

Land-use Classification for High-resolution Remote Sensing Image using Collaborative Representation with a Locally Adaptive Dictionary

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Abstract: Sparse representation is widely applied in the field of remote sensing image classification, but sparsity-based methods are time-consuming. Unlike sparse representation, collaborative representation could improve the efficiency, accuracy, and precision of image classification algorithms. Thus, we propose a high-resolution remote sensing image classification method using collaborative representation with a locally adaptive dictionary. The proposed method includes two steps. First, we use a similarity measurement technique to separately pick out the most similar images for each test image from the total training image samples. In this step, a one-step sub-dictionary is constructed for every test image. Second, we extract the most frequent elements from all one-step sub-dictionaries of a given class. In the step, a unique two-step sub-dictionary, that is, a locally adaptive dictionary is acquired for every class. The test image samples are individually represented over the locally adaptive dictionaries of all classes. Extensive experiments (OA (%) =83.33, Kappa (%) =81.35) show that our proposed method yields competitive classification results with greater efficiency than other compared methods.

1 INTRODUCTION

Recently, high-resolution remote sensing images (HRIs) have been frequently occurred in many practical applications, such as in Cascaded classification (Guo et al., 2013), urban area management (Huang et al., 2014), and residential area extraction (Zhang et al., 2015). Especially, HRIs play an increasingly important role in land-use classification (Chen and Tian, 2015; Hu et al., 2015; Zhao et al., 2014). Natural images, are generally sparse, and therefore can be sparsely represented and classified (Olshausen and Field, 1997). Sparse Representation based Classification (SRC) (Wright et al., 2009) was a sparse linear combination of representation bases, i.e. a dictionary of atoms, and had been successfully applied in the field of image classification (Yang et al., 2009). But sparsity based methods were time-consuming. In contrast to sparsity based classification algorithms, Collaborative Representation based Classification (CRC) (Zhang et al., 2011) yielded a very competitive level of

accuracy with a significantly lower complexity. In (Zhang et al., 2012), Zhang et.al pointed out that it was Collaborative Representation (CR) that can represent test image collaboratively with training image samples from all classes, as image samples between different classes often share certain similarity. In (Li and Du, 2014; Li et al., 2014), Li et.al proposed two methods, Nearest Regularized Subspace (NRS) and Joint Within-Class Collaborative Representation (JCR), for hyperspectral remote sensing images classification. These methods also could probably be extended to classify for HRIs. The essence of a NRS classifier was a l_2 penalty framed as a distance weighted Tikhonov regularization. This distance weighted measurement enforced a weight vector structure. Unlike the sparse representation based approach, the weights can be simply estimated through a closed-form solution, resulting in much lower computational cost, but the method ignored the spatial information at neighboring locations. To overcome this disadvantage of NRS, JCR was

proposed. Both methods enhanced classification precision, but also created a serious problem as irrelevant estimated coefficients generated during processing were scattered over all classes, instead of concentrated in a particular one, therefore adding uncertainty to the final classification results. Additionally, these methods just considered the first “joint” of the original training samples, and forewent a second deep selection from them, which could be the basis of a more complete and non-redundant dictionary for HRI classification.

In this paper, we focus on the CR working mechanism, and propose a high-resolution remote sensing image classification method using CR with a locally adaptive dictionary (LAD-CRC). The LAD-CRC method makes up of two stages. First, we use a similarity measure to separately pick out the most similar images for each test image from the total training sample images, constructing a one-step sub-dictionary for each test image. Second, each test image will share certain similarities with some of the training images, the one-step sub-dictionaries for these test images therefore highly correlate. Based on this correlation, we extract the most frequent elements from all one-step sub-dictionaries of total test images in a given class, and construct a two-step sub-dictionary for the given class. The total of the most frequent elements, that is, two-step sub-dictionary, means the locally adaptive dictionary of the given class. A test image therefore share a unique two-step sub-dictionary with the other test images in the same class. We also call two-step sub-dictionary per class as a locally adaptive dictionary. Test images are individually represented by the locally adaptive dictionaries of all classes. Extensive experiments show that our proposed method not only increases classification precision, but also decreases computing time.

