

An Improvement of the Lucas-Kanade Optical-Flow Algorithm for every Circumstance

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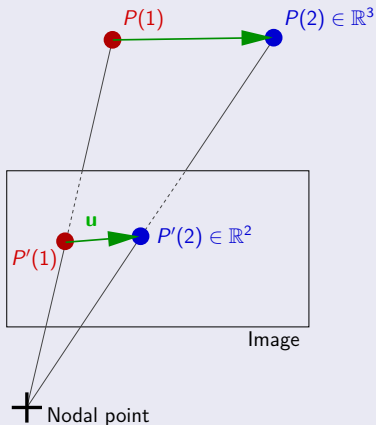
Corrected version: 2008-08-05

Today's talk

- 1 Basics about optical flow
- 2 Standard Lucas-Kanade method
- 3 Improvements
- 4 Discussion

Definition of optical flow

Definiton



Example



Image Brightness Constancy Constraint (IBCC)

B:



A:

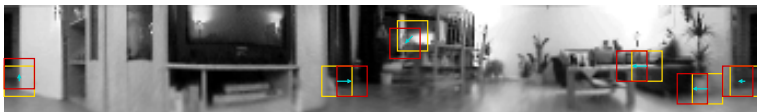
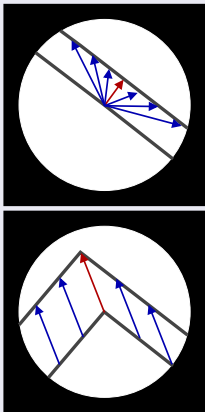


Image brightness constancy constraint:

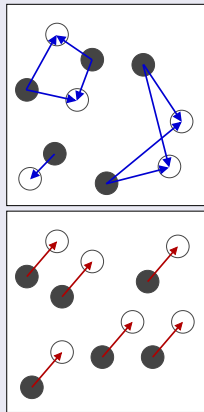
$$A(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{p})) = B(\mathbf{p})$$

Common problems

Aperture problem



Correspondence problem



Optic flow equation

Image brightness constancy constraint:

$$A(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{p})) = B(\mathbf{p})$$

Optic flow equation:

First order Taylor approximation (with $\mathbf{u} = [u_x, u_y]^T$):

$$A(\mathbf{p}) + A_x(\mathbf{p})u_x(\mathbf{p}) + A_y(\mathbf{p})u_y(\mathbf{p}) = B(\mathbf{p})$$

$$A + [A_x, A_y] \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} = B$$

$$[A_x, A_y] \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + \underbrace{(A - B)}_{A_t} = 0$$

Derivation

Optic flow equation:

$$[A_x, A_y] \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A_t = 0$$

Underdetermined problem (aperture problem)

Approach:

Assuming optical flow to be locally constant

Weighting w.r.t. distance to center pixel \mathbf{p} of image patch Ω :

$$e(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2(\mathbf{x}) \left([A_x(\mathbf{x}), B_x(\mathbf{x})] \begin{pmatrix} u_x(\mathbf{x}) \\ u_y(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix} + A_t(\mathbf{x}) \right)^2 \stackrel{!}{=} \min$$

Derivation

Weighted least squares approach

$$e(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left([A_x, A_y] \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A_t \right)^2 \stackrel{!}{=} \min$$

Partial derivatives:

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial u_x} = 2 \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left([A_x, A_y] \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A_t \right) A_x \stackrel{!}{=} \min$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial u_y} = 2 \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left([A_x, A_y] \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A_t \right) A_y \stackrel{!}{=} \min$$

Derivation

Weighted least squares approach:

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial u_x} = 2 \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left([A_x, A_y] \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A_t \right) A_x \stackrel{!}{=} \min$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial u_y} = 2 \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left([A_x, A_y] \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A_t \right) A_y \stackrel{!}{=} \min$$

Sorting:

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \langle A_x A_x \rangle & \langle A_x A_y \rangle \\ \langle A_x A_y \rangle & \langle A_y A_y \rangle \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{G}} \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} = - \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \langle A_x A_t \rangle \\ \langle A_y A_t \rangle \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{b}}$$

$$\langle a \rangle = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2(\mathbf{x}) a(\mathbf{x})$$

Solution

Weighted least squares approach:

$$\mathbf{G}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{G}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

