


**An Introduction to
Augmented Reality**

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Based on the SIGGRAPH 2001 course held together with
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Syllabus

- **Overview**
- **Tracking for Augmented Reality**
- **Augmented Reality Interaction**
- **Collaborative Augmented Reality**
- **Heterogeneous user interfaces**
- **Mobile Augmented Reality**


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Definition of Augmented Reality (1)

- **Virtual Environments (VE): Completely replaces the real world**
- **Augmented Reality (AR): User sees real environment; combines virtual with real**
- **Supplements reality, instead of completely replacing it**
- **Photorealism not necessarily a goal**

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Example AR image



Youngkwan Cho, STAR system

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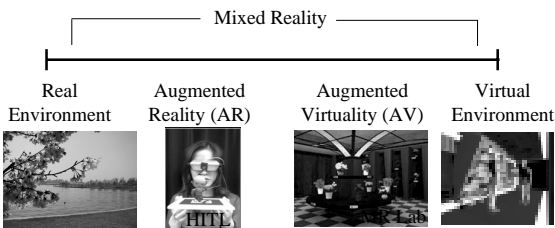
Definition of Augmented Reality (2)

- 1) Blends real and virtual, in real environment
- 2) Real-time interactive
- 3) Registered in 3-D
 - Applies to all senses (auditory, haptic?)
 - Not an HMD-specific definition
 - Includes idea of removing part of real environment (a.k.a. mediated or diminished reality)

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Milgram's Reality-Virtuality continuum



Reality - Virtuality (RV) Continuum

Adapted from Milgram, Takemura, Utsumi, Kishino. Augmented Reality: A class of displays on the reality-virtuality continuum

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Why are researchers interested?



- Enhance perception of and interaction with the real world
- Potential for productivity improvements in real-world tasks
- Relatively new field with many problems, but much progress has occurred recently

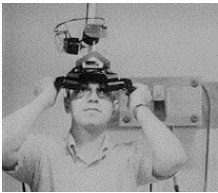
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A Brief (and incomplete) History of AR (1)



- 1960's: Sutherland / Sproull's first HMD system was see-through



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A Brief (and incomplete) History of AR (2)



- Early 1990's: Boeing coined the term "AR." Wire harness assembly application begun.
- Early to mid 1990's: UNC ultrasound visualization project
- 1994: Motion stabilized display [Azuma]
- 1994: Fiducial tracking in video see-through [Bajura / Neumann]

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A Brief (and incomplete) History of AR (3)



- **1996: UNC hybrid magnetic-vision tracker (first compelling environment)**
- **1998: Dedicated conferences begin**
- **Late 90's: Collaboration, outdoor, interaction**
- **Late 90's: Augmented sports broadcasts**
- **1998 - 2001: Mixed Reality Systems Lab**
- **2000: Custom see-through HMDs**

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Growth of field: conferences



New conferences dedicated to this topic:

- **International Symposium on Augmented Reality**
<http://www.Augmented-Reality.org/isar>
- **International Symposium on Mixed Reality**
<http://www.mr-system.co.jp/ismr>
- **Designing Augmented Reality Environments**

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Growth of field: projects



- **Mixed Reality Systems Laboratory (Japan)**
<http://www.mr-system.co.jp/>
- **Project ARVIKA (Germany)**
<http://www.arvika.de/>
- **Ubicom Project (Delft University)**
<http://www.ubicom.tudelft.nl>

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Some starting points



- **Jim Vallino's, Reinhold Behringer's pages:**

<http://www.cs.rit.edu/~jrv/research/ar>

<http://www.augmented-reality.org>

- **Ron Azuma's survey paper**

Azuma, Ronald. A Survey of Augmented Reality.
Presence: Teleoperators and Virtual Environments 6, 4
(August 1997), 355-385.

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More starting points



- **Updated survey to appear in Nov. 2001 IEEE Computer Graphics & Applications**

Azuma, Baillot, Behringer, Feiner, Julier, MacIntyre.
Recent Advances in Augmented Reality.

- **Book**

Barfield and Caudell. Fundamentals of Wearable
Computers and Augmented Reality. Lawrence
Erlbaum Associates (2001). ISBN 0-8058-2901-6

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Applications: medical



- **"X-ray vision" for surgeons**
- **Aid visualization, minimally-invasive operations. Training. MRI, CT data.**
 - Ultrasound project, UNC Chapel Hill.



