
Edge detection within optical flow by multidimensional control

Christoph Brune and Helmut Maurer (University of Münster)

Marcus Wagner (Cottbus University of Technology)

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Problem formulation:

- Find to a given image sequence $\{I(s, t)\}$, $0 \leq t \leq T$, a field of displacements $(X_1(s, t), X_2(s, t))$, which leaves the greyscale values invariant:

$$I(s_1, s_2, t) = I(s_1 - X_1(s, t), s_2 - X_2(s, t), 0), \quad 0 \leq t \leq T,$$

$$X_1(s, 0) = 0, \quad X_2(s, 0) = 0.$$

- The optical flow $((X_1)_t(s, t), (X_2)_t(s, t)) = (x_1(s, t), x_2(s, t))$ is the associated velocity field:

$$I_{s_1}(s, 0) \cdot (X_1)_t(s, 0) + I_{s_2}(s, 0) \cdot (X_2)_t(s, 0) + I_t(s, 0) = 0.$$

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$$I_{s_1}(s, 0) \cdot x_1(s, 0) + I_{s_2}(s, 0) \cdot x_2(s, 0) + I_t(s, 0) = 0.$$

Numerous applications:

- Video data compression: [HINTERBERGER/SCHERZER 2001]
- Automatic retouching of movie sequences: [GROSSAUER 2006]
- Depth from stereo: [SLESAREVA/BRUHN/WEICKERT 2005]
- Extraction of object and motion informations in traffic monitoring, robotics, medicine: [BROX/BRUHN/WEICKERT 2006], [TALUKDER/MATTHIES 2004], [KUMAR ET AL. 2001], ...

- For a given pair of images $I(s, t_N)$, $I(s, t_{N+1})$ with $\Delta t = t_{N+1} - t_N = 1$, the optical flow constraint reads with reference to t_N as

$$I_{s_1}(s, t_N) x_1(s) + I_{s_2}(s, t_N) x_2(s) + I_t(s, t_N) = 0 \quad \forall s \in \Omega.$$

- Regularization by variational methods:

$$\begin{aligned} (V)_1: \quad F(x_1, x_2) &= \int_{\Omega} \left(I_{s_1}(s) x_1(s) + I_{s_2}(s) x_2(s) + I_t(s) \right)^2 ds \\ &\quad + \mu \cdot \int_{\Omega} r(s, \nabla x_1(s), \nabla x_2(s)) ds \longrightarrow \inf!; \quad (x_1, x_2) \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2) \end{aligned}$$

with $1 \leq p < \infty$, $I \in W_0^{1,\infty}(\Omega \times (t_N - \delta, t_{N+1} + \delta), \mathbb{R})$, $\mu > 0$ and $r \in C^2(\Omega \times \mathbb{R}^4, \mathbb{R})$.

- The objective consists of defect minimization term and regularization term with regularization parameter μ .
- The gradients are related to s_1 and s_2 only; the dependence on $t = t_N$ has been dropped in notation.

First possibility: Variational problem with Ambrosio-Tortorelli functional

$$(V)_1: F(x_1, x_2) = \int_{\Omega} \left(I_{s_1}(s) x_1(s) + I_{s_2}(s) x_2(s) + I_t(s) \right)^2 ds \\ + \mu \cdot \int_{\Omega} r(s, \nabla x_1(s), \nabla x_2(s)) ds \longrightarrow \inf!; \quad (x_1, x_2) \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2)$$

