# Computational photography & cinematography

(for a lecture specifically devoted to the Stanford Frankencamera, see <a href="http://graphics.stanford.edu/talks/camera20-public-may10-150dpi.pdf">http://graphics.stanford.edu/talks/camera20-public-may10-150dpi.pdf</a>)

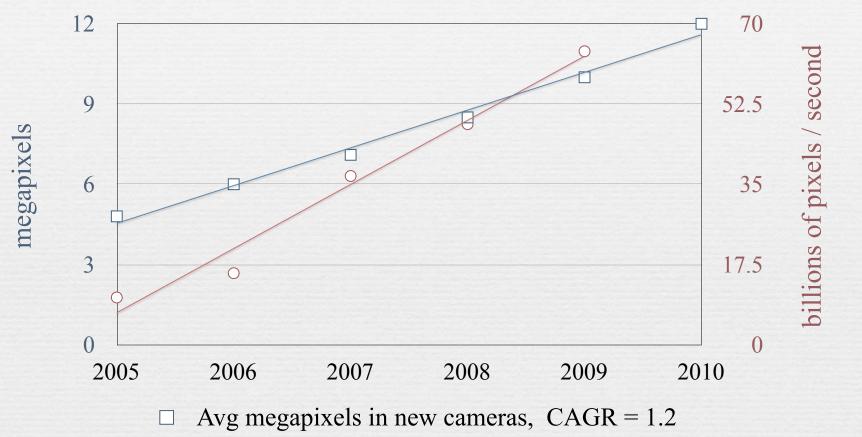


Marc Levoy
Computer Science Department
Stanford University

### The future of digital photography

- ♦ the megapixel wars are over (and it's about time)
- computational photography is the next battleground in the camera industry (it's already starting)

## Premise: available computing power in cameras is rising faster than megapixels



- NVIDIA GTX texture fill rate, CAGR = 1.8
   (CAGR for Moore's law = 1.5)
- → this "headroom" permits more computation per pixel, or more frames per second, or less custom hardware

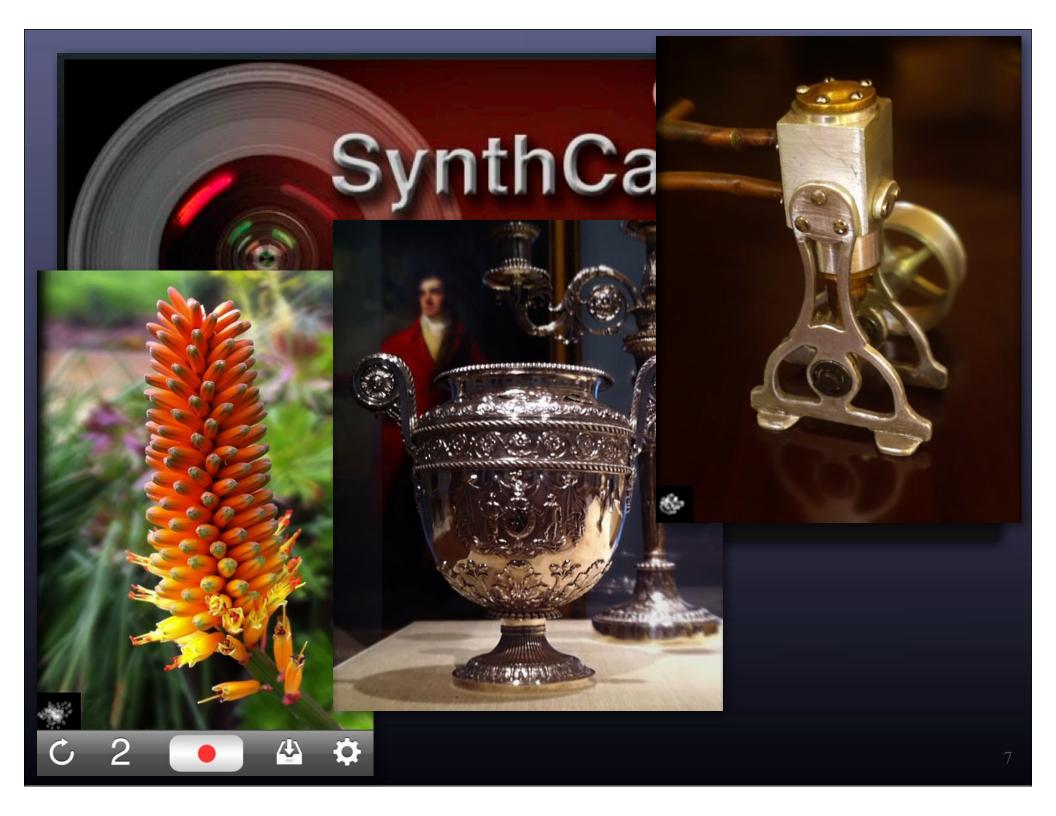
### The future of digital photography

- → the megapixel wars are over (long overdue)
- computational photography is the next battleground in the camera industry (it's already starting)
- ♦ how will these features appear to consumers?
  - standard and invisible
  - standard and visible (and disable-able)
  - aftermarket plugins and apps for your camera

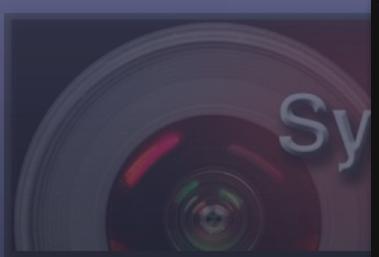
### The future of digital photography

- → the megapixel wars are over (long overdue)
- computational photography is the next battleground in the camera industry (it's already starting)
- ♦ how will these features appear to consumers?
  - standard and invisible
  - standard and visible (and disable-able)
  - aftermarket plugins and apps for your camera
- ◆ traditional camera makers won't get it right
  - they'll bury it on page 120 of the manual (like Scene Modes)
  - the mobile industry will get it right (indie developers will help)









SynthCam is an app for th

Price: \$0.99

#### Video explanation of SynthCam

If you're a first-time user of SynthCam, start with this video. It explains what SynthCam does and how to use it. If the video below doesn't play correctly on this web page, or if you want to view it at full resolution, you can find it at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0zLgCF42Vk">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0zLgCF42Vk</a>. Note that the video is based on version 1.0; the user interface has changed slightly since then.



#### Multi-point focusing in SynthCam Version 2.0

This additional video explains how to use the multi-point focusing capabilities of Version 2.0, and how to use them to create a tilt-shift photograph that makes the world look like a miniature model. If the video doesn't play or if you want to see it at full resolution, go to <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1tLoFVl6a8">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1tLoFVl6a8</a>.



## Film-like Photography with bits

### Computational Photography

#### Computational Camera

#### **Smart Light**

#### Digital Photography

Image processing applied to captured of captured images to produce better images.

Examples:
Interpolation, Filtering,
Enhancement, Dynamic
Range Compression,
Color Management,
Morphing, Hole Filling,
Artistic Image Effects,
Image Compression,
Watermarking.

### Computational Processing

Processing of a set of captured images to create new images.

Examples:
Mosaicing, Matting,
Super-Resolution,
Multi-Exposure HDR,
Light Field from
Mutiple View,
Structure from Motion,
Shape from X.

