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COMP210: Interfaces & Interaction
8: Presence

Register Attendance

Module Attendance:



Attendance

Figure 1: Attendance monitoring is in place. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have signed yourself in.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

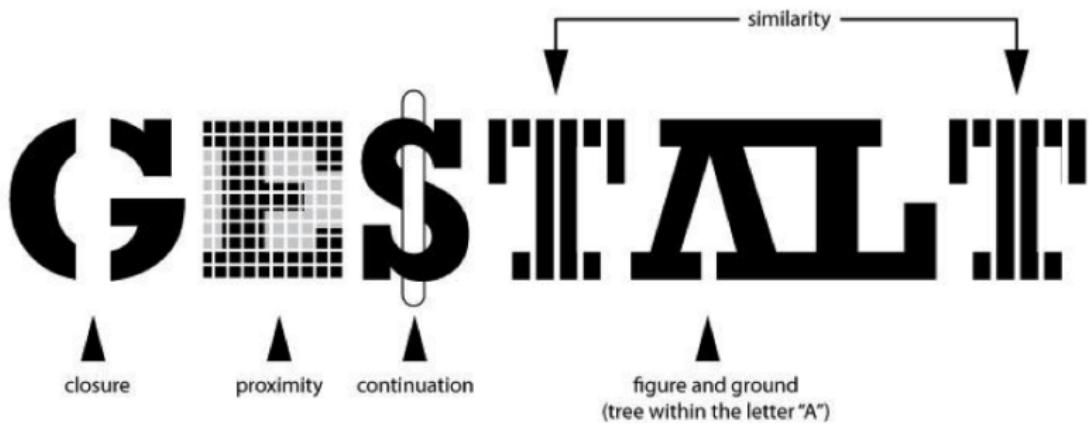
- ▶ **Define** presence in the context of virtual reality
- ▶ **Identify** a range of illusions and their roles in achieving a sense of presence
- ▶ **Describe** the way in which the brain processes & responds to stimuli

"We see things not as they are, but as we are - that is, we see the world not as it is, but as moulded by the individual peculiarities of our mind"

Philosopher, G.T.W Patrick. (1890)

Reality is malleable Our point of view is inseparable from our understanding of reality

Gestalt Psychology



"Your brain is going to work overtime to keep a consistent, sensible world view."

Dr. Kimberly Voll, Riot Games



0:45 / 1:04



Duck Test

"A colloquial name for a method of testing if an experiencer has reached a state of presence, by monitoring their behaviour when threatened by a virtual object"

(VRGlossary.org)(<http://www.vrglossary.org/glossary/duck-test/>)

Presence (again)

"Presence is the psychological state of subjective perception in which even though part or all of an individual's current experience is generated by and/or filtered through human-made technology, part or all of the individual's perception fails to accurately acknowledge the role of the technology in the experience."

(International Society for Presence Research,
2000)(<http://ispr.info>)

Facebook



0:01 / 5:22



Mashable



Virtual reality, explained with some trippy optical illusions | Mashable

Types of Illusion

- ▶ Boundary Completion
- ▶ Blind Spot ([link to eye](#))
- ▶ Depth Illusions [Trompe-l'oeil](#)
- ▶ Afterimage
- ▶ Motion Illusions - Watch these in VR as they cause motion sickness.

Illusions

V/AR are illusion based experiences

There are four main components to this illusion: - the stable spacial place, - self-embodiment, - physical interaction &, - social communication.

Sensation vs. Perception



Sensation - Lower level recognition of stimuli.

Perception - Higher level processing that combines information from the senses, filters it, organises it then interprets it to create **subjective**, conscious experience.

By this point we are starting to get a sense that what we perceive is not necessarily real. So what is getting in the way of reality?

