

8.8 Content Repurposing

8.8.1 Fundamentals

8.8.2 Text to Speech and Speech to Text

8.8.3 Photo to Video

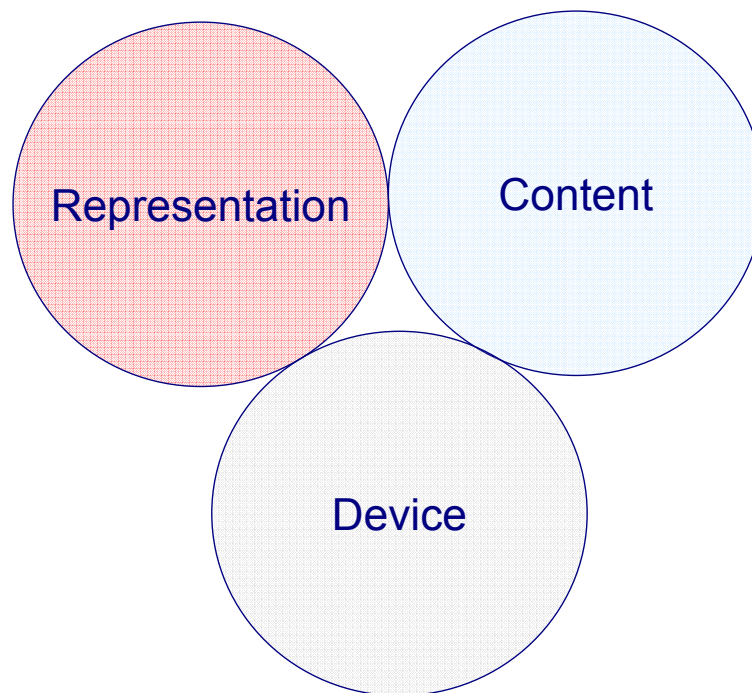
8.8.4 Video to Panoramic Photo

8.8.5 Repurposing of Panoramic Video: DIVER

Mobile End-User Devices



Re-formatting Content for Specific Devices



Representations (Formats)

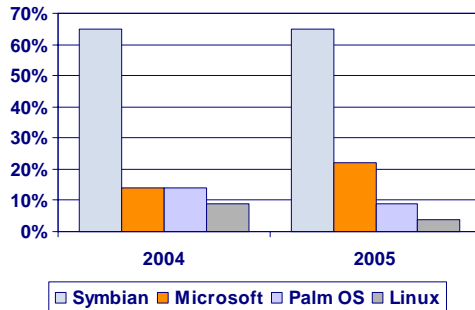
MIME types*)	number
audio	62
graphics	36
video	35
text	38
applications	399

*) according to Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA)

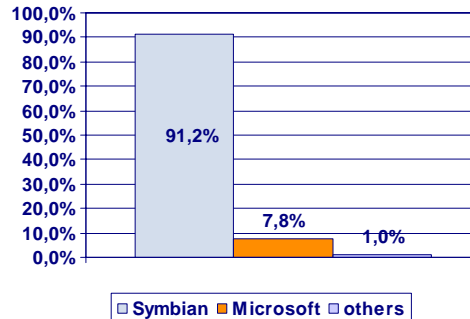
Heterogeneous Operating Systems

Example: Smartphones^{*)}

market share - USA



market share - Europe - 2004



^{*)} Symbian & Smartphone Markt, PDASStreet.com, 03. Juni 2004

8.8.2 Text to Speech and Speech to Text

Text to Speech

Speech generators accept ASCII text as input and produce voice output. They can be used for end-user devices that cannot display text (e.g., classic phones).

