SIMATS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

SAVEETHA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES

CHENNAI-602105

CAPSTONE PROJECT

COURSE CODE: DSA0219

COURSE NAME: Computer Vision with OpenCV for Engineers

PROJECT TITLE

Automatic Vehicle Counting using Computer Vision

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Date of Submission: 13/09/2024

ABSTRACT

Automatic vehicle counting is a crucial task in traffic management, urban planning, and road monitoring systems. This project presents an approach to vehicle detection and counting using computer vision techniques. The method employs OpenCV for image processing and contour detection to identify vehicles in static images. The process begins by loading and resizing the input image, followed by optional brightness and contrast adjustment to enhance visual clarity. The image is then converted to grayscale, and Gaussian blur is applied to reduce noise. Canny edge detection is used to highlight vehicle boundaries, and morphological operations are applied to clean the image further. Contours are detected and filtered based on size to eliminate non-vehicle objects. The detected contours are then drawn onto the original image, and the number of vehicles is calculated by counting the contours. The proposed system provides a simple, effective method for automatic vehicle counting and can be used for traffic monitoring or analysis in real-world applications.

INTRODUCTION

In contemporary urban environments, managing and monitoring traffic flow is essential for ensuring road safety and efficiency. Automatic vehicle counting systems play a pivotal role in this context by providing real-time data that can be used for traffic analysis, congestion management, and infrastructure planning. Traditional methods of vehicle counting often rely on manual labor or expensive sensor technologies, which can be both time-consuming and costly. To address these challenges, there is a growing interest in leveraging computer vision techniques to automate the process of vehicle detection and counting.

Computer vision offers a powerful set of tools for image analysis and interpretation, enabling the automatic extraction of meaningful information from visual data. By employing techniques such as image preprocessing, edge detection, and contour analysis, it is possible to develop systems that can efficiently identify and count vehicles in various traffic scenarios. This approach not only reduces the reliance on manual counting but also enhances the accuracy and scalability of traffic monitoring systems. Through the use of OpenCV, an open-source computer vision library, developers can implement and fine-tune these techniques to suit different environmental conditions and requirements.

This project focuses on implementing an automatic vehicle counting system using computer vision algorithms. The proposed method involves a series of image processing steps, including resizing, brightness and contrast adjustment, grayscale conversion, Gaussian blur, and edge detection. The processed images are then analyzed to detect vehicle contours, which are used to count the number of vehicles present. By integrating these steps into a cohesive workflow, the system aims to provide an effective and accessible solution for vehicle counting that can be easily adapted for various applications in traffic management and urban planning.

MATERIALS & METHODS

High-resolution traffic scene images are used as the primary data source for vehicle detection and counting, with a focus on various lighting and weather conditions to ensure system robustness. The image processing tasks are executed on a computer equipped with sufficient processing power and memory to efficiently run OpenCV, the open-source computer vision library employed in this project. Python is used for scripting, with NumPy for numerical operations and OpenCV for computer vision functions.

The process begins with loading the image from a specified file path using OpenCV's `cv2.imread` function. If loading fails, an error message is displayed. The image is then resized to a fixed resolution (e.g., 800x600 pixels) using `cv2.resize` to standardize dimensions and enhance processing efficiency. To improve the visibility of vehicles, brightness and contrast are adjusted using `cv2.convertScaleAbs`, with parameters tailored to optimize image clarity.

For preprocessing, the image is converted to grayscale using `cv2.cvtColor` to simplify analysis by reducing it to a single channel. Gaussian blur is applied with `cv2.GaussianBlur` to smooth the image and reduce noise. Edge detection is performed using `cv2.Canny` to highlight vehicle contours by detecting significant intensity changes. Thresholding is then applied with `cv2.threshold` to create a binary image where vehicles are prominently highlighted. Morphological operations, including dilation and erosion, are used to clean noise and refine the binary image. Contours are detected and filtered based on size to identify vehicles, and the number of vehicles is counted by analyzing these contours. The results are visualized by drawing contours on the original image and displaying various processed images, including the original, edge-detected, thresholded, and contour-drawn images.

EXISTING SYSTEM

Existing systems for automatic vehicle counting using computer vision employ a variety of techniques, each with its own strengths and limitations. Basic image processing approaches often use background subtraction methods to differentiate moving vehicles from a static background. Techniques such as Gaussian Mixture Models (GMM) or frame differencing are commonly employed. These methods work well in controlled environments where background conditions are consistent. However, they can face challenges in more complex scenes with variable lighting, dynamic backgrounds, or when vehicles are partially obscured.

