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# Mismatch Removal Based on Gaussian Mixture Model for Aircraft Surface Texture Mapping

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Aiming at the lower efficiency and higher time cost for feature matching in aircraft surface texture mapping process, a novel mismatch removal method based on Gaussian mixture model is proposed to increase correct corresponding feature matching point pairs. The detection and initial point sets for corresponding pairs are carried out, and a vector field is interpolated between the two matching of (Oriented FAST and Rotated BRIEF) ORB feature points. The Gaussian mixture model (GMM) is introduced and the prior information is utilized to force the smoothness of the field, which is based on the Tikhonov regularization in vector-valued reproducing kernel Hilbert space (RKHS). In order to obtain the optimal estimation, the MAP solution of a Bayesian model with latent variables, which could be performed by Expectation Maximization (EM) algorithm, is utilized to determine the correct correspondence. The experimental results show that the algorithm could remove mismatches effectively and the classification for feature points is excellent. Moreover,

the calculation time is greatly reduced, which enhanced the real-time performance of aircraft surface texture mapping process.

**KEYWORDS:** Mismatch removal; Gaussian Mixture Model; Tikhonov regularization; EM algorithm; Vector field.

## 1. Introduction

Aircraft surface texture mapping needs to map the images captured by camera to the three-dimensional pattern to obtain the reconstruction model with detail information, which could assist the crew to perform aircraft peripheral interested area detection. It becomes critical to match the corresponding feature points correctly, which could affect the crew to make an accurate judgment on the condition of the aircraft. In order to obtain the high-efficiency matching results, it is necessary to conduct a further study on mismatch algorithm.

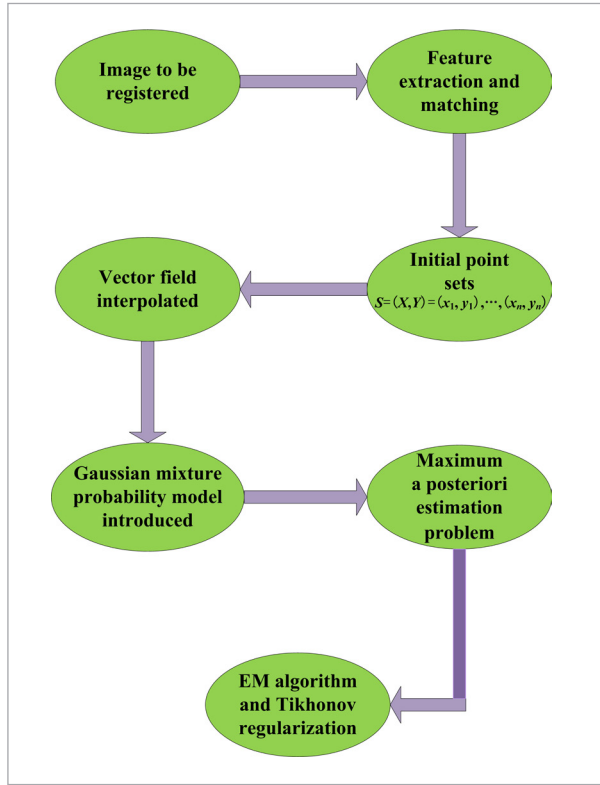
Establishing reliable correspondence between images is an important computer vision aspect with numerous applications, including 3D surface reconstruction, image registration, robot localization and mapping, object recognition and motion estimation [12]. The above task still remains a challenge due to image noise, camera angle and illumination changes. It is necessary to study the registration accuracy of feature points. Several image matching techniques have been proposed so far. A popular strategy for solving the matching problem is to use a two-stage process [18]. The first stage is feature extraction and initial matching. The Harris corner detector, which relies on the extraction and tracking of feature points or corners, is a traditional method and has been widely used in simple images [10]. It is not suitable for images with detailed information. Scale-Invariant Feature Transform (SIFT) algorithm has been widely used as the mainstream algorithm for image matching because of its strong robustness to illumination and scale rotation [9, 14]. However, the cost is an increase in computation time [8, 22]. With the increasing high demand for the matching speed, ORB algorithm was proposed, which is at two orders of magnitude faster than SIFT and one order of magnitude faster than SURF [23]. When feature extraction is accomplished, the correspondences are usually computed by using similarity constraint which would include a large number of false matches. The second stage is designed to remove the mismatches and estimate the geometric param-

