

Augmented Reality Library for the Web (tracking.js)

by

Eduardo A. Lundgren Melo

Submitted to the Center for Informatics
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Science in Computer Science

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Abstract

In this thesis, I designed and implemented an Augmented Reality (AR) framework aiming to provide a common infrastructure to develop applications and to accelerate the use of those techniques on the web in commercial products. It runs on native web browsers without requiring third-party plugins installation. This involves the use of several modern browser specifications as well as implementation of different computer vision algorithms and techniques into the browser environment. These algorithms can be used to detect and recognize faces, identify objects, track moving objects, etc. The source language of the framework is JavaScript that is the language interpreted by all modern browsers. The majority of interpreted languages have limited computational power when compared to compiled languages, such as C. The computational complexity involved in AR requires highly optimized implementations. Some optimizations are discussed and implemented on this work in order to achieve good results when compared with similar implementations in compiled languages. A series of evaluation tests were made, to determine how effective these techniques were on the web.

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Acknowledgments

This is the acknowledgements section. You should replace this with your own acknowledgements [5] foo [5].

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List of Acronyms

AJAX	Asynchronous JavaScript and XML
BAST	Bug Report Analysis and Search Tool
BTT	Bug Report Tracker Tool
BRN	Bug Report Network
CCB	Change Control Board

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Chapter 1

Introduction

This section introduces this master thesis. It will briefly describe the motivation of the work itself, state the problem that we will focus on solving and shortly discuss the proposed solution. In the end, explain the structure of the next chapters.

Micro-optimization is a technique to reduce the overall operation count of floating point operations. In a standard floating point unit, floating point operations are fairly high level, such as “multiply” and “add”; in a micro floating point unit (μ FPU), these have been broken down into their constituent low-level floating point operations on the mantissas and exponents of the floating point numbers.

Chapter two describes the architecture of the μ FPU unit, and the motivations for the design decisions made.

Chapter three describes the design of the compiler, as well as how the optimizations discussed in section 1 were implemented.

Chapter four describes the purpose of test code that was compiled, and which statistics were gathered by running it through the simulator. The purpose is to measure what effect the micro-optimizations had, compared to unoptimized code. Possible future expansions to the project are also discussed.

1.1 Motivation

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Augmented Reality, Tracking and Detection, Web, Tracking on the Web

1.2 Problem Definition

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1.3 Objectives

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1.3.1 Augmented Reality Library for the Web

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1.4 Thesis Structure

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Chapter 2

Basic Concepts

This section introduces some basic concepts related to this work. They are presented as individual sections, describing about the state of the art techniques and applications involving the main technical subjects of this work.

2.1 Web

Using concepts from existing hypertext systems, Tim Berners-Lee, computer scientist and at that time employee of CERN, wrote a proposal in March 1989 for what would eventually become the World Wide Web (WWW) [23].

The World Wide Web is a shared information system operating on top of the Internet. Web browsers retrieve content and display from remote web servers using a stateless and anonymous protocol called HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP). Web pages are written using a simple language called HyperText Markup Language (HTML). They may be augmented with other technologies such as Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), which adds additional layout and style information to the page, and JavaScript (JS) language, which allows client-side computation. Browsers typically provide other useful features such as bookmarking, history, password management, and accessibility features to accommodate users with disabilities [5].

In the beginning of the web, plain text and images were the most advanced features available on the browsers. In 1994, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) was

founded to promote interoperability among web technologies. Companies behind web browser development together with the web community, were able to contribute to the W3C specifications [23]. Today's web is a result of the ongoing efforts of an open web community that helps define these technologies and ensure that they're supported in all web browsers. Those contributions transformed the web in a growing universe of interlinked pages and applications, with videos, photos, interactive content, 3D graphics processed by the Graphics Processing Unit (GPU), and other varieties of features without requiring any third-party plugins installation [8]. The significant reuse of open source components among different browsers and the emergence of extensive web standards have caused the browsers to exhibit "convergent evolution" [5].

2.1.1 State of the Art

The browser main functionality is to present a web resource, by requesting it from the server and displaying it on the browser window. There are four major browsers used today: Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari and Chrome. Currently, the usage share of Firefox, Safari and Chrome together is nearly 60% [24].

