

Telugu Character Recognition using Adaptive Fuzzy Membership Functions With Adaptive Genetic Algorithm Based Techniques



V. V. Satyanarayana Tallapragada, V. Sireesha, G. V. Pradeep Kumar

Abstract: A novel Telugu character recognition technique is proposed in this paper where the given Telugu handwritten document is processed by normalizing the document and removing the noise. Then slant detection followed by correction process is conceded using the bilinear interpolation method to get more accurate result. Thus the de-skewed documents text lines and characters are separated by making use of Adaptive Histogram Equalization (AHE). In the next stage, the characteristics of the segmented characters are mined with the help of the zoning method. In zoning method, an adaptive fuzzy membership function will be developed by the Adaptive Genetic Algorithm (AGA). By using AGA in zoning method the characteristics are mined from the separated characters. The mined structures are applied to the Feed Forward Back Propagation Neural Network (FFBNN) for accomplishing the learning process. During testing, more number of handwritten segmented Telugu characters will be set to the FFBNN to verify whether the input character is recognized or not. Thus, the proposed method has given more accurate recognition results by using our proposed adaptive fuzzy membership function with AGA method. The proposed method performance is evaluated by getting more number of handwritten Telugu documents and compared with the GA-FFBNN and FFBNN.

Keywords : Adaptive Histogram Equalization, Feed-forward Back-propagation Neural Network, Adaptive Genetic Algorithm, Zoning, Bilinear Interpolation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Pattern recognition is the process of recognizing an unknown pattern to be one of the patterns of the known database [1]. The performance of this recognition can be verified by statistics related to the number of correct and wrong recognitions [2]. Classification and description are the two tasks which are covered in Pattern recognition [3]. The pattern recognition system design includes three aspects:

- Data procurement and processing
- Data depiction
- Decision making

The crucial part of any pattern recognition task is to primarily classify and then recognize an object that belong to a specific group [4][5]. Methods of Pattern Recognition are Statistical Model, Structural Model, Neural Network Based Model [6], Fuzzy Based Model, and Hybrid Model [7][8]. Interpretation of input object as a systematic ordering of symbols which are pre-known is the main objective of character recognition. The task of character recognition may be applied on different kind of combinations of handwritten text, scanned documents and computer printouts. The handwritten text is most difficult to process as the text which is just a mixture of twenty six alphabets, ten numerals and few special characters, will have different fonts. These fonts are not exhaustive in many cases. The computer printouts will also have many fonts, but they are exhaustive [9]. All these, when printed on paper, the shadow of text written back side of the paper creates difficulty when they match with some of the known symbols [10].

Apurva A. Desai [11] carried an interesting task. He presented an optical character recognition scheme on Gujarati numbers. A successful character recognition scheme was presented for handwritten numbers in Gujarati language. Pirlo et al. [12] have proposed a set of fuzzy-membership functions for classification based on zoning. Jomy John et al. [13] have applied the concepts of wavelets for handwritten character recognition. Giuseppe Pirlo et al. [14] have proposed a new class of zone-based membership functions. These membership functions are introduced with adaptive capabilities and its effectiveness is shown. Soumya Soman et al. [15] have proposed a pattern analysis technique to develop a powerful and efficient system for handwritten character recognition.

Amit Choudhary et al. [16] have presented a pattern classifier technique which is used to extract the features. Yunxue Shao et al. [17] have proposed a fast self-generation voting method for further improving the performance in handwritten Chinese character recognition. Toru Wakahara et al. [18] have proposed a GAT correlation method to reduce the computational cost of matching in k-NN classification. Dapeng Tao et al. [19] have proposed the kernel version of DLA, kernel DLA, and prudently show that learning KDLA is similar to leading kernel PCA followed by DLA.

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II. PROPOSED TELUGU CHARACTER RECOGNITION SYSTEM

In the proposed technology, first the text documents are obtained from the database and they are pre-processed to eliminate the noise which in turn helps to improve the accuracy of the recognition.

After that bilinear interpolation is applied on the preprocessed documents for skew detection and correction. Then, each character is segmented from the preprocessed documents by using AHE technique. Subsequently, features from the segmented characters are extracted by exploiting the voronoi based zoning approach. At the time of zoning, the adaptive fuzzy membership function is optimized with the utilization of Adaptive Genetic algorithm (AGA) and thus optimal structures are obtained from each character. The optimal features are then fed to FFBNN to attain the training process. At the testing time, more number of characters are utilized to analyze the performance of FFBNN. Architecture of the proposed Telugu character recognition system is given in Fig.

