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Studying Different Image Segmentation Techniques in Order to Analyze the Packaging of Broken Tablet Blisters

Dr.Mayank Patel[1] , Ms. Ayushi Ghill[2], Ms.Payal Sachdev[3]
Head, Professor, Department of Computer Science of Engineering, Geetanjali Institute of T echnical Studies, Udaipur, Rajasthan[1]
Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science of Engineering Geetanjali Institute of Technical Studies, Udaipur, Rajasthan[2,3]

hodcse@gits.ac.in 1, ayudhanu17@gmail.com **2, payal.sachdev2011@gmail.com3**

Abstract People suffer from a broad variety of disorders, and in order to recover from them, the appropriate medications are required. Because of this, pharmaceuticals are currently produced on a massive scale, and they are absolutely necessary for the health of humans. Tablet blisters, on the other hand, had the potential to exhibit faults throughout the manufacturing process, such as cracking, shattering, or the absence of tablets or capsules. These defects may have unfavourable effects on the patient since they cause the dosages to be inconsistent when they are consumed. In order to ensure the safety of the general population, manufactured pharmaceuticals are required to undergo exhaustive testing prior to their distribution. It is difficult to manually check for errors of this kind in tablet blisters, which is why automated visual inspection methods such as image segmentation are required. It is of the utmost importance to identify these issues inside the tablet blisters; hence, it is necessary to explore the many detection methods that have been proposed by academics. The purpose of this study is to extensively investigate and assess the methods that are used for defect detection in tablet blisters. This is done with the intention of enhancing pharmaceutical quality control.

Keywords ***Tablet, Image, Detection, pharmaceutical, Drugs, Segmentation, health.***

I. INTRODUCTION

The manufacturing of pharmaceuticals that are essential to human survival is the outcome of the pharmaceutical industry's large-scale activities, which are responsible for developing these drugs. These pharmaceuticals are currently used to treat a broad variety of medical conditions and are essential to the survival of humans. Despite the fact that these drugs are of such critical importance, it is possible that manufacturing faults in tablets might occur at times; hence, rigorous inspection is required. The manual testing of mass-produced tablets, which is both time-consuming and difficult to handle, offers significant challenges. Because of this, automated methods are very necessary in order to identify and efficiently address these issues. Image processing, which provides advanced ways for enhancing and analysing photographs, offers promise in identifying defects in tablet blisters. The process of processing photographs involves modifying them in order to improve their quality or recover information that is significant. It is a kind of signal processing in which a picture is used as the input, and the image itself or relevant elements of it may be used as the output. As a result of the substantial role that digital photographs play in today's society, image processing techniques are becoming more powerful and increasingly necessary.

Image processing techniques are used in order to streamline the inspection process in the context of locating defects in tablet blisters using image processing. Beginning with image acquisition, which refers to the act of taking photographs from cameras in real time, the process typically consists of a number of phases. After then, these photographs are segmented, which means that they are divided into several pieces or regions for the purpose of further investigation. In order to improve the clarity and detail of the image, enhancement techniques may be used. This ensures that any flaws are seen to the greatest extent feasible. One may adjust the image to meet certain requirements by applying filters, such as increasing or decreasing the amount of noise. It is also possible to compress images by utilising techniques that reduce their size, which would result in an increase in the efficiency of both processing and storage. The segmentation process allows for the separation of key parts within the images, which in turn makes it feasible to conduct focused analysis and identify defects. It is possible to extract specific regions of interest via the use of cropping, which is one of the approaches that helps to increase the accuracy and precision of the inspection operation. The challenge of tablet blister defect detection provides a number of different methodologies and areas that may be used to find solutions to the issues. Through the use of cutting-edge methodologies and algorithms, pharmaceutical companies have the potential to

enhance the quality control process, therefore ensuring that patients get pharmaceuticals that are both effective and safe.

