

Autovision conveyor belt mechanism using scilab

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Abstract: In many industrial applications, automation of color based sorting in raw materials is the need of the hour to optimize resources and save time. The aim of this paper is to minimize the subjective error of visual inspection. The system is developed for sorting of food materials based on thresholding in image processing. The image of food material will be captured by a USB camera and image processing will be carried out in SCILAB software for more accurate results. Once the image processing is complete, the results will further be displayed on the screen and according to the result obtained, the microcontroller will carry out the sorting mechanism. For sorting purpose, we use the pushing mechanism interfaced with the microcontroller circuitry. This paper proposes the system for an auto vision food industry using SCILAB software for higher speed and accuracy.

Keywords—Conveyor belt, IR sensors, camera, SCILAB, CIE LAB color space, Microcontroller.

I. Introduction

India is an agricultural country, having huge revenue from its food industry. However, due to shortcomings in the traditional methods of sorting raw materials, we may face losses. Using an auto vision inspection technology, we can ensure higher speed and accuracy. The food quality detection helps in the estimation of shelf life of the food materials, ensuring lesser wastage of resources. Also, many food materials are exported from India, which requires the sorting of food materials into grades depending upon the size, shape, or color. This separation is done based on the local and international needs, which can be implemented using image segmentation. Various food packaging industries also require a final check on the packaged food products to ensure proper transportation of food materials. All these quality checks may require significant amount of time and efforts, however, using various technologies, we can provide automation for the same. This paper proposes one such method for the classification of food materials.

This food quality management system is based on the extraction of the features of raw material and sorting them depending on the color-based thresholding for the maturation analysis. The detecting algorithm is based on IR sensors. Once the material is detected by the IR sensors, the conveyor belt interfaced with the microcontroller (8051) will stop, and the USB camera will capture the image. The image captured will have at least one view of the food material, which will be further provided to the PC for SCILAB processing of the image. We will use the Image Processing and Designing toolkit (IPD8.0), which helps in the detection of the objects. Along with Scilab image and video processing toolbox for real-time image and video analysis, we can perform various mathematical functions on the images.

II. Literature Survey

Hongshe Dang, et al, in their research paper titled, "Human-

Machine Systems and Cybernetics" proposed a Fruit Size Detecting and Grading System Based on Image Processing. The paper presents the recent developments of image processing and machine vision system in an automated fruit quality measurement system. Objective of this paper is to emphasize on recent work reported on an automatic fruit quality detection system. This paper presents the image processing techniques for feature extraction and classification for fruit quality measurement system.

John B. Njoroge, et al, in their research paper titled "Design and Development of a Fully Automated Consumer-

based Wireless Communication System for Fruit Grading ISCIT." have developed an automated grading system using image processing where the focus is on the fruit's internal and external defects. The system consists of CCD cameras. The image could be captured using a regular digital camera. Image processing is used to analyze the fruit's features; size, color, shape, and the grade is determined based on the features. The developed system is built from a combination of advanced designs, expert fabrications, and au-

tomatic mechanical control.

Naoshi Kondo, in his research paper, "Fruit Grading Robot" proposed that the conveyor is advanced through a viewing area and the articles are simultaneously rotated such that electrical images are formed of each article within a viewing zone defined in each channel during a given time frame.

III. Proposed system

The proposed system will have the microcontroller as the heart of the system with the conveyor belt, IR sensors and a pushing mechanism programmed for the designated mechanism.

