

**Optical Character Recognition: Innovations, Applications, and Future Directions****Fatima Mahmoud<sup>\*1</sup> & Ahmed Al-Khatib<sup>2</sup>**<sup>\*1</sup>M.Eng. Scholar, Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, Egypt<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, Egypt

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**ABSTRACT**

This paper presents detailed review in the field of Optical Character Recognition. Various techniques are determine that have been proposed to realize the center of character recognition in an optical character recognition system. Even though, sufficient studies and papers are describes the techniques for converting textual content from a paper document into machine readable form. Optical character recognition is a process where the computer understands automatically the image of handwritten script and transfer into classify character. This material use as a guide and update for readers working in the Character Recognition area. Selection of a relevant feature extraction method is probably the single most important factor in achieving high character recognition with much better accuracy in character recognition systems without any variation.

**KEYWORDS:** Neural Network, Feature extraction, Classification, OCR.

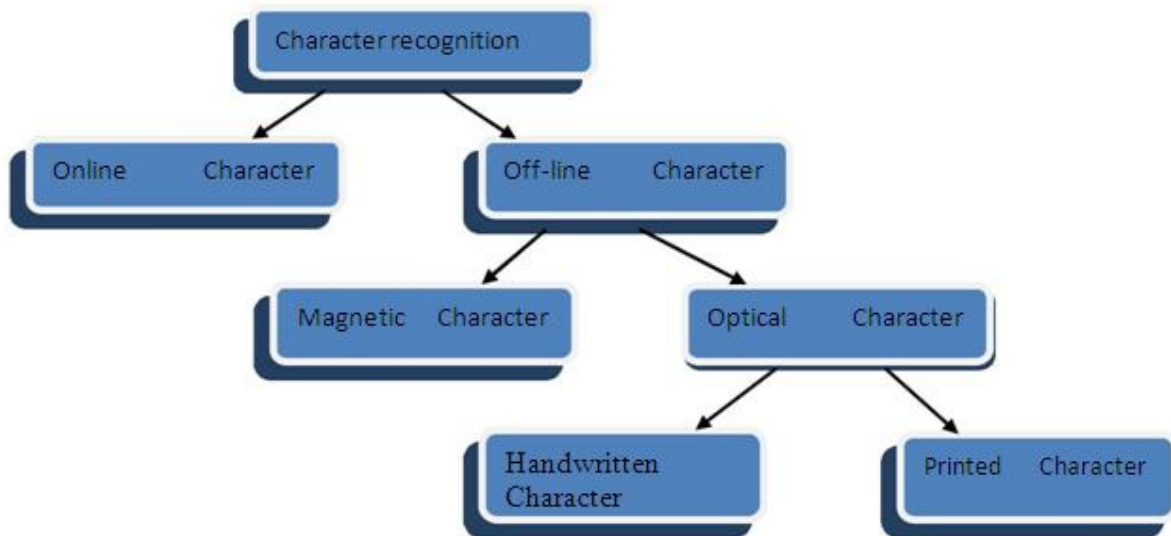
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**I. INTRODUCTION**

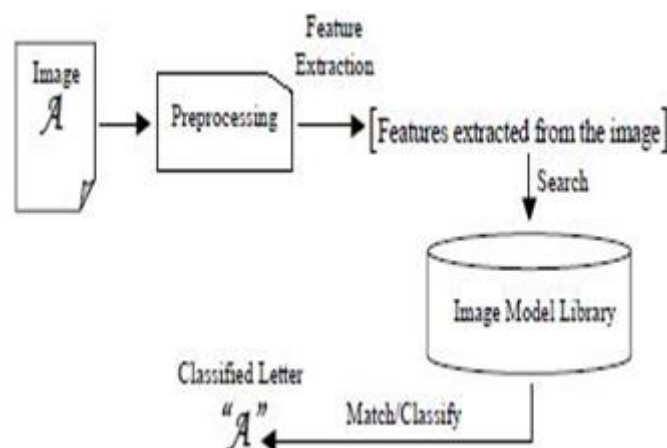
Optical Character acknowledgment has been a subject of research. Example acknowledgment has three principle steps: perception, design division, and example order. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) frameworks is changing expansive measure of reports, either printed letters in order or manually written into machine encoded content with no change, clamor, determination varieties and different variables.

