MOTUS

Project Presentation and Demo

Presented By:

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Company Profile



Jeff Priest (CEO)

- Software
 - Image processing, software interfaces

Roy Choi (COO)

- Integration
 - Motor control development, software testing

Bill Xu (CTO)

- Optics System
 - Sensor research and testing, system integration

Vincent Chen (CPO)

- Mechanical Design
 - Enclosure and testing, system integration

Outline

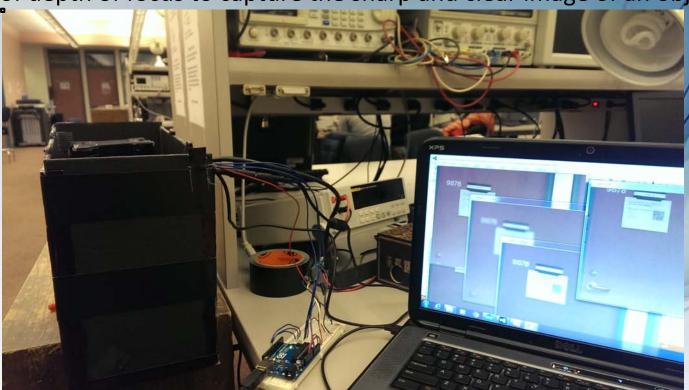


- 1. Background and Motivation
- 2. Overview
- 3. Design and Implementation
- 4. Looking Ahead
- 5. Special Thanks
- 6. Acknowledgments
- 7. Q&A
- 8. Demo



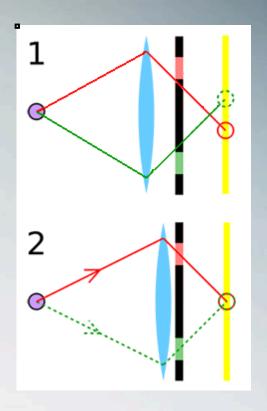
Image Sensor Shifting System (ISSS)

The ISSS is to perform auto focus feature on the camera. The basic theory is to shift the position of the image sensor in order to have it being placed within the range of depth of focus to capture the sharp and clear image of an object.

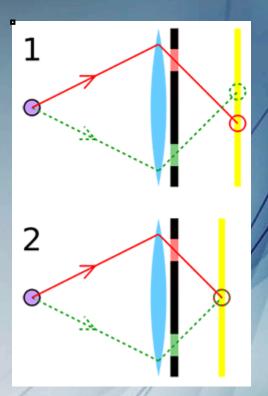




Differences between Current Focusing Systems and the ISSS



The current focusing system [1]



The image sensor shifting system



Why the ISSS is better than current focusing systems?

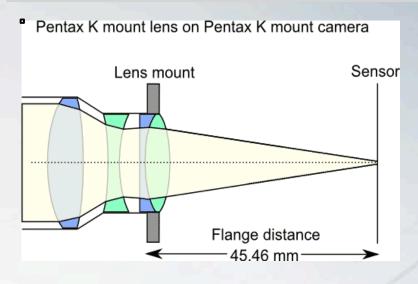
- The ISSS is able to adapt to many types of lens attachments
- The ISSS is able to make manual use the auto focus feature
- Macro mode can be achieved by using the ISSS

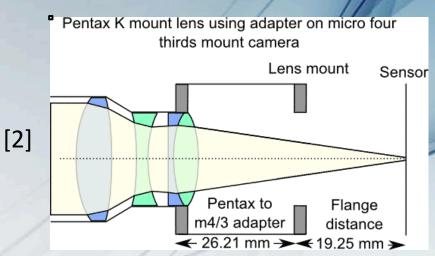


The ISSS can adapt to many types of lens attachments

The ISSS provides various flange focal distances.

Mounting Type	Flange Focal Distance
Sony E Mount	18.00mm
Micro Four Third System	19.25mm
Canon EF Mount	44.00mm
M42 Mount	46.45mm
Pentax K Mount	45.46mm







Why do users not just buy an extension tube adapter?

Why is the ISSS better than the extension tube adapter?

- Different lenses require different adapters.
- Most adapters DO NOT have mechanical or electronic connections between the lens and the camera. No auto focusing feature.
- Some adapters DO have an electronic connection between the lens and the camera, however, they are very expensive. For example, the Metabones Canon-EF-Lens-to-Sony-NEX Smart Adapter is \$399! [3]





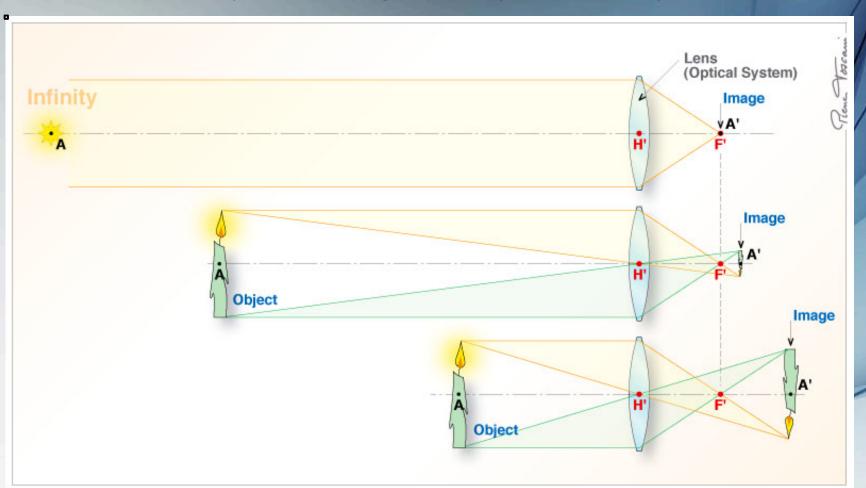
How does the ISSS allow a manual lens to perform auto focus?

