

# MultiScene: A Large-Scale Dataset and Benchmark for Multiscene Recognition in Single Aerial Images

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**Abstract**—Aerial scene recognition is a fundamental research problem in interpreting high-resolution aerial imagery. Over the past few years, most studies focus on classifying an image into one scene category, while in real-world scenarios, it is more often that a single image contains multiple scenes. Therefore, in this article, we investigate a more practical yet underexplored task—multiscene recognition in single images. To this end, we create a large-scale dataset, called MultiScene, composed of 100 000 unconstrained high-resolution aerial images. Considering that manually labeling such images is extremely arduous, we resort to low-cost annotations from crowdsourcing platforms, e.g., OpenStreetMap (OSM). However, OSM data might suffer from incompleteness and incorrectness, which introduce noise into image labels. To address this issue, we visually inspect 14 000 images and correct their scene labels, yielding a subset of cleanly annotated images, named MultiScene-Clean. With it, we can develop and evaluate deep networks for multiscene recognition using clean data. Moreover, we provide crowdsourced annotations of all images for the purpose of studying network learning with noisy labels. We conduct experiments with extensive baseline models on both MultiScene-Clean and MultiScene to offer benchmarks for multiscene recognition in single images and learning from noisy labels for this task, respectively. To facilitate progress, we make our dataset and trained models available on <https://gitlab.lrz.de/ai4eo/reasoning/multiscene>.

**Index Terms**—Convolutional neural network (CNN), crowdsourced annotations, large-scale aerial image dataset, learning from noisy labels, multiscene recognition in single images.

## I. INTRODUCTION

WITH the recent development of Earth observation techniques, massive aerial imagery is now accessible for

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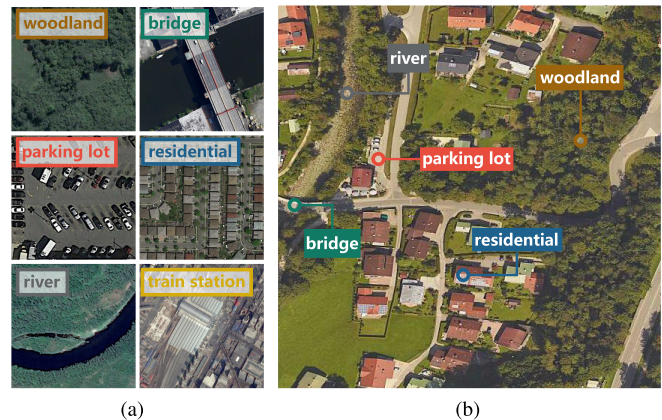


Fig. 1. Examples of images utilized in (a) single-scene and (b) multiscene recognition tasks. In (a), each aerial image is assigned one scene label, while in (b), labels of all present scenes are inferred. In comparison with (b), (a) might suffer from partial scene understanding, as only one label is predicted even if there indeed exist multiple scenes in an image. For a clear visualization, locations of scenes are marked in (b).

a variety of applications, such as environmental monitoring [1]–[6], urban planning [7]–[12], land cover and land use mapping [13]–[16], and disaster assessment [17], [18]. As one of the crucial steps toward these applications, aerial scene recognition has been extensively studied in the remote sensing community. During the last few years, the emergence of deep convolutional neural networks (CNNs) pushed ahead research in this field, and enormous achievements [19]–[26] have been obtained. Albeit successful, most existing scene classification studies only focus on a specific scenario, where an aerial image is assumed to include a single scene [27]–[34]. Basically, these studies regard aerial scene recognition as a single-label classification problem and learn models on well-cropped single-scene aerial images [see Fig. 1(a)]. However, in practical applications, an aerial image often contains multiple scenes, as it is collected overhead and usually has a large coverage [cf. Fig. 1(b)]. We also note that even in public single-scene aerial image datasets, the coexistence of multiple scenes in a single image is inevitable, especially in images covering large areas. For example, as shown in the bottom two images in Fig. 1(a), although they are assigned single-scene labels according to their central/dominant scenes (i.e., river and train station), there actually exists more than one scene in each of them.

Hence, in this article, we aim to tackle a more realistic yet challenging problem, namely multiscene recognition in

single aerial images. This task refers to assigning an aerial image multiple scene labels, and there are no constraints on image preparations, such as centering dominant scenes and eliminating clutter scenes. Compared to the conventional scene recognition task, multiscene recognition is more arduous because images are large-scale and unconstrained and all present scenes in an aerial image need to be exhaustively recognized. Fig. 1(b) shows an example of multiscene aerial image and corresponding multiple scene-level labels. We can see that not only dominant scenes (e.g., residential and woodland) but also trivial scenes (e.g., bridge and parking lot) are annotated, which draws a more comprehensive picture for the unconstrained image.

However, very few efforts have been deployed to this problem in the remote sensing community. In order to advance the progress of multiscene recognition in single images, we propose a large-scale multiscene recognition (MultiScene) dataset, where 100 000 aerial images are collected around the world. In the phase of data preparation, we note that although massive high-resolution aerial images can be effortlessly obtained from remote sensing data platforms, such as Google Earth,<sup>1</sup> it is extremely time- and labor-consuming to yield their corresponding multiple scene labels. To alleviate such annotation burden, in this article, we resort to crowdsourced data, e.g., OpenStreetMap<sup>2</sup> (OSM) annotations, which has been proven to be successful in generating image-level labels [27], [28], [35] and pixel-wise footprints [12], [36] for training deep networks. However, we observe that OSM data might suffer from two common defects, incompleteness and incorrectness, which could introduce severe noise into image labels. Fig. 2 shows two examples of incorrect OSM annotations, where sparse shrubs are neglected and the tennis court is mislabeled as residential. With this in mind, here, we do not directly use crowdsourced labels as ground truth data. Instead, we visually inspect 14 000 images and correct their labels, producing a subset of cleanly labeled images, named MultiScene-Clean. It allows developing and evaluating deep networks for unconstrained multiscene recognition using clean data. Moreover, we note that the noisy crowdsourced data are not completely useless, for example, they can be used to study network learning with noisy labels for this task. Therefore, we also provide crowdsourced annotations of all images.

The contributions of this article are fourfold.

- 1) Unlike conventional aerial scene recognition where all images are well-cropped and each of them contains only one scene-level label, in this article, we explore a more practical task—multiscene recognition in single images.
- 2) We propose a large-scale dataset, namely MultiScene, consisting of 100 000 unconstrained multiscene aerial images, and each is assigned OSM labels. We visually inspect 14 000 images and correct their labels, yielding a subset of cleanly labeled images.
- 3) The proposed dataset provides not only ground truth data but also crowdsourced labels, which enables studies in learning from enormous noisy labels for our task.



Fig. 2. Examples of (a) incomplete and (b) incorrect OSM annotations. In (a), sparse shrubs are not annotated in OSM data, while in (b), the tennis court is mislabeled as residential.

- 4) We extensively evaluate commonly used classification networks on both MultiScene-Clean and MultiScene and provide benchmarks for recognizing multiple scenes in single images and learning from noisy labels for this task, respectively.

The remaining sections of this article are organized as follows. Section II reviews studies in aerial single-scene classification and multilabel object classification. Section III briefly recalls existing scene datasets and delineates the proposed dataset. Experimental configurations and results are exhibited in Section IV, and finally, Section V draws a conclusion.

## II. RELATED WORK

This section briefly reviews related works in two fields: aerial single-scene classification and multilabel object recognition.

### A. Aerial Single-Scene Classification

Aerial single-scene classification refers to categorize an aerial image into a single-scene class. Early studies propose to construct scene representations with variant low-level features, e.g., local structures [40], [41], color attributes [42], [43], and texture information [44], [45]. Concerning that low-level features fail to comprehensively depict complex scenes, midlevel algorithms, such as Bag-of-Visual-Words (BoVW) [37], [46] and topic models [47], [48], are devised to encode local features (so-called “visual words”) into more holistic midlevel scene representations for the classification task. However,

<sup>1</sup><https://earth.google.com/web/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.openstreetmap.org/>

these methods show limited performance in recognizing scenes of high diversity due to their dependence on handcrafted features.

