# **Cutting through the Clutter: Task-Relevant Features for Image Matching**

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### Abstract

Where do we focus our attention in an image? Humans have an amazing ability to cut through the clutter to the parts of an image most relevant to the task at hand. Consider the task of geo-localizing tourist photos by retrieving other images taken at that location. Such photos naturally contain friends and family, and perhaps might even be nearly filled by a person's face if it is a selfie. Humans have no trouble ignoring these 'distractions' and recognizing the parts that are indicative of location (e.g., the towers of Neuschwanstein Castle instead of their friend's face, a tree, or a car). In this paper, we investigate learning this ability automatically. At training-time, we learn how informative a region is for localization. At test-time, we use this learned model to determine what parts of a query image to use for retrieval. We introduce a new dataset, People at Landmarks, that contains large amounts of clutter in query images. Our system is able to outperform the existing state of the art approach to retrieval by more than 10% mAP, as well as improve results on a standard dataset without heavy occluders (Oxford5K).

## 1. Introduction

What tells us that Fig. 1(a) and (b) have been taken at the same place? We have this amazing ability to hone in on the parts of an image that are relevant to a task. For instance, even though most of the image pixels of Fig.1 correspond to faces, we can latch onto the castle to recognize that both were taken in the same location. Similarly, if we asked ourselves which season the photos were taken in, we would instead focus on the trees; if we wanted to identify the people, we would ignore everything but the faces.

In this paper, we investigate how to build retrieval systems that focus on regions of an image useful for the task at hand. Specifically, given a query image of a place we have not seen before, we would like to know how to compare it with a corpus for finding similar locations (i.e., which parts of the image should be used for comparison). In contrast to many past works: (a) We will predict which regions are of interest without ever having seen images of that location before. This enables our model to generalize to a query image from a completely new location. (b) We will not examine the corpus at query time. This allows unrestricted growth



Figure 1. How do we know that images (a) and (b) have been taken at the same place? Definitely not by the people or the trees, but by the castle in the far background. In this paper, we automatically learn a generic model that finds the most promising parts of an image for localization. This model is learned once on held-out data, and requires no access to the retrieval corpus at test time.

of the corpus without any increase in the test time for our method (however the retrieval system will still be affected by this).

We achieve this by learning a model that predicts how well an image region will work for localization. This model is generic and learned on held-out data, satisfying the first criterion. Additionally, it runs quickly on the query image and does not touch the retrieval corpus, satisfying the second criterion. We can use these predictions to help guide standard retrieval techniques to achieve better results, especially on images with severe clutter or where the object of interest occupies little of the image. We also compare our performance to using some specific techniques to find regions of interest - such as face detectors, saliency and exemplar-SVM (see Fig 2), and find that our approach outperforms all of them.

We introduce a new dataset, "People at Landmarks" (PAL), containing natural images taken at various landmarks across the world. These posed photos naturally contain large amounts of visual clutter, especially but not ex-



Figure 2. Predicted heatmaps for defining retrieval regions. We use the dense red regions for retrieval. Note how our method closely resembles what a human would use to localize these images. Saliency and Exemplar-SVM approaches pick out large image edges, and running a face-detector suppresses faces but is uninformative of the rest of the image.

clusively in the form of people. We demonstrate that our region-scoring method is able to improve the state-of-theart SIFT-keypoint-based approach [32]. We also propose a new approach to retrieval based on CNN features over image patches, that outperforms the above and various other approaches by a large margin on PAL. Additionally, we demonstrate that our region scoring method can also improve both keypoint and CNN features based retrieval systems on the standard Oxford5K dataset [26]. Hence, this paper makes the following contributions: (1) We propose a general technique that can help cut through clutter and find task-specific regions that are relevant for retrieval; (2) We propose a new CNN-features based technique to image retrieval, by selecting most relevant patches from the image, and finding matches using those; and (3) We introduce a new dataset, "People at Landmarks" containing substantial clutter in the query images.

