

# Line detection in images showing significant lens distortion and application to distortion correction

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## Abstract

Lines are one of the basic primitives used by the perceptual system to analyze and interpret a scene. Therefore, line detection is a very important issue for the robustness and flexibility of Computer Vision systems. However, in the case of images showing a significant lens distortion, standard line detection methods fail because lines are not straight. In this paper we present a new technique to deal with this problem: we propose to extend the usual Hough representation by introducing a new parameter which corresponds to the lens distortion, in such a way that the search space is a three-dimensional space, which includes orientation, distance to the origin and also distortion. Using the collection of distorted lines which have been recovered, we are able to estimate the lens distortion, remove it and create a new distortion-free image by using a two-parameter lens distortion model. We present some

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experiments in a variety of images which show the ability of the proposed approach to extract lines in images showing a significant lens distortion.

*Keywords:* Line detection, lens distortion, Hough transform.

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## 1. Introduction

Most Computer Vision algorithms usually rely on the well-known pinhole camera model (see for instance Faugeras (1993), Faugeras et al. (2001) or Tsai (1987)). This linear model assumes that the projection of 3D lines onto the camera plane are 2D lines. However, wide-angle lenses, especially most commercially available low-cost cameras, introduce a severe optical distortion that must be corrected to account for the foundations of the 3D to 2D projection.

The distortion is mainly due to the imperfection of the lens and the misalignment of the optical system. Among all possible distortions, lens radial distortion is considered the most important for low-cost cameras. It causes barrel distortion at short focal lengths as well as pincushion distortion at longer focal lengths.

The basic standard model for barrel and pincushion distortion correction (see for instance Brown (1971), Hartley and Zisserman (2004) or McGlone (1980)) is the simple radial distortion model given by the expression

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{x} - x_c \\ \hat{y} - y_c \end{pmatrix} = L(r) \begin{pmatrix} x - x_c \\ y - y_c \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

where  $(x, y)$  is the original (distorted) point,  $(\hat{x}, \hat{y})$  is the corrected (undistorted) point,  $(x_c, y_c)$  is the center of the camera distortion model (the center

19 of the image),  $r = \sqrt{(x - x_c)^2 + (y - y_c)^2}$  and  $L(r)$  is the function which de-  
20 fines the shape of the distortion model.  $L(r)$  can be approximated by a  
21 Taylor expansion as follows:

$$L(r) = k_0 + k_1 r^2 + k_2 r^4 + \dots, \quad (2)$$

22 where the set  $\mathbf{k} = (k_0, k_1, \dots, k_{N_k})^T$  consists of the distortion parameters  
23 which must be estimated from image measurements, usually by means of  
24 nonlinear optimization techniques by imposing the requirement that 3D lines  
25 in the image must be projected onto 2D straight lines.

26 Two alternatives are possible to identify and select the visible straight  
27 lines in the scene: one (standard or *classical*) which uses human intervention  
28 (Alvarez et al., 2008; Brown, 1971; Devernay and Faugeras, 2001) and a  
29 more recent approach that identifies a minimum set of straight lines with  
30 no human intervention (Bukhari and Dailey, 2012). The classical approach,  
31 although more robust than the unsupervised techniques, becomes slow and  
32 inefficient when processing large sets of images, where an automatic method  
33 seems more adequate.

34 The objective of this work is twofold. On the one hand, we propose a  
35 new unsupervised approach to detect lines in images showing a significant  
36 lens radial distortion. The identification of those lines is performed through  
37 a three-dimensional Hough space which includes the radial distortion as a  
38 parameter. This approach is new in the sense that the lens distortion is  
39 embedded into the Hough space and, in this manner, a better estimation of  
40 actual straight lines is obtained. On the other hand, provided the existing  
41 straight lines, we obtain the corresponding distortion-free image.

42 The organization of this paper is as follows: Section 2 summarizes the  
43 state of the art of radial distortion models, describing those requiring human  
44 intervention as well as the most recent approaches. Section 3 presents our  
45 adaptation of the Hough transform to detect the lines in the scene when the  
46 image shows a strong distortion. Section 4 deals with the application of the  
47 proposed method to a relevant problem in Computer Vision: the correction  
48 of lens distortion in images showing radial distortion. Section 5 explains  
49 the experimental setup and the evaluation of the proposal on several images  
50 showing significant radial distortion. Finally, some conclusions are drawn.

## 51 **2. Related work**

52 This section deals with some of the relevant literature regarding the radial  
53 distortion. Then, a revision of how these methods are applied to images is  
54 presented.

55 During the last decades, several methods for removing the radial dis-  
56 tortion from images have been extensively researched. There exist mainly  
57 two widely accepted lens distortion models: the polynomial model and the  
58 division model.

59 The polynomial model (see equation (2)), has been widely applied because  
60 it provides an excellent trade-off between complexity and accuracy. The  
61 most applied polynomial model is the even-order polynomial model, which is  
62 coherent with the fact that the even distortion parameters are more relevant  
63 than the odd ones (see for instance Brown (1971)).

64 The complexity of the polynomial model is given by the number of terms  
65 of the Taylor expansion used to approximate  $L(r)$ . Some authors use a

66 single parameter model (Devernay and Faugeras, 2001), (Wang et al., 2009)  
67 which, as shown in (Strand and Hayman, 2005), provides similar results as  
68 the division model for the case of also using a single distortion parameter.

69 The one-parameter model, as (Devernay and Faugeras, 2001) reports,  
70 achieves an accuracy of about 0.1 pixels in image space using lenses exhibiting  
71 large distortion, when used for camera calibration (Faugeras and Toscani,  
72 1987). However, (Devernay and Faugeras, 2001) also reports that for cases  
73 of significant radial distortion, such as fish-eye lenses or higher distortion  
74 lenses, the one-parameter model is not recommended.

