Applying the Histogram of Oriented Gradients Algorithm for Detecting Grass Lay Direction

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1 Abstract

Subsistence-oriented indigenous communities across Alaska rely heavily on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), a holistic understanding of their environment acquired through generations of observation and cultural transmission. Among the Anishinaabek tradition, sweet grass symbolizes wisdom and knowledge (Kimmerer, 2020), passed down from elders to younger generations. Indigenous hunters and gatherers have long observed the alignment of grass and plants after the growing season as indicative of prevailing wind directions. Predominant wind direction serves a crucial role to subsistence practitioners when hunting, fishing, settling, and keeping track of changing weather. Due to the remote and harsh conditions, traditional weather stations are absent to measure shifts in historically predominant wind directions. On islands like St. Lawrence Island in Savoonga, AK, natives have observed a shift from historically predominant northerly wind patterns to southerly and easterly and dominated winds. In a previous study Dr. Jon Rosales (Environmental Studies) and his team collected images of grass lay from St. Lawrence University's Living Laboratory and manually attempted to measure grass lay angles and relate them with wind data. This research project seeks to reinforce Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) with Scientific Ecological Knowledge (SEK) to develop our understanding of Alaskan indigenous wisdom and its relation with modern scientific findings. We investigated the Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) algorithm to automate the measurement of grass lay angles. We applied the algorithm to various images sampled from the internet and the Living Laboratory to test its viability.

2 Data

To evaluate the algorithm's performance, we collected images with varying levels of complexity. Beginning with basic geometric shapes and diagonal lines sourced from Google Images, we established a foundational data set for initial testing. We incorporated aerial cityscapes including San Francisco, Salt Lake City, and Detroit from Mapbox, aiming to assess the algorithm's ability in identifying urban grid structures such as streets and highways. Additionally, we included images of grass sourced from both Google Images and Dr. Jon Rosales (Environmental Studies) at St. Lawrence University's Living Lab. The images sourced from the Living Laboratory included aerial and close-up shots, with special attention given to aerial images which featured a northern indicator line. To ensure consistent orientation, each aerial image was manually rotated to align north facing direction upwards before analysis, with the northern indicator subsequently removed to avoid introducing artificial lines in the image.
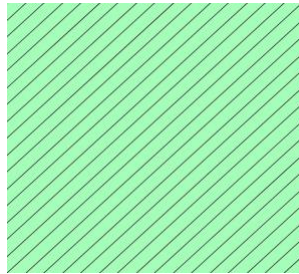
(a) Diagonal Line

(b) San Francisco, CA

(c) Aerial Image from
St. Lawrence University
Laboratory

(d) Skier Backflip
(St. Lawrence University)

Figure 2.1: Sample of Images for Evaluation

3 Methods

The HOG algorithm, introduced by Navneet Dalal and Bill Triggs in 2005 (Dalal & Triggs, 2005), is a popular technique for object detection in images. The algorithm can identify gradient magnitudes and angles at each pixel in an image. The preliminary steps involved using the 'skimage' library from Python to preprocess the images of interest. This included loading, resizing, and converting the images to grayscale. Images were rescaled to standardize their resolutions and preserve their aspect ratios to prevent distortion that could affect the accuracy of angle identification. Converting the images to grayscale was necessary because it allowed for focusing on a single channel to represent pixel intensity, rather than three channels (red, green, and blue).

(a) Colored Image with Diagonal Lines
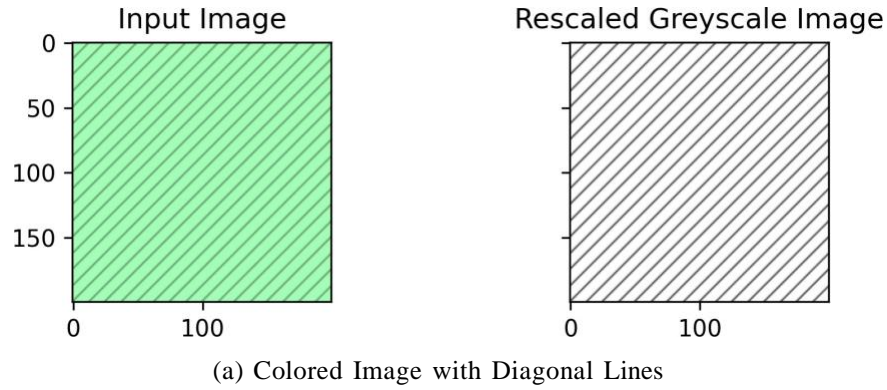
Figure 3.1: Rescaling and Converting Image to Greyscale

The HOG features were then computed for the resized images, which involved calculating the gradient magnitudes and angles at each pixel. The gradient magnitude at each pixel is comprised of the gradients in the 'x' and 'y' directions. The gradient in the x-direction is computed by subtracting the pixel value to the left of pixel of interest is subtracted from the pixel value to its right. Similarly, the gradient in the y-direction is calculated by pixel value below the pixel of interest is subtracted from the pixel value above the pixel of interest.

$$G_x = I(r, c + 1) - I(r, c - 1)$$
$$G_y = I(r + 1, c) - I(r - 1, c)$$

Now to calculate the gradient magnitude at the pixel of interest, the Pythagorean Theorem can be utilized where the gradient magnitude is equal to the square root of the x-gradient squared plus the y-gradient squared. The angle at a given pixel can be calculated by taking the inverse tangent of its y-gradient divided by its x-gradient. It is important to note all angles produced by this algorithm are between zero and one hundred eighty degrees. This occurs, because the inverse tangent function used for calculating a given pixel's angle cannot distinguish between all four quadrants.

$$Magnitude(\mu) = \sqrt{G_x^2 + G_y^2}$$

$$Angle(\Theta) = tan^{-1}(\frac{G_x}{G_y})$$
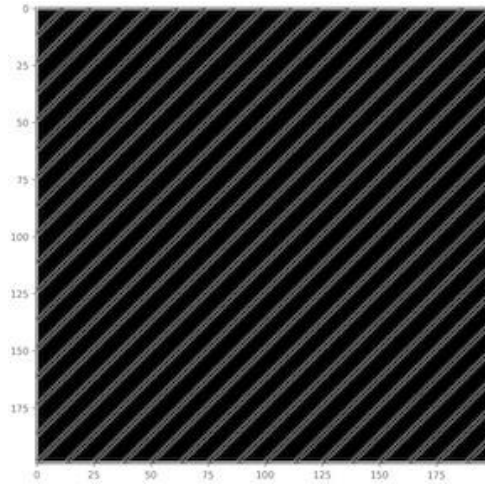
a) Gradient Magnitudes of Diagonal Lines Image

Figure 3.2: Plotting Gradient Magnitudes as Image

Next, histograms are constructed to visualize the distribution of gradient magnitudes and angles. Two different techniques for creating gradient angle histograms were implemented. The first histogram was created by counting the number of angles that fell into their respective bins. The second scheme factors in a pixel's gradient magnitude and its allocation to its bordering bins. Here, the weight assigned to each bin is calculated by the angle's deviation from the center of its central bin. This approach allows for a more representative histogram which splits angles between bins and takes their magnitudes into account. Lastly, these histograms are converted to polar histograms so the primary angles can be visualized and compared to their original images.

6

121	10	78	96	125
48	152	68	125	111
145	78	85	89	65
154	214	56	200	66
214	87	45	102	45

Magnitude		1							
Bin	0	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160

(a) Standard Technique

Magnitude = 13.6
Orientation = 36

$(40-36)/20$ $(36 - 20)/20$

Magnitude		$(4/20)*13.6$	$(16/20)*13.6$						
Bin	0	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160

(b) Distributed Technique
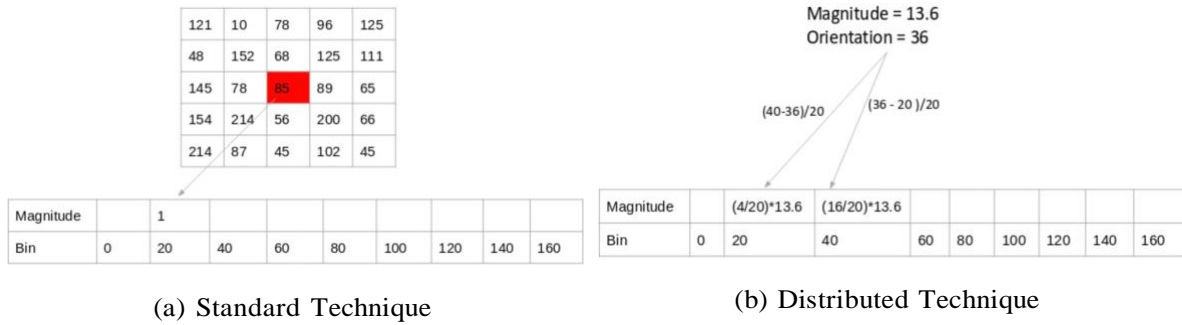
Figure 3.4: Standard and Distributed Technique for Binning Gradients Angles into Histograms (Singh, 2024)