### 2. Related Work

Image retrieval is a mature field, and many of the existing approaches use local descriptors in variants of the Bag of Words (BoW) paradigm [30, 26]. BoW models each image as a bag of visual words, where the words are computed by assigning feature descriptors to large visual vocabularies [23, 5]. This, combined with inverted file indexes, makes the search highly efficient. The retrieval quality can be further improved by using techniques such as geometric re-ranking [26, 24, 31], query expansion [9, 2, 1], multiple assignment [27, 18] and better descriptor representations [24, 2].

Other approaches for retrieval use a global or aggregated representation for images by using encoding schemes such as Fisher kernels [25] or VLAD [19, 3]. Such schemes allow for compressed representation for images, which enables them to scale to even larger datasets. Most recently, Tolias *et al.* [32] proposed an approach to combine these local (matching-based) and aggregated representations, achieving state of the art results on multiple datasets. Our approach is complementary to all these approaches:

we demonstrate that it can help these existing retrieval approaches cut through clutter to get better results.

Recently, there has been a rising interest in using activations from deep convolutional neural network as a generic image representation. Apart from getting substantial improvements in various recognition tasks, this has been shown to perform well in retrieval as well [28]. Using the VLAD feature aggregation approach over deep features, [14] demonstrated near state of the art performance in retrieval on the Holidays dataset.

Our approach can be interpreted as a type of feature reweighting. The basic idea is that by looking at data, one can determine that certain parts of an image are not likely to be informative and can thus be down-weighted or suppressed entirely. For instance, an important component in all retrieval pipelines, including the method [32] we help improve, is the notion of 'term frequency-inverse document frequency' [30]. Others have improved on this by learning which features are important for retrieval on the database side. For instance, Knopp et al. [20] learn to identify placespecific features that are confusing and can be suppressed in the database, and similar ideas have been pursued by [33, 15, 7, 4]. There has also been some recent work on discovering "burstiness" of visual words [17] and on detecting feature co-occurrences (co-ocsets) [8] that harm BoW type retrievals. Our approach is complementary to these approaches since we analyze only the query image; whereas the other approaches, with the exception of [4], require access to the retrieval corpus to model the required statistics. In contrast, we can pre-train our model on one dataset (e.g., our People at Landmarks train dataset), and test it on new data (e.g., Oxford5K). Also, statistics like "burstiness" can only get rid of highly co-occurring low-level features resulting from repeating patterns in the image, such as that of a forest, river, people or faces. In fact, one of the retrieval approaches we help improve [32], already incorporates many of these ideas, including burstiness. Our method operates on a much higher level understanding of the image, and can even ignore *parts* of a buildings that it believes are not



Figure 3. Predicted heatmaps for some test images from the PAL dataset. Note how it can even extract out parts of monuments/buildings, that are most relevant in identifying them. Also, note that the same model works for both indoor and outdoor images.

discriminative enough. Other high level methods include Exemplar-SVM based method by Shrivastava *et al.* [29], which learns a query-specific re-weighting of HoG features. However, our method is substantially faster as it requires only the query image and produces more useful regions for retrieval than E-SVM.

# 3. Scoring Parts of Image

We now describe our approach to predict parts of image most relevant for localization. We first introduce the set of regions and representation. We then describe how we determine whether a region is useful for retrieval, how we can learn a mapping to this at training time, and how we can use this learned mapping at test time.

#### 3.1. Representation

We need a way to model the parts of an image in order to understand what parts of an image are useful for retrieval. Ideally, this representation should let us learn to distinguish distinctive things like the castle in Fig. 1 from undistinctive things like faces or trees. We adopt the approach of decomposing an image into rectangular regions and using the activations from a convolutional neural network (CNN) as features, because of their success on various recognition and other tasks [12, 28].

Our regions must be sufficiently dense to cover the relevant parts of the scene but sparse enough for fast inference. We thus use a region proposal generator, Selective Search [34], that proposes regions that are more likely to be useful than random samples. We use the fast mode, which yields on average  $\sim 2000$  proposals per image and which generally covers most objects of interest. We discard proposals smaller than  $25 \times 25$  pixels, because they tend to be uninformative.

