

Intermediate-Level Vision

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In Part 2, we study intermediate-level image analysis, which is concerned with obtaining abstract information about images, starting with the images themselves. At this stage, we are less interested in converting one image into another, as in the subject of image processing. In particular, transform methods that have been designed systematically for the purpose will be used.

For the most part, the chapters in Part 2 result in abstract information on the positions and orientations of various image features; they do not aim to provide real-world data, a function that is left to Parts 3 and 4 (thus Part 2 may indicate that a circle exists in one part of an image; it is left to later parts to interpret this as a wheel and to find any defects it may have). However, an exception to this general strategy is the relational descriptor analysis of scenes that appears toward the end of Chapter 14. This approach may be regarded as constituting the foot-hills of “high-level” vision.