Courtesy
UNC
Chapel
Hill



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Applications: complex machinery



• Instructions for assembly, maintenance and repair of complex equipment

- Aircraft [Boeing]
- Printers [Columbia]
- Engines
- Automobile assembly
- and others...

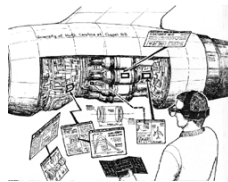
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Assembly and maintenance pictures (1)



Boeing wire harness assembly.
Adam Janin wearing HMD.
Courtesy David Mizell, Boeing

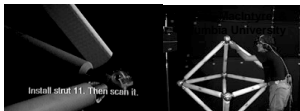


Courtesy Andrei State, UNC
Chapel Hill

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Assembly and maintenance pictures (2)



Columbia University



Eric Rose, et. al., ECRC



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Applications: annotating environment

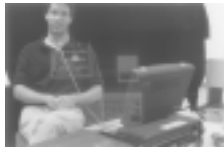


- **Public and private annotations**
- **Aid recognition, “extended memory”**
 - Libraries, maps [Fitzmaurice93]
 - Windows [Columbia]
 - Mechanical parts [many places]
 - Reminder notes [Sony, MIT Media Lab]
 - Navigation and spatial information access

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Annotation pictures



Columbia University



© 1997 S. Feiner, B. MacIntyre, T. Höllerer, & A. Webster, Columbia University



HRL



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Application: broadcast augmentation



- **Adding virtual content to live sports broadcasts**
 - “First down” line in American football
 - Hockey puck trails, virtual advertisements
 - National flags in swimming lanes in 2000 Olympics
- **Commercial application**
 - Princeton Video Image is one company

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Application: aircraft operations



- **Helmet-mounted sights (short-range missiles)**
- **Virtual runway markers**
 - Runway incursions are a leading cause of aircraft accidents.
 - T-NASA head up display for runway incursions
 - Enhanced view for low visibility situations

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Application: collaboration

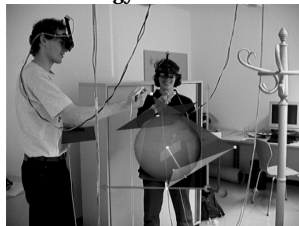


AR allows users to collaborate inside the same real environment

HIT Lab & ATR



Studierstube, Vienna University of Technology



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AR Systems Overview



- **Blending: Optical vs. Video**
- **Focus, contrast, portability**
- **Sensing and bandwidth**

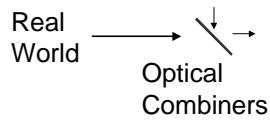
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Optical see-through head-mounted display



Virtual images
from monitors



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Examples of optical see-through HMDs



Sony Glasstron

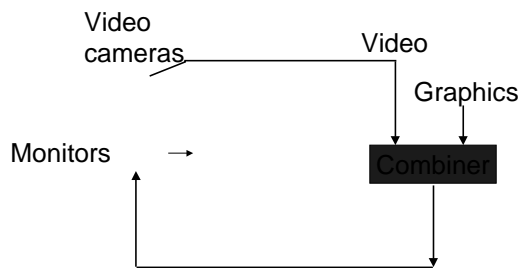
Virtual Vision VCAP



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Video see-through head-mounted display



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Example of video see-through HMD

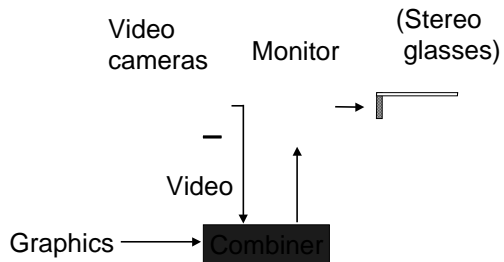


MR Laboratory's COASTAR HMD
(Co-Optical Axis See-Through Augmented Reality)
Parallax-free video see-through HMD

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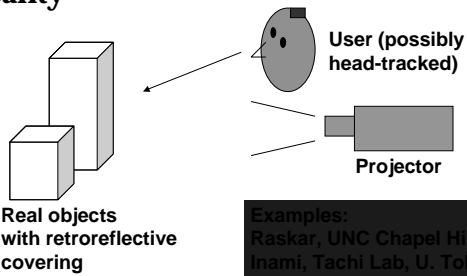
Video monitor Augmented Reality