For learning, we represent each patch with the activation of a standard CNN. Specifically, we take the fc7 activations of AlexNet [21] trained for ImageNet [10] classification. Since regions may be of arbitrary dimension, we warp them to a canonical shape  $(256 \times 256)$ . For matching, we represent the patches using the activations from the last convolutional layer (pool5) as it preserves the spatial structure, and define the similarity between 2 patches  $r_i, r_j$  as the cosine similarity,  $sim(r_i, r_j) = x_i^T x_j$ , where  $x_i, x_j$  are the corresponding  $L_2$  normalized pool5 features.

#### 3.2. Learning

Given a train image, how do we determine which patches are relevant for localization, and how do we infer this on a new test image? We first identify how useful a patch is for localization by trying it on a training corpus and scoring its retrievals with discounted cumulative gain (DCG). We then learn a mapping from image features to this DCG.

**Labeling:** Our definition of a patch's usefulness is its ability to retrieve images taken at the same location. Therefore, for each training patch, we perform nearest neighbor search into a database of patches from the training set of images (scaling this search using technique described later in Sec. 4.2). These images can depict the query location, other locations, as well as distractors. We sort the database images (*im*) by its similarity to the query patch (*q*), where  $sim_patch_{img}(q, im) = \max_{r \in \mathcal{P}_{im}} sim(q, r)$ , where *r* is a patch and  $\mathcal{P}_{im}$  denotes patches in *im*. We quantify a patch's retrieval using DCG at position 10, defined as  $DCG_{10} = rel_1 + \sum_{i=2}^{10} \frac{rel_i}{\log_2(i)}$ . The relevance (*rel*) of a retrieval (*im*) is defined as 0 if it is not the same location as the query and as  $0.95 + 0.05sim_patch_{img}(q, im)$  otherwise. The first term rewards correct retrievals and the second rewards highly similar retrievals.

**Learning:** We then learn to predict this DCG for a new patch using a regressor. Previous recognition work has shown good generalization with a simple linear model using fully connected layer activations [12]. We therefore train a  $L_2$ -regularized/ $L_2$ -loss linear support vector regression on fc7 features. We use the implementation from [11].

**Inference:** Given a new image, inference is straightforward – we extract selective search proposals and corresponding features, and then regress for their  $DCG_{10}$ . For an approach using these regions, this prediction can be used directly. For other keypoint based approaches, we accumulate the predictions over each pixel and sum overlapping boxes to generate a heatmap. This prediction can be thresholded to define a re-



Figure 4. This figure shows the prowess of our method compared to state of the art keypoint based approach [32], and CNN full image features based approach. It shows the query on the top-left, and the top few retrievals using each of the approaches. Even when very little of the Angkor Wat is visible, our method can hone in on the domes, and find other images taken at that place. Notice how the other methods end up retrieving images of people, which are not really helpful in determining the location of the query image. Green and red borders indicate correct and incorrect matches respectively.

gion of interest, just as query boxes are used on Oxford5K. We show some results of these predictions in Fig. 3 and 9.

### 4. Retrieval Approaches

We now describe how the scoring method described above can help improve an existing state-of-the art retrieval approach [32]. We also propose a new approach to retrieval using patches with the above scores that outperforms the previous approaches by a large margin on our newly introduced dataset, PAL.

### 4.1. Keypoint Features Based Retrieval

We use the recent approach from Tolias *et al.* [32] (using the provided code) with the hessian affine detector [24] as the baseline keypoint features based retrieval approach. It already incorporates various recent advancements to minimize the effect of 'boring' parts of image, such as handling 'bursty' [17] visual words. It has shown strong performance on various datasets, including Oxford5K and Holidays. We improve this base system using the scoring technique described above in Sec. 3.

We improve [32] by defining a region-of-interest (RoI) in the image, using the predicted heatmaps. Only features inside the above RoI are used for retrieval. The threshold for clipping the heatmap is learnt through grid search over the training set. We define the region of interest given a threshold t as area of the image satisfying  $score > t \times (max(hmap) - min(hmap))$ . We learn the threshold for this (and other baseline methods, described in Sec. 5.3) by computing the score heatmaps for the occluded training images using a 10-fold cross validation output, and performing retrieval over the complete train set. We perform grid search over threshold values (t) from 0 to 1, at increment of 0.1, and for mean value of the heatmap, to maximize mAP. We use these learnt thresholds directly for Oxford5K as well.

