

Neural Network-based Efficient Measurement Method on Upside Down Orientation of a Digital Document

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ABSTRACT

As many digital documents are required in various environments, paper documents are digitized by scanner, fax, digital camera and specific software. In the case of a scanned document, we need to check whether the document is right sided or upside down because the orientation of the scanned document is determined by the orientation in which the paper document is placed. It is time-consuming for a person to check all the documents whether they are upside down. We propose an algorithm that can automatically determine upside down documents. The proposed artificial neural network-based method shows a high accuracy and efficiency in time for general documents. In addition, OCR-based method and CNN-based method were used to compare with the performance of the proposed method.

1. Introduction

Recently the use of digital documents has increased in various environments, such as the automation of business processes and factory system. The documents are digitized by scanner, fax, digital camera and specific software. The document may be scanned upside down because a person could put the paper in that way to the scanner without noticing it. If the scanned papers are in large quantity, there's no way to find out all the papers upside down other than doing it manually. In that case, we have to consume expensive time and cost for the checking process. Therefore, there are several studies to automatically determine the orientation of a digitized document without human checking when there is a large amount of non-digitized documents to be scanned.

The document orientation can be categorized into three categories [1]: landscape, portrait, and upside-down orientation. A few previous studies [1]-[5] have successfully developed some algorithms for determining document orientations from any angle. However, these studies have some limitation such that they cannot recognize the document orientation in special case of upside down [2, 3] or take high computational burden even though they can recognize the upside down [1, 4, 5]. The determination between landscape and portrait is usually done based on the skewed angle [2, 4]. Such studies based on the skewed angle may not determine between upside down and right sided when the orientation of the text inside the document is over 180 degrees. Thus, a different

approach is required to detect the orientation of documents that belong to these cases.

Some previous studies [4]-[9] shows efficient detection method for document orientation with English alphabet characters based on the ascender-descender (typography) ratio of text. Since the ascenders are usually more frequent than descenders, these methods rely on counting the numbers of ascenders and descenders in the text to make a decision on its orientation. Specifically, they extracted characters using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) engine and parsed the 'bbox value of the hOCR file with *Beautifulsoup*' [10]. And, they defined coordinate value information for each word obtained through the *bbox* tag of hOCR.

In OCR-based algorithm, Tesseract OCR [11] and *Beautifulsoup* [10] are usually used to determine whether the document is upside down or right sided through the coordinate value information of each word in hOCR.

In this paper, more efficient method is proposed to handle many documents immediately. For the small amounts of information for time efficiency and high recognition accuracy, structural information of the document and artificial neural network (ANN) [12] are used to determine between upside down and right sided without recognizing or analyzing characters.

Also, performance is verified by comparing between the proposed (ANN-based) method and the previous OCR-based method.

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2. OCR (Optical Character Recognition)-based measurement method

Let us assume there are n-lines in an image and each line consists of k-words. The W_i of each word is defined as the summation of minimum and maximum coordinate values ($min_x, min_y, max_x, max_y$) for each word obtained through the bbox tag of hOCR. L_j is defined as the summation of W_i for every words in each line.

$$W_i = min_x + min_y + max_x + max_y \text{ for each word } i \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

$$L_j = W_1 + W_2 + \dots + W_k \text{ for each line } j \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

The document is determined as right sided if the value of L_j increases, but upside down if it decreases. The following is the pseudo code for this the algorithm (Figure 1).

```

Input:
O ← Set of  $W_i$  of all words line by line
Output:
(true: right sided / false: Upside down) ← state

Initialization:
state ← false
increase ← 0
decrease ← 0

Begin
for i in len(lines) do
    sum ←  $O[i][1] + O[i][2] + O[i][3] + O[i][4]$ 
    line_sum[i] ← sum

for i in len(line_sum) do
    if line_sum[i] <= line_sum[i+1] then
        increase ← increase + 1
    else
        decrease ← decrease + 1
    end if

if increase >= decrease then
    state ← true
end if

End
    
```

Figure 1. The pseudo code of OCR-based measurement algorithm

3. Artificial neural network (ANN)-based measurement method

3.1. Basic Idea

Many documents are written from left to right and top to bottom direction although titles, pictures, charts and so on may make exceptions. When the document can be separated as areas as shown in Figure 2, the ratio of the upper half non-background area to the lower half non-background area (defined as Top-to-bottom ratio), and the ratio of the left half non-background area to the right half

non-background area (defined as Left-to-right ratio) may be able to distinguish whether the document is upside down or right sided. Actually, the Top-to-bottom ratio and the Left-to-right ratio of three different types of documents are calculated as shown in Table 1. And for these documents (not for all documents), when Top-to-bottom ratio is greater than 1 or the Left-to-right ratio is greater than 1, we can see that the orientation is right sided.

