

An Innovative Hybrid Approach to Construct Fuzzy-Neural Network for 3D Face Recognition System

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Abstract — The 2D face recognition systems encounter difficulties in recognizing faces with illumination variations. The depth map of the 3D face data has the potential to handle the variation in illumination of face images. For feature matching an efficient fuzzy-neural technique is proposed.

This paper presents a new approach in which the depth maps of the 3D face images, containing the depth information of the face image are used. Since the input images contain the depth information the input to the fuzzy neural network is illumination invariant.

Using the normalized depth map and fuzzy-neural network, a fully automatic 3D face recognition system is developed. The system is evaluated on the 3D face databases; the CASIA database. The proposed system efficiently handles the varying lighting effects and provides significant recognition accuracy.

Keywords- Fuzzy-Neural Network (FNN), 3D-Face Recognition, Depth Map, Hybrid Intelligence System.

I. INTRODUCTION

A facial recognition is the process of automatically identifying or verifying a person from a digital image or a video frame and has been a recent area of research. Nowadays face recognition is becoming more and more necessary due to increasing demand of high- security systems [1]. To make the face recognition more efficient, the robustness, higher recognition rates, tolerance for ambiguity and uncertainty should be considered as essential factors for implementation. A new mathematical approach known as soft computing (SC) is emerging that shows promise in dealing with such problems and models human behavior. The soft computing techniques like Neural Network, Fuzzy Systems and Genetic Algorithms are used to implement the intelligent systems that possess human like expertise within a specific domain. They adapt themselves and learn to perform better in changing environments. But an individual soft computing technique has certain limitations i.e. while neural networks are good at recognizing patterns; they are not good at explaining how they reach their decisions. Fuzzy logic systems, which can reason with imprecise information, are good at explaining their decisions but they cannot automatically acquire the rules they use to make those decisions [2]. One of the solutions to overcome the lack of the transparency in neural networks is to combine them with fuzzy systems.

We propose a novel hybrid face recognition which uses neural-fuzzy system. The resultant hybrid system overcomes the limitations of both the techniques. The capability of fuzzy system provides the insight to the user about the knowledge embedded within the neural network. The Fuzzy-Neural Network combines the advantages of neural network and fuzzy systems. The advantage of using neural network is its capability to train itself by learning from datasets but the system cannot be easily interpreted, whereas in fuzzy systems the knowledge representation is explicit, i.e. verification and optimizations are very easy and efficient [3].

In this proposed system the depth maps; two dimensional matrices containing depth information are generated from the 3D face images. These depth maps are the input for the fuzzy-neural network. The classification and recognition is carried out using the trained and test images. In this proposed system the neural network is used to tune membership functions of fuzzy system that are employed as decision-making systems for face recognition system. The CASIA 3D face database is used for this face recognition system. Initially only neural network was used for the face recognition but the hybrid recognition method outperformed and generated promising results.

II. RELATED WORK

The hybrid information system containing combinations of soft computing methods are being used in recent face recognition systems. The soft-biometrics is the biometric using soft computing technique. In [1] the concept of soft-biometrics is explained where in the process of biometrics and the significance of use of soft computing techniques is discussed. The example of signature verification is used as the application of soft-biometrics. Combination of two techniques results in to promising biometric system with benefits of both the systems. The hybrid intelligent systems are widely being used by the researchers for the complex process like face recognition. In [2] the hybrid intelligent system uses ant colony optimization algorithm and enhanced genetic algorithm to implement the static face recognition system in a multifaceted condition. In [3] the authors have implemented fuzzy-neural system and investigated the benefits of combining neural networks and fuzzy logic in this system the PCA is used for dimension

reduction. Reference [4] covers the basics of neural-fuzzy applications in computer vision. In this article the authors have explained the use of neural-fuzzy systems for problematic and complex computer vision applications using neural-fuzzy systems. The implementation of [5] has proposed the hybrid system which enables the conversion between fuzzy systems and neural network augmenting the advantages of both the systems. In [6] the survey on neural-fuzzy system is available in detail, as well as overall process of rule generation, process of hybridization and incorporation of fuzzy system in neural network is described. Very recently the credit scoring model was proposed in [7], in which the network modeling issues were considered, and the soft computing approaches which can be applicable in credit models are reviewed which can be applicable in general applications also. In [8] the authors have described a face recognition technique that uses eyes, mouth, and nose locations as facial features, the neural classifiers considers varying degrees of reliability for each feature. The decisions of individual classifiers are then combined using a fuzzy information fusion technique. The researchers are increasingly using soft computing methods for hybrid intelligent systems, but from current research it is not clear that neural-fuzzy outperform other competing techniques because of its slow learning process. Still the limitations of individual soft computing technique have been a central driving force behind the creation of intelligent hybrid systems where two or more techniques are combined in a manner that overcomes the limitations of individual techniques.

