

Experimental investigation of method used to remove salt and pepper noise from digital color image

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Abstract

Digital color images usually corrupted with salt and pepper noise during image transmission or storing, thus it is very useful to seek an efficient method to remove this noise.

In this paper we will discuss most non-linear filters used to remove salt and pepper noise, a new method will be proposed. The introduced and the proposed filter will be tested, implemented. Comparisons between quality parameters will be done, efficiency analysis will be performed, and depending on the comparison results some judgment will be done.

Keywords: SAPN, PSNR, noise removal time, noise density, OCF, BPDF, AF, MF

1. Introduction

Digital color image [1] is usually presented by a 3D matrix, the first dimension is reserved for red color, the second for the green, and the third one is reserved for the green color, each color intensity value ranges from 0 to 255 as shown in figure [1, 2, 3, 4].

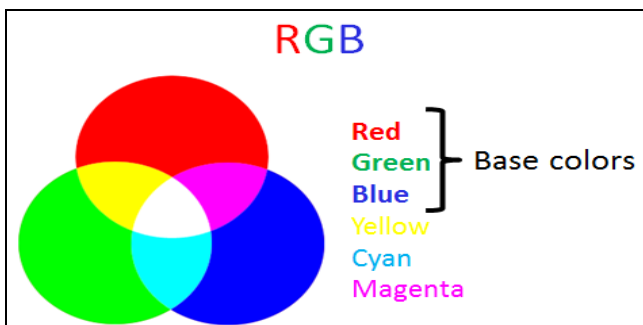


Fig 1: Color image components

The quality of digital color image deteriorates from a moment it was captured to a moment it was seen by the human eyes [5]. Digital image is subject to many kinds of distortion during any phase starting from its capturing and ending with storing phase after applying a set of preprocessing and processing operations. Impulse noise is a special type of image noises which can affect color image by various origins during image transmission, storing, Salt and pepper noise (SAPN) is one type of impulse noise which can corrupt the image, when SAPN affects the image the noisy pixels take only the maximum value 255 (salt noise) and the minimum value 0 (pepper noise).

linear filtering methods and techniques are not effective in removing SAPN, so non-linear filtering methods are widely used in the process of removing SAPN, these methods give a good quality de-noised image by increasing peak signal to noise ratio (PSNR), decreasing mean square error (MSE) and increasing the correlation between the clean original image and the de-noised image [6, 7].

1.1 Median filter

The standard median filter (SMF) is one of the most popular non-linear filters used to remove SAPN due to its good de-noising power and computational efficiency [8, 9], the corrupted pixels are to be replaced by the median values as shown in figures 2 and 3.

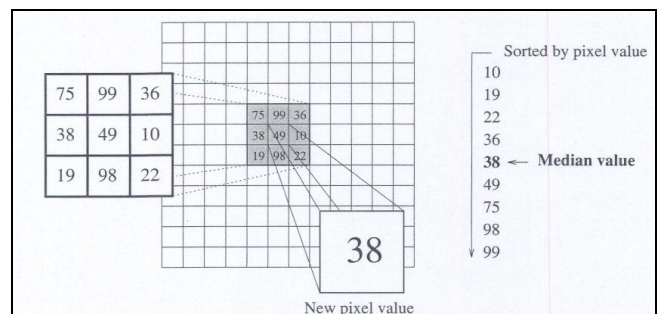


Fig 2: Operation of SMF

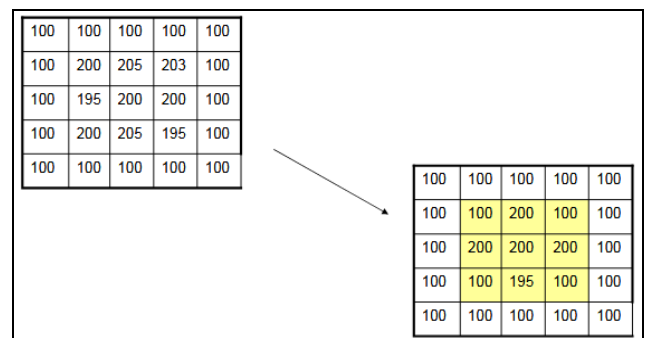


Fig 3: Example of using SMF

1.2 Average filter

Average filter (AF) is also a non-linear filter and it can be used to reduce the effects of SAPN, it uses a mask with variable dimension, this mask is to be convoluted with the noisy image to reduce SAPN in the corrupted image [6, 7] as shown in figures 4 and 5.