Speech to Text

Dictation systems accept speech as input and produce ASCII output. Modern dictation software

- no longer requires a training phase by a particular speaker
- can accept continuous speech
- has reasonable word error rates for common text
- can be enhanced with application-specific vocabularies

Transcoding Example

The screenshot shows the Financial Times Deutschland homepage with several callout boxes on the left side:

- logo**: Points to the Financial Times logo.
- lead article**: Points to the main headline: "Exklusiv: Schröder weicht Defizitgrenze auf".
- navigation**: Points to the top navigation bar with categories like "Home", "Latest News Edition", "Fonds-Tools", and "Aktien-Tools".
- news**: Points to the main article content.
- weather**: Points to the weather widget showing temperatures for 18.01.05 and 19.01.05.
- advertisement**: Points to a sidebar advertisement for "Organisierungen im Überblick".
- stock price**: Points to a stock price chart for the DAX index.
- contact**: Points to the footer contact information.

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8. Automatic Content Analysis,
Part 8.8

8.8 - 7

Transcoding (1)

The image shows two mobile phone screens displaying transcoded content. The left screen shows a list of news items and stock prices, while the right screen shows a list of metadata tags for the content.

Left Screen Content:

- Financial Times Deutschland [Leitartikel]
- Aktuelles: Exklusiv: Schröder weicht Defizitgrenze auf [mehr]
- Gewerkschaften bluten für Bankbeteiligungen [mehr]
- [weitere]
- DAX 4.232,36 +0,48
- Dow Jones 10.558,00 +0,50
- NASDAQ100 1.561,11 +1,03
- EUR/USD Depot 1,3104 +0,02
- [weitere Kurse]

Right Screen Content:

- Financial Times Deutschland
- [Image - Heckel_margaret,0.gif]
- Magaret Heckel: Lobbyismus ist überall [Artikel]
- [Image - ft_logo_homepage.gif]
- [Image - leitartikel.gif]
- [Leitartikel: Abbas braucht Zeit Artikel]
- [Home] [Latest News Edition]
- [Fonds-Tools] [Aktien-Tools]
- [Politik + Gesellschaft] [Unternehmen]
- [Branchen] [Technik] [Medien]
- [Börsen + Märkte]
- [Exklusiv: Schröder weicht Defizitgrenze ...]

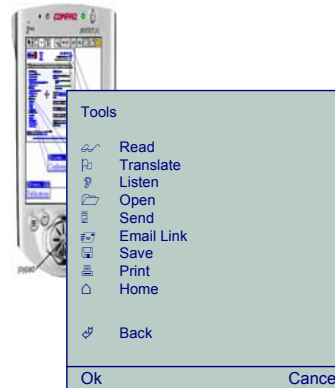
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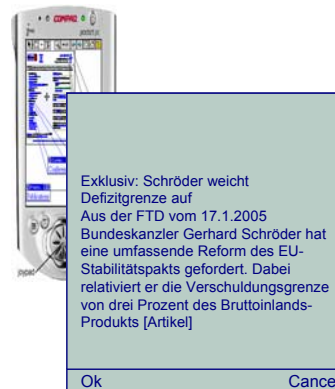
8. Automatic Content Analysis,
Part 8.8

8.8 - 8

Transcoding (2)



Transcoding (3)



8.8.3 Photo to Video

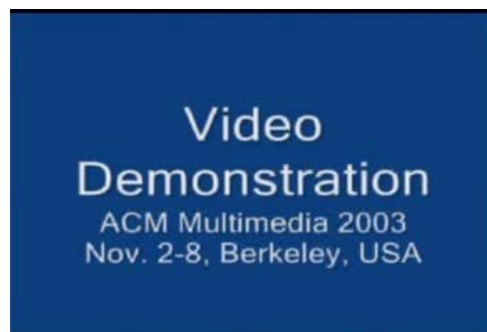
The **Photo2Video** system is a research prototype of Microsoft Research Asia in Beijing, China. It produces a video from a set of photos automatically.

