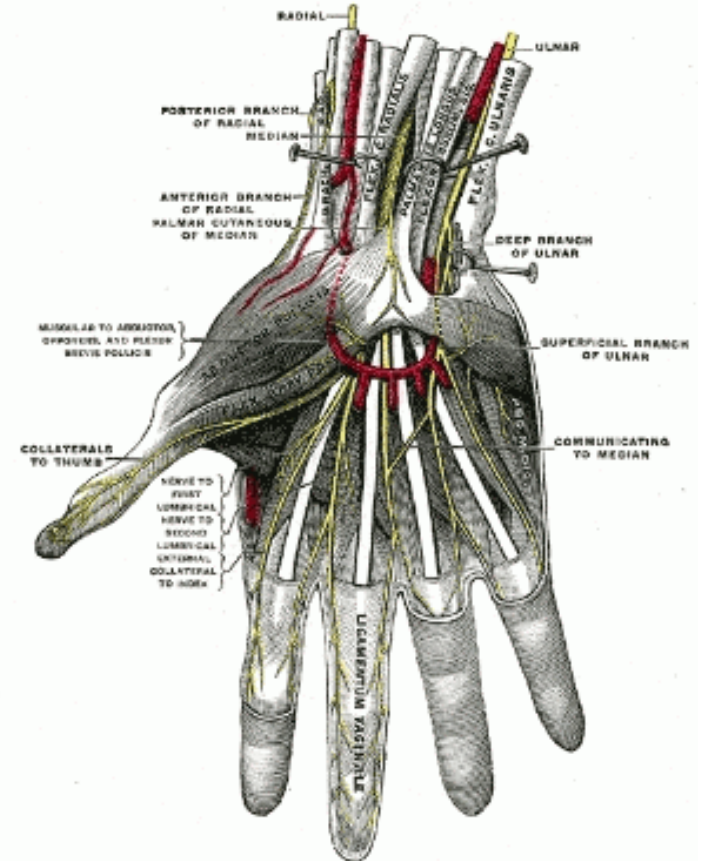


# Multimodal Interfaces

## lecture 03: Haptic Interaction



# **++ lecture overview**

- + definition of haptics**
- + physiological background**
- + haptic dimensions & perception**
- + example: the reactable objects**
- + kinesthetic/tactile actuators**
- + haptic interface examples**

partially based on Prof. A. Okamura's lecture notes

<http://pegasus.me.jhu.edu/~allisono/courses/530.651/syllabus.html>

## **++ definitions**

**1**

# **++ haptics**

## **+ origin**

from the Greek word *haptesthai*: to touch  
relating to the sense of touch

## **+ application fields**

- \* human haptics
- \* haptic feedback, haptic interfaces
- \* machine haptics

# **++ types of sensing**

## **+ kinesthesia**

a sense mediated by end organs located in muscles, tendons, and joints.  
stimulated by bodily movements.

