



Brief paper

Filter-generating system of Zernike polynomials[☆]Barmak Honarvar Shakibaei Asli^{a,c,*}, Jan Flusser^{a,b}, Yifan Zhao^c, John Ahmet Erkoyuncu^c^a Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Information Theory and Automation, Pod vodárenskou věží 4, 18208 Praha 8, Czech Republic^b Faculty of Management, University of Economics, Jindřichuv Hradec, Czech Republic^c Through-Life Engineering Services Centre, School of Aerospace, Transport and Manufacturing, Cranfield University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0AL, UK

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ABSTRACT

This work proposes a new approach to find the generating function (GF) of the Zernike polynomials in two dimensional form. Combining the methods of GFs and discrete-time systems, we can develop two dimensional digital systems for systematic generation of entire orders of Zernike polynomials. We establish two different formulas for the GF of the radial Zernike polynomials based on both the degree and the azimuthal order of the radial polynomials. In this paper, we use four terms recurrence relation instead of the ordinary three terms recursion to calculate the radial Zernike polynomials and their GFs using unilateral 2D Z-transform. A spatio-temporal implementation scheme is developed for generation of the radial Zernike polynomials. The case study shows a reliable way to evaluate Zernike polynomials with arbitrary degrees and azimuthal orders.

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1. Introduction

Zernike polynomials are a set of basis functions that satisfy the orthogonality property on the continuous unit disk (Zernike, 1934). This set has found numerous applications in a variety of fields: optics (Navarro, Arines, & Rivera, 2009), wavefront sensing (Martínez-Cuenca et al., 2011; Navarro, Arines, & Rivera, 2011), aberration theory (Gao, Wang, Li, Tao, & Zhang, 2011), scaled pupils (Guang-ming Dai, 2006; Janssen & Dirksen, 2007; Schwiegerling, 2011), adaptive optics (Kulcsr, Raynaud, Petit, & Conan, 2012), high-resolution optical wave-front control system (Justh, Krishnaprasad, & Vorontsov, 2004), and image processing (Gao et al., 2011; Liu, Li, Xia, & Wang, 2012). However, direct computation of the Zernike polynomials, especially calculation of the factorial terms in the radial component, is time consuming. Many methods have been developed to speed up the computation of Zernike radial polynomials (Janssen & Dirksen, 2007; Kintner, 1976; Prata & Rusch, 1989). Recently, in Honarvar and Paramesran (2013), a new approach was extended to compute the radial Zernike polynomials using four term recurrence

relation. Unlike the previous algorithms, the derived recurrence relation depends neither on the degree nor on the azimuthal order of the radial polynomials. This leads to a reduction in the computational complexity. Since the radial Zernike polynomials play an important role in the domain of optics and image processing, there is a connection between these polynomials and their GF to develop an analytical study for designing a filter-generating Zernike system. Born and Wolf introduced the GF of the radial Zernike polynomials using their relation with the Jacobi polynomials (Born & Wolf, 1999). This GF is only based on the degree of the radial polynomials and the azimuthal order of the radial polynomials is still apparent in the derived GF. In the engineering literature, especially in the area of digital signal processing, the transfer function is spoken of as the Z-transform of the unit-sample response. The generating function and the Z-transform are similar but different. They both generate the same causal sequence. In robotics and computer vision, Zernike moments play an important role as shape descriptors for object recognition (Teague, 1980; Wallin & Kübler, 1995). Zernike moments are projections of the image function onto a set of Zernike polynomials. Magnitudes of Zernike moments possess the invariance with respect to object rotation, which is their main advantage.

In this paper, we firstly generalize the definition of the GFs for two-variable Zernike polynomials, then derive a simple method to obtain the two-variable GF of these polynomials by using a four term recurrence relation and Z-transform application. Finally, we design a filter-generating Zernike system which is a very efficient tool for systematic generation of the radial Zernike polynomials

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* Corresponding author at: Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Information Theory and Automation, Pod vodárenskou věží 4, 18208 Praha 8, Czech Republic.

E-mail addresses: honarvar@utia.cas.cz (B. Honarvar Shakibaei Asli), flusser@utia.cas.cz (J. Flusser), yifan.zhao@cranfield.ac.uk (Y. Zhao), j.a.erkoyuncu@cranfield.ac.uk (J.A. Erkoyuncu).

with different degrees and azimuthal orders. This is the motivation for us to present a new type of the GF for two-variable Zernike polynomials for designing of a filter-based system.

2. Revisiting generating functions

Generating functions (GFs) are a powerful tool as in the theory of classical orthogonal polynomials, as in various applications. As H. S. Wilf mentioned in his book, “A GF is a clothesline on which we hang up a sequence of numbers for display” (Wilf, 1994). There are many types of GFs, including ordinary GFs, exponential GFs, Lambert series, Bell series, and Dirichlet series. Polynomials are a special case of ordinary GFs, corresponding to finite sequences that vanish after a certain point. These are important in that many finite sequences can usefully be interpreted as GFs. The ordinary GF of a sequence a_n is

$$G(a_n; u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n u^n. \quad (1)$$

This function can be generalized to arrays with multiple indices. For example, the ordinary GF of a two-dimensional array $a_{m,n}$ can be defined as

$$G(a_{m,n}; u, v) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_{m,n} u^n v^m. \quad (2)$$

2.1. Applications of GFs

Working with a continuous function is sometimes much easier than working with a discrete function (sequence). For example, in the analysis of functions, calculus is very useful. However, the discrete nature of sequences prevents us from using calculus on sequences. A GF is a continuous function associated with a given sequence. For this reason, GFs are very useful in analyzing discrete problems involving sequences of numbers or sequences of functions. Many combinatorial problems can be solved with the aid of GFs. Therefore, GFs are powerful because they allow us to use tools from calculus and analysis to solve problems in areas such as discrete mathematics and combinatorics, where such tools do not seem readily applicable. They are useful in proofs and convolutions of series, e.g. time series and signal processing ideas can be seen in terms of GFs. There are quite a few applications, especially considering how much they are used in statistical and mathematical theory.

2.2. Z-transform method to find the GF

Revisiting Eqs. (1) and (2), reminds us the schema of Z-transform. By replacing $u = z^{-1}$ in 1D form or $u = z_1^{-1}$ and $v = z_2^{-1}$ in 2D form and recalling the unilateral 1D/2D Z-transform of sequences a_n or $a_{m,n}$, it is easy to find a closed form for the left hand side of (1) or (2) as one/two-variable GFs. To find GFs of a sequence or polynomial, it is possible to make a bridge from recursion to GF. As a very simple example, let us consider the well known Fibonacci polynomials. These Fibonacci polynomials are defined by a recurrence relation:

$$F_{n+2}(x) = xF_{n+1}(x) + F_n(x), \quad n \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

with $F_0(x) = 0$ and $F_1(x) = 1$.