Three mature browser implementations were selected and, for each browser, a conceptual architecture was described based on domain knowledge and available documentation. Firefox version 16.0, Safari version 6.0.4 and Chrome version 25.0.1364 were used to derive the reference architecture because they are mature systems, have reasonably large developer communities and user bases, provide good support for web standards, and are entirely open source.

The reference architecture for web browsers based on three well known open source implementations architecture, is shown in Figure 2-1; it comprises eight major sub-systems plus the dependencies between them: (1) the User Interface, this includes the address bar, back and forward buttons, bookmarking menu etc. Every part of the browser display except the main window where you see the requested resource; (2) the Browser Engine, an embeddable component that provides a high-level interface for querying and manipulating the Rendering Engine; (3) the Rendering Engine, which

performs parsing and layout for HTML documents, optionally styled with CSS; (4) the Networking subsystem, used for network calls, like HTTP requests. It has platform independent interface and underneath implementations for each platform; (5) the JavaScript Parser, used to parse and execute the JavaScript code; (6) the XML Parser; (7) the UI Backend, which provides drawing and windowing primitives, user interface widgets, and fonts. Underneath it uses the operating system user interface methods; and (8) the Data Persistence subsystem, which stores various data associated with the browsing session on disk, including bookmarks, cookies, and cache [5].

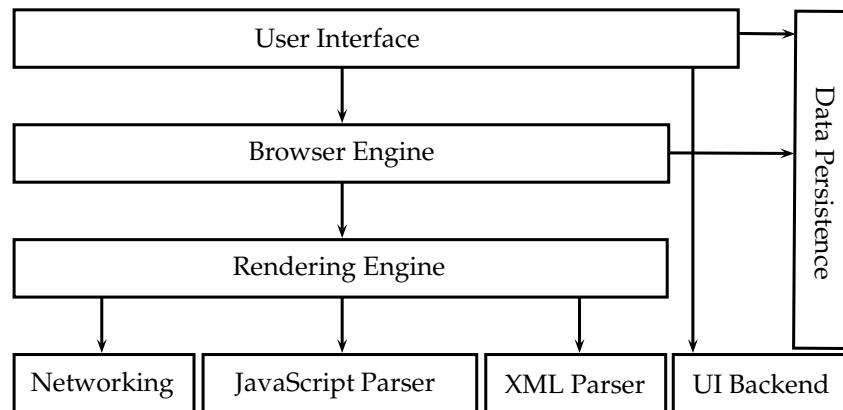


Figure 2-1: Reference architecture for web browsers

Browser subsystems are swappable and could vary for browser vendor, platform or operational system. The browsers mostly differ between different vendors in subsystems (2) the Browser Engine, (3) the Rendering Engine, and (5) the JavaScript Parser. Firefox subsystems (2) and (3) is known as Gecko [22] [20], Safari as WebKit [10] [11] and Chrome uses a fork of WebKit project called Blink [12] [13]. Those browsers subsystems, often called Browser Engines, are shown on Figure 2-2.

Another common swappable subsystem is (5) the JavaScript Parser. JavaScript is a lightweight, interpreted, object-oriented language with first-class functions, most known as the scripting language for Web pages [20]. The JavaScript standard is ECMAScript. As of 2013, all modern browsers fully support ECMAScript 5.1. Older browsers support at least ECMAScript 3 [20] [16].

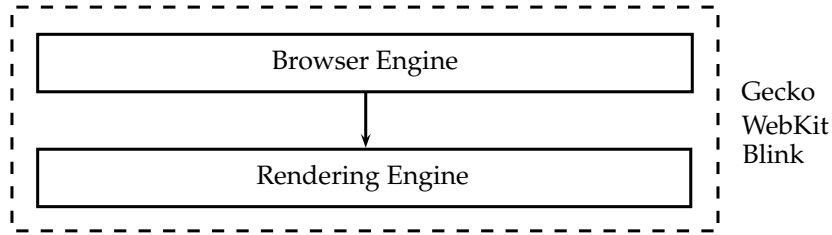


Figure 2-2: Reference architecture for browsers engines

The JavaScript language is intended to be used within some larger environment, be it a browser, server-side scripts, or similar. For a basic example of the language syntax a *println* might have been defined in Listing 2.1.

```
1 function println(string) {  
2     window.alert(string);  
3 }
```

