Activity Recognition: Gait Analysis and Recognition



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- What is activity recognition?
- Some indicative examples
- Activity recognition for authentication
- Gait as a biometrics
- Gait recognition Potential
- State-of-the-art approaches
- Gait recognition in realistic applications
- Improvement of Gait recognition using soft biometrics
- Conclusions

Activity recognition

Aims to recognize the actions and goals of one or more agents from a series of observations on the agents' actions and the environmental conditions.

Activity recognition approaches:

In real life activity recognition, systems typically follow a hierarchical approach:

- Lower levels: Background-foreground segmentation, tracking and object detection
- Mid-level: Action recognition modules
- High-level: Reasoning engines, which encode the activity semantics based on the lower level action-primitives.

Mid-level, Modelling and recognising activities



(Adapted from Turaga et al., 2008)

Mid-level, Modelling and recognising activities:

- Non parametric approaches: Extract a set of features from each frame of the video. The features are then matched to a stored template.
- Volumetric approaches: Do not extract features on a frame by frame basis. A video is considered as a 3D volume of pixel intensities and extend standard image features to the 3D case.
- Parametric approaches: Impose a model on the temporal dynamics of the motion. The particular parameters for a class of actions is then estimated from training data.

Mid-level, Modelling and recognising activities:

- Graphical models: Probabilistic model for which a graph denotes the conditional independence structure between random variables.
- Syntactic approaches: Syntactic approaches such as Grammars express the structure of a process using a set of production rules.
- Knowledge and Logic-based approaches: Rely on formal logical rules to describe common-sense domain knowledge to describe activities. Logical rules are useful to:

 a) express domain knowledge as input by a user or
 b) present the results of high-level reasoning in an intuitive and human-readable format.

Two main approaches:

- methods based on various sensors placed on the subject to extract meaningful features
- methods based on video analysis to detect human activity (one of the most promising and challenging applications of computer vision)



Model-based approach

Activities: (a) walking, (b) sitting, (c) standing, (d) running



Global/holistic approach: Activity recognition in office



(Rusu et al., 2009)

Activity recognition in a vehicle

Activities: (a) drive-forward, (b) backup, (c) shift-gear, (d) turn-left, (e) turn-right (f) touch-radio



Introduction Various sensors based Activity Recognition

Activity Recognition from Accelerometer Data

Activities: (a) Standing, (b) Walking, (c) Running, (d) Climbing up stairs,(e) Climbing down stairs, (f) Sit-ups, (g) Vacuuming, (h) Brushing teeth.



(Ravi et al., 2005)

Applications of activity recognition (1/4):

- Content Based Video Analysis: With video sharing websites experiencing relentless growth, it has become necessary to develop efficient indexing and storage schemes to improve user experience. Most commercially viable application: summarization and retrieval of consumer content (i.e. sports videos) (Chang, 2002).
- Animation and Synthesis: The gaming and animation industry rely on synthesizing realistic humans and human motion.

Applications of activity recognition (2/4):

- Interactive Applications and Environments: Essential for designing human-machine interfaces with vital applications:
 - a) Context aware computing to support cognitively impaired people
 - b) Health monitoring and fitness
 - c) Seamless services provisioning based on the location and activity of people.
 - d) Smart rooms that can react to a users gestures (i.e. at community-dwelling for older people).

Applications of activity recognition (3/4):

- Security and Surveillance: Automatic recognition of abnormalities in a camera's field of view.
 - Abnormal activities: Activities that occur rarely and have not been expected in advance
 - Example:
 - In working Environment:
 - Raising hands
 - Lying down
 - In community-dwelling
 - Falling down (backwards/forwards)
 - Lying down
 - No movement
 - Raising hands

Applications of activity recognition (4/4):

Behavioural biometrics: Biometrics involves study of approaches and algorithms for uniquely recognising humans based on physical or behavioural cues. Regarding activity related biometrics, although gait has been excessively studied, to our knowledge no other body motions have been reported to be utilised as biometric for authentication purposes.

