



Human-Computer Interaction

An Empirical Research Perspective

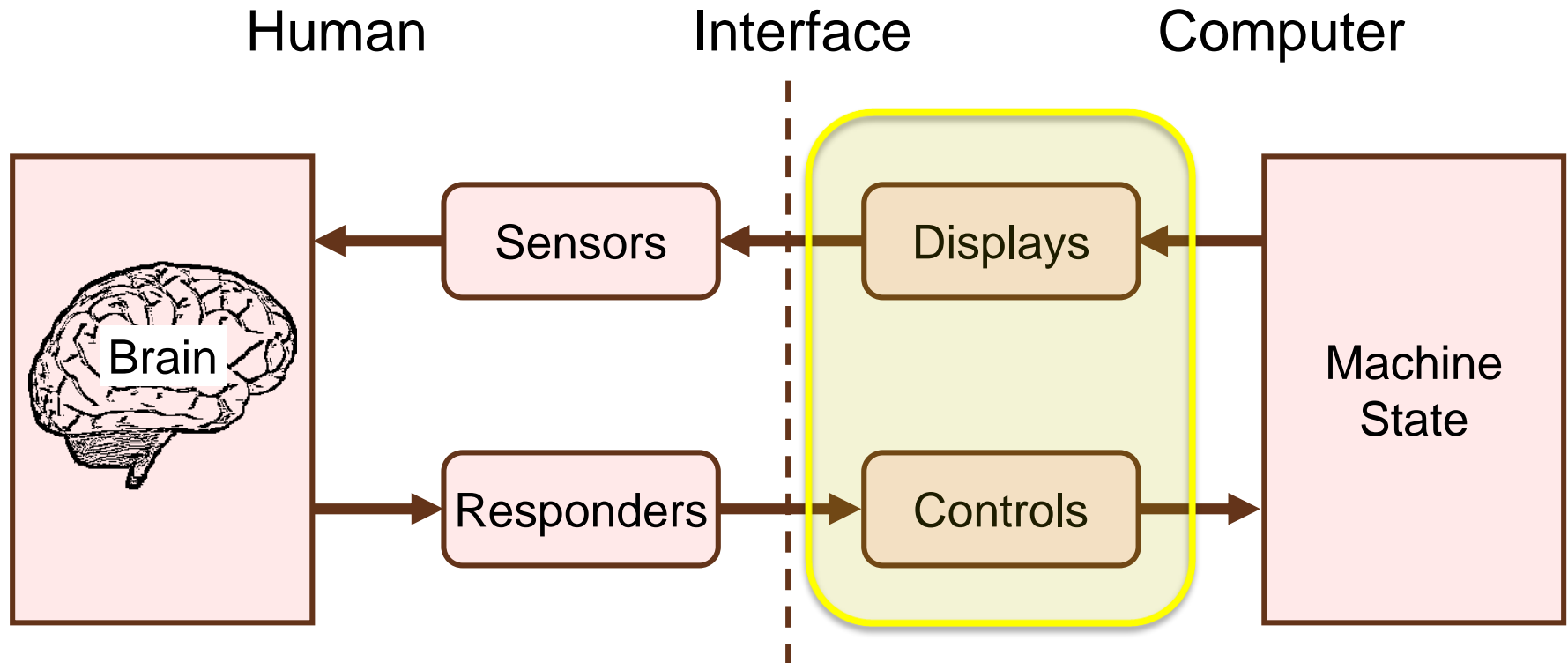
MK
MORGAN KAUFMANN

I. Scott MacKenzie

Interactive Systems Design
Prof. V. Fuccella

Chapter 3 Interaction Elements

Human Factors Model (revisited)



¹ Kantowitz, B. H., & Sorkin, R. D. (1983). *Human factors: Understanding people-system relationships*. New York. New York: Wiley.

Hard Controls, Soft Controls

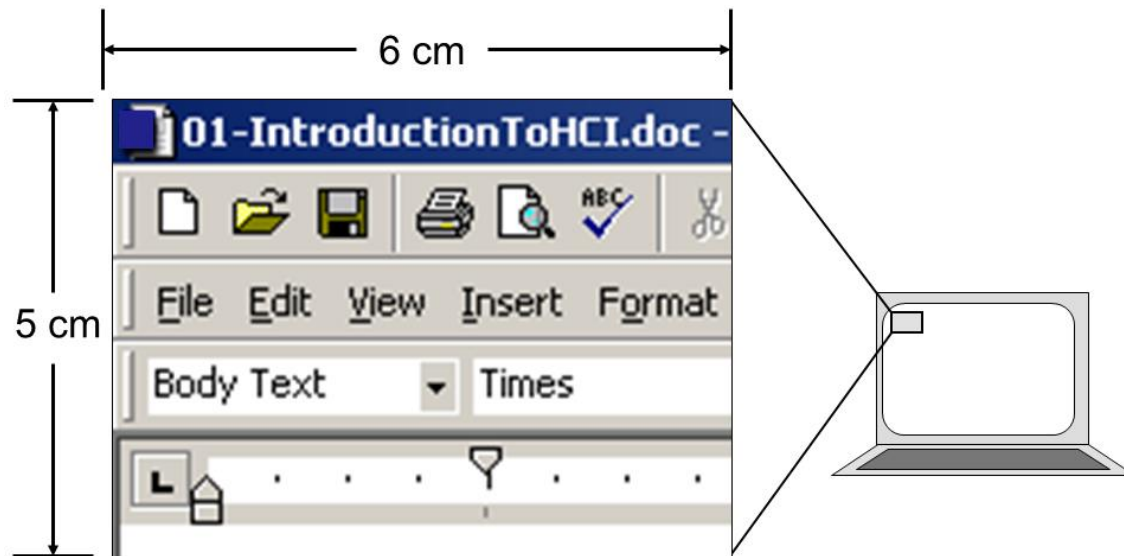
- In the past, controls were physical, single-purpose devices → *hard controls*
- Today's graphical displays are malleable
- Interfaces created in software → *soft controls*
- Soft controls rendered on a display
- Distinction blurred between soft controls and displays
- Consider controls to format this (see below)



Soft controls are also displays!

