

# DIGITAL VIDEO SOURCE IDENTIFICATION BASED ON GREEN-CHANNEL PHOTO RESPONSE NON-UNIFORMITY (G-PRNU)

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## ABSTRACT

*This paper proposes a simple but yet an effective new method for the problem of digital video camera identification. It is known that after an exposure time of 0.15 seconds, the green channel is the noisiest of the three RGB colour channels [5]. Based on this observation, the digital camera pattern noise reference, which is extracted using only the green channel of the frames and is called Green-channel Photo Response Non-Uniformity (G-PRNU), is exploited as a fingerprint of the camera. The green channels are first resized to a standard frame size (512x512) using bilinear interpolation. Then the camera fingerprint is obtained by a wavelet based denoising filter described in [4] and averaged over the frames. 2-D correlation coefficient is used in the detection test. This method has been evaluated using 290 video sequences taken by four consumer digital video cameras and two mobile phones. The results show G-PRNU has potential to be a reliable technique in digital video camera identification, and gives better results than PRNU.*

## KEYWORDS

*PRNU, G-PRNU, Video Forensics.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The first legislation which recognized computer crime was in 1978 (Florida Computer Crimes Act), which was against the unauthorized modification or deletion of data on a computer system. Since then, 'Digital Evidence' has become a new type of evidence in the judicial system.

Digital evidence has increased tremendously in the last few decades, as courts of law allow the use of e-mails, digital photographs, digital video or audio files, ATM transaction logs, word processing documents, spread-sheets, internet browser histories, computer memory contents, computer backups, and Global Positioning Systems tracks.

As with any other type of evidence presented to the court of law, digital evidence is subjected to integrity and authenticity checks. An integrity check aims to ensure that the act of seizing did not modify the evidence; authenticity refers to the ability to confirm the trustworthiness of presented evidence; e.g. to show it has not been tampered with.

Digital videos were introduced commercially in 1986 with the Sony D-1 format. Since then they have experienced enormous growth, and have been used in a growing number of applications. They can be found everywhere in today's daily life like consumer digital video cameras, mobile phones, CCTV cameras, DVDs, internet, etc. Research topics in digital video forensics include source camera identification, device linking, authentication, integrity verification, etc. It has

become an emerging field due to the availability of sophisticated video editing tools, and because of the lack of methodologies for validating the source of digital videos.

Identifying the device used in acquiring a particular digital video is important, as it can be used as a definitive proof (or disproof) of events in a court of law. It can be likened to firearm forensics, in which the imperfections in the surface of the interior of the barrel create cracks on the projectiles which produce a unique “bullet scratch” pattern on every bullet that passes through the barrel of the firearm. The equivalent of “bullet scratch” in digital forensics is the Photo Response Non-Uniformity (PRNU).

Extracting PRNU is very sensitive process as the PRNU is a weak signal and can be manipulated easily by the content in the digital data, previous research has shown that by including a weighting factor during PRNU extraction can improve the correct identification, by using the weighting factor smooth regions are emphasized, edges and highly-texture regions are deemphasized during the denoising process [23].

Other research worked on enhancing the estimation of PRNU using probabilistically estimated raw data to obtain better camera identification for small dimension patches, Poisson process and Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) is used to extract the PRNU [21].

Not only in the field of source identification and manipulation detection, PRNU can also be used to improve a biometric systems Security by ensuring the authenticity and integrity of images acquired with a biometric sensor [22].

In a digital video camera the light passes through a colour filter array (CFA), which is positioned over the sensor to separate out the red, green, and blue components of light falling on it. The GRGB Bayer Pattern is the most common CFA used in digital video cameras as depicted in Figure 1; this process produces the digital video frame, which can be represented by a matrix of RGB values.

