

Wavelet Based Image Fusion

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ABSTRACT

Extracting more information from multi-source images is an attractive thing in remotely sensed image processing, which is recently called image fusion. In the paper, the image fusion algorithm based on wavelet transform is proposed to improve the geometric resolution of the images, in which two images to be processed are firstly decomposed into sub images with different frequency, and then the information fusion is performed using these images under certain criterion, and finally these sub-images are reconstructed into the result image with plentiful information.

Keywords: Multi-source images, Fusion, Wavelet transform, Wavelet based fusion, fused images

I. INTRODUCTION

For the remotely-sensed images, some have good spectral information, and the others have high geometric resolution, how to integrate the information of these two kinds of images into one kind of images is a very attractive thing in image processing, which is also called the image fusion. In this paper, the image fusion algorithm based on wavelet transform is proposed to improve the geometric resolution of the images, in which two images to be processed are firstly decomposed into sub-images with the same resolution at the same levels and different resolution among different levels, and then the information fusion is performed using high-frequency sub-images under the “gradient” criterion, and finally these sub-images are reconstructed into the result image with plentiful information. Since the geometric resolution of the image depends on the high-frequency information in it, therefore this image fusion algorithm can acquire good result.

II. METHODS AND MATERIAL

A. Wavelet Transform in Image Fusion

Multisensor fusion refers to the synergistic combination of different sources of sensory information into one representational format. The information to be fused may come from multiple sensors monitored over a common period of time or from a single sensor monitored over an extended time period. Many sensors

produce images. We use the term image fusion to denote a process generating a single image which contains a more accurate description of the scene than any of the individual source images. This fused image should be more useful for human visual or machine perception. This type of image fusion is also called pixel-level multisensory fusion. The different images to be fused can come from different sensors of the same basic type or they may come from different types of sensors. The sensors used for image fusion need to be accurately co aligned so that their images will be in spatial registration.

A. 2-D DWT

Since image is 2-D signal, we will mainly focus on the 2-D wavelet transforms. The following figures show the structures of 2-D DWT with 3 decomposition levels:

After one level of decomposition, there will be four frequency bands, namely Low-Low (LL), Low-High (LH), High-Low (HL) and High-High (HH).

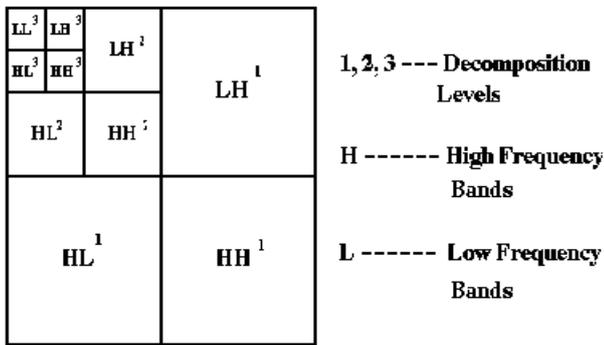


Figure 1. Pyramid hierarchy of 2-D DWT

The next level decomposition is just applied to the LL band of the current decomposition stage, which forms a recursive decomposition procedure. Thus, N-level decomposition will finally have $3N+1$ different frequency bands, which include $3N$ high frequency bands and just one LL frequency band. The 2-D DWT will have a pyramid structure shown in the above figure. The frequency bands in higher decomposition levels will have smaller size.

B Wavelet Transform Fusion

The most common form of transform image fusion is wavelet transform fusion. In common with all transform domain fusion techniques the transformed images are combined in the transform domain using a defined fusion rule then transformed back to the spatial domain to give the resulting fused image. Wavelet transform fusion is more formally defined by considering the wavelet transforms ω of the two registered input images $I_1(x, y)$ and $I_2(x, y)$ together with the fusion rule Φ . Then, the inverse wavelet transform ω^{-1} is computed, and the fused image $I(x, y)$ is reconstructed:

$$I(x, y) = \omega^{-1}(\phi(\omega(I_1(x, y)), \omega(I_2(x, y)))).$$

This process is depicted in fig 2.

