

Find a Text in Image File Using Correlation Method

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Abstract: Image correlation is representative of a wide variety of window-based image processing tasks. We can search for text/ word in documents with extension as DOC, PDF, TXT ... etc., and count the number of it in document or in the page. the difficulty in this process when we are keeping this documents in the form of images and any extension such as(jpg, bmp, ... etc.), thus lead to difficulty in the search for a word in those images, as some peoples depend on convert the document to image file in order to keep document from manipulation or making copies of them.

This study introduces method by using V.B. and depends on correlation method in search for "word" or "symbol" in image files.

Index Terms- image correlation, image processing, V.B, search.

I. Introduction

Image correlation is a widely used procedure in many areas of image and picture processing. This process, also known as template matching, is used to locate an object in a picture [1, 2] or, in image registration, to match pieces of two pictures to one another [3]. It is used in some forms of edge detection to find the step edge between two areas, or to find lines, spots, or curves [2]. In digital photogrammetric, image correlation is used to find the corresponding points of two images of a stereo model [2]. Because of image correlation requires comparing portions of two images in a large number of relative positions, it is an extremely time consuming process. In this application, image sizes are typically at 794*1132 (i.e. A4) or any size at less to find:

- Number of text (word) in an image.
- Any equation or symbol in an image.
- Any part of shape, curve, picture in an image.

II. Image Digital Definition and Correlation

An image is represented by a two-dimensional array where each element ("pixel") has an unsigned integer value representing the "gray level" of the pixel. Image correlation involves determining the position at which a relatively small match area best matches a portion of an input image. Correlation measures are used to measure the degree of similarity or disagreement between the match area and an equivalent size area on the input image. Let the symbols x and y denote to single elements of arrays X and Y, where X is the match image and Y is an area of the input image which has the same dimensions as X. [4]

Let M be the number of elements in the match area X. Two representative correlation measures are:

$$S_{XY} = \frac{\sum xy - \sum x - \sum y}{M} \quad \dots (1)$$

$$P_{XY} = \frac{S_{XY}}{(S_{XX} - S_{YY})^{1/2}}$$

Correlation measure SXY is the covariance of the match area with a portion of the input area. Large positive values indicate similarity, while large negative values indicate similarity between a positive and a negative image. Values near zero indicate little or no similarity. Correlation measure RXY is the linear correlation coefficient of statistics. This measure is a normalized version of SXY, with values ranging between +1 and -1.

The value of +1 indicates exact similarity, while values near zero indicate little similarity. In general, a correlation value will be computed for every possible position where the match area will fit on the input image. The match position where the correlation measure is maximized corresponds to the best placement of the match area on the image.

The computation time for image correlation is dominated by the time to compute the $\sum xy$, $\sum y$, and (for measure RXY) the $\sum y^2$ values for all possible match positions. The $\sum x$ and $\sum x^2$ values involve only the match area elements, and need to be computed (or precomputed) only once. The way in which data elements are combined to obtain the $\sum xy$ values is similar to operations performed in a variety of important image processing tasks, including convolution and filtering. For an input image having R rows and C columns and a match area

having r rows and c columns, there are $(R - r + 1)(C - c + 1)$ match positions. Serial computation of the Σxy terms over the entire image, performed by simply sliding the match area over the image and calculating the value of Σxy for each overlap position, requires $(R - r + 1)(R - r + 1)rc$ multiplications and $(C - c + 1)(C - c + 1)(rc - 1)$ additions, see figure (1) [5].

