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Virtual Cities: Planning & Design using VR & Genetic Algorithm

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A GA-Enable VR Framework For Generating Alternative 3D Space Configurations

Research
Framework

Virtual Objects

Methodology

Results

3D VR Worlds



Background

- Planning and managing cities – increasingly complex, as the population of cities increases geometrically
- To meet the demands of the increasing population, the limited resources are subject to over exploitation
- To attain long-term sustainable development proper planning is needed
- Landuse planning involves multiple stakeholders, multiple demands or objectives must be satisfied

Virtual Planning

- 3D models provides a key component – “sense of immersion”
- 3D models better enables understanding in inherent characteristics and processes
- Visualization provides an ability to better understand and interact with data

Virtual Planning

- To explore the use of visualization tools for planning and designing urban spaces
- Customize the plan of a site to the client’s requirements for how they want to use the space right in front of their eyes
- Full picture – we want the planners to be able to see (near) final proposed designs

Optimization & VR

- In the following demonstration example, first Genetic Algorithm based optimization was performed and selected Pareto plans were visualized using Virtual Reality
- To design a GA-based Multiobjective Optimization procedure that can generate a set of Pareto-optimal plans for maximizing three objectives namely green space, space for public service, and housing capacity.

Genetic Algorithms (GA)

- Core of GA – Selection and Variation
- Wide-ranging search procedures
- Overcome limitations of methods
 - Can handle multiobjective problems
 - Can handle very large search spaces

```
p(t)           ; Initiate the population
EVAL p(t)      ; Evaluate the population
                Calculate fitness using
                objective functions

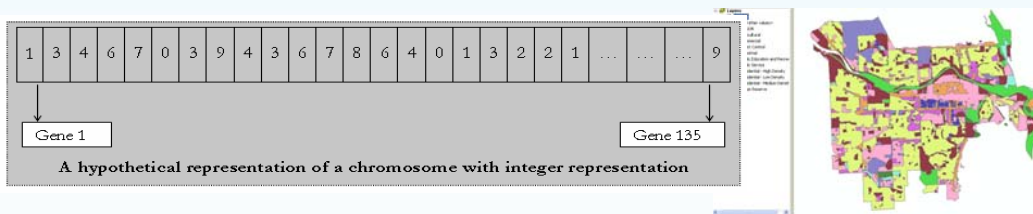
while (!= termination -clause)do ; check for satisfaction of criteria
                                Maximum number of
                                iterations reached?

t := t+1        ; proceed to subsequent generation
Create p(t) from p(t-1) ; Generate pop using genetic operators
Evaluate p(t)    ; Again, evaluate the new population
loop
```

GA-Based Multiobjective Optimization

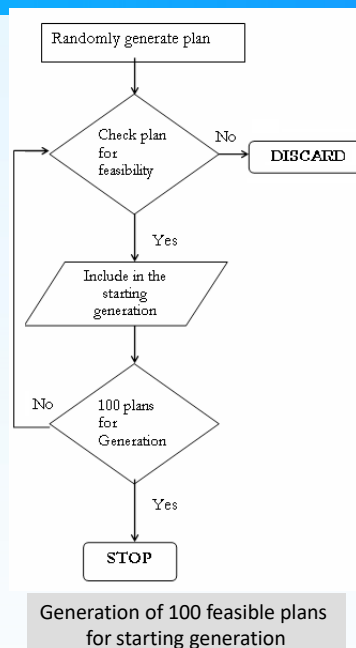
- 3 GA objectives (all directly conflicting objectives)
 - o Maximization of per capita green space (PCGS), per capita space for public service (PCPS), and housing density (NumHU)
- Computation of objective values
 - o PCGS and PCPS - Area / Number of residents
 - o $\text{NumHU} = \text{AreaResL} * 50 + \text{AreaResM} * 100 + \text{AreaResH} * 185$
 - AreaResL, AreaResM, AreaResH: low, Med, High-density residential area
- GA constraints: Direct control zones & Urban reserves unchanged

Landuse Type	LU_Code	Integer corresponding To LU_Code
Agricultural Zone	AGRI	0
Commercial Zone	COMM	1
Direct Control	DC	2
Industrial zone	IND	3
Greenspace zone	GS	4
Pubic service zone	PS	5
Residential –High Density	RESH	6
Residential –Low Density	RESL	7
Residential –Medium Density	RESM	8
Urban Reserve	UR	9