(a) Histograms of Gradient Magnitudes

(b) Histograms of Gradient Angles

(c) Polar Plot Using Standard Technique

(d) Polar Plot using Distributed Technique
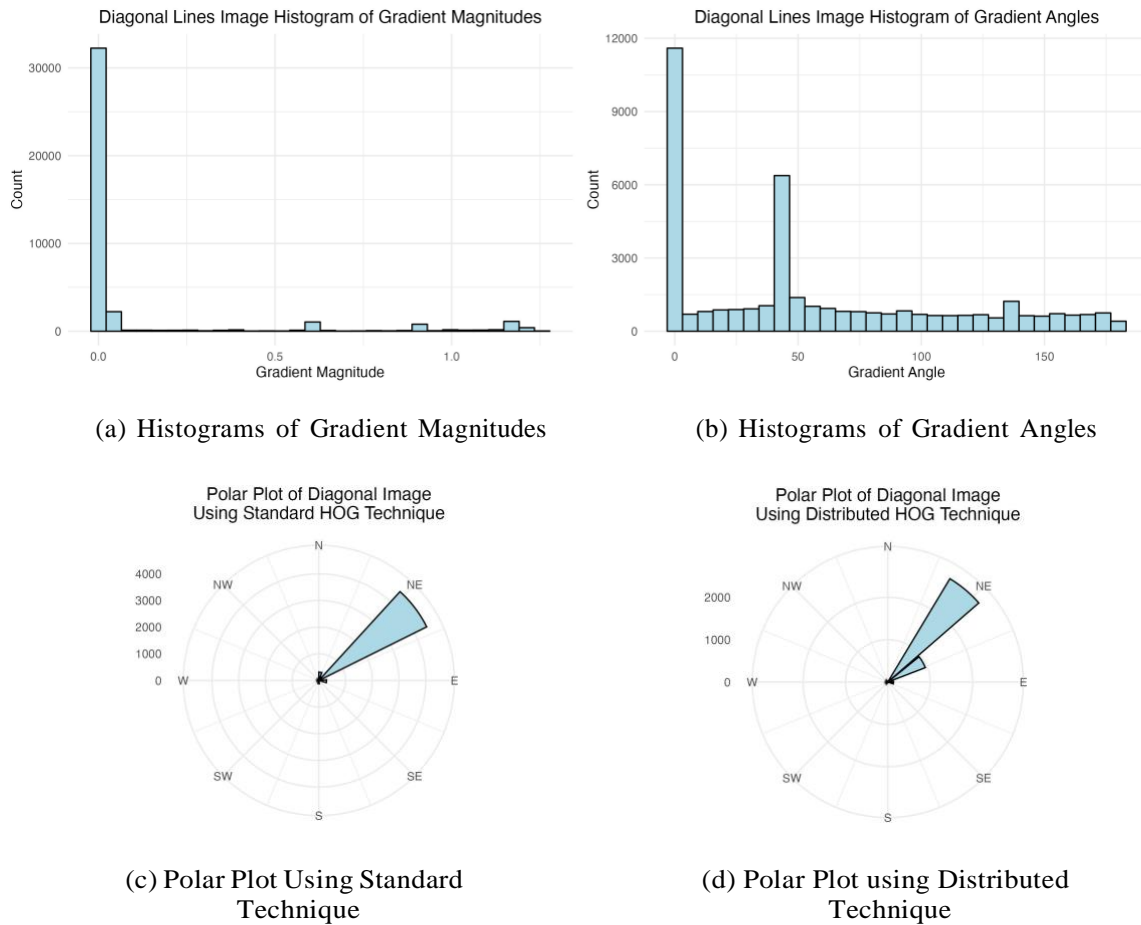
Figure 3.8: Plotting Histograms of Gradients for Diagonal Image

I

Results

4 Aerial Cityscapes

4.1 Motivation

Download aerial cityscape images from Mapbox's API of San Francisco, Salt Lake City, and Detroit to determine if the HOG algorithm is capable of identifying dominant angles of each city's grid layout.

4.2 Load R Packages and Python Libraries

```
# Load R Packages
library(reticulate)
library(tidyverse)
library(mapsapi)
library(mapboxapi)
library(magick)
```

```
# Load Python Libraries
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import pandas as pd
from skimage.io import imread, imshow
from skimage.transform import resize
from skimage.feature import hog
from skimage import data, exposure
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from skimage import io
from skimage import color
from skimage.transform import resize
import math
from skimage.feature import hog
import numpy as np
```

4.3 Download Aerial City Images from Mapbox

```r
# Get Mapbox token from System Environment
key <- Sys.getenv("mapbox_key")
```

```r
# Download map of San Francisco, CA
map <- static_mapbox(
  access_token = key,
  style_url = "mapbox://styles/mapbox/satellite-v9",
  width = 300,
  height = 200,
  image = T, latitude = 37.792004, longitude = -122.428079, zoom = 12
)

magick::image_write(map, "images/san_francisco_scale_zoom_12.png")
```

```r
# Download map of Salt Lake City, UT
points_of_interest <- tibble::tibble(
  longitude = c(-112.065945, -111.853948,
                -111.852956, -112.023371),

   latitude = c(40.794275, 40.791516,
                40.502308, 40.502308)
  )

prepped_pois <- prep_overlay_markers(
  data = points_of_interest,
  marker_type = "pin-l",
  label = 1:4,
  color = "#fff",
)

map <- static_mapbox(
  access_token = key,
  style_url = "mapbox://styles/mapbox/satellite-v9",
  width = 800,
  height = 1200,
  image = T,
  latitude = 40.7,
  longitude = -111.876183, zoom = 12
)
```

```
magick::image_write(map, "images/salt_lake_city_zoom_12.png")
```

```
# Download map of Detroit, MI
map <- static_mapbox(
  access_token = key,
  style_url = "mapbox://styles/mapbox/satellite-v9",
  width = 1200,
  height = 800,
  image = T,
  latitude = 42.336322,
  longitude = -83.048705, zoom = 12
)

magick::image_write(map, "images/detroit_zoom_12.png")
```


(a) San Francisco Cityscape

(a) Detroit Cityscape

(a) Salt Lake City Cityscape
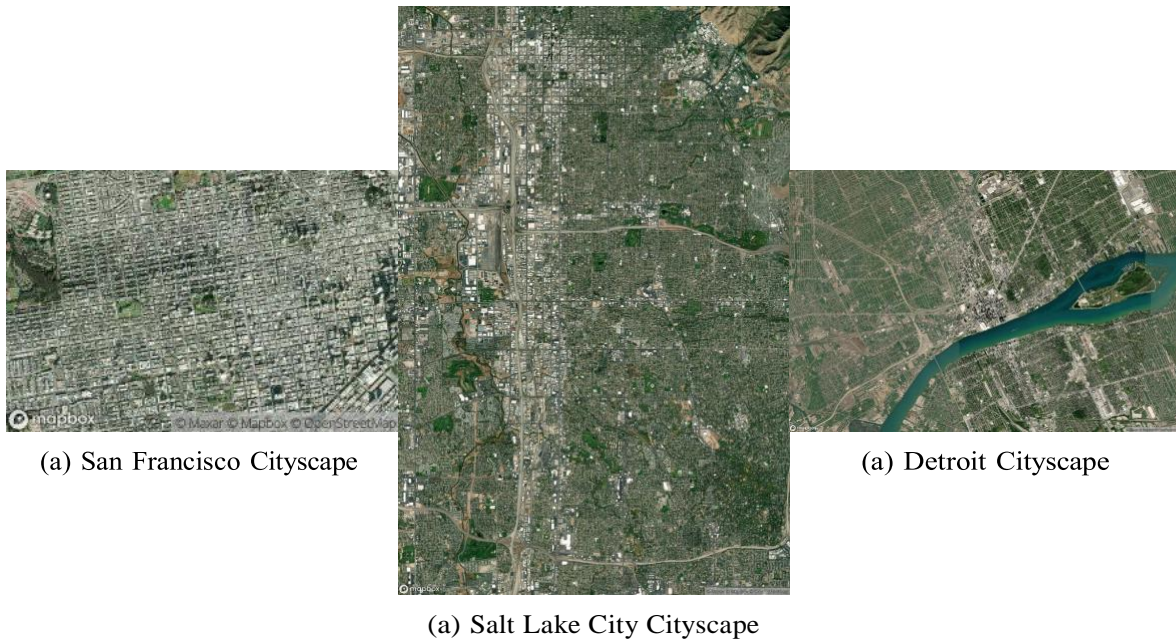
Figure 4.3: Aerial Cityscape Images

4.4 Collect HOG Features for Aerial Cityscapes

```python
# List for storing images
img_list = []

# SF aerial
img_list.append(color.rgb2gray(
  io.imread("images/san_francisco_scale_zoom_12.png")))

# Salt Lake City Aerial
img_list.append(color.rgb2gray(
  io.imread("images/salt_lake_city_zoom_12.png")))

# Detroit Aerial
img_list.append(color.rgb2gray(io.imread("images/detroit_zoom_12.png")))

# List to store magnitudes for each image
mag_list = []

# List to store angles for each image
theta_list = []


for x in range(len(img_list)):
    # Get image of interest
    img = img_list[x]

    rescaled_file_path = f"images/plots/aerial_cities/{x}.jpg"

    # Determine aspect Ratio
    aspect_ratio = img.shape[0] / img.shape[1]
    print("Aspect Ratio:", aspect_ratio)

    # Hard-Code height to 200 pixels
    height = 200

    # Calculate witdth to maintain same aspect ratio
    width = int(height / aspect_ratio)
    print("Resized Width:", width)

    # Resize the image
    resized_img = resize(img, (height, width))
```

```python
    # Replace the original image with the resized image
    img_list[x] = resized_img

    # if (x == 1):
    #   plot_width = 8
    #   plot_height = 15
    # else:
    #  plot_width = 15
    #  plot_height = 9
    #
    # plt.figure(figsize=(plot_width, plot_height))
    # plt.imshow(resized_img, cmap="gray")
    # plt.axis("on")
    # plt.tight_layout()
    # plt.savefig(rescaled_file_path, dpi=300)
    # plt.show()


    # list for storing all magnitudes for image[x]
    mag = []

    # list for storing all angles for image[x]
    theta = []

    for i in range(height):
        magnitudeArray = []
        angleArray = []

        for j in range(width):
            if j - 1 < 0 or j + 1 >= width:
                if j - 1 < 0:
                    Gx = resized_img[i][j + 1] - 0
                elif j + 1 >= width:
                    Gx = 0 - resized_img[i][j - 1]
            else:
                Gx = resized_img[i][j + 1] - resized_img[i][j - 1]

            if i - 1 < 0 or i + 1 >= height:
                if i - 1 < 0:
                    Gy = 0 - resized_img[i + 1][j]
                elif i + 1 >= height:
                    Gy = resized_img[i - 1][j] - 0
```

```python
            else:
                Gy = resized_img[i + 1][j] - resized_img[i - 1][j]

            magnitude = math.sqrt(pow(Gx, 2) + pow(Gy, 2))
            magnitudeArray.append(round(magnitude, 9))

            if Gx == 0:
                angle = math.degrees(0.0)
            else:
                angle = math.degrees(math.atan(Gy / Gx))
                if angle < 0:
                    angle += 180

            angleArray.append(round(angle, 9))

        mag.append(magnitudeArray)
        theta.append(angleArray)

    # add list of magnitudes to list[x]
    mag_list.append(mag)

    # add list of angles to angle list[x]
    theta_list.append(theta)
```

```
Aspect Ratio: 0.6666666666666666
Resized Width: 300
Aspect Ratio: 1.5
Resized Width: 133
Aspect Ratio: 0.6666666666666666
Resized Width: 300
```