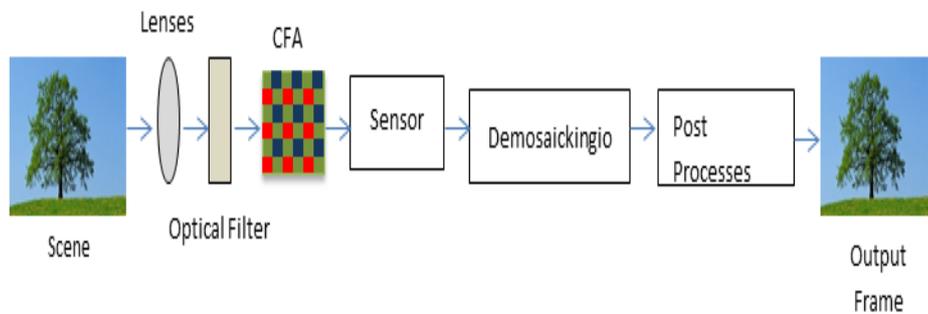


Figure 1. The digital video frame acquisition process.

Previous research has shown that the relationship between the PRNU and the exposure time is approximately linear, and that the green channel has the highest PRNU, followed by the red and then the blue channels respectively. After an exposure time of 0.15s the green channel is the noisiest channel among the three colours RGB [5].

In this paper, a new method for digital video source identification using Green-Channel PRNU (G-PRNU) is proposed. First the frames are resized to 512x512 using bilinear interpolation, to facilitate calculating 2-D correlation between different video sequences. Then the noise in the resized frames is obtained using a wavelet-based denoising filter [4]. The camera fingerprint is obtained by averaging the noise over all frames. Performance of green channel only PRNU in video sequences is superior to ordinary PRNU. Moreover the use of bilinear interpolation for resizing also improves the performance of the proposed method.

The rest of the paper is organised as follows: PRNU is introduced in the next section. Section 3 presents G-PRNU and explains how the camera reference is extracted. The bilinear interpolation

and noise detection strategy are also discussed in this section. The results are presented in Section 4 and the conclusions are drawn in Section 5.

## 2. PHOTO RESPONSE NON-UNIFORMITY (PRNU)

PRNU can be simply defined as: The imperfections of manufacturing semiconductor wafers, and the variations in which individual sensor pixels create a sensor-specific noise pattern which makes it possible to identify the imaging source. Its reliability in identifying devices and related models has been demonstrated [3,9,10,12,14,18,19,20].

The PRNU method creates the digital camera reference (the consistent noise pattern of each sensor pixel) by finding the noise in captured images, and averaging this noise over a set of images to give the camera reference. The noise can be estimated by denoising the original images.

PRNU has proved to be an effective technique for determining the source of a digital image (the ‘suspected image’) using the following steps:

- Create the digital camera reference, by averaging the noise obtained by, for example, a Wavelet based denoising algorithm.
- Create the suspected image reference: this image reference is the noise obtained by using the previous denoising technique.
- Finally, apply a camera reference detection method, by matching the suspected image reference against a set of camera reference images. The main detection methods are: normalized correlation coefficient, the peak to correlation energy (PCE) and correlation to circular correlation norm (CCN) [9,16].

## 3. G-PRNU CAMERA REFERENCE

### 3.1. G-PRNU EXTRACTION

Most previous research has focused on still images, while modern forensic applications are mostly based on digital videos rather than still images (CCTV, camcorders, cell-phones, etc.); therefore our aim in this paper is to create an effective method to determine the source of a digital video. The motivation behind this is the need to authenticate digital video evidence and prove its trustworthiness in a court of law.

Because the green colour channel of video frames is normally noisier than the other colour channels, G-PRNU (Green - Photo Response Non-Uniformity) was created by examining the green colour channel of the video frames.

$$A'_k = f(A_k) \quad (1)$$

Where  $A'_k$  is the denoised digital video frame ( $k$ ),  $A_k$  is the actual captured frame and  $f$  is the denoising function [4].

The actual noise can then be extracted from frame  $k$ :

$$N_k = A_k - A'_k \quad (2)$$

Where  $N_k$  is the frame ( $k$ ) noise. Then we average this over a set of captured frames:

$$y = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^l N_k}{l} \quad (3)$$

Where  $y$  is the digital video G-PRNU reference,  $l$  is the total number of frames (in our case, 350 frames per video).

