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An improved method for image denoising based on fractional-order integration

Key words: Fractional-order integral; Cauchy integral; Image denoising; Fractional gradient; Texture protection

Corresponding author: Guo HUANG

E-mail: huangguoxuli@163.com

 ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8109-7833>

Motivation

1. With the rapid development of computer technology, digital image filtering technology has been widely used. Image denoising is an important part of image filtering.
2. Several discretization methods of fractional calculus have been studied in detail and applied to image processing, and good numerical simulation results have been obtained.
3. The fractional-order integral operator has low-pass characteristic, and some details of the image will be damaged because of the multi-iteration process.

Main idea

1. In the denoising process, the proposed method sets a higher order of small integral to construct the denoising mask in the increasing stage of signal-to-noise ratio (SNR).
2. At the beginning of the decrease of SNR, a lower order of the micro-integral has been set to construct the denoising mask, and a compensation mechanism has been used to partially restore the edge and texture information of the image.
3. The corresponding image denoising mask can be constructed by setting the micro-integration order, and the local fine-tuning of the noisy image can be realized by combining large iteration numbers.

Method

1. The basic principle of the image denoising model based on fractional integration is to introduce two parameters, i.e., integral order ν and iteration number n .
2. In the iterative denoising process, the fractional gradient modulus of the image is obtained by the fractional differential mask operator of eight pixel directions.
3. The intensity of image edge compensation is determined by the classical mathematical model using the fractional gradient modulus as the parameter.

