

Blind Image Separation with Neural Learning Based on Information Theory and Higher-order Statistics

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Abstract - Blind source separation by independent component analysis (ICA) has applied in signal processing, telecommunication, and image processing to recover unknown original source signals from mutually independent observation signals. Neural networks are learned to estimate the original signals by unsupervised learning algorithm. Because the outputs of the neural networks which yield original source signals are mutually independent, then mutual information is zero. This is equivalent to minimizing the Kullback-Leibler convergence between probability density function and the corresponding factorial distribution of the output in neural networks. In this paper, we present a learning algorithm using information theory and higher order statistics to solve problem of blind source separation. For computer simulation two deterministic signals and a Gaussian noise are used as original source signals. We also test the proposed algorithm by applying it to several discrete images.

Key Words : Blind image separation, ICA, Neural network, Information theory, Higher-order statistics

1. Introduction

Independent component analysis (ICA) is a statistical approach to express a set of random variables or signals in terms of statistically independent components. The main purpose of ICA is to recover independent original sources or signals from observation signals by sensor systems. Popular applications of ICA are blind source (signal) separation, blind deconvolution, feature extraction, and noise cleaning. Blind source separation can be applied to many areas such as in signal processing, data communication, speech recognition, and medical science [1][9]. In a large number of applications, signals received by sensors such as antennas or microphone systems are a mixture of original source signals. Generally, these source signals are usually unknown in case of acoustic signal processing, radar array or sonar signal processing, and biomedical signal processing [1][2][4][5][6][7][9]. By using only the mixed signals observed by sensor systems, original source signals are estimated or separated. Therefore, blind source separation may be represented as estimating or separating original sources without knowing the characteristics of the transmission

systems. Fig. 1 shows a block diagram for blind source separation. An unknown signal vector s with statistically independent components is defined by

$$s = [s_1, s_2, \dots, s_m]^T \quad (1)$$

A unknown observation signal vector $x \in R^m$ is expressed by

$$x = As \quad (2)$$

where $A \in R^{m \times m}$ is a unknown nonsingular mixing matrix. Both source vector s and mixing matrix A are unknown, but an observation vector x is known. Multiplying a demixing matrix W by an observation vector x , we have the separated signals defined by

$$y = Wx \in R^m \quad (3)$$

where $W \in R^{m \times m}$ is modeled by neural networks as shown in Figure 2. The inputs of neural networks as a demixer are observation signals and the outputs are the separated signals. To estimate original signals, neurons in the networks are learned by unsupervised learning algorithm [10][12]. Since unknown original sources are zero mean and statistically independent, therefore, both observation signals x and output signals y are zero mean and statistically independent signals likewise. Several

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approaches based on higher order statistics [13] or information theory such like negentropy [14], maximum entropy [15], mutual information [16], and infomax [17] as well as maximum likelihood estimation [18], recently have been developed for blind source separation. In this paper, we describe neural learning algorithm using mutual information theory and higher order moments to separate blind image signals.

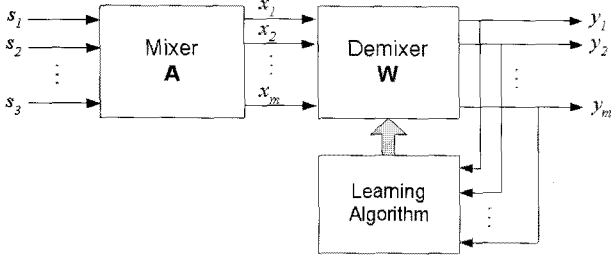


Fig. 1 Processing of blind source separation

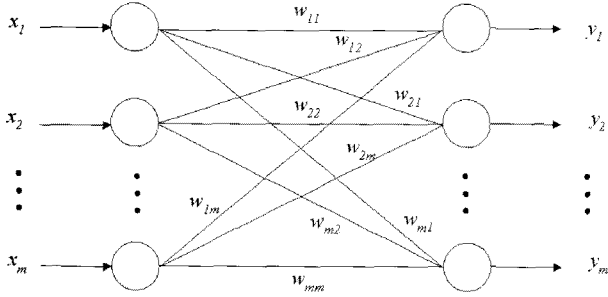


Fig. 2 Neural network for blind source separation

2. Mutual Information

The amount of information obtained after the occurrence of x with probability p in a random variable X is defined by [19]

$$I(x) = \log\left(\frac{1}{P(x)}\right) = -\log p(x) \quad (4)$$

The entropy of X means value of the amount of information associated with X . The entropy of a continuous random variable with probability density function $f_X(x)$ is given by

$$h(X) = E[I(x)] = -\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) \log f_X(x) dx \quad (5)$$

where E denotes the expectation. The entropy for a random vector X consisting m random variables is defined by

$$h(X) = -\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) \log f_X(x) dx \quad (6)$$

