

# Comparative Analysis of Background Subtraction Models Applied on a Local Dataset Using a New Approach for Ground-truth Generation

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**Abstract**—Background subtraction is the dominant approach in the domain of moving object detection. Lots of research have been done to design or improve background subtraction models. However, there is a few well known and state of the art models which applied as a benchmark. Generally, these models are applied on different dataset benchmarks. Most of the time choosing appropriate dataset is challenging due to the lack of datasets availability and the tedious process of creating the ground-truth frames for the sake of quantitative evaluation. Therefore, in this article we collected local video scenes for street and river taken by stationary camera focusing on dynamic background challenge. We presented a new technique for creating ground-truth frames using modelling, composing, tracking, and rendering each frame. Eventually we applied nine promising benchmark algorithms used in this domain on our local dataset. Results obtained by quantitative evaluations exposed the effectiveness of our new technique for generating the ground-truth scenes to be benchmarked with the original scenes using number of statistical metrics. Furthermore, results show the outperformance of SuBSENSE model against other tested models.

**Keywords**—video surveillance, background subtraction, moving objects detection, ground-truth, evaluation metrics

## 1 Introduction

Detection of moving object is the initial and essential workflow step of the video surveillance system where further steps could be taken for classifying the moving objects. Background subtraction techniques have been used to detect the moving objects along with optical flow and temporal differencing techniques, although background subtraction is the most well-known and still the dominant technique among others due to the easiness and high performance when implemented in a vast scope of video surveillance environments [1]. Normally, Background subtraction techniques deal with different challenges according to the various environments. For example, challenges can be, dynamic background, illumination changes, camera jitter, low frame rates or other challenges [2].

Through decades, many background subtraction models have been developed and introduced to tackle the background subtraction challenges, these models are classified into different categories by several surveys and review articles, [3][4]. **Basic models** are the simplest models they depend on a threshold to decide whether it's a foreground or background pixel and it is more convenient to models with a single background distribution [5], mean model [6], median model [7], and histogram analysis model [8] are examples of the basic models. **Filter models** expect the background depending on the intensity or orientation of the previous pixels [9], Wiener filter [10], Tchebychev filter [11], Correntropy filter [12], optical flow [13] and Kalman filter [14], are examples of the single processing models (filter models). **Mathematical models** consist of two classes, statistical parametrical models and statistical non-parametrical models. Gaussian Mixture Model (GMM) [15] is example of parametrical statistical models [16]. On the other hand, Visual Background extractor (ViBe) [17], Substance Sensitivity Segmenter (SuBSENSE) algorithm, kernel density estimation (KDE) [18] and fuzzy models [19] are examples of non-parametrical statistical models [3].

**Clustering models** depend on the color intensity of the pixel to recognize whether a pixel belongs to the background or the foreground clusters, K-means [20], Codebook [21] and background reconstruction [22] are examples of clustering models.

Furthermore, **Machine learning models** are the state-of-the-art models which encompass various techniques like, support vector machines (SVM) [23], robust subspace tracking [24], reconstructive and discriminative subspace learning techniques [25][26], deep learning neural networks [27][28] and convolutional neural network (CCN) [29] which have been broadly embraced due to the massive development of hardware processing power [30].

Fusion of several models and strategies is another approach that has been adopted in many articles for a better performance, real time semantic background subtraction (RT-BSB) [31] is an example. Background subtraction technique is mainly consisting of pipelined stages, four main stages and two secondary stages. The main stages are: **background initialization**, **background modelling**, **background maintenance** and **background detection** where the secondary stages are: **The pre-processing** and **post-processing** stages.

Generally, background subtraction models are applied on a benchmark dataset, choosing a suitable dataset is quite challenging due to the lack of available datasets that providing a specific challenge to be tested or providing the ground-truth frames for quantitative evaluations. As a result only few datasets can be considered as a benchmark, CDnet 2012 and CDnet 2014 [2] are the most well-known benchmark datasets used in this domain for providing a variety of challenges along with supporting the ground-truth frames. Therefore, in this article we shed the light on how to collect a local dataset with dynamic background challenges using stationary camera and proposing a new technique for creating the ground-truth frames for quantitative evaluation. We applied the most well-known and benchmarked background subtraction algorithms on our local dataset for qualitative and quantitative assessment.

