

where τ is the operation point where one sigmoid function fades into the other, and α_1 respectively α_2 defines the steepness of the functions. We derive the parameters from the genuine-impostor distributions. Therefore, we choose τ as the intersection point of genuine and impostor score distribution s.t. $P(\text{genuine}|\tau) = 0.5$, α_1 as left border of the overlap s.t. $P(\text{genuine}|\alpha_1) = 1 - \beta$, and α_2 as right border of the overlap s.t. $P(\text{genuine}|\alpha_2) = \beta$, with potential outliers excluded, controlled by parameter β . Evaluations show that setting $\beta = 0.05$ leads to best normalization results.

Hampel *et al.* [17] introduced the tanh-estimators, which did show good fusion results in biometric context. The normalization is given as

$$s_i^{\text{norm}_{\text{tanh}}} = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \tanh \left[0.01 \left(\frac{s_i - \mu_{s(\text{gen})}^{(\psi)}}{\sigma_{s(\text{gen})}^{(\psi)}} \right) \right] + 1 \right\}, \quad (14)$$

where μ and σ are the estimated mean and standard deviation of the genuine score distribution using a Hampel estimator ψ with weights

$$w_{Ha}(u_i) = \begin{cases} 1 & |u_i| \leq a \\ \frac{a}{|u_i|} & a < |u_i| \leq b \\ \frac{a}{|u_i|} \cdot \left(\frac{c - |u_i|}{c - b} \right) & b < |u_i| \leq c \\ 0 & |u_i| > c \end{cases}, \quad (15)$$

where $u_i = s_i - \text{median}(\mathbf{s}^{(\text{gen})})$. We parametrized the Hampel estimator as Jain *et al.* [18] with $a = \text{quantile}_{0.7}(|\mathbf{u}|)$, $b = \text{quantile}_{0.85}(|\mathbf{u}|)$, and $c = \text{quantile}_{0.95}(|\mathbf{u}|)$.

B. Feature Weighting

After all scores are normalized to the same value domain, they can be combined. In order to calculate the fused score as weighted sum, a weight w is computed for each feature by using a test set of normalized distance scores \mathbf{s}^{norm} (in case the normalization leads to similarity scores \mathbf{s}^{sim} , we transfer them to distance scores $\mathbf{s}^{\text{dist}} = 1 - \mathbf{s}^{\text{sim}}$). Thus, the fused scores are calculated by

$$s_i^{\text{fus}} = \sum_{m=1}^M w_m s_{i,m}^{\text{norm}}, \quad (16)$$

where i is the index of the image-pair's distance score s , m is the index of the feature, and M is the number of features to be fused.

A common way to calculate the weights is weighting all features equally. In this case, each weight is calculated by

$$w_m^{(\text{equ})} = \frac{1}{M}. \quad (17)$$

To achieve varying weights, a performance measure function derived from the genuine-impostor-plot is often used. Hereby, the weights are gathered by computing a performance measure on scores for image-pairs of a training set.

A common performance measures for computation of weights is the equal error rate (EER). EER is defined as point in the ROC curve where false acceptance rate (FAR) and false

rejection rate (FRR) are equal. The weight for feature m is calculated as

$$w_m^{(\text{EER})} = \frac{\frac{1}{\text{EER}_m}}{\sum_{k=1}^M \frac{1}{\text{EER}_k}}. \quad (18)$$

Instead of using only genuine and impostor scores, an additional ranking can be computed from the training set in person re-identification. Therefore, we evaluated weights as function of rank 1, or rank 10 statistics of the CMC curve, and as function of the area under this curve (nAUC). In this case the weight for feature m can be computed as

$$w_m^{(\text{Perf})} = \frac{\text{Perf}_m}{\sum_{k=1}^M \text{Perf}_k}, \quad (19)$$

where *Perf* stands for the performance measure and can either be replaced by rank 1, rank 10, or nAUC.

Another way of computing the weights is related to the genuine-impostor score distribution. Methods of this category try to measure how well genuine and impostor scores are separated, since a large overlap of genuine and impostor scores indicates a large amount of false decisions in the re-identification system (see Fig. 3).

