IMPROVED CLUSTERING APPROACH FOR JUNCTION DETECTION OF MULTIPLE EDGES WITH MODIFIED FREEMAN CHAIN CODE

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This thesis is dedicated to:

My lovely wife Zaharah whose love and support

and

for my children

Mohd Daniel Haziq, Nurhanisah Zakirah and Nur Awadah Zahirah

Thank you for always being there for me, supporting me and encouraging me to be the best that I can be

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ABSTRACT

Image processing framework of two-dimensional line drawing involves three phases that are detecting junction and corner that exist in the drawing, representing the lines, and extracting features to be used in recognizing the line drawing based on the representation scheme used. As an alternative to the existing frameworks, this thesis proposed a framework that consists of improvement in the clustering approach for junction detection of multiple edges, modified Freeman chain code scheme and provide new features and its extraction, and recognition algorithm. This thesis concerns with problem in clustering line drawing for junction detection of multiple edges in the first phase. Major problems in cluster analysis such as time taken and particularly number of accurate clusters contained in the line drawing when performing junction detection are crucial to be addressed. Two clustering approaches are used to compare with the result obtained from the proposed algorithm: self-organising map (SOM) and affinity propagation (AP). approaches are chosen based on their similarity as unsupervised learning class and do not require initial cluster count to execute. In the second phase, a new chain code scheme is proposed to be used in representing the direction of lines and it consists of series of directional codes and corner labels found in the drawing. In the third phase, namely feature extraction algorithm, three features proposed are length of lines, angle of corners, and number of branches at each corner. These features are then used in the proposed recognition algorithm to match the line drawing, involving only mean and variance in the calculation. Comparison with SOM and AP clustering approaches resulting in up to 31% reduction for cluster count and 57 times faster. The results on corner detection algorithm shows that it is capable to detect junction and corner of the given thinned binary image by producing a new thinned binary image containing markers at their locations.

ABSTRAK

Rangka kerja pemprosesan imej lukisan garis dua dimensi melibatkan tiga fasa iaitu pengesanan simpang dan sudut yang wujud dalam lukisan, mewakilkan garisan, dan penyarian sifat-sifat untuk digunakan dalam pengecaman lukisan garis berdasarkan skema perwakilan yang digunakan. Sebagai pilihan kepada rangka kerja sedia ada, tesis ini mencadangkan rangka kerja yang melibatkan pembaikan dalam pendekatan pengelompokan untuk mengesan simpang berbilang pinggir, skema kod rantaian Freeman terubahsuai dan menyediakan sifat-sifat baru dan penyariannya, dan algoritma pengecaman. Tesis ini menumpukan kepada masalah di dalam pengelompokan lukisan garis bagi mengesan simpang berbilang pinggir dalam fasa Masalah utama dalam analisa kelompok adalah seperti masa yang diperlukan, dan penentuan bilangan kelompok yang tepat di dalam lukisan garis semasa melaksanakan pengesanan simpang adalah amat penting untuk ditangani. Dua pendekatan kelompok yang digunakan bagi membandingkan keputusan dengan algoritma yang dicadangkan adalah peta swa-organisasi (SOM) dan rambatan afiniti Kaedah-kaedah ini dipilih berdasarkan kesamaan mereka sebagai kelas pembelajaran tidak diselia dan tidak memerlukan nilai awal bilangan kelompok untuk melaksanakannya. Dalam fasa kedua, skema kod rantaian baru dicadangkan bagi digunakan untuk mewakili arah tuju bagi garisan dan ia mengandungi beberapa siri kod berarah dan label selekoh/simpang yang dijumpai di dalam lukisan. Manakala fasa ketiga di kenali sebagai algoritma penyarian sifat, tiga sifat yang telah di cadangkan adalah panjang garis, sudut bagi simpang dan bilangan cabang bagi setiap simpang. Sifat-sifat ini kemudiannya digunakan dalam algoritma pengecaman yang dicadangkan bagi pemadanan lukisan garis, ia melibatkan hanya nilai min dan varians dalam pengiraan. Perbandingan keputusan dengan pendekatan pengelompokan SOM dan AP menunjukkan 31% pengurangan bilangan kelompok dan 57 kali lebih pantas. Keputusan ini menunjukkan algoritma pengesanan simpang mampu mengesan simpang bagi suatu imej binari ternipis dengan menghasilkan imej binari ternipis baru yang mengandungi tanda pada lokasi simpang. .