Recently, the emergence of deep CNNs brings immense advancements to the community, and many achievements [19]–[34] have been obtained in the field of aerial single-scene classification. These deep networks have hierarchical architectures, where convolutional and max-pooling layers are periodically interleaved for learning high-level features of intricate scenes. With layers going deeper, the learned features are more abstract and supposed to contain richer semantic information, which is crucial for judicious decisions. A popular trend of deep learning algorithms in single-scene classification is to take a CNN as the backbone and introduce well-designed modules for further enhancing the feature efficiency. For instance, Bi *et al.* [31] proposed to learn multiple instances from feature maps extracted by a densely connected CNN and integrated them into bag-level features for single-scene classification. Li *et al.* [49] proposed a key region capturing method to learn class-specific features and retain global information for inferring scene labels. To leverage features of variant levels, feature aggregation plays a key role in the single-scene classification. Lu *et al.* [50] fused features learned by the last three blocks and the second fully connected layer of VGG-16, and Cao *et al.* [51] designed a nonparametric self-attention layer to enhance spatial and channel responses of fused features for the final prediction. Sun *et al.* [20] developed a gated bidirectional network for aggregating features extracted by different convolutional layers with a gated function in both top-down and bottom-up directions. Besides, exploiting supplementary data, such as geotagged audios and multitemporal images, has been a new research direction. Hu *et al.* [19] proposed to predict scene categories by transferring sound event knowledge learned from sound–image pairs. Ru *et al.* [25] proposed a two-branch network to learn deep features of bitemporal images and fused them through a CorrFusion module for aerial scene classification. Our literature review demonstrates that most of the existing studies assume that an aerial image includes only one scene and focus on well-cropped single-scene aerial images. Hence, these studies tend to regard entities present in an image as compositions of a scene, while in multiscene recognition, this would trigger networks to learn erroneous feature representations. However, very few efforts have been deployed to explore multiscene recognition in the remote sensing community.

### B. Multilabel Object Classification

Multilabel object classification refers to assigning an aerial image multiple object-level labels, such as car, tree, and building. Similar to our work, these studies aim to provide a holistic understanding of aerial images, but from the perspective of object. Early attempts [52], [53] follow the idea of simply combining a deep CNN with a postprocessing approach for identifying multiple objects in an aerial image. Zeggada *et al.* [52] fed outputs of a CNN into a customized thresholding operation for inferring multiple object labels,

while in [53], a conditional random field (CRF) is utilized as the postprocessing model. In recent literature, more efforts are deployed to endow deep neural networks with the capacity of reasoning about relations among various objects for more accurate predictions. Hua *et al.* [54] proposed an end-to-end network comprising a CNN and a long short-term memory (LSTM) network that is responsible for modeling label dependencies through its recurrent units for multilabel object classification. Sumbul and Demir [55] exploited a bidirectional LSTM network to learn spatial relations among all patches in an image for the final prediction. Hua *et al.* [56] proposed a relational reasoning network module to model label dependencies and gained better classification results. Instead of encoding label relations, Koda *et al.* [57] divided an aerial image into several patches with the same size and modeled spatial relationships among them for multilabel object interpretation. Compared to these studies, our task is more challenging, because compared to object, the concept of scene is more abstract and intricate.

## III. MULTISCENE DATASET FOR MULTISCENE RECOGNITION IN SINGLE AERIAL IMAGES

This section first reviews existing single-scene aerial image datasets and then delineates the proposed dataset.

### A. Existing Single-Scene Aerial Image Dataset

During the last decades, various aerial image datasets are published for single-scene classification, and here, we briefly review several commonly used ones.

- 1) *UC-Merced* [37]: The UC-Merced dataset is composed of 2100 images collected from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Map, and each of them is categorized into one of 21 scene classes: overpass, golf course, river, harbor, beach, building, airplane, freeway, intersection, medium residential, runway, agricultural, storage tank, parking lot, forest, sparse residential, chaparral, tennis courts, dense residential, baseball diamond, and mobile home park. The number of images per scene is evenly defined as 100, and only cities in the United States are covered in data acquisition. The size of each image is  $256 \times 256$  pixels, and the spatial resolution is 1 ft. Chaudhuri *et al.* [58] focused on the task of recognizing multiple objects in an image and relabeled the UC-Merced dataset, yielding a multilabel dataset. In this dataset, 2100 images are relabeled, and each is assigned one or several labels from 17 newly defined object classes: airplane, sand, pavement, building, car, chaparral, court, tree, dock, tank, water, grass, mobile home, ship, bare soil, sea, and field.
- 2) *WHU20* [38]: The WHU20 dataset is an extended version of the WHU-RS dataset that was originally proposed in [59]. This dataset expands numbers of aerial images and scene classes from 950 to 5000 and from 12 to 20, respectively. For each scene category, more than 200 images with a size of  $600 \times 600$  pixels are collected, and their spatial resolutions range from 0.26 to 7.44 m/pixel.

TABLE I  
COMPARISON WITH EXISTING AERIAL SCENE DATASETS FROM VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES

| Dataset                  | # images | spatial resolutions | # scenes | # labels per image | crowdsourced label | Year |
|--------------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|------|
| UC-Merced [37]           | 2,100    | 0.3 m/pixel         | 21       | 1                  | ×                  | 2010 |
| WHU20 [38]               | 5,000    | 0.3-7.4 m/pixel     | 20       | 1                  | ×                  | 2015 |
| RSSCN7 [39]              | 2,800    | 0.2-1.4 m/pixel     | 7        | 1                  | ×                  | 2015 |
| AID [27]                 | 10,000   | 0.5-8 m/pixel       | 30       | 1                  | ×                  | 2017 |
| NWPU-RESISC45 [40]       | 31,500   | 0.2-30 m/pixel      | 45       | 1                  | ×                  | 2017 |
| <b>MultiScene (Ours)</b> | 100,000  | 0.3-0.6 m/pixel     | 36       | 1-13               | ✓                  | 2021 |

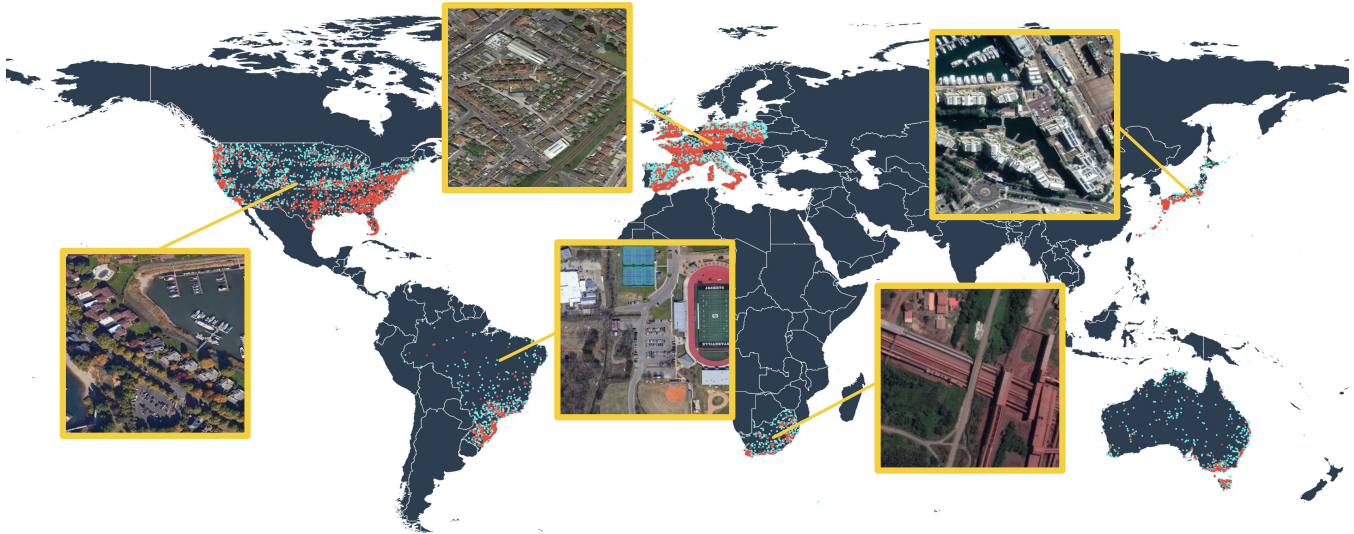


Fig. 3. Coordinate distributions and examples of multiscene aerial images in our dataset. Red dots denote images with both crowdsourced and clean labels, and cyan dots represent images with only crowdsourced scene labels.

- 3) *RSSCN7* [39]: The *RSSCN7* dataset is a collection of 2800 high-resolution images each belonging to one of seven scene categories: grassland, forest, farmland, parking lot, river/lake, industrial region, and residential region; 400 images with different spatial resolutions are cropped from Google Earth imagery for each scene, and the image size is  $400 \times 400$  pixels.
- 4) *AID* [27]: The *AID* dataset is a large-scale benchmark consisting of 10000 aerial images and 30 scene types: airport, pond, forest, baseball field, resort, bare land, center, beach, bridge, commercial, desert, storage tanks, farmland, industrial, mountain, park, parking, playground, viaduct, church, railway station, river, school, meadow, sparse residential, dense residential, medium residential, square, stadium, and port. Google Earth is exploited to acquire image samples, and the spatial resolution of each sample varies from 0.5 to 8 m/pixel. The size of images is  $600 \times 600$  pixels, and the number of images for each class ranges from 220 to 420.
- 5) *NWPU-RESISC45* [2]: The *NWPU-RESISC45* dataset contains 31500 high-resolution images and each is assigned with one of 45 scene labels. For each scene, 700 images with a size of  $256 \times 256$  pixels are acquired from Google Earth imagery, and their spatial resolutions vary from 0.2 to 30 m/pixel.

