

Hyperspectral seed detection with supervised learning classification system

Seed planting control



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1 Preface

Nothing yet

2 Reading manual

Nothing yet

3 Introduction

In collaboration between the company ImProSeed ApS and the University of Southern Denmark, ideas for a master thesis project has been developed. The company ImProSeed ApS is working with the forestry planting process to improve the efficiency of fully growing threes. At the moment an efficiency of the planting success lies between 60-75%, i.e. minimum 25% lost in profit. Therefore ImProSeed ApS is interested to maximize the efficiency of the seeds sprouting process, the germination. The idea was to use a vision based solution, where the system is able to differentiate the seeds into three categories as followed:

- *Green*. Seeds are ready for planting. Send to to planting process.
- *Yellow*. Seeds are not ready for planting. Keep them in current process.
- *Red*. Seeds are not valid for planting. Discard the seeds from current process.

Additionally a learning component should be in place for letting the vision system learn how a specific type of seed looks in the different categories.

In this case, it would ideally means that no seeds would be planted in the ground if they were not in a *good* condition. That would contributed to a higher efficiency. Due to uncontrolled environment, like bad soil, wildlife and weather conditions etc. an efficiency of 100% would never be realistic.

3.1 Project description

The setup of the system contains a conveyor belt that runs with a continuous velocity, where a mounted camera from above is sensing the incoming seeds. The image processing system needs to classify the seeds due to the features. One feature would be to look if the seeds is starting sprouting and in this case, how much has the germination reached. An other feature is, if the seed has sprouted, what is the condition of the sprouts. If a sprout is bended or even cracked then this seed should perhaps be sorted out.

A block diagram shown in figure 3.1, is where the different components in the system is indicated.

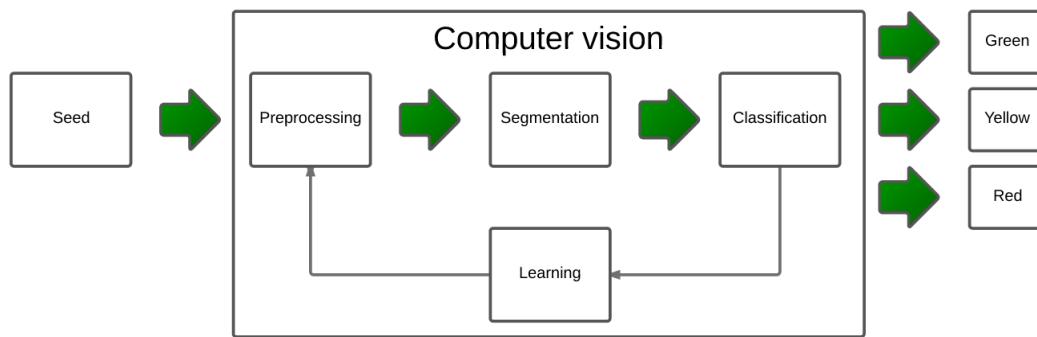


Figure 3.1: Blockdiagram of the computer vision system

- *Seed*. Incoming seeds of a specific type on a conveyor belt is random distributed among the categories. These are monitored by a line spectrometer, that is creating a hyperspectral cube
- *Preprocessing*. Each image from the hyperspectral cube contains important information about the seed

- *Segmentation.* Sorting images and after finding contours, finding central coordinates of each seed.
- *Classification.* Categorize each seed into three buckets due to how their quality and how far their germination is.
- *Learning.* Doing classification, information can be memorized on how a specific seed type looks. This will be used to have a more universal system, which can handle different type of seeds.

3.1.1 Sensor for vision system

By using a normal digital cameras, the option of extracting information outside the spectrum of visible light seems limiting. However from literature search, it is possible to extract information of materials in their near-infrared spectrum (NIR) by using hyperspectral imaging. This techniques has been used in many different application, like detecting the quality of wine-grapes [11], rice cultivar identification [7] and many others like mineral exploration, agriculture, and forest production. [12]. Therefore to classify the seeds into the three categories a line spectrometer will be used. The hypothesis is that there is a significant difference in the reflected wavelength for each pixel, when the objects is seed or a sprout. However if the seeds or sprouts are covered with resin, experiments in how this would change the electromagnetic spectral signature needs to be investigated. Thinking about the water contain can perhaps lead to a feature extraction.

3.1.2 Learn how other type of seeds looks in different categories

The system needs to detect the difference of the seeds, which is related to how far in the sprouting process each has reached. Having a system, that can handle only one kind of seed type is not enough. Therefore the system should be able to learn how different seeds looks like by supervised learning and thereby not only be limited to one kind of seed. The idea is that the user can take a portion of manually sorted seeds in a given condition and use that for training data. The result would be a more universal system, which can classify different types of seeds into the three introduced categories, *Green*, *Yellow*, *Red*.

