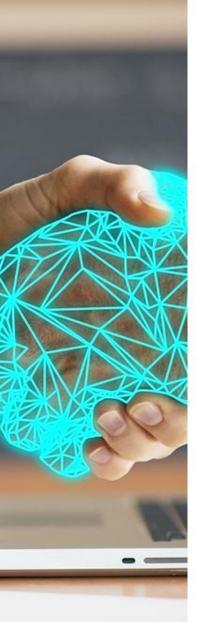


# The computer

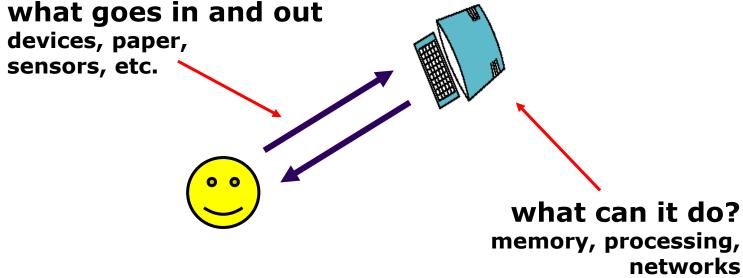
- a computer system is made up of various elements
- each of these elements affects the interaction
  - input devices text entry and pointing
  - output devices screen (small&large), digital paper
  - virtual reality special interaction and display devices
  - physical interaction e.g. sound, haptic, bio-sensing
  - paper as output (print) and input (scan)
  - memory RAM & permanent media, capacity & access
  - processing speed of processing, networks

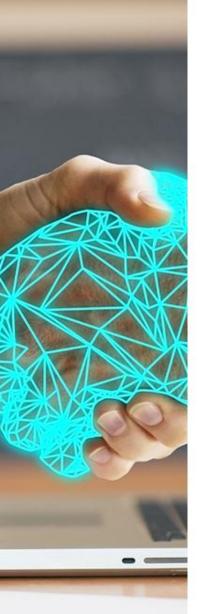


# Interacting with computers

to understand human-computer interaction

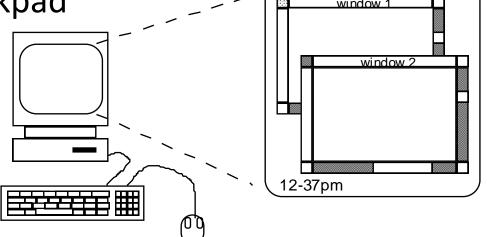
... need to understand computers!





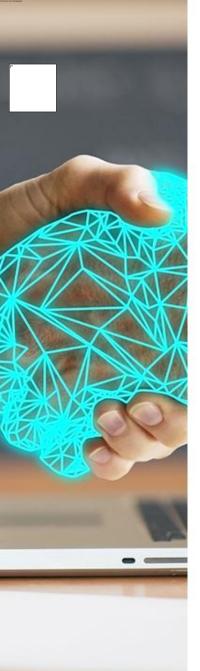
# A 'typical' computer system

- screen, or monitor, on which there are windows
- keyboard
- mouse/trackpad
- variations
  - desktop
  - laptop
  - PDA



the devices dictate the styles of interaction that the system supports

For different devices, then the interface will support a different style of interaction

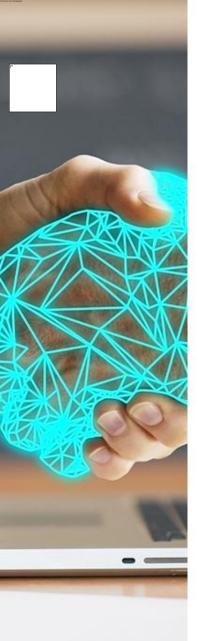


# How many ...

```
computers in your house?
hands up, ...
... none, 1, 2, 3, more!!
```

computers in your pockets?

are you thinking ... PC, laptop, PDA ??



# How many computers ...

in your house?

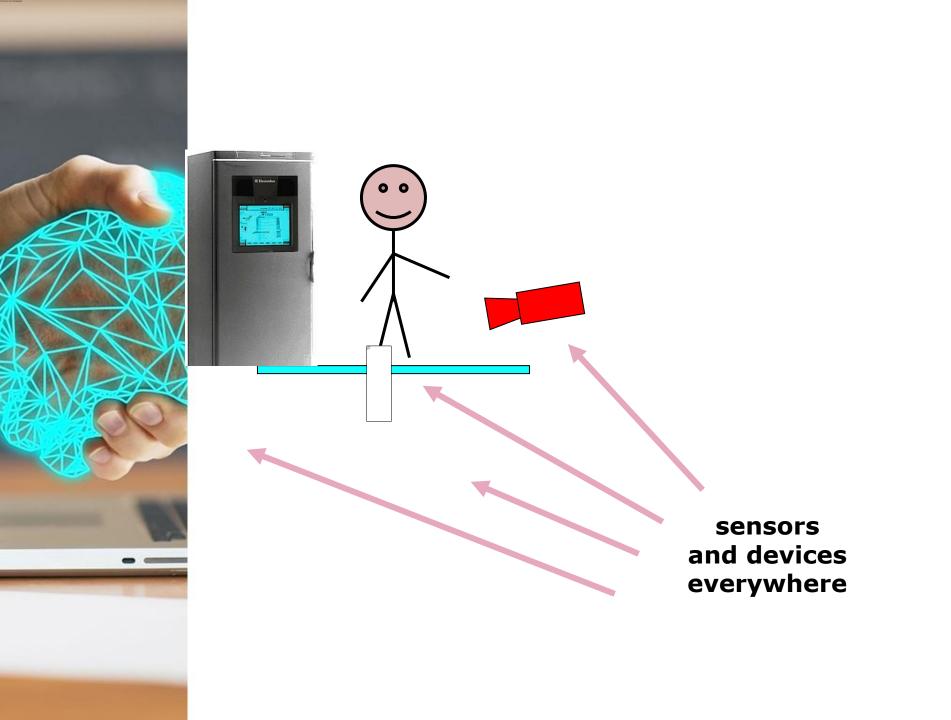
- PC
- TV, VCR, DVD, HiFi, cable/satellite TV
- microwave, cooker, washing machine
- central heating
- security system

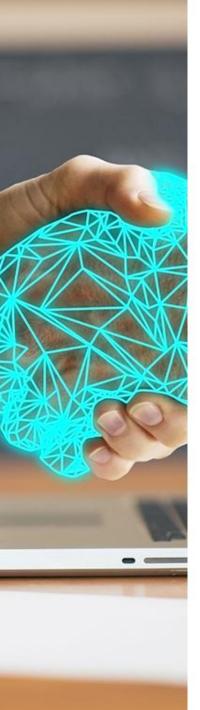
can you think of more?

in your pockets?

- PDA
- phone, camera
- smart card, card with magnetic strip?
- electronic car key
- USB memory

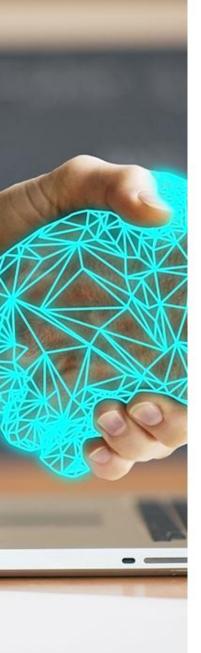
try your pockets and bags





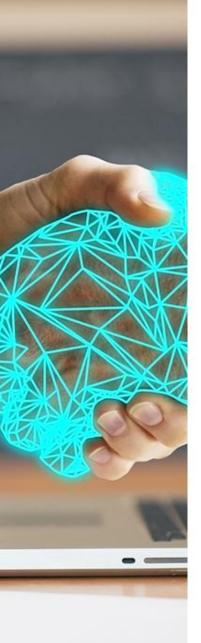
# text entry devices

keyboards (QWERTY et al.)
chord keyboards, phone pads
handwriting, speech



### Keyboards

- Most common text input device
- Allows rapid entry of text by experienced users
- Keypress closes connection, causing a character code to be sent
- Usually connected by cable, but can be wireless

