

Licence Plate Recognition

Design of Visual Systems Final Project

Clemence Sulmont & Ciara Bates

Section 1 : Open Image

```
% Clear workspace  
clear; clc;  
  
% Load and show the image of the front of a car  
f = imread("car_img/P6040058.jpg");  
imshow(f)  
title('Initial Image');
```

Initial Image



```
% The image must be greyscale for all processing, this also makes the code run  
% faster as each pixel has only 1 intensity value rather than colour information.  
img = im2double(rgb2gray(f));  
  
% The image must be rotated slightly for the corner recognition function  
% less likely to find corners that are in the exact same row and/or column  
img = imrotate(img, -5, 'bilinear', 'crop');  
  
% Removing (cropping) the top third of the image (windshield)  
[height,width, numChannels] = size(img);  
startrow = floor(height/3) + 1;  
img = img(startrow:end, :, :);
```

```
imshow(img)
```



```
output = getornersLicense(img);
```



```
fourcorners = 4x2 single matrix
```

```
218.7746  82.5000  
417.0000 103.0000  
410.0000 138.0000  
215.9121 114.1571
```

```
min_x = floor(min(output(:, 1)));  
max_x = floor(max(output(:, 1)));  
min_y = floor(min(output(:, 2)));  
max_y = floor(max(output(:, 2)));  
  
padding = 30;
```

```
% Construct the rectangle vector for cropping an image
RECT_original = [min_x-padding, min_y - padding, max_x - min_x + padding*2, max_y - min_y + padding*2];

cropped_1 = imcrop(img,RECT_original);
imshow(cropped_1)
```



Section 2 : Homography Transform

```
% Get 4 input points for the homography transform
output = getornersLicense(img);
```



```
fourcorners = 4x2 single matrix
218.7746  82.5000
417.0000  103.0000
410.0000  138.0000
215.9121  114.1571
```

```
xi = output(:,1);
yi = output(:,2);

% Define the base points for the transformation
```

```

base = [1 1; 1 size(cropped_1, 1); size(cropped_1, 2) 1; size(cropped_1, 2)
size(cropped_1, 1)];
```

% Compute the homography transform

```
tf = fitgeotrans([xi, yi], base, 'projective');
H = tf.T;
```

% Perform the homography transformation

```
[xf, xf_ref] = imwarp(cropped_1, tf);
```

% Specify the desired width and height of the output image (in pixels)

```
desired_width = size(cropped_1, 2);
desired_height = size(cropped_1, 1);
```

% Resize the output image while maintaining its aspect ratio

```
xf_resized = imresize(xf, [desired_height, desired_width]);
```

% Display the resized transformed image

```
figure;
imshow(xf_resized);
hold on;
title('Resized Transformed Image');
```



Section 3 : Cropping the image (again)

```
corners = getornersLicense(xf_resized);
```

Resized Transformed Image



```
fourcorners = 4x2 single matrix
 86.9843  37.8201
232.0482  40.1731
 38.0000  67.0000
 36.0000  63.0000
```

```
min_x = floor(min(corners(:, 1)));
max_x = floor(max(corners(:, 1)));
min_y = floor(min(corners(:, 2)));
max_y = floor(max(corners(:, 2)));

% Construct the rectangle vector for cropping an image
RECT = [min_x, min_y, max_x - min_x, max_y - min_y];

cropped = imcrop(xf_resized,RECT);

figure
imshow(cropped)
title('cropped image')
```