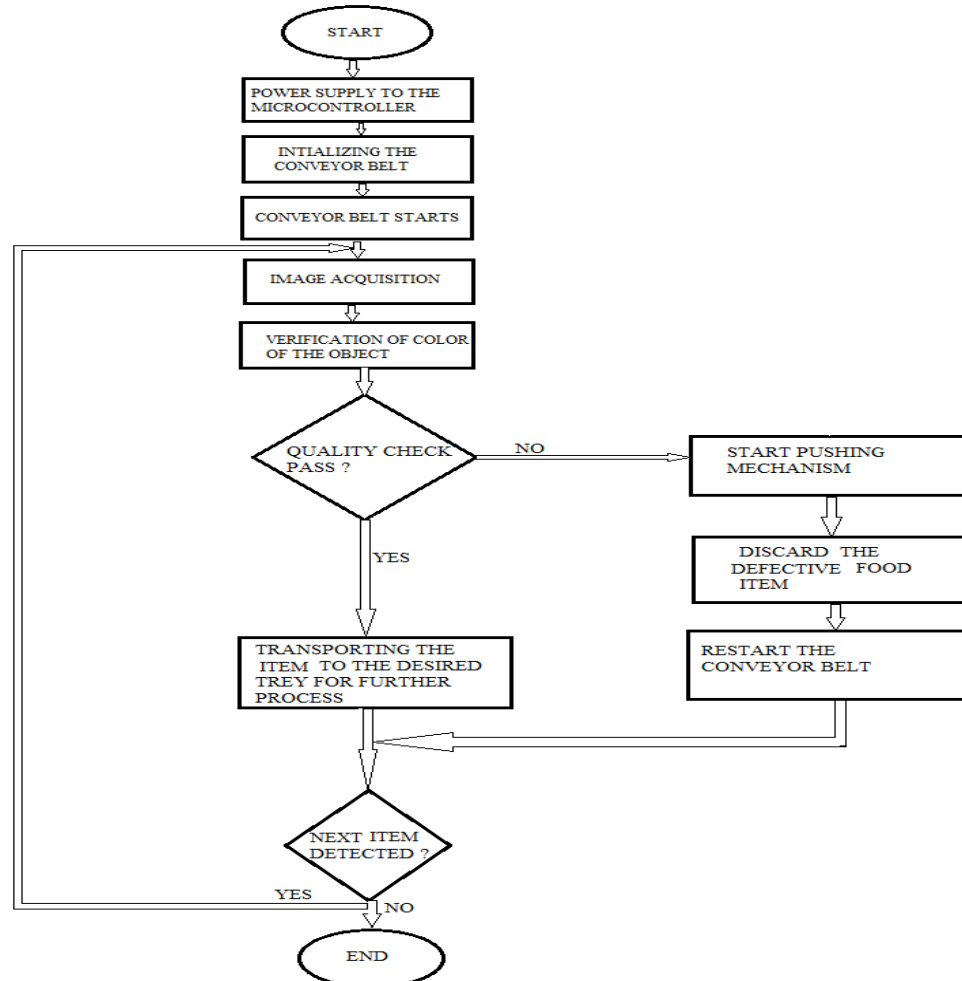


Fig.1: Sorting Mechanism Flowchart

IV. Hardware used

- i CONVEYER BELT
- ii USBCAMERA
- iii IR SENSORS
- iv MICROCONTROLLER UNIT

The conveyor belt is controlled using two DC motors having the motor drive as L293D. The motor drive will work at 12V and the speed will be standard 30rpm. The power supply provided to the system will be kept constant at 5V for maximum power transfer to the DC motor drive.[1]

The reflective IR sensors are placed right before the image capturing section. Once the object is detected, the IR sensors will give a high to low signal to the microcontroller. The microcontroller, which is interfaced with the motor drive of L293D, will have a logic (1,1) to stop the rotating DC motor to stop the object for perfect image acquisition. The conveyor belt has to stop for both image acquisition as well as the pushing mechanism, and this is programmed using the basic logic table for the L293D motor drive truth table.

V. Software used

Kielvision 3 will be used for the programming of the AT89S52 microcontroller. We will use the microcontroller

rFLASHMAGIC software to burn our logic into the microcontroller IC. SCILAB 6.00 along with Image Processing and Designing (IPD) toolbox will be used for accurate and fast image operation. The captured image will undergo grayscale thresholding for color identification. Food product quality will be determined based on the image attributes. [2]

VI. Image Processing

The first stage of image processing is image acquisition which is done using a webcam interface with microcontroller for real time analysis of the food items. The illumination of the conveyor belt setup is appropriately adjusted according to the need of image processing. After the image acquisition process, the captured color image is in a 2-

D format and hence the image analysis is done based on pixel configuration. The conveyor belt consists of black colored strip and hence the image obtained is a 'label image', which means that the background pixels have zero value and the object has pixel values higher than zero. We perform thresholding on the digital image to extract the objects in the image. [3][4]

The grayscale conversion of the obtained image is the initial stage for the histogram analysis and hence using the image processing and designing toolbox we simply make use of the basic tools such as

```
-->Image= RGB2Gray( RGB)
-->figure(); ShowColorImage( RGB, ColorImage);
-->figure(); ShowImage( Image, GrayLevelImage);
```

After the grayscale conversion, we make use of Blob analysis for detecting the basic shape of the food item. Blob analysis works on the relationship shared between the neighbouring pixels and compares the relative values and distinguishes the true pixels, every false pixel is eliminated and assigned a zero value. [5][6]

The grayscale histogram can be obtained for various colors in the digital image, however we use L^*a^*b CIE LAB colors system for better image calculations. The color channels present in the image are normalized

considering the minimum value as zero and maximum value to be one. Now the histogram calculations for red color depend on the values of both the channels. In the L^*a^*b colors system, L stands for illumination and it depends upon the background of the object. The background may be completely white or completely black depending upon the hardware specification of conveyor belt. Hence values of L range from 0 to 100 where 0 represents black and 100 yields white color. Whereas 'a' and 'b' represent color values of the object in comparison to the luminosity value (L).

