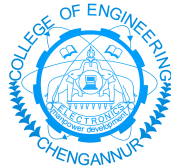


# **Local Neighbourhood Image Properties for Exposure Region Determination Method in Nonuniform Illumination Images**

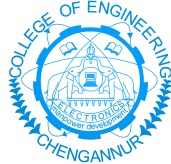
03CS6901 Seminar I

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that, this report titled *Local Neighbourhood Image Properties for Exposure Region Determination Method in Nonuniform Illumination Images* is a bonafide record of the **03CS6901 Seminar I** presented on March 15, 2021 by

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First Semester M. Tech. Computer Science & Engineering (Image Processing ) scholar, under our guidance and supervision, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree, **M. Tech. Computer Science & Engineering (Image Processing)** of **APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University**.

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## **Abstract**

Image acquisition is the first step in Digital Image Processing. It is done by using image sensors. Image sensors are used in electronic devices which includes digital cameras, optical mouse devices, medical imaging equipment etc. During image acquisition, these sensors produce non-uniform illumination images. This image is characterised by different lightness values in certain regions in a digital image. This is formed due to several factors such as extreme environment light conditions, limitations in imaging devices, and the unsuitable exposure parameter settings of imaging devices. Information residing in these regions is hidden. So in order to extract that information, non-uniform image is needed to be converted to a uniformly illuminated image. Enhancement techniques are needed to be applied. But applying an enhancement method with the same enhancement rate to the entire image can over-enhance or under-enhance the resultant image. So before enhancement, exposure regions are needed to be determined. Then different enhancement rates can be applied to different regions separately. Existing methods that introduced region determination processes failed to accurately determine exposure regions because those methods only consider intensity to determine the regions. For this problem, a new method called IECRDM was developed by Saad, Isa and Salih which can be used for the accurate detection of non-uniform illumination regions. This method considers three image attributes, namely, intensity, entropy and contrast, which are evaluated locally in detecting the regions. These three attributes are combined with a rule-based method for the identification of illumination regions. Experimental results show that this I-E-C based Region Determination Method (IECRDM) is better than previous methods in terms of region determination capability.

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Advancements in image processing have enabled the analysis of digital images in most computer vision applications, video surveillance, and biomedical engineering. Digital images are often low in quality and suffer from non-uniform illumination or brightness, loss of details, and poor contrast. These problems become critical when the foreground of interest is difficult to be distinguished from the background, which worsens the segmentation problem and allows false recognition and detection to occur. The human visual system has far larger dynamic ranges than most commercial cameras and video cameras. These devices have limited dynamic ranges; thus, recorded images obtained from these devices are usually non-homogeneous and low in contrast. Improper lighting condition and external disturbances, which worsen the problems, are inevitable during image acquisition. In this respect, most of the images acquired through commercial cameras and video cameras exhibit problems in non-uniform illumination and low contrast.

Nonuniform illumination image is a such kind of image which is produced during image acquisition process due to several factors such as extreme environment light conditions, limitations in imaging devices, and the unsuitable exposure parameter settings of imaging devices [2]. This image is characterised by different lightness values in certain regions in a digital image. Generally, different lightness values in a nonuniform illumination image can be categorised into three regions, namely, under-exposed, over-exposed and well-exposed regions. The under-exposed region is normally presented as a darker region relative to the average luminance of the entire image, whereas the over-exposed region appears brighter [3]. The details in both regions cannot be seen or disappear in a nonuniform illumination image. Variation of intensity in both regions will be low. This results in low contrast areas.

Fig. 1 shows the examples of nonuniform illumination images. In fig. 1(a), over exposed region represented by red rectangle appears to washout the details. In fig.1(b), over exposed region represented by red rectangle is highly affected by sunlight, whereas the underexposed region represented by dotted red rectangle receives less sunlight. Microscopic image in fig. 1(c), with improper camera settings produced over exposed region represented by red rectangle and under exposed region represented by dotted rectangle. Both regions hide their

