

红外探测灵敏度自适应优化方法研究

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摘要 对空天暗弱目标的高灵敏度连续探测是目前天基红外探测领域的重点研究方向。高速飞行器目标由于机动性强、飞行速度快、飞行高度起伏大,其在系统入瞳处的辐射强度变化范围大;同时,飞行过程中地球背景复杂多变,系统对其连续探测的鲁棒性大幅降低。针对以上问题,综合分析了目标运动特性、背景辐射特征及其变化特点,提出了一种基于实时图像信息的积分时间、积分电容自适应寻优的探测跟踪方法。首先,根据目标典型运动速度和背景辐亮度特征,优化设计系统的积分电容和初始积分时间,对目标进行监视搜索。探测到目标后,收集目标的实际运动特征及邻域的背景辐射强度特征,根据目标运动轨迹的连续性和背景辐射变化的缓变性,自适应调整目标跟踪过程的最佳积分时间和积分电容,使目标信噪比持续保持最优,实现对目标的高灵敏度跟踪。

关键词 遥感; 自适应; 优化设计; 连续探测跟踪; 红外探测仿真

中图分类号 TP702

文献标志码 A

DOI: 10.3788/CJL202249.2110001

1 引言

高灵敏度连续探测跟踪是空天目标红外监视领域的主要研究方向,而对目标和背景红外辐射特征以及目标运动特征的分析是进行系统参数设计的前提。高速飞行器具有强机动性,飞行过程中的运动轨迹呈跳跃式^[1],同时其攻角^[2]不断变化,飞行高度和飞行速度起伏大,且由于大气吸收^[3]作用,到达探测系统入瞳处的红外辐射强度较低且变化剧烈。另外,目标飞行过程中的地球背景复杂多变^[4],背景辐射强度的变化范围很大,探测工况复杂,严重降低了传统红外探测系统对高速飞行器的探测效能。因此,提出一种新型红外探测方法以提升系统的鲁棒性具有重要的意义。

目前,关于高速飞行器探测的研究主要是分析其辐射特性^[5-7],如表面温度^[8-14]、超燃冲压发动机尾焰辐射特征^[15]等,但是关于高速飞行器目标探测系统的优化研究鲜有报道。导弹等传统空天目标在飞行过程中的运动轨迹及辐射强度的变化相对简单^[16-17],因此多采用固定参数探测系统^[18-21]。但是,当对辐射强度与运动特征变化较大的目标进行探测时,固定参数探测系统通常无法实现所有工况下的目标高灵敏度探测,因此需要系统参数自适应寻优^[22]以保证稳定的目标探测与跟踪。而根据公开文献资料可知,目前尚没

有针对高速飞行器进行参数优化的探测系统。

基于上述问题,本文提出了一种基于实时图像信息的积分时间、积分电容自适应寻优的探测跟踪方法。首先,综合分析了高速飞行器的运动特征和地球背景辐射特征,对系统的积分电容和初始积分时间进行优化以实现目标的高灵敏度搜索。接着,根据获取的目标实际运动特征及目标邻域的背景辐射强度特征,利用目标运动轨迹的连续性和背景辐射变化的缓变性,自适应调整目标跟踪过程的最佳积分时间和积分电容,使目标信噪比(SNR)持续保持最优,实现对目标的连续跟踪。

2 模型与方法

2.1 天基红外探测模型

图 1 为天基红外探测系统对高速飞行器探测的示意图,由于高速飞行器尺度远小于探测系统的地面分辨率,因此可认为是点目标。为了便于描述,将探测到目标辐射信息的像元视为目标像元,将只探测到背景信息的像元视为背景像元。点目标通过光学系统衍射形成夫琅禾费衍射环,表现为高斯散斑,一般只有一部分信号落在中心目标像元上,如图 1 所示,中心目标像元所接收到的目标能量在总目标辐射能量中的占比称为能量集中度(E)^[23-24]。

高速飞行器和地球背景的红外辐射信息通过光学

收稿日期: 2021-12-28; 修回日期: 2022-01-19; 录用日期: 2022-02-24

基金项目: 国家自然科学基金(61975222)

