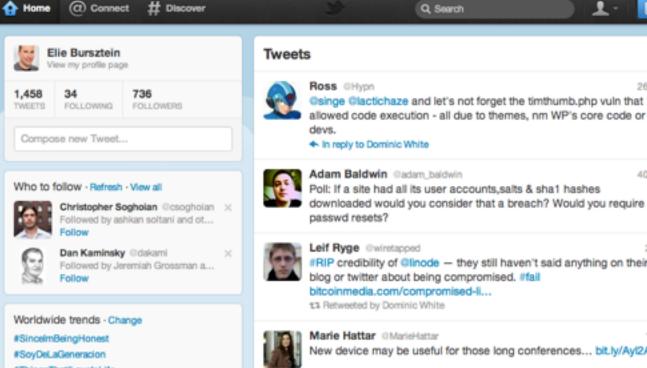
The art of breaking and designing captchas

Elie Bursztein



Session ID: HT02-402 Session Classification: xxxxxxxxxxx



2h #RIP credibility of @linode - they still haven't said anything on their blog or twitter about being compromised. #fail bitcoinmedia.com/compromised-li... 13 Retweeted by Dominic White 1h New device may be useful for those long conferences... bit.ly/Ayl2AJ Adam Baldwin Gadam_baldwin 2h Every time I'm cracking passwords I'm sort of disappointed somebody didn't use the password zerocool. Celine Bursztein Goealtea 4h Photo: We finally have keys of our new home :) (Taken with Instagram at Maplewood Apartments) tmbir.co/ZXk-ixHJnfLm Jon Mitchell @JonMwords 6h Invalid Argument Ep. 1 - The App Store: (Banana) Republic? rww.to/A4QZko Guests: @calebelston @drbarnard @mb @brianhax Gmacguitar 13 Retweeted by ReadWriteWeb ReadWriteWeb ORWW 5h Daily Wrap: Siri's Imagined Physical Presence and more rww.to/xvNPjK

Crystal Beasley Oskinny 5h I knew this sort of person existed, I just didn't ever fathom I'd become one of them. pic.twitter.com/fX1TuTaM 13 Retweeted by Priscilla Scala

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Q, Search



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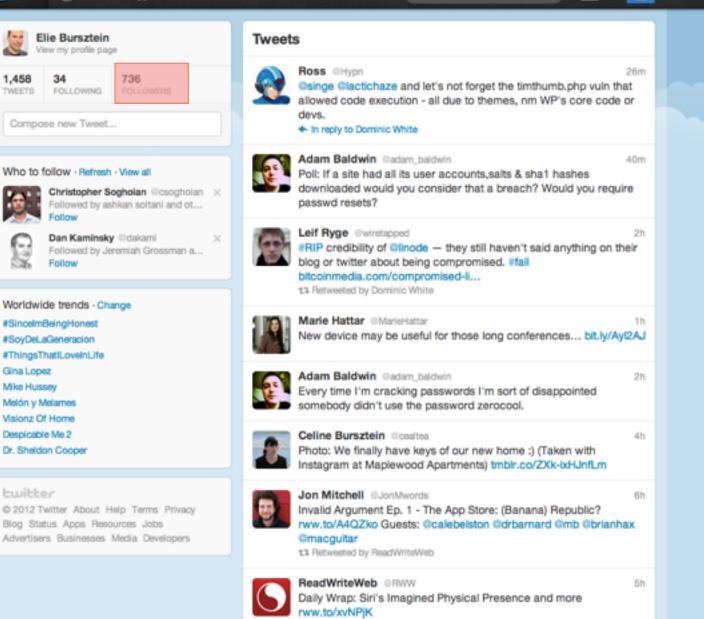
1,458

TWEETS



Q, Search







Crystal Beasley Oskinny I knew this sort of person existed, I just didn't ever fathom I'd become one of them. pic.twitter.com/fX1TuTaM 13 Retweeted by Priscilla Scala

5h



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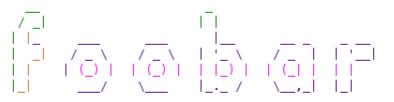


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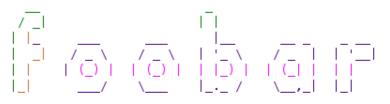
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	Your full name will appear on your public profile			
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Are you human?				×
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I want the inside scoop—please send me email updates!				

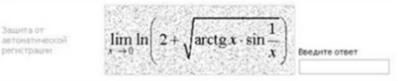


Captcha Validation: *





Captcha Validation: *

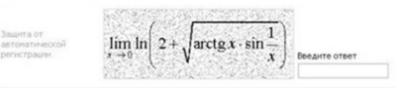




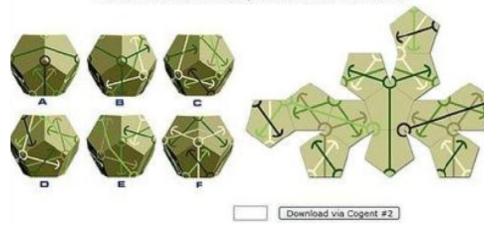
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Защита от

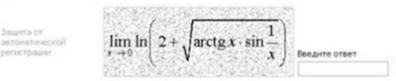
регистрации



No premium user. Please enter the one that can NOT be created from the unfolded pattern. 29 seconds remain.



Captcha Validation: *



Please click on the images that show cats:



adopt me

Защита от

регистрации





adopt me





adopt me





adopt me



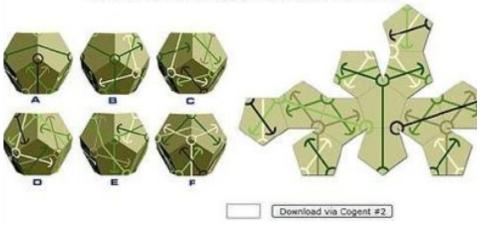




adopt me

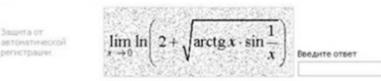
adopt me

No premium user. Please enter the one that can NOT be created from the unfolded pattern. 29 seconds remain.





Captcha Validation: *



Please click on the images that show cats:



Защита от

регистрации





adopt me

adopt me



adopt me

adopt me





adopt me



adopt me

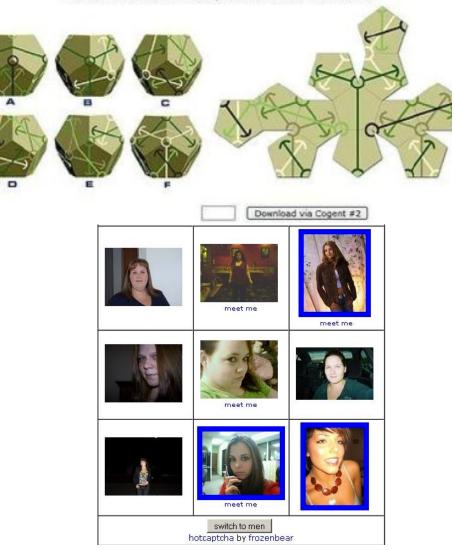
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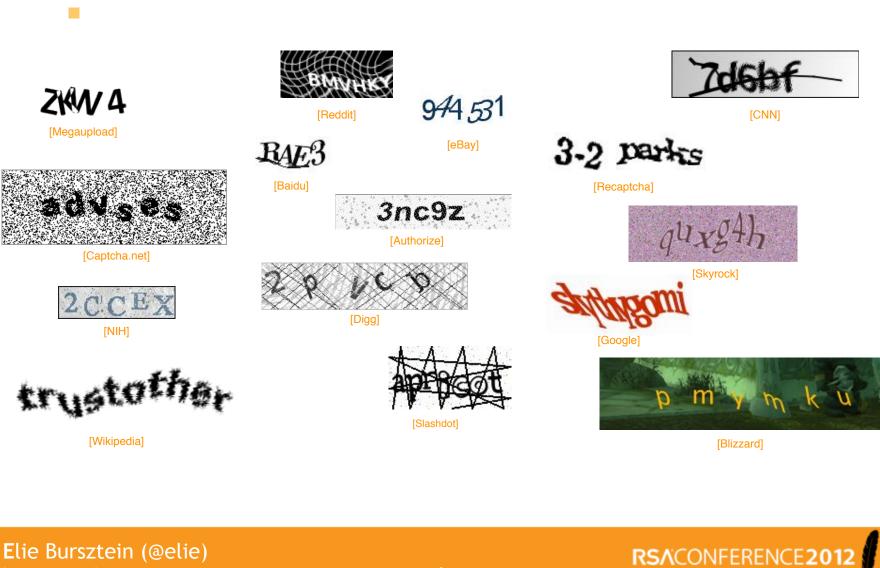
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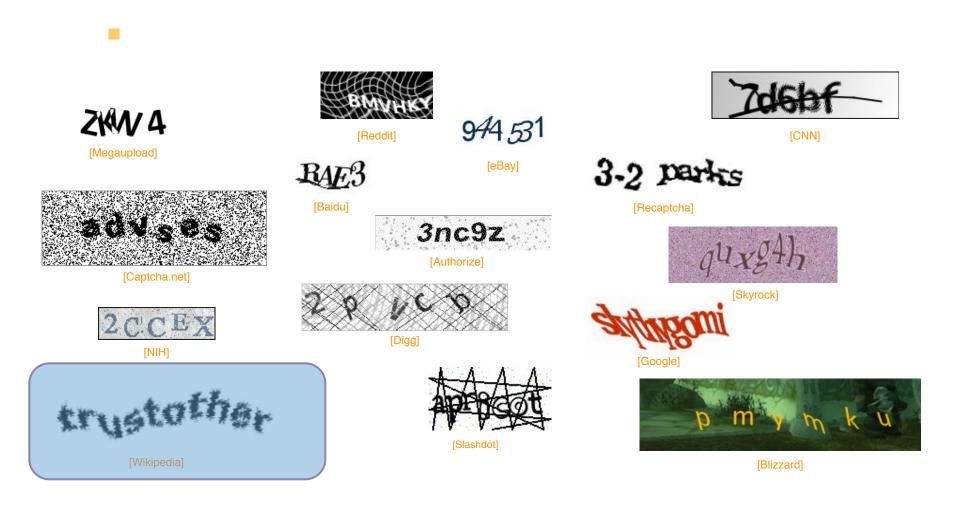


Elie Bursztein (@elie) https://elie.net

World Most-Popular Captchas

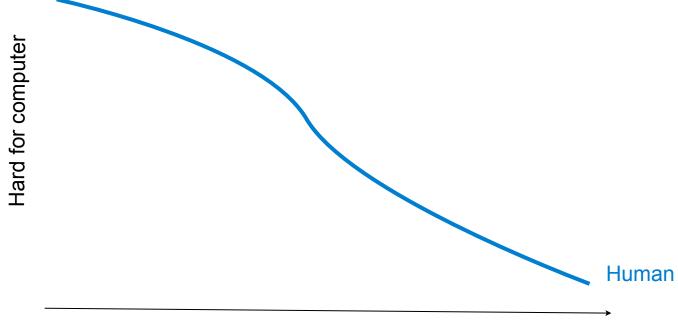


World Most-Popular Captchas

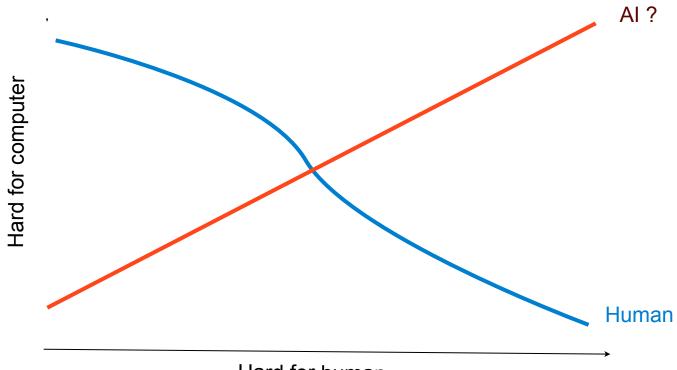


Hard for computer

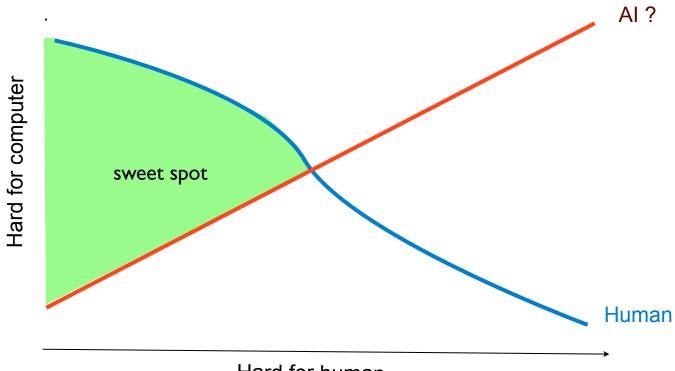
Hard for human



Hard for human



Hard for human



Hard for human



How to break and design CAPTCHAs



Based on the breaking 21 of the most popular schemes and designing the new Wikipedia captcha