### **4.2. CNN Feature Based Retrieval**

In this section, we propose a novel approach to retrieval using CNN features over patches of the image. To show that its strong performance is not just because of the CNN representation, we show that it can outperform a variety of CNN-feature based baselines, including [14] that recently introduced a new multiscale pooled feature representation (MOP-CNN). This representation has been shown to perform well on various retrieval and recognition tasks, including retrieval on the Holidays dataset.

**CNN Patches Based Retrieval System** Given a query image, we decompose it into regions the exact same way as at training time. We can perform two operations on each region: predict the DCG scores of the patch using the learned model, and find similar patches in the corpus for the top scoring patches. The question then becomes: How do we use these to perform retrievals?

We propose the following model. Each query region casts votes for each corpus image in proportion to the maximum similarity to the corpus image's patches. We also include a vote from the full image retrieval, i.e. without using patches. Hence, for a given image  $im_1$ , the matching score of each database image  $im_2$  is

$$\operatorname{sim}_{\operatorname{img}}(im_1, im_2) + \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}_{im_1}} \operatorname{sim}_{\operatorname{patch}_{\operatorname{img}}}(p, im_2)$$

where  $sim_{img}(im_1, im_2) = sim(im_1, im_2)$ , i.e. taking the full image as a patch. This improves performance because it models global information, however as results in Table 1 show, most of the improvement is obtained through the patches. Thus, all that remains is to determine which regions perform the lookups and vote. We select these regions according to an objective that maximizes our relevance subject to diversity, similar to [6]. Given a set of regions  $S = \{r_1, \ldots, r_{|S|}\}$ , our objective is

$$F(S) = \sum_{i} \psi(r_i) + \lambda \left( \max_{j \neq i} \operatorname{sim}(r_i, r_j) \right)$$

where  $\psi(r_i)$  is the unary score of a patch obtained from the regressor, representing importance of that patch. In other words, our set should have a high total score, but also be diverse. Optimizing this is NP-hard, so we optimize it greedily. We stop this procedure when we reach a predetermined number of patches (in all experiments, 5 – using more patches gave better performance, but was slower). The diversity trade-off parameter  $\lambda$  is learned via grid-search from -5 to +5 with increments of 0.2 on the training set. We observe through our experiments on PAL that  $\lambda$  is learned to be -0.4, which means it penalizes similar patches. To avoid over-fitting, the unaries used while learning  $\lambda$  are 10-fold cross-validated output on the train set, same as in Sec 4.1. Fig. 4 illustrates our approach and compares it to using only full image features.

**Scalability:** Using CNN activations on patches is memory intensive: at 2000 per image, storing the pool5 features of only a 1000 image dataset in memory would require 150GB of space. Hence, we use a dimensionality reduction technique, Iterative Quantization [13] to hash the deep features into 256-bit codes. This helps prune the search space by actually matching the deep features only for the top-1000 patches with least hamming distance in the hashed space. We compress and store the actual features using a read-optimized B+ tree implementation, LMDB, enabling queries into a 3 million patch database within a few hundred milliseconds on a single server. Note that this hashing is only performed for our proposed patch based approach; the baseline approaches (full image/MOPCNN) are unaffected by this hashing.

# 5. Experiments and Results

We now present results to validate our approach. We first introduce the "People at Landmarks" dataset, which contains significant query image occlusion. We then show that our patch scoring method can both improve [32], as well as significantly outperform it using our CNN patch-based approach on this dataset. Finally, we report results on Oxford5K [26] which does not have heavy occlusion, but still our method is able to improve the performance of [32] and CNN-based method when not using the provided query boxes.