Since the ISSS does not need to shift the position of the focal glass, we instead shift the position of the image sensor. We do not need to make any modifications to the lens, and it does not need to move. The shifting sensor is able to move onto the image plane within the depth of focus.



The ISSS can perform in macro mode

The ISSS is able to capture the image of an object that is very close to the lens





Who will buy a camera with the ISSS?

- Photographers who own different mounting types of lenses. They want to use all of their lenses on one camera having the built-in ISSS.
- Photographers who have old manual focus lenses and want to perform auto focusing.
- Photographers who want to do macro photography but are not willing to pay over \$1000 on a macro lens.



Sony is designing a camera with a sensor shifting system!

Quotes from an article from Sony Rumors website:

"Sony will launch an extraordinary new E-mount camera featuring a new tech: It has a sort of Contax AX system...

The sensor is mount on a tray that slide in Z direction. It allows approximately 18mm of focus adjustment. As actuator you have strong piezoelectric servo, this make for rapid movement back-forth if selected that option." [5]

CONTAX AX.mp4



269 comments on this article. Some selected comments... [5]

"Finally: 1. AF for adapted Canikon lens. 2. AF for ZEISS manual lens. 3. AF for legacy lens. 4. AF for modern but manual only e.g. Samyang lens. 5. AF for T&S lens. 6. AF for telescope."

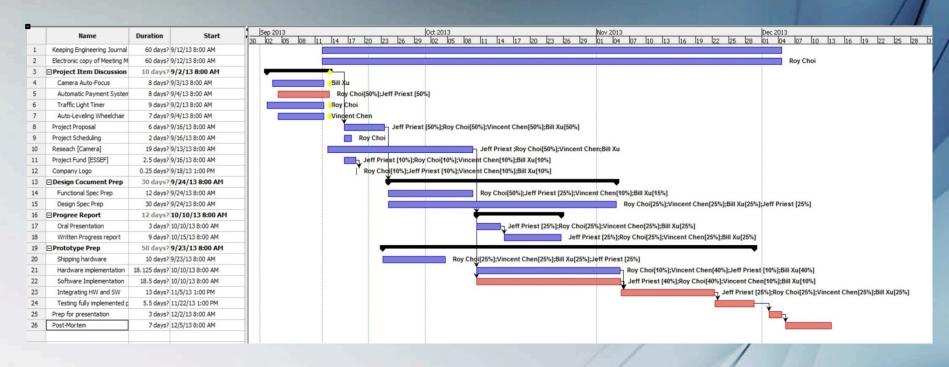
"This is very exciting, I'm very interested to see how this will turn out. Lot's of potential with this, Macro, MF->AF, lens flexibility."

"Wow! This might be a game changer. This will make me able to autofocus with my vintage Nikon lenses, and it will probably make my lenses focus closer! I will pay for this!"

"This should work for ALL manual lenses... That is far more interesting!"

