

Illumination Invariant Object Detection and Tracking with Pre-Equalization and Mean Shift

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ABSTRACT: Video surveillance is commonly observed in many places. The video recording is intended to detect and track a particular object or a person. One of the major issues related to these video recording is changing of illumination during recording at different intervals of time, which degrades the working performance of detection algorithm. In this paper, a simple and fast pre-equalization approach is proposed along with mean shift tracking. Each frame that is supposed to be processed for detection is normalized and the intensity values are adjusted with the use of histogram properties and then the frame is fed to tracking algorithm. Experimental results shows that the proposed approach is providing promising results when compared with the results obtained under low or varying illumination and other equalization methods.

Keywords: Object detection, Object tracking, Equalization, Mean Shift tracking.

I. Introduction

Object detection and tracking in the surveillance video is one of the challenging tasks in computer vision research, where the object of interest is supposed for recognition and track its existence in a sequence of frames. This has become the more important topic of interest due to its vast applications in the field of security. Three main steps are involved in this process, to detect the object of interest, trace the movement of the object from frame to frame and analyze its behaviour of movement. This article is mainly focused on detection of an object of interest and tracking its movement in each frame only.

Object detection algorithms often fail to provide maximum performance due to the changing illumination and tracking of object movement becomes critical. Several approaches were discussed so far in the literature to overcome this issue, in [1] Comaniciu et al, proposed a robust and low complexity mean shift tracking algorithm but it doesn't provide satisfactory results when the background illumination is varied. In [2] Lipton et al, a frame difference based moving region extraction using the pixel differences between the consecutive frames. In [3] Liu et.al proposed background subtraction method by taking the difference between current and reference background images. This work fails when the illumination in the reference and the background frames have differed which is practically impossible. In [4] Desa et.al proposed a combination of background subtraction and frame difference, this is an improved version of the work done by Liu but still, suffers from the same limitations. In [4] Celik et.al, introduces an equalized approach to enhance the contrast levels in the frame with Gaussian mixture models, however this cannot enhance the very low illuminated image because the enhancement depends on the histogram of the images or a frame.

To address the above-mentioned limitation a generalized pre-equalization approach is proposed in this paper to enhance the contrast level of the frame before the object of interest has been tracked. This paper is organized as follows; Section I presents the concept of object detection in computer vision and the application of tracking in the current world. Section II presents a brief theoretical and mathematical explanation of the concepts that were involved in the designing of the proposed approach, Section III presents the proposed approach, and section IV presents the experimental results that were obtained with the proposed approach and its validations. Finally, conclusions are heightened in section V.

II. Related Work

(A) Pre-Equalization

Consider a color image can be represented as a function of $f = (f_r, f_g, f_b)$, the available range for each component is $[0 \ 255]$, the respective histogram of each component can be represented as $\{h_c, p_c\}$ where $c = r, g, b$. Here h_c represents total intensity values in the image and p_c is the total non-zero probability of all the intensity values. As stated in [5] it can be assumed as

$$\left(\frac{\int |f(x)|^\alpha dx}{\int dx} \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} = \begin{pmatrix} (p_r^T h_r^T)^\alpha \\ (p_g^T h_g^T)^\alpha \\ (p_b^T h_b^T)^\alpha \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Given an image normalized estimation of light source can be estimated as

$$e_c(\alpha) = \frac{\left(p_c^T \overline{h_c}^\alpha \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}}{\sqrt{\sum_c \left(p_r^T \overline{h_r}^\alpha \right)^{\frac{2}{\alpha}}}} \quad (2)$$

The balanced histogram can be obtained as

$$\vec{h}_c = \frac{1}{e_c(\alpha)\sqrt{3}} \overline{h}_c \quad (3)$$



Figure 1: a) Original image

b) Enhanced image

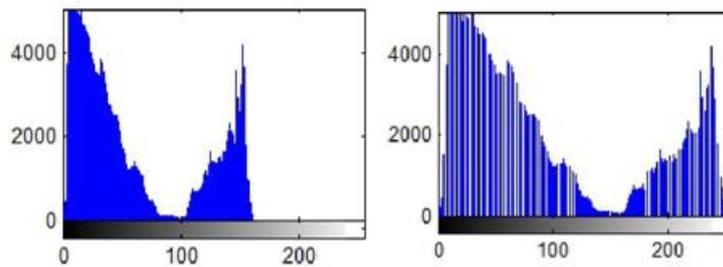


Figure 2: a) Original Image Histogram

b) Enhanced Image Histogram

The proposed approach can be used for any illumination variation and also can be used to minimize the haze effect introduced by the atmosphere. This makes it more useful to adopt this approach for surveillance videos where apart from illumination variation the video content changes with the intrusion of atmospheric effects like smoke, snow, fog etc.