-> force feedback

## **+ tactile**

related to the skin  
mediated by receptors in the skin

-> tactile feedback

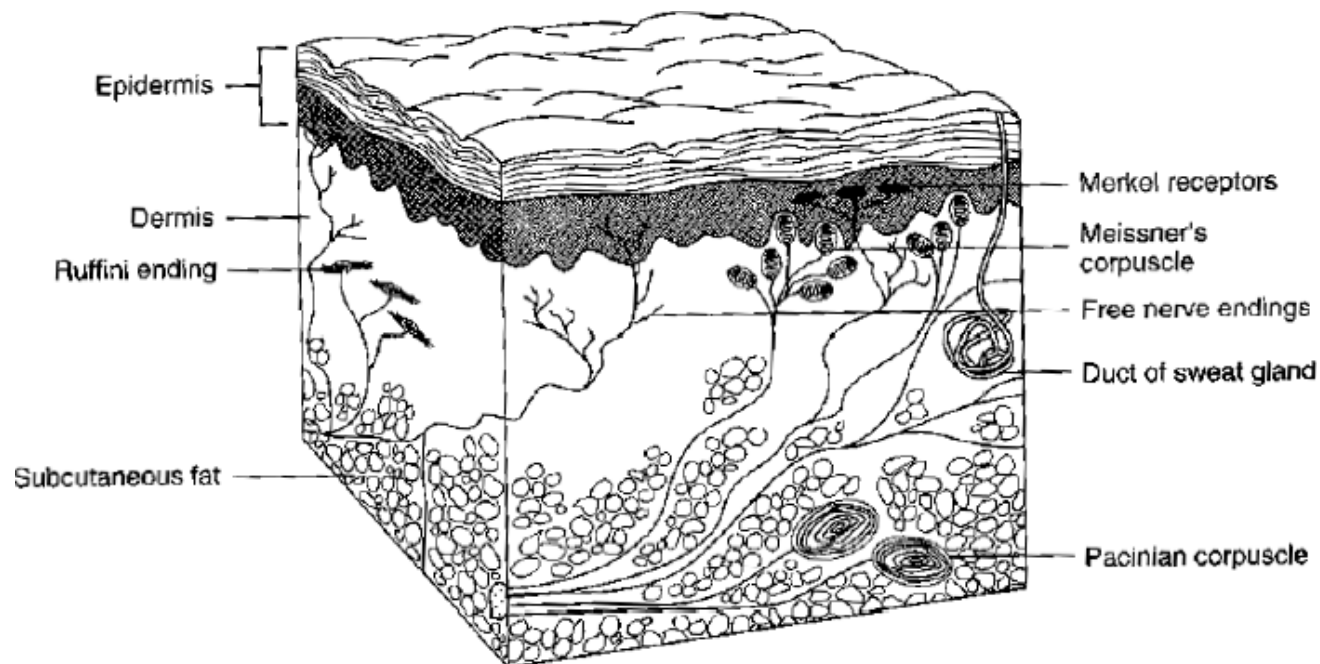
**++ physiology**

**2**

# ++ tactile (cutaneous) sensing

## + the skin

- the largest & heaviest human organ: 2m<sup>2</sup>
- provides information about various stimuli
- protects the human body



## **++ tactile receptors (sensors)**

### **+ merkel receptor**

disk-shaped pressure receptors between epidermis & dermis

### **+ meissner corpuscle**

stack of flattened cells, with a nerve fiber winding its way through, detecting taps on the skin

### **+ ruffini cylinder**

manybranched fibers inside a roughly cylindrical capsule: skin stretching, joint movement

### **+ pacinian corpuscle**

layered capsule surrounding nerve fiber, sensitive to rapid vibrations



# **++ force (kinesthetic) sensing**

## **+ kinesthesia**

perception of limb movement & position, force

- some cutaneous information is used, especially in hairy skin (moving air)
- mechanoreceptors in muscles  
located in muscle spindles
- golgi tendon organ, at junction

## **+ force**

resolution: 0,06N

grasping force: 400N

## **++ signal transmission**

- + from the skin to the brain:** nerve fibers  
receptors -> dorsal root -> spinal cord -> thalamus
- + two pathways in spine**  
lemniscal (proprioception & touch)  
spinothalamic (temperature & pain)
- + psychophysical/neural channels**