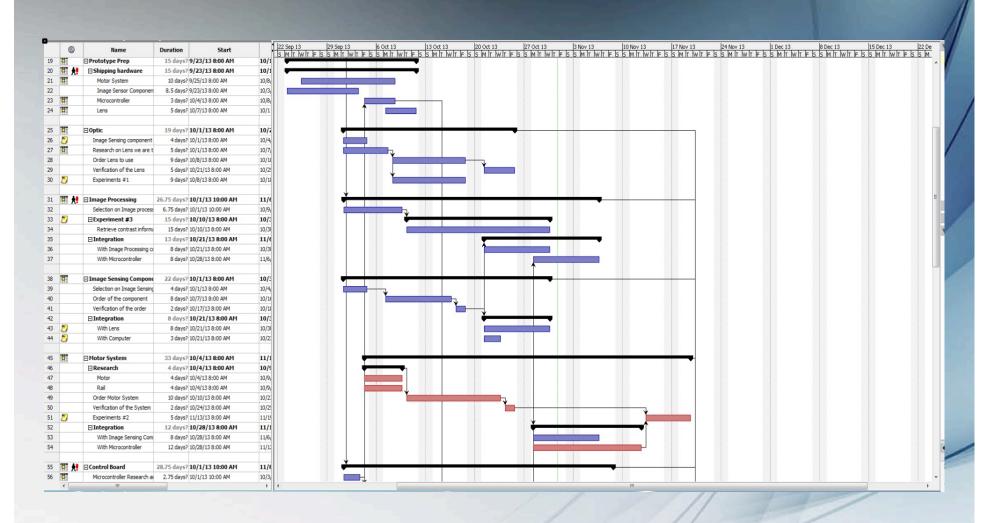


Project schedule



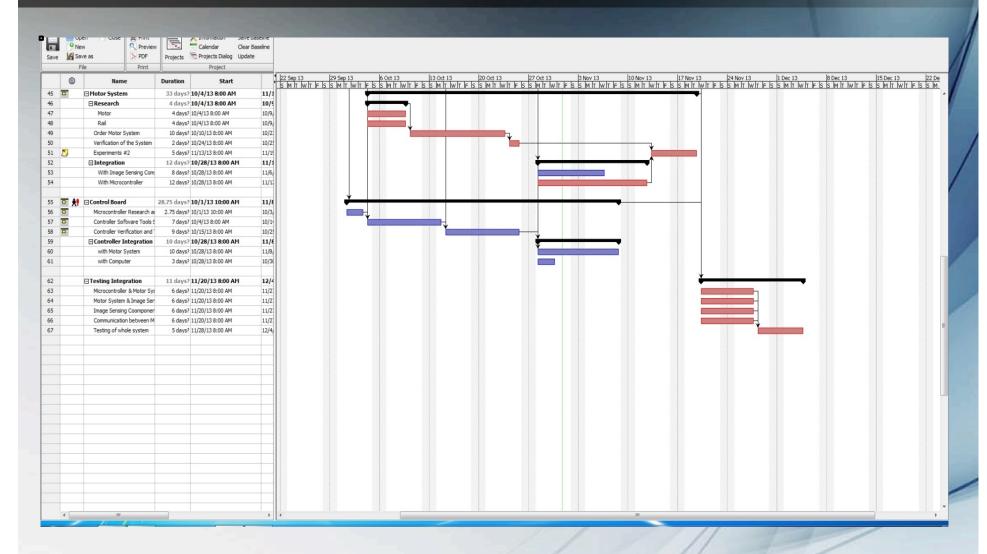
Schedule created at the beginning of the semester





Schedule created in mid-October (Part 1)





Schedule created in mid-October (Part 2)



Project budget estimation

Listed Item	Cost (\$CAD)	Tax + Shipping
Image Sensors (2-3 Units)	\$50.00	
Microcontroller	\$100.00	
Motor	\$50.00	
Supplies for the mounting fixture	\$50.00	
Lenses (1 – 2 with different focal distance)	\$50.00	
Power Supply	\$20.00	
In total	\$320.00	
Total Funding Applied	\$350.00	
Total Funding Received	\$500.00	17



Project budget

Listed Item	Cost (\$CAD)	Tax + Shipping
Total budget	\$500.00	
		/
Motor System	\$157.94	\$88.98
Webcam	\$23.99	\$0.00
Microcontroller	\$33.00	\$3.96
Stepper Motor Driver	\$45.00	\$5.40
Power Adapter (12V, 3A)	\$15.00	\$1.80
Lens (2 lenses with different FFD)	\$110.00	\$0.00
Materials for enclosure	\$45.00	\$5.40
Female adapter 2.1 Jack (Connection for driver and PSU)	\$1.50	\$0.70
Total	\$537.67	
Remaining Funds	\$0.00	18

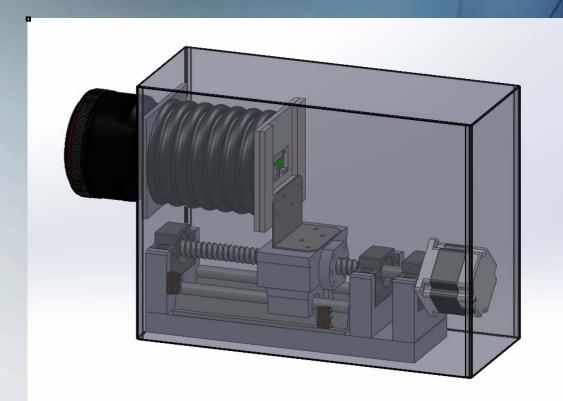
MOTUS Design – System Overview 19

Design – System Overview



The system design can be broken down into the following subsections:

- Optics
- Image Sensor
- Shifting System
- Motor Control
- Image Processing

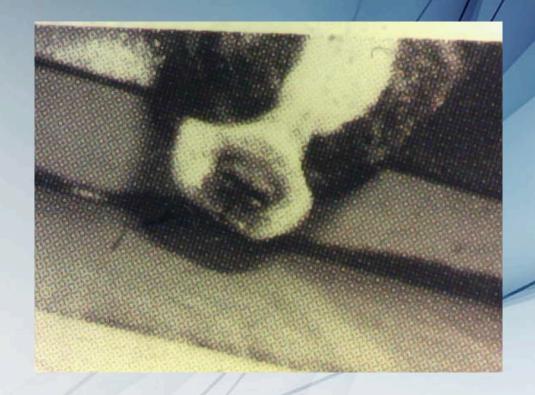


Design – System Overview



Sample output image of the ISSS (distance ≈ 20cm)

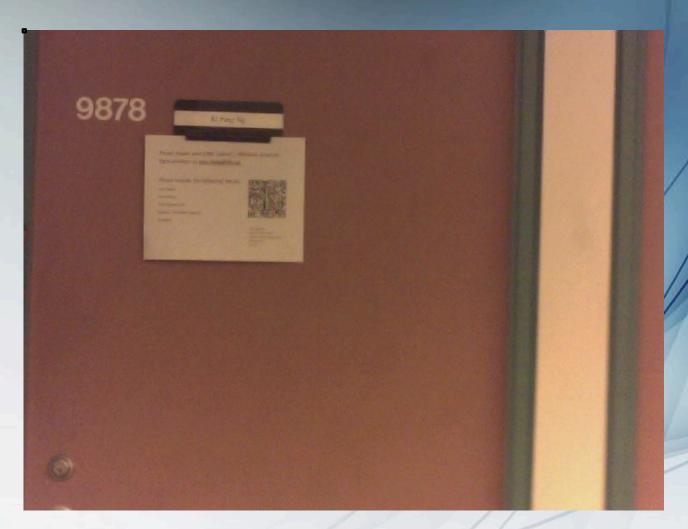




Design – System Overview



Sample output image of the ISSS (distance ≈ 30m)





Helios 58mm F2 Lens

- Prime Lens
- F2 to F16 aperture values
- Flange focal distance: 45.46mm
- Produce 36mm x 24mm image

