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Histogram of gradient and binarized statistical image features of wavelet subband-based palmprint features extraction

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Abstract. Palmprint recognition systems are dependent on feature extraction. A method of feature extraction using higher discrimination information was developed to characterize palmprint images. In this method, two individual feature extraction techniques are applied to a discrete wavelet transform of a palmprint image, and their outputs are fused. The two techniques used in the fusion are the histogram of gradient and the binarized statistical image features. They are then evaluated using an extreme learning machine classifier before selecting a feature based on principal component analysis. Three palmprint databases, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) Multispectral Palmprint Database, Hong Kong PolyU Palmprint Database II, and the Delhi Touchless (IITD) Palmprint Database, are used in this study. The study shows that our method effectively identifies and verifies palmprints and outperforms other methods based on feature extraction. © 2017 SPIE and IS&T [DOI: 10.1117/1.JEI.26.6.063006]

Keywords: palmprint recognition; histogram of gradient; binarized statistical image features; feature extraction; principal component analysis; extreme learning machine.

1 Introduction

As security threats have become increasingly sophisticated, the demand for biometric capability has risen. Services that demand authentication and high levels of data protection are increasingly dependent on convenient biometric security. The scope for applying biometric security to identify and verify an individual through their physical or behavioral attributes is broad. Forensic science and access control are two capacities that have stimulated an increase in biometric research. Physical characteristics that have been used for identification and verification purposes include face, fingerprint, gait, iris, keystroke, and palmprint. Some of the methods used in identifying these characteristics are well established and widely implemented in particular fields. Palmprint images have the qualities of being unique, reliable, and stable, and the techniques for distinguishing palmprints are flexible, noninvasive, user-friendly and have good discrimination capabilities. The principal lines, minutiae points, ridges, wrinkles, and texture of palmprints are the features that confer their uniqueness.

Over the past 10 years, palmprint recognition (PPR) has been the subject of investigation. This study contributes to the research by detailing a technique that further enhances recognition accuracy by generating superior discrimination information during feature extraction. Of the numerous PPR techniques that have recently emerged, coding-based methods of multispectral palmprint images, which generate high recognition rates, are most popular. In our study, a PPR method that fuses palm features is proposed and aims to surpass the performance of preexisting techniques.

At each of the three stages of the standard biometric cognition process, the experimental method is applied to promote recognition performance. The stages are (i) application of the discrete wavelet transform on palmprint images, (ii) the final feature code that is derived from the fusion of histogram of gradient (HOG) and binarized statistical image features (BSIF), and (iii) matching using extreme learning machine (ELM), which determines the inter- and intraspectral similarities in palmprint feature maps. Testing the method on the IIT Delhi palmprint image database (IITD), PolyU multispectral palmprint database (MSPolyU), and PolyU palmprint database (PPDB) generated results that indicate that the method has a high identification and verification accuracy. Specifically, it achieved 98.17% in its identification rate and a 0.016 equal error rate (EER). These results are superior to those of similar methods, such as those described in Ref. 4, in which the EER for the MSPolyU database was 0.034 higher than in our experimental method. The methods outlined in Ref. 5 also performed worse than the experimental method.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Sec. 2, related work regarding PPR is introduced. Section 3 describes the proposed method. Section 4 provides the results of the experiments, and Sec. 5 gives a conclusion.

2 Related Work

A major stage common to PPR systems is the feature extraction process. The goal of this step is to capture the most distinctive information from the region of interest (ROI) that has been identified. A number of algorithms are available for this purpose, and they can be distinguished accordingly: structural-based approaches, such as local line direction patterns, Sobel/Canny edge lines or minutiae determined by scale-invariant feature transform or speeded-up robust
features;\(^6\) appearance-based approaches, such as subspace based on EigenPalm and principal component analysis (PCA);\(^7\) statistical approaches, such as Gabor and wavelet;\(^6,\)\(^7\) coding-based methods (e.g., palmcode);\(^8\) or hybrid techniques, such as two-dimensional (2-D) Fisher locality preserving projections.\(^9,\)\(^10\)

