

A New Smart CMOS Image Sensor with On-Chip Neuro-Fuzzy Bleeding Detection System for Wireless Capsule Endoscopy

Abstract

Background: In this paper, we have presented a new custom smart CMOS image sensor (CIS) for low power wireless capsule endoscopy. **Method:** The proposed new smart CIS includes a 256×256 current mode pixels array with a new on-chip adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system that has been used to diagnosing bleeding images. We use a new pinned photodiode to realize the current mode of active pixels in the standard CMOS process. The proposed chip has been implemented in $0.18 \mu\text{m}$ CMOS 1P6M TSMC RF technology with a die area of $7 \text{ mm} \times 8 \text{ mm}$. **Results and Conclusion:** A built-in smart bleeding detection system on CIS leads to decrease in the RF transmitter power consumption near zero. The average power dissipation of the proposed smart CIS is $610 \mu\text{W}$.

Keywords: CMOS, image sensors, neuro-fuzzy, photodiode, pixel, wireless capsule endoscopy

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Introduction

Recent years have seen the rapid emergence of CMOS image sensors (CIS) as the technology of choice for a wide range of consumer products from mobile phones to digital cameras or camcorders. CIS has also exciting potential in biomedical applications. For instance, an endoscope system employs a CIS to capture a picture from the gastrointestinal (GI) tract of humans. The continuous quest for painless diagnostic procedures in the GI tract has resulted in greater interest in endoluminal techniques, such as capsular endoscopy.^[1] An endoscopic capsule is a swallowable self-contained microsystem which performs a sensing or actuating function in the body.^[2] Figure 1 shows a specimen of the first-generation endoscopic capsule.^[3] The first capsule endoscope model was developed by Given Imaging in 2000^[4] and received medical approval from FDA in Western countries in 2001. The first capsule was commercialized by Given Imaging with the name of PillCam TMSB, specially designed for small bowel investigation. Essentially, the PillCam TMSB is a swallowable wireless miniaturized camera which provides images. Despite research

on actuation,^[5] drug delivery, and biopsy techniques that may be implemented in an endoscopic capsule,^[2,6,7] the imaging unit is still the core part of the system. The main goal of endoscopy is to inspect the inside of the body through imaging techniques for diagnostic and surgical purposes. The main design challenges lie on the miniature-sized capsule. First, the battery-operated capsule is power-constrained strictly, and effective low-power techniques need to be employed to ensure adequately long working time. Second, the miniaturization requirement of the system leads to a strict constraint on the size of the printed circuit board used for the capsule, and the circuits in the capsule should be highly integrated and the number of off-chip components should be reduced as few as possible.^[4] For achieving the above targets, we have proposed new system architecture as a smart CIS in the next section.

The Proposed System Architecture

We know that bleeding is the most common disease in the GI tract, and many other diseases are often accompanied by bleeding.^[8] Meanwhile, wireless capsule endoscopy (WCE) has been proposed for use in the management of patients who have obscure digestive tract bleeding.^[9] In the proposed structure, with considering

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this fact that the more than 50% of the power, consumes by RF section of WCE, we have used a dedicated low power neuro-fuzzy controller unit to reduce the power dissipation of this section. In fact, we have integrated a bleeding detection system on CIS. In the proposed smart CIS, a bleeding detection unit experiment each frame of a captured image and decide about bleeding and nonbleeding of it. If the image recognition as a bleeding picture the readout, analog to digital converter (ADC) and RF transmitter units will start to work and will take 50 pictures for sending to wireless recorder on the belt of patient, but if the captured image recognize as a nonbleeding picture none of the subsystems mentioned above is working. This technique leads to sending only a few pictures instead of more than 60,000 pictures in comparison with conventional WCE. On the other hand, in the conventional WCE because of a large amount of captured images (more than 60,000), it is very laborious and time-consuming for physicians to detect the bleeding regions or other related abnormal characters. It takes more than 3 h to inspect these images even by a skilled expert, which is not only time-consuming but also leading to false detection because of visual fatigue. Therefore, the physician needs to use a computer-aided intelligent bleeding detection technique to process the WCE video automatically. In the proposed smart CIS, this intelligent bleeding detection system integrated with CIS on the same chip. For realizing a blood detection system, we design an analog CMOS neuro-fuzzy controller with three inputs and one output. Using fuzzy systems needs a series of “if-then” rules to be defined based on human knowledge which is usually done by experts. Furthermore, we face a problem in determining and adjusting membership functions (MFs) to obtain maximum performance and minimum output errors. We are faced with a similar problem with choosing output function parameters.

If we have a collection of input/output data, a proper combination of two powerful theories, neural networks, and fuzzy systems, helps us to solve the problems mentioned above. Adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system (ANFIS) architecture using learning ability and optimizing weights of neural networks and decision-making strength with linguistic use of fuzzy logic has provided a 5-layer neuro-fuzzy system.^[10] Figure 2 shows the block diagram of the proposed system architecture for new smart CIS. As shown in Figure 2, two ANFIS blocks work together in the parallel to detect bleeding in the captured picture from the GI tract. In this mode, CIS works with 2 frames per second. When the ANFIS detects an abnormality in the GI tract of the patient, the system changes to send mode and start to take and send pictures with 5 frames per second for 10 s. For the implementation of the proposed architecture, we use the commercial 0.18 μm CMOS RF technology that let us integrated CIS, processing units and RF transmitter on the same chip as a System on Chip. In this paper, at first, we have presented the proposed blood-based abnormalities detection structure using neuro-fuzzy processing units (section III). We have explained the circuit design and implementation of the proposed smart CIS structure in section IV. In section V, the simulation results of the proposed smart CIS were presented. Finally, section VI appertains to conclude this article.

Adaptive Neuro-Fuzzy Inference System for Blood-Based Abnormalities Detection

Blood-based abnormalities in the small bowel are characterized into three categories:

- Bleeding,
- Angioectasia, and
- Erythema.

