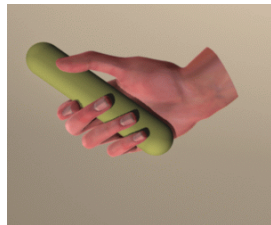


## Hand Motion and Grasping: Capturing, Recognizing and Synthesizing

Daniel Thalmann  
Institute for Media Innovation  
Nanyang Technological University,  
Singapore and EPFL, Switzerland

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel\\_Thalmann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Thalmann)



Photogrammetry Week 2015,  
Stuttgart, Germany

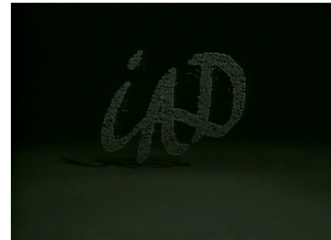
## Hand Motion and object manipulation

- Virtual human using hands
- User grasping Virtual Objects
- Man-Machine Communication
- Challenges
  - Accuracy
  - Deformations
  - Coordination
  - Complexity
  - Multi-manipulation



## Two movies

1987 Rendez-vous in Montreal    1992 IAD



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rendez-vous\\_in\\_Montreal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rendez-vous_in_Montreal)

## Skeleton-Based Deformations

### Sub-Space Deformations

- Various names : Joint Local Deformations (JLD), then sub-space deformation (SSD), linear blend skinning, or smooth skinning.
- Method works first by assigning a set of joints  $j \{1, \dots, n\}$  with weights to each vertex  $v$  of the character.
- The deformation of a vertex  $v_0$  is then computed by weighted combination of transformation  $T_j$  of influencing joints  $j$  with the below function:

$$S(v_0) = \left( \sum_{j=1}^n w_j T_j \right) \cdot v_0$$

N. Magnenat-Thalmann, R.Laperrière, D. Thalmann, **Joint-Dependent Local Deformations for Hand Animation and Object Grasping**, *Proc. Graphics Interface '88*, Edmonton, 1988, pp.26-33

## Object Manipulation

- A very complex problem
- No general algorithm
- More complex:
  - Two people holding objects
  - Exchange of objects
  - Indirect manipulation
  - Not only grasping, e.g. door
  - deformations



J.P.Gourret, N. Magnenat-Thalmann, D. Thalmann, **Simulation of Object and Human Skin Deformations in a Grasping Task**, *Proc. SIGGRAPH '89*, Computer Graphics, Boston, Vol. 23, No 3, 1989, pp. 21-30

## Automatic approach



- Heuristic grasping decision
- Inverse kinematics to find final arm posture
- Multi-sensors



R. Mas, D. Thalmann, **A Hand Control and Automatic Grasping System for Synthetic Actors**, *Proc. Eurographics '94*, Oslo, September 1994

## Problems

- Object can have various ways of grasping
- Dependent of situation: empty glass vs full glass
- Tubular structure to help grasping



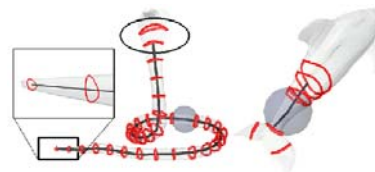
## Another method of Grasping

- Method for grasping in an OM context
  - a tubular feature classification algorithm (Plumber)
  - a hand grasp posture generation algorithm
  - An object manipulation framework
- Works on objects with tubular or elongated parts
- Suitable for objects that are not designed manually (e.g. from laser scanning, mixed objects, etc.)



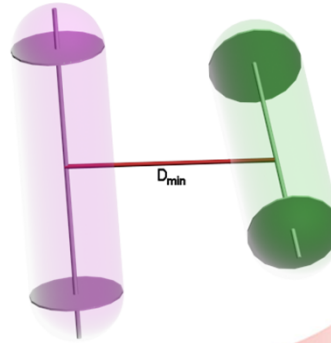
## Plumber

- (Mortara, 2004)
- Analyses object shape
- Intersection of spheres centered at mesh vertices
- Identifies tube features of arbitrary section and axis shape



## Touch Detection

- Approximate tube and finger segments with capsules
- Fast intersection testing: compute minimum distance ( $D_{min}$ ) between two line segments
- Touch testing with tolerance ( $\epsilon$ ):
  - $D_{min} > R_{sum}$  : Not touching
  - $R_{sum} \geq D_{min} > R_{sum} - \epsilon$  : Touching
  - $R_{sum} - \epsilon \geq D_{min}$  : Inside



## Real-time Manipulation



## To grasp you need to reach

- Generate collision-free reaching motions
  - control of the entire body (e.g. leg flexion)
  - articulation limits
  - comfort criteria
  - Construct a *Probabilistic Reaching Roadmap*



M. Kallmann, A. Aubel, T. Abaci, and D. Thalmann, *Planning Collision-Free Reaching Motions for Interactive Object Manipulation and Grasping*, *Proc. Eurographics 2003*.

