

Image Resolution Enhancement by Using Stationary and Discrete Wavelet Decomposition

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Abstract: This work proposed an image resolution enhancement technique which is based on the interpolation of the high frequency subbands obtained by DWT. The proposed technique uses DWT to decompose an image into different subbands, and then the high frequency subband images have been interpolated. The interpolated high frequency subband coefficients have been corrected by using the high frequency subbands achieved by SWT of the input image. An original image is interpolated with half of the interpolation factor used for interpolation the high frequency subbands. Afterwards all these images have been combined using IDWT to generate a super resolved image. The proposed technique has been tested on well-known benchmark images, where their PSNR, Mean Square Error and Entropy results show the superiority of proposed technique over the conventional and state-of-art image resolution enhancement techniques.

Keywords: Discrete wavelet transforms, image super resolution, stationary wavelet transform.

I. INTRODUCTION

Discrete wavelet transform (DWT) [8] is one of the recent wavelet transforms used in image processing. DWT decomposes an image into different sub band images, namely low-low (LL), low- high (LH), high-low (HL), and high-high (HH). Another recent wavelet transform which has been used in several image processing applications is stationary wavelet transform (SWT) [9]. In short, SWT is similar to DWT but it does not use down-sampling, hence the sub bands will have the same size as the input image.

Resolution has been frequently referred as an important aspect of an image. Images are being processed in order to obtain more enhanced resolution. One of the commonly used techniques for image resolution enhancement is Interpolation.

The high frequency sub- bands obtained by SWT of the input image are being incremented into the interpolated high frequency subbands in order to correct the estimated coefficients. In parallel, the input image is also interpolated separately. Finally, corrected interpolated high frequency subbands and interpolated input image are combined by using inverse DWT (IDWT) to achieve a high resolution output image. In this work, we are proposing an image resolution enhancement technique which generates sharper high resolution image.

The proposed technique uses DWT to decompose a low resolution image into different subbands. Then the three high frequency subband images have been interpolated using bi-cubic interpolation. The proposed technique has been compared with conventional and state-of-art image resolution enhancement techniques. The conventional techniques used are the following:

- Interpolation techniques: bilinear interpolation and bicubic interpolation;
- wavelet zero padding (WZP). The state-of-art techniques used for comparison purposes are the following
- Regularity-preserving image interpolation [7];
- new edge-directed interpolation (NEDI) [10];
- hidden Markov model (HMM) [11];
- HMM-based image super resolution (HMM SR) [12];
- WZP and cycle-spinning (WZP-CS) [13];
- WZP, CS, and edge rectification (WZP-CS-ER) [14];
- DWT based super resolution (DWT SR) [15];
- Complex wavelet transform based super resolution (CWT SR) [5].

According to the quantitative and qualitative experimental results, the proposed technique over performs the aforementioned conventional and state-of-art techniques for image resolution enhancement.

II. PROPOSED IMAGE RESOLUTION ENHANCEMENT

In this correspondence, one level DWT (with Daubechies 9/7 as wavelet function) is used to decompose an input image into different subband images. Three high frequency subbands (LH, HL, and HH) contain the high frequency components of the input image. In the proposed technique, bi-cubic interpolation with enlargement factor of 2 is applied to high frequency subband images.

In image resolution enhancement by using interpolation the main loss is on its high frequency components (i.e., edges), which is due to the smoothing caused by interpolation. In order to increase the quality of the super resolved image, preserving the edges is essential.

In this work, DWT has been employed in order to preserve the high frequency components of the image. The redundancy and shift invariance of the DWT mean that DWT coefficients are inherently interpolable [9]. Downsampling in each of the DWT subbands causes information loss in the respective subbands.

That is why SWT is employed to minimize this loss. The interpolated high frequency subbands and the SWT high frequency subbands have the same size which means they can be added with each other.

The new corrected high frequency subbands can be interpolated further for higher enlargement. Also it is known that in the wavelet domain, the low resolution image is obtained by lowpass filtering of the high resolution image [16]. In other words, low frequency subband is the low resolution of the original image.