## 2 Local video scenes

In addition to the global benchmark dataset used by researchers around the world, in this article, we attempt to collect local scenes to be tested by benchmark background

subtraction models. The utilization of a locally gathered dataset along with the global benchmark datasets is of importance as it adds the value of testing algorithms on local scenarios captured using locally widespread technology, as the use of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras increased significantly with the rise of security demands. For this sake we captured three videos with different dynamic background challenges and distinct moving objects to be detected. The video scenes were taken by a common stationary CCTV camera with a frame rate of 30 fps. Furthermore, we followed a new technique to generate the ground-truth frames for each input frame. Table 1 contains details about the local dataset videos.

### 2.1 Original video scenes

In this section we present the details with sample frames from each original video captured as follows:

**Street scenes.** In the street scenes, two different moving vehicles are captured in both right and left directions. the dynamic background challenge is the moving palm frond in the upper right corner of the scene frame. The following Figure 1 depicts frame samples of street videos, the scenes (a) and (c) are before the emergence of the target moving vehicle, where (b) and (d) are the scenes with the target moving vehicle.



Fig. 1. Frame samples before and after the emergence of the target moving vehicle

**Tigris river scene.** Tigris river scene is recorded from the riverbank of Tigris capturing the river and the moving ferry target. In this scenario, the dynamic background challenge is the moving water surface. Figure 2 depicts the frame samples where (a) is the original scene before the emergence of the moving ferry and (b) is the frame containing the target moving ferry.

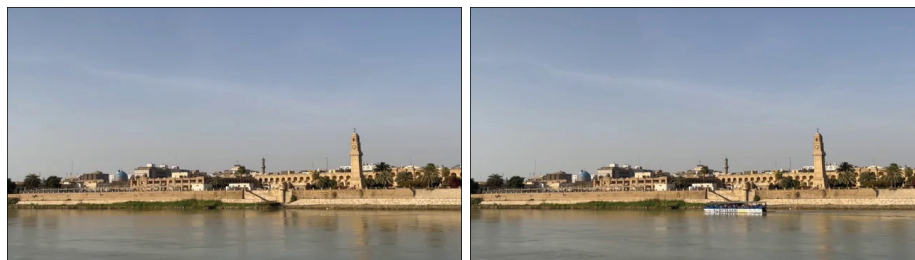


Fig. 2. Frame samples before and after the emergence of the target moving ferry

**Table 1.** Dynamic background videos from local dataset

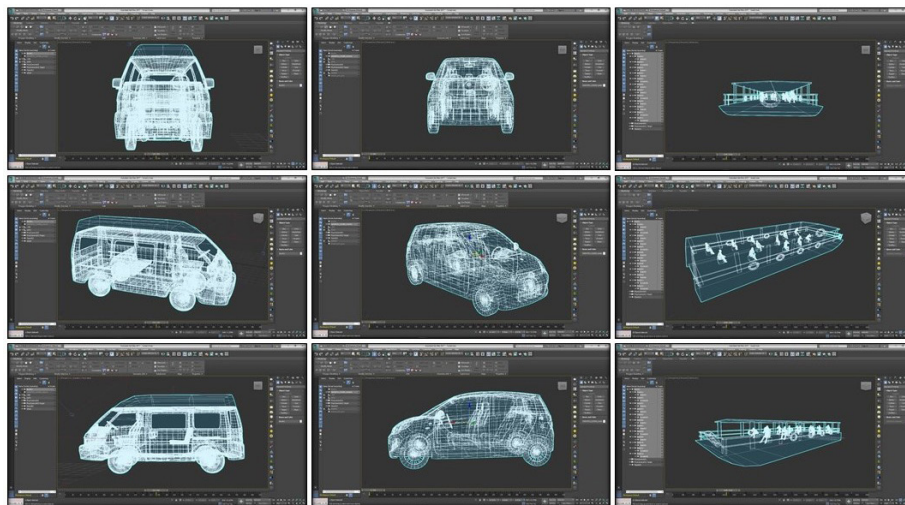
| Videos       | Dynamic Challenge Description               | Total Frames | Region of Interest Frames |
|--------------|---|--------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Van</i>   | Moving palm frond in the upper right corner | 346          | 188–313                   |
| <i>Car</i>   | Moving palm frond in the upper right corner | 491          | 254–383                   |
| <i>Ferry</i> | Moving water surface                        | 3811         | 235–3412                  |

## 2.2 Ground-truth scenes

In this section we present the steps of generating the correspondent ground-truth frames to each original frame in our video scenes.

