

An Improved Edge Sensing Demosaicing and DCT Based Resizing Algorithm for Color Filter Array Images

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Abstract— Most digital cameras use a single sensor array to capture the color information based on Bayer color filter array (CFA) structure and samples only one color value for each pixel and interpolate the other two color values afterwards. The interpolation process is commonly known as demosaicing. In this paper an algorithm is proposed for demosaicing and resizing of single sensor array images. Adaptive heterogeneity projection masks and Sobel Luminance estimation based masks are used to extract more accurate edge information. Edge sensing approach and color difference idea is used to construct the fully populated green color plane. The G plane is interpolated by using the available information of the neighboring red and blue color planes. In order to reduce the estimation error, color difference planes G-R and G-B are interpolated instead of interpolating R and B color planes directly. Then the three constructed planes are resized. The resized red and blue color planes are constructed by using the three resized planes and finally the arbitrary ratio sized full color image is obtained.

Keywords— Color difference, color filter array, arbitrary ratio, demosaicing algorithm, digital cameras

I. INTRODUCTION

Digital cameras are becoming the most popular in consumer electronics market now. For representing a full color image, all the three primary colors red (R), green (G) and blue (B) at each pixel location are required. To capture the complete image three separate arrays of sensors are required. Most of the digital cameras use a single Charge Coupled Device (CCD) or Complementary Metal Oxide Semi-conductor (CMOS) sensors to capture the color information, instead of using three separate sensors. This is done in order to reduce the hardware cost and size. The surface of the sensor is covered with a color filter array (CFA). Bayer CFA structure is the most prevalent one among various proposed CFAs which is shown in Figure 1.

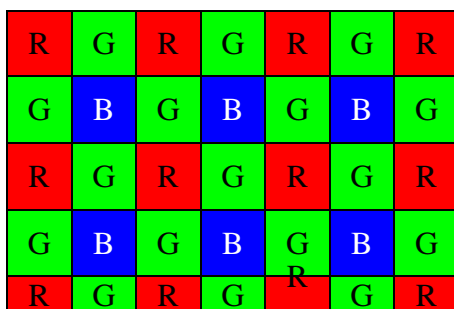


Fig. 1. Bayer CFA Pattern

An important factor to determine the luminance of the color image is the green color plane. So half of the pixels in Bayer CFA pattern are assigned to green color plane. The remaining parts are evenly shared by red and blue color plane. Each of the captured images in Bayer CFA has one of the three primary colors. This image is called mosaic image. The two missing colors on each pixel location have to be interpolated to get a full color image. This process of interpolation is called demosaicing or color interpolation [2], [3], [5], [8], [13], [15]. The missing colors that are reconstructed resemble closely to original ones. Apart from Demosaicing, resizing is also done. Here resizing refers to zooming process. Various resizing algorithms [1], [4], [6], [11], [12], [14] have been developed for mosaic images. The previously developed resizing algorithms can be roughly classified into three approaches. In the first approach, the mosaic image, by demosaicing process is first recovered to the full color image and then by zooming process the demosaiced full color image is zoomed. Here demosaicing and zooming are performed separately and independently. In the second approach, the CFA zooming method is used on the mosaic image to obtain the zoomed mosaic image and then existing demosaicing process is applied to obtain the full color image [11]. A third approach was proposed recently using combined demosaicing and zooming process [4]. This approach has better quality performance when compared to the other two approaches. The resizing algorithms developed earlier focused on quad zooming process. This motivated to develop an improved, combined demosaicing and resizing algorithm for mosaic images. Here an improved combined demosaicing and resizing algorithm for mosaic images is presented. Adaptive heterogeneity projection masks and Sobel Luminance (SL) estimation based masks [5] are used to extract more accurate edge information. Edge sensing approach and color difference idea is used to construct the fully populated green color plane. In order to reduce the estimation error color difference planes G-R and G-B are interpolated instead of interpolating R and B color planes directly. Then the three constructed planes are resized to arbitrary ratio sized planes by using composite length DCT technique [12]. The resized red and blue color planes are constructed by using the three resized planes, green plane and the two color difference planes and finally the arbitrary ratio sized full color image is obtained. The proposed algorithm has better image quality performance in terms of two objective

