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New devices like the Kinect allow us to naturally interact with our computers by gesturing with our bodies. One large obstacle to these natural interfaces is that we are unable to feel virtual objects in the air. Rajinder's invention, AIREAL, allows users to feel physical forces in the air without requiring any instrumentation of the user. This technology enables new interactive experiences, such as movies and games that can deliver physical forces to a viewer and objects in their environment. When combined with a projector, virtual elements like a butterfly can be projected and felt on a person's body. Other applications include assistive technologies for visually-impaired users. Rajinder's research lies at the intersection of computer vision and human computer interaction and he focuses on creating new Augmented Reality experiences that blurs the line between our physical and virtual worlds.

2013 FINALIST

RAJINDERSODHI

PhD CANDIDATE COMPUTER SCIENCE