

A Review on Multi Sensor Image Fusion Techniques

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ABSTRACT - Most Earth observational satellites are not able to acquire high spatial and spectral resolution data simultaneously because of design or observational constraints. To overcome such limitations, image fusion techniques are use. Image fusion is process combine different satellite images on a pixel by pixel basis to produce fused images of higher value. The value adding is meant in terms of information extraction capability, reliability and increased accuracy. The objective of this paper is to describe basics of image fusion, various pixel level mage fusion techniques for evaluating and assessing the performance of these fusion algorithms.

Keywords— -Image Fusion, Pixel Level, Multi-sensor, IHS, PCA, Multiplicative, Brovey, DCT, DWT.

INTRODUCTION

Image Fusion is process of combine two different images which are acquired by different sensor or single sensor. Output image contain more information than input images and more suitable for human visual perception or for machine perception. Objectives of Image Fusion Schemes are Extract all the useful information from the source images.

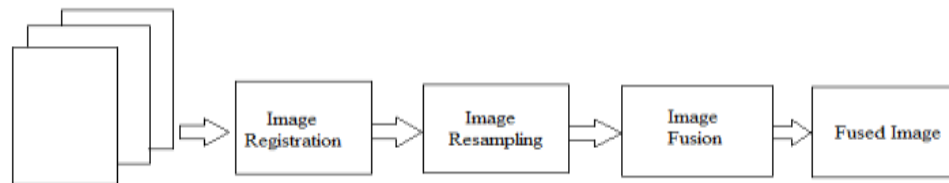


Figure1.1 Pre-processing of image fusion [1].

Image fusion is applicable at different fields that are: defense systems, remote sensing and geosciences, robotics and industrial engineering, and medical imaging. Goal of image registration is to find a transformation that aligns one image to another. In image registration, one dataset is regarded as the reference data and other as sensed data. Sensed data is matched relative to the reference data, Image registration at a very basic level.

Image re-sampling [2] is the process to produce new image with eight in different size. Re-sampling can change the size of the image. Increasing the size is called up-sampling; decreasing the size is called down-sampling. Note that the spatial resolution would not change after the RS procedure, either up-sampling or down-sampling. In multi-sensor image fusion, the images of the same scene come from different sensors of different resolution. In multi-focus image fusion, the images of the same scene come from the same sensor are combined to produce an image in which all the objects are in focus.

Pohl & Genderen 1998 presents three types of image fusion levels: pixel, feature, and decision levels, In this paper, we are only concerned about pixel level fusion.

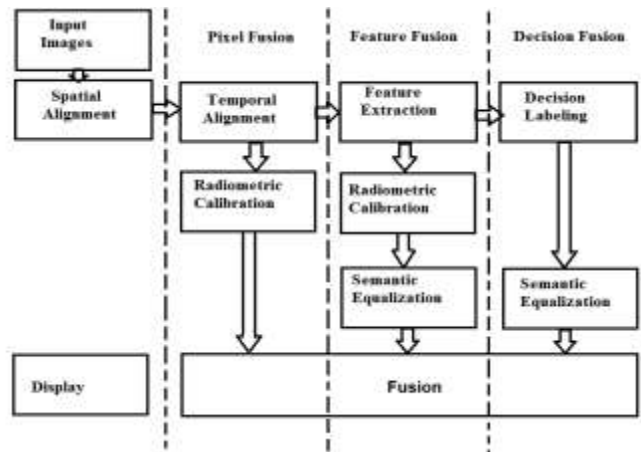


Figure 1.2 Level of Image Fusion [3].

Image Fusion Techniques

Image fusion techniques are classified into several techniques, which are described below

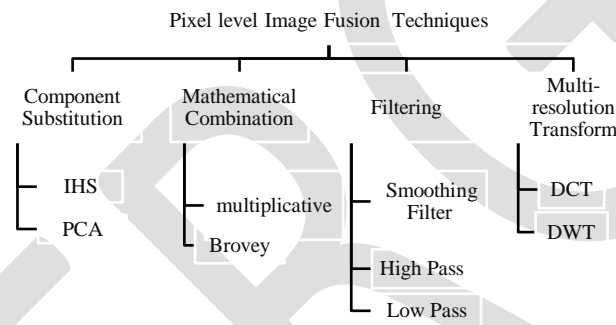


Figure 1.3 The categorization of pixel level image fusion techniques [4].

