

Shape Based Image Segmentation Using Bootstrap Resampling and Hcma.

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Abstract—For any learning algorithm, the problems of robustness toward small fluctuations in the data as well as the generalization of inferred solution to previous unseen instances of dataset from the chosen domain are highly relevant. Image segmentation as a learning problem requires inferring a robust partitioning of image patches with generalization to novel images of the same type. The sensitivity of segmentation solution to image variations is measured by image resampling. A Hierarchical Chamfer matching algorithm implements shape constraints which are included in the inference process to guide ambiguous groupings of color and texture features. Shape and similarity based grouping based information is combined into a semantic likelihood map in the framework of Bayesian statistics.

Index Terms—Image segmentation, Expectation Maximization algorithm, Clustering, resampling, Bayesian statistics.

I. INTRODUCTION

The semantic abstraction from pixels to objects in computer vision requires grouping low-level information into coherent groups or segments. This segmentation stage in image interpretation is of prime importance in low and mid level vision. Since it substantially reduces the information about objects. According to Thomas Zolar and Joachim, M. Baumann [1], the segmentation process is implemented by a parametric distribution Clustering framework (PDC). PDC is combined with coarse shape information. Data groups are represented by continuous mixture models for color and texture feature distribution [1].

In PDC a mixture model approach to segmentation with top down information is used [2]. PDC is an integrated approach for image segmentation based on generative clustering model combined with top down information (shape information and robust parameter estimation). The sensitivity of segmentation solutions to image variation is measured by image resampling. Shape and similarity based grouping information is combined into a semantic likelihood map in the framework of Bayesian Statistics [1].

Image segmentation is the problem of partitioning an image into its constituent components. In wisely choosing a partition that highlights the role and salient features of each component, we obtain a compact representation of an image in terms of its useful parts. A major goal of image

segmentation is to identify structures in the image that are likely corresponding to scene objects. As proposed by Rousson and N. Paragios [15], current approaches to segmentation mainly rely on image based criteria such as grey level of image regions as well as smoothness and continuity of bounding contours or a combination of these [14]. The region based approaches recursively merge similar regions. "Divide-conquer" approaches recursively split regions into distinct sub regions. Contour based approaches emphasize the properties of region boundaries, such as continuity, curvature, smoothness and shape.

Boundary extraction is an important procedure for segmentation and pattern identification purposes in digital images, not only recognition and interpretation tasks, but also for object classification. The gradient operator is a widespread tool used for these purposes, detecting local level variations that could correspond to contours of interests.

Automated segmentation of images has been considered an important intermediate processing task to extract semantic meaning from pixels. In PDC continuous mixture models for color and texture feature distributions represent framework data groups where as individual image sites are characterized by feature measurements. PDC belongs to the clustering methods that share the property that they grow pixels or small image patches based on some measure of homogeneity of the associated features or of connectors in feature space. PDC approach is based on a generative model for the measured features. The observations at a given site are assumed to be generated by a particular Gaussian mixture model which is characteristics for the cluster.

A. Motivation

a) *Implementation of Parametric Distributional clustering model:*

In order to characterize a clustering procedure the modeler has to specify the objects, which are to be, clustered, the nature of the features associated with these objects and the criteria on which the grouping is based. PDC segmentation method characterizes image parts by mixture of Gaussians, which define prototypical distributions for the measured features. An Expectation Maximization (EM) algorithm performs parametric distributional clustering.

b) *Representation of Shape knowledge:*

1. Segment the representative image of the object in a sketchy way
2. The distances of every pixel in a given image to the now centered region depicting the object of interest are computed for the image by applying chamfer transform.

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3. Apply the Gaussian probability function to this single image.

c) Semantic Likelihood Maps:

The goal of our approach to shape driven image portioning is to utilize shape constraints in order to satisfactorily segment images, which contain objects of a certain semantic category.