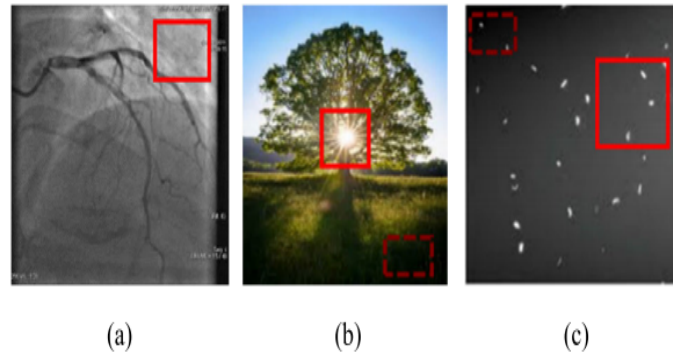


Figure 1: Examples of nonuniform illumination image. Coronary Cineangiograms image; (b) Scenery image; (c) Microscopic image.

details. This led to the inaccurate determination of the size or features of the object of interest. This properties of nonuniform illumination image cause inaccuracy during the segmentation process. So in order to retrieve hidden information, it is necessary to convert this image into uniformly illuminated images. For that purpose, first step is to determine different exposure regions in the image.

Many researchers have contributed to the development of region determination and correction methods. Those methods are reviewed and the most effective one is further taken for the region determination of non-uniform illumination image.

# Chapter 2

## Literature survey

1. **M. Hanmandlu, O. P. Verma, N. K. Kumar, and M. Kulkarni: "A novel optimal fuzzy system for color image enhancement using bacterial foraging"** [4]: IEEE Trans. Instrum. Meas., vol.58, no.8, pp.2867–2879, Aug. 2009

This model has the capability to determine under and over exposure regions from a non uniform illumination image. For determining these two regions, a simple threshold method was applied on the intensity value. This threshold value were set to 0.5 and 0.85 respectively. After determining regions, for correcting exposure, RGB color was converted to HSV color space. Direct enhancement on RGB color model is inappropriate for human visual system. So its necessary to convert it to Hue, Saturation and Intensity color space before enhancement. During enhancement, original color (Hue) of the image should not be disturbed and Saturation and intensity value should exceed maximum value. For the enhancement of under exposed region, parametric sigmoid function and for over exposed region, power law operator is used. But this method is subjective. It raises concern about inaccurate region determination, because each image is unique and applying fixed threshold value for all images is impossible. So its region determination is inaccurate.

2. **O. P. Verma, P. Kumar, M. Hanmandlu, and S. Chhabra: "High dynamic range optimal fuzzy color image enhancement using artificial ant colony system"** [5] : Appl. Soft Comput., vol. 12, no. 1, pp. 394–404, Jan. 2012

Here determined under, over and mixed regions from image by using exposure criteria. It modified the fixed thresholding technique and calculated upper and lower threshold from the image itself using a pivot parameter. The grey levels below the lower threshold value are classified as under-exposed region, and all grey levels above the upper threshold are categorised as the over-exposed region. The remaining pixels are assumed to be lie in the mixed region. Classification are done based on intensity



value. Even though this method is an improved version of previous method, region classification is inaccurate. Because here only considers brightness as a factor for classifying regions. Variance of luminance and amount of information in certain region are not considered.

3. **K. Hasikin and N. A. M. Isa: "Adaptive fuzzy intensity measure enhancement technique for non-uniform illumination and low-contrast images"** [6]: Signal, Image Video Process., vol.9, no.6, pp.1419–1442, Sep. 2015

Here divided the intensity of the nonuniform illumination image into two regions, namely, dark and bright. Here calculated the average grey level value of all the pixels in an image and the value is set as the fundamental measurement of region classification. Then, introduced fuzzy intensity measure (FIM) to determine a threshold value that is more adaptive than the method in [4]. FIM is determined by dividing the deviation grey level value with the average grey level value. If the intensity of a pixel is lower than the threshold value, then the pixel is classified as dark while in contrast the pixel is considered bright. However, this work raises the question of the presence of medium-class intensity on the pixels, that is, a combination of low (dark) and high (bright) intensities, is not defined in this method.

4. **S. Lee, N. Kim, and J. Paik: "Adaptively partitioned block-based contrast enhancement and its application to low light-level video surveillance"** [7]: SpringerPlus, vol.4, no.1, p.431, Dec. 2015

Here addressed the insufficient number of regions by proposing the adaptive backlit region determination. The proposed method divided the input image into non-overlapped  $64 \times 64$  blocks, and each block is subsequently classified into one of the two main regions, namely, dark and background, by using two optimal threshold values. The threshold values are calculated by using Fuzzy C-means clustering method. However, this method misclassified the dark pixels inside the background regions into the class of backlit regions. Another limitation is this technique is only applicable to the detection of the dark region.

