Mobile sensing in Aedes aegypti larva detection with biological feature extraction

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ABSTRACT
According to WHO, Dengue fever is the most critical and most rapidly mosquito-borne disease in the world over 50 years. Currently, the presence and detection of Aedes aegypti larvae (dengue-mosquitoes vector’s) are only quantified by human perception. In large-scale data, we need to automate the process of larvae detection and classification as much as possible. This paper introduces the new method to automate Aedes larvae. We use Culex larva for comparison. This method consists of data acquisition of recorded motion video, spatial movement patterns, and image statistical classification. The results show a significant difference between the biological movements of Aedes aegypti and Culex under the same environmental conditions. In 50 videos consisting of 25 Aedes larvae videos and 25 Culex larvae videos, the accuracy was 84%.

Keywords: Aedes aegypti larva
Biological feature extraction
Detection
Mobile sensing

1. INTRODUCTION
Aedes aegypti mosquito is a vector that transmits the Dengue virus from one person to another. The WHO says dengue is the most critical disease and most quickly transmitted through the Aedes aegypti mosquito. Due to the rapid spread of Dengue fever, the presence of mosquitoes plays an important role [1]. The difficulty in identifying Aedes vector ones is because their physical performance of all mosquitoes is similar [2]. Several studies on mosquito identification have been carried out, such as by molecular identification through DNA, morphological identification by sampling breeding sites [3], physical identification by image processing [4, 5], or by spatial similarity in several regions [6, 7]. However, it is difficult to implement their methods because they are expensive and require special expertise. Meanwhile, to combat Dengue fever, we need to empower ordinary people who don't have much money and are not very skilled in technology [8-10]. Therefore, we need to find a method that is simple in implementation, relatively inexpensive but accurate enough to classify larval [11, 12].

This paper discusses the method for classifying Aedes aegypti larvae. As a comparison, we utilize Culex, the common mosquito that lives in Indonesia [13]. Both have the same performance but different impacts: Aedes aegypti is very dangerous while Culex is not [14]. This method utilizes video captured by a standard camera. It is hoped to be useful to increase awareness of vector-borne diseases. We use the optical flow method to detect larval motion. Aedes larvae movements can be recognized by the optical flow method. A consistent pattern was analyzed using the optical flow method to detect Aedes larvae. Then, we use the Euclidean distance calculation to compare motion of the Aedes larvae and Culex larvae.
2. RESEARCH METHOD

Larvae are one stage of the mosquito life cycle where mosquito eggs emerge in the water. In this stage, larvae spend most of their time feeding and growing [1]. Larvae can detect quick changes in light and when a shadow is cast on the water, they will defensively dive to the bottom of the water. It can also detect sudden vibrations in the water and will likewise dive down [15, 16].

To get food and grow, the biological behavior of mosquitoes moves from one point to another with a certain pattern. Each species in the mosquito family has a different pattern [17]. Therefore, an important feature for classifying larvae is the pattern of larval movement. In this paper, we focus on analyzing the movement of single larvae. We use video processing to recognize patterns of differences between Aedes and Culex. Figure 1 shows the diagram block of this method. Using cellular devices mounted on a tripod, the researchers recorded the movement of Aedes larvae and Culex larvae and then selected 15 frames to process.

Optical flow method can describe the meaning of motion [18]. To capture the movement, we should process video data. Movement patterns can be captured from moving objects in the video. This pattern is utilized to describe the type of object is moving. Figure 1 shows diagram block of the method to process dataset of Aedes aegypti and Culex. The dataset is taken using data collection techniques as data acquisition. Furthermore, the data is processed for further processing using the optical flow method. In optical flow, the differences movement patterns of Aedes and Culex larvae are analyzed. Aedes larvae have more consistent pattern compared to Culex larvae which unpredictable movement patterns. So, to recognize the movement patterns of Aedes larvae or Culex larvae, the researcher use the Euclidean distance calculation in the optical flow method.

2.1. Data preparation

To analyze the pattern of larvae motion, we set up the video recording system to collect the data in Entomology Laboratory, Airlangga University Surabaya, Indonesia. The system consists of a smartphone with a flexible tripod stand and larvae container that contains water. Figure 2(a) shows the system for image acquisition. Figure 2(b) shows the larva container. It is a specific apparatus to sterilize the environment so that the water suitable for larvae during the collecting data process. Two types of mosquito’s egg were incubated in two different containers.

Figure 2. Materials and tools, (a) Image acquisition using mobile device, (b) Experimental setup
Soon after the egg metamorphoses to be larvae, every larva is laid on the tray that contains water. Then we took a video of them during the larvae stage (7 days). Since our purpose is developing this software for people, and many of them are low-income, we use Ovo hand phone’s camera: mobile device that low-income people in Indonesia usually have. We also set up the lighting as their home’s lighting.

