

引用格式: FENG Qibin, ZHANG Xin, ZHENG Chen, et al. CNN-based Method for Dual-layer Liquid Crystal Displays[J]. Acta Photonica Sinica, 2023, 52(8):0823004
冯奇斌,张新,郑琛,等.基于卷积神经网络的双层液晶显示方法[J].光子学报,2023,52(8):0823004

基于卷积神经网络的双层液晶显示方法

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摘要: 双层液晶显示器采用两层液晶面板叠加显示,可大幅提高对比度,但是两层液晶面板之间存在一定间距,在离轴观看时会出现伪影现象。目前针对该问题的处理方法无法兼顾计算时间与显示质量。将卷积神经网络用于双层液晶显示,使用卷积神经网络对输入图像进行处理,并构建残差块来提升输出图像的质量,输出的两幅图像分别对应双层液晶显示器的两层液晶面板,然后将输出的两幅图像在不同视角下重建,并从计算时间和显示质量上与其他方法进行对比。仿真结果表明,该方法与基于模糊处理的算法相比,在计算时间和显示质量上均得到了提升;与基于视角补偿的算法相比,在保证显示质量的同时大大减小了计算时间。本文方法在具有较高显示质量的同时大大缩短了计算时间,更具实际应用性。

关键词: 双层液晶显示;伪影;卷积神经网络;显示质量;计算时间

中图分类号: TN27

文献标识码: A

doi: 10.3788/gzxb20235208.0823004

0 引言

液晶显示^[1] (Liquid Crystal Display, LCD) 凭借轻薄、功耗低和稳定性强等优点,广泛应用于消费电子、通讯设备、工业控制和医疗设备等领域。液晶面板显示黑场时无法完全阻挡来自背光单元的光线,导致对比度受限。动态调光技术^[2] 根据显示图像的内容对背光亮度和图像像素进行动态调节,能够有效提高对比度。目前动态调光技术主要分为全局调光技术^[3] 和区域调光技术^[4-5]。理论上,背光分区数量越多,对比度越高,但背光分区的数量通常远小于液晶面板像素数量,导致该技术无法达到像素级调光。随着发光二极管 (Light Emitting Diode, LED) 技术的发展,Mini-LED 背光技术可实现更多分区以及更加准确的区域控光,但分区越多,生产成本也越高^[6-7]。

另一种提高对比度的技术是双层液晶显示。双层液晶显示器在背光源和液晶面板之间加入一块液晶面板用于控制背光^[8-9],使显示器获得像素级的调光能力。但双层液晶显示器的两层液晶面板采用光学胶进行贴合,它们之间存在物理间隔,离轴观看屏幕时会因像素错位导致伪影现象产生。为了提高离轴观看时的显示质量,需要对输入图像进行处理以加载到两块液晶面板上。常用方法是对背光侧液晶面板的图像进行模糊处理,并对前液晶面板进行像素补偿^[10-12],该方法减轻了像素偏移现象,但模糊了图像的细节部分,导致显示效果不佳。为此,借助光场成像^[13-14]的原理文献^[15]提出了视角补偿算法,该算法建立一个映射矩阵,记录光线的位置信息,随后通过优化算法得到两幅图像,以此保证不同视角下的重建图像与原图像的误差最小。该算法虽然获得了较高的显示质量,但处理时间也相对较长,不能满足实际应用需求。

为了在保证显示质量的同时缩短处理时间,将卷积神经网络 (Convolutional Neural Network, CNN)^[16-18] 用于双层液晶显示。深度学习是当今图像处理领域的主流技术,可通过分层网络得到不同的特征信息。CNN 作为深度学习的一种结构,能够在短时间内自动进行特征提取。本文使用 CNN 对原始图像进行处理,

基金项目:安徽省科技重大专项 (No. 202203a05020028)

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收稿日期:2022-12-26;录用日期:2023-03-13

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得到分别对应于前后两层液晶面板的两幅图像,以期保证显示质量同时缩短处理时间,增加方法的实际应用性。

1 双层液晶显示原理与处理方法

双层液晶显示器主要由三部分构成,如图1所示,分别是背光模块、前液晶面板和后液晶面板,前后两层液晶面板之间使用光学胶(Optically Clear Adhesive, OCA)进行绑定。背光模块(Backlight)发出的光线进入液晶面板1(LC Panel-1),偏光片1(Polarizer-1)将光线转换为偏振光,薄膜晶体管(Thin Film Transistor, TFT)基板1(TFT-1)通过控制子像素电压的大小来调节液晶层1(LC-1)的透过率,经液晶电调制后的偏振光通过玻璃基板(Glass substrate)进行滤光,再到偏光片2(Polarizer-2)进行解析。为了提高双层液晶显示器的透过率进而降低对背光最高亮度的要求,玻璃基板1通常没有彩色滤色膜和黑矩阵。同理,光线穿过液晶面板1后进入液晶面板2,液晶面板2带有彩色滤色膜和黑矩阵,调制后显示彩色图像。

