Robust Event-based Angular Velocity Estimation in Dynamic Environments

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Chapter 1



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 - Low-latency and Scene-robust Optical Flow
- 5 Robust Angular Velocity Estimation in Dynamic Environments
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Motivation

- Real work environment is apparently different from well-defined environment.
- RGB-D cameras have a narrow range of activity (indoor) and have the same limitation as the conventional frame-based cameras. (motion blur, low dynamic range, etc.)



Video 1. Robust RGB-D visual odometry in dynamic environment [1]

Video 2. Real-time Object-aware Monocular Depth Estimation in Onboard Systems [2]

[1] Lee, Sangil, Son, Clark Youngdong, and Kim, H Jin, "Robust Real-time RGB-D Visual Odometry in Dynamic Environments via Rigid Motion Model", IROS, 2019.

[2] Lee, Sangil, Lee, Chungkeun, Kim, Haram, and Kim, H Jin, "Real-time Object-aware Monocular Depth Estimation in Onboard Systems," IJCAS, 2021. 4/60



Motivation

- The **frame-based camera** produces images at a fixed frame rate.
- Thus, there exist blind time and exposure time.
- Every pixel of the event-based camera detects the change in light intensity individually.



Figure 1. Frames vs. Events. Adopted from [3,4].



Video 3. Frames vs. Events in HDR scene.



Challenges

- Due to these characteristics of the event camera, it has a large potential to be performed well in a dynamic environment including vehicle and human's interaction.
- Challenge 1: Since event camera is a kind of data-driven sensors, it is difficult to perceive scene in event stream. ⇒ Ch. 3 and 4
- Challenge 2: Because of the same reason, it is hard to distinguish between background and foreground object in the stationary camera. ⇒ Ch. 5



(a) Road at night (related to C1)

(b) Car observed from stationary camera (related to C2)

Video 4. Frames vs. Events in various environments

Research Objectives

- Objective 1: We propose an asynchronous optical flow stream that accurately estimates angular velocity with a low latency.
- Objective 2: We robustly estimate angular velocity in a dynamic environment using optical flow stream and dual-mode motion model.



Figure 2. Flowchart of the dissertation

Representative Papers (Cont'd)

Optical Flow Estimation

- R. Benosman, et al., "Event-based Visual Flow." IEEE Trans. Neural Netw. Learning Syst., 2014.
- E. Mueggler, et al., "Lifetime Estimation of Events from Dynamic Vision Sensors," ICRA, 2015.
 ⇒ <u>These visual flows are vulnerable to timestamp noise and aperture problem.</u>
- M. Liu and T. Delbruck, "Adaptive Time-Slice Block-Matching Optical Flow Algorithm for Dynamic Vision Sensors," BMVC, 2018.
- C. Lee, et al., "Spike-Flownet: Event-based Optical Flow Estimation with Energy Efficient Hybrid Neural Networks," ECCV, 2020.
- A. Z. Zhu, et al., "EV-Flownet: Self-supervised Optical Flow Estimation for Event-based Cameras," arXiv preprint, 2018.
- A. Z. Zhu, et al., "Unsupervised Event-based Learning of Optical Flow, Depth, and Ego motion," CVPR, 2019.
 - \Rightarrow Event-frame-based flow map estimation algorithms have a large latency.

Representative Papers

Angular Velocity Estimation

- G. Gallego, et al., "A Unifying Contrast Maximization Framework for Event Cameras, with Applications to Motion, Depth, and Optical Flow Estimation," CVPR, 2018.
- M. Gehrig, et al., "Event-based Angular Velocity Regression with Spiking Networks," ICRA, 2020.
 ⇒ Event-frame-based angular velocity estimation algorithms have a large latency and their parameter configuration highly depends on a scene.

Motion Segmentation/Estimation in Dynamic Environments

- T. Stoffregen, et al., "Event-based Motion Segmentation by Motion Compensation," ICCV, 2019.
- D. Falanga, et al., "Dynamic Obstacle Avoidance for Quadrotors with Event Cameras," Science Robotics, 2020.
 - \Rightarrow Motion-compensated image of warped events is easily corrupted by outliers.
- A. Mitrokhin, et al., "EV-IMO: Motion Segmentation Dataset and Learning Pipeline for Event Cameras," IROS, 2019.

 \Rightarrow Moving objects occupy a small portion of the image frame, and the camera has to keep moving.

Contributions and Outlines

- Chapter 3: Visual Flow with Intra-pixel-area Events
 - I. Intra-pixel-area Events for visual flow to be estimated robustly to data noise
 - II. Lifetime estimation and edge map detection with accurate visual flow
 - \Rightarrow <u>"Edge Detection for Event Cameras using Intra-pixel-area Events," BMVC, 2019.</u>
- Chapter 4: Low-latency and Scene-robust Optical Flow
 - I. Low-latency optical flow estimates angular velocity accurately
 - II. Scene-robust optical flow shows stable performance with consistent latency under 15ms
 ⇒ "Low-latency and Scene-robust Optical Flow Stream and Angular Velocity Estimation," Access, 2021.
- Chapter 5: Robust Angular Velocity Estimation in Dynamic Environments
 - I. Dual-mode motion model detects moving objects without prior information
 - II. Robustness to moving objects for angular velocity estimation
 - \Rightarrow <u>"Real-time Rigid Motion Segmentation using Grid-based Optical Flow," SMC, 2017.</u>

⇒ <u>"Robust Real-time RGB-D Visual Odometry in Dynamic Environments via Rigid Motion</u> <u>Model," IROS, 2019.</u>

Chapter 2

Introduction

Preliminaries

- Event Camera
- Event Representations

- 3 Visual Flow with Intra-pixel-area Events
 - 4 Low-latency and Scene-robust Optical Flow
- 5 Robust Angular Velocity Estimation in Dynamic Environments
- 6 Conclusion

Event Camera

- Event camera senses logarithmic scale of intensity, detects the change, and verifies the polarity.
- Event camera produces asynchronous event:

 $e_k = (\mathbf{x}_k, t_k, p_k)$

with pixel position \mathbf{x}_k , timestamp t_k , polarity p_k .