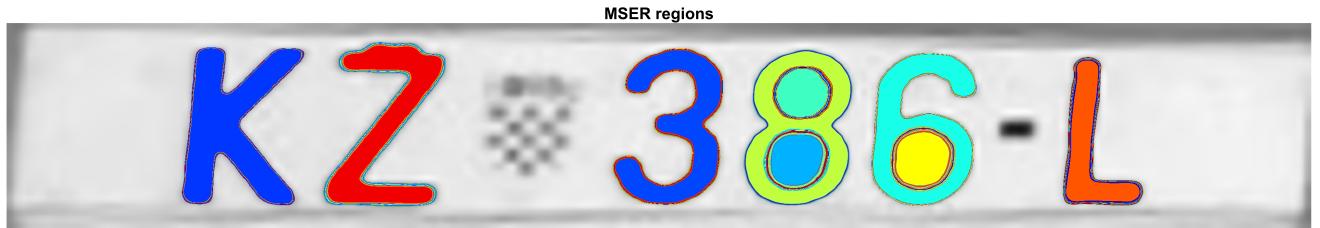
Section 4 : Segmenting Letters using MSER regions

```
I = imresize(cropped,[500 NaN]); %resize so the number of rows of pixels is 500.
%The number of columns is automatically calculated based on aspect ratio

imshow(I)
```



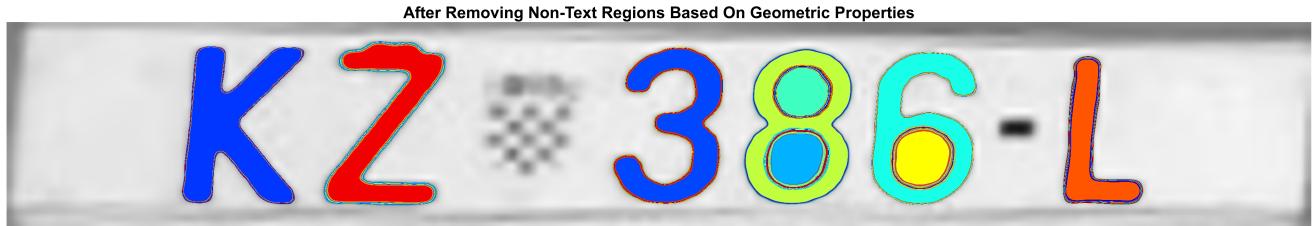
```
% Detect MSER regions.  
[mserRegions, mserConnComp] = detectMSERFeatures(I, ...  
    "RegionAreaRange",[10000 60000], "ThresholdDelta",5);  
  
figure  
imshow(I)  
hold on  
plot(mserRegions, "showPixelList", true, "showEllipses", false)  
title("MSER regions")  
hold off
```



```
% Use regionprops (region properties) to measure MSER properties  
mserStats = regionprops(mserConnComp, "BoundingBox", "Eccentricity", ...  
    "Solidity", "Extent", "Euler", "Image");  
  
% Compute the aspect ratio using bounding box data.  
bbox = vertcat(mserStats.BoundingBox);  
w = bbox(:,3);  
h = bbox(:,4);  
aspectRatio = w./h;  
  
% Threshold the data to determine which regions to remove. These thresholds  
% may need to be tuned for other images.  
filterIdx = aspectRatio' > 3;  
filterIdx = filterIdx | [mserStats.Eccentricity] > .995 ;  
filterIdx = filterIdx | [mserStats.Solidity] < .3;  
filterIdx = filterIdx | [mserStats.Extent] < 0.2 | [mserStats.Extent] > 0.9;  
filterIdx = filterIdx | [mserStats.EulerNumber] < -4;
```

```
% Remove regions
mserStats(filterIdx) = [];
mserRegions(filterIdx) = [];

% Show remaining regions
figure
imshow(I)
hold on
plot(mserRegions, "showPixelList", true, "showEllipses", false)
title("After Removing Non-Text Regions Based On Geometric Properties")
hold off
```



```
%-----
% Get bounding boxes for all the regions
bboxes = vertcat(mserStats.BoundingBox);

% Convert from the [x y width height] bounding box format to the [xmin ymin
% xmax ymax] format for convenience.
xmin = bboxes(:,1);
ymin = bboxes(:,2);
xmax = xmin + bboxes(:,3) - 1;
ymax = ymin + bboxes(:,4) - 1;

% Expand the bounding boxes by a small amount.
expansionAmount = 0.02;
xmin = (1-expansionAmount) * xmin;
ymin = (1-expansionAmount) * ymin;
xmax = (1+expansionAmount) * xmax;
ymax = (1+expansionAmount) * ymax;

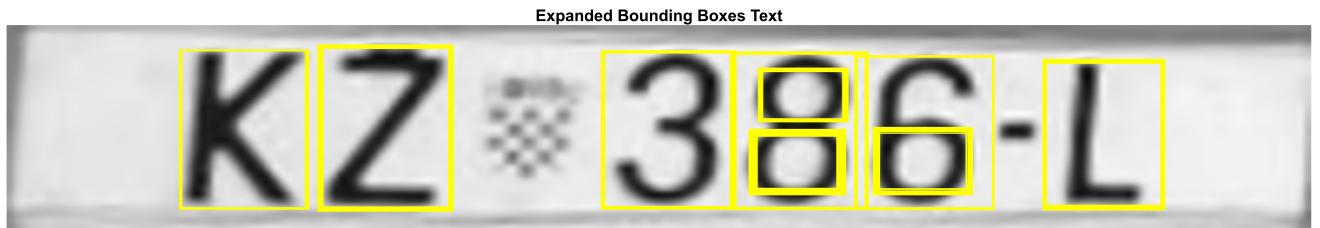
% Clip the bounding boxes to be within the image bounds
xmin = max(xmin, 1);
ymin = max(ymin, 1);
xmax = min(xmax, size(I,2));
ymax = min(ymax, size(I,1));

% Show the expanded bounding boxes
expandedBBoxes = [xmin ymin xmax-xmin+1 ymax-ymin+1];
IExpandedBBoxes = insertShape(I, "rectangle", expandedBBoxes, "LineWidth", 3);
```

```

figure
imshow(IExpandedBBoxes)
title("Expanded Bounding Boxes Text")

