**EXPLORING VIDEO ABSTRACTION**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses the basic technologies behind the video abstraction in order to understand thisresearch work. This chapter concentrates on the general approaches of video abstraction and shot boundary detection methodologies. The research work on video abstraction has a long history and also has shown the specific surveys on the video abstraction. Some of the research teams gave domain specific projects for video abstraction which is also discussed in this chapter. The advantages and disadvantages of the existing methods are given following the proposed method.

Initially, the research work is concentrated on images retrieval process. That time, the video databases are less and retrieval of the videos is based on keywords annotated manually. Video is an essential one for visual media information. Video has the unique characteristics compared to images such as it has much richer content, enormous amount of raw data and less amount of prior structure. So the indexing and retrieval of dynamic video are relatively difficult when compared to images. Now, huge amount of video databases are generated at every second and automatic analysis of video content is required for content based indexing and retrieval of videos.

1. **MATHEMATICAL EXPLANATION OF VIDEO ABSTRACTION TYPES**

Two types of video abstracts are available such as static abstract and dynamic abstract.

**2.1 Static Video Abstract**

The collections of representative key frames are selected from the given video sequence. It is also called as representative frames, R-frames, key frames, still-image abstract or storyboard.

Hence the key frame set R is defined by Ba Tu Truong and SvethaVenkatesh [149].

Where, denotes the key frame extraction procedure.

fri-ithkey frame of the video sequence

**Merits:**

* The static summary is shown in a compact and faster way utilizing visual information and not considering audio and textual information of the original video sequence.
* It does not consider any timing and synchronization for displaying generated video abstracts.
* Users easily understand the contents of the message which are arranged in a spatial order.
* If users can easily take hard copy of the abstract whenever is needed.
* It supports nonlinear browsing of the video content.
* It has less complexity of generation of video abstract when compared to dynamic video abstract

**Limitations**

* The audio has much information for some type of videos such as education, movie, sports, etc. That time it fails to show the efficiency of the video.
* Sometimes the abstracts are difficult to understand when the video is complex.
* The motion information of the video cannot be described.

**Size of the Key frames**

The size of the key frames or optimal key frame set is determined by various ways in an automatic key frame extraction process. It categorized into three types such as priori, posteriori and determined. The automatic key frame extraction techniques are mostly select any one of the type for the size of the key frame set.

**Priori –** the size of the key frames is fixed beforehand by the constraint of the algorithm which is based on the length of the video.

**Posteriori –** the size of the key frames is based on the level of visual changes in the video sequences. The high dynamic videos produce high number of key frames.

**Determined –** the size of the key frames is determined internally with in the abstraction process.

**2.2 Dynamic Video Abstract**

The shortest version of the original video sequence which contains the important segments selected from the original video. It is also called as moving image abstract, summary sequence, video skimming and moving storyboard.

, ⊂ ( 2.2)

Where, denotes the video skim generation procedure

ʘ denotes integration operation that joins individual segments to create a video skim by using video transitions such as cut, dissolve, wipe or fade.

denotes the ithsegment of a video skim

**Merits:**

* It includes the corresponding audio and textual information of the original video into the abstract.
* It gives more enjoyment and informative preview to the user over than a collection of key frames.
* It maintains the time-evolving nature of the original video sequence.

**Limitations**

* It takes time to display the video skims.
* Sometimes the content integrity is sacrificed when the video highlights are emphasized.

**Size**

The length of the dynamic abstract is also specified by the two ways such as priori and posteriori.

**Priori -** The size of the dynamic abstract is stated either a time duration or a ratio over the length of the video sequence.

**Posteriori -** The size of the video abstract is decided internally by the characteristics of the video sequence such as content entropy and interesting events.

