

Contents

Preface	v
Acknowledgments	vii
1 Introduction and Background	1
1.1. Shape Description	4
1.2. Image Description	6
1.3. Image Shape Description	8
2 The Intensity Axis of Symmetry	11
2.1. Axes of Symmetry	13
2.2. The Intensity Axis of Symmetry (IAS)	16
2.3. Properties of the IAS	17
2.3.1. Axis Topology	18
2.3.2. Axis Bending and Branching	20
2.3.3. Axis Radius Function	22
2.3.4. Axis Inverse Mapping	24
2.3.5. Axis Invariance	25
2.4. Discussion	27
3 Computing the Intensity Axis of Symmetry	29
3.1. Level by Level Calculation of Axes	31
3.2. Simultaneous Calculation of Axes	31
3.2.1. A Review of the Active Contour Model	32
3.2.2. The Active Surface Model	33
3.2.3. The Image Symmetry Function	38
3.2.4. Linking the Active Surface	40

x Contents

3.2.5. Identifying Individual Axis Sheets	44
3.2.6. Calculating the Radius and Curvature Functions	51
3.3. Discussion	52
4 Segmentation via the Intensity Axis of Symmetry	53
4.1. Displaying the IAS	55
4.2. Image Segmentation	58
4.2.1. Segmentation Method	59
4.2.2. Segmentation Results	59
4.3. Effects of Image Processing	63
4.3.1. Contrast Enhancement	64
4.3.2. Gaussian Blurring	64
4.3.3. Edge Strength Images	68
4.4. Discussion	70
5 Multiresolution Analysis of the Intensity Axis of Symmetry	71
5.1. Early Multiresolution Analysis	73
5.2. The Multiresolution IAS	74
5.3. Multiresolution Vertex Curves	75
5.3.1. Boundary Curvature and Vertices	75
5.3.2. Surface Curvature	78
5.3.3. Level Curve Curvature and Vertex Curves	79
5.3.4. Vertex Curve Topology	84
5.3.5. Multiresolution Properties of Vertex Curves	86
5.4. Multiresolution Watershed Boundaries	93
5.4.1. Watersheds and Their Boundaries	94
5.4.2. Linking Intensity Extrema	95
5.4.3. Displaying Watershed Region Hierarchies	97
5.4.4. Associating Scale with Watershed Boundaries	100
5.4.5. Imposing a Quasi-Hierarchy on IAS Sheets	102
5.5. Discussion	105
6 Conclusions	107
6.1. The Definition of the IAS	109
6.2. An Implementation of the IAS	109
6.3. Image Segmentation Using the IAS	111
6.4. Multiresolution Analysis of the IAS	113
6.5. New Research Directions	114
Bibliography	119
Index	127