Wide-Area Motion Imagery (WAMI) Exploitation Tools for Enhanced Situation Awareness

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Abstract— The advent of streaming feeds of full-motion video (FMV) and wide-area motion imagery (WAMI) have overloaded an image analyst's capacity to detect patterns, movements, and patterns of life. To aid in the process of WAMI exploitation, we explore computer vision and pattern recognition methods to cue the user to salient information. For enhanced exploitation and analysis, there is a need to develop WAMI methods for situation awareness. Computer vision algorithms provide cues, contexts, and communication patterns to enhance exploitation capabilities. Multi-source data fusion using exploitation context from the video needs to be linked to semantically extracted elements for situation awareness to aid an operator in rapid image understanding. In this paper, we identify: (1) opportunities from computer vision techniques to improve WAMI target tracking, (2) relate developments of clustering methods for activity-based intelligence and stochastic context-free grammars for accessing, indexing, and linking relevant information to assist processing and exploitation, and (3) address situation awareness methods of multi-intelligence collaboration for future automated video understanding techniques. Our example uses the open-source Columbus Large Image Format (CLIF) WAMI data to demonstrate connection of video-based semantic labeling with other information fusion enterprise capabilities incorporating text-based semantic extraction.

Keywords: Wide-Area Motion Imagery, Exploitation, Measures of Effectiveness, Stochistic Context-Free Grammar, Enterprise Fusion

I. INTRODUCTION

Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition seeks to emulate the knowledge and analytical skills of a human towards enhanced perception, motion estimation, and natural language processing. While the ability to progressively instantiate these tasks of a human into machines is emerging through computer vision and artificial intelligence; there are still many functions that require human input. For example, an analyst looking at full-motion video (FMV) or wide-area motion imagery (WAMI) can readily see patterns emerging from social, cultural, and individual behavioral activities. But it is difficult to fully capture, replicate, and automate in software the mechanisms underlying perception, video summarization, and activity understanding of analysts. While a number competing models have been proposed and used, an exclusive winner is yet to be established. Thus, we seek methods of enhanced exploitation from video to assist and augment human skill in rapidly assessing and acquiring situation awareness [1].

Fig. 1 illustrates the functions of applied imagery pattern recognition within an information fusion enterprise [2]. Imagery analysis includes more than image exploitation; it

requires the ability to bring in other sources of sensor, intelligence and mission data, the ability to access, store, and report imagery and imagery annotated products, as well as dynamic collaboration with other users that are processing information (e.g., another imagery data set, text extraction). The use of imagery is only one aspect of coordination as there is a need to: (1) use *context* to constrain, optimize and accelerate image analysis, (2) use of textual and verbal requests to coordinate sensor use, and (3) use of other sensor modalities to cue sensors. Likewise, the imagery can drive analysis through information extraction, establishing semantic content in the image, and cueing other sensors or imagery tools to exploit the data for further analysis and reporting.

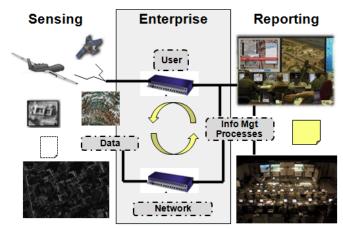


Figure 1 - Information Fusion in the Enterprise.

In this paper, we will highlight current directions in WAMI and FMV that support situational awareness exploitation and analysis. Information fusion of imagery intelligence (IMINT) with non-IMINT intelligence (e.g., human intelligence - HUMINT) requires situation awareness, semantic representation and extraction, and soft fusion to reduce uncertainty [3].

Computer vision has progressed from 2D static image interpretation, dynamic scene analysis, and 3D content characterization to 4D object dynamic tracking and event analysis [4, 5, 6]. Recovery of 3D objects from video requires analysis of the sensor motion from dynamic scenes [7, 8, 9], analysis of sensors [10], and processing [11] from which to establish persistent surveillance [12,13,14,15]. These elements of motion processing and the advances in sensor resolution have enabled WAMI exploitation [16]. Recently, simulations

have shown 3D rendering of static scenes [17] to relate to observed imagery.

The rest of the paper is as follows. In Sect. II, we overview situation awareness. Sect. III is recent advances in computer vision to include contextual analysis. Sect. IV is semantic analysis. Sect. V is a challenge problem where Sect. VI provides an example and Sect. VII conclusions.