Key technologies are

- the detection of regions of interest („focusses of attention“), using video content analysis algorithms
- the automatic generation of motion patterns, such as zooming in and panning, and appropriate trajectories
- the addition of incidental music and transitions between photos

Similar mechanisms can be used to “browse” a photo when the screen of the device is too small to show the entire image in an acceptable resolution.

Demo of the Photo2Video System



8.8.4 Video to Panoramic Photo

When camera motion can be detected automatically, it is also possible to compute a panoramic image from a camera panning operation.

Example

Computation of panoramic images from a video that was recorded by a panning camera placed on a person's head (Steve Mann, MIT Media Lab, 1996)

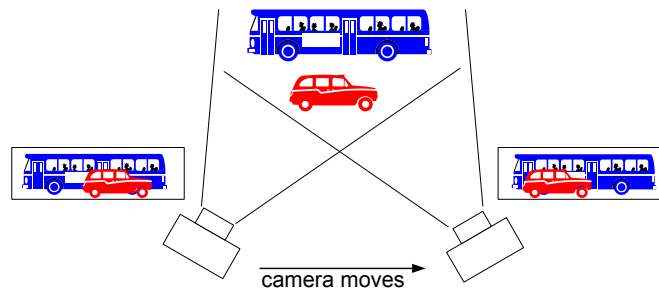


Panoramic Image Generation

We want to generate a panoramic image of our environment from a fixed position.

Parallax effect: If the camera moves objects at different distances appear shifted against each other.

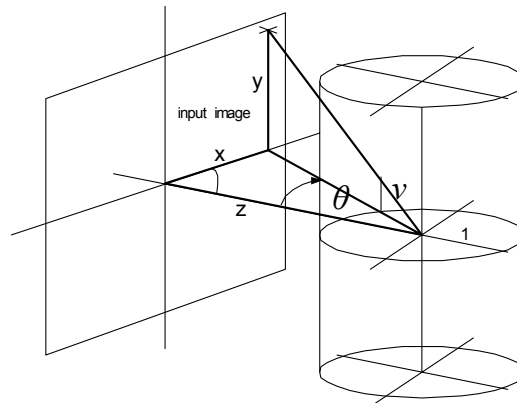
-> the camera should not change its position.



The easy approach: a **cylindrical panorama**. The camera only rotates around its vertical axis. Images are mapped onto a virtual cylinder around the camera position.

Cylindrical Panoramas (1)

Map the image to cylindrical coordinates.



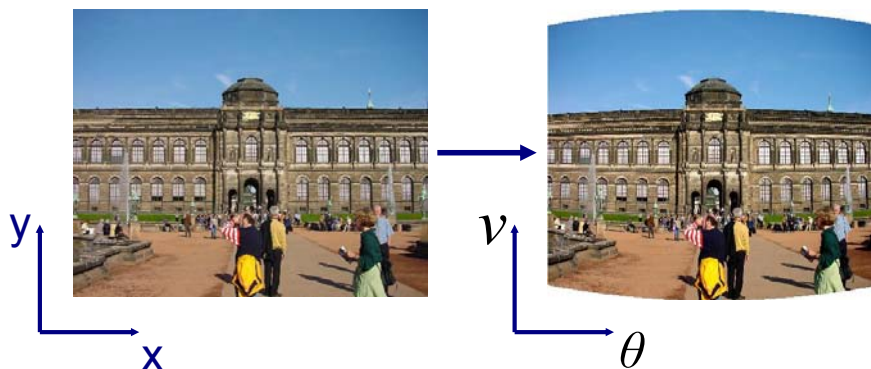
$$\theta = \arctan(x/z)$$

$$v = y / \sqrt{x^2 + z^2}$$

Note that the focal-length z has to be known for the coordinate transform.