A statistical approach to measure the separation is D-Prime [19]

$$d_m = \frac{\mu_m^{(\text{imp})} - \mu_m^{(\text{gen})}}{\sqrt{\left(\sigma_m^{(\text{imp})}\right)^2 + \left(\sigma_m^{(\text{gen})}\right)^2}}, \quad (20)$$

where $\mu_m^{(\text{imp})}$ and $\mu_m^{(\text{gen})}$ are the impostor's and genuine's mean and $\sigma_m^{(\text{imp})}$ and $\sigma_m^{(\text{gen})}$ are their standard deviations. The weights are therefore:

$$w_m^{(\text{DP})} = \frac{d_m}{\sum_{k=1}^K d_k}. \quad (21)$$

This measure assumes normal distributions for both genuine and impostor score distributions. We examined all matching score distributions for appearance-based features used in our experiments and found that the assumption holds for only few impostor distributions and none of the genuine distributions.

To avoid the assumption of normal distributions, Chia *et al.* [19] suggest to measure the width of the overlap region, named non-confidence width (NCW). An exemplary visualization of this measure can be seen in Fig. 3. As done for the other measures, the weights are a direct function of the NCW

$$w_m^{(\text{NCW})} = \frac{\frac{1}{\text{NCW}_m}}{\sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{\text{NCW}_k}}. \quad (22)$$

All methods above compute the weights directly from a quality measure for each feature separately. Therefore, these methods do not calculate the optimal weights to minimize the overall re-identification error. That is because these methods were suggested for biometric context, where joint scores for multiple features (e.g. finger prints and face templates) are often not available. Since in our scenario all features are related to the same images, we have additional information

about joint genuine-impostor distributions. To make use of this information, we recommend to formulate the computation of weights as a pairwise optimization problem: The weights w_1 and w_2 for two features define a vector on which the scores of two features are projected to get the fused score. W.l.o.g. these weights can be expressed as $k \cdot w_1 = \cos(\phi)$ and $k \cdot w_2 = \sin(\phi)$, with ϕ being the angle between the x-axis and the projection vector (see Fig. 5 for visualization). Then

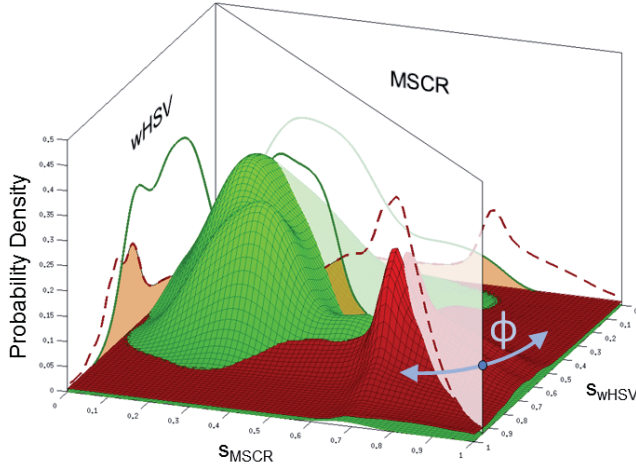


Fig. 5. Weighting formulated as optimization problem. The projection vector (displayed as semi-transparent plane) depends only on ϕ . Notice, that marginal probability densities are scaled at z-axis to visually highlight the relationship to the joint probability density distributions.

the fused genuine and impostor distributions are a function of the marginal distributions (normalized scores) and the angle of the projection vector ϕ . Therefore, finding good weights is the task to find ϕ , where an error measure is minimized. We evaluated the NCW and the overlap of genuine and impostor distribution. NCW leads to a bumpy error landscape. This is a bad condition for an optimization algorithm, since often only local minimums are found. The overlap however, produces a smooth error curve. Therefore we decided in favor of the overlap as error function. The optimization function is thus

$$\phi^{best} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\phi=0}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \operatorname{overlap}(\mathbf{s}_{fus}^{(gen)}, \mathbf{s}_{fus}^{(imp)}), \quad (23)$$

with

$$\mathbf{s}_{fus}^{(gen)} = \cos(\phi)\mathbf{s}_{m_1}^{(gen)} + \sin(\phi)\mathbf{s}_{m_2}^{(gen)}, \quad (24)$$

and

$$\mathbf{s}_{fus}^{(imp)} = \cos(\phi)\mathbf{s}_{m_1}^{(imp)} + \sin(\phi)\mathbf{s}_{m_2}^{(imp)}. \quad (25)$$