eters. Various robust estimators have been proposed to distinguish correct correspondences from mismatches. Random Sample Consensus (RANSAC) algorithm is a typical approach for this strategy [3]. It tries to use four pairs of different matching points to get a minimum subset to estimate parametric model by re-sampling, and then determines the correct match point pair sets. The method is successful in many situations [28, 30, 31]. However, it has a limitation on the aircraft curved surface images. At present, vector field interpolation is used in computer vision and machine learning [24, 27]. A classical application of vector field interpolation is feature map in RKHS [5]. A number of methods about this area has developed based on regularization theory [1, 2]. A multi-task vector field learning was proposed [16] and a new framework of regularization in the RKHS was developed about vector-valued function between input and output space, which could determine the relationship by choosing a suitable kernel [19, 20]. However, these methods ignore the robustness issue. Taking into account these shortcomings, some scholars [7, 26] have introduced the technique of robust vector field interpolation into Gaussian process, which obtains the necessary and sufficient conditions for the vector to converge to the optimal estimator, but they do not consider the particularity of the images themselves, lacking specific applications in the images.

In summary, image registration has a great improvement in matching efficiency and computing time. In this paper, an effective method is introduced to perform image registration and remove the mismatch for aircraft surface texture mapping process. After feature detection and initial matches, a vector field is interpolated between the two points sets. Moreover, a Gaussian mixture model is used to introduce latent variables to ensure the smoothness of vector field so that the problem is transformed into maximum a posteriori estimation problem, which could be solved by EM algorithm and regularization method. The algorithm framework is described in Figure 1.

Figure 1

The framework of the proposed algorithm



## 2. Feature Extraction and Matching

ORB feature descriptor has been widely used in feature matching because of its high-speed calculation and lower time cost. The method is built on the well-known Oriented FAST feature point detector and recently-developed BRIEF descriptor, which shows good performance of rotation invariant and is resistant to noise. FAST feature point is convenient in extracting the characteristics, however, it does not have the direction information. The ORB algorithm adds the direction information to the FAST detector by obtaining the intensity centroid of the adjacent area about the feature points to confirm direction parameters. The neighborhood moment in an image block is defined as Equation (1):

$$m_{\alpha\beta} = \sum_{x,y} x^\alpha y^\beta I(x, y), \quad (1)$$

where  $x, y$  are both relative FAST feature point loca-

tion, and the circular radius of neighborhood is  $r$ .  $x, y \in [-r, r], \alpha, \beta \in (0, 1)$ .

The centroid, recorded as  $Q$ , could be found as Equation (2):

$$Q = \left( \frac{\sum xI(x, y)}{\sum I(x, y)}, \frac{\sum yI(x, y)}{\sum I(x, y)} \right) = \left( \frac{m_{10}}{m_{00}}, \frac{m_{01}}{m_{00}} \right). \quad (2)$$

Assuming that the center of the image block is  $O$ , a direction vector is constructed with the direction from center  $O$  to the centroid  $Q$ . The deflection angle, denoted as  $\Delta$ , could represent the rotation angle, which is defined as Equation (3):

$$\Delta = \arctan \left( \frac{\sum yI(x, y)}{\sum xI(x, y)} \right) = \left( \frac{m_{01}}{m_{10}} \right). \quad (3)$$

Based on the location and direction of the feature points, the BRIEF descriptor, a binary feature string description, could be extracted from the main direction. For the image block with smooth processing, the binary test  $\xi$  is defined in the following form:

$$\xi(P; X, Y) = \begin{cases} 1 & P(X) < P(Y) \\ 0 & P(X) \geq P(Y) \end{cases}, \quad (4)$$

where  $P(\cdot)$  represents the intensity of block at the point  $(\cdot)$ . Then the binary feature string, of which the number is  $n$ , could be defined as a vector as follows:

$$f_n(P) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} 2^{i-1} \xi(P; X, Y). \quad (5)$$

In the feature extraction, the circular area is used to determine whether the point is required, making the ORB algorithm obtains rotation invariance performance. Therefore, the ORB algorithm is more efficient in point detection because of the fast speed of calculating the intensity centroid.

