

# A multimodal interface for chess

How we made people gesticulate and scream at their computers



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Giuseppina Iannotti, 1938436  
Davide Marincione, 1927757

Sapienza, University of Rome

A. Y. 2023 - 2024

# The Idea

Remember this?



**Figure:** Wizard's Chess, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

## The Idea 2

Know this feeling?



**Figure:** Some stock image of an hand holding a chess piece.

## Before that

We have to get from here. . .

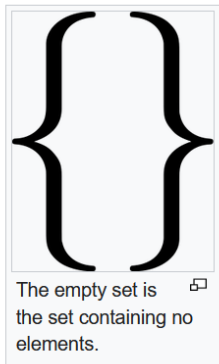


Figure: What we have.

To here!

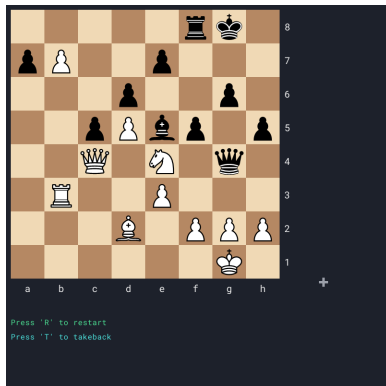


Figure: What we want.

## We need some OOP

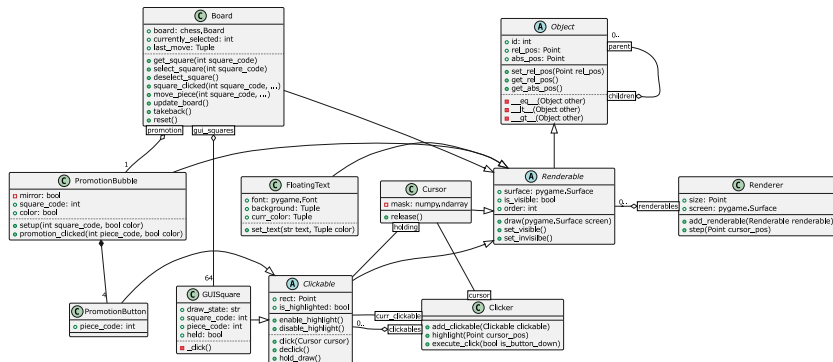


Figure: Class diagram of the game's elements

# A bit in detail 1

The `Renderer`... draws  
`Renderables`!

1. Keeps track of them.
2. Draws them based on each object's order attribute.
3. Draws them only if they are set to visible.

The `Clicker`:

1. Keeps track of the `Clickables`.
2. Highlights the current `Clickable`, calls its `click/declick` method.
3. Drives hold/release with `Cursor`.

## A bit in detail 2

Our Cursor is this neat thing:



Figure: Our Cursor.

It is simple, but we are pretty happy about it:

1. It is extremely visible, because of the dynamic color

$$c^* = (c + 128) \bmod 256.$$

2. It can hold pieces.
3. Being stylistically different might have helped!

## A bit in detail 3

The Board:

1. Wraps a `chess.Board` object (and all its complicated chess logic).
2. Handles the state of all the `GUISquare` and that of the `PromotionBubble`.
3. Plays audio when moves are done!

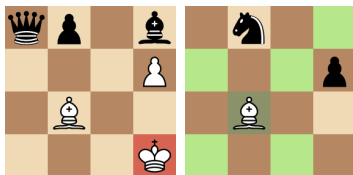


Figure: Examples of `GUISquare` states



Figure: What `PromotionBubble` looks like



## The main loop

All of this runs on the main thread, within the loop:

1. Update cursor with latest mouse or hand position.
2. `clicker.highlight(cursor_pos)`.
3. Resolve events, such as mouse clicks, key presses (quit game, takebacks), and moves done (for the AI).
4. Resolve voice commands.
5. `renderer.step()`.
6. Run metrics recorder.

# Dragonfly? What's that?

Not this. . .



Figure: The insect.

This!