IHS (Intensity, Hue, Saturation)

IHS is a color space, intensity relates to the total amount of light that reaches the eye, hue is defined as the predominant wavelength of a color, and saturation is defined as total amount of white light of a color.

Steps

1. first converts a RGB image into intensity (I),

$$\begin{bmatrix} I \\ v1 \\ v2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ -\sqrt{2}/6 & -\sqrt{2}/6 & 2-\sqrt{2}/6 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{bmatrix}$$

Hue (H) and Saturation (S) components.

2. Replacement of I by high resolution image,

$$\begin{bmatrix} F(R) \\ F(G) \\ F(B) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1 & -1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1 & \sqrt{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} PAN \\ v1 \\ v2 \end{bmatrix}$$

3. Reverse IHS, converting IHS components into RGB colors.

$$\begin{bmatrix} F(R) \\ F(G) \\ F(B) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R + PAN - 1 \\ G + PAN - 1 \\ B + PAN - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Merit of IHS is simplicity and high sharpening ability, it separates the spatial information as an intensity (I) component from the spectral information represented by the hue (H) and saturation (S) components, and demerit of IHS is that it only processes three multispectral bands, Cause Color distortion [5].

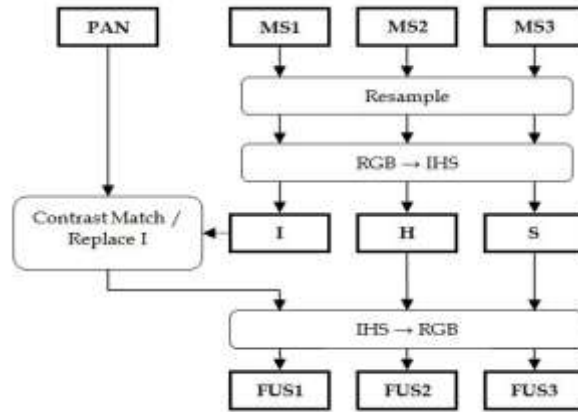


Figure 1.4 Block Diagram of the IHS fusion method [6].

PCA (PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS)

PCA maintain image clarity, spectral information loss is slightly better than that of the IHS fusion method.

Steps

1. Produce the column vectors from input images
2. Calculate the covariance matrix of the two column vectors formed in step1.
3. Calculate the Eigen values and the Eigen vectors of the covariance.
4. Normalize the column vectors.
5. Normalized Eigen vector act as the weight values which, multiply it with each pixel of the input images.
6. Fuse the two scaled matrices will be the fused images matrix.

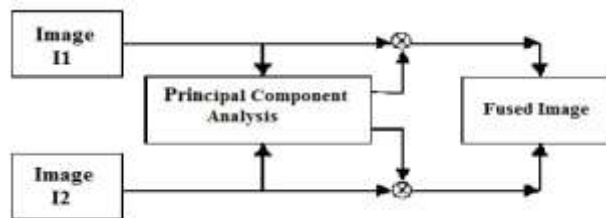


Figure.1.5 Block Diagram of the PCA fusion method [7].

Merits of PCA is it can transforms number of correlated variable into number of uncorrelated variables, demerits is that have spatial domain fusion may produce spectral degradation.

Multiplicative

The algorithm is derived from the four-component technique, as described by Crippen (1989). The four possible arithmetic methods that can be used to produce an intensity image into a chromatic image (addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication), only multiplication is unlikely to distort the color.

The merits of this method is straightforward and simple [8] multiplicative algorithm can be used to merge PAN and MS images, however special attention has to be given to color preservation. This method can produce spectral bands of a higher correlation which means that it does alter the spectral characteristics of the original image data. Demerits are that resulting image does not retain the radiometry of the input multispectral image.