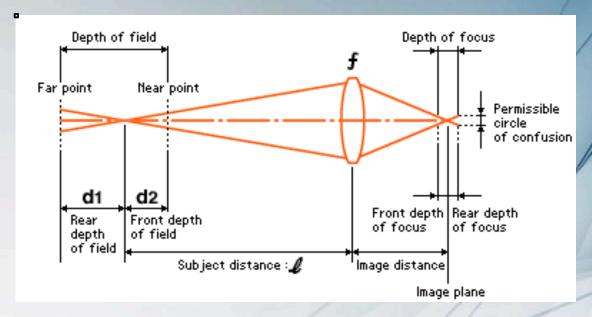




Depth of field and depth of focus

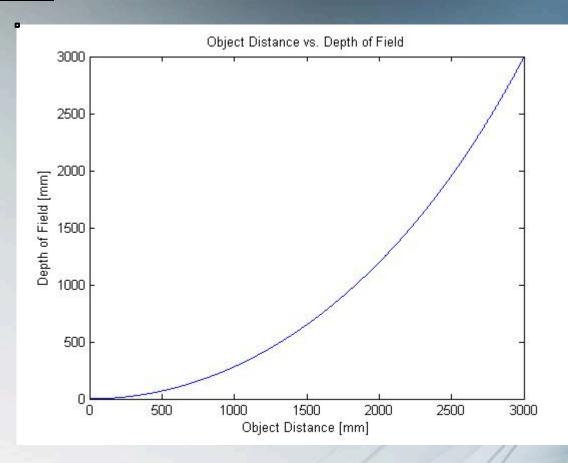
Depth of Field: the range between the nearest and farthest objects in a scene that appear acceptably sharp in an image

Depth of Focus: the range of the tolerance of placement of the image plane in relation to the lens





Depth of field



$$\mathrm{DOF} \approx \frac{2Ncf^2s^2}{f^4 - N^2c^2s^2}$$



Depth of focus

Aperture F Number	Depth of Focus
F16	0.928mm
F8.0	0.464mm
F5.6	0.325mm
F4.0	0.232mm
F2.8	0.162mm
F2.0	0.116mm

 $t \approx 2Nc$



Object distance and image distance relationship

Nearest focus distance: 13.8 cm









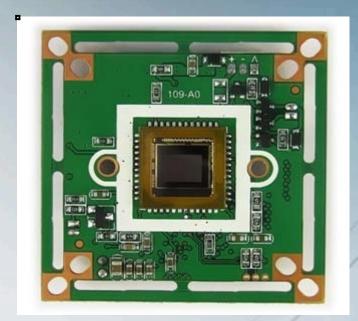
$$\frac{1}{S_1} + \frac{1}{S_2} = \frac{1}{f}$$

Design – Image sensor



1/4 Inch CMOS Image Sensor

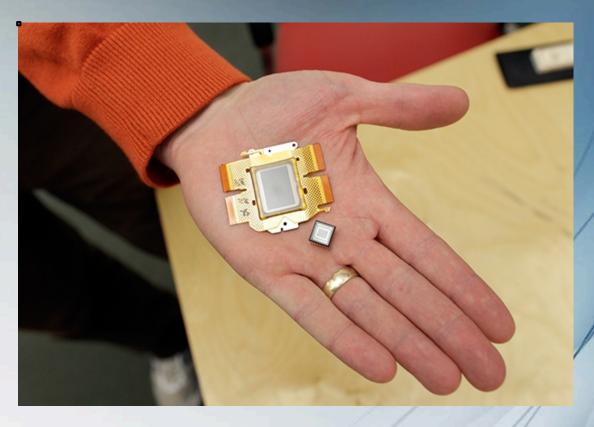
- 1.3 Megapixel still image
- Dimensional size: 3.6 x 2.7mm



Design – Image sensor



1/4 Inch CMOS Image Sensor vs. Full Frame Image Sensor



Design – Image sensor



1/4 Inch CMOS Image Sensor vs. Full Frame Image Sensor

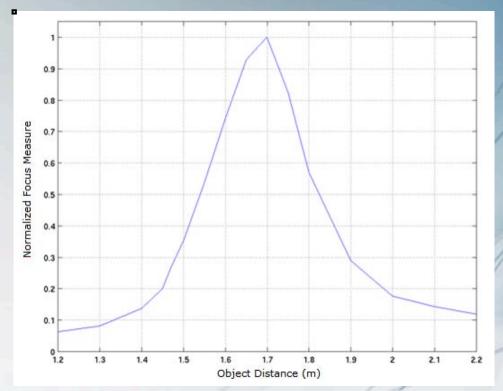
1/4 Inch CMOS Image Sensor has 9.26 crop factor.



[10]



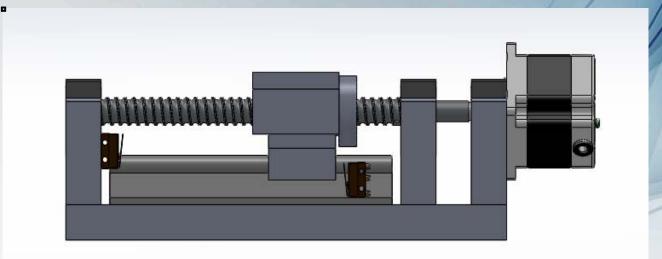
- Focus value reaches a peak when the sensor is located at certain position
- Small perturbations near the peak results in large changes in sharpness
- The motor requires a large delay, resulting in a slower movement speed in order to give the image processing algorithm time to 'catch' all of the sharpness values





Rail Assembly

- Components: stepper motor, supporting blocks, supporting rails, ball screw and nut, image sensor carriage and micro switches.
- Aluminum material for all blocks
- Advantage of this rail system: high precision, stable image sensor motion





Stepper Motor

Model: 57BYGH56-401A Nema23 Stepper Motor

• Step angle: 1.8 Degree

Rated current: 2.8A

Lead wire: 4

Speed: rotation 360 degree every 0.2 second while step delay is 1ms.