We define the conditional entropy of a random vector X given Y as

$$h(X|Y) = h(X, Y) - h(Y) \quad (7)$$

where $h(X, Y)$ is the joint entropy of random vectors X and Y

$$h(X, Y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) \log f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx dy \quad (8)$$

and $f_{X,Y}(x, y)$ is the joint probability density function of X and Y . The entropy $h(X)$ is a measure of uncertainty about a system input before observing the system output, and the conditional entropy $h(X|Y)$ is a measure of uncertainty about a system input after observing the system output. We define the difference between $h(X)$ and $h(X|Y)$ as the mutual information $I(X; Y)$ between X and Y

$$\begin{aligned} I(X; Y) &= h(X) - h(X|Y) \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) \log \left(\frac{f_{X,Y}(x, y)}{f_X(x)} \right) dx dy \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

By the definition of conditional probability we have

$$f_X(x|y) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)} \quad (10)$$

then rewrite (11) to

$$\begin{aligned} I(X; Y) &= h(X) - h(X|Y) \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) \log \left(\frac{f_X(x|y)}{f_X(x)} \right) dx dy \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

The mutual information between X and Y is equal to the Kullback-Leibler divergence between the joint probability density function $f_{X,Y}(x, y)$ and the product of the probability density functions $f_X(x)$ and $f_Y(y)$. We use the special case that is the Kullback-Leibler divergence between the probability density function $f_X(x)$ and the product of its marginal probability density functions $f_{X_i}(x_i)$ [20]

$$D_{f_X \| f_{X_i}} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) \log \left(\frac{f_X(x)}{\prod_{i=1}^m f_{X_i}(x_i)} \right) dx \quad (12)$$

The i th marginal probability density function is defined by

$$f_{x_i}(x_i) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) dx^{(i)} \quad (13)$$

where $dx^{(i)}$ is a $(m-1) \times 1$ vector left after removing the i th element of a vector x . We rewrite (14) in the expanded form

$$D_{f_X \| f_{X_i}} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) \log f_X(x) dx - \sum_{i=1}^m \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) \log_{X_i}(x_i) dx \quad (14)$$

Because of $dx = dx^{(i)} dx_i$, we rewrite in the second integral term of (12)

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) \log f_X(x) dx \\ = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \log f_{X_i}(x_i) dx \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) dx^{(i)} dx_i \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

By using (13), we rewrite (15) as

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) \log f_{X_i}(x_i) dx \\ = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X_i}(x_i) \log f_{X_i}(x_i) dx_i \\ = -h_{X_i}(x_i) \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Finally, we simplify the Kullback-Leibler divergence in (14) by substituting (6) and (16) to obtain the objective (contrast) function for blind source separation [21]

$$D_{f_X \| f_{X_i}} = -h(X) + \sum_{i=1}^m h_{X_i}(x_i) \quad (17)$$

where $h_{X_i}(x_i)$ is the i th marginal entropy based on the marginal probability density function.

3. Learning of Neural Networks

We rewrite the Kullback-Leibler divergence by applying (3) to (17)

$$D(W) = -h(y) + \sum_{i=1}^m h_{Y_i}(y_i) \quad (18)$$

Using properties of entropy (see Appendix I), the entropy $h(y)$ in (18) is expressed by

$$h(y) = h(x) + \log |\det(W)| \quad (19)$$

where $\det(W)$ is the determinant of W . To calculate $h_{Y_i}(y_i)$ we need the marginal distribution of y_i and must then integrate out the effects of all the components of the random vector y . But it is usually difficult to calculate $h_{Y_i}(y_i)$ because of high dimensionality of y . We derive an approximate expression for the marginal probability density function $f_{Y_i}(y_i)$ in terms of higher-order moments of y using the Gram-Charlier expansion [20].

