



# Vidyavardhini's College of Engineering & Technology

## Department of Computer Engineering

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**Aim:** To study object segmentation.

**Objective:** Object segmentation using the Watershed and GrabCut algorithms, Example of foreground detection with GrabCut, Image segmentation with the Watershed algorithm.

### **Theory:**

1. Image segmentation is the process of dividing an image into several disjoint small local areas or cluster sets according to certain rules and principles. The watershed algorithm is a computer vision technique used for image region segmentation. It is an algorithm that correctly determines the "outline of an object".
2. The algorithm used for foreground extraction is GrabCut Algorithm. In this algorithm, the region is drawn in accordance with the foreground, and a rectangle is drawn over it. This is the rectangle that encases our main object. The region coordinates are decided over understanding the foreground mask. But this segmentation is not perfect, as it may have marked some foreground region as background and vice versa. This problem can be avoided manually. This foreground extraction technique functions just like a green screen in cinematics.
3. The watershed algorithm uses topographic information to divide an image into multiple segments or regions. The algorithm views an image as a topographic surface, each pixel representing a different height. The watershed algorithm uses this information to identify catchment basins, similar to how water would collect in valleys in a real topographic map.

The whole process of the watershed algorithm can be summarized in the following steps:

- **Marker placement:** The first step is to place markers on the local minima, or the lowest points, in the image. These markers serve as the starting points for the flooding process.

- Flooding: The algorithm then floods the image with different colors, starting from the markers. As the color spreads, it fills up the catchment basins until it reaches the boundaries of the objects or regions in the image.
- Catchment basin formation: As the color spreads, the catchment basins are gradually filled, creating a segmentation of the image. The resulting segments or regions are assigned unique colors, which can then be used to identify different objects or features in the image.
- Boundary identification: The watershed algorithm uses the boundaries between the different colored regions to identify the objects or regions in the image. The resulting segmentation can be used for object recognition, image analysis, and feature extraction tasks.

### **Code and Output:**

```
import cv2

import numpy as np

from IPython.display import Image, display

from matplotlib import pyplot as plt

# Plot the image

def imshow(img, ax=None):

    if ax is None:

        ret, encoded = cv2.imencode(".jpg", img)

        display(Image(encoded))

    else:

        ax.imshow(cv2.cvtColor(img, cv2.COLOR_BGR2RGB))

        ax.axis('off')


#Image loading

img = cv2.imread("red.png")

#image grayscale conversion

gray = cv2.cvtColor(img, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)

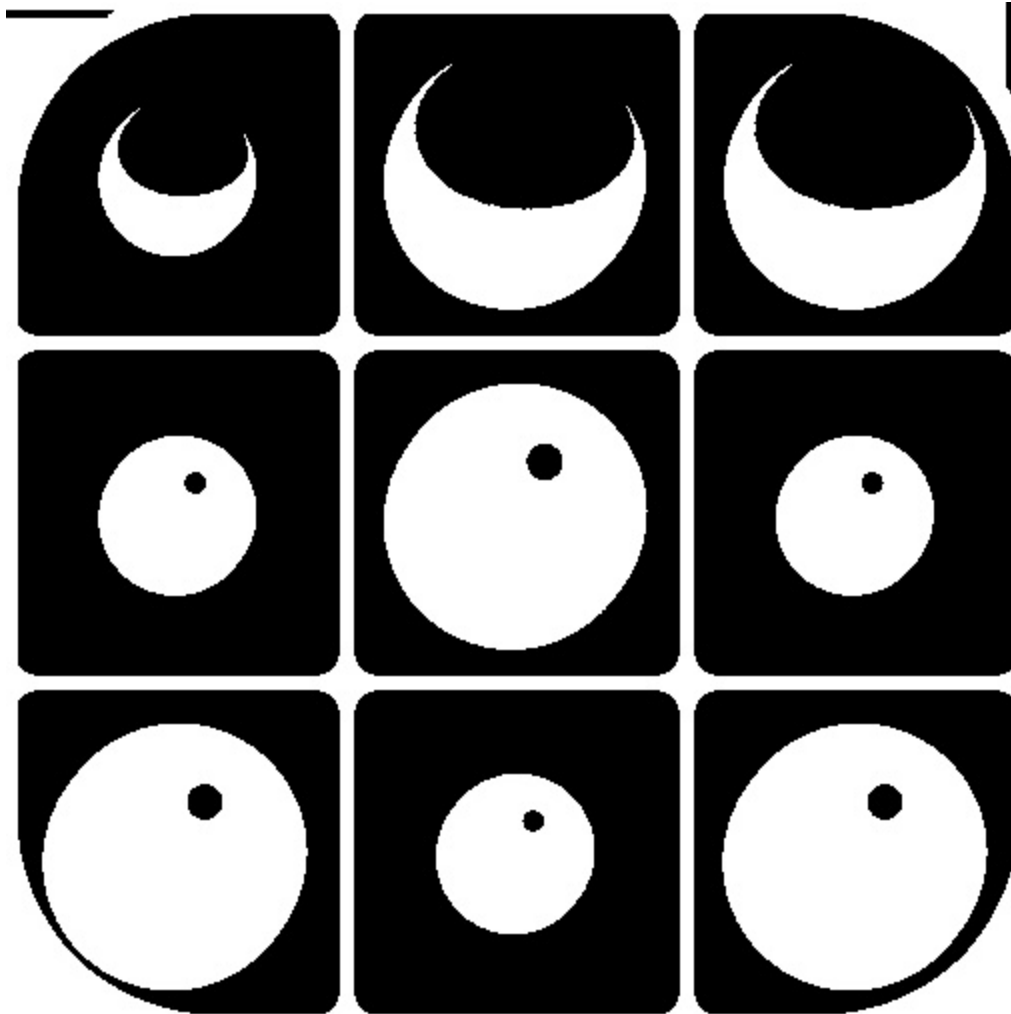
# Show image
```

```
imshow(img)
```



```
#Threshold Processing
```

```
ret, bin_img = cv2.threshold(gray,  
                             0, 255,  
                             cv2.THRESH_BINARY_INV + cv2.THRESH_OTSU)  
  
imshow(bin_img)
```

