



COMPOUND FIGURE SEPARATION COMBINING EDGE AND BAND SEPARATOR DETECTION

Mario Taschwer, AAU, Klagenfurt, Austria
Oge Marques, FAU, Boca Raton, FL, USA

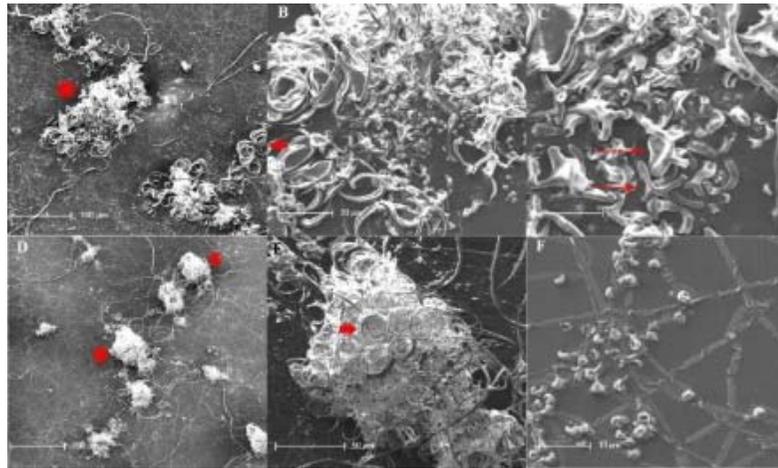


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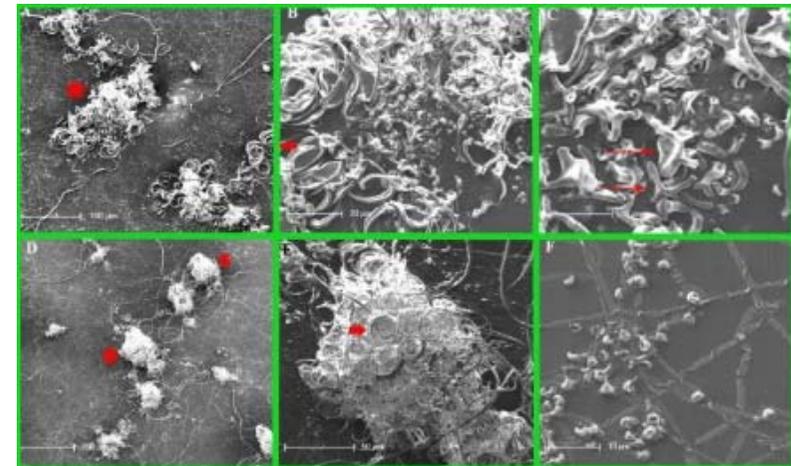
PROBLEM

Compound figure separation
(CFS) – automatic!



Compound image in
scientific article

segmented into subfigures





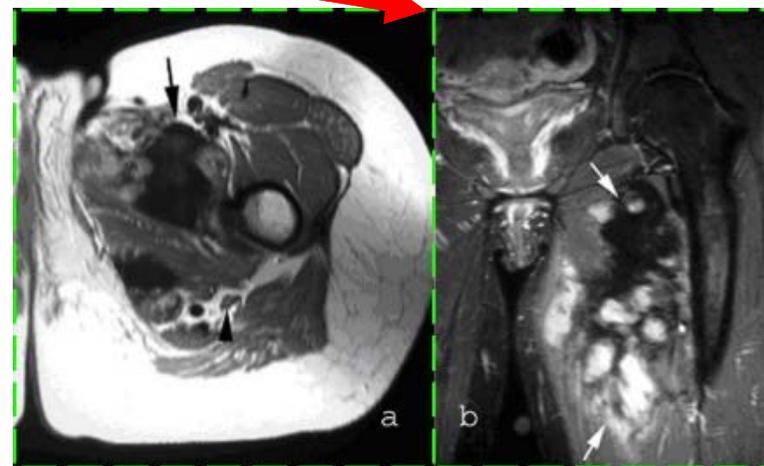
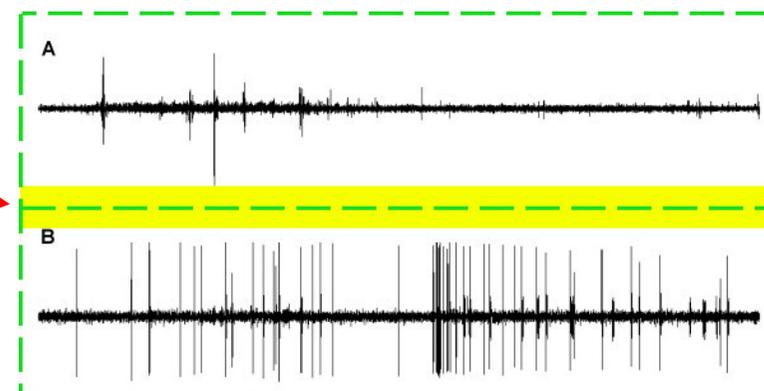
MOTIVATION