$$f_{Y_i}(Y_i) \approx \alpha(y_i) \left\{ 1 + \frac{K_{i,3}}{3!} H_3(y_i) + \frac{K_{i,4}}{4!} H_4(y_i) \right\} \quad (20)$$

where $\alpha(y_i)$ is the probability density function of a normalized Gaussian random variable with zero mean and unit variance, i.e.

$$\alpha(y_i) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{y_i^2}{2}\right) \quad (21)$$

and $H_k(y_i)$ are Chebyshev Hermite polynomials. The k th order cumulant of y_i [21] is given by

$$K_{i,1} = E(y_i) \quad (22-1)$$

$$K_{i,2} = E(y_i^2) - (E(y_i))^2 \quad (22-2)$$

$$K_{i,3} = E(y_i^3) - 3E(y_i)E(y_i^2) + 2(E(y_i))^3 \quad (22-3)$$

$$K_{i,4} = E(y_i^4) - 3(E(y_i^2))^2 - 4E(y_i^3)E(y_i) + 12E(y_i^2)(E(y_i))^2 - 6(E(y_i))^4 \quad (22-4)$$

Finally by applying the expansion of a logarithm we have

$$\log(1+c) \approx c - \frac{c^2}{2} + O(c^3) \quad (23)$$

and using properties of the Chebyshev Hermite polynomials, we may expand the marginal entropy in the right hand side of (18) [15]

$$\begin{aligned} h_{Y_i}(y_i) \approx \frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi e) - \frac{(k_{i,3})^2}{12} \\ - \frac{(k_{i,4})^2}{48} + \frac{5}{8} (k_{i,3})^2 k_{i,4} + \frac{1}{16} (k_{i,4})^3 \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

By substituting (19) and (24) to (18), we have

$$\begin{aligned} D(W) \approx -h(x) - \log |\det(W)| + \frac{m}{2} \log(2\pi e) \\ - \sum_{i=1}^m \left(\frac{(k_{i,3})^2}{12} + \frac{(k_{i,4})^2}{48} + \frac{5(k_{i,3})^2 k_{i,4}}{8} + \frac{(k_{i,4})^3}{16} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

We differentiate the objective function in (25) with respect to W to derive a neural network learning algorithm. Assuming zero mean, derivatives of terms in (25) are

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} \log |\det(W)| = (W^{-T})_{ik} \quad (26)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,3})^2 = 6E(y_i^3)E(y_i^2)x_k \quad (27)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,4})^2 = 8E(y_i^4)E(y_i^3)x_k - 24E(y_i^3)x_k \quad (28)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,3})^2 k_{i,4} &= 6E(y_i^4)E(y_i^3)E(y_i^2)x_k \\ &\quad - 18E(y_i^3)E(y_i^2)x_k + 4(E(y_i^3))^3 x_k \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,4})^3 = 12(E(y_i^4) - 3)^2 E(y_i^3)x_k \quad (30)$$

where w_{ik} denotes the ik th cofactor in W (see Appendix II for proofs of (27)–(30)). Replacing expectations with their instantaneous values we obtain

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,3})^2 = 6y_i^5 x_k \quad (31)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,4})^2 = (8y_i^7 - 24y_i^3)x_k \quad (32)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,3})^2 k_{i,4} = (10y_i^9 - 18y_i^5)x_k \quad (33)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,4})^3 = (12y_i^{11} - 72y_i^7 + 108y_i^3)x_k \quad (34)$$

Using (31)–(34), we obtain the derivative of (25) is

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} D(W) \approx - (W^{-T})_{ik} + \Phi(y_i)x_k \quad (35)$$

where $\Phi(y_i)$ is an activation function for neural networks learning given by

$$\Phi(y_i) = \frac{29}{4}y_i^3 - \frac{47}{4}y_i^5 - \frac{14}{3}y_i^7 + \frac{25}{4}y_i^9 + \frac{3}{4}y_i^{11} \quad (36)$$

The objective of the learning algorithm is to minimize the Kullback–Leibler divergence in (25), and is implemented using a gradient descent adjustment of the weights of neural networks