Figure 3 shows a sample picture for each of these categories that have taken by PillCam.^[11] Bleeding is defined as the flow of blood from a ruptured blood vessel into the digest tract [Figure 3a]. Among malignant tumors, leiomyosarcoma is most commonly associated with bleeding.^[12] In medical bibliography, angioectasia is also referred to as arteriovenous malformations. It is the most

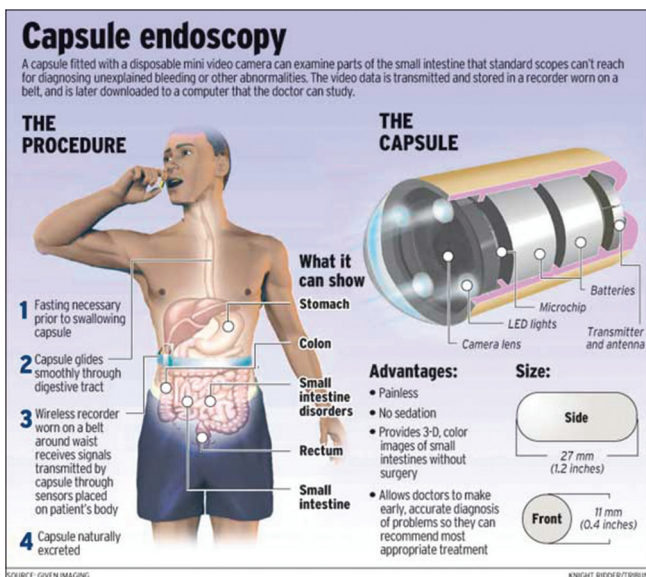


Figure 1: Wireless capsule endoscopy, the procedure features in left and the capsule details in right^[9]

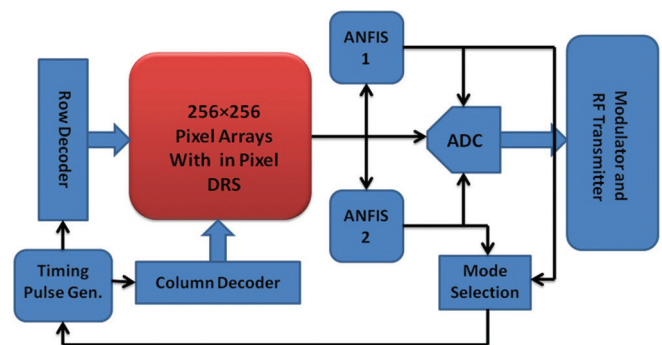


Figure 2: Block diagram of the proposed smart CMOS image sensor structure

common abnormality accounting for obscure GI bleeding, seen in 53% of patients who undergo capsule endoscopy.^[13] This makes their detection an important task. They occur more frequently with increasing age and can be identified at endoscopy as spiderlike lesions.^[14] Since most of the angioectasia cases in the small intestine are caused by blood vessels inside the intestine walls. In comparison with bleeding cases, angioectasia stays inside the intestine walls. The color of an angioectasia appears often more reddish than the color of bleeding [Figure 3b]. In general, erythema is defined as skin redness caused by capillary congestion. In the small intestine, erythema multiforme is strongly related with various abnormalities (i.e., Crohn's disease). It is an acute, self-limiting, inflammatory skin eruption. Its redness is lesser than that of angioectasia [Figure 3c]. In a study by Al-Rahayfeh and Abuzneid,^[15] automation for classifying with using the purity of the red color to detect the bleeding areas in WCE images has been reported. They have divided each image into multiple pixels and applied the range ratio color condition for each pixel and then they have counted the number of the pixels that achieved condition. If the number of pixels was greater than zero, then the frame was classified as a bleeding type. Experimental results of this simple algorithm show 98% accuracy without using any smart classification such as ANFIS. In a study by Karargyris and Bourbakis,^[16] a novel methodology for automatically detecting blood-based abnormalities (bleeding, angioectasia, and erythema) in WCE videos has been presented. The methodology was based on the synergistic integration of methods, such as Color K-L transformation, fuzzy region segmentation, and Local-Global graphs. The methodology presented several unique features that separate it from the classical bleeding-based methods. These features were mainly based on the classification of the blood-based pathological cases in three major categories approved by gastroenterologists. Hence, we have used the same classification of the blood-based pathological cases in our proposed detection system. Also, in a study by Kodogiannis *et al.*,^[17] an integrated methodology for detecting abnormal patterns in WCE images has been reported. Two issues were being addressed, including the extraction of texture features from the texture spectra in the chromatic and achromatic domains from each color component histogram of WCE images and the concept of a fusion of multiple classifiers. The implementation of an advanced neuro-fuzzy learning

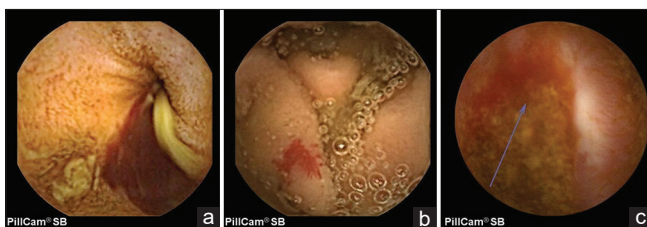


Figure 3: Blood-based abnormalities: (a) Bleeding, (b) Angioectasia and (c) Erythema, (Crohn's Disease)^[11]

scheme was been also adopted. The high detection accuracy of the proposed system has provided thus an indication that such intelligent schemes could be used as a supplementary diagnostic tool in WCE. Furthermore, the measured 98.5% accuracy for the proposed fuzzy logic system was reported. Our proposed smart detection system has customized for detecting the above-mentioned abnormality cases by decision-making in the color space and for the smart decision system, we used ANFIS structure. The proposed detection system composes of two ANFIS structures that work in parallel. As shown in Figure 4, the area of CIS (256×256 pixel arrays) divides into 32×32 regions (1024 segments) that each segment composes of the 8×8 pixel matrix. With consideration of color filter array structure, the 8×8 pixel matrix has 32 pixels for the green color, 16 pixels for the red color and 16 pixels for the blue colors [Figure 4]. We compute the average of each color in this area and fed it into the ANFIS units. Hence, the minimum detection area limited to $700 \mu\text{m} \times 700 \mu\text{m}$. ANFIS estimates the color of this area and recognizes this area has an abnormality or not. It is clear that with an increase of the processing unit, delay

