A Thesis for the Bachelor of Computer Systems Engineering Development of a Vision System for a Humanoid Robot

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89 Trevallyan Drive, Daisy Hill, Qld, 4127, 19 October 2001.

Prof. Simon Kaplan Head of School Information Technology and Electrical Engineers University of Queensland St. Lucia, Old, 4072.

Dear Professor Kaplan,

In accordance with the requirements of the degree of Bachelor of Engineering in the division of Computer Systems Engineering, I present the following thesis entitled "Development of a Vision System for a Humanoid Robot". This work has been performed under the supervision of Dr Gordon Wyeth.

I declare that the work submitted in this thesis has not been previously submitted for a degree at the university of Queensland or any other institution. To the best of my knowledge and belief, this thesis contains no material previously published or written by any other person, except where reference is made in the text.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Blower.

Acknowledgements

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- To my parents for proof reading the many drafts churned out as a part of this thesis.

Abstract

This thesis investigates the design of a vision system for the "Guroo" a robot humanoid soccer player. The aim was to create a vision system that was able to view and track objects in the three dimensional world. Vision hardware is presented for the CMOS Digital Camera and Interface software for a field programmable gate array included on the main vision board. The design and implementation of an aesthetically pleasing head is also presented.

Beginning in 2000 the project has moved on from the development of the design of the original vision system for the "Viperoo" robot soccer team to designing a new system for the use in the Guroo project and the 2001 upgrade for the Viperoos small soccer league.

The major achievements in the redesign of the vision system are the use of the OV7620 CMOS digital camera chip which has trebled the frame rate of the digital camera used and the implementation of a dual port ram system for the field programmable gate array. These combine with the developments in the vision board to produce an improved local vision system.

The result of this development was a camera that passed data from the three dimensional world surrounding it to the main vision board.

Future work on the design of a vision system will involve optimising the vision code and low level hardware code. Future students could also port areas of the object detection code to the field programmable gate array as another area of vision development.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

"Nothing can stop us, we're on a mission from Gordo". David Prasser May 2001.

1.1 Introduction

This thesis investigates vision hardware for use in object detection with application to a humanoid robot. Development of a digital camera and software for a field programmable gate array is discussed. The objective of this thesis is to design a vision system for a humanoid robot so as to allow the robot to view a soccer ball in order to be involved in the RoboCup soccer tournament. This is only the beginning, vision systems of this design will allow humanoid robots to interact in increasingly complex situations with humans and the outside world.

1.2 RoboCup Soccer Tournament

The RoboCup soccer tournament is an international event held annually in different countries each year showcasing the best efforts of the world's research and educational institutions. The mission statement of RoboCup is "by 2050 develop a team of fully autonomous



Figure 1.1: Sony and Honda Humanoids

humanoid robots that can win against a human world champion soccer team". To that end there are several different leagues, the small soccer league which comprises teams of 5 robots using either a global vision system or a local vision system. Global vision is the positioning of an image sensor above the field of play, this sensor has a global view of the playing surface. Local vision is a system where every robot has its own individual vision system. The simulation league is a network version which is purely a software problem. The latest league and at this time exhibition only is the humanoid league, this consists of humanoid biped robots playing at this stage of development as individual against individual.

Two humanoid designs that have come to prominence of late are the SDR-3X and Asimo, designed by Sony and Honda respectively. These are the most advanced humanoid bipeds operating at present. These designs display the full range of movement for a humanoid biped and are able to successfully locate and kick a soccer ball.

1.3 The Guroo

The Guroo or the "Grossly Under-funded Roo" is the creation of the University of Queensland robotics team and has been designed to compete in the world Robocup soccer tournament. The name Grossly Under-Funded comes from the fact that the team's initial budget of six thousand dollars and final budget of around sixteen thousand dollars was in the order of three orders of magnitude less than that of either of the other main humanoid teams of Sony or Honda. The term "Roo" is a part of the tradition of Australian soccer teams originating with the Australian soccer team called the Socceroos, this tradition has continued with all UQ robotics soccer teams.

To meet the specifications of the tournament, the design must be a humanoid biped capable of playing soccer. The design must be under 1.2 meters tall and is based on the approximate size of a seven year old child. The design of the humanoid has been divided amongst thirteen people with the main electronic components being the vision system, the communications hardware, the IPAQ controller, motor controllers and the power supply. These components are explained in other thesises written by other students of Dr Gordon Wyeth. The diagram below displays the visions systems place in the overall design of the Guroo.

1.4 Importance of Vision to a Humanoid

Vision to the humanoid is essential, it is the predominant sensor that will allow the robot to interact with the real world, without its sensor the robot would only be able to react to commands entered by the user. With the addition of a vision system the robot can be made to act autonomously, it can actively react to its surroundings making decisions based on the objects it encounters. Although a humanoid biped robot requires many sensors to allow accurate actuation of its limbs, without a vision sensor the system can never truly interact with its surrounds.

As stated above the aim of this thesis is to design a vision system to allow the robot to participate in soccer games against other robots. Work for this thesis has been developed from a vision system designed by Mark Chang and Ben Brown[24] for use in the Viperoos small league robots. These machines have their own local vision systems that allow them all to individually view the world and make decisions based on this information. This thesis will extend upon the current design with the implementation of a new digital camera sensor and interface software for a field programmable gate array operating on the main vision



Figure 1.2: Vision's Place within the Humanoid

processing board.

1.5 Expected Outcomes

The expected outcome from this research is the development of an updated vision system for both the humanoid biped and the Viperoos small league soccer robots. This will enable them to have the best vision possible for playing soccer at the next Robocup tournament. The design will need to be compatible with the main vision processing board designed by Mark Chang [24] and be able to be used by the Viperoo robots and the biped Humanoid robot. The main outcomes to be developed are

- An increased frame rate.
- Greater accuracy in vision measurements.
- Simplification of the digital camera hardware.
- An elegant portable solution between the Viperoos and the humanoid.

1.6 Outline Of Thesis

This thesis has been broken down into six chapters The first two, outlining an initial introduction as to why the thesis is being written and what the current technologies are. Chapter three deals with a review of the problem while chapters four and five outline the design process used to solve this problem. Chapter six discusses the final performance of the system and what future developments could be made to improve the design.