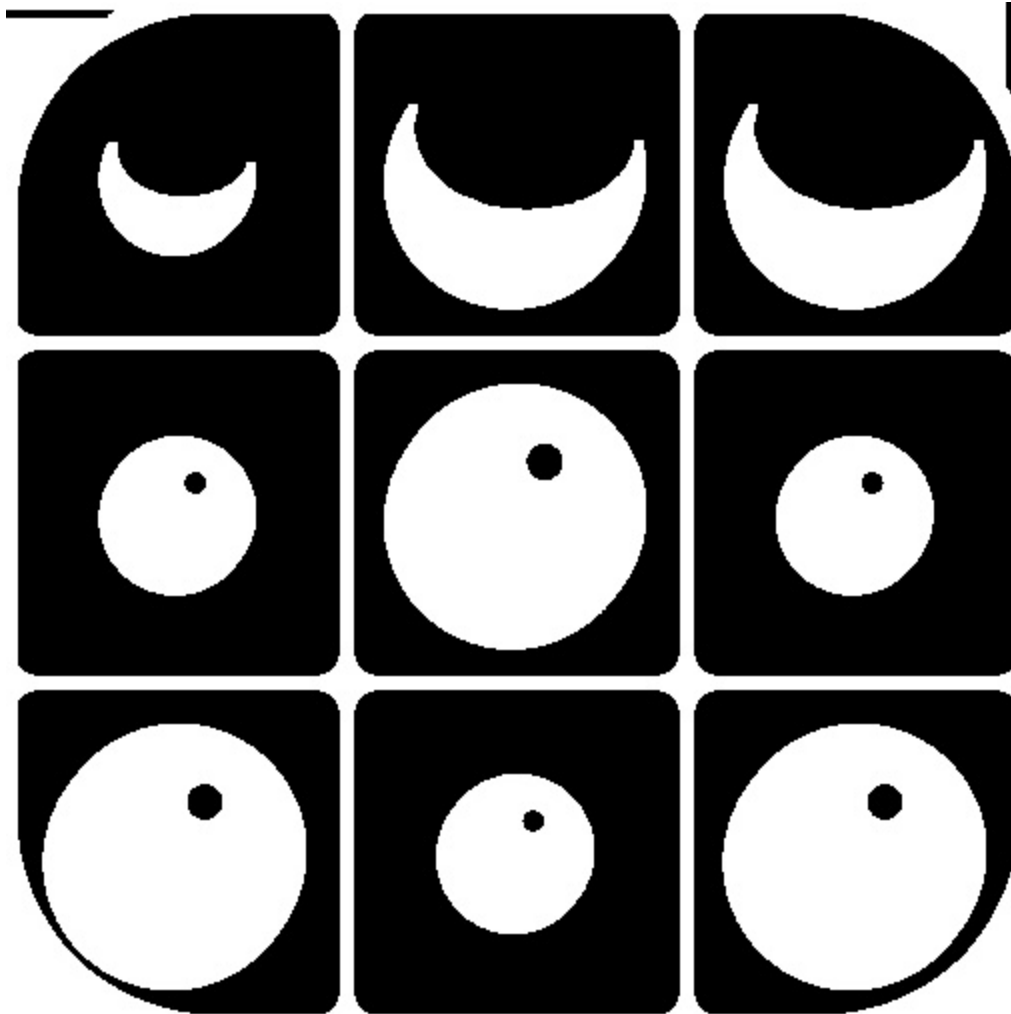


```
# noise removal
```

```
kernel = cv2.getStructuringElement(cv2.MORPH_RECT, (3, 3))
```

```
bin_img = cv2.morphologyEx(bin_img,  
                             cv2.MORPH_OPEN,  
                             kernel,  
                             iterations=2)
```

```
imshow(bin_img)
```



```
# Create subplots with 1 row and 2 columns
fig, axes = plt.subplots(nrows=2, ncols=2, figsize=(8, 8))

# sure background area
sure_bg = cv2.dilate(bin_img, kernel, iterations=3)
imshow(sure_bg, axes[0,0])
axes[0, 0].set_title('Sure Background')

# Distance transform
dist = cv2.distanceTransform(bin_img, cv2.DIST_L2, 5)
imshow(dist, axes[0,1])
axes[0, 1].set_title('Distance Transform')
```

```
#foreground area
```

```
ret, sure_fg = cv2.threshold(dist, 0.5 * dist.max(), 255, cv2.THRESH_BINARY)
```

```
sure_fg = sure_fg.astype(np.uint8)
```

```
imshow(sure_fg, axes[1,0])
```

```
axes[1, 0].set_title('Sure Foreground')
```

```
# unknown area
```

