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Image-Based Estimation of Real Food Size for Accurate Food Calorie Estimation

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ABSTRACT: In this paper, we review our works on image-based estimation of real size of foods for accurate food calorie estimation which including three existing works and two new works: (1)"CalorieCam" which is a system to estimate realfood size based on a reference object, (2) Region segmentation based food calorie estimation, (3) "AR DeepCalorieCam V2" which is based on visual inertial odometrybuilt in the iOSARKit library, (4) "DepthCalorieCam" which employs stereo cameras on iPhone X/XS, and (5)"RiceCalorieCam" which exploits rice grains as referenceobjects. Especially, the last two new methods achieved 10% or less estimation error, which was enough for robust foodcalorie estimation.

I. INTRODUCTION

In food image recognition, CNN-based methods haveachieved great improvement in recent years and somesmartphone applications employ them. However, in mostof the calorie estimation, the estimated calories are just associated with the estimated food categories and these applications often require users to enter information such as sizeor volume, there are problems that it is a troublesome and subjective evaluation. Currently, no applications which can estimate food calories automatically exist. Although most of the image recognition tasks includingfood category recognition have been almost solved due togreat progress of CNN based image recognition methods, fully-automatic food calorie estimation from а food photo has still remained an unsolved problem. We think that foodcalorie estimation not only helps people's health a lots, butalso is promising as a new problem of image recognitionstudies. In this paper, we review three of our works related tofood size estimation, and propose two new methods for foodsize estimation.

(1) "CalorieCam" which is a reference-object-based food calorie estimation system.

the real photo. Figure 1 shows an example of usage and ascreen-shot of the proposed system.

- (2) Weakly-supervised segmentation based food calorie estimation
- (3) "AR DeepCalorieCam V2" which is a real food size and calorie estimation system based on visual inertial odometory implemented in iOSARKit.
- (4) "DepthCalorieCam" (new system) which is a food calorie estimation system exploiting iPhone stereo cameras.
- (5) Rice grain based size estimation (new method) which uses rice grained the size of which are usually almost the same as a reference object.

CalorieCam

"CalorieCam" [1] is an image-based calorie estimation system which estimate food calories automatically by simply taking a food photo from the top with a pre-registered reference object. Taking into account usability and mobilityof a system, we implemented the system as a stand-alone mobile application running on a normal Android smartphone. To estimate food calorie from a single image, a userneeds to register a size-known reference object in advanceand to take a food photo with the registered reference object. As a reference object, we assume a personal belongingwhich we are always carrying such as a wallet and a creditcard-size card in a wallet (except a smartphone for takinga meal photo). After taking a meal photo with a reference object, the system carries out segmentation of food items and the pre-registered reference object. Because the realsize of the reference object is known (e.g. In case of acredit-card-size object, the size is 85.6mm x 54mm.), thesystem can estimate the real size of each detected food itemsby comparing the number of pixels of the reference objects and the detected food items. By using the estimated real size and

the equations to calculate food calorie from their size, the system finally estimates the calorie of the food items in

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Figure 1. (Upper) A user taking a food photowith the reference object. (Lower) A screen shot

II. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we reviewed our three previous works and proposed two new works. Currently, DepthCalorieCam is the most promising approach. However, large-scale calorieannotated 3D food volume data is needed to extend the system into large-scale categories, which is very costly and time-consuming. In addition, the rice grain based method is also promising for meals containing white steamed rice. Especially it is appropriate for Japanese foods.

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