



stay on the line don't touch the edges

Press me and hold to move

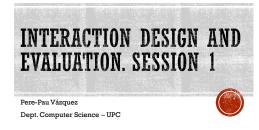
## MOTIVATION

- Interaction Design and Evaluation:
- Design User Interfaces
- Measure/Predict performance
- Design interaction



## **OBJECTIVES**

- Understanding the fundamentals of basic interaction in UI
  - Hick-Hyman Law: Choice-Reaction Time
  - · Fitts' Law: Pointing Time
  - Crossing and Steering Laws: Continuous Gestures
  - Guidelines for UI design and evaluation
  - · Experiments to assess/evaluate interaction theories







## OUTLINE

- Background
- · Hick-Hyman Law: Measuring choice-reaction time
- Fitts Law: Measuring Pointing Time
- Typing & Keyboards

## **OUTLINE**

- Background:

  - · Information Measures
- Hick-Hyman Law: Measuring choice-reaction time
- Fitts Law: Measuring Pointing Time
- Typing & Keyboards







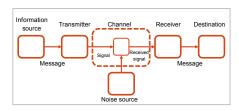


#### BACKGROUND. BASICS

- Information Theory:
  - Due to Claude E. Shannon
  - A Mathematical Theory of Communication (1948)
  - · Based on previous works by Nyquist and Hartley
  - Analysis of transmission of electrical signals for telegraphic communication
  - Shannon Entropy measures the amount of information to be transmitted by a message

## BACKGROUND. BASICS

• Information Theory. Elements (telegraph):







## BACKGROUND, BASICS

- Information Theory. Elements (telegraph):
  - Information source: The element that produces a message or sequences of message.
  - **Transmitter:** Operates on the message to make it transmissible through a medium.
  - Channel: The medium that transmits the message.
  - Receiver: The element that reconstruct the message to the

## BACKGROUND, INFORMATION MEASURES

- Let d be a device that produces symbols A, B, and C with the same probability
  - M = 3 is the total number of symbols
  - Each time a symbol is produced we are uncertain on which symbol is going to be generated
    - This uncertainty is not so big, since there are only three possibilities
  - The probability of a symbol to appear is 1/M
  - The uncertainty is log<sub>2</sub>(3)



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## BACKGROUND. INFORMATION MEASURES

- The uncertainty we have depends on the number M of symbols  $\rightarrow \log(M)$ .
  - 3 symbols → uncertainty of log(3).
  - 2 symbols  $\rightarrow$  uncertainty of log(2).
- Logarithms are commonly taken in base 2, and the units are

## BACKGROUND. INFORMATION MEASURES

- Let d be a device that produces one single symbol: C
  - M = 1 is the total number of symbols
  - We have no uncertainty (log<sub>2</sub>(1) = 0)
  - The probability of getting the symbol C is 1
  - We previously know which symbol will appear!



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#### BACKGROUND. INFORMATION MEASURES

- We have two devices, one with outputs A, B, C, and the second with outputs 1, 2.
- We combine words by concatenating one symbol of device 1 and one with device 2.
- We will have 6 different words: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2 • 6 symbols  $\rightarrow$  uncertainty of log(6)  $\rightarrow$  log(2) + log(3) = log(6).

#### BACKGROUND. INFORMATION MEASURES

- M symbols with equal probability → each symbol has probability P=1/M
  - Rewriting the surprise term

$$\textit{surprise} = \log_2(\textit{M}) = \log_2\left(\frac{1}{\textit{M}}\right)^{-1} = \log_2(\textit{P}^{-1}) = -\log_2(\textit{P})$$

- log2(P) is called the surprise or surprisal of finding a certain
- We will use  $p_i$  from now on
- For M symbols that have different probabilities, we may have a different  $p_i$  for each, provided that





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## BACKGROUND, INFORMATION MEASURES

- Information is the reduction of uncertainty or average surprisal of a set of symbols
  - Measuring the surprise for an infinite set of symbols (produced by a device) the frequency of each symbol transforms to the probability.

Shannon Entropy measures the amount of information: 
$$\mathbf{H} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{p_i}\right) = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i \log_2 p_i$$

- ullet N is the number of alternatives
- $p_i$  is the probability of the ith alternative.
- ${f \cdot}$  H is the entropy of the message that is to be transmitted, the amount of information expected to be received (no noise).