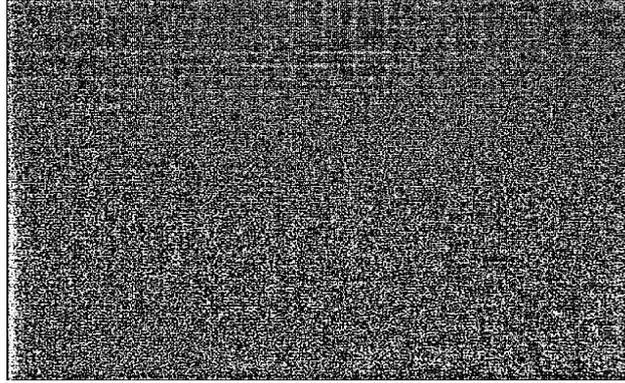


Figure 2. G-PRNU reference of Canon IXUS 8515 (C2), Note: The reference image is x6 scaled for viewing purpose.

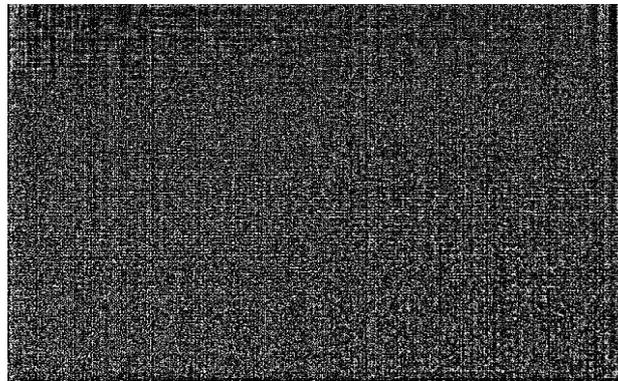


Figure 3. G-PRNU reference of Huawei Ascends G300 (C6), Note: reference image is x6 scaled for viewing purpose.

The difference in G-PRNU camera reference for two different cameras can be visually noted: in Figure 2, note the greater level of noise at the left edge of the reference image, while in Figure 3 the noise is more smoothly distributed with little bit more noise on the right edge.

### **3.2. FRAME RESIZING**

When comparing videos potentially from a range of different cameras, the question of frame size was encountered. Even a single camera can produce a range of frame sizes. Also, the suspected videos may have been resized. Therefore, all reference images are resized to a standard size (for example, 512x512 is used), for comparison using 2-D correlation. This should be carried out with extra care avoiding any damage of the characteristic noise patterns.

Bilinear Interpolation which is an extension of linear interpolation was used in this work where the output (interpolated) pixel value is a weighted average of pixels in the nearest 2x2 neighbourhood, This results in much smoother looking images than Nearest Neighbor and Bicubic interpolation which they were experimentally used in this work but yet Bilinear Interpolation proved to give the best correlation results [Table 3].

## CALCULATING BILINEAR INTERPOLATION

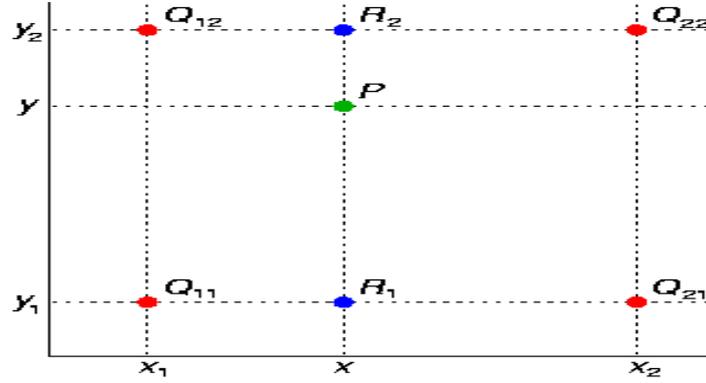


Figure 4. Bilinear Interpolation calculating method

There are several equivalent ways to calculate the value of the bilinear interpolation P. An easy way to calculate the value of P would be to first calculate the value of the two blue dots, R2, and R1. R2 is effectively a weighted average of Q12 and Q22, while R1 is a weighted average of Q11 and Q21.