Chapter 1 - Introduction This chapter will outline the aim of this thesis, the robot for which the vision system is being implemented, how the vision system relates to the humanoid robot and why the vision system is so important to the soccer playing robot.

Chapter 2 - Literature Review Recent developments in the design of vision systems are discussed and examples explained as to how the basic principles of a vision system operate.

Chapter 3 - Outline of Objectives This chapter sets out the tasks and design goals to be achieved in the thesis toward the development of the humanoid vision system.

Chapter 4 - CMOS Digital Camera Design The design implementation of the humanoid's eye is outlined, the problems encountered and the discriminators used in the decision as to which digital camera chip was the most suitable.

Chapter 5 - Field Programmable Gate Array Design The interfacing used to pass the data from the CMOS Camera to the Vision Processing Board through the use of a field programmable gate array is explained. The design is outlined and the code used to program the FPGA is explained.

Chapter 6 - Design of an Aesthetically Pleasing Head The design and consideration of an aesthetically pleasing head and the design process involved not only in the head design but the mechanical design required to allow the camera to operate effectively.

Chapter 7 - Future Work Work yet to be completed and what could be done to improve the implementation of the humanoids vision system in the future will be discussed as well as what should be areas of design should be focussed on in the next redesign.

Chapter 8 - Results and Conclusion The final chapter discusses what was achieved throughout the thesis project, what outcomes were successfully accomplished and what further developments can be made to the humanoid vision system.

Chapter 2

Literature review

"The danger from computers is not that they will eventually get as smart as men, but that we will meanwhile agree to meet them halfway". Bernard Avishai

This chapter will explain the current work developed in this field and in particular the design from which the inspiration for the new design came. The original vision system will be discussed as well as the new innovation in vision system technology.

2.1 CMOS Camera Operation

CMOS or complementary metal oxide semiconductor digital cameras operate similar to CCD or charge coupled device cameras in that both CMOS and CCD cameras capture the image data in exactly the same method however from that point on the two are very different. CCD cameras produce an analogue output that requires extra hardware to allow the images produced to be analysed. CMOS cameras use on board analogue to digital converters to convert the data into a digital signal.



Figure 2.1: CMOS Camera Operation

2.2 Omnidirectional Vision

Another form of vision being developed by teams involved in the robotic soccer competition is omnidirectional vision where a parabolic or conical mirror is placed above the CCD or CMOS camera to produce a 360° image of the surrounding world. Teams at the 2001 Robocup tournament used this technology in the small size league. The main drawback with this technology is the amount of processing power required to process the amount of data produced from the digital camera. This is because by using an omnidirectional camera a high amount of resolution is required and the image can't be subsampled as this would result in a loss of data that reduces the visions effectiveness.

2.3 Stereo Vision

Stereo vision is another concept being used by some organisations around the world. NASA is using this concept on its "Urbie" project being conducted in conjunction with JPL's Machine Vision Group to develop an urban tactical vehicle capable of moving over urban terrain. This vehicle has incorporated stereo vision to give it depth perception and a greater ability to handle the terrain surrounding it. In the future stereo scopic vision may be a vi-



Figure 2.2: Omnidirectioal Camera and lens



Figure 2.3: Urbie by NASA and JPL

able adaptation for humanoid robots to develop however it is not a viable concept with the amount of processing power required for the size of the robot whereas the "Urbie" being a vehicle can contain and carry the processing power required. The "Urbie" is also fitted with omnidirectional vision as described above amongst its other sensors.

2.4 Vision System 2000

The design for the new vision board is a development from the Viperoos design from the 2000 RoboCup tournament in Melbourne. The design used by the Viperoos will be explained in



Figure 2.4: Viperoos

further detail in the following sections. This vision system worked effectively in the 2000 RoboCup Soccer Tournament with the team placing third in their group

2.5 Camera

All vision systems require a sensor to collect the data about the world surrounding the system. In the case of a vision system, this sensor is a camera or image sensor. There are many options for the choice of the camera these include CCD and CMOS digital cameras.

2.5.1 Current Camera

The camera used in the 2000 vision system design uses a PB-159 Photobit CMOS digital camera. This camera puts out a RGB colour spectrum and operates at around 12 frames per second. The camera passes the RGB colour data to the SH3 vision board through the use of an 8 bit serial connection and the camera is controlled through a I2C command connection. The camera receives the command line data from the SH3 main vision board and then returns the RBG data from the camera.



Figure 2.5: PB-159 CMOS Camera



Figure 2.6: Photobit Megapixel CMOS Camera Chip

2.5.2 Megapixel Cameras

The latest innovation in CMOS camera technology is the megapixel camera. These cameras have greater than one megapixel resolution and frame rates of 500 frames per second and greater. These sensors will be the future of vision systems however today's technology is not able to accommodate the amount of information that these CMOS cameras provide, future designs need to consider these sensors when future redesigns are being completed.

2.6 Vision Board

The Vision Board used by the Viperoos uses the Super H architecture from Hitachi as its main processor. This chip is a microcontroller not a digital signals processing chip and as such has a few different requirements. The SH7709 is a RISC processor operating at 80MHz



Figure 2.7: SH3 Vision Board

and 104 MIPS. This board takes the data from the digital camera and determines the location of the ball and other obstacles in relation to the robot and is an essential part of the hardware for the local vision robots.

Chapter 3

Problem Specification

Lunkwill: "O great computer, the task we have designed you to perform is this: We want you to tell us the Answer". The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

The specification of a design is important to the successful implementation of the final design. This chapter sets out to specify what the design should be able to do to allow the Guroo to play soccer. It is from these specifications that the development of the whole project can begin to take shape.

3.1 Importance of specifications

The importance of specification to any project is to allow the design and the client or team to work cohesively and include all relevant ideas involved in the completion of the design.

3.2 Development of Specifications

The specifications for this project were developed whilst the project was constantly developing to produce the final set of specifications. This was due to the fact that this was a team project and people were at various levels of knowledge in vision design and some parts of the project had to be completed before others could be finalised.

