



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**ENHANCEMENT OF OVER-EXPOSED AND UNDER-EXPOSED  
IMAGES USING HYBRID GAMMA ERROR CORRECTION SIGMOID  
FUNCTION**

**MOHD. AZRIN BIN MOHD. AZAU.**

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**ENHANCEMENT OF OVER-EXPOSED AND UNDER-EXPOSED IMAGES  
USING HYBRID GAMMA ERROR CORRECTION SIGMOID FUNCTION**

By

**MOHD AZRIN BIN MOHD AZAU**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,  
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

**July 2007**



*For my mother Puan Mahanom Bt Talip  
and my late father Mohd Azau B. Abd Aziz  
whose soul lives within me*

*For my sisters and youngest brother.*



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment  
of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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**Chairman: Associate Professor Ishak bin Aris, PhD**

**Faculty: Engineering**

The demands to improve the visibility quality of the captured images in extremes lighting conditions have emerged increasingly important in digital image processing. The extremes conditions are when there is lack of reasonable lightings termed as underexposed and too much of light termed as overexposed. The popular enhancement technique currently used is the contrast enhancement through contrast stretching, histogram equalization, homomorphic filtering and contrast adjustment. The adjustments are to transform the less useful images to more meaningful images when the post image processing operations are carried out. This thesis is motivated to deal with the problems concerning image capturing in these two extremes conditions.

The sigmoid function is used to adjust the contrast with two controlling parameters. The parameters adjust the contrast locally and globally. The gamma function is commonly used to correct the non-linear error in the images due to the camera



lenses. This thesis combines the functions' properties and developed a hybrid algorithm to improve the quality of the poorly captured images by adjusting the contrast and compensating the gamma error. The sigmoid and gamma function are coded in MATLAB 6.0 in which testes are made over the selected images. The sample images are taken using different type of cameras transformed to grayscale input images. The luminosities of the surroundings are also measured using a light meter.

The derivations of the parameters' ranges are done by calculating the root mean square error or the standard deviation. The suggested ranges are used in the hybrid system which has two variants, Variant I and Variant II. The first variant, combines the sigmoid function inside the gamma compensation function while the second variant combines the gamma compensation function inside the sigmoid function.

Based on the test results, the proposed algorithm significantly improves the contrast of the images. For the underexposed image samples, the percentages of the intensity lesser than 0.1 decreases as more of the intensities reside at higher values. For the overexposed image samples, the percentages of intensity greater than 0.9 decreases as more of the intensities reside at lower values. With the suggested range deduced, the images are contrast enhanced with the reduction of percentage of pixels residing he intensity less than 0.1 and greater than 0.9.

The comparative analyses are made by comparing the suggested hybrid system with the existing adaptive homomorphic filtering, adaptive histogram equalization and adaptive contrast enhancement.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PENGUKUHAN IMEJ DEDAHAN-RENDAH DAN DEDAHAN-LAMPAU  
MENGUNAKAN FUNGSI TERGABUNG PEMBETULAN RALAT  
GAMMA SIGMOID**

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Permintaan untuk menambah baik kualiti penglihatan imej yang ditangkap pada keadaan yang ekstrim telah muncul dan mendapat tempat dalam pemprosesan imej digital. Keadaan ekstrim yang dimaksudkan ialah apabila suatu keadaan persekitaran yang kurang pencahayaan iaitu yang dikenali sebagai dedahan-rendah dan keadaan yang dilimpahi lebih cahaya yang dikenali sebagai dedahan-lampau. Teknik pengukuhan imej yang terkenal sedang digunakan sekarang ialah melalui pengukuhan kontras yang mana pengukuhan itu dilakukan melalui regangan kontras, penyamaan histogram, penapisan homomorfik dan ubahan kontras. Kaedah-kaedah pengukuhan ini adalah penting supaya informasi yang gagal dikesan oleh mata kasar seseorang pemerhati dapat dikukuhkan dan diubah. Transformasi ini adalah untuk mengubah imej-imej yang kurang berguna akibat informasi terlindung, menjadi imej-imej yang lebih bererti supaya pasca-pemprosesan imej dapat dilakukan dengan lebih

baik. Tesis ini digerakan melalui motivasi untuk mengatasi masalah mengambil gambar di dalam keadaan ekstrim yang disebutkan.

