

4 - 6.3. Lines and Shapes Detection

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1 Introduction

In images, `lines` and `shapes` are the most common objects that we can detect. These can be detected using the `Hough Line Transform` and `Hough Circle Transform` respectively. In OpenCV, the shapes that can be detected are circles, and ellipses. Other shapes can be detected by using the `Hough Line Transform` or by using `Contours`.

Read More:

- [Hough Line Transform](#)
- [Hough Circle Transform](#)

2 Setup

```
[ ]: %pip install opencv-python opencv-contrib-python numpy matplotlib
```

3 Initial Setup

```
[7]: # Import Libraries
import cv2
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Asset Root
asset_root = '../..assets/'
```

4 Detection of Lines

The `Hough Line Transform` is a technique to detect lines in an image. It is a popular technique to detect any shape, if you can represent that shape in a mathematical form. It can detect the lines even if the lines are broken or distorted a little bit. It is robust in the sense that it can detect the lines even if the image is noisy.

```
[8]: # Image Path
image_path = asset_root + '/images/abstract_lines.jpg'

# Read Image and convert to RGB
input_image = cv2.cvtColor(cv2.imread(image_path), cv2.COLOR_BGR2RGB)

# Convert Image to Grayscale
gray_image = cv2.cvtColor(input_image, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)

# Display Both Image
plt.figure("Lines", figsize=(20, 10))

plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)
plt.imshow(input_image)
plt.title("Original Image")
plt.axis('off')

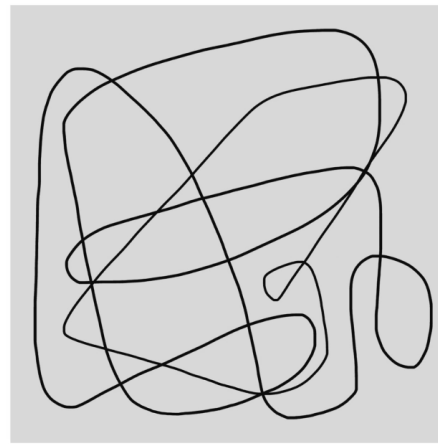
plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)
plt.imshow(gray_image, cmap='gray')
plt.title("Grayscale Image")
plt.axis('off')

plt.show()
```

Original Image



Grayscale Image



The Hough Line Transform is a transform used to detect the lines in an image. To apply the Hough Line Transform, we need to follow the following steps:

- Convert the image to a grayscale image.
- Apply the Canny Edge Detector to detect the edges.
- Apply the Hough Line Transform to detect the lines.

- Draw the lines on the original image.

The **Hough Line Transform** is implemented in OpenCV using the `cv2.HoughLinesP` function. The function takes the following parameters:

- `image`: The input image.
- `rho`: The resolution of the parameter `r` in pixels which is the distance resolution of the accumulator in pixels.
- `theta`: The resolution of the parameter `θ` in radians which is the angle resolution of the accumulator in radians.
- `threshold`: The minimum number of intersections to detect a line.
- `minLineLength`: The minimum length of the line in pixels.
- `maxLineGap`: The maximum gap between the lines in pixels.

```
[9]: # Apply Canny Edge Detection
edges = cv2.Canny(gray_image, 50, 120)

# Apply Hough Line Transform
minLineLength = 20
maxLineGap = 5
lines = cv2.HoughLinesP(edges, 1, np.pi / 180, 20, minLineLength, maxLineGap)

# Copy Image
input_image_lines = input_image.copy()

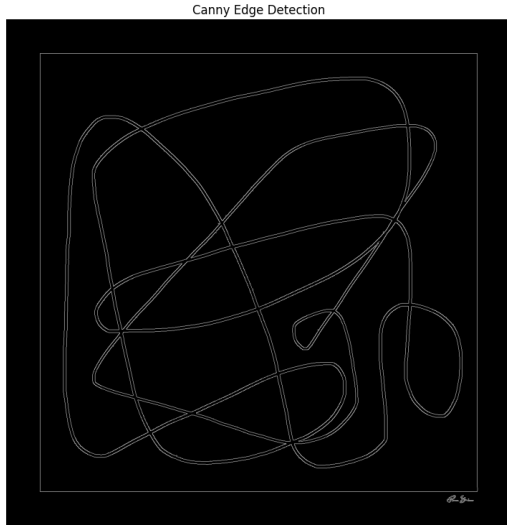
# Draw Lines on Original Image
for line in lines:
    for x1, y1, x2, y2 in line:
        cv2.line(input_image_lines, (x1, y1), (x2, y2), (255, 0, 0), 8)

# Display Image
plt.figure("Lines", figsize=(20, 10))

plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)
plt.imshow(edges, cmap='gray')
plt.title("Canny Edge Detection")
plt.axis('off')

plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)
plt.imshow(input_image_lines)
plt.title("Lines Detected")
plt.axis('off')

plt.show()
```



