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# Gait recognition based on the golden ratio

Yaling Liang<sup>1</sup>, Chang-Tsun Li<sup>2\*</sup> , Yu Guan<sup>2</sup> and Yongjian Hu<sup>1</sup>

## Abstract

Gait is known to be an effective behavioral biometric trait for the identification of individuals. However, clothing has a dramatic influence on the recognition rate. Researchers have attempted to deal with this issue of clothing by segmenting parts of the gait images based on anatomical proportions. However, the clothing proportion is not the same as the anatomical proportion, as clothing is designed according to the golden ratio to enhance its look. Hence, methods for eliminating the influence of clothing should be based on the proportions of clothing. In this paper, we propose the golden ratio-based segmentation method to reduce the influence of clothing. Experiments are conducted on the CASIA-B dataset, and experimental results show that the proposed method outperforms other approaches, achieving a 94.76 % recognition rate in various clothing conditions and a rate of 91.53 % when bags are being carried.

**Keywords:** Gait recognition, Golden ratio, Anatomical proportion, Body segmentation

## 1 Introduction

Compared with many biometric traits, such as fingerprint, iris, and hand geometry, gait can be captured from a distance. Gait recognition can be used in visual surveillance, forensics, robotics, computer animation, etc. However, there are many covariates [1–3] that influence the performance of gait recognition systems, such as clothing, carrying baggage, view angles, walking speed, elapsed time, and so on. Among these, the influence of clothing is generally unavoidable and has a considerable effect on the recognition rate. People generally change their clothes on a daily basis. Yu et al. [4] demonstrated that clothing caused the recognition rate to drop from more than 95 % to less than 33 %. Matovski et al. [5] also showed that clothing affects the recognition performance more than covariates such as time, footwear, and speed. Gafurov et al. [6], Hadid et al. [7], and Bustard et al. [8] researched the spoof attacks and anti-spoofing on gait recognition system. Hadid et al. [7] and Bustard et al. [8] showed that clothing is a big challenge for gait anti-spoofing. Hence, in this paper, we focus on a method for reducing the influence of clothes on gait recognition systems.

A number of researchers have used partial gait images, instead of the whole gait, to reduce the influence of clothing. For instance, Gabriel-Sanz et al. [9] used the lower

portion of gait images to eliminate the problem caused by clothing, whereas Hossain et al. [10] and Li et al. [11] segmented the gait into different parts according to the anatomical proportion and used different parts for the recognition task. Some researchers have constructed a mask according to relative criterion to determine which part of the gait should be used for recognition [12, 13]. Recently, Guan et al. [14] proposed a random subspace method to deal with the covariate of clothing. Many previous studies attempted to discard the influenced parts and retain only those uninfluenced parts to eliminate the effects of clothing. However, this problem has not been considered in terms of the characteristics of clothing. In the clothing and fashion industry, based on the fact that the parts of the human body conform to golden ratio [15], such a ratio is commonly used to guide the design of different types of clothing [16, 17]. Based on this, we propose a golden ratio segmentation method to deal with the problems caused by clothing in gait recognition systems.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides a brief review of the part-based methods and Section 3 provides analyses of those methods. The proposed golden ratio segmentation method is then described in Section 4. Some experimental results and analysis are presented in Section 5, and Section 6 summarizes our work and states our conclusions.

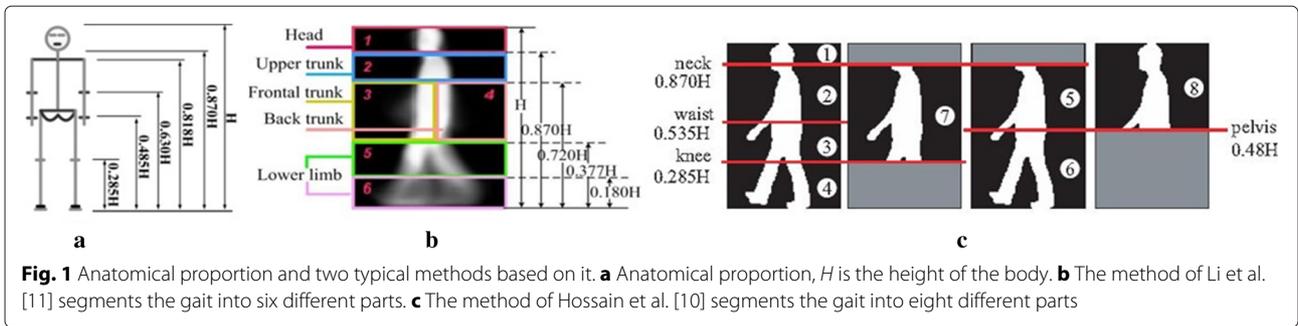
## 2 Review of part-based methods

Part-based methods use parts of the gait to realize gait recognition. They fall into three categories depending on

