

Visual Tracking by Fusing Multiple Cues with Context-Sensitive Reliabilities

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Abstract

Many researchers argue that fusing multiple cues increases the reliability and robustness of visual tracking. However, how the multi-cue integration is realized during tracking is still an open issue. In this work, we present a novel data fusion approach for multi-cue tracking using particle filter. Our method differs from previous approaches in a number of ways. First, we carry out the integration of cues both in making predictions about the target object and in verifying them through observations. Our second and more significant contribution is that both stages of integration directly depend on the dynamically-changing reliabilities of visual cues. These two aspects of our method allow the tracker to easily adapt itself to the changes in the context, and accordingly improve the tracking accuracy by resolving the ambiguities.

Keywords: Visual tracking, data fusion, multiple cues, particle filter

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1. Introduction

Visual tracking is a widely studied topic in computer vision for a wide range of application areas. These include visual surveillance, activity analysis, man-machine interaction, augmented reality, etc. Here we consider the task of locating an object of interest on each frame of a given video sequence. This object of interest can be an actual object in the scene, e.g. a person, or a specific image region of prime importance, e.g. a face. For real-world applications, it is generally accepted that tracking based on a single visual feature would be likely to fail due to the complex nature of the data and the tracking process. Thus, it has been argued in many works that considering multi-modal data leads to an improvement in tracking. It increases the robustness by letting complementary observations from different sources work together. These sources are either the visual features extracted from the same image sequence, such as color and motion cues, or the visual cues coming from different physical sensors, such as from a CCD or from an infrared camera. However, how the information extracted from these sources is combined in tracking is still an open problem.

1.1. Related Work

Tracking methods generally involve two key processes: generating hypotheses through a prediction step and then verifying these hypotheses through some measurements. Considering the vast number of studies in tracking literature, the most general way of performing data fusion is in the measurement step. For example, in an early work [4], Birchfield suggested to combine two

24 orthogonal visual cues (*color* and *intensity gradients*) within a hypothesize-
25 and-test procedure. In these studies, each cue provides a likelihood or a
26 matching score for the possible positions of the object, and the final output
27 is determined by taking into account the product of individual likelihoods
28 or the summation of the matching scores. The main problem with this ap-
29 proach is that all the modalities are given an equal reliability, which is a
30 very unrealistic assumption. Thus, if one of visual cues becomes unreliable,
31 it may result in a wrong estimate.

32 In tracking literature, different definitions of cue reliability have been
33 proposed. For example, in [2, 19], the authors defined the reliability of a single
34 cue by means of the covariance or the spread of the samples suggested by
35 the cue at each tracking step, measuring its uncertainty. On the other hand,
36 in [10], the cue reliability is considered as a measure specifying the success
37 of the cue in discriminating the object from the surrounding background.

38 Tracking approaches can be grouped according to the way they employ the
39 cue reliabilities. The first group of works [7, 19, 23, 24, 25] assigns different
40 reliability values to different visual cues, and takes them into consideration
41 in the measurement step. In [24, 25], the authors formulate the fusion as the
42 weighted average of saliency maps extracted for each cue with the weights
43 corresponding to the cues' reliabilities. Hence, the reliabilities are determined
44 by considering the correlation among the visual cues. In other words, cue
45 reliability is defined *relative to the success of the other cues in tracking the*
46 *target object*. During tracking, different cues try to reach an agreement on a
47 joint result and they adapt themselves considering the result currently agreed

48 on. Similarly, the Sequential Monte Carlo based framework proposed in [7,
49 19, 23] use adaptive weights for the cues utilized in estimating the combined
50 likelihoods. In this approach, the overall likelihood is more precise since the
51 reliabilities of cues are now taken into account in the computations. On the
52 other hand, the weakness of these studies is that the fusion is carried out only
53 in verifying object hypotheses against observations. The utilized multiple
54 cues are involved in neither making predictions nor generating hypotheses in
55 any way. In terms of robustness, however, this is an important direction that
56 should be pursued as well.

57 The second line of works [9, 18, 22, 28], indeed, concentrates on this is-
58 sue and lets the multi-modal data interact with each other more explicitly
59 throughout the tracking process. The common characteristics of these works
60 is that the integration is also carried out in the prediction step. For instance,
61 the ICONDENSATION algorithm [18] uses a fixed color model specific to the
62 object of interest to detect blobs in the current frame and uses them in the
63 prediction step of a shape-based particle filter tracker. In [28], the authors
64 suggested an approximate co-inference among the modalities by decoupling
65 the object state and the measurements according to color and shape and by
66 letting each visual cue provide hypotheses for the other one. Thus, in their
67 formulation, the shape samples are drawn according to the color measure-
68 ments, and the color samples are drawn according to the shape measure-
69 ments. The tracker in [22], on the other hand, uses a partitioned sampling
70 structure which consists of two layers. The first layer constructed considering
71 either motion or sound provides a coarse information on the target object,

72 which is then refined by the second layer by using color. The work in [9] also
73 suggests a two-level, but more centralized, particle filter architecture. At the
74 lower level, the individual trackers based on different cues perform tracking
75 independently. At the upper level, a fuser integrates the trackers' outputs
76 to construct more reliable hypotheses, and in return provides a feedback to
77 the individual trackers. Although the studies that can be categorized within
78 this latter group introduce explicit interactions between multiple cues, the
79 way these interactions occur in each study is mainly predetermined by the
80 global scheme/architecture considered. Furthermore, the reliabilities of the
81 visual cues are not taken into account in any way. In this respect, the dy-
82 namic partitioned sampling approach in [13] is interesting as it proposes to
83 dynamically change the order of cues used in sampling depending on the cue
84 reliabilities.

85 1.2. Proposed Framework

86 In this paper, we present a Sequential Monte Carlo based tracking algo-
87 rithm that combines multi-modal data in an original way. Our main mo-
88 tivation is to develop a tracking algorithm that has the properties of the
89 two groups of works mentioned previously. That is to say, *we suggest to*
90 *carry out the integration of the multiple cues in both the prediction step and*
91 *in the measurement step, in estimating the likelihoods.* In [20], Nickel and
92 Stiefelhagen suggested a work in a line similar to ours by combining *Dem-*
93 *ocratic Integration* [25] with two-staged layered sampling [22]. They used a
94 predetermined layer structure with each layer being adaptive in its own. For

95 instance, the first layer is composed of stereo cues each describing a part
96 of the target object. However, compared to theirs, our system architecture
97 allows interactions between multiple cues to be more dynamic and flexible.

98 For the prediction step, we associate each particle with a specific cue
99 and accordingly with a specific proposal function. The crucial point is that
100 this process is defined as an adaptive process which is governed by the
101 dynamically-changing reliabilities of the visual cues. Thus, if one cue be-
102 comes unreliable, the tendency is to reduce the total number of particles
103 associated with it and to increase the total number of particles associated
104 with other visual cue(s). This dynamic process improves the accuracy of
105 the predictions since less reliable proposal functions are utilized less in the
106 sequential importance sampling. During the prediction step no cue is given
107 a preference over another, and the interactions between the cues are directly
108 determined by the current context in an adaptive manner. As mentioned
109 above, we take into account the reliabilities of the visual cues in estimat-
110 ing the confidence measures of the particles as well. We define the overall
111 likelihood function so that the measurements from each cue contribute the
112 overall likelihood according to its reliability. In return, we obtain more pre-
113 cise likelihood values in the measurement step as the misleading effects of
114 the unreliable cues are reduced.

115 The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 recalls
116 the Sequential Monte Carlo method with a focus on multi-modal tracking.
117 Section 3 gives the basis of our object model and the corresponding state
118 dynamics. Section 4 introduces the visual cues and the proposal functions

119 that we consider in our experiments. Section 5 gives the outline of our multi-
 120 modal tracking algorithm and our main contributions. Section 6 presents
 121 some illustrative tracking experiments in which we analyze the performance
 122 of the proposed algorithm. Finally, Section 7 makes a brief summary of our
 123 work, and points out the future directions.