**++ perception**

**3**

## **++ active / passive touch**

### **+ active touch**

focus on the object

### **+ passive touch**

focus on the sensation

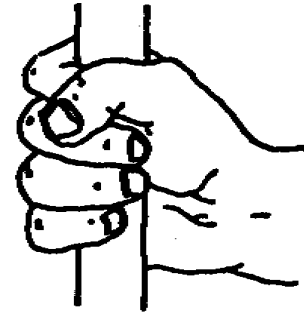
### **+ functionally equivalent**

in performance

## **++ hand grip types**

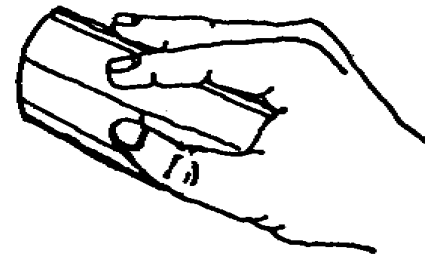
### **+ crush grip**

object being gripped rests firmly against the palm and all fingers



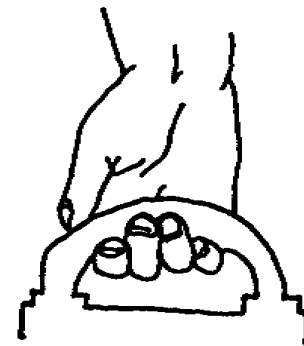
### **+ pinch grip**

the fingers are on one side of an object, the thumb is on the other



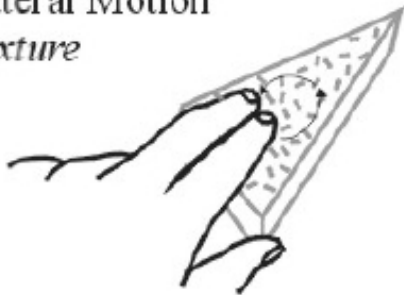
### **+ support grip**

typically involves holding an object such as the handle of a bucket

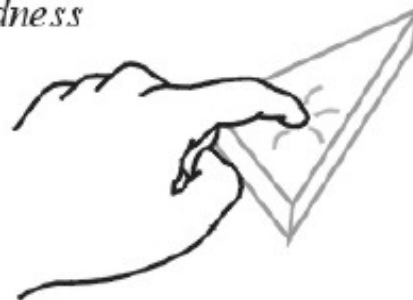


# ++ haptic exploratory procedures

Lateral Motion  
*Texture*



Pressure  
*Hardness*



Enclosure  
*Global shape/Volume*



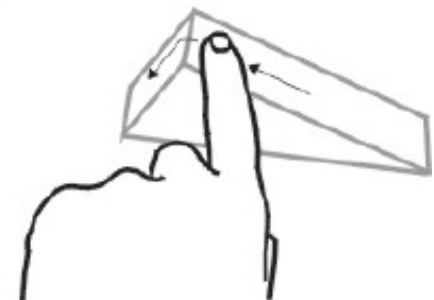
Static Contact  
*Temperature*



Unsupported Holding  
*Weight*



Contour Following  
*Shape*



## **++ haptic dimensions**

### **+ shape**

perceived by contour following or hand enclosure

### **+ size/volume**

hand enclosure

### **+ weight**

perceived by unsupported holding

### **+ density/hardness**

perceived by pressure

# **++ haptic dimensions**

## **+ texture**

lateral motion

## **+ temperature / thermal conductivity**

static contact

## **+ friction, inertia**

movement, kinesthetic resistance

## **+ others**

stickiness, humidity, ...



# **++ discrimination**

## **+ shape**

complex shapes require contour following -> time  
shape is generally recognized worse than texture

## **+ tactile discrimination**

rough/smooth, soft/hard  
big/small, heavy/light

## **+ visual/haptic performance**

haptics: detecting substance  
visual: detecting shape

## **+ material identification**

combination of texture, temperature signature and  
density/weight

## **++ haptic encoding scheme**

**4**

# **++ current object design**

## **+ passive objects**

no electronics inside, no sensors, no actuators

defined by their physical properties only

no active (computer controlled) haptic feedback

## **+ abstract vs. symbolic**

only abstract geometric objects

no everyday objects (mobile phones, rubber duck, ...)