GA: Starting generation and feasible set

- Sample Study area divided into 135 zones
- Population of initial generation – 100**
 - o Random generation
 - 100 * 135 integer values – Range 0-9
 - o Plans checked for feasibility
- More than 1 million plans (1,213,400) generated to get 100 feasible plans



GA: Fitness

- o Every plan compared with other plans in the same generation
- o Values returned by objective functions for Plan_i - PCGS_i, PGPS_i, NumHU_i
- o Considering two plans i and j, Plan_i is dominated by Plan_j, if
PCGS_j > PCGS_i, PGPS_j > PGPS_i, NumHU_j > NumHU_i
- o If min diff. b/w j & i > zero, then plan j dominates plan i
 $\min(\text{PCGS}_j - \text{PCGS}_i, \text{PGPS}_j - \text{PGPS}_i, \text{NumHU}_j - \text{NumHU}_i) > 0$

$$f_i = \left[1 - \max_{j \neq i} \left(\min \left(\frac{\text{PCGS}_j - \text{PCGS}_i}{\text{PCGS}_{\max} - \text{PCGS}_{\min}}, \frac{\text{PGPS}_j - \text{PGPS}_i}{\text{PGPS}_{\max} - \text{PGPS}_{\min}}, \frac{\text{NumHU}_j - \text{NumHU}_i}{\text{NumHU}_{\max} - \text{NumHU}_{\min}} \right) \right) \right]^p$$

- o Every plan must be compared with all other plans in generation
 $\max(\min(\text{PCGS}_j - \text{PCGS}_i, \text{PGPS}_j - \text{PGPS}_i, \text{NumHU}_j - \text{NumHU}_i)) > 0$
If > 0, then no other plan outperforms plan i in all objectives
 $j \neq i$

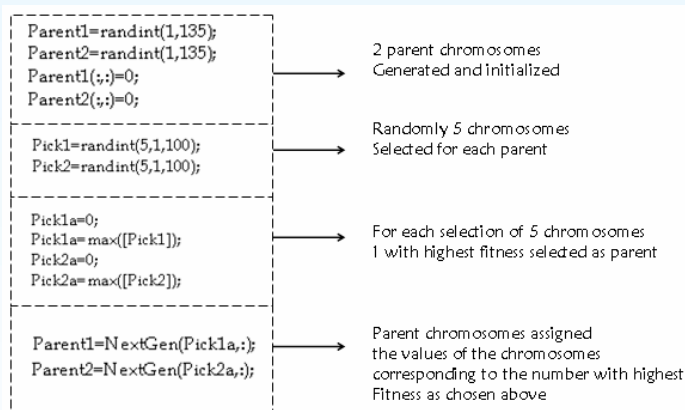
GA: Creating Next Generation

➤ Natural selection

- o $\text{Num}_{\text{ret}} = \text{Num}_{\text{ChrPop}} * \text{SelRate}$
- o SelRate - Too small - Available genes limited
- Too large - Bad traits continue to be inherited
- o Previous generation sorted and 20 plans selected (20% SelRate)

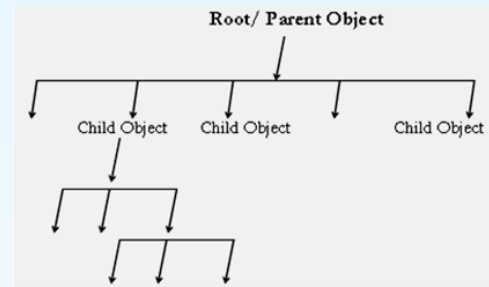
➤ Selection for mating

- o 2 parents chosen for reproduction (mating)
- o Random Pairing



VR-Based Visualization

- Visualization used to compare the Pareto plans
- Virtual Reality
 - o Subset of high fitness Pareto plans selected
 - o 3D worlds for selected Pareto plans generated
 - o Plans compared to select most suitable plan for current problem
- Hierarchical structure of scene definition
 - o Scene divided into components or objects
 - o Objects grouped to form bigger objects



