ADAPTIVE NOISE REDUCTION AND CODE MATCHING FOR IRIS PATTERN RECOGNITION SYSTEM

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To my beloved parents: "Eng. Gholamreza Banitalebi Dehkordi & Mrs. Rezvan Farzaneh Dehkordi" and my beloved brother "Alireza"

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ABSTRACT

Among all biometric modalities, iris is becoming more popular due to its high performance in recognizing or verifying individuals. Iris recognition has been used in numerous fields such as authentications at prisons, airports, banks and healthcare. Although iris recognition system has high accuracy with very low false acceptance rate, the system performance can still be affected by noise. Very low intensity value of eyelash pixels or high intensity values of eyelids and light reflection pixels cause inappropriate threshold values, and therefore, degrade the accuracy of system. To reduce the effects of noise and improve the accuracy of an iris recognition system, a robust algorithm consisting of two main components is proposed. First, an Adaptive Fuzzy Switching Noise Reduction (AFSNR) filter is proposed. This filter is able to reduce the effects of noise with different densities by employing fuzzy switching between adaptive median filter and filling method. Next, an Adaptive Weighted Shifting Hamming Distance (AWSHD) is proposed which improves the performance of iris code matching stage and level of decidability of the system. As a result, the proposed AFSNR filter with its adaptive window size successfully reduces the effects of different types of noise with different densities. By applying the proposed AWSHD, the distance corresponding to a genuine user is reduced, while the distance for impostors is increased. Consequently, the genuine user is more likely to be authenticated and the impostor is more likely to be rejected. Experimental results show that the proposed algorithm with genuine acceptance rate (GAR) of 99.98% and is accurate to enhance the performance of the iris recognition system.

ABSTRAK

Antara semua kaedah biometrik, iris menjadi semakin popular kerana berprestasi tinggi dalam mengenali atau mengesahkan individu. Pengiktirafan iris telah diguna dalam pelbagai bidang, seperti pengesahan di penjara, lapangan terbang, bank dan penjagaan kesihatan. Walaupun sistem pengecaman iris mempunyai ketepatan yang tinggi, prestasi sistem ini masih boleh dipengaruhi oleh hingar. Nilai intensiti bulu mata yang rendah atau nilai intensiti kelopak mata yang tinggi serta piksel pantulan cahaya menyebabkan tahap ambang yang tidak sesuai dan ini mengakibatkan ketepatan sistem akan menjadi rendah. Bagi mengurangkan kesan hingar dan meningkatkan ketepatan sistem pengecaman iris, satu algoritma tegar yang terdiri daripada dua komponen dicadangkan. Pertamanya, penggunaan penapis Adaptif Kabur Pensuisan Bunyi (AFSNR). Penapis ini dapat mengurangkan kesan gangguan hingar yang mempunyai ketumpatan hingar yang berlainan. Seterusnya, satu Pemindahan Berat Adaptif Jarak Hamming (AWSHD) dicadangkan yang dapat meningkatkan prestasi tahap pemadanan kod iris dan tahap penentuan sistem. Keputusan menunjukkan penapis AFSNR yang dicadangkan dengan penyubahsuaian saiz tingkap berjaya mengurangkan kesan pelbagai jenis hingar dengan pelbagai ketumpatan. Dengan penggunaan cadangan AWSHD, jarak sepadan dengan seseorang pengguna tulen dapat dikurangkan, manakala jarak penyamar dapat ditingkatkan. Hasilnya, pengguna tulen akan lebih dapat disahkan dan penyamar akan lebih dapat ditolak. Keputusan eksperimen menunjukkan bahawa algoritma yang dicadangkan ini memberikan kadar penerimaan tulen (GAR) setinggi 99.98% dan nilai ini cukup tepat untuk meningkatkan prestasi sistem pengenalan iris.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER		TITLE	PAGE
	DEC	CLARATION	ii
	DEI	DICATION	iii
	ACI	KNOWLEDGEMNET	iv
	ABS	STRACT	v
	ABS	STRAK	vi
	TAE	BLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIS	T OF TABLES	X
	LIS	T OF FIGURES	xii
	LIS	Τ OF ABBREVIATIONS	XV
	LIS	T OF SYMBOLS	xviii
	LIS	T OF APPENDICES	xix
1	INT	RODUCTION	1
	1.1	Overview	1
	1.2	Problem Statement	4
	1.3	Research Objectives	5
	1.4	Scope of Research	5
	1.5	Contributions	5
	1.5	Thesis Organization	6
2	LIT	ERATURE REVIEW	7
	2.1	Eye Anatomy	7
	2.2	Performance of Iris Recognition System	8
	2.3	Background of Iris Recognition System	10