$$R1 = ((x2 - x)/(x2 - x1))*Q11 + ((x - x1)/(x2 - x1))*Q21$$

$$R2 = ((x2 - x)/(x2 - x1))*Q12 + ((x - x1)/(x2 - x1))*Q22$$

After the two R values are calculated, the value of P can finally be calculated by a weighted average of R1 and R2.

$$P = ((y2 - y)/(y2 - y1))*R1 + ((y - y1)/(y2 - y1))*R2$$

There are two main reasons for using bilinear interpolation over other methods: first it helps to get better correlation [Table 2], and second it solves the matrix dimension mismatch problem which deters the calculation of 2-D correlation coefficients.

### 3.3. G-PRNU DETECTION

Applying an effective detection method for camera identification is no less important than constructing the camera reference in the first place. Some researchers have used the normalized correlation coefficient for this purpose [1,2,6] while others have shown that the peak to correlation energy (PCE) can give better results in detection tests [8,9]. Furthermore circular correlation norm (CCN) [10] has also been used as a statistical detection test which basically enhances the results of PCE by lowering the false positive rates.

In this research the 2-D correlation coefficient was used in the camera detection test, which computes the correlation coefficient between the video camera reference (A) and the suspected video reference (B), where A and B are G-PRNU matrices of the same size.

$$r = \frac{\sum_m \sum_n (A_{mn} - \bar{A})(B_{mn} - \bar{B})}{\sqrt{(\sum_m \sum_n (A_{mn} - \bar{A})^2)(\sum_m \sum_n (B_{mn} - \bar{B})^2)}} \quad (4)$$

$\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$  are the mean of A, B respectively.

Overall the proposed G-PRNU method can be summarised as follows:

1. Extract the green channel frames from the video (350 frames/video).
2. Resize the extracted frames to [512x512] using bilinear interpolation.
3. Perform wavelet-based de-noising on these green channel frames (denoising by soft-thresholding [4]).
4. Create the G-PRNU map for the video by averaging the results of step 3.
5. To create a camera reference, perform steps 1-4 on 9 videos captured by the same camera.
6. Use the 2-D correlation coefficient as the camera detection test.

#### 4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

First, a dataset of videos taken by a range of consumer video cameras was constructed. To try to simulate the real life cases of digital video forensics, four video cameras and two mobile phones (Samsung GT-S5830 and Huawei Ascend G300) [Table 1] were considered. Over a period of four months, these cameras were used to capture a total of 254 videos under various conditions: indoors, outdoors, sunny days, rainy days, good lighting and poor lighting; some videos were captured by two different cameras at the same time by holding them side by side.

The camera reference for each of the six cameras was calculated by selecting nine videos from each camera; the remaining 236 videos used as the test data set.

The 2-D correlation coefficient detection test was applied to identify the source of each of the 236 test videos, by matching against all six video references, using PRNU, G-PRNU, and G-PRNU interpolated by 512x512 bilinear interpolations. The results are shown in Table 2. This shows the cameras' identification rates and proves that the G-PRNU approach gives considerable success in identifying the source device of digital video. From a total of 236 test videos, G-PRNU could correctly determine the source of 234 videos (correct detection rate was 99.15%); in comparison, using PCE [9], the correct detection rate was 41.15%. Note, in creating PRNU references, the same method was used as in creating the G-PRNU references.

Figure 5 shows the 2-D correlation of videos captured by C4 versus the six cameras G-PRNU fingerprints, all videos in figure 5 have obtained higher correlation with the C4 G-PRNU fingerprint, this led to the conclusion that videos in figure 5 were captured by C4, figures 6 and 7 describe the same situation for C5 and C6, respectively.