\*Correspondence: c-t.li@warwick.ac.uk; changtsunli@yahoo.com

<sup>2</sup>Department of Computer Science, University of Warwick, Gibbet Hill Road, CV4 7AL Coventry, UK

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article



the segmentation method employed, namely, anatomical proportion-based methods, self-defined methods, and mask-based methods.

The anatomical proportion-based method segments the body into different parts according to anatomical proportions [18]. Figure 1 illustrates the anatomical proportions and the main gait partitioning methods based on them. This approach is easy to implement and were employed by Hossain et al. [10], Li et al. [11], and Li et al. [19]. However, the proportions of the parts cannot be adjusted for different probe samples according to clothing length, which often affects the recognition rates.

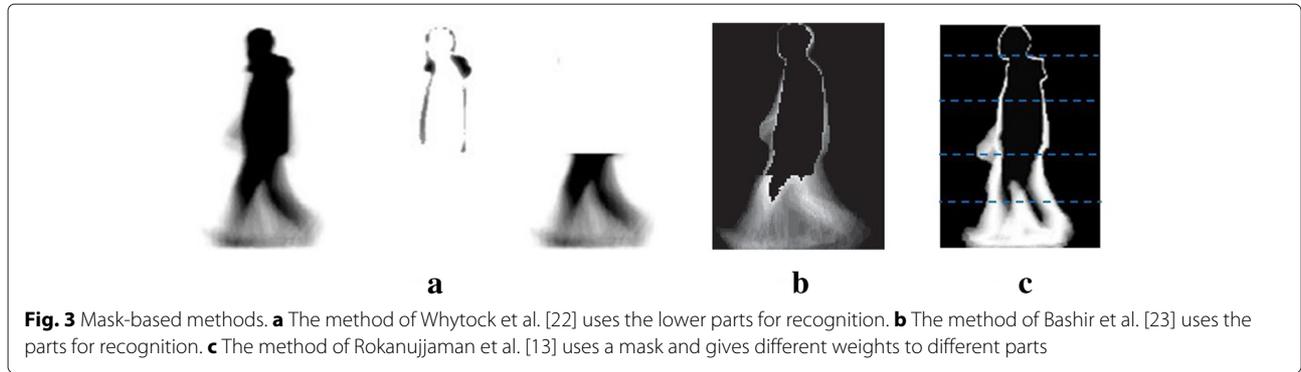
Self-defined proportion methods use proportions defined by different authors. Figure 2 illustrates several examples. As shown in Fig. 2a, Gabriel-Sanz et al. [9] used only the lower part of the human body for recognition. Similarly, Li and Chen [20] (Fig. 2b) used the head and feet of the gait to construct a structural gait energy image (SGEI) for recognition, [21] used the top and bottom parts of gait as selected features to mitigate the effect of the covariates. These methods select a few parts which are assumed to be less affected by clothing. But some of the chosen parts are really affected by clothing, meanwhile, these methods miss some uninfluenced parts. As a result, this kind of methods cannot eliminate the influenced parts fully and cannot make full use of the uninfluenced data.

To enhance robustness and make full use of all data, some studies create a unique mask for each test sample, as shown in Fig. 3. Exactly, Fig. 3a illustrates the approach of Whytock et al. [22], whereby a typical GEI was created using training data with typical clothing. For a given test sample, the probe and typical GEI are subtracted to identify the rows that could be used to realize the recognition. Figure 3b shows a mask-based method combined with self-defined proportions [23]. Figure 3c illustrates an approach in which the training set is used to define a mask that determines the parts to be used [13]. Mask-based methods are very robust and generally achieve high recognition rates. However, they are time consuming because the mask must be created and trained for each test sample. Moreover, the performance is influenced by the threshold value.