Micro Switch

- 3 Connector
- Max Voltage: 6 volt
- Max Current: 5 amp
- Normally Open or Normally Closed Mode
- Normally Closed Mode is selected in ISSS





Ball Screw and nut

Screw pitch (lead): 5mm

Screw diameter: 16mm

Length: 200 mm

Each step of motor rotate, the image sensor carriage will be shift 25 um,

Can shift image sensor carriage with speed up to 25mm/s with 1ms motor

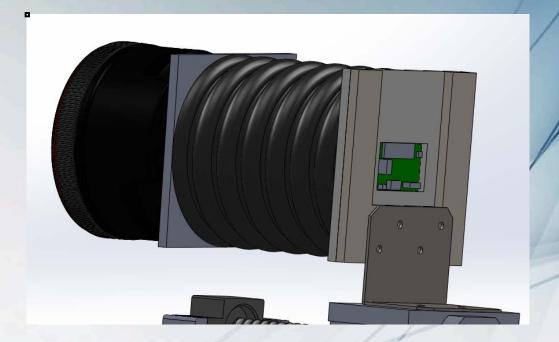
step delay





Image sensor mount

- Two 10mm x 10mm foam boards
- sheet metal bracket
- U shape aluminum bracket
- Bellow
- The sensor should be aligned at the center of lens



Design – Camera Bellow



Camera Bellow

- Provides light proof environment
- Constructed by poster paper and black tape
- Compressed to 4cm thin; expanded to 15cm thick

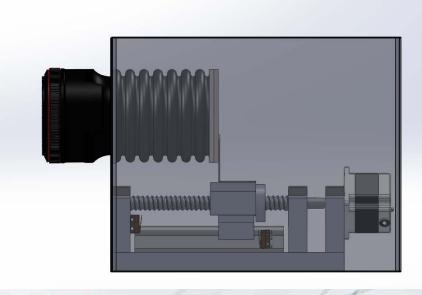






Enclosure and final assembly

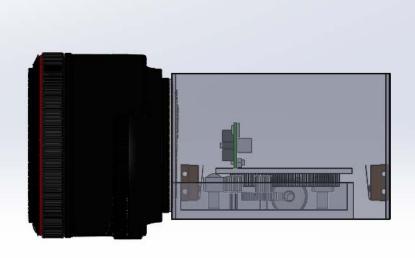
- Lens mounted out side the enclosure
- All mechanical moving part are secured inside the enclosure
- Material of enclosure is foam board





Alternative shifting mechanism

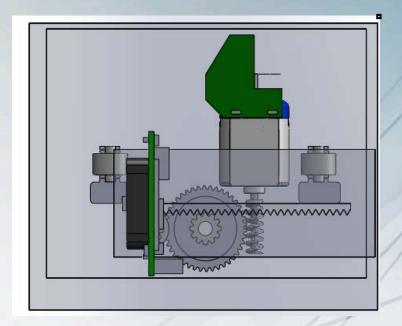
- Use gear train instead of ball screw mechanism
- Use DC motor with rotary encoder instead of stepper motor





Gear Train

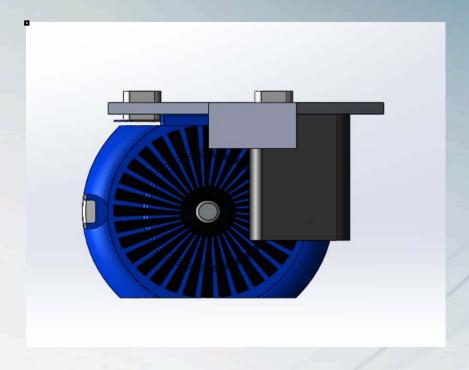
- Two sets of gear system
- Set 1: worm and worm gear
- Set 2: pinion and rack
- Two supporting wheel
- Image sensor carriage will be secured to rack gear

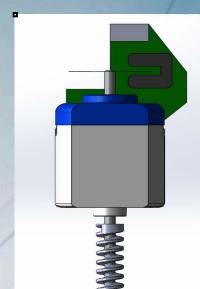




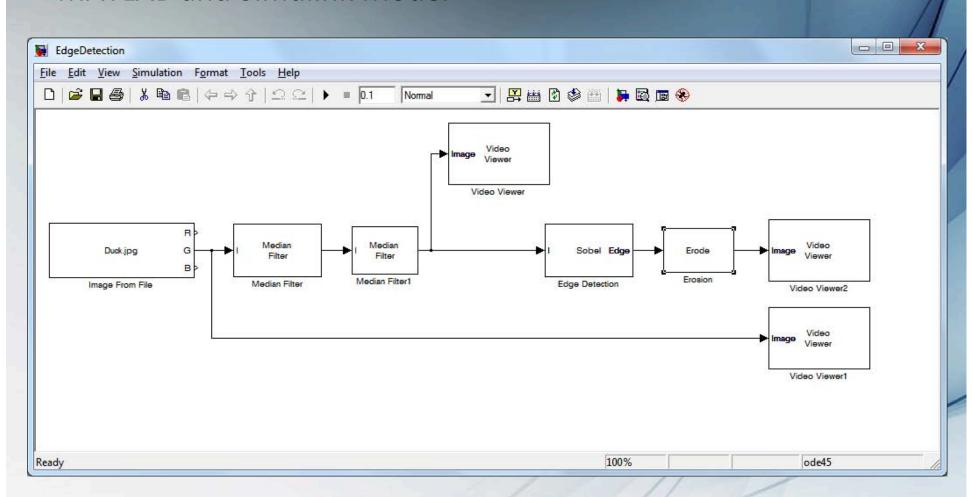
DC motor with rotary encoder

- A photo sensor will be triggered once each 11.25 degree that motor rotate
- Minimum detecting step size is 18 um