An example will explain the flow:

- Example 1
 - Manually sorted seeds of type A, category *Green* is placed on a running conveyor belt
 - Each seed is segmented and classified as type A, category *Green*
 - Repeat training with type A, category *Yellow* and *Red*
 - After training procedure, a handful of mixed categories type A seeds is placed on the running conveyor belt. The system should be able to recognize the category for each seeds and thereby sorting the seeds correctly.

3.2 Deliverables

At the end of this Master Thesis project, A MSc. report documenting the following will be delivered:

- A seed detecting method based on computer vision, where the main methods is compared together alternative methods
- A learning method based on AI, where the main methods is compared together with alternative methods

- A description of the project management, i.e. timetable and logbook

3.3 Learning goals

The learnings goals for this Master Thesis project is defined [3]. The learning outcome is:

3.3.1 Knowledge

The student

- is able to account for relevant engineering skills based on the highest level of international research within the subject area of the programme
- has a good understanding of - and be able to reflect on - relevant knowledge within the subject area of the programme
- is able to identify relevant scientific problems within the subject area of the programme

3.3.2 Skills

The student

- is able to assess, select and apply scientific methods, tools and competencies within the subject area of the course
- is able to present novel analysis and problem-solving models
- is able to explain and discuss relevant professional and scientific problems
- is able to communicate in writing in a clear and understandable manner

3.3.3 Competence

The student

- is able to manage work and development situations that are complex and unforeseen and require new solution models
- is able to independently initiate and carry out discipline-specific and crossdisciplinary cooperation and to assume professional responsibility
- is able to independently take responsibility for his/her own professional development and specialization is able to disseminate research-based knowledge

Furthermore the student is able to demonstrate engineering skills in

- Understand and explain how a line spectrometer works.
- Interpret the hyperspectral data from the line spectrometer and create an images that can be handled for segmentation of seeds.
- Implementing a seed detection algorithm that detects seeds out from the image that is created by the data from the line spectrometer
- Implementing a learning algorithm that can use training data for a specific type of seed and be able to classify the seeds based on the training data.

4 Related work

Using hyperspectral imaging, information beyond the visible spectra is extracted. Using a line spectrometer a column of pixel will be ready for processing at each scan. The idea is to extract the information in the near-infrared (NIR) part of the spectrum to get the spectral signature of each image. As the line spectrometer scan across the seeds, many grayscale image can be created, where each grayscale image represent a small wavelength band. All the images is stacked on top of each other to create a hyperspectral cube. This cube is defined at having the x and y axis represent the spatial coordinates and the z axis represent the spectral dimension.

A figure from the reference [6] is illustrating the principle in figure 4.1

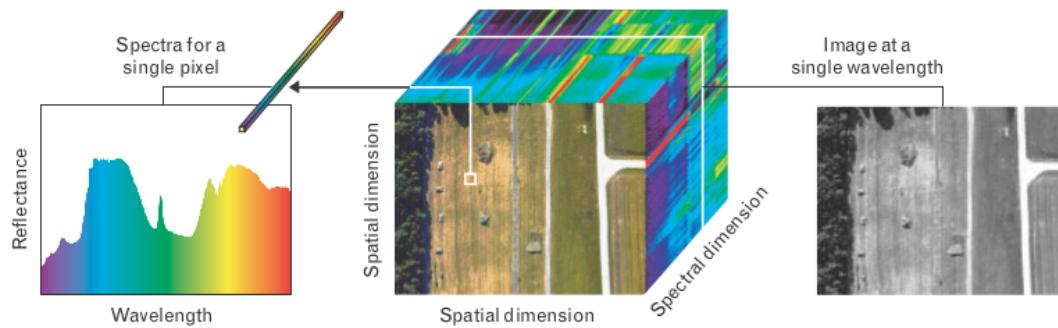


Figure 4.1: Hyper spectral imaging [6]

5 Division of work - Proof of concept

An important part in the project is to start out with a simplified system. Here the system receive an input RGB image and transmit an output RGB image with tracking functionality. The purpose of this proof of concept is to build up a loop of components, where each component can be optimized separately. Using this approach, compared to start out by interfacing a hyperspectral camera, would lead to faster implementation time of the foundation of the project. The pitfall by using the other approach, is that vulnerable time would be spent and risk of not having the data flow establish fast enough compared to the timeplan.

