Visual Tracking Part I: Foundation

CSE P576 Autumn 2021 Vitaly Ablavsky

What Is Tracking?



Tracking Implies Prediction

RADAR

- Tracking a weather system: not just telling you it's raining outside your house, but whether it will rain tomorrow (easy to guess if you're in Seattle)

SATELLITE



Elev 140 ft. 47.61 °N. 122.34 °W

 Tracking an airplane: an estimate where it is currently and where it will be delta-T seconds from now https://www.wunderground.com/forecast/us/wa/seattle/KWASEATT2713

Calgary



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floatplane

Tracking Applications: Parameters

- Number of objects
- Types of objects
- Number of sensors
- Types of sensors
- Distance to sensor



Tracking Applications: Examples

1 object, articulated, 300 pixels tall

body motion analysis



10 objects, articulated, 150 pixels tall

foot traffic analysis



100 objects, 15 - 30 pixels tall

bat census



Factors that Make Tracking Hard

• (unknown) target dynamics: how fast does the state change?

 target observations/ measurements: how noisy and (in)frequent?





VS.





Tracking Research circa 1975

Automatica, Vol. 11, pp. 451-460. Pergamon Press, 1975. Printed in Great Britain

Tracking in a Cluttered Environment With Probabilistic Data Association*

Dépistage dans une Ambiance Encombrée, avec Association Probabilistique des Données

Verfolgung in einer örtlich gestörten Umgebung unter Verwendung von Wahrscheinlichkeitsdaten

YAAKOV BAR-SHALOM† and EDISON TSE†

Tracking a target with uncertainty in the origin of the measurements is accomplished with an algorithm, suitable for real-time implementation, which utilizes the a posteriori probabilities of the measurements having originated from the target.

Probability Space





sample space, all possible outcomes e.g., {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6} probability function $P(A) \ge 0, A \in \mathcal{F}$ $P(\Omega) = 1, P(\emptyset) = 0$

event space, e.g., set of all subsets of Ω including "die lands even" {2, 4, 6}

Random Variables

Random variable X: a function X: $\Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ For every Borel subset *B* of the real line X⁻¹(*B*) in \mathcal{F}

Discrete

Continuous

Stochastic Processes

Stochastic process is an indexed collection of random variables

discrete time $X = \{X_n, n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots\}$

discrete time Markov process



 $X = \{X_t, \ 0 \le t < \infty\}, X : T \times \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$

continuous time

 $t \rightarrow X(t, \omega)$ called sample path

ex. 1:
$$X_t = Z * t^2$$
, $Z \sim N(0,1)$

ex. 2: Wiener process a Gaussian process; limit of *random walk*



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markov_chain

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiener_process



Multi-Object Configuration - the unknown (or hidden) state of the objects, i.e. position, size, etc.

Observations - information taken from the image such as color, motion, texture, etc.

[K. Smith, "Bayesian methods for visual multi-object tracking with applications to human activity recognition," 2007.]



Graphical model for the multi-object tracking problem with *T* time steps

[K. Smith, "Bayesian methods for visual multi-object tracking with applications to human activity recognition," 2007.]

$$p(\mathbf{X}_t | \mathbf{Z}_{1:t}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{Z}_t | \mathbf{X}_t) p(\mathbf{X}_t | \mathbf{Z}_{1:t-1})}{p(\mathbf{Z}_t | \mathbf{Z}_{1:t-1})}$$

$$p(\mathbf{X}_t | \mathbf{Z}_{1:t-1}) = \int_{\mathbf{X}_{t-1}} p(\mathbf{X}_t | \mathbf{X}_{t-1}) p(\mathbf{X}_{t-1} | \mathbf{Z}_{1:t-1}) d\mathbf{X}_{t-1}$$

$$p(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{Z}_{1:t}) = C^{-1}p(\mathbf{Z}_t|\mathbf{X}_t) \times \int_{\mathbf{X}_{t-1}} p(\mathbf{X}_t|\mathbf{X}_{t-1})p(\mathbf{X}_{t-1}|\mathbf{Z}_{1:t-1})d\mathbf{X}_{t-1}$$

[K. Smith, "Bayesian methods for visual multi-object tracking with applications to human activity recognition," 2007.]