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## BACKGROUND, INFORMATION MEASURES

- Information Theory. Shannon entropy:
  - There is interference: Not all information will reach the receiver
  - · Average information faithfully transmitted (R):

$$R = H(x) - H_{\nu}(x)$$

•  $H_y(x)$  is the equivocation or conditional entropy of x when y is known





## BACKGROUND. INFORMATION MEASURES

- Applications of Shannon entropy:
  - All types of signal transmission and storage:
  - Measuring information
  - Dictionary creation for compression

## **OUTLINE**

- Background
- · Hick-Hyman Law: Measuring choice-reaction time
  - Hick-Hyman Law
  - Experimental assessment
- Fitts Law: Measuring Pointing Time
- Typing & Keyboards



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#### HICK-HYMAN LAW

- Hick-Hyman Law:
  - Initially stated by William E. Hick (1951)

  - It takes longer to respond to a stimulus when it belongs to a large set as opposed to a smaller set of stimuli

    Describes human decision time as a function of the information content conveyed by a visual stimulus
  - Extended by Ray Hyman (1952)

## HICK-HYMAN LAW

- Hick-Hyman Law:
- Time to make a decision:

$$T = a + bH_T$$

- · a, b constants
- H<sub>T</sub> transmitted information

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## HICK-HYMAN LAW

- · Hick-Hyman Law:
  - · Transmitted information:

$$H_T = \log_2(n+1)$$

- n equiprobable alternatives
- H<sub>T</sub> transmitted information
- Original formulation did not have the "+1"
- Attends for the uncertainty whether to respond or not
- Time to answer. Reaction Time:

$$RT = a + b \log_2(n+1)$$

Reaction Time is a linear function of stimulus information



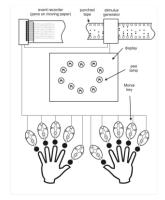
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ASSESSMENT

· Hick's initial experiment:







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#### HICK-HYMAN LAW. EXPERIMENTAL ASSESSMENT

HICK-HYMAN LAW EXPERIMENTAL

• 10 pea lamps are arranged in an irregular circle

User has to press the correct key corresponding to the lamp that is

· Stimulus and response encoded in a moving paper in binary code

• One random lamp is lit every 5 seconds

• Time to answer. Reaction Time:

$$RT = a + b \log_2(n+1)$$

- · Reaction Time is a linear function of stimulus information
- Hyman [Hyman53] found that it also holds for not equiprobable alternatives
- · 8 lights (whose names were Bun, Boo, Bee, Bore, By, Bix, Bev, and Bate) The users had to name the one lit

  - A microphone attached to the throat detected the voice and stopped the timer
  - First with equal probabilities
  - · Then, with varying probabilities





#### HICK-HYMAN LAW. EXPERIMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- Evidences of Hick-Hyman Law

  - Novice users search linearly while experts decide upon item location and fit a Hick-Hyman curve [Cockburn2008]

    Performance in hierarchical full-screen menu selections is well described by Hick-Hyman [Landauer85]
  - · Selection times decay logarithmically with menu length for frequently selected items, but linearly with infrequent ones [Sears94].
    - · Learnt locations (most frequent) fit Hick-Hyman decision times
    - · Non-learnt locations fit a linear search

#### OUTLINE

- Background
- · Hick-Hyman Law: Measuring choice-reaction time
- Fitts Law: Measuring Pointing Time
  - Original formulation
- Variants
- · Experimental evidences
- · Extensions: 2D and Precision Pointing
- Discussion
- Assessed Results
- Typing & Keyboards







## FITTS' LAW. ORIGINAL FORMULATION

- States a linear relationship between task difficulty and movement time (MT)
- Formulation is also based on Information Theory
  - Human motor system is the communication channel
  - · Amplitude of movement is the signal
  - Target width is the noise

## FITTS' LAW ORIGINAL FORMULATION

Task difficulty:

$$ID = \log_2 \frac{\square 2A}{W}$$

- ID: Index of difficulty
- · A: Amplitude of movement
- W:Target width



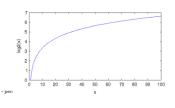


## FITTS' LAW. ORIGINAL FORMULATION

· Task difficulty:

$$ID = \log_2 \frac{2A}{W}$$

 $log_2(x)$ 



## FITTS' LAW. ORIGINAL FORMULATION

Task difficulty:

$$ID = \log_2 \frac{2A}{W}$$

- · The larger the amplitude the higher the difficulty
- The larger the target the lower the difficulty