Hierarchical structure for scene definition

software

- Virtual scenarios - x3D/VRML
- Unity platform
- Java 3D
- Scripting
- Game engine capable of rendering through either through OpenGL or DirectX

HARDWARE

- Desktop/Laptop
 - HP Z800 machine – HP graphics workstation
 - Alien ware Series or Oculus compatible laptops
- Samsung C7000 46inch 3D TV
 - proprietary glasses for binocular vision
- Razer Hydra
 - Built for gams. Recent surge in use for DIY-VR
- Microsoft Kinect
 - Gaming interface MS Xbox; but, this study uses as tracking interface

Hydra -Real-time Interaction



Oculus (VR Display)

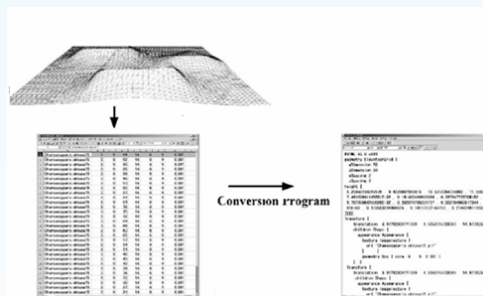
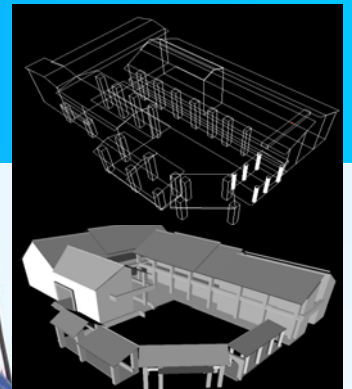


Interface (MS Kinect)



HTC Vive

OCULUS & HTC VIVE



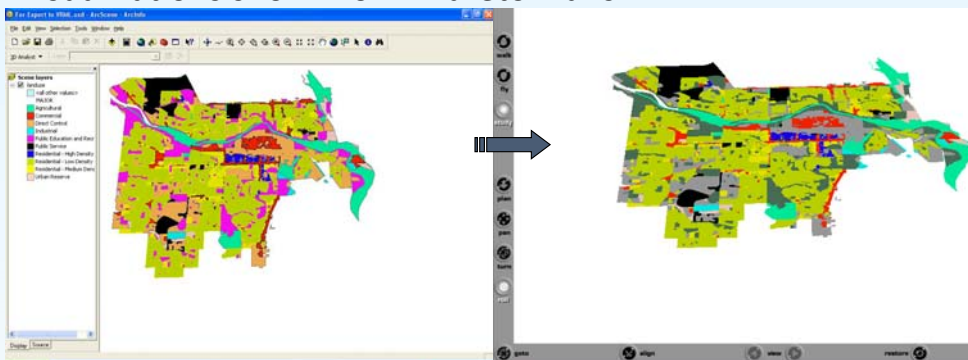
Results and Discussion

- Experiments confirm that values suggested by pioneers are correct
 - o Medium tournament size
 - o Low mutation probability
- GA executed for the given landuse region with following parameters
 - o Tournament size of 5
 - o Mutation probability – 0.05
- o GA executed for 100 generations maximizing three objectives

Tournament size	Mutation Probability	Generation size	Ratio of Pareto plans Starting:Final
Low	Low 0.05	100	1:3
	Medium 0.1	100	1:2.5
	High 0.2	100	1:2
Medium	Low 0.05	100	1:4.2
	Medium 0.1	100	1:3
	High 0.2	100	1:3
High	Low 0.05	100	1:3
	Medium 0.1	100	1:3.25
	High 0.2	100	1:3