Table 1: Cameras used in G-PRNU experiments

Symbol	Camera Brand	Sensor	Format
C1	Fujifilm F550EXR	1/2" (6.4 x 4.8 mm) EXRCMOS	.mov
C2	Canon IXUS 8515	1/2.3" (6.17 x 4.55 mm) CCD	.avi
C3	Samsung GT-S5830	Unknown	.mp4
C4	Canon SD1000	1/2.5" (5.744 x 4.308 mm) CCD	.avi
C5	Fujifilm jv2000	1/2.3" (6.17 x 4.55 mm) CCD	.avi
C6	Huawei Ascend G300	Unknown	.mp4

Table 2: Source camera identification rates

Camera	PRNU	G-PRNU	G-PRNU with Bilinear interpolation
C1	15%	97.5%	<b>100%</b>
C2	36.58%	95.12%	<b>97.56%</b>
C3	25.8%	96.77%	<b>97.56%</b>
C4	37.83%	100%	<b>100%</b>
C5	26.47%	100%	<b>100%</b>
C6	95.34%	97.67%	<b>100%</b>
Total	41.15%	97.79%	<b>99.15%</b>

Table 3: Source camera successful identification rates using deferent Interpolations and Dimensions

Interpolation	Dimension				
	64x64	128x128	256x256	512x512	640x640
<b>Bicubic</b>	76.51	82.53	88.55	92.77	92.17
<b>Bilinear</b>	72.29	82.53	87.35	<b>99.15</b>	93.37
<b>Nearest</b>	71.69	80.72	85.96	88.55	79.52

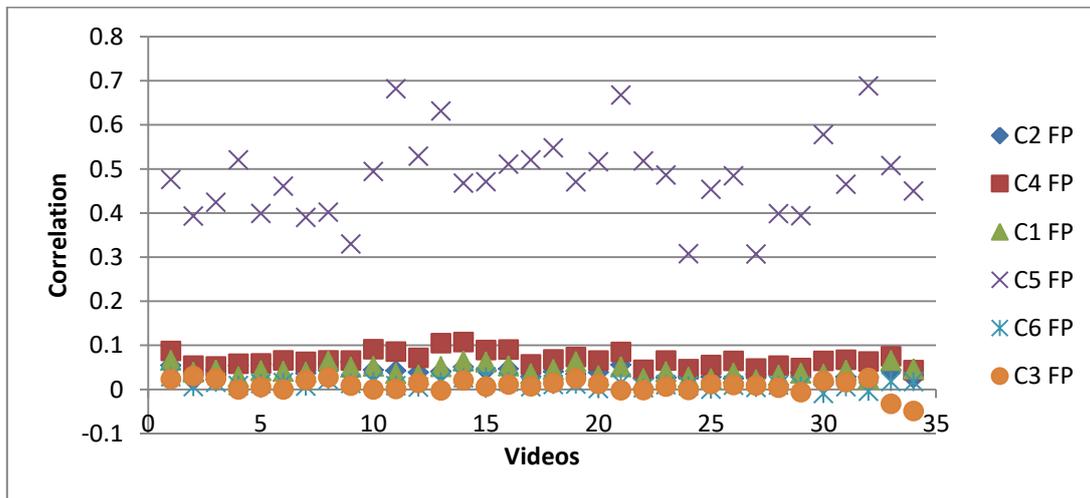


Figure 5. G-PRNU Correlation of videos captured by C5.

