SIFT descriptor to set landmark on biological images

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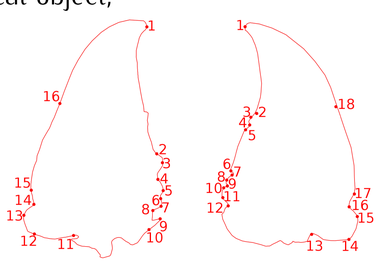
Context

- **Morphometry** analysis is a way to characterize the shape variations of the organisms,
- Morphometric characteristics have been used to evaluate the evolution of an organism, by finding new or sharpening definition of old one,
- **Morphometrics** are also used to **classify** the objects in different groups.

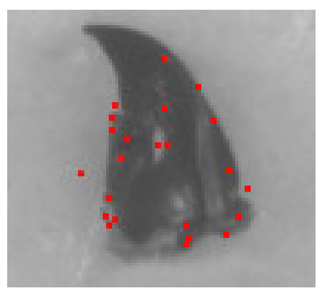
Manual landmarks

- Morphometric landmarks are points of interest in biological object,
- Landmarks characterize specificities through the shape most often linked to biological information,
- They are usually **defined** by biologists **manually**.,
- Images show manual landmarks in **beetle mandibles** belonging to our sample.
- How to locate the landmarks **automatically**?



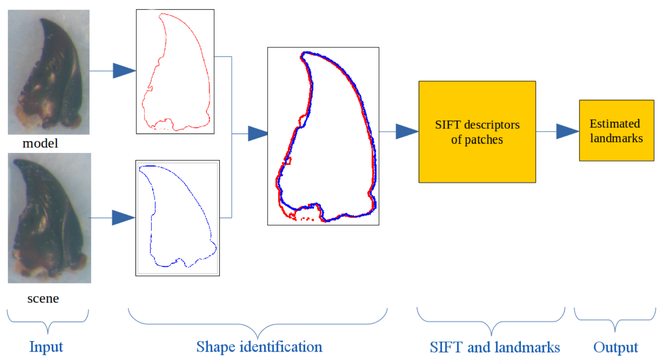
SIFT

- SIFT descriptor[4] is used to extract features from images. It includes four steps:
  - → Scale-space extrema detection
  - → Keypoints localization
  - → Orientation assigment
  - → Keypoints descriptor
- **Limitation:** The obtained results from original SIFT method set many landamark candidates.
- **Solution:** Reducing the searching space before computing the SIFT descriptors.



Proposed method

- **Input:**
  - → Model image
  - → Model manual landmarks
  - → Scene image
- **Output:**
  - → Landmarks of scene image
- **Steps:**
  - → Shape identification: segmentation and registration
  - → SIFT and landmarks



Segmentation

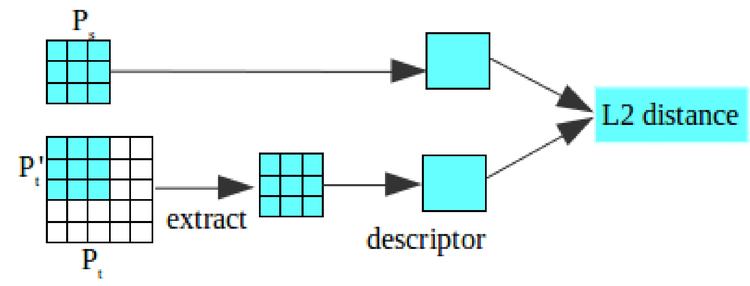
1. Converting the image to binary one by applying a **threshold** determined by histogram analysis[3].
2. Contours points are extracted by Canny algorithm[1]. The thresholds ratio in Canny: $T_{lower} = (1/3) \times T_{upper}$, in which T_{lower} equals to the threshold value in step 1.

Registration

Model and scene images are segmented to extract the contours points. The contours points are registered by applying **P**rincipal **C**omponent **A**nalysis[2] **I**teration (PCAI).

