

# Revisiting Pose Estimation with Foreshortening Compensation and Color Information

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**Keywords:** Upper Body Pose Estimation, Foreshortening Compensation, Part Based Model, Loopy Belief Propagation, Color Similarity.

**Abstract:** This paper addresses the problem of upper body pose estimation. The task is to detect and estimate 2D human configuration in static images for six parts: head, torso, and left-right upper and lower arms. The common approach to solve this has been the Pictorial Structure method (Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher, 2005). We present this as a graphical model inference problem and use the loopy belief propagation algorithm for inference. When a human appears in fronto-parallel plane, fixed size part detectors are sufficient and give reliable detection. But when parts like lower and upper arms move out of the plane, we observe foreshortening and the part detectors become erroneous. We propose an approach that compensates foreshortening in the upper and lower arms, and effectively prunes the search state space of each part. Additionally, we introduce two extra pairwise constraints to exploit the color similarity information between parts during inference to get better localization of the upper and lower arms. Finally, we present experiments and results on two challenging datasets (Buffy and ETHZ Pascal), showing improvements on the lower arms accuracy and comparable results for other parts.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This paper addresses the problem of upper body pose estimation. The task is to detect and estimate 2D human configuration in static images for six parts: head, torso, left and right upper and lower arms. This is a core problem in computer vision, and it is critical for many applications such as human computer interaction, image understanding, activity recognition, etc. There are many representations for pose, among which the **stickman** notation (the parts are labeled with different line segments) is common. An example of pose estimation task with stickman notation is given in Figure 1.

The common approach to pose estimation, in the last decade, has been the Pictorial Structures(PS) model (Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher, 2005) that is based on local appearance of the parts and kinematic constraints (visualized as springs) on the pairs of parts: parts are parameterized by pixel location and orientation. The part appearance models are usually simple linear filters on edges, color and location (Andriluka et al., 2009; Ramanan and Sminchisescu, 2006), and kinematic constraints are image independent deformable costs that force two adjacent parts to

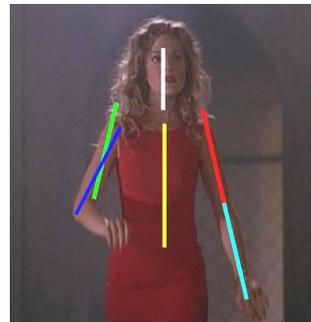


Figure 1: Stickman notation for upper body pose estimation and the problem of foreshortening in the left lower arm (best viewed in color).

be together. The framework is powerful and general, yet it is a simple generative model that allows for efficient and exact inference of the human pose configuration.

In our approach, we use a graphical model representation of the upper body where vertices represent the parts location and edges represent the pairwise constraints between parts, and we perform inference using the loopy belief propagation algorithm (Koller and Friedman, 2009).

Many recent approaches (Sapp et al., 2010b; Ra-

manan, 2006; Eichner and Ferrari, 2009; Andriluka et al., 2009) build upon the PS framework, and use standard sized template-based part-detectors to approximately locate parts in the image. These part detectors are separately trained for each part from the training dataset. We can observe that parts, particularly the lower and upper arms, have cylindrical shape and can depict many shapes depending on their configurations. When a person appears in fronto-parallel plane, standard sized part detectors are sufficient for correct localization. But, when certain parts like lower arms move out of the plane, we observe foreshortening and the standard detectors produce erroneous detections.

One can search for the foreshortening during part detection, but the state space of each part (number of different configurations) increases in such a way that it becomes impractical to compute the pairwise constraints. (An example image is shown in Figure 1, we can observe the wrong estimation of the lower left arm due to foreshortening.) In our approach, we introduce few levels of foreshortening when we perform parts detection, and we propose an effective method to prune the state space of each part. Our method shows better localization for parts than the standard sized template-based methods and thus gives better results on challenging images.

Furthermore, in day to day images, we often observe color similarity between different parts of human body in both the presence as well as the absence of clothes. For instance, left and right upper arms have similar color irrespective of person clothing and gender. We propose to exploit these color similarities by adding two color similarity constraints between the upper left-right arms pair and the lower left-right arms pair, and show that these constraints improve pose estimation when considered simultaneously with the kinematic constraints.