GUI Malleability

- Below is a 30 cm² view into a GUI
- >20 soft controls (or are they displays?)

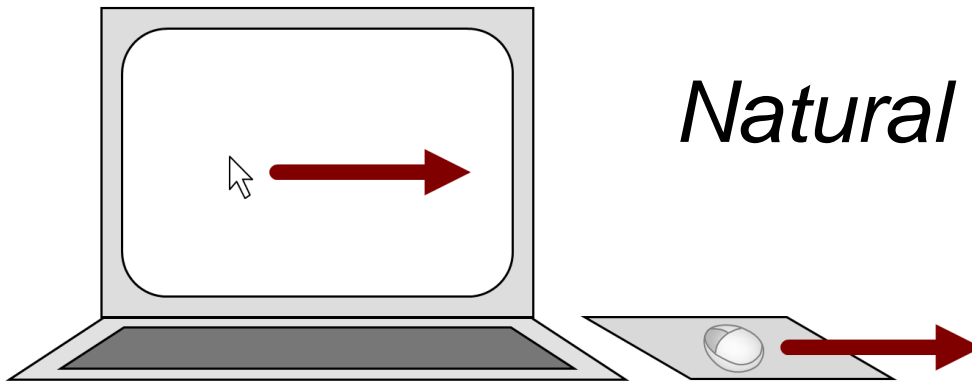


- Click a button and this space is morphed into a completely different set of soft controls/displays

Control-Display Relationships

- Also called *mappings*
- Relationship between operation of a control and the effect created on a display
- At least three types:
 - Spatial relationships
 - Dynamic relationships
 - Physical relationships

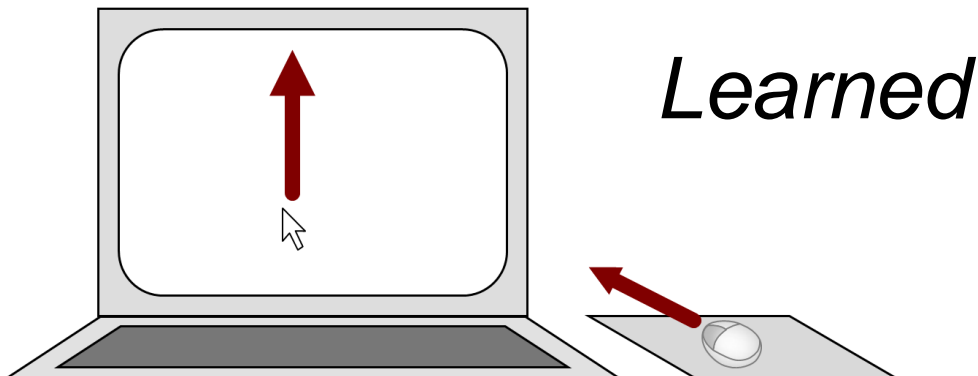
Spatial Relationships



Spatial congruence

Control: right

Display: right

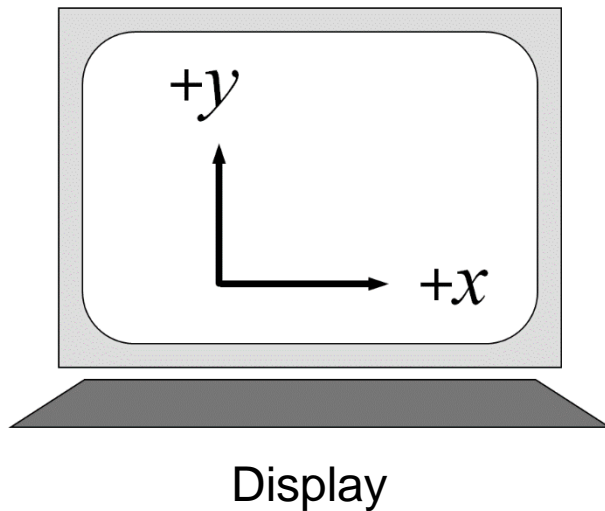
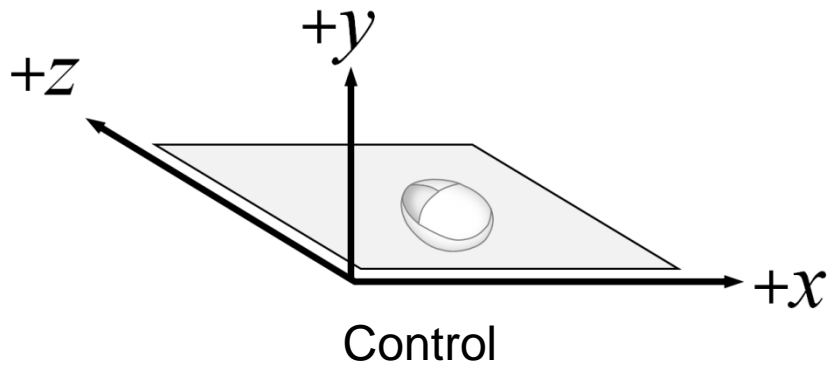