There are time-shifting properties of the unilateral Z-transform for the first and the second time-advance as follows:

$$f(n) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{Z}} F(z), \quad (4a)$$

$$f(n+1) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{Z}} z(F(z) - f(0)), \quad (4b)$$

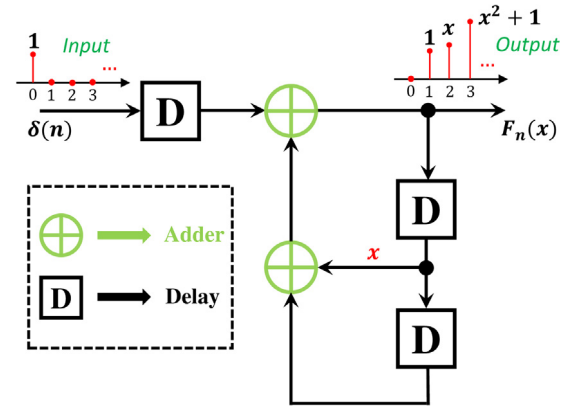


Fig. 1. Direct-form recursive structure for Fibonacci rational filter-generating system.

$$f(n+2) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{Z}} z^2(F(z) - f(0) - f(1)z^{-1}). \quad (4c)$$

By applying the Z-transform to (3) with respect to discrete variable n , we get

$$z^2(F(x; z) - F_0(x) - F_1(x)z^{-1}) = xz(F(x; z) - F_0(x)) + F(x; z), \quad (5)$$

and, finally by substituting the initial values, $F_0(x) = 0$, $F_1(x) = 1$ and $u = z^{-1}$ into (5) and some simplification, we arrive at

$$F(x; u) = \frac{u}{1 - xu - u^2}. \quad (6)$$

Eq. (6) expresses the ordinary GF of Fibonacci polynomials. It can be comparable with the second order “all-pole” filter-generating system and operates on polynomial signal in indeterminate z^{-1} as $\frac{z^{-1}}{1 - xz^{-1} - z^{-2}}$. The filter-generating system for this example of Fibonacci polynomials is excited by an impulse signal under the condition of zero initial states in (3) and can be implemented as a direct-form structure in Fig. 1. This figure shows a second order infinite impulse response (IIR) filter block diagram. Each delay block represents a unit delay which equals to term z^{-1} . In other words, the filter-generating system can be viewed as a 1D causal IIR system that, when excited by a 1D impulse signal, $\delta(n)$, generates the impulse response of the n th digit of the family at the n th point of its 1D impulse response. However, using this Z-transform method, it is possible to find the GFs through a three-term recurrence of polynomials or sequences. In some rare cases such as the aforementioned example, the coefficients of the recurrence relation do not depend on the order of the polynomial (n) which makes the Z-transform easy. While, in many cases such as Hermite, Chebyshev, Legendre, etc., the coefficients of three-term recurrence depend on the order of polynomials that needs to use more properties of Z-transform to derive the GF. We use the same algorithm to find the GF of the complicated Zernike polynomials in 2-D format using an easy four-term recurrence explained in the next section. This leads us to develop a spatio-temporal implementation scheme for generation of the radial Zernike polynomials.

3. Proposed method to obtain GF of the Zernike polynomials

This section focuses on the four-term recurrence of the radial Zernike polynomials instead of their three-term recurrence relations to reach a simple solution for deriving the GF (Born & Wolf, 1999).

3.1. Zernike polynomials

The Zernike polynomials are a set of orthogonal polynomials that arise in the expansion of a wavefront function for optical systems with circular pupils. They are a sequence of polynomials that are orthogonal on the unit disk. Named after optical physicist *Frits Zernike*, winner of the 1953 Nobel Prize in Physics and the inventor of phase-contrast microscopy, they play an important role in beam optics (Zernike, 1934). In general, Zernike polynomials are defined in polar coordinate (r, θ) as

$$Z_n^m(r, \theta) = R_n^m(r) e^{-jm\theta}, \quad (7)$$

where $R_n^m(r)$ are the radial polynomials, n is the degree and m is the azimuthal order of these polynomials (both are non-negative integers with $n \geq m$). $R_n^m(r)$ can be defined as follows:

$$R_n^m(r) = \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{n-|m|}{2}} (-1)^k \frac{(n-k)!}{k! \left(\frac{n+m}{2} - k\right)! \left(\frac{n-m}{2} - k\right)!} r^{n-2k}. \quad (8)$$

The radial Zernike polynomials have the GF in 1D form (Born & Wolf, 1999)

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} R_{m+2n}^{\pm m}(r) u^n = \frac{(1+u - \sqrt{1+2u(1-2r^2)+u^2})^m}{(2ru)^m \sqrt{1+2u(1-2r^2)+u^2}}. \quad (9)$$

As can be seen from the above equation, the GF still depends on the azimuthal order, m , which can be eliminated by using the definition of two-variable GFs (see Section 3.3). Notice that we do not apply the geometric progression to Eq. (9) to generalize 1D form of GF to derive 2D form of its GF since the common ratio of this geometric progression is not always less than one while in the definition of 2D GF, there is no limitations for variables u and v (see Eq. (2)). The Zernike polynomials satisfy the following four-term recurrence relation which depends neither on the degree nor on the azimuthal order of the radial polynomials (Honarvar & Paramesran, 2013):

$$R_n^m(r) + R_{n-2}^m(r) = r \left(R_{n-1}^{m-1}(r) + R_{n-1}^{m+1}(r) \right). \quad (10)$$

By using (7) in (10), four-term recurrence relation can be generalized for the Zernike polynomials as:

$$Z_n^m(r, \theta) + Z_{n-2}^m(r, \theta) = r \left(Z_{n-1}^{m-1}(r, \theta) e^{j\theta} + Z_{n-1}^{m+1}(r, \theta) e^{-j\theta} \right). \quad (11)$$

It should be noted that, according to the traditional recursion of Zernike polynomials, all of them depend on degree n or both degree n and azimuthal order m (Prata & Rusch, 1989). Fig. 2 shows a block diagram for generating the radial Zernike polynomials in a right triangle form. In this triangle form, we distinguish three cases: (a) the radial Zernike polynomials which might be obtained on the hypotenuse of triangle. All the radial Zernike polynomials over this line obey $n = m$, (b) all the radial Zernike polynomials that have been illustrated in the left side cathetus of triangle have zero azimuthal order; $m = 0$, and (c) the rest of the radial Zernike polynomials generated inside of this triangle between hypotenuse and the left side cathetus obey $n > m$, $m \neq 0$, $n \neq m$.