Cylindrical Panoramas (2)

Image example



Cylindrical Panoramas (3)

Transformed images have to be aligned by matching the image content in the overlapping area:



Find the translation vector (t_x, t_y) by minimizing the matching error between images f and g :

$$Err(t_x, t_y) = \sum_{x,y} |f(x, y) - g(x + t_x, y + t_y)|^2$$

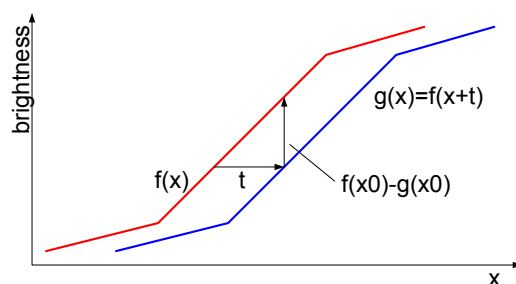
The minimum can be found by an exhaustive search over (t_x, t_y) . However, computational complexity for image size $N \times N$ pixels and search range $M \times M$ pixels is:

$$O(N^2 M^2) \approx O(N^4)$$

We conclude that we need faster algorithms.

Cylindrical Panoramas (4)

Pel-Recursive Motion Estimation: For simplicity consider the one-dimensional case. Let $g(x)$ be an exact copy of $f(x)$, displaced by a constant t .



With the spatial derivative $\frac{df}{dx}$ of f , we obtain t as:

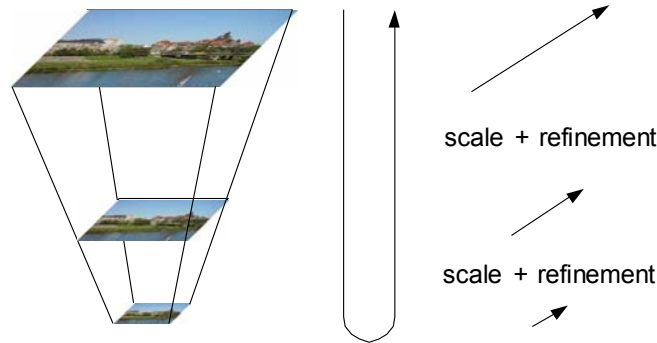
$$t = \frac{f(x_0) - g(x_0)}{\frac{df}{dx}(x_0)}$$

However, this only works for small displacements t .

Cylindrical Panoramas (5)

Hierarchical Motion Estimation - an Algorithm

- Scale the original image down by a constant factor to build a pyramid of images at different resolutions.
- Do motion estimation on the lowest resolution layer.
- Scale the obtained motion model upward to the next resolution level and refine the motion model.



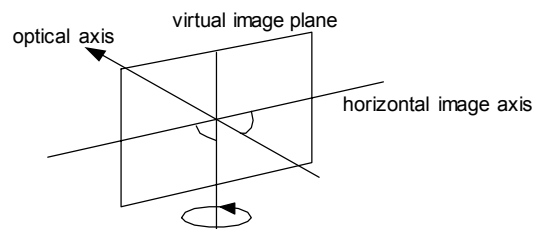
Cylindrical Panoramas (6)

Example result of a cylindrical panorama:



Disadvantages of cylindrical panoramas

- Distortion of straight lines to curved lines
- Focal length (zoom) has to be known or estimated
- Rotation axis has to be perpendicular to the optical axis and to the horizontal image axis:
 - Standing on a hill and looking down is not possible
 - Camera may not be rotated around horizontal axis (but mathematical extension to *spherical panoramas* is possible).



Full-Perspective Panoramas (1)

Assume that your environment is painted on a single, large plane (a glass plane).

Describe the motion that the solid plane can perform in space.

