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**A MODIFIED RETINEX ILLUMINATION  
NORMALIZATION APPROACH FOR INFANT  
PAIN RECOGNITION SYSTEM**

**MUHAMMAD NAUFAL BIN MANSOR  
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in fulfillment of the requirement for the Doctor of  
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**SCHOOL OF MECHATRONIC ENGINEERING  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PERLIS**

2014

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**UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PERLIS**

**2014**

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| AC     | Accuracy  |
| AMF    | Adaptive Median Filter  |
| ANN    | Artificial Neural Networks  |
| AUC    | Area under Curve  |
| CDF    | Cumulative Distribution Function  |
| CONV   | Conventional Validation   |
| COPE   | Classification of Pain Expressions  |
| CRIS   | Assesses Crying, Oxygen Requirement, Increased Vital Signs, Facial Expression, Sleep. |
| CROSSV | Cross Validation  |
| DCT    | DCT-Based Normalization   |
| DCT    | Discrete Cosine Transform   |
| DOG    | Difference of Gaussians   |
| ELBP   | Elongated Binary Pattern  |
| ELTP   | Elongated Ternary Pattern   |
| EN     | Exponential Distribution  |
| EV     | Extreme Value Distribution  |
| FFNN   | Feed Forward Neural Network   |
| F-KNN  | Fuzzy- k-Nearest Neighbor   |
| FM     | F-Measure   |
| FN     | False Negative  |
| FP     | False Positive  |
| GBT    | Gross and Brajovic Technique  |
| GRF    | Gradientfaces-Based Normalization Technique   |
| GRNN   | General Regression Neural Network   |
| HCI    | Human Computer Interface  |
| HOMO   | Homomorphic Filtering   |
| HQ     | Histogram Equalization  |
| HT     | Histogram Truncation and Stretching   |
| IDCT   | Inverse Discrete Cosine Transform   |
| IEF    | Image Enhancement Factor  |



|         |   |
|---------|---|
| K-NN    | K-nearest neighbor                                      |
| LBP     | Local Binary Pattern                                    |
| LDA     | Linear Discriminant Analysis                            |
| LN      | Lognormal Distribution                                  |
| LSSF    | Large- and Small-Scale Features Normalization Technique |
| LSVM    | Linear Support Vector Machine                           |
| MAX     | Median  |
| MIN     | Minimum   |
| MLP     | Multilayer Perceptron Neural Network                    |
| MRT     | Modified Retinex Normalization Technique                |
| MSE     | Mean Square Error                                       |
| MSSIM   | Mean Structural SIMilarity Index                        |
| NF      | New Feature   |
| ND      | Normal Distribution                                     |
| NICU    | Neonatal Intensive Care Unit                            |
| NIPS    | Neonatal Infant Pain Scale                              |
| NNSOA   | Neural Network Simultaneous Algorithm                   |
| N-PASS  | Neonatal Pain Agitation and Sedation Scale              |
| OSH     | Optimal Separating Hyperplane                           |
| PCA     | Principal Component analysis                            |
| PIPP    | Premature Infant Pain Profile                           |
| PNN     | Probabilistic Neural Network                            |
| PRE     | Precession  |
| PSNR    | Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio                              |
| REC     | Recall  |
| SE      | Sensitivity   |
| SP      | Specificity   |
| SSIM    | Structural SIMilarity Index                             |
| SSQ     | Single Scale Self Quotient Image                        |
| SSR     | Single Scale Retinex                                    |
| SVM     | Support Vector Machine                                  |
| SVMLIN  | SVM Linear kernel                                       |
| SVMLMLP | SVM MLP kernel  |
| SVMPOL  | SVM Polynomial kernel                                   |

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| SVMRBF | SVM RBF kernel                         |
| TN     | True Negative                          |
| TP     | True Positive                          |
| TT     | Tan and Triggs Normalization Technique |

