Abstract

In the age of information technology, a large number of images are generated at 24/7 which leads to a growing interest for searching out similar images from the large databases/data warehouses. For searching an image from the database, images need to be described by certain features. The most important feature to describe an image is its shape. Now-a-days, shape is used for image retrieval. Description of Shape is denoted by various techniques which are generally divided into two broad categories- Region based descriptor and Contour based descriptor. Contour based descriptor considers the whole area of the image while region based descriptor considers the boundary lines of the image. In this paper, shape based descriptors are reviewed. Some important shape descriptors have been identified for image retrieval according to the standard principles.

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**Index Terms**

Computer Science  
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**Keywords**

Content based image Retrieval (CBIR), Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT), Shape based
Descriptor, Fourier Descriptor (FD), Wavelet Descriptor (WD).