After feature points were detected, Brute-Force Matcher was performed in feature matching. The main idea is to measure the descriptor distance, which could express the similarity between the two feature points. In other words, the distances between each feature point in one image and all feature points in another image are detected and arranged in the ascending order. Hamming distance is widely used in binary feature string. The idea is utilized to find the nearest and adjacent distance of the feature points, and the ratio of the two distance is compared with a threshold to determine whether the feature point pair is matched.

### 3. Mismatch Removal by Gaussian Mixture Model

When initial match is accomplished, mismatches maybe exist, which may affect the accuracy of the aircraft surface texture mapping. It is necessary to select the correct corresponding pairs. Gaussian mixture model is an effective means, and is widely used in various fields [13, 29]. In this paper, Gaussian mixture model was introduced to eliminate the mismatches and distinguish more true feature correspondences between images.

Let us suppose that the initial set of feature matching points extracted from two adjacent images is  $S=(X, Y)=(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_N, y_N)$ , with  $x_n$  and  $y_n$  being the spatial positions of a correspondence in the two images. Due to the existence of mismatches, it is essential to obtain a robust estimation to remove the mismatches. In order to improve the performance of the algorithm, the images are both pre-processed to have zero mean and unit variance. To this end, a vector field  $f$  is interpolated between the spatial point sets, which involve a consensus of correspond points. The key points in the sets are assumed to belong to a reproducing kernel Hilbert space. That is  $f \in \text{RKHS}$ . The Gaussian mixture model, without loss of generality, is established and an assumption is built that the noise of corresponding points is Gaussian with zero mean and uniform standard deviation  $\sigma$ , while the distribution of mismatches is assumed to be uniform  $\frac{1}{a}$  with  $a$  being a constant.  $\gamma$  is the percentage of corresponding points, and the mixture model of distribution is defined as follows:

$$p(X, Y | \theta) = \prod_{n=1}^N p(x_n, y_n | \theta) = \prod_{n=1}^N \left[ \frac{\gamma}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{\|y_n - f(x_n)\|^2}{2\sigma^2}} + \frac{1-\gamma}{a} \right], \quad (6)$$

where  $\theta = \{f, \sigma^2, \gamma\}$  is the set of unknown parameters,  $X = (x_1, \dots, x_N)^T$ ,  $Y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)^T$ .

A hypothesis is formulated that  $f$  is a random field with a known prior probability distribution, and the prior information of  $f$  could be described as  $p(f) \propto e^{-\frac{\lambda}{2}\|f\|^2}$ , where  $\lambda$  is a positive real number and  $\|\cdot\|^2$  represents the square norm.

According to Bayes rules, the posterior distribution could be described as

$$L(\theta) = p(\theta | X, Y) \propto p(X, Y | \theta) p(f). \quad (7)$$

In order to get the optimal solution of  $\theta$ , a Maximum a Posteriori (MAP) solution is introduced, which could be given by

$$\hat{\theta} = \arg \max_{\theta} p(X, Y | \theta) p(f). \quad (8)$$

Thus, the vector field  $f$  could be obtained from the optimal solution  $\hat{\theta}$ . Aiming at Equation (7), the log-likelihood function could be defined as

$$l(\theta) = \ln L(\theta) = \ln p(\theta | X, Y) = \ln p(X, Y | \theta) + \ln p(f). \quad (9)$$

Here, a latent variable  $z_n \in (0, 1)$ , associated with  $n$ -th sample, is introduced, where  $z_n=1$  represents the Gaussian distribution and  $z_n=0$  represents the uniform distribution.