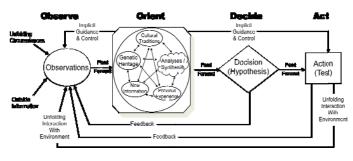
II. SITUATION AWARENESS

Situation assessment (SA) involves deriving relations among entities, e.g., the aggregation of object states (i.e. classification and location) and Situational Awareness (SAW) is the mental state of a user [1]. While SA/SAW have been recognized in the information fusion and human factors literature, there still exist open questions regarding situation and knowledge representation and theoretical reasoning methods to afford SA/SAW [18]. For instance, while lots of data is collected over a region of interest, how should this information get aggregated and presented to an attention constrained user? Information overload can deteriorate human cognitive reasoning so a pragmatic solution to information representation and semantic constructs are needed for effective and efficient situation understanding.

SAW is a mental state while SA helps achieve (e.g., fusion products) that state. For the computer vision community, these are important research developments, while in other domains the focus is more on applications (e.g., military, medical, aviation, security, and environmental). Commonality rests in the fact that a multitude of data needs to be efficiently synthesized into a single operating picture (data stream reduction) [19], incorporating a user-defined operating picture (UDOP), to assist a user in completing their mission tasks [1].

SAW is an important concept of what humans see happening in their environment such as essential information impacting the range of responses to the dynamics of the environment. SAW contributes to a mental picture to frame action. The *HQ USAF AFISC/SE Safety Investigation Workbook* [20] defines SAW as: "keeping track of prioritized significant events and the conditions in one's environment".

One of the premier models for SAW and user decision-making is the extended *Observe-Orient-Decide-Act* (OODA) model which is also termed as Boyd's control loop [21]. As shown in Fig. 2, the OODA requires sensed observations for decisions.



 $Figure\ 2-The\ extended\ OODA\ loop.\ [adapted\ from\ 21]$

In the "orient" analysis, there is additional information that a user engages in analyzing and synthesizing a situation (e.g.,

cultural traditions, heritage, and previous experience). Key to the "Orient" phase is the incorporation of new information. New information is combined with previous information to update the situation as well as provide answers to questions posed by the user. The OODA applications for user modeling include information fusion military systems [22], target recognition [23], and recently, semi-automated decision making [24].

However, the classical or extended versions of the OODA loop suffered from a lack of details to sufficiently support the design of systems. Key to the developments and instantiations of the OODA models include: application relevant decisionmaking based on context, time of analysis, time-scale of assessment, and uncertainty representation. developments include the modular M-OODA [25], the Technology, Emotion, Culture, and Knowledge TECK-OODA [26], and the cognitive C-OODA [27]. Current SA/SAW models are natural extensions to the basic tenets, but reflecting the change in technology (e.g. collection and processing observations), the developments of information fusion (e.g., synthesis of observations), and applications to different domains other than military targeting. The Data Fusion Information Group (DFIG) model, shown in Fig. 3, poses different process Levels (L): data characterization (L0), object (L1), situation (L2), and impact (L3) assessment with sensor (L4), user (L5), and mission (L6) (SUM) refinement [28] that extend the OODA loop.

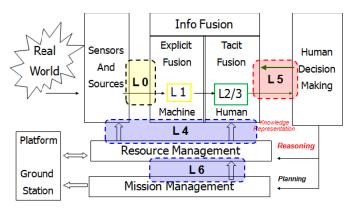


Figure 3 – Data Fusion Information Group Model.

L2 information fusion, SA is the estimation and prediction of relations among entities, to include force structure and force relations, etc. which require adequate user inputs to define entities, outputs from sensors (e.g. WAMI) for event detection, and links to other data sources for L3 impact assessment.

The role of SA is to provide an evaluation of the environment and provide information about entities, relations, and objects (e.g. people, assets, or networks for patterns of life). Given a situational picture, there is a need to characterize and display the information to provide awareness. SAW is a mental state about the situation that utilizes the displayed information and affords the user/groups the ability to process, reason, and act on the information. However, computer vision developments for semantic exploitation are needed to enable context, cues, and communications [29].

