

# **Mixed Reality - Opportunities and Challenges for Cultural Institutions**

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Workshop „Virtual Reality im Museumskontext“ | Oct 23, 2017



We certainly had the dreams before,  
but the computing just wasn't good enough.

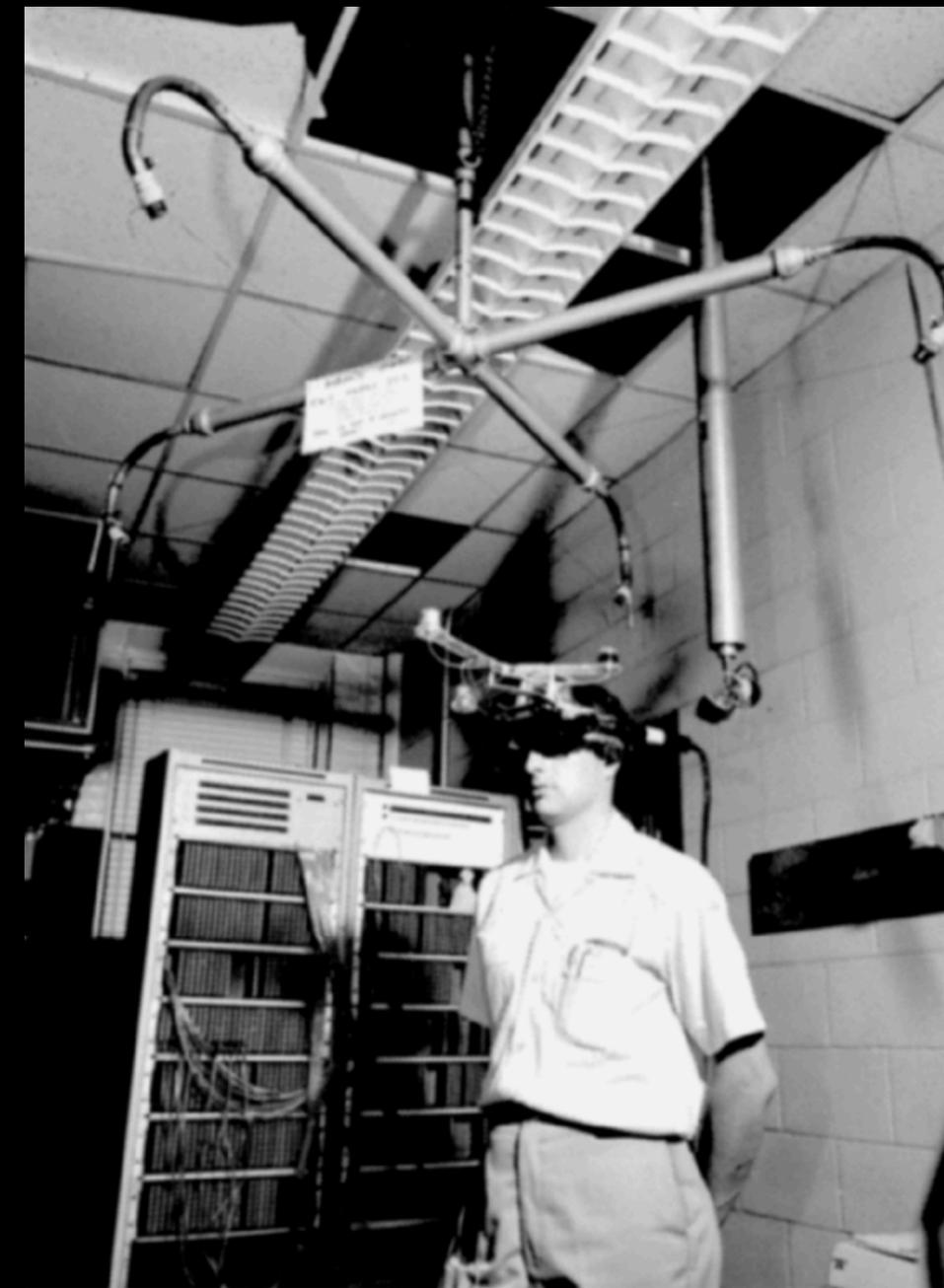
—Tom Furness

# The Ultimate Display

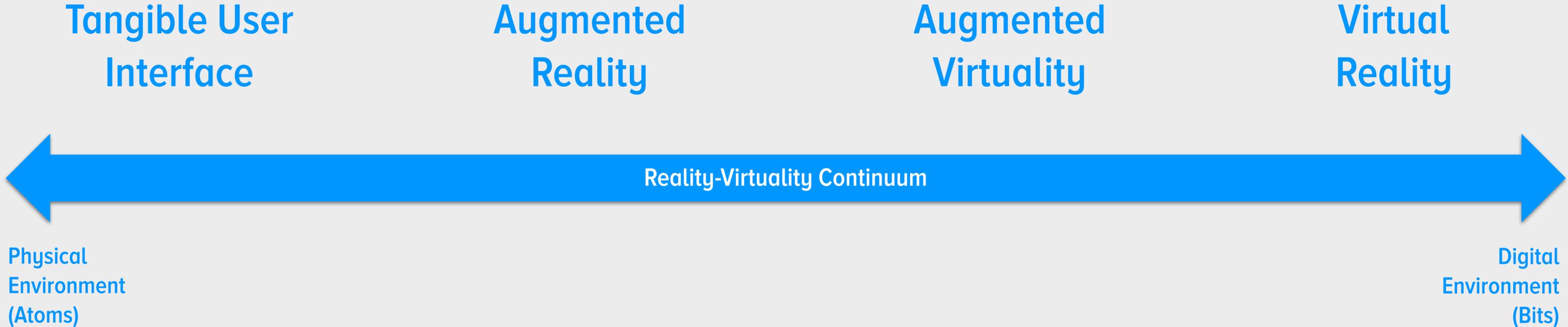
“The ultimate display would, of course, be a room within which the computer can control the existence of matter. A chair displayed in such a room would be good enough to sit in. Handcuffs displayed in such a room would be confining, and a bullet displayed in such a room would be fatal. With appropriate programming, such a display could literally be the Wonderland into which Alice walked.”

— Ivan Sutherland

# The Sword of Damocles



# Reality-Virtuality Continuum



# Reality-Virtuality Continuum

“[...] augment the real physical world by coupling digital information to everyday physical objects and environments”. (Ishii & Ulmer, 1997)

**Tangible User Interface**

Augmented Reality

Augmented Virtuality

Virtual Reality

Reality-Virtuality Continuum

Physical Environment  
(Atoms)

Digital Environment  
(Bits)



# Reality-Virtuality Continuum

“[...] replicates an environment, real or imagined, and simulates a user's physical presence, allowing user interaction.”

