OBJECT LOCALIZATION AND ACTIVITIES IDENTIFICATION USING ATTRIBUTE DETAILS IN SMART MEETING ROOMS

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ABSTRACT

This paper is concerned with the development of interactive systems for smart meeting rooms. Automated recognition of video events is an important research area. We present an LTL (Linear Temporal Logic) model of basic objects and activities recognition in smart meeting rooms using object attribute details. There are still problems of misrecognizing objects in existing visual recognition methods because lack of enough feature attributive information details. This paper investigates morphological approach to increase recognition accuracy using variability in a limited area of moving object using object attribute details. The proposed methods are also compared to popular and recent methods of visual object and event recognition.

KEYWORDS

Events Recognition and Tracking, Morphological Feature Characteristics

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper is concerned with design of automated interactive systems for smart meeting rooms. Design of automated visual recognition of video events is an important research area to support interactive systems in a very early stage of development. Events and behaviours can be modelled in the context of related visual recognized objects. Previous works [1][2][3] are still unable to visually localize speaker of the meeting rooms and need the help of audio features to identify the speaker. Other researchers [4][5][6] explained smart meeting rooms modelling but did not focused on visual events and behaviours which are important features of smart room systems. This paper aims to focus on visual events or behaviours in the smart meeting room systems including visual localization of the speaker. Research done by [1] uses predefined chair and speaker position. However, in the real situation without predefined scenarios, problems still occur in correctness of object identification due to various object position and illumination [7]. In addition to the face features, the speaker or the participants identification can also be done from other personal attributes such as clothes texture, ties, hair, headscarves, etc. Events and behaviours are also identified visually as the speaker entering the room or approaching the podium, talking, leaving the podium, etc. The participants’ interactivity through dialogue can also be identified visually.

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The object detection using the popular HOG-SVM (Histogram of Oriented Gradients – Support Vector Machines) method still has problems of correctness due to various object position and illumination [7]. Human visual recognition algorithm has been developed and shows success only in controlled environment featuring face, iris, human action and behaviour [8][9]. Face detection algorithm has been developed and shows success in featuring facial landmarks such as corners of the eyes, the tip of the nose, the mouth, the eyebrows, and the face boundaries using regressing trees [10]. The work describes specific face landmarks in detail features or characteristics such as the eyes, eyebrows, nose, and mouth. However, the facial landmarks method is still not able to describe enough information of facial features compared to human perception capabilities of face recognition. There are still problems with human identification using face and body features while they are moving in pose variation [7]. Many statistical and machine learning methods need huge amount or training data taken from human perception or knowledge about objects [10], but it is still incomplete collected training data [11]. Besides statistical methods, syntactical methods include hierarchical, relational, structural, and morphological methods have been developed for face recognition [12][13][14][15]. Structural hierarchical and relational methods have been done for high level abstraction of image objects modelling, but still have problems for low level implementation [12][13]. Many researchers have developed various human activities and behaviour recognition, such as walking, sitting, bending, and some sport activities, and less work of person identification that does the activities [15].

Personal identification is not only using face, but also can use other personal attributes such as hair, hat, headscarves, body posture, or clothing. Personal attributes can be detected using HOG-SVM, for example the textile textures in clothing. Khan [16] combines colour attributes and shapes and learned using HOG-SVM. Works by Nurhaida [17] use SIFT for static textile images, and less movement of the person wearing the textile. Work by Reddy [18] uses LBP and GLCM combined with KNN and SVM to extract features. Kalantidis [19] uses SIFT and LBP for clothing recognition in different appearances.

In visual object detection, object features has also been investigated through SIFT, SURF, BRISK, BRIEF, FREAK, AKAZE, and ORB [20][21][22][23][24] which are based on corner detector as the best features. They work for simple objects with simple background but fails in more complex objects and complex background. The corner-based methods result in basically random match features which are far from correctness in matching object pairs, and need extended areas from the corner points, for example, using curves for describing shapes. The corner points only do not describe shapes and position of object features.