75 The two-parameter model is the usual approach in some related works  
76 (see for instance Kang (2000), or Alvarez et al. (2008)) because it is simple,  
77 accurate, and can be estimated using just image information (known lines  
78 in the scene provide enough information for simple cases). In particular, Al-  
79 varez, Gomez and Sendra (Alvarez et al., 2008) proposed an algebraic method  
80 to compute lens distortion models by correcting the line distortion induced  
81 by the lens distortion. This algebraic model is suitable for correcting signif-  
82 icant radial distortion and is also highly efficient in terms of computational  
83 cost. An on-line demo of the implementation of this algebraic method can  
84 be found in (Alvarez et al., 2010).

85 Other more complex two-parameter radial distortion models include depth  
86 field estimation (Alvarez et al., 2011; Bräuer-Burchardt et al., 2006; Fraser  
87 and Shortis, 1992) or zoom effects (Alvarez et al., 2012).

88 Once a lens distortion model has been selected, we must decide how to  
89 apply it. Plumb-line methods (Alvarez et al., 2008, 2011; Brown, 1971; Dev-  
90 ernay and Faugeras, 2001; Wang et al., 2009) rely on the human-supervised

91 identification of some known straight lines in one or more images (a user  
92 identifies the lines and *manually* marks some points on the distorted lines).

93 As a consequence of the human intervention, these methods are robust, in-  
94 dependent of the camera parameters, and do not need any calibration pattern  
95 (see Zhang (2000) for a point correspondence method) or images acquired un-  
96 der a particular camera motion (see for instance, Faugeras et al. (1992) or  
97 Ramalingam et al. (2010)). However, these methods are slow and tedious for  
98 the case of dealing with large sets of images. From the set of selected lines,  
99 a nonlinear optimization problem is stated in terms of minimizing the mean  
100 square error between the observed and the predicted image points.

101 Recently, some new approaches not relying on user intervention have  
102 emerged. In (Gonzalez-Aguilera et al., 2011), Canny edge detector and Burns  
103 segmentation algorithm are used to automatically extract the set of lines from  
104 a single image. In addition, it is required to identify at least a vanishing point,  
105 which is done by using the Gaussian sphere method (Barnard, 1983).

106 In (Bukhari and Dailey, 2010) and (Bukhari and Dailey, 2012), an au-  
107 tomatic method to correct lens radial distortion is discussed. This method  
108 works on a single image and no human intervention or special calibration pat-  
109 tern are required. The method applies Fitzgibbon’s division model (Fitzgib-  
110 bon, 2001) using a single distortion parameter to estimate the distortion  
111 from a set of automatically detected non-overlapping circular arcs. After-  
112 wards, a nonlinear optimization is carried out to improve the estimation of  
113 the distortion parameter in the sense of least squares metric.

114 The proposal in (Bukhari and Dailey, 2012) works well for a wide number  
115 of images showing radial distortion, but, for some cases, it is unable to effi-

116 ciently correct the distortion due to some problems related to the extraction  
117 of the straight lines within the image (it is not able to identify very long  
118 lines, but a piecewise version of them).

119 In the next section, the method we used to extract the lines is detailed.  
120 As main differences with (Bukhari and Dailey, 2012), we consider only the  
121 longest lines within the image (instead of circular arcs) and a fast alge-  
122 braic two-parameter lens distortion model is applied (in (Bukhari and Dailey,  
123 2012), Fitzgibbon’s one-parameter model is used).

### 124 **3. A new Hough space including a lens distortion parameter**

125 The Hough transform is a widely used technique in image processing  
126 which allows extracting the relevant shapes in an image. The shapes which  
127 are searched for must be expressed in a parametric form, and therefore, it  
128 is mainly used for the detection of geometric shapes such as lines, circles or  
129 ellipses. It was originally conceived to identify lines (Hough, 1959), but the  
130 generalized Hough transform was later introduced to deal with more complex  
131 shapes (Duda and Hart, 1972; Ballard, 1981).

132 In order to find imperfect instances of the required shape, the Hough  
133 transform uses a voting procedure within a parameter space. This translates  
134 into an array where the votes are accumulated. Finally, the local maxima  
135 within this array provide the most reliable instances of the shape. One of the  
136 main advantages of the Hough transform is the fact that it is not affected by  
137 gaps in the contours of the shapes. However, one of its main drawbacks is  
138 the computational cost, which mainly depends on the number of parameters,  
139 i.e. the degrees of freedom of the shape, and the number of values they can

140 take.

141 The problem of extracting straight lines from a single image has been  
142 extensively researched (Chung and Lin, 2010; Guru et al., 2004; Lee et al.,  
143 2006). However, in our particular case, we try to extract lines in images  
144 suffering from a significant distortion, which stands as a complex pattern  
145 recognition problem. If distortion is not taken into account, the classical  
146 Hough transform fails, since the points belonging to the same line do not  
147 vote for the same set of parameters, thus being considered as segments of  
148 different lines. For this reason, a distortion parameter should be included in  
149 the Hough space. Hence, a line in our space is described by three parameters:  
150 distance to the origin, orientation and distortion.

151 For carrying out our voting procedure, we first extract the edge points in  
152 the image and estimate the magnitude and orientation of the edge. Those  
153 points where the magnitude is significant vote for a set of lines in our Hough  
154 space. In particular, for every value of the distortion parameter, we deter-  
155 mine the lines whose orientation differs less than a certain threshold from  
156 the orientation of the edge and are close enough to the point. In order to  
157 give a higher weight to the closer points, the vote  $v$ , which is added to the  
158 corresponding line, is calculated as

$$v = 1/(1 + d), \quad (3)$$

159 where  $d$  is the distance from the point to the line.

160 We can assume that the distortion which affects all lines within an image  
161 is the same for all of them. This means that a single value for the distortion  
162 parameter is estimated for the whole image. We remark that, at this stage,  
163 a lens distortion with a single parameter is used. Furthermore, the longer

164 the lines, the more reliable the information they provide. For these reasons,  
 165 those lines which are too short are directly rejected, and we then select only  
 166 the  $n$  longest lines for each possible value of the distortion parameter. The  
 167 actual value will make the edge points fit into the line equations, instead of  
 168 randomly voting for arbitrary lines.