Iterative Processing

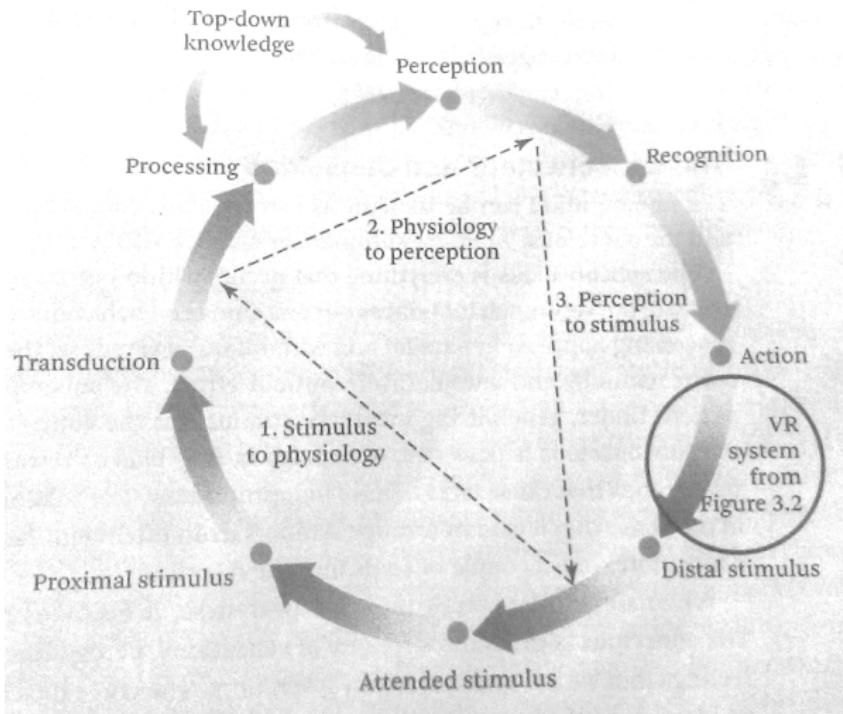


Figure 2: We continually receive, process and perceive stimuli in an iterative fashion.

Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) - Communication Model

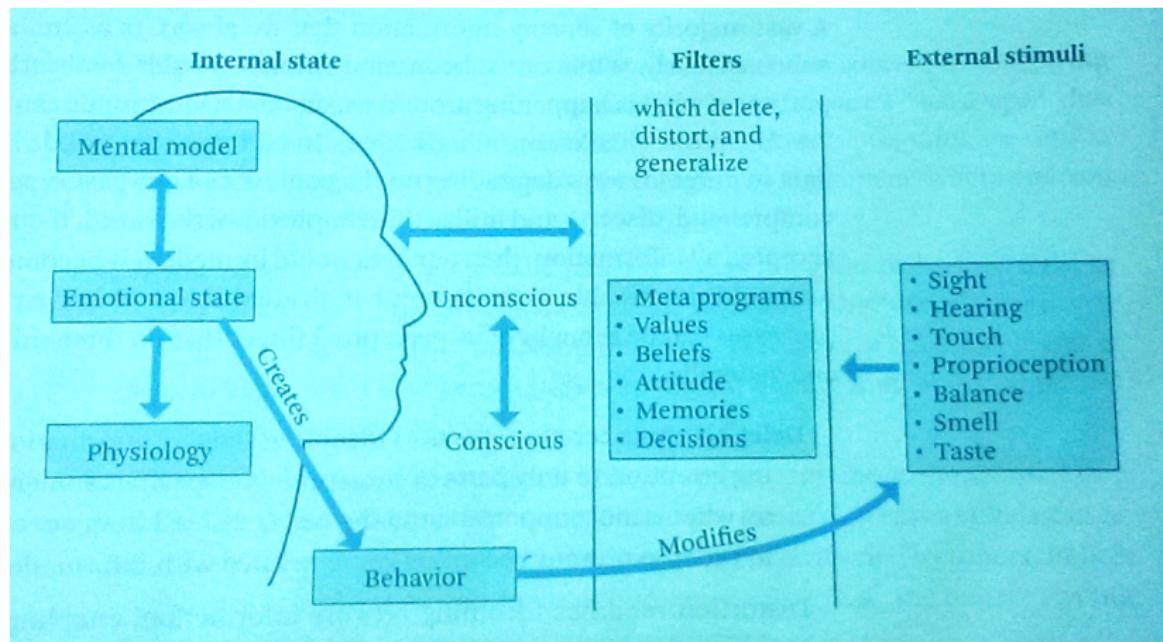


Figure 3: The NLP communication model is one way to describe how people process information and interact with their environment.

External Stimuli.

- ▶ External stimuli is perceived through the sensory input channels.
- ▶ Most people have a dominant sensory modality.
- ▶ People do most of their thinking through there preferred modality
- ▶ *"So a visual person thinks more with pictures than an auditory person, who thinks more with sounds."* - Jason Jerald

Filters

- ▶ Our Subconscious does the majority of filtering.
- ▶ Past experiences alter the way we understand stimuli in the present.

There are three main types of filter:

- ▶ **Deletion:** delete unimportant incoming stimuli so we can focus on what's important.
- ▶ **Distortion:** alter our perception of incoming stimuli based on our environment and past experience.
- ▶ **Generalisation:** draw global conclusion and help the user build their **unconscious competence**

Filters cont.