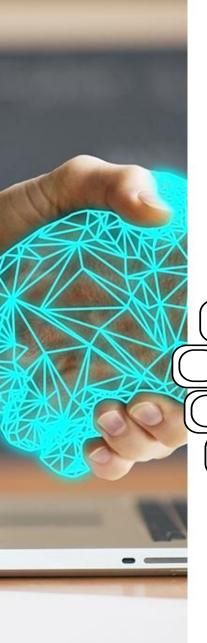


### layout – QWERTY

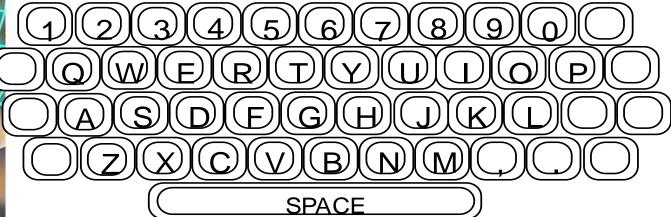
- Standardised layout but ...
  - non-alphanumeric keys are placed differently
  - accented symbols needed for different scripts
  - minor differences between UK and USA keyboards
- QWERTY arrangement not optimal for typing
  - layout to prevent typewriters jamming!
- Alternative designs allow faster typing but large social base of QWERTY typists produces reluctance to change.

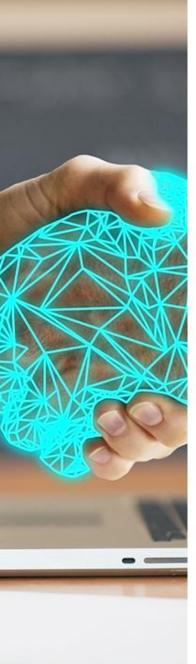
### Lay out QWERTY





## QWERTY (ctd)





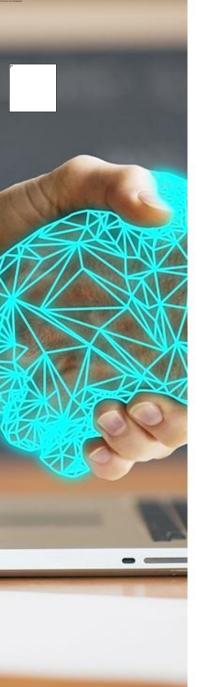
### alternative keyboard layouts

### Alphabetic

- keys arranged in alphabetic order
- not faster for trained typists
- not faster for beginners either!

#### Dvorak

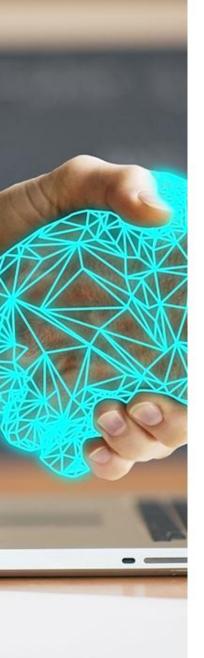
- common letters under dominant fingers
- biased towards right hand
- common combinations of letters alternate between hands
- 10-15% improvement in speed and reduction in fatigue
- But large social base of QWERTY typists produce market pressures not to change



## special keyboards

- designs to reduce fatigue for RSI (Repetitive Strain Injury)
- for one handed use
  - e.g. the Maltron left-handed keyboard





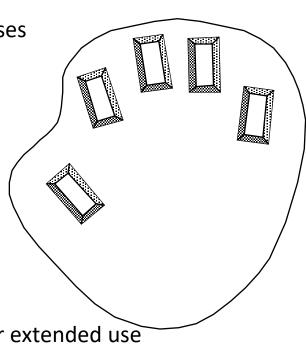
## Chord keyboards

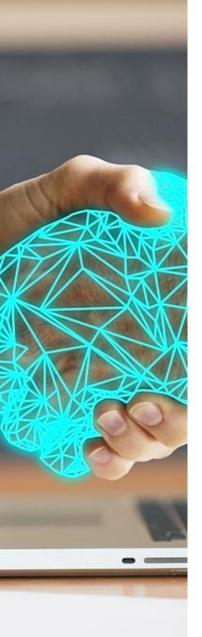
only a few keys - four or 5 letters typed as combination of keypresses compact size

- ideal for portable applications
   short learning time
- keypresses reflect letter shape fast
  - once you have trained

BUT - social resistance, plus fatigue after extended use

NEW – niche market for some wearables





### phone pad and T9 entry

 use numeric keys with multiple presses

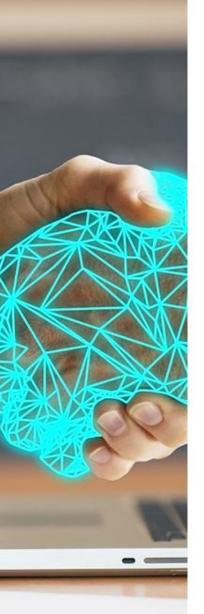
> 2 – a b c 6 - m n o 3 - d e f 7 - p q r s

4-ghi 8-tuv 5-jkl 9-wxyz

hello = 4433555[pause]555666 surprisingly fast!

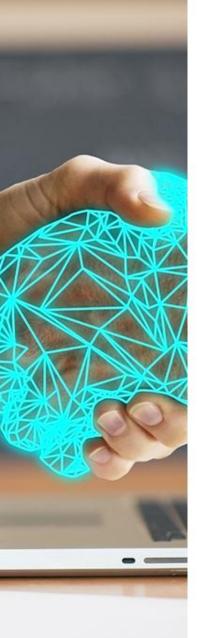
- T9 predictive entry
  - type as if single key for each lett
  - use dictionary to 'guess' the right word
  - hello = 43556 ...
  - but 26 -> menu 'am' or 'an'





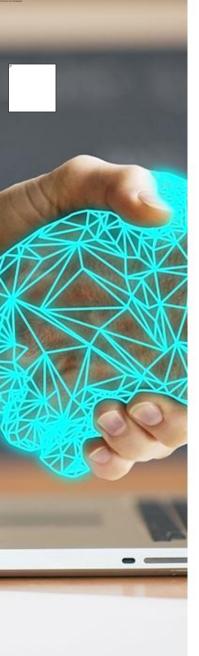
### Handwriting recognition

- Text can be input into the computer, using a pen and a digesting tablet
  - natural interaction
- Technical problems:
  - capturing all useful information stroke path, pressure,
     etc. in a natural manner
  - segmenting joined up writing into individual letters
  - interpreting individual letters
  - coping with different styles of handwriting
- Used in PDAs, and tablet computers ...
   ... leave the keyboard on the desk!



## Speech recognition

- Improving rapidly
- Most successful when:
  - single user initial training and learns peculiarities
  - limited vocabulary systems
- Problems with
  - external noise interfering
  - imprecision of pronunciation
  - large vocabularies
  - different speakers

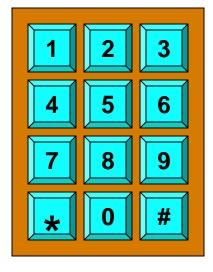


## Numeric keypads

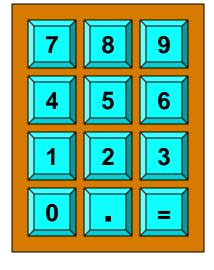
- for entering numbers quickly:
  - calculator, PC keyboard
- for telephones

not the same!!

