

Modified Gabor Feature Extraction Method for Word Level Script Identification- Experimentation with Gurumukhi and English Scripts

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Abstract

Script Identification is one of the challenging step in the Optical Character Recognition system for multi-script documents. In Indian and Non-Indian context some results have been reported, but research in this field is still emerging. This paper presents a research work in the identification of Gurmukhi and English scripts at word level. It also identifies English Numerals from Gurmukhi text. Gabor feature extraction is one of most popular method for script recognition. This paper presents a zone based gabor feature extraction technique. The given word image after normalization is divided into different zones of different sizes and then features from each of these zones are extracted in various directions using gabor filters. Script is then determined by using SVM classifier. The experimental tests carried out in the field of Gurmukhi and English Script recognition show that the proposed technique leads to improvement over the traditional Gabor feature extraction without zoning. In future, this can also be extended for other scripts.

Keywords: Filters; Zoning; Script Identification; SVM Classifier

1. Introduction

Creating a paperless environment is in its great demand because of emergence and widespread applications of computers and multimedia technologies [1]. Document analysis and recognition is required after converting all the printed documents into images. A lot of research has been done on Optical Character Recognition in last 100 years [2]. However, most systems are script specific in the sense that they can read characters in one particular script only. *Script* is defined as the graphic form of the writing system used to write statements expressible in language [3]. The documents like language translation books, passport application form, examination question papers and most official documents contain words from more than one script. Therefore, in this multilingual and multiscript world, OCR systems need to be capable of recognizing characters irrespective of the script in which these are written. If all the characters of different scripts are handled simultaneously at the classification stage, then accuracy of the overall OCR system will decrease. So for successful implementation of OCR system for multi-script documents, it is necessary to separate regions of different scripts in the document before feeding these to individual OCR systems. The regions of different scripts in a document can be paragraphs, lines, words and characters. This addresses the need of developing script identification techniques at paragraph, line and word level [4].

In India, a document contain mostly words in its state language mixed with English words and numerals as shown in Figure 1, where state language is Punjabi language written in Gurmukhi script. This has motivated us to identify the script of text words and English numerals in multilingual document images.



Figure 1. Sample of Punjabi Text Written in Gurmukhi Script Interspersed with English Words and Numerals

In this paper, a modified Gabor Feature Extraction technique has been proposed to determine scripts from document images. The proposed feature extraction technique converts the original word image into its different zones at first, second and third level. Then gabor features are extracted from each of the subimages obtained from different zones. The underlying script of word is then determined by SVM classifier using these extracted features. Since the experiments are for discrimination of Gurmukhi, English words and English numerals, an overview about Gurmukhi, English Script and English numerals and its character set as shown in Figure 1.1 has been explained here.

1.1. Gurumukhi Script

Gurmukhi script is used primarily for the Punjabi language, which is the world’s 14th most widely spoken language. The populace speaking Punjabi is not only confined to North Indian states such as Punjab, Haryana and Delhi but is spread over all parts of the world. There is rich literature in this language in the form of scripture, books, poetry. Gurmukhi script alphabet consists of 41 consonants and 12 vowels and 2 half characters which lie at the feet of consonants in Figure 2.a.

ੳ	ਅ	ੲ	ਸ	ਹ	ਕ	ਖ	ਗ	ਘ	ਙ	
ਚ	ਛ	ਜ	ਝ	ਞ	ਟ	ਠ	ਡ	ਢ	ਣ	
ਤ	ਥ	ਦ	ਧ	ਨ	ਪ	ਫ	ਬ	ਭ	ਮ	
ਯ	ਰ	ਲ	ਵ	ੜ	ਸ਼	ਜ਼	ਖ਼	ਫ਼	ਗ਼	ਲ਼
ਾ	ਿ	ੁ	ੇ	ੈ	ੋ	ੌ	ੀ	ੀ	ੜ	
ੴ	ੴ	ੴ	ੴ	ੴ	ੴ	ੴ	ੴ	ੴ	ੴ	