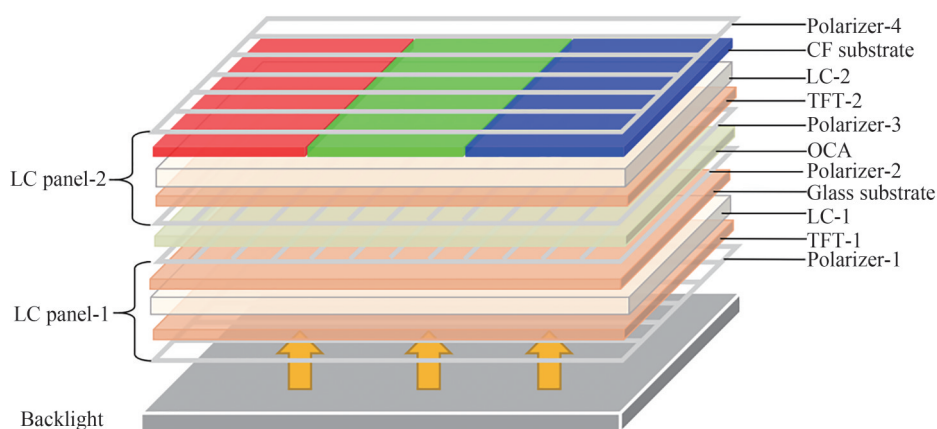


图1 双层液晶显示器示意
Fig.1 Schematic of a dual-layer LCD

如图2,双层液晶显示器工作时,前后液晶面板都需要显示图像,如果将输入图像不经处理直接送入前后液晶面板(前后液晶面板显示相同图像),倾斜观看屏幕时,LC Panel-1和LC Panel-2的对应像素发生错位,导致伪影现象。

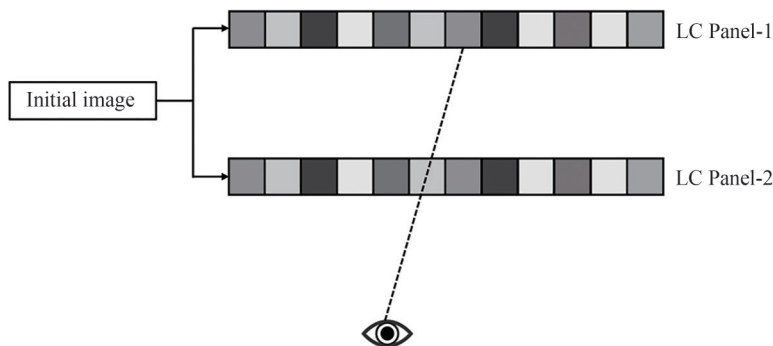


图2 像素错位现象
Fig.2 Pixel mismatch

1.1 模糊处理算法

为了改善伪影现象,模糊处理算法将送入LC Panel-1的图像进行模糊处理。如图3所示,其中使用了两个具有相同尺寸、不同分辨率的面板,前液晶面板的分辨率大于后液晶面板。假设前后液晶面板之间的距离为0.11 cm,当LC Panel-1的像素尺寸是LC Panel-2的2倍时,倾斜观看的角度小于 34° 时,光线1落在与LC Panel-2相对应的像素上,当倾斜观看的角度超过 34° 时,光线2落在与LC Panel-2相对应像素的相邻像

素上,形成伪影;同理,当LC Panel-1的像素尺寸是LC Panel-2的4倍时,倾斜观看的角度最大为 56° ,超过 56° 会出现伪影。在一定角度内,观察者在两个角度所观察到的该点显示画面一致,减轻了伪影现象。该算法相当于模糊了后液晶面板上的显示图像,模糊程度越大,像素偏移导致的亮度变化越不明显,越能减轻在大视角下的伪影现象。但模糊处理导致后液晶面板的调光能力下降,容易造成图像细节模糊,影响显示质量,因此该方法难以平衡观看视角与显示质量之间的关系。

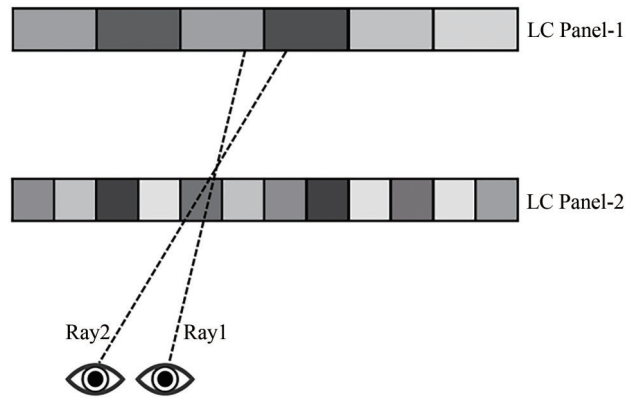


图3 模糊处理与视角的关系

Fig.3 Relationship between fuzzy processing and viewing angles

1.2 视角补偿算法

为了平衡观看视角与显示质量之间的关系,有学者提出了视角补偿算法^[15]。该算法根据已知图像求解液晶像素的透过率,对于双层液晶显示器,背光模组发出的光线需穿过两层液晶面板到达人眼,如图4(a),光线穿过LC Panel-1上的 a 点,再穿过LC Panel-2上的 b 点到达人眼。因此,该算法建立了一个映射矩阵来记录光线的位置信息,通过优化算法将图像信息分解为两层液晶对应的像素透过率,使不同视角下的重建图像与原图像之间的误差平方和最小。视角补偿算法能有效改善伪影现象,平衡观看视角与显示质量之间的关系,但计算时间长,很难应用于实际的双层液晶显示产品中。