3.2. Implementation of recursive generating system of the radial Zernike polynomials

A spatio-temporal scheme is a method for filtering digital signals through the filter-generating system that generates array structures for the family of filters (Chitanont, Yatabe, Ishikawa, & Oikawa, 2017). In this scheme, we consider recursive filter-generating system that provides a simple and systematic method

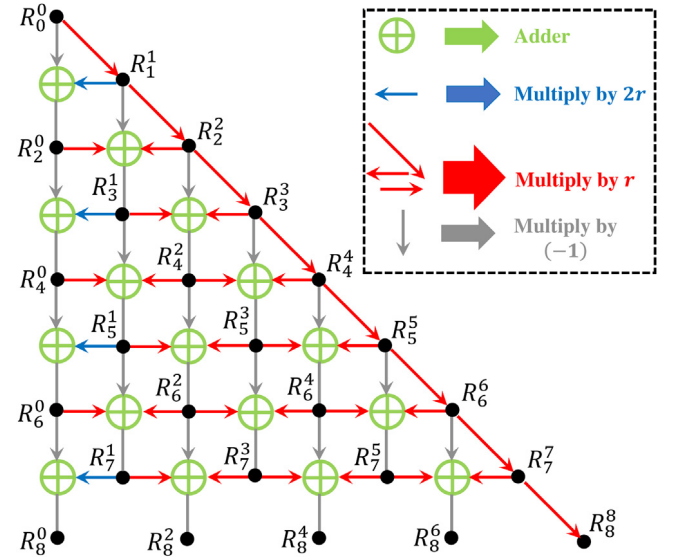


Fig. 2. Generating system block diagram of the radial Zernike polynomials.

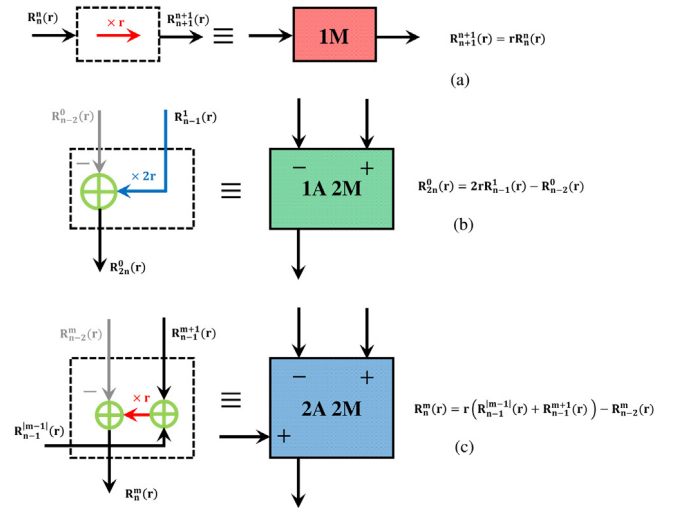


Fig. 3. Spatio-temporal implementation of recursive generating system of the radial Zernike polynomials using adders and multipliers.

for deriving each term of intended structure. The explained recursion in (10) can be divided into three cases as mentioned in previous subsection. Fig. 3 shows three cases based on simplification of (10) for (a) $n = m$, (b) $m = 0$, and (c) $n > m$, $m \neq 0$, $n \neq m$. As we see in this figure, the first case requires only one multiplier when $n = m$. The second case requires two multipliers and one adder whether the third case requires two multipliers and two adders. We show multipliers by **M** and the adders by **A**. Therefore, we present three blocks to generate the radial Zernike polynomials with different degrees and azimuthal orders. Based on three cases in Fig. 3 and using the generating system block diagram of the radial Zernike polynomials which is shown in Fig. 2, it is possible to implement a cascaded filter form of the radial Zernike polynomials. Fig. 4 illustrates such a network by using cascaded blocks: **1M**, **1A 2M** and **2A 2M**. The first row of this lattice generates the radial Zernike polynomials with $n = m$ using cascaded blocks of **1M**. The left column generates those polynomials with $m = 0$ using **1A 2M** blocks whether the rest of lattice works for $n > m$, $m \neq 0$, $n \neq m$ using **2A 2M** blocks.

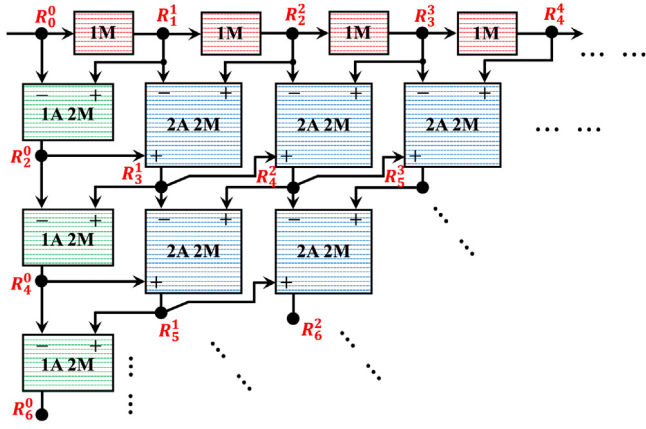


Fig. 4. Zernike network: A cascaded lattice to generate the radial Zernike polynomials.

