BIL 717 Image Processing-Spring 2016 Final Project Analysis of Two Non-Uniform Motion Deblurring Studies

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Abstract

In this paper we evaluate two blind motion-deblurring methods in the recent literature using a non-traditional metric that was developed in order to create a more perceptionally sound deblurring comparison criteria. In general terms, the first method, which was developed by Sun et al. [10], uses a convolutional neural network (CNN) to learn non-uniform motion blur removal. The second method, which was developed by Whyte et al. [11], proposes a geometric model to define the blurring kernels. Both methods tackle with the same blind non-uniform motion blur removal problem. In the upcoming sections we first define the blind motion-deblurring problem, then we discuss the related work focusing mostly on the recent literature, next we describe the two methods along with the no-reference metric, subsequently we define the methodology and experimentation, and we finish with conclusion.

1. Introduction

Motion blur is caused by moving the camera or objects within view when the camera shutter is open. This harms sharpness and causes losing the edges and thus objects in the scene seem intermingled. If the entire scene was blurred in the same way, this type of blur is called uniform blur. Non-uniform blur arises when the blur does not show the same type or magnitude of intermingling throughout the scene. A typical example of non-uniform blur emerges when the camera is rotated when the camera shutter is open and the recording of the information of the outside world is under way. When this happens the scene gets blurred in a rotational pattern (different parts of the scene blurred depending on the distance to a certain rotational center) [EXAMPLE]. Another example would be moving the camera towards or away from the scene (transposition in the

depth axis). In this case the blurring pattern looks more like a tunnel effect; namely blurring happens less in magnitude around a certain center in the scene (like a target), and more and more towards the image boundaries [EXAM-PLE]. More complex movements such as a combination of transposition and rotation of the camera complicate the issue even further.

Uniform deblurring typically have been defined as a convolution of an image with a kernel and added noise. Therefore, the basic approach is to subtract the noise and deconvolve the image with the same kernel. The problem with this approach is that the kernel is generally unknown. When the blur kernel is unknown, the problem is called blind deblurring problem. Researchers have attacked this problem with a range of different approaches. Some of the approaches will be covered in the next section. In this paper we analyze two of the recent papers that tackle with blind motion-deblurring problem.

1.1. Sun et al. (2015)

In Sun *et al.* (2015), the authors attack the problem of removing non-uniform motion blur from a single image using deep learning. The method they use depends on predicting motion kernels at a patch level. In order to do this they formulate the non-uniform blur as a field throughout the image. To find this field they divide the image into overlapping 30×30 patches, estimate the kernels at this level and then smooth the field depending on a smoothness of motion assumption. CNN is used to learn deblurring at a patch level. The general view of the CNN is seen on (Figure) [10].

Before training, the authors generated motion blur kernels with varying sizes from 1 pixel to 25 pixels with interval of two, and orientations ranging from 0 degree to 150 degree with intervals of 30, totaling 73 kernels. These kernels can be seen in (figure). To train the CNN model, the authors used these 73 kernels to artificially generate 1.4 million blurred patch/kernel pairs using PASCAL VOC 2010

database. They then used these patches as the input to the CNN during the training phase [10].

As can be seen in (figure) the CNN finds a probability distribution at the softmax layer. The authors state that the kernel space, which consists of 73 kernels, is not dense enough to represent all types of motions. To overcome this problem, they extend the motion kernel set by rotating image patches in the range between 0 and 24 degrees and use the trained CNN on these patches. Note that at this point they do not retrain the CNN, but rather they use the trained CNN with rotated images. By doing this they overcome the trainability problem of a high number of motion kernels and get a good amount of motion orientation detail [10].

The next phase is using the Markov Random Field (MRF) to find a dense field of kernels on the image. The previous phases find a number of motion kernels at every patch location on the image. Here, the main assumption is that the camera moves in a smooth trajactory when the shutter is open and thus the change of kernels throughout the image must also be smooth. This implies that there mut not be sudden changes when moving from one patch to another. This is made possible by using an MRF model and optimizing it. This enforces closeness of nearby kernels [10].

1.2. Whyte et al. (2012)

In Whyte *et al.* (2012), the authors emphasize that during the exposure, the camera sees a sequence of interrelated views and integrate them to form the blurry image. If we take one sensor pixel in the camera into consideration, it is subjected to photons coming from different points in space when the camera moves. It is also possible that nearby pixels are seeing the same points with passing time and recording the light coming from the same points. Therefore, they make an observation that the views of the camera are all related and they state that this relation can be explained using geometry [11].

The authors create a geometrical model using the geometry of a camera. They formulate how the translation and rotational movements of the camera can be expressed in terms of homographies, or in other words projective transformations in 2D [11].

2. Related Work

Non-uniform blur removal problem has been studied extensively. Many pieces of previous research has considered the problem as a subset of uniform blur in a patch scale. In other words, these studies assumed that images that have non-uniform blur are much like uniformly blurred images in a smaller scale. Levin (2006) handled the problem of non-uniform blurring when some of the objects in the scene are moving independently. They divide the image into segments and find kernels using image statistics [7]. Cho *et al.* (2007) handles the problem of blind deblurring when the

objects and the camera moving at the same time. They formulate the problem using an energy function and solve it [6].

Some other methods that did not handle blind deblurring as a uniform deblurring in a segment scale have been proposed. Shan *et al.* (2008) estimates blur kernel and deblurred image at the same time using a probabilistic model. They analyze the common artifacts of deblurring and they constrain some of the image features in order to get rid of these artifacts [9]. Tai *et al.* (2010) reduces the "spatially varying" blur using a hybrid camera system. This camera system has an extra camera that captures at a higher frame rate but at a lower resolution. They combine the two streams in order to reduce the non-uniform blur in video streams and in images [?]. Similarly, Joshi *et al.* (2010) uses inertial measurement sensors to measure six degrees of freedom motion to approximate the blur kernels [?].