1. **METHODOLOGIES USED IN STATIC SUMMARY OR KEY FRAME EXTRACTION**

**3.1 Sampling BasedApproach**

The sampling based key frame extraction work is used in most of the earlier works of video summarization. The selection of keyframes is performed in random basis or uniformly sampling basis from the given video sequences at certain time intervals. Michael Mills et. al proposed Video Magnifier and generated the still-frame samples at regular intervals from the video sequence such as a sample for approximately every 8000 frames [25]. It is also applied in VBTool [27] and MiniVideo system [26]. The example of sampling based key frame extraction is given in figure 1.

………..

………..

………..

………..

………..

Select key frame n time intervaltn

Select key frame 3 at time interval t3

Select key frame 2 at time interval t2

at

Select key frame 1 at time interval t1

………..

**Figure 1. Sampling based key frame extraction**

It is simplest and fastest way to select keyframes from the original video sequence.Sometimes, it does not produce the actual keyframes, because important segments have no key frames and longer segments produce multiple key frames with redundant content.

* 1. **Shot BasedApproach**

The shot in the levels of video structure is the most sophisticated level for key frame extraction. A shot refers collection of frames recorded from a single-camera operation.The shots are combined by using shot transitions such as cut, dissolve, wipe, fade-in and fade-out. Some of the techniques are chosen key frames as the first frame of each shot [28] and [29]. If the video content has dynamic visual content, then one key frame for each shot does not satisfy the whole content coverage of the original video sequence. So, the number of key frames per shot is determined by the underlying semantic content of the video. The shot boundary detection technique is performed by using the visual features or non-visual features of the video sequence. The visual features for shot boundary detection are termed as color based approach, motion based approach, texture based approach and object based approach. The difference between two successive frames is calculated using one or more frame features extracted from the frames in the video sequence. In general, the shot boundary is detected by using the threshold value. If the difference is more than a certain threshold value then the shot boundary is detected between the two frames. The pipeline of shot based key frame extraction process given in figure 2.

Frames

Feature Extraction

Shot Detection

Key Frame Extraction

Input Video

Key Frames

**Figure 2. shot based key frame extraction process**

**3.3 Segment BasedApproach**

Researchers also concentrate on higher level video structure such as scene or event for generating video summary. Some type of video genre, it is helpful to create accurate summary of the video sequence. In that time, shot based key frame extraction is not favor for generating video summary from the video sequence. Chia-Ming Tsai et al [30] generated video summary of movie based on role community networks. This algorithm used analysis stage and summarization stage for generating scene based video summary. In the analysis stage, scene boundary is detected and human face clustering is used to detect and cluster the faces of roles. Then, the relationships between role communities are characterized and role community network is constructed. Based on the role community network and user perception the highlights of the video are detected.

* 1. **Perceptual Features Approach**

Perceptual features or visual features of the frames in the video sequences are used in key frame extraction such as color, motion and object.

* + 1. **Color Feature based Approach**

The color is the most effective human perception based feature for video analysis. The color features can easily extract from frames and have less computational complexity. The extraction of color features is based on color models such as RGB, HSV, YCbCr, YUV and etc. The color features are extracted from an entire frame or blocks of partitioned frame. The color based features are extracted by using color histogram, color moments, correlations between colors, a mixture of Gaussian models and etc. In this technique, color histogram is the most popular way to describe the color features in the frame due to its simplicity and accuracy. In the histogram process, N color bins are selected to represent the color space of a frame and the number of pixels in each color bins is counted. Zhang [31] quantized the color space into 64 super-cells. The each bin of the histogram is assigned the normalized count of the number of pixels. The distance between two adjacent frames are calculated by using the following formula

Where, is the number of pixels of color (r, g, b)in frame of *N* bins and

is the number of pixels of color (r, g, b) in frame of N bins.

The distance between two consecutive frames is compared with the predefined threshold. If the histogram distance greater than the threshold value, then the current frame is selected as the key frame. The amount of key frames are controlled be the threshold value. The high threshold value produces less number of key frames and the low threshold value gives more number of key frames. Color based features is inefficient in some cases when the shape and texture features are important in applications and two images have totally different object have very similar colors.

