

TRECVID2005 Experiments in The Hong Kong Polytechnic University: Shot Boundary Detection Based on a Multi-Step Comparison Scheme

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Abstract

In this paper, we describe our experiments for TRECVID 2005 for the shot boundary detection task. Our approach is based on a multi-step comparison of the video frames. By measuring the difference between frames at varying distances apart, a distance map is generated and used to determine the existence of a transition and its type. The contents of the frames in a video shot are similar. If the difference between two consecutive frames is relatively large, a cut should happen. During a gradual transition, the difference between two consecutive frames is relatively small; therefore differences between the more distant frames are needed. While the comparative step size or the distance between two frames is equal to or larger than the length of transition, the difference between the frames during the transition will be much larger than that within the same video shot. In a distance map, a cut will appear as a triangle, a flash as two straight lines, and a gradual transition as a trapezoid. Based on the distance map, the different transitions can be detected and classified easily.

Keywords: Shot Boundary Detection, Cut Detection, Gradual Transitions, Video Partitioning, Video Analysis.

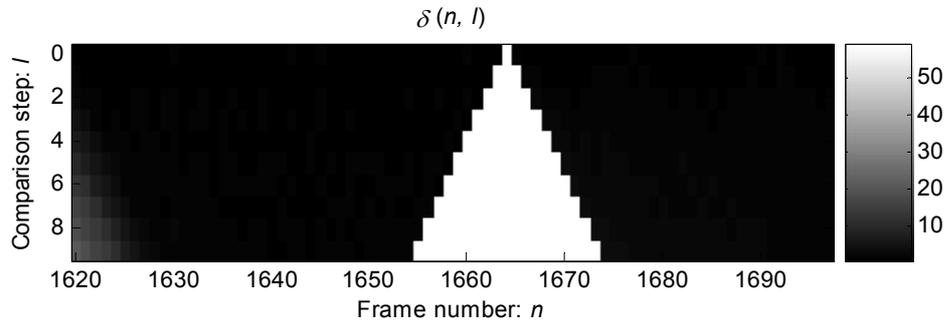
1 Introduction

A shot boundary can be categorized into cuts and gradual transitions. There are numerous algorithms for shot boundary detection, which are based on color (Yeo, and Liu 1995, Zhang, Kankanhalli, and Smoliar 1993), edge (Lienhart 1999, Zabih, Miller, and Mai 1999), motion (Bouthemy 1999), macroblock information (Pei, and Chou 1999, Jun, Yoon, and Lee 2000), variance curve (Alattar 1993, Ngo, Pong, and Chin 2001), linear regression (Han, and Kweon 2003), machine learning (Ngo 2003, Bescós 2004), statistical analysis (Hanjalic 2002, Vasconcelos, and Lippman 2000, Liu, Lo, Zhang, and Feng 2004), and linear prediction (Cai, Lam, and Tan 2004, 2005). The different approaches carry different assumptions regarding the detection of shot boundaries. For instance, the histogram-based method assumes that images from two different consecutive shots should have different histograms. The method based on the variance curve assumes that the variance between consecutive images in a video will not be zero. The assumption made by the linear prediction model is that the pixel values in a frame can be predicted from its previous frames, even if the frames are under some type of gradual transition such as dissolve. For cut detection, most of these methods have reasonable accuracy, because the difference between two consecutive frames is relatively large. However, gradual transition detection is a much more difficult problem, as the difference between successive frames under the transition is relatively small. Consequently, comparing the frames a certain step apart is necessary. With the development of software tools for video processing, gradual transition has become more complex than ever. The gradual transitions may have an arbitrary length of arbitrary type. Therefore, in our proposed method we compute the differences between frames with multi-steps to generate a distance map. Transitions are detected by analysing their patterns in the distance map.

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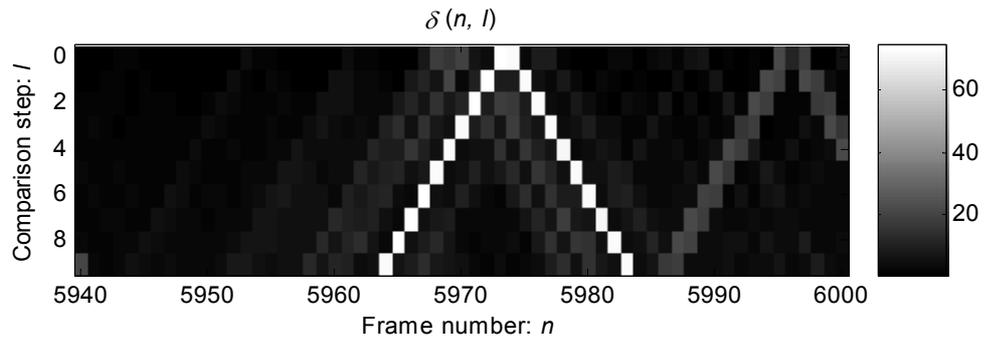
(a) Example of a cut.