III. 3D FACE DATABASE

Face recognition is a well known biometric technique specially used for human identification and mostly applicable in security applications, user identification, and enrollment /authentication systems. Generally most of the applications use the 2D face recognition systems, but these systems are prone to various factors like pose, expression, lighting conditions, etc. Nowadays 3D face recognition has become a ever-growing and promising biometric technique because of its robust features [9].

The 3D facial data can provide a promising way to understand the characteristics of the human face in 3D domain, and has potential possibility to improve the performance of the recognition system. And more and more researchers focus on 3D face recognition in the past few years. However, since the 3D cameras are not as common as 2D cameras, it is expensive to build a public 3D face database, which brings the difficulty to validate the proposed methods in a uniform platform.

CASIA 3D face database is one of the important 3D database. This database contains 2D as well as 3D face images and it is created by Chinese Academy of Sciences. The images were collected using a non-contact 3D digitizer, Minolta VIVID 910, working on Fast Mode. This database

contains 123 subjects, with each subject having 33 images. The database is divided into three subsets, that is, the training set, the gallery set and the probe set. The images in this database are VRML images. These are also referred to as world files having extension *wrl*. The CASIA 3D face database contains the images with various head poses, but for this proposed system the images with frontal pose are considered as the probe images.

A. Depth Images

The depth maps are used as 2D representation of 3D image, containing the depth information of each point in the 3D image. It is simply an image with depth information as shown in Fig. 1-b. In other words, a depth map is an array of numbers where the numbers quantify the distances from the focal plane of the sensor to the surfaces of objects within the field of view. The closest point has the highest value. And therefore the closest point appears as white and farthest point appears as black giving the gray level values to the between points. The depth images have some advantages over 3D images [12]. The most important one is that the depth maps are robust to the change of illumination and color because the value on each point represents the depth value which does not depend on illumination or color.

The 3D face images contain highly accurate data but it is not feasible to process the large amount of facial data. Because the face model of each subject model has different vertices. The processing of the large data results into the expensive computation.

Face recognition systems based on 3D facial depth information improves the accuracy and robustness. But have not been addressed thoroughly. Only a few works on the use of depth map have been reported. The fusion of depth map and texture map is used in [10] where Fisher face and FaceIt techniques are used and FaceIt method outperformed on fusion of depth and texture information. The fusion of depth map and curvature information is used in [11].

In this proposed system the depth maps containing depth information are generated from the available 3D face images. The training data set contains the normalized depth maps of all the subjects which are selected as the candidates for training datasets. Since our main objective is to evaluate the results for handling the illumination variations, all frontal images with varying light are considered as the candidates for the face recognition.

As shown in figure 1a. The frontal images from the CASIA database are considered as probe images. For each probe image the depth image is generated (Fig.1 b.) The normalization process is carried out to generate the normalized depth image as shown in fig 1c.

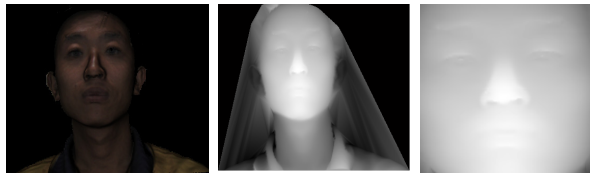


Figure 1. a) 3D Face Image b) Depth map c) Normalized Depth Map

IV. METHODOLOGY

Face recognition is an important biometric application among many applications such as personal identification, access to high security areas, human-machine interactions but not limited to these. The main advantage of face recognition as a biometric system is its throughput, convenience and non-invasiveness. 3D facial information has become an important biometric modality due to its ability in handling challenging problems that occurs due to illumination changes and facial pose variations.

In the proposed system the FNN (fuzzy neural network) is used for feature extraction and classification. Initially the fuzzy system is used for feature extraction which assigns membership function to the feature and these features with membership function are provided to neural network to match the probe image with the images in the training dataset. The outline of the proposed system is shown in the fig.2. The depth maps are robust to color and illumination. Therefore the problems of illuminations are handled by considering the normalized depth map which is taken as the input images by the fuzzy-neural network.