Aperture problem

Eigenvalues λ_1, λ_2 of \mathbf{G} :



$$\lambda_1, \lambda_2 > 0$$



$$\lambda_1 > 0, \lambda_2 \approx 0$$



$$\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \approx 0$$

Limitations and possible improvements

Standard LK



- baseline
- most efficient

Illumination Tolerance



- illumination changes

Iterated LK



- more accurate

LK with flowfield constraints



- types of flowfields

Multiscale LK



- large displacements

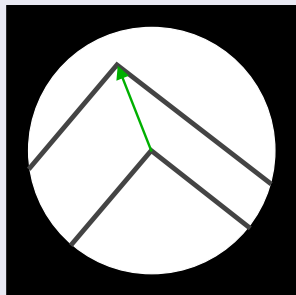
Global LK



- global flow computation

Motivation

Sketch



Motivation

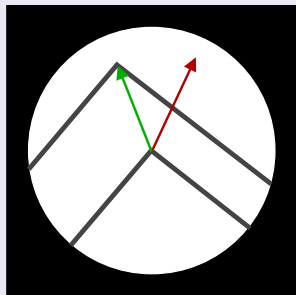
- Deviations due to first order approximation
- Large displacements within aperture
- Iteratively refine the flow vector

Improvement:

More accurate flow estimates

Motivation

Sketch



Motivation

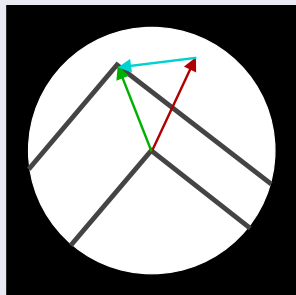
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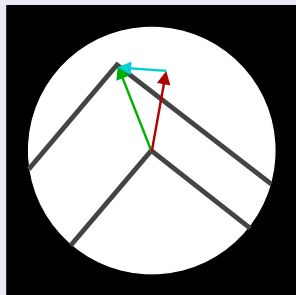
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Motivation

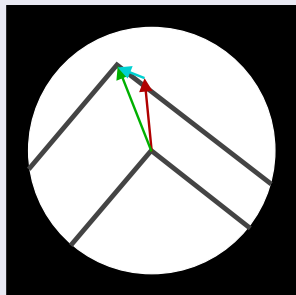
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Motivation

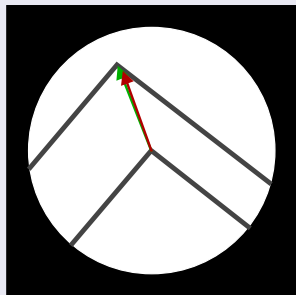
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More accurate flow estimates

Motivation

Sketch



Motivation

- Deviations due to first order approximation
- Large displacements within aperture
- Iteratively refine the flow vector

Improvement:

More accurate flow estimates

Derivation

Image brightness constancy constraint:

$$A(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{p})) = B(\mathbf{p})$$

Refined IBCC:

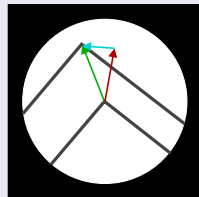
$$A(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{u}^{(\kappa-1)}(\mathbf{p}) + \mathbf{t}^{(\kappa)}(\mathbf{p})) = B(\mathbf{p})$$

Iterations $1 \leq \kappa \leq k$

Recursion: $\mathbf{u}^{(\kappa)}$ from $\mathbf{u}^{(\kappa-1)}$ and $\mathbf{t}^{(\kappa)}$

Initial estimate: $\mathbf{u}^0 = \mathbf{0}$

Sketch



Derivation

Weighted least squares approach

$$e^{(\kappa)}(\mathbf{t}^{(\kappa)}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2(\mathbf{x}) \left(A \left(\underbrace{\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^{(\kappa-1)}}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}} + \mathbf{t}^{(\kappa)} \right) - B(\mathbf{x}) \right)^2 \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

$$e(\mathbf{t}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 (A(\boldsymbol{\eta} + \mathbf{t}) - B)^2$$

Taylor-approximation of $A(\boldsymbol{\eta} + \mathbf{t})$ (omitting \mathbf{x}):

$$= \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left(\underbrace{A(\boldsymbol{\eta}) - B}_{A_t(\boldsymbol{\eta})} + [A_x(\boldsymbol{\eta}), A_y(\boldsymbol{\eta})] \begin{pmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{pmatrix} \right)^2$$

Derivation

Weighted least squares approach

$$e(\mathbf{t}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left(A_t(\eta) + [A_x(\eta), A_y(\eta)] \begin{pmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{pmatrix} \right)^2$$