(b) $\delta(n, l)$ of a cut transition.



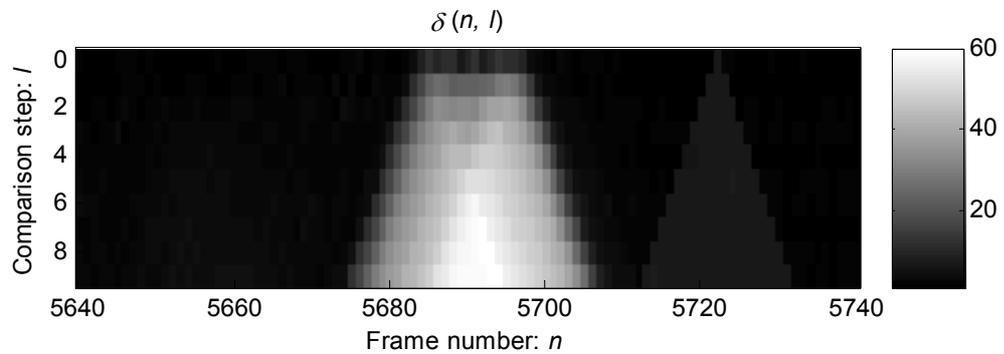
(c) Example of a flash.



(d) $\delta(n, l)$ of a flash.



(e) Example of a gradual transition.



(d) $\delta(n, l)$ of a gradual transition.

Figure 1. The Multi-step comparison $\delta(n, l)$ for a cut, a flash, and a gradual transition.

2 Comparing Frames at Multiple Steps

This section will describe our multi-step comparison methods for the detection of cuts and gradual transitions. We compare the frames based on histograms in the RGB colour space. To reduce the storage and computational requirements, each of the color components is quantized in 3 bits, so the length of a histogram is $2^3 \times 2^3 \times 2^3 = 512$.

In a video shot, histograms of the frames should be similar to each other. Suppose that $h(n, i)$, where $0 \leq i \leq M-1$, represents the colour histogram of the n^{th} frame, n and i denote the frame number in the video sequence and the bin number in the histogram, respectively. $M = 512$ because the color histograms used in our method has 512 bins. The distance map, which represents the differences between two frames at multi-steps apart, is defined as follows:

$$\delta(n, l) = \frac{100}{2 \cdot W \cdot H} \cdot \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} |h(n-l, i) - h(n+1+l, i)|, \quad (1)$$

where $h(n-l, i)$ and $h(n+1+l, i)$ denote the histograms of frames $n-l$ and $n+1+l$, respectively, $\delta(n, l)$ denotes the histogram difference between $h(n-l, i)$ and $h(n+1+l, i)$, and W and H denote the width and height of frame, respectively. The dynamic range of $\delta(n, l)$ is between 0 and 100. l is the step parameter which is the distance between two frames. If $l = 0$, $\delta(n, l)$ represents the difference between two consecutive frames. When l increases, long gradual transitions will more likely be detected. However, the possibility of a short video shot being misclassified will increase at the same time. In our system, we set $0 \leq l \leq 10$.

2.1 Pattern of a Cut

Suppose a cut occurs between frame k and frame $k+1$, $\delta(k, 0)$ will be relatively large. The frames within a video shot are similar to each other, so $\delta(n, l)$ will also be large while $k-l \leq n \leq k+l$ is satisfied. Figures 1 (a) and 1 (b) show an example of this triangular pattern in the distance map.

2.2 Pattern of a Flash

If a flash occurs at frame k , the differences between frame k and frame $k-1$ and between frame k and frame $k+1$ will be relatively large while frame $k-1$ and frame $k+1$ are similar. Therefore, $\delta(k-1, 0)$ and $\delta(k, 0)$ should be large. As frames in a video shot are similar to each other, $\delta(n, l)$, $n = k-l$ or $k+1+l$, will also be large. Figures 1 (c) and 1 (d) show this two-straight-line pattern. Based on this, false alarms caused by flashes can be removed easily.

