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Real-time colour hologram generation based on ray-sampling plane with multi-GPU acceleration

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Although electro-holography can reconstruct three-dimensional (3D) motion pictures, its computational cost is too heavy to allow for real-time reconstruction of 3D motion pictures. This study explores accelerating colour hologram generation using light-ray information on a ray-sampling (RS) plane with a graphics processing unit (GPU) to realise a real-time holographic display system. We refer to an image corresponding to light-ray information as an RS image. Colour holograms were generated from three RS images with resolutions of $2,048 \times 2,048$; $3,072 \times 3,072$ and $4,096 \times 4,096$ pixels. The computational results indicate that the generation of the colour holograms using multiple GPUs (NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1080) was approximately 300–500 times faster than those generated using a central processing unit. In addition, the results demonstrate that 3D motion pictures were successfully reconstructed from RS images of $3,072 \times 3,072$ pixels at approximately 15 frames per second using an electro-holographic reconstruction system in which colour holograms were generated from RS images in real time.

Electro-holography is a technique that can reconstruct three-dimensional (3D) motion pictures by switching holograms using a spatial light modulator (SLM)^{1–12}. This technique uses a computer-generated hologram (CGH), and several methods are available for hologram generation. The point-based method generates holograms from a 3D object based on point cloud data^{13–18}. Although this method involves simple calculations, the computation time typically depends on the number of point clouds and the number of pixels in a hologram. This indicates that it is significantly difficult to realise real-time hologram generation when large holograms are generated from complex 3D objects. In addition, hidden surface removal and gloss reproduction processes are required in hologram generation^{19–21}, which results in increased computation time. Conversely, previous studies have proposed a hologram generation method based on light-ray reproduction^{22,23}. This method can realise hidden surface removal and gloss reproduction by rendering computer graphics (CG) in a pre-process. However, the rendering and hologram planes are in the same position, and the rendered image becomes blurred when the object is distant from the hologram plane. Subsequently, the ray-sampling (RS) plane method has been proposed²⁴. The RS plane method suppresses blurring of the rendered image by rendering on the RS plane set up near the object. The computational cost of this method is lower than that of other point-based methods because it employs fast Fourier transform (FFT). However, the computational cost is still too high for real-time reconstruction of 3D motion pictures. Thus, we focus on the computation time of the aforementioned method and specifically aim at speeding up colour hologram generation from 3D polygon data based on an RS plane using a graphic processing unit (GPU) to reconstruct 3D motion pictures in real time. In addition, GPU memory buffer overflows is one of the technical difficulties in implementing the RS plane method onto a GPU. We also aim to reduce the amount of GPU memory used in order to achieve high-quality 3D images.

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RS image resolution [pixels]	2,048 × 2,048		3,072 × 3,072		4,096 × 4,096	
Processor	CPU	GPU	CPU	GPU	CPU	GPU
Transfer time HtoD [ms]		1.9		3.1		5.7
Wavefront information acquisition [ms]	1,050	1.1	2,910	2.5	4,380	4.4
Propagation calculation [ms]	6,360	8.0	30,180	37.3	31,050	38.1
Hologram calculation [ms]	210	1.9	900	3.8	990	6.7
Transfer time DtoH [ms]		0.2		0.2		0.2
Drawing time [ms]	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Total computation time [ms]	7,632	25.1	34,002	58.9	36,432	67.1

Table 1. Computation time and computational time details for hologram generation (CPU computation time is the average of 10 measurements; GPU computation time is the average of 1,000 measurements).

Results

We used the following environment to generate a hologram: Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise; 3.40-GHz Intel Core i7-6800K central processing unit (CPU) (full use of six cores) with 32 GB memory; Microsoft Visual C++ 2013; NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1080 GPUs (1,823-MHz GPU clock, 5,005-MHz memory clock, 8,192 MB memory and 2,560 cores) and compute unified device architecture (CUDA) version 8.0 as an integrated development environment for GPU. For the reconstruction environment, we set the hologram resolution to $1,920 \times 1,080$ pixels, the pixel pitch to $8.0 \mu\text{m}$, the blue wavelength to 450 nm, the green wavelength to 532 nm, the red wavelength to 650 nm and the propagation distance to 0.7 m. We used phase-modulation SLMs (Holoeye Photonics AG, 'PLUTO') to display holograms. Table 1 shows the computation time of the RS plane method by the CPU and GPU. Here, we arranged three GPUs on the PC to generate holograms. The values in Table 1 represent the total computation time involved in acquiring wavefront information, Fresnel diffraction and hologram calculation. Here the transfer time HtoD is the transfer time from the host PC to the device (i.e. the GPU), while the transfer time DtoH is the transfer time from the device to the host PC. As shown in Table 1, the computation time required by the GPU is approximately 300–500 times faster than that of the CPU, and the frame-rate of hologram generation from $3,072 \times 3,072$ -pixel RS images corresponds to approximately 15 frames per second.