3.3. Deriving the proposed GF of the radial Zernike polynomials

As we mentioned in Section 2.2, by applying the Z-transform method on a recurrence relation, it is possible to get the GF of a polynomial/sequence. We would use the 2D Z-transform of the radial Zernike polynomials to obtain the GF of them with two-variables as:

$$G(R_n^m(r); u, v) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} R_n^m(r) u^n v^m. \quad (12)$$

Note that in the above equation, if we consider u as z_1^{-1} and v as z_2^{-1} , it can be described as a 2D Z-transform of the radial Zernike polynomials of degree n and the azimuthal order m . By changing m to $m+1$ and n to $n+2$ in (10), we get:

$$R_{n+2}^{m+1}(r) + R_n^{m+1}(r) = r(R_{n+1}^m(r) + R_{n+1}^{m+2}(r)). \quad (13)$$

Eq. (13) is a second order time-advance difference equation in terms of n and m . It is clear that we can find the similar time-shifting properties of the unilateral 2D Z-transform of this equation as Eqs. (4). To do so, each term of the four-term recurrence relation of the radial Zernike polynomial should be transformed to the Z-domain using time-shifting properties of the 2D unilateral Z-transform. The first and the second time-advance properties of 2D unilateral Z-transform are given in Appendix. For example, to find the 2D Z-transform of the first term in (13), we need to use the property ((A.1a)e) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Z}\{R_{n+2}^{m+1}(r)\} &= z_1^2 z_2 \left[R(r; z_1, z_2) - \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} R_0^m(r) z_2^{-m} \right. \\ &\quad - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} R_n^0(r) z_1^{-n} - \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} R_1^m(r) z_1^{-1} z_2^{-m} \\ &\quad \left. + R_0^0(r) + R_1^0(r) z_1^{-1} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

The first summation is only valid for $m = 0$ that makes it 1. The second summation can be obtained from the 1D generating function of the radial Zernike polynomial in Born and Wolf (1999) that might be simplified using (9) since $m = 0$ which leads it to (set $u = z^{-1}$):

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} R_{2n}^0(r) z^{-n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 2z^{-1}(1 - 2r^2) + z^{-2}}}. \quad (15)$$

The third summation is only valid for $m = 1$ that makes it $rz_1^{-1} z_2^{-1}$. Finally, the fourth and fifth terms are approaching to 1

and 0, respectively according to definition of the radial Zernike polynomials. By rewriting (14) based on these arguments one obtains:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Z}\{R_{n+2}^{m+1}(r)\} &= z_1^2 z_2 \left[R(r; z_1, z_2) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 2z_1^{-1}(1 - 2r^2) + z_1^{-2}}} \right] - rz_1. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

If we do the same procedure for the remaining terms of Eq. (13) to find the 2D unilateral Z-transform of them, we get:

$$\mathcal{Z}\{R_n^{m+1}(r)\} = z_2 \left[R(r; z_1, z_2) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 2z_1^{-1}(1 - 2r^2) + z_1^{-2}}} \right], \quad (17a)$$

$$\mathcal{Z}\{R_{n+1}^m(r)\} = z_1 \left[R(r; z_1, z_2) - 1 \right], \quad (17b)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Z}\{R_{n+1}^{m+2}(r)\} &= z_1 z_2^2 \left[R(r; z_1, z_2) \right. \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 2z_1^{-1}(1 - 2r^2) + z_1^{-2}}} \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1 + z_1^{-1} - \sqrt{1 + 2z_1^{-1}(1 - 2r^2) + z_1^{-2}}}{2rz_1^{-1} z_2 \sqrt{1 + 2z_1^{-1}(1 - 2r^2) + z_1^{-2}}} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (17c)$$

Let, $A(z_1) = \sqrt{1 + 2z_1^{-1}(1 - 2r^2) + z_1^{-2}}$. By taking the unilateral Z-transform of Eq. (13) and using Eqs. (16) and (17), we can obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} z_2 \left[R(r; z_1, z_2) - \frac{1}{A(z_1)} \right] &+ z_1^2 z_2 \left[R(r; z_1, z_2) - \frac{1}{A(z_1)} \right] - rz_1 \\ &= r \left\{ z_1 \left(R(r; z_1, z_2) - 1 \right) \right. \\ &\quad + z_1 z_2^2 \left[R(r; z_1, z_2) - \frac{1}{A(z_1)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. - \frac{z_1 z_2^{-1} (1 + z_1^{-1} - A(z_1))}{2rA(z_1)} \right] \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Solving the above equation in terms of $R(r; z_1, z_2)$ yields:

$$\begin{aligned} R(r; z_1, z_2) &= \frac{2 + z_1^2 \left(1 + \sqrt{1 + 2z_1^{-1}(1 - 2r^2) + z_1^{-2}} \right) - z_1 (1 + 2rz_2)}{2\sqrt{1 + 2z_1^{-1}(1 - 2r^2) + z_1^{-2}} (1 - rz_1 (z_2 + z_2^{-1}) + z_1^2)}. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

To obtain the two-variable GF of the radial Zernike polynomial, we can change z_1^{-1} to u and z_2^{-1} to v as:

$$\begin{aligned} G(R_n^m(r); u, v) &= \frac{2u^2 v + v \left(1 + \sqrt{1 + 2u(1 - 2r^2) + u^2} \right) - u(v + 2r)}{2\sqrt{1 + 2u(1 - 2r^2) + u^2} [v(1 + u^2) - ru(1 + v^2)]}. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

We will do a frequency analysis of the GFs' behavior – described in (9) and derived in (20) – in the next section to show the difference of one-variable and two-variable GFs.

3.4. Generalization: GF of the complex Zernike polynomials

In this subsection, a generalized GF for the complex Zernike polynomials is derived. Since Eq. (11) is the generalized form of

(10), it is possible to do the similar derivation of GF for it. The result can be written as:

$$G(Z_n^m(r, \theta); u, v) = \frac{2v[1 + u^2 + rA(u)uv(1 - e^{j\theta})]}{2A(u)[v(1 + u^2) - ru(e^{-j\theta} + v^2e^{j\theta})]} + \frac{[v(A(u) - 1) - u(v + 2r)]e^{-j\theta}}{2A(u)[v(1 + u^2) - ru(e^{-j\theta} + v^2e^{j\theta})]}, \quad (21)$$

where $A(u) = \sqrt{1 + 2u(1 - 2r^2) + u^2}$. It is clear from (21) that by assuming $\theta = 0$, this equation will be shortened to (20). The derived GFs of the radial Zernike polynomials in 2D form show their compatibilities with 2D discrete variables of the Zernike polynomials (n, m) . Born and Wolf expressed the 1D form of the radial Zernike polynomials' GF while the azimuthal order m still exists in this formula (Born & Wolf, 1999). For 2D polynomials, the appropriate GF is 2D form. Therefore, Eq. (10) describes the behavior of the radial Zernike polynomials according to only discrete variable n . In order to use this equation, we have to consider different values of parameter m ($m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$). Based on Fig. 4, it is clear to see the advantage of 2D GF of the radial Zernike polynomials by creating a cascaded lattice to generate the radial Zernike polynomials in a 2D filter structure. By using the 1D form GF in Eq. (10), it is not possible to derive such a network to generate radial Zernike polynomials since the second discrete order (m) still exists in this formula. The proposed 2D GF of the radial Zernike polynomials produces a 2D filter impulse response, $h(n, m)$, to automate the generation process of the radial Zernike polynomials recursively. Notice that the 2D Z-transform of such filter impulse response, $H(z_1, z_2)$, is equivalent to the proposed 2D GF of the radial Zernike polynomials in (20).

