Tracking of Blood Movement in the Heart using Elongated Horizontal Large Diamond Search Pattern and Optical Flow Technique for Enabling the Detection of Atrial Septal Defect

Mrunal Ninad Annadate, Manoj Nagmode

Abstract—In major congenital heart ailments comes Atrial Septal Defect (ASD). Many techniques viz. ECG, MRI, Ultrasound etc., are in use to detect ASD. Performance of heart is analyzed by the Doctors through test results or observations of heart Ultrasound. In this research work it is proved that the disorder ASD is detected using the technique of block matching and optical flow. These algorithms enables the doctors or experts to detect ASD automatically and hence reduces the dependency on humans. This paper proposes a new Elongated Horizontal Large Diamond Search Pattern (EHLDSP) and Optical Flow algorithm for detection of ASD based on MV. Experimentation was carried out on A4C view of 2D Echo Cardiogram, collected from the hospitals as well as from open available database. Ground truth image is used by the cardiologist to compare the results. In this paper, performance of the proposed Elongated Horizontal Large Diamond Search Pattern (EHLDSP) method is compared with other techniques on the basis of cost functions like PSNR and computation complexity. EHLDSP algorithm is used to check the pixel movements and to calculate Motion Vector (MV), followed by the estimation of the displacement of blood cells from either right to left or vice versa. This will help in the reduction of dependency on specialized doctors or human factor can be reduced. For automatic detection of abnormality, research is going on in this area to make it fast and accurate. Proposed algorithm reduces the average computation by providing speed improvements of about 91% over FS/ES and about 6% over existing DS. Also, EHLDSP has shown improvements in the PSNR value in comparison with other methods.

Index Terms—Atrial Septal Defect (ASD), Electrocardiogram (ECG), Apical Four Chamber (A4C), Motion Vectors (MV)

I. INTRODUCTION

Ultrasound is commonly used technique in medical diagnostics as it is safe, real time, non-invasive, convenient and comparatively cheap with respect to other techniques. Currently tools which are used during clinical examination requires expertise in selecting the required views. For automatic detection of abnormality, research is going on in this area to make it fast and accurate. This will help in the reduction of dependency on specialized doctors or human factor can be reduced. Ultrasound technique play a crucial role in the overall analysis of ASD, because it can be recorded in the form of Video’s and therefore allows a dynamic analysis of moving objects and structures. Approach to be used for the detection of ASD is described in this paper.

II. RELATED WORK

Muhammed Al Anwer et al. in [1] have showcased a newly developed technique called as Dynamic Multi Shape Search (DMSS) for automatic detection of ASD by tracking the blood flow with the help of block matching and optical flow techniques. Qi Zhang et al. in [2] proposed a SIV (speckle image velocimetry) techniques for measurement of blood flow in LV (left ventricle). M.N. Annadate, M.S. Nagmode in [3] have proposed the technique for automatic detection of heart disorders to reduce the dependency on medical experts for evaluation of 2D Echo, also to increase the accuracy through automation. Dhiraj Manohar Dhane, Chetan S. Deokar [4] demonstrated echocardiogram videos key frame browsing, extraction and summarization. Ritwik Kumar, et al. in [5] authors presented an automatic view classification of motion in echocardiogram videos and cardiac structures.
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III. METHODS

As part of previous research work [15] various noise models were studied in detail and denoising filters like Lee, Kaun, Frost, Median, HMF, SRAD were evaluated on parameters like MSE, PSNR, QI, SSIM and best performing filters like Lee and HMF were used in combination for carrying out denoising or de-speckling.

A. Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)[13],[7]
In this defect blood in the heart can flow from the right to the left or opposite, because of hole in the septum wall.

B. Motion Estimation Techniques[8], [12]

In this process motion vectors are determined [8].

Here current frame is divided into macro blocks of equal sizes. Macro blocks of adjacent frames in the video are compared. [8]. Location wise movement of macroblock is tracked by drawing a motion vector (MV)[8].

There are several algorithms of BM, few of them are listed below and these are applied on the database used in this research [8]. Three Step Search (TSS), Exhaustive / Full Search (ES/FS), Four SS (4SS), Diamond Search (DS), New TSS (NTSS) [8].
1.1 Diamond Search (DS) [8], [11], [15] - [18]

Divided into two types
- Large DS Pattern (LDSP) – Performs coarse search to find a small area of optimal MV.
- Small DS Pattern (SDSP) - Performs fine search in the located area to find the best MV.