**Modelling.** Generally, 3D modeling is creating edges, polygons and vertices for an object through representing mathematical coordinates of the object’s shell in a virtual three dimensions space using specific applications [32]. In addition, there are different approaches of generating a 3D model, the manual approach where the designer is responsible for creating the model from scratch, the procedural approach is when designer follows an algorithmic steps to build the 3D model, and scanning is another approach where designer scan the real object in order to create the 3D model [33].

In this work three moving objects were modelled manually using Autodesk 3ds Max application, the following Figure 3 depicts the modelling perspectives for the three moving objects (Van, car, and ferry).



**Fig. 3.** Modelling perspectives

**Composing.** In general, this step involves choosing the suitable camera lenses, controlling the camera angle, posing and blocking, if the object is static also, it could involve some specific composing techniques [34].

In this work we used, the real dimensions for the objects and the real camera distance with lenses similar to the CCTV camera lens. The following Figure 4 depicts the composition screenshots.

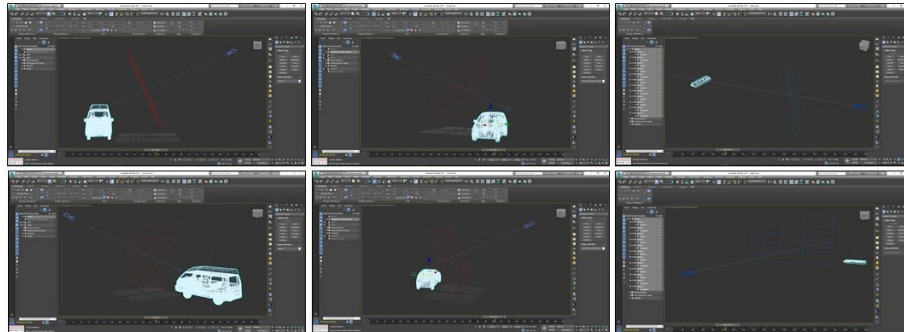


Fig. 4. Composing the camera to the objects

**Tracking.** Animating the moving object is the approach we followed to imitate and track the movement of our objects in the original scene. The following Figure 5 showing the screenshots of tracking the moving objects.

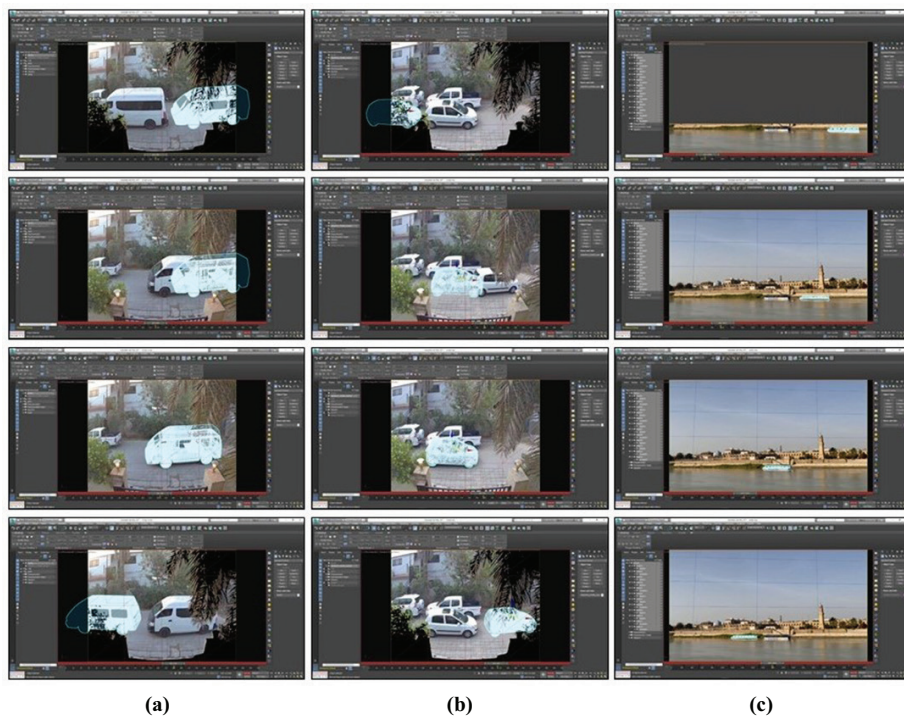


Fig. 5. Tracking (a) van (b) car (c) ferry

**Rendering.** Rendering is the final step where; the designer generates a moving object based on the 3D scene. In this work the negative mode is used to create the scene. The following Figure 6 showing the rendering process.