### Computational Imaging/Optics

Capture of optically coded images and computational decoding to produce new images.

# Examples: Coded Aperture, Optical Tomography, Diaphanography, SA Microscopy, Integral Imaging, Assorted Pixels, Catadioptric Imaging, Holographic Imaging.

### Computational Sensor

Detectors that combine sensing and processing to create smart pixels.

Examples:
Artificial Retina,
Retinex Sensors,
Adaptive Dynamic
Range Sensors,
Edge Detect Chips,
Focus of Expansion
Chips, Motion
Sensors.

### Computational Illumination

Adapting and Controlling Illumination to Create revealing image

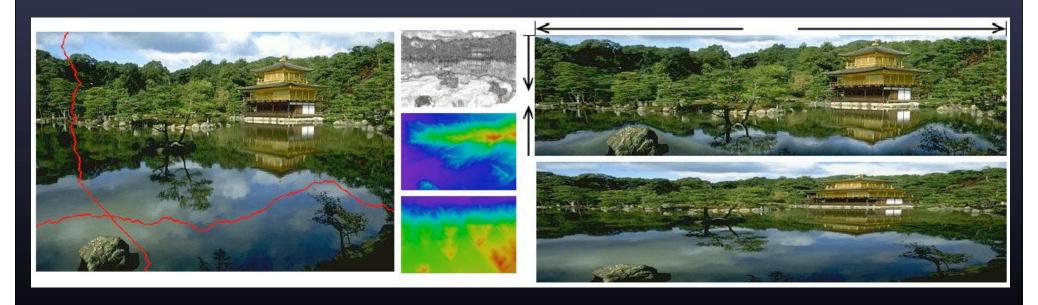
Examples:
Flash/no flash,
Lighting domes,
Multi-flash
for depth edges,
Dual Photos,
Polynomial texture
Maps, 4D light
source



### Content-aware image resizing [Avidan SIGGRAPH 2007]



• <u>to expand</u>: insert pixels along seams that, if removed in order, would yield the original image



### Content-aware image resizing [Avidan SIGGRAPH 2007]

• <u>to compress</u>: remove pixels along lowest-energy seams, ordered using dynamic programming

• to expand: insert pixe

in order, v

application to object removal

NOW AVAILABLE IN PHOTOSHOP!

• extendable to video





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### High dynamic range (HDR) imaging



Too dark

### High dynamic range (HDR) imaging



Too bright

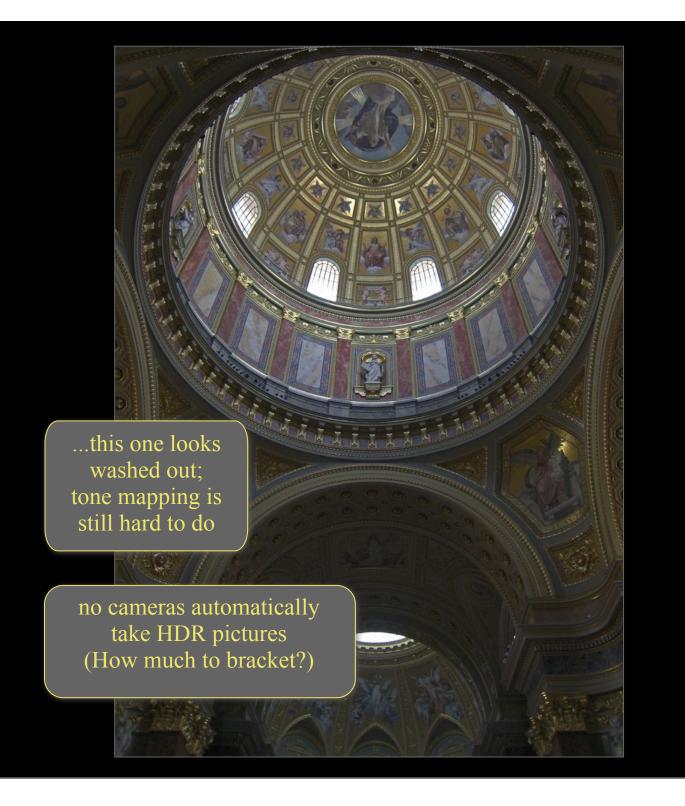
### High dynamic range (HDR) imaging



Tone mapped combination







## Aligning a burst of short-exposure, high-ISO shots using the Casio EX-F1

1/3 sec



2010 Marc Levoy

## Aligning a burst of short-exposure, high-ISO shots using the Casio EX-F1



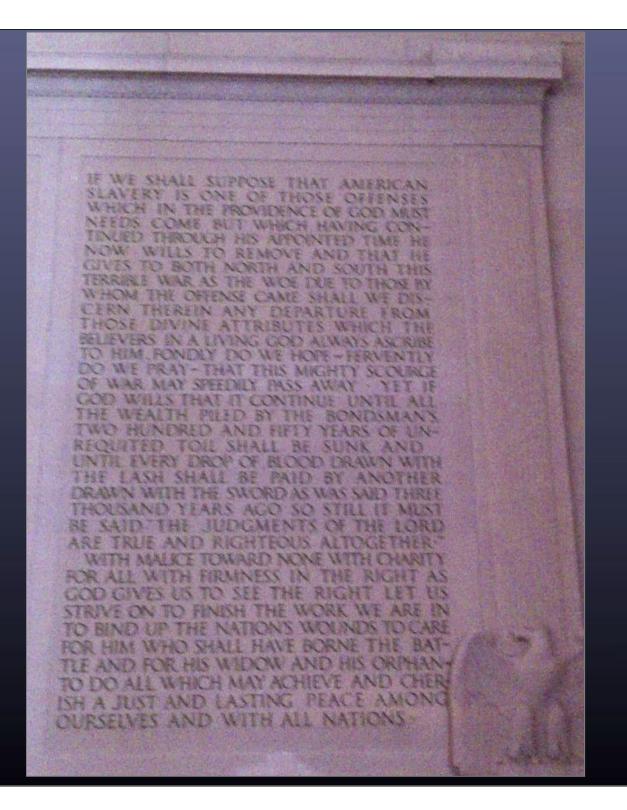
burst at 60fps

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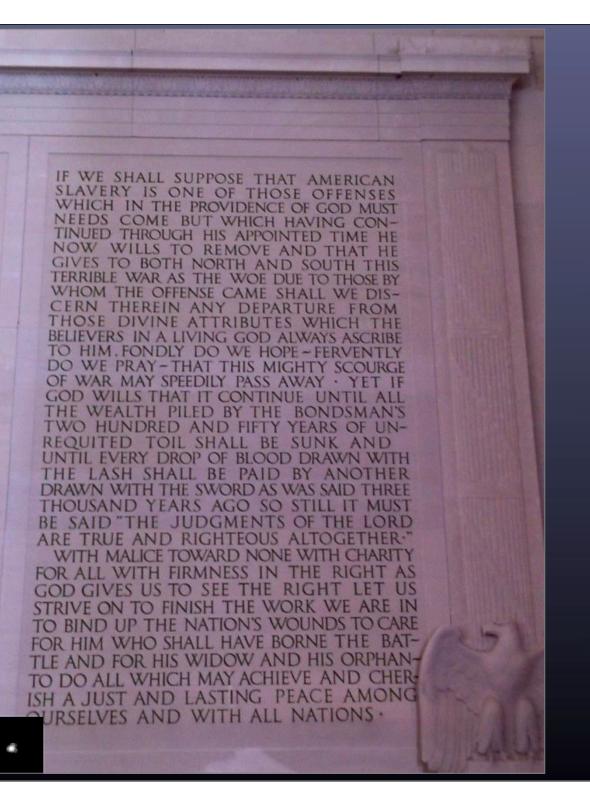


iPhone 4, single HD video frame



SynthCam, align & average ~30 frames

SNR increases as sqrt(# of frames)



