

COMPUTER VISION CAPABILITIES FOR A SEMI-AUTONOMOUS WHEELCHAIR

by

JEREMY TARVER

(Under the Direction of Walter D. Potter)

ABSTRACT

The semi-autonomous wheelchair uses a multi-layered intelligent agent architecture designed to provide people with severe multiple disabilities navigational assistance in indoor environments. This paper describes the addition of computer vision capabilities to the semi-autonomous wheelchair. Specifically an intelligent agent design is described which detects doorways in indoor environments and provides the location to the user via a tactile interface. A prototype is developed that demonstrates the software architecture is capable of operating in a real time environment.

INDEX WORDS: Artificial Intelligence, Computer Vision, Assistive Technology, Doorway Detection

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Motivation

Individuals in powered wheelchairs with multiple disabilities face extreme challenges to their personal autonomy. Their ability to live more independently and with a higher quality of life could be increased by intelligent assistive technologies. Currently there are no commercial systems that users could benefit from. Since the fall of 2002 the University of Georgia's Artificial Intelligence Center has been involved in the design and implementation of an intelligent wheelchair system. The semi-autonomous wheelchair project is large in scope, and represents a collaboration of several researchers. The project started when we received a request from a student at UGA who was both visually and mobility impaired, and was seeking technologies that would provide her with more autonomy. Some of the goals we identified through interviews include obstacle detection and avoidance, doorway navigation, and acquisition of guidance information such as room numbers and signs. We aim to develop an intelligent system to assist users with multiple disabilities in core day-to-day activities.

The activities the project will focus on include assisted navigation in indoor environments aided by sensory augmentation rather than fully autonomous control. The sensory enhancement includes basic level features such as notification of nearby obstacles, indications of path of least obstruction (help navigate out of a crowded space), and discovery of doorways.

1.2 Problem Statement

The design and implementation of the semi-autonomous wheelchair system is described in *Perceptual Navigation for Semi-Autonomous Wheelchair Operations* [Uchiyama, 2008]. The system is comprised of individual sensing agents which collectively can be coordinated to achieve high levels of intelligent behavior, such as finding free space in a crowded corridor or assisting the user through the navigation of a doorway. Based on the needs of the user we interviewed, our prototype is specifically tailored to a mobility impaired user with severe visual impairment but fine motor control of the upper extremities and fully capable cognitive abilities.

We aim to extend the capabilities of the semi-autonomous wheelchair system to provide computer vision capabilities. The eventual aim for our semi-autonomous wheelchair project is assisting users in the navigation of doorways; this project represents the first steps toward accomplishing that task. The goal of this project is to design the software architecture necessary to accurately classify doorways in a real time environment as well as the implementation of a prototype system for a real-time search for doorway candidates.

In order to perform high level object detection and classification such as doorway detection in a real-time environment, a number of complex processing stages and an efficient algorithmic implementation are required. The combination of constraints requiring a low cost system, quick processing in a real time environment and effective operations in a noisy environment including obstructions makes for an extremely challenging problem.

CHAPTER 2

BACKGROUND

2.1 Computer Vision

Computer vision deals with the theory and process of obtaining information from images. It lies at the nexus of artificial intelligence, robotics, signal processing, optics, and machine learning. Computer vision is closely related to the fields of image processing and machine vision and shares many of the same principles and techniques.

Image processing tends to focus on 2D images, typically how to transform a source image to another image. Such operations can include image enhancement or compression, color conversions, or geometrical transformations. Image processing mainly focuses on these transformations, rather than extraction and analysis of information from images [Jain et al. 1995].

Machine vision has been defined as "...the study of methods and techniques whereby artificial vision systems can be constructed and usefully employed in practical applications. As such, it embraces both the science and engineering of vision" [Davies 2004]. Machine vision often distinguishes itself from computer vision by the typically more industrial application of computer vision processes.

Computer vision can be differentiated by the attempt to extract information from an image scene, which often involves higher level classification tasks. Despite the slight distinctions between them, there is much overlap in terms of principles and techniques. This implies that they could be essentially considered as the same field, but the distinctions may be

necessary in order to focus research and publication materials due to the tremendous scope of information available from visual images.

2.2 Computer Vision in Wheelchair Systems

The TALOS project was undertaken at ICS-FORTH in Greece. To my knowledge it represents the first usage of computer vision for assistive technologies. The purpose of the project was to provide semi-autonomous navigational assistance to users of powered wheelchairs, specifically targeted navigational assistance [Trahanias et al., 1997]. In this case the intention was to allow the operator to choose a target from an image of the local environment which the wheelchair then attempts to navigate towards.

The interface consists of a visual display by means of which images captured from the cameras are displayed to the user. The user is able to select a target in the image by means of a pointing device. Once a target is selected the navigation process is given over to the system. The system achieves navigation toward the target selected by the user by an internal hierarchical motion planner. Essentially the wheelchair directs itself towards the target selected in the image, if an obstacle is encountered by the sonar/IR sensors a routine for obstacle avoidance is invoked which overrides the global planner. This is an example of the subsumption architecture proposed by Brooks [1986].

The computer vision algorithm works essentially by creating a color histogram of the targeted region in the image. The histogram of the target region and a small window surrounding it is referred to as a template. Regions of subsequent images are compared to the target template by a sum of squares difference criterion. The location of the best fit in the new image is defined as the new target, and the template is updated. The direction of the target in

regards to center of the image (direction the camera is pointing) is easily obtained. The direction is given by $\arctan(x/f)$, where x is the centroid of the template and f is the focal length of the camera. This is both the angle the camera needs to pan in order to fix the template in the center of the image and the direction the wheelchair itself needs to go. The implementation of their design includes 2 separate processors, a Pentium for computer vision and control of the camera positioning system, and a 486 processor for controlling the wheelchair motion and the other sensors attached to the system. The implementation does not address the issue of autonomous object detection and classification, but rather relies on the user to select a region in the image after which the software tracks the region of interest.

A project using a panoramic vision system was implemented at ICS-FORTH in Greece [Argyros et al., 2002]. A powered wheelchair is again used as the platform for the system. The sensors include an odometer for tracking wheelchair motion, 6 sonar units, a microphone, and most importantly a Neuronics panoramic camera with a paraboloid mirror and a 360 field of view. The purpose of this project is like the previous in that it is aimed at semi-autonomous navigation. The user is able to direct the motion of the wheelchair via voice commands towards a particular direction, or use a visual display to select a target region for the system to navigate towards. This also includes the following of a moving target such as a person.

The use of a panoramic camera has several advantages. It allows for simultaneous access to visual information in a complete 360 range surrounding the platform. Traditional camera systems require pan/tilt systems to focus the camera in order to gather visual information about a region that is not currently in view. The hardware and software to control the movement is an additional time and design cost that is avoided with the use of a single camera capable of a 360 view.

However the use of a panoramic camera is not without its own costs, it requires additional software processing in order to account for the different properties of the image. Traditional images can benefit from the large existing libraries of vision processing techniques available, whereas techniques and libraries for omni-directional image processing are not readily available. The omni-directional camera is also much more expensive than traditional cameras, as of 12/10/2007 a typical quoted price runs around \$2,000.

The implementation of their prototype used the sonar sensors to calculate the distance to the moving object targeted by the vision system. The vision system would calibrate the direction of the target, and the sonar system would calculate the distance. This represents a nice combination of two levels of sensors, and the technique could be applied to estimate distances without relying on the complexities of stereo vision. As in previous research the higher level system of targeted navigation is subsumed by obstacle avoidance techniques if hazards are encountered. The target is also similarly recognized, a color histogram is used, but this time with the addition of 3 regions representing the head, torso, and legs of the human body.

A major downside to the approach of using only color histograms is that it is reliant upon the color of the target being sufficiently different from the color of the background. For example if the system followed a target wearing a white shirt, whenever the target crossed in front of a white wall or corridor the system could no longer find and track the target. This approach also relies on the selection of a target of interest by the user, and does not attempt to detect and classify objects autonomously.

The aims of the TAO project involve the development of an add-on system to powered wheelchairs to increase the autonomy of the user [Gomi and Griffith 1998]. Some of the tasks undertaken in its development include basic collision avoidance, corridor navigation, doorway

navigation, escape of tight situations, and landmark based navigation. The TAO 1 sensors include 2 CCD color cameras, 3 bump sensors, and 12 IR sensors. It uses one processor used for the vision system and another for the other sensors and subsystem.

The vision system is used to calculate the depth and size of free space in the area near the wheelchair, the vanishing point, and indoor landmarks. The vision processing receives as input two 256x128 images and operates at a rate of about 8 frames per second. The image from each camera is divided into sections left/right/center, and then the two images are averaged down to a 64x32 pixel image. Subsequent processing occurs on this averaged down image. The technique for obtaining depth values is called Horswill's habitat constraint vision processing. Other information obtained from the vision sensors is the vanishing point and area detection (for determining amount of free space).

The Wheelesley project from MIT is based on the Tin Man II prototype [Miller and Slack 1995], and aims to provide navigational assistance to powered wheelchair users in both indoor and outdoor environments. The early work published on Wheelesley describes the GUI used to interface with the control system, with the underlying sensors and capabilities being essentially the same as the Tin Man [Yanco et al., 1995]. Later work describes the addition of a stereo vision system to be used in outdoor navigational assistance [Yanco 2001]. Principally the two images were compared for difference between points, thus generating a disparity map. An edge detector was applied to the disparity map and significant changes in gradient are classified as obstacle boundaries.

A technique was also implemented for following a sidewalk by using edge detection, then fitting a line to edge points on the left and another line to edge points on the right, with the requirement that at least 8 points must fit the line. It appears that the array of other sensors

available on the Tin Man platform was never used in the implementation, but rather obstacle detection relied entirely on computer vision. The two functions described in this paper are sidewalk following and an inferior implementation of obstacle detection.

The vision system described could be useful as an addition for obstacle detection, particularly in situations relating to drop off detection where sonar would fail. Vision is a very high level and computationally intense information pathway, for simple tasks such as detecting obstacles the primary tool should be sonar whenever possible due to its low complexity, monetary, and computational cost.

Since the fall of 2002 the University of Georgia has been involved in the creation of a semi-autonomous wheelchair to assist individuals with multiple disabilities. Foundational work was done on the project by Yuki Ono, who did experimental work on the design of a control system for a robotic platform. His approach involved a multi-agent system with different components to handle sensors, computer vision, locomotion, and collision avoidance [Ono et al., 2004]. The hardware consisted of a commercial robot kit called the ERI Personal Robot System. It is a small robotic kit including a chassis, power supply, wheels, motors, and a collection of sensors. The sensors include 3 infrared sensors, a microphone, and a web camera. The kit is controlled by a laptop which sits on top of the chassis.

This platform was used to develop software to attempt to solve some of the problems involved with corridor navigation. The web camera was used to acquire images which were processed to determine if the location was a corridor. A 160x120 color image was converted to grayscale, after which it was smoothed with a Gaussian filter. Then a Sobel operator was applied to enhance the edges, followed by binary thresholding and a thinning operator. The final step

was a Hough Transform to detect candidate lines which conformed to the geometry expected of a corridor.

2.3 Doorway Detection

The detection of doorways is a critical component to robot navigation in structured environments. The recognition of a doorway gives important information for autonomous or semi-autonomous vehicles. This section examines different approaches used in detecting doorways, and discusses the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches.

In Stoeter et al. [2000], a mobile robot captures camera images 380x280 pixels in size. A Sobel filter is applied to detect edges then the edge image is thresholded to eliminate weak edges. Dilation is a morphological operator which essentially causes objects to grow or dilate in size. Erosion has the opposite effect, it causes objects to shrink. Combining these two operators in sequence was used to close line segments. Once the vertical segments were obtained, the locations of possible doorways were reported based on the expected dimensions of doors and the corridor parameters. The corridor parameters were the direction and distance of the wall with respect to the robot. The direction and distance to the wall were obtained by locating the line intersection of the floor with the walls. On a 166 Mhz processor the robot processed roughly one image per second. The computer vision techniques were combined with sonar readings to verify if the door was open or closed.

This technique has several advantages, namely its speed, especially considering that current processors are roughly 15 times faster. Another advantage is that it takes into account a very important property of doorframes that most other techniques using a single camera do not; the corridor dimensions and the relationship of the frame to the wall. The drawback to the

authors' method is that it only detects the vertical bars and the relative distance between them (and corridor parameters) to classify an object as a doorframe. This means that any two strong vertical lines sufficiently apart will be falsely classified as a doorframe, and does not take into account additional features such as the lintel. Therefore the edges of an inset wall containing a water fountain would be falsely classified as a doorway, as would a wide painted vertical stripe extending from the floor to the ceiling.

Monasterio et al. used a single camera to obtain images 160x120 pixels in size. Very similar to the work done by Stoeter et al., a vertical Sobel filter was applied to the image in order to capture the strong vertical lines of the doorframe. The image was filtered again with a dilation filter and afterwards columns separated by thin spaces are merged. If a column was wider than 35 pixels, it was determined to be a doorway. This approach has several disadvantages, it is not adaptable to changes in perspective, the camera must be close enough to the door (within 2 meters) so that the vertical sides are sufficiently apart, and again any two sufficiently strong vertical lines sufficiently apart would be falsely identified as a doorway.

