

Denoising of Image Using Least Minimum Mean Square Error

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Abstract— In this paper, image denoising by linear minimum mean square-error estimation (LMMSE) scheme is proposed and also the determination of best suited wavelet for image denoising has been discussed. The over complete wavelet expansion (OWE) in noise reduction is used for taking the effective result instead of orthogonal wavelet transform. A vector has been designed by the combining the pixels at the same spatial location across scale to explore the strong inter-scale dependencies of OWE and apply LMMSE to the vector. Now, the performance evaluation of the proposed scheme is done by using different wavelet family. To measure the denoising performance, two criteria are used, first is signal information extraction and second is distribution error criterion. The best suite wavelet, which achieves best results between these two criteria, can be selected from wavelet family. To exploits the wavelet intrascale dependency and image discrimination, estimate the wavelet coefficients statistics and wavelet coefficient is classified by Context modelling.

Index Terms— Linear Minimum Mean Square-Error estimation (LMMSE), over complete Wavelet Expansion (OWE).

I. INTRODUCTION

Stastical modeling is of essence for the effectiveness of signal processing. As a Karhunen–Loève like expansion, wavelet transform (WT) [7], [8], [23], [24] can decorrelate random processes into nearly independent coefficients [19], which can then be more effectively modeled statistically. WT has been successfully applied to coding and denoising. Since the first wavelet soft thresholding approach of Donoho [2], many wavelet-based denoising schemes were reported [19], [21], [2], [3], [18], [28], [17], [13], [16], [26], [5], [12], [9]. WT packs most of the signal energy into a few significant coefficients and relates the insignificant coefficients to the signal-independent additive noise. In threshold-based denoising schemes, a threshold is set to distinguish noise from the structural information. Thresholding can be classified into soft and hard ones, in which coefficients less than the threshold will be set to 0 but those above the threshold will be preserved (hard thresholding) or shrunk (soft thresholding). Donoho [2] first presented the Wavelet Shrinkage $\eta_t(w) = \text{sgn}(w) \cdot \max(|w| - t, 0)$ with a universal threshold $t = \sigma \sqrt{2 \log N}$ based on orthonormal wavelet bases, where w the wavelet coefficient, σ is the noise standard deviation, and N is the sample length of signal. The threshold is claimed asymptotically optimal in minimax sense but it would over-smooth signals in practice.

Since Donoho's pioneer work, a numerous threshold-based denoising schemes have been proposed [20], [21], [3], [18], [17], [13]. It is generally accepted that in each sub-band the image wavelet coefficients can be modelled as independent identically distributed (i.i.d.) random variables with generalized Gaussian distribution (GGD) [23], [20], [21], with which Chang [20] presented a near optimal soft threshold $t = \sigma^2 / \sigma_{w_j}$ (the wavelet base is assumed orthonormal), where σ_{w_j} is the standard deviation of wavelet coefficients at scale j . It reportedly outperformed that of the classical nonlinear Wavelet Shrinkage [2] and the improved Sure Shrink [3] of Donoho. The aforementioned three thresholds are soft, meaning that the input w would be shrunk to zero by an amount of threshold, and derived with orthogonal wavelets. In [17], Pan et al. presented a hard threshold $t(j) = c \sigma_j$ for non-orthogonal wavelet expansion, where σ_j is the standard deviation of noise at the j th scale and constant $c \in [3, 4]$. Although WT well decorrelates signals, strong intrascale and interscale dependencies between wavelet coefficients may still exist.

The LMMSE denoising schemes in [16] and [26] exploit the wavelet intrascale dependencies. An LMMSE-based denoising approach with an interscale model is presented by using over complete wavelet expansion (OWE). The optimal wavelet bases selection with respect to the proposed scheme is subsequently discussed. To exploit the wavelet intrascale dependency in our denoising approach, we spatially classify the wavelet coefficients into several clusters adaptively. With OWE, in which there is no down sampling in the decomposition, each wavelet subband has the same number of coefficients as the input image. We combine the wavelet coefficients with the same spatial location across adjacent scales as a vector, to which the LMMSE is then applied. Such an operation naturally incorporates the interscale dependencies of wavelet coefficients to improve the estimation. LMMSE is similar to soft thresholding strategy to some extent. Suppose the variable is scalar, instead of shrinking a noisy wavelet coefficient $w = x + v$ (where x is the wavelet coefficient of noiseless signal and v is that of noise) with threshold

$$t: \hat{x} = \text{sgn}(w) \cdot \max(|w| - t, 0)$$

LMMSE modifies the coefficient with a factor

$$c: \hat{x} = c \cdot w$$

Where

$$c = \frac{\sigma_x^2}{(\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_v^2)} \text{ and } \sigma_x^2 \text{ and } \sigma_v^2 \text{ are the variances of signal and } v \text{ noise, respectively.}$$

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Obviously, is less than 1 so that $|\hat{x}_j|$ will be less than $|w_j|$. The energy of finally restored signal will be shrunk just like in the soft thresholding schemes.