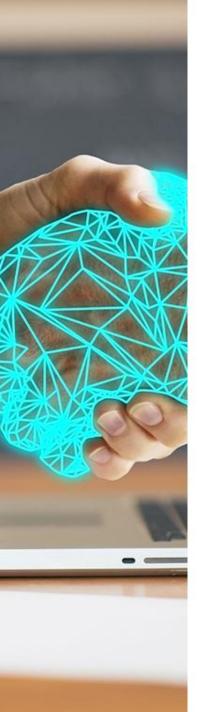
ATM like phone





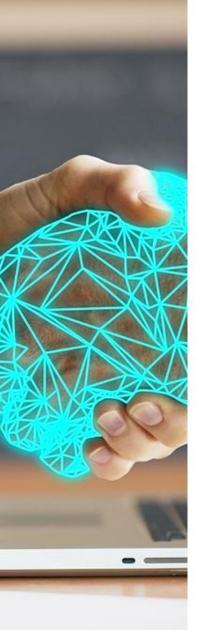


calculator



## positioning, pointing and drawing

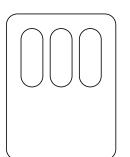
mouse, touchpad trackballs, joysticks etc. touch screens, tablets eyegaze, cursors

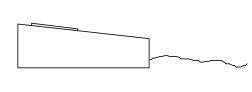


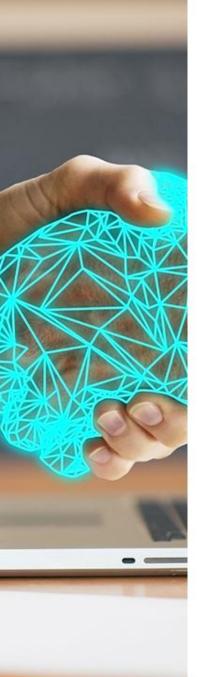
### the Mouse

- Handheld pointing device
  - very common
  - easy to use
- Two characteristics
  - planar movement
  - buttons

(usually from 1 to 3 buttons on top, used for making a selection, indicating an option, or to initiate drawing etc.)







## the mouse (ctd)

Mouse located on desktop

- requires physical space
- no arm fatigue

Relative movement only is detectable.

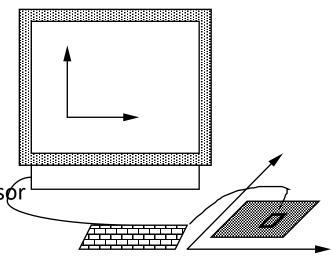
Movement of mouse moves screen cursor

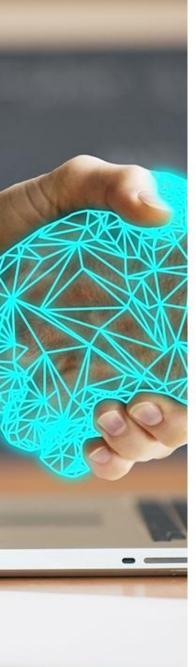
Screen cursor oriented in (x, y) plane,

mouse movement in (x, z) plane ...

... an *indirect* manipulation device.

- device itself doesn't obscure screen, is accurate and fast.
- hand-eye coordination problems for novice users





### How does it work?

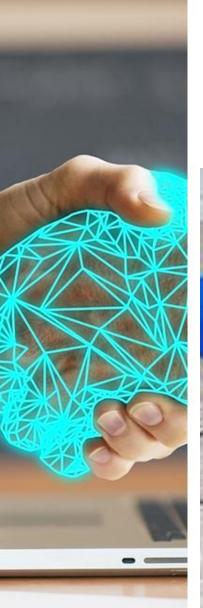
#### Two methods for detecting motion

#### Mechanical

- Ball on underside of mouse turns as mouse is moved
- Rotates orthogonal potentiometers
- Can be used on almost any flat surface

#### Optical

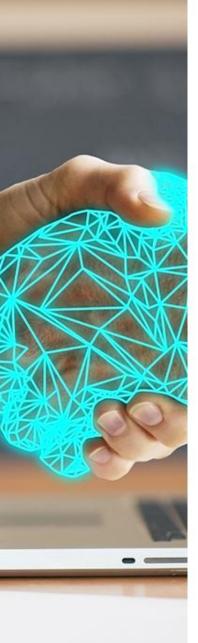
- light emitting diode on underside of mouse
- may use special grid-like pad or just on desk
- less susceptible to dust and dirt
- detects fluctuating alterations in reflected light intensity to calculate relative motion in (x, z) plane



### Even by foot ...

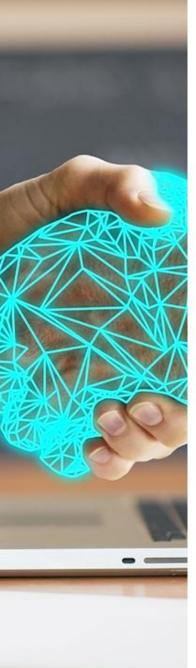


- some experiments with the footmouse
  - controlling mouse movement with feet ...
  - not very common :-)
- but foot controls are common elsewhere:
  - car pedals
  - sewing machine speed control
  - organ and piano pedals



### Touchpad

- small touch sensitive tablets
- 'stroke' to move mouse pointer
- used mainly in laptop computers
- good 'acceleration' settings important
  - fast stroke
    - lots of pixels per inch moved
    - initial movement to the target
  - slow stroke
    - less pixels per inch
    - for accurate positioning



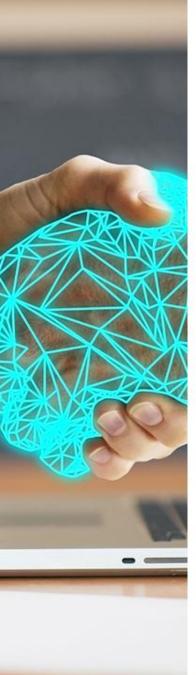
### Trackball and thumbwheels

#### Trackball

- ball is rotated inside static housing
  - like an upsdie down mouse!
- relative motion moves cursor
- indirect device, fairly accurate
- separate buttons for picking
- very fast for gaming
- used in some portable and notebook computers.

#### Thumbwheels ...

- for accurate CAD two dials for X-Y cursor position
- for fast scrolling single dial on mouse



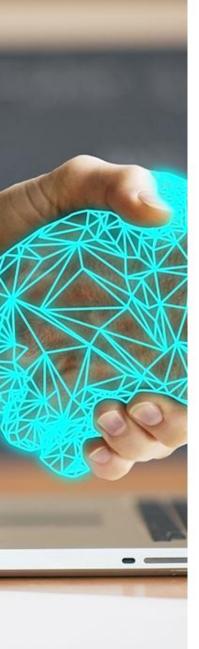
## Joystick and keyboard nipple

### **Joystick**

- indirect pressure of stick = <u>velocity</u> of movement
- buttons for selection
   on top or on front like a trigger
- often used for computer games aircraft controls and 3D navigation

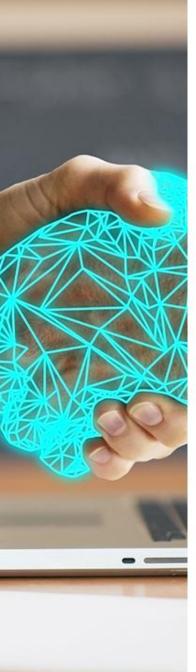
### Keyboard nipple

- for laptop computers
- miniature joystick in the middle of the keyboard



### Touch-sensitive screen

- Detect the presence of finger or stylus on the screen.
  - works by interrupting matrix of light beams, capacitance changes or ultrasonic reflections
  - direct pointing device
- Advantages:
  - fast, and requires no specialised pointer
  - good for menu selection
  - suitable for use in hostile environment: clean and safe from damage.
- Disadvantages:
  - finger can mark screen
  - imprecise (finger is a fairly blunt instrument!)
    - difficult to select small regions or perform accurate drawing
  - lifting arm can be tiring



## Stylus and light pen

#### Stylus

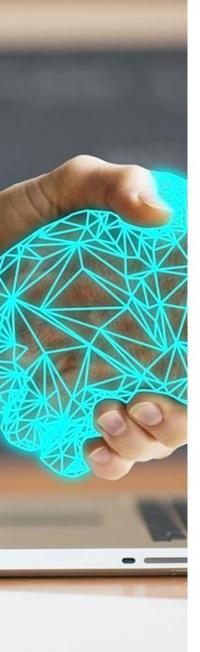
- small pen-like pointer to draw directly on screen
- may use touch sensitive surface or magnetic detection
- used in PDA, tablets PCs and drawing tables

#### Light Pen

- now rarely used
- uses light from screen to detect location

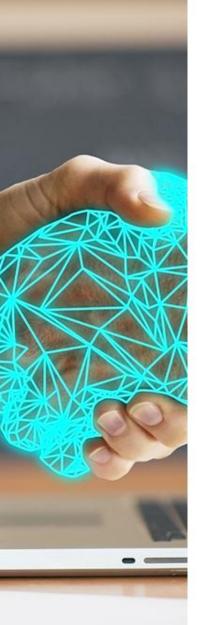
#### BOTH ...