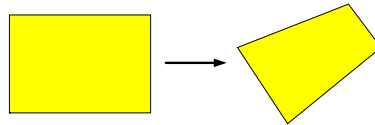
2D: affine motion (translation, rotation, scaling)

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{pmatrix}$$

rotate, scale translate

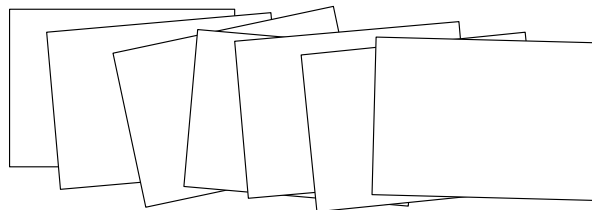
3D: perspective transformation (affine + two additional parameters for the perspective projection)

$$x' = \frac{a_{11}x + a_{12}y + t_x}{b_1x + b_2y + 1} \quad y' = \frac{a_{21}x + a_{22}y + t_y}{b_1x + b_2y + 1}$$



Full-Perspective Panoramas (2)

Think of the camera taking images of the glass plane from different orientations. To align the images, the relative transformation between the images has to be estimated.



Exhaustive search for the parameters is not possible because the parameter space is very large (eight parameters).

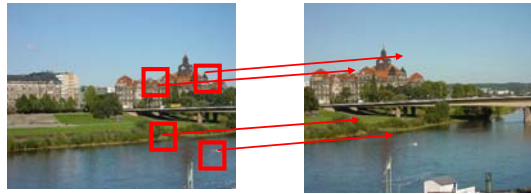
Possible approach for **parameter estimation**:

- Find an estimate with a lower-dimensional model (e.g., translational only to coarsely compensate motion)
- Determine an initial estimate for the perspective model (see next slide)
- Use the gradient-descent technique for fine alignment.

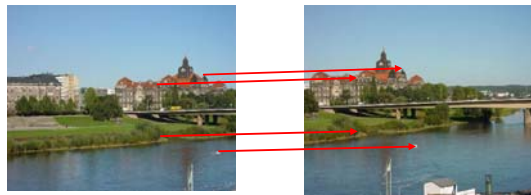
Full Perspective Panoramas (3)

Determine initial estimation of the perspective model:

1. Search for four blocks with characteristic features.



2. Even though we have compensated translational motion the features will not match perfectly. Refine matching positions of the blocks in the second image by block-matching. In general, the motion vectors will be different for the four blocks.



3. The four motion vectors (with two parameters each) can be used to determine the eight parameters of the perspective motion model (eight equations for eight unknowns).

Full-Perspective Panoramas (4)

Fine alignment

Start with the parameter vector estimated in last step:

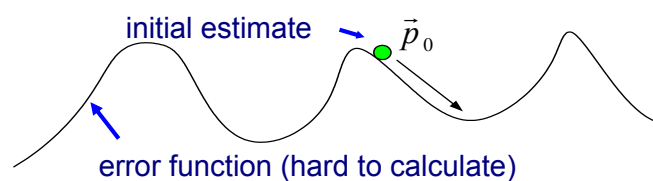
$$p_0 = (a_{11}; a_{12}; a_{21}; a_{22}; t_x; t_y; b_1; b_2)$$

2. Consider the matching-error depending on the transformation parameters:

$$Err(\vec{p}) = \sum_{x,y} |f(x,y) - g(x',y')|^2$$

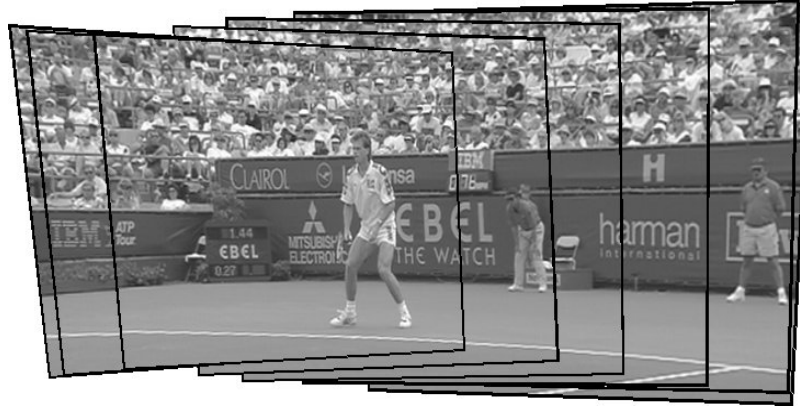
3. Do a gradient descent search to find a better match.

