

Term paper Presentation

J. Sánchez, E. Meinhardt-Llopis, and G. Facciolo, "TV-L1 Optical Flow Estimation," *Image Process. Line*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 137–150, 2013.

Optical Flow

- Optical flow is used to compute the motion of the pixels of an image sequence. It provides a dense (point to point) pixel correspondence.
- *Correspondence problem*: determine where the pixels of an image at time t are in the image at time $t+1$.

Assumptions: **BC (Grey value constancy assumption)**

- ❖ It is assumed that the grey value of a pixel is not changed by the displacement.

$$I(x, y, t) = I(x + u, y + v, t + 1) \quad I: \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad (1)$$

$$f(x) = f(a) + \frac{f'(a)(x-a)}{1!} + \dots \quad \text{General Taylor series expansion}$$

$$I(x + u, y + v, t + 1) = I(x, y, t) + \frac{\partial I(x, y, t)}{\partial x} u + \frac{\partial I(x, y, t)}{\partial y} v + \frac{\partial I(x, y, t)}{\partial t} \tau + \dots$$

$$I(x + u, y + v, t + 1) = I(x, y, t) + \nabla I_x u + \nabla I_y v + I_t \tau + \dots$$

$$I_x u_x + I_y v_x + I_t \tau = 0$$

$$\nabla I \cdot \mathbf{u} + I_t \tau = 0$$

- ❖ Displacement vector $\mathbf{u} = (u, v)$

Assumptions: **GC (Gradient constancy assumption.)**

- ❖ It is assumed that the gradient value of a pixel is not changed by the displacement.

$$\nabla I(x, y, t) = \nabla I(x + u, y + v, t + 1) \quad (2)$$

$$\forall \tau \in [t, t + 1]$$

- ❖ **Smoothness assumption**: Outliers in estimation, vanishing gradient

How to solve optical flow constraints ?

$$I_x u_x + I_y v_y + I_t = 0$$

$$\nabla I(x, y, t) = \nabla I(x + u, y + v, t + 1)$$

• local methods:

- Lucas-Kanade technique: One equation two unknowns

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_x(p_1) & I_y(p_1) \\ I_x(p_2) & I_y(p_2) \\ I_x(p_{25}) & I_y(p_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} I_t(p_1) \\ I_t(p_2) \\ I_t(p_{25}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$\begin{matrix} A_{25 \times 2} & d_{25 \times 1} \\ & b_{25 \times 1} \end{matrix}$

- Bigun's structure tensor method

• Global methods:

- Horn/Schunck
- Total variations

Multiscale approach

- In the case of displacements that are larger than one pixel per frame, the cost functional in a variational formulation must be expected to be multi-modal,
 - i.e. a minimization algorithm could easily be trapped in a local minimum. In order to find the global minimum, it can be useful to apply multiscale ideas:

Horn/Schunck

$$E_{\text{Horn, Schunck}}(\mathbf{u}) = \int_{\Omega} \left(\nabla I \cdot \mathbf{u} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} I \right)^2 + \alpha (|\nabla u_1|^2 + |\nabla u_2|^2).$$

- Penalizes high gradients of \mathbf{u}
- Disallows discontinuities

Total variation: L1

• TV L1:

$$E(\mathbf{u}) = \int_{\Omega} I_t(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}, t) - I_t(\mathbf{x}, t) dx + \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u_1| + |\nabla u_2|$$

$$I_t(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}) - I_t(\mathbf{x}) = I_t(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}_x) - I_t(\mathbf{x}) + \nabla I_t(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}_x)(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_x)$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{u}) = I_t(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}_x) - I_t(\mathbf{x}) + \nabla I_t(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}_x)(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_x)$$

Hence we can write the above equation as

$$E(\mathbf{u}) = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u_1| + |\nabla u_2| + \lambda |\rho(\mathbf{u})|.$$

$$J^*(v) = \chi_K(v) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } v \in K \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

How to solve 1: cont'

- Note: $J(u) = \sup_{v \in K} \langle u, v \rangle_X$.

And the closure set $K = \{\operatorname{div} \xi: \xi \in C_c^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^2), |\xi(x)| \leq 1 \ \forall x \in \Omega\}.$

How to solve 1: cont'

- Objective: $\min_{u \in X} \frac{\|u - g\|^2}{2\lambda} + J(u), \quad (6)$

- Euler equation for (6) is

$$\begin{aligned} u - g + \lambda \partial J(u) &\ni 0. \\ \longrightarrow (g - u)/\lambda &\in \partial J(u) \\ u &\in \partial J^*((g - u)/\lambda) \\ \frac{g}{\lambda} &\in \frac{g - u}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\lambda} \partial J^*\left(\frac{g - u}{\lambda}\right), \end{aligned}$$