Another prevalent approach involves edge detection and contour analysis. Algorithms like the Canny edge detector are used to highlight the boundaries of vehicles by detecting significant changes in image intensity. Once edges are identified, contours are extracted and analyzed to determine the presence and number of vehicles. This method can be effective in clearly

defined scenarios but often requires careful tuning of parameters to handle variations in vehicle size, shape, and image quality. Additionally, post-processing steps such as filtering and morphological operations are necessary to clean up noise and improve the accuracy of vehicle detection.

Advanced systems incorporate machine learning and deep learning techniques to enhance vehicle counting capabilities. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and other deep learning models are trained on large datasets to detect and classify vehicles with high accuracy. These models can handle diverse and challenging scenarios, including various vehicle types, lighting conditions, and occlusions. While these systems offer improved robustness and accuracy, they often require substantial computational resources and extensive training data. Integration with other technologies, such as camera networks and real-time data processing, further enhances the effectiveness of these advanced systems in real-world applications.

PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system for automatic vehicle counting leverages a combination of traditional image processing techniques to offer an effective and accessible solution. The system starts by loading high-resolution images of traffic scenes, which are then resized to standard dimensions to ensure consistent processing. To enhance image clarity and facilitate better vehicle detection, brightness and contrast adjustments are applied. This preprocessing step is crucial for improving the visibility of vehicles, particularly in images with varying lighting conditions.

Following the initial enhancements, the system converts the image to grayscale and applies Gaussian blur to reduce noise and smooth the image. These steps prepare the image for edge detection, where the Canny edge detector is employed to identify the boundaries of vehicles. By highlighting significant changes in intensity, the edge detection process helps in delineating vehicle contours. The next stage involves thresholding and morphological operations to create a binary image that isolates vehicles from the background. Morphological operations further clean the image, removing small noise artifacts and refining the contours.

In the final steps, the system detects and analyzes contours to identify and count vehicles. The contours are filtered based on size to avoid counting non-vehicle objects and improve accuracy. The detected contours are then drawn onto the original image, providing a visual representation of the counted vehicles. The system also displays various processed images, including the original, edge-detected, thresholded, and contour-drawn images, for comprehensive analysis. This approach combines traditional image processing methods into a

cohesive workflow, offering a practical and efficient solution for vehicle counting in diverse traffic scenarios.

CODE IMPLEMENTATION

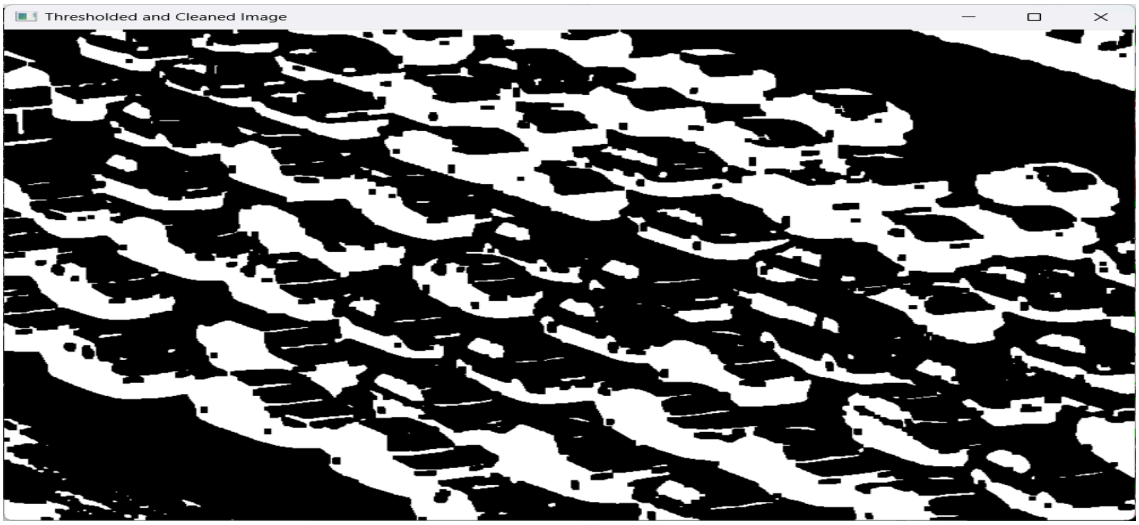
```
import cv2

import numpy as np


# Function to load and resize the image

def load_image(image_path, width=800, height=600):

    image = cv2.imread(image_path)

    if image is None:

        print(f"Error: Unable to load image from {image_path}")

        return None

    return cv2.resize(image, (width, height))


# Function to adjust brightness and contrast

def adjust_brightness_contrast(image, brightness=0, contrast=0):

    return cv2.convertScaleAbs(image, alpha=1 + contrast / 100, beta=brightness)


# Function to convert image to grayscale and apply Gaussian blur

def preprocess_image(image, blur_ksize=5):

    gray_image = cv2.cvtColor(image, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)

    blurred_image = cv2.GaussianBlur(gray_image, (blur_ksize, blur_ksize), 0)

    return blurred_image


# Function for edge detection using Canny

def detect_edges(image, low_threshold=50, high_threshold=150):
```

```
    return cv2.Canny(image, low_threshold, high_threshold)

# Function for thresholding and morphological operations to clean noise
def apply_threshold_and_morphology(image):
    _, threshold_image = cv2.threshold(image, 127, 255, cv2.THRESH_BINARY_INV)
    kernel = np.ones((5, 5), np.uint8)
    cleaned_image = cv2.morphologyEx(threshold_image, cv2.MORPH_CLOSE, kernel)
    return cleaned_image

# Function to find contours and filter based on size (to avoid small non-car objects)
def find_contours(cleaned_image, min_contour_area=500):
        contours, _ = cv2.findContours(cleaned_image, cv2.RETR_EXTERNAL, cv2.CHAIN_APPROX_SIMPLE)

    # Filter contours by size
    filtered_contours = [cnt for cnt in contours if cv2.contourArea(cnt) > min_contour_area]
    return filtered_contours

# Function to draw contours on the original image
def draw_contours(image, contours):
    return cv2.drawContours(image.copy(), contours, -1, (0, 255, 0), 2)

# Function to calculate the car count based on contours
def count_cars(contours):
    return len(contours)

# Main function to process the image and count cars
```