## **+ physical representation**

each physical objects corresponds directly to a synthesizer component

-> allows direct physical manipulation

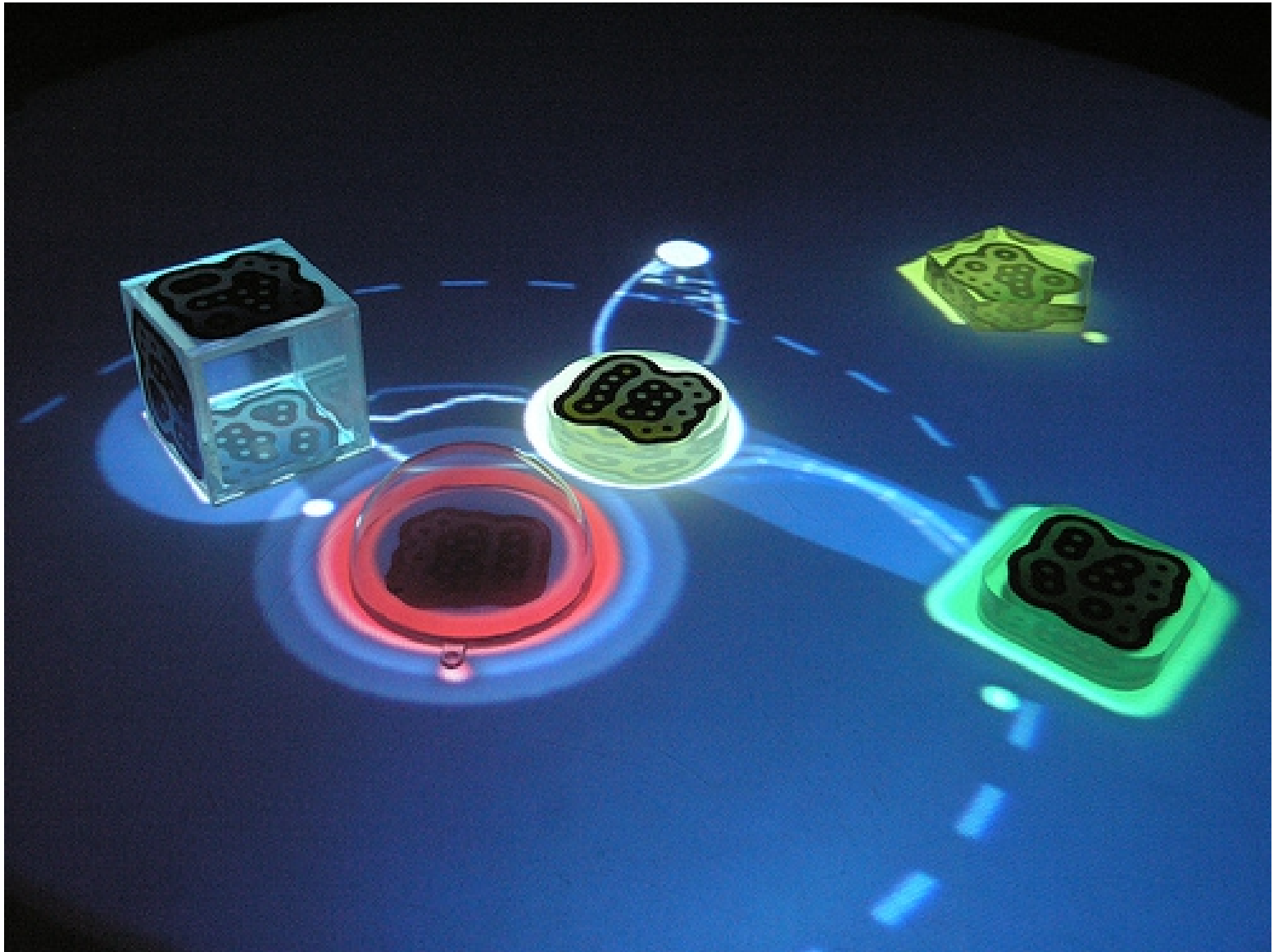
## **+ current solution**

set of plexi-glass object of various simple geometric shapes

shape: defines generic object classes

graphical symbol: defines specific object class

# ++ current object design



# **++ object design issues**

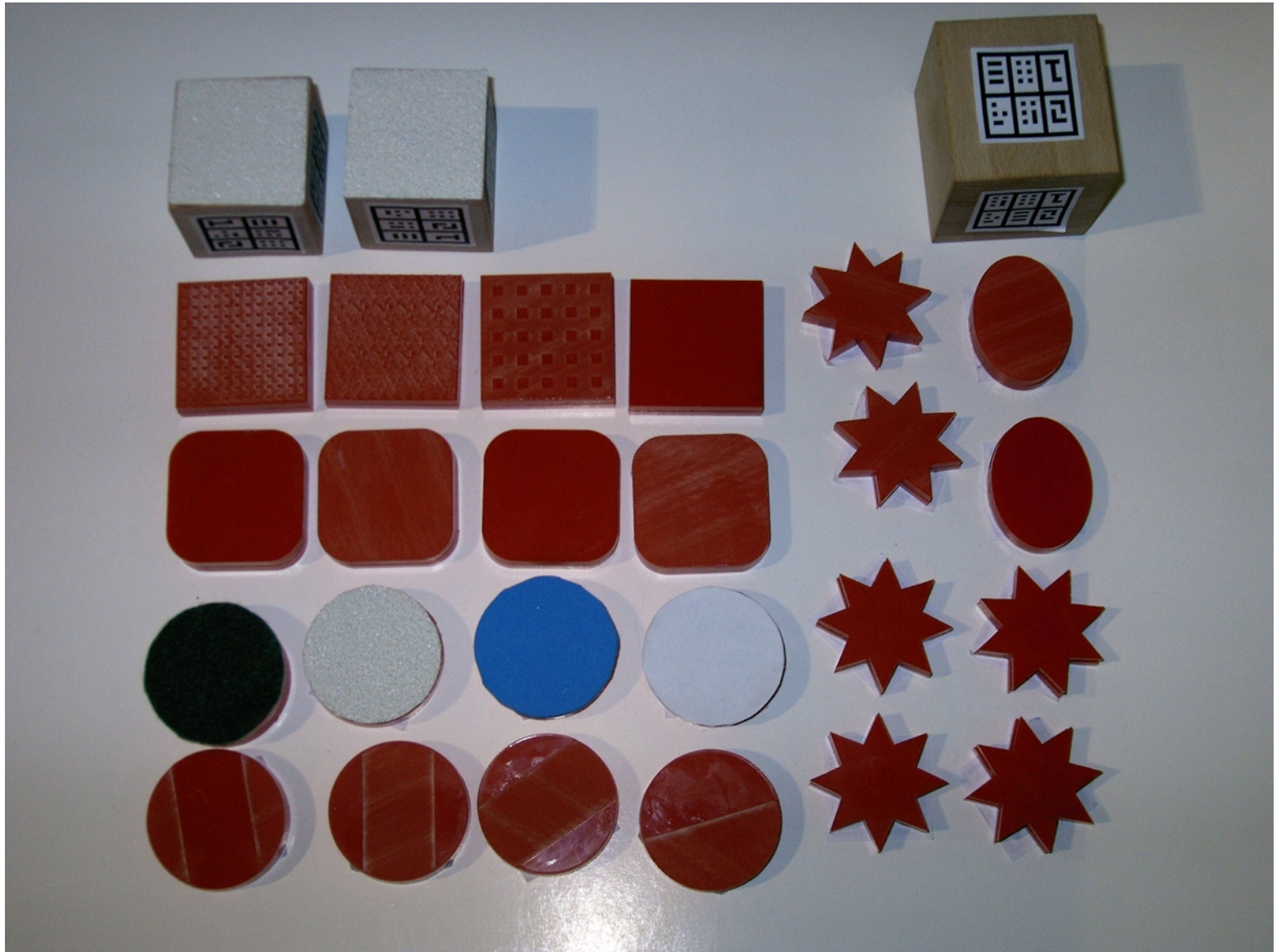
## **+ current design pros**

easily and cheaply to manufacture  
aesthetically pleasing appearance

## **+ current design cons**

hard to recognize in low light conditions  
similar symbols for different object types  
limited primary colour coding space

## ++ earlier object design



# **++ reactable object dimensions**

## **+ shape**

simple shapes are both visually and haptically accessible and provides a suitable encoding for the abstract object types  
simple geometric shapes can be identified with a grasp or hand enclosure, more complex shapes require a contour following and cannot be identified completely.

## **+ size**

size has not been chosen as an encoding dimension so far, because in traditional instruments size often correlates to pitch (tuba, flute). nevertheless we evaluated three different sizes: 4, 6 and 9 cm diameter which can be held and manipulated with three, four or five fingers

# **++ reactable object dimensions**

## **+ space**

both 2D (flat) and 3D (cubic) objects are used

e.g. sample cube provides six sides for different sample sounds

## **+ surface texture**

natural or treated object surface (rough, polished, ....)