```



%-----

```

% Initialize an empty array to store indices of unique bounding boxes
uniqueIndices = [];

% Calculate the area of each bounding box
areas = (xmax - xmin + 1) .* (ymax - ymin + 1);

% Iterate over each bounding box
for i = 1:size(expandedBBoxes, 1)
    % Flag to indicate if current bounding box is unique
    isUnique = true;

    % Iterate over already identified unique bounding boxes
    for j = 1:length(uniqueIndices)
        % Calculate intersection area
        x_overlap = max(0, min(xmax(i), xmax(uniqueIndices(j))) - max(xmin(i),
        xmin(uniqueIndices(j))));
        y_overlap = max(0, min(ymax(i), ymax(uniqueIndices(j))) - max(ymin(i),
        ymin(uniqueIndices(j))));
        intersection_area = x_overlap * y_overlap;

        % Calculate area ratio (intersection over min area)
        area_ratio = intersection_area / min(areas(i), areas(uniqueIndices(j)));

        % If area ratio is above a threshold, consider the bounding box duplicate
        if area_ratio > 0.5 % Adjust threshold as needed
            isUnique = false;
            break;
        end
    end

    % If current bounding box is unique, add its index to uniqueIndices
    if isUnique
        uniqueIndices = [uniqueIndices, i];
    end
end