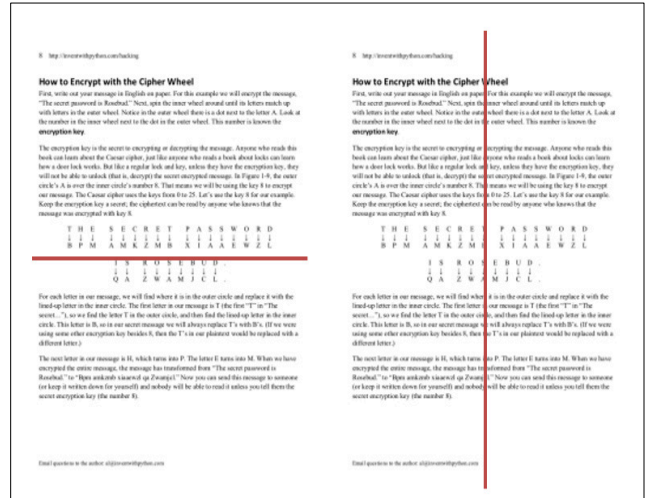


Figure 2. Sketch of basic idea

Table 1. Top-to-bottom ratios and Left-to-right ratios of three document samples

Document	State	Top-to-bottom ratio	Left-to-right ratio
Doc. 1	right sided	9.282392	7.849178
	upside down	0.107731	0.127402
Doc. 2	right sided	3.941437	1.16777
	upside down	0.253715	0.856333
Doc. 3	right sided	1.253945	1.446367
	upside down	0.797483	0.691387

However, experiments with 50 more documents with 10 different types have shown that if Top-to-bottom ratio and the Left-to-right ratio are less than 2, the distribution was scattered and not linearly separable as shown in Figure 3. So we have designed an algorithm based on ANN that can effectively and efficiently distinguish the upside down documents as shown in Section 3.2.

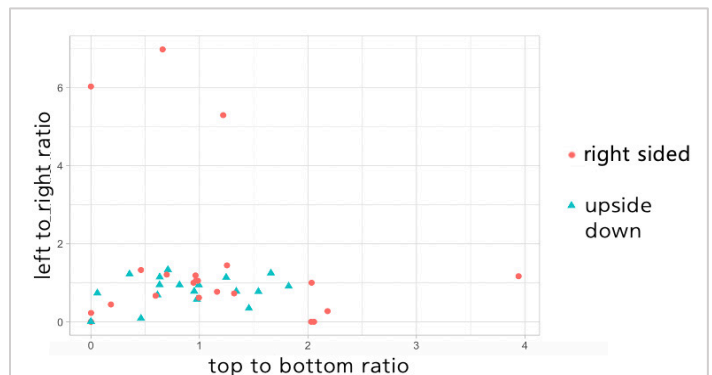


Figure 3. Feature plot for upside down and right sided state

3.2. Proposed algorithm

Artificial neural network (ANN)-based measurement method, it calculates the ratio of the upper half non-background area and the lower half non-background area. Similarly, it also calculates the ratio of the left half non-background area and the right half non-background area. These are used as feature values for training ANN to classify the upside down or not. And the recognition process of ANN gives the status of upside down automatically.

3.2.1 Feature extraction

We assumed that the characters are black and the algorithm for feature extraction is as follows:

Step1. Read the RGB color values of pixels from a scanned BMP image file for the given digital document.

Step2. Transform to the grayscale image and do thresholding with the threshold value, 33.

Step3. Calculate the number of black pixels at the upper half non-background area and the number of black pixels at the lower half non-background area. Subsequently, divide the number of black pixels in the top part by the number of black pixels in the bottom part like the below Eq. (3)

$$\text{Top-to-bottom ratio} = \frac{\text{Number of black pixels at the top}}{\text{Number of black pixels at the bottom}} \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

Step4. Calculate the number of black pixels on the left half non-background area to the number of black pixels on the right half non-background area. Thereafter, the number of black pixels on the left is divided by the number of black pixels on the right like this Eq. (4)

$$\text{Left-to-right ratio} = \frac{\text{Number of black pixels on the left}}{\text{Number of black pixels on the Right}} \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

Step5. Extract the input feature data for artificial neural network with the form of vector ('Top-to-bottom ratio', 'Left-to-right ratio', {'right sided' / 'upside down'})^T.