Color of the food material can be easily detected observing the histogram peaks obtained from SCILAB simulation.

Thus we can easily obtain a fair color classification using the L^*a^*b color space. Any digital image is an attribute of three colors mainly red-blue-

green (RGB) color space, however image storage is also an important aspect which may affect both the efficiency and speed of the system. Using RGB 565 may limit the memory occupancy up to 150 kbs. [7]

VII. Pushing mechanism

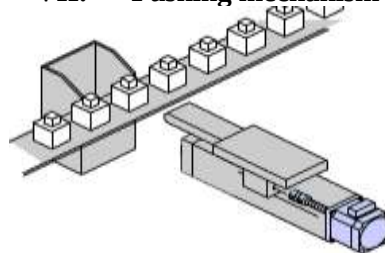


Fig. 2 Pushing mechanism for rejection of defective food materials

The linear pushing mechanism which is controlled by the microcontroller will start receiving the power only when the food material is defective. This pushing mechanism is based on the DC motor, which will simply discard the fruit from the conveyor belt. It is a linearly actuated DC motor as shown in the Fig. 2. The food material with no defects will be simply passed without any obstruction towards the desired assortment. [8]

VIII. Result



Fig.3.a: Normalized L*

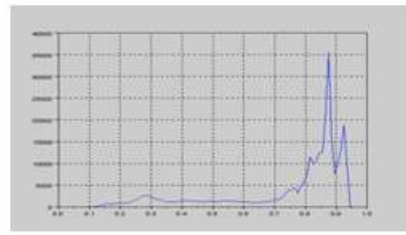


Fig.3.b: Histogram of Normalized L*



Fig.4.a: Normalized a*

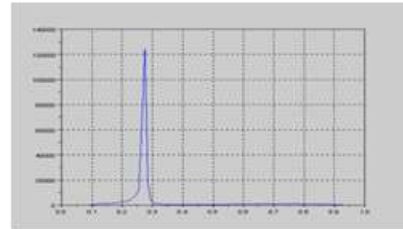


Fig.4.b: Histogram of Normalized a*



Fig.5.a: Normalized b*

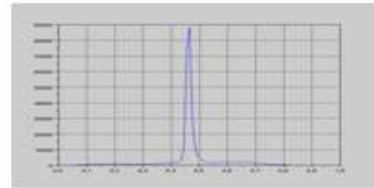


Fig.5.b: Histogram of Normalized b*

The above results are obtained after the SCILAB simulation of the image captured through USB camera. The original image captured by camera undergoes grayscale thresholding for histogram analysis. The color values obtained from the $L^*a^*b^*$ color system are subjected to normalization and inversion after which histograms are simulated by the IPD toolbox.

IX. Future Scope

Various other software like open computer vision 3.4.0 can

be implemented for better results. Thus after implementation of the above algorithm, future work will focus on the creating high quality visual cameras for multi vision analysis as well as minimization of the embedded system. Other advancements may include, using the multi. The Open Computer Vision software or MATLAB software can also be used for faster and more accurate results. Estimation of the shelf life of the food product can be estimated using non-invasive moisture detection techniques. We can also use rubber rollers for convenient rotation of the food product rather than using a plain rubber belt.

X. Conclusion

The literature survey reveals that many innovations have been already noted in the field of automatic food material grading system. Here the system is oriented to automation for color based sorting of food materials. However, proposed system is a demo version and can be implemented in large scale industries which can yield more profit. We can use multiple cameras for better image acquisition. The speed and length of the conveyor belt can be further modified based on the need of the industry. Various other technologies such as implementation of rubber based rollers can be used, providing them multiple angles for better image acquisition. Non-invasive moisture detection technique can be used for the exact moisture estimation. This may give better idea about the shelf life. Hence we have completed color system simulation stage and the results obtained were accurate for respective colors. Further implementation of the hardware will be executed as per the required application. [9][10]

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