We were attracted by the success of coding-based methods that encode the responses of a bank of filters into bitwise features. Our interests extend to multiscale schemes that denote palm lines represented at higher scales. This approach has yielded several algorithms by other researchers. Based on a normalized 2-D Gabor filter, Zhang et al.\(^8\) devised an effective palm-code algorithm. By contrast, the multi-scale-oriented 2-D log-Gabor filters devised by Sellami-Masmoudi and Djemal\(^11\) used competitive coding. The competition coding approach was also used by Tahmasebi et al.\(^7\) to encode the dominant orientation. Jia et al.\(^3\) employed line-orientation code based on a modified finite Radon transform, which is similar to the competitive code. In Ref. 7, the multispectral approach of Zhang et al is described; in this approach, features are extracted by competitive coding using six oriented 2-D Gabor filters for each spectral band. A score fusion at the recognition stage completes the process. Gabor filters were also used by Tahmasebi et al.\(^7\) to create a rank-level fusion for a multispectral palmprint system. A different approach is taken in Ref. 12, which fuses the features extracted by Gabor and matched filters from both a palmprint and vein of the palm, to create a combined palmprint and palmvein verification system. Ribaric and Fratric\(^13\) explored using a sparse competitive code based on the second derivative of Gaussians with a bank of 18 multiscale oriented filters. The hierarchical approach of Zhang et al.\(^14\) fused a rough feature extraction using a block-dominant orientation code. This was subsequently refined using a block-based histogram of oriented gradients from the different spectral bands. The technique of Kumar and Shen\(^15\) used a bidirectional representation derived from pattern classification. Laadjiel et al.\(^16\) collected recent advanced research studies on multispectral biometrics, including multispectral PPR. Laadjiel et al.\(^17\) proposed a new multispectral PPR system that combined a digital Shearlet transform and multiclass projection ELM. Fei et al.\(^9\) introduced a method that used a double half-orientation bank of half-Gabor filters, designed for half-orientation extraction. A double-orientation code based on Gabor filters and nonlinear matching scheme was described in Ref. 10. The methods presented in Refs. 9 and 10 were evaluated using multispectral palmprints from the MSPolyU database.

The technique of competitive coding favored by some researchers captures discriminative-orientation information of the palm line contrast in a filtering process that uses a neurophysiological Gabor function. It has a competitive rule of winner-take-all. Inspired by the human visual system,\(^18\) this popular state-of-the-art texture-based feature-extraction algorithm compares images of palm lines. Palm lines are specific multiscale features. In contrast to fine lines and wrinkles that are vulnerable to change or disappear depending on lighting, principal lines are well-defined and clear at large scales. Palm lines are determined to be positive if they are bright or negative if dark.\(^19\) In the spatial domain, a 2-D Gabor function is a Gaussian multiplied by a complex exponential and can be seen as a Gaussian that has shifted from the origin in the Fourier domain. It is well-suited to image-processing applications because of its mathematical properties. These include a smooth and infinitely differentiable shape. In addition, the modulus is mononodal, and the joint localization of space, orientation, and frequency is optimal. Moreover, as a model, the 2-D Gabor function closely mimics the properties of simple receptive fields in the primary visual cortex (V1) of primates as shown in the statistics of natural images.\(^20\) Using filters with transfer functions that are Gaussian when viewed on the logarithmic frequency scale have been shown to result in superior encoded natural images.\(^21\) In particular, log-Gabor filters generate better discrimination of image features than do Gabor filters. This can be attributed to the transfer function being viewed at a logarithmic frequency scale that includes limited maximum bandwidth; this is confined to approximately one octave on Gabor filters. However, this is below the level necessary to achieve broad spectral information and maximum spatial localization.

Of the several texture-oriented methods for PPR, HOG emerges as an outstanding and effective descriptor of texture features. It is resistant to changes in rotation and illumination. The experimental method outlined in this study unites HOG descriptor with BSIF. The effect of fusing the descriptor during feature extraction results in a daughter descriptor with a recognition performance that exceeds the parent descriptor.

3 Proposed Method

The proposed method pipeline for PPR based on BSIF and HOG features is shown in Fig. 1. The scheme is composed of two steps.

![Fig. 1 Proposed method pipeline.](image-url)


3.1 Region of Interest Extraction

Effective PPR demands accurate ROI extraction. This means that a region of the palmprint that is rich in features, such as principal lines, ridges, and wrinkles, must be identified; this region is then extracted using the algorithm devised by Han.\(^{22}\) which computes the center of mass and valley regions to align the palmprint.

We performed our ROI extraction only on images from the PolyU PPDB. Note that ROI images were already available in the MSPolyU and IITD databases (see Fig. 2).

3.2 Haar Wavelet Transform

The efficient and simple Harr wavelet transform\(^{23}\) is used to extract local information from a color texture map and the original color map to enhance the local contrast. Dividing the image into subbands preserves additional texture, shape, and color information, thereby decreasing the dimensionality. As explained in Refs. 23 and 24, the 2-D Haar wavelet transform is defined as an image projection onto the 2-D Haar basis functions formed by the tensor product of the one-dimensional (1-D) Haar scaling function and 1-D Haar wavelet function (see Fig. 3).