169 Once the  $n$  longest lines have been selected for every value of the distortion  
 170 parameter, we must estimate which is the right one. We calculate a measure  
 171 for the reliability of each value of the distortion parameter which favors those  
 172 lines with a higher score and, therefore, the values for which the longest lines  
 173 have been detected. The reliability measure  $r_i$  for the  $i^{th}$  value is

$$r_i = \sum_{j=1}^n (s_j^i)^{\frac{3}{2}}, \quad (4)$$

174 where  $s_j^i$  is the total score of the  $j^{th}$  line of the  $i^{th}$  value. Since  $x \rightarrow x^{\frac{3}{2}}$  is  
 175 a convex function, those sets which contain the longest lines will receive a  
 176 higher score.

177 We use a single parameter distortion model based on the following func-  
 178 tion:

$$L(r) = 1 + k_1 r^2, \quad (5)$$

179 where  $k_1$  is the distortion parameter. When the lens distortion is corrected,  
 180 the distance  $r$  from a point to the center of distortion is modified in the  
 181 following way:

$$\hat{r} = (1 + k_1 r^2)r. \quad (6)$$

182 In particular, if we note by  $r_{max}$  the distance from center of distortion

183 to the furthest point in the image, and we express the variation of  $r_{max}$  in  
 184 terms of a percentage  $p$ , we obtain that

$$p = \frac{\hat{r}_{max} - r_{max}}{r_{max}} = \frac{(1 + k_1 r_{max}^2) r_{max} - r_{max}}{r_{max}} = k_1 r_{max}^2, \quad (7)$$

185 and, therefore, according to the percentage  $p$ , we can write  $k_1$  as

$$k_1 = \frac{p}{r_{max}^2}. \quad (8)$$

186 Instead of directly using the value of  $k_1$  in the Hough space, we work  
 187 with the normalized parameter  $p$ . One important advantage of taking the  
 188 percentage  $p$  as the distortion parameter in the Hough space is that this  
 189 parameter is normalized in terms of distortion correction and does not depend  
 190 on the image resolution. On the other hand, the transformation given in (6)  
 191 must be an increasing function in the interval  $[0, r_{max}]$  (otherwise the lens  
 192 distortion model is not well defined). In particular, its derivative must be  
 193 positive, which leads to the following conclusion:

$$1 + 3k_1 r^2 > 0 \quad \forall r \in [0, r_{max}] \Rightarrow k_1 > -\frac{1}{3r_{max}^2}. \quad (9)$$

194 We observe that, in terms of  $p$ , the above condition leads to

$$p > -1/3. \quad (10)$$

195 The distribution of the votes for a given value of the distortion parameter  
 196 is illustrated in Fig. 1. If no distortion is considered (see Fig. 1(a)), the  
 197 votes are not so clearly concentrated, since the points do not fit into the  
 198 line equations in a satisfactory way and different segments of the same line  
 199 vote for different equations in the Hough space. On the other hand, when

200 distortion is included (see Fig. 1(b)), there is a matching between the points  
201 and the equations, so that the location of the maximum in the Hough space  
202 is more clearly determined.

#### 203 **4. Lens distortion correction**

204 An interesting use of the proposed automatic line detection method is  
205 to apply it to correct the distortion in images showing a significant radial  
206 distortion caused by the lens. By using the technique presented above, the  
207 lines within the image are detected. Note that, although the method we  
208 propose will work for the case of detecting only one line, the total RMS error  
209 (sum of the squares of the distances from the undistorted points to the lines  
210 for all the detected lines) is strongly reduced when dealing with more lines.  
211 For the set of detected lines we apply the two-parameter model, which has  
212 shown excellent performances when correcting the radial distortion from a  
213 single image (Alvarez et al., 2008). Additionally, we will assume that the  
214 center of distortion is the center of the image.

215 Figure 2 illustrates the stages in the process to correct the distortion.  
216 First, the edges are extracted using a subpixel edge detection algorithm.  
217 Second, the improved Hough transform is used to extract the lines by con-  
218 sidering the distortion parameter in the Hough space. This provides an initial  
219 approximation for the model. Finally, the two-parameter distortion model is  
220 optimized and applied to correct the distortion.

221 To obtain the distortion-free image  $I$ , it is necessary to calculate the  
222 corresponding pixel position in the distorted image  $I'$  for each pixel of  $I$ .  
223 Then, by means of biquadratic interpolation, the pixel intensity is determined

224 and  $I$  can suitably be rebuilt. To perform this mapping, it is necessary to  
 225 invert the radial distortion model. Therefore, we look for a radial function  
 226  $G(\hat{r})$  such that

$$\begin{pmatrix} x - x_c \\ y - y_c \end{pmatrix} = G(\hat{r}) \begin{pmatrix} \hat{x} - x_c \\ \hat{y} - y_c \end{pmatrix}, \quad (11)$$

227 where

$$\hat{r} = \sqrt{(\hat{x} - x_c)^2 + (\hat{y} - y_c)^2}. \quad (12)$$

228 From the above expression, we obtain that

$$r = G(\hat{r})\hat{r}. \quad (13)$$

229 On the other hand, we have that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{x} - x_c \\ \hat{y} - y_c \end{pmatrix} = L(r) \begin{pmatrix} x - x_c \\ y - y_c \end{pmatrix}, \quad (14)$$

230 and, therefore,

$$\hat{r} = L(G(\hat{r})\hat{r})G(\hat{r})\hat{r}. \quad (15)$$

231 So we conclude that  $G(\hat{r})$  is a root of the polynomial

$$P(\lambda) = 1 - L(\lambda\hat{r})\lambda = 1 - \sum_{j=0}^{N_k} k_j \hat{r}^j \lambda^{j+1}. \quad (16)$$

232 In order to minimize the distance between the distorted and undistorted  
 233 points, we choose, among all possible real roots of  $P(\lambda)$ , the one nearest to  
 234 1.