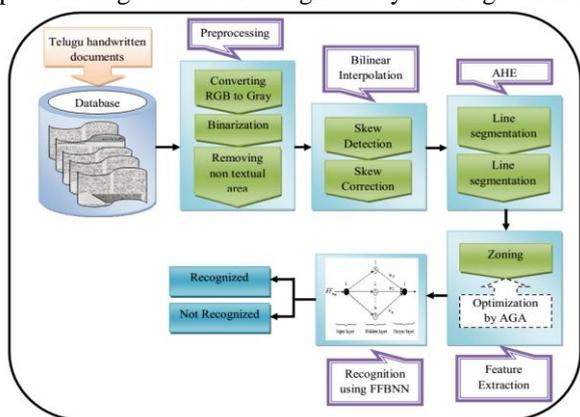


Fig. 1. Architecture of our proposed Telugu Character Recognition system

Figure 1, which is the proposed system, comprises of five stages namely,

- Preprocessing
- Detection and correction of Skew
- Segmentation
- Feature extraction
- Recognition

Let the database (D) contains many text documents and let $x_{i,j}$ be one of the document at location (i,j) taken from the database.

A. Preprocessing

Consider database (D) which contains document images (i) $\{i = 1, 2, \dots, D\}$ where i is number of document images and each image has the size of $M \times N \{m = 1, 2, \dots, M, n = 1, 2, \dots, N\}$ that signifies the row and column of the image. The RGB document image is first converted into grayscale image and is represented as gD_i which is converted to binary in the next stage. The process of binarization is defined by equation (1),

$$BD_i = \begin{cases} 1; & gD_i > \tau \\ 0; & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(1)

Where τ is the threshold value and BD_i is the resultant binary image. The textual image TgD_i is mapped to the original image D_i and the output after preprocessing is denoted by:

$$PD_i \text{ where } i = 1, 2, \dots, D : D \in M' \times N' \text{ where } M' < M \text{ \& } N' < N$$

(2)

The preprocessed image (PD_i) is then subjected to skew detection and correction process.

B. Bilinear Interpolation

Identification of skew in the image is an important task of any character recognition system. After finding skew angle, the document image can be corrected according to the detected skew angle. Here, bilinear interpolation (BI) is utilized to detect the skew angle (θ) of the document image and also for correcting the document image according to the skew angle (θ).

The stepwise procedure of the bilinear interpolation technique [29] is given below:

Step 1: Get the preprocessed image (PD_i) as the input image.

Step 2: Resize the row size ($M' \rightarrow H$) and the column size ($N' \rightarrow H$) of the image (PD_i) as equal and denote the resized image as RD_i .

Step 3: Enlarge the resized image (RD_i) from ($H \times H$) to ($H' \times H'$) and denote the enlarged image as ED_i .

Step 4: Imagine scaling the $H' \times H'$ grid to fit over $H \times H$.

Step 5: For each and every pixel in ED_i do:

Step 6: Take a pixel (\hat{x}, \hat{y}) in enlarged image (ED_i).

Step 7: Find the scaled coordinates of the grid point using equation below:

$$x = \hat{x}(H-1)/(H'-1) \tag{3}$$

$$y = \hat{y}(H-1)/(H'-1) \tag{4}$$

The range of scaled coordinates (x, y) are lies within the resized image (RD_i) size.

Step 8: Perform the floor and ceil operations on the obtained scaled coordinates (x, y) to get the four coordinates such as (x_1, y_1), (x_1, y_2), (x_2, y_1) and (x_2, y_2).

Step 9: Find the intensity values (Intsty) of the four neighbours in step 8.

Step 10: Construct the matrix as,

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & x_1 y_1 & 1 \\ x_1 & y_2 & x_1 y_2 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_1 & x_2 y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & x_2 y_2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \\ C \\ D \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Insty(x_1 y_1) \\ Insty(x_1 y_2) \\ Insty(x_2 y_1) \\ Insty(x_2 y_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

(5)

Step 11: Find out the values of A, B, C, D by solving step 10 and substitute it in the below equation,

$$BI(x, y) = Ax + By + Cxy + D$$

(6)

Step 12: Replace (\hat{x}, \hat{y}) by using the value $BI(x, y)$ which is obtained from the above equation.