Fungsi matematik sigmoid digunakan untuk ubahan kontras dengan dua parameter yang mengawal. Parameter tersebut akan digunakan untuk ubahan kontras secara setempat dan secara keseluruhan. Fungsi gamma pula terkenal digunakan dalam membetulkan ralat tidak linear akibat lensa kamera. Tesis ini menggabungkan sifat-sifat fungsi yang disebutkan dan algoritma tergabung dibangunkan untuk memperbaiki kualiti imej yang kurang bagus. Fungsi sigmoid serta gamma yang digabungkan dikodkan menggunakan MATLAB 6.0 dan simulasi dijalankan ke atas imej-imej yang terpilih. Imej imej tersebut ditangkap menggunakan kamera yang berlainan dan diubah kepada imej masukan skala-kelabu. Kecerahan sekitaran diukur menggunakan meter cahaya.

Terbitan had parameter-parameter yang mengawal fungsi matematik ini dicadangkan berdasarkan kepada pengiraan punca purata kuasa dua ralat atau sisihan piawai. Had yang dicadangkan akan digunakan dalam sistem tergabung yang mempunyai dua varian, Varian I dan Varian II. Kombinasi pertama menggabungkan fungsi sigmoid ke dalam fungsi kompensasi gamma dan kombinasi kedua menggabungkan fungsi kompensasi gamma ke dalam fungsi sigmoid.

Dari keputusan ujikaji, algoritma tergabung yang dicadangkan menambah baik kontras imej dengan lebih ketara. Untuk imej dedahan-rendah, peratusan kecerahan kurang dari 0.1 berkurangan kerana lebih banyak mendiami di nilai yang tinggi. Untuk imej dedahan-lampau, peratusan intensiti yang melebihi 0.9 berkurangan



kerana lebih banyak mendiami di kawasan yang mempunyai nilai yang lebih rendah. Dengan had yang dicadangkan, kontras imej ini dikukuhkan dengan pengurangan peratusan piksel yang mendiami nilai kurang dari 0.1 dan yang melebihi 0.9.

Proses bagi penanda aras dibuat dengan membandingkan sistem tergabung yang dicadangkan oleh tesis ini dengan sistem adaptif penapisan homomorphic, sistem adaptif penyamaan histogram dan sistem adaptif pengukuhan kontras.





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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 12 July 2007 to conduct the final examination of Mohd Azrin Bin Mohd Azau on his Master of Science thesis entitled "Enhancement of Over-Exposed and Under-Exposed Images Using Hybrid Gamma Error Correction Sigmoid Function" in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree.

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## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM other institutions.

---

**MOHD AZRIN BIN MOHD AZAU**

Date: 19 October 2007



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>DEDICATION</b>	ii
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	iii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	v
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	viii
<b>APPROVAL</b>	ix
<b>DECLARATION</b>	xi
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xiv
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xvi
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xx
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Image Enhancement For Underexposed and Overexposed Images	4
1.3 Problem Statement	6
1.4 Objectives of The Research	8
1.5 Research Scope	9
1.6 Organization of the Thesis	12
<b>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Introduction	14
2.2 Review on Imaging Fundamental	15
2.3 Review on Image Histograms	20
2.4 Review on Previous Works	23
2.5 Summary	49
<b>3 METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.1 Introduction	51
3.2 System Description	53
3.3 Software and Hardware Specifications	53
3.4 Sigmoid Function	61
3.5 Raise to Power Function	67
3.6 Algorithm Implementations	71
3.7 Proposed Hybrid System	85
3.8 Summary	88
<b>4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS</b>	
4.1 Introduction	90
4.2 Image Histograms and Image Characterizations	91
4.3 Contrast Enhancement Using Sigmoid Function	97



