

Interaction Techniques – History, Design and Evaluation



https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~bam/ixtshortcourse/

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Human Computer Interaction Institute

Presented at CHI'2025, Japan on Mon, 28 Apr, 2025, 2:10 PM - 5:50 PM

These slides are at: www.ixtcourse.com/CHI25-C12-lxT-slides.pdf



What is This?



How many "states" can it be in?



What is This?

How many "states" can it be in?





Example: check box

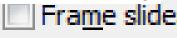
- How many "states" can it be in?
 - Checked, not-checked, partial checked
 - Disabled, not-disabled
 - Hover, not-hover (can't be hover+disabled)
 - Pressed-inside, pressed-outside, notpressed (can't be pressed + disabled, can't be pressed-inside + not-hover)
 - Keyboard focus, not-focus
 - 2⁴ * 3 = 48, but many are not possible
- Implementers often forget about the releaseoutside case & interface gets confused (Flash implementations)













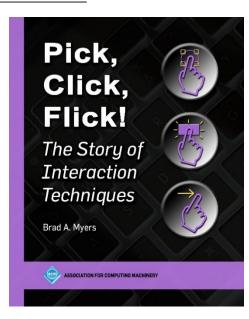






Based on University Course:

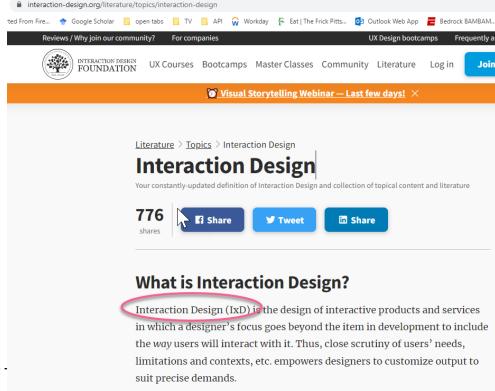
- itute
- CMU HCII 05-440 / 05-640: Interaction Techniques
- Offered 5 times:
 - 2014 http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~bam/uicourse/2014inter/ (was videotaped)
 - 2016: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~bam/uicourse/05440inter2016/
 - 2019: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~bam/uicourse/05440inter2019/
 - 2022: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~bam/uicourse/05440inter2022
 - 2025: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~bam/uicourse/05440inter2025
 - All materials available for free
- Also, my new book!
 - Pick, Click, Flick!
 The Story of Interaction Techniques
 - Happy to sign it if you have a print version!





IxT

- "IxT" = interaction technique
- Like "IxD" = interaction design
 - https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/topics/interaction-design.



Instructor

- Brad Myers
 - Human Computer Interaction Institute
 - Department Head (Director)

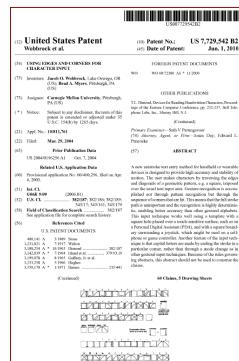
Brad A. Myers is the Charles M. Geschke (SCS 1973) Director of the Human-Computer Interaction Institute and Professor in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University, with an affiliated faculty appointment in the Software and Societal Systems Department.

He was chosen to receive the ACM SIGCHI Lifetime Achievement Award in Research in 2017, for outstanding fundamental and influential research contributions to the study of human-computer interaction, and was awarded the 2022 Alan J. Perlis Award for Imagination in Computer Science "for pioneering human-centered methods to democratize programming", from the School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University. He is an IEEE Fellow, ACM Fellow, member of the CHI Academy, and winner of 19 Best Paper type awards and 6 Most Influential Paper Awards. He is the author or editor of over 550 publications, including the books "Pick, Click, Flick! The Story of Interaction Techniques", "Creating User Interfaces by Demonstration" and "Languages" for Developing User Interfaces," and he has been on the editorial board of six journals. He has been a consultant on user interface design and implementation to over 90 companies, and regularly teaches courses on user interface design and software. Myers received a PhD in computer science at the University of Toronto where he developed the Peridot user interface tool. He received the MS and BSc degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology during which time he was a research intern at Xerox PARC. From 1980 until 1983, he worked at PERQ Systems Corporation. His research interests include user interfaces, programming environments, programming language design, end-user software engineering (EUSE), API usability, developer experience (DevX or DX), interaction techniques, programming by example, mobile computing, and visual programming. He belongs to ACM, SIGCHI, IEEE, and the IEEE Computer Society.



Why am I teaching this course?

- I was at MIT Media Lab (then "Architecture Machine Group), 1976-1979
- At Xerox PARC, 1976-1980
- Designed one of the first commercial window managers, 1980-1984
 - First to put progress bars into icons, and collect icons in a window, etc.
- Studies of two-handed UIs and progress bars with Bill Buxton, 1984 - 1988
- "All the Widgets" history video, 1990
- "A Brief History of Human Computer Interaction Technology." ACM interactions, 1998
- With students, invented new text input techniques
- Significant consulting on patents on interaction techniques, 1988-present
- I have (literally) written the book on Interaction Techniques!





Education Goals

- After taking this course, students will be able to:
 - Articulate design issues regarding interaction techniques.
 - Design a new interaction technique given a set of requirements and constraints.
 - Evaluate interaction techniques using the appropriate tests for performance and usability.
 - Describe the historical progression of the most important interaction techniques and the factors that impacted their evolution and eventual widespread adoption.

Introduction to this Course: What is an Interaction Technique and Why are They Important?





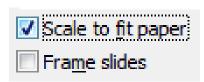
"Interaction Techniques"

Slides:



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Scroll bars, buttons, text fields



- But also:
 - Copy-and-paste
 - Text entry in PC or phone
 - Drawing a new object in an editor
 - Selecting a cell in a spreadsheet
- How high level? Text editor widget, but not Word
 - Scroll bar is composed of buttons, etc.

Some more examples

Visual Basic "controls"

Physical controls

LCD-screen

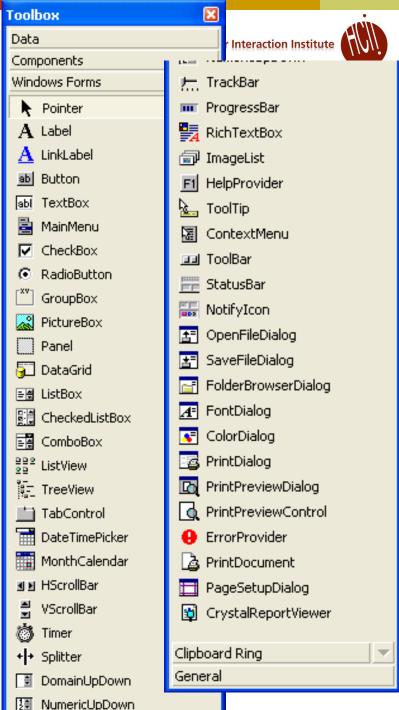














Other names

- "Widgets" (Wikipedia: "GUI Widget")
 - See my <u>video</u> "All the Widgets"
 - But not the same as Apple dashboard widgets
- GUI "elements"
- "Gadgets"
- "Controls"
 - (MS Windows)
- "Components"
 - Too generic
- "Behaviors"





Definitions

• My definition:

An "interaction technique" starts when the user does something that causes a computer to respond, and includes the direct feedback from the computer to the user. Interaction techniques are generally reusable across various applications.



Definitions

- Wikipedia's definition:
 - "An interaction technique, user interface technique or input technique is a combination of <u>hardware</u> and <u>software</u> elements that provides a way for computer users to accomplish a single task."
 - (has changed periodically)



Definitions

Foley & van Dam, 1990:
 "An interaction technique is a way of using a physical input/output device to perform a generic task in a human-computer dialogue."

Why Study Interaction Xerox Star Apple Lisa

Human-Computer Interaction Institute





- Used extensively
 - Everyone who uses a computer uses copy-paste, etc.
 - So can have an enormous impact
- **Details** matter
 - Must be designed carefully
 - Helps understand how to design high-quality UIs in general
- Interesting historically
 - Why do we do things the way we do?
 - Is there a good reason?
 - Example: which way does the arrow point in a scroll bar?
- And new interaction techniques are created all the time:
 - Patent on "Bounce at end of scrolling" for iPhone submitted by Bas Ording in 2007 (right before 1st iPhone was released in 2007) US 7,469,381
 - Try it! iPhone vs. Samsung
 - "Pull down to refresh" patent submitted in 2010 by Twitter, became popular in 2013!
 - US 8.448.084
 - Many new CHI & UIST conference papers every year with new ones



Why Study Interaction Techniques, cont.

- Interaction Techniques have a high economic value
 - Often the subject of patents and lawsuits
 - Can't patent overall look and feel
 - "Apple Wins Over Jury in Samsung Patent Dispute, Awarded \$1.05 Billion in Damages (Live Blog)" 2012, link
 - "Jury orders Samsung to pay \$290M to Apple in patent case" 2013, <u>link</u>
- Need new ones
 - "Desktop metaphor" is getting tired
 - Macs & PCs look and work pretty similar to each other and to the designs of the 1980's (40 years ago)
 - Text entry on smartphones is a big barrier
 - Text entry on smartphones!!!
 - Selecting individual elements, characters on smartphones

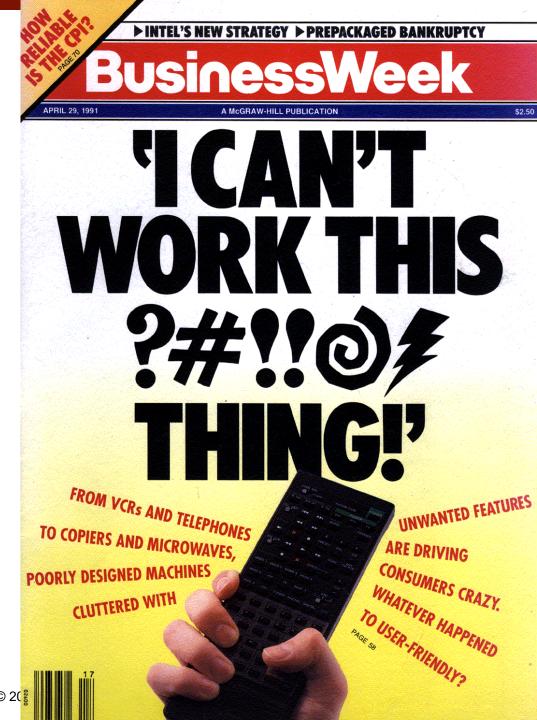


Details Matter!

