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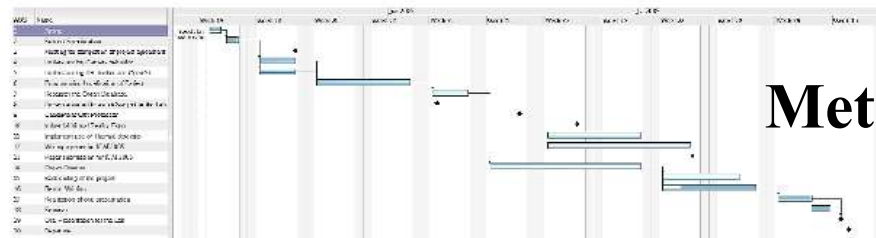
At University of Tsukuba, Japan
Computer Vision and Image Media Laboratory





Internship context

Subject Presentation



Methodologies



System Overview

Results





Context of internship



Japan 日本





Context of internship



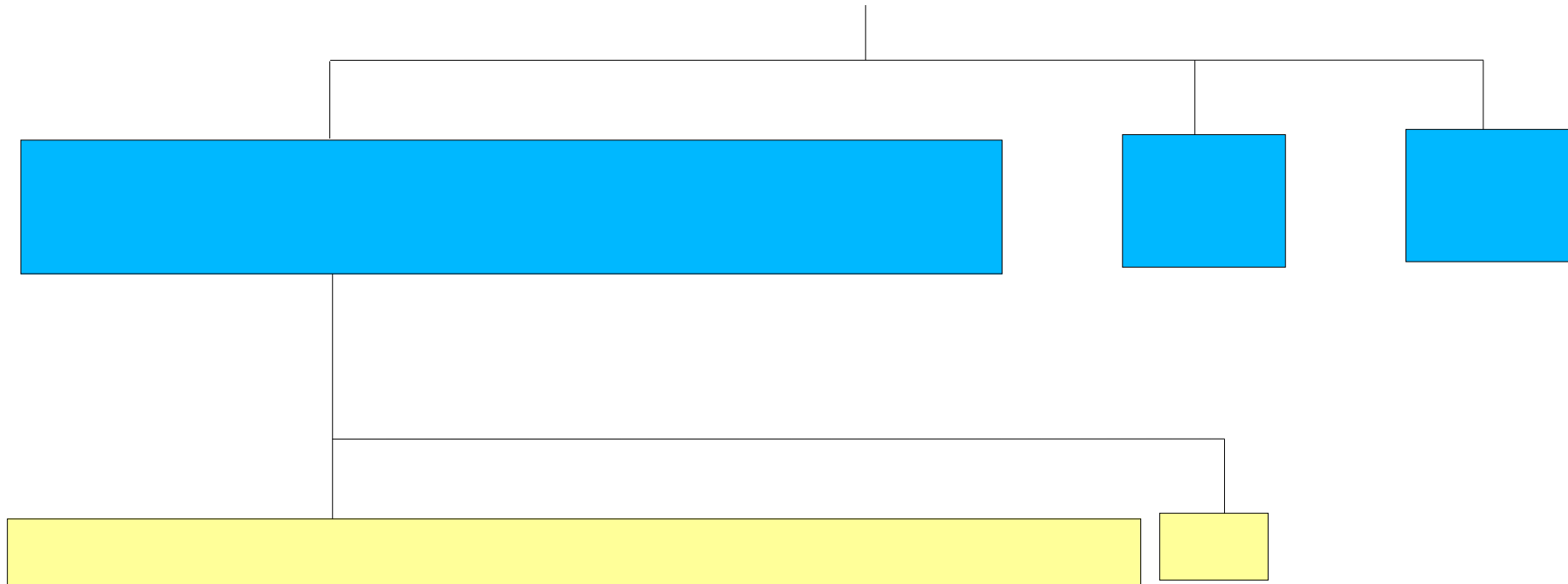
Japan 日本

つくば市





Context of internship





Médecin 1949





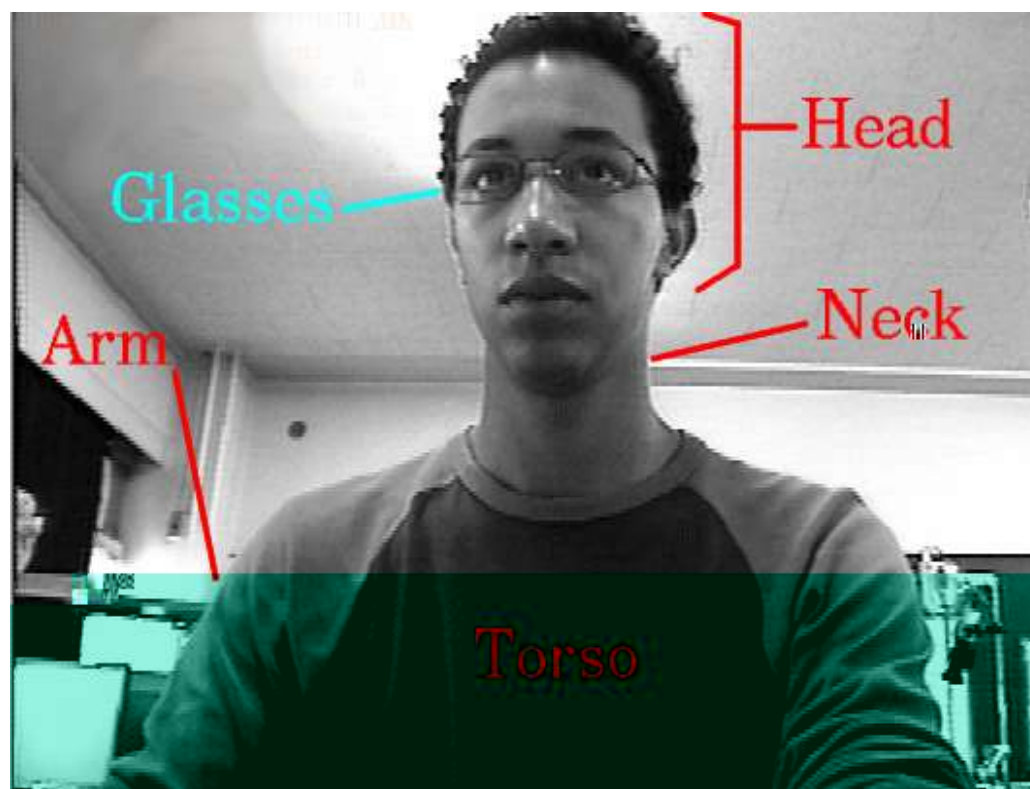
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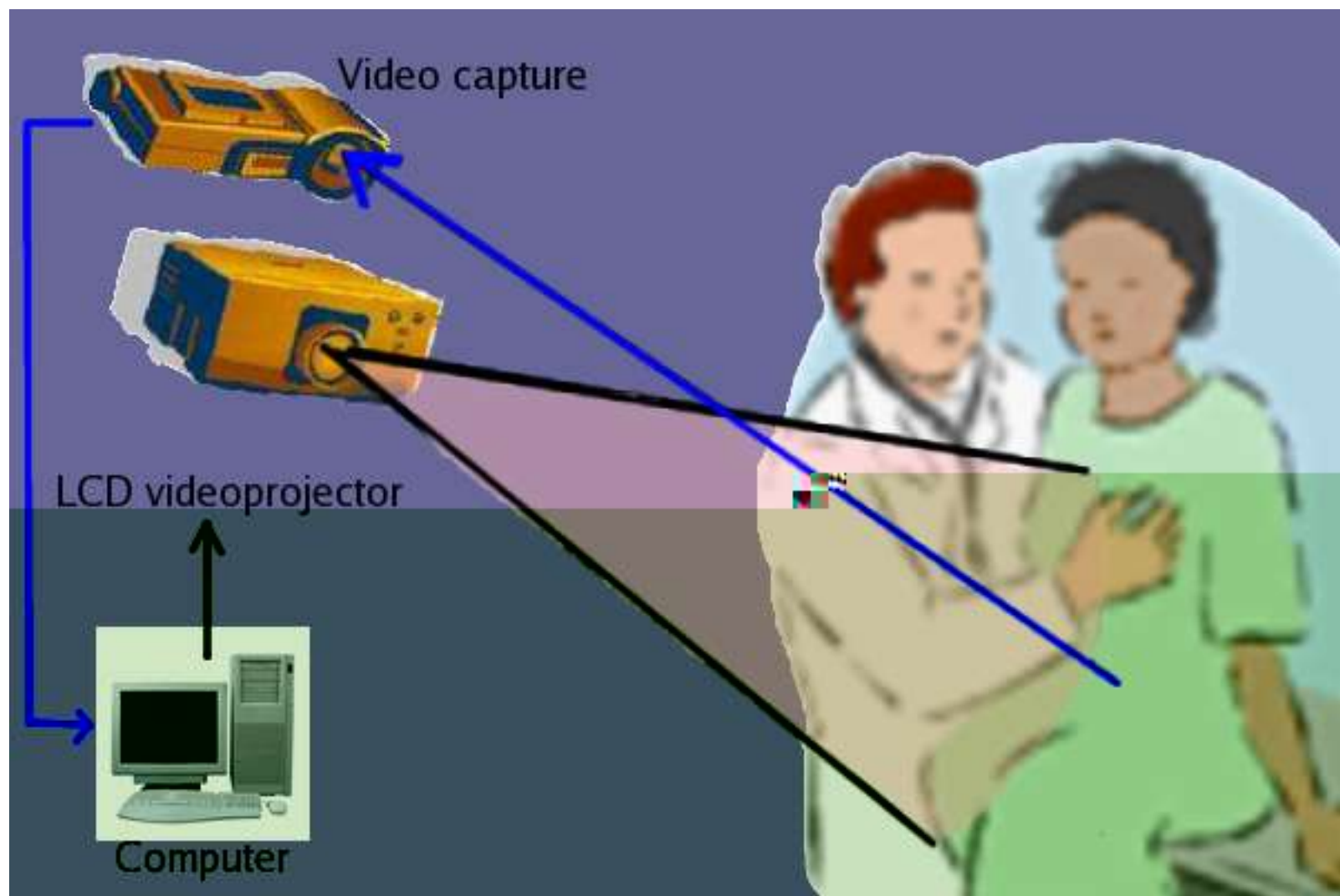