Another approach taken has been to classify doorways by recognizing components of the doorway as identified by neural networks Ciricelli et al. [2003]. Two neural networks were trained to detect components by color. First the image was translated from the RGB color space to HSV color space, which represents Hue, Saturation, and Value. Next the Hue and Saturation channels for an 18x18 pixel sub-window of the image were fed into a neural network. The components that were searched for include both the top right and left corners and the vertical and horizontal bars. First a neural net was trained for the upper left corner, and then the same net was used to detect upper right corners by simply flipping the image. The same technique was used to detect the vertical and horizontal bars of the doors. Each sub-window is shifted by two

pixels, (not tiled) so for one scan there are (a seemingly excessive) 98820 of sub-windows tested by the network. A voting scheme was used to prevent false positives. After the corners and bars were detected, a heuristic was used to determine if there were sufficient components of the door present to be considered a door.

The advantage to this method is that it is (at least in the component stage) not based on heuristics, but the neural network is trained by real examples and constitutes true machine learning. The corner and bar detectors are also able to positively identify corners and bars that are slightly off in terms of angles, so it is perspective and scale insensitive. A large disadvantage of the system is the computational cost in detecting the components. This drawback could be improved by using a gray-scale image rather than color, for the color of doors is variant, and the number of input nodes to the neural network could be reduced by half. Furthermore the gray-scale image could be convolved with an edge detector and optionally thresholded before being input to a neural network. For the corner detector rather than a binary output the neural net could be trained to output the pixel closest to the absolute corner. Also more aggressive shifting should be done, so rather than a shift of only 2 pixels and having excessive overlap, a shift of at least $\frac{1}{3}$ the size of the sub-window would significantly decrease the computational complexity.

In Snaith et al., [1998] the authors propose a system to assist blind users to detect doorways by means of a camera mounted on the shoulder. First the search area was constrained by sparse scanning of the image by means of two horizontal lines which divide the image into thirds. The grayscale value of the two lines was used as the two input vectors to a linear correlation. If the linear correlations exceeded a threshold, six further equally spaced lines were scanned. These lines (and their immediate vertical neighbors) were convolved with a vertical 3x3 Sobel operator. The output was fed into a simple threshold based transition detector to

detect the horizontal position of major transitions. All of the lines are then searched for pairs of lines or transitions which have the expected separation which a doorframe would. Starting from the first likely point found, lines beneath it were searched in a half angle cone of 5 degrees (allowing the camera to be not entirely vertical). The results made up a matrix of arrays of candidate points which may represent a vertical doorframe line. Each array was then searched to determine covariance with respect to the start pixel. Classification was then performed on the candidate line based on the number of matching pixels. Lines that had all matching pixels were deemed primary, and lines with 2/3rd's pixels matching were considered secondary. When an image was found that had 2 secondary lines sufficiently apart, or a secondary with a primary, or two primaries, further processing was performed. The region between the top of the candidate lines was searched using the same method as previously described, but this time the search was performed for horizontal lines. If a primary or secondary horizontal line was found, the group of lines was classified as a doorframe. The computational cost seems very reasonable, as the authors were able to achieve a rate of about 1 frame per second, on a 486 PC running Windows 3.1. This technique seems promising because it is robust to occlusion. The covariance matching technique is unfortunately sensitive to changes in illumination, and requires near constant illumination across the image. The technique is also susceptible to classifying any large rectilinear object, such as a large cabinet, as a doorway.

In Muñoz-Salinas et al., [2004] a real time system for the detection of doorframes was developed using fuzzy logic. First a Canny Edge Detector was applied to the image followed by a specialized Hough Transform [Foresti 2000] to extract line segment information. Two configurations were detected, a single doorframe and a double doorframe (caused by either the door being closed, or a wide moulding on the edges of the frame). The authors used fuzzy logic

to categorize line segments and their relationship to each other, and thereby classified objects as a doorframe or not. This method is insensitive to perspective or color, and is capable of working at an experimented rate of 6 frames per second on a 320x288 image. On a Pentium 4 2.4 Ghz processor images took on average 160 ms. These processing speeds make the technique applicable to real time doorway detection; however it was not demonstrated in a real time environment. The authors later modified the parameters used to check for fuzzy concept membership in a separate paper [Muñoz-Salinas et al., 2006], where they tuned the thresholds using a genetic algorithm. They also modified the possible classifications defining a Frame Edge, Door Frame, and Frame Edge with Evidence. This approach is the best attempt so far to classifying potential doors in a single image with no depth information.

2.4 Problems with Prior Work

The previous approaches detailed above fail to fully address the problem of doorway classification. We can evaluate the incompleteness of prior work based on scene conditions that would cause a misclassification of a doorway. The following scenes will be used to evaluate previous approaches: a large cabinet the size of a doorway (complete with handles and hinges); a large painted vertical stripe on a corridor wall; and finally a store with model door units on display. Table 2.1 categorizes previous approaches based on these situations.

Table 2.1: Scene limitations of prior work

	Cabinet	Vertical Stripe	Door in the Store
Monasterio	✗	✗	✗
Cicirelli	✗	✓	✗
Snaith	✗	✓	✗
Munoz-Salinaz	✗	✓	✗
Stoeter	✓	✗	✓

Approaches taken by Monasterio and Stoeter do not search for the lintel of a doorway, thus they are vulnerable to classifying a large painted vertical stripe on a corridor wall as a doorway. Approaches such as those by Monasterio, Cicirelli, Snaith, and Munoz-Salinaz which do not calculate distance information and ignore the relationship of the doorway in relation to the plane of the wall are vulnerable to classifying a large cabinet as a doorway. One might argue that a highly refined feature identifier could be designed to distinguish between the door of a large cabinet and a standard door. Let us assume for a moment that such a system exists and it can distinguish between a large cabinet door and a standard door. Now imagine the user of such a system navigating through a store that sells doors. The model door units on display would match every qualifying feature derivable from a two dimensional image, even though the model door units are not in fact doorways. One could argue that the likelihood of such a situation occurring is small enough such that this situation could reasonably be ignored. However rare the situation may be, to ignore it would be to miss a fundamental characteristic of doorways highlighted by this situation. The key feature that distinguishes the model door units from a navigable doorway is that they are not embedded in the plane of a wall. Doorways by their very nature are designed to be a movable barrier to selectively prevent or allow passage through the plane of a wall. Therefore approaches which do not take distance and planar information into account, even if sufficiently tuned to distinguish between large cabinets and standard doors, will nevertheless fail the “Door in the Store” problem.

CHAPTER 3

DESIGN

3.1 Design Overview

The previous section detailed prior work in detecting doorways and the unsatisfied problems of the previous approaches. We identified the necessity of both detecting doorways by their position with respect to the plane of a wall and their geometric features. To obtain the requisite distance information we will utilize the laser range finding unit described in *Perceptual Navigation for Semi-Autonomous Wheelchair Operations* [Uchiyama, 2008]. Our system incorporates a low cost web camera with a horizontal laser line generator allowing the detection of laser points in the image to be identified and based on the technique of triangulation converted to distance measurements.

It is desirable in the operation of the laser line generating unit to activate it intermittently in order to both consume less power and prevent the unit from overheating. Therefore our design calls for a two stage approach to doorway detection. The first stage is the Doorway Candidate Search which will rely only on the web camera to search for doorway candidates based on features derived from the monocular image. If a doorway candidate is detected the second stage will be activated which is Doorway Verification. Doorway Verification will involve activating the laser range finding behavior in order to obtain the distance data necessary to calculate both the doors exact dimensions and its parameters with respect to the wall. Figure 3.1 shows the design overview of the Doorway Detection and Notification process.

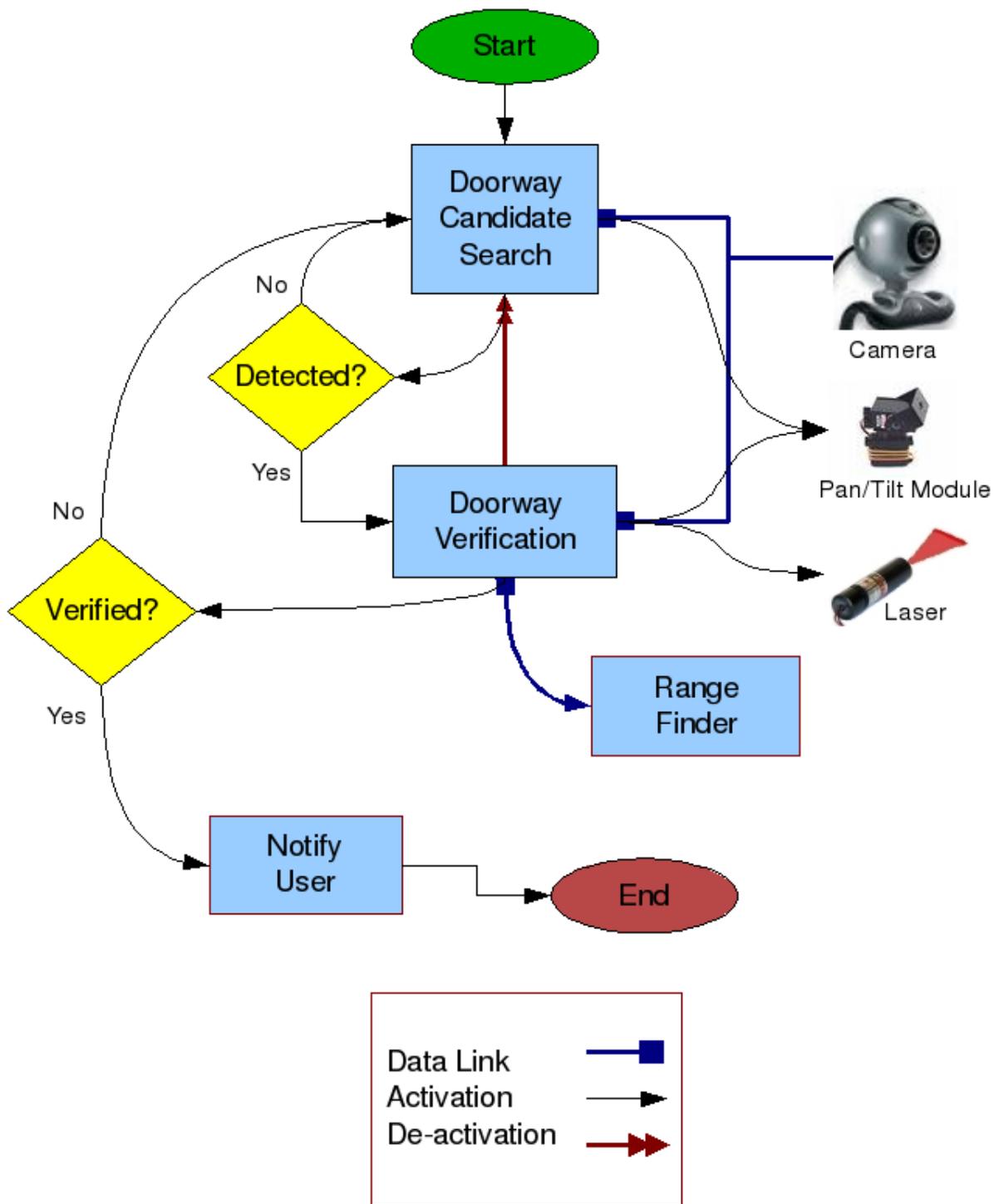


Figure 3.1: Stages of Doorway Detection System

The start node represents initiation of the doorway detection system, and will be invoked when the semi-autonomous wheelchair is in general navigation mode. The first process is the search for doorway candidates. In this stage video frames are continually being retrieved from the camera unit and processed in order to detect potential doorways. The pan/tilt system is used to pan the camera unit back and forth in the search process. If an image contains a doorway candidate, the Doorway Verification routine is then invoked.

The Doorway Verification process may choose to pan or tilt the servo motors to focus more directly on the potential doorway, after which it activates the laser line generator and acquires an image from the camera unit. The newly acquired image containing the laser line is passed to the Range Finder. The Range Finder locates the laser points in the source image and based on the pixel coordinates will transform the coordinate values into a real-world distance measure. The result is a one dimensional array of distance values whose length is equal to the width of the image. Therefore each column in the original image will have a corresponding distance measurement associated with it. When the distance values are computed the array of range values is returned to the Doorway Verification unit.

If the doorway candidate is verified, then the distance and direction to the center point of the doorway is sent to the Notify User process. The Notify User process will send signals to the glove microcontroller to vibrate the motors that correspond to the proper direction and distance of the detected doorway. The detection and notification process ends once the user has been notified of the location of the doorway.

3.2 Doorway Candidate Search

The process of extracting information from an image is one that involves a series of stages. The design is described below in a step by step method, with a section devoted to each stage in the computer vision process. The following stages of the design will be discussed: preprocessing, detecting edges, extracting line segments from the edge images, and finally matching the lines together to classify doorway candidates.

Preprocessing often involves image transformation as preliminary steps in order to decrease the overall order of magnitude of the operations performed over the course of information extraction. If a number of operations has to be performed on an $N \times N$ array for each of the several stages, then the time involved is on the order of $O(S \times N^2)$, where S is the number of operators which have to be applied to each pixel in the image. Since N dominates S the reduction in the size of N is very desirable for reducing computational cost. Therefore the first step of preprocessing will be to reduce the image size by half; from the original 640×480 to 320×240 pixels.

The second method of reducing computation time is a conversion from color to greyscale. Typical color images are composed of three channels, an array for red values, an array for green values, and an array for blue values. Some images also include a fourth array for alpha, or transparency values, but it is not the case with the images we will capture. Since color is also not necessary to detect the geometrical properties of the doorframe, we can reduce these three channels to a single channel representing only a greyscale value. By reducing three channels of color information representing a pixel to a single value, the number of operations is reduced by another factor of three. The number of operations after these preprocessing steps have been made is therefore reduced from $(S \times N^2)$, to $(S \times (N/3)^2)$.