124 2. Sequential Monte Carlo and Multi-modal Tracking

125 In a classical filtering framework, the main aim is to estimate the poste-
 126 rior distribution $p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{y}_{1:k})$ of the state vector \mathbf{x}_k through a set of measure-
 127 ments $\mathbf{y}_{1:k}$ up to the current time step k . The Bayesian sequential estimation
 128 approach computes this distribution according to a two-step recursion: a *pre-*
 129 *diction* step $p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{y}_{1:k-1}) = \int p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}_{k-1})p(\mathbf{x}_{k-1} | \mathbf{y}_{1:k-1})d\mathbf{x}_{k-1}$ followed by
 130 a *filtering* step $p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{y}_{1:k}) \propto p(\mathbf{y}_k | \mathbf{x}_k)p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{y}_{1:k-1})$.

131 This formulation requires two models to be defined: an evolution (tran-
 132 sition) model for the state dynamics $p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}_{k-1})$ and a likelihood model
 133 for the observations $p(\mathbf{y}_k | \mathbf{x}_k)$. Sequential Monte Carlo based filtering (*also*
 134 *known as* particle filter) [1, 12, 15, 17] has proved to be an effective method,
 135 and provides a simple yet flexible solution to many optimal state estimation
 136 problems, such as tracking [8, 16, 27] and sensor fault detection [26].

137 The main idea behind particle filter is to approximate the posterior dis-
 138 tribution $p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{y}_{1:k})$ by a weighted set of N particles $\{\mathbf{x}_k^{(i)}, w_k^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ as
 139 $p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{y}_{1:k}) \approx \sum_{i=1}^N w_k^{(i)} \delta_{\mathbf{x}_k^{(i)}}(\mathbf{x}_k)$, with $\delta_{\mathbf{x}_0}$ denoting the Dirac delta mass
 140 centered on x_0 , and each particle representing a possible state \mathbf{x}_k and its
 141 weight $w_k^{(i)} \in [0, 1]$ describing its confidence measure.

142 The recursive estimation is, then, characterized by two main steps: with
 143 an approximation of $p(\mathbf{x}_{k-1} \mid \mathbf{y}_{1:k-1})$ at hand, new particles are generated
 144 from the old particle set $\{\mathbf{x}_{k-1}^{(i)}, w_{k-1}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ by using a known proposal function,
 145 $\mathbf{x}_k^{(i)} \sim q(\mathbf{x}_k \mid \mathbf{x}_{0:k-1}^{(i)}, \mathbf{y}_{1:k})$. This prediction step is followed by an update step
 146 where the weights of the new particles $w_k^{(i)}$ are determined from the new
 147 observations \mathbf{y}_k using $w_k^{(i)} \propto w_{k-1}^{(i)} \frac{p(\mathbf{y}_k \mid \mathbf{x}_k^{(i)})p(\mathbf{x}_k^{(i)} \mid \mathbf{x}_{k-1}^{(i)})}{q(\mathbf{x}_k \mid \mathbf{x}_{0:k-1}^{(i)}, \mathbf{y}_{1:k})}$ with $\sum_{i=1}^N w_k^{(i)} = 1$. As
 148 a further step, a resampling phase, which removes the particles with low
 149 weights and accumulates the particles with high weights, can be employed
 150 to avoid the degeneracy of the particles [15]. Generally, the final tracking
 151 decision is made by taking into account the conditional mean, the weighted
 152 average of the particles $\{\mathbf{x}_k^{(i)}\}$, or the particles with the highest weights.

153 For multi-modal tracking, the simplicity and the flexibility of the parti-
 154 cle filter offer a wide variety of solutions. One direction is to perform data
 155 fusion in the likelihood estimation step. In this regard, the most straight-
 156 forward way of integrating multiple measurement sources is to assume that
 157 these measurements are conditionally independent given the state and subse-
 158 quently factorize the overall likelihood as $p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x}) = \prod_{m=1}^M p(\mathbf{y}^m \mid \mathbf{x})$, with M
 159 being the total number of sources. As we stated in the introduction, it is pos-
 160 sible to increase the accuracy of the joint likelihood by further considering the
 161 reliabilities of the measurement sources in the integration phase [7, 19, 24].
 162 The studies [9, 18, 22, 28] consider another direction and suggest explicit
 163 interactions between different modalities. In these works, the main emphasis
 164 is on the proposal functions utilized in the prediction step, and how the can-
 165 didate state hypothesis proposed by different modalities can be integrated.

166 **3. Object Model and State Dynamics**

167 The tracking framework that we propose in this work does not depend on
 168 a specific object model, and any model suggested in literature can be utilized.
 169 In this paper, we prefer to use a simple model and represent the target object
 170 by a fixed reference rectangular region parameterized as $\Omega = (x^c, y^c, w, h)$,
 171 where (x^c, y^c) denote the coordinates of the center of the rectangular region
 172 having a width w and a height h .

173 We define the object state as $\mathbf{x}_k = (x_k, y_k, s_k, t_k) \in \mathcal{X}$. It describes a new
 174 region $\Omega_{\mathbf{x}_k} = (x_k, y_k, s_k w, t_k h)$ with s_k and t_k denoting the scaling factors for
 175 the width and the height of the reference region, respectively.

176 For the state evolution model, we assume mutually independent Gaussian
 177 random walk models along with a small uniform component as in [22]. This
 178 uniform component is used to compensate the irregular motion behavior of
 179 the target object and provides a kind of re-initialization. Accordingly, the
 180 state evolution model can be written as:

$$p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}_{k-1}) \sim \beta_U \mathcal{U}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{x}_{max}) + (1 - \beta_U) \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_{k-1}, \Lambda) \quad (1)$$

181 where $\mathcal{U}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{x}_{max})$ denotes the uniform distribution in $[0, \mathbf{x}_{max}]$, with the vec-
 182 tor \mathbf{x}_{max} representing the maximum allowed values over the set \mathcal{X} , $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_{k-1}, \Lambda)$
 183 the Gaussian distribution with mean \mathbf{x}_{k-1} and covariance matrix $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\sigma_x^2, \sigma_y^2, \sigma_s^2, \sigma_t^2)$,
 184 and β_U is the weight of the uniform component. The initial state of the object
 185 is assumed to be described by a uniform distribution $p(\mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{U}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{x}_{max})$.

186 4. Visual Cues and Proposal Functions

187 This section describes the visual cues that we utilize in tracking an object
188 of interest. These are simply *color*, *motion* and *infrared brightness*, and are
189 discussed in the following subsections.

190 In our work, while extracting these visual cues from an image frame, we
191 follow a conventional approach and use measurements based on histograms.
192 We compute the likelihoods and construct the individual proposal functions
193 by making use of reference histograms which are defined for each visual cue.
194 We manually construct our reference histograms, and use these histograms
195 throughout the whole tracking sequence without updating them.

196 Mainly, the construction of the proposal functions and the estimation of
197 the likelihoods depend on the comparison between the histograms extracted
198 from the candidate regions and the reference histogram. For that, we utilize
199 the Bhattacharyya histogram similarity measure [3].

200 It is important to note that, as in [22], the proposal functions described
201 in the subsequent subsections are defined only for suggesting the new values
202 for the location component of the object state. For the scaling factors, the
203 proposal functions are taken as the corresponding component of the state
204 evolution model described in Equation (1).

205 4.1. Color Cue

206 Following [21], we adopt an observation model that is based on Hue-
207 Saturation-Value (HSV) color histograms with $B_C = B_h B_s + B_v$ bins. and

208 define our color likelihood as

$$p(\mathbf{y}^C | \mathbf{x}) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{D^2(\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{x}}^C, \mathbf{h}_{ref}^C)}{2\sigma_C^2}\right) \quad (2)$$

209 with \mathbf{h}_{ref}^C denoting the B_C -bin normalized reference histogram, $\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{x}}^C$ repre-
 210 senting the normalized color histogram which is obtained from a candidate
 211 object region specified by the object state \mathbf{x} , and $D^2(\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{x}}^C, \mathbf{h}_{ref}^C)$ being the
 212 Bhattacharyya histogram similarity measure between them.