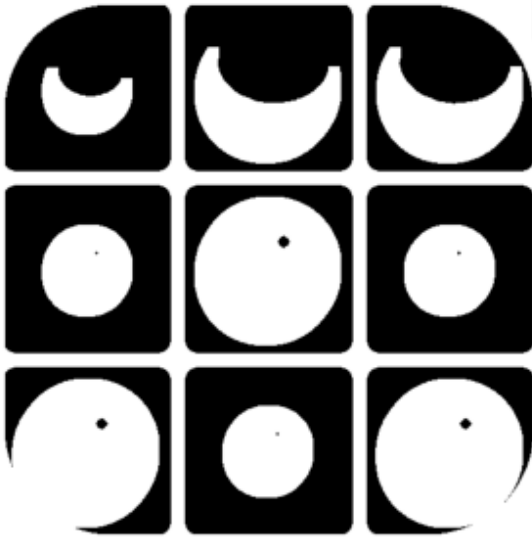
```
unknown = cv2.subtract(sure_bg, sure_fg)
```

```
imshow(unknown, axes[1,1])
```

```
axes[1, 1].set_title('Unknown')
```

```
plt.show()
```

Sure Background



Distance Transform



Sure Foreground



Unknown



```
# Marker labelling
```

```
# sure foreground
```

```
ret, markers = cv2.connectedComponents(sure_fg)
```

```
# Add one to all labels so that background is not 0, but 1
```

