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Chapter 1 checked

Context and Contributions

1.1 Context

Image representation is fundamental to image analysis. Most images use a regular rectangular tessellation which impair can interpretation and analysis of underlying structure. example, representing a circle using a square grid will fundamentally lead to errors. Superpixels aim to resolve this by representing the image in a more logical manner, grouping pixels based on homogeneity and restoring criteria the boundaries. object This provides differing a representation of each image, where the boundaries are irregular and the superpixels are of different size. This is achieved by image oversegmentation, the process of reducing an image into a number regions, of covering images in such a way as to create non-overlapping regions homogeneous of colour.

A superpixel can be defined as a spatially coherent homogeneous structure[Ren and Malik, 2003]. Figure 1.1 shows an image represented using the basic approach to superpixel generation. Each superpixel contains a small

Chương 1 Bối cảnh và các đóng góp 1.1 Bối cảnh

Biểu diễn ảnh là cơ sở của phân tích ảnh. Đa số các ảnh sử dụng tessellation chữ nhật đều để tiết kiệm công sức diễn giải và phân tích cấu trúc cơ bản. Ví du, về cơ bản, biểu diễn một đường tròn bằng một lưới vuông sẽ dẫn đến sai số. Siêu pixel có thể giải quyết vấn đề này bằng cách biểu diễn ảnh theo kiểu logic hơn, nhóm các pixel lại dựa trên tiêu chí đồng nhất và phục hồi biên vật thể. Điều này cho ra một biểu diễn khác cho mỗi ảnh, trong đó các biên không đều và các siêu pixel có kích thước khác nhau. Chúng ta có thể thực hiện điều này bằng cách phân đoan ảnh cực nhỏ, quá trình này sẽ chuyển ảnh thành một số vùng, qua việc bao phủ ảnh theo kiểu nào đó để tao ra các vùng màu đồng nhất không chồng lên nhau.

Chúng ta có thể định nghĩa siêu pixel là một cấu trúc đồng nhất kết hợp về mặt không gian [Ren và Malik, 2003]. Hình 1.1 cho thấy một ảnh được biểu diễn bằng phương pháp tạo siêu pixel. Mỗi siêu pixel chứa một số lượng nhỏ màu, tuy nhiên, diện tích và hình

number of colours, yet the area shape of each superpixel can be allowed to vary. The primary use of superpixels is to significantly reduce the number of pixel regions, typically by two orders of magnitude. This reduction in pixels naturally leads to faster implementation of further image processing algorithms [Rohkohl and Engel, 2007], particularly those concerned with segmentation or classification. However, there is a loss in information where pixels are merged.

There are many potential applications for such a technique, for example in large Landsat imagery, where millions of pixels could be represented as several thousand

FIGURE 1.1: A superpixel

representation of a simple image, generated using N-cuts [Ren and Malik, 2003] superpixels. There are several notable examples superpixel use. These include: determining complex bodyposes[Ren et al., 20051; making 3D images from 2D pictures[Hoiem al.. et 2005b,a] and videos[Van den Hengel et al., 2007]; object detection in UAV

imagery[Rasmussen,

dạng của mỗi siêu pixel được phép thay đổi. Mục đích chính của siêu pixel là làm giảm mạnh số vùng pixel, thường khoảng hai bậc về độ lớn. Tất nhiên, việc giảm số pixel này sẽ dẫn đến việc thực thi các thuật toán xử lý ảnh tiếp theo nhanh hơn [Rohkohl and Engel, 2007], đặc biệt là những thao tác liên quan đến phân đoạn hoặc phân loại. Tuy nhiên, sẽ có sự mất mát thông tin khi trộn các pixel.

Một kỹ thuật như vậy sẽ có nhiều ứng dụng tiềm năng, chẳng hạn trong kỹ thuật ảnh Landsat lớn, trong đó hàng triệu pixel có thể được biểu diễn dưới dạng vài nghìn

erpixel Hình 1.1: Biểu diễn siêu pixel của một ảnh đơn giản bằng các siêu pixel N-cuts [Ren và Malik, 2003].