Tangible User  
Interface

Augmented  
Reality

Augmented  
Virtuality

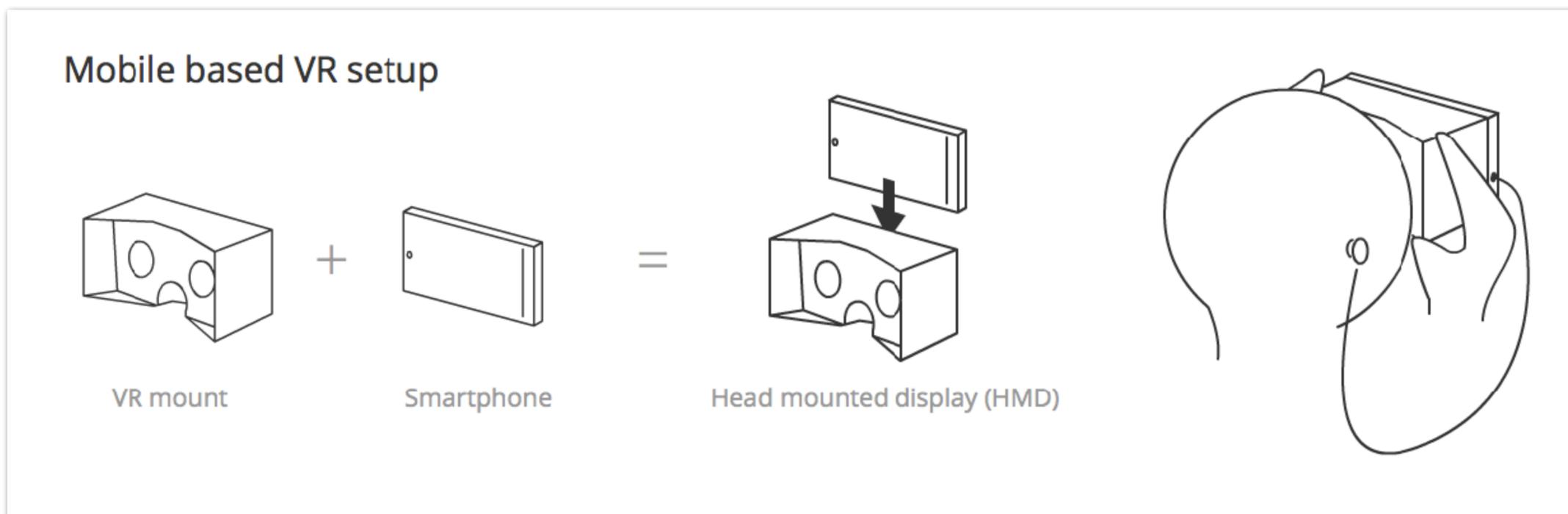
**Virtual  
Reality**

Reality-Virtuality Continuum

Physical  
Environment  
(Atoms)

Digital  
Environment  
(Bits)

# Hardware Setup 1 (Low-fi VR)



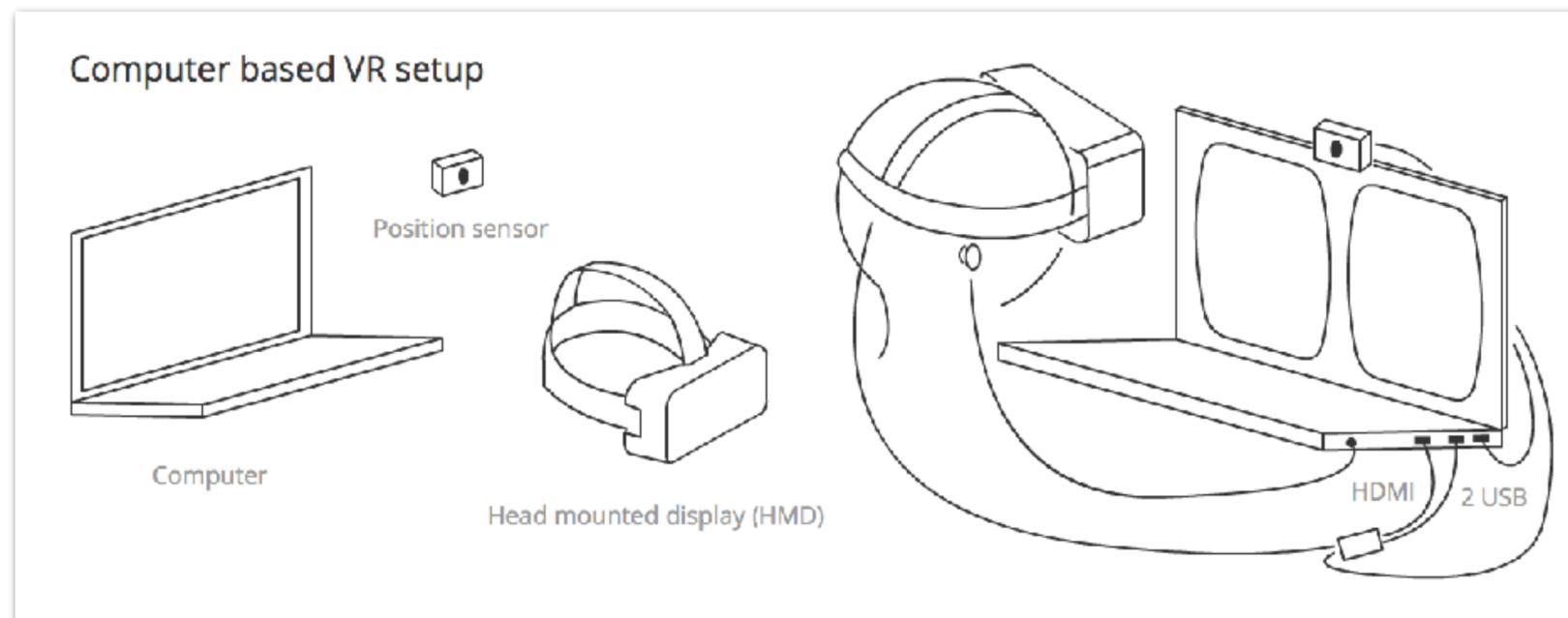
**For example:**  
Google Cardboard, Samsung Gear VR



Google Cardboard V2

Pictures taken from:  
<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Archive/WebVR/Concepts>

# Hardware Setup 2 (High-fi VR)



For example,  
Samsung Gear VR, Oculus Rift, HTC Vive



Pictures taken from:  
<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Archive/WebVR/Concepts>

On the 26th of February 2015,

“RecoVR Mosul” (2015) <https://www.economist.com/blogs/prospero/2016/05/virtual-reality>  
Further information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EazGA673fk>

# Reality-Virtuality Continuum

[...] is a technology that enhances human perception of physical world through the incorporation of computer generated data and simulations.