• DAVIS240C produces images and events.



Figure 4. DAVIS240C event camera used in presentation







Video 5. The event of DVS and the image of APS.

Event Representations (Cont'd)

- Event stream: single event is fetched into the algorithm.
- Event packet: multiple events are fetched into the algorithm. The size of event packet can be decided by the number or time window of them.
- 3D spatio-temporal points: 3D points set in (x, y, t) space





(b) Spatio-temporal graph

Figure 5. Various event representations.



Figure 6. Spiking neural network that predicts angular velocity

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Event Representations

- Image of stacked events

 (a.k.a. SAE, time slice): image stacked
 by the timestamp of event packet
- Motion-compensated image of events (a.k.a. IWE): the count map of events warped by motion



(a) Image of stacked events

(b) Motion-compensated image

Figure 7. Various event representations.



Figure 8. Motion segmentation by motion compensation.

Chapter 3

Introduction

Preliminaries

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Visual Flow with Intra-pixel-area Events

- Objective and Contributions
- Visual Flow and Edge Detection
- Intra-pixel-area Events
- Evaluation Results and Summary
- Low-latency and Scene-robust Optical Flow
- 5 Robust Angular Velocity Estimation in Dynamic Environments

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Objective and Contributions

Objective

 Introduce intra-pixel-area events and develop an algorithm that estimates accurate visual flow and detects sharp edge map



Contributions

- Enhance the visual flow and lifetime estimation using intra-pixel-area event
 - : estimates visual flow and lifetime accurately.
- Detect semi-dense edge map from sparse event stream
 - : shows high similarity to the Canny edge (GT)

Visual Flow and Lifetime

• SAE, $\Sigma_e(\mathbf{x})$, is defined as

 $\Sigma_e : \mathbb{N}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$ $\mathbf{x}_k \mapsto \Sigma_e(\mathbf{x}_k) = t_k$

Visual flow can be computed by the gradient vector of the tangent plane fitted on a SAE surface, n = (n₁, n₂, n₃).

$$v_x = -n_3 \ / \ n_1, \ v_y = -n_3 \ / \ n_2$$

• Then, lifetime of event is the time until the adjacent event is triggered.

$$\tau(\mathbf{x}) = 1[px]/v[px/s]$$
$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2}} = \frac{1}{n_3}\sqrt{n_1^2 + n_2^2}$$



Figure 9. The example of SAE.



Figure 10. The basic principle of visual flow computation [5].

Conclusion

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Intra-pixel-area Events

• Intra-pixel-area event of an event $e_k = (\mathbf{x}_k, t_k, p_k) = (x_k, y_k, t_k, p_k)$ exists inside

$$S_{\mathbf{x_k}}(\delta) = \{(x, y, t_k) | x_k - \delta < x < x_k + \delta \text{ and } y_k - \delta < y < y_k + \delta\}$$

• Then, the **distance function is revised** as follows

$$d = dist(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{z}) \rightarrow d = \min dist(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{z}), \forall \mathbf{z} \in S_{\mathbf{x}}(\delta),$$

where

$$dist(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{z}) = \frac{|\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{z} - 1|}{\|n\|_2^2}$$

• Inlier events are filtered according to $|d| < \epsilon_{th}$ as the same with the original.



Intra-pixel-area Events

• Intra-pixel-area event makes the fitting plane algorithm more robust against the noise.



Figure 11. Description and effectiveness of the intra-pixel-area event. After computing a local plane (gray) w/ or w/o intrapixel-area event, the outliers (blue), inliers (red), and the current event (green) are drawn.



Intra-pixel-area Events

- In both plots, " $\delta = 0$ " means "w/o intra-pixel-area", that is, naïve RANSAC.
- A fitting plane with intra-pixel-area event shows higher F-measure and lower lifetime error within reasonable data noise levels.



Figure 12. F-measurement evaluation graph with a standard deviation of data noise. (a) F-measure versus standard deviation of data noise depending on intra-pixel radius, (b) lifetime accuracy versus intra-pixel radius depending on data noise.

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Evaluation Results



Video 6. Result of visual flow estimation. The direction of flow vector are represented based on the color wheel.

[5] R. Benosman, et al., "Event-based visual flow," IEEE TNNLS, 2014.

[6] E. Mueggler, et al., "Lifetime estimation of events from dynamic vision sensors," ICRA, 2015.

[7] T. Delbruck, "Frame-free dynamic digital vision," in Proceedings of Intl. Symp. on Secure-Life Electronics, 2008.

[8] R. Benosman, et al., "Asynchronous frameless event-based optical flow," Neural Networks, 2012.



Evaluation Results

- In bottom figures, the estimated lifetimes are drawn overlaid on a one image when vertical bar moves horizontally.
- Our visual flow shows more consistent and precise results than the existing algorithm.





Evaluation Results

• In a complicated scene, the proposed algorithm detects a sharper edge map due to accurate visual flow and lifetime estimation.



Canny edge (GT)

30ms accumulation

E. Mueggler [6]

Video 8. The result of gray image, ground-truth edge map (Canny), Proposed, E. Mueggler, and 30ms, 1ms accumulation in clockwise from top-left.

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Evaluation Results

 Closest distance metric (CDM) [9] is defined as CDM_η(f,g)

$$= \left(1 - \frac{\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{M}_{cd}(f,g))}{|f \cup g|}\right) \times 100[\%],$$

where η is the pixel radius to find matching edge pixels between two binary images, f and g.

- $C(\mathcal{M}_{cd}(f,g))$ is the distance cost of a pair matched by the closest-distance.
- |*f*U*g*| is the number of edge pixels belonging to *f* or *g*.