		2.3.1 E	Early R	esearch in Iris Recognition	
		(1	1987-2	007)	10
		2.3.2 Pr	ototyp	e of Iris Recognition System	14
	2.4	Recent W	Vork in	Iris Recognition	16
		2.4.1 Ir	is Segi	mentation	17
		2.4.2 N	loise R	eduction	19
		2.	.4.2.1	Noise in Iris Recognition	19
		2.	.4.2.2	Related Work to Noise Recognition	21
				zation, Feature Extraction and Encoding	25
		2.4.4 Ir	is Cod	e Matching	27
		2.	.4.4.1	Related Work to Iris Code Matching and Hamming Distance	27
			-	tion, Restoration, Quality nent and Image Compression	29
				e and Evaluation and	30
		2.4.7 M		nance under Varying Conditions metrics	31
				tion and Hardware entation	31
	2.5	Fuzzifica	ation ar	nd Fuzzy Sets	32
	2.6	Summary	y		35
3	RES	EARCH I	METH	IODOLOGY	37
	3.1	Introduct	tion		37
	3.2	Segmenta	ation S	tage	40
	3.3	Normaliz	zation S	Stage	40
	3.4	Proposed Reduction		tive Fuzzy Switching Noise nod	41
	3.5	Feature E	Encodi	ng Stage	52
	3.6	-		Code Matching Using Adaptive ing Hamming Distance	53
			ammir ength	ng Distance with Adaptive	55
		3.6.2 V	Veight	ing Stage	61

		3.6.3	Shifting Stage	65
		3.6.4	Decidability Index	70
	3.7		Descriptions and Statistics of the Iris Database	72
	3.8	Summ	ary	74
4	EXP	ERIME	ENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	75
	4.1	Introdu	action	75
	4.2	Experi	mental Setup	75
		4.2.1	CASIA V3.0 Interval Subset	76
		4.2.2	CASIA V3.0 Lamp Subset	77
		4.2.3	CASIA V3.0 Outdoor/Twin Subset	78
		4.2.4	UBIRIS V2 Iris Database	79
	4.3	-	mental Results and Evaluation of ve Fuzzy Switching Noise Reduction	79
		4.3.1	Stage 1: Evaluation on Noise Reduction	80
		4.3.2	Stage 2: Evaluation of Performance of Iris Recognition System	91
	4.4	-	mental and Evaluation on Adaptive ted Shifting Hamming Distance	97
		4.4.1	Evaluation on the Performance of the System	98
		4.4.2	Evaluation on Decidability Index of the System	103
	4.5	Conclu	asion	107
			ION AND SUGGESTION FOR ORKS	108
	5.1	Conclu	asion	108
	5.2	Sugges	stions for Future Works	109
REFERENC	CES			111
Appendices .	A-D			122-127

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Biometrics Technologies	2
2.1	Comparison of reviewed methods related to iris recognition system	13
2.2	Comparison of reviewed method related to noise reduction	24
2.3	Comparison of reviewed method related to iris code matching	29
3.1	Statistics of CASIA-IrisV3	73
4.1	Methods related to reduction of light reflection/eyelid	81
4.2	Methods related to reduction of eyelash	81
4.3	Methods related to reduction of eyelash/eyelid	82
4.4	Comparison of performance of different approaches of noise reduction for eyelid/light reflection	85
4.5	Comparison of performance of different approaches of noise reduction for eyelash texture	85
4.6	Comparison of performance of different approaches of noise reduction for eyelid/eyelash	86
4.7	Comparison of performance of the iris recognition system using different approaches of noise reduction for eyelash/eyelid/light reflection	92
4.8	Comparison of performance of iris recognition system using different approaches of noise reduction for eyelid/light reflection	92
4.9	Comparison of performance of iris recognition system using different approaches of noise reduction for eyelash texture	93
4.10	Comparison of performance of iris recognition system using different approaches of noise reduction for eyelid/eyelash	94
4.11	Different approaches of iris code matching	99
4.12	Comparison of performance of different approaches of iris	100