- very direct and obvious to use
- but can obscure screen



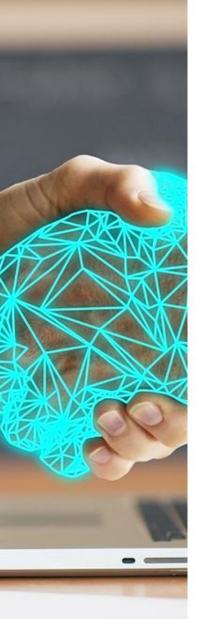
### Digitizing tablet

- Mouse like-device with cross hairs
- used on special surface
  - rather like stylus
- very accurate
  - used for digitizing maps



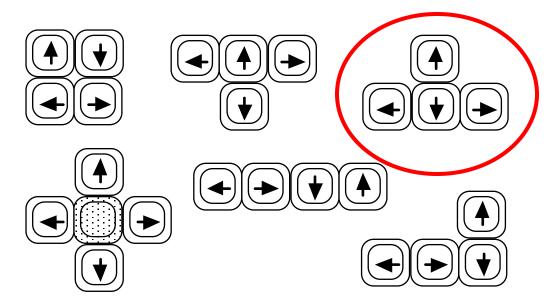
### Eyegaze

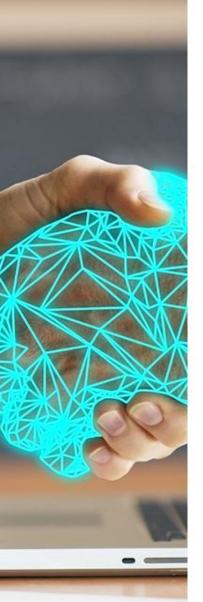
- control interface by eye gaze direction
  - e.g. look at a menu item to select it
- uses laser beam reflected off retina
  - … a very low power laser!
- mainly used for evaluation (ch x)
- potential for hands-free control
- high accuracy requires headset
- cheaper and lower accuracy devices available sit under the screen like a small webcam



## Cursor keys

- Four keys (up, down, left, right) on keyboard.
- Very, very cheap, but slow.
- Useful for not much more than basic motion for text-editing tasks.
- No standardised layout, but inverted "T", most common



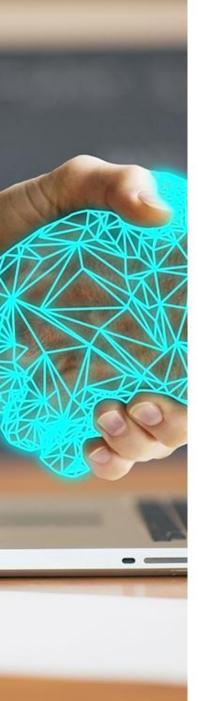


## Discrete positioning controls

- in phones, TV controls etc.
  - cursor pads or mini-joysticks
  - discrete left-right, up-down
  - mainly for menu selection

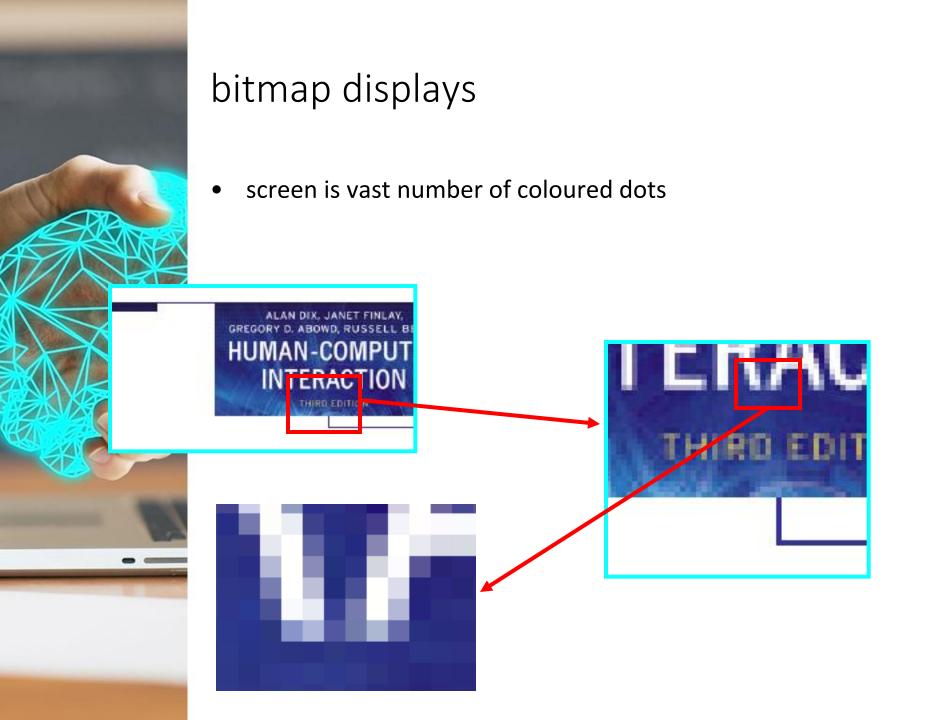


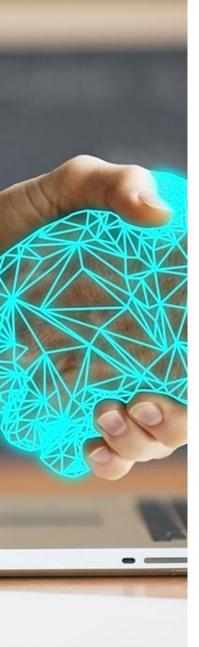




# display devices

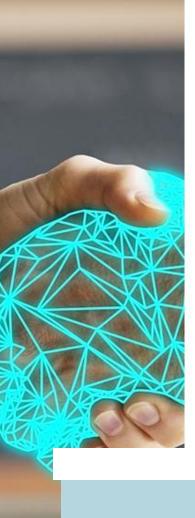
bitmap screens (CRT & LCD)
large & situated displays
digital paper





### resolution and colour depth

- Resolution ... used (inconsistently) for
  - number of pixels on screen (width x height)
    - e.g. SVGA 1024 x 768, PDA perhaps 240x400
  - density of pixels (in pixels or dots per inch dpi)
    - typically between 72 and 96 dpi
- Aspect ratio
  - ration between width and height
  - 4:3 for most screens, 16:9 for wide-screen TV
- Colour depth:
  - how many different colours for each pixel?
  - black/white or greys only
  - 256 from a pallete
  - 8 bits each for red/green/blue = millions of colours



# anti-aliasing

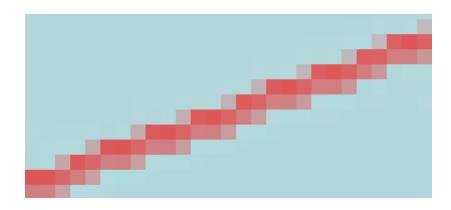
### **Jaggies**

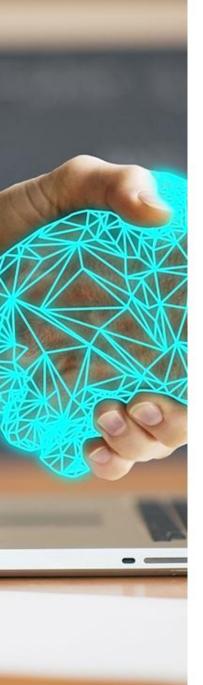
 diagonal lines that have discontinuities in due to horizontal raster scan process.