5.1 Proof of concept - Illustration

The proof of concept, or the data loop, is illustrated in figure 5.1. Here the input image, that is marked with a red square, will be obtained by simply using a RGB webcam. In the preprocessing step, the image will be converted to a grayscale image and transformed into a binary image by using a threshold for each pixel in the image. Noise pixels will be filtered out by the morphology techniques, erosion and closing. Then the image is ready to be further processed with the function FindContours, which is defined in the OpenCV library [5]. The result is a segmentation of different contours. Each contours will be analyzed to differentiate between the shapes. When a list of circles is created each circle will have their raw moments extracted and then the central mass coordinates for each segment can be calculated. At the end, a small filled circle will be drawn on the input image, due to the obtained coordinates. The result is a sequence of images, where round black objects will have a tracking dot on the middle of black object. Implementation was inspired from source [10]

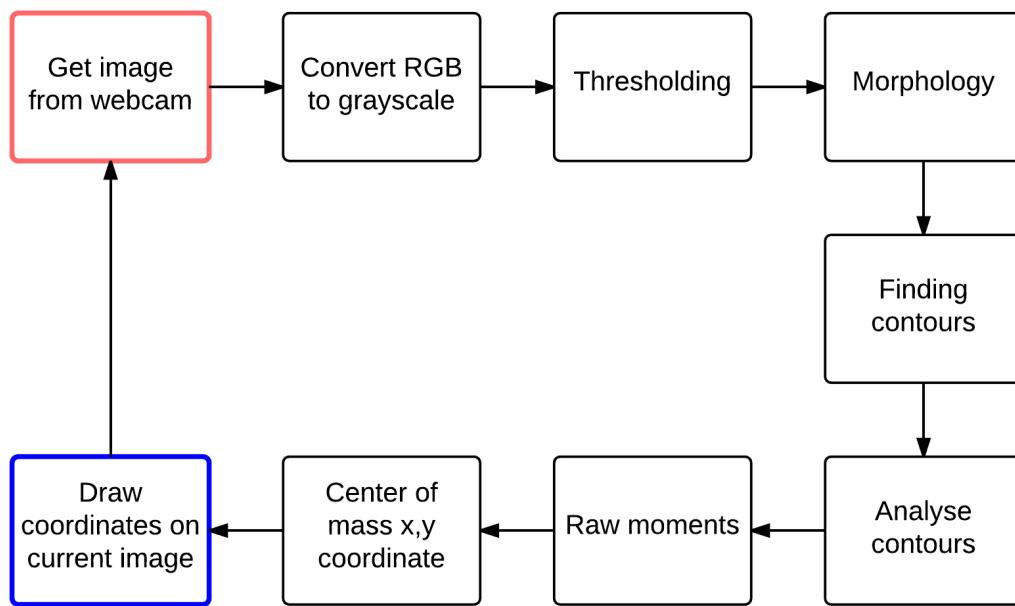


Figure 5.1: Closing the loop of data flow for the seed detection algorithm in computer vision

The first step of the proof of concept has been started. The seed detection algorithm has been tested on grain of black pepper. This is illustrated in figure 5.2. The next step is to differentiate between different shapes, like squares, triangles, circles, and stars.



Figure 5.2: Proof of concept - Detecting peppers on a flat surface. Inspired from source [10]

6 Computer vision

In this chapter, the image processing procedure will be explained.

6.1 Preprocessing

In the image processing, the input image would contain information about the background, the seeds and how the seeds are sprouting. First step would be to filter out the background, i.e. like the conveyor belt, mechanical objects etc. This can be done by extracting the background with a median filter and then subtract the background image from the input image. An example from reference [2] shows the result in figure 6.1 and in figure 6.2.



Figure 6.1: Background intact before median filtering [2]

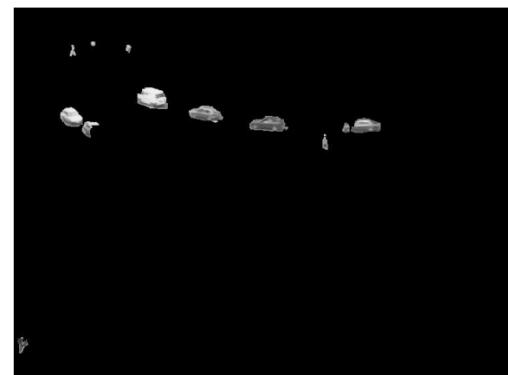


Figure 6.2: Background subtracted after median filtering [2]

The expected result would contain only the different type of seeds that have sprouted and not. Doing further preprocessing can only be answered after inspecting real images from the current system at ImproSeed Aps. The next phase is to do segmentation of seed, where the sprouting has proceeded or not.