First possibility: Variational problem with Ambrosio-Tortorelli functional

$$\begin{aligned} (V)_2: \quad F(x_1, x_2, k) = & c_1(\varepsilon) \int_{\Omega} \left(I_{s_1}(s) x_1(s) + I_{s_2}(s) x_2(s) + I_t(s) \right)^2 ds \\ & + c_2(\varepsilon) \int_{\Omega} \left(|\nabla x_1(s)|^2 + |\nabla x_2(s)|^2 \right) \cdot \left(k(s)^2 + c_4(\varepsilon) \right) ds \\ & + c_3(\varepsilon) \int_{\Omega} \left(\varepsilon \cdot |\nabla k(s)|^2 + \frac{1}{4\varepsilon} (1 - k(s))^2 \right) ds \longrightarrow \text{inf!}; \quad (x_1, x_2, k) \in W_0^{1,2}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2) \times W_0^{1,2}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}) \end{aligned}$$

- $k(s) \approx 0$ if $s \in \Omega$ belongs to an edge within (x_1, x_2) , else $k(s) \approx 1$.

First possibility: Variational problem with Ambrosio-Tortorelli functional

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(V)_2: \quad F(x_1, x_2, k) &= c_1(\varepsilon) \int_{\Omega} \left(I_{s_1}(s) x_1(s) + I_{s_2}(s) x_2(s) + I_t(s) \right)^2 ds \\
&\quad + c_2(\varepsilon) \int_{\Omega} \left(|\nabla x_1(s)|^2 + |\nabla x_2(s)|^2 \right) \cdot \left(k(s)^2 + c_4(\varepsilon) \right) ds \\
&\quad + c_3(\varepsilon) \int_{\Omega} \left(\varepsilon \cdot |\nabla k(s)|^2 + \frac{1}{4\varepsilon} (1 - k(s))^2 \right) ds \longrightarrow \inf!; \quad (x_1, x_2, k) \in W_0^{1,2}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2) \times W_0^{1,2}(\Omega, \mathbb{R})
\end{aligned}$$

- $k(s) \approx 0$ if $s \in \Omega$ belongs to an edge within (x_1, x_2) , else $k(s) \approx 1$.

Second possibility: Optimal control reformulation

Add to $(V)_1$ a convex constraint for ∇x_1 and ∇x_2 :

$$\begin{aligned}
(V)_1: \quad F(x_1, x_2) &= \int_{\Omega} \left(I_{s_1}(s) x_1(s) + I_{s_2}(s) x_2(s) + I_t(s) \right)^2 ds \\
&\quad + \mu \cdot \int_{\Omega} r(s, \nabla x_1(s), \nabla x_2(s)) ds \longrightarrow \inf!; \quad (x_1, x_2) \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2)
\end{aligned}$$

First possibility: Variational problem with Ambrosio-Tortorelli functional

$$\begin{aligned}
 (V)_2: \quad F(x_1, x_2, k) &= c_1(\varepsilon) \int_{\Omega} \left(I_{s_1}(s) x_1(s) + I_{s_2}(s) x_2(s) + I_t(s) \right)^2 ds \\
 &\quad + c_2(\varepsilon) \int_{\Omega} \left(|\nabla x_1(s)|^2 + |\nabla x_2(s)|^2 \right) \cdot \left(k(s)^2 + c_4(\varepsilon) \right) ds \\
 &\quad + c_3(\varepsilon) \int_{\Omega} \left(\varepsilon \cdot |\nabla k(s)|^2 + \frac{1}{4\varepsilon} (1 - k(s))^2 \right) ds \longrightarrow \inf!; \quad (x_1, x_2, k) \in W_0^{1,2}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2) \times W_0^{1,2}(\Omega, \mathbb{R})
 \end{aligned}$$

- $k(s) \approx 0$ if $s \in \Omega$ belongs to an edge within (x_1, x_2) , else $k(s) \approx 1$.