- I Key issue concerning successful application of shape constraints in a segmentation procedure is given by automatically identifying those regions in an input image which are likely to depict an object of the semantic category in which one is interested.
- I Key idea for this is to utilize Gaussian mixture distributions in order to discern image regions depicting the object of interest from those, which merely display background clutter.

d) Bootstrap sampling:

Re sampling techniques can be used to generate multiple instances of the available data. Resampling approach provides a viable means of finding the most pronounced and presumably, the semantically important boundaries between image regions.

e) Combining shape and segmentation:

The images are based on shape constrained segmentation come from the Corel image database [9] and Berkeley Segmentation Data Set.

f) Shape constrained segmentation:

In shape-constrained image segmentation, shape constraints are obtained by applying chamfering technique (DT), interpreted as prior and denoted by P_s , and the posterior probability of the foreground semantic category denoted by P_{wf} . Both can be combined together to arrive get shape constrained image segmentation.

Probability assessment for the semantic categories into segmentation for the input image, each image site is assigned a label according to the maximum of posterior probability values for the foreground and background respectively. After computing label, one sweep of post processing step has been applied to the segmentation in which each site is relabeled. Another post processing step is applied in which all regions with area below the aforementioned threshold are eliminated.

II. RESEARCH WORK: EMPIRICAL STUDY

The experiments were conducted with real world datasets, where true natural clusters are known, to validate both accuracy and robustness of consensus via mixture model. We explored the datasets using Berkeley database.

In this contribution, We present a Clustering approach based on parametric distributions that are generated from Gaussian mixture model, called Parametric Distributional Clustering approach (PDC). PDC is presented as a novel approach to image segmentation. The segmentation technique is formulated as a generative model in the maximum likelihood framework. The specific choice of clustering algorithm, is dependant on the nature of the given image primitives which might be feature vectors, feature relations. Or feature histograms. We suggest replacing non-parametric density estimation via histograms by a continuous mixture model.

The Clustering Model:

The set of objects $o_i=1...n$ to be given. These entities are

supposed to be clustered in k groups. The cluster memberships are encoded by boolean assignment variables, $M_{iv}, v=1, k$, which are summarized in a matrix $M \in \mathbb{M}=[0,1]$. We set $M_{iv}=1$ if object o_i is assigned to cluster v . Each object O_i is equipped with a set of observations $X_i=[x_{i1}, \dots, x_{in}]$. These observations are assumed to be drawn according to a particular Gaussian mixture model, which is characteristic for the respective cluster v of the object. The group membership of its associated object is defined as, $P(x|v, g)$ ($x|\mu_\alpha, \Sigma_\alpha$). Here g_α denotes multivariate Gaussian distributions with mean μ_α and covariance matrix Σ_α . The Gaussians g_α are generated to form a common alphabet from which the cluster specific distributions are synthesized by a particular choice of mixture coefficients.

An EM Algorithm is implemented using an iterative approach that attempts to calculate the maximum likelihood between input data and number of Gaussian distributions. An EM Algorithm is implemented using an iterative approach that attempts to calculate the maximum likelihood between input data and number of Gaussian distributions. The main advantage of this probabilistic strategy over rigid clustering algorithm such as K-means is its ability to better handle the uncertainties during the mixture assignment process.

A. EM Algorithm

The EM algorithm estimates the parameters of a model iteratively, starting from some initial guess. Each iteration consists of an expectation step, which finds the distribution for the unobserved variables, given the known values for the observed variables & the current estimate of the parameters. Maximization step, reestimates to be those with maximum likelihood, under the assumption that the distribution found in the E step is correct. Once a model is specified with its parameters, and data have been collected, one is in a position to evaluate its goodness of fit, i.e., how well it fits the observed data. Goodness of fit is assessed by finding parameter values of a model that best fits the data- a procedure called 'Parameter estimation'.

B. Hierarchical Chamfer Matching for Shape Alignment

Matching is a key problem in digital image analysis and edges are perhaps the most important low-level image features [5]. Thus good edge matching algorithms are important. The paper edited by Borgefors presents such an algorithm, the hierarchical chamfer-matching algorithm. The algorithm matches edges by minimizing a generalized distance between them. The matching is performed in a series of images depicting the same scene, but in different resolutions, i.e., in a resolution pyramid. Using this hierarchical structure reduces the computational load significantly. The algorithm is reasonably simple to implement, and it will be shown that it is quite insensitive to noise and other disturbances.