The remaining parts of this paper are organized as follows. Section 2 discusses basic CR theory. Section 3 details the proposed algorithm. Section 4 describes experimental results and analysis of the proposed algorithm. Conclusions are drawn in section 5.

2 BASIC THEORY

In this section, we will introduce the general CR model with corresponding regularizations, for reconstructing a test image.

2.1 Collaborative Representation (CR)

Suppose that we have C classes of training samples,

and all training image samples are denoted by X . Denote by $X_{i,j} \in \mathfrak{R}^{m \times n_{ij}}$ the j^{th} training image sample of the i^{th} class, and denote by $X_i \in \mathfrak{R}^{m \times n_i}$ the training image samples of the i^{th} class, then let $X = [X_1, X_2, \dots, X_C] \in \mathfrak{R}^{m \times N}$, $N = \sum_{i=1}^C n_i$. When giving a test sample $y \in \mathfrak{R}^{m \times n}$ from the class i , we represent it as

$$\begin{aligned} y &= X\alpha + \varepsilon = X_1\alpha_1 + \dots + X_i\alpha_i + \dots + X_C\alpha_C + \varepsilon \\ &= X_i\alpha_i + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^C X_j\alpha_j + \varepsilon \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $\alpha = [\alpha_1; \alpha_2; \dots; \alpha_C]$ and α_i is the coefficient associated with the class i , ε is a small threshold. A general CR model can be represented as

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\alpha} &= \underset{\alpha}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|y - X\alpha\|_p \\ \text{s. t. } &\|\alpha\|_q < \varepsilon \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where p and q equal to one or two. Different settings of p and q lead to different instantiations.

2.2 Reconstruction and Classification of HRIs via CR

The working mechanism of CR is that some high-resolution remote sensing images from other classes can be helpful to represent the test image when training images belonging to different classes share certain similarities. The USA land-use dataset in our experiment is a small sample size problem, and X_i is under-complete in general. If we use X_i to represent the test image y , the representation error will be very large, even when y belongs to the class i . One obvious solution to solve the problem is to use much more training samples to represent the test image y . For HRIs, we experimentally set p as two, q as one, and the Lagrange dual form of this case can be shown as

$$\hat{\alpha} = \underset{\alpha}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|y - X\alpha\|_2 + \lambda \|\alpha\|_1 \quad (3)$$

where the parameter λ is a tradeoff between the data fidelity term and the coefficient prior. We compute the residuals $e_i(y) = \|y - X_i\hat{\alpha}_i\|_2 / \|\hat{\alpha}_i\|_2$, then identify the class of the test image y via $\operatorname{class}(y) = \operatorname{argmin}_i \{e_i\}$.

3 THE PROPOSED METHOD

In this section, we will detail how to extract sub-dictionaries at each step, finally obtain a locally adaptive dictionary. We will present the complete algorithm process in the proposed method for HRI classification.

3.1 Feature Extraction

The set of features adopted in land-use classification (Mekhalfi et al., 2015) consisted of three types as follows: Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) (Dalal and Triggs, 2005), Cooccurrence of Adjacent Local Binary Patterns (CoALBP) (Nosaka et al., 2011) and Gradient Local AutoCorrelations (GLACs) (Kobayashi and Otsu, 2008). The results showed the CoALBP produced the most accurate land use classification results. In our work, CoALBP features are utilized to construct the sub-dictionaries from the land-use dataset. In the representation format with CoALBP features, a high resolution remote sensing image is represented by a column vector.