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| CHAPT | ER TITLE | PAGE |
|-------|---------------------------------|-------|
| | DECLARATION | ii |
| | DEDICATION | iii |
| | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | iv |
| | ABSTRACT | V |
| | ABSTRAK | vi |
| | TABLE OF CONTENTS | vii |
| | LIST OF TABLES | xii |
| | LIST OF FIGURES | xiv |
| | LIST OF APPENDICES | xvii |
| | LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS | xviii |
| 1 | INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| | 1.1 Introduction | 1 |
| | 1.2 Problem Statement | 4 |
| | 1.3 Objectives | 5 |
| | 1.4 Scopes | 5 |
| | 1.5 Thesis Organization | 6 |
| 2 | LITERATURE REVIEW | 7 |
| | 2.1 Introduction | 7 |
| | 2.2 Recognition of Line Drawing | 8 |
| | 2.2.1 Line Drawing | 8 |
| | 2.2.2 Type of Line Drawing | 9 |

| | | | 2.2.2.1 | Origami World | 11 |
|---|-----|--------|------------|---|----|
| | | | 2.2.2.2 | Engineering Sketch | 11 |
| | | | 2.2.2.3 | Impossible Object | 12 |
| | | | 2.2.2.4 | Wireframe Object | 12 |
| | | 2.2.3 | Previous | Frameworks in Recognition of Line | 13 |
| | | | Drawing | | |
| | 2.3 | Image | Processin | ng | 15 |
| | | 2.3.1 | Image Ac | equisition | 16 |
| | | 2.3.2 | Digitizati | on and Binarization | 17 |
| | | 2.3.3 | Image Tra | ansformation | 17 |
| | 2.4 | Cluste | ring Algo | rithm | 19 |
| | | 2.4.1 | Self Orga | anizing Map (SOM) | 20 |
| | | 2.4.2 | Affinity P | ropagation (AP) | 24 |
| | 2.5 | Corne | r Detectio | n | 26 |
| | | 2.5.1 | Type of I | mage used in Corner Detection | 26 |
| | | 2.5.2 | Techniqu | es in Corner Detection | 28 |
| | | 2.5.3 | Line Data | a Representation | 30 |
| | 2.6 | Chain | Code Sch | eme | 31 |
| | 2.7 | Featur | e Extracti | on and Pattern Recognition | 33 |
| | 2.8 | Summ | ary | | 35 |
| 3 | RES | SEARO | СН МЕТІ | HODOLOGY | 37 |
| | 3.1 | Introd | uction | | 37 |
| | 3.2 | Data I | Definition | and Identification | 40 |
| | | 3.2.1 | Line Drav | wing Data Source Identification | 40 |
| | | 3.2.2 | Line Drav | wing Requirement and Acceptance Criteria | 40 |
| | | 3.2.3 | Binarizati | ion and Thinning | 41 |
| | | 3.2.4 | Image Co | ollection | 41 |
| | | 3.2.5 | MFCC C | ollection for Feature Extraction and Line | 42 |
| | | | Drawing | Recognition | |
| | 3.3 | Image | Pre proce | essing | 42 |
| | | 3.3.1 | Line Drav | wing Retrieval | 42 |
| | | 3.3.2 | Rotation | and Sizing | 43 |
| | | | | | |

| | 3.4 | Development of Pixel Clustering Algorithm | 44 |
|---|------|--|----|
| | 3.5 | Developing the Corner Detection Algorithm | 45 |
| | 3.6 | Development of Modified Freeman Chain Code Scheme | 46 |
| | | and Its Code Generator | |
| | 3.7 | Feature Extraction and Recognition | 48 |
| | 3.8 | Implementation | 50 |
| | 3.9 | Testing, Validation and Evaluation | 51 |
| | 3.10 |) Summary | 52 |
| | | | |
| 4 | PR | OPOSED CLUSTERING APPROACH FOR | 53 |
| | JUN | NCTION DETECTION | |
| | 4.1 | Overview to the Algorithm | 53 |
| | 4.2 | The Data Structures | 54 |
| | 4.3 | Line Drawing Characteristics Definition | 56 |
| | 4.4 | Pixel Grouping into Clusters | 57 |
| | | 4.4.1 Algorithm for Proposed Clustering Technique | 57 |
| | | 4.4.2 Output Validation and Comparison with Other | 59 |
| | | Clustering Methods | |
| | 4.5 | Retrieving the Binary Image and Locating Start Traverse | 63 |
| | | Point | |
| | 4.6 | Line Vector Creation and Corner Detection | 65 |
| | | 4.6.1 Algorithm for Proposed Corner Detection | 65 |
| | | Technique | |
| | | 4.6.2 Comparison with Other Corner Detection Method | 73 |
| | 4.7 | Locating Junction Position in Cluster | 76 |
| | | 4.7.1 Locating Junction Position using Sample Cluster 1 | 78 |
| | | 4.7.2 Locating Junction Position using Sample Cluster 2 | 79 |
| | | 4.7.3 Locating Junction Position using Sample Cluster 3 | 80 |
| | 4.8 | Results of the Clustering and Corner Detection Algorithm | 81 |
| | 49 | Summary | 86 |

