

A New Approach of Image denoise Based on The Steerable Pyramid Wavelet

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Abstract. In this paper, we proposed a new method which exploit the generalized Gaussian distribution (GCD) as the modeling of the sub-band coefficients and estimate the parameter corresponding. We use the generalized non-local means expression and propose an generalized non-local means algorithm based on the steerable pyramid and GGD. Simulation results show the performance of the proposed methods have better visual and in terms of the peak mean squared error. Steerable Pyramid is a flexible wavelet decomposition method. The statistics of the wavelet coefficients is non-Gaussian, which follow the generalized Gaussian distribution (GGD).

Introduction

In the procedure of the imaging, it is always couple with the additional noise by the image peripheral. The noise has the probability density distribution of the Gaussian distribution. Image denoising is a vital issue after the imaging. It is the precondition of the image analysis. In recent years, the denosing technology make a great progress, some new theories and the technology have been emerged. The Bayesian probability model and multi-resolutions analysis is the emphasis of the research. Some researchers focus on the probability model to find more efficiency and more accurate model. The wavelets methods map the signal to the wavelet domain and exploit the different character of the noise and the signal in wavelet domain with different scale to distinguish the noise and signal. To impose the noise iamage, the mail approach includes the Modulus Maxima reconstruction denosing, spatial denoising, wavelet domain threshold denosing. The tradeoff between the feature keeping and the smoothing still are the main difficulty of the wavelet methods..

Recent studies have shown that, in wavelet sub-band, the statistical model of the image have not in according with the generally Gaussian noise model in time domain. The wavelet coefficients hold a highly kurtotic behaviour in marginal histogram. In literature[1][5][6], the Gaussian Scale Mixtures(GSM) has been proposed. And in [7], the Spatial Varity Gaussian Scale Mixtures (SVGSM) has been proposed as a improvement of the GSM, eg, Mixture Gaussian Scale Mixtures[8],Mixture Projection Gaussian Scale Mixtures(MPGSM) [9]. The model mentioned above reveal explicitly a fundamental non-Gaussian noise model of the nature image of the wavelet coefficients. In many situations, the generally Gaussian Distribution has been used widely as a prior of the wavelet domain. GCD is a symmetric distribution. The main special case is the common Gaussian Distribution and the Laplace distribution. The limit form is δ function and the Uniformity Distribution. Compare with the Gaussian Distribution, GCD has more complicate study objection and intensive application.

The non local means(NLM) denosing methods have been proved as an efficient denoise method. The framework of the NLM based on the weighted means of the pixels which exploit the high redundancy of the image. The mean algorithm use all the pixels in the image, haven been shown the better results to the Gaussian additive noise. The denoised images have better vision effect and the better evaluation performance in data analysis.

In this paper, firstly, we introduce the steerable pyramid which has the orientation filter property. In the sub-band of the steeralbe pyramid coefficiency, we use the GCD to represent the stasitical characteristic of the image. Based on the modeling of GCD, we proposed a novelty denoise modeling in the wavelet domain.

The study of the generalized Gaussian distribution and the parameter evaluation of the steerable pyramid.

Nonlocal means (NLM) denoising algorithm

Let image represent by I , define I neighborhood $N = \{n_i\}_{i \in I}$,satisfy :

$$(1) i \in N_i, (2) i \in N_i, j \in N_i \Rightarrow i \in N_j. \tag{1}$$

Then and filtered point i , its value $NLM(I(i))$ calculated as a weighted average of all the pixels in the image I follow the equation as

$$NLM(I(i)) = \sum_{j \in I} w(i, j) I(j) \tag{2}$$

Where the $w(i, j)$ is the weights calculate from the similarity between the pixel i, j . And it also holds $\sum_{j \in I} w(i, j) = 1, 0 < w(i, j) < 1$.

