Coloured-Object Tracking Camera

ECE 492 Group 4 Design Project

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Motivation

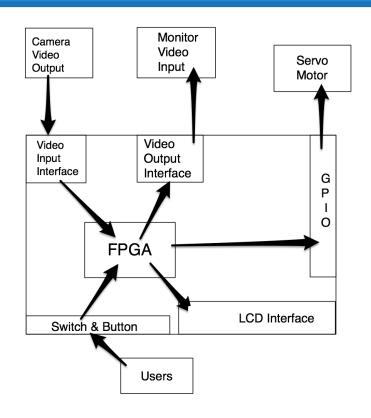


- Original idea came from this video
 - Optimal to see the individual throughout turn
- Can be used for many other things
 - Security and surveillance
 - Lacking a cameraman
 - Track targets in unsafe environments

Functionality

- Analyze image frames from a camera video stream
- Threshold the image for the predefined colour we wish to track
- Calculate centre of the object after the threshold and it's position
- Output appropriate signals to servos to reorient camera so that target object is centred in the frame
- Two dimensional tracking system (horizontal and vertical pan)
- Change the colour being tracked on the fly

Hardware Design



- Image Processing:
 - NTSC input signal —— FPGA
 - Colour space conversion (RGB to HSV)
 - Threshold colour
 - Find the centre
 - FPGA —— RGB output signal
- User Interfacing:
 - Threshold value control (Switches)
 - Operations indication (LCD)
- Servo Motor Control:
 - Custom Pulse Width Modulator (PWM)

Software Design







- 1. User Interface (Switches)
 - Manipulating settings
 - Setting colour to be tracked
- 2. Calculate Direction of Object and Displacement
 - Reads in centre coordinates calculated in hardware layer
 - Compares coordinates with center of the frame (where the camera is pointing)
 - Calculate and convert displacement from number of pixels to number of degrees
- 3. Generate signal for PWM for rotation
 - Calculate new pulse width from the calculated displacement
 - Send new pulse width to PWM

Data Flow

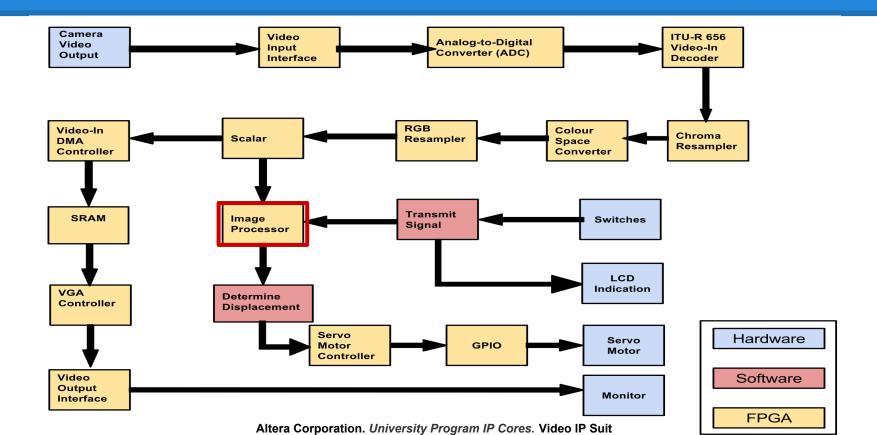
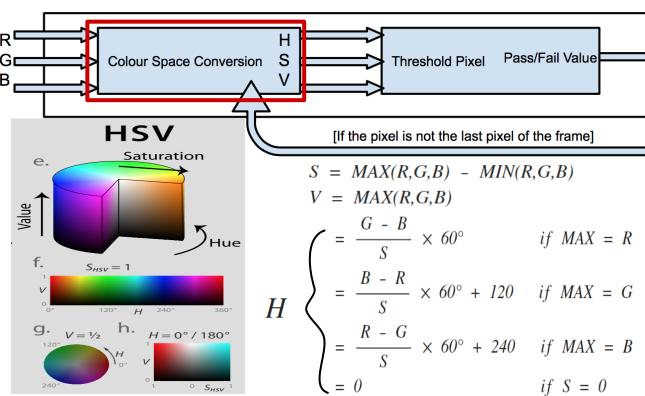


Image Processor



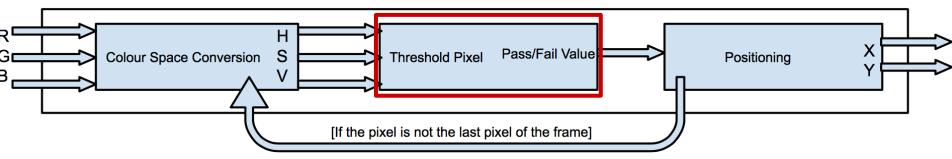
HSV is simpler to threshold than using RGB

Positioning

- Image format that separates light intensity and colour
- Able to track colours during lighting changes

Picture is cited from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HSL and HSV#/media/File:Hsl-hsv models.svg

Image Processor



- Each pixel is compared to HSV threshold
- Threshold ranges determined by the HSV values of the colour user is tracking

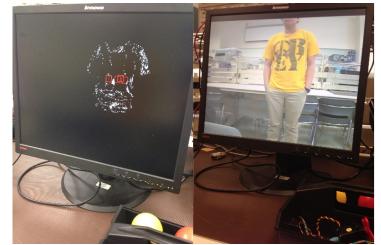
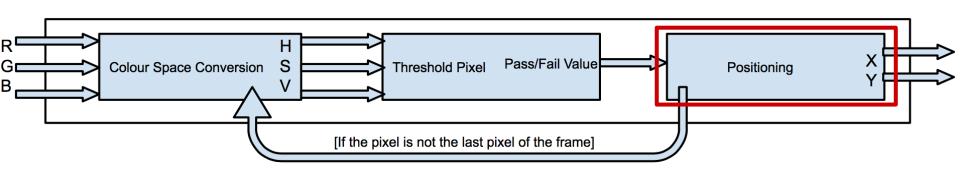


Image Processor



- Stores coordinates of the first and last pixel that passed the threshold
- After last pixel of frame, calculate the centre by averaging the x and y coordinates of the first and last pixel.

$$centre_{x} = \frac{first_{x} + last_{x}}{2}$$

$$centre_{y} = \frac{first_{y} + last_{y}}{2}$$

DEMO

Future Work

- Custom Settings
 - Offsetting tracked object
 - Boundary threshold
- Minimize form factor
 - Accessible, transportable
- Modernize it
 - o HDMI
- Improve tracking algorithm
 - Accuracy
 - Minimize/Ignore noise