| 5 | PRO | OPOSED MODIFIED FREEMAN CHAIN CODE | 87 |
|---|-----|---|------------|
| | 5.1 | Introduction | 87 |
| | 5.2 | Features of the Modified Freeman Chain Code Scheme | 88 |
| | 5.3 | From TBI to MFCC | 89 |
| | 5.4 | The Extraction Algorithm | 92 |
| | | 5.4.1 Traverse rules | 93 |
| | | 5.4.2 Locating Starting Point | 95 |
| | | 5.4.3 Generating MFCC of Outer Loop | 96 |
| | | 5.4.4 Generating MFCC of Inner Loop | 98 |
| | 5.5 | Validating the Algorithm | 99 |
| | | 5.5.1 Manual Validation | 99 |
| | | 5.5.2 Automated Validation | 102 |
| | 5.6 | Result of the MFCC Extraction | 104 |
| | 5.7 | Summary | 111 |
| • | | ATUDE EVED A CEION AND DECOCNUTION DAGED | 110 |
| 6 | | ATURE EXTRACTION AND RECOGNITION BASED MODIETED EDGEMAN CHAIN CODE | 112 |
| | | MODIFIED FREEMAN CHAIN CODE Introduction | 112 |
| | 6.2 | | 112 114 |
| | | | |
| | 6.3 | | 115 |
| | | 6.3.1 Outer Loop | 116 |
| | | 6.3.2 Inner Loop | 116 118 |
| | 6.1 | 6.3.3 Junction Spatial Properties Acceptance/Rejection Criteria for Features | 120 |
| | 0.4 | | |
| | | 6.4.1 Properties of Junction | 122 122 |
| | | 6.4.1.1 Outer Loop Junction (OLJ)6.4.1.2 Inner Loop Junction (ILJ) | 123 |
| | | 6.4.2 Ratio of Distance and Difference of Angle | 123 |
| | 6.5 | _ | 124 |
| | 6.5 | 1 0 | |
| | 0.0 | Result and Validation 6.6.1 Possult of Footures Extraction and Possagnition | 126 126 |
| | | 6.6.1 Result of Features Extraction and Recognition6.6.2 Validation of Features Extraction and Recognition | 132 |
| | | 6.6.2.1 Result from Manual Calculation | 132 |
| | | 0.0.2.1 Result Holli Mallual Calculation | 13/ |

| хi | |
|----|--|
| | |

| | 6.6.2.2 Result from Automation Algorithm | 141 |
|----------------|--|---------|
| 6.7 | Summary | 142 |
| | | |
| 7 CO | NCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK | 143 |
| 7.1 | Introduction | 143 |
| 7.2 | Advantages of Proposed Solution | 144 |
| 7.3 | Contribution of Thesis | 145 |
| 7.4 | Conclusion | 145 |
| 7.5 | Future Works | 146 |
| | | |
| REFERENCE | \mathbf{S} | 148 |
| Appendices A-l | D | 157-187 |