Finally, the skew corrected image $(SkD_i, D \in M' \times N')$ is obtained and it is passed to carry out the segmentation process.

C. Character Segmentation Using Adaptive Histogram Equalization

In order to recognize each character, the character should be segmented from the document image (SkD_i) and so AHE is used here to segment the character from the document image (SkD_i) . AHE is an extension to traditional Histogram Equalization technique. AHE enhances contrast of the document x' . AHE is routine, locally adaptive and habitually produces superior document.

Consider a moving window w of size $O \times O$ and the pixel (i, j) having an intensity of I . Then, the modified pixel (i, j) is processed as:

$$Map(I) = p [q \times map_{-, -}(I) + (1-q) map_{+, -}(I)] + [1-p] [q \times map_{-, +}(I) + (1-p) map_{+, +}(I)] \quad (7)$$

Where, $map_{+, -}$ - mapping of right upper $(i_+, -)$

$map_{+, +}$ - mapping of right lower $(i_+, +)$

$map_{-, +}$ - mapping of left upper $(i_-, +)$

$map_{-, -}$ - mapping of left lower $(i_-, -)$

$$p = (j - j_-) / (j_+ - j_-) \quad (8)$$

$$q = (i - i_-) / (i_+ - i_-) \quad (9)$$

This modification is done for all the pixels in the entire document (SkD_i) and finally the segmented characters $(sc_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, d$ where $sc_i \in skD_i)$ are obtained.

D. Optimal Feature Extraction with the help of Voronoi based Zoning

The segmented characters (sc) are then subjected to feature extraction process. To extract the features, the segmented characters (sc) are zoned by using voronoi based technique. In order to get the optimal features (ff_i) , the membership function is optimized by using AGA. Zoning is nothing but dividing the given input image into number of sub images that can give information related to a particular part of the pattern. Zoning is of two types.

1. Static: Obtained by superimposing the regular $m \times n$ grids on a pattern image

2. Dynamic: The design of zoning is considered as an optimization problem

The steps followed to zone the image are :

1. Define the number of points $\{Z_j = Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n\}$ to be divide the image

2. Determine the size of the image $(sc_i : u \times v)$

3. Find the difference (d_i) between the number of points generated $\{Z_j\}$ and the size of the image (sc_i) .

4. Get the minimum difference for each number of points generated $\{Z_j\}$

5. Sort the points $\{Z_j\}$ in descending order

By using these above steps, the image (sc_i) is partitioned into number of zones $\{Z_j = Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n\}$ based on the number of points generated already.

The zones $\{Z_j\}$ obtained in the above steps are utilized to calculate the features (ff_i) of the image (sc_i) . After obtaining the zones $\{Z_j = Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n\}$, the center points of each zone are calculated and are represented as the voronoi points $(\{V_j = v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\})$. After the calculation of the voronoi points $(\{V_j = v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\})$, feature instances (fl_i) are find out with the help of the feature set (FS_i) from each zone (Z_j) . Then, the Euclidean distance (ED_{ij}) between the location of the feature instance (fl_i) and the voronoi points are calculated and based on that distance ranked index sequence (R) is created. The ranked index sequence (R) consists the zones $\{Z_j = Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n\}$ which are arranged based in the ascending order of the Euclidean distance (ED_{ij}) calculated. Finally, weight $(WE = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_{ij}\})$ of each zone (Z_j) is assigned by using the adaptive membership function (ω_{ij}) [14] where ω_{ij} is the weight of the zone (Z_j) at the corresponding feature instance (fl_i) .

The membership function used here is

$$\omega_{ij} = e^{-\gamma ED_{ij}} \quad (10)$$

Where, γ is a positive parameter which denotes the falling rate.

