

# foreground detection via Deep Variation Transformation

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**Abstract**—Previous approaches to foreground detection generally focus on the distribution of pixel observations. In this paper, we analyze the variation of pixel observations, and a novel foreground detection method called Deep Pixel Variation Transformation Learning (DPVTL) is proposed. A fully convolutional network (FCN) is applied to find a transformation for pixel variations, which guarantees the linear separability of transformed pixels. In particular, the pixel variation is represented by the sequence of pixel observations and used as the input of the FCN. Then, the FCN is trained to learn the pattern of pixel variations for the transformation, followed by a linear classifier for labeling the pixels as foreground or background. Benefited from the ingenious utilization of deep learning network leading by our clear cognition of essence about background subtraction problem, proposed approach adaptively generate superior performances in diversely complex scenes. Comprehensive experiments in standard benchmarks demonstrate the superiority of proposed approach compared with state-of-the-art methods including both deep learning and traditional methods.

**Index Terms**—foreground detection, Feature Transformation, Deep Learning,

## I. INTRODUCTION

Foreground detection as a fundamental problem in computer vision [1] has been discussed over decades with the increasing number of cameras, which is widely used as the pre-processing step of video processing [2]. Typically, it is recognized as a binary classification task that assigns each pixel in the video stream with a label, for either belonging to the background or foreground scene. Existed methods have already achieved well performances in the scenes of low diversity or complexity, such as the indoor scenes. However, it still remains a challenging problem in the scenes with high complexity and diversity. Traditionally, foreground detection algorithms focus on analysing the pixel distribution, establishing background models with statistical methods such as GMM and KDE. However, due to the unpredictability and complexity of the pixels' variation in natural scenes, the variation becomes so unordered which is hard to be analyzed for foreground detection.

In the diversely natural scenes, it is possible that the moving objects produce the similar or even the same observations of pixels to that of background, and the variation of observations becomes so hard to analyze when it includes such observations. As shown in the Fig. 1, the observation C is closely related to the observations belong to the background but it is actually produced by moving objects and should be classified as foreground. However, in most cases, it is highly possible that the observation C will be falsely classified as background by previous work due to the similarity with their counterparts

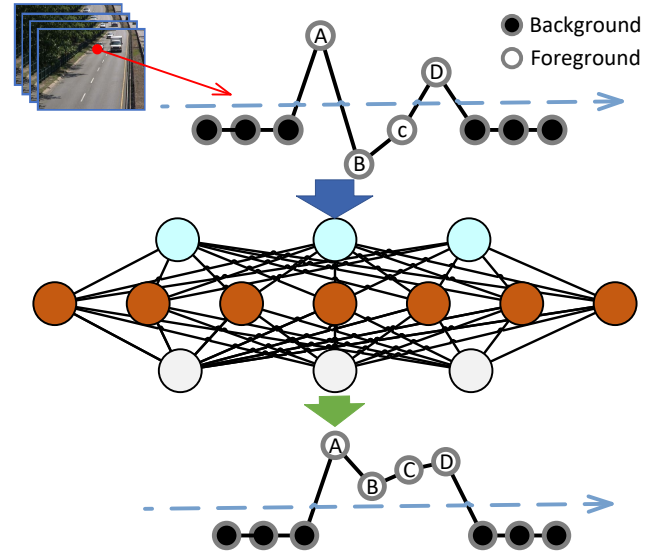


Fig. 1. The demonstration of deep variation transformation. Due to the complexity of natural scenes, the original pixels' variation is hard to classify correctly. After transforming by deep learning network, the pixels in variation become easy to be classified as foreground and background correctly.

of background. In this work, we focus on transforming the variation of pixels' observation into a new variation where the observations are easier to classified, as shown in the bottom part of the Fig. 1, with the motivation that the pattern of fragment consist of observations A-D can be learned by the network and transformed into another fragment where these observations are easily and correctly classified as foreground. Based on this motivation, the Deep Variation Transformation model for foreground detection is proposed.

In the DVTL model, the sequence of pixel observations is used to represent the variation and input into the network for learning, which encode both the intensity distribution and sequential information. Then, a Fully Convolutional Network (FCN) [3] is applied to learn the patterns of the pixel variation and find a transformation which guarantees the linear separability of transformed pixel variation generated by mapping in a new space. In particular, we take advantage of the strong learning ability of FCN to learn an end-to-end representation of the pixel variation in a new space where they can be easily classified to background and foreground. Benefited from the strong learning ability of FCN, proposed approach works well in diversely complex scenes adaptively.

The rest part of this paper is organized as follows: In

Section II, we give a brief discussion about the early and recent relevant works. The details of the variation transformation are presented in Section III. The proposed fully convolutional network is illustrated in Section IV, followed by experiments and result comparison in Section V and conclude the paper in Section VI.

## II. RELATED WORK

Over the last few decades, a huge number of background modeling methods have been proposed. These methods can be broadly categorized into pixel-based, region-based and learning-based methods.

### A. pixel-based methods

Pixel-based methods assume that pixels are independent to each other and have no consideration of the spatial association with neighboring pixels. Based on low-level features, such as color and gradients, pixel-based methods are computationally efficient and easy to deploy.