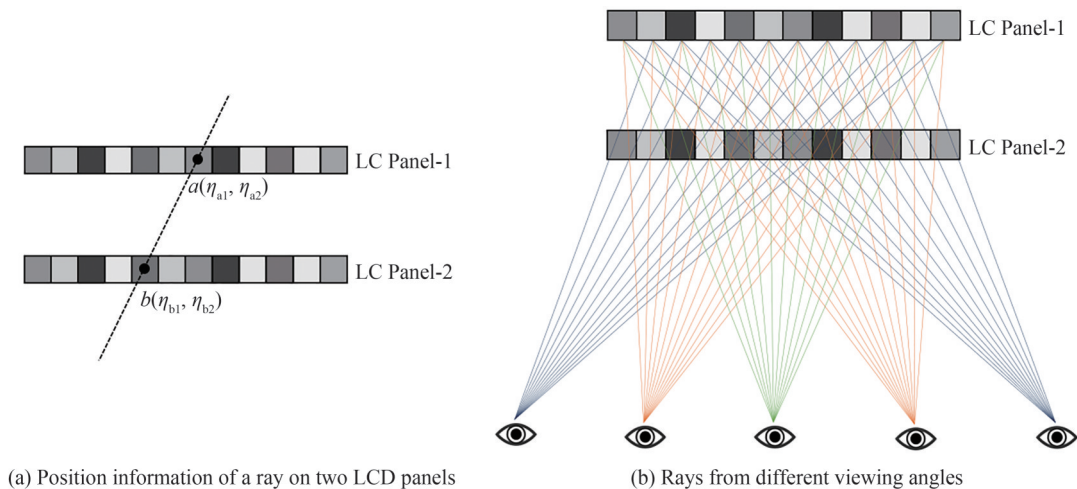


图4 光线位置示意

Fig.4 Schematic of ray position

2 用于双层液晶显示的CNN

2.1 网络结构

本文将CNN用于双层液晶显示,希望在保证显示质量的同时减小计算时间,以提升实际应用性。网络结构如图5,包括预处理、特征提取和重建三部分。对于2D显示器,最理想的处理效果是在任何视角下看到

的图像都是一样的,因此在预处理部分将输入图像复制成 N 份后再送入网络,分别对应所选取的 N 个不同视角。

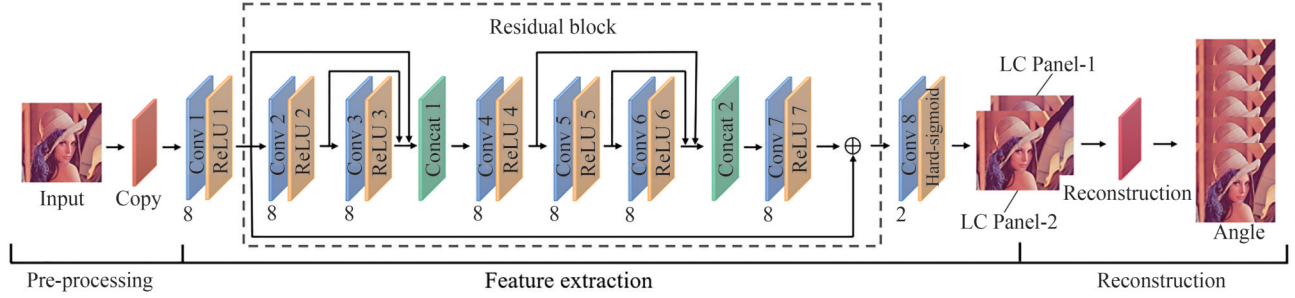


图5 所提网络结构

Fig.5 Proposed network structure

特征提取部分包括8个卷积层,其中第四和第八个卷积层的卷积核大小为 1×1 ,其他卷积层的卷积核大小为 3×3 。在每个卷积层后接入激活函数,前七个卷积层后接入的非线性激活函数均为修正线性单元函数 (Rectified Linear Unit, ReLU),ReLU 能够提高网络的非线性能力,简化训练过程。第一个卷积层的输入通道为 N ,分别对应所选取的 N 个不同视角。为保留图像的浅层特征,网络在 Concat1 层通过两个快捷连接来对前三个卷积层的特征进行融合;为了去除冗余特征,加快计算速度,第四个卷积层采用 1×1 的卷积核进行降维,减少了通道数。网络进一步在 Concat2 层通过两个快捷连接将第四个卷积层、第五个卷积层和第六个卷积层的输出特征进行融合,第七个卷积层采用 1×1 的卷积核进行降维。网络加入快捷连接构建残差块,以此来发挥浅层网络的作用,并将提取的特征进行融合。这些融合的特征通过第八个卷积层进行通道压缩,第八个卷积层后接入 Hard-Sigmoid 函数将输出约束到 $0 \sim 1$ 之间,加快学习计算的速度。第八个卷积层的输出通道有2个,分别对应送入双层液晶前液晶面板和后液晶面板的两幅图像。