213 The construction of the proposal function also depends on the color likeli-
 214 hood model described above. Typically, we first estimate the color likelihoods
 215 on a subset of image locations over the current frame. For this, we use a pre-
 216 defined step size of 5 pixels through the current frame, and keep the scale
 217 factors fixed as $s = t = 1$. The likelihoods estimated in this way define an
 218 approximate probability distribution map for the target object. Once these
 219 likelihoods are estimated, we define our proposal function as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} q^C(x_k, y_k | x_{k-1}, y_{k-1}, \mathbf{y}_k^C) &= \beta_{RW} \mathcal{N}((x_{k-1}, y_{k-1}), (\sigma_x^2, \sigma_y^2)) \\ &+ \frac{(1 - \beta_{RW})}{N_C} \sum_{i=1}^{N_C} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}_i^C, (\sigma_x^2, \sigma_y^2)). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

220 In Equation (3), the first component is the Gaussian random walk com-
 221 ponent for the object location that we previously introduced in our state evo-
 222 lution model given in Equation (1). The points $\mathbf{p}_i^C = (x_i, y_i)$, $i = 1, \dots, N_C$
 223 denote the image locations having a likelihood greater than a threshold (i.e.
 224 $p(\mathbf{y}^C | \mathbf{x}) > \tau^C$), and define the centers of Gaussians in the mixture model

225 utilized in the second component, respectively. We fixed $\beta_{RW} = 0.75$ in our
 226 experiments, and thus the main tendency is to preserve the smoothness of
 227 the tracking trajectory. On the other hand, the second component allows
 228 jumps in the state space to the image regions that likely contain the target
 229 object.

230 4.2. Motion Cue

231 The image locations having a motion activity at the frame k can be
 232 determined from the absolute difference of the intensity images at the frames
 233 k and $k - 1$. In the frame difference, the pixels with large values indicate the
 234 motion activity. If there is no motion, the frame difference is either zero or
 235 has a very small value due to the noise and/or due to the slight changes in
 236 the intensity.

237 To estimate the motion likelihood, we follow the approach suggested
 238 in [22]. For a region of interest specified by the state \mathbf{x} , we associate a mo-
 239 tion histogram $\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{x}}^M = (h_{1,\mathbf{x}}^M, \dots, h_{B_M,\mathbf{x}}^M)$ with B_M denoting the number of bins.
 240 The reference histogram \mathbf{h}_{ref}^M is defined considering a uniform distribution,
 241 i.e. $h_{i,ref}^M = 1/B_M$, $i = 1, \dots, B_M$. In the case of no motion activity, the
 242 Bhattacharyya histogram similarity measure yields $D_{no_mot.}^2 = 1 - \sqrt{1/B_M}$.
 243 Considering this, we define the motion likelihood as

$$p(\mathbf{y}^M | \mathbf{x}) \propto 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{D_{no_mot.}^2 - D^2(\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{x}}^M, \mathbf{h}_{ref}^M)}{2\sigma_M^2}\right). \quad (4)$$

244 As in Section 4.1, the proposal function is constructed by estimating

245 the likelihoods on a subset of image locations over the current frame. The
 246 locations having a likelihood greater than a threshold τ^M are then used, as
 247 in [22], to define the proposal function as

$$\begin{aligned}
 q^M(x_k, y_k \mid x_{k-1}, y_{k-1}, \mathbf{y}_k^M) &= \beta_{RW} \mathcal{N}((x_{k-1}, y_{k-1}), (\sigma_x^2, \sigma_y^2)) \\
 &+ \frac{(1 - \beta_{RW})}{N_M} \sum_{i=1}^{N_M} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}_i^M, (\sigma_x^2, \sigma_y^2)). \quad (5)
 \end{aligned}$$

248 4.3. Infrared Brightness Cue

249 Besides color and motion, we employ infrared brightness cue in some of
 250 our experiments. This cue requires the tracking sequence to be imaged from
 251 an infrared camera, and allows us to consider different thermal characteristics
 252 of an object of interest during tracking. In estimating the likelihoods and
 253 constructing the corresponding proposal function, we follow an approach
 254 similar to the ones explained in the previous subsections. Then, we define
 255 the infrared brightness likelihood as

$$p(\mathbf{y}^I \mid \mathbf{x}) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{D^2(\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{x}}^I, \mathbf{h}_{ref}^I)}{2\sigma_I^2}\right) \quad (6)$$

256 where $\mathbf{h}_{ref}^I = (h_{1,ref}^I, \dots, h_{B_I,ref}^I)$ is the B_I -bin normalized reference his-
 257 togram, and $\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{x}}^I = (h_{1,\mathbf{x}}^I, \dots, h_{B_I,\mathbf{x}}^I)$ is the normalized brightness histogram
 258 obtained from the candidate object region. The proposal is as follows:

$$q^I(x_k, y_k \mid x_{k-1}, y_{k-1}, \mathbf{y}_k^I) = \beta_{RW} \mathcal{N}((x_{k-1}, y_{k-1}), (\sigma_x^2, \sigma_y^2))$$

$$+ \frac{(1 - \beta_{RW})}{N_I} \sum_{i=1}^{N_I} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}_i^I, (\sigma_x^2, \sigma_y^2)) \quad (7)$$

259 where $\mathbf{p}_i^I = (x_i, y_i), i = 1, \dots, N_I$ denote the image locations where the target
 260 object is likely to be according to the threshold τ^I .

261 5. Tracking Algorithm

262 We propose a novel approach for integrating different visual cues dur-
 263 ing tracking. Unlike the previous works summarized in Section 1.1, we do
 264 not give preference to any cue, or use a global scheme with a predetermined
 265 structure. We mainly let the current visual context determine how the in-
 266 teractions between multiple cues are carried out. In all phases of tracking,
 267 we emphasize the information derived from the reliable cues and ignore the
 268 information provided by the unreliable cues. This view certainly involves
 269 discovering and using the reliabilities of the visual cues. We summarize the
 270 basic outline of our tracking algorithm in Algorithm 1. As it illustrates, we
 271 nearly follow the classic flow of a particle filter-based framework. The pro-
 272 posed tracker consists of *prediction*, *measurement*, *resampling* phases with
 273 an additional *reliability-update* step.

274 5.1. Updating the reliabilities of cues

275 Adaptive reliabilities assigned to visual cues are key to our formulation.
 276 In this paper, we adopt the cue reliability definition of the *Democratic In-*
 277 *tegration* method [25] and follow the instructions given in Algorithm 2 to
 278 adjust them depending on the current context. In the first frame, the cue

Algorithm 1 General algorithm

In the initialization step, $p(\mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathbf{x}_0)$. Then, from the particle set $\{\mathbf{x}_{k-1}^{(i)}, w_{k-1}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ at the time step $k - 1$, determine the new particle set $\{\mathbf{x}_k^{(i)}, w_k^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ as follows:

1. **Adjust** cue reliabilities $\{r_k^\ell\}$ considering current observations \mathbf{y}_k (Algorithm 2).
 2. **Generate** new hypotheses $\{\mathbf{x}_k^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ through a prediction step (Algorithm 3).
 3. **Update** weights of the particles $\{w_k^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ (Equation 13).
 4. **Estimate** the conditional mean as the solution (Equation 14) and perform re-sampling for the next time step.
-

279 reliabilities are initialized with equal weights with their sum equal to 1. In
280 the subsequent frames, each reliability value is dynamically updated by using
281 Equation (11). The new reliability value of a cue is determined by consid-
282 ering both the overall success of that cue in the past, which corresponds to
283 the old reliability value, and its individual success in predicting the current
284 joint result, which corresponds to its quality (Equation (10)). The quality of
285 a cue simply quantifies the degree of agreement between the joint result and
286 the result the cue individually suggests. Thus, the reliabilities can be inter-
287 preted as the qualities smoothed over time. Each quality measure compares
288 the importance of a cue at an approximate target position $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k$ determined by
289 Equation (8) with its response averaged over the corresponding approximate
290 cue likelihood. Then, a cue having a quality higher than its current reliability
291 will be given a higher influence in the future by increasing its reliability. In a
292 similar manner, a cue having a quality lower than its current reliability will
293 be suppressed by decreasing its reliability.