* + 1. **Motion BasedApproach**

The motion is the important feature in video processing applications for detecting the movement between two consecutive frames. The common techniques for motion estimation are optical flow and block matching which are used by the most of the researchers. The most of the researches used the motion metric computed for each frame of the video using Horn and Schunck’s for optical flow. The sum of the magnitudes of the components of optical flow at each pixel is computed by a motion metricM(t) for frame t. Then, the curve of M(t) is generated. The algorithm finds local minima of motion between significant peaks as defined by the N% criterion [32].

Where, and are x and y components of optical flow at pixel i,j in frame t.

In the block matching process, the current frame is divides into matrix of macro blocks. Then,the vector is created by comparingthe block of current frame with corresponding block of the current frame and its adjacent neighbor’s blocks of the previous frame. The vector quantifies the movement of a macro blocks from current frame to the previous frame. The motion is estimated by calculating the movement of a macro block from one location to another in the previous frame. The search area for a good macro block match is constrained up to *p* pixels on all fours sides of the corresponding macro block in previous frame. This ‘*p*’ is called as the search parameter. The cost functions are used for matching of one macro block with another such as mean absolute difference and mean squared error.

**3.4.3 Object BasedApproach**

In object based key frame extraction method, the first frame is selected as the key frame in the initial step. Then, the difference of the number of regions between the key frame and the current frame is computed. If the difference exceeds a certain threshold value, then the current frame is considered as a new key frame which means different event may be occurred. Two 7-dimensional feature vectors for the current frame and the key frame are generated using seven Hu moments when the difference is less than a certain threshold value. The seven Hu moments are known as reasonable shape descriptors. Then, the distance between two 7-dimensional feature vectors are calculated using the city block distance measure which measures spatial closeness of two feature vectors. When the distance difference exceeds a certain threshold value, the current frame is identified as a new key frame in the same event.

The integrated scheme for object based video abstraction [33] is given in figure 3.

Key frame by event

Key frame by action

Connected Component Labeling

Video Object Extraction

**Change of Regions**

Feature Extraction

**Check Threshold Value**

Key frame Selection

Video

**Figure 3 Block Diagram of Object based Video Abstraction**

**3.5 Feature Vector BasedApproach**

In the feature vector space-based key frame extraction method, multiple features are considered for characterizing the frames in the video sequence [34]. The video is represented by a trajectory curve in a high dimensional feature space using curve splitting algorithm [35]. Each frame of the video sequence is characterized by a vector with multiple features and has a point in multi-dimensional feature space. The whole feature vectors of the video sequence can form a curve in the feature space. The key frames of the video sequence are extracted based on the property of the curve such as sharp corners or junctions between the curve segments. Selection of proper features is an important criterion for the feature vector space-based key frame extraction.

In the two dimensional space, fi and fj represent two feature vectors of the first frame and the last frame in a video. The feature vectors of the whole frames in a video sequence are represented by curve. The axis A1 creates a new Cartesian coordinate system which points from fi to fj and the orthogonal axis A1T. The maximum distance dm1 is the distance between the curve and the axis A1. Itis computed and compared with the predefined threshold. When dm1 is larger than the predefined threshold, the curve will be split into two curve pieces such as fifm1 and fm1fj.

fi

fm1

A2

A2T

dm2

dm3

fj

A3

fi

fm1

A1

fj

dm1

A1T

**Figur Figure 4(a) Curve Representation, Figure 4(b) Curve Splitting Process**

The same procedure is applied repeatedly to the curve segments until the maximum distance is smaller than the predefined threshold. The curve representation of feature vectors and curve splitting process are shown in figure 4(a) and figure 4(b) respectively.

