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M.Sc. Eduardo Pérez Pellitero,
Tübingen

Manifold Learning for Super Resolution



Institut für Informationsverarbeitung
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Manifold Learning for Super Resolution

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The development pace of high-resolution displays has been so fast in the recent years that many images acquired with low-end capture devices are already outdated or will be shortly in time. Super Resolution is central to match the resolution of the already existing image content to that of current and future high resolution displays and applications. This dissertation is focused on learning how to upscale images from the statistics of natural images. We build on a sparsity model that uses learned coupled low- and high-resolution dictionaries in order to upscale images, and move towards a more efficient L2 regularization scheme. Instead of using a patch-to-dictionary decomposition, we propose a fully collaborative neighbor embedding approach. We study the positive impact of antipodally invariant metrics for linear regression frameworks, and extend them by also taking into consideration the dihedral group of transforms (i.e. rotations and reflections), as a group of symmetries within the highdimensional manifold. Our experimental section confirms that such approach greatly improves the PSNR performance and also obtains smaller dictionary sizes.

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Abbreviations

ANR	Anchored Neighborhood Regression
ASRF	Super-Resolution Forest with alternative training
CS	Cosine Similarity
DCT	Discrete Cosine Transform
DLT	Dense Local Training
GIBP	Gradient Iterative Back Projection
GR	Global Regressor
GSM	Gaussian Scale Mixture
HHC	Half-Hypersphere Confinement
HR	High-Resolution
IBP	Iterative Back Projection
IFC	Information Fidelity Criterion
LASSO	Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator
LR	Low-Resolution
MAP	Maximum-a-posteriori
MDS	Multidimensional Scaling
MF	Magnification Factor
ML	Maximum Likelihood
MSE	Mean Squared Error
NBNN	Naive Bayes Nearest Neighbor
NBSRF	Naive Bayes Super-Resolution Forest
NN	Nearest Neighbor
OMP	Orthogonal Matching Pursuit
PCA	Principal Component Analysis
PSNR	Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio
PSyCo	Patch Symmetry Collapse
SCT	Symmetry-Collapsing Transform

SD	Symmetry Distance
SIFT	Scale Invariant Feature Transform
SpH	Spherical Hashing
SR	Super Resolution
SRCNN	Super Resolution using Convolutional Neuronal Networks
SSIM	Structural Similarity
ST	Symmetry Transform
SVD	Singular Value Decomposition
VQ	Vector Quantization

Abstract

The development pace of high-resolution displays has been so fast in the recent years that many images acquired with low-end capture devices are already outdated or will be shortly in time. Super Resolution is central to match the resolution of the already existing image content to that of current and future high resolution displays and applications. This dissertation is focused on *learning* how to upscale images from the statistics of natural images. We build on a sparsity model that uses learned coupled low- and high-resolution dictionaries in order to upscale images.

Firstly, we study how to adaptively build coupled dictionaries so that their content is semantically related with the input image. We do so by using a Bayesian selection stage which finds the best-fitted texture regions from the training dataset for each input image. The resulting adapted subset of patches is compressed into a coupled dictionary via sparse coding techniques.

We then shift from ℓ_1 to a more efficient ℓ_2 regularization, as introduced by Timofte et al. [74]. Instead of using their patch-to-dictionary decomposition, we propose a fully collaborative neighbor embedding approach. In this novel scheme, for each atom in the dictionary we create a densely populated neighborhood from an extensive training set of raw patches (i.e. in the order of hundreds of thousands). This generates more accurate regression functions.

We additionally propose using sublinear search structures such as spherical hashing and trees to speed up the nearest neighbor search involved in regression-based Super Resolution. We study the positive impact of antipodally invariant metrics for linear regression frameworks, and we propose two efficient solutions: (a) the Half Hypersphere Confinement, which enables antipodal invariance within the Euclidean space, and (b) the bimodal tree, whose split functions are designed to be antipodally invariant and which we use in the context of a Bayesian Super Resolution forest.