为了更加直观地观察显示效果,在重建部分将前液晶面板和后液晶面板的两幅图像根据预设倾斜观看角度设置像素错位距离,再将错位后的两幅图像的对应像素值相乘,得到该角度的重建图像。然后将不同视角下的重建图像与输入图像对比计算损失函数,再通过反向传播更新参数。

2.2 损失函数

本文网络训练的的目的是使不同视角下的重建图像与原图像误差最小。网络训练中引入均方误差 (Mean Square Error, MSE) 构成损失函数^[19],通过网络训练最小化 L_{oss} ,针对性地提高峰值信噪比 (Peak Signal to Noise Ratio, PSNR) 等指标,损失函数表达式为

$$L_{\text{oss}} = \frac{1}{KN} \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{n=1}^N \|R_{(k,n)} - I_{(k,n)}\|_2^2 \quad (1)$$

式中, K 为一个批次中的样本数量, k 为样本索引, N 为选取的视角数量, $R_{(k,n)}$ 为第 n 个角度的重建图像, $I_{(k,n)}$ 为原图像。

2.3 评价标准

选用 PSNR 和结构相似性^[20] (Structural Similarity, SSIM) 对重建后的图像质量进行客观评价。PSNR 的表达式为

$$\text{PSNR} = 10 \lg \left(\frac{M_{\text{AXI}}^2}{\text{MSE}} \right) \quad (2)$$

式中, M_{AXI} 为图像的灰度级,每个像素用8位二进制表示时, M_{AXI} 为255, MSE 为均方误差, PSNR 值越大,表明重建后的图像失真越小。

SSIM 通过亮度、对比度和结构三个方面来对两幅图像的相似性进行评估,其表达式为

$$\text{SSIM} = \frac{(2\mu_x\mu_y + C_1)(2\sigma_{xy} + C_2)}{(\mu_x^2 + \mu_y^2 + C_1)(\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2 + C_2)} \quad (3)$$

式中, x 和 y 是给定的两张图像, μ_x 是 x 的平均值, μ_y 是 y 的平均值, σ_x 是 x 的方差, σ_y 是 y 的方差, σ_{xy} 是 x 和 y 的

协方差。 C_1 和 C_2 是用来维持稳定的常数,避免出现分母为零的情况。SSIM的取值范围为 $[0,1]$,数值越逼近于1,说明重建后的图像结构与输入的图像相似度越高。

3 仿真及结果分析

仿真实验测试的硬件环境为搭载 Intel(R) Core(TM) i9-9900K @ 3.60Ghz CPU、NVIDIA GeForce RTX 2070 GPU、128 GB 内存的计算机,软件环境为 64 位 Windows 10 操作系统、Pytorch 框架、CDUA 10.2、cuDNN 8.0.4 和 Python 3.7.8。训练迭代次数 epoch 为 20,批量大小(batch size)为 15,使用内置的 Adam 优化器对网络中各层的权重进行更新,学习率为 0.001。

3.1 数据集构建

对于双层液晶显示器,倾斜观看屏幕时会产生伪影现象,相对来说,具有较多细节的图像更容易受到影响,为此构建了一个适用于双层液晶显示器的数据集。数据集包含各种场景的细节图像,如人物、动物、建筑和风景等。

本文收集了满足上述要求的 2 760 张图像作为训练样本,部分样本图像如图 6。从图中可以看出,所选取的图像具有丰富的细节,同时也包含很多冗余信息。为了得到更有效的图像特征,提高训练效率,进一步对图像进行处理,观察可知,大部分图像的中间位置具有更明显的细节特征,对图像的中间位置进行裁剪,得到一张分辨率为 128×128 的图像,裁剪过程如图 7。