Then Equation (9) could be transformed into Equation (10) by omitting terms that are independent  $\theta$ :

$$l(\theta) = \ln \gamma \sum_{n=1}^N P(z_n = 1 | x_n, y_n, \theta) - \ln 2\pi\sigma^2 \sum_{n=1}^N P(z_n = 1 | x_n, y_n, \theta) - \frac{\|y_n - f(x_n)\|^2}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N P(z_n = 1 | x_n, y_n, \theta) + \ln(1-\gamma) \sum_{n=1}^N P(z_n = 0 | x_n, y_n, \theta) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \|f\|^2 \quad (10)$$

There are several ways to solve the parameters of Gaussian mixture model [4, 17, 25]. The EM algorithm with a natural framework is also widely used; it includes two steps: the expectation step (E-step) and the maximization step (M-step).

In the E-step, the current parameter  $\theta$  is used to estimate the posterior distribution of the latent variables.  $P = \text{diag}(p_1, \dots, p_N)$  is a diagonal matrix, and  $p_n = P(z_n=1 | x_n, y_n, \theta)$ , which could be computed by Bayes rules:

$$p_n = \frac{\gamma e^{-\frac{\|y_n - f(x_n)\|^2}{2\sigma^2}}}{\gamma e^{-\frac{\|y_n - f(x_n)\|^2}{2\sigma^2}} + 2\pi\sigma^2(1-\gamma)}. \quad (11)$$

According to Equation (11), the posterior probability  $p_n$  indicates to what degree the sample  $n$  agrees with the current estimation of  $f$ .

In the M-step, the aim is to update the estimated parameters. Deriving Equation (10) with respect to  $\sigma^2$  and  $\gamma$ , and setting them to zero, their matrix form could be expressed as Equation (12):

$$\begin{cases} \sigma^2 = \frac{\text{tr}[(Y-V)^T P(Y-V)]}{2 \cdot \text{tr}(P)}, \\ \gamma = \frac{\text{tr}(P)}{N} \end{cases}, \quad (12)$$

where  $V=(f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n))^T$  and  $\text{tr}(\cdot)$  is the trace.

According to Equation (10), the variables, which are not related to parameter  $f$ , are taken to be ignored, and the remaining components are multiplied by -1, so that the deformation could be written as follows:

$$l(f) = \frac{\|y_n - f(x_n)\|^2}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N p_n + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|f\|^2. \quad (13)$$

In contrast to Equation (10), the maximization of  $l(\theta)$  respected to  $f$  could be equivalent to minimizing  $l(f)$ . Equation (13) is a typical Tikhonov regularization form [6, 11, 15, 21], which is the so-called the regularized risk function. The first term is the empirical risk, which measures the price when  $f(x_n)$  replaces  $y_n$ , and the second term is squared norm in a RKHS, which enforces smoothness to the vector field  $f$ .

By choosing different kernels, the norm in the corresponding RKHS could determine different smoothness. Here, a Gaussian kernel as  $k(x_i, x_j) = e^{-\beta \|x_i - x_j\|^2}$  is chosen. Then the optimal  $f$  could be described as Equation (14):

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^N \Gamma(x, x_n) c_n, \quad (14)$$

where  $\Gamma$  is a positive definite block matrices with  $N \times N$ , and the  $(i, j)$ -th block is  $\Gamma(x_i, x_j)$ , which could be defined as  $\Gamma(x_i, x_j) = k(x_i, x_j) \cdot \mathbf{I} = e^{-\beta \|x_i - x_j\|^2} \cdot \mathbf{I}$ .

The coefficient  $c_n$  is determined by a linear system

$$(K + \lambda \sigma^2 P^{-1})C = Y, \quad (15)$$

where  $K$  is the Gram matrix with  $K_{ij} = k(x_i, x_j)$ , and  $C = (c_1, \dots, c_N)^T$  is the coefficient set.

When the EM algorithm converges, the optimal vector field  $f$  would be obtained. Simultaneously, a threshold  $\theta$  is set up, once the relationship of  $p_n > \theta$  is confirmed, the correct corresponding point pairs are selected.