Figure 14. Performance analysis for edge detection. The camera moves slowly in the beginning and quickly in the latter part of the sequence.



Summary

- We proposed an intra-pixel-area event to improve the performance of RANSAC so that visual flow, lifetime, and edge map can be precisely estimated.
- However, in the natural scene, visual flow suffers from the **aperture problem** and derives the gradient vector of a straight line.



(d) E. Mueggler [6]

(e) Local Plane [5]

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- **Preliminaries**
- Visual Flow with Intra-pixel-area Events
- Low-latency and Scene-robust Optical Flow
- **Objective and Contributions**
- Asynchronous Optical Flow Stream
- Angular Velocity Estimation
- **Evaluation Results and Summary**
- Robust Angular Velocity Estimation in Dynamic Environments
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Objective and Contributions

Objective

 Develop an algorithm that estimates asynchronous optical flow stream with low latency and robustness to various scenes

Contributions



Video 10. Asynchronous event (former) and optical flow (latter) stream.

- Enhancement of the patch-matching-based optical flow algorithm
 : our local time slice produces asynchronous optical flow with very low latency
- Angular velocity estimation using above asynchronous optical flow stream
 : updates with high accuracy, low latency and robustness to a various scene

Conclusion 000

Asynchronous Optical Flow

Adaptive time-slice block-matching optical flow (ABMOF) [10]

- Fetch each incoming event
- Construct time slice (SAE) at certain condition
- Estimate optical flow vector by finding the best matching block in the both of the previous time slices



Figure 15. Time-slice block-matching method [14]

Asynchronous Optical Flow

- Adaptive time-slice block-matching optical flow (ABMOF) vs. Proposed:
 - 1. global time slice over whole image frame vs. local time slice over each patch
 - 2. share dt vs. compute individual dt_i
- In Figure 16, for visual simplicity, we illustrate the case for patch size w = 3 in the 3D image and its vertical direction representing the queue capacity and bright values are recent events.



Figure 16. Description of the local time slice. Each bin denotes the queue of a pixel, and a new event (magenta cube) is pushed into adjacent bins.

Asynchronous Optical Flow

- Since ABMOF constructs a **global time slice**, it does **not consider the texture distribution**.
- Thus, erroneous optical flow may occur in areas with low texture.
- Our local time slice can extract the detail of a scene regardless of the local texture level so that the block-matching method successfully estimates an offset, i.e., optical flow.



(a) ABMOF

(b) Proposed

Figure 17. The snapshot of time slice of (a) ABMOF and (b) ours. Since ours does not construct a full-sized time slice, local time slices of pixels is drawn overlaid on a frame for visualization purposes only.

Conclusion

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Angular Velocity Estimation

- We compute angular velocity analytically from a bunch of optical flows.
- For an optical flow $(p_k, v_k, dt_k) = (x_k, y_k, u_k, v_k, dt_k)$, the below equation is satisfied:

$$\mathbf{v}_{k} = \begin{pmatrix} u_{k} \\ v_{k} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_{x} & 0 \\ 0 & f_{y} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_{k}y_{k} & -1 - x_{k}^{2} & y_{k} \\ 1 + y_{k}^{2} & -x_{k}y_{k} & -x_{k} \end{pmatrix} dt_{k}\boldsymbol{\omega} = A_{k}dt_{k}\boldsymbol{\omega}$$

• Then, for a total of *n* optical flows, angular velocity can be solved by least-square method

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = (A_{1:n}^T A_{1:n})^{-1} A_{1:n}^T T_{1:n}^{-1} \mathbf{v}_{1:n},$$

where

$$\begin{split} A_{1:n} &= [A_1^T, \cdots, A_n^T]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{2n \times 3}, \ \mathbf{v}_{1:n} = [\mathbf{v}_1^T, \cdots, \mathbf{v}_n^T]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{2n \times 1} \\ T_{1:n} &\in \mathbb{R}^{2n \times 2n}, \quad T_{2i-1,2i-1} = T_{2i,2i} = dt_i, \forall i = 1, \dots, n \end{split}$$

 When the variance becomes less than the threshold, angular velocity is computed.

$$Var(\omega) = (A^{T}A)^{-1}A^{T}T^{-1}Var(v)T^{-1}A(A^{T}A)^{-1}$$
$$= \sigma^{2}(A^{T}A)^{-1}A^{T}T^{-2}A(A^{T}A)^{-1}$$



Figure 18. Variance versus iterations

[11] Zhu, A. Z., et al., "The Multi Vehicle Stereo Event Camera Dataset: An Event Camera Dataset for 3D Perception." RA-L, 2018.

[12] A. Z. Zhu, et al., "Unsupervised event-based learning of optical flow, depth, and egomotion," CVPR, 2019.

[13] A. Z. Zhu, et al., "Ev-flownet: Self-supervised optical flow estimation for event-based cameras," arXiv, 2018.

[14] C. Lee, et al., "Spike-flownet: event-based optical flow estimation with energy-efficient hybrid neural networks," ECCV, 2020.

Evaluation Results



(ii) Since our optical flows are generatedasynchronously whereas the true flowmapis synchronized with frame rate,

• Thus, we compensate optical flow vectors

$$\begin{split} \hat{\mathbf{v}}_{i} &= \mathbf{v}_{i} \times \frac{t_{gt,k} - t_{gt,k-1}}{dt_{i}}, \\ \hat{\mathbf{p}}_{i} &= \mathbf{p}_{i} + \mathbf{v}_{i} \times \frac{t_{gt,k} - t_{i}}{dt_{i}}, \\ \text{s.t. } t_{gt,k-1} &< t_{i} < t_{gt,k}, \ \forall i, \end{split}$$

where $t_{gt,k}$ is the timestamp of the k-th flowmap.

Figure 19. Histogram of end-point errors of optical flow vectors with or without vector compensation.