2.3 Pattern of a Gradual Transition

Detection of a gradual transition is difficult as the difference between the successive frames in the transition is relatively small. When the step between two frames in a transition is increased, their differences will be much larger than those within a video shot. From Figures 1 (e) and 1 (f), we can see that it is difficult to detect the gradual transition when l is less than 2. However, when l is larger than 6, two frames in the gradual transition will have a difference comparable to that within a cut. Compared to a cut, the pattern of a gradual transition in the distance map looks like a trapezoid instead of a triangle. This is because the consecutive frames within a neighbourhood in a gradual transition are similar.

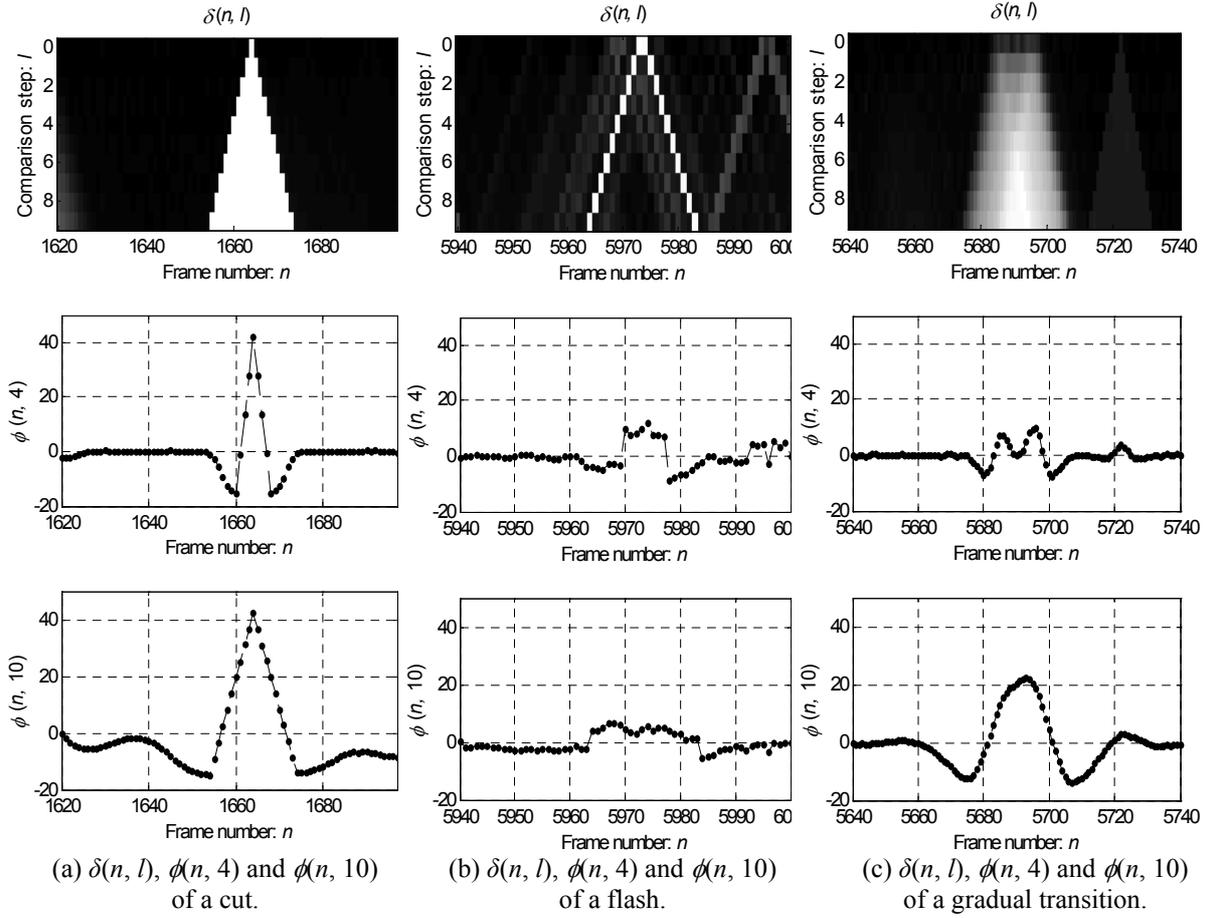


Figure 2. $\delta(n, l)$, $\phi(n, 4)$ and $\phi(n, 10)$ of a cut, a flash and a gradual transition.

3 Shot Boundary Detection

Based on the analysis in Section 2, we can detect cuts and gradual transitions by analysing distance map $\delta(n, l)$.

