Evaluation of SD Filter for Multi-Spectral Image De-Noising

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Abstract

Traditional de-noising algorithms using static and dynamic guidance images are already used. The SD Filter leverages both static and dynamic guidance together for many applications. For this project de-noising application is studied. The method uses high detail NIR image as a static guidance for de-noising an visible spectrum RGB image.

To evaluate this method's performance some image metric methods are also studied in this paper.

1. Introduction

Many tasks in image processing requires regularization in order to get good results. Guidance is used to transfer strong structures from one image to another.

Traditional methods use static or dynamic guidance images. Static guidance regularization modulates input image with similarities between two images. It can easily reflect internal properties of the input image. Dynamic guidance regularization on the other hand modulates input image with similarities between neighboring pixels. It can preserve local features better than static guidance regularization.

Robust Image Filtering using Joint Static and Dynamic Guidance[2] paper uses both static and dynamic guidance images together to keep local features and static image structures intact.

Infrared sensors are still developing and thus there are some intrinsic problems with Infrared Imaging(IR). These problems will be dealt with during the project.

TRICLOBS(TRI-band Color Low-light OBServation) Dataset[4] is used for de-noising with multiple spectrum images of the same scene. The dataset includes different civilian or military scenarios executed against a special kind of hardware that records visible, NIR and LWIR spectrum. This database will be used in evaluation part of the method[2].

2. Related Work

As we have mentioned before, both static and dynamic guidance has their own advantages and disadvantages.

3. Methodology

The project can be divided into two main parts. The methodology for each part will be discussed in following sections.

3.1. Sigma Estimation

IR imaging sensors are more complicated than visible light RGB sensors. One of the problems of IR sensors is higher amounts of noise. For most image processing applications, especially for image de-noising, there needs to be a way to measure image quality and enhancements between pre-algorithm and post-algorithm steps.

A widely used image quality metric is peak signal to noise ratio(PSNR). PSNR, is an engineering term for the ratio between the maximum possible power of a signal and the power of corrupting noise that affects the fidelity of its representation[1]. For SNR measurements to work correctly, original image needs to be virtually noise-free.

Since original images are noisy in our case we will use two different methods to estimate noise levels from the original image. Then noise levels will be used as an image quality metric. Both methods were originally meant for additive white gaussian noise, this may or may not be the case for our dataset. Thus these methods need to be evaluated as well.

3.1.1 Online Variance Calculation on Consecutive Frames

3.1.2 Noise Level Estimation Using Weak Textured Patches of a Single Noisy Image

Noise Level Estimation Using Weak Textured Patches of a Single Noisy Image[3] uses low rank weak textured patches without high frequency components. Noise level is then estimated from selected patches using principal component

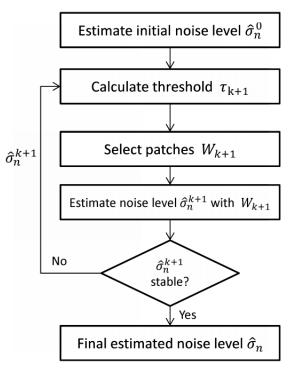


Figure 1. Algorithm for [3].

analysis(PCA). Figure 1 shows the overall algorithm for this method.

3.2. Filtering Framework

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4. Experiments

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