Developing an Image -Based Augmented Reality System for Meteo AR

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Goal

To implement an Image-Based AR system for Meteo AR, which replaces the pre-existing deprecated Marker-Based AR system.
What is Meteo AR?

Science Topic: El Niño

El Niño is a variant of the normal tropical weather patterns that occur in the Pacific Ocean. During El Niño years, sea surface temperatures become warmer than normal, and this warmer water can influence weather patterns around the world for up to a year or more.

Research and tools like Meteo AR help us understand and study these changes. With the help of Meteo AR, we can visualize and explore these patterns in a variety of ways, from seeing how changes in the ocean affect weather patterns to exploring the impact of climate change on these systems.
How did the Existing AR System Work?
Disadvantages of Frame Markers

❖ Deprecated in the newer versions of Vuforia, which means that we cannot migrate to the most up-to-date version of Unity while using Frame Markers

❖ Unable to build in 64-bit which means cannot upload to App Store by 2021

❖ Theoretical maximum of trackable objects is only 512, which is significantly less than that of the newer Image Targets which allows 1000+

❖ Less flexibility with the design of science sheets and need to adhere to the markers layout in the margins
Advantages of Image Targets

❖ Image Targets is the AR system supported by the newest versions of Vuforia and Unity
❖ Theoretical maximum of trackable objects is 1000+, which is significantly more than the 512 trackable objects allowed by Frame Markers
❖ More flexibility with the design of science sheets and there is no need to create the markers in the margins
Goals

❖ Implement the Image Targets Augmented Reality System and remove the existing Frame Markers Augmented Reality System
❖ Update the version of the Unity Editor used by Meteo AR from Unity 5.6 to Unity 2019
❖ Maintain all of the existing functionalities of Meteo AR
Implementation Process in Detail
Implementation Process in Detail Continued
Modifications to the AR System

❖ Before: Iterate through the database-retrieved object enumerated list and instantiate Frame Markers one by one
❖ Current: For each object in the enumerated list, search in the Image Targets database by the ID, then instantiate an Image Targets for each object
Changes to the ImageTargets

(Markers kept for backwards compatibility)
Results

Met all goals, including
❖ Image Targets
❖ Uses Unity 2019
❖ Maintains all existing functionalities

Version 4.0.13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUILD</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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| 4     | Ready to Submit
       | Expires in 89 days |
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Questions?

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