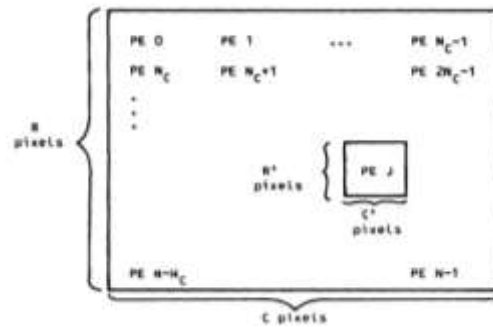


Figure (1): Data assignment of $R \times C$ image [5]

In computing the Σxy values, each match position generates a new set of terms to be summed. No terms from one match position can be reused in a different match position. In computing the Σy and Σy^2 values, two (or more) input image elements summed for one match position may also be summed for another match position. The algorithms considered for calculating the Σy and Σy^2 values therefore attempt to avoid "redundant" operations, e.g., performing a sum for one match position which has already been performed for another. The operations performed in computing the Σy and Σy^2 values, i.e., the summing of elements under a window where the window moves over an image, are typical of operations required for a variety of image processing tasks. These include image smoothing, edge enhancement, and convolution using a rectangular window.

Consider the following serial (uniprocessor) algorithm for computing the Σy 's, i.e., summing the pixel values in each match area. This algorithm will be used as a basis for parallel algorithms.

If the Σxy , Σy , and Σy^2 values for a given match position are computed together, the correlation measure for that match position can be calculated, and is saved only if it is the current maximum over the correlation measure values computed so far. Thus, the Σxy , Σy , and Σy^2 values for each position do not have to be saved. [5]

III. Cross correlation

Cross correlation is a standard method of estimating the degree to which two series are correlated. Consider two series $x(i)$ and $y(i)$ where $i=0,1,2,\dots,N-1$. The cross correlation r at delay d is defined as: [6, 7, 8]

$$r = \frac{\sum_i [(x(i) - mx) * (y(i-d) - my)]}{\sqrt{\sum_i (x(i) - mx)^2} \sqrt{\sum_i (y(i-d) - my)^2}}$$

Where mx and my are the means of the corresponding series. If the above is computed for all delays $d=0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ then it results in a cross correlation series of twice the length as the original series.

$$r(d) = \frac{\sum_i [(x(i) - mx) * (y(i-d) - my)]}{\sqrt{\sum_i (x(i) - mx)^2} \sqrt{\sum_i (y(i-d) - my)^2}}$$

There is the issue of what to do when the index into the series is less than 0 or greater than or equal to the number of points. ($i-d < 0$ or $i-d \geq N$) The most common approaches are to either ignore these points or assuming the series x and y are zero for $i < 0$ and $i \geq N$. In many signal processing applications the series is assumed to be circular in which case the out of range indexes are "wrapped" back within range, i.e. $x(-1) = x(N-1)$, $x(N+5) = x(5)$ etc.

The range of delays d and thus the length of the cross correlation series can be less than N , for example the aim may be to test correlation at short delays only. The denominator in the expression above serves to normalize the correlation coefficients such that $-1 \leq r(d) \leq 1$, the bounds indicating maximum correlation and 0 indicating no correlation. A high negative correlation indicates a high correlation but of the inverse of one of the series.

The maximum correlation is achieved at a delay of 3. Considering the equations above, what is happening is the second series is being slid past the first, at each shift the sum of the product of the newly lined up terms in the series is computed. This sum will be large when the shift (delay) is such that similar structure lines up. This is essentially the same as the so called convolution except for the normalization terms in the denominator.

IV. 2D Pattern Identification using Cross Correlation

It is one of the approaches used to identifying a pattern within an image uses cross correlation of the image with a suitable mask. Where the mask and the pattern being sought are similar the cross correlation will be high. The mask is itself an image that needs to have the same functional appearance as the pattern to be found.

Consider the image below in black and the red mask shown figure (2). The mask is centered at every pixel in the image and the cross correlation calculated, this forms a 2D array of correlation coefficients.

