

Research on Image Acquisition System Based on Binocular Stereo Vision

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Abstract

During object point character matching based on binocular stereoscopic vision, the measured object needs to be observed in different directions, from left and right. The article studied the structure configuration of image acquisition system and its optical path. For the object point with absolutely visible details, through extracting its feature matching point from the left and right images, its depth coordinate was obtained by calculation after matching. Finally the example of feature matching achieved with VC++ was given.

Keywords: Binocular stereo vision, Image acquisition system, Feature matching

1. The structure configuration of image acquisition system and its optical path

The object points visible in the left and right image, making use of corresponding matching points, can transform the coordinates of the matching points in the image coordinate system to the object coordinate system. In order to calculate the 3D coordinates of matching points, the matched object points need to be found in the left and right projective images firstly. The measured object has homogeneity and symmetry, although object points are visible in the two images, not all of the points are different from each other. So when calculating the coordinates of object points visible absolutely, it's unnecessary to confirm all the matched object points' coordinates.

The structure configuration of image acquisition system is shown in figure 1. Figure 1 marks two optical axes, one is used for the acquisition of the left image and the other one is used for the acquisition of the right image. Assumed two optical axes cut planes at two points close to each other, but not at a convergent point. In figure 1, the angle γ is used to mark the deviation between two optical axes.

The optical principle of optical path in image acquisition system in figure 1 is shown in figure 2. To take a random point P in the object plane, the left camera focus O_L , the right camera focus O_R and the point P are called "recognition plane". The imaging point of the point P is P_L in the left imaging system, and in the right imaging system, its imaging point is P_R , which means that the point P images in the left and right imaging system is "a pair of image points". The intersection line of the recognition plane and the plane where the measured object is gives a section here are the projective image elements of the two images. From the one dimension information of the left and right image points in the section, the depth information of the point P is obtained. In figure 2, baseline passes two lens' focal line. To rotate recognition plane around baseline, by calculating each corresponding section's optical path, the depth information of total surface of measured object is obtained.

The rectangular coordinates system in figure 2 is specified as follows:

Origin: Choose the focus of the left image acquisition system as origin.

z axis: Choose the optical axis of the left camera as z axis and specify the positive direction is from object to image. Therefore, x-y plane is parallel to the left camera's image plane.

x axis, y axis: Specify x axis is located in recognition plane, optical axis is in the recognition plane and the direction of x axis from the left to the right. Then y axis and other directions are given correspondingly.

2. The selection of image coordinate system

The left camera image acquisition system coordinates are consisted of x_L and y_L axis, which is located in image plane and the origin is located in the center of image. x_L and y_L axis are parallel to x axis and y axis. Specify the positive direction of x_L and y_L axis accord to the negative direction of x axis and y axis.

2.1 In order to simplify calculations, redefine image coordinate system

In order to transform between image coordinate system (x_L - y_L) and the coordinate system (x-y-z) selected before, we specify that: the origin of image coordinate system (x_L - y_L) is located at the corner point of the left image in coordinate system (x-y-z). Suppose the coordinate of certain image point is (X_L^*, Y_L^*) , (X_M, Y_M) is the coordinate of image point in the coordinate system (x-y-z), and then in the image coordinate system (x_L - y_L), the new coordinate of observation point is:

$$\begin{aligned} X_L &= X_L^* - X_M \\ Y_L &= -(Y_L^* - Y_M) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

The formula (1) is also applied to the right image coordinate system.

2.2 Optical axis is perpendicular to image plane

Now study the right camera's image acquisition coordinate system. In the right camera's optical system, the image coordinate axis x_R and y_R are still in image plane. x_R axis is located in recognition plane, which contains optical axis of the left optical system meanwhile. Specify the positive direction of x_R and y_R are the same as that of x_L and y_L selected in the left camera's coordinate system, and two optical axis are parallel. Through analysis we know that y_R coordinate and y_R axis are not important for calculation so we don't consider them below.