### **Anti-aliasing**

- softens edges by using shades of line colour
- also used for text

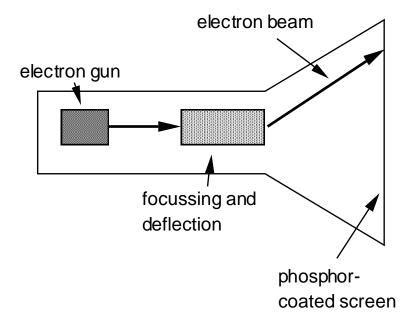


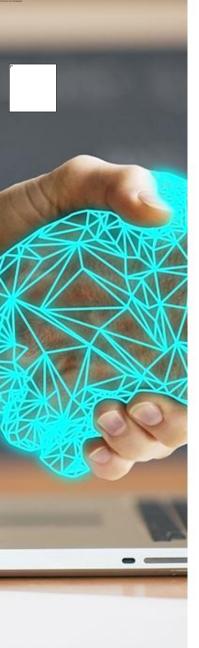




### Cathode ray tube

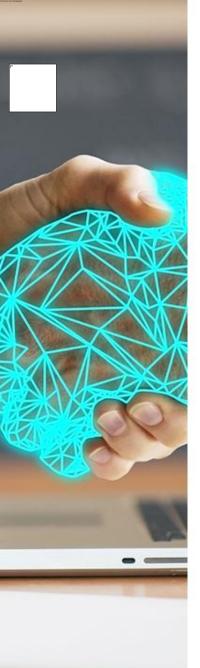
- Stream of electrons emitted from electron gun, focused and directed by magnetic fields, hit phosphor-coated screen which glows
- used in TVs and computer monitors





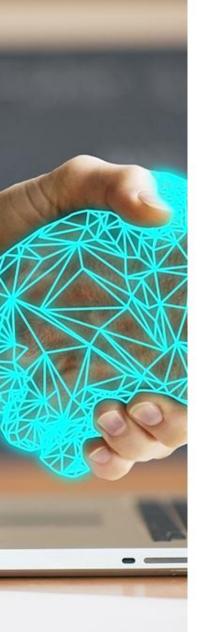
### Health hazards of CRT!

- X-rays: largely absorbed by screen (but not at rear!)
- UV- and IR-radiation from phosphors: insignificant levels
- Radio frequency emissions, plus ultrasound (~16kHz)
- Electrostatic field leaks out through tube to user. Intensity dependant on distance and humidity. Can cause rashes.
- Electromagnetic fields (50Hz-0.5MHz). Create induction currents in conductive materials, including the human body. Two types of effects attributed to this: visual system - high incidence of cataracts in VDU operators, and concern over reproductive disorders (miscarriages and birth defects).



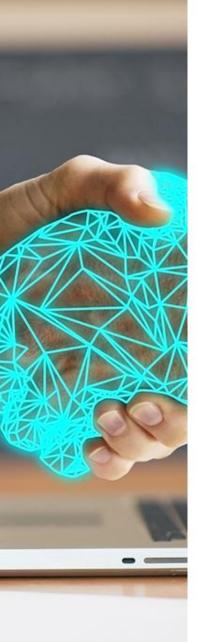
### Health hints ...

- do not sit too close to the screen
- do not use very small fonts
- do not look at the screen for long periods without a break
- do not place the screen directly in front of a bright window
- work in well-lit surroundings
- ★ Take extra care if pregnant. but also posture, ergonomics, stress



## Liquid crystal displays

- Smaller, lighter, and ... no radiation problems.
- Found on PDAs, portables and notebooks,
   ... and increasingly on desktop and even for home TV
- also used in dedicted displays: digital watches, mobile phones, HiFi controls
- How it works ...
  - Top plate transparent and polarised, bottom plate reflecting.
  - Light passes through top plate and crystal, and reflects back to eye.
  - Voltage applied to crystal changes polarisation and hence colour
  - N.B. light reflected not emitted => less eye strain



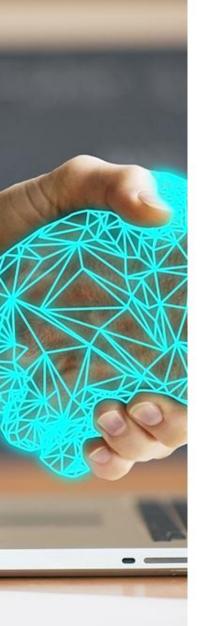
## special displays

Random Scan (Directed-beam refresh, vector display)

- draw the lines to be displayed directly
- no jaggies
- lines need to be constantly redrawn
- rarely used except in special instruments

Direct view storage tube (DVST)

- Similar to random scan but persistent => no flicker
- Can be incrementally updated but not selectively erased
- Used in analogue storage oscilloscopes

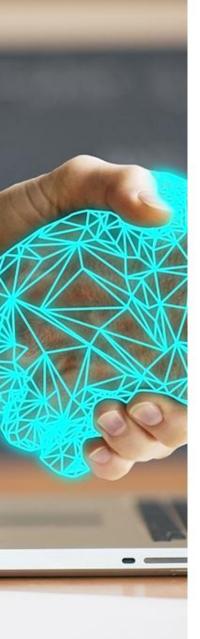


## large displays

- used for meetings, lectures, etc.
- technology

```
    plasma – usually wide screen
    video walls – lots of small screens together
    projected – RGB lights or LCD projector
```

- hand/body obscures screen
- may be solved by 2 projectors + clever software back-projected
  - frosted glass + projector behind

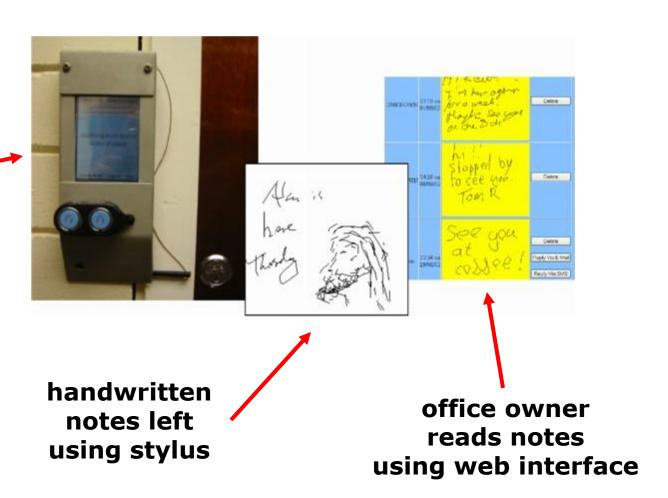


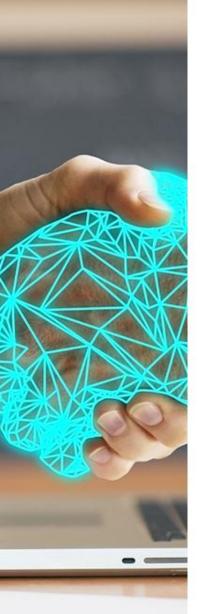
## situated displays

- displays in 'public' places
  - large or small
  - very public or for small group
- display only
  - for information relevant to location
- or interactive
  - use stylus, touch sensitive screem
- in all cases ... the location matters
  - meaning of information or interaction is related to the location



small displays beside office doors





## Digital paper

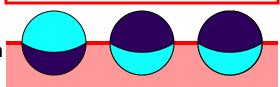
### • what?

