

A New Random Valued Impulse Noise Detection Algorithm to Eliminate Mis-detection

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Abstract: A new detection algorithm is proposed for images that are corrupted by Random Valued Impulse Noise. In all the existing detection algorithms, the drawback encountered is ‘Mis-detection of noise-free pixels’. The proposed algorithm eliminates mis-detection of noise free pixels till 90% noise density. In filtering stage, fuzzy switching median filter is used to replace the detected noisy pixels. Simulation results reveals that Proposed algorithm works better than other state-of-the-art detection algorithms.

Key words: Random valued impulse noise, mis-detection, median filter, fuzzy switching median filter, simulation

INTRODUCTION

Impulse noise is generally two types: Fixed value impulse noise and Random value impulse noise. The fixed value impulse noise is otherwise referred as salt and pepper noise. In this type of noise, pixels takes the value 0 or 255. The Random Value Impulse Noise (RVIN) is the second type of impulse noise, where pixels are corrupted by values between 0 and 255 and hence it is difficult to handle RVIN (Awad, 2011). Noise removal from images is still a challenging problem. There exist several algorithms (Civicioglu, 2009; Chen *et al.*, 1999; Abreu *et al.*, 1996; Ng and Ma, 2006; Akkoul *et al.*, 2010; Wenbin, 2005) and each algorithm has its own advantages, assumptions and limitations. Some schemes utilize detection of impulsive noise followed by filtering where as other schemes, irrespective of corruption, filter all the pixels. The disadvantage of the later process is that it filters all the pixels irrespective of corruption. In the detection stage of all the existing algorithms, mis-detection of noise free pixels occurs.

A new detection algorithm is proposed to overcome this mis-detection of noise free pixels. The proposed phenomenon has been divided in two steps. First one is detection of noisy pixel and second one filtering stage. In the first stage the noise-free and noisy pixels of the corrupted image are discriminated. Now, in the noise filtering stage, the detected noisy pixels are removed using fuzzy switching median filter.

Literature review: Many researchers have suggested a large number of RVIN algorithms and compared their

results (Civicioglu, 2009; Chen *et al.*, 1999; Abreu *et al.*, 1996; Ng and Ma, 2006; Akkoul *et al.*, 2010; Wenbin, 2005). The main objective on all such algorithms is to remove impulsive noise while preserving image details such as edges. All such algorithms involves two-step process. Detection followed by filtering. Noisy and noise-free pixels are discriminated in detection stage. In most cases, Median filter being the most popular non-linear filter is involved in filtering stage (Jain, 1989).

For comparative analysis Single Threshold Detection Algorithm (STDA) (Seetharaman and Vijayaragavan, 2012), Dual threshold Detection Algorithm (DTDA) (Shrivastav and Changlani, 2015), Condition Based Detection Algorithm (CBDA) (Ramadan, 2014), Optimal Direction Based Detection Algorithm (ODBA) is considered (Awad, 2011).

In case of STDA (Seetharaman and Vijayaragavan, 2012) detection stage involves predefined single threshold to determine noisy and noise free pixels followed by filtering. Here, the range of pixel values used for identifying the noisy pixels will be large. This may increase the possibility of incorrect detection. In case of DTDA (Shrivastav and Changlani, 2015) two threshold values are employed to detect noisy pixels in the detection stage. Threshold values are not predefined and it depends on the sliding window pixel values. Here, the noisy pixels are identified in a relatively narrow range and thus the probability of incorrect detection are reduced. In detection stage of CBDA (Ramadan, 2014) two conditions have to be met to determine whether an image pixel is noisy or not. In condition based algorithm, detection part is stronger compared to single and dual threshold based

algorithms. In ODBA (Awad, 2011), four directions which involves centre pixel is considered in detection stage. Size of the sliding window to be considered here is larger compared to previous algorithms. Hence the computation time is more.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Noise model: The noise type considered here is more realistic and general than the well-known xed valued impulsive noise that takes a value of 0 or 255 (salt and pepper noise) (Ng and Ma, 2006). The Probability density function of noise model considered is expressed as :

$$f(C_{i,j}) = \begin{cases} ND / 2 & 0 \leq C_{i,j} < d \\ 1 - ND & C_{i,j} = V_{i,j} \\ ND / 2 & 225 - d < C_{i,j} \leq 225 \end{cases}$$

Where $C_{i,j}$ is the (i,j)th pixel in the corrupted image. $O_{i,j}$ is the (i,j)th pixel in the original image and ND is the noise density. The dynamic range of the pixel values is between 0 and L-1, where L is 2^n and n is number of bits per pixel.