How to break text captcha



How to break text captchaHow to make captchas easier for human



- How to break text captcha
- How to make captchas easier for human
- How to break audio captcha

- How to break text captcha
- How to make captchas easier for human
- How to break audio captcha
- How to break video captcha

Evaluation metrics



Accuracy



Evaluation metrics





Accuracy

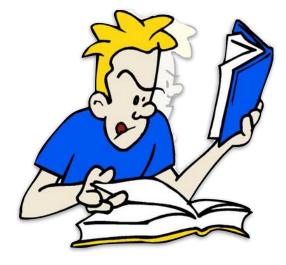
Solving time



Evaluation metrics







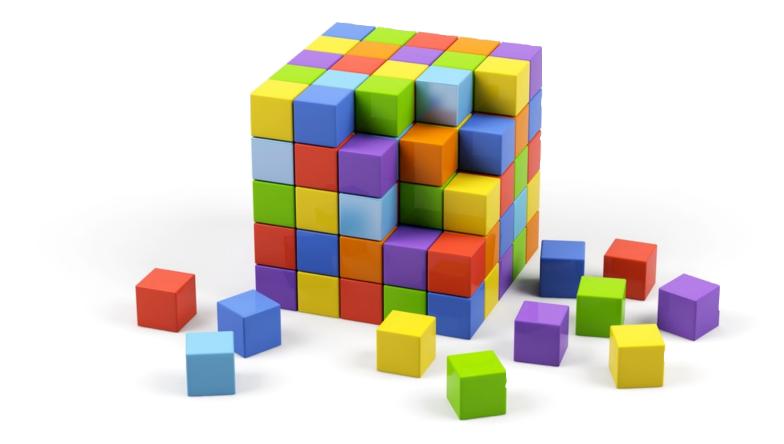
Accuracy

Solving time

Learnability

How to Break Text-Captchas





Think Lego





How to break a captcha: example





Pre-processing: background removal





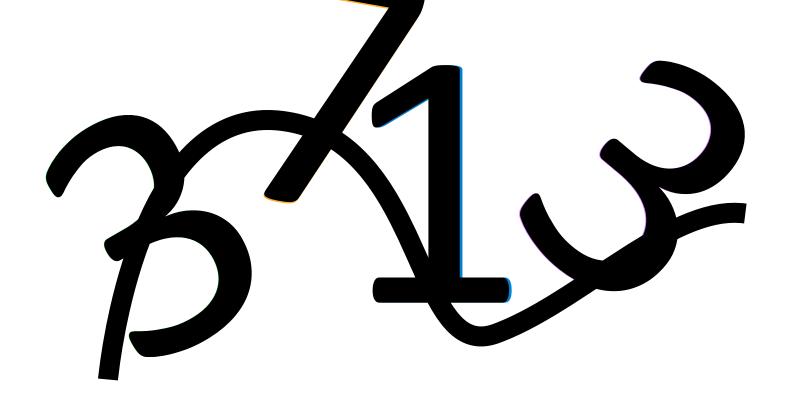
Pre-processing: background removal





Pre-processing: captcha binarization





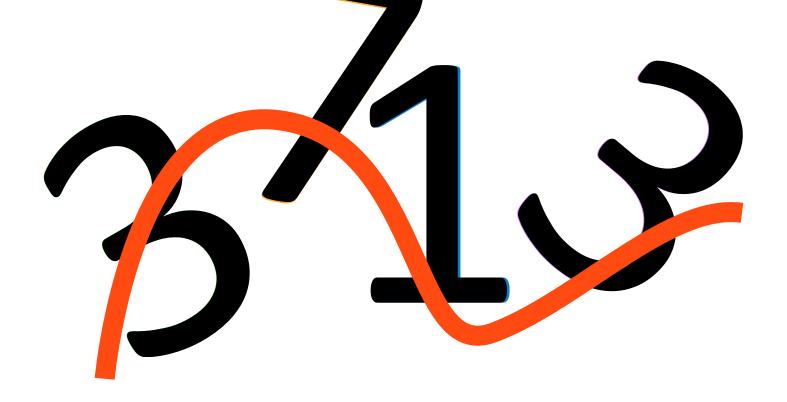
Pre-processing: captcha binarization





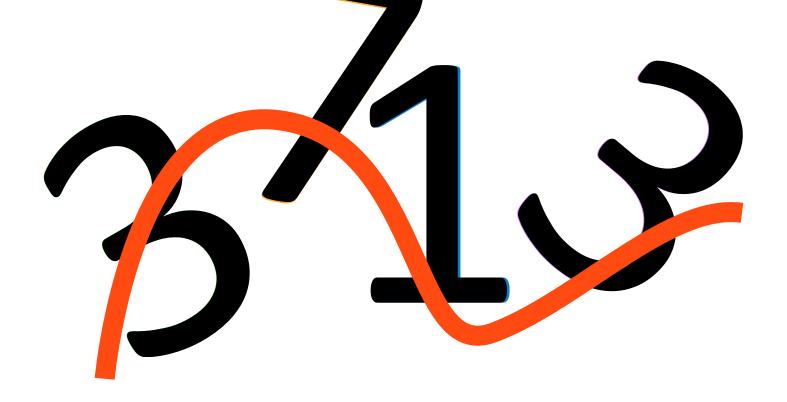
Pre-processing: Line detection





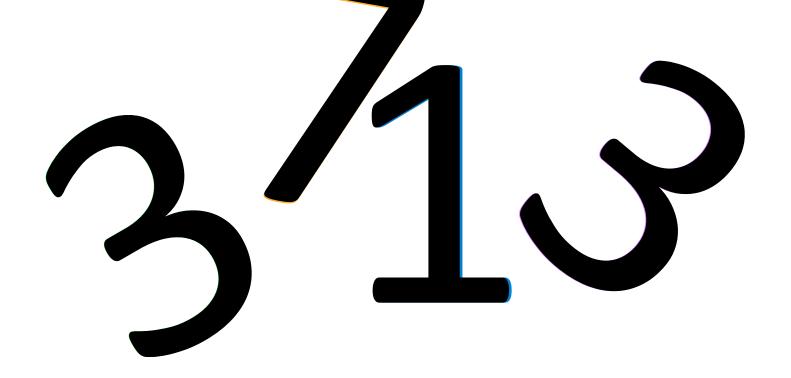
Pre-processing: Line detection





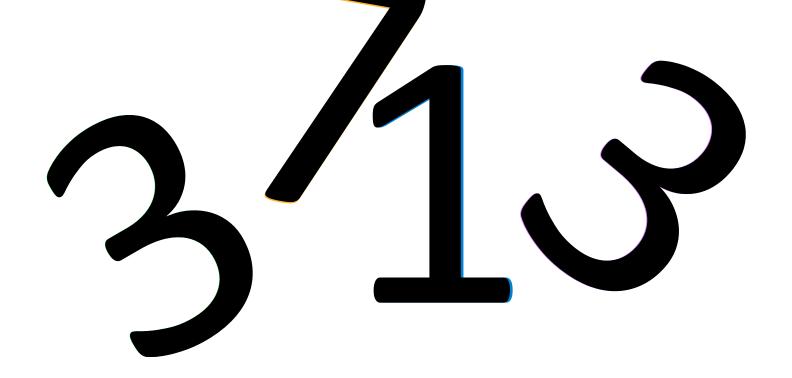
Pre-processing: Line removal





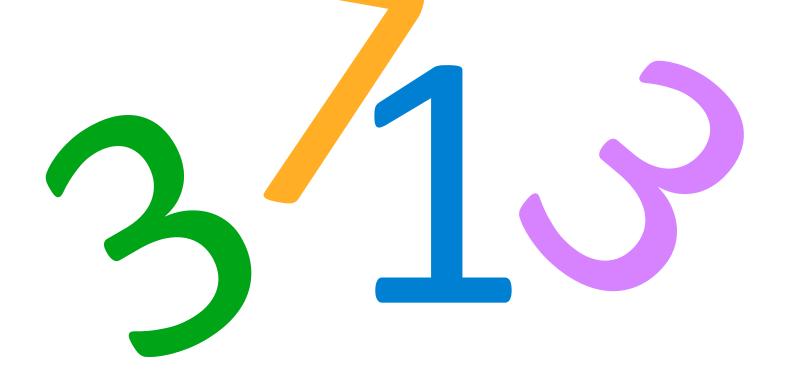
Pre-processing: Line removal





Segmentation: clustering algorithm





Segmentation: clustering algorithm





Segmentation: cluster separation





Segmentation: cluster separation





Post-segmentation: inverting rotation





Post-segmentation: inverting rotation





Recognition:



Recognition: 3713





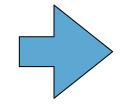
Slashdot captcha





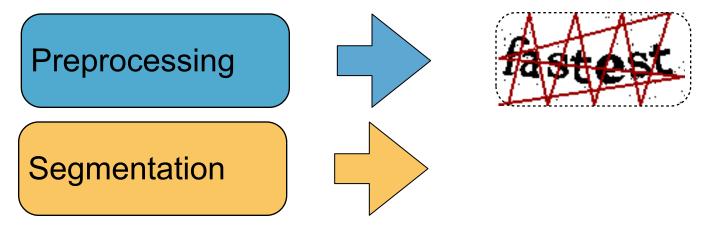


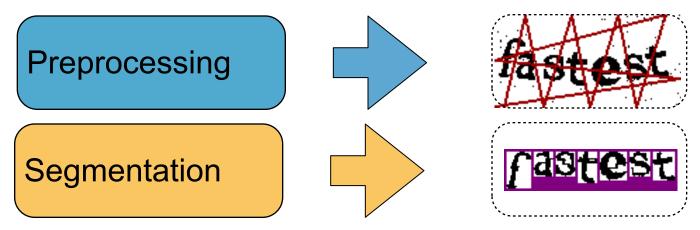


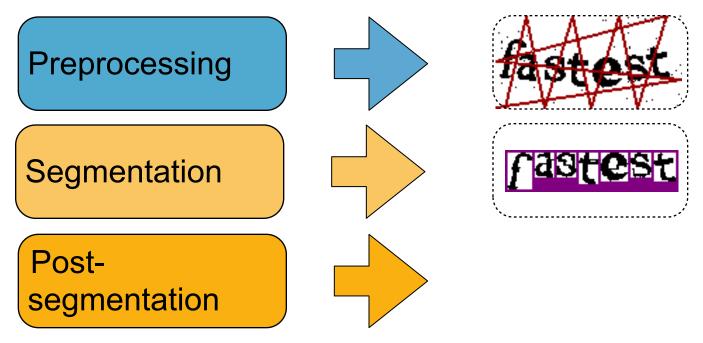


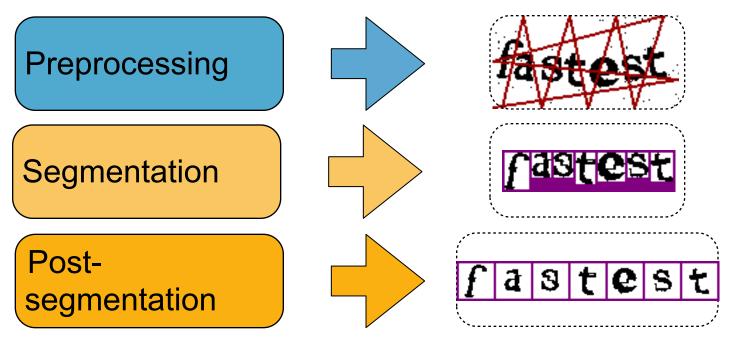


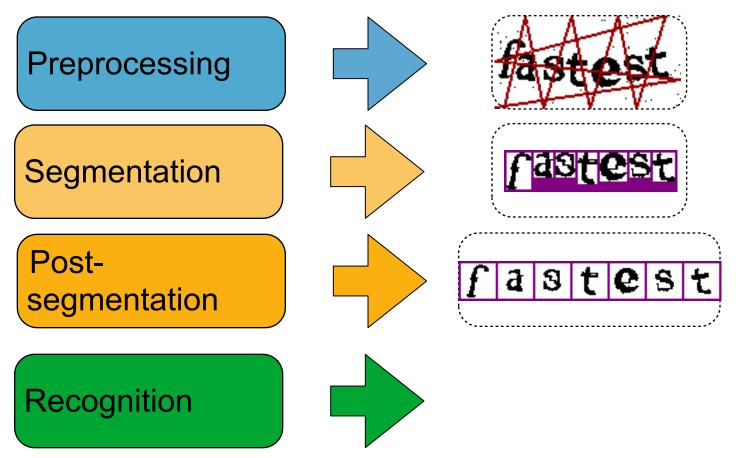




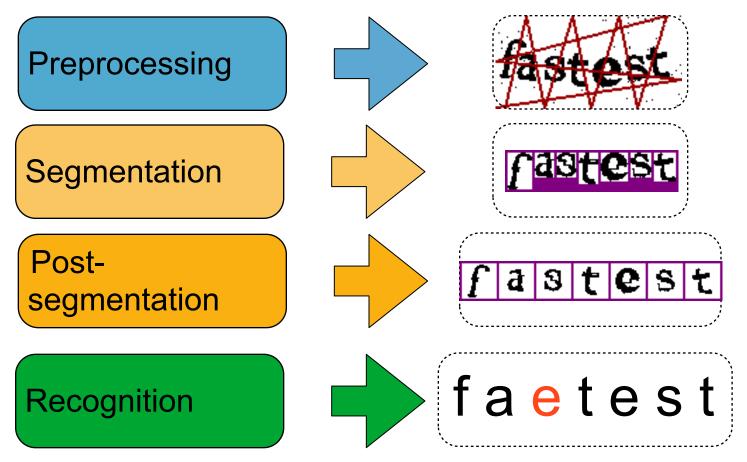


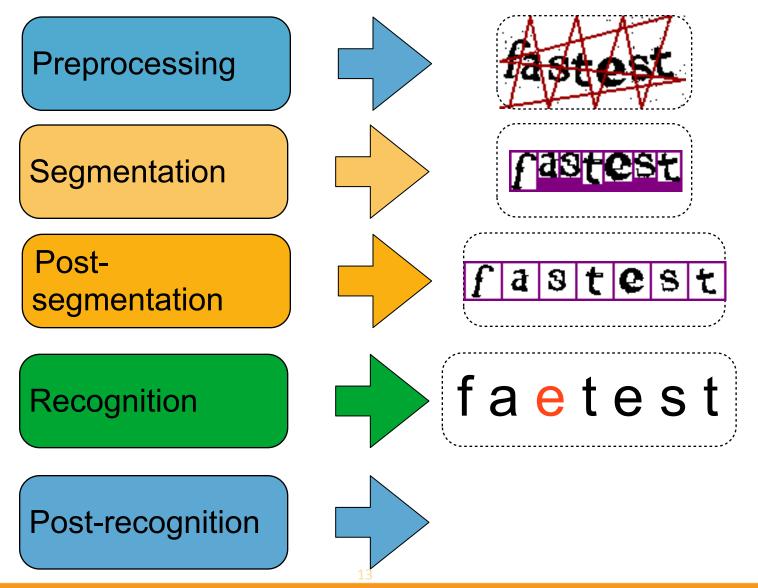




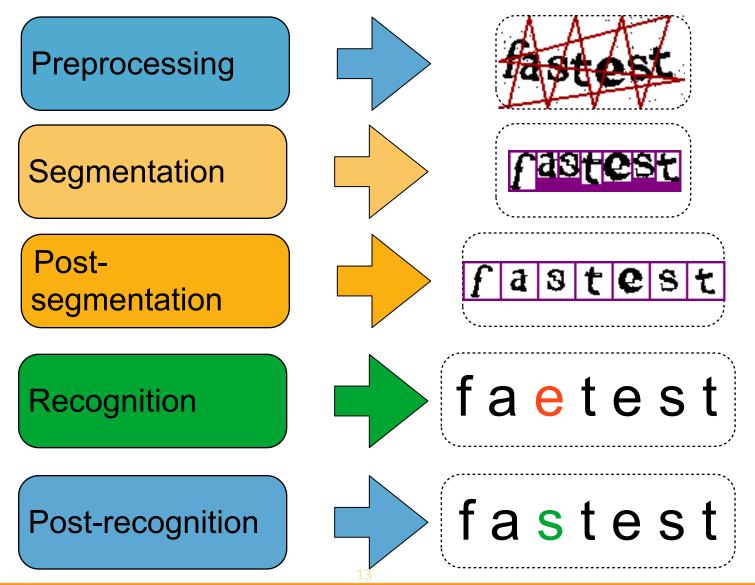


13





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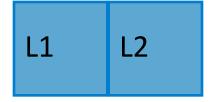
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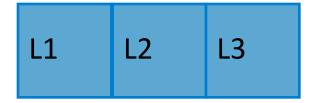
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11111111000000000000000111101100
1111111100000000000000000000001111000
11111110000000000000000000000011000
111111000000000000000000000000000000000
111111000000000000000000000000000000000
011111000000000000000000000000000000000
111100000000000000000000000000000000000
001111100000000000000000000000000000000
000011110000000000000000000000000000000
000001111000000000000000000000000000000
00000011110000000000000000000000000000
000000000000001111100000000000000000000

011111111000000000000000111101100
11111111000000000000000000000001111000
111111100000000000000000000000011000
111111000000000000000000000000000000000
111111000000000000000000000000000000000
011111000000000000000000000000000000000
001111000000000000000000000000000000000
001111100000000000000000000000000000000
000011110000000000000000000000000000000
000001111000000000000000000000000000000
000000111100000000000000000000000000000
0000000011110000000000000000000110000
000000000000000111111111000000000



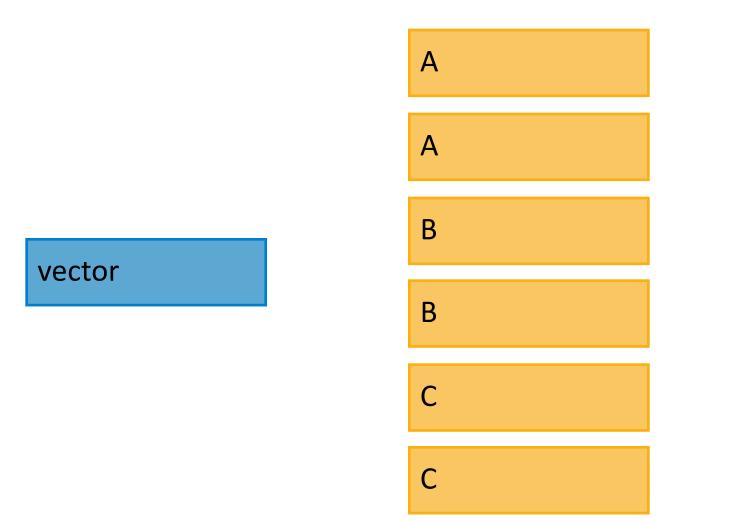
1111111100000000000000000000001111000
111111100000000000000000000000000000000
111111000000000000000000000000000000000
111111000000000000000000000000000000000
111110000000000000000000000000000000000
001111000000000000000000000000000000000
001111100000000000000000000000000000000
000011110000000000000000000000000000000
000001111000000000000000000000000000000
00000000001111000000000111000000
000000000000000000000000000000000000000







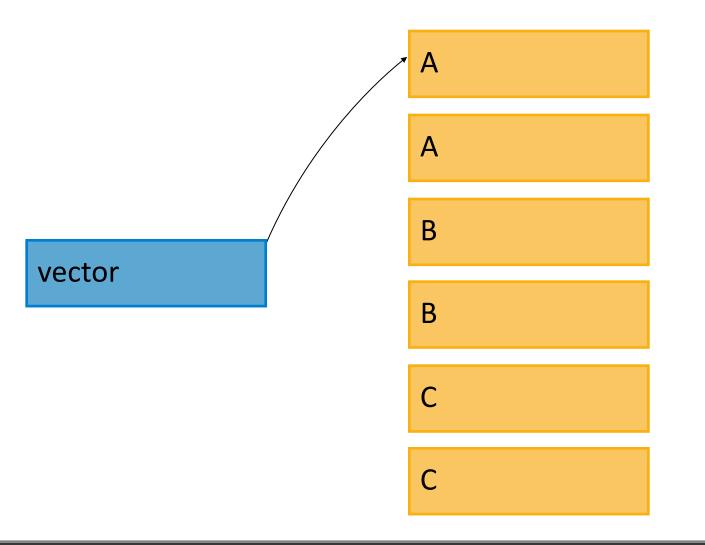
Distance



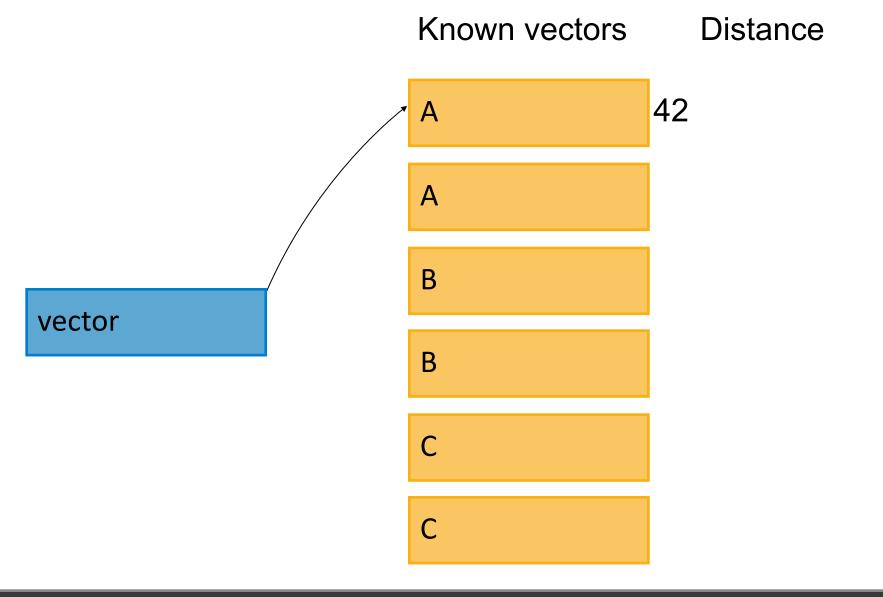
From the vector representation to the segment value (classification)

Known vectors

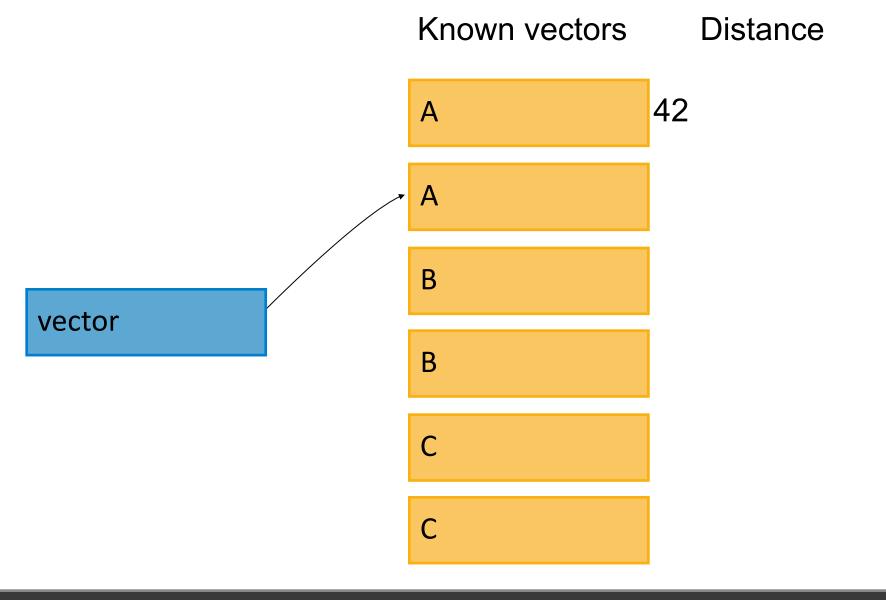
Distance



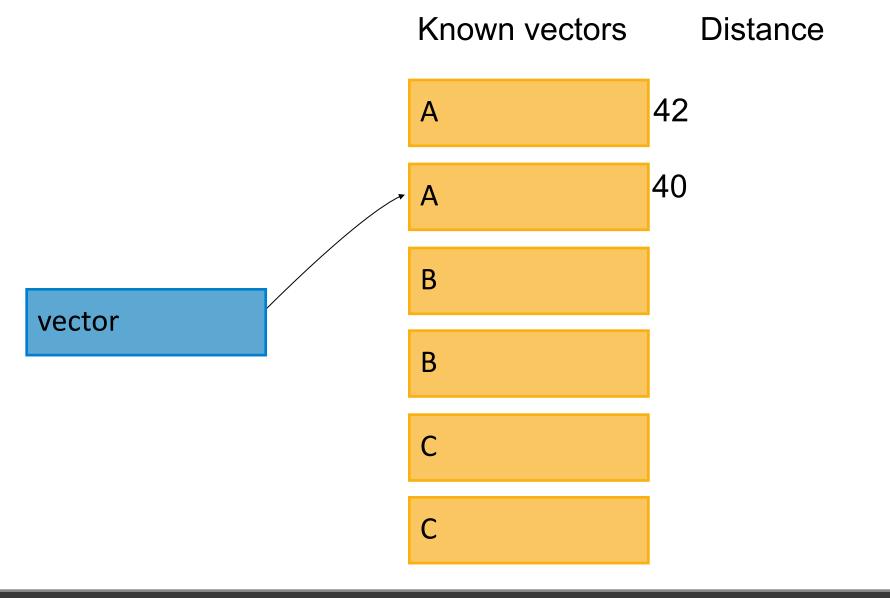
From the vector representation to the segment value (classification)