Major results

1. Contrast images and horizontal lines by the Grünwald-Letnikov (G-L) method and the proposed method

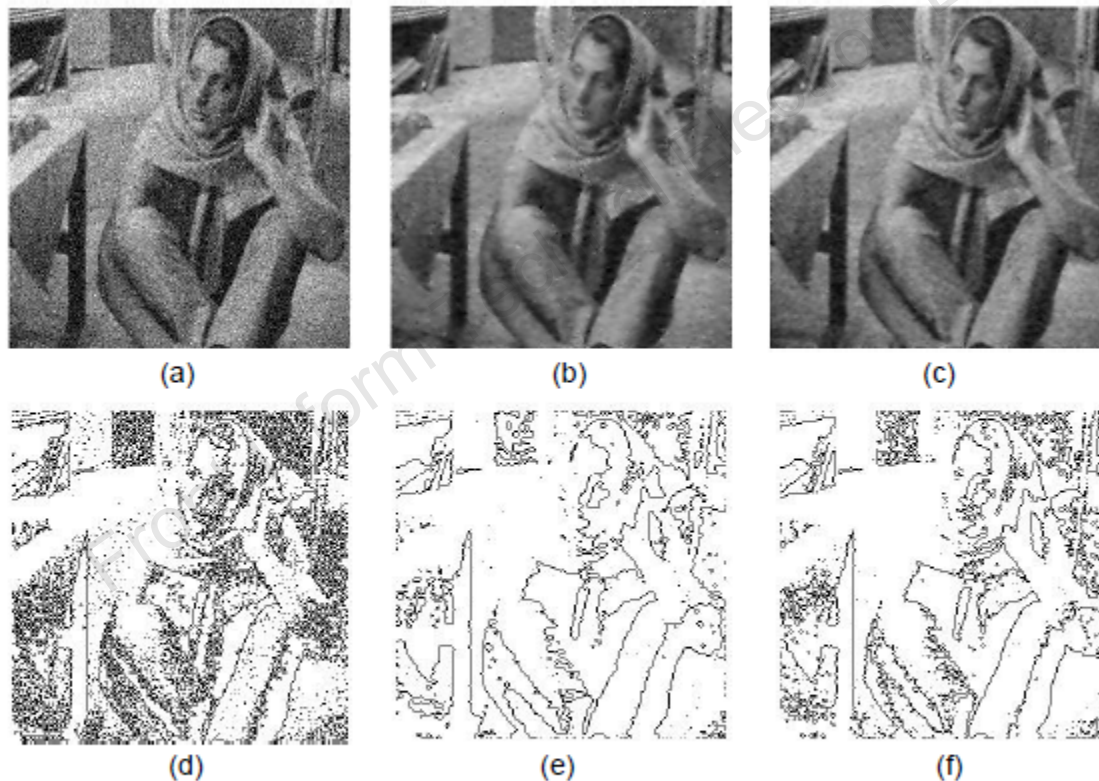


Fig. 1 Noise image (a), denoising effect of the Grünwald-Letnikov (G-L) method (b), denoising effect of the proposed method (c), horizontal line image of the noise image (d), horizontal line image of the G-L method (e), and horizontal line image of the proposed method (f)

Major results (Cont'd)

2. Denoising performance comparisons between the proposed method and G-L method

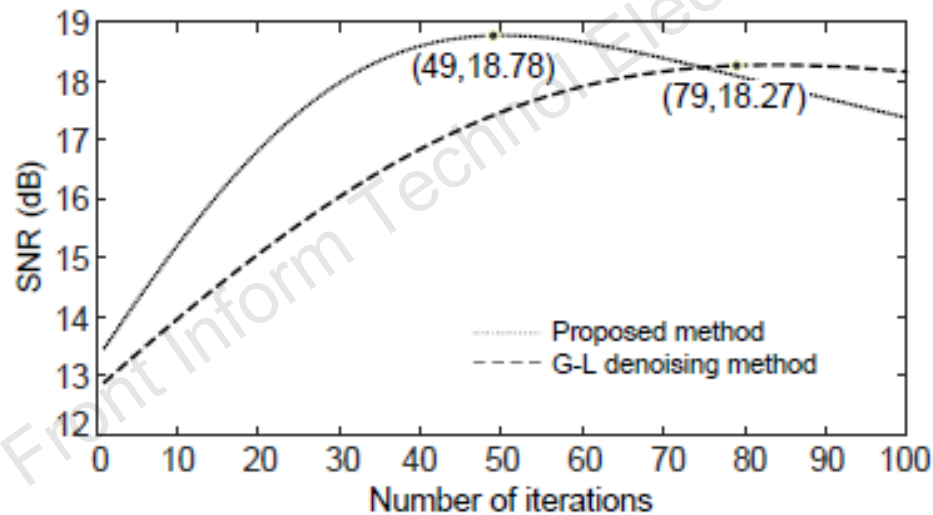


Fig. 2 Denoising performance comparison between the proposed method and the G-L method

Major results (Cont'd)

3. Denoising effects of different image denoising methods



Fig. 3 Noise image (a) and the denoising effect obtained by the mean denoising method (b), Gaussian method (c), Wiener method (d), G-L method (e), PDE method (f), NLM method (g), and the proposed method (h)

Major results (Cont'd)

