

A Real Time Virtual Dressing Room Application using Kinect and HD camera

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Abstract: We present a virtual try-on system - EON Interactive Mirror - that employs one Kinect sensor and one High-Definition (HD) Camera. We first overview the major technical components for the complete virtual try-on system. We then elaborate on several key challenges such as calibration between the Kinect and HD cameras, and shoulder height estimation for individual subjects. Quality of these steps is the key to achieving seamless try-on experience for users. We also present performance comparison of our system implemented on top of two skeletal tracking SDKs: OpenNI and Kinect for Windows SDK (KWSDK). Lastly, we discuss our experience in deploying the system in retail stores and some potential future improvements. We introduce a virtual dressing room application using the Microsoft Kinect sensor. We extract the user from the video stream by using depth and user label data provided by the Kinect sensor, register the cloth model with the Kinect skeletal tracking data, and detect skin to adjust the order of layers. We report an average percentage of overlap between the user and the cloth models of 83.97%.

Keywords: virtual try-on, Kinect, HD camera, OpenNI, Kinect for Windows Augmented Reality, Human-Computer Interaction, Kinect.

I. INTRODUCTION

Trying clothes in clothing stores is usually a time consuming activity. Moreover, it might not even be possible to try on clothes in the store, such as when ordering clothes online. Here we propose a simple virtual dressing room application to make shopping for clothing faster, easier, and more accessible. The first problem we address in the design of our application is the accurate superimposition of the user and virtual cloth models. Detection and skeletal tracking of a user in a video stream can be implemented in several ways. For example, Kjaerside et al. [1] proposed a tag-based augmented reality dressing room, which required sticking visual tags for motion tracking. More recently, Shotton et al. [2] have developed a real-time human pose recognition system that predicts the 3D positions of body joints, using a single depth image without visual tags. In this project, we use Shotton et al.'s method and a Microsoft Kinect sensor to create a tagless, real-time augmented reality dressing room application. Developer tools, such as the ones included in the OpenNI framework and the Microsoft Kinect SDK, ease developing applications based on the Kinect sensor. We used the Kinect SDK as it includes a robust real-time skeletal body tracker based on [2].



Fig. 1. The user interface of the application

We first extract the user from the video stream by using depth and user label data provided by the Kinect sensor. Then, we register the cloth model with the Kinect skeletal tracking data. Finally, we detect skin to adjust the order of layers, as shown in a screenshot of the application in Fig. 1. The fashion industry greatly relies on traditional retail outlets because most users only feel comfortable purchasing outfits after physically trying them out. The consequences of this fact include that Internet shopping is hard for clothing; and fitting rooms in brick-and-mortar stores are always packed during peak hours. This motivates us in developing a virtual try-on system that enables shoppers to digitally try out clothes and accessories. With EON Interactive Mirror, walk-by customers can be convinced to walk into the store. Within the store, it has created unique customer experiences of virtually trying on the latest fashion 'on-the-go' in a fun and engaging way, and made the store stand out from the highly competitive market. In order to achieve a believable virtual try-on experience for the end user, several challenges have to be addressed. First, the Kinect sensor can only provide low-resolution VGA quality video recording, yet high quality video is essential for attractive visual appearance on large screens. We thus opt to use an HD camera to replace the role of Kinect's built-in RGB camera. This necessitates a calibration process between the HD camera and the Kinect depth camera in order to map the 3D clothes seamlessly to the HD video recording of the customers. Second, digital clothes need to be resized to fit to a user's body. Yet the Kinect depth data is noisy, the skeletal motion tracked by thirdparty SDKs is not accurate, and sometimes the lower part of the body is not even in the camera's field of view. We thus need a reliable and robust procedure to estimate the shoulder height of the users for the clothes-body fitting process.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Markerless human motion tracking is a long-standing problem in computer vision. With the recent advances in depth cameras and sensors, especially the Kinect sensor [2], research on human skeletal pose tracking has made great improvements. Our system builds on top of these techniques by utilizing publicly available SDKs that incorporate some of these state-of-the-art algorithms. Kinect has also enabled various interactive applications that are creative and fun. Most relevant to our Interactive Mirror is the ever-growing virtual fitting room systems available on the market, such as Fitnect [1] and TriMirror [4]. However, we have not been able to find any technical details of these systems. From their demo videos alone, the major difference between our system and TriMirror, for example, is that we do not simulate clothes in our system. We simply render the deformed clothes on top of the user's video stream, and this requires a high-quality calibration between the Kinect and the HD camera.

