

Pro Processing for Images and Computer Vision with OpenCV

Solutions for Media Artists and Creative Coders

Teaching your computer to see

Bryan WC Chung

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Bryan WC Chung Academy of Visual Arts, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong

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About the Author



Bryan WC Chung is an interactive media artist and design consultant. He was the grand prize winner of the 19th Japan Media Arts Festival, Art Division, 2015. In 2009, his consultation work on the Coca-Cola Happy Whistling Machine won the Media Kam Fan Advertising Award. Bryan's works have been exhibited at the World Wide Video Festival, Multimedia Art Asia Pacific, Stuttgart Film Winter Festival, Microwave International New Media Arts Festival, and China Media Art Festival. In the Shanghai Expo 2010, he provided interactive design consultancy to industry leaders in Hong Kong. Bryan also develops software libraries for the open source programming language Processing. He is the author of the book *Multimedia Programming with Pure Data*. Currently, he is an associate professor in the Academy of Visual Arts at Hong Kong Baptist University, where he teaches classes on interactive art, computer graphics, and multimedia. His personal website can be found at http://www.magicandlove.com.

About the Technical Reviewer



Kat Sullivan lives somewhere in the intersection between movement and technology. After double majoring in computer science and dance at Skidmore College, she worked for several years as a software engineer and freelanced as a dancer. Not wanting to compartmentalize her life, she went to the Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP) and began creating work involving creative coding, live performance, machine learning, and more. Upon completing her master's degree at ITP, she was invited to stay an additional year as a research resident. Her work has been presented at Lincoln Center, National Sawdust, Pioneer Works, Flux Factory, South by Southwest, and the Liberty Science Center. She is currently teaching a motion capture course at NYU.

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Thanks to my boss, Professor John Aiken, for providing me with a beautiful place to work.

CHAPTER 1

Getting Started with Processing and OpenCV

The chapter introduces you to Processing and OpenCV and how to install them. By the end of the chapter, you will have a general understanding about the types of applications you can build by following the examples in this book. You will also be able to write a "Hello World" program to display version information for OpenCV within the Processing programming environment.

Processing

Ben Fry and Casey Reas from the former Aesthetic + Computation Group of the MIT Media Lab initiated the Processing project (http://processing.org) in 2001 to create a programming environment for artists and designers to learn the fundamentals of computer programming within the context of electronic arts. Based on the Java programming language, Processing is modeled as an electronic sketchbook for artists and designers to generate their creative ideas. Processing comes with an integrated development environment (IDE). Users can directly code in the environment and execute the code to see the visual results in real time. Processing is equipped with a comprehensive set of frameworks and libraries to provide simple access to functions for creating 2D and 3D graphics and building animation. Java was chosen as the programming language to cater to cross-platform compatibility. At the moment, it supports macOS, Windows, and the major Linux operating systems. Recently, Processing has evolved to include other programming languages such as JavaScript and Python.

Besides the core functions of the Processing language and the vast number of native Java libraries, Processing supports user-contributed libraries (https://processing.org/reference/libraries/) from the community. A lot of the libraries were built to hide the technical details of implementing complex software such as physics engines and machine-learning algorithms or to support additional hardware devices such as the Kinect camera. For example, I have developed a wrapper library called Kinect4WinSDK to support the Kinect version 1 camera with the official Kinect for Windows software development kit (SDK).

In the area of computer graphics, Processing is capable of producing both vector graphics and raster graphics. In creative applications, algorithmic art and generative art (Figure 1-1) will often make use of vector graphics. In this book, the focus is on image processing and computer vision. In this case, raster graphics will be the primary approach to generate images.

