Digital Image Processing





Image Processing Fields





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Image Processing Fields

 Computer Graphics: The creation of images

• Image Processing: Enhancement or other manipulation of the image

Computer Vision: Analysis of the image content

Computerized Processes Types

- Low-Level Processes:
 - Input and output are images
 - Tasks: Primitive operations, such as, image processing to reduce noise, contrast enhancement and image sharpening

Computerized Processes Types

- Mid-Level Processes:
 - Inputs, generally, are images. Outputs are attributes extracted from those images (edges, contours, identity of individual objects)

– Tasks:

- Segmentation (partitioning an image into regions or objects)
- Description of those objects to reduce them to a form suitable for computer processing
- Classifications (recognition) of objects

Computerized Processes Types

• High-Level Processes:

- Image analysis and computer vision

Digital Image Definition

- An image can be defined as a twodimensional function f(x,y)
- x,y: Spatial coordinate
- F: the amplitude of any pair of coordinate x,y, which is called the intensity or gray level of the image at that point.
- X,y and f, are all finite and discrete quantities.







Step 1: Image Acquisition

The image is captured by a sensor (eg. Camera), and digitized if the output of the camera or sensor is not already in digital form, using analogue-to-digital convertor



Step 2: Image Enhancement

The process of manipulating an image so that the result is more suitable than the original for specific applications.

The idea behind enhancement techniques is to bring out details that are hidden, or simple to highlight certain features of interest in an image.



Step 3: Image Restoration

- Improving the appearance of an image

- Tend to be mathematical or probabilistic models. Enhancement, on the other hand, is based on human subjective preferences regarding what constitutes a "good" enhancement result.





Step 4: Colour Image Processing

Use the colour of the image to extract features of interest in an image





Step 5: Wavelets

Are the foundation of representing images in various degrees of resolution. It is used for image data compression.





Step 6: Compression

Techniques for reducing the storage required to save an image or the bandwidth required to transmit it.





Step 7: Morphological Processing

Tools for extracting image components that are useful in the representation and description of shape.

In this step, there would be a transition from processes that output images, to processes that output image attributes.



Decomposition of a grey-scale image by a morphological wavelet (max-lifting scheme). The original image is shown at the left and its decomposition into four subbands at the right.



Step 8: Image Segmentation

Segmentation procedures partition an image into its constituent parts or objects.

Important Tip: The more accurate the segmentation, the more likely recognition is to succeed.







Step 9: Representation and Description

- **Representation:** Make a decision whether the data should be represented as a boundary or as a complete region. It almost always follows the output of a segmentation stage.
 - **Boundary Representation:** Focus on external shape characteristics, such as corners and inflections.
 - **Region Representation:** Focus on internal properties, such as texture or skeleton shape.



Step 10: Recognition and Interpretation

Recognition: the process that assigns label to an object based on the information provided by its description.



Step 11: Knowledge Base

Knowledge about a problem domain is coded into an image processing system in the form of a knowledge database.





1. Image Sensors

Two elements are required to acquire digital images. The first is the physical device that is sensitive to the energy radiated by the object we wish to image (*Sensor*). The second, called a *digitizer*, is a device for converting the output of the physical sensing device into digital form.



Components of an Image Processing System 2. Specialized Image Processing Hardware

Usually consists of the digitizer, mentioned before, plus hardware that performs other primitive operations, such as an arithmetic logic unit (ALU), which performs arithmetic and logical operations in parallel on entire images.

This type of hardware sometimes is called a front-end subsystem, and its most distinguishing characteristic is speed. In other words, this unit performs functions that require fast data throughputs that the typical main computer cannot handle.



3. Computer

The computer in an image processing system is a general-purpose computer and can range from a PC to a supercomputer. In dedicated applications, sometimes specially designed computers are used to achieve a required level of performance.



4. Image Processing Software

Software for image processing consists of specialized modules that perform specific tasks. A well-designed package also includes the capability for the user to write code that, as a minimum, utilizes the specialized modules.



5. Mass Storage Capability

Mass storage capability is a must in a image processing applications. An image of sized 1024 * 1024 pixels requires one megabyte of storage space if the image is not compressed.

Digital storage for image processing applications falls into three principal categories:

- 1. Short-term storage for use during processing.
- 2. On line storage for relatively fast recall
- 3. Archival storage, characterized by infrequent access

5. Mass Storage Capability

- One method of providing short-term storage is computer memory. Another is by specialized boards, called frame buffers, that store one or more images and can be accessed rapidly.
- □ Finally, archival storage is characterized by massive storage requirements but infrequent need for access.



system

6. Image Displays

The displays in use today are mainly color (preferably flat screen) TV monitors. Monitors are driven by the outputs of the image and graphics display cards that are an integral part of a computer system.



7. Hardcopy devices

Used for recording images, include laser printers, film cameras, heat-sensitive devices, inkjet units and digital units, such as optical and CD-Rom disks.



8. Networking

Is almost a default function in any computer system, in use today. Because of the large amount of data inherent in image processing applications the key consideration in image transmission is bandwidth.

In dedicated networks, this typically is not a problem, but communications with remote sites via the internet are not always as efficient.



BRAIN ACTIVITY





"Digital Image Processing", C.Rafeal Gonzalez and E.Richard Woods, , Pearson Education 2007, Page 25-30



MIND MAP



SUMMARY

- Images are a way of recording and presenting information in a visual form.
- Digital image processing is a collection of techniques for the manipulation of digital images by computers.
- A digital image is composed of finite number of elements called pixels. Each pixel has a particular location and value.



ASSESMENT

- Describe the steps in a digital image processing.
- Explain the various components of a Digital Image Processing system.