### 3 Analysis of part-based methods and problem statement

We design the following experiments to exhibit the weakness of part-base methods. We used the CASIA-B dataset [4], which includes video sequences covering 124 subjects. For each subject, there are ten sequences (six with normal clothes, two with carrying objects, and two with clothing changes) taken from 11 different view angles (from  $0^\circ$  to  $180^\circ$  at an interval of  $18^\circ$ ). As in other studies, we use the view angle  $90^\circ$  and divide the dataset into three subsets. Set A includes the six normal-clothes samples for the 124





subjects, set B includes the samples with clothing changes, and set C includes samples with objects being carried.

GEI, the average silhouette in the complete gait cycle(s), is a popular appearance-based gait representation method [24]. Given  $N$  binary gait silhouette image frames,  $B_t(x, y)$ , the gray-level GEI is defined as:

$$G(x, y) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N B_t(x, y). \quad (1)$$

Where  $N$  is the number of frames in the complete cycle(s) of a silhouette sequence,  $t$  is the frame number in the sequence (point in time), and  $(x, y)$  are the pixels coordinates. Zheng et al. [25] used GEI as the gait representation method, where the resolution of GEI is  $240 \times 240$  pixels, we will also adopt it in our work. The dataset CASIA-B

has already provided silhouettes, so we need not to segment the object from the video. The GEI can be gotten by the silhouettes and Eq. (1).

### 3.1 The contribution of different parts without the influence of clothing

#### 3.1.1 Segmentation using existing proportions

The gait was divided into different parts using the proportions discussed in Section 2. Each part is described by its position within the whole gait image. For example, part (0:0.13) denotes the data from the top of the head down to 13 % of the height of the image, i.e., the head; the whole gait is thus described as (0:1). Using set A of the CASIA-B dataset, a sixfold cross-validation was employed to make the experimental results more robust, and two-dimensional principal component

**Table 1** Recognition rate of different parts on set A (%)

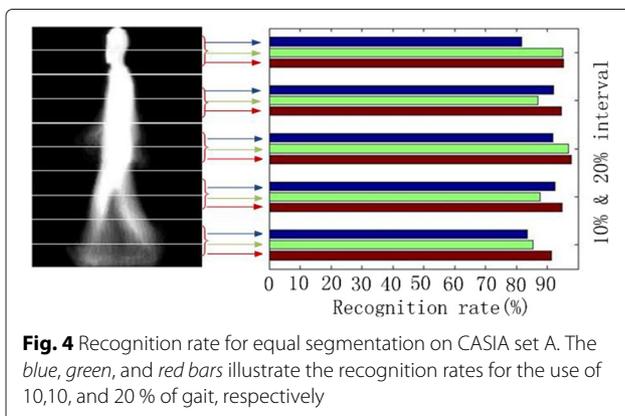
Part ID	Part area	Percentage (%)	1 test	2 test	3 test	4 test	5 test	6 test	Mean
1	(0:1)	100	100	100	99.19	99.19	97.58	98.39	99.06
2	(0:0.13)	13	78.23	87.90	86.29	87.90	86.29	81.45	84.68
3	(0:0.182)	18.2	92.74	97.58	95.97	93.55	92.74	93.55	94.36
4	(0.13:0.465)	33.5	98.39	98.39	98.39	99.19	95.97	97.58	97.98
5	(0.465:0.715)	25.1	98.39	99.19	98.39	100	97.58	97.58	98.52
6	(0.715:1)	28.5	88.71	95.16	96.77	95.97	94.35	91.94	93.82
7	(0.13:0.52)	39	98.39	98.39	98.39	99.19	98.39	97.58	98.39
8	(0.52:1)	48	96.77	99.19	99.19	99.19	97.58	98.39	98.39
9	(0.13:0.715)	58.5	99.19	100	99.19	100	98.39	99.19	99.33
10	(0:0.52)	48	98.39	98.39	97.58	99.19	95.97	96.77	97.71
11	(0.13:0.28)	15	95.97	99.19	96.77	97.58	95.97	95.97	96.91
12	(0.28:0.623)	34.3	98.39	99.19	99.19	98.39	97.58	98.39	98.52
13	(0.623:0.82)	19.7	86.29	95.16	95.97	94.35	91.94	91.94	92.61
14	(0.82:1)	18	85.48	92.74	93.55	94.35	91.13	87.90	90.86
15	(0:0.13) + (0.715:1)	41.5	95.16	99.19	97.58	97.58	97.58	95.16	97.04
16	(0:0.13) + (0.52:1)	61	97.58	100	99.19	99.19	98.39	97.58	98.65
17	(0:0.13) + (0.82:1)	31	90.32	99.19	98.39	96.77	94.35	94.35	95.56