3.2.2 Artificial neural network (ANN)

We have got the datasets of Top-to-bottom ratios and Left-to-right ratios from the section 3.2.1. To find appropriate structure of ANN, we tried 9 different structures by varying the number of hidden layers with 1, 2, 3 layers and the number of hidden nodes with 1, 3, 5 nodes as shown in table 2. By the results in Table 2, we decided the structure of ANN. The number of hidden layers is 1 and the number of hidden nodes are 5, whose structure shows the lowest error rate.

Table 2. Error rates of various ANN structures

#of hidden layers \ # of hidden nodes	1 layer	2 layers	3 layers
1 node	8.00	5.91	5.73
3 nodes	6.22	5.41	5.58
5 nodes	4.73	4.99	4.73

The artificial neural network system consisting of one hidden layer with five nodes calculates as in Figure 4.

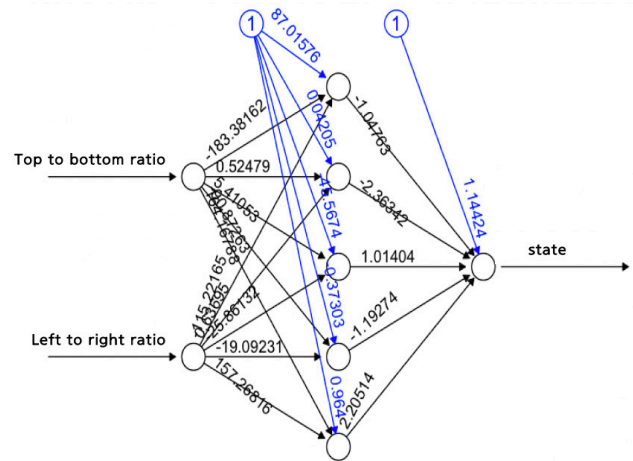


Figure 4. Proposed ANN Structure

Figure 5 shows the *min_thresh* value of *neuralnet* function in R neuralnet library [13] according to the number of iterations to show the convergence of learning error. During the initial period up to 7,000 iterations, the *min_thresh* value decreases rapidly but the value becomes almost constant from 30,000 iterations.

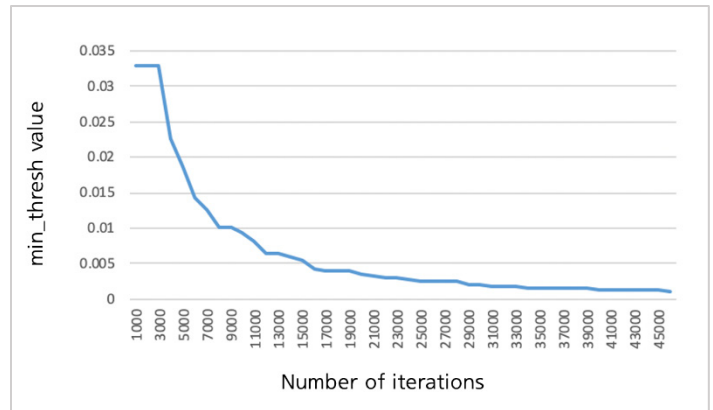


Figure 5. Error plot of ANN

The final decision can be derived by applying the input feature data to the trained artificial neural network. The trained ANN will decide whether the given document is right sided or upside down. The following Figure 6 explains the pseudo code of the trained ANN-based measurement method.

4. Convolutional neural network (CNN)-based measurement method

To extract the pattern information of pixels that are laid out in the document, we have used convolutional neural network (CNN) because it has shown a high performance in understanding images [14, 15]. The used CNN model in this paper has four hidden layers with different number of nodes for each corresponding layer as shown in Table 3 which showed superior results compared to other models. Activation function and 2D max_pooling is applied followed by the first hidden layer. Then the output nodes of first hidden layer are fed into the second hidden layer. After applying

activation function and 2D max_pooling, the output is flattened and an activation function is applied for linear operation. Then in the third hidden layer, drop_out is done to avoid overfitting and to get rid of 30 % of the total number of nodes for generalization. After that, the last hidden layer with 1026 nodes are fed forward to the output layer.

