
EyeWear 2018: Second Workshop on EyeWear Computing

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Abstract

Virtual/augmented reality headsets, smart sensing glasses and similar "smart eyewear" have recently emerged as commercial products and can provide an interesting research platform for a range of research fields, including human-computer interaction, ubiquitous computing, pervasive sensing, and social sciences. The proposed workshop will bring together researchers from a wide range of computing disciplines, such as mobile and ubiquitous computing, eye tracking, optics, computer vision, human vision and perception, usability, as well as systems research. The workshop is a continuation from a 2016 and will focus on discussing application scenarios and shared interest use cases for eyewear computing between corporate and academic researchers.

Author Keywords

Eyewear, Head-mounted Displays, Smart Glasses, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Activity Recognition, Perception-Aware Computing, Human Augmentation

ACM Classification Keywords

H.5.m [Information interfaces and presentation (e.g., HCI)]: Miscellaneous

Introduction

We often believe the face to be a reflection of our personality or character. It holds most of our senses - sight, hearing, taste, smell and is used to express affect. Head and face seem to be an obvious choice to place sensors and actuators to track user's activities and provide interaction possibilities.

The head and face would thus seem to be an obvious location to place sensors to track user activity and state, in particular with respect to affect, cognitive activities, interaction, and nutrition [1, 6]. However, for a long time, head/face based wearables have been restricted to special purpose, niche applications. While hearing aids and mobile headsets are widely accepted as head-worn devices, users in public spaces often consider novel head-attached sensors and devices as uncomfortable, irritating, or stigmatizing. Yet, given a number of recent technological, we believe eyewear computing will soon transition into mainstream technology and prominent research field. In essence, because the face is so important to humans, under every day circumstances people are highly sensitive to ergonomic and social acceptance aspects of anything placed there. It is telling that in early wearable computing ergonomic studies the head was not even included [2]. Early ego-centric vision devices were rather bulky, expensive, and their battery lifetime severely limited their use to short durations of time[4]. Building on existing work in wearable computing, recent commercial egocentric vision devices and mobile eye trackers, such as Google Glass, SMI ETG, and J!NS meme, pave the way for a new generation of "smart eyewear" that are light-weight, low-power, convenient to use, and increasingly look like ordinary glasses[3, 5].

This workshop proposal is motivated by the observation that, through a combination of consumer attitude shifts and

technological advances, complex head/face based sensing/interaction is increasing becoming feasible for use in every day real world situations. We've seen in recent years that Eyewear Computing transitioned from a mere academic research interest to commercially viable products. Recent advances in real-life tracking of physical and cognitive activities (e.g. reading, detection of fatigue, concentration) are additional enabling technologies for new application fields towards a quantified self for the mind [7].

The workshop is a continuation from the first in 2016, which focused mostly on the enabling technologies. We will still discuss enabling sensors and actuators, yet in contrast to 2016, we will focus more on application scenarios and creating the academic and corporate connections for an open eyewear platform to foster exchanges in sensing, interaction, hardware and software know-how.

Topics

Smart Eyewear can be a powerful enabling technology for a broad range of computer science fields. We will tackle the following research problems and topics during the seminar split into six categories tackling state of the art (topics 2 and 3), future opportunities (topics 1, 2 and 6), and potential issues and perils (topics 4 and 5).

1. **Discovering suitable application cases:** On the one side we have the fast miniaturization and integration of sensing/interaction devices into an even smaller form factor, on the other side the activity recognition and computer vision researcher succeed in detecting and distinguishing ever more complex tasks and situations. The question comes up which activities are the most useful for application cases that have the most impact on society. What are the best application fields to apply smart eyewear for the

best impact?