Table 1. Evaluations of optical flow on GT flowmap

Sequence	Average end-point error (px)						
	Ours	ABMOF	Zhu [12]	EV-FN [13]	Spike-FN [14]		
indoor1	1.09	1.28	0.58	1.03	0.84		
indoor2	1.76	1.98	1.02	1.72	1.28		
indoor3	1.54	1.74	0.87	1.53	1.11		
outdoor1	2.43	2.88	0.32	0.49	0.49		



Conclusion

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Evaluation Results

- Although EV-Flow produces a dense flowmap, we mask its result with the existence of events.
- ABMOF and EV-Flow yield erroneous optical flows at a distance where events are not triggered enough.

Figure 20. Qualitative results of optical flow on MVSEC sequences.

(i) indoor1	(ii) indoor2	(iii) indoor3	(iv) outdoor1	
				(a) Gray
				(b) nowmap
			- Androdon for	(c) Proposed
			up of an on the state	(a) ABIVIOF
			And a second sec	(e) EV-FIOW

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Evaluation Results

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 optical flows at a
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Figure 20. Qualitative results of optical flow on MVSEC sequences.



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Evaluation Results



ABMOF outputs **incorrect optical flows from a distance**, as indicated by the white rectangle.

Video 11. Qualitative results of optical flow on MVSEC sequences [11].

Evaluation Results

• Latency is computed by minimizing the below:

$$\sum_{i} w_{i} L_{\delta} \left(A \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{est}(\tau_{i} + \tau_{d}) + \mathbf{b} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{gt}(\tau_{i}) \right),$$

where τ_d is a latency, A is a diagonal coefficient, **b** is a bias coefficient, and $L_{\delta}(\cdot)$ is the Huber loss function.

 The number in parentheses indicates the accuracy of zero-latency angular velocity that is corrected by the above equation.

 Table 2. Evaluations for latency and accuracy of optical flow. Best results are in green.

Sequence		Average latency (ms)			Average accuracy ¹ (rad/s)			
		Ours	ABMOF	EV-FN	Ours	ABMOF	EV-FN	
shapes	low	14.40	31.86	26.95	0.110 (0.108)	0.147 (0.137)	0.269 (0.264)	
	mid	5.15	9.76	20.56	0.228 (0.195)	0.350 (0.256)	1.545 (1.524)	
	high	2.93	7.09	20.48	0.350 (0.310)	0.691 (0.563)	3.082 (3.039)	
	whole	3.04	7.31	20.45	0.296 (0.261)	0.548 (0.442)	2.350 (2.311)	
boxes	low	7.51	13.12	19.55	0.138 (0.134)	0.142 (0.136)	0.156 (0.146)	
	mid	1.86	3.97	20.91	0.297 (0.293)	0.361 (0.352)	1.199 (1.162)	
	high	0.59	2.35	22.57	0.355 (0.354)	0.380 (0.361)	2.666 (2.596)	
	whole	0.58	2.27	21.74	0.328 (0.327)	0.362 (0.346)	1.955 (1.903)	
poster	low	8.21	10.39	16.01	0.238 (0.238)	0.186 (0.185)	0.202 (0.190)	
	mid	2.14	3.24	20.74	0.303 (0.302)	0.347 (0.341)	1.291 (1.267)	
	high	0.52	1.93	19.81	0.359 (0.357)	0.409 (0.389)	2.906 (2.835)	
	whole	0.49	1.87	19.91	0.328 (0.327)	0.371 (0.356)	2.009 (1.960)	
dynamic	low	8.15	8.41	26.02	0.231 (0.229)	0.232 (0.227)	0.405 (0.391)	
	mid	4.35	6.46	22.40	0.242 (0.239)	0.272 (0.267)	0.539 (0.521)	
	high	1.80	3.23	21.83	0.289 (0.286)	0.341 (0.331)	1.525 (1.493)	
	whole	1.71	3.19	21.97	0.264 (0.261)	0.299 (0.291)	1.004 (0.980)	
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Evaluation Results

- In evaluation of angular velocity, eSNN [15] and CM [16] are compared with the proposed algorithm.
- Ours estimates accurate angular velocity with low latency and robustness to various scenes, whereas the performance of CM highly depends on the texture of the scene.

Table 3. Evaluations of angular velocity. Bestresults are in green.

Saguanaa		Avera	ge latenc	y (ms)	Average accuracy (rad/s)					
Sequ	Sequence		eSNN	СМ	Ours	eSNN	СМ			
	low	14.40	31.54	63.42	0.110	0.463	0.203			
shanas	mid	5.15	35.59	20.05	0.228	1.291	0.678			
snapes	high	2.93	35.93	14.57	0.350	2.578	1.154			
	whole	3.04	35.99	14.42	0.296	1.972	0.987			
	low	7.51	45.49	5.51	0.138	0.447	0.145			
boxes	mid	1.86	39.90	0.39	0.297	1.333	0.380			
	high	0.59	38.00	0.26	0.355	2.451	0.396			
	whole	0.58	38.31	0.18	0.328	1.856	0.378			
	low	8.21	39.74	7.37	0.238	0.458	0.250			
nostar	mid	2.14	40.31	1.60	0.303	1.163	0.463			
poster	high	0.52	39.29	0	0.359	2.901	0.461			
	whole	0.49	39.40	0	0.328	1.998	0.443			
dynamic	low	8.15	46.36	9.68	0.231	0.594	0.149			
	mid	4.35	43.67	5.63	0.242	0.628	0.160			
	high	1.80	41.69	2.44	0.289	1.314	0.183			
	whole	1.71	41.67	2.32	0.264	0.939	0.169			

[15] C. Lee, "Spike-FlowNet: Event-based Optical Flow Estimation with Energy-Efficient Hybrid Neural Networks," arXiv, 2020.

