

Detection Methods Improving Reliability of Automatic Human Tracking System

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Abstract—Much recent research is concerned with overcoming limitations of existing video surveillance systems, particularly for use in automatic human tracking systems. This paper presents detection methods which detect a lost target person during track in automatic human tracking system. The detection methods utilize an algorithm which determines the position of neighbors in a system of video cameras. By utilizing this deployed position and the view distance of video cameras, this algorithm also determines the interrelationship cameras in such a network must have in an automatic human tracking system. The system is enhanced by a video monitoring system utilizing mobile agent technologies. Mobile agents are suitable for distributed processing and parallel processing, since they can monitor their own behavior and run on distributed computers. Multiple mobile agents in the system can track numerous people using information gathered from several neighboring video cameras at the same time. Searching a target person at random is irrational when a system is losing the target; additionally, difficulty of detection can arise if the deployed position and/or the view distance of video cameras vary due to other circumstances. Therefore, a robust computation not influenced by these circumstances is needed, and detection methods utilizing the above algorithm were developed to solve these concerns and to improve reliability of this system by re-detecting the lost target.

Keywords-detection method; human tracking; mobile agent.

I. INTRODUCTION

Video surveillance systems are seeing widespread use in the remote monitoring of people. Principally, the video surveillance system is used as a security system because of its ability to track a particular person. If the function of the video surveillance system is extended to track numerous people, the demands of the system are extended in various ways. Two common examples of such uses are to search for lost children and to gather/analyze consumers' route pattern for marketing research of a retail establishment. Such video surveillance systems are referred to as "automatic human tracking systems" in this paper. Our aim is to show how automatic human tracking systems can be improved by resolving some of the problems of conventional video surveillance system.

Currently existing video surveillance systems have many limitations to their capabilities. In one case, systems have difficulty isolating a number of people located at different

position at the same time and track those people automatically. In another, the number of possible targeted people is limited by the extent of users' involvement in manually switching the view from one video camera to another. Although approaches do exist to increase the efficiency of identifying and tracking particular people in a system comprised of numerous surveillance positions, these approaches demand an increase in the workload of the user since it demands users to identify the target.

Some researchers have suggested solutions to the above problems. The first approach was to use an active camera to track a person automatically [1][2], thus the camera moves in a synchronized motion along with the projected movement of the targeted person. Since a method for correcting blurring image [3] is proposed, the active camera is available. This approach is capable of locating and tracking small number of people, but improvements must be made to facilitate the locating and tracking of larger numbers of people. Another common approach was to position the camera efficiently at strategic surveillance locations [4]. This is not possible in some situations due to the number of cameras that would be necessary for full coverage, and in such cases this approach is not feasible due to limited resources. A third approach involved the implementation of sensors to efficiently track a target with multiple cameras [5][6]. This solution also meets with resource and local restrictions such as installation barriers and the amount of area to be monitored.

A better approach to identify and track numerous targeted people at the same time involves image processing and installation of video cameras at any designated location. However, the concern then becomes the appropriateness of using a single server when locating numerous people, since the image processing increases server load. As such, a new type of system that is capable of more efficiently identifying and locating people must be developed. In this proposed system utilizing mobile agent technologies, the ratio of mobile agents and tracked targets is directly proportional [7][8][9][10]. According to many studies, an agent-based approach is appropriate for distributed systems and parallel processing [11][12][13], since mobile agents can transfer copies of themselves to other servers in the system. By working cooperatively, such a multi-agent system would

be effective [14]. With distributed processing, mobile agent technologies are more effective and efficient than conventional video surveillance systems, assuming that a large number of servers with video camera are installed. If one mobile agent can track one person, then multiple mobile agents can track numerous people at the same time, and the server balances the load process of the operating mobile agent on each server with a camera. A video surveillance system enhanced with mobile agent technologies is called "Automatic Human Tracking System" [15][16]. In such a system, a mobile agent tracks a person captured by a video camera and a server process the data. The video camera and the server are treated as a single entity since the video camera and the server are deployed at the surveillance position. Upon initialization of a person as a target to track, a mobile agent is generated for that particular person. After verifying the features of the person [17], the mobile agent tracks the movement of the person by utilizing the neighbor camera/server location information.