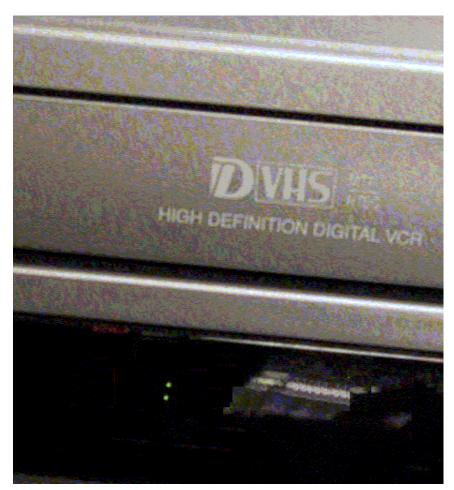
- Focus on low-level design is sometimes needed
 - Exact action for each user event
 - Time-outs, aborting, motion paths, etc.
 - E.g., delays for submenus
- Don't always have to design the widgets, but sometimes do
 - Menus on webpages
 - Someone will be creating the new widgets of the world
- Not good enough to just use Figma
- Someone must make the detailed decisions don't necessarily want to leave it for the engineer!

Problem

April 29, 1991



Problem



Appliances are too complex



Why are Interaction Techniques Hard to Design?

- Surprisingly large number of design decisions & detailed design
- Individual differences and preferences
- Lots of details that impact human performance
 - How far does the cursor move when you move the mouse 1 inch?
 - Trick question depends on mouse speed
 - Complex formula developed through experimentation
 - How far does the content move on an iPhone when you flick your finger?
 - Needs to work for long distance, and highly accurate local movements
 - Nokia phones released just after the iPhone got this all wrong



Example: Drawing a new object

 What happens when move upwards past start point?

Many other Details and Advanced Techniques

- What does shaking an iPhone do?
- How do you drag around the cursor in an iPhone text area?
- What does a "Copy" (^C) operation do?
- What does Undo (^Z) do after you have done a Copy or a Save operation?
- ... and many more!
- All are covered in the full course, and in the book!
- This CHI course focuses on navigation (scrolling) and text entry

Designing Interaction Techniques



- Must take into account device characteristics
- Must take into account human characteristics
- Look
 - Styling
 - 3D look and feel Smith's <u>ARK</u> (1986), up through Windows 7
 - Flat squares Windows Phone and Windows 8, 10
 - Feedback for behaviors
 - Animation effects from <u>1993</u>
- Feel
 - Specific implementation of the behavior
 - Details matter



Why Hard, continued

- Need to support keyboard and assistive uses
- Need to abort and undo interactions
- Localization and Internationalization
 - Left-to-right vs. right-to-left (up-to-down?)
 - Different sizes in different languages



More Definitions

- "User" a person who will use a product
- "Designer the person who creates (or designs) the product
 - "Implementer" or "Developer" who also creates
- "User interface" (UI), everything the user encounters when using a product
- "Usability" measures the quality of the UI
- "Input" and "Output" always used from the computer's point of view – input is "in" to the computer; output is out from the computer

Measuring Interaction Techniques

- What are relevant quality metrics for interaction techniques?
- For evaluating them?

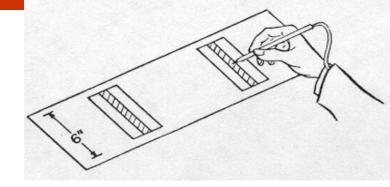
Measuring Interaction Techniques

- What are relevant quality metrics for interaction techniques?
 - (same as other HCl usability metrics!)
 - Efficiency (speed)
 - Error rate
 - Learnability
 - Discoverability
 - Memorability
 - Aesthetics & emotional impact
 - Satisfaction (Pleasurable)
 - Consistency with other interactions
 - Etc.

Measuring Interaction Techniques

- But also generalizability
 - How often can be used?
 - Different applications?
 - Different kinds of input values?
- Dimensionality
 - One D (menu, slider) or 2-D (mouse), or more
 - How many items? (pick among 5 items vs. among 100 or 1,000)

Speed and Accuracy



- 1954, Paul Fitts' Law for pointing tasks
 - Figure out how quickly people could move a pointing device to a target and select it
 - Predictive model
 - e.g., keystroke-level analysis
 - To compare pointing devices
 - Throughput combines both speed and accuracy



- Use circles instead of two rectangles
- ISO 9241-9 standard
- Doesn't fit as well on non-square screens
- Horizontal and vertical movements may not be equal difficulty
 - Muscles used
 - Card, English, Burr 1978 paper showed differences for joystick, etc. but not mouse
 - Laser pointer study: up to 10x more wiggle vertically
 - Device properties
 - Contour's "RollerMouse Red plus"
 - Even for a trackball





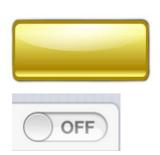
Affordances

 "Perceived and actual properties of the thing, primarily those fundamental properties that determine how the thing could possibly be used." (Norman DOET book, p. 9)

 "When affordances are taken advantage of, the user knows what to do just by looking"

Helps people understand what to do

with the control



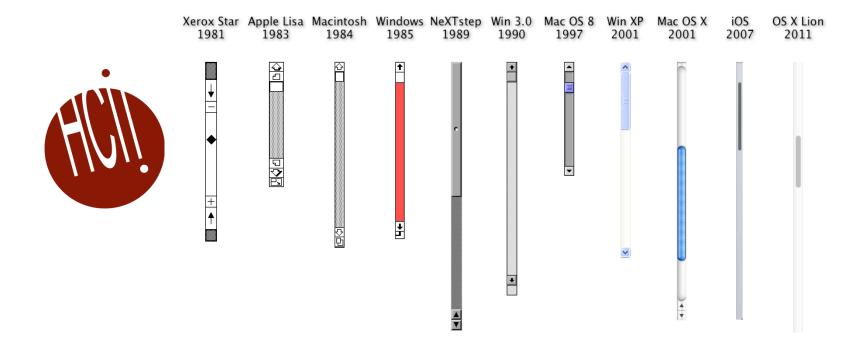






Scrolling and Navigation

Brad Myers





"Scrolling"

- Dates back over 4500 years
- Panning (like in video)
 - Vs. Zooming

- Controls what you see
 - Not where the "selection" is





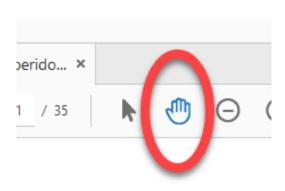
Auto-Scroll

- Content scrolls as a result of a different action
 - Changing the selection may scroll so you can see the next selection
 - Text cursor moves off the visible part
 - Drag a graphical object to the edge of the visible part
- Issues:
 - How fast to scroll?
 - Does it get faster if pull further away from edge?
 - Overshoot often happens
 - How to stop the scrolling?



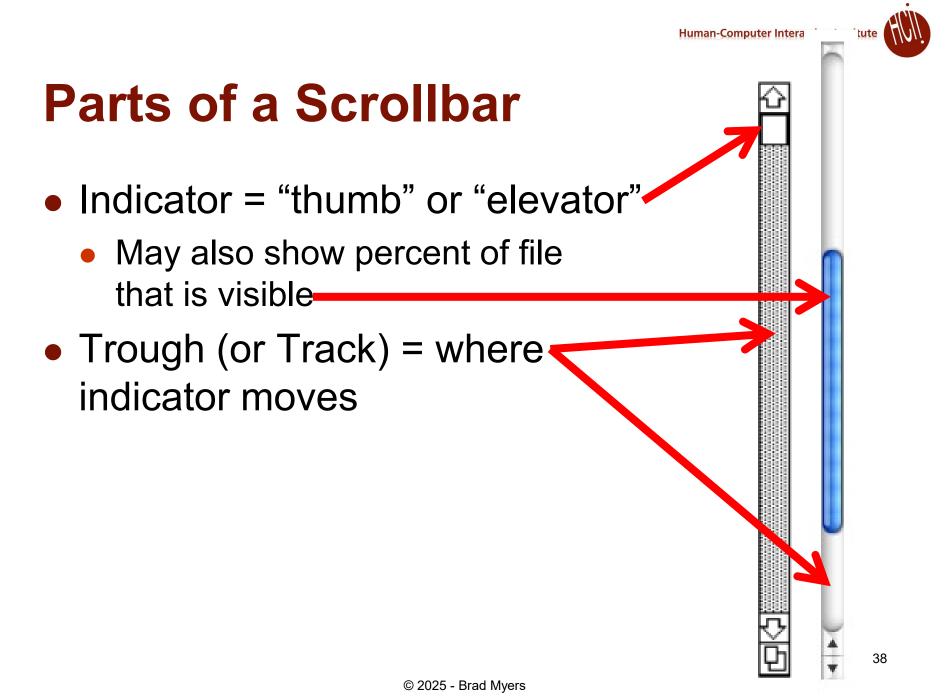
Different Kinds of Scrolling

- Up or down, by one "increment" usually 1 line
 - May auto-repeat
- Up or down, by one page
 - May auto-repeat
- To the start or end of the content
- To a particular part of the document by percent
- Up or down at a particular speed
- Directly dragging the content
- So a particular item is in view
 - E.g., for auto-scroll or after a search