4. Horizontal lines of the denoised image obtained by different image denoising methods

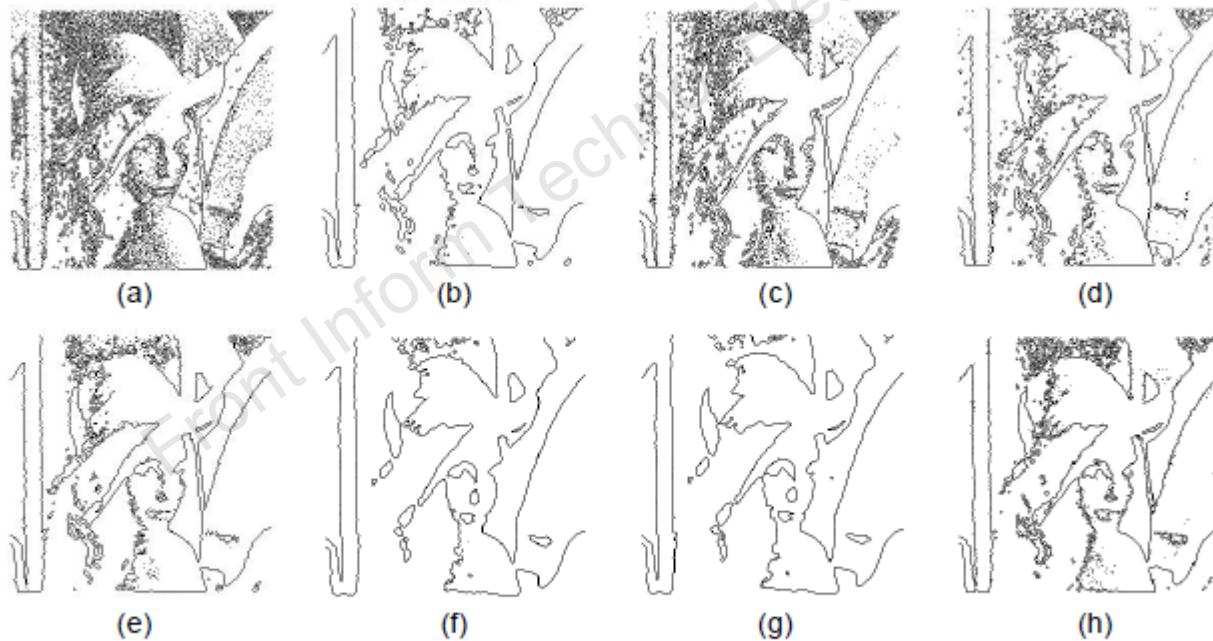


Fig. 4 Noise image (a) and horizontal line images obtained by the mean denoising method (b), Gaussian method (c), Wiener method (d), G-L method (e), PDE method (f), NLM method (g), and the proposed method (h)

Major results (Cont'd)

5. Performance comparison of the Lena image processed by different image denoising models

Table 1 Performance comparison of Lena image processed by different image denoising models

Method	MSE	SNR (dB)	AG	EPI
Mean denoising	0.0049	14.6732	10.5327	2.3962
Gaussian	0.0042	15.6993	11.2498	2.8953
Wiener	0.0041	16.5922	11.3890	3.0242
G-L	0.0039	17.1527	12.0012	3.2189
PDE	0.0038	17.2315	11.8965	3.1682
NLM	0.0036	17.9212	13.6793	3.7639
Proposed method	0.0034	18.2165	13.5985	3.7038

Conclusions

1. A new fractional-order integral denoising method has been proposed which uses the fractional gradient modulus to control the intensity of edge compensation.
2. Simulation results showed that the proposed image denoising method can protect the edge texture information of the image while removing the noise.
3. This method can obtain higher image feature values and better image vision after denoising than the existing denoising methods, because a texture protection mechanism is adopted during the iterative processing.



Xu LI is pursuing a doctorate in Sichuan University. Her research interests include the application of fractional calculus in circuit and image processing.



Guo HUANG received his PhD degree from College of Computer and Science of Sichuan University in 2011. Currently, he is a professor of Artificial Intelligence College of Leshan Normal University. His research interests focus mainly on application of fractional-order calculus and the partial differential equations on image enhancement, denoising, and segmentation.



Qing-li CHEN received his PhD degree from College of Computer Science in Sichuan University. He is currently a lecturer in the College of Computer Science in Leshan Normal University. His research interests are mainly image processing and fractional partial differential equations in image enhancement, denoising, and segmentation.



Hong-ying QIN received her MS degree in software from the University of Electronic Science and Technology in 2007. Currently she is a teacher of Computer Science College of Leshan Normao University. Her research interests are mainly digital image processing and modern education technology.



Tao MEN received his MS degree from College of Computer and Science of University of Electronic Science and Technology of China in 2005. Currently, he is a professor of School of Design of Leshan Normal University. His research interests focus mainly on digital media technology and modern educational technology.



Yi-fei PU received his BS, MS, and PhD degrees from the School of Electronics and Information Engineering, Sichuan University, China. He finished his post-doctoral study in the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Nancy University, and University of Paris, France. He is a professor in the School of Computer Science and Technology, Sichuan University. He studies the application of fractional calculus and fractional partial differential equation on signal analysis and processing.