The DT used in the HCMA. This DT uses iterated local operations. The basic idea is that propagating local distances, i.e., distances between neighboring pixels, over the image, approximate global distances in the image. The propagation of local distances can be done either in parallel or sequentially. Sequential DT's are known as "chamfer" distances, hence "chamfer matching."

C. BOOTSTRAP RESAMPLING STRATEGY

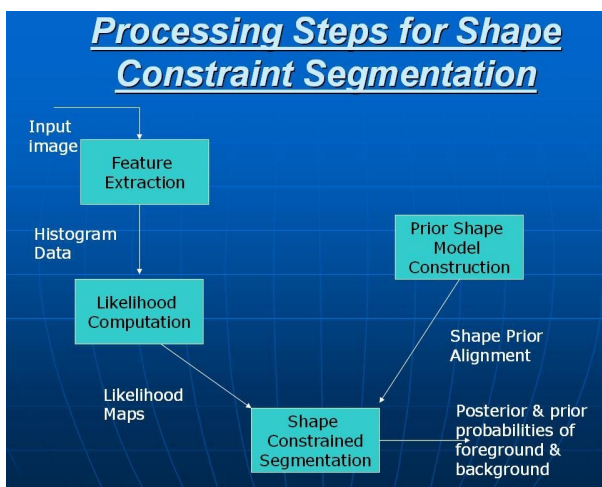
The problem of over fitting is of major importance for all machine learning tasks, regardless of whether they are supervised, i.e., ground-truth label information is available, or unsupervised, i.e., one has to rely solely on the measured features. The learning procedure is supposed to infer the structural characteristics of a data set while avoiding representing statistical fluctuations and, thus, the measurement noise [1].

According to B. Efron and R.J. Tibshirani [10], alleviate the data problem; resampling techniques can be used to generate multiple instances of the available data. One of the most prominent techniques is the bootstrap method [10]. We will utilize the bootstrap framework in order to assess the stability of segmentation solutions generated by the sPDC approach with respect to variations in the input image data. Here, the direct application of resampling by drawing with replacement cannot be applied. This is due to the fact that some of the pixels will be drawn more than once, while others are not chosen at all. Therefore, the basic bootstrap sampling scheme will lead to images in which a certain fraction of pixels that are not selected (i.e., blank or black pixels). In order to fill the holes in the “synthesized” image, we propose randomly drawing a replacement from the Δ vicinity of that pixel in the original image data}

Algorithm for Bootstrap Resampling

<p>Require: input image I^{input} of size $s=n*m$; Vicinity size Δ</p> <p>Ensure: bootstrap $I^{bootstrap}$ generate set B_1 of (location, value)-pairs by drawing s times with replacement from I^{input} populate $I^{bootstrap}$ with (location, value) pairs from B_1 for each location l of $I^{bootstrap} \in B_1$ do randomly draw value v from local Δ-vicinity of l in I^{input} end for.</p>

III. IMPLEMENTATION STEPS.



Processing Pipeline for Shape Constrained Segmentation

When we presented with standard image, it is first

processed by feature extraction algorithm of PDC framework that is histograms of image sites are acquired. The features, which are subject to histograms in procedure, are the values of three-color channels of the original image together with the magnitudes of the Gabor filter bank.

Shape based image segmentation starts with feature extraction representations of images. These features are usually corners and edges. Standard edge and corner detection algorithms such as sobel filtering and canny edge detection can be applied to color or grey images to generate binary feature maps [15].

A. Parametric Distributional Clustering

In order to characterize a clustering procedure the modular has to specify the objects, which are to be, clustered, the nature of the feature associated with these objects and the criteria on which the grouping is based. The basic objects on which clustering method operated are image sites s . $s = \{s\}$ with $|s| = n$. This set s partitioned into k groups. The cluster memberships are encoded by m where $m(s) = c$ denotes the site s is mapped to cluster c . every site s is equipped with a set of observations. PDC segmentation method characterizes image part by mixture of a Gaussians, which defines prototypical distributions or the measured features. Generative model for individual observation is given by the group membership $m(s)$ of its associated site s . is defined as:

$$p(x|m(s)) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^K P_{\alpha} \propto |m(s)g_{\alpha}(x)|$$

$g_{\alpha}(x) = g(x|\mu_{\alpha}, \Sigma_{\alpha})$ denotes multivariate Gaussian distribution with mean μ_{α} and covariance Σ_{α}

B. Prior Shape Model Construction.

To integrate shape knowledge in to the segmentation process, the problem of adequate representation has to be addressed. One key issue concerning the successful application of shape constraints in a segmentation procedure is given by the ability to automatically identify those regions in an input image, which are likely to depict an object of the semantic category in which one is interested. To have shape constraints, the chamfering algorithm is used.