CERTH/ITI Activity recognition system

Biometric purposes - Activity Related Authentication

Extracting an activity-related signature that characterises the individual by the way he/she responses to a stimulus (e.g. during working in an office).

Examined Activities:

- Talking to panel
- Answering to a phone call

Security purposes

Detecting abnormal activities that denote danger (e.g. in the working environment/office)

Examined Activities:

Raising hands

Approaches

Activity recognition Approaches

- Motion Energy/History Images
- Feature Extraction (RIT/CIT)

Activity-related authentication

- Tracking three points of interest (head, hands)
- Authentication based on HMMs

Motion Images

- Motion Energy Image (MEI)
 - Describes the motion energy for a given view of action.
 - Binary image.

$$E_T(x, y, t) = \bigcup_{i=0}^{\tau-1} D(x, y, t-i)$$

- Motion History Image (MHI)
 - Intensity image.

$$H_T(x, y, t) = \begin{cases} \tau & , \text{if } D(x, y, t) = 1 \\ \max(0, H(x, y, t-1) - 1) & , \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Motion Images – Activity Recognition



MEI Templates of Six Micro-Activities



Pick up or put back

Phone Conversation

Activate Alarm



Talking to the microphone





Raising Hands

Drink from Glass

CERTH/ITI proposed activity recognition system

Flow Chart



CERTH/ITI proposed activity recognition system

RIT Extraction

Methods

- 1. Face detection
- 2. Centre of Face
- 3. RIT Extraction





CIT Extraction

Methods

- 1. Face detection
- 2. Centre of Face
- 3. CIT Extraction





Metrics

• Euclidian Distance

$$D_E = \sqrt{(x_1 - y_1)^2 + (x_2 - y_2)^2 + \dots + (x_n - y_n)^2} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2}$$

• Correlation Factor - Coefficients

$$corr(x, y) = \rho_{x, y} = \frac{cov(x, y)}{\sigma_x \sigma_y} = \frac{E((x - \mu_x)(y - \mu_y))}{\sigma_x \sigma_y}$$

Authentication System Overview



CERTH/ITI proposed activity recognition system

Signature Extraction



Activity: Office Panel

Activity: Phone Conversation

CERTH/ITI proposed activity recognition system



Trajectory's Features for authentication





Trajectory's Features for authentication



Hidden Markov Model

- HMM is characterized by:
 - 1. N, the number of states in the model
 - 2. M, the number of distinct observation symbols per state
 - 3. The state probability distribution $A = \{a_{ij}\}$
 - 4. The observation symbol probability distribution
 - 5. The initial state distribution
- Three basic Problems:
 - 1. Evaluation Problem how to compute the probability that the observed sequence was produced by the HMM.
 - 2. Determination of a best sequence of model states since no correct state, find the optimal solution.
 - *3. Training problem* optimization of model parameters so to best account for the observed signal

HMM Classification

- Activity related signature of a person for a specific action is the set of stored Hidden Markov Model parameters, trained with action sample(s) of the particular user
- Enrolment: HMM Signatures are created by training an HMM using a limited training set (3 or more samples of an action) for a given person.
- Selected experimentally: No of states=5, No of distinct observation symbols (3D position of head and moving head)
- Authentication:
 - Segmented action is fed to the claimed user's stored HMM
 - Action's similarity to the user's behavior is evaluated (log likelihood calculation) using forward – backward algorithm
 - Acceptance/Rejection is based on thresholding the
- calculated likelihood

CERTH/ITI proposed activity recognition system

Client - Impostor





Results FAR – FRR (2/2)

Results



Summarising...

• Three (3) activities tested up to now with very promising results.



Phone Conversation



Talking to Mic. Panel



 Body Tracking - Signature Extraction – Trajectories – Identification






Activity-related biometric authentication provided very promising results and is expected to maximize the performance of a multimodal biometric system.

Gait...