Tangible User  
Interface

**Augmented  
Reality**

Augmented  
Virtuality

Virtual  
Reality

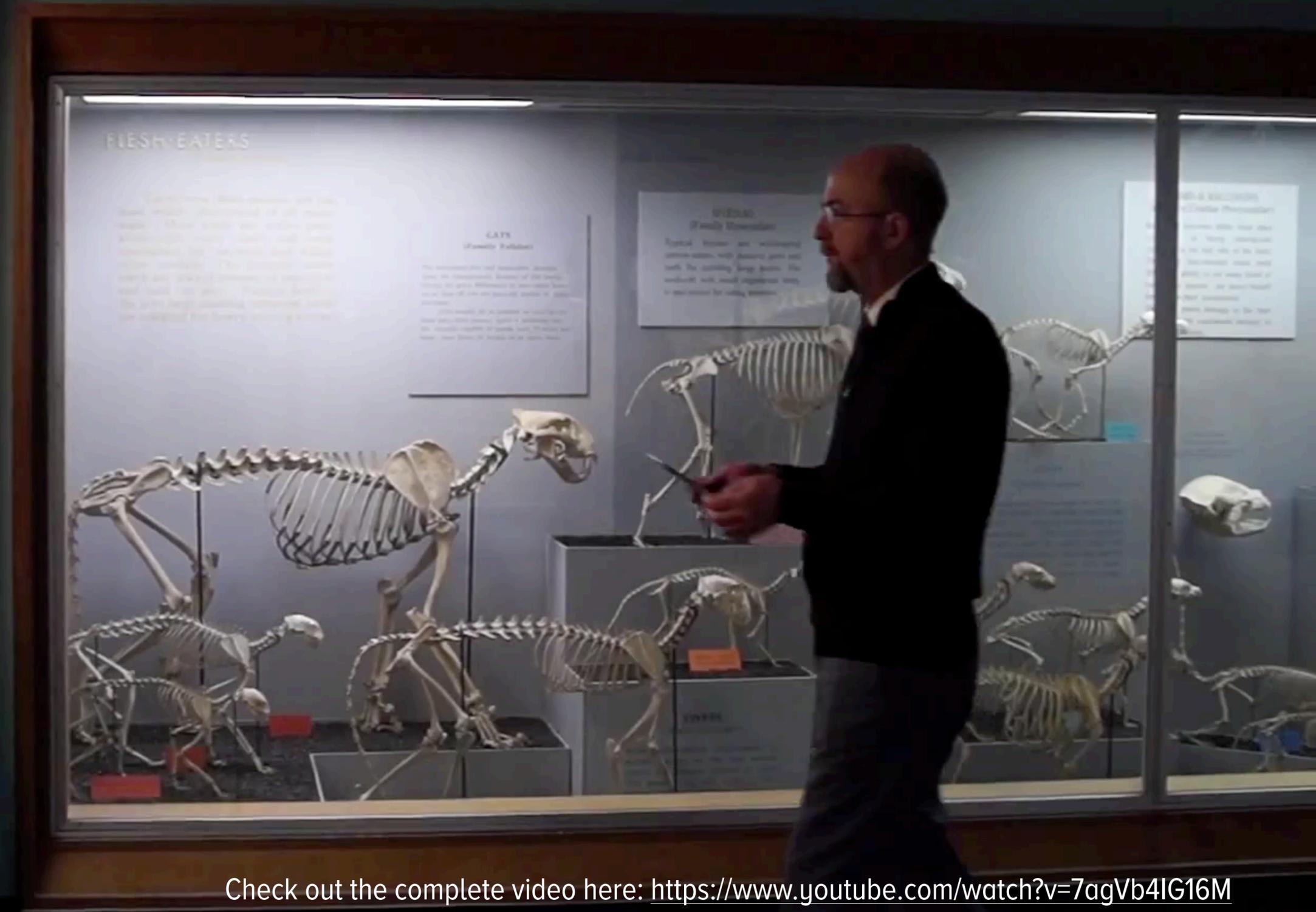
Reality-Virtuality Continuum

Physical  
Environment  
(Atoms)

Digital  
Environment  
(Bits)



Check out the complete video here: <https://vimeo.com/80896278>



### FLESH-EATERS

#### LAYS (Fossiliferous)

#### WEDG (Fossiliferous)

#### WIL & WILSON (Fossiliferous)

# Reality-Virtuality Continuum

AR can be extended to **tangible AR** which merges physical and digital worlds to produce new environments and visualisations where **physical and digital objects co-exist** and interact in real time.