Figure 2.a. Gurumukhi Script

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Figure 2.b. English Script

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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Figure 2.c. English Numerals

Figure 2. Gurmukhi Script, English Script and English Numerals Character Set

The characters of words are connected mostly by this line called head line and so there is no vertical intercharacter gap in the letters of a word and formation of merged characters is a norm rather than an aberration in Gurmukhi script. The words are, however, separated with blank spaces. A word in Gurmukhi script can be partitioned into three horizontal zones. The upper zone denotes the region above the head line, where vowels reside, while the middle zone represents the area below the head line where the consonants and some sub-parts of vowels are present. The middle zone is the busiest zone. The lower zone represents the area below middle zone where some vowels and certain half characters lie in the foot of consonants [5].

1.2. English Script

There are twenty six for each of upper and lower case letters as in Figure 2.b. While the capital letters of English script cover the middle and upper zones, most of lower case letters that have a spatial spread that covers only the middle zone or the middle and the lower ones [1].

1.3. English Numerals

English numerals as shown in Figure 2.c have same features as that of English upper case letters, there is no concept of lower case letters. Also number of horizontal and vertical strokes is less as compared to English characters.

The remainder of this paper is as follows: Related script and language identification work has been reviewed in Section 2. The feature extraction technique using zone based gabor filters has been discussed in Section 3. The SVM classifier used for script identification is explained in Section 4. Experimental results have been presented in Section 5. Conclusion is given in Section 6.

2. Related Works

Spitz described a technique by examining the upward concavities of connected components to determine script of Asian and European languages [6]. Tan proposed a method to identify the script of seven languages: Chinese, English, Koreans, Greek, Malayalam, Persian and Russian, based on texture analysis using multi channel Gabor filters and co-occurrence matrices [7]. Wood *et al.*, have used horizontal and vertical projection profiles of document images to identify the script of the document. They argued that horizontal and vertical projection profiles of Roman, Cyrillic, Arabic and Korean scripts have dominant peaks at different positions [8]. Hochberg *et al.*, presented a system that automatically identifies the script form using cluster based templates [9].

Script identification at paragraph/ block level for Indian languages has been reported in [10, 11]. Line Level script identification techniques for Indian languages have been discussed in [12-14]. Most of the Indian documents have script changing with words. From the literature survey, it has been revealed that a major amount of work has been carried out for script identification at word level. Based on the presence and absence of shiorekha, a bilingual OCR for printed documents has been proposed by Jawaher *et al.*, for identification of Devanagari and Telugu scripts [15]. The script line identification techniques in [13, 14] have been modified in [16, 17] for script word separation in printed Indian multiscript documents by including some new features such as headline feature, distribution of vertical strokes, left and right profiles, deviation feature, loop feature, tick feature *etc.* Based on these structural features, systems for recognizing English, Devanagari and Urdu [18] and English and Tamil [19] have been reported. English, Hindi and Kannada words have also been discriminated by using structural features by Padma et al [20]. R.Dhir *et al.*, [21] have presented an automatic script identification system for Roman and Gurmukhi script words and characters. Peeta Basa Pati *et al.*, [22-24] have reported a system to identify the script of each word in a document image. They have started with a bi-script which is later extended to tri-script and then to eleven-script scenarios. Effectiveness of Gabor and Discrete Cosine Transformations (DCT) features has been evaluated using KNN, Linear Discriminate and SVM classifiers. In their work, the consideration of English numerals has not been mentioned. B.V. Dhandra *et al.*, [25] have proposed word level English numeral identification from Indian documents having scripts Kannada, Devanagari, Tamil, Oriya and Malayalam using morphological reconstruction. However the work reported is only on identification of English Numerals not for English words. And also the work reported is only for south Indian scripts. So, from this a motivation is there to extract English words and numerals from Gurmukhi script. To extract English numerals from Gurmukhi text, some results have been reported in our previous work [26]. This work is an extension of that work, by modifying the technique of feature extraction and by identifying the English words and numerals from Gurmukhi words.