Spatial transformation

Control: forward

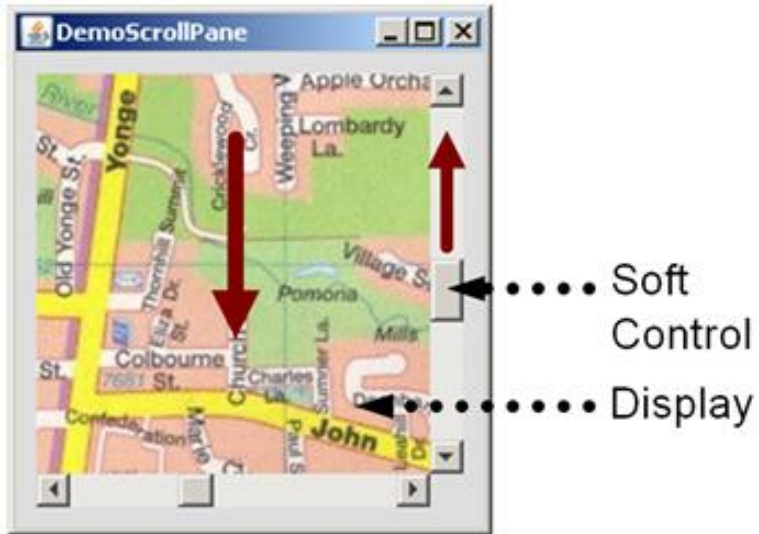
Display: up

Axis Labeling

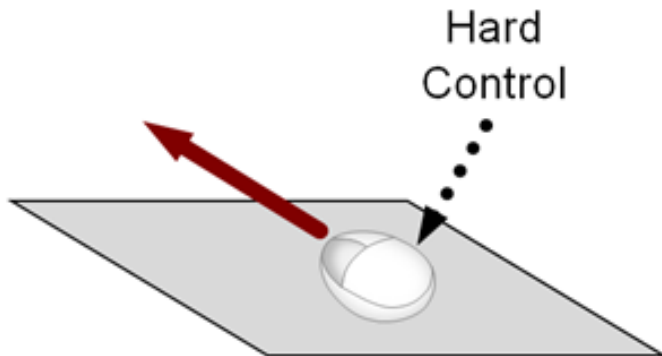


| Axis | Control (mouse) | Display (cursor) |
|------|-----------------|------------------|
| x | + ● ————— ● + | ————— ● + |
| y | | ————— ● + |
| z | + ● ————— | |

Third Tier



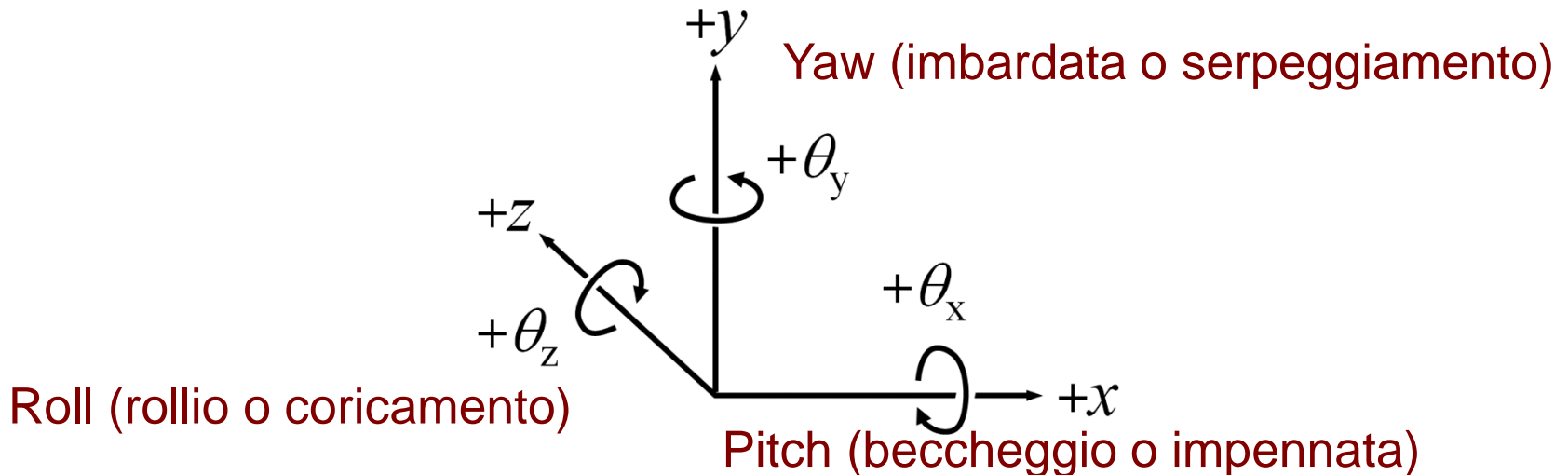
| DOF | Hard Control | Soft Control | Display |
|-----|--------------|--------------|---------|
| x | | | |
| y | | + | - |
| z | + | | |



3D

- In 3D there are 6 degrees of freedom (DOF). DOF are the number of variables needed to represent its position in the space
 - 3 DOF for position (x, y, z)
 - 3 DOF for orientation ($\theta_x, \theta_y, \theta_z$)

In aeronautics...

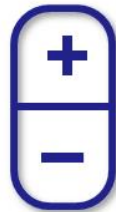


3D in Interactive Systems

- Usually a subset of the 6 DOF are supported
- Spatial transformations are present and must be learned
- E.g., Google StreetView



Pan



Zoom



Panning in Google StreetView

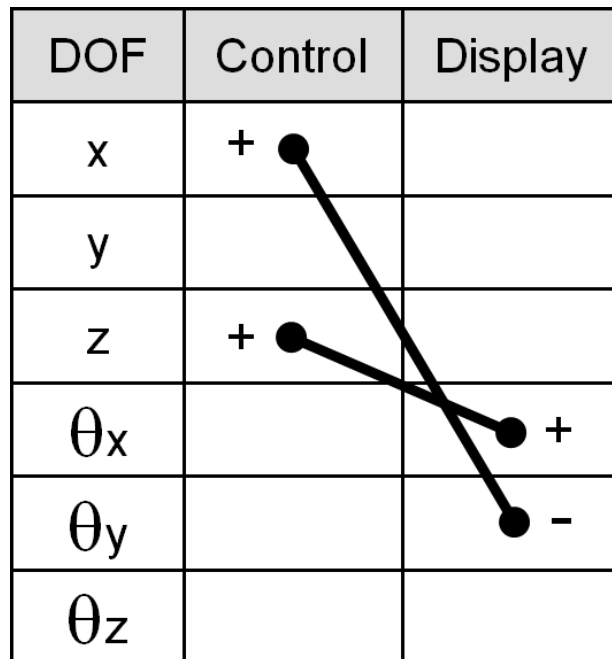
- (Switch to Google StreetView and demonstrate panning with the mouse)
- Spatial transformations:

| DOF | Control | Display |
|------------|---------|---------|
| x | | |
| y | | |
| z | | |
| θ_x | | |
| θ_y | | |
| θ_z | | |