294 Note that since the initial reliabilities and the quality values are nor-
295 malized, the reliabilities are also normalized and their sum is always one.

Algorithm 2 Updating the reliabilities of the visual cues

- **Approximate** target position $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k$ using previous reliabilities and current observations:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k = \arg \max_x (\hat{p}(\mathbf{y}_k | \mathbf{x})) = \arg \max_x \left(\prod_{\ell \in \{C, I, M\}} \hat{p}(\mathbf{y}_k^\ell | \mathbf{x})^{r_{k-1}^\ell} \right) \quad (8)$$

with $\hat{p}(\mathbf{y}_k^\ell | \mathbf{x})$ the approximate probability distribution map estimated for the modality ℓ

- **Estimate** the quality measures for each cue as follows:

$$\bar{s}_k^\ell = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \hat{p}(\mathbf{y}_k^\ell | \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k) \leq \langle \hat{p}(\mathbf{y}_k^\ell | \mathbf{x}) \rangle \\ \hat{p}(\mathbf{y}_k^\ell | \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k) - \langle \hat{p}(\mathbf{y}_k^\ell | \mathbf{x}) \rangle & \text{if } \hat{p}(\mathbf{y}_k^\ell | \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k) > \langle \hat{p}(\mathbf{y}_k^\ell | \mathbf{x}) \rangle \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

where $\langle \cdot \rangle$ denotes the average over the approximate probability distribution map

- **Determine** the normalized qualities s_k^ℓ :

$$s_k^\ell = \frac{\bar{s}_k^\ell}{\sum_j \bar{s}_k^j} \quad (10)$$

- **Update** reliabilities considering the current quality measures as follows:

$$r_k^\ell = r_{k-1}^\ell + \eta(s_k^\ell - r_{k-1}^\ell) \quad (11)$$

with η denoting a time constant which we set to 0.1 in our experiments.

296 Moreover, the cue reliabilities are defined through quality values which are
297 defined over the whole image domain. By this way, the reliabilities are de-
298 termined by considering a global picture of the tracking scene, and thus the
299 tracking inaccuracies do not affect the reliability computations.

300 5.2. Predicting the new locations of particles

301 Once the updated cue reliabilities are determined, they are used to guide
302 the hypothesis generation phase, providing premises regarding the new lo-
303 cations of particles. This process is summarized in Algorithm 3. As can be
304 seen, in our framework, each particle is assigned to a modality denoted by ℓ

Algorithm 3 Generating the new hypotheses through prediction

- **Simulate** $\ell_k^{(i)}$:
 - **Generate** a random number $\alpha \in [0, 1)$, uniformly distributed.
 - **Set** $\ell_k^{(i)} = \begin{cases} C & \text{if } \alpha < r_k^C \\ I & \text{if } r_k^C \leq \alpha < r_k^C + r_k^I \\ M & \text{if } \alpha \geq r_k^C + r_k^I \end{cases}$ (12)
 - **Simulate** $\mathbf{x}_k^{(i)} \sim q^{\ell_k^{(i)}}(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}_{k-1}, \mathbf{y}_k^{\ell_k^{(i)}})$
-

305 with $\ell \in \{C, I, M\}$ (C for color, I for infrared brightness, M for motion) and
306 accordingly to a specific proposal function $q^{\ell_k}(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}_{k-1}, \mathbf{y}_k^{\ell_k})$ (Equation (12)).
307 This process performs sampling from a mixture model, relying on the prin-
308 ciple of generation of non-uniformly random samples [5]. As the reliabilities
309 determine the assignments, if one cue becomes unreliable relative to other
310 visual cues, the tendency is to reduce the total number of particles associ-
311 ated with it and to increase the total number of particles associated with
312 more reliable visual cue(s). As a result, the tracking accuracy increases as
313 less reliable proposal functions are utilized less in the sequential importance
314 sampling in predicting the position of the target object.

315 For example, consider a video sequence where all the cues equivalently
316 give questionable observations for some of the tracking frames (e.g. during
317 the time the target object gets completely occluded and becomes visible
318 again). In the suggested scheme, the recovery of the lost target object can
319 be carried out quickly since the reliabilities can quickly adapt themselves to
320 the current context using the information acquired from the whole image, and
321 the tracker can accordingly utilize the proposals which give more accurate

322 predictions than the unreliable proposals.

323 5.3. Updating the weights of particles and estimating the joint result

324 The next step of our algorithm includes a measurement step which adjusts
 325 the weights of new particles according to new observations. This is performed
 326 by using the formula:

$$w_k^{(i)} \propto w_{k-1}^{(i)} \frac{p(\mathbf{y}_k | \mathbf{x}_k^{(i)})p(\mathbf{x}_k^{(i)} | \mathbf{x}_{k-1}^{(i)})}{q^{\ell_k^{(i)}}(\mathbf{x}_k^{(i)} | \mathbf{x}_{k-1}^{(i)}, \mathbf{y}_k^{\ell_k^{(i)}})} \quad \text{with} \quad \sum_{i=1}^N w_k^{(i)} = 1. \quad (13)$$

327 The key point is that the updated cue reliabilities play central roles here
 328 as well. The overall likelihood function $p(\mathbf{y}_k | \mathbf{x}_k)$ is defined in a way that
 329 the cue likelihoods are integrated in an adaptive manner as follows:

$$p(\mathbf{y}_k | \mathbf{x}_k) = \prod_{\ell \in \{C, I, M\}} p(\mathbf{y}_k^\ell | \mathbf{x}_k)^{r_k^\ell} \quad (14)$$

330 with $\sum_{\ell \in \{C, I, M\}} r_k^\ell = 1$. As a result, each cue contributes to the joint tracking
 331 result according to its current reliability, and the ones having low values
 332 have little effect on the outcome. The individual likelihoods having a value
 333 estimated as zero make the overall likelihood zero as we take the product,
 334 whether its reliability score is low or not. Thus, in our experiments, we
 335 adjust all such likelihoods values and explicitly set them to a small value like
 336 $p(\mathbf{y}^\ell | \mathbf{x}) = 0.001$.

337 Finally, the decision about the tracking process for the current time step k
 338 is obtained from the particle set by estimating the weighted average of the

339 hypothesized states:

$$\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k = \sum_{i=1}^N w_k^{(i)} \mathbf{x}_k^{(i)} . \quad (15)$$

340 5.4. Implementation details

341 We have implemented the proposed algorithm in MATLAB on a PC with
342 a 3.16 GHz Intel Core2 Duo processor. In all the experiments, we fixed
343 $\sigma_x = \sigma_y = 3$, $\sigma_s = \sigma_t = 0.01$, $\beta_U = 0.01$, $\sigma_C = 0.2$, $\sigma_M = 0.4$, $\sigma_I = 0.25$,
344 $B_h = B_s = B_v = 10$, $B_M = 20$, $B_I = 30$, and used detection thresholds
345 $\tau^C = \tau^I = 0.65$, $\tau^M = 0.2$. In Equations (3), (5) and (7), if respectively
346 N_C , N_I or N_M equals to zero, we use only the first Gaussian random walk
347 component for the related proposal function.

348 Among these parameters, the most critical ones are the detection thresh-
349 olds τ^C , τ^M , and τ^I which are used to construct the proposal functions. As
350 the experimental analysis performed in the next section indicates, the pro-
351 posed work is robust in terms of false positives given the current context with
352 respect to the values chosen for these parameters, and it generally provides
353 better results than those of other cue integration strategies.

354 As for the computational cost, the main bottleneck of the suggested ap-
355 proach is the construction of the approximate probability distribution maps,
356 which is carried out for each cue at each frame. The important factor here
357 is the value of the pre-defined step size which defines the subset of image
358 locations over the current frame where the likelihoods are estimated. For a
359 video sequence containing 144×192 color image frames, our tracker runs at
360 approximately 2 frames per second with a step size of 5 pixels being used. It

361 should be added that the run-time performance could be further improved
362 by including some MEX C++ subroutines, or parallelizing the code.