2.2. Preliminary research

Along with the literature study and gathered knowledge from the expert, we also conducted a preliminary study to convince our hypotheses about the biological characteristics of both mosquito types. We record 5 second’s video data of *Aedes aegypti* and *Culex*, parsed into 5 frames and analyzed briefly. Figure 3 describes the pattern of motion serially of *Aedes aegypti* and *Culex*. In 5 second, there are differences in motion pattern between *Aedes aegypti* larvae and *Culex* larvae. *Aedes aegypti* larvae tends to move at Figure 3(a)-(e) while *Culex* tends to quiescent at Figure 3(f)-(j) frame 1 to frame 4 then moves in frame 5. This preliminary study leads us to extract their features more.

![Figure 3. The frame of larva *Aedes aegypti* and *Culex* support.](image)

2.3. Preprocessing data

Preprocessing data consist of parsing video data. In this research, 28 videos of *Aedes aegypti*’s motion and 22 videos of *Culex* motion are captured. They are parsed into 15 frames and analyzed. The raw video data has a big resolution. It is not efficient for training. Therefore, we conducted pre-processing to avoid irrelevant images such as the background. Preprocessing data consist of:

- Converting video data to 15 image frames
- Converting the true color image rgb to the greyscale intensity image or frame
- Converting the image to integer

2.4. Spatial movement pattern

In disease spreading, contracting area and pattern of disease vector are important [18, 19]. To analyze spatial movement patterns, we employed an optical flow method. Optical flow is technique to detect, predict and interpret and compensate the movement of an object [15-20]. In this paper, we explore Lucas Kanade algorithm to recognize the pattern of larvae [21, 22]. Larva’s video is processed using optical flow. Each video is taken 15 frames for motion detection. The first process is finding the corners of each frame, and then using the Lucas Kanade concept by tracing the position of certain nodes in one frame to the next frame continuously with the image flow (velocity) vector (Vx, Vy) should fulfill (1) [23].

\[
I_x(q_i)V_x + I_y(q_i)V_y = I_t(q_i)
\] (1)
Where \( I_x(q_i), I_y(q_i), I_t(q_i) \) is partial derivatives to image \( I \) respect to the position of \( x,y \) to time \( t \) based on \( q_i \). In that sense, (1) is written in term matrix \( Av=b \) as follows.

\[
A = \begin{bmatrix}
I_x(q_1) & I_y(q_1) \\
I_x(q_2) & I_y(q_2) \\
\vdots & \vdots \\
I_x(q_n) & I_y(q_n)
\end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix}
-I_t(q_1) \\
-I_t(q_2) \\
\vdots \\
-I_t(q_n)
\end{bmatrix}
\]

(2)

As a result, the vector flow is a transpose matrix as shown in (3).

\[ A^TAv = A^TAb \]

(3)

To get the spatial movement pattern, we perform several steps:
- Load image of 15 frames,
- Find the corners: starting from \( q+2 \) where \( q \) is \( q \) called as an early object definition,
- Apply the Lucas Kanade method, and draw the optical flow vectors.

2.5. Image statistical classification

We employ Euclidean distance to recognize movement patterns of larvae. Value of Euclidean distance will high when the larvae move actively, vice versa. The total value of Euclidean distance was applied to detect the differences \textit{Aedes aegypti} larvae and \textit{Culex} larvae. In this case, we calculated Euclidean distance of every frame has a different matrix, total value of the matrix.

The Optical Flow method produces values of the movement in every frame [24]. Velocity of movement represents differences of motion pattern between \textit{Aedes} larvae and \textit{Culex} larvae. Theoretically, \textit{Aedes} larvae move consistently while \textit{Culex} larvae move inconsistently. Therefore, we can be conclude that the total velocity of \textit{Aedes} larvae is higher than \textit{Culex} larvae in early experimental (15 frame). The next step is calculated Euclidean distance from every frame with (4):

\[
\sqrt{(x_n-x_{n-1})^2 + (y_n-y_{n-1})^2}
\]

(4)

where \( x_n \) and \( y_n \) are total matrix \( x \) and \( y \) at \( t=n \), and \( x_{n-1} \) dan \( x_{n-1} \) are total matrix \( x \) and \( y \) at \( t=n-1 \).

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

In this research, we captured 28 videos of \textit{Aedes aegypti} and 14 videos of \textit{Culex} in Laboratorium Entomology, Institute of Tropical Disease Airlangga University. Before analyzed the pattern, all video data were preprocessed as mention in section 2.3. The result is shown in Figure 4. Figure 4 shows a video sample used as test data. In one video that lasts 11 seconds produces 325 frames. However, researchers used 15 frames to be processed using the optical flow method to detect moving objects. After preprocessing, we loaded the image. This process includes removing irrelevant images such as small plankton or water contaminator. Then, find the corner. Every frame has a different matrix depend on the next object. The next step was calculated with Lucas Kanade method by (2)-(3).
Based on matrix from 14 frames in find corner, process, discard corners was handled near the margins of the matrix frame. Thus, the moving object was reflected in the next frame by the optical flow vector calculated in Lucas Canade method. The result of the Lucas Kanade method is saved as a one-dimensional matrix. Every matrix may differ as the number of the matrix in find corner also different. We found the differences vector optical flow that reflecting spatial objects movement from frame 1 to frame 14 of every video. To classify the larvae, Euclidean distance is applied. The distance is calculated from the next frame to the previous frame until 15 frames. From 15 frames, we got 13 values of Euclidean distance. Experiment, the results of different Euclidean distance is calculated.