3.1 Temporally Local Zero Mean

In order to limit the differences caused by object motion or camera motion, we remove the temporally local mean from the distance map $\delta(n, l)$. The temporally local mean of $\delta(n, l)$ is defined as follows:

$$\mu(n, L) = \frac{1}{(4L+1) \cdot L} \cdot \sum_{k=n-2L}^{n+2L} \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} \delta(k, l), \quad (2)$$

where L is the maximum step size used in $\delta(k, l)$. After being subtracted by $\mu(n, L)$, a new feature is defined as follows:

$$\eta(n, l, L) = \delta(n, l) - \mu(n, L). \quad (3)$$

3.2 Peak Detection

Based on $\eta(n, l, L)$ computed from (3), we can calculate the summation for all possible step sizes as follows:

$$\phi(n, L) = \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} \eta(n, l, L). \quad (4)$$

Figure 2 shows $\phi(n, L)$ of a cut, a flash and a gradual transition while L is equal to 4 and 9. As shown in this figure, we can observe that the pattern of shot boundaries shows like a temporally local peak in $\phi(n, L)$. For cuts, this pattern is distinct when L is larger than 3. However, for gradual transitions, the pattern is not obvious except when the step size is large enough.

Based on zero-crossing detection, frame number $k_{start}(L)$ is declared as the start point of a potential peak if $\phi(k_{start}(L)-1, L) < 0$ and $\phi(k_{start}(L)+1, L) > 0$. After detecting the start point, the frame number of the end point $k_{end}(L)$ is detected if $\phi(k_{end}(L)-1, L) > 0$ and $\phi(k_{end}(L)+1, L) < 0$. The maximum value of $\phi(n, L)$ and its frame number in each potential peak region is defined as follows:

$$\phi(k_{max}(L, i), L) = \text{Max}(\phi(k_{start}(L, i), L), \dots, \phi(k, L), \dots, \phi(k_{end}(L, i), L)) \quad (5)$$

where L is the maximum step size, $k_{start}(L, i)$ and $k_{end}(L, i)$ denote the frame numbers of the start point and the end point of the i^{th} potential peak region, respectively, $k_{max}(L, i)$ is the frame number where the maximum value of $\phi(n, L)$ occurs in the i^{th} potential peak region.

3.3 Cut Detection

We detect cuts by means of $k_{max}(4, i)$. This is because the differences between the frames during a gradual transition are not distinct when the comparison step size is small, and only the cuts in $\phi(k_{max}(4, i), 4)$ have a large magnitude. Frame $k_{max}(4, i)$ is declared as a cut transition if $\phi(k_{max}(4, i), 4) > \theta_{cut}$ and $\eta(k_{max}(4, i), 0, 4) \geq 2$. We also apply a post-processing step to remove false alarms caused by flashes. As illustrated in Figure 1, the pattern of a flash looks like a hollow triangle. Therefore, $k_{max}(4, i)$ remains as a cut only if $0.5 < \eta(k_{max}(4, i), 0, 4) / \eta(k_{max}(4, i), 1, 4) < 2$.

3.4 Gradual Transition Detection

Gradual transitions are detected using $k_{max}(10, i)$. Like cut detection, frames from $k_{start}(10, i)$ to $k_{end}(10, i)$ are declared as a gradual transition if $\phi(k_{max}(10, i), 10) > \theta_{gradual}$ and $\eta(k_{max}(10, i), 0, 10) < 2$. As the maximum comparative step size used in our proposed algorithm is 10, a long gradual transition is divided into several consecutive gradual transitions. To overcome this drawback, we merge successive gradual transitions into a single one if the distance between them is less than 10 frames.

4 Experimental Results

Our algorithm was developed for the TRECVID (Petersohn 2004, TREC 2005) 2005 SBD testing set as shown in Table 1. The parameters θ_{cut} and $\theta_{gradual}$ used in ten runs are listed in Table 2. Tables 3 and 4 and Figures 3, 4, 5, and 6 show the evaluation results. Cut detection is more accurate and robust than gradual transition detection. From Table 3, we can see that when $\theta_{cut} = 5$ and $\theta_{gradual} = 9.5$, our proposed algorithm achieves the best performance. The recall and precision rates for gradual transition detection, as shown in Table 4, are around 70%, except sequence **20041108_120000_NTDTV_NTDNEWS12_CHN** in the testing set. The reason for

this is that this sequence contains several parts of news captured by hand, so it is full of fast camera motions such as pans, tilts and zooms.

