Desk-top VR – A Hands-on Approach for Hands-free Experience

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Things about Huddersfield ...



Outline

- 1. What is VR?
- 2. What is Desk-top VR?
- 3. How to develop a Desk-top VR system?
- 4. What are the potential usages of Desk-top VR?
- 5. Discussions

1. What is Virtual Reality?

- Is there an official definition for VR?
 - "... a high-end user-computer interface that involves real-time simulation and interaction through multiple sensorial channels, i.e. visual, auditory, haptic, olfactory."
 - "... VR should be computer-generated, believable, interactive, explorable, immersive."
- It's more of an open discussion in science.











More Cautiously ...

- VR is a **HCI** effort; an integrative system; a new Operating System; an UI Paradigm; a technology idealism.
- My Research Interests:
 - Virtual and Augmented Reality
 - Real-time Graphics
 - Computer Vision and Machine Learning



The Famous VR Triangle – does it have to be equilateral?



http://sweb.cityu.edu.hk/sm2203/oldclass2007/lab1/toc02/index.html

HCI: An Empirical Research Perspective

- By I. Scott MacKenzie

Scale (sec)	Time Units	World (theory)	
	Months		
	Weeks		
	_		
	Days	SOCIAL BAND	
	Hours		
	10 min		
	Minutes	RATIONAL BAND	
	10 sec		
	1 sec		
	100 ms	COGNITIVE BAND	
	10 ms		
	1 ms		
	100 µs	BIOLOGICAL BAND	



Questions Posed to HCI/VR

- How do you design interfaces to systems for:
 - Users with special needs, i.e. disabled, children, elderly...
 - Culture and international diversified
 - Cognitively and physically varied
 - But, to a degree, keeping universal usability
 - ...

A Pioneer: Ivan Sutherland's Sketchpad (1962)



"With Sketchpad, commands were not typed. Users did not
"write letters to" the computer. Instead, objects were drawn,
resized, grabbed and moved, extended, deleted—directly,
using the light pen. Object manipulations worked with
constraints to maintain the geometric relationships and
properties of objects ..." – Ivan's report

Early Party Time (first wave - Virtual Reality in the late 80s)

Efforts for making profits:

- The first commercial VR systems appeared in the late 80s produced by VPL Co. (California):
- The VPL "Data Glove" and
- The VPL "Eye Phone" HMD



Introduction

35,000

HMD and software)

Early Party Time (first wave - Virtual Reality in the early 90s)

 \checkmark PC boards still very slow (7,000 - 35,000 polygons/sec);

✓ First turnkey VR system – Provision 100 (Division Ltd.)

✓ Emergence of faster graphics rendering architectures at UNC Chapel Hill:

"Pixel Planes";

Later "Pixel Flow";

Emergence of first commercial Toolkits:

✓ WorldToolKit (Sense8 Co.); Used in UoH between 98 and 04

✓VCToolkit (Division Ltd., UK);

✓ Virtual Reality Toolkit VRT3 (Dimension Ltd./Superscape, **UK**);

✓ Cyberspace Developer Kit (Autodesk)

✓ VRML and Java3D



Provision 100 VR turnkey system (Division Ltd., UK)

Extracts from my PhD project (1996)



(a) i-Glasses





(c) Digitiser

Figure 4.2 VR devices used in the KAMVR system

(b) Data glove



Figure 4.7 KAMVR system workbench



Figure 4.16 (a) Real robot cell (Photo)



(b) Virtual robot cell





(a) Superscape Visualiser

(b) Superscape Viscape





(c) Superscape 3D Control

(d) COSMO VRML Player

Figure 4.3 Environment Visualisers

Virtual Glider Simulator @ UoH (2003)













Neuropsychological Rehabilitation @ UoH (2003)







Virtual reality for neuropsychological diagnosis and rehabilitation: A survey August 2003. DOI: 10.1109/IV.2003.1217973 Conference: Information Visualization, 2003. IV 2003. https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/documen t/1217973

Hybrid AR Illumination @ UoH (2006)



2. Types of Virtual Reality

- Fully immersive
- Non-immersive
- Collaborative
- Web-based
- Augmented reality

Immersive VR

- Purposely designed input/output equipment
- Physically isolated from the real environment
- Real-time interaction
- Feeling of presence