Since we estimate the genuine and impostor distributions by KDE, the overlap calculates as

$$\operatorname{overlap}(\mathbf{s}^{(gen)}, \mathbf{s}^{(imp)}) = \int_{-\infty}^{t(\phi)} KDE(\mathbf{s}^{(imp,w)}) + \int_{t(\phi)}^{\infty} KDE(\mathbf{s}^{(gen,w)}), \quad (26)$$

with $t(\phi)$ being the interception point of genuine and impostor distribution in the projection and the integral over the KDE

defined as

$$\int_a^b KDE(\mathbf{s}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left[\frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{a - s_i}{\sqrt{2}h} \right) \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{b - s_i}{\sqrt{2}h} \right) \right) \right], \quad (27)$$

where the kernel bandwidth h is calculated by the formula of Silverman [14] (Eq. 5). Because the error curve of the optimization problem appears to be very smooth with a single optimum for every feature combination, we have chosen the fast logarithmic search algorithm for finding the global minimum, while other heuristic optimization algorithms could have been used, too. Due to the commutative property of the summands in the calculation of the fused score (Eq. 16), pairwise weight computation is no restraint. In the experiments we will refer to this weighting method as PROPER (pairwise optimization of projected genuine-impostor overlap).

C. Combination with Feature-Level Fusion

Since score-level fusion only needs a relatively small amount of training data, it is a powerful tool to fuse large ensembles of features (experiments in Sec. III confirm this thesis). However, for small feature ensembles score-level fusion performs only moderately. In contrast, feature-level fusion, which concatenates feature vectors and applies distance metric learning, performs well on small and medium-size feature vectors². In this subsection, we briefly discuss how to combine these two approaches to improve fusion performance.

To apply metric learning in combination with score-level fusion, first the high-dimensional feature vector must be divided into smaller parts (A). Then for each part a distance metric is learned (B). Finally, the matching scores for each feature vector part are combined by score-level fusion (C).

(A) To divide the feature vector, which is a combination of different features, into several medium-size parts, we use the underlying structure of the feature set³ (see Sect. III-B for used features), i.e. we group feature vectors of the same feature type extracted from different body parts. We do not group different feature types. (B) For each group, we concatenate the feature vectors and learn an adequate distance measure for comparison of concatenated feature vectors. Therefore, we apply the best performing methods evaluated in [7]. (C) To combine the matching scores of all groups, we apply the methods of Sect. II-A and II-B.

Since all of the three processing steps are supervised, information is only lost in a controlled way, which leads to a notable increase in fusion performance. This can be seen in the next section.

²Metric learning can also be applied to large feature vectors. But often therefore a dimensionality reduction is needed as preprocessing step. Usually this is done by PCA, which is unsupervised, and thus potentially important information may get lost.

³We found, that partitioning has a large influence on the fusion performance, but we do not further examine this aspect in this paper. However, automatic partitioning will be the focus of our future work.

III. EXPERIMENTS

To evaluate the performance of the methods presented in the previous section, we first examine the performance of all sub-components and then compare the proposed score-level fusion method to state-of-the-art feature-level fusion and to a combination of both fusion schemes.

A. Dataset

We evaluate our methods on the widely used and very challenging VIPeR dataset [12]. It consists of 632 persons, with two images each, taken from disjoint camera views, showing them under very different angles and lighting conditions (see Fig. 6). The images are all normalized to a size of 128×48 pixels. To obtain comparable results we follow the 10-fold cross-validation protocol of [8]. For each of the ten folds, 316 of the 632 available persons are chosen for testing. The images of the 316 remaining persons are used for training. Images of persons in test set from camera A represent the gallery, while camera B provides the corresponding probe images.



Fig. 6. Sample image pairs of VIPeR dataset [12]. Top: Gallery images (cam A). Bottom: Corresponding probe images of the same subjects (cam B).