Our contributions are the following: **(1)** we compensate foreshortening in the parts, especially lower and upper arms; **(2)** we exploit color similarity between left-right lower and upper arms and show better results than the simple PS framework; **(3)** we present a simple and effective method to reject part candidates that are unlikely to be true part candidates; **(4)** we produce better results for the lower arms and comparable results for other parts on the two challenging datasets (Buffy V3.01 and PASCAL Stickmen V1.1).

In the rest of this paper, we first describe the related work in Section 2, and a brief overview of the pictorial structures and its limitations in Section 3. Then, we give detailed description of our framework in Section 4, followed by the inference step in Section 5. Finally, we show our experiments and results

in Section 6, and conclude in Section 7.

## 2 RELATED WORK

There has been a lot of research on human pose estimation in the last four decades. We focus on the methods that overlap with our approach. First, (Fischler and Elschlager, 1973) proposes the pictorial structure (PS) model, and (Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher, 2005) proposes an efficient inference method focusing on tree-based models that use Gaussian priors for the kinematic constraints. (Andriluka et al., 2009) builds upon the PS framework and uses discriminatively trained part detectors for unary potentials. (Ramanan and Sminchisescu, 2006) proposes an advance method of learning PS parameters that maximizes the conditional likelihood of the parts, and captures more complex inter-part interactions than Gaussian priors, which we also use to train our kinematic constraints.

Along with the kinematic constraints, there have been a few methods that use inter-part color similarity for better localization of the parts. For instance, (Eichner and Ferrari, 2009) uses Location Priors in the window output of a person detector along with the appearance information to initialize the unary potentials for standard pictorial structure model. (Sapp et al., 2010b) filters out less probable part locations by using a cascade of pictorial structures, and uses richer appearance models only at a later stage on much smaller set of locations. The disadvantage with this approach is that one might lose the correct locations for parts if he considers only the kinematic constraints in the initial stages of the cascade. We, on the other hand, directly include the constraints in the graph and enforce them throughout the inference stage.

There are few other approaches that use different methods to get precise location of the parts. For instance, (Gupta et al., 2008) models self-occlusion to get precise location of the parts, (Karlinsky and Ullman, 2012) models the appearance of links that connect two parts, and (Yang and Ramanan, 2011) proposes a general flexible mixture model that augments standard spring models and is able to capture more complex configurations of parts.

## 3 PICTORIAL STRUCTURE (PS) REVIEW

In this section, we provide a brief overview of the PS framework (Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher, 2005)

followed by shortcomings of the PS and related approaches.

The human body is treated as an articulated structure of parts and represented using a graphical model  $G = (V, E)$ . Each node in  $G$  represents a part location and each edge represents the kinematic constraint between physically connected pair of parts. The location for  $i^{th}$  part is given by  $l_i = [x_i, y_i, \theta_i, f_i, s_i]$ , where  $(x_i, y_i)$  is the position of the part in image,  $\theta_i, f_i, s_i$  are orientation, foreshortening, and scale of the  $i^{th}$  part respectively. The configuration, with  $n$  parts and an image  $I$ , is represented by  $L = \{l_i\}, i = [1 \dots n]$ , and the posterior probability is written as:

$$P(L|I, \Theta) \propto \exp \left( \sum_i \phi(I|l_i, \Theta) + \sum_{(i,j) \in E} \psi(l_i, l_j) \right) \quad (1)$$

Here the unary potentials  $\phi(I|l_i, \Theta)$  provide the local image evidence for the  $i^{th}$  part located at  $l_i$  with learned appearance model  $\Theta$ , and the pairwise potentials  $\psi(l_i, l_j)$  provide priors on the relative position of parts enforcing kinematic constraints between them (e.g. the lower arm must be attached to the upper arm). The graph  $G$  is a tree with only unary and kinematic potentials, and the exact inference of the Maximum a posteriori (MAP) estimate can be performed using dynamic programming in  $O(n \times h^2)$  time, where  $n$  is the number of parts and  $h$  is the number of states (state space size) for each part. The time complexity is further reduced to  $O(n \times h)$  by using Gaussian priors and distance transform for the kinematic constraints computation (Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher, 2005).

**Limitations of PS and Related Approaches.** The recent approaches (Sapp et al., 2010b; Ramanan, 2006; Eichner and Ferrari, 2009; Andriluka et al., 2009; Karlinsky and Ullman, 2012) consider parts as rigid rectangular templates, and neglect foreshortening in the upper and lower arms. Next, the pairwise kinematic constraints are usually modeled as unimodal Gaussians (Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher, 2005; Andriluka et al., 2009), which cannot capture the true multinomial nature of interactions between parts. Finally, few approaches (Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher, 2005; Andriluka et al., 2009) do not utilize obvious image cues such as color similarity between the left and right arms during pose estimation.