In the automatic human tracking system, tracking function must be robust even if the system loses a target person. Present image processing is not perfect because a feature extraction like SIFT [18] has high accuracy but takes much processing time. The trade-off of accuracy and processing time is required for such a feature extraction algorithm. In addition, the speed a person walks is various and the person may be unable to be captured correctly in cameras. Therefore, it is necessary to re-detect a target person as tracking function even if the system loses the target. We propose two types of detection method to detect a target person in this paper. The detection methods compensate for the above weakness of feature extraction as a function of system. The detection methods also utilize "neighbor node determination algorithm" [19] to detect the target efficiently. The algorithm can determine neighbor camera/server location information without the location and view distance of video camera. Neighbor camera/servers are called "neighbor camera node/nodes" in this paper. The mobile agent can detect the target person efficiently with knowing the neighbor camera node location information.

On the following sections, Section II will be describing about overview of automatic human tracking system, Section III contains the overview of Neighbor node determination algorithm, Section IV explains the two types of detection method to detect a target person when the system is losing the target, Section V is the results of examination using the detection methods, and Section VI is the conclusion of the detection methods and feature subject.

II. OVERVIEW OF AUTOMATIC HUMAN TRACKING SYSTEM

The system configuration of the automatic human tracking system is shown in Fig. 1. It is assumed that the system is installed in a given building. Before a person is granted

access inside the building, the person's information is registered in the system. Through a camera an image of the persons face and body is captured. Feature information is extracted from the image by SIFT and registered into the system. Any person who is not registered or not recognized by the system is not allowed to roam inside the building. This system is composed of an agent monitoring terminal, agent management server, video recording server and feature extraction server with video camera. The agent monitoring terminal is used for registering the target person's information, retrieving and displaying the information of the initiated mobile agents, and displaying video of the target entity. The agent management server records mobile agents' tracking information history, and provides the information to the agent monitoring terminal. The video recording server records all video images and provides the images to the agent monitoring terminal via request. The feature extraction server along with the video camera analyzes the entity image and extracts the feature information from the image.

A mobile agent tracks a target entity using the feature information and the neighbor nodes information. The number of mobile agents is in direct proportion to the number of the target entities. A mobile agent is initialized at the agent monitoring terminal and launched into the feature extraction server. The mobile agent extracts the features of a captured entity and compares it with the features already stored by the agent. If the features are equivalent, the entity is located by the mobile agent.

The processing flow of the proposed system is also shown in Fig. 1. (i) First, a system user selects an entity on the screen of the agent monitoring terminal, and extracts the feature information of the entity to be tracked. (ii) Next, the feature information is used to generate a mobile agent per target which is registered into the agent management server. (iii) Then the mobile agent is launched from the terminal to the first feature extraction server. (iv) When the mobile agent catches the target entity on the feature extraction server, the mobile agent transmits information such as the video camera number, the discovery time, and the mobile agent identifier to the agent management server. (v) Finally the mobile agent deploys a copy of itself to the neighbor feature extraction servers and waits for the person to appear. If the mobile agent identifies the person, the mobile agent notifies the agent management server of the information, removes the original and other copy agents, and deploys the copy of itself to the neighbor feature extraction servers again. Continuous tracking is realized by repeating the above flow.

The system architecture is shown in Fig. 2. The GUI is operated only on the agent monitoring terminal. The GUI is able to register images of the entities and monitor the status of all the mobile agents. The mobile agent server is executed on the feature extraction server and allows the mobile agents to execute. The Feature extraction function is able to extract features of the captured entities, which is then utilized in

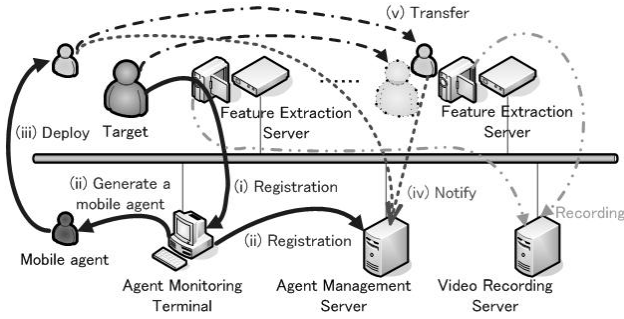


Figure 1. System Configuration and Process Flow.

