

First course of Computer Science

Part VII: GUI - Friendly Interface for users



Goals

- Know the advanced services provided by most OSs – GUI
 - The related IO devices
 - Mechanism
 - Architecture of UIMS – User Interface Management System

- GUI and its history
 - Punched cards, Switches, etc. (before)
 - Character terminal + Keyboard (1960s)
 - Raster display + **WIMP** (1980s)
 - Window, Icon, Menu, Pointing devices
 - Virtual Reality (future): 3D, Multimedia, et c.
- Mechanism of GUI devices
- Support from OS
- Complements

From wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GUI>

- A GUI uses a combination of technologies and devices to provide a platform that the user can interact with, for the tasks of gathering and producing information.
 - A series of elements conforming a visual language have evolved to represent information stored in computers. This makes it easier for people with few computer skills to work with and use computer software.
- The most common combination of such elements in GUIs is the WIMP ("window, icon, menu, pointing device") paradigm, especially in personal computers.
 - The WIMP style of interaction uses a virtual input device to control the position of a pointer and presents information organized in windows and represented with icons.
 - Available commands are compiled together in menus, and actions are performed making gestures with the pointing device. A
 - window manager facilitates the interactions between windows, applications, and the windowing system.
 - The windowing system handles hardware devices such as pointing devices and graphics hardware, as well as the positioning of the pointer.



GUI still follows “Dr. IPO”

- User controls contents, structure, and appearance of objects and their displayed images via rapid visual feedback
- Basic components of an interactive graphics system
 - **i**nput (e.g., mouse, tablet and stylus, force feedback device, scanner…)
 - **p**rocessing (and storage)
 - display/**o**utput (e.g., screen, paper-based printer, video recorder…)

1950, Whirlwind Computer @ MIT

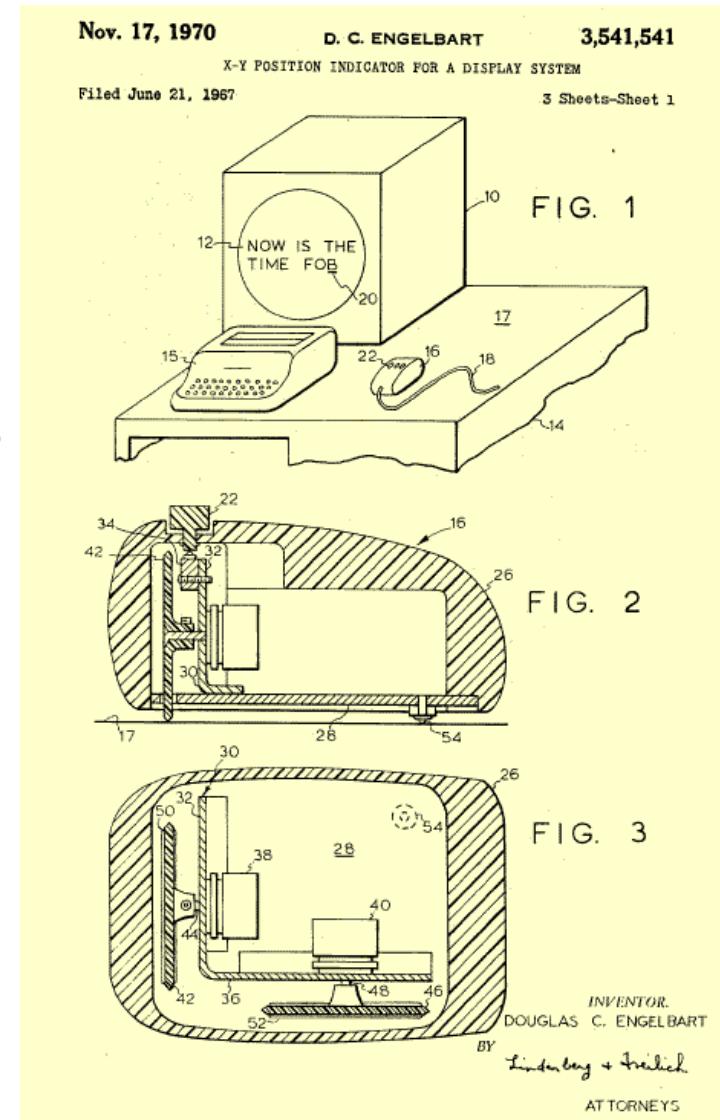
- The first digital computer capable of displaying real time text and graphics on a video terminal
 - which at this time was a large **oscilloscope screen**
- The Whirlwind was also the first computer to use Core Memory for RAM, a storage method that flourished until the 1970's.
 - Core memory permanently stores binary data on tiny donut shaped magnets strung together by a wire grid.



