

Extraction of ROI on CT Images Using Edge Detection Based On Shannon Entropy

Akhila. T. S¹, Pravin Rose T², Sheeba S. L³

¹Assistant Professor, Department of electronics and communication, Mar Ephraem College of Engineering and Technology, Elavuvilai, Tamil Nadu, India

²Assistant Professor, Department of electrical and electronics, PRS College of Engineering and Technology, Neyantinkara, Kerala, India

³Department of Electronics and Communication, Mar Ephraem College of Engineering and Technology, Elavuvilai, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

Edge detection based on the derivative of the pixels of the original image are Gradient operators, Laplacian and Laplacian of Gaussian operators. The Laplacian edge detection method has used a 2-D linear filter to approximate second-order derivative of pixel values of the image. In this research study, a novel approach utilizing Shannon entropy other than the evaluation of derivatives of the image in detecting edges in gray level images has been proposed. The proposed approach solves this problem at some extent. In the proposed method, we have used a suitable threshold value to segment the image and achieve the binary image. After this the proposed edge detector is introduced to detect and locate the edges in the image. A standard test image is used to compare the results of the proposed edge detector with the Laplacian of Gaussian edge detector operator. In order to validate the results, seven different kinds of test images are considered to examine the versatility of the proposed edge detector. It has been observed that the proposed edge detector works effectively for different gray scale digital images

Key words: Edge detection, shannon entropy, gradient, laplacian, threshold value

I. INTRODUCTION

Edge detection has received much attention during the past two decade because of its significant importance in many research areas. Since, the edge is a prominent feature of an image; it is the front-end processing stage in object recognition and image understanding system. The accuracy with which this task can be performed is a crucial factor in

determining overall system performance. The detection results benefit applications such as image enhancement, recognition, morphing, compression, retrieval, watermarking, hiding, restoration and registration. Edge detection concerns localization of abrupt changes in the gray level of an image. Edge detection can be defined as the boundary between two regions separated by two relatively distinct gray level properties. The causes of the region dissimilarity

may be due to some factors such as the geometry of the scene, the radio metric characteristics of the surface, the illumination and so on.

Most of the traditional methods for edge detection are based on the first and second order derivatives of gray levels of the pixels of the original image such as the Gradient operator and Laplacian operator. Roberts, Prewitt and Sobel are Gradient operators that use 2D spatial convolution masks to approximate the first-order derivative of an image in horizontal and vertical directions separately. The detected edges by Gradient operators are thick, which may not be suitable for some applications, where the detection of the outermost contour of an object is required. The Laplacian edge detection method uses a 2D spatial linear filter to approximate the second-order derivative of pixel values of the image for producing sharp edges. The Laplacian generally is not used in its original form for edge detection for several reasons: As a second-order derivative, the Laplacian typically is unacceptably sensitive to noise. The magnitude of the Laplacian produces double edges, an undesirable effect because it complicates segmentation. For these reasons, the Laplacian is combined with smoothing as a precursor to finding edges via zero-crossings. Marr and Hildreth achieved this by using the Laplacian of a Gaussian (LOG) function as a filter. LOG filtered images also suffer from the problem of missing edges—edges in the original image may not have corresponding edges in a filtered image. In addition, it turns out to be very difficult to combine LOG zero-crossings from different scales, primarily because of the following:

- A physically significant edge does not match a zero-crossing for more than a few and very limited number of scales
- Zero-crossings in larger scales move very far away from the true edge position due to poor localization of the LOG operator
- There are too many zero-crossings in the small scales of a LOG filtered image, most of which is due to noise

To solve these problems, the study proposed a novel approach based on information theory. Shannon entropy is the most important among several measures of information. Edges can be extracted by the detection of all pixels on the borders between different homogenous areas. Entropy measures the randomness of intensity distribution. According to this property of entropy, the value of entropy is low for homogenous areas and is high where the diversity of gray level of pixels is large.

