

Fusion of PET and CT images using wavelet transform

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ABSTRACT: PET/CT medical image fusion has important clinical significance. As the wavelet transform has several particular advantages in comparison with scalar wavelets on image processing, this paper proposes a medical image fusion algorithm based wavelet transform after in-depth study of wavelet theory. The algorithm achieves PET/CT fusion with wavelet coefficients fusion method. Experimental results show that fusion image combines information of the source images, adds more details and texture information, and a good fusion result. Based on the proposed algorithm, we can obtain the best result when using gradient fusion in the low-frequency part and classification fusion in the high frequency part.

Keywords - PET/CT; image fusion; wavelet transform

I. INTRODUCTION

Depending on the principle of imaging equipment, medical images can be divided into anatomical images and functional images. Because of the different imaging principle, they have different advantages. If these two kinds of image information integrate together as a basis for medical diagnosis, clinicians will make more rapid and more accurate medical result. PET and CT fusion on the same machine is a typical representative of the multimodal medical image fusion technology. One image can get PET and the corresponding parts of CT. It combines the advantages of both and provides a reliable basis for diagnosis. PET/CT image fusion has become a research hotspot at present. There are many multimodal medical image fusion methods. Because of the good sub-frequency features in the transform domain, the wavelet transform has been widely used. Multiwavelet is an extension from wavelet theory, and has several particular advantages in comparison with scalar wavelets on image processing. It can simultaneously possess many desired properties such as short support, orthogonality, symmetry and smoothness. These properties are very important for the image analysis and processing. This paper studies the basic principles of multiwavelet transform and characteristics of multiwavelet coefficients, and designs a medical image fusion algorithm based on multiwavelet transform for the PET/CT image fusion. Experimental results show that fusion image. Combines information of the source images, adds more details and texture information, and achieves a good fusion result.[1]

II. MULTIWAVELET INTRODUCTION

Wavelet analysis is a new development field of applied mathematics and engineering sciences. Because of the good time-frequency localization characteristics, scale variation characteristics and direction characteristics, wavelet has been widely used in many fields. In 1994, Goodman and others established the multiwavelet basic theoretical framework based on the multi-resolution analysis. In recent years, multiwavelet research has become a hot research topic in the wavelet field. Multiwavelet is an extension from scalar wavelet. It not only maintains the good time-domain and frequency domain localization properties which scalar wavelet possess, but also overcomes the shortcomings of the scalar wavelet. Compared with the scalar wavelet transform, multi-wavelet transform has the following advantages. Multiwavelet possesses many desired properties such as short support, orthogonality, symmetry and smoothness which are very important for the image analysis and processing. Multiwavelet filter banks have no strict division of low-pass and high-pass. Through the multi-wavelet profiting, it can transfer high-frequency energy to the low-frequency[2]. This is very beneficial to improve the compression ratio. There is increasing concern about the multiwavelet for the theoretical advantages and potential applications. The commonly used multiwavelets involve orthogonal multiwavelet such as GHM, CL, SA4 and biorthogonal multiwavelet such as BIGHM. In this paper, we use GHM and CL multiwavelet to process the image.[1]

2.1 Algorithm Design

According to the Mallat tower wavelet decomposition theory, the original image is decomposed using 2-dimensional wavelet transform, which can get a low frequency sub band and three high frequency sub-bands (Figure 1). The low frequency sub-band reflects the image's approximate components and presents basic

information, while the high frequency sub-bands reflect the details of the components of the image horizontally, vertically, and diagonally, along with the corresponding edge, line, area, boundary and other information.[3]

Figure 1

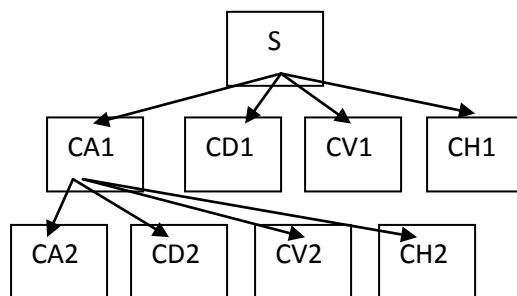


Fig 1. The tower shape structure of image wavelet decomposition

Here, S represents the coefficient matrix of the original image. CA represents the low frequency coefficient matrix; CD, CV AND CH respectively represent the diagonal, vertical and horizontal direction of the high frequency coefficient matrix; 1 and 2, respectively, represent level one and level two decomposition. Therefore, if the image performs n level wavelet decomposition, we will eventually get $(3n + 1)$ different frequency bands, which contain a low frequency band and $3n$ high frequency bands. The higher the decomposition level, the smaller the size of the corresponding layer. The process of image fusion is shown in Figure 2. A and B are registered images[5]. F is the fusion image. First of all, we make the decomposition and filtering for the source images. Then, the image is decomposed into decomposition transform coefficients of different frequency bands in frequency domain, which constitute a series of matrices to represent the various features of the source image components. Fusion process can use different ways to achieve the best fusion results according to different characteristics component. Next, we make the consistency check and post filtering, and at last, the final fusion image will be generated. Next, we will explain the crucial steps in the wavelet fusion process.[4]

