

Technologies in Film

AVATAR (2009)

Team
excelsior

The Movie : *Avatar*



Originally, the term avatar came from Hindu mythology and is the name for the temporary body a god inhabits while visiting Earth.

The terminology as we know it nowadays has been coined for use in describing users' visual embodiment in cyberspace back in 1985.

The movie Avatar, proposes a new definition: a technology that fully represents the user—virtually in all aspects.

1. The Technology



In the movie Avatar, Jake Sully, an ex-marine with waist-down paralysis is given a Navi avatar that could be synched with his brain.

He is able to move his body from head to toe, and do things he had to give up forcefully before due to his paralysis.



Aside from motion capability, he is able to smell, see, feel and taste what his avatar encounters.

The avatar is used for exploratory purposes in the movie.

What could this mean for future communication and remote interaction?

- ✓ **Medical:** What kind of impact it would have on quadriplegic patients?
- ✓ **Exploratory:** What kind of data could we gain from exploring places where men could previously not explore?
- ✓ **Life-Style:** What would be the impact of having an envoy of your own self?



2. Obstacle

Avatar?

Artificial device that

Moves and **Looks** like a Human

“Human puppet”

*Moral & Religious issues can be risen
just as ‘Clone Issues’*



Do they have to be treated like

Machines or **Human Beings?**

3. Consequences

“Double-edged sword”

Benefits of using human-like device

Durable & Sensitive

→ Suitable for dangerous situations

- ✓ Rescue
- ✓ Discovery
- ✓ Explosive Ordnance Disposal



1 3. Consequences

“Double-edged sword”

Harms of using human-like device



Easy to be Miss-used

- ✓ Terrorism
- ✓ War machine
- ✓ Assassination

1 4. Institutional mechanisms

1. Issue of standardizing the form of Avatar

Key question

“Should we allow the standard shape and figure of all Avatar? Or let them all look differently? ”

→ Potential of social chaos or panic in distinguishing human and Avatar



2. Human rights issue

Key question

“ How would you categorize the Avatar status?
Electronic product? Living entity?”

Ex) Film ‘A.I.’ – questions on human rights of clones

Tricky question :

*“Technology doesn’t deserve
the same protection as animals?”*



4. Institutional mechanisms

3. Borderless crimes

→ Crimes overseas become easier

Ex) Terrorist attack,
illegal drug dealing using Avatar



4. Issue of categorizing 'minds'

- Should we apply 'passports' to minds?
- Is mind an independent entity from an Avatar?

1 If I use it, 5. How Would I Feel?

It would increase my willingness to be
Adventurous,
by removing risk of injuries.

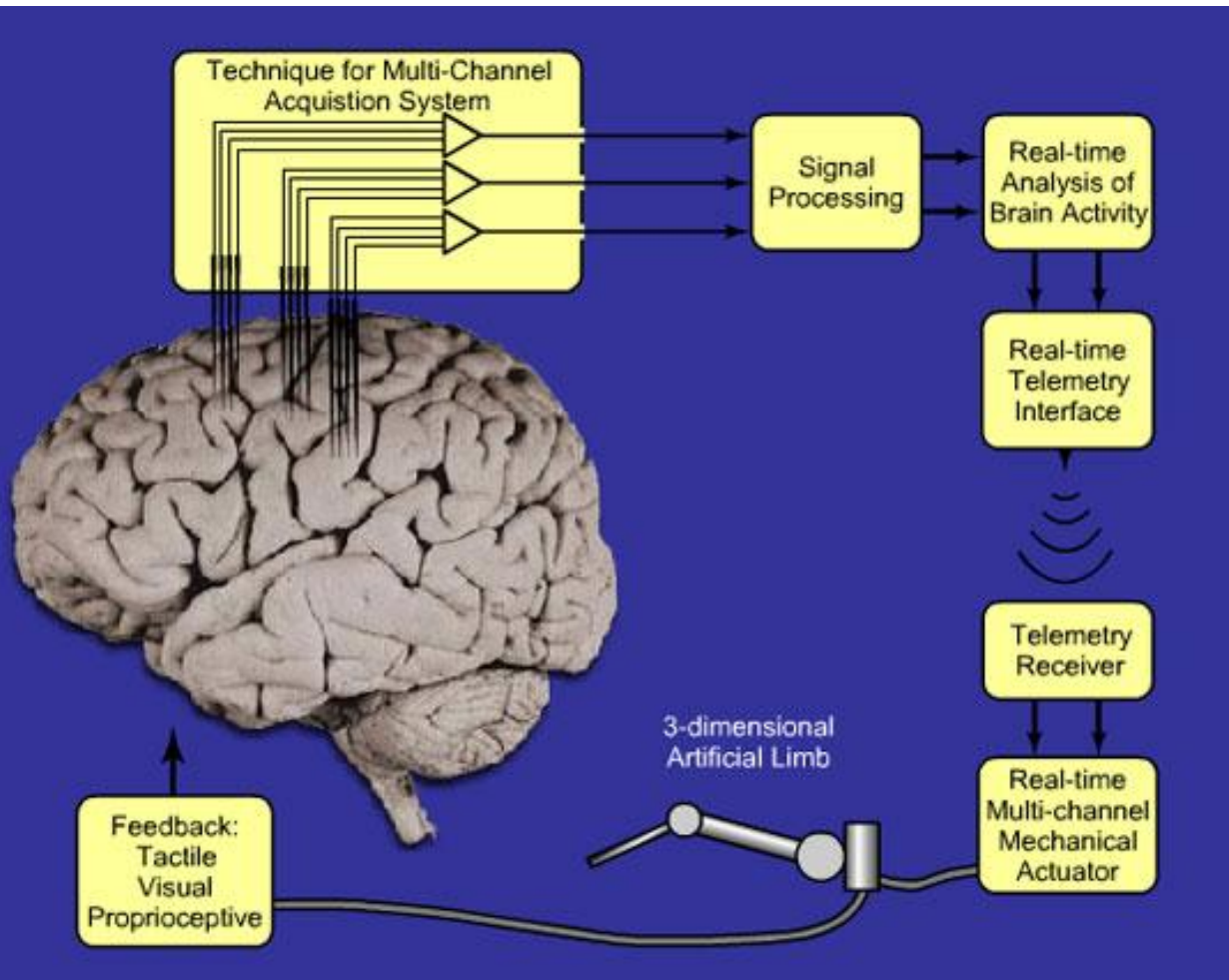


★
Enjoyable?
Definitely.

6. Will It Be Adopted?

So far ...

The Accomplishments



- **signal processing & feedback** between the brain and artificial body part

- The above process is available for **remote control**. Even from US to Japan.

6. Will It Be Adopted?

The Expectations

In 20 years ...



Technical realization of **Transmission System** from the human brain to the avatar applied in:

- Explorations
- Various Risky Missions
- Medical purposes

In 50 years ...

Materialization of a true, **Bionic Avatar** will become an actuality, and will comprise a new human race.

- Complete substitution for the innate body