## FITTS' LAW, ORIGINAL FORMULATION

- Time to point a certain objective (target) is called Movement
  - Movement time:

$$MT = a + bID$$

- · a start/stop times in seconds
- · b inherent speed of the device

#### FITTS' LAW. VARIANTS

- Original formulation fits well to the original experiments But it might fit better
- Other researchers have found different formulations that better model the experimental data
- Including the experimental data by Fitts
- Welford [Welford68]:

$$MT = a + b \log_2 \frac{D + 0.5W}{W}$$

- . D is the distance of movement
- W is the width of the target



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## FITTS' LAW. VARIANTS

• MacKenzie's approach [MacKenzie92] is one of the most accepted:

$$MT = a + b \log_2 \frac{D}{W} + 1$$

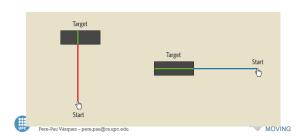
- D is the distance of movement
- W is the width of the target





## FITTS' LAW. VARIANTS

Vertical and horizontal movements can be treated equally



## FITTS LAW. EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCES

- Fitts Law. Original experiments:
  - Reciprocal tapping:
    - Participants used a metal-tipped stylus:
    - Two experiments with two different stylus: ~ 28.35 gr and 453.6 gr
    - Tap two strips of metallic targets of width from  $\sim 0.635$  to  $5.08\ cm$
    - At distance 5.08 to 40.64 cm
    - Yes, original data is in ounces and inches!!! Participants instructed to be accurate!





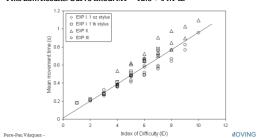
## FITTS LAW. EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCES

- Fitts Law. Original experiments:
  - Experiment 2: Disk transfer
  - Participants had to transfer stack round plastic disks (with holes drilled trough the middle) from one pin to another
  - Holes of different sizes and pins of different diameters used
  - Experiment 3: Pin transfer
  - Participants had to transfer pins of different diameters from a set of holes to another set of holes



## FITTS LAW EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCES

• Fitts Law. Results. Curve fitted: MT = 12.8 + 94.7 ID



## FITTS LAW EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCES

- Fitts Law. Results:
  - Experiment 1:
    - Average error negligible
    - Most difficult condition: Smaller W and largest A
    - · Results show that there is a linear relationship between MT and ID



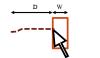


## FITTS LAW. EXTENSIONS

- Main application of Fitts in HCI is evaluation/design of UI and interaction
- Today's interfaces are much more complex
- Variety of sizes, 2D movements, use of fingers

## FITTS LAW. EXTENSIONS

• Use in UI design or evaluation:



- D is the distance the pointer (mouse) covers to reach the target (button)
- . W is the width of the target (button)



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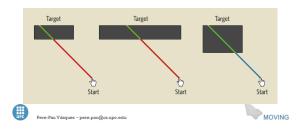


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## FITTS LAW. EXTENSIONS. 2D

• Vertical and horizontal movements can be treated equally... or not!



#### FITTS LAW. EXTENSIONS, 2D

- Fitts' Law is designed for 1D movements
- Most movements in a UI are 2D
- Several extensions deal with 2D movements
- Mimicking Fitts' Law, but changing some of the parameters
- [Crossman83]:  $MT = a + b \log_2 \left(\frac{2D}{W}\right) + c \log_2 \left(\frac{2D}{H}\right)$
- [Accot97]:  $MT = a + b \log_2 \left( \sqrt{\left(\frac{D}{W}\right)^2 + \eta \left(\frac{D}{H}\right)^2} + 1 \right)$



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## FITTS LAW. EXTENSIONS. PRECISION POINTING

- Fitts Law does not model properly very small targets:
- Extra time devoted to fine adjustment
- Increase of errors
- ...
- Very small targets yield a lower fit of the regression curve of the MT function
- Touchscreens also modifies the timing we require to point targets.