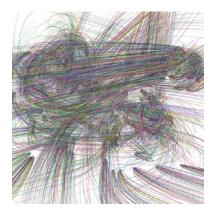


Figure 1-1. Algorithmic art example

OpenCV

Open Source Computer Vision Library (OpenCV, http://opencv.org/) started as an Intel research initiative around 1999. Now, it is the most popular open source software library for computer vision and machine learning. In the beginning, it was a set of C library functions for image processing and computer vision. Now, it has C++, Python, Java, and MATLAB bindings and works on macOS, Windows, Linux, Android, and iOS, with acceleration support from CUDA and OpenCL. The OpenCV library comes with a collection of modules. Each of the modules handles a specific group of applications under the umbrella of image processing, computer vision, and machine learning. The following are the common modules:

- core: Core OpenCV data structures and functionalities
- imgproc: Image processing
- imgcodecs: Image file reading and writing
- videoio: Media input/output routines
- highgui: High-level graphical user interface
- video: Video analysis
- calib3d: Camera calibration and 3D reconstruction
- features2d: Working with 2D features description and matching
- objdetect: Object detection such as faces
- ml: Machine learning
- flann: Clustering and searching in higher-dimensional spaces
- photo: Computational photography
- stitching: Stitching images together
- shape: Shape matching
- superres: Super-resolution enhancement
- videostab: Video stabilization
- viz: 3D visualization

OpenCV includes several extra modules that provide additional functionalities, such as text recognition, surface matching, and 3D depth processing. This book also covers the module optflow, which performs optical flow analysis.

Processing Installation

This section explains the procedures to download and install the Processing programming environment. At the time of writing, the latest version of Processing is 3.2.3. It is advised that you use version 3, rather than previous versions, of Processing for compatibility reasons. Each distribution of Processing also includes with the Java runtime code. The installation processes for the three platforms are straightforward and similar.

Install Processing

Download the Processing code from https://processing.org/download. In this book, I will use the 64-bit versions. If you want to take a look at the Processing source code, you can download it from the GitHub distribution (https://github.com/processing/processing). The following are the three files for the macOS, Windows, and Linux platforms:

- processing-3.2.3-macosx.zip
- processing-3.2.3-windows64.zip
- processing-3.2.3-linux64.tgz

Processing does not assume any particular location to install the software. For macOS, you can download and expand the file into a macOS program named Processing. Copy the program to the Applications folder similar to other applications you install for macOS. For Windows and Linux, the compressed file will be expanded into a folder named processing-3.2.3. You can download and expand the compressed file into any folder you want to maintain the Processing software. In this book, we expand the folder processing-3.2.3 into the user's Documents folder. Figure 1-2 shows the contents of the folder. To run Processing, simply double-click the Processing icon.

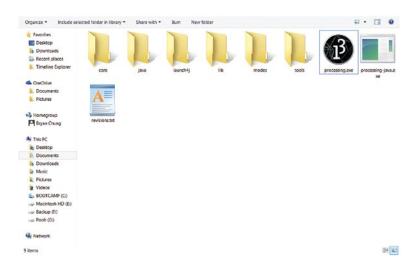


Figure 1-2. Processing folder for Windows

Figure 1-3 shows the default screen layout of the Processing IDE. The code in the window will be the first Processing program you are going to test.

```
void setup() {
    size(800, 600);
}

void draw() {
    background(100, 100, 100);
}
```

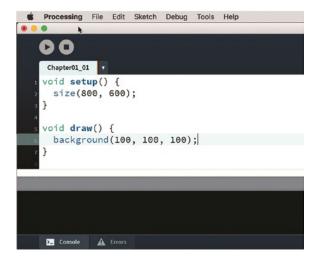


Figure 1-3. Processing IDE screen

After you have started Processing, it will automatically create a folder in your personal Documents folder in which it maintains all the Processing programs. For macOS, its name is /Users/bryan/Documents/Processing. In Windows, the folder name is C:\Users\chung_000\Documents\Processing. In Linux, it is /home/bryan/sketchbook. (In the example, the username is bryan or chung_000.) Figure 1-4 shows an example view of the folder contents.

