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Image Denoising Method Based on 3D Block Matching with Harmonic Filtering in Transform Domain

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ABSTRACTS

Today, I will explain an image denoising method based on 3D block matching with harmonic filtering in the transform domain. This topic is important because digital images are susceptible to noise during acquisition, storage, and transmission. Image denoising is crucial in pre-processing and is a key research area in digital image processing and computer vision. Traditional denoising techniques face limitations such as high computational complexity, so combining multiple methods is more effective. The integration of wave-domain harmonic filtering and 3D block matching (BM3D) introduces a new and efficient denoising algorithm. The Euclidean distance approach is used to group similar 2D image blocks into a 3D array. The inverse transformation reconstructs the image, followed by wavelet decomposition to filter highfrequency noise. To prevent edge blurring, the Laplacian-Gaussian algorithm is applied to refine the diffusion model. Finally, wavelet reconstruction is performed to approximate the original image. Experimental results demonstrate that this approach improves information protection and processing speed, making it highly effective in practice.

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1. INTRODUCTION

As a common information carrier, digital images are widely used in many social fields such as cultural media, modern industry, military, medicine, agriculture and so on. However, digital images are susceptible to noise in the process of acquisition, storage and transmission. Therefore, image denoising has become an important method in the image pre-processing stage, and is also a recent research hotspot in the field of digital image processing and computer vision (Li & Zhao, 2013).

Various researchers proposed а number of approach to deal with this issue before, here I go through some of the approaches starting with (Buades et al., 2005), he propose the idea of a nonlocal mean filter using Gaussian white noise in 2005, which is a denoising method to estimate the true image by weighted averaging of similar blocks between neighbourhoods. Later in (Dabov et al., 2007) combined the principles and advantages of NLM algorithm, wavelet transform and Wiener filtering, and proposed а threedimensional block matching image denoising algorithm (BM3D), At present, which is one of the most obvious algorithms, The high-frequency components obtained from the decomposing of the noise image in proposed by the authors are denoised by using the BM3D algorithm, and finally the wavelet reconstruction is performed, which greatly reduces the computational complexity.

Prior to that in 2006, Hinton published a paper in Science, which showed the team's research on deep learning (Hinton & Salakhutdinov, 2006), and then deep learning began to develop rapidly. In fact, deep learning was first

DOI: <u>https://doi.org/10.34010/injiiscom.v7i1.15615</u> p-ISSN 2810-0670 e-ISSN 2775-5584 tried in the field of image processing. A neural network model containing a Convolutional convolutional layer, Neural Network (CNN), was proposed by (LeCun, 1989) but this model did not greatly promote this field in image recognition when it was first born. Until 2012, Professor Hinton introduced the weight decay algorithm to optimize this algorithm. During the training process of the neural network, the weight range was better controlled to avoid over-fitting problems in the network. Deepen the network depth of the convolutional neural network (Krizhevsky et al., 2012), so, the convolutional neural network can be better applied to the field of image recognition. In 2015, Zhou et al. introduced a wave-domain harmonic denoising model for the edge information processing has given very good results (Xian-Xhun et al., 2015). The algorithms proposed by the above scholars all improve to some extent in the peak signal-to-noise ratio test, but they lack a balance in the running speed. Hence, a new method based on block matching collaborative filtering was proposed to estimate the noisy image processing, you can get the basic image estimates (Hwang & Haddad, 1995). Since the noise and the edge details of the image are mainly concentrated in the high frequency part of the image, the high frequency part of the pre-estimation image can be extracted by the wavelet decomposition, the edge blurring is caused by the transformation of the wave field, and the postreconstruction distortion of the image occurs, Laplacian algorithm (Elmoataz et al., 2012) is used to construct a new operator to bring into the diffusion model for image filtering, and then the final approximation of the image is obtained by wavelet reconstruction.

