JETIR.ORG ISSN: 2349-5162 | ESTD Year : 2014 | Monthly Issue
JOURNAL OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (JETIR)
An International Scholarly Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Document Scanner App With Egde Detection & Curve Flattening Technique

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Abstract : Presents an advanced document scanning system that combines edge detection and curve flattening techniques to improve the accuracy and quality of scanned documents. The proposed system aims to overcome the limitations of traditional scanning methods by leveraging computer vision algorithms to identify edges and flatten curves, resulting in enhanced image clarity and readability. The first component of the system focuses on edge detection, which involves the extraction of prominent boundaries and edges within a document. By employing edge detection algorithms such as Canny or Sobel, the system can accurately locate the edges of text, images, and other elements present on the document. This process enhances the overall sharpness and clarity of scanned images, resulting in improved legibility and reduced noise. The second component of the system tackles the challenge of flattening curved or distorted document pages. Curved pages often arise due to factors such as uneven pressure during scanning or inherent curvature in bound documents. To address this issue, the proposed system employs curve flattening techniques, utilizing algorithms like OpenCV By applying these methods, the system corrects the distortion, straightens the document, and enhances the overall visual appearance of the scanned output. The combination of edge detection and curve flattening in the document scanning process offers numerous benefits. It provides users with more accurate digitized copies of physical documents, making it easier to extract and process textual information. Additionally, the system reduces the need for manual post-processing, saving time and effort for users.

IndexTerms **- Document scanner, Edge detection, Curve flattening, Computer vision, Image processing**

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's digital age, document scanning plays a crucial role in transforming physical documents into digital formats for various purposes, including archiving, sharing, and data extraction. However, traditional scanning methods often face challenges such as inaccurate edge detection and distorted curves, which can lead to poor image quality and reduced readability. To overcome these limitations, advanced document scanners are incorporating edge detection and curve flattening techniques using computer vision algorithms. This introduction provides an overview of the concept and significance of a document scanner with edge detection and curve flattening capabilities.

The primary objective of a document scanner is to accurately capture the content of a physical document and convert it into a digital representation. Edge detection is a fundamental step in this process, as it involves identifying and locating the boundaries and edges of different elements present on the document, such as text, images, tables, and graphs. By accurately detecting and highlighting these edges, the resulting scanned image becomes sharper and clearer, enhancing the overall legibility and quality. Curve flattening is another critical aspect of document scanning that addresses the issue of distorted or curved pages. In certain cases, documents may exhibit curvature due to factors like uneven pressure during scanning or natural curvature in bound documents. Curve flattening techniques involve applying geometric transformations, such as perspective transformation or homography, to correct the distortion and straighten the document. This process ensures that the scanned output accurately represents the original document's structure and eliminates any visual deformities caused by the curvature.

The integration of edge detection and curve flattening techniques in a document scanner brings numerous advantages. Firstly, it improves the accuracy of document digitization by precisely capturing the boundaries and edges of text and other elements. This enhances the efficiency of subsequent processes such as optical character recognition (OCR) for text extraction. Secondly, by flattening curves and correcting distortions, the scanned output becomes visually pleasing and easier to read, ensuring a faithful representation of the original document.

II. LITRATURE SURVEY

We reviewed plenty of papers and came up with 4 main papers. The first paper was “document scanner application using python” written by Sachin Parihar,S Ayushman, Rohan Deshpande, Shantanu Pal, Sourabh Yadav and Akshita Sharma which fully met its objectives. It operates at a high level of accuracy and the user associated with the system understands its advantage. Next paper we reviewed was “Android Based Document Scanning And Sharing System” written by Mehul Kanojiya, Rajkumar Jaiswal, Mahesh Nikam and Keerti Kharatmol. From this paper we found that how Canny edge detection works in various stages like Noise reduction, Gradient calculation, Non-maximum suppression, Edge Tracking by Hysteresis. Then we reviewed “Complete Scanning Application Using OpenCv” who’s authors are Ayushe Gangal, Peeyush Kumar and Sunita Kumar. Another paper reviewed named “Finding

Images and Line-Drawings in Document-Scanning Systems". From this paper we found that how GBS work and how it support high quality image processing.

III. METHEDOLOGY

3.1 Edge Detection

Document scanner with edge detection starts with dataset collection. It is crucial to gather a diverse range of document images that cover various types, sizes, orientations, and backgrounds. This ensures that the developed scanner is capable of handling different document scenarios. The dataset serves as the basis for testing and evaluating the performance of the document scanner. It should contain a sufficient number of samples to provide statistically significant results. The collected dataset should accurately represent the real-world scenarios in which the document scanner will be used.

