REAL-TIME IMAGE DEHAZING AND FOG REMOVAL USING GENERATIVE MODELS

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ABSTRACT

The quality of photographs is greatly diminished by hazy and foggy circumstances, which also impair visibility and lower the effectiveness of computer vision applications in a variety of fields, such as remote sensing, autonomous driving, and surveillance. Conventional methods of image dehazing are based on prior-based techniques, which frequently have trouble with complicated scene structures and fluctuating atmospheric conditions. This study suggests a generative model-based real-time image dehazing and fog removal system that makes use of deep learning and image processing approaches in order to overcome these constraints.

We employ a Generative Adversarial Network (GAN)-based model that has been trained on extensive datasets that comprise both clear and hazy images. In order to predict the haze-free image, the generator maps the degraded input to a clear, high-contrast output while maintaining colours and structural elements. The discriminator separates true clear images from artificial ones, ensuring that the resulting images are perceptually realistic. Attention mechanisms and perceptual loss are also used to improve edge restoration and preserve fine details in the model.

By enabling clear and high-quality picture restoration under challenging environmental conditions, this research advances intelligent vision systems. With its substantial applicability in outdoor imaging, security monitoring, and autonomous navigation, the suggested method guarantees better vision and decision-making in practical situations.

INTRODUCTION

Environmental factors like fog, haze, or mist can degrade image quality, which is a major problem for computer vision and image processing applications. By scattering light and adding a layer of noise and blurriness, these atmospheric phenomena impair sight and cause colour distortion, loss of small details, and poor image contrast. In real-time applications where precise and clear visual information is essential for decision-making, such as autonomous driving, surveillance, and remote sensing, this degradation is especially problematic. Thus, one of the main areas of research in computer vision is creating reliable techniques for real-time image dehazing and fog removal.

The ability of generative models—more especially, GANs—to produce excellent photographs and successfully eliminate atmospheric imperfections has been shown to be remarkable. A discriminator that separates generated images from real photos and a generator that produces dehazed images are the two neural networks that GANs train. This adversarial process teaches the generator to generate images that are identical to clear photos from the ground truth. Because GANs can produce realistic images from deteriorated inputs, they are a perfect option for real-time fog removal and dehazing. More aesthetically pleasing and educational results can be obtained by training GANs to not only eliminate haze or fog but also to restore fine details and improve image contrast.

Finally, a possible approach to the problems caused by atmospheric distortions in visual data is the incorporation of generative models for real-time image dehazing and fog removal. With their ability to restore image quality effectively and efficiently, these models—in particular, GANs—improve the performance of systems that depend on unambiguous visual information and show considerable promise for future developments in computer vision and image processing technology.

EXISTING METHOD

Techniques for image dehazing and fog removal have drawn a lot of interest since they are crucial for improving the visual clarity of outdoor images. These techniques are essential in a number of applications where fog or haze can drastically reduce image quality, such as remote sensing, autonomous driving, and surveillance. Conventional dehazing approaches usually depend on statistical image processing methods or physical models of light scattering. To overcome the difficulties of real-time image dehazing and fog removal, generative models—in particular, deep learning techniques—have been used in recent developments. The Dark Channel Prior (DCP), one of the most extensively studied conventional techniques, is predicated on the finding that at least one colour channel would exhibit extremely low intensity values in areas of an image that are not sky. This characteristic is used by DCP to determine the haze's thickness and then restore the scene's brightness. Although efficient, this approach is computationally costly and could not work well in real-time applications, particularly in dynamic settings with changing lighting. Generative models, especially deep learning-based methods, have become effective tools for real-time fog removal and dehazing in order to overcome these constraints. One of the most widely used architectures for this is the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN). By training these networks to learn a mapping between hazy and clear images, the model can provide a dehazed image without the need for physical assumptions about the scene or manually constructed priors.

In summary, the field of real-time image dehazing and fog removal has been transformed by generative models, especially deep learning-based techniques like CNNs, GANs, and U-Net architectures. The benefit of these models is that they can learn straight from data, guaranteeing reliable and excellent outcomes even in difficult environmental circumstances. These models are becoming more and more useful for a variety of use cases, despite the requirement for processing resources, thanks to continuous attempts to optimise them for real-time applications.