3. Methodology

One of the reasons why we decided on to analyze these two studies was the availability of the codes and data related to the studies. We have got in contact with some other researchers about their papers and queried whether the codes and related material were available, but we have not been able to get the sufficient material to conduct the experiments

Sun *et al.* (2015) code is available Dr. Sun's website ¹. Whyte *et al.* (2012) code is available at the study's website ²

In conducting the experiments, we used five blurry images that was provided with [11]. These blurry images are available on the study's website ³. These pictures pose very challanging deblurring problems. The movements show quite complex patterns throughout the images and the images amount of intermingling among nearby pixels is quite high.

In this study, we use Liu *et al.* (2013)'s no-reference metric to measure the success of the two deblurring methods. In the following section no-reference metric is explained.

3.1. Liu et al. (2013)

The main goal this study tries to achieve is finding a good metric to measure specifically quality of deblurring. The authors argue that a metric specific to the problem of motion deblurring will yield better results than more general metrics that measure the quality of the solutions to other types of image processing problems such as denoising and so on. To this end, they measure the principal artifacts related to

http://gr.xjtu.edu.cn/

²http://www.di.ens.fr/willow/research/ deblurring/

http://gr.xjtu.edu.cn/web/jiansun/codes

deblurring in general, i.e. ringing artifacts, noise, and residual blur and use these as features to learn a metric for blind deblurring [8].

The researchers used crowdsourcing to perceptually assign deblurring quality to deblurred images. The users were shown image pairs and they decided which has a better deblurring quality. The researchers used this quality information to rank different images that were deblurred using different algorithms and parameters. They decided on which artifacts are most important in the process of deciding on the quality of deblurring and which features are more important to use when giving a score to a deblurring result [8].

4. Experimental Results

5. Conclusions

In this study, we analyzed and evaluated two of the deblurring studies in the current literature. We evaluated the results using a recently developed metric that was designed to measure motion deblurring specifically. The results show that neither of the techniques is the panacea of the blind motion deblurring problem. Both techniques are good for certain types of blurry pictures.

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Saying "this builds on the work of Lucy Smith [1]" does not say that you are Lucy Smith; it says that you are building on her work. If you are Smith and Jones, do not say "as we show in [7]", say "as Smith and Jones show in [7]" and at the end of the paper, include reference 7 as you would any other cited work.

An example of a bad paper just asking to be rejected:

An analysis of the frobnicatable foo filter.

In this paper we present a performance analysis of our previous paper [1], and show it to be inferior to all previously known methods. Why the previous paper was accepted without this analysis is beyond me.



Figure 1. A caption

[1] Removed for blind review

An example of an acceptable paper:

An analysis of the frobnicatable foo filter.

In this paper we present a performance analysis of the paper of Smith *et al*. [1], and show it to be inferior to all previously known methods. Why the previous paper was accepted without this analysis is beyond me.

[1] Smith, L and Jones, C. "The frobnicatable foo filter, a fundamental contribution to human knowledge". Nature 381(12), 1-213.

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[1] Authors. "The frobnicatable foo filter", F&G 2014 Submission ID 324, Supplied as additional material fg324.pdf.

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We describe a system for zero-g frobnication. This system is new because it handles the following cases: A, B. Previous systems [Zeus et al. 1968] didn't handle case B properly. Ours handles it by including a foo term in the bar integral.

•••

The proposed system was integrated with the Apollo lunar lander, and went all the way to the moon, don't you know. It displayed the following behaviours which show how well we solved cases A and B: ...

As you can see, the above text follows standard scientific convention, reads better than the first version, and does not explicitly name you as the authors. A reviewer might think it likely that the new paper was written by Zeus *et al.*, but cannot make any decision based on that guess. He or she

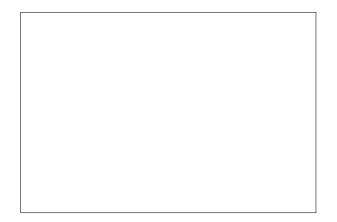


Figure 2. Example of caption. It is set in Roman so that mathematics (always set in Roman: $B \sin A = A \sin B$) may be included without an ugly clash.

would have to be sure that no other authors could have been contracted to solve problem B.

FAQ: Are acknowledgements OK? No. Leave them for the final copy.

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Compare the following:

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conf_a conf_a conf_a
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See The TEXbook, p165.

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This is incorrect: "... subsequently developed by Alpher $et\ al.\ [2]\ ...$ " because reference [2] has just two authors. If you use the \etal macro provided, then you need not worry about double periods when used at the end of a sentence as in Alpher $et\ al.$

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\setcounter{page}{1}
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Make sure the first page is numbered by commenting out the first page being empty on line 46

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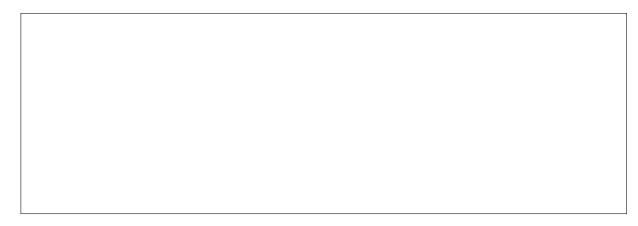


Figure 3. Example of a short caption, which should be centered.

Method	Frobnability
Theirs	Frumpy
Yours	Frobbly
Ours	Makes one's heart Frob

Table 1. Results. Ours is better.

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References

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⁴This is what a footnote looks like. It often distracts the reader from the main flow of the argument.

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