4.4	Gamma Compensation Using Gamma Function	112
4.33	The Proposed Hybrid System	126
4.6	Summary	144
<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
5.1	Conclusions	147
5.2	Recommendations For Future Works	150
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	152
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	156
	<b>BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR</b>	164
	<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	165



## LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
2.1	The Suggested EV and condition of surroundings	18
3.1	The hardware specifications of the laptop	54
3.2	The hardware specifications of the digital still camera, SONY DSC F77	54
3.3	The hardware specifications of the Logitech QuickCAM web camera	55
3.4	The hardware specifications of the NOKIA 3650 Low Resolution Phone Camera	55
3.5	The hardware specifications of the HP iPaq rw6828 built-in camera	56
3.6	The hardware specifications of the Light Meter	56
4.1	The percentages of number of pixels residing at intensity less than 0.1 and at intensity greater than 0.9	95
4.2	The summary of image characterization	96
4.3	The standard deviation of the respective figures with varying gain value	99
4.4	The standard deviation of the respective figures with varying cutoff value (Co)	102
4.5	Summary of RMSE plot with varying gain and contrast-adjusted images	104
4.6	Summary of standard deviation plot with varying gain and contrast-adjusted images	105
4.7	The difference of average intensity with predetermined gain and cutoff value	106
4.8	Statistical comparisons between the adjusted intensity, Ice and grayscaled intensity, Igd	109



4.9	Statistical comparisons between the adjusted intensity, Ice and grayscaled intensity, Igd	110
4.10	Percentage of enhancement using gain varying sigmoid mapping function	111
4.11	Percentage of enhancement using cutoff varying sigmoid mapping function	111
4.12	The Root Mean Square Error of the respective figures with varying gamma value in the range of (0,1]	114
4.13	The Root Mean Square Error of the respective figures with varying gamma value in the range of (1,10)	117
4.14	Summary of RMSE plot with varying gamma between 0 and 1	119
4.15	Summary of RMSE plot with varying gamma between 1 and 10	119
4.16	The difference of average intensity with predetermined gamma	121
4.17	Statistical comparisons between the compensated intensity, Igc and original intensity, Igd	122
4.18	Statistical comparisons between the compensated intensity, Igc and original intensity, Igd	124
4.19	Percentage of adjustment using gamma function where gamma range is (0,1]	125
4.20	Percentage of adjustment using gamma function where gamma range is (1,10)	125
4.21	The percentage of intensity values and improvement When algorithm Variant I is applied on Figure 4.1	130
4.22	The percentage of intensity values and improvement when algorithm Variant I is applied on Figure 4.2	131
4.23	The percentage of intensity values and improvement when algorithm Variant II is applied on Figure 4.1	134
4.24	The average time taken to complete the enhancement Operation	144





## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.1	Simple image processing technique	3
1.2	The scope of the research	11
2.1	The dynamic range of brightness, the tonal range	21
2.2	The composition of image histogram	21
2.3	Image captured that has wide range of tone histogram	22
2.4	Image captured that has centered tonal range histogram	22
2.5	(a) is the original image, (b) is the contrast adjusted image and (c) is gamma corrected with contrast adjusted image	27
2.6	Contrast enhancement by fuzzy relaxation	37
2.7	(a) is the original image, (b) is the image enhanced by Li algorithm and (c) image enhanced by Fuzzy Relaxation	38
3.1	Proposed Hybrid System with two variations	52
3.2	The sigmoid curve plot	58
3.3	Limiting $x$ approaching 0 from right hand side to left hand side	60
3.4	The behavior of the function when $x$ is approaching the extremes	61
3.5	Plot for gain equals to 0	63
3.6	Plot for gain equals to 10	63
3.7	Plot for gain equals to 100	64
3.8	Plot for gain equals to infinity	64
3.9	The curve shifted to the right by 0.5 when $x$ is subtracted by 0.5	65