Fig. 5 DS Patterns

1.2 Proposed Elongated Horizontal Large Diamond Search Pattern (EHLDSP)

Elongated Horizontal LDSP (EHLDSP) algorithm finds the best match of Large Diamond search pattern (LDSP) using combination of three patterns viz. LDSP and/or Elongated Horizontal Large Diamond Search Pattern (EHLDSP) and SDSP [15]. Results obtained using EHLDSP algorithm are better than DS with lesser number of search points. Each pattern i.e. EHLDSP and LDSP, in the proposed method has 5 search point. EHLDSP algorithm is carried out in three steps search - LDSP followed by EHLDSP and SDSP. Best match is given by the minimum cost function position among five checking point in LDSP or SDSP.

Proposed EHLDSP Algorithm:
Step1: Apply LDSP, if Minimum Block Distortion (MBD) is at the center, go to step3 (block is not moving), otherwise go to step 2.
Step2: If MBD is on the left or right position of LDSP apply EHLDSP. If MBD is at the center of EHLDSP go to step 3, otherwise step two is continued.
Step3: Apply SDSP and obtain MBD which will give the best motion vector.

Fig. 6 EHLDS Patterns


Optical flow methods provide an estimate of motion in terms of spatio-temporal image intensity gradients. Two methods viz. Horn-Schunck and Lucas-Kanade are widely used and are discussed in this paper. Each pixel is checked with previous frame for its movement and is given by a 2D vector called as optical flow. Optical flow involves finding the direction gradient. It is important to know that since we are dealing with video signals, we have a 3D function of x, y and t. Video is stored in the form of frames as a function of x, y and t, assuming continuous frames. We assume that the brightness across successive frames is constant. The assumption made is called as Brightness Constancy. This can be represented as

\[ f(x,y,t) = f(x+dx, y+dy, t+dt) \]

(1)

Here we have assumed continuous time t to facilitate calculations. In above equation, LHS represents the first frame, while RHS represents the next frame. Hence brightness at x and y in the first frame is the same as brightness at x+dx and y+dy in the next frame. We compute the Taylor’s series approximation of equation to obtain.

\[ f(x,y,t) = f(x,y,t) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} dt \]

(2)

Hence we have

\[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} dt = 0 \]

(3)

Let \( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = f_x, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = f_y, \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = f_t \)

Hence above equation reduces to

\[ f_x dx + f_y dy + f_t dt = 0 \]

(4)

Diving the above equation by dt, we obtain

\[ f_x \frac{dx}{dt} + f_y \frac{dy}{dt} + f_t = 0 \]

(5)

\[ f_x \frac{dx}{dt} + f_y \frac{dy}{dt} + f_t = 0 \]

(6)

In this equation, \( \frac{dx}{dt} \) and \( \frac{dy}{dt} \) are the rate of change in x and y directions, respectively. This equation is called the Optical Flow Equation. We need to compute the gradients (\( f_x, f_y, f_t \)) for finding the optical flow. Since we are dealing with digital images, the finite difference approximates the gradient. In the equations given below, the two frames considered are \( f(x,y,k) \) and \( f(x,y,k+1) \).

\[ f_x \frac{dx}{dt} \approx \frac{1}{4} \{ f(x+1, y, k) - f(x, y, k) + f(x+1, y+1, k) - f(x, y+1, k) + f(x+1, y, k+1) - f(x, y, k+1) - f(x+1, y+1, k+1) + f(x, y+1, k+1) \} \]

(7)

\[ f_y \frac{dy}{dt} \approx \frac{1}{4} \{ f(x, y+1, k) - f(x, y, k) + f(x+1, y+1, k) - f(x+1, y, k) + f(x, y+1, k+1) - f(x, y, k+1) - f(x+1, y+1, k+1) + f(x, y+1, k+1) \} \]

(8)
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\[ f_i \approx \frac{1}{k} \left( \frac{1}{2} f(x, y, k+1) - f(x, y, k) + f(x+1, y, k+1) - f(x+1, y, k) + f(x, y+1, k+1) - f(x, y+1, k) + f(x+1, y+1, k+1) - f(x+1, y+1, k) \right) \]

(9)

Other form to represent optical flow calculations is given below:

\[ I_m + I_n + I_t = 0 \]

(10)

Where, spatiotemporal image brightness derivatives are defined by \( I_x, I_y, \) and \( I_t. \) And \( m \) is horizontal and \( n \) is vertical optical flow.

2.1 Horn-Schunck Method:

Assumption made in this method is that for the entire image optical flow is smooth, accordingly velocity field, \( [u, v]^T \) is computed using following equation [19].

\[ E = \iint (I_x u + I_y v + I_t)^2 \, dx \, dy + \alpha \]

(11)

Where, optical velocity components of \( u \) are given by spatial derivatives \( \frac{2u}{2x} \) and \( \frac{2u}{2y} \) and \( \alpha \) is a global smoothness factor.