1		
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COUL	matchin	ջ
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4.13 Comparison of the performance of the system using different iris code matching approaches based on the level of decidability

103

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	The eye view, image from CASIA V3.0 Interval database (S1090R01)	8
2.2	Different fields of research in iris recognition	17
2.3	Samples of occluded eye with eyelash texture, S1090R01 (left), S1109L03 (right) from CASIA V3.0 Database	20
2.4	Samples of occluded eye with eyelids, S1175L01 (left), S1087L06 (right) from CASIA V3.0 Database	21
2.5	Samples of occluded eye with specular reflections, S1175L01 (left), S1085L03 (right) from CASIA V3.0 Database	21
2.6	Example of Yes-No Boolean logic set that has a clearly defined boundary. Boolean logic responds with an absolute TALL or NOT TALL response	33
2.7	Example of fuzzy Logic Set, Some people are definitely TALL, some people are TALL to some degree and some people are not very TALL. Fuzzy logic responds with a smooth response.	34
2.8	Membership function of Boolean logic set corresponds to Figure 2.6	34
2.9	Membership function of fuzzy logic set corresponds to Figure 2.7	35
3.1	Flowchart of iris recognition system used in this research	38
3.2	Daugman's Rubber sheet model for the normalization of the iris region	41
3.3	The overall view of proposed adaptive fuzzy switching noise reduction filter	42
3.4	The classification of the noise and iris patterns in the normalized iris image's histogram	43
3.5	General flow of multiple thresholding	45

3.6	General flow of expanding filtering window with adaptive size	46
3.7	Fuzzy set adopted by fuzzy switching weighted median filter	49
3.8	Fuzzy set adopted by fuzzy switching weighted median filter	50
3.9	General flow of multiple thresholding	52
3.10	Three steps of Proposed Iris Code Matching	53
3.11	General flow of computing Hamming distance for a Hamming subset with adaptive size	58
3.12	Example of adaptive behavior of proposed method on the left side	60
3.13	Example of adaptive behavior of proposed method on the right	61
3.14	Comparison between WHD and HD	63
3.15	Decision-making based on common HD	66
3.16	Decision-making based on the combination of HD and D	66
3.17	General flow of shifting stage	69
3.18	Iris image (S1090R01) from CASIAV3.0 interval subset	74
4.1	Sample of iris image from CASIA V3.0 interval subset	76
4.2	Sample of iris image from CASIA V3.0 Lamp subset	77
4.3	Sample of the iris images of a twin from CASIA V3.0 twin subset	78
4.4	Sample of iris image from UBIRIS V2 iris database	79
4.5	Evaluation stages with respect to the proposed adaptive fuzzy switching noise reduction method.	80
4.6	Evaluation of performance of AFSNR filter in CASIA V3.0 interval subset and comparison based on size of filtering window	82
4.7	Evaluation of performance of AFSNR filter in CASIA V3.0 Lamp subset and comparison based on size of filtering window	83
4.8	Evaluation of performance of AFSNR filter in CASIA V3.0 Twin subset and comparison based on size of filtering window	83
4.9	Evaluation of Performance of AFSNR filter in UBIRIS V2 database and comparison based on size of filtering window	84
4.10	Results of the reduction of eyelash/pupil and eyelid/light	87