After acquiring the dataset, the pre-processing stage begins. Pre-processing is necessary to enhance the quality of the document images and remove any unwanted noise or artifacts that could affect the accuracy of edge detection. Common pre-processing techniques include resizing the images to a consistent size, converting them to grayscale to simplify processing, and applying filters or denoising algorithms to reduce noise. These pre-processing steps ensure that the subsequent edge detection algorithms can work on clean and well-prepared inputs. Pre-processing plays a crucial role in improving the overall performance and reliability of the document scanner.

An appropriate edge detection algorithm is selected based on factors such as accuracy, robustness, and computational efficiency. Popular edge detection algorithms include Canny, Sobel, Prewitt, or Laplacian. Once an algorithm is chosen, parameters and thresholds are fine-tuned through experimentation to optimize edge detection results. The selected algorithm is then applied to the pre-processed images to detect the edges of the document accurately. This step involves analysing the intensity gradients and discontinuities in the image to identify the boundaries. Additional techniques, such as edge enhancement, can be applied to improve the visibility and quality of the detected edges. Curve flattening techniques, such as perspective transformation or geometric modelling, can also be implemented to address any curvature or distortion present in the document pages, ensuring that the scanned document appears flattened and aligned. researchers can ensure that the document scanner with edge detection is developed systematically and effectively. The dataset collection, pre-processing, and careful selection of edge detection algorithms, along with curve flattening techniques, contribute to the overall accuracy and quality of the scanned documents.

3.2 Curve Flattening

For developing a document scanner with curve flattening using the OpenCV library involves a step-by-step approach to effectively handle curved or distorted document pages. The first step is to collect a diverse dataset of document images that exhibit varying degrees of curvature or distortion. The dataset should encompass different types of documents, including various sizes, orientations, and levels of curvature. This ensures that the developed scanner can handle a wide range of real-world scenarios and accurately flatten curved documents. The dataset serves as the foundation for evaluating the performance of the scanner with curve flattening.

After obtaining the dataset, the pre-processing stage begins. OpenCV provides a comprehensive set of image processing functions that can be utilized to enhance the quality of the document images. Pre-processing steps typically include resizing the images to a consistent size, converting them to grayscale to simplify processing, and applying filters or denoising techniques to reduce noise and improve image clarity. OpenCV offers functions for various image enhancement operations such as blurring, thresholding, and morphological operations. These pre-processing steps ensure that the subsequent curve flattening techniques can be applied to clean and well-prepared images, improving the accuracy of the scanner.

OpenCV provides several functions and algorithms for image transformation and geometric operations that are essential for curve flattening. Perspective transformation is a commonly used technique to flatten curved documents. OpenCV's warp Perspective function enables the estimation and application of the perspective transformation matrix, which straightens the document's boundaries and aligns it with a flat surface. Spline fitting techniques can be implemented using OpenCV's curve fitting functions, such as polynomial fitting or spline interpolation, to approximate and smooth the curved document boundaries. Additionally, OpenCV's geometric transformation functions, such as 'getAffineTransform' or 'getPerspectiveTransform', enable geometric modelling techniques that map the curved document onto a flat surface, correcting any distortions and achieving a flattened representation. By this detailed researcher can systematically collect a diverse dataset, pre-process the document images, and implement curve flattening techniques. OpenCV's extensive capabilities in image processing, geometric transformations, and curve fitting provide the necessary tools to develop an effective document scanner with curve flattening capabilities. The methodology ensures that the scanner produces accurate and visually appealing flattened representations of the scanned documents, enhancing their legibility and usability.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION / RESULTS

In this section, we present a detailed account of the implementation of our document scanner application using OpenCV. The implementation is divided into several key steps, including image preprocessing, contour detection, perspective transformation, and user interaction.

4.1 Image Preprocessing

The preprocessing step is vital for optimizing the quality of scanned documents. It involves the following sub-steps.

- Grayscale conversion : We initially convert the input image to grayscale using the cv2.cvtColor function. This simplifies subsequent image processing steps and reduces computational complexity. Gaussian Blurring: We apply Gaussian blur to the grayscale image using cv2.GaussianBlur. This step reduces noise in the image and enhances the quality of the contours.
- Edge Detection : Edge detection is performed using the Canny edge detection algorithm (cv2.Canny). This helps us identify regions with significant changes in intensity, which are often indicative of document boundaries.

4.2 Contour Detection

After preprocessing, the next step is to detect the contours in the image. This is done as follows :

- Find Counters : We employ the cv2.findContours function to identify all the contours in the edge-detected image. Contours represent the boundaries of objects in the image.

- Counter Sorting : To identify the document contour, we sort the detected contours based on their areas in descending order using sorted and cv2.contourArea. The document contour is typically the largest one.