Programming ng. and







Early Systems

SketchPad (1963): Pan and zoom with knobs

 "The size and position of the part of the total picture seen on the display are controlled by the four black knobs just above the

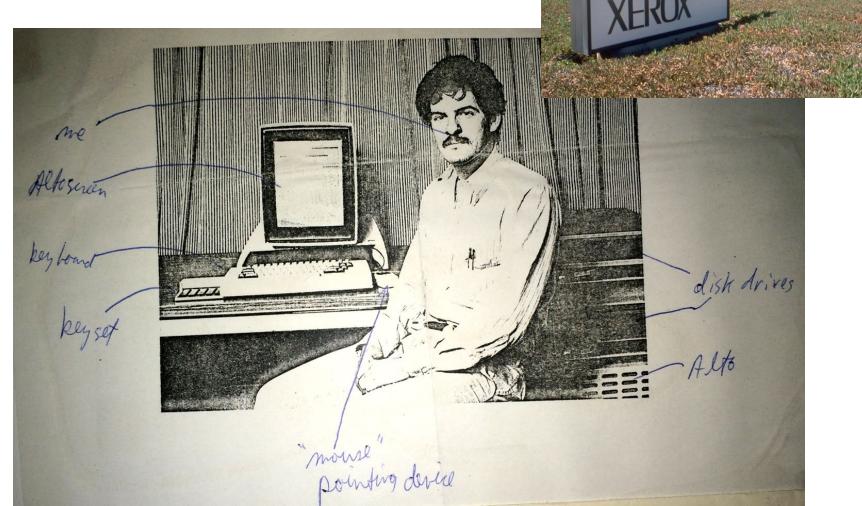
table."





Brad Myers with a Xerox Alto, 1979

 From my Dad's scrapbook for that year, with my annotations!





Early Systems, 2

- Bravo, 1974
 - Move to left margin, cursor changes shape
 - Press to see cursor, release to do operation
 - Left = Scroll up line next to cursor goes to top
 - Right = Scroll down line at top of window goes to cursor
 - Middle = "thumb" jump to that percent of the document, with indicator showing where you are











Smalltalk

- Smalltalk, 1977
- Scroll bar pops up to the *left* of the document

A two-paned window

rame'

collapsed'

titlepara' grouving'

exitflag'

templates

partables

panes

pane of a two-paned

The window has a wi

menu and each pane t

Note that lines of text

again

copy

paste

1111/40

word space

- Focus window has a scroll bar
- Three regions:
 - Right region text moves up
 - Left region text moves down
 - Center drag thumb smoothly
 - Thumb shows percent visible

Keyboard keys

- WordStar, June 1979, etc.
- Scroll using keyboard keys
- Scrolls to keep cursor on the screen



```
--Cursor Movement--
                                            -Miscellaneous-
                              -Delete-
                                                                  -Other
                                                                          Menus-
^S char left ^D char right
                                                    ^B Reform
                                                                (from Main only)
  word left "F word right
                             DEL chr lfl
                                         ^V INSERT ON/OFF
                                                               l^J Help
                                word rt|^L Find/Replce again|^Q Quick ^P Print
            X Ilne ...
                                line
                                        |RETURN End paragraph|^0 Onscreen
      --Scrolling--
  line down "W line up
                                          ^N Insert a RETURN
C screen up "R screen down
                                          "U Stop a command
   1. Introducing WordStar
    WordStar is highly flexible and very visible. Watch the
    screens as you give commands, and information in various
   parts of the screen will guide you. You won't see all the information all the time, but it will be there when you need
    it.
         WHERE YOU ARE
    The seven WordStar menus are your greatest aids.
    like signposts at the top of your screen. showing you where
    vou are.
```



Interlisp, 1980

- Popup on left of window, as move out to the left (same as Smalltalk)
- Thumb showing percent visible
- Left button scroll up



- Same as Bravo line next to cursor to top
- Right button scroll down
- Middle button thumb
- Same cursors as Bravo



Xerox Star

- Released 1982
- Designed for executives
 - Too expensive for secretaries
- Large team of designers who were not from PARC
 - Their building was next door to PARC
- Extensive user interface studies guided designs
- Key innovations to be covered later
 - Desktop metaphor
 - Many modern widgets
 - WYSIWYG editing and drawing
- No PowerPoint or Spreadsheet programs
- Mostly closed only Xerox made applications
- Too expensive and seemed slow

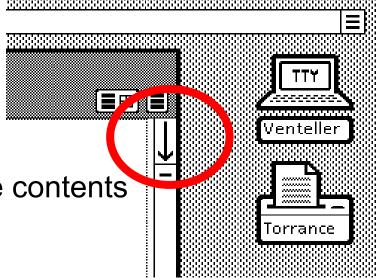


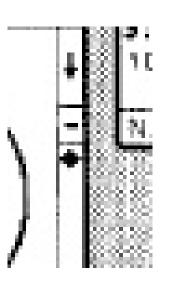


© 2025 - Brad Myers

Star (1981-1982)

- Scroll bar on right to get it out of the way
 - "Reduce the visual clutter"
- Scroll arrows point in the direction the contents will move
 - Based on user studies
- +, buttons to scroll by pages
- Thumb is a fixed-size diamond, independent of how much of document is visible
- Clicking in thumb "elevator" region jumps to that part of the document
- Viewpoint (1985)
 - When press and hold, can move outside the scroll bar
 - "Reduce the hand-eye coordination problems users were experiencing"
 - Right button move by percent, or by window rather than page

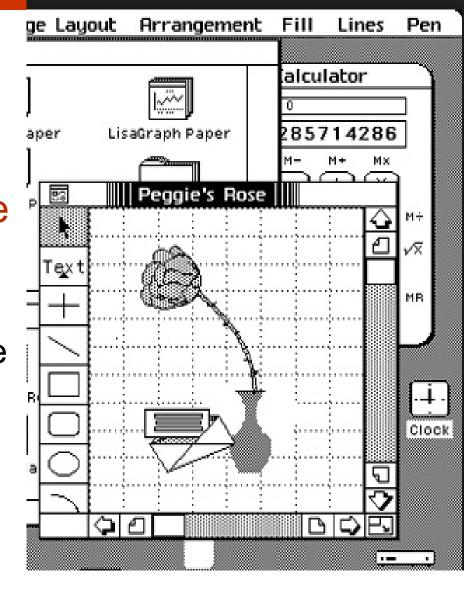




Lisa

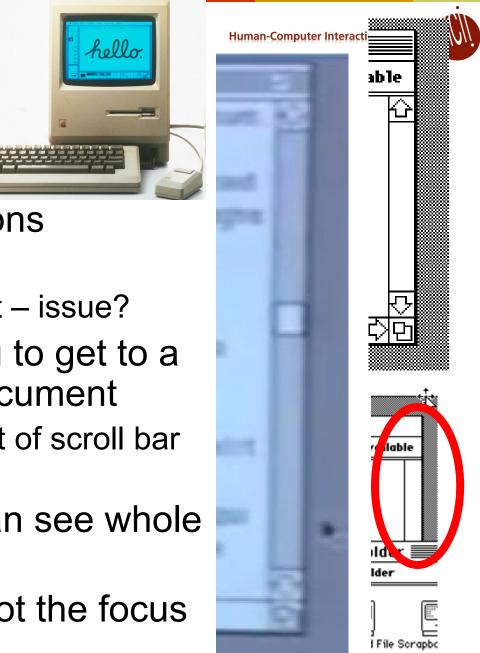
- 1983
- Arrows point in opposite direction
 - "Point towards data that will be exposed when the arrow is pressed"
 - Arrows auto-repeat

- Page buttons
- Fixed size thumb



Macintosh

- 1984
- Removed the page buttons
 - "Click in a grey region"
 - Hold down for auto-repeat issue?
- Press in thumb and drag to get to a particular point in the document
 - Abort by dragging (far) out of scroll bar before release
- No scroll bar shown if can see whole document
- Empty scroll bar when not the focus window



Alternate Reality Kit (ARK) Man-Computer Interaction Institute

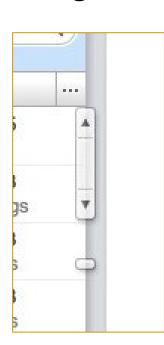
- 1985
- Hand at edge causes scrolling to start from that side
- "Teleporters"





OpenLook

- 1988
- (One of the Unix "X/11" look and feels)
- Novel elevator put arrow keys on it
- Clicking on cable moves by pages
- Auto-repeat pushes the pointer along
- "Cable anchors" beginning or end of the document
- Drag from center of elevator
- Similar design in Google Wave (2010)
 - Extra notch where the selection is?



NeXT

- 1989
- Scroll bars moved back to the *left* side of windows
- Proportionally sized thumb
- Arrows are together at bottom
 - Auto repeat
 - Alt-key moves by window-fulls
- Drag thumb
 - Alt-key while dragging moves more slowly
 - Note inconsistency in Alt-key speed change!



Dow



Mouse Scroll Wheel

 Popularized by the <u>Microsoft IntelliMouse</u> in 1996 along with support for the mouse wheel in <u>Microsoft Office 97</u>. – Wikipedia

Turn to scroll by increments

Can control how much that is

- Can press wheel for "middle" mouse button
- Some move smoothly – no notches
- Now used for zoom in Google Maps, etc.