3.3 Digital Camera

The digital camera design is intrinsic to the complete operation of the vision system. This "eye" to the real world for the computer design is essential if it is ever to be given real world tasks. Since the "Guroo" is being designed to play soccer, a local vision system is required if the humanoid is to be autonomous.

The camera system operates similar to that of a human eye. Both systems have a lens to focus the image onto a light sensitive area being the retina in a human and the CMOS digital camera photo plate in the robots vision system.

3.3.1 Old Camera Design

The current camera design implements the PB-159 CMOS digital camera by Photobit, this camera operates in the red, green and blue colour spectrum and operates at 12 frames per second at a resolution of 480 x 320. This CMOS camera requires the designer to set the gain levels for the system to operate correctly requiring extra hardware.

3.3.2 Human Vision

The ultimate goal of the robot soccer competition is the construction of a humanoid robot. In order to achieve this, the vision system should be as close to that of a human beings. The first step in that goal is to give the robot's 'eye' a frame rate similar to that of a real person.



Figure 3.1: Human Eye

3.3.3 Outline of Digital Camera Specifications

The CMOS camera has been designed to the following specifications to produce the best possible vision system for the GUROO humanoid robot. These specifications have been developed from past experiences using vision systems.

The specifications for the digital camera are as follows:

- Higher frame rate.
- vision equivalent to that of human beings (frame rate of around 30 fps).
- The ability to do subsampling on board the chip. This allows some of the processing that would normally be done on the vision board to be done on the camera chip prior to vision processing.
- The ability to do automatic gain calibration. Some of the new CMOS camera chips do this on chip meaning that extra hardware is not required.
- That the output colour spectrum of the camera be YUV instead of RGB to allow the vision processing to be simpler as YUV is invariant to the light intensity of the surrounding conditions.

• Simplification of the Vision Hardware.

3.4 FPGA Interface

The new vision board design by Mark Chang[24] utilises a Hitachi Super H4 architecture microcontroller to do the image recognition required by the Guroo to play soccer and do additional tasks. To connect the digital camera to the vision board a suitable interface is required to do some of the image processing and set the various clocking signals required to run the digital camera.

3.4.1 Old Interface Design

The previous design implemented the Hitachi Super H3 microcontroller as the vision processor and received its vision data from the Photobit PB300 CMOS digital camera. The SH3 board required no subsampling interface to operate the camera at 32 x 128 resolution at 12 frames per second. That system operated in the RGB colour space and required gain control hardware. This system is limited to the amount of data that can be analysed by the SH3 board.

3.4.2 Outline of Field Programmable Gate Array Interface

The field programmable gate array is required to buffer the input signal from the digital camera to the vision board through the use of a dual port ram implementation. It should also make use of the delay locked loops in the field programmable gate arrays to generate any clock rate and signals required by the CMOS digital camera. The basic specifications are displayed below:

• Implement a dual port ram system for a field programmable gate array. This is to control the flow of data to the field programmable gate array.

• Use the delay locked loops to implement any clocking signals required.

3.5 Specification Summary

The specifications above have been developed to produce part of the vision system. The other components of this system are the vision board designed by Mark Chang[24] and the development of object recognition software by David Prasser[20].

Chapter 4

Digital Camera Design

The design and development of the digital camera is the basis of the "Guroo's" vision system. It is the robots 'eye' and as "eyes are the windows to the souls"(traditional proverb) for people they draw the attention of any person interacting with the machine as well as being the main sensor for the robots interaction with the outside world.

4.1 CCD Vs CMOS Digital Cameras

These were the two different types of cameras considered when it came to choosing the digital camera chip to implement in the vision system design. CCD cameras or charge coupled device cameras and CMOS complementary metal oxide semiconductor cameras have some similarities. Both types of camera operate by converting light into electric charge and process it as an electronic signal, however the main difference between the two camera types is that the CCD cameras have an analogue output whereas the output of CMOS cameras are digital in bits. The main features and performance indicators for both CCD and CMOS cameras are displayed in table 4.1.

Feature	CCD	CMOS
Signal out of Pixel	Electron packet	Voltage
Signal out of chip	Voltage (analog)	Bits (digital)
Signal out of camera	Bits (digital)	Bits (digital)
Fill factor	High	Moderate
Amplifier mismatch	N/A	Moderate
System Noise	Low	Moderate to High
System Complexity	High	Low
Sensor Complexity	Low	High
Camera components	PCB + multiple chips + lens	Chip + Lens
Relative R&D cost	Depends on Application	Depends on Application
Relative system cost	Depends on Application	Depends on Application

Table 4.1: Feature of CCD Vs CMOS Cameras[12]

Performance	CCD	CMOS
Responsivity	Moderate	Slightly better
Dynamic range	High	Moderate
Uniformity	High	Low to Moderate
Uniform Shuttering	Fast, common	Poor
Speed	Moderate to High	Higher
Windowing	Limited	Extensive
Antiblooming	High to none	High
Biasing and clocking	Multiple, higher voltage	Single, low voltage

Table 4.2: Performance of CCD Vs CMOS Cameras[12]



Figure 4.1: Digital Camera Operation

4.1.1 CCD or CMOS Camera?

The decision whether to use a CMOS or CCD is of great importance to the overall design as there are significantly different hardware requirements, output data types and other considerations described above. The final decision was to use a CMOS digital camera as the remainder of the vision system is digital and the requirement for extra hardware combined with the lower frame rate and limited windowing led to the decision that a CMOS digital camera would be optimal for this application.

4.2 **Previous Design**

The previous design implemented by Mark Chang[24] using the photobit PB-159 chip the specifications and basic design parameter have been explained in the specifications section. The camera is a CMOS digital camera that utilises the RGB colour space and requires colour gain circuitry. The schematic for this design can be seen below.

4.3 Selection of the CMOS Camera

Once the decision that the CMOS digital camera was the type of camera chip to be used, research began into which chip would be the most suitable for a humanoid vision system. Various camera chips were considered, these are described in the table below. The megapixel cameras were considered however the amount of data produced from these cameras would overwhelm the vision board and be counter productive. The chip that was finally decided upon was the OV7620 chip by OmniVision. This chip has a resolution similar to that of the PB-300. The OmniVision chip has many advantages that made it very attractive, these being the optional eight or sixteen bit data output, the options for output type in RGB or YUV. These combined with the ability to subsample the image on chip made this chip ideal for vision system applications.