# FITTS LAW. EXTENSIONS. PRECISION POINTING

- Extension of Fitts' Law by analyzing the behavior both in tactile screens and small targets ([Sears91]):
  - Named FFitts (Finger Fitts), also PPMT (Precision Pointing Movement Time) by some other authors:

$$FFits = a + bID + dID_2$$

$$FFitts = a + b \left[ \log_2 \left( \frac{cD}{W} \right) \right] + d \left[ \log_2 \left( \frac{e}{W} \right) \right]$$





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## FITTS LAW. EXTENSIONS. PRECISION POINTING

• FFitts:

$$FFitts = a + b \left[ \log_2 \left( \frac{cD}{W} \right) \right] + d \left[ \log_2 \left( \frac{e}{W} \right) \right]$$

- the first logarithmic factor measures the time to place the finger on the screen initially
- · the second factor measures the time to position the cursor
- D is the distance, measured in three dimensions, from the original hand location to the location of first contact
- . W is some measurement of target size
- a, b, c, d, and e must be determined for each specific case



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## FITTS LAW. EXTENSIONS. PRECISION POINTING

• FFitts:

$$FFitts = a + b \left[ \log_2 \left( \frac{cD}{W} \right) \right] + d \left[ \log_2 \left( \frac{e}{W} \right) \right]$$

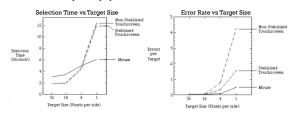
• If the task consists of iteratively clicking targets: D is the distance from one target to the next one





## FITTS LAW EXTENSIONS. PRECISION POINTING

- Ffitts' experiments:
- Date from 1989!
  - Tactile screens of lower resolution than mouse interaction
  - Required on purpose stabilization software



## FITTS LAW DISCUSSION

- Fitting regression curves:
  - Validation of Fitts' Law may not extrapolate to outside values
    - Only valid for the experiments carried out
    - Has been demonstrated that very small values of ID do not fit properly
    - Limited number of target sizes (four in original Fitts' work)
    - The lack of precise distance measurements (from the user's hand to the target) makes analysis difficult
  - . The higher number of freedom degrees, the easier to fit in a regression curve
    - Note that this sort of proves are partially done a posteriori





#### FITTS LAW DISCUSSION

- Validation can be done in several ways:
  - Move from a control point to another in a fixed direction and fixed distance, target known
  - Move from a control point to another in a fixed direction and varying distance, target known
  - · Move from a control point to another in random direction (e. g. left or right) and fixed/varying distance, target known
  - Move from one target to another in a succession, targets known With all the previous variants Move from one control point to another target that appears
  - immediately after we click the control point
  - With all the previous variants (both directions and distances and discrete vs continuous target selection)



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#### FITTS LAW DISCUSSION

- Validity of Fitts experiments:
- · Each experimentation will be valid for the concrete specifications
- · The results of a successive target selection may not match the results of discrete selection
- · Constants will be different
- Some formulations may yield to negative intercept values, which does not
- · Some results must account for the movement preparation time





#### FITTS LAW DISCUSSION

- Speed vs accuracy tradeoff:
  - Users can be guided through the experimentation:
    - Ask them to be precise
    - Showing error rates enforces correction
    - Ask them to be fast
  - We may skew the experiment depending on what we say, e.g.:
    - "This experiment is to demonstrate that larger targets are acquired easier than small targets"
    - Users might want to satisfy you!
    - ...Or not!





#### FITTS LAW ASSESSED RESULTS

- Fitts' Law has shown its validity in multiple setups and devices:
  - · Mouse, joystick, finger, stylus...
  - Different screen types of varying sizes...
  - · But the results cannot be extrapolate to data outside the experiment
  - Commonly the experiments evaluate a relatively small set of configurations (e. g. four button sizes, 6 distances...)
  - Precuing or not precuing may influence results
  - The device used may behave differently
    - · External variables such as mouse acceleration must be taken into
- Age may influence (adult vs children)
- Fitts' law predicts the first time the children enter a target
- But not the time of the final selection



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#### FITTS LAW ASSESSED RESULTS

- Fitts' Law has shown its validity in multiple setups and devices:
   Mouse, joystick, finger, stylus...

  - Different screen types of varying sizes...
  - But the results cannot be extrapolate to data outside the experiment
- Precued targets lead to more efficient and precise pointing movements than for non-precued targets [Hertzum2013].
   Most common case: we know the buttons' positions in advance.

