Image Driven Search Engines

Jamshid Sadeghiani
University of Tehran

Nader Naghshineh
University of Tehran

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Jamshid Sadeghiani and Nader Naghshineh, University of Tehran
Email: Sadqiani@ut.ac.ir and NNaghsh@Ut.ac.ir

The Birth of Digital Imaging (whether still or moving) coupled with affordability of internet-driven sharing points, has made image indexing and recognition an exciting area of challenge. While there are several web-based search engines for still images, they largely rely on human-assisted indexing and machine generated measurement indicators (akin to what a digital camera automatically packages with an image). Microsoft software Photosynthe gives a glimpse of what sort of discoveries awaits us in digital image domain on the web.

Imagine the Saint Marco Square in the City Venice, made up of a composite mosaic of thousands of images taken by hundreds of tourists who have shared their photos on the internet. The present paper presents our initial findings regarding the feasibility of developing an image search engine based on facial recognition software. While such search engines would be initially slow on the onset (first image search would take three months), using a number of techniques such as grid computing, it is possible to improve the speed to what a user is used to on a popular web search engine such teoma or alltheweb.