## 235 5. Experimental results

236 In order to test our technique, we have applied it to some images showing  
 237 a significant distortion. A range of possible distortion values are tested with

238 the aim of finding the value which makes the points fit best in the line  
239 equations.

240 Our Hough space is a three-dimensional discrete space in which the distort-  
241 tion parameter, the orientation and the distance to the origin are discretized  
242 within their respective ranges, i.e.  $[-1/3, 1]$  for the percentage of correction  
243  $p$  (the lower bound is given by the condition (10) and the upper bound was  
244 fixed in order to allow up to a 100% of distortion correction radial variation),  
245  $[0, \pi]$  for the orientation, and  $[-d, d]$  for the distance to the origin (where  
246  $d = \sqrt{(image\ width)^2 + (image\ height)^2}$ ).

247 Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6 illustrate the application of the line detection process  
248 to the correction of the distortion in some images. From the gray-level image,  
249 the edges are extracted. They are used in the voting procedure to identify  
250 the lines (we use different colors to distinguish the lines which have been  
251 recognized) and determine the most likely value for the distortion parameter.  
252 From this distortion parameter, the two-parameter model is estimated and  
253 the image is corrected, as explained in section 4. Figure 3 ( $2731 \times 1822$  pixels)  
254 contains a calibration pattern in which 24 lines are visible. As observed in  
255 Fig. 3(c), when distortion is not taken into account, the lines which are  
256 far away from the center (and therefore more affected by the distortion) are  
257 not completely identified. In addition, some segments which should match  
258 the same line equation are considered as parts of different lines (see, for  
259 instance, the upper sides of the squares in the second row, which appear  
260 in different colors, since they have not been associated). However, when  
261 distortion is considered, all the segments of the 24 lines match their equations  
262 and are perfectly recognized (see Fig. 3(d)). Since these lines are the basis

263 for correcting the distortion, and the longer the lines, the more useful the  
264 information they provide, when the distortion parameter is not considered in  
265 the Hough transform, the distortion is only slightly corrected (see Fig. 3(e)).  
266 Nevertheless, when the lines have been identified using the Hough transform  
267 which includes the distortion parameter, the resulting distortion-free image  
268 is much more satisfactory (see Fig. 3(f)). Since the correction modifies the  
269 size of the resulting images, they have been scaled to the size of the original  
270 images for presentation purposes.

271 In Fig. 4 ( $2707 \times 1800$  pixels) and Fig.5 ( $2881 \times 1909$  pixels), when  
272 the distortion parameter is not considered, many lines are not detected (e.g.  
273 left side of the frame or top of the building). However, the inclusion of the  
274 distortion parameter in the Hough space allows us to detect more lines, and  
275 the longest ones are not split (different segments which appear in a different  
276 color when this parameter is not taken into account, are now associated to  
277 the same line). As observed in Fig. 4(f) and Fig. 5(f), the frame and the  
278 building are almost perfectly lined-up after the distortion has been corrected.

279 Figure 6 ( $2560 \times 1920$  pixels) is special, since this case presents a consid-  
280 erable pincushion type distortion. Although some lines are detected without  
281 including the distortion parameter, the upper and lower horizontal lines,  
282 which are strongly affected by the pincushion distortion, are only detected  
283 when the distortion parameter is considered. For that reason, the result in  
284 Fig. 6(f) shows an almost perfectly lined-up door.

285 Figures 7 ( $1024 \times 680$  pixels)<sup>1</sup> and 8( $1024 \times 510$  pixels)<sup>2</sup> have been ob-

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<sup>1</sup>“Usno” by US Air Force CC0 <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Usno-amc.jpg>

<sup>2</sup>“Church Street” by Gryffindor CC0 [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:90\\_Church\\_Street\\_fisheye.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:90_Church_Street_fisheye.jpg)

286 tained from a publicly available database. They are both characterized by  
287 a strong fish-eye distortion which bends the straight lines very much and  
288 makes them extremely difficult to extract. As observed, long straight lines  
289 are split into different segments when the distortion parameter is not in-  
290 cluded. However, using the improved Hough transform which includes the  
291 distortion parameter allows identifying long lines (see Fig. 7(d) and 8(d))  
292 and correcting the distortion in a quite satisfactory way (see Fig. 7(f) and  
293 8(f)).

294 In these experiments, instead of finding *ad hoc* values for each situation,  
295 we have used the same set of parameters for all of them. For instance, using  
296 figure 3(a) as a reference, we have set the number of lines to be selected for  
297 every value of the distortion parameter to 24, which is the number of lines  
298 in the calibration pattern.

299 Figure 9 illustrates how the maximum number of votes varies within the  
300 Hough space according to the distortion parameter. In these examples we can  
301 see that, when we approach the actual value of the parameter, the maximum  
302 increases, due to the fact that the edge points fit in the line equations. As  
303 observed, the calibration pattern in Fig. 3 and the painting in Fig. 4 present  
304 a clear peak in the maximum value. For the building in Fig. 5, the peak is  
305 softer, since the quality of the available information is lower. As expected,  
306 for the door in Fig. 6, which has pincushion distortion, the value of the  
307 distortion parameter for which the maximum is reached is negative. For the  
308 images in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8, which present fish-eye distortion, the magnitude  
309 of  $p$  is much higher.

310 Table 1 shows some quantitative results which illustrate how the introduc-

Image	Number of points ND	Number of points	Correction ND	Correction
Pattern	11984	19277	-0.27%	9.40%
Painting	11845	17881	0.92%	8.24%
Building	9524	11921	0.20%	10.75%
Door	11965	14350	-1.63%	-9.52%
Usno	1572	2585	8.19%	45.38%
Church street	1727	1974	0.09%	59.76%

Table 1: Comparison of the number of points detected and the percentage of correction between the models with and without the distortion parameter (ND stands for No Distortion, i.e. when the distortion parameter is not taken into account).