B. Feature Set

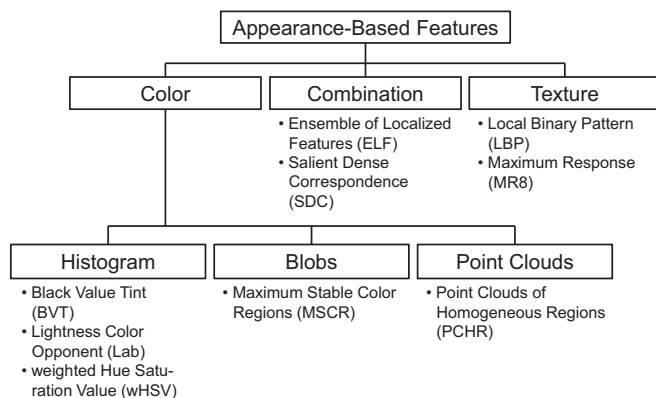


Fig. 7. Categorization of appearance-based features for person re-identification included in experiments.

In our experiments, we use nine different features, which represent the human appearance, namely by color and texture in different, complementary ways. We aim to use widely known and evaluated descriptors [3], [20], [8], [21], [22], which are known to be suitable for person re-identification. For the feature extraction processes the authors' implementations were used. Those were either publicly available or made available by the authors on request.

The used features can be categorized as shown in Fig. 7. The first category are features that rely completely on color histograms. Similar to Figueira *et al.* [3], we extracted a color histogram of the image in the Lab color space with ten non-uniform bins⁴ per channel. Following the procedure of [3] a *Black Value Tint histogram* (BVT) [20] was extracted for each image. BVT histograms are formed in the HSV color space and handle dark and unsaturated pixels in a separate gray value histogram. This minimizes their influence on the color histogram. Other than the plain HSV histogram in [3], we decided to use the widely-used weighted color histogram in HSV color space as introduced by Farenzena *et al.* [8]. For these histograms, the weight of a single pixel is defined by a Gaussian kernel centered at symmetry lines found in the upper and lower body. We refer to them as *weighted HSV histograms* (wHSV).

Additionally, we extracted *Maximally Stable Color Regions* (MSCR) [20], [8] and *Point Clouds of Homogeneous Regions* (PCHR) [24] that were developed for fast object tracking. In contrast to the methods above, MSCR does not form a fixed length feature vector and PCHR templates can not be directly compared due to the position variability in the point clouds. This means, both features do not suit for *feature-level fusion* and can only be fused with other features at *score-level*.

Another category of features we use is based on texture (see Fig. 7). Therefore, *Local Binary Pattern* (LBP) [25] and *Maximum Response filter* (MR8) [26] are utilized. Uniform LBP encode texture as a histogram of binary patterns. These binary patterns encode darker and lighter pixel around a center point, which is shifted to every possible position in the source image. The representation formed by MR8 is generated by a filter bank consisting of two anisotropic filters (edge and bar filters), each of them at six orientations and three scales, as well as two rotation invariant filters (Gaussian and Laplacian of Gaussian). Only eight filter responses are used by taking the maximal response of the anisotropic filters across all orientations at each scale. Similar to Figueira *et al.* [3], we applied a histogram computation with non-uniform binning to reduce the dimension of this representation even more.

We also extracted more complex features which combine color and texture descriptors such as *Ensemble of Localized Features* (ELF) [21], [22] and *Salient Dense Correspondence* (SDC) [28]. ELF is a combination of eight color histograms (RGB, HS, YCbCr) with 16 bins per channel and the filter responses of 21 texture filters (13 Gabor filters [29] and eight Schmid filters [30]). All the histograms are concatenated into a 464 dimensional feature vector. For each single histogram, we apply non-uniform binning using the same procedure as for the Lab histograms. SDC extracts SIFT features, encoding texture, and color histograms (32 uniform bins per channel) in Lab color space, densely sampled using overlapping patches.

⁴The limits specifying the bin ranges were chosen, such that the average histogram would resemble a uniform distribution. This was done using the INRIA dataset [23], normally used as benchmark and training dataset for person detection algorithms.

