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Algorithm of this program:

Import a binary image (from pattern1.mat, pattern2.mat or custom.txt (users can change input matrix arbitrarily)

Get the image's size (m, n)
Create a same size zero matrix 'transImage' to prepare for storing the Manhattan distance of each element

For i from 1 to m: traverse every row in the matrix
    For j from 1 to n: traverse every element in the row
    Create a matrix T to store the Manhattan distance between this element and each object
        For i1 form 1 to m:
            For j1 from 1 to n: traverse every element in the matrix to find all objects
            If an object is found:
            Calculate the Manhattan distance between these two elements using |i1-i|+|j1-j|
            Store the distance into T matrix
        End searching based on this element: find the minimum value from T and store it to the 'transImage' matrix
    End of traverse this row
End of traverse this matrix

Save the transformed image as .mat file
Output the transformed image

Algorithm illustration using a 4 x 4 example:

0	0	0	0
0	1	0	1
0	0	0	0
0	1	0	1

Figure 1.1 Input image.

0	/	/	/
/	2	/	4
/	/	/	/
/	4	/	6

Figure 1.2 Consider the Manhattan distance between the first element and all objects.

2	0	0	0
0	1	0	1
0	0	0	0
0	1	0	1

Figure 1.3 Take the minimum distance.

2	1	2	1
0	1	0	1
0	0	0	0
0	1	0	1

Figure 1.4 Traverse all elements in this row.

2	1	2	1
1	0	1	0
2	1	2	1
1	0	1	0

Figure 1.5 Traverse the whole matrix and get the final distance transform.

Take two 8 x 8 examples:

Example #1 (Import pattern1.mat)

Input image

0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 2.1 Import binary image

Manhattan distance transform

2	1	2	1	1	0	1	2
1	0	1	0	1	1	2	3
2	1	2	1	2	1	2	3
3	2	1	2	1	0	1	2
2	1	0	1	2	1	2	3
3	2	1	2	1	0	1	2
4	3	2	3	2	1	2	3
5	4	3	4	3	2	3	4

Figure 2.2 Output image

Example #2 (Import pattern2.mat)

Input image

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 3.1 Import binary image

Manhattan distance transform

7	6	5	4	4	5	6	7
6	5	4	3	3	4	5	6
5	4	3	2	2	3	4	5
4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4
3	2	1	0	0	1	2	3
3	2	1	0	0	1	2	3
4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4
5	4	3	2	2	3	4	5

Figure 3.2 Output image