object number. In [11], the authors use IOU balanced sampling and balanced L1 loss to alleviate class imbalance. The work of [22] divides class into two bags and trains a expert detector seperately. The approach of [24], pastes object several times alleviate class imbalance. We proposal mask resampling method to paste object mask in images. Different from work in [24], we only paste object instance pixel instead of whole ground truth to get more accurate semantic match. In addition, it is unreasonable for different class object pasting in the same scale in [24], so we reconsider strategy of the pasted object scale, illumination and category.

4 method

4.1 Overview

Cropping original images into chips is a common method to overcome small object and scale variance problems. However, extreme scale gap still exists among chips. Training network with those chips will degenerate performance. In addition, some chips are sparse samples which only contain few objects. Training network with those samples is low gain and inefficient. The class imbalance also limits the network performance. In this section, we offer some simple augmentation solutions to alleviate above problems and improve detector performance effectively.

Figure 2: Adaptive Cropping Augmentation. Images first are cropped into uniform chips. For each chip, Object scale information is collected and decides to do partition (top path) or padding (bottom path) operation. The red box and yellow box indicate original chips and adaptive chips separately. The chips from partition iterate processes unless the maximum limit is exceeded or it do padding operation. We collect adaptive chips and reconstruct new training set.
4.2 Adaptive Cropping

An obvious feature of aerial images is a large range of object scale. Due to the change of shooting angle and elevation, objects in same class have 20 times scale difference in VisDrone [14], which is not conducive to network training. Therefore, we propose a scale adaptive cropping method which adjusts cropping size dynamically according object scale.

The processes as figure 2. Images first are croped into chips and then adjust in scale adaption model. We just use simple six uniform cropping as example. We calculated the average object scale for each chips and decide to do a partition or padding operation according scale information. If the object scale is small, the chip will be split uniformly into four parts. If the scale is large, the chip will be padded. We adjust object area proportion relative to chips, so the object scale is similar when chips resize to fixed resolution in training. We transform object into a narrow and reasonable scale range. Finally, all adjusting chips construct a new training dataset. Following is more rigorous mathematical description.

For a chip, we count object number and object total cover area. Then calculate the average area of the object.

\[
\text{avg}_{\text{obj}} = \frac{\text{area}}{\text{num}}
\]

(1)

To transform object in a reasonable scale \(s\) (e.g. 100), ideal zoom factor \(\varphi_{id}\) get as equation 2.

\[
\varphi_{id} = \sqrt{\frac{s^2}{\text{avg}_{\text{obj}}}}
\]

(2)

Because the chip resize from \(S_w \times S_h\) to fix resolution \(\text{width}\times\text{high}\) in training. Current zoom factor \(\varphi_n\) is calculated by equation 3.

\[
\varphi_n = \min\left(\frac{S_w}{\text{width}}, \frac{S_h}{\text{high}}\right)
\]

(3)

If \(\varphi_n > \varphi_{id}\), it means that the chip require zoom out. The chip new width \(S_w\) and height \(S_h\) is calculated in equation 4. We enlarge the chip along horizontal and vertical axis evenly, extending reverse at the margin.

\[
S_w = \frac{\varphi_{id}}{\varphi_n} \times S'_w
\]

\[
S_h = \frac{\varphi_{id}}{\varphi_n} \times S'_h
\]

(4)

If \(\varphi_n < \varphi_{id}\), it means that the chip require zoom in. We split the chip uniformly into four parts. the chip new width \(S_w\) and height \(S_h\) is calculated in equation 5.
\[
S_w = 0.5S'_w \\
S_h = 0.5S'_h
\] (5)

Exploit above operation iteratively, we can get several adaptive chips which object is in similar scale when train network. In our experiment, we limit the number of maximum partition operation as one, iteration stop after padding operation.