(B) Mean-Shift Tracking (MST) Algorithm

This algorithm is proposed by Comanicu in [1], which is fast and accurate object tracking algorithm. This approach is aimed to find clusters in the joint spatial and color space randomly chosen from the data. Each cluster center is moved to the mean of the data lying inside the multi-dimensional ellipsoid centered in the

cluster center. The vector defined by the old and the new cluster centers is called the mean shift vector and this process is repeated iteratively until the clusters do not change their positions. In this paper Epanechnikov based kernel is used, the center of the next frame of the target is given as

$$Y = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i w_i g\left(\frac{(Y_o - x_i)^2}{H}\right)}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i g\left(\frac{(Y_o - x_i)^2}{H}\right)} \quad (4)$$

Where ‘w’ is weight calculated from the target model and target candidate which used to calculate the new center, ‘g’ is the negative of kernel ‘k’, Y₀ is the old center. Similarity measurement is calculated with Bhattacharya distance and repeated until the candidate model is close to target model [6].

III. Proposed Approach

The surveillance videos often corrupted by the different issues like atmospheric effects (Smoke, snow fog etc), poor illumination, Varying illumination and many. In this section, a pre-equalized approach is proposed for the video with poor and varying illumination. Consider a video sequence in which the illumination is varied differently for different frames an example is presented in below figure

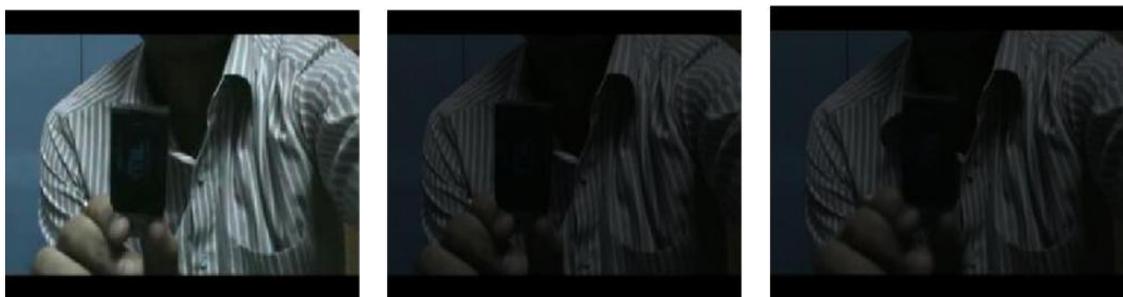


Figure 3: (a) 1st Frame

(b) 4th Frame

(c) 8th Frame

Each video sequence is processed in a frame by frame manner individually, for each individual frame the pre-equalization approach is applied to enhance its visual contrast levels using the algorithm stated in section II (A), the resultant enhanced frame is depicted below

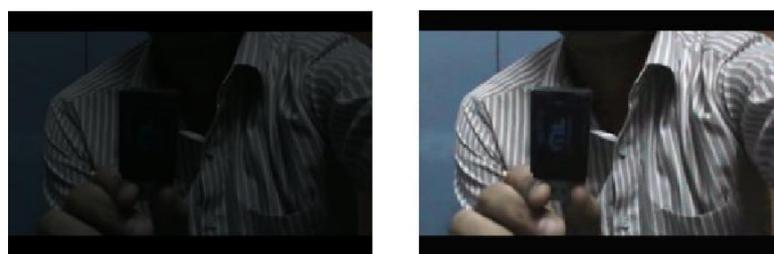


Figure 4: (a) 4th Frame

(b) Enhanced 4th Frame

These enhanced frames are fed to mean shift algorithm for the detection of object of interest, the selection of the object is provided by the user as shown below



Figure 5: Selection of object of Interest

The selected object is marked and treated as a region of interest for which the initial clusters are selected using means shift algorithm. The region is now represented as shown below



Figure 6: Selected marked region as reference for Region of Interest

IV. Experimental Results

To evaluate the performance of the proposed approach and to validate the algorithm, the approach is tested with both real-time and standard database videos (Pets 2006 [7]) on Windows 7 OS, 4GB RAM system with Matlab 2013a version. Real time videos are recorded with Dahua [8] bullet camera and the video resolution is 352x240, the illumination is varied synthetically. The results obtained with pre-equalization and without are presented below