Red=(LR Band1 * HR Band1)
 Green = (LR Band2 * HR Band2)
 Blue = (LR Band3 * HR Band3) [9].

Brovvey

The Brovvey transformation Overcomes to demerits of the multiplicative method. Brovvey is also called the color normalization transform because it involves a red-green-blue (RGB) color transform method.

Merit of Brovvey is it hold the corresponding spectral feature of each pixel, and transforms all the brightness information into a panchromatic image of high resolution. Brovvey Transform not be used in preserving the original scene radiometry. It is good for producing RGB images with a contrast higher degree in the low and high ends of the image histogram and for getting “visually appealing” images.

Red = (band1/Σ band n)* High Resolution Band
 Green = (band2/Σ band n)* High Resolution Band
 Blue = (band3/Σ band n)* High Resolution Band
 High resolution band = PAN [9].

DCT (DISCRETE COSINE TRANSFORM)

The 2D discrete cosine transform of an image or 2D signal $x(n_1, n_2)$ of size $N_1 \times N_2$ is defined as,

$$X(k_1, k_2) = \alpha(k_1) \alpha(k_2) \sum_{n_1=0}^{N_1-1} \sum_{n_2=0}^{N_2-1} X(n_1, n_2) \cos\left(\frac{\pi(2n_1 + 1)k_1}{2N_1}\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi(2n_2 + 1)k_2}{2N_2}\right)$$

For $0 \leq k_1 \leq N_1 - 1$ and $0 \leq k_2 \leq N_2 - 1$

Where in [10]

$$\alpha(k_1) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{1/N_1}, & k_1 = 0 \\ \sqrt{2/N_1}, & 1 \leq k_1 \leq N_1 - 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha(k_2) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{1/N_2}, & k_2 = 0 \\ \sqrt{2/N_2}, & 1 \leq k_2 \leq N_2 - 1 \end{cases}$$

k_1 and k_2 are discrete frequency variables n_1 and n_2 are pixel index.

The 2D inverse discrete cosine transform is
Defined as,

$$X(n_1, n_2) = \alpha(k_1) \alpha(k_2)$$

$$\sum_{k_1=0}^{N_1-1} \sum_{k_2=0}^{N_2-1} \alpha(k_1) \alpha(k_2) X(k_1, k_2) \cos\left(\frac{\pi(2n_1+1)k_1}{2N_1}\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi(2n_2+1)k_2}{2N_2}\right)$$

For $0 \leq n_1 \leq N_1 - 1$ and $0 \leq n_2 \leq N_2 - 1$

Merits of DCT Provides excellent result on spectral domain [11], it is complex and time consuming which are hard to be performed on real time applications.

DISCRETE WAVELET TRANSFORM (DWT)

The wavelet transform contains the low-high bands, the high-low bands and the high-high bands of the image at different scales. Then a fusion rule is to be selected. And in this way the fusion takes place in all the resolution levels.

1. Generate one PAN image for each MS band, histogram-matched to that band.
2. Apply one of the DWTs described above to both the MS and the new PAN images.
3. Add the detail images from the transformed PAN images to those of the transformed MS images,
4. Perform the inverse transform on the MS images with added PAN images and the resulting wavelet planes added directly to the MS image; no inverse transform is then needed[12].

Advantage of DWT fusion method may outperform the slandered fusion method in terms of minimizing the spectral distortion. It also provide better signal to noise ratio than pixel based approach. Disadvantage In this method final fused image has a less spatial resolution.

CONCLUSION:

The review shows that the suitable selection of a proper pixel-level fusion algorithm depend on characteristics. The combination of existing fusion methods and further development of new techniques are expected to surely guide and improve the fusion performance more appropriate for human visual perception or for machine perception, chosen suitable method will improve quality of image by determine visual analysis result and quantity analysis result. We can use DCT with filter which are still not used in image fusion to improve quality.

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