## *Semi-automatic approach: smart objects*

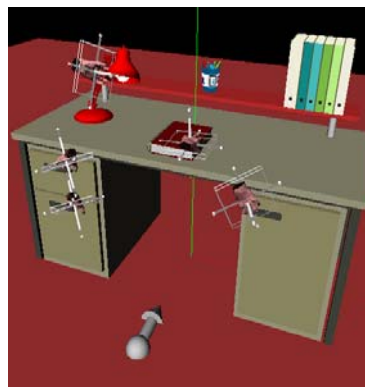
Geometric  
Object Model

+

Modelling of  
its Interaction  
Features

=

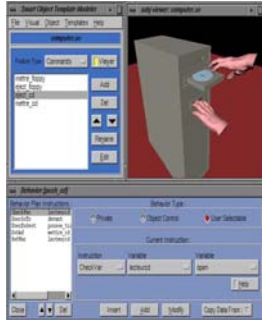
Smart Object



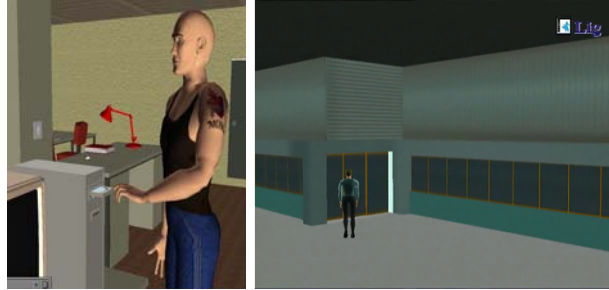
M. Kallmann and D. Thalmann, *Modeling Behaviors of Interactive Objects for Virtual Reality Applications*, *Journal of Visual Languages and Computing*, Vol.13, 2002, pp.177-195.

# Actor-Object Interactions

Modeling Phase



Simulation Phase

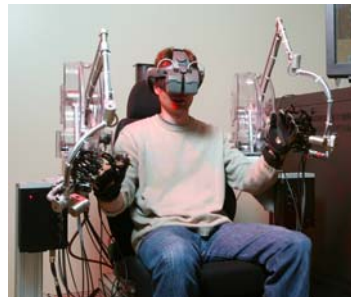


Predefined Plans Referencing Geometric Parameters Relative to the Object.

Distributed in the VE, Plans are followed to initialize motions when one is chosen.

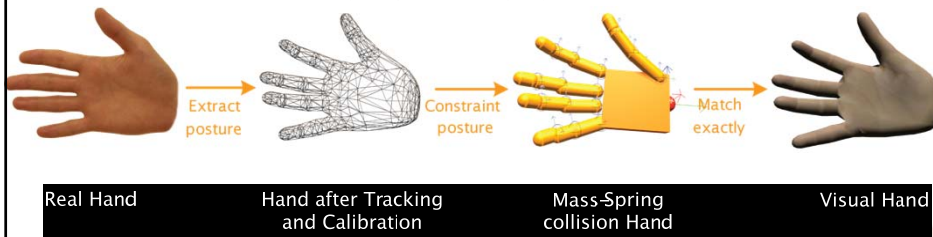
# Grasping in VR hard without haptic feedback