The popular method HOG-SVM has high accuracy in describing face landmarks using thousands of mean-shapes from provided samples classified by regression tree using fit scores. This provides difference or tolerance values from the mean shapes [10][25], and able to work with simple shapes / curves, but still have problem with sharp curves / non-simple curves. LBP method [8] can be applied in different size of pixels because of histogram size normalization. However, LBP and HOG-SVM cannot be applied in small size of pixels describing small features. They require more or less similar size of pixels and make distribution of grey level without maintaining the pixel positions. GLCM [18] requires too specific and overfitting pattern with lack of generalization or tolerance due to object position and pose changes. HOG SVM in [10][25] with high accuracy still has ambiguity results which can be eliminated using additional pixels information processing using pixel grey level curve distance evaluation such as Manhattan distance. Problem with illumination are solved using HOG-SVM, but more precise result revalidated using grey level pixel values. Solving ambiguity in HOG-SVM method basically give primal guidance that all objects can be detected using provided samples by their appearances.

Related objects can elaborate more complex problem in scene understanding in wider context of objects, for example in recognition of events, activities or behaviours of moving human objects,
such as human activities or behaviours. In this paper we use lecture and conference activities in a smart meeting room as a study case of events recognition. Images processed from videos which are sampled from courtesy of Youtube [26][27].

2. MODELLING BASIC OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF SMART MEETING ROOM

Personal visual recognition performance using face and body postures can decrease because of movement in different poses [7]. To better recognized and discriminate personal face and body characteristics, we can use attributes of the human object such as the eyes, nose, mouth, hair, headscarf, hat, ties, fabric cloth texture, etc. [28][29][30][31][32][33]. After personal recognition, related events should be recognized in videos by tracking consecutive events or activities. For events or activities recognition, formal models are used for reasoning. In paper by [34] video events are modelled using Petri nets and formalized using LTL (Linear Temporal Logic) formulas to provide guidance for programming implementation.

Basic activities that can be recognized visually in lecture / conference activities in the meeting room include the speaker identification using attributes details, different attributes of the participants, the speaker and the participant activities, layout of display, podium, tables and chairs related to speaker and participants position. This paper focuses on visual recognition without neither predefined position of the camera nor the speaker. Room layouts such as round tables arrangements as recognized objects are included in the model, for example it is useful for controlling dynamic movement of cameras or microphones in smart rooms. The speaker recognition is the central of the system, and recognized not only from the face, but also from detail attributes and behaviours. In this paper we focus on detail attributes, behaviours of the speaker and the participants of the conference, and the room layouts. For example, we use semi round tables layout as depicted in Figure 1, and we model the semi round tables layout in LTL formulae as follows.

![Figure 1. An example of semi round tables arrangement](image)

\[
\text{GF} s \\
\therefore \ F a_1 \land F a_2 \land F a_3 \ldots \land F a_{12} \\
\text{where} \\
s = \text{satisfied condition of semi round tables arrangement} \\
a_1 = \text{the first position of detected person / chair facing right} \\
a_2 = \text{the second position detected person / chair facing right} \\
a_3 = \text{the third position detected person / chair facing right} \\
a_4 = \text{the fourth position of detected person / chair facing left} \\
a_5 = \text{the fifth position detected person / chair facing left}
\]
\(a_{6}\) = the sixth position detected person / chair facing left
\(a_{7}\) = the first position of detected person / chair facing table
\(a_{8}\) = the second position of detected person / chair facing table
\(a_{9}\) = the third position of detected person / chair facing table
\(a_{10}\) = the fourth position of detected person / chair facing table
\(a_{11}\) = the fifth position detected person / chair facing table
\(a_{12}\) = the sixth position detected person / chair facing table
\(b_{1}\) = four small tables
\(b_{5}\) = one big table.

\[
\begin{align*}
&\quad a_4 \models (F a_{41} \land F a_{42} \land F a_{43}) \lor (F a_{44} \land F a_{45} \land F a_{46}) \tag{3} \\
\end{align*}
\]