## Removing foreground objects by translating the camera

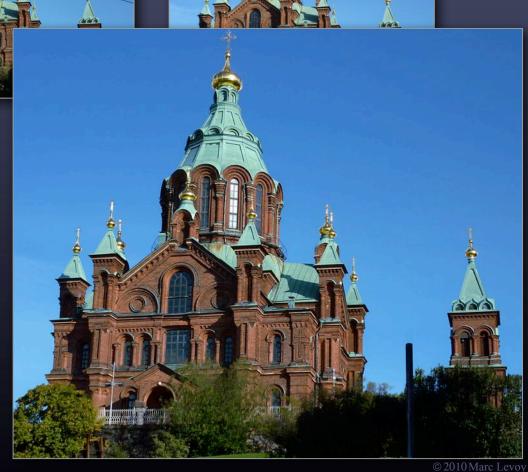








- match histograms
- apply median filter



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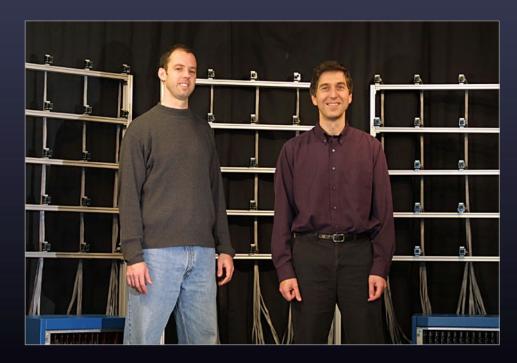


### Stanford Multi-Camera Array [Wilburn SIGGRAPH 2005]

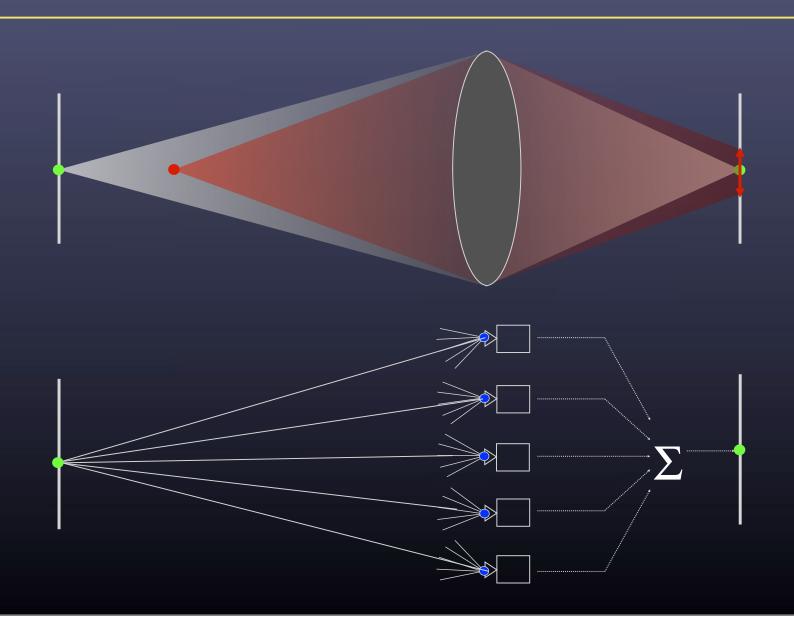
• 640 × 480 pixels × 30 fps × 128 cameras

- synchronized timing
- continuous streaming
- flexible arrangement





### Synthetic aperture photography



## Example using 45 cameras [Vaish CVPR 2004]







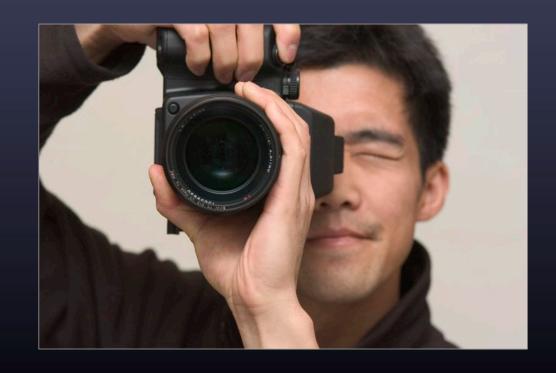


## Light field photography using a handheld plenoptic camera

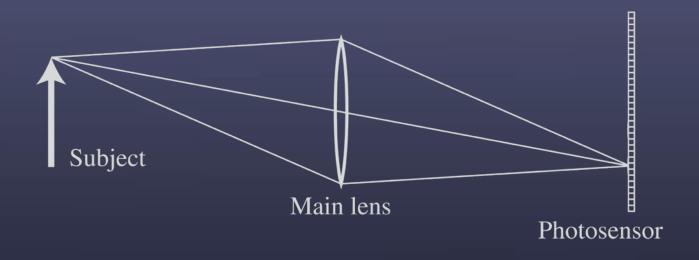
Ren Ng, Marc Levoy, Mathieu Brédif, Gene Duval, Mark Horowitz and Pat Hanrahan

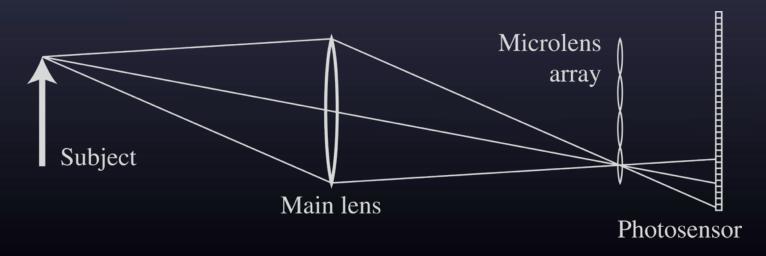
(Proc. SIGGRAPH 2005 and TR 2005-02)