Non-immersive (Desktop) VR

- Use of a monitor to display the virtual world
- Window on the world (Tardis?)
- Does not require special hardware
- Low cost



Augmented Reality

- Registered and non-registered hybrid display
- "Hot" in mobile solutions
- Huge potentials



VR Systems (Inputs, Outputs, Software)













Off-the-shelf products

- Kinect SDK
- Eye Tracker GP3 Gazepoint
- Leap Motion
- Emotiv BMI
- VR Headsets (HMDs)







VR Hardware

- Based on sensory channel accessed:
 - Visual interfaces (hi-res, bio-convincing)
 - Tracking interfaces (motion, eye/gaze)
 - Auditory interfaces (3D spatial localization)
 - Haptic interfaces (touch and force)
 - Olfactory interfaces (smell, electric-nose)
- Based on process types:
 - Input devices
 - Output devices

Graphical Display

- Personal displays
- Large volume displays
 - Active glasses
 - Workbenches;
 - Microsoft Surface
 - Caves;
 - Walls;











The Battle Front ...



An anchoring research article: The Visual Display Transformation for Virtual Reality by Warren Robinett and Richard Holloway <u>http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.43.5727&rep=rep1&type=pdf</u>

What's well-understood?

- UNC VR Software (ref. the Anchoring Paper before)
- writing the visual display code for a virtual reality system so,
 - multiple users inhabit the same virtual world simultaneously;
 - each user has a stereoscopic display;
 - the user's viewpoint is measured by a head tracker;
 - the display code matches the geometry of the HMD, tracker, and optics;
 - various HMDs and trackers can be supported by changing parameters of the display code;
 - the user can fly through the world, tilt the world, and scale the world; and
 - the user can grab and move virtual objects.

Symbol	Coordinate	Instances	Function	Static /
T _{W_O}	Object to World	1 per object	position of object in world (changes when object moves)	dynamic
T _{R_W}	World to Room	1 per user	position of room in world (changes when flying, etc.)	dynamic
T _{TB_R}	Room to Tracker Base	1 per user	position of tracker in room	static
T _{HS_TB}	Tracker Base to Head Sensor	1 per user	measurement of head position and orientation by tracker	dynamic
T _{H_HS}	Head Sensor to Head	1 per user	position of sensor on HMD	static
T _{E_H}	Head to Eye	2 per user	positions of left and right eyes	static
T _{N_E}	Eye to Normalized	2 per user	off-center perspective projection	static
T _{US_N}	Normalized to Undistorted Screen	2 per user	convert to device coordinates	static
T _{S_US}	Undistorted Screen to Screen	2 per user	optical distortion correction	static

 $T_{S_O} = T_{S_US}T_{US_N}T_{N_E}T_{E_H}T_{H_HS}T_{HS_TB}T_{TB_R}T_{R_W}T_{W_O}$

One Challenge - Recreating Visual Depth Cue

- Binocular Disparity (Stereopsis)
- Motion Parallax
- Binocular Occlusions
- Convergence/Divergence
- Result tolerable convincing illusion of depth
- What's missing?
- Another depth cue: focus (imaging manually zooming in/out of an outdoor scene)

4-D Light Field Displays



https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259764186

https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/consumer-electronics/gaming/4d-light-field-displays-are-exactly-what-virtual-reality-needs

Personal Observations

- 1st Generation VR (Accessing human sensory channels, Passive)
- 2nd Generation VR ("Hacking" human sensory channels, Active, Automated, i.e. 4D Light Field Display, Structured Light)
- 3rd Generation VR (AI, Autonomous)
- Where are we now? Approx. 1.5?





https://www.engineersgarage.com/articles/virtual-retinal-display

Input Devices: Tracking Interfaces

- Measure head, body, hand or eye motion, ideally in 6-DoF
- Tracking technologies: *active, passive,* or *inertial*









Technology Categorization

Trackers measure the motion of "objects" such as user's wrist or head **vs.** a fixed system of coordinates.