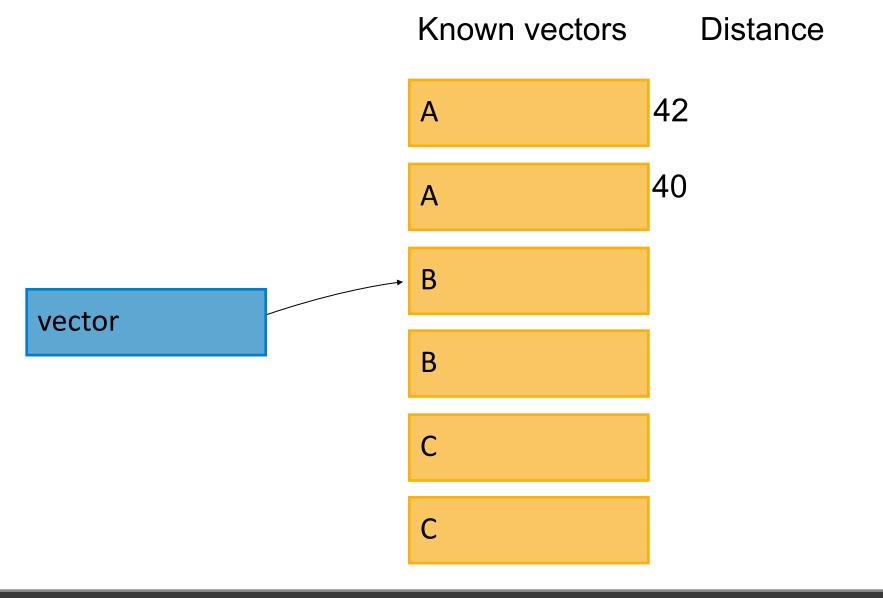
From the vector representation to the segment value (classification)

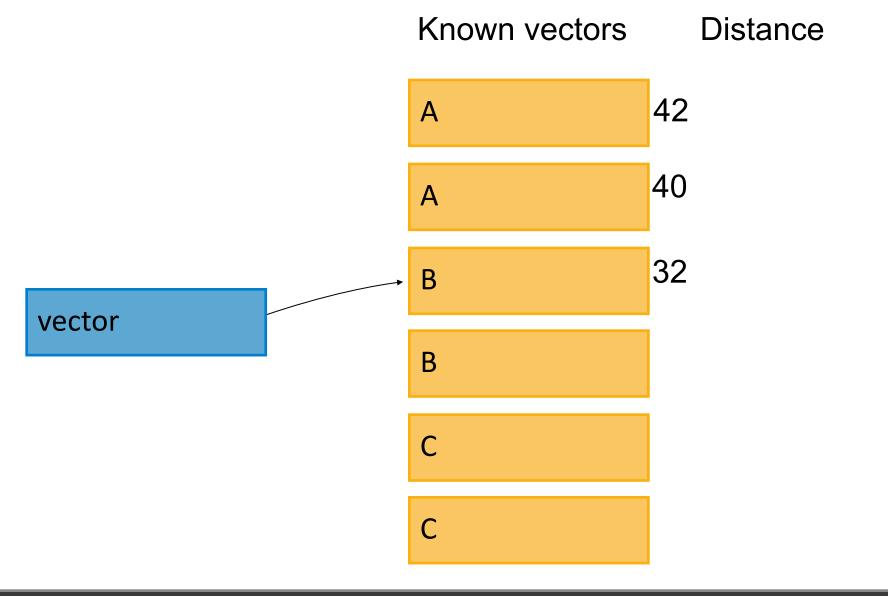


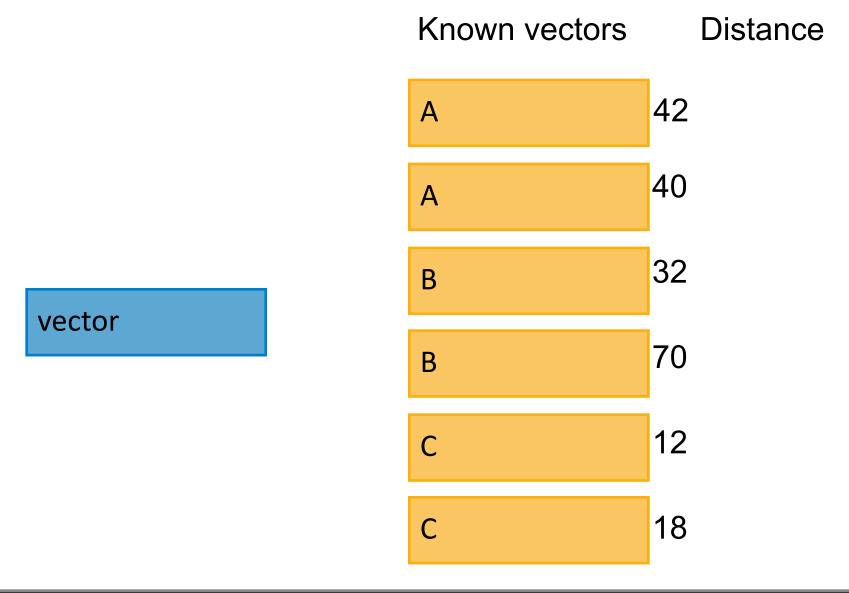
From the vector representation to the segment value (classification)

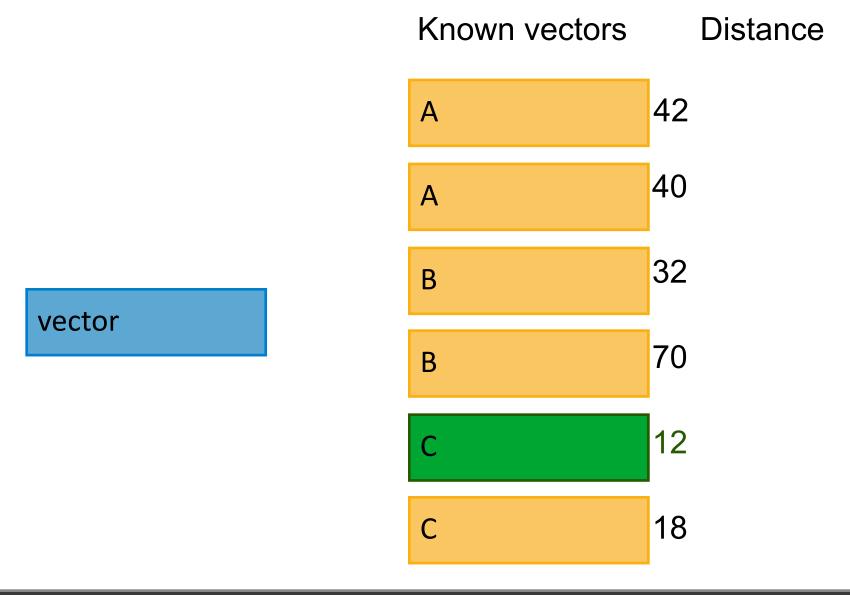


From the vector representation to the segment value (classification)