	by applying our proposed AFSNR filter	
4.11	Results of the reduction of eyelash/pupil and eyelid/light by applying our proposed AFSNR filter	88
4.12	Results of the reduction of eyelash/pupil and eyelid/light by applying our proposed AFSNR filter	89
4.13	Results of the reduction of eyelash/pupil and eyelid/light by applying our proposed AFSNR filter	90
4.14	Comparison of receiver operating curves (ROC)	91
4.15	Evaluation stages with respects to the proposed adaptive fuzzy switching noise reduction method	97
4.16	Comparison of receiver operating curves (ROC) of different iris code matching on CASIA V3	101
4.17	Comparison of receiver operating curves (ROC) of different iris code matching on CASIA V3	101
4.18	Comparison of receiver operating curves (ROC) of different iris code matching on UBIRIS V2	102
4.19	Comparison of receiver operating curves (ROC) of different iris code matching on UBIRIS V2	102
4.20	Comparison of distributions of matching results of default system on CASIA V3	105
4.21	Comparison of distributions of matching results of default system on UBIRIS V2	105
4.22	Comparison of distributions of matching results for proposed AWSHD method on CASIA V3	106
4.23	Comparison of distributions of matching results for proposed AWSHD method on UBIRIS V2	106

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1D - One Dimension

2D - Two Dimension

3D - Three Dimension

ACWM - Adaptive Canter-Weighted Median Filter

AFSNR - Adaptive Fuzzy Switching Noise Reduction

AWSHD - Adaptive Weighted Shifting Hamming Distance

bpp - Bit per Pixel

CA - Cellular Automata

CASIA - Chinese Academy of Science Institute of Automation

CCD - Charge-Coupled Device

CFFNN - Cascaded Feedforward Neural Network

CFS - Circular Symmetric Filter

CMOS - Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor

CPU - Computer Processing Unit

CWT - Complex Wavelet Transform

D - Difference Distance

d' - Decidability Index, Level of Decidability

DBA - Decision-Based Algorithm

DCT - Discrete Cosine Transforms

DI - Decidability Index

DLDA - Direct Linear Discriminant Analysis

dZ - Zero Crossing Distance

EER - Equal Error Rate

EM - Expectation Maximization

FA - False Acceptance

FAR - False Acceptance Rate

FBD - Fragile Bit Distance

FFNN - Feedforward Neural Network

FIRD - fingerprint, Iris, Retina, and DNA Recognition

FIRE - Fuzzy Inference Ruled By the Else-Action

FR - False Rejection

FRR - False Rejection Rate

FPGA - Field-Programmable Gate Array

FSM - Fuzzy Switching Median

GAR - Genuine Acceptance Rate

GHz - Giga Hertz

GMM - Gaussian Mixture Model

HD - Hamming Distance

ICA - Independent Component Analysis

ICE - Iris Challenge Evaluation Database

IRIS06 - Iris Recognition Study

ITIRT - Independent Testing of Iris Recognition Technology

JPEG2000 - Joint Photographic Experts Group Standard in 2000

LED - Light-emitting Diode

LBP - Local Binary Pattern

LVQ - Learning Vector Quantization

MF - Membership Function

mm - Millimeter

MRF - Markov Random Field

NAFSM - Noise Adaptive Fuzzy Switching Median

NIR - Near Infrared

OCS - Open-Close Sequence

PC - Personal Computer

PCA - Principle Component Analysis

POC - Phase Only Correlation Function

PUM - Posterior Union Model

ROC - Receiver Operating Characteristics

SVM - Support Vector Machine

TA - True Acceptance

TAR - True Acceptance Rate

TR - True Rejection

UK - United Kingdom of Britain

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

VFC - Vector Field Convolution

WED - Weighted Euclidean Distance

WHD - Weighted Hamming Distance

xviii

LIST OF SYMBOLS

 Δ - Delta

 μ - Mean value of distribution

 σ - Standard deviation

 θ - Angle

π - Pi

 \leq - Less than or equal to

 \geq - Greater than or equal to

° - Degree

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
A	List of Publications	122
В	Detailed Experimental Results for Weighting Stage in Proposed AWSHD Method	123
C	Examples to Explain the Effects of Adaptive Weighted Shifting Hamming Distance	124
D	Pseudo-code for Adaptive Behavior of Proposed AWSHD	126