Edge detection is the next stage in processing images from the indoor environment. Edge detectors work by finding and enhancing large differences in adjacent pixel values. The Sobel operator is a commonly used method in detecting or enhancing edges. It works by approximating the first order derivative which expresses the gradient of the image intensity at each point. The way this works is that the original image is convolved with a 3x3 kernel. For the enhancement of vertical edges (the horizontal derivative) the kernel used is shown in Figure 3.2. For horizontal edges the kernel is shown in Figure 3.3.

-1	0	1
-2	0	2
-1	0	1

Figure 3.2: Vertical Sobel Kernel

1	2	1
0	0	0
-1	-2	-1

Figure 3.3: Horizontal Sobel Kernel

The usage of these operations on an image is best imparted with visual examples, so the following will demonstrate their effects on the source image in Figure 3.4. Figure 3.5 is the result of applying the vertical Sobel filter, and Figure 3.6 is the result of the horizontal Sobel filter.

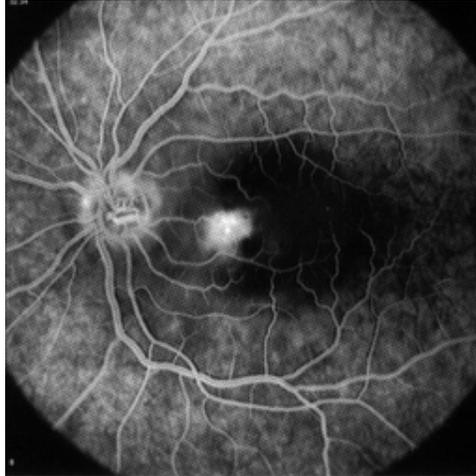


Figure 3.4: Original Image

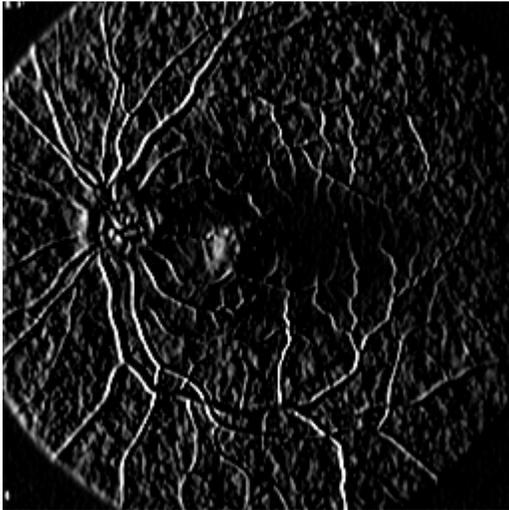


Figure 3.5: Vertical Sobel Filter Applied

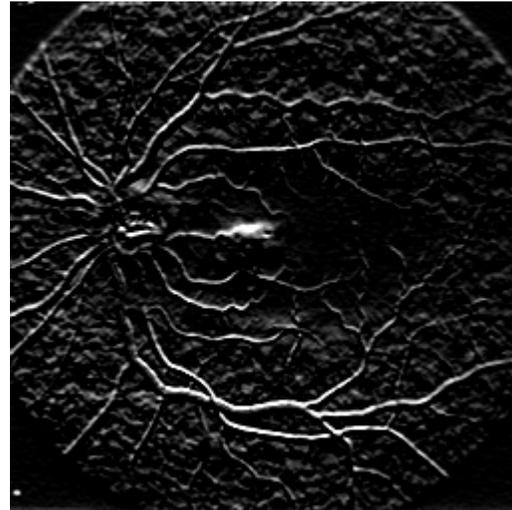


Figure 3.6: Horizontal Sobel Filter Applied

Another commonly used technique is the Laplacian operator. It works by computing the second derivative of the intensity image and finding the zero crossings. Figure 3.7 shows the standard kernel used for the Laplacian operator. An advantage to the Laplacian is that it results in thinner lines than the Sobel operator; however it is also sensitive to noise. To resolve this issue typically a smoothing filter is applied to the image to reduce noise. The Gaussian filter is

most often used for this step; it acts by using a normal distribution to transform each pixel which has the effect of averaging pixels to achieve a blurring or smoothing effect. Figure 3.8 shows the result of applying a 3x3 Gaussian smoothing filter followed by the Laplacian operator.

1	1	1
1	-8	1
1	1	1

Figure 3.7: Laplacian Kernel

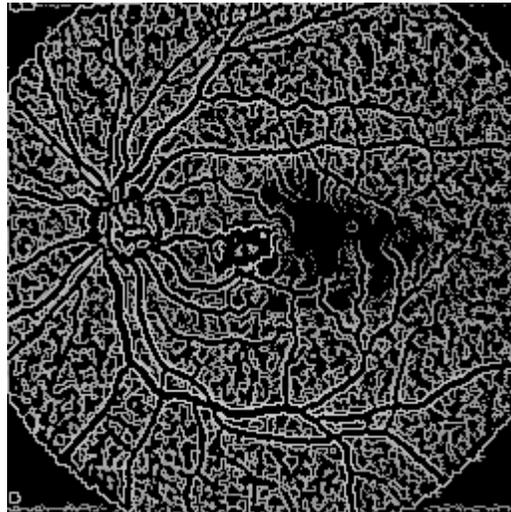


Figure 3.8: Original Image

Once the stage of edge detection has been completed the next task is to try and extract straight lines from the pixels that represent edges in the original image. The task of grouping edge pixels into corresponding sets of features, even simple ones like straight lines represents a significant problem. Due to noise or inaccuracies from the image data, there are often gaps in pixels or edges that are noisy. The Hough Transform is a technique that is designed to overcome the imperfections in the edge image by the means of a voting process. In essence each edge pixel is examined and is allowed to cast a vote about the lines it could possibly lie upon. Since vertical lines when represented by the slope-intercept form have a slope approaching infinity,

this form of representation is avoided in favor of polar coordinates. Polar coordinates are a means of representing a line's location in a Cartesian plane by an angle measure (θ) and a distance measure (ρ). The distance measure is the distance from the center of the coordinate system along a line that lies perpendicular to the line that is being described. The votes from each pixel are stored in an accumulator array. The accumulator array, also known as the Hough space, is indexed by the ρ and θ values. Strong lines in the image will have many edge pixels voting for them, and thus will be represented as peaks in the Hough space. After the voting process is complete, the Hough space is searched for local maxima in order to detect lines in the image.

The last stage in the process is classifying doorways based on the line segment information. The classification is made by matching two lines that are vertical and of sufficient distance apart that are also joined by a horizontal line. The allowable amount between line endpoints to be considered as "connected" will be experimentally derived. Once all of the conditions have been satisfied with regards to line structure and placement, the location of a potential doorway is signaled. Note that the doorway could be open or closed, and this technique will also allow for partial occlusion of the lower regions of the doorframe, for instance when a person or object partially obscures the view of the doorway. However it should be noted that doorways that do not have a straight lintel, but rather an arched one, will not be classified by the doorway candidate search.

CHAPTER 4

IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Chapter Overview

Since the design and physical embodiment of the semi-autonomous wheelchair has been detailed in previous work [Uchiyama, 2008], this section will briefly provide an overview of the Control Architecture and the Vision Module, and then introduce a new protocol design for communication between the sensors, controllers, and actuators. Next the software architecture of the computer vision system will be outlined, followed by a detailed description of the processing stages involved in the Doorway Candidate Search implementation.

4.2 Control Architecture

The semi-autonomous wheelchair system is comprised of three control processor architectures. The first and highest level of processing is performed by an on-board laptop which we refer to as the "host computer". The host computer sits beneath the chair and interfaces with the additional processing units which act as intermediaries in the sensory processing and control stages. The second is a custom micro-controller designed by Dr. Covington to activate the vibrations of the tactile glove. We refer to this as the "glove controller". The glove controller accepts signals from the host computer via a serial connection. The third is a microcontroller which handles the rest of the interactions between the sensors, the actuators, and the host computer. We refer to this as the "Main Controller" due to its dominant role in the sensor/actuator control scheme. The bulk of the interactions between sensors, actuators, and the

host computer are mediated by the Main Controller, a Rowley Associates LPC2138. The Main Controller collects input from the sonar sensor array, accelerometer, and gyroscope. It also offers the ability to control functions such as turning the horizontal line laser on and off, and sending control signals to move the pan/tilt servo module. The Main Controller is connected to the host computer by a USB connection which delivers both power and control signals.

4.3 Vision Module

In addition to the sensors connected to the Main Controller, the host computer also is able to obtain visual information from the environment via a direct USB connection with a Logitech Quickcam Pro 4000. Figure 4.1 shows the physical configuration of the computer vision module.

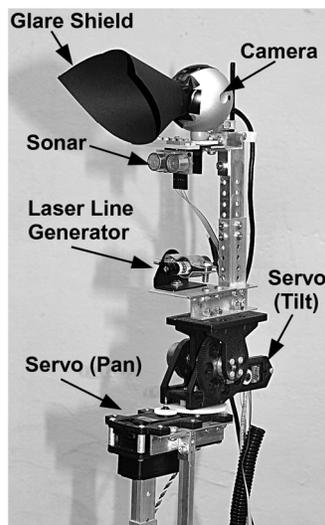


Figure 4.1: Computer Vision Module

The laser is mounted atop of the pan/tilt module which is secured to a custom designed aluminum frame over the back of the wheelchair. Extending upwards from the laser approximately 12" is an extension of the frame which attaches to the camera unit.

4.4 Communication Protocol

The host computer communicates with the Main Controller by means of a custom communication protocol. Our design is capable of representing all of the control signals necessary for the actuators in addition to representing the information gathered from the sensors. Thus the protocol is a two-way device for communicating both commands and data. The Main Controller operates on 32 bit instructions, thus the communication protocol is based on a 32 bit packet containing a header, type, and value. The first eight bits of the packet represent the header, which is an indication to the processor that a new signal is beginning, and the instruction type and data payload are following. The next eight bits represent the packet type, which can indicate any one of the following types of information: pan, tilt, laser, sonar, gyroscope, or accelerometer. The last 16 bits contain the data payload, which in the case of a sonar packet will represent different sonar distance readings, or in the case of pan or tilt packets represent a control value indicating the degrees that the servo motors will move. An example packet is shown in Table 4.1. Table 4.2 represents a list of the packet types and their descriptions.

Table 4.1: Communication Protocol Packet Descriptors

Header	ID	Data
10000001	00000001	0000000010110100
0x81	Pan[Fixed]	180°

Table 4.2: Communication Protocol Packet Descriptors

ID	Type	Description
1	Pan [Fixed]	Move the pan servo motor to a fixed point on a 360° system
2	Pan [Relative]	Move the pan servo motor N degrees relative to the current position
3	Tilt [Fixed]	Move the tilt servo motor to a fixed point on a 180° system
4	Tilt [Relative]	Move the tilt servo motor N degrees relative to the current position
5	Laser	Activate/Deactivate
6	Sonar 0	Value reading from sonar sensor
7	Sonar 1	Value reading from sonar sensor
8	Sonar 2	Value reading from sonar sensor
9	Sonar 3	Value reading from sonar sensor
10	Sonar 4	Value reading from sonar sensor
11	Sonar 5	Value reading from sonar sensor
12	Sonar 6	Value reading from sonar sensor
13	Sonar 7	Value reading from sonar sensor
14	Sonar 8	Value reading from sonar sensor
15	Gyroscope	Value reading from Gyroscope
16	Accelerometer	Value reading from Accelerometer

4.5 Software Architecture

Figure 4.2 shows a schematic of the Software Architecture Layers involved in our implementation of computer vision capabilities for the Semi-Autonomous Wheelchair. The base layer is the operating system. We chose Linux early on as an ideal candidate for an operating system due to its open nature which allows for maximum configurability. In a real time environment the ability to limit running processes to a minimum provides extra processing time available for our own software stack in addition to freeing up other resources. The next software layer is a set of library functions made available by Intel. Called Intel Integrated Performance Primitives (Intel IPP), these libraries offer highly optimized functions for multimedia data processing and communications applications. Specifically the functions that we are interested in provide an extremely fast set of functions for low level image manipulation. On top of the

performance primitives is an open source library called OpenCV. This library is also released by Intel, and it includes many extremely useful functions for real time computer vision applications. The topmost layer in the software architecture is our custom code designed to implement the stages required in doorway classification. Figure 4.2 displays three custom software modules: Doorway Detection, Range Finder, and Door Verifier. Naturally other modules can be added to this layer as necessary, these three are chosen for their direct relevance to the Doorway Detection System.