- thin flexible sheets
- updated electronically
- but retain display

#### appearance

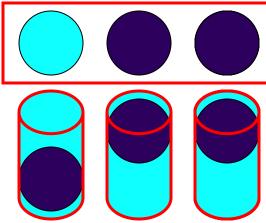


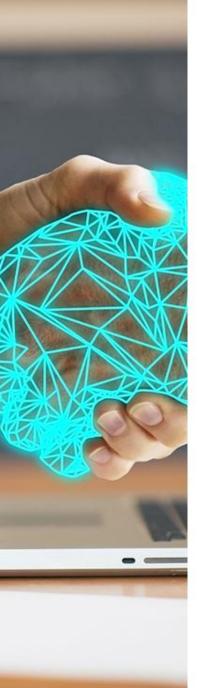
cross section



### • how?

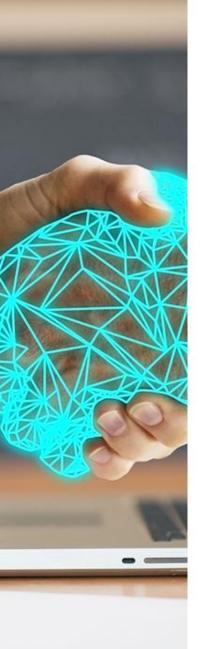
- small spheres turned
- or channels with coloured liquid and contrasting spheres
- rapidly developing area





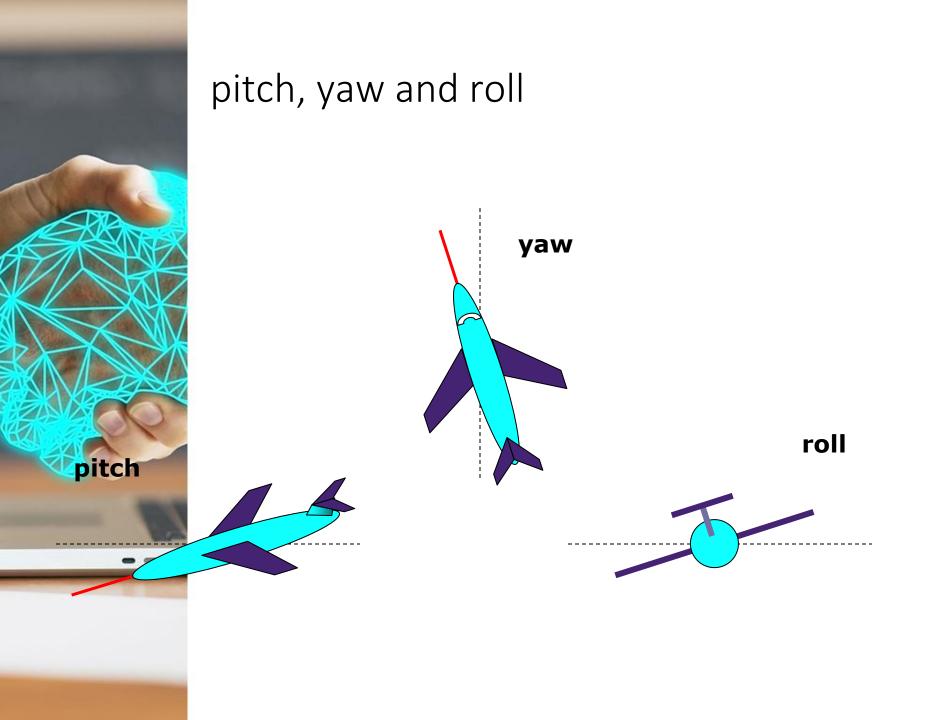
# virtual reality and 3D interaction

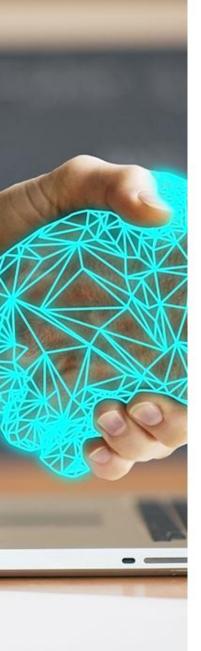
positioning in 3D space moving and grasping seeing 3D (helmets and caves)



### positioning in 3D space

- cockpit and virtual controls
  - steering wheels, knobs and dials ... just like real!
- the 3D mouse
  - six-degrees of movement: x, y, z + roll, pitch, yaw
- data glove
  - fibre optics used to detect finger position
- VR helmets
  - detect head motion and possibly eye gaze
- whole body tracking
  - accelerometers strapped to limbs or reflective dots and video processing

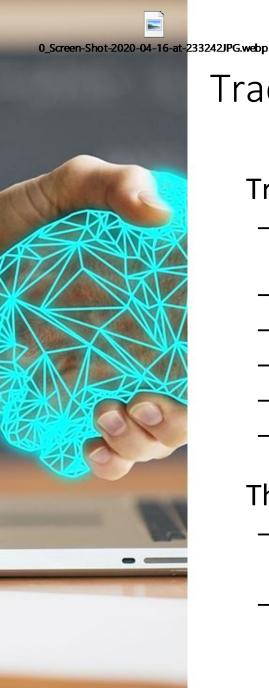




## Touchpad

- small touch sensitive tablets
- 'stroke' to move mouse pointer
- used mainly in laptop computers
- good 'acceleration' settings important
  - fast stroke
    - lots of pixels per inch moved
    - initial movement to the target
  - slow stroke
    - less pixels per inch
    - for accurate positioning





### Trackball and thumbwheels

#### Trackball

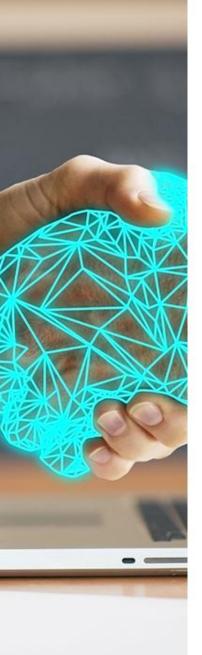
- ball is rotated inside static housing
  - like an upside down mouse!
- relative motion moves cursor
- indirect device, fairly accurate
- separate buttons for picking
- very fast for gaming
- used in some portable and notebook computers.

### Thumbwheels ...

- for accurate CAD two dials for X-Y cursor position
- for fast scrolling single dial on mouse







# Joystick and keyboard nipple

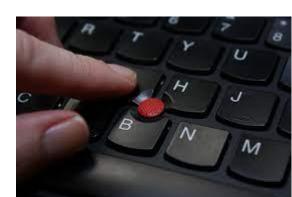
### **Joystick**

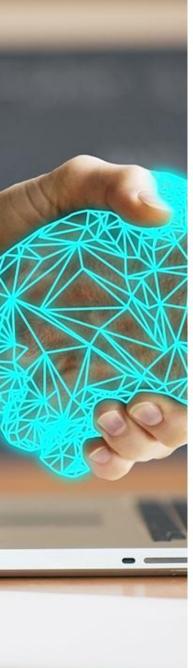
- indirectpressure of stick = <u>velocity</u> of movement
- buttons for selection
   on top or on front like a trigger
- often used for computer games aircraft controls and 3D navigation

### Keyboard nipple

- for laptop computers
- miniature joystick in the middle of the keyboard







### Touch-sensitive screen



- Detect the presence of finger or stylus on the screen.
  - works by interrupting matrix of light beams, capacitance changes or ultrasonic reflections
  - direct pointing device

#### Advantages:

- fast, and requires no specialised pointer
- good for menu selection
- suitable for use in hostile environment: clean and safe from damage.

#### Disadvantages:

- finger can mark screen
- imprecise (finger is a fairly blunt instrument!)
  - difficult to select small regions or perform accurate drawing
- lifting arm can be tiring



# Stylus and light pen

### Stylus

- small pen-like pointer to draw directly on screen
- may use touch sensitive surface or magnetic detection
- used in PDA, tablets PCs and drawing tables

#### Light Pen

now rarely used

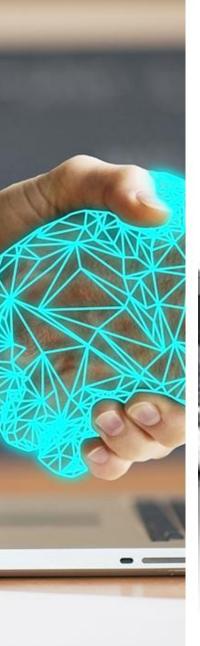
 uses light from screen to detect location

