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An Improved Real-Time Object Tracking Algorithm Based on Deep Learning Features

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SUMMARY Visual object tracking is always a challenging task in computer vision. During the tracking, the shape and appearance of the target may change greatly, and because of the lack of sufficient training samples, most of the online learning tracking algorithms will have performance bottlenecks. In this paper, an improved real-time algorithm based on deep learning features is proposed, which combines multi-feature fusion, multiscale estimation, adaptive updating of target model and re-detection after target loss. The effectiveness and advantages of the proposed algorithm are proved by a large number of comparative experiments with other excellent algorithms on large benchmark datasets.

key words: object tracking, feature fusion, deep learning, model update, re-detection

1. Introduction

Object tracking has very important applications and broad development prospects in the field of computer vision, such as: automatic driving, military, video surveillance and so on [1]. In recent years, with the advancement of computer vision, many excellent target tracking algorithms have been proposed, and many of them have been successfully applied in our real life. However, due to the complexity of the target environment, the efficiency and accuracy of the target tracking algorithm has been affected.

In this paper, we mainly study the problems caused by background interference, occlusion and out of view in the task of target tracking in complex scenes, and propose an adaptive model update and lost re-detection correlation tracking (MURCT) algorithm. In the feature extraction [2] stage, the HOG and CN manual features and the depth features extracted by the convolutional neural network are adaptively fused to achieve the effect of complementary learning. Meanwhile, we use the EdgeBox algorithm which is used to extract candidate target boxes in target detection, combined with the scale pyramid, and selects the optimal

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solution as the result of scale estimation to improve the fitting ability of the target. The adaptive model update module detects whether the target is occluded or lost according to a discrimination mechanism, and stops updating the model when the target is occluded, so as to prevent model pollution. The lost re-detection module is used for activating the re-detection module to retrieve the target position when the target is judged to be lost. And, the proposed algorithm was tested and compared on the OTB dataset [3], [4] and the VOT2016 dataset [5], which proved the effectiveness of the algorithm.

The remaining sections of the paper are organized as follows. Some previous attempts to solve the object tracking problem are presented in Sect. 2. Section 3 describes the process of our proposed MURCT tracking method. Section 4 shows the experimental evaluation results on the test dataset, and finally conclusions are presented in Sect. 5.

2. Related Work

The concept of object tracking was first proposed by Wax et al. [6] in 1955. In the following decades, many excellent object tracking algorithms were proposed by researchers from various countries. In recent years, tracking algorithms based on correlation filters and deep learning [7], [8] have gradually become the most prominent research directions in this field.

Bertinetto et al. [9] proposed a Fully-Convolutional Siamese Networks (SiamFC) for object tracking, in which two fully convolutional networks with the same structure are used to extract the features of the target region. Li et al. [10] introduced the Region Proposal Network (RPN) in object detection into SiamFC, and divided object tracking into two subtasks: regression and classification. In 2010, Bolme et al. [11] introduced correlation filters algorithms to the field of object tracking for the first time, and proposed the Minimum Output Sum of Squared Error (MOSSE) algorithm. In 2014, Henriques et al. [12] proposed a high-speed tracking algorithm that uses Kernelized Correlation Filters (KCF) to train discriminant classifiers. Ma et al. [13] proposed a Long-term Correlation Tracking (LCT) algorithm that uses two filters to learn the long-term and short-term appearance of the tracked target. Danelljan et al. [14] proposed a Continuous Convolution Operators (CCOT) tracking algorithm. In the second year, Danellian et al. [15] proposed an Efficient Convolution Operators (ECO) for tracking, which

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optimized the CCOT algorithm in terms of speed.

3. Proposed Model

In this section, the detailed process of the proposed tracking algorithm will be introduced, mainly from the four parts of feature extraction and fusion, multi-scale estimation, adaptive model update [16], [17], and loss re-detection.