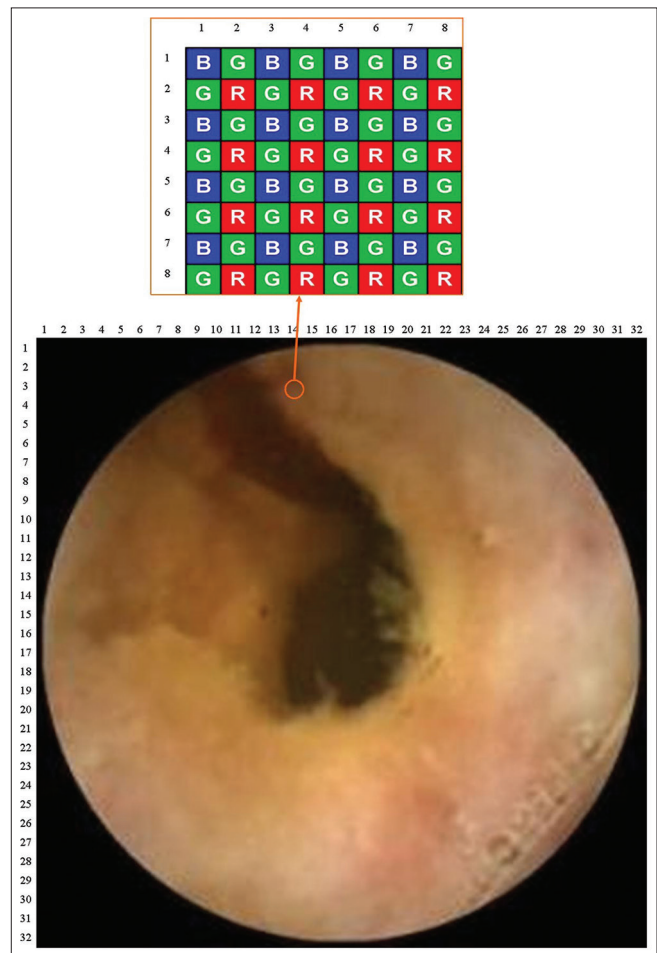


Figure 4: The area of CMOS image sensor (256×256 pixel arrays) divides into 32×32 regions (1024 segments) that each segment composes of the 8×8 pixel matrix

of the detection system can be decreased but the active area on the chip and power consumption will increase.

In this application, we used two ANFIS in the trade-off between speed, power consumption, and active area. Hence, each of the ANFIS controllers processes half of the captured image. We trained the proposed ANFIS with 65 samples of the pictures for each of the abnormalities mentioned above. Figure 5 shows a sample picture for training the proposed ANFIS. The hybrid training algorithm is helped us to achieve optimal MFs and output function coefficients after 26 epochs. We obtained 98% bleeding detection accuracy and output classified perceptron tuned in 19% regards to the adaptive learning system. Figure 6 shows the ANFIS controller with three inputs (I_{Red} , I_{Blue} , and I_{Green}), one output (probability of bleeding [POB]), and 24 rules which have been implemented in MATLAB. The first input (I_{Red}) is divided into six MFs (because the decision vector rotated in the color field along the red axis), the second (I_{Green}) and third (I_{Blue}) are divided into two MF in the trade-off between hardware requirements and accuracy. As shown in Figure 6, every node in layer 1 is a fuzzifier node. In this layer, we need a bell-shaped function as shown in Figure 7, so that we can change a, b and c parameters based on learning pattern to obtain the optimum shape of the MF. The equation of this layer is shown in Eq. 1.

$$O_i^1 = \mu A_i(x) \tag{1}$$

Where O_i^1 is the output of the first layer and $\mu A_i(x)$ is a MF with equation of Eq. 2.

$$\mu A_i(x) = \frac{1}{1 + \left[\left(\frac{x - c_i}{a_i} \right)^2 \right]^{-b_i}} \tag{2}$$

In the second layer, fuzzy AND operator operates on the MFs and produces the weight of the fire of each rules. The Eq. 3 shows the relation of each weight.

$$w_i = \mu A_i(x) \times \mu B_i(y), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, 24 \tag{3}$$

In the third layer, the weights are normalized. The Eq. 4 shows the relation of this layer.

$$\bar{w}_i = \frac{w_i}{w_1 + w_2 + \dots + w_{24}} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, 24 \tag{4}$$

The output of the fourth layer regards to TSK method is shown in Eq. 5.

$$O_i^4 = \bar{w}_i f_i = \bar{w}_i (p_i + q_i + r_i) \tag{5}$$

Finally, the output of the proposed ANFIS (POB) indicated in Eq. 6.

$$POB = O_i^5 = \sum_i \bar{w}_i f_i = \frac{\sum_i w_i f_i}{\sum_i w_i} \tag{6}$$

The output of the each ANFIS (POB), feeds to a single current to voltage converted perceptron.

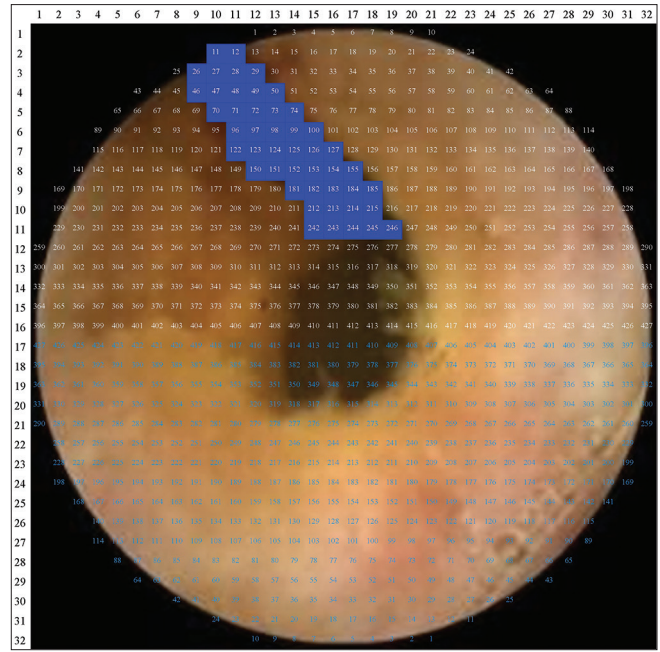


Figure 5: The sample picture for training the proposed adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system