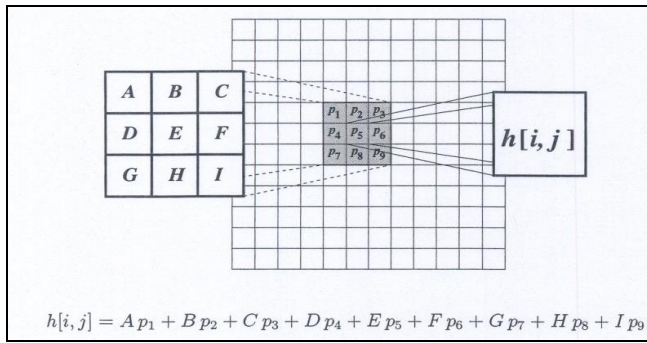


Fig 4: AF operation

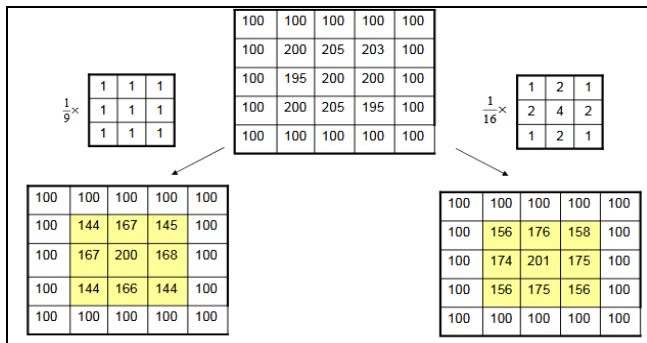


Fig 5: Example of AF

1.3 BPDF

In [10] a new method based on pixel density in salt and pepper noise removal was proposed and it was called BPDF (based on pixel density filter), this filter works in 2 stages, the first stage is to detect whether a window contains corrupted pixel, if yes replace the corrupted pixel by the average of mostly repeated values in the window, if the all the values in the window are corrupted expand the window as shown in figure 6:

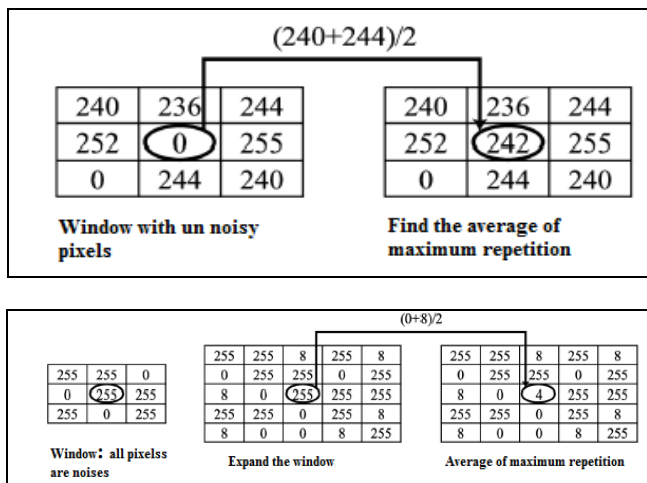


Fig 6: BPDF operation

1.4 OCF

Here we will introduce a method of SAPN removal, this method uses basic morphological operations to remove the components of SAPN (salt noise and pepper noise) [11], we will refer to this method as OCF (opening-closing filtering). OCF can be implemented in 2 phases: the first phase is to apply opening with a 2 by 2 structuring element, opening and closing are very efficient operations to manipulate matrix processing [12, 13, 14].

Morphological opening is erosion followed by dilation using the same structuring element [11], erosion of an image removes all structures that the structuring element cannot fit inside, and shrinks all other structures, If we dilate the result of the erosion with the same structuring element, the structures that survived the erosion (were shrunk, not deleted) will be restored, applying this operation we can remove the white salt noise.

The second phase is to apply closing using the same structuring element.

Closing is image dilation followed by image erosion using the same structuring element, dilation of an object grows the object and can fill gaps, if we erode the result after dilation with the rotated structure element the objects will keep their structure and form, but small holes filled by dilation will not appear, thus closing can be used to remove the dark points (pepper noise).

2. Filters implementation

A matlab codes were written to implement various filter, a color image was selected and affected with SAPN with deferent noise dencities(number of noisy pixels which are a percent from the total number of pixels in color image).