Rate-controlled scrolling

- Can enable press-and-hold of mouse wheel
 - Faster if move further from press-point
- Also, press "middle" button on IBM Thinkpads

and pull with pointing stick







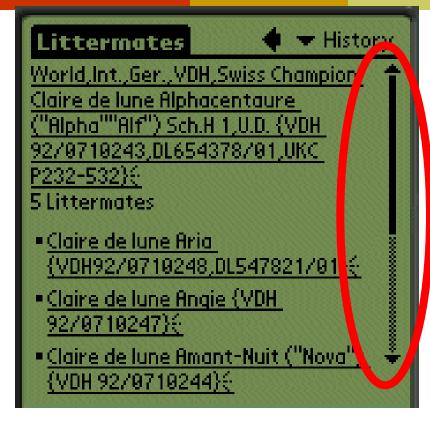
Palm

- Founded by Jeff Hawkins who did GridPad
- US Robotics (1995), 3Com (1997), Handspring (1998), Palm (2000), HP (2010)
- First released version: 1996 = "Pilot"
 - Name changed due to lawsuit
- They did lots of user testing with prototypes created using HyperCard
- Graffiti for data entry



Palm Pilot

- Conventional scroll bar
 - Drag thumb or tap on arrows with stylus
- Arrow buttons







RIM Blackberry dial

- 1999
- "knob"
- Move with right thumb
- Can press in to activate selected item
- Not a touch screen





iPhone

- 2007
- Flick to scroll
 - Used previously on Go devices (1991)
 - iPhone has a highly tuned momentum function
 - Stops when touch the screen
- Innovation: bounce at end
 - Patent on "Bounce at end of scrolling" for iPhone submitted by Bas Ording in 2007 (right before 1st iPhone was released in 2007) <u>US 7,469,381</u>
 - Try it! iPhone vs. Samsung



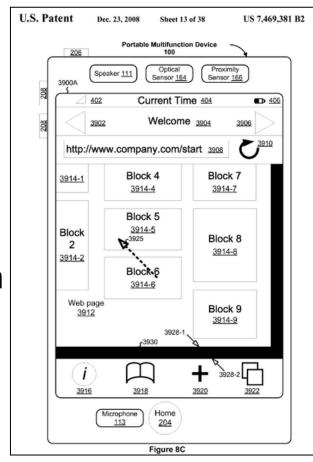
(12) United States Patent Ording

(54) LIST SCROLLING AND DOCUMENT TRANSLATION, SCALING, AND ROTATION ON A TOUCH-SCREEN DISPLAY

(75) Inventor: Bas Ording, San Francisco, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: Apple Inc., Cupertino, CA (US)

(Continued)



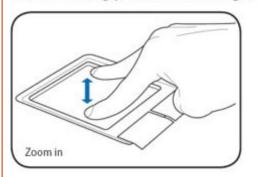


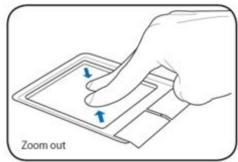
iPhone, cont.

- Two-finger drag
 - Takes advantage of multi-touch screen
 - Can also flick with momentum
- Also two-finger rotate, zoom
- Imported into Mac touchpad (when?)
- Now available on most touchpads

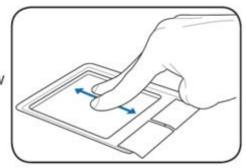


Two-finger zooming in/out - Moving two fingertips apart or together on the touchpad to zoom in or zoom out. This is convenient when viewing photos or reading documents.





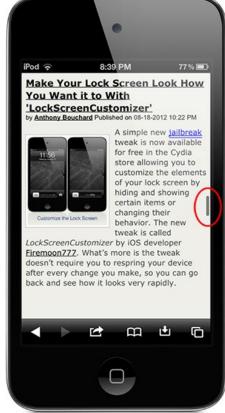
Two-finger scrolling - Use two fingertips to slide up or down on the touchpad to scroll a window up or down. If your display window includes several sub-windows, move the pointer on that pane before scrolling.

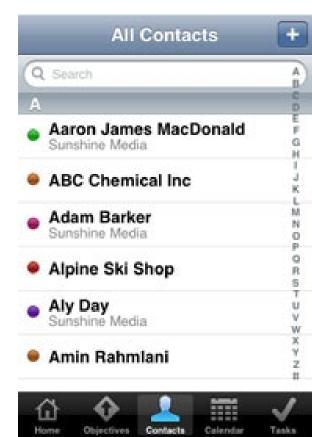




iPhone scroll bars

- "Regular" scrollbar in web browser, other applications
 - Just output not touchable
- Displays scrollbar with letters for jumping around in contacts, etc.





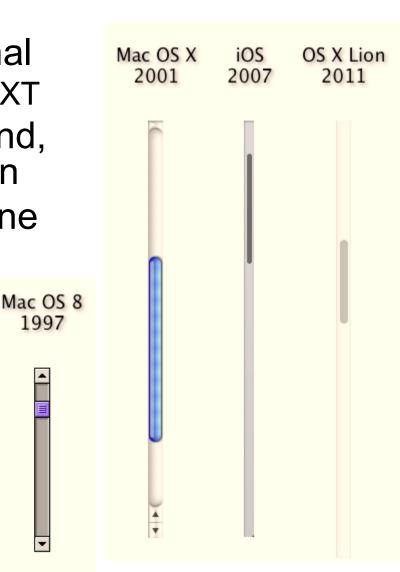


Macintosh recent scrollbars

- 2001 thumb now proportional
 - Arrow buttons at bottom like NeXT
- 2011 no more buttons on end, so looks more like iOS version
- Now scrollbars are mostly gone

 Can start scrolling with gesture, then move pointer in and drag

- Microsoft Word 2015 copied disappearing scroll bars
 - Can't tell what percent through document when mouse outside even if still has focus

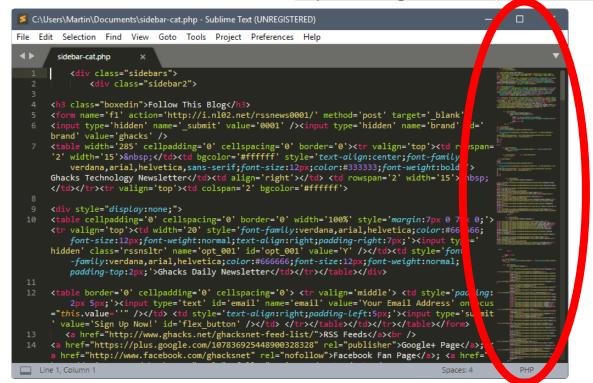


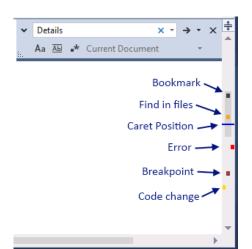
1997



Scroll bar can show more:

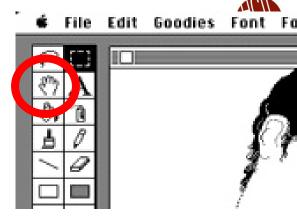
- Percent of the way through the file
- What percent of the file is showing
- Scroll bars with marks for search results, errors, etc.
- "Shape" of the content
 - Example: Sublime text editor most useful for code
 - Picture credit: https://www.ghacks.net/2017/09/15/sublime-text-3-0-is-out/





Other Scrolling Mechanisms

- Hand to grab the contents and scroll
 - MacPaint (1984), Adobe Acrobat, etc.
- Dial on original iPod (2001)
 - Non-linear mapping
- Tap at edge or flick to go page-bypage on eReaders
- "Infinite scroll" like on Twitter & Facebook
 - Usability problems
- ... what else?





"Sliders"



Part of most widget sets to select numbers in a range

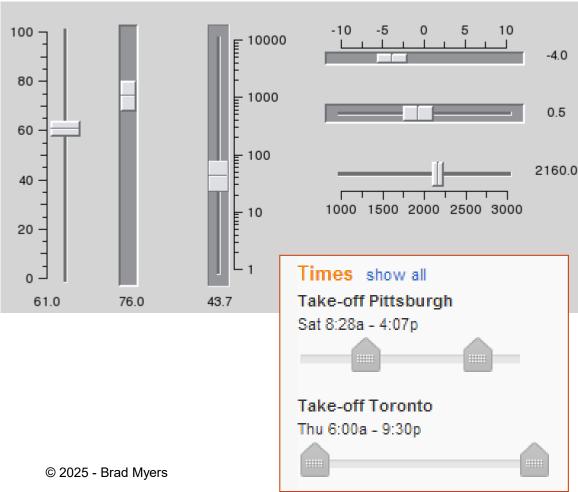
Usually look different than scrollbars, but behave

similarly

Two-handled "range sliders"

Slider

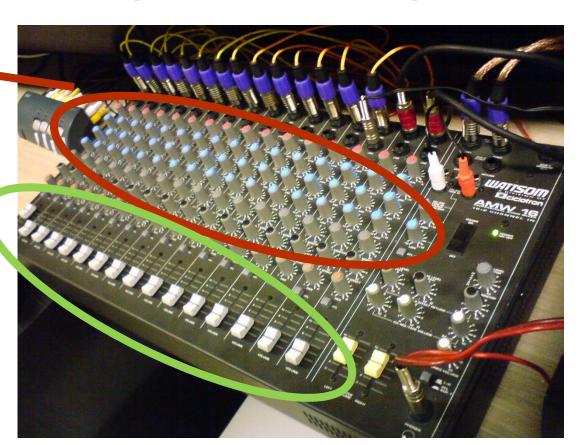






Physical Sliders (and Knobs)