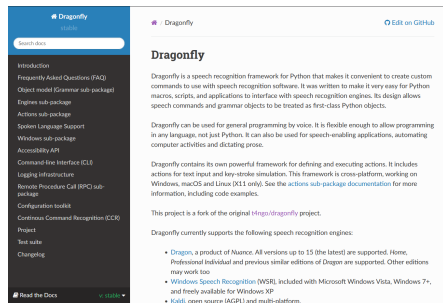


Figure: The package.

# Hey, but what is a Rule?

```
class PromoteRule(CompoundRule):  
  
    def __init__(self, manager):  
        super().__init__()   
        self.manager = manager  
  
    spec = "promote [<src_piece> | <src_square>]] to <prm_piece>"  
    extras = [  
        Choice("prep", prep_map),  
        Choice("src_piece", piece),  
        Choice("prm_piece", prm_piece),  
        Compound( name = "src_square", spec = "<file> <rank>", extras = [ Choice("file", file_map), Choice("rank", rank_map)],  
                  value_func = lambda node, extras: (extras["file"], extras["rank"])))  
    ]
```

Figure: Example of Compound Rule

Each rule is instantiated as a Compound Rule, with parameters :

- spec : Compound specification for the rules root element
- extras : Extras elements referenced from the compound spec, like choices for prepositions, pieces, and squares.

## Hey, but what is a Rule? - ALTERNATIVE

Each rule is instantiated as a Compound Rule, with parameters :

- spec : Compound specification for the rules root element
- extras : Extras elements referenced from the compound spec, like choices for prepositions, pieces, and squares.

It is characterized by a process recognition method that bla bla bla

# Rules I

Table: Rules I

Rule Name	Specification
Move Rule	"move ( [ <src_piece> ]   [ <src_piece> [<prep> <src_square>] to <tgt_square>]   [ [<prep>] <src_square> to <tgt_square>] ) [and promote to <prm_piece>] "
Capture Rule	"capture (<tgt_piece> [<prep> <tgt_square>]   <tgt_square>) [with (<src_piece> [<prep> <src_square>]   <src_square>)] [and promote to <prm_piece>] "
Promote Rule	"promote [( <src_piece>   <src_square> )] to <prm_piece> "

## Rules 2

Table: Rules II

Rule Name	Specification
Castle Rule	"(castle <special_direction>   <special_direction> castle)"
Piece Rule	"<src_piece> ( [<prep>] <tgt_square>  in <src_square> <verb> [<prep>] ( <tgt_square>   <tgt_piece> [in <tgt_square>] )   <verb> [<prep> <src_square>] ( [<prep>] <tgt_square>   <tgt_piece> [in <tgt_square>] )) [and promote to <prm_piece>]"
Square Rule	"<src_square> <verb> ( [<prep>] <tgt_square>   <tgt_piece> [<prep> <tgt_square>] )"

# Validating commands

## Good ol' mediapipe

Of course, we use mediapipe for hand tracking.

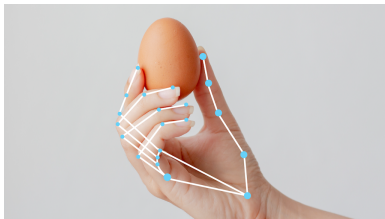


Figure: You know what this is.

1. We run it on a separate thread (HandDetector).
2. Process it for our needs.
3. Make it temporally coherent.



## 'Hand'made normalization 1

Get palm center:

$$p = \frac{\mathbf{L}_1}{2} + \frac{\mathbf{L}_6 + \mathbf{L}_{10} + \mathbf{L}_{14} + \mathbf{L}_{18}}{8}. \quad (1)$$