- The Immersion Haptic Workstation™

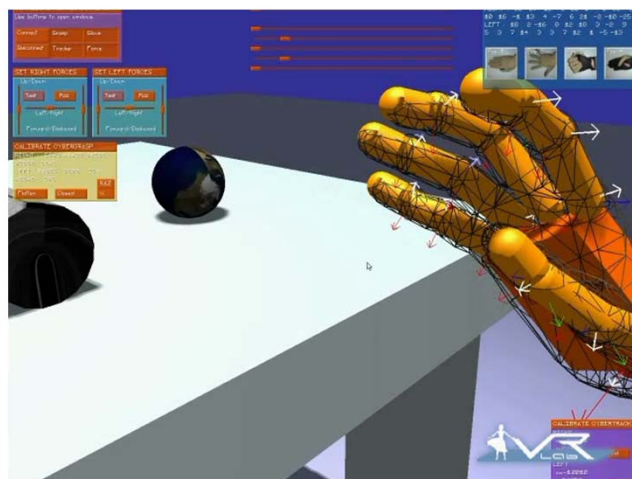


## Two-handed force feedback computation

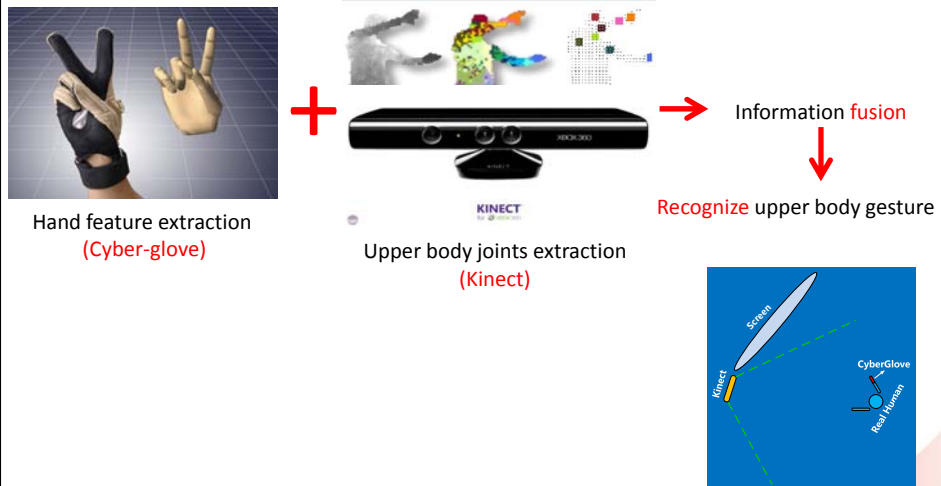
- Proxy based technique
  - Real hand drives intermediate hand (wireframe)
  - Intermediate hand applies soft constraints on mass spring hand model.
  - Position of mass spring hand displayed to user



17



# Body and hand gesture recognition



Yang Xiao; Junsong Yuan; Daniel Thalmann  
Human-Virtual Human Interaction by Upper Body Gesture Understanding, Proc. ACM VRST 2013

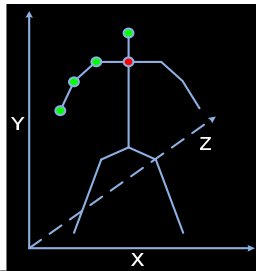


Upper Body Gestures without Human-object Interaction



Upper Body Gestures with Human-object Interaction

## Upper Body Gesture Understanding



Feature Fusion

$$\hat{F}_i = \frac{F_i - F_i^{min}}{F_i^{max} - F_i^{min}}$$

$$\hat{F} = (\hat{F}_{hand}, \hat{F}_{body})$$

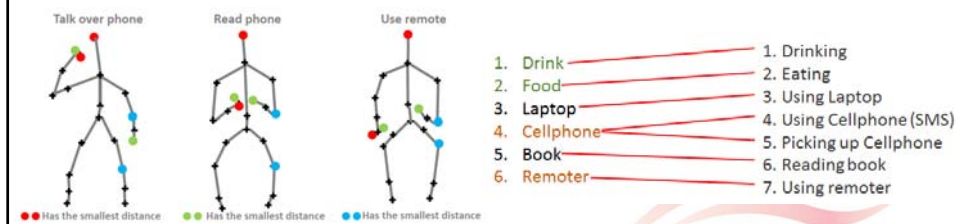


Human Upper Body Gesture Dataset Samples

# Human-Robot Interaction by Understanding Upper Body Gestures

## Action localization based RGBD cameras

- Problem
  - continuous human-object interaction recognition based on RGBD (Kinect camera)
  - Determine start and end frame of one action
- Motivation
  - Combine **skeleton** and **object** information



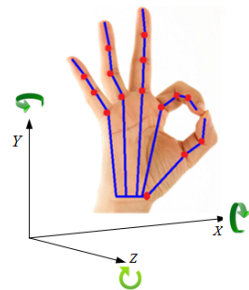
## Demo: Body gesture recognition



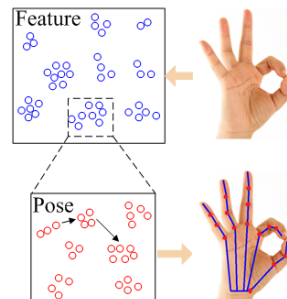
## Hand Gesture Recognition

### Problem Description

- Vision-based full DOF pose estimation for bare-hand input
- Hand pose parameterized as a 27D vector, including the global and local motion.
- Task: restore the pose vector for each input frame