```

```

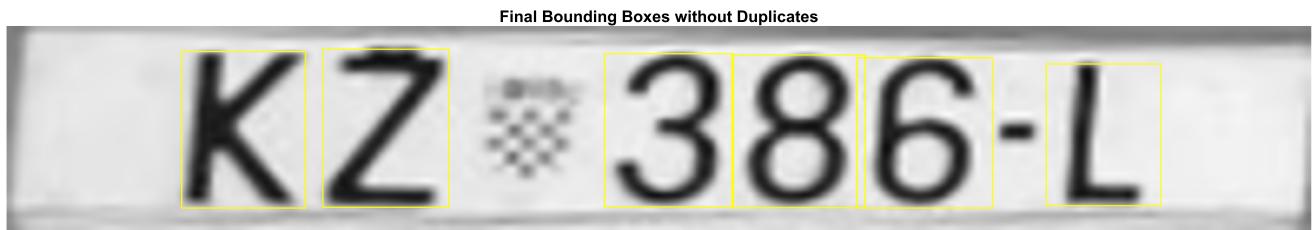
end
end

% Extract unique bounding boxes
uniqueBBoxes = expandedBBoxes(uniqueIndices, :);

% Show the final bounding boxes after removing duplicates
IFinalBBoxes = insertShape(I, "rectangle", uniqueBBoxes, "LineWidth", 3);

figure
imshow(IFinalBBoxes)
title("Final Bounding Boxes without Duplicates")

```



```

%-----
% Initialize cell array to store individual letter ROIs and their corresponding
bounding boxes
letterROIs = cell(size(uniqueBBoxes, 1), 1);
orderedBBoxes = uniqueBBoxes; % Copy bounding boxes for sorting

% Sort bounding boxes by their x-coordinates (xmin) This is so they are
% read and displayed in the correct order
[~, order] = sort(orderedBBoxes(:, 1));
orderedBBoxes = orderedBBoxes(order, :);

% Iterate over each bounding box
for i = 1:size(orderedBBoxes, 1)
    % Extract ROI using bounding box coordinates
    xmin = orderedBBoxes(i, 1);
    ymin = orderedBBoxes(i, 2);
    width = orderedBBoxes(i, 3);
    height = orderedBBoxes(i, 4);
    roi = imcrop(I, [xmin, ymin, width, height]);

    roi = imresize(roi,[100,NaN]); % resize the image to height 400px
    roi = imbinarize(roi); % Binarize the image

    % Define the desired dimensions for the resized image
    desired_height = 80;

```

```

desired_width = 60;

% Calculate the padding amounts for each side
pad_height = max(0, desired_height - size(roi, 1));
pad_width = max(0, desired_width - size(roi, 2));
pad_top = floor(pad_height / 2);
pad_bottom = ceil(pad_height / 2);
pad_left = floor(pad_width / 2);
pad_right = ceil(pad_width / 2);

% Pad the image evenly around the whole image with ones
padded_image = padarray(roi, [pad_top, pad_left], 1, 'pre');
padded_image = padarray(padded_image, [pad_bottom, pad_right], 1, 'post');

%padded_image = imresize(padded_image,[200,150]); %ensuring the image size is
correct

clean_letter = imcomplement(padded_image);
CC = bwconncomp(clean_letter);
numpixels = cellfun(@numel, CC.PixelIdxList);
[biggest, idx] = max(numpixels);

for k = 1:length(numpixels)
    if k~= idx
        clean_letter(CC.PixelIdxList{k}) = 0;
    end
end

% Store preprocessed ROI
letterROIs{i} = imcomplement(clean_letter);

end

figure;

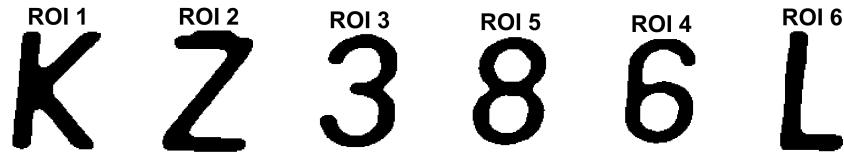
% Display each ROI in a subplot, in order of when they appear in the image
% (left to right)
for i = 1:length(letterROIs)

    % Create subplot with adjusted aspect ratio
    subplot(1, length(letterROIs), i);

    % Display ROI
    imshow(letterROIs{i})

    % Set title
    title(['ROI ' num2str(order(i))]); % Display original order
end

