

Overview of Computer Vision

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Outline

1. **Computer Vision – An Overview**
2. **Image Formation & Representation**
3. **Imaging Geometry and Radiometry**
4. **Digitization in Computer Vision**
5. **Cameras and Projections**
6. **Rigid and Affine Transformation**
7. **Applications of Computer Vision**

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:

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

Imaging Geometry

Intrinsic Camera Parameters

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

Intrinsic matrix **K**:

- $$K = \begin{bmatrix} f_x & 0 & c_x \\ 0 & f_y & c_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Where

- f_x, f_y : focal lengths in pixel units
- c_x, c_y : image center (principal point)

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

- $u = f_x \cdot x + c_x$ $v = f_y \cdot y + c_y$

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	(Φ)	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), ($\text{W/m}^2/\text{sr}$)
Governs	Shape, position, perspective	Brightness, shading, exposure
Example	3D point to 2D pixel	Irradiance = $5\text{W} / 2\text{m}^2 = 2.5$ (W/m^2)

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 \rightarrow 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):

- $[x' \ y'] = R \cdot [x \ y] + [t_x \ t_y]$

Where:

- R is a **rotation matrix**

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}$$

- t_x, t_y 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