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Immersive Analytics



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Foreword

We live in an age where the amount and complexity of data available to us far surpass our ability to understand or to utilise them in decision-making. Analysis of such data is not only common in the physical, social, and life sciences, but is becoming an integral part of effective planning in business, government, e-health, and many other aspects of modern society. Furthermore data analytics is no longer solely the preserve of scientists and professional analysts as personalised data analytics becomes increasingly common.

Visual analytics has become a key technology for human-in-the-loop data analysis. While the standard definition for visual analytics is agnostic of the actual interface devices employed by visual analytics systems, the affordances of the display and input devices used for analysing data strongly affect the experience of the users of such systems and, thereby, their degree of engagement and productivity. For practical visual analytics tools, the platform for interaction is almost always a standard desktop computer. A systematic approach to developing analysis and decision support tools that move beyond the desktop is lacking.

Immersive analytics is a new interdisciplinary field that brings together researchers and practitioners from data visualisation, visual analytics, virtual and mixed reality, human—computer interaction, and human-in-the-loop algorithmics to explore these new forms of analytics tools. The goal is to remove barriers between people, their data, and the tools they use for analysis by developing more engaging, embodied analysis tools that support data understanding and decision-making everywhere and by everyone, either working individually or collaboratively.

This book is the outcome of two coordinated workshops on immersive analytics held in 2016. The first in Shonan, Japan, took place in February and organised by Takayuki Itoh, Kim Marriott, Falk Schreiber, and Uwe Wössner with the help of Karsten Klein, the second was held in June at Dagstuhl, Germany, and was organised by Tim Dwyer, Nathalie Henry Riche, Wolfgang Stuerzlinger, and Bruce H. Thomas, again with the help of Karsten Klein. In all, 25 leading international experts in data visualisation, visual analytics, human–computer interaction, virtual reality and augmented reality attended the first workshop, with another 38 experts attending the second. There was a sizeable overlap of experts between the two workshops that provided a sensible continuity of concepts.

The two workshops explored the definition of immersive analytics and identified the structure and focus of this book. A working group for each chapter was formed at the workshops, with the participation of invited experts as needed, and the groups wrote the chapters contained in this book. A critical goal was to develop a vision of the research domain for immersive analytics and a roadmap for future investigations. Authors submitted manuscripts for their chapters in mid-2017. These initial versions were first reviewed "internally" by one of the book editors. After an initial round of revision based on these internal reviews, the updated manuscripts were sent to expert

VI Foreword

reviewers invited from the community. We are grateful to these people for their detailed and insightful reviews.

September 2018

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Table of Contents

1. Immersive Analytics: An Introduction	. 1
Tim Dwyer, Kim Marriott, Tobias Isenberg, Karsten Klein, Nathalie	
Riche, Falk Schreiber, Wolfgang Stuerzlinger, and Bruce H. Thomas	
1.1. What is Immersive Analytics?	
1.2. Historical Context	
1.3. Engagement and Immersion	
1.4. Overview of this Book	
1.5. Research Agenda	. 15
2. Immersive Analytics: Time to Reconsider the Value of 3D for	
Information Visualisation	. 25
Kim Marriott, Jian Chen, Marcel Hlawatsch, Takayuki Itoh, Miguel A. Nacenta, Guido Reina, and Wolfgang Stuerzlinger	
2.1. Introduction	. 25
2.2. Background: Perception and Presentation of 3D	. 29
2.3. Prior Research Comparing 2D with 3D Representations	. 35
2.4. Potential Benefits of Immersive Visualisation	. 42
2.5. Research Questions and Issues	. 46
2.6. Conclusion	. 48
3. Multisensory Immersive Analytics	. 57
Jon McCormack, Jonathan C. Roberts, Benjamin Bach,	
Carla Dal Sasso Freitas, Takayuki Itoh, Christophe Hurter, and Kim	
Marriott	
3.1. Introduction	. 57
3.2. Multisensory Presentation and Analysis	. 59
3.3. A Framework for Multisensorial Immersive Analytics	. 61
3.4. Visual Presentation	. 63
3.5. Sonification and Auralization	. 65
3.6. Haptic Displays	. 69
3.7. Smell/Olfaction, Taste/Gustation	
3.8. Designing Multisensorial Immersive Systems	
3.9. Discussion and Research Challenges	. 85
3.10. Conclusion	. 87
4. Interaction for Immersive Analytics	. 95
Wolfgang Büschel, Jian Chen, Raimund Dachselt, Steven Drucker,	
Tim Dwyer, Carsten Görg, Tobias Isenberg, Andreas Kerren, Chris	
North, and Wolfgang Stuerzlinger	
4.1. Introduction	. 95
4.2. Opportunities and Requirements	
4.3. Basic Tasks for Analytics	. 104