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Projector-based Augmented Reality



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Example of projector-based AR



Ramesh Raskar, UNC Chapel Hill

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Strengths of optical AR

- **Simpler (cheaper)**
- **Direct view of real world**
 - Full resolution, no time delay (for real world)
 - Safety
 - Lower distortion
- **No eye displacement (but COASTAR video see-through avoids this problem)**

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Strengths of video AR

- **True occlusion (but note Kiyokawa optical display that supports occlusion)**
- **Digitized image of real world**
 - Flexibility in composition
 - Matchable time delays
 - More registration, calibration strategies
- **Wide FOV is easier to support**

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Optical vs. video AR summary



- **Both have proponents**
- **Video is more popular today?**
 - Likely because lack of available optical products
- **Depends on application?**
 - Manufacturing: optical is cheaper
 - Medical: video for calibration strategies

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Focus and contrast



- **Focus**
 - Need to measure eye accommodation?
 - Autofocus video camera?
- **Contrast**
 - Desirable to match brightness
 - Real world has large dynamic range!
 - More difficult with optical?

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Portability



- **VE: User stays in one place**
- **AR: User moves to task location**
 - Want to use in factories, outdoors, etc.
 - Less controlled environments
 - Very demanding of the technology

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Is AR easier/harder than VR?



- **Rendering: easier**
- **Display (resolution, FOV, color): easier**
- **Tracking and sensing: harder**
 - Greater bandwidth requirements (video, MRI data, range data, etc.)
 - Support occlusion, general environmental knowledge
 - A big problem for registration!

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Upcoming...



- **Tracking for Augmented Reality**
- **Augmented Reality Interaction**
- **Collaborative Augmented Reality**
- **Heterogeneous user interfaces**
- **Mobile Augmented Reality**

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Other current research directions (1)



- **Ease of setup and use**
 - Avoid need for expert user
 - Reduce calibration requirements
- **Human factors and perceptual studies**
 - Potential conflicts and optical illusions
 - Eye displacement in video see-through

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Other current research directions (2)



- **Proven applications**
 - Need demonstrated performance improvements
- **Photorealistic rendering**
- **AR in other senses**
 - Recent haptic demo [Walairacht ISMR2001]
- **Social acceptance**
 - User perception of privacy, trust, and fashion!

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The importance of tracking



- **Tracking is the basic enabling technology for Augmented Reality**
- **Without accurate tracking you can't generate the merged real-virtual environment**
- **Tracking is significantly more difficult in AR than in Virtual Environments**

“Tracking is the stepchild that nobody talks about.”
- Henry Sowitzal, Dec 1994 Scientific American

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The Registration Problem



- **Virtual and Real must stay properly aligned**
- **If not:**
 - Compromises illusion that the two coexist
 - Prevents acceptance of many serious applications
 - Do you want a surgeon cutting into you if the virtual cut-marks are misaligned?

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Sources of registration errors



- **Static errors**
 - Optical distortions
 - Mechanical misalignments
 - Tracker errors
 - Incorrect viewing parameters
- **Dynamic errors**
 - System delays

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Reducing static errors



- **Distortion compensation**
- **Manual adjustments**
- **View-based or direct measurements**
 - [Azuma94] [Caudell92] [Janin93] etc.
- **Camera calibration (video)**
 - [ARGOS94] [Bajura93] [Tuceryan95] etc.

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Reducing dynamic errors (1)



- **Reduce system lag**
 - [Olano95] [Wloka95a] [Regan SIGGRAPH99]
- **Reduce apparent lag**
 - Image deflection [Burbidge89] [Regan94] [So92] [Kijima ISMR 2001]
 - Image warping [Mark 3DI 97]

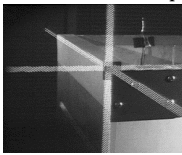
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Reducing dynamic errors (2)



- **Match input streams (video)**
- **Predict**
 - [Azuma94] [Emura94] & others
 - Inertial sensors helpful



Azuma / Bishop, SIGGRAPH 94

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Tracking technologies (as applied to AR)



- **GPS**
 - Regular ~30 meters, Differential ~3 meters
 - Carrier phase: centimeters but multipath and initialization problems
 - Line of sight, jammable
- **Inertial and dead reckoning**
 - Sourceless but drifts
 - Cost and size restrictions

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Tracking Technologies (2)



• Active sources

- Optical, magnetic, ultrasonic
- Requires structured, controlled environment
- Restricted range
- Magnetic vulnerable to distortions
- Ultrasonic: ambient temperature variations
- Optical is often expensive

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Tracking Technologies (3)



• Scalable active trackers

- InterSense IS-900, 3rd Tech HiBall



3rd Tech, Inc.