C. Semantic Likelihood Maps:

The goal of our approach to shape driven image partitioning is to utilize shape constraints in order to satisfactorily segment images, which contain objects of a certain semantic category.

D. Bootstrap Resampling

Re sampling techniques can be used to generate multiple instances of the available data Any dataset not only contains structural information about the nature of the source, but also random fluctuations, optimally adapting the learning algorithm to the training data thus results in modeling the noise. Consequently the performance of unseen examples deteriorates which is known as over fitting. The problem of over fitting is of major importance for all machine learning

task regardless whether they are unsupervised or supervised. The learning procedure is supposed to infer structural characteristic of a dataset while avoiding representative statistical fluctuation and thus the measurement noise. The major feature information is considered to result from a sampling process. We will utilize the bootstrap framework in order to assess the stability of segmentation solutions generated by the sPDC approach with respect to variations in the input image data.

E. Combining Shape and Segmentation.

We have established a statistical representation of shape and derived likelihood maps for the semantic categories foreground and background. Now, these two sources of information about object identity have to be fused to arrive at a segmentation of a given input image in to areas corresponding to these categories. The shape information concerning the foreground object is interpreted as prior and denoted by P_s . And the posterior probability of the foreground semantic category denoted by P_{wf} . Both can be combined together to get shape constrained image segmentation.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Shape constrained image segmentation is implemented by using MATLAB image processing tools and statistical tools. For Parametric distributional Clustering we use EM.m for one dimension we use a general purpose image database containing images from COREL and Berkeley Dataset. All images have size of 256x256 pixels.

During the implementation, we use a platform of Pentium 3.06 GHZ CPU with 1G RAM. Image database consists of wild animals went through image segmentation algorithm. The goal of this work is to provide an empirical basis for research on image segmentation and boundary detection. I have used this data for developing Shape constrained image segmentation [1].

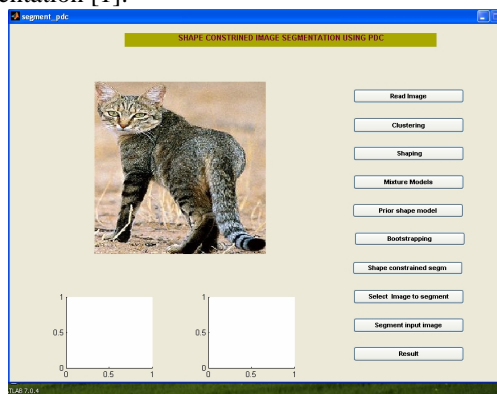


Fig 4.1 Input Image

A. Parametric Distributional Clustering

The dataset is considered to be generated by a mixture of Gaussian mixture models, where the cluster probabilities $p(\cdot)$ denotes the mixing coefficients of the model. By virtue of the generative model, we can derive clustering objective via a maximum likelihood approach. The Expectation Maximization Algorithm addresses the problem of determining the values of the free parameters for a given dataset. The Mappings of image sites to clusters is done in E

Step, whereas the parameters for the continuous mixture models are fitted in the M-Step.

The input data for the PDC based approach to image segmentation are histograms of feature values taken at image sites lying on a regular grid. The features, which were subject to histogramming procedure, are the values of three color channels of the original input image together with the magnitudes of the Gabor filter bank. The data from feature extraction is fed to an EM.m program to perform PDC. Once all images are extracted, EM will perform Parametric Distributional Clustering. PDC belongs to the category of segmentation techniques.