3.10	The curve shifted to the right by 0.5 when $x$ is added by 0.5	65
3.11	The function plot with the power raised greater than 1	67
3.12	The function plot with the power raised greater less than 1	68
3.13	The function plot with the power raised equals to 1	68
3.14	Plot for fractional power raised to the function	69
3.15	The function behaves linearly when the power of $x$ is 1	69
3.16	The flowchart of Image Loading Module	73
3.17	The flowchart of contrast adjustment using sigmoid function	75
3.18	Relationship plot between the input and output when Gain is large	77
3.19	Relationship plot between the input and output when Gain is small	78
3.20	Relationship plot between the input and output when Cutoff is small	78
3.21	Relationship between the input and output when Cutoff is large	79
3.22	The flowchart of gamma compensation for the sample images	81
3.23	The Hybrid System Variant I	86
3.24	The Hybrid System Variant II	87
4.1	The original underexposed image captured using SONY DSC F77	92
4.1.1	The histogram of original image in Figure 4.1	92
4.1.2	The grayscaled image of Figure 4.1	93
4.2	The original overexposed image captured using SONY DSC F77	94
4.2.1	The histogram of original image in Figure 4.2	94
4.2.2	The grayscaled image of Figure 4.2	94



4.3	The standard deviation plot with varying gain for Figure 4.1	100
4.4	The standard deviation plot with varying gain for Figure 4.2	100
4.5	The standard deviation plot with varying cutoff for Figure 4.2	103
4.6	The standard deviation plot with varying cutoff for Figure 4.2	103
4.7	Contrast adjusted with $G=9$ , $C_0=0.25$ for Figure 4.1	108
4.7.1	Histogram of Figure 4.7	108
4.8	Contrast adjusted with $G=3.1$ , $C_0=0.75$ for Figure 4.2	109
4.8.1	Histogram of Figure 4.8	109
4.9	The Standard deviation plot with varying gamma for image in Figure 4.1	115
4.10	The Standard deviation plot with varying gamma for image in Figure 4.2	115
4.11	The standard deviation plot with varying gamma for image in Figure 4.1	118
4.12	The standrad deviation plot with varying gamma for image in Figure 4.2	118
4.13	Gamma compensated with $\text{Gamma}=0.66667$ for Figure 4.1	122
4.13.1	Histogram of Figure 4.13	122
4.14	Gamma compensated with $\text{Gamma}=1.25$ for Figure 4.2	123
4.14.1	Histogram of Figure 4.14	123
4.15.1	Results on selected $G=9, C_0=0.3, \text{Gamma}=0.7$	128
4.15.2	Results on selected $G=9, C_0=0.3, \text{Gamma}=0.8$	129
4.15.3	Results on selected $G=9, C_0=0.3, \text{Gamma}=0.9$	129
4.15.4	Results on selected $G=9, C_0=0.3, \text{Gamma}=1$	129