Figure 1a shows the optical system to reconstruct colour 3D images by electro-holography¹⁵. Figure 1b shows a schematic of the electro-holographic reconstruction system in this experiment. Figure 1c–e show images reconstructed from three RS images at resolutions of $2,048 \times 2,048$, $3,072 \times 3,072$ and $4,096 \times 4,096$ pixels with zero padding of $2N \times 2N$ pixels (described in the Methods section). Figure 1f–h show images reconstructed from three RS images at resolutions of $3,072 \times 3,072$, $3,072 \times 3,072$ and $6,144 \times 6,144$ pixels with zero paddings of $4,096 \times 4,096$, $8,192 \times 8,192$ and $8,192 \times 8,192$ pixels, respectively (described in the Discussion section). A comparison of the enlarged view of each reconstructed image reveals that the resolution of the RS image increases when the quality of the reconstructed images improves. This is because reconstructed image quality in the RS plane method improves with an increase in the number of elemental images of the RS image. Because we fixed the resolution of each elemental image at 16×16 pixels, the number of elemental images is proportional to the resolution of the RS images. Figure 2 and Supplementary Video 1 shows the real-time reconstructed moving pictures from eighty $3,072 \times 3,072$ RS images obtained using the optical system. Supplementary Video 2 shows the manner in which the program generates holograms and reconstructs 3D images in real time. Figures 1c–h, 2, Supplementary Videos 1 and 2 demonstrate that the CGH calculation is successfully performed in real time.

Even in the image shown in Fig. 1e, the depth difference and volume effect in the 3D space are not clearly observed. Next, we placed an additional object containing the text “3D” ~2 cm behind the dinosaur and generated an RS image and a hologram from the two objects. We captured two reconstructed images by focusing a digital camera on the dinosaur (Fig. 3a) and the “3D” text (Fig. 3b); the “3D” text and dinosaur images were blurred. These images indicate that the reconstructed holographic images showed a depth difference and volume effect in the 3D space.

Discussion

The difference in computation time is small between the $3,072 \times 3,072$ and $4,096 \times 4,096$ pixel RS images (Table 1). In other words, there is little difference in the computation time of the wavefront propagation, which requires the most time for hologram generation, between $3,072 \times 3,072$ and $4,096 \times 4,096$ RS images. This results from the computational efficiency of the two-dimensional (2D) FFTs. A convolution-based Fresnel diffraction calculation was employed to perform wavefront propagation (described in the Methods section); therefore, it takes more time to calculate a 2D FFT and inverse 2D FFT than other calculations. In addition, we employed zero padding to expand the resolution of the RS images from $N \times N$ pixels to $2N \times 2N$ pixels (described in the Methods section). Table 2 shows the FFT computation time with a GPU and image resolution changes by zero padding. The computational efficiency of FFT reaches a maximum value when the number of elements is a power of two because the number of FFT calculations equals $O(2n \log n)$, where n is the number of elements. There is little difference in computational time between images with $3,072 \times 3,072$ pixels and those with $4,096 \times 4,096$ pixels. Moreover, the computational time at a resolution of $8,192 \times 8,192$ pixels is shorter than that at $6,144 \times 6,144$ pixels. Therefore, we consider that the reduction of wavefront propagation computation cost is effective for accelerating hologram generation. Figure 1f and g show the images reconstructed from the RS image at a resolution of $3,072 \times 3,072$ pixels. The resolution of the RS image was expanded to $4,096 \times 4,096$ (Fig. 1f) and $8,192 \times 8,192$ (Fig. 1g) pixels