• Passive optical

- Line of sight, may require landmarks to work well.
Can be brittle.
- Computer vision is computationally-intensive

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Tracking Technologies (4)



• Electromagnetic compass, tilt sensors

- Passive and self-contained
- Vulnerable to distortions

• Mechanical

- Can be accurate but tethers user

• Hybrid trackers

- Combines approaches to cover weaknesses
- Yields the best results



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Wrap-up



- **Tracking is a key problem to AR**
- **Registration error**
 - Measures against static error
 - Measures against dynamic error
- **AR typically requires multiple tracking technologies**

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AR Interaction: Why it is Important?



Designing AR system = interface design

- *Interface output*: HMDs, tracking, registration, etc.
- *Interface input*: optical trackers, interaction techniques...

Objective is a high quality of user experience

- Augmentation is a tool not a final goal
- Appropriateness to tasks and applications
- Ease of use & learning of interface
- Performance and satisfaction

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AR browsers: Virtual information in real context



Information is registered to real-world context

• Hand held AR displays

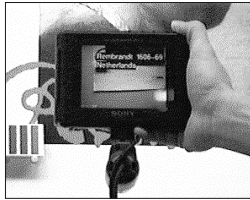
- Video-see-through (Rekimoto, 1997) or non-see through (Fitzmaurice, et al. 1993)
- Magnetic trackers or computer vision based

Interaction

- Manipulation of a window into information space

Applications

- Context-aware information displays



Rekimoto, et al. 1997

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AR Info Browsers: Pros and Cons

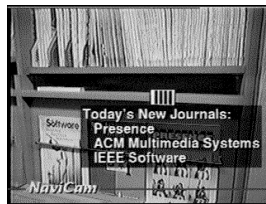


Important class of AR interfaces

- Wearable computers
- AR simulation, training

Limited interactivity

- Modification of virtual content is difficult
- Virtual content authoring is difficult



Rekimoto, et al. 1997

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3D AR Interfaces



Virtual objects displayed in 3D physical space and can be freely manipulated

- See-through HMDs and 6DOF head-tracking are required
- 6DOF magnetic, ultrasonic, etc. hand trackers for input

Interaction

- Viewpoint control
- Traditional 3D user interface interaction: manipulation, selection, adding, removing, etc.



Kiyokawa, et al. 2000

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3D AR Interfaces: Pros and Cons

Important class of AR interfaces

- Entertainment, design, training

Advantages

- User can interact with 3D virtual object everywhere in space
- Natural, familiar interaction

Disadvantages

- Usually no tactile feedback
- HMDs are often required
- **Interaction seams:** user has to use different devices for virtual and physical objects

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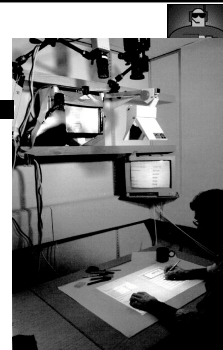
Oshima, et al. 2000



Tangible interfaces and augmented surfaces

Basic principles

- Virtual objects are projected on a surface
 - back projection
 - overhead projection
- Physical objects are used as controls for virtual objects
 - Tracked on the surface
 - Virtual objects are registered to the physical objects
 - Physical embodiment
- Collaborative



Digital Desk. 1993



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Tangible Interfaces and Augmented Surfaces: Pros and Cons

Advantages

- The same device is used both for interacting with virtual and physical objects: human hand
 - No need for special purpose input devices

Disadvantages

- Interaction is limited only to the 2D surface
 - 3D interaction and manipulation is difficult

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Orthogonal nature of AR interfaces (Poupyrev, 2001)



	3D AR	Augmented surfaces
Spatial seams	No interaction is everywhere	Yes interaction is only on 2D surfaces
Interaction seams	Yes separate devices for physical and virtual	No same devices for physical and virtual

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Tangible AR: generic interface semantics