3. Feature Extraction

Features of an image/pattern are the symbolic properties which are used to differentiate it from other image/pattern. Here, an attempt has been done to find features that maximize the differentiation between Gurmukhi words, English words and English numerals. The features are based on the energy distribution in the given word image and its different zones in various directions. After careful observation of Gurmukhi Script words, English Script words and numerals, as discussed in Section 1, it reveals that these words have different behaviour in different zones. This motivates us to use the energy features of a word image in different zones and directions for identification of its script. Gabor filters, which are capable of providing multi-resolution analysis, have been used to find directional energy features [27].

3.1. 2 Dimensional Gabor Function

A Gabor function $G(x,y)$ is a linear function as given in Equation 1, defined by multiplication of harmonic function with a Gaussian function [26]

$$G(x,y) = g(x,y)s(x,y) \quad (1)$$

where $s(x,y)$ is a complex sinusoid harmonic function, known as carrier and $g(x,y)$ is a Gaussian shaped function, known as envelope. Thus the 2D Gabor filter with orientation θ and centered at frequency f can be written as in Equation 2

$$G_{x,y,\theta,f,\sigma_x,\sigma_y} = \exp^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x'^2}{\sigma_x^2} + \frac{y'^2}{\sigma_y^2}\right)} (\cos 2\pi f x' + j \sin 2\pi f x') \quad (2)$$

where σ_x and σ_y act as the spatial spread and are the standard deviations of the Gaussian envelope along x and y direction and x' and y' are defined as:

$$x' = x \cos(\theta) + y \sin(\theta) \quad y' = y \cos(\theta) - x \sin(\theta)$$

Any combination of orientation θ and frequency f involves two filters, one corresponding to sine function and other corresponding to cosine function in Equation 2. The cosine filter also known as the real part of the filter function, is an even symmetric filter and acts as a low pass filter, while the sine part being odd-symmetric acts like a high pass filter.

$$G_{Even}(x, y, \theta, f, \sigma_x, \sigma_y) = \exp^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x'^2}{\sigma_x^2} + \frac{y'^2}{\sigma_y^2}\right)} \times \cos 2\pi f x' \quad (3)$$

$$G_{Odd}(x, y, \theta, f, \sigma_x, \sigma_y) = \exp^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x'^2}{\sigma_x^2} + \frac{y'^2}{\sigma_y^2}\right)} \times \sin 2\pi f x' \quad (4)$$

For a given image $I(x,y)$, the convolution of Gabor function at frequency f and angle θ with the given image yields Gabor filtered output image $O(x,y)$ as given in Equation 5

$$O(x, y) = I(x, y) * G(\theta, f) \quad (5)$$

3.2. Zone-Based Gabor Feature Extraction

Local matching is a common approach in pattern recognition whose general logic is to first locate several local components having distinct features and then classify these images by comparing and combining the corresponding local statistics. Hence for script identification of a word, as there is no other component for obtaining local information, it is divided into different zones of same size at two levels as shown in Figure 3. Also, as the words can have any number of characters, so the size of the word image varies. To divide the image into different zones of same size, normalization of the given word image is required, so normalization has been done for the given word image into size 32×32 . The Zone based Gabor feature extraction as shown in Figure 4 is achieved by the following algorithm.