Its width

$$w = \|\mathbf{L}_6 - \mathbf{L}_{18}\|_2, \quad (2)$$

and compute the relative position:

$$\bar{\mathbf{L}} = \frac{\mathbf{L} - p}{w}. \quad (3)$$

## 'Hand'made normalization 2

Find the palm's normal:

$$\mathbf{n}_{\text{palm}} = (1 - \mathbf{2}_{\text{left}}) \frac{(\mathbf{L}_6 - \mathbf{L}_1) \times (\mathbf{L}_{18} - \mathbf{L}_1)}{\|(\mathbf{L}_6 - \mathbf{L}_1) \times (\mathbf{L}_{18} - \mathbf{L}_1)\|_2}. \quad (4)$$

Then we get the pinky normal,

$$\mathbf{n}_{\text{pinky}} = (1 - \mathbf{2}_{\text{left}}) \frac{\mathbf{n}_{\text{palm}} \times (\mathbf{L}_{10} - \mathbf{L}_1)}{\|\mathbf{n}_{\text{palm}} \times (\mathbf{L}_{10} - \mathbf{L}_1)\|_2}. \quad (5)$$

And the fingers' normal,

$$\mathbf{n}_{\text{fingers}} = (1 - \mathbf{2}_{\text{left}}) \frac{\mathbf{n}_{\text{pinky}} \times \mathbf{n}_{\text{palm}}}{\|\mathbf{n}_{\text{pinky}} \times \mathbf{n}_{\text{palm}}\|_2}. \quad (6)$$

## 'Hand'made normalization 3

Finally,

$$\mathbf{L}^* = \bar{\mathbf{L}} [\mathbf{n}_{\text{pinky}}, \mathbf{n}_{\text{fingers}}, \mathbf{n}_{\text{palm}}]^T \quad (7)$$

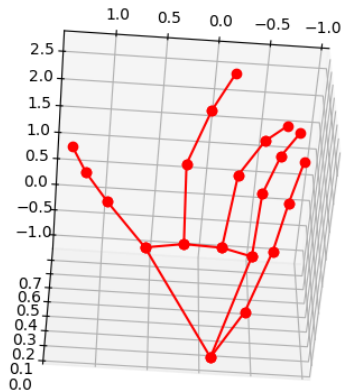


Figure: A right hand, normalized

# Gesture recognition

At first, we wanted two gestures:

1. Tapping gesture, for "clicks". ☹
2. Grabbing gesture, to hold pieces. ☺



Figure: Frame from "A Guided Tour of Apple Vision Pro"

## Recognizing grab

Very simple: hysteresis.

```
1: input prev_click
2:  $m \leftarrow ||\mathbf{L}_{\text{thumb}}^* - \mathbf{L}_{\text{index}}^*||_2$ 
3:  $d \leftarrow \frac{\mathbf{L}_{\text{thumb}}^* \cdot \mathbf{L}_{\text{index}}^*}{||\mathbf{L}_{\text{thumb}}^*||_2 ||\mathbf{L}_{\text{index}}^*||_2}$ 
4: if prev_click then
5:   return  $m < \alpha_\gamma \wedge d > \beta_\gamma$ 
6: else
7:   return  $m < \alpha \wedge d > \beta$ 
8: end if
```

Remember the Canny edge detector?



That uses hysteresis too!

## Hand2Cursor mapping

The direct mapping is

$$r = \text{clip}_{[m, M]} \left( \frac{p - m}{M - m} \right). \quad (8)$$

But we can't directly use  $r$ ...  
Let  $c$  be the internal cursor of  
HandDetector.

1. Noisy tracking:  $c$  moves at constant rate, either bilinear or linear interpolation, if  $r_{t-1}$  present.
2. Cursor moving when hand still: only update if distance is enough.
3. Random dropping of pieces: keep a list of most recent detections, if even one is a grab then output a grab.

