



Multimedia

Lecture 1

The term “multimedia “.

Applications that use multiple modalities, including text, images, drawings (graphics), animation, video, sound including speech, and **interactivity**.

Multimedia and Computer Science

Graphics, HCI, visualization, computer vision, data compression, graph theory, networking, database systems --- all have important contributions to make in multimedia at the present time.

Components of Multimedia

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- Multimedia involves multiple modalities of text, audio, images, drawings, animation, and video.
- Examples of how these modalities are put to use:
 1. Video teleconferencing.
 2. Distributed lectures for higher education.
 3. Tele-medicine.
 4. Co-operative work environments.

5. Searching in (very) large video and image databases for target visual objects.
6. " Augmented" reality: placing real-appearing computer graphics and video objects into scenes.
7. Including audio cues for where video-conference participants are located.
8. Building searchable features into new video, and enabling very high- to very low-bit-rate use of new, scalable multimedia products.

9. Making multimedia components editable.
10. Building "inverse-Hollywood" applications that can recreate the process by which a video was made.
11. Using voice-recognition to build an interactive environment, say a kitchen-wall web browser.

Multimedia and Hypermedia

History of Multimedia:

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1. **Newspaper:** perhaps the *first mass communication medium*, uses text, graphics, and images.
2. **Motion pictures:** conceived of in 1830's in order to observe motion too rapid for perception by the human eye.
3. **Wireless radio transmission:** Guglielmo Marconi, at Pontecchio, Italy, in 1895.
4. **Television:** the new medium for the 20th century, established video as a commonly available medium and has since changed the world of mass communications.

History of Multimedia:

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5. The **connection** between **computers** and ideas about **multimedia** covers what is actually only a short period:
 - ▶ 1945 - Vannevar Bush wrote a landmark article describing what amounts to a hypermedia system called **Memex**.
 - ▶ 1960 - Ted Nelson coined the term hypertext.
 - ▶ 2000 - WWW size was estimated at over 1 billion pages.

Hypermedia and Multimedia

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- A **hypertext** system: meant to be read nonlinearly, by following links that point to other parts of the document, or to other documents
- **HyperMedia**: not constrained to be text-based, can include other media, e.g., graphics, images, and especially the continuous media | sound and video.
 - The World Wide Web (WWW) | the best example of a hypermedia application.
- **Multimedia** means that computer information can be represented through audio, graphics, images, video, and animation in addition to traditional media.

SMIL (Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language)

SMIL: pronounced "smile" -- a particular application of XML (globally predefined DTD) that allows for specification of interaction among any media types and user input, in a temporally scripted manner.

SMIL

- ▶ **Purpose of SMIL:** it is also desirable to be able to publish multimedia presentations using a markup language.
- ▶ A multimedia markup language needs to enable scheduling and synchronization of different multimedia elements, and define their interactivity with the user.
- ▶ SMIL 2.0 is specified in XML using a modularization approach similar to the one used in xhtml:

SMIL

- ▶ Basic elements of SMIL as shown in the following example:

```
<!DOCTYPE smil PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD SMIL 2.0"
"http://www.w3.org/2001/SMIL20/SMIL20.dtd">
<smil xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2001/SMIL20/Language">
<head> <meta name="Author" content="Some Professor" />
</head> <body> <par id="MakingOfABook">
<seq> <video src="authorview.mpg" />
      
</seq>
<audio src="authorview.wav" />
<text src="http://www.cs.sfu.ca/mmbbook/" />
</par> </body> </smil>
```

Overview of Multimedia Software Tools

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- ▶ software tools available for carrying out tasks in multimedia are:
 1. Music Sequencing and Notation
 2. Digital Audio
 3. Graphics and Image Editing
 4. Video Editing
 5. Animation
 6. Multimedia Authoring

1. Music Sequencing and Notation

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- **Cakewalk:** *now called Pro Audio.*
 - The term sequencer comes from older devices that stored sequences of notes ("events", in MIDI [**Musical Instrument Digital Interface**]).
 - It is also possible to insert WAV files and Windows MCI commands (for animation and video) into music tracks (MCI is a ubiquitous component of the Windows API.)
- **Cubase:** another sequencing/editing program, with capabilities similar to those of Cakewalk. It includes some digital audio editing tools.
- **Macromedia Soundedit:** mature program for creating audio for multimedia projects and the web that integrates well with other Macromedia products such as Flash and Director.

