

COMP 9517 Computer Vision

S2, 2017

Assignment 1 Specification

Objectives:

The objective of this assignment is to familiarise students with basic image processing methods. It also introduces students to common image processing and analysis tasks using OpenCV. After completing this assignment, you will learn how to:

1. Open and read image files;
2. Perform simple mathematical operations on images;
3. Construct and manipulate image pyramids;
4. Carry out translation based alignment;
5. Perform image adjustment and restoration;

Task:

[Sergei Prokudin-Gorsky](#) (1863-1944) was a Russian photographer and chemist whose collection of colour photographs is the oldest surviving to this date. He used a camera that took a sequence of three black and white exposures using blue, red and green filters. By projecting the three images using colored light it was then possible to recover the original colours. See [here](#) for more details. At the beginning of the 20th century, Prokudin-Gorsky embarked on a many year project to systematically document the life of the Russian Empire by means of the new colour imaging technology. He then took many of the resulting negatives with him on emigration following the revolution of 1917 and they were eventually purchased and digitized by the US Library of Congress.

The objective of this assignment is to **produce high quality colour reconstructions** from Prokudin-Gorsky's negatives using simple image processing techniques.

You will need to extract images for the individual colour channels, align them and form a single colour image. For this assignment, it is sufficient to use an x, y translation based transform but feel free to implement other methods. It is recommended that you use the OpenCV library either in C++ or Python.

Instructions:

Task 1

Download both high and low-resolution negatives from [Webcms3](#) (Course Work → Assessments → Assessment 1 → Data Samples). Write a program that takes any one of these files as an input and produces a corresponding colour image as output. To do this you should divide the original image into three parts and then align the second and third channels to the first, displaying the resulting offsets for each channel.

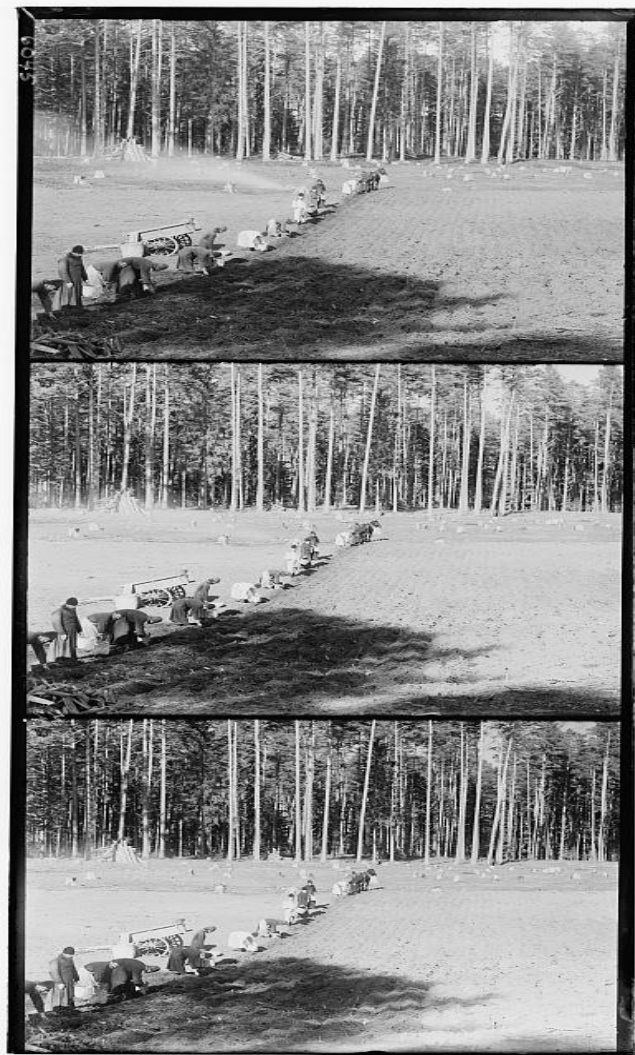


Figure 1: High quality colour reconstruction example.

A simple way to perform the alignment is by searching through all possible offsets in some suitable range (e.g. 20 pixels for low resolution images) and computing for each a score measuring the quality of the match. Three suitable metrics include sum of squared differences (SSD), sum of absolute differences (SAD) and the normalized cross correlation (NCC).

Task 2

Searching through all offsets can become computationally expensive for large resolution images. To speed up the search procedure you can use a so-called image pyramid. An image pyramid is essentially the image at multiple scales, with scales varying by a factor of two. Alignment can then be done sequentially, starting with the highest level and incrementally updating your estimates as you go down the pyramid.

Note that first you should implement an algorithm that can perform reconstruction on low resolution images (Task 1) and only then try to modify your code to handle large images (Task 2- it should be easy to reuse much of the code).

Task 3

Try to improve the visual quality of the results of the basic algorithm. Some possibilities include colour and contrast adjustments, using a more sophisticated alignment procedure and automatically removing borders.

Evaluation: Several new images will be released on the day the assignment is marked. You will take your marker through the steps showing the output for both low and high-resolution negatives before and after contrast correction. For the Task 3 you will need to choose images from the Library of Congress collection that best demonstrate your enhancements.

This assignment is worth 15% of the course total. Tasks 1, 2 and 3 must be completed to complete the assignment and will be marked against the maximum mark achievable.

Deliverables: In addition to demonstrating your work, you will also submit a short report (up to 2 pages MAXIMUM). This report should explain briefly the approach you have taken to align colour channels for Task 1, the modifications you performed to deal with large resolution images in Task 2, and the adjustments you made for Task 3. You may also include the details of any enhancements you have implemented.

The instructions on uploading the report will be released before submission date.

Deadline: Demo and report submission on Thursday of week 4 (August 17th), during the lab time, 5-6 PM.

Software: Download OpenCV and read guided tutorial: <http://opencv.org/>

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