Writeup Template

You can use this file as a template for your writeup if you want to submit it as a markdown file, but feel free to use some other method and submit a pdf if you prefer.

Advanced Lane Finding Project

The goals / steps of this project are the following:

- Compute the camera calibration matrix and distortion coefficients given a set of chessboard images.
- Apply a distortion correction to raw images.
- Use color transforms, gradients, etc., to create a thresholded binary image.
- Apply a perspective transform to rectify binary image ("birds-eye view").
- Detect lane pixels and fit to find the lane boundary.
- Determine the curvature of the lane and vehicle position with respect to center.
- Warp the detected lane boundaries back onto the original image.
- Output visual display of the lane boundaries and numerical estimation of lane curvature and vehicle position.

Rubric Points

Here I will consider the rubric points individually and describe how I addressed each point in my implementation.

Writeup / README

Camera Calibration

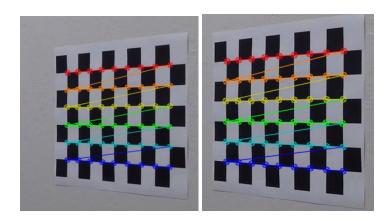
1. Briefly state how you computed the camera matrix and distortion coefficients. Provide an example of a distortion corrected calibration image.

The code for this step is contained in the first code cell of the IPython notebook pipeline.ipynb.

I start by preparing "object points", which will be the (x, y, z) coordinates of the chessboard corners in the world. Here I am assuming the chessboard is fixed on the (x, y) plane at z=0, such that the object points are the same for each calibration image. Thus, objp is just a replicated array of coordinates, and objpoints will be appended with a copy of it every time I successfully detect all chessboard corners in a test image. imgpoints will be appended with the (x, y) pixel position of each of the corners in the image plane with each successful chessboard detection.

I then used the output objpoints and imgpoints to compute the camera calibration and distortion coefficients using the cv2.calibrateCamera() function. I applied this distortion correction to the test image using the cv2.undistort() function and obtained this result:

Distorted and undistorted



Pipeline (single images)

1. Provide an example of a distortion-corrected image.

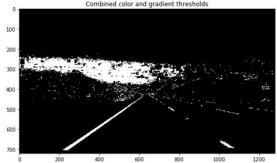
To demonstrate this step, I will describe how I apply the distortion correction to one of the test images like this one:



2. Describe how (and identify where in your code) you used color transforms, gradients or other methods to create a thresholded binary image. Provide an example of a binary image result.

I used a combination of color and gradient thresholds to generate a binary image (thresholding steps at lines # through # in another_file.py). Here's an example of my output for this step.





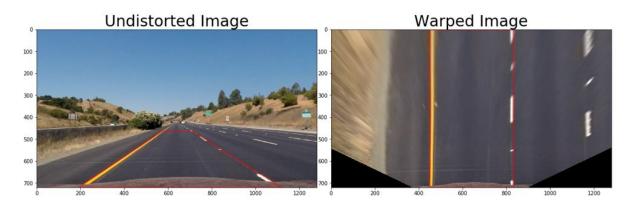
3. Describe how (and identify where in your code) you performed a perspective transform and provide an example of a transformed image.

The code for my perspective transform includes a function called warper(), which appears in lines 1 through 8 in the file example.py (output_images/examples/example.py) (or, for example, in the 3rd code cell of the IPython notebook). The warper() function takes as inputs an image (img), as well as source (src) and destination (dst) points. I chose the hardcode the source and destination points in the following manner:

This resulted in the following source and destination points:

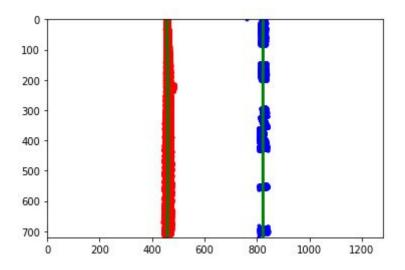
Source	Destination
572, 464	450, 0
709, 464	w-450, 0
192, 720	450, h
1118, 720	w-450, h

I verified that my perspective transform was working as expected by drawing the src and dst points onto a test image and its warped counterpart to verify that the lines appear parallel in the warped image.



4. Describe how (and identify where in your code) you identified lane-line pixels and fit their positions with a polynomial?

In the fifth (Detect lane lines) and the sixth (Determine the lane curvature) part of the project I identified the lines and fit their position with a polynomial



5. Describe how (and identify where in your code) you calculated the radius of curvature of the lane and the position of the vehicle with respect to center.

I identified the line curvatures in the sixth part (Determine the lane curvature) of the code.

In the eight part (Misure offset) I identified the offset of the vehicle in respect to the center. If the offset is positive it means that the car is moving towards the right side. If the offset is negative it means that the car is moving towards the left side.

6. Provide an example image of your result plotted back down onto the road such that the lane area is identified clearly.

I implemented this step in the eight part (Misure offset) in my code in pipeline.ipynb. Here is an example of my result on a test image:



Pipeline (video)

1. Provide a link to your final video output. Your pipeline should perform reasonably well on the entire project video (wobbly lines are ok but no catastrophic failures that would cause the car to drive off the road!).

Here's a link to my video result

Discussion

1. Briefly discuss any problems / issues you faced in your implementation of this project. Where will your pipeline likely fail? What could you do to make it more robust?

Here I'll talk about the approach I took, what techniques I used, what worked and why, where the pipeline might fail and how I might improve it if I were going to pursue this project further.

After creating the pipeline for the test images, I implemented a video pipeline, but it worked poorly. It wasn't able to recognize clearly left line and right line and was acting poorly when there were shadows on the road. So, I modified some parameter. I changed the magnitude threshold to (60,150) and the color channel thresholds to (200,255); both for S channel and L channel. It helped me to recognize the lines. Anyway, sometimes, cars were recognized as part of a line. So, I modified the search margin to 40 and I solved the problem.

There is still room from improvement. Moving up and down h threshold and I threshold I could find an even better solution.

The pipeline is working well in sunny condition, but it will probably fail during rain, snow, fog or other difficult light conditions (i.e. at night). I think working more on this project I could make a pipeline that works well with different light conditions. In case of snow, we should completely rethink the pipeline and probably use some other input (not only camera input). In case of fog, detecting lines would be very difficult. Especially, radius of curvature would be very challenging. Maybe, a thermal imaging camera would be helpful.