3.2 One-step Sub-dictionary

Suppose we have C classes of test samples, all test samples are denoted by Y , the test samples of i^{th} class are denoted by Y_i . Denote by $Y_{t,q} \in \mathfrak{R}^{m \times n_{t,q}}$ the q^{th} test sample of the t^{th} class. As mentioned in 2.1, denote by $X_i \in \mathfrak{R}^{m \times n_i}$ the training samples of the i^{th} class, then let $X = [X_1, X_2, \dots, X_C] \in \mathfrak{R}^{m \times N}$. Because of similarity among image samples, we just need to choose the most similar training samples for every test image, instead of complete training image samples. Here, we use similarity measurement principle to select out the most similar S training images in every X_i to construct an one-step sub-dictionary of $Y_{t,q}$, denoted by

$$X_{t,S_q} = [X_{t,q,1,S_{t,q,1}}, \dots, X_{t,q,i,S_{t,q,i}}, \dots, X_{t,q,C,S_{t,q,C}}] \quad (4)$$

$X_{t,q,i,S_{t,q,i}}$ is the sample set that includes the most similar S training samples of the i^{th} class with test image $Y_{t,q}$, where $i \in (1, 2, \dots, C)$. And $S_{t,q,1}, S_{t,q,2}, \dots, S_{t,q,C}$ are respectively subsets of $(1, 2, \dots, X_1), \dots, (1, 2, \dots, X_i), \dots, (1, 2, \dots, X_C)$, $\sum_{i=1}^C |S_{t,q,i}| = C * S$, $|S_{t,q,i}|$ is the number of elements in subset $S_{t,q,i}$. The mathematical function of similarity measurement principle is as follow

$$d = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2} \quad (5)$$

where $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n)$, $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, y_n)$ are n vectors. The smaller the d value, the more similar x and y .

3.3 Two-step Sub-dictionary

From the section 3.2, the one-step sub-dictionary of all test samples of the t^{th} class, denoted by

$$\begin{aligned} X_{t,S} &= [X_{t,1,S_{t,1,1}}, \dots, X_{t,i,S_{t,i,1}}, \dots, X_{t,C,S_{t,C,1}} \\ &\quad + \dots + \\ &\quad X_{t,q,1,S_{t,q,1}}, \dots, X_{t,q,i,S_{t,q,i}}, \dots, X_{t,q,C,S_{t,q,C}} \\ &\quad + \dots + \\ &\quad X_{t,Y_t,1,S_{t,Y_t,1}}, \dots, X_{t,Y_t,i,S_{t,Y_t,i}}, \dots, X_{t,Y_t,C,S_{t,Y_t,C}}] \\ &= [X_{t,1,S_{t,1}}, \dots, X_{t,i,S_{t,i}}, \dots, X_{t,C,S_{t,C}}] \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where

$$X_{t,i,S_{t,i}} = [X_{t,1,S_{t,1,i}}, \dots, X_{t,q,i,S_{t,q,i}}, \dots, X_{t,Y_t,i,S_{t,Y_t,i}}] \quad (7)$$

are all selected training samples of the i^{th} class. The two-step sub-dictionary, that is, the S samples that frequently occur in $X_{t,S}$, denoted by

$$\widehat{X}_{t,S} = [\widehat{X}_{t,1,S_{t,1}}, \dots, \widehat{X}_{t,i,S_{t,i}}, \dots, \widehat{X}_{t,C,S_{t,C}}] \quad (8)$$

All new selected training samples of the i^{th} class is denoted by $\widehat{X}_{t,i,S_{t,i}}$, the number is $|\widehat{S}_{t,i}|$, and $\sum_{i=1}^C |\widehat{S}_{t,i}| = S$. The locally adaptive dictionary of t^{th} class is $\widehat{X}_{t,S}$.

3.4 The Flow of the Proposed Method for HRIs Classification

To summarize the proposed method, we show the following steps.

- 1) Given a test image $Y_{t,q}$ of the t^{th} class, a similarity measurement principle is used to construct an one-step sub-dictionary of $Y_{t,q}$ from total training images of all classes, denoted by

$$X_{t,S_q} = [X_{t,q,1,S_{t,q,1}}, \dots, X_{t,q,i,S_{t,q,i}}, \dots, X_{t,q,C,S_{t,q,C}}] \quad (9)$$

After doing same process for other test images of the t^{th} class, the one-step sub-dictionary of the t^{th} class is $X_{t,S}$;

- 2) A two-step sub-dictionary of the t^{th} class, that is, the first S columns those occur repeatedly in $X_{t,S}$ is construct, denoted by

$$\widehat{X}_{t,S} = [\widehat{X}_{t,1,S_{t,1}}, \dots, \widehat{X}_{t,i,S_{t,i}}, \dots, \widehat{X}_{t,C,S_{t,C}}] \quad (10)$$