Breaker efficiency

Solver accuracy = Coverage * Precision^length

Coverage: Segmentation rate *Precision*: Recognition rate



Blurring

3tr2bb

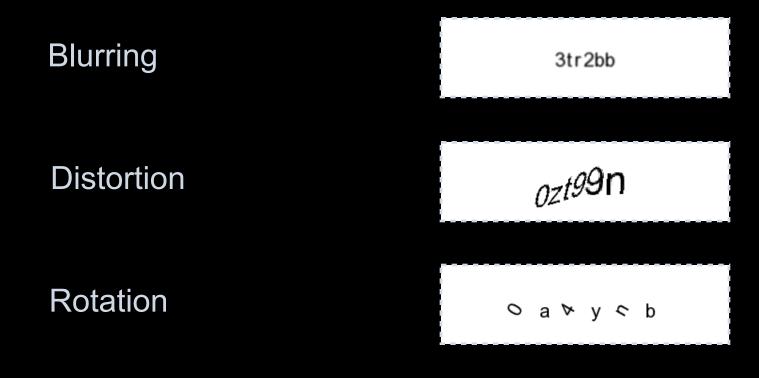


Blurring

Distortion

3tr2bb _{ozt}99n













Charsets

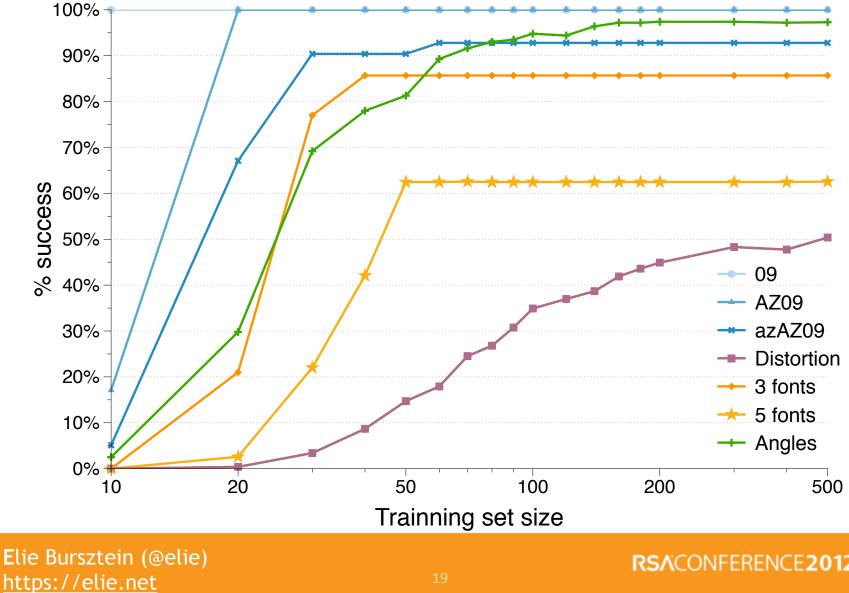




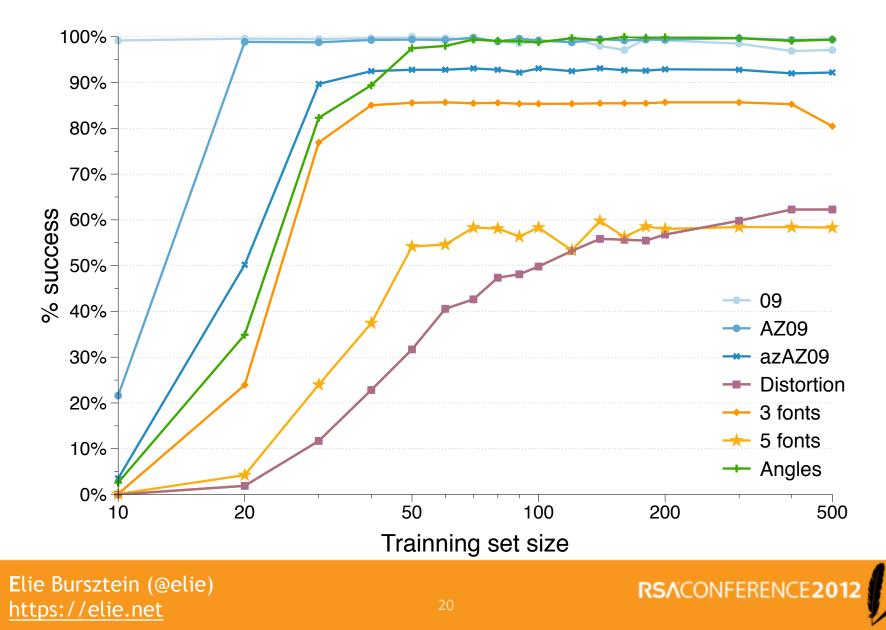
Charsets

Elie Bursztein (@elie) http://elie.im RSACONFERENCE2012

SVM learning rate

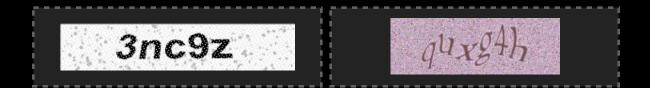


KNN learning rate

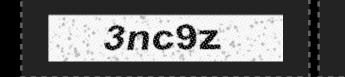


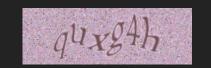
















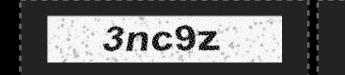
Background Confusion



Lines



Background Confusion







Lines





Background Confusion

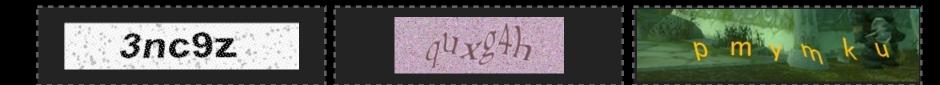


Lines





Background Confusion

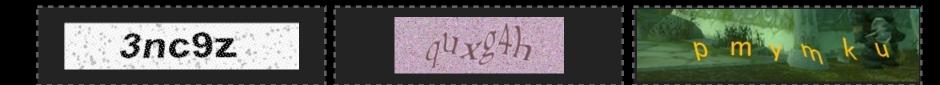


Lines





Background Confusion



Lines



Collapsing



Background Confusion



Lines



Collapsing





Background Confusion



Lines



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Collapsing



Background Confusion



Lines



Collapsing



RSACONFERENCE2012













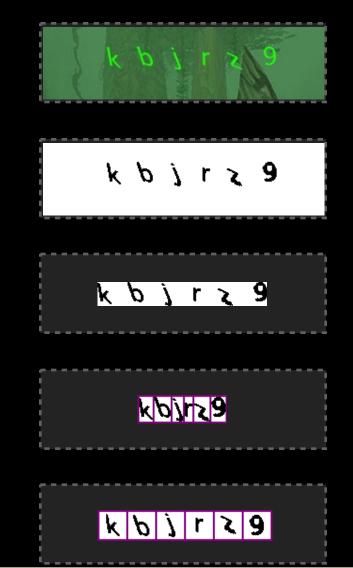




















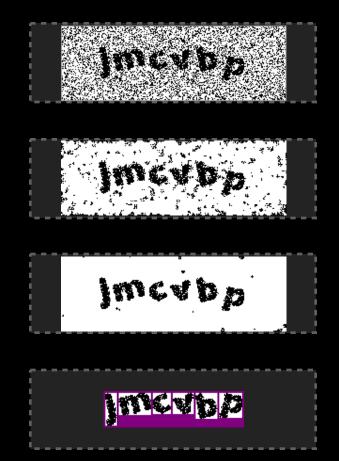






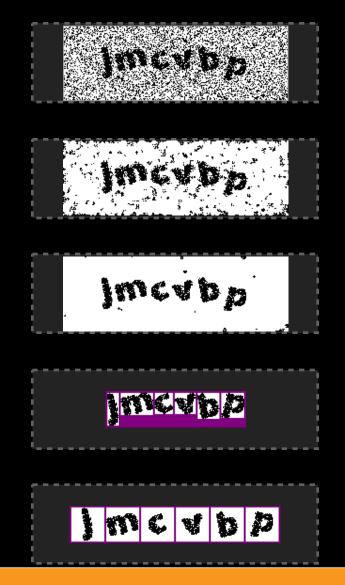








Breaking Captcha.net



dramacharm



dramacharm dramacharm



dramacharm dramacharm dramacharm



dramacharm dramacharm dramacharm dramacharm



dramacharm dramacharm dramacharm dramacharm dramasharm







PVSCA

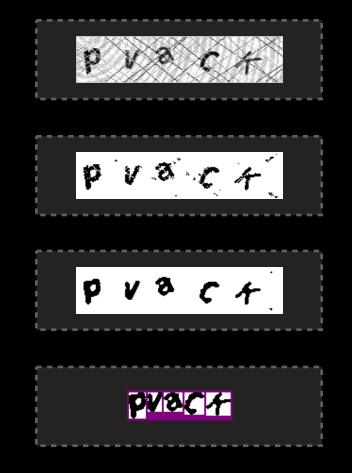




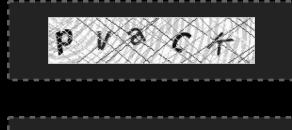






















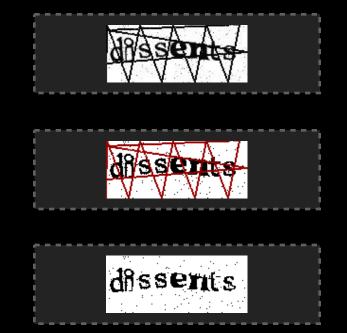




























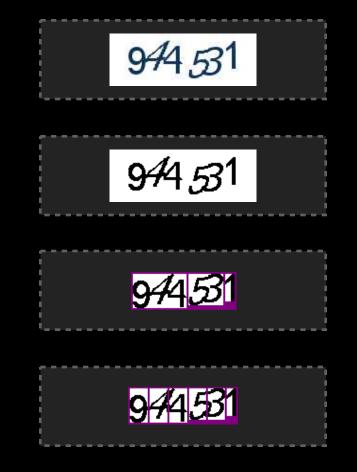




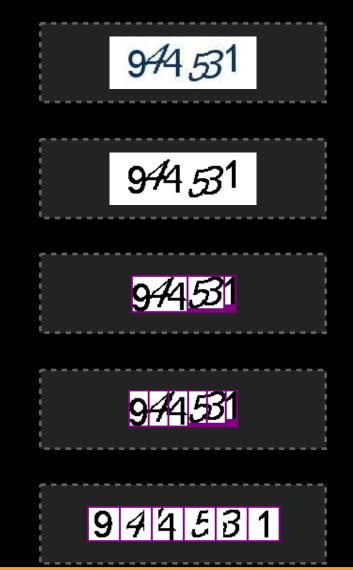














































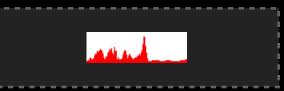






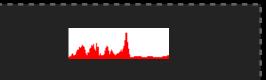












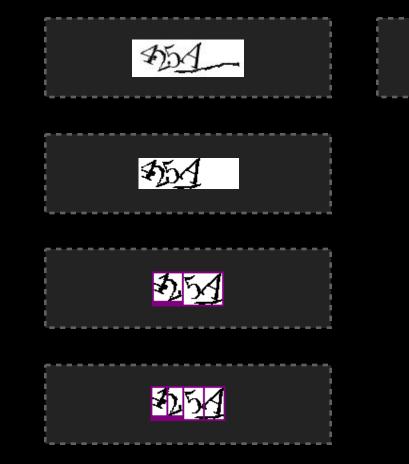




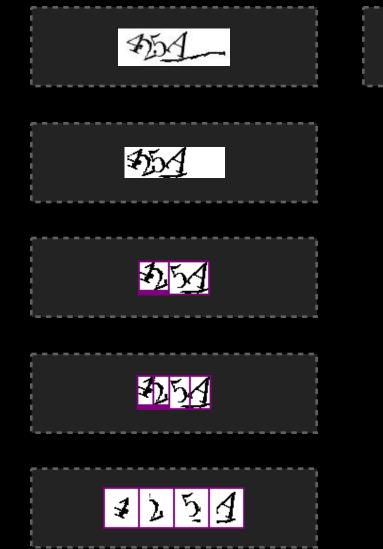














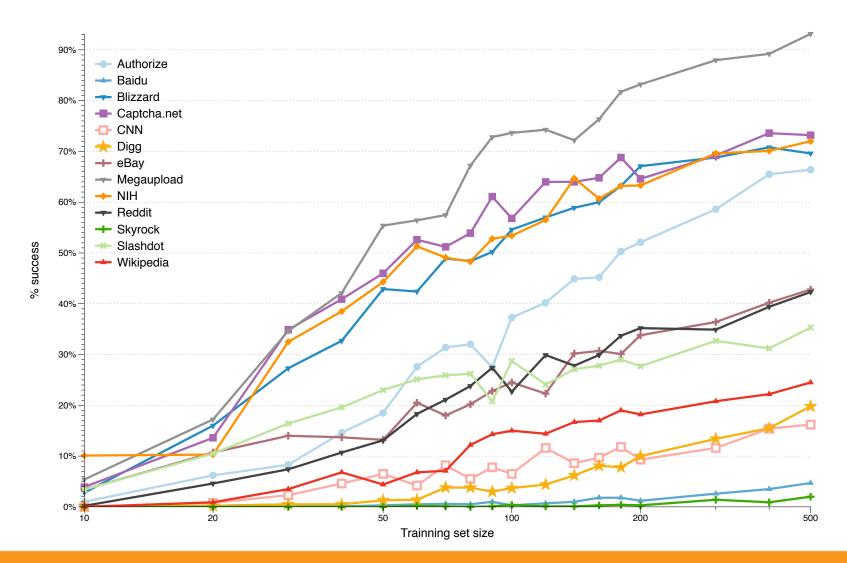


Overall results

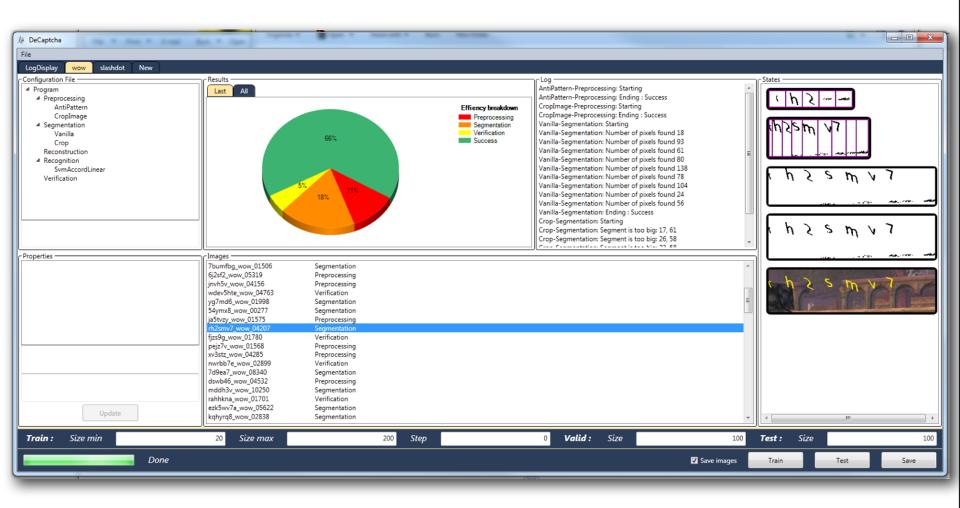
	Segmentation	Solving rate
Authorize	84%	66%
Baidu	98%	5%
Blizzard	75%	70%
Captcha.net	96%	73%
CNN	50%	16%
Digg	86%	20%
eBay	95%	43%
Google	0%	0%
MegaUpload	n/a	93%
NIH	87%	72%
Recaptcha	0%	0%
Reddit	71%	42%
Skyrock	30%	2%
Slashdot	52%	35%
Wikipedia	57%	25%

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Learning rate for real schemes