- **Biomedical literature:**
 - 40%-60% of figures in articles are compound
 - infeasible to separate subfigures manually
- **Compound images hinder**
 - Content-based analysis
 - Content-based indexing for retrieval
- **CFS recognized as research problem recently**
 - research fostered by ImageCLEF CFS tasks in 2013 and 2015 (biomedical domain)



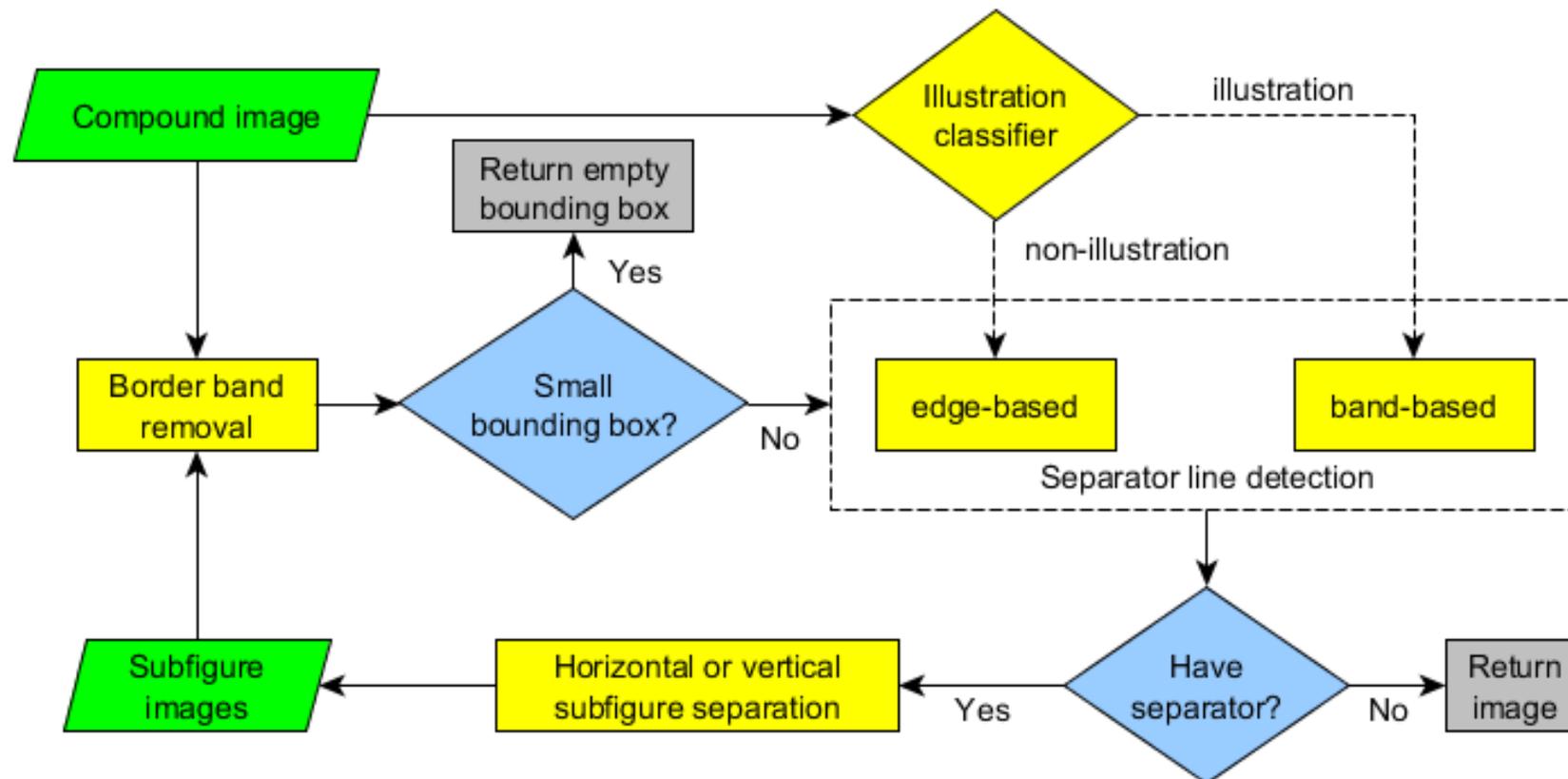
KNOWN APPROACHES

- Most approaches detect **separator bands**
- Very few detect **separator edges**
- No automatic combination yet
- We propose **automatic selection** of edge-based / band-based separation