IMAGE DENOISING BY MIXING 3D BLOCK MATCHING WITH HARMONIC FILTERING BM3D algorithm

This is an ideal denoising approach, that brings together the wavelet transform and local methods. Classed up into two: the initial denoising and final denoising (Elad et al., 2023; Fan et al., 2019). The initial de-noising uses orthogonally transformed windows of different sizes, and the hard threshold of the spectrum in these transforms means that in the approximate class Adaptive decline, and model order depends on the most efficient adaptive data. The sequence estimation is Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) (Foi et al., 2007). The local estimate becomes nonlocal, when the Euclidean distance is used as a metric to find similar blocks of a reference block. The similar two-dimensional image blocks are combined into a threedimensional array matrix for joint filtering, then the three-dimensional arrav is inverse transformed and weighted averagely to eliminate overlapping parts of the image blocks to obtain the pre-estimation of the noisy image (Elmoataz et al., 2012). The final denoising step is to denoise twice based on the initial denoising. Image blocks are according grouped again to the similarities using the weight parameters provided by the initial denoising (Cornelis et al., 2014). The overlapping parts of the image blocks after inverse transformation of the weighted average three-dimensional array get the final estimate of the image (Toprak & Güler, 2006). However, we can see that the denoising methods based on the threedimensional block matching are based on the image block analysis, lack of grasp of the overall image information.

2.2. Initial estimations

We suppose that the noisy image model is as following according to the theoretical analysis (1):

$$I_{0(x,y)} = I_{(x,y)} + n_{(x,y)}(x, y \partial R)$$
(1)

Among them, I_0 denotes a noisy image, I for the original image, n mean 0, Variance is σ^2 Gaussian noise. Assume R is a bounded open subset in the real plane, defined as the domain of the image, is a bounded open subset in the real plane;(x, y) Represents the twodimensional spatial coordinates of the image field. Definition $x, y \in R$, the reference image block is $B_{x_{R},y_{R}}$, $B_{x,y}$ For positioning in noisy images $I_{0(x,y)}$, A matching block in the Euclidean distance is used to search for an image similarity block of another region similar to the central pixel region of the current reference block using the Euclidean distance metric as shown in formula (2) $d\left(B_{x_{R},y_{R}},B_{x,y}\right) = N_{1}^{-2} \left\|\gamma\left(\Gamma_{2D}\left(B_{x_{R},y_{R}}\right) - \gamma\left(\Gamma_{2D}\left(B_{x,y}\right)\right)\right\|_{2}^{2}\right)$ (2)

Assume, $B_{x_{R},y_{R}}$, $B_{x,y}$ are the size $N_{1} \times N_{1}$ Ima ge blocks, Γ_{2D} Denotes the two-dimension al linear transformation by discrete cosin e (DCT), γ is a threshold operator, and ge nerally defined in (3)

$$\gamma(\lambda, \lambda_{thr}) = \begin{cases} \lambda & |\lambda| > \lambda_{thr} \\ 0 & |\lambda| \le \lambda_{thr} \end{cases}$$
(3)

Define the maximum distance between image blocks to search for similar blocks τ_{match} , The result of block matching by (4) is:

$$S_{x_{R}, y_{R}} = \left\{ x, y \in R \left| d(B_{x_{R}, y_{R}}, B_{x, y}) < \tau_{match} \right\}$$
(4)

Will be assembled S_{x_R,y_R} Similar blocks in the merged stack as $N_1 \times N_1 \times S_{x_R,y_R}$ The three-dimensional array is normalized by three-dimensional linear transformation of the array, followed by threedimensional inverse transform to get the initial approximation of the matching block:

$$\Psi_{S_{x_{R},y_{R}}} = \Gamma_{3D}^{-1}(\gamma(\Gamma_{3D}(I_{0S_{x_{R},y_{R}}}))) \tag{5}$$