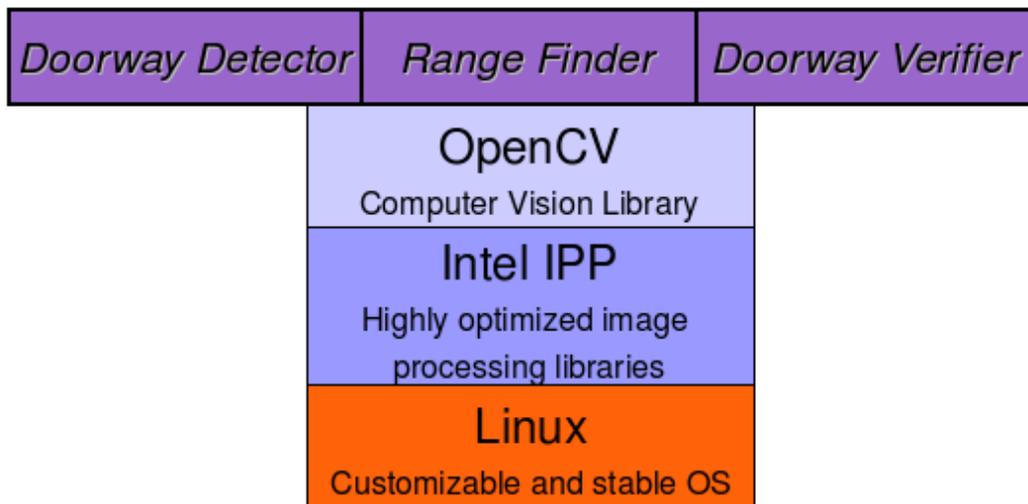


Figure 4.2: Software Architecture Layers

4.6 Doorway Candidate Search Overview

The implementation of the Doorway Candidate Search will be described in the following sections. Each section corresponds to a stage in the processing required to extract information about doorway candidates. The stages of implementation that will be described are

Preprocessing, Edge Detection, Line Segment Extraction, Merging Line Segments, and Doorway Candidate Classification. The OpenCV library functions used to perform stages of the image processing pipeline will be included in the discussion.

4.6.1 Preprocessing

Preprocessing is the stage in computer vision where operations are undertaken to prepare the image for further analysis. The first step in the preprocessing phase is the reduction of the image size. The prototype camera we are working with has a maximum resolution of 640x480, and we capture images at the maximum resolution. This allows the possibility of performing future operations that require crisp images or fine details. However the detection of strong lines comprising doorframes is not one of those applications requiring high resolution, so we can reduce its size by one half and achieve a very significant reduction in time complexity. The image is reduced in size and simultaneously convolved with a Gaussian smoothing filter in order to reduce noise in the image. The function `cvPyrDown` convolves the source image with a 5x5 Gaussian filter and then down samples the image by rejecting even rows and columns. The image is converted to greyscale using the function `cvCvtColor`. The down sampled and greyscale image is used as a basis for two new images, one for horizontal edges and one for vertical edges.

4.6.2 Edge Detection

Figure 4.3 displays the results of a standard Laplacian operator. After the vertical edges are detected a separate process is performed which detects horizontal edges. The horizontal edge image was produced by convolving the original image with a 2nd order horizontal 3x3 Sobel filter. Thresholding was then performed whereby pixel values 32 or less were reduced to zero.



Figure 4.3: Results of Laplacian Edge Detector



Figure 4.4: Results of Horizontal Sobel Edge Operator

4.6.3 Line Segment Extraction

Lines were extracted using a Probabilistic Hough Transform. The method `cvHoughLines2` allows as one of its parameters the type of Hough Transform to be used. The OpenCV library functions available include the Standard Hough Transform, Multi-Scale Hough Transform, and Probabilistic Hough Transform. Of the three only Probabilistic returns line segment information. Having spent some time previously implementing a Hough Transform with line segment detection, the ability to use this library function was a great help in providing a faster implementation. The downside however was the lack of control over theta (or angle) search range. An example of how this would be useful: knowing in advance that the starting point for door detection is strong vertical lines, the Hough space could be greatly reduced by limiting the theta parameter to a few degrees plus or minus the vertical axis. A similar outcome can be approximated by setting the theta parameter to PI . The result is that edge points are allowed to vote only on vertical or horizontal lines. If it can be guaranteed that the lines are vertical, this approach is acceptable. However in real-time environments it is difficult to guarantee the camera maintains an exact orientation. For example if the mobile platform the camera is attached to is not perfectly horizontal, or the camera itself gets bumped, or pan/tilt servos move the camera, the lines will not be perfectly vertical. With the use of a gyroscope it is possible to determine the position of the camera with respect to the vertical axis by considering the Z axis value, and transform the image by the number of degrees the camera is off of true vertical. However this would require more complexity and further image operators, thus a better approach is simply to allow a margin of error for vertical lines, but still restrict the search space. The current implementation opts for accurate line detection, allowing a theta step of 1 degree.

The result of `cvHoughLines2` is a sequence of line segments. Since the order of lines is not guaranteed nor is the orientation of the lines, a few post-processing operations are performed in order to make subsequent processing easier. First the list is traversed and the y coordinates of each line endpoint are compared, the lowest value is set to be the first of the two points. In addition if the x values of the top and bottom points are too great, the line is considered insufficiently vertical and is dropped from the list.

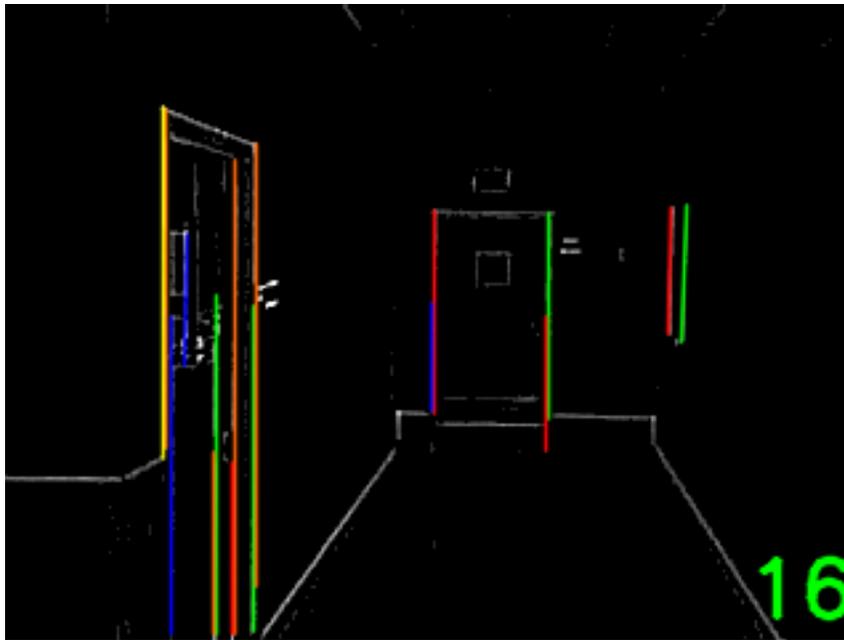


Figure 4.5: Vertical Lines Detected from edge image

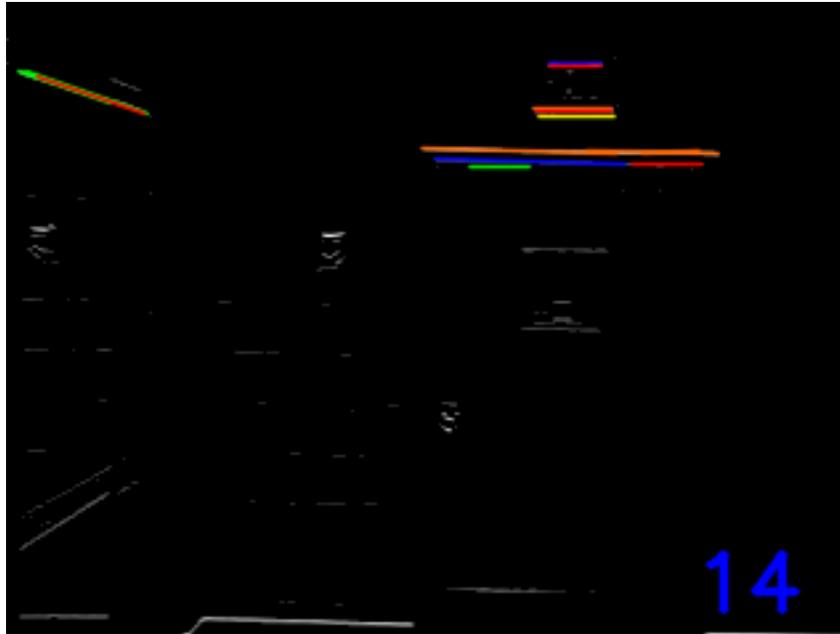


Figure 4.6: Horizontal Lines Detected from edge image

4.6.4 Merging Line Segments

Unfortunately discretation errors often lead to a prominent line being represented by a series of smaller ones, or by two adjacent lines one pixel apart [Van Veen & Groen 1981]. In the development stages a window was created to display each stage of image processing. After detecting the vertical lines it became obvious a segment merge algorithm was required. The restricted slope of the vertical line list made segment merging possible by a simple algorithm.

Our algorithm achieves good results and is simple. Figure 4.7 displays the set of all lines initially detected from a source image, individual lines are distinguished by random coloration. Figure 4.8 shows the same set of lines after being processed by the segment merge algorithm.

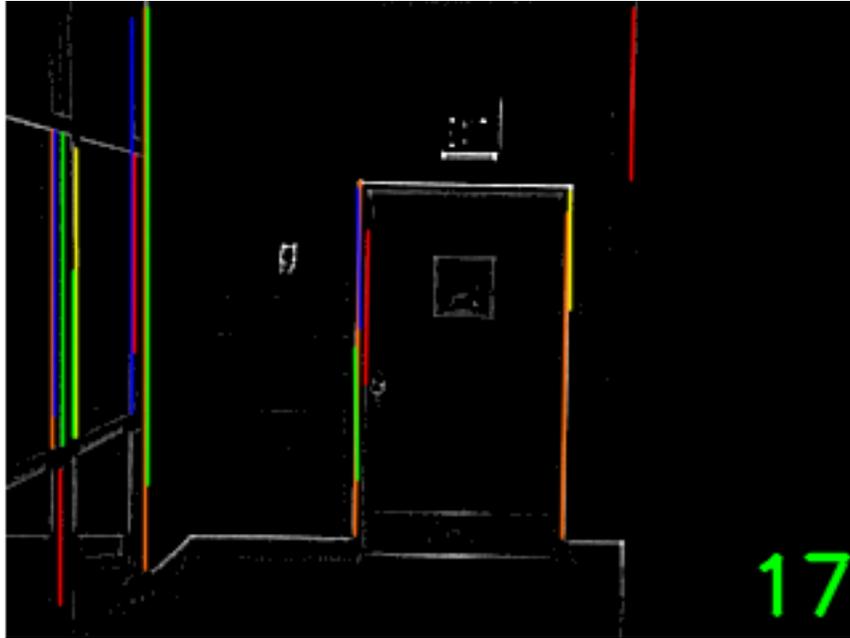


Figure 4.7: Set of all detected Vertical Lines

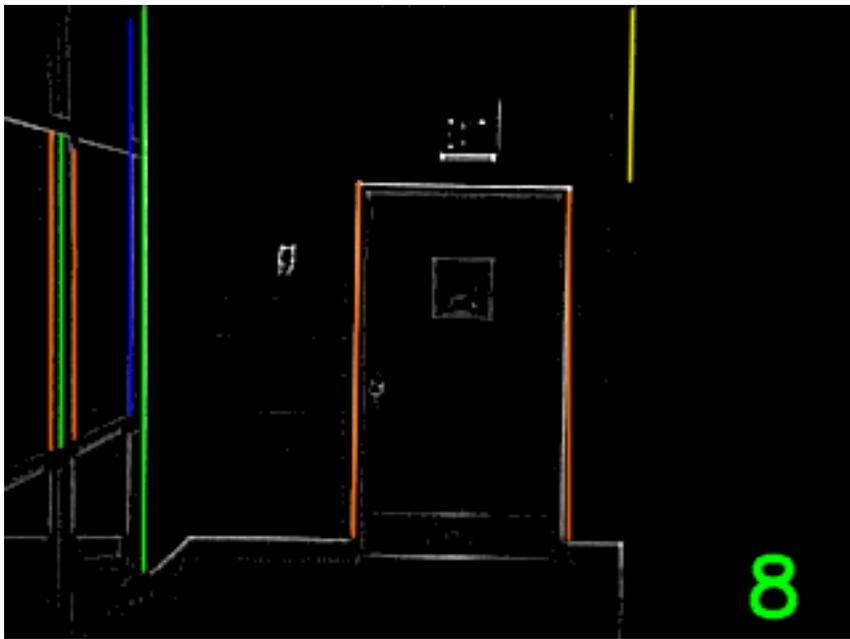


Figure 4.8: Set of Vertical Lines after application of Merger Algorithm

It reduces the number of detected lines by one half to one third, and improves the quality and length of major lines by the addition of smaller segments. It could be improved by comparing horizontal distance between the centroids of the lines as opposed to simply their tops as primary condition for merger, or alternately the distance between the nearest point of each line.

The horizontal line merging was more difficult. Due to the much wider range of segment slopes, the conditions for merger become complex. The horizontal merging algorithm is based on the vertical merging technique, but additionally takes into account the slope to limit merge candidates, and a top to bottom, left to right sorting of line candidates. Images in Figures 4.9 through 4.12 illustrate the operations of the line merging algorithm.

