

DETECTION AND LOCALIZATION OF UNUSUAL HUMAN ACTIVITY IN CROWDED SCENES BY USING A MOTION INFLUENCE MAP

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ABSTRACT

In this study, we offer a unique approach for detecting atypical human behavior in crowded environments or at home. In particular, we developed an effective approach, dubbed a motion influence map, for portraying human activities instead of identifying or segmenting persons. The suggested motion influence map's primary advantage is that it accurately captures the motion characteristics of the size, speed, and direction of the objects or subjects, as well as their interactions within a frame sequence.

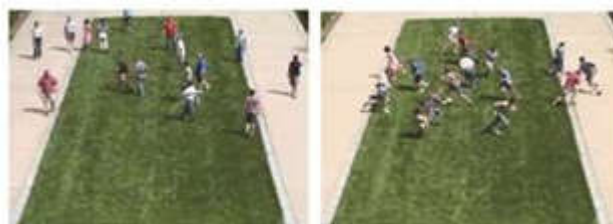
Index Terms:-Unusual activity detection, vision-based surveillance, motion influence map, crowded scenes/home.

INTRODUCTION

A significant number of surveillance cameras have been deployed in both public and private spaces due to the growing relevance of security. The number of video surveillance systems, however, is overwhelming the staff members in charge of keeping them under control. A smart surveillance system that can automatically identify strange or abnormal actions has garnered a lot of interest in this regard. The detection of human activity and human-human interaction in video sequences has drawn the attention of several researchers in computer vision and pattern recognition over the past few decades [1], [2], and [3]. Lately, academics have been more interested in the identification of anomalous or unexpected behavior in crowded environments. Unlike human action or interaction recognition, conventional methods are not applicable to the detection and/or tracking of human subjects in a crowded scene owing to the presence of occlusions, small objects sizes, and other factors. For unusual activity detection in a crowded scene, texture information such as a spatio-temporal gradient [4], mixture of dynamic textures [5], and spatio-temporal frequency [6], [7] has been considered an efficient means of detection. In the meantime, other groups have used optical flows that directly characterize motion features in a sequence, e.g., a motion heat map [8], clustered motion patterns [9], [10], spatial saliency of the motion feature [11], crowd prediction using a force field model [12], optical flow fields [13], particle trajectory [14], a social force model [15], and a local motion histogram [16].



(a) Local usual activity (b) Local unusual activity: bicycle in the middle of the frame



(c) Global usual activity (d) Global unusual activity: running people across the frame Fig. 1. Examples of two unusual activities. (a) Persons walk in either side. (b) Riding a bicycle passing through the walking persons. (c) Persons walking around in the scene. (d) Every person starts to run suddenly. Although motion flow based approaches have shown their efficacy in previous works, we believe it is still important to

consider the information on the size of the objects and their interactions. For example, in Fig. 1b, where riding a bicycle is considered an unusual activity, the size of the object and its effect to the nearby pedestrians' moving directions are important information along with their movement speed. To the best of our knowledge, none of the previous methods has explicitly considered this information, the use of which can be helpful in enhancing the performance. However, as stated above, owing to the inapplicability of human segmentation and tracking in a crowded scene, an alternative approach is needed. In this paper, we propose a novel method to represent the motion characteristics of moving objects by considering their motion flows, sizes, and interactions, simultaneously. Specifically, we define a "motion influence map" that efficiently depicts the underlying motion patterns in a crowded scene/home.