The result of the treatment in equation (5) $\hat{I}_{S_{x_R,y_R}}$ stacked composition $\hat{I}_{x,y}^{x_R,y_R}$. Where subscripts indicate the position of the estimated block and superscripts indicate the similar block position of the block. Weighted average the pixels of all the image blocks to avoid the overlap of the estimated values (6), so as to obtain the initial approximation of the original image:

$$\hat{I}_{basic} = \frac{\sum_{x,y\partial R} \sum_{xm,ym\partial S_{x_R,y_R}} \omega_{x_R,y_R} \hat{I}_{xm,ym}^{x_R,y_R}}{\sum_{x,y\partial R} \sum_{xm,ym\partial S_{x_R,y_R}} \omega_{x_R,y_R} \psi_{xm,ym}}$$
(6)

In the formula, \hat{I}_{basic} after processing based on the image, $\psi_{xm,ym}$ Represented as located in (xm, ym) at the block of the characteristic function. ω_{x_R,y_R} Represents the weight assigned to the group estimate, defined as (7), N_{x_R,y_R} for the three-dimensional array of formula (4) to normalize and linear transform the number of non-zero coefficients.

$$\omega_{x_{R}, y_{R}} = \begin{cases} \sigma^{-2} N_{x_{R}, y_{R}}^{-1} & N_{x_{R}, y_{R}} \ge 1 \\ 1 & N_{x_{R}, y_{R}} < 1 \end{cases}$$
(7)

2.3. Final estimates

The edge and noise features of the image and the edge are mainly concentrated in the high-frequency part of the image. The Mallat algorithm (Mallat, 1989) is used to decompose the result of to extract the high-frequency of the pre-estimated image part (horizontal direction h, vertical Direction v, diagonal direction d), and its diffusion filter processing. Due to Perona-Malik's diffusion function (Perona & Malik, 1990) has edge sharpening capability, it has the function of backward diffusion at the same time of forward diffusion and denoising as diffusion model. Proposed specific model is as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} = div\{c \left[W \times \left(\left| \nabla \hat{I}_{basic} \right| \right) \right] \nabla \hat{I}_{basic} \} \\ \hat{I}_{final} \left(x, y, 0 \right) = \hat{I}_{basic} \end{cases}$$

$$(8)$$

In the formula, I_{basic} is a preliminary estimated image of BM3D, W represents the wavelet transform decomposition of image, and the decreasing function related to gradient information c[g] is used to control the diffusion degree at different positions, which is consistent with the definition of PM model, namely:

$$c(x) = \exp(-\left(\frac{x}{k}\right)^2), \qquad (9)$$

Where k is the threshold coefficient. When the wave field is transformed, the edge will be blurred and the edge corners will be easily smoothed, resulting in the distortion of the reconstructed image. The new filter operator can be constructed by using Laplace Gauss's stress distribution balance and gradient operator, its expression is as follows:

$$\nabla \hat{I}_{basic} + \nabla^2 \hat{I}_{basic} = \sqrt{I_x^2 + I_y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 I}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 I}{\partial y^2}$$
(9)

among them G_{σ} as Gaussian kernel function.ke (9) into (8) and create a new diffusion model, namely:

Ta In order to enhance the edge of the image, control the proliferation speed,

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} = c \left(\left| G_{\sigma} * \nabla \hat{I}_{basic} \right| \right) div \{ c \left[W \times \left(\left| \nabla \hat{I}_{basic} + \nabla^2 \hat{I}_{basic} \right| \right) \right] \nabla \hat{I}_{basic} \} \\ \hat{I}_{final} \left(x, y, 0 \right) = \hat{I}_{basic} \end{cases}$$
(10)

In the formula, $c(g) = c(|G_{\sigma} * \nabla \hat{I}_{basic}|).$

$$G_{\sigma} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} e^{-\frac{\left(x^2 + y^2\right)}{4\sigma}} \tag{11}$$