II. INSPECTION OF TABLETS

When it comes to the pharmaceutical business, the use of blister packaging for tablets and capsules highlights the importance of precision and perfection in both the manufacturing and packaging of products. The flawlessness of blister packs is of the utmost importance in terms of preserving the product's quality and safeguarding the health of the customer who purchases it. In light of this, it is essential for the processes involved in the production of pharmaceuticals to include a thorough assessment of blister packs. As it turns out, the most effective method for doing so is to make use of a camera-based inspection system. These cutting-edge pieces of machinery are designed to perform rigorous inspections on a broad variety of blister packs, which are used extensively in the pharmaceutical industry. As a result of its powerful capabilities, it is able to conduct exhaustive inspections for any potential flaws that may be present in the tablets or capsules that are stored in the blister packs, therefore ensuring that high quality standards are maintained.

Vision inspection systems are an important technological advancement that has significantly contributed to the identification of defects in blister packing. Furthermore, the capability of these technologies to identify a wide range of defects ensures that complete quality control processes are carried out. The absence of tablets or capsules, the shape of the tablets or capsules, and tablets that are cracked or fractured are all issues that might be identified by vision inspection systems as being among the faults. The size of the pill is also evaluated by these systems, which indicate sections that are either too big or too little. Additionally, these systems detect changes in colour, such as bi- or tri-colored tablets or capsules. The capacity to recognise tablet misalignments is another talent that they possess, which contributes to an even greater improvement in the precision and reliability of the techniques used to verify pharmaceutical packaging. Through the use of visual inspection systems, pharmaceutical companies are able to maintain the highest possible standards of product quality and safety, hence enhancing the trust of their customers in their medications. The inspection sensor is responsible for identifying each tablet blister located inside the inspection system that is represented in Figures 1 and 2. The process of image acquisition begins when a camera is used to capture images of each individual blister. This is the beginning of the method. The photographs that were taken serve as the basis for subsequent image segmentation procedures, which aim to extract valuable characteristics or parameters from each and every blister picture. With the help of meticulous segmentation, it is possible to determine relevant information on the integrity and content of the blister, which enables an accurate assessment of the product's quality. The completion of the image segmentation process, the information that was acquired is analysed in order to search for any potential flaws or irregularities in the tablet blisters. Blisters that are faulty are rapidly identified and removed from the production line by the use of a programmable logic controller, often known as a PLC. By using this automated rejection system, pharmaceutical goods are protected and preserved in their original state. This approach ensures that only blister packs that meet stringent quality criteria are allowed to proceed with the further processing and packaging. This inspection system is designed to maximise accuracy and efficiency in quality control operations within pharmaceutical manufacturing settings. It does this by integrating advanced sensor technology, image processing methodologies, and automated control systems.

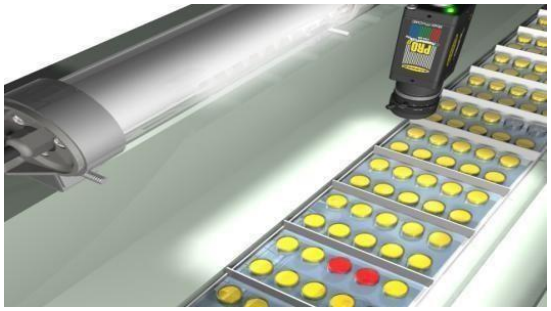

Fig.1: Inspection of tablets in industries

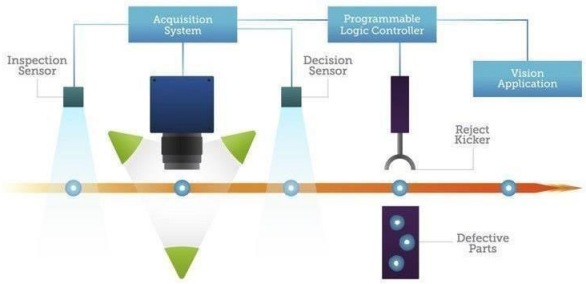

Fig.2:Tablet detecting process

III. TECHNIQUES

The identification of faults in tablet blisters has been the subject of several academic investigations, which have resulted in the development of innovative approaches to a crucial aspect of pharmaceutical quality control. One of these methods is the use of the characteristics of region-based bounding boxes, which was suggested by Sudharshan et al. [1]. This method, which was created in MATLAB, combines median filtering with other techniques in order to reduce noise from photographs while preserving significant edges. This approach uses region-based bounding box features to

precisely delineate tablet boundaries inside blister packs. This method also makes it feasible to do automatic defect identification once the manufacturing process has been completed.