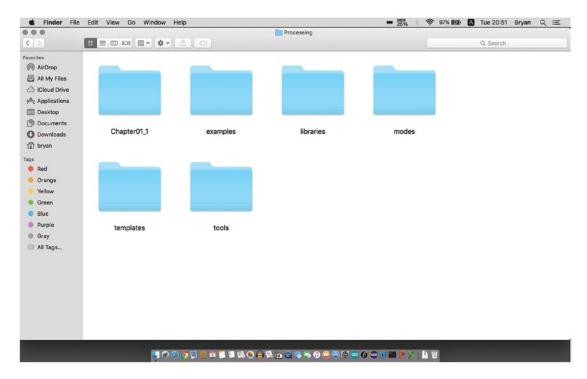


Figure 1-4. Processing sketchbook folder contents

Each Processing program is maintained in its own folder within the Processing folder. In addition to each program, the folder contains other subfolders, such as the libraries folder for downloading external libraries from the Processing distribution and the modes folder for implementing other languages in Processing such as Python and JavaScript.

Run Processing

In the top-left corner of the Processing IDE, there are two buttons, Play and Stop. Clicking the Play button will start the compilation and execution of the program. Figure 1-5 shows the blank screen created with your first program. Clicking the Stop button at this moment will stop the execution and close the window.

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Figure 1-5. First Processing program

You need to install an additional library for the exercises in this book. It is the video library that is built on top of the open source multimedia framework GStreamer (https://gstreamer.freedesktop.org/). Processing will use it for playing back digital videos such as MP4 files and capturing live video with a webcam. To install the library (Figure 1-6), choose Sketch ➤ Import Library ➤ Add Library from the main menu. From the Contribution Manager window, choose the Video library and click the Install button. The library will then be downloaded to the libraries subfolder of your Processing folder.

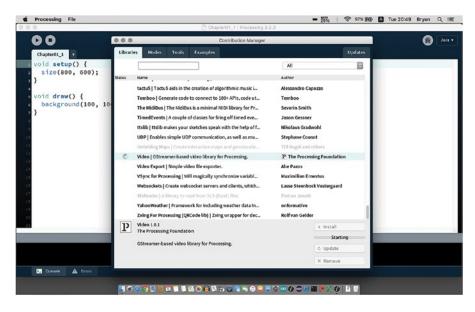


Figure 1-6. Installing the video library

In Chapter 2, you will use this library for loading external digital video and capturing live video streams from webcams. After you have installed the Processing programming environment, you can proceed to install OpenCV on your system.

OpenCV Installation

The installation for OpenCV is a bit complicated because you are going to build the OpenCV library from source. The library you are going to build is different from the existing OpenCV for Processing library written by Greg Borenstein (https://github.com/atduskgreg/opencv-processing). It is better for you to remove the existing OpenCV for Processing library before proceeding with this installation process. The OpenCV distribution includes all the core functions. To use other functions for motion analysis, you also need to build the extra modules that are maintained in the contributed libraries. You are going to download both of them from the GitHub repositories. The original OpenCV source is at https://github.com/opencv/opencv, and the source for the extra modules is at https://github.com/opencv/opencv_contrib. Note that the master branch in the OpenCV repository contains only version 2.4. To use version 3.1, which you want to do for this book, you need to select the 3.1.0 tag, as shown in Figure 1-7. After choosing the right version tag, you can download the OpenCV source by clicking the "Clone or download" button and then the Download ZIP button, as shown in Figure 1-8.