analysis (2DPCA) [26] was used to reduce the number of dimensions to 30. Classification was performed using a nearest neighbor (NN) [27] method. Table 1 presents experimental results. The third column in this table shows the percentage of data that refers to the whole gait. Columns 4–9 give the results for each cross-validation, and the tenth column lists the mean recognition rates.

From Table 1, we can see that without covariates, the use of most parts of the gait can achieve recognition rates higher than 95 %. In fact, most parts can be used independently or combined. Usually the later can get better performance. For example, part 15 is combined by part 2 and part 6, the use of part 15 get recognition rates (97.04 %) higher than those of using part 2 (84.68 %) or part 6 (93.82 %), similarly results for part 16 and 17. We also noticed that part 1 (the head) and part 13 (the foot and lower leg) attain lower recognition rates than the other parts. The reasons are people often lower their heads, and the feet can easily introduce errors during preprocessing. From Table 1, we can draw the following conclusions for data without the influence of clothing and other covariates: (1) most parts can be used independently for recognition; (2) The combined parts produce better performance.

### 3.1.2 Segmentation using equal proportions

We equally segment the gait into ten and five parts with intervals of 10 and 20 %, respectively (as shown in Fig. 4), and repeat the experiments of Section 3.1.1. Figure 4 shows that similar conclusions can be drawn. Parts can be used for recognition independently, and the 20 % data gives a higher recognition rate than any of the 10 % data which combined by. Table 1 and Fig. 4 lead to similar conclusions. The torso can be used to attain better recognition performance when it is unaffected by clothes, and combined parts give higher recognition rates than any of their constituent parts.



**Fig. 4** Recognition rate for equal segmentation on CASIA set A. The blue, green, and red bars illustrate the recognition rates for the use of 10, 10, and 20 % of gait, respectively

### 3.2 The influence of clothing and feature extraction method

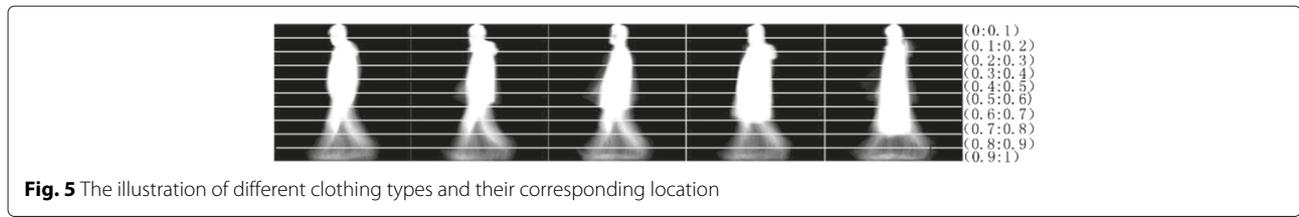
Next, we attempted to uncover how clothing and feature extraction method affects recognition rate. Set A of the CASIA-B dataset is used for training, and set B is used as the test data. The gait images were segmented into equally sized proportions (as in Section 3.1.2). Three commonly used feature extraction methods, 2DPCA [26], 2DDCT+2DPCA [28], and 2DGabor+2DPCA [29] were used to examine their influence on the results, NN was used to classify.

Experimental results are presented in Table 2. Figure 5 illustrates different clothing types. Compared with Fig. 4, Table 2 shows that, for the parts (ID = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14) which are covered by all types of clothing, the recognition rate dropped dramatically. While for the parts (ID = 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16) which are covered only by some types of clothing, the recognition rate dropped relatively milder. Combined the fact that there are different clothing types in the real life and the experimental results, we can know that, to eliminate the influence of clothing, the parts covered by coat should be discarded, and the other parts can be used for the recognition task.