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta w_{ik} &= -\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} D(W) \\ &= \eta ((W^{-T})_{ik} - \Phi(y_i)x_k) \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

where η is learning rate. We rewrite (37) in a matrix form

$$\Delta W = \eta (W^{-T} - \Phi(y)x^T) \quad (38)$$

where $\Phi(y)$ is a column vector of an activation function

$$\Phi(y) = [\Phi(y_1), \Phi(y_1), \dots, \Phi(y_n)]^T \quad (39)$$

By applying $y^T = x^T W^T$ to (40), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta W &= \eta [I - \Phi(y)x^T W^T] W^{-T} \\ &= \eta [I - \Phi(y)x^T] W^{-T} \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

Because a mixing matrix A is nonsingular, it is more useful to describe (40) by a natural gradient descent algorithm [22] as

$$\Delta W = -\eta \frac{\partial D(W)}{\partial W} W^T W \quad (41)$$

We finally write the update rule for adapting neural network weights

$$\begin{aligned} W(k+1) &= W(k) + \eta [I - \Phi(y(k))y^T] (W(k) W^T(k)) W^{-T}(k) \\ &= W(k) + \eta [I - \Phi(y(k))y^T(k)] W(k) \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

4. Computer Simulation

We use two images as original sources shown in Fig. 3 and its histograms are provided in Fig. 4. We normalize the gray value for each pixel. Fig. 5 shows the waveform of the normalized signals (1st and 2nd). The mixing matrix A in this simulation is selected by

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0.2 & 0.5 \\ 0.4 & 0.3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (43)$$

The image mixed with the mixing matrix (43) is shown in Fig. 6 and its waveforms are shown in Fig. 5 (3rd and 4th). We select the initial matrix

$$W = \begin{bmatrix} 0.7294 & -0.3546 \\ -0.2323 & 0.4726 \end{bmatrix} \quad (44)$$

After 393216 learning iterations, we obtained the best result and the corresponding separated signals shown in Fig. 7. The 5th and 6th waveforms in Fig. 5 show the normalized waveforms of the separated images. Next, we use only one image mixed with a Gaussian random noise. Fig. 8 shows the mixed images applying the mixing matrix of (43). The initial demixing matrix is also the same as (44). The separated signals are shown in Fig. 9. This application is used to a noise extraction. Lastly, we have two original images in Fig. 10 and the histograms of the original images are shown in Fig. 11. The mixing matrix is similar to (43) and the initial weight matrix is

$$W = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1182 & -0.0321 \\ -0.0398 & 0.0513 \end{bmatrix} \quad (45)$$



(a)



(b)

Fig. 3 Original images

Figs. 12 and 13 show the mixing images and the separated images, respectively. As seen, the separated image of the left side in Fig. 13 is the inversion of the original image. We can easily restore the image using simple inversion. The restored image is shown in Fig. 14. We provide a qualitative comparison to a well known blind source separation approach [23]. The authors in [23] addressed the blind separation algorithm with faster convergence property, which has quadratic or cubic convergence, whereas the gradient method in our proposed algorithm has only linear convergence. However, the result in [23] is somewhat theoretical since the learning is likely to be local convergence. Thus, the latter is hardly implemented for online separation algorithm, but our algorithm is computational efficiency and applicable in practice.