2. **Defining sensing and interaction modalities to better understand human behavior:** Driven by the application cases which sensing modalities are the most interesting to be integrated in smart eyewear. What are the important activities to focus on (e.g. fatigue detection, concentration tracking?). Which modalities give us the most insights in human behavior without too high demands on battery and processing power?
3. **Exploring long term physical and cognitive activity sensing for behavior change:** How can we use these real life recordings of physical, physiological and cognitive signals on the head to induce wanted long-term behavior change for users? As we humans usually seek instant gratification (e.g. choosing to eat the cheese cake although wanting to lose weight), we believe that the quality of sensing and interaction possibilities of eyewear computing can enable visualizations, human computer interfaces and smart assistants that help us better understand the long term effects of our behavior. In relation with the sensing and interaction on smart eyewear, what are methods and techniques to help people their goals?
4. **Understanding consequences of long-term use:** As we believe eyewear computing provides unique capabilities to change human behavior for the better due to the integration potential of sensors, haptic, audio and optical output devices, we also need to explore potential negative effects of wearing such devices. This ranges from perceptual issues regarding the use of wearable displays (binocular rivalry, vertical and horizontal gaze comfort, instrument myopia, eye strain, accommodation-convergence mismatch)

to potential skin irritations during the deployment of electrodes, or other sensors necessary to touch the skin.

5. **Exploring effects on other fields:** Especially when we discuss large scale, long monitoring of cognitive activities, we believe a strong impact on psychology, sociology and cognitive science as eyewear computing can be an enabling technology for them to become less model and more data driven sciences utilizing real world setups instead of controlled but artificial laboratory settings.
6. **Discussing privacy and social implications.** On the one hand, sensing becomes more and more personal. For example our eye gaze contains a lot of very intimate information and it would be very questionable if users are forced to share these signals with large corporations. On the other hand, using transparent wearable capture and access devices might violate the privacy of other people without them even realizing it.

ACTIVITIES

We propose a one-day workshop **on the 8th October** with presentation sessions in the morning, development of scenarios in the early afternoon, and group discussions on fundamental challenges in the late afternoon. In the following we describe pre-workshop preparations and the post-workshop follow up.

Presentations

The workshop will start with an introduction and the keynotes to the workshop topic (10:00-12:30), followed by short introductory presentations to get familiar with the participants and the topics they are working on. Authors will get 5 minutes to present their work keeping presentations short

and focused. While listening to the presentations, all participants will be asked to take notes on provided Post-Its, which we will share on a large whiteboard in order to prepare for the discussion sessions. The presentation session will be broken into two parts with a short coffee break in between. This will allow enough time to discuss different ideas coming out from the presentations.

Scenario Development

After the presentation sessions, workshop participants will start developing scenarios in groups. All participants will write notes on Post-Its, which will be added to the Post-Its from the morning session on the whiteboard. In order to sort out the challenges and opportunities for technologies that augment the human mind, we will create an affinity diagram analysis of the Post-Its. Group analysis will start at 15:00 and will end at 15:30.

Group Discussion

After the group analysis we will have a longer coffee break (15:30-16:00) and then discuss identified challenges and opportunities (16:00-17:00). The organizers will actively interact with the audience to stimulate discussion. After that we will summarize key experiences from the workshop and will plan follow up activities (17:00-17:30).

Post-Workshop Follow Up

At the workshop organizers will take pictures/document the outcome of the analysis and the content on the whiteboard. This will be made available to the workshop participants through a shared Dropbox folder. The participants will be invited to an existing online repository on Zotero where they can share relevant papers to the workshop themes.

Organizers

Benjamin Tag is a researcher at Keio Media Design working on ...

Oliver Augereau is an Assistant Professor ...

Ozan Cakmakci is a lead optical research and development engineer focusing on future optical architectures for Google Glass at Google[x]. His research interests include optical system design, freeform optics, kernel methods, gradient index optics, as well as diffractive and holographic optics. He holds a PhD in Optics from Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers (CREOL), University of Central Florida. He has worked or interned at Optical Research Associates, Synopsys Optical Solutions Group, Starlab Research, Canon Research Labs, and BMW Research and Development.

Kai Kunze works as an associate project professor at Keio Media Design, Keio University. Beforehand, he held an assistant professorship at Osaka Prefecture University. He received a Summa Cum Laude for his PhD thesis, University of Passau. He was visiting researcher at the MIT Media Lab. His work experience includes internships at the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), Sunlabs Europe and the Research Department of the German Stock Exchange. His major research contributions are in pervasive computing, especially in sensing, physical and cognitive activity recognition. Recently, he focuses on tracking knowledge acquisition activities, especially reading.

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