4. Verification and analysis

In this section, first the verification of the proposed 2D GF against the 1D version (which is derived by Born and Wolf in Born & Wolf, 1999) is presented. Then, some simulation experiments are used to illustrate the performance of the proposed two-variable GFs approach. To achieve this, in both 1D and 2D versions of GFs, the experiment imagines the GF as a transfer function.

4.1. Verification of the derived two-variables GF

As we discussed in Section 2.2, there are a relationship between one/two-variable(s) GF and one/two-dimensional(s) Z-transform. We start by setting $v = 1$ in (12) to find a way to reach out to one-variable GF in (1), theoretically. Therefore, Eq. (20) can be simplified by using (12) as follows:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} R_n^m(r) u^n = \frac{2u^2 + 1 + A(u) - u(1 + 2r)}{2A(u)(1 + u^2 - 2ru)} = G_1(R_n^m(r); u), \quad (22)$$

where $A(u) = \sqrt{1 + 2u(1 - 2r^2) + u^2}$. On the other hand, the left-hand side of above equation can be obtained using (9) and geometric progression as:

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} R_n^m(r) u^n \right) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1 + u - A(u)}{2ru} \right)^m \frac{1}{A(u)} = \frac{1}{A(u)} \times \frac{2ru}{u(2r - 1) + A(u) - 1} = G_2(R_n^m(r); u). \quad (23)$$

The above series converges if and only if the absolute value of the common ratio is less than one. In other words, $\left| \frac{1 + u - A(u)}{2ru} \right| < 1$, which leads to $u < -1$ or $u > 0$. If we consider the right-hand sides of Eqs. (22) and (23), it can be seen that they have almost the same behavior for the convergence range of $u > 0$. Fig. 5 shows the graphs of the above GFs in terms of the independent variable, u for five different values of $r = 0.1, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.9$. As can be seen from Fig. 5(a), for $r = 0.1$ there is a good match between the derived GFs from Eqs. (22) and (23). When the value of r increases, this matching is going to be decreased for $0 < u < 1$ (see Fig. 5(b), (c), (d) and (e)). However, from all figures, it is clear that for $u > 1$ the magnitudes of the expressed GFs as $G_1(R_n^m(r); u)$ and $G_2(R_n^m(r); u)$ are the same and these plots verify the validation of the derived two-variable GFs of the radial Zernike polynomials comparing with the traditional one-variable GF of them.

4.2. Frequency analysis of GFs

The frequency response of a filter may be defined as the spectrum of the impulse response of filter. This characteristic constitutes the basis of frequency response analysis. One needs to study how the amplitude changes with the frequency of the filter perturbation. Moreover, there is a relationship between frequency analysis and pole-zero analysis of digital filters. Every digital filter can be specified by its poles and zeros (together with a gain factor). Poles and zeros give useful insights into a filter's response, and can be used as the basis for digital filter design. To reach this goal, we consider the one-variable GF in (9) as a 1D transfer function. To find its poles and zeros in z -plane, by rewriting (9), we have:

$$G(R_n^m(r); z) = \frac{z(z + 1 - \sqrt{z^2 + 2(2r^2 - 1)z + 1})^m}{(2r)^m \sqrt{z^2 + 2(2r^2 - 1)z + 1}}. \quad (24)$$

for $0 < r \leq 1$

This experiment imagines the GF as a transfer function by assuming $u = e^{-j\omega}$ in (9). Assuming this, it is possible to plot the magnitude of the existing GF with various values of m . Note that the radius r as the independent variable of the radial zernike polynomials varies from 0 to 1 as well. By considering two different cases for values of r , we are able to find the number of zeros and poles of transfer function. For $0 < r < 1$, the transfer function described in (24) has a zero of order $(m + 1)$ at $z = 0$ and a pair of complex conjugate poles at $z = 1 - 2r^2 \pm 2r\sqrt{r^2 - 1}$. Fig. 6(a), (b) and (c) illustrate the frequency response of filter for different values of r ($r = 0.1, 0.5, 0.9$) and the first four azimuthal orders ($m = 0, 1, 2, 3$). Based on the location of poles which are varying with r , for Fig. 6(a), (b) and (c), the complex conjugate poles are at $0.98 \pm j0.198997$, $0.5 \pm j0.866025$ and $-0.62 \pm j0.784602$, respectively. For $r = 1$, the transfer function can be reduced to $z(z + 1)^{m+1}$ which has one zero at $z = 0$, a zero of order $(m - 1)$ at $z = -1$ and no poles. Fig. 6(d) shows the frequency response of this filter for azimuthal orders $m = 0, 1, 2, 3$. As the second experiment, we analyze the two-variable GF in (20). This transfer function is independent of the azimuthal order despite to the first experiment. On the other hand, it is very difficult to find the location of poles and zeros of such a 2D transfer function, forasmuch as the transfer function is not separable. However, there is two different frequencies as: $u = e^{-j\omega_1}$ and $v = e^{-j\omega_2}$. Fig. 7 shows the 3D frequency response magnitudes of the proposed two-variable GF filter in dB and contour plots for different values of r . The frequency response magnitudes of the 2D GF filter describes its operation over a specified range of signal frequencies (here, varies from -5 to 5) by showing how its gain, or the amount of signal it lets through changes with frequency.