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## LIST OF SYMBOLS

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| $I(x,y)$      | Image on $(x,y)$ coordinate                       |
| $J(i)$        | Probability image                                 |
| $v_i$         | Number of pixels                                  |
| $i_{out}$     | Latest intensity value                            |
| $g(x)$        | Allotment function                                |
| $K$           | order grouped                                     |
| $\beta$       | Scale parameter                                   |
| $R(x,y)$      | Reflectance on $(x,y)$ coordinat                  |
| $L(x,y)$      | Illumination on $(x,y)$ coordinat                 |
| $T$           | Non linear function                               |
| $Qk$          | Quotient images                                   |
| $Mk$          | Weighting factors                                 |
| $k$           | Scale Parameter                                   |
| $WkGk$        | Weighted Gaussian kernels                         |
| $G$           | Gradientfaces                                     |
| $\delta$      | Delta factor                                      |
| $\frac{1}{I}$ | Gain  |
| $\psi$        | Small neighborhood                                |
| $\Omega$      | Image domain                                      |
| $\rho$        | Anisotropic diffusion coefficients                |
| $\lambda$     | Smoothness constraint                             |
| $h$           | Grid interval                                     |
| $f$           | Ratio of total intensity difference               |
| $\hat{f}$     | Output Image                                      |
| $W$           | Current $N \times N$ window centered at $g(x, y)$ |
| $m_L$         | Local Mean  |
| $\Phi_i$      | Vector image                                      |
| $\omega_k$    | Eigen-Vector                                      |
| $B_{p,A}$     | Weights functional                                |

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| $W_{opt}$ | Finest projection |
| $x_L$     | Projected sets    |
| $Y^i$     | Observed values   |

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## Pengubahsuaian Normalisasi Iluminasi Retinex dalam Pendekatan Mengesan Kesakitan pada Bayi

### ABSTRAK

Kesakitan bayi dipantau di dalam Neonatal Jagaan Unit Rapi (NICU). Kesakitan pada bayi dapat dikesan dengan mengkaji perubahan mimik muka mereka. Walaupun keputusan yang diperolehi amat memberangsangkan, ianya tidak cukup dalam aspek gangguan dan perubahan iluminasi. Penyaring Penyesuai Median (AMF) untuk menapis gangguan telah dicadangkan. Purata dan varian nilai median digunakan untuk menghasilkan pemberat yang bersesuaian dengan imej menggunakan  $3 \times 3$ ,  $5 \times 5$  or  $7 \times 7$  telah digunakan. Keputusan kuantitatif seperti Puncak Isyarat kepada nisbah gangguan (PSNR), Purata Kuasa Dua Ralat (MSE), Faktor Peninggian Imej (IEF) dan Indeks Persamaan Purata Struktur (MSSIM). Keputusan purata menunjukkan peningkatan dengan 40.63 db untuk PSNR, 6.01 untuk MSE, 258.09 untuk IEF dan 0.97 untuk MSSIM. Dalam kajian ini juga iluminasi normalisasi baru yang dikenali sebagai Pengubahsuaian Retinex Teknik (MRT) untuk mengesan muka dalam perbezaan iluminasi dengan menggabungkan normalisasi histogram dan gabungan kombinasi ciri telah dicadangkan. Kaedah ini telah dibandingkan dengan kaedah seperti (SSR) Skala Tunggal Retinex, (HOMO) Kaedah Homomorphic, (SSQ) Skala Tunggal Nisbah Imej, Gross dan Brajovic Teknik (GBT), (DCT) Kaedah DCT, (GRF) Teknik perubahan muka, (TT) Kaedah Tan dan Triggs and Teknik Besar dan Kecil (LSSF) untuk menilai kecekapannya. Kaedah ini tidak memerlukan maklumat luaran tentang bentuk muka dan iluminasi malahan boleh digunakan pada stiap imej secara berasingan. Kajian dijalankan menggunakan imej COPE data. Keputusan yang ditunjukkan amat memberangsangkan. Pengambilan pencirian tunggal seperti Analisis Komponen Prinsipal (PCA), Corak Tempatan Dedua (LBP) dan Transformasi Sudut Berasingan (DCT) menghasilkan keputusan yang baik. Walaubagaimanapun gabungan ketiga-tiga pengambilan pencirian ini menghasilkan ketepatan yang amat memberangsangkan. Kaedah MRT bersama gabungan pengambilan pencirian mendapat keputusan >90% pada sepuluh klasifikasi seperti Jiran Terdekat K (k-NN), Fuzi Jiran Terdekat K (Fuzzy k-NN), Pembezaan Analisis Lurus (LDA), Masukan Terus Rangkaian Neural (FFNN), Kemungkinan Rangkaian Neural (PNN), Regresi Umum Rangkaian Neural (GRNN), Mesin Pembantu Vektor Lurus (SVMLIN), Mesin Pembantu Vektor Fungsi Asas Radial (SVMRBF), Mesin Pembantu Vektor Pelbagai Lapisan (SVMMLP) dan Mesin Pembantu Vektor polinomial (SVMPOL) dalam beberapa pengukuran prestasi seperti sensitivity, spesifikasi, ketepatan, luas bawah lengkung (AUC), Cohen's kappa ( $k$ ), kepersisan, Pegukur F dan masa proses.



