User-Defined Game Control with Smart Glasses in Public Space

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ABSTRACT

Without specific game controller and direct-touch, game control on Smart Glasses differs with existing console and mobile games. Although current game control set on Smart Glasses is explored by developers based on system limitation, the set is not reflective of user behavior. To create better game control, we presented an user-defined game control study in public space to collect user behavior. In all, 2448 game controls from 24 participants were logged, analyzed, and paired with think-aloud data for 17 commands performed with 3 interaction methods (On-Body, In-Air and Phone) and 2 glasses forms (Google Glass and Epson BT-100). Our findings indicate that users choose area relatively unobtrusive to perform the game control, and glasses form does influence how users creates game control. We also present a complete user-defined game control set with agreement scores and taxonomy. Our results will help designers create better game control sets informed by user behavior.

Author Keywords

Guides; instructions; author's kit; conference publications; keywords should be separated by a semi-colon.
Optional section to be included in your final version, but strongly encouraged.

ACM Classification Keywords

H.5.m. Information Interfaces and Presentation (e.g. HCI): Miscellaneous

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INTRODUCTION

RELATED WORK

Game Control

Glass Input

Gaming in Public Space

User-Defined Gesture

DEVELOPING A USER-DEFINED GAME CONTROL SET

Overview and Rationale

Playing game is a *user-computer dialogue*[6], a conversation mediated by language of inputs and outputs. As in any dialogue, feedback is essential to conducting this conversation. When something is misunderstood between humans, it may be rephrased. The same is true for user-computer dialogues. Feedback, or lack thereof, either endorses or deters a player's action, causing the player to revise his or her mental model and possibly take a new action.

In Developing a user-defined game control set, we did not want the limitation of input technology to influence users' behavior. Hence, we sought to remove the *gulf of execution*[9] from the dialogue, creating, in seence, a monologue in which the player's behavior is always acceptable. This enables us to observe users' unrevised behavior, and drive system design to accommodate it.

In view of this, we developed a user-defined game control set by having 24 participants perform game control with 2 Smart Glasses (Google Glass and Epson BT-100) in a public cafe. To avoid bias from visual hint[3], no elements specific to Mobile, Console, PC games were shown. Similarly, no specific game title was assumed. Instead, participants acted in a simple blocks world of geometry shapes or basic human avatar. Each participant saw the effect of a game control (e.g., an object moving left and right) and was asked to perform the game control he or she though would cause that effect(e.g. moving the finger tip left and right in front of their chest). In another word, the effect of a game control is the *game task* to which the game control try to complete.

Seven-teen game tasks were presented, and game controls were elicited for three different interaction methods (in-air

#	Task	Used in Famous Game
1	Single select	Clash of Clans, Plague Inc.
2	Vertical menu	Puzzle&Dragon, PeggleHD
3	Horizontal menu	Clash of Clans, PeggleHD
4	Move left and right	Temple Run, Super Mario
5	Move in 4 directions	1943, RaidenX
6	Switch 2 objects	Candy Crush, Bejeweled
7	Move object to position	World of Goo, The Sim
8	Draw a path	Draw Something, P&D
9	Throw an object (in-2D)	Angry Birds, PeggleHD
10	Note highway	RockSmith, Deemo
11	Rotate an object (Z-axis)	Zuma, PeggleHD
12	Rotate an object (Y-axis)	Spore, The Sim
13	Avatar jump	Temple Run, Super Mario
14	Avatar 3D move	Spore, Tintin
15	Avatar attack	Minecraft, Terraria
16	Avatar squat	Temple Run, Minecraft
17	3D Viewport control	The Sim, Spore

Table 1. Summary of our general casual game task set. We named several famous games which uses these tasks.

gesture, on-body input, mobile phone interaction). The system did not attempt to sense the users' control input, but we use camera to record the whole control process. Participants used the think-aloud protocol and been interviewed about the control detail. They also supplied subjective preference ratings.

The final user-defined game control set was developed in light of the *agreement* participants exhibited in choosing game control for each command[15]. The more participants that used the same gesture for a given command, the more likely that gesture would be assigned to that command. In the end, our user-defined game control set emerged as a consistent collection founded on actual user behavior.