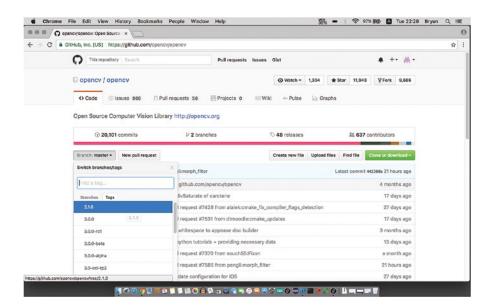


Figure 1-7. Selecting the tag 3.1.0

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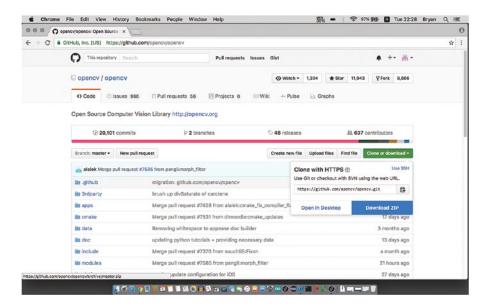


Figure 1-8. Downloading the OpenCV source

After you download and extract the OpenCV source, the process will create the opencv-3.1.0 folder. For the opencv_contrib source, follow the same procedure to select the 3.1.0 tag, download the zip file, and extract it into your opencv-3.1.0 folder. Figure 1-9 shows the contents of the opencv-3.1.0 folder.

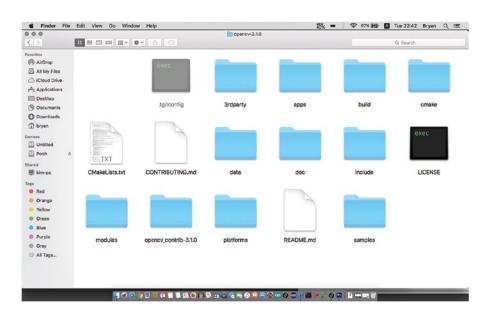


Figure 1-9. Contents of the opency-3.1.0 folder

After you successfully download the OpenCV 3.1.0 source and the extra modules library, you can create a subfolder named build inside the opencv-3.1.0 folder. All OpenCV libraries will be built into this folder. Before you start the build process, there is one more step you have to take care of. To build the Java library that includes the extra module optflow, which you will use for motion analysis, you have to edit its CMakeLists.txt file. From the opencv_contrib-3.1.0 folder, go into the modules folder and then the optflow folder. Use any text editor to modify the CMakeLists.txt file in the optflow folder. In the second line, the original code is as follows:

ocv_define_module(optflow opencv_core opencv_imgproc opencv_video opencv_highgui
opencv ximgproc WRAP python)

Insert the token java between the two keywords WRAP and python. The new line will be as follows:

ocv_define_module(optflow opencv_core opencv_imgproc opencv_video opencv_highgui
opencv ximgproc WRAP java python)

The new file will enable the build process to include the optflow module into the Java library that was built. The following sections describe the different build processes depending on the platform you are using. Since you are going to build the OpenCV Java library, you should also download and install the Java Development Kit (JDK) from the Oracle web site at www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads-2133151.html. To check whether you already have installed the JDK, you can go to a Terminal or command-line session and type the following:

javac -version

macOS

You are going to use Homebrew to install the necessary dependent software. The installation process will be executed from a command-line Terminal session. The Terminal tool is in the /Applications/Utilities folder. The Homebrew installation instructions are on the official web site at http://brew.sh/. After you have installed the Homebrew package manager, you can start to install the software required for the OpenCV build process. In a Terminal session, enter the following:

```
brew install cmake
brew install ant
```

These two commands install the software cmake and ant. The cmake tool (http://cmake.org) is an open source tool to build, test, and package software. The Apache ant tool (http://ant.apache.org) is a utility to build Java applications. The next step is to start the configuration process with the ccmake interactive tool. First, navigate to the build folder of the original OpenCV folder, opencv-3.1.0, and issue the ccmake command, as shown in Figure 1-10.

ccmake ..

```
apples-MacBook-Pro:build bryan$ java -version
java version "1.8.0_112"

Java(TM) SE Runtime Environment (build 1.8.0_112-b16)

Java HotSpot(TM) 64-Bit Server VM (build 25.112-b16, mixed mode)

apples-MacBook-Pro:build bryan$ javac -version
javac 1.8.0_112

apples-MacBook-Pro:build bryan$ ant -version

Apache Ant(TM) version 1.10.1 compiled on February 2 2017

apples-MacBook-Pro:build bryan$ ccmake ..■
```

Figure 1-10. ccmake command to configure the build process

In the ccmake panel, type c to configure the installation process. Select the appropriate options, as shown in Figure 1-11. Please note that you should first turn off most of the options on the first page, including the BUILD_SHARED_LIBS option. Next turn on the BUILD_opencv_java option, as shown in Figure 1-12 and Figure 1-13.

