

Virtual Reality and Multi-Sensory Interaction Master Research in Computer Science (SIF)

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About Myself

➢ Inria Research Scientist (France)

- Habilitation in computer science 2021 (Univ. Rennes 1, France)
- PhD in computer science 2011 (UPC, Spain)
- ➢ Member of the Inria's Hybrid team
	- Virtual and Augmented Reality
	- @Hybrid_TeamVR
	- <https://team.inria.fr/hybrid>

Research @Hybrid

Contents

➢ Introduction

- Definitions
- A short history of user interfaces

\triangleright The User in the Loop

- Human perception
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- Human performance models

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- Input Devices
- Interaction Tasks: Selection, Manipulation, Navigation, Application Control

Definitions

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)

➢ Communication process between users and computers

➢ Design, implementation and evaluation of interactive systems.

User Interface

➢ Medium through which the communication takes place

- Translates user actions (inputs) and computer states (outputs)
- A good UI should balance expressiveness and simplicity

Other Realities – Milgram's Continuum

\triangleright Reality-Virtuality continuum

- Introduced by Paul Milgram and Fumio Kishino in 1994
- \triangleright Merging of real and virtual environments
	- Physical an digital objects co-exist and interact in real time
	- Mixed reality is the spectrum between real and purely virtual environments

Reality-Virtuality (RV) Continuum

Skarbez R, Smith M and Whitton MC (2021) Revisiting Milgram and Kishino's Reality-Virtuality Continuum. *Front. Virtual Real.* 2:647997. doi: 10.3389/frvir.2021.647997

Virtual Reality

"Virtual reality is a scientific domain that use computer science and interaction interfaces in order to simulate, in a virtual world, the behaviour of 3D entities that are interacting in real time with themselves and with one or more users. The user's sensorymotor channels are engaged in a pseudo-natural immersion" Traité de la réalité virtuelle

Augmented Reality

- ➢ Computer generated information are added to the perception of a real scene
- ➢ Main goal
	- Support the user in real world tasks
	- Increase user's performance
	- Augment user's perception

Ikea

Hyper-Reality, Keiichi Matsuda

The Interaction Loop

A Short History of User Interfaces

User Interface in Real Life

PHOTO: NPH / DIETER MATHIS/PICTURE-ALLIANCE/DPA/AP IMAGES

Command-line User Interface

1981

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM_PC_DOS#/media/File:PC_DOS_1.10_screenshot.png https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MS-DOS_install_welcome.gif

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norton_Commander#/media/File:Norton_Commander_5.51.png

Graphical User Interfaces

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/1/1d/Xerox_Star_8010_workstations.jpg

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Windows_NT_4.0.png

š,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Apple_Macintosh_Desktop.png

The desktop

Engineering by Anton Georgiev

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGI00HV7Cfw

Post-WIMP User Interfaces

\triangleright Direct and tangible interfaces

S. Jordà, et al. 2007. The reacTable: exploring the synergy between live music performance and tabletop tangible interfaces. ACM I*nternational conference on Tangible and embedded interaction*

Follmer, Sean, et al. "inFORM: dynamic physical affordances and constraints through shape and object actuation." *Uist*. Vol. 13. 2013.

S. Pick, B. Weyers, B. Hentschel and T. W. Kuhlen, "Design and Evaluation of Data Annotation Workflows for CAVE-like Virtual Environments," in *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, vol. 22, no. 4, pp. 1452-1461, 2016.

Trends in UI Evolution

- \triangleright Increased functionality and data management
- \triangleright User customization and Interface adaptation
- \triangleright Natural user interfaces and multimodal feedback
- \triangleright Immersion (increased display size, VR, AR)
- \triangleright Multi-user collaboration

The origins of Virtual Reality

- ➢ 1962: Sensorama (Morton Heilig)
	- Earliest known examples of immersive, multi-sensory system
- ≥ 1965 : The Ultimate Display (Ivan Sutherland)
	- Data visualization: "A display connected to a digital computer …is a looking glass into a mathematical wonderland."
	- Sensors: "The computer can easily sense the positions of almost any of our body muscles."
	- Virtual Environment: "The ultimate display would, of course, be a room within which the computer can control the existence of matter. A chair displayed in such a room would be good enough to sit in."
- ➢ 1968: A Head-Mounted Three Dimensional Display
	- AFIPS Conference Proceedings, Vol. 33, Part I, 1968, pp. 757- 764