(a) San Francisco, CA
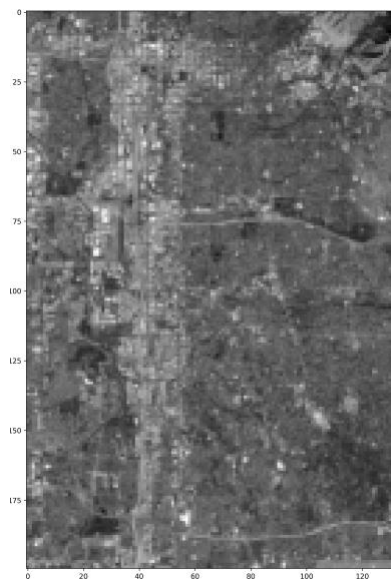
(a) Salt Lake City, UT

(a) Detroit, MI

Figure 4.6: Aerial Cityscape Images Re-scaled and Converted to Grayscale

4.5 Extract Gradient Magnitudes and Angles from each Aerial Cityscape

```python
# San Francisco DF of gradient magnitudes and angles
mag_sf = np.array(mag_list[0])
theta_sf = np.array(theta_list[0])

# Salt Lake City DF of gradient magnitudes and angles
mag_salt_lake = np.array(mag_list[1])
theta_salt_lake = np.array(theta_list[1])

# Detorit DF of gradient magnitudes and angles
mag_detroit = np.array(mag_list[2])
theta_detroit = np.array(theta_list[2])
```

4.6 Plot Gradient Magnitudes as Image for each Aerial Cityscape

```
# Save gradient magnitudes of San Francisco in image form

# plt.figure(figsize=(15, 8))
# #plt.title('San Francisco, CA Gradient Magnitudes')
# plt.imshow(mag_list[0], cmap="gray")
# plt.axis("on")
# #plt.show()
# plt.tight_layout()
# plt.savefig("images/plots/aerial_cities/sf_mag.png", dpi=300)
```

```
# Save gradient magnitudes of Salt Lake City in image form

# plt.figure(figsize=(8, 15))
# #plt.title('Salt Lake City, UT Gradient Magnitudes')
# plt.imshow(mag_list[1], cmap="gray")
# plt.axis("on")
# #plt.show()
# plt.tight_layout()
# plt.savefig("images/plots/aerial_cities/salt_lake_mag.png", dpi=300)
```

```
# Save gradient magnitudes of Detroit in image form

# plt.figure(figsize=(15, 8))
# #plt.title('Detroit, MI Gradient Magnitudes')
# plt.imshow(mag_list[2], cmap="gray")
# plt.axis("on")
# #plt.show()
# plt.tight_layout()
# plt.savefig("images/plots/aerial_cities/detroit_mag.png", dpi=300)
```

(a) San Francisco, CA

(a) Detroit, MI
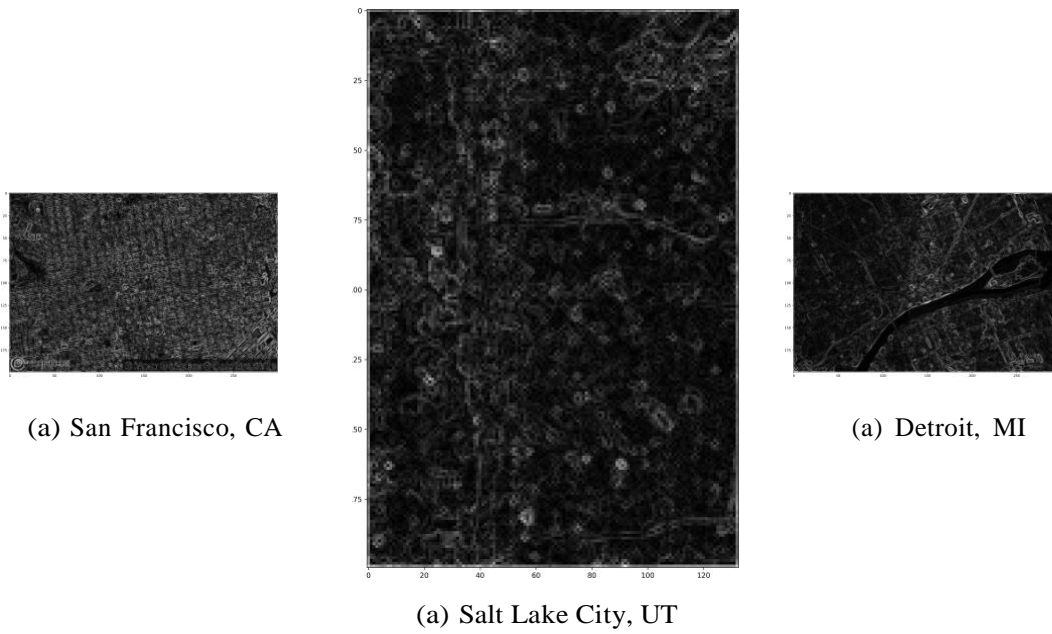
(a) Salt Lake City, UT

Figure 4.9: Image of Aerial Cityscape Magnitudes

4.7 Create Data Frame for Each Image

```r
# San Francisco DF
sf_hog_df <- data.frame(mag = as.vector(py$mag_sf),
                        theta = as.vector((py$theta_sf))) %>%
  mutate(radian = theta*(pi/180))


# Salt Lake City DF
salt_lake_hog_df <- data.frame(mag = as.vector(py$mag_salt_lake),
                        theta = as.vector((py$theta_salt_lake))) %>%
  mutate(radian = theta*(pi/180))


# Detroit DF
detroit_hog_df <- data.frame(mag = as.vector(py$mag_detroit),
                        theta = as.vector((py$theta_detroit))) %>%
  mutate(radian = theta*(pi/180))


# List of all Data frames
standard_df_list = list(sf_hog_df,
                        salt_lake_hog_df,
                        detroit_hog_df)
```

4.8 Create Histograms of Gradient Magnitudes and Angles for Aerial Cityscapes

```r
# SF histogram of gradient mags
sf_histogram_mag_plot <-
  ggplot(standard_df_list[[1]],
         aes(x = mag)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Magnitude",
       y = "Count",
       title = "San Francisco Cityscape Image Histogram of Gradient Magnitudes"
       ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# sf mag filter level
sf_mag_filter <- 0.4

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/sf_histogram_mag_plot.jpg",
       sf_histogram_mag_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```

```r
# SF histogram of gradient angles
sf_histogram_theta_plot <-
  ggplot(standard_df_list[[1]],
         aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Angle",
       y = "Count",
       title = "San Francisco Cityscape Image Histogram of Gradient Angles"
       ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/sf_histogram_theta_plot.jpg",
```

```r
        sf_histogram_theta_plot,
        width = 6,
        height = 4,
        dpi = 300)


# slc histogram of gradient mags
salt_lake_histogram_mag_plot <-
 ggplot(standard_df_list[[2]],
        aes(x = mag)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Magnitude",
       y = "Count",
       title = "Salt Lake City Image Histogram of Gradient Magnitudes"
       ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# SLC mag filter level
salt_lake_mag_filter <- 0.12

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/salt_lake_histogram_mag_plot.jpg",
       salt_lake_histogram_mag_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)


# slc histogram of gradient angles
 salt_lake_histogram_theta_plot <-
  ggplot(standard_df_list[[2]],
        aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Angle",
       y = "Count",
       title = "Salt Lake City Image Histogram of Gradient Angles"
       ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
```

```r
ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/salt_lake_histogram_theta_plot.jpg",
       salt_lake_histogram_theta_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```

```r
# Detroit histogram of gradient mags
detroit_histogram_mag_plot <-
  ggplot(standard_df_list[[3]],
         aes(x = mag)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Magnitude",
       y = "Count",
       title = "Detroit Image Histogram of Gradient Magnitudes"
       ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# Detroit mag filter level
detroit_mag_filter <- 0.15

ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/detroit_histogram_mag_plot.jpg",
       detroit_histogram_mag_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```