```



Section 5 : Apply MATLAB's OCR function

```
% Apply OCR
licence_plate_ocr = "";

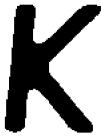
for i = 1:length(letterROIs)

    letter = letterROIs{i};

    figure
    imshow(letter)

    results = ocr(letter, 'TextLayout',
    'Character','CharacterSet','ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ1234567890!#');
    disp(results)
    licence_plate_ocr = licence_plate_ocr + results.Text

end
```



ocrText with properties:

```
    Text: 'K'  
CharacterBoundingBoxes: [4 2 72 96]  
CharacterConfidences: 0.9882  
    Words: {'K'}  
WordBoundingBoxes: [4 2 72 96]  
WordConfidences: 0.9177  
    TextLines: {'K'}  
TextLineBoundingBoxes: [4 2 72 96]  
TextLineConfidences: 0.9177  
licence_plate_ocr =  
"K"
```



ocrText with properties:

```
    Text: '7'  
CharacterBoundingBoxes: [3 1 74 99]  
CharacterConfidences: 0.8245  
    Words: {'7'}  
WordBoundingBoxes: [3 1 74 99]  
WordConfidences: 0  
    TextLines: {'7'}  
TextLineBoundingBoxes: [3 1 74 99]  
TextLineConfidences: 0  
licence_plate_ocr =  
"K7"
```



ocrText with properties:

```
    Text: '3'  
CharacterBoundingBoxes: [9 1 67 98]  
CharacterConfidences: 0.9943
```

```
    Words: {'3'}
WordBoundingBoxes: [9 1 67 98]
WordConfidences: 0.9603
    TextLines: {'3'}
TextLineBoundingBoxes: [9 1 67 98]
TextLineConfidences: 0.9603
licence_plate_ocr =
"K73"
```

A large, bold, black digit '8' centered on a white background.

ocrText with properties:

```
    Text: '8'
CharacterBoundingBoxes: [11 2 66 97]
CharacterConfidences: 0.9952
    Words: {'8'}
WordBoundingBoxes: [11 2 66 97]
WordConfidences: 0.9664
    TextLines: {'8'}
TextLineBoundingBoxes: [11 2 66 97]
TextLineConfidences: 0.9664
licence_plate_ocr =
"K738"
```

A large, bold, black digit '6' centered on a white background.

ocrText with properties:

```
    Text: 'J'
CharacterBoundingBoxes: [27 52 36 36]
CharacterConfidences: 0.9671
    Words: {'J'}
WordBoundingBoxes: [27 52 36 36]
WordConfidences: 0.7699
    TextLines: {'J'}
TextLineBoundingBoxes: [27 52 36 36]
TextLineConfidences: 0.7699
licence_plate_ocr =
"K738J"
```

ocrText with properties:

```
    Text: '8'  
CharacterBoundingBoxes: [15 1 52 99]  
CharacterConfidences: 0.8744  
    Words: {'8'}  
WordBoundingBoxes: [15 1 52 99]  
WordConfidences: 0.1211  
    TextLines: {'8'}  
TextLineBoundingBoxes: [15 1 52 99]  
TextLineConfidences: 0.1211  
licence_plate_ocr =  
"K738J8"
```

```
disp('License number = ')
```

```
License number =
```

```
disp(licence_plate_ocr)
```

```
K738J8
```