In general, handwriting recognition is classified into two types as off-line and On-line character recognition. Off-line handwriting recognition involves automatic conversion of text into an image into letter codes which are usable within computer and text-processing applications. Off-line handwriting recognition is more difficult, as different people have different handwriting styles. But, in the on-line system, On-line character recognition deals with a data stream which comes from a transducer while the user is writing. The typical hardware to collect data is a digitizing tablet which is electromagnetic or pressure sensitive. When the user writes on the tablet, the successive movements of the pen are transformed to a series of electronic signal which is memorized and analyzed by the computer.

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) is a field of research in pattern recognition, artificial intelligence and machine vision, signal processing. Optical character recognition (OCR) is usually referred to as an off-line character recognition process to mean that the system scans and recognizes static images of the characters. It refers to the mechanical or electronic translation of images of handwritten character or printed text into machine code without any variation.



OCR consists of many phases such as Pre-processing, Segmentation, Feature Extraction, Classifications and Recognition. The input of one step is the output of next step. The task of preprocessing relates to the removal of noise and variation in handwritten. Several area where ocr used including mail sorting, bank processing, document reading and postal address recognition require offline handwriting recognition systems, pattern recognition.



## II. PHASES OF GENERAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION SYSTEM

### Digitization

Digitization is the process of converting a paper-based handwritten document into electronic format. Here, each document consists of only one character. The electronic conversion is accomplished by using a method whereby a document is scanned and an electronic representation of the original document as a image file format is produced. We used various scanner for digitization, and the digital image was go for next step that is preprocessing phase.

### Pre-processing

In The pre-processing phase, there is a series of operations performed on the scanned input image. It enhances the image rendering it suitable for segmentation the gray-level character image is normalized into a window sized. After noise reduction, we produced a bitmap image . Then, the bitmap image was transformed into a thinned image.

### Segmentation

The Segmentation phase is the most important process. Segmentation is done by separation from the individual characters of an image.

Segmentation of handwritten characters into different zones (upper, middle and lower zone) and characters is more difficult than that of printed documents that are in standard form. This is mainly because of variability in paragraph, words of line and characters of a word, skew, slant, size and curved. Sometimes components of two adjacent characters may be touched or overlapped and this situation create difficulties in the segmentation task. Touching or overlapping problem occurs frequently because of modified characters in upper-zone and lower-zone. Segmentation is an important stage.

### Feature Extraction

In this phase, features of individual character are extracted. The performance of an each character recognition system that depends on the features that are extracted. The extracted features from input character should allow classification of a character in a unique way. We used diagonal features, intersection and open end points features, transition features, zoning features, directional features, parabola curve fitting-based features, and power curve fitting-based features in order to find the feature set for a given character.

### III. LITERATURE REVIEW ON OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION

The review process was adopted by surveying the research in last 10 years (2005-2013) for extraction of information about some issues. The 31 research articles were reviewed to cover the review of character recognition technique.

Various issues: Review papers on different technique to recognize the handwritten cursive characters. The review and discussion of issues is ranging from year 2005-2013.

MAJIDA ALI ABED HAMID ALI ABED ALASADI [2005][1] This manuscript considers a new approach to Simplifying Handwritten Characters Recognition based on simulation of the behaviour of schools of fish and flocks of birds, called the Particle Swarm Optimization Approach (PSOA). We present an overview of the proposed approaches to be optimized and tested on a number of handwritten characters in the experiments. Our experimental results demonstrate the higher degree of performance of the proposed approaches. It is noted that the PSOA in general generates an optimized comparison between the input samples and database samples which improves the final recognition rate. Experimental results show that the PSOA is convergent and more accurate in solutions that minimize the error recognition rate.

Mohammed Z. Khedher, Gheith A. Abandah, and Ahmed M. Al-Khawaldeh 2005 [2] This paper describe that Recognition of characters greatly depends upon the features used. Several features of the handwritten Arabic characters are selected and discussed. An off-line recognition system based on the selected features was built. The system was trained and tested with realistic samples of handwritten Arabic characters. Evaluation of the importance and accuracy of the selected features is made. The recognition based on the selected features give average accuracies of 88% and 70% for the numbers and letters, respectively. Further improvements are achieved by using feature weights based on insights gained from the accuracies of individual features.