2.2 Lucas Kanade Method:

Here smaller sections of original image are taken and constant velocity is assumed in each section. Then optical flow is computed using following equation for weighted least-square.

\[ \sum_{x \in \Omega} W^2 \left[ I_x u + I_y v + I_t \right]^2 \]

(12)

Where, \( W \) is a window function. The equation can be further simplified to the minimization problem and is given as:

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\sum W^2 I_x^2 & \sum W^2 I_x I_y \ \\
\sum W^2 I_x I_y & \sum W^2 I_y^2
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
u \\
v
\end{bmatrix}
= - \begin{bmatrix}
\sum W^2 I_x I_t \\
\sum W^2 I_y I_t
\end{bmatrix}
\]

(13)

IV. EXPERIMENTATION

Performance Parameters:

To estimate the motion in a frame, movements of all macroblocks of a frame are calculated. Below are the most popular cost functions, given by the equations 14, 15, 16 & 17.

1. Mean Squared Error (MSE) =

\[
\text{MSE} = \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{x=0}^{N-1} \sum_{y=0}^{N-1} (C_{ij} - R_{ij})^2
\]

(14)

2. Peak Signal to Noise Ratio (PSNR) =

\[
\text{PSNR} = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{2^B - 1}{\text{MSE}} \right)
\]

(15)

Where \( B \) gives number of bits per pixel

3. Sum of Absolute Difference (SAD) =

\[
\sum_{x=0}^{N-1} \sum_{y=0}^{N-1} |C_{ij} - R_{ij}|
\]

(16)

4. Mean Absolute Difference (MAD) =

\[
\frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{x=0}^{N-1} \sum_{y=0}^{N-1} |C_{ij} - R_{ij}|
\]

(17)

Where \( N \) denotes the size of the macro-block. Pixels in current macroblock is denoted by \( C_{ij} \) and pixels in reference macroblock by \( R_{ij} \).
1. Read the two images
2. Find the size of two images (m,n,s)
3. Where m = rows, n = columns, s=1 (Grey) and s=3 (RGB)
4. If s=3, Convert to Grey Image
5. Perform 8 points in Full Search
6. Center one point and calculate the SAD
7. Put the minimum point with SAD as new Centre
8. Perform 4 points search
9. Center one point and calculate the SAD
10. Put the minimum point with SAD as new Centre
11. Find the best match

Algorithm TSS:

1. Read the two images
2. Find the size of two images (m,n,s)
3. Where m = rows, n = columns, s=1 (Grey) and s=3 (RGB)
4. If s=3, Convert to Grey Image
5. Start search with the center
6. Set search parameter p as and step size S as 4
7. Around location (0,0), Search 8 locations
8. Minimum cost function is chosen amongst the 9 searched locations
9. New search origin is set that point
10. Make step size = S/2
11. Procedure is Repeated for two more iterations till S becomes 1
12. Minimum cost function and best match macroblock is found at S=1

Algorithm NTSS:

1. Read the two images
2. Find the size of two images (m,n,s)
3. Where m = rows, n = columns, s=1 (Grey) and s=3 (RGB)
4. If s=3, Convert to Grey Image
5. Check eight extra neighboring search points of search center along with the original checking points used in TSS, in all total 16 points are checked (8 are at S=4 and 8 are at S=1)
6. Check for minimum distortion point in following cases
   Case 1: At search window center (stationary block), stop the search, set MV as (0,0)
   Case 2: At any one neighbor out of the eight (at S=1) of the search window center, set the origin to this point and check for distortion adjacent to this point. Accordingly check 5 or 3 points, find MBD and set MV to this location
   Case 3: At any one of the remaining eight (at S=4) checking points follow normal TSS
7. Calculate the cost functions
8. Calculate the ME

Algorithm DS:

1. Read the two images
2. Find the size of two images (m,n,s)
3. Where m = rows, n = columns, s=1 (Grey) and s=3 (RGB)
4. If s=3, Convert to Grey Image
5. Set Block 16x16 in the current frame
6. Start from center.
7. Find matching block in the reference image from 9 candidates of LDSP search points
8. Check whether distortion point is at the center.
9. If YES, Form a new LDSP and center is updated at the MD point from the previous search. Repeat step 7
10. Check MBD for 3 or 5 candidates
11. Check whether the block is at the center, Set SDSP
12. Search 4 locations near (0,0)
13. Pick the location with minimum cost function
14. The point with minimum distortion is the Final motion vector.

Proposed Algorithm - Elongated Horizontal Long Diamond Search (EHLDSP):

1. Read the two images
2. Find the size of two images (m,n,s)
3. Where m = rows, n = columns, s=1 (Grey) and s=3 (RGB)
4. If s=3, Convert to Grey Image
5. Set Block 16x16 in the current frame
6. Start with search location at center
7. Search 8 locations near (0,0)
8. Check whether distortion point is at the center
9. If at the Centre, distortion point is not found, form a new EHLDSP and update center at the minimum distortion point obtained in the earlier search, Repeat step 7
10. If block is at the center, Set SDSP
11. Search 4 locations near (0,0)
12. Pick the location with minimum cost function
13. Motion vector is the point with minimum distortion.