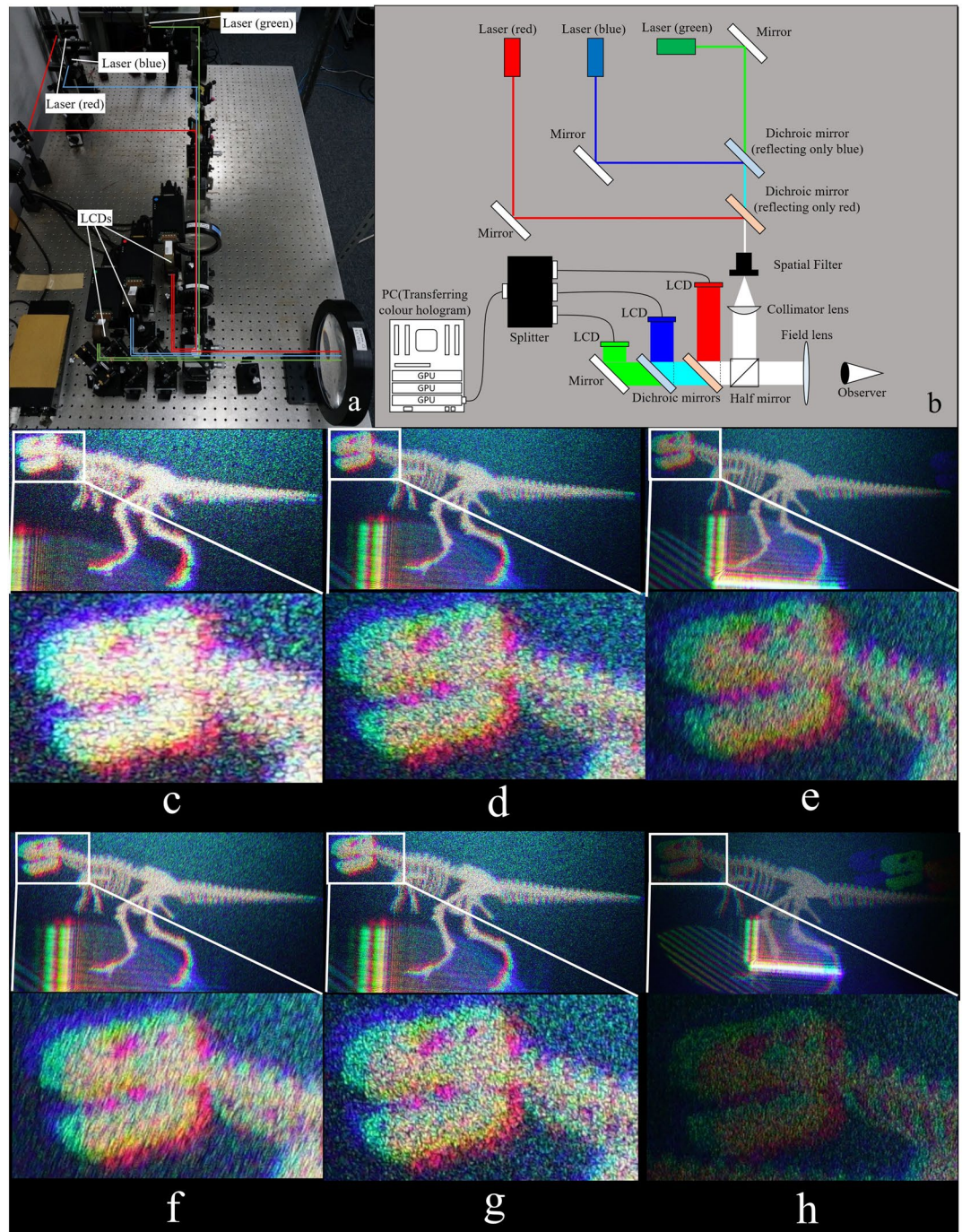


Figure 1. (a) Optical system to reconstruct colour 3D images by electro-holography, (b) overview of the hologram setup. Image reconstructed from six RS images at resolutions of (c) $2,048 \times 2,048$, (d) $3,072 \times 3,072$, (e) $4,096 \times 4,096$, (f) $3,072 \times 3,072$, (g) $3,072 \times 3,072$ and (h) $6,144 \times 6,144$, and the resolution after expanding by zero padding is (c) $4,096 \times 4,096$, (d) $6,144 \times 6,144$, (e) $8,192 \times 8,192$ pixels, (f) $4,096 \times 4,096$, (g) $8,192 \times 8,192$ and (h) $8,192 \times 8,192$.

by zero padding. As shown in Table 2, a resolution of $4,096 \times 4,096$ is appropriate from a computational efficiency perspective. In addition, comparing the enlarged view of each reconstructed image, both Fig. 1f and g have the same image quality as Fig. 1d, which was obtained by expanding the RS image with a resolution of $3,072 \times 3,072$ pixels to $6,144 \times 6,144$ pixels. This indicates that the number of pixels required for zero padding is practically less than $2N \times 2N$, and it is possible to calculate the hologram and reconstruct the desired image from $3,072 \times 3,072$ expanded to $4,096 \times 4,096$ pixels using zero padding without practical problems. Supplementary Video 3 shows real-time reconstructed moving pictures from eighty $3,072 \times 3,072$ RS images expanded to $4,096 \times 4,096$ pixels. Table 3 shows the hologram generation computation time for expanding the RS image from