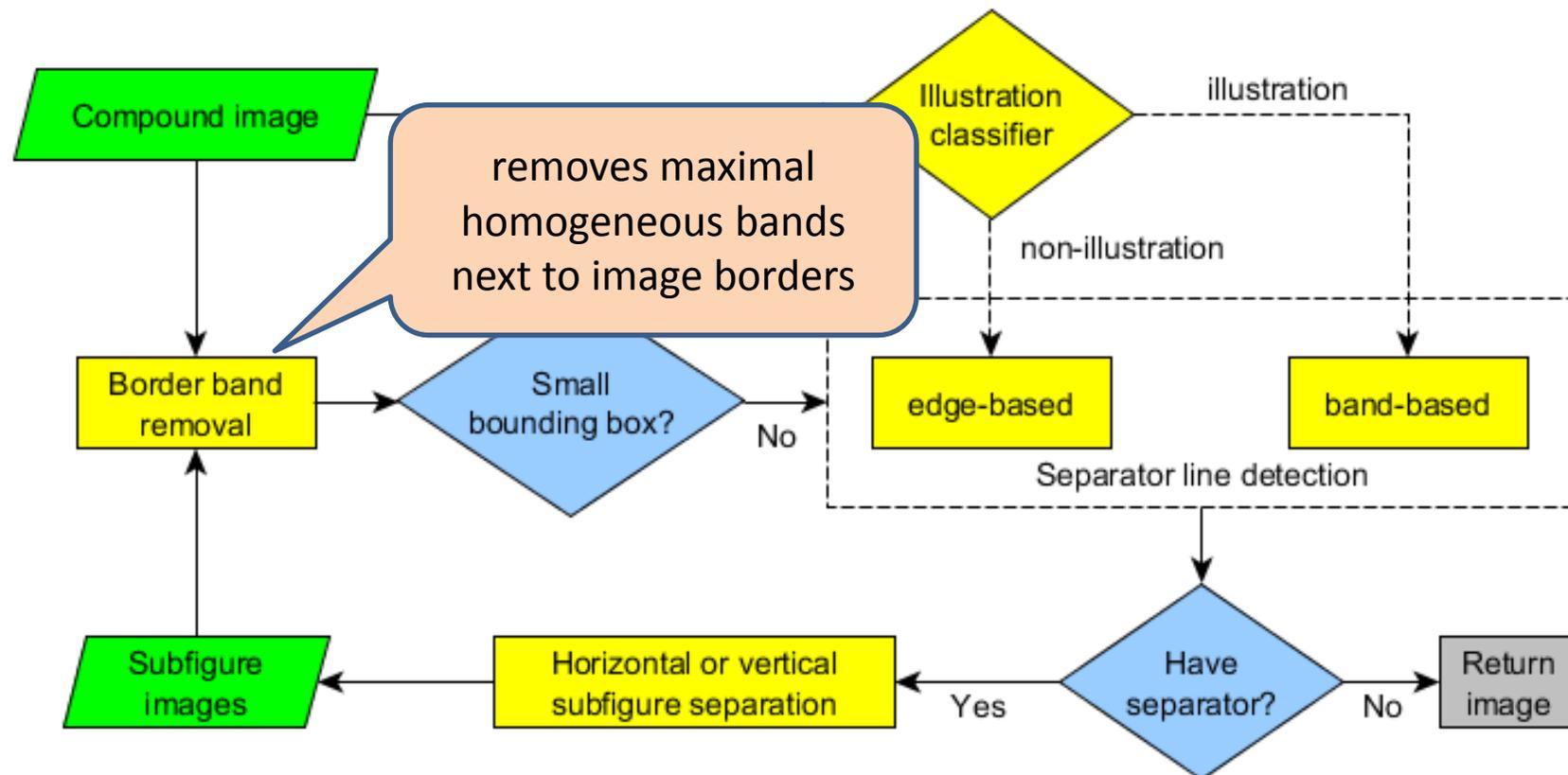


PROPOSED APPROACH



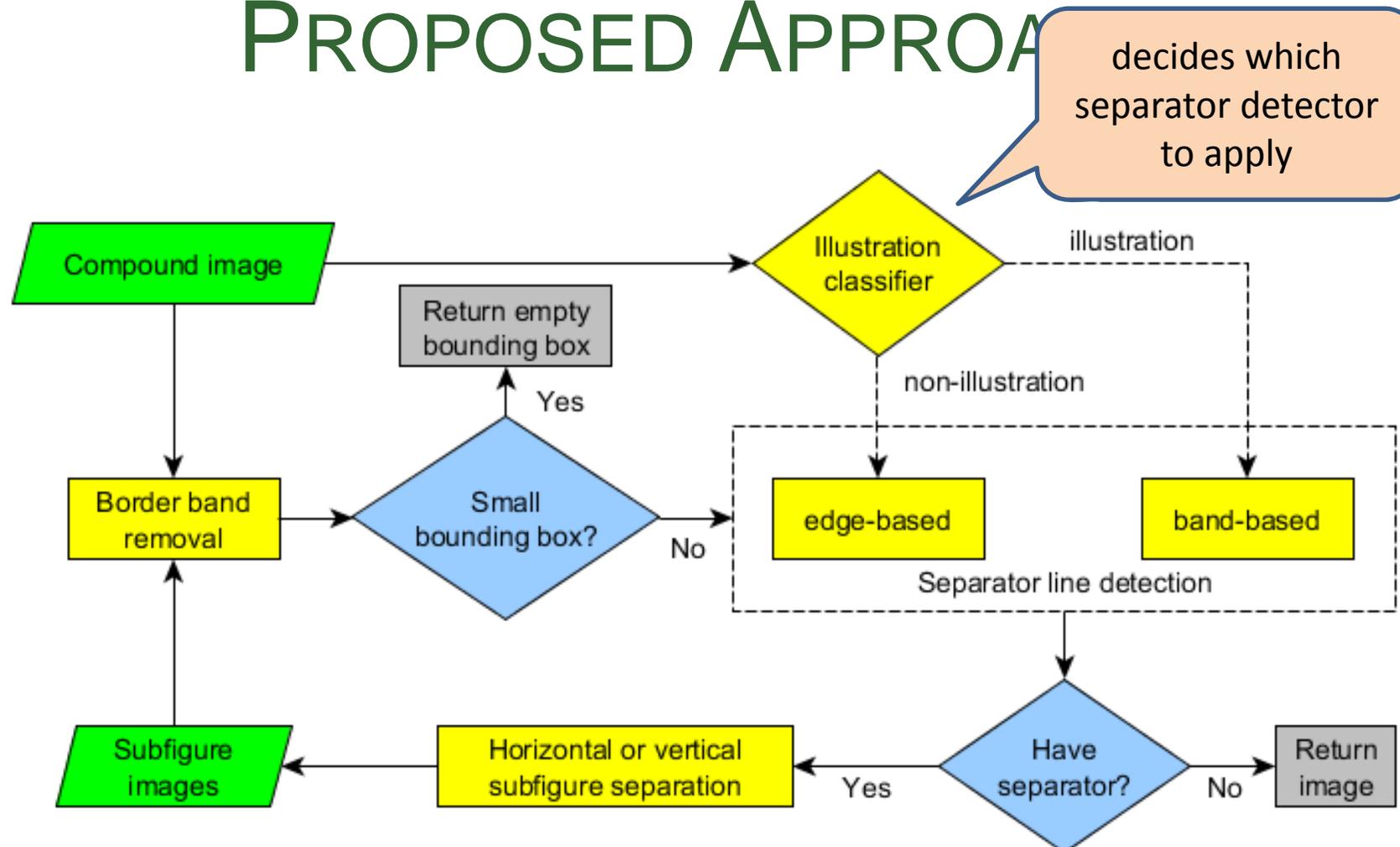


PROPOSED APPROACH



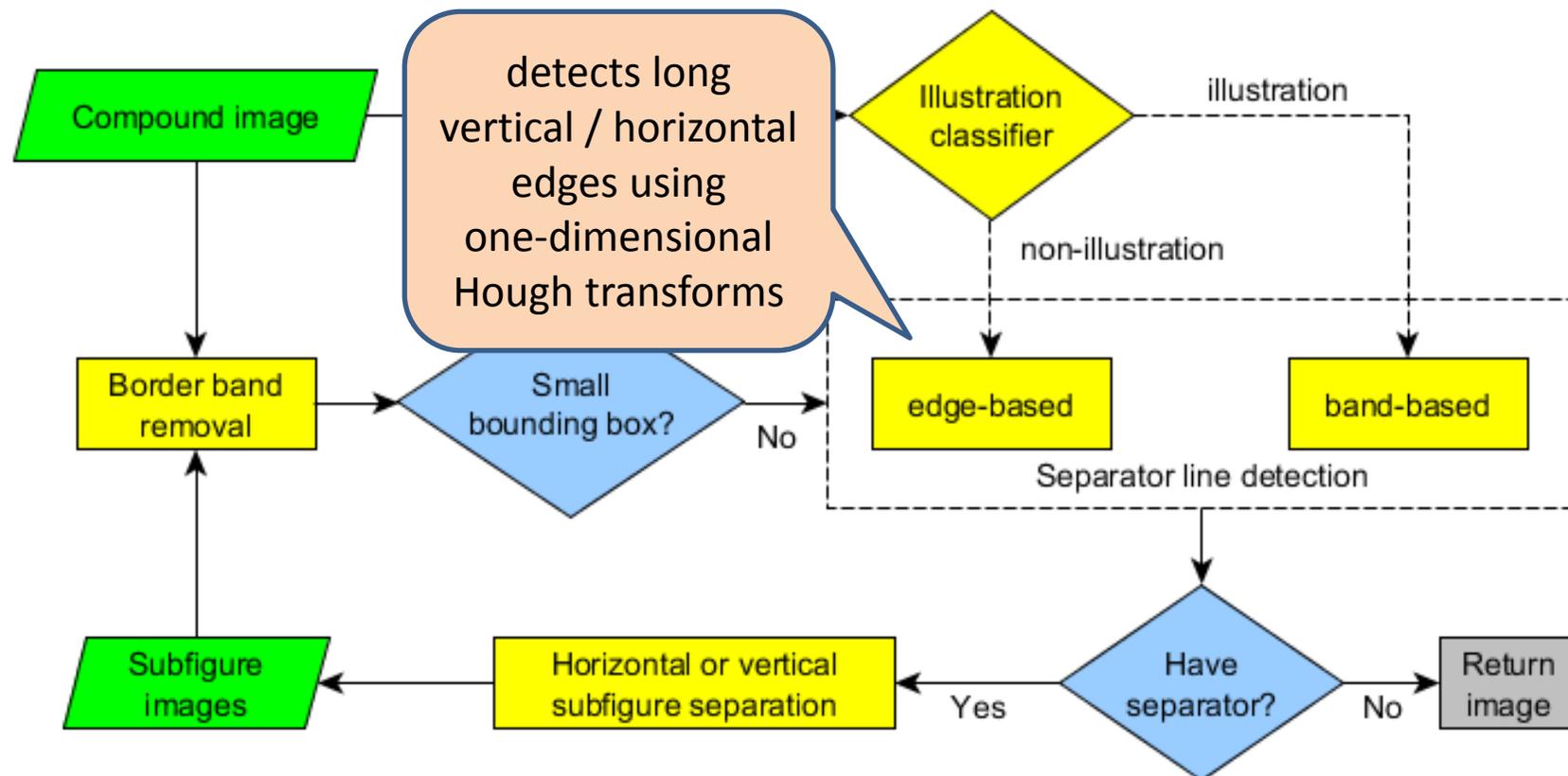


PROPOSED APPROACH



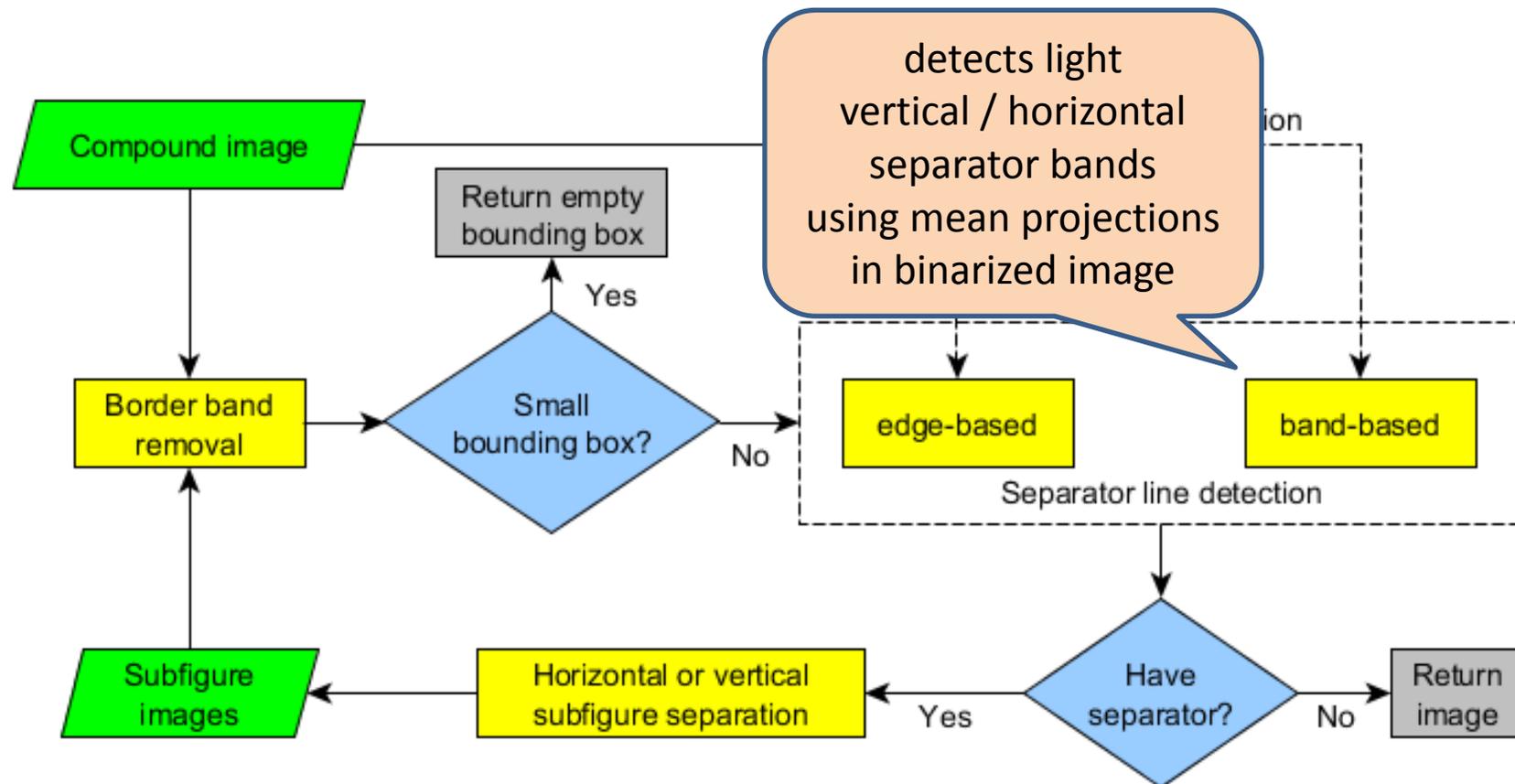


PROPOSED APPROACH



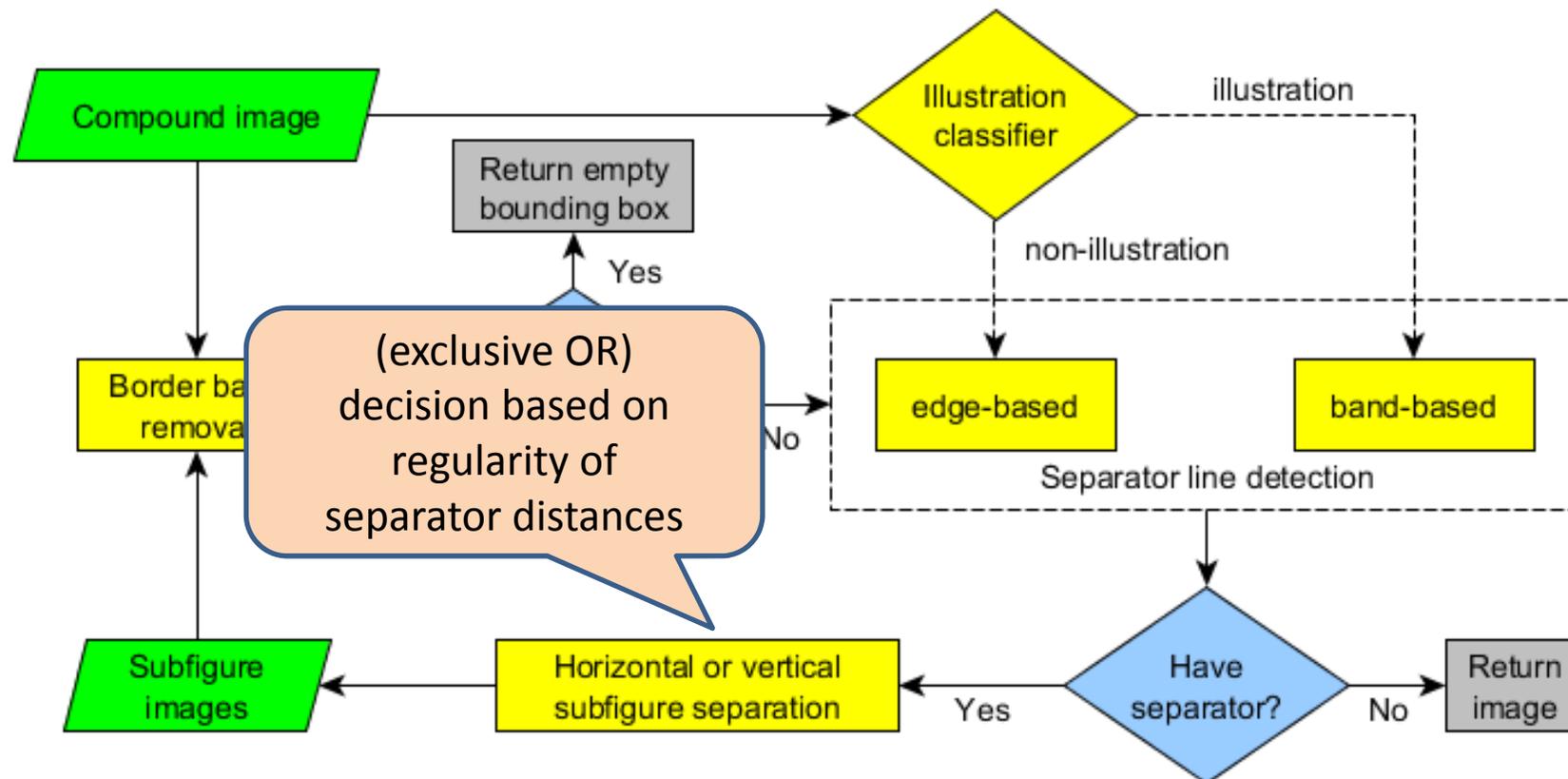


PROPOSED APPROACH



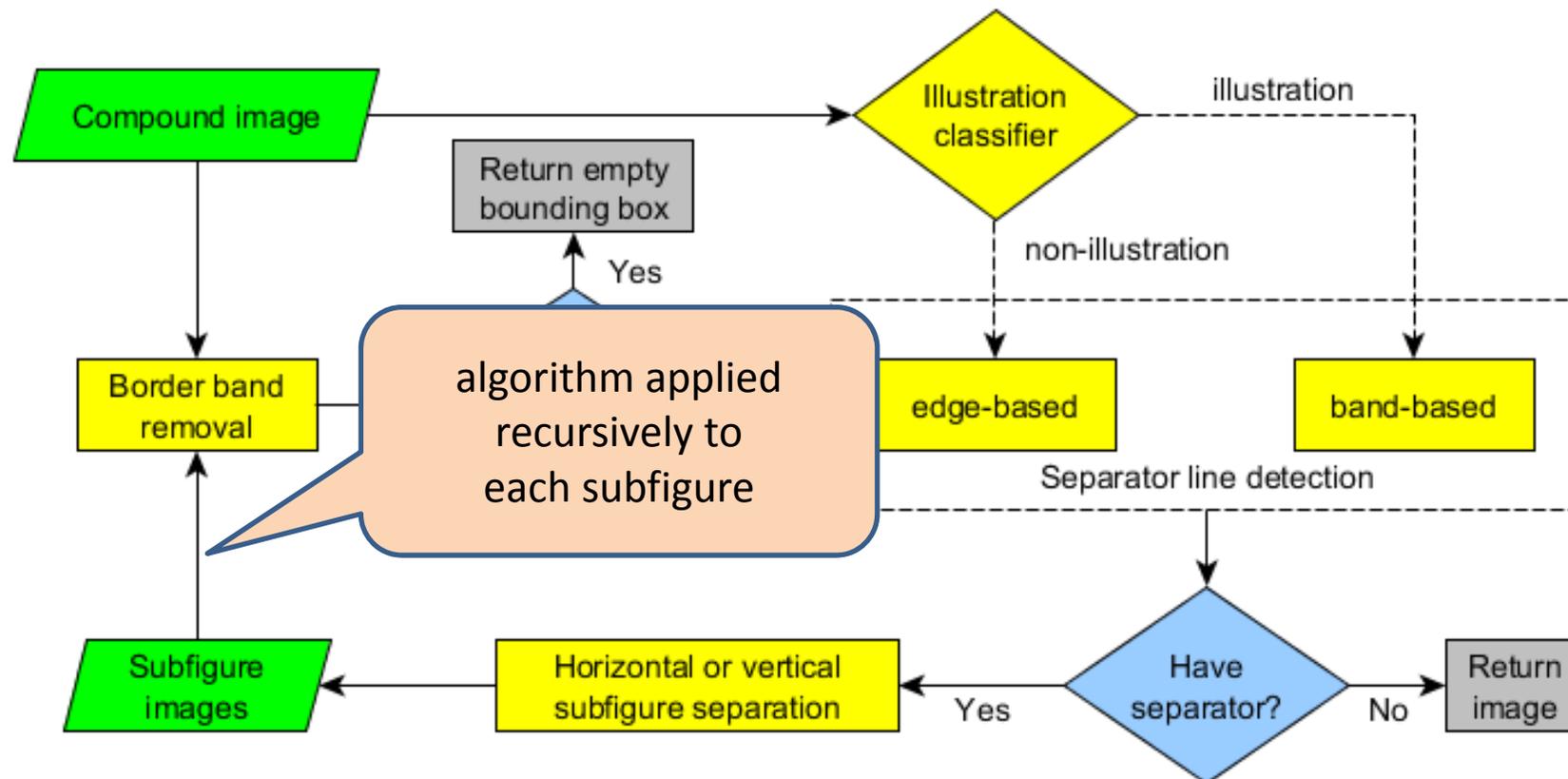


PROPOSED APPROACH





PROPOSED APPROACH





DATASET 1 FOR EVALUATION

- ImageCLEF 2015 test dataset:
 - 3,381 compound figures from biomedical journals containing 12,789 ground-truth subfigures
- Accuracy is defined per compound figure:
 - N_D – number of detected subfigures
 - N_G – number of ground-truth subfigures