5. **A. A. M. Salih, K. Hasikin, and N. A. M. Isa: "Adaptive fuzzy exposure local contrast enhancement"** [8]: IEEE Access, vol.6, pp.58794-58806, 2018

Here developed a new method called adaptive local exposure-based region determination (ALEBRD) to classify the nonuniform illumination image into under-exposed, over-exposed and well-exposed regions. An RGB image is first converted into HSV space, where V channel is used for modification, and H and S are preserved. The image is divided into several blocks with size  $m \times n$  for local processing. The fitness of each block is determined according to the difference between the intensity of the pixel and the average of local neighbourhood intensity. Then, the blocks are classified into their respective regions with a region determination parameter. The parameter that considers the maximum intensity and the fitness of each block served as threshold points for the division of the image into the three defined regions. Enhanced each regions separately using fuzzy intensity measure enhancement. Even though this method performs better than other methods, here regions are classified by only using intensity. Amount of information and the variance of the luminance in a certain region are not considered. So, region misclassification occurs.

## Chapter 3

# I-E-C based Region Determination Method (IECRDM)

Method proposed by Saad, Isa and Salih [1] (IECRDM) solved the limitations in previous methods by developing a new approach by which exposure regions are determined on basis of more than one property for the determination of precise regions. This method introduced entropy and contrast to integrate with the intensity for minimizing the mis-classification problem especially on the well exposed region.

Entropy specifies amount of information in a certain region and contrast specifies variance of the luminance in a certain region. These attributes can be used in measuring the details as well as detecting the well-exposed region in nonuniform illumination image.

IECRDM method takes a color nonuniform illumination image of size  $R \times C$  where  $R$  is the no. of rows and  $C$  is the no. of columns. It is then converted into Hue, Saturation, and Value (HSV) color model. The reason why RGB is converted to HSV is that HSV is good for object detection. Unlike RGB, HSV separates intensity of an image from its color information. Another color model called YCbCr also perform this separation. But HSV is often used because the code for converting RGB to HSV is widely available and can apply easily. For example, Matlab includes function `rgbtohsv()` for conversion. In order to conduct local processing, input image is needed to be divided into several blocks of size  $m \times n$ .

### 3.1 Determination of Intensity Levels

They introduced a new threshold values calculation based on the global and standard deviation of the intensity of the image which then will be used to evaluate the region in locally.

$$V_a = \frac{1}{R \times C} \sum_{i=1}^R \sum_{j=1}^C V(i, j) \quad (1)$$

$$V_d = \sqrt{\frac{1}{R \times C} \sum_{i=1}^R \sum_{j=1}^C (V(i, j) - V_a)^2} \quad (2)$$

average intensity of the entire image, and the standard deviation intensity of the entire image, are calculated by using (1) and (2), respectively. Two threshold points are determined to categorize the intensity of each block into three levels.

$$U_t = V_a + V_d \quad \text{Upper Threshold}$$

$$L_t = V_a - V_d \quad \text{Lower Threshold}$$

Mean of intensity in each  $m \times n$  block,  $I$  is calculated. Then  $I$  is categorized into three different levels, low, medium and high, where the range of intensities for each level are defined in (3),

$$I = \begin{cases} I_{low} & \text{if } I < L_t \\ I_{middle} & \text{if } L_t \leq I \leq U_t \\ I_{high} & \text{if } I > U_t \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

So on the basis of this equation (3), this method classified all of the blocks into one of the 3 levels.

## 3.2 Determination of Entropy Levels

IECRDM then determined entropy levels for each blocks using Shannon's entropy. Shannon's entropy for each block  $X$ , with  $k$  grey levels  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$  is defined as,

$$E_{local} = - \sum_{i=1}^k P_i \log_2 P_i \quad (4)$$

where  $P_i$  represents the probability of grey level  $X_i$ . Then, the mean entropy of the entire image,  $E_a$  is calculated using (5) and becomes the reference value in dividing high and low entropy.

$$E_a = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{b=1}^N E_{local}(b) \quad (5)$$

where  $E_{local}(b)$  is the entropy of a block sized  $m \times n$ , and  $N$  is the number of blocks in an entire image. Subsequently, entropy is divided into two regions, low entropy and high entropy, based on the global mean entropy. It is represented in equation (6) as,

$$E = \begin{cases} E_{low} & \text{if } E_{local} < E_a \\ E_{high} & \text{if } E_{local} \geq E_a \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

Using equation (6), they categorised  $m \times n$  blocks into one of the 2 entropy levels.