A. Camera calibration:

Vision-based augmented reality systems need to trace the transformation relationship between the camera and the tracking target in order to augment the target with virtual objects. In our virtual try-on system, precise calibration between the Kinect sensor and the HD camera is crucial in order to register and overlay virtual garments seamlessly onto the 2D HD video stream of the shoppers. Furthermore, we prefer a quick and semi-automatic calibration process because the layout between Kinect and HD camera with respect to the floor plan may be different for different stores, or even for the same store at different times. To this end, we use the CameraCalibrate and StereoCalibrate modules in OpenCV [3] for camera calibration. More specifically, we recommend to collect a minimum of 30 pairs of checkerboard images seen at the same instant of time from Kinect and HD camera, and calculate each pair's correspondences, as shown in Fig. 7. In addition, the Kinect sensor is usually not perfectly perpendicular to the ground plane, and its tilting angle is needed to estimate the height of user. We simply specify the floor area from the Kinect depth data manually, and the normal vector of the floor plane in Kinect's view can be calculated. The tilting angle of Kinect is then the angle between this calculated floor normal and the gravity normal. Furthermore, to seamlessly overlay the virtual garments on top of the HD video, we also need to estimate the tilting angle of the HD camera, and a correct FoV (Field of View) that matches the TV screen's aspect ratio. Subsequently precise perspective transformations can be applied by our rendering engine to properly render the deformed digital clothes for accurate merging with the HD video.

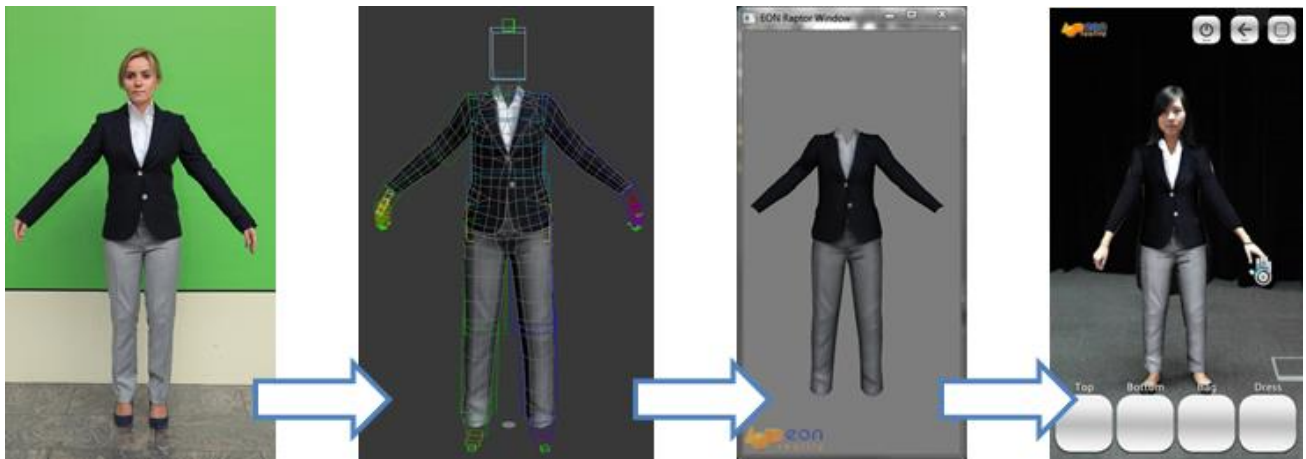


Fig. 2: Major steps for content creation. Catalogue images are first manually modeled and textured offline in 3DS Max. We then augment the digital clothes with relevant size and skinning information. At runtime, 3D clothes are properly resized according to a user's height, skinned to the tracked skeleton, and then rendered with proper camera settings. Finally, the rendered clothes are merged with the HD recording of the user in real-time.