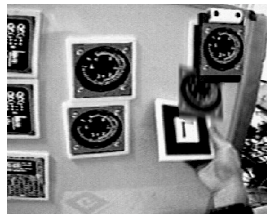


Tiles semantics

- data tiles
- operation tiles
 - menu
 - clipboard
 - trashcan
 - help

Operation on tiles

- proximity
- spatial arrangements
- space-multiplexed



Tiles, 2001 video

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Tangible AR: Pros and Cons



Advantages

- Seamless interaction with both virtual and physical tools
- No need for special purpose input devices
- 3D presentation and manipulation of virtual objects

Disadvantages

- Required HMD

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Wrap-up

- **Browsing interfaces**
 - simple (conceptually!), unobtrusive
- **3D AR interfaces**
 - expressive, creative, require attention
- **Tangible and augmented surfaces**
 - Embedded into conventional environments
- **Tangible AR**
 - avoids seams, but requires track-able objects

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Today's Collaboration Technology

Video Conferencing

- lack of spatial cues
- limited participants
- 2D collaboration



Collaborative VEs

- separation from real world
- reduced conversational cues

Assumes remote collaboration!

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Interaction seams

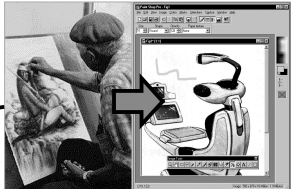
Seam (Ishii et. al.)

- spatial, temporal, functional discontinuity



Types of Seams

- Functional
 - different functional workspaces
- Cognitive
 - different work practices



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TU
WIEN

Seams in collaboration

Functional Seams:

- Mediated differs from F-to-F Conversation
 - Loss of Gaze Information
 - Degradation of Non-Verbal Cues

Cognitive Seams:

- Learning Curve Effects
- User Frustration

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Collaborative AR Systems

Face to Face Collaboration

- Studierstube
- Shared Space

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WIEN

Studierstube (Schmalstieg et. al.)



- “Studierstube” = “study room”
- collaborative AR
- virtual objects, natural communication
- independent views of the data
 - POV, layers, annotations
- new forms of 3D interaction
 - Pen, PIP, tangible input devices



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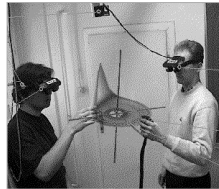
Studierstube Features



Seamless Interaction Natural Communication

Attributes:

- Virtuality
- Augmentation
- Cooperation
- Independence
- Individuality



video

Merges Task and Communication Space



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Shared Space (Siggraph 99)



Goal

- create compelling collaborative AR interface usable by novices

Exhibit content

- matching card game
- face to face collaboration
- physical objects
 - 5x7" cards



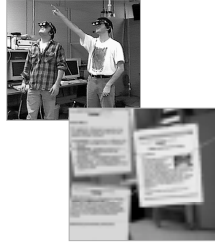
video



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Related Work

TransVision (Rekimoto)
AR² Hockey (MRSL)
RV Border Guards (MRSL)
Collaborative Web Space (Billinghurst)



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Wrap-up

Face to face collaboration

- Studies show AR preferred over immersive VR
- AR facilitates seamless/natural communication



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Heterogeneous AR?

- AR combines real + virtual
→ implicitly heterogeneous
- But “AR” is not even a precise definition

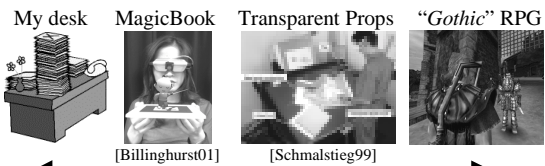
AR ≠ AR!

- There are multiple flavors of AR

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Milgram's continuum revisited



All these options make sense for certain applications

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Make heterogeneous user interfaces.

- Take-home message:
 - Don't get stuck with a single “paradigm”
- Many possibilities make sense
- Mix & match to make the best user interface

There's more continua to choose from...

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Display continuum

Ultra-sound biopsy [State96]

Automated teller machine ATM (as-received/Tony Markert)

“Classic” Augmented Reality

- Users carry their computers
- See-through head mounted display, hand-held display

Ubiquitous computing

- Computers are embedded in environment
- Access to networked resources
- Active surfaces

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User continuum

3D browsing 3D teachware Internet games

Single user Collaborating users, co-located Collaborating users, remote

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Application continuum

Computer game My PC desktop

Single-tasking Multi-purpose
Dedicated environment Multi-tasking

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Combinations make sense

E.g., *Magic Book* uses 2 places along real-virtual continuum



video

Augmented reality and immersive virtual reality

Used at the same time by 2 users!

