**CSE585/EE555:  Digital Image Processing II**

**Computer Project # 2:**

**Homotopic Skeletonization and Shape Analysis**

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1. **Objectives**

* Implement homotopic skeletonization through repetitively thinning of target images by 8 structural element pairs.
* Perform shape analysis, including size distribution, pecstrum, and complexity.
* Realize pattern recognition by determining the smallest pecstral distance between the reference object and test object.

1. **Methods**
2. **Flowchart (Figure 1):**

* Convert the original RGB image to binary image.

1.1 For the homotopic skeletonization task (left part of flowchart)

* Build the structuring element set as given, with foreground and background as each pairs of structuring element set.
* Apply hit-or-miss transform to build thinning operation function. Iteratively run the thinning operation until we get the skeleton results.
* Show the superposition plotting with intermediate results as well as the final skeleton result.

1.2 For the shape analysis (right part of flowchart)

* Isolate distinct object from binary image using MATLAB built-in connected component label functions.
* Find the bounding box enclosing each distinct object.
* Build functions of size distribution, pecstrum, complexity and distance and run each function to compute respectively for each object.
* Observe and compare the result of complexity to find the most complex object.
* For the matching task, compare the pecstral distance and find the minimum to get optimal matching for each test objective and reference objective.

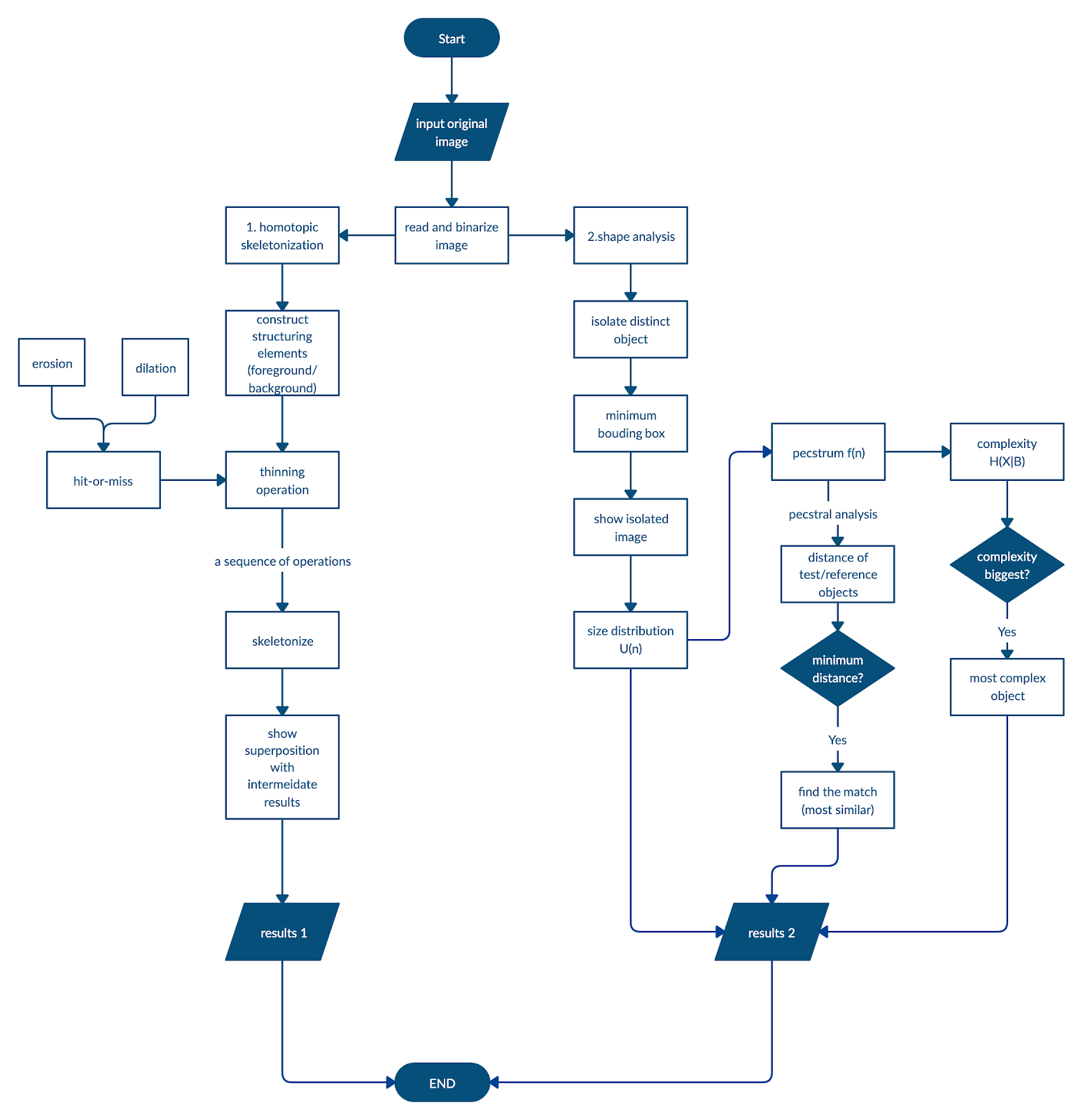
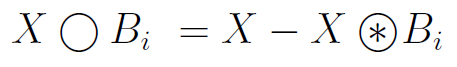