Technologies to perform this task:

- Electromagnetic trackers;
- Ultrasonic trackers;
- Mechanical trackers;
- Inertial trackers;
- GPS
- Vision-based trackers (new and geared to be favorite)



Tracker Characteristics

An electronics/signal processing approach:

- Measurement rate Readings/sec;
- Sensing latency;
- Sensor noise and drift;
- Measurement accuracy (errors);
- Measurement repeatability;
- Tethered or wireless;
- Work envelope;
- Sensing degradation



Application focused, i.e. Gesture Interaction

- To enable "Direct Manipulation" or "seamless User Interface", interaction principles should be independent of any particular hardware. The focuses are on:
 - How does the user get content (both data and structure) into digital form? –
 i.e. Virtual World/Environment Builder, Virtual Object Modeller.
 - How does the user navigate around the content? i.e. Virtual Environment Navigator.
 - How does the user manipulate the content (restructuring, revising, replacing)? – i.e. Animation/Simulation Engine.
- The **KEY** role of VR software...

VR Software

- ... not just device drivers but
- Virtual World (or Virtual Environment) Builder
 - The core of a VR system
 - Enables updates and rendering, interactions, object behaviors, simulations of physical laws, audios, and network issues, etc.
 - Commercial software, i.e., Unity, UnReal, 3D Studio Max, AutoCAD, Solidwork, CATIA, AVEVA, QT Modeller ...
 - Or, Graphics API-based, DirectX, OpenGL, etc.

The Heart - Real-time Rasterizer




VR Software - Handles Interactions

• Pick Screen/Ray-casting



• Virtual-hand/Gesture Recognition



VR Software – Handles Navigation

- Steering mode
 - hand-directed
 - gaze-directed
 - physical devices (steering wheel, flight sticks)
- Target-focused
 - point at object, list of coordinates
- Path planning
 - place markers in world



VR Software – Handles Simulation

- Physics-based activities
- Event-triggering mechanisms
 - Collision detection
 - Separating Planes
- Level-of-Details (LoD) Control
- Multimillion-particle simulations and volumetric processing
- SIGGRAPH is a gold mine



3. How to develop a Desk-top VR system? - Online Demos

- <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jd3-eiid-</u> <u>Uw&t=106s</u>
- <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9kPI7_vhAU</u>
- <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnlCGw-0R8g</u>







An Analogue of 6DoF Tracking

Virtual objects have 6 degrees of freedom (D.O.Fs): three translations, three rotations.

- Capable of object manipulation.

- Still needing position information for full interaction.





3-D System of coordinates of a VR object

Tutorial Goals

- A DIY VR Software Solution
- Accessing a real-time rendering pipeline
 - Model manipulation
 - Camera control/navigation
 - Simulations
- through CV-based tracking

Development Tools

- Interactive Development Environments (IDE)
 - Visual Studio, Eclipse...
- Sophisticated environments for the development of software:
 - Intelligent Editors think word processor for source code
 - Debuggers allows you to watch the code execute to find problems (bugs)
 - Profilers enables analysis of the efficiency of developed code



Development Tools

- Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)
 - Libraries of useful code to use within into your source code
 - **DirectX** graphics/audio
 - OpenGL graphics
 - Open Audio audio
- Middleware useful software APIs that facilitate various smaller tasks in games (goes between other components)
 - Physics, Data Processing, Networking, AI, User Interfaces
 - Goto: <u>http://www.gamemiddleware.org/middleware/index.html</u>

Webcam Projects Development Framework



Where everything starts - Image Pixels







Understanding image channels

- Colour digital images are made of pixels, and pixels are made of combinations of primary colours. A channel in this context is the grayscale image of the same size as a colour image, made of just one of these primary colours.
- For instance, an image from a standard digital camera will have a red(R), green(G) and blue(B) channel.
- A grayscale image has just one channel.



grayscale images

Tutorial 1: Hands-on Development for Handsoff VR System - Preparation

- Setup a C++ OpenCV Project in Visual Studio
- Load an image from a hard disk
- Display an image
- Use webcam to capture an image
- Operate on image sequences
- Simple video processing

Introducing OpenCV



- OpenCV (Open Source Computer Vision Library) is an open source computer vision and machine learning software library.
- The library has more than 2500 optimized algorithms, which includes a comprehensive set of both classic and state-of-the-art computer vision and machine learning algorithms.
- It has C++, C, Python, Java and MATLAB interfaces and supports Windows, Linux, Android and Mac OS.