In addition, we note that BigEarthNet [60] is a large-scale dataset for multilabel learning, where 590326 Sentinel-2 images are captured over the European Union, and their spatial

resolutions range from 10 to 60 m/pixel. Since BigEarthNet focuses on land covers instead of scenes, we do not specify it here. Table I presents an overview of public high-resolution aerial image datasets from the perspectives of dataset scales, image resolutions, scene categories, and annotations.

#### B. Multiscene for Multiscene Recognition

Although there are already variant datasets for aerial scene recognition, most of them can only be used for single-scene classification. In this article, we aim to take a step toward a more general scenario, multiscene recognition in single images, and produce the MultiScene dataset.

To be more specific, we collect 100000 high-resolution aerial images from Google Earth imagery, which cover six continents, Europe, Asia, North America, South America, Africa, and Oceania, and 11 countries including Germany, France, Italy, England, Spain, Poland, Japan, USA, Brazil, South Africa, and Australia (cf. Fig. 3). This can ensure high intraclass diversity, as different scene appearances resulted from different cultural regions are covered. The spatial resolution of each image ranges from 0.3 to 0.6 m/pixel, and the spatial size of images is  $512 \times 512$  pixels. In contrast to single-scene image datasets [27], [37]–[39], we put no constraints on the location and area of the dominant/trivial scene in an image during the data collection process. Some example multiscene images are shown in Fig. 4. In total, 36 scene categories are defined: apron, baseball field, basketball field, beach, bridge, cemetery, commercial, farmland,

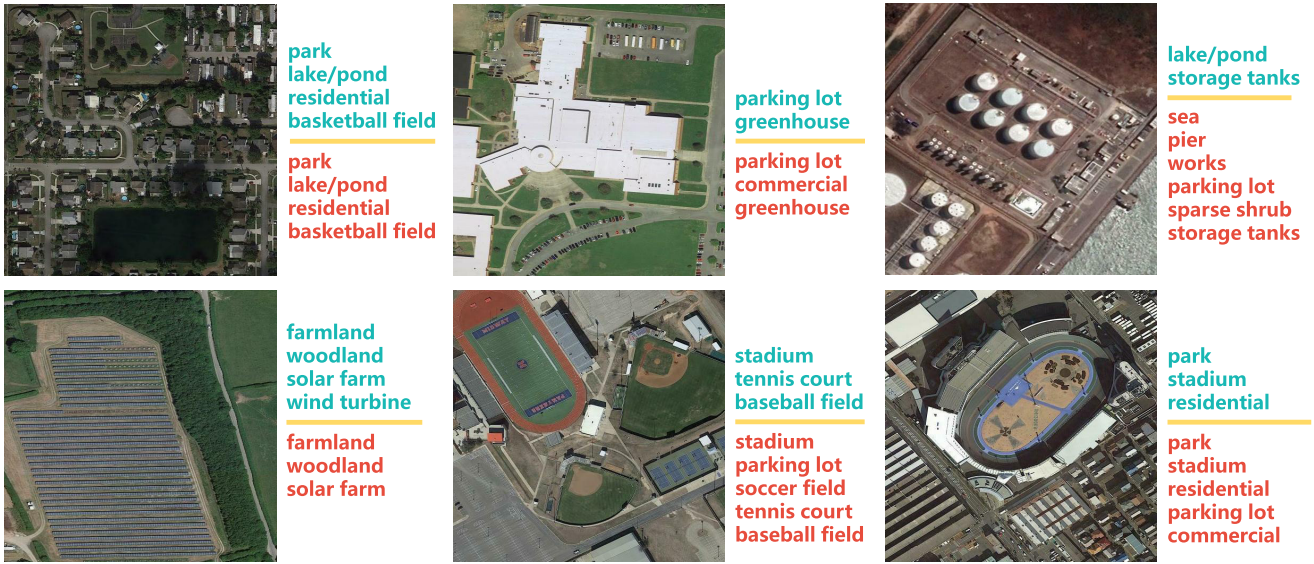


Fig. 4. Example multiscene aerial images with their crowdsourced and clean annotations in the MultiScene dataset.

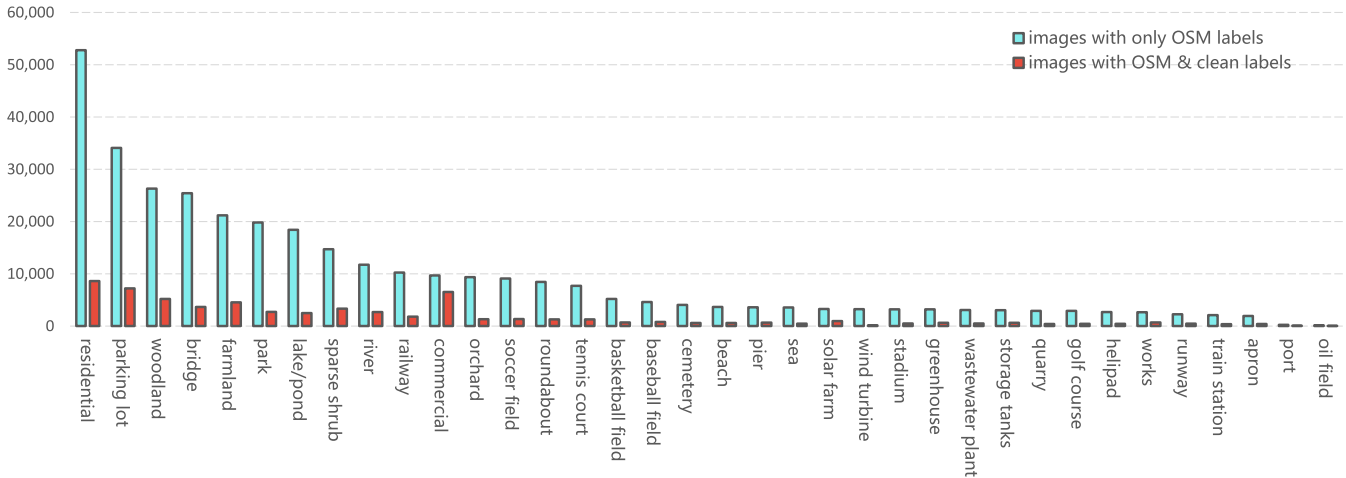


Fig. 5. Sample distributions of all scene categories in our dataset. Each cyan bar indicates the number of images assigned only OSM labels with respect to each scene category, and red bars represent the numbers of images with both OSM and clean labels.

woodland, golf course, greenhouse, helipad, lake/pond, oil field, orchard, parking lot, park, pier, port, quarry, railway, residential, river, roundabout, runway, soccer field, solar farm, sparse shrub, stadium, storage tanks, tennis court, train station, wastewater, plant, wind turbine, works, and sea.

To obtain crowdsourced annotations, we first localize each image in OSM with coordinates of its four corners. Afterward, we parse properties of scenes present in the corresponding region and label images accordingly. In this way, crowdsourced annotations of all aerial images can be automatically yielded at a very low cost compared to conventional manual labeling. However, these almost free annotations might suffer from noise as aforementioned in Section I, and the performance of networks directly trained on them could be degraded. Therefore, we visually inspect 14 000 images from all six continents and correct their labels, yielding a subset, MultiScene-Clean. Fig. 3 shows the coordinate distribution of

all images, and the number of samples associated with each scene is present in Fig. 5. Compared to other scene recognition datasets (cf. Table I), our dataset is featured by its manifold labels per image and the available crowdsourced annotations. Fig. 6 further shows the number of images associated with different numbers of scenes.

### C. Challenges

Compared to existing aerial scene datasets, our dataset brings more challenges to the field of scene interpretation from the following three perspectives.

- 1) Images are unconstrained and large-scale, and thus, scenes are likely to be incomplete and trivial, which makes recognition more difficult.
- 2) The long-tail sample distribution (see Fig. 5) poses a challenge of learning unbiased models on an imbalanced dataset.

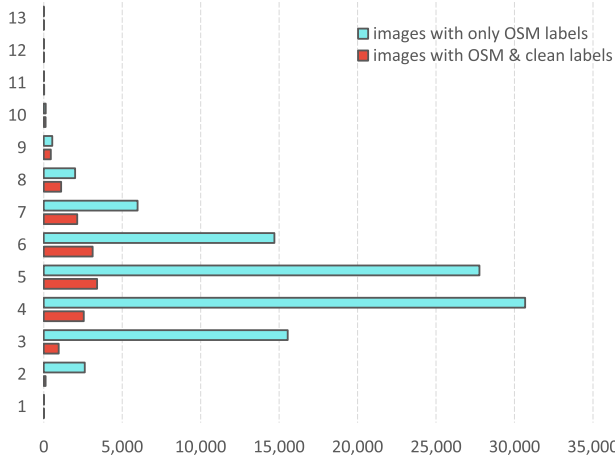


Fig. 6. Number of images associated with different numbers of scenes. Y-axis indicates the number of scenes and X-axis represents the number of images. The legend is the same as that in Fig. 5.