2003] Siêu pixel có một số khả năng đáng chú ý như sau. Bao gồm: xác định các body-pose phức tạp [Ren và các cộng sự., 2005]; tạo các ảnh 3D từ ảnh 2D [Hoiem và cộng sự, 2005]; 2005b, a] và các video [Van den Hengel và các cộng sự, 2007.]; phát hiện đối tượng trong ảnh UAV an den [Rasmussen, 2007]; phân đoạn object chuyển động [Ayvaci và Soatto, 2007]; hiểu nội dung ảnh [. Kaufhold và

motion segmentation [Ayvaci and Soatto, 2009]; and as a pre-cursor to scene understanding [Kaufhold et al., 2006].

Superpixel algorithms are usually designed such that there is absolute control over number of generated the superpixels and, historically. algorithms have been criticised for lacking such control. However. when selecting superpixel initialisations, changing the quantity of superpixels even slightly can lead to dramatic changes in the result [Tuytelaars and Mikolajczyk, 20071.

There are two main philosophies generating to superpixels. The first uses a predefined number superpixels with which to partition the image and the other uses image information generate unknown an number of superpixels based pre-determined image on criteria or thresholds. These are referred to here as explicit and implicit generation respectively. An example of each type of algorithm is shown in Figure 1.2.

1.1.1 Explicit Methods

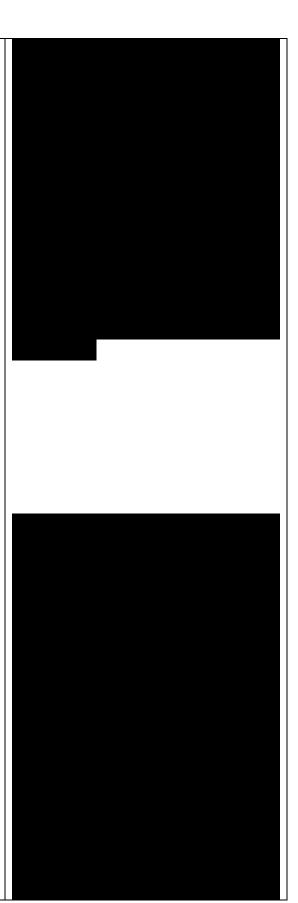
các cộng sự, 2006].

Các thuật toán siêu pixel thường được thiết kế sao cho nó có khả năng kiểm soát hoàn toàn số siêu pixel được tạo ra vì những thuật toán này đã từng bị chỉ trích do thiếu khả năng đó. Tuy nhiên, khi chọn các khởi tạo siêu pixel, thay đổi số lượng siêu pixel thậm chí rất ít cũng có thể dẫn đến sự thay đổi đáng kể kết quả [Tuytelaars và Mikolajczyk, 2007].

Có hai nguyên tắc chính để tạo ra các siêu pixel. Nguyên tắc thứ nhất là dùng số siêu pixel định trước để phân vùng ảnh và nguyên tắc thứ hai là sử dụng thông tin ảnh để tạo ra số pixel bất định dựa trên tiêu chuẩn ảnh định trước hoặc các ngưỡng. Chúng lần lượt được gọi là sự tạo tường minh và ẩn. Hình 1.2 trình bày ví dụ về những loại thuật toán này.

The first method of superpixel generation using determined number of superpixels was developed by Ren and Malik [Ren and Malik. 2003]. They used superpixels as prea processing stage to achieve segmentation of an image by matching superpixel boundaries with human labeled data. This formulation uses N-cuts graph segmentation [Shi and Malik, 2000] by recursively dividing image prethe into a determined number ofsuperpixels. N-cuts superpixels are designed to be compact and uniform with respect to size and colour.

The N-cuts based approach is comparatively Turbopixels [Levinshtein et al., 2009], improved the speed of superpixel generation considerably by basing their algorithm on level-sets [Caselles et al., 1997]. A fixed number of seeds is used that are dilated to obtain the The superpixels. seed placement is optimised to best the homogeneous extract overlap regions, and prevented by way of skeleton frame. More recently, a new method called SLIC Superpixels has emerged that is designed to produce