363 **6. Experimental Results**

364 In this section, we demonstrate the performance of the proposed frame-
365 work (Algorithm 3) on illustrative video sequences. We performed two groups
366 of experiments. The first set is mainly about the qualitative analysis of the
367 proposed method in which we consider different tracking scenarios. Following
368 that, in the second set of experiments, we carry out a thorough quantitative
369 analysis in terms of tracking accuracy by using some sequences in which the
370 ground truth is available.

371 We typically compare our results obtained considering multiple cues with
372 context-sensitive reliabilities with those obtained using a single cue or mul-
373 tiple cues with fixed reliabilities. We also provide the tracking outcomes of
374 the two-layered partitioned sampling (PS) and the dynamic partitioned sam-
375 pling approaches (DPS), because these approaches are known to be robust
376 and well known for the tracking based on multiple cues. Our implementation
377 of these methods follows the architecture suggested in [22] – in the first level,
378 the object locations are sampled from the proposal functions introduced in
379 Sec. 4 and in the second level, the state evolution model described in Sec. 3
380 is used for the scaling factors with a resampling phase in between. While the
381 order of cues is fixed for the PS [22] (from motion to color), for the DPS,
382 following the idea suggested in [13], we change the order of cues dynamically
383 depending on the cue reliabilities.

384 In our experiments, we use a fairly small number of particles, $N = 100$.
385 The reference color models are manually constructed in the first frame of the
386 sequences. For qualitative analysis, we employ the conditional mean and the
387 particles with the five highest weights to depict the outcomes. We associate
388 different colors for the particles, and the rectangular regions they represent,
389 depending on the cue they are attached to: *green* for color, *blue* for motion,
390 and *red* for infrared brightness. Additionally, we draw the rectangle repre-
391 sented by the conditional mean in *white*. This color distribution among the
392 particles does visually represent the cue reliabilities. In the second set of ex-
393 periments, we present the results by using only the corresponding conditional
394 means. The videos showing the results of these experiments are provided as
395 supplementary material.

396 *6.1. Qualitative Analysis*

397 We first consider a sequence from the BEHAVE Interactions Test Case
398 Scenarios [6] where we try to track a person with a white shirt using color
399 and motion information. Throughout the sequence, first, a group of people
400 goes after the person of interest and attacks him. During this time, he is
401 completely occluded. Next, at some point, the person of interest kneels
402 down and stops moving. These different phenomena observed throughout
403 the video sequence exemplifies the contextual changes that we exploit in our
404 tracking framework.

405 As Figures 1.(a) and 1.(b) respectively demonstrate, the color-based track-
406 ing and the motion-based tracking may lead to inaccurate results due to

407 the ambiguities inherent to the processing of the video sequence considering
408 single modalities. There are objects in the background which have similar
409 appearances to the object of interest. Therefore, soon after the initialization,
410 the framework based on color starts tracking the wrong object and remains at
411 this local minimum point during nearly half of the video sequence. However,
412 it is eventually able to recover the actual object of interest with the utility of
413 the color-based proposal. The outcomes of the motion-based tracker is much
414 worse since the video sequence involves several persons in motion. That is,
415 the motion likelihood function becomes non-discriminative with respect to
416 the target object and the samples are distributed all around the moving ob-
417 jects. As one expects, considering color and motion cues all together with
418 fixed values for reliabilities gives better tracking results than using only one
419 modality (Figure 1.(c)). Yet, such a scheme has some drawbacks. Since
420 equal weights are given for color and motion cues, if one of the sources be-
421 comes unreliable, it directly affects the results. In the video sequence, the
422 person entering the scene during which the actual person of interest is at rest
423 distracts tracking.

424 As illustrated in Figure 1.(d), considering a scheme with context-sensitive
425 reliabilities eliminates most of the ambiguities mentioned and results in an
426 improvement in the outcomes. For instance, when the target person is oc-
427 cluded by the group of people following him, the reliability of the color cue
428 decreases, and thus the motion cue particularly guides the tracking process
429 during this time interval. Similarly, when the person of interest becomes idle,
430 the reliability of motion decreases, making the color cue the dominant cue.

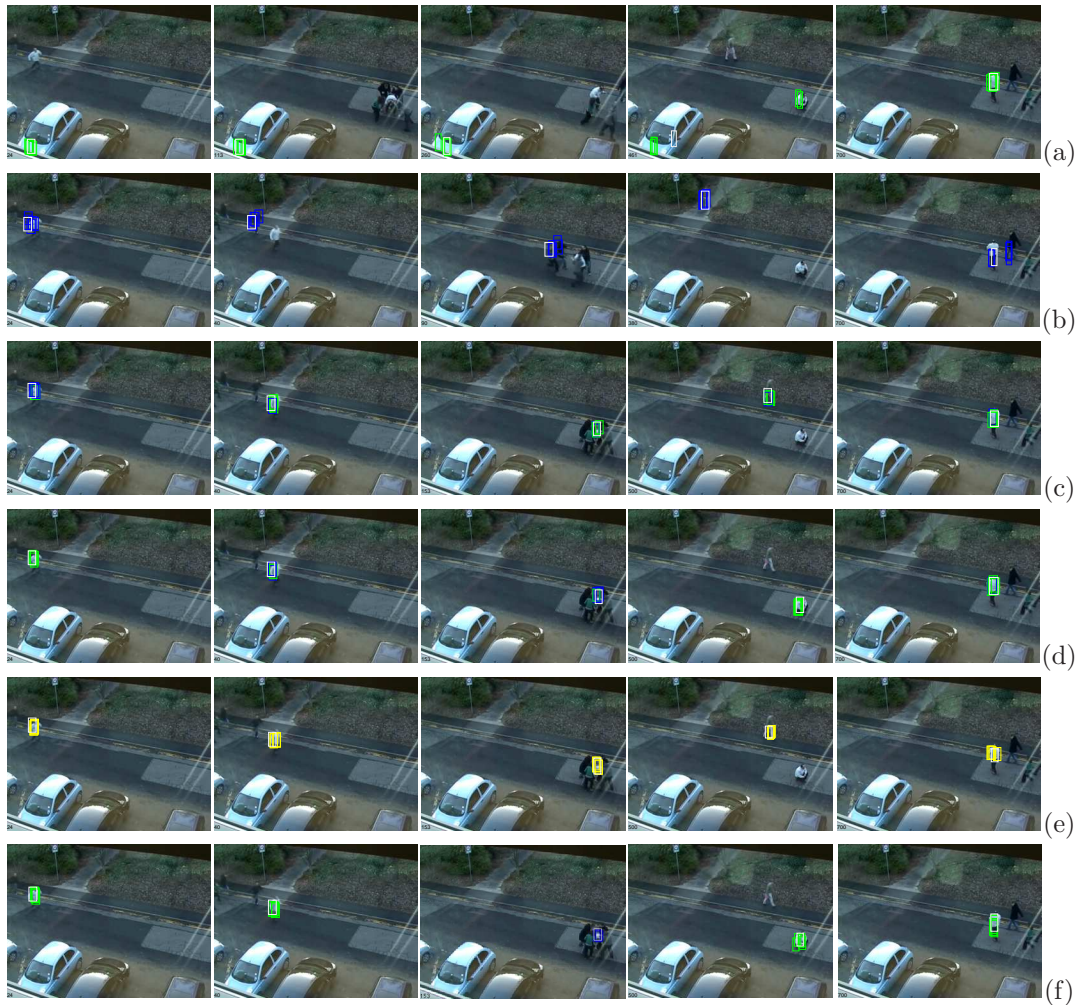


Figure 1: **seq. 1** Sample tracking results using: (a) Color. (b) Motion. (c) Both color and motion with fixed reliabilities. (d) Both color and motion with context-sensitive reliabilities. Modifying the reliabilities of the visual cues according to the context and accordingly using them eliminate most of the ambiguities that the previous cases cannot easily cope with. (e) PS. (f) DPS.