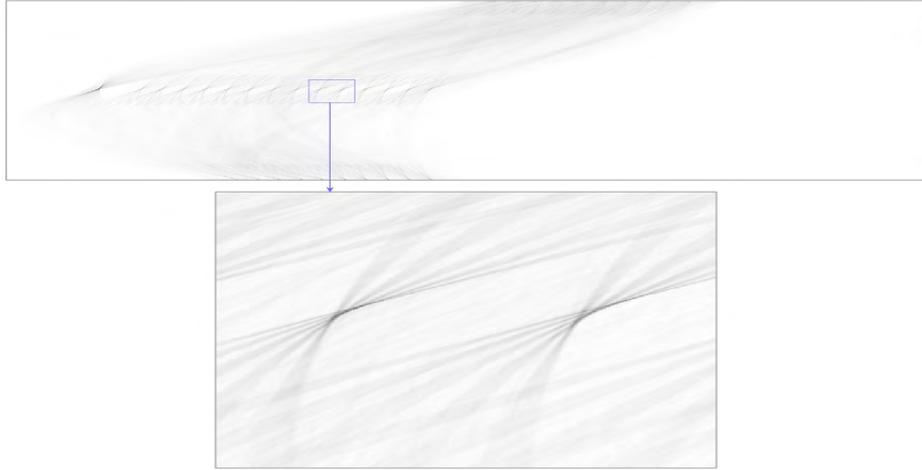
311 tion of the distortion parameter in the Hough space provides a more accurate  
 312 detection of the lines and a better correction of the distortion. Firstly, we  
 313 have considered the number of points in the lines which have been detected.  
 314 As observed, it is considerably higher in all images when the Hough space  
 315 includes the distortion parameter. Secondly, we have compared the percent-  
 316 age of correction introduced in Eq.(7). When the distortion parameter is  
 317 not included, the magnitude of the correction is extremely low and even the  
 318 sign may be wrong (see, for instance, the pattern). This does not allow  
 319 obtaining satisfactory undistorted images. However, when the Hough space  
 320 with distortion parameter is used, both the sign and the magnitude of the  
 321 correction are coherent with the distortion of the images, which results in  
 322 quite satisfactory undistorted images (as expected, it is negative for the case  
 323 of pincushion distortion, as in Fig. 6).

## 324 **6. Conclusions**

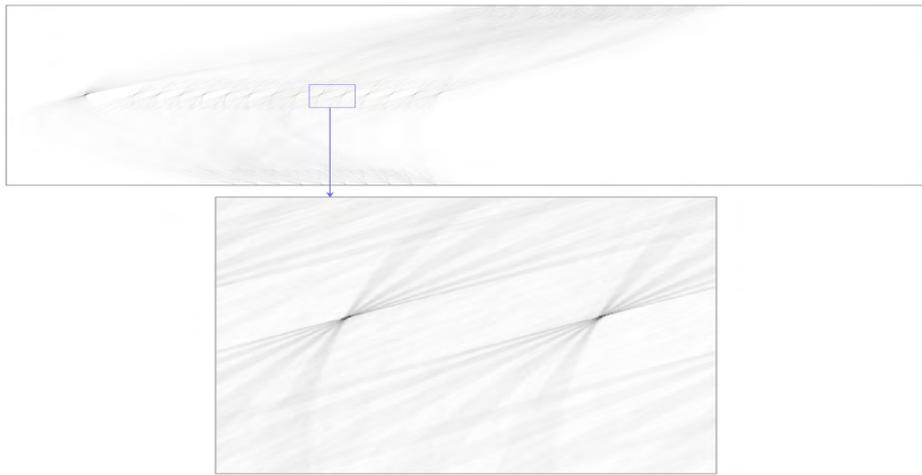
325 In this paper we have presented a new approach to detect lines in images  
326 showing a significant lens radial distortion. The technique introduced is  
327 automatic and is mainly intended for images containing the projection of  
328 visible 3D lines. The identification of the lines is performed by means of a new  
329 Hough transform which includes the radial distortion as a parameter. Using  
330 a three-dimensional Hough space, we are able to detect the lines and estimate  
331 the distortion parameter. Once the lines have been detected, an algebraic lens  
332 distortion model with two distortion parameters is applied to estimate and  
333 correct the lens distortion. Therefore, this method automatically recognizes  
334 the distorted lines and provides a distortion-free image, more suitable for a  
335 postprocessing analysis. We have presented a variety of experiments on real  
336 images where we show that the proposed method allows to remove effectively  
337 the lens distortion and outperforms the results obtained using the standard  
338 Hough transform.

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(a)



(b)

Figure 1: General view and zoom of the distribution of the votes within the Hough space for the pattern in figure 3: (a) without considering the distortion parameter; (b) using the distortion value for which the maximum is reached. The horizontal direction represents the distance to the origin and the vertical direction represents the orientation of the lines.

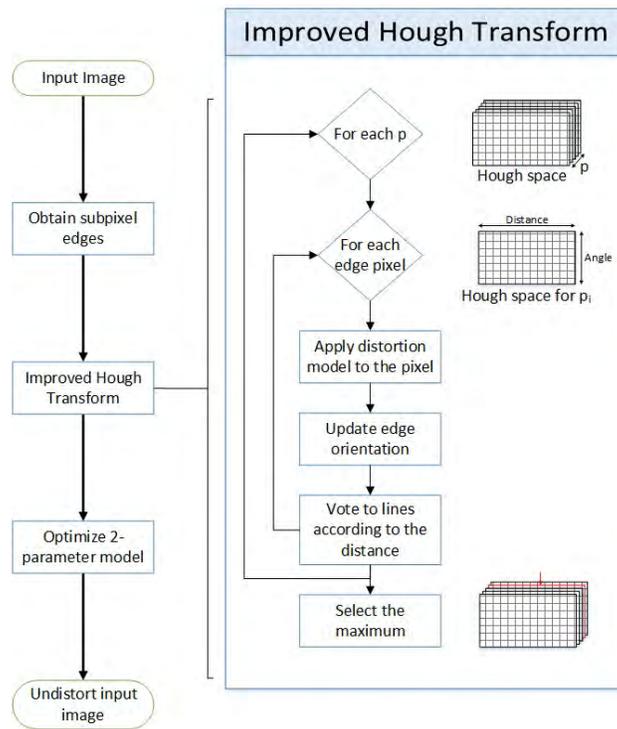


Figure 2: Flowchart for the correction of the distortion, including the stage corresponding to the improved Hough transform.