Ivan Dervisevic [2006][3] Success of optical character recognition depends on a number of factors, two of which are feature extraction and classification algorithms. In this paper we look at the results of the application of a set of classifiers to datasets obtained through various basic feature extraction methods.

Diego J. Romero, Leticia M. Seijas, Ana M. Ruedin [2007][4] The recognition of handwritten numerals has many important applications, such as automatic lecture of zip codes in post offices, and automatic lecture of numbers in checknotes. In this paper we present a preprocessing method for handwritten numerals recognition, based on a directional two dimensional continuous wavelet transform. The wavelet chosen is the Mexican hat. It is given a principal orientation by stretching one of its axes, and adding a rotation angle. The resulting transform has 4 parameters: scale, angle (orientation), and position (x,y) in the image. By fixing some of its parameters we obtain wavelet descriptors that form a feature vector for each digit image. We use these for the recognition of the handwritten numerals in the Concordia University data base. We input the preprocessed samples into a multilayer feed forward neural network, trained with backpropagation. Our results are promising. Chirag I Patel, Ripal Patel, Palak Patel [2011][5] Objective is this paper is recognize the characters in a given scanned documents and study the effects of changing the Models of ANN. Today Neural Networks are mostly used for Pattern Recognition task. The paper describes the behaviors of different Models of Neural Network used in OCR. OCR is widespread use of Neural Network. We have considered parameters like number of Hidden Layer, size of Hidden Layer and epochs. We have used Multilayer Feed Forward network with Back propagation. In Preprocessing we have applied some basic algorithms for segmentation of characters, normalizing of characters and De-skewing. We have used different Models of Neural Network and applied the test set on each to find the accuracy of the respective Neural Network.

Sushree Sangita Patnaik and Anup Kumar Panda May 2011[6] This paper proposes the implementation of particle swarm optimization (PSO) and bacterial foraging optimization (BFO) algorithms which are intended for optimal harmonic compensation by minimizing the undesirable losses occurring inside the APF itself. The efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of two approaches are compared for two different conditions of supply. The total harmonic distortion (THD) in the source current which is a measure of APF performance is reduced drastically to nearly 1% by employing BFO. The results demonstrate that BFO outperforms the conventional and PSO-based approaches by ensuring excellent functionality of APF and quick prevail over harmonics in the source current even under unbalanced supply.

Dileep Kumar Patel, Tanmoy Soml, Sushil Kumar Yadav Manoj Kumar Singh [2012][7]

In the present paper, the problem of handwritten character recognition has been tackled with multiresolution technique using Discrete wavelet transform (DWT) and Euclidean distance metric (EDM). The technique has been tested and found to be more accurate and faster. Characters is classified into 26 pattern classes based on appropriate properties. Features of the handwritten character images are extracted by DWT used with appropriate level of multiresolution tech- nique, and then each pattern class is characterized by a mean vector. Distances from input pattern vector to all the mean vectors are computed by EDM. Minimum distance determines the class membership of input pattern vector. The pro- posed method provides good recognition accuracy of 90% for handwritten characters even with fewer samples.

Vijay Laxmi Sahu, Babita Kubde (January 2013) [8] This paper explains that classification methods based on learning from examples have been widely applied to character recognition from the 1990s and have brought forth significant improvements of recognition accuracies. This class of methods includes statistical methods, artificial neural networks, support vector machines, multiple classifier combination, etc. In this paper, the characteristics of the classification methods that have been successfully applied to character recognition, and show the remaining problems that can be potentially solved by learning methods have been discussed.

Gurpreet Singh Chandan Jyoti Kumar Rajneesh Rani Dr. Renu Dhir (January 2013) [9] This paper presents detailed review in the field of Off-line Handwritten Character Recognition.. The recognition of handwriting can, however, still is considered an open research problem due to its substantial variation in appearance. Even though, sufficient studies have performed from history to this era, paper describes the techniques for converting textual content from a paper document into machine readable form. Offline handwritten character recognition is a process where the computer understands automatically the image of handwritten script. This material serves as a guide and update for readers working in the Character Recognition area. Selection of a relevant feature extraction method is probably the single most important factor in achieving high recognition performance with much better accuracy in character recognition systems.