For the model (10) (11) (12), we can simplify the realization of the algorithm by numerical discrete form, and define the grid coordinates as $Net = (il, jl, \Delta t)$, Where I is the grid length, Δt For the time step. Therefore:

$$\begin{cases} I_{i,j}^{n} = I \cdot Net \\ a_{i,j}^{n} = c \left(\left| G_{\sigma} * \nabla \hat{I}_{basic} \right| \right) \cdot Net \\ b_{i,j}^{n} = c \left[W \times \left(\left| \nabla \hat{I}_{basic} + \nabla^{4} \hat{I}_{basic} \right| \right) \right] \cdot Net \\ \text{definition } I_{basic}^{\sim} = \left[W \times \left(\left| \nabla \hat{I}_{basic} + \nabla^{2} \hat{I}_{basic} \right| \right) \right], \text{therefore,} \end{cases}$$

$$div \left[c\left(I_{\bar{b}asic}\right) \nabla \hat{I}_{basic} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[c\left(I_{\bar{b}asic}\right) \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \right] + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[c\left(I_{\bar{b}asic}\right) \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(c\left(I_{\bar{b}asic}\right) \right) \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} + c\left(I_{\bar{b}asic}\right) \frac{\partial^2 I}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(c\left(I_{\bar{b}asic}\right) \right) \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} + c\left(I_{\bar{b}asic}\right) \frac{\partial^2 I}{\partial y^2}$$

$$(12)$$

 $\frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \text{ The discrete form is: } \frac{I_{i+1,j} - I_{i-1,j}}{2l}, \frac{\partial^2 I}{\partial x^2} \text{ discrete form is: } \frac{I_{i+1,j} - 2I_{i,j} + I_{i-1,j}}{l^2}$, therefore $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[c \left(I_{basic} \right) \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \right]$ The discrete expression is:

$$\frac{1}{2l^{2}} \left[\left(b_{i-1,j}^{n} + b_{i,j}^{n} \right) I_{i-1,j}^{n+1} - \left(2b_{i,j}^{n} + b_{i-1,j}^{n} + b_{i+1,j}^{n} \right) I_{i+1,j}^{n+1} + \left(b_{i,j}^{n} + b_{i+1,j}^{n} \right) I_{i+1,j}^{n+1} \right]$$
(13)

The same can be obtained $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[c \left(I_{basic} \right) \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \right]$ The discrete expression is:

$$\frac{1}{2l^2} \left[\left(b_{i,j-1}^n + b_{i,j}^n \right) I_{i,j-1}^{n+1} - \left(2b_{i,j}^n + b_{i,j-1}^n + b_{i,j+1}^n \right) I_{i,j+1}^{n+1} + \left(b_{i,j}^n + b_{i,j+1}^n \right) I_{i,j+1}^{n+1} \right]$$
(14)

DOI: <u>https://doi.org/10.34010/injiiscom.v7i1.15615</u> p-ISSN 2810-0670 e-ISSN 2775-5584 The discrete expressions (13), (14) into equation (10) diffusion equation can be obtained implicit difference scheme:

$$\frac{I_{i,j}^{n+1} - I_{i,j}^{n}}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{2l^{2}} a_{i,j}^{n} \begin{bmatrix} \left(b_{i-1,j}^{n} + b_{i,j}^{n}\right) I_{i-1,j}^{n+1} + \left(b_{i,j-1}^{n} + b_{i,j}^{n}\right) I_{i,j-1}^{n+1} + \left(b_{i,j}^{n} + b_{i+1,j}^{n}\right) I_{i+1,j}^{n+1} \\ + \left(b_{i,j}^{n} + b_{i,j+1}^{n}\right) I_{i,j+1}^{n+1} + \left(4b_{i,j}^{n} + b_{i-1,j}^{n} + b_{i,j-1}^{n} + b_{i,j+1}^{n}\right) I_{i,j+1}^{n+1} \end{bmatrix}$$
(15)

definition $\mathbf{M}_{I}(I^{n}) = [a_{ij}(I^{n})]$, Write equation (2.15), (2.16), (2.17) into a matrix form and further simplify: $\frac{I^{n+1} - I^{n}}{\Delta t} = M_{I}(I^{n})I^{n+1}$ (16)