In this evaluation, we found a problem caused by the video decoder used. At the beginning, we evaluated our system using the Microsoft MPEG-1 Video Decoder – Version 2.0. From the evaluation results, the performances of our system for the three videos with sequence numbers 9, 10, and 11 are very poor. From the file: <http://www-nlpir.nist.gov/projects/tvpubs/tvpapers04/tv4overview.pdf>, we found that VirtualDub(Lee, 2001) was recommended for viewing the videos and the frame numbers. Compared to VirtualDub1.5.10, we found that, e.g. the sequence *NASADT18*, when the frame number is higher than 20000, the frame numbers decoded by Microsoft MPEG-1 Video Decoder are 190 to 292 smaller than those decoded by VirtualDub. Nevertheless, for the sequence *20041115_133000_MSNBC_MSNBCNEWS13_ENG*, the frame numbers decoded by the two decoders are the same. Therefore, in this paper, we present the evaluation results for our algorithm using the VirtualDub video decoder rather than the Microsoft decoder.

Table 1. The names of the video sequence in the TRECVID 2005 evaluation set.

Sequence Number	Sequence Name
1	20041102_160001_CCTV4_DAILY_NEWS_CHN
2	20041106_110000_MSNBC_MSNBCNEWS11_ENG
3	20041108_120000_NTDTV_NTDNEWS12_CHN
4	20041115_133000_MSNBC_MSNBCNEWS13_ENG
5	20041116_120100_NTDTV_NTDNEWS12_CHN
6	20041118_183000_NBC_NIGHTLYNEWS_ENG
7	20041118_230000_NBC_NBCPHILA23_ENG
8	20041119_140000_LBC_LBCNAHAR_ARB
9	NASACConnect-AO
10	NASACConnect-HiddenTreasures
11	NASADT18
12	NASASF-TheTechnicalKnockout

Table 2. Parameters of the submissions.

Run	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
θ_{cut}	10	10	10	9	10	10.8	9	5	3	12
$\theta_{gradual}$	3.5	4.5	5.5	6.5	7.5	8.5	8.75	9.5	10.5	11.5

Table 3. Evaluation results of the ten runs.

Run	Cut				Gradual			
	Recall		Precision		Recall		Precision	
	$N_{correct}/(N_{correct}+N_{missed})$		$N_{correct}/(N_{correct}+N_{missed})$		$N_{correct}/(N_{correct}+N_{missed})$		$N_{correct}/(N_{correct}+N_{missed})$	
1	3059/3380	90.50	3059/3287	93.06	1011/1155	87.53	1011/2291	44.13
2	3059/3380	90.50	3059/3283	93.18	990/1155	85.71	990/1945	50.90
3	3061/3380	90.56	3061/3285	93.18	977/1155	84.59	977/1724	56.67
4	3078/3380	91.07	3078/3310	93.00	952/1155	82.42	952/1554	61.26
5	3061/3380	90.56	3061/3280	93.32	931/1155	80.61	931/1439	64.70
6	3047/3380	90.15	3047/3252	93.70	906/1155	78.44	906/1344	67.41
7	3078/3380	91.07	3078/3310	92.99	901/1155	78.01	901/1326	67.95
8	3112/3380	92.07	3112/3419	91.02	874/1155	75.67	874/1248	70.03
9	3119/3380	92.28	3119/3506	88.96	829/1155	71.77	829/1153	71.90
10	3027/3380	89.56	3027/3227	93.80	793/1155	68.66	793/1084	73.15