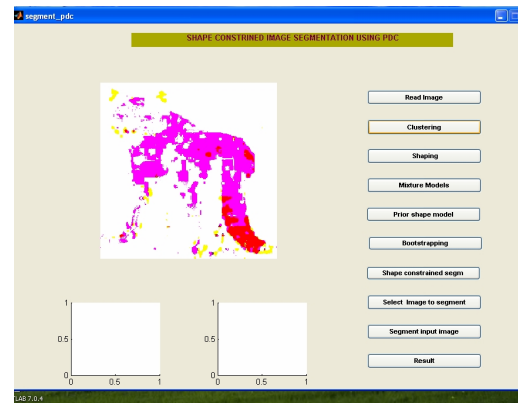


Fig 4.2 Parametric Distributional Clustering

B. Shaping Model

To integrate shape knowledge in to the segmentation process, the problem of adequate representation has to be addressed. Although the method of shape-constrained segmentation, which is presented here, demonstrates very generic characteristics, its application context covers the identification of a wild cat in image of its natural environment. For real world applications, it is evident that images not only contain instances of objects of interest, but also large amounts of background pixels. This background is usually composed of clutter with few discernable shape properties; it can embody a broad variety of different distributions of elementary features. Therefore, one key issue concerning the successful application of shape constraints in a segmentation procedure is given by the ability to automatically identify those regions in an input image, which are likely to depict an object of the semantic category in which one is interested.

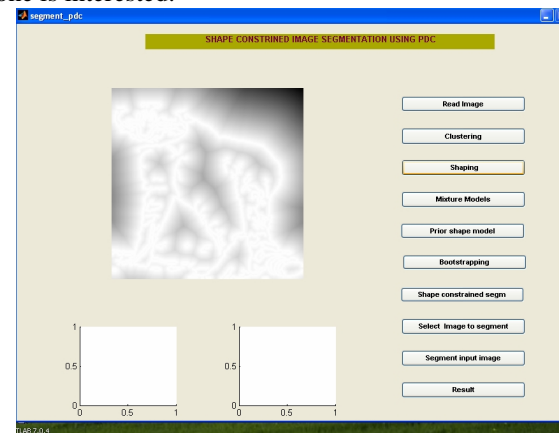


Fig 4.3 Shaping Model

C. Gaussian Mixture Model.

The most important class of finite mixture models are *Gaussian mixtures*. The reason for the importance and widespread use of Gaussian mixtures are incidental, but include the fact that a Gaussian has a simple and concise representation requiring only two parameters: the mean μ and the covariance Σ . To set a proper number of objects per image during PDC, we compute the Gaussian distributions for the parameters mean, and covariance, & MLE (Maximum Likelihood Computation). The PDC segmentation method characterizes image parts by mixtures of Gaussians, which define prototypical distributions for the measured features. Hence, it concisely summarizes the statistical properties of image regions. The key idea used here is to utilize these mixture distributions in order to discern image regions depicting the object of interest from those, which merely display background clutter.

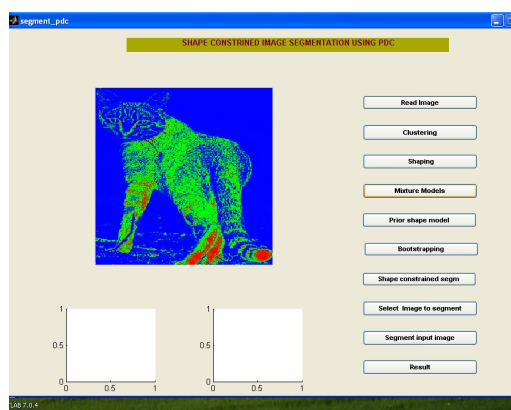


Fig 4.4 Gaussian Mixture Model

D. Prior Shape Model

As a first step in the construction of a prior shape model for standing wild cat in sideward view, image is processed by a distance transform (chamfering). In the next step Gaussian probability function is applied to the distances, transforming them into probabilities while leading to a steep decay of values in the outer regions of image. Having averaged the shape probabilities, an additional Gaussian blurring with a stencil size of 10x10 pixels is applied.

Another method, which we have implemented, for prior shape model construction is, we will start with a single object of interest in which we capture its essential shape properties, applying the distance transform and the Gaussian model to this single image. In such a way the shape constrained segmentation approach can be utilized in content-based image retrieval system with user interaction.

