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APPLICATION OF KALMAN FILTER
IN DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING

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ABSTRACT

An application of Kalman Filter , based on state space techniques is presented to solve the enhancement and the restoration of noisy images degraded by motion in the flight direction .

I . INTRODUCTION

During exposure , the resulting image is degraded due to many factors as the optical aberrations , the relative motion between an object and the imaging system , the noises due to sensors , the atmospheric effects ... etc. Recently , the digital image processing technique , especially in the domain of remote sensing has the interest for enhancement and restoration of the spatial and aerial images besides to the image analysis ;

The general approach to deal with a problem such as the blur due to image motion is based on characterizing the motion by means of Point Spread Function (PSF) . That will be followed by a more difficult task to process the degraded image for restoring it to the original one , When the degradation is space-invariant with no noise during

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recording , and when the recorded image extends over an infinite or semifinite interval in the space , the inverse filter in the fourier domain is applicable [1] . If the fourier transform of PSF has zeros at some spatial frequencies then the inverse filtering becomes a poorer restoration technique , especially in the presence of noise . The linear mean square error filters are more effective in the presence of noise . When the motion degradation is space-variant , the restoration using the fourier transform approach cannot be used .

In this paper ; we introduce an application of recursive kalman filter to restore the noisy images degraded by motion in one direction (flight direction) . This approach is based on modeling the motion by a linear discret-time dynamical system using the PSF of the image motion in the absence of noise [2] . By using the exact inverse of blurring model , the degraded image can be restored by the recursive model deduced from that inverse one . The problem of zeros that has been mentioned before does not arise because of utilizing an exact model operating over the finite picture . Similarly the initial states in the inverse model express the boundary conditions .

In the presence of noise , that blurring model is still convenient for obtaining the best linear mean square estimates of the image incorporated with scanner modeling by using KALMAN FILTER . This approach has been applied when using the different modeling functions of scanner to show the model that is more convenient for the real world .

II . BLUR DUE TO IMAGE MOTION

The physical description of the degradation due to image motion for a general linear model in the absence of noise is given by :

$$I_d(x_1, x_2) = \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(x_1, x_2, u_1, u_2) \cdot I_o(u_1, u_2) du_1 du_2 \quad (1)$$

where

$I_o(u_1, u_2)$ is the object intensity at the spatial point (u_1, u_2) in object coordinates (U_1, U_2) .

$I_d(x_1, x_2)$ is the degraded image recorded intensity of that spatial point in image coordinates (X_1, X_2) .

$h(x_1, x_2, u_1, u_2)$ is the response at (x_1, x_2) to a unit impulse at (u_1, u_2) " Point Spread Function " .

If $h(x_1, x_2, u_1, u_2)$ depends on each of the four spatial variables (x_1, x_2, u_1, u_2) independently then the blurring system is linear space variant ; if $h(x_1, x_2, u_1, u_2)$ depends on the spatial differences $(x_1 - u_1), (x_2 - u_2)$ then the system is linear space-invariant and equation (1) becomes :

$$I_d(x_1, x_2) = \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(x_1 - u_1, x_2 - u_2) \cdot I_o(u_1, u_2) du_1 du_2 \quad (2)$$

For images in which the motion blur occurs in straight line (direction of flight for aerial images) e.g. along u_1 , then

$$I_d(x_1) = \int_R h(x_1 - u_1) \cdot I_o(u_1) du_1 \quad (3)$$

where

R is the motion trace along U_1 for space-invariant blurring systems .

The discrete form of the previous equation is :

$$I_d(k) = \sum_{r \in R} h(k - r) \cdot I_o(r) \quad (4)$$

where

k, r are integer values .

The PSF $h(i)$ can be expressed as :

$$h(i) = c_0 \Delta(i) + c_1 \Delta(i-1) + \dots + c_m \Delta(i-m) \quad (5)$$

where

$\Delta(.)$ is an impulse function .

m is the value of PSF $h(j)$ at time j , $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m$.

$$I_d(k) = (c_0 + c_1 D + c_2 D^2 + \dots + c_m D^m) I_o(k) \quad (6)$$

$$= H(D) \cdot I_o(k)$$

where D is a delay operator .

By applying Z transform , H(z) of PSF h(i) after replacing D by 1/z will

be :

$$H(z) = \left[c_0 + \frac{c_1}{z} + \frac{c_2}{z^2} + \dots + \frac{c_m}{z^m} \right] \quad (7)$$

H(z) is a proper rational function if the PSF is causal function . H(z) has a finite number of terms .

III . RESTORATION OF NOISE FREE DEGRADED IMAGE

Firstly , we will obtain a state space model that realizes the motion transfer function H(z) as follows :

$$x(k+1) = A x(k) + B I_o(k) \quad (8)$$

$$I_d(k) = C x(k) + d I_o(k)$$

where

$$k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

x(k) is the state vector ; $x(k) \in R^m$.

m is the extent of the blur .

N is the number of pixels contained in line .

A, B, C, are constant matrices (mxm), (mx1), (1xm) .

d is a scalar .

(A, B, C, d) represents single-input single-output linear system that realizes the blurring transfer function H(z) , then

$$H(z) = C (zI - A)^{-1} B + d \quad (9)$$

The utilized realization has a canonical structure which will lead to efficient computation . This realization is described for the next two cases [3] :

- For moving objects with background of zero intensity i.e. the initial state vector $x(0) = 0$.

$$W(k+1) = \begin{bmatrix} A & B\bar{Y} \\ 0 & \alpha \end{bmatrix} W(k) + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \beta(k) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$I_d(k) = \begin{bmatrix} C & d\bar{Y} \end{bmatrix} W(k) + V(k)$$

where

$$W^t(k) = \begin{bmatrix} X(k) & Z(k) \end{bmatrix}$$

A recursive estimator has been designed on the basis of the last discrete model to give an estimate $\hat{W}(k)$ of $W(k)$ I I .