Decaptcha main interface



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Apply design principles

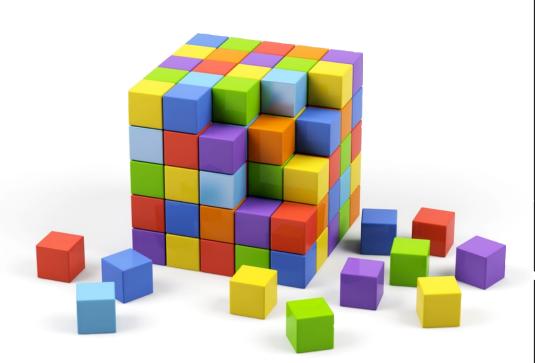
- Core design principles
 - Randomize length
 - Randomize character size
 - Wave the captcha
- Use anti-recognition as a means of strengthening captcha security
- Don't use a complex charset
 - Bad for human (see our research on this)
 - Useless for security
- Use collapsing or lines

Designing Better Captchas

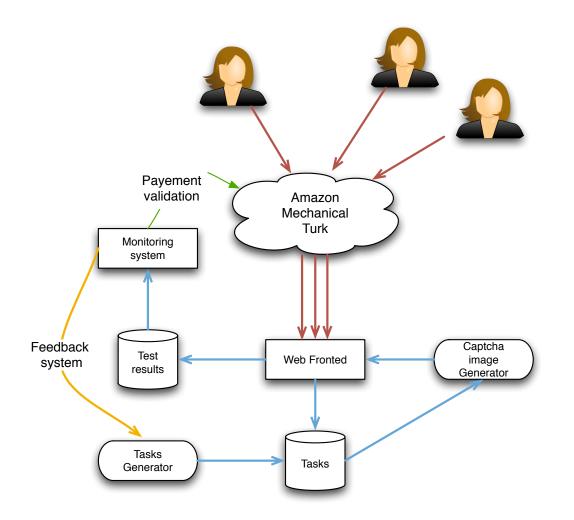
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Think Lego again

- Decompose in features
- Analyze
 - feature in isolation
 - features interaction

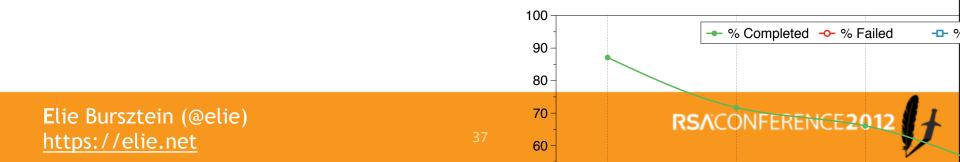


Evaluation system



Experiment details

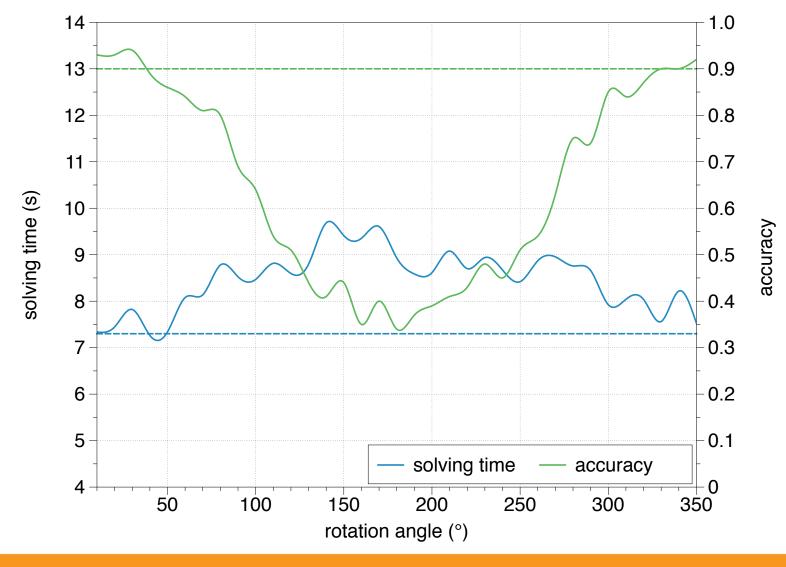
Round	Task	N possible	N sampled	N tests per sample	Total tests
1	Baseline ("Control")	1	1	1000	1000
2	Real world captchas	8	8	1000	8000
3	Features in isolation	496	496	200	99200
4	2 feature interactions	60950	60950	5	304750
5	3 feature interactions	1 303 224	25000	10	250000
6	4 feature interactions	113 951 684	25000	10	250000
	Total				912150



Some of the features tested

3tr2bb	tx3soh	0AG722	frbxth
Blurring	Text color	Font	Background color
02deh	Оа⊁у९	azx ^{t1} g	0zt99n
Collapsing	Tilting	Waving	Distortion
0izj w6	ulômgx	j sf 8be	-4umt85
line	line angle	line shape	nb line
5h3lxkpe3prqline coverageline position		0abqn6 line size	№2r576 Noise
e Bursztein (@elie)		Re	

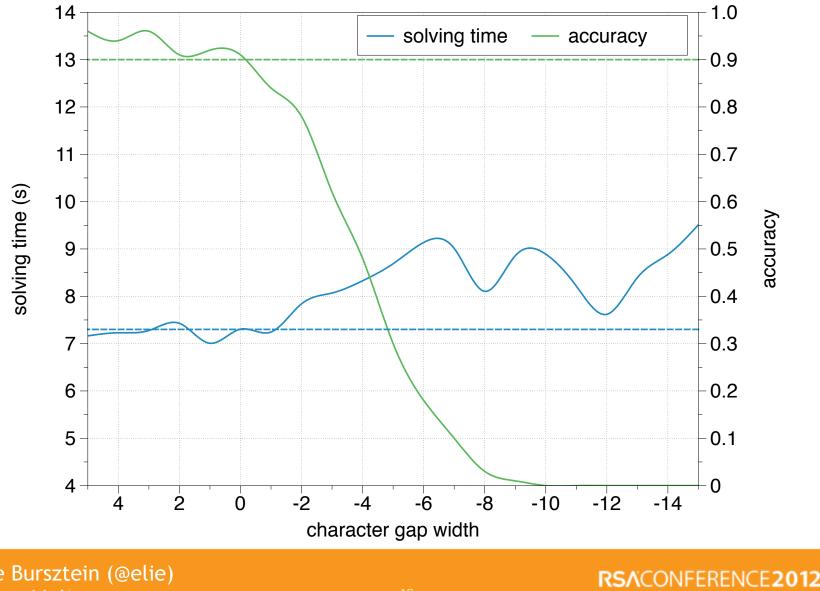
Angle of rotation



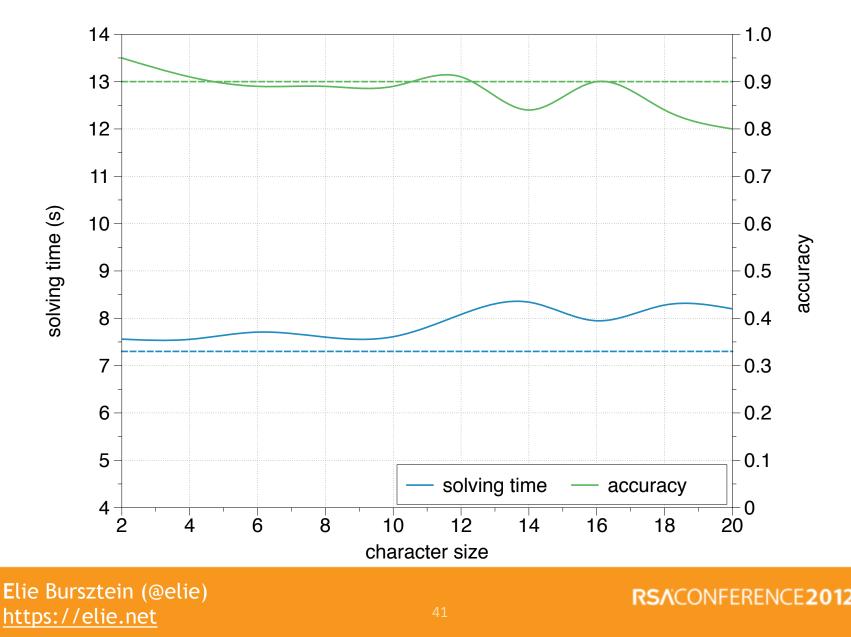
Elie Bursztein (@elie) https://elie.net

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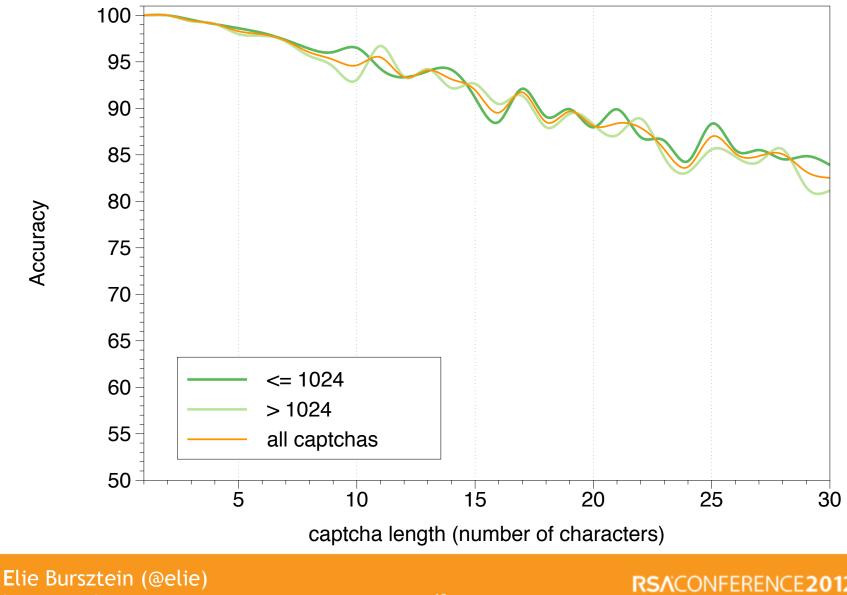
Collapsing



Character size



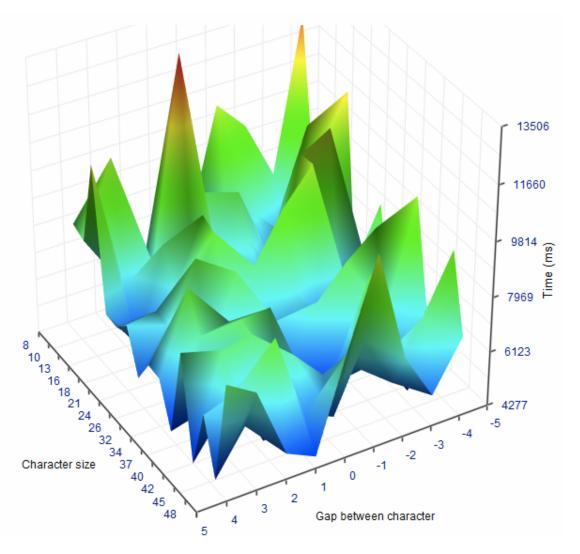
Resolution invariant



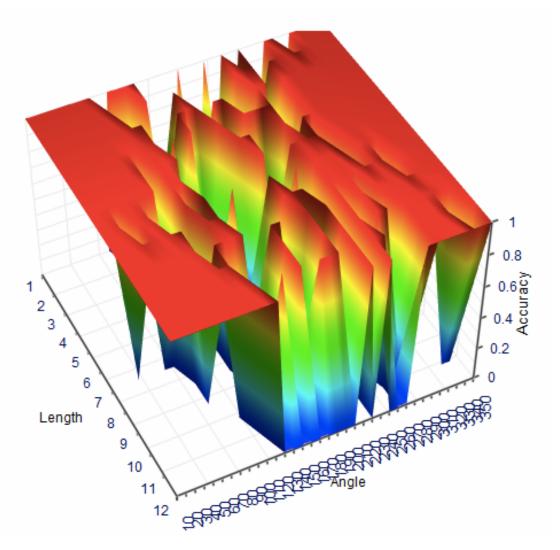
https://elie.net

Accuracy

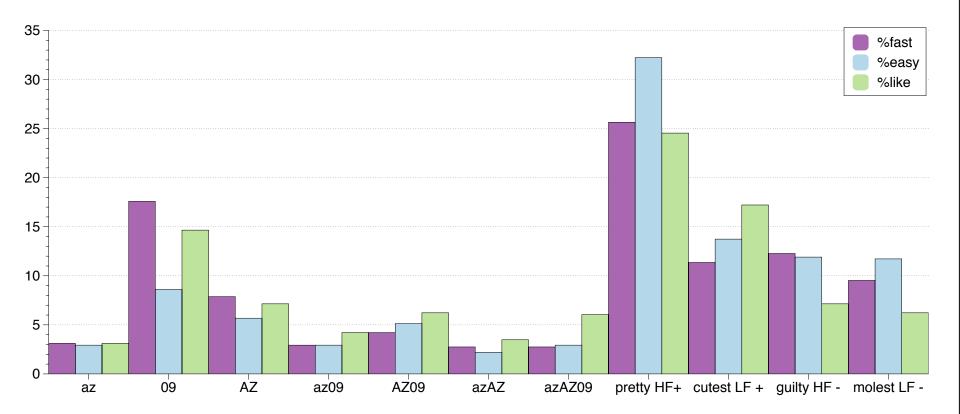
2D interactions



Length vs Angle interaction



Perception Does Not Match Number



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The New Wikipedia

- Use digit
- Wave the captcha
- Use random length (5-7)
- Use random size (34-50)
- Rotate letter (-25/25)
- Add a line for a super secure version

