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10.3.3 The frame grabber

The desired features of the real time system frame grabber is compatibility with the high speed CCD camera, an on-board processor to speed template calculations, and compatibility with a personal computer host. The choice of a PC host helps to contain overall system cost.

Imaging Technology Incorporated of Woburn, Massachuesetts manufactures an entire product line of high-performance modular image processing subsystems. In particular, their Series 150/151 modular processors provide some of the required capability for this system. The Series 150/151 is a module family to perform real time image operations and image analysis. The Retinal Tracking Subsystem would require the following Series 150/151 components: VSI-150 Variable Scan Interface, FB-150 Frame Buffer, and ALU-150 Pipeline Processor [100].

The VSI-150 allows the Series 150/151 system interface to a variety of nonstandard video sensors. This feature will allow use of the Dalsa high speed CCD video camera. The VSI-150 is also equipped with a programmable input look-up table which allows real time histogram modification for image contrast enhancement. Histogram modification techniques were described in Chapter 3 of this document. The FB-150 contains the frame storage for the system. It is equipped with a single 512 x 512 by 16 bit frame buffer to store intermediate results and two 512 x 512 by 8 bit frame buffers. The ALU-150 has pipelined architecture which allows simple operations on data passing through the module to be performed in minimal time [100].

Two additional system requirements are the interface to the host computer and the ITI system software library. An AT to VME bus interface is

required for the ITI system to work with a PC host computer. This interface may be ordered as an option with the system. The ITI system is supported by the ITEX 150/151 software library of image processing functions. This software is directly compatible with Microsoft C and contains a wide variety of image acquisition and processing functions [100].

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