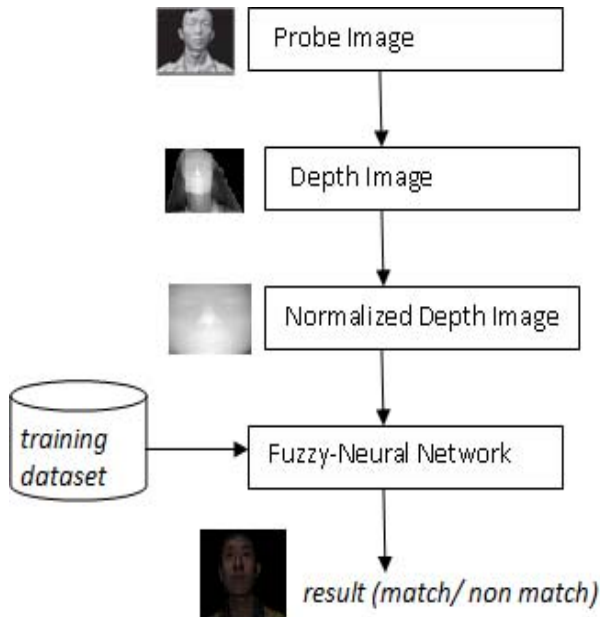


Figure2. Outline of proposed face recognition system.

A. Fuzzy-Neural Network

There have been numerous successful research experiments on using learning algorithms for constructing intelligent applications. These approaches are capable of successfully working in the ill-defined and changing environments.

Neural networks have established themselves as a serious alternative to traditional statistical models and many studies have concluded that neural networks outperformed statistical methods in terms of classification accuracy.

In last decade the fuzzy logic and neural networks are being widely used. The fuzzy logic provides an inference mechanism in uncertain conditions. It converts the crisp function in to fuzzy output, whereas the neural network offers the learning capability to the system. The capability of fuzzy system provides the insight to the user about the knowledge embedded within the neural network. The Fuzzy-Neural Network combines the advantages of neural network and fuzzy systems. The advantage of using neural network is its capability to train itself by learning from datasets but the system cannot be easily interpreted, whereas in fuzzy systems the knowledge representation is explicit, making the recognition easy and efficient.

The Fuzzy Neural network incorporates the modeling and learning capabilities of neural network into human reasoning capability of fuzzy logic. The resultant hybrid system resembles an adaptive system with sensory and cognitive components.

B. Steps Involved in FNN

In the fuzzy neural network fuzzy rules are determined by the data. The FNN has four layers [13]. The Input layer, Fuzzification layer, Inference layer and Defuzzification layer (fig. 3). In the input layer the 'N' input neurons are inputted for fuzzification. The fuzzification process generates the 'R' rules which are in turn taken as the input in inference layer.

- Fuzzy membership generation.
- Identify the significant input variable from the input space using membership functions and the inference curves.
- Determine the fuzzy rules , select the number of rules and select the appropriate rules from the possible rules.
- Set the initial weights to determine the membership function.
- In fuzzification layer, every neuron is represented by the membership function (μ_{ij}). Here μ_{ij} is the membership function of the i^{th} input variable corresponding to j^{th} rule.
- Train the network using membership functions.
- Drop unnecessary rules and neurons.

In the proposed system the desired output vector will be the class to which the input image belongs. In the conventional systems the number of nodes in the output layer corresponds

to the number of classes in the task to be performed where the desired output vector is assigned the value 1, and other classes are assigned the value 0; this is called a crisp desired output. In the face recognition applications, however, the data are generally ill-defined, with overlapping. That is, there are chances to have patterns with non-zero similarity to two or more pattern classes. The fuzzy neural network in the proposed face recognition system handles this multiple similarity or membership value. Fig.3 represents the architecture of the fuzzy neural network.

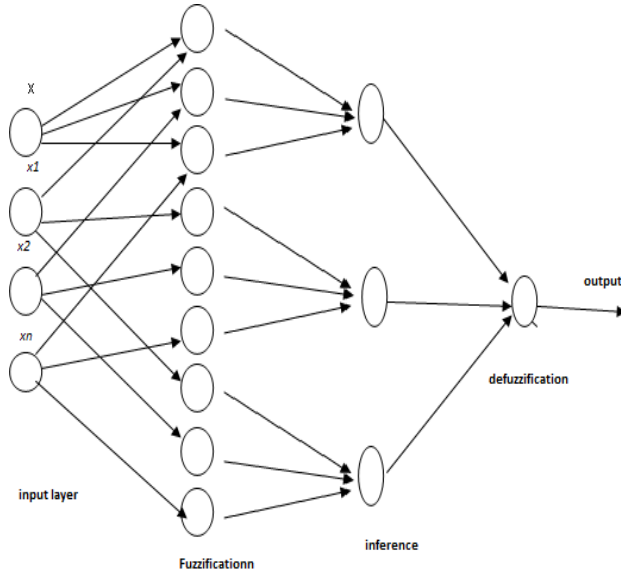


Figure3 Architecture of FNN

The input layer reads the probe image and the membership function at fuzzification layer performs the classification to determine the closest class which belongs to. Inference layer generates the output to recognize the input face image.