Listing 2.1: Basic example of JavaScript syntax

JavaScript core language features comprises few major features: (1) Functions and function scope, function is a “subprogram” that can be called by code external, functions have a scope it references for execution; (2) Global Objects, refer to objects in the global scope, such as general-purpose constructors (*Array*, *Boolean*, *Date* etc.), Typed array constructors (*Float32Array*, *Int32Array*, *Uint32Array* etc.), Error constructors etc.; (3) Statements, consist of keywords used with the appropriate syntax (*function*, *if...else*, *block*, *break*, *const*, *continue*, *debugger* etc.); (4) Operators and keywords, arithmetic operators, bitwise operators, assignment operators, comparison operators, logical operators, string operators, member operators, conditional operator etc. [21].

As web applications become more and more powerful, adding features such as audio and video manipulation, access to raw data using WebSockets [21], and so forth, it has become clear that there are times when it would be helpful for JavaScript code to be able to quickly and easily manipulate raw binary data. In the past, this had to be simulated by treating the raw data as a string and using the *charCodeAt()* method

to read the bytes from the data buffer [21] [7].

However, this is slow and error-prone, due to the need for multiple conversions, especially if the binary data is not actually byte-format data, but, for example, 32-bit integers or floats. Superior, and typed data structures were added to JavaScript specification, such as JavaScript typed arrays [16].

JavaScript typed arrays provide a mechanism for accessing raw binary data much more efficiently. This thesis takes advantage of typed arrays in order to achieve acceptable performance on the web of complex algorithms implementations.

A performance benchmark comparing regular *vs* typed arrays were executed on the three well known open-source browsers, Firefox, Safari and Chrome. The comparison was executed on Mac OS X 10.8.3, 2.6 GHz Intel Core i7 16 GB 1600 MHz RAM. The array types selected were the not strongly typed *Array*; *Float32Array*, represents an array of 32-bit floating point numbers; *Uint8Array*, represents an array of 8-bit unsigned integers.

For each array type a read and a write operation were executed 100,000 times. In order to not compromise benchmark results caused by run-time type conversion [16], the write value used for each array type were proper selected, e.g. *Number* 1.0 was used for regular arrays *Array*, *Number* 1.0 was used for *Float32Array*, and unsigned *Number* 1 for *Uint8Array*. Regular *vs* typed arrays performance benchmark is shown in Figure 2-3 [1].

As conclusion, typed arrays provides faster read and write operations than regular arrays in JavaScript, i.e. 7872 *ops/sec* for unsigned array *vs* 4437 *ops/sec* for regular arrays in Firefox browser, similar behavior is noticeable on Safari and Chrome, thereby float and unsigned arrays are vastly used on complex algorithms implementations on the web.

Nevertheless, reading and writing raw binary data using typed arrays only solves part of the problem of manipulating video and images data. The other missing feature was solved by HTML5 *canvas* element, which one important feature is to provide access to the pixel matrix of those medias. The raw binary data is used by Augmented Reality (AR) algorithms.

