Fitting:
Voting and the Hough Transform

Thurs Sept 24
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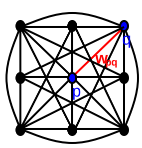
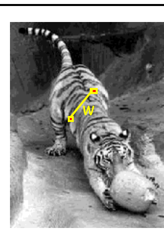
UT Austin

Last time

- What are grouping problems in vision?
- Inspiration from human perception
  - Gestalt properties
- Bottom-up segmentation via clustering
  - Algorithms:
    - Mode finding and mean shift: k-means, mean-shift
    - Graph-based: normalized cuts
  - Features: color, texture, …
    - Quantization for texture summaries

Images as graphs

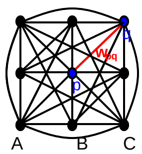




Fully-connected graph
- node (vertex) for every pixel
- link between *every* pair of pixels, **p,q**
- affinity weight w_{pq} for each link (edge)
  - w_{pq} measures *similarity*
    - » similarity is *inversely proportional* to difference (in color and position…)

Source: Steve Seitz

Segmentation by Graph Cuts

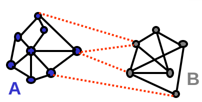


Break Graph into Segments

- Want to delete links that cross **between** segments
- Easiest to break links that have low similarity (low weight)
  - similar pixels should be in the same segments
  - dissimilar pixels should be in different segments

Source: Steve Seitz

Cuts in a graph: Min cut



Link Cut

- set of links whose removal makes a graph disconnected
- cost of a cut: $$cut(A,B) = \sum_{p \in A, q \in B} w_{p,q}$$

Find minimum cut

- gives you a segmentation
- fast algorithms exist for doing this

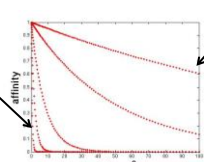
Source: Steve Seitz

Measuring affinity for edge weights

- One possibility:

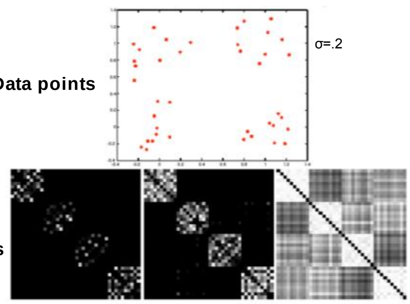
$$aff(x,y) = \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{1}{2\sigma_d^2}\right)\left(\|x-y\|^2\right)\right\}$$

Small sigma: group only nearby points

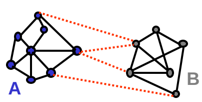


Large sigma: group distant points

Measuring affinity for edge weights



Cuts in a graph: Min cut



Link Cut

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Find minimum cut

- gives you a segmentation
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Source: Steve Seitz

Minimum cut

- Problem with minimum cut:
  Weight of cut proportional to number of edges in the cut; tends to produce small, isolated components.

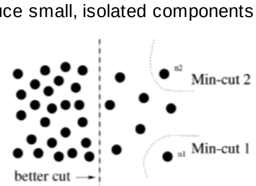
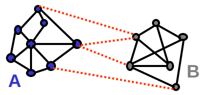


Fig. 1. A case where minimum cut gives a bad partition.

[Shi & Malik, 2000 PAMI]

Cuts in a graph: Normalized cut



Normalized Cut

- fix bias of Min Cut by **normalizing** for size of segments:

$$Ncut(A,B) = \frac{cut(A,B)}{assoc(A,V)} + \frac{cut(A,B)}{assoc(B,V)}$$

assoc(A,V) = sum of weights of all edges that touch A

- Ncut value small when we get two clusters with many edges with high weights, and few edges of low weight between them
- Approximate solution for minimizing the Ncut value : generalized eigenvalue problem.