LIST OF TABLES

| TABLE NO. | TITLE | PAGE |
|-----------|--|------|
| 4.1 | Comparison of output from clustering methods by cluster | 61 |
| | count and processing time | |
| 4.2 | Vector list created during corner searching | 73 |
| 6.1 | Categories of structure recognition results | 114 |
| 6.2 | Junctions connection matrices for each structure. | 118 |
| | '1' means connection exists while '0' is none | |
| 6.3 | Mapping Table of Inner Loop | 119 |
| 6.4 | Distance and angle values between junctions in reference | 121 |
| | structure | |
| 6.5 | Distance and angle values between junctions in testing | 121 |
| | structure | |
| 6.6 | Junction matching in the outer loop | 123 |
| 6.7 | Junction matching in the inner loop | 124 |
| 6.8 | List of features for both structures and resulting variances | 126 |
| 6.9 | The Features calculated Manually for Reference Image | 134 |
| 6.10 | The Features calculated by Computerized for Reference | 134 |
| | Image | |
| 6.11 | The Features calculated Manually for Test Image | 136 |
| 6.12 | The Features calculated by Computerized for Test Image | 137 |
| 6.13 | Manual Extraction of Junction Properties | 138 |
| 6.14 | New sequence of junction after rotation | 139 |
| 6.15 | Mapping for both image | 139 |
| 6.16 | Distance Ratio of both images (F2) | 140 |

| 6.17 | Angle difference of both images (F3) | 141 |
|------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 6.18 | Result from the Algorithm | 142 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| FIGURE NO | D. TITLE | PAGE |
|-----------|--|------|
| 2.1 | A line structure modeled by an image | 8 |
| 2.2 | An image perceivable as a line drawing | 9 |
| 2.3 | Example of line drawings | 10 |
| 2.4 | Irregular line drawings and their regular representation | 10 |
| 2.5 | Origami world 'W-folded paper' line drawing | 11 |
| 2.6 | Engineering sketch represents a pyramid and cube | 11 |
| 2.7 | Line drawings of impossible object | 12 |
| 2.8 | Line drawings of wireframe object | 12 |
| 2.9 | Architecture of SOM (Maung, 2012) | 21 |
| 2.10 | Neighbour Directions of FCC | 32 |
| 3.1 | The Proposed Framework | 39 |
| 3.2 | The Experimental Design for Pixel Clustering Algorithm | 44 |
| 3.3 | The Experimental Design for Corner Detection Algorithm | 46 |
| 3.4 | The Experimental Design for MFCC Extraction Algorithm | 48 |
| 3.5 | The Step in Feature Extraction and Recognition Algorithm | 49 |
| 4.1 | Sample of compared clustering method output | 60 |
| 4.2 | Steps in junction and corner detection algorithm | 64 |
| 4.3 | Starting point Location of Figure 4.2(b) | 65 |
| 4.4 | Rectangle where corner should be and polygon for structure | 66 |
| | line segment used in the explanation | |
| 4.5 | Diagram of corner detection steps | 70 |
| 4.6 | Vectors created based on sample structure with newly found | 72 |
| | corner as junction. Numbers show vector index in Table 4.2 | |

| 4.7 | Comparison of corner detection methods for Image 1 | 13 |
|------|---|-----|
| 4.8 | Comparison of corner detection methods for Image 2 | 74 |
| 4.9 | Comparison of corner detection methods for Image 3 | 74 |
| 4.10 | (a) Cluster 1 member. (b) Initialized distance array | 78 |
| 4.11 | Distance value based on respective vector (a) Vector 1 | 79 |
| | (b) Vector 2 (c) Vector 3 (d) Total distance | |
| 4.12 | Distance value based on respective vector. (a) Vector 4. | 80 |
| | (b) Vector 6. (c) Vector 7. (d) Total distance. | |
| 4.13 | Distance value based on respective vector. (a) Vector 5. | 81 |
| | (b) Vector 7. (c) Vector 8. (d) Total distance | |
| 4.14 | (a) Clustered TBI of Image 1 | 82 |
| | (b) TBI with Corner (J) Image 1 | 83 |
| 4.15 | TBI with J of Image 2 | 84 |
| 4.16 | TBI with J of Image 3 | 85 |
| 5.1 | Example of TBI and labelled junction | 90 |
| 5.2 | C junction with 3 branches | 94 |
| 5.3 | Example of MFCC | 99 |
| 5.4 | Resulted TBI image (manually drawn 1) | 100 |
| 5.5 | TBI with J and MFCC | 101 |
| 5.6 | Resulted TBI image (manually drawn 2) | 101 |
| 5.7 | Resulting TBI image from automated validation program (1) | 103 |
| 5.8 | Resulting TBI image from automated validation program (2) | 103 |
| 5.9 | MFCC extraction of TBI with J (1) | 105 |
| 5.10 | MFCC extraction of TBI with J (2) | 106 |
| 5.11 | MFCC extraction of TBI with J (3) | 107 |
| 5.12 | MFCC extraction of TBI with J (4) | 108 |
| 5.13 | MFCC extraction of TBI with J (5) | 109 |
| 5.14 | MFCC extraction of TBI with J (6) | 110 |
| 6.1 | Two similar structures with different orientation and their | 113 |
| | generated MFCC | |
| 6.2 | Label of Junctions change according to the start point | 115 |
| 6.3 | Equation for (a) Distance and (b) Angle | 119 |

