

Image Processing Algorithms for Non-destructive Testing

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Abstract

In this study, an image processing algorithm was developed to increase readability of the images of specific parts of a KTX train acquired by using a mobile digital radiographic testing device in a situation where a running train is stopped. The image processing algorithm was realized by using a Visual C++ development tool.

The algorithm developed in this study allows to select an interested region in the acquired images when the interested region is suspected to cause a problem, and applies a thinning process based Sobel operators to the selected region. The experimental results show that the readability of defect parts that are not visible to naked eyes was increased through edge detector. Application of the algorithm developed in this study may help to accurately read non-destructive inspection images.

▶ Keyword : Non-destructive test, Image processing, Algorithms, Sobel operator

1. Introduction

Due to the economic development and enhanced industrialization, Korea's high precision industry is rapidly growing. A representative example of Korea's high precision industry is the Gyeongbu KTX railroad which has been operated for about 10 years as well as the Honam KTX railroad which has started to be operated from 2015, both of them are considered as a collection of high precision instruments. Therefore, safe operation of high precision instruments is necessary, and the demand for non-destructive inspection will continuously increase as continued inspection is required to seek safety. Conventional methods of non-destructive inspection include magnetic particle testing, ultrasonic testing, radiographic testing, liquid penetrant testing, leak test, and so on. Radiographic testing, which is a method of detecting defect regions by applying penetrating radiation on recording media such as film, has excellent detection

power with respect to spherical combination, dissimilar metal, and discontinuous regions in parallel with irradiation direction. Ultrasonic testing, which is a method of detecting discontinuous regions on the basis of acoustic changes caused by irradiating ultrasonic wave to combined part regions, has excellent detection power with respect to planar defect such as cracks, lack of penetration, and incomplete fusion. Magnetic particle testing, which is a method of using magnetic materials (magnetic particles) and leaked magnetic field to detect defects on or under a welding joint surface of a steel material, is employed to detect defects such as cracks. Liquid penetrant testing, which is a method of penetrating a penetrant including a fluorescent or a dye and developing the penetrant to visualize opening defects on a welding joint surface, has excellent detection power with respect to open defects on a surface. Leak testing is a method of testing whether to leak gas or liquid from water tight or oil tight tank, or pipe.

In particular, radiographic testing, ultrasonic testing, magnetic particle testing, and leak testing should be

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carried out according to the classification society's requirements provided in documented testing plans and procedures, and testers who implement these tests should have knowledge and experience in relation to each of the tests and their qualification should be certified. Even when a qualified tester carries out testing and reading, issue of precision instrument readability may be raised.

In this study, an image processing algorithm was developed to increase readability of the images of specific parts of a KTX train acquired by using a mobile digital radiographic testing device in a situation where a running train is stopped. Application of the algorithm developed in this study may help to accurately read non-destructive inspection images.

II. Image Processing Algorithm

1. Non-destructive Testing

Radiography, which is mostly applied in medical fields, is actively applied in industrial areas in recent times[1-4].

The radiation used for radiography is usually X-ray. In industrial areas, high voltage X-ray radiography is usually used since it allows to effectively inspect the internal structure of thick or high-density specimen[5]. An X-ray image is formed as the information about X-ray photons attenuated while penetrating a specimen is turned into shadow. If all the X-ray photons penetrate the specimen, the image will be turned out black. Whereas, if all the X-ray photons are attenuated, no image will be found. Therefore, the attenuation difference depending on materials composing the specimen lead to the contrast of an image thereby producing the image[6].

The X-ray used in industrial areas is convenient to inspect a relatively large part composed of high-density materials such as a metal. Recently, testing of semiconductor parts is performed by using a digital radiography instrument which has higher resolution and the testing includes a method of inspecting micro-sized defects of a printed circuit board (PCB)[7]. In this case, relatively small parts on a PCB should be precisely inspected, sampling inspection is often used in quality control rather than total inspection. However, in most electronic parts whose inner side consists of metals, while the outer side consists of synthetic resins

protecting the inner side, low voltage X-ray radiography may show the outer synthetic regions, but not the inner metal regions.

Therefore, high voltage X-ray radiography is performed to inspect the inner side, while low voltage X-ray radiography is performed to inspect the outer side. Hence, for an effective inspection, dual energy level radiography may be employed for imaging the inner side and the outer side at the same time, and a subtraction method may be used to find out the difference between the two sides.

In this study, we developed an image processing algorithm for digital radiographic test images of defects of electronic parts of KTX train.

2. Image Processing Algorithm

Since the electronic parts consist of PCB substrate, Visual C++ development tool was used in order to realize the Sobel operator algorithm which detects the perpendicular and parallel edges on the substrate. The arithmetic operation is performed by multiplying the pixels in an input image with the pixels on the corresponding positions of a mask, and then summing up all the pixels and allocating the value on the central pixel.