* 1. **Cluster BasedApproach**

The numbers of frames (N) in the video are clustered into number of clusters (M) based on the similarity measures among frames. The similarity measures between the frames are defined as the similarity of their features such as color, texture, shape or the combination of features.In the clustering process, the first frame f1 is assigned as the centroid of the first cluster. Then, the similarity value is measuredbetween the centroid of the first cluster and the next frame f2. When the similarity value is greater than the certain threshold value, f2is added into first cluster. Otherwise, a new cluster is formed for frame f2.

The creation of new clusters or added to existing clusters is continued to all frames in the video sequence based on the above said process. Every time, the similarity values are computed between the next frame fi and the centroids of the existing clusters Ck. Then the maximum value and its respective cluster Cj are identified. When the maximum of the similarity value is greater than a certain threshold value, fi is added to the existing cluster. Otherwise, a new cluster is formed for the frame fi. After the clusters are constructed for the entire frame in the video sequence, the representative frames are selected as key frames from the underlying video sequence. Ngo et al. [37] used k-means clustering algorithm for extracting key frame from the video file. The general procedure of cluster based key frame extraction method is given in figure 5.

Where, *N* – Number of frames in the video sequence such as {*f1, f2, f3 ,….... fN*)

*C*- Number of clusters such as {*C1, C2, C3, …… CM*)

Feature Extraction

Frames

Key Frames

Video

**Figure 5. Process of cluster based key frame extraction**

**4 METHODOLOGIES USED IN DYNAMIC SUMMARY**

The two general categories of dynamic summary are highlight and summary sequence.

* 1. **Highlight**

It contains most interesting parts of the original video such as trailer of a movie which only displays some of the most attractive scenes without revealing the ending of a film. The basic idea behind the process of generating a highlight is to select the most attractive, interesting and exciting scenes which have important people, actions and sounds from the video sequence. The first dynamic abstract name as VAbstractis implemented with the following five properties of the good cinema trailer[38]. The five properties are important objects/ people, action, mood, dialog and disguised end. It explains that highlight of a movie should have important people and objects from an original movie, interesting actions to attract viewers, the mood of a film, dialog contains important information and hide the ending of a film. First, shot boundary is detected using the existing shot boundary detection techniques [39, 40, 41]. High contrast scenes are extracted for identifying important objects and people. The mood of the movie is identified by color perception of the movie. Finally, the five features are concatenated together in temporal order for generating movie trailer.

* 1. **Summary Sequence**

Summary sequence extracts the impression of the content of an entire video. It delivers the highest level of semantic meaning of an original video. Some of the methods are used for extracting summary sequence such as time-compression based, model based and speech recognition based methods. Time compression based method is used to speed up the watching video. It contains two aspects likely audio compression and video compression. The selective sampling method is appliedfor audio compression. In video compression, it simply ignores the frames according to the compression ratio of the audio.The model based method is applied to the fixed structures of the videos namely sports and news. In this method, the start of the play and end of the play are initially identified [42]. Then, the most exciting scenes are identified by the waveform of the audio. Finally, the summary sequence of the sports video is generated by combining them. The sports video is modeled with a series of ‘plays’ interleaved with ‘non-plays’.

Summary sequence is generated by text and speech recognition based method which has four steps such as video segmentation, extract dominant text information, find corresponding shots and concatenate the corresponding shots [43, 44].This method is applied to various types of videos that haven’t fixed structures. First, the video is segmented into shots or scenes based on its visual and audio contents. Dominant text information is extracted from the video by capturing caption data or using speech recognition. The informative shots are identified which has dominant words or phrases. Finally, the corresponding shots are concatenated for generating summary sequence.

1. **SHOT BOUNDARY DETECTION**

In this section, the basic shot boundary detection techniques are discussed.The shot boundary detection refers the video is segmented into shots. Initially, the shot boundary detection techniques extract and measure features of the frames. The discontinuity between the frames is identified using the frame feature measures. Based on the discontinuity values, the shot transition between the frames are identified such as hard cuts or softcuts. Then, the shots boundaries are detected from the underlying video sequence using discontinuity values. The basic techniques are frame difference based (pixel based or block based), histogram based, motion based, edge based and etc.