Part XII IO System

GUI History

- In 1962, Douglas Engelbart invented the first “mouse,” which he called an “X-Y Position Indicator.”
- It was a little gizmo housed in a wooden box on wheels that moved around the desktop and took the cursor with it on the display.



Source: US Patent Office

GUI History

- In 1963 a grad student at MIT, Ivan Sutherland, submitted as his thesis a program called “**Sketch pad**.” This was the first GUI (Graphical User Interface) long before the term was coined.”



<http://accad.osu.edu/~waynec/history/images/ivan-sutherland>



“Hall of Fame”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xerox_Alto
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xerox_Star

- In the 1970's, Xerox Labs developed Alto and STAR and introduced mouse pointing and selecting.
 - Xerox never successfully marketed their advances.
 - Apple and its Macintosh computer introduced the graphical user interface to the mass market.

Xerox Alto



Manufacturer	Xerox PARC
Release date	1973; 40 years ago
Units sold	2000
Media	2.5 MB single-platter cartridge
CPU	Bit-slice processor based on TI 74181
Memory	128-512 kB
Input	Keyboard, 3-button mouse, 5-key chord keyset
Related articles	Xerox Star ; Apple Lisa , Macintosh

The Xerox Alto monitor has a portrait orientation.

Xerox Star



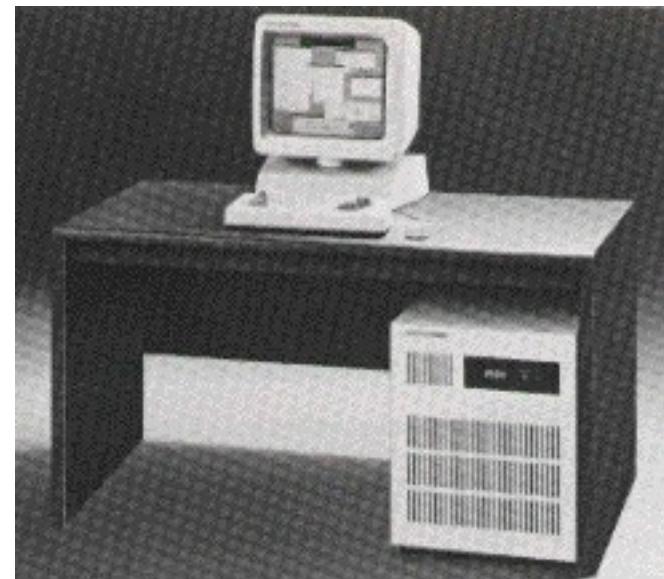
Developer	Xerox
Manufacturer	Xerox
Type	Workstation
Connectivity	Ethernet