  - The benefit of precuing is larger for the mouse than the touchpad
     Maybe movement preparation is more effective if the device is more demanding
- The index finger alone does not perform as well as the wrist or forearm in pointing tasks
  But the thumb and index fingers in coordination outperform all above cases [Balakrishnam?]



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#### FITTS LAW ASSESSED RESULTS

- Effective target width:
  - Some researchers suggest measuring the ID using the effective target width (or W<sub>e</sub>), instead of the nominal width [Fitts64, Sourkoreff2004]
    - · Users do not click on a fixed distance
      - But endpoints have certain variability
  - Effective widths remove biases in target utilization by enlarging error-prone targets and shrinking underutilized targets while leaving MTs intact [Chapuis2011].
    - Uncorrected widths seems useful to reliably assess actual user pointing times in user interfaces.
    - Effective widths instead useful to compare the performance of different input devices.



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#### FITTS LAW ASSESSED RESULTS

- Effective target width:
  - · Not available without experimentation
  - Less useful than nominal value
  - · Effective widths remove biases in target utilization by enlarging error-prone targets and shrinking underutilized targets while leaving MTs intact [Chapuis2011].
    - Uncorrected widths seems useful to reliably assess actual user pointing times in user interfaces.
  - Effective widths instead useful to compare the performance of different input devices.

## OUTLINE

- Background
- · Hick-Hyman Law: Measuring choice-reaction time
- Fitts Law: Measuring Pointing Time
- Typing & Keyboards
  - Layouts
  - Practical Issues
  - Mobile Layouts



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## TYPING & KEYBOARDS, LAYOUTS

- QWERTY keyboard layout:
- Design by Christopher Latham Shole.
- The placement of the keys reduces key jams.
  - Keys commonly typed together are placed at large physical distance
    - In a typing machine
    - Changing hands
  - Assuming language is English
  - Does not make sense with computers
     Not everybody writes in English





## TYPING & KEYBOARDS. LAYOU'

• QWERTY keyboard layout:





## TYPING & KEYBOARDS, LAYOUTS

• QWERTY keyboard layout:







#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS, LAYOUTS

- Dvorak layout:
  - Invented with the objective of reducing travel distances
  - 10-finger typing
  - Improvements of up to 30%
  - Other researchers say 5-10%
  - Less errors
  - Also optimized for English
  - Low level of acceptance





#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS, LAYOUTS

- Dvorak layout:
  - Vowels in one hand
  - Combinations with consonants impose hand change
  - Most common letters at the places the fingers rest on the keyboard





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MOVING

#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS, LAYOUTS

Keyboard layouts AZERTY vs Dvorak:







## TYPING & KEYBOARDS, LAYOUTS

- · Keyboard layouts
  - Dvorak proven more efficient
  - Reduces by an order of magnitude the finger travel distances
  - Reduces errors
  - · Not acceptance
  - Typing Guinness world record held by a Barbara Blackburnwith a DVORAK keyboard in a typewriter for many years
  - 150 wpm for 50 minutes
  - Other ergonomic layouts



TYPING & KEYBOARDS, LAYOUTS

Improves posture and reduces tension



Keyboard layouts

No proven advantage



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#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS, PRACTICAL ISSUES

- · Touchable layouts
  - Size depends on screen size
  - Limited and occludes text
  - Require significant visual attention
  - No physical feedback
  - · Sometimes sound • Distance from the keyboard to the insertion point
  - · Especially on larger form factors
  - · Errors: accidentally touching the screen
  - Touch and stylus based may be a good combination

## TYPING & KEYBOARDS, PRACTICAL ISSUES

- Fitts Law accurately predicts pointing movement
  - If improvement required, it can help us modify our UI
  - Change target width:
  - Increase size for faster reach
  - Change distance:
  - · Move targets closer to reduce movement time
  - Change pointer movement:
    - Increase speed



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## TYPING & KEYBOARDS, PRACTICAL ISSUES

- Designing virtual keyboards. Elements to consider:
  - Auto-correction
  - · Auto-capitalization
  - Input data type & custom keyboards
  - Tabs
- (Multiple-)Language support

#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS, PRACTICAL ISSUES

- Auto-correction:
  - Only suitable if proper dictionaries:
  - Commonly, users do not notice the corrections
  - Some data such as address very prone to wrong correction
  - 92% sites do it wrong
  - Best practices:
    - · Skip auto-correction for certain fields