In this section, several experiments were carried out. The experimental results show that without the influence of clothes, every part of the body can be used for recognition, but when the clothes changed, the influenced part should be discarded and only the uninfluenced part can be used for recognition. So the problem is to identify

**Table 2** Recognition rate (%) for different feature extraction methods when the clothing is changed

ID	Part	Percentage (%)	2DPCA	2DDCT + 2DPCA	2DGabor + 2DPCA
1	(0:1)	100	42.34	28.63	49.60
2	(0:0.1)	10	70.16	68.15	78.63
3	(0.1:0.2)	10	<b>8.47</b>	<b>8.87</b>	<b>11.29</b>
4	(0.2:0.3)	10	<b>3.23</b>	<b>3.23</b>	<b>4.44</b>
5	(0.3:0.4)	10	<b>4.44</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>3.23</b>
6	(0.4:0.5)	10	4.44	<b>2.82</b>	<b>3.23</b>
7	(0.5:0.6)	10	<b>6.45</b>	<b>5.65</b>	<b>4.84</b>
8	(0.6:0.7)	10	52.82	0.50	53.63
9	(0.7:0.8)	10	74.60	77.02	83.47
10	(0.8:0.9)	10	71.77	73.39	84.68
11	(0.9:1)	10	65.32	64.92	70.16
12	(0:0.2)	20	<b>29.03</b>	<b>34.68</b>	<b>35.08</b>
13	(0.2:0.4)	20	<b>5.65</b>	<b>4.44</b>	<b>6.45</b>
14	(0.4:0.6)	20	<b>8.87</b>	<b>6.45</b>	<b>5.24</b>
15	(0.6:0.8)	20	67.34	70.16	71.77
16	(0.8:1)	20	78.23	77.02	86.69



**Fig. 5** The illustration of different clothing types and their corresponding location

the clothes-affected parts for exclusion in the recognition process.

#### 4 The proposed golden ratio-based method

Clothing is often designed using the golden ratio. Inspired by this rule, we propose the golden ratio-based method to eliminate the influence of clothes in gait recognition.

##### 4.1 Golden ratio

The golden ratio is illustrated in Fig. 6, the ratio AB:AC (and the subset ratio AC:CB) is known as the golden ratio, the longer part of the line is approximately 61.8 % of the whole line. The point C, which divides the line, is called the golden point. This also can be illustrated using Eqs. (2)–(4).

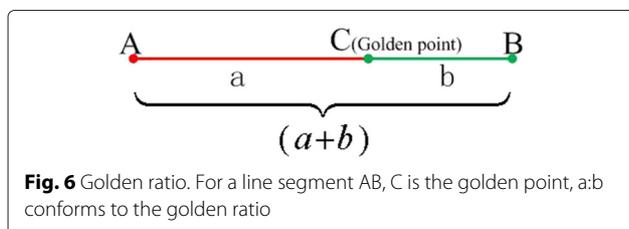
$$a : b = (a + b) : a = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} = 1.6180339887 \dots \quad (2)$$

$$a : (a + b) = 0.6180339887 \dots \quad (3)$$

$$a \approx 0.618(a + b) \quad (4)$$

##### 4.2 Golden ratio in clothing design

The golden ratio is used in clothing design to make people look beautiful. We noticed that people wear certain types of clothing more frequently. These four main clothing types are: short (Fig. 7a), normal (Fig. 7b), long (Fig. 7c), and longer (Fig. 7d). The short types use golden point 2 referenced from H1 (from Adam’s apple to the bottom). The normal length corresponds to golden point 3 referenced to the central part H2 (from the Adam’s apple to the knee), and the long and longer types correspond to golden



**Fig. 6** Golden ratio. For a line segment AB, C is the golden point, a:b conforms to the golden ratio

point 6 and golden point 8. These are referenced to the whole height H.