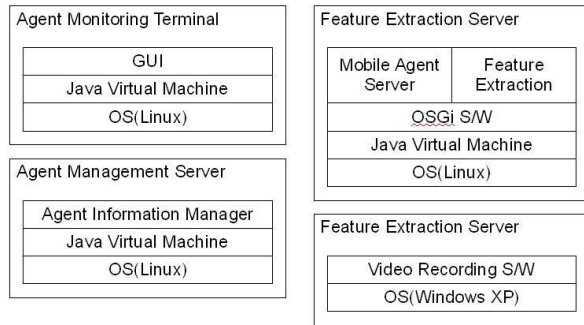


Figure 2. System Architecture.

the tracking of those entities as mobile agents. OSGi S/W [20] acts as a mediator for the different software, allowing the components to utilize each other. The Agent information manager manages all mobile agent information and provides the information to the agent monitoring terminal. The Video recording S/W records all video, and provides the video movie to agent monitoring terminal. Each PC is equipped with an Intel Pentium IV 2.0 GHz processor and 1 GB memory. The system has an imposed condition requirement that maximum execution time of feature judgment is 1 second and maximum execution time of mobile agent transfer is 200 milliseconds.

In this system, a simulator is also currently being developed in Java Language. The simulator consists of an image processing simulator and simulator tools. The simulator tools are an editor for the creation of target simulation routes and a simulation feature data creator. The simulator tools are shown in Fig. 3. Since it is difficult to place many cameras, the image processing simulator is performed on the feature extraction server instead of a genuine image processing function. In addition, this simulator changes a target entity's feature to a walking target entity by using a simulation agent. The simulation agent is also a mobile agent that simulates the movement of a target entity and changes the target entity feature. The movement of the target entity is digitized by the editor of route simulation and the target entity features are digitized by the simulation feature data creator.

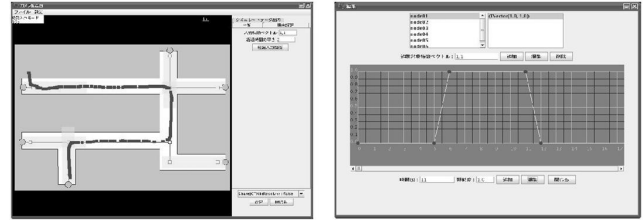


Figure 3. Editor of Simulation Route and Creator of Simulation Feature Data.

III. OVERVIEW OF NEIGHBOR NODE DETERMINATION ALGORITHM

If a mobile agent tracks a target entity, the mobile agent has to know the deployed location of the video cameras in the system. However the abilities of the neighbor cameras are also determined by their view distances. A problem caused by a difference in the view distances can occur. This problem occurs when there is a difference in expected overlap of a view or an interrupt of view.

A scenario in which a neighbor video camera's location is influenced by view distance is shown in Fig. 4. The upper side figures of Fig. 4 show four diagrams portraying a floor plan with four video cameras each, considering the view distances of each video camera are different and assuming that the target entity to be tracked moves from the location of video camera A to video camera D. The underside figures of Fig. 4 show neighbors of each video camera with arrows. The neighbor of video camera A in object a-1 of Fig. 4 is video camera B but not C and not D as the arrows in object a-2 show. In object a-1 of Fig. 4, video camera C and D are also not considered neighbors of video camera A, because video camera B blocks the view of video camera C and D. And the target entity can be captured at an earlier time on video camera B. But in the case of object b-1 of Fig. 4, the neighbors of video camera A are video camera B and C but not camera D as the arrows in object b-2 of Fig. 4 show. In the case of object c-1 of Fig.4, the neighbors of video camera A are all video cameras as the arrows in object c-2 of Fig. 4 show. Thus neighbor video camera's location indicates the difference in view distances of video cameras. The case of object d-1 in Fig. 4 is more complicated. The neighbors of video camera A in object d-1 of Fig. 4 are video camera B, C, and D as the arrows in object d-2 of Fig. 4 show. And video camera B is not considered the neighbor of video camera C. It is because video camera A exists as a neighbor between video camera B and C. When it is assumed that a target entity moves from A to D, the target entity is sure to be captured by video camera A, B, A, and C in that order.

This scenario indicates that the definition of "neighbor" cannot be determined clearly because the determination of the neighbor definition is influenced by the change of view distance and it becomes more complicated as the number of video cameras increases.