Section 6 : Detecting letters using similarity

```
% Define the folder path  
folder_path = 'templates';  
  
% Get a list of all PNG files in the folder  
templates = dir(fullfile(folder_path, '*.png'));  
  
candidateImage = cell(length(templates),2);  
  
for p=1:length(templates)  
    [~,fileName] = fileparts(templates(p).name);  
    candidateImage{p,1} = fileName;  
    candidateImage{p,2} = imread(fullfile(templates(p).folder,templates(p).name));  
end  
  
licenseNumber = '';  
  
for p=1:length(letterROIs)  
    letterImage = imcomplement(letterROIs{p});
```

```

% Compare to templates
distance = zeros(1,length(templates));
for t=1:length(templates)
    letterImage = imresize(letterImage,size(candidateImage{t,2}));
    distance(t) = abs(sum((letterImage-
double(candidateImage{t,2})).^2,"all"));
end

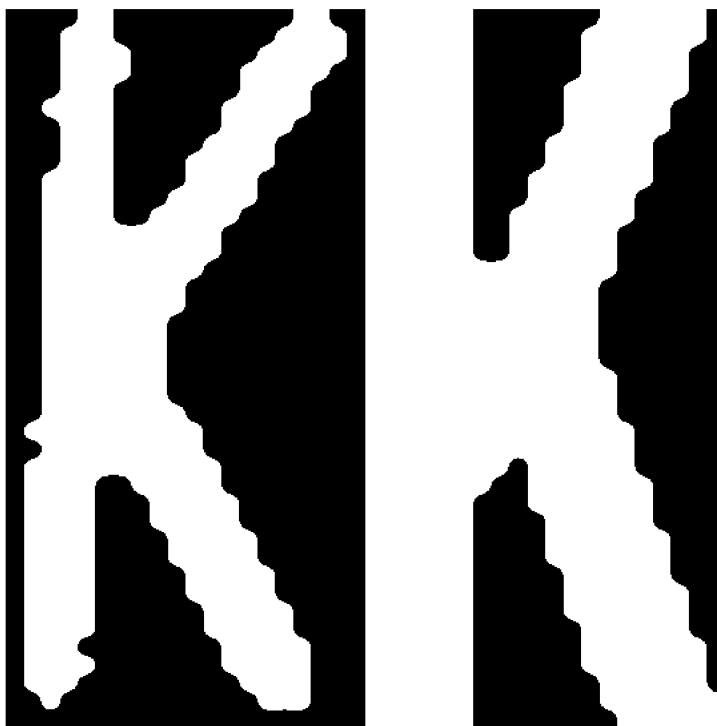
[d,idx] = min(distance);
letter = candidateImage{idx,1};

if strcmp(letter, 'map')
    letter = '~';
end

figure
montage({letterImage,candidateImage{idx,2}})

licenseNumber(end+1) = letter;
end

```









```
disp('License number = ')
```

```
License number =
```

```
disp(licenseNumber)
```

```
KZSSL
```

```
function sortedcorners = getornersLicense(grayImg)
    %Binarize image and isolate the license plate
    f3 = imadjust(grayImg, [0.5 1], [0 1]);
    f3 = imbinarize(f3);
    f3 = imclearborder(f3);
    CC = bwconncomp(f3);

    numPixels = cellfun(@numel, CC.PixelIdxList);
    [biggest, idx] = max(numPixels);
    for k = 1:length(numPixels)
        if k ~= idx
            f3(CC.PixelIdxList{k}) = 0;
        end
    end
```

```

end

%Hide the letters to get better corner detection
f4 = imfill(f3, "holes");

imshow(f4)

%Detect the 4 corners of the license plate
points = detectBRISKFeatures(f4);
mainpoints = points.selectStrongest(30).Location;

[toppoint, topidx] = min(mainpoints(:,2));
[bottompoint, bottomidx] = max(mainpoints(:,2));
[leftpoint, leftidx] = min(mainpoints(:,1));
[rightpoint, rightidx] = max(mainpoints(:,1));

fourcorners = [mainpoints(topidx,:); mainpoints(rightidx,:);
mainpoints(bottomidx,:); mainpoints(leftidx,:)]

rowSums = sum(fourcorners,2);
% Sort the sums, obtaining the sorted indices
[~, sortedIndices] = sort(rowSums);
% Use the indices to reorder the matrix rows
sortedcorners = fourcorners(sortedIndices, :);

```

end