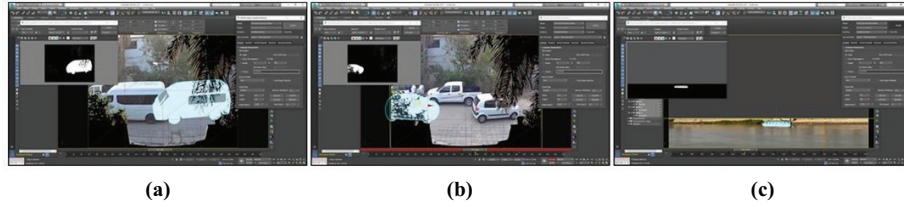


Fig. 6. Rendering on (a) van (b) car and (c) ferry

### 3 Experiments and analysis

In this article we compare the foreground detection using different nine benchmarked background subtraction algorithms. The models are tested using our local dataset considering the dynamic background challenge. In these experiments we are comparing the background subtraction image with the correspondent ground-truth image to evaluate the performance of each method in respect to quantitative evaluation metrics at the pixel level, and the background subtraction method classifies the pixels into background or foreground. Seven metrics are used for the performance quantitative evaluation as illustrated in the following equations:

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + FN + TN + FP} \quad (1)$$

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \quad (2)$$

$$Recall(sensitivity) = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \quad (3)$$

$$F - Measures(F1) = \frac{2 * Precision * Recall}{Precision + Recall} \quad (4)$$

$$FPR = \frac{FP}{FP + TN} \quad (5)$$

$$FNR = \frac{FN}{TP + FN} \quad (6)$$

$$Error\ rate(PWC) = \frac{FP + FN}{TP + FN + TN + FP} * 100 \quad (7)$$

Where,  $TP$  is the number of foreground pixels correctly classified,  $TN$  is the number of background pixels correctly classified,  $FP$  is the number of background pixels incorrectly classified as foreground pixels, and  $FN$  is the number of foreground pixels incorrectly classified as background pixels.

$Accuracy$  in Eq. (1) indicates the correct classification for a pixel whether it is a foreground or a background pixel,  $Precision$  in Eq. (2) indicates the proportion of truly

detected foreground pixels to the number of all pixels classified as foreground pixels, *recall* in Eq. (3) indicates the number of pixels that are correctly classified as a foreground of all the foreground pixels and the *F-measure* in Eq. (4) is the harmonic mean of recall and precision. On the other hand, we have the metrics: (False Positive Rate) *FPR* in Eq. (5) is the number of background pixels that are misclassified as foreground pixels, (False Negative Rate) *FNR* in Eq. (6) is the number of foreground pixels that are misclassified as background pixels, and **Percentage of Wrong Classifications (PWC)** in Eq. (7) indicates the error rate which is the percentage of misclassified pixels to the original pixels [3].

Normally, we measure the relevance by recall and precision. A low recall is an indication of over segmentation of the foreground objects, where a low precision is an indication of under segmentation of the foreground objects. High F-measures is an indication of a robust background subtraction algorithm and the lower the FPR, FNR and PWC is an indication of a better performance.

In the following Tables 2–10 we illustrate the analytical metrics results of applying the benchmark background subtraction models SuBSENSE [16], ViBe [35], LOBSTER [36], GMM [15], KNN [37], KDE [18], Fuzzy Choquet Integral [38], Fuzzy Sugeno Integral [38], and Codebook [39] respectively on our local dataset videos, providing detailed results, the highest F1 is highlighted in bold. While Table 11 illustrates the average performance metrics of the forementioned models on the local dataset, the best result in each metric is highlighted in bold.