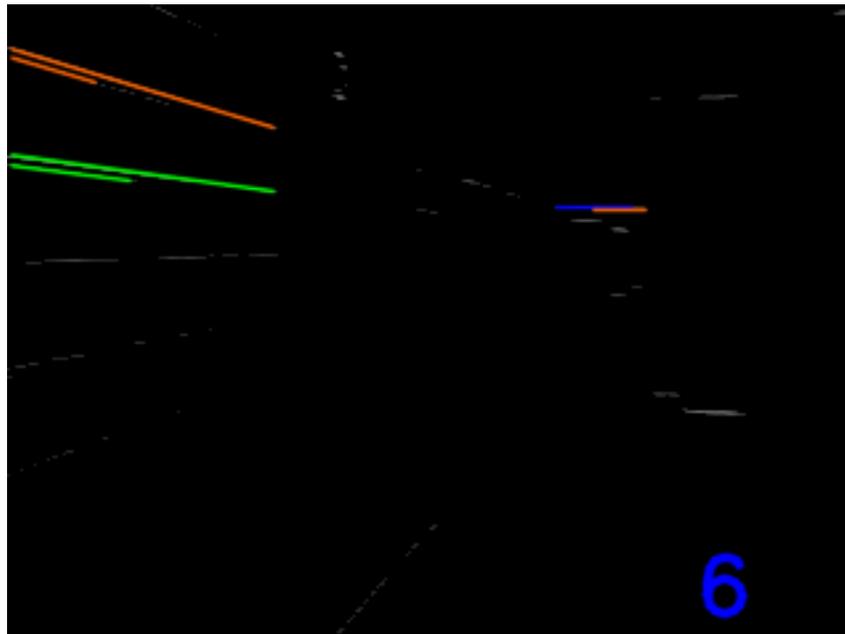


Figure 4.9: Set of all detected Horizontal Lines

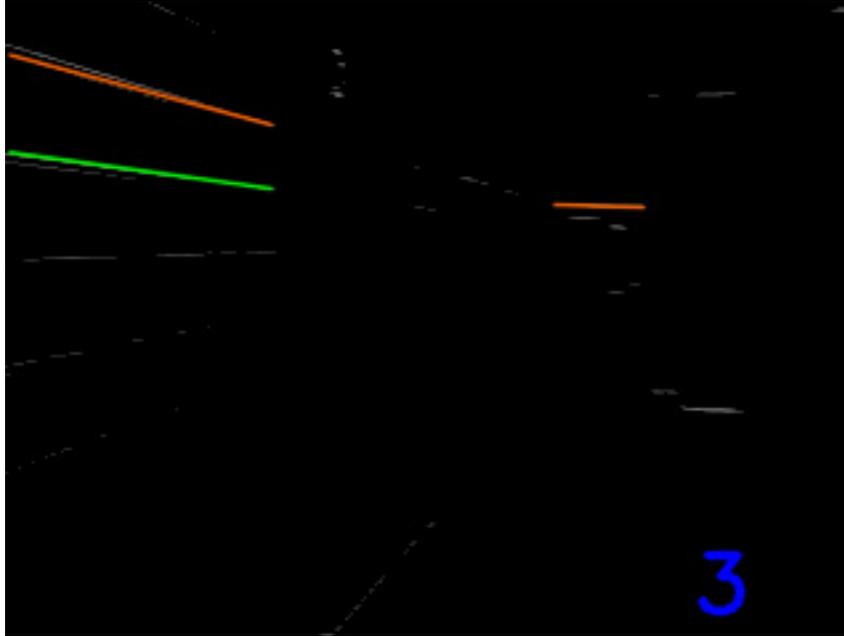


Figure 4.10: Set of Horizontal Lines after application of Merger Algorithm

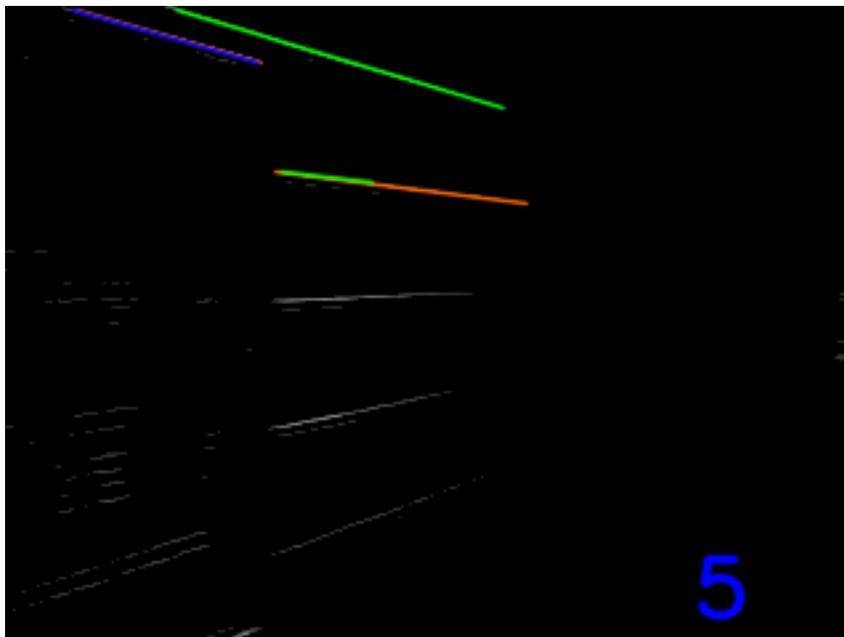


Figure 4.11: Set of all detected Horizontal Lines

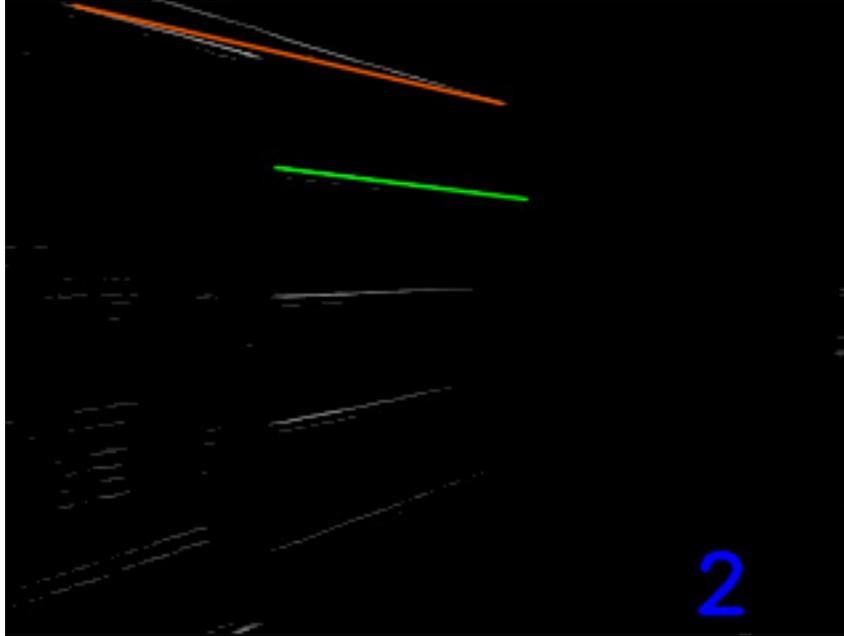


Figure 4.12: Improper merge of horizontal lines

The horizontal merge improved line segment quality in most situations, but led to some improper joins in certain conditions, such as in Figure 4.12. The results were considered a sufficient improvement and the errors sufficiently small to still be useful. However for a better discussion of line segment merging, we would direct the reader to Manuel et al. [1995], Chmielewski [1995], and Hussien and Sridhar [1993].

4.6.5 Doorway Candidate Classification

A doorway is classified by the matching of a lintel with two supporting doorjambs. This essentially means a valid combination of two strong vertical lines whose top endpoints lie within a given Euclidean distance from the corresponding endpoints of a strong horizontal line. The algorithm is the obvious approach and is therefore not detailed here. The matching algorithm is

described succinctly in “A method for recognition and localization of generic objects for indoor navigation” [Kim and Nevatia 1999]. A classification of a potential doorway will result in the program storing in memory the start and end points of both left and right jamb, the start and endpoint of the lintel in terms of image coordinates. A flowchart representing the stages of software processing is presented in Figure 4.13.

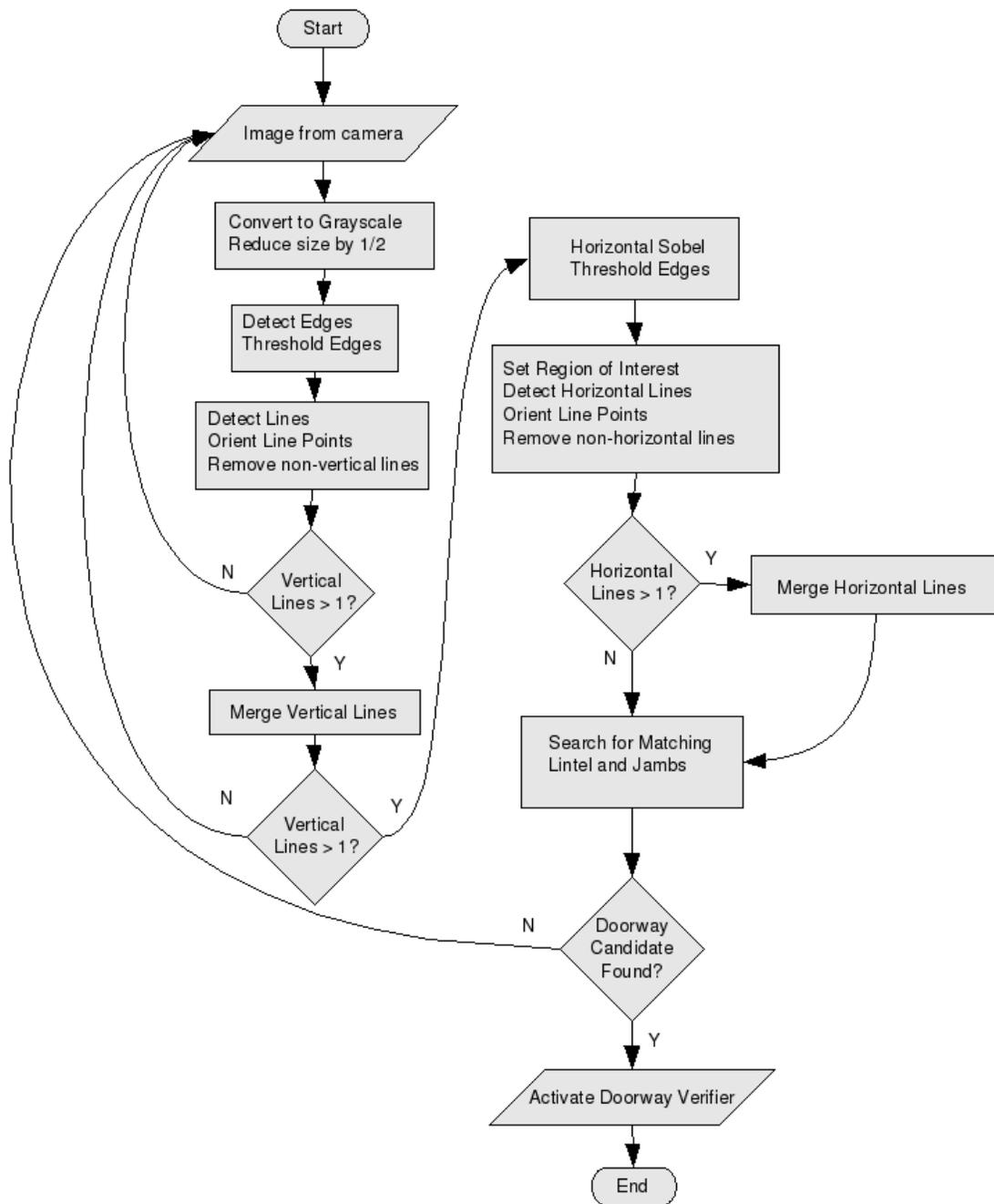


Figure 4.13: Flowchart for Doorway Candidate Search

CHAPTER 5

RESULTS

5.1 Results

This section describes the method used to quantify the performance and the results of the performance evaluation. In order to empirically analyze the performance of the doorway search algorithm the following method was used: the wheelchair system was navigated through the corridors of Boyd Hall at the University of Georgia and video was recorded by the camera and saved on the host computer, the stored video sequences were then processed by the doorway candidate search algorithm which saved sample images from the sequence, the sampled images were then analyzed by hand in order to quantify performance. The process is described in more detail below.

The speed of the wheelchair was set to the medium setting, which we felt would represent the top speed a visually impaired user of the system would be safely able to travel at. The camera was fixed in a forward facing position because the pan/tilt control system is still under development. We chose to record the traversal in sections of video rather than a single continuous file. Doing so made the analysis more manageable by allowing us to analyze the traversal one section at a time, allowing us to skip to later sections without having to analyze all preceding footage, as well as the option of focusing on particular sections of corridors. Therefore on occasion the chair was stopped, the current video was saved, then the recording was started again and the corridor traversal resumed. Starting from the micro-electronics lab the wheelchair traversed the entire floor of Boyd Hall acquiring video footage. Approximately 9

minutes of video was recorded in 7 files, ranging from 1 to 3 minutes long. The videos include recordings of a typical corridor navigation (driving in the center of a well lit corridor) in addition to corner turning, traversing a darkened corridor, and navigation through a double door with a complex configuration.

The doorway candidate search program processes the images and is capable of saving a composite image comprised of the original footage from the camera, an image of the detected horizontal and vertical lines, and an image of the doorways detected in the image. Since the video was recorded at 15 frames per second, analyzing each of the approximately 8100 images by hand was infeasible. Therefore we configured the program to save every 5th image, for a total of three images per second. Three sections of video were chosen as representative samples, and images were sampled for a period between 35 and 43 seconds in each. The resulting data was 3 groups of processed images, the first containing 118 images, the second 130 images, and the third 107. Each image was analyzed by hand to quantify the following datum: the number of doors within range (3 meters), the number of doors out of range, the number of doors in range that were successfully detected, the number of doors out of range that were successfully detected, and the number of false positives.