II. INTERSCALE MODEL AND LMMSE BASED DENOISING

Bi-orthogonal wavelet transform (OWT) is translation variant due to the downsampling. This will cause some visual artifacts (such as Gibbs phenomena) in threshold-based denoising [18]. It has been observed that the OWE (undecimated WT or translation- invariant WT in other names) achieves better results in noise reduction and artifacts suppression [20], [18], [17], [26]. The denoising scheme presented in this paper adopts OWE, whose one stage two-dimensional (2-D) decomposition structure is shown in Fig. 1. No down sampling occurs but the analytic filters vary in it. Filter H_j is interpolated by putting $2^{j-1} - 1$ zeros between each of the coefficients of original filter H_0 , so does for G_j . The bandwidth decrease is accomplished by zeros padding of filters instead of down sampling of wavelet coefficients. The restored signal by OWE is an average of several circularly shifted denoised versions of the same signal by OWT, and by which the additive noise is better suppressed.

III. LMMSE OF WAVELET COEFFICIENTS

Suppose the original signal f is corrupted with additive Gaussian white noise ε

$$g = f + \varepsilon \tag{1}$$

where $\varepsilon \in N(0, \sigma^2)$

Applying the OWE to the noisy signal g , at scale j yields

$$w_j = x_j + v_j \tag{2}$$

Where,

w_j is coefficients at scale j , x_j , and v_j are the expansions of f and ε , respectively.

In this paper, the LMMSE of wavelet coefficients is employed instead of soft thresholding. Suppose the variance of v_j is σ_j^2 and that of x_j is $\sigma_{x_j}^2$. Since and are both zero mean, the LMMSE of x_j is

$$\hat{x}_j = c' \cdot w_j \tag{3}$$

with

$$c = \frac{\sigma_{x_j}^2}{\sigma_j^2 + \sigma_{x_j}^2} \tag{4}$$

Since v_j is Gaussian distributed and independent of x_j , if x_j is also of Gaussian distribution, it is well known that w_j will be Gaussian and (3) is equivalent to the optimal MMSE [4]. Unfortunately, x_j obeys in general the GGD model, which reduces to Gaussian only in very special cases. Referring to Fig. 1, term w_{j+1}^D can be written as

$$w_{j+1}^H = s_0 * L_j^H \tag{5}$$

Where;

* is the convolution operator and filter L_j^D is

$$L_j^D = H_0 * H'_0 * \dots * H_{j-1} * H'_{j-1} * G_j * G'_j \tag{6}$$

Similarly, we have

$$w_{j+1}^H = s_0 * L_j^H, \quad w_{j+1}^V = s_0 * L_j^V \tag{7}$$

Where,

$$L_j^H = H_0 * H'_0 * \dots * H_{j-1} * H'_{j-1} * G_j * H'_j \tag{8}$$

$$L_j^V = H_0 * H'_0 * \dots * H_{j-1} * H'_{j-1} * H_j * G'_j \tag{9}$$

Noise standard deviation of v_j at scale j in a direction (horizontal, vertical or diagonal) is

$$\sigma_j = \|L_{j-1}\| \sigma \tag{10}$$

Where,

L_{j-1} is the corresponding filter (L_{j-1}^D, L_{j-1}^H or L_{j-1}^V)

and $\|\cdot\|$ is the norm operator: $\|\cdot\| = \sqrt{\sum_l \sum_k L^2(l, k)}$

The standard deviation $\sigma_{x_j}^2$ of noiseless image x_j is estimated as follows

$$\hat{\sigma}_{x_j}^2 = \sigma_{w_j}^2 - \sigma_j^2 \tag{11}$$

With

$$\sigma_{w_j}^2 = \frac{1}{M \cdot N} \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{n=1}^N w_j^2(m, n) \tag{12}$$

Where,

M and N are the numbers of input image rows and columns.

LMMSE is similar to soft thresholding in some sense. Notice that factor c is always less than 1, thus the magnitude of estimated wavelet coefficient \hat{x}_j would be less than that of w_j . This leads to the energy shrinkage of the restored signal, same as in the soft thresholding schemes. The LMMSE-based wavelet denoising schemes proposed in [16] and [26] have achieved good results. These two methods exploited the wavelet intra scale dependencies.