- is the personal, idiosyncratic way in which people walk or move on foot
- has received significant attention as a biometric, in the last 10-15 years

(Nixon & Carter, 2006; Rahati et al., 2008; Boulgouris et al., 2005)

has demonstrated high recognition rates (Zhang et al., 2007; Bouchrika & Nixon, 2007)



General Gait Authentication System

- Enrolment procedure



General Gait Authentication System

- Authentication procedure



Approaches to the gait recognition

Featured based (model free):

Focus on the spatiotemporal information contained in the silhouette images (low level measurements).





(From Li et al. 2004)

Model based:

Serve as prior knowledge to predict motion parameters, to interpret human dynamics, or to constrain the estimation of lowlevel image measurements.



(From Wang et al. 2004)

Features for gait recognition Featured-based method (1/2)

- Width of the outer contour of the silhouette (Kale et al. 2004)
- Entire binary silhouette (Kale et al. 2004)
- Boundary vector variations from the centre of silhouette (Wang et al. 2003)
- Statistical moments from body parts ellipses (Lee et al. 2002)
- Height, stride length and cadence (BenAbdaker et al., 2002)
- Height, distance between head and pelvis, max distance between pelvis and feet, and the distance between feet (Johnson & Bobick 2001)
- Self similarity plot (BenAbdelkader et al., 2001)



$$S(t_1, t_2) = \sum_{(x, y) \in B_{t_1}} |O_{t_1}(x, y) - O_{t_2}(x, y)|,$$

Where $1 \le t_1, t_2 \le N$, B_t is the bounding box of the person in frame t_1 , and $O_{t1}, O_{t2}, ..., O_{tN}$ are the scaled image templates of the person.

Features for gait recognition Featured-based method (2/2)

• Horizontal and vertical projections

$$P_{h}(x) = \sum_{y=1}^{N_{c}} S(x, y), \qquad x = 1, ..., N_{r}$$

$$P_{v}(x) = \sum_{r=1}^{N_{r}} S(x, y), \qquad y = 1, ..., N_{c}$$

$$S(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } (x, y) \text{ is a foreground pixel} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



• Angular transform $A(\theta) = \frac{1}{N_{\theta}} \sum_{(x,y) \in \phi_{\theta}} S(x, y) \sqrt{(x - x_{c})^{2} + (y - y_{c})^{2}}$

where θ is an angle, Φ_{θ} is the set of the pixels in

the circular sector $\left(\theta - \frac{\Delta\theta}{2}, \theta + \frac{\Delta\theta}{2}\right)$ and N_{θ} is the

cardinality of Φ_{θ} (Boulgouris et al. 2004).



Features for gait recognition Model-based method (1/2)

- Absolute joint positions (Zhang et al. 2004)
- Limb angles (Zhang et al. 2004, Goffredo et al. 2008, Lu et al. 2006)
- Lengths of various body parts (Lu et al. 2006)
- Widths/thickness of body parts (Lu et al. 2003)
- Height (Han et al. 2006)





Features for gait recognition Model-based method (2/2)

- Area of a body component
- Vector distance between the gravity centres of a body component and the whole body (Huang & Boulgouris, 2009)
- Orientation of a body component (Huang & Boulgouris, 2009)
- Similarity based on body components (Boulgouris & Chi, 2007)



Creating a human model

Whole body models

- •14 rigid bodies (Wang et al. 2004)
- 5 rigid bodies (Zhang et al. 2007; Cheng-Chang et al. 2007)

Leg model models

• 3 rigid bodies (thigh, shank, foot)

(Desseree et al.2005)

• 2 rigid bodies (thigh and shank)

(Yam et al. 2002)

• 1 rigid body (the thigh)

(Cunado et al. 2003)







Creating a human model

Constrains:

• Gait is symmetrical and periodical (healthy population)

adequate to define the model for only one leg

➡ the same model can describe either leg

(Yam et al. 2004)

- Dependency of the neighbouring joints:
 - shoulder-elbow, thigh-knee, knee-ankle
 - lower limb is driven by the upper limb

(Wang et al. 2004)

• Minimum and maximum values of the joint angles

Problems in gait recognition

Overcoming the dependency to the gait direction

 Based on pinhole imaging model and weak-perspective projection, the gait direction is obtained and thus the projection function:



• Recognition rate: 50-70%

(Han et al. 2006)

Problems in gait recognition

Proven references to be used for gait invariant analysis

- Simple Reference: 45 deg and 135 deg angle views achieve better results
- Two references: Combinations of orthogonal references such as combination of 0 and 90° are effective



⁽Makihara et al 2006)

CERTH/ITI Gait Recognition Approach - Functionalities

- Live capturing frames / Reading frames from database
- Human Extraction based on original frames
- Live Enrolment and Authentication based on live capturing and Human Extraction
- Offline Enrolment and Authentication on the database

Gait Recognition Algorithm Block Diagram



Dynamic background update and silhouette extraction

Background image is updated every time a new frame arrives using an interpolation rule:

 $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ * Current Background + (1- $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$) * Current Frame

where $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ is an adaptive weight factor that changes in every frame.

Depending on chosen segmentation algorithm, we could have: the same *a* for all frame pixels, based in global illumination changes or every pixel in frame could have its own weight factor based on its local illumination changes.



Pre-Processing Stage

Pre-processing of foreground silhouettes (Noise removal)



Usage of Depth

Silhouette Representation

Methods



Binary Silhouette (a), 3D Radial Distributed Silhouette (b), and 3D Geodesic Distributed Silhouette (c)

Gait Cycle Estimation: Algorithm I

- Human Height (calculated in the Human Extraction stage).
- Number of foreground pixels in the lower half of the human silhouettes.



Period : Number of frames in one cycle (NFc) is calculated by observing the peaks.

Gait Cycle Estimation: Algorithm II



- Period is estimated by calculating the bounding box's width in each frame and getting the local minima for the entire sequence
- Local Minima that are too close (<5 Frames) are discarded.



Methods

 $C_i = LocalMin(BoundingBoxWidth(n)|n \in 1, numberOfFrames)$

Utilization of Gait Energy Images (GEI)

Methods



Signature Extraction Stage





Length of stride mapping in the RIT Transform



Gait dynamics parameters of the RIT Transform



Hand movement detection using the CIT Transform

Hand movement



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Template Matching using temporal correlation



For each gait cycle compute the distance between the stored (gallery) and the claimed (probe) gait signature

$$D = \min_{l} \sum_{i=1}^{Np} \sqrt{\sum_{n=0}^{FVecSize} (\operatorname{Pr} obFeatVec_{i}(n) - GalleryFeatVec_{i+l}(n))^{2}}$$

Methods

Template Matching using time warping (LTN)

- The probe frame is determined by linearly compensating the cycle length differences.
- Each gallery frame (X) is compared with a probe frame (Y). If gallery cycle has G feature vectors, Probe cycle has P feature vectors then:

Y = X * P / G + w

where **w** is a search-for-best-matching frame window: -**k** <= **w** <= **k**, where **k** is a small positive number, i.e. **k** = 2.



Reliability Factor and Quality measurement of the gait signal

- Quality of the gait signal using Q_{RIT} metric
 - ✓ Estimates the quality of the gait signal using the coefficient values of the Radial Integration Transform to the interval [0, 360°]



Detection of noisy region(s) using the coefficients of the RIT transform

Although it has been reported that the side view silhouettes contain most discriminative information, the problem of gait direction dependency still remains.



• Rotation of silhouettes in order to synthesize the side view

- Challenge: some pixels may have to be guessed.

Walking Angle Determination

Using the 3D data from the stereoscopic camera, the walking direction can be estimated.

- The head position is extracted, and the mean head's 3D point is estimated at the first and the last frame of each gait cycle.
- The walking angle, with respect to the camera, is calculated using the formula.

$$\partial = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{V_1 \bullet V_2}{|V_1| |V_2|} \right)$$

Methods



Silhouette rotation

The 3D coordinates of each silhouette pixel are extracted using the disparity data from the stereoscopic camera. This way a 3D point cloud is generated, which is rotated using the following formula.

The new point cloud is now reprojected on the camera to create a new silhouette, which is used to extract the gait features

Further improvement: Disparity Data Smoothing

The disparity data from the stereoscopic camera are, in general, quite noisy.