1. Compute the centroid point and principal axis of each list of contour points,
2. Compute the translation and rotation values between two lists of contour points,
3. Register the two lists of contour points,
4. Sort the contour points of scene image followed y-direction,
5. Select a subset of contour points of scene image and repeat step 1,
6. PCAI stop automatically when the angle difference between two lists of contour points is less than 1.5 degree.

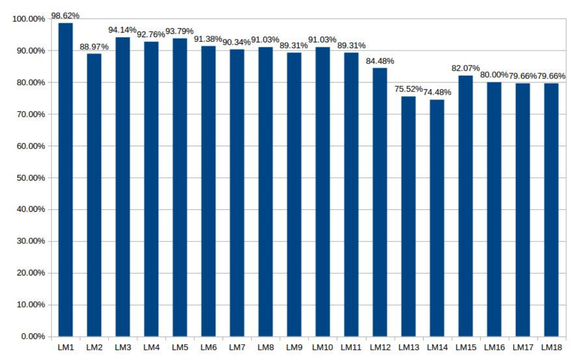
SIFT and landmarks

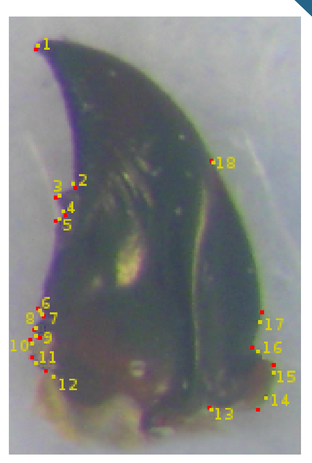


1. A **patch** P_m is initialized at each manual landmark of model image (size of 9×9),
2. Calculating the SIFT descriptor for P_m,
3. At the same position in the scene image, a patch P_s is created (size of 36×36),
4. For each pixel in P_s, a patch P'_s is extracted with the same size than P_m,
5. Calculating the SIFT descriptor for all P'_s,
6. Computing the distance between the descriptor of P_m and each P'_m,
7. At the end, the pixel that has the **minimum distance** with P_m is kept.

Results on right mandibles

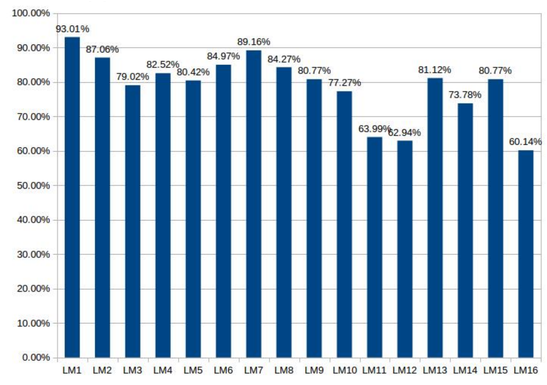
- Highest accuracy: 1^{st} landmark with 98.62%
- Lowest accuracy: $13^{th}, 14^{th}$ landmark with app. 75%

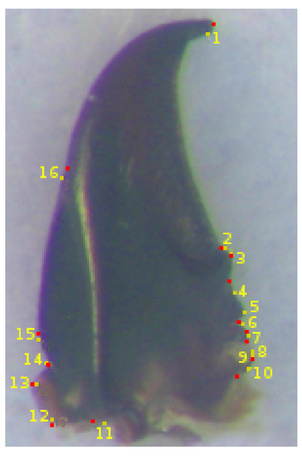




Results on left mandibles

- Highest accuracy: 1^{st} landmark with 93.01%
- Lowest accuracy: $11^{th}, 12^{th}$ and 16^{th} landmark from 60% to app. 63%





Conclusions

- A solution based on SIFT descriptor for landmark estimation is presented,
- The results show that method **succeed in locating** all landmarks in request images,
- The accuracy of method is sufficient to be **proposed to biologists** as a **replacement of manual positioning**, and to characterize the shape.

Bibliography

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