Input :

TB ← Top-to-bottom Ratio

LR ← Left-to-right Ratio

Output :

(true: right sided / false: Upside down) ← Result

Begin

```

a ← sigmoid(87.01576 - 183.38162*TB - 115.22165*LR)
b ← sigmoid(0.04204546 + 0.52479163*TB + 0.63695455*LR)
c ← sigmoid(-45.567399 + 5.410532*TB - 25.861325*LR)
d ← sigmoid(-0.3730291 - 90.8726276*TB - 19.0923138*LR)
e ← sigmoid(0.9640014 + 164.1678818*TB + 157.2681645*LR)
    
```

```

state ← (1.144237 - 1.047632*a - 2.363419*b
        + 1.014042*c - 1.192740*d + 2.205141*e)
    
```

```

if state > 1.4 then
    Result ← true
else
    Result ← false
end if
    
```

End

Figure 6. The pseudo code of the trained ANN-based measurement Algorithm

Table 3. Used CNN structure

Layer Type	Output Shape	# of Params
conv2d_1 (Conv2D)	(None, 60, 60, 32)	832
activation_1 (Activation)	(None, 60, 60, 32)	0
max_pooling2d_1 (MaxPooling2)	(None, 30, 30, 32)	0
conv2d_2 (Conv2D)	(None, 30, 30, 64)	51264
activation_2 (Activation)	(None, 30, 30, 64)	0
max_pooling2d_2 (MaxPooling2)	(None, 15, 15, 64)	0
flatten_1 (Flatten)	(None, 14400)	0
activation_3 (Activation)	(None, 14400)	0
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 512)	7373312
dropout_1 (Dropout)	(None, 512)	0
activation_4 (Activation)	(None, 512)	0
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 2)	1026
activation_5 (Activation)	(None, 2)	0

For CNN training process, adam is used for the optimizer which is known to give better results compared to SGD (stochastic gradient descent) optimizer [16]. The error rates are measured with categorical cross entropy and the results are shown as in Figure 7. As for Figure 7, the error rate decreases as the training progresses along with the number of epochs.

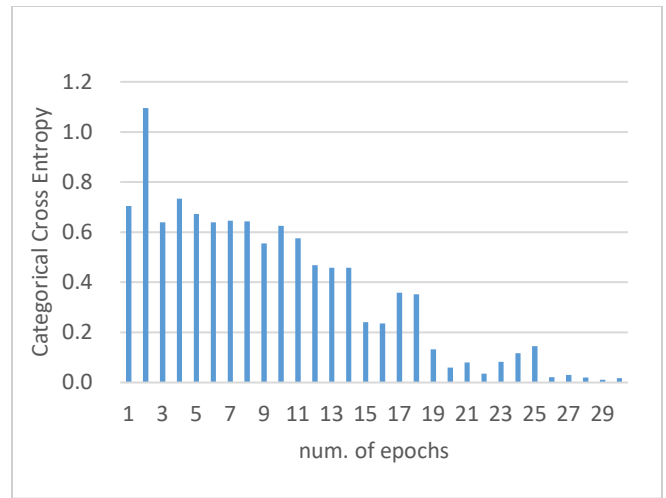


Figure 7. Categorical Cross Entropy per number of epochs in the trained CNN

5. Experimental Results and Analysis

5.1. Experimental Setup

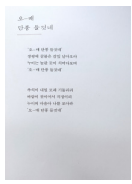

There are many types of documents and we have categorized into 4 groups such as general document, picture-oriented document, free style document and miscellaneous. The general document is a formal document composed of almost all characters. Almost all previous researches [1]-[8] were done with this kind of documents. The picture-oriented document such as the fairy tale book contains not only characters but also some pictures in many pages. The free style document and miscellaneous have no formats or styles. Table 4 shows 4 categories and 10 types of documents in each category.

Table 4. 4 categories and 10 types of documents

Category	No.	Document Type
General document	1	Culture book
	2	Technical book
	3	Paper
Picture-oriented document	4	Document consisting of more than half of pictures
	5	Fairy tale book
Free style document	6	Magazine
	7	Leaflet
Miscellaneous	8	Comic book
	9	Tabular document
	10	Book cover

The general document and picture-oriented document have a basic format and a certain number of characters. Others are free in their character size, deployment of characters and the number of words in a document. Table 5 shows some examples of 10 types of documents.

Table 5. Examples of each document type

		
1 Culture book	2 Technical book	3 Paper
		
4 Picture book	5 Fairy tale book	6 Magazine
		
7 Leaflet	8 Comic book	9 Tabular doc.
		
10 Book cover		

A total of 50 documents were used as training data. It is composed of 5 documents for each document type. 25 of the training data were right sided and the others were upside down. The documents are written in Korean or English. For the test, 100 documents were used as 10 images for each type of document. And 50 of the test data were right sided and the others were upside down.

We have implemented both OCR-based algorithm (See Figure 1) and ANN-based algorithm (See Figure 6) for whole documents. We have analyzed them with each category data and compared the ANN-based result with OCR-based result in each category. In addition, we have also implemented CNN-based algorithm (See Table 3) for the comparison with the ANN-based algorithm. To deal with various image size especially for the CNN-based algorithm, all input document images are converted to 64 * 64 pixels. And the three-dimensional RGB array of the input image is converted into one dimensional array using gamma compression [17] giving weights according to the relative luminance of each pixel value. In addition, the time measured for the CNN-based algorithm is the elapsed time of the program including the time required for reading images but the training time.