![Figure 3: Combine multiple sparse sample into mosaic image. The red line split original image into uniform chips. Some chips are sparse which contains few objects. We crop meaning subregion from chip as yellow box and paste in mosaic image after zoom in/out.](image)

### 4.3 Mosaic augmentation

Some chips are low quality and inefficient to train network. About one fifth chips are sparse samples which contain less three objects when split original images into six parts uniformly in Visdrone [14]. We introduce mosaic augmentation to aerial images detection, combining multiple subregions of sparse samples into a high quality mosaic image. To avoid scale variance problem, we first zoom in/out chips and then use sliding windows to choose appropriate subregion where object is in a reasonable range. The zoom factor directly adopt \( \varphi_{id} \) as equation 2. The processes is shown as figure 3. We crop subregions of sparse samples and paste in mosaic image. We also extend the idea to all training sample as data augmentation. We still use sliding windows method and limit the object average scale.
In addation, some chips exist similar background problem and easy overfit. For example, training samples in UAVDT [15] dataset come from series video frame. There are little different between adjacent frame, so images has similar semantic information in training samples. Mosaic augmentation is suitable for solving this problem. It combines multiple subregion from different chips and creates complicate context images.

Mosaic images limit object number and scale variance, offering higher quality and quantity training samples. Comparing with original samples, the semantic information in mosaic is more complicate, which forces the network to concentrate on object feature rather than semantic context. It also help detection of objects outside their normal context.

4.4 Mask Resampling

![Figure 4: Mask Resampling Augmentation](image)

Figure 4: Mask Resampling Augmentation. Image is fed in semantic segmentation network to obtain pastable region. Randomly determine pasted position and find nearest object. Choose object in mask pool according neighbours object and paste mask in image.

Another notable problems in aerial datasets is class imbalance. For example, object number of rich catgory over 30 times that of poor catgory in Visdrone [14] and UAVDT [15] datasets. In order to alleviate class imbalance problem, we propose object resampling method. We first build a object pool by instance segmentation, and then paste the appropriate objects to training samples. Different from previous work [24] of pasting object ground truth (GT), we only paste object mask and consider catgory, scale, lumination of the pasted object.

We feed aerial images into a COCO pretreated instance segmentation network to get object instance masks. If IOU (Intersection over Union) of the
instance mask and gt is greater than a certain threshold, the gt category is assigned to the mask. We collect these labeled instance mask and build a object pool.

We only paste object in the road regions to ensure semantic correctness. We randomly determine pasted position on the road masks generated by segmentation. Then find the nearest object from pasted position and adjust category, scale, lumination of the pasted object. We paste similar category with the nearest object. For example, similar categories of car include van, bus, motor. Because it is reasonable for these objects gather in a local region. The scale of the pasted object P can be calculated by a simple linear function according the nearest object N.

\[
S_p = \frac{S_{pcls}}{S_{ncls}} \ast S_n
\]

where \(S_p, S_n\) is scale of the pasted and nearest object, \(S_{ncls}\) is the class average scale corresponding class of object i. \(S_{cls}\) is the class average scale. We also adjust the pasted object lumination close to that of the nearest object in the hsv color space before pasting.

5 experiment

5.1 Implementation details

Our implementation is based on mmdetection tool-boxes [25]. We take uniform cropping as our baseline to validate our approach. Images is uniformly divided into 6 and 4 chips without overlapping on VisDrone [14] and UAVDT [15] datasets. Unless specified, we use retinaNet with feature pyramid network(FPN) as object detector. The input size of detector is 1500 * 800 on the VisDrone [14] and 1000 * 600 on UAVDT [15]. The inference input size of detector is the same with training whenever not specified. We use three scales 1000, 1500, 2000 in multiple scale testing, then fuse all detection boxes with Non-Maximum Suppression(NMS). The fusing threshold is 0.6. Detector is trained for 12 and 5 epochs respectively to two dataset on 2GPUs, each with a bath size of 2. On VisDrone [14] dataset, learning rate sets 0.01 and decreases 0.1 times after the 8th and 11th rounds. On UAVDT [15] dataset, learning rate sets 0.005 and decreases 0.1 times after 3 and 4th rounds.