## 3.3 Determination of Contrast Levels

Similar to the classification of entropy levels, contrast levels of all  $m \times n$  blocks are also determined.  $C_{local}$  of local region  $m \times n$  is calculated and then by using this  $C_{local}$ , mean

of local contrast of the entire image,  $C_a$  is calculated. Then the calculated contrast of each local region is distinguished into two levels, namely, low contrast,  $C_{low}$  and high contrast,  $C_{high}$  using (7).

$$C = \begin{cases} C_{low} & \text{if } C_{local} < C_a \\ C_{high} & \text{if } C_{local} \geq C_a \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

Then they conducted final stage to categorise all blocks in the image to one of the three previously defined regions based on the three previously determined properties. They used an algorithm for determining regions, which is shown below,

Input: Level of intensity - I for each block, Level of Entropy – E for each block, Level of contrast – C for each block

Output: Exposure Region, R

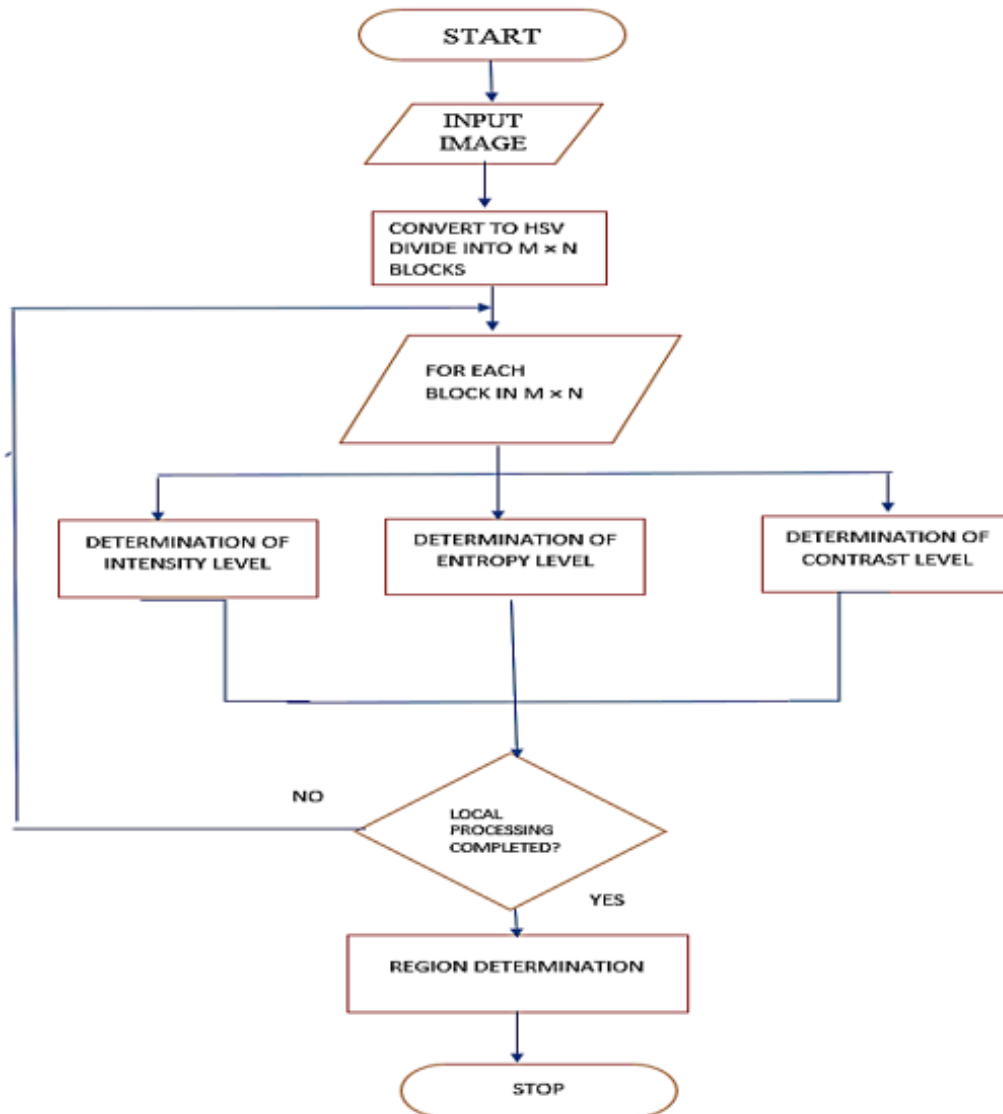
1. Input current block
2. If E and C are in high level, then R is well exposed
3. Else
4. If both E and C are in low level, or either E or C is in high level, then R is determined using equation (1)
5. Repeat step 1- 4 for  $m \times n$  blocks
6. End