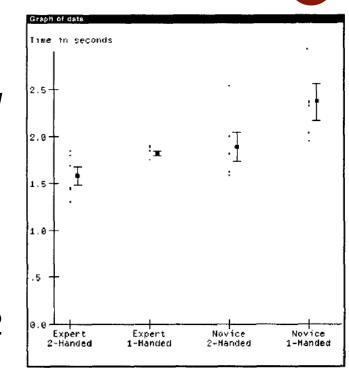
- Also knobs
- Sliders



Human-Computer Interaction Institute

Research Paper

- William Buxton and Brad Myers. "A Study in Two-Handed Input," Proceedings SIGCHI '86: Human Factors in Computing Systems. Boston, MA. April 13-17, 1986. pp. 321-326 pdf or html and video (required)
- Explored two handed interactions
 - Clicking, resizing, scrolling
- Clicking and resizing done in parallel
- Scrolling was not, but still faster to use 2 hands

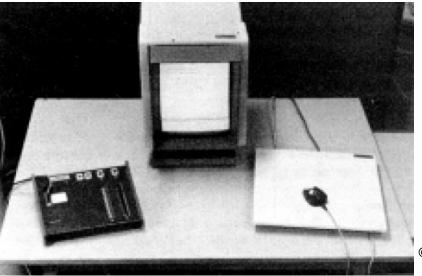


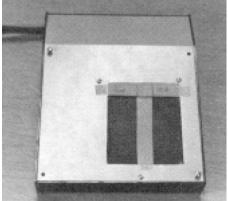
Your elapsed time = 12 secs.

fiddle

Middle

Hiddle





-- --- CORRECT --- *** Select line 28, Left

7 Left

8 Left

16 Left

17 Left

© 2025 - Brad Myers

Research Paper

- Christopher Ahlberg and Ben Shneiderman. 1994. The alphaslider: a compact and rapid selector.
 In Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '94). ACM, pp. 365-371. http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?doid=191666.191790
- New designs for a more accurate slider (scroll bar)
 - One divides thumb into 3 regions, of different scroll speeds
 - Another: depends on speed of mouse movements
 - Another: speed depends on vertical distance from slider
- User test with 10,000 items

Position and scrollbar fastest

Rate controlled failed

 Too much overshoot

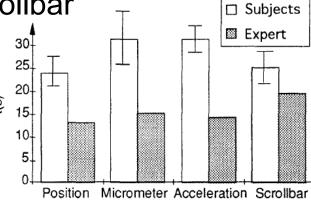


Figure 7: Graph showing mean time to complete all tasks for each interface. Standard deviation indicators on top of bars.

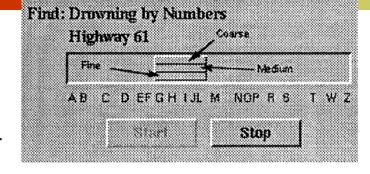


Figure 3: Position interface. Users select granularity by clicking in different parts of the slider thumb.

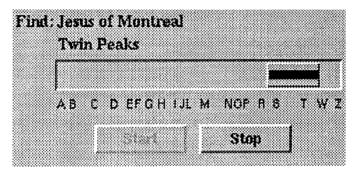


Figure 5: Acceleration interface. Granularity is proportional to the velocity of the mouse movements.

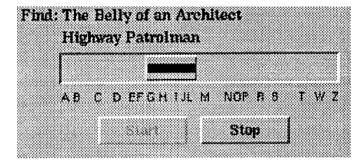


Figure 6: Micrometer interface. Users select granularity by moving the mouse vertically.



Research Paper

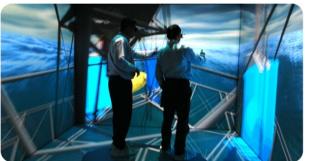
- Jun Rekimoto. 1996. Tilting operations for small screen interfaces. In *Proceedings of the 9th annual ACM symposium on User interface software and technology* (UIST '96). ACM, pp. 167-168. http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?doid=237091.237115
- Tilt to scroll
- Also, tilt to select menu items
- Usability issues [Hinckley 2000]





3D Navigation

- Often using game controllers or equivalent, or a wand
 - Push on joysticks to navigate
- Pose the static position of body parts
 - E.g., Pointing with a finger
 - Detected by a camera or sensors
 - As opposed to using a pointing device
- Gesture movement through space
 - 2D or 3D
 - Can be a controller or body
- Either or both can be recognized

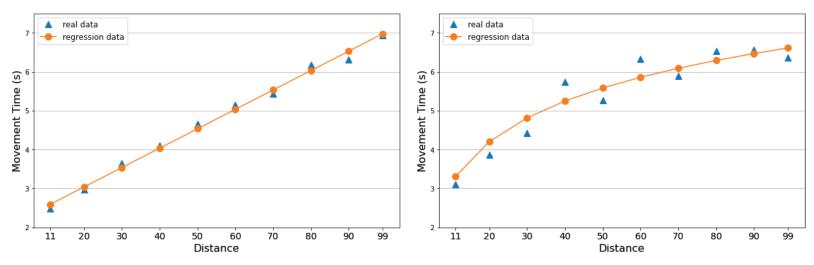






Measuring Scrolling Speed n-Computer Interaction Institute and Accuracy

- Many tasks for scrolling
 - Know where going, vs. unknown
 - Close (next page) vs. far away
 - Interleaved with clicking, vs. just reading
- Time
- Accuracy: measure overshoot



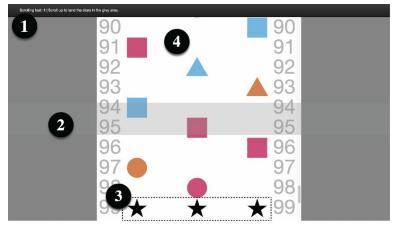
(a) Regression analysis for unknown condition

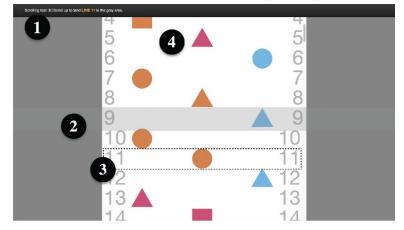
(b) Regression analysis for known condition

Scrolling Speed



- New Scroll Test
 - https://tinyurl.com/c04scrolltest2024
 - Participant ID anything unique
 - At end, click "Copy Table", paste into <u>https://tinyurl.com/c04scrolltest2024results</u>
 - (To create your own, start here)
 - Draft paper: arXiv:2210.00735 [cs.HC] (preprint)





(a) Scrolling tests with unknown position target

(b) Scrolling tests with known position target

Text Entry for Computers and Handhelds, and Text Editing

Brad Myers

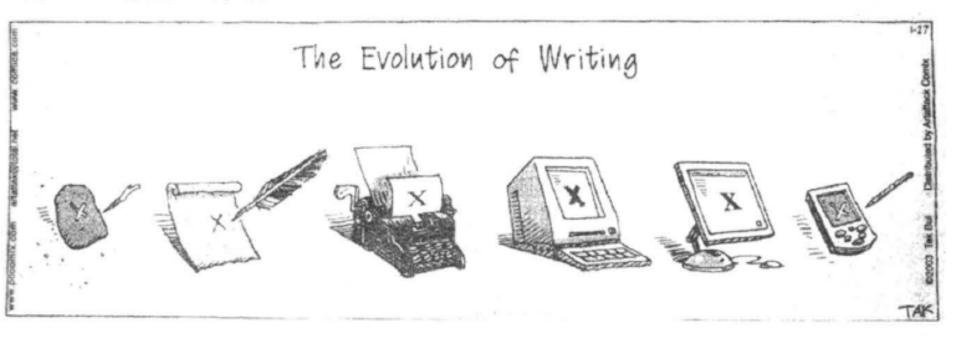






Text Entry as of 2003

PC AND PIXEL Thach Bui.





Typing speeds

- Parameters: speed and errors
- Speed: Words-Per-Minute (WPM)
 - Assumes 5 characters per word, including spaces and punctuation
- Keyboard speeds:
 - 27-37 wpm hunt-and-peck (2 finger) typing
 - 35 wpm moderate typists using all fingers
 - 50 to 80 wpm (up to 120 wpm)- professional typists at WPM, up to 120 WPM
 - 200 wpm Fastest recorded speed on a regular typewriter
- Contrast with normal talking speed: 100 -150 wpm
- Handwriting speed: 14 (5-23) wpm

Stenotype Machine

- Chord keyboard, used by court reporters
- Speeds of at least 180, 200, and 225 wpm
 - World record: 375 wpm
- Dates back to 1830's; general use after 1880s Wikipedia
- Name from about 1913
- Still in use, but now connected to a computer instead of a paper tape
- Chords represent phonetics (sound) of whole syllables, not the actual spellings
 - "Cat" typed as a single press of initial K, the vowel A, and the final T

Alternate Text Entry for "Regular" Computers

- Not much
- Englebart's chord keyset
 - 1968
 - 2^5 -1 = 31 values
- On-screen keyboards, mostly for handicapped people (see lecture 18 and Guest Lecture #2: Gregg Vanderheiden)
- Also, non-English characters
- Handwriting or printing recognition on Rand tablet (1964)



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ڻ	ل ه	ڏھ	7.	ڨ	ĝ	ė	ڡۛٛ	9"
چ	(c)	ς١:	ζ;	چ	(a)	ζ۰	ζ:	(=)
ŝ	ڎ	Š	ڋ	ژ	ڒ.	ڑ	ڑ	ک
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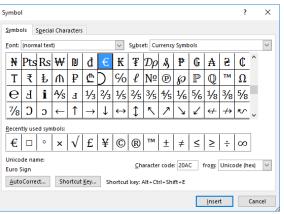
Most research has been on text entry for <u>portable</u> devices

- Goals
 - Reach typing speeds (~40 wpm)
 - While still reasonably accurate
 - Often, require little learning time
- But how much typing is needed?
 - SMS = short message service = "texting"
 - Versus writing a book or coding a program
 - Entering an address or appointment correctly
- How much accuracy is needed?