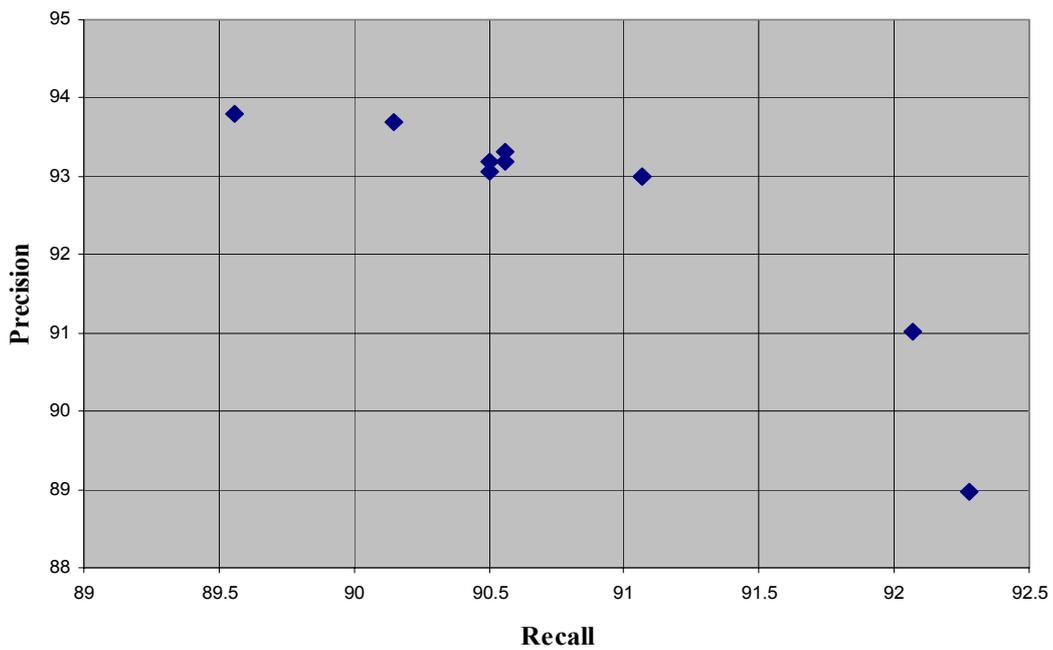


Figure 3. Recall and precision rates of cut detection for the ten runs.

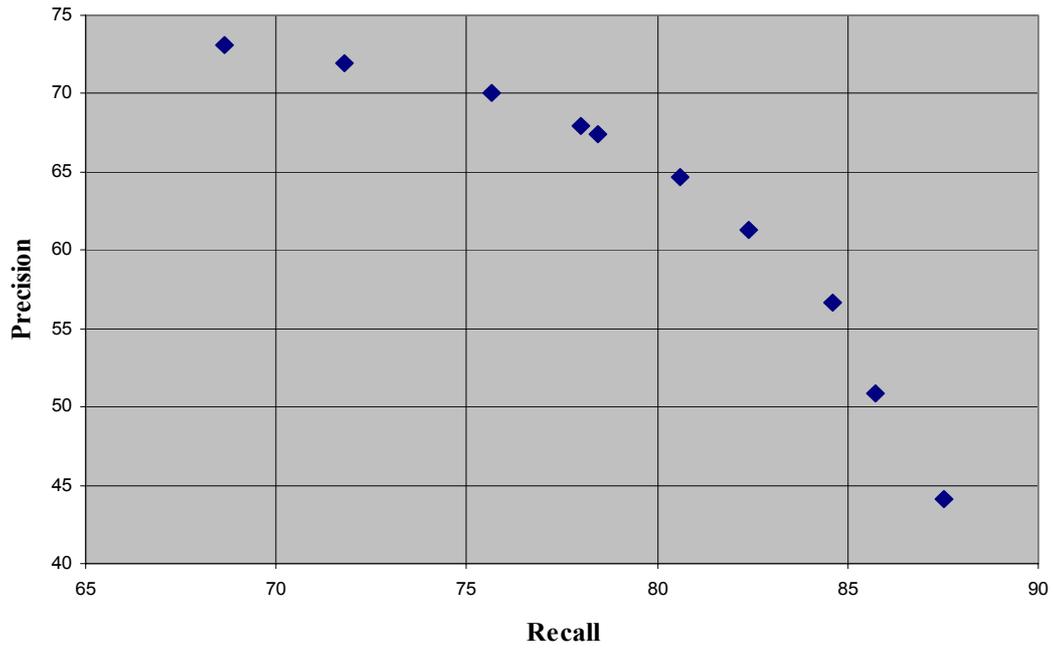


Figure 4. Recall and precision rates of gradual transition detection for the ten runs.

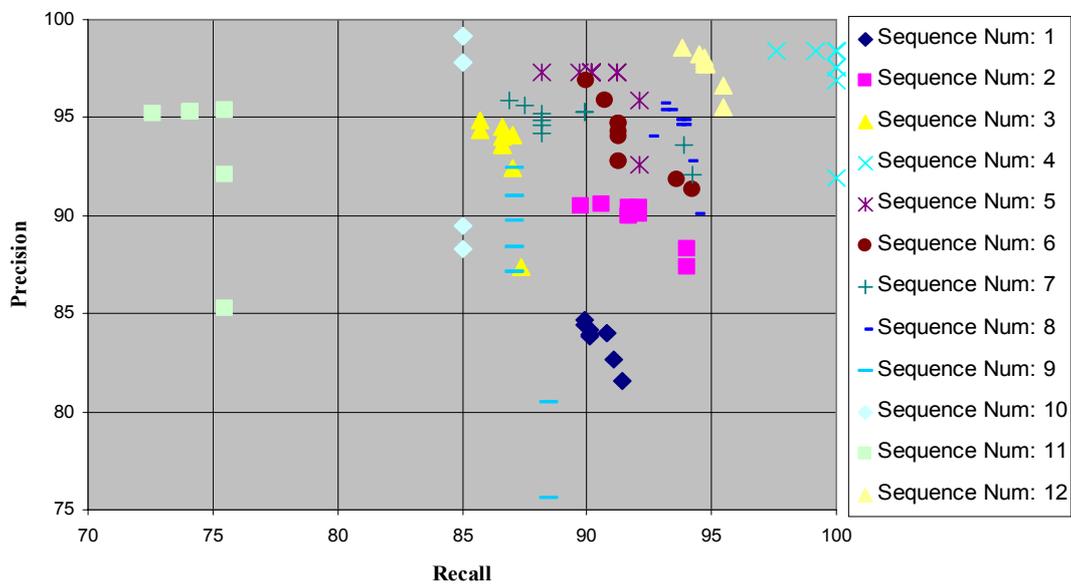


Figure 5. Recall and precision rates for cut detection of each sequence.