color image quality measures, the color peak signal-to-noise ratio (CPSNR) and the S-CIELAB ΔE_{ab} , and one subjective color quality measure, the color artifacts when compared with native algorithms which is the combination of well known demosaicing and resizing method [3], [10], [13], [15] and [12]. In the second section adaptive heterogeneity projection masks and SL based masks are explained. In the third section resizing algorithm is presented. Experimental results are demonstrated in the fourth section. In the final section some conclusions and scope for future work is specified.

II. EXTRACTION OF MORE ACCURATE EDGE INFORMATION

Here adaptive heterogeneity projection masks and SL based masks [7] is introduced. The R, G and B color pixels at position (i, j) in the mosaic image I_m are denoted by $I_m^r(i, j)$, $I_m^g(i, j)$ and $I_m^b(i, j)$ respectively.

A. Adaptive Heterogeneity Projection

Adaptive heterogeneity projection mask [5] is used to extract more accurate edge information from the mosaic images. For this luminance estimation technique is used. In this technique, a symmetric convolution mask is used to estimate the luminance of the pixel at position (i, j) in the mosaic image. Based on this concept three possible heterogeneity projection masks with different sizes ($N = 5, 7, 9$) is adopted. The three possible heterogeneity projection masks [5] used in this paper are shown in Table I. Here N and $M_{hp}(N)$ denote the mask size and the corresponding heterogeneity projection mask, respectively.

TABLE I
THREE POSSIBLE HETEROGENEITY PROJECTION MASKS

N	$M_{hp}(N)$
5	[1 -2 0 2 1]
7	[1 -4 5 0 -5 4 -1]
9	[1 -6 14 -14 0 14 -14 6 -1]

For a mosaic image I_m the horizontal heterogeneity projection HP_{H-map} and the vertical heterogeneity projection HP_{V-map} can be found by

$$\begin{aligned} HP_{V-map} &= |I_m * M_{hp}(N)| \\ HP_{H-map} &= |I_m * M_{hp}(N)^T| \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Here $|\cdot|$ denotes the absolute value operator. The operator T denotes the transpose operator. The operator $*$ denotes the convolution operator. In order to extract more accurate horizontal and vertical edge information and to reduce the computation time, the two proper mask sizes $N_H(i, j)$ and $N_V(i, j)$ for each pixel at position (i, j) should be determined. For simplicity, only $N_H(i, j)$ is determined, since the method for determining $N_V(i, j)$ is same as that for $N_H(i, j)$. The horizontal spectral-spatial correlation (SSC) [19] map is utilized to determine the proper horizontal mask size for each pixel. The horizontal SSC value is calculated then using equation 2.

After that proper horizontal mask sizes $N_H(i, j)$ can be determined [15]. The procedure of the determination for $N_H(i, j)$ consists of the following three steps:

Step 1: Initially, set the left boundary $x_l = j - 2$ and right boundary $x_r = j + 2$, the mask size $N_H(i, j) = 5$ and maximum mask size $N_{max} = 9$

Step 2: Assume threshold value $T = 8$. If the condition $\text{Max}(\Delta S_l, \Delta S_r) < T$ and $T = 8$ holds, the mask size $N_H(i, j)$ is output as the proper horizontal mask size. Otherwise, go to Step 3.

Step 3: Update $N_H(i, j)$, x_l and x_r by using $N_H(i, j) = N_H(i, j) + 2$, $x_l = x_l - 1$ and $x_r = x_r + 1$. If $N_H(i, j) = N_{max}$ then $N_H(i, j) = N_{max}$ is output as the proper mask size and stop the procedure. Otherwise, go to Step 2.

$$S_H(i, j) = \frac{|I_m^g(i, j) - I_m^r(i, j+1)|}{|I_m^g(i, j) - I_m^r(i, j+1)|} \quad (2)$$

After finding the two heterogeneity projection maps, the two heterogeneity projection values at position (i, j) are denoted by $HP_H(i, j)$ and $HP_V(i, j)$. Then the tuned horizontal and vertical heterogeneity projection values can be computed.