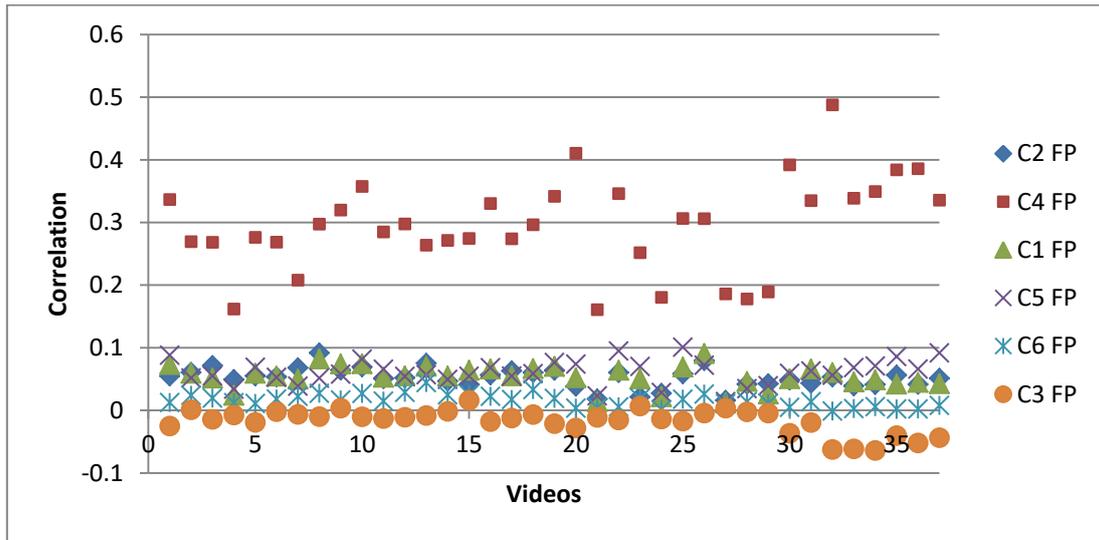


Figure 6. G-PRNU Correlation of videos captured by C4.

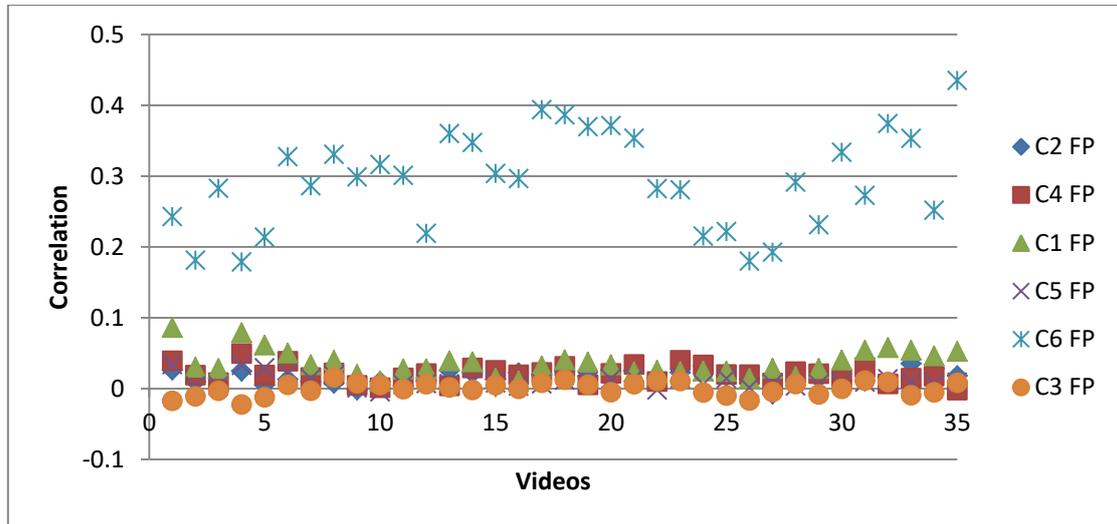


Figure 7. G-PRNU Correlation of videos captured by C6.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

A new method for video camera identification has been proposed, called G-PRNU. The method was tested using six cameras (4 consumer cameras and two mobile phones). 290 videos were captured under various conditions. In initial experiments, the G-PRNU method showed potential to be a reliable technique in digital video camera identification and proven to give better results than PRNU in the problem of digital videos source identification.

Also the question of frame size was encountered, as even a single camera can produce a range of frame sizes, Frame resizing should be carried out with extra care avoiding any damage of the characteristic noise patterns. The Bilinear Interpolation which is an extension of linear interpolation gave results much smoother looking images and correct detection results than Nearest Neighbor and Bicubic interpolation.

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