Figure 1 is the overall flow chart of the algorithm proposed in this paper. Firstly, the algorithm determines the search area of the current frame according to the tracking results in the previous frame, and performs feature extraction, including HOG features [18], CN features [19], [20], and CNN features. After that, the three features are adaptively fused based on the APCE [21] value and the response map after fusion is calculated. Secondly, by evaluating the confidence of the response map after fusion, it is judged whether the target in the current frame is lost. If the target is lost, the re-detection module will be activated, that is, the EdgeBox [22] is used to extract candidate samples, screen and score, and select the final re-detection results. If the target is not lost, the scale estimation is performed on the basis of the calculated target position. The feature extraction is performed through two methods of scale pyramid and EdgeBox respectively, and the score of each candidate result is calculated. Then the optimal solution is selected as the tracking result of the current frame. Finally, after the tracking result of the current frame is calculated, whether the target is occluded or not is judged according to the previous fusion response map confidence, if so, the updating of the tracking model is stopped, otherwise, the model is updated and the next frame is calculated.

3.1 Feature Extraction and Fusion

The algorithm in this paper mainly extracts HOG features, CN features and CNN features [23], then adaptively fuses them. The adaptive fusion of multiple features is mainly divided into three steps. Firstly, the two manual features of HOG feature and CN feature are fused. Secondly, the response maps calculated by multiple convolution layers in the CNN feature are fused. Finally, the response maps calculated by the two methods are adaptively fused to obtain the final prediction result. The most important point is that after obtaining the response map of the manual feature and the convolution feature, they need to be fused. If the two response maps are simply added together, the ideal complementary learning effect cannot be achieved. Therefore, an adaptive fusion method is proposed in this paper, which can automatically determine the weight ratio between the two according to the confidence of different feature response maps. the APCE is used to measure the confidence of the response map and the calculation formula of APCE is:

$$APCE = \frac{|F_{\max} - F_{\min}|^2}{mean\left(\sum_{w,h} (F_{w,h} - F_{\min})^2\right)}$$
(1)

where F_{max} , F_{min} and $F_{w,h}$ denote the maximum value, minimum value, and the value at the (w, h) in the response map. According to the APCE of the response map, the fusion weight ω of the two response maps can be calculated:



Fig. 1 The overall flow chart of the algorithm

Fig. 2 Tracking results



(b) improved scale estimation results

Fig. 3 Scale estimation results before and after improvement

$$\alpha = \frac{APCE_{hc}}{APCE_{hc} + APCE_{cnn}} \tag{2}$$

$$\omega = \frac{\rho}{1 + e^{1 - \alpha}} \tag{3}$$

where ρ is a hyperparameter, through which the approximate floating range of the fusion weight ω of the manual feature response map can be set. The final fusion response map is:

$$resp = (1 - \omega) \times \frac{resp_{cnn}}{\max(resp_{cnn})} + \omega \times \frac{resp_{hc}}{\max(resp_{hc})} \quad (4)$$

Figure 2 shows the tracking results of 100^{th} , 102^{nd} and 103^{rd} frames in the video sequence. It can be seen from the figure that at the 100^{th} frame, the position of the target cannot be accurately tracked, and there is a short target loss.

3.2 Multi-Scale Estimation

In this paper, the scale pyramid is combined with the EdgeBox candidate bounding box proposal, and the scale estimation is performed after the target position in the current frame is determined. This method solves the problem that the aspect ratio of the target box remains unchanged when the scale pyramid is used alone for scale estimation, and has a better scale estimation effect.

Figure 3 (a) and Fig. 3 (b) are the tracking results of the video sequence *MotorRolling* using the scale pyramid and the improved scale estimation method, respectively. It shows that the proposed improved scale estimation method is effective.

3.3 Adaptive Model Update

By analyzing the response map in the tracking process, it can be concluded that the response map can reflect the confidence of the tracking result to a certain extent. In order to judge the status of the target more accurately, this paper



Fig. 4 Comparison of tracking results with and without adaptive model update

uses the APCE value of the response map and its peak value as two indicators to measure the confidence of the current tracking result.