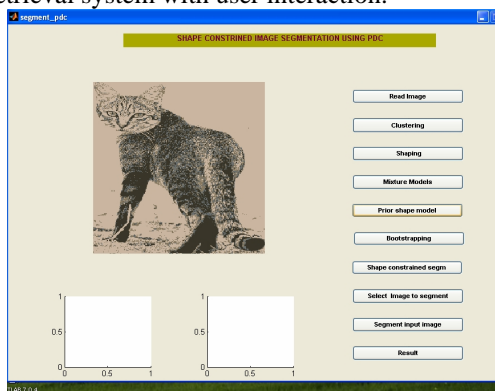


Fig 4.5 prior shape model.

Algorithm for Prior shape model construction.

1. Input: Single image of interest to capture shape properties.
2. Apply Distance Transform
3. Apply Gaussian model
4. Resulting is Prior shape model.

E. Bootstrap Resampling

The problem of over fitting is of major importance for all machine learning tasks, regardless of whether they are supervised, i.e., ground-truth label information is available, or unsupervised, i.e., one has to rely solely on the measured features. The learning procedure is supposed to infer the structural characteristics of a data set while avoiding representing statistical fluctuations and, thus, the measurement noise. The data at hand are assumed to originate from a stochastic source which is characterized by a statistical distribution law. Consequently, the measured feature information is considered to result from a sampling process.

To alleviate the data problem, re sampling techniques can be used to generate multiple instances of the available data. One of the most prominent techniques is the bootstrap method [1]. We will utilize the bootstrap framework in order to assess the stability of segmentation solutions generated by the sPDC approach with respect to variations in the input image data. Here, the direct application of re sampling by drawing with replacement cannot be applied. This is due to the fact that some of the pixels will be drawn more than once, while others are not chosen at all. Therefore, the basic bootstrap sampling scheme will lead to images in which a certain fraction of pixels that are not selected (i.e., blank or black pixels). In order to fill the holes in the “synthesized” image, we propose randomly drawing a replacement from the Δ^* vicinity of that pixel in the original image data}. Any dataset not only contains structural information about the nature of the source, but also random fluctuations. Optimally adapting the learning algorithm to the training data thus most often results in also modeling the noise.

Stable edges are emphasized by averaging boundaries over the set of bootstrap samples, while edge pieces that resulted from optimization artifacts or intensity fluctuations are diminished. The gain can be attributed to resampling strategy. are diminished

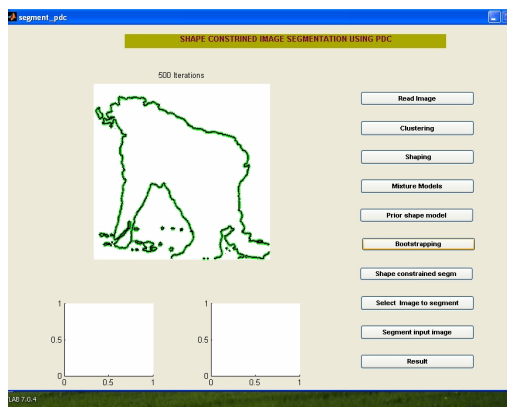
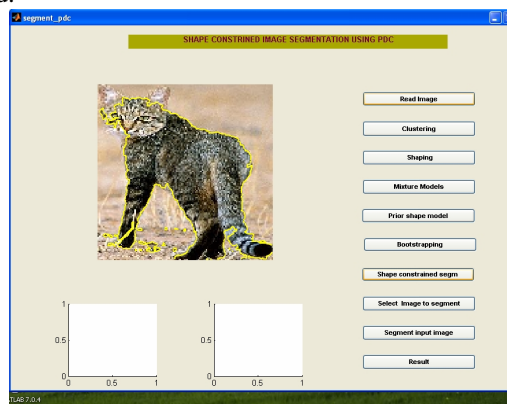


Fig 4.6 Bootstrap Resampling

F. Shape Constrained Image Segmentation

Probably assessment for the semantic categories into segmentation for the input image, each image site is assigned a label according to the maximum of posterior probability values for the foreground and background respectively. After computing label, one sweep of post processing step has been applied to the segmentation in which each site is relabeled. Another post processing step is applied in which all regions with area below the aforementioned threshold are eliminated.



