



# Interactive Surfaces & Spaces

## Lecture 07: Introduction

© 2025 Dr. Florian Echtler

Aalborg University

# Interactive Surfaces & Spaces

- Definition & Differentiation
- Big Issues (again)
- Research Context
- Examples

# Definition

- Surfaces
  - 2D position (+ 0.5 aka „Fishtank“)
  - 1D rotation



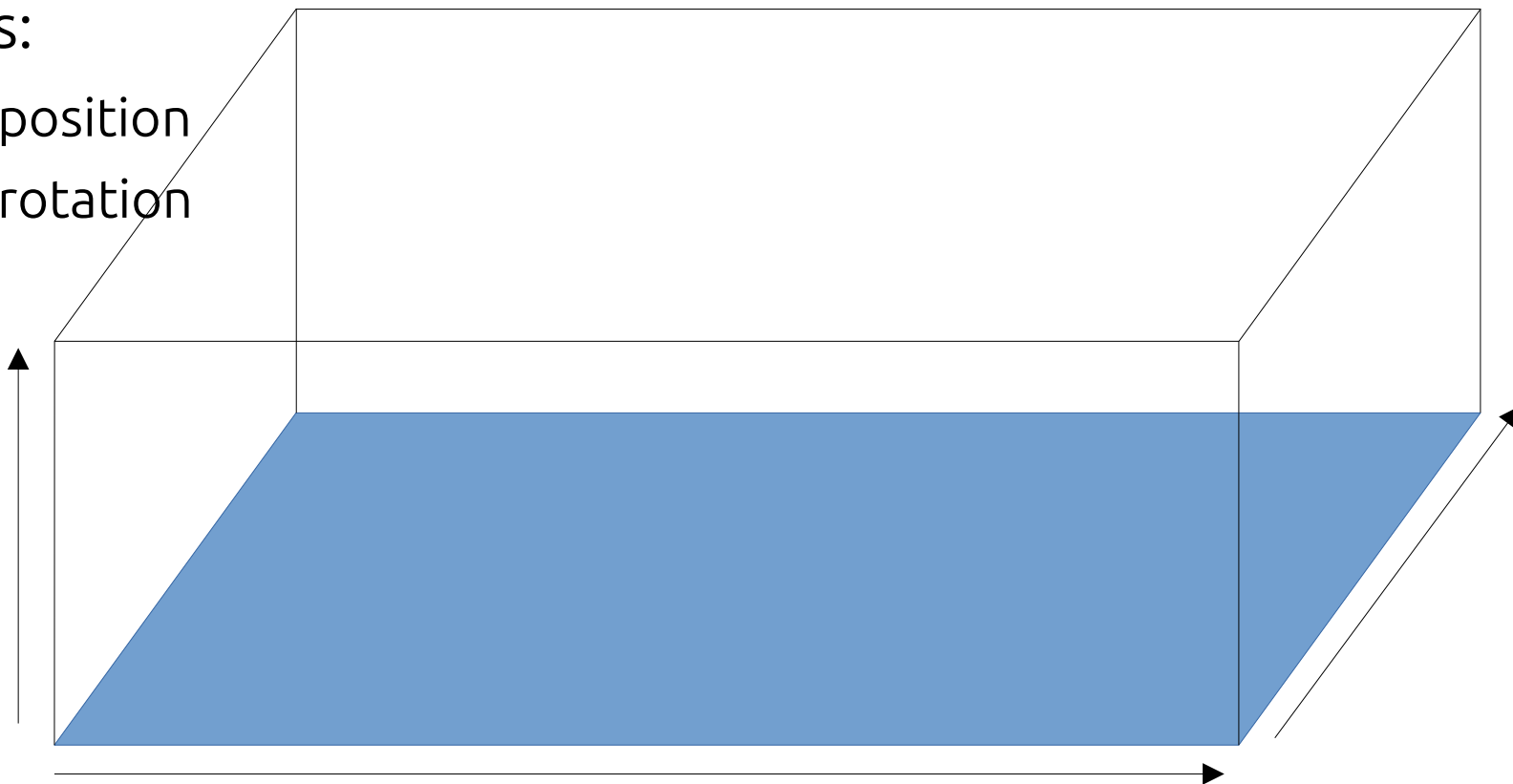
# Definition

- Surfaces: Input types (cf. **TUIO 2.0**)
  - (Multi-)Touch: 2D positions (+ rotation, + hover)
  - Pen/stylus: ID, 2D position, rotation, angle, pressure, hover
  - Tokens: ID, 2D position, rotation
  - „Blobs“: 2D position, rotation, shape