The first image sequence analyzed was of a standard corridor traversal, traveling down the center of a well lit corridor. The end of the corridor is a complex doorway configuration, by which we mean the corridor ends with a set of double doors, with a second door visible from between the set of double doors. In this sequence every visible doorway is detected, for a total of 60 doorway candidates. There were 0 false positives. Figure 5.1 shows a typical doorway candidate on the left side of the corridor being detected, along with the complex doorway

configuration in the background. In Figure 5.2 the complete double door region is detected as a candidate, as well as the doorway on the left side of the corridor.



Figure 5.1: Typical Doorway Candidate Detection



Figure 5.2: Detection of both double doorway and typical doorway

The second group of analyzed images includes a section of corridor starting past the elevators, traveling through a darkened corridor region, traversing a corner and continuing

straight toward a difficult scene of a reflective glass wall with several rectangular supports of the same size and shape as the glass doorway in the wall. The analysis of this sequence shows a total of 58 doorway candidates were detected, all doorways are detected as candidates with only two doorway candidates as false positives. Figure 5.3 shows a doorway candidate detected on the right side of the corridor and the difficult glass scene in front. The false positives detected in this sequence both derive from the same region in the scene depicted in Figure 5.4.

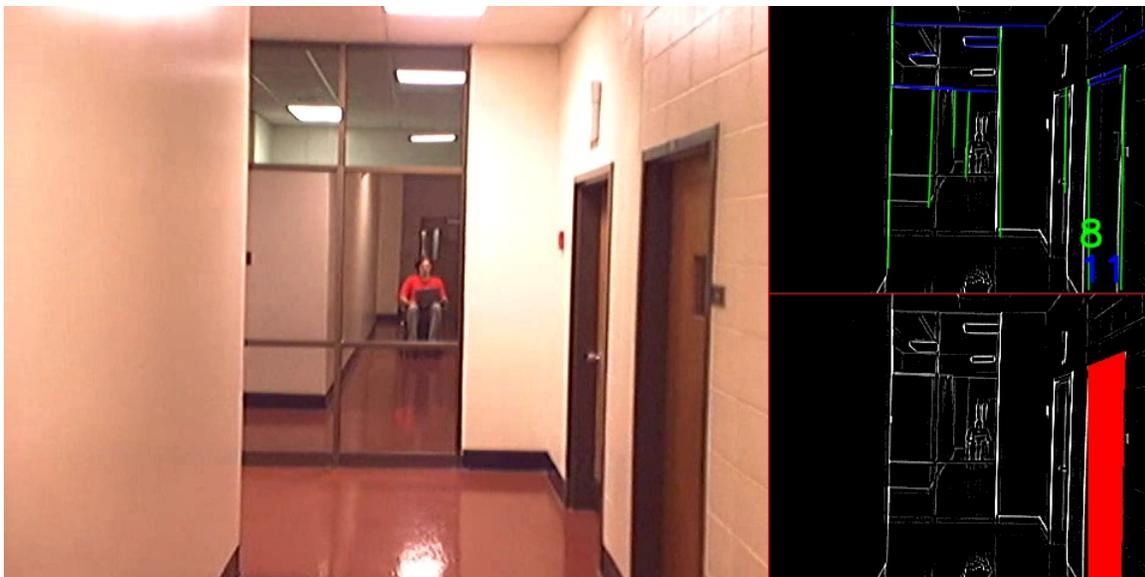


Figure 5.3: Difficult glass scene ahead, successful detection on right



Figure 5.4: False Positive – rectangular region detected as doorway candidate

The final group of images is based on a video sequence involving a continuation of the same difficult scene in sequence two, with the addition of a corner traversal. After the corner traversal a short straight corridor stretch with a doorway on the left is navigated. A second corner is traversed to a corridor with three elevators on the right and a doorway at the far end. The analysis of this sequence shows again that every doorway including the elevators was detected. There were a total of 60 doorway candidates detected, and four false positives. The difficult region involving reflective glass surfaces resulted in two additional false positives. A bulletin board that was detected twice as a doorway candidate is indicated in Figure 5.5.



Figure 5.5: Two doorway candidates, bulletin board on right is a false positive

The natural inclination would be to require the door jamb to extend a minimum distance to the floor. However enforcing that requirement would also eliminate some of the robustness to partial obstructions of doorjamb, such as when a person is standing or walking thereby occluding the full length of the jamb. Therefore we have found it more effective to accept occasional anomalies such as this in the candidate detection phase in order to capture doors in more difficult situations, and allow the doorway verification behavior to further filter the results. The region of the corridor containing elevators is shown in Figure 5.6. The elevator is detected as a doorway candidate, note that this image was acquired during the turning of the corner, which typically results in more blurred images due to the extra motion.



Figure 5.6: Successful detection of elevator as doorway candidate

5.2 Execution time and performance

In the design phase we designated as a critical requirement that the system be able to operate in real time in a real world indoor environment. The design and implementation of the software architecture demonstrably meets that goal. On the host computer (a Dell Latitude D600, 1.8 GHz Pentium processor with 1 GB of RAM) the Door Candidate search is capable of processing images at an average rate of 49 ms. The workstation where the software was designed and implemented, an Intel Pentium 4.3 GHz processor with 2 GB of RAM, is capable of processing images at an average rate of 33 ms. The performance is more than capable of processing all of the images acquired at the current 15 frames per second, which should allow the future Doorway Verification behavior ample time to perform the subsequent operations, even at such a high frame rate.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

6.1 Summary

We have presented motivation for the creation of computer vision capabilities for a semi-autonomous wheelchair and a description of the problem. Background including prior work for both wheelchair systems utilizing computer vision as well as prior work in the field of detecting doorways was detailed. A design was proposed for computer vision capabilities to augment the sensory system of a semi-autonomous wheelchair system in the process of development at the University of Georgia. The implementation of a real-time software architecture has been described. Results were presented which prove the design and software architecture are both suitable for real-time computer vision techniques, and show very good results for detecting candidate doorways.

6.2 Future Work

Future work to be done on this project should include calibration of the laser range finder which involves a point-to-distance correspondence. Further work could also be done to improve the robustness of the laser detection to various factors such as strong white light and reflective surfaces. In terms of the overarching semi-autonomous wheelchair system, an integration of the various software modules should be undertaken to make the system work as a functioning whole. The designed communication protocols between microcontrollers and host computers will also need to be implemented to allow the achievement of high level semi-autonomous behavior. In the realm of doorway detection there is a rich opportunity for gather further information from the

region surrounding a doorway. For example, after a doorway candidate has been detected and possibly verified, the region on either side of the door jamb could be searched for signs that indicate room numbers or other information. By detecting appropriately sized rectilinear regions containing text, and performing optical character recognition, the information obtained could be used both to enhance the landmark itself – such as informing the user what floor the wheelchair is on, as well as valuable information such as an Emergency Exit sign. Further work on the laser range finder will also allow future research to more accurately classify doorways by providing distance data, which can then be used to develop projective transformation to ensure the potential doorframe has all of the correct dimensional attributes. The mobile computing platform with its wealth of sensing and actuator capabilities provides a very exciting platform for future research. Hopefully the platform will continue to be used for further research which will one day aid persons with multiple disabilities to live a richer and more autonomous life.

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APPENDIX A

SOURCE CODE FOR DOORWAY CANDIDATE DETECTOR

```
#ifndef _CH_
#pragma package <opencv>
#endif

#ifndef _EiC
#include <cv.h>
#include <highgui.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <time.h>
#endif

CvMemStorage* storage = 0;

typedef struct Door
{
    CvPoint* lintel, *leftJamb, *rightJamb;
}
Door;

//IMAGES
IplImage* img = 0;
IplImage* horz_edges = 0;
IplImage* vert_edges = 0;
IplImage* vert_edges_16S = 0;
IplImage* coloredLines1 = 0;
IplImage* coloredLines2 = 0;
IplImage* display = 0;

//COLORS
const CvScalar RED = CV_RGB(255,0,0);
const CvScalar GREEN = CV_RGB(0,255,0);
const CvScalar BLUE = CV_RGB(0,0,255);
const CvScalar YELLOW = CV_RGB(255,255,0);
const CvScalar ORANGE = CV_RGB(255,100,0);
const CvScalar WHITE = CV_RGB(255,255,255);
```

```

//array of colors used for display
CvScalar myColors[] = {RED, GREEN, BLUE, YELLOW, ORANGE};
const int NUM_COLORS = 5;
CvScalar color;

char* myVid = "/home/tarver/Videos/Thesis Videos/Video 36.wmv";
char* picsDir = "/home/tarver/Documents/Results Analysis/batch3/";
const char* ext = ".jpg";
int fileCount = 0;
int frameCount = 0;
const int nFrames = 5;
char fileName[50];

bool SAVE_FILES = false;
bool stop = true;
CvFont font;

//Vertical Lines
const int v_thresh = 32;
const int minVotes = 40;
const int minLineLength = 40;
const int maxLineGap = 4;
const int degree = 1;
const int VERT_ENOUGH = 4;
const int CORNER_DISTANCE = 13;//11;
double theta = degree * CV_PI/180;

//Horizontal Lines
const int h_thresh = 32;
const int h_minVotes = 10;//12
const int h_minLineLength = 15;//20
const int h_maxLineGap = 5;
double h_theta = degree * CV_PI/180;
//how much y difference is allowed to still be considered horizontal
const float HORZ_ENOUGH = 0.75;

//Misc structures/vars for lines
CvSeq* v_lines = 0;
CvSeq* h_lines = 0;
CvSeq* candidate_lines = 0;
CvPoint* line;
const int BOT = 0;
const int TOP = 1;
int lowestTop = -1;
const int MIN_VLINE_TOP = 85;

```

```

//DOORS
const int LEFT = 0;
const int RIGHT = 1;
const int LINTEL = 2;
const int JAMB_DISTANCE = 12;//15 //jamb must be this many pixels apart
CvSeq* allDoors;

//Program control vars
int waitTime = 100;
int up = 30;
int down = -30;

/* Sort vertical lines in left-to-right order */
static int v_leftToRightSort( const void* _a, const void* _b, void* userdata )
{
    CvPoint* line1 = (CvPoint*)_a;
    CvPoint* line2 = (CvPoint*)_b;
    return line1[TOP].x - line2[TOP].x;
}
/* Sort horizontal lines in left-to-right order */
static int h_leftToRightSort( const void* _a, const void* _b, void* userdata )
{
    CvPoint* line1 = (CvPoint*)_a;
    CvPoint* line2 = (CvPoint*)_b;
    return line1[LEFT].x - line2[LEFT].x;
}
/* Sort lines in top-to-bottom and l-to-r order */
static int topToBottomSort( const void* _a, const void* _b, void* userdata )
{
    CvPoint* line1 = (CvPoint*)_a;
    CvPoint* line2 = (CvPoint*)_b;

    int y_diff = line1[LEFT].y - line2[LEFT].y;
    int x_diff = line1[LEFT].x - line2[LEFT].x;
    return y_diff ? y_diff : x_diff;
}
/* convert integer to character */
char* itoa(int val, int base){
    static char buf[32] = {0};
    int i = 30;
    for(; val && i ; --i, val /= base)
        buf[i] = "0123456789abcdef"[val % base];
    return &buf[i+1];
}
double getEuclidDistance(CvPoint pt1, CvPoint pt2)
{

```

```

    double x_diff, y_diff;
    x_diff = pt1.x - pt2.x;
    y_diff = pt1.y - pt2.y;
    return sqrt( (x_diff*x_diff)+(y_diff*y_diff) );
}
bool closeEnough(CvPoint pt1, CvPoint pt2)
{
    return (getEuclidDistance(pt1,pt2) < CORNER_DISTANCE);
}
float getHorizontalSlope(CvPoint* inLine)
{
    //first get the x diff
    float slope = abs(inLine[LEFT].x - inLine[RIGHT].x);

    //computers hate infinity...to avoid extremely high slopes (vert lines)
    //cheat - extreme slopes will have a small x diff
    if( slope <= 2 )
        return 1000;

    //otherwise return (y2-y1)/(x2-x1)
    else
        return abs(inLine[LEFT].y - inLine[RIGHT].y)/slope;
}

//paint doors in final image
void drawDoors()
{
    coloredLines2 = cvCreateImage(cvGetSize(vert_edges),8,3);
    cvCvtColor(vert_edges,coloredLines2,CV_GRAY2BGR);

    CvPoint* PointArray = (CvPoint*)malloc( 4*sizeof(CvPoint) );
    Door* tmp;

    int i;

    if(!allDoors)
        return;

    //for each door extract the 4 points, draw from top two to lowest of bottom 2
    for(i=0; i < allDoors->total; i++)
    {
        tmp = (Door*)cvGetSeqElem(allDoors,i);
        PointArray[0] = (tmp->leftJamb[BOT]);
        PointArray[1] = (tmp->leftJamb[TOP]);
        PointArray[2] = (tmp->rightJamb[TOP]);
        PointArray[3] = (tmp->rightJamb[BOT]);
    }
}

```

```

        if(PointArray[0].y > PointArray[3].y)
            PointArray[3].y = PointArray[0].y;
        else
            PointArray[0].y = PointArray[3].y;

        cvFillConvexPoly(coloredLines2,PointArray,4,RED,8,0);
    }
}

//match jambs to lintel
void matchEm()
{
    //if there are no lintels or less than 2 jambs a doorway is not possible
    if(h_lines->total == 0 || v_lines->total < 2)
        return;

    //sort left to right
    cvSeqSort(h_lines,h_leftToRightSort,0);

    CvPoint* lintel,*leftLine,*rightLine;
    int i,j,k,leftIndex = 0;

    Door *possible_door = new Door;

    storage = cvCreateMemStorage(0);
    allDoors = cvCreateSeq(CV_SEQ_ELTYPE_GENERIC, sizeof(CvSeq), sizeof(Door) ,
storage);
    cvFree(&storage);

    for( i = 0; i < h_lines->total; i++ )
    {
        lintel = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(h_lines,i);

        for(j = leftIndex; j < v_lines->total; j++)
        {
            leftLine = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(v_lines,j);

            if( closeEnough(leftLine[TOP],lintel[LEFT]) )
            {
                //check the other lines and try to find a match
                for(k = j+1; k < v_lines->total; k++)
                {
                    rightLine = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(v_lines,k);