## 4 OUR FRAMEWORK

Considering the limitations mentioned in Section 3, we propose that the foreshortening search and the color similarity constraints in the upper and lower

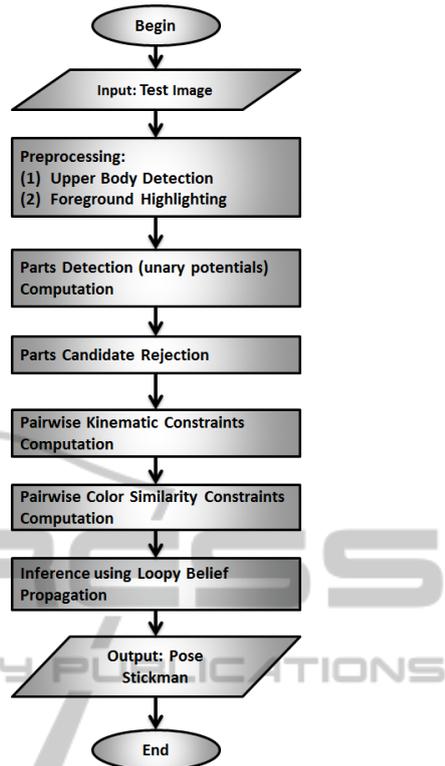


Figure 2: Flowchart of our algorithm.

arms are crucial for better localization of parts in any upper body pose estimation method.

We implement the following in our framework: to overcome the foreshortening problem, we add a foreshortening search parameter  $f_i$  for the upper and lower arms (details in Section 4.2); to capture more complex distributions for the kinematic constraints, we use non-parametric distribution similar to (Ramanan, 2006) (details in Section 4.4); and to utilize image color similarity cues during inference, we add two new pairwise constraints: (1) upper left and right arms, (2) lower left and right arms (details in Section 4.5).

Please note that after we add two new color similarity constraints, we introduce cycles in the graph  $G$ , and we can not perform MAP estimation using dynamic programming. Instead, we first reduce the search space by preprocessing the image (details in Section 4.3), and then use the loopy belief propagation framework thus obtaining the approximate final marginals for each part (details in Section 5).

Now, we represent the color similarity constraints by edges  $C$ , the new posterior probability can be written as:

$$P(L|I, \Theta) \propto \exp \left( \sum_i \phi(I|l_i, \Theta) + \sum_{(i,j \in E)} \psi(l_i, l_j) + \sum_{(i,j \in C)} \omega(l_i, l_j) \right) \quad (2)$$

where  $\omega(l_i, l_j)$  is the color similarity measure between the part patches at locations  $l_i$  and  $l_j$  respectively. We present the graphs with and without color similarity constraints in Figure 5.

We present the high level description of our full upper body pose estimation algorithm through a flowchart in Figure 2, and we describe each step in the following sections.

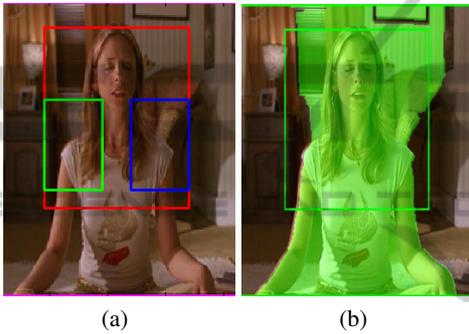


Figure 3: Preprocessing on the test image (best viewed in color). (a) Upper body detection with shoulder regions drawn in green and blue rectangles. (b) Foreground highlighting.

#### 4.1 Preprocessing

The starting step of our algorithm is preprocessing on the test image. In this step, we perform two operations similar to (Eichner and Ferrari, 2009): upper body detection, and foreground highlighting.

We use the Calvin upper body detector (Eichner and Ferrari, 2009) that is based on the Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HoG) features (Dalal and Triggs, 2005), the part based deformable models (Felzenszwalb et al., 2008), and the Haar cascade based face detector (Viola and Jones, 2001). Next, we perform foreground highlighting with the help of upper body detection box and Grabcut (Rother et al., 2004). We refer the reader to (Eichner and Ferrari, 2009) for further details on the upper body detection and foreground highlighting.