# Recording System I

```
1  {  
2    "fen": "r2qk2r/ppp1bppp/2n1bn2/3pp3/4P3/3P1P2/PPP2KPP/RNB1QBNR",  
3    "player": [  
4      {  
5        "action_start": "2024-05-28 20:14:37.066157", "action_end": "2024-05-28 20:14:42.439008",  
6        "action_type": "mouse", "action_dist": 811.0, "down_button": 0, "up_button": 0,  
7        "moves": []  
8      },  
9      {  
10       "action_start": "2024-05-28 20:14:42.439008", "action_end": "2024-05-28 20:15:06.577269",  
11       "action_type": "hand", "action_dist": 539.4, "down_button": 3, "up_button": 3,  
12       "moves": []  
13     },  
14     {  
15       "action_start": "2024-05-28 20:15:06.577269", "action_end": "2024-05-28 20:15:31.592501",  
16       "action_type": "speech", "utterances": 7,  
17       "moves": [["pawn", "a2", "a3", null]]  
18     }  
19   ],  
20   "ai": [["pawn", "e7", "e5", null]]  
21 }
```

Each recording is organized into two primary sections, namely **Player Actions** and **AI Moves**.

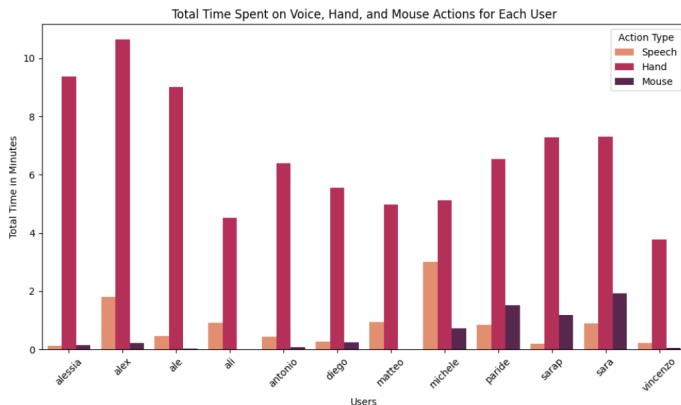
## Recording System II

Each action performed contains information about :

- Type : Mouse, Hand or Voice
- Start & End Time : Time of Action Start and End
- Moves : (Source Piece, Source Square, Target Piece, Target Square, Promotion Piece)
- Optional : Utterances, Hand & Mouse Distance, Hand & Mouse Bottoms Up and Down