Long process

Force Feedback PSA, 2005

Oculus/Meta

Sensorama 1962

HMD Nasa, 1984

Surgical Planning, S. Cotin 1996

Industrial interest for VR / AR

\triangleright To do things better

- Time-saver
	- Design
	- Prototyping
	- Training
- Project review
	- Limit the use of the physical mock-up
	- Access to digital mock-up
	- Multi-users / multi-competencies
- To be free
	- Of the equipment availability
	- Of the dangerousness of the equipment for the user

\triangleright To make differently, to invent

- Access to time and/or space scale and virtual sensors
	- Relativistic physics
	- Geological applications
	- Multiscale Data
- Access to hidden data
	- Scientific Visualization
	- Ex: constraints inside a 3D object
- New functionality
	- New metaphors to explore data
	- Multimodality: Haptics / Sound / Vision

3D User Interfaces

$\underset{\text{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKMfBln81Xk}{\text{bigsym/mow.2017}}- \underset{\text{DtMfBln81Xk}}{\text{Unity}}\text{VR Editor}$

The User in the Loop

The Interaction Loop

The Interaction Loop

Ferran Argelaguet

Human Perception

Towards the Holodeck

Star Trek

The Interaction Loop

Human Perception

- \triangleright The process by which sensory information is actively organized and interpreted by the brain.
	- Bottom-up: analysis of information incoming from sense receptors
	- Top-down: drawing meanings from experience and expectations
- \triangleright The combination of the different sensory modalities allows humans to build a percept of their reality
	- Visual, Haptic, Acoustic, Olfactory, Taste
- ➢ Covered topics
	- Distance perception
	- Motion perception
	- Haptic perception (later in the course)

Bayesian framework

The perception–action loop, incorporating a Bayesian framework.

Marc O. Ernst, Heinrich H. Bülthoff, Merging the senses into a robust percept, Trends in Cognitive Sciences, Volume 8, Issue 4, 2004, Pages 162-169, ISSN 1364-6613

Distance and Depth Perception

Distance and Depth Perception

- \triangleright Ability to retrieve distance information
	- Exocentric: Relationship between objects
	- Egocentric: Distance towards objects
- ➢ Combination of all depth cues enable an accurate perception

➢ Cue dominance

- In case of ambiguity the stronger cue will be used for disambiguation
- Increase in uncertainty and inaccuracy

Renner, R. S., Velichkovsky, B. M., & Helmert, J. R. (2013). The perception of egocentric distances in virtual environments - A review. ACM Computing Surveys, 46(2), 1–40. https://doi.org/10.1145/2543581.2543590

Pictorical Depth Cues

> Occlusion

▶ Occlusion

Achieved using the Z-buffer algorithm in computer graphics \bullet

\triangleright Relative size

SENSATION AND PERCEPTION, Figure 6.7 @ 2006 Sinauer Associates, Inc.

\triangleright Relative size

➢ Relative size - Perspective deformation

Pietro Perugino [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

- ▶ Relative size Perspective deformation
	- The ponzo illusion \bullet

➢ Relative size - Perspective deformation

• The Ames room

The Ames Room – picture by Tony Marsh

➢ Relative size - Perspective deformation

• Achieved through perspective projection

SENSATION AND PERCEPTION, Figure 6.14 @ 2006 Sinauer Associates, Inc.

> Environment lighting (e.g. global illumination)

Unnumbered 13.7 Light and shadow Myers: Exploring Psychology, Sixth Edition in Modules Copyright © 2005 by Worth Publishers

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\triangleright Motion Parallax

Objects at different distances exhibit different horizontal motion speeds. \bullet

➢ Motion Parallax

- Objects at different distances exhibit different horizontal motion speeds.
- View dependent 3D rendering

\triangleright Convergence

Accommodation and Comfort in Head-Mounted Displays". Koulieris, G. A., Bui, B., Banks, M. S., and Drettakis, G. (2017). ACM Transactions on Graphics https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=52&v=0vMbiu2llQY

\triangleright Accommodation

Accommodation and Comfort in Head-Mounted Displays". Koulieris, G. A., Bui, B., Banks, M. S., and Drettakis, G. (2017). ACM Transactions on Graphics https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=52&v=0vMbiu2llQY

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\triangleright Binocular disparity

➢ Stereoscopic Rendering

• One different image for each eye.