The data are denoised using a Gaussian filter in order to achieve better results



Gait Recognition Algorithm with Disparity Data Refinement Block Diagram



Further improvement: Use of soft biometrics (1/2)

Height and stride length were utilized to augment the information obtained by the gait recognition system.



Further improvement: Use of soft biometrics (2/2)



Database HUMABIO

- Database data from two sessions
 - ✓ 1st session consists of 75 Persons (3 covariates hat, briefcase, shoe)
 - ✓ 2nd session consists of 53 Persons, 48 common with the 1st session (3 covariates hat, briefcase, coat)
- Capture Details
 - \checkmark Indoor scenario similar to the airport pilot
 - ✓ Four experiments were defined (Hat-Exp.A, Briefcase-Exp.B, Shoe-Exp.C and Time-Exp.D)



72 Normal



Hat





Briefcase

Coat
Verification results on the HUMABIO database

✓ Detection Error Trade-off curves (DET) for estimating the Equal Error Rates (using z-Norm scores) for each feature extractor and the weighted algorithm on all experiments





Recognition results comparison on the USF "Gait Challenge" database

Probe Set	Rank 1						Rank 1-5					
	ITI	BASE (1)	CMU (2)	LTN-A (3)	PAGR (4)	UMD-HMM (5)	ITI	BASE	СМИ	LTN-A	PAG R	UMD-HMM
A (GAL) [71]	97	79	87	89	86	99	100	96	100	99	100	100
B (GBR) [41]	88	66	81	71	68	89	93	81	90	81	83	90
C (GBL) [41]	83	56	66	56	59	78	93	76	83	78	81	90
D (CAR) [70]	39	29	21	21	27	36	73	61	59	50	52	65
E (CBR) [44]	32	24	19	26	29	29	73	55	50	57	57	65
F (CAL) [70]	27	30	27	15	14	24	60	46	53	35	35	60
G (CBL) [44]	27	10	23	10	14	18	61	33	43	33	38	50



Computational intensive Training (increase enrolment time)

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Database ACTIBIO

- Database data from two sessions
 - ✓ 1st session consists of 28 Persons (5 covariates coat, briefcase, shoe, stopped during walking, diagonally)
 - 2nd session consists of the same 28 Persons after one month, (1 covariate – stop during walking)
- Capture Details
 - ✓ Indoor scenario
 - \checkmark The subject was not walking in a strictly straight line









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Briefcase

View angle

With stop

CERTH/ITI proposed gait authentication system

ACTIBIO Database - Gait recorded paths





Different Angles

Straight and random paths



Random paths with stops and pressing buttons to control panel

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Database Actibio – Multiple views (High Sync)



Results on the ACTIBIO database





Results on the ACTIBIO database



During walking stopping experiment



Changing view angle experiment

Results on the ACTIBIO database



Using the GEI algorithm

Using the GEI & SoftBiometrics

The improvement of the results with the use of the soft biometrics is obvious.

- The gait recognition algorithm deals with the random-path walking scenario, which is a brand new and novel approach in the whole research field of gait recognition / authentication.
- The experimental results demonstrate that the presented gait recognition system perform better than the state-of-the-art algorithms.
- The use of soft biometric enhance the performance of the gait recognition system.

- Novel methods were presented to improve the state-of-the-art gait recognition systems.
- Innovative biometrics were developed based on the users motion when responding to specific stimuli and demonstrated a very promising authentication potential.
- Security systems using activity related biometrics can clearly enhance safety in critical applications.

Activity and Gait Recognition Group



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Publications

• Book Chapters

- S. Argyropoulos, D. Ioannidis, D. Tzovaras, and M. G. Strintzis, "Distributed source coding for biometrics: A case study on gait recognition," in Biometrics: theory, methods, and applications, N. V. Boulgouris, K. Plataniotis, E. Micheli-Tzanakou, Eds., IEEE/Wiley, 2009, ch. 22, pp. 559-578.
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Thank you for your attention



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