Image Calculator Final Project

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The Pivot

- Original intention was to combine several hardware modules
 - Modules: VMODCam and iRobot
 - Description: moving robot which can identify a color, drive toward it, and "retrieve" it
- Quickly ran into problems
 - Combining projects in the EDK meant manual re-creation of one of the projects
 - Caused errors in the SDK when trying to adapt code from the tutorials

- After 3 weeks of EDK debugging, we decided to try something else
 - Solely based on the VMODCam module

Project Description

A calculator that can see. The calculator uses image processing to identify numbers and operators that the user presents to the camera, and then calculates the result of an expression when the user is finished.

The calculator supports operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Operands are currently configured with a maximum of 4 digits each, with room for expansion depending on memory usage.

Industry Standards

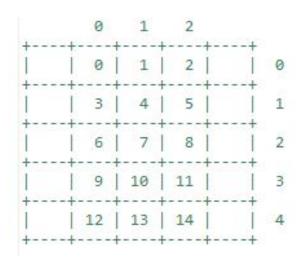
- Visual
 - Consumers expect smooth animation, display synced to refresh rate, consistent aspect ratio
 - Shortcomings: tearing occurs (causes flickering), image is stretched vertically
- Hardware/Software Co-Design
 - Successful integration of FPGA/Xilinx modules and C programming concepts
 - Tightly coupled design
 - Hardware limitations (mainly memory) constrained certain software solutions
- Computer-Human Interaction
 - Edge cases considered and fixed
 - Clear and focused interaction through terminal
 - Response given on each taken action

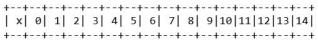
Hardware

- VMod camera with dual 2MP cameras
 - SoC includes image flow processor for selectable output resolutions
 - We used RGB with 4 bits per color
- Video output to the monitor is over HDMI via the VHDCI connector
- Register writes done via Xilinx library functions with raw target addresses
- Image processing software running on MicroBlaze in C
 - Virtex-5 FPGA
 - Digilent Genesys development board
 - FPGA writes messages to console over serial connection

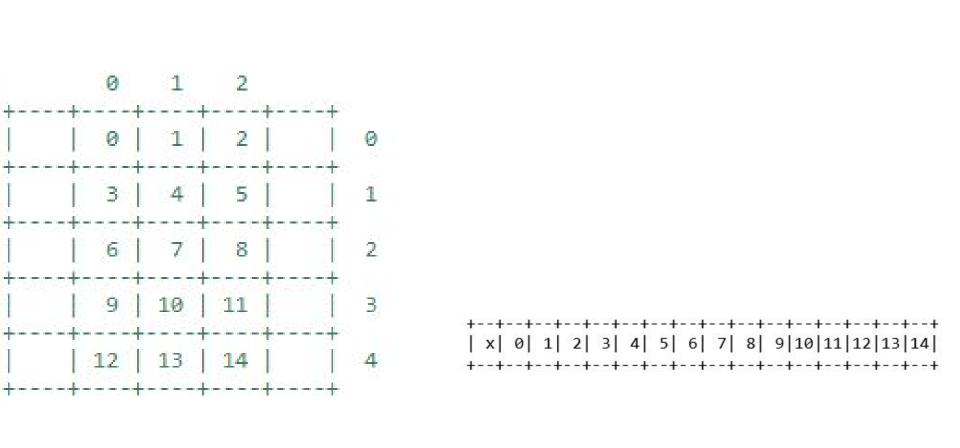
Software

- Our code also reads the camera values from RAM, each pixel is stored in 2 bytes as RGBx444
- To scan for a character, we divide a 200x200 pixel array into a 5x5 grid and analyze each block of the grid
- White value threshold for each color (RGB) is calculated by sampling data outside of the target box
- If the block is determined to be below the calculated white threshold, the block is marked as a 1, if not 0





Grid representation in a short



Software cont.

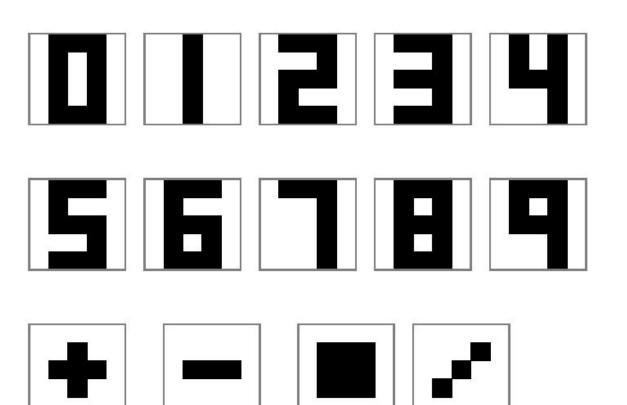
- Once the grid is analyzed, the results are stored in a short, with each bit representing the value of a grid block
- The scan is repeated 4 more times, then the set of 5 shorts are passed into a function (determineChar), which averages each bit to determine if it should be a 1 or a 0
- The function then switches on the averaged short to check if it matches the short code of of a digit or operator, then outputs the correct char
- The digits and operators are stored in a char array until processed in the function printAnswer

Software cont.

- printAnswer calls stupidscanf, which extracts operands a and b from the char array
- Then printAnswer performs the correct operation on a and b, and prints the answer to the terminal
- After an answer is calculated, everything is cleared and the program can accept a new expression

Development Costs

- Hardware
 - Camera module, FPGA, FPGA development board
 - Power supplies and cables
 - Debug time from engineers
- Software
 - Development and debug time from engineers
- General
 - Our sanity



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8
                                                  After a result has been calculated
                                                  and presented, the buffer is cleared
8-9
                                                  and the software is ready for the next
Your answer is: -1
                                                  expression.
Your expression has been cleared.
Please re-enter number or operator, unable to scan correctly.
76
765
765/
                                                       The software was unable to
765/3
                                                       recognize the letter, so we
Your answer is: 255
                                                       ask the user to retry.
Your expression has been cleared.
99
Please re-enter number or operator, unable to scan correctly.
999
9999
                                    Each input character is presented to the user
9999*
                                   as part of the expression after the character
9999*9
                                   has been successfully interpreted.
9999*99
9999*999
9999*9999
Your answer is: 99980001
Your expression has been cleared.
```

Demo

Thank you!