6.2 Segmentation

The idea at the moment is to use the inbuilt OpenCV, findContours. This function returns will use connected component in order to do blob detection. Further with that, it is possible to use raw moments to get the x,y coordinates if needed. It is a part of the project to invest time to finding the correct methods for doing a proper segmentation. Using some kind of edge-detection, like Canny edge detector or morphology is an area to be investigated.

After all the main idea is to be able to do segmentation, so each seed will be ready for classification. This includes handling occlusion, i.e. that one seed is overlapping another seed in the background. However in the near future, the minimum tolerance for occlusion will be discussed.

6.3 Classification

In figure 6.3 the seeds are spread randomly in the palm of a hand and in figure 6.4 the seeds have been sorted to some extent, since the outer right seeds in the palm of the hand have the sprouts coming out of the seeds.

In the process of classification, different methods will be investigated. At the moment one option could be to use support vector machine to differentiate between the seeds.



Figure 6.3: Seeds unsorted, i.e. the seeds is mixed between sprouted seeds and non-sprouted seeds



Figure 6.4: Seeds sorted in different categories, i.e. seeds has been sprouted and not

6.4 Learning

The idea is to use a supervised learning approach, i.e. the system will be supplied with training data, where all the seeds are in one of the three categories, like *Green*, *Yellow*, *Red*. At the same time the wavelength from the line spectrometer will be applied, so the system would be able to learn how a specific type of seed will look like for each categories.

At the moment one option is to use support vector machine for the supervised learning approach or the deep learning approach.

7 AI

The main task for this project is to be able to automatically sort seeds in different groups, based on the principle of supervised learning. Supervised learning is a way of learning a system to perform a given task, where training data is presented which has already been classified [8]. The idea is to use training data that correlate with the unseen testing data and hopefully will be able to classify the testing data properly with the learning gained from the training data. The concept is illustrated in figure 7.1, where the training data can consist of several data files, which are usually different training images. The testing data is usually a test image or a video stream.

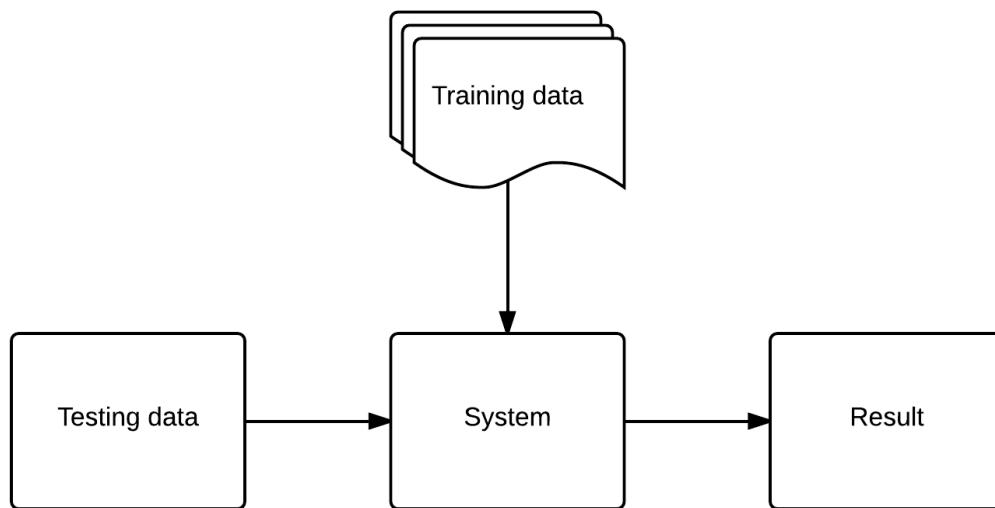


Figure 7.1: Supervised learning concept with training data and testing data

A minimum vision system was needed to be established in order to improve different components of the system. The idea was to start out with a vision system that was able to detect simple objects and classify each object in the image to a certain category. This assignment includes the following task:

- Load training into the system
 - Do segmentation and feature extraction from the training data
 - Do classification of the training data and hence let the system learn from the training data
 - Load testing data into the system
 - Let the system classify the testing data with respect to what the system had learned from previous training data

7.1 Features

The task is to let the system be able to classify between circles and rectangles in an image. The reason for using objects like circles is that these objects has at least one strong feature that can be used for a relative easily classification result. The strong feature is known as compactness [9]. The compactness describe the ratio between area and perimeter and is defined in equation 7.1.

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$$\frac{4\pi \cdot \text{area}}{\text{perimeter}^2} \quad (7.1)$$

where ideal circles has a compactness value of 1. This result is derived, when inserting the area and perimeter for a circle. This is shown in equation 7.2. This feature has the nice property of being scale, translation and rotation invariant and hence is a good feature for circles versus rectangles.

$$\frac{4\pi \cdot \text{area}}{\text{perimeter}^2} \Rightarrow \frac{4\pi \cdot \pi r^2}{(2\pi r)^2} \Rightarrow \frac{4\pi^2 r^2}{4\pi^2 r^2} \Rightarrow 1 \quad (7.2)$$

Due to quantification error, a compactness of a circle in the image processing will be approximately 1.