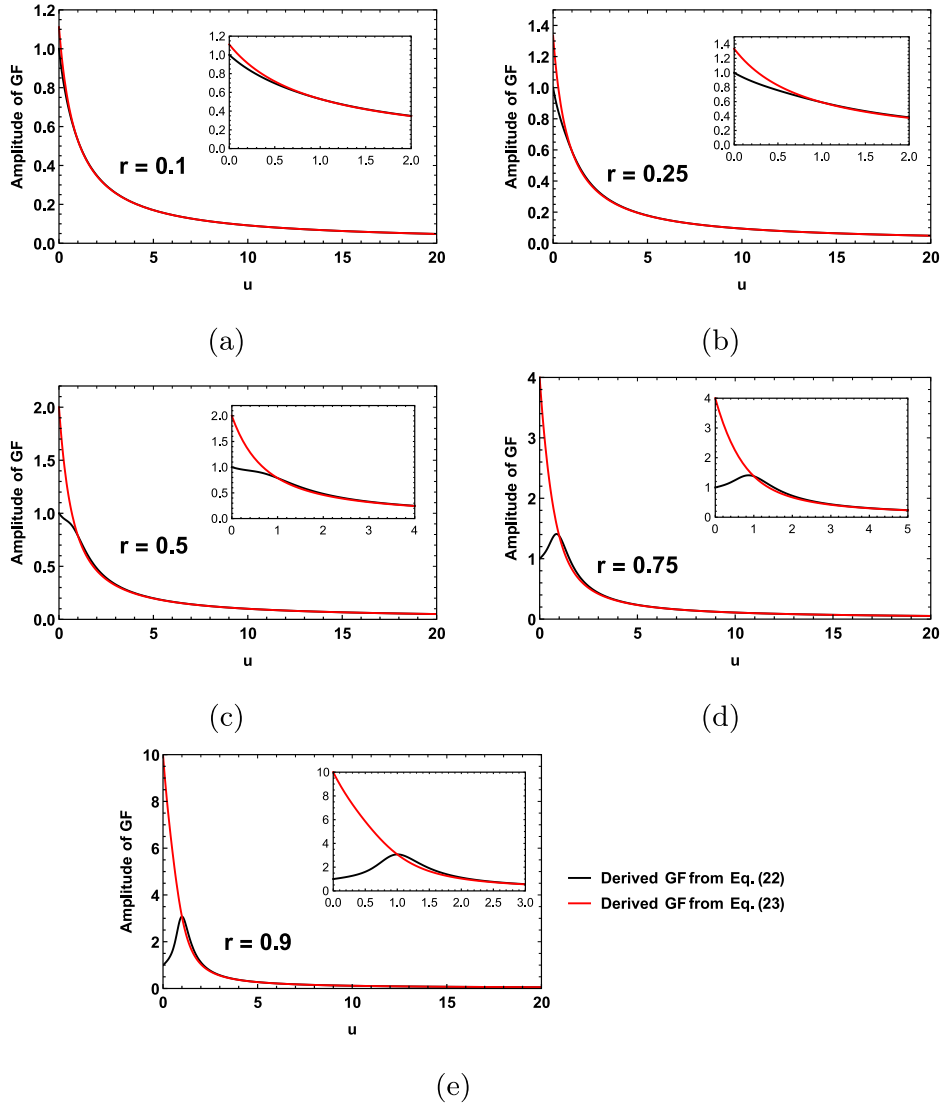


Fig. 5. The graphs of the derived GFs as $G_1(R_n^m(r); u)$ and $G_2(R_n^m(r); u)$: (a) $r = 0.1$, (b) $r = .025$, (c) $r = 0.5$, (d) $r = 0.75$ and (e) $r = 0.9$.

The contour plots of their frequency response, resulted as sections with planes parallel with the frequency plane, can be defined as closed curves which can be described in terms of a variable radius which is a periodic function of the current angle formed with one of the axes. The constant level contours in the plane (ω_1, ω_2) are given in Fig. 7(b), (d), (f) and (h) for values of the variable radius $r = 0, 0.1, 0.5, 0.9$, respectively.

5. Experiment

To illustrate the practical usefulness of the proposed algorithm, we performed the following experiment motivated by tasks one has to resolve in autonomous robot navigation. The movement and actions of autonomous robots is often controlled by external navigation marks, that are placed in the environment the robot moves through. Each mark may have encoded instructions for the robot. The robots have to scan its visual field, look for the marks, recognize them and then proceed as required. The marks may be simple patterns with specified meaning of each mark type. The challenge is that the visual recognition system should be robust to various orientation, size and viewing angles under which the marks appear in the visual field of the robot. Zernike moments (ZMs) are useful features for the mark recognition, because their magnitudes are invariant to rotation and

thanks to the mapping onto a unit circle they are also scale invariant (Flusser, Suk, & Zitová, 2016). They are defined as projections onto Zernike polynomials

$$A_{nm} = \frac{n+1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 Z_n^m(r, \theta) f(r, \theta) r dr d\theta, \quad (25)$$

where $Z_n^m(r, \theta)$ is defined in (7) and $f(r, \theta)$ is the image function in polar coordinate. Since the recognition should be real-time, an efficient algorithm for ZM computation is highly desirable. We performed the experiment in a real indoor environment using the digits 0,1,2,...,9 as the navigation marks. We mounted the printed digits in a picture frame which was placed near to the corner and furniture of the room (see Fig. 8 for an example). We intentionally put some of them in random orientations to make the test more challenging. Since we did not have an actual robot, we took pictures by a hand-held camera, without paying much attention to camera position, set-up and viewing angle; exactly as a real robot would do. In this way, we obtained three query images of unknown digits. We segmented and extracted the digits from the images, calculated ZMs up to the 4th order using the proposed algorithm and classified the digits against the database of the templates 0,1,2, ...,9 in a standard position. The classification was performed by minimum-distance in the space

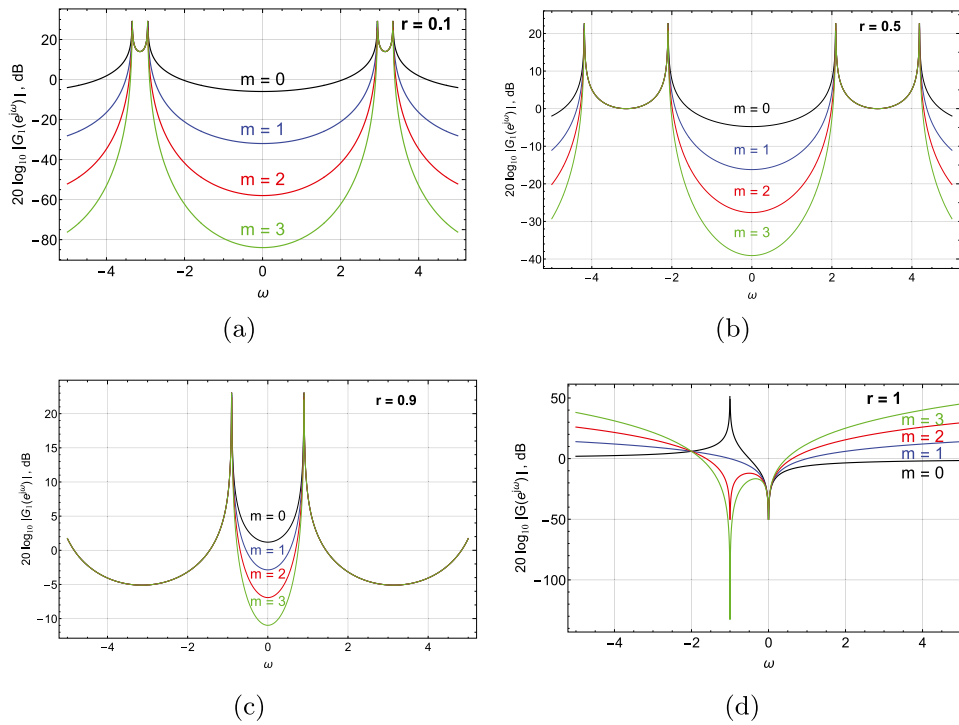


Fig. 6. Frequency response of the traditional one-variable GF filter in dB for (a) $r = 0.1$, (b) $r = 0.5$, (c) $r = 0.9$ and (d) $r = 1$. In all frequency plots, ω is assumed in (rad/s).