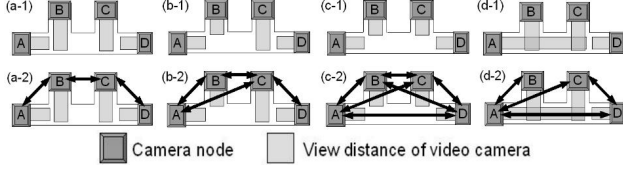


Figure 4. Influence by Change of View Distance of Video Cameras.

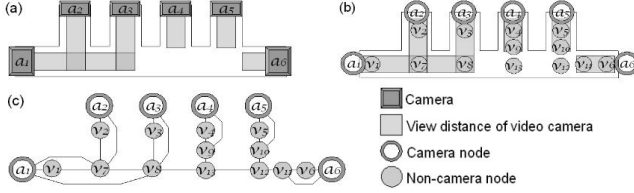


Figure 5. Figure that sets Non-camera Nodes.

Neighbor node determination algorithm can easily determine the neighbor video camera's location without regard to the influence of view distances and any modification of the information of the currently installed cameras. The modification information is set in the system to compute neighbor video cameras on the diagram, which is expressed as a graph. Nodes are used to compute neighbor video camera's information in this algorithm. The nodes are defined as camera node and non-camera node. Camera node is the location of video camera that is labeled as camera node. The nodes are defined as $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_p\}$. This node is also a server with video camera. Non-camera node is defined as $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_q\}$. The conditions of a non-camera node are stated below; i) either of crossover, corner, terminal of passage, ii) the position where a video camera is installed, or iii) the end point of the view distance of a video camera. In addition, the point where the above conditions are overlapped is treated as one node. When the view distance of the video camera reaches a non-camera node, the non-camera node is defined as the neighbor of the camera node. When two non-camera nodes are next to each other on a course, those nodes are specified as neighbors. Fig. 5 shows an example of these definitions applied and shows the view distances of the video cameras.

The algorithm accomplishes this using an adjacency matrix. Two kinds of adjacency matrix are used by the algorithm. One is an adjacency matrix X made from camera nodes' locations as rows and non-camera nodes' locations as columns. Element x_{ij} of matrix X is defined as (1).

$$x_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{There is the line which links} \\ & \text{camera node } a_i \text{ and non-camera node } v_j. \\ 0 & \text{There is no link.} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Another one is as adjacency matrix Y made from non-camera nodes' location as rows and columns. Element y_{ij}

of matrix Y is defined as (2).

$$y_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{There is the line which links} \\ & \text{two non-camera nodes, } v_i \text{ and } v_j. \\ 0 & \text{There is no link or (3) is satisfied.} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

$$y_{ij} = y_{ji} = 1, \sum_{n=1}^m x_{ni} \geq 1, \sum_{n=1}^m x_{nj} \geq 1 \quad (3)$$

The neighbor information for video cameras is calculated from the connection information of non-camera nodes by using adjacency matrix X and Y .

Below is the algorithm to determine neighbor nodes: i) Set camera nodes and non-camera nodes on the diagram as shown in object (b) of Fig. 5. ii) Transform the diagram to a graph as shown in object (c) of Fig. 5. iii) Generate an adjacency matrix X from camera node locations and non-camera node locations on the graph, and generate an adjacency matrix Y from non-camera node locations on the graph. Adjacency matrix X indicates that rows are camera nodes and columns are non-camera nodes. Adjacency matrix Y indicates that rows and columns are non-camera nodes, which results in adjacency matrix Y resolving an overlap problem of view distances between video cameras. iv) Calculate adjacency matrix X' and Y' by excluding unnecessary non-camera nodes from adjacency matrix X and Y . v) Calculate neighbor's location matrix by multiplying adjacency matrix and transposed matrix X'^T . This neighbor's location matrix is the neighbour's node information. An unnecessary non-camera node is a non-camera node which has no camera node as a neighbor. Adjacency matrix X' and Y' are computed without unnecessary nodes, and using the procedure shown later. There are reasons why it might be better to include the unnecessary nodes in the diagram from the beginning as we have done. Since the risk of committing an error will be higher as the diagram becomes larger, we include the unnecessary nodes from the beginning and remove them at the end. Finally, matrix E which indicates the neighbor nodes is derived as (4).