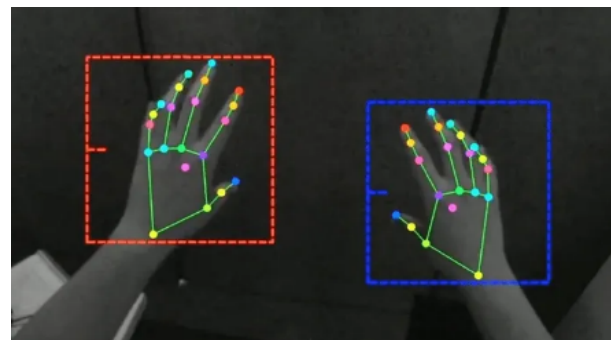
# Definition

- Spaces:
  - 3D position
  - 3D rotation



# Definition

- Spaces: Input types
  - Tracked objects: 3D position + 3D rotation = 6D pose
  - Tracked controllers: 6D pose + buttons
  - Hand pose (cf. lecture 4): 6D pose for all joints
  - Full body pose



# Differentiation

- Is a tablet an interactive surface? A smartphone?
- Is wearing a MR headset creating an interactive space?



# Big Issues

Image source (FU): [Minority Report \(2002\)](#)

- Similar to mobile devices:
  - Touch-related issues
  - Gestures and discoverability
- Unique to ISS:
  - Infrastructure requirements
  - Fatigue and reachability
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33Raqx9sFbo>





# Research Context

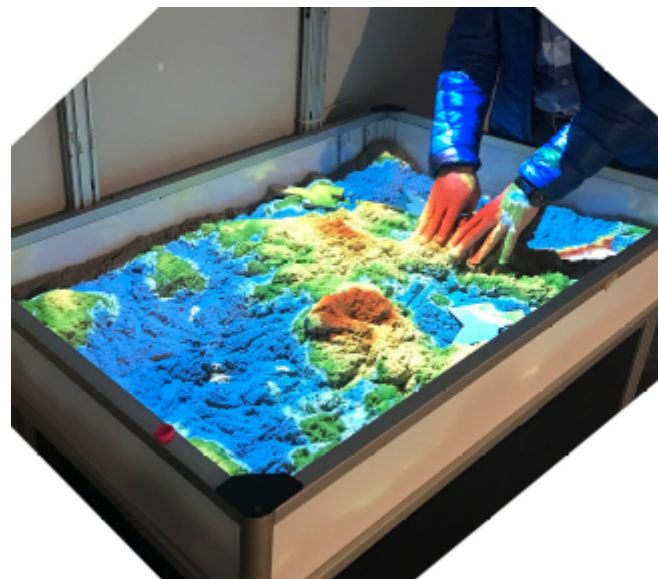
- ISS conference series (ACM)
  - More involved setup/hardware requirements
  - Smaller user group than mobile devices (cf. ACM MobileHCI)→ more „research“-centric applications
- Related research areas:
  - Tangible Interaction (cf. ACM TEI)
  - Mixed Reality (cf. ACM VRST, IEEE VR)

# Research Context

- Related to „Tangible Interaction“ (cf. ACM TEI)



Reactable



SandScape

# Research Context

- Related to „Mixed Reality“ (cf. ACM VRST, IEEE VR)



Virtual Valcamonica

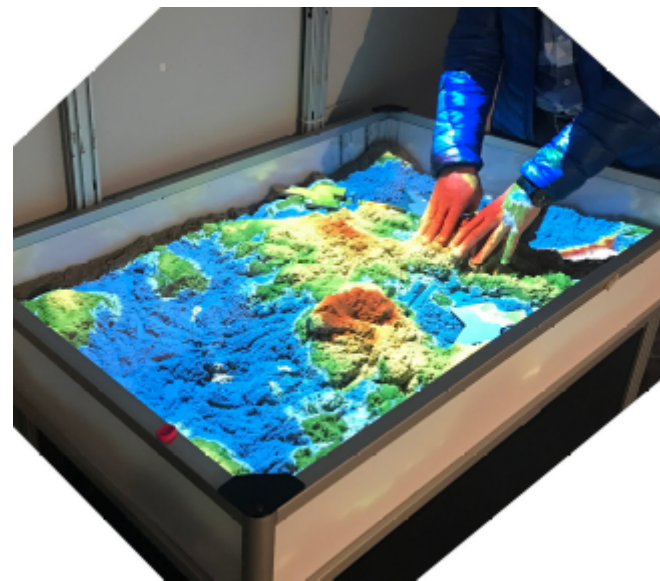


Anatomy education

# Examples: SandScape (2002)

Source: <https://tangible.media.mit.edu/project/sandscape/>

- Landscape simulator (with real sand/clay)
- e.g. for hydrodynamics, weather, architecture, ...
- <https://vimeo.com/44538789>