"Virtual" keyboards

- Keyboard on the screen, selected with a pointing device or arrow keys
- Also: "soft keyboard", "on-screen keyboard"
- On-screen for special characters
 - 1982 Xerox Star
 - Current Microsoft Word
 - For handicapped
- Since the original PDAs and smartphones
- Also, on consumer electronics and games 2025







Apple Newton

- Started 1987, released 1993
- Newton "MessagePad"
- Handwriting recognition was main input technique
 - Also soft keyboard or auto-complete
 - User Manual



John Sculley III



 One way is to write with the pen that came with your MessagePad.

Hello! How are you?

 A second way is to use an on-screen keyboard. To do this, tap the Keyboard button • at the bottom of the screen.
 A standard typewriter keyboard appears; use the pen to tap out information on the keyboard.



■ Another convenient way to enter or choose information is using the diamond. Tap a diamond ◆ or the word next to it to see a list of choices. Then tap your choice in the list that appears.





Why Text Entry for Phones

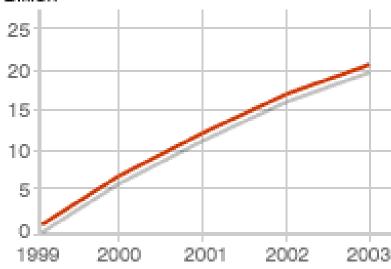
 Originally: Phone Short Message Service (SMS) ("text messaging" or "texting" started about 1994 in Scandinavia (Sweden, Finland)

 Popularized by Japan NTT Docomo's i-mode In UK, ref

(1999)

Slow rise in popularity in US

Text messages sent per year Billion



Keypads for phones

- 1963
- "Dial" the number much faster
- Letters the same as on the dial phone
- Numbers are opposite order from cash registers & numberpads
 - Due to human factors research at Bell Labs
 - Same speed, but preferred
 - Wikipedia
- Retained for mobile phones







"Multi-Tap"

- Text entry using that keypad
- 2 = "A", 22 = "B", 222="C"
- "BET" = 22338
- But for "CAB" 222(wait)2(wait)22
- Layout was not optimized for letter frequencies
- Keystrokes per character (KSPC) for Multi-tap is 2.03 -- (<u>MacKenzie 2002b</u>)
- Measured at 10 to 12 WPM, up to 21.0 wpm for experts – <u>ref</u>



"T9"

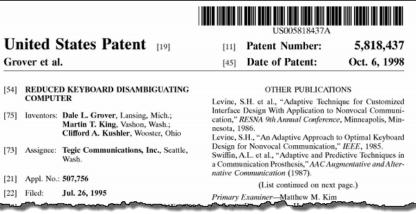
- From Tegic, now part of Nuance
 - Nuance now part of Microsoft
 - Patented: filed in 1995, issued 1998
- Predictive text entry for phone keypad
- Just hit each key once
- Uses a language model to disambiguate
 - Shows its best guess as you type
 - Use * key to get to other options
 - Automatically adaptive so learns what you type most
 - Also "smart punctuation"

Measured at 15 wpm (novices) up to 40 wpm (vs. 10

up to 20 for multi-tap)

1.0072 KSPC





Early phone + PDAs

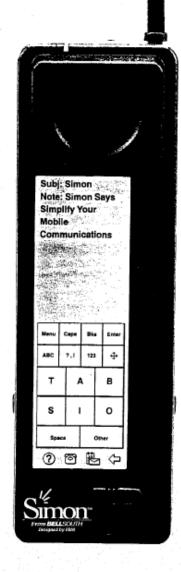
- IBM Simon
 - Shipped in 1994 by BellSouth
 - Hand printing, on-screen keyboard with predictive text
- Nokia 9110 Communicator
 - 1996
 - Added full physical keyboard
- Slow device



Simon Says "Write"

Dash off a note! Scribble a picture! Handwrite on a fax! Simon gives you an instant "paperless note pad" for personal reminders and messages, in handwriting or in type. And Simon speeds up your typing with a new "predictive" keyboard that actually predicts the next six letters that you will most likely need to complete a typed word. You have to use it to believe it.

- Write directly on Simon's screen.
- Use Simon's full-size, built-in keyboard to type a message using the stylus or your finger.
- Or, type even faster with the new predictive keyboard. It actually predicts with incredible accuracy the letters or symbols you will type next and presents them to you for faster selection.





space

abc 123 Int'l

Palm

- Founded by Jeff Hawkins who did GridPad
- First released version: 1996 = "Pilot"
- Graffiti or on-screen keyboard for data entry



cap

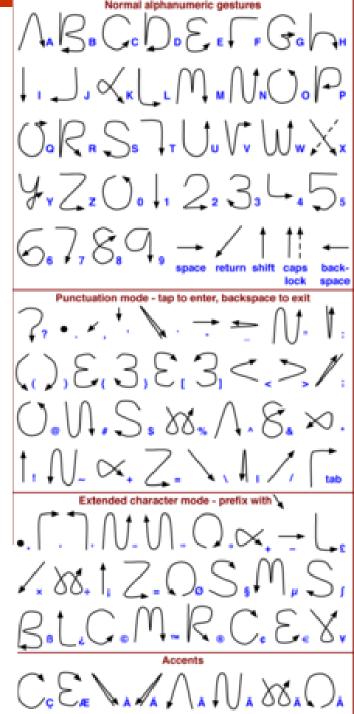
shift

Done

Palm Graffiti

- Designed to be easier to learn
 - Most look like the letter
 - Still requires practice
- Based on PARC unistrokes (1989)
- Two sides numbers look the same as some letters
- Novices were faster with the keyboard (7 vs. 16 WPM), but experts were faster with Graffiti (21 vs. 18 WPM)
 - -- [Fleetwood, 2002]





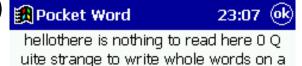


Windows CE

- CE 1.0 released in 1996 (same year as 1st PalmPilot)
- Many names: Windows Compact Edition (WinCE), Windows Palm PC, Windows Pocket PC (PPC), Windows Handheld PC (HPC), Windows Mobile
- HPC for landscape devices with a keyboard, PPC for portrait
- Compaq iPaq became very popular (2000) Pocket Word
- Graffiti equivalent = "Jot"

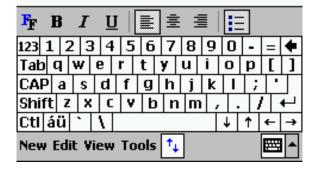






screen than translates all of this into

typewriting. how are you today ??



RIM Blackberry

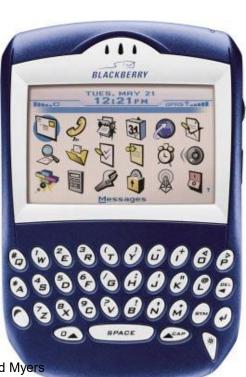
- Starting 1999
- Research in Motion (RIM)
- Two-thumb keyboard
 - Patents on having keys at angles
 - Griffin, US6,278,442-B1, 1998

Later, 2 characters on keys with

the 7100 line in 2004

- Two-thumb typing speeds are 30–35 WPM and reach 60 WPM after 20 twenty-minute sessions.
 - -- [Clarkson 2005]







Twiddler

https://twiddler.tekgear.com/ (\$200)

 Twiddler one-handled chorded text entry device

- Introduced in 1990's, 16 keys
- Also joystick for pointing
- Thad Starner reported he gets 60 wpm
 - 4.3 wpm: Novices
 - 26 wpm: 400 min
 - 47 wpm: 25 hours





Windows TabletPC

- 2001 spec (Windows XP), first devices in 2002
- Handwriting recognition was much better, but still not sufficiently accurate
- Quite poor UIs for correction





Optimized soft keyboard layouts

te FILL

- Try to find a better layout for the keys
- Would be faster than QWERTY with practice for "stylus tapping"
- Example: "OPTI" layout
 - I. Scott MacKenzie and Shawn X. Zhang. 1999. The design and evaluation of a high-performance soft keyboard. In *Proceedings of the SIGCHI conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (CHI '99). ACM, pp. 25-31. http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?doid=302979.302983
 - Multiple space bars, common words like "the" next to each other
 - Trial-and-error layouts evaluated with a "Fitts-law"-like mathematical model
 - Modeled 35% faster

Measured nearly 45 wpm by the 20th session compared to QWERTY at 40 wpm

Note – no backspace!