Focal distance is defined as the distance from the right camera's focus O_R to image plane. Specified recognition plane doesn't contain optical axis but contain x_R axis. If the angle between right optical axis and recognition plane projection is γ ,

$$i_O = \frac{f_R}{\cos \gamma} \quad (2)$$

In the formula, f_R is the focal distance of the right image acquisition system. From the formula 2 we can see, the distance i_O is the function of optical system, irrespective of the section measured and selected. In order to calculate the point P in object plane, it's necessary to study the optical path in recognition plane.

3. The space coordinates calculation of measured object points

The figure 2 describes 3D optical path of optimal system. Now only to study the 2D optimal path of recognition plane in figure 2 and its diagram is given as shown in figure 3. The optical axis of the left camera's image acquisition system is still in the 2D optical path. The direction of x_L and x_R is shown in figure 3. The geometric relationship in figure 3 is same to each section. In the next discussion, the geometric relationship analyzed is independent of recognition plane selected. When calculating other sections, if the angle between the optical axis in the left image acquisition system and recognition plane is given, associate with the former calculation formula.

Observe triangle ABO_L and CDO_L , and obtain

$$\frac{\overline{AB}}{\overline{O_L B}} = \frac{\overline{CD}}{\overline{CO_L}} \quad (3)$$

or

$$\frac{x_L}{f_L} = \frac{x}{-z} \quad (4)$$

Likewise, Observe triangle GHO_R and FDO_R , and obtain

$$\frac{GH}{O_R H} = \frac{FD}{FO_R} \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{GH}{O_R H} = \frac{O_R N \sin \phi - DN \cos \phi}{O_R N \cos \phi + DN \sin \phi} \quad (6)$$

or

$$\frac{x_R}{i} = \frac{(h-z) \sin \phi - (s-x) \cos \phi}{(h-z) \cos \phi + (s-x) \sin \phi} \quad (7)$$

According to the formula (4) and (7), z coordinates are obtained as follows:

$$z = -f_L \frac{(x_R s \cos \gamma - f_R h) \tan \phi + x_R h \cos \gamma + s f_R}{(x_R x_L \cos \gamma + f_R f_L) \tan \phi - x_R f_L \cos \gamma + x_L f_R} \quad (8)$$

According to the formula (4), x coordinates are calculated as follows:

$$x = -\frac{z}{f_L} x_L \quad (9)$$

Similarly, y coordinates are obtained as follows:

$$y = -\frac{z}{f_L} y_L \quad (10)$$

If the imaging magnification of the left camera's optical system is

$$v = -\frac{z}{f_L} \quad (11)$$

The formula (8) is substituted as follows:

$$v = \frac{(x_R s \cos \gamma - f_R h) \tan \phi + x_R h \cos \gamma + s f_R}{(x_R x_L \cos \gamma + f_R f_L) \tan \phi - x_R f_L \cos \gamma + x_L f_R} \quad (12)$$

So the coordinates of the point P in the coordinate system (x, y, z) are as follows:

$$\begin{cases} x = vx_L \\ y = vy_L \\ z = -vf_L \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

In order to further simplify, we studied the optical equipment of figure 4. The diagram in figure 4 is shown to adjust the camera. The distance AB is the midline of image, the adjustment point S images in the center of image. We may obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} h &= 0 \\ \gamma &= 0 \\ s &= b \\ \tan \frac{\phi}{2} &= \frac{b}{-2D} \\ \tan \phi = t &= \frac{2 \tan \frac{\phi}{2}}{1 - \tan^2 \frac{\phi}{2}} \\ t &= \frac{4bD^*}{4D^{*2} - b^2} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

In the formula (14), b is the baseline, the distance from the adjustment point S to baseline is D^* . If the camera chooses same parameters, the focal distance is:

$$f_R = f_L = f \quad (15)$$

Therefore, imaging magnification is simplified to

$$v = \frac{b(x_R t + f)}{(x_R x_L + f^2)t + f(x_L - x_R)} \quad (16)$$

In the 3D geometric optical path shown in figure 3, the space coordinates can be calculated through either each corresponding point symmetry coordinates in the left and right images of measured objects or the formula (13).

4. Discussion of the space coordinates of the blocked object points

For the object details visible partially, the coordinates in two images cannot be obtained and have no corresponding relations, which increases the difficulty to recognize objects.