2.1 MF implementation

Here we can take one of the following 2 methods

1. Method 1: De-noising each color alone
 - This method can be implemented applying the following steps:
 - Removing SAPN from color image can be done applying the following steps:
 - A. Get the noisy color image
 - B. Extract the red, green, blue color matrices.
 - C. Select the kernel size.
 - D. Apply median filtering for each color matrix
 - E. Compose the denoised color image from the de-noised color matrices.

2. Reshaping the color image

This method can be implemented applying the following steps:

- A. Get the noisy color image
- B. Reshape the image to 2D matrix.
- C. Select the kernel size.
- D. Apply median filtering to denoise 2D matrix
- E. Reshape denoised 2D matrix back to 3D matrix to get the denoisy color image.

Figure 7 shows the images treated by this filter using the first method

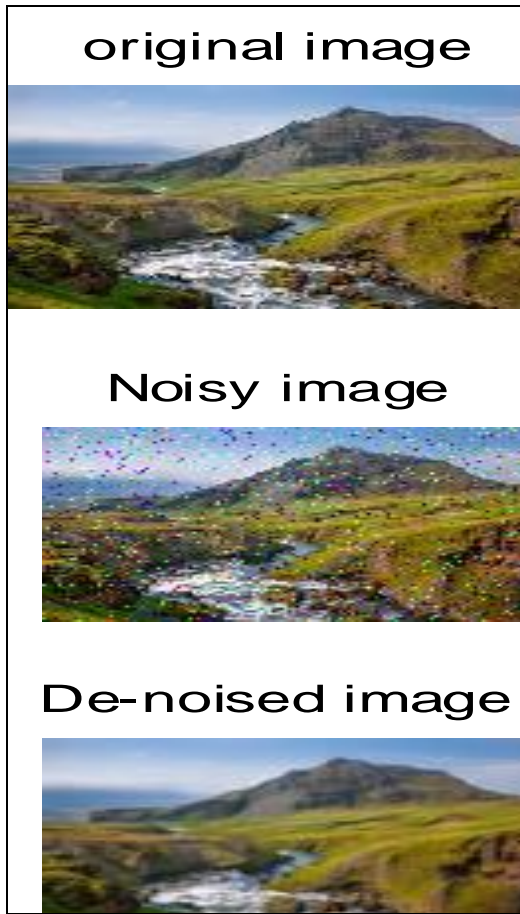


Fig 7: MF implementation

2.2 AF implementation

Here we can take one of the following 2 methods:

1. Method 1: De-noising each color alone

This method can be implemented applying the following steps:

Removing SAPN from color image can be done applying the following steps:

- A. Get the noisy color image
- B. Extract the red, green, blue color matrices.
- C. Select the mask.
- D. Apply convolution of each 2D matrix with the mask to get denoisy colors.
- E. Compose the denoised color image from the de-noised color matrices.

2. Reshaping the color image

This method can be implemented applying the following steps:

- A. Get the noisy color image
- B. Reshape the image to 2D matrix.
- C. Select the mask.
- D. Apply convolution of the 2D matrix with the mask.
- E. Reshape denoised 2D matrix back to 3D matrix to get the denoisy color image.

Figure 8 shows the images treated by this filter using the first method:

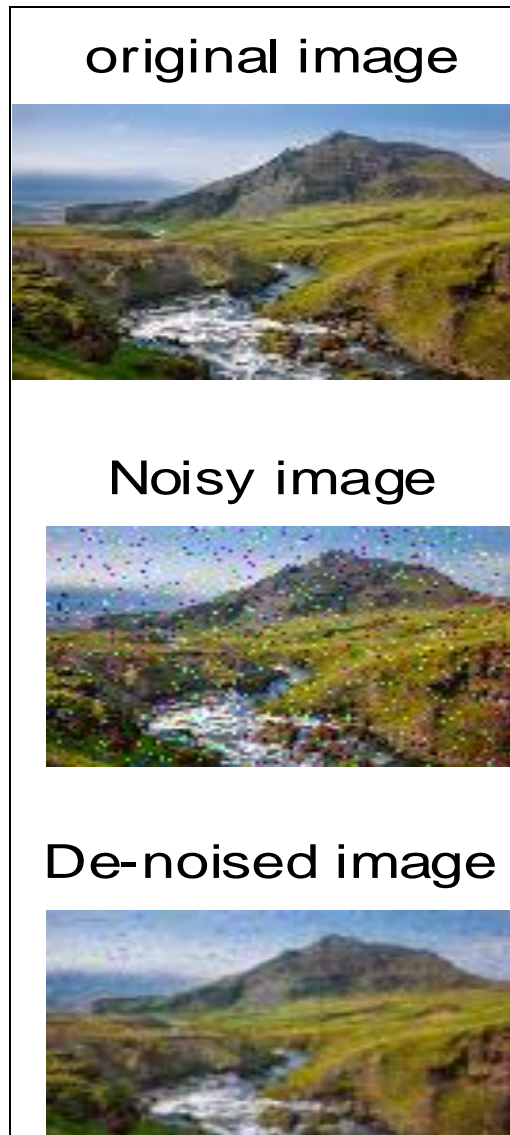


Fig 8: AF implementation

2.3 BPDF implementation

This filter can be implemented using one of the following 2 methods:

1. Method 1: De-noising each color alone

Removing SAPN from color image can be done applying the following steps:

- A. Get the noisy color image
- B. Extract the red, green, blue color matrices.
- C. Apply BPDF for each color.
- D. Compose the denoised color image from the de-noised color matrices.

2. Reshaping the color image

This method can be implemented applying the following steps:

- A. Get the noisy color image
- B. Reshape the image to 2D matrix.

- C. Apply BPDF to denoise 2D matrix.
- D. Reshape denoised 2D matrix back to 3D matrix to get the denoisy color image.

Figure 9 shows the images treated by this filter using the first method:

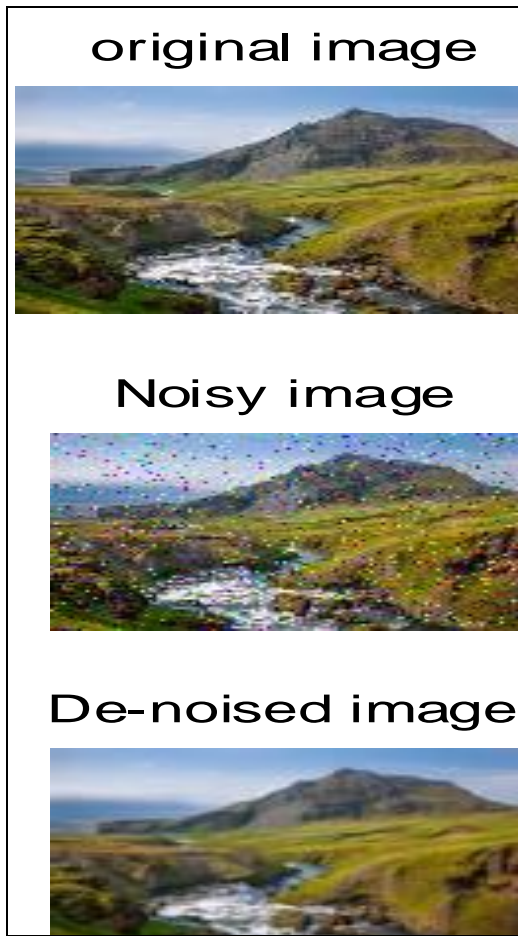


Fig 9: BPDF implementation

2.4 OCF implementation

This filter can be implemented using one of the following 2 methods:

1. Method 1: De-noising each color alone

Removing SAPN from color image can be done applying the following steps:

- A. Get the noisy color image
- B. Extract the red, green, blue color matrices.
- C. Apply opening for each color.
- D. Apply closing using the opened colors.
- E. Compose the denoised color image from the de-noised color matrices.

2. Reshaping the color image

This method can be implemented applying the following steps:

- A. Get the noisy color image
- B. Reshape the image to 2D matrix.
- C. Apply opening for the 2D matrix
- D. Apply closing for the opened 2D matrix
- E. Reshape denoised 2D matrix back to 3D matrix to get the denoisy color image.

Figure 10 shows the images treated by this filter using the first method:



Fig 10: OCF implementation

3. Experimental results and analysis

First method: Denoising each color allone:

The above mentioned filters were implemented by adding SAPN with various densities, tables 1 and 2 show the obtained experimental results:

Table 1: Values for PSNR parameter (first method) Image size=384x512x3=589824

Noise density	AF	MF	BPDF	OCF
0.001	58.6018	61.6333	74.0421	91.9431
0.002	58.5292	61.6307	74.0339	91.7569
0.003	58.4039	61.6175	74.0202	91.6271
0.004	58.3270	61.5890	73.0310	91.3984
0.005	58.1472	61.5559	72.6345	91.2962
0.006	58.0345	61.5758	72.4849	90.8844
0.007	57.8824	61.5521	73.9833	91.1777
0.008	57.8087	61.5646	73.9782	90.6830

