Convolutional neural network-based regression for depth prediction in digital holography

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Abstract—Digital holography enables us to reconstruct objects in three-dimensional space from holograms captured by an imaging device. For the reconstruction, we need to know the depth position of the recorded object in advance. In this study, we propose depth prediction using convolutional neural network (CNN)-based regression. In the previous researches, the depth of an object was estimated through reconstructed images at different depth positions from a hologram using a certain metric that indicates the most focused depth position; however, such a depth search is time-consuming. The CNN of the proposed method can directly predict the depth position with millimeter precision from holograms.

Index Terms—digital holography, convolutional neural network, multiple regression, depth prediction

I. INTRODUCTION

Digital holography is a promising imaging technique because it enables simultaneously measuring the amplitude of objects, and reconstructing objects in three-dimensional (3D) space from holograms captured by an imaging sensor [1]. Digital holography can be applied from microscopic [2] objects (digital holographic microscopy) to macroscopic objects [3]. For measuring the objects in 3D space, we need to know the depth position of the recorded object in advance. Subsequently diffraction is calculated at that position. When using the angular spectrum method [4], the diffraction calculation is performed by the following equation:

\[ u_z(x, y) = \mathcal{F}^{-1}[\mathcal{F}[u_h(x, y)]H(\mu, \nu)], \]

(1)

where \( u_h(x, y) \) and \( u_z(x, y) \) is a hologram and the complex amplitude in the reconstructed plane at depth \( z \), and the operators \( \mathcal{F}[\cdot] \) and \( \mathcal{F}^{-1}[\cdot] \) are the Fourier transform and its inverse transform, respectively. \( H(\mu, \nu) \) is the transfer function of the angular spectrum method [4].

Without knowing the object’s depth position in advance, in previous researches, depth search was performed by performing multiple diffraction calculations for different depth parameters \( z \), and detecting the most focused depth position by certain focusing metrics.

A number of focusing metrics in digital holography have been proposed; e.g., entropy-based methods [5]–[7], a Fourier spectrum-based method [8] and a wavelet-based method [9]. Moreover, the Laplacian, variance, gradient, and Tamura coefficients of the intensity of a reconstructed image have been used as focused metrics [8], [10]. Almost all the methods measure the sharpness of the reconstructed intensity images and judge the sharpest image as the focused image.

The Tamura coefficient is easier to find global solution of depth position compared to the Laplacian, variance, gradient metrics [10]. The coefficient \( C_z \) is calculated as

\[ C_z = \frac{\sigma_I}{I_z}, \]

(2)

where \( I_z = |u_z(x, y)|^2 \) is the reconstructed intensity, \( \sigma_I \) and \( I \) are the standard deviation and average of the intensity, respectively. In this study, we use the Tamura coefficient for comparison to the proposed method. The depth search using this metric is performed as follows: we calculate multiple reconstructed intensities \( I_z \) using the diffraction calculation equation Eq.(1) and varying changing the depth position \( z \) from \( z_1 \) to \( z_2 \) with a step \( \delta z \). Subsequently, we calculate the focused metrics \( C_z \) for the reconstructed intensities. We can find the focused depth position at the maximum \( C_z \). However, such a depth search is time-consuming, because it requires multiple diffraction calculations.

This study proposes depth prediction using convolutional neural network (CNN)-based regression. The CNN in the proposed method can directly predict the depth position with millimeter precision from holograms, without multiple diffraction calculations.

II. PROPOSED METHOD

Recently, deep learning [11] has been intensively investigated and applied in a wide range of research fields. Deep learning is a type of neural network, but it has deeper layers than conventional neural networks. Deep learning has been applied in the holography, for example, classification [12]–[14], complex amplitude restoration in digital holographic microscopy [15], and noise suppression of holographic reconstructed images [16]. Among the many deep neural networks, CNN demonstrates excellent performance in the field of image processing, which comprises convolutional layers, pooling layer, and fully connected layers.

In this study, a continuous depth value is predicted by inputting hologram information to the CNN of the proposed method; i.e., the CNN needs to solve a multiple regression...
problem. The pioneer work of depth prediction in digital holography was presented by T. Pitkäaho, A. Manninen and T. J. Naughton [17], [18]. The difference between the proposed method and those applied in previous studies [17], [18] is that in these studies, the depth prediction was solved as a classification problem, so that the predicted depth becomes a discrete value. On the other hand, since the proposed method solves the problem as a multiple regression, the predicted depth becomes a continuous value.

Figure 1 depicts the CNN structure in the proposed method.