| 6.4 | Conversion of single junction pair properties into validation | 125 |
|------|---|-----|
| | features | |
| 6.5 | Reference Image with MFCC1 | 127 |
| 6.6 | Case 1: Dissimilar Image | 127 |
| 6.7 | Case 2: Rotated No Scaling | 128 |
| 6.8 | Case 3: Scaled but Not Rotated | 129 |
| 6.9 | Case 4: Rotated and Scaled | 130 |
| 6.10 | Case 5: Similar Image | 131 |
| 6.11 | Reference Image and its MFCC | 132 |
| 6.12 | Test Image and its MFCC | 134 |

LIST OF APPENDICES

| APPENDIX | TITLE | PAGE |
|----------|--|------|
| A | Example of the Pre-Processing Result Original Image to | 157 |
| | Thinned Binary Image | |
| В | Example of the Corner Detection Result from Thinned | 160 |
| | Binary Image | |
| C | Example of the Modified Freeman Chain Code Result | 170 |
| | from Corner Detection of TBI | |
| D | Example of the Features Extraction and Recognition | 175 |
| | Result from Modified Freeman Chain Code (MFCC) | |

LIST OF ABBREVIATION

CAD - Computer Aided Design

CCW - Counter-clockwise

CEDAR - Center of Excellence for Document Analysis and Recognition

CW - Clockwise

FCC - Freeman Chain Code

IDRI - Imaging Database Resources Initiative

JPEG - Joint Photographic Experts GroupMFCC - Modification Freeman Chain Code

NIST - National Institute of Standards and Technology

PDL - Picture Description Language

PNG - Portable Network Graphics format

TBI - Thinned Binary Image

TIFF - Tagged Image File Format

VCC - Vertex Chain Code

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Recognition of line drawing involves image processing and pattern recognition that includes procedural automation on a computer system to execute a specific task. Some of the famous examples are handwritten recognition for postal address and cheque receipt, corner and edge detection, and object recognition (Xue et al., 2012; Boodoo and Baichoo, 2013). Four fields related to recognition of line drawing include image processing, line drawing interpretation, picture description language, and feature extraction and recognition (Haron, 2004; Varley and Martin, 2000; Durand 2012).

Image processing is a technique to convert an image into digital form by analyzing and manipulating images using a computer. This operation is necessary for image visualization, image sharpening and restoration, image retrieval, measurement of pattern and image recognition (Durand, 2012; Eitz, 2012).

Line drawing in the recognition process can be categorised into a few types such as single still image or in sequence (video), and the output is recognised items contained in the image such as edges, characters and paths (Yazdi and Toussi, 2011). In this thesis, the object of interest is structure outline in form of line drawing converted into a chain code representation. The comparison of two structures will include the information or features, extracted from each chain code. The differences between the two will show whether the input structures have been subjected to any rotation and sizing operations. The process will conclude the result based only on the given chain code which acts as the sole structure information source, reflecting the chain code properties for efficient image data storage.

The initial step in the pre-processing stage is binarization. In binarization, the image is converted into 0 and 1. 0 is equal to background and 1 is equal to foreground (Pitas, 1995). Next, skeletonization or thinning procedure is performed to the input structure line drawing to ensure that the line thickness to be exactly 1 pixel (Lee and Wang, 1994), except where the connected line meets. Such location will be found by clustering method in subsequent stage.

Pixel clustering searches for groups of pixels located closely together and assigned them as members to unique clusters. Additionally, the process finds cluster gates, which are the line ends connecting between clusters. By applying a set of rules to every foreground pixel in the image, the method prepares the image for further processing in junction detection stage.

Junction detection stage includes corner detection and junction located in groups of pixels called cluster. A corner is defined as locations where two line edges with different slopes meet (Park and Gravel, 2013; Gopal et al., 2010) while junctions in a cluster connect all edges pointing into the cluster. The process hugely depends on line vector concept, making use of gradient to locate the most suitable junction position for a particular place. After all junctions in the structure have been

recognized, binary image will be updated with their location marked with special character as preparation for chain code extraction.