[16] G. Gallego, et al., "A Unifying Contrast Maximization Framework for Event Cameras, with Applications to Motion, Depth, and Optical Flow Estimation," CVPR, 2018.

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Summary

- We developed an algorithm that estimates accurate and low-latency optical flow.
- This approach takes advantage of event cameras such as low latency and high temporal resolution.
- The proposed optical flow and angular velocity estimation are exploited to develop robust angular velocity estimation in dynamic environments.



Figure 21. The result of angular velocity estimation. The bottom-right grayscale image denotes an image of stacked events showing the camera movement at a certain moment. Bright values are recent events.

Chapter 5

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- Preliminaries
- Visual Flow with Intra-pixel-area Events
- Low-latency and Scene-robust Optical Flow

Robust Angular Velocity Estimation in Dynamic Environments

- Objective and Contributions
- Motion Segmentation
- Dual-mode Motion Model Management
- Evaluation Results and Summary



Conclusion

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Objective and Contributions

Objective

 Develop an algorithm that robustly estimates angular velocity of the camera in dynamic environments where moving objects exist

Contributions



Video 12. The class-separated optical flow

- Segmentation of static background and dynamic foreground
 : our algorithm identifies a static background even if the camera stops
- Dual-mode motion model for event camera estimates the motion of static background
 : estimates the angular velocity of ego-motion robustly and accurately

Motion Segmentation



Figure 22. The pipeline description of the algorithm. A stream of optical flow is depicted based on a color wheel. $H^{(k)}$ and $G^{(k)}$ are the result of motion hypothesis search and refinement. Motion temporal matching yields ${}^*G^{(k)}$ from the label $L^{(k)}$ and the past.

Motion Segmentation



Figure 23. The pipeline description of the algorithm. Flowmap of grid-based optical flow $V^{(k)}$ is depicted based on a color wheel. $H^{(k)}$ and $G^{(k)}$ are the result of motion hypothesis search and refinement. Motion temporal matching yields ${}^*G^{(k)}$ from the label $L^{(k)}$ and the past. An IDs in $H^{(k)}$, $G^{(k)}$, ${}^*G^{(k)}$, and $L^{(k)}$ are indicated as eigen colors, whereas the probability *P* are represented by the mixture of eigen colors. In age map α , the brighter denotes the older.

Motion Segmentation

Grid-based optical flow

- To segment incoming spatial information instantly, a grid-based flow map is built.
- The representative optical flow of a cell is obtained from the medoid.

Motion hypothesis search

• We randomly select nearby cells with a probability proportional to the min-error, s_i :

$$s_{i} = \min(\min_{h} e_{h,i}, 1), \ i = 1 \dots n,$$

$$E = (e_{h,i})$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \operatorname{dist}(\omega_{1}, \bar{v}_{1}) & \cdots & \operatorname{dist}(\omega_{1}, \bar{v}_{n}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \operatorname{dist}(\omega_{n_{hyp}}, \bar{v}_{1}) & \cdots & \operatorname{dist}(\omega_{n_{hyp}}, \bar{v}_{n}) \end{cases}$$



Figure 24. The construction of a gridbased optical flow map

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 $H^{(k)}$

 $G^{(k)}$

 $*G^{(k)}$

(1)

(2)

Motion Segmentation

Motion hypothesis refinement and clustering (1)

- After searching n_{hyp} motion hypothesis, we repeat (E-step) finding the cell inliers and (M-step) estimating the their motion, until the supported number of each motion hypothesis remains unchanged.
- DBSCAN groups a number of motion hypotheses into fewer motions.

Motion temporal matching (2)

- Under the assumption that the distributions of the cell of a specific object are not changed unexpectedly in a short time.
- A matching coefficient between the *i*-th and the *j*-th motion at different timestamp (k) and (l):

$$C_{ij}^{(k,l)} = \frac{\sum \left(K_{\sigma} * \delta(G^{(k)}, i)\right) \odot \delta(G^{(l)}, j)}{\sqrt{\sum \delta(G^{(k)}, i) \sum \delta(G^{(l)}, j)}}, \quad C_{ij}^{(k,l)} = \frac{1}{1 + ||\omega_i^{(k)} - \omega_j^{(l)}||_2^2}$$

where δ operator constructs a binary matrix with one if the element value of the first term is equal to the second term.



Dual-mode Motion Model Management

Motion model update

• $P_i(h)$ means a probability of cell *i* is associated to motion *h*, and its label denotes dominant motion: $L_i = \operatorname{argmax} P_i(h)$

$$L_i = \operatorname*{argmax}_{1 \le h \le n_{hyp}} P_i(h)$$

• When the result of spatial segmentation and temporal matching $G_i^{(k)}$ is fetched,

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Apparent model:} & {}^{A}P_{i}^{(k+1)} = \begin{cases} \frac{A_{\tilde{\alpha}_{i}}^{(k)}}{A_{\tilde{\alpha}_{i}}^{(k)}+1} A_{\tilde{P}}^{(k)} + \frac{vec(G_{i}^{(k)})}{A_{\tilde{\alpha}_{i}}^{(k)}(k)} + 1, & \text{if } G_{i}^{(k)} = A_{L_{i}}^{(k)}, & \text{the final label} \\ A_{\tilde{P}_{i}}^{(k)}, & \text{otherwise,} & \\ & A_{\alpha_{i}}^{(k+1)} = \begin{cases} \min{(^{A}\tilde{\alpha}_{i}^{(k)}+1, \alpha_{\max})}, & \text{if } G_{i}^{(k)} = A_{L_{i}}^{(k)}, \\ A_{\tilde{\alpha}_{i}}^{(k)}, & \text{otherwise.} & \\ & A_{\tilde{\alpha}_{i}}^{(k)}, & \text{otherwise.} & \\ & A_{\tilde{\alpha}_{i}}^{(k)}, & \text{otherwise.} & \\ & & P_{i}^{(k+1)} = \begin{cases} \frac{C_{\tilde{\alpha}_{i}}^{(k)}}{C_{\tilde{\alpha}_{i}}^{(k)}+1} C_{\tilde{P}}^{(k)} + \frac{vec(G_{i}^{(k)})}{C_{\tilde{\alpha}_{i}}^{(k)}+1}, & \text{if } G_{i}^{(k)} \neq A_{L_{i}}^{(k)}, \\ & 0, & \text{else if } ^{C}\alpha_{i}^{(k+1)} = 0 \text{ and } ^{C}\alpha_{i}^{(k)} > 0, \\ & C_{\tilde{P}_{i}}^{(k)}, & \text{otherwise,} & \\ \end{cases} \\ \text{Candidate model:} & C_{\alpha_{i}}^{(k+1)} = \begin{cases} \min{(C_{\tilde{\alpha}_{i}}^{(k)}+1, \alpha_{\max})}, & \text{if } G_{i}^{(k)} = ^{C}L_{i}^{(k)}, \\ & \max{(C_{\tilde{\alpha}_{i}}^{(k)}-\tau \cdot (t^{(k+1)}-t^{(k)})}, 0), & \text{otherwise,} \\ \end{cases} \end{array}$$