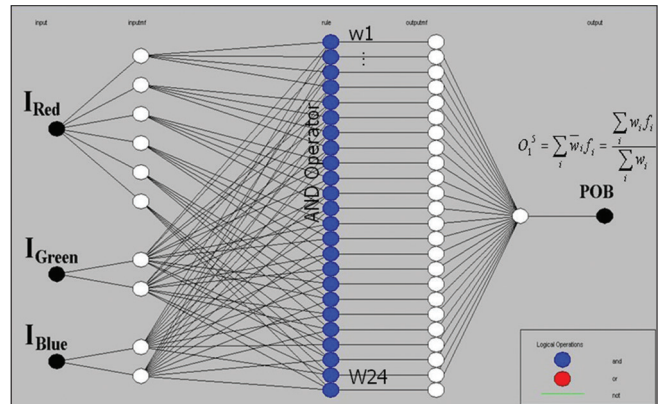


Figure 6: The proposed adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system structure for blood-based abnormalities detection

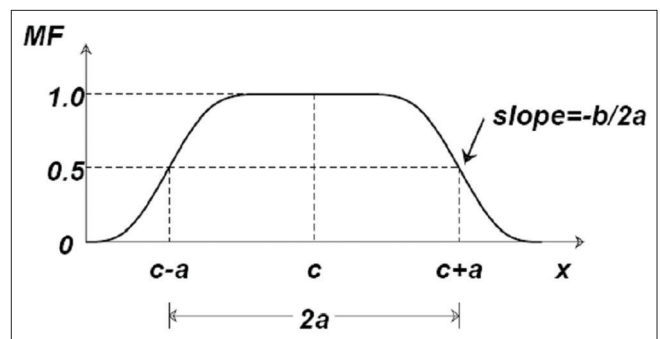


Figure 7: Generalized bell-shaped membership function and its parameters

Circuit Design and Implementation

Regards to system architecture that we have presented in section II, we need to implement the blocks in a CMOS process on a chip die.

CMOS image sensor implementation

The main problem for realizing the proposed architecture is the implication of the CIS. The CIS needs a custom expensive process for implementation and integration of the commercial signal processing blocks with the custom CIS process is very hard. This problem was solved in a study by Aliparast and Koozehkanai.^[18] In a study by Aliparast and Koozehkanai,^[18] a method to implement the current mode active pixel sensor (APS) in standard commercial 0.18 μm TSMC RF-CMOS processes is demonstrated. Figure 8 shows the process parameters of the standard 0.18 μm CMOS technology used for the avalanche photodiode (APD). One of the most important advantages of the presented APS is the integration signal amplification and voltage to the current convertor inside the collection area of the pixel that increases the sensitivity of the device due to the amplification in the pixel.

In addition, in-Pixel DRS helps to implement the on-chip signal processing structures. Figure 9 shows the circuit schematic of the APS with in pixel delta reset sampling. Furthermore, the main specifications of the APD are summarized in Table 1. The photodiode (PD) size is

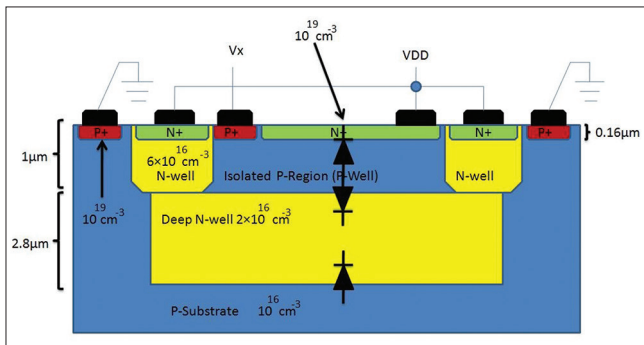


Figure 8: The process parameters of the standard 0.18 μm CMOS technology used for the avalanche photodiode^[18]

$10 \mu\text{m} \times 10 \mu\text{m}$ where pixel size is $21 \mu\text{m} \times 23 \mu\text{m}$. Figure 10 shows the layout of the APS structure. The APS covered the light intensity from 0.1 lux to 27000 lux. Average power dissipation for each pixel, including integration period, DRS timing, and hold period is $19.8 \mu\text{W}$. With respect to pixel performances, the pixels can be used widely in smart CIS with image processing at the focal plane through low power analog circuits. Regards to the current mode structure, the output current of the pixels gather together for applying to the ANFIS.

Adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system implementation

We have illustrated the implementation of the ANFIS structure on standard CMOS processes based on the proposed blood-based abnormalities detection inference engine that described in section III. The circuit for implementation of the ANFIS in 0.35 μm CMOS process was reported in a study by Aliparast *et al.*^[19] Here, we have used the same circuits with minor modification and also optimizations for implementing in 0.18 μm TSMC RF-CMOS processes. The first layer in the ANFIS is

Table 1: Main specifications of the active pixel sensor

Parameter	Spec
Technology	TSMC 0.18 μm CMOS 1P6M RF process
PD size (μm)	10×10
PD responsivity (A/W)	0.22
Pixel size (μm^2)	417
Pixel sensitivity ($\mu\text{A}/\text{lux.s}$)	17.96
Dynamic range (dB)	62
Fill-factor (%)	24
Conversion gain (pA/e-)	186
Power consumption (μW)	19.8

RF – Radio frequency; PD – Pinned photodiode; TSMC – Taiwan semiconductor manufacturing company; CMOS – Complementary metal oxide semiconductor