Supposed the edge blocked partially is the transversal of two upper surfaces which are blocked partially. The space position of the upper surface is determined by three angles in the surface. Take $(X_i, Y_i, Z_i)_{i=1,2,3}$, if (x, y, z) is the point coordinate in the upper surface, three angles' coordinates are $E_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$, $E_2(x_2, y_2, z_2)$, $E_3(x_3, y_3, z_3)$. Then the formula of the surface is:

$$\begin{vmatrix} x - x_1 & y - y_1 & z - z_1 \\ x_2 - x_1 & y_2 - y_1 & z_2 - z_1 \\ x_3 - x_1 & y_3 - y_1 & z_3 - z_1 \end{vmatrix} = 0 \quad (17)$$

Each surface's coordinate is determined by three angles' coordinates. Through obtaining the intersection coordinates of two upper surfaces, the 3D position of blocked edge is calculated.

If (x, y, z) is the coordinate of certain point blocked partially, there will be

$$\begin{cases} A_1x + B_1y + C_1z + D_1 = 0 \\ A_2x + B_2y + C_2z + D_2 = 0 \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

In the formula, A_1, B_1, C_1, D_1 are the parameters of the first upper surface, and the specific parameters are

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \begin{vmatrix} y_2 - y_1 & z_2 - z_1 \\ y_3 - y_1 & z_3 - z_1 \end{vmatrix} \\ B_1 &= \begin{vmatrix} z_2 - z_1 & x_2 - x_1 \\ z_3 - z_1 & x_3 - x_1 \end{vmatrix} \\ C_1 &= \begin{vmatrix} x_2 - x_1 & y_2 - y_1 \\ x_3 - x_1 & y_3 - y_1 \end{vmatrix} \\ D_1 &= -x_1A_1 - y_1B_1 - z_1C_1 \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Similarly, A_2, B_2, C_2, D_2 are the parameters of the second surface.

Perpendicular to the surfaces (x, y) and (x, z) , and the image projective surfaces which pass the blocked edge are (x, y) and (x, z) .

The formula of the edge blocked partially in two projective surfaces is:

$$\begin{cases} y = k_1x + a_1 \\ z = h_1x + b_1 \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

In the formula, the parameters k_1, a_1, h_1, b_1 are:

$$\begin{aligned} k_1 &= \frac{A_2C_1 - A_1C_2}{B_1C_2 - B_2C_1} \\ a_1 &= \frac{C_1D_2 - C_2D_1}{B_1C_2 - B_2C_1} \\ h_1 &= \frac{A_2B_1 - A_1B_2}{B_2C_1 - B_1C_2} \\ b_1 &= \frac{B_1D_2 - B_2D_1}{B_2C_1 - B_1C_2} \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

The point of intersection of two lines is the position of angle. Given intersection line and chine line, the angle where the edge is cuts the intersection line. Supposed the position of the angle is (X_e, Y_e, Z_e) , and

$$\begin{cases} y = k_2x + a_2 \\ z = h_2x + b_2 \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

In the formula a_2, b_2, k_2, h_2 are constants.

Finally, the equation of the straight line is obtained as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} X_e &= \frac{a_2 - a_1}{k_1 - k_2} \\ Y_e &= \frac{k_1 a_2 - k_2 a_1}{k_1 - k_2} \\ Z_e &= \frac{h_1 b_2 - h_2 b_1}{h_1 - h_2} \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

5. The experimental results of stereo matching

Based on the discussion of the structure configuration of image acquisition system and the analysis of stereo coordinate calculation method above, CCD camera was used to do experimental research on different objects (the selected objects are schoolbag and vase respectively). Two methods were chosen as follows: Harris corner point matching and SIFT feature matching. In order to intuitively show matching points, during Harris corner point matching, corresponding corner points of two images were marked the same numbers; during SIFT feature matching, corresponding feature points of two images are connected by straight lines.

The effect figure that used Harris corner point matching for acquired schoolbag's image is shown in figure 5. The effect figure that used SIFT feature point matching for acquired schoolbag's image is shown in figure 6. The effect figure that used Harris corner point matching for acquired china doll's image is shown in figure 7. The effect figure that used SIFT feature point matching for acquired china doll's image is shown in figure 8.