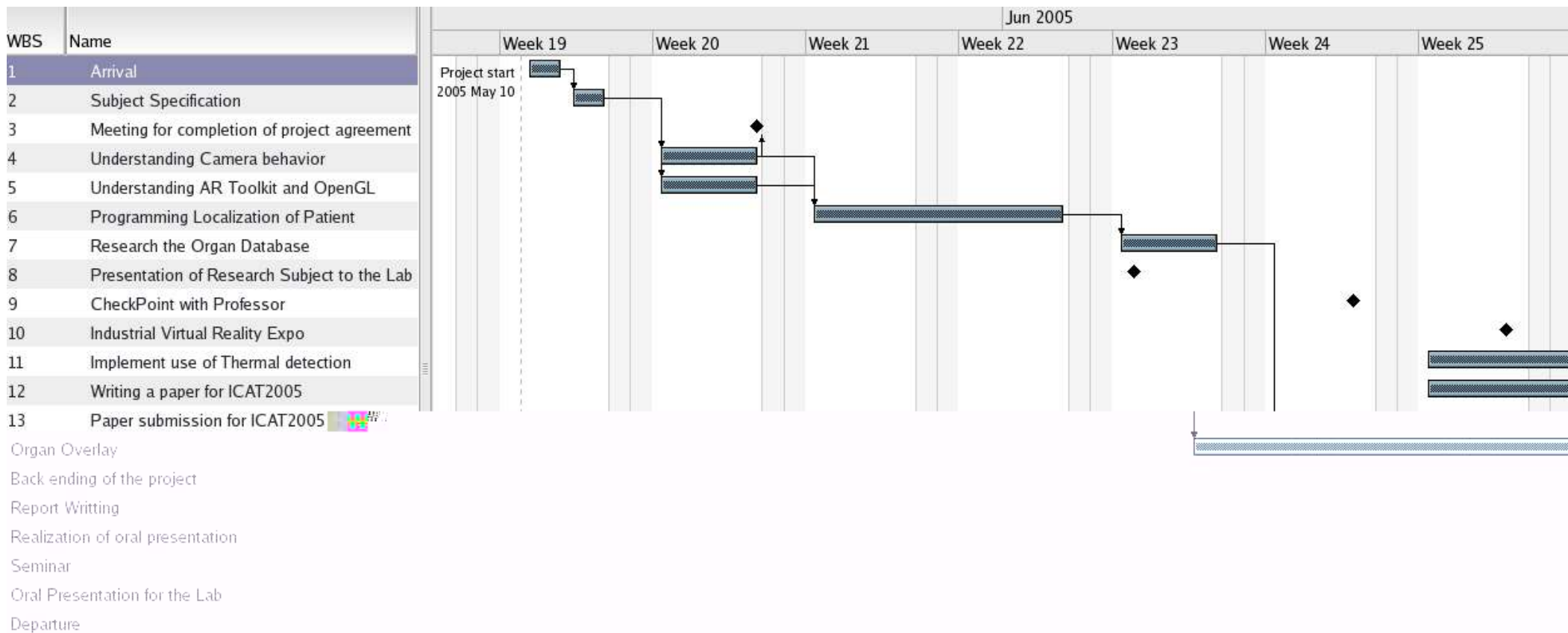
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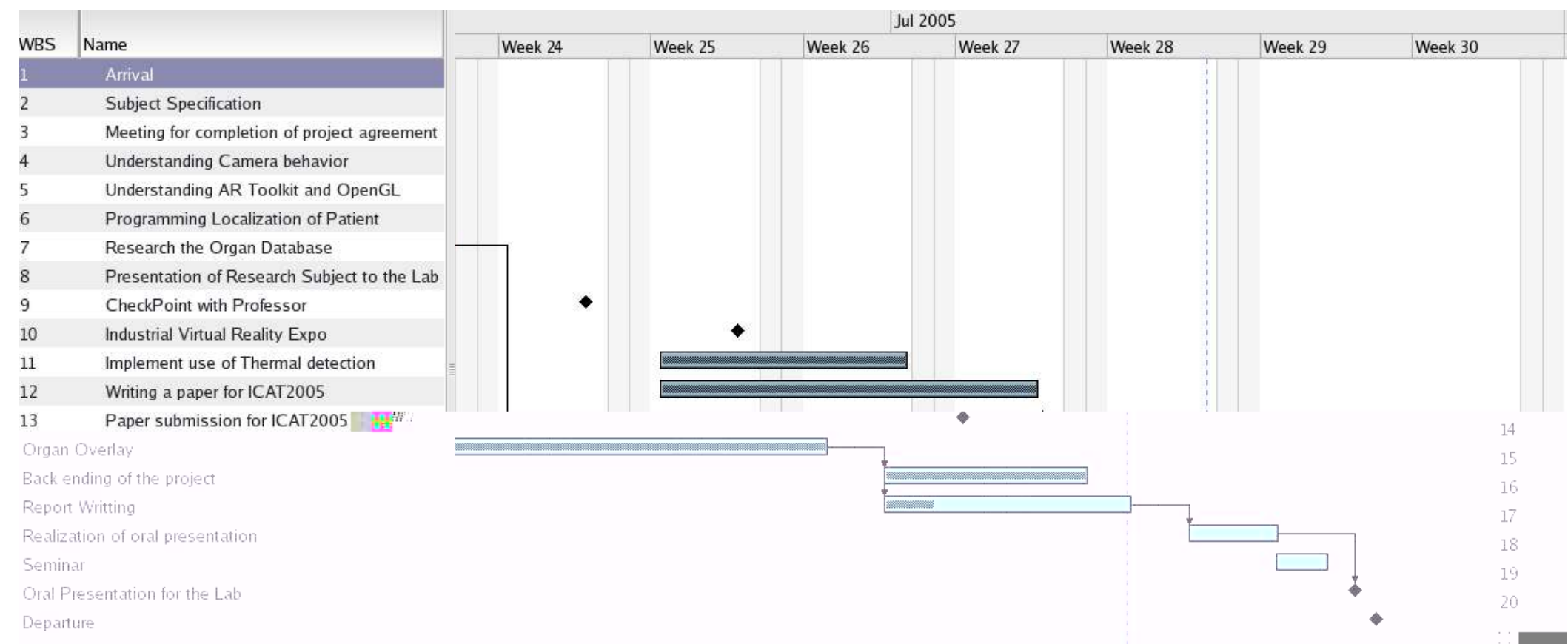
