Interaction Models for Infrastructure Management Systems Using Virtual and Augmented Realities

Amin Hammad, Elaheh Mozaffari, Bechir Khabir, Prasad Bauchkar, and Prasanna Devarakonda

Telegeoinformatics and Infrastructure Management Group

Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering (CIISE)

Concordia University



VR and AR models are developed to suit the requirements of mobile Location-Based Computing for Infrastructure field tasks (LBC-Infra).

LBC-Infra's User Interface Components

- Visualization and feedback
 - Displaying graphical details
 - Displaying non-graphical information and instructions
- Control
- Access
- Navigation
- Manipulation
 - Collaboration

Interaction Framework



Real-time Navigation Guidance

P₁, P₂, etc. are locations of the user extracted from tracking devices
P₀ is the location of the target point of interest based on the task





Data Integration

- CAD drawings of the buildings
- Small VRML object library of objects embedded in the 3D model
- Orthogonal digital images of the facades of the buildings
- GIS maps of Montreal
- Digital Elevation Model (DEM)
- Tracking (RTK GPS, video tracking...)

Prototype System Development

- Development in Java and Java 3D
- MapObjects Java Edition to integrate GIS
- Integrates 4D model of the campus
- Has a GUI for Tablet PC
- Developing databases for construction, inspection and maintenance

Case Study: Concordia University Downtown Campus



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VR Model

Floor Plans Used for Creating the Model

1st floor plan (for extrusion from 1st to 4th floor) 5th floor Plan (for extrusion from 5th floor to the top of building)





GIS Layers Used in Creating the 3D Model

Building Layer (polygons)



Object Layer (points)



Image Layer (lines)



Block Layer (polygons)





Virtual Model of the Library Building





Tracking Methods



AR Application in Building Construction

• Example of construction site



Graphical Augmentation



Augmentation of a Column



Video camera



Head Mounted Display

Non Immersive Virtual Reality





Conclusions and Future Work

- The proposed approach facilitates accessing and collecting inspection data by allowing field workers to interact with geo-referenced infrastructure models
- Retrieving information is done automatically in real time based on tracking the location and orientation of the user
- The method would improve the efficiency and safety of field workers by allowing them to concentrate on their job
- Further development and testing of the prototype system
- Study of the system in practical situations and investigating collaboration scenarios among a team of onsite workers