

Image Zooming Technique Based on the Split Bregman Iteration with Fractional Order Variation Regularization

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Abstract: It is always a challenging work to develop an accurate and effective method to reconstruct a degraded image. In this paper, the nonlocal variation Fractional Total Variation (FTV) regularization technique for image zooming is investigated. To enhance edges, yet preserve textures, fractional order calculus based image zooming method is proposed, which can deal well with fine structures like textures. To solve the nonlinear Euler-Lagrange equation associated with the nonlocal variation FTV regularization model, we propose a nonlocal total variation method for image zooming on the split Bregman iteration. Enlarging and de-noising experimental results show that the proposed method has effectiveness and reliability by comparing to some methods mentioned in the paper.

Keywords: Image zooming, total variation, split bregman iteration, fractional order.

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1. Introduction

Image zooming technique is increasingly popular nowadays, because it is important in image application fields such as medical imaging [37], electronic publishing, satellite images, images found on web [2, 12, 24], license plate identification and face recognition system.

A variety of zooming methods were proposed in the past few decades. The simplest method for enlarging an image is pixel replication, which is easy to implement. But the method may cause the processed image blurring and blocky effects. Bilinear Interpolation (BLI) [25] and Bicubic Interpolation (BCI) [21], which are both with superior accuracy than pixel replication, were proposed, due to BLI and BCI use polynomials for up-sampling image. However, these linear interpolation methods are easy to complement, but would degrade the zoomed quality. Whereas, the higher order interpolation method can give better performances, but requires much computation. The ordinary drawbacks of the above methods cause desired image jagged or synthetic edges or low-quality edge blurring. Thus, finding a method that can eliminate blocky effects and look natural in processed image is a focus of current research.

In recent years, methods based on Partial Differential Equations (PDEs) have been proposed and have shown better performance than previous methods. They include anisotropic diffusion equations [8, 10, 28, 33], total variation models [32] and curve evolution equations [22]. One of the most famous techniques, which can well solve the image reconstruct problem, is the Total Variation (TV) regularization method

proposed by Rudin, Osher, and Fatemi (ROF) model, which has the following form:

$$\min_u |\tilde{\mathcal{N}}u| + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|u - f\|_2^2 \quad (1)$$

Where f stands for the observed data, u represents the desired data, $|\cdot|$ denotes the l_1 norm of its variation, $\lambda > 0$ is a regularization parameter. The ROF model can well protect the edge information. However, staircase effects are generated when enlarging the image with classical TV norm.

In order to remove staircase effects, the authors of [6] exploited a higher order nonlinear partial differential equation to smooth the image. In literatures [7, 18, 27, 36], the authors have proposed second-order or fourth-order telegraph-diffusion equations for noise removal, which adding a second time derivative of the image in PDEs, these methods can effectively eliminate the diffusion effect to some degree. These methods mentioned above are based on local image operators, which preserve edges and smooth regions and de-noise very well, but they cannot deal well with fine structures like texture, because texture is not local in nature [20].

Recently, a lot of nonlocal methods have been proposed for image processing. Gilboa and Osher [15] proposed a Nonlocal H^1 (NL- H^1) regularization energy variational formulation by embedding the nonlocal means. Subsequently, Gilboa and Osher [16] presented a variational model, which depends on Nonlocal Total Variation (NL-TV). Yang *et al.* [35] proposed a split Bregman algorithm for the NL-TV regularization image zooming. Mathieu *et al.* [26] proposed an edge

detection method by introducing the fractional differentiation. Bai and Feng [4] proposed a new method of fractional order anisotropic diffusion equations for noise removal. A Fractional order TV (FTV) regularization functional for image super-resolution was proposed in literature [31], which integrated traditional TV, fractional TV and data fidelity term.

Inspired by the ideas of [31, 35], in this paper, we proposed a method to use the FTV regularization model to up-sample images. To solve the FTV variational minimization problem in the discrete case, we proposed a method based on split Bregman iteration algorithm and FTV regularization for image zooming. The split Bregman method has some advantages: Fast computational speed; relatively small memory footprint and easy to code. Numerical experiments show that the proposed Bregmanized nonlocal total variation-fractional total variation regularization algorithm can recover more details of the image than other methods.

The organization of the rest of the paper is as follows. In section 2, we give a description of related work. The proposed model and its discretization are introduced in section 3. Section 4 is devoted to implementation details of numerical experiments. Finally, some conclusions are given in section 5.