or laser engraving to encode abstract haptic surfaces

## **+ material**

natural and synthetic materials with different weight, density, thermal and texture properties.

objects can be fully made of a material or a different material can be glued to the object surface to change its surface structure while maintaining the density and weight of the carrier



# **++ shape: generic object classes**

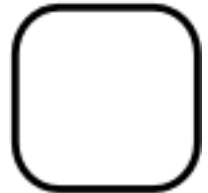
**+ sound generators:** squares, cubes

oscillators, sound fonts, samples, phys. models



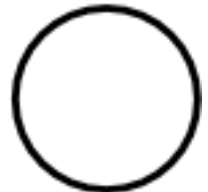
**+ sound effects:** rounded squares

filter and effects (band pass, delay, distortion ...)

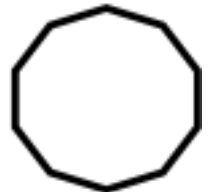


**+ control generators:** round disks

LFOs, melody generator, random



**+ step sequencer:** round polygons



**+ global objects:** star shape

tempo, tonality, volume



## **++ secondary object class ideas ....**

### **+ plain materials:**

wood = sample player

plastic = oscillators

metal = physical bell model

### **+ engraved surface structure:**

flat = sine oscillator

rippled = sawtooth oscillator

rough = noise generator

### **+ attached surface material:**

sand paper = granulator effect

sponge = flanger effect

## **++ haptic actuators & displays**

**5**

## **++ force actuators**

### **+ electric motors**

rotating *armature* with coil windings is caused to rotate relative to a permanent magnet

### **+ pneumatic actuators**

compressed air pressure is used to transfer energy from the power source to haptic interface

## **++ tactile actuators**

### **+ pneumatic stimulation**

air jets, air rings (cuffs), air pockets (bellows)