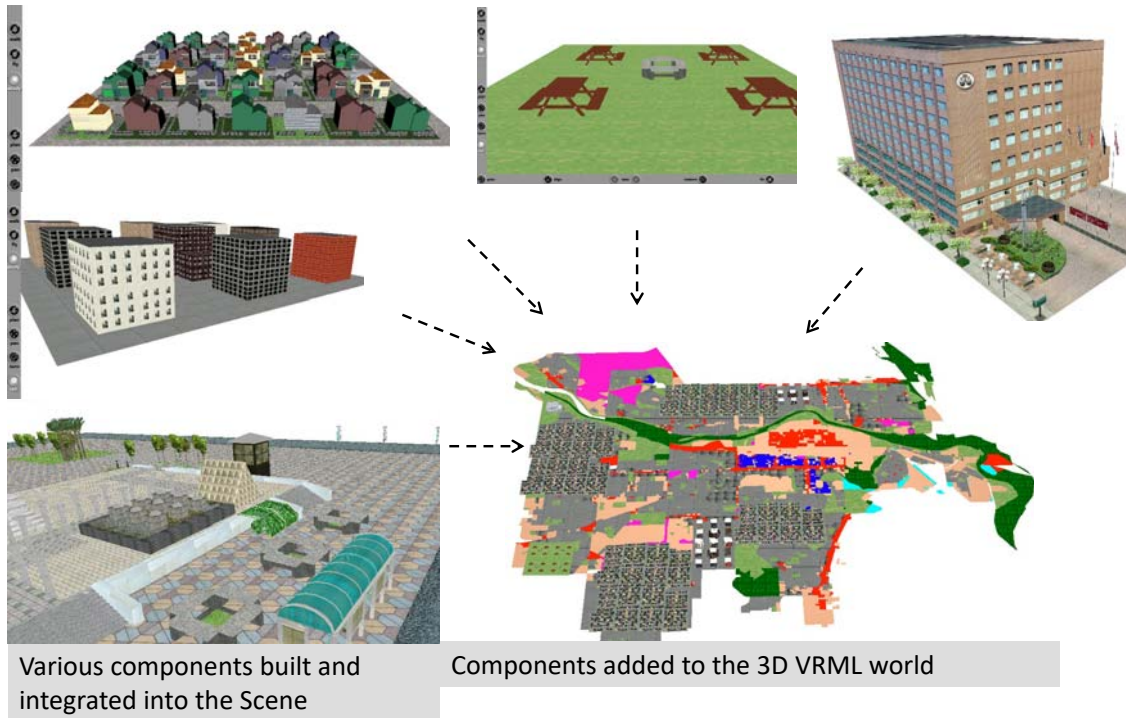
Results and Discussion

Visualizations shown for 2 Pareto Plans

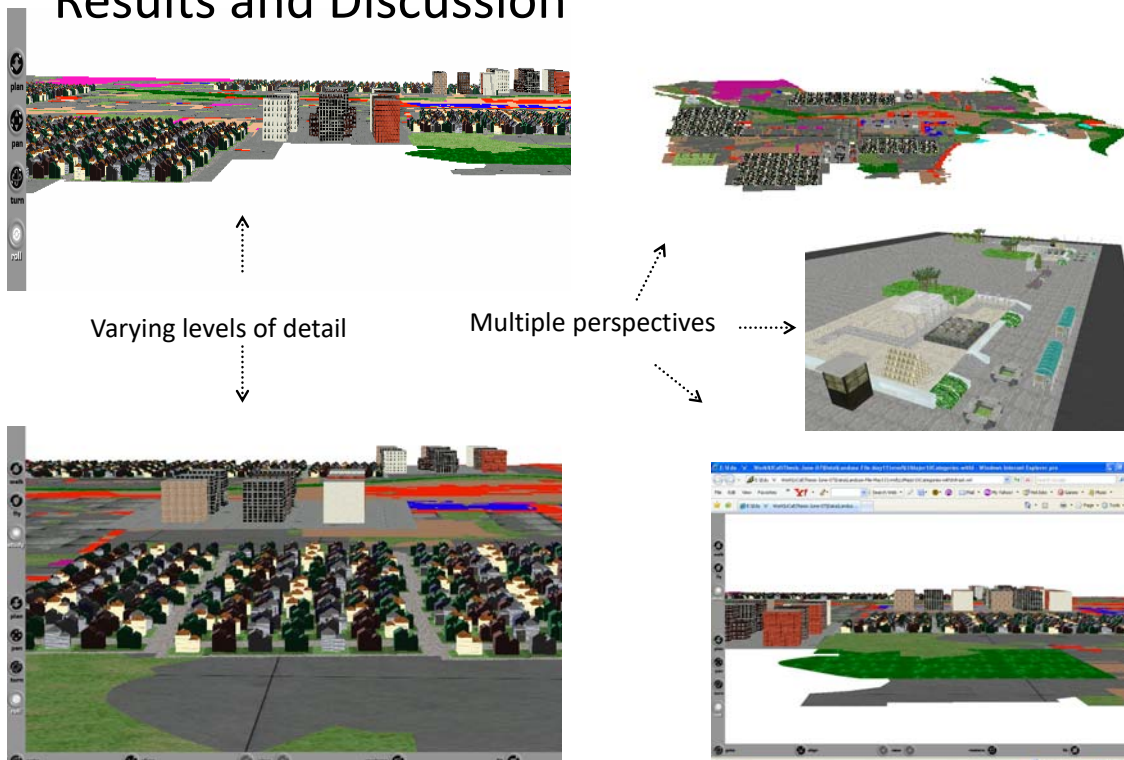


File imported from ArcScene

Results and Discussion



Results and Discussion