We define an example of a speaker through talking activity and tie attribute as follows.

\[
\begin{align*}
\Omega &= \text{count(talk)} \geq \epsilon \tag{4} \\
\neg \Omega &= \text{count(talk)} < \epsilon \tag{5} \\
\Psi &= (G t \land (\Omega \ R \ d)) \tag{6} \\
\end{align*}
\]

where
\(t\) = the person is wearing a tie and \(d\) = counting mouth movement (talking) as described in Figure 2. \(\Omega\) is a condition when the counting \(d\) exceeds a number \(\epsilon\) which is an assumption of a number of mouth detected opening which is also based on position differences between detected upper and lower lips from the previous frame-to-frame movement, and also based on counting of the second order differences of the position differences between the detected upper and lower lips as a representation of talking mouth movement. In equation (7) and Figure 3, we also define an example of an interactive participant which does not have a speaker attributes, probably raises hand and stands up for question talks.

\[
\begin{align*}
G \neg \psi \land F h \land X((F c) \lor (\Omega \ R \ d)) \tag{7} \\
\end{align*}
\]

where
\(\neg \psi\) = that person is not a speaker (maybe a participant)
\(c\) = the person is standing up (probably eventually)
\(d\) = counting mouth movement (talking)
\(\Omega\) = \(\text{count(talk)} \geq \epsilon_1\)
\(h\) = the person raise hand
In Figure 4, we define an example of a speaker detected with tie attribute and talking activities. We also define other general personal detail attributes such as hair, hat, headscarf, and clothing textile patterns.

In Figure 5, we define a scenario of a person movement towards a detected podium, being near podium, talks, and then move away after finish talking. Figure 6 and Figure 7 describe in further details about a person movement detected from position coordinate changes and being near podium coordinates, and eventually detected as a speaker.
Figure 5. Petri nets diagram of speaker scenario

Figure 6. Petri nets diagram of moving speaker

Figure 8 also describes a speaker detected from collected score of checking detected tie, being near podium coordinates, and talking activities from detected lips moving coordinates.

Figure 7. Petri nets diagram of speaker near podium
3. DETAIL Attribute Detection Using Gradients

We use an alternative of human recognition to recognize hair texture on moving person in the smart meeting room. In case of small size of the object region of interest (ROI), for example for far objects from camera which implies smaller size of ROIs, we cannot use HOG-SVM due to size of small size area. We cannot also use LBP due to value similarities which are not able to distinguish true and false features. We use Multiple Linear Regression formulas in [31] to describe feature of objects. Examples for identification of the speaker’s white hair texture distinguished from the audience’s brown hair with guidance of face landmark position are shown in Figure 9 and Figure 10. With position guidance of face landmarks and HOG-SVM object learning [25][35] detection area, we pick hair texture samples from one frame in video and compare them to the other frames. We formulate the pixel grey level value differences below, and then calculate a mean value between $Q$ and $R$.

\[
C_3 < |Q| < C_4, \quad Q = \{df_t| df_t = f_t - f_{t+1} \land d f_t < 0\} \tag{8}
\]

\[
C_5 < |R| < C_6, \quad R = \{df_t| df_t = f_t - f_{t+1} \land d f_t > 0\} \tag{9}
\]

The step in $Q$ and $R$ sets are getting the optimum number of pixel points in certain ranges which have negative (or positive) gradients $df_t$ with their successor points in the curve of pixel gray levels.

In Table I we use the formulas to describe similarity between sample and tested object features in moving person. We use three ROIs to enable variability of feature areas in moving object, but still in guidance of face landmarks. For example, experiment 1 ROI 2 shows a minimum mean value of pixel gradients $Q$ and $R$ values, and all other experiments in Table I also shows a minimum value at least on an ROI, which is an expected result of the mean formula. In the other side, Manhattan distance calculation fails to show consistent behavior while giving lower value in false features in Table II experiment 4 ROI 1 and higher value in true features in Table I experiment 5 ROI 2. In correct location area, the distance values are expected to be consistently lower in true features and higher in false features. The true and false features are then validated by human eyes, and the mean formula is expected to show consistent expected results.
Table 1. Distance measurement comparison examples for true features.