Target Dynamics

Discrete Time LDS

- Continuous model are difficult to realize
 - Algorithms work at discrete time steps
 - Measurements are acquired with certain rates
- In practice, **discrete models** are employed
- Discrete-time LDS are governed by

$$x(k+1) = F(k)x(k) + G(k)u(k) + \xi(k)$$

- $F \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x} \times \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ is the state transition matrix
- $G \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x} \times \mathbb{R}^{n_u}$ is the discrete-time input gain
- Same observation function of continuous models

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- We want to throw a ball and compute its trajectory
- This can be easily done with an LDS
- The ball's state shall be represented as



We ignore winds but consider the gravity force g

 $\mathbf{u} = -g$

• No floor constraints

 $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x & y & \dot{x} & \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}^T$

We **observe** the ball with a noise-free position sensor

 $\mathbf{z} = \left[\begin{array}{cc} x & y \end{array} \right]^T$

- Throwing a ball from s with initial velocity v
- Consider only the gravity force, g, of the ball

- State vector $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x & y & \dot{x} & \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}^T$
- Initial state $\mathbf{x}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} s_x & s_y & v_x & v_y \end{bmatrix}^T$
- Input vector (scalar) u = -g
- Measurement vector $\mathbf{z} = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix}^T$



- Process matrices $F = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & T & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & T \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{T}$ $G = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{T^{2}}{2} & 0 & T \end{bmatrix}^{T}$
- Measurement matrix $H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$





[G. Grisetti, C. Stachniss, K. Arras, and W. Burgard, Univ. of Freiburg Course on Robotics & Target Tracking]



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Tracking Is Filtering

Tracking Is Filtering

Tracking Is Filtering

Kalman Filter



source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalman_filter



Figure 1. Kalman filter as density propagation: in the case of Gaussian prior, process and observation densities, and assuming linear dynamics, the propagation process of Fig. 2 reduces to a diffusing Gaussian state density, represented completely by its evolving (multivariate) mean and variance—precisely what a Kalman filter computes.



Figure 2. Probability density propagation: propagation is depicted here as it occurs over a discrete time-step. There are three phases: drift due to the deterministic component of object dynamics; diffusion due to the random component; reactive reinforcement due to observations.



Figure 5. One time-step in the CONDENSATION algorithm: Each of the three steps—drift-diffuse-measure—of the probabilistic propagation process of Fig. 2 is represented by steps in the CONDENSATION algorithm.







[M. Isard and A. Blake, "CONDENSATION: Conditional Density Propagation for Visual Tracking," International Journal of Computer Vision, 1998]

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Tracking Is Filtering

Multiple-Hypothesis Tracking (MHT)

Bibliography

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Y. Bar-Shalom and T.E. Fortmann, "Tracking and Data Association." Academic Press, 1988

I. Cox and S.L. Hingorani, "An Eficient Implementation of Reid's Multiple Hypothesis Tracking Algorithm and Its Evaluation for the Purpose of Visual Tracking," IEEE Trans. on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, vol. 18(2), 1996

Multiple-Hypothesis Tracking (MHT)

Problem:

- data association (partitioning of observations)
- estimation of target tracks

Assumptions

- A1: one observation comes from one target or clutter
- A2: one target yields zero or
- one observation
- A3: one target yields zero or several observations

1 2 frame 1
1 2 3 frame 2
1 2 3 frame 2
1 2 frame 3

$$Z^k = \{Z(1), \dots, Z(k)\}$$

partition $\omega \triangleq \{t_0, \dots, t_M\}$
seek most probable partition

 $Z^k \triangleq$ all obs. $Z(k) \triangleq$ obs. current frame $t_0 \triangleq$ false alarms $t_m \triangleq$ track m

Multiple-Hypothesis Tracking (MHT)



MHT integrates

- Track initiation and termination
- Track update with (or without) observation
- Accounting for false alarms
- Enforcement of assumptions (A1, A2)

 $\theta_l(k) \triangleq$ assignment l at frame $k \quad \Theta_{\wp(l)}^{k-1} \triangleq \wp$ arent hypothesis

Hypothesis Probability

Given N frames, enumerate finite set of hypotheses

Compute probability for each element of this set

$$P\left(\Theta_{l}^{k} \mid Z^{k}\right) \propto \begin{array}{c} P\left\{Z(k) \mid \theta_{l}(k), \Theta_{\wp(l)}^{k-1}, Z^{k-1}\right\} \\ P(\text{ current obs. | current assignment}) \\ P\left\{\theta_{l}(k) \mid \Theta_{\wp(l)}^{k-1}, Z^{k-1}\right\} \\ \times P(\text{ current assignment | parent hypothesis}) \\ P\left\{\Theta_{\wp(l)}^{k-1} \mid Z^{k-1}\right\} \\ \times P(\text{ parent hypothesis | prior obs.}) \end{array}$$

Probability of Observations given Assignment



 $m_k \triangleq$ num obs. frame k

Probability of Assignment (1)



Hypothesis 1

Hypothesis 2

We can sum probabilities for these hypotheses !