7.1.1 Training and testing data

The training data is two images, where the one contains rectangles and the other contains circles. The testing data is an image where a mixture of rectangles and circles is represented. This images is shown in figure 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 respectively.

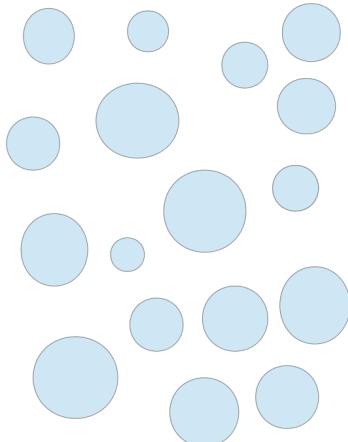


Figure 7.2: Training data with circles

Figure 7.3: Training data with squares

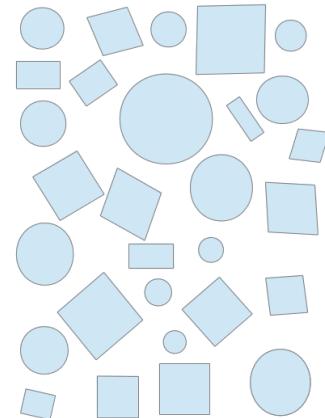


Figure 7.4: Testing data

After the training data was loaded into the system using OpenCV libraries, it is possible to find the contours for each image and calculate the compactness and area for each contour. As described earlier, the compactness of circles will have higher values compared to squares. These features is illustrated in the feature space plot in figure 7.5, where the red feature point represent data from figure 7.2 and the blue represent data from figure 7.3.

The result in figure 7.5 shows that circles and rectangles can be linear separated by using the shape feature compactness. The area is less important, but however used to plot the feature space. With the training data and testing data available, the system can begin to make a classification based on the training data.

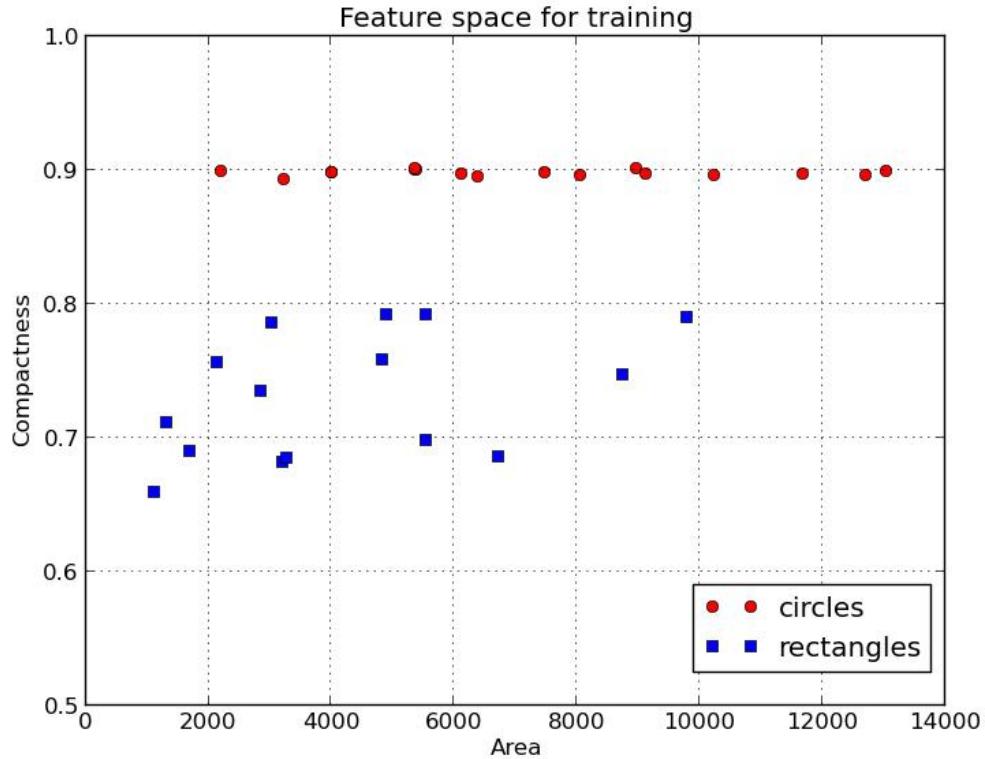


Figure 7.5: Feature space of compactness and area of each object in the training data