Second possibility: Optimal control reformulation

$$\begin{aligned}
 (P)_1: \quad F(x, u) &= \int_{\Omega} \left(I_{s_1}(s) x_1(s) + I_{s_2}(s) x_2(s) + I_t(s) \right)^2 ds \\
 &\quad + \mu \cdot \int_{\Omega} r(s, u_{11}(s), u_{12}(s), u_{21}(s), u_{22}(s)) ds \longrightarrow \inf!; \quad (x, u) \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2) \times L^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^4); \\
 Jx(s) &= u(s) \quad (\forall) s \in \Omega; \\
 u \in \mathbf{U} &= \left\{ u \in L^p(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^4) \mid |u_{11}(s)|^q + |u_{12}(s)|^q + |u_{21}(s)|^q + |u_{22}(s)|^q \leq R^q \quad (\forall) s \in \Omega \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

- Interpret as “edges” those subsets of Ω where the control restriction is (nearly) active.

Problem formulation:

$$(P)_0: F(x, u) = \int_{\Omega} f(s, x(s), u(s)) ds \longrightarrow \inf!; \quad (x, u) \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n) \times L^p(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^{nm});$$

$$Jx(s) = \left(\frac{\partial x_i}{\partial s_j}(s) \right)_{i,j} = \left(u_{ij}(s) \right)_{i,j} \quad (\forall) s \in \Omega;$$

$$u \in U = \{ u \in L^p(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^{nm}) \mid u(s) \in K \quad (\forall) s \in \Omega \}$$

Analytical framework:

- *Dimensions:* $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m$, $n \geq 1$, $m \geq 2$.
- *Integrand:* $f(s, \xi, v): \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{nm} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} — L^\infty$ in s , and C^1 in all ξ_i and v_{ij} .
- *Control restriction:* $K \subset \mathbb{R}^{nm} —$ convex body with $o \in \text{int}(K)$.

- **Existence of global minimizers:**

If $f(s, \xi, v)$ is convex in the last argument v and obeys a growth condition of the type

$$|f(s, \xi, v)| \leq \varphi_1(s) + \varphi_2(|\xi|, |v|) \quad (\forall) s \in \Omega \quad \forall (\xi, v) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{K}$$

with $\varphi_1 \in L^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R})$, $\varphi_1(s) \geq 0$ (\forall) $s \in \Omega$, and $\varphi_2 \in C^0(\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{K}, \mathbb{R})$, $\varphi_2(|\xi|, |v|) \geq 0$ (\forall) $(\xi, v) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{K}$ where φ_2 is monotonically increasing in $|\xi|$ as well as in $|v|$ then $(P)_0$ admits a global minimizer.

- **Properties of minimizing sequences:**

They contain subsequences $\{(x^N, u^N)\}$, which converge to a global minimizer uniformly in x and weakly* in u .

- **Important consequence:**

Application of direct methods to convex problems of the type $(P)_0$ is in principle justified.

• **We first discretize, then optimize:**

— Domain: Ω is represented by $(K \times L)$ pixels with edge length 1.

— Variables: $2KL$ state variables $x_{kl}^{(1)}, x_{kl}^{(2)}$ and $4KL$ control variables $u_{kl}^{(11)}, \dots, u_{kl}^{(22)}$.

— Objective: Discretization by trapezium rule.

— Derivatives: forward Euler differences with $h = \Delta t = 1$

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_{kl}^{(11)} & u_{kl}^{(12)} \\ u_{kl}^{(21)} & u_{kl}^{(22)} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{k+1,l}^{(1)} - x_{k,l}^{(1)} & x_{k,l+1}^{(1)} - x_{k,l}^{(1)} \\ x_{k+1,l}^{(2)} - x_{k,l}^{(2)} & x_{k,l+1}^{(2)} - x_{k,l}^{(2)} \end{pmatrix} \quad \forall k, l.$$

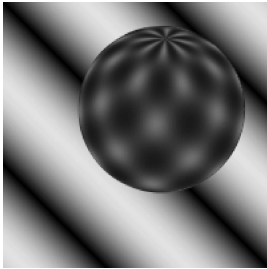
— Control restriction:

$$0 \leq |u_{kl}^{(11)}|^q + |u_{kl}^{(12)}|^q + |u_{kl}^{(21)}|^q + |u_{kl}^{(22)}|^q \leq R^q \quad \forall k, l.$$

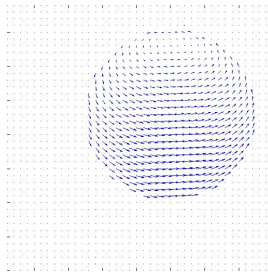
• **Solving the discretized problems**

by interior-point methods (solvers IPOPT, LOQO), embedded in an AMPL interface;
image output via MATLAB.