<table>
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<th>ROI</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Manhattan</th>
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<td>38</td>
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Table 2. Distance measurement comparison examples for false features.

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<th>Manhattan</th>
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Figure 9. Speaker white hair texture feature, picture is courtesy of Youtube [26]
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In Table 1 and Table 2, we use mean measurement formula (8) and (9) to clearly distinguish true features from false features. Table 1 shows mean values on each ROI for each experiment, and for each experiment there exist minimum mean values which are less than 20 for true features and more than 20 for false features. The minimum mean values occur on at least one of the ROIs of each experiment of true features. In the other side, Manhattan distance measurement cannot distinguish clearly between true and false features.

Choices of segmentation methods and ROI areas are important for defining detail features of object detection. ROI area variability can be extended with guidance of other relatively more reliable features such as face landmarks. There are also possibilities of combining criteria with other attributes such as a person wearing ties. Another challenge is noisy background of the objects. The detection methods can be combined with other features such as colour, but colour attribute is not always useful in outdoor sunny daylight environment which may affect brighter object colour.

Basic objects and activities in smart meeting room are also as the results of objects and activities detection using the LTL formulas and Petri nets implementation. Figure 11 shows speaker detection through tie attributes, mouth movement counting, and white hair property in ROIs. In this figure, the mean formula shows white hair property similarity as the lowest value 3 in the bottom ROI position, when Manhattan formula shows inconsistently higher value 4449 compared to 2630 and 1381, also when LBP formula shows indistinctive all zero values in all the ROIs. Figure 12 shows an audience with no tie attributes, and no white hair property since the lowest mean value is 10 which is higher than 3 as the value of white hair property, when Manhattan formula also shows inconsistently higher value compared to other ROIs, and LBP formula shows errors. Figure 13 shows moving person detected, and speaker detected from clothing pattern in the middle ROIs which has the lowest mean value, but LBP formula shows inconsistent higher value in the middle ROI. Finally, in Figure 14 LTL formulas can determine a speaker movement and positioned near podium which is also previously detected by HOG-SVM object detection. Figure 14 also shows the lowest mean value in the bottom ROI, when LBP shows inconsistent higher value in the bottom ROI. Figure 15 is demonstrated by Yolo [36] object detection with correct position of a person, chairs, and a table, but it still misrecognizes a working desk as a dining table. Figure 15 also shows indistinctive similar LBP values for all three ROIs, when the mean value shows the lowest value in the bottom ROI for clothing pattern similarity. The mean formula can distinguish object properties in some cases better than HOG and LBP because it maintains the pixel positions rather than distribution of pixel values, also the mean formula works better than HOG and LBP on small size of picture patches as the object properties.
Figure 11. Speaker detected from tie attributes, mouth movement counting, and white hair property in one of the three ROIs, picture is courtesy of Youtube [26]

Figure 12. Participant detected from no tie attribute, mouth movement counting, and no white hair property in one of the three ROIs, picture is courtesy of Youtube [26]

Figure 13. Moving person detected, and speaker detected from clothing pattern in one of the three ROIs, picture is courtesy of Youtube [26]
Figure 14. Moving speaker detected near podium, and speaker detected from clothing pattern in one of the three ROIs, picture is courtesy of Youtube [27]

Figure 15. Person, table and chair detected positions using Yolo [36], and a person detected from clothing pattern in one of the three ROIs

5. CONCLUSIONS

This paper has shown a LTL model and its implementation on visual objects and activities recognition in smart meeting rooms. We have also shown that optimum number of pixel points in certain ranges which have negative (or positive) gradients of grey level pixel values can be used to distinct features to increase attribute detail recognition. There are still challenges to distinct more features to increase accuracy of moving object and event recognition. Another possibility is using variability of the gradient sequence.

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[27] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yo845WG3KH8&t=173s


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