5.2. Experimental Results

Experimental results of the general document are shown in Table 6 and the results of the picture-oriented document are in Table 7.

Table 6. Result of Category 1(General document)

Document type	OCR-based method		ANN-based method		CNN-based method	
	Accuracy	Average Time (s)	Accuracy	Average Time (s)	Accuracy	Average Time (s)
1	90%	2.580	90%	0.118	80%	1.049
2	80%	3.889	90%	0.071	90%	0.349
3	100%	4.700	90%	0.046	80%	0.368
All	90%	3.723	90%	0.078	83%	0.589

Table 7. Result of Category 2(Picture-oriented document)

Document type	OCR-based method		ANN-based method		CNN-based method	
	Accuracy	Average Time (s)	Accuracy	Average Time (s)	Accuracy	Average Time (s)
4	90%	1.773	70%	0.050	50%	0.992
5	70%	2.140	80%	0.190	70%	1.883
All	80%	1.957	75%	0.120	60%	1.438

Table 8. Result of Category 3(Free style document)

Document type	OCR-based method		ANN-based method		CNN-based method	
	Accuracy	Average Time (s)	Accuracy	Average Time (s)	Accuracy	Average Time (s)
6	100%	3.480	40%	0.042	70%	0.430
7	70%	1.724	40%	0.033	90%	0.391
All	85%	2.602	40%	0.038	80%	0.411

Table 9. Result of Category 4(Miscellaneous document)

Document type	OCR-based method		ANN-based method		CNN-based method	
	Accuracy	Average Time (s)	Accuracy	Average Time (s)	Accuracy	Average Time (s)
8	90%	0.784	40%	0.030	40%	1.063
9	90%	2.209	50%	0.030	60%	0.758
10	100%	0.794	60%	0.026	50%	0.562
All	93.3%	1.247	50%	0.029	50%	0.794

5.3. Discussion

In general documents (category 1 in Table 6) such as cultural books, technical books, and papers, both OCR-based algorithm and ANN-based algorithm have similar high accuracy in Table 6. But ANN-based algorithm shows tremendous time reduction. The ANN-based algorithm we proposed will have a high efficiency for checking a large number of documents automatically.

In picture-oriented documents (category 2 in Table 7) such as picture books and fairy tale books, OCR-based algorithm is a little better than ANN-based algorithm in accuracy (See Table 7). But the result is also seen that the time in ANN-based algorithm is shortened. This may be occurred by the reason that the result depends on our small number of experimental documents and it could be improved if we apply our algorithm with much more data. The thresholding method we used to be based on the fixed value. If the thresholding value can be adaptively changed as the given input image, then the performance could be enhanced.

In free style documents and miscellaneous documents (category 3 and 4 in Table 4) such as magazines, leaflets, comic books, tabular documents and book covers, OCR-based algorithm is better than ANN-based algorithm in accuracy (See Table 8 and 9). This may be occurred by the reason that there is a no formal document structure in the document type 6, 7, 8, 9. And, in case of book cover, there are more non-black characters than black characters. If the system can recognize all colors of characters exactly in high speed, then the performance could be enhanced.

The performance of ANN-based algorithm was also compared with that of CNN-based algorithm. Basically, the performance of CNN-based algorithm has less accuracy than ANN-based algorithm (See Table 6 and 7). This is based on the reason that the number of training data is limited to 50 documents for the comparison with other algorithms, and the image was resized into 64*64 pixels by the complex structure of the CNN-based algorithm and as a result, the character was very distorted and became small. In the case of category 3 (See Table 8), CNN-based algorithm has better accuracy than ANN-based algorithm. It may be from the reason that many of the documents in category 3 include more non-black characters than black characters.

6. Conclusion

As a result, OCR-based algorithm shows high accuracy by the power of character recognition, but it takes more time because all words should be recognized in advance. CNN-based algorithm shows very limited power especially for the document type 2 and 7 due to the limited number of training data and resized image.

In contrast, ANN-based algorithm calculates two feature values derived from the document structure and can determine the orientation of the document immediately. ANN-based algorithm can greatly reduce the time using small information and can obtain high accuracy using the power of artificial neural network.

Additionally, we have conducted the experiments on the relatively free form of documents such as leaflets and magazines (category 3), comic books, tabular documents, and book covers (category 4). ANN-based algorithm determines the document structure immediately but the accuracy was significantly lower for these special cases.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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