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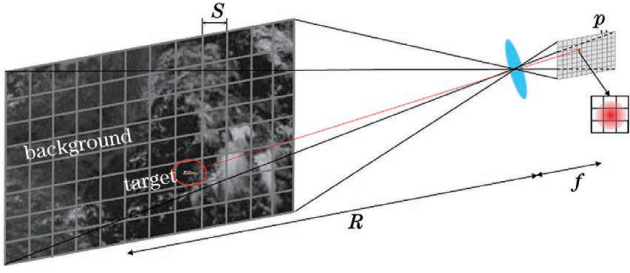


图 1 高速飞行器探测示意图

Fig. 1 Schematic of high velocity vehicle detection

系统后被探测器阵列收集,并转化为光电子存储在积分电容中。目标像元积累的电子数(N_{TD})和背景像元积累的电子数(N_{BD})可分别表示为

$$N_{TD} = \frac{[L_{q,back}(S^2 - A_{tar}) + I_{tar}E] A_{opt} \tau_{opt} \eta T_{int}}{R^2 + T_{int} I_{dark}/q}, \quad (1)$$

$$N_{BD} = L_{q,back} S^2 A_{opt} \tau_{opt} \eta T_{int} / R^2 + T_{int} I_{dark} / q, \quad (2)$$

式中: $L_{q,back}$ 表示光子形式的背景辐亮度; A_{tar} 表示探测目标在相机焦平面上的投影面积; I_{tar} 表示探测目标的人瞳辐射强度; E 表示相机的能量集中度; A_{opt} 表示入瞳面积; τ_{opt} 表示光学效率; η 表示探测器的量子效率; T_{int} 表示积分时间; I_{dark} 表示探测器系统的暗电流,对于短中波探测器,暗电流可以忽略不计; q 表示电荷量, $q=1.6 \times 10^{-19}$ C; S 表示系统的空间分辨率,表达式为 $S = p \cdot R / f$,其中 p 表示探测器的像元中心距, R 表示探测系统对目标的探测距离, f 表示探测系统的焦距。积分时间 T_{int} 是影响系统性能的主要因素。在积分时间内,系统每个像元积累的电子数不能

超过满井电子数的 75%,且目标飞行距离不能超过 1 pixel。因此, T_{int} 需要满足

$$T_{int} \leq \left\{ \frac{0.75 N_{full}}{P_{BD}}, \frac{S}{v_{tar}} \right\}_{\min}, \quad (3)$$

式中: N_{full} 是探测器满井容量; v_{tar} 是目标飞行速度。考虑到探测过程中目标的辐射强度是未知的,因此通常用背景响应电子数来限制,因此 P_{BD} 可以表达为

$$P_{BD} = L_{q,back} \omega A_{opt} \tau_{opt} \eta, \quad (4)$$

式中: ω 为像元的视场立体角。考虑到天基探测系统下地球背景的空间杂波较大,因此通常采用基于时域信噪比的方法进行目标检测,探测效能主要受限于系统的时域噪声 n_{sys} :

$$n_{sys} = \sqrt{N_{BD} + n_{read}^2}, \quad (5)$$

式中: n_{read} 为探测器读出噪声。为了便于分析,通常将噪声转化为噪声等效辐射强度以表征探测系统的灵敏度 r_{SEI} :

$$r_{SEI} = \frac{\sqrt{N_{BD} + n_{read}^2} \cdot R^2}{A_{opt} \tau_{opt} \eta T_{int} E}. \quad (6)$$

通过式(6),利用 r_{SEI} 表征量子效率、积分时间等系统参数对探测效能的影响。 r_{SEI} 将探测系统的探测能力与实际目标辐射强度解耦,降低了探测效能分析的复杂度。