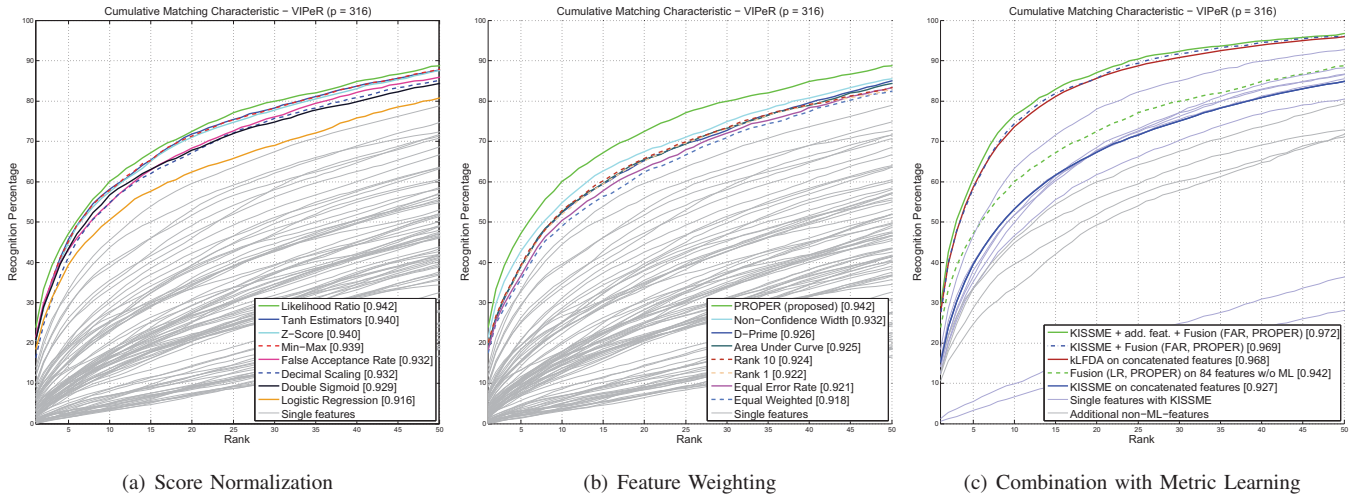


Fig. 8. Re-identification performance on VIPeR dataset. Images in the probe set are compared with gallery images and a ranking is computed based on the similarity of the pictured subjects. The Cumulative Matching Characteristic (CMC) curve shows how often the correct match appears within the the first n ranks ($n = 1 \dots 316$). Normalized area under CMC curve (nAUC) is given in squared brackets. (a) Score-level fusion with presented score normalization approaches (weighting is done by best performing method PROPER). Single feature performances is shown as gray lines. (b) Score-level fusion with presented feature weighting methods (score normalization is done by best performing Likelihood Ratio). (c) Combination of score-level fusion and linear metric learning (KISSME [27]) outperforms currently best state-of-the-art non-linear metric learning approach (kLFDA [7]).

Using the masks of a part detector [20], we extracted BVT, LBP, MR8, Lab and wHSV histograms as well as ELF features for each body part. ELF features are additionally extracted on six stripes as introduced by Prosser *et al.* [22]. We denote them as *SELF*. In addition to the part-based wHSV, we also used the wHSV histograms as used by Farenzena *et al.* [8]. The masks of the part detector were also used for MSCR as designed by Cheng *et al.* [20]. In contrast, the PCHR features were extracted using an average person mask as in [24]. Summarized, our feature set is composed of 84 feature vectors, with an accumulated dimensionality of 242,109 on average (MSCR varies, $\sigma = 16$).

C. Score Normalization

To evaluate the best configuration for score-level fusion, we benchmarked all 64 combinations of *score normalization* and *feature weighting* methods. The best recognition performance was observed for *likelihood ratio* (LR) score normalization with the proposed *PROPER* feature weighting. Fig. 8(a) shows the Cumulative Matching Characteristic (CMC) curves for the score normalization methods in combination with the best performing feature weighting method PROPER. It can be seen, that all score normalization methods are capable to improve the recognition percentage in comparison to the performance of every single feature (gray lines). As known from biometrics (e.g. [11]), LR normalization performed slightly better than the other score normalization methods.

