

Overview of Computer Vision

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1. Computer Vision – An Overview

- **Computer Vision** is a field of AI and computer science that enables machines to **see, interpret, and understand images or videos**, just like humans do.
- Fundamental Steps in Computer Vision

Step	Description
Image Acquisition	Getting the image (camera, file, etc.)
Preprocessing	Cleaning, resizing, filtering
Feature Extraction	Edges, corners, textures, keypoints
Detection/Recognition	Object or pattern detection
Post-processing	Decision making, tracking, segmentation

2. Image Formation & Representation

- A grayscale image is a **2D matrix** where each element represents **pixel intensity** (0 to 255).
- A color image is stored as **3 matrices**, one for each channel (Red, Green, Blue).
- Each pixel is represented as a triplet:
Example at (0,0): (100,150,200)
- **Resolution:** number of pixels (e.g., 640×480)
- **Bit depth:** bits per pixel (e.g., 8-bit = 256 shades, 24-bit = RGB)

Image Formation & Representation

- Image File Formats : bmp, png, jpeg
- Image Coordinate System: Origin usually at **top-left**.
Coordinates increase **rightward (x)** and **downward (y)**.
- Each pixel is **0 or 1** (black or white). Useful in **thresholding or segmentation**
- Instead of RGB triplets, pixels store **index to color map**.

Grayscale Conversion (RGB to Gray)

- $\text{Gray} = 0.2989 \cdot R + 0.5870 \cdot G + 0.1140 \cdot B$

3. Imaging Geometry

Imaging Geometry

- Imaging geometry deals with **how 3D points in the world are projected into 2D points on an image plane** using a camera model.

Camera Model – Pinhole Camera

- A simple model to explain image formation is the **pinhole camera model**.

Geometry:

- 3D point: $P=(X,Y,Z)$; Image point (projected): $p=(x,y)$
- Focal length: f

Projection Equation:

- $x=f \cdot XZ, \quad y=f \cdot YZ$

Imaging Geometry

Intrinsic Camera Parameters

- Used to convert mm to pixel units on the image sensor.

Intrinsic matrix K:

- $$K = \begin{bmatrix} fx & 0 & cx \\ 0 & fy & cy \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Where

- fx, fy : focal lengths in pixel units
- cx, cy : image center (principal point)

Normalized point: (x,y) mm \rightarrow convert to pixels:

- $u = fx \cdot x + cx$
- $v = fy \cdot y + cy$

Imaging Geometry

Extrinsic Camera Parameters

- These describe the **position and orientation** of the camera in 3D space:
- $X_{\text{camera}} = R \cdot X_{\text{world}} + T$

Where:

- R: rotation matrix;
- T: translation vector

Imaging Radiometry

- Radiometry studies how **light energy** interacts with surfaces and how it is **measured** by sensors.

Basic Radiometric Quantities

Quantity	Symbol	Unit	Meaning
Radiant energy	(Q)	Joules (J)	Total energy
Radiant flux	(\Phi)	Watts (W = J/s)	Energy per second
Irradiance	(E)	(W/m^2)	Power per unit area on a surface
Radiance	(L)	(W/m^2/sr)	Power per unit area per solid angle from a surface

Imaging Radiometry

Irradiance (E)

- Light power hitting surface = Φ
- Surface area = A
- $E = \Phi A$

Radiance (L)

- Radiance is the **main quantity** that determines how bright a pixel appears.
- $L = d^2\Phi / (dA \cdot \cos(\theta) \cdot d\omega)$

Where:

- dA : area on the surface
- θ : angle between surface normal and light direction
- $d\omega$: solid angle subtended by the sensor

Imaging Radiometry

BRDF (Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function)

- Describes how light reflects off a surface:
- $f_r(\theta_i, \theta_r) = dL_r / dE_i$
- Helps in realistic rendering & computer vision.

Imaging Geometry Vs Radiometry

Concept	Imaging Geometry	Radiometry
Core idea	Where does light land in the image	How much light is measured
Units	mm, pixels, angles	Watts, (W/m ²), (W/m ² /sr)
Governs	Shape, position, perspective	Brightness, shading, exposure
Example	3D point to 2D pixel	$\text{Irradiance} = 5\text{W} / 2\text{m}^2 = 2.5 \text{ (W/m}^2 \text{)}$

4. Digitization in Computer Vision

Digitization (Sampling + Quantization)

- Digitization is the process of converting an analog image (continuous in space and intensity) into a digital image (discrete in space and intensity).

Spatial Sampling

- Breaks down a continuous image into a **grid of pixels**.
- Each pixel represents a sample point in space.

Suppose we have a 1D intensity signal:

- Original analog signal (continuous): $f(x) = [0, 20, 50, 100, 150, 200, 255]$ Now sample it every **2 points**:
- Sampled = $[0, 50, 150, 255] \rightarrow 4$ pixels This is **spatial sampling**.

Digitization in Computer Vision

Quantization

- Converts continuous intensity values into **discrete levels** (e.g., 256 levels for 8-bit images).
- Let's say pixel intensity range is [0, 255] and we want to quantize to **4 levels**:
- Divide range: [0-63], [64–127], [128–191], [192–255]
- Original: [20, 150, 220]
- Quantized: [0, 2, 3]

5. Cameras

- Types of Cameras

Camera Type

Description

Pinhole Camera

Simple model, no lens

Perspective Camera

Projects 3D → 2D with focal length

Orthographic Camera

Projects by ignoring depth (Z)

Digital Camera

Uses sensors (CCD or CMOS) to digitize images

Projections

Perspective Projection

- Objects farther from the camera appear smaller.
- Realistic, used in photography and vision.
- $x=f \cdot XZ$, $y=f \cdot YZ$
- Distant objects shrink under **perspective projection**

Projections

Orthographic Projection

- Ignores depth Z , used in technical drawings.
- $x=X$, $y=Y$
- No perspective distortion.

6. Rigid & Affine Transformations

- In image processing, **transformations** are used to map **pixels** from one coordinate system to another — for alignment, registration, motion, warping, etc.
- Types of Transformations

Transformation	Preserves	Changes Shape	Parameters
Rigid	Lengths, angles	No	Rotation + Translation
Affine	Parallelism, ratios	Yes (shear, scale)	Rotation + Translation + Scale + Shear

Rigid Transformations

- Rigid transformations preserve **distances and angles** (like moving or rotating a photo).

For a 2D point (x,y) :

- $[x' \ y'] = R \cdot [x \ y] + [tx \ ty]$

Where:

- R is a **rotation matrix**

$$R = [\cos(\theta) \quad -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) \quad \cos(\theta)]$$

- tx, ty are **translations**

Affine Transformations

Affine Transformation

Affine transformation is **more general**. It includes:

- Translation
- Rotation
- Scaling
- Shearing
- It **preserves straight lines and parallelism**, but not distances or angles.

7. Applications of Computer Vision

Image Classification

- Predicting object class in image

Object Detection

- Locate objects using bounding boxes

Semantic Segmentation

- Label each pixel as part of a class
Road, car, pedestrian...

Facial Recognition

- Matching faces using features
Image → face embedding → match

Applications of Computer Vision

Medical Imaging

- Detect tumors in MRI
- Segment organs

Autonomous Driving

- Detect roads, signs, lanes, and people

Agriculture

- Identify plant diseases from images