UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

A HYBRID APPROACH OF HIDDEN MARKOV MODEL AND FUZZY LOGIC FOR ISOLATED HANDWRITTEN CHARACTERS RECOGNITION

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A HYBRID APPROACH OF HIDDEN MARKOV MODEL AND FUZZY LOGIC FOR ISOLATED HANDWRITTEN CHARACTERS RECOGNITION

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August 2011

Chairman : Assoc. Prof. Md. Nasir bin Sulaiman, PhD
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Research in off-line handwriting recognition has been prevalent for many decades. After many years of intense research, it still remains an open problem. The challenging nature of handwritten characters and words recognition has attracted the attention of researchers from industry and academic circles. The commercial sector has shown significant interest in handwriting recognition research due to the large number of applications that exist.

In recent years, techniques for recognizing handwriting have become more sophisticated in dealing with real-world situation and to increase recognition rates. This thesis reviews all aspects of handwriting recognition research, from the recognition of handwritten numerals to handwritten words. The different methods employed by researchers are mentioned and the approaches adopted for the research are elaborated. The focus of this thesis
would be the recognition of isolated handwritten characters, concentrating on the slightly more challenging group, lowercase English alphabets. The main aim of this research work is to present a hybrid approach of a syntactical method with a statistical method in a manner that will require less training data but still yield reasonable recognition rate and high reliability rate. The system will be designed with the use of Hidden Markov Model (HMM) as a linguistic variable quantifier for a Fuzzy rule based classifier. This hybrid method, as far as according to the result of the literature search is concerned, is among the first in the area of handwriting recognition.

The main advantage of this approach is a less training intensive method that does not rely on data abundance to achieve a good recognition result. The whole system that integrates the two approaches is tested against a standard database. A favorable outcome of the recognition results, has proven the approach is comparable to many other approaches as in the literature.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PENDEKATAN HIBRID BAGI MODEL MARKOV TERSEMBUNYI DAN LOGIK KABUR UNTUK PENGECAMAN AKSARA TUNGGAL TULISAN TANGAN**

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Ogos 2011

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Peyelidikan dalam pengecaman tulisan tangan adalah sangat meluas sejak beberapa dekad yang lepas. Walaupun dalam jangkamasa kajian yang agak lama, ia masih lagi kekal sebagai masalah yang masih belum dapat diatasi sepenuhnya. Sifat kajian yang penuh cabaran dalam pengecaman huruf dan perkataan yang bertulis tangan telah menarik perhatian ramai penyelidik daripada golongan industri dan akademik. Sektor komersil telah menunjukkan minat yang besar terhadap penyelidikan penulisan tangan disebabkan wujudnya permintaan yang banyak dalam bidang ini.

Dalam beberapa tahun ini, teknik untuk mengenalpasti gaya penulisan tangan menjadi semakin canggih untuk menangani situasi dalam dunia sebenar dan meningkatkan kadar pengecaman. Tesis ini mengkaji semua aspek dalam pengecaman penulisan tangan daripada pengecaman

Kelebihan utama kaedah ini adalah latihan intensif yang kurang dengan tidak bergantung kepada data yang banyak untuk mendapatkan keputusan pengecaman yang tepat. Keseluruhan sistem yang menyepadukan kedua-dua kaedah ini diuji dengan pengkalan data standad. Keputusan yang positif terhadap keputusan pengecaman telah membuktikan kaedah adalah sebanding dengan kaedah-kaedah lain di dalam literatur.
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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 24th August 2011 to conduct the final examination of Azizah binti Suliman on her degree thesis entitled “A Hybrid Approach of Hidden Markov Model and Fuzzy Logic for Isolated Handwritten Characters Recognition” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or other institutions.

AZIZAH BINTI SULIMAN

Date: 24 August 2011
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