Official Website http://opencv.org/

Programming Tutorials http://docs.opencv.org/master/d9/df8/ tutorial_root.html

Step1: Creating an OpenCV Project

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Step1: Creating an OpenCV Project

Before coding, it is important to tell Visual C++ where to find the libraries and includes files

lloOpenCV Property Pages		?
onfiguration: Debug	V Platform: Active(Win32)	 Configuration Manager
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Debugging	Additional #using Directories	
VC++ Directories	Debug Information Format	Program Database for Edit And Continue (/ZI)
▲ C/C++	Common Language RunTime Support	
General	Consume Windows Runtime Extension	
Output Files	Version	
Browse Information	Enable Incremental Linking	Yes (/INCREMENTAL)
Advanced	Suppress Startup Banner	Yes (/NOLOGO)
All Options	Ignore Import Library	No
Command Line	Register Output	No
▲ Linker	Per-user Redirection	
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▲ Linker	Ignore All Default Libraries	
General	Ignore Specific Default Libraries	
Input	Module Definition File	
Manifest File	Add Module to Assembly	
Debugging	Embed Managed Resource File	
System		

Step 1: Creating an OpenCV Project

• When using openCV, following head files are usually included:

#include "opencv2\imgproc\imgproc.hpp"
#include "opencv2\highgui\highgui.hpp"
#include "opencv2\opencv.hpp"

• All classes and functions are defined within the same space cv

Step 2: Loading and displaying image

The first thing to do is to declare a variable that will hold the image. Under OpenCV3.0, you can define an object of class cv::Mat

```
cv::Mat image;
```

The image can be loaded by using reading function cv::imread(), which can visit the image from file, decode it, and allocate the memory. You can use absolute path and relative path to locate an image file stored on your local hard disk:

```
image = cv::imread("dogs.png");
```

You can also check if the image has been correctly read by using a CV::MOt member variable "data":

Step 2: Loading and displaying image

To display the image, a highgui module is provided by openCV, The name of the image displaying window should be specified:

```
cv::imshow("Image Window", image);
```

Since it is a console windows that will terminate at the end of the main function, we add an extra highgui method to wait for a user key before ending the program

```
cv::waitKey(0);
```

Step 3: Showing the result

After building the vc++ project, you can debug the code. The result is





The program can be stopped by pressing any key when the "Image Window" is activated.

More...

OpenCV offers a wide selection of processing functions. Most of them are easy to use. For example, The image can be flipped horizontally by adding following code:

```
cv::Mat flipImage;
cv::flip(image, flipImage, 1);
cv::imshow("Flip Image Window", flipImage);
```



You can also save the processed image on hard disk: cv::imwrite("flipped.bmp", flipImage);

Step 4: Reading webcam video streams

🗙 webcam			-		×
webcam.cpp 🕂 🗙					-
🔁 webcam	(Global Scope)				•
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100 % •)	,

To process a video sequence, we need to be able to read each of its frames, OpenCV place an object of class cv::VideoCapture to perform frame extraction from video files and webcams.

```
cv::VideoCapture object_name(parameters);
```

For using video files, *parameters* is the path of the file. For example,

```
cv::VideoCapture videoFile("../bike.avi");
```

For using webcams, *parameters* is an index number of each camera. "0" means default camera. For example,

```
cv::VideoCapture webcam(0);
```

If you have more webcams installed, the index number can be 0,1,2,...

Once the cv::VideoCapture object has been created, it can be verified through the isOpened method:

```
if (!webcam.isOpened())
{
    std::cout << "Cannot open the video cam" << std::endl;
    return -1;
}</pre>
```

For accessing a frame, a method "read()" of cv::VideoCapture object can be used. A variable also need to be defined for storing that frame.

```
cv::Mat frame;
webcam.read(frame);
```

If the "read()" failed to get a frame, it will return a "0". In this case, the verification and frame capture can be coded in one line:

```
if (!webcam.read(frame))
```

```
\\ do something
```

while loop is used for renewing each frame. In this case, the "read()" should be placed inside the loop. For playing the current frame in an image window, some parameters are required to control the loop.