![CNN for predicting focused depth.](image)

The input layer is for inputting hologram information. In this study, we use two types of hologram information, the raw interference pattern and the power spectrum of the hologram, and we will compare the differences in the prediction results later. The convolution layer performs convolution operations with the kernel size of $3 \times 3$ pixels to acquire feature maps of the input information. The dimension of the first convolution layer is $128 \times 128 \times 32$ which denotes an input image size of $128 \times 128$ pixels and 32 different convolution kernels. All the convolution layers are connected to activation functions (ReLU function) and max-pooling layers. The dimensions of the second, third, and forth convolution layers are $64 \times 64 \times 64$, $32 \times 32 \times 128$ and $16 \times 16 \times 256$. The dimension of each fully connected layer is $2,048$. The activation function of the output layer is a linear function (identity function, i.e., $y = x$) because we want to obtain a continuous depth value.

This network is trained by minimizing the loss function, where we use the mean square error (MSE) between the outputs $d_o^{(j)}$ of this network and depth values $d_t^{(j)}$ included in a dataset. The loss function (MSE) is defined as

$$e = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} (d_o^{(j)} - d_t^{(j)})^2,$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

where the subscript $j$ denotes $j$-th data in the dataset and $N$ is the size of the dataset. The CNN is trained using Adam optimizer [11] with the initial learning rate of 0.0005. The learning rate is automatically decreased when the MSE is stagnated.

### III. Results

We prepare two kinds of datasets as illustrated in Fig. 2. The holograms and the power spectra of two objects are presented as examples. The first dataset consists of raw images of holograms and their depth values. We use natural images taken from the dataset “Caltech-256” [19] as original objects of the holograms and calculated the holograms as inline hologram from these natural images. The hologram size is $1,024 \times 1,024$ pixels. The reference light with the wavelength of 633nm is planar wave. Twenty holograms were captured while moving a same original object along the depth direction ranging from 0.05m to 0.25m at random $\delta z$ intervals of [-0.5mm, 0.5mm].

![“Hologram dataset” and “power spectrum dataset.”](image)

Since the holograms were acquired by an image sensor with $1,024 \times 1,024$ pixels, we extracted the $128 \times 128$ pixels in the center of the hologram. The reason for reducing the size of the hologram is to speed up the learning and prediction of the CNN. Accordingly, it helps to simplify the network structure.

The second dataset consists of the power spectra of the holograms and the corresponding depth values, as depicted in Fig. 2. We call the dataset “spectrum dataset.” The power spectra are calculated from the holograms of $1,024 \times 1,024$ pixels, and subsequently, the first quadrant of the calculation result is extracted and further reduced to $128 \times 128$ pixels by linear interpolation.

The hologram and spectrum datasets are prepared for training and validation, respectively. Figure 3 depicts the change of the loss function for the training and validation datasets with increasing epoch. As can be seen, in the hologram dataset, the loss value can only be reduced to 0.00249, which means that the average depth error is about 50 mm. In contrast, the loss value of the spectrum dataset for validation reaches $5.245 \times 10^{-5}$, which means that the average depth error is only 7.2 mm.

Figure 4 depicts a hologram with $1,024 \times 1,024$ pixels to verify the effectiveness of the CNN. The hologram is recorded from an original object at 0.143m. We perform the depth search using the Tamura coefficient (Eq. 2) ranging from 0.05 m to 0.25 m with the depth step of 1 mm. The coefficient plot is shown in Fig. 5. The plot shows the maximum coefficient at
z = 0.147 m; therefore, in this case, the difference between the correct depth and the calculated depth is 4 mm. Figure 6 depicts the reconstructed image of the hologram at z = 0.147 m.

Subsequently, the CNN can be used to predict the depth value of 0.138 m directly from the power spectrum of the hologram, without the depth search. Figure 7 depicts the reconstructed image of the hologram at z = 0.138 m. The difference between the actual depth and the predicted depth is 5 mm.

The calculation time of the CNN is 3.5 ms per one power spectrum on a NVIDIA GeForce 970 GTX GPU; in contrast, the calculation time of the depth search in Fig. 5 is 2,892 ms on the same GPU. Compared with the depth search, the CNN can greatly speed up the calculation of depth prediction. All the hologram calculations were performed using our wave optics library, CWO++ [20].

**IV. Conclusion**

We proposed a CNN-based regression for depth prediction in digital holography. The CNN enables the direct prediction of the depth value with millimeter precision from the power spectrum of a hologram. We used a power spectrum that reduced the size to 1/8 of the original holograms. This reduction helped simplify the CNN network structure. It will be also useful for predicting depth value for larger holograms. In future work, we plan to estimate a depth value with a CNN regression using optically recorded holograms and predict the depth values of holograms of multiple recorded objects at different depth position.
Fig. 7. Reconstructed image of the hologram at $z = 0.138$ m directly predicted by the CNN-based regression. The difference between the correct depth and the predicted depth is 5 mm.

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