- 3) We gather images from different cultural regions, which results in a high intraclass variation.

#### IV. EXPERIMENTS

##### A. Experimental Setup

1) *Data Configuration*: We evaluate the performance of existing models on both MultiScene-Clean and MultiScene datasets. As to the former, we use 7000 cleanly labeled images to train and validate networks, and the remaining images are utilized to test networks. For the latter, we leverage the same test set but train deep neural networks on the other 93 000 images with only crowdsourced annotations.

2) *Evaluation*: For a comprehensive evaluation, we measure the performance of baseline models with class-based, example-based, and overall metrics. Let  $L$  and  $N$  be numbers of classes and examples,<sup>3</sup> and these metrics are calculated as follows.

- 1) *Class-Based Metrics*: Mean class-based precision (mCP), mean class-based recall (mCR),  $F_1$  (mCF<sub>1</sub>) score, and per-class average precision (AP) are calculated for measuring the performance of networks from the perspective of class. Specifically, mCP, mCR, and mCF<sub>1</sub> score are computed as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{mCP} &= \frac{1}{L} \sum_{c=1}^L \frac{\text{TP}_c}{\text{TP}_c + \text{FP}_c}, \quad \text{mCR} = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{c=1}^L \frac{\text{TP}_c}{\text{TP}_c + \text{FN}_c} \\ \text{mCF}_1 &= \frac{1}{L} \sum_{c=1}^L \frac{\text{TP}_c}{\text{TP}_c + \frac{1}{2}(\text{FP}_c + \text{FN}_c)} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $\text{TP}_c$ ,  $\text{FN}_c$ , and  $\text{FP}_c$  represent the numbers of true positives, false negatives, and false positives with respect to the  $c$ th class, respectively. As to the per-class AP, we first rank all examples according to the predicted probability of the  $c$ th class in each of them. Then, we calculate the corresponding AP with the

following formula:

$$\text{AP} = \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{\text{TP}_c@k}{\text{TP}_c@k + \text{FP}_c@k} \times \text{rel}@k \quad (2)$$

where  $N_c$  denotes the number of examples including the  $c$ th class and  $\text{TP}_c@k$  and  $\text{FP}_c@k$  represent the numbers of true and false positives in top- $k$  examples, respectively. Notably,  $\text{TP}_c@k$  and  $\text{FP}_c@k$  are equivalent to  $\text{TP}_c$  and  $\text{FP}_c$  when  $k$  equals to  $N$ .  $\text{rel}@k$  denotes the relevance between the  $k$ th example and the  $c$ th class, and it is set to 0/1 when the  $c$ th class is included/excluded. Besides, the mean average precision (mAP) can be computed by averaging APs for all categories.

- 2) *Example-Based Metrics*: Mean example-based precision (mEP), mean example-based recall (mER), and mean example-based  $F_1$  (mEF<sub>1</sub>) score are computed to validate networks from the perspective of example with the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{mEP} &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{\text{TP}_k}{\text{TP}_k + \text{FP}_k}, \quad \text{mER} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{\text{TP}_k}{\text{TP}_k + \text{FN}_k} \\ \text{mEF}_1 &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{\text{TP}_k}{\text{TP}_k + \frac{1}{2}(\text{FP}_k + \text{FN}_k)} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where  $\text{TP}_k$ ,  $\text{FP}_k$ , and  $\text{FN}_k$  denote the numbers of true positives, false positives, and false negatives in the  $k$ th example.

- 3) *Overall Metrics*: Overall precision (OP), overall recall (OR), and overall  $F_1$  (OF<sub>1</sub>) score can be used to measure the performance of models from a more holistic perspective, and they are calculated as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{OP} &= \frac{\text{TP}}{\text{TP} + \text{FP}}, \quad \text{OR} = \frac{\text{TP}}{\text{TP} + \text{FN}} \\ \text{OF}_1 &= \frac{\text{TP}}{\text{TP} + \frac{1}{2}(\text{FP} + \text{FN})} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where TP, FP, and FN are counted based on predictions of all scenes and examples.

##### B. Baselines

To provide comprehensive benchmarks, we evaluate the performance of extensive popular deep neural networks. Since they were originally designed for single-label classification, we substitute sigmoid functions for their softmax activations to predict multiple scene labels that are encoded into multihot binary sequences. Besides, several classical machine learning algorithms are also evaluated. In total, 22 models are tested on both MultiScene-Clean and MultiScene datasets, and a brief review is as follows.

- 1) *Support Vector Machine (SVM) [61]*: It aims to learn one or several hyperplanes for separating samples of different classes with the largest margin. Usually, the hyperplanes are constructed in a high-dimensional space and can be learned directly (linear SVM) or through kernel functions (nonlinear SVM). In our experiments, we select the latter and use a radial basis function (RBF) kernel [62] to learn SVM.

<sup>3</sup>An example indicates an image that has multiple labels.

TABLE II  
 NUMERICAL RESULTS OF BASELINE MODELS ON THE MULTISCENE-CLEAN DATASET (%). MODELS ARE TRAINED AND TESTED ON CLEANLY LABELED IMAGES, AND THE BEST SCORES ARE SHOWN IN BOLD

| Model         | mAP         | mCP         | mCR         | mCF <sub>1</sub> | mEP         | mER         | mEF <sub>1</sub> | OP          | OR          | OF <sub>1</sub> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| SVM           | 14.9        | 19.6        | 8.4         | 8.6              | 62.2        | 32.8        | 41.1             | 66.9        | 32.2        | 43.5            |
| RF            | 15.6        | 25.4        | 8.7         | 9.5              | 64.6        | 32.5        | 41.4             | 70.9        | 32.1        | 44.2            |
| XGBOOST       | 16.9        | 34.1        | 11.2        | 12.8             | 67.0        | 37.4        | 45.8             | 69.6        | 36.5        | 47.9            |
| VGG-16        | 56.5        | 63.3        | 47.9        | 53.6             | 74.9        | 64.3        | 67.0             | 73.6        | 63.1        | 67.9            |
| VGG-19        | 56.4        | 62.9        | 47.7        | 53.3             | 74.8        | 64.1        | 66.8             | 73.5        | 62.7        | 67.7            |
| Inception-V3  | 53.5        | 65.0        | 40.8        | 48.5             | 74.2        | 59.9        | 63.9             | 73.0        | 58.6        | 65.0            |
| ResNet-50     | 62.0        | 74.8        | 45.9        | 55.1             | 79.7        | 62.7        | 67.9             | 79.0        | 61.4        | 69.1            |
| ResNet-101    | 63.0        | 75.9        | 46.6        | 55.8             | 79.9        | 64.3        | 69.1             | 79.2        | 63.1        | 70.3            |
| ResNet-152    | 63.8        | 74.9        | 49.1        | 57.7             | <b>80.8</b> | 64.0        | 69.2             | <b>80.1</b> | 62.8        | 70.4            |
| SqueezeNet    | 46.3        | 58.1        | 36.8        | 43.5             | 71.3        | 58.0        | 61.3             | 70.0        | 56.9        | 62.7            |
| MobileNet-V2  | 58.8        | 70.9        | 44.8        | 53.1             | 77.6        | 62.7        | 67.0             | 76.6        | 61.6        | 68.3            |
| ShuffleNet-V2 | 50.7        | 61.8        | 38.1        | 45.7             | 73.8        | 58.2        | 62.5             | 73.0        | 57.0        | 64.0            |
| DenseNet-121  | 62.2        | 74.6        | 45.1        | 54.4             | 79.5        | 61.8        | 67.3             | 79.1        | 60.6        | 68.6            |
| DenseNet-169  | 63.2        | 76.7        | 45.8        | 55.3             | 80.4        | 63.4        | 68.6             | 79.6        | 62.3        | 69.9            |
| ResNeXt-50    | 63.4        | <b>77.3</b> | 45.0        | 54.2             | 78.5        | 64.3        | 68.6             | 77.8        | 63.2        | 69.8            |
| ResNeXt-101   | <b>64.8</b> | 76.5        | 48.6        | 57.3             | 79.3        | 66.6        | <b>70.2</b>      | 78.5        | 65.4        | <b>71.3</b>     |
| MnasNet       | 53.8        | 61.8        | 42.9        | 49.9             | 73.0        | 59.4        | 63.0             | 72.1        | 58.1        | 64.3            |
| KFBNNet       | 58.8        | 68.8        | 45.2        | 53.3             | 77.9        | 64.2        | 68.1             | 77.3        | 63.0        | 69.4            |
| FACNN         | 56.5        | 60.3        | 48.7        | 52.6             | 73.1        | 65.3        | 66.8             | 71.6        | 64.1        | 67.7            |
| SAFF          | 61.8        | 72.5        | 48.1        | 56.7             | 79.4        | 63.9        | 68.6             | 78.7        | 62.8        | 69.9            |
| LR-VGG-16     | 58.1        | 67.7        | 46.7        | 54.2             | 77.3        | 64.6        | 68.0             | 76.2        | 63.5        | 69.2            |
| LR-ResNet-50  | 63.1        | 68.1        | <b>53.1</b> | <b>59.0</b>      | 76.7        | <b>67.6</b> | 69.7             | 75.3        | <b>66.5</b> | 70.6            |

