

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Department of Computing

**External and Internal Nonlocal
Self-Similarity based Models
for Image Denoising**

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**A thesis
submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of**

Doctor of Philosophy

July 11, 2017

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGINALITY

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Jun Xu

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Abstract

The nonlocal self-similarity (NSS) prior of natural images has been extensively studied in many image restoration methods. In this thesis, we exploit the NSS property of external natural images, external guided internal NSS property, and internal NSS property for image denoising tasks.

Acknowledgement

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	The Camera Imaging Pipeline	1
1.2	The Image Noise	2
1.3	The Proposed Methods	2
1.4	Thesis Structure	2
2	Literature Review	3
2.1	Synthetic Grayscale Image Denoising	3
2.2	Realistic Color Image Denoising	3
3	External Non-local Self-Similarity Prior for Additive White Gaussian Noise	5
3.1	Introduction	5
3.2	System Design	6
3.3	Demo System	7
3.4	Calibration	7
3.5	Conclusion	7
4	External Prior Guided Internal Prior Learning for Real Noisy Image Denoising	9
4.1	Learning External Nonlocal Self-Similarity Priors	9
4.2	System Design	10
4.3	Demo System	11
4.4	Calibration	11
4.5	Conclusion	11
5	Internal Nonlocal Self-Similarity Prior for Real Color Image Denoising: A Low Rank based Method	13
5.1	Introduction	13
5.2	Related Work	14
5.3	Method	14
5.4	Experimental Results	14

5.5	Summary	15
6	Internal Nonlocal Self-Similarity Prior for Real Color Image De-noising: A Sparse Coding based ethod	17
6.1	Introduction	17
6.2	Related Work	18
6.3	Summary	18
7	A Large Real Noisy Image Dataset, with A Comprehensive Evaluation of State-of-the-arts	19
7.1	Introduction	19
7.2	Related Work	20
7.3	Summary	20
8	Conclusions	21
8.1	Section 1	21
8.2	Section 2	21
8.3	Future Work	22

List of Figures

3.1	Figure example: (<i>a</i>) example part one, (<i>c</i>) example part two; (<i>c</i>) example part three	5
3.2	Another Figure example: (<i>a</i>) example part one, (<i>c</i>) example part two; (<i>c</i>) example part three	6
4.1	Figure example: (<i>a</i>) example part one, (<i>c</i>) example part two; (<i>c</i>) example part three	9
4.2	Another Figure example: (<i>a</i>) example part one, (<i>c</i>) example part two; (<i>c</i>) example part three	10

List of Tables

Introduction

” *"Mens cujusque is est Quisque" – "Mind
Makes the Man"*

— Samuel Pepys

Nowadays, cameras are becoming more and more widely used in many aspects of human lives such as taking pictures, medical analysis, security monitoring and control, etc. The camera imaging pipelines are of particular importance since it is the key step of transforming the real scenes into the pictures or videos. However, during the imaging process, the noise is unavoidable to be generated due to many reasons.

1.1 The Camera Imaging Pipeline

The cameras capture the images and store as raw image formats. During the camera imaging pipeline, the photons are transformed into electronics by the photodiode in the camera sensor. The original sensor array (also called color filter array, or CFA) contains red, green, and blue channels, and these incomplete channels are transformed into the final RGB files via the raw converter. The camera imaging pipeline includes multiple stages such as reading raw image, black light subtraction, lens correction, demosaicing, noise reduction, white balancing, gamma curve, final color space conversion, etc [brownecv2016]. Basically, a camera imaging pipeline includes demosaicing, white balancing and color space transform, gamut mapping, tone mapping, and JPEG compression [crosschannel]. However, different cameras have varying structures and camera parameters, and hence resulting different imaging effects. Recently, there also exists learning based imaging pipelines which directly learn the natural image priors from the RGB and raw images pairs.

1.2 The Image Noise

During the imaging pipeline, the noise will be generated. The key reason of noise generation is unstable measurement from the discrete nature of light and the thermal agitation.

The major sources of noise generated during the imaging pipeline are the random noise, the spatial non-uniformity, and quantization noise. The random noise includes photon shot noise, dark current, and readout noise. The spatial non-uniformity noise includes the fixed pattern noise (PRNU, DCNU), CCD/CMOS specific noise.

1.3 The Proposed Methods

1.4 Thesis Structure

Chapter ??

Chapter ??

Chapter 5

Chapter 7

Chapter 8

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2.1 Synthetic Grayscale Image Denoising

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2.2 Realistic Color Image Denoising

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External Non-local Self-Similarity

Prior for Additive White Gaussian Noise

3

” *Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.*

— Steve Jobs
(CEO Apple Inc.)

3.1 Introduction



Fig. 3.1: Figure example: (a) example part one, (c) example part two; (c) example part three

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Fig. 3.2: Another Figure example: (a) example part one, (c) example part two; (c) example part three

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3.2 System Design

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3.3 Demo System

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3.4 Calibration

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3.5 Conclusion

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External Prior Guided Internal Prior Learning for Real Noisy Image Denoising

“Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.

— Steve Jobs
(CEO Apple Inc.)

4.1 Learning External Nonlocal Self-Similarity Priors



Fig. 4.1: Figure example: (a) example part one, (c) example part two; (c) example part three

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Fig. 4.2: Another Figure example: (a) example part one, (c) example part two; (c) example part three

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Internal Nonlocal Self-Similarity Prior for Real Color Image Denoising: A Low Rank based Method

“Users do not care about what is inside the box, as long as the box does what they need done.

— **Jef Raskin**

about Human Computer Interfaces

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5.2 Related Work

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5.3 Method

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5.4 Experimental Results

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5.5 Summary

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Internal Nonlocal Self-Similarity

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Denoising: A Sparse Coding based method

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A Large Real Noisy Image Dataset, with A Comprehensive Evaluation of State-of-the-arts

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Conclusions

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8.1 Section 1

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8.2 Section 2

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8.3 Future Work

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