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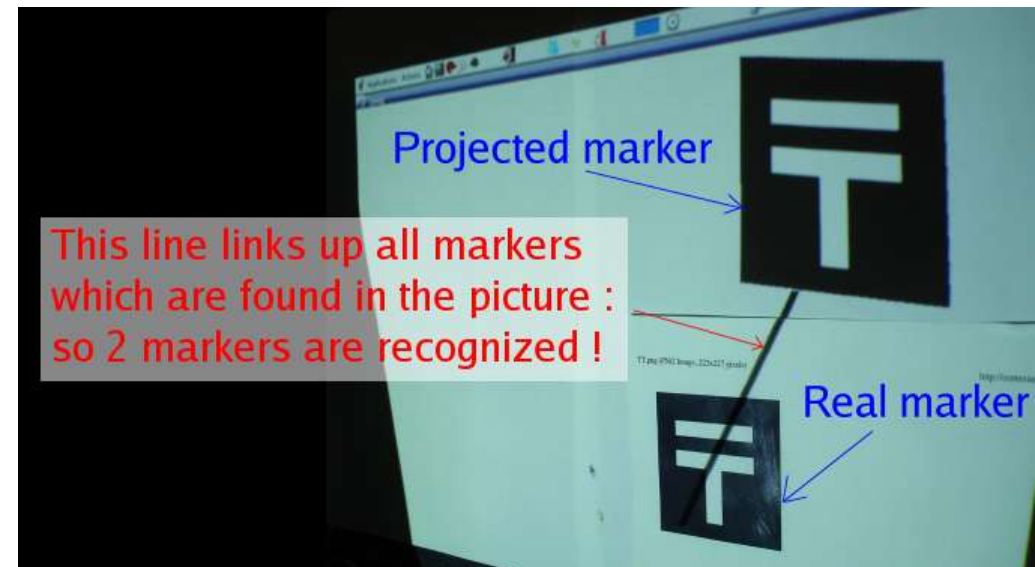
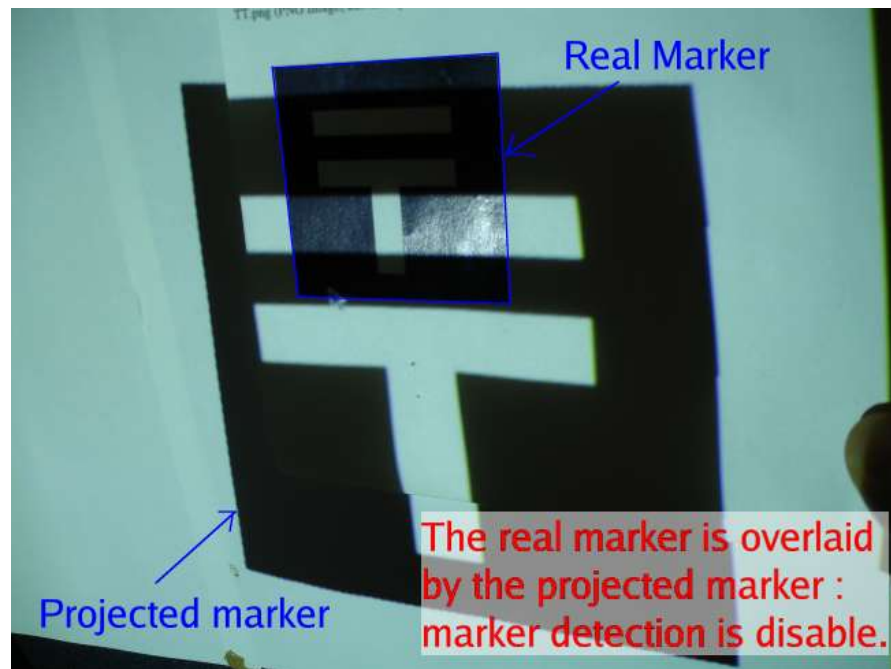