 4.4. Natural User Interfaces (NUI) and Post WIMP Interaction 4.5. Designing Interactions for Immersive Analytics 4.6. Archetypal Setups 4.7. Example Systems 4.8. Conclusion 	106 114 116 121 126
5. Immersive Human-Centered Computational Analytics	139
5.1. Introduction	139
5.2. Analytics Process	141
5.3. Collaboration between Humans and Automated Processes	148
5.4. Challenges	152
5.5. Conclusion	158
6. Immersive Visual Data Stories	165
6.1. Introduction	165
6.2. Visual Data-Driven Stories	166
6.3. Defining Immersion in Visual Data Stories	171
6.4. Research Opportunities in Immersive Visual Storytelling with Data	
6.5. Conclusion	180
7. Situated Analytics	185
7.1. Introduction	185
7.2. Characterization of Situated Visualizations	191
7.3. Examples of Situated Analytics	199
7.4. Blended Situated Analytics Controls	202
7.5. Design Considerations for Situated Analytics Systems	207 212
7.6. Challenges and Research Agenda	$\frac{212}{214}$
7.8. Conclusion	214 216
8. Collaborative Immersive Analytics	221
Todd Margolis	
8.1. Introduction	221
8.2. Definition and Scope	224
8.3. Collaboration Over Space and Time	226
8.4. Types of Participants in CIA	235
8.5. Interaction in CIA Environments	238
8.6. Opportunities for Research	243
8.7. Conclusion	247

9. Just 5 Questions: Toward a Design Framework for Immersive Analytic Kim Marriott, Jian Chen, Marcel Hlawatsch, Takayuki Itoh, Miguel A. Nacenta, Guido Reina, and Wolfgang Stuerzlinger	s 259
9.1. Introduction	. 259
9.2. Design Frameworks for Data Visualisation & Visual Analytics	
9.3. Architecture of IA Applications	
9.4. The 5 Question Design Framework for IA	
9.5. Using the Design Space Framework	
9.6. Research Questions and Issues	
9.7. Conclusion	. 284
10. Immersive Analytics Applications in Life and Health Sciences Tobias Czauderna, Jason Haga, Jinman Kim, Matthias Klapperstück, Karsten Klein, Torsten Kuhlen, Steffen Oeltze-Jafra, Björn Sommer, and Falk Schreiber	. 289
10.1. Background	. 289
10.2. Case Study 1: Molecular Scientific Visualisation in Structural	. 200
Biology	. 291
10.3. Case Study 2: Explorative Analysis of <i>In-Silico</i> Experiments in	
Neuroscience	. 294
10.4. Case Study 3: Exploration of Virtual Cells in Cytology	
10.5. Case Study 4: Image Analytics in Medicine	
10.6. Case Study 5: Population Study Analytics in Epidemiology 10.7. Case Study 6: Collaborative Immersive Analytics in Life and	
Health Sciences	. 315
10.8. Challenges and Outlook	. 320
11. Exploring Immersive Analytics for Built Environments Tom Chandler, Thomas Morgan, and Torsten Wolfgang Kuhlen	. 331
11.1. Introduction and Overview	. 331
11.2. Case Study 1: Planning and Visualisation in Production	
Engineering	. 332
11.3. Case Study 2: Immersive Analytics in the Interactive	
Visualisation of Sustainable Cities	. 338
11.4. Case Study 3: Crowd Simulations in a Virtual Model of	
Medieval Angkor	. 346
11.5. Conclusion	. 354

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