4.4 Progressive and Interlaced Scanning Method

There are the two methods of operation for the OV7620 digital camera progressive scan and interlaced scan methods to capture images. These methods are used for different applications, progressive scan reads each line of pixels and sends the data to the output one line at a time while interlaced scan reads every second line and sends that to the output. This results in all the odd pixel lines sent in the first sweep and all the even lines sent in the second sweep.



Figure 4.2: Interlaced and Progressive Scan



Figure 4.3: RGB and YUV Colour Space

The digital camera system operates using the progressive scan method as it is faster than interlaced scanning and as the image is to be subsampled or "windowed" the progressive scan method will be better with the smaller image area.

4.5 YUV

The YUV colour spectrum as compared to the RGB (red, blue and green) spectrum involves the use of brightness blue and red values. This can be seen in the two pictures below. The picture on the right is in the RGB spectrum while the one on the left has been converted into the YUV colour space using red blue and light intensity. It can be seen that the areas of the greatest light intensity being the sky and the deck of the boat have become pink or red while other areas have become green when mixed with blue. Further information on object detection using the YUV colour space can be found in Prasser[20].

4.6 Clocking System

The clocking system is fundamental to the successful operation of the CMOS digital camera as it controls the reading of the pixels and data to the outputs. As this circuit is import it was decided to place redundancies in the circuit, these include three different ways to clock the digital camera. The use of a standard 24 MHz crystal oscillator, a programmable crystal oscillation and the ability to use a clock signal generated by a field programmable gate array were placed in the circuit to ensure the success of this important hardware. The decision to use each of the different clocking mechanisms can be decided through the use of the jumpers to connect each clocking method to the camera chip. The clocking schematic can be seen below.

4.6.1 Crystal Circuit

The crystal circuit used implemented a 24 MHz HC19 crystal with two 22 pF capacitors. When this circuit was built it was found to contain too much inductance in the wires due to their length and the distance of the crystal from the camera chip. Subsequently the programmable oscillator had to be used for the clocking circuit on the digital camera.

4.6.2 Programmable Oscillator

The programmable oscillator used in this design was the EXO-3C programmable oscillator an integrated circuit that produces a 24 MHz clock output that can be reduced by factors of two by setting bits at the input to the chip. This was the clocking system used by the camera and proved to be successful.

4.6.3 FPGA Connection

The field programmable gate array being used by the vision board contains a delay locked loop capable of producing various clock signals, if needed this connection was placed in the circuit as an alternate means of applying a clock signal to the camera chip but was not required.

4.7 Digital Camera Windowing

For the image processing to operate, the digital camera needs to subsample the image taken as the amount of data to be processed by the digital camera at full resolution is far in excess of what the Hitachi SH4 vision board can process if thirty images per second is to be achieved. The OV7620 has facilities on board the camera to enable this to be done prior to passing the image data to the vision board. The OV7620 has two modes of operation to reduce the resolution of the image to accommodate a higher frame rate. The first is the enabling of the QVGA mode which reduces the resolution from 640 x 480 to 320 x 240 pixels however even with this lower frame rate the amount of data to be transferred to the vision board is still in excess of what can be handled. The other method for windowing or subsampling is to control the Href and Vsync horizontal and vertical inputs to the camera in order to limit the resolution to 240 x 180 which the vision coded has been designed to process.

4.8 Camera Lens

The camera employed in this design is only as good as the lens that is placed in front of it. For this project the lens chosen was the same as the one used last year by the Viperoos[26] , a CCTV lens by AVENIR 2.8mm F 1.4. This lens was chosen as it has an 80 degree angle of vision which is better that many other lenses on the market and the university has these lenses, reducing the cost of the vision upgrade.



Figure 4.4: Camera Clocking Systems
4.9 Chapter Summary

This chapter has discussed the design of the CMOS digital camera being implemented by the humanoid robot vision system. The hardware for this system operates using the OmniVision OV7620 CMOS digital camera. As has been discussed in this chapter, this chip is capable of YUV data output, image subsampling or windowing and interlaced or progressive image scanning. These combined with the clocking systems operating on the camera board make this a highly successful device and essential to the complete operation of the vision system.

Chapter 5

Interface Design

"A computer terminal is not some clunky old television with a typewriter in front of it. It is an interface where the mind and body can connect with the universe and move bits of it about". Douglas Adams(Mostly Harmless)

The implementation of a successful interface between the digital camera and the Hitachi SH4 vision board is essential to the operation of the humanoid vision system. To that end the interface chosen for this design is the Spartan 2 field programmable gate array.

5.1 Interface Decision

The interface to be used in the Guroo and Viperoos was the decision of Mark Chang[24] the designer of the vision processing board. The specification for the design of the interface has been outlined in chapter three and won't be discussed here, however the design called for a system that controlled all the data signals required by the digital camera and the flow of data from the camera. A suitable way to implement this design was through the use of a field programmable gate array enabling the use of a softcore with a hardware design, the combination of which, would enable future development in the optimisation of the vision



Figure 5.1: Development Board and Spartan 2 FPGA

hardware.

5.2 Interface Design

The interface design for the field programmable gate array (FPGA) has been written in VHDL (Very High Speed Integrated Circuit Hardware Description Language) using the Xilinx foundation suite to development and simulate the design of the Interface for the Vision system. The chip chosen for the interface was the Spartan2 xc2s100 field programmable gate array by Xilinx, this FPGA of the spartan2 family has 100 000 gates. Development of the design was done on the spartan2 development kit from insight electronics. Using this development board and the Xilinx foundation software suite software to develop the softcore that is the advantage of an FPGA. This provided a software solution to a hardware problem.

5.3 Test Software

With the development board came some test software to enable the user to test if the board was operating correctly, this code became the software used to learn and operate the development board prior to the design and implementation of the vision software interface. The sample coded operated a counter operating between 00 and 99 on two seven segment displays on board the development board.