The upper body detector plays a crucial role in our algorithm: it finds the locations of upright people in images, helps reducing search space of body parts, and provides scale information to normalize the scale of the test image. Foreground mask further helps in rejecting part candidates that are unlikely to be body

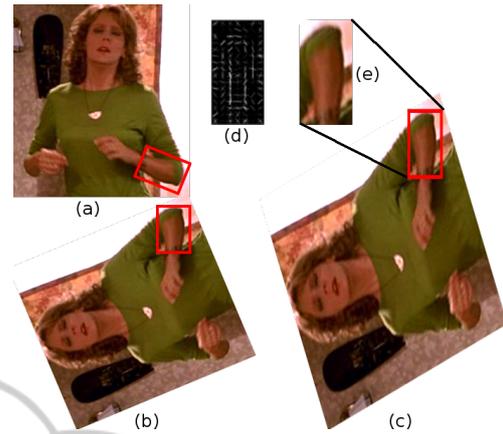


Figure 4: Foreshortening compensation (best viewed in color). (a) Correct lower right arm candidate that has suffered from foreshortening. (b) Rotated image at  $-\theta_k$  in the part detection stage. (c) Vertically stretched image by  $1/f_k$ . (d) Enlarged positive HoG weights of detector for lower right arm. (e) Enlarged image patch from (c) notice now detector will score higher when run on this patch.

parts. We explain the details of part candidates rejection in Section 4.3, where we utilize both the upper body detection and foreground information. As an example, we show upper body detection and foreground highlighting on a sample test image in Figure 3.

#### 4.2 Part Detection and Foreshortening Compensation

After we perform the preprocessing, we have the approximate scale of the upper body from the upper body detection box. We resize the test image to the standard size on which our part detectors are trained, and fix the scale parameter  $s_i = 1$  for all parts locations  $l_i = [x_i, y_i, \theta_i, f_i, s_i]$  during detection.

Next, we run the trained part detectors separately for all six parts on the test image. Part detection score or unary potential at location  $l_i$  for the  $i^{th}$  part gives the evidence of how good the match is between the image patch at location  $l_i$  and the  $i^{th}$  part. Formally, we compute part detection score at location  $l_i$  as:

$$\phi(I|l_i, \Theta) = D_i \cdot H(l_i, w_i, h_i) \quad (3)$$

where  $D_i$  is the trained part detector for the  $i^{th}$  part that has width  $w_i$  and height  $h_i$ , and  $H(l_i, w_i, h_i)$  is the HoG feature vector of the image patch at the location  $l_i$  having the same dimensions as  $D_i$ .

During detection, as we mentioned before, body parts have cylindrical shape and they are likely to suffer from foreshortening. Foreshortening is different from scale as it only affects length of the object while the width remains the same. (e.g. an arm pointing towards camera will have shorter length but the same

width compared to an arm in frontal plane.) To solve this, we introduce a foreshortening search parameter  $f_i \in [0.6, 0.8, 1.0]$  during part detection, and we run part detectors on the input test image at different orientations and foreshortening levels.

Training separate arm detectors for each orientation and foreshortening level is a tedious task: one has to search for the training samples of different orientations and foreshortening levels in the provided training set. To avoid this, we use part detectors of fixed size, but we rotate and stretch the image by  $-\theta_i$  and  $1/f_i$  respectively and then apply the detector. In this way, we only have to train a single part detector for each part.

We present an example in Figure 4 to provide a clear visualization. Let us assume that the desired candidate is the right lower arm having orientation  $\theta_k$  and foreshortening level  $f_k$  (marked by red rectangle in Figure 4a), and our lower arm detector has dimensions equal to the red rectangle in Figure 4c. When checking for  $\theta_k$  orientation and  $f_k$  foreshortening level, we rotate and stretch the image vertically by  $-\theta_k$  and  $1/f_k$  respectively. So that the detector gives an appropriate high score for the desired candidate.

### 4.3 Parts Candidate Rejection

After we add an additional foreshortening search parameter  $f_i$  in the part detection step, the state space for each part increases. For instance, for a typical image of size  $100 \times 100$ , if we compute part detectors for 24 orientations and 4 foreshortening levels, then the state space for each part is  $h = 24 \times 4 \times 10^4 \approx 10^6$ . In the later stage, since we are using non-parametric kinematic constraints, pairwise potentials computation require large number of computations  $O(h^2) \approx 10^{12}$ . Therefore, it is essential to prune the state space for each part before one computes pairwise constraints.