**Table 2.** Performance metrics results of applying **SuBSENSE** model

| Video        | Accuracy | Precession | Recall | F1           | FPR    | FNR    | PWC    |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Car</i>   | 0.9970   | 0.7957     | 0.6741 | <b>0.766</b> | 0.0013 | 0.3259 | 0.3034 |
| <i>Van</i>   | 0.9896   | 0.8370     | 0.5338 | 0.6665       | 0.0024 | 0.4662 | 1.0412 |
| <i>Ferry</i> | 0.9948   | 0.4037     | 0.811  | 0.5398       | 0.0045 | 0.189  | 0.5211 |

**Table 3.** Performance metrics results of applying **ViBe** model

| Video        | Accuracy | Precession | Recall | F1            | FPR    | FNR    | PWC    |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Car</i>   | 0.9935   | 0.2806     | 0.3962 | 0.5182        | 0.0015 | 0.6038 | 0.6508 |
| <i>Van</i>   | 0.9853   | 0.2795     | 0.4164 | <b>0.5383</b> | 0.0033 | 0.5836 | 1.4717 |
| <i>Ferry</i> | 0.9958   | 0.4102     | 0.3346 | 0.376         | 0.0016 | 0.6654 | 0.4202 |

**Table 4.** Performance metrics results of applying **LOBSTER** model

| Video        | Accuracy | Precession | Recall | F1            | FPR    | FNR    | PWC    |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Car</i>   | 0.9946   | 0.7757     | 0.4589 | <b>0.6317</b> | 0.0014 | 0.5411 | 0.5428 |
| <i>Van</i>   | 0.9862   | 0.8545     | 0.4011 | 0.5727        | 0.0031 | 0.5989 | 1.3808 |
| <i>Ferry</i> | 0.9965   | 0.5231     | 0.7039 | 0.5863        | 0.0023 | 0.2961 | 0.3511 |

**Table 5.** Performance metrics results of applying **GMM** model

| Video        | Accuracy | Precession | Recall | F1            | FPR    | FNR    | PWC    |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Car</i>   | 0.9575   | 0.1494     | 0.7303 | 0.6309        | 0.0414 | 0.2697 | 4.252  |
| <i>Van</i>   | 0.985    | 0.2482     | 0.6351 | <b>0.6445</b> | 0.0092 | 0.3649 | 1.4952 |
| <i>Ferry</i> | 0.9942   | 0.2299     | 0.3861 | 0.3088        | 0.0039 | 0.6139 | 0.584  |

**Table 6.** Performance metrics results of applying **KNN** model

| Video        | Accuracy | Precession | Recall | F1            | FPR    | FNR    | PWC    |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Car</i>   | 0.9830   | 0.1941     | 0.6436 | <b>0.6555</b> | 0.0152 | 0.3564 | 1.7045 |
| <i>Van</i>   | 0.9774   | 0.2619     | 0.5862 | 0.6294        | 0.0157 | 0.4138 | 2.2598 |
| <i>Ferry</i> | 0.9937   | 0.3241     | 0.8654 | 0.5255        | 0.006  | 0.1346 | 0.6330 |

**Table 7.** Performance metrics results of applying **KDE** model

| Video        | Accuracy | Precession | Recall | F1            | FPR    | FNR    | PWC    |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Car</i>   | 0.9748   | 0.0948     | 0.5965 | <b>0.4382</b> | 0.0227 | 0.4035 | 2.5232 |
| <i>Van</i>   | 0.9242   | 0.1066     | 0.7473 | 0.3891        | 0.0735 | 0.2527 | 7.5783 |
| <i>Ferry</i> | 0.9727   | 0.089      | 0.7213 | 0.1834        | 0.0261 | 0.2787 | 2.7350 |

**Table 8.** Performance metrics results of applying **Fuzzy Choquet Integral** model

| Video        | Accuracy | Precession | Recall | F1            | FPR    | FNR    | PWC    |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Car</i>   | 0.9926   | 0.5117     | 0.2523 | 0.402         | 0.0008 | 0.7477 | 0.7405 |
| <i>Van</i>   | 0.9852   | 0.6292     | 0.3405 | <b>0.4895</b> | 0.0019 | 0.6595 | 1.4774 |
| <i>Ferry</i> | 0.9942   | 0.1366     | 0.1129 | 0.1198        | 0.0022 | 0.8871 | 0.5800 |

**Table 9.** Performance metrics results of applying **Fuzzy Sugeno Integral** model

| Video        | Accuracy | Precession | Recall | F1            | FPR    | FNR    | PWC    |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Car</i>   | 0.9922   | 0.5343     | 0.2097 | 0.3487        | 0.0007 | 0.7903 | 0.7818 |
| <i>Van</i>   | 0.9848   | 0.6413     | 0.3136 | <b>0.4624</b> | 0.0017 | 0.6864 | 1.5211 |
| <i>Ferry</i> | 0.9946   | 0.1363     | 0.0866 | 0.1039        | 0.0017 | 0.9134 | 0.5414 |