Compared figure 5 with figure 6, in the first group of images, the number of matching points based on Harris corner point matching was equal basically to that based on SIFT feature point matching. Compared figure 7 with figure 8, in the second group of images, the number of matching points based on SIFT feature point matching was more than that based on Harris corner point matching obviously, but there were wrong matching points based on SIFT feature point matching. However, the two methods obtained better matching results.

Based on the calculation method and formula above, objects can be carried out stereo matching. Figure 9 and figure 10 are the images of schoolbag and vase respectively, which are generated by matching points based on SIFT feature matching.

6. Conclusions

The article discussed and studied the feature matching on visible absolutely object surface and visible partially object surface respectively and corresponding matching formula were obtained. It studied the structure configuration of image acquisition system and its optical path. In the experimental system developed, taking the images of schoolbag and vase for examples, making use of Harris corner point matching algorithm and SIFT matching algorithm achieved by VC++, 3D measurement experiment was carried out.

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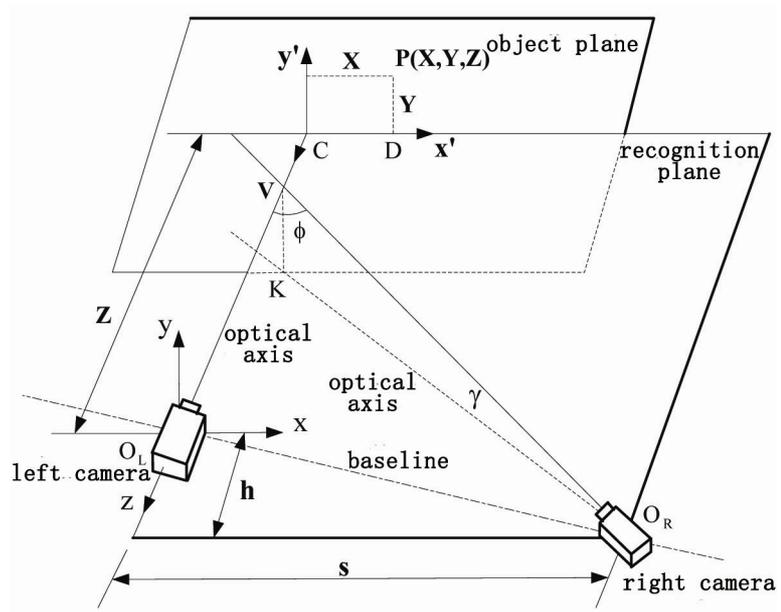