We assume that the part detection scores at the right locations are higher than their neighboring scores (which generally holds), and we sample only the local maxima points from the part detector response over the location  $l_i = [x_i, y_i, \theta_i, f_i]$  for all six parts. In this way, the points are not rejected even if they have low absolute detection scores, which might occur due to effects like bad illumination, contrast, blur etc., as long as they possess a higher value within their neighbourhood. After this pruning, we generally have thousands of part candidates for each part.

Then, we utilize the upper body detection box to prune the state space for the head and torso only. We reject all candidates that do not overlap with the upper body detection box. We have only a few head and torso candidates after this step.

For upper arms, it can be noted that if the person is frontal upright in the image, then the shoulders tend to be in constant regions of upper body detection box. We call these regions as shoulder regions, and heuristically define their location relative to upper body detection box. If the upper body detection box is defined as  $UB = [x_1, y_1, w, h]$ , where  $(x_1, y_1)$  is the top-left point and  $w, h$  are its width and height respectively, we define the left shoulder region (*LSh*) and the right shoulder region (*RSh*) as:

$$\begin{aligned} LSh &= [x_1, (y_1 + 0.4h), 0.4w, 0.5h] \\ RSh &= [(x_1 + 0.6w), (y_1 + 0.4h), 0.4w, 0.5h] \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

We exploit these shoulder regions to reduce both the right and left upper arms candidates: we reject all the candidates that lie outside the respective shoulder regions, and usually after this, we have only few hundred valid upper arms candidates. As an example in Figure 3(a), shoulder regions are marked in green and blue rectangles.

Finally, we use foreground information from the preprocessing step to reduce the number of candidates of the lower and upper arms. We keep a part candidate if it lies on the foreground or it has a score higher than a threshold  $t_F$ , and reject it otherwise. After this final step, we usually have less than one thousand part candidates for the lower arms.

### 4.4 Kinematic Constraints

Once we have the selected part candidates, we are ready to compute the kinematic constraints that force pairs of connected parts to stay together. These can also be visualized as spring-like connections. For example, the upper arms are attached to the torso, the head is attached to the torso and so on.

We use discrete binning of the relative arrangement of parts for the kinematic constraints similar to (Ramanan, 2006). These constraints are between two part patches located at  $l_i$  and  $l_j$ , and have the form:

$$\psi(l_i, l_j) = \alpha_i^T \text{bin}(l_i - l_j) \quad (5)$$

where  $\text{bin}(\cdot)$  is the vectorized count of spatial and angular histogram bins, and  $\alpha_i$  is a model parameter that favors certain relative spatial and angular bins between part patches located at  $l_i$  and  $l_j$ . The reason for using these over Gaussian priors is that they capture more complex distributions. We learn  $\alpha_i$  from the training set with the method specified in (Ramanan and Sminchisescu, 2006).

### 4.5 Color Similarity Constraints

While the kinematic constraints are independent of the image and force pairs of parts to stay together,

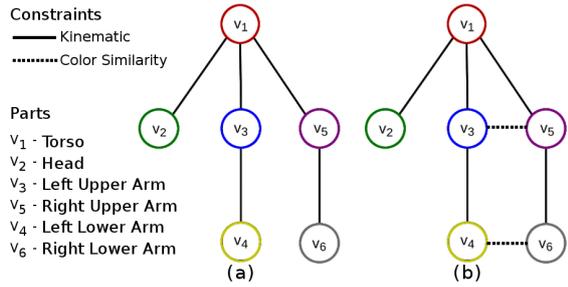


Figure 5: Human upper body pose estimation graph (best viewed in color). (a) Graph  $G$  with only unary potentials and kinematic constraints  $\psi(l_i, l_j)$ . (b) Graph  $G'$  with additional color similarity constraints  $\omega(l_i, l_j)$ .

the color similarity constraints force the pair of parts to have similar color. These constraints encourage pairs of part candidates that have similar colors and discourage others that have different colors. For example, the true candidates of left and right upper arms will have similar color and they will definitely differ from a background candidate in color.