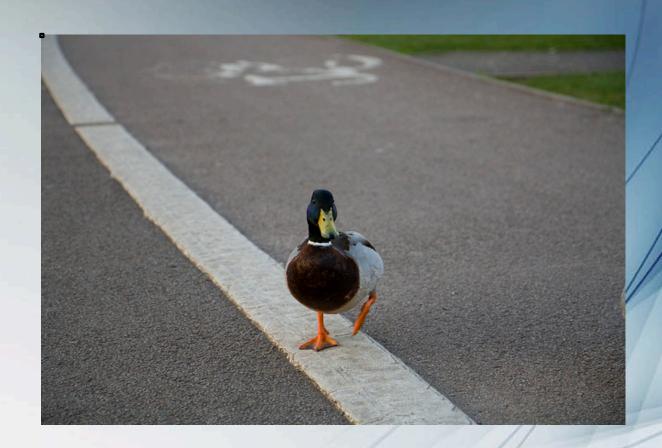




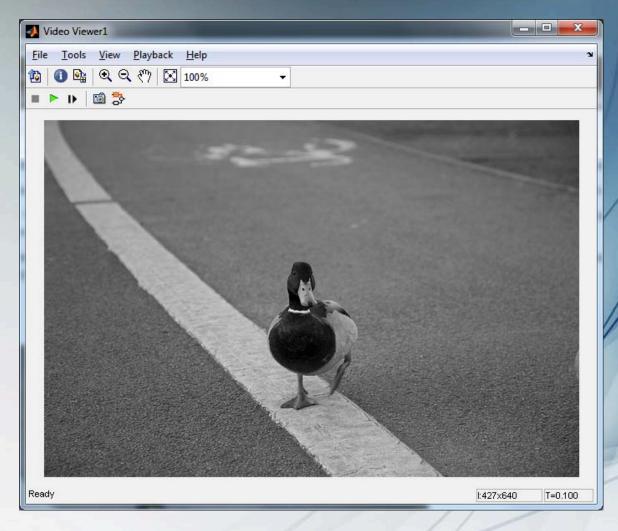
MATLAB and Simulink Model



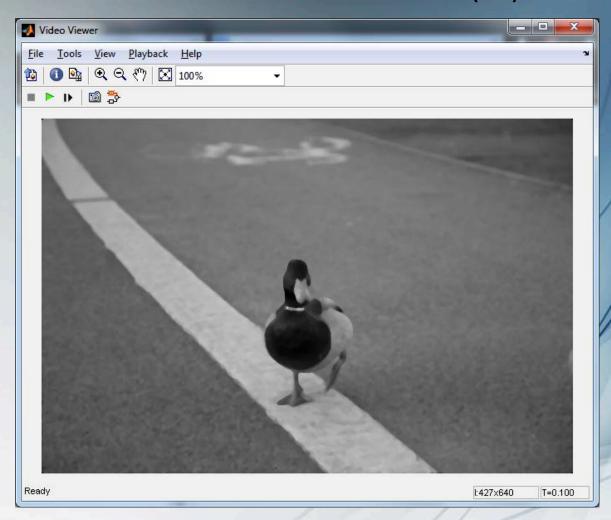
MATLAB and Simulink model – Source image



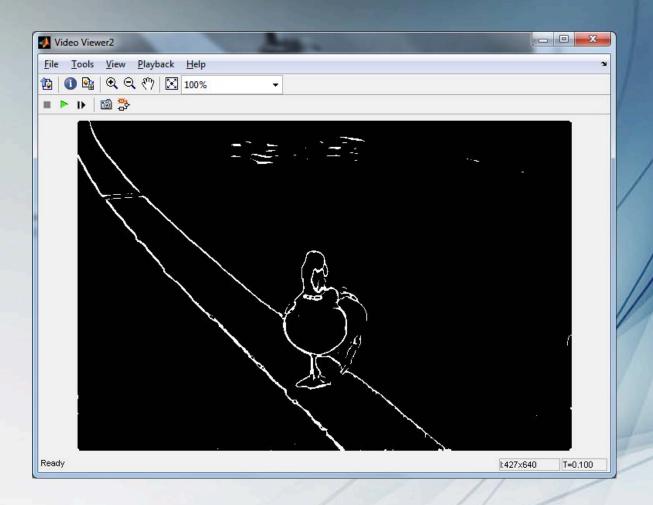
MATLAB and Simulink model - Green channel



MATLAB and Simulink model – Median filter (x2) results



MATLAB and Simulink model – Sobel edge and erode results



Problems with using MATLAB / Simulink

- Lack of control over certain parameters
- Speed / Optimization
- Less familiar with MATLAB than with C++

Design – Image Processing



Another Option: OpenCV

Highly controllable – Open source C++ library



- Optimized for real-time video processing
- Very well documented
- Widely used in both academia and industry



The General Idea (Theory)

- The image sensor sends data to the local workstation, which processes the real-time video data.
- The algorithm decides how much to move the motor, and in which direction based on the current image focus.