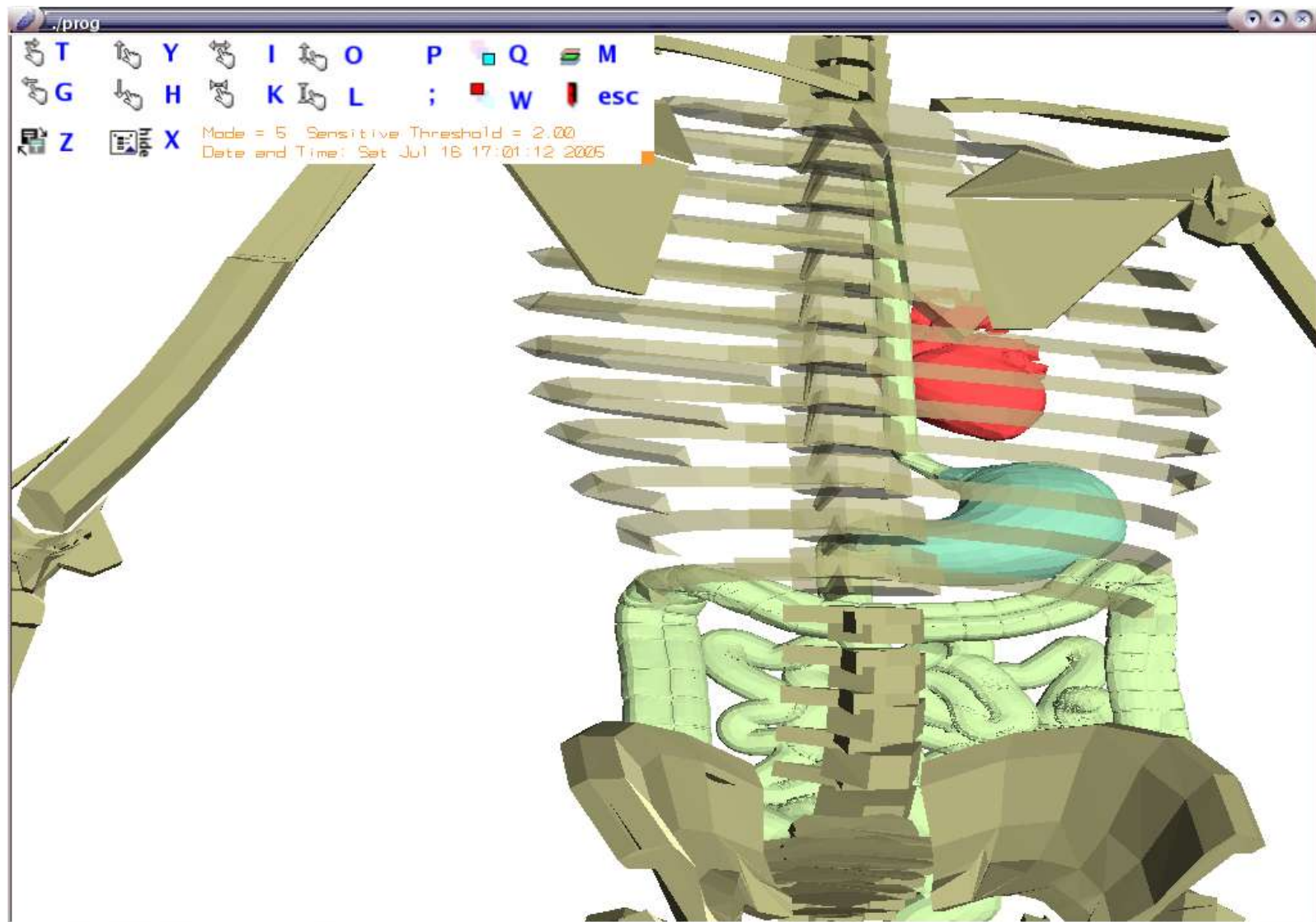


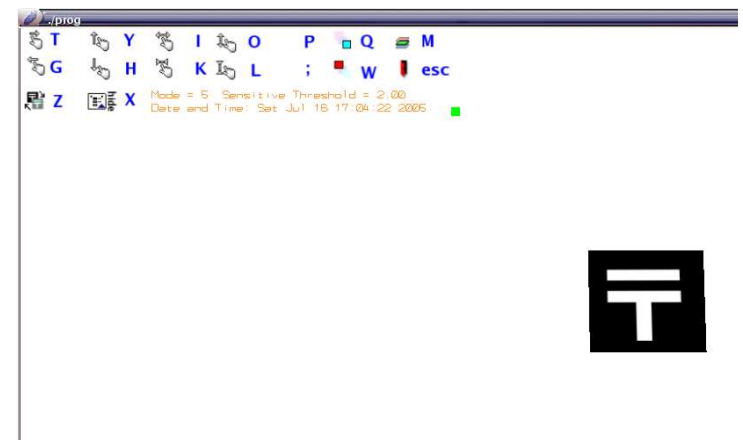
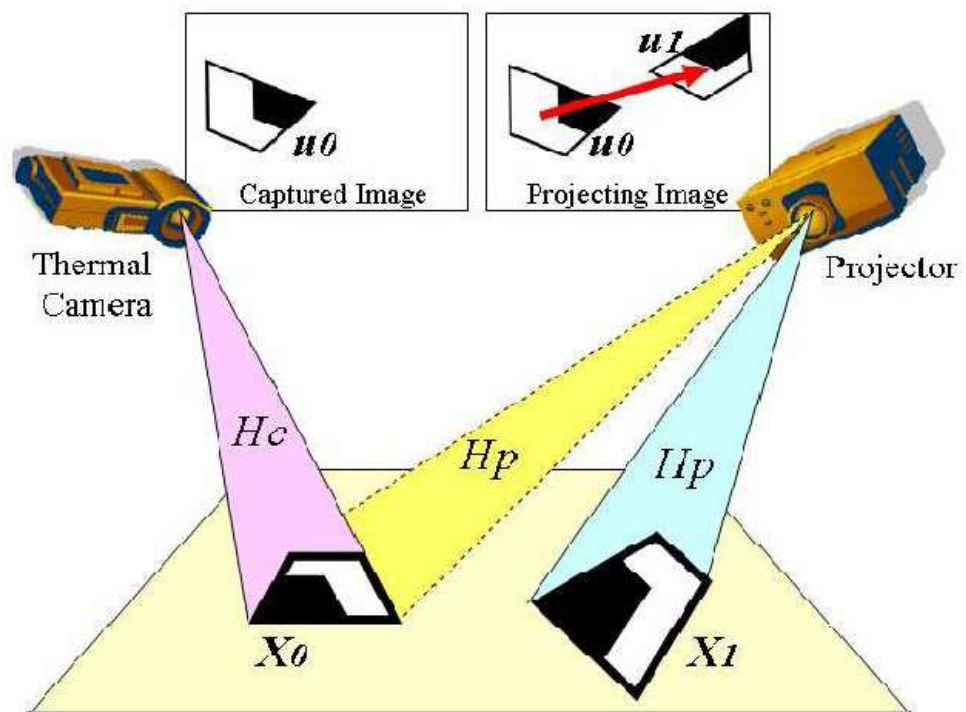