Multi-Target Tracking as Bayesian Clustering

Bayesian Clustering



Goal: sample from $p(\pi, \theta | x_1, ..., x_N, \alpha, \lambda)$

 $\theta \triangleq$ cluster params. $\pi \triangleq$ cluster weights α, λ : known, fixed

Modeling Infinitely Many Clusters

mixture weights How to model infinite mixture ? Via Dirichlet process mixture: $p(x | \theta_1, \theta_2, ...) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \pi_k f(x | \theta_k)$ $\pi \sim \text{GEM}(\alpha)$ π_1 $\beta_k \sim \operatorname{Beta}(1,\alpha)$ π_2 $\pi_k = \beta_k \prod^{k-1} \left(1 - \beta_k\right)$

Key Densities assignment all other assignments $p(Z_i \mid Z_{i}, \alpha) =$ $\frac{1}{\alpha + N - 1} \left[\alpha \delta(z_i, K + 1) + \sum_{k=1}^{\kappa} N_k^{-i} \delta(z_i, k) \right]$ num. obs. for cluster k new cluster $p(x_i \mid z_i = k, z_{i}, x_{i}, \lambda) = p(x_i \mid \{x_j \mid z_j = k, j \neq i\}, \lambda)$ obs. all assignments, other obs. obs. { obs. in cluster k })

Sampling the Posterior Distribution

- *p* (assignment | all other assignments, obs. , $lpha,\lambda$) \propto
- ${\it p}$ (assignment | all other assignments, $\,\alpha$) $\,\times\,$

p (obs. | all obs. assignments, λ)

Algorithm: Rao-Blackwellized Gibbs Sampler

- → Given prior cluster assignments and cluster statistics
 - 1. sample random permutation { 1,...,*N* }

(a) For each obs. sample its cluster assignment(b) Update that cluster's statistics

2. delete empty clusters

Data Association as Clustering



 $k \triangleq ext{track id } u \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Lambda_u) \ w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Lambda_w) \ A, B, C$: fixed

Assessment



20,000 iterations

7th most frequent assignment



Pfinder

[Pfinder] ●0



(a)



(b)



(c)

Fig. 1. (a) Video input (n.b. color image, shown here in grayscale). (b) segmentation. (c) A 2D representation of the blob statistics.

[C.R. Wren et al., "Pfinder: Real-Time Tracking of the Human Body," PAMI 1997]



(a)

(b)



(c)

(d)

Fig. 3. (a) Chris Wren playing with Bruce Blumberg's virtual dog in the ALIVE space. (b) Playing SURVIVE. (c) Real-time reading of American Sign Language (with Thad Stamer doing the signing). (d) Trevor Darrell demonstrating vision-driven avatars.

[C.R. Wren et al., "Pfinder: Real-Time Tracking of the Human Body," PAMI 1997]

[Background Modeling]

Background Modeling
Challenges of Finding Moving Regions



[K. Toyama et al., "Wallflower: Principles and Practice of Background Maintenance," ICCV 1999]

Pixel-Level Model

Wiener filter

$$\begin{split} \underline{s}_{t} &= -\sum_{k=1}^{p} a_{k} s_{t-k} \\ \mathbf{E}[e_{t}^{2}] &= \mathbf{E}[s_{t}^{2}] + \sum_{k=1}^{p} a_{k} \mathbf{E}[s_{t} s_{t-k}] \end{split}$$

[K. Toyama et al., "Wallflower: Principles and Practice of Background Maintenance," ICCV 1999]

Region Level

As each new pair of raw and foreground-marked images, I_t and F_t , arrives,

1. Compute image differences (Figures 1a and b):

$$\mathbf{J}_{l}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } |\mathbf{I}_{l}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{I}_{l \cdot l}(\mathbf{x})| > k_{\text{motion}} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

 Compute the subset of pixels which occur at the intersection of adjacent pairs of differenced images [1] and the previous foreground image (Figure 1c):

 $\mathbf{K}_{t}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{J}_{t}(\mathbf{x}) \wedge \mathbf{J}_{t-1}(\mathbf{x}) \wedge \mathbf{F}_{t-1}(\mathbf{x}).$

- 3. Find 4-connected regions, \mathbf{R}_i , in \mathbf{K}_i , discarding regions consisting of less than k_{\min} pixels [2].
- 4. Compute H_i , the normalized histogram of each \mathbf{R}_i , as projected onto the image I_{t-1} (*s* is a pixel value):

$$\mathbf{H}_{i}(s) = \frac{\left| \left\{ \mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{R}_{i} \text{ and } \mathbf{I}_{t-1}(\mathbf{x}) = s \right\} \right|}{\left| \mathbf{R}_{i} \right|}$$

 Backproject histograms in I_i: For each R_i, compute F_{r-1}
 ^A R_i, and from each point in the intersection, grow L_i, the 4-connected regions in the image,

$$L_{i}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } H_{i}(I_{i}(\mathbf{x})) > \varepsilon, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

where we use $k_{\text{motion}} = 16$, $k_{\text{min}} = 8$, $\varepsilon = 0.1$.

