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基於暗通道先驗演算法之高能效 盲去模糊加速器晶片_____

An Energy-Efficient Accelerator IC for Dark Channel Prior Based Blind Image Deblurring

隊伍名稱

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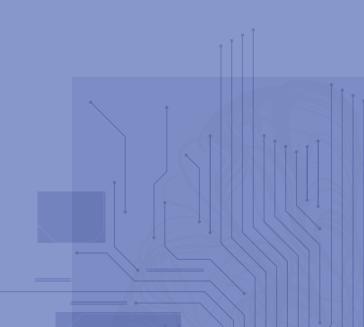


作品摘要

相機、手機、運動攝影機的普及使影像記錄廣泛存在於 人們的生活之中,因此處理並提升模糊影像變成一個重 要的課題。模糊的影像之所以會產生係因相機與照相物 於拍攝期間產生了相對移動,且由於造成影像模糊的數 學模型(即模糊核)一般是當作事先未知的,因此需要 可用於盲去模糊的演算法。在估計完模糊核後,再使用 反卷積將模糊的影像重建回清晰的影像。在整個盲去模 糊的過程中,估算模糊核佔了整體運算的99%,因此過 往相關的研究使用最大期望演算法去加速模糊核的估算 運算。更有甚者,為了使去模糊的效果更好,過去文獻 提出了另一種基於暗通道的去模糊演算法。然而,要達 到這樣更好的效果,其付出代價為巨幅增加的時間複雜 度,造成這種影像處理演算法難以符合即時運算要求。

這次參賽的設計展示了一個專門用於基於暗通道的盲去 模糊演算法的高能效加速器。整個加速器的處理流程如 下。首先,模糊的輸入影像會被傳入高斯金字塔進行處 理,並對於處理過的資訊進行邊界包裹。邊界包裹需運 算數個二維拉普拉斯方程式的解,處理完的結果將後續 用於計算潛在影像。在前面前處理的階段,需要模糊核 的資訊,由輸入的模糊影像可以初步建構一個大概的模 糊核,並藉由後續重複計算潛在影像對模糊核的細節進 行迭代更新。在算完潛在影像後,即可以搭配模糊影像 的梯度,利用共軛梯度法以較低的運算複雜度去計算當 前的模糊核。

本設計使用40-nm製程,功耗小於30mW。相比過去的最 佳設計,本設計面積小,不過可支援尺寸較大的輸入影 像以及模糊核估算。在去模糊的效能上,除了提供了更佳的去模糊品質,本設計亦有較高的標準化面積效率與標準化能源效率。最終,相比於以CPU進行運算,本設計提供超過2000倍的運算加速,達到實際運用中的即時運算要求。





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研究領域

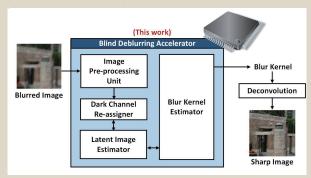
AI 晶片設計、基頻通訊積體電路、生醫訊號處理晶片設計

Abstract

Cameras have been widely used to record the daily lives with images. Therefore, enhancing blurred images becomes an important issue. A blurred image is generated when there is relative movement between the object and the camera during the integration time. Since the blur kernel is usually unknown, a blind deblurring algorithm is needed. After the blur kernel is estimated, deconvolution is applied to reconstruct the sharp image with the estimated blur kernel. In the whole blind deblurring process, the blur kernel estimation occupies 99% of the runtime. Therefore, some previous design accelerates the blur kernel estimation based on an expectation-minimization algorithm. To further improve the deblurring performance, a dark channel prior based blind deblurring algorithm is latter proposed. However, to achieve such quality improvement, the time complexity increases significantly, which poses design challenges for real-time applications.

This work presents an energy-efficient dedicated accelerator for the dark channel prior based blind deblurring algorithm. To determine the coarse structure of the blur kernel, the pre-processing for the blurred image is required. The Gaussian image pyramid process and boundary wrapping are applied to the blurred image. The patches for wrapping at the boundary of the blurred image are generated by solving the 2D Laplace's equation. For the details of the blur kernel, the accelerator updates the latent image and interim blur kernel alternately to refine the blur kernel. After latent image estimation, blur kernel estimation employs both latent image's and blurred image's gradients to calculate the blur kernel. The conjugate gradient method, instead of matrix inversion, is applied for blur kernel estimation to reduce the complexity.

Implemented in a 40-nm CMOS technology, the chip dissipates less than 30mW. Compared to previous state-of-the-art, this work is capable to process larger image and estimate larger blur kernel with less area. In addition, higher normalized area efficiency and higher normalized energy efficiency are achieved despite the better capability for image deblurring. This design also achieves over 2000× acceleration over CPU for image deblurring, making it possible for real-time applications.



▲ Fig. 1 Blind deblurring accelerator