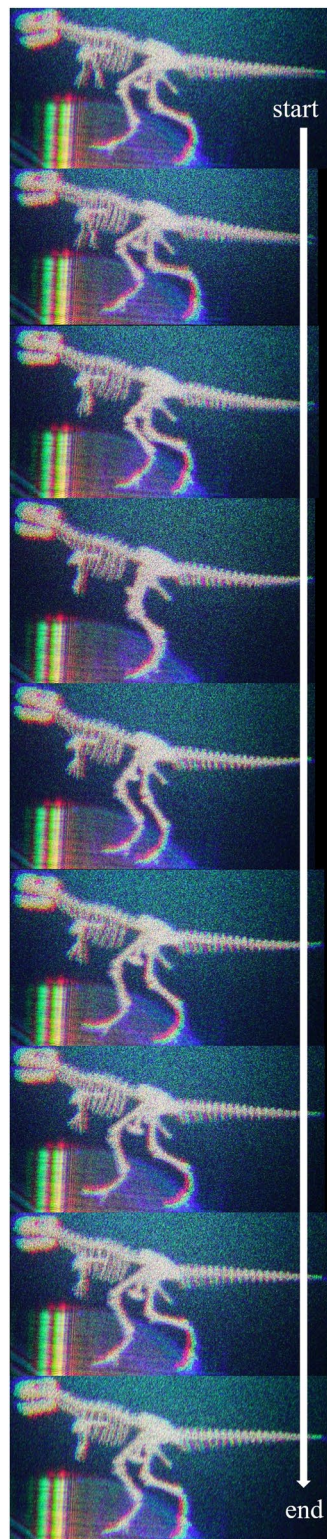


Figure 2. Reconstructed images (several frames in Supplementary Video 1).

3,072 × 3,072 pixels to 4,096 × 4,096 pixels. We achieved approximately 30 frames per second by setting the resolution after conducting zero padding to an efficient resolution for FFT.

In addition, it is impossible to calculate a hologram from a 6,144 × 6,144-pixel RS image by performing $2N \times 2N$ zero padding due to GPU memory buffer overflows that occur in FFT for wavefront propagation when the RS image resolution is expanded to 12,288 × 12,288 pixels. On the other hand, a hologram can be calculated from a 6,144 × 6,144 RS image by setting the zero padding resolution to 8,192 × 8,192 pixels, which reduces the amount of memory used. Figure 1h shows an image reconstructed from a 6,144 × 6,144 RS image. We confirm

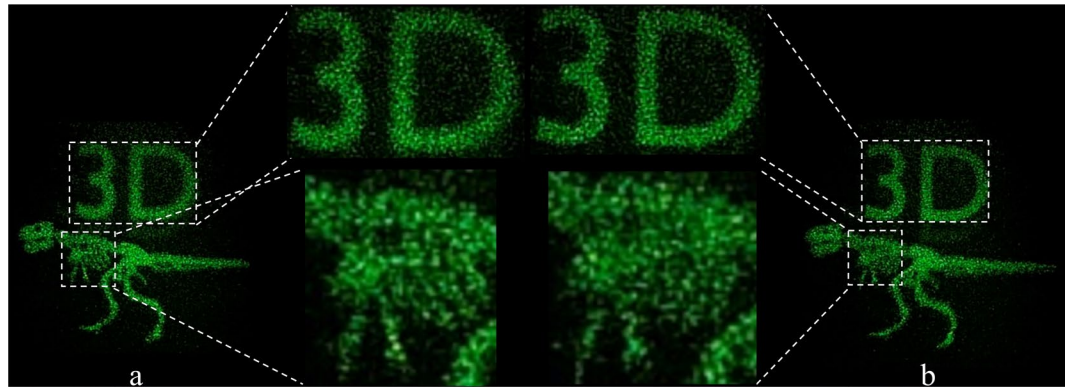


Figure 3. Image reconstructed from an RS image generated from two objects (the dinosaur and the text “3D” ~2 cm behind the dinosaur) at a resolution of $2,048 \times 2,048$, and the resolution after expanding by zero padding is $4,096 \times 4,096$. Focusing a digital camera on (a) the dinosaur and (b) the “3D” text.

Image resolution [pixels]	FFT computation time by cuFFT [ms]
$1,024 \times 1,024$	0.229
$2,048 \times 2,048$	0.871
$3,072 \times 3,072$	3.292
$4,096 \times 4,096$	3.426
$5,120 \times 5,120$	10.799
$6,144 \times 6,144$	15.734
$7,168 \times 7,168$	21.437
$8,192 \times 8,192$	13.988
$9,216 \times 9,216$	35.229
$10,240 \times 10,240$	43.513

Table 2. Relationship between image resolution and FFT computation time.