II. CONCEPT OF ENTROPY

Entropy is a concept in information theory. Entropy is used to measure the amount of information. Entropy is defined in terms of the probabilistic behavior of a source of information. In accordance with this definition, a random event A that occurs with probability $P(A)$ is said to contain Units of information.

$$I(A) = \log[1/P(A)] = -\log[P(A)]$$

The amount $I(A)$ is called the self-information of event A. The amount of self-information of the event is inversely related to its probability. If $P(A) = 1$, then $I(A) = 0$ and no information is attributed to it. In this case, uncertainty associated with the event is zero. Thus, if the event always occurs, then no information would be transferred by communicating that the event has occurred. If $P(A) = 0.8$, then some information would be transferred by communicating that the event has occurred.

The basic concept of entropy in information theory has to do with how much randomness is in a signal or in a random event. An alternative way to look at this is to talk about how much information is carried by the signal. Entropy is a measure of randomness. Consider a probabilistic experiment in which the output of a discrete source is observed during every unit of time (signaling interval). The source output is

modeled as a discrete random variable S . S is referred as a set of source symbols.

$$Z = \{s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots, s_j, \dots, s_k\}$$

The above set of source symbols is referred to as the source alphabet. The set of all source symbol probabilities is denoted by P

$$P = \{p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_j, \dots, p_k\}$$

This set of probabilities must satisfy the condition

$$\sum P_i = 1$$

III. SELECTION OF THRESHOLD VALUE

Threshold value is used to transform a dataset containing values that vary over some range into a new dataset containing just two values. When a threshold value is applied on to the input data, then input values that fall below the threshold are replaced by one of the output values and input values that at or above the threshold are replaced by the other output value. Image thresholding is a segmentation technique because it classifies pixels into two categories. Category1: Pixels whose gray level values fall below the threshold and category2: Pixels whose gray level values are equal or exceed the threshold. In gray level image, range of input dataset is [0,255]. After thresholding, output dataset contains only two values 0 and 255. Thus, thresholding creates a binary image. If T is a threshold value, then any pixel (x, y) for which $f(x, y) > T$ is called an object point; otherwise the pixel is called a background pixel. In general, the threshold can be chosen as the relation, $T = T[x, y, p(x, y), f(x, y)]$ where $f(x, y)$ is the gray level of the pixel (x, y) and $p(x, y)$ denotes some local property of this pixel, for example, the average gray level of a neighbourhood centered on (x, y) .

A threshold image $h(x, y)$ is defined as $h(x, y) = 1$ if $f(x, y) > T$; otherwise $h(x, y) = 0$. Thus, pixels labeled 1 correspond to objects, whereas pixels labeled 0 correspond to the background. When T depends only

on $f(x, y)$ (only on gray level values), the threshold is called global. If T depends on $f(x, y)$ and $p(x, y)$, the threshold is called local. If T depends on the pixel position (x, y) as well as $f(x, y)$ at that pixel position, then it is called dynamic or adaptive threshold. In proposed scheme to detect edges, global threshold value is used.

IV. PROCEDURE TO SELECT SUITABLE THRESHOLD VALUE

- Step 1: Select an initial estimate for T .
- Step 2: Segment the image using T . This will produce two groups of pixels: R_1 consisting of all pixels with gray level values $> T$ and R_2 consisting of pixels with gray level values $\leq T$.
- Step 3: Compute the average gray level values μ_1 and μ_2 for the pixels in region R_1 and R_2 .
- Step 4: Compute a new threshold value Set $T_{New} = (\mu_1 + \mu_2)/2$ and Set $T_{Old} = 0$
- Step 5: While (T_{New}, T_{Old}) do $\mu_1 = \text{Mean gray level of pixels for which } f(x, y) > T_{New}$ $\mu_2 = \text{Mean gray level of pixels for which } f(x, y) \leq T_{New}$ Set $T_{Old} = T_{New}$ Set $T_{New} = (\mu_1 + \mu_2)/2$ End while
- Step 6: Suitable threshold value Set $T = T_{New}$
- Step 7: Stop

V. PROPOSED ALGORITHM

- Step 1: Create a binary image by choosing a suitable threshold value.
If $(f(x, y) > \text{threshold value})$,
Then
Set $f(x, y) = 1$
Else
Set $f(x, y) = 0$ End if
- Step 2: Find edge pixels in binary image:
Create a mask, w , with dimensions $m \times n$
Normally, $m = 3$ and $n = 3$
Calculate
 $a = (m-1)/2$ and