Figs 4.7 Shape Constrained Image Segmentation

V. GENERALIZATION OF PDC SEGMENTATION SOLUTIONS

In order to evaluate the generalization ability of SPDC Solutions, experiments concerning the transfer of models between similar images have been conducted. Two images from the Corel image gallery has been compiled which is comprised of wild animals. For each image pair the experimental procedure is as follows: In the first step, SPDC segmentation solutions have been computed independently for both pictures. The relevant model parameters for the solution of the first image, i.e., the Gaussian alphabet and the specific mixture weights for each data group, have been recorded. The second step then consisted of applying the SPDC model from the first image to the second.

To this end, the data acquisition process of the second image has been run, followed by a complete E-Step computation, yielding the optimal assignments of all sites in the second image given that the continuous model parameters of the SPDC result from the first picture. In this way, a generalization of PDC segmentation solutions is implemented, which results in one of the matched image that matches with an original image, and the other non-matched

image.

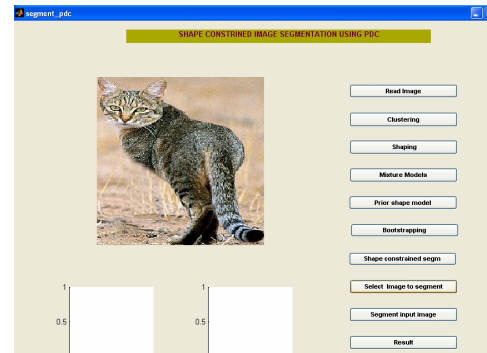


Fig 5.1 Image 1

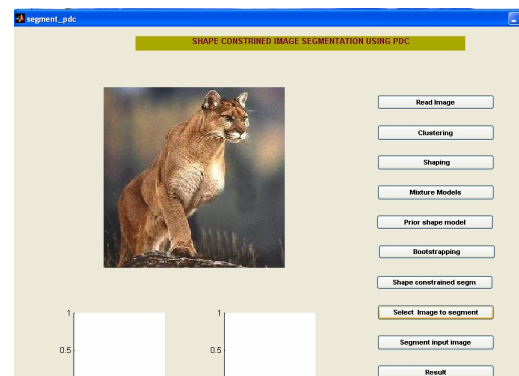


Fig 5.2 Select An Image 2

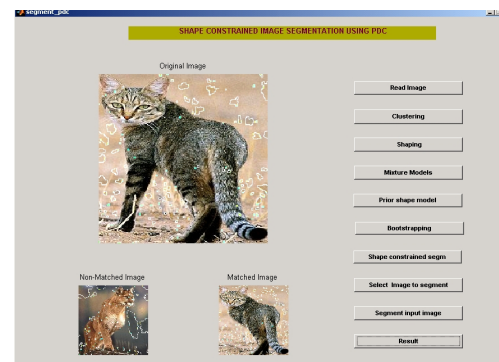


Fig 5.3 Generalization Of Spdc Segmentation Solutions

Algorithm for generalization of SPDC segmentation solutions

1. Input: Select image 1 and image 2
2. Compute Spdc solutions for both the images
 1. Apply Spdc model from first image to second image
 2. Data acquisition process of second image has been run followed by a complete E- steps computation
3. Result: Optimal assignment of all image sites representing one of the matched and other non-matched images.

VI. FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS AND CONCLUSION:

- ┌ Image segmentation as a learning problem requires inferring robust partitioning of image patches with generalization to novel images of the same type
- ┌ The bottom up approach favors smooth groupings of image patches and increases the robustness of image segmentation decisions by resampling.
- ┌ The top down information flux carries knowledge of object shapes to facilitate segmentation

- I The second enhancement of PDC introduces a priori shape information as a guiding principle for segmentation
- I A set of various aspects capture a properties of the foreground objects as well as background clutter
- I The resulting posteriori probability for occurrence of an object of a specified semantic category has been demonstrated to achieve satisfactory segmentation quality on test bed images from Corel gallery.

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