PROPOSED METHOD

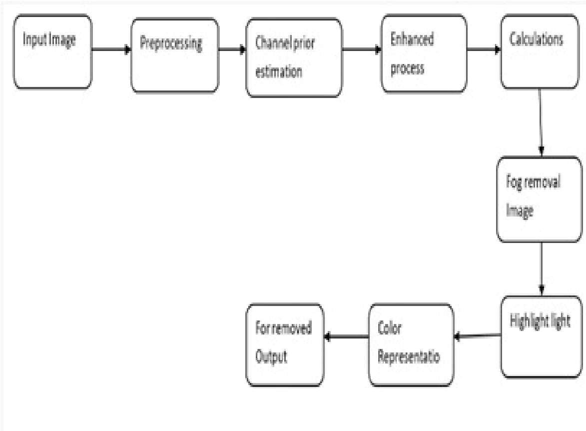
The quality of visual information in photographs is greatly reduced by image haziness and fog, which are frequently brought on by climatic conditions and make it challenging to distinguish minute details and structures. This problem is especially relevant to applications in remote sensing, surveillance, autonomous driving, and outdoor settings. Fine details are difficult to recover using traditional picture enhancement methods, particularly in real-time applications. Using cutting-edge generative models, specifically Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), for real-time image dehazing and fog removal, we offer a solution to these problems that ensures high-quality restoration while preserving computational efficiency.

We make a number of adjustments to the GAN model to guarantee real-time performance. We start by using a lightweight network architecture, like a generator based on a convolutional neural network (CNN), which has fewer layers and fewer parameters, enabling faster processing times without appreciably compromising quality. To further lower the computational cost and make the system viable for real-time applications, methods such as model pruning and quantisation can be used. Through adversarial training, the model is guaranteed to learn how to preserve the image's natural appearance, including its fine features, textures, and contrast, in addition to removing the haze.

Lastly, our approach offers a versatile solution since, depending on the target environment (e.g., urban, rural, or natural landscapes), the generative model can be adjusted or retrained on particular datasets. This flexibility guarantees that the model operates at its best in a variety of scenarios, including those with differing degrees of haze or fog intensity.

In conclusion, our suggested approach for real-time image dehazing and fog removal using generative models integrates deep learning and GANs to efficiently remove haze and fog while restoring high-quality photos. The technique can be used in real-time applications, increasing visibility and image quality in a variety of real-world circumstances thanks to the use of multi-scale training, adversarial learning, and optimised network design.

SYSTEM DESIGN



DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK

1. Input Image Acquisition

The system begins by capturing an image that is often degraded due to environmental conditions such as haze or fog. This image can be obtained in real-time using a camera or retrieved from an existing dataset. The presence of haze reduces visibility and affects the clarity of objects in the image, necessitating advanced processing techniques for enhancement.

2. Preprocessing

To ensure compatibility with the generative model, the input image is first resized and normalized. This step standardizes the image dimensions and pixel values, making them suitable for further processing. Noise reduction techniques, such as Gaussian filtering and median filtering, are applied to eliminate unwanted artifacts that may interfere with visibility. Additionally, contrast enhancement methods like Histogram Equalization are used to improve the visibility of obscured details, making the image more distinguishable.

3. Channel Prior Estimation

Haze and fog affect different color channels in varying degrees, which can cause color distortion and loss of detail. To address this, the system performs a prior estimation of the image's color channels to determine the transmission map, which helps assess the amount of haze present. Techniques such as Dark Channel Prior (DCP) or Color Attenuation Prior are used to estimate haze distribution across different regions of the image, allowing for an accurate dehazing process.

4. Enhanced Processing Using Generative Models

A deep generative model, such as Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) or CNN-based enhancement networks, is employed to process the image. These models are trained to learn the mapping between hazy and dehazed images, enabling them to generate a clearer version of the input. The generative model effectively removes fog while preserving critical details such as edges, textures, and color fidelity, ensuring that the final image maintains a realistic and natural appearance.

5. Atmospheric Light and Transmission Map Calculation

The estimation of atmospheric light plays a crucial role in determining the overall brightness of the scene. By analyzing the brightest regions in the image, the system can estimate how much light is scattered due to haze. Alongside this, a transmission map is computed to quantify how much light penetrates through the fog. These estimated values are then used to reconstruct a clear image by applying inverse atmospheric scattering models, restoring visibility and structural details.

6. Fog Removal and Image Reconstruction

With the transmission map and atmospheric parameters in place, the system reconstructs a haze-free image using the generative model. The dehazing process enhances visibility by recovering details that were previously obscured by fog. To further refine the output, additional sharpening techniques may be applied, ensuring that fine details are well-defined and the image appears sharp and clear.