We calculate color similarity between a pair of part patches located at  $l_i$  and  $l_j$  by taking the negative of the modified Chi-squared distance ( $\chi^2$ ) between their color histograms.

$$\omega(l_i, l_j) = \sum_k \frac{(h_k^{l_i} - h_k^{l_j})^2}{H_k} \quad (6)$$

where  $h^{l_i}$ ,  $h^{l_j}$ , and  $H$  are the concatenated histograms of normalized red and green channels over the part patches located at  $l_i$ ,  $l_j$ , and the entire image respectively, and  $h_k^{l_i}$ ,  $h_k^{l_j}$ , and  $H_k$  are the  $k^{\text{th}}$  bin value of the corresponding histogram.

We use histograms of normalized red and green channel because they provide illumination invariance even if the patches are widely distant and have different illumination properties. And, we divide with the global histogram because it gives higher weight to sparsely observed color values than frequently occurring color values.

## 5 INFERENCE USING LOOPY BELIEF PROPAGATION

After we compute all the pairwise constraints (kinematic and color similarity), we advance to the final inference step. When there are only unary potentials (part detection scores) and kinematic constraints, the graph  $G$  is a tree, but as soon as we add two color similarity constraints, we introduce cycles in  $G$ . We show the graph  $G$  having only unary potentials and

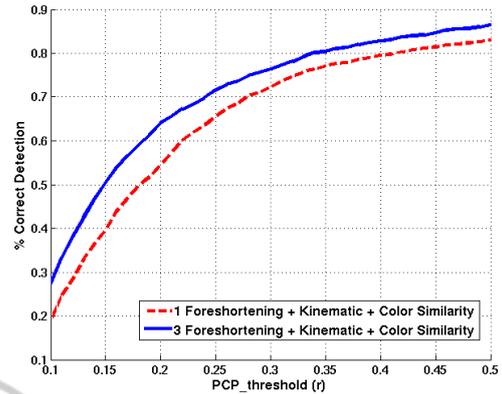


Figure 6: PCP curves with 1 and 3 foreshortening levels with kinematic and color similarity constraints.

kinematic constraints in Figure 5a, and  $G'$  with additional color similarity constraints in Figure 5b.

Now since the graph  $G'$  has cycles, we cannot perform MAP estimation using dynamic programming. Instead, we run the loopy belief propagation algorithm (Koller and Friedman, 2009) on the selected part candidates with the pairwise constraints. The loopy belief propagation algorithm optimizes for the posterior probability marginals of each part: the parts interact with each other via belief messages. The message from a node  $s$  with variable  $X$  to a node  $t$  with variable  $Y$  is given by:

$$m_{st}(Y) = \sum_X \phi(X) \times \zeta(X, Y) \times \bar{m}(X) \quad (7)$$

where  $\bar{m}(X)$  are the incoming messages at node  $s$  excluding the message from node  $t$ ,  $\phi(X)$  is the unary potentials at node  $s$ , and  $\zeta(X, Y)$  are the pairwise potentials (kinematic or color similarity) between the variables  $X$  and  $Y$ . The algorithm passes the messages until they converge (have same value in two consecutive iterations), and in the end, we get approximate marginals for each part. To get the best match, we choose the top candidates among the resultant marginals of all six parts for final evaluation.

## 6 EXPERIMENTS

We evaluate our approach on the Buffy Stickmen v3.01 (Ferrari et al., 2008) and ETHZ PASCAL Stickmen v1.1 (Eichner and Ferrari, 2009) datasets. We provide our implementation details in the following section.

### 6.1 Implementation Details

We use separately learned part detectors of (Sapp et al., 2010a) for all six parts. These are Gentleboost

Table 1: Experiments on Buffy Stickmen V3.01 at  $PCP_{0.5}$  (all results are in percentage). Using 3 foreshortening level produces better results. Color similarity constraints improve the accuracy. See text for details.

Method	Torso	Head	Upper Arms	Lower Arms	Total
1 foreshortening + kinematic	100	98.5	92	56.6	82.6
1 foreshortening + kinematic + color sim.	100	98.5	92.2	57.3	83.0
3 foreshortening + kinematic	100	98.5	91.3	67.8	86.1
3 foreshortening + kinematic + color sim.	100	98.5	91.9	68.1	86.4

Table 2: Comparison to other methods at  $PCP_{0.5}$  (all results are in percentage). See text for details.