RS image resolution [pixels]	$3,072 \times 3,072$
Processor	GPU
Transfer time HtoD [ms]	3.1
Wavefront information acquisition [ms]	2.5
Propagation calculation [ms]	8.3
Hologram calculation [ms]	3.8
Transfer time DtoH [ms]	0.2
Drawing time [ms]	12.0
Total computation time [ms]	29.9

Table 3. Computation time and computational time details for hologram generation (GPU computation time is the average of 1,000 measurements).

that the image reconstructed from the $6,144 \times 6,144$ RS image in Fig. 3c demonstrates higher image quality than the $4,096 \times 4,096$ RS image in Fig. 1e.

Methods

Hologram generation from RS plane. This section discusses the hologram generation method based on the RS plane²⁴. Figure 4a shows the flow of the method. Here, a method that involves placing an RS plane near an object and placing a hologram plane distant from the object is used²⁴. As shown in Fig. 4b, in this method, the first elemental images $p_{ij}[m, n]$ are sampled from the object at the (x_i, y_j) coordinates on the RS plane. Here, m and n denote the x- and y-coordinates in each elemental image comprising $M \times N$ pixels, respectively, and I and J denote the number of elemental images in the horizontal and vertical directions, respectively. As shown in Fig. 4c, the elemental images are considered 2D images with different viewpoint positions of the object as obtained by a camera array. As a result, each pixel of the elemental image maintains information related to different light-rays with different intensities and directions; thus, it is possible to represent the light-ray using plane waves, i.e. the angular spectra²⁴. However, the number of elemental images is equivalent to the resolution of the reconstructed