B. Sobel -Luminance (SL) based masks

To extract more accurate gradient information, the luminance estimation technique is embedded into the Sobel operator, in order to make the Sobel operator workable on mosaic images [16]. By running the four SL-based masks [15] on the 5×5 mosaic sub-image centered at position (i, j) [5], the horizontal gradient response the vertical gradient response the $\pi/4$ -diagonal gradient response - $\pi/4$ diagonal gradient response can be obtained easily. Experimental results show that the proposed approach has better performance, when compared with the indirect approach: first apply the bilinear demosaicing process to input mosaic image; next convert the demosaiced full color image to the luminance map and then the sobel edge detector is run on the obtained luminance map.

III. THE PROPOSED IMPROVED DEMOSAICING AND RESIZING ALGORITHM

Most of the existing methods use only existing green channel neighborhood to interpolate the missing green value. The solution proposal is to estimate the missing green samples based on the variance of color difference along different edge directions. This helps to preserve not only the information of edge regions but also the details of the texture regions. The interpolation of green channel is done by taking advantage of the known available red and blue information. As a result the interpolation error decreases and the image quality improves. Time complexity can also be reduced. Higher order gradient information can be used in order to improve the edge direction finding. The spatial bandwidth of chromatic signals can be limited without degradation of the image. Interpolation made on the chromatic domain results in smooth chromatic transition which is pleasing to human eye. The various stages in the proposed algorithm are as follows:

i) Constructing fully populated green plane by the interpolation of mosaic green plane and the available red and blue channel information, using edge sensing interpolation approach ii) Constructing fully populated G-R and G-B color

difference plane by using fully populated Green channel and the available information of red and blue channels.

iii) Resizing the three constructed planes to obtain arbitrary ratio sized ones and based on the resized planes the resized R and B planes are recovered to obtain arbitrary ratio sized full color image

A. Stage 1. Interpolation of the mosaic G plane

This section describes how fully populated G plane $I_{dm}(i, j)$ is constructed using the edge-sensing approach and color difference idea. The central pixel at position (i, j) is taken as the representative to explain how the value of G color $I_{dm}^G(i, j)$ is estimated from its four neighboring pixels. The tuned horizontal and vertical heterogeneity projection values are determined first. To determine $I_{dm}^G(i, j)$ more accurately, four proper weights in terms of the gradient magnitude are assigned to the corresponding four pixels in the interpolation estimation phase. Given a pixel at position (i, j) , based on the horizontal and vertical gradient magnitudes, its horizontal and vertical weights can be determined by

$$w(H, x, y) = 1/[1 + \sum_{k=-1}^1 \delta_k \Delta_{dm}^H(x, y+k)]$$

$$w(V, x, y) = 1/[1 + \sum_{k=-1}^1 \delta_k \Delta_{dm}^V(x, y+k)] \quad (3)$$

respectively, where $\delta_k = 3$ if $k = 1$; $\delta_k = 1$, otherwise [15]. Considering the neighboring pixel located at position $(i-1, j)$, if the vertical gradient magnitude is large, i.e. there is a horizontal edge passing through it, based on the color difference assumption [8], [13], it reveals that the G component of this pixel makes less contribution to that of the current pixel; otherwise, it reveals that the G component of this pixel makes more contribution to estimate that of the current pixel. According to the above analysis, the vertical weight is selected for the pixel at position $(i-1, j)$. In the same way, the weights of the other three neighbors are denoted by $w(V, i+1, j)$, $w(H, i, j-1)$ and $w(H, i, j+1)$ respectively. Consequently, the value of $I_{dm}^G(i, j)$ can be estimated by

$$I_{dm}^G(i, j) = I_{mo}^G(i, j) + \frac{\sum w(d, x, y) G_{gb}(x, y)}{\sum w(d, x, y)} \quad (4)$$

Finally a refinement approach, which combines the concept of color ratios [5] and the extracted accurate edge information, is used to refine fully populated G plane.