```r
# Detroit histogram of gradient angles
detroit_histogram_theta_plot <-
  ggplot(standard_df_list[[3]],
         aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Angle",
       y = "Count",
       title = "Detroit, MI Image Histogram of Gradient Angles"
       ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
```
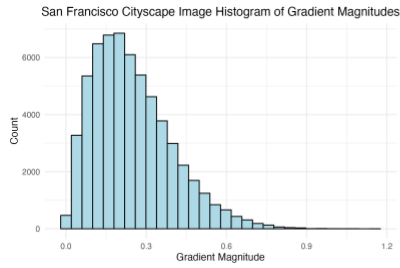
```
ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/detroit_histogram_theta_plot.jpg",
        detroit_histogram_theta_plot,
        width = 6,
        height = 4,
        dpi = 300)
```
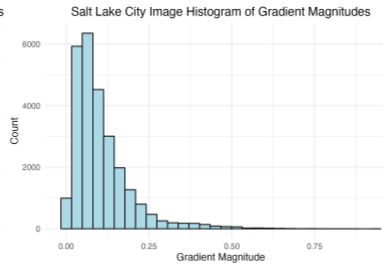

| (c) San Francisco, CA Gradient Magnitudes | (b) Salt Lake City, UT Gradient Magnitudes | (a) Detroit, MI Gradient Magnitudes |

| (f) San Francisco, CA Gradient Angles | (e) Salt Lake City, UT Gradient Angles | (d) Detroit, MI Gradient Angles |
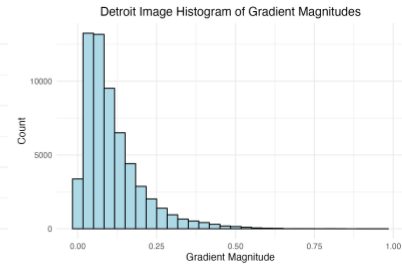
Figure 4.15: Aerial Cityscape Histograms of Magnitudes and Angles

4.9 Build New Distributed Histogram Data Frames

```r
# function to calculate the contributions to neighboring bins
calculate_bin_contributions <- function(angle, magnitude, num_bins) {
  bin_width <- 180 / num_bins
  contributions <- numeric(num_bins)

  # get the central bin
  central_bin <- floor(angle / bin_width) %% num_bins
  next_bin <- (central_bin + 1) %% num_bins

  # get contributions to neighboring bins
  weight <- (1 - abs((angle %% bin_width) / bin_width)) * magnitude

  contributions[central_bin + 1] <- weight
  contributions[next_bin + 1] <- magnitude - weight

  return(list(contributions[1],
         contributions[2],
         contributions[3],
         contributions[4],
         contributions[5],
         contributions[6],
         contributions[7],
         contributions[8],
         contributions[9])
         )
}
```
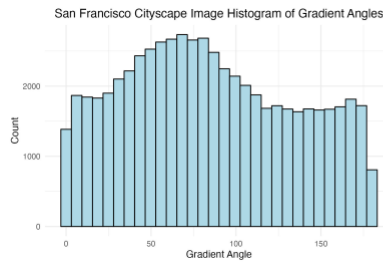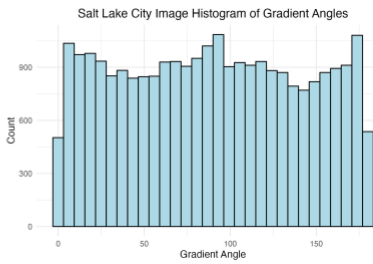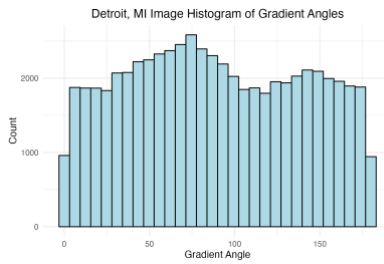
```r
# Create filtered data frames using the filter levels
# for magnitudes defined above, store all in a list
filtered_aerial_standard_df_list <-list(sf_hog_df %>%
                                    filter(mag >= sf_mag_filter),
                                salt_lake_hog_df %>%
                                    filter(mag >= salt_lake_mag_filter),
                                detroit_hog_df %>%
                                    filter(mag >= detroit_mag_filter))
```

```r
# empty list for storing new distributed histogram data frames
aerial_contribution_df_list <- list()

# Define the number of bins
```

```r
num_bins <- 9

# iterate through each filtered standard data frame
for (i in 1:length(filtered_aerial_standard_df_list)){

  aerial_contribution_hog_df <-
    filtered_aerial_standard_df_list[[i]] %>%
    rowwise() %>%
    mutate(`0` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[1]],
           `20` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[2]],
           `40` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[3]],
           `60` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[4]],
           `80` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[5]],
           `100` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[6]],
           `120` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[7]],
           `140` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[8]],
           `160` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[9]],
           )

  # rearrange into same tidy format
  aerial_split_histo_df <-
    aerial_contribution_hog_df %>%
    pivot_longer(names_to = "bin",
                 values_to = "contribution",
                 cols = 4:ncol(aerial_contribution_hog_df)) %>%
    mutate(bin = as.numeric(bin)) %>%
    group_by(bin) %>%
    summarise(contribution_sum = sum(contribution))

  # add to list for storage
  aerial_contribution_df_list[[i]] <- aerial_split_histo_df

}
```

4.10 Generate Polar Plots for Images Using Standard Histogram Binning Technique

```r
# SF polar plot
sf_plot <-
  ggplot(filtered_aerial_standard_df_list[[1]],
         aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
                 breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                 bins = 9) +
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  )+
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of San Francisco, CA Image
       Using Standard HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "") +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/sf_standard_polar_plot.jpg",
       sf_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```

```r
# SLC plot
salt_lake_plot <-
  ggplot(filtered_aerial_standard_df_list[[2]],
         aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
                 breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                 bins = 9) +
```

```r
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  )+
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of Salt Lake City, UT Image
      Using Standard HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "")  +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
      plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/salt_lake_standard_polar_plot.jpg",
      salt_lake_plot,
      width = 6,
      height = 4,
      dpi = 300)
```

```r
# Detroit plot
detroit_plot <-
  ggplot(filtered_aerial_standard_df_list[[3]],
        aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black",
                fill = "lightblue",
                breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                bins = 9) +
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  )+
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of Detroit, MI Image
      Using Standard HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "")  +
```

```
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/detroit_standard_polar_plot.jpg",
       detroit_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```

```
# Save to an arranged image
all_standard_city_plots <- ggpubr::ggarrange(sf_plot,
                                             salt_lake_plot,
                                             detroit_plot)

ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/all_standard_polar_plots.jpg",
       all_standard_city_plots,
       width = 7,
       height = 7)
```


(a) San Francisco, CA   (b) Salt Lake City, UT   (c) Detroit, MI

Figure 4.18: Polar Plots using Standard Binning Technique for Aerial Cityscapes

4.11 Generate Polar Plots for Images Using Distributed Histogram Binning Technique

```r
# SF plot
sf_split_plot <-
  ggplot(aerial_contribution_df_list[[1]],
         aes(x = bin, y = contribution_sum)) +
  geom_histogram(stat = "identity",
                 colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
                 breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                 bins = 9) +
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  )+
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of San Francisco, CA Image
       Using Distributed HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "") +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/sf_contribution_polar_plot.jpg",
       sf_split_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```
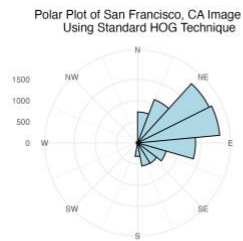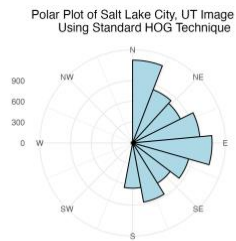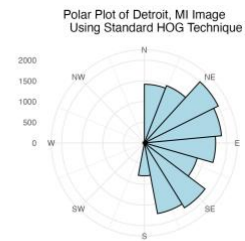
```r
# SLC plot
salt_lake_split_plot <-
  ggplot(aerial_contribution_df_list[[2]],
         aes(x = bin, y = contribution_sum)) +
  geom_histogram(stat = "identity",
                 colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
```

```r
                     breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                     bins = 9) +
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  ) +
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of Salt Lake City, UT Image
       Using Distributed HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "") +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/salt_lake_contribution_polar_plot.jpg",
       salt_lake_split_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```

```r
# Detroit plot
detroit_split_plot <-
  ggplot(aerial_contribution_df_list[[3]],
         aes(x = bin, y = contribution_sum)) +
  geom_histogram(stat = "identity",
                 colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
                 breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                 bins = 9) +
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  ) +
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of Detroit, MI Image
```

```
      Using Distributed HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "") +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/detroit_contribution_polar_plot.jpg",
       detroit_split_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```

```
# Save to an arranged image
all_aerial_contribution_plots <- ggpubr::ggarrange(sf_split_plot,
                                                   salt_lake_split_plot,
                                                   detroit_split_plot)

ggsave("images/plots/aerial_cities/all_aerial_contribution_plots.jpg",
       all_aerial_contribution_plots,
       width = 7,
       height = 7)
```
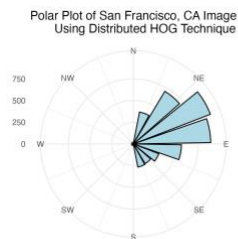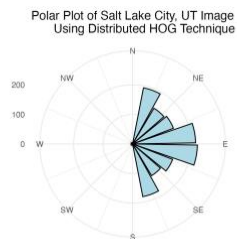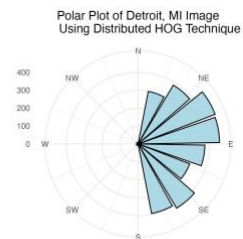

(a) San Francisco, CA   (b) Salt Lake City, UT   (c) Detroit, MI

Figure 4.21: Polar Plots using Distributed Binning Technique for Aerial Cityscapes

4.12 Discussion

The San Francisco image delivered the most promising results due to its closer zoom level compared to the Salt Lake City and Detroit images. Angles in the seventy-degree range emerged as the most frequent, accurately reflecting the slightly diagonal west-east streets of downtown San Francisco. The layout of Salt Lake City significantly influenced the results of its polar plot. With its narrow vertical grid layout, the city exhibited a higher frequency of vertical angles and a smaller yet significant occurrence of horizontal gradient angles. For the images of San Francisco and Detroit, the outcomes between the Standard and Distributed binning techniques exhibited similar results. However, for Salt Lake City, the Distributed technique notably favored a higher frequency of both vertical and horizontal angles.