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Biometric is the combination of two Greek words 'bio' and 'metric'. 'Bio' means life and 'metric' is measure. Biometrics technologies are methods of authentication that deal with the unique characteristics of human beings. There are several types of biometric technologies: behavioral and physical attributes and those that can only be analyzed in laboratories (Wayman, 2014). Physical biometrics, such as fingerprint (Bharadwaj *et al.*, 2014), face (Jain *et al.*, 2008), iris (Bowyer *et al.*, 2013), palm/finger vein, retina and hand geometry are the most popular biometrics used for person authentication for either identification or verification, however behavioral biometrics are mostly used for verification (Ross and Jain, 2009)

Table 1.1 shows several biometric technologies, which are grouped in three types. To compare the biometric technologies, several factors in terms of accuracy and uniqueness, cost of the system, ease of use for customers, intrusiveness, robustness of system and ease of deployment should be considered.

Table 1.1: Biometrics Technologies.

Physical Biometric	Behavioral Biometric	Biometrics Technology in Exploratory Stages
Fingerprint	Voice recognition	Ear shape
Face	Gait recognition	Fingernails
Iris	Keystroke	Odor
Palm/finger vein	Signature	
Retina		
Hand geometry		

There is no ideal biometric for all applications. Each biometric has benefits and weaknesses regarding robustness, accuracy, cost of deployment, ease of use, recognition rate, intrusiveness and ease of deployment, which means each biometric is suitable for related application, but not all applications. Biometrics are used in many applications such as in secure access control, international border crossings and in law enforcement. Moreover, biometrics can be integrated into large-scale identity systems (Ross and Jain, 2009). Biometrics have also been used in commercial applications such as in accessing one's computer or mobile phone, grocery stores, Walt Disney World (Harmel, 2006) and airports and government applications, including obtaining a visa for international travelers or to recognize suspected terrorists or criminals in United Arab Emirates, and the US Department of Homeland Security (Jain *et al.*, 2008).

Among all physical biometrics, iris biometric systems are highly secured that work at a low false acceptance rate (FAR). Applications of iris biometrics technology include: identification cards and passports, border control and other government programmes, prison security, database access and computer login, schools, aviation security, hospital security, controlling access to restricted areas, entering buildings and houses (Daugman, 2009b). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) used iris recognition for Afghan refugees (Daugman, 2002). Iris recognition is used in jails for the recognition of prisoners (Hollingsworth, 2010). Airports in the UK (Gomm, 2005), the United State, Canada, the United Arab

Emirates, Singapore, Germany, and the Netherlands all use iris recognition at their borders and immigration control (Al-Raisi and Al-Khouri, 2008; Daugman, 2009b).

Iris biometrics have a number of benefits (Daugman, 2009b) which are briefly mentioned below:

- 1. Stability over time which means that the iris pattern does not change over time compared to other biometrics. Glasses, contact lenses, and even eye surgery does not corrupt the appearance and characteristics of the iris patterns (Browning and Orlans, 2014; Daugman and Downing, 2013; Fenker *et al.*, 2013). Voice may change through aging or illness; fingerprint may not work for those individuals with no or few minutiae points. This may be the case for surgeons as they often wash their hands with strong detergents, builders, and people with special skin conditions. In addition, finger ridge patterns can be affected by cuts, dirt, or tears. Finally, the face changes through age, surgery, accidents or make-up (Jain *et al.*, 2008; Ross *et al.*, 2006).
- 2. Ease of collection due to the small size of the iris image, a database of the iris images of a large population can be saved on a personal computer or a portable flash memory stick (Tan and Sun, 2015).
- 3. Uniqueness There is a large inter-class variability, which means large differences between individuals. Among all biometrics, the iris biometric is the most unique and robust even the iris patterns of twins are different (Daugman, 2004, 2006, 2007).
- 4. Large number of features. An iris has more than 200 features, such as rings, furrows, freckles, and the corona. (Daugman, 2004, 2007).
- 5. Contactless, hygienic and non-invasive (Daugman, 2007, 2009a; He *et al.*, 2008; Jain *et al.*, 2008; Tan and Sun, 2015).
- 6. High-speed and low error rate, Capable of 1:N (identification) and 1:1 (verification) matching (Daugman, 2006, 2007; Némesin and Derrode, 2014).