Partial derivatives:

$$\left[\frac{\partial e}{\partial t_x}, \frac{\partial e}{\partial t_y} \right]^\top = 2 \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left(A_t(\eta) + [A_x(\eta), A_y(\eta)] \begin{pmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{pmatrix} \right) \begin{pmatrix} A_x(\eta) \\ A_y(\eta) \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution (with $\eta = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^{(\kappa-1)}$):

$$\begin{pmatrix} \langle A_x(\eta) A_x(\eta) \rangle & \langle A_x(\eta) A_y(\eta) \rangle \\ \langle A_x(\eta) A_y(\eta) \rangle & \langle A_y(\eta) A_y(\eta) \rangle \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} \langle A_x(\eta) A_t(\eta) \rangle \\ \langle A_y(\eta) A_t(\eta) \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

Simplified solution

Solution

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \langle A_x(\eta)A_x(\eta) \rangle & \langle A_x(\eta)A_y(\eta) \rangle \\ \langle A_x(\eta)A_y(\eta) \rangle & \langle A_y(\eta)A_y(\eta) \rangle \end{pmatrix}}_{=\mathbf{G}(\eta)} \begin{pmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{pmatrix} = - \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \langle A_x(\eta)A_t(\eta) \rangle \\ \langle A_y(\eta)A_t(\eta) \rangle \end{pmatrix}}_{=\mathbf{b}(\eta)}$$

Problem

- \mathbf{G} depends on $\eta = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^{(\kappa-1)}$
 \Rightarrow Recomputation of \mathbf{G}^{-1} needed for each iteration
- A and B contain identical gradient information
- Compute B_x and B_y instead of A_x and A_y

Simplified solution

Solution

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \langle A_x(\eta) A_x(\eta) \rangle & \langle A_x(\eta) A_y(\eta) \rangle \\ \langle A_x(\eta) A_y(\eta) \rangle & \langle A_y(\eta) A_y(\eta) \rangle \end{pmatrix}}_{= \mathbf{G}(\eta)} \begin{pmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{pmatrix} = - \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \langle A_x(\eta) A_t(\eta) \rangle \\ \langle A_y(\eta) A_t(\eta) \rangle \end{pmatrix}}_{= \mathbf{b}(\eta)}$$

Simplified solution

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \langle B_x B_x \rangle & \langle B_x B_y \rangle \\ \langle B_x B_y \rangle & \langle B_y B_y \rangle \end{pmatrix}}_{= \mathbf{G}} \begin{pmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{pmatrix} = - \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \langle B_x A_t(\eta) \rangle \\ \langle B_y A_t(\eta) \rangle \end{pmatrix}}_{= \mathbf{b}(\eta)}$$

Building blocks

Refinement vector

$$\mathbf{t}^{(\kappa)} = \mathbf{G}^{-1} \mathbf{b}^{(\kappa)}$$

Image mismatch vector

$$\mathbf{b}^{(\kappa)} = - \left[\langle B_x A_t^{(\kappa)} \rangle, \langle B_y A_t^{(\kappa)} \rangle \right]^\top$$

Temporal derivative

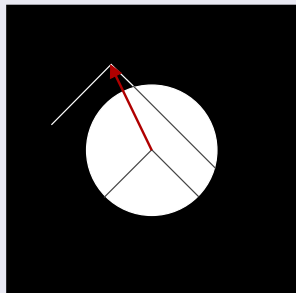
$$A_t^{(\kappa)} = B(\mathbf{p}) - A\left(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{u}^{(\kappa-1)}\right)$$

Recursion

$$\mathbf{u}^{(\kappa)} = \mathbf{u}^{(\kappa-1)} + \mathbf{t}^{(\kappa)}$$

Motivation

Sketch



Motivation and approach

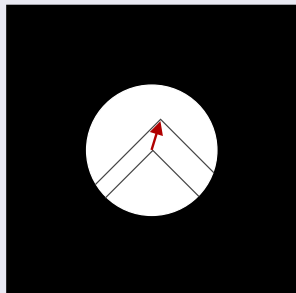
- IBCC and Taylor only valid for small movements
- Larger displacements are common
- Multi-scale approach
- Coarse-to-fine propagation
- Identical aperture sizes but shifted center position