Proposed work: In the algorithms discussed above, the drawback encountered in all the cases is misdetection of noise free pixels i.e., Noise free pixels are also detected as noisy which is thus referred as ‘Misdetection of noise free pixels’. The main objective of the proposed work is to eliminate the drawback of misdetection. Let C be the image corrupted of size MxN and $C(x, y)$ denotes the intensity value at pixel location (x, y). A sliding window of size W is considered. $W = 2K+1$ where K is initially ‘1’.

Detection stage: The Proposed algorithm works as follows :

Step 1: A sliding window of size 3*3 is applied to the corrupted image. Consider four subwindows in the chosen sliding window.

$$\begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & \\ 2 & & \end{matrix}$$

- $S_1 = \{(0, 0), (0, 1), (1, 0), (1, 1)\}$
- $S_2 = \{(0, 1), (0, 2), (1, 1), (1, 2)\}$
- $S_3 = \{(1,0), (1, 1), (2, 0),(2, 1)\}$
- $S_4 = \{(1,1), (1,2),(2,1),(2,2)\}$

Step 2: Sum of the absolute differences between centre pixel and other pixels is computed for each subwindow. (1,1) is the centre pixel location in the case considered. The Window corresponding to the minimum value (among the four) is defined as the optimum window.

Step 3: Calculation of thresholds for the defined optimum window Where:

- Threshold 1 = Max {Average of rows and columns of optimum window}
- Threshold 2 = Min {Average of rows and columns of optimum window}

Step 4: Condition for detection. Based on the conditions a mask is defined. Noise value with 1 represents pixel is corrupted. Noise value with 0 represents pixel is noise-free (uncorrupted):

$$\text{Noise}(x,y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (CP > \text{Threshold 1 and } \\ & CP < \text{Threshold 2 and } \\ & \text{Prob_Noisy}=1) \\ 0 & \text{if } (CP < \text{Threshold 1 or } \\ & CP > \text{Threshold 2 and } \\ & \text{Prob_Noisy}=0) \end{cases}$$

Where CP- Centre pixel. Threshold 1 and Threshold 2 are defined as above. ‘Probability to be a noisy pixel’ (Prob Noisy) is defined as follows.

$$\text{Prob_Noisy} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 0 = CP < d \\ & \text{or } 255-d < CP = 255 \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Centre Pixel (CP) considered may be a noisy pixel if CP satisfies the above defined condition and it sets to 0 otherwise.

Step 5: When equality cases occur for CP with respect to thresholds defined i.e., 3 equality cases can be considered here. 1. $CP < \text{Threshold 1} \ \& \ CP = \text{Threshold 2}$
 2. $CP > \text{Threshold 2} \ \& \ CP = \text{Threshold 1}$
 3. $CP = \text{Threshold 1} \ \& \ CP = \text{Threshold 2}$

When any of the above case is met, following steps are implemented

Step 6: Consider four directions in the chosen sliding window which includes the centre pixel (Central row, central column, right diagonal, left diagonal).