$$E = X'Y'X'^T \begin{cases} \geq 1 & a_i \text{ is neighbor node to } a_j \\ = 0 & a_i \text{ is not neighbor node to } a_j \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

IV. DETECTION METHODS

The detection method in this paper is used to re-detect a target when the automatic tracking system loses the target. This method improves the tracking function, because an individual can not be accurately identified in the current image processing. As such the reliability of the system is further improved, because it enhances the continuous tracking function and re-detection of the target even if a target is lost for a long period of time. In this paper, if a target is not captured within a certain period of time, the mobile agent then concludes that the target is lost. On such case the system can also conclude that the target is lost.

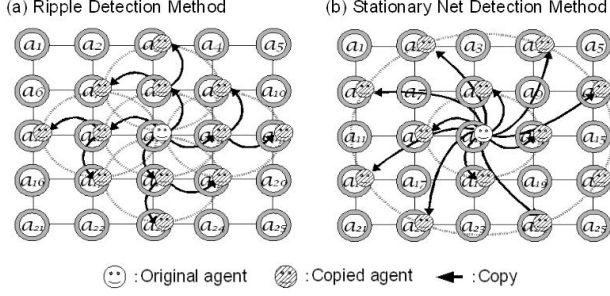


Figure 6. Detection Methods.

We are proposing two types of detection method: (a) “Ripple detection method” and (b) “Stationary net detection method”. These methods are shown in Fig. 6.

Ripple detection method widens a search like a ripple from where an agent lost a target to give top priority to re-detect. This method has a feature that the discovery time becomes shorter and usual tracking can resume more quickly, if the target exists near where the agent lost. In addition, this method deletes other agents immediately after discovering the target, and suppresses the waste of the resource. The Ripple detection method is developed and is examined in search propriety.

Stationary net detection method widens a search like setting a stationary net with the Neighbor node determination algorithm from where an agent lost a target to give top priority to re-detect. This method uses (5) in the algorithm.

$$E = X(Y)^{n-1}X^T \begin{cases} \geq 1 & a_i \text{ is neighbor node to } a_j \\ = 0 & a_i \text{ is neighbor node to } a_j \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

In this equation, adjacency matrix E indicates the node that can reach via n non-camera nodes and n is always set to $n \geq 2$. In this method, the coefficient n is set to $n = 4$ because camera nodes are set with a certain interval. The interval between cameras in the real system may be close, but in that case, number of non-camera nodes between the cameras decreases. Therefore it is enough interval to re-detect a target if n consists of $n \geq 4$. This method has a feature that agents are deployed to neighbor camera nodes via n next non-camera nodes and catch a target like a stationary net. In addition, this method also deletes other agents immediately after discovering the target, and suppresses the waste of the resource. The Stationary net detection method is developed and is examined in search property.

V. EXAMINATION

Examination environment for the Ripple detection method and the Stationary net detection method is shown in Fig. 7. There are forty camera nodes in this environment. Here, the following conditions are set in order to examine the effectiveness of these detection methods. i) Camera nodes

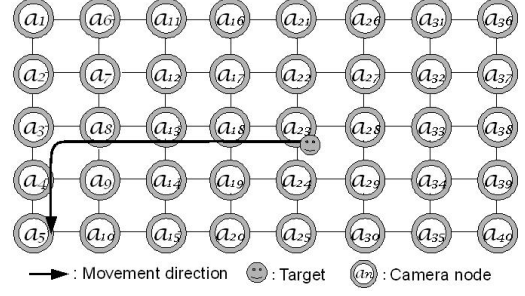


Figure 7. Examination Environment for Detection Methods.

