Joint Super-Resolution and Optical Flow Estimation

1 Energy Functional

Let $\Omega_l \subset \mathbb{R}$ be a discretized rectangular domain with $w \times h$ pixels and $\Omega_h \subset \mathbb{R}$ a domain with $W \times H$ pixels. Let $f_1, \cdots, f_n : \Omega_l \to \mathbb{R}^k$ be low resolution color input images with k color channels. We seek to jointly estimate high resolution images $u_1, \cdots, u_n : \Omega_h \to \mathbb{R}^k$ and optical flow fields $v_1, \cdots, v_{n-1} : \Omega_h \to \mathbb{R}^2$ from the low resolution images.

We model the problem in terms of energy minimization of the following functional:

$$E(u,v) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha \|Au_i - f_i\|_1 + \beta TV(u_i) + \gamma \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{x \in \Omega_h} ||u_i(x) - u_{i+1}(x + v_i(x))||_2 + TV(v_i^1) + TV(v_i^2) \tag{1}$$

Here $A : (\Omega_h \to \mathbb{R}^k) \to (\Omega_l \to \mathbb{R}^k)$ is a linear operator which maps a high-resolution image to a low resolution image by blurring it with a gaussian kernel and downsampling it.

$TV(u) := \sum_{x \in \Omega} \|\nabla u(x)\|_2$ denotes the TV regularizer.

2 Optimization

Since the energy is hard to minimize jointly in u and v we employ a block-coordinate descent approach:

$$\begin{aligned} v^{k+1} &= \arg\min_v \; E(u^k, v), \\ u^{k+1} &= \arg\min_u \; E(u, v^{k+1}). \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

2.1 Solving the Problem in v (TV-L1 Optical Flow).

For fixed u^k the problem reads:

$$v^{k+1} = \arg\min_v \; \gamma \sum_{x \in \Omega_h} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} ||u_i^k(x) - u_{i+1}^k(x + v_i(x))||_1 + TV(v_i^1) + TV(v_i^2) \tag{3}$$

For simplicity, we first consider the case $n = 2$:

$$v^{k+1} = \arg\min_v \; \gamma \sum_{x \in \Omega_h} ||u_i^k(x) - u_{i+1}^k(x + v_i(x))||_1 + TV(v_i^1) + TV(v_i^2) \tag{4}$$

This energy is nonconvex in v, due to the first term. Thus we linearize it using the first order Taylor expansion,

$$||u_i^k(x) - u_{i+1}^k(x + v_i(x))||_1 \approx ||u_1^k(x) - u_2^k(x) - \nabla u_2^k(x)^T v_i(x)||_1,$$

and end up at the following convex problem:

$$v^{k+1} = \arg\min_v \gamma \sum_{x \in \Omega_h} || \underbrace{u_1^k(x) - u_2^k(x)}_{=:-b(x)} - \underbrace{\nabla u_2^k(x)^T v(x)}_{=:(Av)(x)} ||_1 + TV(v^1) + TV(v^2), \tag{5}$$

where $v = (v^1, v^2)$.

2.1.1 Primal-Dual Optimization

Since the energy is non-differentiable, a gradient descent based approach does not work. We employ the primal-dual algorithm described in [1, 2] to minimize the energy. First, we rewrite (5) as an equivalent saddle-point problem:

$$\min_v \max_{p \in C, q_1 \in D, q_2 \in D} \langle p, Av + b \rangle + \langle q_1, \nabla v^1 \rangle + \langle q_2, \nabla v^2 \rangle \tag{6}$$

The update equations for the algorithm then read:

$$\begin{aligned}
p^{k+1}(x) &= \operatorname*{proj}_C(p^k(x) + \sigma_p(x)((Av^k)(x) + b(x))) \\
q_1^{k+1}(x) &= \operatorname*{proj}_D(q_1^k(x) + \sigma_q(\nabla v_1^k)(x)), \\
q_2^{k+1}(x) &= \operatorname*{proj}_D(q_2^k(x) + \sigma_q(\nabla v_2^k)(x)), \\
\bar{p}^{k+1}(x) &= 2p^{k+1} - p^k, \\
\bar{q}_1^{k+1}(x) &= 2q_1^{k+1} - q_1^k, \\
\bar{q}_2^{k+1}(x) &= 2q_2^{k+1} - q_2^k, \\
v^{k+1}(x) &= v^k - \tau(x)((A^T \bar{p}^{k+1})(x) - (\operatorname{div} \bar{q}_1^{k+1})(x) - (\operatorname{div} \bar{q}_2^{k+1})(x)).
\end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

The sets C and D are defined as

$$\begin{aligned}
C &= \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid |x| \leq \gamma\}, \\
D &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^{2n_c} \mid \|x\|_2 \leq 1\},
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

and the projections proj_C, proj_D can be implemented as an orthogonal projection on a sphere. Only project if you lie outside of the constraint.

The step sizes are chosen according to the scheme described in [2] (see Lemma 2, equation 10, we set $\alpha = 1$):

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma_p(x) &= \frac{1}{\sum_j |A(x, j)|}, \\
\sigma_q &= \frac{1}{2}, \\
\tau(x) &= \frac{1}{2 + 2 + \sum_i |A(i, x)|},
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

where $A(x, j)$ denotes the element in row x and column j.

Allocate memory for the variables $p \in \mathbb{R}^{w*h*n_c}$, $q_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{w*h*2*n_c}$, $q_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{w*h*2*n_c}$, $\bar{p}, \bar{q}_1, \bar{q}_2, v \in \mathbb{R}^{w*h*2*n_c}$ as `float` arrays and implement CUDA kernels for the update equations of the primal-dual algorithm. One kernel should perform the update in p, q_1, q_2 and do the overrelaxation, the other kernel should do the update in v.

2.2 Solving the Problem in u.

To be discussed at a later point.

References

[1] A. Chambolle and T. Pock. A first-order primal-dual algorithm for convex problems with applications to imaging. *J. Math. Imaging Vis.*, 40:120–145, 2011.

[2] T. Pock and A. Chambolle. Diagonal preconditioning for first order primal-dual algorithms in convex optimization. In *ICCV*, pages 1762–1769, 2011.