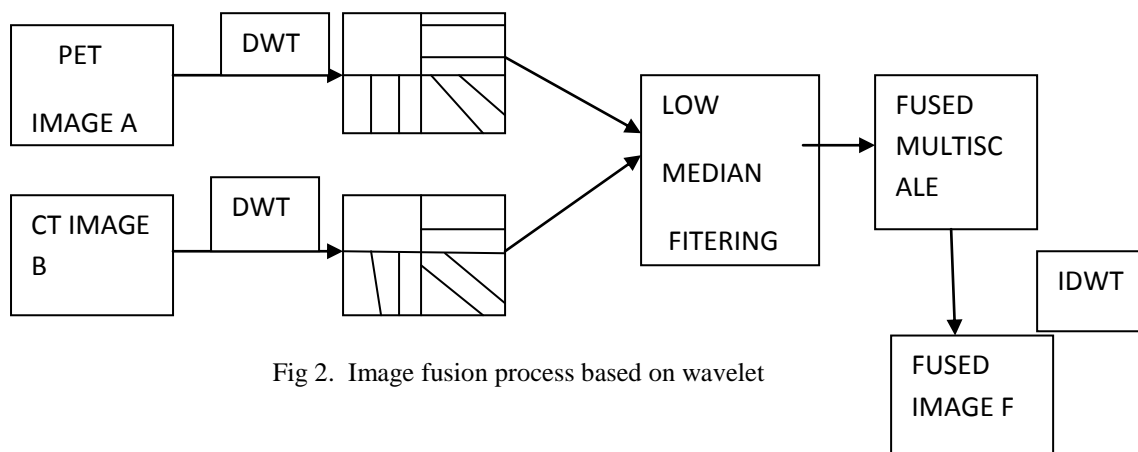


Fig 2. Image fusion process based on wavelet

III. WAVELET TRANSFORM

3.1 Wavelet decomposition in the row direction

First, convert each row of C into a row vector signal in accordance with the following way shown in(1)

$$C_{iR}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} c_{i,n} \\ c_{i, \frac{N}{2} + n} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Where, $i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1, n = 0, 1, \dots, (N-1) / 2$, then, make wavelet transform to each row of C_{iR} in accordance with the following way shown in (2) and (3)

$$D_{i,m^L}(n) = \sum_{r} Gr * r(n-2m) C_{iR}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} d_{i,m^L} \\ d_{i,m^+, \frac{N}{4}^L} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

$$D_{i,m}^{\wedge H}(n) = \sum Gr^*r(n-2m) C iR(n) = \begin{bmatrix} d i, m^{\wedge H} \\ d i, m + \frac{N}{4}^{\wedge H} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

Where, $i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1, m = 0, 1, \dots, (N-1)/4$, Gr^*r is a 2×2 matrix, means the low-frequency filter corresponding with the used wavelet. $r r H$ is a 2×2 matrix, means the high-frequency filter corresponding with the used wavelet Let $D^{\wedge L} = [D_{i,j}^{\wedge L}], D^{\wedge H} [D_{i,j}^{\wedge H}] = [D^{\wedge L}, D^{\wedge H}]$.

3.2 Wavelet decomposition in the column direction

Convert each column of D into a column vector signal in the same way with treatment of row direction.

$$D_{ic}^{\wedge L}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} Dn i^{\wedge L} \\ Dn + \frac{N}{2}, i \end{bmatrix} \quad D_{ic}^{\wedge L}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} Dn i^{\wedge H} \\ Dn^{\wedge H} + \frac{N}{2}, i \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

Where, $i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1, n = 0, 1, \dots, (N-1)/2$, then, we make wavelet transform in the column direction. The wavelet transform $D_{ic}^{\wedge L}$ is shown in equation (5)

$$E_{i,m}^{\wedge LL}(n) = \sum_{N} G r^*r(n-2m) Dir^{\wedge L}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} E_{m,i}^{\wedge LL} \\ E^{LL} m + \frac{N}{2}, i \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

$$E_{i,m}^{\wedge LH}(n) = \sum G r^*r(n-2m) Dir^{\wedge L}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} E_{m,i}^{\wedge LH} \\ E^{LH} m + \frac{N}{2}, i \end{bmatrix}$$