J. Shi and J. Malik, Normalized Cuts and Image Segmentation, CVPR, 1997

Source: Steve Seitz

Example results

Normalized cuts: pros and cons

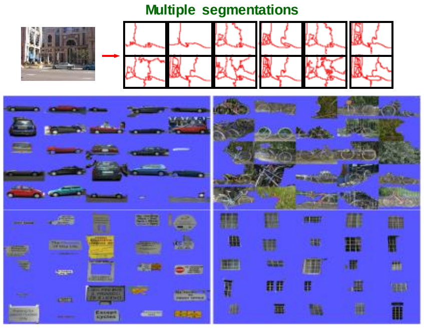
Pros:

- Generic framework, flexible to choice of function that computes weights ("affinities") between nodes
- Does not require model of the data distribution

Cons:

- Time complexity can be high
  - Dense, highly connected graphs → many affinity computations
  - Solving eigenvalue problem
- Preference for balanced partitions

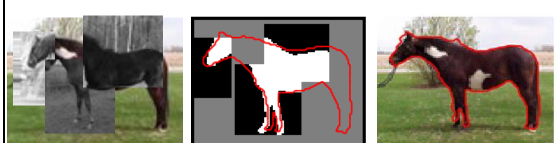
Segments as primitives for recognition



B. Russell et al., "Using Multiple Segmentations to Discover Objects and their Extent in Image Collections," CVPR 2006

Slide credit: Lana Lazebnik

Top-down segmentation



E. Borenstein and S. Ullman, "Class-specific, top-down segmentation," ECCV 2002

A. Levin and Y. Weiss, "Learning to Combine Bottom-Up and Top-Down Segmentation," ECCV 2006.

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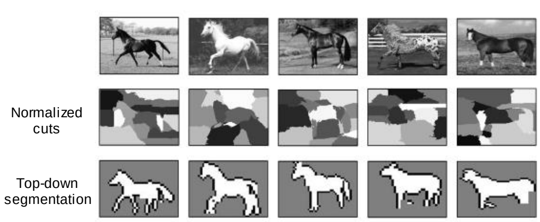

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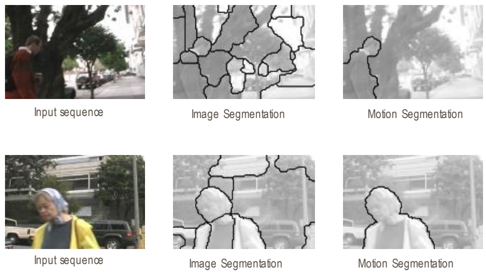
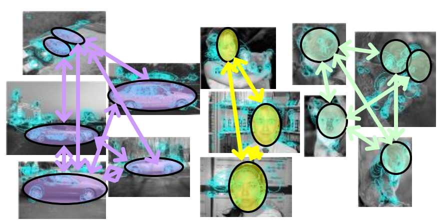
Slide credit: Lana Lazebnik

Motion segmentation



A.Barbu, S.C. Zhu. Generalizing Swendsen-Wang to sampling arbitrary posterior probabilities, *IEEE Trans. PAMI*, August 2005.

Image grouping



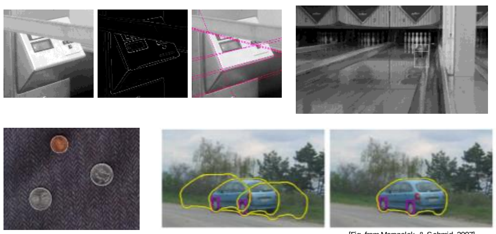
K. Grauman & T. Darrell, Unsupervised Learning of Categories from Sets of Partially Matching Image Features, CVPR 2006.

Recap on grouping

- Segmentation to find object boundaries or mid-level regions, tokens.
- Bottom-up segmentation via clustering
  - General choices -- features, affinity functions, and clustering algorithms
- Grouping also useful for quantization, can create new feature summaries
  - Texton histograms for texture within local region
- Example clustering methods
  - K-means (and EM)
  - Mean shift
  - Graph cut, normalized cuts

Now: Fitting

- Want to associate a model with observed features



[Fig from Marszalek & Schmid, 2007]

For example, the model could be a line, a circle, or an arbitrary shape.