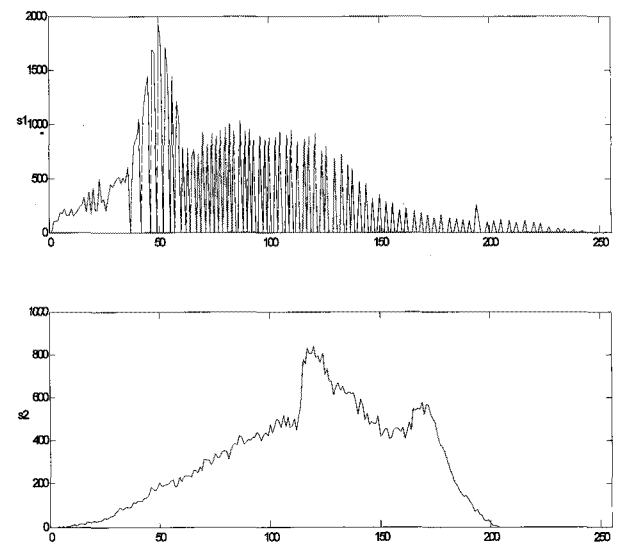


Fig. 4 Histogram of original images

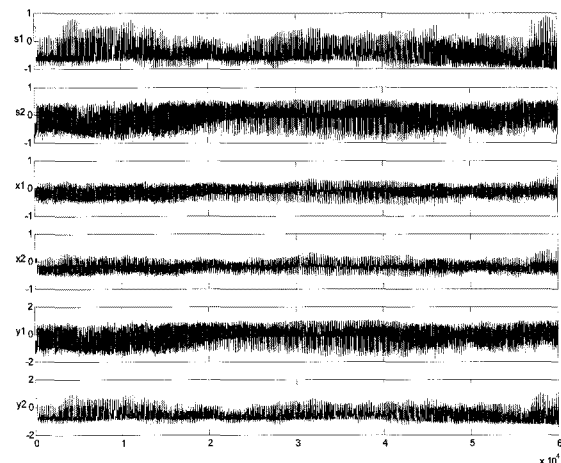


Fig. 5 Waveform of normalized source signals



(a)



(b)

Fig. 7 Separated images

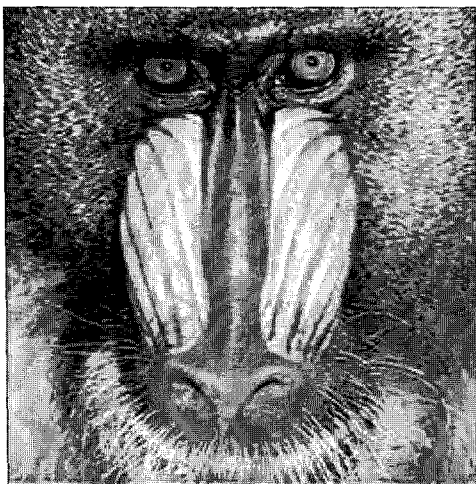


(b)

Fig. 6 Mixing images



(a)

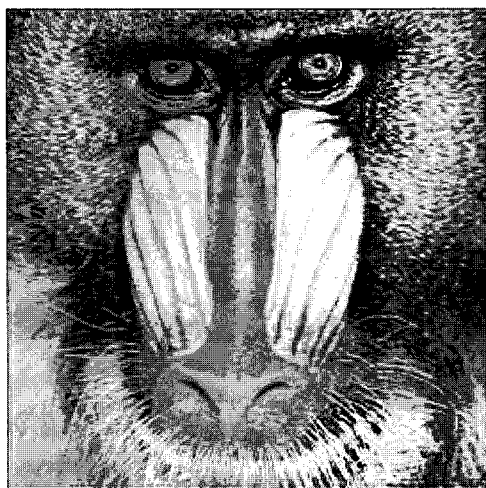


(a)

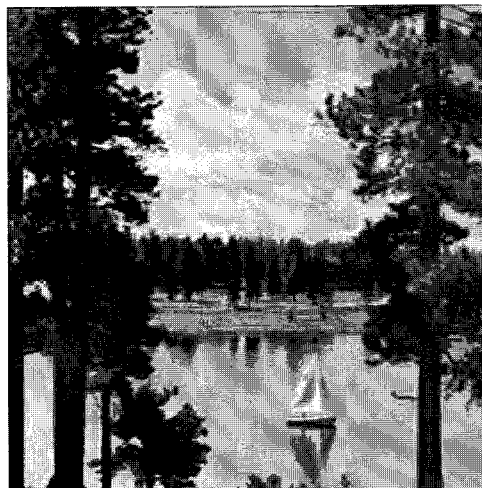


(b)