Figure 1. The structure configuration of image acquisition system

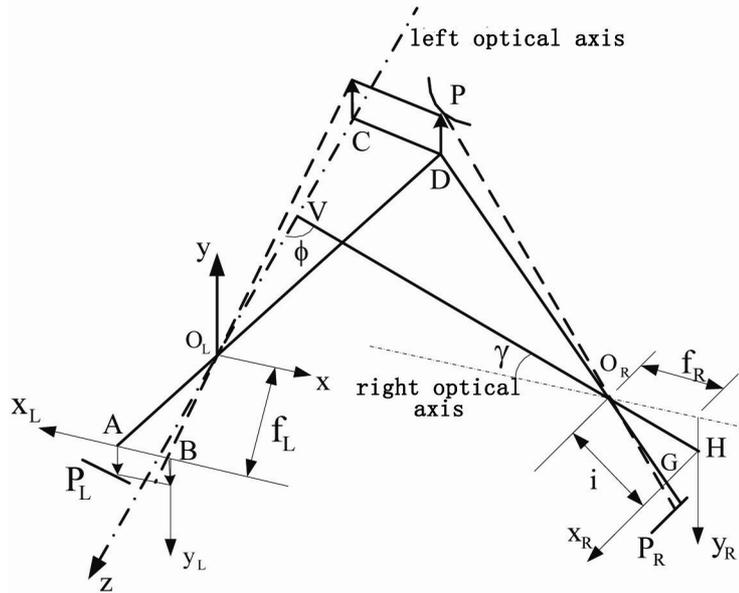


Figure 2. The optical principle of optical path

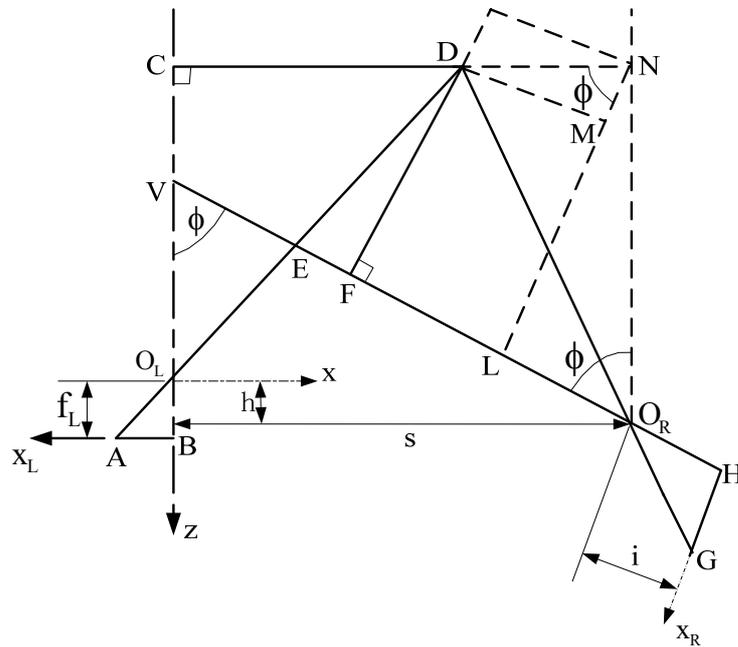


Figure 3. The 2D optical path digram of recognition plane in figure 2

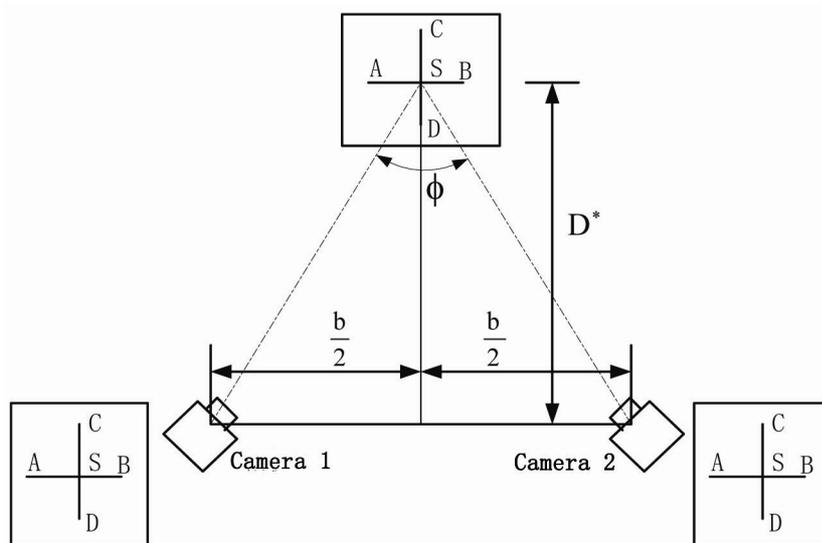


Figure 4. The digram of camera adjustment

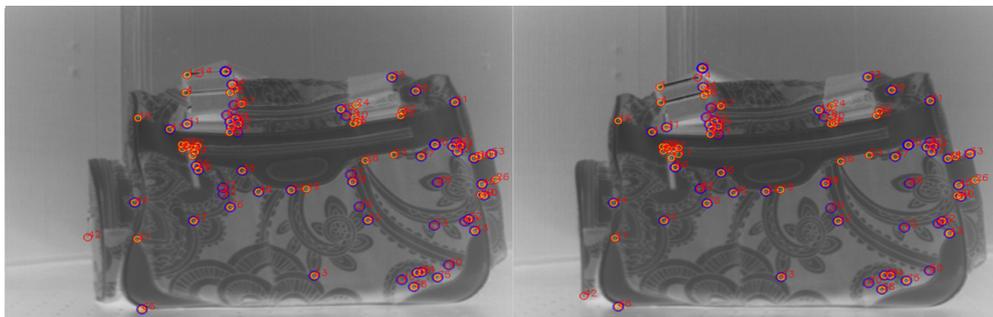


Figure 5. The Harris corner point matching of the picture of a schoolbag