trustother

Accuracy

Solving time



trustother

Accuracy

84.8%

Solving time

Accuracy

84.8%

Solving time 7.8s

0120

trustothe

Accuracy

84.8%

Solving time 7.8s

0120

trustoth



Accuracy



89.2% 82.6%

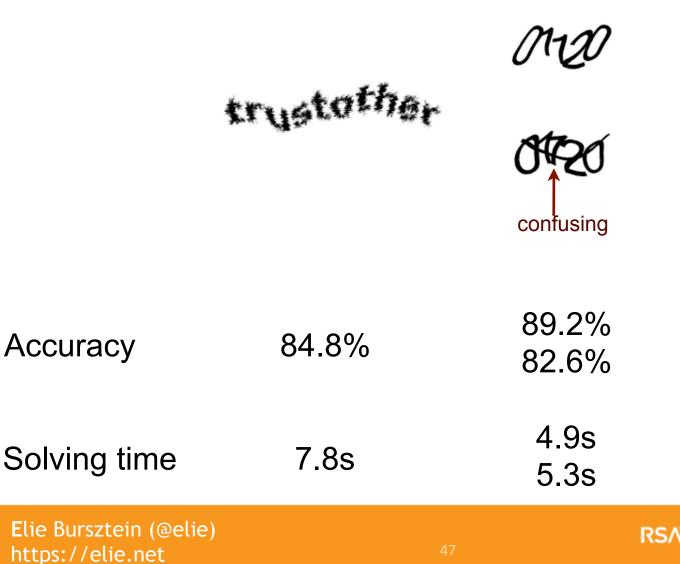
Solving time 7.8s

https://elie.net

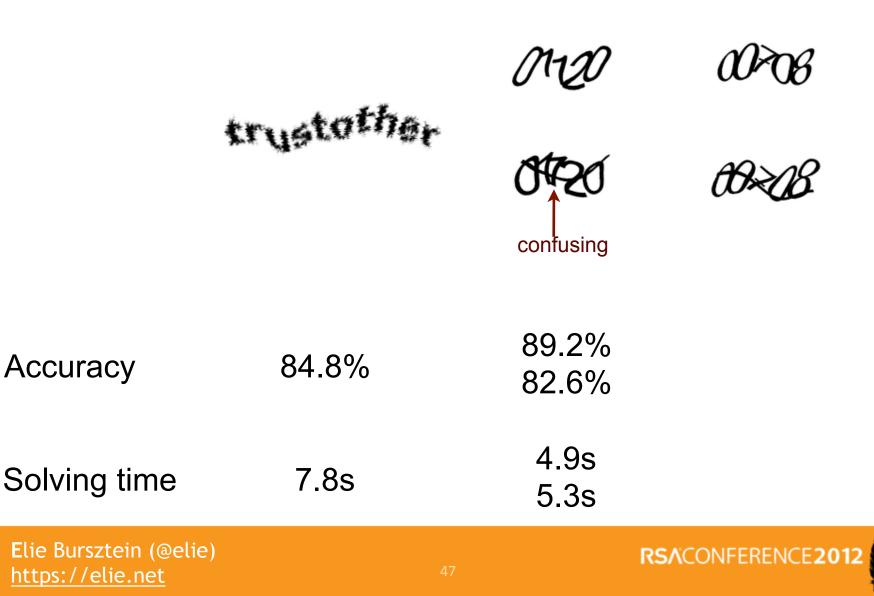
01-20

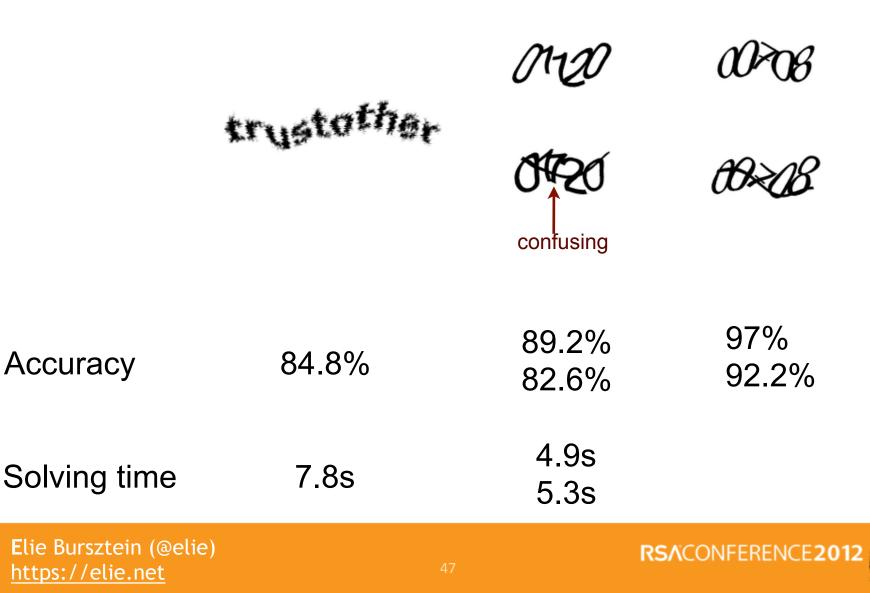
trustother

Accuracy	84.8%	89.2% 82.6%	
Solving time	7.8s	4.9s 5.3s	
Elie Bursztein (@elie)		47	RSACONFERENCE2012



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	4		01-20	00>0B
	trustothe		confusing	00×08
Accuracy	84.8%		89.2% 82.6%	97% 92.2%
Solving time	7.8s		4.9s 5.3s	4.9s 5.2s
E lie Bursztein (@elie) <u>https://elie.net</u>		47		RSACONFERENCE2012

How to Break Audio-Captcha



Audio Captchas



YAHOO!

The not-so-fine print

For added security, please enter the verification code hidden in the image.



Refresh the image | Listen to the verification code



sponding AdWest



stop spam. read books RE CAPTCHA"

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Audio Captchas



YAHOO!

The not-so-fine print

For added security, please enter the verification code hidden in the image.



Refresh the image | Listen to the verification code



sponding AdWest

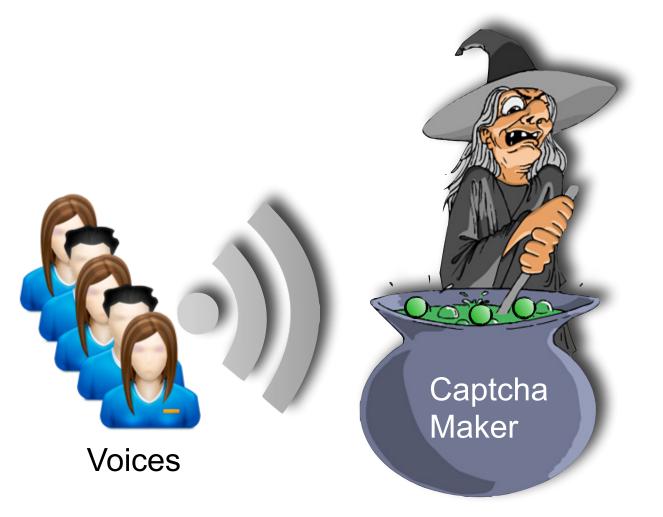


stop spam. read books RE CAPTCHA"

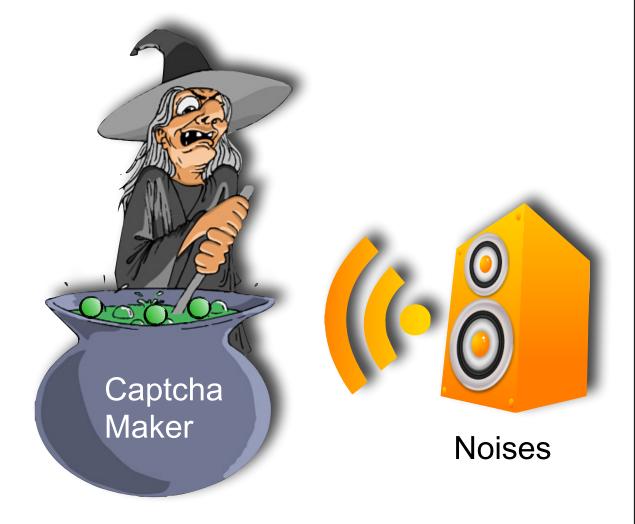
RSACONFERENCE201











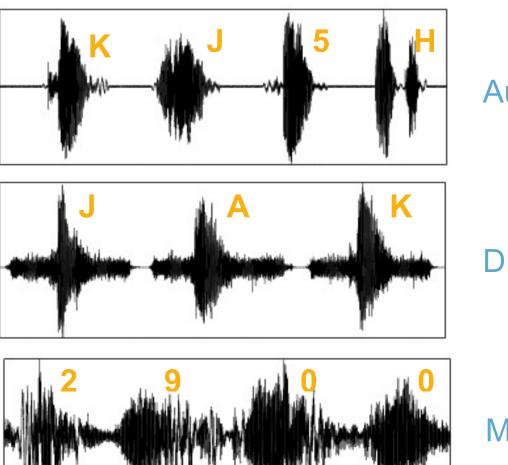
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Super secure captcha



Noise intensity (RMS/SNR)