RELATED WORK

Abnormal event or activity detection has recently gained great interest from researchers in vision-based surveillance. Xiang et al. addressed the problem of behavior modeling for surveillance videos [17]. Anomalies were detected by means of the likelihood ratio test with normal behavior classes of an individual person, which were modeled in an unsupervised learning. Jiang et al. proposed a new framework for anomaly detection using a spatio-temporal context [18]. They presented instant behaviors of a single object using an atomic event, which contained the location, movement direction, and velocity of an object. Normal events were described using a combination of atomic events under three categories. Anomalous activities in a spatio-temporal context were detected based on a sequence of atomic events. Owing to the huge variations in appearance, scale, illumination, and pose, it is difficult to detect or track individual persons within crowded scenes, and the above-mentioned methods are therefore not applicable to such a scenario. To this end, recent researches have focused on the direct use of motion patterns in an image. Wang et al. used Kanade-Lucas-Tomasi (KLT) corners [19] to represent moving objects and clustered similar motion patterns in an unsupervised manner [9]. They detected anomalies in a frame sequence using two types of historical motion descriptors: the self history and the neighboring history [10]. Xiong et al. proposed a camera parameter independent method by counting people [20]. They used both an optical flow and a foreground distribution. The kinetic energy was measured using an optical flow to distinguish running activities from walking activities, and a crowd index distribution, which was defined by the foreground pixel distribution values, was also measured to detect the gathering and scattering activities. Some other researchers have focused on crowd behavior modeling, which has been an interesting research issue in various fields [21], [22], [23], [24]. A number of techniques have been adopted for global unusual activity detection by modeling the behavior of the crowd itself. Mehran et al. described crowd behaviors by means of the social force model [22], with no human detection or tracking processes involved [15]. They measured the interaction force by computing the difference between the desired and actual velocities obtained from the particle advection on the optical flow field [14], [25]. Latent Dirichlet allocation was also used to discover the distribution of normal behaviors based on the social force. Cui et al. considered social behavior and its action using the interaction energy potential [26]. They detected the space-time interest points [27] and tracked them using a KLT feature tracker [19] to obtain human motion within a video sequence. The interaction energy potential was estimated from the velocity of the space-time interest points to explain whether they will meet in the near future [28]. Meanwhile, other research groups have concentrated more on local unusual activity detection. Mancas et al. quantifiably represented the global rarity to select irrelevant motions from the spatial context using bottom-up saliency [11]. They measured the saliency index in multiple channels, which consisted of different speeds and directions. Local unusual activity was finally detected using the corresponding saliency maps. Ihaddadene et al. observed motion variations of a set of interest points [8]. They built a motion heat map based on the motion intensities, and made a comparison with the variations in local motion. Mahadevan et al. modeled the appearance information and dynamics of normal behavior in crowded scenes with a mixture of dynamic textures [5]. They considered both spatial saliency and temporal saliency to detect and localize unusual events in a crowded scene. Finally, there have been attempts at conducting a crowd behavior analysis by extracting local spatio-temporal cuboids from an optical flow or the gradient pattern features. Kratz et al. analyzed a volume of extremely crowded video sequences by

In our work, we estimate the motion information indirectly from the optical flows [9], [12]. Specifically, after computing the optical flows for every pixel within a frame, we partition the frame into M by N uniform blocks without a loss of generality, where the blocks can be indexed by $\{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_{MN}\}$, and then compute a representative optical flow for each block by taking the average of the optical flows of the pixels within the block:

$$b_i = \frac{1}{J} \sum_j f_i^j$$

where b_i denotes an optical flow of the i -th block, J is the number of pixels in a block, and f_i^j denotes an optical flow of the j -th pixel in the i -th block. We define two operators, $\angle a$ and $\|a\|$, which compute the orientation and magnitude of optical flows a , respectively. Regarding the orientation of the optical flow of the i -th block, for computational efficiency, we perform hard assignment using the following rule:

$$q(\angle b_i) = k \quad \text{s.t.} \quad (2k - 3) \times \frac{\pi}{8} < \angle b_i \leq (2k - 1) \times \frac{\pi}{8}$$

Where $k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$. Here, we should note that we consider a block in a frame to be a virtual object, irrespective of the reality, and use two interchangeably. That is, instead of detecting and tracking real objects such as a pedestrian or cart, which is infeasible for a video clip of a crowded scene, we estimate the motion characteristics of the blocks and utilize them as motion descriptors for unusual activity detection.

Motion Influence Map

Note that the movement direction of a pedestrian within a crowd can be influenced by various factors such as obstacles along the path, nearby pedestrians, and moving carts. This interaction characteristic, which we call the ‘‘motion influence,’’ has been successfully used in previous crowd motion analysis studies [22], [23], [24], [28]. In this paper, we also exploit the interaction characteristic for unusual activity detection. We assume that the blocks under influence to which a moving object can affect are determined by two factors: the motion direction and motion speed. The faster an object moves, the more neighboring blocks that are under the influence of the object. Neighboring blocks have a higher influence than distant blocks. With regard to the impact of moving object i to the block j , we first define two indicator variables, δ_{ij}^d and δ_{ij}^ϕ , which denote whether block j is under the influence of object i by considering the distance between them and by taking into account the visibility of block j to object i , respectively, as follows:

$$\delta_{ij}^d = \begin{cases} 1 & D(i, j) < T_d \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\delta_{ij}^\phi = \begin{cases} 1 & -\frac{F_i}{2} < \phi_{ij} < \frac{F_i}{2} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where $D(i, j)$ is the Euclidean distance between object i and block j , T_d is a threshold, ϕ_{ij} denotes the angle between a vector from object i to object j and the motion direction of object i , and F_i is the field of view¹ of object i . Fig. 3 describes these variables graphically. We then define the influence weight w_{ij} of object i to block j as follows:

$$w_{ij} = \delta_{ij}^d \delta_{ij}^\phi \exp\left(-\frac{D(i, j)}{\|b_i\|}\right).$$