B. Stage 2 Interpolation of the mosaic G-R and G-B color difference planes

Instead of interpolating the R and B color planes directly, the G-R and G-B color difference planes are interpolated. This helps to preserve not only the information of edge regions but also the details of the texture regions and also the color difference plane is much smoother than the original color plane. It also eliminates the estimation error. The interpolation involves three steps. In the first step, according to the mosaic image and the fully populated G plane I_{dm}^G , the mosaic G-R color difference plane can be obtained by

$$D_{gr}(i_r, j_r) = I_{dm}^G(i_r, j_r) - I_r^m(i_r, j_r) \quad (5)$$

where $(i_r, j_r) \in (i \pm 2m, j \pm 2n+1)$. After performing Step 1, Fig. 2 illustrates the pattern of the obtained mosaic G-R color

difference plane for the positions depicted in gray cells. The G-R color difference plane interpolation estimation for the other positions consists of two steps: In the second step the G-R color difference values D_{gr} of the pixels are interpolated and in the third step the G-R color difference values of the pixels at position $\{(i \pm 2m, j \pm 2n+)\}$ and $\{(i \pm 2m+, j \pm 2n)\}$ are interpolated. The G-R color difference value can be estimated from its four neighboring pixels. In order to estimate D_{gr} more accurately, the gradient magnitudes of four diagonal variations are considered to determine the proper four weights.

D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}
	D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}	
D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}
	D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}	
D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}
	D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}	
D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}

Fig. 2. The pattern of the mosaic G-R color difference plane.

After performing Step 2, the current pattern of the G-R color difference plane is shown in Figure. 2. The central pixel at position (i', j') in Figure. 3, is obtained by shifting one pixel down, from figure 2, is taken as the representative to explain the G-R color difference plane interpolation in Step 2. It is not difficult to find that the pattern of the GR color difference plane, because it is the same as that of the G plane in the mosaic image as shown in Figure 1 [15]. Therefore, the interpolation estimation approach described in last section can be directly used to estimate the G-R color difference value at position (i', j') . The pattern of the G-R color difference plane shifting one pixel down is shown in figure 3. This is obtained from the pattern of mosaic G-R color difference plane.

	D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}	
D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}
	D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}	
D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}
	D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}	
D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}
	D_{gr}		D_{gr}		D_{gr}	

Fig. 3. The pattern of the G-R color difference plane by shifting one pixel down.

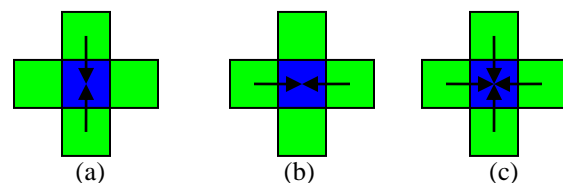


Fig. 4. Data dependence of the proposed interpolation estimation for mosaic green image. (a) Horizontal variation (vertical edge). (b) Vertical variation (horizontal edge) and (c) Other variations

After constructing the fully populated G plane, G-R color difference plane, and G-B color difference plane, the three constructed planes will be resized to the required arbitrary-ratio sized ones by using the DCT approach and then the arbitrary-ratio resized full color image is obtained. Data dependence of the proposed interpolation estimation is shown in Figure. 4

C. Stage 3: Resizing the fully populated G plane, G-R color difference plane, and G-B color difference plane

Based on the composite length DCT [12], the resizing stage for constructing the fully populated G plane, G-R and G-B color difference plane is done. The two dimensional DCT of $M \times N$ matrix A is can be found using the formula

$$B_{pq} = \sum_{m=0}^{M-1} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \alpha_p \alpha_q A_{mn} (\cos \pi (2m+1)p) / 2M (\cos \pi (2n+1)q) / 2N \quad (7)$$

$$\text{where } \alpha_p = 1/\sqrt{M}, p=0 \text{ and } \sqrt{2}/M, 1 \leq p \leq M-1$$