Improvement

Applicable for large image displacements

Motivation

Sketch



Motivation and approach

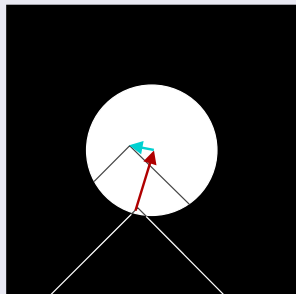
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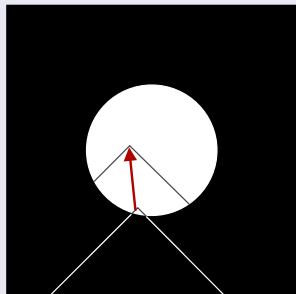
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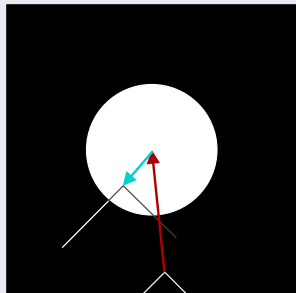
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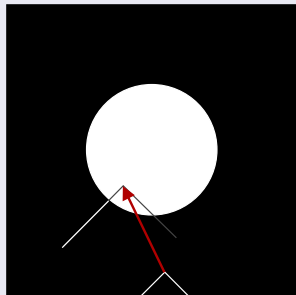
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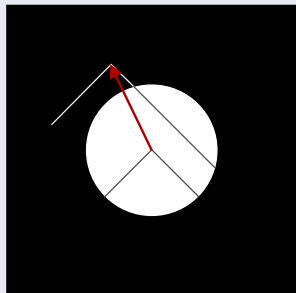
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Motivation and approach

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Improvement

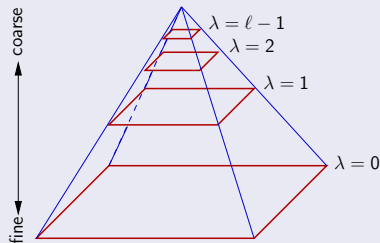
Applicable for large image displacements

Gaussian image pyramid

Theory

Pyramidal images: $I^{(\kappa)}$

Pixel positions: $\mathbf{p}^{(\kappa)} = \frac{1}{2^\kappa} \mathbf{p}$

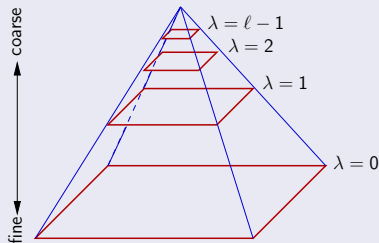


Gaussian image pyramid

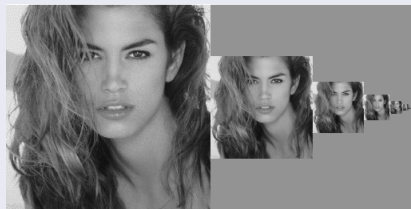
Theory

Pyramidal images: $I^{(\kappa)}$

Pixel positions: $\mathbf{p}^{(\kappa)} = \frac{1}{2^\kappa} \mathbf{p}$



Example



fine \leftrightarrow coarse

Algorithm

Input:

Two image pyramids $A^{(\lambda)}$ and $B^{(\lambda)}$, $0 \leq \lambda \leq \ell - 1$

Coarse-to-fine recursion (at level λ)

- Flow estimate $\mathbf{u}^{(\lambda)}$ is given (initial estimate: $\mathbf{u}^{(\ell-1)} = \mathbf{0}$)
- Compute refinement vector $\mathbf{t}^{(\lambda)}$:

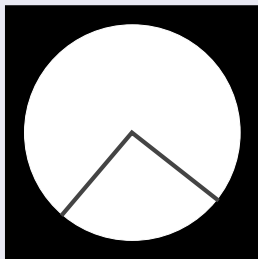
$$e\left(\mathbf{t}^{(\lambda)}\right)=\sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w(\mathbf{x})^2\left(A\left(\mathbf{x}+\mathbf{u}^{(\lambda)}+\mathbf{t}^{(\lambda)}\right)-B(\mathbf{x})\right)^2$$

- Propagation to finer level $\lambda - 1$:

$$\mathbf{u}^{(\lambda-1)}=2\left(\mathbf{u}^{(\lambda)}+\mathbf{t}^{(\lambda)}\right)$$

Motivation

Sketch



Improvement

Tolerance against
illumination changes

IBCC

$$A(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{p})) = B(\mathbf{p})$$

Refined IBCC

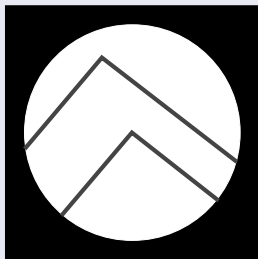
$$A(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{p})) = \alpha(\mathbf{p})B(\mathbf{p}) + \beta(\mathbf{p})$$