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## TYPING & KEYBOARDS, PRACTICAL ISSUES

- Auto-capitalization:
  - In e-mail addresses, disable auto-capitalization
  - Even if correct, people tries to fix





## TYPING & KEYBOARDS, PRACTICAL ISSUES

- Appropriate layouts for the input data type:
- · Virtual keyboards are small
  - An iPhone 4 character (portrait) measures 4 × 5.9 mm
  - Minimum recommended clickable size is 6.85 × 6.85 mm
  - · Increase typos, validation errors...
  - 60% top mobile websites do it wrong
- Dedicated keyboards may increase the size enough (phone numbers, ZIP codes, currency...)
  - Invoke them, and do it consistently



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## TYPING & KEYBOARDS, PRACTICAL ISSUES

- Tabs:
- Buttons Next and Previous should act as we expect from a tabulator: Next/Previous field
  - Mobile keyboards often hide the rest of the fields
- Provide a standardized way to change between them



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#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS, PRACTICAL ISSUES

- (Multiple-)Language support:
  - Most custom keyboards provide the possibility of changing the language on demand
    - In many cases correctors or word predictions mix languages







#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS. PRACTICAL ISSUES

- Expert typing model [Bi2013]:
  - Time to move the tapping device with a single finger from one key

    (i) to another (j) depends on the distance and key width of the keys:

$$MT_{ij} = a + b \log_2 \left( \frac{D_{ij}}{W_{ij}} + 1 \right)$$

- $D_{ij}$  is the distance between keys i and j,
- Wij is the width of each key
- Bi et al. also use the effective width



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MOVING

## TYPING & KEYBOARDS, PRACTICAL ISSUES

- Improving mobile layouts:
  - Different parameters to take into account:
  - 10-finger typing? As of tablets
  - 2-thumb typing? Mobiles/tablets.
  - · 1-finger typing? Most commonly mobile
- Optimize for the number of fingers
  - Tactile screen form factor
- Maybe hand positions too





## TYPING & KEYBOARDS, MOBILE LAYOUTS



## TYPING & KEYBOARDS. MOBILE LAYOUTS

- Proposed mobile layouts. KALQ:
- Optimize layout for better 2 thumb typing
- Analyzed hand position, digram frequency, tablet orientation...







## TYPING & KEYBOARDS. MOBILE LAYOUTS

- Proposed mobile layouts. Minuum:
  - Two or one finger typing
  - Compressing the three key rows into one
    - Reduction of distances (in vertical)
    - Larger targets (the whole region of e. g. QAZ)
  - Proficient word prediction/correction required • More room in your screen



#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS. MOBILE LAYOUTS

• Minuum is intended to type everywhere:





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#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS. MOBILE LAYOUTS

Proposed mobile layouts. Split keyboard / size change: • Two thumbs (left) one thumb on a large device (right)



#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS, MOBILE LAYOUTS

- Digram-based layout for single-finger typing [Lewis99]:
- Optimized distances
- Up to 25 wpm (over the typical 20 wpm on a complete QWERTY)

QRWXY LUAOF ZTHENG VDISP всмјк



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#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS, MOBILE LAYOUTS

- Keyboard arrangements should be designed so that:
- Balance the loads on the right and left hands
- Maximize the load on the home row
- Maximize the frequency of alternating hand sequences
- Alternating fingers avoids the need to wait for the end of the movement of the first finger before starting the second movement.
- · Minimizing the frequency of same finger typing





#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS, MOBILE LAYOUTS

- Single finger gesture typing [Kristensson2012, Zhai2012]
- The finger traverses all the letters of a word without lifting off the
- More comfortable (subjective evaluation) in tablets [Nguyen2012]
- Not faster than regular typing (objective evaluation) in tablets [Nguyen2012]. Not so negative





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#### TYPING & KEYBOARDS, MOBILE LAYOUTS

- Two finger gesture typing [Bi2012]
  - The two thumbs swipe to compose a word
    - · Lifting the finger when a part of the word belongs to the other thumb
  - Or with a continuous trace
  - Finger traveling shortened by 50%
  - · Speed does not increase over one finger entry (objective evaluation). Not so negative
  - High demand of attention (subjective evaluation)







INTERACTION DESIGN AND **MEASURES** 

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