### **+ vibro-tactile display**

voice-coil motors,  
basically mini-loudspeakers

### **+ micro-pin actuators**

can produce highly localized forces  
may cause pain

## **++ tactile actuators**

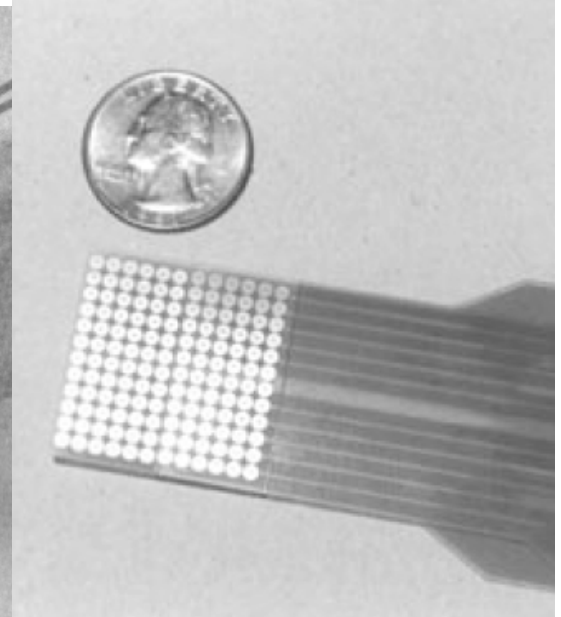
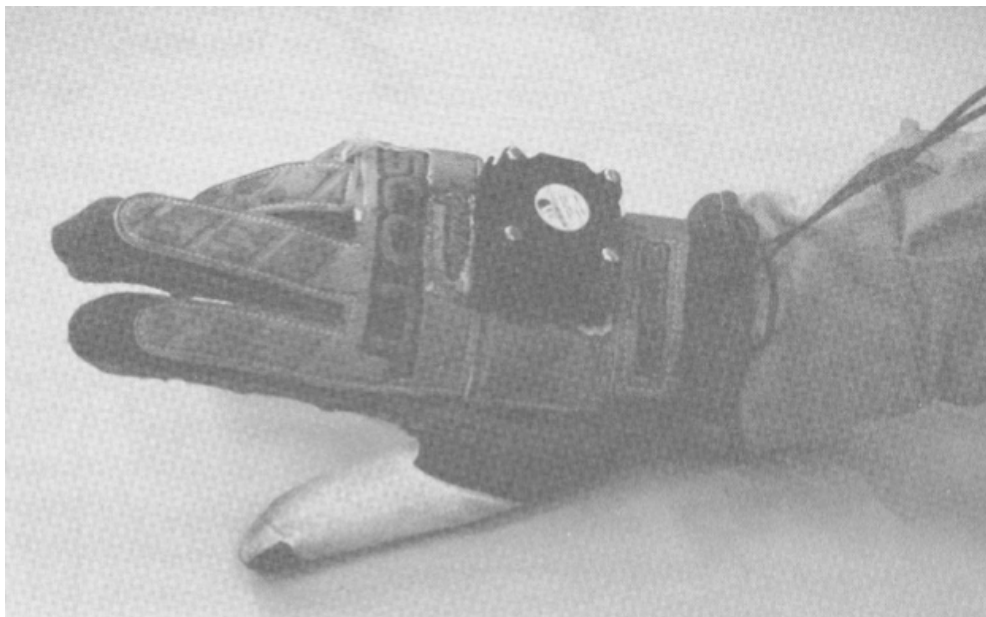
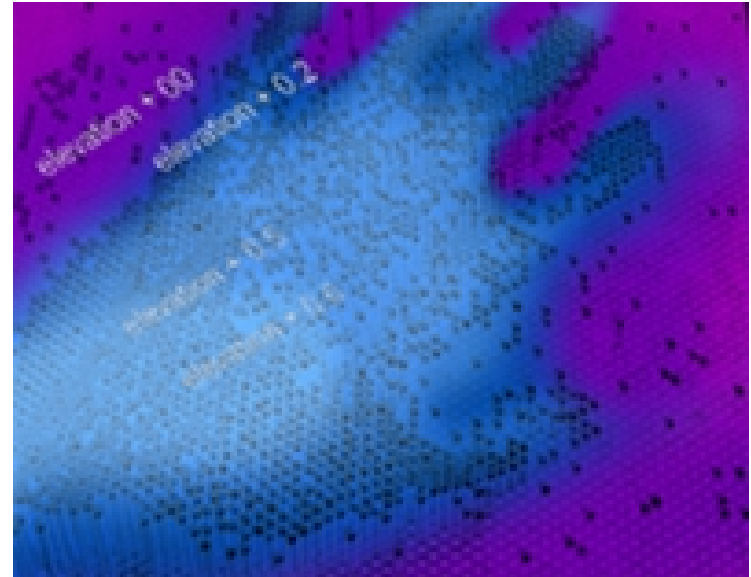
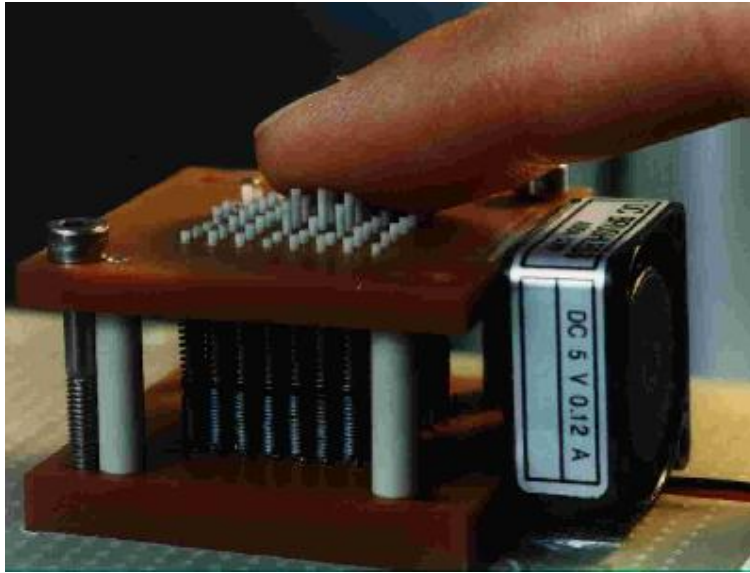
### **+ peltier pump, thermoelectric heat pump**