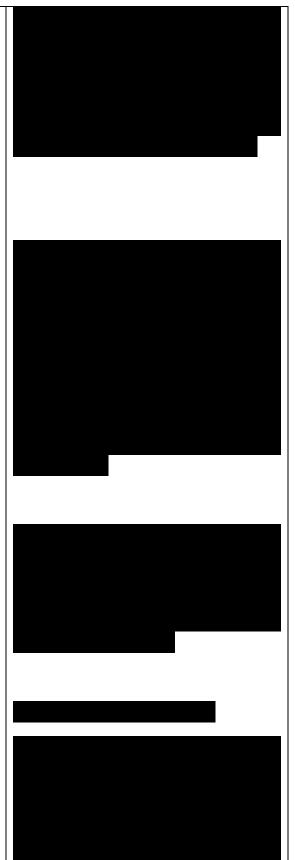


compact, uniform superpixels that adhere to image edges [Achanta et al., 2012], performing better than N-cuts and faster than Turbopixels. It is inherently a special case of the K-means algorithm as it clusters the data into k points by successively associating pixels to the best matching superpixel 'cluster'.

Another method. called 'Lattice Cut', imposes a lattice structure on the creation of superpixel boundaries [Moore et al., 2010, 2008], thereby retaining pixel-like structure. This restriction on superpixel generation does not hinder the ability of the algorithm to well-defined extract superpixels, but creates a clear way to index superpixels and create superpixel 'neighbourhood'.

Other methods include those by Zhang et al. [2011] that uses Pseudo-Boolean optimisation and Wang and Wang [2012] that uses Voronoi Tessellations.

1.1.2 Implicit Methods
Implicit methods include a parameter that tunes attention to scale within the image.
Typically these algorithms are not originally designed to be

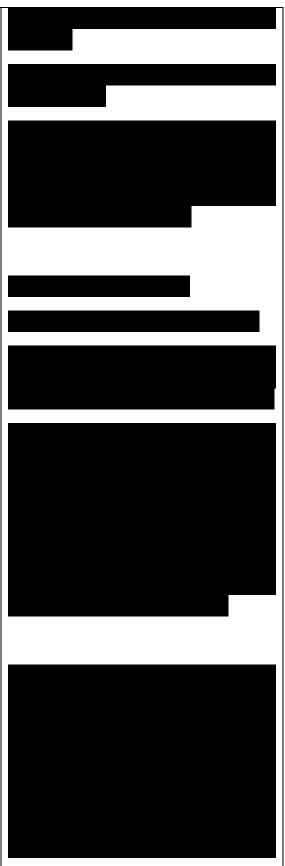


superpixel algorithms but have found application in this area. **Felzenszwalb** and Huttenlocher [Felzenszwalb Huttenlocher. 20041 and created an algorithm initially designed for global image segmentation. They examined the (b) N-cuts superpixels Felzenszwalb (c) and Huttenlocher FIGURE 1.2: A typical image from [Martin et al., 2001] represented using different

superpixel algorithms

evidence for a boundary between nodes in a graphbased representation of the image. It is controlled by the use of k, which sets the scale of observation, where a larger k causes a preference for larger components. This value is fixed before processing and does take not image complexity into account.

Mean-shift [Comaniciu and Meer, 2002] is predominantly used for clustering, however it is often used for comparison with superpixel algorithms. It replaces each pixel with the mean of a region given a capture range and colour distance between pixels. Again, this capture range and



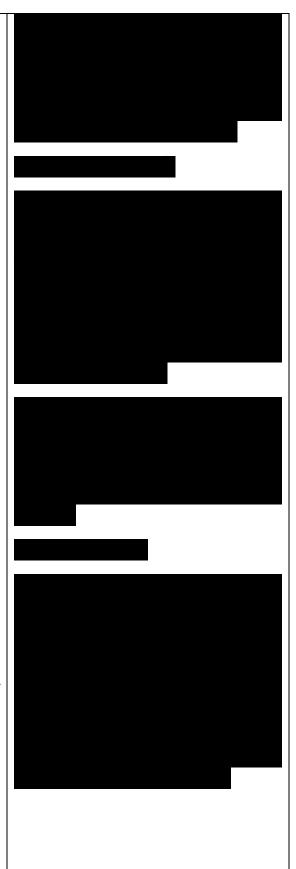
colour distance is chosen prior to operation. To produce superpixels, this output must be clustered using, for example, K-means.