The general idea (Actual)

- The process is started with a key-press event from the user
- The key-press event is registered by the image processing application, and a "START" command is sent to the microcontroller via serial communication
- The microcontroller receives the "START" command and sets the appropriate control parameters for the motor driver
- The motor travels the length of the rail, before hitting the safety switch, at which point it reverses direction and returns to the initial position.
- Throughout this process, the image processing algorithm is analyzing the video feed in real-time and computing a sharpness value for each frame



The image processing algorithm

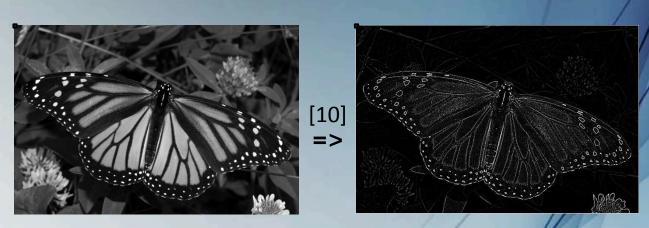
Two common methods:

- 1. Frequency analysis
 - Accurate
 - Sensitive to scene changes
- 2. Sharpness / Edge detection
 - Accurate
 - Sensitive to scene changes, but less so than with frequency analysis



The image processing algorithm

Laplace Kernel

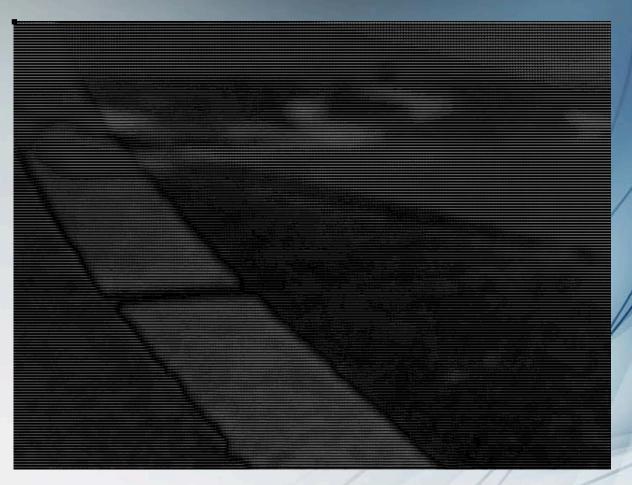


The next (and final) step is to search the resulting image for the highest value, and take that to be a representation of the overall sharpness for the image.

Works in practice!

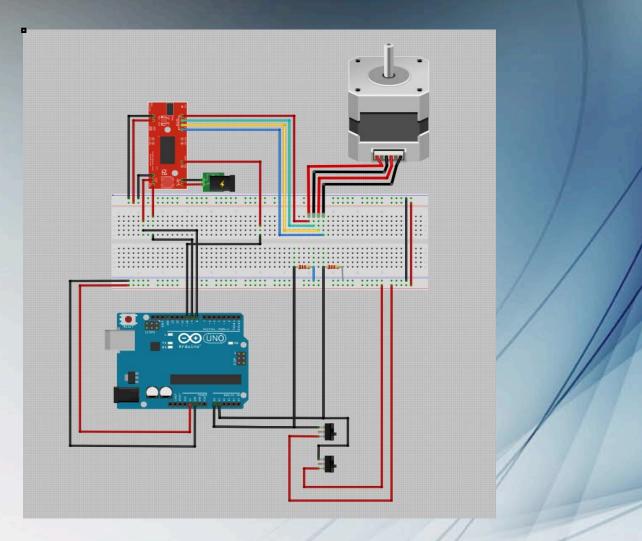


The image processing algorithm



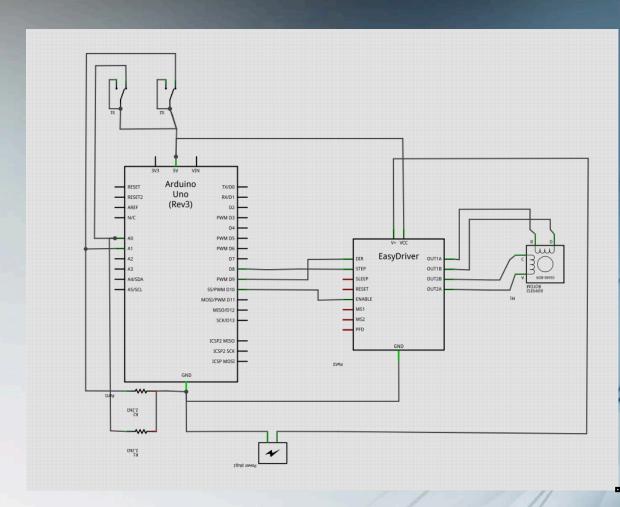
The output of the Laplace Filter for the previously shown example (Aperture = 5, levels adjusted)





To rotate the stepper motor, multiple pulses (based on the step number) must be provided to the motor, and the Arduino is used to pass pulses.