Fig. 8 Mixing images with a Gaussian noise

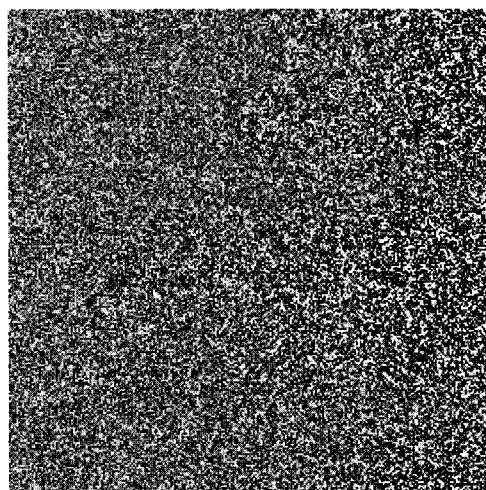


(a)



(b)

Fig. 10 Original images



(b)

Fig. 9 Separated original image and noise signal

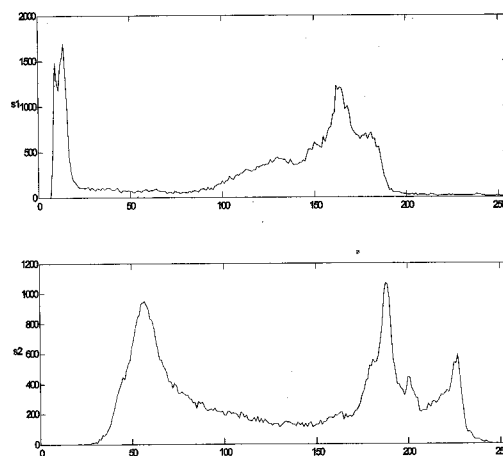
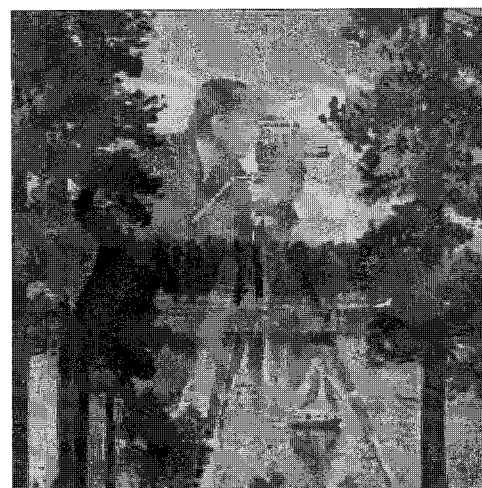


Fig. 11 Histogram of original images



(a)



(a)

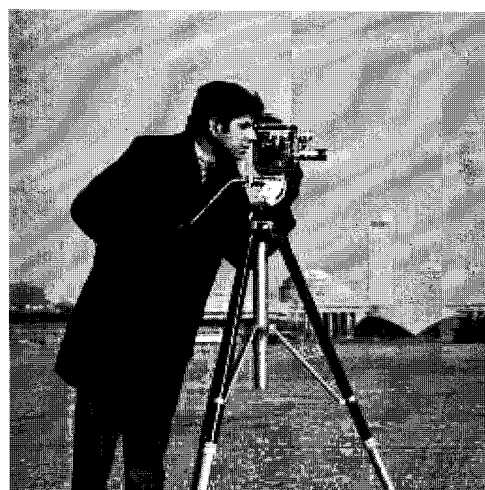


(b)

Fig. 12 Mixing images



(a)



(b)

Fig. 13 Separated images

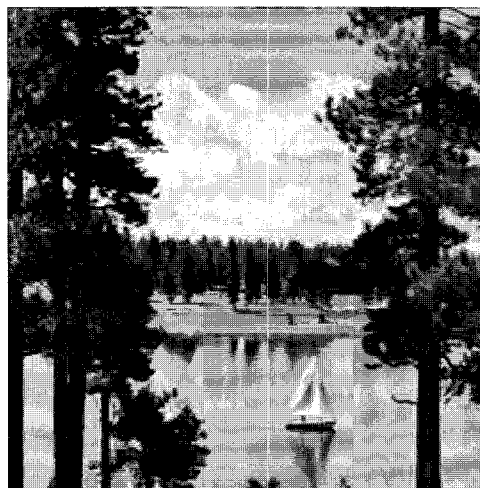


Fig. 14 Inversion of separated image

5. Conclusions

We propose an approach to blind source separation using information theory and higher order statistics. Because the separated signals are assumed as mutually independent, mutual information for each signal is zero and thus the Kullback-Liebler convergence is minimized to recover original source signals. A learning algorithm for neural networks as a demixer is derived by mutual information and higher order moments so as to minimize the Kullback-Liebler convergence as the neural networks are learned. We use several image sources to test the purposed approach for computer simulation and obtained simulation results with the separated signals close to the original sources. Future work includes investigation of online learning algorithm for real time blind source separation in practical application.

