Skeletal models for shape understanding

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MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PROJECT MAC

Artificial Intelligence Group Vision Hemo. No. 100. July 7, 1966

THE SUMMER VISION PROJECT

Seymour Papert

Half a century later, we're still working on it.

The summer vision project is an attempt to use our summer workers effectively in the construction of a significant part of a visual system. The particular task was chosen partly because it can be segmented into sub-problems which will allow individuals to work independently and yet participate in the construction of a system complex enough to be a real landmark in the development of "pattern recognition".

First known computer vision project



Shape approximation

Image credit: twitter math meme



Perceptual approximation

Image credit: D. Mumford

Requires shape understanding

• How important is a shape feature to a shape?



Perceptual approximation

Requires shape understanding

- How important is a shape feature to a shape?
- How can we handle occlusion?



Perceptual approximation

Requires shape understanding

- How important is a shape feature to a shape?
- How can we handle occlusion?
- How can we match across different positions?



Perceptual approximation

Shape understanding helps with tasks

- Matching
- Tracking
- Animating



Perceptual approximation

Image credit: Edweard Muybridge

- Composition of parts
- Parameters on parts
- Relationships between parts





Shape understanding

N. J. Mitra, M. Pauly, M. Wand, and D. Ceylan. Symmetry in 3d geometry: Extraction and applications. In Computer Graphics Forum, volume 32. Wiley Online Library, 2013



Understanding & representation: Blum medial axis



 set of quench sites of a fire started on the boundary of the shape which burns inward at uniform speed

A tool for understanding: Blum medial axis



Discretization



- topologically equivalent to boundary
- reduces dimensionality
- efficient as encoding representation (metric)
- explicit formulas relate boundary/ BMA loci and geometry
 same smoothness within branches as boundary

Nice mathematical properties

a long list of people, including me









Well-understood singularities

Giblin, Kimia, Damon, Pizer

- Matching
- Tracking
- Animating



Tasks we'd like to do



Challenge: branches aren't parts





Challenge: Noisy branches

Solutions

- Connect branches across junctions to find parts
- Figure out which branches are meaningful and which aren't
- Relate BMA to boundary features



Solutions

- Connect branches across junctions to find parts
- Figure out which branches are meaningful and which aren't
- Relate BMA to boundary features



TOOL: Functions defined on BMA



burn time (formerly extended distance function (EDF)): shortest distance to boundary on longest path along axis containing x

> A useful measure on the BMA: Burn time (EDF)

Liu, et al, 2011



BT/EDF heat map

Drawback of depth-based measure



Another function on the BMA: WEDF

Morin, et al, 2015



 $WEDF(x) = \sup_{f|x \in f} A_f(x).$

Another measure on the axis: WEDF

Morin, et al, 2015







EDF/BT & WEDF

- finite except maximally closed sub-complex
- monotonically decreasing moving toward endpoints
- continuous within branches
- continuous across branches that have already burned



- finite except maximally closed sub-complex
- monotonically decreasing moving toward endpoints
- continuous within branches
- continuous across branches that have already burned



BT/EDF/WEDF properties in 2D



EDF/WEDF & branch continuity

EDF, WEDF & parts





EDF, WEDF & parts hierarchy



Hierarchy: Core shape





Parts correspondence: spreading the hierarchy





3D discrete BT example



3D WEDF & parts

Blanc-Beyne, et al, 2019



3D WEDF & parts



Things we want to do: tracking MPEG-7 database 70 classes, 1400 shapes

2000+ annotators 40,000+ shapes 24+ annotations/shape





Median similarity score: 0.8 Average: 0.765 Std dev: 0.14



How to measure perception? Comparison to user study

Carlier, et al, 2016



Similarity = 0.749

Evaluation: Expected agreement

Majority vote bat \rightarrow

User annotations of bats





Two modes

Majority vote

interesting data set!

The 2D Shape Structure Dataset

Axel Carlier, Kathryn Leonard, Stefanie Hahmann, Géraldine Morin, Misha Collins



Abstract

On this web page, we present the 2D Shape Structure database, a public, user-generated dataset of 2D shape decompositions into a hierarchy of shape parts with geometric relationships retained. It is the outcome of a large-scale user study obtained by crowdsourcing, involving over 1200 shapes in 70 shape classes, and 2861 participants. A total of 41953 annotations has been collected with at least 24 annotations per shape. For each shape, user decompositions into main shape, one or more levels of parts, and a level of details are available. This database reinforces a philosophy that understanding shape structure as a whole, rather than in the separated categories of parts decomposition, parts hierarchy, and analysis of relationships between parts, is crucial for full shape understanding. We provide initial statistical explorations of the data to determine representative shape annotations and to determine the number of modes in the annotations. We release this rich and complex database and make it openly available so the shape community can access a ground truth of human perception of holistic shape structure.

2D shape structure dataset

https://2dshapesstructure.github.io

Things we want to do: matching



More functions on the BMA

erosion thickness = burn time - radius

ET as a measure of blobbiness: BT - r = depth - width

erosion thickness & BT/EDF

erosion thickness

shape tubularity

ET and ST

Theorem:

Up to articulation (radius-preserving embedding), the values of ET and ST uniquely determine the geometry of a shape part.

useful result for similarity

ET, ST similarity clustering

Shape understanding

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Perceptual approximation

Image credit: D. Mumford

BMA with perceptual AND metric approximation guarantees

Clean BMA Durix, et al, 2019

BMA with perceptual AND metric approximation guarantees

Clean BMA

Durix, et al, 2019

BMA with perceptual AND metric approximation guarantees

Clean

Durix, et al, 2022???

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Neural networks for skeletons from natural images

Say Brown, Joaquin Madrid Larrañaga, OXY