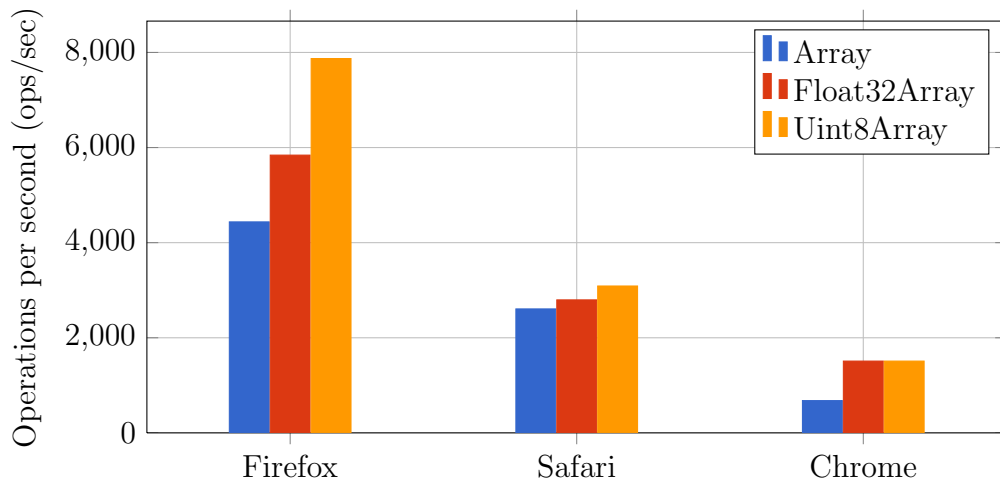


Figure 2-3: Regular *vs* typed arrays performance benchmark

The *canvas* element provides scripts with a resolution-dependent bitmap canvas, which can be used for rendering graphs, game graphics, art, or other visual images on the fly [3]. Authors should not use the *canvas* element in a document when a more suitable element is available, e.g. it is inappropriate to use a *canvas* element to render a page heading. The usage of *canvas* conveys essentially the same function or purpose as the canvas’ bitmap. Listing 2.2 shows an example of a basic *canvas* element HTML markup given a width and height in pixels.

```
1 <canvas width="200" height="200"></canvas>
```

Listing 2.2: The HTML canvas element markup

For each *canvas* element a “context” is available, then, from that, the drawing context can be accessed and JavaScript commands can be invoked to draw or read data. Browsers can implement multiple canvas contexts and the different APIs provide the drawing functionality. Most of the major browsers include the 2D canvas context capabilities. Individual vendors have experimented with their own three-dimensional canvas APIs, but none of them have been standardized. The HTML5 specification notes, “A future version of this specification will probably define a 3D context” [3]. Even though 3D context is not available in most part of the major browsers, three-dimensional applications are already being developed based on the

2D canvas context.

Is mandatory the use of the *canvas* element to develop AR applications on the web. Canvas provides APIs to: Draw basic shapes, images, videos frames, Bezier and quadratic curves [6]; Apply transformations, translate, rotate and scale; Read raw pixel data etc.

The canvas is a two-dimensional grid that could be described as a simple computer graphics coordinate system [6]. Normally 1 unit in the grid corresponds to 1 pixel on the canvas. The origin of this grid is positioned in the top left corner coordinate $(0,0)$. All elements are placed relative to this origin. So the position of the top left corner of the blue square becomes x pixels from the left and y pixels from the top coordinate (x,y) . The canvas coordinate space is shown on Figure 2-4 [21].

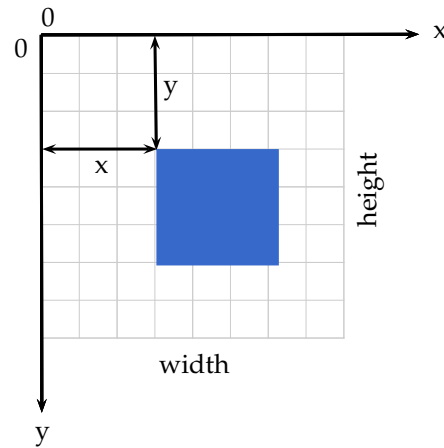


Figure 2-4: The canvas coordinate space

Videos and images can also be “hosted” on a canvas bitmap. Canvas raw binary data can be accessed from the canvas JavaScript API as an object of type *ImageData* [3]. Each object has three properties: width, height and data. The data property is of type *Uint8ClampedArray* that is a one-dimensional array containing the data in RGBA order, as integers in the range 0 to 255. The *Uint8ClampedArray* interface type is specifically used in the definition of the canvas element’s 2D API and its structure is similar to the previous shown typed array *Uint8Array* [3] [7].

The *ImageData* data property, or array of pixels, is in row-major order, a multidimensional array of pixels.

mensional array in linear memory. For example, consider the 2×3 array $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 5 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$, in row-major order it is laid out contiguously in linear memory as $[1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 6]$. Each array value is represented as integers between 0 and 255, where each four-integer group represents the four color channels of one pixel: red, green, blue and alpha (RGBA). While RGBA is sometimes described as a color space, it is actually simply a use of the RGB color model [4]. An example of the canvas image data array of pixels is shown on Figure 2-5.