Appendix I

From the definition of entropy in (5), value of the following entropy is invariant

$$h(X+c) = h(X) \quad (\text{A-1})$$

where c is constant. Another useful formula is

$$h(aX) = h(X) + \log|a| \quad (\text{A-2})$$

where a is a scaling factor. Consider a probability density function scaled by a

$$f_r(y) = \frac{1}{|a|} f_r\left(\frac{y}{a}\right) \quad (\text{A-3})$$

We can rewrite the formula of entropy applying (5)

$$\begin{aligned}
 h(Y) &= -E[\log f_r(y)] \\
 &= -E\left[\log\left(\frac{1}{|a|}f_r\left(\frac{y}{a}\right)\right)\right] \\
 &= -E\left[\log f_r\left(\frac{y}{a}\right) - \log|a|\right] \\
 &= -E\left[\log f_r\left(\frac{y}{a}\right)\right] + \log|a|
 \end{aligned} \tag{A-4}$$

By putting $Y=aX$ in (56), finally we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 h(aX) &= -\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) \log f_X(x) dx + \log|a| \\
 &= h(X) + \log|a|
 \end{aligned} \tag{A-5}$$

Appendix II

Proof of (28)

The mixing matrix W is rewritten by using Laplace's expansion [20] as

$$\det(W) = \sum_{i=1}^m w_{ik} A_{ik} \tag{A-6}$$

where A_{ik} denote ik th cofactor of W . Substituting (A-6) to the left hand side in (26) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} \log|\det(W)| &= \frac{1}{|\det(W)|} \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} |\det(W)| \\
 &= \frac{A_{ik}}{|\det(W)|} \\
 &= (W^{-T})_{ik}
 \end{aligned} \tag{A-7}$$

Proof of (27)-(30)

First, we calculate the partial derivative with respect to w_{ik} for the third moment

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,3}) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} E(y_i^3) \\
 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} E((w_{ik}x_k)^3) \\
 &= 3E((w_{ik}x_k)^2) \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} E(w_{ik}x_k) \right) \\
 &= 3E(y_i^2) x_k
 \end{aligned} \tag{A-8}$$

and fourth moments

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,4}) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (E(y_i^4) - 3(E(y_i^2))^2) \\
 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (E(y_i^4)) \\
 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (E(w_{ik}x_k)^4) \\
 &= 4E((w_{ik}x_k)^3) x_k \\
 &= 4E(y_i^3) x_k
 \end{aligned} \tag{A-9}$$

By substituting (A-8) and (A-9), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,3})^2 &= 2k_{i,3} \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} k_{i,3} \tag{A-10} \\
 &= 2E(y_i^3) 3(y_i^2) x_k \\
 &= 6E(y_i^3)(y_i^2) x_k
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,4})^2 &= 2k_{i,4} \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} k_{i,4} \tag{A-11} \\
 &= 2(E(y_i^4) - 3)(4E(y_i^3) x_k) \\
 &= 8E(y_i^4) E(y_i^3) x_k - 24E(y_i^3) x_k
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,3})^2 k_{i,4} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} k_{i,3}^2 k_{i,4} + k_{i,3}^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} k_{i,4} \tag{A-12} \\
 &= 6E(y_i^3) E(y_i^2) x_k (E(y_i^4) - 3) \\
 &\quad + (E(y_i^3))^2 4E(y_i^3) x_k \\
 &= 6E(y_i^4) E(y_i^3) E(y_i^2) x_k \\
 &\quad - 18E(y_i^3) E(y_i^2) x_k + 4E(y_i^3)^3 x_k
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} (k_{i,4})^3 &= 3k_{i,4}^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ik}} k_{i,4} \tag{A-13} \\
 &= 3(E(y_i^4) - 3)^2 4E(y_i^3) x_k \\
 &= 12(E(y_i^4) E(y_i^3))^2 E(y_i^3) x_k
 \end{aligned}$$

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