4.3 Perspective Transformation

Once the document contour is identified, we apply a perspective transformation to obtain a top-down view of the document. This step ensures that the scanned document appears flat and rectangular :

- Ordering Points : We define a function, order_points, to order the corners of the document contour. This ensures that the points are in the correct order for the perspective transformation.
- Perspective Transformation Matrix : We calculate the perspective transformation matrix using cv2.getPerspectiveTransform by specifying the four corners of the document contour and the target coordinates for the transformed document.
- Warp Perspective : Finally, we apply the perspective transformation using cv2.warpPerspective, resulting in a scanned document with a top-down view.

4.4 User Interaction

To make the application user-friendly, we provide a graphical user interface (UI) for users to interact with the document scanner. The UI allows users to load, scan, and save documents with ease.

4.5 Further Enhancements

To While the above steps provide the core functionality of the document scanner, additional enhancements can be incorporated, such as automatic document detection, image enhancement techniques (e.g., contrast adjustment and noise reduction), support for multiple documents in batch processing, and options for saving scanned documents in different file formats.

The comprehensive implementation of the document scanner application utilizing OpenCV described in this section ensures the efficient and accurate scanning of documents while providing a user-friendly interface for an enhanced user experience.

IV. FUTURE SCOPE

The development of a document scanner with edge detection and curve flattening holds promising future scope for advancement and improvement. Several areas can be explored to further enhance this technology. One potential avenue is the investigation and implementation of advanced edge detection algorithms. Utilizing deep learning-based approaches or other state-of-the-art algorithms can enhance the accuracy and robustness of edge detection, particularly in complex document structures or noisy environments.

Another area of future scope lies in the integration of machine learning techniques. Training models on large datasets of document images can enable the scanner to learn and adapt to various edge patterns and document curvature types. This would result in improved accuracy and efficiency in edge detection and curve flattening processes. Real-time processing is another aspect worth exploring. Enabling the document scanner to process and flatten documents on-the-fly as they are being scanned can eliminate the need for post-processing steps and provide immediate visual feedback. This would make the scanning process more efficient and user-friendly. Further research can also focus on developing advanced curve flattening techniques specifically tailored for highly distorted documents. Investigating non-linear transformation methods, such as mesh-based approaches or deformable models, can provide more accurate and flexible ways to flatten complexly curved documents.

Integration with Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and document analysis techniques offers another exciting avenue for future scope. By combining edge detection, curve flattening, and OCR, it becomes possible to automatically extract and analyse textual and structural information from the scanned documents.

Additionally, extending the document scanner technology to mobile and handheld devices presents new opportunities. Developing lightweight and efficient algorithms that can run on mobile platforms would enable users to capture and process documents on the go, opening up possibilities for mobile scanning applications. Lastly, improving the user interface and interaction aspects of the document scanner can enhance the overall user experience. Implementing intuitive interfaces, interactive feedback, and visual aids can help users align and adjust documents for accurate edge detection and curve flattening.

By exploring these future scope areas, the document scanner with edge detection and curve flattening can be further enhanced, leading to more accurate, efficient, and versatile document scanning solutions with a wide range of practical applications.

V. FUTURE SCOPE

The development of a document scanner with edge detection and curve flattening capabilities offers significant benefits in enhancing the usability and visual quality of scanned documents. The integration of edge detection algorithms allows for the precise detection and extraction of document boundaries, improving the accuracy of subsequent processing steps. Additionally, curve flattening techniques enable the correction of curved or distorted document pages, resulting in flattened representations that are visually appealing and easier to read.

The methodology outlined in this research paper provides a systematic approach for implementing such a document scanner. It involves dataset collection, pre-processing, and the utilization of appropriate algorithms and techniques. By employing edge detection algorithms such as Sobel, Prewitt, or Laplacian masks, the document scanner can accurately identify the edges of the documents, distinguishing them from the background and noise. Furthermore, curve flattening techniques such as perspective transformation, spline fitting, or geometric modelling can be employed to straighten curved document pages. These techniques effectively remove distortions and ensure a flat representation, enhancing the legibility and overall quality of the scanned documents.

The implementation of the document scanner with edge detection and curve flattening capabilities can have a wide range of practical applications. It can significantly improve the performance of document scanning systems, particularly when dealing with documents that are inherently curved or distorted. By producing accurate, flattened representations, the scanner enhances document archiving, digitization, and readability. The document scanner with edge detection and curve flattening offers a robust solution for processing curved or distorted documents. It improves the accuracy of document boundary detection and produces visually appealing,

flattened representations. The methodology outlined in this research paper provides a structured approach for implementing such a scanner, opening up possibilities for improved document scanning applications in various domains.

VI. AKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to extend our heartfelt acknowledgments to the individuals and organizations who have contributed to the development of the document scanner with edge detection and curve flattening. We are grateful to our supervisor, Prof. Pushkar Joglekar for their guidance and expertise. Our appreciation goes to the participants who provided the dataset used in this study. We acknowledge the developers of the OpenCV library for their powerful tools. Lastly, we express gratitude to our friends and family for their unwavering support.

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