

Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

# **LENS DISTORTION CORRECTION BY ANALYSING THE SHAPE OF PATTERNS IN HOUGH TRANSFORM SPACE**

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Engineering

In

Electronics and Computer Engineering

at Massey University, Manawatu, New Zealand

YUAN CHANG

2018

## Abstract

Many low cost, wide angle lenses suffer from lens distortion, resulting from a radial variation in the lens magnification. As a result, straight lines, particularly those in the periphery, appear curved. The Hough transform is a commonly used linear feature detection technique within an image. In Hough transform space, straight lines and curved lines have different shapes of peaks. This thesis proposes a lens distortion correction method named SLDC based on analysing the shape of patterns in the Hough transform space. It works by reconstructing the distorted line from significant points on the smile-shaped Hough pattern. It then optimises the distortion parameter by mapping the reconstructed curved line into a straight line and minimising the RMSE. From both simulation and correcting real world images, the SLDC provides encouraging results.

**Keywords:** Hough transform; barrel lens distortion correction; straight line; shape of peaks

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank my supervisors, Donald Bailey and Steven Le Moan, for all their support throughout this research. I am thankful to them giving me this chance of chasing my dream and expanding my knowledge. Without their help and push I would never have made it.

I would like to thank my parents, for their unconditional love and support throughout these years. Their love is the driving force which keeping me going forward. I would also like to thank all my friends who cheered up through many long days and late nights at Massey.

# Table of Content

Abstract .....	1
Acknowledgements .....	2
List of Figures .....	5
List of Tables.....	7
Chapter 1 Introduction.....	8
1.1. What is Lens Distortion?.....	8
1.2. Camera Calibration .....	9
1.3. Edge and Line Detection .....	10
1.4. Research Goals.....	12
1.5. Overview .....	12
Chapter 2 Background .....	13
2.1. Modelling Lens Distortion .....	13
2.1.1. Polynomial Lens Distortion Models .....	14
2.1.2. Non-Polynomial Models of Radial Distortion.....	16
2.2. Hough Transform .....	17
2.3. Related Work.....	20
Chapter 3 Analysis of the Shape of Hough Patterns .....	22
3.1. Straight Line.....	22
3.2. Curved Line .....	22
3.2.1. The Shape of the 'Blurred' Peak.....	23
3.2.2. The Slope of the 'Smile'.....	25
3.3. Distortion Correction .....	26
3.3.1. Feature Points Based Method .....	26
3.3.2. 'Smile' Based Method.....	27
Chapter 4 Smile Based Lens Distortion Correction .....	28
4.1. Preprocessing.....	28
4.2. Hough Transform .....	28
4.3. Selecting the Hough Pattern for Analysis.....	29
4.4. Parabola Fitting .....	30
4.5. Curved line Reconstruction .....	31
4.6. Estimating the Lens Distortion Parameter.....	32
Chapter 5 Accuracy Analysis.....	34
5.1. Error in the estimated lens distortion parameter and the RMSE of the image .....	35
5.2. Error when Using Continuous Data to Correct Distortion.....	38
5.3. Systematic and Random Error of the SLDC .....	39
5.3.1. The 'Smile' and the True Value.....	40
5.3.2. Error from Quantisation .....	42
5.3.3. Error from Fitting .....	44

5.3.4. Error in Reconstructing the Curved Line .....	46
5.3.5. Error from Noise .....	47
5.3.6. Error of the Estimated Lens Distortion Parameter .....	47
5.4. Accuracy of General Cases .....	48
5.4.1. Three Factors of the Line Segment .....	48
5.4.2. Straight Line is Asymmetric about the Origin .....	52
5.4.3. Line Segment is Tilted .....	52
5.5. High-Resolution Hough Transform .....	54
Chapter 6 Results and Discussion .....	56
6.1. Real World Image .....	56
6.2. Accuracy Comparison with the Previous Method .....	59
6.3. Discussion .....	61
6.3.1. The advantage of the SLDC .....	61
6.3.2. Contribution to Other Correction Method .....	61
Chapter 7 Conclusion and Future Works .....	63
7.1. Conclusion .....	63
7.2. Suggestions for Future Work .....	63
7.2.1. Analyse Multiple Hough Patterns .....	63
7.2.2. Using the standard Hough Transform .....	63
8.0. References .....	65