The most popular pixels-based methods are Gaussian Mixture Model (GMM) methods [4], which utilize a mixture of weighted Gaussians to model the probability distribution of each pixel over time. Pixels are considered to be background if there exists a Gaussian includes their values with sufficient evidence. An improved GMM method is introduced by Zivkovic [5] with the utilization of recursive equations, which can automatically update the parameters and adjust the needed number of components of mixture for each pixel. Kim et al. [6] present the codebook method, which records the sampling background values to codewords for each pixel position. Then incoming pixels are compared with those of the codewords, to see if their distances lies within a certain bound. A non-parametric background model is proposed in [7]. Authors assume that each background pixel is drawn from a probability distribution function, which is estimated with Kernel Density Estimation(KDE). Another non-parametric method is proposed by Barnich [2], called the Visual Background Extractor (ViBe). The background model of ViBe consists of pixel samples from the video stream. Each pixel in the current frame is compared with sampling pixels from the corresponding background model and labelled as the foreground when there exists at least  $K$  samples with a distance to itself within a certain range  $R$ . To adaptively update the parameters, Hofmann et al. [8] improve the ViBe by presenting an adaptive threshold  $R(x)$ , which depended on the pixel position and a background dynamics metric.

However, The assumption that pixels are independent to their spatical neighbors is untenable in practice. On the other hand, most pixels-based methods are only concerned with pixels distribution, and ignore the order information of input frames by default. But there is, in fact, a strong temporal coherence in image sequences that contains abundant hidden clues for the background model. To address this shortcoming, we introduce a novel framework of variation transformation learning, which assume that there is a tight interdependence in pixel's historical observations. In this case, pixel's historical observations are embedded in a piece of pixel variation and

sorted in chronological order as a whole to enter our DPVTL model. The benefit of bringing together the observations is to ensure the data integrity and preserve the temporal coherence of our training data. And that guarantee us the ability to take advantage of the temporal coherence. Hence we demonstrate a comparatively better performance in modelling some challenging scenes, like illumination changing and intermittent object motion.

### B. region-based approach

Region-based approaches assume that the neighboring pixels have similar intensities. Hence the spatial correlation is taken into consideration to refine the pixel-level classification.

A region-based MoG is proposed by Varadarajan et al. [9]. Their model are derived from expectation maximization theory, which takes into consideration neighboring pixels while generating the model of the observed scene. Another GMM based method named Spatiotemporal GMM algorithm was proposed in [10]. the authors combine the GMM with constrains of temporal and spatial information from the optical flow and hierarchical superpixels. In [11], Sheikh et al. introduce a framework based on the Markov Random Field modeling with Maximum A Posteriori probability (MAP-MRF) estimation, which incorporate the pixel location into background and foreground KDEs for the detection based on spatial context. In [12], origin images are divided into overlapping blocks. Each block is sequentially processed by an adaptive multi-stage classifier, which consists of a likelihood evaluation, an illumination invariant measure and a temporal correlation check. Izadi et al. [13] present a robust region-based approach, which generates a pair of foreground maps based on gradient and color respectively. Any foreground region that does not exist in the first foreground map could be recovered from the other one.

Unfortunately, most region-based methods are not capable to make use of the temporal coherence, since they are merely adding some spatial constrains to the pixels-based methods. But we also notice that some methods are involved with optical flow field, which can be viewed as a limited temporal coherence message. However, optical flow methods have shortcomings like the high computation complexity and the sensitivity to illumination changing. Moreover, their temporal coherence information is very limited. For each frame, only a few of neighbor frames are taken into account when computing the optical flow. This could explain why they have no significant improvement compared to their competitors. In the proposed approach, by contrast, we present the pixel matrix, which contains the pixel variation over a longer period of time, to ensure that our DPVTL model has sufficient temporal coherence information to feed. We also combine the pixel variation with its spatial neighbors to revise our prediction. Furthermore, the proposed approach are more powerful in capturing the structural background variation and more efficient in computation due to the application of deep learning.

you should discuss the difference between the proposed approach and pixel-based method. What is your advantage compared with these previous work? Why they failed and why our method work?

discuss the advantage

### C. Machine Learning based Methods

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The last category of foreground detection methods apply traditional machine learning and deep learning on different features for the background modeling.

Traditional machine learning methods are commonly involved with support vector machines (SVM) and Bayesian methods [14]. For example, in [15], the authors integrate gradient, color, and Haar-like features to address the spatiotemporal variations for each pixel. A pixel wise background model is obtained for each feature in a kernel density framework and a SVM is employed for classification.

Recent years, deep learning starts to flourish in many computer vision fields, significantly improving the state-of-the-art. A novel approach for foreground detection with the use of CNN is proposed by Braham and Droogenbroeck [16]. They employ a scene-specific CNN, which is trained with corresponding image patches from the background image, video frames and groundtruth, or alternatively, segmentation results from other foreground detection methods. Those patches are extracted around a pixel, then they are feed into the network and compared with a threshold. In [17], Wang et al. tried a CNN architecture combined with a cascade network architecture for segmentation in foreground detection. Given 200 labelled images as training set, their model performed excellently in dataset2014. M. Babaee et al. [18] present a novel CNN for foreground detection. They also combine the segmentation mask from SuBSENSE [19] algorithm and the output of Flux Tensor algorithm, which is able to adaptively update the parameters used in the background model based on the motion changes in video stream. They also used spatial-median filtering as the post processing of the network outputs. In [20], a FCN with the skip architecture is proposed for background modeling. The authors also proposed a temporal approach to sample training images from the given video, thus providing the background model with limited temporal information.