431 Thus, the tracking process does not get distracted by the person entering the
 432 scene unlike in the case with fixed reliabilities. Figure 2.(a) illustrates these
 433 changes in the reliabilities of the cues. In Figure 2.(b), we provide color and

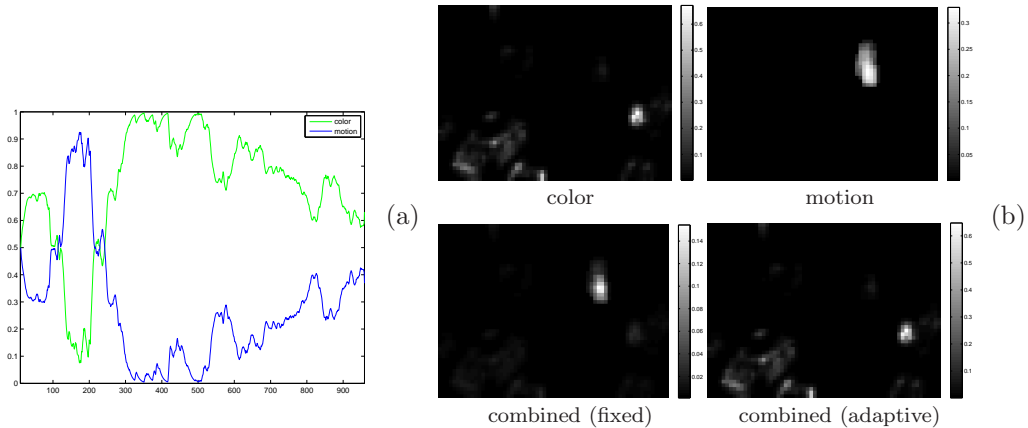


Figure 2: (a) Reliabilities throughout **seq. 1**. (b) Likelihoods for a sample frame. A more accurate estimate is achieved using adaptive weights for the reliabilities.

434 motion likelihoods as well as their combinations with two different strategies
 435 for the frame where the person of interest is at rest. As mentioned at the
 436 beginning of this section, our color encoding scheme can be used to visually
 437 represent the cue reliabilities through the distribution of the colored samples.
 438 In Figure 3, we provide such a representation for three sample frames.

439 In Figure 1.(e), we demonstrate the disadvantage of using PS that results
 440 in inaccurate tracking. The tracking process relies primarily on the motion
 441 information in the prediction step, and thus the person entering the scene
 442 during the time the actual person of interest is at rest distracts the track-
 443 ing process as in the case with fixed reliabilities (Figure 1.(c)). Since this
 444 approach does not attach the particles to any particular modality, we use a
 445 different color (yellow) for the particles representing the tracking outcomes.
 446 The tracker based on DPS, on the other hand, successfully tracks the target
 447 like ours as the order of cues in the partitioned sampling is updated accord-



Figure 3: **seq. 1** Visual representation of the cue reliabilities at three sample frames (*green* for color and *blue* for motion).

448 ing to the cue reliabilities (Figure 1.(f)). Note that increasing the value of
 449 τ^M to a convenient value makes both the framework that uses fixed reliabil-
 450 ities for color and motion, and PS approach accurately track the person of
 451 interest. This highlights that our proposed work is more robust against the
 452 values chosen for the detection parameters in terms of false positives given
 453 the current context.

454 In the second experiment, we consider a tracking sequence captured from
 455 an infrared camera along with a CCD camera (taken from the OSU Color-
 456 Thermal Database [11]). We test our framework under four scenarios. The
 457 first set of experiments involves employing fixed reliabilities, and considering
 458 color and motion cues together and additionally using infrared brightness
 459 along with them. The second set of experiments uses the same two differ-

460 ent cue combinations, but with adaptive reliabilities for the cues. We show
461 the results of these experiments in Figure 4. In each figure, we provide the
462 outcomes based on color and motion, and color, motion and infrared bright-
463 ness side by side. It can be seen from these figures that the results of the
464 framework built upon color and motion are not good, whether fixed values
465 for the reliabilities are used or not. These cues both fail to account for the
466 uncertainties in the tracking sequence. Specifically, the reference color model
467 quickly becomes inadequate for describing the appearance of the person of
468 interest, leading to enlarged and inaccurate object regions. This is mainly
469 due to the changes in the person’s view throughout the sequence and the
470 nearby objects with a similar color. The problem with the motion cue is
471 more severe since the sequence contains another person walking in the scene,
472 and more importantly, the person of interest does not move much most of
473 the time.

474 Introducing infrared brightness as a complementary cue, in this respect,
475 improves the performance and provides more accurate tracking. It is impor-
476 tant to note that most of the time, refining the reliabilities with respect to
477 the contextual information gives more accurate results than using fixed val-
478 ues for the reliabilities. As illustrated in Figure 5, with adaptive reliabilities,
479 the motion cue remains being the least reliable cue throughout the sequence
480 due to the aforementioned points. Infrared brightness and color cues com-
481 petes with each other to describe the person of interest, and since infrared
482 brightness values do not change much when the tracked person changes its
483 pose, the infrared brightness cue is given a higher weight or importance than

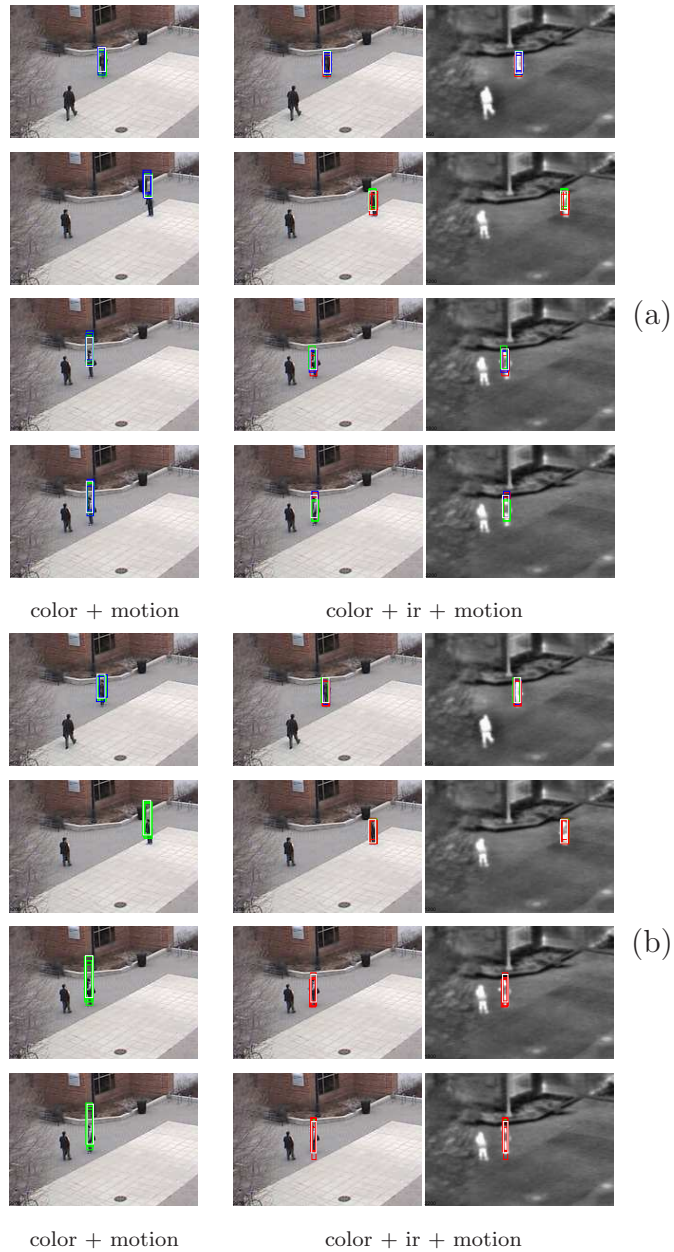


Figure 4: **seq. 2** Sample tracking results. (a) With fixed reliabilities. (b) With adaptive reliabilities. It results in more accurate tracking of the person of interest for the framework in which infrared brightness is introduced as a complementary cue. Infrared brightness cue is more reliable and is given a higher importance than the other cues during tracking.