IV. INTERSCALE WAVELET MODEL BASED LMMSE

Wavelet adjacent scales are strongly correlated and these interscale dependencies can be exploited for better signal processing results. Small magnitude coefficients at coarser scales are more likely to derive small magnitude descendents at finer scale. Contrarily, it is also found that a large magnitude wavelet coefficient produced by true signal at finer scales would yield significant coefficients at coarser scales. But the coefficients corresponding to noise decay rapidly along scales. This can be interpreted by the different singularities of signal and noise [24]. With this observation Xu et al. [28] multiplied the adjacent wavelet scales to sharpen the edge structures and identified significant pixels from the multiplication iteratively. Sadler and Swami [1] analyzed the multiscale products of wavelet coefficients and applied it to step detection and estimation. Zhang and Bao [14] developed an effectively edge detection approach by finding edge pixels from the scale multiplication. They also applied the wavelet scale multiplication to threshold-based denoising [13].

In [15] and [6], the HMM [15], [6] are used to represent wavelet interscale dependencies efficiently.

In this section, we apply the LMMSE-based denoising to a wavelet interscale model. It is well known that the wavelet-represented images are scales. In wavelet domain, the noise level decrease rapidly along scales, while signal structures are strengthened with scale increasing. So we use coarser scale information to improve finer scale estimation. Suppose the input image is decomposed into J scales. Roughly speaking, scale j is strongly correlated with scale $j + 1$, but its correlations with scales $j + 2, j + 3, \dots, J$ will decrease rapidly. These scales would not provide much additional information to improve the estimation of scale. Second, a significant structure has much larger local supports at coarse scales than at fine scales. At the same spatial location, the wavelet coefficients may correspond to signal at coarse scales, but to noise at fine scales. Based on these consideration, we would make no use of the measurements at the finer scale to estimate the signal at the coarser scale, and \mathbf{x}_j is estimated only by measurements at scales j and $j + 1$. We assemble the points with the same orientation at scales j and $j + 1$ as a vector

$$\overline{\mathbf{w}}_j(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n}) = [\mathbf{w}_j(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n}) \ \mathbf{w}_{j+1}(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n})]^T \quad (13)$$

Thus

$$\overline{\mathbf{w}}_j = \overline{\mathbf{x}}_j + \overline{\mathbf{v}}_j \quad (14)$$

with

$$\overline{\mathbf{x}}_j(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n}) = [\mathbf{x}_j(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n}) \ \mathbf{x}_{j+1}(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n})]^T$$

$$\overline{\mathbf{v}}_j(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n}) = [\mathbf{v}_j(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n}) \ \mathbf{v}_{j+1}(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n})]^T \quad (15)$$

$\overline{\mathbf{v}}_j$ is a Gaussian noise vector independent of $\overline{\mathbf{x}}_j$. The

LMMSE of $\overline{\mathbf{x}}_j$ is then

$$\widehat{\overline{\mathbf{x}}_j} = \mathbf{P}_j (\mathbf{P}_j + \mathbf{R}_j)^{-1} \overline{\mathbf{w}}_j \quad (16)$$

where \mathbf{P}_j and \mathbf{R}_j are the covariance matrices of $\overline{\mathbf{x}}_j$ and $\overline{\mathbf{v}}_j$, respectively

$$\mathbf{P}_j = \mathbf{E} [\overline{\mathbf{x}}_j \overline{\mathbf{x}}_j^T] = \mathbf{E} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_j^2 & \mathbf{x}_j \mathbf{x}_{j+1} \\ \mathbf{x}_j \mathbf{x}_{j+1} & \mathbf{x}_{j+1}^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{R}_j = \mathbf{E} [\overline{\mathbf{v}}_j \overline{\mathbf{v}}_j^T] = \mathbf{E} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v}_j^2 & \mathbf{v}_j \mathbf{v}_{j+1} \\ \mathbf{v}_j \mathbf{v}_{j+1} & \mathbf{v}_{j+1}^2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

Let us compute the components of noise covariance matrix \mathbf{R}_j first. The diagonal element $\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{v}_j^2]$ is equal to σ_j^2 which can be obtained by [3]. Noise variables \mathbf{v}_j and \mathbf{v}_{j+1} are the projections of \mathbf{v} on different wavelet subspaces. They are correlated with correlation coefficient.

$$\rho_{j,j+1} = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_l \sum_k L_{j-1}(l, k) L_j(l, k)}}{\|L_{j-1}\| \cdot \|L_j\|} \quad (18)$$