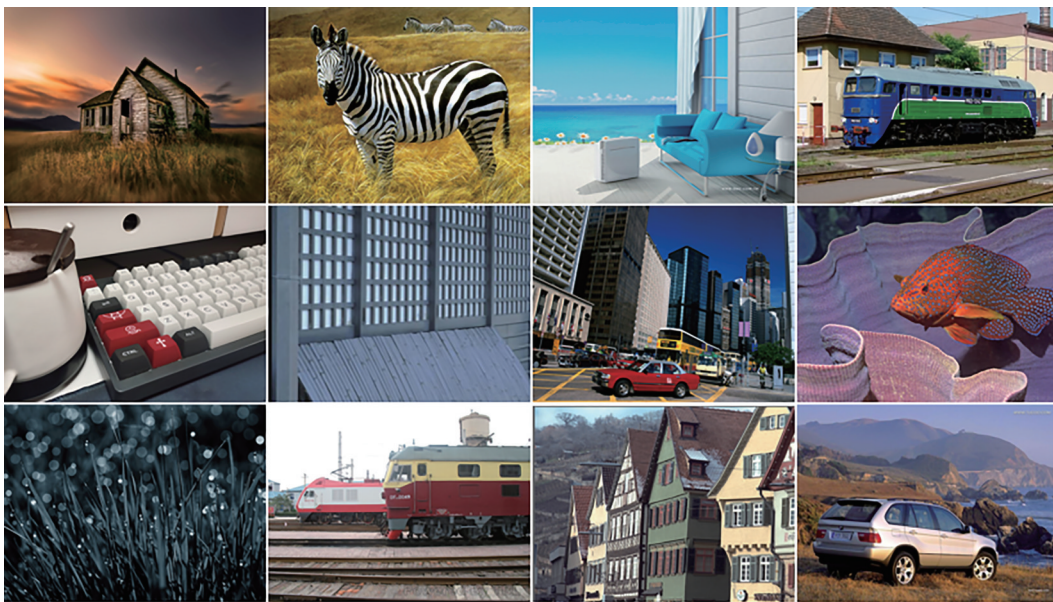


图6 部分样本图像

Fig.6 Some sample images

网络训练的目的在于得到一组网络结构参数使输出的不同视角下的图像与原图像误差最小。对于 2D 显示器,最理想的处理效果是在任何视角下看到的图像都是一样的,因此需要将裁剪后的图像复制成 5 份进行横向拼接作为一组,分别代表送入网络的五个不同视角下的图像。同时为了减少网络训练时间,每 10 组图像竖向拼接成一张数据集图像,图像组合过程如图 8。经过横向拼接与竖向拼接,得到了 276 张新图像,新组成的 276 张图像共包含 13 800 个图像块。为扩充数据集,在网络训练之前先对数据集进行处理,每张图像的三个颜色通道作为三组独立的数据,数据集的数量增加至 8 280,并以 9:1 的比例划分训练集和验证集。

测试集选用的是未进行拼接的单张图像,图像分辨率为 500×500 ,为达到连续显示效果,测试集共选用了 20 张不同类型的图像进行测试,最终测得单张图像的平均处理时间。测试集部分图像如图 9。