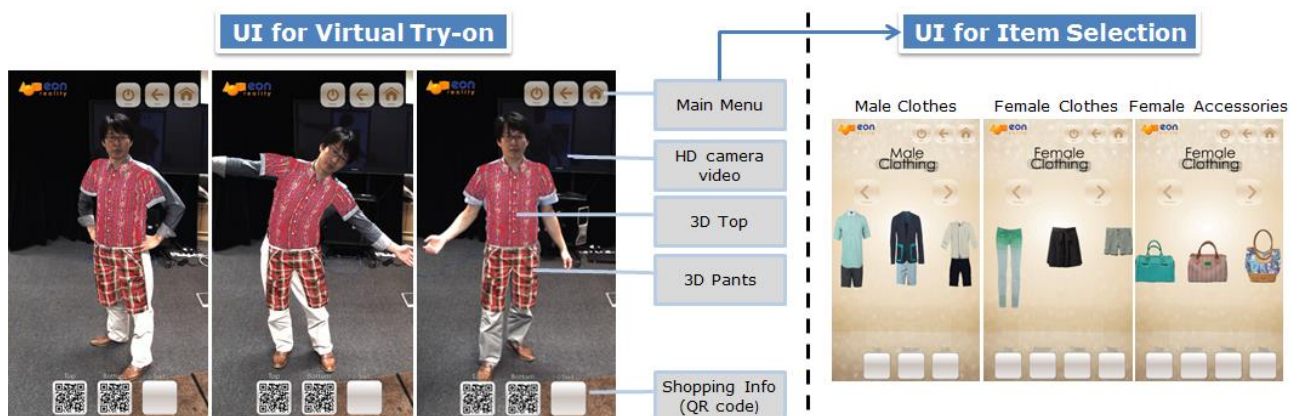


Fig. 3: Left: the UI for virtual try-on. Right: the UI for clothing item selection. To summarize, the output of the camera calibration procedure include:
 – extrinsic camera parameters (translation and rotation) of the HD camera with respect to the Kinect depth camera.
 – the tilting angles of the Kinect sensor and the HD camera with respect to the horizontal ground plane.
 – FoV of the HD camera.

B. Content creation

Our virtual 3D clothes are based on actual catalogue images, so that new fashion lines can be added to the system quickly. Fig. 4 shows the major steps of converting catalogue images to 3D digital clothes. In the preprocessing stage, our artists manually created one standard digital male mannequin and one female mannequin. Then they modeled the catalogue images into 3D clothes that fit the proportions of the default mannequins. Corresponding textures were also extracted and applied to the digital clothes. Then we augment the digital clothes with relevant size and skinning information. At runtime, 3D

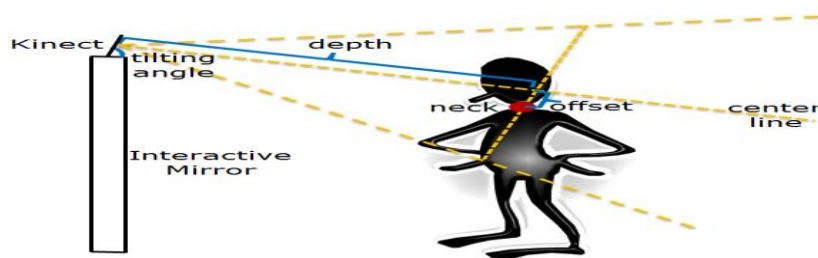


Fig. 4: Shoulder height estimation when the user's feet are not in the field of view of Kinect.

The tilting angle of the Kinect sensor, the depth of the neck joint, and the offset of the neck joint with respect to the center point of the depth image can jointly determine the physical height of the neck joint in the world space. clothes are properly resized according to a user's height, skinned to the tracked skeleton, and then rendered with proper camera settings. Lastly, the rendered clothes are merged with the HD recording of the user in realtime. Our content development team modeled 115 clothing items in total, including male clothes, female clothes, and accessories. On average it took about two man days to create and test one item for its inclusion into the virtual try-on system.

C. User interface

Fig. 5 depicts the user interface of the Interactive Mirror. Because our clothes are 3D models rather than 2D images, users are able to turn their body within a reasonable range in front of the Interactive Mirror and still have the digital clothes properly fit to their body, just like what they can see in front of a real mirror. The user selects menu items and outfit items using hand gestures. Different tops, bottoms, and accessories can be mixed and matched on the fly.

D. Height estimation

Digital clothes need to be rescaled according to users' body size, for good fitting and try-on experiences. We propose two methods to estimate a user's shoulder height. The first one simply uses the neck to feet height difference, when both the neck and the feet joints are detected by Kinect skeletal tracking SDKs.

III. PROPOSED SYSTEM

Our virtual try-on system consists of a vertical TV screen, a Microsoft Kinect sensor, an HD camera, and a desktop computer. Fig. 1 shows the front view of the Interactive Mirror together with the Kinect and HD camera. The Kinect sensor is an input device marketed by Microsoft, and intended as a gaming interface for Xbox 360 consoles and PCs. It consists of a depth camera, an RGB camera, and microphone arrays. Both the depth and the RGB camera have a horizontal viewing range of 57.5 degrees, and a vertical viewing range of 43.5 degrees. Kinect can also tilt up and down within -27 to +27 degrees. The range of the depth camera is [0.8_4]m in the normal mode and [0.4_3]m in the near mode. The HD camera supports a full resolution of 2080 _ 1552, from which



Fig. 5: The front view of the Interactive Mirror with Kinect and HD camera placed on top.