In most case, $w(i, j)$ calculate as follow:

$$w(i, j) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|E_i - E_j\|_{2,a}^2}{h^2}\right) \tag{3}$$

NL-means compute distances between the intensities neighborhoods E_i, E_j for all the voxels j contained in the certain windows. Based on the original approach, we denote S is the length of the search window, C is the compare window, and it goes $S > C$. In generally, the size of a noised image is N^2 . So we have to calculate the weight of NL-means with the complexity $N^2 \times S^2 \times C^2$.

generalized Gaussian distribution density function

Firstly, let

$$p(x) = \frac{a}{2b\Gamma(1/a)} \exp\left(-\left|\frac{x}{b}\right|^a\right) \tag{4}$$

Where

$$b = s \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma(1/a)}{\Gamma(3/a)}} \tag{5}$$

$\Gamma(z) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{z-1} dt$ is Gamma function. a and b is the shape parameter and the scale parameter. s^2 is the variance. If $a=1$, GGD is the general Laplace distribution. If $a=2$, GGD is the general Gaussian distribution. When the variance is constant, the GCD distribution curve is more subdued with the increasing of the a .

steerable pyramid

In [10], the steerable pyramid was proposed as an multi-resolution and multi-orientation image wavelet decompose method. Compare with the traditional orthogonal wavelet decomposition, the steerable pyramid decompose the image to a serial orientation sub-band and a lowpass resident band. The orientation is not down-sample, the residential sub-band will not produce the ring artifact by the low-pass filter. The steerable pyramid is tighter framework, the L2 norm is same to the original image. The main shortcoming of the steerable pyramid is overcomplete decomposition. The overcomplete coefficient is $\frac{4}{3}K$, K is the number of the orientation. In this paper, we apply the steerable pyramid to decompose the image for the GCD prior.

After the steerable pyramid transform, the image decomposed as the highpass sub-band $H_0(-w)$, lowpass band $L_0(-w)$, lowpass band and a serial of orientation sub-band $B_k(-w)$ in sequence and the lower band $L_1(-w)$.

The literatures have been proved that the image sub-band coefficient holds the distribution just as GCD, shown the krutotic behavior. Therefore, the key is to achieve the parameter estimation.

The shape parameter a decide whether the GCD can represent the sparse distribution in the margin of the image. We use a moment estimation method to achieve the a . Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N is the sample of the population X . we define the absolute value moment :

$$m_1 = E\{|X|\} = s \frac{\Gamma(2/a)}{\sqrt{\Gamma(1/a)\Gamma(3/a)}} \quad (6)$$

Two order moment about the origin is :

$$m_2 = E\{X^2\} = s^2 \quad (7)$$

Define the function:

$$R(a) = \frac{m_1^2}{m_2} = \frac{\Gamma^2(2/a)}{\Gamma(1/a)\Gamma(3/a)} \quad (8)$$

The inverse function can be approximate by hyperbolic function[12] :

$$R^{-1}(a) \approx \frac{0.2718}{0.7697 - a} - 0.1247 \quad (9)$$

And the moment m_1, m_2 can be approximate as:

$$\hat{m}_1 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i |x_i|, \quad \hat{m}_2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i x_i^2 \quad (10)$$

therefore, the shape parameter a can be approximate as :

$$a = R^{-1}\left(\frac{\hat{m}_1^2}{\hat{m}_2}\right) \quad (11)$$

Scale parameter b will be approximate as :

$$b = \sqrt{\hat{m}_2 \frac{\Gamma(1/a)}{\Gamma(3/a)}} \quad (12)$$

the algorithm of the NLM based on the steerable pyramid

NLM due with the noise in spatial, its also can impose the image in wavelet domain by the subband of the wavelets transform.

Consider the GCD non local means algorithm, the weight formulation can be:

$$w(i, j) = \frac{1}{C} \exp\left(-\frac{\|E_i - E_j\|_2^b}{(ha)^b}\right) \quad (13)$$