- 2) *Random Forest (RF)* [63]: It is an ensemble of decision trees, which are trained with random subspaces of image features and make final predictions through the majority voting. The number of decision trees is set to 200 in our experiments.
- 3) *XGBOOST*: XGBOOST<sup>4</sup> is a computationally efficient implementation of gradient-boosted trees [64] that optimizes tree ensembles (e.g., an ensemble of decision trees) through successive learning steps [65]. In each step, the existing trees are fixed, and a new tree is added and optimized with objective functions. Considering the difficulty of our task, we set the number of trees to 200 for training XGBOOST on both datasets.
- 4) *VGGNet* [66]: VGGNet utilizes five convolutional blocks and three fully connected layers to extract high-level features for image classification. Each block has multiple stacked convolutional layers and ends with one max-pooling layer. The size of convolutional filters is  $3 \times 3$ , and the stride of max-pooling layers is 2. In our experiments, a 16-layer VGGNet (VGG-16) and a 19-layer VGGNet (VGG-19) are trained on our dataset.
- 5) *Inception Networks* [67]–[70]: They are characterized by their wide modules, where convolutional filters of variant sizes and max-pooling operators are jointly employed to learn diverse features. Besides, a bottleneck architecture made of  $1 \times 1$  convolutions is introduced to mitigate the boosted computational cost resulting from heavy inception modules. In Tables II and III, we report the performance of Inception-v3 [69] in multiscene recognition.
- 6) *ResNet* [71]: ResNet aims to address the degradation problem by learning residual mappings with shortcut

connections. By doing so, ResNet can go much deeper than plain CNNs and achieve outstanding performance in not only image classification but also semantic segmentation and object detection tasks. In our experiments, we evaluate a 50-layer ResNet (ResNet-50), a 101-layer ResNet (ResNet-101), and a 152-layer ResNet (ResNet-152) on the proposed dataset. Notably, residual blocks in these deep ResNets are modified into bottleneck architectures for reducing the computational burden.

- 7) *SqueezeNet* [72]: It focuses on preserving network performance with fewer parameters. To achieve this, most of  $3 \times 3$  convolutional filters are replaced with  $1 \times 1$  filters, and features are squeezed in the channel dimension before being fed into the remaining  $3 \times 3$  filters. In addition, bypass connections are introduced to features of the same size for improving the classification performance. Experimental results of SqueezeNet on our dataset are reported in Sections IV-D and IV-D2.
- 8) *MobileNet* [73]: It is a lightweight deep neural network, which is applicable on mobile devices with restricted computational sources. The network is designed in a streamlined architecture, and depth-wise separable convolutions play a significant role in increasing computational efficiency. Specifically, such convolutions are implemented by factorizing standard convolutions into depth-wise and point-wise convolutions. The former is conducted on each channel, and the latter aggregates channel-wise outputs via  $1 \times 1$  convolutions. To further reduce the computational cost, two hyper-parameters, width multiplier  $\alpha$  and resolution multiplier  $\beta$ , are designed to shrink feature channels and input resolutions, respectively. In the advanced variation of MobileNet, i.e., MobileNet-V2 [74], inverted residual connections and linear bottlenecks are developed to