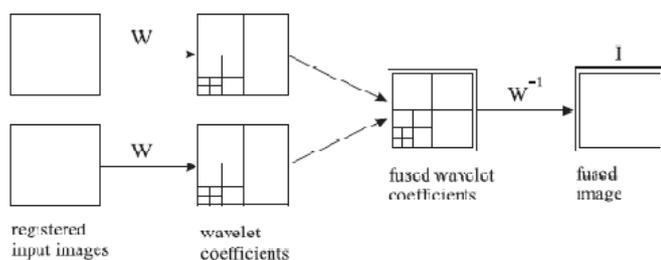


Figure 2. Fusion of the wavelet transforms of two images

The following examples illustrate the use of image fusion in some practical applications. Fig. 3 shows a pair of digital camera images. In one image, the focus is on the Pepsi can. In the other image, the focus is on the testing card. In the fused image, the Pepsi can, the table, and the testing card are all in focus. The fused image was obtained using the method illustrated in Fig. 2, using techniques to be described in detail later in this paper.



(a). Image 1 (focus on left) (b). Image 2 (focus on right) (c). Fused image (all focus) *

Figure 3. Fusion Result for multi-focus images

Implementation of financial sector reforms since the early 1990s aims at ensuring that varieties of market-based financial services are available to all categories of farmers & rural.

B. Image Fusion Algorithm Based Wavelet Transform

The main idea of our algorithm is that: (1) the two images to be processed are resampled to the one with the same size; and (2) they are respectively decomposed into the sub-images using forward wavelet transform, which have the same resolution at the same levels and different resolution among different levels; and (3) information fusion is performed based on the high-frequency sub-images of decomposed images; and finally the result image is obtained using inverse wavelet transform.

Let $A(x, y)$ and $B(x, y)$ be the images to be fused, the decomposed low-frequency sub-images of $A(x, y)$ and $B(x, y)$ be respectively $IA_j(x, y)$ and $IB_j(x, y)$ (J is the parameter of resolution), the decomposed high-frequency sub-images of $A(x, y)$ and $B(x, y)$ be respectively $hA_j^k(x, y)$ and $hB_j^k(x, y)$ (j is the parameter of resolution and $j = 1, 2, \dots, J$. for every $j, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$), the gradient image generated from $hA_j^k(x, y)$ and $hB_j^k(x, y)$ be respectively $GA_j^k(x, y)$ and $GB_j^k(x, y)$, then the fused high-frequency sub-images $F_j^k(x, y)$ are ;

$$\text{If } GA_j^k(x, y) > GB_j^k(x, y)$$

$$F_j^k(x,y) = hA_j^k(x,y)$$

If $GA_j^k(x,y) < GB_j^k(x,y)$

$$F_j^k(x,y) = hB_j^k(x,y)$$

And the fused low-frequency sub-image $F_f(x,y)$ are :

$$F_f(x,y) = k1 \cdot IA_j(x,y) + k2 \cdot IB_j(x,y)$$

When $k1$ and $k2$ are given parameters, if image B is fused into image A , then $k1 > k2$. If the decomposed high-frequency sub-images $hA_j^k(x,y)$ of $A(x,y)$ is replaced by be respectively $F_j^k(x,y)$, the decomposed low-frequency sub-image $IA_j(x,y)$ of $A(x,y)$ is replaced by be respectively $F_f(x,y)$, and $F_f(x,y)$ and $F_j^k(x,y)$ are used to reconstruct the image $A'(x,y)$ using the inverse wavelet transform, then $A'(x,y)$ not only has the low-frequency information of $A(x,y)$ and $B(x,y)$, but also has the high-frequency information of $A(x,y)$ and $B(x,y)$ at the same time. This algorithm shows that the high-frequency information fusion between two images is completed under the "gradient" criterion.

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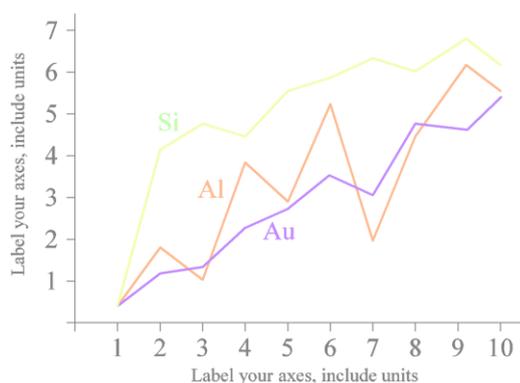


Figure 2. A sample line graph using colors which contrast well both on screen and on a black-and-white hardcopy

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Figure 3. Example of an unacceptable low-resolution image



Figure 4. Example of an image with acceptable resolution

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III. CONCLUSION

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