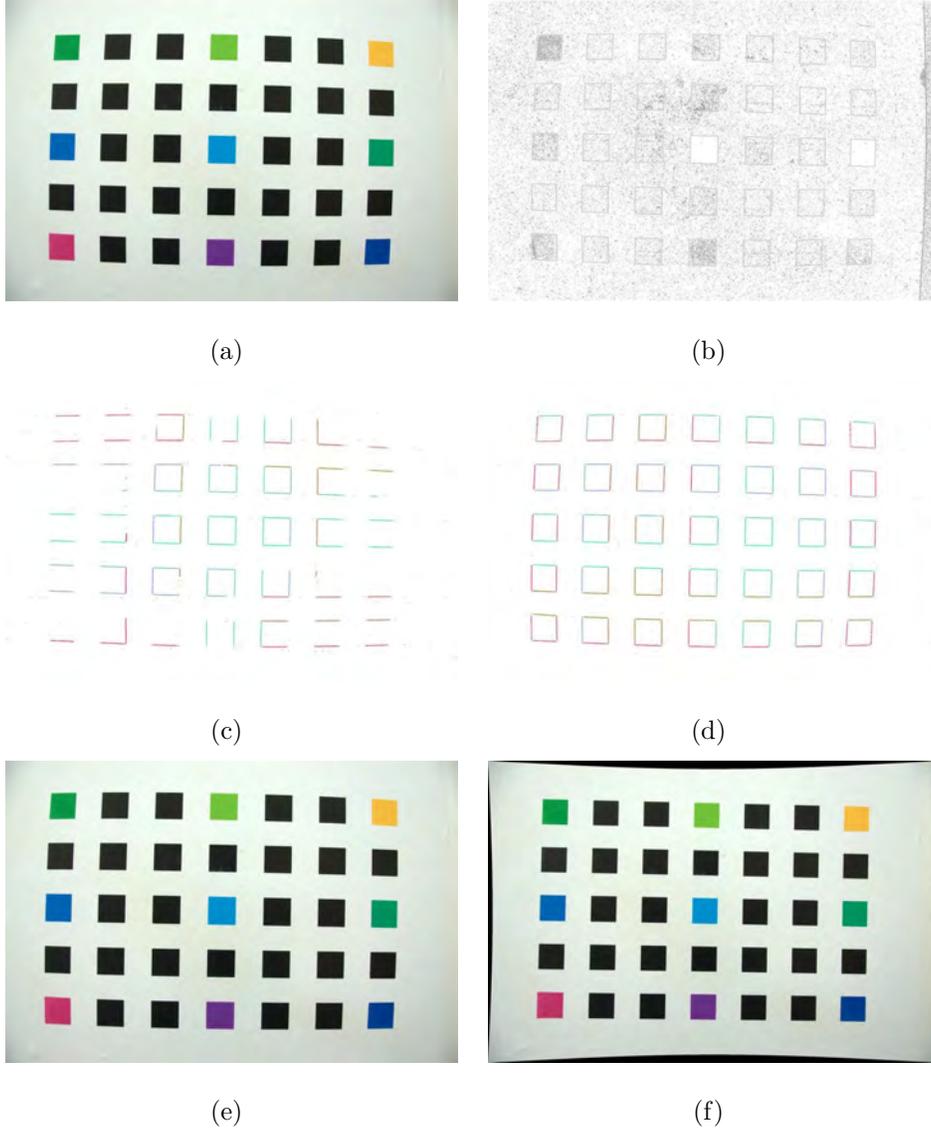


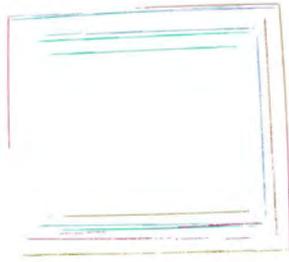
Figure 3: Lens distortion correction: (a) Original image, (b) edges extracted from the image, (c) lines using the Hough transform without considering the distortion parameter, (d) lines using the improved Hough transform considering the distortion parameter, (e) undistorted image from the 2 parameter model using lines in (c), and (f) undistorted image from the 2 parameter model using lines in (d) ( $k_1 = 4.51 \times 10^{-3}$ ;  $k_2 = -3.79 \times 10^{-11}$ ).



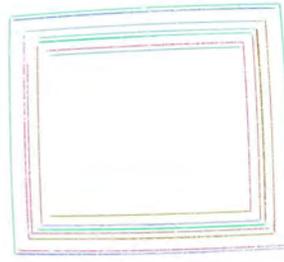
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

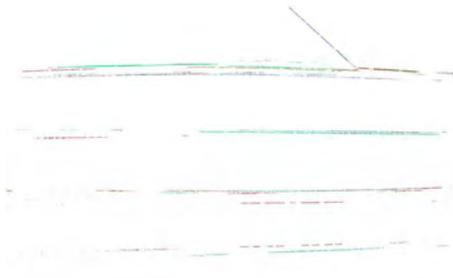
Figure 4: Lens distortion correction: (a) Original image, (b) edges extracted from the image, (c) lines using the Hough transform without considering the distortion parameter, (d) lines using the improved Hough transform considering the distortion parameter, (e) undistorted image from the 2 parameter model using lines in (c), and (f) undistorted image from the 2 parameter model using lines in (d) ( $k_1 = 3.90 \times 10^{-3}$ ;  $k_2 = -2.97 \times 10^{-15}$ ).