Mean-Shift was extended by Quick-shift [Vedaldi and Soatto, 2008]. It is used as a pre-processing stage in mean-shift. It is, as the name suggests, much faster than mean-shift yet uses a similar algorithm.

Other algorithms include those by Wang et al. [2011] that used Cellular Automata and Liu et al. [2011] that used measures of entropy.

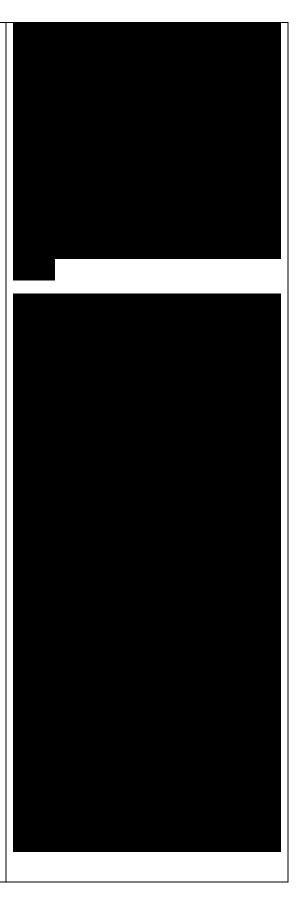
1.2 Contributions

This thesis introduces a novel superpixel algorithm that differs from current superpixel methods. As in traditional superpixel algorithms, the aim is to reduce the number of pixels for further processing. technique, This however, dramatically improves visual quality of the image when represented superpixels.



superpixels of Α set is evolved. without any initialisation parameters, by growing and dividing one or more superpixels. These new superpixels are formed using a Distance Transform and a variation on Active Contours without Edges segmentation, where the superpixel separated by optimising the distance between colour values within the superpixel. While existing algorithms can

control number the superpixels, this control provides change on a linear scale. The result is that all regions will grow or shrink accordingly. Our new algorithm is not designed to scale regions linearly, rather it is designed to produce varying sizes of superpixels dependent on the local complexity of the image. This method still allows images to be reduced as in a traditional superpixel algorithm while retaining almost all of the detail in the original image. By allowing new superpixels to generated as required, representation approaching multi-resolution superpixels is obtained, as more superpixels are required to represent more complex regions. As a direct algorithm consequence the changes adapts to in the

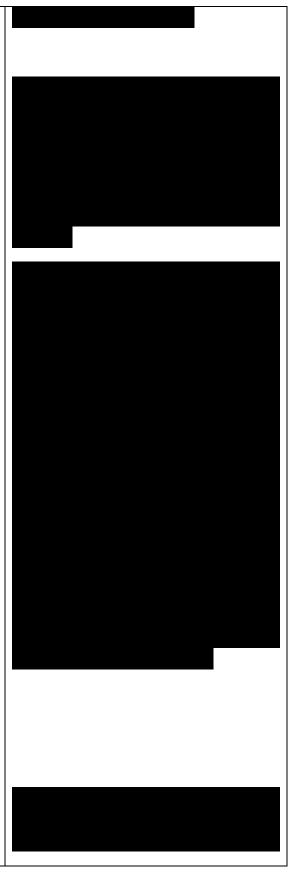


image, leading to high stability across a set of random initialisations.

The term content-driven superpixels is used as the algorithm directly responds to image variation and the results reflect the local properties of an image. For convenience, the algorithm will henceforth be referred to as 'CD superpixels' or CDS.

Figure 1.3 shows the difference in approach between N-cuts and approach. The reconstruction is performed by drawing the colour mean of each superpixel for the area, shown in red, that it encompasses. This is an excellent example of what the new algorithm can achieve. As new superpixels only occur when the current representation is no longer sufficient, the sky contains very few new superpixels, with borders mainly being due to initialisation. In contrast to this, the tree and surrounding grassland is, in some places, almost at pixel resolution. The result is a situation where the superpixels in the sky are reduced yet the foreground remains clear.

