Visual Shape Recognition and CAPTCHAs

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Recognizing objects in visual images is a fundamental human ability. Humans can do this in the presence of significant amounts of clutter and variability within each object category. Several CAPTCHAs have been proposed that rely on the current inability of computers to perform as well as humans on this task. I will sketch a plausible computational approach based on a combination of low-level image grouping operations and high-level shape matching operations. For more information, please see

http://http.cs.berkeley.edu/projects/vision/shape/ for recent results on shape matching.