

An Image Matching Method for Digital Images Using Morphological Approach

Pinaki Pratim Acharjya, Dibyendu Ghoshal

Abstract—Image matching methods play a key role in deciding correspondence between two image scenes. This paper presents a method for the matching of digital images using mathematical morphology. The proposed method has been applied to real life images. The matching process has shown successful and promising results.

Keywords—Digital image, gradients, image matching, mathematical morphology.

I. INTRODUCTION

IMAGE matching [1]-[3], or comparing images in order to obtain a measure of their similarity, is an important computer vision problem [4]-[5] with a variety of applications. In this research paper a method for digital image matching between two real life images has been proposed by extracting the features [6] from the images. Feature extraction from digital images includes extracting the significant knowledge from the images. Biggest benefit of feature extraction [7] is that it meaningfully decreases the information to represent an image for comprehending the content of that image. It uses various technical skills to extract the features like for example structural, concavity features and gradient, which criterions the image attributes at local, medium and large scale. Mathematical morphology [8]-[14] has been brought into the proposed approach of this research paper for feature extraction, edge extraction and finally for image matching or finding the similar images. The proposed approach as the present one is not so far available in published or online literature, and it is worthwhile to investigate the effects of morphological gradients capable of finding edges and the effectiveness of morphological gradients [13] in image matching.

The mathematical morphology [15], [16] is a nonlinear branch of the signal processing field and concerns the application of set theory concepts to image analysis. Morphology refers to the study of shapes and structures from a general scientific perspective. In this research paper mathematical morphology is used for generating gradients for image matching purpose. In mathematical morphology and digital image processing the gradient of an image is a directional change in the intensity or color in an image and the difference between the dilation and the erosion of a given

image forms a morphological gradient [17]-[22]. Mathematical formulations of morphological gradient are discussed in Section II. It is an image where typically each non-negative pixel value indicates the contrast intensity in the close neighborhood of that pixel. Image gradients are very much useful to extract different information from images, edge detection of different objects and for several image segmentation applications.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section II, morphological gradient has been discussed. Proposed method has been discussed in Section III. Experimental results display the successful matching process in Section IV. Conclusions are added in Section V followed by the references.

II. MATHEMATICAL FORMULATIONS OF MORPHOLOGICAL GRADIENT

Morphological gradient can be accrued by image erosion and dilation. Erosion and dilation are two fundamental operations in morphological image processing from which all other morphological operations are based on. It was originally defined for binary images, later being extended to grayscale images. Dilation adds pixels to the boundaries of objects in an image, while erosion removes pixels on object boundaries. The number of pixels added or removed from the objects in an image depends on the size and shape of the structuring element used to process the image. More complicated morphological operators can be designed by combining erosions and dilations.

The processing is done on the shape (set) A using a structuring element (set) B .

$$A \oplus B = \{x | (\hat{B})_x \cap A \neq \emptyset\} \quad (1)$$

$$A \ominus B = \{x | (B)_x \subseteq A\} \quad (2)$$

Dilation gives the original set plus an extra boundary. The size and shape of the boundary depends on the shape and size of the structuring element. Erosion gives the points for which the structuring element is contained in the original set. The outer boundary of the original shape is removed by erosion. Dilation is the complementary operation of erosion and vice versa.

$$\begin{aligned} (A \oplus B)^c &= \{x | (B)_x \subseteq A\}^c \\ &= \{x | (B)_x \cap A^c = \emptyset\}^c \\ &= \{x | (\hat{B})_x \cap A^c \neq \emptyset\} \\ &= A^c \oplus \hat{B} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

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Morphological gradient:

$$(A \ominus B)^c = A^c \oplus B \quad (4)$$

III. PROPOSED METHOD

The flow diagram of the proposed approach has been shown in Fig. 1. In proposed methodology, first two real life images are chosen as input images and accordingly converted into gray scale images. In next step the morphological gradients are generated for feature extraction and edge detection. To find out the matching of two images the morphological edge values of two images have been compared pixel by pixel. If the matching is greater than 90 Percent of the total pixels of two different images, it can be considered that the images are same; otherwise two images are different images.