Above mentioned deep methods are based on the static images and static saliency characteristics. As we've discussed earlier, their background models are trained with little or no temporal coherence involved. And that cause the problem when target objects are doing sudden movement, for example, starting a car and get it out of the parking lot. Even though they have made a lot of progress with optimized network architectures and training tricks, it is still an unsolved problem that how to detect the motion rather than mark out all the possible moving objects. Different with their methods, the input of our DPVTL model is not the origin images or patches. Instead, we regard the pixel variation as a whole for the network training to preserve the temporal coherence between the pixels' historical observations. Now, since the proposed approach is based on the time series modeling of each pixel, our model can learn the patterns of motion over a period of time. In addition, we also cascade the pixel variation with its spatial neighbors to take advantage of the spatial context. Our FCN is implemented with a relative simple structure, hence the reliable performance of our DPVTL should be owing to the framework of variation transformation.

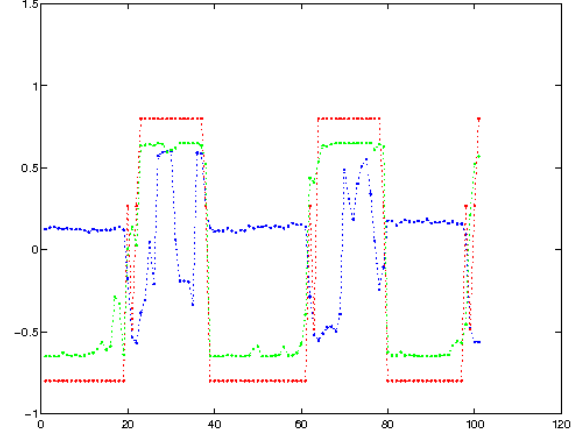


Fig. 2. It is hard to separate the foreground pixels from the background precisely in a time sequence.

### III. VARIATION TRANSFORMATION

In this section, we will elaborate on the motivation of the proposed approach and how does the variation transformation work in foreground detection.

foreground detection is essentially an binary classification in time sequence, where pixels in a video stream are separated into two categories: foreground (cars, people or animals) and background (roads, trees or other backdrops). In most cases, if we print out the historical observations of a single pixel, it is not hard to see that they usually keep their stability when belonging to the background. However, there are some exceptions: historical observations varies regularly when belonging to some dynamic background scenes(e.g. waves, swaying tree leaves). Generally, pixels from the background are sharing some common patterns of variation.

To give an intuitive understanding of the pixel variations, we plot the historical observations and corresponding groundtruth of a single pixel in Fig. 2, with the X axis showing their range of variation and the Y axis representing the time. As we can see, there are several lines in three colors: blue, red and green. The blue one is called the pixel variation curve, which containing 100 original observations. Accordingly, the red one, the groundtruth curve is made of a piece of groundtruth data corresponding to the observations. The green one, which we call the transformed variation curve, is made of the outputs of the proposed approach. In practice, foreground detection is to produce a prediction curve, which is as near as possible to the groundtruth curve, by given the pixel variation curve.

Under ideal conditions like indoor videos, previous methods perform quite effectively, when distributions of background and foreground observations are remarkably different and the backgrounds are normally keeping static. While in fact, backgrounds can be rather turbulent and dynamic due to the complexity and diversity of nature scenes. Especially when illumination and camouflages are involved, background and foreground observations are easily confused and mixed up.

For example, in Fig. 2, it is noticeable that some fore-

ground observations in blue line share the similarly value with background ones. In that case, those popular solutions will inevitably yield some sticky moments when separating the pixels in the blue line. Statistical methods, for instance, are no longer valid, because they only focus on establishing a statistical model for the background, while having little or no concern for the temporal coherence of these observations. Unfortunately, most previous methods, as far as we know, are not capable to take advantage of the temporal coherence of pixel variation. In other words, despite knowing that pixels from the background share some common patterns of variation in a temporal sequence, we still let the order information of sequential images all go to waste. To alleviate this, order information of pixels must be taken in consideration. More concretely, we must find an efficient method to model the patterns of background pixels variations.

In this paper, a novel framework of pixel variation transformation are proposed. Pixel observations are no longer considered independent of each other but regarded as a whole, which we call the pixel variation. Consequently, the classification of pixels can be viewed as a transformation of pixel variations, from the observation sequences to the prediction sequences. In the specific implementation, we trained a FCN to learn a transformation for the pixel variations by mapping them into a new space where it is close to the groundtruth, just like the green line in Fig. 2. After thresholding, we can easily get the labels of each observation. The benefits from variation transformation are evident and clearly seen. It is hard to distinguish a foreground observation when its value are similar to the background ones. However, classification on the transformed variation is much convenient and intuitive, due to the advantage of temporal information. With the aid of deep learning method, the proposed approach can be effectively implemented.

#### IV. FOREGROUND DETECTION VIA DEEP VARIATION TRANSFORMATION

In this section, we introduce the proposed approach that consists of a novel FCN network for foreground detection. We explain the details of the procedures of pixel matrixes, which is a specific form of the pixel variation, and the architecture of our network.

The complete system is illustrated in Fig. 3. Firstly, we temporally sample the input and ground truth images to generalize the pixel variations, and reshape them into fixed-size matrixes and feed them into the network with its spatial neighbors. After reassembling the matrixes into the complete output frame, it is post-processed, yielding the final segmentation of the respective video frame.