$$\vec{p}_{i+1} = \vec{p}_i - \nabla Err(\vec{p}_i)$$



Full-Perspective Panoramas (5)

Image example



8.8.5 Repurposing of Panoramic Video: DIVER

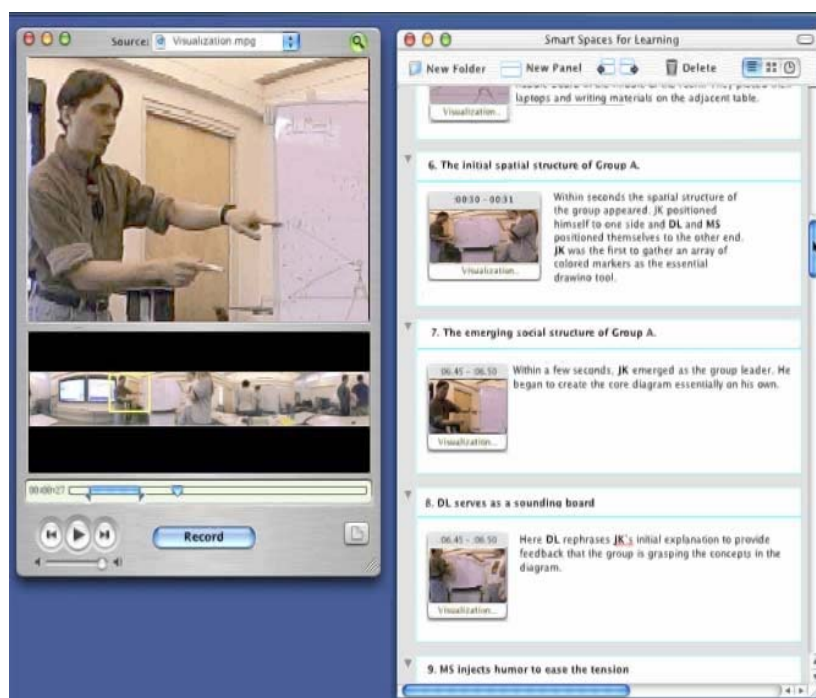
- DIVER stands for **Digital Interactive Video Exploration and Reflection**.
- DIVER is a research prototype of Stanford University.
- It is a tool for authoring and sharing DIVEs. A DIVE is a unique perspective on a video record of human activity.
- DIVER separates the video recording process from the analysis and sharing process. It thus allows to re-purpose the video.

I thank Dr. Michael Mills and the entire DIVER team at Stanford University for letting me use their transparencies.

Example 1 of a DIVE: a Classroom



Example 2 of a DIVE: a Meeting



Panoramic Video in DIVER

- DIVER supports panoramic video.
- 360 degree views allow video recording of interesting activities without knowing the exact research goal. This is a good basis for re-purposing.
- Panoramic video at full resolution and a high frame rate is a major technical challenge!



What problem is DIVER solving?

Video is an important basis for research in human activities.

Example: classroom teaching

- What does the novice teacher notice?
- What does the expert teacher notice?
- What do different researchers notice?



Enabling Non-Selective Capture

Selective capture is a major drawback in traditional video research.