Oculus Rift. Tuscany Demo.

➢ Stereoscopic Rendering

- One different image for each eye.
- Average Inter-Pupillary Distance (IPD) is 64mm

G. Bruder, F. Argelaguet, A. H. Olivier and A. Lécuyer, "Distance estimation in large immersive projection systems, revisited," *2015 IEEE Virtual Reality (VR)*, Arles, 2015, pp. 27-32.

Distance Perception

Visual Displays

Visual Displays

➢ Stereoscopic Rendering Technology

- Time-multiplexing (Active Stereo)
- Light polarization (Passive Stereo)
- Color separation (Anaglyph Stereo)

Characteristics of Visual Displays

\triangleright Main specifications

- Field of View
- Field of Regard
- Resolution and refresh rate
- Monoscopic or stereoscopic

➢ Technologies

- LCD / LED Screens (single / multiple)
- Projection Systems
- Head-Mounted Displays
- Autostereoscopic Displays
- "3D" Displays

Head Mounted Displays

Ivan Sutherland HMD - 1965

Current HMDs

Fishtank

Projection Systems

WorkBench PowerWall

4-Sided CAVE Tiled Display CAVE

Projection Systems

> Asymmetric View Frustum

Hand-Held Displays

Hand-Held Displays

See-through HMDs

➢ Mixing real and virtual content

Z800 Pro AR

Microsoft HoloLens

Magic Leap

See-through HMDs

Other Visual Displays

Autoestereoscopic Displays

Mirror-based Displays

Volumetric Displays

Visual Perception in VR and AR

Display

- \triangleright Display technology can alter human visual perception
	- Miscalibration, accommodation/convergence mismatch
	- Virtual objects look closer than they are.
	- Alter object relationships

- Inconsistent illumination
- Inconsistent visibility

Focus

- J. P. Rolland, et al. Towards quantifying depth and size perception in virtual environments. Presence: Teleoperators & Virtual Environments, 4(1):24–49, 1995.
- J. A. Jones, et al. The effects of virtual reality, augmented reality, and motion parallax on egocentric depth perception. ACM Symposium on Applied Perception in Graphics and Visualization, pages 9–14. 2008
- E. Kruijff, et al. Perceptual issues in augmented reality revisited. IEEE International Symposium on Mixed and Augmented Reality, pages 3–12. 2010.

Perceptual adaptation

- ➢ Can our perceptions change?
- ➢ Example: Looking at the world upside down

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Motion Perception

Visual System Vestibular System Motion Sickness

Motion illusions in Stationary Images

http://www.psy.ritsumei.ac.jp/~akitaoka/sakkaku-symposium2015-OFW.html

The Visual System and Optic Flow

- \triangleright The visual system infers motion from the changing pattern of light in the retinal image
	- The changing pattern can give the *illusion* of motion
- \triangleright The optic flow provides information about the observer's heading and the relative distance to each surface in the world
	- Can generate unique an unambiguous interpretation of 3D motion and depth
- ➢ Close objects moving slowly can create an identical retinal image over time as a large, distance object when we are moving quickly
	- Enables relative speed/direction and distances estimates.

The Motion Flow Field

 \triangleright Objects in the world change in predictable ways as we move

- Rotational and translational motions
- Retinal motion in the focus of expansion (FoE) is zero

FoE \cap

The Motion Flow Field

- \triangleright Objects in the world change in predictable ways as we move
	- Rotational and translational motions
	- Retinal motion in the focus of expansion (FoE) is zero
- \triangleright Rotational: all the components in the flow field rotate the same amount around the axis of rotation regardless of distance.
	- E.g. Head rotations

➢ Translational: objects moves further away the expansion point

- Closer points moves more than further points
- Distance affects both the speed and the direction

Example

Example

Example

Vestibular System

- \triangleright The inner ear is responsible for balance, equilibrium and orientation
	- The macula sacculi detects vertical acceleration.
	- The macula utriculi is responsible for horizontal acceleration.
- \triangleright The vestibular system generates information about head movements in space, acceleration and posture.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inner_ear