5 Grass Images

5.1 Motivation

Use images from the internet and St. Lawrence University's Living Laboratory to determine if the HOG algorithm can identify dominant angles of grass lay.

5.2 Input Images

(a) Internet Grass Image   (b) Living Lab Aerial Image   (c) Living Lab Close-Up Image

Figure 5.3: Input Grass Images

5.3 Load R Packages and Python Libraries

```r
# Load R Packages
library(reticulate)
library(tidyverse)
library(mapsapi)
library(mapboxapi)
library(magick)
```

```python
# Load Python Libraries
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import pandas as pd
from skimage.io import imread, imshow
from skimage.transform import resize
from skimage.feature import hog
from skimage import data, exposure
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from skimage import io
from skimage import color
from skimage.transform import resize
import math
from skimage.feature import hog
import numpy as np
```

5.4 Collect HOG Features for Grass Images

```python
# List for storing images
img_list = []

# Internet Grass Image
img_list.append(color.rgb2gray(io.imread("images/grass_image2.jpg")))

# Living Lab Rotated Aerial Grass
img_list.append(
  color.rgb2gray(
    io.imread("images/living_lab_aerial/aerial_grass_living_lab_rotated.jpg")))

# Living Lab Grass Close-up
img_list.append(
  color.rgb2gray(
    io.imread("images/living_lab_aerial/LL_zoomed_in_12.jpg")
    )
    )

# List to store magnitudes for each image
mag_list = []

# List to store angles for each image
theta_list = []


for x in range(len(img_list)):
    # Get image of interest
    img = img_list[x]

    rescaled_file_path = f"images/plots/grass/{x}.jpg"

    # Determine aspect Ratio
    aspect_ratio = img.shape[0] / img.shape[1]
    print("Aspect Ratio:", aspect_ratio)

    # Hard-Code height to 200 pixels
    height = 200

    # Calculate witdth to maintain same aspect ratio
    width = int(height / aspect_ratio)
```

```python
    print("Resized Width:", width)

    # Resize the image
    resized_img = resize(img, (height, width))

    # Replace the original image with the resized image
    img_list[x] = resized_img

    # plt.figure(figsize=(plot_width, plot_height))
    # plt.imshow(resized_img, cmap="gray")
    # plt.axis("on")
    # plt.tight_layout()
    # plt.savefig(rescaled_file_path, dpi=300)
    # plt.show()


    # list for storing all magnitudes for image[x]
    mag = []

    # list for storing all angles for image[x]
    theta = []

    for i in range(height):
        magnitudeArray = []
        angleArray = []

        for j in range(width):
            if j - 1 < 0 or j + 1 >= width:
                if j - 1 < 0:
                    Gx = resized_img[i][j + 1] - 0
                elif j + 1 >= width:
                    Gx = 0 - resized_img[i][j - 1]
            else:
                Gx = resized_img[i][j + 1] - resized_img[i][j - 1]

            if i - 1 < 0 or i + 1 >= height:
                if i - 1 < 0:
                    Gy = 0 - resized_img[i + 1][j]
                elif i + 1 >= height:
                    Gy = resized_img[i - 1][j] - 0
            else:
                Gy = resized_img[i + 1][j] - resized_img[i - 1][j]
```

```python
            magnitude = math.sqrt(pow(Gx, 2) + pow(Gy, 2))
            magnitudeArray.append(round(magnitude, 9))

            if Gx == 0:
                angle = math.degrees(0.0)
            else:
                angle = math.degrees(math.atan(Gy / Gx))
                if angle < 0:
                    angle += 180

            angleArray.append(round(angle, 9))

        mag.append(magnitudeArray)
        theta.append(angleArray)

    # add list of magnitudes to list[x]
    mag_list.append(mag)

    # add list of angles to angle list[x]
    theta_list.append(theta)
```
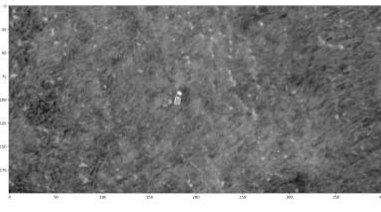
```
Aspect Ratio: 0.662751677852349
Resized Width: 301
Aspect Ratio: 0.4904214559386973
Resized Width: 407
Aspect Ratio: 0.5625
Resized Width: 355
```
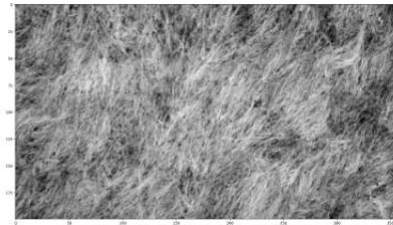

(a) Internet Grass Image   (b) Living Lab Aerial Image   (c) Living Lab Close-Up Image

Figure 5.6: Grass Images Re-Scaled and Converted to Grayscale

5.5 Extract Gradient Magnitudes and Angles from each Grass Image

```python
# Internet grass DF of gradient magnitudes and angles
mag_internet_grass = np.array(mag_list[0])
theta_internet_grass = np.array(theta_list[0])

# Aerial Living Lab DF of gradient magnitudes and angles
mag_aerial_living_lab = np.array(mag_list[1])
theta_aerial_living_lab = np.array(theta_list[1])

# Close-up Living Lab DF of gradient magnitudes and angles
mag_close_up_living_lab = np.array(mag_list[2])
theta_close_up_living_lab = np.array(theta_list[2])
```

5.6   Plot Gradient Magnitudes as Image for each Grass Image

```
# Save gradient magnitudes of Internet Grass in image form

# plt.figure(figsize=(15, 8))
# #plt.title('San Francisco, CA Gradient Magnitudes')
# plt.imshow(mag_list[0], cmap="gray")
# plt.axis("on")
# #plt.show()
# plt.tight_layout()
# plt.savefig("images/plots/grass/internet_grass_mag.png", dpi=300)
```

```
# Save gradient magnitudes of Aerial Living Lab in image form

# plt.figure(figsize=(15, 8))
# #plt.title('Salt Lake City, UT Gradient Magnitudes')
# plt.imshow(mag_list[1], cmap="gray")
# plt.axis("on")
# #plt.show()
# plt.tight_layout()
# plt.savefig("images/plots/grass/aerial_living_lab_grass_mag.png", dpi=300)
```

```
# Save gradient magnitudes of Close-Up Living Lab in image form

# plt.figure(figsize=(15, 8))
# #plt.title('Detroit, MI Gradient Magnitudes')
# plt.imshow(mag_list[2], cmap="gray")
# plt.axis("on")
# #plt.show()
# plt.tight_layout()
# plt.savefig("images/plots/grass/close_up_living_lab_grass_mag.png", dpi=300)
```
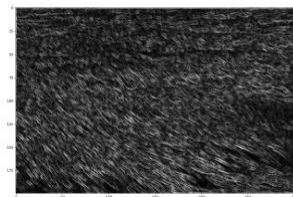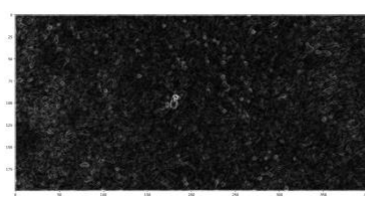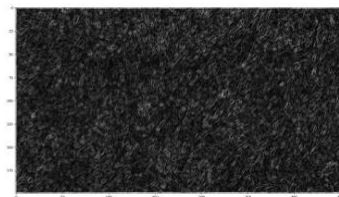

(a) Internet Grass   (b) Aerial Living Lab   (c) Close-Up Living Lab

Figure 5.9: Grass Image Magnitudes

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5.7 Create Data Frame for Each Image

```r
# Internet grass DF
internet_grass_hog_df <-
  data.frame(mag = as.vector(py$mag_internet_grass),
             theta = as.vector((py$theta_internet_grass))) %>%
  mutate(radian = theta*(pi/180))


# Aerial Living Lab DF
aerial_living_lab_hog_df <-
  data.frame(mag = as.vector(py$mag_aerial_living_lab),
             theta = as.vector((py$theta_aerial_living_lab))) %>%
  mutate(radian = theta*(pi/180))


# Close-up Living Lab DF
close_up_living_lab_hog_df <-
  data.frame(mag = as.vector(py$mag_close_up_living_lab),
             theta = as.vector((py$theta_close_up_living_lab))) %>%
  mutate(radian = theta*(pi/180))


# List of all Data frames
grass_standard_df_list = list(internet_grass_hog_df,
                       aerial_living_lab_hog_df,
                       close_up_living_lab_hog_df)
```

5.8 Create Histograms of Gradient Magnitudes and Angles for Grass Images

```r
# Internet grass image histogram of gradient mags
internet_grass_histogram_mag_plot <-
  ggplot(grass_standard_df_list[[1]],
         aes(x = mag)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Magnitude",
       y = "Count",
       title = "Internet Grass Image Histogram of Gradient Magnitudes"
       ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# Internet grass mag filter
internet_grass_mag_filter <- 0.3

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/grass/internet_grass_histogram_mag_plot.jpg",
       internet_grass_histogram_mag_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```

```r
# Internet grass image histogram of gradient angles
internet_grass_histogram_theta_plot <-
  ggplot(grass_standard_df_list[[1]],
         aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Angle",
       y = "Count",
       title = "Internet Grass Image Histogram of Gradient Angles"
       ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/grass/internet_grass_histogram_theta_plot.jpg",
```

```r
        internet_grass_histogram_theta_plot,
        width = 6,
        height = 4,
        dpi = 300)

# Aerial Living Lab image histogram of gradient mags
aerial_living_lab_histogram_mag_plot <-
  ggplot(grass_standard_df_list[[2]],
         aes(x = mag)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Magnitude",
       y = "Count",
       title = "Aerial Living Lab Image Histogram of Gradient Magnitudes"
  ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# Aerial Living Lab mag filter
aerial_living_lab_mag_filter <- 0.08