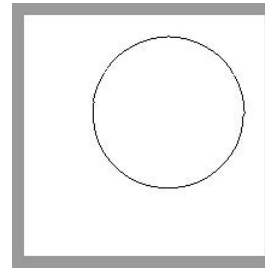
Rotating Sphere Sequence: (taken from [McCANE/NOVINS/CRANNITCH/GALVIN 2001])



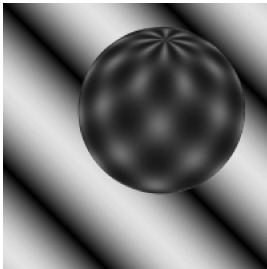
• Image #13



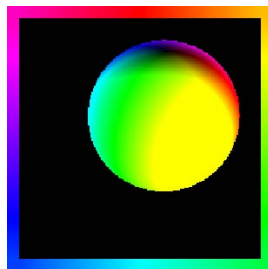
• Ground-truth, vector plot



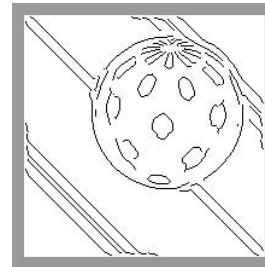
• Motion edge sketch



• Image #14



• Colorful orientation plot



• Intensity edge sketch

Deviation from the ground-truth: AAE

$$AAE(\hat{x}, x) = \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{l=1}^L \arccos \left(\frac{\hat{x}_1(s_{kl}) x_1(s_{kl}) + \hat{x}_2(s_{kl}) x_2(s_{kl}) + 1}{\sqrt{(\hat{x}_1(s_{kl}))^2 + (\hat{x}_2(s_{kl}))^2 + 1} \sqrt{(x_1(s_{kl}))^2 + (x_2(s_{kl}))^2 + 1}} \right).$$

Detection of motion edges: MEE

$$MEE(\hat{x}, x) = \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{l=1}^L (k_m(s_{kl}) - k(s_{kl}))^2 \approx \int_{\Omega} (k_m(s) - k(s))^2 ds.$$

- k_m is based on the modulus $|\hat{x}|$ of the ground-truth.

Detection of intensity edges: IEE

$$\begin{aligned} IEE(\hat{x}, x) &= \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{l=1}^L \frac{1}{2} \left((k_g^{(N)}(s_{kl}) - k(s_{kl}))^2 + (k_g^{(N+1)}(s_{kl}) - k(s_{kl}))^2 \right) \\ &\approx \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2} \left((k_g^{(N)}(s) - k(s))^2 + (k_g^{(N+1)}(s) - k(s))^2 \right) ds. \end{aligned}$$

- $k_g^{(N)}, k_g^{(N+1)}$ are based on the images $I(s, t_N), I(s, t_{N+1})$.

Control problem:

$$(P)_2: F(x, u) = \int_{\Omega} \left(I_{s_1}(s) x_1(s) + I_{s_2}(s) x_2(s) + I_t(s) \right)^2 ds \longrightarrow \inf!; (x, u) \in W_0^{1,\infty}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2) \times L^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^4);$$

$$Jx(s) = \begin{pmatrix} u_{11}(s) & u_{12}(s) \\ u_{21}(s) & u_{22}(s) \end{pmatrix} \quad (\forall) s \in \Omega;$$

$$|u_{11}(s)|^q + |u_{12}(s)|^q + |u_{21}(s)|^q + |u_{22}(s)|^q \leq R^q \quad (\forall) s \in \Omega;$$