How to solve 1: cont'

$$\begin{aligned} w &= (g - u)/\lambda \\ \frac{\|w - (g/\lambda)\|^2}{2} + \frac{1}{\lambda} J^*(w) &\quad \text{Indicator function} \\ \longrightarrow w &= \pi_K(g/\lambda). \end{aligned}$$

Hence the solution of (6) is given by

$$u = g - \pi_{\lambda K}(g). \quad (7)$$

In the discrete case, setting $\pi_{\lambda K}(g) = \operatorname{div}(p)$

$$\longrightarrow \min \{ \|\lambda \operatorname{div} p - g\|^2 : p \in Y, |p_{i,j}|^2 - 1 \leq 0 \ \forall i, j = 1, \dots, N \}. \quad (8)$$

Chambolle approach

Euler Lagrange formulation

$$-(\nabla(\lambda \operatorname{div} p - g))_{i,j} + \alpha_{i,j} p_{i,j} = 0 \quad \text{Lagrange multiplier } \alpha_{i,j} \geq 0,$$

$$\longrightarrow \alpha_{i,j} = |(\nabla(\lambda \operatorname{div} p - g))_{i,j}|.$$

semi-implicit gradient descent

We choose $\tau > 0$, let $p^0 = 0$ and for any $n \geq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} p_{i,j}^{n+1} &= p_{i,j}^n + \tau ((\nabla(\operatorname{div} p^n - g/\lambda))_{i,j} \\ &\quad - |(\nabla(\operatorname{div} p^n - g/\lambda))_{i,j}| p_{i,j}^{n+1}), \end{aligned}$$

Chambolle approach: cont'

$$p_{i,j}^{n+1} = \frac{p_{i,j}^n + \tau(\nabla(\operatorname{div} p^n - g/\lambda))_{i,j}}{1 + \tau|(\nabla(\operatorname{div} p^n - g/\lambda))_{i,j}|}. \quad (9)$$

How to solve equation 2:

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} 2. \text{ Fixed } u, \text{ solve} \\ \min_v \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2\theta} \|u - v\|^2 + \lambda |\rho(v)|. \end{array}}$$

$$\rho(v)(x) = a^T v + b, \quad a \in \mathbb{R}^d \text{ and } b \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$v(x) = u(x) - \pi_{\lambda\theta\|a\|}(u + \frac{b}{\|a\|^2}a)$$

$$\pi_{\lambda\theta\|a\|}\left(u + \frac{b}{\|a\|^2}a\right) = \begin{cases} -\lambda\theta a & \text{if } a^T u + b < -\lambda\theta\|a\|^2 \\ \lambda\theta a & \text{if } a^T u + b > \lambda\theta\|a\|^2 \\ \frac{a^T u + b}{\|a\|^2}a & \text{if } |a^T u + b| \leq \lambda\theta\|a\|^2 \end{cases}$$

General form of TVL1 with data attachment term

$$E_\theta(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u| + |\nabla u| + \frac{1}{2\theta} \|u - v\|^2 + \lambda |\rho(v)|$$

$$\min_u \int_{\Omega} \left\{ |\nabla u| + \frac{1}{2\theta} (u - v)^2 \right\} dx. \quad (6)$$

Proposition 1 The solution of Eq. (6) is given by

$$u = v - \theta \operatorname{div} p, \quad (8)$$

where $p = (p^1, p^2)$ fulfills

$$\nabla(\theta \operatorname{div} p - v) = |\nabla(\theta \operatorname{div} p - v)| p, \quad (9)$$

which can be solved by the following iterative fixed-point scheme:

$$p^{k+1} = \frac{p^k + \tau \nabla(\operatorname{div} p^k - v/\theta)}{1 + \tau |\nabla(\operatorname{div} p^k - v/\theta)|}, \quad (10)$$

where $p^0 = 0$ and the time step $\tau \leq 1/8$.

Chambolles Projection algorithm

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} 2. \text{ Fixed } u, \text{ solve} \\ \min_v \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2\theta} \|u - v\|^2 + \lambda |\rho(v)|. \end{array}}$$

$$\rho(v)(x) = a^T v + b, \quad a \in \mathbb{R}^d \text{ and } b \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$v(x) = u(x) - \pi_{\lambda\theta\|a\|}\left(u + \frac{b}{\|a\|^2}a\right)$$

$$\pi_{\lambda\theta\|a\|}\left(u + \frac{b}{\|a\|^2}a\right) = \begin{cases} -\lambda\theta a & \text{if } a^T u + b < -\lambda\theta\|a\|^2 \\ \lambda\theta a & \text{if } a^T u + b > \lambda\theta\|a\|^2 \\ \frac{a^T u + b}{\|a\|^2}a & \text{if } |a^T u + b| \leq \lambda\theta\|a\|^2 \end{cases}$$