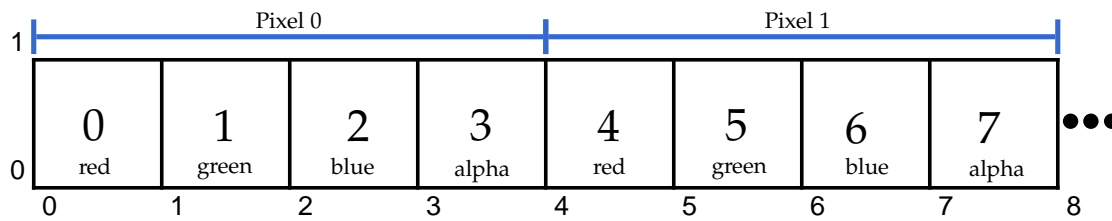


Figure 2-5: The canvas image data array of pixels

Audio and video capture has been a limitation of web browsers for a long time. For many years the authors had to rely on browser plugins, such as Flash [9] or Silverlight [18] [14]. HTML5 has brought a surge of access to device hardware, Geolocation (GPS), the Orientation API (accelerometer), WebGL (GPU) and the Real-time Communication Between Browsers specification (WebRTC) in conjunction with Media Capture and Streams specification, a set of JavaScript APIs that allow local media, including audio and video, to be requested from a platform through *getUserMedia* API [23].

With *getUserMedia*, the browser can access the camera and microphone input without a plugin. It's available directly into the browser. The access camera and microphone hardware access can be used in combination with the HTML5 *audio* and *video* elements. The access flow of raw binary data captured from videos on modern browsers is shown on Figure 2-6. It comprises five major steps: (1) Hardware access, camera and microphone hardware is accessed by the browser; (2) Streaming, using *getUserMedia* API the hardware streams audio and video to the browser UI

Elements; (3) UI Elements, HTML elements that displays the data stream; (4) Raw Binary Data, HTML *canvas* element that “hosts” video frames providing access to the array of pixels;

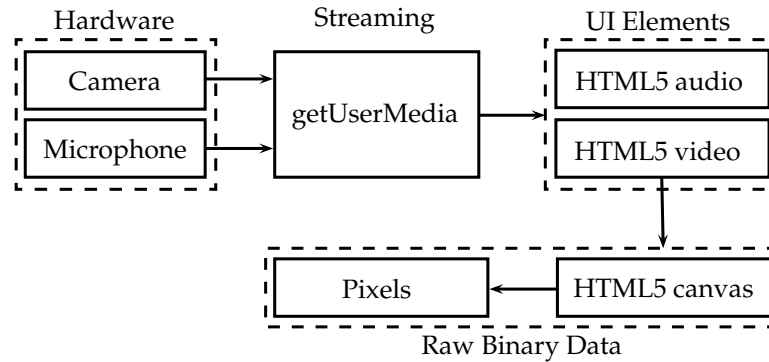


Figure 2-6: Access flow of raw binary data captured from videos on modern browsers

The *audio* and *video* tag is one of those HTML5 features that gets a lot of attention. Often presented as an alternative to Flash in the media, the video tag has advantages due to its natural integration with the other layers of the web development stack such as CSS and JavaScript as well as the other HTML tags. The three video formats supported by the three well known browsers cited in this thesis are, webm (VP8 Vorbis), mp4 (H.264 AAC) and ogv (Theora Vorbis) [23] [14]. The audio formats available are ogg (Theora Vorbis) and mp4 (H.264 AAC). An example of *getUserMedia* API being used to capture the camera and microphone using a *video* tag to display is shown on Listing 2.3.

```

1 <video autoplay></video>
2 <script>
3   var video = document.querySelector('video');
4   navigator.getUserMedia(
5     {video: true, audio: true},
6     function(localMediaStream) {
7       video.src = window.URL.createObjectURL(localMediaStream);
8       video.onloadedmetadata = function(e) {
9         // Ready to go.
  