In adaptive cropping, the expect scale parameter is 100 and 60 in VisDrone [14] and UAVDT [15] with most one partition operation. The reason of setting a specific number is that it is two times average scale of dataset. We remove some oversized crops which have the same length and width as images. In mosaic augmentation, object scale limit over 50 and 30 in VisDrone [14] and UAVDT
All subregions combined to 800*800 and 600*600 mosaic image respectively in two datasets. In mask resampling, we paste all categories except the rich class car.

5.2 Dataset and Evaluation metric

To validate our proposed methods, we evaluate our performance in two publicly datasets: Visdrone [14] and UAVDT [15].

Evaluation Metric. Following the evaluation protocol on the COCO [4] dataset, we use average precision (AP) as metric. The AP is average precision under different Intersection over Union (IOU) thresholds, ranging from 0.5 to 0.95 with a step size of 0.05. We set 500 for max evaluation object in every image.

VisDrone. The dataset consists of 10,209 images in total. More concrete, there are 6471 training images, 548 validation images and 3,190 testing images with 10 categories. The image scale of dataset is about 2,000 * 1,500 pixels. We evaluate performance in validation dataset as existing works because of the close of evaluation server.

UAVDT. The dataset contains 23,258 images of training and 15069 images in test data with three categories including cars, buses, and trucks. The resolution of images is about 1080 * 540 pixels. The image captured in different scenarios and evaluation

5.3 Ablation study

To validate the effectiveness of each module, we carry out ablation experiments on VisDrone [14] dataset. Resnet50 pretrained in ImageNet [26] is used as backbone to train 12 epoch. The configuration of network is accord with section 4.1. To show contribution clearly, we only detect in chips and not fuse bounding box detected in the original image.

| Methods          | train\test | AP  | AP_s | AP_m | AP_l |
|------------------|-----------|-----|------|------|------|
| RetinaNet+FPN    | uc        | 27.0| 21.6 | 35.2 | 31.7 |
| RetinaNet+FPN+AC | uc        | 29.5| 23.6 | 39.3 | 27.6 |
| RetinaNet+FPN    | dc        | 29.3| 21.9 | 40.0 | 51.5 |
| RetinaNet+FPN+AC | dc        | 30.5| 22.7 | 41.9 | 43.6 |
| RetinaNet+FPN*   | uc        | 27.6| 22.2 | 36.0 | 35.6 |
| RetinaNet+FPN+AC*| uc        | 31.2| 25.9 | 39.8 | 36.6 |
| RetinaNet+FPN*   | dc        | 30.6| 23.9 | 40.5 | 50.8 |
| RetinaNet+FPN+AC*| dc        | 32.6| 25.3 | 43.5 | 54.2 |

Table 1: The ablation on adaptive cropping. The 'AC' indicates adaptive cropping augmentation. The 'uc' and 'dc' denotes uniform cropping and density cropping respectively. * represent multiple scale testing.

Effect of Adaptive Cropping. We evaluate our scale adaptive model based on uniform cropping and density cropping. The experimental results are
list in table 1. We note that adaptive cropping can boost 2.5 points in uniform cropping, 1.2 points in density cropping. It shows that adaptive augmentation method is robust and easily extend to different cropping method. This promotion is cost free in inference. Moreover, performance improve steeply when use multiple scale testing. Multiple scale testing increases 0.6 and 1.3 points without adaptive model in uniform and density cropping, but increases 1.7 and 2.1 points with adaptive model. The main reason is that adaptive cropping detector focus on detecting object in a certain scale range, and multiple scale testing can help object adjust scale to this interval, so as to give full play to the detector performance.