Figure 5 shows 50 video experiments consisting of 25 Aedes Larvae videos and 25 Culex larvae videos. The blue color indicates the Euclidean Distance value of the Aedes larvae and the red color indicates the Euclidean distance value of the Culex larvae. The yellow line is the threshold of Aedes larvae and Culex larvae based on the average value of Euclidean distance. For Aedes larvae, the threshold is not more than one while Culex larvae is more than 1. The average Euclidean Distance of both Aedes and Culex was calculated. The result is shown in Table 1.

The Euclidean distance of Aedes larvae is 1.181372 while in Culex larvae is 0.060723. It shows that the movement of Aedes larvae is relatively more consistent than Culex larvae. Details of the values of Euclidean distance of Culex larvae and Aedes larvae in Figure 5 are discussed in Table 2. The video numbers represent each Aedes larvae and Culex larvae that produce Euclidean distance values. Table 2 shows there are 25 videos with a maximum of 25 Aedes larvae videos and 25 Culex larvae videos so that the total video trials are 50 videos.

### Table 1. Euclidean distance Aedes and Culex frame by frame

| Frame | Aedes | Culex |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 2-3   | 2.70  | 0.08  |
| 2-3   | 1.99  | 0.13  |
| 4-5   | 0.98  | 0.03  |
| 5-6   | 0.74  | 0.02  |
| 6-7   | 0.68  | 0.06  |
| 7-8   | 0.51  | 0.03  |
| 8-9   | 0.71  | 0.09  |
| 9-10  | 0.94  | 0.01  |
| 10-11 | 0.92  | 0.02  |
| 11-12 | 1.14  | 0.01  |
| 12-13 | 1.46  | 0.09  |
| 13-14 | 1.41  | 0.10  |
| 14-15 | 1.10  | 0.06  |
| Average | 1.181372 | 0.060723 |

### Table 2. Euclidean distance of the larvae’s Aedes

| Larva | EU, Aedes | Result | EU, Culex | Result |
|-------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| video 1 | 0.389693 | TRUE | 0.3326 | FALSE |
| video 2 | 0.445714 | TRUE | 0.70682 | FALSE |
| video 3 | 0.49031 | TRUE | 0.95355 | FALSE |
| video 4 | 0.667548 | TRUE | 1.07183 | TRUE |
| video 5 | 0.676606 | TRUE | 1.47463 | TRUE |
| video 6 | 0.771291 | TRUE | 1.50798 | TRUE |
| video 7 | 0.827584 | TRUE | 1.78752 | TRUE |
| video 8 | 0.850508 | TRUE | 1.78752 | TRUE |
| video 9 | 0.884203 | TRUE | 1.86375 | TRUE |
| video 10 | 0.927365 | TRUE | 2.0422 | TRUE |
| video 11 | 0.992542 | TRUE | 2.07134 | TRUE |
| video 12 | 1.19805 | FALSE | 2.14311 | TRUE |
| video 13 | 1.495861 | FALSE | 2.55891 | TRUE |
| video 14 | 1.963727 | FALSE | 3.19357 | TRUE |
| video 15 | 0.058198 | TRUE | 3.22102 | TRUE |
| video 16 | 0.088696 | TRUE | 3.56586 | TRUE |
| video 17 | 0.126362 | TRUE | 3.83153 | TRUE |
| video 18 | 0.150237 | TRUE | 3.87637 | TRUE |
| video 19 | 0.165304 | TRUE | 4.14823 | TRUE |
| video 20 | 0.299907 | TRUE | 5.22371 | TRUE |
| video 21 | 1.05906 | FALSE | 5.32439 | TRUE |
| video 22 | 0.342779 | TRUE | 5.32846 | TRUE |
| video 23 | 1.544764 | FALSE | 7.01613 | TRUE |
| video 24 | 0.078225 | TRUE | 7.16964 | TRUE |
| video 25 | 0.338474 | TRUE | 9.46401 | TRUE |
Based on the test results of 50 videos consisting of 25 videos of *Aedes* larvae and 25 videos of *Culex* larvae, there were five "FALSE" in *Aedes* larvae and three in *Culex* larvae, as shown in Table 2. So, the accuracy of the testing system was 84%. A comparison between both Euclidean distance of the two mosquitoes is shown in Figure 11. Regarding the influence of water quality in mosquito movements, in future research, we will emphasize the application of sensing fusion as applied to coral disease [25].

4. CONCLUSION

The biological feature extraction by using mobile sensing is conducted. The result shows that larvae detection using vision-based perception is powerful to replace chemical and morphological features. The accuracy of the system is 84%. Also, it is easy to handle and user-friendly. However, there several challenges before mobile sensing is launched, such as the influence of water quality and movement patterns of crowd larvae. All should be handling by vision-based perception.

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