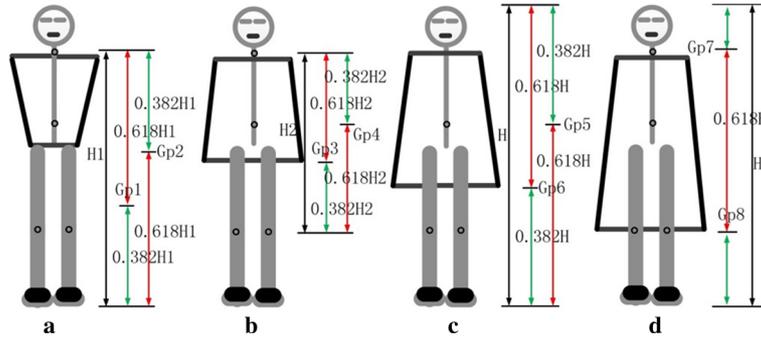
##### 4.3 Our method

Section 3 concluded that the coat covering parts should be discarded. Combined with the design of clothing that adheres to the golden ratio, we propose the golden ratio method. Considering the typical clothing types, the body can be segmented by golden points Gp7, Gp2, Gp3, Gp6, and Gp8 into six parts, as shown in Fig. 8. We use various subsets of these six parts, i.e., subset 1 (part 1, part 3, part 4, part 5, and part 6), subset 2 (part 1, part 4, part 5, and part 6), subset 3 (part 1, part 5, and part 6), subset 4 (part 1 and part 6), and subset 5 (part 1). Different subsets cover different cases, e.g., subsets 1–4 correspond to parts that exclude the four main clothing parts, respectively, subset 5 is the head and will be used for the clothing is longer than type 4. This is illustrated in Table 3. For different subsets, we trained the subset data and extracted the features of different subsets. For a probe sample, we distinguish the clothing type firstly, then combined the corresponding part into subset according clothing type *i*, extract the features, choose the corresponding subset features of training set, and use the classifier to obtain the recognition result. The process is illustrated in Fig. 9. Our method can be summarized as follows:

1. Segment the GEI into six different parts according to the golden ratio and obtain the corresponding subsets, as shown in Fig. 8.
2. Extract features from different subsets and access the subset feature database.
3. For a given probe sample, distinguish which clothing type the probe belongs to, using the corresponding subset data to determine the features of the sample.
4. Use the features of the test sample and the corresponding training subset as two inputs of the classifier to obtain the recognition results.

##### 4.4 Distinguishing clothing type

For a given test sample, we first distinguish the clothing type to know which parts should be retained and which should be discarded. Clothes are almost static in the GEI,



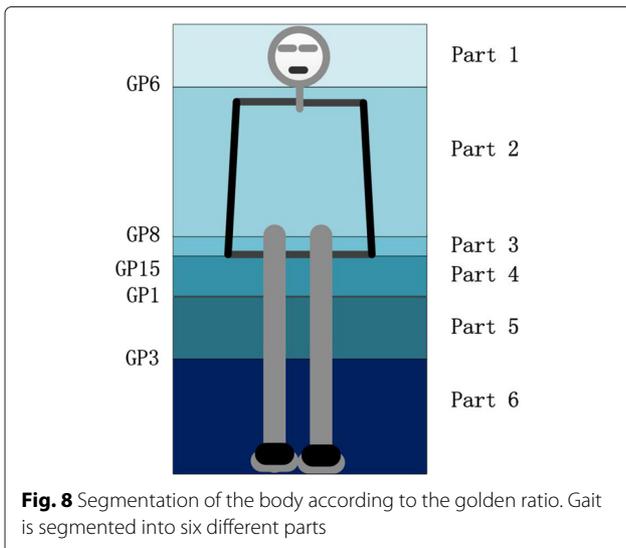
**Fig. 7** Four typical clothing types according to the golden ratio. **a** Short. **b** Normal. **c** Long. **d** Longer.  $H$  is the height of gait and  $GP$  stands for the golden point

so we use the static parts of the body to detect the area of clothing. We need only detect the lower bound of the clothes. We use the sum of static points in each row and its change to detect the lower edge and find the coordinates of the edge of the cloth. Generally, the lower bound of clothes is on or under  $Gp2$ . Hence, the bound area is  $(0.472H, H)$ . For a given probe sample, if the length of the clothes is  $L_t$ , the clothes lower bound of different clothes types are  $L_1, L_2, L_3, L_4$ , and  $L_5$ , while  $L_1 < L_2 < L_3 < L_4 < L_5$ , they correspond to the lower bound of short, normal, long, longer clothes, and full long (only head can be used), respectively. When the resolution is  $240 \times 240$ , the coordinates of the lower bounds of these clothing types are 113, 126, 148, 183, and 240. The clothing type  $T_{ct}$  of testing sample is distinguished by the following function:

$$T_{ct} = F(\operatorname{argmin}_{k=1,2,3,4,5}(L_k > L_t)) \tag{5}$$

$$F(L_i) = i. \tag{6}$$

Equations (5) and (6) classify the test sample into a proper clothing type. If  $L_2 < L_t < L_3$ , then the clothing is type 3, and we use the parts relevant to type 3, i.e., part 1, part 5, and part 6, as the effective data. This process can be illustrated by Fig. 10. For a given testing sample like Fig. 10a, the sum of each row in GEI was calculated firstly, as shown in Fig. 10b. Secondly, the changes of sum between row 100 and 200 with the interval 7 were calculated, as shown in Fig. 10c. Finally, the empirical threshold 2000 was used to detect the bottom of clothing, and the detected boundary was shown in Fig. 10d. In this sample, the row's number of the boundary is 147, so the clothing type should be type 3 according to Eqs. (5) and (6).



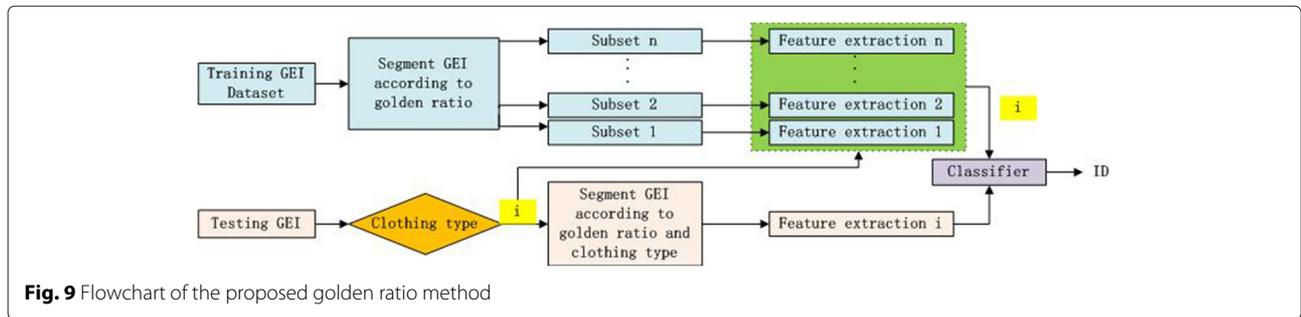
**Fig. 8** Segmentation of the body according to the golden ratio. Gait is segmented into six different parts

### 5 Experimental results and analysis

We test our method on CASIA-B dataset. Set A was used as the training set, with sets B and C as the test sets. A two-dimensional Gabor filter (2DGabor) was used to extract the features, and 2DPCA was used to reduce the number of feature dimensions to 30. For a given probe sample, we detected the lower bound of the clothes and distinguished the clothing type to determine which parts of the data should be used. For instance, if the clothing is of type 3,

**Table 3** Clothing types and correspond parts

Subset ID	Clothing type	Combined parts (Fig. 10)	Descriptions
1	1	Part 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6	Short clothes as Fig. 7a
2	2	Part 1, 4, 5, and 6	Normal clothes as Fig. 7b
3	3	Part 1, 5, and 6	Long clothes as Fig. 7c
4	4	Part 1 and 6	Longer clothes as Fig. 7d
5	5	Part 1	Head



**Fig. 9** Flowchart of the proposed golden ratio method

then parts 1, 5, and 6 will be used as the test data. The feature subset of the training data was then selected, and NN used to obtain the recognition results. Table 4 presents the experimental results.

Table 4 shows that our method performs better than the other methods, achieving a recognition rate of 94.76 % in clothing-change situations. When objects are being carried, the recognition rate was 91.53 %. The reason for this superior performance is that the golden ratio takes the characteristics of clothing into consideration, enabling all the clothing parts to be discarded and the unaffected parts of the gait to be retained. At the same time, each test sample was segmented according to its clothing type, which made the performance of the proposed method more robust.

Compared with the anatomical proportion-based method, such as [11], golden ratio-based method discarding all the affected parts and make full use of the unaffected data. Thus, the golden ratio-based method attains a higher recognition rate and is more robust.

Compared with self-defined proportion method, such as [20] and [21], the proposed method can keep more data than self-defined proportion method because it distinguish the clothing type before segmentation, and use different proportion for different probe sample.