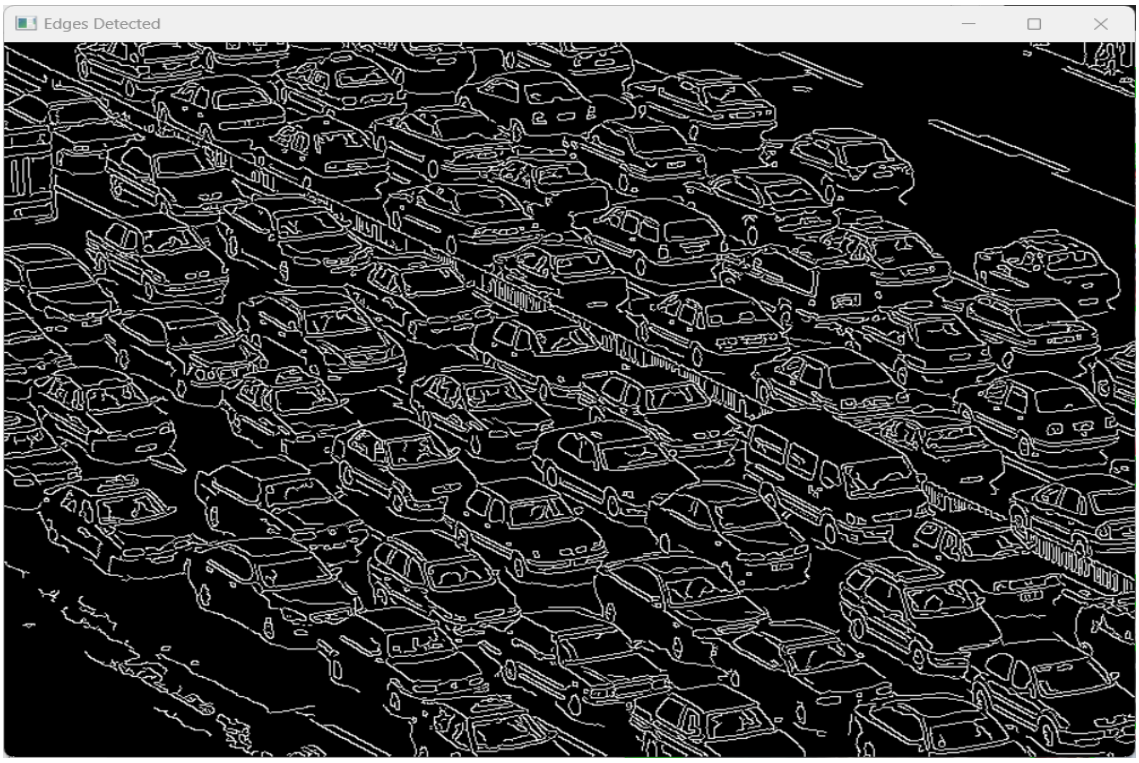
```
def process_image(image_path):
    # Load the image
    image = load_image(image_path)
    if image is None:
        return

    # Optionally adjust brightness and contrast (fine-tune these values)
    image = adjust_brightness_contrast(image, brightness=20, contrast=30)

    # Preprocess the image
    blurred_image = preprocess_image(image)

    # Detect edges
    edges = detect_edges(blurred_image)

    # Apply thresholding and morphology
    cleaned_image = apply_threshold_and_morphology(blurred_image)

    # Find contours and filter based on size
    contours = find_contours(cleaned_image)

    # Count the number of cars
    car_count = count_cars(contours)
    print(f"Number of cars detected: {car_count}")

    # Draw contours on the original image
```

```
    result_image = draw_contours(image, contours)

    # Display the result
    cv2.imshow("Original Image", image)
    cv2.imshow("Edges Detected", edges)
    cv2.imshow("Thresholded and Cleaned Image", cleaned_image)
    cv2.imshow("Car Counting", result_image)
    cv2.waitKey(0)
    cv2.destroyAllWindows()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Path to the input image
    image_path = r"C:\Users\DELL\Downloads\image3.png"

    # Process the image to count cars
    process_image(image_path)
```