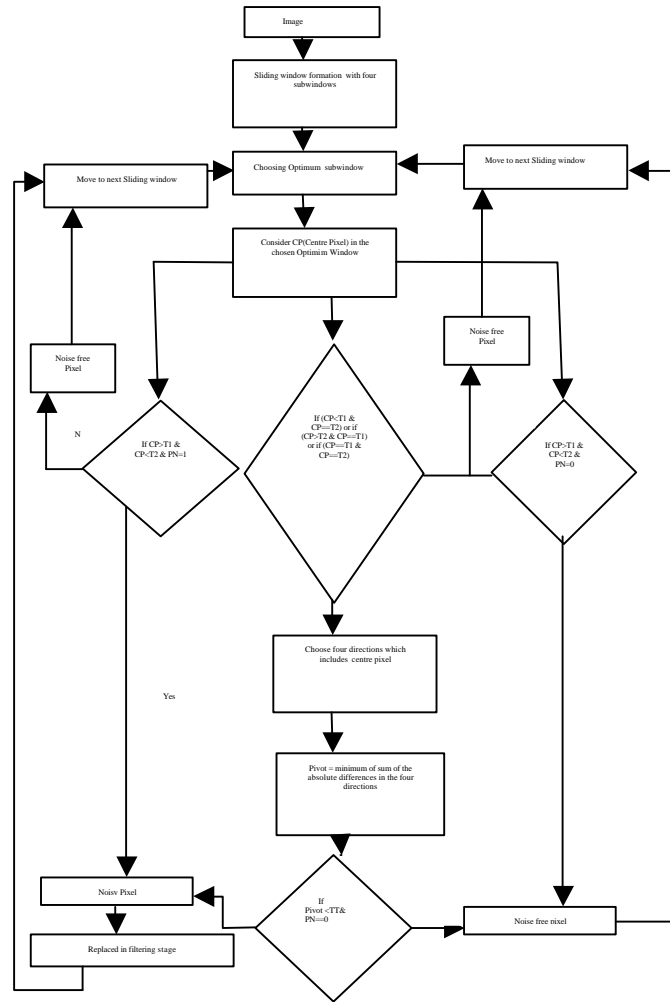


Fig. 1: Detection stage-block diagram

Central row = { (1,0),(1,1),(1,2) }
 Central column = { (0,1),(1,1),(2,1) }
 Right diagonal = { (0,2),(1,1),(2,1) }
 Left diagonal = { (0,0),(1,1),(2,2) }

Sum of the absolute differences between centre Pixel and other pixels is computed for each direction which results in four values.

Step 7: Minimum value among the four values computed above is considered to be pivot value.

Step 8: Based on the pivot value, detection condition is defined as follows

$$\text{Noise}(x,y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if Pivot} < \text{Threshold } T \text{ \& Prob_Noisy}=0 \\ 1 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Threshold $T = \text{Max} \{ \text{Average of all the rows and columns in the sliding window considered} \}$. Pivot and Prob-Noisy is defined as above.

Filtering stage: In the recent years, Fuzzy switching median filter is the most probably used filter. Compared to other filters, fuzzy switching median filter gives better results. So filtering stage utilizes fuzzy switching method by Toh and Isa (2010). Figure 1 shows the block diagram of detection stage of proposed algorithm. In Fig. 1 given CP represents the Centre Pixel, T_1, T_2, TT represents the Threshold 1 and Threshold 2 and Threshold T . PN represents the Prob Noisy. The pixels which are marked noisy are replaced in the filtering stage. Noise-free pixels are retained the same without any modification. Thus, only noisy pixels are considered in filtering stage which are replaced in fuzzy switching median filtered output.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The simulation results are obtained for Lena image of size 256x256. Comparative analysis is done for the proposed algorithm with various other algorithms discussed in section III using Peak Signal to Noise Ratio (PSNR), Mean Square Error (MSE) and SSIM values (Structural Similarity Index). For illustration purpose, here a portion of Lena image (5x5) is considered with 50% noise density and misdetection of noise-free pixels is discussed below. According to the defined noise model equal probability of salt and pepper noise is added here. 'detected' matrix values with 1 represents corrupted pixel and 0 represents Uncorrupted pixel. cImage represents corrupted image pixel values.

Original – Image =
 99 90 125 117 82
 86 92 142 138 95
 88 65 104 89 128
 81 60 86 89 153
 80 48 94 139 90

cImage =
 252 4 125 117 82
 86 254 251 138 95
 88 253 104 3 128
 255 60 4 89 251
 3 48 2 139 90

In this case, 252 4 254 251 95 253 3 255 4 251 3 2 in cImage represents the corrupted pixels and the other pixels are noise-free pixels.

detected – single – threshold =
 1 1 0 0 1
 0 1 1 0 0
 0 1 0 1 0
 1 0 1 0 1
 0 0 1 0 1

detected – dual – threshold =
 1 1 0 0 1
 1 1 1 0 0
 1 1 0 1 0
 1 0 1 0 1
 1 0 1 0 1