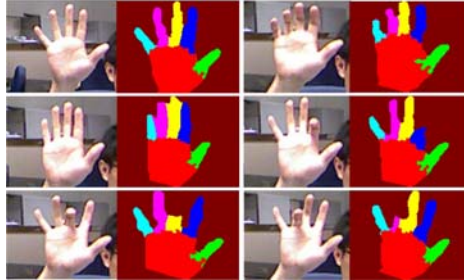
(a) Parameterized pose space



(b) Problem formulation

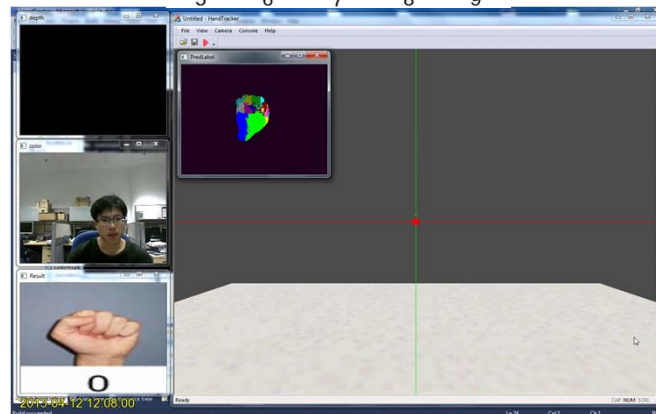
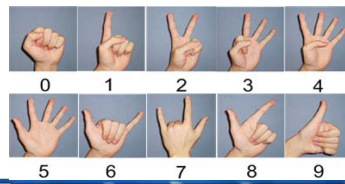
## Hand Gesture Recognition

- Novelty: spatial and temporal constraints in a unified framework for hand parsing and fingertip detection.
- Result: more accurate compared to existing methods.



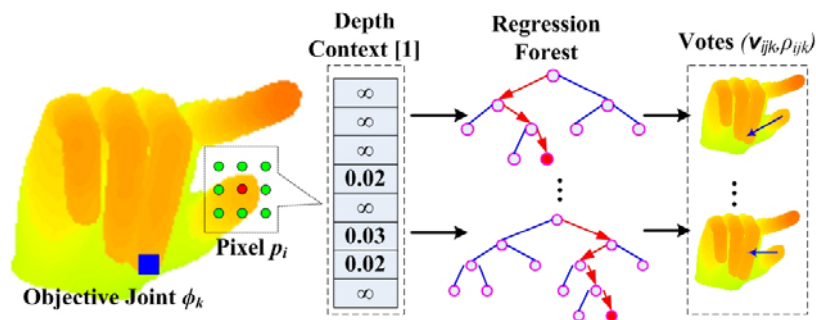
Hui Liang, et al. **3D Fingertip and Palm Tracking in Depth Image Sequences**, ACM International Conference on Multimedia 2012 (MM)  
Hui Liang, Junsong Yuan and Daniel Thalmann, “**Model-based Hand Pose Estimation via Spatial-temporal Hand Parsing and 3D Fingertip Localization**”, CGI 2013.

## Demo: Hand Gesture Recognition



## Regression forest = set of regression trees

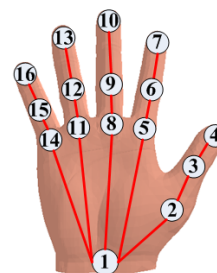
- The Regression Forest is utilized to get the per-pixel prediction votes for each hand joint