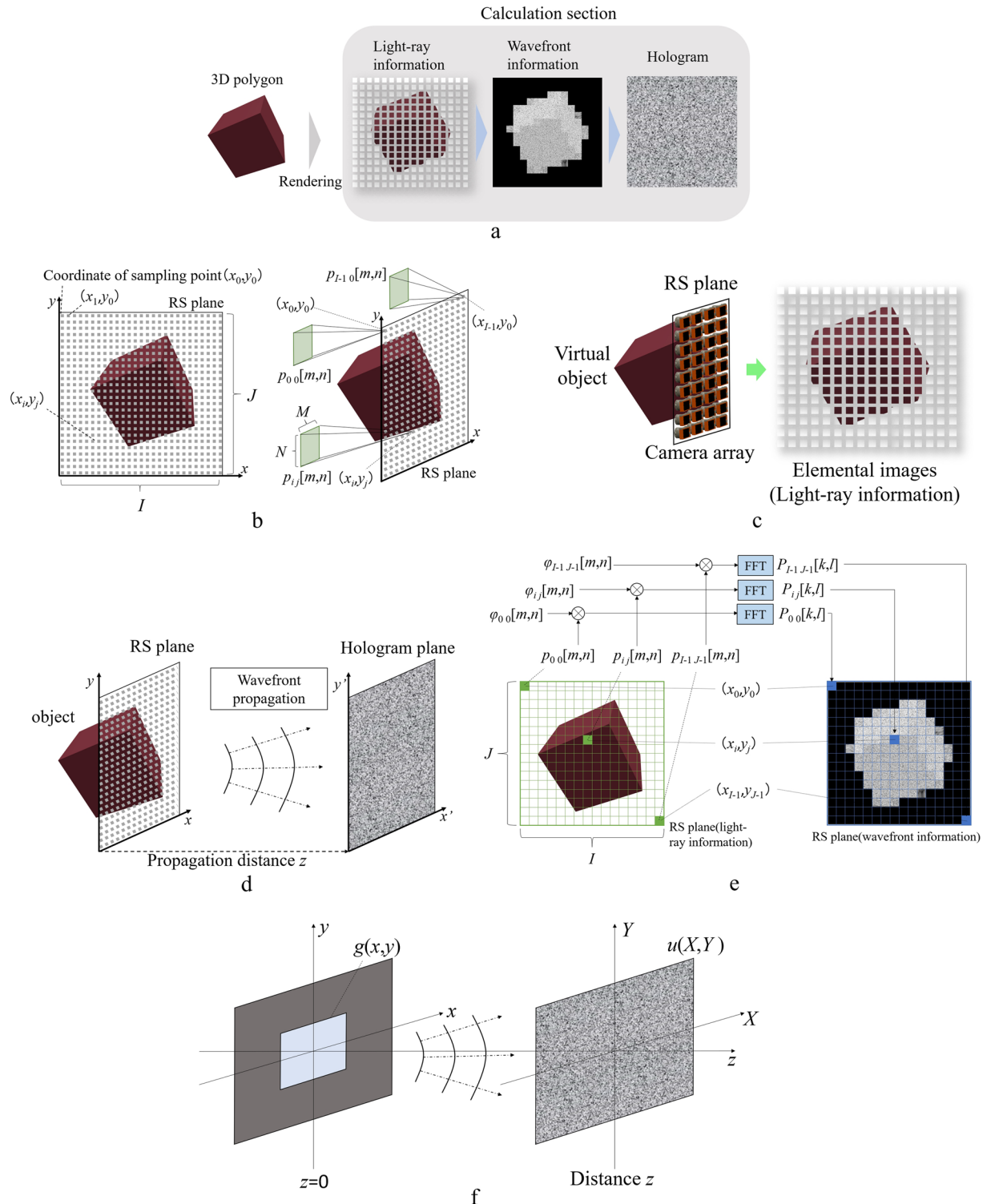


Figure 4. (a) Flow of RS plane-based hologram generation, (b) Model of RS plane and elemental images at each light-ray point, (c) method to acquire elemental images, (d) Position of RS plane and hologram plane, (e) method to acquire wavefront information and (f) Fresnel diffraction schematic.

image, and the resolution of the elemental image is equivalent to the angular resolution of the reconstructed image. Therefore, when the resolution of the elemental image is fixed, the resolution of the reconstructed image increases depending on the resolution of the RS image.

Figure 4d shows the relationship between the positions of the RS and hologram planes. The previous section discussed the acquisition of angular spectra by sampling light-ray information from the object. However, as shown in Fig. 4b, the RS plane is separate from the hologram plane; therefore, it is necessary to calculate the

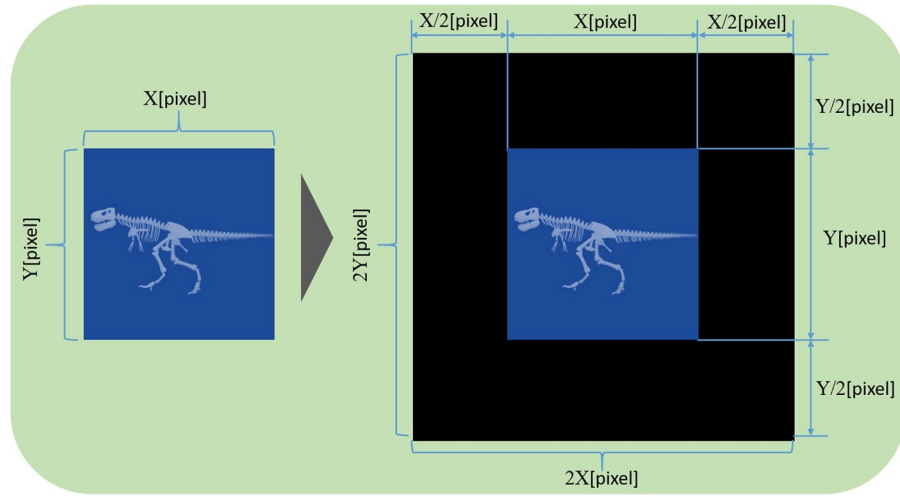


Figure 5. Schematic of zero padding.

wavefront propagation from the RS plane to the hologram plane²⁴. This section explains the method used to transform angular spectra to wavefront propagation. Here, the angular spectra acquired in the previous section are denoted by $A(f_x, f_y, 0)$. Subsequently, the complex optical field $U(x, y, 0)$ required for wavefront information is expressed as follows:

$$U(x, y, 0) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} A(f_x, f_y, 0) \exp[-2\pi(f_x x + f_y y)] df_x df_y \quad (1)$$

here f_x and f_y denote spatial frequencies in x and y directions. The FFT is expressed as follows:

$$G(f_x, f_y) = \text{FFT}\{g(x_0, y_0)\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x_0, y_0) \exp[-2\pi(f_x x_0 + f_y y_0)] dx_0 dy_0 \quad (2)$$

furthermore, by comparing Eqs. (1) and (2), it can be seen that $U(x, y, 0)$ is equivalent to the Fourier-transformed $A(f_x, f_y, 0)$. Therefore, $U(x, y, 0)$ can be expressed as follows:

$$U(x, y, 0) = \text{FFT}\{A(f_x, f_y, 0)\}. \quad (3)$$

Figure 4e summarises the procedure used to transform light-ray information to wavefront information. The left side of the figure shows the elemental images maintaining light-ray information on the RS plane, and the right side represents the transformed light-ray information (i.e. the wavefront information). Here, the elemental image $p_{ij}[m, n]$ at (x_i, y_j) was added by a random phase $\varphi_{ij}[m, n]$ to diffuse light. The range of the random phase corresponds to $(0, 2\pi)$. Subsequently, the wavefront information $P_{ij}[k, l]$ is obtained via FFT as follows:

$$P_{ij}[k, l] = \text{FFT}\{p_{ij}[m, n] \exp(j\varphi_{ij}[m, n])\} \quad (4)$$

here j denotes the imaginary unit. Subsequently, wavefront information (i.e. the complex optical field) on the hologram plane is calculated by a propagation calculation from the RS plane to the hologram plane. Here, a convolution-based Fresnel diffraction calculation is used. An aperture plane (i.e. the complex optical field $g(x, y)$) and a screen $u(X, Y)$ are assumed as shown in Fig. 4f, and the complex optical field $u(X, Y)$ is represented by Fresnel diffraction and expressed as follows:

$$u(X, Y) = \frac{1}{j\lambda z} \exp(-jkz) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x, y) \exp\left\{-jk \frac{(X-x)^2 + (Y-y)^2}{2z}\right\} dx dy \quad (5)$$

here, $k = 2\pi/\lambda$ denotes the wave number and λ denotes the wavelength. Note that Eq. (5) is a convolution integral and can be represented using FFT as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} u(X, Y) &= \text{FFT}^{-1}\{\text{FFT}\{g(x, y)\} \cdot \text{FFT}\{h(x, y)\}\}, \\ h(x, y) &= \frac{1}{j\lambda z} \exp\left\{-\frac{jk}{2z}((X-x)^2 + (Y-y)^2 + 2z^2)\right\} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

here, Fresnel diffraction is used, and the complex optical field $W_H[k_H, l_H]$ on the hologram from the wavefront information $W_{RS}[k_{RS}, l_{RS}]$ on the RS plane is expressed as follows:

$$W_H[k_H, l_H] = \text{FFT}^{-1}\{\text{FFT}\{W_{RS}[k_{RS}, l_{RS}]\} \cdot \text{FFT}\{h(x, y)\}\} \quad (7)$$