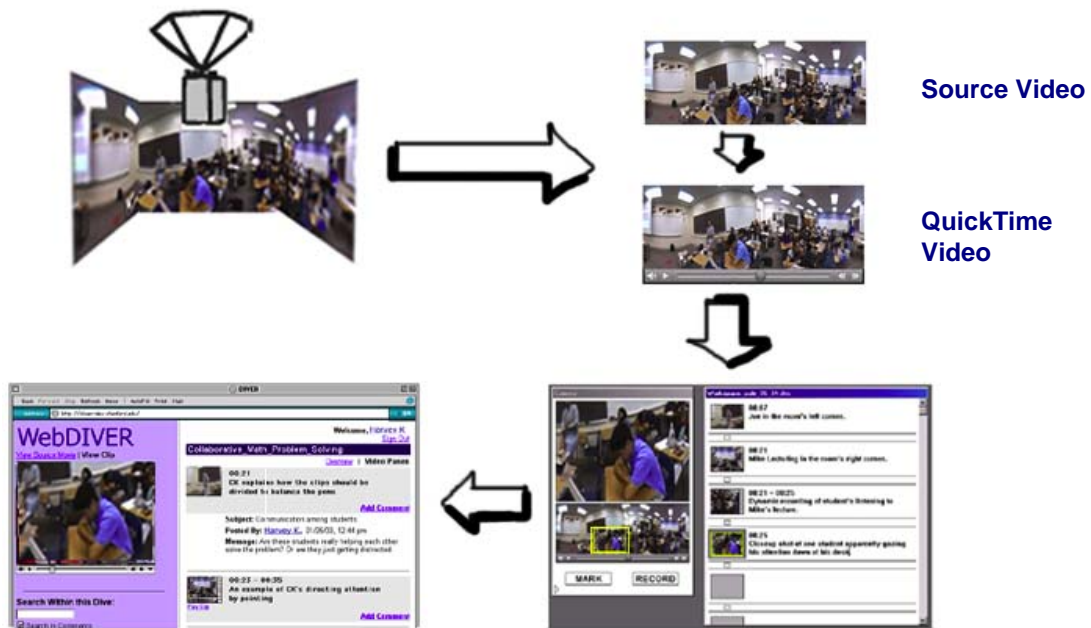


A single camera and microphone often miss events occurring outside the field of view.

Main Goals of DIVER

- Support panoramic video to overcome the problem of selective capture.
- Develop user interfaces to support exploring the same event from different perspectives. Find user interfaces for panoramic video that are easy to understand and navigate.
- Develop “digital video laboratories” – communities for annotating, sharing and discussing perspectives on digital video records

DIVER System Architecture



Web DIVER ("Video Collaboratory")

The screenshot shows the Web DIVER interface in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser. The page title is "DIVER (Digital Video Exploration and Reflections), Welcome Mike Mills". The interface includes a video player on the left, a list of annotations on the right, and a comments section. The annotations are timestamped and provide context for the video content. The comments section shows a discussion about the video content.

Annotations:

- 00:42:09 - 00:43:04: The first group tackled the problem of visualizing sound, but later took on the visualization of statistical concepts.
- 00:33:07: These students were asked to choose a hard concept from science for an exercise in visualization.
- 01:44:13 - 01:46:02: Here's how JK uses pointing gestures to get the group to notice relevant aspects of the diagram.
- 00:09:10 - 00:10:12: JK makes a circular gesture to illustrate that the ray diagram -- although a 2D diagram on the white board -- is actually meant to represent a cone of rays.
- 00:42:09 - 00:45:01: Puzzling over the right feature for a representation, he looks up and away.

Comments:

- Comment 1, Posted by Mike Mills, Thu Dec 04 05:07:18 PM: It will be interesting to see if this group comes up with novel visualizations in this well known field of statistics.

Dive Info:

- Author: Joe Rosen
- E-Mail: jor@shodorlab.net
- File Name: pano_vclassIEEE1
- Dive Title: pano_vclassIEEE1
- Dive Description:

Different DIVER Source Formats



High-resolution panoramic video



Low-resolution panoramic video

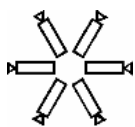


Traditional 4:3 aspect ratio video



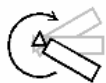
Diving on a still image

Recording Panoramic Video Is Not Easy!