Post detecting the location of ASD, blood flow direction is tracked by applying optical flow technique.

Algorithm Optical Flow (OF):

1. input the video
2. Translate into images
3. Read two consecutive images as reference and current Image
4. Calculate fx, fy, and ft
5. Find the MV
6. Plot
7. Velocity vectors are shown as arrows at the points (x,y) with Components (u,v)
8. Get next two consecutive images
9. Repeat step 5 to 8
10. Plot MV

Experimentation was carried out on A4C view of 2D Echo Cardiogram, of different 19 patients, collected form the hospitals as well as from open available database.
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Results:

1. Block Matching

Fig. 8 Motion Vector Diagrams

PSNR

MSE

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Fig. 9 Cost Functions Graphs – BM Technique

2. Optical Flow

Fig. 10 Motion Estimation using Optical Flow for Normal Video

Fig. 11 Motion Estimation using Optical Flow for Abnormal Video (ASD)

Fig. 12 Cost Functions Graphs – Optical Flow Technique
### Table 1: Dataset Specifications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Video</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Frame Dim (W x H)</th>
<th>Data &amp; Bit Rate kbps</th>
<th>Frame Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Video1 to Video17</td>
<td>MP4</td>
<td>1 Sec</td>
<td>640 x 480</td>
<td>1697</td>
<td>30 fps</td>
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### Table 2: PSNR Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Algorithm</th>
<th>Average PSNR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DS</td>
<td>34.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHLDSP</td>
<td>35.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4SS</td>
<td>34.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td>34.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTSS</td>
<td>34.10</td>
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</table>

### Table 3: MSE Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Algorithm</th>
<th>Average MSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DS</td>
<td>21.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSS</td>
<td>20.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHLDSP</td>
<td>20.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4SS</td>
<td>20.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td>20.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTSS</td>
<td>20.32</td>
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### Table 4: Computation Complexity Comparison

<table>
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<th>Algorithm</th>
<th>Average Complexity</th>
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<tr>
<td>DS</td>
<td>21.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSS</td>
<td>20.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHLDSP</td>
<td>20.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4SS</td>
<td>20.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td>20.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTSS</td>
<td>20.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5: PSNR Comparison with other author results on Ultrasound Videos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref paper/ Author</th>
<th>Algorithm Used</th>
<th>PSNR / MSE / RMSE</th>
<th>Computation Complexity</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[2]</td>
<td>Speckle Image Velocimetry (SIV)</td>
<td>RMSE 1.51</td>
<td>Average of 2 frames</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed</td>
<td>Elongated Horizontal Large Diamond Search (EHLDSP)</td>
<td>PSNR 35.05</td>
<td>18.06 (search points)</td>
<td>Average of 30 frames</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### V. DISCUSSION

Diamond search (DS) algorithm is very popular after Full Search algorithm. FS computation time is too high as a result more preference is given to the DS algorithm reason being most accurate ME algorithm among others. Existing DS methods have a drawback of locating local minima and misses the optimum MV. For further improvement in the search efficiency and to overcome the above drawback modified DS algorithm called Elongated Horizontal LDSP has been proposed here, and is based on the DS algorithm. In proposed method PSNR improvement is seen in the range of 1.95% to 2.48% in comparison with other methods and computation complexity improvement is seen as 91%, 23%, 11%, 7% and 5% in comparison with ES, TSS, NTSS, 4SS and DS techniques respectively. Experimentation is done using the MATLAB 2017a on an INTEL Core i7 processor with 8GB of memory.
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VI. CONCLUSION

Search efficiency of Full Search (FS) is better than others. It has high accuracy in detecting Motion Estimation (ME) for small motions as well. FS can be considered as effective algorithms for proposed application. However the computational complexity is more in FS/ES, as a result more emphasis is given to Diamond Search after FS. Unwanted flow of blood motion between right and left atrium can be detected efficiently using these algorithms. Proposed method has less time complexity and better PSNR in comparison with other techniques evaluated in this work. As work is being done on heart more emphasis and importance is given to the accurate diagnosis of the disease, hence EHLDSP can be preferred over Full Search Method and DS and results obtained are good, visual results are also in line with DS, ES.

A. Future Work

As the application is in the medical domain, in the advance work more focus will be given on the accurate diagnosis. Real time, fast and accurate results can be obtained through extra steps in the algorithm by devising new technique for the assessment of heart diseases.

REFERENCES

8. ArshBajajarya, Student Member, IEEE, “Block matching algorithms for motion estimation”, DIP 6620 Spring 2004