An initial use of median filtering helps to reduce the amount of noise in the image, and a subsequent application of thresholding transforms the grayscale image into a binary representation of the tablet blister. After that, rectangular boxes are constructed around each tablet in the blister pack by using the bounding box function of MATLAB. This allows for the exact definition of the tablet's boundaries. Following that, the system employs area-based features in order to identify various defects, such as cracks, incorrect colours, missing tablets, or changes in tablet sizes. The tablets that are defective are separated from the tablets that are not defective by a series of conditional tests. Figure 3 displays the photo of the tablet blister that was used as input, and Figure 4 displays the image that was created after the bounding box approach was used. Both figures demonstrate the precision and usefulness of the technique.

Fig.3: input image of tablet blister

In their work [2], they demonstrate a complex feature extraction approach for tablet and capsule blisters. This technique offers better capabilities for recognising pills that are missing or damaged inside these blister packs. This paper presents two novel techniques: the Centre of Mass and Colour Segmentation processes. Both of these approaches are new. The centroids of each tablet included in the blister pack have been discovered by the use of the Centre of Mass technique. The presence of the tablet is determined by the centroids being able to be accurately recognised; the absence of centroids indicates that the tablet is either damaged or absent.

The Colour Segmentation Method, on the other hand, makes use of template matching in order to discover colour changes, particularly in blisters on capsules. This method compares two sets of images, one of which contains all capsules and the other of which does not include any capsules. The methodology makes use of colour detection on blister shots. The absence of capsules may be deduced from the disparities in pixel values that are seen in these photographs after a matching method. After obtaining the findings, one is able to determine the total number of capsules that are present.

On the other hand, both technologies demonstrate simplicity and accuracy when it comes to finding defects in tablet and capsule blisters. The input and output photographs for feature extraction that are shown in Figures 4 and 5 demonstrate the efficacy of these approaches in identifying and addressing issues that are associated with pharmaceutical blister packing.

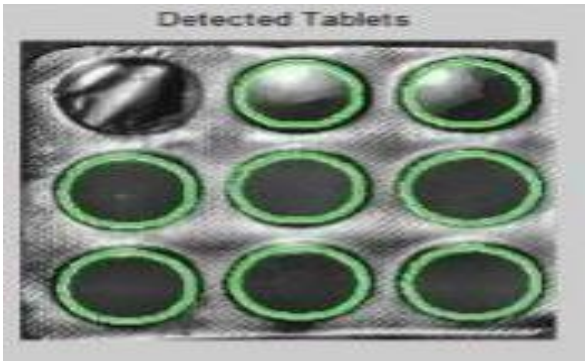

Fig.4: Input image for features extraction

In their work [4], the authors describe a comprehensive system for automating the analysis and validation of tablet blisters. This system is based on entropy-based filtering and histogram processing algorithms. Segmentation, classification/recognition, and pre-processing are the three phases that comprise this technique. It is first necessary to do pre-processing on the tablet blister. During this step, the input image is transformed into a grayscale representation by using a number of different spatial filtering techniques and grey level intensity transformation. Following the completion of the pre-processed binary image, the tablet pill segmentation procedure is carried out by using both horizontal and vertical histograms.

Fig.5: Output image for features extraction

During the third stage, which is known as feature extraction, classification, and recognition, correlation features are extracted from each and every segmented region of the image. Based on these features, the tablet pills are then classified into one of four groups: tablets that are empty, tablets that are half-filled, tablets that are damaged, or tablets

that are legitimate. After being classified, the tablet pill is contained into the blister pack, where it is thereafter designated as just that. Figure 6, in particular, depicts a grayscale picture of a broken tablet, which sheds insight on the pre-processing phase. Figure 8, on the other hand, shows an entropy-filtered image of a broken tablet, which demonstrates how well the recommended technique locates and resolves defects in tablet blisters. By using cutting-edge image processing techniques, this system enhances the accuracy and efficiency of pharmaceutical quality control operations, hence ensuring the safety and integrity of medicine packaging. This is accomplished by integrating these techniques.

