Extreme photography

CS 178, Spring 2013

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Extremes

- high resolution
  - high speed
  - low speed
  - small aperture
  - large aperture
- low field of view
- tight field of view
- high dynamic range
- low dynamic range

Sinar view camera
10,000 × 8,000 pixels

Nokia 808
41 megapixels
111-megapixel wafer-scale sensor

- 95mm × 95mm CCD sensor
- 10,580 × 10,560 pixels
- low yield, very expensive

5” (aperture) telescope at the U.S. naval observatory, Flagstaff, AZ
Graham Flint’s gigapx1.org

- custom camera and lens
- 18” negative → drum scanner → printer
- 40,000 pixels × 25,000 pixels
Balboa Park, San Diego

(full-resolution print in Gates Hall, 3rd floor, entrance to graphics wing)
San Diego Skyline
xrez.com (also gigapixel resolution)

GigaPan Epic Pro
xrez.com  (also gigapixel resolution)
Extremes

- high resolution
- high speed
- low speed
- small aperture
- large aperture
- narrow field of view
- wide field of view
- high dynamic range
- low dynamic range
Harold Edgerton: “father” of high-speed photography

from Stopping Time, 1964

- no shutter
- electronic strobe
- microphone near gun
Ultra-high speed photography

- atomic explosion
- 1/100,000,000 second
- camera was 7 miles away
- telescopic lens
High-speed video with a still camera: the Casio EX-F1

- 640 × 480 pixels
- 300 frames per second
- border collie
• 320 × 480 pixels
• 600 frames per second
- 160 × 480 pixels
- 1200 frames per second
Extremes

• high resolution
• high speed
  ✦ low speed
• small aperture
• large aperture
• narrow field of view
• wide field of view
• high dynamic range
• low dynamic range
Low-light photography

- composite of two exposures
- cityscape was 30 seconds

Lee Frost, Santorini, Greece
Time exposures in astronomy

• 30-minute exposure
• telescopes can rotate to avoid smearing stars
• What is the unmoving star in the middle?
Jesse Levinson, Andromeda
Painting with light

- 30-second exposure
- multiple flashes
- Don’t stand between the flash-lit part of the scene and the camera!

Lee Frost, railroad yard
Extremes

• high resolution
• high speed
• low speed

✦ small aperture
• large aperture
• narrow field of view
• wide field of view
• high dynamic range
• low dynamic range
Small aperture  (large depth of field)

Ansel Adams, Mission San Xavier del Bac, Tucson

• the f/64 club
Extremes

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- large aperture
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- wide field of view
- high dynamic range
- low dynamic range
Large aperture  (shallow depth of field)

Lewis Hine, Girl Worker in Cotton Mill, 1908
Synthetic aperture photography
Example using 45 cameras
[Vaish CVPR 2004]
Light field photography

• we’ll have a lecture on this later in the course
SynthCam is an app for the iPhone 4, 3GS, iPod Touch 4G, and iPad2
(requires iOS 4.2 or higher)

Price: Free

Current version: 2.0

Available on the iPhone
App Store
single frame

synthetic aperture photograph
Tilt-shift of Stanford quadrangle as seen from Hoover Tower
Extremes

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Narrow field of view: telephoto lens

- 300mm lens

Bryan Peterson, Golden Gate Bridge
Extreme telephoto

- Nikon 1540mm
  Cassegrain reflector
Other extreme telephoto lenses

Canon 1200mm

Zeiss 1700mm

Nikon 2000mm
Really extreme

Hale telescope on Mt. Palomar, CA

\[ A = 200'' \quad (16') \]
\[ f = 650'' \quad (50') \]
\[ N = f/3.3 \]
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✦ wide field of view
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• low dynamic range
Wide field of view: stitched panoramas
Wide field of view: stitched panoramas

- 4 photos, total = 90° field of view
- Canon point-and-shoot camera, handheld
- stitched using Photoshop CS3

Crater Lake, Oregon
Games with stitched panoramas

- 5 shots, with camera aimed slightly downwards and rolled clockwise around its optical axis between shots left to right, producing a curved world effect when stitched using Photoshop with cylindrical projection
Nikon 6mm fisheye lens

- 220° field of view measured diagonally
- 11.4 pounds

*Now only $34,000 on eBay!!*
Stanford CityBlock Project
(now Google StreetView)

- capture video while driving
- extract middle column from each frame
- stack them to create a panorama
Stanford CityBlock Project
Stanford CityBlock Project
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- low dynamic range
High dynamic range (HDR)

- one of photography’s key limitations
  - negative film = 250:1 (8 stops)
  - paper prints = 50:1
  - example below = 250,000:1 (18 stops)

(Paul Debevec)
DIY HDR

- 2 shots
- Photoshop CS4

Early morning in Zurich
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Sinar P3 view camera with 54H digital back

- 2¼ × 2¼ sensor, actively cooled, 14 real bits
single frame
in dark room
using iPhone 4
average of
~30 frames
using SynthCam

SNR increases as
sqrt(# of frames)
Slide credits
(in addition to individually credited images)

✦ [http://gigapixl.org](http://gigapixl.org)
✦ [http://xrez.com](http://xrez.com)