[K. Toyama et al., "Wallflower: Principles and Practice of Background Maintenance," ICCV 1999]

Challenges of Finding Moving Regions

(a) A homogeneous disk moves to the right. Change is visible in the black regions only $(J_{t-1}$ in text).

(b) The same thing happens one frame later (J_t) .

(c) Only the intersection $(J_{t-1} \wedge J_t)$ is certain to be foreground in the middle image.



[K. Toyama et al., "Wallflower: Principles and Practice of Background Maintenance," ICCV 1999]

[Background Modeling]

Comparison to Prior Methods

	Alonat Object	Time of Day	inter Switch	1 too life	Canounaute	Change and Change and	Torner out
Test Image	-		6			1	
	Chair moved	Light gradually brightened	Light just switched on	Tree Waving	Foreground covers monitor pattern	No clean background training	Interior motion undectable
Ideal Foreground		ş	Ś	h		` ¶î	~
Adjacent Frame Difference		48	ß	گ	()	- E-	R
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Mean & Covariance [10]		್ಷೇಕ್ಷ್	5	- 30		Υ.	
Mixture of Gaussians [3]		- <u>-</u>	5	Å.	-1	14.	~
Normalized Block Correlation [7]		-	6.	4	G		е.
Temporal Derivative [4]	··· /2	2	- Lai	-	E	्रिंट क्र	e de la companya de l
Bayesian Decision [8]			5	- <u>}</u>			
Eigen- background [9]	× #	€i÷ -	5		(\cdot)		\sim
Linear Prediction [this paper]		Ø.,	Sa	-	E	44	
Wallflower [this paper]		€jr -		-10		1	24

[K. Toyama et al., "Wallflower: Principles and Practice of Background Maintenance," ICCV 1999]

[Background Modeling]

W^4 System



(b)

[I. Haritaoglu, D. Harwood, and L.S. Davis, " W^4 : Real-Time Surveillance of People and Their Activities," PAMI 2000]

W^4 System



[I. Haritaoglu, D. Harwood, and L.S. Davis, " W^4 : Real-Time Surveillance of People and Their Activities," PAMI 2000]

[Background Modeling]

W⁴ System



[I. Haritaoglu, D. Harwood, and L.S. Davis, " W^4 : Real-Time Surveillance of People and Their Activities," PAMI 2000]

W^4 System



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Bayesian Methods for Multi-Target Tracking

BraMBLe





 $\left[\text{ M. Isard and J. MacCormick, "BraMBLe: A Bayesian Multiple-Blob Tracker," ICCV 2001 } \right]$

BraMBLe





[M. Isard and J. MacCormick, "BraMBLe: A Bayesian Multiple-Blob Tracker," ICCV 2001]

BraMBLe



[M. Isard and J. MacCormick, "BraMBLe: A Bayesian Multiple-Blob Tracker," ICCV 2001]

Using Particles to Track Varying Numbers of Interacting People



State and Observation Model $X_t = \{X_{1,t}, \dots, X_{K,t}\}$ Multi-object multi-obj configuration transition $p(X_t | Z_{1:t}) \propto p(Z_t | X_t) \times \int p(X_t | X_{t-1}) p(X_{t-1} | Z_{1:t-1}) dX_{t-1}$ Filtering distribution $p(X_t | Z_{1:t}) \approx \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_n(X_t, X_t^{(n)})$

Approximation by samples

Observation



Global Binary Observation Model



$p(X_t | Z_{1:t})$ Approximation via RJ MCMC

Samples within Markov chain for a given frame



RJ MCMC moves: update birth swap death



Assessment



ranked 2nd compared with KLT, Active Shapes, face detector

RJ MCMC Model Selection (1)



 $\{1,\ldots,M\}\times\prod_{m=1}^{M}\mathcal{X}_{m}$ vs. $\bigcup_{m=1}^{M}\{m\}\times\mathcal{X}_{m}$



 \mathcal{M}_{I}



 \mathcal{M}_{2}

 $p(m, x_m \mid Z), x_m \in \mathcal{X}_m$ $\mathcal{M}_m, m = 1, \dots, M$

product **RJ MCMC** space

Carlin & Chib, Bayesian model choice via MCMC, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society 1995



 $u_{m,n} \triangleq$ auxiliary var. with proposal density $q_{m \to n}(\cdot | \cdot) |J_f| \triangleq$ det. of Jacobian

RJ MCMC Example

RBF regression how many kernels?



RJ MCMC moves: merge split birth death

$$\mu = \frac{\mu_1 + \mu_2}{2} \qquad \mu_1 = \mu - \beta u_{n,m} \qquad \mu_2 = \mu + \beta u_{n,m} \qquad u_{n,m} \sim \mathcal{U}_{[0,1]}$$

$$q(k \mid k+1) = \frac{1}{k+1} \qquad q(k+1 \mid k) = \frac{1}{k} \qquad J_{split} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -\beta & \beta \end{bmatrix}$$