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Real scene and what the camera saw with distortion.....	8
Figure 2: Left: the original grid; Centre: the effect of barrel radial distortion; Right: the effect of pincushion distortion.....	9
Figure 3: Convolution kernels used by the Sobel filter .....	10
Figure 4: Convolution kernels used by the Prewitt filter .....	11
Figure 5: Left: a straight line and that line curved by lens distortion; Right: the corresponding peaks in the Hough space. ....	12
Figure 6: Error of approximate inverse model as a function of distortion parameter $\kappa_1$ and normalised radius from image centre. ....	15
Figure 7: Original Hough transform .....	18
Figure 8: Standard Hough transform.....	19
Figure 9: Left: a straight line segment in the image domain; Right: the corresponding pattern in the Hough transform space. ....	22
Figure 10: Left: curved line; Right: the corresponding Hough pattern.....	23
Figure 11: Shape of Hough patterns with different factors relative to Figure 10, (a) has a smaller $\kappa$ , (b) the straight line is closer to the origin (smaller $y_0$ ), in (c) the straight line is shorter (smaller $L$ ), and (d) the straight line is asymmetric about the origin.....	25
Figure 12: A point on the ‘smile’ in the Hough pattern .....	25
Figure 13: Basic steps of the ‘smile’ based method .....	28
Figure 14: The original image (left) and the input for the Hough transform (horizontal and vertical). ....	28
Figure 15: Left: distorted image; Centre: Hough patterns and the scores.....	29
Figure 16: The most significant points and the fitted parabola .....	31
Figure 17: The reconstructed curved line and the original curved line.....	32
Figure 18: Basic Steps of the ‘Smile’ based method and the errors introduced by this method .....	34
Figure 19: RMSE with varying $\kappa$ and error in the estimated $\kappa$ , when $L = 1$ and $y_0 = 1$ . ....	36
Figure 20: RMSE with varying $L$ and error in the estimated $\kappa$ , when $\kappa = 0.05$ and $y_0 = 1$ . ....	36
Figure 21: RMSE with varying $y_0$ and error in the estimated $\kappa$ , when $\kappa = 0.05$ and $L = 1$ . ....	37
Figure 22: Left: The undistorted image; Right: the corrected image with $2.5 \times 10^3$ error in $\kappa$ . ....	37
Figure 23: Different parameters and the accuracy of the estimated lens distortion parameter. ....	39
Figure 24: $\Delta c$ and $\Delta x$ in the image space for $m = 0$ . ....	40
Figure 25: Relation between density and intercept. ....	42
Figure 26: The effect of quantisation on the density of votes for two different values of the lens distortion parameter.....	43
Figure 27: The most significant points and the true value. ....	44
Figure 28: Smoothed detected smile (red) compared to the true smile (blue).....	45
Figure 29: The effect of fitting threshold on estimated lens distortion parameter. ....	46

Figure 30: Reconstruction error of the vertical position of the reconstructed line.....	46
Figure 31: left: the curved line without noise; right: curved line with random noise added. ....	47
Figure 32: Influence of $y_0$ and $L$ on error when $\kappa = 0.05$ .....	48
Figure 33: (a): delta $c$ from continuous data; (b): delta $c$ from quantized data. ....	50
Figure 34: Influence from $y_0$ and $\kappa$ on error when $L$ is equal to 1. ....	50
Figure 35: Influence from $L$ and $\kappa$ on the error when $y_0$ is equal to 1. ....	51
Figure 36: left: the original straight line; right: its corresponding Hough pattern.....	52
Figure 37: left: a horizontal curved line and a tilted curved line; right: Hough patterns.....	53
Figure 38: left: the distortion grid with a moved distortion centre; centre: the corrected image without estimating the distortion centre; right: the corrected image with estimated distortion centre. ....	53
Figure 39: left: a group of Hough patterns and detected most significant points; right: the fitted Gaussian curve. ....	54
Figure 40: left: distorted images; right: corrected images. The edge which was used as the reference to correct the distortion and measure the straightness is highlighted.....	58
Figure 41: Correcting image with serious distortion .....	59
Figure 42: (a) is the undistorted grid; (b) is the distorted grid; (c) is the correction result of the previous method; (d) is the correction result of the SLDC. ....	60
Figure 43: Left: distorted image; Right: corrected image by Bailey's method with our reconstructed curved line.....	61



## List of Tables

Table 1: The RMSE of the parabola and the 4 <sup>th</sup> polynomial with different $\kappa$ .....	45
Table 2: The noise level and the RMSE of the line segment.....	47
Table 3: Accuracy between the normal and high-resolution Hough space. ....	55
Table 4: The RMSE when fitting a straight line to the corrected edges. ....	59
Table 5: Comparison the accuracy between the previous method and the 'smile' based method.....	60