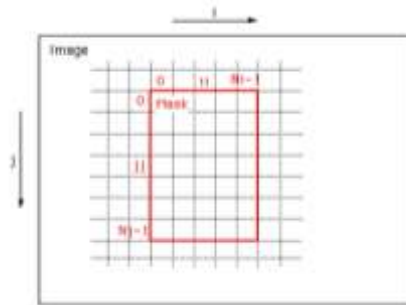


Figure (2): The mask is centered at every pixel in the image and the cross correlation calculated

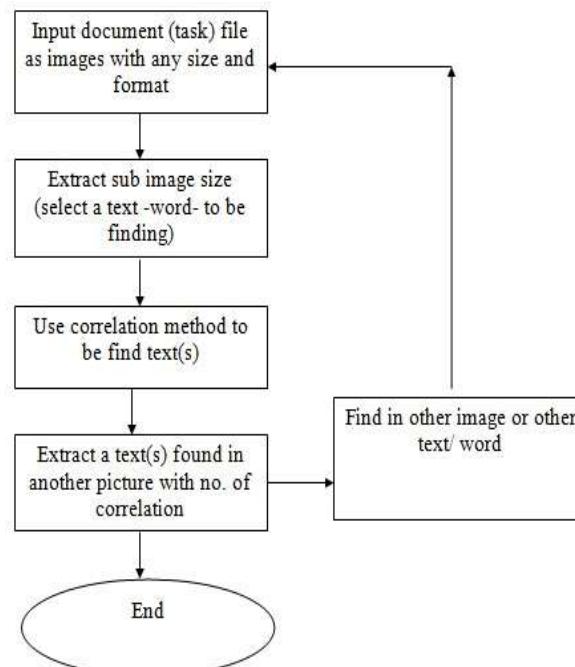
The form of the un-normalized correlation coefficient at position (i,j) on the image is given by: [6]

$$r[i][j] = \sum_{jj=-Nj/2}^{jj=Nj/2} \sum_{ii=-Ni/2}^{ii=Ni/2} (\text{mask}[ii+Ni/2][jj+Nj/2] - \overline{\text{mask}}) (\text{image}[i+ii][j+jj] - \overline{\text{image}})$$

Where $\overline{\text{mask}}$ is the mean of the masks pixels and $\overline{\text{image}}$ is the mean of the image pixels covered by the mask.

V. Algorithm of present work:

Figure (3) shows the Algorithm of present work.



VI. Interface of program and results:

The figure (4) shows the Interface of program (V.B Language), with the examples of many samples to find (search) of text, equation and symbol, in document images.

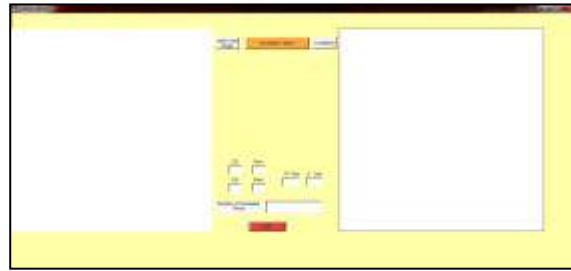


Figure (4): The Interface of program in (V.B Language)

- Sample (1): find the text “MRI” in flowing image:

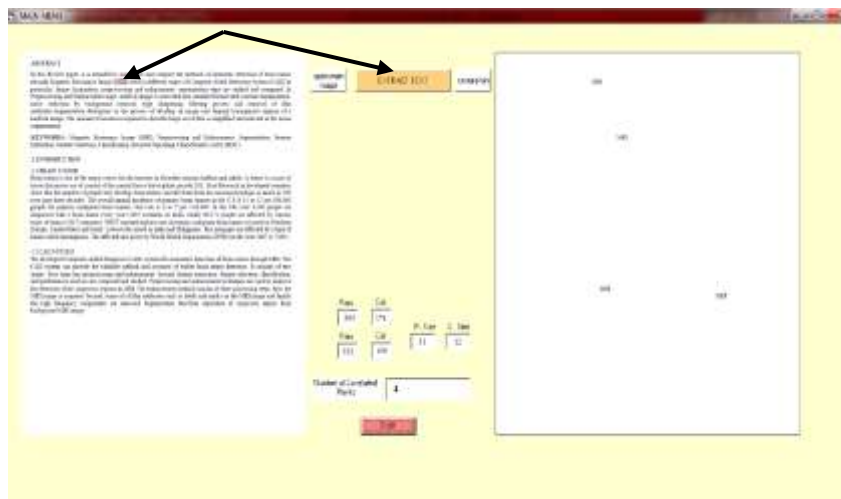
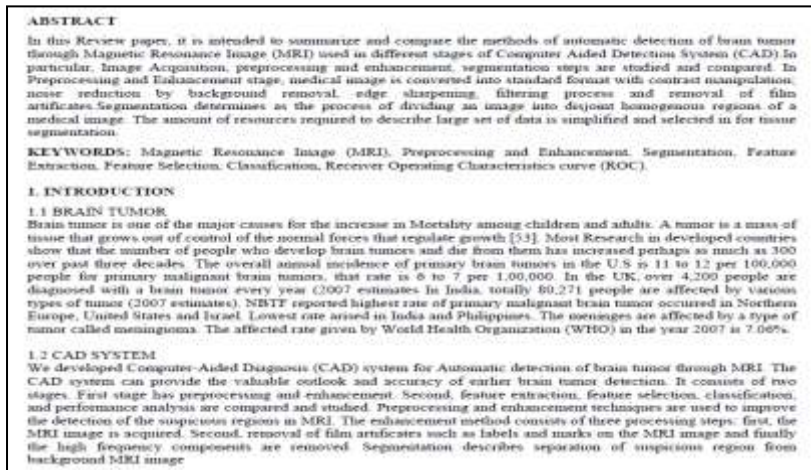
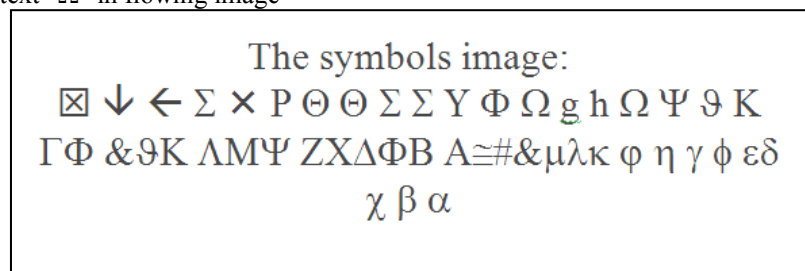


Figure (5): The result of applying correlation program on sample (1)

- Sample (2): Find the text “Ω” in flowing image



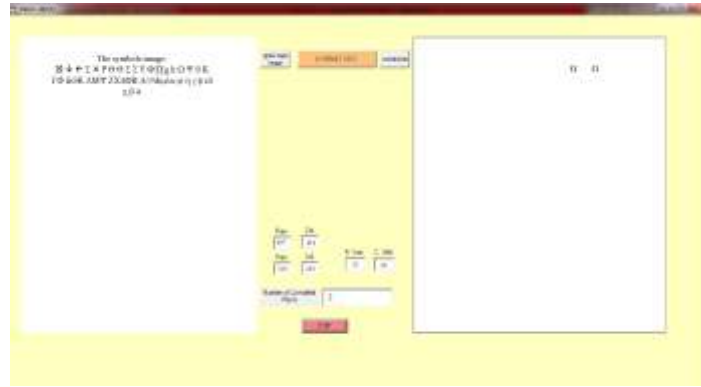


Figure (6): The result of applying correlation program on sample (2)

VII. Conclusions

1. The current method is easy and more effective to find and count words (texts) to be searched for in the image files.
2. It is Possible to be applied on "symbols" and "equations", because the programs such as MS-word dose not have the possibility to search for code within a given equation.
3. This method can be applied to search for any part of the picture.
4. It could be applied to any language: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese ... etc.
5. From defects in the current way, it is searching for a word in other words; does not differentiate between large and small letters or words in color because this method looking for the shape and the color of the word as it is exactly.

References:

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