Given different videos, the number of frames are generally different. However, the size of our input is fixed, which means a sampling processing is required to keep the length of pixel variations invariant. Therefore, image stacks are sampled from the given videos before the pixel variations are extracted. The given video and image stacks can be defined as follows:

$$\text{Given Video} = \{I_1, I_2, I_3, \dots, I_L\}, \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Stack}(x) = \{I_x, I_{(x+p)}, I_{(x+2p)}, \dots, I_L\}, \quad p \cdot l = L, \quad 1 \leq x \leq p, \quad (2)$$

Where  $I_t$  represent the frame  $t$  of the given video. And  $p$  is an integer number depended on the video frames length. For each video, we can produce multiple image stacks and choose one of them for the training. In addition, thanks to the temporal sampling, we can get compact pixel historical observations containing more temporal information than the continuous pixel sequences. This works well when it comes to some situation where the moving objects keep stationary for a long time.

In order to make use of the temporal information of pixel historical observations, we regard the sampled observations from a single pixel as a whole, namely the pixel variation. After the temporal sampling, a large number of observation sequences, or pixel variations, are extracted from the chosen stack, which is shown as follows:

$$Sq_{(m)} = \{P_1^m, P_2^m, P_3^m, \dots, P_n^m\}, \quad (3)$$

Where  $P_t^m$  denotes the numerical value of pixel  $m$  at frame  $t$  in the chosen stack. Each of the pixel variation is a piece of temporal information which containing the changing patterns of background pixels. And each of them is of fixed length  $n$ . It is notable that observation sequences are extracted from individual pixel positions, which promises that sufficient training data can be obtained with only one image stack.

Our intention is to provide an end-to-end transformation of pixel variations, based on the strong learning ability of FCNs. However, vectors are not appropriate for the network training and learning. Besides, we also hope the pixel observations can be interacted with their further compatriots in temporal sequence. Thus we reshape the variations into pixel matrixes as the input of our network. A sample of pixel matrix  $H^m$  is like this:

$$H^m = P_{i+j*d}^m = \begin{bmatrix} P_1^m & P_2^m & \dots & P_d^m \\ \vdots & & & \vdots \\ P_{1+(d-1)d}^m & \dots & \dots & P_n^m \end{bmatrix}, \quad d^2 = n, \quad (4)$$

Pixel variations are put into the  $d \times d$  matrix according to the order of top to bottom and left to right. The parameter  $i$  and  $j$  represent the column and row respectively. And the parameter  $n$  is the total frame length of a variation, as the same as the observation sequences. To put it from another way, the pixel matrix is just a specific form of the pixel variation. Although the observation matrix and the observation sequence belong to different forms of the pixel variation, they consist of the same components, and share the common temporal information from the pixel variation. Since the pixel sequences are extracted from individual pixels, a large number of pixel matrixes may be extracted from only a single image stack.

It is generally accepted that neighboring background pixels share a similar temporal variation. In other words, there are some clues hidden in pixels' spatial neighbors. In order to benefit from the spatial context, we concatenate the pixel matrix with 2 neighboring pixel matrixes, denoted as  $SM_1$ ,



