





informatics / mathematics

CAST: Effective and Efficient User Interaction for Context-Aware Selection in 3D Particle Clouds

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 3D spatial data—basis of many visualization research questions

• problem: how to efficiently select particles in 3D?



[Wingrave & Bowman, 2005]



 3D spatial data—basis of many visualization research questions

• problem: how to efficiently select particles in 3D?



[Lucas & Bowman, 2005]



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- spatial, structure-aware 3D selection techniques
- 2D lasso interaction:
 - particle density or the scalar properties of volume data
 - Select all dense clusters through the 3D space that is enclosed by the drawn lasso

require a good point of view





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Cast

- spatial, context-aware selection techniques
 - input : 2D lasso / point
 - location or shape
 - output: *intended* 3D selection



SpaceCast



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- spatial, context-aware selection techniques
 - input : 2D lasso / point
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TraceCast



Cast

- spatial, context-aware selection techniques
 - input : 2D lasso / point
 - location or shape
 - output: *intended* 3D selection



PointCast



















































SpaceCast



data: Aquarius simulation



 selecting the candidate cluster whose 2D projection is best approximated by the drawn stroke.
































































































PointCast shown at 2x speed data: Millennium-II simulation

Evaluation & Validation: User Study

- quantitative study to confirm
- compare five selection methods
 - CylinderSelection (Tablet Freehand Lasso)
 - CloudLasso (best results)
 - three Cast members
- trackball rotation
- undo/redo
- density threshold slider
- boolean operations possible:
 - union (+): same technique
 - intersection (\cap) and subtraction (–): CylinderSelection



Study Design

• 20 participants (6 female)

4 selection tasks (datasets)

measurement of time and error

questionnaire for subjective opinion





Study Results



Cast techniques were much

faster than CylinderSelection

and CloudLasso.

- both PointCast and TraceCast outperform SpaceCast
- some indication that PointCast may outperform TraceCast
- all five techniques got very accurate results.
- PointCast and TraceCast were the preferred techniques.





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- some indication that PointCast may outperform TraceCast

Datasets 15 - Cluster Shell 10 - Rings 5 - Cylinder CloudLasso SpaceCast PointCast TraceCast

- all five techniques got very accurate results.
- PointCast and TraceCast were the preferred techniques.









Discussion - Selection Scenarios (1)

• multiple clusters





PointCast



CloudLasso

Discussion - Selection Scenarios (2)

partial selection



CloudLasso

SpaceCast

TraceCast

PointCast



Discussion - Selection Scenarios (3)

occlusion



CloudLasso

TraceCast



Discussion - Selection Scenarios (3)

occlusion - PointCast

PointCast

shown at 2x speed

data: Gravitas galaxy simulation



Structure finding

PointCast

shown at 2x speed

interactive adjustment of the selection threshold to select connected components that originate from the cluster picked with PointCast

data: Millennium-II simulation



Application Domains / Future work

- any particle-based dataset
- use other edge-detection algorithms to determine an appropriate density isosurface
- combine different selection techniques



Conclusion

- Cast: a new family of context-aware interactive selection techniques
- input: lasso drawn / clicking in 2D; output: 3D space
- effective: cover a wide range of possible selection goals
- efficient: allow users to arrive at selections faster than standard techniques



Thank you for your attention!









Video & demo: http://yulingyun.com/projects/cast



Additional Slides

SpaceCast-Exception

situation:

- VA: small and being in the front
- *V_B*: larger and being in the back
- user intention: V_A
- user interaction:
 - $S_A < S_L$ but $S_B = S_L$
- result:
 - If S_A > 0.8S_B, then choose the one closest to the eye





PointCast - Two exceptions

• The target cluster is behind a very faint cluster.

• The target cluster is behind another cluster V_B and the selection ray passes nearby, but outside, V_B .







Synthetic Dataset



Clusters dataset



Technique	Time	CI	F1	CI	MCC	CI
Cylinder	65s	[53,80]	.99	[.98,.99]	.99	[.98,.99]
CloudLasso	41s	[36,48]	.99	[.98,.99]	.99	[.98,.99]
SpaceCast	18s	[14,24]	.99	[.98,.99]	.99	[.98,.99]
PointCast	10s	[8.8,12]	.99	[.95,.99]	.99	[.96,.99]
TraceCast	12s	[11,14]	.99	[.98,1]	.99	[.98,1]



Synthetic Dataset



Shell dataset



Technique	Time	CI	F1	CI	MCC	CI
Cylinder	86s	[71,105]	.97	[.97,.97]	.96	[.96,.97]
CloudLasso	46s	[49,54]	.95	[.92,.96]	.94	[.91,.96]
SpaceCast	21s	[17,25]	.95	[.86,.98]	.94	[.82,.97]
PointCast	10s	[8.2,13]	.97	[.93,.98]	.97	[.93,.98]
TraceCast	11s	[9.6,14]	.98	[.97,.98]	.97	[.97,.98]



Synthetic Dataset



Rings dataset



Technique	Time	CI	F1	CI	MCC	CI
Cylinder	66s	[55,87]	.96	[.96,.97]	.96	[.94,.96]
CloudLasso	35s	[27,45]	.98	[.97,.98]	.97	[.96,.98]
SpaceCast	16s	[13,19]	.98	[.97,.98]	.97	[.96,.98]
PointCast	10s	[7.9,13]	.97	[.91,.99]	.97	[.91,.98]
TraceCast	11s	[9.7,13]	.98	[.97,.99]	.98	[.96,.98]



Real Dataset



N-body mass simulation



Technique	Time	CI	F1	CI	MCC	CI
Cylinder	161s	[134,192]	.92	[.91,.93]	.92	[.91,.93]
CloudLasso	50s	[43,59]	.94	[.93,.95]	.94	[.93,.95]
SpaceCast	49s	[41,57]	.94	[.93,.95]	.94	[.93,.95]
PointCast	58s	[51,65]	.94	[.89,.96]	.95	[.90,.96]
TraceCast	60s	[51,70]	.95	[.93,.96]	.95	[.93,.96]


Completion times

Ratios between mean completion times for the simulation dataset.





Application Domains

• Hurricane Isabel dataset - SpaceCast