# Results, Total Time



**Figure:** **Total Time** (seconds) on Voice, Hand and Mouse Actions per user

# Results, APM

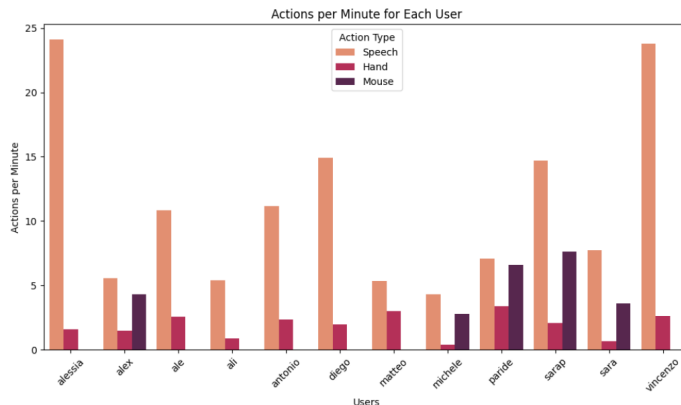


Figure: Actions per Minute per user

# Results, Total Actions

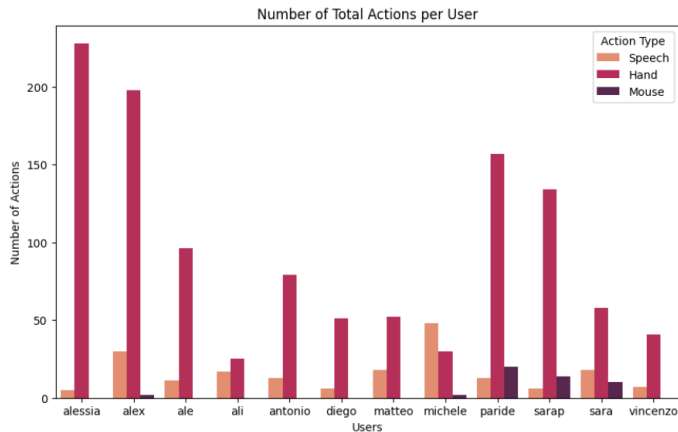


Figure: Number of **Total** Actions per user

# Results, Legal Actions

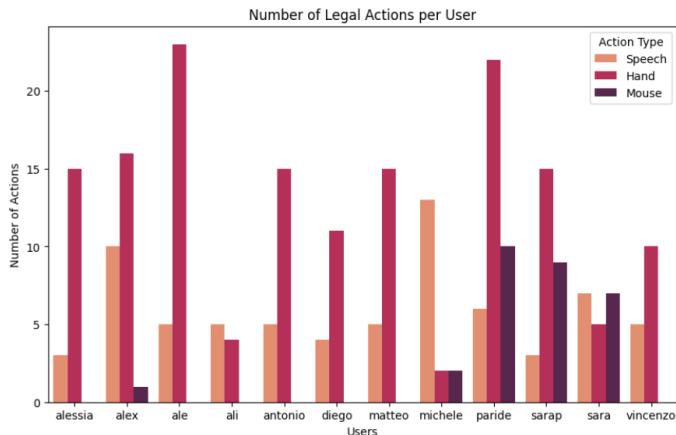


Figure: Number of **Legal** Actions per user

# Results, Error rate hand

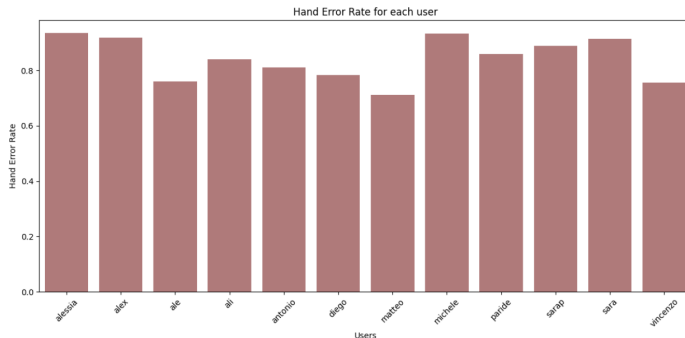


Figure: Error rate for Hand actions

## Results, Error rate voice

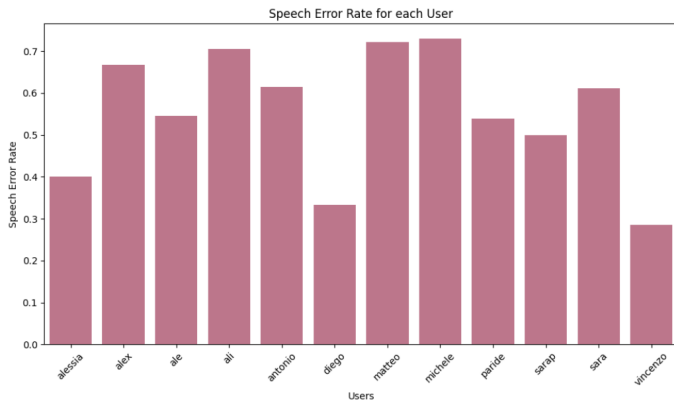
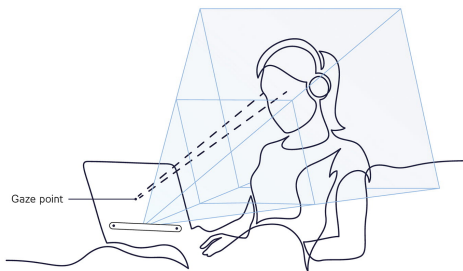


Figure: **Error rate** for **Voice** actions

## Put-that-there, but...

A possible future work might be in implementing a gaze tracking system, to further improve the user experience.



**Figure:** Some random gaze tracking image.

## The end

Yeah this is cool and all, but the good ol' mouse is still the best.



Figure: Fin.