```

```

        if( closeEnough(rightLine[TOP],lintel[RIGHT]) )
        {
            //ensure the two vertical lines are far enough apart
            if(abs(leftLine[TOP].x - rightLine[TOP].x) >
JAMB_DISTANCE)
            {
                //match
                possible_door->leftJamb = leftLine;
                possible_door->rightJamb = rightLine;
                possible_door->lintel = lintel;

                cvSeqPush(allDoors, possible_door);
                break;
            }
        }
        //vertical lines are all to the right of the lintel
        else if( lintel[RIGHT].x < rightLine[TOP].x)
            break;
    }

    //this lintel has no right match or is matched already
    break;
}
//stop searching this vertical line and those to the left
else if( leftLine[TOP].x < lintel[LEFT].x )
    leftIndex++;
else
    break;
}
}
}
}

```

```

void detectHorizontalLines()
{
    //ignore horizontal lines below a minimum height
    int i_height = MIN_VLINE_TOP;

    //or top of lowest line, whichever makes the smallest area to search
    if( i_height > lowestTop && lowestTop > 0)
        i_height = lowestTop;

    //set region of interest for search
    cvSetImageROI(horz_edges,cvRect(0,0,horz_edges->width,i_height));

    storage = cvCreateMemStorage(0);
}

```

```

    candidate_lines = cvHoughLines2(horz_edges, storage,
CV_HOUGH_PROBABILISTIC, 1, h_theta, h_minVotes, h_minLineLength, h_maxLineGap);
    cvFree(&storage);

```

```

CvPoint tLine;
int i = 0;

```

```

//remove lines that are too vertical
for(;i<candidate_lines->total;i++)
{
    line = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(candidate_lines,i);

    //if not sufficiently horizontal
    if( getHorizontalSlope(line) > HORZ_ENOUGH)
    {
        cvSeqRemove(candidate_lines,i);
        i--;
    }
}

```

```

//make sure left point is westernmost
for(i = 0; i < candidate_lines->total; i++)
{
    line = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(candidate_lines,i);

    if(line[LEFT].x > line[RIGHT].x)
    {
        tLine = line[LEFT];
        line[LEFT] = line[RIGHT];
        line[RIGHT] = tLine;
    }
}

```

```

void detectVerticalLines()
{
    storage = cvCreateMemStorage(0);
    v_lines = cvHoughLines2(vert_edges, storage, CV_HOUGH_PROBABILISTIC, 1,
theta, minVotes, minLineLength, maxLineGap);
    cvFree(&storage);

```

```

int i;
CvPoint top,bot;

```

```

//remove non-vertical lines
//make the bottom point the 0th element (swap top and bot if needed)

```

```

for(i = 0; i < v_lines->total; i++)
{
    line = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(v_lines,i);
    bot = line[0];
    top = line[1];

    //if top and bottom aren't within D pixels of same column
    if( abs(top.x - bot.x) > VERT_ENOUGH )
    {
        cvSeqRemove(v_lines,i);
        i--;
    }
    //otherwise flip top and bottom if necessary
    else
    {
        if(top.y > bot.y)
        {
            line[0] = top;
            line[1] = bot;
        }
    }
}
}

//only merging subset - the sufficiently horizontal ones
void mergeHorizontalLines()
{
    //if less than 2 lines don't attempt to merge, just copy candidates into h_lines
    if(candidate_lines->total < 2)
    {
        storage = cvCreateMemStorage(0);
        h_lines = cvCloneSeq(candidate_lines,storage);
        cvFree(&storage);
        return;
    }

    storage = cvCreateMemStorage(0);
    h_lines = cvCloneSeq(candidate_lines,storage);
    cvFree(&storage);

    int i = 0;

    //sort horizontal lines from top to bottom
    cvSeqSort(h_lines, topToBottomSort, 0);

    int HGAP = 5;

```

```

int VGAP = 4;

CvPoint* curLine,*prevLine;

for( i = 1; i < h_lines->total; i++)
{
    //get the first line
    prevLine = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(h_lines,i-1);
    curLine = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(h_lines,i);

    //same group
    //TODO consider: might want to user center Y for each...or slopes
    if( abs(curLine[LEFT].y - prevLine[LEFT].y) <= VGAP )
    {
        //top line is rightmost
        //A
        if(prevLine[RIGHT].x > curLine[RIGHT].x)
        {
            //A1
            //top line dominates bottom
            if( curLine[LEFT].x >= prevLine[LEFT].x )
            {
                cvSeqRemove(h_lines,i);
                i--;
            }
            //A2
            //merge lines
            else if( (prevLine[LEFT].x - curLine[RIGHT].x) <= HGAP )
            {
                prevLine[LEFT].x = curLine[LEFT].x;
                //maybe undo y's?
                prevLine[LEFT].y = curLine[LEFT].y;
                cvSeqRemove(h_lines,i);
                i--;
            }
        }
        //rightmost points are equal
        else if(prevLine[RIGHT].x == curLine[RIGHT].x)
        {
            //bottom line dominates
            if( prevLine[LEFT].x > curLine[LEFT].x )
            {
                //delete top line
                cvSeqRemove(h_lines,i-1);

                //set previous to current
            }
        }
    }
}

```

```

        prevLine = curLine;
        i--;
    }
    //top line dominates
    else
    {
        //remove current line
        cvSeqRemove(h_lines,i);
        i--;
    }
}
//bottom line is rightmost
//C
else
{
    //C1
    //if bottom line dominates
    if(prevLine[LEFT].x >= curLine[LEFT].x)
    {
        cvSeqRemove(h_lines,i-1);
        prevLine = curLine;
        i--;
    }
    //C2
    //if close enough to merge
    else if( curLine[LEFT].x - prevLine[RIGHT].x <= HGAP )
    {
        curLine[LEFT].x = prevLine[LEFT].x;
        curLine[LEFT].y = prevLine[LEFT].y;
        cvSeqRemove(h_lines,i-1);
        prevLine = curLine;
        i--;
    }
}
}
} //done looping
}

```

```

void mergeVerticalLines()
{
    //do nothing if there are less than 2 lines
    if(v_lines->total < 2)
        return;

    lowestTop = -1;
}

```

```

//sort lines from left to right
cvSeqSort(v_lines, v_leftToRightSort, 0);

CvPoint* curLine;
CvPoint* prevLine;

int i = 1;
int HGAP = 2;
int VGAP = 7;

for( i = 1; i < v_lines->total; i++)
{
    //get the first line
    prevLine = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(v_lines,i-1);
    curLine = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(v_lines,i);

    //same group
    if( abs(curLine[TOP].x - prevLine[TOP].x) <= HGAP )
    {
        //left line is higher
        if(prevLine[TOP].y < curLine[TOP].y)
        {
            //left line dominates right
            if( curLine[BOT].y <= prevLine[BOT].y )
            {
                //TODO - don't absorb if right has neighbors?
                cvSeqRemove(v_lines,i);
                i--;
            }
            //merge lines
            else if( curLine[TOP].y - prevLine[BOT].y <= VGAP )
            {
                prevLine[BOT].y = curLine[BOT].y;
                //maybe do x's?
                cvSeqRemove(v_lines,i);
                i--;
            }
        }
        //tops are equal
        else if(prevLine[TOP].y == curLine[TOP].y)
        {
            //right line dominates
            if( prevLine[BOT].y < curLine[BOT].y )
            {
                //delete left line
                cvSeqRemove(v_lines,i-1);
            }
        }
    }
}

```

```

        //set previous to current
        prevLine = curLine;
        i--;
    }
    //left line dominates
    else
    {
        //remove current line
        //TODO - check for neighbors?
        cvSeqRemove(v_lines,i);
        i--;
    }
}
//right line is higher
else
{
    //if right line dominates
    if(prevLine[BOT].y <= curLine[BOT].y)
    {
        cvSeqRemove(v_lines,i-1);
        prevLine = curLine;
        i--;
    }
    //if close enough to merge
    else if( prevLine[TOP].y - curLine[BOT].y <= VGAP )
    {
        curLine[BOT].y = prevLine[BOT].y;
        cvSeqRemove(v_lines,i-1);
        prevLine = curLine;
        i--;
    }
}
}
} //end for loop

//do a final check of the merged lines
for( i = 0; i < v_lines->total; i++)
{
    curLine = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(v_lines,i);

    //remove those whose tops are too low for doorways
    if(curLine[TOP].y > MIN_VLINE_TOP)
    {
        cvSeqRemove(v_lines,i);
        i--;
    }
}

```

```

    }
    //update the lowest top for ROI of horizontalSearch
    else if(curLine[TOP].y > lowestTop)
        lowestTop = line[TOP].y;
    }
}

//draw detected vertical lines in green in the image coloredLines1
void drawVerticalLines()
{
    coloredLines1 = cvCreateImage(cvGetSize(vert_edges),8,3);
    cvCvtColor(vert_edges,coloredLines1,CV_GRAY2BGR);
    int i;

    for(i = 0; i < v_lines->total; i++)
    {
        line = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(v_lines,i);
        //draw it
        cvLine(coloredLines1, cvPoint(line[0].x,line[0].y), cvPoint(line[1].x,line[1].y),
GREEN, 1,CV_AA, 0);
    }
    cvPutText( coloredLines1, itoa(v_lines->total,10), cvPoint(260,200), &font, GREEN);
}

//draw detected horizontal lines in blue in the image coloredLines1
void drawHorizontalLines()
{
    //draw merged lines in image
    if(!coloredLines1)
    {
        //reset ROI, was set previously to top 2/3rds of image
        cvResetImageROI(horz_edges);

        //create new cute little color image
        coloredLines1 = cvCreateImage(cvGetSize(horz_edges),8,3);
        cvCvtColor(horz_edges,coloredLines1,CV_GRAY2BGR);
    }

    int i;
    //draw merged lines
    for(i = 0; i < h_lines->total; i++)
    {
        line = (CvPoint*)cvGetSeqElem(h_lines,i);
        //draw it

```

```

        cvLine(coloredLines1, cvPoint(line[0].x,line[0].y), cvPoint(line[1].x,line[1].y),
BLUE, 1,CV_AA, 0);
    }

    //write number of lines found in bottom right corner
    cvPutText( coloredLines1, itoa(h_lines->total,10), cvPoint(260,230), &font, BLUE);
}

//initialize edge images
void initEdgeImages()
{
    //create greyscale image from original
    IplImage* grey = cvCreateImage( cvGetSize(img), 8, 1 );
    cvCvtColor(img,grey,CV_BGR2GRAY);

    //create 1/2 sized image for edge detection
    horz_edges = cvCreateImage( cvSize(grey->width/2, grey->height/2), 8, 1 );

    //downsample greyscale image
    cvPyrDown(grey, horz_edges, IPL_GAUSSIAN_5x5);

    //make a second image for vertical edges
    vert_edges_16S = cvCreateImage(cvSize(horz_edges->width, horz_edges->
height),IPL_DEPTH_16S,1);

    vert_edges = cvCloneImage(horz_edges);

    cvReleaseImage(&grey);
}

//prepare image for display
void makeDisplayImage()
{
    //make display image, big enough for original plus 1/2 size width
    display = cvCreateImage(cvSize(640+320,480), IPL_DEPTH_8U, 3 );

    //set roi and copy original to top left
    cvSetImageROI(display,cvRect(0,0,640,480));
    cvCopy(img,display);

    //set roi for upper right corner
    cvSetImageROI(display,cvRect(640,0,320,240));

    IplImage* tmpEdges = 0;

    if(coloredLines1)

```

```

        cvCopy(coloredLines1,display);
    else
    {
        //make a temporary color image for edges
        tmpEdges = cvCreateImage(cvGetSize(vert_edges),8,3);

        //copy vertical edges into temp
        cvCvtColor(vert_edges,tmpEdges,CV_GRAY2RGB);

        cvCopy(tmpEdges,display);
    }

    //set roi and copy coloredLines1 (currently merged horizontal lines)
    cvSetImageROI(display,cvRect(640,240,320,240));

    if(coloredLines2)
        cvCopy(coloredLines2,display);
    else
    {
        //make a temporary color image for edges
        tmpEdges = cvCreateImage(cvGetSize(vert_edges),8,3);

        //copy vertical edges into temp
        cvCvtColor(vert_edges,tmpEdges,CV_GRAY2RGB);
        cvCopy(tmpEdges,display);
    }

    cvResetImageROI(display);

    cvLine(display,cvPoint(640,0),cvPoint(640,480),RED,1,8);
    cvLine(display,cvPoint(640,240),cvPoint(640+320,240),RED,1,8);

    if(tmpEdges)
        cvReleaseImage(&tmpEdges);
}

//show image on screen
void showImage(char* name, IplImage* inImg )
{
    if(inImg)
    {
        IplImage* copy = cvCloneImage(inImg);
        cvShowImage(name, copy);
        cvReleaseImage(&copy);
    }
}