 - True positives TP: 1-to-1 mapping from detected to ground-truth subfigures (maximal overlap $\geq 66\%$)
 - Accuracy = $TP / \max(N_D, N_G)$
- Report mean accuracy on test dataset



ACCURACY ON DATASET 1

- N_D – number of detected subfigures
- N_G – number of ground-truth subfigures
- True positives TP: 1-to-1 mapping from detected to ground-truth subfigures (maximal overlap $\geq 66\%$)
- Accuracy = TP / max(N_D , N_G)

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | detected subfigure 1 | 2 |
| 67% overlap with A | 80% overlap with B ↓ | 47 % overlap with C |
| ground truth A | B | 3 33 % overlap with C C |

$N_D = N_G = 3$
TP = 1
Accuracy = 1/3



RESULTS ON DATASET 1

| Method | Classifier / Features | Band-based % | Accuracy % |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Proposed | None | 0 | 58.0 |
| Proposed | None | 100 | 82.2 |
| Proposed | SVM / simple11 | 60.3 | 83.5 |
| Proposed | LogReg / simple11 | 74.1 | 84.9 |
| NLM [7] | Manual | 95.7 | 84.6 |

- **LogReg**: logistic regression, predicts class probability
 - decision threshold optimized on CFS training set
- **simple11**: 11-dimensional global image feature
 - entropy, mean intensity
 - 9 quantiles of intensity distribution



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- Proposed approach outperforms
 - proposed variants without illustration classifier