Dual-mode Motion Model Management

Motion model swap

- Model swap is designed for preventing the apparent model from updating erroneous motion or from missing new motion.
- When the age of candidate model is saturated or larger than that of apparent model:

$${}^{A}P_{i}^{(k+1)} = {}^{C}\tilde{P}_{i}^{(k+1)}, \quad {}^{C}P_{i}^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{0} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{hyp}},$$
$${}^{A}\alpha_{i}^{(k+1)} = 0, \quad {}^{C}\alpha_{i}^{(k+1)} = 0.$$



Video 13. The internal parameter of apparent and candidate model when motion model swap happens.

Dual-mode Motion Model Management

Motion model compensation

- Since the apparent and candidate models operate on the camera coordinate, their parameters are need to be compensated through optical flow measurement.
- For each single optical flow vector, the probability vector and age of each model are compensated by 2D area-weighted interpolation:

$$\tilde{P}_i^{(k)} = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}_i^{(k)}} \omega_{ij} P_j^{(k-1)},$$
$$\tilde{\alpha}_i^{(k)} = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}_i^{(k)}} \omega_{ij} \alpha_j^{(k-1)}.$$



Figure 25. The description of how the parameters of cell are compensated. The average optical flow of *i*-th cell is \bar{v}_i , and then the parameters of *i*-th cell are compensated based on the parameters of cells that are elements of $S_i^{(k+1)}$.

Collected dataset

- Test sequences include indoor/outdoor, day/night environments.
- Test sequences include moving object such as human's interaction, vehicles.
- Published online at <u>https://sangillee.com/_pages/larr-dvs-de-dataset/</u>





(c) outdoor_day1









(d) outdoor_day2

Video 14. Frames and events of tested sequences. Positive and negative events are represented as green and red dots, respectively.

Compared algorithm



Conclusion 000

Evaluation Results

- The model of ours, and IWE of both EMSMC and CM are depicted.
- EMSMC segments different motions, whereas IWE of CM is corrupted due to moving object.
- Ours also can detect moving objects.



Figure 27. The internal parameter of compared algorithms.

[16] G. Gallego, et al., "A Unifying Contrast Maximization Framework for Event Cameras, with Applications to Motion, Depth, and Optical Flow Estimation," CVPR, 2018.

[17] T. Stoffregen, et al., "Event-based motion segmentation by motion compensation," ICCV, 2019.

Asynchronous Optical Flow

Robust Angular Velocity

Conclusion 000

Evaluation Results



Video 15. The internal parameter of our algorithm on the collected dataset.

- Table 4 shows the quantitative result of evaluations on the collected dataset.
- The latency of our algorithm is increased due to motion model update.
- Nevertheless, our algorithm is superior to other algorithms in terms of accuracy.
- The performance of EMSMC and CM deteriorate due to the existence of moving object.
- Although ours (Ch.4) does not consider moving objects, it estimates angular velocity accurately than other algorithms due to its robust estimator, RANSAC.

	Sequence	indoor	outdoor_day1	outdoor_day2	outdoor_night
s)	Ours	16.42	14.36	15.16	29.27
y (m	Ours (Ch.4)	8.72	12.59	11.26	24.22
tenc	EMSMC	5.66	10.22	11.23	25.86
vg. la	EMSMC-Hard	16.91	4.19	11.29	26.15
A	СМ	5.88	8.91	9.35	18.78
d/s)	Ours	0.264	0.141	0.145	0.160
y (ra	Ours (Ch.4)	0.537	0.409	0.153	0.155
urac	EMSMC	0.937	0.779	0.391	1.242
. acci	EMSMC-Hard	1.045	0.537	0.570	0.753
Avg	СМ	0.874	0.539	0.542	0.294

Conclusion

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- For visual clearness, we draw plots of angular velocity for x-axis only.
- The dark shaded region denotes the existence of moving object.
- Our algorithm robustly and accurately estimates the angular velocity.

Figure 28. The angular velocity estimates of compared algorithms on (upper) *indoor* and (lower) *outdoor_night* sequences



 Even in the situation in which the camera stops, ours estimates the zero angular velocity of the camera.



Video 16. Event stream in outdoor_day1 sequence.

Figure 29. The angular velocity estimates of compared algorithms on (upper) *outdoor_day1* and (lower) *outdoor_day2* sequences



Summary

- We developed an algorithm that segments dynamic foreground from a static background and identifies their regions.
- Therefore, our algorithm robustly estimates angular velocity in dynamic environments where moving object exists.
- Since the motion segmentation using dual-mode motion models and the motion estimation modules are loosely coupled to each other, our motion segmentation can be exploited to the other applications.