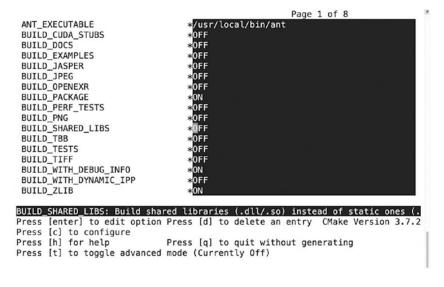


Figure 1-11. BUILD_SHARED_LIBS and other options

```
Page 2 of 8
 BUILD_opencv_apps
                                      *CLAMDBLAS_INCLUDE_DIR-NOTFOUND
*CLAMDBLAS_ROOT_DIR-NOTFOUND
*CLAMDFFT_INCLUDE_DIR-NOTFOUND
*CLAMDFFT_ROOT_DIR-NOTFOUND
 CLAMDBLAS_INCLUDE_DIR
 CLAMDBLAS_ROOT_DIR
 CLAMDFFT_INCLUDE_DIR
 CLAMDFFT_ROOT_DIR
 CMAKE_BUILD_TYPE
 CMAKE_CONFIGURATION_TYPES
                                       *Debug;Release
                                       /usr/local
 CMAKE_INSTALL_PREFIX
 CMAKE_OSX_ARCHITECTURES
 CMAKE_OSX_DEPLOYMENT_TARGET
 CMAKE_OSX_SYSROOT
 CUDA_ARCH_BIN
                                       *2.0 2.1(2.0) 3.0 3.5
 CUDA_ARCH_PTX
                                       *3.0
                                       0FF
 CUDA_FAST_MATH
 CUDA_GENERATION
                                       /Applications/Xcode.app/Contents/Developer/
 CUDA HOST COMPILER
 CUDA_SEPARABLE_COMPILATION
                                       *OFF
BUILD_opencv_apps: Build utility applications (used for example to train class
Press [enter] to edit option Press [d] to delete an entry CMake Version 3.7.2
Press [c] to configure 
Press [h] for help
                                 Press [q] to quit without generating
Press [t] to toggle advanced mode (Currently Off)
```