5.4 Dual Port Ram

Dual port ram is a system of buffering data through memory where the data can be prepared for image analysis. The Spartan 2 FPGA has sets of bock ram surrounding the chip totalling 40K bites of RAM as well as what can be designed in the combinational logic blocks(CLB's). Dual port ram operates through the use of two sets of data lines, the first is the read address and the other the write address. The reading is controlled by a chip select control(CS) bit and the writing is controlled by a write enables(WE) bit. The two other busses involved in dual port ram are obviously the data in and data out buses. The data is written into the on board ram of the FPGA and combinational logic blocks, the address is dependent on the input address bus, as long as the WE is high the data from the indata bus will be written into the memory array. The read operation is very similar to the write, the read address bus provides the address and as long as the CS is low the data will be produced at the outdata bus.

5.4.1 Problems with Memory Access

The main problem that can arise with a dual port ram implementation on a field programmable gate array is that the same memory address can be read as well as written. If memory is accessed by both read and write at the same time, timing problems may occur and memory overwrites may cause the data to become corrupted and produce erroneous reading when

```
architecture data of dual_port_ram is
    -memory allocation of 256 memory locations
    type mem_type is array (127 downto 0) of
     STD_LOGIC_VECTOR (7 downto 0);
     signal mem : mem_type;
    begin
    process(clk, we, waddr)
    begin
         if (rising_edge(clk)) then
              if (we = '1') then
                   - write data into memory
                   mem(conv_integer(waddr)) <= indata;</pre>
              end if;
         end if;
    end process;
    process(raddr, clk)
    begin
         if(rising_edge(clk))then
              if(CS = '0')then
                   - read data from memory
                   outdata <= mem(conv_integer(raddr));</pre>
              end if;
         end if;
    end process;
end data;
```

Figure 5.2: Dual Port Ram VHDL Architecture

entity camera_ram is

port (clk : in STD_LOGIC; we : in STD_LOGIC; – write enable - single address bus address : in STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(6 downto 0); – data write dataw: in STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(15 downto 0); - data read datar: out STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(15 downto 0); PCLK: in STD_LOGIC; - signal inputs HREF: in STD_LOGIC; VSYNC: in STD_LOGIC; SI0: in STD_LOGIC; SI1: in STD_LOGIC; XCLK: in STD_LOGIC; opclk: out STD_LOGIC; - signal outputs ohref: out STD_LOGIC; ovsync: out STD LOGIC; oxclk: out STD_LOGIC; osi0: out STD_LOGIC; osi1: out STD_LOGIC); end camera ram;

Figure 5.3: Camera Interface Declaration

analysed.

5.5 Camera Interface

The CMOS digital camera requires certain signals to allow the camera to operate effectively, generally these signals have been routed through the FPGA apart from the data signals which have been implemented using the dual port ram. These signals have been passed straight through the FPGA in VHDL for the Hitachi SH4.

5.6 Dual Port Ram for the Hitachi SH4

The dual port ram implementation for the Hitachi SH4 is different from that of the conventional dual port ram implementations in that the data buses are not of a single direction, the data is written in and read from the same bus into and out of the field programmable gate array. The data written in from the camera is a sixteen bit bus. The data is again controlled by the write enabled bit if the bit is high then the data is written however if write enabled is low the data is read from the field programmable gate array to the Hitachi SH4 for analysis. Extra data associated with the operation of the FPGA is also included in the design, these include the control line interface SI0 and SI1 the Pixel clock Pclk the horizontal and vertical reference signals to determine the size of the window to be sampled. These signal are routed straight through the FPGA providing straight through connection for the signals. This allow at a later stage the implementation of a command interface involving these signals. The significant differences between the original dual port ram and the final version are the different data, address and control buses, these are modified to conform to the hardware.

5.7 DMA Code

Vision data transfered in the RGB colour space is transmitted back through the FPGA through the use of direct memory access, information on this part of the design can be gained from Hosking[21].

5.8 Chapter Summary

This chapter has outlined the design and implementation of the interface for the Hitachi SH4 vision board and the CMOS digital camera being used in this vision system. The design of a dual port ram system and how it operates has been explained, these all combine to produce a

vision system for playing soccer in both the "Guroo" and 'Viperoo'.

Chapter 6

Aesthetic Head Design

"A good scientist is a person with original ideas. A good engineer is a person who makes a design that works with as few original ideas as possible. There are no prima donnas in engineering". Freeman Dyson, English physicist, educator "Disturbing the Universe," pt. 1, ch. 10, 1979.

The development of an aesthetically pleasing head is fundamental to the successful design of not only the mechanical design of the humanoid but is the focus point for all humans viewing the 'Guroo' in action, this particular part impacts on opinion that people will have of the design as a whole.

6.1 Sources of Inspiration

Sources of inspiration for the development of the head came from many sources predominantly science fiction films such as Starwars and the many manga films. The design calls for a cyclops and there are very few humanoid robots in any film or cartoon or film that are cyclopses. The main inspiration for the head and the overall design of the humanoid must be Starwars C3PO[4].



Figure 6.1: C3PO and R2D2

6.2 Head Requirements

The head has many requirements to enable the humanoid robot to operate effectively at soccer and be aesthetically pleasing. This design must also be simple to construct and be able to hold whatever vision hardware is to be placed inside the head. The heads mass must also be less than 0.5 kg due to the inertia on the servos which control the movement of the head.

6.3 Head Design

The initial design of the head called for a swept back look similar to many of the characters in manga films and cartoons such as "dragon ball z" This design can be seen below. The inherent problems with this design are finding a head suitable for the Guroo and the manufacturing aspects of building this design.



Figure 6.2: Initial Head Design Amish

6.4 Final Head Design

After many revisions and many different shapes and ideas some resembling an amish nun according to fellow thesis students, a head design was decided upon. Based upon the initial design, the final design that was decided upon was one that was both of a science fiction background and soccer, one of the fundamental reasons for the robot. The soccer ball type head not only gives the design a humanoid type shape but provides the camera hardware with a good amount of protection from any impacts the robot might suffer from other robots or hitting the ground. This design gives the humanoid a basic human appearance while providing a very functional shape for the vision hardware to be housed in. The whole design was developed in the solid edge CAD package using the sheet metal tool so as to be extremely simple to manufacture and to ensure that the material for the design was readily available. The design is to be cut from a sheet of 2mm aluminium and folded into shape and welded to hold the shape, allowing for a simple and easily manufacturable design.