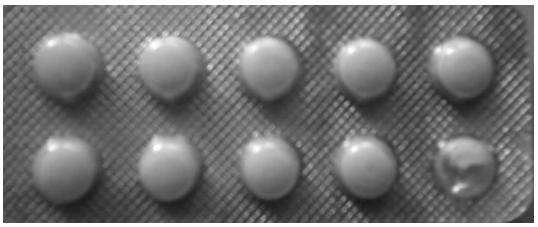

Fig.6:Gray scale image of broken tablet

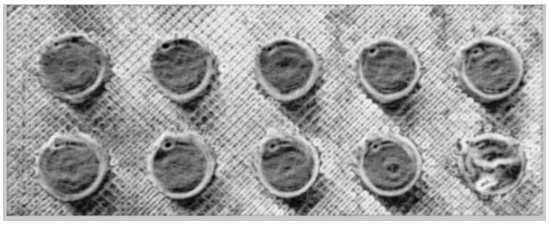

Fig.7: Entropy filtered image of broken tablet

The authors of the paper [5] propose a statistical method for enhancing pharmaceutical quality control by identifying defects in tablet blisters. This method is presented in the work that they have done. When the RGB image of the tablet blister is first converted to grayscale and then binary, it is much simpler to extract the properties of the tablet. On the other hand, noise often arises in the binary picture that is produced; hence, morphological opening techniques are required in order to provide an image of the tablet blister that is free of noise. The boundaries of the tablet blisters are drawn, which enables essential measures such as the area, perimeter, and roundness of each pill contained inside the blister to be established. The values that are closer to one indicate that the tablets have minor faults such as fractures or asymmetrical shapes. These measures play a significant role in determining the tablets' integrity. It is also possible to detect the amount of pills contained inside the blister, which makes the processes of checking the dosage of the medicine and assuring its quality much simpler.

The capability of the system to identify faulty tablets, particularly those with circular shapes, is enhanced even more. Statistical edge detection is responsible for this improvement. Any deviations from the circular zone that has been established are indicative of potential defects, which enables rapid discovery and correction to be carried out. Amazingly, the complete procedure takes less than two seconds, and because of its higher speed, Linux Debian 5 is indicated for maximum performance. The statistical approach that is provided in this study demonstrates the capability to recognise tablet edges and perimeters inside blister packs. This capability creates a significant contribution to the quality assurance systems that are used in the pharmaceutical industry. The input and output photographs that were obtained by the statistical approach are shown in Figures 8 and 9, respectively. These figures illustrate how effectively the system can locate and correct defects in tablet blisters.

Fig.8: Input image for statistical method

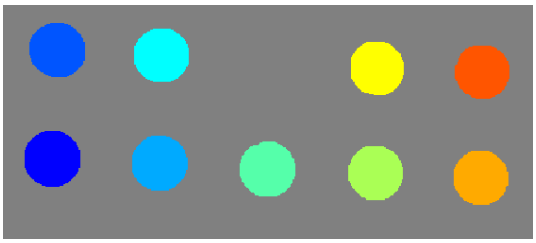

Fig.9: Output image for statistical method

The Canny Edge Detection and RC Algorithm is presented by the authors in their work, which is documented in [6]. This algorithm is comprised of four fundamental phases, which are pre-processing, edge detection, template matching, and matching percentage computation. Due to the fact that it offers a comprehensive solution that addresses all areas of faults linked to the shape and size of tablets or capsules, this method is adaptable to a wide variety of digital image processing scenarios as well as complicated automated image generating and testing systems. This technique is extremely effective in identifying the edges of each tablet contained within the blister, so ensuring that a full quality assessment is carried out. It does this by utilising the powerful characteristics of the Canny and RC algorithms. Using the Prewitt Operator, the Centre of Mass (COM) edge detection technique becomes a notable way for tablet edge identification. This is accomplished by determining the centroids of the tablets inside the blister. This method was