## 4. Experiment and Result Analysis

The images for the aircraft curved surface model are sampled. The ORB algorithm is used to extract feature points and the result is shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2**

Feature points extracted by ORB algorithm



(a) Feature points for image I

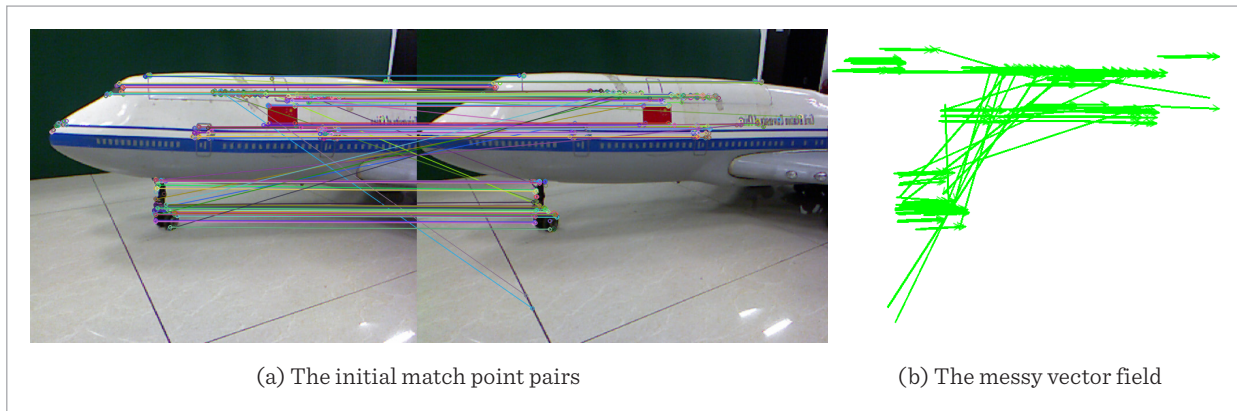


(b) Feature points for image II

As shown in Figure 3, some mismatches still exist after the initial match and the vector field between the points are messy. In Figure 4, when Gaussian mixture model and Tikhonov regularization were introduced, the vec-

**Figure 3**

The initial match and the messy vector field (a) The initial match point pairs, (b) The messy vector field



**Figure 4**

The correct corresponding matches and the smooth vector field (a) The correct corresponding matches, (b) The smooth vector field



tor field turned to be smooth and consistent, and the correct corresponding matched pairs could be identified.

In order to verify the effectiveness of the proposed algorithm, the test is performed on a laptop with 1.6 GHz Intel Core CPU, 4GB memory and Microsoft Visual Studio code. When the threshold  $\theta$  is defined as 0.7, the confusion matrix is performed as Table 1. Compared with the RANSAC algorithm, the time-consuming results are shown in Table 2.

**Table 1**

The confusion matrix for the GMM algorithm

		Predicted class	
		Positive	Negative
Actual class	Positive	276	30
	Negative	52	162

**Table 2**

The time-consuming results between GMM and RANSAC

Time/(ms)	ORB+GMM	SIFT+RANSAC
Feature detection time	1620.32	2138.13
Initial match time	63.36	103.37
Mismatch removal time	1981	2863

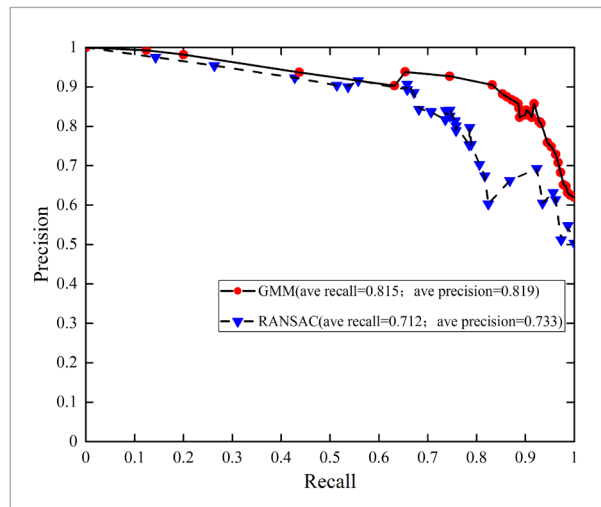
It can be seen in Table 1 that the most of data are distributed on the main diagonal in the confusion matrix, showing that the classifier has a good classification effect. The calculation time cost for the algorithm in Table 2 is less, indicating a better real-time performance.

