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## AN ELASTIC APPROACH IN PARTIAL SHAPE MATCHING FOR GESTURE RECOGNITION USING SIFT ALGORITHM

Miss S. A. Bhosale<sup>1</sup>, Mr. P. P. Chouthmal<sup>2</sup>, Dr. K. V. Kale<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of CS & IT, Dr. B. A. M. University, Aurangabad, supriya.bhosale13@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>Department of CS & IT, Dr. B. A. M. University, Aurangabad, pchouthmal@gmail.com

<sup>3</sup>Head, Department of CS & IT, Dr. B. A. M. University, Aurangabad, kvkale91@gmail.com

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### Abstract

We present a new approach in partial shape matching for gesture recognition efficiently and more easily by using Scale Invariant Feature Transformation (SIFT) algorithm. The use of gestures as a means to convey information is an important part for human beings communicating ways. The automatic recognition of gestures enhances Human-Computer Interaction by offering a natural and intuitive method of input data. This paper gives a new technique for hand gesture recognition, for the Human- Computer Interaction (HCI) based on shape analysis. The key idea and main contribution of this work lies in matching the shapes and recognizing it accordingly by providing some special features like scale invariance, deformation tolerance and orientation free nature. At the heart of the proposed scheme lies a new shape descriptor that also permits the quantification of local scale. The shape descriptors are computed along open or closed contours in a spatially non-uniform manner. The SIFT feature concept is proposed to extract the image texture features which is a powerful one for performing texture classification and recognition. Due to the properties of newly proposed shape descriptor, extraction method used and matching technique, the proposed approach performs partial shape matching in a more efficient way.

**Keywords:** Gesture recognition, Partial shape matching, Scale Invariant Feature Transformation (SIFT), Shape descriptor

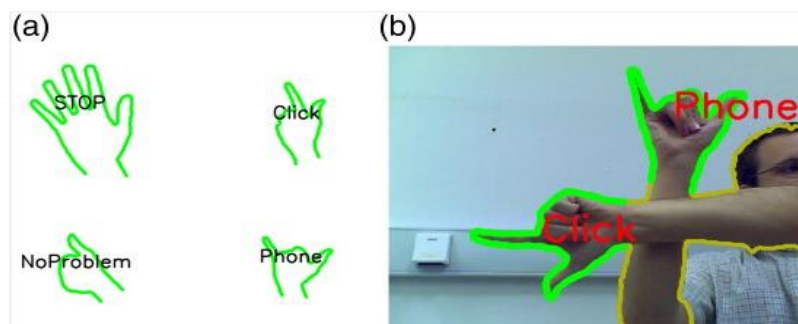
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### 1. Introduction

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) has become an increasingly important part of our daily routines. It is probably believed that as the communication, computing and display technologies grows eventually further day by day, the already existing HCI techniques may become a bottleneck in the effective utilization of the available information systems. Like, the most popular way of HCI is based on simple mechanical devices such as keyboards and mice. These devices have become familiar but inherently limit the speed and naturalness

with which human can interact with the computer. This limitation has become even more apparent with the emergence of novel display technology such as virtual reality. Therefore in recent decade the computer vision technology has devoted considerable research effort to the detection and recognition of faces and hand gestures [1]. Being able to recognize faces and hand gestures has tremendous potential in applications such as teleconferences, telemedicine techniques and newly emerging interfaces for HCI. Hand gestures is a suitable way to interact with such systems as they are already a natural part of how we communicate and they don't require the user to hold or physically manipulate special hardware. Recognizing gestures is a complex task which involves many aspects such as motion modelling, analysis of the motion, machine learning, pattern recognition and also psycholinguistic studies normally; gestures can be categorized into static gestures and dynamic gestures. Out of which static gestures are normally described in terms of hand shapes and dynamic gestures are generally described according to hand movements [2]. Gesture recognition system proposed is a step toward developing a more sophisticated recognition system to enable such varied uses as menu-driven interaction, augmented reality or even recognizing sign languages. Freeman and Roth mentioned a method to recognize hand gestures, based on pattern recognition technique developed by McConnell employing histograms of local orientation [3]. Naidoo and Glaser [4] developed a system that is recognized static hand gesture against complex backgrounds based on South African Sign Triesch and Malsburg [5] used the elastic graph matching technique to classify hand postures over complicated backgrounds, hand postures were represented by graphs with an underlying two dimensional topology, attached to the nodes called jets. A jet is a local image description based on Gabor filters. Mentioned approach can give a scale invariant and user-independent recognition which does not need hand segmentation. As using one graph for one hand posture is not sufficient one, the approach is not view-independent.