$\widehat{X}_{t,S}$ is also called the locally adaptive dictionary of the t^{th} class;

- 3) From the foregoing, we can obtain the proposed method as

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\Psi}_{t,S} &= \underset{\Psi_{t,S}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ \|Y_{t,q} - \widehat{X}_{t,S} \Psi_{t,S}\|_2^2 \right\} \\ &\quad + \lambda \|\Psi_{t,S}\|_1^2 \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where $\widehat{\Psi}_{t,S}$ refers to the local coefficient matrix corresponding to the locally adaptive dictionary $\widehat{X}_{t,S}$, and $\widehat{\Psi}_{t,S} = (\widehat{\Psi}_{t,1}, \dots; \widehat{\Psi}_{t,i}, \dots; \widehat{\Psi}_{t,C})$;

- 4) After traversing all the classes, we get a global coefficient matrix. The label of the test HRI $Y_{t,q}$ is determined by the following classification rule

$$class(i) = \underset{i=1,\dots,c}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ \frac{\|Y_{t,q} - X_i \hat{\Psi}_i^g\|_p}{\|\hat{\Psi}_i^g\|_p} \right\} \quad (12)$$

where X_i is a subpart of X associated with the class i and $\hat{\Psi}_i^g$ denotes the portion of the recovered collaborative coefficients $\hat{\Psi}^g$ for the i^{th} class.

- 5) In sequence, we can get a 2-D matrix which records the labels of the HRIs in the last.

Additionally, the specific scheme for the global coefficient matrix construction is shown as follows.

Global coefficient matrix $\hat{\Psi}^g$ construction

Input: (1) The local coefficient matrix $\hat{\Psi}_{t,S} \in \mathfrak{R}^{S \times n_{t,q}}$;

(2) Indicator set I with N elements, and $I_i = 0$, or 1, for $i = 1, \dots, N$, in which “1” means that the corresponding dictionary atom is active and “0” means inactive.

Initialization: Set the initial global coefficient matrix $\hat{\Psi}^g \in \mathfrak{R}^{N \times n_{t,q}}$ as a zero matrix, and an indicator $v = 1$.

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For i = 1 to N
  if  $I_i = 1$ ;
     $\hat{\Psi}^g(i, :) = \hat{\Psi}_{t,S}(v, :)$ ;
     $v++$ ;
  End if
End For
    