<sup>4</sup><https://xgboost.readthedocs.io/en/latest/tutorials/model.html>

TABLE III  
COMPARISONS OF APs ON THE MULTISCENE-CLEAN DATASET (%). THE BEST APs ARE SHOWN IN BOLD

| Model         | apron       | baseball field | basketball field | beach       | bridge      | cemetery    | commercial  | farmland    | woodland    | golf course | greenhouse  | helipad     | lake/pond   | oil field   | overland    | parking lot | Park        | Pier        | Port        | quarry      | railway     | residential | river       | roundabout  | runway      | soccer field | solar farm  | sparse shrub | stadium     | storage tanks | tennis court | train station | wastewater plant | wind turbine | works | sea         |      |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|-------|-------------|------|
| SVM           | 3.1         | 6.3            | 5.4              | 4.0         | 29.9        | 4.5         | 60.5        | 44.1        | 55.2        | 3.1         | 5.2         | 3.0         | 18.0        | 0.1         | 9.9         | 65.5        | 20.2        | 5.5         | 0.6         | 3.0         | 13.4        | 68.3        | 19.3        | 8.7         | 3.7         | 9.5          | 8.0         | 25.7         | 3.7         | 5.2           | 9.1          | 2.7           | 3.6              | 0.8          | 5.2   | 3.4         |      |
| RF            | 3.1         | 6.3            | 5.4              | 10.9        | 28.1        | 4.5         | 62.7        | 53.2        | 54.6        | 3.1         | 5.4         | 3.0         | 17.4        | 0.1         | 10.1        | 65.6        | 20.2        | 7.1         | 0.6         | 3.0         | 13.6        | 73.3        | 19.5        | 8.7         | 3.7         | 9.5          | 10.6        | 26.2         | 3.7         | 4.9           | 9.1          | 2.7           | 3.6              | 0.8          | 5.2   | 3.4         |      |
| XGBOOST       | 3.1         | 9.4            | 5.4              | 15.8        | 33.4        | 4.5         | 62.8        | 56.2        | 57.6        | 3.1         | 5.2         | 3.0         | 21.5        | 0.1         | 11.5        | 68.8        | 23.3        | 9.3         | 0.6         | 3.0         | 13.8        | 74.7        | 20.3        | 8.7         | 4.2         | 9.8          | 10.9        | 32.9         | 3.7         | 5.2           | 9.1          | 2.7           | 3.6              | 0.8          | 5.2   | 4.3         |      |
| VGG-16        | 72.2        | 81.7           | 24.2             | 70.0        | 72.1        | 28.9        | 81.6        | 87.8        | 85.7        | 65.1        | 42.8        | 34.9        | 63.2        | 1.9         | 72.0        | 86.2        | 50.1        | 72.7        | 19.0        | 50.9        | 55.6        | 93.7        | 52.5        | 65.8        | 68.7        | 61.6         | 32.4        | 59.7         | 53.7        | 53.7          | 49.4         | 63.6          | 35.5             | 45.9         | 51.6  | 27.2        | 54.9 |
| VGG-19        | 70.1        | 80.7           | 21.3             | 67.1        | 71.7        | 28.0        | 80.6        | 87.4        | 85.5        | 64.5        | 44.4        | 33.5        | 64.1        | 2.6         | 73.4        | 86.6        | 50.7        | 72.4        | 17.2        | 50.7        | 56.4        | 93.8        | 52.3        | 68.7        | 68.6        | 62.3         | 32.3        | 58.2         | 53.0        | 49.1          | 66.8         | 37.6          | 47.0             | 50.3         | 28.3  | 54.5        |      |
| Inception-V3  | 67.8        | 83.2           | 20.0             | 68.8        | 69.9        | 19.8        | 81.4        | 85.0        | 83.1        | 51.4        | 36.4        | 33.0        | 55.2        | 0.5         | 68.3        | 86.0        | 50.0        | 70.5        | 13.5        | 49.0        | 47.9        | 92.3        | 49.8        | 63.9        | 65.4        | 59.7         | 31.1        | 56.6         | 57.9        | 44.6          | 55.5         | 34.5          | 46.9             | 44.5         | 22.7  | 59.6        |      |
| ResNet-50     | 77.3        | 86.7           | 26.4             | 79.4        | 74.6        | 39.7        | 83.3        | 88.4        | 86.7        | 76.7        | 49.3        | 43.1        | 66.0        | 0.5         | 76.8        | 88.2        | 55.3        | 77.2        | 24.7        | 55.7        | 62.4        | 94.3        | 59.6        | 71.2        | 74.8        | 67.7         | 40.3        | 61.9         | 63.0        | 55.0          | 68.8         | 46.7          | 54.5             | 50.3         | 36.0  | 68.9        |      |
| ResNet-101    | 79.7        | 88.0           | 27.6             | 80.2        | 75.9        | 44.5        | 84.2        | 88.4        | 87.3        | 75.6        | 49.7        | 45.3        | 68.7        | 0.9         | 77.8        | 88.6        | 58.3        | 77.6        | 20.9        | 61.2        | 62.7        | 94.5        | 61.5        | 73.3        | 77.4        | 70.0         | 40.0        | 62.1         | 64.6        | 54.2          | 70.9         | 46.6          | 55.8             | 47.2         | 37.8  | 68.1        |      |
| ResNet-152    | 79.1        | <b>88.6</b>    | 27.4             | <b>84.0</b> | 77.1        | 42.4        | 83.9        | 88.7        | 87.6        | 77.4        | 51.8        | 46.9        | 68.8        | 0.4         | 78.3        | 89.2        | <b>59.4</b> | <b>79.3</b> | 20.3        | 59.4        | 65.1        | 94.5        | 61.9        | 74.4        | 77.7        | 70.7         | 41.0        | 62.8         | 65.1        | <b>57.2</b>   | 72.5         | 51.3          | 57.3             | 48.8         | 35.5  | <b>71.1</b> |      |
| SqueezeNet    | 51.4        | 73.8           | 18.2             | 57.6        | 59.4        | 15.6        | 77.4        | 83.8        | 81.6        | 50.1        | 34.0        | 12.3        | 51.3        | 0.7         | 65.9        | 83.7        | 44.2        | 56.8        | 20.5        | 34.7        | 46.2        | 93.2        | 44.9        | 57.7        | 58.0        | 45.7         | 27.4        | 53.2         | 38.9        | 35.9          | 56.1         | 22.8          | 26.8             | 18.0         | 18.9  | 49.1        |      |
| MobileNet-V2  | 74.3        | 84.4           | 24.8             | 78.5        | 73.4        | 32.5        | 81.9        | 87.2        | 85.9        | 72.2        | 46.3        | 38.9        | 64.3        | 1.6         | 73.8        | 88.3        | 53.7        | 72.2        | 18.1        | 51.8        | 60.0        | 93.6        | 55.8        | 71.7        | 67.8        | 64.1         | 34.3        | 60.4         | 58.7        | 46.3          | 69.8         | 40.7          | 47.1             | 48.5         | 31.5  | 64.0        |      |
| ShuffleNet-V2 | 62.0        | 78.4           | 23.5             | 67.5        | 66.8        | 14.4        | 80.5        | 84.1        | 82.5        | 61.0        | 36.6        | 18.0        | 56.5        | 0.4         | 65.0        | 85.5        | 48.6        | 61.9        | 11.0        | 40.4        | 50.6        | 92.5        | 48.9        | 57.0        | 66.5        | 59.4         | 31.0        | 57.3         | 51.7        | 37.5          | 56.3         | 30.2          | 36.4             | 20.4         | 27.0  | 58.8        |      |
| DenseNet-121  | 79.0        | 87.5           | 28.3             | 80.9        | 75.1        | 37.9        | 83.5        | 87.7        | 85.5        | <b>78.0</b> | 48.0        | 47.3        | 66.3        | 2.9         | 75.7        | 88.5        | 58.3        | 77.7        | 25.3        | 58.4        | 62.3        | 94.1        | 58.5        | 73.6        | 73.9        | 67.1         | 39.1        | 61.6         | 61.4        | 54.3          | 69.9         | 47.4          | 56.4             | 50.2         | 31.0  | 66.5        |      |
| DenseNet-169  | 81.8        | 88.1           | 26.3             | 81.4        | 76.9        | 42.6        | <b>84.5</b> | 88.1        | 86.0        | 77.2        | 49.0        | 44.1        | 67.4        | 4.3         | 78.7        | 88.8        | 56.6        | 78.1        | 21.4        | 58.2        | 62.9        | 94.4        | 60.5        | 72.4        | 75.4        | 69.4         | 41.2        | 61.2         | <b>65.9</b> | 49.6          | 72.4         | 51.4          | 58.6             | 53.2         | 35.1  | 67.6        |      |
| ResNeXt-50    | 81.5        | 87.1           | 27.6             | 81.6        | 75.5        | 41.3        | 83.4        | 88.2        | 86.3        | 76.1        | 50.8        | 50.3        | 66.3        | 9.6         | 75.3        | 89.0        | 57.6        | 77.7        | 23.8        | 58.6        | 64.5        | 94.1        | 61.4        | 73.3        | 76.7        | 68.7         | 40.9        | 62.2         | 63.5        | 53.8          | 71.8         | 50.2          | 56.9             | <b>54.7</b>  | 34.9  | 66.6        |      |
| ResNeXt-101   | <b>82.3</b> | 87.7           | <b>30.2</b>      | 82.9        | <b>77.2</b> | <b>45.6</b> | 84.1        | <b>88.8</b> | 87.3        | 77.1        | <b>52.6</b> | <b>54.8</b> | <b>71.0</b> | 1.3         | <b>79.4</b> | <b>89.7</b> | 58.6        | 76.1        | 20.3        | <b>61.8</b> | <b>66.5</b> | 94.5        | <b>64.3</b> | 75.0        | <b>79.2</b> | <b>72.0</b>  | <b>42.3</b> | 63.3         | 64.5        | 55.4          | 75.1         | <b>54.4</b>   | <b>58.7</b>      | 52.5         | 37.8  | 67.2        |      |
| MnasNet       | 69.4        | 84.0           | 21.6             | 70.9        | 67.4        | 20.7        | 78.9        | 84.7        | 82.4        | 63.0        | 42.0        | 27.5        | 58.3        | 0.7         | 70.5        | 85.7        | 49.1        | 69.5        | 18.1        | 45.2        | 51.6        | 91.4        | 48.0        | 66.1        | 66.4        | 59.0         | 33.3        | 55.9         | 53.2        | 42.4          | 61.5         | 32.8          | 42.6             | 33.4         | 25.6  | 62.6        |      |
| KFBNet        | 68.4        | 83.0           | 27.2             | 75.1        | 75.4        | 37.6        | 82.2        | 88.7        | 86.7        | 68.4        | 47.8        | 47.0        | 67.4        | 6.3         | 75.7        | 89.1        | 55.3        | 73.1        | 10.1        | 57.2        | 58.5        | <b>94.6</b> | 55.1        | 72.5        | 68.7        | 64.7         | 35.4        | 60.3         | 46.5        | 48.5          | 74.8         | 31.6          | 47.3             | 49.1         | 26.0  | 61.2        |      |
| FACNN         | 69.4        | 83.7           | 21.5             | 70.5        | 72.9        | 31.7        | 81.8        | 88.4        | 85.4        | 66.4        | 36.9        | 36.2        | 65.9        | 4.8         | 72.8        | 87.5        | 50.4        | 71.1        | 12.6        | 57.8        | 54.5        | 93.6        | 55.2        | 70.1        | 68.4        | 64.5         | 32.4        | 56.4         | 50.0        | 50.8          | 68.4         | 32.3          | 46.1             | 46.4         | 23.9  | 54.2        |      |
| SAFF          | 74.5        | 86.2           | 29.8             | 76.8        | 75.1        | 41.4        | 83.0        | 88.7        | 86.6        | 76.9        | 50.0        | 49.6        | 67.7        | 1.9         | 76.8        | 88.9        | 58.7        | 74.8        | 17.1        | 51.6        | 62.1        | 94.2        | 58.8        | <b>76.5</b> | 72.4        | 68.3         | 39.8        | <b>63.3</b>  | 57.6        | 54.5          | <b>77.8</b>  | 41.9          | 54.6             | 46.6         | 33.7  | 65.9        |      |
| LR-VGG-16     | 76.3        | 82.5           | 19.9             | 74.7        | 71.0        | 26.6        | 82.5        | 86.8        | 86.4        | 70.7        | 41.4        | 41.0        | 65.1        | <b>11.0</b> | 72.0        | 87.5        | 52.5        | 73.1        | 10.4        | 57.4        | 58.5        | 93.5        | 56.3        | 70.7        | 71.2        | 62.7         | 27.3        | 58.1         | 51.6        | 50.5          | 69.0         | 43.9          | 52.0             | 45.9         | 30.5  | 62.5        |      |
| LR-ResNet-50  | 78.5        | 88.2           | 24.6             | 80.8        | 75.9        | 44.2        | 83.8        | 88.7        | <b>87.8</b> | 76.2        | 50.9        | 48.1        | 67.4        | 0.9         | 77.1        | 88.8        | 57.3        | 76.8        | <b>29.3</b> | 57.5        | 63.3        | 94.2        | 61.0        | 72.4        | 73.0        | 70.5         | 42.1        | 62.3         | 64.8        | 55.1          | 72.0         | 48.7          | 55.9             | 48.9         | 36.4  | 67.3        |      |

improve the network performance. In our experiments, we train MobileNet-V2 and set both  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  as the default value, 1.