Multiple cameras, each looking out into the scene

- Individual images cannot be integrated seamlessly, problems with objects at short range
- Time-consuming complex image processing that blurs the images.



A single camera looking in different directions at different instants of time

- Images of moving objects are distorted, fragmented, or missing
- Real panoramic video is not possible.



A single camera looking out through a single panoramic lens

- Images of objects that are close to the camera are distorted
- planar projections from curved mirrors or fish-eye lenses do not evenly or fully cover the pixel array



A single camera looking off a single non-planar mirror

- Images are captured with low resolution
- Images have low optical quality
- Scene must be very brightly illuminated or static

Fullview's Panoramic Camera (1)

Multiple cameras, each looking into a mirror. Mirrors are arranged in a pyramid.

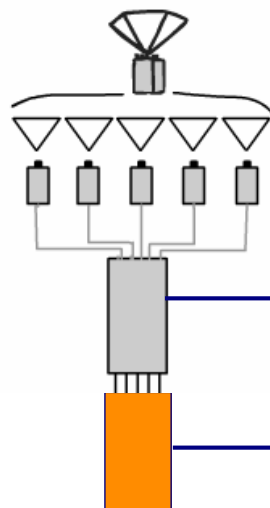
- All cameras have exactly the same point of view.
- Individual images can be integrated seamlessly.
- Image resolution is high.

But: Stitching, de-warping, color correction have to be done in real-time. And the data rate is very high.



Fullview's Panoramic Camera (2)

Five high-resolution FC-1005 cameras view five overlapping scene regions reflected off planar mirrors. The cameras output five S-video signals to the Camera Control Unit (CCU) which is controlled by a PC.



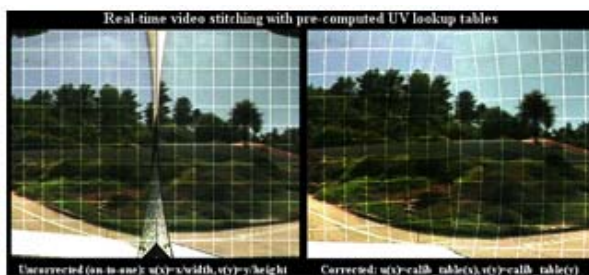
CCU controls the cameras (white balance, shutter, gain)

PC with 5 frame grabbers controls CCU, serves as a compute engine for stitching, de-warping

Technical Challenges

- Stitching and de-warping in real-time
- User interface to view and navigate panoramic video
- Data transfer to disk at full resolution and full frame rate (uncompressed)
- Multi-channel audio

Stitching and De-Warping



- Find texture similarities or edge similarities in the overlap
- Parameterize a matrix to transform the images (example courtesy of USC)
- Computationally very expensive!



Example of a Fullview Panoramic Image



Current Problems

- Panoramic video cannot be written to disk uncompressed, at full rate and full resolution over a PCI bus (half-resolution at 12 fps require 3 PCI buses!)
- No audio yet (10-microphone directional audio planned)
- Moving the camera to a different room requires lengthy re-calibration of the white balance for the five cameras (but not of the frame stitching parameters)

User Interfaces for Panoramic Video

- The human brain is trained to understand the visual input from the eyes as coming from the normal angle of vision (150 degrees?)
- It is very difficult to understand the 3D relationship between objects in a flat window on the screen. Example: Who has eye contact with whom?
- **Open problem:** What would be a good user interface to view and navigate a panoramic video on a flat screen?

DIVER Summary

- The use of DIVER with panoramic videos enables “virtual videography” and overcomes many current problems with selective video capture.
- “Path movies” that dynamically crop focus within digital video can provide a crucial new cultural medium for expressing one’s perspective.
- A first release of the DIVER system, including Web-Diver, is fully operational.
- First experiments with educational researchers were conducted in Winter 2002/03.
- Full resolution, full frame rate panoramic video recording and multi-track directional audio recording planned.