The main idea that differentiates this method with the previous ones is shown in step 2. This idea is generated based on the hypothesis that high entropy indicates that more details are found in the region, and vice versa. Similar to entropy, high contrast also shows the presence of significant changes in the grey value in the region and can also be relate to the details in the region. When the entropy and contrast are high, thereby showing the richness of details and significant grey value changes. Regardless of the intensity value, the block with these criteria will be classified as well-exposed region. In previous methods, if the region has low or high intensity values, then the region will be considered as an under-exposed or over-exposed region, respectively. In some cases, this is not true. Because even though intensity is low or high, their is a chance that details might be clearly visible in those regions. So along with intensity, their amount of information contained and variance of luminance is also needed to be analysed. This is considered in step 2.

For the else part(step 4), region will be determined based on the intensity. This is represented in (8).

$$R = \begin{cases} \text{Under exposed} & \text{if } I = I_{low} \\ \text{Well exposed} & \text{if } I = I_{medium} \\ \text{Over exposed} & \text{if } I = I_{high} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

This is the over all working of IECRDM method. Flow chart representation of IECRDM method is shown below.



# Chapter 4

## Conclusions

### 4.1 Results

#### 4.1.1 Dataset

In order to demonstrate the performance analysis comparison of different exposure region determination methods, images are obtained from California Institute of Technology database [12]. 30 image are taken for performance evaluation. Evaluation is performed by using the same experimental environment where 30 original nonuniform illumination images, together with their corresponding region detection image are displayed using 14-inch diagonal HD BrightView LED-backlit Display.

#### 4.1.2 Performance Analysis Comparison

Performance analysis is conducted using two stages. First stage focus on visual evaluation i.e., qualitative analysis. The region detection results obtained by the five region determination methods named as IECRDM [1], Exposure 2R [4], Exposure 3R [5], Backlit [7], FIM [6], AFELCE [8] are compared.

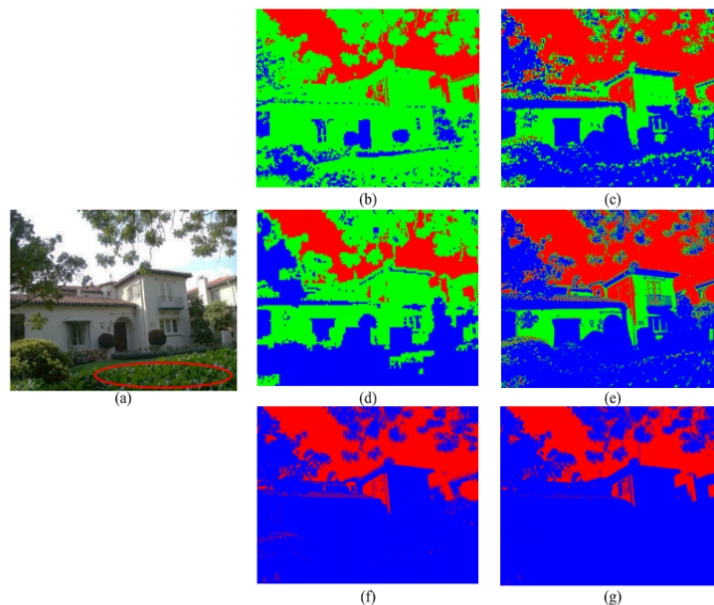


Figure 1: Resultant Images of Region Determination for Yard Image (a) Original Image; (b) IECRDM (c) AFELCE (d) Backlit (e) Exposure 3R (f) Exposure 2R (g) FIM

In Fig.1, plants indicated by red oval is supposed to be classified as well exposed image. Because plant details are clearly visible. But based on intensity value, all 5 methods classified this as under exposed, while IECRDM [1] based on the pseudocode determined its entropy and contrast as high. So regardless of intensity value, it accurately classified this part as well exposed region. As for detection of over exposed region, all methods correctly detected it by representing red color in the sky part. Misclassification for both under and well exposed are clearly visible in other five methods as compared with IECRDM[1].