The Haar scaling function \(\phi(x)\)\(^{24}\) is defined by the following equation:

\[
\phi(x) = \begin{cases} 
1, & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\
0, & \text{otherwise} 
\end{cases}
\]

In our paper, we presented our ROI palmprint image as signal 1-D; then we applied the scaling function

\[
\phi_{i,j}(x) = 2^j \phi(2^j x - i),
\]

where for any \(i \in \mathbb{Z}, j\) determines the position of \(\phi_{i,j}(x)\) along the \(x\)-axis and \(i\) determines the \(\phi_{i,j}(x)\)'s width.

The vector spaces \(V\) can be spanned by the scaling functions \(\phi_{i,j}(x)\) and are nested as follows:

\[
V^0 \subset V^1 \subset V^2 \subset \ldots
\]

The Haar wavelet's mother wavelet function \(\psi(x)\) is expressed as

\[
\psi(x) = \begin{cases} 
1, & 0 \leq x \leq 1/2 \\
-1, & 1/2 \leq x \leq 1 \\
0, & \text{otherwise} 
\end{cases}
\]

The Haar wavelets are then generated from the mother wavelet by scaling and translation. The 2-D Haar basis functions are the tensor product of the 1-D scaling and wavelet functions.

3.3 Histogram of Gradient Descriptor

Information regarding image shape features is stored in histograms of object edges within subbands of the images after wavelet transformation.

The HOG method\(^{26-28}\) was applied to these wavelet-transformed images to extract shape features. The number of edges having orientations with a specific range was represented by each bin within the histogram. Concatenating the calculated histograms with all of the HOG descriptor’s four subbands generated the HOG descriptor containing both the texture and shape information and thus the information required to retrieve the original image. The directional binary code and Haar wavelet transform enhance high-frequency features, such as edges.

To produce local gradient histograms, the gradient must first be calculated before each cell’s orientation histogram is built. Then, the histograms and their individual groups of cells are normalized. These steps are described in detail as follows.

The gradient calculation is achieved by first filtering with a 1-D horizontal discrete derivative mask, \(D_x\), and a 1-D horizontal discrete derivative mask, \(D_y\), as shown in the following Eq. (5), through convolution, as shown in Eq. (6)

\[
D_x = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad D_y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix},
\]

\[
I(x) = I * D_x \quad \text{and} \quad I(y) = I * D_y.
\]

The size of the gradient is

\[
|G| = \sqrt{I(x)^2 + I(y)^2}.
\]

In addition, its orientation is shown in the following equation:
BSIF was first introduced by Kannala and Rahtu.

3.4 Binarized Statistical Image Features

BSIF was first introduced by Kannala and Rahtu. This method represents a binary code string for the pixels of a given image, where the code value of a pixel is considered a local descriptor of the image surrounding the pixel. Given an image $I_p$ and a linear filter $W_i$ of the same size, the filter response $R_i$ is found as

$$R_i = \sum_{m,n} I_p(m,n)W_i(m,n),$$

where $m$ and $n$ denote the size of the PPI patch and $W_i$ denotes the number of linear filters for all $i = \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ whose response can be calculated and binarized to obtain the following binary string:

$$b_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } R_i > 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The BSIF codes are presented as a histogram of pixel binary codes, which can effectively distinguish the texture features of the PPI. The filter size and length of bit strings are important for effectively evaluating the BSIF descriptor for palmprint verification. In this study, eight filter sizes $(3 \times 3, 5 \times 5, 7 \times 7, 9 \times 9, 11 \times 11, 13 \times 13, 15 \times 15,$ and $17 \times 17)$ with four bit lengths $(6, 7, 9,$ and $11)$ were assessed (see Figs. 5 and 6).

3.5 Feature-Level Fusion

By uniting the biometric information before matching it, we can obtain feature-level fusion results in greater detail. Furthermore, compared with score-level fusion, feature-level fusion has a faster response time. The drawback of this system, which has limited its widespread uptake, is that it struggles to fuse incompatible feature vectors derived from multiple modalities.

Creating a linked series of extracted features is the simplest type of feature-level fusion. However, concatenation may result in the “curse of dimensionality.”