A flag should be defined for ending the loop when a key is pressed:

```
bool stop = false;
int const delay = 30;
while (!stop)
{
    if (!webcam.read(frame))
        break;
    imshow("Video Window", frame);
    if (cv::waitKey(delay) >= 0)
        stop = true;
}
```

cv::waitKey(*deLay*) waits for a pressed key and waits the event in milliseconds. O is the special value that means waiting a key to be pressed "forever". It returns the code of the pressed key or -1 if no key was pressed before the specified time had elapsed.

The final statement calls the release method which will close the webcam.

webcam.release();

Running the programme



Step 5: Video Processing

Real-time video processing steps are usually added after getting each new frame. For example, we can change the colour images into graylevel images. We use the cvtColor function:

void cv::cvtColor(cv::Mat input, cv::Mat output, int method);

The function should be placed inside the loop:

Step 5: Video Processing



Tutorial 2: Handles Interactions and Navigation

- Histogram concepts
- HSV Histogram building
- Histogram-based template matching
- Template matching-based "tracking"
- Access virtual object's "WORLD" matrix
- Access camera's "VIEW" matrix

Conventional Tracking (3D to 3D) vs. CV Tracking (2D to 3D)







Main CV Tasks

- Feature Engineering
- Image Stitching and Stereo Vision
- SfM and VSLAM
- 3-D Point Cloud Processing
- ...

•

...

- Used for VR Input
- Object Detection and Recognition
- Object Tracking and Motion Estimation



Solutions

- Easy cases:
 - Stereopsis 2 cameras generating a disparity map [X Y Z W]^T = Q * [x y disparity(x, y) 1]^T
- Hard cases:
 - Converting 2D Image Coordinates to 3D World Coordinates
 - Simplified way: Z = 0
 - Other improvised methods







... where (w,h) = canvas width and height

Main Process Flow

Using a colour histogram template to match image regions. The function returns the location of the biggest matched region.



How to construct the histogram template?



Run the "HS_colourSensor.exe" to create a template histogram file first and then use this file with the main tracking function: colourTracking()

HS_colourSensor.exe

E Colour Sampler – – ×	
Cover the rectangle area with colour samples	
Repeat the sampling for six times with different angles and localtons	How to read the histogram file:
	<pre>cv::MatND hist; cv::FileStorage fs("colour_hist.yml", cv::FileStorage::READ); if (!fs.isOpened()) {cout << "unable to open file storage!" << endl;} fs["histogram"] >> hist; fs.release();</pre>
Left click to add sample; Right click to delete last sample	

The template file is saved as a "colour_hist.yml" file in the project folder. Read/load this file into cv::MatND as a variable, which is used for saving multidimensional matrices.

"Tracking" at Runtime



Visual Display – A DirectX Rendering Pipeline



Colour Tracking for Camera Control



- For example, to be able to apply our Yaw rotation
 - XMMATRIX yawMatrix;
 - XMMatrixRotationAxis(&yawMatrix, &up, yaw);
- To apply yaw, rotate the look & right vectors about the up vector using the yaw matrix:
 - <u>XMVector3TransformCoord(</u>&look, &look, &yawMatrix);
 - <u>XMVector3TransformCoord</u>(&right, &right, &yawMatrix);


Tutorial 3: Marker-based Augmented Reality

- Marker detection
- Rendering operations

Marker-based AR

- Marker detection:
 - Convert the input image to grayscale;
 - Perform binary threshold operation;
 - Detect contours;
 - Search for possible markers;
 - Detect and decode markers;
 - Estimate marker 3D pose.





PACKT open s

Marker-based AR

- Rendering operation:
 - Draw a background image (the last received frame);
 - Copy image data to internal buffers;
 - Processing the new frame and marker detection;
 - receive a list of the markers detected on it;
 - pass to the visualization controller (decide what artificial 3D objects to draw);
 - Integration and rendering.



4. What are the potential usages of Desk-top VR?

Discussion session

Open Questions: contents, contents, contents ...

- What fills Virtual Worlds will make or break the VR "frenzy"?
- Can we have genres for VE just like in games?
- Who are the future immersive experience practitioners (designers, developers, users) and how to train them?
- UK Efforts

5. Summary

- VR had been here before ...
- VR is attractive and "cool"
- Not all VR solutions are feasible right now
- But it looks here to stay with new drive from real world applications and off-the-shelf technologies
- It's a System's perspective this tutorial follows...