proposed in [7]. As an example of a template for multi-scale edge detectors, this approach demonstrates adaptability in a wide variety of photo processing scenarios. The results of trials suggest that the COM that makes use of the Prewitt Operator Technique is better, particularly in terms of producing accurate results. For the purpose of edge estimate, the COM approach is helpful since it simplifies the calculation of tablet radii included inside the blister. It makes it possible to count the capsules by accurately measuring the distance between the pixels on the tablet border and the centre of mass, which contributes to a more comprehensive assessment of the product's features and characteristics. The article [8] presents a unique approach to the examination of tablet blisters. This approach makes use of Fourier descriptors for the extraction of features and Support Vector Machines (SVM) for the classification of results. Experiments have shown that SVM classifiers are able to handle high-dimensional samples of recovered tablet characteristics, which demonstrates the efficacy and utility of this technology in pharmaceutical tablet inspection systems. This technique is able to extract boundary features from tablet pictures in an efficient manner.With the use of corner detection, a blister inspection feature extraction and pattern recognition approach is shown in [9]. This method is able to accurately identify faults in pharmaceutical products based on their form, size, and surface qualities. By applying the Harris algorithm, it is possible to easily identify key sections inside the tablet blister photograph. This is particularly beneficial when comparing test pictures to template photos. In the first step of preprocessing, picture enhancement is performed. The median filtering technique has been shown to be the most effective denoising approach for maintaining the integrity of the input image for further analysis. In conjunction with one another, these cutting-edge methods contribute to the enhancement of pharmaceutical quality control systems, which in turn ensures that patients get pharmaceuticals that are both effective and safe.

With its three fundamental components—detection, description, and matching—the Harris Algorithm is an indispensable instrument for the extraction of features and the identification of patterns within tablet tablets. In the beginning, the corner score for each pixel is computed, and then interest places are detected and recognised inside the tablet image. As a result, the process of extracting vector feature descriptors is simplified by constructing a correlation matrix around these significant points. Those spots that exhibit remarkable corner responses that exceed a specific level are the ones that have the potential to be fascinating. The vector feature descriptors that are able to capture important aspects of the tablet image are obtained around each interest point. The spots that stand out the most are the centres of correlation matrices, which are subsequently chosen via the process of non-maximum suppression in order to reflect local maxima. Discovering correlations between descriptors from a variety of viewpoints is accomplished via the use of autocorrelation. By highlighting any abnormalities that may exist inside the blister, any discrepancies in correlation make it possible to conduct a comprehensive defect diagnostic. Some of the defect components that may be found in prescription pharmaceuticals are surface imperfections, size variations, and form abnormalities. These approaches make it feasible to analyse prescription drugs. By using the Harris Algorithm, pharmaceutical quality control systems are enhanced, and the integrity of pharmaceuticals as well as the safety of customers are ensured.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

When it comes to identifying flaws in tablet or capsule blisters, automated visual inspection of pharmaceutical medications is very necessary. This inspection makes use of modern image processing algorithms to ensure reliable analysis. The identification of flaws in tablet blisters encompasses a broad variety of products in the industrial inspection sector, which shows the need of using trustworthy inspection methods. For the purpose of conducting a comprehensive analysis of a wide variety of methods for recognising cracked tablets, this research makes use of image processing techniques within the context of an object-oriented image processing framework. The research investigates a broad variety of algorithms that have the potential to detect irregularities in tablet or capsule blisters. These algorithms also provide versatility in a variety of digital image processing settings, in addition to providing highly sophisticated automated production and testing systems. These proposed strategies have been shown to be helpful in detecting pills that are either missing or damaged, which ultimately leads to an improvement in pharmaceutical quality control. The methods that are outlined in this article provide practical solutions for pharmaceutical inspection processes that are simple to implement and produce accurate results. These methods have been shown to be successful in a wide range of circumstances, including a variety of tablet strips and capsule blisters, and they consistently provide positive outcomes in each and every assessment. Through the meticulous investigation of image processing algorithms, our study contributes to the advancement of pharmaceutical quality assurance systems. As a result, patients are guaranteed the safety and integrity of their prescription package.

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