**Table 10.** Performance metrics results of applying **Codebook** model

| Video        | Accuracy | Precession | Recall | F1            | FPR    | FNR    | PWC     |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|---------|
| <i>Car</i>   | 0.9499   | 0.0626     | 0.7211 | <b>0.3415</b> | 0.0489 | 0.2789 | 5.0112  |
| <i>Van</i>   | 0.8212   | 0.0536     | 0.7684 | 0.2331        | 0.1825 | 0.2316 | 17.8830 |
| <i>Ferry</i> | 0.9569   | 0.067      | 0.8708 | 0.1469        | 0.0427 | 0.1292 | 4.3053  |



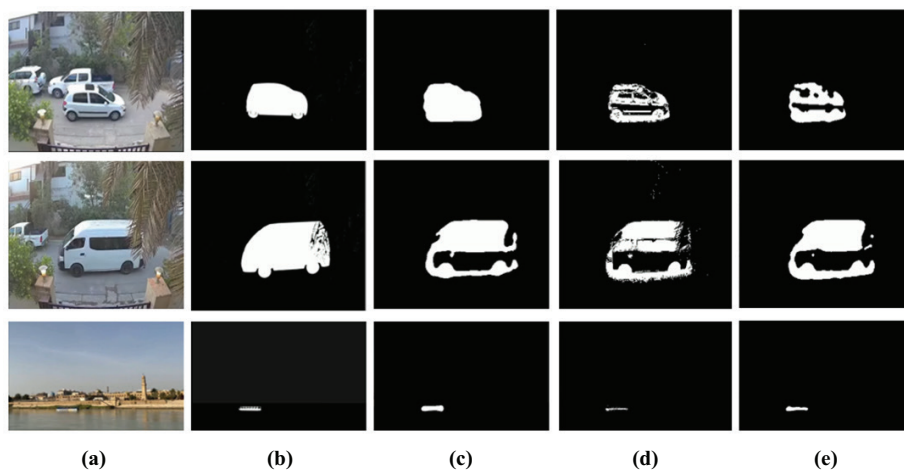
**Table 11.** Average performance metrics results of applying background subtraction models

| Model                         | Accuracy     | Precession   | Recall       | F1           | FPR          | FNR          | PWC          |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>SuBSENSE</i>               | <b>0.994</b> | 0.679        | 0.673        | <b>0.657</b> | 0.003        | 0.327        | <b>0.622</b> |
| <i>ViBe</i> [35]              | 0.992        | 0.323        | 0.382        | 0.478        | 0.002        | 0.618        | 0.848        |
| <i>LOBSTER</i>                | 0.992        | <b>0.718</b> | 0.521        | 0.597        | 0.002        | 0.479        | 0.758        |
| <i>GMM</i> [40]               | 0.979        | 0.209        | 0.584        | 0.528        | 0.018        | 0.416        | 2.111        |
| <i>KNN</i> [8]                | 0.985        | 0.260        | 0.698        | 0.604        | 0.012        | 0.302        | 1.532        |
| <i>KDE</i>                    | 0.957        | 0.097        | 0.688        | 0.337        | 0.041        | 0.312        | 4.279        |
| <i>Fuzzy Choquet Integral</i> | 0.991        | 0.426        | 0.235        | 0.337        | 0.002        | 0.765        | 0.933        |
| <i>Fuzzy Sugeno Integral</i>  | 0.991        | 0.437        | 0.203        | 0.305        | <b>0.001</b> | 0.797        | 0.948        |
| <i>Codebook</i>               | 0.909        | 0.061        | <b>0.787</b> | 0.241        | 0.091        | <b>0.213</b> | 9.067        |