Where, $i = 0, 1, \dots, (N-1)/2, m = 0, 1, \dots, (N-1)/4$.

$$E_{i,m}^{\wedge HL}(n) = Gr^*r(n-2m) DiR^{\wedge H}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} E_{m,i}^{\wedge HL} \\ E^{HL} m + \frac{N}{4}, i \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

$$E_{i,m}^{\wedge HH}(n) = Gr^*r(n-2m) DiR^{\wedge H}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} E_{i,m}^{\wedge HH} \\ E^{HH} m + \frac{N}{4}, i \end{bmatrix}$$

Where, $i = 0, 1, \dots, (N-1)/2, m = 0, 1, \dots, (N-1)/4$. At last, the wavelet transform of matrix A is shown in equation (7)

$$LL = [E_{i,j}^{\wedge LL}], LH = [E_{i,j}^{\wedge LH}], HL = [E_{i,j}^{\wedge HL}], HH = [E_{i,j}^{\wedge HH}], \quad (7)$$

Compose a matrix with LL, LH, HL and HH expressed as E.

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} LL & LH \\ HL & HH \end{bmatrix} = \begin{matrix} L1L1 & L1L2 & L1H1 & L1H2 \\ L2L1 & L2L2 & L2H1 & L2H2 \\ H1L1 & H1L2 & H1H1 & H1H2 \\ H2L1 & H2L2 & H2H1 & H2H2 \end{matrix}$$

So far, the first level of two-dimensional wavelet decomposition is finished.[6]

3.3 Fusion rules

In the fusion process, the selection of fusion rules is very important, which directly affects the image quality. The advantage of multiwavelet transform applied in the image fusion is that it can decompose the image into different frequency domains. In different frequency domain, it can use different fusion rules to obtain multiresolution decomposition image of the synthetic image, thereby to retain outstanding features in different frequency domain of the source image in composite image. In this paper, the low frequency part of the fusion rule uses weighted average and, high-frequency part uses the maximum fusion method, fusion method based on direction contrast and classification strategy fusion method. In addition, in order to maintain consistency of data

in various frequency bands after fusion, probabilistic methods should be used to make consistency check and adjustment. The last two steps are inverse transformation and post filtering, we will no longer discuss them in detail.[7]

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND EVALUATION

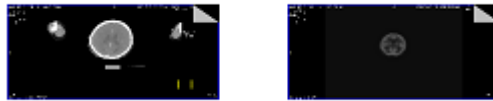


Fig 3. Original Image Of Pet And Ct

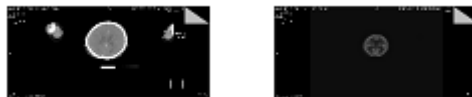


Fig 4. Covert Original Image Into Grey Scale



Fig 5. Crop Image

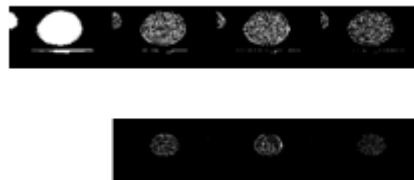


Fig 6. Decompose Image



Fig 7. After Idwt

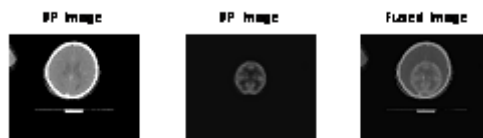


Fig. 8. Fused Image

Table 1: Evaluation of the fusion image of brain related to the source image

sr no	image no	peak signal to noise ratio	mean square error
1	IMAGE NO 40	31.12	5.3
2	IMAGE NO 50	33.68	7.8
3	IMAGE NO 126	28.28	4.5

V. CONCLUSION

We can obtain fusion images with more details and more comprehensive information using medical image fusion technology. This kind of image is able to provide reliable basis for the doctor's diagnosis and treatment. Based on the advantages of multiwavelet transform in image processing, we designed a medical image fusion algorithm based on wavelet transform, implemented the fusion of PET and CT images using wavelet coefficients fusion method. We also made the algorithm implementation in this paper. From the experimental results, we can see that the fusion image has more details and the texture is more clearly. So the algorithm proposed in this paper is an effective method for the fusion of medical images.

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