Therefore, instead of using low frequency subband, which contains less information than the original high resolution image, we are using the input image for the

interpolation of low frequency subband image. Using input image instead of low frequency subband increases the quality of the super resolved image. Fig. 1 illustrates the block diagram of the proposed image resolution enhancement technique.

By interpolating input image by $\alpha/2$, and high frequency subbands by 2 and α in the intermediate and final interpolation stages respectively, and then by applying IDWT, as illustrated in Fig. 1, the output image will contain sharper edges than the interpolated image obtained by interpolation of the input image directly.

This is due to the fact that, the interpolation of isolated high frequency components in high frequency subbands and using the corrections obtained by adding high frequency subbands of SWT of the input image, will preserve more high frequency components after the interpolation than interpolating input image directly.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The below figure shows that super resolved image of Baboon's picture using proposed technique in (d) are much better than the low resolution image in (a), super resolved image by using the interpolation (b), and WZP (c). Note that the input low resolution images have been obtained by down-sampling the original high resolution images.

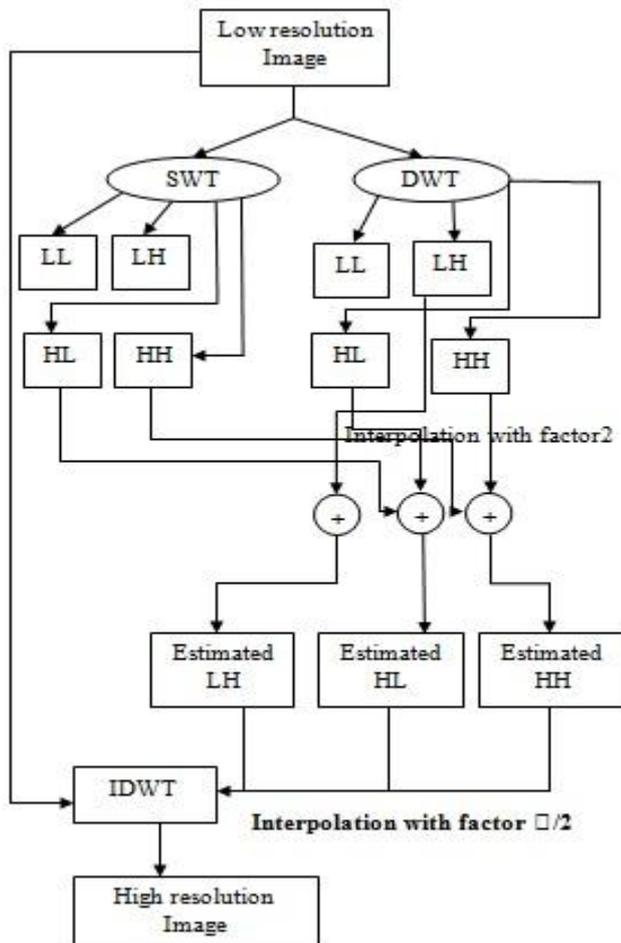


Figure-1. Block diagram of the proposed super resolution algorithm.

In order to show the effectiveness of the proposed method over the conventional and state-of-art image resolution enhancement techniques, four well-known test images

(Lena, Elaine, Baboon, and Peppers) with different features are used for comparison.

Table I compares the PSNR performance of the proposed technique using bicubic interpolation with conventional and state-of-art resolution enhancement techniques: bilinear, bicubic, WZP, NEDI, HMM, HMM SR, WZP-CS, WZP-CS-ER, DWT SR, CWT SR, and regularity-preserving image interpolation.

Additionally, in order to have more comprehensive comparison, the performance of the super resolved image by using SWT only (SWT-SR) is also included in the table. The results in Table I indicate that the proposed technique over-performs the aforementioned conventional and state-of-art image resolution enhancement techniques. Table I also indicates that the proposed technique over-performs the aforementioned conventional and state-of-art image resolution enhancement techniques.