Table 4. Evaluation results of each sequence of the ten runs.

Sequence Number	Run	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Cut	Recall	90.1	90.1	90.1	90.8	90.1	89.9	90.8	91.1	91.4	89.9
		Precision	83.9	84.2	83.8	84.0	83.9	84.4	84.0	82.7	81.6	84.7
	Gradual	Recall	90.9	89.1	86.4	81.9	78.3	70.2	69.3	66.6	59.4	54.0
		Precision	40.8	46.2	49.4	52.9	55.0	55.7	56.2	60.6	64.0	62.5
2	Cut	Recall	91.7	91.7	91.7	92.1	91.7	90.6	92.1	94.0	94.0	89.8
		Precision	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.1	90.4	90.6	90.4	88.3	87.4	90.5
	Gradual	Recall	78.7	77.6	77.6	77.6	77.6	75.5	75.5	75.5	74.4	72.3
		Precision	54.0	59.3	64.0	67.5	70.8	71.7	71.7	73.1	73.6	74.7
3	Cut	Recall	86.6	86.6	86.6	87.0	86.6	85.7	87.0	87.0	87.4	85.7
		Precision	93.6	93.6	94.0	94.1	94.5	94.4	94.1	92.4	87.4	94.9
	Gradual	Recall	79.5	75.5	69.3	61.2	57.1	57.1	57.1	55.1	53.0	51.0
		Precision	30.7	33.9	35.4	35.2	35.4	37.8	37.8	37.5	39.3	40.3
4	Cut	Recall	100	100	100	100	100	99.2	100	100	100	97.6
		Precision	98.4	98.4	97.6	97.6	98.4	98.4	98.4	96.9	91.9	98.4
	Gradual	Recall	86.6	84.4	84.4	82.2	80.0	80.0	80.0	75.5	75.5	73.3
		Precision	45.3	50.6	58.4	60.6	66.6	72.0	73.4	72.3	72.3	80.4
5	Cut	Recall	90.2	90.2	90.2	91.2	90.2	89.7	91.2	92.1	92.1	88.2
		Precision	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3	95.9	92.6	97.3
	Gradual	Recall	91.4	88.5	85.7	85.7	85.7	82.8	82.8	80.0	80.0	71.4
		Precision	31.3	36.0	37.5	42.8	45.4	45.3	46.7	50.0	52.8	55.5
6	Cut	Recall	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	90.7	91.3	93.6	94.2	90.0
		Precision	94.3	94.0	94.7	92.8	94.7	95.9	92.8	91.8	91.3	96.9
	Gradual	Recall	92.5	92.5	90.6	88.1	86.8	86.8	86.8	84.3	80.0	77.5
		Precision	52.8	58.7	63.3	65.8	71.2	75.9	75.9	78.9	81.5	83.7
7	Cut	Recall	88.2	88.2	88.2	89.9	88.2	87.5	89.9	93.9	94.2	86.9
		Precision	94.2	94.6	94.9	95.3	95.2	95.6	95.3	93.6	92.1	95.9
	Gradual	Recall	83.9	82.1	81.2	78.5	75.0	74.1	74.1	72.3	67.8	66.0
		Precision	35.7	44.0	53.2	61.5	65.1	69.7	70.3	72.3	73.7	74.7
8	Cut	Recall	93.0	93.0	93.6	93.8	93.6	93.3	93.8	94.1	94.4	92.5
		Precision	95.4	95.7	94.6	94.9	94.9	95.4	94.6	92.8	90.1	94.0
	Gradual	Recall	72.8	69.9	69.9	68.9	66.9	66.9	66.0	65.0	60.1	57.2
		Precision	32.8	38.5	47.6	58.6	66.3	68.3	68.6	69.7	72.0	73.7
9	Cut	Recall	87.1	87.1	87.1	87.1	87.1	87.1	87.1	88.5	88.5	87.1
		Precision	87.1	87.1	88.4	89.7	91.0	91.0	88.4	80.5	75.6	92.4
	Gradual	Recall	94.0	94.0	93.4	92.2	91.6	91.6	91.0	89.8	86.3	84.5
		Precision	64.4	71.4	75.4	79.4	81.4	84.1	84.5	86.2	87.8	88.7
10	Cut	Recall	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0
		Precision	99.2	99.2	99.2	97.8	99.2	99.2	97.8	89.5	88.3	99.2
	Gradual	Recall	94.5	93.2	93.2	90.5	90.5	86.4	86.4	83.7	78.3	74.3
		Precision	41.9	47.5	53.0	58.2	62.0	64.0	65.9	68.1	69.0	69.6
11	Cut	Recall	74.1	74.1	74.1	75.5	74.1	74.1	75.5	75.5	75.5	72.6
		Precision	95.3	95.3	95.3	95.4	95.3	95.3	95.4	92.1	85.3	95.2
	Gradual	Recall	87.1	81.6	81.6	81.6	79.8	77.9	76.1	74.3	70.6	68.8
		Precision	57.9	64.4	68.9	70.6	72.5	73.9	73.4	73.6	75.4	75.7
12	Cut	Recall	94.7	94.7	94.7	94.8	94.7	94.5	94.8	95.5	95.5	93.8
		Precision	97.7	97.9	98.1	97.7	97.9	98.2	97.7	96.6	95.5	98.6
	Gradual	Recall	90.5	88.4	87.3	84.2	81.0	73.6	73.6	66.3	62.1	55.7
		Precision	35.1	45.1	52.8	55.5	57.4	60.3	61.4	63.6	64.1	63.0

