



Resolution enrichment of side scan sonar image using wavelet based interpolation methods

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Abstract

The resolution of the side scan sonar image which is used to detect on seabed such as mines, ship wrecks, etc is low. This paper helps to utilize image processing techniques to enhance the resolution and thereby it makes detection and classification of underwater objects accurately. The proposed methods discussed in this paper are Discrete wavelet transform and stationary wavelet transform for enhancing the resolution.

Keywords: Sonar image, Side scan sonar, resolution, resolution enhancement, object detection, discrete wavelet transform, Stationary wavelet transform, resolution enhancement.

1. Introduction

There are many methods to capture the images under the water, of the technique is using side scan sonar equipment since it captures large area. But still the resolution of the side scan images has to be improved, because low frequency wave only reaches the seabed which reduces resolution. Large number of obstacles causes damages to sonar signals such as ambient noise, living habitat, suspended particles this in turn reduces the resolution of the images. Reduction in resolution degrades the image, so object recognition becomes inaccurate.

2. Literature survey

SUNAYA U.SHIRODKAR [1] 2014 proposed interpolation techniques, and lifting wavelet transform. In this paper the proposed method 1 is with respect to spatial resolution where it uses interpolation, stationary wavelet transform and integer wavelet transform. Also another proposed method LWT (Lifting Wavelet Transform) is used for the better resolution of the image. The proposed method is output is compared with existing method to check the result.

U. Anitha and S. Malarkkan, 2014 [2] presented the need of sonar image enhancement and object detection using image fusion techniques. This paper uses DWT (Discrete Wavelet Transform), segmentation and object detection. These algorithms increased the quality of SONAR images. The authors used equipment such as Side scan sonar (SSS) and Synthetic aperture sonar (SAS).

Pingxiang Li, et al [3] used the matching techniques as a method to enhance the resolution of the images. The authors used RG (rigorous working) Algorithm Pixel values of the low resolution images and the enhancement ratio are used to calculate the pixel values of high resolution image. So that the new image has the higher resolution compared to the old image.

Imen Mandhouj et al [4] 2012 discussed about the problem with the object detection on underwater by SONAR images. This is used in many fields such as underwater navigation, seabed mapping, for fishing, for oil mine detection and mines detection. This paper also uses image pre-processing which are classified into two domains spatial domain and transformed domain. Mayuri D.Patil [5] reviewed about the techniques of image resolution enhancement. In this paper interpolation, DCT, DFT, DTCWT wavelet transform techniques are reviewed which improves the resolution of the sonar image.

3. Existing method

Bilinear interpolation

The existing work used Bilinear Interpolation Techniques for resolution enhancement. Bilinear interpolation can be used where perfect image transformation is impossible with pixel matching, so that appropriate intensity values are assigned to pixels. Bilinear interpolation uses values of only the 4 nearest pixels, for pixels located in diagonal directions, unlike other interpolation techniques such as nearest neighbour interpolation and bi-cubic interpolation. Bi-linear interpolation an extension of the linear interpolation is used for interpolating the functions of two variables. The image produced after Bilinear Interpolation has many artifacts like blurring and blocking, etc. Hence wavelet transform methods are used for enhancing the resolution.

Proposed method

Underwater Images suffer from variations in operating and environmental conditions, target shapes and spatially varying clutter. The researchers developed techniques for underwater image preprocessing, enhancement. It is learnt that the process of getting a high resolved image is yet to be taken up. Hence it is necessary to design a new post processing algorithm for super resolution that is suitable to underwater images. The proposed method involves using wavelet transformation techniques like

Discrete wavelet transform and Stationary wavelet transform combined together produce high resolution images.

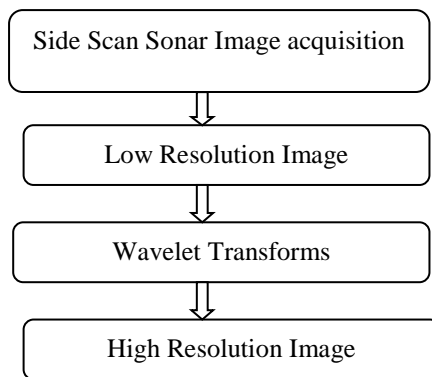


Fig.1: Block diagram of Resolution Enhancement using wavelet transform. Wavelet transform has both time and frequency information. It is used in many applications like denoising, compression, etc. One of the main advantages is that it preserves information and edges.

Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT)

Discrete wavelet transforms divide the signal into a set of wavelets which are mutually orthogonal, and where the wavelet samples are discrete in nature. This is one of the main differences from the discrete-time continuous wavelet transform (DT-CWT) and continuous wavelet transform (CWT). The mother wavelet constructed has a scaling function that describes its scaling properties and a shifting function which describes the translation properties. This method is applied to improve the resolution of the side scan sonar image since it preserves edges and reduces noise. When decomposing the image, some information loss takes place. So the following stationary wavelet transform method is adopted to minimize loss.

Stationary wavelet transform

Translation invariance in DWT is overcome by using **Stationary wavelet transform**. Translation invariance is obtained by removing the up and down samplers in DWT and upsampling the filter coefficients. The SWT is an inherently redundant scheme as the output of each level of SWT contains the same number of samples as the input – so for a decomposition of N levels there is a redundancy of N in the wavelet coefficients [6]. The high frequency subbands are interpolated with stationary wavelet transform and the combined with frequency subbands interpolated with discrete wavelet transform. The inverse wavelet transform is obtained to restore the image with high resolution.

4. Results and discussion

The following Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 illustrate the output of bilinear interpolation.

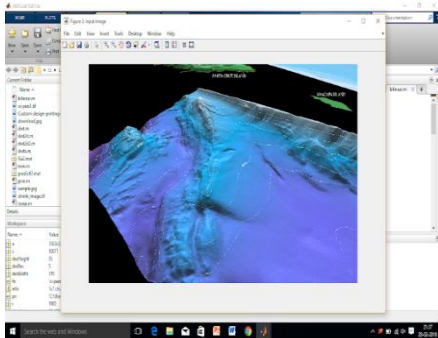


Fig.2: Bilinear interpolation

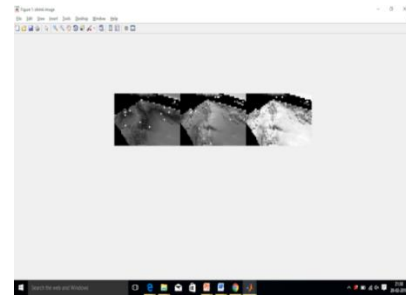


Fig 3

The following Fig. 4 illustrates the output of discrete wavelet transform.

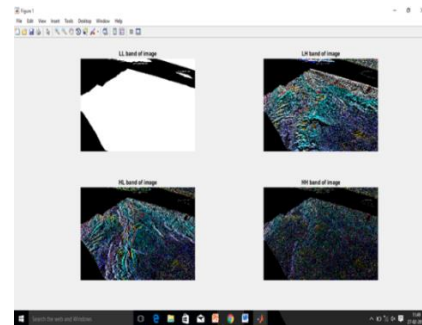


Fig.4: Discrete wavelet transform

5. Conclusion and future work

In our proposed work, we have enhanced the resolution of sonar images using wavelet transform techniques separately using Discrete wavelet transform and Stationary wavelet transforms, and further we get the clear quality of images in high resolution. The future work is planned to improve the resolution of real data images.

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