Which is:
$$I^{n+1} = (1 - \Delta t M_l (I^n))^{-1} I^n$$

2.4. Performance analysis

The feasibility of this algorithm is verified by MATLAB simulation software. The PSNR and SSIM are used to compare and evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed algorithm.

$$PSNR = 10lg \left(\frac{255^2}{\frac{1}{W \times H} \sum_{x=1}^{W} \sum_{y=1}^{H} [I(x, y) - \hat{I}(x, y)]^2}} \right)$$
(18)
$$SSIM = \left[l \left(I, \hat{I} \right)^{\alpha} \cdot c \left(I, \hat{I} \right)^{\beta} \cdot s \left(I, \hat{I} \right)^{\gamma} \right]$$
(19)

In formula (18), (19), $W \times H$ Indicates the image size, I, \hat{I} respectively denote the original image and the denoised image, l(x), c(x), s(x) respectively, brightness, contrast, structure comparison function. PSNR the bigger the better, $SSIM \in (0,1)$, the closer this value is to 1, the better the filtering effect.



Fig. 1. The original pictures

Figure 1 shows a natural image Nicki, Nxb. The original experimental chart, pixel size is 512*512.First of all Nicki Images are used separately BLS-GSM、F-NLM, BM3D and this algorithm for smoothing noise. The filtering algorithm in this paper sets the time step $\Delta t = 0.2$,The number of iterations n = 7.Wavelet threshold denoising used sym4 break down. The smoothing result is shown in Figure 2. The upper left corner of the figure is a partial enlarged view. The evaluation indicators are shown in Table 1. Different noise levels can reflect the suppression effect of each model on noise and the retention of edge structure information. The details of the Nicki's eves and feathers shown in Fig 2, which indicates that the BM3D algorithm has a good visual effect on image detail protection and denoising performance. However, it can be clearly found by comparing the details of the Nxb denoising image in Fig 3. The BM3D algorithm lacks the analysis of the overall information, which leads to the blurring caused by over-processing of partial regions.

(17)



(a)Noisy image (b) BLS-GSM Model

(c) F-NLM Model

(d)BM3D Model

(e) New Model

Fig. 2 The smoothing results of noisy image through different de-noising models (Nicki)



(b) BLS-GSM Model (c) F-NLM Model (d)BM3D Model (a)Noisy image (e) New Model

Fig. 3. The smoothing results of noisy image through different de-noising models (Nxb)

In order to better display the edge information before and after filtering, we use Canny operator (Yuan & Xu, 2015) to detect the edge of the de-noised renderings of each algorithm respectively. The result is shown in Fig 4. Observing the information of the Nicki's brim and feather, the vehicle structure of the lower left corner of the Nxb and the character. The new model proposed in this paper has excellent performance on protecting the detail information structure (Xie et., 2012). By carefully comparing the edges detected from different algorithms, it is evident that the proposed model achieves a better balance between noise suppression and edge

preservation. The subtle transitions in the edge regions, such as the feather's fine patterns and the vehicle's contour, are more faithfully retained with this model. The Canny operator highlights how the method minimizes proposed edge degradation that is often seen in traditional denoising techniques. This advantage is particularly significant in areas with complex textures, where maintaining edge continuity is crucial. Overall, the visual analysis confirms the superior capability of the proposed model in handling high-frequency components and preserving structural details.