The feature vectors are obtained using depth maps of the face images. Then, the output vectors obtained from that step must be fuzzified. The feature vector is compared with the class mean vector. That is the more a feature vector approaches towards the class mean vector, the higher is the fuzzy value. When the difference between both vectors increases, the fuzzy value approaches towards 0. The patterns whose class is less certain have lesser role in weight adjustment. The pseudo code for this proposed system can be given as follows.

Let there be 'k' classes,
Generate the feature vectors i.e. depth maps
Let 'x' be the feature vector to be recognized
f1, f2, f3...fk are the fuzzy set membership functions
that will decide whether the vector belongs to the
class 'm' or not.
Initially input the significant input-vectors: x1,x2...xn
containing depth map representations.

If there are 'n' test images,

Generate 'n' sets of fuzzy rules

Calculate weights using the difference between the
desired output and actual output.

The more a feature vector approaches towards the class
mean vector, the higher is the fuzzy value. When the
difference between both vectors increases, the fuzzy
value approaches towards 0.

Declare the class with highest fuzzy value as the class
containing the test image.

In the above process the membership of the ith vector in
class k, lying in the range [0, 1] is defined as

$$\mu_k(F_i) = \frac{1}{1 + (z_{ik}/F_d)^{F_e}}$$

Where,

Zik is the weighted distance between the ith vector
and the mean of the kth class

Fd and Fe are the denominational and exponential
fuzzy generators controlling the amount of fuzziness in
this class-membership set.

for the ith input vector, the desired output of the jth
output node is defined as

$$d_j = \mu_j(F_i).$$

The degree of the ambiguity is used for weight
adjustments and can be calculated as

$$A = (\mu_i(x) - \mu_j(x))^m$$

Where $\mu_i(x)$ and $\mu_j(x)$ are the membership values of the
top class and of the second highest one respectively and m
is an enhancement/reduction fuzzy parameter

V. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

In this paper we have introduced hybrid system with the
implementation of fuzzy mathematics in neural networks for
face recognition. Initially the same experiment was carried
out using conventional neural network. The Fuzzy Neural
network has outperformed because of the additional
capability which has been provided to neural network by
embedding the fuzzy logic in it. The varying size of
training data also affects the performance of conventional
neural network system. As per the observations, the increase
in number of training images, the efficiency of FNN also
increases but during the experiments on FNN no false
rejection was observed. The performance evaluation of the
proposed system is shown in the table1. The use of depth
images of 3D face images as input images has considerably
handled the varying lighting effects. When the performance
of fuzzy neural network was tested on 2D face images of
CASIA database, the varying light effects have degraded the

performance. But when the same algorithm was implemented on the depth maps of the 3D facial images, the FNN outperformed and no false acceptance was observed.

TABLE I. OBSERVATIONS

Methods used	Performance details		
	<i>No of training images With varying light effects</i>	<i>Performance</i>	<i>FAR</i>
NN + Depth maps	10	83%	01
	25	86%	01
	50	89%	-
FNN +2D Images	10	81%	-
	25	83%	01
	50	87%	02
FNN +Depth maps	10	95%	-
	25	96%	-
	50	98%	-

Thus the hybrid intelligent system has combined the positive traits of both the algorithms and therefore FNN performed better than neural network also the use of depth maps have considerably improved the performance of the system.

VI. CONCLUSION

In the last decade, the applications of soft computing techniques for face recognition have fascinated many researchers. Many face recognition applications have been developed using the combination of two or more soft computing techniques to improve the performance of the face recognition systems. Fuzzy Neural Network offers the precision and learning capability of neural networks, and yet is easy to understand like fuzzy systems. The proposed 3D face recognition system has used the hybrid fuzzy neural network to incorporate the thinking and reasoning

capability. Thus FNN is an integration of the merits of neural and fuzzy approaches that enables one to build more intelligent decision-making systems. The use of depth maps as the input images has made the system illumination invariant.

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