Panning in Google StreetView

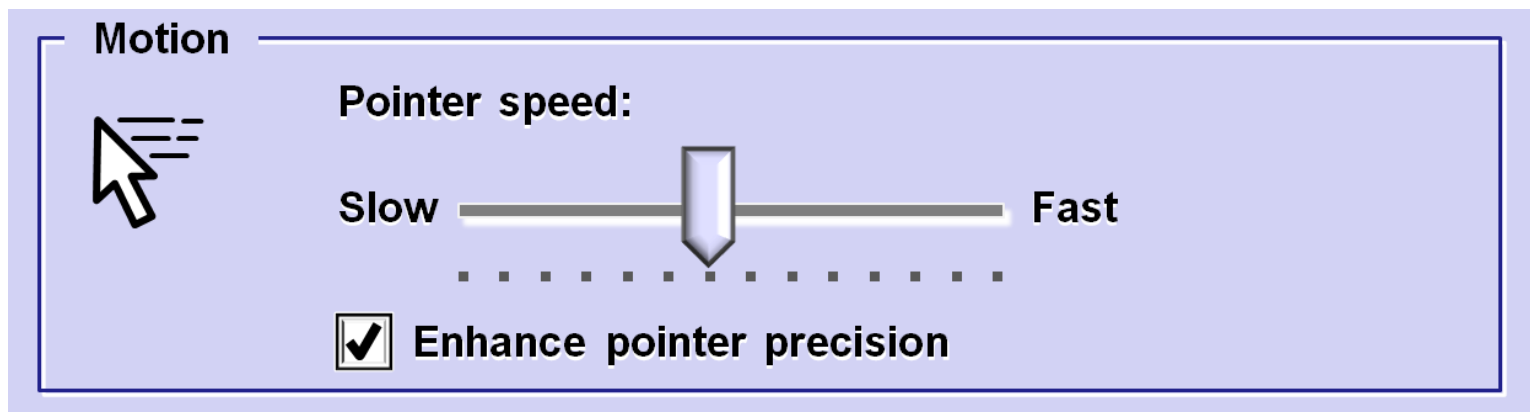
- (Switch to Google StreetView and demonstrate panning with the mouse)
- Spatial transformations:

| DOF | Control | Display |
|------------|---------|---------|
| x | + | |
| y | | |
| z | + | |
| θ_x | | + |
| θ_y | | - |
| θ_z | | |



CD Gain

- Quantifies the amount of display movement for a given amount of controller movement
- E.g., CD gain = 2 implies 2 cm of controller movement yields 4 cm of display movement
- For non-linear gains, the term *transfer function* is used
- Typical control panel to adjust CD gain:



CD Gain and User Performance

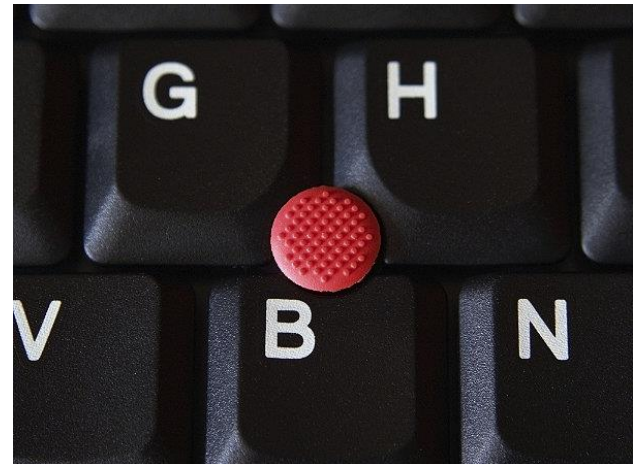
- Tricky to adjust CD gain to optimize user performance
- Issues:
 - Speed accuracy trade-off (what reduces positioning time tends to increase errors)
 - Opposing relationship between gross and fine positioning times:

Latency

- *Latency* (aka *lag*) is the delay between an input action and the corresponding response on a display
- Usually negligible on interactive systems (e.g., cursor positioning, editing)
- May be “noticeable” in some settings; e.g.,
 - Remote manipulation
 - Internet access (and other “system” response situations)
 - Virtual reality (VR)
- Human performance issues appropriate for empirical research

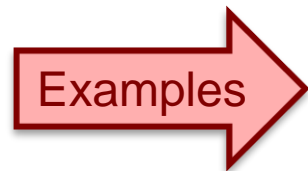
Property Sensed, Order of Control

- Property sensed (property of control)
 - Position (graphics tablet, touchpad, touchscreen)
 - Displacement (mouse, joystick)
 - Force (joystick, pointing stick)
- Order of control (property of display)
 - Position (of cursor/object)
 - Velocity (of cursor/object)

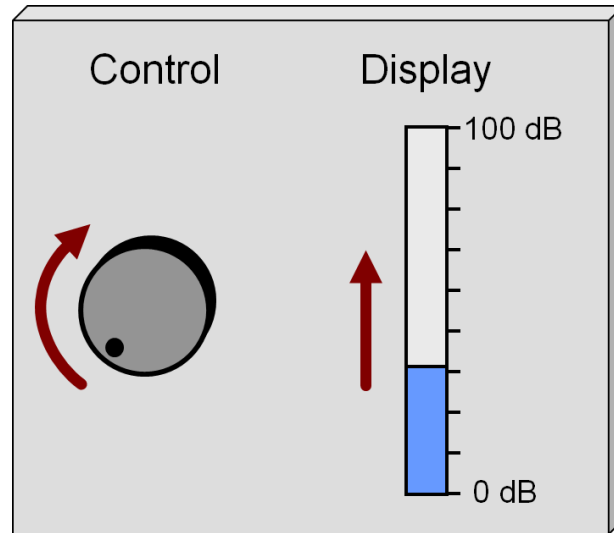


Natural vs. Learned Relationships

- Natural relationships \rightarrow spatially congruent
- Learned relationships \rightarrow spatial transformation
(relationship must be learned)