are equally arranged at a fixed interval, $20m$. ii) View distance of camera is set to $10m$ to all sides. iii) Identification of a target in the image processing does not fail when re-detecting. iv) Walking speed of the target is constant. v) Only one target is searched. vi) The target moves following the order of a_{23} , a_{18} , a_{13} , a_8 , a_3 , a_4 and a_5 . In the examination, the time that an agent concludes a failure of tracking is assumed in 10 seconds. Search cycle time is defined as the time concluded that an agent can not discover a target. The search cycle time is prepared using 3 patterns $5sec$, $7sec$ and $9sec$. Walking speed of the target is prepared using 2 patterns $2m/s$ and $3m/s$. And search of target is prepared using 3 patterns A) tracking is continued in the situation that an agent does not lose a target, B) an agent loses a target at a_{13} and the agent starts a search in the situation that the target has already moved to a_8 , and C) an agent loses a target at a_{18} and the agent starts a search in the situation that the target has already moved to a_8 . Using 18 patterns of such combination, discovery time and the number of agents are measured. Generally, the walking speed of a person is around $2.5m/s$, and the two types of walking speed used by the target which was examined are almost equivalent to the walking speed of general person.

The results of the measurement are shown in Table I and Table II. They are a mean value of 5 measurements. The result shows that a number of agents decreases by searching a target near search cycle but the agents can not search the target if the search cycle time is longer than the waking speed. In addition based on the results, when the walking speed is faster, the discovery time is shortened and the number of agents decreases.

VI. CONCLUSION

We propose the Ripple detection method and the Stationary net detection method. These are examined using a image processing simulator, because an individual can not be accurately identified in the current image processing. And in addition, the image processing simulator can be stabilized the accuracy of image processing and the simulator can be effective to examine each methods correctly. These detection methods can search a lost target but a search cycle has to be

Table I
MEASUREMENT RESULT BY RIPPLE DETECTION METHOD

Search cycle time	Walking speed	Search pattern	Discovery time	Number of agents
5 sec	2m/s	A	12.0 sec	13
7 sec	2m/s	A	12.0 sec	13
9 sec	2m/s	A	11.8 sec	5
5 sec	2m/s	B	25.6 sec	28
7 sec	2m/s	B	25.4 sec	22
9 sec	2m/s	B	24.4 sec	22
5 sec	2m/s	C	37.8 sec	40
7 sec	2m/s	C	37.8 sec	33
9 sec	2m/s	C	37.8 sec	31
5 sec	3m/s	A	6.6 sec	5
7 sec	3m/s	A	7.0 sec	5
9 sec	3m/s	A	6.8 sec	5
5 sec	3m/s	B	18.6 sec	13
7 sec	3m/s	B	15.4 sec	13
9 sec	3m/s	B	15.0 sec	13
5 sec	3m/s	C	26.4 sec	27
7 sec	3m/s	C	26.6 sec	26.8
9 sec	3m/s	C	26.4 sec	23

Table II
MEASUREMENT RESULT BY STATIONARY NET DETECTION METHOD

Search cycle time	Walking speed	Search pattern	Discovery time	Number of agents
5 sec	2m/s	A	11.4 sec	9
7 sec	2m/s	A	10.4 sec	7
9 sec	2m/s	A	10.6 sec	8
5 sec	2m/s	B	25.2 sec	15
7 sec	2m/s	B	25.4 sec	15
9 sec	2m/s	B	24.8 sec	14
5 sec	2m/s	C	38.8 sec	27
7 sec	2m/s	C	39.2 sec	27
9 sec	2m/s	C	40.2 sec	26
5 sec	3m/s	A	6.2 sec	6
7 sec	3m/s	A	6.8 sec	5
9 sec	3m/s	A	6.2 sec	5
5 sec	3m/s	B	13.0 sec	11
7 sec	3m/s	B	14.2 sec	10
9 sec	3m/s	B	14.8 sec	9.4
5 sec	3m/s	C	21.8 sec	16
7 sec	3m/s	C	22.6 sec	15
9 sec	3m/s	C	20.6 sec	14

within ($walking\ speed \times distance\ between\ cameras$). These methods can be efficient to detect a target if the search cycle is near the walking speed. A mobile agent can keep tracking a target by using these detection methods if the agent lose the target. In addition, from the examination results, the Stationary net detection method can detect a target faster than the Ripple detection method. And the Stationary net detection method can use smaller number of agents than the Ripple detection method. Because the Ripple detection method searches a target by widening a search gradually but the Stationary net detection method can widen a search efficiently by the Neighbor node determination algorithm.

We will research more efficient detection to improve the automatic human tracking system. In addition, the accuracy of image processing has to be improved more to track a target more accurately. We are considering to improve image

processing program by using PCA-SIFT [21] or SURF [22] algorithm.

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