6.5 Design for Manufacture

The Guroo's head has been designed to be manufactured as easily as possible from 2mm aluminium from the 5005 series metal. It is to be manufactured from a single sheet of aluminium and simply cut and bent as can be seen from the diagram below. The design of the



Figure 6.3: Final Head Design



Figure 6.4: Manufacturable Head

soccer ball head can be folded and then welded to complete the final head.

6.6 Camera Housing and Bracket

The mechanical design developed to directly develop maintain and operate the vision system and in particular the digital camera is the camera housing. The mechanical design and electronic design have been developed in such a way as to create the most elegant and compact solution to the design of the humanoid eye as possible. This housing has been developed for the Viperoo team as well as the humanoid. The camera is completely contained within the housing, a vast improvement of the original design by Mark Chang that had only the digital camera chip inside the housing and much of the accompanying hardware outside exposed.



Figure 6.5: Camera Bracket

This design was approximately two and half time the size of the new design. The housing has also been designed to hold and focus the light from the image through the lens and onto the photo active area on the digital camera chip. Along with the camera housing the bracket for the camera housing has been designed simply to hold the camera in position and to be as light as possible.

6.7 Remainder of the Humanoid

The remainder of the mechanical design was completed by Mark Wagstaff and can be found in his thesis. This involved the design of a humanoid torso and limb with consideration to walking and the overall goal of playing soccer.

6.8 Summary of Chapter

This chapter has outlined the requirements and design for the aesthetic design for the head of the humanoid. The development of the digital camera housing and how the designs fit together to produce the aesthetic head for the humanoid and camera housing for the Viperoos



small league robots has been explained.

Chapter 7

Results

"Results! Why, man, I have gotten a lot of results. I know several thousand things that won't work". Thomas Edison

The results of any project are the important determinants as to whether a success or failure has been recorded in the implementation of any design.

7.1 Product Evaluation

The evaluation of the project has been outlined below.

7.1.1 Field Programmable Gate Array Interface

The operation of the field programmable gate array using a dual port ram implementation proved to be successful in simulation as can be seen from the flow graphs below. The first timing diagram displays the inputs and outputs for a standard dual port ram implementation. The signals above the compressed address lines are the input clocking and set state signals. These can be seen to be reflected in the output signals below the compressed address buses. This all displays a fully operational dual port ram system.



Figure 7.1: FPGA Dual Port Ram Simulation

7.1.1.1 Testing Procedure

The test procedure used on this part of the design involved the use of the Xilinx Foundation Software to simulate the designs and produce timing diagrams. This software allows the user to collect the various signals within the FPGA of interest and set them high or low as well as clocking function and stimulus to added to each of the inputs or clocking signals. Once the initial signal were in place the design was simulated for a preset length of time after which the control signals were changed to test all possible signal possibilities.

7.1.2 CMOS Digital Camera

The digital camera clocking system operation was originally implemented using the 24MHz crystal however when this design was built it was found that there was too much inductance in the circuit due to the length of the connection between the crystal and the clock pins on the OmniVision OV7620. The second option of the crystal oscillator was then placed on



Figure 7.2: Hitachi Dual Port Ram

the board, this small integrated circuit operated correctly allowing the clocking system to operate effectively.

Currently the OV7620 CMOS digital camera is not operational, this may have been caused by the component being destroyed whilst population of the board was being completed. Once power is supplied the chip will output data from the YUV output pins and the pixel clock will produce a measurable clocking signal.

Chapter 8

Future Work

"The best way to predict the future is to invent it". Alan Kay

Future work on the design of a vision system will have to include the complete and operational interface implementing not only the dual port ram system but a control interface to allow the I2C command registers to be placed in the field programmable gate array. This will allow more of the processing to be done outside of the Hitachi SH4 vision board.

In addition to this the parts of the vision object detection code can be ported onto the field programmable gate array to allow further processing to be done prior to reaching the Hitachi SH4 allowing higher resolution to be processed at a faster rate.

8.1 CMOS Digital Camera

Future work on the CMOS digital camera will not be necessary for some time as there are problems in analysing the image data. A megapixel camera could have been implemented operating at up to 500 frames per second however the whole vision system would have to be redesigned with a faster processor and at this stage that processor does not exist for this application. The OmniVision camera has an acceptable resolution of 640 x 480 pixels and the

ability to do onboard subsampling or windowing of the image taken. All of these advantages mean that the digital camera or "eye" of the humanoid will not need a redesign for some time. Until the image processor becomes powerful enough to process the data no further redesign of the digital camera is required.

Another consideration for the future generation of digital cameras design is the introduction of bead inductors to reduce noise in the circuit which is a major problem in CMOS digital cameras.

8.2 FPGA Interface

Future work on the development of the interface will be quite extensive with not only the control I2C interface to be implemented but part of the image analysis software. The control interface involves the copying of the registers in the OV7620 digital camera on the FPGA. Once these registers are in the FPGA design all control of the camera control registers is to be done by the FPGA and not the Hitachi SH4.

The other modification that can be made is porting part of the image analysis software across to the field programmable gate array. This will involve using the FPGA as a read only memory to compare colour from the camera to set values held in memory in the FPGA. For further information on this refer Prasser[20].

8.3 Conclusion

Over the last 12 months the "Guroo" humanoid project has put together a complete design for the development of a robot capable of playing soccer in the RoboCup soccer tournament. To that end the design for the vision hardware and interface software has been developed. A significant amount of learning has taken place during the project especially in the areas of field programmable gate array design. The aim of this thesis was to design a vision system capable of providing external data from the real world. In particular the head design of a digital camera to act as the "eye" to the robot, design of interface software for a dual port ram system for the control of data from the camera to the main vision board and the design of an aesthetically pleasing head as the centre of attention for the humanoid. Part of this aim was completed in this thesis, the simulation of the dual port ram and the design and choice of a suitable digital camera for use in this design.