Figure 1. flowchart

**2. Algorithms**

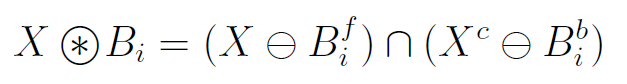
**2.1 Homotopic Skeletonization**

Homotopic skeletonization is based on an algorithm that implement the “grass fire” transformation to generate the homotopy of the target image. This algorithm is to perform thinning of target image X by 8 pairs of structural elements. Thinning is defined P&V eq. (6.10.1) as

 (1)

Bi here represent a pair of structural elements Bif and Bib, which probes the foreground and background respectively. Figure 2 demonstrates the 8 3 x3 Bis we used in our project. For each Bi, ● represents the origin; the 4 shaded pixels are 1 in Bif, and the 3 white pixels are 1 in Bib. The other 2 are always 0.

X Bi is the hit-or-miss transformation defined as

 (2)

The algorithm for homotopic skeletonization is to iteratively implement thinning of the target object X by the 8 pairs of structuring elements. Each pair of the structuring elements strip off a layer of pixels from the target image. B1 will thin off the top layer, B2 thins off the top-right corner, B3 thins off the right layer, etc. In this way, each iteration will burn off a layer of X. This process will continue until X does not change any more. The left over will be the skeleton based on “grass fire” algorithm.

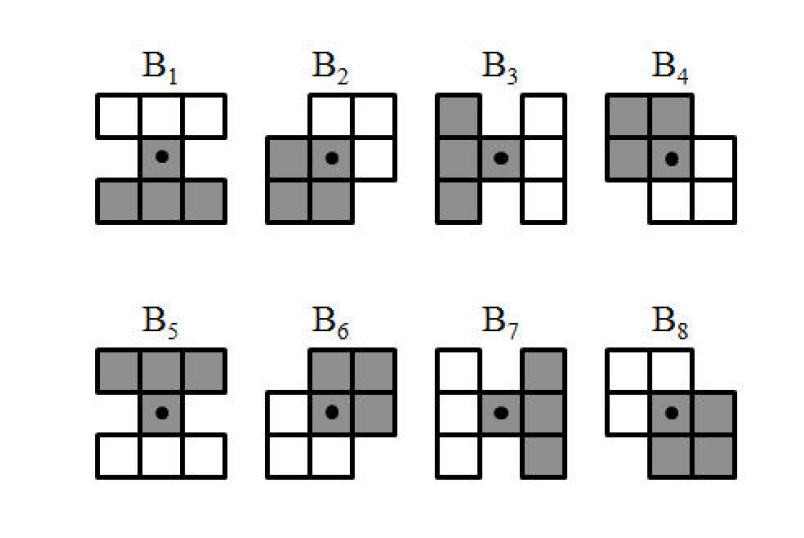


Figure 2 Structuring elements

**2.2 Shape Analysis and Pattern Recognition**

We use a 3 x 3 square B as the structuring element in both shape analysis and pattern recognition. As there are several objects in the same image, we first isolate each object by applying the MATLAB built-in functions bwconncomp and regionprops, and identify the bounding box for each object from the result returned by bwconncomp and regionprops.

**2.3.1 Shape Analysis**

Shape analysis is performed after all the objects are separated, including size distribution, pecstrum, and complexity. Size distribution is computed based on P&V eq. (6.11.3)

U(r) = m (XrB), r ≥ 0. (3)

Here, rB is the structural element produced by Minkowski set addition of r number of B. XrB is the result of X opening by rB. m (XrB) is the total area covered by XrB.

Pecstrum analysis is computed with the result of size distribution based on P&V eq. (6.11.7).

, r ≥ 0. (4) In discrete space, , and m(X) is the total number of pixels.

Lastly, complexity is computed with the result of f (r) based on Maragos-Shafer eq. (40):

. (5) The bigger the number of H(X|B) is, the more complex an object is. Therefore, the most complex object is the one that has the biggest H(X|B).

**2.3.2 Pattern recognition**

To determine which reference object best matches a test object, we calculate the pecstral distances for all of them. The reference object with the smallest pecstral distance will be considered to be the most similar one to the test object.