2. Related Work

The aim of image zooming is to estimate the desired image from a given degraded image. Because of the ill-posed nature of super resolution, Equation 1 is not a unique model. To find an effective method of image zooming, lots of authors try to presents many algorithms [2, 23, 34, 35, 37]. In recent years, many varieties of total variation were presented based on non-local notion [14, 23, 29, 30, 34, 35]. Those algorithms were proposed based on non-local notion, which can deal fine with structures such as texture because texture is a non-local feature. Pu *et al.* [29, 30] discussed the capabilities of the fractional differential approach for enhancing texture features of two-dimensional digital images. Bai and Feng [4] introduced a new class of fractional order anisotropic diffusion equations for image de-noising. The following section will reviews the non-local operator of fractional calculus and the split Bregman iteration algorithm.

2.1. The Non-local Operator of Fractional Calculus

Fractional calculus is proposed with respect to the traditional integer order calculus, and fractional calculus can be seen as the generalization of the integer order calculus. We can find more than one fractional order derivative exist in literatures, such as definition

of Rieman-Liouville (R-L) and Grünwald-Letnikov (G-L). However, we use the frequency domain definition in this paper because it has less computation. For any function $f(t) \in L^2(\mathcal{R})$, the Fourier transform of it is:

$$\hat{f}(\omega) = \int f(t) \exp(-j\omega t) dt \quad (2)$$

Where $j = \sqrt{-1}$ is the imaginary unit. The equivalent formulation of the n^{th} derivative in the frequency domain is

$$D^n f(t) \leftrightarrow (j\omega)^n \hat{f}(\omega) \quad (3)$$

Where “ \leftrightarrow ” stands for the Fourier transform pair. It is meaningful for any number n at the right-hand side of Equation 3. So, the fractional order derivative of the function $f(t)$ of order ν is defined as:

$$D^\nu f(t) = F^{-1}((j\omega)^\nu \hat{f}(\omega)), \quad \nu > 0 \quad (4)$$

Similarly, for any $f(x, y) \in L^2(\mathcal{R}^2)$, the corresponding 2-D fractional order derivatives of it have the following forms [4]:

$$D_x^\nu f(x, y) = F^{-1}((j\omega_1)^\nu \hat{f}(\omega_1, \omega_2)) \quad (5)$$

$$D_y^\nu f(x, y) = F^{-1}((j\omega_2)^\nu \hat{f}(\omega_1, \omega_2)) \quad (6)$$

So, fractional order gradient is defined as:

$$\text{Grad}_{f\nu} f(x, y) = D_x^\nu f(x, y)i + D_y^\nu f(x, y)j \quad (7)$$

In order to write simply, replace gradient symbol $\text{Grad}_{f\nu}$ with $G_{f\nu}$. And the module of fractional order gradient according to Equation 7 can be written as:

$$|G_{f\nu}| = \sqrt{(D_x^\nu f)^2 + (D_y^\nu f)^2} \quad (8)$$

Assuming the vector field $A(x, y)$ is given by:

$$A(x, y) = P(x, y)i + Q(x, y)j \quad (9)$$

Where $P(x, y)$ and $Q(x, y)$ are two components of $A(x, y)$ which having fractional ν order continuous derivatives, so $D_x^\nu P + D_y^\nu Q$ be called fractional order divergence of vector field $A(x, y)$, written as $\text{div}A$, that is:

$$\text{div}_{f\nu} A = D_x^\nu P + D_y^\nu Q \quad (10)$$

The fractional Laplacian is defined by:

$$\Delta^\nu u = \text{div}_{f\nu} [G_{f\nu}] = \tilde{N}_x^\nu \tilde{N}_x^\nu u + \tilde{N}_y^\nu \tilde{N}_y^\nu u \quad (11)$$

We consider the following functional defined in the space of continuous images over a support of Ω , then the fractional TV regularization defined by:

$$E(u) = \int_{\Omega} (|D^\nu u|) d\Omega \quad (12)$$

The corresponding Euler-Lagrange equation can be written as:

The flow chart of this proposed method is given as follows:

- **Initialization:** choose $u^0=f$, $d^0=b^0=0$, set $k=0$, set convergence precision tol and inner loop number N .

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while  $u^k - u^{k-1}$ 
  for  $n=1$  to
     $u^{k+1} \leftarrow \arg \min_u \frac{\alpha}{2} \|u - f\|^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|d_x^k - \nabla_x^v u - b_x^k\|^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|d_y^k - \nabla_y^v u - b_y^k\|^2$ 
     $d^{k+1} \leftarrow \arg \min_d \|d^k\| + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|d^k - \nabla^v u - b^k\|^2$ 
  end
   $b^{k+1} = b^k + \nabla^v u^{k+1} - d^{k+1}$ 
end while

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4. Numerical Experiments and Analysis

In this section, various experiments are implemented on white Gaussian noise under MATLAB 2013a for validating the performance and effectiveness of the proposed algorithm. The experimental results of methods based on fractional TV are compared with some well-known algorithms, such as: BLI [25], BCI [21], the classical ROF model-based image restoration method [32], the fourth-order model PDE image restoration method [13], and NL-TV [23]. The experiments environment is: Microsoft Windows 7 operating system, Matlab 2013a and PC with an Intel Core(TM) i3-2120 CPU at 3.30GHz and 8.00GB of memory.