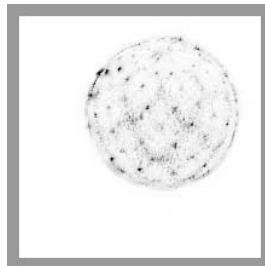
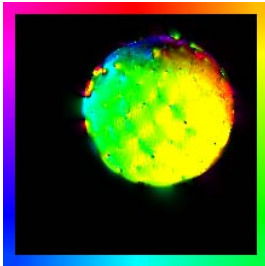
Edge detector:

$$k(s) = 1 - \frac{|u_{11}(s)|^q + |u_{12}(s)|^q + |u_{21}(s)|^q + |u_{22}(s)|^q}{\text{Max}_{s \in \Omega} \left(|u_{11}(s)|^q + |u_{12}(s)|^q + |u_{21}(s)|^q + |u_{22}(s)|^q \right)}.$$

Parameters:

$q \geq 1$ and $R > 0$ (*kind and sharpness of the control restriction*)

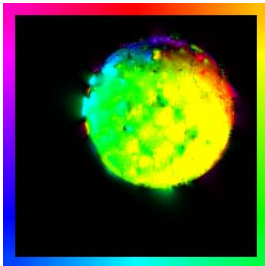
Selected results: (variation in q and R)



$q = 2, R = 4$

$AAE = 4.11,$

$MEE = 2.16, IEE = 4.40$



$q = 2, R = 0.5$

$AAE = 4.22,$

$MEE = 7.25, IEE = 7.89$

Control problem:

$$(P)_3: \quad F(x, u) = \int_{\Omega} \left((I_{s_1}(s) x_1(s) + I_{s_2}(s) x_2(s) + I_t(s))^2 + \varepsilon \right)^{1/2} ds + \mu \cdot \int_{\Omega} \left(|u_{11}(s)|^p + |u_{12}(s)|^p \right. \\ \left. + |u_{21}(s)|^p + |u_{22}(s)|^p + \varepsilon \right)^{1/p} ds \longrightarrow \inf!; \quad (x, u) \in W_0^{1,\infty}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2) \times L^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^4);$$

$$Jx(s) = \begin{pmatrix} u_{11}(s) & u_{12}(s) \\ u_{21}(s) & u_{22}(s) \end{pmatrix} \quad (\forall) s \in \Omega;$$

$$|u_{11}(s)|^q + |u_{12}(s)|^q + |u_{21}(s)|^q + |u_{22}(s)|^q \leq R^q \quad (\forall) s \in \Omega;$$

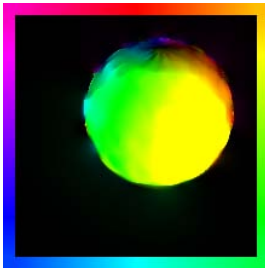
Edge detector:

$$k(s) = \frac{\kappa(s)}{\text{MAX}_{s \in \Omega} \kappa(s)} \cdot \begin{cases} 1 & \kappa(s) \geq \alpha R^q; \\ 0 & \kappa(s) < \alpha R^q \end{cases} \quad \text{with } \kappa(s) = |u_{11}(s)|^q + |u_{12}(s)|^q + |u_{21}(s)|^q + |u_{22}(s)|^q.$$

Parameters:

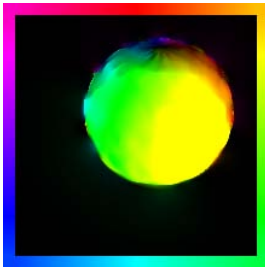
$\varepsilon > 0$ (robustness), $p > 1$ and $\mu > 0$ (regularization), $q \geq 1$ and $R > 0$ (kind and sharpness of the control restriction), $\alpha \geq 0$ (threshold for edge output)