Figure 30. The angular velocity of our algorithm on the *indoor_day1* sequence.

Chapter 6

3

4

6

Introduction

- Preliminaries
- Visual Flow with Intra-pixel-area Events
- Low-latency and Scene-robust Optical Flow
- 5 Robust Angular Velocity Estimation in Dynamic Environments

Conclusion

- Summary and Future Work
- References

Summary and Future Work

Robust event-based angular velocity estimation in dynamic environments

- Chapter 3: Visual Flow with Intra-pixel-area Events
 - Intra-pixel-area events for enhancing the performance of plane fitting
 - Visual flow estimation and edge map detection that is accurate and robust
 - ⇒ Robustness to timestamp noise
- Chapter 4: Low-latency and Scene-robust Optical Flow
 - Optical flow with **low latency** under 15 ms consistently
 - Accurate estimation for various scene of tested sequences with the same parameters
 - ⇒ Robustness to various scenes
 - \Rightarrow Future research remains to increase the computational efficiency of the algorithm
- Chapter 5: Robust Angular Velocity Estimation in Dynamic Environments
 - Accurate angular velocity estimation using dual-mode motion models
 - ⇒ Robustness to moving objects
 - \Rightarrow Future research remains to expand the dimension of motion from 3-DoF to full DoF.

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Thank you for your attention!

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- Date: November 23, 2021



Appendix 1-1: Motivation

- Real work environment is apparently different from well-defined environment.
- Humans and vehicles can interfere in front of the camera.



Video A-1. Well-defined dataset. (left) KITTI [1], (right) DAVIS240C [2]





Figure A-1. Examples of dynamic environments [3,4]

[1] Andreas Geiger, et al., "Vision meets Robotics: The KITTI Dataset," IJRR, 2013.

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Appendix 1-2: Retina vs Frame-based Camera



Figure A-2. Biological retina vs. CMOS image sensor. Copyright ©PearsonEducation, Inc., 2013.

Figure A-3. Bayer pattern of image

- The biological retina and CMOS image sensor have similar mechanisms in terms of a single receptor.
- However, the big difference is how each system delivers light information, i.e., asynchronism vs. synchronism.

Appendix 2-1: Retina



Figure A-4. Biological retina and receptive field of visual system.



Figure A-5. Action potential of magno- and parvoganglion cell

- The ganglion cells in vertebrate retina constitute magnocellular (M-type) or parvocellular (P-type) pathway that respond to motion or color/shapes, respectively.
- Event camera is developed to imitate the magnocellular pathway in the brain.

Appendix 3-1: Histogram of lifetime estimates

- To measure the preciseness of lifetime estimates, Gaussian curve is fitted to the histogram.
- In (a), $\mu_1 = 0.004$, $\sigma_1 = 0.0013$ and $\mu_2 = 0.009$, $\sigma_2 = 0.0019$, In (b), $\mu_1 = 0.006$, $\sigma_1 = 0.0010$ and $\mu_2 = 0.010$, $\sigma_2 = 0.0019$.



Figure A-6. The histogram of lifetime estimates. Gaussian curves fitted to the histogram are drawn overlaid.

Appendix 3-2: Frame vs. event-based edge detection

- Canny edge can be regarded as the ground truth of edge detection only at that time the frame is generated.
- Event-based edge detection shows a much higher temporal resolution.



Video A-2. Grayscale image and the detected edge map by Canny and the proposed event-base method.

Appendix 3-3: Self-collected Sequence



Video A-3. The result of edge detection for each sequence: shapes_rotation and self-collected sequence.

Appendix 4-1: Asynchronous Optical Flow

- Adaptive time-slice block-matching optical flow (ABMOF) vs. Proposed:
 - 1. global time slice over whole image frame vs. local time slice over each patch
 - 2. share dt vs. compute individual dt_i
- In Algorithm A-1, pseudocode for motion spatial segmentation is provided.

Input: $\mathbf{e}_i = (t_i, \mathbf{p}_i, p_i)$	⊳ single event
Output: $OF_i = (t_i, \mathbf{p}_i, \mathbf{v}_i, dt_i)$	▷ optical flow
1: for all $\mathbf{p}_j \in \mathrm{Adj}(\mathbf{p}_i)$ do	\triangleright adjacent pixels in ($w \times w$)
2: push e_i into queue (p_j)	
3: end for	
4: if queue(p_i) is full then	
5: construct $SAE_{i,curr}$ and $SAE_{i,prev}$ from queue(p_i)	
6: compute v_i by matching SAE _{<i>i</i>,curr} and SAE _{<i>i</i>,prev}	
7: $dt_i \leftarrow \text{mean}(\text{SAE}_{i,curr}) - \text{mean}(\text{SAE}_{i,prev})$	
8: return OF_i	
9: end if	

Appendix 4-2: Discussion on Robustness

 Ours estimates accurate angular velocity with low latency and robustness to various scenes, whereas the performance of CM highly depends on the texture of the scene.

Table A-1. Evaluations of angular velocity. Bestresults are in bold.

Saguanaa		Avera	ge lateno	ey (ms)	Average accuracy (rad/s)				
Sequ	Sequence		eSNN	СМ	Ours	eSNN	СМ		
	low	14.40	31.54	63.42	0.110	0.463	0.203		
ahanaa	mid	5.15	35.59	20.05	0.228	1.291	0.678		
snapes	high	2.93	35.93	14.57	0.350	2.578	1.154		
	whole	3.04	35.99	14.42	0.296	1.972	0.987		
	low	7.51	45.49	5.51	0.138	0.447	0.145		
boxes	mid	1.86	39.90	0.39	0.297	1.333	0.380		
	high	0.59	38.00	0.26	0.355	2.451	0.396		
	whole	0.58	38.31	0.18	0.328	1.856	0.378		
	low	8.21	39.74	7.37	0.238	0.458	0.250		
nostan	mid	2.14	40.31	1.60	0.303	1.163	0.463		
poster	high	0.52	39.29	0	0.359	2.901	0.461		
	whole	0.49	39.40	0	0.328	1.998	0.443		
dynamic	low	8.15	46.36	9.68	0.231	0.594	0.149		
	mid	4.35	43.67	5.63	0.242	0.628	0.160		
	high	1.80	41.69	2.44	0.289	1.314	0.183		
	whole	1.71	41.67	2.32	0.264	0.939	0.169		

Table A-2. Evaluations with different parameters.Results better than ours are in bold.