After computing the influence weights of all blocks, $\{w_{ij}\}_{i,j \in \{1,2,\dots,MN\}}$, we finally construct a motion influence map representing the motion patterns occurring within a frame. Every block in the motion influence map consists of an 8-dimensional vector. Each component of the motion influence vector represents the quantized motion vector orientation of block i . Note that in our computation of the influence weight, we consider only a pair of blocks.

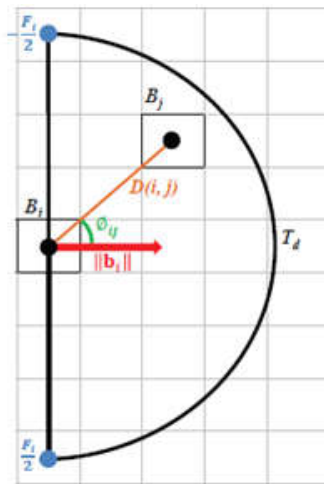


Fig. 3. The schematic description of the variables used to compute an influence weight.

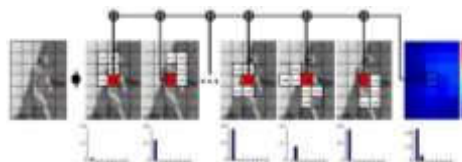
That is, w_{ij} reflects only the influence of block i on block j . Therefore, to compute the motion influence vector of block j , i.e., $H^j(k)$, within a frame, we need to consider all other blocks that potentially affect the motion of block j as follows:

$$H^j(k_i) = \sum_{i \neq j} w_{ij}$$

where $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, MN\}$, k_i denotes the quantized orientation index of block i , which is used as a component index of block j . In Fig. 4, we present a graphical explanation to build a motion influence map and compare the motion influence maps for three different scenarios. In Figs. 4b-4d, we denote the target block, for which we compute a motion influence value, in red, and the numbers in blocks denote the influence weights for the target block. The histograms below the maps depict the motion influence value of the target block component. The bin index, k , is the orientation of the motion vector of block i . To show the value of the motion influence map through simple graphics, the right-most colored matrices (in Figs 4b-4d) illustrate the scalar-value representation of a motion influence vector, which is the aggregate of eight component values. Because there are more than five blocks affecting the target block, the ellipses in the middle of Figs. 4b-4d denote the implied motion influence values affecting the target block. Note that owing to the high movement speed of the subject in Fig. 4c, a larger number of blocks are considered when computing the influence weight than in the other cases shown in Figs. 4b and 4d. It should also be noted that the proposed motion influence map considers the motion speed, direction, object size, and interactions of nearby objects, simultaneously. Concretely, for the case of fast movement among slowly moving subjects and/or objects, owing to the large magnitude of motion flows for a subject, a larger number of nearby blocks are affected when computing the influence weights, which further results in high values for a motion influence map (Fig. 4c).



(a) A global view of constructing a motion influence map: (first) optical flow in a pixel-level, (second) motion vector in a block-level, (third and fourth) computing a motion influence weight and the corresponding motion influence vector for red-colored block.