Table 1

The classification of digit 2 based on nine Zernike features against the database of the standard position templates 0,1,2,...,9 using the minimum-distance rule. The table shows the Euclidean distance in the feature space, the values in bold are the minimum distances.

Standard database	Segmented images of Fig. 8 with different viewing angles					
	2	2	2	2	2	2
0	0.130464	0.130338	0.130911	0.131108	0.130265	0.129858
1	0.081279	0.081108	0.081562	0.081905	0.081279	0.080712
2	0.010172	0.010337	0.010415	0.010276	0.010095	0.011318
3	0.072876	0.072779	0.073219	0.073389	0.073884	0.073929
4	0.151527	0.151305	0.151412	0.152056	0.151059	0.150321
5	0.078494	0.078358	0.078341	0.079153	0.078529	0.078132
6	0.103964	0.103743	0.104109	0.104589	0.104083	0.103569
7	0.062925	0.062517	0.062722	0.063445	0.063795	0.063314
8	0.115330	0.115203	0.115608	0.115956	0.115042	0.114581
9	0.117011	0.116910	0.116813	0.117655	0.116924	0.116507

of the ZM magnitudes. Thanks to the invariance of the ZMs and to the numerical stability of the proposed algorithm, all digits were recognized correctly. In Table 1, one can see the distances calculated for several instances of digit 2; Tables 2 and 3 show the same for digits 3 and 5. This experiment clearly illustrates the performance of the proposed method on real data and its applicability in robot navigation and in similar tasks where one has to recognize patterns independently of their orientation and in a fast and numerically stable way.

6. Conclusion

Different from existing one-variable GF of the radial Zernike polynomials, this paper explores a 2D form of GFs to generate Zernike polynomials. We observed some interesting properties of 2D unilateral Z-transform to derive two-variable GF of the radial Zernike polynomials based on a recurrence relation that

depends neither on the degree nor on the azimuthal order of the radial polynomials. Consequently, we develop a two dimensional digital system for systematic generation of the entire orders of Zernike polynomials. With the generated GF, we proposed a spatio-temporal implementation scheme for producing of the radial Zernike polynomials

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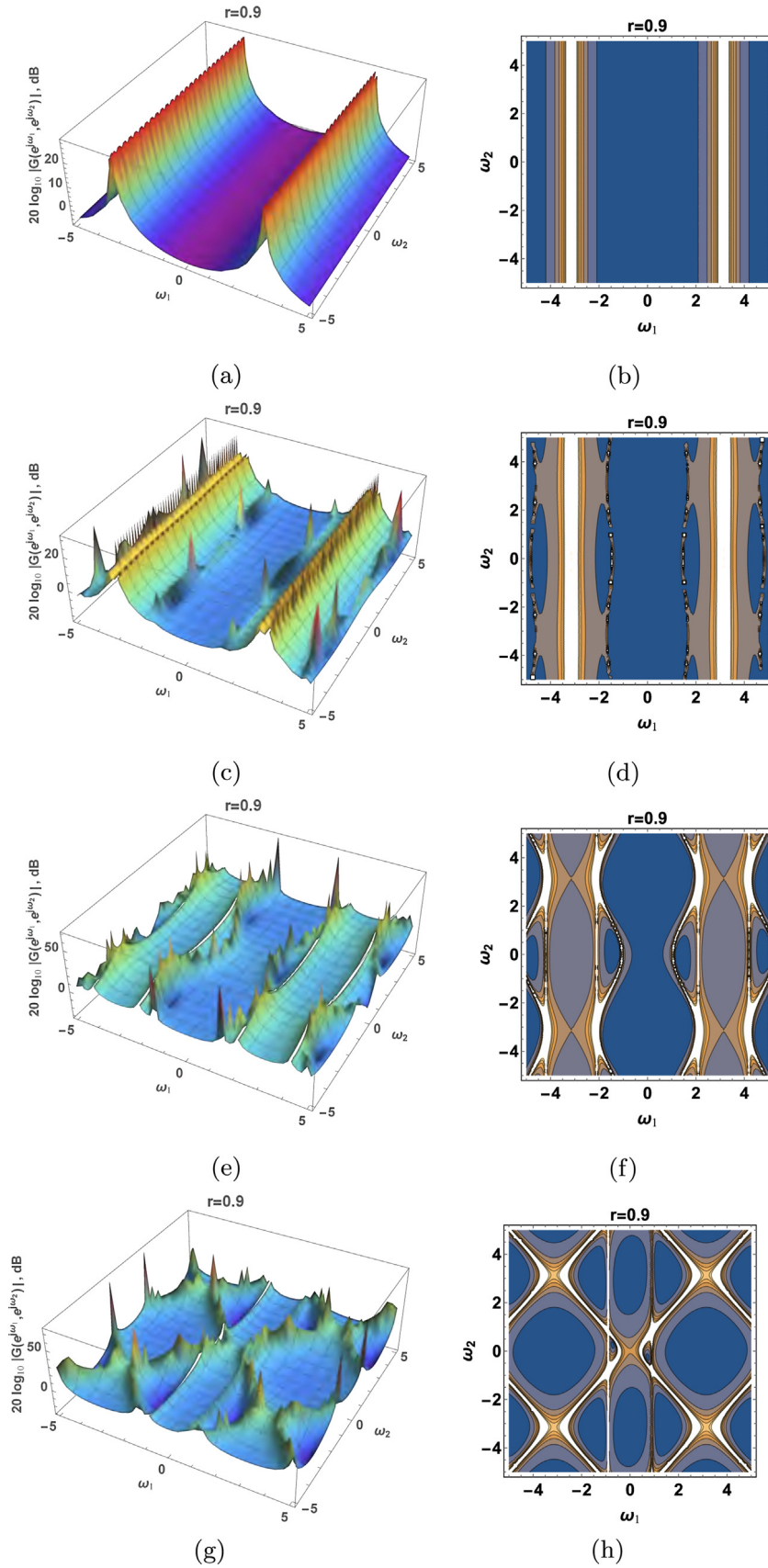


Fig. 7. Frequency response magnitudes of the proposed two-variable GF filter in dB and contour plots for: (a), (b) $r = 0$, (c), (d) $r = 0.1$, (e), (f) $r = 0.5$ and (g), (h) $r = 0.9$. In both illustrated 3D and contour plots, ω_1 and ω_2 are assumed in (rad/s).