In the context of this work, we are interested in addressing the 2D shape matching problem. Shapes are represented as binary images depicting foreground objects over their background. Consider, for example, Figure 1(a) which shows four prototype silhouettes corresponding to parts of the outline of a human hand. Given another in Figure 1(b), possibly scaled, rotated and deformed silhouette, we are interested in determining the best match between a part of it and the prototypes of Figure 1(a) [6].



**Figure 1:** A simple gesture recognition. (a) Four basic prototype contour parts and (b) prototypes get matched with parts of the contour and at which positions the best matches were achieved

## 2. Literature survey

The basic need for the purpose of good recognition rate is a well-organized hand model. Pavlovic et al. in [7] covered a review of more than hundred papers related to visual interpretation of hand gestures in context to HCI. Method used for modeling, analyzing and recognizing gestures are discussed in detail. And it suggests integration of hand gestures with gaze, speech and other naturally related modes of communication in multimodal interface for raising these limitations toward gestural HCI. Wu and Huang in [8] had done a survey on vision based gesture recognition approaches. It focused on different recognition techniques which comprises of recognition done by modeling the dynamics, modeling the semantics, HMM framework etc and there key findings laid emphasis on the complexity of gesture for which efforts in computer vision, machine learning and psycholinguistics will be needed. Static hand posture recognition techniques try to achieve

rotation invariant and view-independent recognition which needs to be more investigated detail. Moeslund and Granum in [9] proposed a system with a scope of analysis over initialization, pose estimation, tracking and for recognition of a motion capture system. With performance characteristics related to system functionality and modern advancements in each of these fields are comprehensively evaluated. But there are various problems predominant throughout the domain such as the lack of training data, the large amount of time required for gesture capture, lack of invariance and robustness are explored and possible solutions such as the employment of an approach similar to speech recognition, abstracting the motion layer have to be investigated in detail.

Derpanis in [10] reviewed the vision based hand gestures for human computer interaction. Detailed discussion on the feature set, classification method and the underlying representation of gesture set has been done. Still a research in the areas of feature extraction, classification and gesture representation are needed to be performed in order to acquire the ultimate goal of humans interfacing with human machines on their natural terms. Chaudhary et al. in [11] done a comprehensive survey on gesture recognition techniques particularly focusing on hand and facial movements. Where hidden markov models, particle filtering, finite-state machines, optical flow and connectionist models are discussed. The key findings are there is a need for different recognition algorithms depending on the size of the dataset and the gesture performed is identified and various combinations can be drawn out in this regard. From the research it is notable that any developed system should be both flexible and expandable in order to maximize efficiency, accuracy and understandability. Wachs et al. in [12] discussed soft computing based methods like artificial neural network, fuzzy logic, genetic algorithms in designing the hand gesture recognition system. Soft computing provides a way to define things which are not certain but with an approximation makes use of learning models and training data. It is effective in getting results where the exact positions of hand or fingers are not possible. Corera and Krishnarajah in [13] focused on different challenges present in vision based gesture recognition systems and their related applications. Aside from technical obstacles such as reliability, speed issues and low cost implementation hand gesture interaction must also address intuitiveness and gesture spotting. Kanniche in [14] made a survey on tools and techniques used for capturing hand gesture movements. It addressed logical issues and design consideration for gesture recognition system. It suggests that the way forward is through modularization, scalability and essentially decentralizing the entire approach from gesture capture to recognition.