Simulation Sickness Effects

- ➢ The effects of Simulator Sickness are polysymptomatic and can vary in form and intensity between individuals
	- Complex problem to describe and define
- \triangleright It can be evaluated through questionnaires such as the Simulator Sickness Questionnaire (SSQ) or indirect analysis of physiological signals such as blood pressure and heart rate

\triangleright The simulation sickness questionnaire considers three main areas

- Nausea
- Oculomotor Problems
- Disorientation

Explaining Simulation Sickness

\triangleright Three main theories try to explain the causes

- Sensory Rearrangement Theory
- Postural Instability Theory
- Poison Theory

L. Rebenitsch et al., "Review on cybersickness in applications and visual displays," Virtual Reality, vol. 20, no. 2, pp. 101–125, 2016.

The Sensory Rearrangement Theory

➢ One main premise

- All situations that provoke Motion Sickness are characterized by a sensory rearrangement condition in which signals transmitted by the visual and vestibular systems are in disagreement or dissociation with each other and with what is expected from previous experiences.
- \triangleright When there is a dissociation between these elements and the sensory expectation is frustrated (based on previous experiences), the effects of Motion Sickness arise.
	- Effects only manifest themselves when there are movements with speed change (acceleration), since the vestibular system only reacts to angular and linear accelerations.

The Postural Instability Theory

 \triangleright One of the primary behavioral goals in humans is to maintain postural stability in the environment.

- ➢ Motion Sickness is not caused by all visual-vestibular dissociations but because the individual is unable to maintain appropriate postures, in order to compensate external stimuli.
	- The more unstable the body posture and the longer the duration of postural instability, the more severe the symptoms will be.
- \triangleright The postural instability theory can be seen as a more restrictive SRT, where the only relevant factor for Motion Sickness is that the vestibular system can not respond to external stimuli.

Gary E. Riccio and Thomas A. Stoffregen. An Ecological Theory of Motion Sickness and Postural Instability. Ecological Psychology, 3(3):195-240, 1991.

The Poison Theory

- \triangleright The poison theory attempts to provide an explanation for why motion sickness and cybersickness occur from an evolutionary standpoint
- \triangleright The Poison theory proposes that symptoms such as nausea are caused by an incorrect application of the body's defense mechanisms against poisoning
	- The physiological defense is to expel food from the stomach acting as an early warning system which enhances survival
- \triangleright It lacks predictive power and makes no determination for why people who get sick in virtual environments do not always have an emetic response

Contributing Factors to Cybersickness in VE

➢ Display and Technology Issues

- Position Tracking Error
- Latency
- Flicker

➢ Individual Factors

- User's role
- Gender
- Age
- Illness

Decreasing Simulation Sickness in VE

- ➢ User Adaptation
- ➢ Rest Frames
- ➢ Well-designed virtual navigation techniques
- ➢ Direct vestibular stimulation

Human Perception Other displays

Auditory Displays

- ➢ Technologies
	- Binaural Rendering (Headphones)
	- Wave field synthesis (Speaker Arrays)

➢ Usages

- Localization. (Spatial information)
- Sensory substitution. (Button press)
- Sonification. (Exploration of a dataset)

Haptic Displays

➢ Provide the user with the sense of touch

➢ Haptic cues

- Kinesthetic Body
- Tactile Skin

Haptic Displays (Kinesthetic)

➢ Classification

- Single point grounded
- Single point mobile
- Multi-finger body-based
- Multi-finger grounded
- ➢ Physical Models
	- Point or rigid bodies
	- Rigid hand models
	- Deformable hand models

Motor Control

Human Pointing Models

The Interaction Loop

Muscular System

Question

- ➢ Human psychomotor behavior model which has been widely adopted in numerous areas including HCI.
- \triangleright Estimates the time required to perform an aimed movement considering only the physical properties underlying the acquisition task.

Figure 2.2: Original Fitts' experiments. (a) Reciprocal tapping task. Participants had to hit repeatedly both center plates (stripped), without hitting the error plates surrounding the center plates. (b) Disc transfer task. Participants had to transfer eight washers (one at a time) from the right to the left pin. (c) Pin transfer task. Participants had to transfer each pin from one side to another.