#### **BOTH** ...

- very direct and obvious to use
- but can obscure screen







## Digitizing tablet



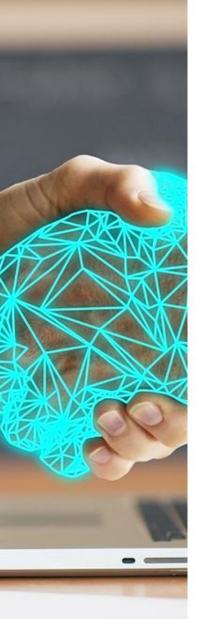
- Mouse like-device with cross hairs
- used on special surface
  - rather like stylus
- very accurate

   used for
   digitizing maps

### Eyegaze

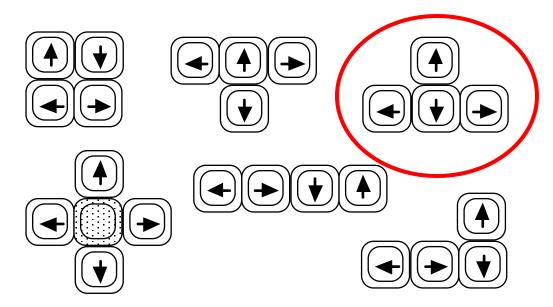


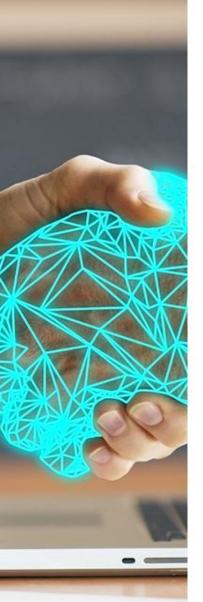
- control interface by eye gaze direction
  - e.g. look at a menu item to select it
- uses laser beam reflected off retina
  - ... a very low power laser!
- mainly used for evaluation (ch x)
- potential for hands-free control
- high accuracy requires headset
- cheaper and lower accuracy devices available
  - sit under the screen like a small webcam



## Cursor keys

- Four keys (up, down, left, right) on keyboard.
- Very, very cheap, but slow.
- Useful for not much more than basic motion for text-editing tasks.
- No standardised layout, but inverted "T", most common



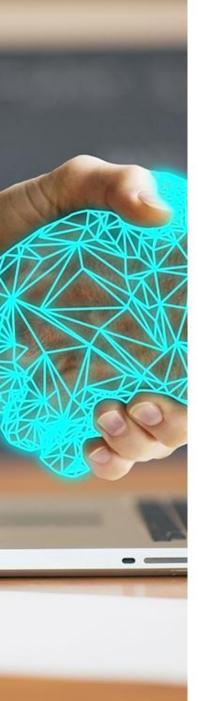


## Discrete positioning controls

- in phones, TV controls etc.
  - cursor pads or mini-joysticks
  - discrete left-right, up-down
  - mainly for menu selection

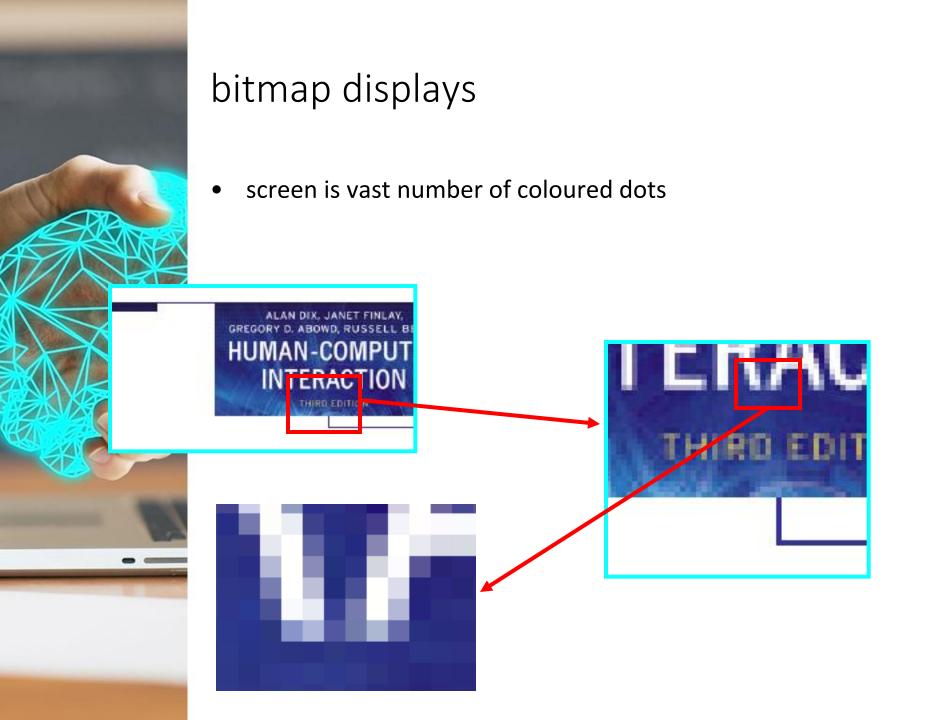


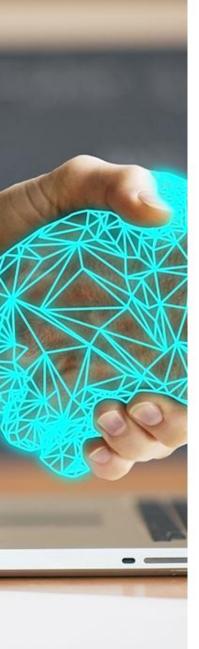




# display devices

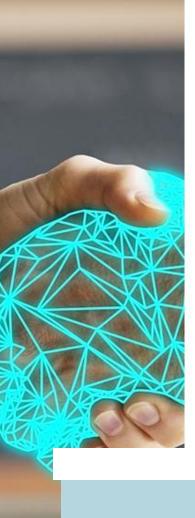
bitmap screens (CRT & LCD)
large & situated displays
digital paper





### resolution and colour depth

- Resolution ... used (inconsistently) for
  - number of pixels on screen (width x height)
    - e.g. SVGA 1024 x 768, PDA perhaps 240x400
  - density of pixels (in pixels or dots per inch dpi)
    - typically between 72 and 96 dpi
- Aspect ratio
  - ration between width and height
  - 4:3 for most screens, 16:9 for wide-screen TV
- Colour depth:
  - how many different colours for each pixel?
  - black/white or greys only
  - 256 from a pallete
  - 8 bits each for red/green/blue = millions of colours



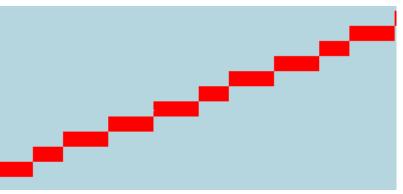
# anti-aliasing

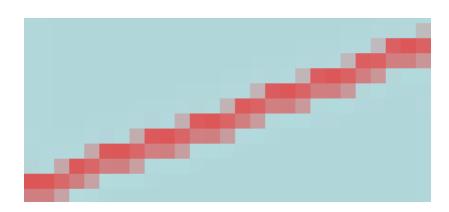
### **Jaggies**

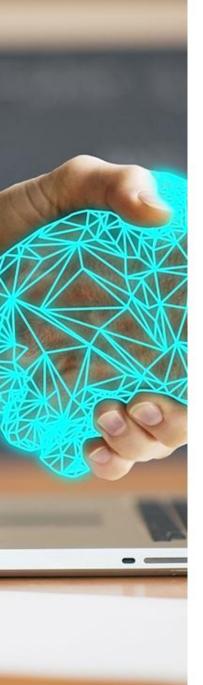
 diagonal lines that have discontinuities in due to horizontal raster scan process.

### **Anti-aliasing**

- softens edges by using shades of line colour
- also used for text

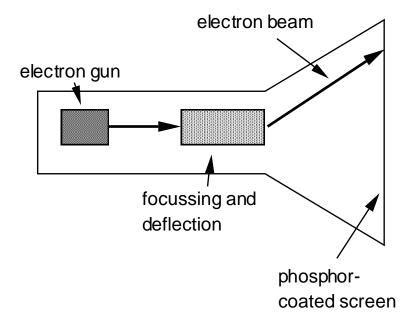


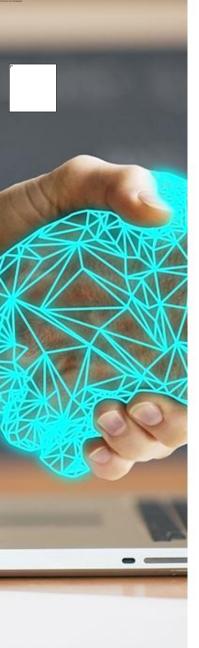




### Cathode ray tube

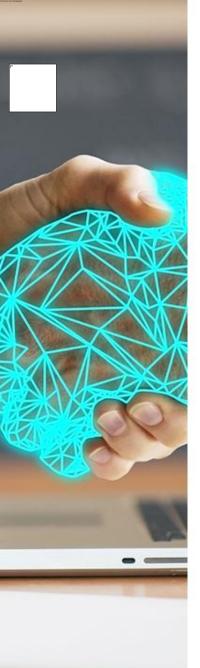
- Stream of electrons emitted from electron gun, focused and directed by magnetic fields, hit phosphor-coated screen which glows
- used in TVs and computer monitors





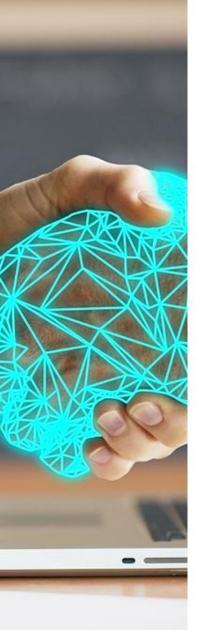
### Health hazards of CRT!