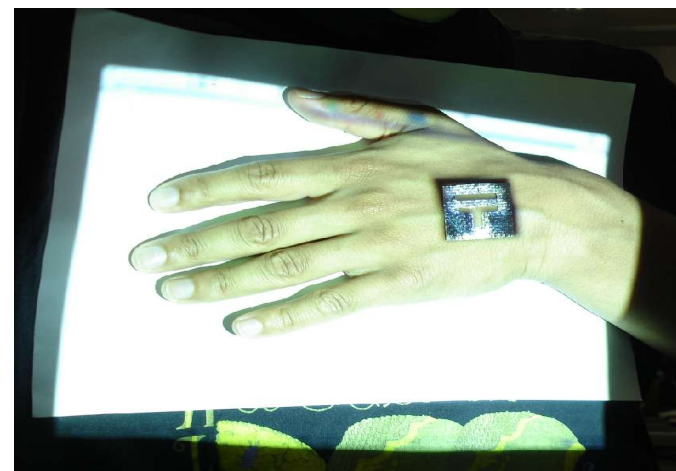
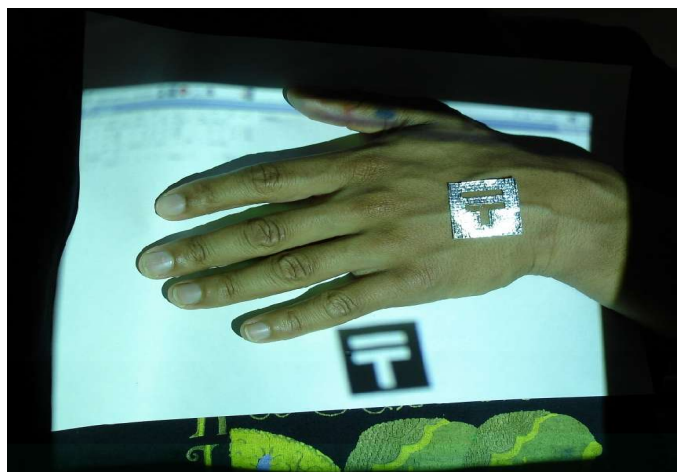
→ Drawbacks

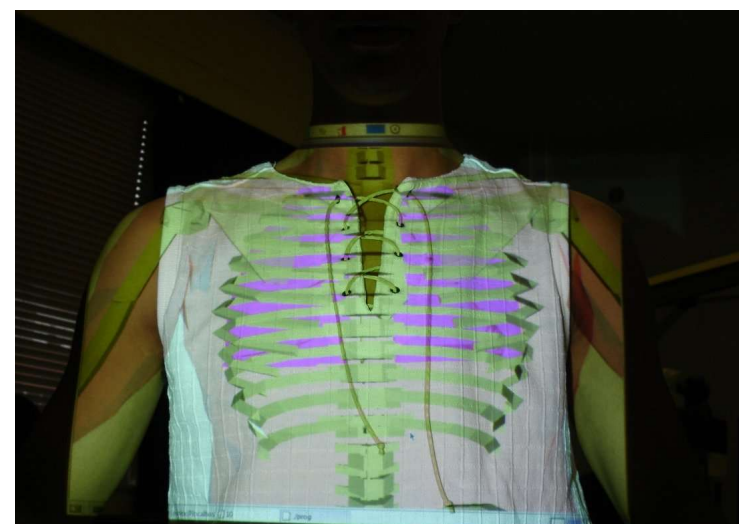
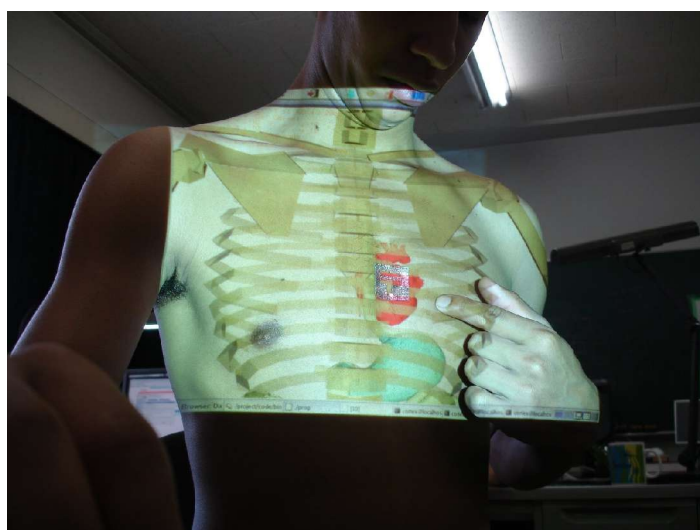
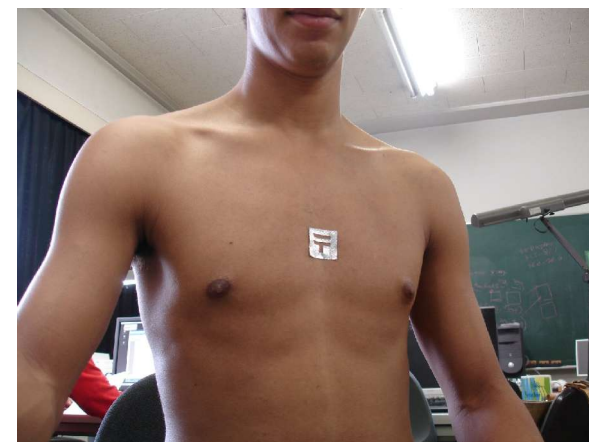