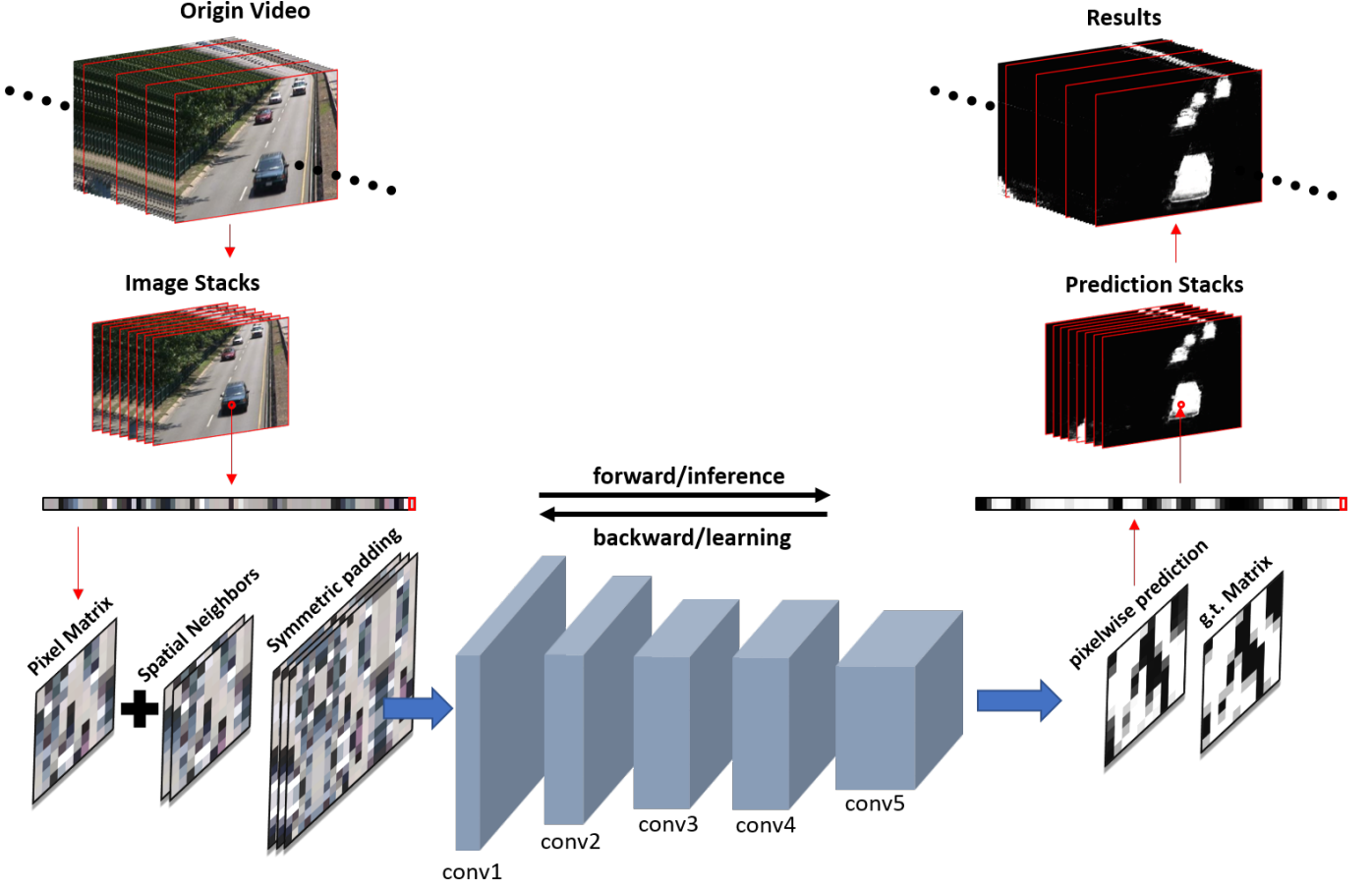


Fig. 3. Fully convolutional network can efficiently learn to make dense predictions for per-pixel tasks like semantic segmentation.

$SM_2$  and  $SM_3$  respectively. They are randomly selected in 8 nearest neighbors. The input matrix of our network is defined as:

$$H = C(H^m, SM_1, SM_2), \quad (5)$$

Where  $C$  represents the concatenating process on the third dimension. And  $H$  is the input matrix of our network, which size is  $d \times d \times 3$ .

In the previous steps, videos are broken down into pixel matrixes which contain abundant background information. Next, the groundtruth matrixes are obtained in the same way, except the concatenating process. Both of them are put into the network for the training. However, the size of the input will decreased in the forward computation. In order to make output the same size as input, we borrow the idea from Image Semantic Segmentation [3], padding the input matrixes before the training. After the forward computing, variations are transformed in a new space where they can be easily classified by thresholding. The transformed pixel variation is defined as:

$$H_p = \mathcal{L}(E_x(H)), \quad (6)$$

Where,  $H_p$  denotes the output of network, which we call the prediction matrix, the forward computation of network is represented by  $\mathcal{L}$ , and  $E_x$  denotes the symmetric padding of

pixel matrix where we have lost none of the pixel information to make the output  $H_p$  the same size as the pixel matrix  $H$ . Another advantage of symmetric padding is that the order information still remains.

For the loss function, we choose the Sigmoid Cross Entropy (SCE), which are helpful to address the learning slowdown. The formulation is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_{H_p, H_{gt}} = & \sum_{x \in X, y \in Y} H_{gt}(x, y) \log(\text{Sigmoid}(H_p(x, y))) \\ & + (1 - H_{gt}(x, y)) \log(1 - \text{Sigmoid}(H_p(x, y))) \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

$$\text{Sigmoid}(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}},$$

Where  $H_{gt}$  denotes the groundtruth matrix which is given by the corresponding GT stack. The SCE is calculated between the transformed matrixes and the corresponding groundtruth matrixes. Boundaries of moving objects and pixels that out of the region of interest are ignored in the cost function. Finally, we get the transformed variation through the FCN, which are easier for classification. We globally threshold the values for each observation in order to map them to  $\{0, 1\}$ . The threshold

function is given by

$$g(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1, & x < y \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad (8)$$

$$M(x, y) = g(H_p, r), \quad (9)$$

After the thresholding calculations, our experiment results show that a random initialized FCNs, trained end-to-end on feature learning can achieve the state-of-the-art without further machinery. And the major contribution is that we demonstrate the effectiveness of temporal information in foreground detection.

Here we make a detailed introduction to the deep learning model we used and explain why we choose it.

Different with CNNs, fully convolution neural network (FCN) utilize convolutional layers with  $1 \times 1$  kernels to take the place of fully connected layers, which largely resolves these above-mentioned problems. First and foremost, the size of outputs are adjustable in FCNs, which allows an end-to-end mapping of pixel observation sequences and network outputs on the time sequence. We hope to determine the label of a pixel through the comparison of its compatriot in time sequence. There is one more point I ought to touch on, that since the feature maps are no longer need to be converted into vectors, spatial information can be retained. The last but not the least, FCNs have been used in semantic segmentation and researchers found FCNs have a strong learning ability which won't lost to the traditional ones. Meanwhile, it's also a high efficient computation model.

Based on above-mentioned factors, FCN is designed as the alternative network architecture in this paper. The structure of our FCN for background modeling is shown in Fig. 3. The proposed FCN contains 5 convolutional layers and a convolutional layer which have a filter size of  $1 \times 1$ . We use the Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) as activation function after each convolutional layer and the Sigmoid function after the last fully connected layer. We do not use any other tricks in our network training and the experiment results prove that the proposed approach is feasible and very effective.