* 1. **Pixel based Approach**

Pixel based comparison is the easiest way to detect the discontinuity between the frames using threshold. It is evaluated the pixel wise differences in intensity or color values of corresponding pixels in two successive frames. The absolute sums of pixel differences are compared against a threshold value [45].

(2.5)

For gray level frames,

(2.6)

For color frames

Where, i, j – two successive frames with dimension m×n

Pi(x, y)- intensity value of the pixel at the coordinates (x, y)in frame i

C – indexfor the color components (in case of RGB color system, c)

Pi(x, y, c)- color component of the pixel at (x, y) in frame i.

The pair wise segmentation algorithm [46] computes the number of pixel changes by using the threshold t value from the frame to the next frame. The number of pixel changes are represented as a binary function DP(i, j). Then, the segment boundary is identified of more than given percentage of the total number of pixels have changed using threshold T.

(2.8)

* 1. **Block Based Approach**

The block based or global image characteristic comparison is used for temporal segmentation of video.Each frame is divided into number of blocks which are compared with the corresponding blocks of next. The difference between the two consecutive frames is measured by

Where, i and j are two consecutive frames

b –block (there are n number of blocks in frame i and j)

cb–predetermined coefficient for the block b

DP(i, j, b) - pa rtial match value between bth blocks in the frame i and j.

The blocks of the two successive frames are compared using likelihood ratio [47]. When the likelihood ratio is greater than the threshold, the shot boundary is detected between the frames.

(2.10)

(2.11)

* 1. **Histogram Based Approach**

The basic idea of the color histogram based shot boundary detection is that the color content does not change rapidly within but across shots. It is also easiest algorithm for computation. The shot boundary is detected as single peaks in the time series of the differences between color histograms of consecutive frames or of frames a certain distance k apart [48]. The color histogram differences (CHDi) between two color frame Pi and Pj

Where,

. – number of pixels of color (r,g,b) in frame i of N pixels.

– color component is discretized to different values

Local threshold or global threshold can be used in the color histogram difference value for detecting shot boundary.

* 1. **Edge Based Approach**

The edge change ratio and edge contrast feature are the significant method to find the shot boundary between the frames. Edge change ratio is used to find shot boundary based on the edge pixels from the underlying video sequence. The basic idea is that the number of incoming and outgoing edge pixels does not change within in shots.The edges are computed by the canny edge detectorand before calculating of the ECR global motion compensation based on the Hausdorff distance. The edge pixels in one frame which have edge pixels nearby in the other frame are not regarded as entering or existing edge pixels.The edge change ratio is calculated as follows

(2.13)

Where, and– Number of edge pixels in frame n and n-1

–Number of entering edge pixels in frame n

–Number of exiting edge pixels in frame n-1

The ECR value is from 0 to 1. According to the ECR values, the transition between the frames are recognized as hard cuts, fades, dissolves and wipes [49]. Hard cuts are identified as isolated peaks and fades are recognized in predominated edges in the ECR time series. In dissolve, the outgoing edges of the first shot protrude before the incoming edges of the second shot start to dominate the second half of a dissolve.The ECR time series values of frames and the types of recognized transitions are given in figure 6.



**Figure 6 ECR time series values for frames and types of recognized transitions**

The idea of the edge based contrast(EC) technique, the loss of contrast and sharpness are occurred in the frames during a dissolve transition that generally reaches its maximum in the middle of the dissolve [50]. So, edge based contrast technique is used to detect dissolve transition. This feature identifies the relation between stronger and weaker edges. The canny edge detector [51] is used to find the edges in the frames. Lower threshold value is used to detect weak edges and higher threshold value is used to detect strong edges in the frames.

(2.14)

With

(2.16)

It contains the following features,

• If EC is equal to 0, frame has not strong edges.

• If EC values from 0 to 1, the frame has large number of weak edges then the strong edges.

• If EC value is 1, the number of weak edges and number of strong edges are roughly equivalent.

