

High-end Multi-camera Technology, Applications and Examples



Max Larin May 22, 2018

Overview



- XIMEA Quick Intro
- Multi-camera Applications
- Technologies to Build a Multi-camera System
- Advantages of PCI Express as an Interface
- Multi-camera System Architecture Based on XIMEA's PCIe Components
- Examples of Multi-camera systems and Performance





XIMEA Quick Intro





XIMEA Quick Intro

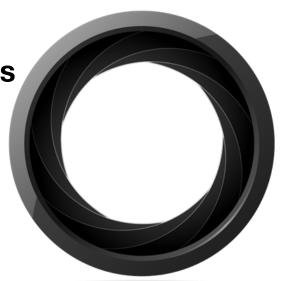


- Versatile camera manufacturer for more than 25 years
- Recognized as an innovator in machine vision and imaging markets
- Located in Germany, Slovakia and USA
- 50% standard and 50% custom/OEM products:
 - Sensor resolutions from VGA to 50 Mpix
 - Frame rates up to 3500 fps
 - API/SDK support for variety of operating systems and hosts
 - Multiple interfaces, short/medium/long distances
 - Extremely compact camera arrangements
 - Aggregation of data from multiple imagers into a single cable





Multi-camera Applications and Technologies





Multi-camera Arrangements

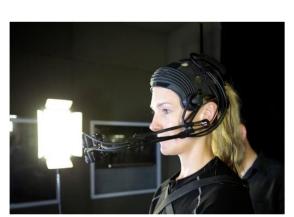


- Inside-out
 - Ozo, Cyclomedia
- Outside-in
 - Stadiums, 3D scanning, Photogrammetry
- Array
 - Lytro
- Cluster multiple groups of a few cameras each
 - ir-ltd, several groups of 3-4 cameras

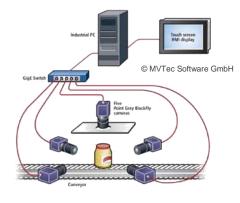




- A few cameras: 2...6 cameras
 - Factory automation
 - UAV payloads
 - Stereo vision, face/motion capture











© Dimensional Imaging / Technoprops



- Several cameras: 5...12 cameras
 - Cyclorama imaging
 - ADAS
 - 360° spherical imaging





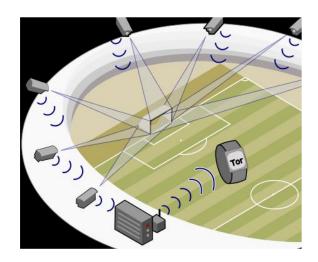


Nokia Ozo





- Multiple cameras: 12...50+ cameras
 - Sports, goal lines, ball trajectories









- Multiple cameras: 12...50+ cameras
 - 3D scanning rigs and photogrammetry



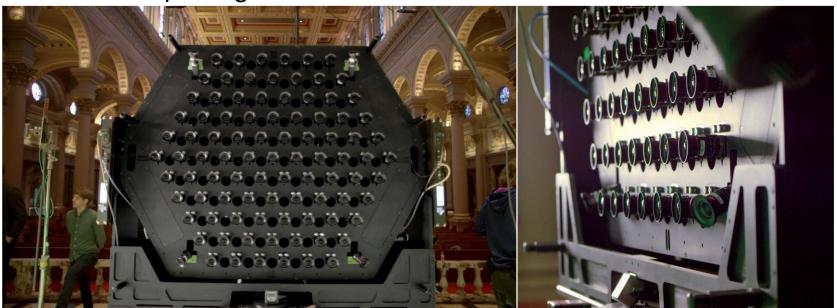


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- Multiple cameras: 12...50+ cameras
 - AR/VR capturing







Typical Multi-camera Application Requirements



- Camera resolutions 3 to 50 Mpix, and more
- Number of cameras per system from 2 to more than 100
- Frame rates per camera from 10 fps to 240 fps and even higher
- Distance between cameras and the host from few centimeters to hundreds of meters
- Triggering and synchronization:
 - Master-slave
 - External, genlock