### Light field photography [Ng SIGGRAPH 2005]

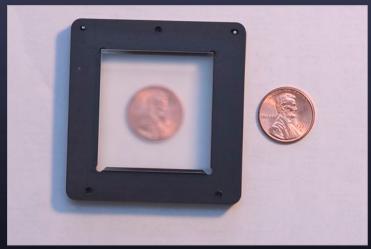




### Prototype camera



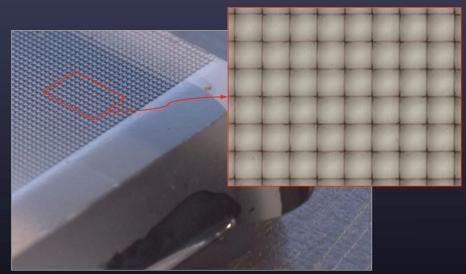
Contax medium format camera



Adaptive Optics microlens array



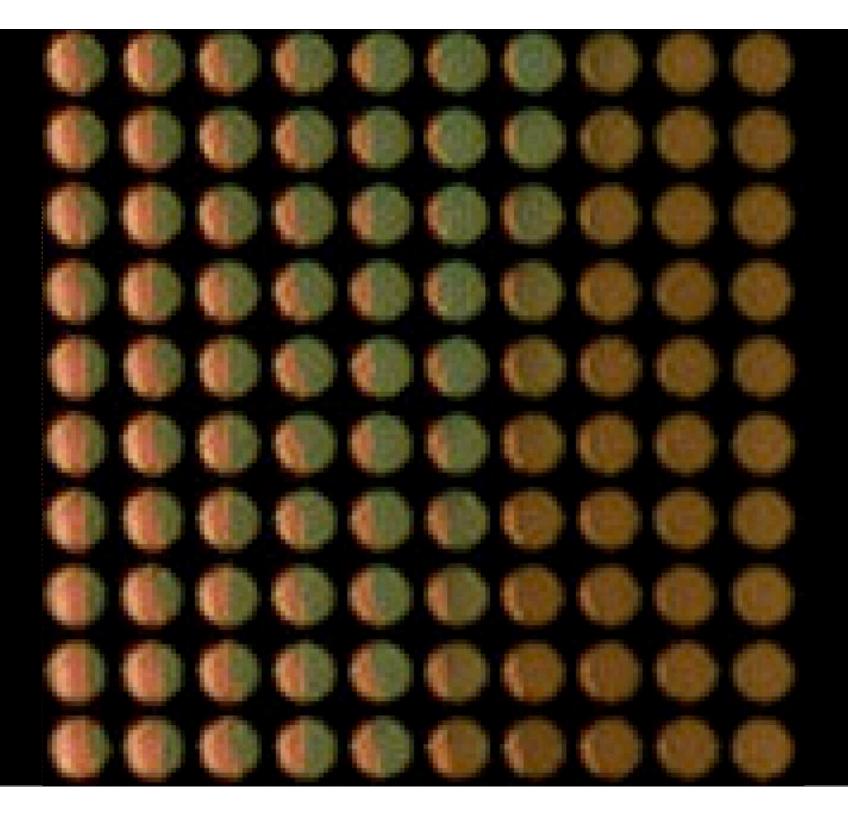
Kodak 16-megapixel sensor



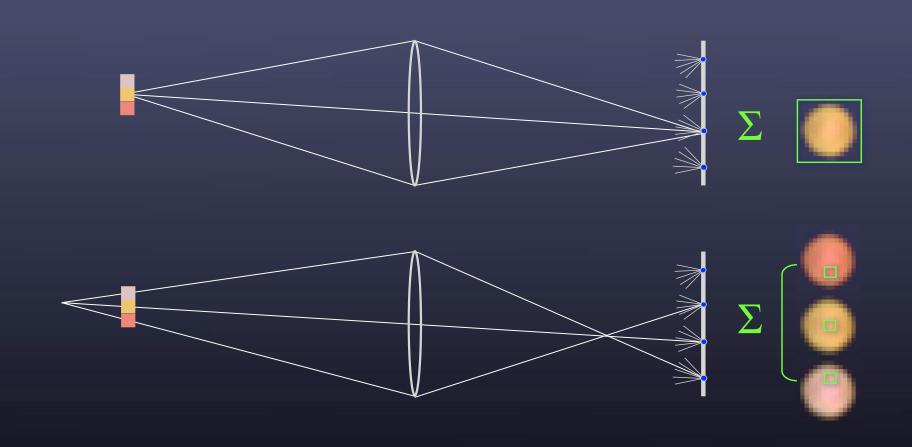
125μ square-sided microlenses

 $4000 \times 4000 \text{ pixels} \div 292 \times 292 \text{ lenses} = 14 \times 14 \text{ pixels per lens}$ 

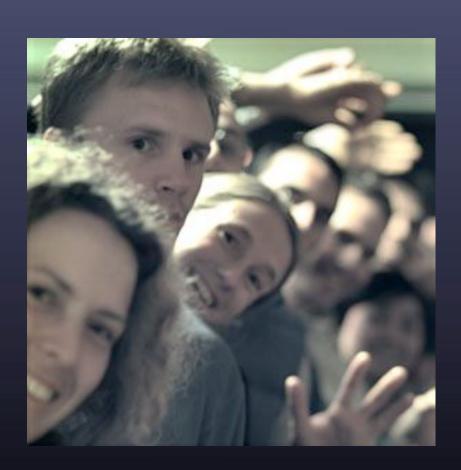




### Digital refocusing

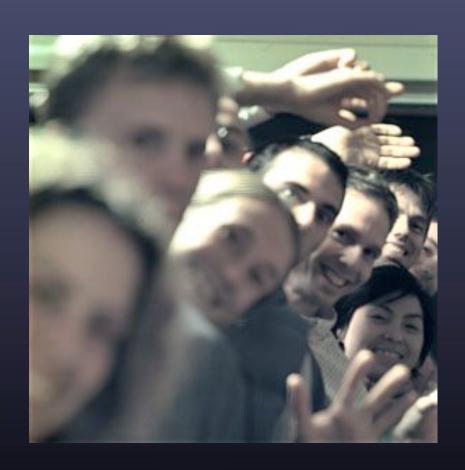




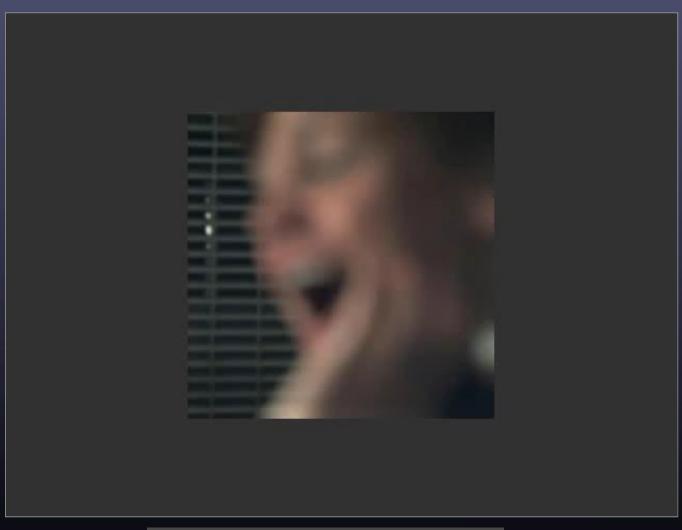








## Refocusing portraits



(movie is available at http://refocusimaging.com)

#### Application to sports photography



#### Application to sports photography



#### Application to sports photography



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## Flash-noflash photography [Agrawal SIGGRAPH 2005]



• compute ambient + flash – features in sum that don't appear in ambient alone (as determined from image gradients) (except where ambient image is nearly black)

#### What's wrong with this picture?

- many of these techniques require modifying the camera
  - -digital refocusing
- some of these techniques could use help from the camera
  - -metering for HDR
- none of these ideas are finding their way into consumer cameras...