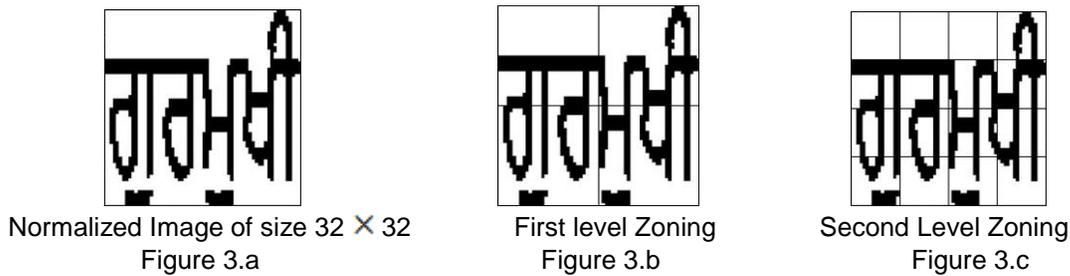


Figure 3. Example of Two Level Zoning of a Normalized Word Image

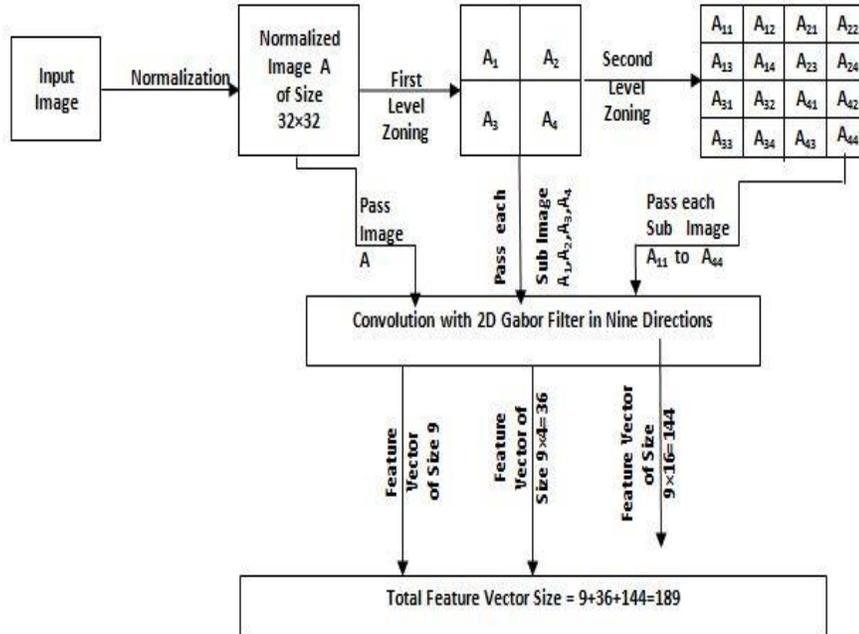


Figure 4. Zone based Gabor Feature Extraction

Algorithm: Gabor Feature Extraction

1. Normalize the given word Image into size 32×32 and call it A .
2. Apply first level zoning by partitioning the normalized image into four equal non overlapping subregions of size 16×16 and call these as A_1, A_2, A_3 and A_4 .
3. Apply second level zoning by further partitioning each subregion into four equal non overlapping sub-subregions of size 8×8 and call these as $A_{11} \dots A_{14}, A_{21} \dots A_{24}, A_{31} \dots A_{34}$ and $A_{41} \dots A_{44}$ and thus obtain 16 small regions in different parts of the image.
4. Repeat step 5 and 6 for each of the twenty one images (one obtained in step 1, four in step 2 and sixteen in step 3) $I_Z(x, y) = A, A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4, A_{11} \dots A_{44}$.
5. Convolve I_Z with odd symmetric and even symmetric gabor filters given in Equations 3 and 4 in nine different angles of orientation ($0, \pi/9, 2\pi/9, 3\pi/9, 4\pi/9, 5\pi/9, 6\pi/9, 7\pi/9, 8\pi/9$) with frequency $2/n$ to generate output gabor filtered images $O_{even, \theta}(I_Z)$ and $O_{odd, \theta}(I_Z)$, where $n \times n$ is the size of I_Z .
6. Evaluate the energy content of the image in each direction θ and normalize this energy by dividing it by the size of each corresponding image region as given in equation .

$$Energy_{\theta}(I_Z) = \frac{\sqrt{(O_{even, \theta}(I_Z))^2 + (O_{odd, \theta}(I_Z))^2}}{n \times n} \quad (6)$$

Thus each zone region I_Z gives nine features. The feature vector Fv of zone region I_Z is represented as:

$$Fv(I_Z) = Energy_{0\pi/9}(I_Z), Energy_{1\pi/9}(I_Z), \dots, Energy_{8\pi/9}(I_Z) \quad (7)$$

So, a feature vector of size 189 ($1 \times 9 + 4 \times 9 + 16 \times 9$) is obtained.