2.Digital Audio

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- ▶ tools deal with accessing and editing the actual sampled sounds that make up audio:
 - **Adobe Audition** (formerly **Cool Edit**) is a powerful, popular digital audio toolkit that emulate a professional audio studio, including multitrack productions and sound file editing, along with digital signal processing effects.
 - **Sound Forge** Like Audition, Sound Forge is a sophisticated PC-based program for editing WAV files.
- ▶ **Pro Tools:** a high-end integrated audio production and editing environment . It offers MIDI creation and manipulation; powerful audio mixing, recording, and editing software.

3. Graphics and Image Editing

- **Adobe Illustrator:** a powerful publishing tool from Adobe. Uses vector graphics; graphics can be exported to Web.
- **Adobe Photoshop:** the standard in a graphics, image processing and manipulation tool.
 - Allows layers of images, graphics, and text that can be separately manipulated for maximum flexibility.
 - Filter factory permits creation of sophisticated lighting-effects filters
- **Macromedia Fireworks:** software for making graphics specifically for the web.
- **Macromedia Freehand:** a text and web graphics editing tool that supports many bitmap formats such as GIF, PNG, and JPEG.

4. Video Editing

- ▶ **Adobe Premiere:** an intuitive, simple video editing tool for nonlinear editing, i.e., putting video clips into any order:
 - Video and audio are arranged in "tracks".
 - Provides a large number of video and audio tracks, superimpositions and virtual clips.
 - A large library of built-in transitions, filters and motions for clips => effective multimedia productions with little effort.
- ▶ **Adobe After Effects:** a powerful video editing tool that enables users to add and change existing movies. Can add many effects: lighting, shadows, motion blurring; layers.

4. Video Editing

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- ▶ **Final Cut Pro:** a video editing tool by Apple; Macintosh only.
- ▶ **CyberLink PowerDirector:** PowerDirector produced by CyberLink Corp.
 - ▶ is by far the most popular nonlinear video editing software.
 - ▶ It provides a rich selection of audio and video features and special effects
 - ▶ easy to use.
 - ▶ It supports all modern video formats (AVCHD 2.0, 4K Ultra HD, and 3D video)
 - ▶ It supports 64-bit video processing
 - ▶ it is not as “programmable” as Premiere.

5. Animation

- **Multimedia APIs:**

- **Java3D:** API used by Java to construct and render 3D graphics, similar to the way in which the Java Media Framework is used for handling media files.
 1. Provides a basic set of object primitives (cube, splines, etc.) for building scenes.
 2. It is an abstraction layer built on top of OpenGL or DirectX (the user can select which).
- **DirectX** : Windows API that supports video, images, audio and 3-D animation
- **OpenGL**: the highly portable, most popular 3-D API.

5. Animation

- **Animation Software (Rendering Tools):**
 - **3D Studio Max:** rendering tool that includes a number of very high-end professional tools for character animation, game development, and visual effects production.
 - **Softimage XSI:** a powerful modeling, animation, and rendering package used for animation and special effects in films and games.
 - **Maya:** competing product to Softimage; as well, it is a complete modeling package.
 - **RenderMan:** rendering package created by Pixar.

5. Animation

► GIF Animation Packages :

- simpler approach to animation, allows very quick development of effective small animations for the web.
- GIFs can contain several images, and looping through them creates a simple animation.
- Linux also provides some simple animation tools, such as **animate**.

6. Multimedia Authoring

- Tools that provide the capability for creating a complete multimedia presentation, including interactive user control, are called **authoring** programs.
- **Macromedia Flash:** allows users to create interactive movies by using the score metaphor, i.e., a timeline arranged in parallel event sequences.
- **Macromedia Director:** uses a movie metaphor to create interactive presentations. It is very powerful and includes a built in scripting language, **Lingo**, that allows creation of complex interactive movies.

6. Multimedia Authoring

- **Authorware:** a mature, well-supported authoring product based on the **Iconic/Flow-control** metaphor.
- **Quest:** similar to Authorware in many ways, uses a type of flowcharting metaphor. However, the flowchart nodes can encapsulate information in a more abstract way (called **frames**) than simply subroutine levels.