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Bring together UI paradigms

Besides AR, there are e.g.,

- Tangible User Interface
- Graphical User Interface
- Mobile indoor and outdoor UI

Some sample combinations...

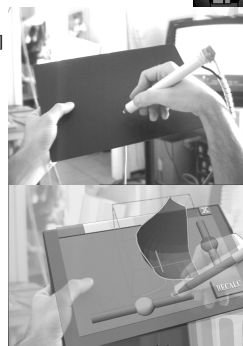
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Personal Interaction Panel: AR+GUI

Properites: [Szalavári97]

- Pen and pad props
- Two-handed interaction
- Tactile feedback
- General and versatile
- Natural embedding of 2D in 3D
- Simple, cheap hardware

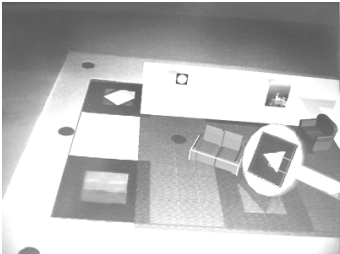


video

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VOMAR: Tangible + AR




[Kato00]

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DataTiles: Tangible + GUI



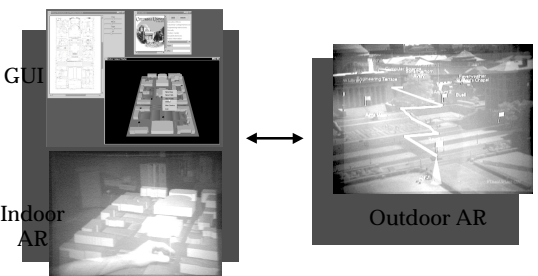
[Rekimoto01]

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MARS: GUI + Indoor + Outdoor AR

[Höllerer99] Campus information system




GUI

Indoor AR

Outdoor AR

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Multiple simultaneous paradigms

- Overcome boundaries between UI
- Bridging Space



Studierstube [Schmalstieg00]
Mix AR with projections

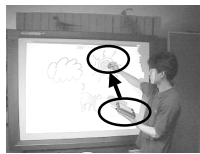
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Bridging Space (1/5)

Multi-computer direct interaction

[Rekimoto97]



[Rekimoto98]

Pick-and-drop

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Bridging Space (2/5)

EMMIE [Butz99]

- Shared virtual "ether" metaphor
- Incorporate existing standard applications



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Bridging Space (3/5)

Active Surfaces

[Rekimoto99]

- Space between objects bridged by display surface



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Bridging Space (4/5)

Office of the Future

[Raskar98]

- Office environment augmented with embedded front projection
- All surfaces are used



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Bridging Space (5/5)

mediaBlocks [Ullmer98]

- Wooden blocks with ID tags
- Carry "data containers" across physical space



White board



Printer



Browser

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Wrap-up



- **Many UI paradigms combinations make sense**
 - AR, desktop, tangible, immersive...
- **Choose from several UI dimensions**
 - Real \leftrightarrow virtual, # of displays, users, applications...
- **Build interesting user interfaces**
 - Space bridging metaphor
 - Use most appropriate UI for any task
 - Don't think in categories, be creative!

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Syllabus



- **Overview**
- **Tracking for Augmented Reality**
- **Augmented Reality Interaction**
- **Collaborative Augmented Reality**
- **Heterogeneous user interfaces**
- **Mobile Augmented Reality**

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Mobile AR – Motivation



Mobile, wearable computing opens up new possibilities

- location-aware/situated computing


Now, the interface is truly everywhere

- AR is a powerful UI for this type of computing

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Mobile AR – Background




Post-WIMP interfaces:

```


    graph LR
      3D --- D3D[Desktop 3D, Desktop VR, Fishtank VR]
      3D --- P3D[Projection-based VR]
      3D --- H3D[Head-mounted VR]
      Multimodal --- M[Speech, Gestures, Audio, Haptic]
      Situated --- SW[Mobile, Wearable]
      Situated --- MDP[Multi-Device, Pervasive]
      Situated --- TE[Tangible, Embodied]
      D3D --- MA[Mobile AR]
      P3D --- MA
      H3D --- MA
      M --- MA
      SW --- MA
      MDP --- MA
      TE --- MA
  
```

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Mobile AR – Background

Steps Toward Wearable Computing




<i>Computer Form Factor</i>	<i>User Relationship</i>
Room	Enter
Wall	Share
Desk	Sit at
Box	
Laptop	... and carry before/after
Palmtop	Hold
Clothing	Wear

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Implications of Wearability

(after S. Mann, B. Rhodes, T. Starner)



- Mobility**
 - usable/used indoors and outdoors
- Intimacy**
 - sense the wearer's body, communicate privately
- Context sensitivity**
 - take into account changing environment
- Constancy**
 - Permeation of UI into wearer's life

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What is Mobile AR?