# Why have traditional camera makers been so slow to embrace computational photography?

(soapbox mode ON)

- the camera industry is secretive
  - no flow of workers between companies and universities
  - few publications, no open source software community
- camera companies sell hardware, not software
  - many are not comfortable with Internet ecosystems
- some computational techniques are still not robust
  - partly because researchers can't test them in the field

(soapbox mode OFF)

## Camera 2.0

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# Camera 2.0

SONY

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Stanford University





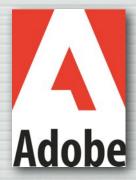
















#### The Stanford Frankencameras



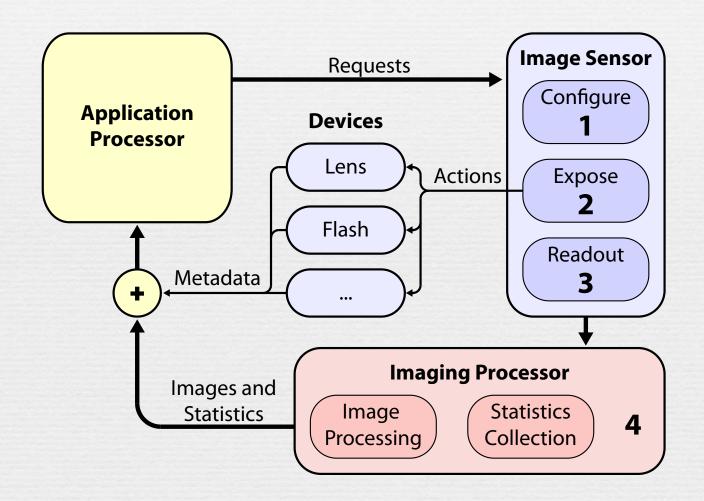
Frankencamera F2



Nokia N900 "F"

- ♦ facilitate research in experimental computational photography
- ♦ for students in computational photography courses worldwide
- proving ground for plugins and apps for future cameras

#### Frankencamera architecture



#### Frankencamera software: the FCAM API

```
Sensor sensor;
Flash flash;
vector<Shot> burst(2);
burst[0].exposure = 1/200.;
burst[1].exposure = 1/30.;
Flash::FireAction fire(&flash);
fire.time = burst[0].exposure/2;
burst[0].actions.insert(fire);
sensor.stream(burst);
while (1) {
  Frame flashFrame =
    sensor.getFrame();
  Frame noflashFrame =
    sensor.getFrame();
```

## Demonstration applications



- Canon 430EX (smaller flash) strobed continuously
- Canon 580EX (larger flash)
   fired once at end of exposure



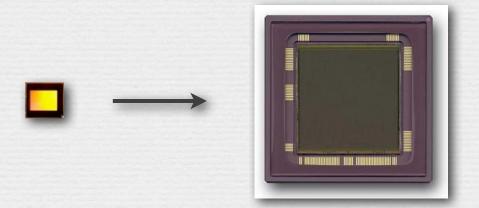
## Short-term roadmap

- → distribution to hobbyists, 3<sup>rd</sup> party developers
  - probably only N900s or equiv.
  - plugins and apps

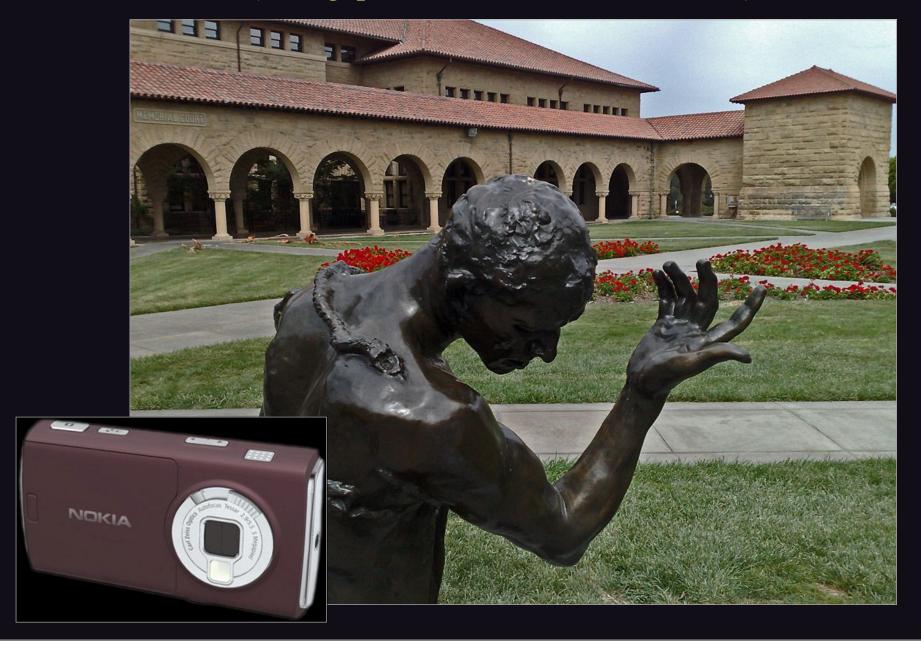
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- → distribution to hobbyists, 3<sup>rd</sup> party developers
  - probably only N900s or equiv.
  - plugins and apps
- distribution to researchers and students
  - Frankencamera F3 + N900s + courseware
  - bootstrap open-source community