16.1	Results on selected $G=2.5, Co=0.7, \text{Gamma}=0.9$	130
4.16.2	Results on selected $G=35, Co=0.7, \text{Gamma}=0.7$	130
4.16.3	Results on selected $G=3, Co=0.7, \text{Gamma}=0.8$	131
4.16.4	Results on selected $G=3, Co=0.7, \text{Gamma}=0.9$	131
4.17.1	Results on selected $G=7.5, Co=0.3, \text{Gamma}=0.7$	133
4.17.2	Results on selected $G=7.5, Co=0.3, \text{Gamma}=0.8$	133
4.17.3	Results on selected $G=8, Co=0.3, \text{Gamma}=0.7$	134
4.17.4	Results on selected $G=8, Co=0.3, \text{Gamma}=0.8$	134
4.18.1	Results on selected $G=2, Co=0.7, \text{Gamma}=1.1$	135
4.18.2	Results on selected $G=2, Co=0.7, \text{Gamma}=1.2$	135
4.18.3	Results on selected $G=3, Co=0.7, \text{Gamma}=1.1$	135
4.18.4	Results on selected $G=3, Co=0.7, \text{Gamma}=1.2$	136
4.19	Results when adaptive histogram equalization is applied on Figure 4.1	138
4.20	Results when adaptive histogram equalization is applied on Figure 4.2	139
4.21	Results when adaptive homomorphic filtering is applied on Figure 4.1	141
4.22	Results when adaptive contrast enhancement is applied on Figure 4.2	141
4.23	Results when adaptive contrast enhancement is applied on Figure 4.1	141
4.24	Results when adaptive homomorphic filtering is applied on Figure 4.2	143



## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

### Symbols

I <sub>g</sub>	grayscaled image intensity
I <sub>gd</sub>	grayscaled and doubled image intensity
I <sub>ce</sub>	contrast enhanced image intensity
I <sub>gc</sub>	gamma compensated image intensity
I <sub>gs</sub>	gamma-hybrid-sigmoid intensity
I <sub>sg</sub>	sigmoid-hybrid-gamma intensity
G	gain
C <sub>o</sub>	cutoff
Appdx	Appendix
RMSE	Root Mean Square Error
UM	Unsharp Masking



# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

The demands to improve the quality of the captured images with the absence of reasonable lighting (underexposed) and with the presence of overwhelming lighting (overexposed) have motivated many researchers to develop enhancement techniques using contrast adjustment and gamma compensation. Capturing images in these two extreme conditions somehow are at disadvantages since the quality are degraded. Some of the information are failed to be identified and recognized by one's eyes and thus these images are laterally meaningless.

Wu has highlighted the importance of image enhancement in biomedical pattern recognition (Wu, 2002). The studies of image processing's impact in biomedical are made on the chromosome classification. From the results obtained, with a proper image enhancement technique, it will lead to significantly improved recognition accuracy. The quantification of performance improvement could be used as a mean to measure the success of the various technique implementations.

With the availability and affordability of imaging technology, there are interests to develop more robust, faster and reliability system in medical imaging applications, monitoring and surveillance systems, driving assistance and lane/pedestrian



detections, (Frosio, 2006), (Wong, 2005), (Stern, 2001). There are issues in processing the poor digital images that fall in the category of underexposed and overexposed. The major concerns are to deliver out the details that the images have. With regards to this issue there are also concerns to develop algorithms to counter the problem to name a few are, the contrast adjustment, gamma compensation, noise suppression, filtering development and image restoration. Image preprocessing processes the images before they become meaningful images to the viewers with the details are made visible. Methodology is drawn from the fundamental studies and approaches are realized with the tool. The system or algorithm developed is simulated with various conditions to test its reliability, efficiency and correctness. Having that done, the system is embedded onto applications of interest.