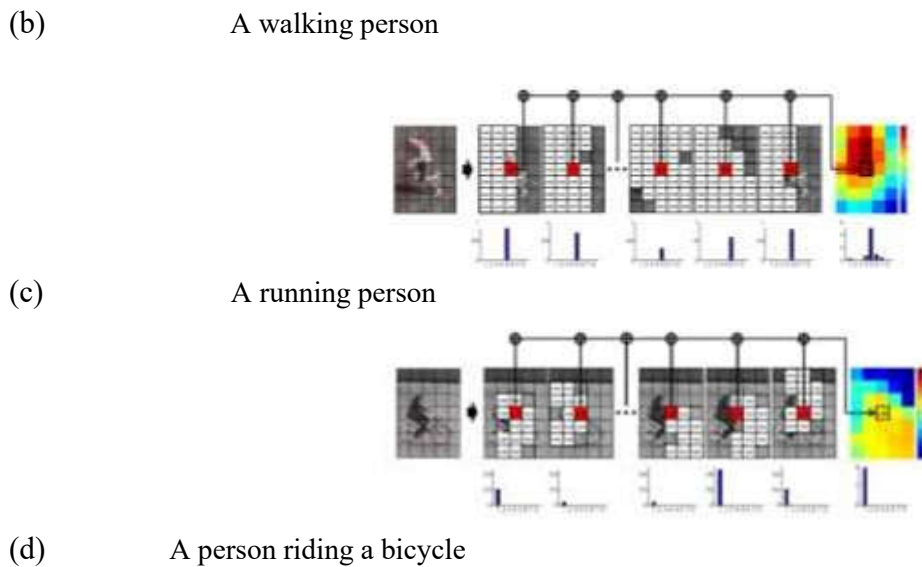


Fig. 4. An illustration of constructing a motion influence map and exemplar maps for different scenarios. Regarding a rigid object, e.g., a cart or bicycle, the motionflows of the object are relatively stable, biased, and consistent over time when compared to those of a human subject, for which there are large motion variations with complicated motion directions from non- rigid body parts, e.g., arms and legs. For this reason, rigid objects tend to have consistent motion patterns over time in terms of the direction and magnitude of the motion, thereby resulting in high influence weights and thus high and biased vectors in the respective motion influence map. In the meantime, since a motion influence map is constructed by summing the influence weights related to the target block, it can represent reciprocal interactions among objects. For example, if two bicyclists are coming toward each other, the two opposite directions appear in a block, and the sum of motion influence weights for this case will be much higher than for the case of a cyclist approaching a walking pedestrian. Utilizing these characteristics, we can predict the occurrence of unusual activities in the current frame. Moreover, we can also pinpoint the location of an unusual activity. That is, the proposed motion influence map can be utilized to detect the occurrence of an unusual activity and find its location. Furthermore, unlike previous methods that focus mostly on either local or global activity detection, it is possible for our method to detect both local and global activities using a unified framework based on the proposed motion influence map. Herein, we provide a pseudo algorithm for the construction of a motion influence map:

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INPUT:  $B \leftarrow$  motion vector set,  $S \leftarrow$  block size,  $K \leftarrow$  a set of blocks in a frame
OUTPUT:  $H \leftarrow$  motion influence map
 $H^j (j \in K)$  is set to zero at the beginning of each frame
for all  $i \in K$  do
     $T_d = \|b_i\| \times S;$ 
     $\frac{L}{2} = \angle b_i + \frac{\pi}{2};$ 
     $-\frac{L}{2} = \angle b_i - \frac{\pi}{2};$ 
    for all  $j \in K$  do
        if  $i \neq j$  then
            Calculate the Euclidean distance  $D(i, j)$  between  $b_i$  and  $b_j$ 
            if  $D(i, j) < T_d$  then
                Calculate the angle  $\phi_{ij}$  between  $b_i$  and  $b_j$ 
                if  $-\frac{L}{2} < \phi_{ij} < \frac{L}{2}$  then
                     $H^j(\angle b_i) = H^j(\angle b_i) + \exp\left(-\frac{D(i, j)}{\|b_i\|}\right)$ 
                end if
            end if
        end if
    end for
end for
    
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Feature Extraction, Detection, and Localization

In the proposed motion influence map, a block in which an unusual activity occurs, along with its

neighboring blocks, have unique motion influence vectors. Furthermore, since an activity is captured by multiple consecutive frames, in this work, we extract a feature vector from a cuboid defined by $n \times n$ blocks over the most-recent t number of frames. Specifically, we partition the frames into non-overlapping “mega” blocks, each of which is a combination of multiple motion influence blocks. We then extract spatio-temporal features for each mega block by adding all motion vectors in the mega blocks at each frame, and finally concatenate the motion influence vectors of the recent t number of frames. As a result, we extract an $8 \times t$ dimensional concatenated feature vector from a mega block within the frame (Fig. 5).

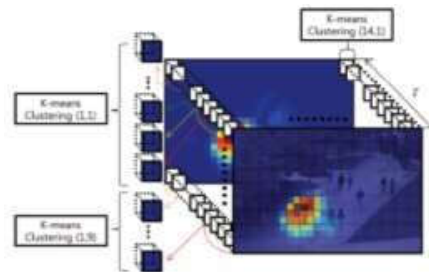


Fig. 6. Illustration of k-means clustering with frame division.