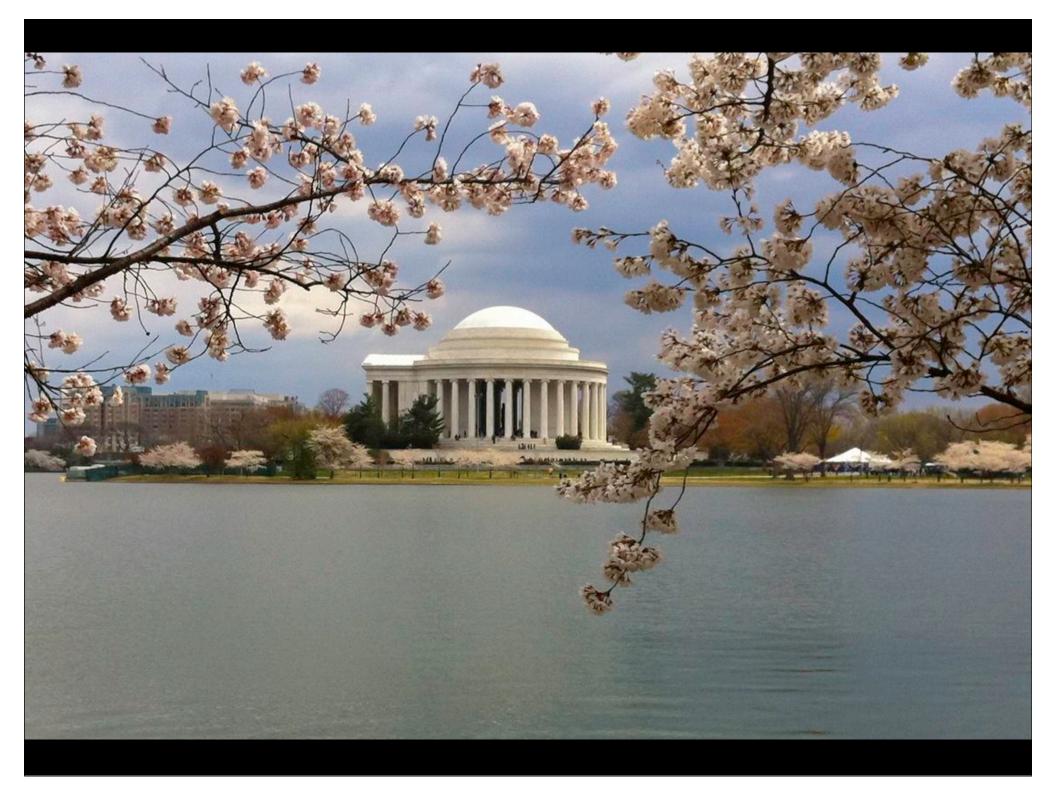


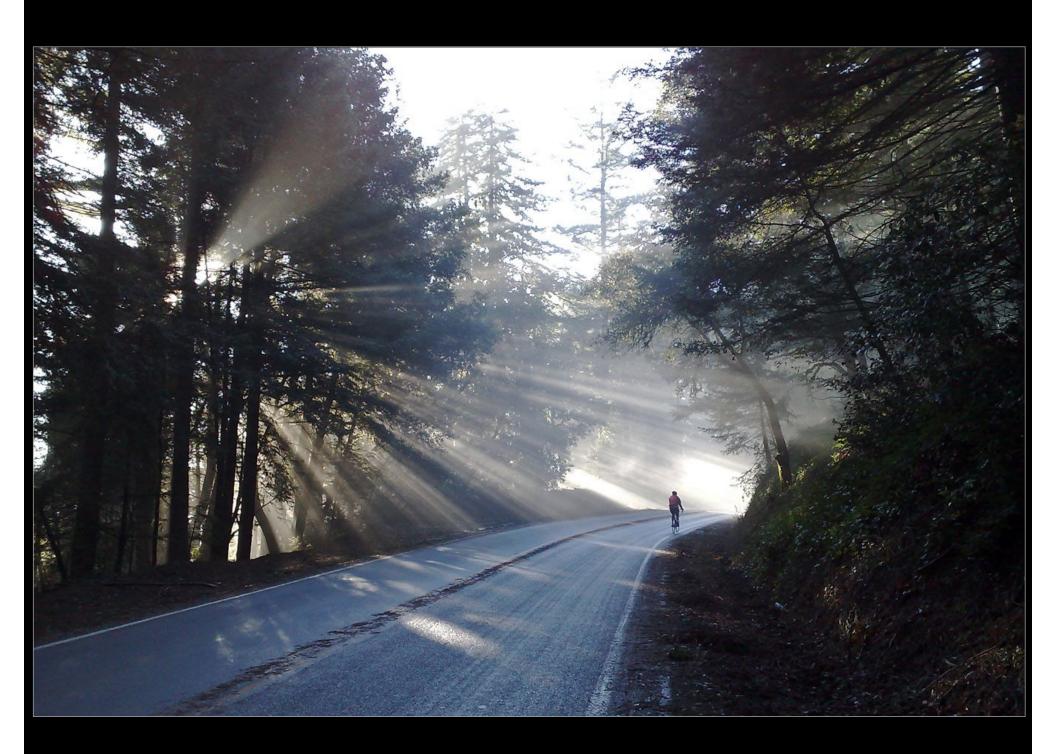
# Unretouched pictures from Nokia N95 (5 megapixels, Zeiss lens, auto-focus)



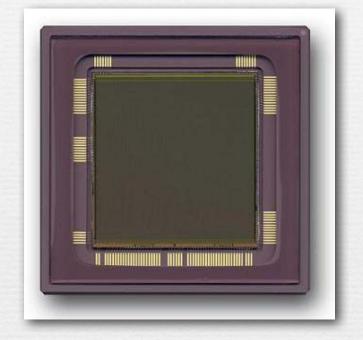








#### Sensors for our Frankencameras



#### Micron MT9001

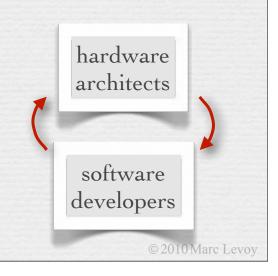
- 5 megapixel
- cell phone quality
- \$150

#### Cypress LUPA 4000

- \$1500
- DSLR quality
- arbitrary ROIs and non-destructive readout

## Short-term roadmap

- ♦ distribution to hobbyists, 3<sup>rd</sup> party developers
  - probably only N900s or equiv.
  - plugins and apps
- distribution to researchers and students
  - courseware + Frankencameras/N900s
  - bootstrap open-source community
- ♦ wish list for makers of camera hardware
  - per-frame resolution switching at video rate
  - fast path into GPU texture memory
  - hardware feature detector



## Long-term prospects

- ♦ high-speed burst-mode photography
  - all still cameras should capture at (up to) 500 fps
  - capture while aiming the camera no shutter half-press
  - frameless photography ROIs, MOIs ("M" = Moment)

#### Time-Constrained Photography

Samuel W. Hasinoff 1.2

Kiriakos N. Kutulakos <sup>2</sup> Frédo Durand <sup>1</sup>

MIT CSAIL <sup>2</sup> University of Toronto

William T. Freeman

#### Abstract

Capturing multiple photon at different focus settings, is a powerful approach for reducing optical blue but how may photon should we capture within a fixed time budget? We develop a framework to analyze optimal capture strategies bulancing, the tradeoff between defocus and sensor notes, incorporating uncertainty in resolving secue and sensor notes, incorporating uncertainty in resolving secue and sensor home Carlo intergation were depth to derive optimal capture strategies for different cumera designs, under a wide range of photosopphia centarios. We also derive an ewerper bound on how well spatial frequencies can be preserved over the depth of field. Our results shows that by continuing the optimal number of photos, a standard cumera comparational cameras, in all but the most demanding of cases. An advise performance at the level of more complex computational cameras, in all but the most demanding of specifically designed to improve one-shot performance, generally benefit from capturing multiple photos as well.

#### 1. Introduction

Recent years have seen many proposals for tightly integrating sensing, optics and computation in order to extend the capabilities of the traditional camera. Already, numerous "computational camera" designs exist for capturing photos with reduced motions but 130, 201, post-capture refocusing capabilities [17, 33, 34]. All modeps these designs differ in many respects, they all adhere to the principle of oneshot capture; the camera records a single image with a DOF constrained by the optics and an exposure time constrained by the available time badget (or by pixel saturation).

In this paper we show that one-shot capture is usually nor optimal for extended-DOF photography, i.e., it does not produce a well-focused image with the highest signal-tonics ratio (SNR) for a desired DOF and time budget. Moreover, we show that this result applies to standard and computational cameras [4, 23, 17, 19] alike: image quality in both cases can often be improved by capturing many shots within a given time budget, rather than just one.