Selected results: (variation in R)



$\varepsilon = 0.001, \mu = 0.001, p = 2,$
 $q = 2, R = 4, \alpha = 0$

$AAE = 3.08,$
 $MEE = 1.89, IEE = 4.28$



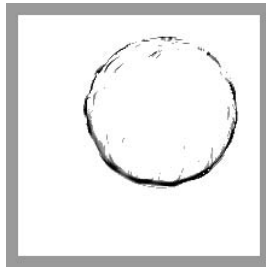
$\varepsilon = 0.001, \mu = 0.001, p = 2,$
 $q = 2, R = 2, \alpha = 0$

$AAE = 3.07,$
 $MEE = 1.89, IEE = 4.28$



$\varepsilon = 0.001, \mu = 0.001, p = 2,$
 $q = 2, R = 0.5, \alpha = 0$

$AAE = 3.23,$
 $MEE = 3.03, IEE = 4.72$



$\varepsilon = 0.001, \mu = 0.001, p = 2,$
 $q = 2, R = 0.5, \alpha = 0.1$

$AAE = 3.23,$
 $MEE = 2.87, IEE = 4.78$



$\varepsilon = 0.001, \mu = 0.001, p = 2,$
 $q = 2, R = 0.5, \alpha = 0.2$

$AAE = 3.23,$
 $MEE = 2.82, IEE = 4.78$

Control problem: (with decomposition of control variables into positive and negative part)

$$(P)_4: \quad F(x, u) = \int_{\Omega} \left((I_{s_1}(s)x_1(s) + I_{s_2}(s)x_2(s) + I_t(s))^2 + \varepsilon \right)^{1/2} ds \\ + \mu \cdot \int_{\Omega} \sum_{i,j=1}^2 (u_{ij}^+(s) + u_{ij}^-(s)) ds \longrightarrow \inf!; \quad (x, u) \in W_0^{1,\infty}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2) \times L^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^8);$$

$$Jx(s) = \begin{pmatrix} u_{11}^+(s) - u_{11}^-(s) & u_{12}^+(s) - u_{12}^-(s) \\ u_{21}^+(s) - u_{21}^-(s) & u_{22}^+(s) - u_{22}^-(s) \end{pmatrix} \quad (\forall) s \in \Omega;$$

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^2 (u_{ij}^+(s) + u_{ij}^-(s)) \leq R \quad (\forall) s \in \Omega;$$

$$u_{ij}^+(s), u_{ij}^-(s) \geq 0 \quad (\forall) s \in \Omega, \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq 2.$$

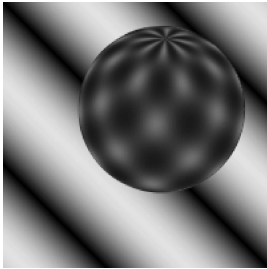
Edge detector:

$$k(s) = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i,j=1}^2 (u_{ij}^+(s) + u_{ij}^-(s))}{\text{Max}_{s \in \Omega} \sum_{i,j=1}^2 (u_{ij}^+(s) + u_{ij}^-(s))}.$$

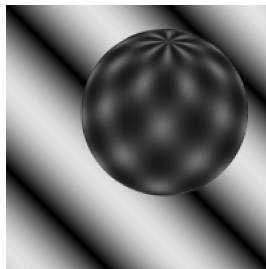
Parameters:

$\varepsilon > 0$ (robustness), $\mu > 0$ (regularization), $R > 0$ (sharpness of the control restriction)

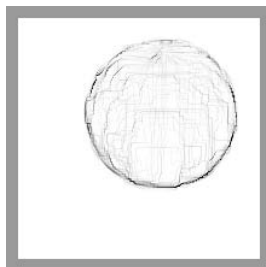
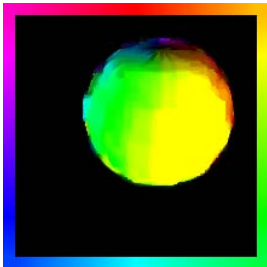
Selected results: Rotating Sphere Sequence