Chain code style used in this thesis is a modification of Freeman chain code (MFCC) to include junction marker in the chain code string as indicator for edge's starting and end junction. The string formatting is also developed to adapt this edge source-destination requirement by recording junction marker occurrence. Junction label used as the marker is positioned along the traversal of the structure, prioritizing the junction situated at the outer loop before completing the line drawing trip in the inner loop. The output for this chain code extraction stage is the MFCC representing the line drawing structure. By extracting features from two MFCC of different structures and comparing them in recognition stage, it is possible to see whether the line drawings have any matching properties or not.

An algorithm is developed to handle the task of recognising the line drawing based on the MFCC. Connection between junctions and their corresponding vector attributes such as slope and length are all constructed from the chain code by parsing through the string and storing the information accordingly into the data structure. This information would be used in two contexts: junction matching and geometrical fitting. The operation sequence is done repeatedly until a match is found or no more alternative pattern is available which marks the end of the process. The result is either the line drawing is identical; the structure orientation is varied or completely different.

This thesis proposes a framework that performs the recognition of line drawing involving five fields mentioned above, using line drawing input. By applying existing image processing function and algorithm, a new clustering method, corner detection algorithm, chain code scheme and lastly features for the recognition process are introduced.

1.2 Problem Statement

Clustering is an approach used in many applications such as information retrieval, image analysis, machine learning, pattern recognition and bioinformatics (Jain, 2010; Yang et al, 2010). Due to unsupervised nature of clustering approach, number of cluster is an unknown parameter in most cases, and user knowledge in terms of relationship between data is limited. Therefore, assessment of different clustering algorithms and determining the number of clusters are significant research issues in cluster analysis (Rokach, 2010; Luxburg, 2007).

Problem in clustering line drawing for junction detection of multiple edges usage is the main concern of this thesis. Only two clustering techniques, SOM and AP are chosen for benchmarking purpose since other methods needs initial cluster count as mandatory parameter before processing can start. Even though SOM and AP could generate junction clusters automatically, the area suggested is imprecise and takes a considerable amount of time. Issues such as time taken and particularly number of accurate clusters contained in the line drawing are crucial when performing junction detection. These two issues are resolved using proposed clustering method by marking the image pixels as cluster members and gates with special characters.

Chain code scheme is one of the techniques in computer vision field. It is commonly used in image representation to symbolize a series of line drawing with predefined movement direction and length (Freeman, 1961). This representation can be used in image processing field such as image compression, feature extraction and pattern recognition (Siddiqi and Vincent, 2009). This thesis proposes a new chain code series that combines standard FCC format with additional character as marker to indicate any junction or corner exists in the thinned binary image (TBI). This is done by producing only a single series of chain code even though there are multiple junctions occurring in the line drawing. This new chain code is also introduced for feature extraction and later, in image recognition implementation.

1.3 Objectives

The main objectives of this thesis are shown below:

- i. To develop a new clustering method for image pixels to assist in corner detection stage.
- ii. To develop a new corner detection algorithm based on line vector.
- iii. To introduce modified Freeman chain code and its chain code generator algorithm.
- iv. To develop feature extraction and recognition algorithm based on modified Freeman chain code.

1.4 Scope

The scopes of this study are as listed below:

- i. The studied image is line drawing with closed loop taken from publication, internet and self-drawn.
- ii. For thinning line drawing, thinning function in standard commercial software and manual pixel deletion is applied for pre-processing.
- iii. The rotation and scaling of images are performed by standard commercial image editor function.
- iv. The corner detection algorithm covered a variable number of junctions, along with possibility of having multiple junctions in a single cluster.

1.5 Thesis Organization

This thesis is divided into seven chapters. This chapter gives introduction and motivation of the thesis. Chapter 2 presents literature review of four fields related to the thesis, followed by the research methodology in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 explains the pixel clustering and corner detection of the line drawing by using examples for better understanding. Chapter 5 presents chain code generation algorithm by providing 3 pseudo codes used in generating the MFCC. Chapter 6 presents features of the recognition process and its feature extraction algorithm. The explanation of the algorithm is supported by examples for easy understanding. The thesis ends with conclusion and future work in Chapter 7.

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