Firstly, we zoomed three group images to test capability of the proposed method in the image amplification. Secondly, in order to measure the quality of numerical results of the proposed method, three concepts are introduced: Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR), the Mean Squared Error (MSE), and Mean Structural Similarity Index Measurement (MSSIM), respectively, defined at discrete level by:

$$PSNR = 10 \log_{10} \frac{255^2}{MSE} \quad (29)$$

$$MSE = \frac{1}{m \times n} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n [I(i, j) - \hat{I}(i, j)]^2 \quad (30)$$

$$MSSIM = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^L [l(I, \hat{I})]^a \cdot [c(I, \hat{I})]^b \cdot [s(I, \hat{I})]^c \quad (31)$$

Where, $m \times n$ is the size of the image, I and \hat{I} are the original and restored image, respectively, L is the number of blocks of the image. $l(\cdot)$, $c(\cdot)$, $s(\cdot)$ are luminance, contrast, structure comparison functions respectively. $a > 0$, $b > 0$, $c > 0$ are weighted parameters that used to regulate the relative importance of the three components. The stopping criterion that checking the maximum variation between u^{k+1} and u^k is less than 10^{-3} . Higher $MSSIM$ indicates more similar structure between the reconstructed image and the original

image. The lower $MSSIM$ is, the more precise the reconstructed image is.

In order to test the effectiveness of the proposed method, we do some experiments on gray-scale images: “bara”, “cameraman” and RGB color images: “butterfly”, “parrot”. We firstly state the effectiveness of the proposed method with images: “bara”, “cameraman”, “butterfly” and “parrot” enlarging 4 times, respectively. Secondly, we magnify the part of images “butterfly” and “parrot”. Finally, adding additive white Gaussian noise of $\sigma=25$ on images “boat”, we compare performance of the proposed method with other methods.

Capability of different image restoration algorithms: $PSNR$, MSE and $MSSIM$ results on five noisy images (additive Gaussian noise, variance is 25, mean value is zero) for 4×magnification. For each image, we have three rows. The upper row is $PSNR$, the middle row is MSE , the under row is $MSSIM$.

The compared results of image zooming experiments are shown as in Figures 1, 2 and 3. The BCI method brings the most unsatisfied zooming images with blurred edge.



Figure 1. Comparison(4×)of zooming results on images by different methods (from top to button: Methods are BCI [21], BLI [25], fourth PDE [13] ($\Delta t=0.4, iter=200$), ROF [32] ($\lambda=0.05, tol=0.001$), NL-TV [32] ($\mu=0.01, tol=0.001$), NL-BF [1], proposed ($\lambda=0.05, tol=0.001$)).

The NL-TV and ROF methods are able to effectively suppress jaggy artifacts along edges, but it generate obvious blur. The fourth PDE and BLI methods can effectively suppress blur, but omit many fine details. The proposed method can obtain better result than the previous methods, which is most

accurate to the ground truth. It can prevent artifacts and produce zooming images with sharper edges and finer details. This is mainly due to fractional order total variation, which can better handle non-local details than integer order total variation. Therefore, the proposed method can availablely rebuild more reliable zooming images.

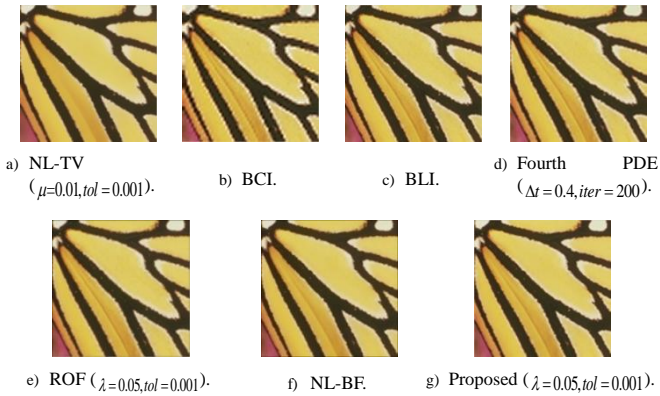


Figure 2. Portion of zooming results on image butterfly by different methods.