7.2 Classifier - The Perceptron

It was chosen to use a simple classifier like the Perceptron to get hands-on with classifiers. The Perception is a simple neurale network that will find a solution if the data is linear separable [1]. The Perceptron is relatively simple to implement compared to other classifiers, like e.g. Support Vector Machines. This will be referred as SVM in the rest of the documentation. It was decided to implement the Perceptron for better understanding of the classification procesedure. However for future implementation with SVM, using OpenCV SVM libraries will be used [4]. Using features that is linear separable is needed, when using the simple version of the Perceptron. However the Percetron can be extended to handle non-linear separable data by using the so called *Kernel trick* [1], but is out of the scope within this thesis.

7.2.1 Feed forward neurale network

The Perceptron is a single layer, feed forward neural network. The network consist of two input neurons with weights, bias input and one output neuron. The activation function of the output is a step function. The Perceptron is implemented using the Perceptron Learning rule, which classify each output to either 1 or -1. With the update weighs and bias the linear classification line is defined [1] in equation 7.3 as followed:

$$y = \frac{w_0}{-w_1}x + \frac{b}{-w_1} \quad (7.3)$$

The classification separation line is illustrated in figure 7.9 with a blue line. The pseudo code for the Perceptron implementation is shown in algorithm 1

Input: Pre classified training images with circles and rectangles separately
Output: Updated weights and bias to be used for making the classification line
Initialization: Set weights and bias to zero: $w_0 = w_1 = b = 0$

```

while runFlag is true do
    Initialize errorCounter
    for data in trainingData do
        dot product between weights and input.
        if dot product + bias >= 0 then
            | result = 1
        else
            | result = -1
        end
        error = pre classified class - result;
        if error is not zero then
            | Update the weights and bias
            | Increment errorCounter
        end
    end
    if errorCounter is zero then
        | set runFlag to false
    end
end

```

Algorithm 1: Pseudo code of the implemented Perceptron classifier

7.2.2 Result of the Perceptron

The result of the Perceptron shows that sometimes the classifier do misclassification. This is illustrated in figure 7.6 and indicated by two red arrows, where two objects has been classified as rectangles, but are obviously circles. The blue dots represent rectangles and red dots represent circles. Sometimes the classification is a success which the result shows in figure 7.7.