## V. EXPERIMENTS

In this section, we ran comprehensive experiments to evaluate the performance of the proposed approach on the CDnet 2014 benchmark [21] and CAMO-UOW. The CDnet is the largest dataset for foreground detection so far as we are aware, containing 11 categories with several complexly challenging scenes, such as Dynamic Background, Camera Jitter, Shadow, Night Videos, PTZ and so on. The CAMO-UOW is another challenging benchmark which contains 10 high resolution videos. For each video, one or two persons appear in the scene with the clothes in the similar color as the background.

The proposed approach is compared with several existing traditional state-of-the-art foreground detection algorithms, including the IUTIS-5 [22], the SuBSENSE [19], the WeSamBE [23], sharable GMM the SharedModel [24], word-dictionaries-based method the PAWCS [25], the SemanticBGS [26], the AAPSA [27], etc. Moreover, two deep learning based

algorithms are also compared with the proposed approach, which include DeepBS [18], and DBMF [20]. All the results of compared algorithms are provided by authors.

During the comparison, the F-measure(Fm) has been used for evaluation. The Fm is a general international standard in foreground detection which measures the segmentation accuracy by considering both the recall and the precision. The definition of Fm is shown as follows:

$$Fm = \frac{2 \times \text{precision} \times \text{recall}}{\text{precision} + \text{recall}} = \frac{2TP}{2TP + FN + FP}, \quad (10)$$

Where TP, FP, and FN are true positives, false positives, and false negatives respectively, computed in pixels of all test frames for each video.

The quantitative and qualitative comparisons are shown in Table I and Fig. 4 respectively. Due to the paper length, several typical videos are selected for the qualitative comparisons as well as the discussion. In the dynamic background scene, the video "canoe" is a typically challenging video which includes a large area of water rippling. The main challenge comes from the dynamic background, in which it is so hard to describe the background by a single image. In this condition, since the traditional foreground detection method such as the SharedModel and the WeSamBE do not have the enough ability to describe the complex dynamically background, they are fail to detect the people on the boat, as shown in the Fig. 4. Besides, the detected moving objects of the SharedModel are not accurate in boundary due to the utilization of texture features. In contrast, benefited from the strong learning ability of Deep Learning network, the DeepBS successfully detected the people. Unfortunately, since the DeepBS ignores the fact that a single background is not enough to describe the dynamic background, even the deep learning based algorithm is suffering from the detection of the boat shape. In contrast, the proposed approach performed superior than others in this scene, since the essence of foreground detection is considered as a binary classification of pixels' observation in time sequence. Based on this insight, the FCN network focuses on learning the patterns of the pixel variation rather than a static background image, and proposed approach achieves promising performance in the canoe video.

As for the case of shadow scene, "peopleInShade" is a typical example with prevalent hard and soft shadows. In the traditional approaches, these shadow regions are usually segmented as foreground since it is also moving with the objects. Therefore, traditional methods like the PAWCS, the WeSamBE and the SharedModel falsely segments part of shadows as moving objects. In addition, the foreground provided by the UBSS is incomplete on the part of the pedestrian's body due to the interference of shades, which can be owing to the severe dependency of texture features. Whereas, the DeepBS performs well in this video benefited from the utilization of CNN. However, the shape of pedestrians are slightly deformed as the result of their matrix-wise processing of CNN. In contrast, derived from the fact that our DPVL focus on learning the pattern of pixels' variation in the shadow regions, proposed approach successfully segments the shadow part as