Fig.2 shows the resultant images of region determination for House Balcony image. Referring to the original House Balcony image in Fig. 2(a), different illumination regions are produced in the image due to the effect of sunlight. Examples of the over-exposed regions are highlighted by blue rectangles in the same figure where details of small pillar and the stairs cannot be seen. The IECRDM[1] and Backlit[7] detected almost similar over-exposed region while AFELCE[8] and Exposure 3R[5] detected wider over-exposed regions including the white pillar highlighted by black dotted rectangle in Fig. 2(c) and Fig. 2(e) even though the region is not illuminated by the light, hence these methods misclassified the well-exposed region. The same misclassified result is also produced by Exposure 2R[4] and FIM[6] method whereby most of white colour regions are detected as over-exposed region. The main difference between IECRDM[1] and Backlit[7] is on the determination of under exposed region. The IECRDM[1] detected less regions and able to detect more details regions compared to Backlit[7]. It is shown by the red dashed rectangle area in Fig. 2(b) and Fig. 2(d) whereby the proposed method successfully detected only several parts of the plants that cannot be



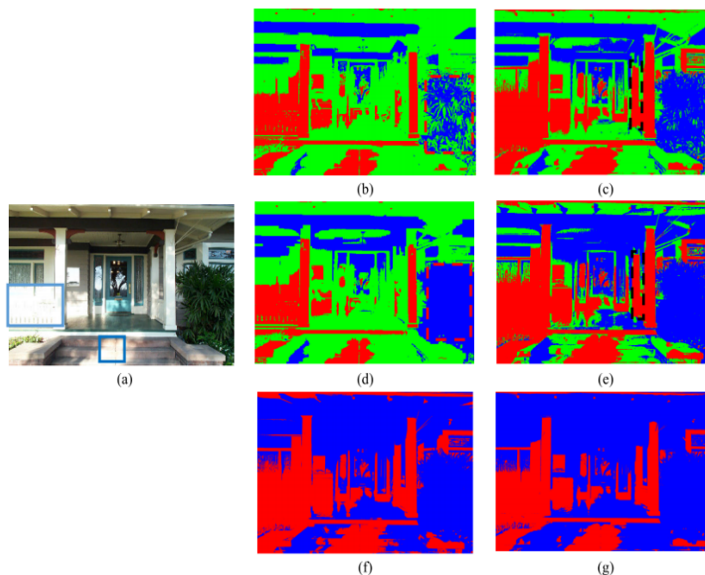


Figure 2: Resultant Images of Region Determination for House balcony image( (a) Original Image; (b) IECRDM (c) AFELCE (d) Backlit (e) Exposure 3R (f) Exposure 2R (g) FIM.

recognized by the shape and the change of luminance as under exposed region, while the other parts of the plants (i.e. with clearly seen details) are correctly detected as well exposed region. This region are correctly determined by IECRDM[1] method.

Fig.3 shows the region determination for woman image. The face shown by the red ovals in Fig. 3(a) was illuminated with the extreme light conditions that produced the over-exposed regions. IECRDM[1] and Backlit[7] produced good over-exposed determination and they detected almost similar over-exposed region. However, AFELCE[8] and Exposure 3R[5] over detected the over-exposed region in which both methods misclassified woman's shirt which is determined as well-exposed region since the pattern on the shirt can be clearly seen. This over detection problem also happened for the under-exposed region determination by all methods except the IECRDM method. The misclassified regions is highlighted by red dotted square in fig. 3(a) in which the dustbin in the original dark grey colour is wrongly recognized as under-exposed region. IECRDM[1] successfully recognized that region as well-exposed since that basket's details can be possibly observed (i.e it is partly covered by the plastic). Therefore, IECRDM[1] produced the most accurate exposure region determination without causing over detection problem.

