

# Design of Moving Target Detection and Tracking System Based on the Improved Optical Flow Method

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**Abstract**—Moving target detection is an important content of the visual field of research. This paper designs a system based on the Linux embedded platform to realize the moving target detection and tracking. This system choose the optical flow method as the algorithm, which is one of the important algorithms in the computer vision field, it can be achieved on moving targets detection and tracking. The experimental result shows that this system can be achieved on moving target detection and tracking.

**Keywords**—optical flow; moving target detection; linux;

## I. INTRODUCTION

Present systems are generally based PC or DSP as the hardware platforms, which can achieve superior performance and receive good results, but the price is very high. We choose ARM chips S3C2410X as the platform, it can meet all the functions on the design and pay the low price, cost-effective. Because of Linux has many advantages such as open source, good network function, high safety, strong portability, we choose the linux 2.6 kernel system.

The algorithms of moving target detection and tracking are improved quickly. Temporal difference method, background subtraction method and optical flow method are always used in the moving target detection and tracking now.

## II. OPTICAL FLOW THEORY

In recent years, the scholars at home and abroad are making efforts to the development of the optical flow technology, they present a lot of new optical flow calculation method and improve the existing optical flow algorithm at the same time. In the computer vision field, there is some room for improvement and great prospects for development to the optical flow. Optical flow algorithm differs from the temporal difference method, background subtraction method, it has the advantage that it is able to detect the outline of the complete of the moving target. When the moving target moves behind something, for example, the trees, the algorithm can not make the camera follow the moving target, and the algorithm needs a lot of calculation, so there are a lot of problems in real-time. All of these problem can be solved with several methods.

The basic principle of optical flow method [3][4][5] is that it give a velocity vector to each pixel in the image, all of these velocity vectors are composed of the vector field. Every point on the 3D object and on the image is one to one. The

image are able to be analyzed dynamically at so moment. When it don't exist moving target in the background, the vector field of the image is continuous, on the contrary, if there are moving objects in the background, the vector field of the image is not continuous, it is able to detect the position of the object.

In this system, it choose the Lucas-Kanade algorithm [1][2] which is one of most popular and most commonly used optical flow method. Lucas-Kanade algorithm is first presented by Bruce D Lucas and Takeo Kanade (30), it assume that the light does not change ground the pixel, the speed of the vector on the image in the X, Y direction is defined as  $(V_x, V_y)$ , they must satisfy the following equation:

$$I_x(q_1)V_x + I_y(q_1)V_y = -I_t(q_1)$$

$$I_x(q_2)V_x + I_y(q_2)V_y = -I_t(q_2)$$

⋮

$$I_x(q_n)V_x + I_y(q_n)V_y = -I_t(q_n)$$

The  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n$  are the pixel point in the image, the  $I_x(q_1), I_x(q_2), \dots, I_x(q_n)$  are the partial derivative of the pixel point on the image in the x, y direction. Presenting the equations set in matrix form like this,  $Av = b$ , that is:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} I_x(q_1) & I_y(q_1) \\ I_x(q_2) & I_y(q_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ I_x(q_n) & I_y(q_n) \end{bmatrix}, v = \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \end{bmatrix}, b = \begin{bmatrix} -I_t(q_1) \\ -I_t(q_2) \\ \vdots \\ -I_t(q_n) \end{bmatrix}$$

Solving equations by least squares cubic method is that:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_i I_x(q_i)^2 & \sum_i I_x(q_i)I_y(q_i) \\ \sum_i I_x(q_i)I_y(q_i) & \sum_i I_y(q_i)^2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} -\sum_i I_x(q_i)I_t(q_i) \\ -\sum_i I_y(q_i)I_t(q_i) \end{bmatrix}$$

## III. HARDWARE PLATFORM

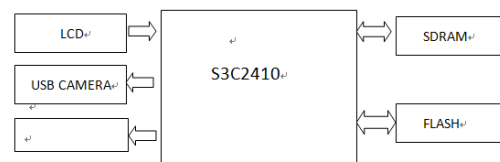


Figure 1. System Hardware Platform

The Hardware structure is shown in Figure 1. The processor uses the S3C2410, the processor integrates an ARM company ARM920T core, 32-bit microcontrollers, its performance is excellent. It receives the images from the USB camera, and then transfer the images to the Linux system area, in this area the images are analyzed and sent to the LCD display at the same time.

#### IV. PROGRAM FLOW CHART

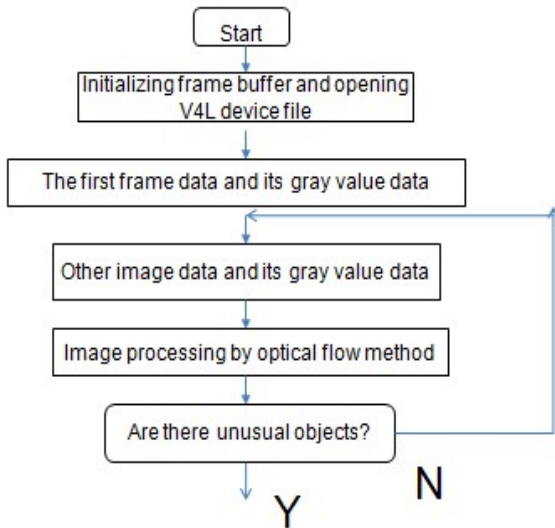


Figure 2. Program flow chart

#### V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND ANALYSIS



Figure 3. the First frame image



Figure 4. The Second frame image



Figure 5. Processed image

Figure 3 and figure 4 are the initial grayscale. Figure 3 is the first frame image, figure 4 is the second frame image, the two images are processed with the program flow chart. It obtains Figure 5 by the processing, from this image it can clearly find two kinds of different vectors, the vectors in the image are not continuous, one kind of them gets together around the car, it can easily find the outline of the moving car, so the purpose of moving target detection is realized. It can also clearly see in the image that the direction of the car would run and get the trend of the moving target, so it achieves the purpose of moving target track prediction.

On this platform, it is able to run three frames a second. Because of the calculation of the optical flow

algorithm is so many that in this processing stage, it cost a lot of time, so the real-time of the system is not good. For improving this situation, Temporal difference method and background subtraction method can be used in some way. This experiment does not consider a sheltered situation at some moment, if there is Kalman filter algorithm [6], the problem above would be solved, and the prediction of the result would be more quickly.

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