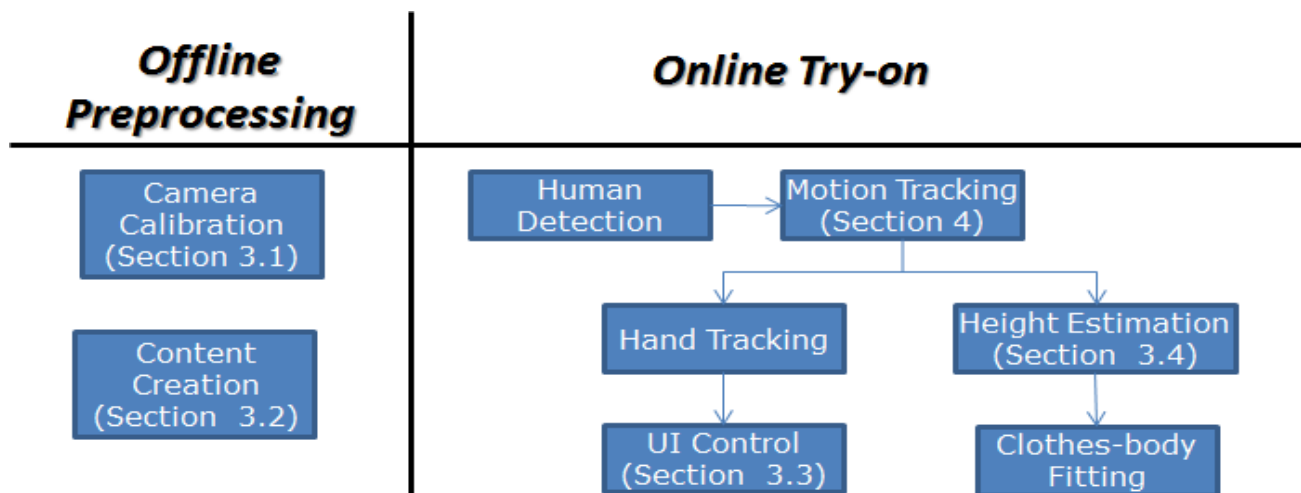


Fig.6: Major software components of the virtual try-on system.

Fig. 6 illustrates the major software components of the virtual try-on system. During the offline preprocessing stage, we need to calibrate the Kinect and HD cameras, and create 3D clothes and accessories. During the online virtual try-on, we first detect the nearest person among the people in the area of interest. This person will then become the subject of interest to be tracked by the motion tracking component implemented on two publicly available Kinect SDKs, as will be discussed in Section 4. The user interacts with the Interactive Mirror with her right hand to control the User Interface (UI) and select clothing items. The UI layout will be discussed in more details

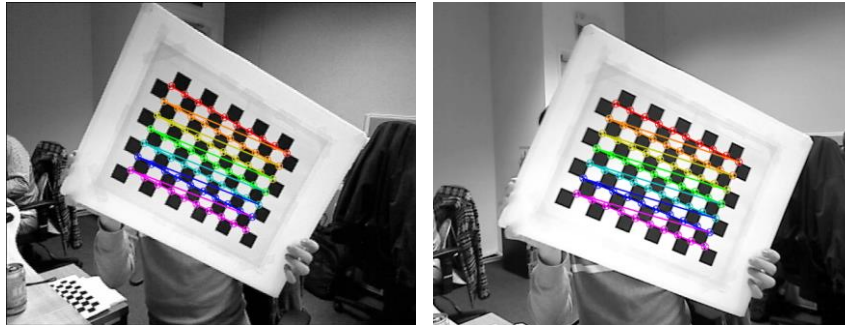


Fig. 7: The camera calibration process. The checkerboard images seen by the Kinect RGB camera (left) and the HD camera (right) at the same instant of time.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

EON Interactive Mirror offers several advantages over traditional retailing. It attracts more customers through providing a new and exciting retail concept, and creates interest in the brand and store by viral marketing campaigns through customers sharing their experiences in Social Media such as Facebook. Furthermore, it reduces the need for floor space and fitting rooms, thereby reducing rental costs and shortening the time for trying on different combinations and making purchase decisions. We encourage interested readers to search our demo videos with keywords EON Interactive Mirror at <http://www.youtube.com>.

We developed a real-time virtual dressing room application that requires no visual tags. We tested our application under different conditions. Our experiments showed that the application performs well for regular postures. The application can be further improved towards creating more realistic models by using 3D cloth models and a physics engine.

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