• If EC values between 1 and 2, the frame has large number of strong edges then the weak edges.

If EC value is 2, the frame contains only strong edges.

* 1. **Cluster Based Approach**

Shot boundary is detected using unsupervised clusterprocess. The clustering process treats a video segmentation as a two class problem such as ‘scene change’ or ‘no scene change’. The frames of interest are determined by applying k-means clustering algorithm on color histogram similarity measures between successive frames [52].

The clustering process applied on YUV color space of frames which has luminance and chrominance information for applying scene change detection. The color content dissimilarity of each frame pair is computed using frame comparison metric such as histogram difference and χ2test. The metric values are used to classify frames to two classes using k-means algorithm. The initial cluster means are selected in k-means algorithm using Euclidean distance value which is used as performance index. Each sample is assigned to the class of the nearest mean. The two cluster means are updated by sample mean of all samples in the cluster. The largest mean of the frame in the cluster is labeled asscene change. Again, the frames between two successive scene changes are labeled as scene changes. Then, the adjacent scene change frames are classified as edit effect frames such as ‘fade’, ‘dissolve’ and ‘wipe’. Finally, the shot boundaries are marked.

1. **ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THE EXISTING TECHNIQUES**

The advantages and disadvantages of the various techniques in the key frame extraction and shot boundary detection are reviewed and presented here.

* 1. **Key Frame Extraction Approach**

Sampling based technique is the very simplest way to extract key frames from the video sequence. Sometimes, the important segments have no representative frames and longer segments have multiple frames with similar content. So, it fails to capture and extract the actual video content.

If long videos, segment based method produceskey frames in an efficient way which could be a scene, an event or entire sequence. But other works produce one or more key frames for each shot which does not scale up long videos. Since scrolling through hundreds of images are time-consuming, tedious and ineffective. It is a complicated work compared to the others.

In perceptual features based key frame extraction, the color, motion and object features are considered in general. The color based feature is an important feature and widely used key frame extraction techniques. It is invariant to image orientations and robust to background noises. Also it is insensitive to camera and object movements. It is heavily dependent on threshold and cannot well capture the underlying dynamics when there is lots of camera and object motion. Motion based techniques are controlling the number of frames based on temporal dynamics in the scene.

The feature vector based method is an efficient method for extracting key frames. But the selection of proper features is an important factor for the feature vector space based key frame selection.

Clustering based technique is one of the popular methods in key frame extraction techniques and also it is widely used in data analysis. This method will extract a set of visually dissimilar key frames while their temporal order information is totally lost. The successful extraction of semantic meaningful clusters is very difficult. Because, it has to maintain large intra-class and low inter-class visual variance between clusters.

Shot based key frame extraction technique is the most sophisticated way to represent the key frames by adapting to the dynamic video content. But the segmentation of shot is a challenging work in this area.

* 1. **Shot boundary Detection Approach**

Pixel based shot boundary detection is very simple method. But it is very sensitive to camera and object motion or movements. In the block based techniques, it increases the robustness to camera and object motion and are also computationally expensive. It achieves better than pixel based method but is still sensitive to camera and object motion.

Histogram based method is simple and effective method for detecting hard cutsand more robust to object and camera movements. It ignores the spatial information in the frames. So, it fails if two different images have similar histograms.

In the idea of edge based method is temporal visual discontinuity usually comes along with structural discontinuity. It performs well in fade, dissolve and wipe detection. It isrobust against object motion and it does not outperform the above simple color histogram method in the hard cut detection. But it is computationally much more expensive. The rapid changes in the frames such as overall shot brightness, and verydark or very light frames, may produce false positives.

Motion based methods are computationally expensive and performed well in hard cut transition detection. It cannot differentiate illumination changes and motion. The cluster based segmentation is eliminated threshold setting of the previous methods and allows multiple features to be used simultaneously to improve the performance. But it is not able to recognize the type of the gradual transitions.

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