$$\alpha_q = 1/\sqrt{N}, q=0 \text{ and } \sqrt{2}/N, 1 \leq q \leq N-1$$

The resizing stage for Dgr and Dgb i.e., G-R and G-B color difference planes are same as that of the fully populated green plane, I_{dm}^g . Let DCT and IDCT are the DCT and inverse DCT on an image block [15]. The fully populated G plane I_{dm}^g with size $M \times N$, is first divided into a set of image blocks, each with size 8×8 . If the $M \times N$ green plane is to be resized to a plane with size $q/p M \times q/p N$, the resizing ratio is said to be q/p . According to this resizing ratio q/p , first p^2 blocks are collected to be an active unit. In order to achieve resizing ratio q/p , the p^2 blocks in each active unit are to be increased or decreased to q^2 blocks. The steps in resizing are as follows:

- DCT is performed on 8×8 image block
- An active unit is chosen and it is increased or decreased
- Each 8×8 unit in the DCT coefficient block in the active unit is expanded to $(8+z) \times (8+z)$ block. IDCT is performed on each of this block to get upsized image
- This upsized image is divided into q^2 blocks and a set of re-sampled image block is obtained
- DCT is performed on this block and high frequency coefficients are truncated.

Here z represents a non-negative integer which satisfies the condition: $p(8+z) = Cq$, $C \geq 8$. In this paper the ratio q/p is assumed to be equal to $4/3$, then the smallest z is 4 due to the reason $3(8+4) = 9 \times 4$. After performing the resizing procedure on all active units, a set of 8×8 DCT coefficient block is obtained [15]. Then $q/p M \times q/p N$ sized G plane is obtained by performing IDCT on each 8×8 DCT coefficient blocks. In the same way $q/p M \times q/p N$ sized G-R and G-B color difference plane is obtained. The arbitrary ratio sized R and B planes can be constructed by

$$Z_{dm}^r(i_z, j_z) = Z_{dm}^g(i_z, j_z) - ZD_{gr}(i_z, j_z)$$

$$Z_{dm}^b(i_z, j_z) = Z_{dm}^g(i_z, j_z) - ZD_{gb}(i_z, j_z) \quad (8)$$

where $Z_{dm}^r(i_z, j_z)$, $Z_{dm}^g(i_z, j_z)$ and $Z_{dm}^b(i_z, j_z)$ denote the three color components at pixel position (i_z, j_z) in the $q/p M \times q/p N$ sized full color image Z_{dm} respectively, $ZD_{gr}(i_z, j_z)$

and $ZD_{gb}(i_z, j_z)$ denote G-R and G-B color difference value of the pixel at position (i, j) .



Fig.5. The twenty four testing images from Kodak PhotoCD

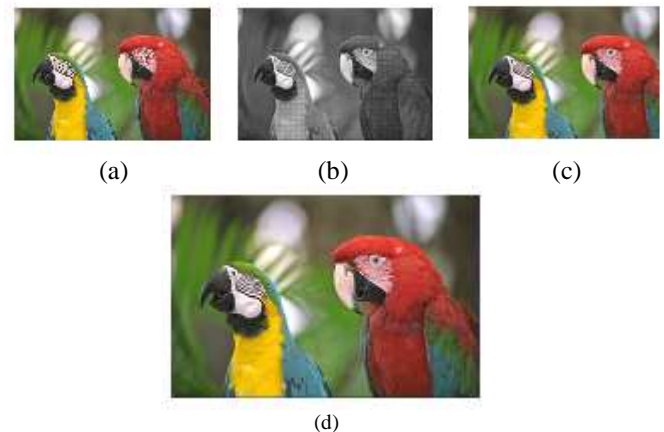


Fig.6. Output results for testing image No.23 (a) Original image (b) Mosaic image (c) Demosaiced RGB image (d) Resized image

TABLE II
CPSNR COMPARISON

Algorithm	Resizing ratio = 4/3
1	32.1575
2	31.8666
3	32.5719
4	33.6423
Proposed method	37.5614