4. Classification

The main task of classification is to use the feature vectors provided by feature extraction algorithm to assign the object/pattern to a category [28]. Support Vector Machine(SVM) is a classification technique successfully used in a wide range of applications.

4.1. SVM Classifier

Binary (two-class) classification using support vector machines (SVMs) is a very well developed technique to find the optimal hyperplane to maximize the distance or margin between two classes .

Given a training set of instance-label pairs $(x_i, y_i), i = 1, 2, \dots, l$ where $x_i \in R^n$, i.e. having n features for a particular training sample and $y_i \in \pm 1$, i.e. class label either 1 or -1 for corresponding training instance x_i . If the training data are linearly separable, we can select two hyperplanes in a way that they separate the data and there are no points between them, and then try to maximize their distance. The region bounded by them is called "the margin".The distance between these two hyperplanes is $\frac{2}{\|w\|}$, so $\|w\|$ should be minimum [29].

If there exists no hyperplane that can split the 'yes' and 'no' examples, the Soft Margin method will choose a hyperplane that splits the examples as cleanly as possible, while still maximizing the distance to the nearest cleanly split examples. The objective function is then increased by a function which penalizes non-zero ξ_i and the optimization becomes a trade off between a large margin and a small error penalty.The support vector machines (SVM) require the solution of the following optimization problem, i.e., minimization of error function[30] as given in Eq. 8 :

$$\min_{w, b, \xi} \frac{1}{2} W^T W + C \sum_{i=1}^l \xi_i \quad (8)$$

subject to the constraints:

$$y_i (W^T \phi(x_i) + b) \geq 1 - \xi_i$$

and

$$\xi_i \geq 0$$

where C is the penalty parameter, W is the vector of coefficients, b a constant and ξ_i are parameters for handling non-separable data (inputs). The index i labels the N training cases or instances. Here $y_i \in \pm 1$ are the class labels and x_i are the independent variables. The kernel ϕ is used to transform data from the input (independent) to the feature space.

In testing phase, for a given input pattern x, the decision function of an SVM binary classifier is

$$f(x) = \text{sign}(\sum_{i=1}^n y_i a_i K(x, x_i) + b) \quad (9)$$

where:

$$\text{sign}(u) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } u > 0 \\ -1 & \text{for } u < 0 \end{cases}$$

b is the bias, α_i is the langrage multiplier and $K(x, x_i)$ is the kernel function [32].

There are several number of kernels used in support vector machines. Some of the popularly used kernel functions are:

- Linear Kernel:

$$K(x, x_i) = x^T x_i \quad (10)$$

- Polynomial Kernel:

$$K(x, x_i) = (x^T x_i + 1)^d \quad (11)$$

where d is the degree of polynomial.

- Gaussian (RBF)Kernel:

$$K(x, x_i) = \exp(-\gamma * \|x - x_i\|^2) \quad (12)$$

where $\gamma = (1/2\sigma^2)$ and σ is the standard deviation of the x_i values.

The solution of multi (More than two classes) classification is by combining several binary classifiers. There are two approaches for combining binary SVM classifier: 'One Vesus All' (OVA) and 'One Versus One' (OVO).

For our case, as there is three class problem, so number of binary SVM classifiers for both approaches are three. As one vs one approach is having less number of training examples for each binary classifier, so OVO approach has been used for the present work.

5. Experimental Results and Discussion

In this section, a description has been given about the experimental setup and results obtained to examine the performance of extracted Zone-based Gabor features with SVM classifier using different kernel functions. The comarison of the results with Gabor Features by pati *et al.*, [24] and our previous work [26] has been done on dataset prepared for the present work.

