Polarization Multi-Image Synthesis with Birefringent Metasurfaces

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Motivation: Computing with Sets of Images

All computational imaging tasks have benefited from the capture and processing of multiple images

- Images captured from the same perspective but with different optics
- Images captured **from different viewpoints**



Depth-Sensing with Deformable Lens

Hyperspectral Imaging with SLM



https://www.optotune.com/machine-vision

Guo, Q. et al., International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV). IEEE (2017).

Saragadam V. et al, Programmable Spectral Filter Arrays using Phase Spatial Light Modulators, arxiv 2021

Methods to capture multiple coded images in one exposure Paradigm: Spectral filters as separate imaging channels



• Mosaic of spectral filters at the sensor to retrieve set

[1] Y. Bando et al., Extracting Depth and Matte using a Color-Filtered Aperture, ACM Trans. Graph. 2008. (See also) A. Chakrabarti et al, ECCV 2012. (and) C. Corre et al., Journal of the Optical Society of America, 2015 Methods to capture multiple coded images in one exposure

New Paradigm: Polarization as imaging channels



[2] B. Ghanekar et al., "Ps2 f: Polarized spiral point spread function for single-shot 3d sensing," ICCP 2022

Snapshot **Polarization** Multi-Coded Imaging – New Opportunities



Creating the System with **Birefringent Metasurfaces**



Neural Representation for Gradient Based Optimization





How many coded images can we design and measure with the polarization architecture?





The Practical Answer: Yes... if we compromise

- I_0, I_{90} : There are an infinite number of possible intensity patterns that *approximate* the target distribution
- Each one of these solutions has a different output phase \rightarrow they can produce a different interference effect



• Error in matching intensity within the region

In computational imaging, we generally care about codes that enable reconstruction vs exact patterns (end-to-end optimization)

Applying the System: Multi-Image Synthesis Problem



Applying the System: Multi-Image Synthesis Problem





Multiple Filtered Images from a Single Exposure

Steerable Gaussian Derivatives





By changing the summation weights used to combine the four captured images, we can obtain the derivative along any orientation – at an absolute minimum computational cost



Depth Dependent Derivatives







Different regions of the image have a different spatial frequency filter applied to it dependent on the depth map

- Synthesis requires only 3 FLOPs
- Difficult to produce equivalent image purely digitally

Engineering Synthesized Filters with Respect to Wavelength

weighted pixel-wise sum $\sum \alpha_c I_c(x,y)$ Task: Synthesize image filtering kernels with λ_3 Synthesized Target a prescribed wavelength dependence λ-End-to-end optimization using (collection) demosaic a loss computed on images measurement **Minimize Loss** $\{w_x, w_y\} \vec{\alpha}$ Target in paper: Wavelength invariant operation Simplest task that we are ensured is impossible to realize exactly ٠ Learn the *closest* synthesized filters that approximate our target ٠ operations

Engineering Synthesized Filters with Respect to Wavelength

Metasurfaces are dispersive



Each nanostructure has a different wavelength dependent phase

→ Ability to optimize and control the set of PSFs with respect to wavelength



Zero-Shot Generalization (Arad1k dataset)





Validation of Design Theory with Prototype Camera



- Off-the-shelf polarizer-mosaiced sensor
- (Linear polarizer if we can't assume unpolarized light)
- (Spectral filter if we are testing single wavelength)

Take-Aways:

- Metasurfaces excel at polarization (and wavelength) transformations
- Polarization, like wavelength, can be used as distinct multiplexed imaging channels
- Metasurfaces designed for multi-coded imaging can minimize/reduce computational costs

Future Remarks: Polarization and Spectral multi-coded systems are not mutually exclusive!

- Future systems can combine the two (metasurface is still ideal)
- Limitation of spatial resolution \rightarrow Improved by smart demosaicing using learned statistical priors
- Optimize the capture of 16 distinctly coded images in a single snapshot





Thanks for listening





Open-source Auto-differentiable design framework (Tensorflow, Pytorch)

- Share metasurface cell libraries
- Pre-trained implicit Representations (MLP, ERBF, Multivariate-Poly)
- Field Propagation (Hankel + FFT; Angular Spectrum, Fresnel, Exact)
- Scene rendering operations (convolutional, noise)
- field solver (RCWA)

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Supplemental Slides



PSF decomposition as a constrained, non-negative matrix factorization problem: $\|F - HA\|^2$

- The set of four PSFs (columns of H) are parameterized by metasurface Π ٠
- Additional coupling by interference between different polarization channels ٠
- Not all factorizations are equally useful in the presence of noise! ٠



 λ_3



Image-Target Objective

$$\operatorname{rgmin}_{\alpha,\Pi} \sum_{i} \left[\left\| \frac{F^{(i)}}{\left\| F^{(i)} \right\|_{2}} - \frac{H\alpha^{(i)}}{\left\| H\alpha^{(i)} \right\|_{2}} \right\| + \mathcal{R} \right]$$

 $\underset{\alpha,\Pi}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{\alpha,\Pi} \left[\left\| \frac{F^{(i)} * \mathcal{I}}{\|F^{(i)}\|_{2}} - \frac{(H * \mathcal{I})\alpha^{(i)}}{\|H\alpha^{(i)}\|_{2}} \right\| + \mathcal{R} \right]$

Regularizer \mathcal{R} :

- Enforce light efficiency & the PSFs to be spatial compact
- 2. **Minimum Bias Factorizations**





Validation of the Cell Design Principle with Full Lens FDTD Simulations



Supplemental Slides

Slide Variants