Architecture Challenges of Multi-camera Deployment

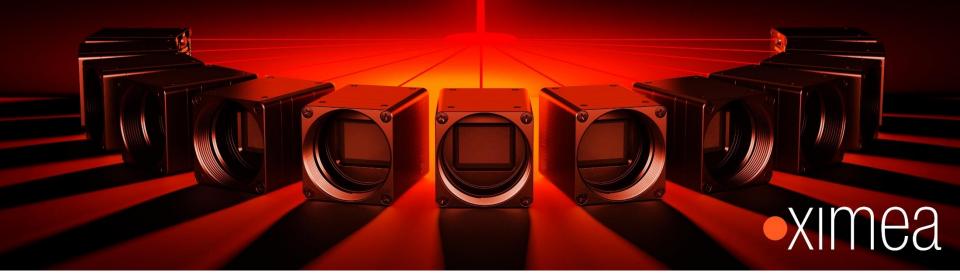


- Delivery of data from multiple high-end cameras to processor
 - Multi-gigabit data rates
 - Multiple cables, multiple interface cards/controllers
 - Bottlenecks and congestions in the PC host infrastructure
- High-bandwidth storage for real-time recording
 - E.g. 120x 12 Mpix cameras @ 60 fps requires >86 GB/s bandwidth!!!
- In some cases (lossless) compression is required, which adds processing demands



Speed. Distance. Freedom.

Cameras with 64Gbit/s PCI Express interface





Advantages of PCIe as a Camera Interface



- Scalable bandwidth 5...64 Gbit/s
- Multiplexing several camera data streams into one cable
- Heterogeneous downstreams, homogeneous upstream
- Support for different cables:
 - Compact connectors with transceivers (FireFly)
 - Fiber optic up to 300 m, mil-spec MTP
 - Copper cables up to 7 m
- Minimal latencies for image delivery
- Widely available on various computing platforms:
 - PC (NUC, ComExpress), ARM (Jetson TX1/2, Snapdragon, Freescale)





xPlatform - Multi-camera Technology







xPlatform definition

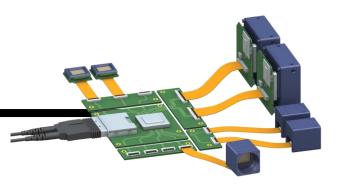


- PCIe and USB 3.1 Cameras:
 - xiX, xiB, xiQ, xiC



- PCIe Aggregation Technology:
 - xSwitch







XIMEA Cameras



- Variety of form factors
 - Board level, compact, full-frame
- Range of sensor resolutions, pixel sizes and framerates
 - VGA ... 50Mpix
 - 2.5 to 10 µm
 - 3500 @ HD resolution
- Lens interfaces
 - M12 (S-mount)
 - C/CS-mount
 - Active Canon EF





XIMEA Cameras – xiX Small Form Factor



- PCIe Gen2 x2, C/CS-mount (26.4 x 26.4 x 30.9)
- Sony Pregius and fast CMOSIS CMV sensors,
- Up to 1.1" optical format
- 2 PCIe lanes for up to 10 Gbit/s bandwidth
- Standard C-mount, convertible to CS-mount
- Board-level version available



- Sensors: 2.3, 3.1, 5.0, 8.9 and 12.4 Mpix, b/w and color
- Frame rates: 2.3 Mpix @ 166 fps to 12.4 Mpix @ 69 fps