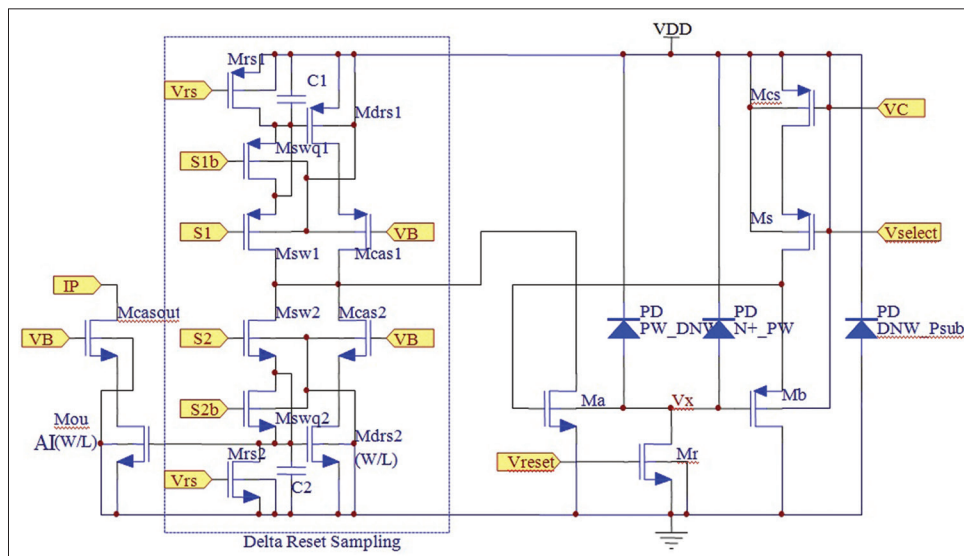


Figure 9: Circuit schematic of the active pixel sensor with in-pixel delta reset sampling

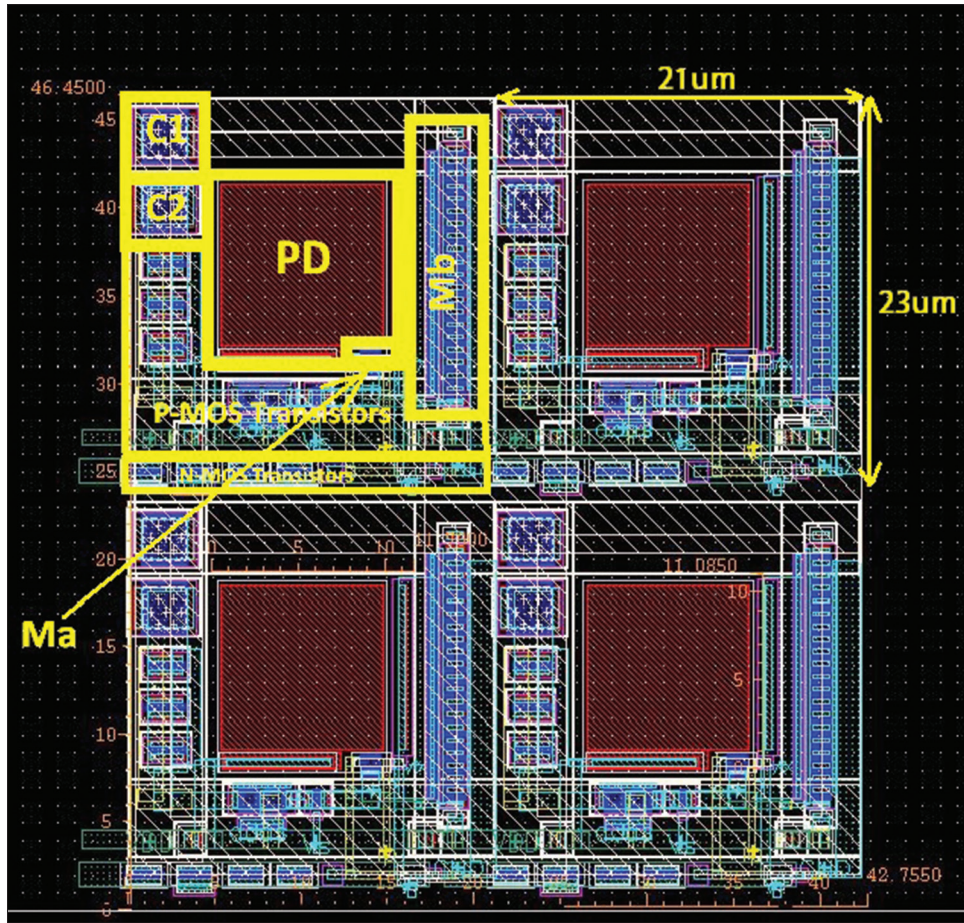


Figure 10: Layout of the active pixel sensor structure

the fuzzifier node. Figure 11 shows the fuzzifier circuit for generating the bell-shaped MFs. The reference current (fuzzy one) assumes 5 μ A in tradeoff between speed and power consumption. The SPICE simulation result for the proposed fuzzifier circuit regards to parameters changing is shown in Figure 12. The second layer in the ANFIS structure is the fuzzy AND operator. We used a Min-Max circuit for implemented the second layer. Figure 13 shows the proposed current mode circuits for implementing Min-Max.

Figure 14 shows the sample simulation result for the proposed Min-Max circuit with two bell-shaped MFs.

To implement the functionality of the layer 3 and 4, we have used a multiplier/divider circuit based on MOS-translinear architecture. Figure 15 illustrates the main idea of this work. At first, the current of W_i is multiplied by related the current of singleton C_i by g-mean, and its square-root is calculated, then squarer/divider circuit calculates the square of the signal and divides it by W_t ($W_t = \sum W_i$). The internal structure of g-mean and squarer is similar and based on the voltage-translinear loop. Figure 16 shows the circuit of used g-mean. The output of the g-mean circuit is $\sqrt{W_i C_i}$. The squarer/divider architecture is shown in Figure 17. The circuit does the operation of the power of two and dividing

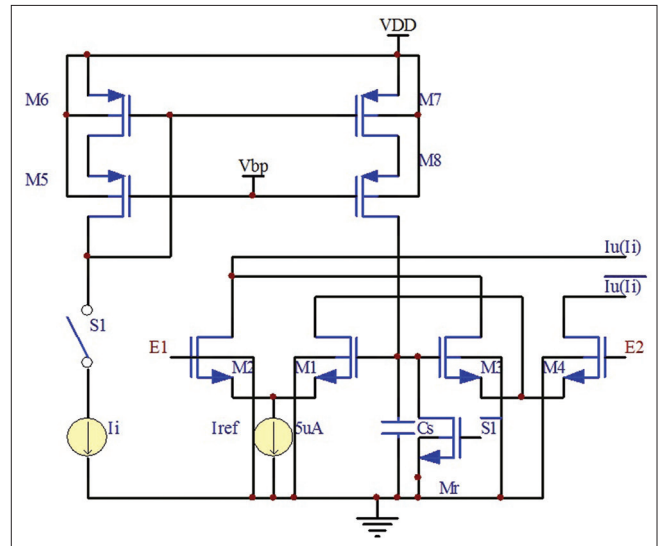


Figure 11: The proposed circuit for generating bell-shaped membership function

on its inputs so that it calculates the square of input $\sqrt{W_i C_i}$ and divides it by W_t . So in output we have:

$$O_1^4 = \frac{(\sqrt{W_i C_i})^2}{\sum W_i} = \frac{W_i C_i}{\sum W_i} \tag{7}$$