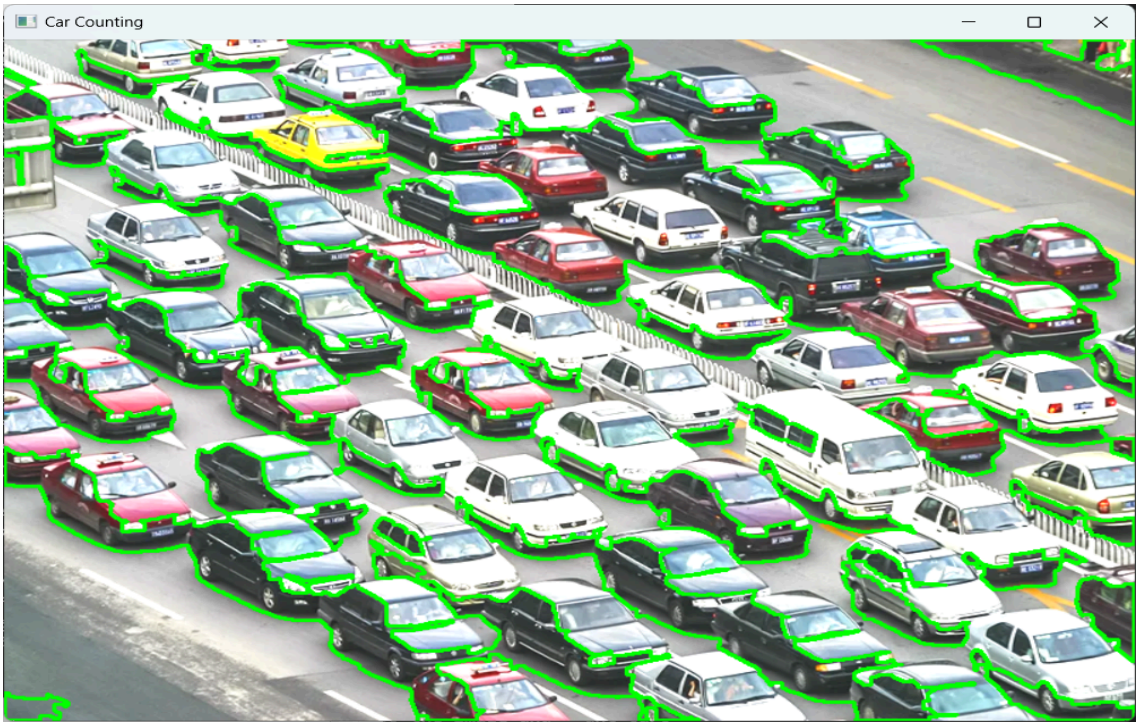
OUTPUT



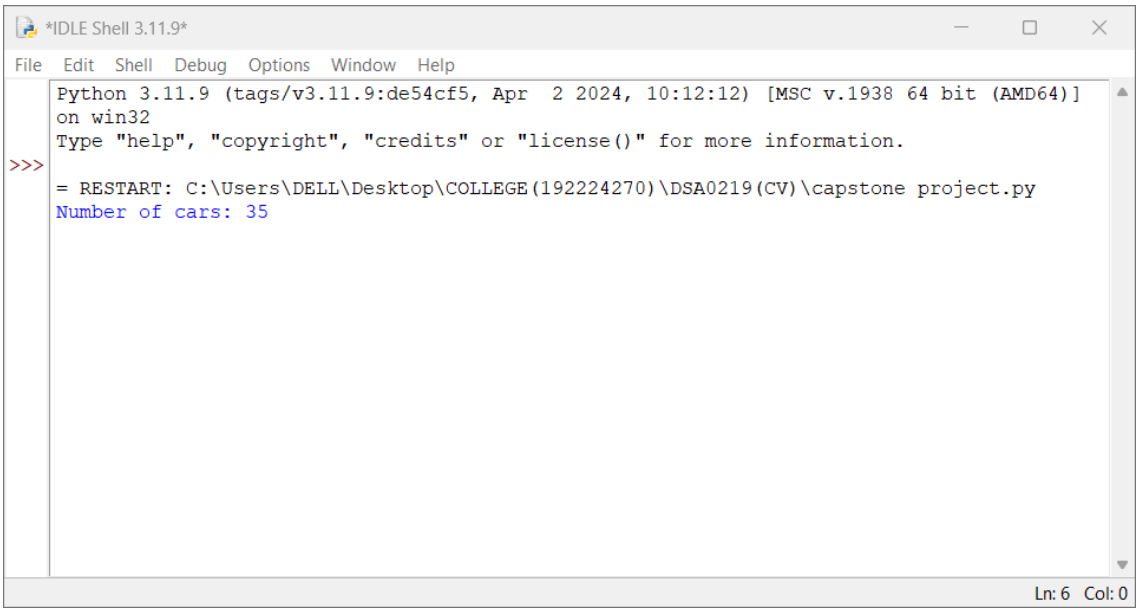
THRESHOLD & CLEANED IMAGE



EDGES DETECTED



CAR COUNTING



NO. OF CARS DETECTED

FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

Future enhancements to the proposed vehicle counting system could significantly expand its capabilities and performance. One key area for improvement is the integration of advanced machine learning and deep learning techniques. By incorporating Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) or other deep learning models trained on extensive datasets, the system could achieve higher accuracy and robustness in detecting and counting vehicles. These models can learn to identify vehicles under diverse conditions, including various sizes, shapes, and occlusions, which can enhance the system's ability to handle complex and cluttered traffic scenes.

Additionally, real-time processing capabilities could be integrated to provide instant vehicle counts and analysis. Implementing more efficient algorithms and leveraging hardware acceleration, such as GPUs, could reduce processing times and enable the system to handle live video feeds. This would allow for dynamic traffic monitoring and management, providing timely data for traffic control and planning purposes.

Improving adaptability and scalability is another important enhancement. The system could be refined to adjust automatically to different environmental conditions, such as varying lighting and weather, by incorporating adaptive preprocessing techniques. Moreover, expanding the system to work with multi-camera setups could provide a broader coverage area and more comprehensive traffic analysis. Integrating the system with other traffic

management technologies, such as vehicle tracking and incident detection systems, could further enhance its utility and contribute to more effective traffic management solutions.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the proposed vehicle counting system offers a robust and practical solution for traffic monitoring through a well-structured series of image processing techniques. By starting with high-resolution images and applying methods such as resizing, brightness and contrast adjustments, and grayscale conversion, the system enhances image clarity and prepares it for further analysis. The application of Gaussian blur, edge detection, and contour analysis effectively isolates and identifies vehicle boundaries, allowing for accurate counting of vehicles. This approach balances simplicity with performance, making it suitable for a range of traffic scenarios. Looking forward, integrating advanced machine learning models, such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), could significantly enhance the system's ability to handle diverse and complex traffic conditions, improving its robustness and accuracy. Incorporating real-time processing capabilities would enable live traffic monitoring and management, providing valuable data for immediate decision-making. Additionally, enhancing the system's adaptability to varying environmental conditions and expanding its functionality to include multi-camera setups could broaden its applicability and effectiveness. By integrating these advancements, the vehicle counting system has the potential to evolve into a comprehensive tool for traffic management, contributing to more efficient and informed traffic control strategies and urban planning initiatives.

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