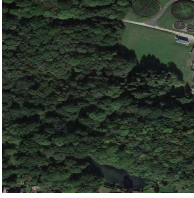


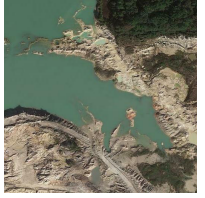



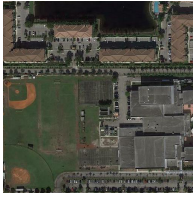

- 9) *ShuffleNet* [75]: It improves the computational efficiency by utilizing point-wise group convolutions and channel shuffle. Specifically, the former divides feature maps into several groups and conducts  $1 \times 1$  convolutions on each group independently. The latter rearranges feature channels for enabling information to flow across channels belonging to different groups. Besides, element-wise addition, which is often used in a residual block, is replaced with concatenation for enlarging channel dimension at a low computational cost. In ShuffleNet-V2 [76], features are grouped by channel split, and point-wise group convolutions are discarded. As a consequence, two feature groups are yielded and fed into two branches, of which one is an identity mapping and the other is a set of convolutions. Afterward, outputs are concatenated and shuffled along the channel dimension. In our experiments, we evaluate the performance of ShuffleNet-V2 on our dataset.
- 10) *DenseNet* [77]: It proposes to enhance information flow by directly connecting each layer to all subsequent layers with equivalent feature-map sizes. To preserve information learned by preceding layers, concatenation is employed to combine features from various layers. By reusing feature maps throughout entire networks, DenseNet can learn compact internal representations for visual recognition tasks. Two variations, a 121-layer DenseNet (DenseNet-121) and a 169-layer DenseNet (DenseNet-169), are tested.
- 11) *ResNeXt* [78]: It learns residuals with aggregated residual transformations but not a stack of convolutional layers (e.g., ResNet). The aggregated residual transformation is implemented by first slicing features into low-dimensional embeddings and then

conducting convolutions on them. Afterward, outputs are aggregated with element-wise addition. With this design, ResNeXt outperforms its ResNet counterpart on ImageNet-5K [78] and COCO [79] datasets. We test a 50-layer ResNext (ResNeXt-50) and a 101-layer (ResNeXt-101) in our experiments.

- 12) *MnasNet* [80]: MnasNet architectures are automatically learned on target datasets through a mobile neural architecture search (MNAS) algorithm [80]. Compared to conventional NAS algorithms [81], MNAS takes not only classification accuracy but also model latency into consideration and is executed on mobile phones for measuring real-world inference latency. As a consequence, MnasNet searched on target datasets is expected to achieve a good tradeoff between accuracy and latency. To control the model size, a depth multiplier is designed for scaling the number of channels in each layer. In our experiments, the depth multiplier is set to 1, and the best-performing MnasNet searched on the ImageNet dataset [82] is chosen to perform multiscale recognition in the wild.
- 13) *KFBNet* [49]: It exploits a key region capturing method namely key filter bank (KFB) for aerial image scene classification. The proposed KFB is composed of two streams: a global stream (G-Stream) and a key stream (K-Stream). The former predicts labels using features learned by the last block of a CNN, while the latter highlights key features in both spatial and channel dimensions for inferring scene categories. Finally, predictions made by the two streams are merged via an element-wise addition as the final decision. We take VGG-16 as the backbone and report numerical results in Tables II, III, and V.
- 14) *FACNN* [50]: It is a scene classification network composed of a CNN backbone and a feature aggregation module. In the latter, features extracted by the last



TABLE IV  
EXAMPLE PREDICTIONS OF RESNEXT-101 ON THE MULTISCENE-CLEAN DATASET

|   |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Multi-scene Aerial Images in the MultiScene-Clean dataset |  |             |  |   |                                   |
| Ground Truths   | bridge, parking lot, river, roundabout, and residential                           | woodland, lake/pond, and wastewater plant  | bridge, parking lot, river, roundabout, and residential                            | farmland, woodland, orchard, residential, and sparse shrub   | lake/pond and quarry   |
| Predictions   | bridge, parking lot, river, roundabout, and residential                           | woodland, lake/pond, and wastewater plant  | bridge, parking lot, river, roundabout, and residential                            | farmland, woodland, orchard, residential, and sparse shrub   | lake/pond and quarry   |
| Multi-scene Aerial Images in the MultiScene-Clean dataset |  |             |  |   |                                   |
| Ground Truths   | commercial, farmland, parking lot, and residential                                | commercial, parking lot, park, railway, residential, train station, and works                | farmland, woodland, sparse shrub   | baseball field, basketball field, lake/pond, parking lot, residential, soccer field, and tennis court                                  | bridge, commercial, parking lot, park, residential, river, roundabout, and solar farm                                |
| Predictions   | commercial, farmland, <b>woodland</b> , <b>parking lot</b> , and residential      | commercial, parking lot, <b>park</b> , railway, residential, train station, and <b>works</b> | farmland, woodland, <b>lake/pond</b> , and sparse shrub                            | <b>baseball field</b> , <b>baseketball field</b> , lake/pond, <b>parking lot</b> , residential, <b>soccer field</b> , and tennis court | bridge, commercial, <b>lake/pond</b> , parking lot, <b>park</b> , <b>river</b> , <b>solar farm</b> , and residential |

Purple predictions indicate false negatives, while blue predictions are false positives.

TABLE V  
NUMERICAL RESULTS OF BASELINE MODELS ON THE MULTISCENE DATASET (%). MODELS ARE TRAINED ON IMAGES WITH NOISY CROWDSOURCED ANNOTATIONS AND TESTED ON CLEANLY LABELED IMAGES. THE BEST SCORES ARE SHOWN IN BOLD

| Model         | mAP         | mCP         | mCR         | mCF <sub>1</sub> | mEP         | mER         | mEF <sub>1</sub> | OP          | OR          | OF <sub>1</sub> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| SVM           | 14.7        | 24.7        | 4.1         | 5.4              | 51.4        | 15.7        | 23.1             | 77.7        | 15.5        | 25.8            |
| RF            | 15.1        | 49.7        | 4.4         | 6.1              | 55.4        | 16.4        | 34.3             | 78.7        | 15.8        | 26.3            |
| XGBOOST       | 18.4        | 54.6        | 10.6        | 14.9             | 62.0        | 26.7        | 35.1             | 70.4        | 25.5        | 37.4            |
| VGG-16        | 63.4        | 71.0        | 46.9        | 54.1             | 78.4        | 51.6        | 59.3             | 79.3        | 49.6        | 61.0            |
| VGG-19        | 59.8        | 68.9        | 47.2        | 54.1             | 75.5        | 52.2        | 58.9             | 75.1        | 50.2        | 60.2            |
| Inception-V3  | 65.8        | 74.1        | 50.8        | 58.5             | 79.1        | 53.8        | 61.2             | 79.5        | 51.9        | 62.8            |
| ResNet-50     | 63.9        | 73.7        | 47.7        | 55.9             | 78.3        | 52.5        | 60.0             | 78.5        | 50.7        | 61.6            |
| ResNet-101    | 63.4        | 73.0        | 47.5        | 55.5             | 77.1        | 52.5        | 59.7             | 77.2        | 50.6        | 61.2            |
| ResNet-152    | 62.8        | 73.2        | 47.6        | 55.7             | 76.2        | 53.1        | 59.9             | 76.5        | 51.3        | 61.4            |
| SqueezeNet    | 61.4        | 74.4        | 41.1        | 50.5             | 78.9        | 47.7        | 56.4             | 80.7        | 45.9        | 58.5            |
| MobileNet-V2  | 65.5        | 72.3        | 48.4        | 56.0             | 79.6        | 54.6        | 62.0             | 80.1        | 52.8        | 63.6            |
| ShuffleNet-V2 | 65.1        | 74.6        | 46.7        | 55.1             | 81.7        | 51.0        | 59.9             | <b>82.9</b> | 49.0        | 61.6            |
| DenseNet-121  | 67.5        | 77.0        | 49.4        | 58.2             | <b>82.2</b> | 54.4        | <b>62.6</b>      | 82.8        | 52.3        | <b>64.1</b>     |
| DenseNet-169  | 64.2        | 71.3        | <b>53.3</b> | <b>59.3</b>      | 77.2        | <b>55.7</b> | 62.0             | 77.1        | <b>53.9</b> | 63.4            |
| ResNeXt-50    | 63.9        | 73.6        | 49.0        | 56.9             | 77.5        | 52.6        | 59.8             | 77.6        | 50.7        | 61.3            |
| ResNeXt-101   | 60.8        | 68.5        | 47.4        | 53.7             | 73.8        | 51.2        | 57.7             | 74.0        | 49.5        | 59.3            |
| MnasNet       | 58.1        | 74.1        | 31.0        | 40.4             | 75.0        | 38.0        | 47.6             | 80.4        | 36.0        | 49.7            |
| KFBNNet       | 67.1        | <b>77.7</b> | 46.2        | 54.3             | 80.2        | 54.0        | 61.7             | 81.1        | 52.3        | 63.6            |
| FACNN         | 65.2        | 73.9        | 47.6        | 55.6             | 78.9        | 53.9        | 61.1             | 80.0        | 52.1        | 63.1            |
| SAFF          | 64.8        | 74.0        | 47.4        | 55.3             | 80.9        | 51.2        | 59.8             | 81.8        | 49.4        | 61.6            |
| LR-VGG-16     | <b>67.8</b> | 76.0        | 48.4        | 56.1             | 80.5        | 52.1        | 60.5             | 81.3        | 50.3        | 62.2            |
| LR-ResNet-50  | 65.5        | 71.2        | 51.6        | 57.9             | 79.2        | 53.1        | 60.7             | 79.4        | 51.2        | 62.3            |

three blocks of VGG-16 are aggregated through pooling operations and  $1 \times 1$  convolutions. Afterward, they are concatenated with outputs of the second fully connected layer of VGG-16 to form discriminative scene representations for the final prediction.