XIMEA Cameras – xiX Large Form Factor



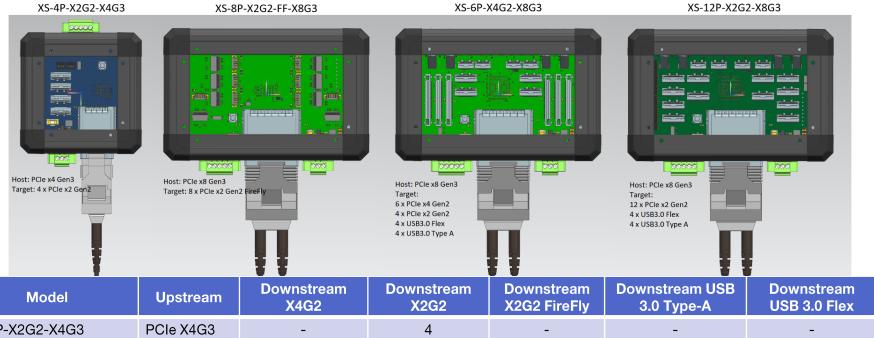
- PCIe Gen2 x4, Canon EF-mount (60 x 60 x 33.6)
- Integrated active Canon EF lens adapter for dynamic control of aperture and focus
- Large format CMOS sensors
- 4 PCIe lanes for up to 20 Gbit/s bandwidth
- Board-level version available

- Sensors: 12, 20 and 48 Mpix, b/w and color
- Frame rates: 12 Mpix @ 133 fps to 48 Mpix @ 30 fps



xSwitch - Generic configurations





Model	Upstream	X4G2	X2G2	X2G2 FireFly	3.0 Type-A	USB 3.0 Flex
XS-4P-X2G2-X4G3	PCIe X4G3	-	4	-	-	-
XS-6P-X4G2-X8G3	PCIe X8G3	6	4	-	4	4
XS-8P-X2G2-FF-X8G3	PCIe X8G3	-	-	8	-	-
XS-12P-X2G2-X8G3	PCIe X8G3	-	12	-	4	4



xPlatform Demonstrators - 360° rig



- 8x 3 Mpix cameras IMX253, each streaming at 218 fps
- All aggregated into one x4G3 32 Gb/s fiber cable
- Up to 100 m cable length



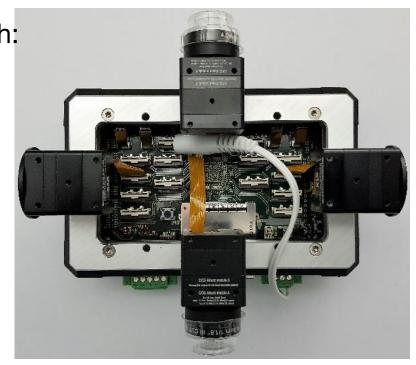




xPlatform Demonstrators - Generic xSWITCH-L



- 12 PCIe X2G2 ports total, populated with:
 - 4x MX050CG-SY-X2G2-FL,
 - 10 cm PCle X2G2 flex cables
 - 4x 5.0M Pix at 165 fps each
 - Compact S-mount optics
 - Master-slave hardware synchronization via xSWITCH
 - Aluminum enclosure





xPlatform Deployment Examples



- Customer A:
 - 60x 12 Mpix cameras @ 300 fps
 + RAW recording
- Customer B:
 - 24x 12 Mpix cameras @ 10 fps, over one xSwitch
- Customer C:
 - Scalable rig cluster, each 6x 12 Mpix @ 60 fps, over one xSwitch
 + RAW recording
- Customer D:
 - 120x 12 Mpix cameras @ 60 fps, one xSwitch per 6 cameras
 + RAW recording



Resources



xiX infographics

https://www.ximea.com/files/brochures/xiX%20Infographic.pdf

xiX brochure

https://www.ximea.com/files/brochures/xiX-OEM-cameras-for-integration-2017-brochure-HQ.pdf

xiSwitch infographics

https://www.ximea.com/files/brochures/xiSWITCH%20Infographic.pdf

XIMEA Embedded vision home

https://www.ximea.com/embedded-vision/systems

Explanatory diagram

https://www.ximea.com/support/attachments/download/8875/MX-X2G2-FL Diagram.pdf

PCle page

https://www.ximea.com/en/pci-express-camera/pcie-camera-zone

Software related

https://www.ximea.com/support/wiki/apis/Linux ARM Support



Speed. Distance. Freedom.

Cameras with 64Gbit/s PCI Express interface