Figure 1-12. Second page of the build options

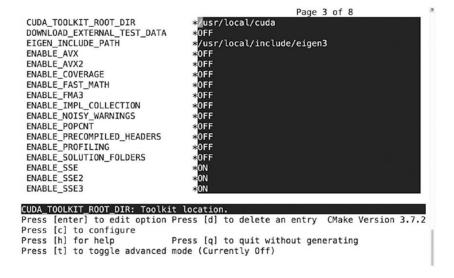


Figure 1-13. Third page of the build options

The next important option is OPENCV_EXTRA_MODULES_PATH, which should be set to the path name of the OpenCV extra modules. Specifically, it should be the folder opencv_contrib-3.1.0/modules, inside your original opencv-3.1.0 folder, as shown in Figure 1-14.

```
Page 4 of 8
 ENABLE_SSE41
 ENABLE_SSE42
                                   0FF
 ENABLE SSSE3
                                   0FF
 EXECUTABLE_OUTPUT_PATH
                                   */Users/bryan/Documents/opencv-3.1.0/build/b
 FFMPEG_INCLUDE_DIR
                                   FFMPEG_INCLUDE_DIR-NOTFOUND
 GENERATE_ABI_DESCRIPTOR
 GIGEAPI_INCLUDE_PATH
                                   GIGEAPI_INCLUDE_PATH-NOTFOUND
 GIGEAPI_LIBRARIES
                                   GIGEAPI LIBRARIES-NOTFOUND
 INSTALL_CREATE_DISTRIB
                                   OFF
 INSTALL_C_EXAMPLES
                                   0FF
 INSTALL_PYTHON_EXAMPLES
                                   0FF
 INSTALL_TESTS
                                   0FF
 INSTALL_TO_MANGLED_PATHS
                                   0FF
                                   /usr/lib/libm.dylib
 M LIBRARY
 OPENCV_CONFIG_FILE_INCLUDE_DIR
                                  */Users/bryan/Documents/opencv-3.1.0/build
 OPENCV_EXTRA_MODULES_PATH
                                  */Users/bryan/Documents/opencv-3.1.0/opencv
 OPENCV_WARNINGS_ARE_ERRORS
OPENCV_EXTRA_MODULES_PATH: Where to look for additional OpenCV modules
Press [enter] to edit option Press [d] to delete an entry CMake Version 3.7.2
Press [c] to configure
Press [h] for help
                              Press [q] to quit without generating
Press [t] to toggle advanced mode (Currently Off)
```

Figure 1-14. OPENCV_EXTRA_MODULES_PATH option

The rest of the build options are shown in the following images: Figure 1-15, Figure 1-16, Figure 1-17, and Figure 1-18.

```
Page 5 of 8
                                  PVAPI_INCLUDE_PATH-NOTFOUND
 PVAPI_INCLUDE_PATH
 PYTHON2 EXECUTABLE
                                 */usr/local/bin/python2.7
 PYTHON2_INCLUDE_DIR
 PYTHON2_INCLUDE_DIR2
 PYTHON2_LIBRARY
 PYTHON2_LIBRARY_DEBUG
 PYTHON2_NUMPY_INCLUDE_DIRS
                                 */usr/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/nump
PYTHON2_PACKAGES_PATH
                                  lib/python2.7/site-packages
 PYTHON3_EXECUTABLE
                                  /usr/local/bin/python3
 PYTHON3_INCLUDE_DIR
 PYTHON3_INCLUDE_DIR2
PYTHON3_LIBRARY
PYTHON3_LIBRARY_DEBUG
 PYTHON3_NUMPY_INCLUDE_DIRS
                                  /usr/local/lib/python3.6/site-packages/nump
                                  lib/python3.6/site-packages
 PYTHON3 PACKAGES PATH
 VTK DIR
                                  /usr/local/lib/cmake/vtk-7.1
WITH_1394
                                 *0FF
WITH_1394: Include IEEE1394 support
Press [enter] to edit option Press [d] to delete an entry CMake Version 3.7.2
Press [c] to configure
Press [h] for help
                             Press [q] to quit without generating
Press [t] to toggle advanced mode (Currently Off)
```