applying current to two materials in contact  
creates a temperature differential  
can be used to control surface temperature

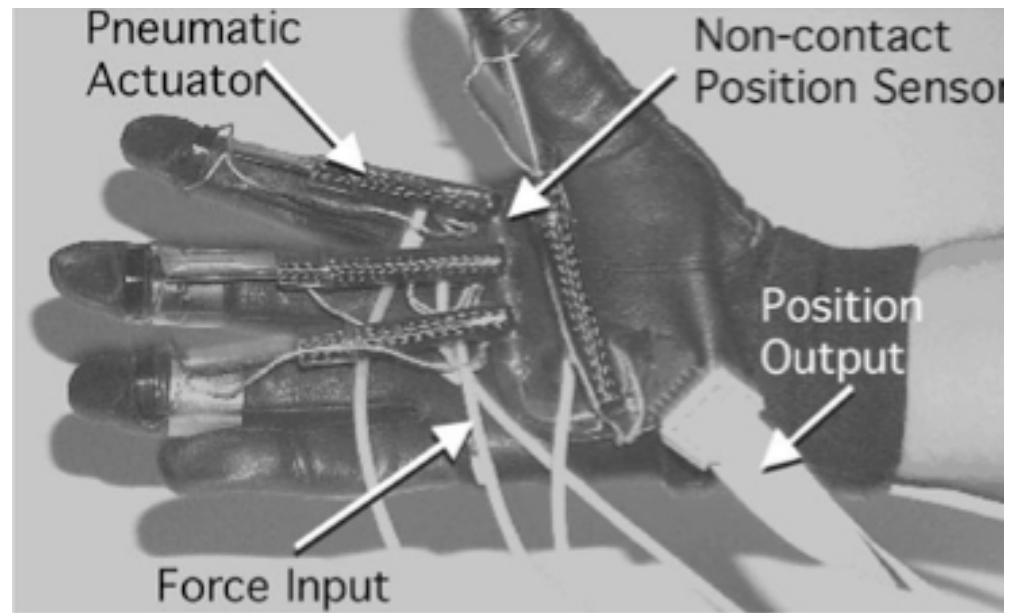
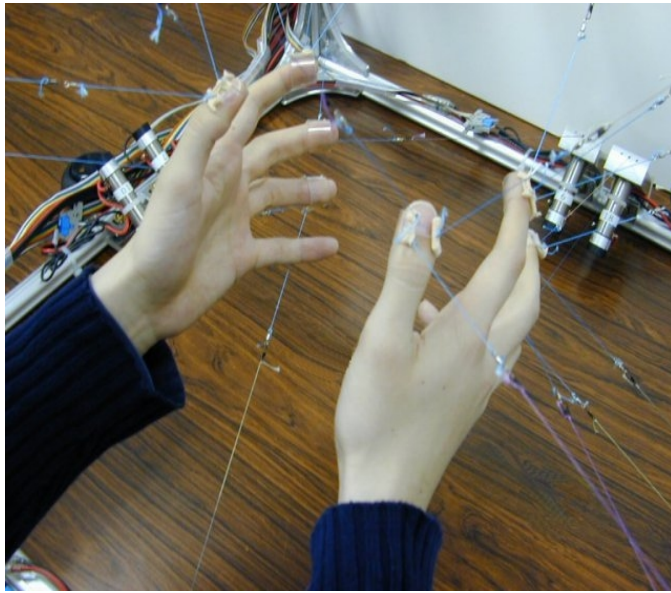
### **+ electro-tactile stimulation**