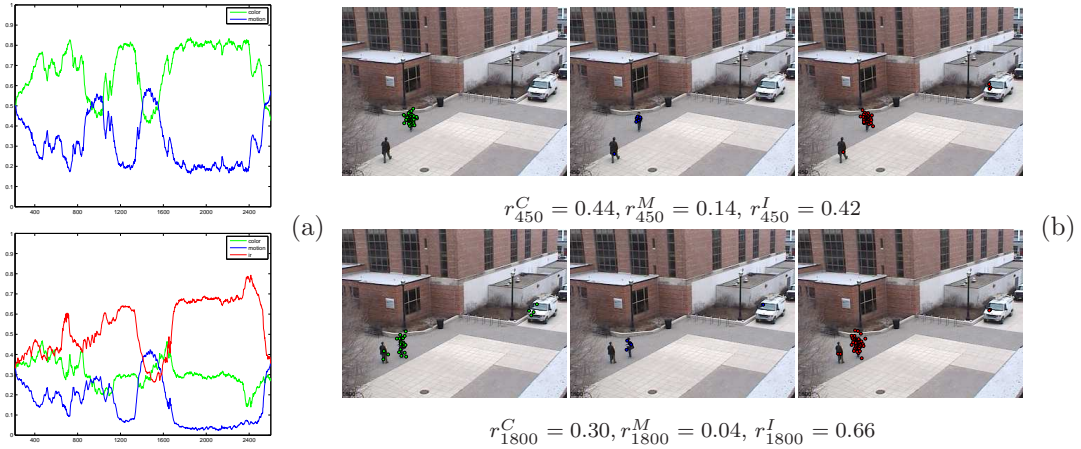


Figure 5: (a) Reliabilities throughout **seq. 2**. (b) Visual representation of the cue reliabilities at two sample frames (*green* for color, *blue* for motion and *red* for infrared brightness).

484 the color cue most of the time. This results in a significant change for the
 485 reliability values of color (cf. the plots in Figure 5.(a)).

486 Lastly, we consider the image sequence `OneShopOneWait2cor` from the
 487 CAVIAR project [14]. We again compare the tracking outcomes obtained
 488 by using single visual cues, color and motion, with that of obtained by com-
 489 bining these two. As illustrated in Figure 6.(b), using motion data alone
 490 leads to inaccurate tracking. The sequence contains several persons moving
 491 across the hallway. The tracking process cannot distinguish the actual per-
 492 son of interest from the others, and the particles are distributed all over the
 493 moving persons. On the other hand, the color-based tracking and our frame-
 494 work provide nearly similar tracking results (Figures 6.(a) and 6.(c)). They
 495 succeed in tracking the object for most part of the sequence, but they lose
 496 the track whenever a person having a similar appearance enters the scene.

497 The reason behind the similar performance is that with respect to the con-
498 textual information, color is determined to be the main cue and is given a
499 much higher weight than motion during tracking (Figure 7). This experiment
500 shows that combining several visual cues does not always mean robustness.
501 It improves the tracking results only when at least one of the cues considered
502 in tracking is effective in describing the target object. For instance, in this
503 example, color and motion both fail to account for the uncertainties. The
504 PS approach produces much worse results since it uses a fixed order in the
505 sampling, from motion to color. As shown in Figure 6.(d), the tracker tracks
506 four different persons throughout the sequence. The flexibility of the DPS
507 approach, due to the order of visual cues changing dynamically in accordance
508 with their reliabilities, mostly eliminates these false detections and tracking
509 as illustrated in Figure 6.(e).

510 *6.2. Quantitative Analysis*

511 In this section, we quantitatively evaluate our tracking algorithm on two
512 sets of video sequences. The first set involves the sequence from the BE-
513 HAVE Interactions Test Case Scenarios [6] that we previously presented in
514 Section 6.1 and that consists of 949 frames. In the second set of sequences, we
515 use several video sequences from the CAVIAR project [14]. All these video
516 sequences exhibit a wide variety of challenges including changes in the pose
517 and scale of the target object, varying illumination conditions, and partial
518 occlusions. We tested the trackers by running them 5 times and by taking
519 the average for each video sequence since they are all particle-filter based



Figure 6: **seq. 3** Sample tracking results using:(a) Color. (b) Motion. (c) Both color and motion with context-sensitive reliabilities. The proposed tracking framework succeeds in tracking the person of interest until a person with a similar appearance appears in the video sequence. (d) PS. (e) DPS.

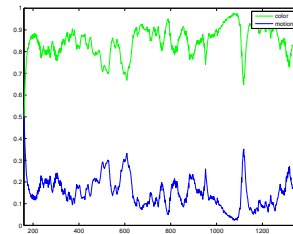


Figure 7: Reliabilities throughout **seq. 3**.

520 formulations and thus involve some randomness.

521 For quantitative analysis, we use two measures. We compute the average
 522 F -measures, given by $F = \frac{2pr}{p+r}$ where p is the precision $p = \frac{|\mathcal{E} \cap GT|}{|\mathcal{E}|}$ and r the
 523 recall $r = \frac{|\mathcal{E} \cap GT|}{|GT|}$ with \mathcal{E} the rectangular region estimated by the conditional

Tracker	F -measure	Success rate
Color	0.32 ± 0.18	70.58 ± 40.42
Motion	0.15 ± 0.04	46.35 ± 10.07
Fixed reliabilities	0.46 ± 0.07	94.42 ± 7.11
Proposed method	0.46 ± 0.03	99.57 ± 0.17
DPS	0.46 ± 0.02	98.53 ± 0.84
PS	0.39 ± 0.03	86.78 ± 1.77

Table 1: Average F -measures and success rates (percentage of frames in which the target object is successfully tracked) for the sequence from the BEHAVE dataset.

524 mean and \mathcal{GT} the ground truth, and the percentage of frames where the
525 target object was successfully tracked among the frames for which the ground
526 truth is available. The tracking is considered to be successful if \mathcal{E} overlaps
527 with \mathcal{GT} .

528 Table 1 provides the quantitative tracking results for the sequence from
529 the BEHAVE dataset, obtained by comparing the trackers’ outcomes to the
530 manually labeled ground truth data. As it can be seen, the outcomes are
531 in line with the qualitative results presented before. The trackers based on
532 single cues have the worst performances; and due to the ambiguities inherent
533 to these cues the standard deviations of the measures are higher than those
534 of others. In general, the proposed method and the dynamic partitioned
535 sampling approach are competitive and give better results than the others.

536 We have performed the second set of our experiments on nine different
537 video sequences from the CAVIAR project [14]. We use three of these se-
538 quences twice; in each we track two different persons, respectively. This
539 makes twelve experiments in total. Table 2 shows the summary of these ex-

Sequence	ObjectId	Total # of Frames
OneLeaveShop2cor	0	546
OneShopOneWait1cor	2	734
OneShopOneWait2cor	7	1171
OneStopEnter1cor	1	581
OneStopEnter1cor	2	1324
OneStopEnter2cor	3	316
OneStopEnter2cor	4	834
OneStopMoveEnter1cor	7	664
OneStopMoveNoEnter2cor	0	639
OneStopNoEnter1cor	0	395
ThreePastShop2cor	2	331
ThreePastShop2cor	7	459

Table 2: The sequences from the CAVIAR project used in the experiments.

540 periments. The sequences used in the experiments involve different scenarios
541 with varying complexities (changes in the appearance due to pose and illumi-
542 nation variations, occlusions of the target, crowdedness in the background,
543 etc.).

544 Table 3 and 4 summarize the quantitative performance of the tested track-
545 ing methods². It can be seen from these results that in general the proposed
546 tracker outperforms the other trackers. Mostly, it gives either the best or the
547 second best results with respect to the manually labeled ground truth. In
548 terms of the quantitative measures averaged over all experiments (Table 3),
549 it has the best F-measure and success rate performances and the smallest av-
550 erage rank. Among the trackers that fuse multiple cues, the PS approach [22]

²The qualitative comparisons (videos showing the results of these experiments) can be downloaded following the url <http://perso.telecom-paristech.fr/~bloch/PR-Submission>

Method	Avg. F-measure	Avg. Succ. Rate	Avg. Rank
Color	0.49	86.13	2.25
Motion	0.24	52.00	4.50
Proposed	0.53	89.07	1.83
DPS	0.50	85.16	2.50
PS	0.40	67.40	3.58

Table 3: Quantitative results averaged over all experiments from the CAVIAR project.