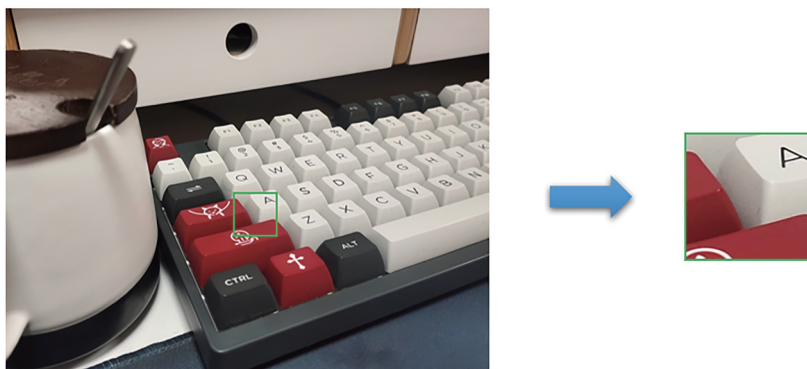


图7 裁剪过程示意
Fig.7 Schematic of cutting process

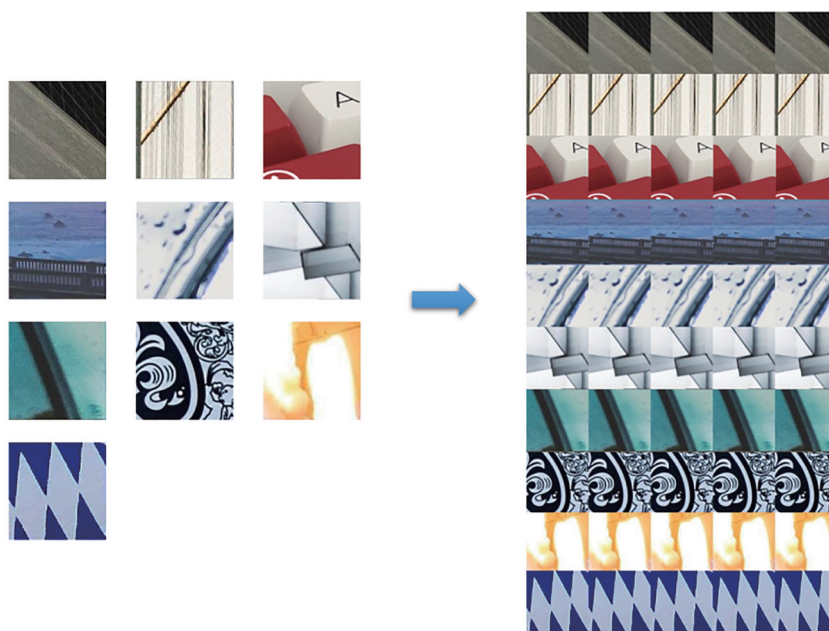


图8 图像组合过程示意
Fig.8 Schematic of the image combination process

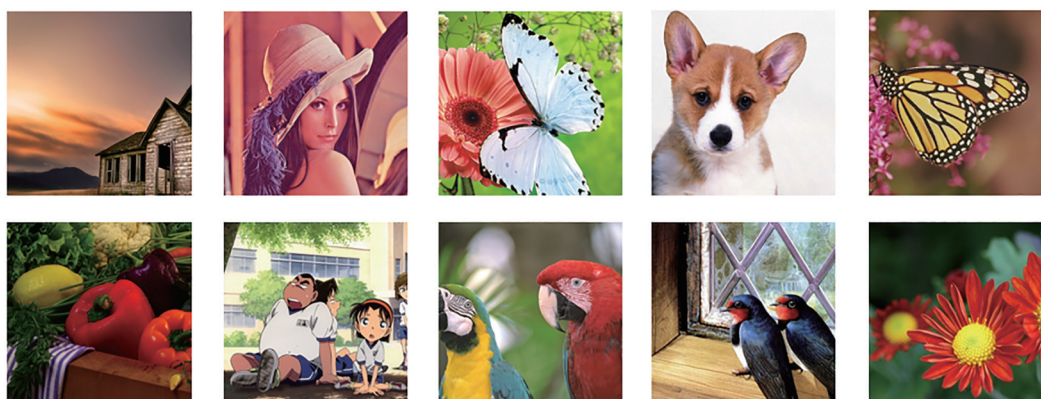


图9 测试集示意
Fig.9 Schematic of the test set

3.2 仿真结果分析

为验证 CNN 用于双层液晶显示的有效性,同时对模糊处理算法和视角补偿算法进行仿真实验。在模

糊处理算法中,前液晶面板的分辨率设置为 3840×2160 ,后液晶面板的分辨率设置为 960×540 。在视角补偿算法和本文方法中,前后液晶面板的分辨率均设置为 3840×2160 。实验选择了 0° 、 18° 、 34° 、 45° 和 64° 共五个视角进行仿真计算,最终选取了测试集中四张不同类型的图像的测试结果进行客观和主观对比分析。

图10为 64° 视角下不同方法对图像处理后的对比图,为了更清晰地观察不同方法之间的处理结果差异,对具有线条或纹理的部分区域进行了放大,图10(a)~(d)分别为原图、方法1(模糊处理算法)处理后的图像、方法2(视角补偿算法)处理后的图像和方法3(本文方法)处理后的图像。