For the purpose of further illustrating the feasibility of the algorithm, different confusion matrices are obtained by changing the model parameters, and such

indexes as Precision, Recall and F-Measure are calculated. The test is carried out 35 times, and the indicators formed a series of scatter plots. The corresponding curves are drawn by using polynomial interpolation. The Precision-Recall curve and the F-Measure curve for the two algorithms are respectively shown in Figures 5 and 6. From Figure 5, it can be seen that the data are concentrated in the upper right corner about the GMM method, and the index in the proposed algorithm is higher than that in RANSAC, indicating that the algorithm could achieve higher recall rate while having

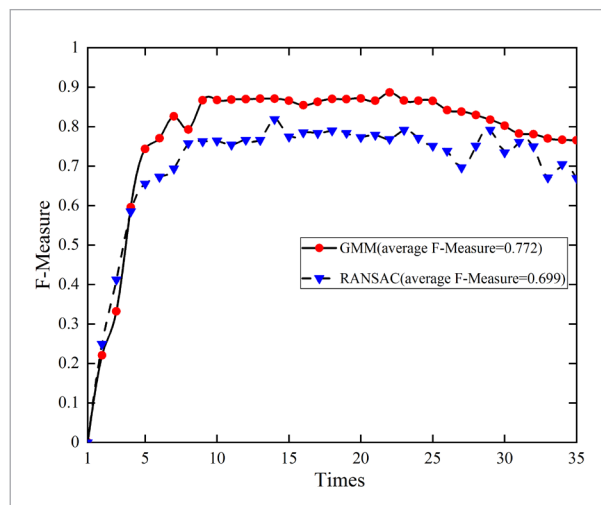
**Figure 5**

The Precision-Recall curve of GMM and RANSAC



**Figure 6**

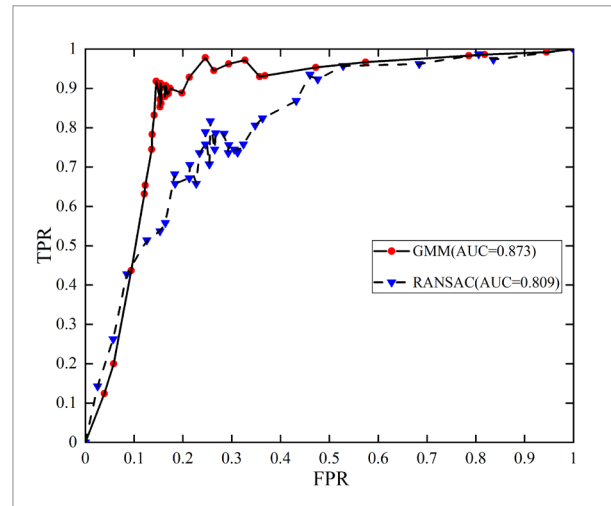
The F-Measure curve of GMM and RANSAC



higher accuracy. According to Figure 6, the F-Measure curve for the GMM algorithm is above, demonstrating that the algorithm is more efficient. Figure 7 is the Receiver Operating Characteristic curve (ROC) for the two algorithms, and the index in the proposed algorithm is closer to the upper left corner, and its Area Under ROC curve (AUC) has a larger value, further indicating that the classification effect is better.

**Figure 7**

The ROC curve of GMM and RANSAC



## 5. Conclusion

In this paper, a Gaussian mixture model with a vector field is studied on the characteristics of aircraft surface images. The real-time of the algorithm has been significantly ameliorated and the ability for the mismatch removal has been greatly improved. Experiments show that the proposed algorithm has good classification effect and the indicators are better. The applicability of the algorithm is well suitable to the image of aircraft curved surface model.

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