Tangible User  
Interface

**Augmented  
Reality**

Augmented  
Virtuality

Virtual  
Reality

Reality-Virtuality Continuum

Physical  
Environment  
(Atoms)

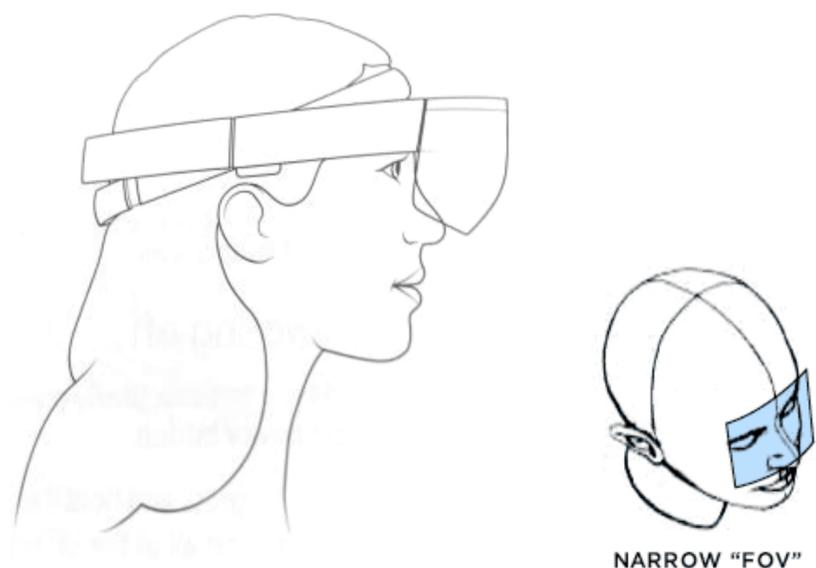
Digital  
Environment  
(Bits)

A man in a blue polo shirt stands next to a large, illuminated topographic map display. The map shows a landscape with various elevations and colors, including yellow, green, and blue. The man is looking towards the camera.

**Gary Glesener**  
Director, The Modeling and Educational  
Demonstrations Laboratory (MEDL)

Reed, S. E., Kreylos, O., Hsi, S., Kellogg, L. H., Schladow, G., Yikilmaz, M. B., ... & Sato, E. (2014, December). Shaping watersheds exhibit: An interactive, augmented reality sandbox for advancing earth science education. In AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts. More information at: <https://arsandbox.ucdavis.edu>

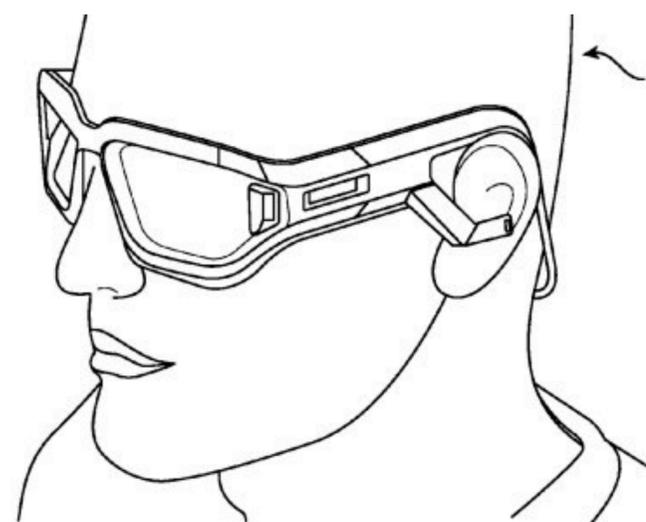
# Hardware Setup (See-Through AR)



For example,  
Hololens



For example,  
Magic Leap (patent concept)



Pictures taken from:  
<http://blog.aitgmbh.de/2016/08/09/hololens-erstkontakt-mit-der-hardware/>

# Reality-Virtuality Continuum

[...] inserts real world elements (e.g., objects, smell, wind, heat) to supplement the digital experience.