## A Modified Retinex Illumination Normalization Approach for Infant Pain Recognition System

### ABSTRACT

Pains in newborn babies are monitored in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for medical treatment. Pain in newborns can be detected by studying their facial appearance. Even though the outcome is acceptable, it is not adequately vigorous to be used in unpredictable, non-ideal situations such as noise and varying illumination environment. First, to improve the noise cancellation robustness an adaptive median filter (AMF) is proposed. Mean and variance of median values are selected to generate a weight for each window part of the images such as  $3 \times 3$ ,  $5 \times 5$  or  $7 \times 7$ . Various linear and nonlinear filters are adopted to eliminate the noise in the images. Quantitative comparisons are performed between these filters with our AMF in terms of Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR), Mean Square Error (MSE), Image Enhancement Factor (IEF) and Mean Structural Similarity (MSSIM) Index. The average results show improvement in terms of 40.63 db for PSNR, 6.01 for MSE, 258.09 for IEF and 0.97 for MSSIM respectively. In this work a novel method of illumination invariant normalization known as Modified Retinex Normalization (MRT) for preprocessing of infant face recognition is proposed. This is based on a modified retinex model that combines with histogram normalization for filtering the illumination invariant. The proposed method is compared to other methods like Single scale Retinex (SSR), Homomorphic method (HOMO), Single Scale Self Quotient Image (SSQ), Gross and Brajovic Technique (GBT), DCT-Based Normalization (DCT), Gradient-based normalization technique (GRF), Tan and Triggs normalization technique (TT), and Large-and small-scale features normalization technique (LSSF) for evaluation with Infant Classification of Pain Expressions (COPE) database. Several experiments were performed on COPE databases. Single PCA, LBP and DCT feature extraction information yielded a good recognition result. However, by summing these three, it gives more robustness to noise and illumination classification rate because the sum rule was the most resilient to estimate errors and gives higher than 90% accuracies of pain and no pain detection. The new illumination normalization and combination of features gives higher results of more than 90% on five different classifiers with various algorithms such as  $k$ -nearest neighbors ( $k$ -NN), Fuzzy  $k$ -nearest neighbors (FkNN), Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA), Feed Forward Neural Network (FFNN), Probabilistic Neural Network (PNN), General regression Neural Network (GRNN), SVM Linear kernel (SVMLIN), SVM RBF kernel (SVMRBF), SVM MLP kernel (SVMMLP) and SVM Polynomial kernel (SVMPOL) with different performance measurement such as Sensitivity, Specificity, Accuracy, Area under Curve (AUC), Cohen's kappa ( $k$ ), Precision, F-Measure and Time Consumption.

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

Newborn babies are monitored in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for medical treatment include perinatal asphyxia, major birth defects, sepsis, neonatal, and Infant respiratory distress syndrome due to immaturity of the lungs. These infants are nurtured in an incubator, where their vital bodily function indicators such as blood pressure, temperature, heart rate, oxygen concentration and respiration are continuously observed. To avoid disturbed sleep caused by bright lights which leads to anxiety, the incubator is covered with a blanket to reduce the intensity of light. The drawback of this practice is that visual inspection of the infant throughout most of the time is impaired. In other words, ache and distress cannot be assessed by observing crucial functions. There are growing concerns that early detection of pain and distress may be important for the infant's development which prompts us to widen a model for an automated video surveillance system that can detect ache and distress in neonates.

Distress in newborns can be detected by studying their facial appearance (Grunau et al., 1987; Stevens et al., 1996; Chen et al., 2005). In particular, the appearance of the mouth, eyebrows and eyes are reported to be significant facial features for detecting the occurrence of distress and ache. This has resulted in the development of scoring systems to evaluate the intensity of distress, based on facial appearance and physiological

parameters. The scoring systems provide early signals to care takers when newborns experience ache or distress, so proper actions can be taken in an instant.

So far, only one automatic video-surveillance system (Brahnam et al., 2006; Brahnam et al., 2007) for pain detection in newborn babies has been reported. In this system, enlarged images of an infant are taken in diverse situations: using a painful method (heel lance) and during other non-painful situations such as friction, crying, resting and air stimulus. After manual rotation and scaling, pixel-based classifiers, such as Linear Discriminant Analysis and Support Vector Machines (Brahnam et al., 2006; Brahnam et al., 2007; Martinez & Kak, 2004; Abdi, 2007; Ferriere & Thioulouse, 2003) were applied for sorting the facial expressions. Even though the outcome is acceptable, it believe that this is not adequately vigorous to be used in unpredictable, non-ideal situations such as under varying noise and illumination environment, where the newborn's face is partly covered by plasters or tubing.