| Methods               | AP  | AP\_s | AP\_m | AP\_l |
|-----------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| RetinaNet+FPN         | 27.0| 21.6  | 35.2  | 31.7  |
| RetinaNet+FPN+SR      | 27.4| 22.2  | 35.6  | 29.5  |
| RetinaNet+FPN+10k     | 28.8| 23.1  | 37.2  | 32.9  |
| RetinaNet+FPN+10k+SR  | 29.1| 23.4  | 37.7  | 31.3  |
| RetinaNet+FPN+20k     | 29.3| 23.5  | 38.0  | 32.2  |
| RetinaNet+FPN+20k+SR  | 29.6| 24.0  | 38.4  | 30.6  |

Table 2: The ablation on Mosaic augmentation. SR indicates sparse replacement. 10K and 20k is the number of the mosaic augmentation images.

**Effect of Mosaic Augmentation.** Sparse samples count one fifth in Visdrone when use uniform cropping. We just replace sparse samples to mosaic images and evaluate the performance under the same number of training samples. The experimental result lists as table 2. The performance increases 0.4 points after replacing sparse samples. We extend the idea to all training samples for data augmentation. The sparse replacement still gains steady 0.3 points when add 10K or 20K mosaic images for augmentation. We also study the effect of different augmentation image number. It has 1.8 and 2.3 points increasing when add 10K and 20K mosaic images. The gain gradually decreases as the augmentation images increasing.

| AC | MA | MR | AP  | AP\_s | AP\_m | AP\_l |
|----|----|----|-----|-------|-------|-------|
|    | ✓  |    | 27.0| 21.6  | 35.2  | 31.7  |
| ✓  | ✓  |    | 28.5| 22.4  | 37.4  | 32.5  |
|    | ✓  | ✓  | 29.0| 23.4  | 37.6  | 33.1  |
| ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | 30.7| 24.8  | 40.6  | 28.6  |
| ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | 30.8| 24.6  | 41.0  | 29.3  |

Table 3: The ablation on all models. Images number is 10K in MA.

**Effect of Mask Resample.** We paste object masks into images for alleviating class imbalance. The mask resampling can effectively increase performance.
from 27.0 to 28.5. We also study the joint effect for all models. Mask resampling increase less after adopting adaptive cropping and mosaic augmentation. We deduce mosaic images increase the number of rare class objects, overlapping improvement with mask resampling.

| Expect Scale | AP  | AP50 | AP75 | APs | APm | AP1 |
|--------------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 50           | 28.4| 24.8 | 33.9 | 20.0|     |     |
| 100          | 29.5| 23.6 | 39.3 | 27.6|     |     |
| 150          | 28.2| 21.3 | 38.7 | 33.8|     |     |

Table 4: Parameter analysis of Expect Scale in Adaptive Cropping.

**The Effect of Hyperparameter Expect Scale** In adaptive cropping, we need set the parameter of expect scale to calculate zoom factor. We consider three cases when scale set from 50 to 150 with step 50. It is intuitive that network gradually focus on detecting larger scale objects when set bigger expect scale. $AP_s$ decreases and $AP_l$ increases with scale from 50 to 150 in table 4. We note the best performance parameter is 100. The reason we think is scale matching exist between object training and testing. The average scale of VisDrone [14] is 50, and chips are common resized about twice in inference stage. So it is reasonable to set expect scale as twice of average scale.