Figure 6. The SIFT feature point matching of the photo of a shoolbag

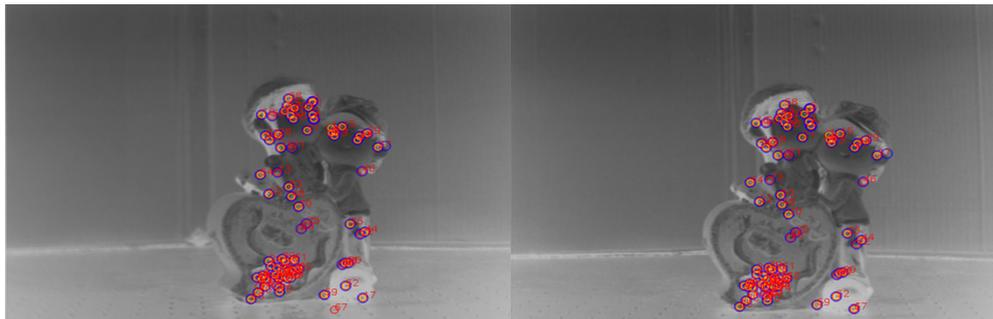


Figure 7. The Harris corner point matching of the photo of a china doll

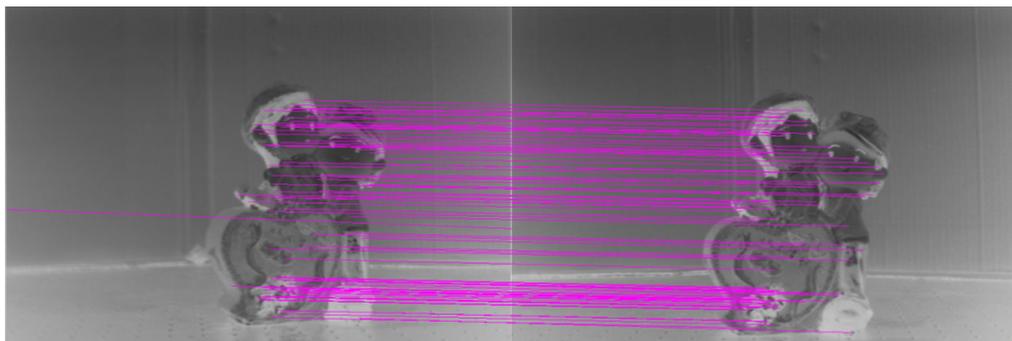


Figure 8. The SIFT feature point matching of the photo of a china doll

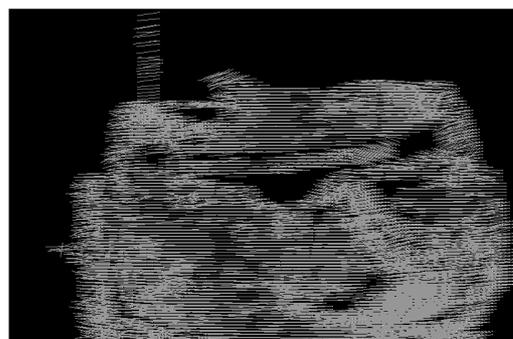


Figure 9. the shoolbag generated by matching points based on SIFT

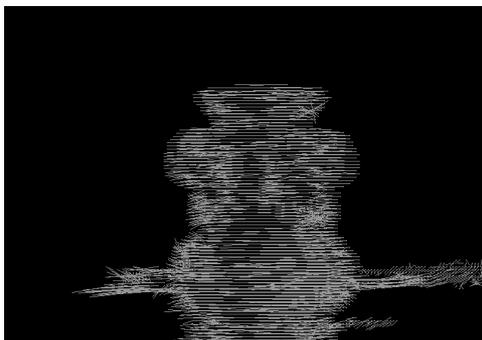


Figure 10. the vase generated by matching points based on SIFT