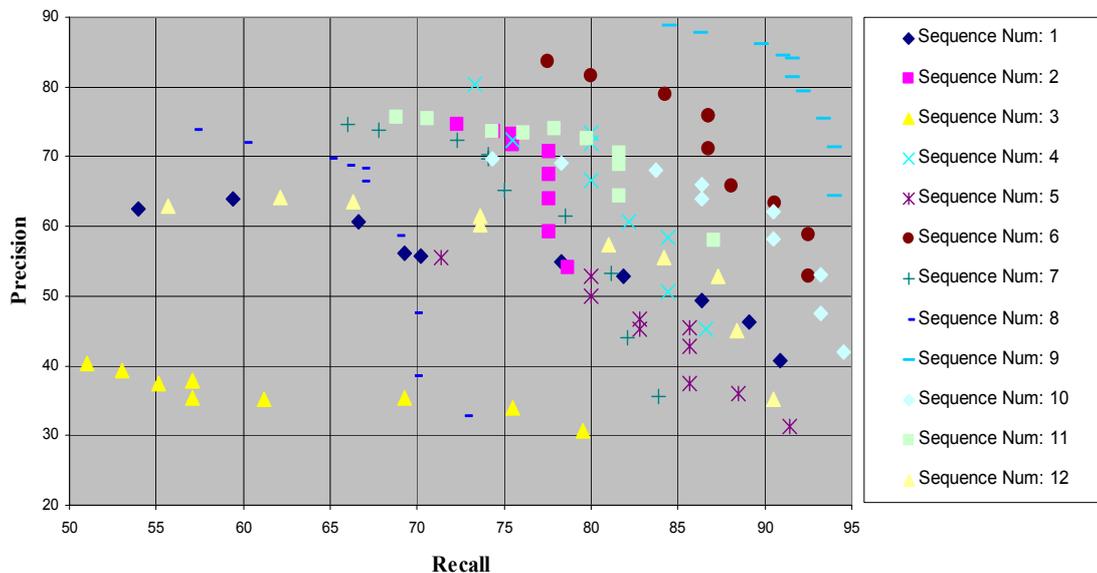


Figure 6. Recall and precision rates for gradual transition detection of each sequence.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we have proposed a scheme which converts a 3D video sequence into a 2D distance map based on multi-step comparison for shot boundary detection. In the distance map, a cut appears like a triangle, a flash forms two straight lines, and a gradual transition results in a trapezoid. Cut detection is more accurate as the difference between two successive frames is relatively large. When the contents between two shots change gradually, the difference between consecutive frames is small. Therefore, comparison between frames at a greater distance apart is needed. In our system, gradual transition is detected by analysing the differences between frames using multiple step sizes. Our algorithm can handle complex transitions, but it uses the metric based on the colour histogram only and has not considered motions. In addition, two different shots may have similar histograms. Thus, motions might be wrongly classified as gradual transitions. To solve this problem, more sophisticated metric and motion estimation will be investigated and employed in our future research.

6 References

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