III. COMPUTER VISION

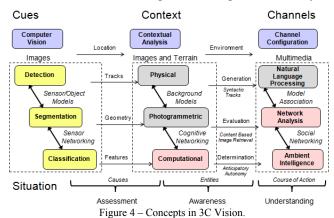
Computer vision (CV) supports unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs) that utilize electro-optical sensors (i.e., visual cameras), operate over varying environments, and support user targeting from multimedia sources. Most existing books in CV follow one of three paradigms: biologically inspired CV algorithms [30], signal and image processing [31, 32], and application specific algorithms. There is a much larger system-level consideration that has gone unaddressed for many years. Cameras and modern image manipulation tools have made video a more accessible and ubiquitous medium for communication. The explosive multimedia growth has closed the gap between richness of linguistic communication, once limited to text and print, to video. Therein lays the next set of challenges: How does culture factor in the way a message is composed in a visual form? Alternatively, given a set of images of forensic nature, how much can we infer about the context from what is directly seen in the image? CV has a long way to go before matching parity with human analysts. CV algorithms need to support system-level processing through 3D analysis, feature extraction, graphical methods, tracking, semantics, and support for user situational awareness, understanding, and assessment. Table 1 overviews methods cues, context, and communications (3C) for 3C vision.

A. Cues

Cues (*targets*): Image processing for detection, segmentation, classification, and identification require extensions to semantics and SA, as shown in Fig. 4. The cues from images and multimedia content provide a basis for 3D geometry, graphical methods of feature processing, and track analysis. Current methods that build on fundamental approaches include dense data, scene analysis, and semantic content for cause determination and decision making. The extraction of cues over locations supports contextual analysis.

B. Conetxt

Context (*environment*): Three methods for situational awareness contextual processing include: physical (candidate generation), photogrammatic (candidate evaluation), and computational (consistency determination) from which the variable aspects are assessed for enhanced 3C visioning. For example, *context* (Q) is developed from three parameters (variables) of the model set (A), the operator set (O), and the decision policy (I). Direct, recognition-based, and search strategies exist for contextual processing. Instantiating a visual search for context includes: a priori probabilities (P), the operator set (O), and the evaluation metrics (E) of which O = $(A = \{p\}, O, I = f(E))$. Using background models, syntactic tracking, content-based image retrieval (CBIR), similarity metrics, and moment theory; these concepts support anticipatory autonomy over entities in the environment for sensor and information management through channel analysis.



C. Channels

Channels (sensors): In natural and artificial vision, virtual representations over multimedia analysis help derive course of

Table 1: Techniques of 3C Vision

	Cues	Contexts	Channels
Vision	Concurrent basic information and relative description	Intended action, a priori knowledge and common culture	Media to convey processed information, including the coding scheme
Analytic Strategy	Capturing current scene (geometry and environment)	Discover relations for scene understanding	Decision making and action planning (inter- human mediation)
3D	Perspective geometry (lighting, local contrast, shape, color, texture), occlusion, relative depth	Image topology (location, foreground/background, pattern or color)	Mapping, and visualization in a web-based virtual reality environment
Features	Feature extraction (region, motion, depth) and decision (computing complexity)	Feature search among: Appearance of scene features, environment considerations, and processing. (Ex: Content based image retrieval)	Linguistic content: document images, textual paragraphs/sentences, and pictorial representations of content
Graphical methods	Bipartite graph matching over feature space	Hypothesis testing using a pattern tree, feature graph, and refinements grammar	Social, cognitive, and sensor networks for information communication extraction and delivery
Tracking	Ego-motion, optical flow, morphological, and spatial tracking	Temporal or circumstantial instances for matching, segmenting, linguistic/syntactic, structuring, and behavior analysis	Information carries (text, sound, images), multimedia which requires content structuring for dynamic applications
Semantics	Tree-scan grammars	Direct (cue, metadata), search, or recognition-based retrieval for linguistic/syntactic applications	Icons, metaphors, and annotations extraction from web content over images/text representative grammars
Situation	Perspective-based analysis for assessment	Knowledge support for awareness based on patterns, retrieval requests, and terrain content.	Interaction through augmented reality, pictorial indexing, and multimedia content for understanding
User	User-directed scene analysis for object and semantic decision making	Attention focusing for perception, action, and cooperative data analysis over locations, activities, and events of interest	Knowledge transfer, social interaction, usability visualizations, annotations to enhance aesthetics, usefulness, and interactivity

action and situational understanding. Methods include (1) use of natural language for explanation, comment, question, and integration and (2) ambient intelligence over embedded, context aware, personalized, adaptive, and anticipatory reasoning. Adding a new channel captures attention (attentative), supports information understanding (explicative), and improves information retention (mnemonic). Use of representation grammar for grouping, detailing, sequencing, comparing, and directing advance traditional image processing methods over social, cognitive, and sensor networks. For grammar, there is a need for semantic exploitation with uncertainty analysis.