Point wise solution

Numerical Details

- To compute the gradient of the image I_1 , we use central differences along each direction, with Neumann boundary conditions.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} I_1(i, j) = \begin{cases} \frac{I_1(i+1, j) - I_1(i-1, j)}{2} & \text{if } 1 < i < N_x \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} I_1(i, j) = \begin{cases} \frac{I_1(i, j+1) - I_1(i, j-1)}{2} & \text{if } 1 < j < N_y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Numerical Details

- To compute the gradient of each component of the flow u , we use forward differences with Neumann boundary conditions.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} u(i, j) = \begin{cases} u(i+1, j) - u(i, j) & \text{if } 1 \leq i < N_x \\ 0 & \text{if } i = N_x \end{cases},$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} u(i, j) = \begin{cases} u(i, j+1) - u(i, j) & \text{if } 1 \leq j < N_y \\ 0 & \text{if } j = N_y \end{cases}.$$

Numerical Details

- For computing the divergences of the dual variables p , we use the adjoint of the gradient of u , which corresponds to using backward differences:

$$\text{div}(\mathbf{p})(i, j) = \begin{cases} p_1(i, j) - p_1(i-1, j) & \text{if } 1 < i < N_x \\ p_1(i, j) & \text{if } i = 1 \\ -p_1(i-1, j) & \text{if } i = N_x \end{cases} + \begin{cases} p_2(i, j) - p_2(i, j-1) & \text{if } 1 < j < N_y \\ p_2(i, j) & \text{if } j = 1 \\ -p_2(i, j-1) & \text{if } j = N_y \end{cases}.$$

Extensions:

- Warping
- Illumination change approximation

$$\rho(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}) = I_i + (\nabla I)^T_{i,j} (v_{i,j} - v_{i,j}^0) + \beta w$$

- Adding gradient consistency term

Algorithm

Algorithm 1: Pyramidal structure management

Input: $I_0, I_1, \tau, \lambda, \theta, \varepsilon, \eta, N_{maxiter}, N_{warps}, N_{scales}$

Output: \mathbf{u}

```

1 Normalize images between 0 and 255
2 Convolve the images with a Gaussian of  $\sigma = 0.8$ 
3 Create the pyramid of images  $I^s$  using  $\eta$  (with  $s = 0, \dots, N_{scales} - 1$ )
4  $\mathbf{u}^{N_{scales}-1} \leftarrow (0, 0)$ 
5 for  $s \leftarrow N_{scales} - 1$  to 0 do
6   TV-L1 optical flow ( $I_0, I_1, \mathbf{u}^0, \tau, \lambda, \theta, \varepsilon, N_{maxiter}, N_{warps}$ )
7   if  $s > 0$  then
8      $\mathbf{u}^{s-1}(\mathbf{x}) := 2\mathbf{u}^s(\mathbf{x}/\eta)$ 
9   end
10 end
```

time step (t), data attachment weight (λ), tightness (θ), stopping criterion threshold (ε), downsampling factor (η), number of scales (N_{scales}), number of warps (N_{warps}).

Implementation:

```
pyramid_levels = 100; % as much as possible
pyramid_factor = 0.98;
```

```
width_Pyramid(i) = pyramid_factor*width_Pyramid(i-1);
height_Pyramid(i) = pyramid_factor*height_Pyramid(i-1);
```



Source code available: http://www.ipol.im/pub/art/2013/26/2utm_source=doi

Algorithm

Procedure $TV-L^1_optical_flow(I_0, I_1, u^0, \tau, \lambda, \theta, \varepsilon, N_{maxiter}, N_{warps})$

```
1  $p_1 \leftarrow (0, 0)$ 
2  $p_2 \leftarrow (0, 0)$ 
3 for  $w \leftarrow 1$  to  $N_{warps}$  do
4   Compute  $I_1(x + u^0(x)), \nabla I_1(x + u^0(x))$  using bicubic interpolation
5    $n \leftarrow 0$ 
6   while  $n < N_{maxiter}$  and  $stopping\_criterion > \varepsilon$  do
7      $v \leftarrow TH(u, u^0)$ 
8      $u \leftarrow v + \theta \text{div}(p)$ 
9      $p \leftarrow \frac{p_1 + \tau \theta \nabla u}{1 + \tau \theta \|\nabla u\|}$ 
10     $n \leftarrow n + 1$ 
11  end
12 end
```

time step (τ), data attachment weight (λ), tightness (θ), stopping criterion threshold (ε),
downsampling factor (η), number of scales (N_{scales}), number of warps (N_{warps}).

Reference:

- J. Pérez, E. Meinhardt-Llopis, and G. Facciolo, "[TV-L1 Optical Flow Estimation](#)," Image Process. Line, vol. 1, pp. 137–150, 2013.
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- A. Chambolle, T. Pock. "[A first-order primal-dual algorithm for convex problems with applications to imaging](#)", 2010