Schematics for motor control system



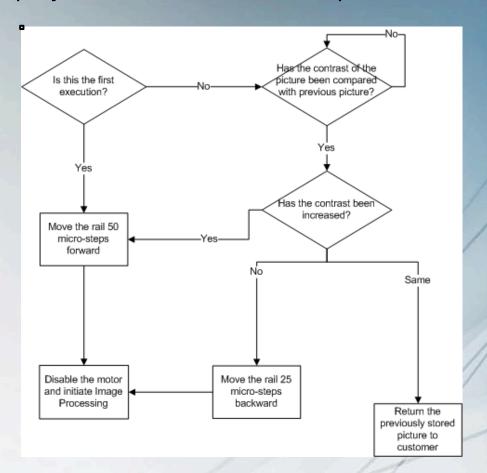
Advantages of using an Arduino

- Open-source software is easy to use, resulting in quick prototyping
- Widely used; lots of support and documentation
- Provides constant analog output voltage: 3.3 and 5V
- Re-programmable chip



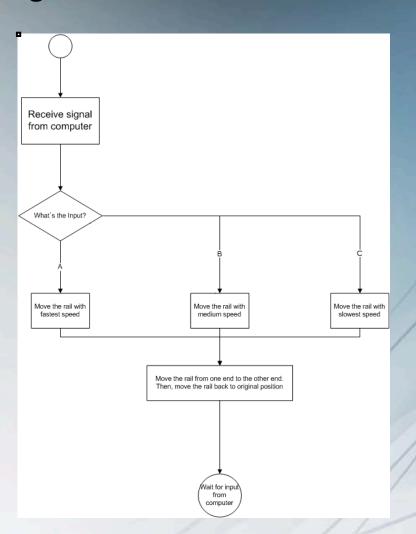
Arduino

With the bi-directional communication between computer and Arduino established, our project would've been developed with below algorithm.





Arduino control logic



Reliability



Cycle tests

The ISSS has been run 10 times on each speed setting.

Each test was set up to capture the same object.

Speed Setting	Number of sharp images captured	Time taken per run
Fast	6	~ 21 seconds
Medium	7	~ 41 seconds
Slow	8	~ 61 seconds

Looking Ahead (Performance)



Problem: Selected image isn't always the most focused

Reason 1:

While the image sensor in the depth of focus, the CPU is still computing the previous frame and misses the current focused image.

How to fix:

While the image is being processed, slow down the motor's speed.

Reason 2

The image sensor cannot adjust to changes in brightness (no auto ISO control). If lighting conditions are too bright or too dim, the contrast is too low.

How to fix:

Use the image sensor with auto ISO control feature.

Reason 3

Improper alignment.

How to fix:

Use proper alignment tools to align the lens and the image sensor in proper positions.

Looking Ahead (System Size)



Problem: The ISSS's size is bulky.

Reason 1:

Rails are too long; motor is too big.

How to fix:

Replace with shorter rails and less powerful motor. However, shorter rails will shorten the nearest focus distance.

Reason 2

Camera bellow exists.

How to fix:

Remove the bellow. However, the ISSS's enclosure cannot currently provide a completely darkened environment.

Reason 3

The ISSS requires a local workstation to run the image processing algorithm.

How to fix:

Load the OpenCV libraries on an embedded device that has a processor powerful enough to run the image processing algorithm at a reasonable rate (approximately 20 frames analyzed per second).

Looking Ahead (Focusing Speed)



Problem: The ISSS's focusing speed is slow.

Reason 1:

Contrast detection auto focusing.

How to fix:

Replace with the on-chip phase detection image sensor.

Looking Ahead (Portability)



Problem: The ISSS is not portable.

Reason 2

Images have to be shown on computer's monitor.

How to fix:

Attach a LCD display.

Looking Ahead (Power Source)



Problem: The ISSS's motor requires to plug in 110V 60Hz.

Reason:

Motor requires too much current.

How to fix:

Replace with a smaller motor.

Looking Ahead (Usability)



Problem: The ISSS is not easy to operate.

Reason:

In the current prototype version of the ISSS, there is no easy interface for a non-experienced user to focus an image. It requires a person who is proficient in C++ to make adjustments to the image processing algorithm.

How to fix:

Invest more time developing a robust user interface that gives full control over the algorithm's parameters and image output.

Looking Ahead (Lenses Adaptability)



Problem: The ISSS cannot use different mounting type of lens.

Reason:

While the ISSS provides variable flange focal distances, the physical shape of the mounting mechanism is not able to have other types of lenses attached.

How to fix:

Replace the mounting mechanism with a hybrid mounting ring as shown below.



Looking Ahead (Focus Points)



Problem: Only images with flat surfaces can be processed

Reason:

The image processing algorithm processes entire image's sharpness value. When the object is not perpendicular to the camera's lens, certain areas of the image may be out of focus.

How to fix:

Set up multiple focus points/zones on the image. The image processing will only calculate sharpness values within those points/zones.



Acknowledgements



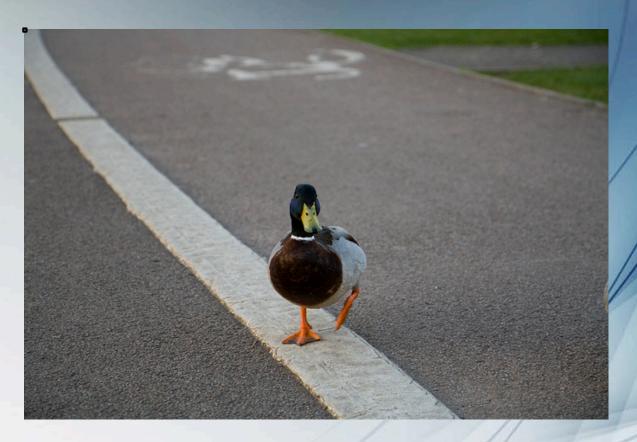
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- Mona Rahbar
- Alireza Rahbar
- Gary Houghton
- http://www.ensc.sfu.ca/~whitmore/courses/ensc305/ [14]

Q&A



Questions?



References



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