See-Through Medical Examination: Visual Support for Medical Consultation by using Projector-Based Augmented Reality and Thermal markers

Jeremy Bluteau^{1,2}, Itaru Kitahara^{1*}, Yoshinari Kameda¹,

Haruo Noma¹, Kiyoshi Kogure¹ and Yuichi Ohta¹

¹University of Tsukuba, 1-1-1 Tennoudai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8573, Japan

²Université Joseph Fourier, Domaine Universitaire BP 53, Grenoble, 38041, France

* ATR, 2-2-2 Hikaridai, Katsushika Science City, Kyoto, 619-0288, Japan

{jeremy} kitahara{kameda}ohta}@image.esys.tsukuba.ac.jp, {noma|kogure}@atr.jp

Abstract

This paper presents a system that allows patients and physicians to experience better communication during medical consultations using Augmented Reality (AR) technology. This AR system can superimpose augmentations (i.e., human body components) onto the real patient's body. This augmented information would form the cornerstone for collaborative work between the two actors. We focus on the advantages of projector-based technology and the ARToolKit. Our technique, based on thermal markers (i.e., using human body temperature as a source of information) is used for tracking the location of pain in the patient through the projected augmentations. The second aim of using thermal markers is to protect the patient's privacy. The required calibration method between thermal-camera and projector is also presented. The feasibility of the system is demonstrated through development of a complete application.

Key words: Augmented Reality, Medical Consultation, Collaborative Work, Thermal Marker, Health Science

1. Introduction

In medical consultations, communication is one of the most important factors between a doctor and a patient. In the direction from the patient to the doctor, information about the patient's status must be collected as accurately as possible to construct a precise interpretation of it. In the other direction, the patient must be able to receive comprehensible information to give his informed consent without any misunderstanding. In both directions, clear communication is essential. A collaborative work exists based on the patient's body (if we disregard psychological consultations).

Two problems need to be solved. The first is: how can the physician bring medical knowledge and his interpretation in a simple way, even if the patient has no anatomical knowledge? The second problem is: how can the patient explain to the doctor the feelings that are difficult to localize and specify? These two main problems are summarized in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1: Difficulty of the communication between patient and doctor

Augmented Reality (AR) has potential to be a convenient tool for human communication that allows the user to see the real world with virtual objects superimposed upon it. AR is based on mixing a live video stream from a camera with computer-generated graphical scene elements [Azu97]. This kind of AR technique is helpful for general medical visualization tasks, mainly in surgical applications [Baj02] [Sta96] [Fuc98] [Coe03] or for training applications [Sle04] [Coe03], however, there does not yet appear to have been approaches proposed that apply collaboration between live video and computer-generated elements. In the fully Virtual Reality world, some experiments have been carried out involving patient and doctor interaction [Sch05], but it is still important to conduct medical examinations on real patients' bodies, because diseased parts will always be with us. On the other hand, if we realized a system that utilizes a patient's body information (e.g., appearance and shape), privacy issues must be carefully considered. People usually do not want to be in hospital, thus they might be quite reluctant to have their personal information taken down without any clear merit.

This paper introduces our trial to provide a prototype system for a see-through medical examination, which is based on AR technology, and thus respects patient privacy.

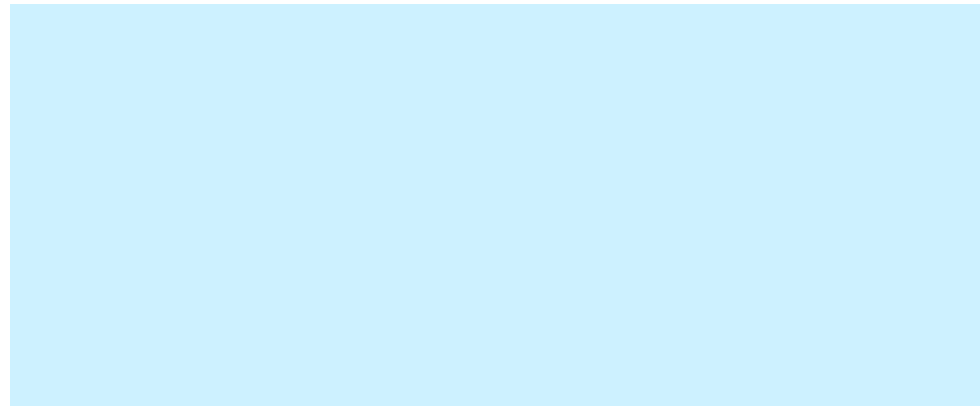
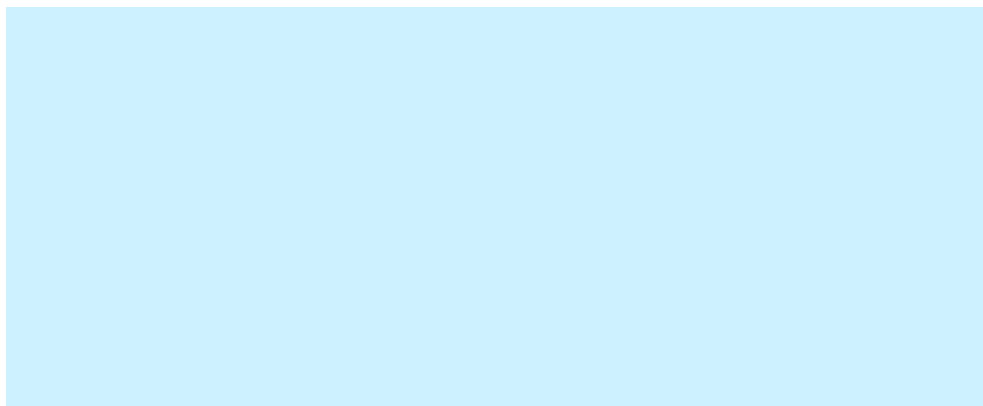