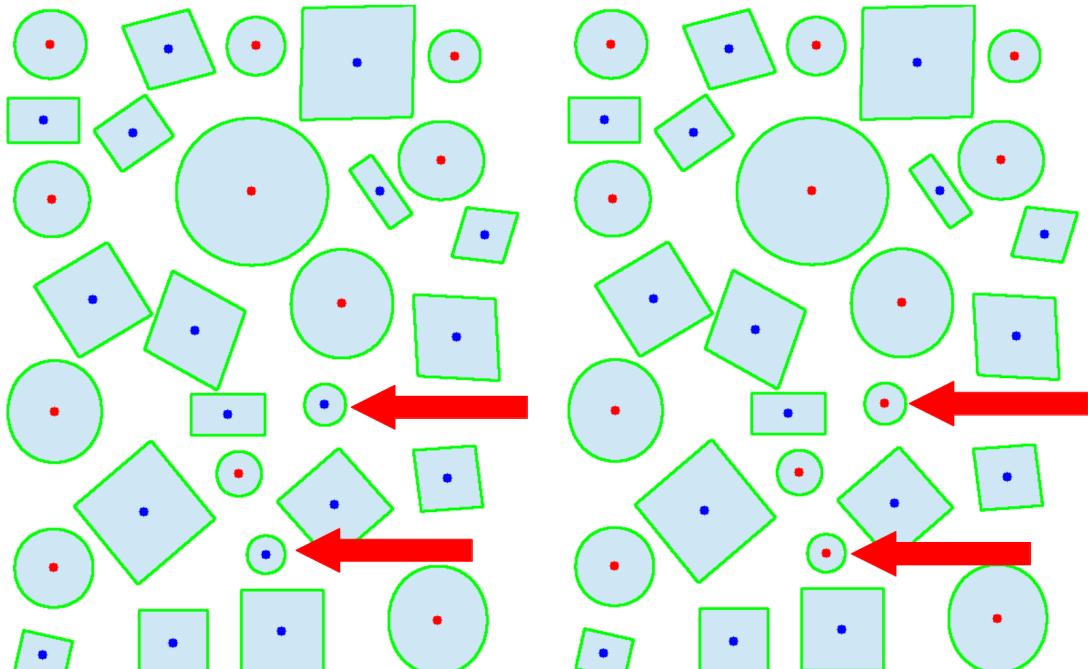


Figure 7.6: Wrong classification - test1

Figure 7.7: Correct classification - test2

7.2.3 Discussion and conclusion of Perceptron

The algorithm of the Perceptron runs until there is no error. If the training data is linear separable, the Perceptron will find a solution. When the algorithm stop and classify the training data correct, this do not guarantee full correct classification, since testing data might differ in feature values. The result of the misclassification with two objects, as shown in figure 7.6 is explained by investigating the testing data. In figure 7.8 the convergence of the weight vector, bias term and the error is shown. The algorithm terminates after approximately 160 iterations. In figure 7.9 the Perceptron finds a solution for the classifier, by using the training data. In figure 7.10 this solution misclassify the testing data with two objects. In figure 7.11 the misclassification is two objects with a relative high compactness and small area. This explains the result in figure 7.6. The conclusion is that using the Perceptron as classifier are sensitive to small offsets in feature space. To eliminate this drawback, implementation of SVM as classifier would be a solution.

As stated before sometimes the Perceptron do classify correct, which was shown in figure 7.7. In figure 7.12 the convergence of the weight vector, bias term and the error is shown. The algorithm terminates after approximately 180 iterations. In figure 7.13 the Perceptron finds a solution for the classifier, by using the training data. In figure 7.14 this solution separates the features. This result in a correct classification of the testing data which is shown in figure 7.15.