0.009	57.5609	61.5106	73.8207	90.5756
0.010	57.4431	61.5482	73.9337	90.7011
0.020	56.3592	61.2893	73.6853	89.2666
0.030	55.3359	61.2347	72.4880	88.2776
0.040	54.3787	61.0949	68.9882	85.8871
0.050	53.5877	60.6409	70.5196	84.3368
0.060	52.4453	60.5724	68.6432	82.6360
0.070	51.8717	60.4196	72.5309	81.3981
0.080	51.2269	60.1810	71.7608	79.2449
0.090	50.4852	59.8560	70.6024	77.4999
0.100	49.7219	59.6959	71.5652	75.1109
0.200	44.2029	55.4644	64.5097	56.9465
0.300	40.2051	48.3373	61.6224	44.2359
0.400	36.8650	40.6250	57.6338	36.2262
0.500	33.9975	33.1542	52.2820	30.3173

Table 2: Filtering time(seconds) (First method) Image size=384x512x3=589824

Noise density	AF	MF	BPDF	OCF
0.001	0.053000	0.061000	4.095000	0.248000
0.002	0.049000	0.059000	4.188000	0.246000
0.003	0.048000	0.059000	4.176000	0.249000
0.004	0.050000	0.059000	4.306000	0.249000
0.005	0.049000	0.059000	4.359000	0.247000
0.006	0.048000	0.059000	4.415000	0.248000
0.007	0.050000	0.060000	4.384000	0.246000
0.008	0.049000	0.062000	4.422000	0.247000
0.009	0.047000	0.065000	4.465000	0.248000
0.010	0.050000	0.060000	4.499000	0.248000
0.020	0.050000	0.077000	5.053000	0.248000
0.030	0.049000	0.060000	5.391000	0.250000
0.040	0.050000	0.061000	5.895000	0.253000
0.050	0.049000	0.062000	6.192000	0.247000
0.060	0.049000	0.061000	6.961000	0.250000
0.070	0.048000	0.060000	7.139000	0.251000
0.080	0.048000	0.062000	7.550000	0.249000
0.090	0.048000	0.061000	7.973000	0.253000
0.100	0.050000	0.061000	8.389000	0.249000
0.200	0.049000	0.062000	12.628000	0.254000
0.300	0.048000	0.062000	17.250000	0.250000
0.400	0.049000	0.063000	21.462000	0.250000
0.500	0.049000	0.061000	25.200000	0.248000

Method 2: Reshaping color image

The previous experiment was repeated but by reshaping

color image to 2D image, the results of this experiment are

shown in tables 3 and 4:

Table 3: Values for PSNR parameter (second method) Image size=384x512x3=589824

Noise density	AF	MF	BPDF	OCF
0.001	54.8214	56.6690	67.6192	80.0875
0.002	54.7358	56.6667	67.6055	80.0155
0.003	54.6219	56.6590	67.5760	79.8776
0.004	54.5265	56.6481	67.2977	79.7696
0.005	54.4676	56.6203	67.5609	79.7467
0.006	54.4007	56.6004	67.0213	79.6125
0.007	54.3274	56.6115	67.1885	79.5190
0.008	54.2306	56.5786	66.8064	79.3751
0.009	54.0808	56.5874	67.5169	79.4607
0.010	54.0434	56.5406	66.1320	79.1207
0.020	53.3057	56.4026	66.3225	78.4033
0.030	52.4476	56.3222	66.2751	77.6208
0.040	51.7955	56.1593	65.6185	76.8911
0.050	51.0102	56.0622	66.7252	75.3074
0.060	50.3592	55.8269	64.5458	74.3654
0.070	49.6827	55.7103	63.4050	73.5449
0.080	49.1440	55.4403	66.2363	72.0442
0.090	48.5079	55.3767	64.5063	70.3406
0.100	47.9813	55.1636	63.9137	68.9963

0.200	43.0134	51.9621	62.9745	55.0577
0.300	39.4225	46.7931	57.2912	43.7699
0.400	36.2224	39.3948	57.2190	35.9921
0.500	33.5749	32.7157	53.5684	30.0531