(1,1), (1,9),7 and (14,1) denote, respectively, the coordinate of the respective mega blocks.

For each mega block, we then perform K-means clustering using the spatio-temporal features, and set the centers as codewords. That is, for the (i,j) -th mega block, we have K codewords, $\{w_k^{(i,j)}\}_{k=1}^K$. Here, we should note that in our training stage, we use only video clips of normal activities. Therefore, the codewords of a mega block model the patterns of usual activities that can occur in the respective area. In the testing state, after extracting the spatio-temporal feature vectors for all mega blocks, we construct a minimum distance matrix E over the mega blocks, in which the value of an element is defined by the minimum Euclidean distance between a feature vector of the current test frame and the codewords in the corresponding mega block as follows:

$$\mathcal{E}(i,j) = \min_k \|f^{(i,j)} - w_k^{(i,j)}\|^2$$

where $E(i,j)$ denotes the (i,j) -th element in E , and $f^{(i,j)}$ is the feature vector of the (i,j) -th mega block in the test frame. In a minimum-distance matrix, the smaller the value of an element, the less likely an unusual activity is to occur in the respective block. On the other hand, we can say that there are unusual activities in t consecutive frames if a higher value exists in the minimum-distance matrix. Therefore, we find the highest value in the minimum-distance matrix as the frame representative feature value. If the highest value of the minimum distance matrix is larger than the threshold, we classify the current frame as “unusual”. The localization is also performed using the same strategy with the same threshold for each mega block to localize the unusual activity or activities.

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The application is implemented in python using OpenCV library in Ubuntu windows/Linux environment.

The architecture of the application is made flexible in order to load different types of video clips. In Figure 5(a), a person is running with dog that result is shown in Figure 5(b) as a abnormal activate.

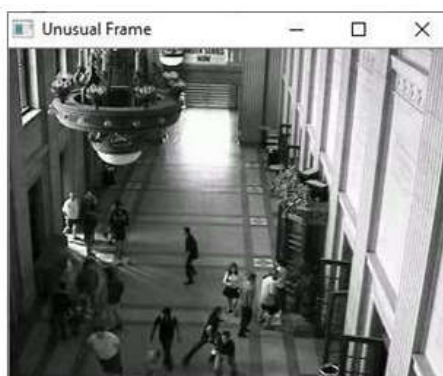


Figure 5(a)

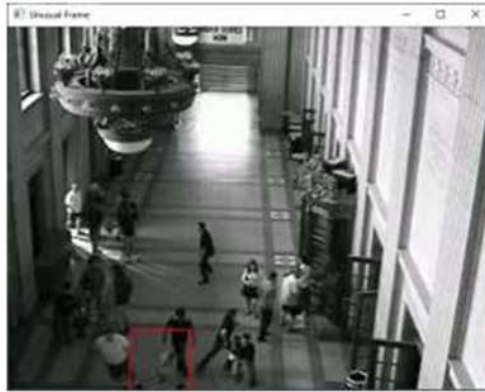


Figure 5(b).

CONCLUSION

With the growing number of surveillance cameras installed in private and public areas/ home, there has been a demand for the automatic and intelligent analysis of video sequences using computers. Unusual event or activity detection in a crowded/home scene has recently been of great interest in the area of vision based surveillance. In this project, we proposed a method for representing the motion characteristics within a frame to detect and localize unusual human activities in a crowded scene/home. Owing to the Representational power of the proposed motion influence map for both space and time, we can classify a frame as usual or unusual, and localize the areas of unusual activities within a frame. For a real application, a smart surveillance system needs to efficiently detect both local and global unusual activities within a unified framework.

FUTURE WORK

The proposed method has a limitation when there is a strong perspective distortion in the input video as the motion influence map is built based on the motion direction and magnitude of the moving objects. However, the main focus of this work is to detect unusual activities within a crowded scene, for which the cameras usually cover a wide area, resulting in small objects being present in the scene without significant perspective changes. Also our experiments were limited to a fixed viewpoint, and there is a limitation in the applicability of the approach for surveillance cameras with pan, zoom, or tilt functionality. At this moment the proposed method deals only with static cameras. However, it can be easily extended to PTZ cameras using localization results.

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