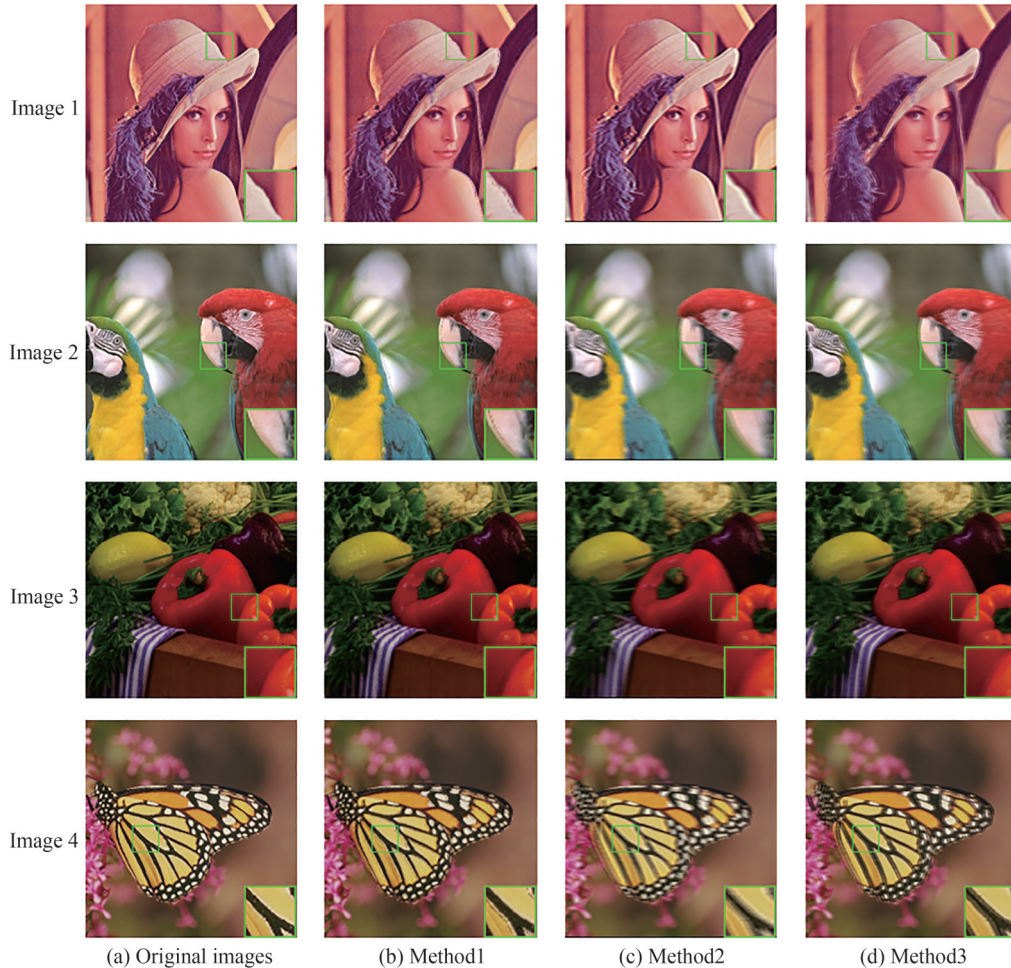


图10 图像处理效果对比

Fig.10 Comparison of image processing effects

可以看出,相较于方法1,本文方法在改善伪影现象上有很大提升;相较于方法2,本文方法处理后的图像在边缘锐利的区域会存在轻微的伪影现象,但图像整体的清晰度更高。

为了更客观地评价不同方法的显示效果和计算时间,表1给出了使用方法1、方法2和本文方法在五个不同视角(0° 、 18° 、 34° 、 45° 和 64°)下处理后的图像的PSNR和SSIM值,表2给出了三种方法的平均处理时间。

可以看出,相较于方法1,本文方法在PSNR、SSIM和计算时间上都具有明显优势。相较于方法2,在 0° 、 18° 、 34° 视角下,除Image3在 34° 的PSNR值小于方法2外,其他图像的PSNR值和SSIM值都大于视角补偿算法;随着角度的增大,在 45° 视角下,本文方法的PSNR值和SSIM值与方法2相当;在 64° 视角下,Image2和Image4的PSNR值和SSIM值比方法2略高,Image1和Image3的PSNR值和SSIM值略有降低。在计算时间上,本文方法的计算时间为0.08 s,比视角补偿算法的计算时间缩短了707.13倍,比模糊处理算法的计算时间缩短了4.75倍。实际应用时,本文方法的处理时间还严重依赖于电路资源。通过FPGA强大的并行处理能力和丰富的片内存储资源,有望对用于双层液晶显示的CNN进行硬件加速,实现实时处理。

表1 三种方法处理的PSNR值和SSIM值
Table 1 PSNR and SSIM of three methods

Image	Angel/(°)	Method1		Method2		Method3	
		PSNR/dB	SSIM	PSNR/dB	SSIM	PSNR/dB	SSIM
Image1	0	27.63	0.970 7	28.28	0.974 6	30.63	0.978 3
	18	26.76	0.961 3	27.09	0.973 5	29.99	0.977 9
	34	26.60	0.956 2	26.73	0.963 2	28.08	0.969 6
	45	25.26	0.948 0	26.49	0.962 1	25.94	0.954 2
	64	22.90	0.933 9	25.22	0.952 2	23.58	0.942 7
Image2	0	28.00	0.955 7	29.88	0.971 4	32.31	0.977 0
	18	26.99	0.955 3	28.32	0.969 8	31.69	0.976 8
	34	25.94	0.942 1	27.93	0.959 4	29.39	0.967 7
	45	23.91	0.918 8	27.62	0.955 7	27.06	0.948 6
	64	21.43	0.876 4	24.03	0.914 2	24.87	0.931 9
Image3	0	30.91	0.958 2	32.73	0.977 0	34.42	0.978 7
	18	30.10	0.954 9	31.76	0.967 5	33.65	0.977 2
	34	30.16	0.955 8	31.61	0.964 5	31.40	0.966 5
	45	27.93	0.933 0	28.41	0.934 8	29.12	0.946 0
	64	26.05	0.904 7	27.56	0.918 5	26.10	0.911 4
Image4	0	24.86	0.953 6	26.48	0.961 1	28.90	0.976 5
	18	24.30	0.942 9	26.30	0.959 8	28.28	0.975 6
	34	23.11	0.934 4	25.11	0.946 7	25.93	0.964 9
	45	21.99	0.931 9	22.84	0.924 1	23.44	0.941 6
	64	19.98	0.887 3	20.28	0.896 0	20.54	0.907 6

表2 三种方法处理的时间
Table 2 Computation time of three methods

Method	Method 1	Method 2	Method 3
Time/s	0.38	56.57	0.08

4 结论

本文将深度学习技术应用于双层液晶显示领域,采用卷积神经网络对输入图像进行处理,输出的两幅图像分别对应双层液晶所需显示的图像。此外,构建了一个适配双层液晶显示器的数据集。仿真结果表明,本文方法在图像显示效果和计算时间上均优于传统的模糊处理算法;本文方法的显示效果与视角补偿算法接近,但是在时间上,视角补偿算法的处理时间为56.57 s,本文方法将处理时间降至0.08 s,处理效率提高了707.13倍,更具实际应用性。本文方法能够在保证显示质量的同时大大缩短计算时间,具有较好的实际应用前景。