551 provides the worst performance. The reason for this mainly stems from the
552 fixed order (from motion to color) that is used in [22] in the sampling. It
553 can be also observed that for nearly half of the experiments the color-based
554 tracker perform especially well. Since our method adaptively estimates the
555 reliabilities of color and motion cues with respect to the contextual infor-
556 mation (color is given a much higher weight than motion during tracking)
557 and uses them both in the prediction and the likelihood estimation steps,
558 our performance is competitive to the color-based tracker in these sequences.
559 From all these experiments, we can conclude that for situations where fusion
560 is actually useful, our method outperforms the other methods.

561 7. Summary and Future Work

562 We have presented a particle filter-based tracking algorithm which inte-
563 grates multiple cues in a novel way. Unlike previous approaches, our method
564 performs the multi-cue integration both in making predictions about the ob-
565 ject of interest and in verifying them through observations. Both stages of the
566 integration depend on the reliabilities of the visual cues, which are adapted
567 in a dynamic way. Particularly, in the prediction step, the reliabilities de-

568 termine to which cue and the proposal function the particles are attached,
569 forcing reliable proposal functions to be employed more in the sequential
570 importance sampling. Moreover, in the measurement step, they specify the
571 level of contribution of each visual cue to the compound likelihood, resulting
572 in more precise weights for the particles.

573 We have demonstrated the potential of the proposed approach on various
574 illustrative video sequences with different tracking scenarios. As the experi-
575 mental results reveal, dynamic structure of our formulation makes tracking
576 process easily adapt itself to changes in the context. The proposed frame-
577 work is general enough to easily include other sources of information. Even
578 though in our experiments we use color, motion and infrared brightness cues
579 as the main sources of information for tracking an object, we can extend
580 this list with further visual cues (such as feature spatial cue or histogram of
581 gradients) and integrate them in our framework without any difficulty. The
582 conditional independence of observations should then be reconsidered, de-
583 pending on the chosen cues. Moreover, the suggested approach allows intro-
584 ducing new modalities, whenever available, throughout tracking. However,
585 it is important to note that combining several visual cues does not always
586 increase the tracking accuracy as our last experiment illustrates. Intuitively,
587 integrating various visual cues does improve the outcomes by eliminating
588 the ambiguities only when at least one of the cues considered in tracking is
589 effective in describing the object of interest.

590 In updating the reliabilities of the visual cues, we adopt the approach
591 suggested in [25]. As a future work, it could be interesting to develop new

592 quality measures in updating the cues' reliabilities. For example, in a recent
593 work [27], the dynamics parameters in the particle filter are estimated via a
594 fuzzy model. Considering fuzzy measures instead of the hard decision utilized
595 in [25] may result in more accurate estimation of cue reliabilities. Moreover,
596 in our formulation, we fixed the weight for the state dynamics in the proposals
597 $\beta_{RW} = 0.75$ for all cues in tracking the target object. In the case where all
598 the visual cues suggest likely target points (i.e., N_C , N_I and N_M all > 0),
599 the overall filter proposal can be interpreted as a mixture containing four
600 different proposals (one including the state dynamics with weight and one
601 for each cue). An interesting future work could be defining the weight of the
602 state dynamics in the mixture in an adaptive way instead of fixing it to a
603 specific value β_{RW} . Of course, this requires defining a reliability score for
604 this component as well. For this purpose the Democratic Integration is not
605 suitable, and a new approach should be devised.

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Table 4: Individual average F -measures and success rates. Algorithms compared are: color, motion, proposed (color and motion with context-sensitive reliabilities), DPS, and PS. The best and the second best performances are indicated in red and blue, respectively.

Sequence(ObjectId)		Color	Motion	Proposed	DPS	PS
OneLeaveShop2cor(0)	succ.	79.30 \pm 44.24	71.85 \pm 6.23	95.05 \pm 1.29	93.94 \pm 0.80	52.15 \pm 32.07
	F-meas.	0.47 \pm 0.26	0.41 \pm 0.04	0.59 \pm 0.02	0.57 \pm 0.02	0.33 \pm 0.21
OneShopOneWait1cor(2)	succ.	100.00 \pm 0.00	67.29 \pm 3.59	99.95 \pm 0.07	99.70 \pm 0.67	85.81 \pm 3.14
	F-meas.	0.65 \pm 0.01	0.16 \pm 0.02	0.62 \pm 0.02	0.53 \pm 0.02	0.45 \pm 0.02
OneShopOneWait2cor(7)	succ.	96.59 \pm 3.15	74.61 \pm 0.63	96.18 \pm 5.24	95.09 \pm 0.05	87.16 \pm 4.15
	F-meas.	0.58 \pm 0.02	0.43 \pm 0.07	0.58 \pm 0.02	0.60 \pm 0.01	0.57 \pm 0.02
OneStopEnter1cor(1)	succ.	81.00 \pm 42.20	91.69 \pm 6.00	98.72 \pm 1.15	93.97 \pm 12.82	99.62 \pm 0.39
	F-meas.	0.47 \pm 0.25	0.44 \pm 0.04	0.62 \pm 0.02	0.62 \pm 0.08	0.64 \pm 0.03
OneStopEnter1cor(2)	succ.	74.61 \pm 0.54	49.03 \pm 13.15	96.11 \pm 7.99	80.88 \pm 17.84	60.31 \pm 15.82
	F-meas.	0.50 \pm 0.01	0.25 \pm 0.07	0.61 \pm 0.06	0.49 \pm 0.06	0.43 \pm 0.10
OneStopEnter2cor(3)	succ.	62.92 \pm 50.88	99.43 \pm 0.27	99.49 \pm 0.28	99.75 \pm 0.14	99.75 \pm 0.14
	F-meas.	0.25 \pm 0.20	0.45 \pm 0.03	0.42 \pm 0.02	0.41 \pm 0.03	0.40 \pm 0.02
OneStopEnter2cor(4)	succ.	99.52 \pm 0.42	60.72 \pm 1.82	65.19 \pm 1.22	57.84 \pm 15.45	57.72 \pm 14.68
	F-meas.	0.59 \pm 0.02	0.34 \pm 0.02	0.41 \pm 0.01	0.37 \pm 0.10	0.36 \pm 0.10
OneStopMoveEnter1cor(7)	succ.	69.11 \pm 1.36	21.84 \pm 4.94	70.23 \pm 1.61	58.64 \pm 18.22	44.86 \pm 21.31
	F-meas.	0.50 \pm 0.01	0.03 \pm 0.01	0.47 \pm 0.03	0.38 \pm 0.15	0.28 \pm 0.15
OneStopMoveNoEnter2cor(0)	success rate	99.84 \pm 0.11	45.20 \pm 9.34	95.61 \pm 9.11	95.99 \pm 8.10	79.28 \pm 0.45
	F-measure	0.56 \pm 0.02	0.23 \pm 0.06	0.58 \pm 0.05	0.61 \pm 0.03	0.52 \pm 0.03
OneStopNoEnter1cor(0)	success rate	97.41 \pm 2.44	0.00 \pm 0.00	54.26 \pm 50.23	47.82 \pm 45.31	15.33 \pm 8.97
	F-measure	0.49 \pm 0.02	0.00 \pm 0.00	0.30 \pm 0.28	0.29 \pm 0.27	0.09 \pm 0.05
ThreePastShop2cor(2)	success rate	99.58 \pm 0.17	2.12 \pm 4.74	99.15 \pm 0.72	99.45 \pm 0.40	35.03 \pm 16.09
	F-measure	0.49 \pm 0.01	0.00 \pm 0.01	0.57 \pm 0.03	0.61 \pm 0.02	0.20 \pm 0.09
ThreePastShop2cor(7)	succ.	73.67 \pm 35.97	40.17 \pm 8.30	98.95 \pm 2.10	98.82 \pm 1.27	91.79 \pm 18.36
	F-meas.	0.36 \pm 0.18	0.16 \pm 0.05	0.56 \pm 0.04	0.58 \pm 0.04	0.57 \pm 0.12