#### 5.1. People at Landmarks Dataset

To the best of our knowledge, no standard retrieval/localization dataset is composed of query images



Figure 5. (b) shows the distribution of images in the database into various locations, and into occluded or not. (c) shows a histogram over ratio of area of 277 test query images marked by humans as relevant for localization (also used as a baseline in Sec. 5.2). Note that for most of the test query images, only 20-30% area is covered by the object of interest.

with significant occlusions. To better model how people often take photos, we introduce a new dataset of images containing large amounts of occlusion and visual clutter, especially in the form of humans, which we refer to as the "People and Landmarks" (PAL) dataset. We downloaded the dataset by searching for 33 different locations such as "Abu Simbel", "Louvre Museum", etc. on Flickr, Google Images and other web search engines. We manually filtered the images for candid, posed and selfie-style images, which were significantly occluded by humans. These were used as training and testing query images. This led to 4711 images, out of which 377 contain significant occlusions. We split the locations in this dataset randomly into 15 train and 18 test, leading to 1892 training (with 100 occluded) and 2819 test (with 277 occluded) images. We augmented the train set with 6000 random outdoor images from [29] as distractors, taking the total training retrieval corpus to 7892 images. We show some sample query images and statistics from our dataset in Fig. 5. As illustrated in that figure, the object of interest in our test images occupies < 30%of the area on average, in stark contrast to existing retrieval datasets. A visualization of the complete dataset is in the supplementary materials.

### **5.2.** Baselines

**Retrieval based on [32]** As described in Sec. 4.1, one of the goals of our paper is to help existing retrieval systems improve performance when query images are heavily clut-

tered. We therefore apply our method to [32] and compare with the following approaches for determining the important image regions. We show a qualitative comparison of each approach in Fig. 2.

(1) ESVM: Although it does not satisfy our computational efficiency criterion (as scoring the query image takes many hours), we use [29] to learn an exemplar-SVM that separates the query image from background dataset. We then convert the learned weights into a heatmap. We trained each test image against the negative set containing 6000 random outdoor images from [29]. The threshold was calibrated by similarly computing heatmaps for the train images.

(2) Saliency: We use graph-based visual saliency (GBVS) [16], which obtains strong performance. This checks whether a non-task-specific notion of visual importance is sufficient to identify informative regions for localization.

(3) Face-Detector: One large source of clutter in PAL is faces; to verify our method is not just suppressing facial clutter, we run a recent DPM-based face detector that obtained state-of-the-art performance as of ECCV 14 [22]. We tried two ways to suppress features. The first is within face bounding boxes in order of score (*Faces-BB*). The second is in order of distance to the nearest bounding box (*Faces-Dist*).

(4) Human-Labeler: To attempt a comparison against humans, we asked two unaffiliated people to label a bounding box they thought was most useful to recognize the place. The images were shown in a random order and the subjects were not familiar with the corpus.

**CNN patches-based retrieval** We compare our approach described in Sec. 4.2 to using full image global CNN features (layer pool5) over cosine distance metric. We also compare with representations proposed in [14]: Layer-1 (full image fc7 features over Euclidean distance), Layer-1+2 (full image, concatenated with  $128 \times 128$  patches features pooled using VLAD), and MOP-CNN (concatenation of L-1+2 and  $64 \times 64$  patch features pooled similarly). We used the provided code for [14].

### **5.3. Experimental Protocol**

**Performance Metrics:** We use a variety of evaluation metrics. In addition to mean average precision (mAP) that quantifies performance over all recall regimes, we use mean precision (mP) at n for n = 1, 5, 10, 20 to characterize performance among the top retrievals. For computing mP, we ignore the exact match (query).

**Protocol:** Our method is learning-based and thus requires held-out data. We train our models exclusively on the training set of PAL and test on the testing set of PAL. When testing on Oxford5K, we apply models and thresholds learned on PAL directly.

#### **5.4. Results on People At Landmarks**

We show some qualitative results of our method's predictions in Figure 6. It compares (a) MOPCNN with our CNN



(b) Top activations of two positive and negatively ranked fc7 units Figure 7. Analysis of our learned model. Note that our model learns to reject faces, pavements, and gives high score to discriminative parts of buildings.

patches based approach, and (b) keypoint based approach [32] over full images with the same approach over image regions determined by our method. Our method helps [32] focus on the parts of the image that can help better localize it, hence matching it to other images taken at the same location. Our CNN patch based approach also gets much better matches compared to MOPCNN [14].