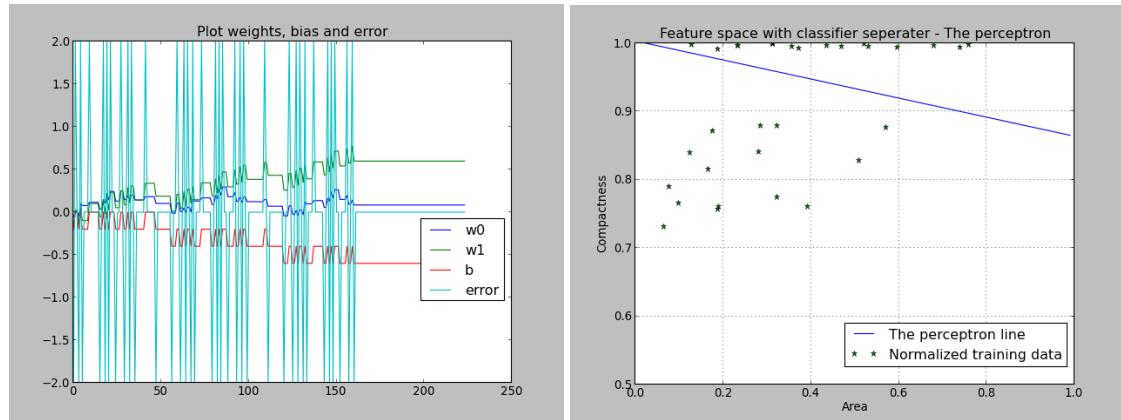


Figure 7.8: Convergence of weights, bias and error first run - test1

Figure 7.9: Classification line with training data - test1

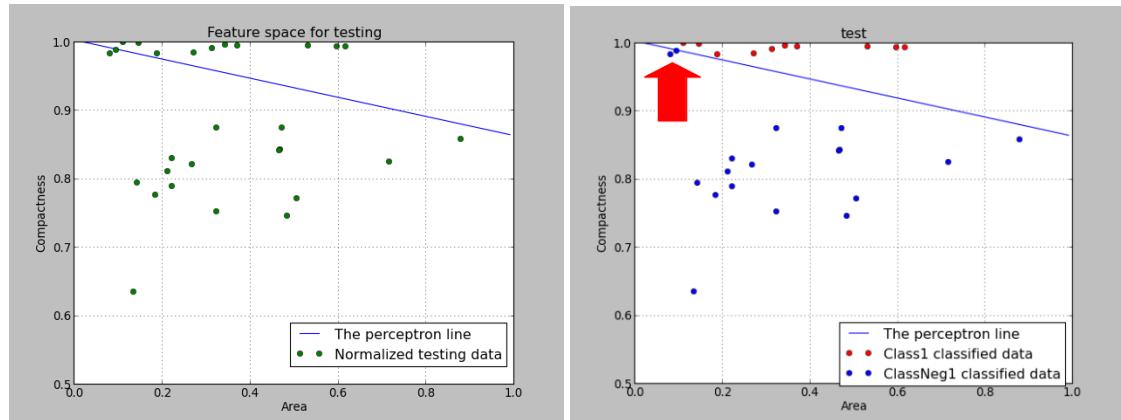
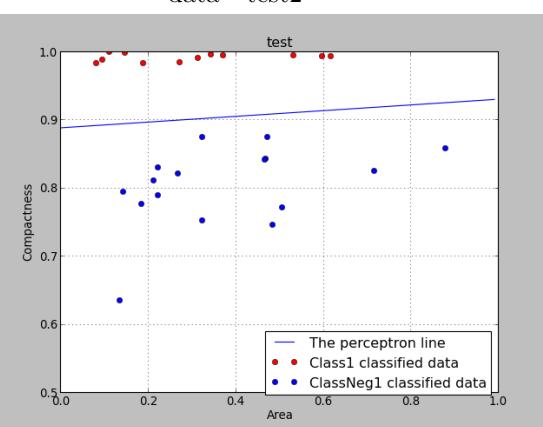
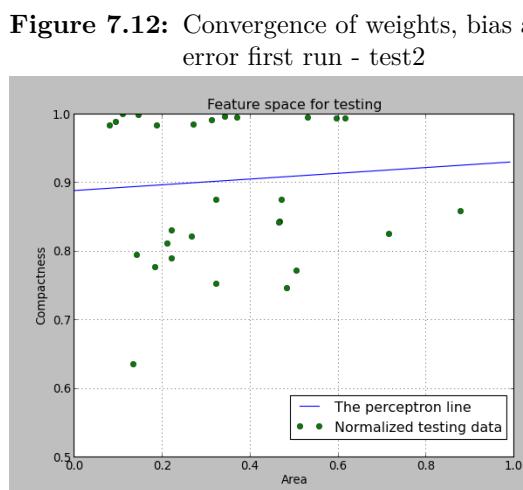
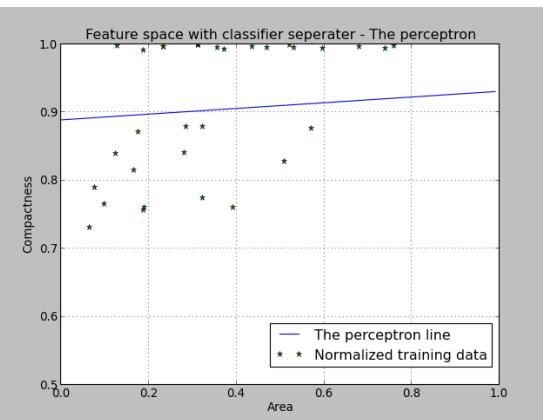
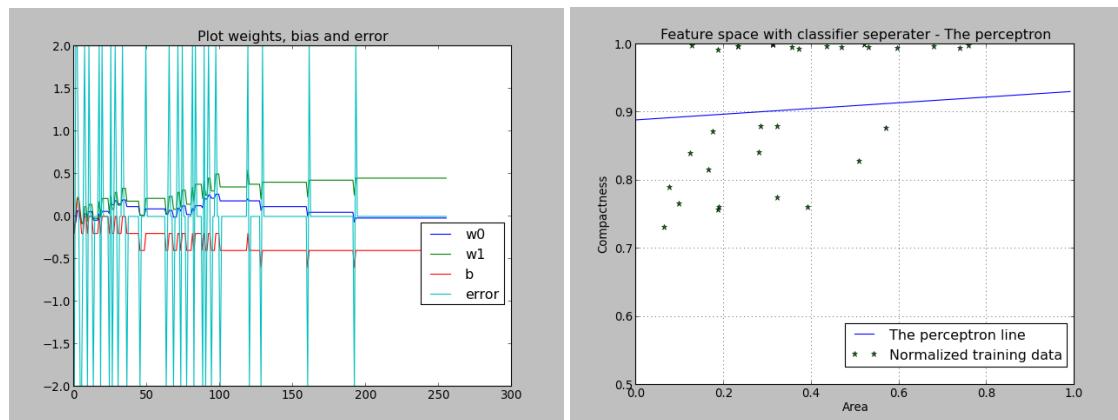


Figure 7.10: Classification line with testing data - test1

Figure 7.11: Final classification with classification line - test1



8 Robotics

An future extension of the Master Thesis is to interface the ABB Flexpicker robot, which is shown in figure 8.1, with the computer vision system. The task of the ABB Flexpicker is to grasp each of the classified seed and place them physically in a place according to their category. At the moment the focus in the Master Thesis is the computer vision and AI component. These components needs to complete the final test, before any more time can be invested in the robotic part.



Figure 8.1: The ABB Flexpicker robot that do the pick-and-place task after seeds has been classified by the vision system

9 System test

Nothing yet

10 Discussion

Nothing yet

11 Conclusion

Nothing yet

12 Future work

This is the future work section

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A Title of Appendix A

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B Title of Appendix B

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