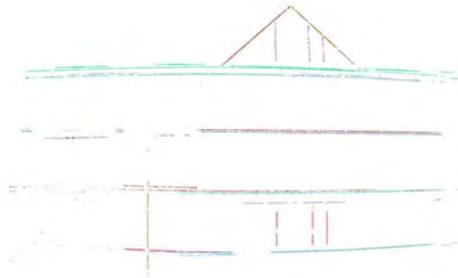
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

Figure 5: Lens distortion correction: (a) Original image, (b) edges extracted from the image, (c) lines using the Hough transform without considering the distortion parameter, (d) lines using the improved Hough transform considering the distortion parameter, (e) undistorted image from the 2 parameter model using lines in (c), and (f) undistorted image from the 2 parameter model using lines in (d) ( $k_1 = 3.36 \times 10^{-3}$ ;  $k_2 = 8.09 \times 10^{-11}$ ).

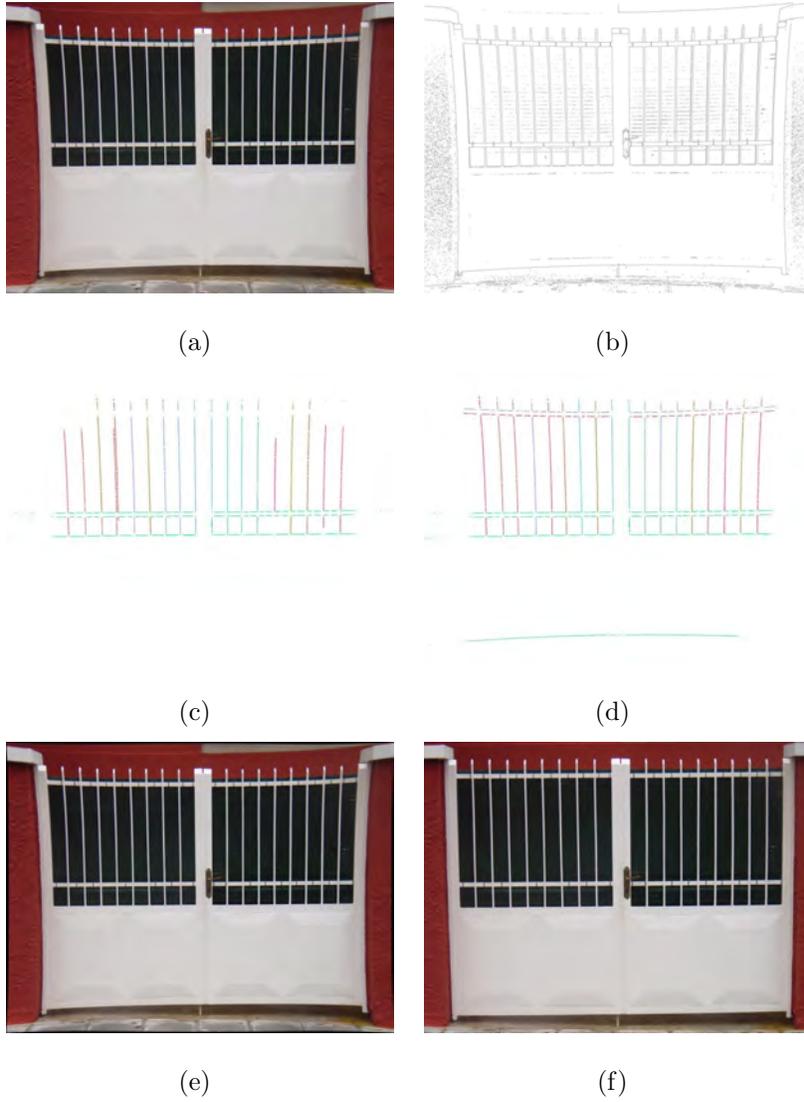
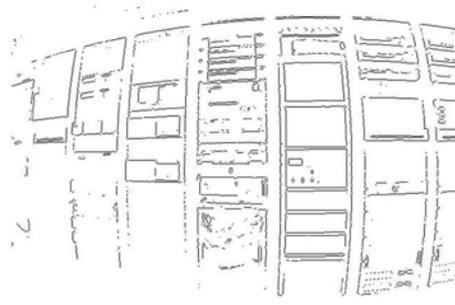


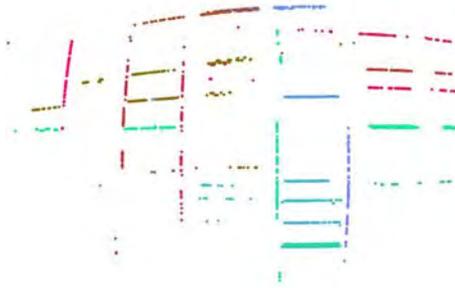
Figure 6: Lens distortion correction: (a) Original image, (b) edges extracted from the image, (c) lines using the Hough transform without considering the distortion parameter, (d) lines using the improved Hough transform considering the distortion parameter, (e) undistorted image from lines obtained without considering the distortion parameter, and (f) undistorted image from lines obtained considering the distortion parameter ( $k_1 = -3.77 \times 10^{-8}$ ;  $k_2 = 1.86 \times 10^{-11}$ ).



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

Figure 7: Lens distortion correction: (a) Original image, (b) edges extracted from the image, (c) lines using the Hough transform without considering the distortion parameter, (d) lines using the improved Hough transform considering the distortion parameter, (e) undistorted image from lines obtained without considering the distortion parameter, and (f) undistorted image from lines obtained considering the distortion parameter ( $k_1 = 1.57 \times 10^{-1}$ ;  $k_2 = 1.02 \times 10^{-6}$ ).