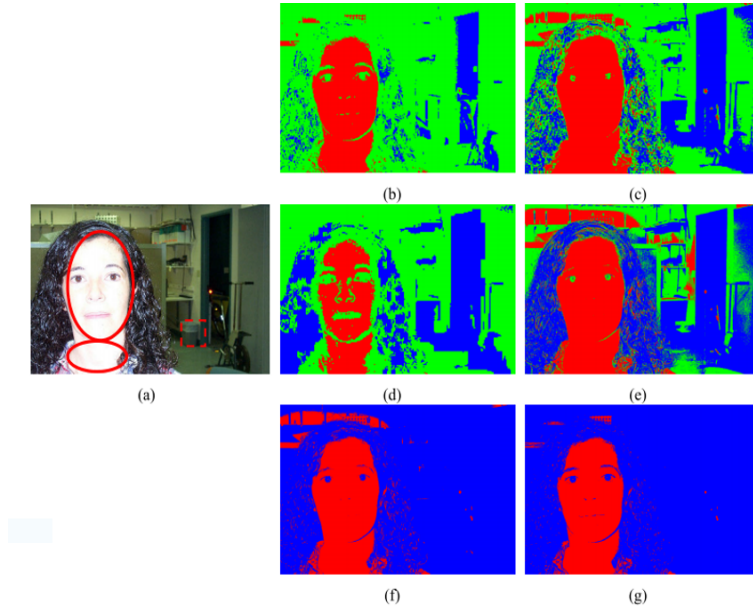


Figure 3: Resultant Images of Region Determination for woman image( (a) Original Image; (b) IECRDM (c) AFELCE (d) Backlit (e) Exposure 3R (f) Exposure 2R (g) FIM.

Visually, IECRDM[1] has successfully detected almost all regions with accurate detection and less percentage of misclassification problem. This analysis proves that the introduction of more image characteristics (i.e., entropy and contrast) has successfully reduced the wrong determination of different illumination regions faced by state-of-the-art methods.

After visual evaluation, next stage is subjective or quantitative evaluation. A survey is conducted and graded the resultant image based on quality scale in table 4.1.

<i>Grade Scale</i>	<i>Quality</i>
1	Bad
2	Poor
3	Fair
4	Good
5	Excellent

Table 4.1: Comparison scale for subjective quality evaluation

By using the table 4.1, all 30 images are subjectively evaluated. Result is tabulated in table 4.2.

Images	Quality Score					
	IECRDM	ALEBRD	Backlit	Exposure	Exposure	FIM
				3R	2R	
House Balcony	<b>4.10</b>	2.90	3.60	2.90	1.40	1.40
Yard	<b>4.00</b>	3.40	3.50	3.40	1.20	1.20
Mansion	<b>4.10</b>	2.70	3.60	2.70	1.10	1.10
Woman	<b>4.18</b>	3.55	3.91	2.36	1.18	1.09
Man	<b>4.10</b>	3.40	3.70	3.30	1.10	1.20
Image 1	<b>3.85</b>	2.92	3.62	1.92	1.15	1.08
Image 2	<b>3.64</b>	3.55	3.36	2.73	1.18	1.18
Image 3	3.30	<b>4.00</b>	3.00	3.20	1.20	1.00
Image 4	<b>4.10</b>	<b>4.10</b>	3.80	2.90	1.20	1.20
Image 5	<b>3.80</b>	3.60	<b>3.80</b>	3.50	1.20	1.20
Image 6	<b>3.90</b>	3.70	<b>3.90</b>	2.00	1.10	1.10
Image 7	<b>3.50</b>	3.30	<b>3.50</b>	3.00	1.20	1.00
Image 8	<b>3.80</b>	<b>3.80</b>	3.60	3.10	1.20	1.20
Image 9	3.40	3.20	3.40	<b>3.50</b>	1.10	1.00
Image 10	<b>4.10</b>	3.90	<b>4.10</b>	2.40	1.20	1.20
Image 11	<b>3.70</b>	3.40	3.50	2.50	1.10	1.10
Image 12	<b>3.80</b>	3.60	3.70	2.90	1.20	1.20
Image 13	3.60	<b>3.80</b>	3.40	3.10	1.10	1.00
Image 14	<b>3.90</b>	3.80	3.40	3.60	1.20	1.20
Image 15	<b>3.80</b>	<b>3.80</b>	3.50	3.30	1.20	1.20
Image 16	<b>3.70</b>	3.40	<b>3.70</b>	3.00	1.10	1.10
Image 17	3.60	<b>3.80</b>	3.60	3.20	1.10	1.10
Image 18	<b>3.70</b>	<b>3.70</b>	<b>3.70</b>	3.40	1.10	1.10
Image 19	<b>3.90</b>	3.70	3.60	3.00	1.10	1.10
Image 20	<b>3.90</b>	3.70	3.60	3.30	1.20	1.10
Image 21	3.90	3.40	<b>4.00</b>	2.90	1.40	1.40
Image 22	<b>3.90</b>	3.40	<b>3.90</b>	3.30	1.20	1.20
Image 23	<b>3.90</b>	3.40	3.60	3.10	1.10	1.10
Image 24	<b>3.80</b>	3.60	3.60	3.20	1.30	1.30
Image 25	3.80	<b>3.90</b>	3.50	3.00	1.10	1.10
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>3.83</b>	3.55	3.62	2.99	1.17	1.15