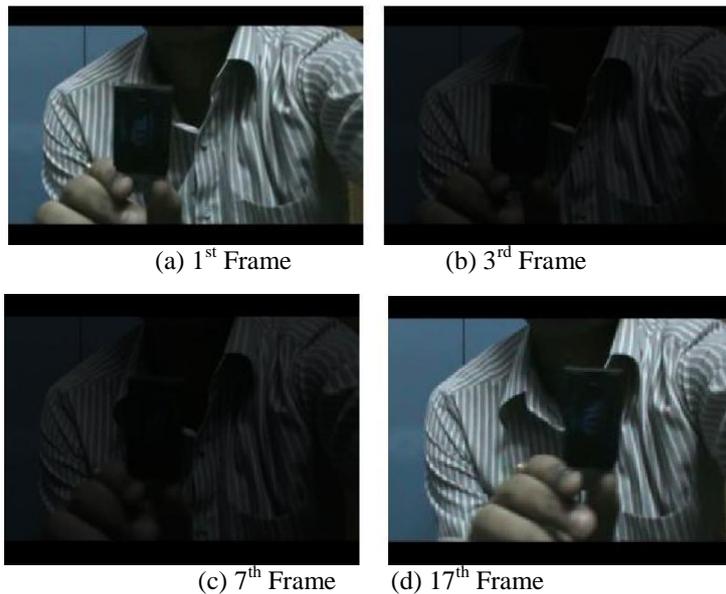


Figure 7: Different frames from original input video sequence

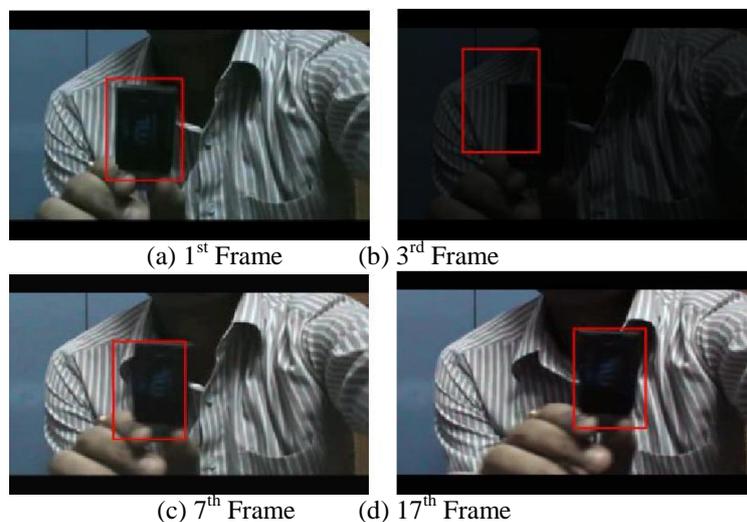


Figure 8: Resultant video sequence with conventional Mean-shift tracking

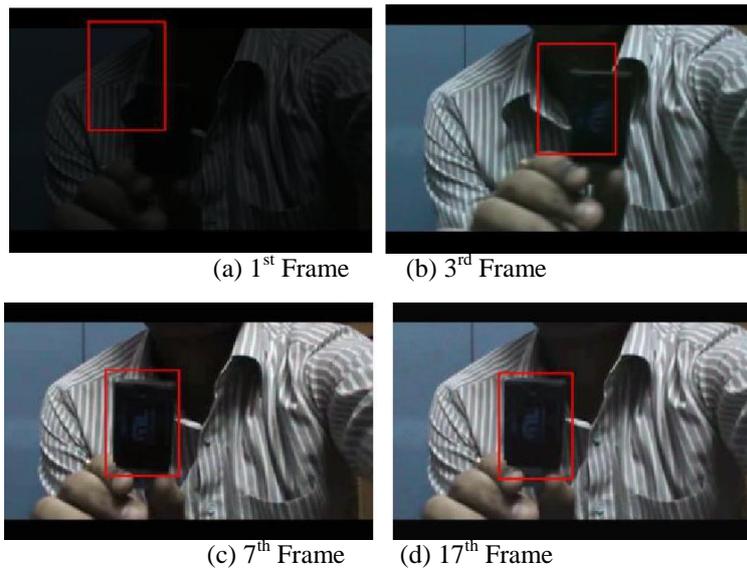


Figure 9: Resultant video sequence with proposed approach

It is observed from the experimental results that the proposed approach while preserving the originality of the input frame it able to detect the ROI accurately. The results are compared are validate with respect to ground truth (segmented by experts) and the performance is depicted below