The major achievements for this thesis are listed below:

- Design of an aesthetically pleasing head.
- Choice of a suitable CMOS digital camera with characteristics that make it by far the best component available.
- The simulation of an effective dual port ram system to control the data from the camera.
- The simulation of the complete interface for the camera using the simulation packages in the Xilinx foundation suit.

The major concern in the design of the digital camera was the differences in the data sheets which in some cases contradicted each other, these data sheets came out at different times, this attributed to the non operational status of the digital camera to the conclusion of this thesis. Future work should focus on the operation of the camera and continuing development of the software to reduce the processing required to be done by the Hitachi SH4 to increase the frame rate that can be analysed. From now on software will be the major concern for this project.



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Appendix A

Camera Schematic



Appendix B

Camera Printed Circuit Board



Appendix C

Dual Port Ram

– VHDL Dual Port Ram

- This program allow reading and writting to ram simultaneously using
- a dual prot ram implementation.
- Author: Andrew Blower
- Student Number: 33539973

library IEEE;

use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;

use IEEE.std_logic_unsigned.all;

entity dual_port_ram is

generic(d_width : integer := 4; mem_depth : integer := 256); - memory array size

port (clk : in STD_LOGIC;

CS : in STD_LOGIC; – chip select we : in STD_LOGIC; – write enable

indata : in STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(7 downto 0); - data input

outdata : out STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(7 downto 0); - data output

raddr, waddr : in STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(7 downto 0)); - read address and

write address

end dual_port_ram;

architecture data of dual_port_ram is

-memory allocation of 256 memory locations type mem_type is array (127 downto 0) of

```
STD_LOGIC_VECTOR (7 downto 0);
```

signal mem : mem_type;

begin

```
process(clk, we, waddr)
```

begin

if (rising_edge(clk)) then

```
if (we = '1') then
```

- write data into memory

mem(conv_integer(waddr)) <= indata;</pre>

end if;

end if;

end process;

process(raddr, clk)

begin

if(rising_edge(clk))then

```
if(CS = '0')then
```

– read data from memory

outdata <= mem(conv_integer(raddr));</pre>

end if;

end if;

end process;

end data;

– VHDL Dual Port Ram

- This program allow reading and writting to ram simultaneously
- Author: Andrew Blower
- Student Number: 33539973

library IEEE;

use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;

use IEEE.std_logic_unsigned.all;

entity camera_ram is

port (clk : in STD_LOGIC;

we : in STD_LOGIC; – write enable

– single address bus

address : in STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(6 downto 0);

- data write

dataw: in STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(15 downto 0);

data read

datar: out STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(15 downto 0);

PCLK: in STD_LOGIC; – signal inputs

HREF: in STD_LOGIC;

VSYNC: in STD_LOGIC;

SI0: in STD_LOGIC;

SI1: in STD_LOGIC;

XCLK: in STD_LOGIC;

opclk: out STD_LOGIC; – signal outputs

ohref: out STD_LOGIC;

ovsync: out STD_LOGIC; oxclk: out STD_LOGIC; osi0: out STD_LOGIC; osi1: out STD_LOGIC); end camera_ram;

architecture camera_data of camera_ram is

type mem_type is array (128 downto 0) of -memory allocation of 256 memory locations

```
STD_LOGIC_VECTOR (15 downto 0);
signal mem : mem_type;
```

begin

```
process(we, address)
begin
if (we = '1') then
mem(conv_integer(address)) <= dataw(15 downto 0);
end if;
if(we = '0')then
datar(15 downto 0) <= mem(conv_integer(address));
end if;</pre>
```

end process;

opclk <= PCLK; ohref <= HREF; ovsync <= VSYNC; oxclk <= XCLK; osi0 <= SI0; osi1 <= SI1; end camera_data;
Appendix D

Test Code Counter

```
-- module: counter.vhd
-- This is the top level module that ties all sub-modules together
library IEEE;
use IEEE.std logic 1164.all;
entity counter is
    port ( clk : in STD_LOGIC;
         reset : in STD LOGIC;
       lcd_com : out STD_LOGIC;
        one_dp : out STD_LOGIC;
        ten_dp : out STD_LOGIC;
       one_out : out STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(6 downto 0);
       ten out : out STD LOGIC VECTOR(6 downto 0));
end counter;
architecture counter_arch of counter is
    component div_20
        port ( clk : in STD_LOGIC;
            clk_2k : out STD_LOGIC);
    end component;
    component div_24
        port ( clk : in STD_LOGIC;
             tc_1s : out STD_LOGIC);
    end component;
    component cnt_10
        port ( ce : in STD_LOGIC;
              clk : in STD_LOGIC;
              clr : in STD LOGIC;
               tc : out STD_LOGIC;
             qout : out STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(3 downto 0));
    end component;
    component hex2lcd
        port ( hex : in STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(3 downto 0);
               lcd : out STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(6 downto 0));
```

```
end component;
component lcd_mux
    port ( clk : in STD_LOGIC;
           cnt : in STD_LOGIC;
       data_in : in STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(6 downto 0);
       lcd seq : out STD LOGIC VECTOR(6 downto 0);
       lcd_com : out STD_LOGIC;
        lcd_dp : out STD_LOGIC);
end component;
signal nreset : STD_LOGIC;
signal lcd_clk : STD_LOGIC;
signal ones_en : STD_LOGIC;
signal tens_en : STD_LOGIC;
signal tc_ones : STD_LOGIC;
signal cnt_1s : STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(3 downto 0);
signal cnt_10s : STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(3 downto 0);
signal lcd1_out: STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(6 downto 0);
signal lcd10_out: STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(6 downto 0);
```