(a)Noisy image (b) BLS-GSM Model (c) F-NLM Model (d)BM3D Model (e) New Model Fig. 4 Edge extraction noisy images after de-noising in different models

Table 1. PSNR, SSI	M and run time of	noisy images in d	lifferent de-no	ising models

Images	σ/ PSNR		BLS-GSM	Fast-NLM	BM3D	New Model
Nicki	10/ 28.16	PSNR(dB)	35.22	34.75	35.84	36.11
		SSIM	0.9957	0.9963	0.9981	0.9987
		Time(s)	5.50	4.11	4.12	3.85
	20/ 22.13	PSNR(dB)	30.93	28.14	33.03	33.88
		SSIM	0.93	0.9471	0.9887	0.9981
		Time(s)	5.49	4.58	4.51	3.98
	30/ 18.64	PSNR(dB)	27.84	25.35	31.28	32.09
		SSIM	0.8773	0.8502	0.9765	0.9974
		Time(s)	5.27	4.21	4.71	3.88
	40/ 16.35	PSNR(dB)	25.01	22.85	29.85	29.86
		SSIM	0.7625	0.6455	0.9235	0.9968
		Time(s)	5.25	2.11	3.65	2.84

Images	σ / PSNR		BLS-GSM	Fast-NLM	BM3D	New Model
Nxb		PSNR(dB)	33.13	33.87	34.67	34.88
	10/ 28.14	SSIM	0.9211	0.8972	0.9667	0.9991
		Time(s)	5.52	4.22	4.04	3.82
	20/ 22.11	PSNR(dB)	29.09	28.22	30.43	32.21
		SSIM	0.8473	0.7835	0.9558	0.9981
		Time(s)	5.39	4.12	4.00	3.87
		PSNR(dB)	26.82	22.24	29.21	30.08
	30/ 18.59	SSIM	0.7773	0.7875	0.9425	0.9968
		Time(s)	5.47	4.09	4.96	3.88
		PSNR(dB)	25.01	18.88	24.32	24.58
	40/ 16.09	SSIM	0.7186	0.6438	0.8900	0.9761
		Time(s)	5.53	4.01	4.55	3.84

Table 1 (continue). PSNR, SSIM and run time of noisy images in different de-
noising models



Fig. 5. Simulated chart of PSNR of each model for noisy image (Nxb, Lib)

The peak signal-to-noise ratio denoising simulation results of image Nxb and Lib, at different noise levels, is shown in fig 5. Above all experimental images and the data in Table 1 show that the F-NLM algorithm is faster, but sacrifices the denoising performance, which is inferior to other algorithms. It can be seen that among the three algorithms, the new model proposed in this paper has high peak signal-to-noise ratio and good structural similarity value, and the visibility is also the best. It not only effectively removes the noise interference, but also has certain information on the image edge structure information. Enhancement, controlling image information from local stability,

further confirms that the new model has ideal denoising performance.

3. CONCLUSION

In general, image restoration and the developments in this area are very crucial in the domain of image processing. The quality of the restored images will greatly affect their applications and uses in the community. Some of the possible sources of image degradation and restoration have been presented. However, many new strategies are still in their initial stages and hence more efforts will be made in order to move forward the developments.

In this piece of work, to balance the computing speed, denoising performance and to keep the complete the structural information of the image, the transform domain harmonic image filtering is used. To preprocess the noise added Image the three-dimensional block matching combined filtering is applied in addition to that, the high-frequency component of the pre-processed image i00s extracted for new model diffusion filtering. Finally, the frequency-domain component is reconstructed to obtain the final denoising effect. In order to avoid distortion when component reconstruction, Laplace Gauss algorithm is used to protect the edge-point spikes. There are numerous other algorithms for the Image Compression process, just like the one I have designed. So, what makes my project stand out?

Through the simulation experiments, we can see from the objective evaluation criteria and subjective visual effects that structure the internal information protection is more complete and the denoising performance is more idealized, verifies the feasibility which and superiority of the proposed algorithm more information and presents protection, and reasonable operation speed, which is beneficial to practical application. However, there's always a room for improvement to attain way better results.

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