The main issues regarding various problems of vision-based hand gesture recognition is to handle the large variety of gesture data. Recognizing gestures involve handling vast variances of the 2D appearance depending on the camera view point even for the same gesture, different silhouette scales and many resolutions for the temporal dimension. Moreover, it need also to go through various parameters such as the accuracy, performance, usefulness according to the type of application's use, robustness, scalability and user-independence.

### 3. Proposed approach

In our proposed work, we implement image feature extraction and matching by using SIFT algorithm. This feature concept is scale and rotational invariant feature vector and classifies the image accordingly. SIFT feature concept is a type of feature used for classification in computer vision. SIFT feature point is the particular case of the texture model. It has since been found to be a powerful feature for texture classification. Here, feature values are extracted from the segmented image then extract the SIFT feature for it then SIFT feature concept is used to extract the feature points from the image then extracted SIFT feature points are used to match the gesture images. The advantages of this approach are its performance related things and computational easiness, due to which it makes possible to analyse images in challenging real-time environments. Here feature points are detected by searching over all scales and image locations. Finding locations which are invariant to the scale change of the image can be accomplished by searching for stable features across all the scales, by using a function of scale which is known as scale space which consists of a group of blurred and subsampled versions of the original image. For an image, the scale space is constructed using a Gaussian kernel  $G(x, y, \sigma)$  with various values of  $\sigma$ .

$$L(x, y, \sigma) = G(x, y, \sigma) * I(x, y) \quad (1)$$

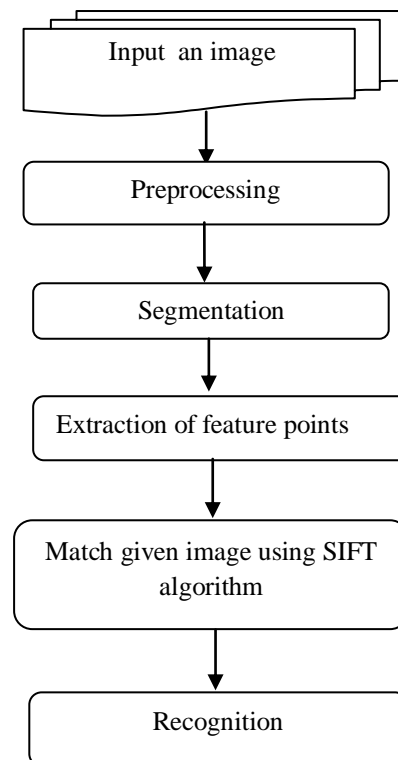
where \* is the convolution operation in x and y and

$$G(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{(x^2+y^2)}{2\sigma^2}} \quad (2)$$

Starting with the original image, an initial step is to convolve the image with  $G(x, y, \sigma)$ , which leads to a blurred image  $L(x, y, \sigma)$ . This function is repeated using  $G(x, y, k\sigma)$  and it gives a further blurred image  $L(x, y, k\sigma)$ . The difference between the two nearby blurred images is defined as a difference-of-gaussian image  $D(x, y, \sigma)$  which is given by

$$D(x, y, \sigma) = L(x, y, k\sigma) - L(x, y, \sigma) \quad (3)$$

The Figure 2 shows the sequence of steps to perform the matching task. The flow of work according to the system architecture is first of all taking an input image from appropriate location, performing the pre-processing on it to reduce the noise from original image for which Gaussian filter is used and then transforming it into the appropriate size and resolution format, then doing the segmentation task to locate objects and boundaries in an image, after segmentation extracting the texture features from it, after that matching an input image using SIFT algorithm and finally recognizing the image and classifying it to the appropriate class.