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CNN-based Method for Dual-layer Liquid Crystal Displays

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Abstract: Liquid crystal displays (LCDs) have been widely used in consumer electronics, industrial control, medical equipment and other fields. However, the LC panel can not completely block the light from the backlight unit when displaying a black field, resulting in a low Contrast Ratio (CR). There are two techniques to improve CR, including dynamic dimming and dual-layer display. Dynamic dimming technology dynamically adjusts the backlight brightness and pixel grayscales according to the displayed image. At present, dynamic dimming technology is mainly divided into global dimming technology and local dimming technology. CR is proportional to the number of backlight partitions, but the number of backlight partitions is usually much smaller than the number of pixels on the LC panel, resulting in the inability of this technology to achieve pixel-level dimming. The more partitions, the higher the production cost. Another technology to improve CR is dual-layer display. Dual-layer display is to add a LC panel between the backlight and the LC panel, which can greatly reduce light leakage. However, as the two layer

LC panels are bonded together with Optically Clear Adhesive (OCA), there is a physical gap between them. When the double-layer LCD is working, both the front and rear panels need to display images. If the input image is directly sent to the front and rear panels without processing, the corresponding pixels of the front and rear panels will be offset when viewing the screen off-axis, resulting in a ghost image. To improve the display quality when viewing off-axis, the input image needs to be split and modified. The common method is to blur the image to the rear panel near the backlight unit and compensate for the pixels of the front panel. It is quite simple to realize such a blurring solution, but the final display quality deteriorates because the resolution of the image to the rear panel becomes lower. In order to balance the relationship between viewing angle and display quality, researchers put forward an angle compensation algorithm. The algorithm establishes a mapping matrix to record the position information of each ray, and then obtains two images through an optimization algorithm. The algorithm can present a higher display quality at larger viewing angles. But the processing time is quite long and no real application is possible.

Inspired by the successful applications of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) in image restoration, the paper proposes to adopt CNN to optimize the image for dual-panel display in order to reduce processing time and improve high display quality. The network structure includes three parts: preprocessing, feature extraction and reconstruction. For a dual-panel display, it is best that the images viewed at various angles are as the same as the image viewed off-axis. Therefore, in the preprocessing part, the input image is duplicated to create N copies corresponding to the N viewing angles before sending the image to the network. The feature extraction part consists of 8 convolution layers, and the shortcut connection is introduced to create the residual block that can fuse the features from the shallow network. In the reconstruction part, a reconstructed image is constructed by corresponding multiplication of two images with pixel offset at a certain angle. The purpose of network training is to minimize the errors between the reconstructed images at different viewing angles and the original input image. Therefore, the mean square error is used as a loss function, which is especially defined with the consideration of the total differences between the reconstructed images at different viewing angles and the input image. For dual-panel display, ghost may appear when viewing off-axis, which presents worse effects on the images consisting of many textures. The paper therefore creates a dataset for a dual-layer display, which consists of many images such as figures, animals, buildings, and scenery. All the images contain rich texture information.

In order to evaluate the proposed CNN for dual-layer display, some existing methods are applied for comparisons, including fuzzy processing algorithm and viewing-angle-compensation algorithm. 5 viewing angles of 0° , 8° , 34° , 45° and 64° are used for evaluation. To quantitatively evaluate the three methods, Peak Signal-to-noise Ratio (PSNR) and Structural Similarity (SSIM) are employed, and the computation time is compared. Compared with fuzzy processing algorithm, the proposed method presents obvious advantages in PSNR, SSIM and computation time. The PSNR and SSIM of the proposed method at the viewing angle of 0° , 18° , 34° and 45° are almost the same as the viewing-angle-compensation algorithm. The PSNR and SSIM of the proposed method at the viewing angle of 64° are lower than viewing-angle-compensation algorithm, but much higher than the fuzzing processing algorithm. When comparing the computation time, the proposed method presents a great improvement over the other two methods. The computation time of the proposed method is 707.13 times and 4.75 times that of the other two methods, which presents strong practicability.

The paper proposes a CNN-based method for dual-layer display. The CNN is used to process the input image, and residual blocks are constructed to improve the quality of the output image. The two output images that correspond to the two layers of LC panels of the dual-layer LCD are reconstructed from different viewing angles to compare with other methods in terms of computation time and display quality. The simulation results show that the proposed method improves both computation time and display quality compared to the fuzzy processing algorithm; compared with the viewing-angle-compensation algorithm, it can greatly reduce the computation time. The proposed method for dual-layer display presents the merits of high display quality and short computation time, which presents a good application prospect.

Key words: Dual-layer liquid crystal display; Ghost image; Convolutional neural networks; Display quality; Computation time

OCIS Codes: 230.3750; 050.7330; 090.2890; 220.4610