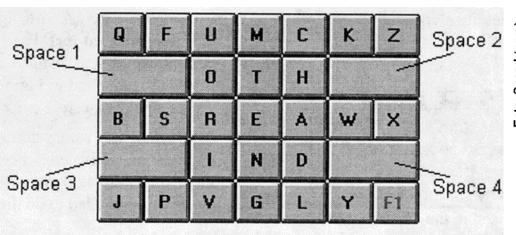


Figure 4. The OPTI high-performance soft keyboard

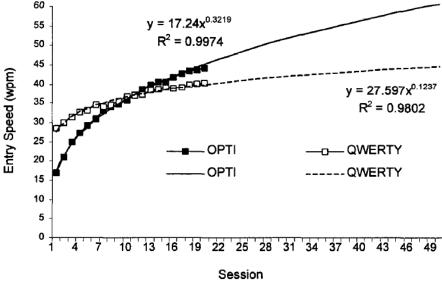


Figure 9. Learning curves and extrapolations to 50th session

iPhone

- Starting 2007
- Capacitive screen (multi-touch)
- No stylus
- On screen keyboard
 - Shows letter in a popup since covered with finger
 - Some letters popup alternatives if press and hold
 - Size of letter target areas adjusted based on language model
 - So easier to hit most likely target
- Up to <u>around 88 wpm</u> using two thumbs



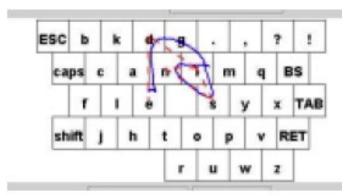


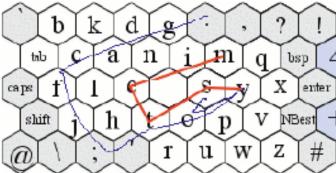


Shumin Zhai's ShapeWriter Human-Computer Interaction Institute

ute FUI

- IBM project starting in 1999 called "Shark"
- First published CHI'2003: Shumin Zhai and Per-Ola Kristensson. 2003. Shorthand writing on stylus keyboard. In *Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (CHI '03). ACM, pp. 97-104. http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?doid=642611.642630
 - Originally over an optimized keyboard
 - Recognized using a handwriting recognition algorithm using only shape
- UIST'04: Per-Ola Kristensson and Shumin Zhai. 2004. SHARK²: a large vocabulary shorthand writing system for pen-based computers. In *Proceedings of the 17th annual ACM symposium on User interface software and technology* (UIST '04). ACM, pp. 43-52. http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?doid=1029632.1029640
 - Extended to large vocabulary and QWERTY keyboards, using shape and location
 - Measured at 50 80 WPM <u>video</u>
- Commercialized as a startup called "ShapeWriter"
- Separately developed by "Swype" lawsuits
- Both purchased by Nuance (2010, 2011)
- Now built-in natively to iPhone







Text Entry on Watches and Wearables

- Palm watch (2003) had a graffiti area
- Twiddler for wearables
- Apple Watch
 - 3rd party tiny keyboards
 - v.3.0 in 2017 added hand printing with Scribble
- Speech dictation
- Research Zoomboard
 [Oney 2013]















Research continues...

- Physical keyboard for a watch
 - Class project in 2016!
- Elliot Lockerman, Shuobi Wu, Ariel Rao, Jarret Lin, Neil Bantoc, and Brad Myers. "Smartwatch Text Entry Using Five to Seven Physical Keys," 2017 IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing (VL/HCC'17), October 11 –14, 2017,

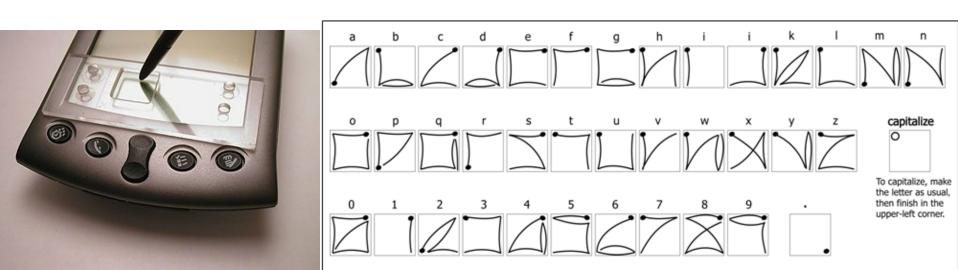
Raleigh, NC, pp. 291-295 local pdf.



Research: EdgeWrite



- Jacob O. Wobbrock, Brad A. Myers, and John A. Kembel. 2003. EdgeWrite: a stylus-based text entry method designed for high accuracy and stability of motion. In *Proceedings of the 16th annual ACM symposium on User interface software and technology* (UIST '03). ACM, pp. 61-70. http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?doid=964696.964703
- Goal: help people with physical disabilities use a Palm Pilot
 - Neither on-screen keyboard nor gestures worked
- Created our own edges with a plastic overlay
 - Invented our own unistroke alphabet
 - All letters entered by hitting corners
 - Capital by ending in upper left corner
 - Designed to be easy to learn
 - Created using user-specified procedure
 - Multiple options for some letters



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EdgeWrite, cont.

- Also worked on a variety of other input devices
- Joysticks, trackballs, game controllers, steering wheels, etc.
- Even back of phone
 - As if seeing through device
 - 8.87 WPM



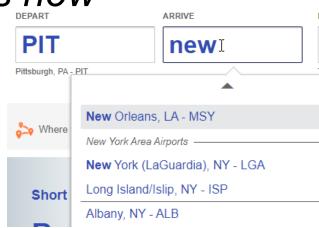


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From

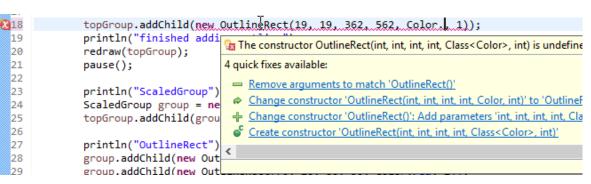
Auto-Fill, Auto-Correct, Auto-Complete

- Auto-Fill computer provides a value for a field before anything is entered
 - Often "pending delete" if type, then deleted
- Auto-Correction computer changes what was typed with the intent of correcting the spelling, grammar teh → the
- Auto-completion computer adds new characters based on user's input
 - = Auto-prediction, word prediction
- Often used together

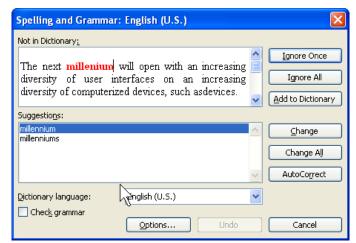


Auto Correct for Regular Computers

- Spell checking dates back to 1966
 - "Do What I Mean" DWIM [Teitelman 1966]
- Microsoft Word batch spell & grammar checking using a dictionary
- Immediate changes based on a large list of replacements
- Generalized to code editors





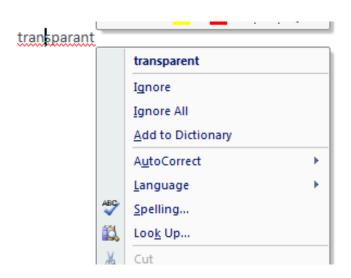


AutoFormat		Smart Tags				
AutoCorrect Math AutoCorre		AutoFormat As You Type				
☑ Show AutoCorrect Options buttons						
Correct TW	o INitial CApitals	Excep	tions			
Capitalize fi	rst letter of <u>s</u> entences					
☑ Capitalize first letter of table cells						
▼ Capitalize names of days						
▼ Correct accidental usage of cAPS LOCK key						
Replace tex	With: Plain text For	matted text				
Replace:	With: Plain text For	matted text				
Replace:	With: Plain text For totally	matted text	^			
Replace:	With: Plain text For	matted text				
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totaly totalyl tothe towrad tpp	With: Plain text For totally totally to the toward the '983 and '342 Patents	matted text Add Dele	• te			



Auto-Correct

- transpara
- Wavy underlines in Word 95
 - Red=spelling, green=grammar
 - Right click to get replacement list
 - Word will auto-replace when just one option
- All are entered into Undo stack so can be undone

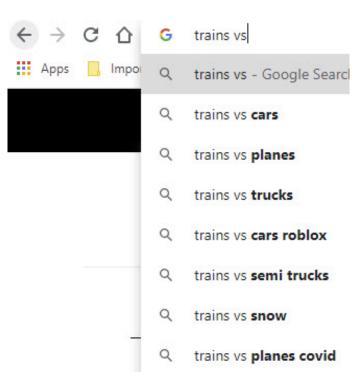




Auto-Complete

- Shared Sub Main() Application. Solution gDefault (False) Applicati AddMessageFilter rm()) CommonAppDataPath Propertie: End Sub CommonAppDataRegistry Main Att Class CompanyName espace CurrentCulture EnableVisualStyles Public Shared Sub EnableVisualStyles() Enables visual styles for the application. ExecutablePath Exit ExitThread 🚰 LocalUserAppDataPath Common
- After a "." in code editors
 - Microsoft: "IntelliSense"
 - Github's CoPilot (2021) fills in whole methods!
- Google Doc "smart compose"
- URL and search field for browsers

I will not be able to

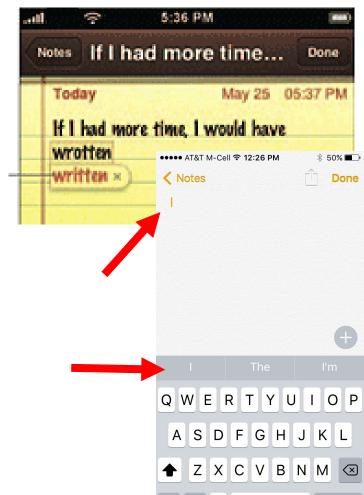


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Automatic help on mobile devices

- Auto-prediction
 - System guesses what you might be typing so you don't have to type the rest
 - Sometimes even before start
- Auto-correction
 - System helps you fix errors automatically
- Sometimes combined
 - iPhone uses all of these together





space

return

iPhone auto*

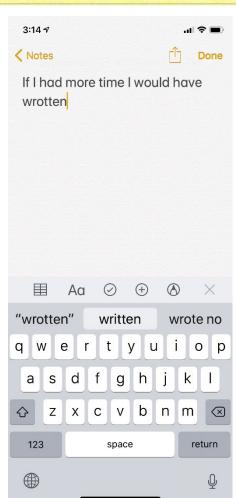
- Notes Whatch

 Today 05 01 7:08 AM

 Whatch

 Whatch

 Whatchamacallit ×
- iPhone: First (?) to have predictive and corrected text used by default
 - If shown as white
 - Former funny site: <u>http://www.damnyouautocorrect.com/</u>
- Apple's are based on multiple previous words



Evaluating Text Entry

- Speed
 - Word-per-minute = characters-per-min / 5
 - But "Tezt<backspace><backspace>xt" = 8 keystrokes
- Learnability
 - Learning curve of a new method
- Accuracy
 - Errors what kind?
- What should the task be?
 - www.10fastfingers.com/typing-test/
- How to count auto-corrections & autocompletions?