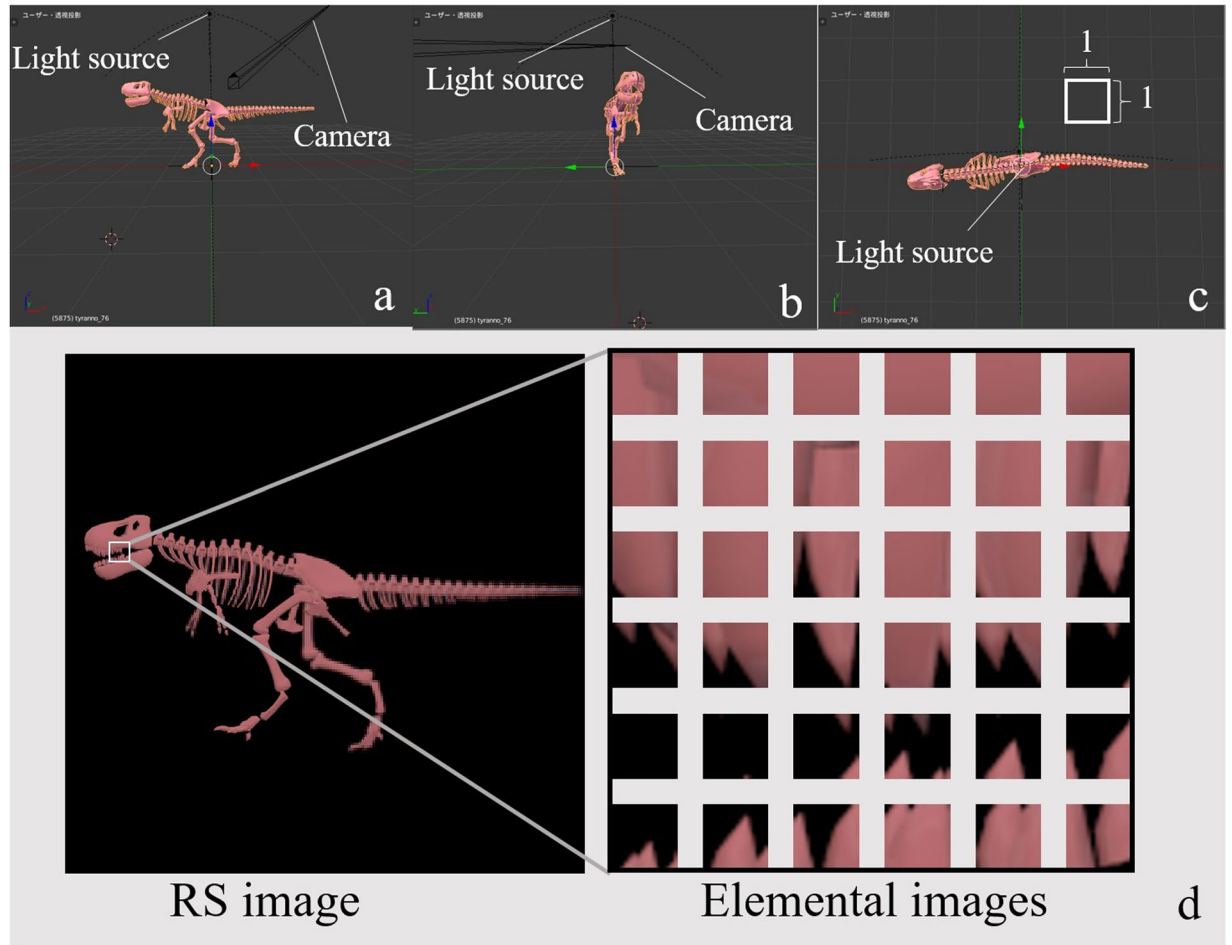


Figure 6. Example virtual 3D object in Blender from (a) front, (b) side and (c) top views. (d) Example RS and elemental images.

where k_H is $0, 1, \dots, IM - 1$ and l_H is $0, 1, \dots, JN - 1$. In Eq. (7), the propagation calculation is represented by only a 2D FFT. Subsequently, zero padding is performed to prevent any aliasing noise from overlapping the desired reconstructed image. Here, we expand the resolution of RS images of $N \times N$ pixels to $2N \times 2N$ pixels by employing zero padding, as shown in Fig. 5.

The complex optical field on the hologram is then converted to a phase-only hologram because a phase-modulated SLM was used. Therefore, a kinoform-type phase hologram $H[k_H, l_H]$ can be calculated as follows:

$$H[k_H, l_H] = \arg(W_H) = \tan^{-1} \frac{\text{Im}(W_H)}{\text{Re}(W_H)}. \quad (8)$$

3D model specifications. Elemental images were acquired by scanning with a virtual camera using the Blender 3DCG modelling tool²⁵. Here, the 3DCG object data are created by us. Figure 6 shows the front, side and top views of the virtual objects.

Note that the unit length is defined as 1 in Blender. A unit length of 1 in real space depends on the pixel pitch p , camera scanning distance d and the resolution of RS image s , and is obtained as follows:

$$(\text{The length of 1}) = \frac{(p \times s)}{d}. \quad (9)$$

We scanned the virtual camera for 4.0 on the x- and y-axis when the elemental images were acquired. Figure 6d shows the elemental images. Here, the resolutions of the RS images are $2,048 \times 2,048$, $3,072 \times 3,072$ and $4,096 \times 4,096$ pixels, and the number of elemental images for each RS image is 128×128 ply, 192×192 ply and 256×256 ply. The resolution for all elemental images is 16×16 pixels, which is the same for all RS images.

Implementing GPU method. This section explains the manner in which the hologram generation method based on the RS plane was implemented. The implementation was executed using three GPUs, and red, green

and blue holograms were calculated by each GPU. Then, we used one of three GPUs for delivering a hologram to the SLMs. We transferred the colour holograms to the RGB splitter, which divided the colour-synthesized input signal into three output signals (red, green and blue) via digital visual interface cables, and monochromatic holograms were displayed on the SLMs.

Note that acquiring wavefront information from light-ray information requires a similar number of FFTs as the number of elemental images. The process of 2D FFT for each elemental image corresponds to one of the heaviest computational processes in this method. This is followed by using the cuFFT library, an FFT CUDA library. Moreover, `cufftPlanMany`²⁶, which is one of the function of cuFFT library, is used to accelerate the 2D FFT process of elemental images as `cufftPlanMany` can parallelise several 2D FFTs and can realise speedy execution of the 2D FFT process.

Note that the calculations in Eq. (8) are independent relative to each pixel. The calculation is parallelised by allotting the calculation of each pixel to each GPU thread. The numbers of blocks and threads of a GPU correspond to those of the elemental images and pixels of each elemental image, respectively.

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Author Contributions

T.K., Y.I., K.Y. and T.I. directed the project. H.N. created the 3DCG object data. H.S. calculated the holograms with T.K., Y.I., K.W., R.O. and K.Y., H.S. accelerated the hologram calculation processing with T.K., Y.E., T.S. and T.I., H.S. and T.K. designed and performed the hologram reconstruction experiments. All authors contributed to discussions.

Additional Information

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