Our analysis is based on a key insight illustrated in Fig. 1: by spreading the time budget across several "underexposed" shots with different focus settings we can obtain reduced worst-case blur, at the expense of higher sensor noise. In particular, read noise leads to a penalty for each photo we capture, but Poisson-distributed photon noise does not penalize multiple shots. Since photon noise does not penalize multiple shots. Since photon noise does





Figure 1. The time-slice advantage for a desired DOF and time badget 7. One-shot capture gives the physicat timge, but depths tag from the lens' DOF (red rectangle) are barred significantly. A standard focal stack "spans" the desired DOF photos are extracted less but every depth is effectively blue free in one of them. In this way, the number of botos acts as a balancing factor between deceptours and worst-case blux. When photon noise dominates, the optimis-SNE capture strategy tills even further to the right.

read noise under normal photographic conditions, the overall SNR usually tips in favor of splitting the time budget. We call this the time-slice advantage. By contrast, single-shot photography is only optimal for very limited time budgets, i.e., when read noise becomes significant, or for cameras with high per-shot overhead.

In this paper we provide a detailed study of the time-slice advantage and use if for optimal time-constrained photography—creating an all-in-focus image with the highest SNR for a given camera design, time budget, target DOF, and average scene brightness. Working from first principles, we formulate all-in-focus photography as a frequency-based restoration problem that takes noisy and optically-blurred photos as input, and outputs a single, all-in-focus image for the target DOF. This leads to three basic mestions.

- camera-specific optimal time allocation: given a camera's noise model and optical transfer function [29], how should we allocate the time budget to maximize the expected SNR of the all-in-focus image?
- optics-independent performance bound: what is the maximum attainable expected SNR for a given sensor across all possible optical transfer functions?
- camera performance characterization: how do the existing extended-DOF camera designs compare in terms of their attainable expected SNR, and how do they fare against the traditional camera?

Our answer to these questions can be viewed as complementing and generalizing several lines of recent work.

incuming and generating several more or receive more Closest to our work, Hasinoff and Kutulakos [10] studied a related problem in extended-DOF photography: minimizing the time it takes to capture a given DOF while maintaining ideal exposure. Their work considers multiple photos, but it ignores the effect of noise and uses a basic view of

#### Noise-Optimal Capture for High Dynamic Range Photography

Samuel W, Hasinoff Frédo Durand William T. Freeman Massachusetts Institute of Technology Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory

#### Abstract

Taking multiple exposures is a well-established approach both for capturing high dynamic range (IIDB) scenes and for noise reduction. But what is the optimal set of photos to capture? The typical approach to HDR capture uses a set of photos with geometrically-spaced exposure times, at set of photos with geometrically-spaced exposure times, at set of photos with geometrically-spaced exposure times, at set of spot 100 or 200. By contrast, we show that the capture sequence with optimal vorst-cuts performance, in general, uses much higher and variable ISO settings, and spends longer capturing the dark parts of the cross. Based on a detailed model of mice, we show that method lets as achieve higher worst-case SNR in the same capture time (for some cameras, up to 10 dB improsement in the darker rejoins), or much faster capture for the same minimum acceptable level of SNR. Our experiments demonstrate this advantage for both real and synthetic sexenes.

#### 1. Introduction

Taking multiple exposures is an effective solution to extend dynamic range and reduce noise in photographs. However, it raises a basic question: what should the set of exposures be? Most users rely on a geometric progression where the exposure times are spaced by factors of 2 or 4 with the number of images set to cover the range. The camera sensitivity (ISO) is usually fixed to the nominal value (typically 100 or 200) to minimize noise. Given that noise is the main factor that limits dynamic range in the dark range of values, it is critical to understand how noise can be minimized in high dynamic range (HDR) imaging. In this paper, we understake a systematic study of noise and reconstruction in HDR imaging and compute the optimal exposure sequence as a function of camera and secen characteristics.

We present a model that predicts signal-to-noise ratio at all intensity levels and allows us to optimize the set of exposures to minimize worst-case SNR given a time budget, or to achieve a given minimum SNR in the fastest time. To do this, we use a detailed model of camera noise that takes into account photon noise, as well as additive noise before and after the ISO gain. This allows us to ontimize all toand after the ISO gain. This allows us to ontimize all torameters of an exposure sequence, and we show that this reduces to solving a mixed integer programming problem. In particular, we show that, contrary to suggested practice (e.g., [5]), using high ISO values is desirable and can enable significant gains in signal-to-noise ratio.

The most important feature of our noise model is its explicit decomposition of additive noise into pre- and postamplifier sources (Fig. 1), which constitutes the basis for the high ISO advantage. The same model has been used in several unpublished studies-characterizing the noise performance of digital SLR cameras [7, 20], supported by extensive empirical validation. Although all the components in our model are well-established, previous treatments of noise in the vision literature [1, 18] do not model the dependence of noise on ISO setting (£c., sensor specifications).

To the best of our knowledge, varying the ISO setting has not previously been exploited to optimize SNR for high dynamic range capture. However, in the much simpler context of single-shot photography, the expose to the right technique [15, 30] considers the ISO setting to optimize SNR. This technique advocates using the lowest ISO setting possible, but increasing ISO when the exposure time is tightly constrained. Another related idea is the dual-amplifier senor proposed by Martinec, which would capture exposures at ISO 100 and 1600 simultaneously and then combine them to extend dynamic range [30]. Our method can be thought of as formalizing these ideas, generalizing them to a multi-shot setting, and showing how to optimize the capture sequence for a given camera and scene.

Most previous work in HDR imaging has focused on calibrating the response curve of the sensor [8, 22], merging the input images [86, 3], and tone mapping the merged HDR result [17, 9]. Surprisingly little attention, however, has been paid to the capture strategy itself, which is the focus of this paper. One notable exception is a method that computes the optimal set of exposure times to reduce quantization in the merged HDR result [10]. This works by effectively dithering the exposure levels, but assumes that exposure times can be controlled arbitrarily, and does not incorporate a detailed model of noise. Another recent method [4] showed how to minimize the number of photos spanning a given dynamic range, but takes a simplified geometric view of dynamic range, without any noise model.

#### Denoising vs. Deblurring: HDR Imaging Techniques Using Moving Cameras

Li Zhang Alok Deshpande Xin Chen University of Wisconsin, Madison ACM

#### Abstract

New cameras such as the Canon EOS TD and Phinteger Grasshapper have 14-bit sensors. We present a theoretical analysis and a practical approach that exploit these new cameras with high-resolation quantization for reliable HDB imaging from a moving camera. Specifically, we propose a unified probabilistic formalation that allows us to analytically compare two IDBR imaging alternatives: (1) debarring a single barry hat clean image and (2) demonsting a sequence of sharp but noisy images. By analyzing the uncertainty in the estimation of the HDBR image, we conclude that multi-image denoising offers a more reliable solution. Our theoretical analysis assumest translational motion and spatially-invariant blue. For practice, we propose an approach that combines optical flow and image denoising algorithms for IDBR images, which enables capturing sharp HDR images tusing hundheld cumeras does not complete a center with large depth variation. Quantitative of complete a center with large depth variation.

#### 1. Introduction

High Dynamic Range (HDR) Imaging has been an active opic in vision and graphics in the last decade. Debevec and Malik [11] developed the widely-used approach that combines multiple photos with different exposure to create an HDR image. This approach is well suited to early digital cameras, which often have 8-bit Analog-to-Digial conversion (ADC). Today, many consumer SLRs or machine vision cameras have higher resolution ADC: for example, Camon BOS 7D and Point Grey Grasshopper have 14-bit ADC, and many others have at least 12-bit ADC. In this paper, we present an effective approach that exploits new cameras with high-resolution ADC to widen the operating range of HDR imaging.

to whice the operating range of HJM imaging.