```

Output: The global coefficient matrix $\hat{\Psi}^g$.

4 RESULT AND ANALYSIS

The USA land-use dataset (Yang and Newsam, 2010) is widely used for evaluating land-use classification algorithms. It includes 21 classes, each class has 100 images. 80 images are selected out as training samples per class, other 20 images per class are test samples. Then, the total number of training samples is 1680. Image samples of each land-use class are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Example images of USA land-use dataset.

(1 agriculture; 2 airplane; 3 baseball diamond; 4 beach; 5 buildings; 6 chaparral; 7 dense residential; 8 forest; 9 freeway; 10 golf course; 11 harbor; 12 intersection; 13 medium residential; 14 mobile phone park; 15 overpass; 16 parking lot; 17 river; 18 runway; 19 sparse residential; 20 storage tanks; 21 tennis court).

4.1 Parameter Setting

The selection of sample number S in two steps is critical in LAD-CRC. Experimentally, we set the S value equal to 210.

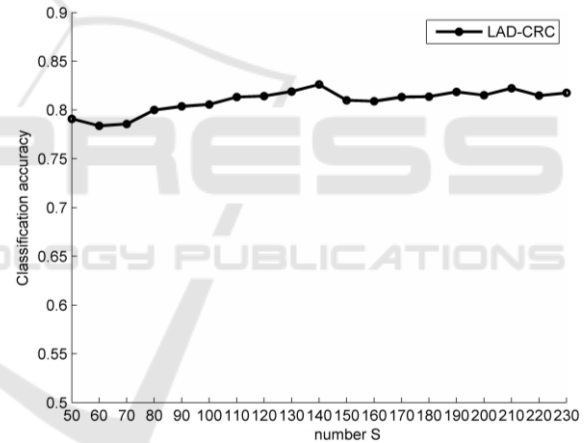


Figure 2: The S value of locally adaptive dictionary per class.

In Figure 2, it shows the relationship between the number S of locally adaptive dictionary per class and the classification accuracy. The range of the number S in LAD-CRC is $[50, 230]$, the step length is 10. There are two convex points with S equal to 140 and 210. The accuracy values on these two points are almost the same. But the accuracy trend is more stable around 210. In addition, 140 is not a suitable value as we compress the 1×1680 estimated coefficient vector to a 1×210 coefficient vector to show the rough distribution of estimated coefficients for all methods. It is more clear and concise to show the distribution of coefficients with the 1×210 vector. The regularized parameter λ is 0.1 in NRS and JCR, 0.001 in SRC and

CRC experimentally. Other parameters are the same in all five methods.

4.2 Result Comparison with Other Methods

Using the USA land-use dataset, we conduct many experiments to compare with results of SRC (Wright et al., 2009), CRC (Wright et al., 2009), NRS (Li et al., 2014), and JCR (Li and Du, 2014), algorithms. Classification accuracy is averaged over five cross-validation evaluations. To facilitate a fair comparison between our proposed algorithm and other approaches, a fivefold cross-validation is performed in which the dataset is randomly partitioned into five equal subsets. After portioning, each land-use class contains a subset of 20 images. Four of these subsets are used for training, while the remaining subset is used for testing. The results include average accuracy (OA) of all classes and Kappa coefficients are showed in Table 1.