We need to first compute the pecstrum out based on equation (4) and (5) above. Pecstral distance is calculated according to P&V eq. (6.11.10)

(6) arg{mini di} = imin.  (7)

imin here is the reference object that most resembles the test object. Note that Cn here are weights chosen by ourselves depending on the components we would like to emphasize. We use different weights when we work on “match3” and “shadow1rotated” because we want to emphasize different components. For “match3”, we think that the r ∈ [3,6] matters most for discriminating the four objects, so we set C3 to C6 to 50, and all the other Cn to 1 to emphasize components with r ∈ [3,6]. For “shadow1rotated”, we consider r = [0, 5] to be most critical for discriminating the four characters. Therefore, we set C0 to C5 to be 100, and all the other Cn to 1. This is to emphasize the importance of components with r ∈ [0, 5].

**3. Structure of code**

**3.1 main.m**

main.m is the main function where the program starts. This function implements homotopic skeletonization, shape analysis, and pattern recognition. It calls 7 other functions: structure\_E.m, skeletonize.m, sizeDistribution.m, Pecstrum.m, Complexity.m, distance.m, distance\_cartoon.m.

**3.2 Homotopic Skeletonization**

**3.2.1 structure\_E.m**

Function structure\_E.m does not take any input. It simply creates the 8 pair of structural elements used for homotopic skeletonization, and outputs them as two cell arrays: one for foreground structural elements, and one for corresponding background structural elements.

**3.2.2 skeletonize.m**

Function skeletonize.m takes one 2-D binary image, one cell array of 3 x 3 origin-centered structural elements probing the foreground, and one array of corresponding 3 x 3 origin-centered structural elements probing the background. This function will return a cell array that contains resulted images after each thinning iteration. skeletonize.m will call thin.m for thinning operation.

**3.2.3 thin.m**

Function thin.m computes thinning operation. Its input includes a target 2-D binary image X, a 3 x 3 origin-centered foreground structural element Bf, and a 3 x 3 origin-centered background structural element Bb. It outputs the thinning result of X by Bf and Bb. This function calls Hit-Or-Miss.m for the hit-or-miss transformation.

**3.2.4 Hit\_Or\_Miss.m**

Function Hit\_Or\_Miss.m performs hit-or-miss transformation. It takes three inputs: one 2-D binary image X, one 3 x 3 origin-centered structuring element Bf, and one 3 x 3 origin-centered structural element Bb. It will return the hit-or-miss transformation based on equation (2). This function needs to call erosion.m and dilation\_s.m.

**3.2.5 erosion.m**

The purpose of this function is to compute the erosion of an input X with respect to a structuring element A. The input of erosion is a 2D binary image X and a structuring element A. The output is the result image X’ after X eroded with respect to A. One restriction in this function is that the number of rows and columns in the structuring element A must be odd, and A must center at the origin. This function does not call other functions.

**3.2.6 dilation\_s.m**

The purpose of this function is to compute the dilation of an input image X with respect to a structuring element A. The output is the result after X dilated by A. There is also a restriction in this function that the number of rows and columns in the structuring element A must be odd, and A must be origin-centered. This function does not call any other functions.

**3.2.7 bitand\_s.m**

The purpose of this function is to compute the bit-and operation of two input matrices. This function takes two binary images with the same size as input, and the output is a matrix of the bit-and result of the two input images.

**3.3 Shape Analysis and Pattern Recognition**

**3.3. 1 sizeDistribution.m**

Function sizeDistribution.m computes size distribution of an input image X with respect to a 3 x 3 origin-centered structural element B. This function returns a vector of size information for different radii, and the maximum radius of X with respect to B. This functions calls erosion.m and dilation\_s.m.

**3.3.2 Pecstrum.m**

Pecstrum.m takes a vector of size distribution information of an image X, and computes the Pecstrum of this image based on the size distribution information. No other functions are called inside this function.

**3.3.3 Complexity.m**

Complexity.m takes a vector of Pecstrum information of an image X, and returns a complexity score. This function does not call any other functions.

**3.3.4 distance.m**

Function distance.m is to calculated the pecstral distance of two objects. Its input should be two vectors containing the Pecstrum information of the two objects. It will output a distance value. Note that in this function, we set C3 to C6 to be 50, and all other Cn to be 1 to emphasize components with r ∈ [3,6]. This function is used for comparing objects in match1 and match3. It does not call other functions.

**3.3.5 distance\_cartoon.m**

distance\_cartoon.mhas the same function with distance.m. The only difference is that in this function, C0 to C5 are 100, and all other Cn are 1. The purpose is to emphasize components with r ∈ [0, 5]. This function is used when we compare shadow1 and shadow1rotated. This function does not call other functions.