1.2 Problem Statement

The consequence of either low-secure or insecure authentication in the banking or corporate environment is both terrible and catastrophic. Such a situation will results in loss of confidential and individual information, money, compromising data, security of systems or the safety of a country (Daugman, 2009b).

Although the iris recognition system has high accuracy with a very low false acceptance rate, the system performance is still vulnerable to noise. In iris recognition, textures such as eyelashes and eyelids, or light reflections in the iris regions are considered as noise (Kong and Zhang, 2003). Very low-intensity value of eyelash pixels or high-intensity value of pixels corresponding to eyelids and light illumination in the iris image can cause inappropriate threshold value, and therefore leads to poor iris region segmentation and feature extraction/encoding stage. This false iris pattern data or unwanted noise will corrupt the generated biometric templates and the iris codes, resulting in poor recognition rates. This unwanted noise will also affect the iris code matching or decision-making which in turn decreases the disagreement distance between the genuine user and impostors. Consequently, the performance in the iris code matching drops and the distribution between the genuine and impostor classes overlaps.

1.3 Research Objectives

The aim of this research is to improve the performance of an iris recognition system based on improving the iris code matching stage and reduction of noise effects such as pupil and eyelashes texture, eyelids and light reflections. In achieving this aim, this research focuses on the following objectives:

1. To reduce the error rate and the effect of noise on the iris recognition system by proposing an adaptive fuzzy switching noise reduction filter (AFSNR).

2. To improve the performance of the iris recognition system by using an improved iris code matching method, using the adaptive weighted shifting Hamming distance metric (AWSHD).

1.4 Scope of Research

Realizing that iris recognition is a huge field by itself, this research will only concentrate on the followings:

- 1. Noise reduction for eyelash, pupil, eyelid and light illumination.
- 2. Based on already captured iris image and not on video sequence (offline not online).
- 3. Improve an existing metric distance for the iris code matching stage.
- 4. Implementation on gray scale images.
- 5. Based on *Matlab* mathematical software package.
- 6. Samples iris are taken from CASIA V3 and UBIRIS V2 databases.

1.5 Contributions

The advantage of the proposed AFSNR filter is the ability to remove two types of noise with different intensity values – eyelash/pupil and light/eyelids – in contrast with other works which are presented to eliminate only one type of noise (Kong and Zhang, 2003; Wang et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2006). Another advantage of the proposed AFSNR filter is its adaptive window size. The adaptive behavior of the filter performs a better noise reduction for different noise densities compared with a method with a constant window size (Zhang et al., 2006). The proposed AWSHD metric improves the performance of iris code matching in three stages. The

proposed AWSHD distance metric has adaptive length of Hamming subset which increases the accuracy of computation. By applying weighting technique the HD corresponding to impostors will be increased while the genuine HD will be decreased. The shifting stage centralizes the distribution of HD. As results of proposed AWSHD distance metric the level of decidability of the system is extremely increased. This research work suggests using the difference distance metric in decision-making.

1.6 Thesis Organization

This thesis presents a research work on improving the performance of the iris recognition algorithm by reducing the effects of noise on iris segmentation and improving the iris code matching performance. Chapter 2 presents a literature review of the iris recognition system and a survey of related works. Chapter 3 describes the methodology and algorithms of the proposed methods in this research, the proposed adaptive fuzzy switching noise reduction filter (AFSNR) and the proposed adaptive weighted shifting Hamming distance (AWSHD), in detail. The proposed AFSNR filter is a combination of the fuzzy switching, adaptive median filter and the filling method. The adaptive size of the filtering window speeds up the system and filters high-density noise. Fuzzy switching behavior enables the filling method to perform noise reduction when the adaptive median filter fails to reduce the noise. AWSHD method computes the Hamming distance with adaptive length of Hamming subset. The weighting and shifting methods is proposed to improve the decidability level of the system. Chapter 4 provides the experimental results of this research and discussion. Finally, chapter 5 concludes the thesis, along with some suggestions for future works.

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