After the calculation the membership function, the range of the membership functions (ω_{ij}) are fuzzified between 0 and 1. Thus the adaptive membership function becomes adaptive fuzzy membership function. Finally, features (ff_i) of each character image (sc_i) is obtained as follows:

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$$FF_{sc_i} = \begin{bmatrix} FF_{sc_i}(1,1) & FF_{sc_i}(1,2) & \dots & FF_{sc_i}(1,n) \\ FF_{sc_i}(2,1) & FF_{sc_i}(2,2) & \dots & FF_{sc_i}(2,n) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ FF_{sc_i}(S,1) & FF_{sc_i}(S,2) & \dots & FF_{sc_i}(S,n) \end{bmatrix} \quad (11)$$

In equation (11), FF_{sc_i} represents the feature matrix of each character (sc_i) and $FF_{sc_i}(2,1)$ denotes the weight obtained using the adaptive fuzzy membership function of s^{th} number of the feature in the feature set at n^{th} zone.

The falling rate (γ) in the adaptive fuzzy membership function is optimized using Adaptive Genetic Algorithm to get the optimal features. Here, the falling rate (γ) of the Adaptive Fuzzy membership function is optimized using AGA. The following figure shows the process involved in adaptive GA.

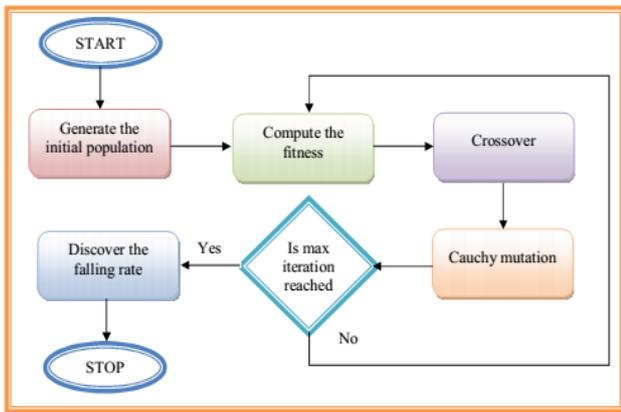


Fig. 2. Flowchart of the Adaptive Genetic Algorithm

Equation 12 shows the calculation of the fitness value for each of the parameter and the best chromosome is selected based on the highest value computed.

$$F(i, j) = \min(er) \quad (12)$$

where $er(i, j)$ is the error rate of t^{th} parameter.

Here, single point crossover is done at a rate of Cr which results in 'T/2' offspring. TCr genes are exchanged for each operation between the corresponding parents.

A change of characteristic in each and every individual will be achieved using a perturbation operation which will be applied probabilistically. The change of chromosome in mutation may result in addition of new features. The equation 13 can be used to mutate individual according to Cauchy mutation. The pre-determined probability is required to perform mutation. The distribution function associated with the Cauchy random variable is given below.

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\pi} \arctan(x) \quad (13)$$

The process initiated and carried through the above steps will not be stopped until a condition is satisfied. This condition is referred to as termination condition. This is done by considering the optimal falling rate. The condition is obtained using AGA substituted in equation 11. This condition is chosen to obtain the optimal results by considering the time

complexity and performance of recognition into consideration.

III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The proposed Telugu Character Recognition system is done with the help of FFBNN. In order to get the optimal features, the falling rate of the adaptive fuzzy membership function is optimized by using AGA. Then, the obtained features are given to the FFBNN to achieve the training process. The proposed Telugu Character Recognition system is evaluated by using a large number of handwritten document images and the proposed technique's performance is compared with the GA-FFBNN and FFBNN. Our proposed technique is implemented in Matlab Platform.

A. Performance Analysis

The parameters proposed in [20] are used to evaluate the performance of the proposed system. The database consists of 12 handwritten documents which are collected manually. The statistical measures TP, TN, FP and FN values of our suggested system are specified in Table 1. Fig. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 illustrate the sample of input handwritten document, preprocessed image, Skew corrected image, line segmented image and segmented characters respectively.



Fig. 3. Input handwritten document



Fig. 4. Preprocessed document



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indicates our proposed Telugu Character recognition technique performs efficiently with less error rate.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

A Telugu character recognition scheme based on FFBNN was presented. The experimental analysis show that the accuracy of this scheme is about 94.08%, sensitivity is 95.65%, specificity is 93.49%, FAR is 0.0650407 and FRR is 0.0434783. These values are arrived after an extensive performance analysis on test images. The test images include the handwritten script, printout of a computer and scanned document. The parameters considered in the proposed FFBNN compensated the complexities that arise from the back through effects from scanned document as well as the printout from a computer.

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