Read More:

- [Line Detection](#)
- [Hough Line Transform](#)
- [Canny Edge Detection](#)

5 Detection of Circles

The Hough Circle Transform is a technique to detect circles in an image. It works in a similar way to the Hough Line Transform. The Hough Circle Transform is implemented in OpenCV using the `cv2.HoughCircles` function.

```
[10]: # Image Path
image_path = asset_root + '/images/solar_system.jpg'

# Read Image and convert to RGB
input_image = cv2.cvtColor(cv2.imread(image_path), cv2.COLOR_BGR2RGB)

# Convert Image to Grayscale
gray_image = cv2.cvtColor(input_image, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)

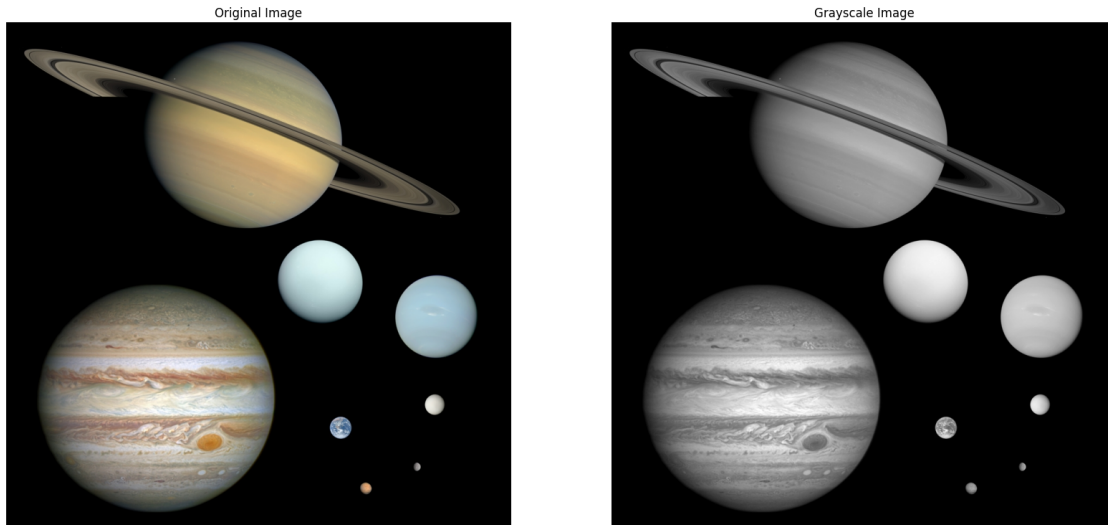
# Display Both Image
plt.figure("Solar System", figsize=(20, 10))

plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)
plt.imshow(input_image)
plt.title("Original Image")
plt.axis('off')

plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)
```

```
plt.imshow(gray_image, cmap='gray')
plt.title("Grayscale Image")
plt.axis('off')

plt.show()
```



To apply the Hough Circle Transform, we need to follow the following steps:

- Convert the image to a grayscale image.
- Apply the Median Blur to reduce the noise.
- Apply the Hough Circle Transform to detect the circles.
- Draw the circles on the original image.