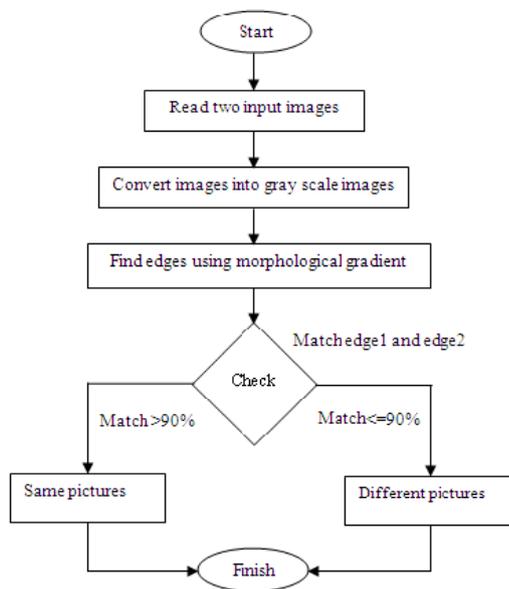


Fig. 1 Flow diagram of the proposed method

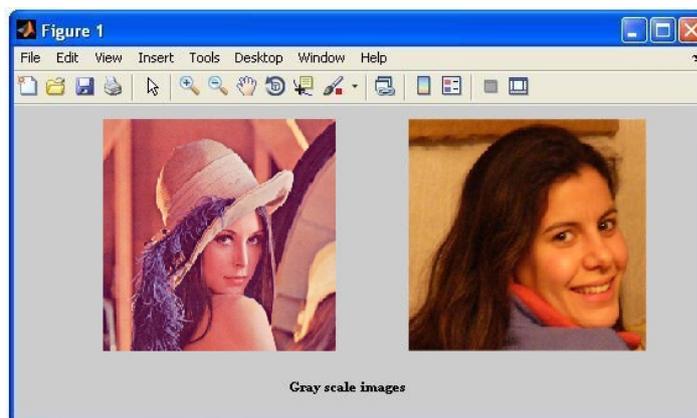


Fig. 2 Original color images of Lena and Laure

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Two real life images of “Laure” of 256 x 256 dimensions and “Lena” of 512 x 512 has been chosen to do the experimental work. In Fig. 2 image of Lena has been chosen as two input images and their grayscale images has been shown in Fig. 3. In Fig. 4 the morphological gradient images has been shown and on application of the proposed approach it has been found that the two images have the same similarity of 100%. Hence we can conclude that the two images are same. In Fig. 5 two different images has been taken (Lena and Laure) and accordingly their grayscale images has been shown. In Fig. 6 the morphological gradient images has been shown and on application of the proposed approach it has been found that the two images have similarity of 0%. So we can conclude that the two images are different. The statistical measurements are also calculated with entropy, peak signal to noise ratio (PSNR) and mean square error (MSE). The statistical measurements are shown in Table I. Image entropy is calculated with the following formula.

$$Entropy = \sum_i P_j \log_2 P_j \quad (5)$$

The PSNR is the value of the noisy image with respect to that of the original image. The value of PSNR and MSE for the proposed method is found out experimentally. The PSNR and the Mean Square Error of the retrieved image can be calculated by using (6) and (7):

$$PSNR(Img, Org) = 10 \log_{10} \frac{S^2}{MSE(Img, Org)} \quad (6)$$

$$MSE(Img, Org) = \frac{\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{i=1}^I \sum_{j=1}^J [Org(i,j,c) - Img(i,j,c)]^2}{3NM} \quad (7)$$

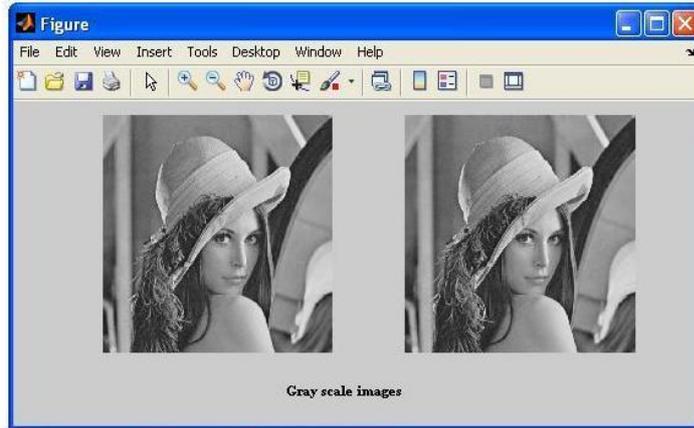


Fig. 3 Gray scale images of Lena image (input images)