15) *SAFF* [51]: It proposes a nonparametric self-attention layer for enhancing spatial and channel responses of feature maps. Specifically, features extracted by the last three blocks of a pretrained CNN (e.g., VGG-16) are fused and fed into the proposed self-attention layer.

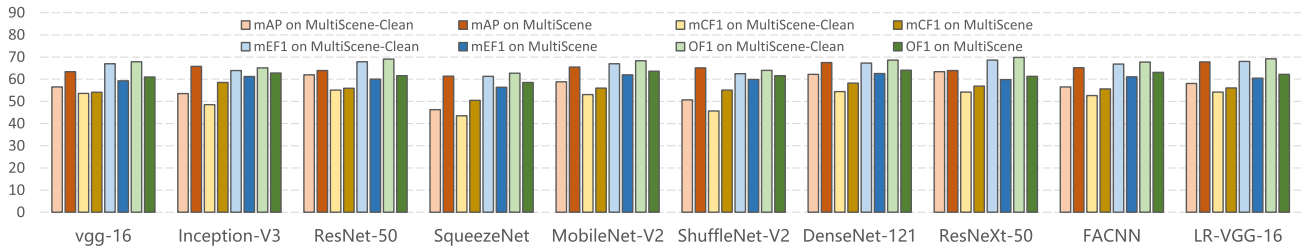


Fig. 7. Comparisons of the performance of networks trained on images with clean (light-color bars) and crowdsourced (dark-color bars) annotations. For each network, the left four bars represent class-based scores, mAPs and CF<sub>1</sub>, while the right four bars indicate EF<sub>1</sub> and OF<sub>1</sub> scores.

In this layer, spatial- and channel-wise weightings are conducted to emphasize the importance of locations of salient objects and channels with infrequently occurring features, respectively. Principal component analysis (PCA) whitening is also introduced to reduce the information redundancy and squash channels. However, since this operation frequently fails the network training, we replace it with a learnable fully connected layer. Besides, VGG-16 is selected as the backbone in our experiments.

- 16) *LR-CNN* [56]: It is a multilabel classification network, which consists of three elements: a class-wise feature extraction module, an attentional region extraction module, and a relational reasoning module. Specifically, the first module learns deep features with respect to each category from the input images. Afterward, the second module extracts attentional regions of class-wise features, which are eventually leveraged to reason about relations between different objects for inferring their existences through the third module. In our experiments, we validate LR-VGG-16 and LR-ResNet-50, where VGG-16 and ResNet-50 are taken as backbones, respectively.

### C. Training Details

Before training SVM, RF, and XGBOOST, we use histogram of oriented gradient (HOG) [83] and local binary pattern (LBP) [84] as visual features as recommended in [85]. The size of each cell is set to  $32 \times 32$  pixels for HOG, and the radius is defined as 16 pixels for LBP. We use Scipy to implement these machine learning classifiers and apply them to multiscene recognition using the function *MultiOutputClassifier*<sup>5</sup>. As to baseline classification neural networks, we initialize them with weights pretrained on the ImageNet dataset and fine-tune them on the proposed multiscene image dataset. The loss is defined as binary cross entropy, and stochastic gradient descent (SGD) with momentum [86] is selected as the optimizer. To accelerate the network convergence, the momentum is set to a large value, 0.9. Besides, the initial learning rate and the weight decay are set to 0.02 and  $1e^{-4}$ , respectively. All deep networks are implemented on Pytorch and validated on one NVIDIA Tesla V100-SXM2 32GB GPU. For experiments on both MultiScene-Clean and

MultiScene, we train networks for 87k and 581k iterations, respectively, and the size of each training batch is set to 16 for both versions.

### D. Experimental Results Across Different Tasks

1) *Multiscene Recognition With Cleanly Labeled Data*: To evaluate baselines for our task, we conduct experiments on the MultiScene-Clean dataset and report quantitative results in Table II. It can be seen that ResNeXt-101 achieves the best mAP (64.8%), mEF<sub>1</sub> (70.2%), and OF<sub>1</sub> score (71.3%), which demonstrates its high performance and robustness in this task from almost all perspectives. LR-ResNet-50 gains the highest value in mCF<sub>1</sub> (59.0%) due to its capability of reasoning about relations among various scenes. Moreover, such a reasoning capability also enables LR-ResNet-50 to surpass the other baselines in all recall metrics, as scenes tend to be predicted as positive once its related scenes are recognized. Another observation is that MnasNet, SqueezeNet, and ShuffleNet-V2 show relatively poor performance due to their lightweight designs. Compared to deep neural networks, traditional machine learning algorithms achieve lower scores in all metrics.

For an insight into the performance of networks in identifying different scenes, we also report per-class APs in Table III. As we can see, ResNeXt-101 achieves the highest APs in most scenes, which is in line with the previous observations. Furthermore, we note that most networks fail to accurately recognize scenes having scarce training samples, e.g., oil field and port. This suggests that learning unbiased models on an imbalanced dataset is a big challenge. Besides numerical results, we exhibit several predictions in Table IV.

2) *Learning From Noisy Crowdsourced Labels*: We investigate networks learned from noisy crowdsourced labels for our task on the MultiScene dataset. To ensure a fair comparison, we utilize the same test set as in Section IV-D and report numerical results in Table V. It can be observed that OF<sub>1</sub> scores of all models are decreased by an average of 8.2% compared to the values in Table II, which demonstrates that noise in crowdsourced annotations significantly affects the learning of deep neural networks. Moreover, it is interesting to note that the values of class-based metrics, mAP and mCF<sub>1</sub> score, are increased by 4.6% and 1.2%, respectively, in comparison with those in Table II. This can be attributed to the fact that numbers of training samples, especially for scenes seldomly appearing, are effortlessly increased by crawling OSM data with keyword

<sup>5</sup><https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.multioutput.MultiOutputClassifier.html>

searching. Compared to models showing high performance on the MultiScene-Clean dataset, we find that DenseNet gains the highest scores in  $mCF_1$  (59.3%),  $mEF_1$  (62.6%), and  $mOF_1$  (64.1%), as it can sufficiently reuse features and has relatively few parameters. Besides, LR-VGG-16 achieves the highest mAP (67.8%), which demonstrates that taking advantage of underlying relations among various scenes can suppress the influence of noise introduced by OSM data. Furthermore, we compare the performance of several networks trained on the MultiScene-Clean and MultiScene datasets in Fig. 7, and it can be again observed that higher class-based scores (see orange and brown bars in Fig. 7) are obtained when using massive crowdsourced labels. All in all, although crowdsourced labels influence the overall performance of networks, comparisons in class-based scores also suggest their great potential.

## V. CONCLUSION

In this article, we propose a large-scale dataset, MultiScene, for multiscene recognition in single images, which is featured by unconstrained multiscene aerial images and the available both crowdsourced and clean labels. The proposed dataset allows studies in not only recognizing aerial scenes in the wild but also learning from noisy crowdsourced labels. We comprehensively evaluate popular baseline models on both MultiScene-Clean (a subset consisting of only cleanly labeled images) and MultiScene datasets. Experimental results on the former demonstrate that unconstrained multiscene recognition is still a challenging task, and those on the latter showcase the great potential of exploiting a large number of crowdsourced annotations. Looking into the future, the dataset can be applied to develop more efficient networks and learning strategies for exploiting noisy labels for aerial scene understanding in the wild.

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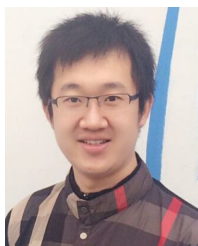
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