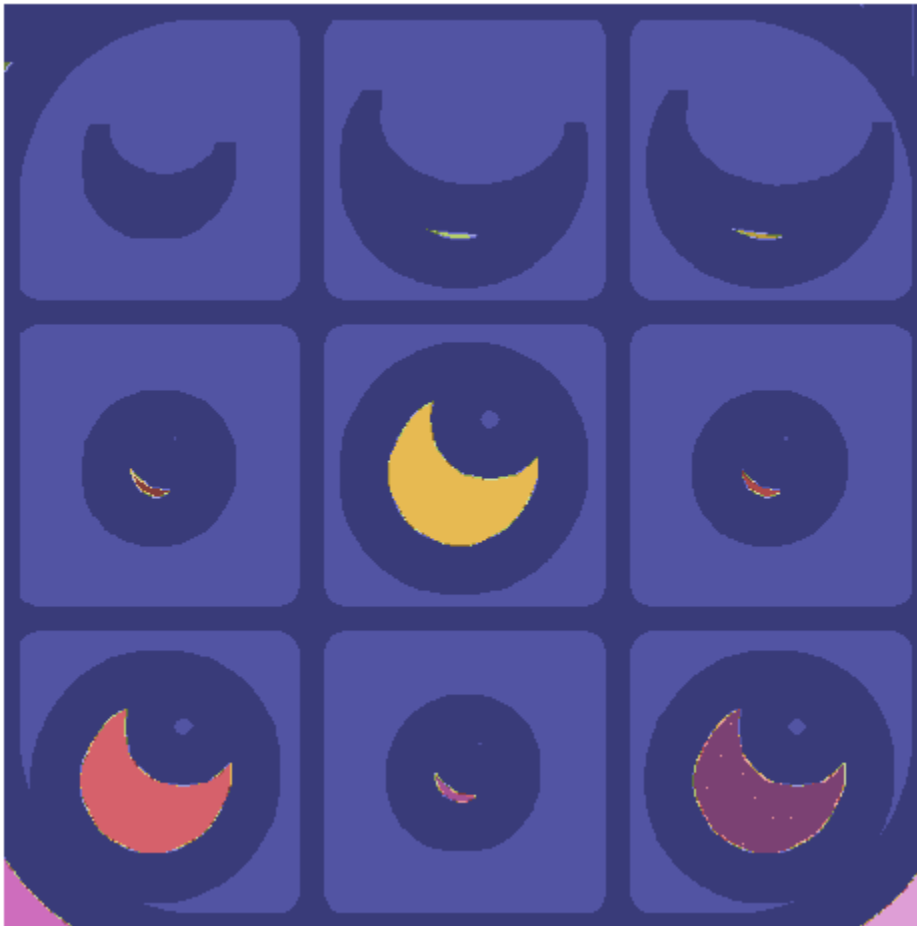
```
markers += 1
```

```
# mark the region of unknown with zero
```

```

markers[unknown == 255] = 0
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(6, 6))
ax.imshow(markers, cmap="tab20b")
ax.axis('off')
plt.show()

```



```

# watershed Algorithm
markers = cv2.watershed(img, markers)
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 5))
ax.imshow(markers, cmap="tab20b")
ax.axis('off')
plt.show()

```

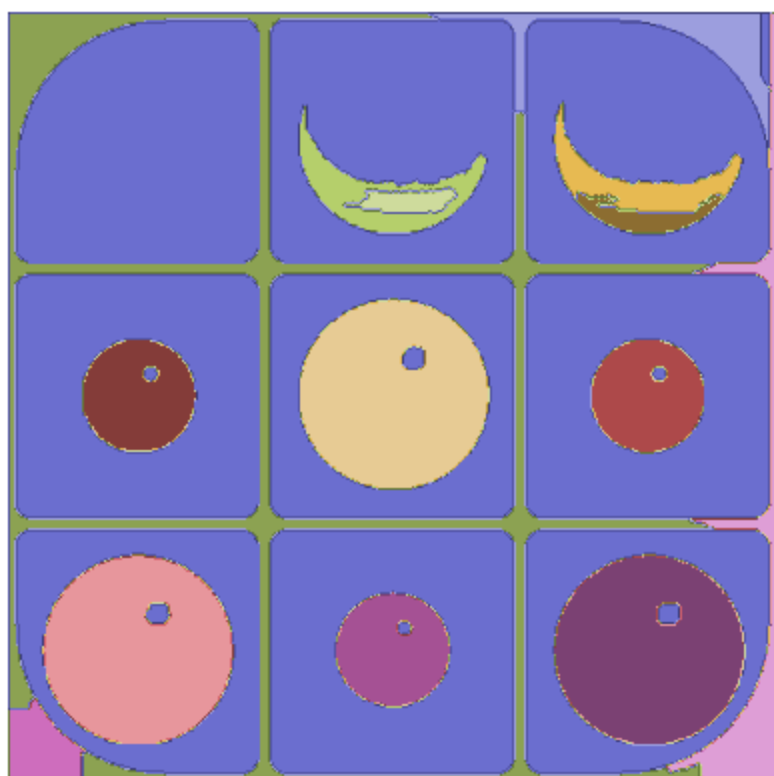


```
labels = np.unique(markers)
coins = []
for label in labels[2:]:

    # Create a binary image in which only the area of the label is in the foreground
    #and the rest of the image is in the background
    target = np.where(markers == label, 255, 0).astype(np.uint8)

    # Perform contour extraction on the created binary image
    contours, hierarchy = cv2.findContours(
        target, cv2.RETR_EXTERNAL, cv2.CHAIN_APPROX_SIMPLE
    )
    coins.append(contours[0])

# Draw the outline
img = cv2.drawContours(img, coins, -1, color=(0, 23, 223), thickness=2)
imshow(img)
```





### **Conclusion :**

The GrabCut algorithm is a versatile method for precise image segmentation, often used in image editing, object recognition, and interactive segmentation. In contrast, the Watershed algorithm is powerful for segmenting objects in images with clear intensity differences, involving steps like marker placement and region flooding to produce distinct object boundaries.