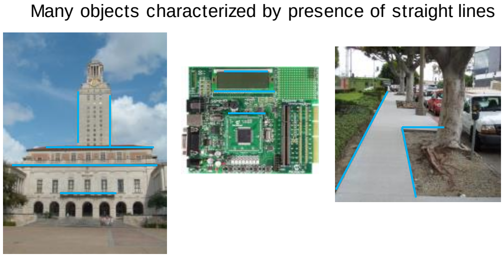
Fitting: Main idea

- Choose a parametric model to represent a set of features
- Membership criterion is not local
  - Can't tell whether a point belongs to a given model just by looking at that point
- Three main questions:
  - What model represents this set of features best?
  - Which of several model instances gets which feature?
  - How many model instances are there?
- Computational complexity is important
  - It is infeasible to examine every possible set of parameters and every possible combination of features

Slide credit: L. Lazebnik

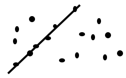
Example: Line fitting

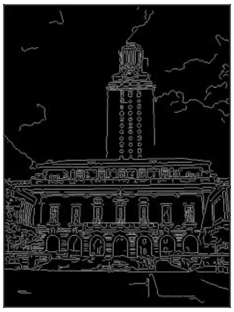
- Why fit lines?
  Many objects characterized by presence of straight lines



- Wait, why aren't we done just by running edge detection?

Difficulty of line fitting



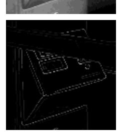


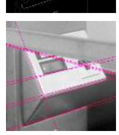
- **Extra** edge points (clutter), multiple models:
  - which points go with which line, if any?
- Only some parts of each line detected, and some parts are **missing:**
  - how to find a line that bridges missing evidence?
- **Noise** in measured edge points, orientations:
  - how to detect true underlying parameters?

Voting

- It's not feasible to check all combinations of features by fitting a model to each possible subset.
- **Voting** is a general technique where we let the features *vote for all models that are compatible with it*.
  - Cycle through features, cast votes for model parameters.
  - Look for model parameters that receive a lot of votes.
- Noise & clutter features will cast votes too, *but* typically their votes should be inconsistent with the majority of "good" features.

Fitting lines: Hough transform





- Given points that belong to a line, what is the line?
- How many lines are there?
- Which points belong to which lines?
- **Hough Transform** is a voting technique that can be used to answer all of these questions.

  Main idea:

  1. Record vote for each possible line on which each edge point lies.
  2. Look for lines that get many votes.

Finding lines in an image: Hough space

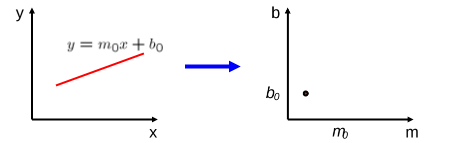


image space Hough (parameter) space

Connection between image (x,y) and Hough (m,b) spaces

- A line in the image corresponds to a point in Hough space
- To go from image space to Hough space:
  - given a set of points (x,y), find all (m,b) such that y = mx + b

Slide credit: Steve Seitz

Finding lines in an image: Hough space

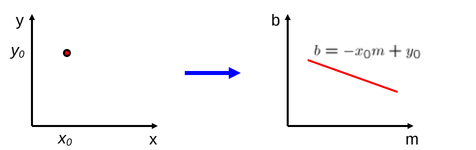


image space Hough (parameter) space

Connection between image (x,y) and Hough (m,b) spaces

- A line in the image corresponds to a point in Hough space
- To go from image space to Hough space:
  - given a set of points (x,y), find all (m,b) such that y = mx + b
- What does a point (x_0, y_0) in the image space map to?
  - Answer: the solutions of $b = -x_0 m + y_0$
  - this is a line in Hough space

Slide credit: Steve Seitz

Finding lines in an image: Hough space

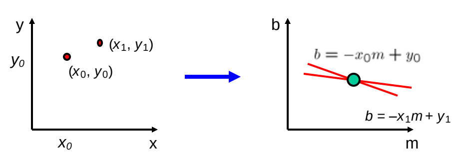


image space Hough (parameter) space

What are the line parameters for the line that contains both (x_0, y_0) and (x_1, y_1)?

- It is the intersection of the lines $b = -x_0 m + y_0$ and $b = -x_1 m + y_1$

Finding lines in an image: Hough algorithm

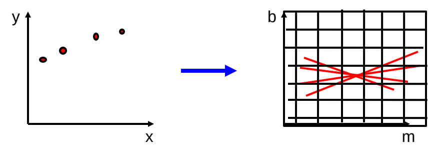


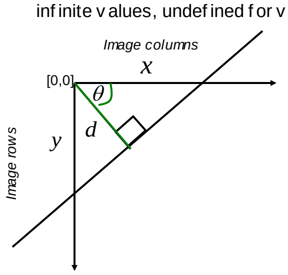
image space Hough (parameter) space

How can we use this to find the most likely parameters (m,b) for the most prominent line in the image space?