uses very small currents passing through electrodes  
placed on the skin

## ++ tactile displays



# ++ kinesthetic displays





## **++ haptic interface examples**

**6**

# ++ force feedback controller - falcon



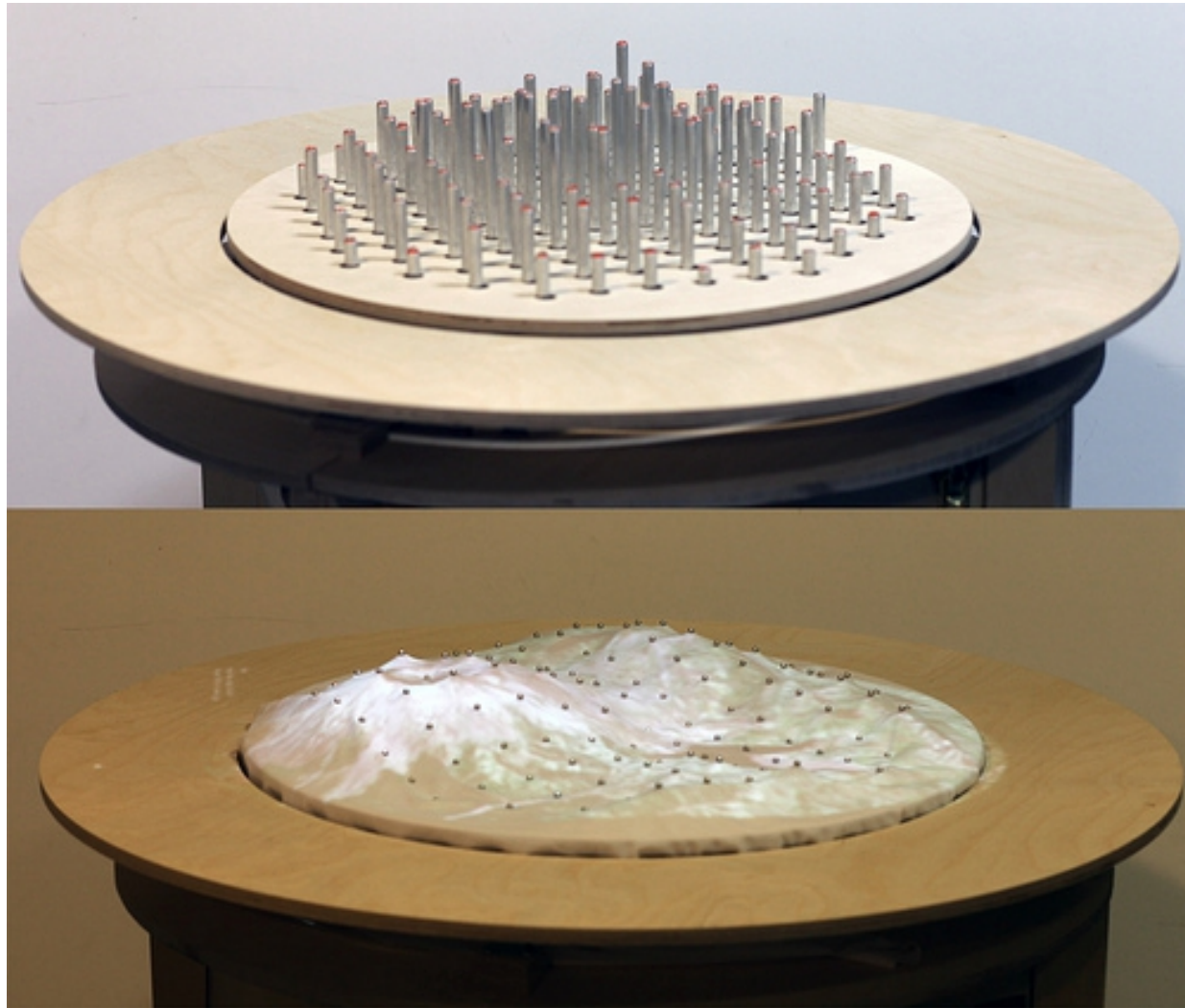
## ++ Lumen



Ivan Popyrev, Sony CSL

<http://www.sonycsl.co.jp/person/poup/projects/lumen.html>

## ++ Relief



Daniel Leithinger, Tangible Media Group, MIT  
<http://tangible.media.mit.edu/project.php?recid=132>

## ++ Touch TV



Sile O'Modhrain, Media Lab Europe

<http://www.sarc.qub.ac.uk/~somodhrain/palpable/projects.html#touchtv>



## ++ Haptic Sex Toys



Kyle Machulis, Polynomial Labs

[Http://slashdong.org/](http://slashdong.org/)