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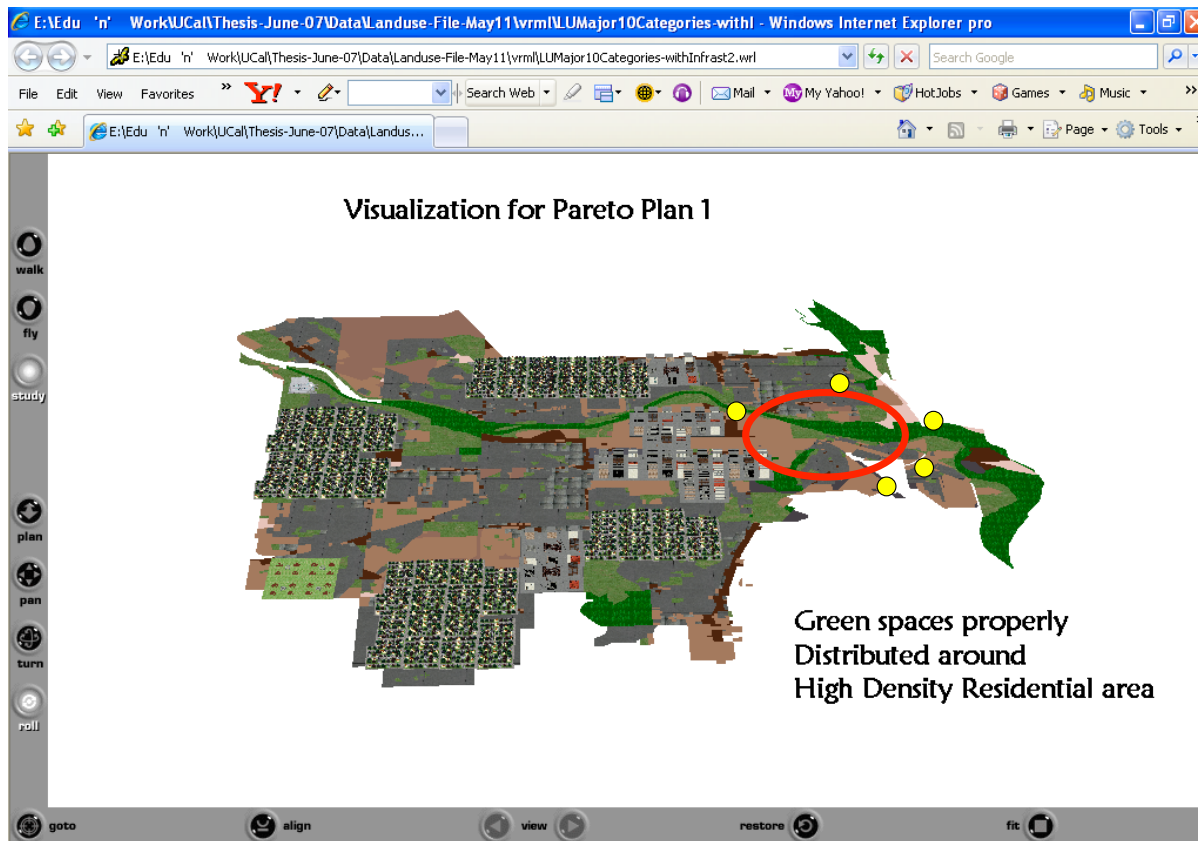
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Results and Discussion



2 Res- H and 1 Res-L are competing for meager
Green space & public service

Thank You