The project performed by using the Visual C++ development tools included following steps:

- (1) A resource editor was used to realize the program. A pop-up menu "EdgeDetect" was created and then a sub-menu "Sobel" was created by using the resource editor.
- (2) [ClassWizard] was selected by right-clicking the created "Sobel" sub-menu.
- (3) [Add Function] was pressed to add the OnSobel() function to the CTestView class.
- (4) After adding the function, the [Edit Code] button was pressed to encode the OnSobel() function of the CtestView class, as shown in Fig. 1.

```
void CTestView::OnSobel()
{
    // TODO: Add your command handler code here
    CTestDoc* pDoc = GetDocument();
    ASSERT_VALID(pDoc);

    pDoc->Sobel();//CTestDoc 클래스의 Sobel()함수 호출
    Invalidate(FALSE);//화면 갱신
}
```

Fig. 1. The Coding to Call The Sobel Function

(5) In the OnSobel() function of the CtestView class, the Sobel() function of the called CTestDoc class was created. The Add Member Function was created by right-clicking the CTestDoc class.

(6) After moving to the CTestDoc class, the Sobel() function was encoded as shown in Fig. 2.

```

void CTestDoc::Sobel()
{
    int centerValue1=0; //중심 픽셀값을 위한 변수
    int centerValue2=0; //중심 픽셀값을 위한 변수
    int sum=0; //마스크 연산의 중심픽셀 합을 위한 변수 선언

    int mask1[3][3]={-1,0,1,
                    -2,0,2,
                    -1,0,1};
    int mask2[3][3]={1,2,1,
                    2,0,2,
                    1,2,1};

    for(int row=0;row<256;row++){
        for(int column=0;column<256;column++){
            for(int i=0;i<3;i++){
                //중심 픽셀 값
                centerValue1 += m_img[i+row][j+column]*mask1[i][j];
                //중심 픽셀 값
                centerValue2 += m_img[i+row][j+column]*mask2[i][j];
            }

            //픽셀 값 합
            sum=abs(centerValue1) + abs(centerValue2);
            if(sum>255) sum=255; //saturation
            m_Resulting[row][column]=(unsigned char)sum;
            centerValue1=0; //초기화
            centerValue2=0; //초기화
            sum=0; //초기화
        }
    }
}
    
```

Fig. 2. The Sobel Function Coding

(7) The algorithm was built and run[8].

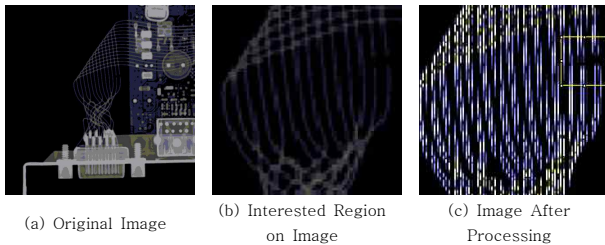


Fig. 3. Step-by-Step Experimental Image After Building

III. Experimental Methods

The images of the electronic parts were acquired by using DGSF-80 Generator. The specimen was an instrument including a failed PCB substrate. The specimen was put on the IP, and the tube and the table were located at the height of 100 cm. The radiation field size was adequately adjusted. The imaging conditions were 100 kVp, 50 mA, and 0.1 sec.

To process the obtained images, the images were pre-processed to raw file format and then input to the program realized by using the Visual C++ language. The imaging process is shown in Fig. 4.

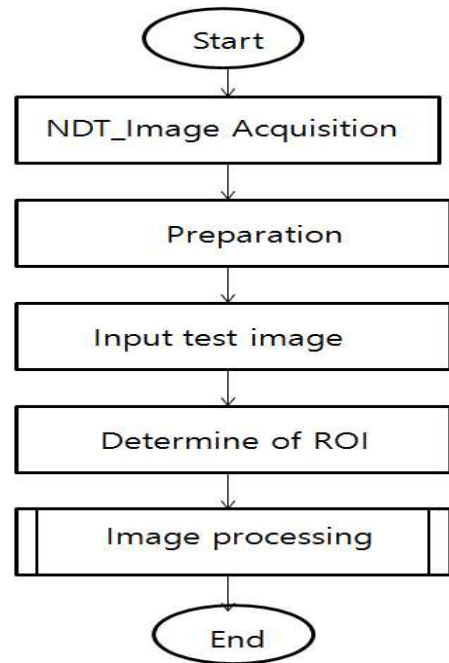


Fig. 4. Experimental Procedure

To obtain the images, the specimen of which inner board was damaged was located on the image plate as shown in Fig. 5. The distance between the X-ray tube and the specimen was 1 m.