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/grass/aerial_living_lab_histogram_mag_plot.jpg",
       aerial_living_lab_histogram_mag_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)

# Aerial Living Lab image histogram of gradient angles
aerial_living_lab_histogram_theta_plot <-
  ggplot(grass_standard_df_list[[2]],
         aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Angle",
       y = "Count",
       title = "Aerial Living Lab Image Histogram of Gradient Angles"
  ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
```

```r
ggsave("images/plots/grass/aerial_living_lab_histogram_theta_plot.jpg",
       aerial_living_lab_histogram_theta_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)


# Close-up Living Lab image histogram of gradient mags
close_up_living_lab_histogram_mag_plot <-
  ggplot(grass_standard_df_list[[3]],
         aes(x = mag)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Magnitude",
       y = "Count",
       title = "Close-Up Living Lab Histogram of Gradient Magnitudes"
       ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))


# Close-up mag filter
close_up_living_lab_mag_filter <- 0.12


# save image
ggsave("images/plots/grass/close_up_living_lab_histogram_mag_plot.jpg",
       close_up_living_lab_histogram_mag_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)


# Close-up Living Lab image histogram of gradient angles
close_up_living_lab_histogram_theta_plot <-
  ggplot(grass_standard_df_list[[3]],
         aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Angle",
       y = "Count",
       title = "Close-Up Living Lab Image Histogram of Gradient Angles"
       ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))
```

```
# save image
ggsave("images/plots/grass/close_up_living_lab_histogram_theta_plot.jpg",
       close_up_living_lab_histogram_theta_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```
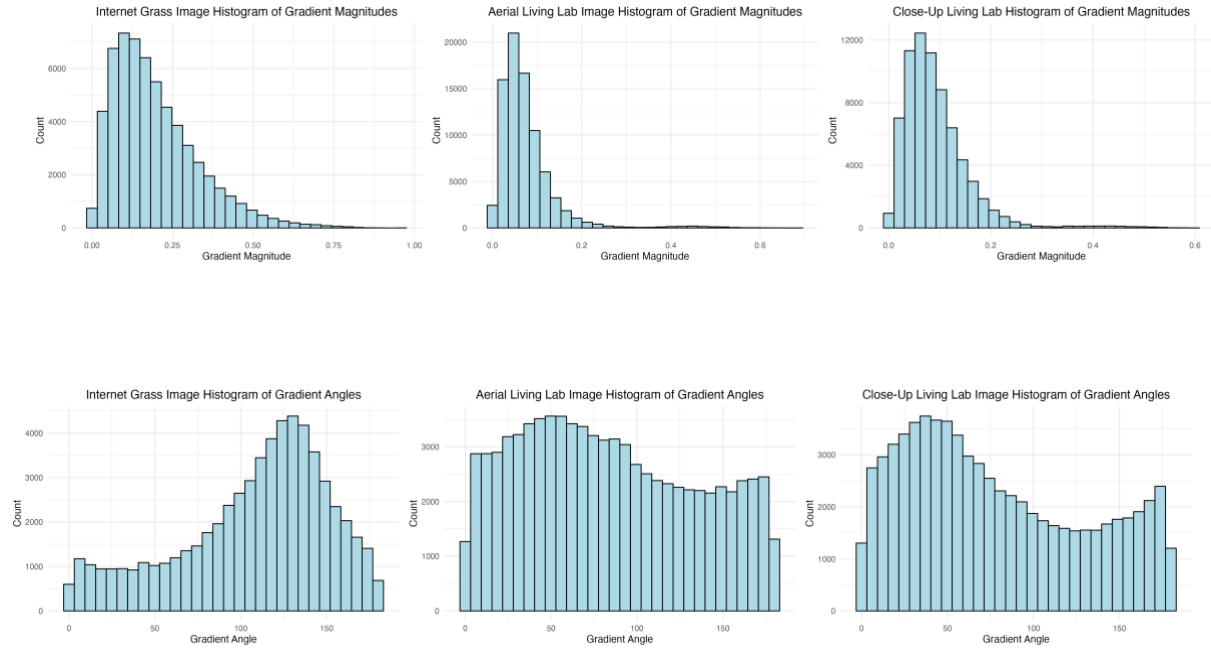

Figure 5.15: Grass Image Magnitudes and Angles

5.9 Build New Distributed Histogram Data Frames for Grass Images

```r
calculate_bin_contributions <- function(angle, magnitude, num_bins) {
  bin_width <- 180 / num_bins
  contributions <- numeric(num_bins)

  # get the central bin
  central_bin <- floor(angle / bin_width) %% num_bins
  next_bin <- (central_bin + 1) %% num_bins

  # get contributions to neighboring bins
  weight <- (1 - abs((angle %% bin_width) / bin_width)) * magnitude

  contributions[central_bin + 1] <- weight
  contributions[next_bin + 1] <- magnitude - weight

  return(list(contributions[1],
         contributions[2],
         contributions[3],
         contributions[4],
         contributions[5],
         contributions[6],
         contributions[7],
         contributions[8],
         contributions[9])
         )
}
```

```r
# Create filtered data frames using the filter levels for
# magnitudes defined above, store all in a list
filtered_grass_standard_df_list <-
  list(internet_grass_hog_df %>%
         filter(mag >= internet_grass_mag_filter),
       aerial_living_lab_hog_df %>%
         filter(mag >= aerial_living_lab_mag_filter),
       close_up_living_lab_hog_df %>%
         filter(mag >= close_up_living_lab_mag_filter))
```

```r
# empty list for storing new distributed histogram data frames
grass_contribution_df_list <- list()
```

```r
# Define the number of bins
num_bins <- 9

# iterate through each filtered standard data frame
for (i in 1:length(filtered_grass_standard_df_list)){

  grass_contribution_hog_df <-
    filtered_grass_standard_df_list[[i]] %>%
    rowwise() %>%
    mutate(`0` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[1]],
           `20` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[2]],
           `40` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[3]],
           `60` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[4]],
           `80` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[5]],
           `100` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[6]],
           `120` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[7]],
           `140` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[8]],
           `160` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[9]],
           )

    # rearrange into same tidy format
  grass_split_histo_df <-
    grass_contribution_hog_df %>%
    pivot_longer(names_to = "bin",
                 values_to = "contribution",
                 cols = 4:ncol(grass_contribution_hog_df)) %>%
    mutate(bin = as.numeric(bin)) %>%
    group_by(bin) %>%
    summarise(contribution_sum = sum(contribution))

  # add to list for storage
  grass_contribution_df_list[[i]] <- grass_split_histo_df

}
```

5.10 Generate Polar Plots for Images Using Standard Histogram Binning Technique

```r
# Internet grass plot
internet_grass_plot <-
  ggplot(filtered_grass_standard_df_list[[1]],
         aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
                 breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                 bins = 9) +
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  )+
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of Internet Grass Image
       Using Standard HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "") +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/grass/internet_grass_standard_polar_plot.jpg",
       internet_grass_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```

```r
# Aerial Living Lab plot
aerial_living_lab_plot <-
  ggplot(filtered_grass_standard_df_list[[2]],
         aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
                 breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                 bins = 9) +
```

```r
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  )+
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of Aerial Living Lab Image
       Using Standard HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "")  +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/grass/aerial_living_lab_standard_polar_plot.jpg",
       aerial_living_lab_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```

```r
# Close-up Living Lab plot
close_up_living_lab_plot <-
  ggplot(filtered_grass_standard_df_list[[3]],
         aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
                 breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                 bins = 9) +
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  )+
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of Close-Up Living Lab Image
       Using Standard HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "")  +
```

```
    theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))


# save image
ggsave("images/plots/grass/close_up_living_lab_standard_polar_plot.jpg",
        close_up_living_lab_plot,
        width = 6,
        height = 4,
        dpi = 300)
```

```
# Save to an arranged image
all_standard_grass_plots <- ggpubr::ggarrange(internet_grass_plot,
                                              aerial_living_lab_plot,
                                              close_up_living_lab_plot)


ggsave("images/plots/grass/all_grass_standard_polar_plots.jpg",
        all_standard_grass_plots,
        width = 7,
        height = 7)
```
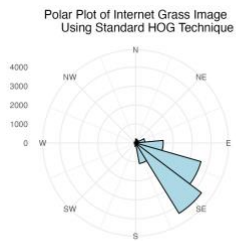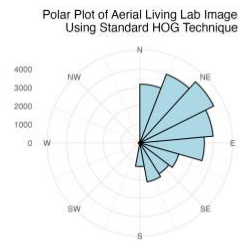

(a) Internet Grass Image   (b) Aerial Living Lab Image   (c) Close-Up Living Lab Image

Figure 5.18: Polar Plots using Standard Binning Technique for Grass Images

5.11 Generate Polar Plots for Images Using Distributed Histogram Binning Technique

```r
# Internet grass plot
internet_grass_split_plot <-
  ggplot(grass_contribution_df_list[[1]],
         aes(x = bin, y = contribution_sum)) +
  geom_histogram(stat = "identity",
                 colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
                 breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                 bins = 9) +
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  )+
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of Internet Grass Image
      Using Distributed HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "")  +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/grass/internet_grass_contribution_polar_plot.jpg",
       internet_grass_split_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```
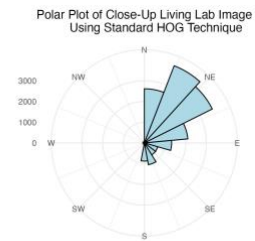
```r
# Aerial Living Lab plot
aerial_living_lab_split_plot <-
  ggplot(grass_contribution_df_list[[2]],
         aes(x = bin, y = contribution_sum)) +
  geom_histogram(stat = "identity",
                 colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
```

```
                  breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                  bins = 9) +
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  )+
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of Aerial Living Lab Image
        Using Distributed HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "")  +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/grass/aerial_living_lab_contribution_polar_plot.jpg",
        aerial_living_lab_split_plot,
        width = 6,
        height = 4,
        dpi = 300)
```