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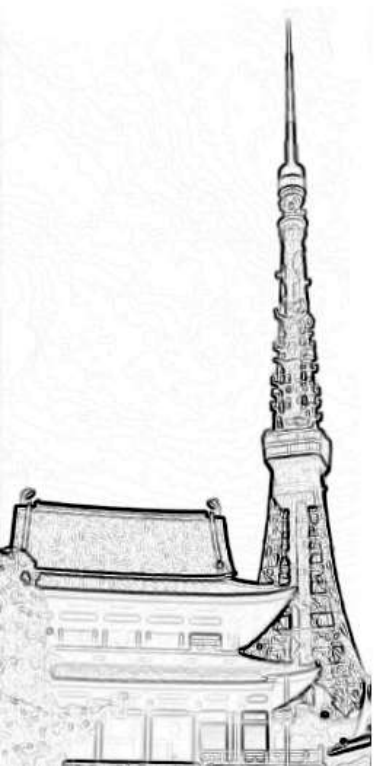
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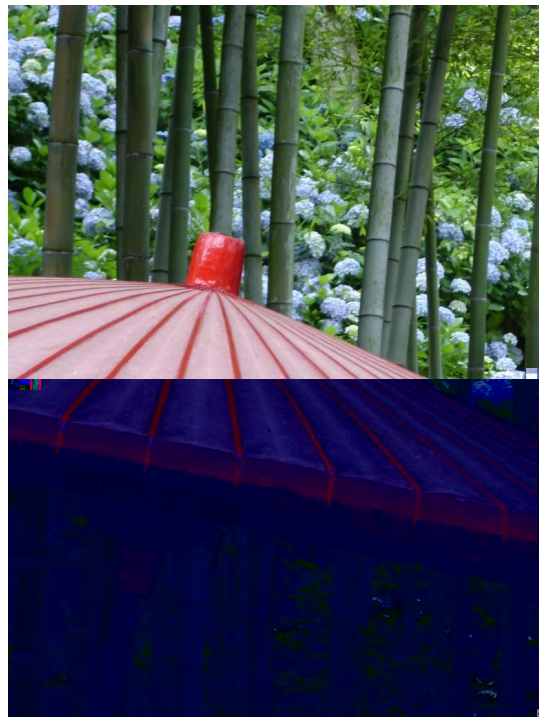
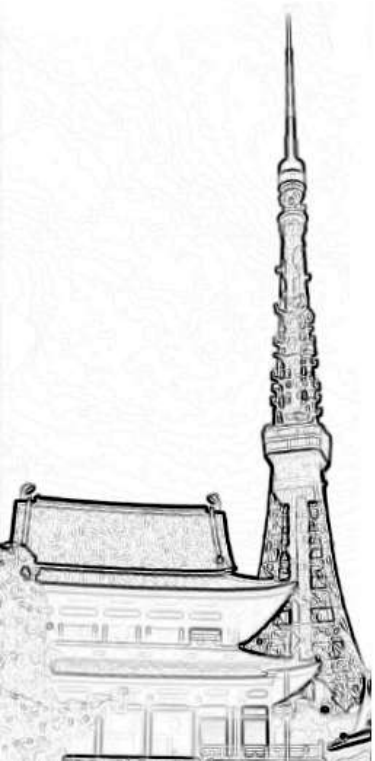
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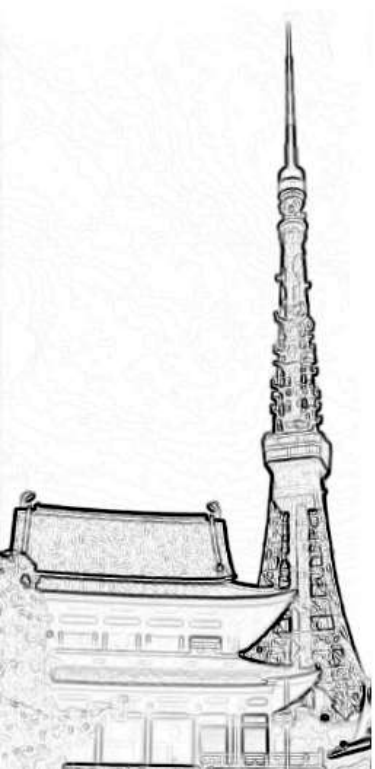
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