Tangible User  
Interface

Augmented  
Reality

**Augmented  
Virtuality**

Virtual  
Reality

Reality-Virtuality Continuum

Physical  
Environment  
(Atoms)

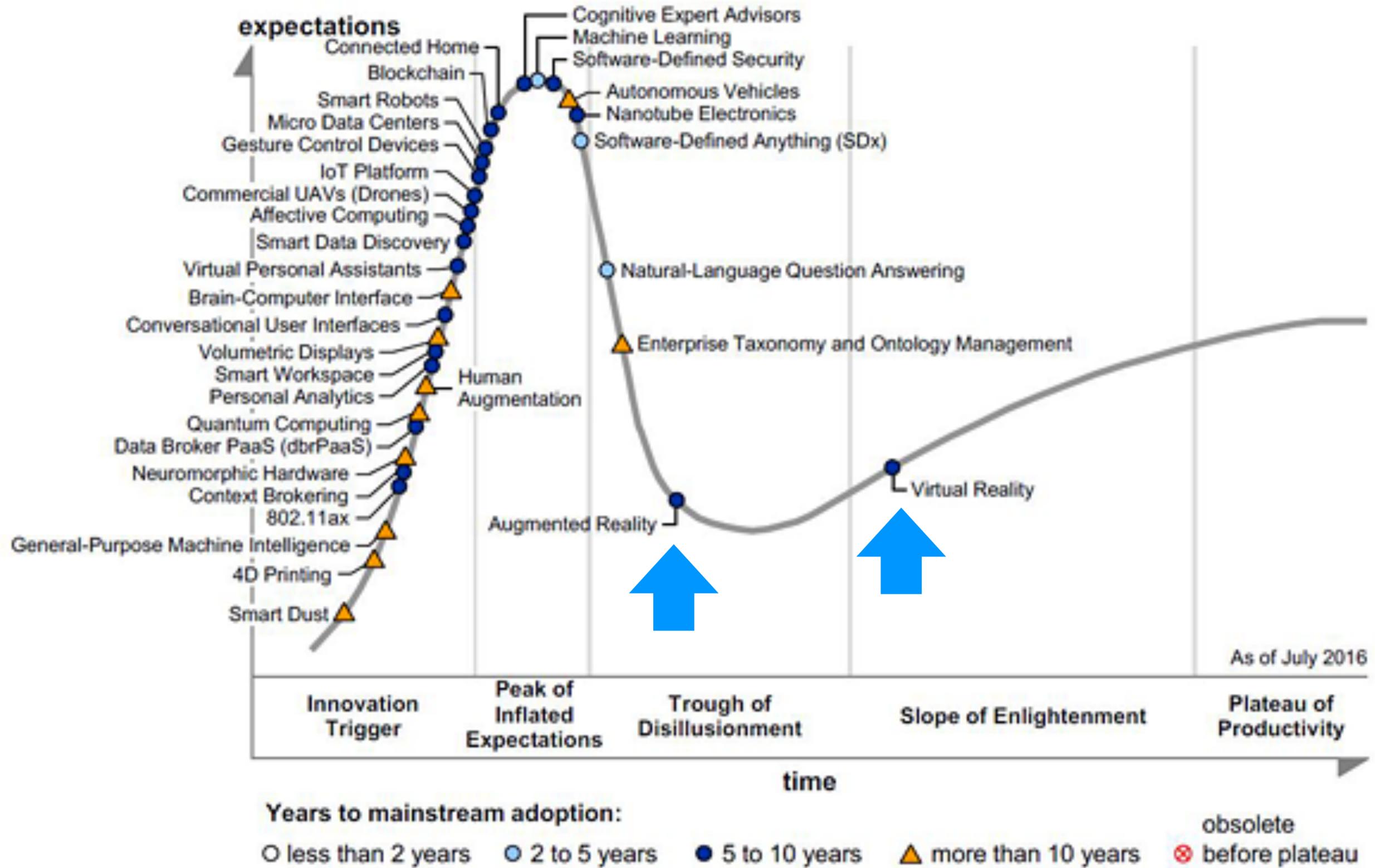
Digital  
Environment  
(Bits)

VIRTUAL WORLDS  
BUILT OVER  
PHYSICAL  
ENVIRONMENTS



Check out the complete video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cML814JD09g>

How can you assess  
your “Alice in wonderland” environment?