IV. SEMANTIC UNCERTAINTY

Semantic ontologies [33] enable a framework for many applications such as information sharing, command and control, and emergency response. Information sharing, and the inherent policies within an architecture, enable data to be fused into actionable knowledge. A key to information fusion is to reduce uncertainty that may come from many sources that require a unified, common, and standardized semantic lexicons. Fig. 1 [34], shows the relations between sensed and reported world information from which uncertainty reasoning are required for image processing and user interaction, refinement, and understanding [35, 36, 37, 38].

The evaluation of how uncertainty is processed is dependent on the system-level metrics such as timeliness, accuracy, scope, precision, confidence, throughput, and cost [39], which also are information fusion quality of service (QoS) metrics [40]. Future large complex information fusion systems will require performance evaluation [41] and understanding of the connections between various metrics [42] such as information quality of text-based analysis. It is a goal to formulate, test, and evaluate different methods of a semantic uncertainty ontology that is common, universal, and standardized to link to computer vision techniques. When evaluating both the system's performance as a whole [43] and the specific impact of the uncertainty handling approach, differences arise. For example, when evaluating timeliness (or any other system-level metrics), one will likely find some factors not directly related to the handling of uncertainty itself, such as object tracking and identification report updates (i.e., Level 1 fusion) [44, 45, 46], situation and threat assessment relative to scenario constraints (i.e., Level 2/3 fusion) [47], overall system architectures (e.g. centralized, distributed, etc.), data management processes and feedback / input control processes (i.e., Level 4 fusion considerations) [48], and usermachine coordination based on operating systems (i.e., Level 5 fusion), and others.

Key to the DFIG [49] levels of information fusion is *evaluation*. For example, there have been efforts in comprehensive tracking [50, 51], object classification [52], and situation awareness evaluation [53] which focus on measures of performance (MOPs). Future evaluations will include Measures of Effectiveness (MOEs) [54] that include uncertainty characterization [55] and linking to semantic content. One use case is that of WAMI for developments in Level 1 fusion [56, 57, 58]. Other CV working groups [59] are exploring semantic technology with datasets that are not

necessarily focused on uncertainty, but have a rich set of ontologies and datasets for collaboration and comparisons.

As the computer vision community envisions effortless interaction between humans and computers, seamless interoperability and information exchange among applications, and rapid and accurate identification and invocation of appropriate services. As work with semantics and services grows more ambitious, there is an increasing appreciation of the need for principled approaches to representing and reasoning under uncertainty. Commonly applied approaches to uncertainty reasoning include probability theory [60], expert systems [61], fuzzy logic, subjective logic [62, 63], Dempster-Shafer theory, DSmT [64], and numerous other techniques. Issues with image processing include:

- Automated agents (e.g., to exchange Web information);
- Uncertainty-laden data. (e.g., terrain information);
- Non-sensory collected information (e.g., human sources);
- Dynamic composability (e.g., annotated video); or
- Information extraction (e.g., indexing from large databases).

These problems are all related with information fusion, involve both text-based [65] and physics-based [66] data, and can be easily extrapolated to represent the more general classes of problems found in the sensor, data, and information fusion. A recent example of hard-soft fusion uses a controlled natural language (CNL) for data-to-decisions [67].

V. CHALLENGE PROBLEMS FOR LARGE FORMAT IMAGERY

Video representation and reasoning evaluation framework includes both hard sources (e.g. imaging, radar, video, etc.) and soft sources (e.g., human reports, software alerts, etc.) which require integration for uncertainty MOEs. Computer vision needs extend to non-saptial data; however, even the spatial data requires new technologies as the size, amount, and speed of the data being collected is increasing. One way to address the problem is to collect imagery data for challenge problem development. The data would enable development of tools needed for data formatting and cross cueing as well as data analysis through algorithm innovation. A general framework for challenge problem testing and evaluation is shown in Fig. 5 that includes the metrics visualization such as receiver operating characteristic curves.

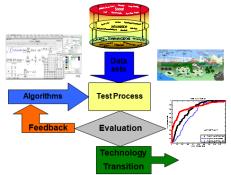


Figure 5 – Evaluation process.

A challenge problem includes:

- Problem Definition: The scope and significance
- **Data**: Applicable data for the defined problem
 - · Tools for reading and processing data

- Suggestions on training and test sets
- · Characterization of the data
- Goals: Research questions and suggested experiments
- Metrics: Guidance on reporting results
- Tools: Baseline code & results which show reproducible minimum performance standards for the defined problem

Scenarios provide data and support documentation for real world analysis either through analytical, simulated, or empirical results. One example of an open-source WAMI challenge problem is the Columbus Large Image Format (CLIF) collection which includes baseline methods for image registration [68]. Fig. 6 shows the image data set from which results can be compared for infrared, multimodal source, and object tracking and identification [69] over operating conditions solutions [70] event detection.