```

```
10     };  
11     },  
12     onFail);  
13 </script>
```

Listing 2.3: Capture and display microphone and camera

2.1.2 Augmented Reality on the Web

Client-side native web applications use to have intrinsic performance limitations, although this premise is changing. Browsers are evolving very fast when compared to the the previous decade. JavaScript language wasn't prepared to handle typed data structures able to manipulate raw binary data safely, all the computational complexity required by AR algorithms was too much for that growing environment. Browsers weren't able to capture audio and video natively, without plugin installation, an essential feature for AR applications. This reality has changed, this involves the use of several modern browser specifications as well as implementation of different computer vision algorithms and techniques into the browser environment taking advantage of all those modern APIs. Some optimizations are discussed and implemented on this work in order to achieve good results when compared with similar implementations in compiled languages.

2.2 Augmented Reality

Imagine a technology in which you could see more than others see, hear more than others hear, and even touch things that others cannot. A technology able to perceive computational elements and objects within our real world experience that help us in our daily activities, while interacting almost unconsciously through mere gestures and speech.

With such technology, mechanics could see instructions what to do next when repairing an unknown piece of equipment, surgeons could take advantage of aug-

mented reality while performing surgery on them and we could read reviews for each restaurant in the street we're walking in on the way to work [17].

Augmented reality (AR) is this technology to create a “next generation, reality-based interface” [17] and is moving from laboratories around the world into various industries and consumer markets. AR supplements the real world with virtual (computer-generated) objects that appear to coexist in the same space as the real world. AR was recognized as an emerging technology of 2007 [17], and with today's smart-phones and AR browsers we are starting to embrace this very new and exciting kind of human-computer interaction.

2.2.1 State of the Art

On the reality-virtuality *continuum* by Milgram and Ki [19], Augmented Reality (AR) is one part of the general area of mixed reality. Both virtual environments (or virtual reality) and augmented virtuality, in which real objects are added to virtual ones, replace the surrounding environment by a virtual one. In contrast, AR provides local virtuality. The reality-virtuality *continuum* is shown on Figure 2-7. Three important aspects of an AR system: (1) combines real and virtual objects in a real environment; (2) registers (aligns) real and virtual objects with each other and (3) runs interactively, in three dimensions, and in real time [2].

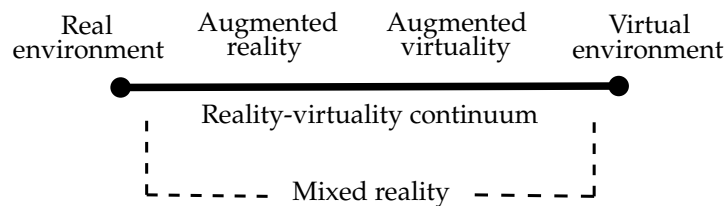


Figure 2-7: Reality-virtuality continuum

The first AR prototypes, shown in Figure 2-8, created by computer graphics pioneer Ivan Sutherland and his students at Harvard University and the University of Utah, appeared in the 1960s and used a see-through to present 3D graphics [2]. It took until the early 1990s before the term “augmented reality” was proposed by Caudell

and Mizell [2], scientists at Boeing Corporation who were developing an experimental AR system to help workers put together wiring harnesses.

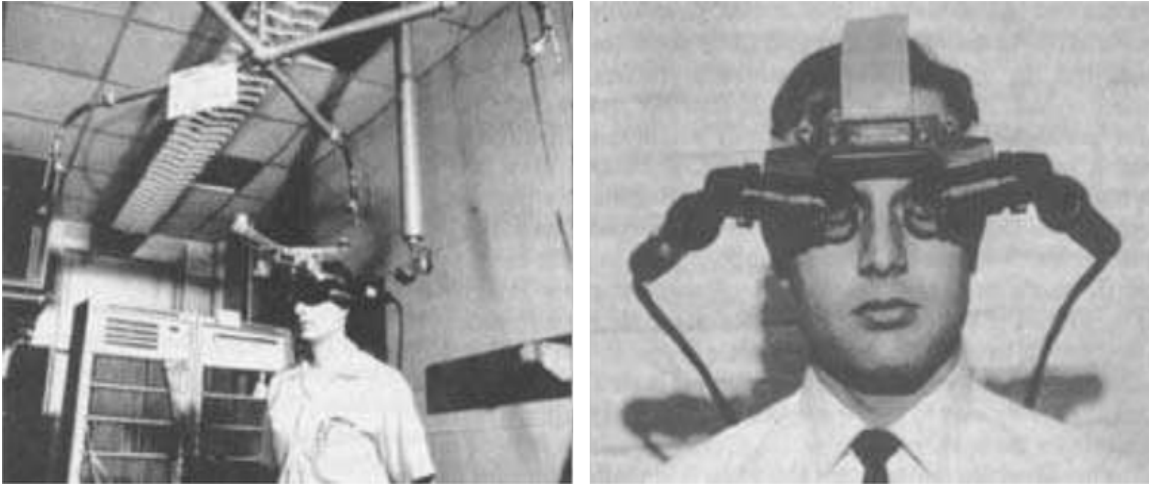


Figure 2-8: The world's first head-mounted display with the “Sword of Damocles”

By the late 1990s, as AR became a distinct field of research. Displays, trackers, graphics computers and software remain essential in many AR experiences. There are several displays devices that could be used on AR applications, the major ones could be divided as follows: (1) Visual display: Video see-through, optical see-through and projective; (2) Display positioning: Head-worn, hand-held and spatial [2].

More details for each sub-section from section (1) Visual displays and (2) Display positioning, are presented in the following paragraphs.

Section (1) Visual display: Video see-through is the closest to virtual reality, where the virtual environment is replaced by a video feed of reality and the AR is placed on the video frames. The optical see-through systems combine computer-generated imagery with holographic optical elements (HOEs), providing a “through the glasses” image of the real world. The last sub-category in section (1) is the projective, these displays have the advantage that they do not require special eye-wear, it projects the information into a surface, wall or even the human palm [2].

Section (2) Display positioning: Head-worn is a visual displays attached to the head include the video or optical see-through head-mounted display (HMD), virtual retinal display (VRD), and head-mounted projective display (HMPD). Google Inc.

released a first-class optical HDM called Project Glass shown on Figure 2-9 [15]. The hand-held sub-category includes hand-held video or optical see-through displays as well as hand-held projectors, it is currently the best choice to introduce AR to a mass market due to low production costs and ease of use since it may be based on existing consumer products, such as mobile phones. The last sub-category in section (2) is the spatial, those are displays that could placed statically within the environment and include screen-based video see-through displays [2].

In this thesis, it was designed and implemented an Augmented Reality (AR) framework aiming to provide a common infrastructure to develop applications and to accelerate the use of those techniques on the web in commercial products. It runs on native web browsers without requiring third-party plugins installation, therefore any browser ready device can eventually use the proposed cross-platform code base to develop AR applications. In order to develop for different devices different skills are required, since APIs and programming languages may differ between them. In the current day, the most popular devices, such as smart phones, tablets, computers, notebooks and HDM (Google Glass) are browser ready. They all could benefit from a reusable, cross-platform framework for AR applications.



Figure 2-9: Optical head-mounted display Google Glass [15]

2.3 Tracking and Object Detection

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2.3.1 State of the Art

Chapter 3

Augmented Reality Library for the Web (tracking.js)

3.1 Introduction

Supported modules: color, keypoints, rapid object detection.

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3.2 Color Tracking Algorithm

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3.3 Marker-less Tracking Algorithm (Keypoints)

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BRIEF, FAST, RANSAC.

3.4 Rapid Object Detection and Tracking Algorithm

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Viola-Jones: Features, Integral images, Learning, Detection, Training a cascade of classifiers, Training data optimization for JavaScript.

Chapter 4

Evaluation

4.1 Tools

OpenCV, JSFlartoolkit, Others. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

4.2 Scenario Description

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4.3 Evaluation Methodology

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4.3.1 Matching Robustness

4.3.2 Occlusion Robustness

4.3.3 FPS

4.4 Results

Graphics, Analysis. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

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5.1 Contributions

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5.2 Future Work

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exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

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