3.5.1 Normalization of feature vector

Because of the deviation in their ranges and distributions, feature vectors extracted separately from BSIF and the HOG features are incompatible. Using the min–max, z-score, or median can normalize the feature vectors, thus improving compatibility. In this study, the min–max normalization scheme was used to normalize the feature vectors in the range $[0, 1]$. If $X = [x_1, x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_n]$ was the feature vector, the normalized feature vector could then be represented using min–max normalization

$$x' = \frac{x_i - \text{Min}(X)}{\text{Max}(X) - \text{Min}(X)}. \tag{11}$$

3.5.2 Fusing the feature vector

By concatenating the normalized feature vectors of BSIF and HOG features into a single fused vector [see Eq. (12)], we can achieve the definitive fused vector. Let the normalized feature vectors be $E_t = [e_1, e_2, e_3, \ldots, e_n]$ for BSIF and $I_t = [i_1, i_2, i_3, \ldots, i_n]$ for HOG extraction. The fused vector is represented as

$$\text{Fused vector} = [e_1, e_2, e_3, \ldots, e_n, i_1, i_2, i_3, \ldots, i_n]. \tag{12}$$

3.6 Feature Selection Based on Principal Component Analysis

The vector dimension is minimized in PCA-based feature selection, and a new feature vector is created. To find the optimal projection bases, PCA draws on statistical distribution of the set of given features to generate new features. This method locates the projection of the feature vector based on a set of basis vectors. Let $F = \{f_t, t = 12 \ldots M\}$ be a set of $M$ $n$-dimensional feature vectors.
Extreme Learning Machine

Single-hidden layer feedforward neural networks often were learned by utilizing ELM. The iterative tuning of obscured nodes is not necessary after random initialization using ELM has been performed. Thus, learning must occur only for the input weight parameters. If \((x_j, y_j), j = [1, \ldots, q]\) indicates \(A\) as the training sample with \(x_j \in \mathbb{R}^M\) and \(y_j \in \mathbb{R}^M\), then the following equation can be used for the ELMs output function with \(L\) obscured neurons

\[
f_l(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{L} g_i w_i(x) = \Omega(x)G.
\]

The \(m > 1\) output nodes are associated with the hidden nodes by the output weight vector \(G = [g_1, \ldots, g_L]\). With the nonlinear activation function represented by \(\Omega(x) = [w_1(x), \ldots, w_L(x)]\), the following formula is an explicit form variation of the system \(\Omega_l(x)\):

\[
\Omega_l(x) = \beta(\tau_l x + \theta_l), \quad \tau_l \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad \theta_l \in \mathbb{R}.
\]

With the obscured layer parameters \((\tau, \theta)\) having the activation function \(\beta(\cdot)\), the following least squares norm was used to resolve the output weight \(\Omega\) and training data error minimization during the second phase of ELM learning

\[
\min \|\Omega - H\|^2, \quad G \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times M},
\]

where the hidden neurons layer system being identified by \(\Omega\) is

---

**Fig. 5** Samples from MSPolyU database and corresponding BSIF codes: (a) palmprint image, (b) filters 3 \(\times\) 3 5-bit, (c) filters 7 \(\times\) 7 6-bit, (d) filters 11 \(\times\) 11 8-bit, (e) filters 15 \(\times\) 15 9-bit, and (f) filters 17 \(\times\) 17 11-bit.

**Fig. 6** BSIF codes of wavelet subband: (a) palmprint image, (b) BSIF features of the approximation coefficient, (c) BSIF features of the horizontal coefficient, (d) BSIF features of the vertical coefficient, and (e) BSIF features of the diagonal coefficient.
eralized inverse matrix, with the inverse of solution for Eq. (16) are optimal solution. The study in Ref. 34 presents the optimal solution for Eq. (15) in the form of the Moore–Penrose generalized inverse matrix, with the inverse of Ω being Ω.

\[
Ω = \begin{bmatrix}
\beta(\tau_1-x_1 + \theta_1) & \ldots & \beta(\tau_L-x_1 + \theta_L) \\
\vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
\beta(\tau_1-x_N + \theta_1) & \ldots & \beta(\tau_L-x_N + \theta_L)
\end{bmatrix} \quad \text{(16)}
\]

Then, the training data matrix \(H\) can be presented as

\[
H = \begin{bmatrix}
h_1^T \\
\vdots \\
h_N^T
\end{bmatrix} \quad \text{(17)}
\]

That the training set \(L/Q\) values are greater than the amount of hidden neurons \(L\) is taken to be the case in reality for the training error in Eq. (15) to be diminished through the optimal solution. The study in Ref. 34 presents the optimal solution for Eq. (15) in the form of the Moore–Penrose generalized inverse matrix, with the inverse of Ω being Ω.