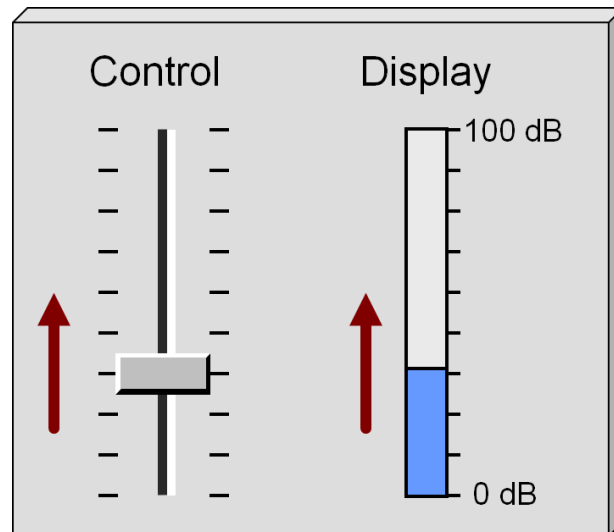


Learned
relationship



| DOF | Control | Display |
|------------|---------|---------|
| x | | |
| y | | ● + |
| z | | |
| θ_x | | |
| θ_y | | |
| θ_z | + ● | |

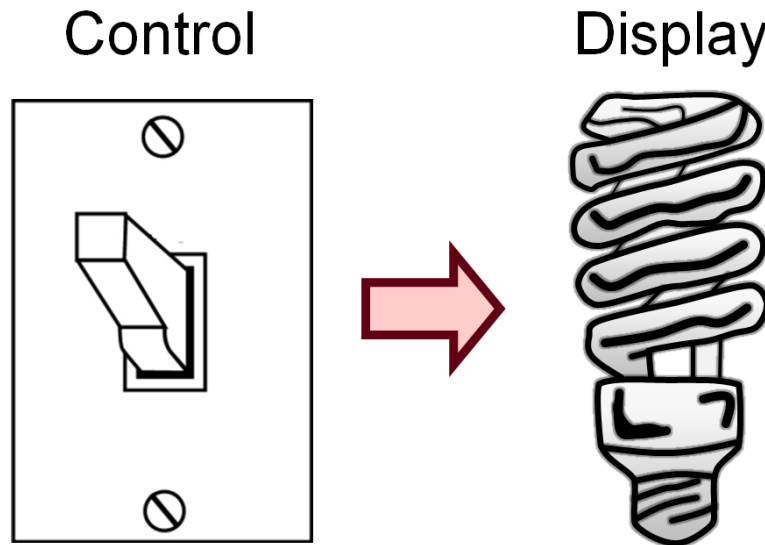
Natural
relationship



| DOF | Control | Display |
|------------|---------|---------|
| x | | |
| y | + ● | ● + |
| z | | |
| θ_x | | |
| θ_y | | |
| θ_z | | |

Learned Relationships

- Learned relationships seem natural if they lead to a *population stereotype* or *cultural standard*
- A control-display relationship needn't be a spatial relationship...



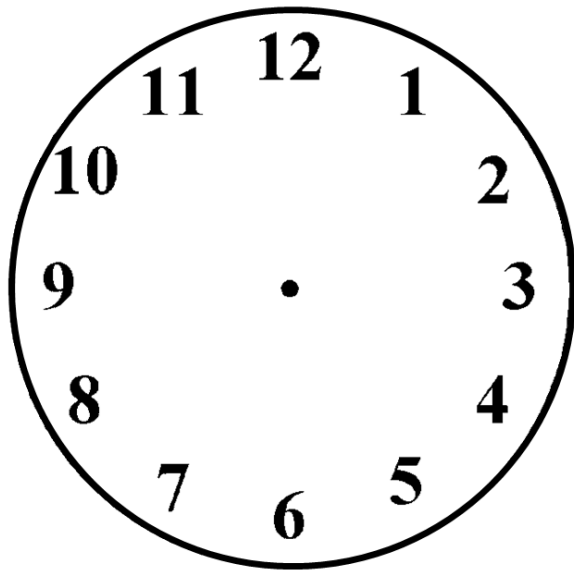
Is the display on or off?

Answer:

- On (in U.S., Canada)
- Off (in U.K.)

Clock Metaphor

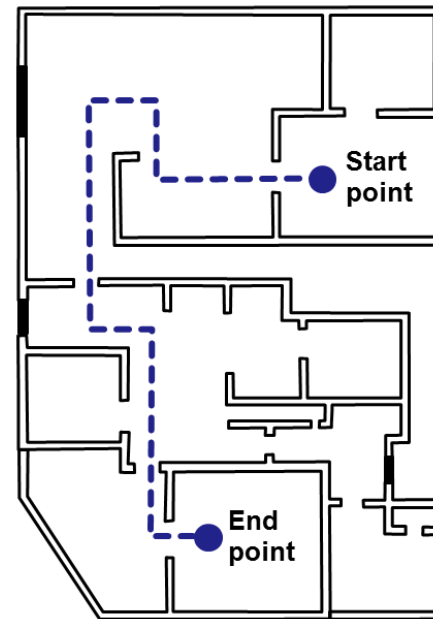
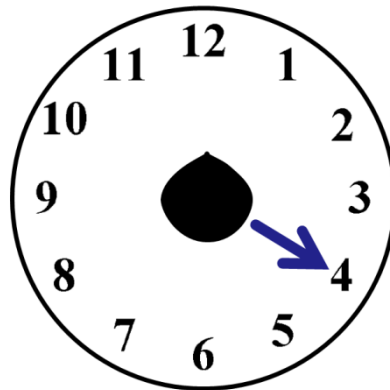
- Numeric entry on PDA¹
- Users make straight-line strokes in direction of digit on clock face



¹ McQueen, C., MacKenzie, I. S., & Zhang, S. X. (1995). An extended study of numeric entry on pen-based computers. *Proceedings of Graphics Interface '95*, 215-222, Toronto: Canadian Information Processing Society.