TABLE III
AVERAGE S-CIELAB ΔE_{a^*b} COMPARISON

1	2	3	4	Proposed
2.84487	2.92431	2.72974	2.55286	2.52326

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The experimental results show that the proposed algorithm exhibits high quality output compared the four native algorithms based on the demosaicing methods proposed in [13], [10], [3] and [15] are called 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively in terms of CPSNR and the S-CIELAB ΔE_{a^*b} , and one subjective color image quality measure, the color artifacts. The proposed algorithm produces less color artifacts when compared with the other four algorithms. Also the execution-time of the proposed resizing algorithm is better when compared with the other four algorithms. The algorithm is

tested using twenty-four testing images from Kodak PhotoCD, each with size 512 x 768 and is implemented using Interactive Data Language (IDL), version 6.3. Table II and Table III shows the comparison of image quality in terms of CPSNR and S-CIELAB ΔE_{ab}^* respectively for the testing image No.23. It is observed from the two tables, that the proposed algorithm shows the best image quality in terms of CPSNR and S-CIELAB ΔE_{ab}^* .

Color artifacts, which is one of the subjective visual image measure, is adopted to demonstrate the visual quality of the proposed algorithm. After demosaicing and resizing the mosaic image, some color artifacts may appear on certain non-smooth regions of the full color image. But compared with the other algorithms, less color artifacts are observed. It is observed that the proposed resizing algorithm produces the least color artifacts, i.e. the best visual effect.

The execution time of the five concerned algorithms is shown in Table IV, based on the twenty four testing mosaic image and the resizing ratios. The results show that the execution time for the concerned algorithm is moderate, when compared with the other four algorithms. However, the proposed algorithm has the best image quality performance in the four resizing algorithms.

TABLE IV.

EXECUTION TIME OF THE FIVE CONCERNED ALGORITHMS.

Algorithm	1	2	3	4	Proposed
Time(s)	12.52	12.94	12.68	12.78	12.50

The CPSNR for a color image with size M x N is defined by

$$CPSNR = 10 \log_{10} 255^2 / [(1/3MN) \sum [I_{ori}(m,n) - Z_{dm}(m,n)]^2] \quad (9)$$

where I_{ori} and Z_{dm} denote the color component of color pixel in the original full color image and the color component of color pixel in the zoomed color image respectively. The S-CIELAB ΔE_{ab}^* of a color image with size M x N is defined by

$$\Delta E_{ab}^* = 1/MN \sum \{ [\sum_c E_{ori}^c(m,n) - E_{dm}^c(m,n)] \}^{1/2} \quad (10)$$

where $\Gamma \{L, a, b\}$; $E_{ori}^L(m,n)$, $E_{ori}^a(m,n)$, $E_{ori}^b(m,n)$ denote the three CIELAB color components of the color pixel at position (m,n) in the original full color image and $E_{dm}^L(m,n)$, $E_{dm}^a(m,n)$, $E_{dm}^b(m,n)$ denote the three CIELAB color components of the color pixel at position (m,n) in the resized full color image. The image quality is better if S-CIELAB ΔE_{ab}^* is smaller and CPSNR is high.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, an improved combined demosaicing and resizing algorithm for single sensor array images is proposed. Based on the color difference concept and the composite length DCT, the mosaic image can be demosaiced and resized

to arbitrary ratio sized full color image. Experimental results shows that the proposed algorithm is assumed to have better image quality performance in terms of two objective color quality measures – CPSNR (color peak signal-to-noise ratio) and the S-CIELAB ΔE_{ab}^* and one subjective measure – the color artifacts when compared with popular demosaicing and resizing methods. It provides best visual effects compared to other resizing algorithms. The average execution time for the proposed resizing algorithm is moderate. The algorithm can be used in consumer electronic products like digital camcorders and digital cameras. The color difference idea is used to get a smooth image. A proposal for future work is to perform color interpolation on YCbCr domain, instead of performing the interpolation in the RGB domain and then performing resizing. It is assumed that this proposal can produce better quality color images, compared with the existing algorithms with a superior CPSNR value and least color artifacts.

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