Results on Buffy Stickmen V3.01 Dataset					
Method	Torso	Head	Upper Arms	Lower Arms	Total
(Andriluka et al., 2009)	90.7	95.5	79.3	41.2	73.5
(Eichner and Ferrari, 2009)	98.7	97.9	82.8	59.8	80.1
(Karlinsky and Ullman, 2012)	99.6	99.6	93.2	60.6	84.5
(Sapp et al., 2010b)	100	96.2	95.3	63.0	85.5
(Sapp et al., 2010a)	100	100	91.1	65.7	85.9
Ours	100	98.5	91.9	<b>68.1</b>	<b>86.4</b>
Results on PASCAL Stickmen V1.1 Dataset					
(Sapp et al., 2010b)	99.3	88.1	79.0	49.3	74.0
(Eichner and Ferrari, 2009)	97.2	88.6	73.8	41.5	69.3
(Karlinsky and Ullman, 2012)	98.8	97.3	81.6	47.0	75.5
Ours	96.9	84.5	<b>81.0</b>	45.0	72.1

classifiers (Friedman et al., 2000) on HoG based features (Dalal and Triggs, 2005). The filter template size for arms (upper and lower) is  $72 \times 36$ , for head it is  $45 \times 45$ , and for torso it is  $100 \times 90$ .

In these datasets, all the images have front upright people, so we run the torso detector for only the vertical orientation, head detector for the vertical and the 2 nearby orientations ( $0 \pm 15^\circ$ ), arm detectors (all 4 types) for 3 foreshortening levels  $f_i \in [0.6, 0.8, 1.0]$  and evenly divided 24 orientations  $\theta_i \in [0, 15, \dots, 360]^\circ$ . We choose threshold  $t_F = 1.0$  in the part candidate rejection stage, and use  $k = 16$  bins for the histograms in the color similarity computation. We normalize all unary and pairwise potentials between  $[0, 1]$  before the inference stage.

## 6.2 Results

**Evaluation Measure.** The criterion for correct pose estimation from (Ferrari et al., 2008), called the Percentage of Correctly estimated body Parts (PCP) is the following: an estimated body part is considered correct if its segment endpoints lie within  $r\%$  of the length of the ground-truth segment from their annotated location. Commonly  $r = 50\%$  is chosen for reporting the results on these datasets.

**Results on Buffy Stickmen v3.01.** This dataset is quite challenging due to many uncontrolled conditions such as very cluttered images, dark illumination,

and people wearing clothing of different kind and color. It has 5 seasons among which images from seasons 3 and 4 are used for training, and images from seasons 2, 5, and 6 are used for testing. There are 276 testing images, out of which only 259 (93.48%) give the correct upper body detection. We report our experiments on the Buffy Dataset in Table 1. We can see in first and third rows of Table 1 that using 3 foreshortening levels over 1 produces better results on average: the results are better for the lower arms since foreshortening is mostly present in them than the upper arms. Also, we get slightly better results with two additional color similarity constraints than using just the kinematic constraints. We plot the two PCP curves in Figure 6 comparing results with 1 and 3 foreshortening levels, and we compare our results with others in Table 2(upper). As shown, we perform comparably well with (Sapp et al., 2010a; Sapp et al., 2010b), improving over the lower arms accuracy.

**Results on ETHZ PASCAL Stickmen v1.1.** This dataset is even more challenging as it has real world low quality images with different illumination. We use upper body detections provided by the dataset and report results (as others) on only 412 test images. We compare our results with other methods in Table 2(lower). Please note that these results are given in (Karlinsky and Ullman, 2012) with training on the PASCAL dataset itself. We did not re-train our part detectors on this data set, instead we used old our part



Figure 7: Sample results (best viewed in color). Buffy Stickmen V3.01 (left) ETHZ PASCAL Stickmen V1.01 (right).

detectors from Buffy dataset that are trained on seasons 3,4 only. We get detection rate of 71% with our algorithm, and as we can see, we get comparable results for the torso and lower arms, and good results for the upper arms. We show sample results in Figure 7.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have presented a fully automated upper body pose estimation algorithm. Our algorithm works with uncontrolled images with the only assumption that the person is upright in the image, and can easily be extended to the full body pose estimation. We have proposed a method to compensate foreshortening in highly variable parts such as the upper and lower arms, and a method that effectively prunes the search state space of all the parts. Additionally, we have added pairwise color similarity constraints between the upper left-right and the lower left-right arms pairs along with kinematic constraints, to utilize the image cues for better localization of the parts, and we have used loopy belief propagation algorithm for the inference. We have shown experimentally that better results can be achieved with our proposed foreshortening compensation and color information utilization. We have presented results on the two challenging datasets with improvements on the lower arms and comparable results for other parts.

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