Table-I. PSNR (DB) Results for Resolution Enhancement from 128×128 to 512×512 of the Proposed Technique compared with the Conventional and State-Of-Art Image Resolution Enhancement Techniques

Techniques / Images	PSNR (dB)			
	Lena	Elaine	Baboon	Peppers
Bilinear	26.34	25.38	20.51	25.16
Bicubic	26.86	28.93	20.61	25.66
WZP(db, 9/7)	28.84	30.44	21.47	29.57
Regularity-Preserving Image Interpolation	28.81	29.97	21.18	28.52
NEDI	28.81	29.97	21.18	28.52
HMM	28.86	30.46	21.47	29.58
HMM SR	28.88	30.51	21.49	29.60
WZP-CS	29.27	30.78	21.54	29.87
WZP-CS-ER	29.36	30.89	21.56	30.05
DWT-SR	34.79	32.73	23.29	32.19
SWT-SR	32.01	31.25	22.74	29.46
Proposed Technique	34.82	35.01	23.87	33.06
Mean square error	4.925	4.5297	7.5819	5.7331
Entropy	7.392	7.2107	7.4451	6.9401

SWT high frequency subbands, and the input image. The proposed technique uses DWT to decompose an image into different subbands, and then the high frequency subband images have been interpolated. The interpolated high frequency subband coefficients have been corrected by using the high frequency subbands achieved by SWT of the input image. An original image is interpolated with half of the interpolation factor used for interpolation the high frequency subbands. Afterwards all these images have been combined using IDWT to generate a super resolved image. The proposed technique has been tested on well-known benchmark images, where their PSNR and visual results show the superiority of proposed technique over the conventional and state-of-art image resolution enhancement techniques.

IV. CONCLUSION

This work proposed an image resolution enhancement technique based on the interpolation of the high frequency subbands obtained by DWT, correcting the high frequency subband estimation by using SWT high frequency subbands, and the input image. The proposed technique uses DWT to decompose an image into different subbands, and then the high frequency subband images have been interpolated. The interpolated high frequency subband coefficients have been corrected by using the high frequency subbands achieved by SWT of the input image. An original image is interpolated with half of the interpolation factor used for interpolation the high frequency subbands. Afterwards all these images have been combined using IDWT to generate a super resolved image. The proposed technique has been tested on well-known benchmark images, where their PSNR and visual results show the superiority of proposed technique over the conventional and state-of-art image resolution enhancement techniques.

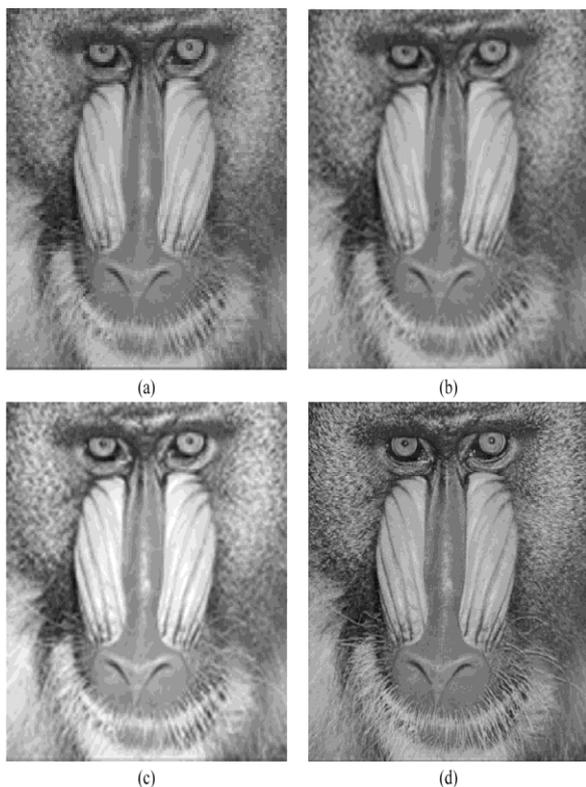


Figure-2. (a) Original low resolution Baboon's image. (b) Bicubic interpolated image. (c) Super resolved image using WZP. (d) Proposed technique.

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