```

```

void detectVerticalEdges()
{
    //laplace to detect vert edges
    cvLaplace(horz_edges,vert_edges_16S,3);
    //scale back down
    cvConvertScale(vert_edges_16S, vert_edges,1,0);
    cvReleaseImage(&vert_edges_16S);

    //threshold to remove weak edge points
    cvThreshold(vert_edges,vert_edges,v_thresh,255,CV_THRESH_TOZERO);
}

void detectHorizontalEdges()
{
    //2nd order sobel for horz lines
    cvSobel(horz_edges,horz_edges,0,2,3);

    //threshold to remove weak edge points
    cvThreshold(horz_edges,horz_edges,h_thresh,255,CV_THRESH_TOZERO);
}

void setupWindows()
{
    // create window
    cvNamedWindow( "Door Detection", 1 );
    //place it
    cvMoveWindow("Door Detection",0,0);
}

void adjustSpeed(int num)
{
    if ( waitTime + num > 0 )
        waitTime += num;
    else
        waitTime = 1;
}

void initialize()
{
    cvInitFont( &font, CV_FONT_HERSHEY_SIMPLEX, 1,1,0,2,CV_AA);
}

int main( int argc, char** argv )
{

```

```

//double time_sum = 0.0;

initialize();
setupWindows();

//VIDEO
CvCapture* capture = 0;

char* filename = argc == 2 ? argv[1] : myVid;
capture = cvCaptureFromAVI( filename );
//capture = cvCaptureFromCAM( argc == 2 ? argv[1][0] - '0' : 0 );

if( !capture )
{
    fprintf(stderr,"Could not initialize capturing...\n");
    return -1;
}

//live video
cvSetCaptureProperty(capture,CV_CAP_PROP_FRAME_WIDTH, 640);
cvSetCaptureProperty(capture,CV_CAP_PROP_FRAME_HEIGHT, 480);

char keyPressed;

//VIDEO LOOP
for(;;)
{
    //clock_t start = clock();

    img = cvQueryFrame(capture);

    if(!img)
        break;

    initEdgeImages();
    detectVerticalEdges();
        detectVerticalLines();
        mergeVerticalLines();

    drawVerticalLines();

    if(v_lines->total >= 2 )
    {
        detectHorizontalEdges();
        detectHorizontalLines();
        mergeHorizontalLines();
    }
}

```

```

        drawHorizontalLines();
        matchEm();
        drawDoors();

    }
    //time_sum += ((double)clock() - start) / CLOCKS_PER_SEC;

    //printf("Time elapsed: %f\n", ((double)clock() - start) / CLOCKS_PER_SEC);

    makeDisplayImage();
    showImage("Door Detection",display);

    frameCount++;

    char* tmp;

    if(fileCount < 10)
        tmp = "000";
    else if(fileCount < 100)
        tmp = "00";
    else if(fileCount < 1000)
        tmp = "0";
    else
        tmp = "";

    if( SAVE_FILES && frameCount % nFrames == 0 )
    {
        sprintf(fileName,"%s%s%d%s",picsDir,tmp,fileCount,ext);
        cvSaveImage(fileName,display);
        fileCount++;
    }

    //clean up structures in memory
    cvClearSeq(allDoors);
    cvClearSeq(candidate_lines);
    cvClearSeq(v_lines);
    cvClearSeq(h_lines);

    //interactive program control
    if(stop)
    {
        keyPressed = cvWaitKey(1000000);

        if(keyPressed != -1)

```

```

    {
        if(keyPressed == 'q')
            break;
        //-
        else if(keyPressed == -85)
            adjustSpeed(down);
        //+
        else if(keyPressed == -83)
            adjustSpeed(up);
        else if(keyPressed == '.')
            {};
        else if(keyPressed == 'g' )
        {
            sprintf(fileName,"%s%s%d%s",picsDir,tmp,fileCount,ext);

            cvSaveImage(fileName,display);
            fileCount++;
        }
        else if(keyPressed == 's' )
        {
            SAVE_FILES = true;
        }
        else if(keyPressed == 'e' )
        {
            SAVE_FILES = false;
        }
        else
            stop = false;
    }
}
else
{
    keyPressed = cvWaitKey(waitTime);

    if(keyPressed != -1)
    {
        if(keyPressed == 'q' )
            break;
        else if(keyPressed == -85)
            adjustSpeed(down);
        else if(keyPressed == -83)
            adjustSpeed(up);

        else if(keyPressed == 'g' )
        {

```

```

        sprintf(fileName,"%s%s%d%s",picsDir,tmp,fileCount,ext);

        cvSaveImage(fileName,display);
        fileCount++;
    }
    else if(keyPressed == 's' )
    {
        SAVE_FILES = true;
    }
    else if(keyPressed == 'e' )
    {
        SAVE_FILES = false;
    }
    else
        stop = true;
}
}

//release all images
cvReleaseImage( &horz_edges );
cvReleaseImage( &vert_edges );
cvReleaseImage( &coloredLines1 );
cvReleaseImage( &coloredLines2 );
cvReleaseImage( &display );
}

//printf("Avg time: %f\n",time_sum/frameCount);

//VIDEO CLEANUP
cvReleaseCapture( &capture );
cvDestroyAllWindows();

// release both images
cvReleaseImage( &horz_edges );
cvReleaseImage( &vert_edges );
cvReleaseImage( &coloredLines1 );
cvReleaseImage( &coloredLines2 );
cvReleaseImage( &display );

return 0;
}

#ifdef _EiC
main(1,"DoorDetector.c");
#endif

```


APPENDIX B

OPENCV FUNCTION REFERENCE

PyrDown

Downsamples image

```
void cvPyrDown( const CvArr* src, CvArr* dst, int filter=CV_GAUSSIAN_5x5 );
```

src

The source image.

dst

The destination image, should have 2x smaller width and height than the source.

filter

Type of the filter used for convolution; only CV_GAUSSIAN_5x5 is currently supported.

The function `cvPyrDown` performs downsampling step of Gaussian pyramid decomposition. First it convolves source image with the specified filter and then downsamples the image by rejecting even rows and columns.

CvtColor

Converts image from one color space to another

```
void cvCvtColor( const CvArr* src, CvArr* dst, int code );
```

src

The source 8-bit (8u), 16-bit (16u) or single-precision floating-point (32f) image.

dst

The destination image of the same data type as the source one. The number of channels may be different.

code

Color conversion operation that can be specified using CV_<src_color_space>2<dst_color_space> constants (see below).

The function `cvCvtColor` converts input image from one color space to another. The function ignores `colorModel` and `channelSeq` fields of `IplImage` header, so the source image color space should be specified correctly (including order of the channels in case of RGB space, e.g. BGR means 24-bit format with B₀ G₀ R₀ B₁ G₁ R₁ ... layout, whereas RGB means 24-bit format with R₀ G₀ B₀ R₁ G₁ B₁ ... layout).

Sobel

Calculates first, second, third or mixed image derivatives using extended Sobel operator

```
void cvSobel( const CvArr* src, CvArr* dst, int xorder, int yorder, int
aperture_size=3 );
```

src

Source image.

dst

Destination image.

xorder

Order of the derivative x .

yorder

Order of the derivative y .

aperture_size

Size of the extended Sobel kernel, must be 1, 3, 5 or 7. In all cases except 1, aperture_size × aperture_size separable kernel will be used to calculate the derivative. For aperture_size=1 3x1 or 1x3 kernel is used (Gaussian smoothing is not done). There is also special value CV_SCHARR (= -1) that corresponds to 3x3 Scharr filter that may give more accurate results than 3x3 Sobel. Scharr aperture is:

```
| -3 0 3 |
|-10 0 10|
| -3 0 3 |
```

for x-derivative or transposed for y-derivative.

The function `cvSobel` calculates the image derivative by convolving the image with the appropriate kernel:

$$dst(x,y) = d^{xorder+yorder}_{src} / dx^{xorder} \cdot dy^{yorder} |_{(x,y)}$$

The Sobel operators combine Gaussian smoothing and differentiation so the result is more or less robust to the noise. Most often, the function is called with (xorder=1, yorder=0, aperture_size=3) or (xorder=0, yorder=1, aperture_size=3) to calculate first x- or y- image derivative. The first case corresponds to

```
| -1 0 1 |
|-2 0 2 |
|-1 0 1 |
```

kernel and the second one corresponds to

```
| -1 -2 -1 |
| 0 0 0 |
| 1 2 1 |
or
| 1 2 1 |
| 0 0 0 |
|-1 -2 -1 |
```

kernel, depending on the image origin (`origin` field of `IplImage` structure). No scaling is done, so the destination image usually has larger by absolute value numbers than the source image. To avoid overflow, the function requires 16-bit destination image if the source image is 8-bit. The result can be converted back to 8-bit using [cvConvertScale](#) or [cvConvertScaleAbs](#) functions. Besides 8-bit images the function can process 32-bit floating-point images. Both source and destination must be single-channel images of equal size or ROI size.

Laplace

Calculates Laplacian of the image

```
void cvLaplace( const CvArr* src, CvArr* dst, int aperture_size=3 );
```

`src`

Source image.

`dst`

Destination image.

`aperture_size`

Aperture size (it has the same meaning as in [cvSobel](#)).

The function `cvLaplace` calculates Laplacian of the source image by summing second x- and y- derivatives calculated using Sobel operator:

$$\text{dst}(x,y) = d^2\text{src}/dx^2 + d^2\text{src}/dy^2$$

Specifying `aperture_size=1` gives the fastest variant that is equal to convolving the image with the following kernel:

```
|0  1  0|
|1 -4  1|
|0  1  0|
```

Similar to [cvSobel](#) function, no scaling is done and the same combinations of input and output formats are supported.

HoughLines2

Finds lines in binary image using Hough transform

```
CvSeq* cvHoughLines2( CvArr* image, void* line_storage, int method,
                      double rho, double theta, int threshold,
                      double param1=0, double param2=0 );
```

`image`

The input 8-bit single-channel binary image. In case of probabilistic method the image is modified by the function.

`line_storage`

The storage for the lines detected. It can be a memory storage (in this case a sequence of

lines is created in the storage and returned by the function) or single row/single column matrix (CvMat*) of a particular type (see below) to which the lines' parameters are written. The matrix header is modified by the function so its `cols` or `rows` will contain a number of lines detected. If `line_storage` is a matrix and the actual number of lines exceeds the matrix size, the maximum possible number of lines is returned (in case of standard hough transform the lines are sorted by the accumulator value).

method

The Hough transform variant, one of:

- `CV_HOUGH_STANDARD` - classical or standard Hough transform. Every line is represented by two floating-point numbers (ρ , θ), where ρ is a distance between (0,0) point and the line, and θ is the angle between x-axis and the normal to the line. Thus, the matrix must be (the created sequence will be) of `CV_32FC2` type.
- `CV_HOUGH_PROBABILISTIC` - probabilistic Hough transform (more efficient in case if picture contains a few long linear segments). It returns line segments rather than the whole lines. Every segment is represented by starting and ending points, and the matrix must be (the created sequence will be) of `CV_32SC4` type.
- `CV_HOUGH_MULTI_SCALE` - multi-scale variant of classical Hough transform. The lines are encoded the same way as in `CV_HOUGH_STANDARD`.

`rho`

Distance resolution in pixel-related units.

`theta`

Angle resolution measured in radians.

`threshold`

Threshold parameter. A line is returned by the function if the corresponding accumulator value is greater than `threshold`.

`param1`

The first method-dependent parameter:

- For classical Hough transform it is not used (0).
- For probabilistic Hough transform it is the minimum line length.
- For multi-scale Hough transform it is divisor for distance resolution `rho`. (The coarse distance resolution will be `rho` and the accurate resolution will be (`rho / param1`)).

`param2`

The second method-dependent parameter:

- For classical Hough transform it is not used (0).
- For probabilistic Hough transform it is the maximum gap between line segments lieing on the same line to treat them as the single line segment (i.e. to join them).
- For multi-scale Hough transform it is divisor for angle resolution `theta`. (The coarse angle resolution will be `theta` and the accurate resolution will be (`theta / param2`)).

The function `cvHoughLines2` implements a few variants of Hough transform for line detection.

Threshold

Applies fixed-level threshold to array elements

```
void cvThreshold( const CvArr* src, CvArr* dst, double threshold,
                 double max_value, int threshold_type );
```

`src`

Source array (single-channel, 8-bit or 32-bit floating point).

`dst`

Destination array; must be either the same type as `src` or 8-bit.

`threshold`

Threshold value.

`max_value`

Maximum value to use with `CV_THRESH_BINARY` and `CV_THRESH_BINARY_INV` thresholding types.

`threshold_type`

Thresholding type (see the discussion)

The function `cvThreshold` applies fixed-level thresholding to single-channel array. The function is typically used to get bi-level (binary) image out of grayscale image ([cvCmpS](#) could be also used for this purpose) or for removing a noise, i.e. filtering out pixels with too small or too large values. There are several types of thresholding the function supports that are determined by `threshold_type`:

```
threshold_type=CV_THRESH_BINARY:
dst(x,y) = max_value, if src(x,y)>threshold
          0, otherwise
```

```
threshold_type=CV_THRESH_BINARY_INV:
dst(x,y) = 0, if src(x,y)>threshold
          max_value, otherwise
```

```
threshold_type=CV_THRESH_TRUNC:
dst(x,y) = threshold, if src(x,y)>threshold
          src(x,y), otherwise
```

```
threshold_type=CV_THRESH_TOZERO:
dst(x,y) = src(x,y), if src(x,y)>threshold
          0, otherwise
```

```
threshold_type=CV_THRESH_TOZERO_INV:
dst(x,y) = 0, if src(x,y)>threshold
          src(x,y), otherwise
```

And this is the visual description of thresholding types:

