UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Hand Gesture Recognition via Leap Motion Sensor

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A thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters in Computer Science

in the

Department of Computer Science

August 30, 2017

Declaration of Authorship

I, Jahangir IQBAL, declare that this thesis titled, "Hand Gesture Recognition via Leap Motion Sensor" and the work presented in it are my own. I confirm that:

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- Where any part of this thesis has previously been submitted for a degree or any other qualification at this University or any other institution, this has been clearly stated.
- Where I have consulted the published work of others, this is always clearly attributed.
- Where I have quoted from the work of others, the source is always given. With the exception of such quotations, this thesis is entirely my own work.
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Abstract

Faculty Name
Department of Computer Science

Masters in Computer Science

Hand Gesture Recognition via Leap Motion Sensor

by Jahangir IQBAL

This project created an application which can be used by clinicians working with patients who might have some forms of apraxia, which is a post-stroke condition that makes it difficult to control some muscle groups. These patients are currently diagnosed by human doctors based upon how well they are able to perform certain gestures. The inability to complete these gestures properly can indicate differing levels of apraxia. Of course, there might be slight level of human subjectivity in the diagnosis of this condition.

This project uses the Leap Motion controller to build an application that can be used by doctors working with patients with possible apraxia. It aims to provide two algorithms that can help to objectively score the gestures performed by patients. The two comparison functions both are successful in grading the gestures and will be discussed in the course of this paper. The project also focused on building a easy to use interface for the clinicians and patients who will be using this application. It is able to take into account the various rotations a user's hand might be doing and undo them appropriately on the screen to show a clear picture of the with the gesture being performed.

The result of this project is an application that can be used in the real world by clinicians.

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There are so many people who have helped me to complete this project. It has been a very challenging task at times that was made more attainable through the help and guidance that they provided for me.

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I would like to thank Dr. Christopher Butler, Dr. Samrah Ahmed, and Nikolas Drummond whom I had the pleasure of working with at John Radcliffe Hospital. They always were so cheerful and supportive of the work I did.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my family. Every weekend when I would chat with my grandma and my parents and siblings, I would receive nothing but love. Your belief in me has allowed me to stay up late nights without feeling lonely. I would like to thank you all deeply for your love and support.

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Dedicated to my grandma and my parents.

Chapter 1

Introduction

This project created an application which can be used by clinicians working with patients who might have some forms of apraxia, which is a post-stroke condition that makes it difficult to control some muscle groups. These patients are currently diagnosed by human doctors based upon how well they are able to perform certain gestures. The inability to complete these gestures properly can indicate differing levels of apraxia. Of course, there might be slight level of human subjectivity in the dignosis of this condition.

This project uses the Leap Motion controller to build an application that can be used by doctors working with patients with possible apraxia. It aims to provide two algorithms that can help to objectively score the gestures performed by patients. The two comparison functions both are successful in grading the gestures and will be discussed in the course of this paper. The project also focused on building a easy to use interface for the clinicians and patients who will be using this application. It is able to take into account the various rotations a user's hand might be doing and undo them appropriately on the screen to show a clear picture of the with the gesture being performed.

The result of this project is an application that can be used in the real world by clinicians.

1.1 Motivation

Apraxia comes from the prefix "a" meaning "without" and the Greek root word "praxis" which means "action". Apraxia is a neurological condition that is sometimes caused by the effects of a stroke. It is a condition in which the patient is unable to exercise motor control over some of their muscles. The muscles themselves are not paralyzed or damaged, what causes these disorders are neurological conditions. In the department of Experimental Psychology researchers are studying patients with post-stroke loss of motor skills including possible cases of apraxia. The diagnosis of such a condition involves researchers presenting their patients with different movement based tests and evaluating the ease and effectiveness with which the patients are able to complete these screenings.

1.2 Goals

In the below paragraph, the general requirements for the working product of this project will be discussed. These requirements were elicited from the clinicians who will be the end users of this application when they use to collect hand gesture data from patients. The exact goals explained below were the result of several ongoing

meetings during which different working versions of the software was shared with the clinicians for their input and suggestions.

The goals of this project are to create an application that can be used by clinicians at the John Radcliffe Hospital to diagnose patients for possible conditions of apraxia. This application should have a easy to use interface that allows the clinicians to collect data from patients easily. The data for each patient should be able to be stored in separate folders by the ID of the patient. The application will also implement two algorithms that will score the attempted gesture data collected from patients. One of these algorithms will rely on comparing the relative angles between the two gestures being compared, and the other algorithm will break down a hand gesture into smaller components which themselves be scored and later a cumulative score can be given to the original gesture. The application should allow the clinicians to easily view the data that they collect within the application. It would be very useful if some of this data is editable from within the application to allow for mistakes to be corrected or comments to be written for certain gestures which were recorded. There should be an easy way to export and import the data in some common format such as CSV files so that the data can be analyzed in programs such as Excel. If possible, the application should design some method to account for the different variations in which the user's hand might be when they are completing gestures shown on the screen.

1.3 Static Hand Gestures

The gestures this project will be concerned with are ten gestures for the left hand and ten gestures for the right hand. These specific gestures were provided by clinicians during the first meeting with them to discuss the scope of the project. Below are some pictures showing what the target gestures that the users will have to imitate will look like in application. The gestures shown are are the ten gestures for the left hand, along with a rotated version of the same gestures to provide a different perspective into the shape of the gesture. The right hand gestures will be mirror images of the ones shown below.



FIGURE 1.1: Gesture1Left



FIGURE 1.2: Gesture1Left rotated.

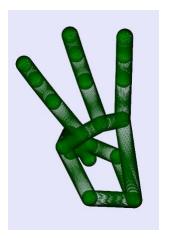


FIGURE 1.3: Gesture2Left



FIGURE 1.4: Gesture2Left rotated.

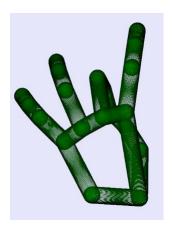


FIGURE 1.5: Gesture3Left

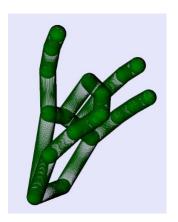


FIGURE 1.6: Gesture3Left rotated.



FIGURE 1.7: Gesture4Left



FIGURE 1.8: Gesture4Left rotated.

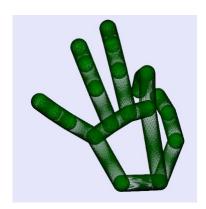


FIGURE 1.9: Gesture5Left



FIGURE 1.10: Gesture5Left rotated.



FIGURE 1.11: Gesture6Left

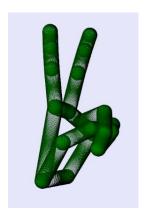


FIGURE 1.12: Gesture6Left rotated.



FIGURE 1.13: Gesture7Left

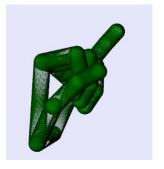


FIGURE 1.14: Gesture7Left rotated.



FIGURE 1.15: Gesture8Left



FIGURE 1.16: Gesture8Left rotated.

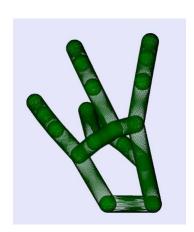


FIGURE 1.17: Gesture9Left



FIGURE 1.18: Gesture9Left rotated.

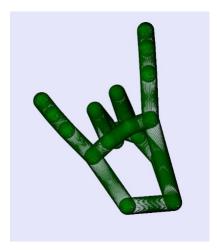


FIGURE 1.19: Gesture10Left

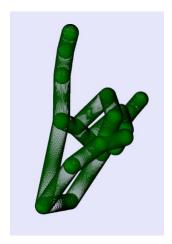


FIGURE 1.20: Gesture10Left rotated.

Chapter 2

Background

2.1 Leap Motion

Leap Motion controller, developed by Leap Motion Inc, US based company located in San Francisco, is a small infrared-enabled sensor that can be attached to one's computer via a USB cable. It comes with its own software that allows it to detect a user's hand movements in 3D space without any physical touch. It also can detect simple tools being held in the hand such as a pencil. The Leap Motion controller accomplishes this via two cameras and three embedded infrared LEDs which are able to track infrared light with wavelength outside that of the visible light spectrum. The sensor is able to detect motion in a wide space of around 8 cubic feet of area around it. This interaction area can be visualized as an inverted pyramid emanating from the Leap Motion sensor with a height, width and length of 2 cubic feet; as shown in Figure 2.1.

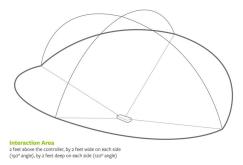


FIGURE 2.1: The area of user interaction for the Leap Motion Device.

2.1.1 Leap SDK v2 Java API

When the Leap Motion software is installed on one's computer, it does not include the libraries needed in order to develop applications utilizing the controller. In order to do that, the appropriate SDK version of the software must be downloaded from Leap Motion's website. The Java SDK version includes a JAR file and two native library files. The JAR file contains the Leap Motion API class definitions and the native libraries are OS platform specific files which allow a program using the Leap Motion API to communicate to the underlying service (Windows) or daemon (Linux or Mac) which is running the Leap Controller. Setting up a Java project requires that the distributed JAR file be set to the project's classpath. When running such a project, the JVM's library path parameter must be set to the location of the native libraries.

In this paragraph the data model that Leap Motion uses to represent the raw data received from device's cameras will be discussed. This data model consists of Frame objects that are continuously taken at a set rate of 60fps. These Frame objects contain all of the tracked data the Leap Motion sensor recorded in its field of view at a certain instance in time. The objects that the device keeps track include the two hands, their fingers and arm positions as estimated by normal human proportions. There are corresponding Java classes to represent these objects, such as the Hand, Finger, and Arm class. There is also a Bone class to represent specific types of bones in a hand. The Leap Motion Hand model is able to provide information about the identity, position, direction, rotation angles and other characteristics of the detected hand that it represents. This Hand model also contains methods which allow one to access other model objects contained within it; for example the fingers or the arm. Leap Motion software uses an internal hand model of the human hand to assist it in making predictions about the positions of certain parts of the hand even if they are not visible to the infrared cameras and thus not able to be calculated from the tracking data. The API also provides a Vector class that allows for useful math operations involving vectors such as finding the distance, dot product or cross product between them.

To understand the Leap Motion Java API more clearly, a very simple example will be presented that shows how the Frame data can be received from the device. Firstly, it is assumed that the project has been set up with the correct classpath for the Leap Motion Java SDK JAR file and run time parameters pointing to the appropriate native libraries. Figure 2.2 shows the basic set-up required to receive data from the controller using the Leap Java API.

```
import com.leapmotion.leap.*;
  //Listener class which handles various events for the Controller
   class SampleListener extends Listener {
       //method to handle the event of a Frame received from Controller
       public void onFrame(Controller controller) {
          // Get the most recent frame and report some basic information
          Frame frame = controller.frame();
          System.out.println("Frame id: " + frame.id() + ", hands: " +
              frame.hands().count()
       }
10
11
   }
   class Sample {
13
       public static void main(String[] args) {
14
          // Create leap motion controller instance
15
          Controller controller = new Controller();
16
17
          // Have the sample listener receive events from the controller
18
          controller.addListener(new SampleListener(););
20
          // Remove the sample listener when done
21
          controller.removeListener(listener);
22
23
       }
24
   }
```

FIGURE 2.2: This code sample shows how to connect to and receive data from the Leap Motion controller device.

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2.2 JavaFx

JavaFX is a framework provided by Oracle Corporation that is intended to replace the Swing framework as the standard GUI library for developing desktop applications that can be run on any platform that supports Java. Since the JavaFX 2.0 release, JavaFX application can be written in pure Java code. Before that release, applications written using JavaFX libraries had to be written in JavaFX Script, a scripting language designed and used specifically for the purpose of creating GUI applications with JavaFX. This project uses the latest version of this framework, JavaFX 8, which also added support for 3D graphics and sensor support.

2.2.1 Java vs FXML

When writing a JavaFX application, there are two very different approaches that can be used to create the actual user interface (UI) for the application. These are pure Java code and FXML. A brief introduction both of these approaches will be given below.

The pure Java approach constructs the JavaFX application scene graph procedurally through code. Below is a simple "Hello World" program that shows a quick example of this approach in action. This small snippet of code contains the overall

```
public class HelloWorld extends Application {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
      launch(args);
   }
4
5
   @Override
   public void start(Stage primaryStage) {
      primaryStage.setTitle("Hello World!");
      Button btn = new Button();
      btn.setText("Say 'Hello World'");
10
      btn.setOnAction(new EventHandler<ActionEvent>() {
         @Override
         public void handle(ActionEvent event) {
            System.out.println("Hello World!");
14
         }
16
      });
17
      StackPane root = new StackPane();
18
      root.getChildren().add(btn);
19
      primaryStage.setScene(new Scene(root, 300, 250));
20
      primaryStage.show();
21
   }
22
   }
```

FIGURE 2.3: A simple hello world program using JavaFX written using just Java code.

structure and all of the basic components of a JavaFX application. The first point to note is that the main class which will run the JavaFX application must extend from the abstract base class called javafx.application.Application and implement is abstract start() method. The start() method serves as the main entry point for all JavaFX applications. In the application's main() method, which is common to all

Java applications, a call must be made to the launch() method which is a method defined in the base Application JavaFX class that actually launches the application in doing so makes a call to the start() method.

The start() method receives a parameter of type Stage which serves as the primary Stage object for the application. Stage is the top-level user interface container object used by JavaFX to house the whole application. In colloquial terms it can be considered to be the "window" object of the whole application. The Stage object is has a setScene() method which requires a Scene object to be passed in. Scene class is the container of current content being displayed by the application. An application can have multiple scenes which display different pages of the the application. In JavaFX, the actual UI components, such as the StackPane layout Node shown in the simple HelloWorld example above, must be added to the Scene object in order for them to be displayed. This relationship between the Stage, Scene and "root" Node components of a JavaFX application is depicted in Figure 2.4.

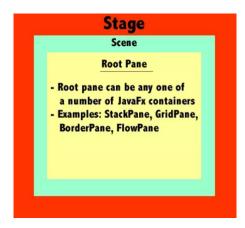


FIGURE 2.4: The layout components of every JavaFX application.

The UI components all extend from a parent Node class. One of the improvements that JavaFX brought in regards to its predecessor Swing, is that it represents the entire content of the scene as a tree. More specifically, all of the nodes displayed in a Scene container object must extend from a root level node and be part of the hierarchical scene graph of nodes. Figure 2.5 displays an example of the JavaFX scene graph.

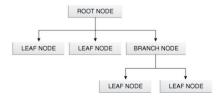


FIGURE 2.5: The Scene Graph architectural model for UI components in JavaFX applications.

Now that the pure Java code approach of writing JavaFX applications has been introduced, let us discuss the other approach to writing JavaFX applications; FXML. FXML is an XML-based language created by Oracle Corporation for the purpose of making it easier to define the UI of a JavaFX application. While the pure Java code approach is a much more imperative and procedural way to write JavaFX applications, FXML is a more declarative way. It resembles HTML and can also reference

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a controller Java class which can access and modify the UI elements defined in the FXML file. Figure 2.6 shows a very simple FXML file that creates a VBox layout and adds a button to it. This FXML file also has a Java controller class attached to it which is called MyController.java and shown in Figure 2.7

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<?language JavaScript?>

<?iimport javafx.scene.control.*?>

<?iimport javafx.scene.layout.*?>

</Pre>

</Pre>
```

FIGURE 2.6: A FXML file defining a simple layout and referencing a controller java class.

```
public class MyController {
      @FXMI
2
      private void initialize()
      // this method runs first after all the UI components have been loaded and
5
6
      @FXML
7
      private void printHelloWorld()
8
9
        System.out.println("hello world!");
10
      }
   }
```

FIGURE 2.7: A controller for the FXML file. The "FXML" annotation in is used to bind certain elements to Java objects in the class.

The result from both of these HelloWorld examples will be as showing in Figure 2.8. The large difference between these two approaches makes it difficult to combine them effectively, but it is possible to use them in conjunction with each other. This project takes such an approach. For the UI construction of the user's hand model, the pure Java code approach was taken. However, for the interface of the application the table construction showing all of the collected data, the FXML approach was taken.

One of the things that should be discussed is how communication can happen between different components of the application when FXML files are being used. There is a special class called FXMLLoader which is used to load FXML files and return the object graph of UI components these files contain. The FXMLLoader contains two {load()}methods one of which is a static class method and the other is an instance method. The important difference between these two methods is that



FIGURE 2.8: The output of the simple HelloWorld application.

that instance {load()}method can be used to gain access to the controller for the FXML class being loaded. Gaining access to the controller object for an FXML file in other other parts of an application is very important if one has to pass parameters into the view to change the interface. Figure 2.9 this key difference between the two methods.

```
// The approach uses the static "load" method. Not recommended
Parent root = FXMLLoader.load(getClass().getResource("fxml_example.fxml"));

//This approach allows one to access the controller.
//create instance of FXMLLoader
FXMLLoader loader = new FXMLLoader(getClass().getResource("fxml_example.fxml"));
//get the controller
MyController controller = loader.<MyController>getController();
//initialize controller with custom parameters
controller.initData(data);
//object graph root handle
Parent root = (Parent) loader.load();
```

FIGURE 2.9: Retrieving a reference to the controller object for a loaded FXML file.

2.2.2 Scene Builder

Scene Builder is a software that can be installed on one's computer to help design the UI and layout of a JavaFX application. It allows the user to drag and drop components from the library of available components to the central work area where they can be modified and their properties tweaked. This software is a free and open source tool that used to be developed by Oracle Corporation, but is now backed by Gluon. The easy to use drag and drop functionality of the Scene Builder allows for easy design and rapid iteration. The associated FXML code with UI created by Scene Builder can be incorporated into the JavaFX application. Using Scene Builder code bindings can also be placed on certain UI components to allow for them to execute specific logic that can be defined in the controller class of the FXML file. Figure 2.10 shows the main layout of the Scene Builder application. There are four main panels of information that have been labeled appropriately in the figure. These are: the Library panel, which contains all of the UI components available for use; the Document panel, which shows the object graph hierarchy of the current scene being built; the Content panel, which shows the work area for user interaction; and finally the Inspector panel, which shows the various properties and layout parameters which

2.2. JavaFx 13

can be modified for the currently selected UI component, as well as the various code bindings that can be placed on it.

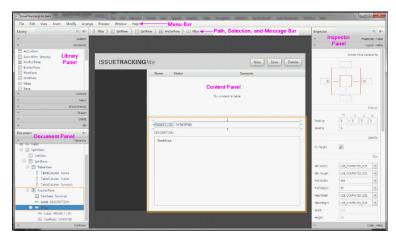


FIGURE 2.10: This shows the different areas of interest in the Scene Builder software.

2.2.3 Jfoenix Library

Jfoenix is a library that is used in this project. This is an open source Java library that implements Google Material Design for JavaFX components. This library can be included as a dependency via the Maven using the commands:

Maven is a build automation tool that can also serve as a package manager that makes finding and installing dependencies simple. This library will be downloaded from Maven 2 Central Repository. To include this Jfoenix library within Scene Builder, one has to find where the JAR file for the Jfoenix library was downloaded. Then, going to Scene Builder, clicking on the gear icon in the Library panel will show a drop-down menu which has the option for "Import JAR/FXML File" as depicted in Figure 2.11. Selecting this option will allow for the Jfoenix JAR file to be specified and the custom components to be loaded into the Scene Builder.

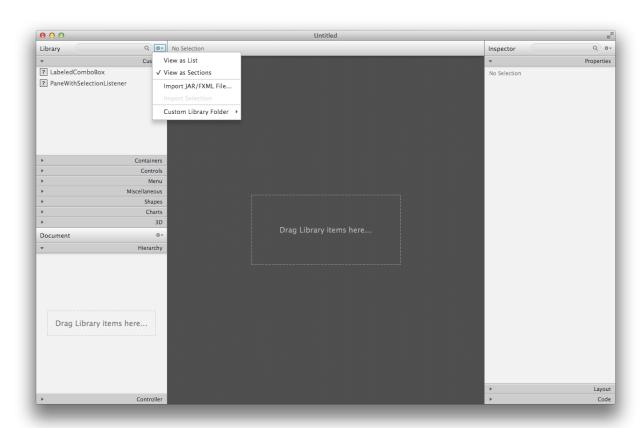


FIGURE 2.11: This is how to add a external library of custom components to the Scene Builder for UI prototyping.

Chapter 3

Constructing Hand UI Model

3.1 Basic 3D Modeling

The Leap Motion Java API's Hand class contains all the possible functions one might need to use when gaining more information about the hierarchical structure of this Java object. For example, given a Hand class object "hand", we can access the fingers objects for this hand via "hand.fingers()". Each Finger object contains four Bone objects which are indexed from 0-3. The Bone class does contain an Enum Type that allows one to easily access them via their anatomical names (distal, intermediate, proximal, metacarpal) rather than just using a numerical index. In abstract terms, the Bone object is a vector of sorts and the ends of this bone vector represent the joints at which the bone attaches to its neighboring bones. These "joints" can be accessed via the prevJoint() and nextJoint() methods which respectively return a vector position of the Bone closer to the wrist and of the Bone object endpoint closer to the tip of the finger. The Figure 3.1 shows the bones and joints of the hand for which the Leap Motion sensor records data.

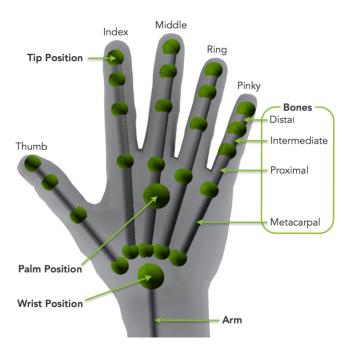


FIGURE 3.1: The Bones of the hand that Leap Motion device records data on.

A Hand object is only valid if it is detected by the Leap Motion device to be a physical object; if a Hand object is created via code using the Hand() constructor, that hand is considered "invalid" and will return true when the hand.invalid() method

is called it. The information contained within a valid Hand object read in from the device is Read Only and can not be changed or updated.

The Leap Motion device records numerical data about the hand and finger positions. Using the Hand class provided by the Leap Motion Java API and described above in the previous paragraph, a graphical model was constructed. For this GUI construction, a graphical representation of the hand was built using basic 3D geometric classes provided by the JavaFX framework. The bones of the hand model were represented by the Cylinder class and the joints were represented by the Sphere JavaFX class. This Hand model is contained inside the UIHand_SimpleJava class. This class extends a base abstract UIHand class which itself inherits from the JavaFX class called Group. Group is a type of Node in JavaFX that contains an ObservableList of children Nodes that will be added to the JavaFX Scene Graph in the order that they are added to the Group. An important point to note is that any transform, effect or property change applied to a Group will also be applied to all the children of that group. The Figure 3.2 shows an example of how a Group Node can can contain multiple children nodes.

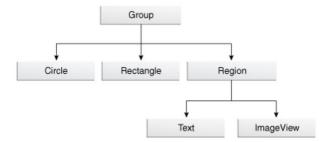


FIGURE 3.2: The Group Node structure in the JavaFX framework.

The UIHand_Simpleclass stores all the fingers bones in two dimensional array of Cylinder objects and all the respective joints in a different two dimensional array of Spheres. These arrays are of dimensions 5x3 to account for the five fingers and the three types of primary finger bones: distal, intermediate and proximal. In addition to these arrays, there is an array containing the four metacarpal bones of the hand; the thumb does not have a corresponding metacarpal bone like the other fingers. The also contains two more cylinders and a sphere to construct the palm section of the hand. To provide the hand with a uniform, well-blended color shading a PhongMaterial object is set as the hand's material property. Figure 3.3 shows the initialization of the UIHand_Simpleand part of its constructor to illustrate how the hand model was designed.

Each element of the hand, such as all the cylinders and spheres representing the various bones and joints, is added to the children of the encompassing parent group that represents the hand.

3.2 Set Location Method

The UIHand_Simpleclass also contains a method that allows for the graphical hand to be positioned according to the exact positions recorded in a Leap Motion Hand object. This method, which is called setLoc(Hand h), goes through each of the fingers and their respective bones and joints and sets the position and rotation of these these JavaFX nodes based upon the Hand object passed in. This method relies on a helper class called ViewMath which contains static methods that are called to position each

3.3. Concurrency 17

```
public class UIHand_Simple extends UIHand {
      private static float fingerRadius = 14f;
     //Hand elements
      private Cylinder[][] fingerBones;
      private Sphere[][] fingerJoints;
      private Cylinder[] knuckleSpans;
      public UIHand_Simple(Color color, boolean wireframe) {
8
          //Execute the Group constructor
          super();
10
          //Create the materials
          PhongMaterial dark = new PhongMaterial(color);
12
          PhongMaterial light = new PhongMaterial(color.brighter());
          //Initialize Finger bones
14
          fingerBones = new Cylinder[5][];
          for (int i = 0; i < 5; ++i) {
16
              fingerBones[i] = new Cylinder[3];
              for (int j = 0; j < 3; ++j) {
18
                  fingerBones[i][j] = new Cylinder();
                  //set material and radius and drawMode
20
                  fingerBones[i][j].setMaterial(dark);
                  fingerBones[i][j].setRadius(fingerRadius /
                      ViewMath.radiusScaleFactor);
                  if (wireframe) fingerBones[i][j].setDrawMode(DrawMode.LINE);
              }
24
```

FIGURE 3.3: A snippet of code showing how a the UIHandSimple class, representing the graphical hand, is constructed.

individual cylinder representing a bone. Two of the important methods in View-Math are setPositionByVector(Node n, Vector v) and setRotationByVector(Node n, Vector v). The method setPositionByVector sets the translate properties of the JavaFX Node passed in to the XYZ position recorded in the vector. The setRotationByVector method rotates the JavaFX Node passed into it by the direction which is represented by the second argument vector. This method first takes the direction and "corrects" it by flipping the z-value. This is done because JavaFX's coordinate system has the Z-axis increasing outward from the computer screen, while Leap Motion has the Z-axis increasing into the screen. The setRotationByVector finds the angle of rotation finding the the angle of the passed in direction to the Y-axis. In addition to the angle of rotation, the axis upon which the rotation will occur also needs to be defined. The axis of the rotation is found by taking the cross-product between the Y-axis and the "corrected" direction. Figure 3.4 shows how rotation is set for nodes in the hand model.

3.3 Concurrency

One of the key concepts that is used in writing this project's application was that of concurrency. Concurrency in a JavaFX application is very important as it allows for the UI of to be responsive to user interactions despite the fact that the application might also be executing other tasks in the background. In other to achieve this requirement, it is necessary to employ multi-threading so that the main application

```
//This method rotates a given JavaFx node to point in the direction passed in
  public static void setRotationByVector(Node node, Vector direction) {
     //Correct the direction to correspond to JavaFx Coordinate system
     Vector correctedDirection = new Vector(direction.getX(), direction.getY(),
          -direction.getZ());
     //Find the angle of the direction to the y-axis; in degrees
     double angle = correctedDirection.angleTo(Vector.yAxis()) * 180 / Math.PI;
6
     //Find the axis of rotation by taking the cross product of the corrected
          direction with the y-axix
     Point3D axis = vectorToPoint(correctedDirection.cross(Vector.yAxis()));
     //Set the axis and angle of rotation on the Node object
     node.setRotate(angle);
10
     node.setRotationAxis(axis);
11
   }
```

FIGURE 3.4: A snippet of code showing how the rotation is set for an arbitrary Node object of the JavaFX Hand Model.

thread can focus on responding to user interactions and other time-consuming tasks can be delegated to background threads. The UI in a JavaFX application is represented by the Scene Graph, which has been discussed earlier. The Scene Graph is not thread-safe and it should only be accessed and updated via the main running application thread, which is called the JavaFX Application thread. Implementing long running tasks on the JavaFX Application thread will invariably make the UI of the application unresponsive. The best practice is to avoid this problem by letting the JavaFX Application thread focus on just processing user events.

3.3.1 JavaFX Concurrent Package

One might consider implementing the Runnable interface and creating their own thread objects from scratch to employ in the multi-threaded environment required for building JavaFX applications. However, such an approach is not recommended; it can lead to unnecessary complexity and hard to debug problems such as deadlock, which is when competing threads are stuck waiting forever, and race conditions where critical data can be modified relatively simultaneously by two competing threads. Instead, it is much better to use the javafx.concurrent package and the classes contained within it to achieve the multi-threading required for a responsive application. The APIs provided by this package encode the best concurrent design implementations which allow for easy interaction with the UI and also ensure that such interactions happen on the appropriate thread of the program.

To somebody who is familiar with Java technologies, he/she will know that Java already provides a complete set of concurrency related libraries in the java.util.concurrent package. However, these APIs are designed for traditional Java Abstract Data Types (ADTs) such as Lists, Maps etc. JavaFX applications usually are dealing with observable ADTs such as ObservableList and ObservableMap. The main difference between the observable ADTs and the traditional ADTs is that the observable ADTs allow for automatic synchronization between themselves and the view components of the UI. In web development lingo this is sometimes referred to as "two-way" data binding. It means means that if the data in the view changes changes, this change is automatically propagated to the underlying data structure without requiring any work on the programmer's part. Likewise if the observable model is updated with

3.3. Concurrency 19

new data the view components will be updated to reflect that change as well. Because of this convenience observable ADTs are very much suited for use in building JavaFX applications. The javafx.concurrent package uses the existing APIs found in java.util.concurrent package and repurposes them to also take into account the observable ADTs. It also considers other constraints faced by GUI application developers such as the JavaFX Application thread and its primary role in handling UI interaction.

Broadly speaking, the javafx.concurrent package consists of a Worker interface, which provides the APIs for communication between the background worker to the UI thread, and two classes called Task and Service, both of which implement the Worker Interface. Task is a fully observable implementation of the corresponding java.util.concurrent.FutureTask class. Therefore, this task class is very much suited for implementing asynchronous tasks in JavaFX that can handle user interaction and respond to events executed on the UI. This ability to handle user events is further displayed by the fact that the task class implements the EventTarget interface.

3.3.2 Project Application

Creating a custom task requires extending the Task class and implementing the call() method. The call() method is should contain code that only changes states which are safe to be modified from the background thread. Therefore the call() method cannot change the active scene graph nodes displayed on the screen as that may cause runtime exceptions. Nevertheless, since Task is designed to be used in GUI applications, it does have the ability to update observable data properties, change notifications for errors and cancellation of tasks, and respond to event being fired. Figure 3.5 gives an example of one of the instances from the project which used a Task class to perform some work in the background thread as the UI was being refreshed to the main screen again.

```
private static class StaticEndTask extends Task<Void> {
    @Override
    protected Void call() throws Exception {
        targetHand.setVisible(false);
        scene2Button.setVisible(true);
        ...
    }
}
```

FIGURE 3.5: This shows part of the implementation of the Task class with call() method defined.

It is important to note that the Task class, since it implements the java.utils.concurrent.FutureTask class, fits into the traditional Java concurrency model also. The FutureTask class implements the Runnable interface, one of the key requirements for being able to be executed as a thread. Therefore, the Tasks can also can be used within the Java concurrency Executor API and also can be passed to a thread as a parameter. To see this fact in action, consider the Figure 3.6 which shows a method that gets called when the user presses a button to go back to the main screen of the application. This snippet of code shows the Platform.runLater() method being passed various Tasks as parameters. The Platform.runLater() method can be called from any background thread and will add the passed tasks to a queue to be executed in order at a later time on the JavaFX Application thread and then this method returns immediately to

the caller. Because of the concurrent behavior of the application, some of the methods in the application that deal with setting parameters and changing object data were initialized with the keyword "synchronized" which prevents multiple threads interferring with the same variables at the same time and generally preventing data consistency errors.

FIGURE 3.6: This code sample from the project shows Task objects being passed successfully to a method which expects to receive Runnable objects.

Chapter 4

Rotation of the Hand UI Model

In this chapter the rotation of the Hand UI model will be discussed.

4.1 Description of Problem

The UI model of the hand is built from the Leap Motion sensor data as discussed in the chapter. This data represents the hand as it is displayed in reality above the Leap Motion controller device. Originally the representation of the hand was built from this hand without any further modifications. However, to demonstrate why this is sometimes not the ideal situation, see Figure 4.1. It shows the hand as it is displayed in reality; it is in parallel plane above the device.



FIGURE 4.1: This shows the user's hand in a flat orientation; as determined by the Leap Motion sensor.

It should noted how difficult it is to see the fingers and thumb. They are only barely visible. Therefore the user would be forced to force his or her hand into a vertical position by straining their wrist just so they can see the gesture they are performing on the screen. Figures 4.2 and 4.3 show other orientation the hand can take; these figures show the hand after a yaw rotation and after a roll rotation respectively. Again, note the slight difficulty in figuring out the thumb and fingers positions and orientations when the hand is rolled around the z-axis. The hand that is shown in the yaw rotation in Figure 4.2 is able to seen a little clearly because the wrist was strained upwards.



FIGURE 4.2: The user's hand after the certain yaw rotation around the y-axis.

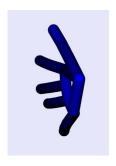


FIGURE 4.3: The user's hand after the certain roll rotation around the z-axis.

Finally all of these different orientation can of course overlap with each other to create a complex orientation of the hand as shown in Figure 4.4, which shows the user's left hand in a weird handshake sort of position while being rotated to the right and tilted upwards.



FIGURE 4.4: This shows the user's hand in a flat orientation; as determined by the Leap Motion sensor.

This chapter will explain how these different possible orientations the user's hand might be in while they are performing gestures shown on the screen are accounted for and "undone". Doing this results in the user's hand to be displayed in a set vertical orientation on the screen despite the different ways the user may have oriented their hand above the device in reality. The final resulting hand for all of the figures seen previously will be as is shown in Figure 4.5 after the composite rotation have transformed it to a vertical position.



FIGURE 4.5: This shows what the user's hand will look like after all of the possible rotational transforms have been undone and the hand has been fixed to a vertical orientation.

This feature of the application makes it easier for the user to see what his or her hand is doing without requiring them to always contain their hand in a specific orientation. The goal of this application is to measure the accuracy with which a user is able to complete certain gestures, not the orientation of their hand. In fact, the algorithms that are used to grade the correctness of the user's attempted gesture do not take the user's hand orientation into account. They focus on the fingers bones and their relative orientations to each other. At the beginning of this project, one of the ideas discussed was to build some sort of rig which would be used to place the user's hand in a set orientation. However because of what will be explained in this chapter such a rig is no longer necessary.

4.2 JavaFx Coordinate System vs Leap Motion Coordinate System

The Leap Motion controller has a different coordinate system from JavaFX. This distinction is very important to get out of the way as the rest of the chapter will rely on such an understanding. The coordinate system for the Leap Motion device is shown in Figure 4.6. Note the placement of the green LED light in the Leap Motion device as shows the orientation of the otherwise symmetrical picture.

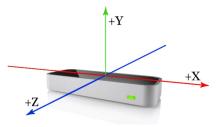


FIGURE 4.6: The coordinate system that is used by the Leap Motion sensor. Data collected will based upon these axes.

This coordinate system is referred to as a right-handed coordinate system because of the easy way in which it can be represented by the first three fingers of the right hand as shown in Figure 4.7.

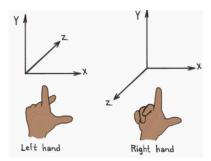


FIGURE 4.7: Left and right handed coordinate systems and how they can be shown via fingers.

In contrast, the traditional coordinate system which is used in computer science and which is what JavaFX also follows is shown in Figure 4.8. The JavaFx coordinate system is not left handed or right handed as far as we can tell from the Figures shown.

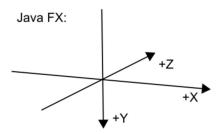


FIGURE 4.8: The coordinate system used in JavaFX. Setting transforms on objects will be based on this coordinate system.

Understanding these somewhat subtle difference and being able to switch from one context to the other was very important when considering the various rotational transforms that needed to be applied to the Hand UI model in order to straighten it to a vertical position. For example, one of the things that caused me some headaches sometimes when I was fixing and debugging my code was the fact that 3D rotations are measured in a very specific way. When it is said that some object is rotated around the y-axis by 90 degrees, this means that the if we imagine ourselves to be an observer standing on the y-axis and looking down the negative direction of this y-axis, then we would observe the object to rotate counter-clockwise about the y-axis. Therefore, it becomes very clear why it is significant to have clear understanding of the coordinate system that is being used for a particular section of code. Leap Motion data is returned with the default settings of the Leap Motion coordinate system. This data must be appropriately modified when the code using it is based upon the JavaFX coordinate system. Likewise composite rotations around certain axis might become jumbled up if one is not careful.

4.3 Unexpected Leap Motion API Results

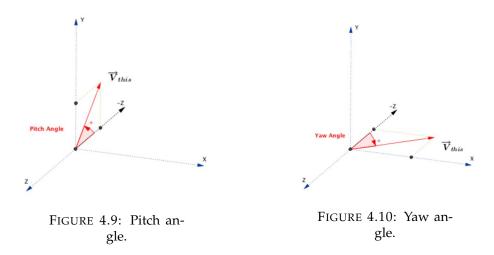
In the course of working on this feature, which was explained in first section of this chapter, I realized that I was being returned results from the Leap Motion API that I was not expecting. I tested and debugged further into these issues until I realized some interesting things about the Leap Motion API which helped me to implement the vertical rotation of the user's hand successfully. In this section, I will go over some of the unexpected results that I obtained when I was learning more about the Leap Motion API's. I created a special Java class to help me in this endeavor which contains code samples with some simple yet illustrative scenarios which show how the Leap Motion API works.

I first noticed these problems when I was working user hand data, however, I soon realized these issues were more so with how the Vector is defined in the Leap Motion API. Therefore, the examples shown in this section will primarily be using vectors to illustrate the issues encountered, but of course these issues then extend to the collected hand data because of the nature of how Hand objects are defined in Leap Motion.

4.3.1 Pitch, Roll, Yaw in Leap API

Leap Motion's Java API includes a Vector class that contains several useful operations one might need to perform. For example, it include three functions that return the pitch, roll and yaw angles for the vector. However, right away we need to understand that these angles which are returned are with respect to certain axes. The

pitch() is an instance method for a vector object that will return the angle between this vector's projection onto the y-z plane and the negative z-axis. Figure 4.9 shows this. Yaw is defined to be the angle between the negative z-axis and the projection of the vector onto the x-z plane (Figure 4.10.



roll() function is defined to be gotten by projecting the vector in question onto the x-y plane and taking the angle between this projection and the positive y-axis (which as we know is defined to be pointing upwards in the Leap Motion coordinate system and downwards in JavaFX). See Figure 4.11 to get a visual understanding of how the roll angle is defined for a given vector.

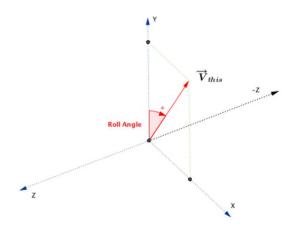


FIGURE 4.11: Roll angle as defined in Leap Motion documentation.

4.3.2 Negative Zeros and Flipped Axes

During my testing, I realized that the Vector class returns some strange results when we test the pitch() function with the simple x-axis unit vector <1,0,0>. One would expect that the pitch would be zero, since the projection of the x-axis unit vector onto the y-z plane is zero. However, as the debugging result in Figure 4.12 shows, that was not the case.

```
Run DebugHelper

"C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.8.0_131\bin\java" ...

Vector: (1, 0, 0)

pitch: 180.0

roll (corrected): 90.0

yaw: 90.0

Vector: (1, 0, -0)

pitch: 0.0

roll (corrected): 90.0

yaw: 90.0

Process finished with exit code 0
```

FIGURE 4.12: A simple example's run output that demonstrates the negative zeros and their importance in Leap Motion API.

It appears to be that a negative zero must be supplied in the z-component of the vector to get a zero pitch angle. When I found this out, I was very surprised as it was the first time I realized that there was such a thing as a negative floating point zero. However, another thing to note is that in the debug output, I have the word "corrected" next to the roll angle.

Like the pitch() angle, I noticed something that was a bit strange about the results the roll() function was returning during my debugging. It was returning 135 degrees when I was expecting it to return 45 degrees (see Figure 4.15) because the vector it is being tested on makes such a projection onto the x-y plane that the roll should be 45. I think the documentation page either has a mistake the roll() method or maybe the Vector class has a error in the way the roll method is defined.

```
Run DebugHelper

"C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.8.0_131\bin\java" ...

Vector: (0.05, 0.05, -0.9)

pitch: 3.18

roll (uncorrected): 135.0

roll (corrected): 45.0

yaw: 3.18

Process finished with exit code 0
```

FIGURE 4.13: The roll() angle returned for a vector needs to be "corrected".

The angle being returned is actually between the negative y-axis (Leap Motion coordinate system) and the projection. Therefore I wrote my own correctedRoll() which basically takes a given roll angle and subtracts it from 180 degrees to return a roll angle that is in accordance to how roll() is defined in Leap Motion documentation. In response to finding out about these problems, I wrote my own methods to find pitch, roll and yaw when I was dealing with hand objects. The code for one of these methods is shown in Figure 4.14.

```
private float getPitch(Hand h) {
     //angle of hand direction to y-axis
     float angleAmount = (float)
         Math.toDegrees(h.direction().angleTo(Vector.yAxis()));
     //switch direction of angle
     if (h.direction().getZ() > 0.0f) {
        return (-1.0f * angleAmount); //returning a -negative angle to "undo" the
            positive pitch noticed in hand
     } else {
7
        //99 % of the time, pitch will be a positive angle, so this case will run
            most of the time.
        return angleAmount;
     }
10
  }
```

FIGURE 4.14: This function returns the pitch of the hand object as the angle the hand makes to the x-z plane.

This method does not rely on projections to the y-z plane to find out the pitch of the hand. Intuitively, when I imagined the pitch of the hand model to be to angle it is making to the x-z plane; regardless of which direction the wrist or the fingers of the hand are pointing in. The Leap pitch() function expects the direction of the hand to be relatively inline with the z-axis in order to give a valid pitch measurement. The method I defined does not have this restriction and is able to return an informative pitch angle no matter if the user has rotated his/hand around the y-axis. I calculate the yaw for a particular hand in the same fashion, except for that function I take the angle between the direction of the hand and the negative z-axis.

4.4 Simplified Hand Model

One of the lessons that this project has highlighted for me is how important it is to simplify a complex problem when finding a solution to it. Of course this sounds like a relatively obvious lesson, but I feel this project forced me to practice it many times. I would like to give a short example of this by talking a little bit about the UIHandSuperSimple class that I wrote when I was working on the problem this chapter addresses. The aptly named super simple hand model was a model of the user's hand that has just three components, a rectangular box to represent the palm, a cylinder to represent the thumb and a sphere to represent the fingers. See Figure ?? to view this masterpiece.

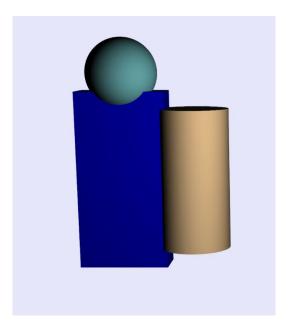


FIGURE 4.15: A very basic model of the hand.

The reason this hand was important during my journey to solving this problem was because I could easily represent different orientations in it by using just simple vectors. This allowed me to quickly debug and figure out errors in the way I was approaching things. The other Hand UI model could not be set only by a single vector in such a way that the every single bone of the hand would also be appropriately set. This was because that model relies on a lot more data from the Leap Device to build the model more accurately. The simplicity of dealing with this hand model eventually also allowed me to figure out how to undo the unwanted hand rotations for the UI display that were part of the Leap Motion data.

4.5 Composite Rotational Transformations

To understand how the UI hand model is rotated to a vertical position, we will consider the starting hand position to be the "weird handshake position" as is shown in Figure 4.4, which represents the left hand in a handshake position that is slightly pitched upwards along the x-axis and with a 45 degree yaw to the right around the y-axis. The method which will reset this user's hand to a vertical orientation automatically (without requiring the user to change the position of their hand at all) is shown in Figure 4.16.

```
private void fixRotations(Hand h) {
      //add a yaw to perform before the matrixRotateNode sets the axis and angle.
2
      float firstYaw = getFirstYaw(h); // dont need to convert to radians for
         Rotate transform java class.
     if (this.getTransforms().size() == 0) {
        this.getTransforms().add(new Rotate(firstYaw, new Point3D(0, 1, 0)));
     } else {
6
        this.getTransforms().set(0, new Rotate(firstYaw, new Point3D(0, 1, 0)));
8
     //correct to fit Javafx coordinate system and convert to radians.
10
     float pitch = (float) Math.toRadians(getPitch(h) * (-1.0f));
      float finalYaw = (float) Math.toRadians(getFinalYaw(h) * (-1.0f));
      float roll = 0;//roll is never needed
14
     //order of operations: pitch, yaw, roll.
15
     ViewMath.matrixRotateNode(this, roll, pitch, finalYaw);
16
  }
17
```

FIGURE 4.16: This function fixes the rotations of the UI Hand model so that it will be always displayed in a vertical orientation, no matter what orientation the user's hand is in.

This method takes in a Leap Motion Hand object and basically performs three transformations on it. Firstly, it performs a yaw rotation of the amount determined by the getFirstYaw() method. The getFirstYaw() method determines what the angle of the hand's direction is to the negative z-axis; and so the first transform that will get added to the UI hand model is will rotate the hand about the y-axis. Figure 4.17 shows what the hand model will look like after this first rotational transform has been performed.

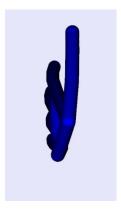


FIGURE 4.17: The hand model of Figure 4.4 after first yaw.

Secondly, the pitch angle is determined the getPitch() to see how much to rotate the hand upward to be inline with the y-axis. Also the finalYaw angle is determined using the getFinalYaw() method which will return an angle representing how much the hand model has to be rotated around the y-axis again when the hand is pointing upwards in the positive y-direction in the JavaFX coordinate system. There is no roll angle that is needed for putting the hand in a vertical position. The pitch and finalYaw angle (along with a 0 value for the roll angle) are passed into a helper function called matrixRotateNode(), shown in Figure 4.20. This method computes

the composite rotational matrix based upon the angles that are passed into it and performs the correct composite rotation around the calculated axis of rotation on the JavaFX Node object that is passed into as its first argument. If for a moment we consider the hand model originally started in the weird handshake position as stated above, then after the first yaw, and pitch have been performed, the hand model will be resting with its fingers pointing straight up and its palm facing the x-axis. See Figure 4.18

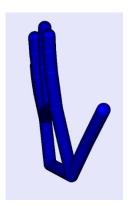


FIGURE 4.18: The hand model of Figure 4.4 after first yaw and pitch have been performed.

Finally, after the final yaw has also been performed, the hand model will be resting in the final vertical orientation with its fingers pointing up and the palm facing the negative z-axis as shown in Figure 4.19



FIGURE 4.19: The hand model after it's orientation has been fixed.

The final yaw angle is determined by which direction the palm normal of the leap motion hand is facing. This palm normal can be pointing along the x-axis or the z-axis. A weighted average of the two directions is taken to determine the angle to be computed for the final yaw.

```
public static void matrixRotateNode(Node n, double roll, double pitch, double
       yaw) {
      //build rotational matrix
     double A11 = Math.cos(roll) * Math.cos(yaw);
3
      double A32 = -Math.cos(yaw) * Math.sin(pitch);
     double A33 = Math.cos(pitch) * Math.cos(yaw);
6
     //angle of rotation
     double angleOfRotation = Math.acos((A11 + A22 + A33 - 1d) / 2d);
      if (angleOfRotation != 0d) {
10
        double den = 2d * Math.sin(angleOfRotation);
        Point3D axisOfRotation = new Point3D((A32 - A23) / den, (A13 - A31) / den,
            (A21 - A12) / den);
        //rotate node
        n.setRotationAxis(axisOfRotation);
14
        n.setRotate(Math.toDegrees(angleOfRotation));
     }
  }
17
```

FIGURE 4.20: This function takes in a JavaFX node object and three angles representing the roll, pitch and yaw angles and returns that object after it has been rotated by appropriate final angle around the computed axis of rotation.

The code shown in the matrixRotateNode() in the Figure 4.20 above looks very complicated. It is the result of mathematical formulas that determine how to rotate an object in 3D space. Given three angles representing the pitch, yaw and roll we can compute a final matrix of rotation from the three smaller matrices that would represent rotations about the specific x-axis, y-axis, z-axis that the pitch, yaw, and roll angles would represent respectively. The matrices that would represent these three individual rotations are shown in Figure 4.21.

$$\mathbf{A}_{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos\phi & \sin\phi \\ 0 & -\sin\phi & \cos\phi \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{Y} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & 0 & -\sin\theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin\theta & 0 & \cos\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{Z} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\psi & \sin\psi & 0 \\ -\sin\psi & \cos\psi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

FIGURE 4.21: The three matrices representing individual rotations about the x, y, and z axis.

Their composite matrix would be computed by A =

$$A_z * A_y * A_x$$

and the result of this matrix multiplication operation is shown in Figure 4.22.

$$\mathbf{A} \ = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta\cos\psi & \cos\phi\sin\psi + \sin\phi\sin\theta\cos\psi & \sin\phi\sin\psi - \cos\phi\sin\theta\cos\psi \\ -\cos\theta\sin\psi & \cos\phi\cos\psi - \sin\phi\sin\theta\sin\psi & \sin\phi\cos\psi + \cos\phi\sin\theta\sin\psi \\ \sin\theta & -\sin\phi\cos\theta & \cos\phi\cos\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

FIGURE 4.22: The result of the matrix multiplication.

The method uses this final matrix to determine the angle and axis of rotation by the formulas shown in Figure 4.23.

$$\theta = \arccos\left(\frac{1}{2}[A_{11} + A_{22} + A_{33} - 1]\right)$$

$$e_1 = \frac{A_{32} - A_{23}}{2\sin\theta}$$

$$e_2 = \frac{A_{13} - A_{31}}{2\sin\theta}$$

$$e_3 = \frac{A_{21} - A_{12}}{2\sin\theta}$$

FIGURE 4.23: The formulas which determine the angle of rotation and the axis of rotation <e1, e2, e3>.

Chapter 5

Scoring of Gestures

5.1 Angle Based Comparison Function

This is the first way by which a hand gesture is scored. This scoring method compares one hand against another; namely, it is usually comparing the user's hand versus the target hand shown on the screen that the user was trying to imitate. It uses the angles between the three foremost bones, (distal, intermediate, proximal), of the five fingers as the primary means of determining how close a user's hand is to the target hand. It also uses the angle the wrist makes to the arm in its calculations to determine the final score for the hand. Figure 5.2 shows some important parts of the compare() function which scores the angular similarities between two hands. This function first makes sure that the two hands that are being compared are of the same kind; ie the hands must both be left or both must be right, otherwise the result of the compare() function will be 0. It then finds angles between adjacent finger bones in both hands and compares the two angles for the amount of similarity between them. This similarity between the two angles, which is the result of the compareAngles() method call, will be a number between 0 and 1. A weight applied to this similarity measure and then the result added to the summation variable x. This function relies on some weight parameters, see Figure 5.1, that are set higher for the longer bones that are closer to the knuckles. For example the proximal bones have a weight of 4; the intermediate bones have a weight of 2 and the distal bones have a weight of 1. This is because the bigger bones closer to the palm of the hand are a bit more limited in their mobility. Therefore, determining correlation between these corresponding bigger bones such as proximal has a higher influence on the overall value of the compare() function.

```
//weights for various bone types
static double weight_pinky_proximal = 4;
static double weight_pinky_intermediate = 2;
static double weight_pinky_distal = 1;
...
```

FIGURE 5.1: An example of the weights set for different bone types in the pinky finger.

```
public double compare(Hand h1, Hand h2) {
      //check if both hands are of the same type.
      if (h1.isLeft() == h2.isLeft()) {
        double x = 0;
4
        //wrist
        x += compareAngles(angleWristArm(h1), angleWristArm(h2))* weight_wrist;
        //five fingers "proximal". compareAngles always returns between 0-1
        x += compareAngles(anglePinkyProximal(h1),
             anglePinkyProximal(h2))*weight_pinky_proximal;
        x += compareAngles(angleRingProximal(h1), angleRingProximal(h2))*
            weight_ring_proximal;
        x += compareAngles(angleMiddleProximal(h1), angleMiddleProximal(h2))*
10
            weight_middle_proximal;
        x += compareAngles(angleIndexProximal(h1), angleIndexProximal(h2))*
            weight_index_proximal;
        x += compareAngles(angleThumbProximal(h1), angleThumbProximal(h2))*
12
             weight_thumb_proximal;
         //five fingers "intermediate"
        x += compareAngles(anglePinkyIntermediate(h1),
14
             anglePinkyIntermediate(h2))* weight_pinky_intermediate;
        //five fingers "distal"
16
        x += compareAngles(anglePinkyDistal(h1), anglePinkyDistal(h2))*
17
            weight_pinky_distal;
        x /= totalWeight();
19
        return x;
20
      } else{
         //if comparing left hand to right hand (or vice versa), return 0
23
      }
24
25
   }
```

FIGURE 5.2: This snippet of code shows the main skeleton of the function that determines the similarity between two hands by comparing angles between various bones in the hands.

It is also worth looking into how the compareAngles() function is defined as this function determines what percentage of the weights get applied. It takes in two angles as it parameters. These angles are determined via various functions which find angles between consecutive bones of a specific finger. An example of one such function is shown in Figure 5.3 which shows how the angle between the distal bone and the intermediate bone in the index finger is determined. The angle returned by these functions will always be less than 180 degrees because of the way the angleTo() function is defined in the Leap Motion API.

FIGURE 5.3: This function is one example of how the angles between adjacent bones are determined.

The compareAngles() is a mathematical function that determines the similarity between two angles passed into it by using the cosine trigonometry function. It will return an number between 0 and 1. It first finds the difference between the two angels. If the angles are so far apart and the distance is greater than 45 degrees, then the function will return a zero to indicate that there is not any meaningful closeness between the two angles being compared. Figure 5.4 shows this function's code.

```
private double compareAngles(float angle1, float angle2) {
   double differenceBtwAngles = Math.abs(angle1-angle2);
   //tmp can be at most pi/4 = 45
   double tmp = Math.min(differenceBtwAngles, Math.PI/4);
   //if tmp is exactly 45, will return 0. cos(90) = 0.
   return Math.cos(2*tmp);
}
```

FIGURE 5.4: This function determines how similar (or close together) two angles using cosine.

5.2 Component Based Comparison Function

The second way by which a score is assigned to a hand representing an attempted gesture will be discussed in this section.

The idea behind this method is to take a given hand and decompose it into smaller component that can be scored individually. Then these components scores will be combined to arrive at the cumulative score for the entire hand. Each finger is seen as a component. After considering all of the gestures being tested in this project, I realized that each finger can be in one of three main kinds of poses. All of the fingers except for the thumb are only seen in some variations of being straight, or being curved. The thumb, however, has its own special kind of pose, which deals with connecting to other fingers. For example in some of the gestures the thumb is touching the pinky; in some gestures it is touching the middle finger. Therefore, the third possible pose is represented by a finger name, such as "pinky" or "index" etc., and it represents the finger the thumb is touching in the gesture being analyzed. The way the algorithm is designed, it makes sense to assign this dynamic third pose to the thumb only. Figure 5.5 and Figure 5.6 shows one of the gestures used in this project, namely gesture9Left, to illustrate what is meant by the different poses different components of the hand can take. As we can see, all of the fingers are straight; the ring finger is curved; and the thumb is touching the ring finger. This "pose signature" of this gesture as it is used in code is shown in Figure 5.7. The pose signature for a certain gesture is the same regardless of whether left or right hand is being used. That is why the code sample shows two case statements for gesture9Left and gesture9Right.



FIGURE 5.5: Gesture showing different finger poses.



FIGURE 5.6: Same gesture after a 90 degree rotation.

```
case "gesture9Left":
case "gesture9Right":
fingerPoseMap.put("index", "straight");
fingerPoseMap.put("middle", "straight");
fingerPoseMap.put("ring", "curved");
fingerPoseMap.put("pinky", "straight");
fingerPoseMap.put("thumb", "ring");
break;
```

FIGURE 5.7: In the component based scroing, each gesture type gets a certain mapping for the kinds of poses fingers are expected to be in for that gesture.

The comparison function for the component based scoring of hand gestures is shown in Figure 5.8. It returns a number 0-100 just like the angle based comparison function to indicate the score for the hand being graded. This function gets the fingers for the hand and goes through and finds the individual grades for each finger. Then it combines the into a cumulative grade by weighing the fingers equally.

```
public static int compare(Hand h, String gestureType) {
     FingerList fingerList = h.fingers();
      //make sure you have five fingers
     if (fingerList.count() == 5) {
        //calculate grades for each finger
        HashMap<String, Double> grades =
            getFingersGradedMap(getFingerHashMap(fingerList),
            getFingerPoseMap(gestureType));
        //grade for whole hand
        double totalGrade = cumulativeGrade(grades);
        //score 0-100
        return (int) (totalGrade * 100.0);
10
     }
     return -1;
   }
```

FIGURE 5.8

To give a clearer idea about how the fingers actually get graded, the gradeFinger() function is shown in Figure 5.9. This function relies on three helper functions which calculate the straightness and curvedness of fingers and a function which returns the score for the thumb.

```
private static double gradeFinger(HashMap<String, Finger> fingerMap, Finger f,
       String pose) {
     if (pose.equals("straight")) {
        return straightnessOfFinger(f);
     } else if (pose.equals("curved")) {
        return curvednessOfFinger(f);
5
     }
6
     //thumb is not touching any finger
     else if (pose.equals("thumb")) {
        return straightnessOfFinger(f);
10
     //thumb touching other fingers
        Finger theFingerThumbTouches = fingerMap.get(pose);
        return getThumbScore(f, theFingerThumbTouches);
     }
15
  }
16
```

FIGURE 5.9: Given a finger a certain pose, this function returns a grade (0-1) for that finger. It uses helper functions to calculate grades for a finger in one the three main kinds of poses.

Two of these helper functions, the straightnessOfFinger() and curvednessOfFinger() are shown in Figure 5.10. These functions first find the sum of the angle between consecutive bones in the finger that is being graded. For a perfectly straight finger, the sum of these angles should be around 0 degrees. However, to allow for some leniency in the grading 30 degrees are subtracted from the sum of the angles. This allows for a buffer for the user that we intuitively as humans might guage as being relatively straight. For measuring the curvedness of a finger, the sum of the angles between the bones of the fingers should be as close to 270 as possible. However, again a buffer was provided to allow for not perfectly curled fingers to still

be valid enough to return a good score. Of course these parameters can be adjusted if this application was used in the real world. These were what I felt were good parameters when I wrote these grading functions.

```
private static double straightnessOfFinger(Finger f) {
     //best case = 0; worst case is: 90+90+90 = 270.
     double sumOfAngles = getSumOfThreeAnglesBetweenFingerBones(f);
     sumOfAngles = sumOfAngles - 30;//offset by 30 degrees
     double score = sumOfAngles / 270;//closer to 0 means a better score
     score = 1 - score;//conventional scale: 0 = bad, 1 = good.
     return snapScore0to1(score);
   }
8
   private static double curvednessOfFinger(Finger f) {
     //best case is: 90+90+90 = 270; adjusted bestcase = 210; worst case = 0;
10
     double sumOfAngles = getSumOfThreeAnglesBetweenFingerBones(f);
     double score = sumOfAngles / 210;//closer to 1 means a better score
     return snapScore0to1(score);
  }
14
```

FIGURE 5.10: These helper functions are similar to each other. They are used in grading the four fingers.

The helper function getThumbScore(), shown in Figure 5.11 is the more complicated of the three. The way a score is calculated for a thumb is by finding the distance between the tip bone of the thumb and any of the three outermost bones on the finger the thumb is supposed to be touching. The smallest distance is chosen as the tip of the thumb might be closer to any three of the distal, intermediate or proximal bones. This is because some people rest their thumb on the tip of the distal bone, others rest on top of the distal or the intermediate. This distance is scaled down by the smallest bone length multiplied by a scaling factor. Like the other two functions, straightnessOfFinger() and curvednessOfFinger(), the score that is returned is snapped to be between 0-1.

```
private static double getThumbScore(Finger thumb, Finger otherFinger) {
      //bones in thumb and finger
      HashMap<String, Bone> thumbMap = getHashMapOfBonesFromFinger(thumb);
      HashMap<String, Bone> fingerMap = getHashMapOfBonesFromFinger(otherFinger);
      //get center point of thumb's tip bone
      Vector thumbTip = thumbMap.get("distal").center();
      //finger bones
      Bone d = fingerMap.get("distal");
      Bone i = fingerMap.get("intermediate");
      Bone p = fingerMap.get("proximal");
      //length of bones
      float smallestBoneLength = (Math.min(Math.min(d.length(), i.length()),
          p.length());
      //distances from thumb tip to finger bones
      float d1 = thumbTip.distanceTo(d.center());
14
      float d2 = thumbTip.distanceTo(i.center());
15
      float d3 = thumbTip.distanceTo(p.center());
      double minDistance = (double) (Math.min(Math.min(d1, d2), d3));
      //scale and score
18
      double distanceScaledByBoneLength = minDistance / (smallestBoneLength * 3);
      double score = 1 - distanceScaledByBoneLength;
20
      return snapScore0to1(score);
21
  }
22
```

FIGURE 5.11: This function calculates the grade for the thumb that is supposed to be touching one of the four fingers. It calculates this score by distances rather than using angles.

One final thing to note about this comparison function is that it does not rely on a target hand for the comparison. Instead it relies on set gesture poses that are expected for the different gestures to arrive at its score. Therefore, it is more stable form of comparison. If the target hands are themselves not very good examples of the gestures being displayed, the angle based comparison method's performance could be unnecessarily affected.

Chapter 6

Application User Interface

In this chapter some of the useful UI features of the application will be discussed.

6.1 Main Layout

The application has three main scenes. The first one is the home screen which shows buttons to take the user to the other two scenes; "Enter Test Mode" button takes the user to the scene which is used for collecting data, and "Analyze Data" button takes the user to a scene that allows him/her to view the collected data. The home screen also contains two radio buttons to allow the user to select which hand (left or right) he/she will be testing with the gestures. Figure 6.1 shows the layout of the home screen.



FIGURE 6.1: The scene that the user sees initially when they load the application.

6.1.1 Creating or Loading User

The user can click on the "Enter Test Mode" to go to the scene where data will be collected. However, before the user can go to the data collection scene, they must first select a previously saved user or create a new user. All of the hand gesture data collected will be stored in an appropriately named folder for the user. Therefore, when the user clicks on the "Enter Test Mode" the first thing that comes up is a small pop-up screen that asks whether the user would like to create a new user or select an older user; see Figure 6.2 and Figure 6.3.

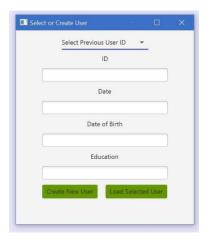


FIGURE 6.2: Pop-up window showing options to create or select user.



FIGURE 6.3: Pop-up window showing the previously created users.

The users shows in the dropdown menu are loaded from a CSV file which is used to record them. Whenever a user is created, a new entry is added to the CSV file for that user. As can be expected these operations are handled by using a convenient User class which encapsulates all the data associated with such an object.

6.1.2 Saving User Data

After having created or selected a user, the user is taken to the screen where he/she can start to proceed to practicing the ten gestures shown for whichever left/right hand was selected on the home screen; see Figure 6.4. On this data collection screen there are five buttons: the Next and Previous buttons cycle through the gestures, the Save button saves the currently being displayed user hand, the "End Testing" button goes back to the home screen, and the Rotate button which rotates the user and target hand a full 360 degrees slowly.

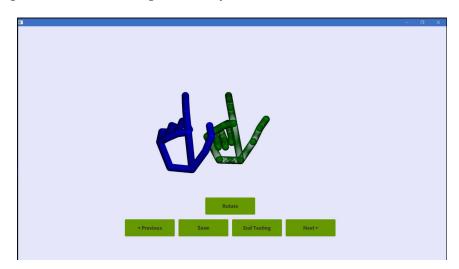


FIGURE 6.4: This scene is where the user can complete the shown gestures on the screen and the clinicians can collect the user's gesture data.

There are also some keyboard shortcuts that were coded that function in place of some of the buttons. For example, left and right arrows are mapped to the Previous and Next buttons, while the Enter key is mapped to causing the Save Gesture dialog window to pop up just as the Save button does. The user's hand will appear in full blue color on the screen, whereas the target hand the user is trying to imitate will appear in a dark green mesh material. The user's hand will be saved correctly regardless of whether it is exactly covering the target hand. The target hand is just there to give the user indication of the gesture he/she is doing. Figure 6.5 shows the Save Gesture dialog which allows the clinicians to type some comments and mark the result of the user's attempt in replicating the shown gesture.

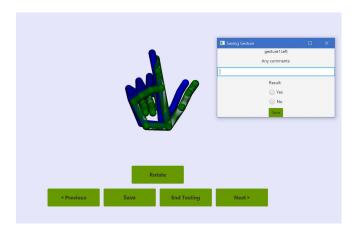


FIGURE 6.5: This dialog lets the clinicians grade and comment on the user's gesture before saving it.

By default the result is saved to be "Yes" which indicates the user successfully completed the gesture. In the code, there is an object called HandInfo which represents the data being saved including the full file path of where the Leap Motion Hand object will be serialized to, and the comments and the result of the gesture attempt.

6.1.3 Visual Rotation of Gesture

The Rotate button causes the 3D camera that is being used in the application to spin around. The user and target hands themselves do not move at all, it is the camera that orbits around them while being focused on them. A picture taken while the rotation was happening is shown in Figure 6.6.

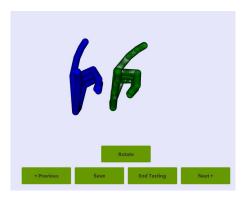


FIGURE 6.6: This figure shows instance of the rotation in action. The hands are shown at 90 degree angle because of the camera rotating around them.

The way this is achieved via code is shown in Figure 6.7. In order for the user to observe the rotation happen in real time on the screen, a Timeline object was used to set up an animation which can update the observable angleProperty() of a rotation transform object attached to the camera in advance. The timeline was set to last for seven seconds and the starting and ending angles were 0 and 360 degrees respectively. The code which actually initializes and adds the Rotate transform to the 3D perspective camera of the application is shown in Figure 6.8.

FIGURE 6.7: This code shows the Timeline object that was used to animate the movement of the 3D camera around the y-axis.

Since the "rotateAround" transform object is added first to the camera's transforms, it will be the last transform to be executed. This is exactly what we want so the camera will remain focused on the hands as it rotates.

```
// The 3D camera
PerspectiveCamera camera = new PerspectiveCamera(true);
// The rotation transform to be updated later
rotateAroundY = new Rotate(0, Rotate.Y_AXIS);
// rotation transform is added first. It will be executed last
camera.getTransforms().addAll(rotateAroundY, new Translate(0, -5, -50), new Rotate(-10, Rotate.X_AXIS));
```

FIGURE 6.8: This code shows the rotate transform that's added to the camera. This transform gets updated by the animation timeline object.

The hands themselves are not affected at all by the rotation and in fact during the seven seconds in which the camera is being rotated around the y-axis, the user can continue trying to imitate the gesture. However, during testing of the application it was found out that most users prefer to have to rotation happen in separately initially so they can just observe. Only after the rotation finishes is when they would start trying to perform the gesture.

6.1.4 Adding a New Gesture

From the data collection scene page, it is also possible to create a new target gesture and add it to the stock of target gestures being considered. This functionality was not really required by the clinicians, however it did come in useful when I was developing the application and it does have the potential of becoming a useful feature if the application is ever deployed into a real life environment. Currently the application interface does not have a button the user or clinicians can press to bring up the Save Gesture dialog window. Instead, there is a keyboard command that is listened for in the code and which is triggered by pressing the letter "G". This brings up the Save Gesture dialog, a picture of which is shown in Figure 6.9.



FIGURE 6.9: This dialog window will save the current user hand as a new gesture, in the list of target gestures.

Saving a new gesture will add it to the end of the list of currently used gestures.

6.2 Tabular Display of Data

If the user clicks on the "Analyze Data" button on the home screen, he/she will be taken to a scene shown in Figure 6.10. This scene shows all of the collected data for the currently selected user in a table on the left. The user is able to select rows in the table by pressing the Up or Down keys on the keyboard or by clicking on a row with their mouse.

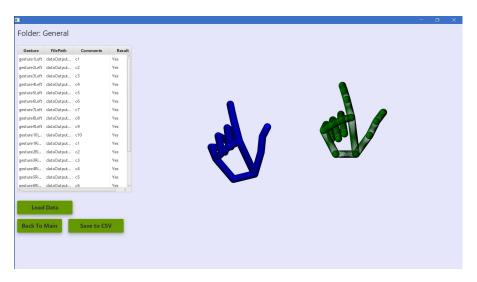


FIGURE 6.10: The scene which allows user to view and edit some of the meta-data on the hand objects saved for the currently loaded user.

This table is sortable by the columns and the columns can also be rearranged to be in a different order. In addition, some of the columns are actually editable and allow the user to specify changes to the data recorded. These changes will be updated for the user when the application is closed or the user navigates to a different scene. The way in which this table is constructed and made to be editable is shown in the snippets of code in Figure 6.11. This code is all from the controller Java class that is set for this scene. A part of this scene was built using Scene Builder and part of it was procedurally created using just Java code. The table section was prototyped in Scene Builder and the section of the scene to the right showing the two hands was created in Scene Builder.

```
//bind references with fxml annotations
  private TreeTableView<HandInfo2> treeTableView;
  private TreeTableColumn<HandInfo2, String> col3;
   //set up results column; using lambda function
   col3.setCellValueFactory((TreeTableColumn.CellDataFeatures<HandInfo2, String>
       param) -> param.getValue().getValue().result2Property());
   //set up results column to be editable
  ObservableList<String> list = FXCollections.observableArrayList();
  list.add("Yes");
11
  list.add("No");
   col3.setCellFactory(ChoiceBoxTreeTableCell.forTreeTableColumn(list));
   col3.setOnEditCommit(new EventHandler<TreeTableColumn.CellEditEvent<HandInfo2,</pre>
14
       String>>() {
      @Override
15
      public void handle(TreeTableColumn.CellEditEvent<HandInfo2, String> event) {
16
17
         TreeItem<HandInfo2> h =
             treeTableView.getTreeItem(event.getTreeTablePosition().getRow());
        h.getValue().setResult(event.getNewValue());
      }
19
   }):
20
  //make table editable
  treeTableView.setEditable(true);
```

FIGURE 6.11: These sections of code show how the table and a specific column were accessed from the FXML file. The code also shows how the column was set up to be editable by the user.

The code sample shows how the Result column of the table is setup using a lambda function syntax. It's setCellValueFactory() function takes in a parameter from which the result2Property() is returned. This property represents an observable data type that automatically responds to data changes, therefore when the Results column is updated in the view, the changes will automatically get reflected in the underlying model without the programmer having to do anything else. Similarly, the setOnEditCommit() function is set up the same column to allow user to edit it. The Filepath, Comments, and Result column were all made to be editable. An example of the table being edited is shown in Figure ?? This was done to help facilitate faster data collection and allow clinicians to come back and edit or correct the data if they need to. An instance of how this would be useful is if the patient being tested does not pass some of the gestures, then the clinicians can continue with the default settings of saving the gestures as passing and at a later time come back and edit the table with the real results. This might be more polite than selecting the Result of a gesture attempt to be "No" in from the data collection scene. The comments column was included to allow the clinicians to write any special comments they might need to in regards to a certain gesture.



FIGURE 6.12: This demonstrates the editable feature of the table.

6.3 Writing and Reading from CSV

Another useful feature of the application is the ability to easily read data in from a CSV file. To do so, the user clicks on the "Load Data" button; this opens up a Java FileChooser dialog which allows the user to specify the CSV file (see Figure ??). The directory path for the dialog window that opens up will be set the current folder location from which the application is running.

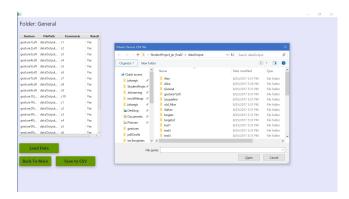


FIGURE 6.13: Load data from CSV file.

Similarly, the option to save the current data shown in the table to a CSV file is also given. It is accessed by clicking on the "Save to CSV" button which opens up a dialog very similar to the one above, except that dialog allows the user to name the file the data will be saved as. To facilitate these features, the HandInfo class has methods defined that allow for its data properties to be output to a comma separated string.

6.4 Artifacts and Distribution

After the application was completed, it had to be packaged in such a way that it should be very easy to distribute to the clinicians. In addition, it should be very easy to run. In other words, no complicated command line options must be required to be typed by the clinicians in order to use the application. Of course the Leap Controller and its necessary software should be installed on the computer in order for this application to be used. In 2013, Leap Motion its own version of an App Store where developers could upload and publish the applications they made with the Leap Motion software. It also represented the central place for people who had bought the Leap Motion controller to be able to find quality applications they could purchase or download onto their computer. However, the company decided to close down this online App Store on June 30, 2017. It is focusing now more on VR technology and

how it can be incorporated with a newer version of the Leap Motion company's software [1]. I had been originally planning on uploading my application to the Leap Motion's App Store but because of this news, I had to work on the packaging and distribution by myself.

For my development environment, I used the IntelliJ IDE. This IDE provides tools to help create build artifacts, such as a standalone JAR file, for a Java project. In order to create the artifact, one needs to open the Project Structure window and navigate to the Artifacts option in the left hand panel. The various build properties that were set up for the distribution of this project are shown in Figure 6.14.

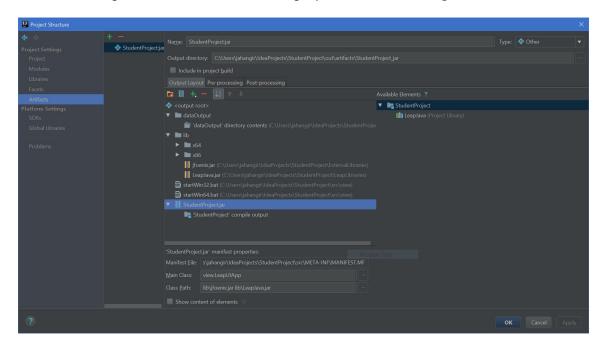


FIGURE 6.14: Project Structure Artifact settings. In the "Output Layout" tab it also shows where the manifest file containing these settings will be saved.

In the "Output Layout" section of the settings, two folders were set up also. One of these folders, dataOutput, will take the contents of the project's dataOutput folder at the time of the artifact build process. The other folder, lib, is set up to contain all of the additional libraries the project relies on such as Jfoenix and LeapJava. This lib folder also contains the native libraries needed to allow the application to talk to the system process that will be running the Leap Motion controller device. Lastly, I also needed to create two batch files, startWin64.bat and startWin32.bat, to allow the clinicians to run the application by just double clicking on one of these files depending on the system architecture of their computer. The batch script that resides in the startWin64.bat file is shown in Figure 6.15.

FIGURE 6.15: This script contains the Java command that will run the prepared Jar file.

[@]echo off

java -Djava.library.path=%cd%\lib\x64 -Dfile.encoding=windows-1252 -jar
%cd%\StudentProject.jar

The result of the build artifact process will result in the application being packaged up into folder with its content shown in Figure 6.16. The JAR file can be run by double clicking on the appropriate batch file. The batch file's Java command will be executed with the runtime parameters to help it locate the native libraries within the folder structure. Because of the way the batch script is defined with the

%cd%

the application can be saved to or moved any location on one's computer and the application will be able to run just fine.



FIGURE 6.16: The older structure of the application containing all of its dependencies.

Therefore, the application is packaged and distributed in a self-contained fashion. As long as the user's computer (currently only for Windows OS) has Java v1.8 and Leap Motion software v1.2 installed the application can be run easily.

Chapter 7

Data Collection and Results

Data collection for this project happened in two main ways. One was via the clinicians, who represented the clients who would be using the software this project built on patients in John Radcliffe Hospital. The other way was through myself reaching out to students and other people around my college to ask them if they would like to participate in the data collection part of my MSc project. I will also show some of the user feedback I received. Then some analysis of the control data collect via the application will be discussed; after which the original goals of this project revisited.

7.1 Data Collection Approach

Once I had finished the coding part of the project, I collected some control data by myself which was stored in the General folder in the application. I then decided to gather some more data from other students and members of my college. To do so, I prepared a small survey for my participants (which is shown in Appendix A) that asked them some simple questions such as their general age bracket, their gender. The survey also had a question that asked the participants whether they preferred the vertical orientation fix done on the UI model after two versions of the application was shown to them, one with the vertical adjustment and one without. Every single participant found the vertical adjustment to be helpful towards the use-case the application was designed for. Lastly there was a question that asked them for "Any other comments." where they could express their overall impression of the application. To make it easier for the participants I allowed them to speak their comments aloud and with their permission I was able to record them on my phone. I will be sharing some of the user feedback I received in the next section.

The total amount of data I was able to gather accounted for 10 participants. Six of them were found by me and four of the participants' data was sent to me by the clinicians. Of the participants I interviewed, 50 percent of them chose to be identified with the "Middle Age" age bracket and 50 percent chose the "Young Adult" option. Unfortunately I do not have the ages for the data sent to me by the clinicians, but I would assume they probably fell in one of these age groups also. In terms of gender distribution, 3 of the participants were female, while the other 7 were male.

In gathering this data, I was reminded of my Requirements Engineering course work. The final project in the module also had a component for which we had to go out into the environment of the technological artifact that we chose for our study and collect some data about its use. That final project was very good because it forced me to go out and collect data from people. I used the same skills I learned then to help me collect data about this project. As simple as it looks, I feel approaching relative strangers can be a bit difficult. It makes one feel embarrassed to bother them when they might be busy. However as I learned from my Requirements Engineering project and this final MSc project, this process gets easier the more one practices. One

thing that I feel helped me to feel less guilty about taking people's time in a very busy time of the year was that I bought chocolate candies as a token of gratitude for their time. These were given as the end of the data collection and subsequent discussion; every participant enjoyed this little surprise. One of the biggest takeaways for me during the process was the confidence I gained.

7.2 User Feedback

In this section, I will showcase some of the feedback that users of the application gave. The responses gathered were all positive with some suggestions about what could be changed. For example one participant was very enthusiastic about the whole process and felt it was a bit like game. In his feedback, he gave suggestions as to how this application could be even more "gameified" to attract the users to practice it more. This was definitely a good suggestion and could be one of the directions taken for a future project in this area. Here are some actual quotes from participants testing the application:

"In the beginning, it took a bit of training to get used to it. But, after a couple of minutes, I got quicker at it. By the time I got to my right hand, I felt as if I was becoming more adept. And while it took a bit to master the configuration to mirror what was on the screen, I realized that it wasn't completely necessary to do that. There are the algorithms there that recognize when I have got the correct hand gestures. So, I felt more relaxed when I knew that. But.. apart from that, it certainly got the coordinations of my hand and arm muscles going."—Andrew

"It was fun to do. It is a good exercise. Excellent intentions... I had to splay the hand immediately, and then configuring the hand became much easier. I kept the hand as much as I could in a horizontal attitude, but also there was a tendency to forget about where the hand was going. And actually the hand tended to descend more to the sensor, which you have mentioned that I have got to keep a certain distance. That was a little issue, as long as I remember that its fine." –Timothy

"Do you think it would be useful to have an element of a game-like scenario? To be quite honest, its fun to do. As in, you know, you want to do your best out there. I want to mimic it much as possible." –Zhang

"I thought it was quite easy to use. I like that it didn't seem to crash. It gave quite a dynamic and live view of your hand. It didn't seem to stress and freeze up. Once you have a trial, then yea, its easier. Once you realize that you put your hand in certain positions, you learn a bit more about how it works." –Amber

"I think some training is important. The feedback on the screen is a little bit confusing sometimes because sometimes it doesn't mimic exactly what you are doing. Sometimes there is cross-feedback going back and forth; I am trying to adapt to what I see on the screen but the screen is supposed to adapt to me. I think the rotation feature of the application is helpful, as is the vertical adjustment of the user's hand" –Paul

Above were some comments from users testing the application. The participants quickly became adept at understanding how to use the application. For example one of the things that one has to do from time to time when using the Leap Motion sensor is open the hand fully with the palm facing downwards. This is to recalibrate the device if it starts not behaving correctly because of occlusion, which is when some of the fingers below cover the fingers above and the device is unable to collect good data about the hand. After telling participants about this, most of them were able

to resolve issues of the computer screen model not replicating their real hand's gesture fully. The participants would quickly reopen their hand and try again and often the issue they would be having would be resolved. Sometimes participants would forget to keep their hand in an area above the device. They would unconsciously move their hand too forward or too much to the side. Of course, these kind of problems would quickly resolve themselves through just a little bit of more training and practice.

7.3 Analysis of Control Data

In this section, I will briefly discuss the scoring results of the data collected in testing the usability of this application and the gesture comparison methods it implements. In the Figure 7.1 we can see the average scores for the 10 left handed gestures. The first bar shows the score as determined by the Angle based scoring algorithm.

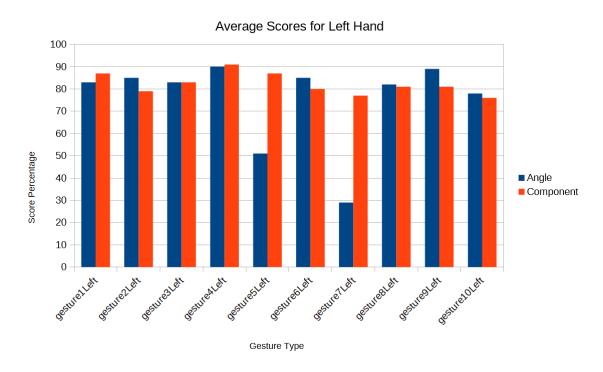


FIGURE 7.1: The average scores for the 10 left hand gestures based upon the Angle and Component comparison functions.

The results were very good for both algorithms for most of the gestures considered. However, there is a noticeable dip in the Angle based blue bar for gesture7Left. This gesture is the one where only the pinky is extended and all of the other fingers are curled in; a picture of this gesture is shown in Figure 7.2.



FIGURE 7.2: Gesture7Left, which is all of the fingers curled expect for the pinky.

The reason why the Angle based score was so low for this figure was because this Angle based comparison function returned a zero value for five of the users tested. This zero value is automatically returned by the algorithm if the user hand and target hand passed into it are of opposite types; i.e. right hand compared with left hand will always return zero. Therefore, it is plausible the that for this gesture, the Leap Motion sensor confused some user hands showing gesture7Left to be showing a right hand with the thumb extended. This would have caused the many zeros and thus the low score for gesture7Left. Another gesture that scored a little bit poorly for the Angle based algorithm was gesture5Left. For this gesture, there were not any zeros recorded but it did receive pretty low scores for five users. Since the Angle based algorithm depends on the target hand for the comparison, I feel these low scores some users received might have been due to the fact that their gesture wasn't matching the target hand closely. The target hand used for this gesture could itself have been a little bit better also. It's a little bit sub-par. This deficiency could explain the low score observed for gesture5Left. Other than these two gestures, all other averages are very good. And even for these two bad cases the low averages were caused by a few bad apples; the scores for these two problem cases were not low all around.

Below is a chart, Figure 7.3, that shows the average scores for the 10 right handed gestures.

7.4. Goals Revisited 55

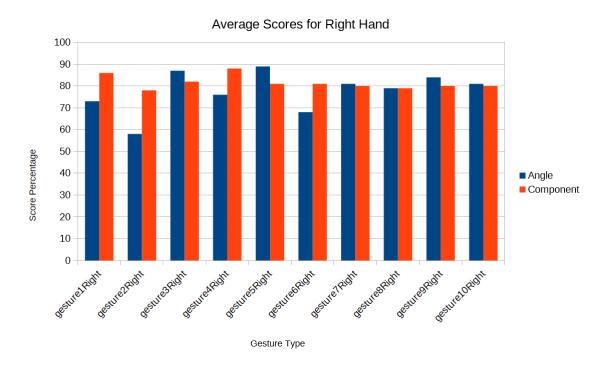


FIGURE 7.3: The average scores for the 10 right hand gestures based upon the Angle and Component comparison functions.

The chart shows that most of the right hand gesture data collected scored relatively high for all hands. The only is gesture2Right's Angle based score which is below 60 percent. However, that is again caused by just two users who scored very low for that gesture. A file containing all of the scoring data is shown in Appendix Appendix B.

7.4 Goals Revisited

Throughout the course of this entire project, I met with the clinicians, Dr Samrah Ahmed, Dr Christopher Butler, and Nikolas Drummond, several times to discuss the application as it was being designed and built. The features they requested were implemented in this software. In the final visit to the hospital, the complete version of the application was delivered for the clinicians for testing and collecting some control data. They feedback received from them was very positive. All of their major requested features were implemented satisfactorily. These goals include creating an easy to use application interface that allows the clinicians to collect data from patients. This data can be analyzed via two algorithms which grade the patients attempted hand gestures. The application provides the clinicians a scene to view the data that they collect and make appropriate modifications as they need to. One of the requests from the clinicians that surfaced during one of the meetings was the need to have a way for the patients to observe the hand gesture from variety of angles. This goal was also satisfactorily completed by providing a button that rotates the 3D camera around the user and target hand. The application allows the clinicians to save/load the data to/from an external CSV file. In addition the application allows for the user to perform the gestures in a variety of hand orientations and all the while shows the user a set vertical position on the screen. An additional benefit of this is that no additional rig or frame is required in order to collect good data from patients. Thus, the main UI and usability goals of this project were met.

Chapter 8

Conclusion

The final version of the application was packaged and distributed to the clinicians. They were happy with final product and have begun initial use of it. This project completed the developmental goals and other functional requirements set out for it and was a successful product. Its algorithms behave well for the a variety of gestures and have the potential to be even extended to other gesture types as they are generic algorithms not tied down to just the 20 gestures considered for this project. This application can be a tool in the arsenal of clinicians who are seeing patients with apraxia and provide an objective measurement of symptoms of that condition. Other than the Leap Motion controller device, the application does not require any additional hardware or setup rig.

8.1 Future Work

This application can be extended and made better in several way which can be considered in some future work in this subject area. As was suggested by one of the participants who tested the application in its final form, there could be a game component of the application that could be used by patients who need to practice difficult gestures. In fact, inspiration could be taken from popular games such as Minecraft and an environment could be set up where the user is able to build the virtual worlds using purely hand gestures. This kind of feature would make the application very engaging for the user and also make their time spent practicing gesture very enjoyable and rewarding.

The gesture recognition algorithms could be improved in some ways also. For one thing, the algorithms could be improved to handle fail cases better. When a human clinician is seeing patients perform gestures, he or she is quickly able to see that if one finger is completely missing the gesture, then the user is not successful in completing the gesture. However, the algorithms currently take an holistic approach to grading and don't have logic that would cause them to return a low score based upon the failure of one or two fingers. Machine learning could also be considered in designing the algorithms. This could allow them to learn the certain parameters that are needed for different patients with different levels of apraxia.

8.2 Personal Note

This project has been quite a journey for me. It has been very exciting and fun but also very challenging at times. It has been super stressful at times and exhilarating at other times. The bugs I was able to find and fix, the late nights spent typing and typing my report. It's been an eventful journey. I have grown a lot as a student and as a person through this project. It has taught me lots of academic knowledge,

familiarized me very various technologies that I did not even know before starting this project, and it has taught me about perseverance through difficult times. It is a journey that I will remember as I leave Oxford in the coming weeks.

For this project, several of the modules I took over the course of this year helped me. Functional programming was very useful as it provided me with a paradigm for structuring and writing cleaner more modular code. Java 1.8 has lambdas which I found to be succinct tools for writing my code especially when lots of inner classes were needed to handle events. Also my module on Visual Analytics helped me to design the UI of my application better. It made me think about which UI features would be the most useful for patients and for clinicians. Concurrency was a big component of my project. Understanding synchronization and multi-threading concepts was a necessary component of developing some of the features that are shown in this project. Therefore, the Concurrency module I took in Hillary Term had impact on my understanding these concepts better and applying them in a real world application. Lastly I would like to mention that the practical experience I gained doing my final project in Requirements Engineering course really helped me to gain confidence in tackling the somewhat intimidating phase of data collection for this project.

This project also taught me a lot about software engineering as a discipline. I really felt the Agile Development framework is very useful in developing an application quickly. I personally used mini goals every day and every working session to keep myself motivated. These goals would often be broken down into smaller and smaller pieces. This process sounds pretty simple, but it was a crucial component of my work cycle. I also learned to use tools such as Github and Latex more effectively.

I feel very lucky to have been able to work on such an interesting topic that enabled me to learn and use a host of cool technologies together. It has been a great and memorable experience.

Appendix A

Participant Survey

Participant Survey

Dear Participant,

Thank you so much for taking your time to fill out this questionnaire. Your answers will constitute as important data for my project concerning Leap Motion Gesture Recognition. If you feel uncomfortable about a question, you do not have to answer it.

- 1. What is your gender?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
- 2. What is your age?
 - a. Teenager
 - b. Young Adult
 - c. Middle Age
 - d. Elderly
- 3. Do you think the vertical readjustment of the user's hand is helpful?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 4. Any other comments:

Appendix B

gesture4Left

Participant Data

```
gesture1Left
gesture1Left, dataOutput/General/2017-08-10 01-50-09.hand, c1, Yes, 82, 91
gesture1Left, dataOutput/Alex/2017-08-18 12-54-48.hand, na, Yes, 93, 94
gesture1Left, dataOutput/Alex/2017-08-18 12-58-08.hand, na, Yes, 78, 78
gesture1Left, dataOutput/Jacqueline/2017-08-10 16-07-08.hand, na, Yes, 79, 86
gesture1Left, dataOutput/Stefan/2017-08-23 17-38-35.hand, na, Yes, 76, 75
gesture1Left, dataOutput/test1/2017-08-22 22-31-02.hand, 1, Yes, 77, 92
gesture1Left, dataOutput/test2/2017-08-22 22-45-46.hand, 1, Yes, 96, 94
gesture1Left, dataOutput/test3/2017-08-22 23-28-55.hand, 1, Yes, 84, 77
gesture1Left, dataOutput/test4/2017-08-23 00-00-55.hand, 1, Yes, 95, 91
gesture1Left, dataOutput/test5/2017-08-23 00-26-20.hand, na, Yes, 80, 89
gesture1Left, dataOutput/test6/2017-08-24 02-27-53.hand, na, Yes, 80, 92
gesture2Left
gesture2Left, dataOutput/General/2017-08-10 01-50-31.hand, c2, Yes, 87, 80
gesture2Left, dataOutput/Alex/2017-08-18 12-54-56.hand, na, Yes, 82, 76
gesture2Left, dataOutput/Alex/2017-08-18 12-58-11.hand, na, Yes, 78, 76
gesture2Left, dataOutput/Jacqueline/2017-08-10 16-07-28.hand, na, Yes, 93, 78
gesture2Left, dataOutput/Stefan/2017-08-23 17-38-38.hand, na, Yes, 84, 85
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gesture2Left, dataOutput/test5/2017-08-23 00-26-35.hand, na, Yes, 85, 82
gesture2Left, dataOutput/test6/2017-08-24 02-28-41.hand, na, Yes, 90, 86
gesture3Left
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gesture3Left, dataOutput/Alex/2017-08-18 12-55-01.hand, na, Yes, 94, 78
gesture3Left, dataOutput/Alex/2017-08-18 12-58-15.hand, na, Yes, 87, 83
gesture3Left, dataOutput/Jacqueline/2017-08-10 16-08-05.hand, na, Yes, 91, 86
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gesture3Left, dataOutput/test2/2017-08-22 22-46-50.hand, 1, Yes, 85, 75
gesture3Left, dataOutput/test3/2017-08-22 23-30-38.hand, 1, Yes, 85, 89
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gesture3Left, dataOutput/test5/2017-08-23 00-26-45.hand, na, Yes, 81, 88
gesture3Left, dataOutput/test6/2017-08-24 02-29-02.hand, na, Yes, 75, 83
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gesture10Left size: 11 , 11 angleAvg: 78 componentAvg: 76
gesture8Right size: 11 , 11 angleAvg: 79 componentAvg: 79
gesture1Left size: 11 , 11 angleAvg: 83 componentAvg: 87
gesture7Left size: 11 , 11 angleAvg: 29 componentAvg: 77
gesture3Right size: 11 , 11 angleAvg: 87 componentAvg: 82
gesture5Left size: 11 , 11 angleAvg: 51 componentAvg: 87
gesture10Right size: 11 , 11 angleAvg: 81 componentAvg: 80
Averages for each gestureType:
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gesture2Right angleAvg: 58 componentAvg: 78
gesture3Right angleAvg: 87 componentAvg: 82
gesture4Right angleAvg: 76 componentAvg: 88
gesture5Right angleAvg: 89 componentAvg: 81
gesture6Right angleAvg: 68 componentAvg: 81
gesture7Right angleAvg: 81 componentAvg: 80
gesture8Right angleAvg: 79 componentAvg: 79
gesture9Right angleAvg: 84 componentAvg: 80
gestue10Right angleAvg: 81 componentAvg: 80
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gesture1Left angleAvg: 83 componentAvg: 87

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