Table 2

The classification of digit 3 based on nine Zernike features against the database of the standard position templates 0,1,2,...,9 using the minimum-distance rule. The table shows the Euclidean distance in the feature space, the values in bold are the minimum distances.

Standard database	Segmented images of Fig. 8 with different viewing angles					
	3	3	3	3	3	3
0	0.106441	0.106426	0.106853	0.106256	0.106375	0.106898
1	0.071343	0.071371	0.071680	0.071318	0.071007	0.071537
2	0.072328	0.072724	0.072411	0.072409	0.072439	0.072180
3	0.003299	0.003753	0.003689	0.002996	0.004261	0.003992
4	0.150957	0.151010	0.151346	0.150834	0.150801	0.151286
5	0.062267	0.062429	0.062669	0.062149	0.062246	0.062627
6	0.076385	0.076348	0.076779	0.076210	0.076253	0.076778
7	0.040579	0.040938	0.040886	0.040425	0.040883	0.040825
8	0.101632	0.101666	0.102030	0.101507	0.101487	0.102002
9	0.089737	0.089639	0.090117	0.089605	0.089495	0.090115

Table 3

The classification of digit 5 based on nine Zernike features against the database of the standard position templates 0,1,2,...,9 using the minimum-distance rule. The table shows the Euclidean distance in the feature space, the values in bold are the minimum distances.

Standard database	Segmented images of Fig. 8 with different viewing angles					
	5	5	5	5	5	5
0	0.055374	0.054913	0.054860	0.054974	0.054574	0.055458
1	0.017219	0.017280	0.017354	0.017559	0.016875	0.017591
2	0.078091	0.078517	0.078388	0.078555	0.079083	0.077677
3	0.060124	0.060425	0.060265	0.060317	0.060139	0.060046
4	0.091344	0.091048	0.091209	0.091031	0.091239	0.091626
5	0.000641	0.000492	0.001176	0.001024	0.001214	0.001343
6	0.033656	0.033424	0.033329	0.033202	0.033133	0.033969
7	0.044682	0.045091	0.045117	0.044652	0.045496	0.044916
8	0.043058	0.042639	0.042676	0.042818	0.042411	0.043170
9	0.041933	0.041517	0.041379	0.041684	0.040824	0.042024

**Fig. 8.** The indoor scene with the test printed digits.

$$f(n+1, m+2) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{Z}} z_1 z_2^2 \left(F(z_1, z_2) - \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} f(0, m) z_2^{-m} \right. \quad (\text{A.1d})$$

$$\left. - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n, 0) z_1^{-n} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n, 1) z_1^{-n} z_2^{-1} + f(0, 0) + f(0, 1) z_2^{-1} \right)$$

$$f(n+2, m+1) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{Z}} z_1^2 z_2 \left(F(z_1, z_2) - \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} f(0, m) z_2^{-m} \right. \quad (\text{A.1e})$$

$$\left. - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n, 0) z_1^{-n} - \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} f(1, m) z_1^{-1} z_2^{-m} + f(0, 0) + f(1, 0) z_1^{-1} \right)$$

Appendix. Some properties of 2D unilateral Z-transform

The first and the second time-advance properties of 2D unilateral Z-transform are listed as follows:

$$f(n, m) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{Z}} F(z_1, z_2) \quad (\text{A.1a})$$

$$f(n, m+1) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{Z}} z_2 \left(F(z_1, z_2) - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n, 0) z_1^{-n} \right) \quad (\text{A.1b})$$

$$f(n+1, m) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{Z}} z_1 \left(F(z_1, z_2) - \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} f(0, m) z_2^{-m} \right) \quad (\text{A.1c})$$

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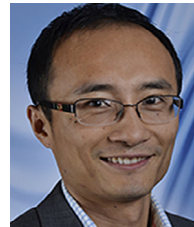
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His teaching and current research interests include signals and systems, digital filter design, digital image processing, medical image processing, and pattern recognition.



Jan Flusser received the Ph.D. degree in computer science from the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, in 1990, and the D.Sc. degree in technical cybernetics in 2001. Since 2007, he has been the Director of the Institute of Information Theory and Automation. He is currently a Full Professor of Computer Science with the Faculty of Nuclear Science and Physical Engineering, Czech Technical University, and the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, Prague. He has authored or co-authored over 200 research publications in his research areas, including the monographs Moments and Moment Invariants in Pattern Recognition (Wiley, 2009) and 2D and 3D Image Analysis by Moments (Wiley, 2016). His research interest covers moments and moment invariants, image registration, image fusion, multichannel blind deconvolution, and super-resolution imaging.



Yifan Zhao received his PhD degree from the University of Sheffield in 2007. He also has MSc and BEng degrees from the Beijing Institute of Technology. He is a Senior Lecturer in Data Science. Before joining in Cranfield in 2013, he worked as a Research Fellow at the University of Sheffield, where his research activities focused on nonlinear signal processing and analysis for complex system and its cross disciplinary applications in medical, climatic and industry areas.



John Ahmet Erkoyuncu is the Director of the Through-life Engineering Services Centre at Cranfield University. John is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Service Engineering. His research interests include: digital twins, augmented reality, digitalization of degradation assessment, AI and simulation of complex manufacturing and maintenance procedures. He has published over 70 journal and conference papers. He is a Chartered Engineer, Fellow of the Higher Education Association, Chair of the CIRP Research Affiliates and a Member of IET.



Barmak Honarvar Shakibaei Asli received the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering with the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2013. Early in his career, he served as a Senior Lecturer with the Azad University of Urmia, Iran, from 1998 to 2009. He is currently a Senior Research Fellow in Intelligent Medical Imaging and Processing and Project Manager at School of Aerospace, Transport and Manufacturing in Cranfield University. He has published more than 25 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings.



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Filter-generating system of Zernike polynomials

Honarvar Shakibaei Asli, Barmak; Flusser, Jan; Zhao, Yifan; Erkoyuncu, John Ahmet

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