

earable Navigation System for the Blind People in Dynamic Environments

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This paper presents a novel wearable navigation system for the blind and visually impaired in unknown dynamic environments. Usually, feature-based visual navigation and 3D reconstruction works very well for static environments. In this dynamic environment is considered, where a moving object is tracked by a moving monocular camera with inertial sensor. A novel method based on feature points from a video sequence is proposed to not only estimate the camera motion but also the 3D motion of the moving object so as to infer the relationship between the camera and the moving object. Firstly, the video sequence is segmented into static and dynamic areas by the AGOF method. The AGOF method is based on the AGOF orientation filter and epipolar geometry constraint, which is the first contribution of this paper. Then the motion area related to the moving object can be considered as if a static object is tracked by a “virtual camera”, while the extracted features of the static background are used for estimating the motion of the “real camera”, compared with the “virtual camera”. The second contribution is to solve the problem of scale ambiguity in camera tracking. The scale is firstly adjusted to obtain a closed form solution with 1-point algorithm estimated in metric unit with the help of inertial sensor. After obtaining the motions for the real and virtual camera, the third key contribution is that the 3D moving object motion can be derived from these two motions, because the real camera’s motion is actually the combined motion of the real camera and the moving object. As a result, the system can avoid collision with moving objects. Finally, we will demonstrate the robustness and effectiveness of our proposed method by a series of experimental results.

Keywords—Blind navigation, dynamic scenes, 3D reconstruction, scale ambiguity, structure from motion.

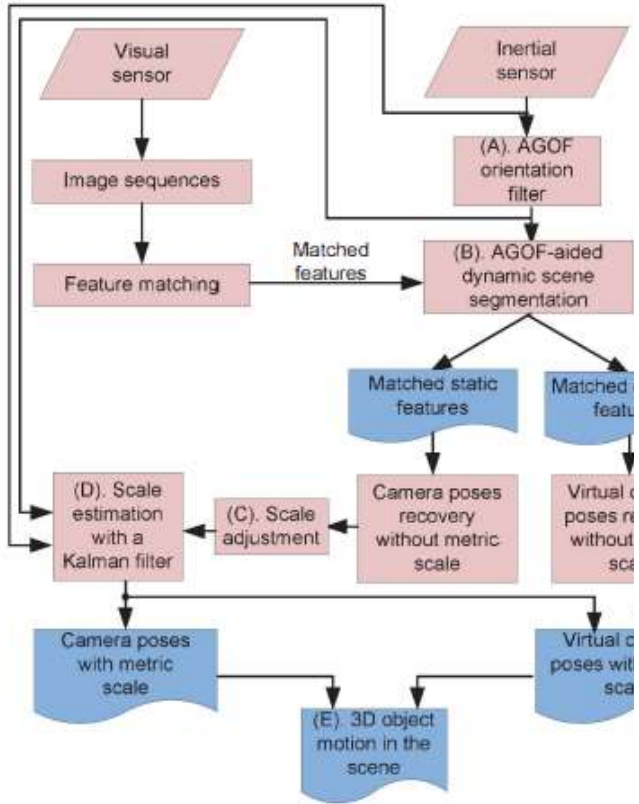


Fig. 1. The flowchart of the proposed method.

recognition, or camera ego-motion, the common methods are based on the principle of triangulation. However, it is commonly assumed that the 3D scene is static, and triangulation can only be enabled in the situation where a 3D object in at least two views. If the scene is dynamic and moving objects appear, the rules of triangulation are not satisfied, unless some constraints are further introduced [8]. Another problem is about the depth estimation