- X-rays: largely absorbed by screen (but not at rear!)
- UV- and IR-radiation from phosphors: insignificant levels
- Radio frequency emissions, plus ultrasound (~16kHz)
- Electrostatic field leaks out through tube to user. Intensity dependant on distance and humidity. Can cause rashes.
- Electromagnetic fields (50Hz-0.5MHz). Create induction currents in conductive materials, including the human body. Two types of effects attributed to this: visual system - high incidence of cataracts in VDU operators, and concern over reproductive disorders (miscarriages and birth defects).



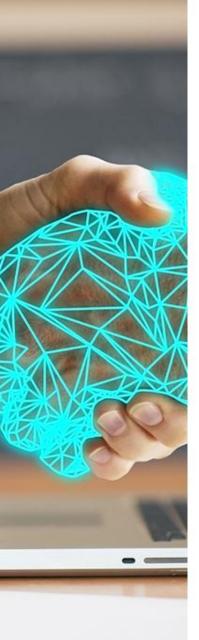
### Health hints ...

- do not sit too close to the screen
- do not use very small fonts
- do not look at the screen for long periods without a break
- do not place the screen directly in front of a bright window
- work in well-lit surroundings
- ★ Take extra care if pregnant. but also posture, ergonomics, stress



## Liquid crystal displays

- Smaller, lighter, and ... no radiation problems.
- Found on PDAs, portables and notebooks,
   ... and increasingly on desktop and even for home TV
- also used in dedicted displays: digital watches, mobile phones, HiFi controls
- How it works ...
  - Top plate transparent and polarised, bottom plate reflecting.
  - Light passes through top plate and crystal, and reflects back to eye.
  - Voltage applied to crystal changes polarisation and hence colour
  - N.B. light reflected not emitted => less eye strain



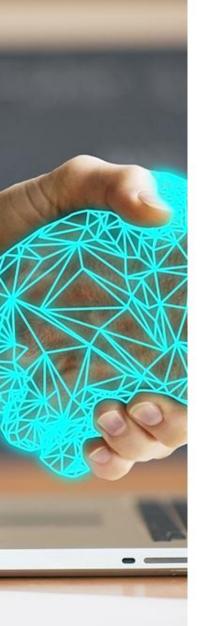
## special displays

Random Scan (Directed-beam refresh, vector display)

- draw the lines to be displayed directly
- no jaggies
- lines need to be constantly redrawn
- rarely used except in special instruments

Direct view storage tube (DVST)

- Similar to random scan but persistent => no flicker
- Can be incrementally updated but not selectively erased
- Used in analogue storage oscilloscopes

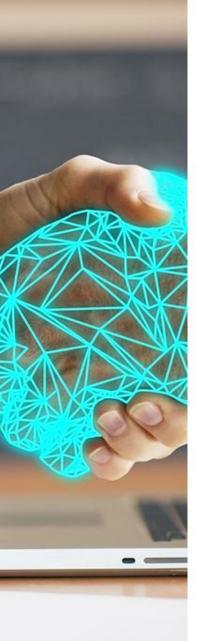


## large displays

- used for meetings, lectures, etc.
- technology

```
    plasma – usually wide screen
    video walls – lots of small screens together
    projected – RGB lights or LCD projector
```

- hand/body obscures screen
- may be solved by 2 projectors + clever software back-projected
  - frosted glass + projector behind

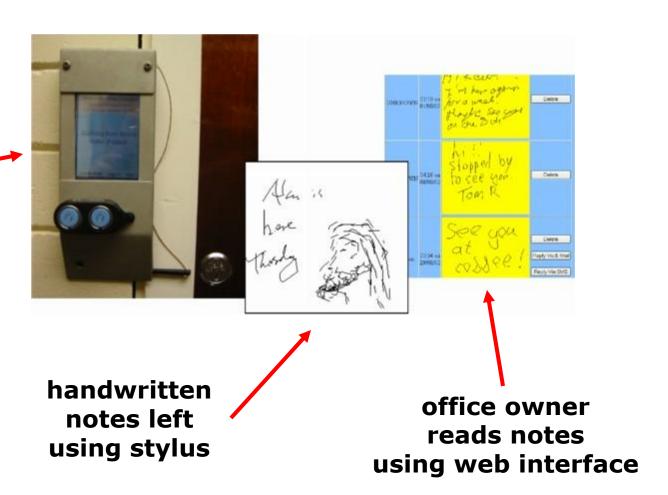


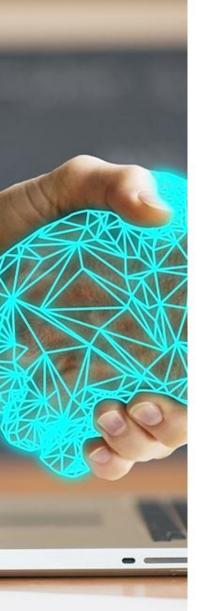
## situated displays

- displays in 'public' places
  - large or small
  - very public or for small group
- display only
  - for information relevant to location
- or interactive
  - use stylus, touch sensitive screem
- in all cases ... the location matters
  - meaning of information or interaction is related to the location



small displays beside office doors





# Digital paper

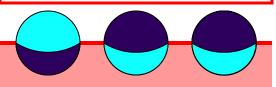
### • what?

- thin flexible sheets
- updated electronically
- but retain display

#### appearance

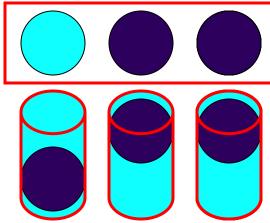


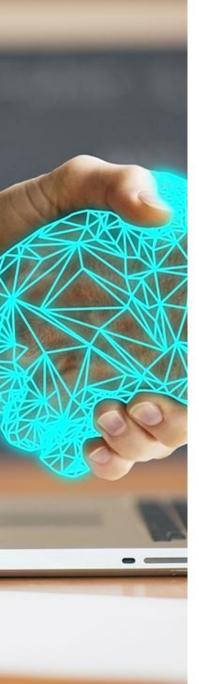
cross section



### • how?

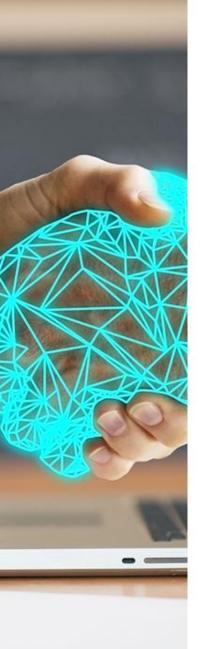
- small spheres turned
- or channels with coloured liquid and contrasting spheres
- rapidly developing area





# virtual reality and 3D interaction

positioning in 3D space moving and grasping seeing 3D (helmets and caves)



### positioning in 3D space

- cockpit and virtual controls
  - steering wheels, knobs and dials ... just like real!
- the 3D mouse
  - six-degrees of movement: x, y, z + roll, pitch, yaw
- data glove
  - fibre optics used to detect finger position
- VR helmets
  - detect head motion and possibly eye gaze
- whole body tracking
  - accelerometers strapped to limbs or reflective dots and video processing