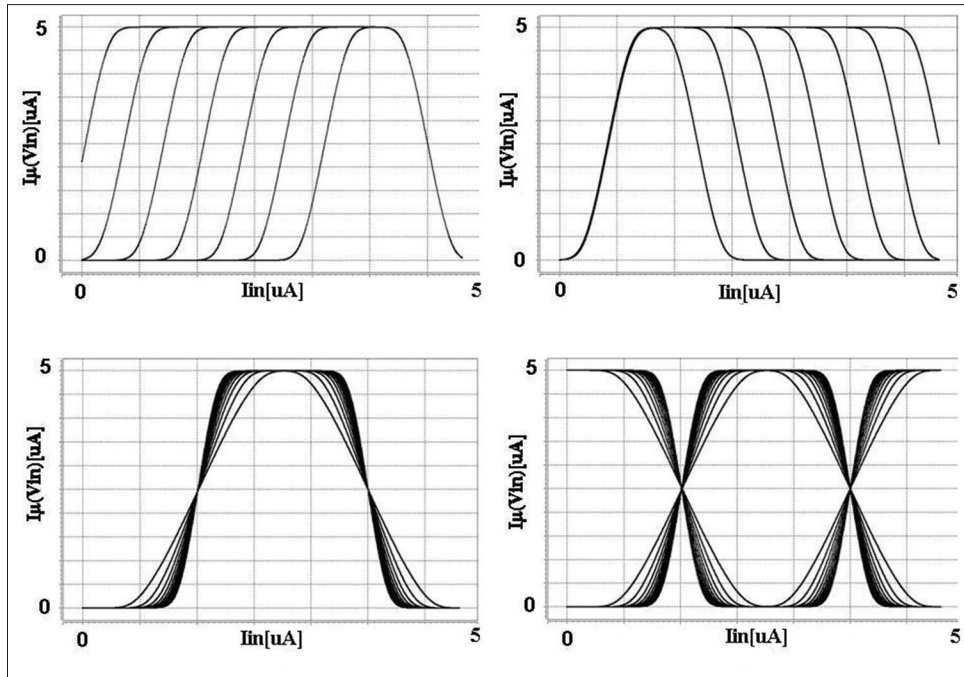


Figure 12: The SPICE simulation results for the proposed fuzzifier circuit regards to parameters changing

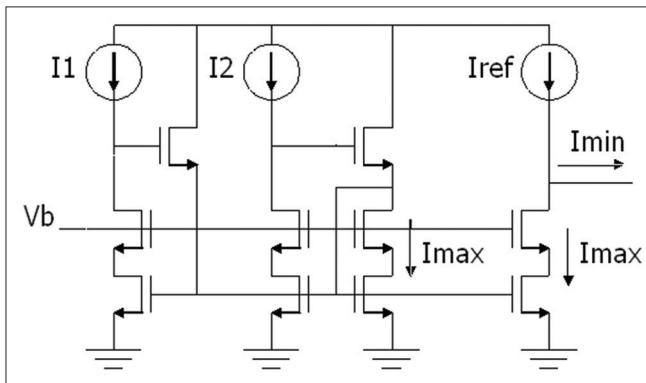


Figure 13: The proposed circuit for implementing min-max

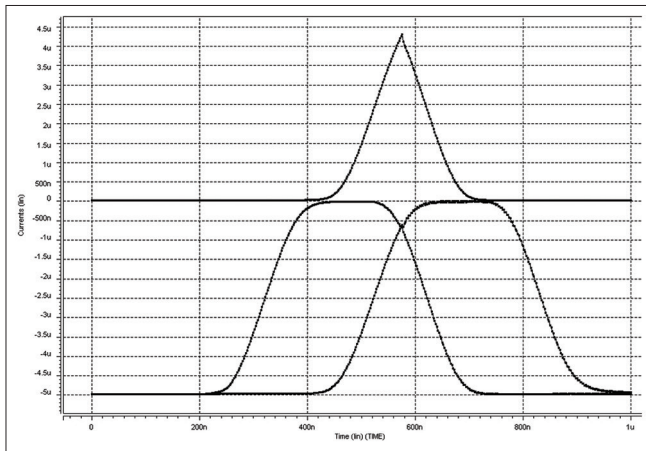


Figure 14: The simulation results of the proposed circuit for implementing min-max

So, now with using KCL for summing the output currents, finally we have:

$$I_{out} = O_1^5 = \sum \left(\frac{W_i C_i}{\sum W_i} \right) = \frac{\sum W_i C_i}{\sum W_i} \quad (8)$$

Hence, the current can be amplified as much as needed by a current mirror and sent to the input of the single-layer perceptron.

Analog to digital converter implementation

We have used a low power 10-bit, 10 MS/s monotonic successive approximation register ADC for implementing the ADC block. The proposed ADC structure presented in a study by Yousefirad *et al.*,^[20] and we just improved the performance of the proposed ADC with a small modification in the transistors level. Figure 18 shows the structure of the proposed ADC. In the ADC block, a monotonic capacitor switching employed in core design lowers the switching energy and simplifies the switch structure. In addition, the double supply scheme has been used to reduce the power consumption of the digital circuits section. Reducing the digital power supply by half resulted in a considerable reduction in power consumption of the digital parts. A $\frac{1}{4}$ improvement is achieved because of the quadratic relationship between supply and power consumption. Another $\frac{1}{2}$ improvement is caused by the nonlinear voltage-dependent behavior of device capacitances at the internal nodes of the digital circuits. The power management scheme results in an overall 10% improvement in power consumption in comparison to the design that only uses a single supply. Table 2 shows the main specification of the proposed ADC.

