CS5245 Vision and Graphics for special effects - Progress Update 1

Project Title:

100Plus: Double Your Energy!

Team Members

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1. Changes in Storyline:

We changed the story line slightly to make it more compelling. Below is the modified story line.

"A thin guy and strong guy were racing around the sports field for 100 rounds, and the thin guy was far behind and tired after 50 rounds. He felt thirsty and then grabbed a bottle of water to drink, and then suddenly he felt somebody was pushing him from back. Surprisingly enough, it was himself. The shadow tried to push him from back or dragging him but didn't work. Then the shadow character came in front of him, robbed the bottle and ran away with that! He felt angry and started running after the clone. The character tried to grab the bottle back from the clone, and there were elements of pushing and dragged between them in the process. Soon, both of them ran past the other contestants. When the character was almost about to catch the clone, the close suddenly disappears and the bottle fell into the ground. At that stage of the race, he suddenly fell down and everything was black. When he opened his eyes, the strong guy slowly passed the finish line looking at the same kind of drink, which has the slogan: 100Plus: Double Your Energy!"
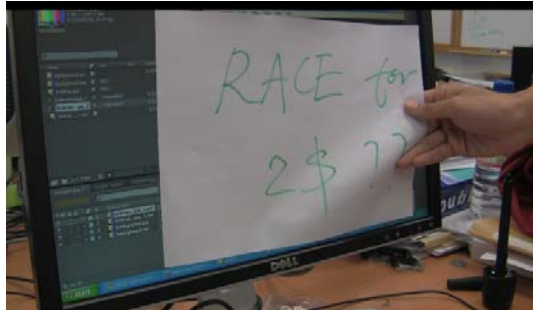
2. Tasks completed: sample shots/footages and special effects:

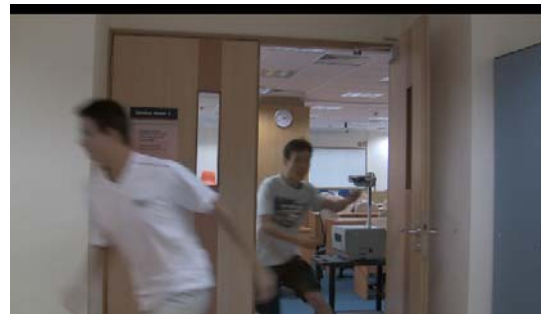We shoot some demo videos to understand the technical challenges for the desired
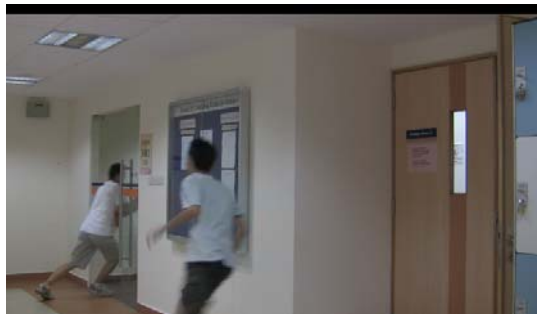
special effects interaction. The following images are some samples from the video footages that we have captured for practice.

[sample footages]

Starting:

Start Racing:

Fierce Competition:

The following images constitutes of final result, displaying the interaction between clone characters. These shots were taken using green background. Later, effects were achieved using the combination of color keying, masking and cloning.

[Sample effects]

Bottle interaction:

Slow Dragging:

Suddenly Pushing:

3. Difficulties encountered & proposed solution:

Hand occlusion problem:

Problem: While passing over the bottle, the portion of the hand that were occluded by the bottle itself, were filtered out along with the mask. This results in unexpected effects.

Solution: One way to avoid these kinds of situation is to bring the hand in-front of the bottle, and later, use masking to mask out the bottle.

Lighting problem:

Problem: We used green background to shoot the character interactions. These shootings took place indoors. However, while compositing, when they were incorporated these scenes with the background footage, the lighting difference was conspicuous.
Solution: Shoot the foreground and background in the same lighting conditions.

Synchronization of the characters:

Problem: Interaction with the clones is fraught with tedium and synchronization problems. While compositing the interactions, we found, it is imperative to use some kind of markers or some other means so that the characters run through the exact desired position in different footages. Apart from this, the timing and the location where the interaction occurs should be captured meticulously.
Solution: We decided to use some markers to capture the desired timing, synchronization and location of the characters to be cloned. Along with this, the position and orientation of the camera is also tricky to achieve a good compelling interaction.

4. Future plans (Schedule):

Week	Event
Week9	- Filming of some actual footage - Video editing - Submission of Progress update 1
Week10	- Composition of special effects - Complete the shooting
Week11	- Composition of special effects - Submission of Progress update 2
Week12	Final updates and composition
Week13	Project submission and presentation

5. Distribution of work:

PHAN VAN SONG Yann-Loup: Bottle transfer effect between the clones
Qian Kun: Consistent pulling and dragging effect between the clones
Kazi Rubaiat Habib: Sudden pushing between the clones while running