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Abstract

A lot of research is going into underwater global positioning systems since radio waves do not propagate underwater. However, the few underwater navigation approaches out there use bulky screen devices which are held in hand. This leads to constrained movement, is rather distractive, and prone to varying brightness conditions. In this master thesis we describe the construction of a prototype, which incorporates several feedback methods, and its evaluation. We implement a vibration motor, a red LED, and a peltier element in diving goggles and a headband. Additionally waterproof in-ear headphones were used for auditory feedback. Since these devices are worn on the head they allow an unintrusive way to give low level directional cues. In a user study we evaluate the feedback methods ashore as a baseline and compare it to their performance underwater and gather additional qualitative feedback of the participants.

Überblick

Global Positioning Systeme für Navigation unter Wasser ist ein aktuelles Forschungsgebiet, da Radiowellen unter Wasser nicht übertragen werden. Die wenigen Systeme, die Unterwassernavigation zu einem gewissen Level umsetzen, nutzen Bildschirme, die in der Hand gehalten werden. Das ist behindert die Bewegungsfreiheit, ist eher ablenkend und die Sichtbarkeit ist beeinflusst durch sich ändernde Lichtverhältnisse. In dieser Masterarbeit wird die Konstruktion eines Prototypen beschrieben, der verschiedene Feedbackmethoden beinhaltet und deren Auswertung. Wir benutzen einen Vibrationsmotor, eine rote LED und ein Peltierelement in einer Taucherbrille und Stirnband. Zusätzlich verwenden wir wasserfeste In-Ohr-Kopfhörer für Akustisches Feedback. Da diese Geräte direkt am Kopf getragen werden, ermöglichen sie einen unaufdringlichen Wege Richtungsangaben auf niedrigem Level zu vermitteln. In einer Benutzerstudie werten wir die verschiedenen Feedbackmethoden an Land aus und vergleichen die Leistung mit der unter Wasser. Zusätzlich sammeln wir qualitatives Feedback der Teilnehmer.

Acknowledgements

Thank you!

Conventions

Throughout this thesis we use the following conventions.

Text conventions

Definitions of technical terms or short excursus are set off in coloured boxes.

EXCURSUS:

Excursus are detailed discussions of a particular point in a book, usually in an appendix, or digressions in a written text.

Definition:
Excursus

Source code and implementation symbols are written in typewriter-style text.

`myClass`

The whole thesis is written in Canadian English.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

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Chapter 2

Related work

In this chapter we give an overview of related work and research in the the fields of under water navigation systems. It is divided into three parts. First we give an overview of currently used technology used for underwater position tracking and the issues in comparison with common GPS. Second it covers existing systems which incorporate position tracking and underwater feedback today and third research regarding several feedback modalities.

2.1 Technology for Underwater Positioning Systems

2.2 Underwater Navigation Systems

McKenzie [2009] developed Navimate which uses a floating radio antenna for GPS and several underwater transducers to communicate with a wrist-worn device via acoustic signals. The device receives the signals and uses the information of the GPS and the transducers to determine its location and presents the information on the screen.

Navimate

Nehowig [2014] built NavDive which uses a floating GPS receiver wired to a mobile receiver held by the diver. It

NavDive

shows the direction to previously set locations and positional information in text form. A desktop application lets the user inspect their diving path and add landmarks for locations of interest.

2.3 Feedback modalities

Chapter 3

Hardware Prototype and Software

In this chapter we present the construction of the hardware setup and the user study program. Furthermore

3.1 Hardware Prototype

3.2 Software

Chapter 4

Evaluation

In this chapter we will evaluate our prototypes with respect to the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the different feedback methods. We are interested to what extent the perception of feedback differs onshore versus underwater regarding time until the stimulus is perceived. Afterwards the user gives feedback in order to tell if the conditions make a difference with respect to preference.

Since vibro-tactile and visual feedback is common today for several application ashore we let users test it onshore as well as under water. We drop sound in the underwater condition since it requires specific waterproof earphones or bone conduction headphones. Both exist and provide a comparable quality. The wireless connection however is not trivial underwater. Auditory feedback is broadly used in today's traffic and therefore not of particular interest in our case.

4.1 User Study

The user study is divided into two groups. The first one is testing the prototype under normal condition while sitting on a chair where the other group is examining the feedback underwater.

Chapter 5

Summary and future work

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5.1 Summary and contributions

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5.2 Future work

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Appendix A

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