The parameter a and b coupling together, it make h a little difficult to defines. So we try to decouple the a and b make it more simple. So we alter the formulation as:

$$w(i, j) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{C} \exp\left(-\left(\frac{\|E_i - E_j\|_2^2}{h^2}\right)^{b/2} \frac{1}{a}\right), & \text{if } \|E_i - E_j\|_2^2 < h \\ 0, & \text{others} \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

the improved NLM algorithm is :

$$NLM(I(i)) = \sum_{j \in I} w(i, j) I(j) \quad (14)$$

The result and the discussion

To test the algorithm ,we choose other two denoising methods based on the wavelet transform. And we also use two classical spatial domain denoise method Local means filter and median filter. In experiment, firstly ,we use 512×512 as the test image to computer the peak signal-to-noise ratio(PSNR). In NLM , the searcher window is 11×11 , compare window is 7×7 . h^2 is $10s$ 。 As to the steerable pyramid transform , scale $J=1$, orientation $K=4$, we have 4 highpass resident sub-band and a lowpass sub-band. We can see from the figure3 the proposed methods have better vision effect. According table 1, the proposed method shown better PSNR

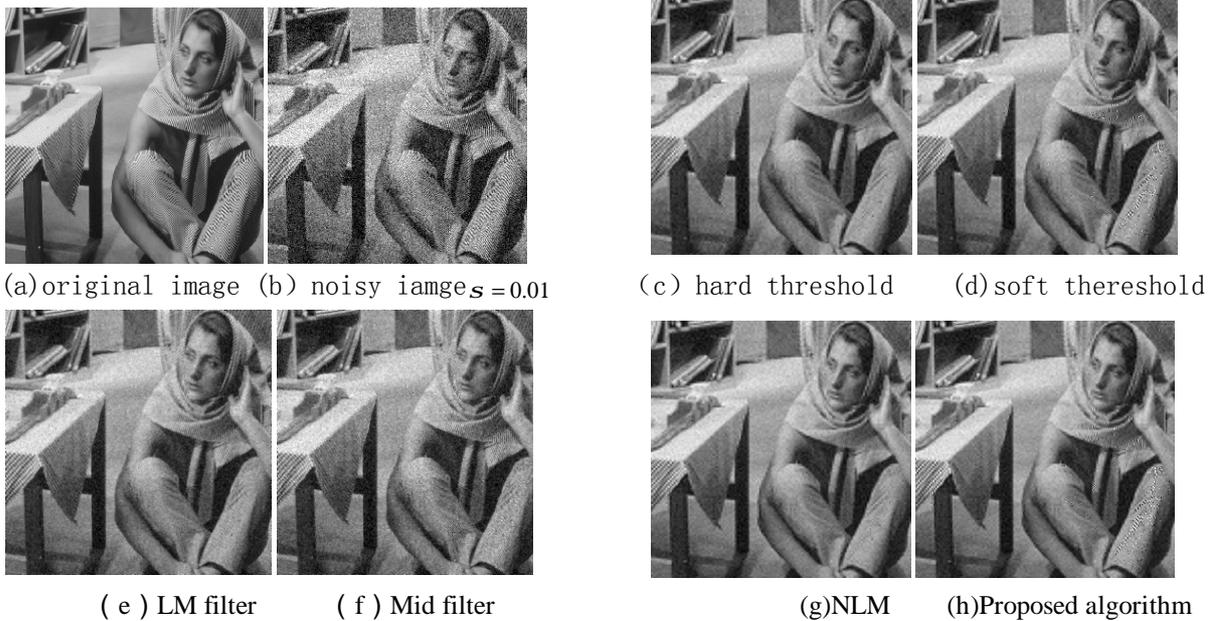


TABLE I. TABLE THE PSNR OF SOME IMAGE DENOISING

Algorithm	PSNR		
	$s=10$	$s=10$	$s=10$
hard threshold	71.4	69.5	62.6
soft threshold	71.6	69.5	62.6
LM filter	72.1	68.7	60.2
MID filter	73	67.4	58.6
Typical NLM	73.2	70.1	63.3
Our algorithm	73.2	70.5	63.9

Conclusion

In this paper, we have been proposed an efficient denoising methods based on the steerable pyramid wavelet transform. In the domain, the coefficient exposed the GCD characteristic which is indifferent with the traditional Gaussian distribution, so we improve the NLM method to deal the GCD model in wavelet domain. The results shown that the proposed methods have better denoise effect. The follow-up work focus on the optimal of the NLM approach and the better approximation method for the GCD parameter.

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