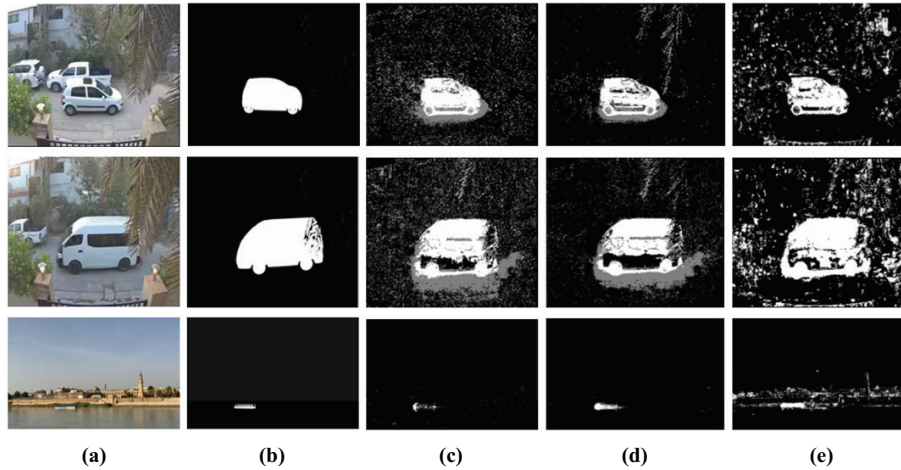
Overall, the forementioned comparison results of each model on each video from the local datasets, the observations have been made specifically on the F-measure metric results, this is due to the fact that it is the harmonic mean of recall and precision, and F-measure is the most important metric to be considered for evaluating the overall robustness of the background subtraction model. The overall results of all models shows that the best performance in F-measure is achieved more frequently on the car and van videos.

This is generally indicating that models behave similarly to the environmental video challenges even though each model produces its own performance results. What can be noticed from Table 11 is that SuBSENSE on average outperforms all other models in terms of accuracy, F1 measure and PWC metrics when applied on the local dataset.

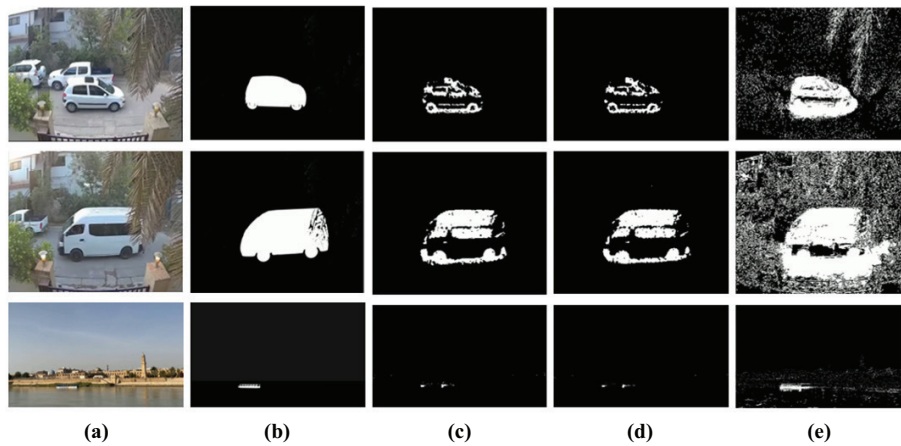
Moreover, Figures 7–9 depict the visual results comparison of the obtained foreground masks from applying the models on the local dataset. Looking at figures where qualitative evaluation is illustrated; one can see that the results generated by SuBSENSE is visually the closest to the ground-truth frame.



**Fig. 7.** Comparison of foreground detection results (a) original scenes (b) ground-truths (c) SuBSENSE subtraction (d) ViBe subtraction (e) LOBSTER subtraction



**Fig. 8.** Comparison of foreground detection results (a) original scenes (b) ground-truths (c) GMM subtraction (d) KNN subtraction (e) KDE subtraction



**Fig. 9.** Comparison of foreground detection results (a) original scenes (b) ground-truths (c) Fuzzy Choquet Integral subtraction (d) Fuzzy Sugeno Integral subtraction (e) Codebook subtraction

## 4 Conclusion

In this work, we recorded three local videos with dynamic background challenges in an attempt to prepare a local dataset. We proposed a new technique of creating a ground-truth for our local dataset by utilizing the concept of 3D modelling. Ground-truth created for each correspondent original frame to be employed for quantitative

evaluation. Benchmark algorithms (*SUBSENSE*, *ViBe*, *LOBSTER*, *GMM*, *KNN*, *KDE*, *Fuzzy Choquet Integral*, *Fuzzy Sugeno Integral* and *Codebook*) subtraction were applied on the local dataset and both quantitative and qualitative assessments are presented. Qualitative evaluations illustrated in the screenshots figure depicting the visual assessment of the subtracted mask resulted from each algorithm. On the other hand, different evaluation metrics have been employed for the quantitative evaluation. Our results showed the efficiency of the proposed ground-truth generation technique in creating suitable input for benchmark algorithms, thus allowing the developers of practical computer vision software targeting the local environment to test their solutions on local scenes.

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