Game Tasks

Casual game is one of the game categories with most players[5], and it is shown high potential in public gaming[10, 11, 2]. We choosed top 90 casual games[13] from existing platforms, including PCs, consoles and mobile games (30 games for each) by crawling and analyzing the sale and download count data from famous gaming websites[1, 14, 12, 7]. We invited 3 experienced game developers to review these top 90 casual games. They found out 26 game tasks in total, and removed 9 tasks which were only used once in specific games. At last, we got a set of general casual game task(shown in Table 1) with 17 tasks, which can completely support 90% of our top casual games.

Participants

We recruited twenty-four participants from the general public for our study. Twelve were female. Average age was 23.2 (*sd* = 2.72). All participants are right-handed and none of them had used a Smart Glasses. About their gaming experience, according to our investigation, there are 14 users daily game player, 9 weekly and 1 monthly. It takes 1.36 hours (*sd* = 0.89) for participants to play games a time. Moreover, 58% of them indicated that their main gaming platforms were on mobile phones, 38% were on PCs, and only 4% were on consoles. Another important factor of gaming experience is the familiarity of game controllers. The result showed that, compared with joysticks, most of them were more familiar with keyboards, mouses and touch screens (see Figure 1).

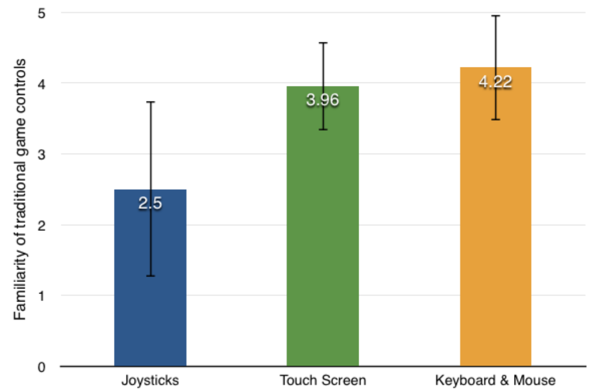

Figure 1. Users' game control familiarity.

Glass Forms

There are many Smart Glasses with different screen sizes and screen placement on the current market. To observe the effect of different display designs upon the study result, our study conducted on two famous Smart Glasses, Epson and Google Glass. The display of Epson BT-100 is located in front of the user's eyes with 960×540 resolution (equivalent of a 320" screen from 20 m away)[4]. And Google Glass locates its display above the user's right eye with 640×360 resolution (equivalent of a 25" screen from 2.4 m away)[8].

Interaction Methods

Procedure

Users wear two different glasses (BT-100 and Google Glass) and our software randomly presented 17 game tasks (Table 1) to participants. For each game task, participants performed a game control in 3 different interaction methods(in-air gesture, on-body input and phone interaction). Glasses form and interaction method are counter balanced. After each game control, participants were shown a 5-point Likert scales concering subjective preference. With 24 participants, 17 game tasks, 2 glasses forms and 3 interaction methods, a total of $24 \times 17 \times 2 \times 3 = 2448$ game control were made. Of these, 11 were discarded due to participant confusion.

RESULTS

Our results include game control taxonomies, the user-defined gesture sets, user rating, subjective responses, and qualitative observations for each interaction methods.

Preference Between Interaction Methods

Table 2 shows the average rating of 3 interaction methods. There is a significant difference acorss three interaction types ($F(2, 2445)=4.61$, $P = .01$). We found the user rating preference for in-air gesture is siginificant higher than phone interaction ($P = .009$). And we did not find significant difference

Mothod	Mean	Std.	L.Bound	U.Bound
In-Air	3.81	0.90	3.75	3.87
On-Body	3.77	0.81	3.72	3.83
Phone	3.68	0.79	3.63	3.74

Table 2. Summary of user preference between 3 different interaction methods, it provides mean value, standard deviation, 95% confidence interval for mean(Lower Bound and Upper Bound).

between in-air and on-body (P = .688) or on-body and phone interaction (P = .086). According to our interview, we found the general reason from user to give phone lower score. It is because they have to take out their phone from packet, they think it is not always available. And it is not hands-free compared to the other interaction methods in this study. Considering the article length of this paper and user preference mentioned above, our report will focus on the finding for in-air gesture and on-body input.