2.2 目标探测参数的优化

优化流程分为两步,如图 2 所示,分别为基于典型目标、背景特征的系统参数初优化和目标探测过程中基于实测信息的实时参数自适应寻优。

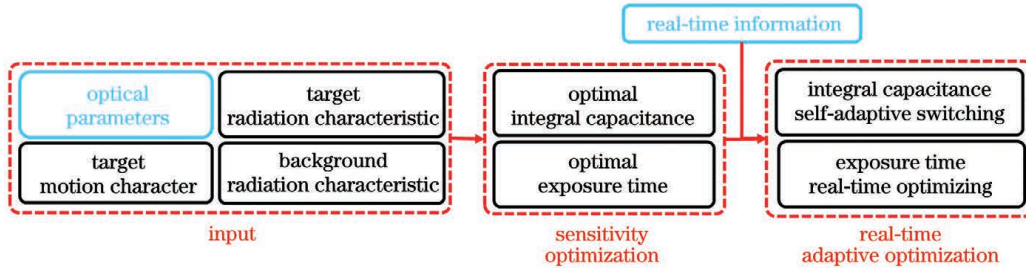


图 2 目标探测参数的优化流程图

Fig. 2 Flow chart of target detection parameter optimization

2.2.1 系统参数初优化

系统参数初优化旨在典型场景下实现系统的最佳探测效能。只有当探测器参数和光学系统参数适配时才能发挥出系统的最佳效能,此时系统有最优 r_{SEI} 值。当前国内红外探测器的动态范围典型值约为 72 dB,即探测器读出噪声约为满井电子数的 1/4000。将式(3)代入式(6),可得

$$r_{SEI} = \frac{\sqrt{3000 n_{read} + n_{read}^2}}{A_{opt} \tau_{opt} \eta T_{int} E / R^2}. \quad (7)$$

由此可知,积分时间越长,系统灵敏度越高。但当积分时间达到 S/v_{tar} 后,由于目标出现跨像元现象,目标像元电子数不再累加,而根据式(5)可知,此时噪声还会增大,因此信噪比会降低。当速度限积分时间刚好等

于背景限积分时间时,系统表现出最佳灵敏度。将式(3)、(4)联立,即可计算得到最佳积分时间和积分电容。

一般而言,探测器的积分电容可分为两档,并在探测过程中自动切换。因此,通常会根据常规背景和强背景两个典型辐亮度来分别设计两档积分电容。

2.2.2 探测参数实时自适应寻优

当系统探测到目标并对其进行跟踪时,由于可实时获取目标的运动速度、辐射强度及其邻域的背景辐亮度信息,因此可根据实际工况自适应调整积分时间和积分电容以实现最高的信噪比。探测参数实时自适应寻优的具体流程如图 3 所示,具体如下:

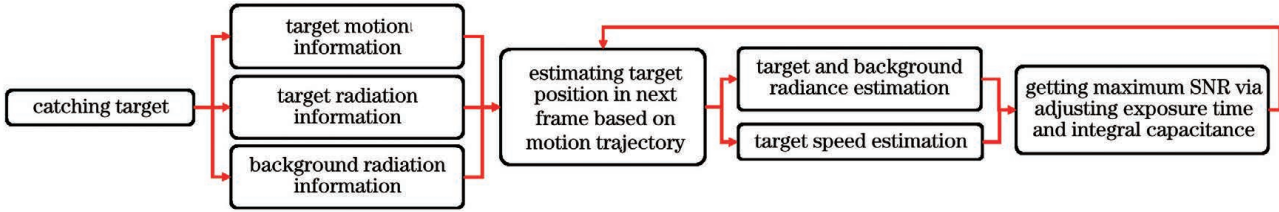


图 3 探测参数实时自适应寻优流程

Fig. 3 Flow chart of real-time adaptive optimization of detection parameters

1) 探测系统基于典型工况下的最优积分时间、积分电容对地球上的空天目标进行探测,实时收集地球背景辐射信息;

2) 探测到目标后,收集多帧图像的目标运动信息与辐射信息,拟合目标运动轨迹,预估下一帧目标中心位置及运动速度 v_{tar} ;

3) 根据预估的下一帧目标中心位置及其邻域范围内的地球背景辐射信息,考虑到目标辐射强度变化的连续性和地球背景辐射变化的缓变性,根据 $T_{int}(t) = \left\{ \frac{N_{full}}{[L_{q,back}(t) + I_{q,tar}(t)/(0.75 \cdot S^2)] \omega \eta A_{opt} \tau_{opt}}, \frac{S}{v_{tar}(t)/0.75} \right\}_{min}$ [ω 为系统探测立体角, $I_{q,tar}(t)$ 为目标光子辐射强度], 在两种积分电容模式下分别计算下一帧自适应优化的积分时间及对应的探测灵敏度,并根据最佳灵敏度值自动调整最优积分时间与积分电容;