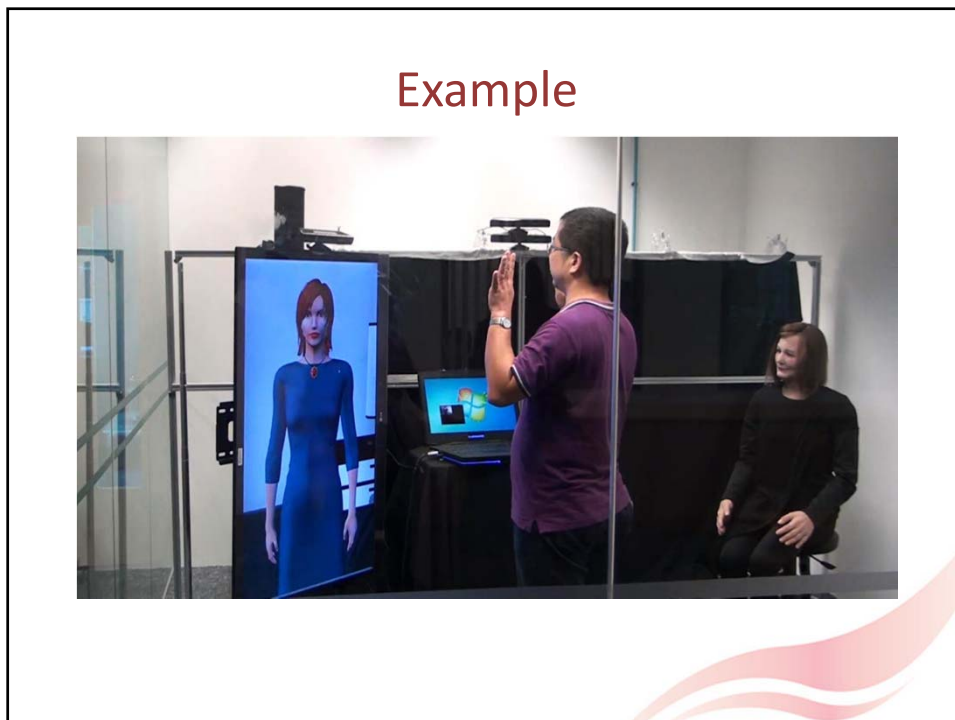
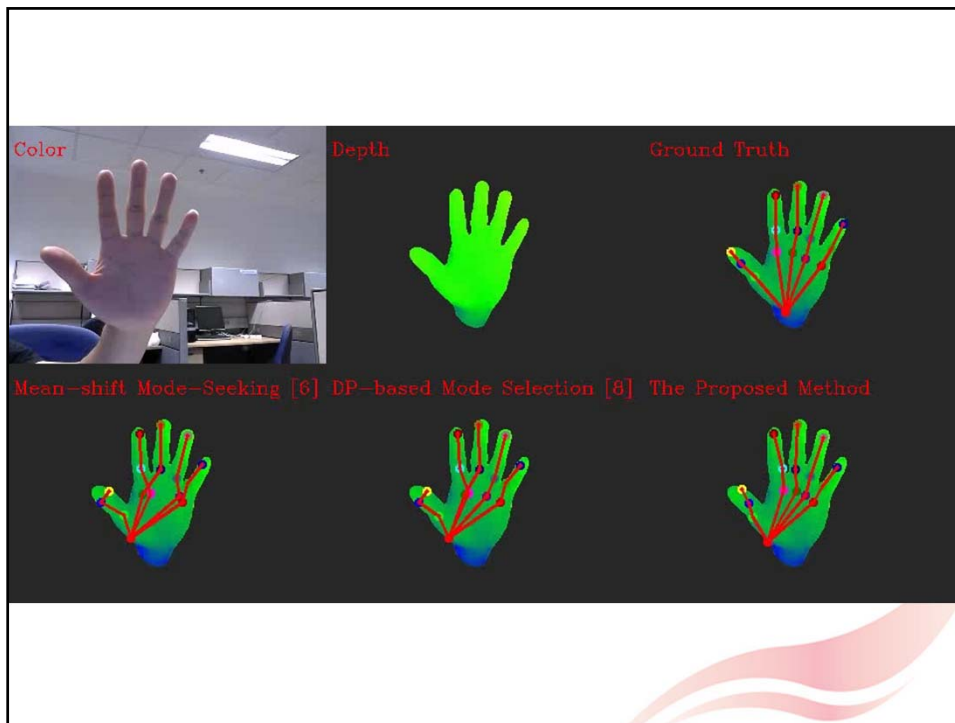
H. Liang, J. Yuan, D. Thalmann, **Parsing the Hand in Depth Images**, *IEEE Transactions on Multimedia*, Vol.16, No5, 2014, pp.1241-1253.

## New Method: Multimodal Prediction Fusion

- Task: Predict the sixteen joint locations of the hand from single depth images
- Multimodal Prediction Fusion:** Fuse the per-pixel predictions with the learned hand joint correlations using PCAs



H. Liang, J. Yuan, D. Thalmann, **Resolving Ambiguous Hand Pose Predictions by Exploiting Part Correlations**, *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology*, 2015



Thank you for your attention..