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b = (n-1)/2
Create an M×N output image, g:
For all pixel coordinates, x and y, do
Set g(x, y) = f(x, y)
End for
Checking for edge pixels:
For y = b+1 to N-b, do
For x = a+1 to M-a, do
Set Sum = 0
For k = -b to b
For j = -a to a
If (f(x, y) = f(x + j, y + k)), then
Set Sum=Sum+1
End if
End for
End for
p=sum/9
H = -plog(p)
If (H<(-(1/9)log(1/9))), Then
Set g(x,y)=0
Else
Set g(x,y)=1
End if
End for
End for

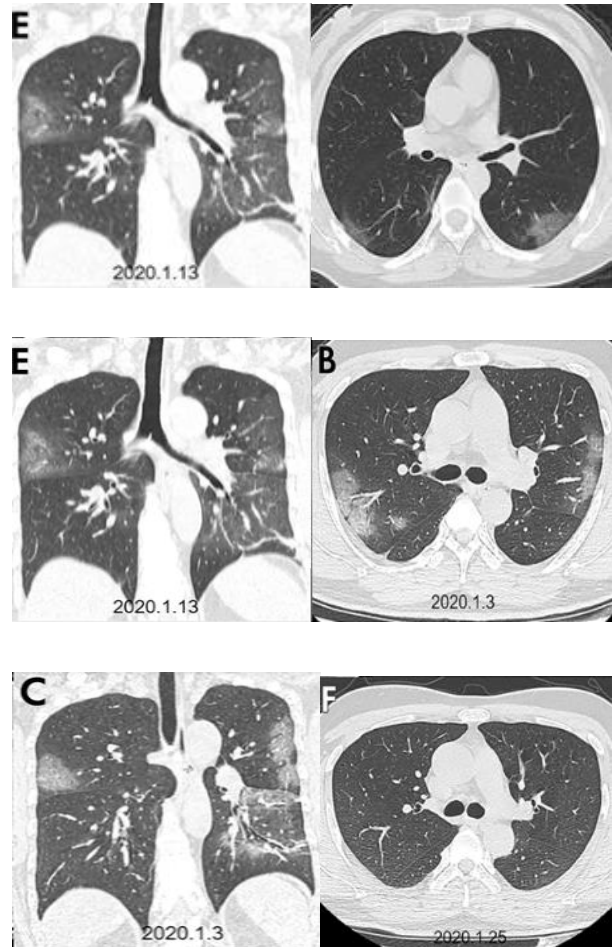
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Step 3: Stop

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The performance of the proposed scheme is evaluated through the simulation results using MATLAB 7 for a set of eight test images and the results of the proposed scheme are compared with the results of well-established edge detection operator on the same set of test images. Such edge detection operator is Laplacian of Gaussian (LOG). LOG is chosen for comparison because both approaches are rotation invariant. For this purpose, first, a standard test image eight.tif was taken from MATLAB 7 environment. Its edge was detected using LOG edge detector whose function was inbuilt in MATLAB 7. After this, the performance of proposed approach for edge detection

on the same image was checked. In the proposed scheme, a suitable threshold value was calculated using the threshold evaluation procedure given in the research. Such threshold value for the test image is 0.3472 when image in normalized form (all gray level values lie between 0 and 1). The result of edge detection is shown in Fig. 1. It has been observed that the proposed method for edge detection works well as compare to LOG. In order to validate the results about the performance of proposed scheme for edge detection, seven different test images are considered which are present in MATLAB 7 environment.



VII. CONCLUSION

In this study, an attempt is made to develop a new technique for edge detection. Experiment results have demonstrated that the proposed scheme for edge detection works satisfactorily for different gray level digital images. The theoretical principles and

systematic development of the algorithm for the proposed versatile edge detector is described in detail. The technique has potential future in the field of digital image processing. The work is under further progress to examine the performance of the proposed edge detector for different gray level images affected with different kinds of noise.

VIII. REFERENCES

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