Brightness change model

- Linear gray value changes
- α and β locally constant
- Compute $\mathbf{t} = [u_x, u_y, \alpha, \beta]^T$

Motivation

Sketch



Improvement

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IBCC

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Refined IBCC

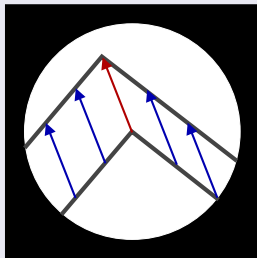
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Improvement

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IBCC

$$A(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{p})) = B(\mathbf{p})$$

Refined IBCC

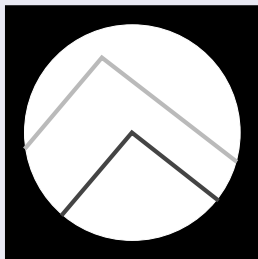
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Refined IBCC

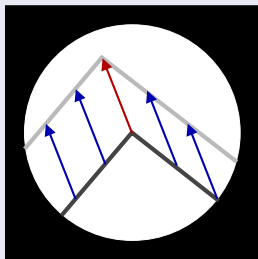
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Improvement

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IBCC

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Refined IBCC

$$A(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{p})) = \alpha(\mathbf{p})B(\mathbf{p}) + \beta(\mathbf{p})$$

Brightness change model

- Linear gray value changes
- α and β locally constant
- Compute $\mathbf{t} = [u_x, u_y, \alpha, \beta]^T$

Derivation

Error function (omitting \mathbf{x})

$$e(\mathbf{t}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left([A_x, A_y]^T \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A - \alpha B - \beta \right)^2$$

Derivation

Partial derivatives (omitting \mathbf{x})

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial u_x} = 2 \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left([A_x, A_y]^\top \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A - \alpha B - \beta \right) A_x$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial u_y} = 2 \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left([A_x, A_y]^\top \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A - \alpha B - \beta \right) A_y$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial \alpha} = -2 \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left([A_x, A_y]^\top \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A - \alpha B - \beta \right) B$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial \beta} = -2 \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left([A_x, A_y]^\top \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A - \alpha B - \beta \right)$$

Solution

Error function (omitting \mathbf{x})

$$e(\mathbf{t}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} w^2 \left([A_x, A_y]^\top \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A - \alpha B - \beta \right)^2$$

Solution

$$\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{G}^{-1} \mathbf{b}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \\ \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \langle A_x A_x \rangle & \langle A_x A_y \rangle & \langle -A_x B \rangle & \langle -A_x \rangle \\ \langle A_x A_y \rangle & \langle A_y A_y \rangle & \langle -A_y B \rangle & \langle -A_y \rangle \\ \langle -A_x B \rangle & \langle -A_y B \rangle & \langle BB \rangle & \langle B \rangle \\ \langle -A_x \rangle & \langle -A_y \rangle & \langle B \rangle & \langle -1 \rangle \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \langle -A_x A \rangle \\ \langle -A_y A \rangle \\ \langle AB \rangle \\ \langle -A \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

Discussion

Properties of \mathbf{G}

- Full rank \rightarrow invertible
- Ill-conditioned
 - Areas of weak/regular texture
 - Multiple interpretations of motion and illuminance

Radiometric cues α and β

- Discontinuous at motion boundaries or occlusions
 - \Rightarrow erroneous estimates
 - \Rightarrow large residuals
- Physical interpretations possible:
e.g. irradiance, surface normals, reflectance

Motivation

Motivation

- Known camera motion
- Known object motion
- Flowfield “patterns”

Approach

Parameterize the flowfields:

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{a})$$

Solve for \mathbf{a}

Improvements

- More accurate flow fields
- Uses available knowledge about flow fields
- Derive motion parameters
- Flowfield segmentation

Motivation

Motivation

- Known camera motion
- Known object motion
- Flowfield “patterns”

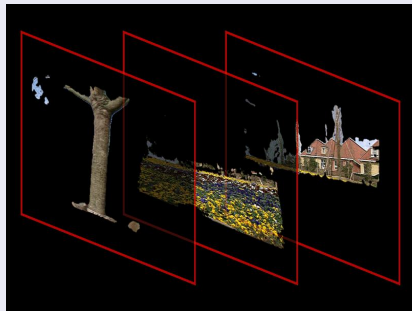
Approach

Parameterize the flowfields:

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{a})$$

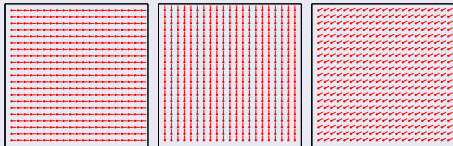
Solve for \mathbf{a}

Example: motion segmentation



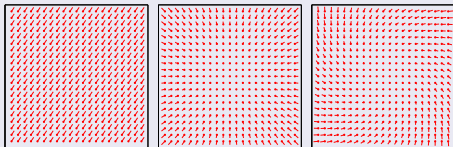
Motion models

Translational model



$$\begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Affine model



$$\begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1x + a_2y + a_3 \\ a_4x + a_5y + a_6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution

Refined image brightness constancy constraint

$$A(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{a})) = B(\mathbf{p})$$

Example: Taylor approximation for affine model

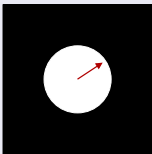
$$\begin{aligned} A(\mathbf{p}) + A_x(\mathbf{p})(a_1 p_x + a_2 p_y + a_3) \\ + A_y(\mathbf{p})(a_4 p_x + a_5 p_y + a_6) = B(\mathbf{p}) \end{aligned}$$

Properties and discussion

No interesting properties mentioned

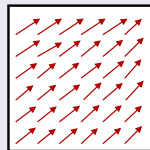
Local vs. global optical flow

Local optical flow



- “Lucas-Kanade”
- Sparse flow fields
- Analytical solution
- Parsimonious
- Robust against noise

Global optical flow



- “Horn-Schunck”
- Dense flow fields (fill-in)
- Iterative solution
- Computationally cheap
- Less robust

Horn-Schunck in a nutshell

Global error functional (omitting \mathbf{x})

$$e(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Gamma} \left(\underbrace{(A_x u_x + A_y u_y + A_t)^2}_{\text{IBCC}} + \varphi \underbrace{(|\nabla u_x|^2 + |\nabla u_y|^2)}_{\text{Divergence}} \right)$$

Smoothness weight $\varphi > 0$, Γ is the whole image

Solution

Compute optimal \mathbf{u} which minimizes $e(\mathbf{u})$

- ① Euler-Lagrange mechanism \Rightarrow system of equations
- ② Numerical solution (Gauss-Seidel, SOR, ...)

Lucas-Kanade meets Horn-Schunck

Horn-Schunck error functional

$$e(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Gamma} \left((A_x u_x + A_y u_y + A_t)^2 + \varphi(|\nabla u_x|^2 + |\nabla u_y|^2) \right)$$

Combined error functional

$$e(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Gamma} \left(\sum_{\mathbf{x}' \in \Omega} w^2 \left([A_x, A_y] \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} + A_t \right)^2 + \dots \right. \\ \left. \varphi(|\nabla u_x|^2 + |\nabla u_y|^2) \right)$$

Lucas-Kanade meets Horn-Schunck

Combined error functional

$$e(\mathbf{u}) = e_{\text{LKHS}}(\mathbf{u}) + \varphi e_{\text{R}}(\mathbf{u})$$

Euler-Lagrange solutions

$$0 = \Delta u_x - \frac{1}{\varphi} (\langle A_x A_x \rangle u_x + \langle A_x A_y \rangle u_y + \langle A_x A_t \rangle)$$

$$0 = \Delta u_y - \frac{1}{\varphi} (\langle A_x A_y \rangle u_x + \langle A_y A_y \rangle u_y + \langle A_y A_t \rangle)$$

Laplaceans Δu_x , Δu_y

Discrete approximation

Standard solvers for sparse sets of linear equations (SOR)

Limitations and possible improvements

Standard LK



- baseline
- most efficient

Illumination Tolerance



- illumination changes

Iterated LK



- more accurate

LK with flowfield constraints



- types of flowfields

Multiscale LK



- large displacements

Global LK



- global flow computation

Results?!?

Unifying review

- Does not exist

Reviewing myself

- Different data sets
- Unclear parameters
- Missing visualizations for parameters
- From some papers only a small subset was presented
- Quality of figures

Benchmarking myself

- Availability of implementations
- Costs and benefits?

Relevance for my work

Standard LK



- tested
- 12° to 15°

Illumination Tolerance



- TODO

Iterated LK



- tested
- 8° to 11°

LK with flowfield constraints



- motion seg.?
- parameters?

Multiscale LK



- tested
- 5° to 8°

Global LK



- role of fill-in effects?