```
# Close-up Living Lab plot
close_up_living_lab_split_plot <-
  ggplot(grass_contribution_df_list[[3]],
         aes(x = bin, y = contribution_sum)) +
  geom_histogram(stat = "identity",
                 colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
                 breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                 bins = 9) +
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  )+
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of Close-Up Living Lab Image
```

```
       Using Distributed HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "") +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/grass/close_up_living_lab_contribution_polar_plot.jpg",
       close_up_living_lab_split_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```
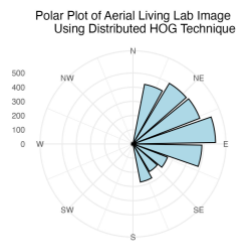
```
# Save to an arranged image
all_grass_contribution_plots <-
  ggpubr::ggarrange(internet_grass_split_plot,
                    aerial_living_lab_split_plot,
                    close_up_living_lab_split_plot)

ggsave("images/plots/grass/all_grass_contribution_plots.jpg",
       all_grass_contribution_plots,
       width = 7,
       height = 7)
```
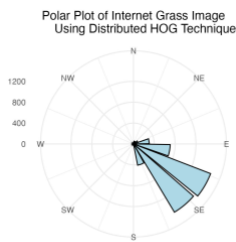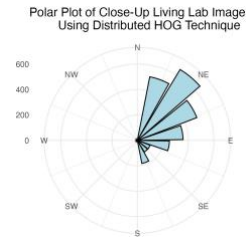

(a) Internet Grass Image   (b) Aerial Living Lab Image   (c) Close-Up Living Lab Image

Figure 5.21: Polar Plots using Distributed Binning Technique for Grass Images

5.12 Discussion

The internet grass image was selected for its simplicity and general diagonal direction. Both techniques proved quite successful at identifying the image's predominate diagonal gradient angles. The aerial image from the Living Laboratory posed a greater challenge due to its wider zoom range, causing a higher degree of variability in grass lay direction. Ultimately, the standard binning technique was able to identify this north-eastern trend seen on the right side of the image, while the distributed method identified a slightly more eastern trend. Lastly, the north-eastern trend in close-up image from the Living Laboratory was successfully identified in both the standard and distributed methods of binning.

6 Backflip Image

6.1 Motivation

Test the HOG algorithm's ability to identify dominant edges using an image of a skier. This scenario adds complexity with both a skier in the foreground and a crowd in the background, allowing us to observe how the algorithm deals with additional "noise".

6.2 Input Image
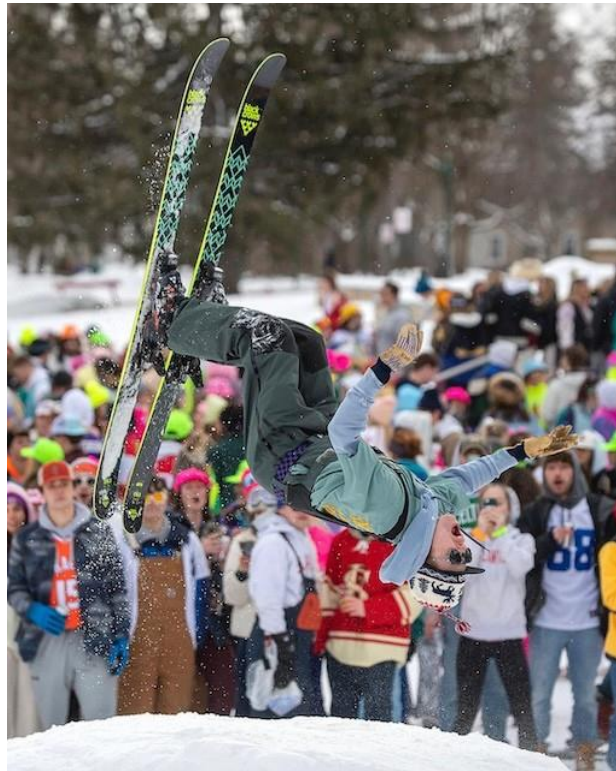
(a) Skiing Backflip Image

Figure 6.1: Input Image

6.3 Load R Packages and Python Libraries

```
# Load R Packages
library(reticulate)
library(tidyverse)
library(mapsapi)
library(mapboxapi)
library(magick)
```

```
# Load Python Libraries
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import pandas as pd
from skimage.io import imread, imshow
from skimage.transform import resize
from skimage.feature import hog
from skimage import data, exposure
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from skimage import io
from skimage import color
from skimage.transform import resize
import math
from skimage.feature import hog
import numpy as np
```

6.4 Collect HOG Features for Backflip Image

```python
# List for storing images
img_list = []

# SF aerial
img_list.append(color.rgb2gray(io.imread("images/TitusFlip.jpg")))

# List to store magnitudes for each image
mag_list = []

# List to store angles for each image
theta_list = []


for x in range(len(img_list)):
    # Get image of interest
    img = img_list[x]

    rescaled_file_path = f"images/plots/backflip/{x}.jpg"

    # Determine aspect Ratio
    aspect_ratio = img.shape[0] / img.shape[1]
    print("Aspect Ratio:", aspect_ratio)

    # Hard-Code height to 200 pixels
    height = 200

    # Calculate witdth to maintain same aspect ratio
    width = int(height / aspect_ratio)
    print("Resized Width:", width)

    # Resize the image
    resized_img = resize(img, (height, width))

    # Replace the original image with the resized image
    img_list[x] = resized_img

    # plt.figure(figsize=(15, 8))
    # plt.imshow(resized_img, cmap="gray")
    # plt.axis("on")
    # plt.tight_layout()
```

```python
# plt.savefig(rescaled_file_path, dpi=300)
# plt.show()

# list for storing all magnitudes for image[x]
mag = []

# list for storing all angles for image[x]
theta = []

for i in range(height):
    magnitudeArray = []
    angleArray = []

    for j in range(width):
        if j - 1 < 0 or j + 1 >= width:
            if j - 1 < 0:
                Gx = resized_img[i][j + 1] - 0
            elif j + 1 >= width:
                Gx = 0 - resized_img[i][j - 1]
        else:
            Gx = resized_img[i][j + 1] - resized_img[i][j - 1]

        if i - 1 < 0 or i + 1 >= height:
            if i - 1 < 0:
                Gy = 0 - resized_img[i + 1][j]
            elif i + 1 >= height:
                Gy = resized_img[i - 1][j] - 0
        else:
            Gy = resized_img[i + 1][j] - resized_img[i - 1][j]

        magnitude = math.sqrt(pow(Gx, 2) + pow(Gy, 2))
        magnitudeArray.append(round(magnitude, 9))

        if Gx == 0:
            angle = math.degrees(0.0)
        else:
            angle = math.degrees(math.atan(Gy / Gx))
            if angle < 0:
                angle += 180

        angleArray.append(round(angle, 9))
```

```
        mag.append(magnitudeArray)
        theta.append(angleArray)


    # add list of magnitudes to list[x]
    mag_list.append(mag)


    # add list of angles to angle list[x]
    theta_list.append(theta)
```

```
Aspect Ratio: 1.25
Resized Width: 160
```


(a) Skiing Backflip

Figure 6.2: Skiing Backflip Image Re-scaled and Converted to Grayscale

6.5 Extract Gradient Magnitudes and Angles from Backflip Image

```
# DF of gradient magnitudes and angles
mag_flip = np.array(mag_list[0])
theta_flip = np.array(theta_list[0])
```

6.6 Plot Gradient Magnitudes as Image for Backflip Image

```
# Save gradient magnitudes of backflip in image form

# plt.figure(figsize=(15, 8))
# #plt.title('San Francisco, CA Gradient Magnitudes')
# plt.imshow(mag_list[0], cmap="gray")
# plt.axis("on")
# #plt.show()
# plt.tight_layout()
# plt.savefig("images/plots/backflip/backflip_mag.png", dpi=300)
```
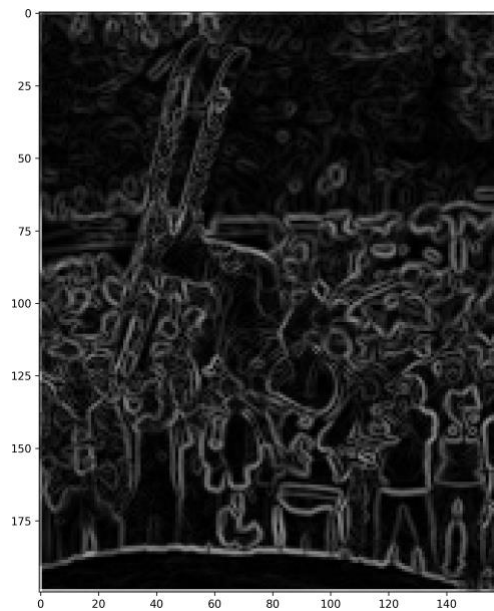

(a) Skiing Backflip Image

Figure 6.3: Skiing Backflip Cityscape Magnitudes as Image

6.7 Create Data Frame for Backflip Image

```
# Flip DF
backflip_hog_df <- data.frame(mag = as.vector(py$mag_flip),
                              theta = as.vector((py$theta_flip))) %>%
  mutate(radian = theta*(pi/180))

# Add to list
flip_standard_df_list = list(backflip_hog_df)
```

6.8 Create Histograms of Gradient Magnitudes and Angles for Backflip Image

```r
# backflip histogram of gradient mags
flip_histogram_mag_plot <-
  ggplot(flip_standard_df_list[[1]],
         aes(x = mag)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Magnitude",
       y = "Count",
       title = "Skiing Backflip Image Histogram of Gradient Magnitudes"
       ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# flip magn filter level
flip_mag_filter <- 0.2

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/backflip/backflip_histogram_mag_plot.jpg",
       flip_histogram_mag_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```