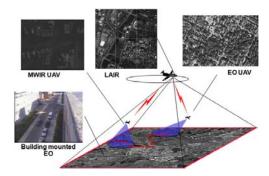


Figure 6 - WAMI data set [68].

Effectiveness relates to a system's capability to produce an effect. Many benefits of fusion include providing locations of events, extending coverage, and reducing ambiguity and false alarms. The goal is to support users in their tasks whether providing refined information, reducing time and workload, or determining completeness, accuracy, and quality in task completion. Effectiveness includes efficiency: doing things in the most economical way (good input to output ratio), efficacy: getting things done, (i.e., meeting objectives), and correctness: doing "right" things, (i.e., setting right thresholds to achieve an overall goal - the effect). MOEs support system-level management and design verification, validation, testing, and evaluation. The WAMI output step involves the assessment of how information is presented to the users and, therefore, how it impacts the quality of their decision-making process.

Key aspects of measuring effectiveness come from quality of service (QoS) metrics that can be utilized for hard-soft semantic information fusion [71, 72, 73, 74]. Another perspective includes quality of information, or rather information quality (IQ), metrics to combine different types of uncertainty to an established affect. IQ metrics establish user semantic content as a schema or ontology [75] of uncertainty analysis such as a popular method of probabilistic ontologies [76]. Together, these metrics and representations support a formal theory of high-level information fusion [1, 77].

One recent example of algorithm innovation is *context-free* grammar [78] that enables sharing between systems through semantic information [79]. To support geospatial information systems interoperability, the methods of exploitation must switch between pixel-level views (i.e. imagery) versus the

graph-level analysis (i.e. social networks) which can be linked between large graphs and images. The distance-level metrics in the graph should quickly be coordinated with the pixel-level information to provide linkage metric.

VI. EXAMPLE-WAMI

Characterizing the semantics in IF processes is not a new research topic. An example is the Semantic Web as part of the Web Ontology Language (OWL) (http://www.w3.org/TR/owlguide/). OWL operational semantics support message formats (e.g. XML schema) and protocol specifications for an ontology knowledge representation. With a knowledge representation, semantic analysis can be inserted in the message format output from CV semantic analysis.

Semantic analysis is important for activity-based intelligence (ABI) which enables analysts to filter data (e.g., characterize activities), fuse (e.g., locate activities and events), analyze, (e..g., identify and locate actors), and report (e.g. identify and locate networks of these actors and develop patterns of life). Fig. 7 outlines the workflow on an operator doing the OODA "orient" or analyzing the video data. We are interested in image extraction of content, cues and context through ontology text generation. Using the WAMI data, we are interested in behavioral analysis [80], activity recognition [81], and object motion [82].

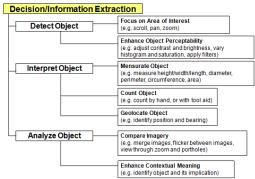


Figure 7 – Analyst Image Processing.

A. Schemas

A *schema* for image processing is shown in Fig. 8 for the Cursor on Target (CoT) program [83]. As detailed, the schema provides target type and identification (ID) allegiance, time stamps, and coordinate. While the schema is simple [84], for purposes of information transmission, processing, exploitation, and dissemination, future developments could include semantic fields. It is important to determine which semantic content is most relevant for operational information fusion management and systems design.

In order to determine what ontology content can be added to such a message passing schema, there are three issues (1) what, (2) how much, and (3) which ones. For the case of physics-based (video) and textual-based reports, we need to determine what semantic content could be useful. One simple case is that either a human analyst can report a "vehicle" in the uid field, or a machine tracker could extract the information from the video to update the uid field of "vehicle". One example of "vehicle" could be from extracted text and video exploitation of a red vehicle. What is obviously missing from the CoT schema is

quality metrics (e.g. confidence, timeliness, and position accuracy) and semantic content (e.g. vehicles).

Figure 8 – Cursor on Target Schema [84]

B. Wide Area Motion Imagery Tracking

WAMI has gained in popularity as it affords advanced capabilities in persistence, increased track life, and situation awareness, but it also poses new challenges such as tracking evaluation [85] and low frame updates (timeliness) [86, 87]. We utilize the results from a WAMI tracker for track location accuracy and the pixels on target for classification. For example, track multiple targets with an on-road analysis from established context, as shown in Fig. 9, from the Columbus Large Image Format (CLIF) data set.