Conclusion

We have described the architecture of a new custom smart CIS in this article. The proposed architecture is useful for low power WCE. The proposed new smart CIS includes a

256×256 pixels array with a new on-chip ANFIS that has been used to diagnosing bleeding images of the GI. Data transmitting is reduced because of on-chip examination of the captured images. Figure 19 shows the chip layout of the proposed smart CIS without pads. All of the circuits and blocks were implemented in the commercial TSMC 0.18 μm CMOS 1P6M RF Process. There was a 3% implementation error between the design and postlayout simulation of the implemented circuits. Hence, we decided to decrease the comparison level of the POB perceptron from 19% to 17% for avoiding missing any bleeding pictures. Hence, the accuracy of the bleeding detection

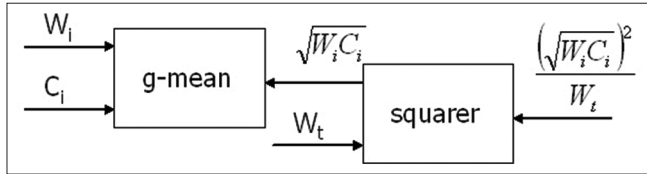


Figure 15: Block diagram of the proposed multiplier/divider circuit

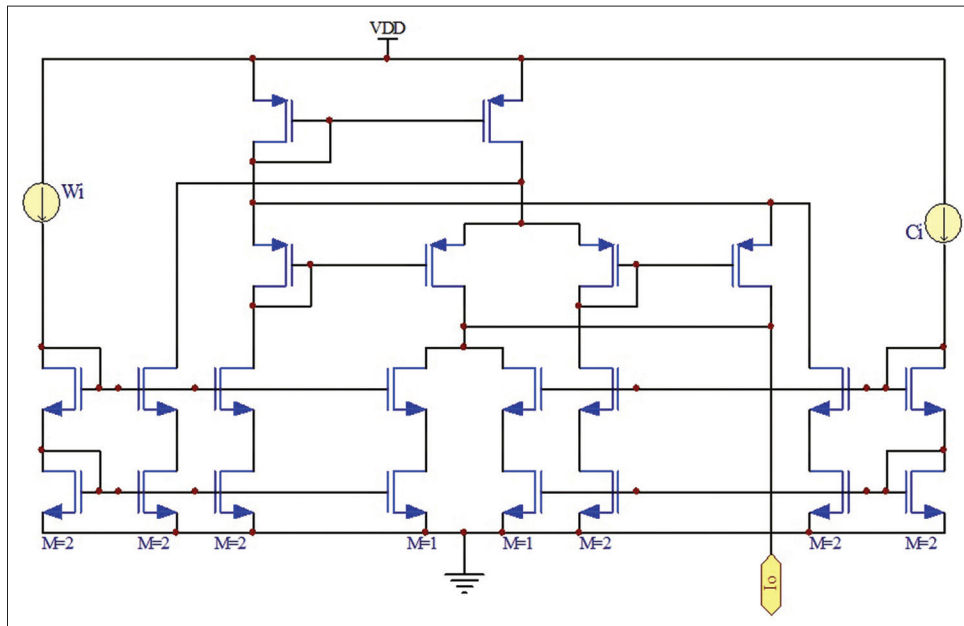


Figure 16: The internal circuit of the g-mean block

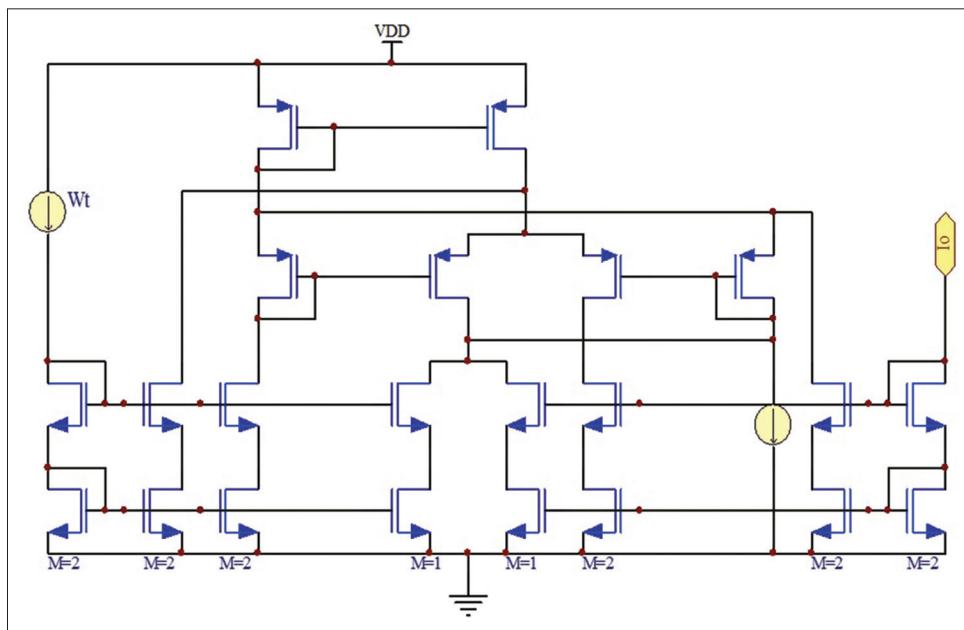


Figure 17: The internal circuit of the squarer block

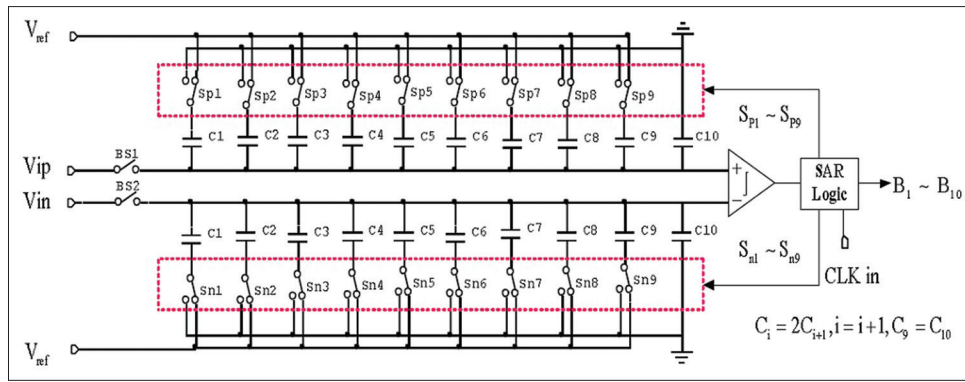


Figure 18: The proposed analog to digital converter structure

Table 2: Main specifications of the proposed analog to digital converter

Parameter	Spec
Technology	TSMC 0.18μm CMOS 1P6M RF process
Resolution (bits)	10
Analog supply (V)	1.8
Digital supply (V)	0.9
SFDR (dB)	79
SNDR (dB)	58
ENOB	9.4
Power dissipation (mW)	0.8