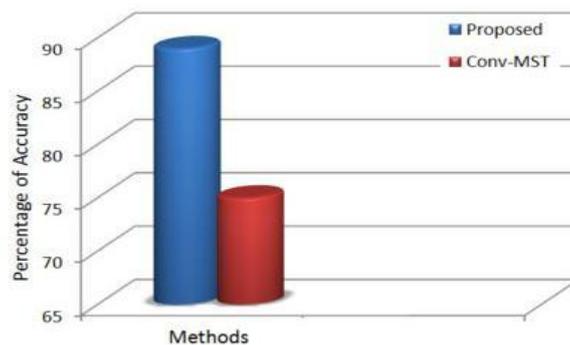


Figure 10: Comparison of detection ratio

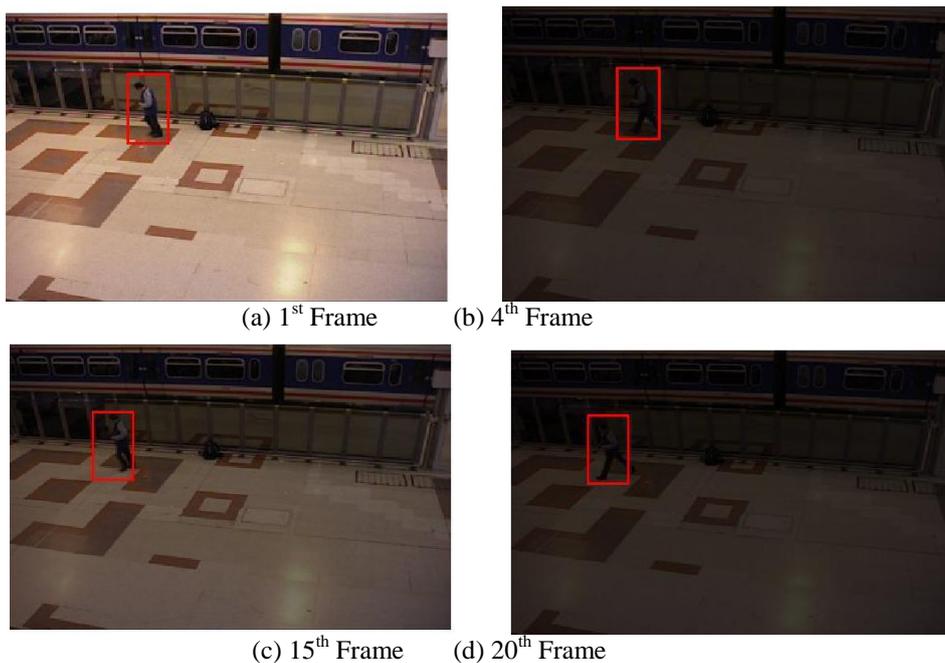


Figure 11: Sequence from PETS 2006 database, tracking with conventional MST

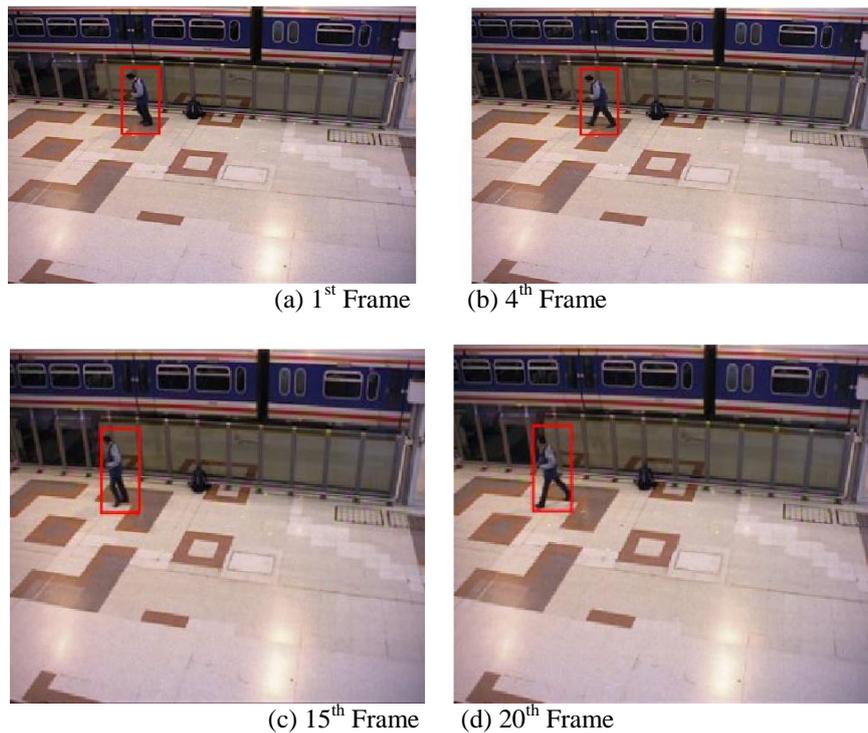


Figure 12: Sequence from PETS 2006 database, tracking with proposed approach

V. Conclusion

A low complex and faster based on illumination invariant object tracking and detection scheme are proposed in this paper, it is observed that the proposed approach is providing accurate results when tested both in real time and standard data set videos under varying illumination. This work is providing an improvement of 14 % in detection ratio when compared with the conventional MST approach with respect to ground templates. This work may be further extended to be implemented for the recognition of multiple objects and unattended object tracking.

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