5.1. Dataset Preparation

Since a standard database for Indian script recognition is not available, a dataset of 11400 words has been prepared. To prepare the database, Gurmukhi documents from different sources like books, magazines, newspapers have been taken and scanned. After binarization, noise cleaning line segmentation and word segmentation has been done using horizontal and vertical projection profiles respectively. The collected data set contains 5212 Gurmukhi Words, 4288 English Words and 1900 English Numerals.

5.2. Experiment Results with Different Kernel Functions

To obtain the recognition results, 10-fold cross validation has been used. First, creation of randomly generated 10-fold cross-validation index of the length of size of dataset has been done. This index contains equal proportions of the integers 1 through 10. These integers are used to define a partition of whole dataset into 10 disjoint subsets. We used one division for testing and remaining nine divisions for training. This has been done 10 times, each time changing the testing dataset to different division and considering remaining divisions for training. Thus 10 sets of feature vectors containing training and testing dataset in the size ratio of 9:1 has been got.

Our experiments are carried out using different kernel functions of SVM classifier with ‘OVO’ approach. The main cause of performance difference among different types of SVM classifiers is linked to feature data distribution [34]. Linear SVM should be largely enough to achieve high accuracy when data is linearly separable. However, such situations are very rare and therefore it is necessary to find hyper-surfaces separating two classes. Therefore we have tested our results using Linear, Polynomial and Gaussian (RBF) kernel. Detailed results of different SVMs are given in Tables 1, 2 and 3. From linear SVM we obtained 92.87% accuracy, from Polynomial kernel we obtained average accuracy 93.28% and from RBF kernel we got average accuracy 99.39% from our script identification scheme.

Table 1. Results for Script Identification using Linear Kernel Function

		Recognized Script		
		Gurumukhi Words	English Words	English Numerals
Actual Script	Gurumukhi Words	93.28%	6.04%	0.68%
	English Words	5.50%	93.05 %	1.45%
	English Numerals	1.47%	7.21%	91.32%
Average Accuracy		92.87% \pm 0.2551%		

Table 2. Results for Script Identification using Polynomial Kernel Function

		Recognized Script		
		Gurumukhi Words	English Words	English Numerals
Actual Script	Gurumukhi Words	93.80%	5.43%	0.77%
	English Words	5.34%	93.38 %	1.28%
	English Numerals	1.84%	6.53%	91.63%
Average Accuracy		93.28% \pm 0.2490%		

Table 3. Results for Script Identification using Gaussian(RBF) Kernel Function

		Recognized Script		
		Gurumukhi Words	English Words	English Numerals
Actual Script	Gurumukhi Words	99.33%	0.65%	0.02%
	English Words	0.37%	99.46 %	0.17%
	English Numerals	0.05%	0.58%	99.37 %
Average Accuracy		99.39% \pm 0.2026%		