Fitts, Paul M. "The information capacity of the human motor system in controlling the amplitude of movement." *Journal of experimental psychology* 47.6 (1954): 381.

➢ Fitts' law estimates the mean movement time (*MT*) considering the distance to the target (*A*) and the target size (*W*). The regression coefficients *a* and *b* are computed experimentally.

$$
MT=a+b\log_2\Big(\frac{A+W}{W}\Big)
$$

➢ Fitts' law estimates the mean movement time (*MT*) considering the distance to the target (*A*) and the target size (*W*). The regression coefficients *a* and *b* are computed experimentally.

$$
MT=a+b\log_2\Big(\frac{A+W}{W}\Big)
$$

- \triangleright The intercept a is sensitive to additive factors like reaction times (e.g. time to locate the target or time to trigger the selection confirmation).
- \triangleright The inverse of the slope $1/b$ is the index of performance (IP) expressed in seconds/bit.
	- Dependent on the user and the involved muscle groups.

Question again

Optimized Initial Impulse Model

➢ Acquisition tasks are subdivided in a two-step movement

- Ballistic phase. A fast and inaccurate movement is made towards the target.
- Correction phase. If the target is not acquired, iterative slow correction movements are executed until the target is acquired

Figure 2.7: Following the optimized initial impulse model, after the ballistic movement: (a) the target might be selected, (b) under shooted or (c) over shooted. For situations (b) and (c) subsequent corrective movements are required.

D. E. Meyer, R. A. Abrams, S. Kornblum, C. E. Wright, and J. E. K. Smith. Optimality in Human Motor Performance: Ideal Control of Rapid Aimed Movements. Psychological Review, 95(3):340–370, 1988.

Optimized Initial Impulse Model

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- Ballistic phase. A fast and inaccurate movement is made towards the target.
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Example of a velocity profile for a 3D acquisition task using raycasting selection. Ballistic and corrective phases of the movement are clearly visible.

Fitts' law and beyond…

➢ Extension to 2D motions

$$
MT = a + b \log_2 \left(\frac{2A}{W}\right) + c \log_2 \left(\frac{2A}{H}\right)
$$

E. Crossman. The measurement of perceptual load in manual operations. PhD thesis, University of Birmingham, 1956.

 $MT = a + b \log_2 \left(\sqrt{\left(\frac{A}{W}\right)^2 + \eta \left(\frac{A}{H}\right)^2 + 1} \right)$

Johnny Accot and Shumin Zhai. Refining Fitts' law models for bivariate pointing. ACM *SIGCHI conference on Human factors in computing systems*, pages 193–200., 2003.

➢ Extensions to 3D motions

$$
ID_{WtEuc\Theta} = \log_2\left(\sqrt{f_W(\Theta)\left(\frac{A}{W}^2\right) + f_H(\Theta)\left(\frac{A}{H}^2\right) + f_D(\Theta)\left(\frac{A}{D}^2\right)} + 1\right)
$$

Tovi Grossman and Ravin Balakrishnan. Pointing at trivariate targets in 3D environments. ACM *SIGCHI conference on Human factors in computing systems*, pages 447–454. ACM, 2004.

 \triangleright Fitts' law is so well know because it provides one of the few **quantitative measures** for HCI research.

➢There **ISO 9241-9** standard which provides a standardized evaluation scenario for testing 2D interactions (e.g. mouse selection).

Application of Fitts' Law: Input Mapping

- \triangleright Function that maps the input DoFs to the DoFs of the interaction tool.
	- Isomorphic Mapping: Ensures that there is a direct mapping between the input DoFs and the DoFs of the tool.
	- Anisomorphic Mapping: Applies a linear or nonlinear transformation to the input data. This function is defined by the Control/Display Ratio.

Wrap-up

The Interaction Loop

3D Interaction Tasks

➢**Basic** 3D Interaction Tasks

- **Selection**: The user choses a 3D object from a set of objects
- **Manipulation**: The user applies spatial rigid transformations
- **Navigation**: The user modifies its virtual position in the environment
- **Application Control**: The user issues commands to the application

Selection Manipulation Navigation