- Let each edge point in image space *vote* for a set of possible parameters in Hough space
- Accumulate votes in discrete set of bins; parameters with the most votes indicate line in image space.

Polar representation for lines

Issues with usual (*m*,*b*) parameter space: can take on infinite values, undefined for vertical lines.



d : perpendicular distance from line to origin

θ : angle the perpendicular makes with the x-axis

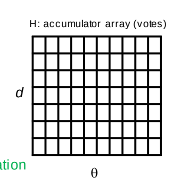
$$x\cos\theta - y\sin\theta = d$$

Point in image space → sinusoid segment in Hough space

Hough transform algorithm

Using the polar parameterization:

$$x\cos\theta - y\sin\theta = d$$



Basic Hough transform algorithm

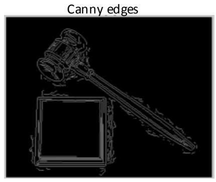
1. Initialize H[d, θ]=0
2. for each edge point I[x,y] in the image
   for θ = [θ_{min} to θ_{max}] // some quantization
   $d = x\cos\theta - y\sin\theta$
   H[d, θ] += 1
3. Find the value(s) of (d, θ) where H[d, θ] is maximum
4. The detected line in the image is given by $d = x\cos\theta - y\sin\theta$

Time complexity (in terms of number of votes per pt)?

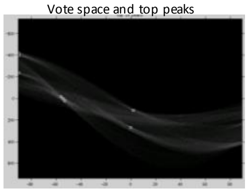
Source: Steve Seitz

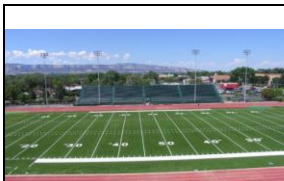
Original image

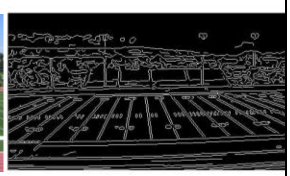
Canny edges

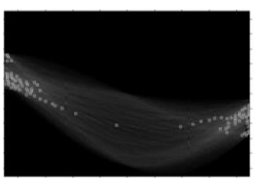


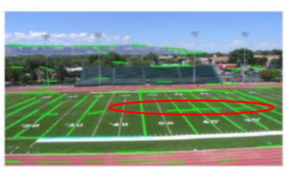
Vote space and top peaks





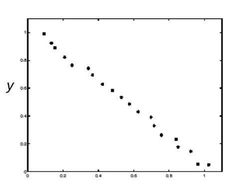






Showing longest segments found

Impact of noise on Hough



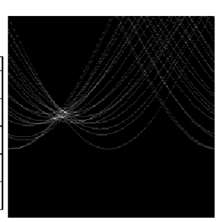
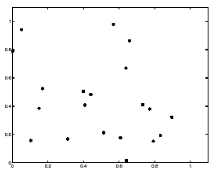


Image space edge coordinates

Votes

What difficulty does this present for an implementation?

Impact of noise on Hough



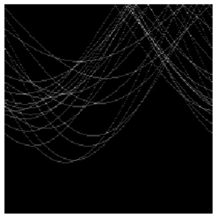


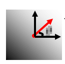
Image space edge coordinates **Votes**

Here, everything appears to be "noise", or random edge points, but we still see peaks in the vote space.

Extensions

Extension 1: Use the image gradient
1. same
2. for each edge point I[x,y] in the image
   θ = gradient at (x,y)
   $d = x\cos\theta - y\sin\theta$
   H[d, θ] += 1
3. same
4. same

(Reduces degrees of freedom)



$\nabla f = \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right]$

$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} / \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)$

Extensions

Extension 1: Use the image gradient
1. same
2. for each edge point I[x,y] in the image
   compute unique (d, θ) based on image gradient at (x,y)
   H[d, θ] += 1
3. same
4. same

(Reduces degrees of freedom)

Extension 2
- give more votes for stronger edges (use magnitude of gradient)

Extension 3
- change the sampling of (d, θ) to give more/less resolution

Extension 4
- The same procedure can be used with circles, squares, or any other shape…