Illumination is one of the basic characteristics of a visible surface and it provides information for scene interpretation (Gao et al., 2003; Chen et al., 2000). Recent developments in this field have shown that there is room for improvements. Most of the traditional face recognition algorithms are satisfactory under controlled conditions. However, when dealing with performance degrading issues such as variation in pose, noise, illumination, and facial expression, their accuracy greatly diminished (Gao et al., 2003; Chen et al., 2000). As the performance of a face recognition technique is significantly affected by various illumination and noise effects, illumination and noise are known to be the key factors that play an important role in human face recognition system design.

To address this limitation, this dissertation proposed a distress detection scheme and depicts a pilot method with the following properties: first, the identification of distress will be based on analyzing the whole face region in an automated way. With this information, the behavioral circumstances of the infant either in pain or normal can be detected. Images of surrounding factors such as the visibility of plasters and tubes on the infant are excluded in this work. However, other challenging circumstances, such as the changes in noise and illumination environment, which characteristically lead to suboptimal surroundings, need to be considered.

## 1.2 Problem Statement

Many issues hinder research efforts in the field of infant face recognition. Variation exists in every imaging approaches, and finding fast, simple algorithms that are robust to variation is difficult (Brahnam et al., 2006; Brahnam et al., 2007). Categorizing the variation may be helpful in the development of effective face recognition algorithms (Matthew, 2003). Intrinsic sources of variation include identity, facial expression, speech, gender, and age (Daugman, 1997). Extrinsic sources of variation include viewing geometry pose changes, illumination (shading, color, self-shadowing), imaging processes (resolution, focus, imaging noise), and other objects (occlusions, shadowing, and indirect illumination).

These sources of variation may or may not hinder the recognition process depending on the algorithm used. It is possible that the variation due to factors such as facial expression, lighting, occlusions, noise and pose is larger than the variation due to identity (Daugman, 1997). That makes identification under such varying environments a



difficult task. However, human proficiency at face recognition (Hochberg et al., 1967) has motivated enormous research in this area despite these challenges. Thus, this work seeks to solve the problems of infant face recognition system in different noise levels and illumination with new filter and new illumination normalization approach.

### 1.3 Objectives

The objectives of this research are as follows:

- 1) To develop a new approach based on filter under varying conditions of noise level in preprocessing phase.
- 2) To develop a new illumination normalization approach under varying conditions of illumination level.
- 3) To determine the most salient and discriminative features by adopting the feature selection for optimizing on the accuracy of the decision making systems.
- 4) To evaluate the performance of the new illumination normalization method for detecting illumination invariant capability in terms of sensitivity, specificity, accuracy, area under curve, Cohen's kappa, precision, recall, f-measure and execution time under different noise and illuminations levels.

### 1.4 Scope

As mentioned in the introduction, it seems not much attention is given to research on monitoring of infants in Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU). This work may answer many of the misconceived problems. In this work, one approach to Human



Computer Interface (HCI) for monitoring infant pain is presented. Most of the infants represent their pain through their facial appearance, and hence monitoring the whole body movement is not a viable solution. The facial appearance need to be monitored by the nurses at selected intervals and reported to doctors for possible further treatments. Detection of facial changes is very crucial for further treatment. This work is only limited to the face from infant COPE database. The database of whole images in this work only consists of upfront images and does not deal with different poses. Within this work, only common features such as PCA, LBP and DCT are adopted. However, different parameters and coefficient of features under different illumination levels and noise are adopted. Salt and pepper noise is employed rather than other noise because this type of noise always appears in digital images and is mostly adopted as a benchmark for filter performance evaluation. The proposed filter is tested with various quantitative measurements such as Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR), Mean Square Error (MSE), Image Enhancement Factor (IEF) and Mean Structural SIMilarity (MSSIM) Index. In this work, selected noise and illumination levels on the face of infant is investigated. Certain performance measurement such as Sensitivity, Specificity, Accuracy, Area under Curve (AUC), Cohen's kappa ( $k$ ), Precision, F-Measure and Time Consumption are measured to validate the proposed illumination normalization technique.

## 1.5 Dissertation Outline

The chapters of this dissertation largely follow the order in which the work was done. The scope and objective of the work is presented in this chapter. The second chapter is a literature review encompassing most of infant monitoring research. This