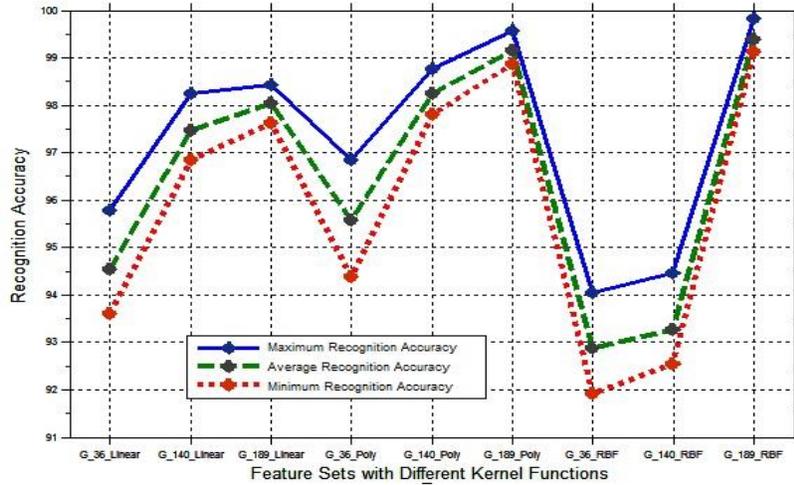


Figure 5.a. Comparison of Recognition Accuracy

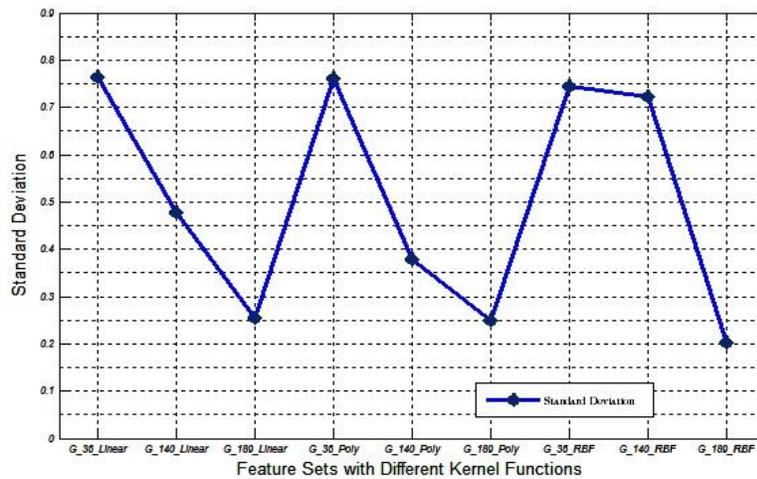


Figure 5.b. Comparison of Standard Deviation

Figure 5. Comparison of Proposed Method with Existing Methods

In order to further analysis of classification error depending on the kind of SVM chosen, we have computed standard deviation of the recognition accuracies obtained from ten subsets. The standard deviations of recognition accuracies obtained from Linear, Polynomial and Gaussian(RBF) SVM are 0.2551, 0.2490 and 0.2026 respectively. From Tables 1, 2 and 3, it is clear that Gaussian (RBF) SVM gives highest accuracy with lowest standard deviation. This means that Gaussian SVM is best in separating the hypersurfaces defined by its support vectors to identify script of Gurmukhi words, English words and English Numerals than the other separating hyper-surfaces.

5.3. Comparison with Existing Methods

There are many papers that discuss script recognition problem but a few of them are for Gurmukhi and Roman scripts. Our previous method [26] identifies English Numerals from Gurmukhi text using 140 Gabor features. Pati *et al.*, [24] used a set of 36 features for

Gurmukhi and Roman script. To the best of our knowledge, there is no reported work that simultaneously identifies English Words and numerals from Gurmukhi script. So, we have tested these two methods on our present dataset and compared these results with our proposed method.

Figure 5.a shows the minimum, average and maximum accuracy obtained with all types of feature sets with different kernel functions. Figure 5.b gives the standard deviation for various feature-classifier combinations. Here code G_36_Linear means 36 Gabor features extracted by method [24] with Linear kernel function of SVM Classifier. It may be observed from Figure 5. that the G_189_RBF is leading in all for minimum, average and maximum accuracy. Again from Figure 5.b it is clear that G_189_RBF has the lowest standard deviation of recognition accuracies obtained from ten subsets. From these two figures it is clear that our proposed Gabor Feature Extraction has more accuracy with low standard deviation for all types of kernel functions of SVM than the other similar methods with corresponding kernel function. But overall, the proposed technique with RBF kernel function is most efficient for script identification of Gurmukhi Words, English Words and English Numerals than other similar works by Gabor Features and SVM kernel functions.

6. Conclusion

In this paper, a Zone based approach based on Gabor filters for word level script identification has been proposed. First the given word image is divided into Zones at two levels after normalization. Then Gabor features are extracted from the normalized image and from different zones of the image at each level. Then script of Gurmukhi Words, English words and Numerals has been identified by using these features and SVM classifier with different kernel functions. The testing of this scheme has been done on 11,400 words and obtained 99.39% accuracy with RBF kernel function of SVM classifier. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first work which identifies English words and Numerals from Gurmukhi script. In future more rigorous investigations are needed to study the effectiveness of the proposed scheme for identification of script of other Indian and non-Indian scripts.

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