Evaluating Text Entry: Errors

- Based on: Jacob O. Wobbrock and Brad A. Myers. 2006. Analyzing the input stream for character- level errors in unconstrained text entry evaluations. ACM Trans. Comput.-Hum. Interact. 13, 4 (Dec. 2006), 458-489. http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1188819
- Uncorrected errors
 - Errors that are left in the final document
 - Most WPM measurements list these errors
 - Usually quite low (2.23%, 0.79%, 0.36%, 0.53%, ... in various studies)
- Corrected errors
 - User notices an error and fixes it, usually with <backspace>, but possibly with arrow keys, etc.
 - Counts as part of the WPM calculation
 - An error-prone entry method ends up being slower
 - Only a few measurement tests report these errors separately
 - But user may intentionally backspace over correct chars to get at an earlier incorrect character
- Also, non-recognitions, or no-entries e.g., miss keyboard when tap, or gesture not recognized
- May be interested in which character is most error prone to enter
 - Need to know about incorrect characters entered

Wobbrock and Myers analysis algorithm [2006]



- More accurately measure the errors in text entry
- Based on the input stream what was actually entered.
- Measures "distance" between target and input stream

P: quickly

T: qucehkly

IS: qv<w<uickly</pre>

- Separates errors into incorrect:
 - Insertions characters incorrectly in input stream P: quickly
 - Omissions characters missing
 - Substitutions wrong characters
- Can be corrected or not corrected
 - Also, corrected not errors happens a lot in touch typing
- Algorithm calculates all these
 - Assumes <backspace> is reliable

P: quickly

IS: qvlck<<<<uickly</pre>

- Also confusion matrix
 - How often generate one character when mean another

Human-Computer Interaction Institute

General Issues with Recognizers

- If using character or handwriting recognition
- Accuracy of recognition
 - Depends on how unique each stroke is
 - How accurate user draws them
 - How well the machine's recognizer works
- But also whether user remembers the right stroke to draw
 - Example: Palm Pilot Graffiti strokes:



Text Editing and Formatting





Text Selection

- Early character terminals: highlight or underline characters
 - Arrow keys, etc. to move
- Bravo, 1974 (modal)
 - Left = char, middle = word, right = extend
 - Margin clicking: left = line, middle = paragraph
 - Underlined
 - Based on Englelbart's NLS
- Smalltalk, 1976 (Larry Tesler's influence)
 - Left click = point *between* characters
 - Second click = word, end of line = line
 - Beginning or end of (xx) or whole document
 - Extend by holding down mouse button, or shift key
 - Uses a caret between characters
- Star, 1981
 - Left click = character, multi-click = word, sentence, paragraph
 - Right button = extends at same level (char, word, ...)
 - Not "pending delete" = cursor (blinking caret) is before or after selection

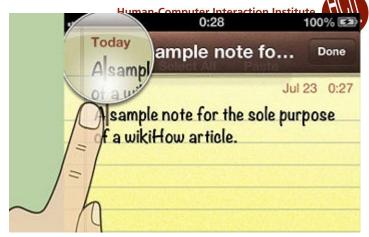


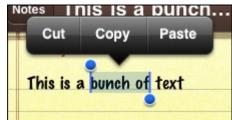




Text Selection, cont.

- Lisa & Macintosh, 1983
 - Larry Tesler and Bill Atkinson
 - Cursor is between characters
 - Drag-through to select
 - Double-click for word select
 - Shift-click to adjust
 - Pending delete = new typing replaces selection
- No further changes to selection since then for desktops
- Motif, 1989
 - Button 2 (middle) click = move selected text to new point
 - Ctrl-Button 2 = copy
- iPhone selection handles and "magnifying glass"
 - Magnifying glass removed later, then came back
 - Double tap to select a word







iPhone moving text cursor

 iOS version 9 in 2015 introduced "trackpad mode"

 Press hard over keyboard – turns blank and can use it to move cursor

 Since iOS 13 introduced swyping, now must press on space





Text Editing

- Control the content of the text
- (vs. Text Formatting = Control how the text looks)
- Line editors with printing terminals
 - Had to memorize the text
 - Print it out occasionally
 - Operations on the current line insert, delete, substitute: "s/better/bad"

 (note backwards in text!)

 "This is better content" → "This is bad content"
- Screen editors
 - Character terminal
 - WYSIWYG Bravo (1974)
- Various commands
 - Modal vs. modeless
 - EDIT
- Drag and drop
- Cut-Copy-Paste
- Undo covered in lecture 19
- Multi-user text editing Google Docs



Text Formatting

- Sometimes called "typesetting"
- Create "formatted text", "rich text", "styled text"
- Originally, using "markup" languages
 Text which is *italic* or **bold**
 - HTML: Text which is italic or bold
 - LaTeX: Text which is \textit{italic} or \textbf{bold}
- WYSIWYG specify formatting using commands in the editor

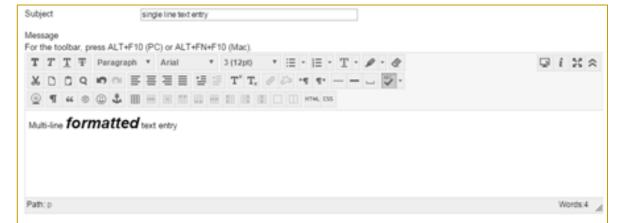


Text Widgets (controls)

- Single line text fields
- Multi-line text fields
 - On web, can be size-changed
- Review

 This is a multi-line text box on the web where one can | type a paragraph of text.
- What editing commands supported?
 - Formatting?
 - "Pending delete"





Text Typing Speed Test

- Table 8.1 from book
- https://10fastfingers.
 com/typingtest/english
- Enter results here: <u>https://forms.gle/Rx</u> U1TfsYr5vP7E6GA
 - (same as final questionnaire)

Table 8.1 Speeds for various text entry methods in this chapter. The wpm are given for different levels

	levels		
wpm	Text Entry Method	Level (beginner, expert, etc.)	Citation
27-37 35 50-80 200 180-225	QWERTY typewriter (Section 8.2.1) Stenographers chorded	Two-finger hunt-and-peck Moderate touch type Professional typist Fastest recorded	
375	keypad (Section 8.2.3)	TypicalWorld record speed	
6 50-60	EdgeWrite (Section 8.3.2)	NoviceWord-completion version	Wobbrock et al. [2003] Wobbrock et al. [2006]
10-12 21	Multi-tap on keypad (Section 8.3.3.1)	 Average Experts with much practice 	MacKenzie and Soukoreff [2002b]
15 40	T9 on keypad (Section 8.3.3.2)	NovicesExperts	MacKenzie and Soukoreff [2002b]
30 60	Small physical keyboard (e.g., RIM Blackberry) Section 8.3.4	First session20th session	Clarkson et al. [2005]
4.3 26 47 67	Twiddler handheld chord device (Section 8.3.5)	 Novices 400 minutes of practice 25 hours of practice Best recorded speed 	Lyons et al. [2004]
1	Scanning keyboard (Section 8.3.6)	Severe disability	Damper [1984]
58.2	OPTI virtual keyboard (Section 8.3.6.1)	Predicted by model	MacKenzie and Zhang [1999]
40	Metropolis virtual (Section 8.3.6.1)	Predicted by model	Zhai et al. [2000]
20	Cirrin (Section 8.3.6.1)	Author after 2 months	Mankoff and Abowd [1998]
9.3	ZoomBoard on watch (Section 8.3.7)	After eight trials	Oney et al. [2013]
22 24	WatchWriter (Section 8.3.7)	 Tapping Gesturing	Gordon et al. [2016]
15	Watchboard (Section 8.3.7)	After lots of practice	Lockerman et al. [2017]
35	Tap physical device (Section 8.3.7)	• 20 days of TapAcademy	Tap Systems Inc. [2019]
8	POBox autocomplete (Section 8.4.4)	• Novice	Masui [1998]
54 88	iPhone using two thumbs	The authorFastest person	Evans [2010]
100-150	Normal speaking speed		WordCounter [2016]
360	Fastest intelligible speech	 "Hyperactive radio announcer" 	Fields [2010]
14 (5-23)	Average handwriting speed (range)	• Adult	Bledsoe Jr [2011]
60-80 350	Shorthand	TypicalWorld record speed	New York Times [1922]
90-142	Signing with ASL (Section 14.3.1.1)	Typical fundamental rates	Al-khazraji et al. [2018]
	Normal reading	Non-fiction	Brysbaert [2019]

Fiction

260 (200–320) rates—ave. (range)

Final Thoughts!

Brad Myers



Other IxTs

- Pointing Devices 2D, phones, 3D
- Menus, buttons, checkboxes, etc.
- Forms, Property Sheets, and Dialog Boxes
- Creating, Selecting, and Manipulating Objects
- Window Managers
- Undo, Redo, Repeat, Cancel
- IxTs for Help
- Assistive IxTs
- Chat-GPT and other "intelligent" interfaces



Final Thoughts

- Happy to autograph physical copies of my book
- Please fill in questionnaires
 - Official SIGCHI survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HZFVZ66
 - This is course C12: Interaction Techniques
 - My questionnaire: https://forms.gle/NzbZNnHH7V2Kp7LZ8
 - What topics from the course / book should be covered?

- Interaction Techniques are everywhere
- Many can be improved, especially for new contexts
- Details matter (in most UI design!)



https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~bam/ixtshortcourse/
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