# Examples: Reactable (2009)

Source: <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/1226969.1226998>

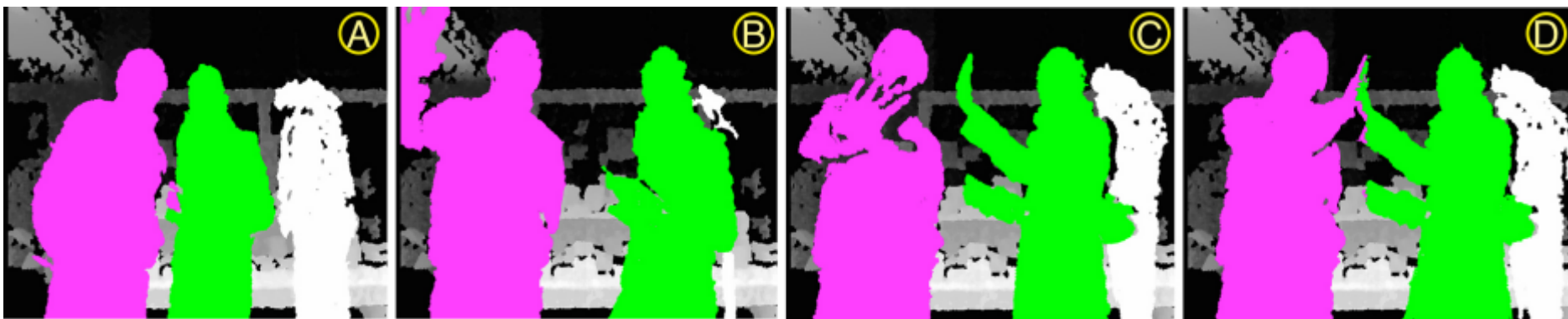
- Technically, a musical instrument (synthesizer)
- Interaction (mostly) through tokens/tangibles
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNeCHI4NAzw>



# Examples: Interactive ads (2017)

Source: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3025453.3025531>

- How to attract passersby to view a public display?
- Shows overlay of people's silhouettes on the screen
- „Mirror“ effect increases visibility





# Examples: Virtual Valcamonica (2018)

Source: [https://doi.org/10.1162/pres\\_a\\_00297](https://doi.org/10.1162/pres_a_00297)

- Visualize prehistoric rock carvings
- Multiple display and collaboration features (using shutter glasses)
- Large-scale tracking environment
- <https://vimeo.com/163359577>



# Examples: SPLOM Wall (2020)

Source: <https://doi.org/10.1111/cgf.13979>

- SPLOM = ScatterPLOT Matrix
- Visualization of large datasets
- 4.1 m x 2.3 m wall display
- How to reach everything?





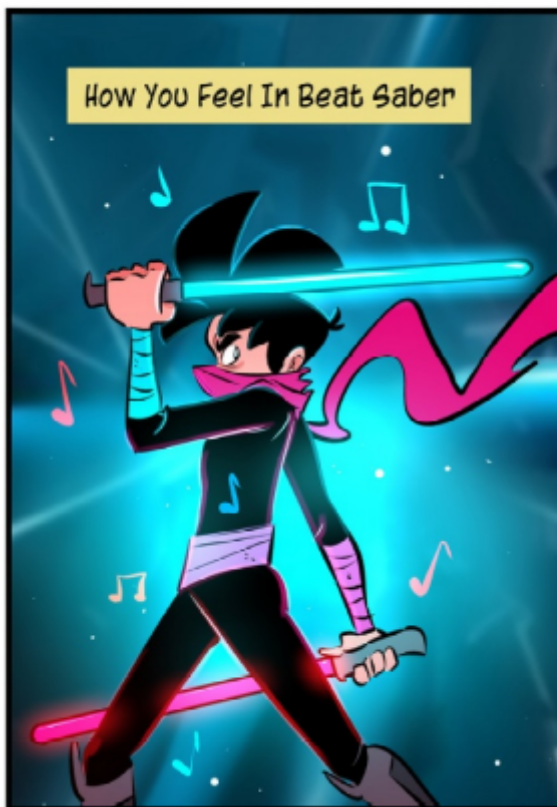
# Examples: Anatomy Education (2024)

Source: <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3641825.3687706>

- Study of mixed reality for „embryonic anatomy education“
- Better alone or in groups? → requires shared space



# The End



www.Penny-Arcade.com



© 2018 Mike Krahulik & Jerry Holkins