4 Assessment Protocol

To test the validity of our scheme, exhaustive experiments were conducted using data available through three large-scale publicly available PPDBs: (1) PolyU PPDB, (2) IIT Delhi PPDB, and (3) multispectral PolyU PPDB. The results are presented in terms of the EER together with their statistical validation.

We gathered 7752 palmprint images in two sessions (two months apart) from 193 individuals (62 females and 131 males) stored in the PolyU database. As each session involved the capture of 10 images from each palm, 386 classes of palms were present in the database, with each class containing ∼20 images. All images were cropped to 128 × 128 pixels.

In the IITD database, 230 individuals contributed 5 images from both palms to produce a database of 2300 contactless palmprint images. The images were cropped to 150 × 150 pixels.

The third database (multispectral) was composed of four independent spectral databases of palmprints, each of which was collected from 250 volunteers (55 females and 195 males). The four databases stored information on different images from the color spectrum (in green, red, near-infrared, and blue), with 12 images for each being stored for each palm of each volunteer. Therefore, the spectral database for each color consists of 6000 images from 500 palms. The images stored in the multispectral database were cropped to 128 × 128 pixels.

5 Results and Discussion

5.1 Identification Rates

For this study, the BSIF histogram and HOG feature vectors were combined to form the last feature vector. To obtain the best results, BSIF filters with different sizes and bits were chosen. The degrees of accuracy are shown in Fig. 7.

The 17 × 17 filter with an 11-bit length was selected based on the superior experimental accuracy achieved with this combination. The performance of the fused HOG and BSIF applied to different databases is presented in Table 1. It shows that, compared with other feature extraction methods, the experimental method provides a superior performance, with an EER from 0.016 to 0.0538.

The proposed method was compared with several state-of-the-art orientation-based techniques, including the ordinal code, fusion code, robust line orientation code (RLOC), palcode, binary orientation co-occurrence vector (BOCV), and half-orientation methods.

Several training palmprint images (between two and six for each palmprint database) were used to evaluate the proposed method’s performance. The test dataset comprised the remainder of the palmprint images. Therefore, the identification experiments were performed six times with \(N_{\text{train}}\) = 1 to 6. The IITD database contained only five palmprint images for each palm. For this database, \(N_{\text{train}}\) was 4.

Figure 8 shows the results for six palmprint databases. That the proposed method is superior to other orientation-based methods when applied to the PolyU and IITD databases is clear, it achieved lower error rates in both instances. Occasionally, the competitive method outperformed the proposed method on the multispectral databases (i.e., the blue, green, and near-infrared databases). A possible explanation for the poorer performance of the proposed method on these databases is that they contained relatively indistinct flat palmprint images. As such, the competitive code method extracted robust orientation features from the images, producing a higher level of accuracy of identification in specific instances.

Fig. 7 Average accuracy for different palmprint databases.
However, in the majority of conditions, the proposed method was found to be superior to the competitive method.

Combining HOG features with BSIF resulted in the last feature vector. To gauge the accuracy of the technique, we applied different numbers of features of different sizes to palmprints from all databases. The results are shown in Fig. 9. The EER results reveal that the most efficient number of features was 160 for the two databases Poly U and IIT Delhi and 120 for the rest.

### 5.2 Speed Performance

The proposed technique was implemented in MATLAB® version 10.3 using a PC with a dual-core Intel i5-6600 3.3-GHz processor and 8-GB RAM. The operating system was Windows 10.0. The method was compared with previous state-of-the-art methods based on feature extraction in terms of computational cost to evaluate the complexity of its computation. The average time required to perform feature extraction and matching over 100 runs was calculated to assess the computational complexity. The result is shown in Table 2. The proposed method was found to consume a greater amount of time during feature extraction than did the competitive code, BOCV, and half-orientation methods. However, the proposed method’s matching speed was a little higher as it used a simple matching scheme.

The proposed method required 22.117 ms to perform the operation. This is acceptable for practical applications, although it is slightly more time than with many conventional
methods based on orientation. Future work will focus on reducing the feature extraction time.

6 Conclusion

In this study, we proposed an approach for palmprint feature extraction. The method applies the Haar wavelet, HOG, and BSIF descriptor with the aim of extracting a palmprint image’s best features. The method is capable of extracting a greater quantity of information than the HOG and BSIF methods when applied individually. We validated our technique by extensive application to three large publicly available databases. The results compared with those of seven previous state-of-the-art methods. The method was found to be either comparable or superior to the methods. Therefore, the method is a robust and efficient method and, thus, is suitable for performing PPR. In the future, we will do more research on fusing two biometric modalities, which are the palmprint and iris, and extracting more discriminative information for bimodal identification system.

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