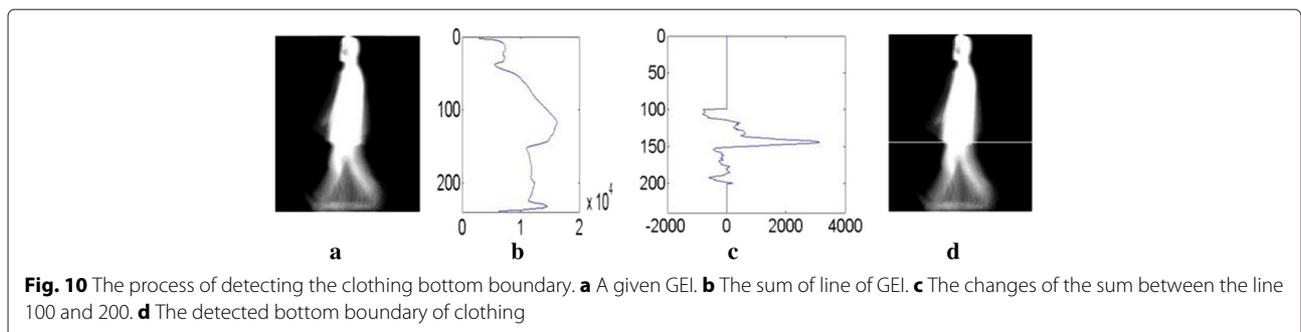
Compared with mask-based methods, such as [23] and [22], the proposed method achieves better recognition

performance. This is because the golden ratio method discards the whole rows instead of parts of rows, thus completely discarding the areas affected by clothing. As clothes not only influence the static part, but also the motion part of the gait, the whole influenced row should be discarded. The golden ratio method has the merits of mask-based methods, segmenting according to the test sample, which makes it flexible and robust. However, the proposed method does not require a training procedure for each test sample.

The proposed method is quite simple. Though detecting the clothing boundary involves some time, the usage of parts instead of whole gait saves some time. Hence, the proposed method would not increase the computational complexity of the gait recognition system. Different from [21] which conducts recognition process multiple times to find the boundary of top and bottom part, the proposed method only conducts once.

## 6 Conclusions

In this paper, we first have investigated the contribution of different parts of gait with and without the influence of clothing. We found that the key problem is to find out the exact part of clothing, and discard it. Considering that the human body conforms to the golden ratio, and that clothing are designed according to this ratio, we proposed the golden ratio segmentation method to eliminate the influence of clothing. Experimental results



**Fig. 10** The process of detecting the clothing bottom boundary. **a** A given GEI. **b** The sum of line of GEI. **c** The changes of the sum between the line 100 and 200. **d** The detected bottom boundary of clothing

**Table 4** Recognition rates of different methods on the CASIA-B dataset

Method	Set A (%)	Set B (%)	Set C (%)
TM [4]	97.6	32.7	52.0
MG (x,y) + ACDA [23]	<b>100</b>	43.1	77.8
SEIS [30]	99	64	72
GEI+part-based [11]	99.2	80.6	75.8
'Typical' GEI1 [22]	98.4	<b>93.2</b>	77.4
"Typical" GEI2 [22]	99.6	88.3	81.1
"Typical" GEI3 [22]	99.6	71.4	<b>89.9</b>
SGEI + GEI [20]	99	84.2	80.6
FSS [12]	98.79	92.74	77.82
STFD [31]	95.4	52.0	60.9
MPoC [21]	93.60	68.80	81.70
Proposed golden ratio-based method	<b>99.6</b>	<b>94.76</b>	<b>91.53</b>

have shown that our method performs better than other methods, achieving a 94.76 % recognition rate in clothing change situations and 91.53 % when bag being carried on the CASIA-B dataset.

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#### Authors' contribution

YLL designed the algorithm, carried out the experiments, and drafted the manuscript. CL gave suggestions on the design of the experiments and participated in modifying the manuscript. YG participated in the design of the experiments and helped draft the manuscript. YJH gave suggestions on the structure of manuscript writing and experiment analysis as well as explanation. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

#### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

#### Author details

<sup>1</sup>School of Electronic and Information Engineering, South China University of Technology, No. 381 Wushan Road, 510640 Guangzhou, China. <sup>2</sup>Department of Computer Science, University of Warwick, Gibbet Hill Road, CV4 7AL Coventry, UK.

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