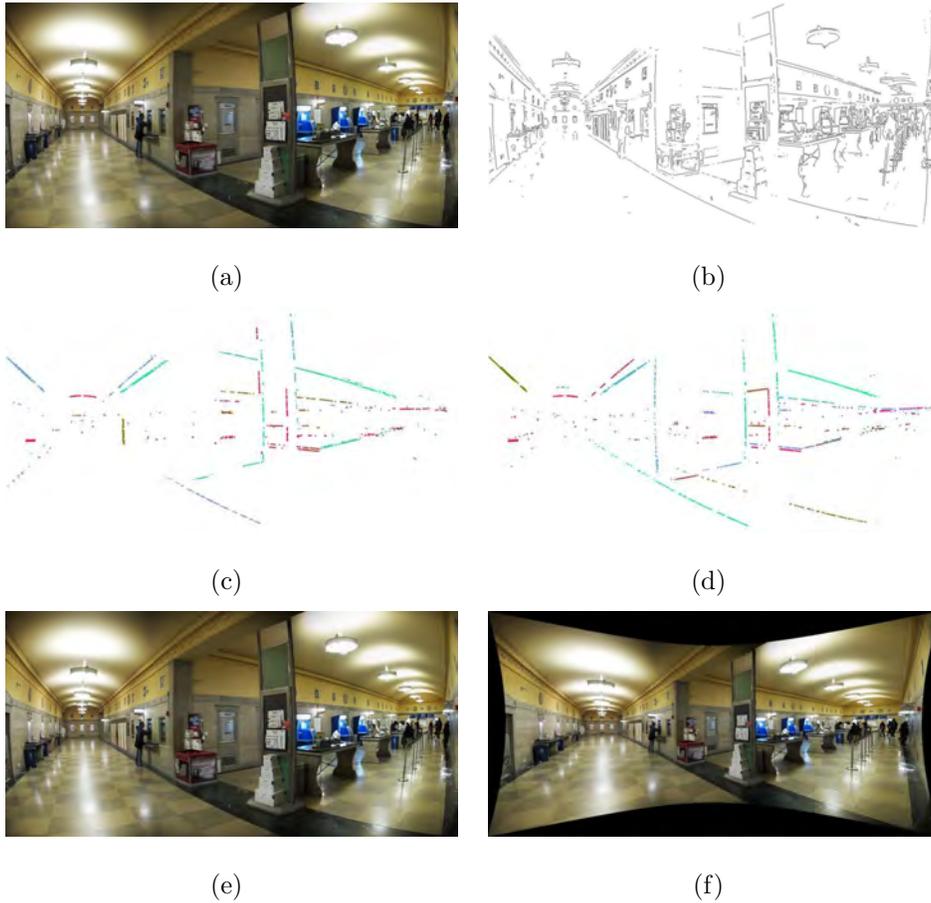
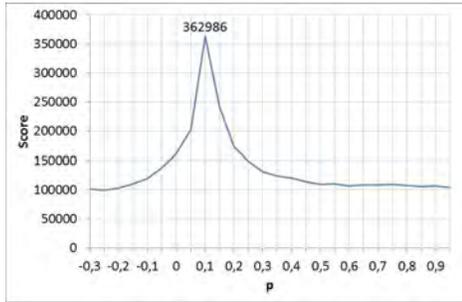
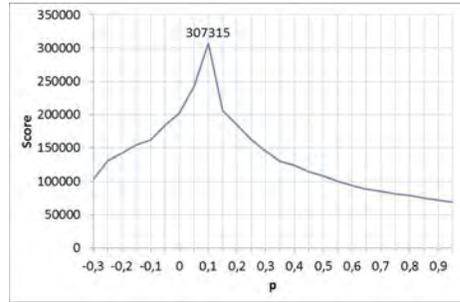


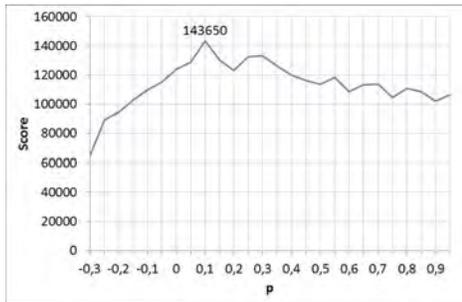
Figure 8: Lens distortion correction: (a) Original image, (b) edges extracted from the image, (c) lines using the Hough transform without considering the distortion parameter, (d) lines using the improved Hough transform considering the distortion parameter, (e) undistorted image from lines obtained without considering the distortion parameter, and (f) undistorted image from lines obtained considering the distortion parameter ( $k_1 = 1.06 \times 10^{-1}$ ;  $k_2 = 2.16 \times 10^{-8}$ ).



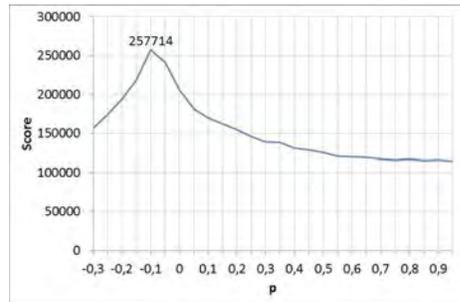
(a) Pattern



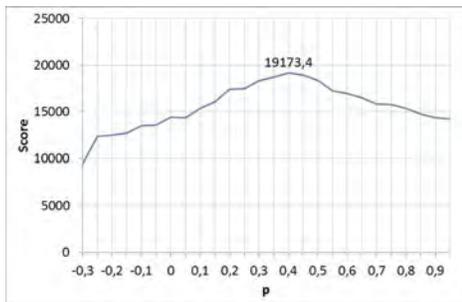
(b) Painting



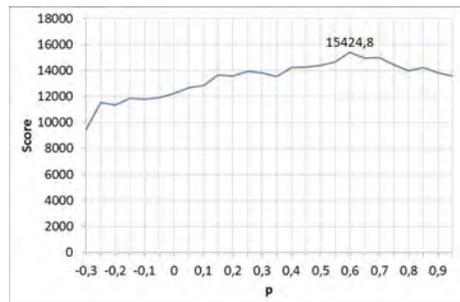
(c) Building



(d) Door



(e) Usno



(f) Church\_street

Figure 9: Values of the maximum in the voting matrix with respect to the percentage of distortion correction.

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