Table 1: Classification results for USA land-use dataset with the proposed LAD-CRC.

	SRC	CRC	NRS	JCR	LAD-CRC
OA (%)	66.95	55.81	71.71	71.10	83.33
Kappa (%)	66.50	52.25	69.75	70.30	81.35

In Table 1, the compared results show that the locally adaptive dictionary in proposed method can greatly replace the whole dictionary (e.g., the whole training image samples), and improves classification accuracy (OA=83.33; Kappa=81.35). The idea of extracting two sub-dictionaries refines the information of total training sample information into a locally adaptive dictionary.

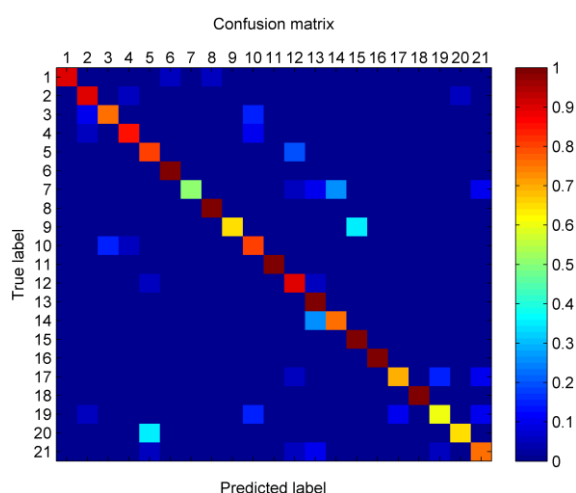


Figure 3: Confusion matrix for the land-use data set using the proposed method.

The average classification performances of the individual classes using our proposed method set with the optimal parameters are visually shown in the confusion matrix (Figure 3). The average accuracies occur along a diagonal shown in red to yellow cells in the figure, mostly focusing on $82.62 \pm 0.71\%$.

Without loss of generality, in this paper, we randomly choose the fifteenth test image sample of the class 6 in fifth cross-validation dataset, to demonstrate classification performance of the proposed method. In Figure 4, Figure 4(a-j) show estimated construction coefficients and normalized residuals for all five methods. Figure 4(a), 4(c), 4(e), 4(g), and 4(i) show estimated construction coefficients, and the variable on x axis is the distribution of training samples for all 21 classes (e.g., label distribution), the range of training samples of the class 6 is [20, 101] in Figure 4(a), [51, 60] in Figure 4(c), 4(e), 4(g), and 4(i). The value on y axis is corresponding estimated construction coefficients of different classes. Figure 4(b), 4(d), 4(f), 4(h), and 4(j) show normalized residuals of different classes. It can be observed that all the approaches can identify the test sample image properly by the rule of the least error, but the coefficient values for different algorithms are largely different. From Figure 4 (a) and 4(b), estimated construction coefficients mostly locate on class 6 (from 20 to 101 on the x axis), 8 (from 102 to 178 on the x axis), 17 (from 182 to 190 on the x axis) and 19 (from 191 to 209 on the x axis), but there has the least normalized residuals in class 6, which means proposed method mainly unitizes training sample images in class 6 to construct the test sample image. From Figure 4(c) and 