We show qualitative analysis of our learned model in Fig. 7. In Fig. 7(a), we show the top-and bottom-ranked regions on the training set: the top-ranked patches are not just non-human, but also distinctive (e.g., the Leaning Tower, the domes of Sacré-Coeur); the bottom-ranked patches naturally correspond to people. We dig further into the model in Fig. 7(b) by looking at the activations of two highly positive or negative feature dimensions. We scan the training set for windows that most activate neurons corresponding to highly positive and negatively-ranked dimensions. Dimensions with positive weight often contain buildings with enough context to identify them; ones with negative weights often contain people or regions that are too small to be distinguished.

We report quantitative results in Table 1. Our region scoring method improves both base systems by a significant margin, and our proposed CNN patch based approach outperforms the state of the art retrieval approach of [32] by > 10% mAP. Note that our performance is especially strong in the high recall regimes (mP10 and mP20), presumably because focusing on the landmark retrieves images where the object of interest is not prominent, and hence is typically missed when using the full image features. Improving [32] using our predicted heatmaps, it also outperforms a number of other schemes to determine a region-of-interest. A predefined notion of importance, like saliency [16], harms performance (because faces are typically predicted as important by [16]). Similarly, the approach of [29] hurts performance as it picks up on the coarse edges of the image (e.g., the edges of the Taj Mahal as opposed to its interior). Removing faces and nearby regions helps, but only by a small margin. Presumably, this is because [32] already accounts for the frequency of faces through tf-idf and burstiness. On the other hand, our method not only suppresses faces, but determines what parts of the rest of the image to focus on.



Figure 6. This figure compares various retrieval approaches on the PAL dataset. (a) compares top retrievals using MOPCNN [14] and our CNN patch based approach. (b) compares top retrievals using [32] and the same over regions selected using our method. Correct matches are bordered with green.

Table 1. Results on PAL dataset. Using ESVM and Saliency to define a region-of-interest for [32] was found to harm performance during cross-validation. Our proposed approach for [32] was described in Sec. 4.1 and for CNN patches (Top-5 patch + full) in Sec. 4.2.

	mP1	mP5	mP10	mP20	mAP	
	Results using [32]					
Full Image	91.7	85.2	78.5	68.5	29.6	
Saliency [16]	91.7	85.2	78.5	68.5	29.6	
Faces-BB	92.0	86.6	81.0	70.9	30.9	
Faces-Dist	92.4	84.0	78.4	69.0	30.2	
E-SVM [29]	91.7	85.2	78.5	68.5	29.6	
Proposed	93.1	86.6	81.3	72.3	31.9	
Human	91.7	88.4	83.1	73.9	33.0	
Results using CNN patch-based retrieval						
L-1 (fc7) [14]	57.0	47.4	41.0	35.3	21.3	
L-1 (pool5)	61.4	51.5	45.4	39.9	21.6	
L-1+2 [14]	61.0	51.0	45.1	38.5	23.1	
MOP-CNN [14]	69.7	57.2	50.2	43.5	25.1	
Top-1 patch	89.5	82.7	79.7	73.4	32.4	
Top-5 patch	91.7	89.6	85.6	80.0	39.6	
Top-5 + Full	92.8	89.2	85.7	80.5	40.3	
Random-5	49.1	40.0	35.9	32.6	18.7	
All Patches	75.1	65.3	60.9	55.6	31.5	

For instance, our method prefers landmark-like structures as opposed to generic buildings and definitely not pavement or grass. As expected, human-marked boxes produce the best results, but our method performs on par.

When using the CNN-patch based retrieval pipeline, we outperform full image retrievals by 19%, and MOPCNN [14] by 15% mAP. This shows that our improve-

ment can not solely be attributed to the CNN representation. It performs the best overall, outperforming [32] by 10.7%. We also ablatively compare our approach to using just the top patch, and to top-5 patches without the full image vote. We observe that most of the improvement is obtained through the patches. Using random-5 patches or all the patches performs worse, because a large part of the image is irrelevant and their retrievals overwhelm the informative parts.

# 5.5. Natural Landmarks

Even though the PAL dataset already contains diverse landmarks such as Trevi Fountain, Hollywood sign and Abu Simbel, we explicitly verify our model's ability to generalize to natural landmarks. To that end, we collect 1512 images from 3 natural landmarks, Grand Canyon, Half Dome at Yosemite and Mount Rainier, and designate 25 images with significant occlusion as test images. We use the PAL trained model, **without any re-training with identical parameters**, to select regions on these images. Results are in Table 2. We observe that our model trained on completely different data still gets similar or better performance for both the baseline methods. We present some qualitative results in the supplementary.