Figure 1-15. OpenCV build options

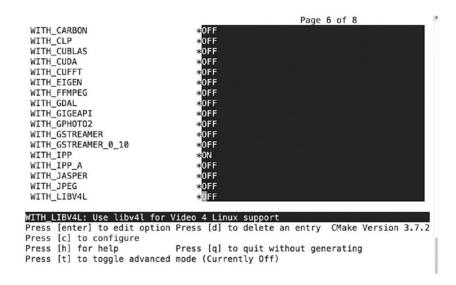


Figure 1-16. OpenCV build options, continued

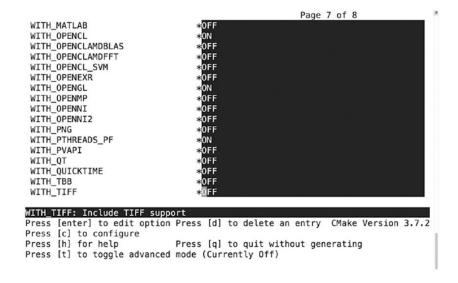


Figure 1-17. OpenCV build options, continued

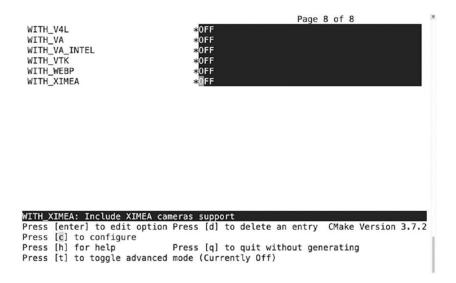


Figure 1-18. Last page of OpenCV build options

After filling in the first round of build options, type c again to configure the extra modules. First, turn off the BUILD FAT JAVA LIB option, as shown in Figure 1-19.

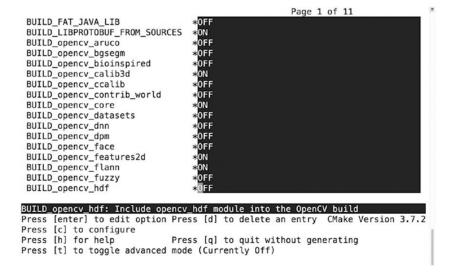


Figure 1-19. OpenCV extra modules build options

To work on with the optical flow examples later in the book, you also should turn on the options for BUILD_opencv_optflow, BUILD_opencv_ximgproc, and BUILD_opencv_java, as shown in Figure 1-20 and Figure 1-21.

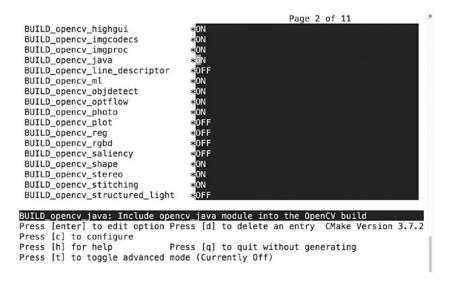


Figure 1-20. Turning on options for Java and optflow



Figure 1-21. Turning on the option for ximgproc

Complete the rest of the extra modules options, as shown in Figure 1-22.

```
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                                   */usr/local/lib/libhdf5.dylib
 HDF5_C_LIBRARY_hdf5
 HDF5_C_LIBRARY_m
                                   /usr/lib/libm.dylib
HDF5_C_LIBRARY_sz
HDF5_C_LIBRARY_z
                                   */usr/local/lib/libsz.dylib
                                   /usr/lib/libz.dylib
 HDF5_DIR
                                   HDF5_DIR-NOTFOUND
 Lept_LIBRARY
                                    Lept LIBRARY-NOTFOUND
 OPENCV_HAL_HEADERS
 OPENCV_HAL_LIBS
                                    Protobuf_LIBS-NOTFOUND
 Protobuf_LIBS
 Tesseract_INCLUDE_DIR
                                   Tesseract_INCLUDE_DIR-NOTFOUND
 Tesseract_LIBRARY
                                   Tesseract_LIBRARY-NOTFOUND
 opencv_dnn_BUILD_TORCH_IMPORTE
                                    /usr/local/bin/ant
 ANT EXECUTABLE
 BUILD_CUDA_STUBS
                                    0FF
 BUILD_DOCS
 BUILD EXAMPLES
                                    0FF
 BUILD JASPER
                                    OFF
HDF5_C_LIBRARY_hdf5: Path to a library.
Press [enter] to edit option Press [d] to delete an entry
                                                             CMake Version 3.7.2
Press [c] to configure
Press [h] for help
                              Press [q] to quit without generating
Press [t] to toggle advanced mode (Currently Off)
```

Figure 1-22. Extra module options

After setting all the options, type c again to finish the last configuration task. Type the option g to generate the configuration files (Figure 1-23). The ccmake program will quit and take you back to the Terminal window.