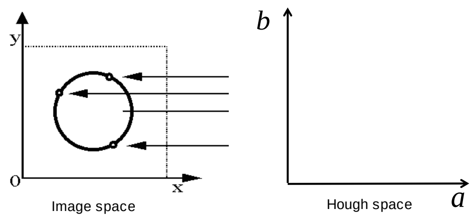
Source: Steve Seitz

Hough transform for circles

- Circle: center (a,b) and radius r

$$(x_i - a)^2 + (y_i - b)^2 = r^2$$

- For a fixed radius r, unknown gradient direction



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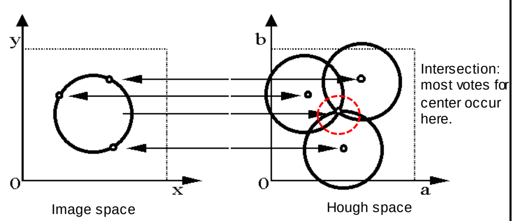

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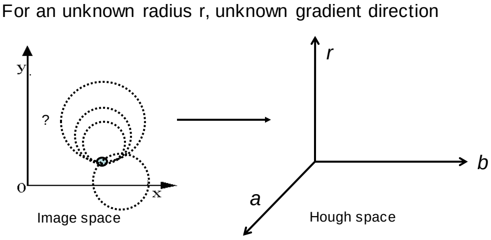

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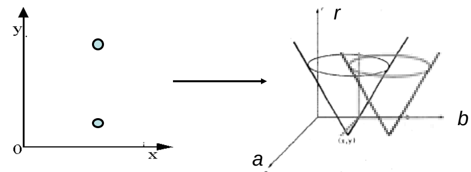


Image space

Hough space

Hough transform for circles

- Circle: center (a,b) and radius r

$$(x_i - a)^2 + (y_i - b)^2 = r^2$$

- For an unknown radius r, **known** gradient direction

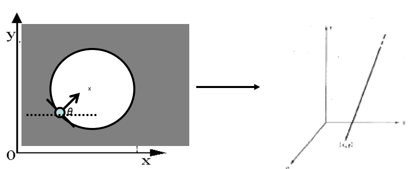


Image space

Hough space

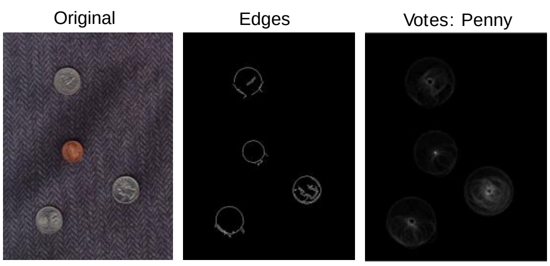
Hough transform for circles

For every edge pixel (x,y) :
  For each possible radius value r:
    For each possible gradient direction θ:
    // or use estimated gradient at (x,y)
      $a = x - r\cos(\theta)$ // column
      $b = y + r\sin(\theta)$ // row
      $H[a,b,r]$ += 1
  end
end

Time complexity per edgel?

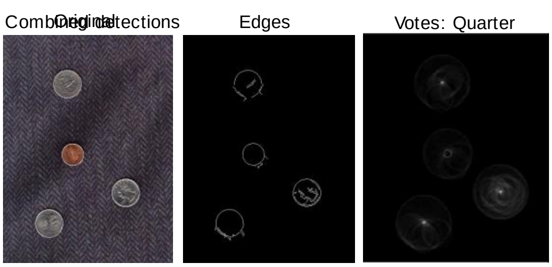
- Check out online demo : http://www.markschulze.net/java/hough/

Example: detecting circles with Hough



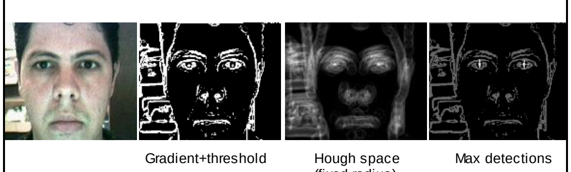
Note: a different Hough transform (with separate accumulators) was used for each circle radius (quarters vs. penny).