### 5.4 Quantitative Result

| Method   | Backbone | Test data      | AP  | AP50 | AP75 | ApS | APm | AP1 |
|----------|----------|----------------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| ClustDet | ResNet 50| Original+cluster| 26.7| 50.6 | 24.7 | 17.6| 38.9| 51.4|
| ClustDet | ResNet 101| Original+cluster| 26.7| 50.4 | 25.2 | 17.2| 39.3| 54.9|
| ClustDet | ResNeXt 101| Original+cluster| 28.4| 53.2 | 26.4 | 19.1| 40.8| 54.4|
| DMNet    | ResNet 50| Original+density| 28.2| 47.6 | 28.9 | 19.9| 39.6| 55.8|
| DMNet    | ResNet 101| Original+density| 28.5| 48.1 | 29.4 | 20.0| 39.7| 57.1|
| DMNet    | ResNeXt 101| Original+density| 29.4| 49.3 | 30.6 | 21.6| 41  | 56.9|
| AMRNet   | ResNet 50| Original+UC    | 31.7| 52.7 | 33.1 | 23.0| 43.4| 58.1|
| AMRNet   | ResNet 101| Original+UC    | 31.7| 52.6 | 33.0 | 22.9| 43.4| 59.5|
| AMRNet   | ResNeXt 101| Original+UC    | **32.1**| 53.0 | 33.2 | 23.2| 43.9| 60.5|
| ClustDet | ResNeXt 101| Original+cluster| 32.4| 56.2 | 31.6 |     |     |     |
| AMRNet   | ResNeXt 101| Original+UC    | **36.1**| 60.1 | 37.0 | 29.0| 45.5| 60.9|

Table 5: Quantitative result for Visdrone dataset

**Visdrone.** We evaluate our approach comparing with previous method. The result shows as table 5. To make it fair, we train network under the same configuration with [10] and infer in similar resolution. Our approach achieve state-of-the-art precision. It is noted that we exceed the best accuracy of the previous method with big margin only using resNet50 backbone. We get a
high boost when use multiple scale testing. It achieve 36.1 AP and improve 3.7 points compared with ClusDet [9]. The adaptive cropping model perform well in multiple scale, so the gain in multiple scale catch up that in single scale.

| Method       | Backbone | AP 50 | AP 75 | AP s | AP m | AP l |
|--------------|----------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| FRCNN+FPN    | ResNet 50| 11.0  | 23.4  | 8.4  | 8.1  | 20.2 | 26.5 |
| ClusDet      | ResNet 50| 13.7  | 26.5  | 12.5 | 9.1  | 25.1 | 31.2 |
| DMNet        | ResNet 50| 14.7  | 24.6  | 16.3 | 9.3  | 26.2 | 35.2 |
| HFEA         | ResNet 50| 15.1  | -     | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Baseline     | ResNet 50| 15.2  | 27.3  | 15.4 | 9.4  | 26.3 | 36.8 |
| Baseline+Mosaic | ResNet 50 | 16.8  | 29.0  | 17.6 | 10.7 | 29.8 | 31.8 |
| Baseline+OurAll | ResNet 50 | 18.2  | 30.4  | 19.8 | 10.3 | 31.3 | 33.5 |

Table 6: Quantitative result for UAVDT dataset

UAVDT. Images in UAVDT dataset come from a serie video adjacent frames. So images have similar background in training sample. We choose images with step of five and split uniformly in 2*2 crops to reconstruct trainset. We use faster RCNN with FPN training on new dataset as baseline. We add 20K mosaic images to augmentation, offering dataset more complicate semantic images.

The experiment result as table 6. We fuse boxes detected in crops and original images as [9, 10, 11]. It is noted that our baseline achieve high AP compared with previous method. We deduce that the dataset is easily overfitting and it is not necessary to training network with all images. Remarkably, we deduce mosaic alleviate background similarity problem and effective boosts 1.6 points compared with baseline. In the end, our methods achieve 18.2 AP with state-of-the-art performance.

6 Conclusion

In this paper, we propose three augmentation methods in aerial images detection: adaptive cropping, mosaic augmentation, mask resampling. Adaptive cropping alleviates scale variance among chips by adjust the area proportion of objects to chips. A relatively uniform scale is conducive to network learning. Mosaic augmentation solves object sparsity and background similarity problems, improving the quality and quantity of training samples. Mask resampling balances the different class object number with pasting instance masks. Extend quality result shows our approaches achieve state-of-the-art performance on two popular aerial images detection datasets with large margins. All propose methods are cost free in inference and easily extend to detection based on cropping.
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