Clock Metaphor (2)

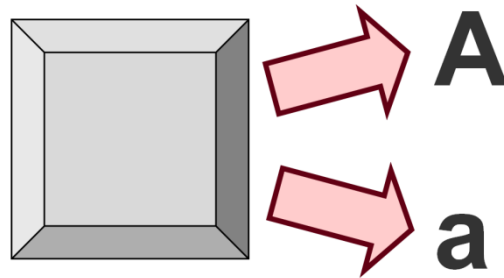
- Blind users carry a mobile locating device¹
- Device provides spoken audio information about nearby objects (e.g. “door at 3 o’clock”)



¹ Sáenz, M., & Sánchez, J. (2009). Indoor position and orientation for the blind. *Proceedings of HCI International 2007*, 236-245, Berlin: Springer.

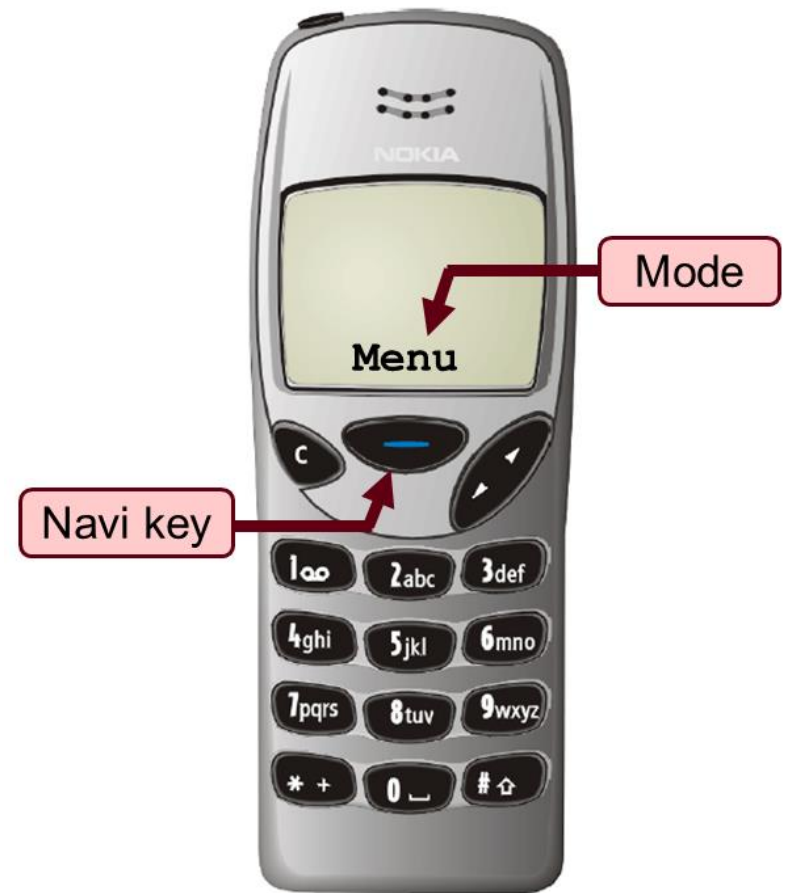
Modes

- A *mode* is a functioning arrangement or condition
- Modes are everywhere (and in most cases are unavoidable)
- Computer keyboards have modes
 - ≈ 100 keys + SHIFT, CTRL, ALT $\rightarrow \approx 800$ key variations



Mobile Phone Example

- Navi key (first introduced on Nokia 3210)
- Mode revealed by word above
- At least 15 interpretations: Menu, Select, Answer, Call, End, OK, Options, Assign, Send, Read, Use, View, List, Snooze, Yes



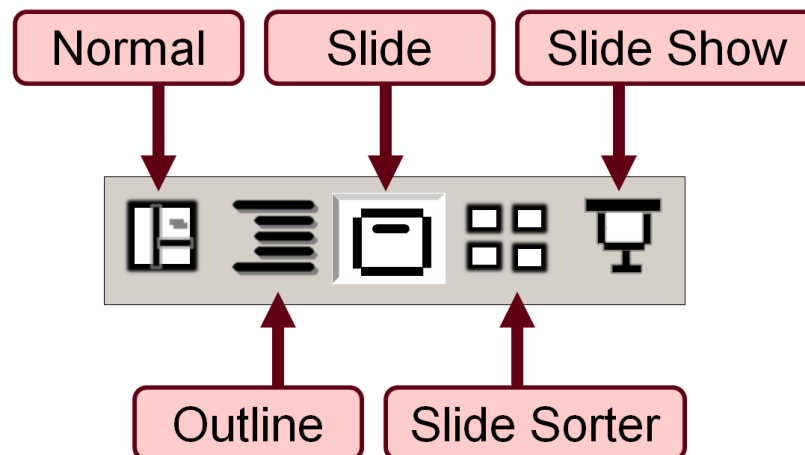
Contemporary LCD Monitor

- Similar to Navi key idea
- No labels for the four buttons above power button
- Function revealed on display when button pressed
- Possibilities explode