Specific filters in order on the conscious awareness: -
Values - Beliefs - Attitudes - Memories - decisions

Internal State

Thoughts are created from incoming filtered incoming stimuli and form internal representations

Sensory perceptions are formed that may or may not be true to the original stimuli

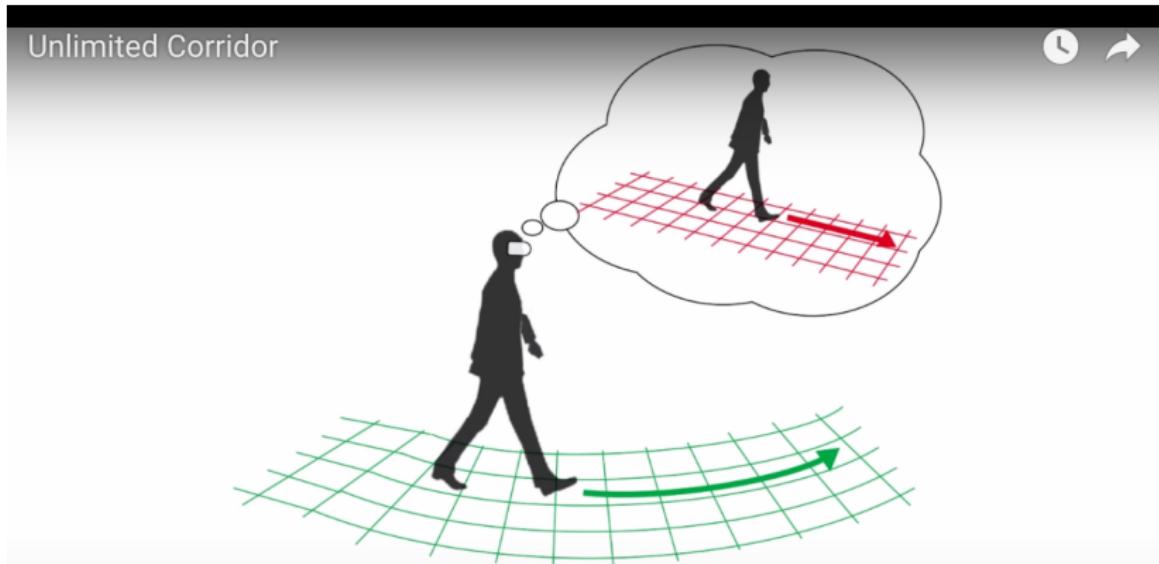
Emotional States are then triggered which in turn trigger physiological states and this is the motivation behind human behaviour

Sensory Substitution

Sensory substitution is the replacement one sensory cue that is not yet able to be simulated with one that is.

- ▶ **Ghosting** - showing the user a second version of a virtual object.
- ▶ **Highlighting** - Visual signifiers that convey a sense of interactivity with an object.
- ▶ **Audio cues** - Useful for identifying collisions with virtual objects.
- ▶ **Passive haptics** - Real world reference frames meet virtual reference frames to help a user navigate a space.
- ▶ **Rumbles/sub packs** - Again, used to portray a collision with virtual objects.

Redirected Walking



RDW techniques are methods for compressing a large VE into a small physical room while maintaining the sense of real walking.

▶ 🔍 0:32 / 3:00

HD YouTube 📺

Misdirection

"That which directs a spectator away from the method and towards the effect"

- ▶ Curtis Hickman - Magician & founder of THE VOID.

TRUTH/REALITY > GUIDED PERCEPTION > LIE/FANTASY
(Link)(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ebwtq1HZJ2A>)

Homuncular Flexibility

The ability to, “learn to inhabit strange and different bodies and still interact with the virtual world.” [Jaron Lanier](#)

What is the *homunculus*?



The homunculus (Latin for “little man”) is a kind of sensory map of the human body. It depicts what humans would look like if our parts grew in proportion to how much we sensed with them.

Proteus Effect

When an individual believes that others will expect certain behaviors from them because of their avatars' appearance, they will engage in those expected behaviors.

Nick Yee and Jeremy Bailenson at Stanford University in June 2007

- ▶ behavioral confirmation: Expectation
- ▶ self-perception: Behavior and situation
- ▶ deindividuation: Grouping

The Uncanny Valley

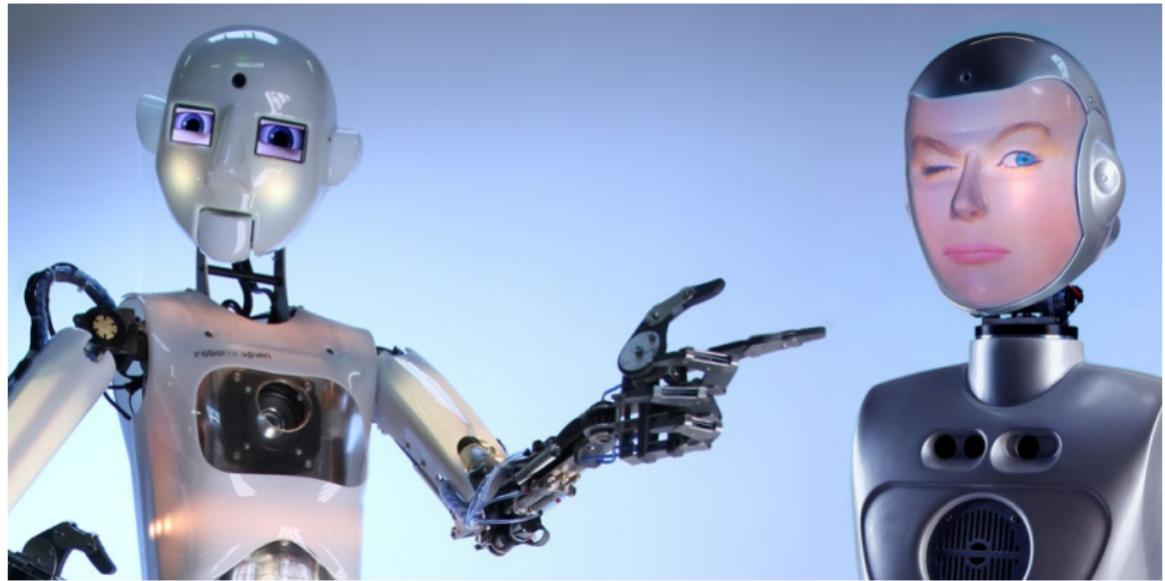


Figure 5: Engineered Arts - Penryn

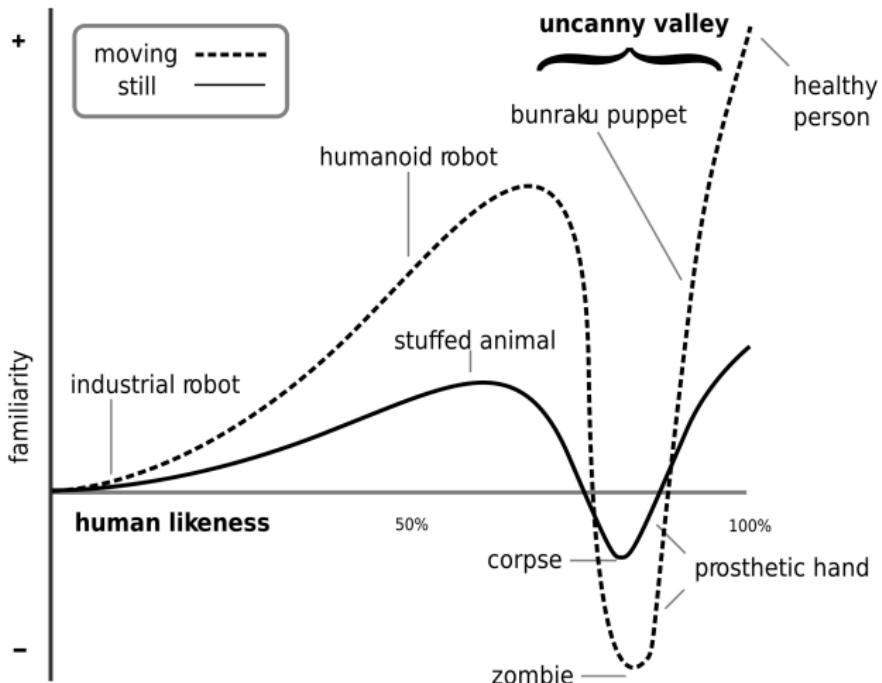


Figure 6: Masahiro Mori

Fidelity Continua

The notion of the uncanny valley applies to aspects of VR as well. These components have been defined as the Fidelity Continua.

- ▶ **Representation** fidelity - Hyper-realistic to abstract and non-objective worlds.
- ▶ **Interaction** Fidelity - Degree to which a interaction in VR corresponds with the same interaction in the real world.
- ▶ **Experiential** Fidelity - The degree to which the user experience matches the intentions of the VR creator. Procedural worlds have a very low experiential fidelity.

Which of these is least important? DISCUSS

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Which of these is least important? DISCUSS Some aim to recreate reality to the highest fidelity, others seek to surpass it.

ACTIVITY

“Rapid is a State of Mind”

Create a rapid low fidelity prototype that captures an essence of your VR/AR game mechanic but in a traditional video game manner.

Avoid:

- ▶ Tricky, sophisticated data structures and algorithms.
- ▶ Sophisticated systems and architectures.
- ▶ Technical feats that do not improve gameplay.