• Image #13



• Image #14

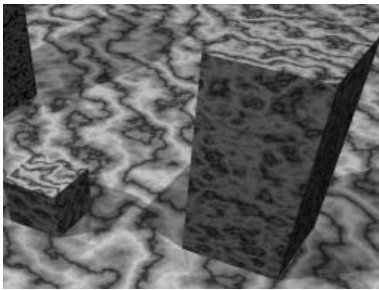


$$\varepsilon = 0.001, \mu = 0.002, R = 2$$

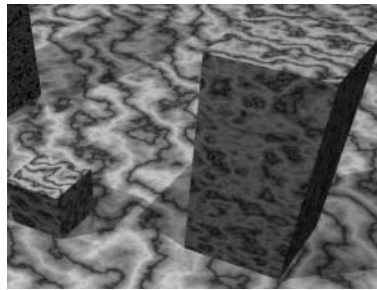
$$AAE = 2.57,$$

$$MEE = 2.11, IEE = 4.38$$

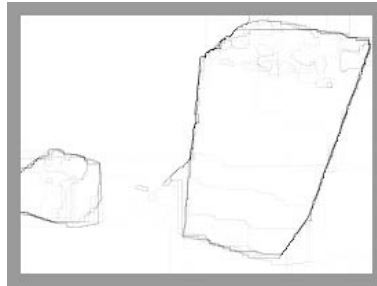
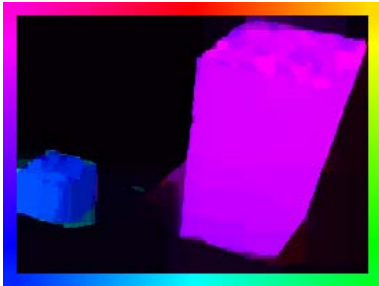
Selected results: New Marbled Block Sequence



• Part of Image # 163



• Part of Image # 164



$$\varepsilon = 0.001, \mu = 0.07, R = 2$$

$$AAE = 6.44,$$

$$MEE = 2.87, IEE = 8.84$$

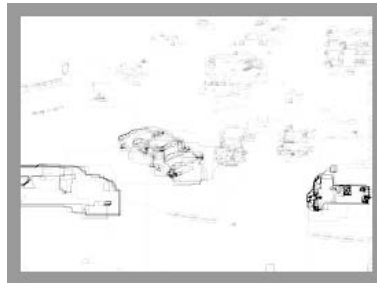
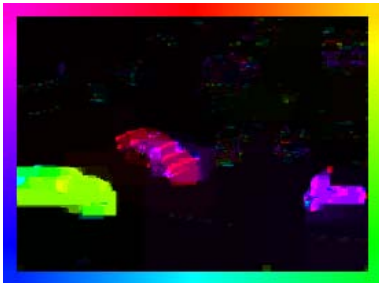
Selected results: Hamburg Taxi Sequence



• Image # 22



• Image # 23



$\varepsilon = 0.001, \mu = 0.01, R = 2$

*AAE, MEE, IEE not available
(sequence without ground-truth)*

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— *have been established for the first time.*

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- **Simultaneous edge detection via optimal control ...**

- *presents an interesting alternative to the Ambrosio-Tortorelli variational problem, with comparable accuracy.*

- *allows a simple adjustment of the edge output.*

- *provides a primal approach for problems with TV regularization.*

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- **Control problems in image processing:**

3. [WAGNER 2007A] *Wagner, M.: Pontryagin's maximum principle for multidimensional control problems in image processing. BTU Cottbus, Preprint-Reihe Mathematik M-10/2007. To appear in: J. Optim. Theory Appl.*
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- **Homepage / e-mail:** www.thecityto come.de/wagner@math.tu-cottbus.de