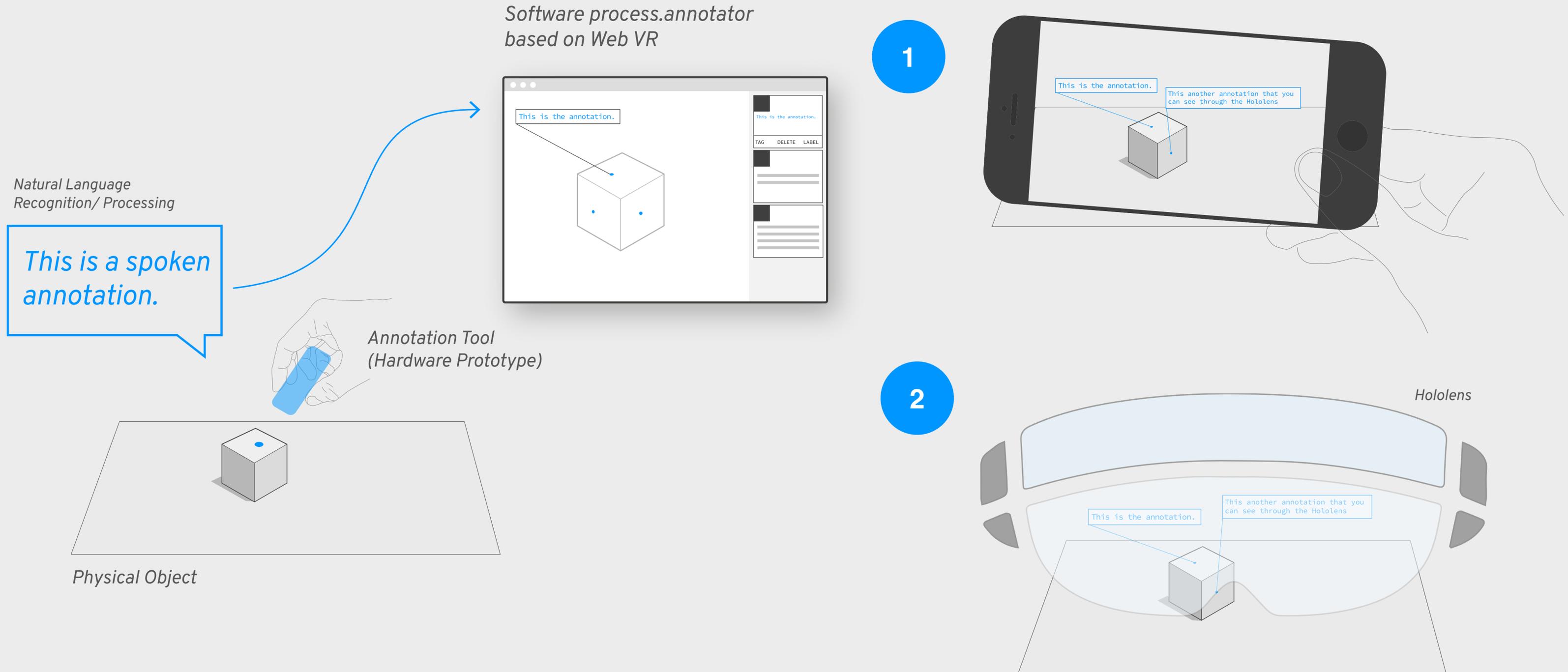
Source: Gartner (July 2016)

## Hype Cycle for Emerging Technologies (2016)

# Thoughts on Mixed Reality

- » Existing MR environments are often **developed for a specific technical setup** (e.g. devices) with a clearly defined usage scenario, and a predefined information setup.
- » Employing MR environments is still **challenging for both content creators** (e.g. only a niche audience, too expensive cameras) **and the audience** (e.g. high quality content is not conveniently accessible).
- » Appropriate MR applications call for **new narratives of engagement**. **Interdisciplinary teams** (e.g., curator, computer scientists, designers) are needed to create such narratives.

# Towards Cyber-Physical Research Practice



physical virtuality | virtual physicality

# Questions?

Please contact me: @clmbirn or [clmb@inf.fu-berlin.de](mailto:clmb@inf.fu-berlin.de)