4(d) in SRC, the normalized residuals in class 1, 4, 6, 9 and 11 all are little, and estimated construction coefficients almost focus on class 6 (from 51 to 60 on the x axis), it means that the test sample image is reconstructed by training sample images in class 6. Similarly, from Figure 4(e) and 4(f) in CRC, estimated construction coefficients mainly locate in class 6 (from 51 to 60 on the x axis), and normalized residual in class 6 obviously is the smallest. In NRS and JCR, from Figure 4(g) and 4(i), the distributions of estimated construction coefficients are irregular. But from Figure 4(h) and 4(j), the normalized residual on class 6 still is the smallest.

Compared Figure 4(a) with 4(c), 4(e), there are many disturbances (estimated construction coefficients in class 8, 17 and 19). There are two reasons for these noises: (1) Due to the selection of sub-dictionaries at two steps, 210 selected training sample images are very similar to the test sample image of the class 6; (2) Even though 210 selected

training image samples mostly belong to the class 6, training sample images probably share certain similarity among some classes. Then, there should be some training samples of other classes in the 210 selected training samples. We call these classes “similar class”, such as class 8, 17, and 19. The

situations in such two reasons result that a part of estimated construction coefficients of the test image are scattered in “similar classes”. The distribution of normalized residuals in Figure 4(b) perfectly match the fact “similar class” causes. The coefficient disturbances of LAD-CRC just locate on “similar

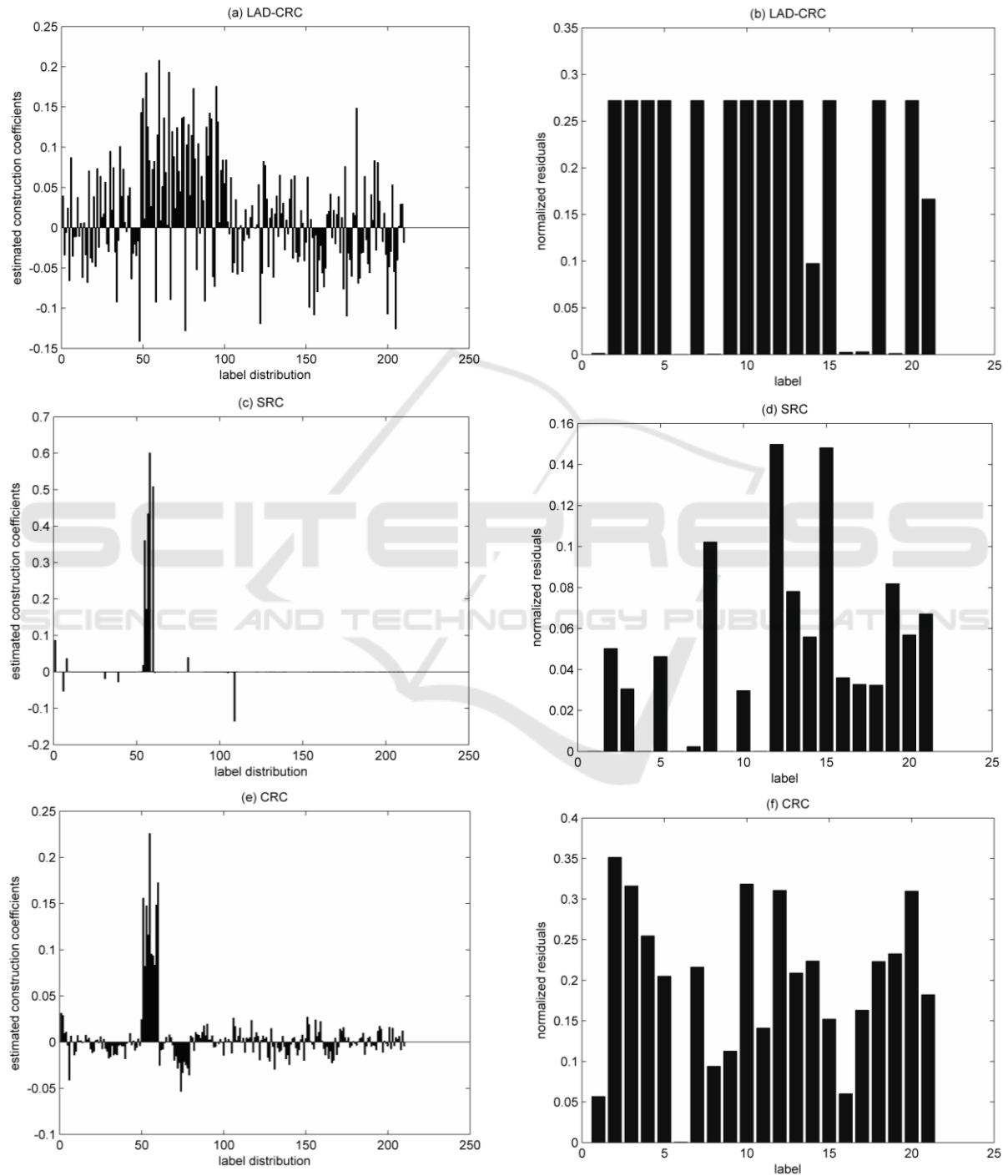


Figure 4: estimated construction coefficients and normalized residuals among all method.

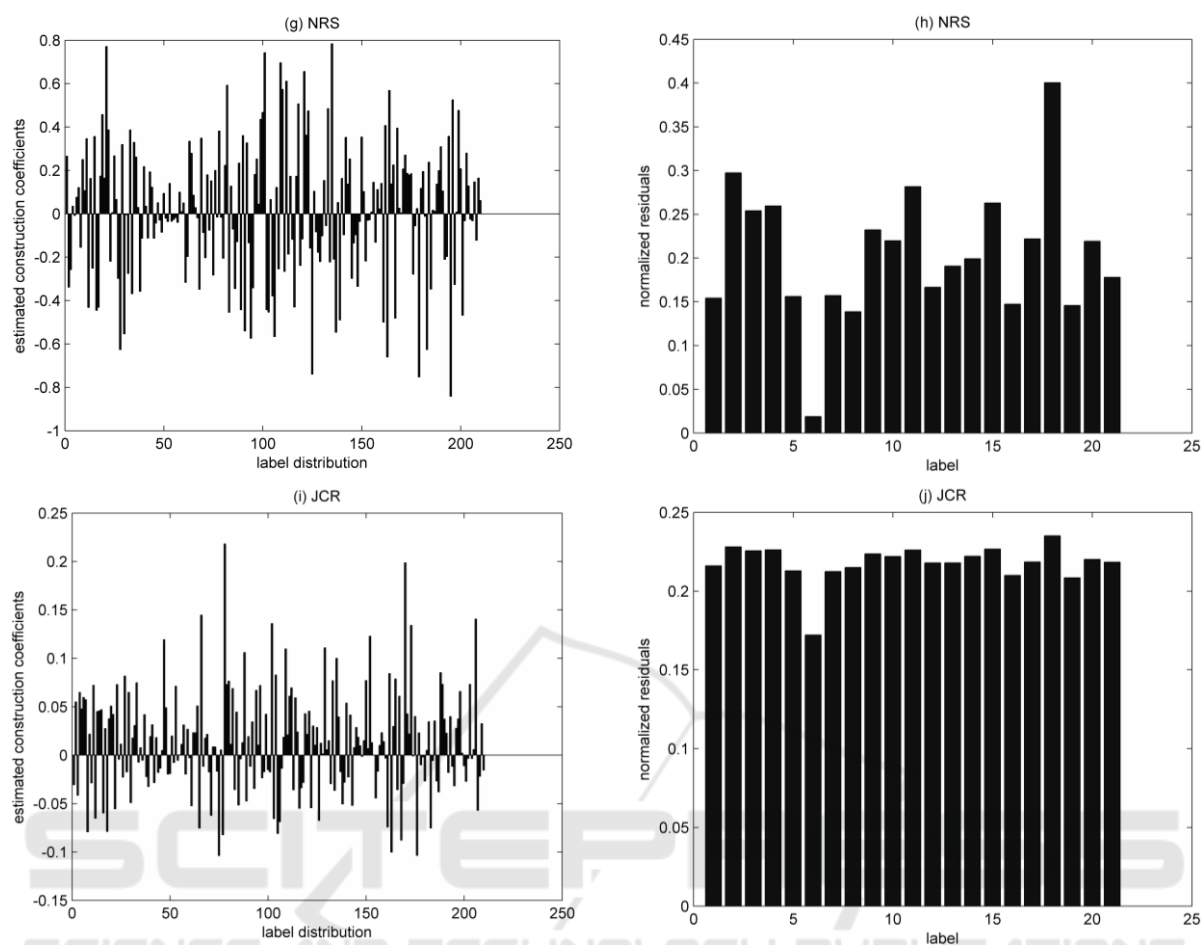


Figure 4: estimated construction coefficients and normalized residuals among all method (cont.).

class”. In addition, the estimated construction coefficients of CRC locate on all classes. Estimated construction coefficients in other classes make the very serious impact on computing residuals, which results that CRC achieves the worst classification result.

Compared Figure 4(a) with Figure 4(g), 4(i), these irregular reconstruction coefficient distribution in Figure 4(g) and 4(i) perfectly prove the validity of proposed method by refining the information of total training sample information into a locally adaptive dictionary.

To conclude, considering that all methods can identify the test image sample properly, the proposed method can select the most valuable training image samples. With the construction of a locally adaptive dictionary, we receive the best classification accuracy.