Part X

Xerox Star 8010

GUI History

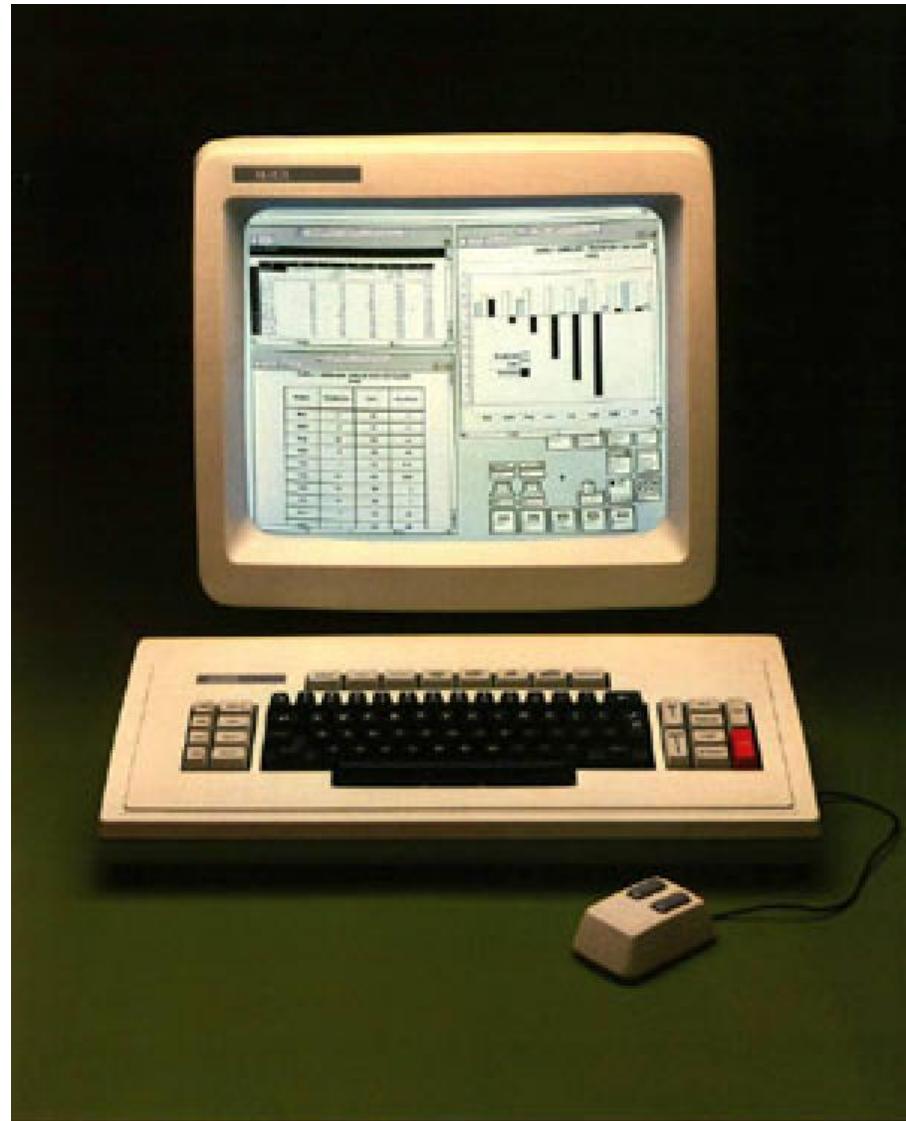
- In the 1970s, at Xerox's PARC facility, Alan Kay created an object-oriented graphical programming language called "Smalltalk." Smalltalk featured a graphical user interface (GUI) that looked suspiciously similar to later iterations from both Apple and Microsoft.



<http://www.sra.co.jp/people/aoki/SqueakDioms/chapter01/Xerox1100SIP.jpg>

GUI History

- 1981, Xerox attempted to market the “Star.” It introduced the idea of what you see is what you get (WYSIWYG).
- Commercial failure
 - cost (\$15,000);
 - IBM had just announced a less expensive machine
 - limited functionality
 - e.g., no spreadsheet
 - closed architecture,
 - 3rd party vendors could not add applications
 - perceived as slow
 - but really fast!
 - slavish adherence to direct manipulation



Screenshot of Xerox's Star

Example ViewPoint Document Close Save Reset Save&Edit

XEROX
6085 Workstation

User-Interface Design

To make it easy to compose text and graphics, to do electronic filing, printing, and mailing all at the same workstation, requires a revolutionary user interface design.

Bit-map display - Each of the pixels on the 19" screen is mapped to a bit in memory; thus, arbitrarily complex images can be displayed. The 6085 displays all fonts and graphics as they will be printed. In addition, familiar office objects such as documents, folders, file drawers and in-baskets are portrayed as recognizable images.

The mouse - A unique pointing device that allows the user to quickly select any text, graphic or office object on the display.

See and Point

All functions are visible to the user on the keyboard or on the screen. The user does filing and retrieval by selecting them with the mouse and touching the MOVE, COPY, DELETE or PROPERTIES command keys. Text and graphics are edited with the same keys.