Figure 1-23. Generating the configuration file

Enter the following command to start the build process:

```
make -j4
```

When the build process completes successfully, navigate into the bin folder within the build folder. Locate the opencv-310.jar file. Then navigate into the lib folder within the build folder. Locate the libopencv_java310.so file. Rename it to libopencv_java310.dylib. Copy the two files into a separate folder. You are going to prepare the Windows and Linux versions and copy them to the same folder to create the multiplatform

library. The author has tested building the OpenCV 3.1 in the macOS 10.11, El Capitan. For readers using the new macOS 10.12 Sierra, the building of OpenCV 3.1 will fail due to the removal of QTKit. In this case, it is better to use OpenCV 3.2 together with macOS 10.12. Please refer to the building note in http://www.magicandlove.com/blog/2017/03/02/opencv-3-2-java-build/ to generate the optflow module properly with OpenCV 3.2.

Windows

On a Windows system, you use the graphical version of cmake to configure the installation process. I have tested the installation in Windows 8.1 and Windows 10. Download and install the following software packages for the OpenCV build process:

- Microsoft Visual Studio Community 2015 at https://www.visualstudio.com/ downloads/
- CMake at https://cmake.org/download/
- Apache Ant at http://ant.apache.org/bindownload.cgi
- Oracle JDK 8 at www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/ jdk8-downloads-2133151.html
- Python at https://www.python.org/downloads/

After the successful installation of the software package dependencies, run the CMake (cmake-gui) program to start the configuration process. Fill in the source folder name for the OpenCV distribution and the build folder name, as shown in Figure 1-24. Remember that you need to create the build folder inside the OpenCV distribution folder.

▲ CMake 3.8.0-rc1 - C:/Users/Bryan/Docu File Tools Options Help	ments/opencv-3.1.0/build	Q
Where is the source code: C:/Users/Bryan/D	ocuments/opencv-3.1.0	
Where to build the binaries: C:/Users/Bryan/D	ocuments/opencv-3.1.0/build	
Search:		
Name	Value	

Figure 1-24. Folder names of OpenCV distribution in the CMake window

Click the Configure button to start the configuration. For the first generator panel, choose Visual Studio 14 2015 Win64 from the pull-down menu and select the "Use default native compilers" radio button, as shown in Figure 1-25. Click the Finish button to proceed.

CHAPTER 1 ■ GETTING STARTED WITH PROCESSING AND OPENCV

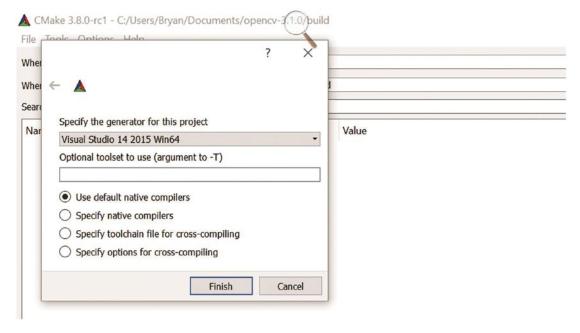


Figure 1-25. Choosing the default compiler

Follow Figure 1-26 through Figure 1-33 to enter the build options. Make sure to first turn off the BUILD_SHARED_LIBS option, and enter the path name for ant.bat for the ANT_EXECUTABLE option.

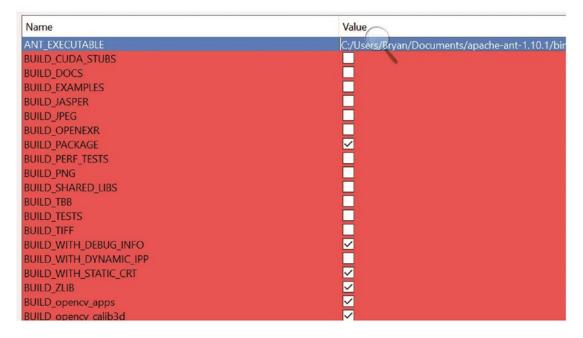


Figure 1-26. Turning off the BUILD_SHARED_LIBS option