D. Feature Weighting

Fig. 8(b) shows the CMC curves for feature weighting methods in combination with the best performing LR score normalization. The figure shows, that the proposed *PROPER* feature weighting (normalized area under CMC curve $nAUC = 0.942$) clearly outperforms all state-of-the-art weighting methods by a significant margin. The second best

performance for feature weighting w/o *PROPER* was observed with the non confidence width (NCW) criterion in combination with LR normalization ($nAUC = 93.2$). The expected rank (*ER*) for *PROPER* is 19.23, which means, that the correct match can be found on rank 19 on average (out of 316; $\sigma_{Rank} = 29.65$). This is more than three ranks better than NCW ($ER = 22.41$; $\sigma_{Rank} = 31.85$). It becomes apparent, that using additional information with *PROPER* increases the re-identification rate considerably.

E. Score-Level vs. Feature-Level Fusion

Obviously, score-level fusion is a powerful tool to combine multiple features. However, state-of-the-art approaches usually fuse at feature-level by concatenating all feature vectors and applying distance metric learning. Therefore, the performance of these two fusion techniques, as well as a combination, is evaluated in the following.

In Fig. 8(c) the performance of the score-level fusion with LR and *PROPER* is shown as dashed green line. The state-of-the-art linear metric learning method KISSME [27] (solid blue line) performs worse on the concatenated features due to a unsupervised PCA preprocessing step. However, on a subset of features (solid light blue lines), KISSME is able to perform better than score-level fusion (less information get lost by PCA). This shows, that the performance of metric learning methods drops for high dimensional feature vectors. Therefore, we decided to run KISSME on multiple subsets of features and fuse them at score-level. The performance of the combined feature- and score-level fusion is visualized as dash-dotted blue line. This combination even outperforms the best non-linear metric learning method, the Kernel Local Fisher Discriminant Analysis [7] (kLFDA), on the concatenated feature vector (red line) and on any subset of features (not shown for clarity reasons), while being much faster in the execution phase, since no kernel computation is necessary. Including additional

features to the score-level fusion, that are not suited for feature-level fusion (see Sect. III-B), improves the recognition rate further (solid green line; $nAUC = 0.972$). The influence of each feature on the overall performance is shown in Fig. 9. Using kLFDA (instead of KISSME) for metric learning on feature subsets and apply score-level fusion resulted in a only slightly better performance ($nAUC = 0.973$), but is not worth the complex calculation when real-time constraints have to be respected. Therefore, when a large ensemble of features for person re-identification has to be fused, we recommend to use KISSME in combination with the proposed score-level fusion.

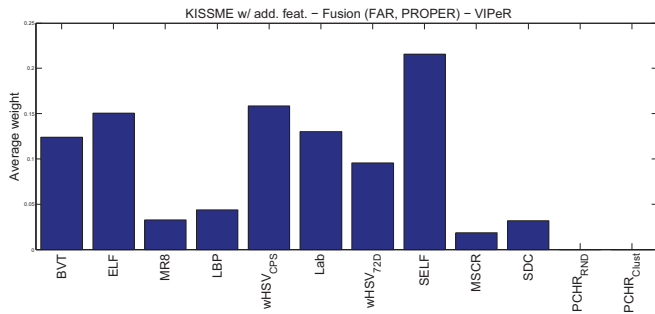


Fig. 9. Learned weights to fuse features at score-level, when metric learning is applied per feature, show the influence of each feature for the overall performance (see Fig. 8(c) for CMC curve).

IV. CONCLUSION

We evaluated score-level fusion techniques for appearance-based person re-identification features. As known from biometrics, score normalizing with the likelihood ratio method performed best. For weighting the features, we proposed the pairwise optimization scheme PROPER, which outperforms state-of-the approaches. When fusing a large ensemble of features, score-level fusion with likelihood ratio score normalization and pairwise weight optimization outperforms linear metric learning approaches, that fuse at feature-level. However, a combination of linear metric learning and score-level fusion reaches even better results and slightly outperforms the currently best non-linear kernel-based metric learning approach. Furthermore, our approach is significantly faster in the execution phase. Score-level fusion is thus a powerful tool to fuse large feature sets, especially in combination with linear metric learning.

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