DISPLAY: see and point office objects

KEYBOARD: edit, move, copy objects

MOUSE: select objects, move

Shorter Production Times:

Experience at Xerox with prototype work stations has shown shorter production times and thus lower costs, as a function of the percentage of use of the workstations. The following equation can be used to express this:

$$W(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i + P_i x}{\text{denominator} +}$$

Workstation usage percentages Table 1 and illustrated in Figure 6085 users are likely to do more composition and layout, centre process including printing and di

12294 Free Disk Pages Help

Brother Dominick N.H. Local Kevin J. Outbaskie Mail Merge Mail from Ken Calendar Calc Loader Blank User Dictionary Blank Record File Blank Document Monthly Profit Blank Folder Blank Illustrator Blank Canvas Blank Book Remote Files Example ViewPo 4427 Blank Reference D-OS & Lotus Swaps Wasted Basket Directory

9:27:24 10-29-86

Table 1: Percentages of use of methods.

Activity under the old and the new methods

0 50 100

1978 1980 1982 1984 1986 1988

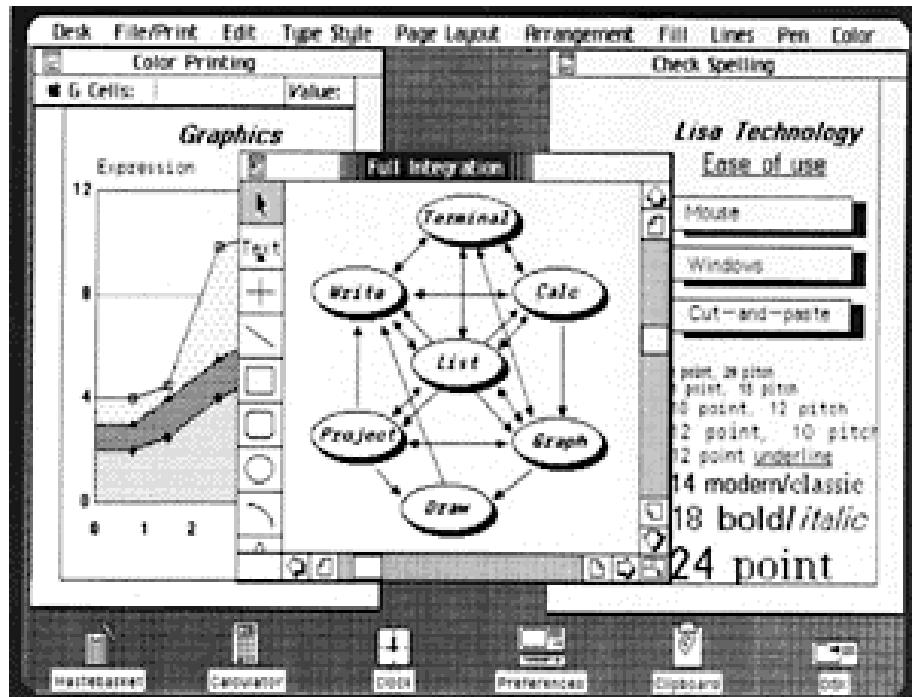
Figure 1: Data from Table 1 drive

DOS & Lotus data: Close Redisplay

NAME	EXTENSION	SIZE	DATE
COMMAND	COM	22677	15-Nov-85
ANSI	SYS	2556	18-Sept-85
ASSIGN	COM	364	28-Nov-85
ATTRIB	EXE	15091	14-Nov-85
BACKUP	COM	17024	20-Nov-85
CHKDSK	COM	9435	24-Oct-85
CHMOD	COM	6528	27-Nov-85
COMP	COM	3018	10-Nov-85
DEBUG	EXE	15364	15-Nov-85

Apple gets a GUI

- In 1983, the Apple Lisa was first GUI offering.