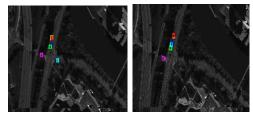


Figure 9 – WAMI Tracking.

Leveraging developments from computer vision [88, 89, 90, 91, 92], the persistence coverage affords such methods as multiple objects and group tracking [93, 94, 95], road assessment and tracking [96, 97], contextual tracking [98], and advances in particle filtering [99]. Because of the numerous objects and their dynamic movements, there are opportunities for linear road tracking, but also there is a need for nonlinear track evaluation [100], such as the randomized unscented transform (RUT) filter [101] for accuracy assessment.

C. Wide Area Motion Imagery Semantic Labeling

As shown in Fig. 10, we can detect, cluster information, parse the semantic outputs, and provide probabilities for likelihood analysis based on the assessed semantics.

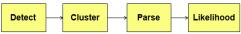


Figure 10 – Analysis of Semantic Analysis

Stochastic Context-free grammar (SCFG) can be expressed as G=(V, T, S, P, Pr):

- -V is a finite set of non-terminal variable (symbol) elements;
- -T is a finite set of terminals, disjoint from V, which make up the actual content of the sentence;
- $-S \in V$ is the start variable (symbol), used to represent the whole sentence:
- *P* is a finite set of rewrite rules or productions of the grammar. They are in the form of *X*→ λ , where *X*∈*V* and λ ∈(*V*∪*T*); and
- -Pr is the set of probabilities for every production rules.

Situation awareness is based on the places, things, and events. Activity-Based Intelligence (ABI) enables analysts to understand what is happening from multi-INT source intelligence. Using SCFG, we develop cognitive semantic representations of the WAMI track outputs using SCFG. Cognitive semantics is the study of meaning applied to words and symbols which can be mapped to image perception. Some of the activity attributes determined from an image could be:

Reference

- Thing: actors or entities (vehicle)

- Place : locations (event)

- Time: reference (day, arrivals)

Correlations (Grammar)

- Relationship: a sequence of things (type)

- Path: a sequence of places (waypoints)
- History: a sequence of time (duration)

Network (Context)

- Social Network: a relationship of things (group)
- Terrain Network: a relationship of places (road)
- Time Network: a relationship of places (order)

Associations (Rules)

- Action: behavior or process of things
- Route: behavior or process of places (Track)
- Timeline: a behavior or process of stamps

Linking (through Probability analysis)

- Cause: events that set other things in motion or that constrain motion based on past and present (Markov)
- Coincidence: events that happen together
- Irrelevant events that are non-plausible (Non-causal)
- Causality: the relationship between cause and effect.

Using the SCFG framework, we can extract semantic content from the image that can be included in the schema, metadata, or reported to an analyst [102]. For example, from Fig. 11, we have G = (V, T, S, P, Pr) = (Vehicles, 4, Tracks, Rules, Pr). The things are the vehicle (S), activity context is the rules (P), causal activity is the probability analysis (Pr), and the semantic output (T). For a four word sentence (T) we have $S \rightarrow NPVP$ [1.0], $NP \rightarrow Det N$ [0.7], $Det \rightarrow red$ [0.4], $N \rightarrow car$ [0.7], $VI \rightarrow start$ track [0.2], $V2 \rightarrow end$ track [0.8]. The issue here is to link the semantic output from a track before the intersection to after the intersection with the path information. Further exploration and analysis will relate to the semantic analysis for activity assessment.

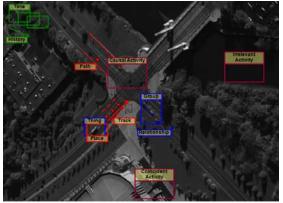


Figure 11 – Semantic Extraction of WAMI data.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

The paper overviews developments in computer vision for enhanced exploitation to include cues, contexts, and communication for situation awareness (SAW). Developing the operational semantics for WAMI will include issues of representation, reasoning, and policy which need to be considered for command and control [103]. Operational considerations for WAMI require a common understanding that is achievable by a formal specification of the semantics involved for SAW [104, 105]. We presented techniques of image exploitation for linking to semantic content extraction in relation to schemas and ontologies to support the development for WAMI simultaneous tracking and identification. Future work includes group tracking, activity analysis, hard-soft fusion, and contextual understanding and display fusion for enhanced situation awareness.

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