In each frame, the APCE and F_{max} of the displacement response map are calculated. If both of these values exceed the historical average value under a certain proportion, it is considered that the target in the current frame is in a relatively good state, and the tracking result of the current frame should be learned to adapt to the gradual change of the target. At this time, the displacement and scale filter models are updated in the following manner:

$$\hat{y}_{t} = \begin{cases} (1 - \eta)\hat{y}_{t-1} + \eta\hat{y}_{t}, & APCE_{t} \ge \beta_{1} \times APCE^{avg} \\ \& F_{\max}^{t} \ge \beta_{2} \times F_{\max}^{avg} & (5) \\ \hat{y}_{t-1}, & else \end{cases}$$

$$\hat{k}_{t}^{xx} = \begin{cases} (1 - \eta)\hat{k}_{t-1}^{xx} + \eta\hat{k}_{t}^{xx}, & APCE_{t} \ge \beta_{1} \times APCE^{avg} \\ \& F_{\max}^{t} \ge \beta_{2} \times F_{\max}^{avg} & (6) \\ \hat{k}_{t-1}^{xx}, & else \end{cases}$$

where η is the learning rate of the model, β_1 and β_2 are the proportional thresholds for determining APCE and F_{max} whether to be updated respectively.

Figure 4 (a) and Fig. 4 (b) show the tracking results in the video sequence *Lemming* before and after using the adaptive model update strategy. The pictures show that from the 320^{th} frame to 350^{th} frame, the target is gradually completely occluded by other surrounding objects. From the 350^{th} frame to 385^{th} frame, the target reappears in the field of view.

3.4 Re-Detection after Loss

In actual applications of object tracking, target loss due to various factors cannot be completely avoided. When the target is lost, it is difficult for the general tracking algorithm to find the target again, mainly because there is no better redetection mechanism. We propose a re-detection scheme. By training a logistic regression model and a long-term filter model, when the target is judged to be lost, EdgeBox is used to extract candidate target samples in the surrounding area. The trained logistic regression model and long-term filter are used to score each sample, and the final re-detection



(b) with loss re-detection

Fig. 5 Tracking result of both trackers with or without loss re-detection

result is determined by comprehensive evaluation of the sample score and its position.

In the tracking process, a long-term filter is trained to preserve more stable and lasting target features. The longterm filter is trained by extracting the HOG features of the target area in the first frame, and in order to learn more accurate target features, it is updated only when the peak of the response map is higher than a certain threshold. After judging that the target is lost, the re-detection module is activated. The module firstly calculates the logistic regression score of the candidate samples, and then obtains a part of the candidate samples with high scores to calculate their scores through the long-term filter, and finally compares with the previous response peak to determine whether the target reappears.

Figure 5 (a) and Fig. 5 (b) show the tracking results in the video sequence *Human5* before and after using the target loss re-detection mechanism. It can be seen that the target box deviates slightly from the target position at the 175^{th} frame in Fig. 5 (a), and due to the accumulation of errors, the target is completely lost at the 177^{th} frame. After adding the loss re-detection mechanism, in the 175^{th} and 176^{th} frames of the video sequence, it is judged that the target is lost according to the response map. Then the re-detection module is activated, and the target is successfully relocated.

4. Experiment

In order to verify the effectiveness of the MURCT algorithm proposed in this paper, firstly, it was compared with 9 excellent tracking algorithms (MUSTER [24], HCF [25], HDT [26], SiamFC [9], CCOT [14], ACFN [27], CFNet [28], ECO-HC [15], and LCT [29]) on the OTB dataset. Secondly, on the VOT2016 dataset, MURCT



Fig. 6 OPE results of 10 algorithms in OTB2013



Fig. 7 OPE results of 10 algorithms in OTB2015

was compared with 16 tracking algorithms (KCF [30], ASMS [31], DSST [32], HCF, deepMKCF [33], DAT [34], SODLT [35], SRDCF [36], CDTT [37], TricTRACK [38], MDNet [39], SiamFC, CCOT, SWCF [40], DPT [41], and SRBT [42]).

4.1 Results on the OTB Dataset

Figure 6 and Fig. 7 show the comparison results of MURCT and 9 algorithms in OTB2013 and OTB2015, respectively. It can be seen that MURCT ranked first in OTB2013, and compared with the second-ranked algorithm CCOT, the distance precision and overlap success rate have increased by 3.1% and 2.5%, respectively. In OTB2015, MURCT ranked second, and compared with the first-ranked algorithm CCOT, the distance precision and overlap success rate were only reduced by 1.2% and 1.9%, respectively.

Table 1 shows the distance precision, overlap success rate and center location error of 10 algorithms at specific thresholds in OTB2013 (I) and OTB2015 (II). It can be seen that in OTB2013, MURCT improved the center location error by 7 pixels compared with the second-ranked algorithm HCF. In OTB2015, MURCT ranked second in the center location error, and was only 0.8 pixels behind the first-ranked algorithm CCOT.