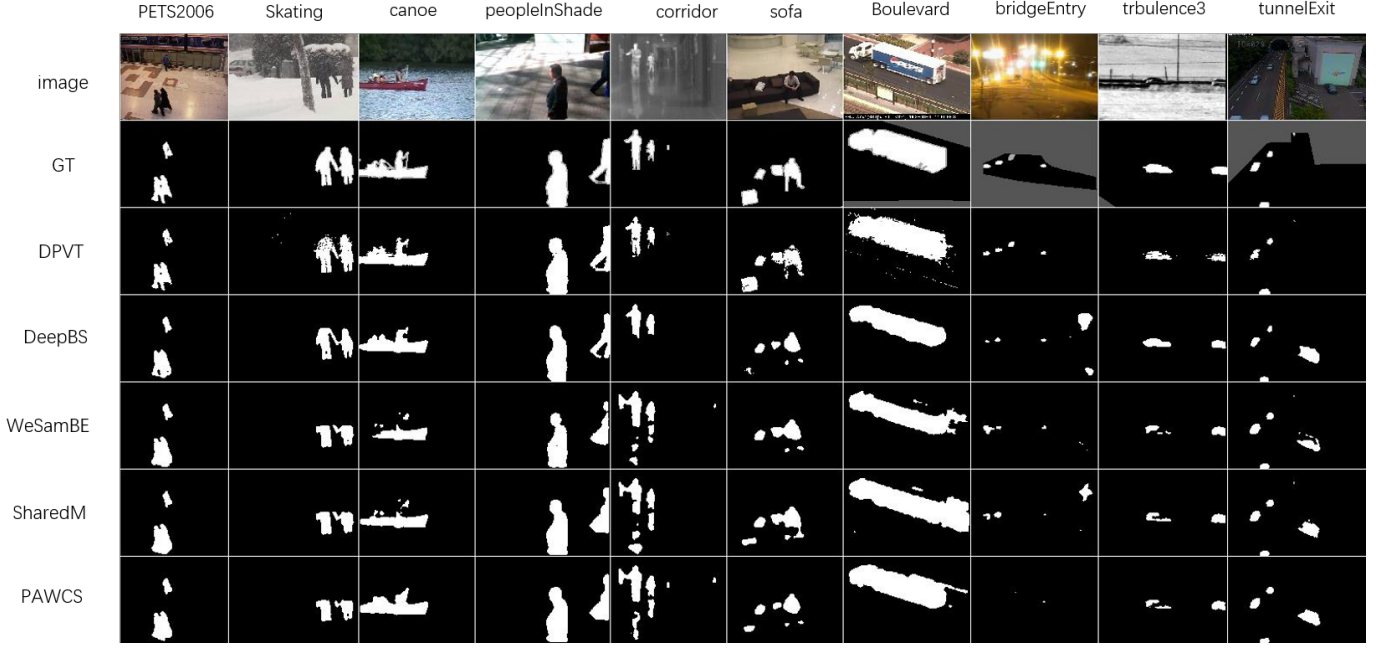


Fig. 4. The qualitative evaluation of the proposed method. All the results is followed in the CDnet 2014.

the background and achieves the highest performance in the category of shadow scene.

In the video "corridor" among the Thermal scene, there is no color information since the videos are obtained through a Thermal camera. Moreover, the moving objects in these videos are exceedingly fuzzy and indistinct, which is the main challenge of this category. The WeSamBE, the SharedModel and the PAWCS successfully detect the target objects, owing to a stable background in this indoor video. However, they fail to remove the reflections since their modeling ability have already reached a limit under the extreme condition of thermal map. The DeepBS, by contrast, succeeds in eliminating most of the reflections. Meanwhile, the moving objects are also clearly divided from the background thanks to the strong modeling ability of CNN. However, due to the dependency of edge feature, a small object were missed in the detection result. Fortunately, the proposed approach focus on the pattern of pixels' variation, which should be theoretically effective even in the observation without the color information. Consequently, our DPVL performed much better than compared algorithms, with the situation that most parts of shadow are removed and the segmentation results are more accurate.

The quantitative evaluation of proposed approach on CDnet 2014 is shown in the Table I. It can be inferred that the proposed approach significantly outperformed all of the compared state-of-the-art algorithms in most of complex scenes and achieved 6% gain in FM over the second one on the whole dataset. Moreover, in order to compare proposed approach with the DBMF, which is also based on deep learning and only publish their results in several special vides. The proposed approach has also ran in these video and the results are shown in Table 2. Again, the proposed approach has noticeably better performance than the DBMF and some other classical

background approaches.

As shown in the Table I and Table II, previous deep learning based methods like the DeepBS and the DBMF achieve well performance. From our own perspective, that good performance should attribute to the stronger modeling ability and learning adaptation of CNN and FCN. However, the proposed approach focused on the pixels variation in temporal sequence rather than low-level static features such as color, edges and textures, which gives us the ability to avoid the shortcomings of the background models. Consequently, the proposed approach still get considerably better results, which over 10.46% in FM metrics compared with the DeepBS and over 6.38% compared with the DBMF. The evaluation of proposed approach in CAMO-UOW dataset is shown in the Table III. Unlike the CDnet dataset, the videos of CAMO-UOW dataset are specially proposed for the moving objects with camouflage, which is the main challenge of this dataset. As shown in the Table III proposed approach achieves better performance compared to its competitions, with an average F-measure of 0.97, compared to values between 0.77 and 0.94 for the other methods. Therefore, it is fair to say that proposed approach performs better compared with their peers.

In this dataset, target objects have the similar color and textures with the background, which brings a lot of difficulties and obstacles to traditional methods. However, our FCN is a powerful Neural Network model which is good at capturing the non-linearities of the manifold of pixel variations.

All these experiments of the proposed method were implemented in matlab and ran on the computer with Nvidia tasela K80 GPU and all images are keep their original resolution. For each video in CDnet 2014, 100 training frames are extracted to produce the image matrix. It should be noted that the 100 frames only accounts for less than 10% of total

TABLE I

THE PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF THE PROPOSED APPROACH AND SOME STATE-OF-THE-ART ALGORITHMS ON THE VIDEO SEQUENCES FROM DIFFERENT CATEGORIES IN CDNET 2014.