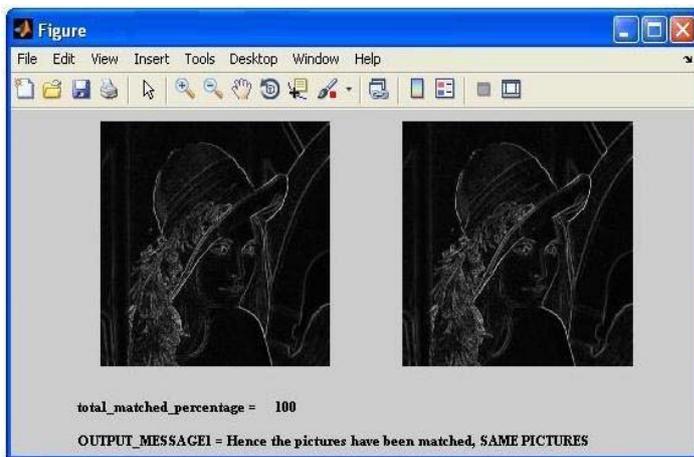


Fig. 4 Grayscale images of Lena and Laure (Total matched percentage = 100, hence same images)

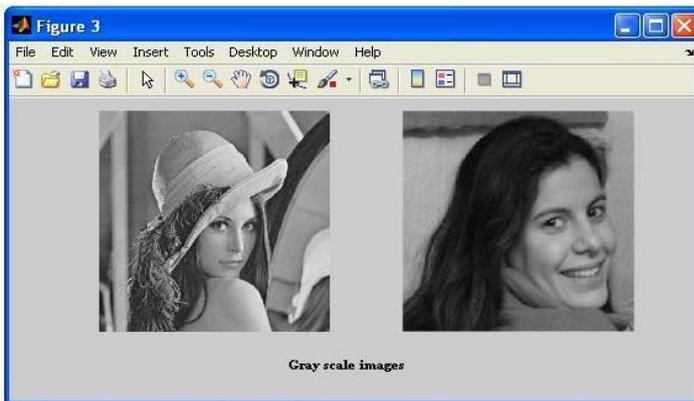


Fig. 5 Grayscale images of Lena and Laure (input images)

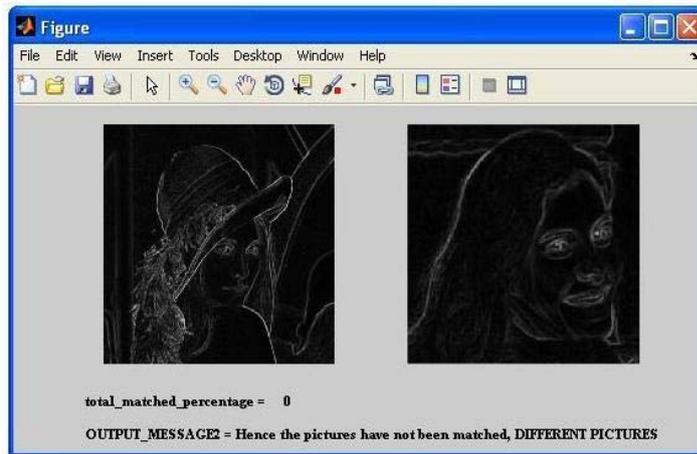


Fig. 6 Final output images of Lena and Laure image (Total matched percentage = 0, hence different images)

TABLE I
STATISTICAL MEASUREMENTS

Fig. No	Image	Entropy	MSE	PSNR
Fig. 3	Lena (input grayscale image)	5.8364	0.2184	54.7375
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Fig. 4	Lena (output gradient image)	4.6217	9.1035e+003	8.5387
Fig. 4	Lena (output gradient image)	4.6217	9.1035e+003	8.5387
Fig. 5	Lena (input grayscale image)	5.8364	0.2184	54.7375
Fig. 5	Laure (input grayscale image)	4.3964	0.1786	55.6129
Fig. 6	Lena (output gradient image)	4.6217	9.1035e+003	8.5387
Fig. 6	Laure (output gradient image)	3.5044	4.2245e+003	11.8730

V. CONCLUSION

Accuracy in real time operations for image matching is demanded by more and more applications. Both, area based and feature based algorithms walk towards this objective. A digital image matching approach involving mathematical morphology is presented in this paper. The main thrust of the proposed work lies on the rigidity property used in the object matching decision. The proposed approach or methodology is an avenue for future research which will further enhance the mathematical morphology based digital image matching technique.

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