However, it is easy to find that the results of four compared algorithms are approximately 10% lower than these they acquired in other datasets. We could give the probable reason. Generally, SIFT is the most

common feature descriptor for HRI classification. In the paper, we choose CoALBP features to collect HRIs information. LBP is a descriptor for rotation invariant texture classification. CoALBP is the extension of LBP to extract finer local details. The reason we choose CoALBP instead of SIFT is that the feature exploitation with the latter will take much more computation time than the former takes. Fortunately, the phenomenon that results are lower than these methods acquired in other datasets exists in all four compared algorithms without a special case. So the comparison results in Table 1 still can testify the performance of the proposed method, even under the impact of CoALBP features.

Table 2: Speed for USA land-use dataset.

	SRC	CRC	NRS	JCR	LAD-CRC
Time (s)	5018.957	7.4216	26.8122	35.3689	2215.7087

In Table 2, the computation time each method consumes is showed. The computation time including

training and test processes the proposed method takes is less than SRC takes, but more than CRC, NRS and JCR take. In Table 2, the more accurate a method is, the more computation time is generally required. This demonstrates that accuracy comes at the cost of increasing computational efforts. It is time consuming to separately find out the most similar training images for each test image and the most frequent training images for every class with two sub-dictionaries. The process occupies most of the running time of the proposed method.

5 CONCLUSION

In this paper, experimental results clearly show that the proposed method obtains the best classification performance. It means the idea of training dictionaries at two steps is promising, and encourages me further to explore the direction. From Figure 4(a), there still are many disturbances (for example, estimated construction coefficients in class 8, 17 and 19). Effective methods for extracting discriminative information of different classes should be explored to decrease and even eliminate these disturbances. Besides, time consuming on sub-dictionaries is also a problem. To find out a way to reduce computing time is necessary. Parallel computing can be thought as an ideal direction in the future work.

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