begin

```
ONES_LCD:hex2lcd port map(hex=>cnt_ls,
                                lcd=>lcd1_out);
    TENS_LCD:hex2lcd port map(hex=>cnt_10s,
                                lcd=>lcd10_out);
    ONES_MUX:lcd_mux port map(clk=>clk,
                                cnt=>lcd_clk,
                           data_in=>lcd1_out,
                           lcd_seg=>one_out,
                           lcd_com=>lcd_com,
                            lcd_dp=>one_dp);
    TENS_MUX:lcd_mux port map(clk=>clk,
                               cnt=>lcd_clk,
                           data_in=>lcd10_out,
                           lcd_seg=>ten_out,
                            lcd_dp=>ten_dp);
    tens_en<=tc_ones and ones_en;</pre>
    nreset<=not(reset);</pre>
end counter_arch;
```

```
-- Module: lcd_mux.vhd
-- This module controls the bias reversal for a single 7-segment
-- display. The cnt input xor's the segment data to cause the
-- segment biasing to be swapped. The cnt signal should be about
-- 20-30Hz for the LCD to function correctly. The common signal is
-- also bias reversed at this same frequency.
library IEEE;
use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
use IEEE.std_logic_arith.all;
use IEEE.std_logic_misc.all;
use IEEE.std_logic_unsigned.all;
entity lcd_mux is
    port ( clk : in STD_LOGIC;
           cnt : in STD LOGIC;
       data_in : in STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(6 downto 0);
       lcd_seg : out STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(6 downto 0);
       lcd_com : out STD_LOGIC;
        lcd_dp : out STD_LOGIC);
end lcd_mux;
architecture lcd_mux_arch of lcd_mux is
begin
    process(clk)
    begin
        if(clk'event and clk='1') then
             lcd_seg(0) <= data_in(0) xor cnt;</pre>
             lcd_seg(1) <= data_in(1) xor cnt;</pre>
             lcd_seg(2) <= data_in(2) xor cnt;</pre>
             lcd_seg(3) <= data_in(3) xor cnt;</pre>
             lcd_seg(4) <= data_in(4) xor cnt;</pre>
             lcd_seg(5) <= data_in(5) xor cnt;</pre>
             lcd_seg(6) <= data_in(6) xor cnt;</pre>
             lcd_com <= '0' xor cnt;</pre>
             lcd_dp <= '0' xor cnt;</pre>
```

end if;

end process;

end lcd_mux_arch;

```
-- module: div_20.vhd
-- This module divides the incoming clock by 2^20 and outputs the
-- 20th bit of the counter as clk_2k.
library IEEE;
use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
use IEEE.std_logic_arith.all;
use IEEE.std_logic_misc.all;
use IEEE.std_logic_unsigned.all;
entity div_20 is
    port ( clk : in STD_LOGIC;
        clk_2k : out STD_LOGIC);
end div 20;
architecture div_20_arch of div_20 is
    signal count : STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(19 downto 0);
begin
    process(clk)
    begin
        if(clk'event and clk='1') then
            count<=count + "000000000000000001";</pre>
        end if;
    end process;
    clk_2k<=count(19);
end div_20_arch;
```

```
-- module: div_24.vhd
-- This module divides the incoming clock by 2^24 and generates a
-- terminal count pulse of one clock width during the counter rollover.
library IEEE;
use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
use IEEE.std_logic_arith.all;
use IEEE.std_logic_misc.all;
use IEEE.std_logic_unsigned.all;
entity div_24 is
   port ( clk : in STD_LOGIC;
        tc_1s : out STD_LOGIC
        );
end div_24;
architecture div_24_arch of div_24 is
    signal count : STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(23 downto 0);
begin
   process(clk)
   begin
       if(clk'event and clk='1') then
           count<=count + 1;</pre>
       end if;
       tc_1s <= '1';
       else
           tc_1s <= '0';
       end if;
    end process;
end div_24_arch;
```

```
-- Module: cnt_10.vhd
-- This module counts from 0 to 10 and then rolls over.
library IEEE;
use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
use IEEE.std_logic_arith.all;
use IEEE.std_logic_misc.all;
use IEEE.std_logic_unsigned.all;
entity cnt_10 is
    port ( ce : in STD_LOGIC;
           clk : in STD_LOGIC;
           clr : in STD LOGIC;
            tc : out STD_LOGIC;
          qout : out STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(3 downto 0));
end cnt_10;
architecture cnt_10_arch of cnt_10 is
    signal count : STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(3 downto 0);
begin
    process(ce,clk,clr)
    begin
        if(clr='1') then
            count <="0000";
        elsif(ce='1') then
            if(clk'event and clk='1') then
                if(count="1001") then
                    count<="0000";
                else
                    count<=count + "0001";</pre>
                end if;
            end if;
        end if;
    end process;
```

qout<=count;</pre>

tc<='1' when count="1001" else '0';</pre>

end cnt_10_arch;

```
-- module: hex2lcd.vhd
-- This module converts a 4 digit binary number into the LCD format
-- required by the 7-segment LCD display.
library IEEE;
use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
entity hex2lcd is
    port (
        hex: in STD_LOGIC_VECTOR (3 downto 0);
        lcd: out STD_LOGIC_VECTOR (6 downto 0)
         );
end hex2lcd;
architecture hex2lcd_arch of hex2lcd is
begin
    --HEX-to-seven-segment decoder
    _ _
    -- segment encoding
    -- 0
    --
           _ _ _
    -- 5 | | 1
                 <- 6
    __ ___
    -- 4 | 2
    -- ---
            3
    _ _
    with hex select
        lcd<= "0000110" when "0001",</pre>
                                        --1
              "1011011" when "0010",
                                        --2
              "1001111" when "0011",
                                        --3
              "1100110" when "0100",
                                        --4
              "1101101" when "0101",
                                        --5
              "1111101" when "0110",
                                        --6
              "0000111" when "0111",
                                        --7
              "1111111" when "1000",
                                        --8
              "1101111" when "1001",
                                        --9
```

"1110111"	when	"1010",	A
"1111100"	when	"1011",	b
"0111001"	when	"1100",	C
"1011110"	when	"1101",	d
"1111001"	when	"1110",	E
"1110001"	when	"1111",	F
"0111111"	when	others;	0

end hex2lcd_arch;

Appendix E

Camera Housing



Appendix F

Camera Bracket





Appendix G

Head Original



A.R. Blower Development of a Vision System for a Humanoid Robot

Appendix H

Head Final





Appendix I

Head Assembly