Table 4.2: Subjective evaluation result for region determination. Value in the bold indicate highest average score

Observation on the results for all 30 images show that IECRDM[1] outperforms other methods for 24 out of 30 images. Average score obtained for IECRDM[1] after evaluating all 30 images is 3.83 which is also higher than other five methods. Thus the findings obtained in both analyses clearly show that IECRDM[1] is more accurate than other methods.

## 4.2 Conclusions

This review has summarised several exposure region determination methods. Most of the determination methods divided the regions of nonuniform illumination images into bright and dark illuminated areas except three methods that divide the image into three regions which are ALEBRD, Exposure 3R and Backlit. However, these methods only focused on the intensity level to differentiate the area of illumination, therefore led to insufficient amount of pixel information that resulted in the inaccurately determined regions. By analysing these methods, IECRDM method is observed as an advanced one for the accurate detection of nonuniform illumination regions. It considers three image attributes: 1) intensity, 2) entropy and 3) contrast. Experimental findings prove that the introduction of three new image characteristics significantly affect the determination of exposure regions in a non-uniform illumination image.

## 4.3 Future Scope and Suggestions

In future, IECRDM can be improved by using more image preprocessing technique such as image enhancement to correct the classified exposure regions thereby converting non uniform illumination image into uniformly illuminated image. Different enhancement techniques with varying enhancement rates can be applied after the determination of various regions types.

By analysing the enhancement methods that are used in previous region determination techniques, most efficient among them is observed as Fuzzy intensity measure enhancement. Its working is illustrated in below fig 1. It perform fuzzification and enhancement of each of the 3 regions separately. So this technique can be used for correcting the classified regions.

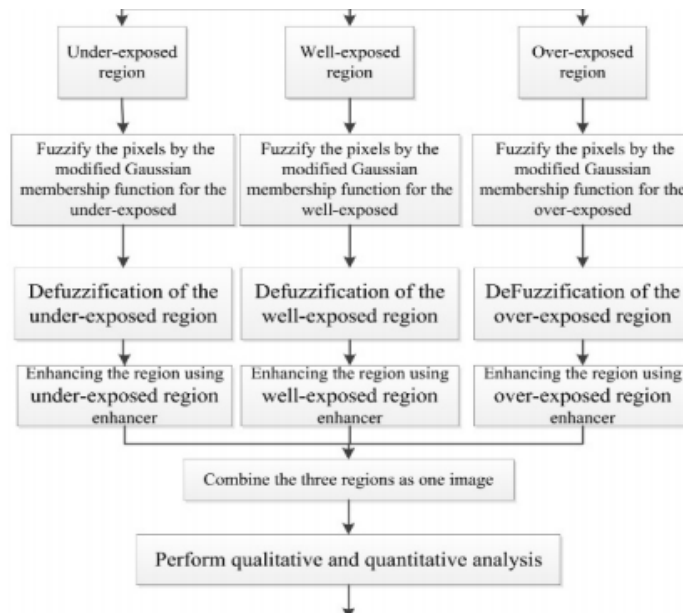


Figure 1: Fuzzy intensity measure enhancement

Result obtained from this IECRDM method can be provided as separate input to this fuzzy intensity measure enhancement technique. Then regions will be transferred from the spatial domain to the fuzzy domain by fuzzifying each regions. A modified fuzzy membership function is applied during this stage for fuzzification. Then defuzzification can be performed separately. After this step, each region is enhanced individually by applying three different nonlinear contrast enhancements. After completing fuzzification, defuzzification and enhancement on each of the 3 regions separately, all the result will combine together to produce the resultant uniform image.

Thus, IECRDM method along with Fuzzy intensity measure enhancement will produce better uniformly illuminated image than any other methods.

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