4) 循环进行步骤 2) 和 3) 以实现目标的高灵敏度连续跟踪。

3 分析与讨论

3.1 仿真场景与参数设计

为了保证对导弹、高超目标、飞机等多种空天目标的探测能力,在抑制地球背景时需要保证足够的大气透过率,因此通常在短中波范围内选取合适的探测谱段^[25],本文以 $2.7 \sim 3.0 \mu m$ 谱段作为系统的探测谱段。在天基探测平台下,地球背景光谱辐亮度比较复杂,受到地物类型(图 4)、陆地海拔高度、大气透过率波动、太阳反射角度等多方面因素的影响。根据背景

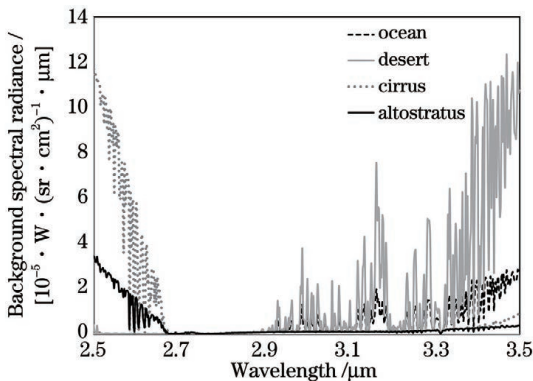


图 4 地球背景光谱辐亮度

Fig. 4 Earth background spectral radiance

辐亮度的差异,可将地球背景分为高层卷云强背景和海洋、陆地、低空云等常规背景,二者具有明显的辐亮度差异。通过 MODTRAN 大气辐射软件对多种条件下的地球背景辐射进行仿真分析,常规地球背景辐亮度典型值为 $3.5 \times 10^{-7} W/(sr \cdot cm^2)$,强地球背景辐亮度可高达 $2.4 \times 10^{-6} W/(sr \cdot cm^2)$ 。

选取地球同步轨道(轨道高度为 35800 km)上的探测平台进行仿真分析,相机的光学系统参数如表 1 所示。高速飞行器的速度最高可达 20 个马赫数(Ma),典型值一般取 10 个马赫数。根据参数设计模型,通过光学系统角分辨率可知,相机典型积分时间为 158 ms,此时地球常规背景和强背景下的最佳满井电子数分别为 3×10^5 和 1×10^6 。

表 1 光学系统参数

Table 1 Optical system parameters

Parameter	Optical aperture /mm	Angular resolution / μrad	Optical efficiency
Value	450	15	0.5

3.2 探测效能对比

取目标速度变化范围为 1~20 个马赫数,背景辐亮度最大值为 $2.5 \times 10^{-6} W/(sr \cdot cm^2)$,仿真分析不同工况下的探测系统灵敏度,结果如图 5 所示。图 5(a)、(b)分别为采用参数实时寻优时和采用固定系统参数探测方法时的系统探测灵敏度。地球背景辐亮度越小,目标运动速度越小,系统可达到的积分时间越高,此时系统的探测灵敏度越高。使用固定参数探测方法时探测灵敏度最高可达 3 W/sr,使用自适应参数寻优方法时灵敏度最高可达 0.64 W/sr,探测能力最高可提升 4.5 倍以上。相对于固定系统参数探测方法,参数实时寻优探测方法对系统探测灵敏度的提升主要体现在弱地球背景小飞行速度和强地球背景大飞行速度两种工况中。

系统的探测能力表达式为

$$I_{det} = R_{sn,th} \cdot r_{SEI} / E, \quad (8)$$

式中: I_{det} 表示系统可稳定探测到的最低辐射强度值; $R_{sn,th}$ 表示目标阈值信噪比。空天目标探测通常需要保证 95% 的探测概率,此时要求目标阈值信噪比 $R_{sn,th}$ 达到 4 以上。考虑到在探测过程中目标可能处于像元上的任意位置,因此一般将 E 设置为 0.25。以第二代“猎鹰”高超音速飞行器(HTV-2)为例分析高