In our last contribution, we extend antipodal invariance by also taking into consideration the dihedral group of transforms (i.e. rotations and reflections). We study them as a group of symmetries within the high-dimensional manifold. We obtain the respective set of mirror-symmetry axes by means of a frequency analysis, and we use them to collapse the redundant variability, resulting in a reduced manifold span which, in turn, greatly improves quality performance and reduces the dictionary sizes.

Kurzfassung

In den letzten Jahren ist die Entwicklung von hochauflösenden Displays so rasant verlaufen, dass viele niedrigauflösende Bildaufnahmegeräte entweder schon überholt sind oder es bald sein werden. Super Resolution ist essentiell, um die Auflösung der existierenden Bilder, bzw. Bildinhalte auf die aktuellen und zukünftigen hochauflösenden Displays und Apps zu übertragen. Diese Dissertation beschäftigt sich mit dem lernen des Upscalings von Bildern aus Statistiken realer Bilder. Die Basis hierbei bildet ein *sparsity-Modell*, dass bereits gelernte, gekoppelte hoch- und niedrig auflösende Wörterbücher verwendet, um damit Bilder hochzuskalieren.

Als erstes beschäftigt sich diese Arbeit damit, wie man gekoppelte Wörterbücher adaptativ aufbaut, so, dass ihr Inhalt semantisch mit dem jeweiligen Eingangsbild verknüpft wird. Dies geschieht, indem eine Bayes-Auswahlstufe verwendet wird, welche die am besten passenden Texturbereiche aus dem Trainings-Datensatz für jedes neue Eingangsbild auswählt. Das daraus resultierende angepasste Untermenge von Patches wird anschließend über das Sparse-Coding Techniken in ein gekoppeltes Wörterbuch komprimiert.

Statt einer ℓ_1 Regularisierung, nutzen wir die effizientere ℓ_2 Regularisierung, wie von Timofte et al. [74] vorgeschlagen. Anstatt ihrer *patch-to-dictionary*-Zerlegung, wird ein vollständig kollaborativer Ansatz zur Nachbarschaftseinbettung vorgeschlagen. In diesem neuen Modell schaffen wir für jedes Atom des Wörterbuchs eine dicht besetzte Nachbarschaft die sich aus dem vorherigen umfangreichen Trainingsdatensatz der Roh-Patches ergibt. Dies generiert genauere Regressionsfunktionen.

Zusätzlich wird vorgeschlagen eine sublineare Suchstruktur, z. B. *spherical hashing* und *Bäume* zu nutzen, um die Suche nach dem nächsten Nachbarn zu beschleunigen, die in der regressions-basierten Super-Resolution genutzt wird. Wir analysieren die positiven Auswirkungen der antipodal invarianten Metriken für lineare Regression-frameworks und zwei effiziente Lösungen werden vorgeschlagen: a) das *Half-Hypersphere Confinement*, was die antipode Invarianz innerhalb des Euklidischen Raums ermöglicht sowie b) den *bimodal Baum*, dessen gesplittete Funktionen so angelegt sind, dass sie antipodal invariant sind. Diese werden im dann im Kontext eines „Bayeschen Super Resolution forest“ angewendet.

Als letzten Beitrag wird die antipodale Invarianz ausgeweitet, indem die Diedergruppe der Transformationen (d.h. Rotationen und Reflexionen) ebenso mit einbezogen werden. Diese werden als eine Symmetriegruppe in der hochdimensionalen Mannigfaltigkeit der Patches genauer betrachtet. Die jeweiligen Spiegelsymmetrieachsen werden durch eine Frequenzanalyse bestimmt und anschließend verwendet, um die redundanten Variabilitäten zusammenzufassen. Dies mündet in einer Reduktion des Spannungsraums der Mannigfaltigkeit, was in einer verbesserten Performanzqualität resultiert und gleichzeitig die Größe des Wörterbuchs verkleinert.