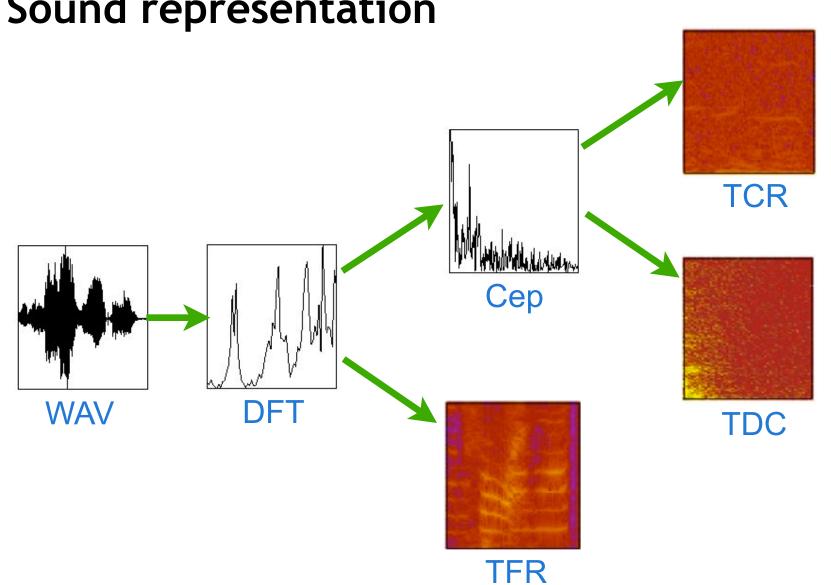
Authori

Dia



Micros

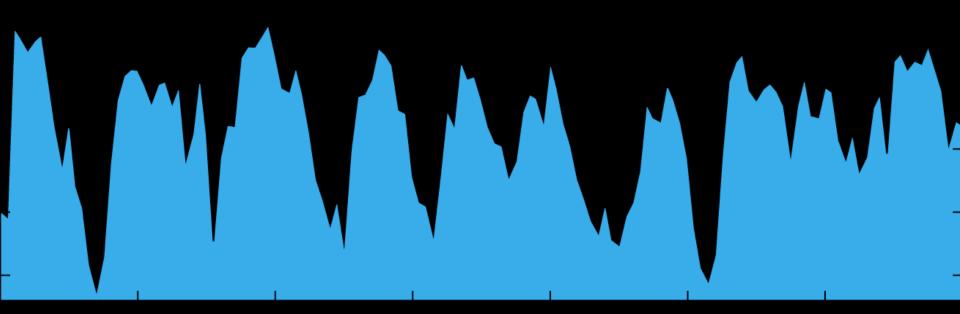
RSACONFERENCE2012



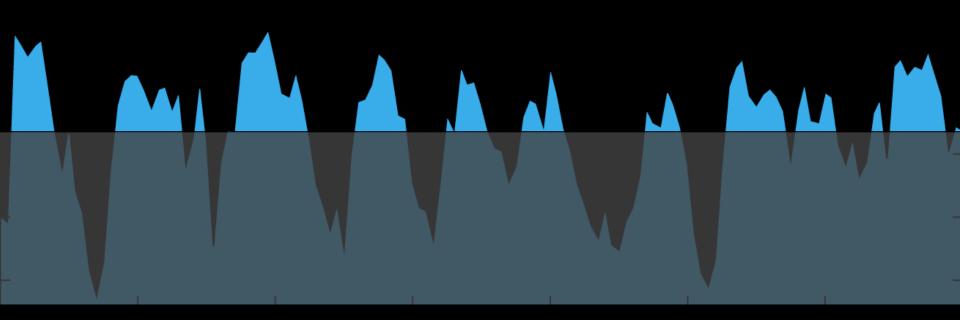
Sound representation



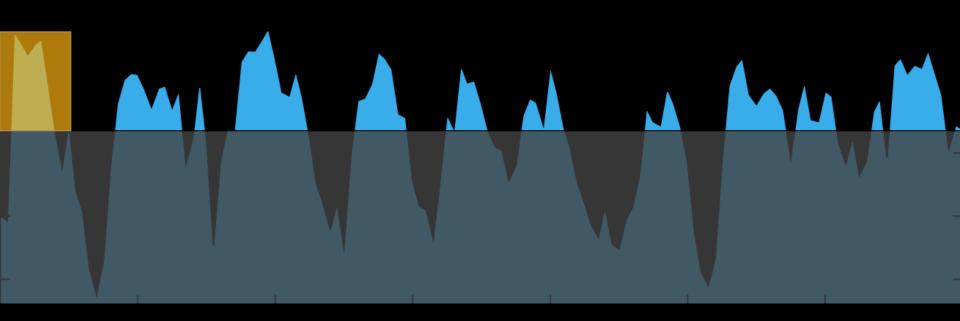






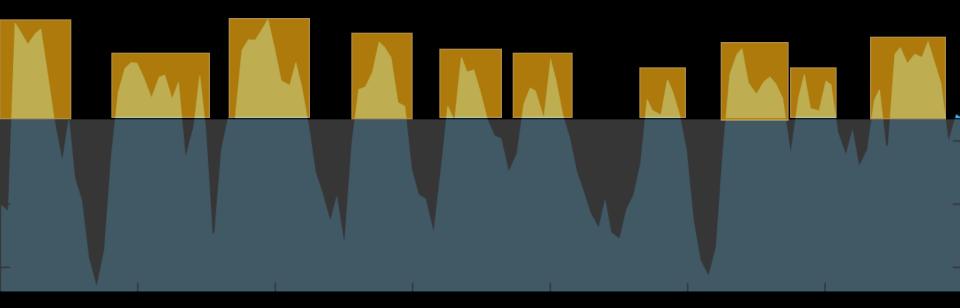






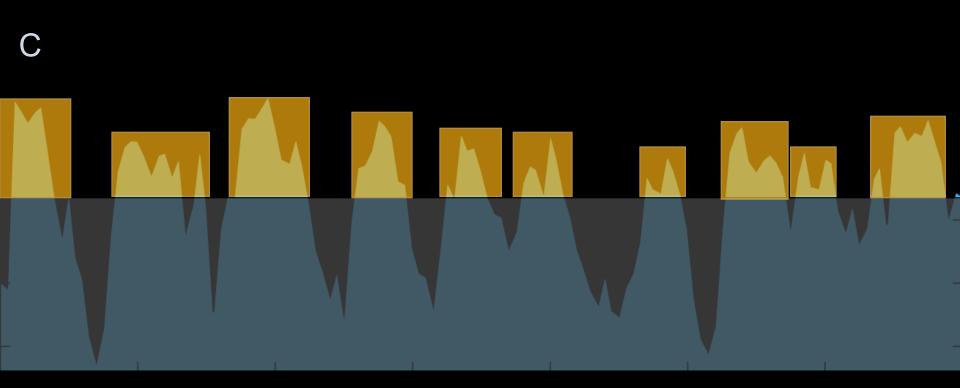


Solving an audio captcha





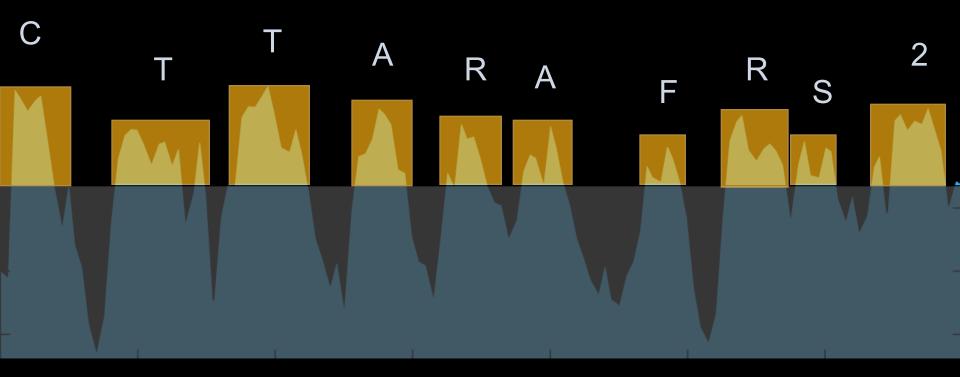
Solving an audio captcha



Elie Bursztein (@elie) http://elie.im



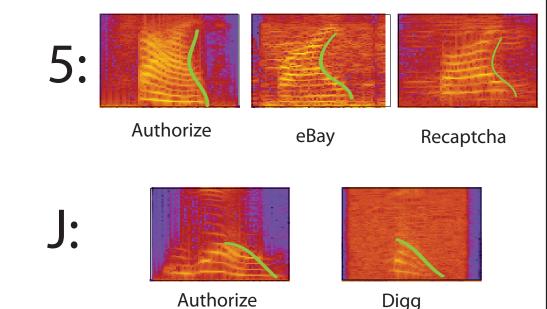
Solving an audio captcha





Dealing with random noise

- Statistical learning
- Supervised learning
- RLS (Regularized least square) classifier





a CyberSource solution







YAHOO!

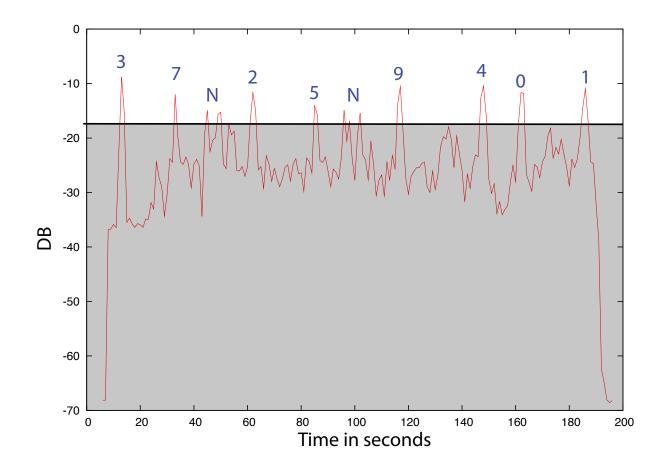
Microsoft[®]

Elie Bursztein (@elie) https://elie.net

Results

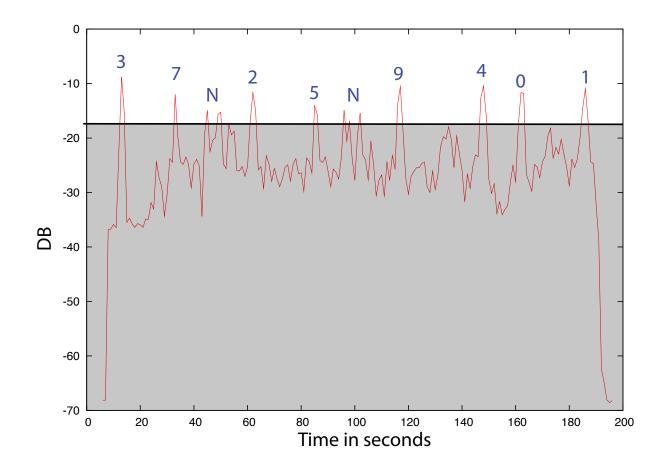
	Length	Coverage	Digit	Captcha
Authorize	5	100	97	89.2%
Digg	5	100	76	41.4%
eBay	6	85.6	92.5	82.9%
Microsoft	10	80.6	89.6	48.9%
Recaptcha	8	99.9	40.5	1.5%
Yahoo	7	99.1	74.7	45.4%

Recaptcha semantic noise



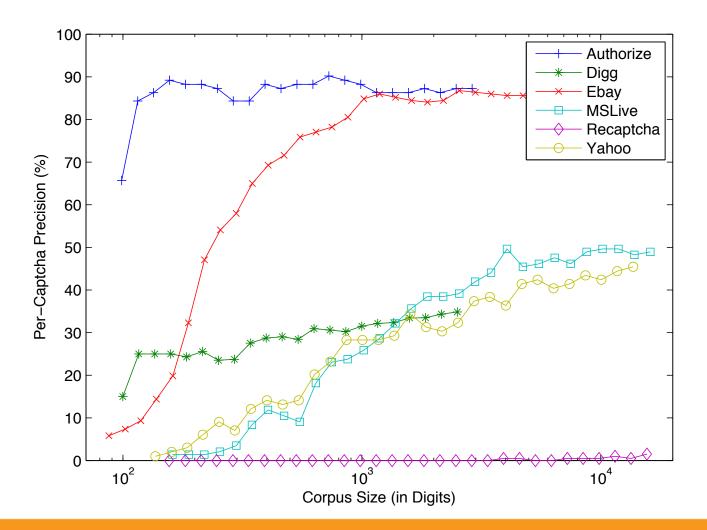
Elie Bursztein (@elie) https://elie.net

Recaptcha semantic noise



Elie Bursztein (@elie) https://elie.net

How many captchas do you need ?



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Video captcha

- Interesting direction -> more design space
- Good for human
- Good for computer :(
 - Working on it

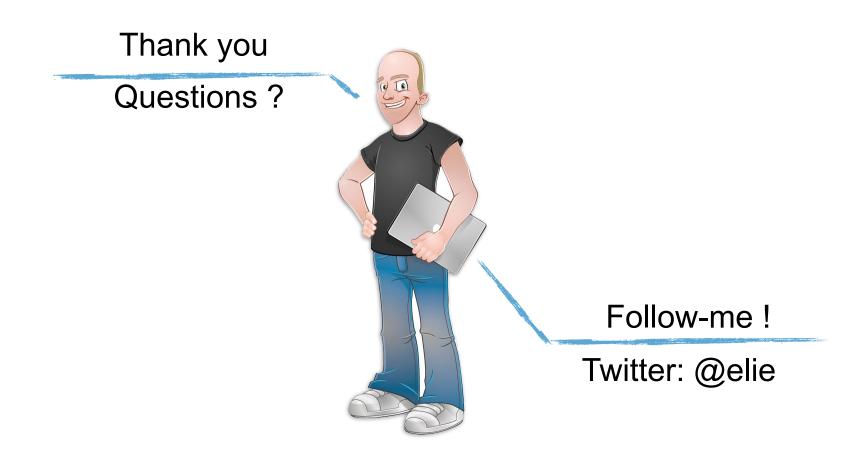


See blog post for more information: http://elie.im/blog

Apply

Within 3 months

- Make sure you have a strong captcha scheme (use mine if you want)
- Ensure that your site is accessible
- Within 6 months
 - Log your captchas failure rate and monitor them
 - Have a backup captcha scheme in case your scheme is broken



Captcha research: http://elie.im/tag/captcha