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{W}(k+1) &= \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A} & -F(k)\bar{C} \end{bmatrix} \hat{W}(k) + F(k)\bar{I}_d(k) \\ P(k+1) &= \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A} & -F(k)\bar{C} \end{bmatrix} P(k) \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A} & -F(k)\bar{C} \end{bmatrix}^t + BKB^t + F(k)RF^t(k) \\ F(k) &= \bar{A}P(k)\bar{C}^t \left[\bar{C}P(k)\bar{C}^t + R \right]^{-1} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where

$$\bar{A} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B\bar{Y} \\ 0 & \alpha \end{bmatrix}; \quad \bar{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \beta \end{bmatrix}; \quad \bar{C} = \begin{bmatrix} C & d\bar{Y} \end{bmatrix}$$

The initial conditions $P(0)$ and $W(0)$ are considered as apart of available data that describe the operation of the estimator .

V . AUTOCORRELATION OF SCANNER OUTPUT

To consider the realistic model of a scanner and because of the periodic nature of its operation , the random process of both image and noise are nonstationary . The determination of such process for the dynamic model is very complicated . The algorithm for the case of stationary process has been calculated [8] , [9] . The scanner output is obtained by scanning horizontally (variable z) and vertically (integer number n) . z is a variable that denotes the position of the scanning spot on the horizontal scanning line and verifies the relation $0 \leq z \leq Z$. The vertical variable $n = 1, 2, \dots, N$ represents the n^{th} scanning line . The brightness function is defined by $b(z,n)$ that has zero mean . The case of an image 32×32

- For moving objects with background of nonzero intensity i.e. the initial state vector $X(0)$ is nonzero .

Our approach to the noise free restoration problem is to obtain another linear system A, B, C, d that is an exact inverse to blurring system (A, B, C, d) [4] [5] .

IV . RESTITUTION OF NOISY DEGRADED IMAGES

During the exposure , the noise degradation is assumed to be additive white noise (zero mean and known variance) added to the motion degraded image . A model that describes both motion and noise degradation is given by :

$$\begin{aligned} X(k+1) &= A X(k) + B I_o(k) \\ \tilde{I}_d(k) &= C X(k) + d I_o(k) + V(k) \\ EV(k) &= 0 \\ EV(k_1)V(k_2) &= R\Delta(k_1 - k_2) \quad ; \quad k=0,1,\dots, N-1 \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where

$\Delta (.)$ is an impulse function

$\tilde{I}_d(k)$ is the degraded image due to both noise and motion .

R is the given variance .

Given the correlation function of the line scanner and the original image , a difference model given by white noise can be developed [6] . Such model is given by next equations :

$$\begin{aligned} Z(k+1) &= \alpha Z(k) + \beta U(k) \\ I_o(k) &= \gamma Z(k) \\ EU(k) &= 0 \\ EU(k_1)U(k_2) &= K \Delta(k_1 - k_2) \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

The two models represented by (10) & (11) can be augmented in the following model :

pixels of zero mean that has a square 12x12 pixels of gray level 6.1 surrounded by background grey level -1 will represent the object intensity . The image is a sample function of two dimensional random process with autocorrelation function :

$$R_I(z,i) = 6.1 e^{-4.35 |z| - 0.136 |i|}$$

Because of great difficulties to define the random process exactly also we have introduced the simple representation which considers the scanner as just a delay system .

VI . APPLICATION OF KALMAN FILTER

Considering the image 32x32 that has been described of a simple model of a scanner of the following representation :

$$Z(k+1) = \alpha Z(k) + \beta U(k)$$

$$I_o(k) = Z(k)$$

Then the augmented model is deduced by using equations (12) , also the kalman filter has been defined by using equations (13) .

Figure 1 is the original image while figure 2 shows the degraded one . The restored image shown in figure 3 is the result using the exact inverse model . The noisy degraded image is shown in figure 4 . During the processing , the variance of the original image , simultaneously with the variance of noise are changed . The results shown in figure 5 represent the restored images for the different cases .

Secondly , we shall use the stationary model of scanner that has been discussed before . This model is represented by differential equation of 5th order [10] , and its numerical results are given by :

$$\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} 0.996 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.983 & 0.031 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1.22 & 0.97 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.926 & 0.03 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -4.77 & 0.913 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\beta k \beta^T = \begin{bmatrix} 0.02 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.02 & 0.12 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.12 & 0.6 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.01 & 0.07 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.07 & 0.49 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\gamma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 6 shows the noisy degraded image while figure 7 is the restored one .

VII . CONCLUSION

The rôle of recursive linear kalman filtering in image processing either enhancement or restoration has been established . The procedure is applicable to those characterized by mean and correlation functions .

This paper has introduced the application on any image just of zero mean that can be practically realized .

Due to the lack of precise knowledge of the image and/or the noise correlation functions , the introduced processing permits the changing of the variance for each image and noise in order to obtain the optimum result . Due to the simpler representation , the required time for such processing is comparable with that required in the case of processing for defined correlation functions .

Finally , application of such algorithm on real degraded images will

manifest the potential of such processing in enhancement and restoration using kalman filters .

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