Majida Ali Abed, Hamid Ali Abed Alasadi, (August 2013)[10] This manuscript considers a new approach to Simplifying Handwritten Characters Recognition based on simulation of the behavior of schools of fish and flocks of birds, called the Particle Swarm Optimization Approach (PSOA). We present an overview of the proposed approaches to be optimized and tested on a number of handwritten characters in the experiments. Our experimental results demonstrate the higher degree of performance of the proposed approaches. It is noted that the PSOA in general generates an optimized comparison between the input samples and database samples which improves the final recognition rate. Experimental results show that the PSOA is convergent and more accurate in solutions that minimize the error recognition rate..

Argha Roy, Diptam Dutta KAustav, Choudhury (March 2013)[11] This paper, the adaptation of network weights using Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) was proposed as a mechanism to improve the performance of Artificial Neural Network (ANN) in classification of IRIS dataset. Classification is a machine learning technique used to predict group membership for data instances. To simplify the problem of classification neural networks are being introduced. This paper focuses on IRIS plant classification using Neural Network. The problem concerns the identification of IRIS plant species on the basis of plant attribute measurements. Classification of IRIS data set would be discovering patterns from examining petal and sepal size of the IRIS plant and how the prediction was made from analyzing the pattern to form the class of IRIS plant. By using this pattern and classification, in future upcoming years the unknown data can be predicted more precisely. Artificial neural networks have been successfully applied to problems in pattern classification, function approximations, optimization, and associative memories. In this work, Multilayer feed- forward networks are trained using back propagation learning algorithm. Amir Bahador Bayat[2013] [12] Automatic recognition of handwritten characters has long been a goal of many research efforts in the pattern recognition field. This paper investigates

the design of a high efficient system for recognition of handwritten digits. First it proposes an efficient system that includes two main modules: the feature extraction module and the classifier module. In the feature extraction module, seven sets of discriminative features are extracted and used in the recognition system. In the classifier module, as the first time in this area, the adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system (ANFIS) is investigated. Experimental results show that the proposed system has good Recognition Accuracy (RA). However, the results show that in ANFIS training, the vector of radius has very important role for its recognition accuracy. At the second fold, it proposes an intelligence system in which a novel optimization module, i.e., improved bees algorithm (IBA) is proposed for finding the best parameters of the classifier. In test stage, 3-fold cross validation method was applied to the MNIST handwritten numeral database to evaluate the proposed system performances. Simulation results show that the proposed system has high recognition accuracy.

Swagatam Das, Arijit Biswas, Sambarta Dasgupta, and Ajith Abraham[13] This paper proposed Bacterial foraging optimization algorithm (BFOA) has been widely accepted as a global optimization algorithm of current interest for distributed optimization and control. BFOA is inspired by the social foraging behaviour of *Escherichia coli*. It starts with a lucid outline of the classical BFOA. It then analyses the dynamics of the simulated chemo taxis step in BFOA with the help of a simple mathematical model. It presents a new adaptive variant of BFOA, where the chemo tactic step size is adjusted on the run according to the current fitness of a virtual bacterium. And, analysis of the dynamics of reproduction in BFOA is also discussed and also provides an account of most of the significant applications of BFOA until date.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

This is detailed discussion about handwritten character recognize and include various concepts involved, and boost further advances in the area. The accurate recognition is directly depending on the nature of the material to be read and by its quality. Current research is not directly concern to cursive handwriting and to recognize the child handwriting which require high supervised system . From various studies we have seen that selection of relevant feature extraction and classification technique plays an important role in performance of character recognition rate. This review establishes a complete system that converts scanned images of handwritten characters to text documents. In this paper, we have studied various papers with different algorithm. Each technique have own porn's and con's. But, still there are many premature problems, when multiple optima exist. The performance is degrading. So, In future there is lots of work to remove drawbacks." BFO WITH BPN" should give us good accuracy and increase performance. It may exist multiple optima. It is use for global optimization This material serves as a guide and update for readers working in the Character Recognition area

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