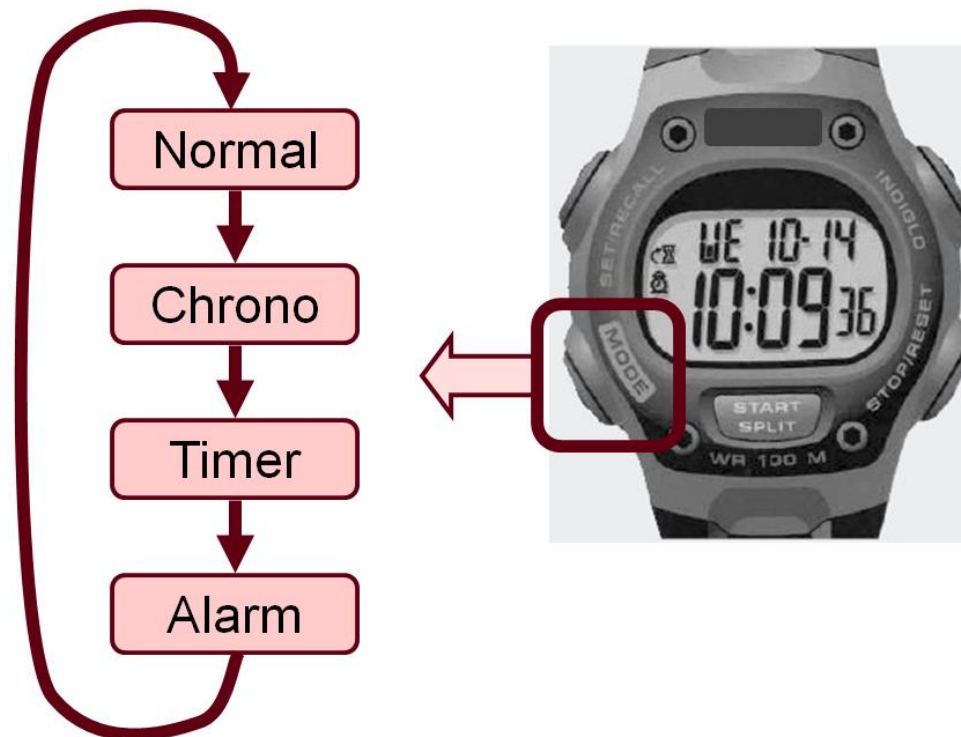
Mode Switching

- PowerPoint: Five view modes
- Switch modes by clicking soft button
- Current mode apparent by background shading
- Still problems lurk
- How to exit Slide Show mode?
 - PowerPoint → ESC
 - Firefox → ?



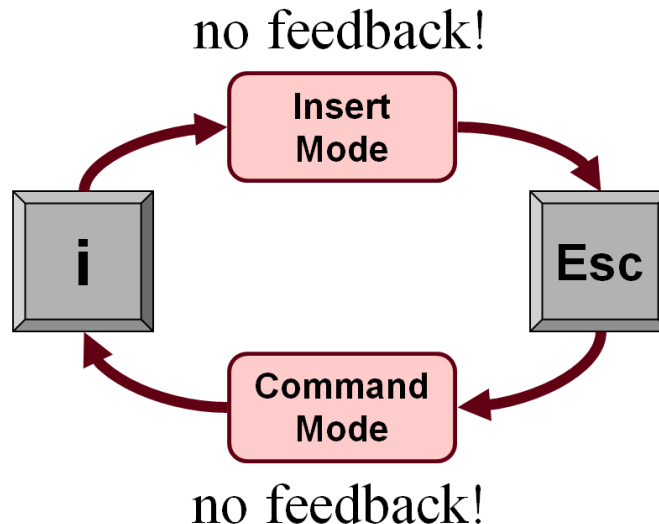
Mode Switching (2)

- Sports watch
- Single button cycles through modes



Mode Visibility

- Shneiderman: “offer information feedback”¹
- Norman: “make things visible”²
- unix *vi* editor: Classic example of no mode visibility:

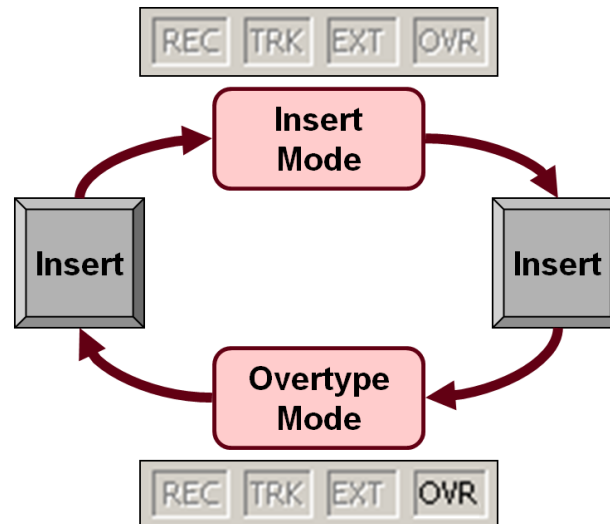


¹ Shneiderman, B., & Plaisant, C. (2005). *Designing the user interface: Strategies for effective human-computer interaction*. (4th ed.). New York: Pearson.

² Norman, D. A. (1988). *The design of everyday things*. New York: Basic Books.

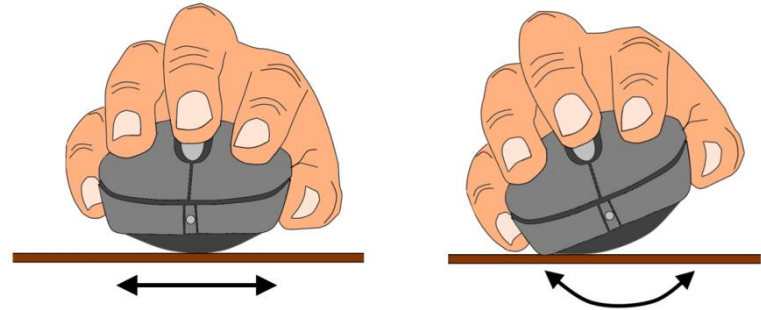
Mode Visibility (2)

- Insert vs. Overtyping mode on MS/Word
- Some variation by version, but the user is in trouble most of the time

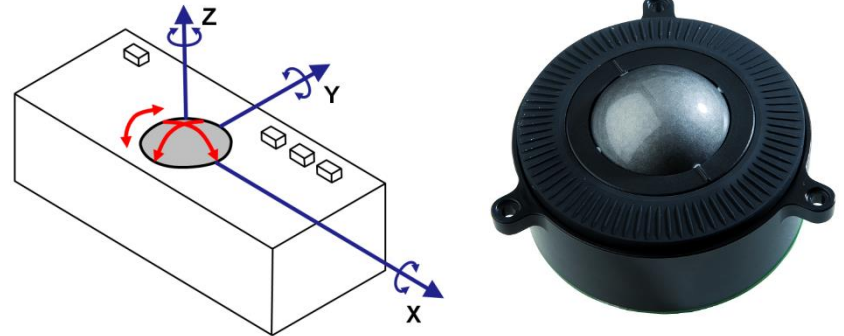


>2 Degrees of Freedom

- Examples in the HCI research literature
- 4 DOF *Rockin' Mouse*¹



- Three-axis trackball²



¹ Balakrishnan, R., Baudel, T., Kurtenbach, G., & Fitzmaurice, G. (1997). The Rockin'Mouse: Integral 3D manipulation on a plane. *Proc CHI '97*, 311-318, New York: ACM.