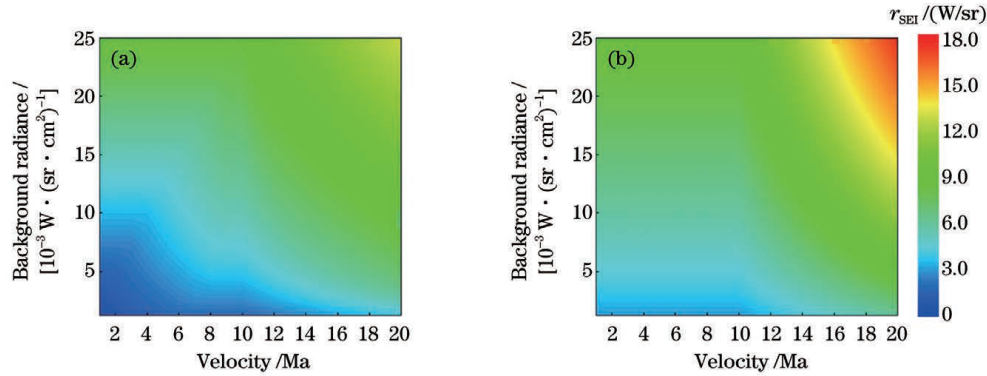


图 5 探测系统的灵敏度。(a)参数实时寻优;(b)固定系统参数

Fig. 5 Sensitivity of detection system. (a) Real-time parameter optimization; (b) fixed system parameter

超目标的典型辐射强度,其典型速度、飞行高度、攻角(AOA)如图 6(a)所示。HTV2 在滑翔段初期的蒙皮温度较低,但具有极高的初始飞行速度,HTV2 与周围大气间的剧烈气动加热效应^[12]导致蒙皮温度逐渐升高。通过参考焓法^[26]分析目标蒙皮温度,并利用普朗克定律计算入瞳处的目标辐射强度,结果如图 6(b)所示,在飞行末期目标的辐射

强度可低至 200 W/sr 左右。如果采用固定参数探测方法, r_{SEI} 最大值为 17.3 W/sr,此时系统可稳定探测的目标辐射强度阈值为 277 W/sr,无法实现对目标的连续探测跟踪。而采用参数实时寻优探测方法, r_{SEI} 最大值为 12.2 W/sr,可稳定探测的目标辐射强度阈值降至 195.2 W/sr,满足高超目标的连续探测跟踪要求。

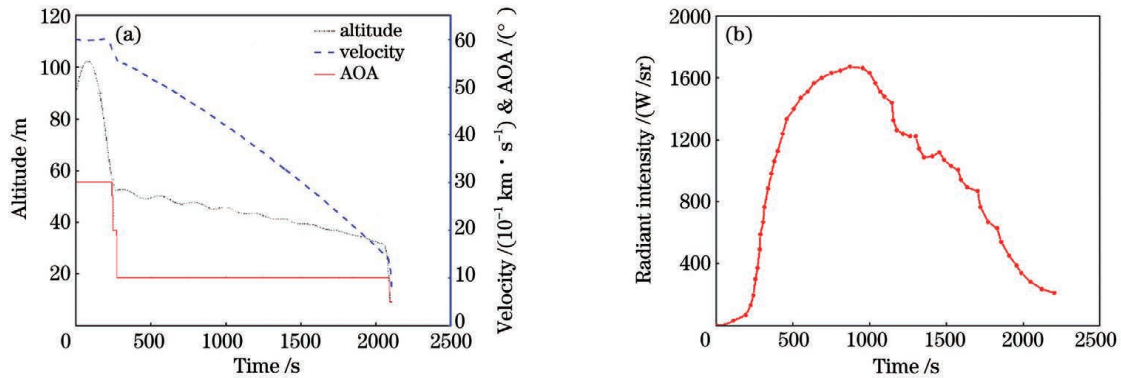


图 6 高速飞行器的运动与辐射特征。(a)运动;(b)辐射

Fig. 6 Motion and radiation characteristics of high speed aircraft. (a) Motion; (b) radiation

4 结 论

提出了一种积分时间、积分电容自适应寻优的探测跟踪方法。首先根据目标运动特征与背景辐射特征优化设计系统的积分电容和初始积分时间,并在探测过程中实时收集目标的实际运动特征及邻域背景辐射特征,自适应调整最佳积分时间和积分电容,提升探测跟踪效能。数值仿真结果表明,采用参数实时寻优探测方法,系统的探测灵敏度最高可提升 4.5 倍,可实现对辐射强度为 200 W/sr 的目标的高灵敏度探测与跟踪。

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Research on Adaptive Optimization Method for Infrared Detection Sensitivity