Fig. 5. Experimental sample

The specimen was located on the image plate to prepare imaging as shown in Fig. 6.



Fig. 6. Prepare to Shoot

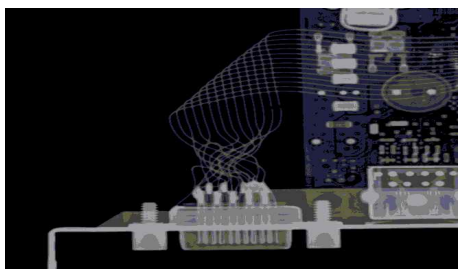


Fig. 7. Obtained Image

The obtained image shown in Fig. 7 was input to the realized program as shown in Fig. 8.

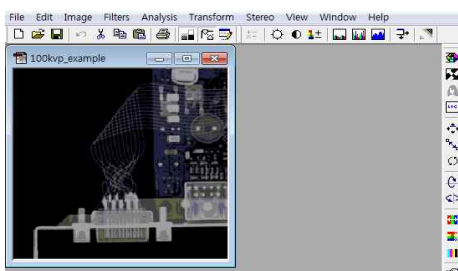


Fig. 8. Image Input

An interested region in the whole board image was selected for inspection. Fig. 9 shows the interested region selected.

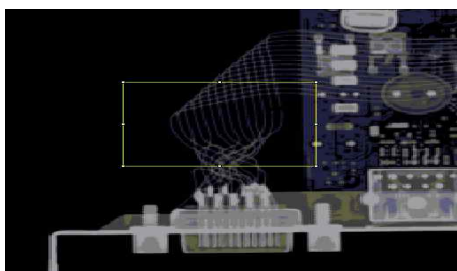


Fig. 9. Determine of ROI

Fig. 10 shows the disconnection of the specimen which was found by thinning the selected interested region.

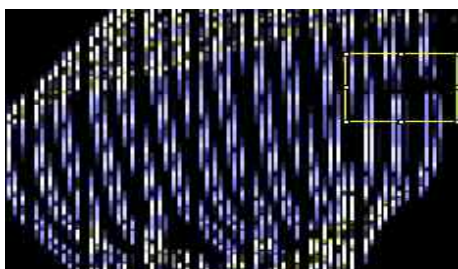


Fig. 10. Edge of Disconnected Circuit

IV. Results and Discussion

Fig. 10 shows the image which obtained edge by applying the Sobel algorithm. The highlight box in Fig. 10 indicates a disconnection. Compared with Fig. 9, which is the image before the application of the algorithm, the processed image is more readable and highlights the disconnection better.

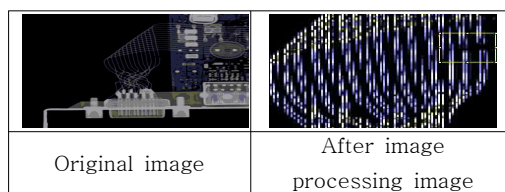


Fig. 11. Compare original image and after image processing image

With respect to the imaging conditions, if low voltage radiation employs, more X-ray radiation is absorbed due to the weak penetration power, showing the synthetic resin part better.

On the other hand, under high voltage radiation condition, the X-ray radiation better penetrates the synthetic resin part which is seen more transparent than the metal part. The radiation voltage may be determined according to the material of the suspected specimen region. The image of this study was obtained under the condition of the high voltage radiation, and thus the synthetic resin region was seen more transparent than the metal region[9]. If imaging is carried out at an inappropriate voltage, the pixels of the synthetic resin region may not be clearly seen, and the readability may not be sufficiently high even after the imaging processing. In that case, the radiation voltage may be lowered to obtain better results after the imaging process. Since the obtained images are dependent on the applied radiation voltage and current conditions, application of the same algorithm may either improve the image quality or cause loss of the quality to make the reading more difficult.

Therefore, applying appropriate imaging conditions is very important. Depending on the performance of the device used for image obtaining or the resolution of the imaging device, a disconnected region may be seen as if not disconnected, or a region that is not disconnected may be seen as if disconnected. Therefore, evaluation of devices may be necessary.

V. Conclusion

In this study, an image processing algorithm was developed to increase readability of the obtained images from a precise instrument such as a KTX train for non-destructive inspection.

The image processing algorithm was realized by using a Visual C++ development tool. The algorithm developed in this study allows to select an interested region in the acquired images when the interested region is suspected to cause a problem, and applies a thinning process based Sobel operators to the selected region.

The experimental results showed that the readability of defect parts that are not visible to naked eyes was increased through edge detector. Application of the algorithm developed in this study may help to accurately read non-destructive inspection images.

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