

A Computer Vision System that Ensure the Autonomous Navigation of Blind People

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In this paper we introduce a real-time obstacle framework designed to alert the visually impaired of their presence and to assist humans to navigate floor and outdoor environments, by handling a device. Static and dynamic objects are detected by points selected based on an image grid and the multiscale Lucas-Kanade algorithm. Next, we use an object classification methodology. We incorporate a Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) descriptor into the framework of Visual Words) retrieval framework and show how this combination may be used for obstacle detection in video streams. The experimental results on various challenging scenes demonstrate that our method is effective in image sequence with important camera motion including noise and low resolution data and achieves high performance, while being computational efficient.

– *object classification, Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) and Bag of Visual Words (BoVW).*

I. INTRODUCTION

In a visually impaired/blind person context, the white cane is the most evolved tool used for obstacle

II. RELATED WORK

Nowadays, most of the commercial software providing mobility assistance are based on Global Positioning System (GPS). However, these solutions are not reliable due to the low accuracy, signal loss and they cannot work in indoor environments [4]. Moreover, they cannot determine the type of obstacle (e.g. a car or a person) or even a static obstacle) in the near surrounding of the user.

Computer vision approaches referred as ETAs (Electronic Travel Aids) constitute a promising alternative to solve the above problems. In the technical literature there are many methods introduced in order to help the local navigation of visually impaired/blind people.

One of the first papers was presented by Walther [5] that proposed a fusion of sensor modalities (e.g. accelerometer, pedometer, 3-axis gyroscope and 2D laser scanner) for indoor localization. By means of visual SLAM [6], [7] it is possible to build an incremental map of the environment, providing simultaneously temporal and spatial orientation of the user. In [8] a stereo vision approach is introduced that estimates a 3D map of the vicinity of the user using a degree of freedom estimation algorithm. The re-