The inconvenient requirement of [1-4] is that the camera must remain still during the image acquisition and the secure must be state. The requirements of a still camera and scene are due to the need for long-exposure shots to record dark image regions accumiely. Any notion of the camera or of the region of the camera or of the state of the region of the camera or of the not be simply relieved by using a 14-bit sensor, because the look principle of the region of the simply relieved by using a 14-bit sensor, because the cover hist of reach using other through the noise accurately.

lower bits of each pixel only encode the noise accurately. To capture a good HDR image in a lexible setting, without assuming stationary scenes or cameras, we have to either accumulate more photons using a long exposure and later remove the motion bits, or accumulate less photons using a short exposure and later remove the noise. Since the second approxitables less time, within a fixed time budget, we can take more images for better noise reduction. In this paper, we present a probabilistic formulation that allows us to compare which of denoising and debluring can produce better HDR images. Specifically, we compare the following HDR imaging choices: • Deblurring a single blurry but clean image captured with a long exposure time  $\Delta$  and a low ISO setting;

 Denoising a series of sharp but noisy images, each captured with a high ISO, together captured within time A.
 We note that a high-resolution ADC is exsential for both the procedures to succeed, in particular for denoising, because the noise must be digitized accurately to be averaged out among the multiple frames. Our contributions include:

- We propose a novel probability formulation that unifies both single-image deblurring and multi-image denoising.
   These two problems are formulated differently in the literature; comparing their solutions analytically is difficult.
- erature; comparing their solutions analytically is difficult.

  Using variational inference with motion as hidden variables, we derive the approximate uncertainty in the estimation of HDR images analytically for both imaging procedures. Our conclusion is that denoising is a better approach for HDR imaging.
- To put our analytical insight to practical use, we present a novel approach that combines existing optical flow and an open demoisting techniques, of the DEM manages. The put of the

Large depth-of-field, high dynamic range, and small motion but are three of the major goals of computational camenic not but are three of the major goals of computational camerescarch, Our work shows that, if a camera has high-resolution ADC, high frame rare, and high BO, it is possible to obtaine all the three goals through computation without resorting to specialized optical designs. This feature marks our apprecialized specialized designs are short means that the state of the suitable to micro-cameras with simple optics, such as those found in cellphones or used in performing suggestes.

#### . Related Work

Our work is related to the recent research combining multiple images of different exposure to produce a sharp and clean image. Yhan et al. [37] and Tioo and Velvitainen [38] combined a noisy and blurry image pair, and Agrawal et al. [3] combined multiple blurry image with different exposure; all this research is limited to spatially-invariant blurs.

this research is limited to spatially-invariant blur.

One approach to address this limitation is to use video denoising techniques on multiple noisy images. In particular, our work is inspired by Boracchi and Foi [9], who combined a state-of-beart video denoising method, VBMSD [13], and homography-based alignment for multi-frame denoising. They compared debuting a noisy and blurry image pair and

## Long-term prospects

- high-speed burst-mode photography
  - all still cameras should capture at 500 fps
  - capture while aiming the camera no shutter half-press
  - frameless photography ROIs, MOIs ("M" = Moment)
- → computational videography & cinematography
  - stereo, view interpolation, free-viewpoint video
  - stabilization

#### 3D video stabilization

[Agarwala 2011]





(http://web.cecs.pdx.edu/~fliu/project/subspace\_stabilization/demo.mp4)

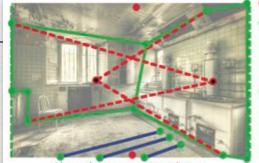
## Long-term prospects

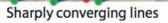
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  - stereo, view interpolation, free-viewpoint video
  - stabilization
  - extending computational photography to video
    - HDR, EDoF, plenoptic refocusing
    - retargeting (a.k.a. content-aware image resizing)
    - perspective manipulation

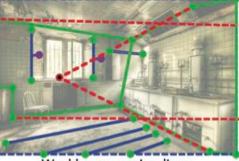
Image warps for Artistic Perspective Manipulation

[Carroll SIGGRAPH 2010]

extendable to video?







Weakly converging lines



Input



Result: Sharply converging lines



Result: Weakly converging lines

- specify vanishing points and line constraints manually
- image is warped to optimally satisfy all constraints
- resulting image is not a correct linear perspective

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    - retargeting (a.k.a. content-aware image resizing)
    - perspective manipulation
  - style transfer, non-photorealistic video

## The HDR "look"



(Trey Ratcliff, http://www.stuckincustoms.com)

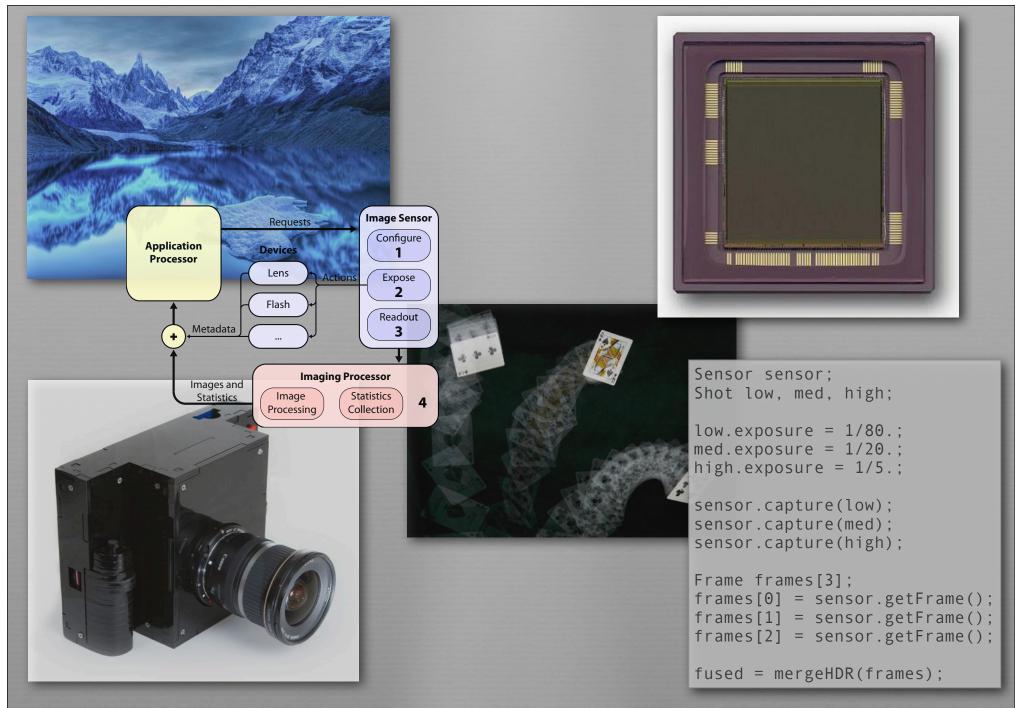
## The HDR "look"



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## The HDR "look"





http://graphics.stanford.edu/projects/camera-2.0/