



CS523 COMPUTER VISION
REPORT

Sudoku Grid Detector using OpenCV and Python 3.7

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Introduction

This report explains the implementation details of CS523 Computer Vision Assignment 1, which is about detecting rectangles in a given sudoku puzzle image. The pre-processing of the given image will be explained first and will be followed by the logic behind the rectangle extraction. Lastly, I will add my findings and comments. To run the code, there needs to be a directory which contains the .jpg files. The directory and main.py needs to be at the same level.

Pre-Processing

After examining the pictures in the dataset, I decided to pre-process the image to clear some of the noise so that the detector will perform better. Since we do not need the color information, I first downsampled the image by converting it to grayscale. Once I got a gray-scale image, I applied a Gaussian Blur to remove some noise and make the extraction of the grid easier. After lots of trials and errors, I decided to use a Kernel size of 5x5 for Gaussian Blur. Afterwards, I applied a thresholding algorithm. The idea behind thresholding is that if a pixel has a value smaller than a threshold, it is set to 0, otherwise it is set to a maximum value. Since the images in the dataset had different illumination levels, instead of a global thresholding, I used addaptive thresholding, which determines the threshold for a pixel based on a small region around it.

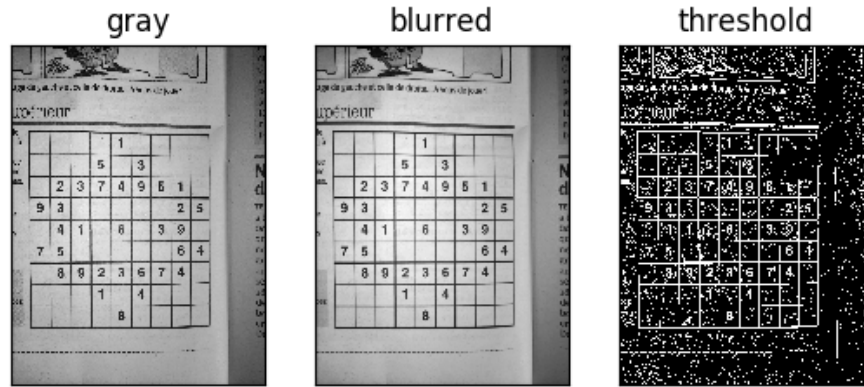


Figure 0.1: Phases of the image during pre-processing

Detecting The Biggest Blob

Now that I have my image ready for rectangle detection, I assumed that the biggest polygon in the image is the sudoku grid. I found all the contours in the image using `cv2.findContours` method. I sorted the contours with respect to their areas and got the biggest blob.

sudoku grid

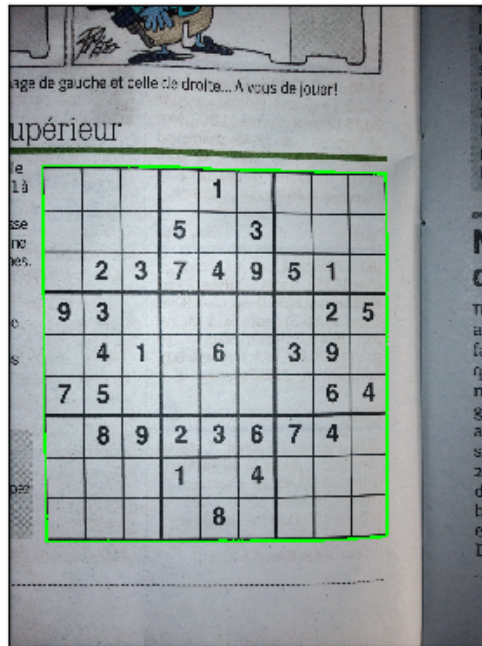


Figure 0.2: Biggest Blob of the image

Detecting The Sudoku Cells

With the detected borders of the Sudoku grid, I created a mask image to only focus on what is inside the Sudoku Grid. I created a new image and cropped it with the help of the mask, so that I have a region of interest. Just like the pre-processing phase, I applied Gaussian Blur and adaptive thresholding, this time to make the image ready for the detection of smaller rectangles.

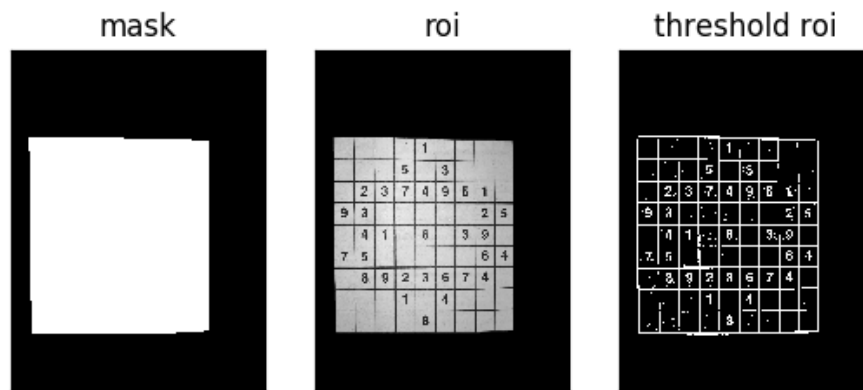


Figure 0.3: Phases of the image after applying the mask

Now, I have the image ready for the detection of the sudoku cells. Again, after some trial and error, I figured out that if the area of a contour is bigger than 800, it is cell in the sudoku grid.

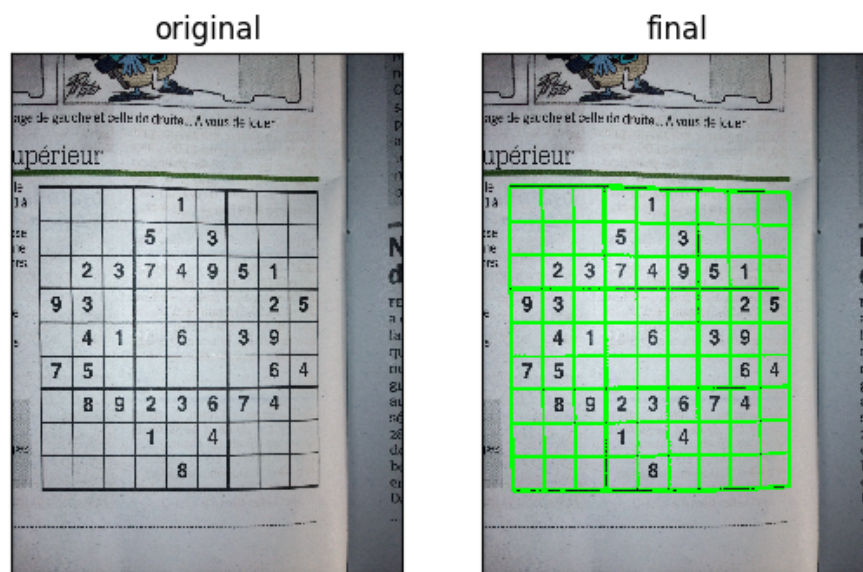


Figure 0.4: Processed image

Findings & Comments