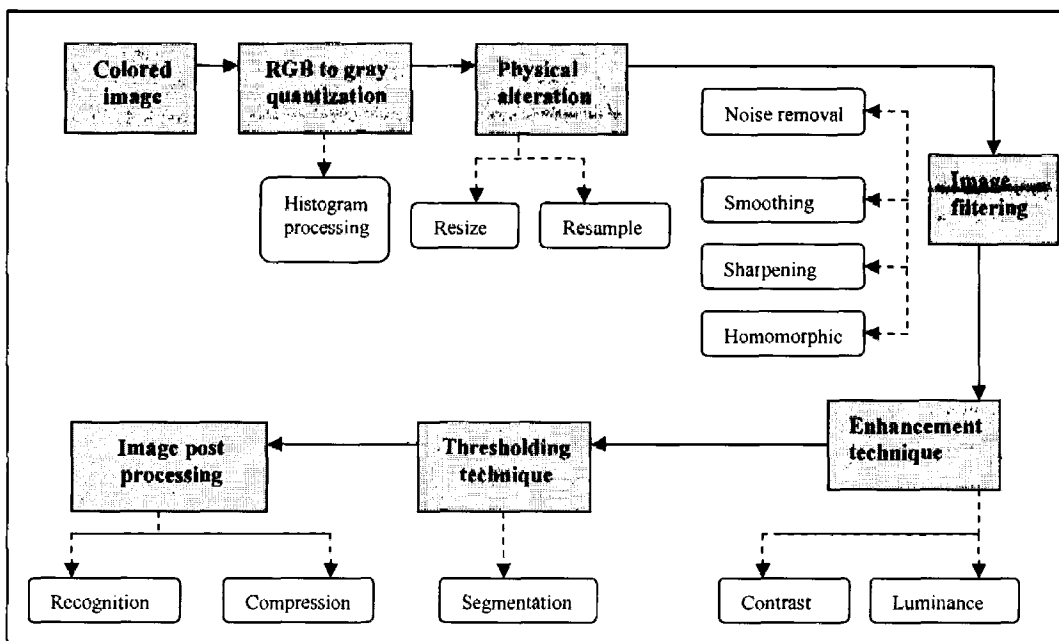
The 2-D images are not merely lines, shapes and colors; instead they can be translated to matrices and mathematically represented. If an image is of size  $M \times N$ , and the pixel intensity is mapped on the Cartesian coordinate, then  $f$  is the vector function where  $f(x,y)$  indicates the brightness of an image has.  $x$  and  $y$  is the point at the corresponding intensity, (Petrou, 2002), (Davies, 2005). Transforming the images into matrices the options of operations could be expanded to adjust, enhance and correct the input images. This can be done by applying the arithmetic and logical mathematics operators. Literally, an image enhancement is a process by which improvement of the details of an image has, so that it is subjectively looks better.

A conventional simple gray-scale image processing technique is illustrated as in the block diagram shown in Figure 1.1. The emergence of color image processing has

getting a place in the research field. However two main important factors that have become the principle in deciding to go for color image processing or gray-scale are,

- a) the fundamental value of color image processing
- b) additional storage and processing penalty it might bring,

(Davies, 2005)



**Figure 1.1: Simple image processing technique**

Humans' sight ranges are limited by the fact of the existence of cones and rods in the retina. These cones and rods are receptors in which the cones dominantly functional over the rods. With well-held vision theory, these rods are for vision under dim levels of illumination (scotopic vision) and cones are functioning at higher illumination level (photopic vision). Photopic vision provides the capability for



seeing color and resolving fine details (20/20 or better) but it functions only in good illumination. Scotopic vision is of poorer quality in which it is limited by reduced resolution (20/200 or less) and offers the ability to discriminate only between shades of black and white. Therefore in many night vision applications colors has become a secondary argument, since decreases in illumination will result loss in color vision where the blue-green lights will appear brighter whereas the reds will appear dimmer (Umbaugh, 1998).

## **1.2 Image Enhancements For Underexposed and Overexposed Images**

Observations to the nature of the nocturnal animals have motivated man to start developing electronic gadgets to counter balance the lacking capabilities of seeing in the dark. The researches conducted are to produce night-vision goggles and cameras that to intensify the visibility and the quality of the sight as well as the images captured. These night-vision cameras are specifically equipped with pre-filtering hardware mounted on them and the systems themselves are complicated for individuals to operate. The initial set up cost sometimes is unbearable even for simple application like home security monitoring system. However, instead of having these bulky, expensive specially made gadgets, the development of robust algorithm to enhance the captured images is one of the solutions. One way to potentially realize the development of these algorithms is, by using the mathematical functions (Rumar, 2002).