Table 1: MSE Values for various algorithms for Lena image

Noise Density%	Simple Median	CBDA	DTDA	STDA	Proposed Algorithm
10	20.2532	2.5712	6.1220	12.5215	2.4218
20	22.2043	5.7286	6.4684	13.8772	5.3265
30	23.7201	9.1319	8.4948	16.3682	8.4742
40	25.1341	11.5351	12.0403	18.2402	11.3957
50	26.4404	15.3874	16.2737	21.7089	14.5539
60	27.0546	17.4696	18.1610	27.2132	18.5855
70	29.9294	25.2296	22.9535	30.5294	21.5089
80	33.5667	29.5116	22.7060	34.3305	24.9425
90	35.1055	38.2801	26.5101	37.4545	32.3642
95	36.0501	34.3604	28.1224	40.9841	28.2753

Table 2: PSNR Values for various algorithms for Lena Image

Noise Density%	Simple Median	CBDA	DTDA	STDA	Proposed Algorithm
10	35.0659	44.0295	40.2619	37.1542	44.2894
30	34.3796	38.5252	38.6393	35.9908	38.8498
40	34.1282	37.5106	36.1133	35.5205	37.5634
50	33.9081	36.2592	35.9009	34.7644	36.5010
60	33.8084	35.1080	34.0461	33.7830	35.4391
70	33.3698	34.1117	33.3539	33.2836	34.8046
80	32.8717	33.4309	33.2694	32.7740	34.1614
90	32.6771	32.3011	32.8967	32.0958	33.0302
95	32.5617	32.7702	31.6403	32.0047	33.6167

Table 3: SSIM values for various algorithms Lena Image

Noise Density%	CBDA	DTDA	STDA	Proposed Algorithm
10	0.8983	0.8245	0.8145	0.9818
20	0.8733	0.7982	0.7263	0.9414
30	0.7364	0.6732	0.6244	0.8620
40	0.6452	0.5930	0.5329	0.7570
50	0.5982	0.4829	0.4420	0.6562
60	0.4922	0.3292	0.3127	0.5391
70	0.3902	0.2893	0.2967	0.4388
80	0.2453	0.1923	0.1182	0.3217
90	0.2224	0.1567	0.1123	0.2765
95	0.1934	0.1354	0.1084	0.1012

detected – proposed =
 1 1 0 0 0
 0 1 1 0 0
 0 1 0 1 0
 1 0 1 0 1
 1 0 1 0 0

From the detected output, its seen that In single threshold case, pixels 82, 86 are misdetection as noisy pixels and are replaced as '1'. In dual threshold case, pixels 82, 86, 88 are misdetection as noisy pixels and are replaced as '1'. Whereas, in proposed case, only noisy pixels are replaced with '1'. There occurs no misdetection of noise free pixels as noisy pixels and hence misdetection is eliminated. In Proposed algorithm, misdetection can be eliminated till 90% noise density and 20% error occurs when noise density is above 90%.

From the simulation results, it is concluded that misdetection is eliminated completely till 90% noise density. 20% error occurs in case of noise density above 90%. Table 1 shows the MSE values for the algorithms discussed. Table 2 shows the PSNR values and Table 3



Fig. 2: Restored images: a) Original image; b) 50% noisy image; c) Simple median filter; d) Single threshold algorithm; e) Dual threshold algorithm; f) Condition based algorithm and g) Proposed algorithm



Fig. 3: Restored images: a) Original image; b) 90% noisy image; c) Simple median filter; d) Single threshold algorithm; e) Dual threshold algorithm; f) Condition based algorithm and g) Proposed algorithm

shows the SSIM values. From the Tables it is inferred that Proposed algorithm gives better results compared to all other algorithms.

From the simulation results it is concluded that Proposed algorithm outperforms the other discussed algorithms in terms of PSNR, MSE and SSIM values for Lena image of size 256×256 . Figure 2 and 3 displays the simulation results of Lena image with 256×256 with 50 and 90% noise density using Matlab R2012, respectively. The restored output image for the proposed algorithm is found to be better than the other discussed algorithms.

CONCLUSION

The proposed algorithm effectively eliminate ‘Mis-detection of noise free pixels’ (as noisy pixels) till 90% of noise density. PSNR, MSE and SSIM values for the proposed algorithm is found to be better than the other discussed algorithms. Simple threshold calculations

results in lesser computation time. The restored images with the proposed algorithm is satisfactory till 50% noise density. Beyond 50% noise density when the filtering window size is increased, it results in image blurring.

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