Videos	baseline	dyna.bg	cam.jitter	int.obj.m	shadow	thermal	bad.weat	low f.rate	night vid.	PTZ	turbul.	overall
DeepBS [18]	0.9580	0.8761	0.8990	0.6097	0.9304	0.7583	0.8647	0.5900	0.6359	0.3306	0.8993	0.7458
IUTIS-5 [22]	0.9567	0.8902	0.8332	0.7296	0.9084	0.8303	0.8289	<b>0.7911</b>	0.5132	0.4703	0.8507	0.7717
FTSG [28]	0.9330	0.8792	0.7513	0.7891	0.8832	0.7768	0.8228	0.6259	0.5130	0.3241	0.7127	0.7283
AAPSA [27]	0.9183	0.6706	0.7207	0.5098	0.7953	0.7030	0.7742	0.4942	0.4161	0.3302	0.4643	0.6179
CwisarDH [29]	0.9145	0.8274	0.7886	0.5753	0.8581	0.7866	0.6837	0.6406	0.3735	0.3218	0.7227	0.6812
PAWCS [25]	0.9397	0.8938	0.8137	0.7764	0.8934	0.8324	0.8059	0.6433	0.4171	0.4450	0.7667	0.7403
SuBSENSE [19]	0.9503	0.8177	0.8152	0.6569	0.8986	0.8171	0.8594	0.6594	0.4918	0.3894	0.8423	0.7408
SemanticBGS [26]	0.9604	<b>0.9489</b>	0.8388	0.7878	0.9244	0.8219	0.8260	0.7888	0.5014	0.5673	0.6921	0.7892
MBS [30]	0.9287	0.7915	0.8367	0.7568	0.8262	0.8194	0.7980	0.6350	0.5158	0.5520	0.5858	0.7288
WeSamBE [31]	0.9413	0.7440	0.7976	0.7392	0.8999	0.7962	0.8608	0.6602	0.5929	0.3844	0.7737	0.7446
ShareM [32]	0.9522	0.8222	0.8141	0.6727	0.8898	0.8319	0.8480	0.7286	0.5419	0.3860	0.7339	0.7474
GMM [5]	0.8245	0.633	0.5969	0.5207	0.7370	0.6621	0.7380	0.5373	0.4097	0.1522	0.4663	0.5707
RMOG [33]	0.7848	0.7352	0.7010	0.5431	0.7212	0.4788	0.6826	0.5312	0.4265	0.2470	0.4578	0.5735
DPVTL	<b>0.9811</b>	0.9329	<b>0.9014</b>	<b>0.9595</b>	<b>0.9467</b>	<b>0.9479</b>	<b>0.8780</b>	0.7818	<b>0.7737</b>	<b>0.5957</b>	<b>0.9034</b>	<b>0.8789</b>

TABLE II

THE PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF THE PROPOSED APPROACH AND SOME CLASSICAL METHODS AND DEEP-BASED METHOD DBMF .

Methods	highway	office	Pedestrians	PETS2006	Fall	sofa	overall
GMM [4]	0.5788	0.2338	0.5202	0.6011	0.8026	0.5225	0.5432
CodeBook [34]	0.8356	0.5939	0.7293	0.7808	0.3921	0.8149	0.6911
ViBe [2]	0.7535	0.6676	0.8367	0.6668	0.6829	0.4298	0.6729
PBAS [8]	0.8071	0.6839	0.7902	0.7280	0.3420	0.5768	0.6547
P2M [35]	0.9160	0.3849	0.9121	0.7322	0.5819	0.4352	0.6604
DBMF [20]	0.9412	0.9236	0.8394	0.9059	0.8203	0.8645	0.8824
DPVTL	<b>0.9888</b>	<b>0.9819</b>	<b>0.9728</b>	<b>0.9808</b>	<b>0.9394</b>	<b>0.9333</b>	<b>0.9662</b>

TABLE III

THE PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF THE PROPOSED APPROACH AND SOME STATE-OF-THE-ART ALGORITHMS ON THE VIDEO SEQUENCES FROM DIFFERENT CATEGORIES IN CAMO-UOW.

Methods	MOG2 [36]	FCI [37]	LBA-SOM [38]	PBAS	SuBSENSE	ML-BGS [39]	DECOLOR [40]	COROLA [41]	FWFC [42]	Ours
Video 1	0.79	0.88	0.8	0.9	0.89	0.89	0.92	0.8	0.94	<b>0.96</b>
Video 2	0.82	0.79	0.8	0.82	0.88	0.8	0.83	0.58	0.96	<b>0.98</b>
Video 3	0.88	0.86	0.85	0.91	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.82	0.94	<b>0.95</b>
Video 4	0.89	0.9	0.76	0.93	0.78	0.88	0.95	0.87	0.94	<b>0.98</b>
Video 5	0.84	0.86	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.8	0.82	0.75	0.91	<b>0.98</b>
Video 6	0.93	0.87	0.77	0.95	0.92	0.95	0.97	0.72	0.94	<b>0.98</b>
Video 7	0.76	0.83	0.88	0.91	0.87	0.79	0.91	0.83	0.96	<b>0.99</b>
Video 8	0.83	0.87	0.85	0.87	0.93	0.86	0.86	0.68	<b>0.96</b>	<b>0.96</b>
Video 9	0.89	0.9	0.87	0.84	0.92	0.87	0.86	0.78	0.88	<b>0.99</b>
Video 10	0.89	0.86	0.89	0.91	0.92	0.9	0.94	0.85	0.96	<b>0.97</b>
average	0.85	0.86	0.83	0.89	0.88	0.85	0.90	0.77	0.94	<b>0.97</b>

Groundtruth in CDnet 2014. In contrast, 90% of data were used as training samples in the DBMF, which suggest that the proposed approach achieves well performance with limited training frames. Considering that the videos in CAMO-UOW have fewer frames, we reduce the number of training frames to 49. During the experience, the training set and testing set are completely separated. More specifically, our FCN network is random initialized. We train the network with mini-batches of size 200, a learning rate  $= 110^{-3}$  over 20 epochs. The last threshold  $R$  is set to 0.6.

## VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we proposed a novel foreground detection approach based on deep learning and the variation transformation learning. The DPVTL model include a FCN network and a novel variation transformation learning framework, which allows us to efficiently combine the temporal coherence and distribution information of pixels over a long period of time.

Comparison with other traditional and deep learning methods shows that the DPVTL has good properties on several challenging scenes. The future work will be focused on improving the DPVTL in terms of network architecture updating and integration of local spatial coherence.

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