Ways of augmenting a mobile user's environment

- wearable display, no tracking whatsoever
- body-stabilized wearable display (orientation tracking only)
- location-dependent audio augmentation (with or without spatialized audio)
- location-dependent screen-stabilized augmentation (possibly monocular)
- location-dependent body-stabilized augmentation (on a projection cylinder/sphere surrounding the user)
- stereo head-tracked, position tracked, AR with full overlay registration

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Mobile AR – Challenges (1/2)

Mobile AR is difficult

- “Basic” wearable computing is already a technical challenge. Mobile AR adds a lot of extra complexity: orientation & long-range position tracking, possibly 3D graphics...
- Ruggedness required (“wear and tear!” ☹)
- Outdoor AR is a particular challenge (wide range of operating conditions, little control over environment).

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Mobile AR – Challenges (2/2)

Limited Resources

- A wearable platform has limited computation power
- Size, weight, and power restrictions:
 - Military backpacks can weigh about 60 pounds (27 kg), military helmets 4-5 pounds (~2kg)
 - For a system to *appeal* to users, the weight has to be *drastically* lower and the ergonomics have to be right.
 - Batteries, batteries, batteries (esp. for 3D graphics)

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Mobile AR – Hardware



Hardware requirements (tracking covered in next section):

- **Head-worn display**
 - Optical see-through vs. video feed-through, monocular vs binocular, stereo vs mono, resolution, field of view
 - Extra brightness for outdoors. Optical see-through: adjustable opacity
- **Computing Platform**
 - Computing power, 3D graphics capabilities, extensibility
 - Size, ergonomics, availability (off-the-shelf vs. build yourself), price
- **Complementary hand-held/palm-top/wrist displays**
 - For outdoors: readability in direct sunlight
- **(Other) input devices**
 - Mice, 3D pointing, microphones, cameras

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Mobile AR Systems

Outdoor AR



Existing Outdoor Systems

- focus on tracking:
 - HRL, Rockwell, USC, Mixed Reality Systems Lab, ...
- focus on systems/UI:
 - Columbia University, University of South Australia, Naval Research Lab, Mixed Reality Systems Lab
 - Papers/Posters at ISAR and ISMR symposia

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Mobile AR Systems

Outdoor AR



Columbia University MARS



- Touring Machine ('97), Situated Documentaries ('99)
- Indoor/Outdoor Collaboration ('99),
- Filtering ('00, with NRL), View Mgmt ('01)

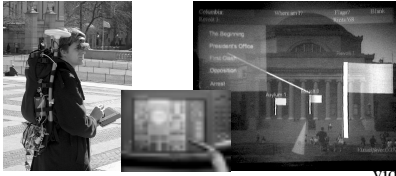
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Mobile AR Systems

Outdoor AR

Columbia University MARS



video

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Mobile AR Systems

Outdoor AR

University of South Australia system (Tinmith-4, ARQuake)



© University of South Australia

- Terrestrial Navigation ('98), VR/AR ('99)
- ARQuake ('00): Outdoor/Indoor game, vision-based tracking corrections (ARToolkit)

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Mobile AR Systems

Outdoor AR

NRL's Battlefield Augmented Reality System



Naval Research Laboratory

- BARS ('00), Information Filtering ('00)
- Focuses on stereo 3D Vector graphics (also supports polygonal 3D models)

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Mobile AR Systems

Outdoor AR

Mixed Reality Systems Lab



© Mixed Reality Systems Laboratory Inc.

- TOWNWEAR (Towards Outdoor Wearable Navigator With Enhanced & Augmented Reality)
- Head orientation tracking with fiber optic gyroscope and vision-based drift corrections

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Mobile Studierstube

- Fully interactive 3D setup
- Spontaneous collaboration of mobile and stationary users



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THANK YOU!

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