² Evans, K. B., Tanner, P. P., & Wein, M. (1981). Tablet based valuator that provide one, two, or three degrees of freedom. *Computer Graphics*, 15(3), 91-97.

Separating the Degrees of Freedom

- More DOF is not necessarily better
- Must consider the context of use
- Etch-A-Sketch: separate 1 DOF x and y controllers:



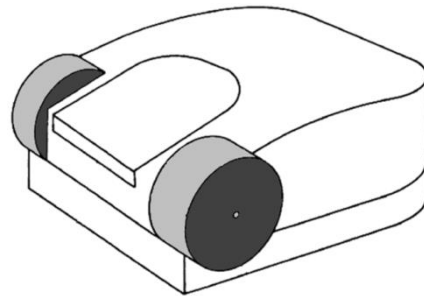
Wheel Mouse

- Separate DOF via a wheel
- Successful introduction by Microsoft in 1996 with the *IntelliMouse* →

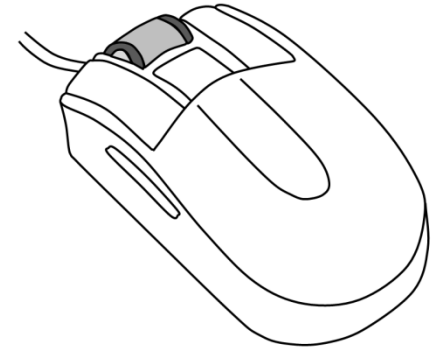


- Preceded by...

RollerMouse¹



ProAgio²



¹ Venolia, D. (1993). Facile 3D manipulation. *Proc CHI '93*, 31-36, New York: ACM.

² Gillick, W. G., & Lam, C. C. (1996). U. S. Patent No. 5,530,455.

Mobile Context

- 1980s: born of mobile computing with PDAs
- 2007: launch of iPhone
- Touchscreens are the full embodiment of direct manipulation
 - No need for a cursor (cf. indirect input)
 - No control/display mappings (Spatial transformations, CD Gain, etc.)



Touch Input Challenges

- Occlusion and accuracy (“fat finger problem”)
- Early research → Offset cursor¹
- Contemporary systems use variations; e.g., offset animation:



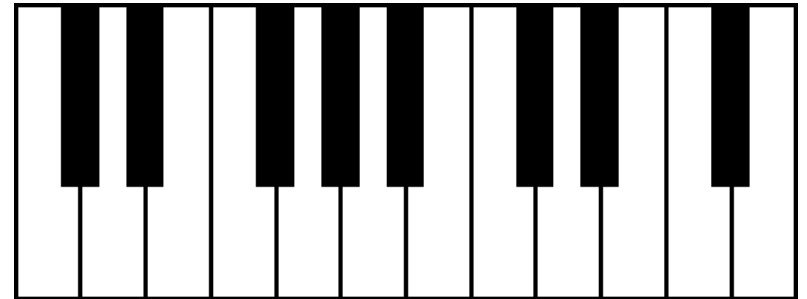
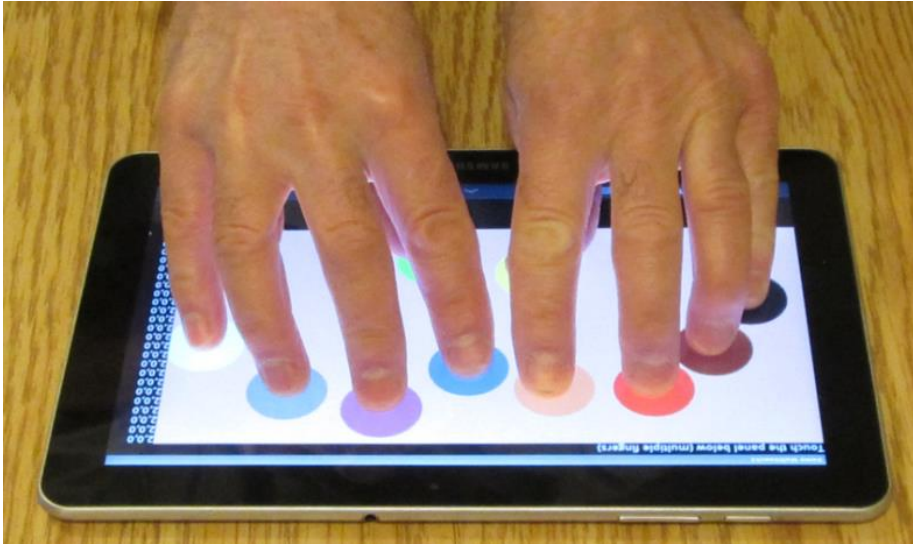
¹ Potter, R., Berman, M., & Shneiderman, B. (1988). An experimental evaluation of three touch screen strategies within a hypertext database. *Int J Human-Computer Interaction*, 1 (1), 41-52.

Multitouch



Multitouch (>2)

- Piano keyboard: pressure data available



Accelerometers

- Accelerometers enable tilt or motion as an input primitive
- Technology has matured; now common in mobile devices
- Many applications; e.g., spatially aware displays:





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QUESTION TIME

Thank You