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Abstract

Objective High-sensitivity continuous detection and tracking has gained widespread attention in the field of infrared surveillance of space dim targets. Moreover, studies on the infrared radiation and motion characteristics of targets are the premise of the system parameter design. High-speed air vehicles have strong maneuverability when the flight altitude and speed greatly fluctuate. Moreover, their angle of attack constantly changes and adjusts, showing a jumping trajectory during the flight. The radiant intensity reaching the entrance pupil of the detection system is low due to atmospheric absorption and changes drastically. Simultaneously, the background radiant intensity varies widely due to the complex and

changeable earth background during flight, which reduces the detection efficiency of the traditional infrared detection system. However, current traditional detection systems using fixed parameters are unable to achieve high-sensitivity detection under all conditions when detecting targets with drastic changes in radiation and motion characteristics, leading to reduced system detection capability. Therefore, adaptively optimizing system parameters in real-time to ensure stable target detection and tracking is necessary. Additionally, it is necessary to propose a new detection method with real-time adaptive optimization of system parameters to ensure stable detection and tracking capabilities, thereby significantly improving the robustness of the system.

Methods We propose a detection and tracking method via exposure time and integrating capacitor adaptive optimization using real-time image information. First, we develop a mathematical model of the system detection sensitivity decoupled from the target radiant intensity. The initial integration capacitance and exposure time are optimized to match the detector parameters with the optical system parameters using both the characteristics of the typical high-speed air vehicle motion and earth background radiation, respectively, and realizing a high-sensitivity search. Upon detecting the target and sustaining the tracking process, the target motion information and radiation information are collected. Subsequently, the target motion trajectory is fitted and the target center position in the next frame and motion speed are estimated. Additionally, we estimate the target center position and earth background radiation information in the next frame. From the formula (8), the optimal exposure time and the integration capacitance of the target tracking process are adaptively adjusted using the time-varying continuity of the target radiant intensity and the time-slow variability of the earth's background radiation, keeping the target signal-to-noise ratio continuously optimal and achieving continuous tracking of the target.

Results and Discussions A system detection spectrum of 2.7–3.0 μm is selected to suppress the earth's background and ensure sufficient atmospheric transmittance. From the difference in background radiance, the earth's background can be divided into the strong reflection background, such as high-altitude cirrus, and the conventional background, such as ocean, land, and low-altitude clouds whose typical radiance values are $2.4 \times 10^{-6} \text{ W}/(\text{sr} \cdot \text{cm}^2)$ and $3.5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ W}/(\text{sr} \cdot \text{cm}^2)$, respectively. We study the geosynchronous orbit satellite platform with the optical system parameters presented in Table 1. The typical speed of a high-speed air vehicle is 10 Ma. From the proposed mathematical model, the typical system exposure time is 158 ms, and the optimal full capacity is 3×10^5 and 1×10^6 under strong reflection and conventional backgrounds, respectively. Figure 5 shows the detection sensitivities under different working conditions. Figures 5(a) and 5(b) show system detection sensitivities for real-time parameter optimization and fixed system parameter detection methods, respectively. Using the fixed-parameter detection and adaptive parameter optimization methods, we can obtain detection sensitivities of up to 3 W/sr and 0.64 W/sr, respectively, thereby improving the detection capability by more than 4.5 times. For example, considering Falcon Hypersonic Technology Vehicle 2 (HTV2), whose entrance pupil radiant intensity goes as low as 200 W/sr, as shown in Fig. 6, the detectable radiant intensity threshold can reach up to 277 W/sr with the fixed parameter detection method, which fails to continuously detect and track HTV2. However, the radiant intensity threshold can be reduced to 195 W/sr using the real-time parameter optimization detection method, which meets the continuous detection and tracking requirements.

Conclusions In this study, we propose a detection and tracking method using self-adaptive optimization of exposure time and integral capacitance. First, we optimize the initial system integration capacitance and exposure time using the target motion and background radiation characteristics. Notably, the actual target motion and surrounding background radiation characteristics are collected in real-time, and we adaptively adjust the optimal exposure time and integration capacitance, thus improving the detection and tracking performance. The numerical simulation results show that the system detection sensitivity is improved by up to 4.5 times using the real-time parameter optimization detection method, achieving the high-sensitivity target detection and tracking with the radiant intensity of 200 W/sr.

Key words remote sensing; self-adaption; optimized design; continuous detection and tracking; infrared detection simulation