\mathbf{v}_j and \mathbf{v}_{j+1} are jointly Gaussian and their density is

$$p(\mathbf{v}_j, \mathbf{v}_{j+1}) = \frac{1}{2\pi \sqrt{1 - \rho_{j,j+1}^2} \sigma_j \sigma_{j+1}} \times e^{-\frac{1}{2(1 - \rho_{j,j+1}^2)} \left[\frac{\mathbf{v}_j^2}{\sigma_j^2} - \frac{2\rho_{j,j+1} \mathbf{v}_j \mathbf{v}_{j+1}}{\sigma_j \sigma_{j+1}} + \frac{\mathbf{v}_{j+1}^2}{\sigma_{j+1}^2} \right]} \quad \dots (19)$$

Thus, the expectation $\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{v}_j \mathbf{v}_{j+1}]$ is

$$\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{v}_j \mathbf{v}_{j+1}] = \rho_{j,j+1} \sigma_j \sigma_{j+1} \quad (20)$$

Each of the components of matrix \mathbf{P}_j is estimated by

$$\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{x}_l \mathbf{x}_k] \approx \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{w}_l \mathbf{w}_k] - \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{v}_l \mathbf{v}_k] \quad (21)$$

Where,

$l, k = j, j + 1$ and $\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{w}_l \mathbf{w}_k]$ is computed as

$$\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{w}_l \mathbf{w}_k] = \frac{1}{M \cdot N} \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{w}_l(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n}) \quad (22)$$

After the LMMSE result $\widehat{\overline{\mathbf{x}}_j}$ is obtained, only the component $\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_j$ is extracted. Estimation of $\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{j+1}$ would be obtained from the LMMSE result $\widehat{\overline{\mathbf{x}}_{j+1}}$.

V. OPTIMAL WAVELETS BASIS SELECTION

The denoising performance of the proposed LMMSE-based scheme varies with different wavelet filters. Ideally, a good wavelet filter for denoising should meet the following two requirements. One is the interscale model's ability in extracting signal information from noisy wavelet coefficients. The other is a high degree of agreement between the distribution of wavelet coefficients and Gaussian distribution. This is because the LMMSE denoising method is optimal (i.e., equivalent to optimal MMSE) only if the underlying signal distribution is Gaussian, assuming that the additive noise is Gaussian. However, for a fixed wavelet basis, the above two requirements may be in conflict with each other. In this section we develop a technique to strike a good balance between the two conflicting criteria.

VI. METHODOLOGY

- 1) Reading of Image
- 2) Resizing of Image
- 3) Generation of Noise
- 4) Calculate LMMSE of Wavelet Coefficients by calculating Mean of Image.
- 5) Signal to noise ratio of noisy image
- 6) Calculation of the low and high decomposition coefficients of wavelet filter.
- 7) Selection of wavelet for denoising purpose
- 8) Selection of scale
- 9) Implementation of Over complete wavelet transform on noisy image
- 10) Selection of Wavelet is done by Wave Select and thresholding of different Wavelet is done by computing proper threshold
- 11) Inverse of over complete Wavelet Transform is done on the 4 Matrix by Reconstruction of Low and High coefficients along with context Modeling (intermixing) and convolution of 4 Matrix
- 12) Calculation of Error by Subtracting Original Image from Denoised Image
- 13) Mean Square Error is calculated

VII. RESULT

This section compares the results from different wavelet for proposed scheme in terms of PSNR and MSE. The noisy image (Figure 2) is simulated by adding Gaussian white noise on the original image (Figure 1). In threshold-based (hard or soft) denoising schemes, the wavelet coefficients whose magnitudes are below a threshold will be set to 0. The corresponding pixels are generally noise predominated and thus the thresholding of these coefficients is safely a structure-preserving denoising process. We apply the LMMSE only to those coefficients above a threshold and shrink those below the threshold to 0. It should be noted that the images used here are 256 x256. At the same noise level, the denoising results of a high resolution image, shown in figure 1, is given in Table 1. The PSNR of noisy image is 32.98 db and Denoised image is shown in Figure 3.



Figure 1 Original Image



Figure 2 Noisy Image



Figure 3 Denoised Image

Table 1 Comparison for MSE and PSNR for Different Wavelet

Wavelet	PSNR for Scale 2	PSNR for Scale 1	MSE for scale 2	MSE for scale 1
bior1.1	37.07	36.25	39.03	47.17
bior1.3	36.97	36.2	39.99	46.68
bior2.2	36.36	36.21	45.99	47.66
bior2.4	36.39	36.21	45.64	47.67
bior3.3	34.41	35.91	72.15	51.01
db2	37.06	36.37	39.17	45.93
db3	37.05	36.35	39.23	46.1
db4	37	36.35	39.93	46.16

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