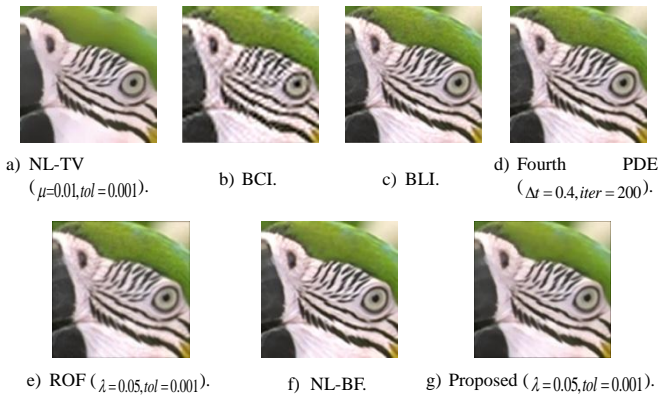


Figure 3. Portion of zooming results on image parrot by different methods.

Figure 4 illustrates the results of de-noising on image boat.

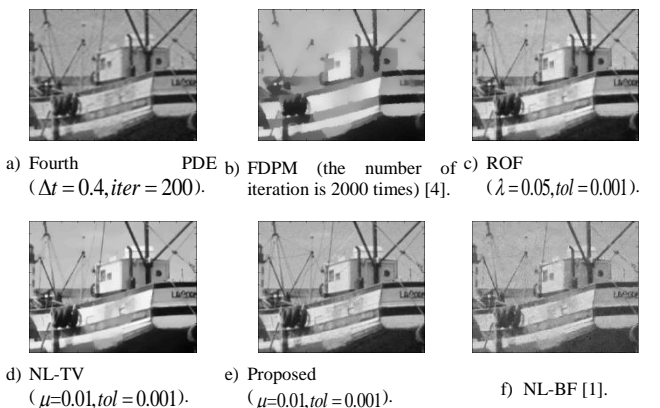


Figure 4. Performance of de-noising (Gaussian white noise, variance is 25, mean value is zero) by different methods.

We can see that the result of the fourth PDE method is the worst, where there are a lot of noises. Fractional

Diffusion Perona-Malik (FDPM) and NL-TV methods can effectively handle noise, but many details are smoothed. The ROF method can preserve edges, meanwhile smoothed some noises, but it not as good as the result of the proposed method in preserve edges and in visual effect.

In Table 1, the quantitative evaluation is given for different restoration algorithms for the Bara, Cameraman, Lena, Boat and Dollar images using the index of *PSNR*, *MSE* and *MSSIM* under the same noise intensity. From table, it is found that the value of *PSNR*, *MSE* and *MSSIM* of the proposed method are almost best. So the proposed method is effectively for image de-noising.

Table 1. Capability of different image restoration algorithms.

Images		Methods				
		Fourth PDE	FDPM [4]	ROF	NL-TV	Proposed
Bara	PSNR	28.7669	24.8577	24.4845	24.9114	29.2213
	MSE	86.3755	212.48	231.5435	209.8661	86.0100
	MSSIM	0.6464	0.7870	0.8353	0.8567	0.8360
Cameraman	PSNR	28.7828	26.7491	27.4706	29.2041	30.0463
	MSE	86.0600	137.46	116.4181	78.1037	64.3361
	MSSIM	0.5359	0.7213	0.8931	0.9228	0.9298
Lena	PSNR	28.7592	27.1389	28.3576	26.6458	29.5955
	MSE	86.7284	125.66	94.9110	140.7659	85.8452
	MSSIM	0.3320	0.7741	0.9064	0.7934	0.9178
Boat	PSNR	28.7709	26.9312	28.4389	25.7276	29.4995
	MSE	86.2950	131.81	93.1507	173.9074	82.2943
	MSSIM	0.3695	0.7878	0.9005	0.7383	0.9177
Dollar	PSNR	28.7427	23.0232	20.7987	22.9944	28.3546
	MSE	86.8585	324.16	541.0186	326.3161	87.1957
	MSSIM	0.7535	0.8339	0.8732	0.8712	0.9713

5. Conclusions

In this paper, we propose an image zooming method combined fractional order total variation and the split Bregman iteration. The proposed method make use of the characteristic of fractional order calculus: Fractional order calculus can enhance the high frequency information (such as edges), and preserve the low frequency information (such as texture, details). Our model can magnifies the resolution of a low resolved image and is able to rebuild when it degraded by noise, blur, and down-sampling. We solve the nonlinear Euler-Lagrange equation by using the split Bregman iteration, which has been demonstrated to be an efficient and accurate algorithm related in section 2.2. The good performance of the proposed method has been tested for image degraded with Gaussian white noise and up-sampling. Quantitative experiment results demonstrate that the proposed method does better than other state-of-the-art methods. In our future work, we may utilize other energy functional to reconstruct image using the split Bregman iteration.

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