	Average lat	ency (m	s)	Average accuracy (rad/s)						
KF	$ABMOF_{\ast}$	$CM_{5k} \\$	$\mathrm{CM}_{\mathrm{50ms}}$	KF	$ABMOF_*$	$CM_{5k} \\$	CM_{50ms}			
16.47	20.16	16.40	28.54	0.126	0.140	0.138	0.136			
5.31	6.13	5.14	23.95	0.952	0.329	0.285	0.758			
-	3.79	2.91	26.94	-	0.454	0.397	1.960			
-	3.84	2.93	26.56	-	0.401	0.353	1.450			
12.16	11.27	-	22.92	0.095	0.333	-	0.123			
3.28	2.60	-	26.66	0.204	0.511	-	0.742			
1.33	0.70	-	-	0.263	0.566	-	-			
1.26	0.67	-	-	0.239	0.537	-	-			
14.25	4.03	-	23.52	0.124	0.484	-	0.144			
3.31	1.63	-	24.90	0.218	0.498	-	0.654			
1.54	0.81	-	-	0.283	0.619	-	-			
1.50	0.76	-	-	0.250	0.570	-	-			
15.28	5.36	-	27.85	0.167	0.502	-	0.213			
10.36	3.63	1.53	25.04	0.216	0.608	1.280	0.263			
4.24	1.71	0	23.34	0.394	0.678	2.637	0.738			
4.22	1.56	0	23.39	0.309	0.616	2.641	0.491			

Appendix 4-3: Discussion on Robustness

Table A-3. Evaluations for latency and accuracy of modifications of CM framework. The second row denotes the event grouping method of each CM framework. Results better than ours are in bold. Results larger than 1 are in red.

Sequence		Average latency (ms)								Average accuracy (rad/s)							
		10ms	50ms	0.1s	0.2s	2.5k	5k	10k	15k	10ms	50ms	0.1s	0.2s	2.5k	5k	10k	15k
	low	7.93	28.54	53.28	104.11	5.62	16.40	36.08	63.42	0.816	0.136	0.177	0.316	0.184	0.138	0.154	0.203
	mid	2.56	23.95	65.93	126.74	1.46	5.14	12.62	20.05	0.276	0.758	2.012	3.404	0.372	0.285	0.451	0.678
snapes	high	2.55	26.94	73.89	-	0.18	2.91	8.54	14.57	0.351	1.960	4.909	-	0.491	0.397	0.710	1.154
	overall	2.55	26.56	72.52	-	0.20	2.93	8.56	14.42	0.450	1.450	3.649	-	0.441	0.353	0.615	0.987
boxes	low	8.16	22.92	49.58	-	-	-	3.74	5.51	0.966	0.123	0.197	-	-	-	1.345	0.145
	mid	2.76	26.66	-	-	-	-	0.15	0.39	0.301	0.742	-	-	-	-	0.994	0.380
	high	2.83	-	-	-	-	-	0.51	0.26	0.234	-	-	-	-	-	0.943	0.396
	overall	2.79	-	-	-	-	-	0.40	0.18	0.520	-	-	-	-	-	0.993	0.378
	low	-	23.52	46.65	92.32	-	-	7.93	7.37	-	0.144	0.207	0.236	-	-	1.464	0.250
nostar	mid	-	24.90	-	-	-	-	2.07	1.60	-	0.654	-	-	-	-	1.523	0.463
poster	high	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.100	0.461
	overall	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.290	0.443
dynamic	low	5.22	27.85	52.73	-	-	-	4.85	9.68	0.348	0.213	0.353	-	-	-	0.185	0.149
	mid	2.58	25.04	46.84	-	-	1.53	2.76	5.63	0.231	0.263	0.468	-	-	1.280	0.203	0.160
	high	2.63	23.34	-	-	-	0	0.81	2.44	0.166	0.738	-	-	-	2.637	0.253	0.183
	overall	2.60	23.39	-	-	-	0	0.83	2.32	0.266	0.491	-	-	-	2.641	0.225	0.169

Appendix 5-1: Particle-filter-based Object Detection

• A filter-based motion segmentation algorithm fails to identify a static background.



Video A-4. A particle-filter-based motion segmentation algorithm developed before.

Appendix 5-2: Motion Temporal Matching

A matching coefficient between the *i*-th and the *j*-th motion at different timestamp (k) and
 (l):

$$C_{ij}^{(k,l)} = \frac{\sum \left(K_{\sigma} * \delta(G^{(k)}, i)\right) \odot \delta(G^{(l)}, j)}{\sqrt{\sum \delta(G^{(k)}, i) \sum \delta(G^{(l)}, j)}}, \quad C_{ij}^{(k,l)} = \frac{1}{1 + ||\omega_i^{(k)} - \omega_j^{(l)}||_2^2}$$

where δ operator constructs a binary matrix with one if the element value of the first term is equal to the second term:

$$B = \delta(A, x) = (b_{ij}),$$
$$b_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } a_{ij} = x \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

and operator \odot and * denote elementwise multiplication and 2D convolution, respectively, and K_{σ} is a kernel matrix with all elements 1.

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Appendix 5-3: Evaluation Results



(b) outdoor_night

Figure A-7. The angular velocity estimates of our algorithm on (upper) indoor and (lower) outdoor_night sequences
Appendix 5-4: Evaluation Results