 - **semi-automatic** approach of U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM, best submission at ImageCLEF 2015)



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- Dataset is “biased” towards separator bands
 - NLM’s manual classification identified 96% band-separated compound figures
 - explains why our band-based-only variant achieves good performance



DATASET 2 FOR EVALUATION

- NLM dataset [1]:
 - 389 compound figures from biomedical domain containing 1,754 ground-truth subfigures
- Stronger criterion for true positive subfigures:
 - $\geq 75\%$ overlap with a single ground-truth subfigure
 - $< 5\%$ overlap with all other ground-truth subfigures
- Precision, recall and F_1 measure
 - calculated from total numbers of **detected**, **true positive** and **ground-truth** subfigures on entire test dataset



RESULTS ON DATASET 2

| Method | detected | TP | Precision % | Recall % | F1 % |
|---------------------------|----------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Proposed, SVM/simple11 | 1681 | 1392 | 82.8 | 79.4 | 81.1 |
| Proposed, LogReg/simple11 | 1646 | 1407 | 85.5 | 80.2 | 82.8 |
| NLM [1] | 1482 | 1276 | 86.1 | 72.3 | 78.6 |

- Indicate generalization capability:
 - used same parameter settings as with dataset 1
 - relative performance consistent with previous results
- Band-based separator selection rate: 33%
 - substantial difference to dataset 1 (74%)



CONCLUSION AND FURTHER WORK

- Proposed compound figure separation approach:
 - uses a **supervised classifier** to select separator line detection method (band-based or edge-based)
 - classifier accuracy is not critical for CFS performance
 - optimizing classifier's decision on CFS training set helps
 - future work may include finding more discriminative features / better training sets
 - consistently **better than previously published results** on 2 datasets, using same parameter settings
 - may be **extended by other known useful techniques** (image markup removal, subfigure label recognition)