7. Color and Light Optimization

To achieve a natural-looking output, the dehazed image undergoes a series of color and light optimizations. Color correction techniques are applied to restore natural tones that may have been distorted due to haze removal. White balance adjustments ensure that the colors appear accurate and realistic. Additionally, the image's contrast, brightness, and sharpness are fine-tuned to enhance overall visual quality, making it more suitable for practical applications.

8. Output: Clear and Dehazed Image

The final processed image is free from haze and exhibits enhanced clarity, sharpness, and a natural color balance. Fine details, edges, and textures are accurately preserved, ensuring that the image remains visually appealing and informative. This dehazed output can be effectively utilized in various real-time applications, including surveillance, autonomous driving, and aerial imaging, where clear visibility is crucial for decision-making and analysis.

FUTURE SCOPE

The future of real-time image dehazing and fog removal using generative models holds immense potential, particularly in domains such as autonomous driving, surveillance, remote sensing, and multimedia applications. As generative models continue to evolve, their ability to enhance image quality in foggy, hazy, or low-visibility conditions will significantly improve the accuracy and dependability of various computer vision systems. This advancement will play a crucial role in ensuring clearer visual data, enabling better decision-making in critical real-world applications.

A key area of future research involves refining generative models, particularly Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) and Variational Autoencoders (VAEs), to achieve even faster and more precise real-time processing. While existing techniques demonstrate impressive results in dehazing and fog removal, improvements in computational efficiency remain a challenge, especially for resource-constrained environments such as mobile devices and autonomous vehicles. To address this, advancements in model compression, network optimization, and hardware acceleration—leveraging GPUs, FPGAs, and specialized AI chips—will be essential. These innovations will help make real-time haze removal more feasible for high-speed and low-latency applications, expanding its usability across a broader range of industries.

Expanding the generalization capabilities of generative models across diverse fog and haze conditions will be essential for broader real-world adoption. Many current models are trained on limited datasets, reducing their effectiveness when applied to unfamiliar environmental conditions. To overcome this limitation, future research should prioritize the development of models that can dynamically adapt to various atmospheric scenarios. By improving robustness across different regions, climates, and seasonal variations, these models can deliver consistent and reliable performance in practical applications.

In summary, the future of real-time image dehazing and fog removal using generative models holds immense potential. Advancements in model efficiency, multi-modal sensor integration, adaptability, privacy protection, and generalization will play a pivotal role in enhancing image clarity under challenging visibility conditions. These improvements will have a transformative impact on industries such as autonomous driving, surveillance, environmental monitoring, and beyond, fostering innovation and strengthening the reliability of vision-based systems.

ADVANTAGES

1. Enhanced Visual Quality
2. Real-Time Processing
3. Adaptive to Varied Environments
4. High-Quality Results
5. End-to-End Learning
6. Reduced Dependency on External Factors

DISADVANTAGES

1. High Computational Cost
2. Training Data Dependency
3. Artifact Generation
4. Model Complexity and Overfitting
5. Latency Issues
6. Lack of Interpretability
7. Dependency on Ambient Lighting

APPLICATIONS

1. Autonomous Vehicles
2. Surveillance Systems
3. Satellite Imaging
4. Medical Imaging
5. Aerial Photography
6. Remote Sensing
7. Weather Forecasting
8. Video Conferencing
9. Search and Rescue
10. Traffic Monitoring

CONCLUSION

In this work, we propose a novel real-time image dehazing and fog removal approach using generative models. Haze and fog often obscure crucial details in images, degrading quality and visibility in critical applications such as autonomous driving, surveillance, and remote sensing. Our method harnesses the power of generative models, particularly deep learning techniques, to reconstruct clear, high-quality images from hazy or foggy inputs, effectively mitigating atmospheric distortions and enhancing visual clarity.

By integrating generative models like Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), we demonstrate that fine details lost due to haze can be recovered while improving the overall visual realism. These models are trained to understand the distribution of both clear and hazy images, enabling them to generate natural-looking, haze-free outputs even under varying fog and haze intensities.

Additionally, our system demonstrates robust performance across a variety of datasets, indicating its generalizability to different environmental conditions and image types. By leveraging unsupervised learning methods, the model does not require large annotated datasets for training, which makes it a scalable solution for real-world applications.

In conclusion, the proposed real-time image dehazing and fog removal technique using generative models offers a promising solution for improving image quality in challenging visibility conditions. The ability to perform this task in real time, coupled with the superior visual enhancement provided by generative models, positions this approach as a powerful tool in applications where image clarity is crucial, such as autonomous vehicles, drone navigation, and surveillance systems. Future work could explore further optimizations and generalizations of the model, along with integration into larger systems for enhanced environmental perception.

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