The Hough Circle Transform is implemented in OpenCV using the `cv2.HoughCircles` function. The function takes the following parameters:

- `image`: The input image.
- `method`: The method of detecting the circles.
- `dp`: The inverse ratio of the accumulator resolution to the image resolution.
- `minDist`: The minimum distance between the centers of the detected circles.
- `param1`: The higher threshold of the two passed to the Canny edge detector.
- `param2`: The accumulator threshold for the circle centers at the detection stage.
- `minRadius`: The minimum radius of the circles.
- `maxRadius`: The maximum radius of the circles.

```
[11]: # Apply Median Blur
median_blur = cv2.medianBlur(gray_image, 5)

# Apply Hough Circle Transform
min_radius = 0
max_radius = 240
```

```

circles = cv2.HoughCircles(median_blur, cv2.HOUGH_GRADIENT, 1, 120, param1=100,
    ↪param2=30, minRadius=min_radius, maxRadius=max_radius)
circles = np.uint16(np.around(circles))

# Copy Image
input_image_circles = input_image.copy()

# Draw Circles on Original Image
for circle in circles[0, :]:
    center = (circle[0], circle[1])
    radius = circle[2]
    cv2.circle(input_image_circles, center, radius, (255, 0, 0), 8)

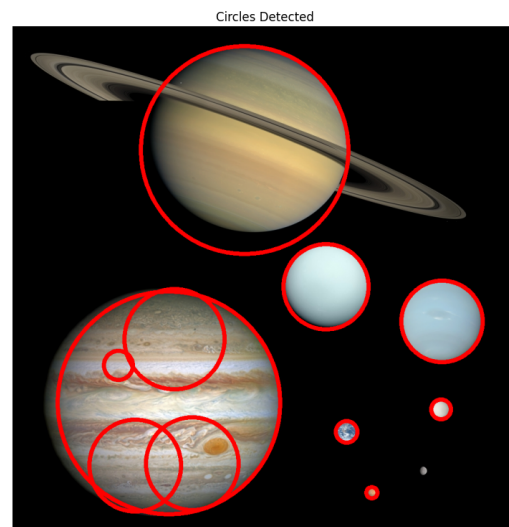
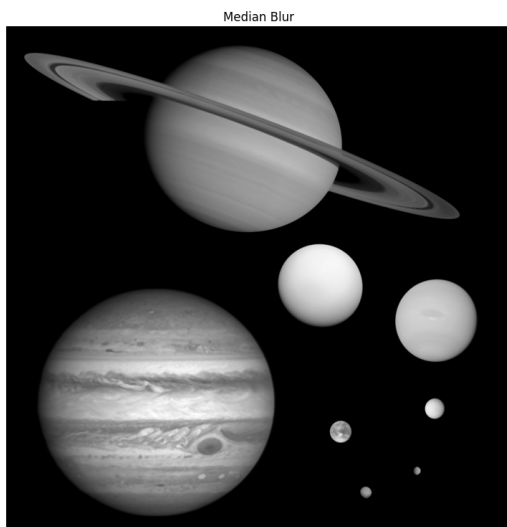
# Display Image
plt.figure("Solar System", figsize=(20, 10))

plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)
plt.imshow(median_blur, cmap='gray')
plt.title("Median Blur")
plt.axis('off')

plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)
plt.imshow(input_image_circles)
plt.title("Circles Detected")
plt.axis('off')

plt.show()

```



Read More:

- [Circle Detection](#)
- [Hough Circle Transform](#)
- [Median Blur](#)

6 Detecting Other Shapes

Finding other shapes in an image is a challenging task. The **Hough Line Transform** and the **Hough Circle Transform** can only detect lines and circles respectively. To detect other shapes, we need to use other techniques. One of the techniques is to use the **Contours** in OpenCV. This can be done using the `cv2.findContours` function along with the `cv2.approxPolyDP` function for approximating the contours.

7 Summary

- **Hough Line Transform** is used to detect lines in an image.
- **Hough Circle Transform** is used to detect circles in an image.
- **Canny Edge Detection** is used to detect edges in an image.
- **Median Blur** is used to remove noise from an image.
- For detecting shapes other than lines and circles, we can use **Contours**.

8 References

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