Example: detecting circles with Hough



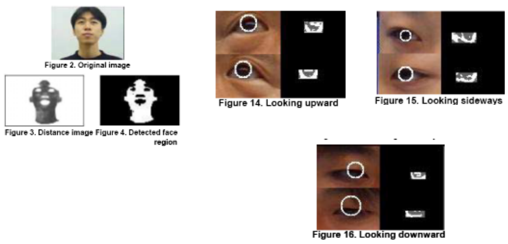
Coin finding sample images from: Vivek Kwatra

Example: iris detection



- Hemerson Pistori and Eduardo Rocha Costa
  http://rsbweb.nih.gov/ij/plugins/hough-circles.html

Example: iris detection



- An Iris Detection Method Using the Hough Transform and Its Evaluation for Facial and Eye Movement, by Hideki Kashima, Hitoshi Hongo, Kunihito Kato, Kazuhiko Yamamoto, ACCV 2002.

Voting: practical tips

- Minimize irrelevant tokens first
- Choose a good grid / discretization

  Too fine ⟷ ? ⟷ Too coarse

- Vote for neighbors, also (smoothing in accumulator array)
- Use direction of edge to reduce parameters by 1
- To read back which points voted for “winning” peaks, keep tags on the votes.

Hough transform: pros and cons

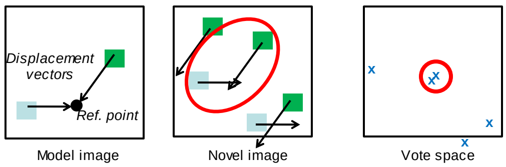
Pros
- All points are processed independently, so can cope with occlusion, gaps
- Some robustness to noise: noise points unlikely to contribute *consistently* to any single bin
- Can detect multiple instances of a model in a single pass

Cons
- Complexity of search time increases exponentially with the number of model parameters
- Non-target shapes can produce spurious peaks in parameter space
- Quantization: can be tricky to pick a good grid size

Generalized Hough Transform

- What if we want to detect arbitrary shapes?

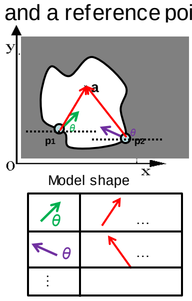
Intuition:



Now suppose those colors encode gradient directions…

Generalized Hough Transform

- Define a model shape by its boundary points and a reference point.



Offline procedure:

At each boundary point, compute displacement vector: **r = a – p$_i$**.

Store these vectors in a table indexed by gradient orientation θ.

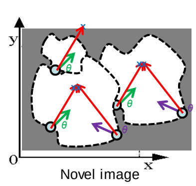
[Dana H. Ballard, Generalizing the Hough Transform to Detect Arbitrary Shapes, 1980]

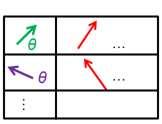
Generalized Hough Transform

Detection procedure:

For each edge point:

- Use its gradient orientation θ to index into stored table
- Use retrieved **r** vectors to vote for reference point

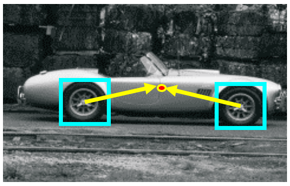




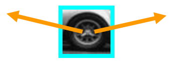
Assuming translation is the only transformation here, i.e., orientation and scale are fixed.

Generalized Hough for object detection

- Instead of indexing displacements by gradient orientation, index by matched local patterns.



training image



"visual codeword" with displacement vectors

B. Leibe, A. Leonardis, and B. Schiele, Combined Object Categorization and Segmentation with an Implicit Shape Model, ECCV Workshop on Statistical Learning in Computer Vision 2004

Source: L. Lazebnik

Generalized Hough for object detection

- Instead of indexing displacements by gradient orientation, index by "visual codeword"

test image

B. Leibe, A. Leonardis, and B. Schiele, Combined Object Categorization and Segmentation with an Implicit Shape Model, ECCV Workshop on Statistical Learning in Computer Vision 2004

Source: L. Lazebnik

Summary

- **Grouping/segmentation** useful to make a compact representation and merge similar features
  - associate features based on defined similarity measure and clustering objective
- **Fitting** problems require finding any supporting evidence for a model, even within clutter and missing features.
  - associate features with an explicit model
- **Voting** approaches, such as the **Hough transform**, make it possible to find likely model parameters without searching all combinations of features.
  - Hough transform approach for lines, circles, …, arbitrary shapes defined by a set of boundary points, recognition from patches.

Coming up

Fitting with deformable contours
A2 is out, due in two weeks