Figure 8 shows the tracking results of 10 tracking algorithms in video sequences *Box*. The tracking results of each algorithm are marked with different colored bounding boxes. In the video sequence *Box*, SiamFC, LCT and HDT lost the target at the 40^{th} frame due to the similarity of the surrounding environment. From the 465^{th} frame to the 500^{th} frame, all the other algorithms except CCOT,

		MURCT	MUSTER	HCF	HDT	SiamFC	CCOT	ACFN	CFNet	ECO-	LCT
										пс	
DP	Ι	93	86.5	89.1	88.9	80.9	89.9	86	80.6	87.4	84.8
(%)	II	<u>88.6</u>	77.4	83.7	84.8	77.1	89.8	79.6	76.9	85.6	76.2
OS	Ι	85.7	78.4	74	73.7	77.9	83.2	75	78.3	81	81.3
(%)	II	80.1	68.2	65.5	65.7	73	82	68.9	73.6	78.4	70.1
CLE	Ι	9.5	17.9	16.5	16.7	30.4	17.4	19.6	35.9	24.1	27.7
$(\mathbf{n}\mathbf{x})$	П	15.3	323	232	20.6	33 5	14.5	26.1	36.4	23.1	67.6

 Table 1
 Results of 10 algorithms in OTB2013 (I) and OTB2015 (II)



Fig. 8 Tracking results of 10 algorithms in video sequence

Table 2Results of 17 algorithms in VOT2016

_	Accuracy	Robustness	EAO		Accuracy	Robustness	EAO
MURCT	0.5486	22.7182	0.2749	SWCF	0.4998	41.3131	0.1857
MDNet	0.5443	<u>21.2699</u>	0.2655	ASMS	0.489	30.1444	0.2077
deepMKCF	0.5392	26.2313	0.2308	SRBT	0.483	21.325	<u>0.2919</u>
SODLT	0.5348	32	0.2375	DPT	0.4783	31.9389	0.2326
SiamFC	0.5245	29.8021	0.2347	TricTRACK	0.4501	35.2548	0.2077
DSST	0.5204	44.8138	0.1793	DAT	0.4474	28.3533	0.2123
SRDCF	0.5179	28.3167	0.2419	HCF	0.4361	23.8569	0.2195
CCOT	0.5155	16.5817	0.3239	CDTT	0.3984	38.3809	0.1661
KCF	0.5016	38.082	0.2005				

MUSTER and this method could not continue to track the target, because the target reappeared after being completely occluded. MUSTER has the same function of target loss re-detection as this method.

4.2 Results on the VOT2016 Dataset

Table 2 shows the evaluation results of MURCT and 16 comparison algorithms in VOT2016. The first-ranked algorithm in each item is marked in bold, the second-ranked algorithm is underlined, and the third-ranked algorithm is marked in italics. It can be seen from the table that MURCT ranks first among 17 algorithms in terms of accuracy, fourth in robustness, and third in EAO. Figure 9 and Fig. 10 are the performance rankings of tracking algorithms on the VOT dataset and in 6 different situations, respectively. The horizontal and vertical coordinates represent the robustness and accuracy of the algorithm respectively. The closer to the upper right corner of the figure, the better the performance of the tracking algorithm in terms of accuracy and robustness. It can be seen that MURCT is in a relatively prominent



position in terms of accuracy and robustness, especially in terms of camera motion and motion change, it has greater advantages than most other algorithms.

5. Conclusion

Based on the correlation filter tracking algorithm, this paper



Fig. 10 VOT comparison results under 6 different situations

proposes an improvement plan for several common problems in target tracking, such as model update and loss redetection. We judge the current state of the target by evaluating the confidence of the tracking response map, and decides whether to update the model according to whether the target is occluded, which solves the problem of model pollution. Then, for the gradual growth of video sequences, it is inevitable that the target will be lost due to wrong estimation during tracking. We judge whether the target is lost according to the confidence of the tracking response map, and then decides whether to activate the re-detection module. Finally, this algorithm is compared with a variety of excellent algorithms on OTB and VOT datasets, which proves the effectiveness and advantages of this algorithm.

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