**Figure 2:** System Architecture

#### 4. Experimental work and results

The Table 1 shows the comparative analysis of the result of proposed approach with some already developed techniques. For the purpose of experimental setup we have created our own database and trained it. To evaluate the results for proposed approach the evaluation parameters like sensitivity, specificity and accuracy has been calculated. These parameters are determined from the values of True Positive (TP), True

Negative (TN), False Positive (FP) and False Negative (FN). The formulae for accuracy, sensitivity and specificity are as follows

$$\text{Accuracy} = ((TP+TN) / (TP+TN+FP+FN))*100$$

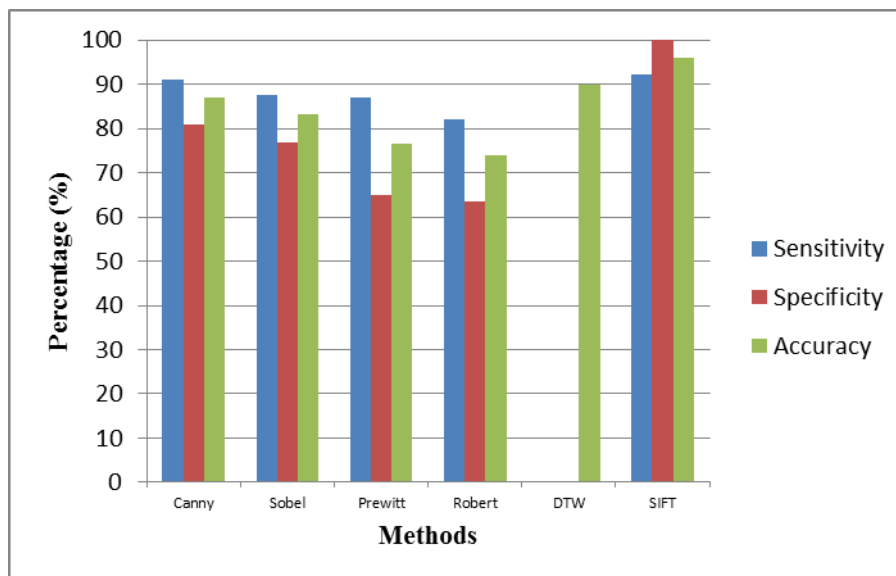
$$\text{Sensitivity} = TP / (TP+FN) *100$$

$$\text{Specificity} = TN / (TN+FP) *100$$

**Table 1:** Performance evaluation metrics

Approach	Method	Sensitivity	Specificity	Accuracy
Dr.E.Annasaro <i>et al.</i> in [15]	Canny	90.9337	80.7851	86.9174
	Sobel	87.4499	76.7933	83.3197
	Prewitt	86.9029	64.9826	76.6149
	Robert	82.1839	63.3776	74.08013
Damien Michel <i>et al.</i> in [6]	DTW	--	--	89.9000
Our Approach	SIFT Algorithm	92.3077	100	95.8333

Figure 3 shows the comparative analysis of all the methods specified in table 1 in graphical notation.



**Figure 3:** Comparative analysis of all the methods

## 5. Conclusion and future scope

We propose a method for feature extraction to match and recognize the gesture of given image. We extract the texture features for the input image. The gesture region of a given template is defined as the set of all points that lie closer to this template than to any other of the available templates. The recognition method therefore consists in finding the template that is closest to the input vector. By using SIFT algorithm, we extract matching point of given image with database. The proposed approach provides a fine solution to the problem of partial shape matching. The key idea and main contribution of this paper lies in by using proposed technique increasing the accuracy and performance of the system. According to the results evaluated, this technique has

given the sensitivity 92.3077%, specificity 100% and accuracy up to 95.8333%. Finally, these comparative experimental results demonstrate the effectiveness and usefulness of the proposed method compared to existing ones.

This work may extend to make actions according to eye movement, secondly we can increase number of features to be matched, perform matching over 3D images also.

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