

MASTER'S THESIS

Image segmentation based on the statistical and contour information

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Image Segmentation based on the Statistical and Contour Information

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Abstract

Image segmentation is a hot research topic in pattern recognition, computer vision and image processing. It is one of the most important techniques in these fields. Its aim is to segment the image into a few areas with different characteristics and then select the interested targets, which can provide reference for the subsequent processes, such as classification and searching. Image segmentation is great important because the segmentation result will affect and decide the accuracy of the subsequent analysis and comprehension.

The following works have been done in this research:

- An improved thersholding approach based on the maximal variance method is presented in this thesis. The process of searching for the threshold by maximal variance is actually a searching course to find the optimum, so the genetic algorithm is used to search the global threshold. Furthermore, the characteristic of the fast optimizing by the genetic algorithm can be suit to our purpose to obtain a high efficiency. However, the traditional genetic algorithm has some disadvantages. Therefore, an improved genetic algorithm is proposed. In this new method, the weakness of the traditional genetic algorithm on the aspects of the global searching and converging rate can both be surmounted. The experiments with simulated data show that our proposed method can obtain a good global threshold which is approximated to the optimal value in the image, specifcilly there is an overlap between the distributions of the object and background. The experiments with the real images show that our proposed method can segment the objects from the background more significative by searching the global threshold. The new approach can also reduce the searching time.
- Urinary sediments are very important to help doctor diagnose the diseases such as kidney inflammation, urethra inflammation, bladder inflammation and so

on. In this thesis, we focus on the problem of edge segmentation of white and red blood cells in urinary sediments images. According to the characteristics of these medical images, it is necessary to make use of many different properties of the images and the segmentation should through many steps. In the proposed scheme, first, the variance transform and morphology processing are used to erase the effect of the uneven illumination and overlapped distributions, hence the particles can be located. Secondly, based on canny edge, the contour reconstruction of the particle is used to obtain the detail of the edges of the cells. Thirdly, a method based on the distance image and the global-local maximum is proposed to segment these cells, which are closed each other. The experiment results show that the proposed new method can segment the urinary sediment images effectively and precisely.

- Last, we aim at reducing the segmentation error for multiple-touching and overlapping part of the connected digits. A new method to segment the merged numerals is proposed. Firstly, we use the contour and component analysis to pre-segment the merged numerals and separate the numerals into touched and untouched types, the merged-untouched numerals can be segmented successfully. Then, we proposed a new energy model based on wavelet multi-scale analysis and Gradient Vector Flow (GVF) model. For the touched numerals, we analyzed their contour features and proposed a searching method to find the segmentation path and apply the energy model to confirm the segmentation path. Experiments show that our proposed segmentation method can receive a positive result so that the separated digits can be obtained, which have more natural shape comparing with other algorithms. Furthermore, the merged numeral string with overlap can also be segmented, and the segment error rate of our method is lower than that of some other methods.

Table of Contents

Declaration	i
Abstract	ii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of Contents	v
List of Figures	viii
List of Tables	xi
Chapter 1 Introduction to Image Segmentation	1
1.1 Threshold Segmentation	3
1.2 Edge Based Segmentation	4
1.3 Region Based Segmentation	4
1.4 Contributions of the Thesis	6
Chapter 2 Image Segmentation Based on Improved Genetic Algorithm and Max- imal Variance	8
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Image Threshold Segmentation	10
2.2.1 The Statistical Method for Threshold Value Selection	12
2.2.2 The Maximal Variance Threshold Segmentation	14
2.3 The Principle of Genetic Algorithm and its Improvement	16
2.3.1 The Traditional Methods of Genetic Algorithm	16
2.3.2 The Basic Concepts of GA	17

2.3.3	Improved Genetic Algorithm	21
2.3.4	Confirming the Optimal Threshold Based on Improved Genetic Algorithm	22
2.4	Experimental Results	24
2.4.1	Simulation Data Segmentation	25
2.4.2	The Real Image Segmentation	28
2.4.3	The Handwriting Image Segmentation	33
2.5	Conclusions	33
Chapter 3 A Multiple Step Segmentation Method for Urinary Sediments Images		35
3.1	Introduction	35
3.2	The Location of Urinary Sediment Particle for the Segmentation	37
3.2.1	Variance Transform Method for Location	39
3.2.2	An Experimental Threshold for Variance Images	41
3.2.3	Location of the Objects	43
3.3	The Detail Edge Segmentation	45
3.3.1	Particle Contour Reconstruction from the Canny Edge	45
3.3.2	Detail Segmentation Method based on Global and Local Maxima	50
3.3.3	Global-local Region Method Compare with Watershed	56
3.4	Experiments	58
3.5	Conclusions	63
Chapter 4 A Searching-based Segmentation Method of Merge Numerals by Wavelet Analysis and GVF Model		64
4.1	Introduction	64
4.2	The Pre-segmentation for Merged Numerals	67
4.2.1	The Preprocess	67
4.2.2	The Contour Analysis	68
4.2.3	Segmentation of Merged-Untouched Numerals	71
4.3	Segmentation of Merged-Touched Numerals	72
4.3.1	The Searching Method for Segmentation of the Unconnected Parts	73

4.3.2	Traditional Snake Model and GVF Model	74
4.3.3	Wavelet Analysis	77
4.3.4	Wavelet-based GVF Snake Model	80
4.3.5	The Segmentation Energy Model based on Wavelet and GVF .	82
4.3.6	The Segmentation of Connected Parts	83
4.4	Experiments	84
4.5	Conclusions	88
Chapter 5 Conclusions and Future Work		89
Publications		100
Curriculum Vitae		102