RF – Radio frequency; SFDR – Spurious free dynamic range; SNDR – Signal-to-noise-and-distortion ratio; ENOB – Effective number of bits; TSMC – Taiwan semiconductor manufacturing company; CMOS – Complementary metal oxide semiconductor

system decreases to 92% from 97%. Please consider that the error in the proposed system means that the nonbloody pictures detected as bleeding pictures and send to the RF section. So with this modification, we guaranteed that all of the bleeding images will send, and the system never missed any bleeding pictures and just sends some nonbloody pictures as mistakes.

As we illustrated in section II, the main advantage of the proposed smart CIS is low power consumption. If we tune the picture captured speed in 2fps as the same as a commercial WCE (for taking totally about 72000 images in 10 h), we will have just 0.61 mW power consumption in the proposed smart CIS. Figure 20 shows the power consumption of the proposed smart CIS versus time in the state mode 1. In fact, the mode 1 is the normal working state of the smart CIS that the detecting system looked for the bleeding pictures. For more than 99% of the time (depends on numbers of the bleeding images and the abnormalities area), smart CIS is in the state of the mode 1, and if it finds the bleeding picture, it will change the mode to the second state for composing and sending pictures. Please remind that the RF transmitter is off in the state mode 1 and its power consumption is near to zero. As shown in Figure 20, during the integration period, the smart CIS consumes 1.25 W for 100 μs and then for the next 45 μs

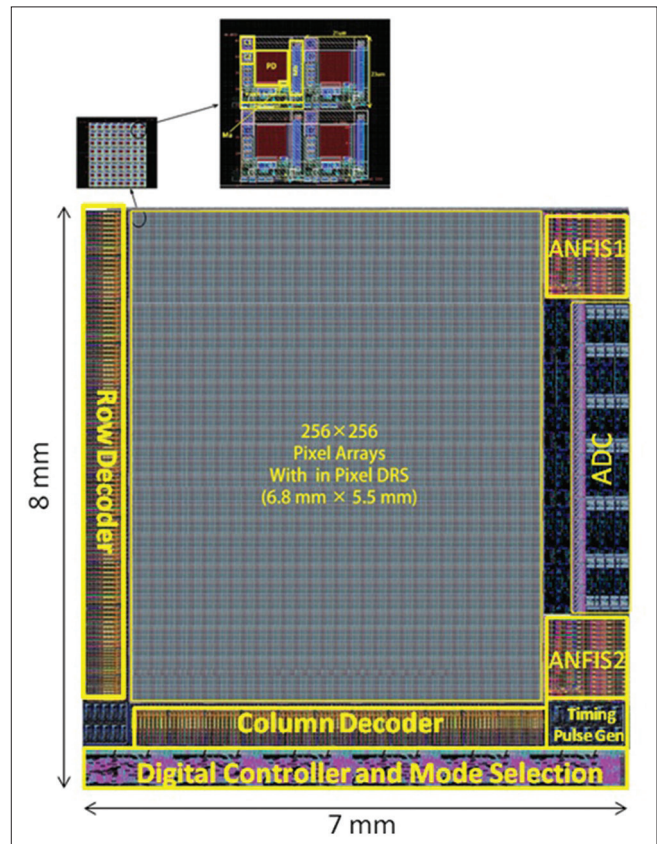


Figure 19: Layout of the proposed smart CMOS image sensor

image processing blocks is worked with 650 mW power consumption. The power dissipation decreases to 0.3 mW for the remained time of the period. Hence the average power consumption in each period (500 ms) is 0.61 mW. Table 3 shows a brief comparison between the power consumption of the proposed smart CIS and other works. A commercial WCE has power consumption about 10 mW. In a study by Itoh *et al.*,^[21] a one-chip camera device with low-power digital data transmission function for WCE was presented. Presented SoC has QVGA resolution with 2 fps transmitting rate. Measured power consumptions on-chip are 950 μW, 250 μW, and 1400 μW for analog, digital, and RF transmitter sections, respectively. In a study by Zhang

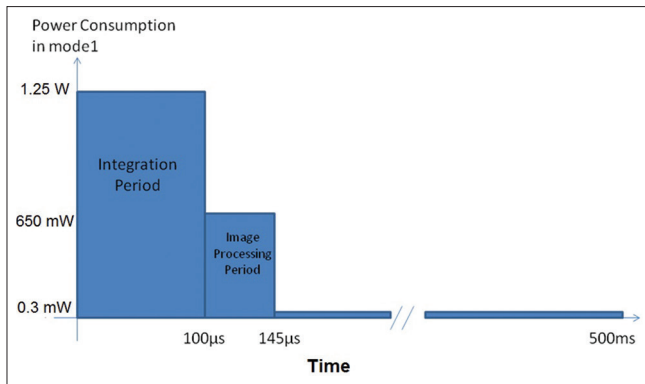


Figure 20: Power consumption of the proposed smart CMOS image sensor in the mode 1

Table 3: A brief power consumption comparison of wireless capsule endoscopies

References	Commercial WCE	Itoh <i>et al.</i> ^[21]	Milin Zhang <i>et al.</i> ^[22]	This work
Power consumption (mW)	~10	2.6	3.6	0.61

WCE – Wireless capsule endoscopy, ~ – About

et al.,^[22] a low power full-custom CMOS digital pixel sensor array for WCE with 2 fps transmitting rate was presented. The on-chip power consumption was presented by Zhang *et al.*,^[22] are 1.4 mW for CIS and 2.2 mW for JPEG-LS encoder.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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