Table 2: Filtering time (seconds) (second method) Image size= 384x 512x3=589824

Noise density	AF	MF	BPDF	OCF
0.001	0.047000	0.075000	4.083000	0.242000
0.002	0.044000	0.053000	4.191000	0.228000
0.003	0.044000	0.054000	4.231000	0.230000
0.004	0.043000	0.056000	4.315000	0.229000
0.005	0.044000	0.056000	4.326000	0.228000
0.006	0.042000	0.053000	4.300000	0.233000
0.007	0.042000	0.055000	4.485000	0.228000
0.008	0.044000	0.055000	4.569000	0.230000
0.009	0.043000	0.055000	4.534000	0.230000
0.010	0.042000	0.056000	4.583000	0.230000
0.020	0.043000	0.056000	4.994000	0.229000
0.030	0.045000	0.054000	5.457000	0.233000
0.040	0.046000	0.056000	5.813000	0.232000
0.050	0.044000	0.056000	6.257000	0.233000
0.060	0.043000	0.058000	6.693000	0.230000
0.070	0.043000	0.056000	7.103000	0.236000
0.080	0.044000	0.055000	7.599000	0.233000
0.090	0.042000	0.056000	8.001000	0.236000
0.100	0.044000	0.055000	8.369000	0.233000
0.200	0.044000	0.057000	12.610000	0.231000
0.300	0.044000	0.056000	16.896000	0.231000
0.400	0.042000	0.056000	21.245000	0.232000
0.500	0.069000	0.055000	25.130000	0.231000

From the obtained experimental results shown in the previous tables we can raise the following facts

- It is better to denoise each color alone, because the obtained results for method 1 (tables 1 and 2) are better than those obtained for method 2 (tables 3 and 4).
- It is better to use OCF for SAPN removing for noise densities greater than 0.1, here we can achieve a higher value for PSNR in a small denoising time (see figure 11).
- SAPN is a sudden change in an image due to some reasons, so the changes are small, thus the noise density usually low, and here OCF will be the best choice to remove SAPN and it will give an denoisy image with good quality.
- OCF requires a small amount of processing time comparing with BPDF.
- BPDF give better results when dealing with high noise density (greater than 0.12).
- For high noise density it is better to use BPDF, but noise removal requires much time, this time will rapidly increase when the noise density increases (see figure 12).
- MF and AF give bad results comparing with OCF and BPDF for both low and high noise densities.

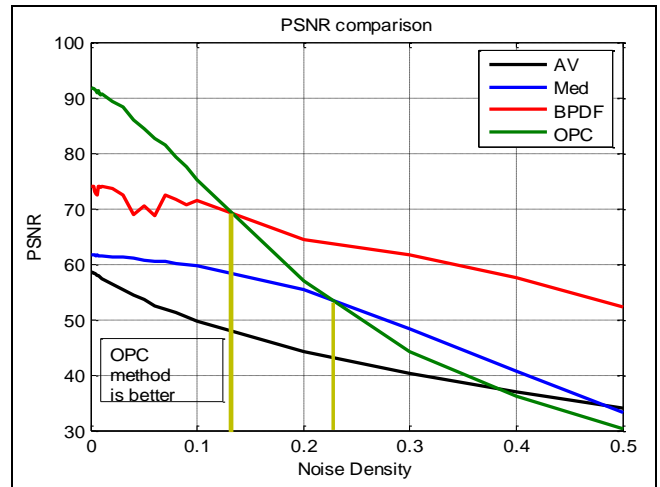


Fig 11: PSNR comparisons

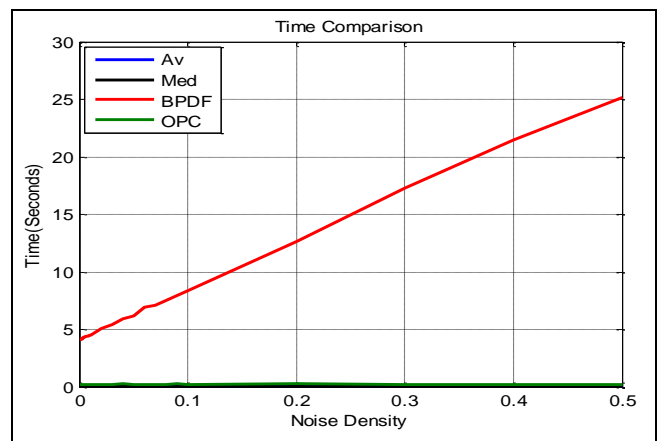


Fig 12: Noise removal time comparisons

Conclusion

Different methods for salt and pepper noise removal were proposed, tested and implemented. The proposed OCF gives a better performance and a high quality de-noised image when the noise has a low density (less than 12%), for higher densities it is better to use BPDF but this filter requires a big amount of time to remove salt and pepper noise. Average and median filters give bad parameters for low and high density noises.

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