Behavior with Different Glasses Forms

In our study, There are 1224 game control pairs with identical user, task and interaction method. We found 119 pairs of game control (9.72% of all) were designed differently with different smart glasses forms. The influence of game control in each interation methods are 20.59 % of in-air gesture controls, 7.35% of on-body input and 1.22% of phone interaction.

All users who design game control differently with in-air gesture mentioned that they are eager to use direct-touch in front of their face with Epson BT-100, but it is difficult to perform same control with Google Glass because of the small screen size (an in-air fat finger problem). And the reasons to use different controls with on-body and phone interaction are really random and users can't explain itself.

Altough the forms factor of smart glasses influence the design of game control, the user preference ratings for user-defined game controls between 2 different glass forms are almost no difference (F(1, 2446)=.36, P=.549).

Classification of Game Controls

As noted in related work, ???????? . However, no work has established a taxonomy of game control based on user behavior in public space to capture and describe the game design space.

Taxonomy of Game Control

The authors manually classified each gesture along four dimensions: form, nature, binding, and flow. Within each dimension are multiple categories, shown in Table 3.

To control for interrater effects, an independent rater performed the same categorization using 170 trials data (random selected 10 trials for each tasks), Interrater reliability shown in table 4. The average Kappa is .897. A Kaapa value of .8 and higher is considered *almost perfect.*

User-Defined Game Control Sets

Agreement

Conflict and Coverage

Properties of the User-defined Gesture Sets

Taxonomy of Game Controls		
Form (In-Air)	*finger* *hand* *head* *voice*	
Form (On-Body)	*palm* *ring* *finger* *leg* *handback* *watch* *forearm* *glasses* *necklace* *face* *wrist*	
Binding	*direct-mapping* *surface-mapping* *independent*	
Nature	*symbolic* *physical* *metaphorical* *abstract*	
Flow	*discrete* *continuous*	

Table 3. Taxonomy of Game Controls.

#	Task	Kappa Value
1	Single select	0.863
2	Vertical menu	1.000
3	Horizontal menu	0.688
4	Move left and right	0.825
5	Move in 4 directions	1.000
6	Switch 2 objects	0.804
7	Move object to position	1.000
8	Draw a path	1.000
9	Throw an object (in-2D)	1.000
10	Note highway	0.697
11	Rotate an object (Z-axis)	0.867
12	Rotate an object (Y-axis)	1.000
13	Avatar jump	0.867
14	Avatar 3D move	0.880
15	Avatar attack	1.000
16	Avatar squat	0.878
17	3D Viewport control	0.878
	Average	*0.897*

Table 4. Interrater reliability for each task.

Taxonometric Breakdown of User-defined Game Controls

Mental Model Observations

Social Acceptance and Control Area

Metaphor from Exisiting Game Control

DISCUSSION

Users' and Designers' Gestures

Implications for In-Air Gesture Technology

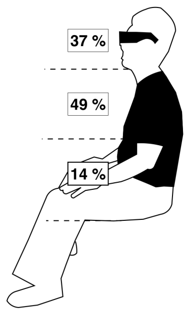

Figure 2. The control area for in-air hand gesture.

Implications for On-Body Input Technology

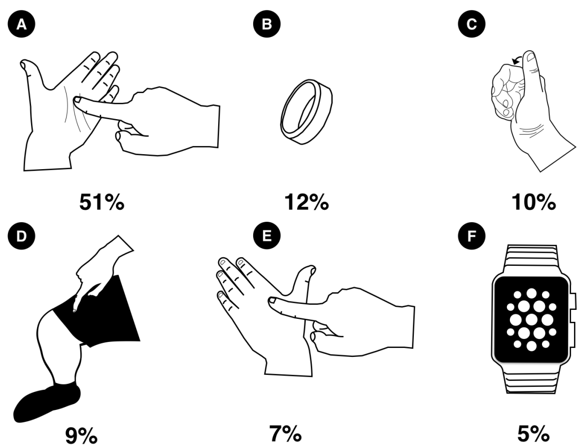

Figure 3. The top 6 on-body input forms. (A)Interact between finger and palm. (B)Interact with ring. (C)Interact between fingers.(D)Interact between finger and leg. (E)Interact between finger and hand back. (F)Interact with watch.

Implications for User Interfaces

Limitation and Next Steps

CONCLUSION

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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