### 5.6. Results on Oxford5K

To further test whether our system can identify regions that are useful for localization, we evaluate our approach on Oxford5K [26] since it is well-known and dissimilar to PAL. Oxford5K comes with manually marked query boxes that identify objects of interest. Since these boxes already identify useful regions and remove distractors, it is impossible to evaluate the system's ability to identify useful regions

Table 2. Results on Natural Landmarks

	mP1	mP5	mP10	mP20	mAP	
	Results using [32]					
Full Image Proposed	96.0 <b>100.0</b>	81.6 <b>88.8</b>	73.6 <b>78.8</b>	67.6 <b>71.6</b>	40.1 <b>40.5</b>	
Results using CNN patch-based retrieval						
L1 (pool5) Top-5 + Full	64.0 <b>84.0</b>	51.2 <b>79.2</b>	58.4 <b>79.6</b>	58.0 <b>78.6</b>	42.2 <b>45.0</b>	



Border Color Key: Good OK Junk Bad

Figure 8. Top few retrievals for a sample query image in Oxford Buildings, using (in order) [32], [32] with our predicted heatmaps (proposed), CNN full image and CNN patch-based (proposed). A 'junk' match in Oxford5K refers to matching images where < 25% of the object is present.

while using the boxes: the task has already been done in advance by the annotator. We therefore evaluate the system on the full image, on which the base system performs worse due to the distracting regions of image. We also note that in many real-world applications, the user will not provide this annotation. We show a qualitative result on an image more similar to our PAL dataset in Fig. 8: the method successfully identifies the building as important, enabling the CNN patch based approach to find 4 good matches, and using the predicted heatmap with [32] gets three good matches. Compared to using full image CNN and keypoint methods, this performance is much better. We show some other heatmap predictions on Oxford5K test images in Fig. 9.

Quantitatively, we observed a 77.37% mAP without using the query box, on modifying the provided code for [32] to use our heatmaps, compared to 76.76% when using the full image. The small gain on this dataset can be attributed to the fact that most Oxford queries have the object of interest covering most of the image, un-occluded. In the CNN patches based approach, we observed an improvement of



Figure 9. Heatmaps predicted by our method on Oxford5K test images using the model trained on PAL. It focuses on the main object for localization, getting rid of people, cars, bicycles, generic buildings and other boring parts of the image.

Table 3. Results on Oxford5K: Applying our PAL-learned model directly to Oxford5K for selecting regions of the image, improves retrieval performance by 0.61% for [32] and 22.2% for CNN.

Results using [32]					
Without query box Without query box, with histogram thresholding					
With query box					
Results using CNN patch-based retrieval					
Full Image	37.74				
Top-1 patch	50.30				
Top-5 patch + Full	59.97				
Top-50 patches	72.11				

about 22% mAP over using full image features. Note that for both the cases, the model was learned on PAL and applied directly to Oxford5K without any re-training and with identical parameters. This shows the ability of our approach to easily and safely generalize across datasets, while at worst preserving the original performance.

### 6. Conclusion

We have presented an approach that can zoom in and determine which parts of the image are most useful for a task and applied it to the task of localization through retrieval. We have also presented a novel approach to performing retrieval using CNN features over patches of the image. To help evaluate the approach, we introduced a new dataset containing lots of visual clutter in the query images. We showed that our proposed approach outperforms existing state of the art by more than 10% mAP for our newly introduced dataset. Also, it improves the state of the art on the Oxford5K dataset when not using the provided query boxes.

**Acknowledgements:** This work was partially supported by Siebel Scholarship to RG, Bosch Young Faculty Fellowship to AG and NDSEG Fellowship to DF. This material is also based on research partially sponsored by DARPA under agreement number FA8750-14-2-0244. The U.S. Government is authorized to reproduce and distribute reprints for Governmental purposes notwithstanding any copyright notation thereon. The views and conclusions contained herein are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies or endorsements, either expressed or implied, of DARPA or the U.S. Government.

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