Superpixels remain an untapped resource as a preprocessing step, largely because the superpixels



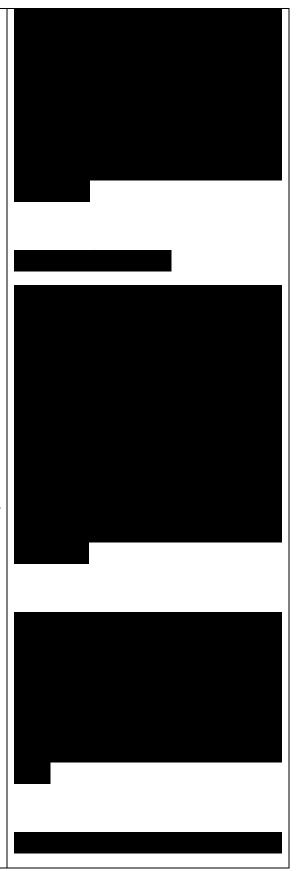
generated contain little information about the image content. Generating equal sized regions does reduce the number of regions to process, provides but no other information. By generating superpixels based on image content and structure, there are several new applications that can be explored.

1.3 Thesis outline

Chapter 2 presents the algorithm for CDS, showing the alternatives that were tested. In addition, problems with existing analyses are outlined and solutions are suggested and implemented. The remainder of the chapter presents the quality of the algorithm when compared with other algorithms and displays the improvement of CD superpixels over those algorithms. In addition the robustness noise and to initialisation is demonstrated.

The new technique is then applied in general and in a specific application. Chapter 3 discusses the use of CDS in three applications which are general to computer vision: segmentation; compression; and scene classification. Segmentation

- (a) Superpixels generated using N-cuts.
- (b) Image reconstruction using



N-cuts.

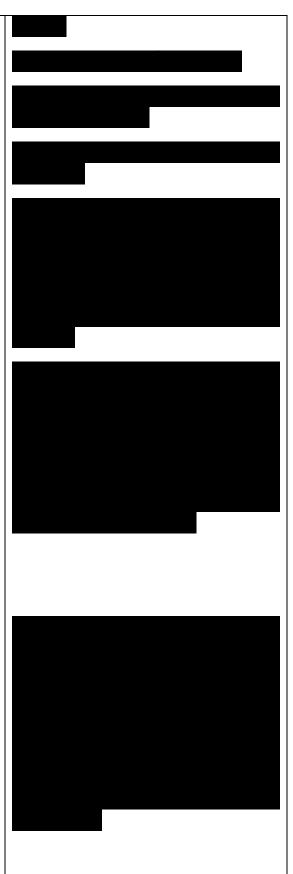
- (c) Superpixels generated using CD superpixels.
- (d) Image reconstruction using CD superpixels.

FIGURE 1.3: A comparison of CD superpixels with existing work using the same number of superpixels. As CD superpixels are not enforced to be uniform in size, it produces larger regions, notably in the sky.

is achieved by modifying the representation of the superpixels into a graph structure. Scene Classification relies also on the same structure to generate the feature vector required for learning. Machine learning techniques are then applied to recognise the content of an image.

discusses Chapter 4 the application of CDS to finding image regions that are in focus. Generation of test images is provided by using Light-Field images, which is a first for focus detection. The use of Light Fields provides unique information thereby allowing the capabilities of the new focus algorithm to be objectively demonstrated.

There are many other



applications that are touched on during the course of the thesis. Chapter 5 discusses further work in analysing and applying the new content driven superpixel approach. Finally, Chapter 6 concludes.

The publications arising from this thesis are as follows:

- R.J. Lowe and M.S. Nixon. Evolving Content-Driven Superpixels for Accurate Image Representation. In ISVC2011, pages 192-201, 2011
- R.J. Lowe and M.S. Nixon. Detecting Focal Regions using Superpixels. In VISAPP, 2013

Ngoài ra còn một số ứng dụng khác cũng được đề cập đến trong luận án. Chương 5 thảo luận về quá trình phân tích và áp dụng các phương pháp siêu pixel dựa trên nội dung mới.

Cuối cùng, chúng tôi đưa ra kết luận ở chương 6.

Các tài liệu đã xuất bản có liên quan đến luận án này:

- R.J. Lowe and M.S. Nixon. Evolving Content-Driven Superpixels for Accurate Image Representation. In ISVC2011, pages 192-201, 2011
- R.J. Lowe and M.S. Nixon. Detecting Focal Regions using Superpixels. In VISAPP, 2013