```r
# backflip histogram of gradient angles
flip_histogram_theta_plot <-
  ggplot(flip_standard_df_list[[1]],
         aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black", fill = "lightblue") +
  scale_x_continuous() +
  labs(x = "Gradient Angle",
       y = "Count",
       title = "Skiing Backflip Image Histogram of Gradient Angles"
       ) +
  theme_minimal() +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/backflip/backflip_histogram_theta_plot.jpg",
```

```
flip_histogram_theta_plot,
width = 6,
height = 4,
dpi = 300)
```
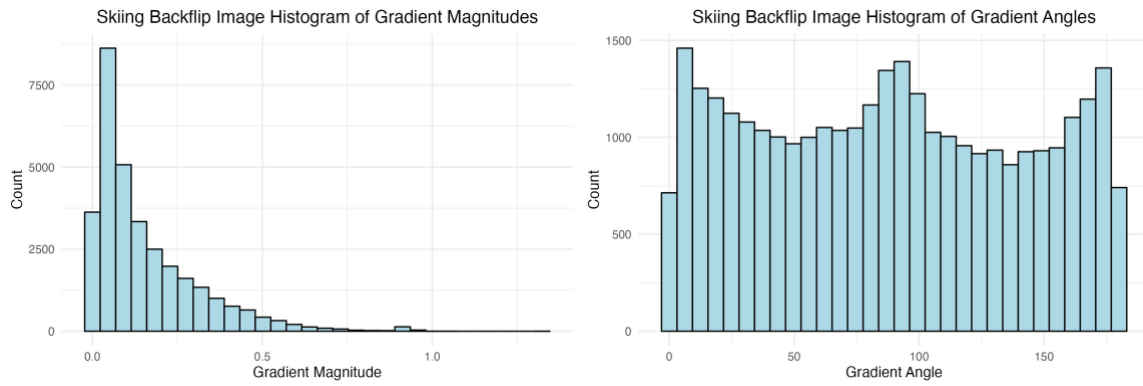

(a) Histogram of Gradient Magnitudes

(b) Histogram of Gradient Angles

Figure 6.5: Skiing Backflip Magnitudes and Angles

6.9   Build New Distributed Histogram Data Frame for Backflip Image

```r
# function to calculate the contributions to neighboring bins
calculate_bin_contributions <- function(angle, magnitude, num_bins) {
  bin_width <- 180 / num_bins
  contributions <- numeric(num_bins)

  # get the central bin
  central_bin <- floor(angle / bin_width) %% num_bins
  next_bin <- (central_bin + 1) %% num_bins

  # get contributions to neighboring bins
  weight <- (1 - abs((angle %% bin_width) / bin_width)) * magnitude

  contributions[central_bin + 1] <- weight
  contributions[next_bin + 1] <- magnitude - weight

  return(list(contributions[1],
         contributions[2],
         contributions[3],
         contributions[4],
         contributions[5],
         contributions[6],
         contributions[7],
         contributions[8],
         contributions[9])
         )
}
```

```r
# Create filtered data frames using the filter level
# for magnitudes defined above, store in a list
filtered_flip_standard_df_list <-
  list(backflip_hog_df %>%
       filter(mag >= flip_mag_filter))
```

```r
# Define the number of bins
num_bins <- 9
flip_contribution_df_list <- list()

# iterate through each filtered standard data frame (only 1 in this case)
```

```r
for (i in 1:length(filtered_flip_standard_df_list)){

  flip_contribution_hog_df <-
    filtered_flip_standard_df_list[[i]] %>%
    rowwise() %>%
    mutate(`0` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[1]],
           `20` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[2]],
           `40` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[3]],
           `60` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[4]],
           `80` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[5]],
           `100` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[6]],
           `120` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[7]],
           `140` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[8]],
           `160` = calculate_bin_contributions(theta, mag, 9)[[9]],
           )

  # rearrange into same tidy format
  flip_split_histo_df <-
    flip_contribution_hog_df %>%
    pivot_longer(names_to = "bin",
                 values_to = "contribution",
                 cols = 4:ncol(flip_contribution_hog_df)) %>%
    mutate(bin = as.numeric(bin)) %>%
    group_by(bin) %>%
    summarise(contribution_sum = sum(contribution))

  # add to list for storage
  flip_contribution_df_list[[i]] <- flip_split_histo_df

}
```

6.10 Generate Polar Plots for Standard Histograms for Backflip Image

```r
# backflip plot
flip_plot <-
  ggplot(filtered_flip_standard_df_list[[1]],
         aes(x = theta)) +
  geom_histogram(colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
                 breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                 bins = 9) +
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  )+
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of Skiing Backflip
       Image Using Standard HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "") +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/backflip/backflip_standard_polar_plot.jpg",
       flip_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```

6.11   Generate Polar Plots for Distributed Histograms for Backflip Image

```r
# backflip plot
flip_split_plot <-
  ggplot(flip_contribution_df_list[[1]],
         aes(x = bin, y = contribution_sum)) +
  geom_histogram(stat = "identity",
                 colour = "black",
                 fill = "lightblue",
                 breaks = seq(0, 360, length.out = 17.5),
                 bins = 9) +
  coord_polar(
    theta = "x",
    start = 0,
    direction = 1) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0,360),
    breaks = c(0, 45, 90, 135, 180, 225, 270, 315),
    labels = c("N", "NE", "E", "SE", "S", "SW", "W", "NW")
  )+
  labs(title = "Polar Plot of Skiing Backflip Image
       Using Distributed HOG Technique") +
  theme_minimal() +
  labs(x = "") +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_blank(),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))

# save image
ggsave("images/plots/backflip/backflip_contribution_polar_plot.jpg",
       flip_split_plot,
       width = 6,
       height = 4,
       dpi = 300)
```
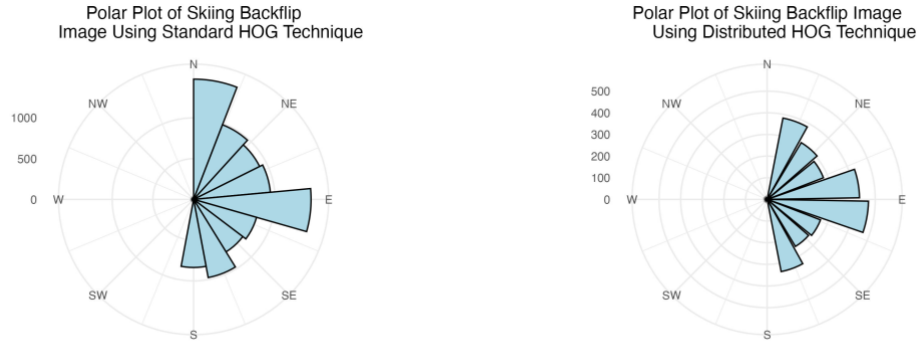
(a) Polar Plot Using Standard HOG Technique   (b) Polar Plot Using Distributed HOG Technique

Figure 6.7: Polar Plots using Standard and Distributed Binning Technique for Skiing Backflip Image

6.12 Discussion

When looking at the gradient magnitudes in image form the most definitive lines occur where the snow from the jump is visible. This makes sense, because the snowy jump is a uniform white, resulting in minimal gradient magnitudes from one pixel to the next within this area. When the edge of the snow meets the crowd in the background, there is a great increase in gradient magnitude. Since the snowy jump in this image is mostly horizontal with some incline and decline, both polar plots identify the horizontal angle as being the most frequent. Interestingly, the distributed binning technique has a notably smaller frequency of vertical lines, likely due to the greater influence of magnitudes on their contribution to the histogram.

7 Conclusion

In this study, the Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) algorithm was utilized to analyze a variety of images, including those sourced from both the internet and St. Lawrence University. Our objective was to extract dominant angles from these images and assess the algorithm's potential for automating the manual grass lay measurement technique performed by Dr. Rosales and his team. Their research focuses on correlating grass lay direction with predominant wind data, locally at St. Lawrence University, to evaluate potential shifts in prevailing Arctic wind patterns observed by indigenous communities. The HOG algorithm was successful in identifying patterns, streets, edges, and grass lay angles from various images. Images with visually dominant angles were evaluated accurately by the algorithm. Even in scenarios where images introduced increased variability, such as the aerial Living Laboratory and skiing image, visual patterns were reflected by the polar histograms.

While the HOG algorithm proved effective, it does come with limitations. Although it can identify the axis of a gradient's angle, it lacks the capability to determine the direction of a gradient's angle. This occurs because the inverse tangent function used to calculate a gradient's angle using the x-gradient and y-gradient components can only produce angles between 0 and 180 degrees. This poses potential challenges when counting angle frequencies, as any angle with a directional component surpassing 180 degrees gets conflated with its corresponding angle below 180 degrees. In order to achieve optimal results, it is best to use images with relatively square aspect ratios, higher zoom levels, and consistent lighting. As seen in the Salt Lake City image, having a predominantly rectangular aspect ratio can accentuate the frequency of angles in a certain direction because they naturally have a higher occurrence. Zoom level played a critical role when analyzing the aerial cityscapes, as San Francisco emerged having the most accurate results with its slightly diagonal grid layout. Lastly, the skiing image highlighted the impact of object brightness on polar plots. Specifically for the distributed binning technique, images featuring brighter objects tended have higher frequencies of corresponding gradient angles because of their increased gradient magnitudes.

In conclusion, our findings visualize the efficacy of the HOG algorithm in extracting gradient angles from various images, particularly lay angles from grass images. To further validate the results from this study, the next step entails a comparison between the results generated by the HOG algorithm's polar plots and the manually measured angles by Dr. Rosales' team. Additionally, future comparison of aerial grass images with corresponding wind data is necessary to apply this methodology on St. Lawrence Island, AK to facilitate more efficient data collection and analysis.

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