Apple II,
1980

<http://www.s-line.de/homepages/horber-privat/bilder/apple2a.jpg>



Lisa

<http://fp3.antelcom.net/gcifu/applemuseum/lisa2.html>

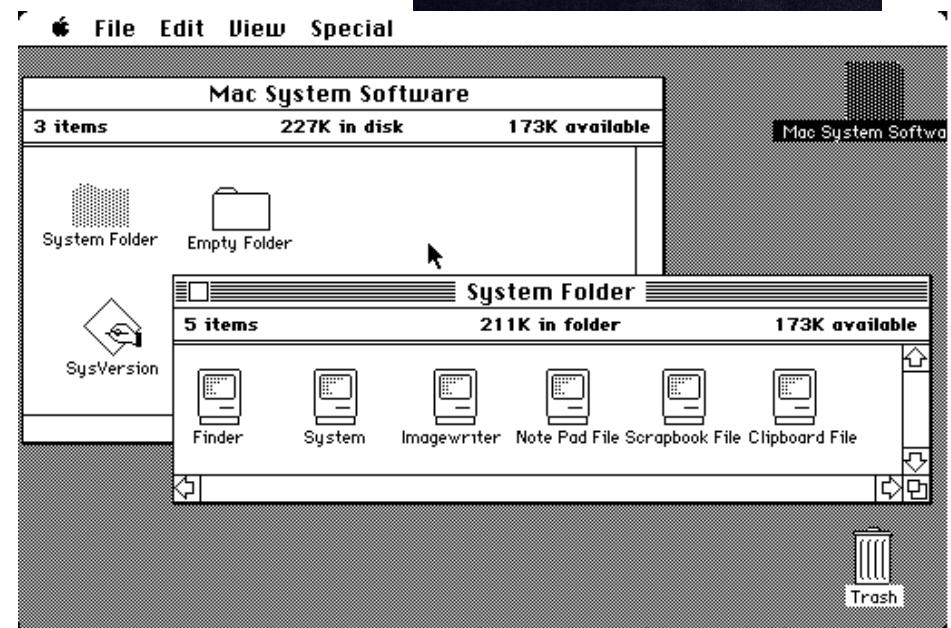
Apple gets a GUI

<http://computermuseum.50megs.com/images/collection/apple-mac-pl>

- In 1984, Macintosh was the first computer with a GUI marketed to the masses.
 - “old ideas” but well done!
- Commercial success because:
 - aggressive pricing (\$2500)
 - did not need to trail blaze
 - learned from mistakes of Lisa and corrected them; ideas now “mature”
 - market now ready for them
 - developer’s toolkit encouraged 3rd party non-Apple software
 - interface guidelines encouraged consistency between applications
 - domination in desktop publishing because of affordable laser printer and excellent graphics
 - Full Microsoft Office suite (Apple was the dominant player)



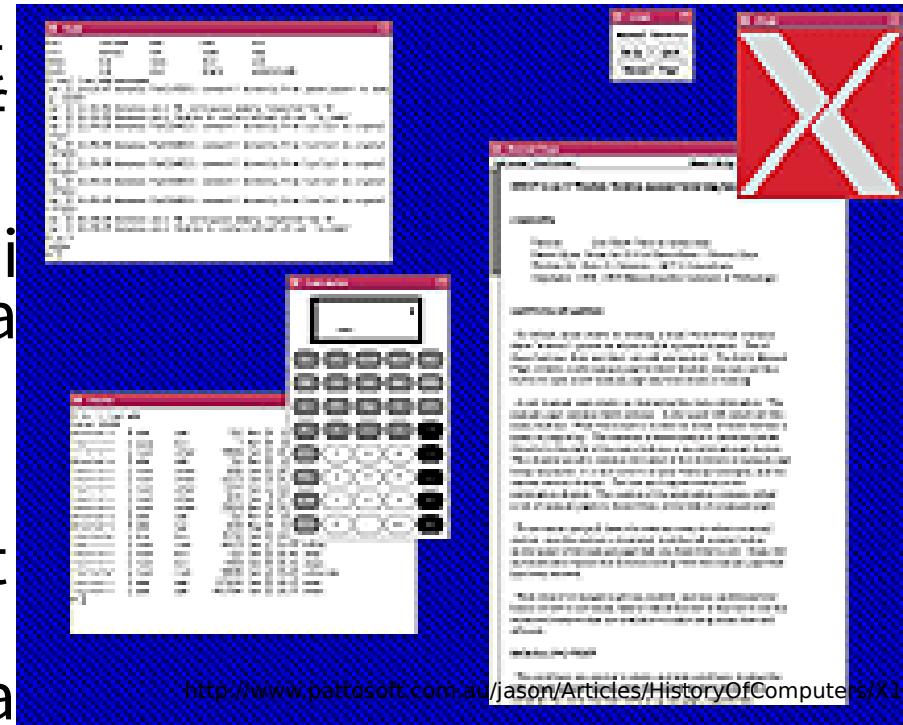
© Erik Klooster



<http://toastytech.com/guis/bigmac1.gif>

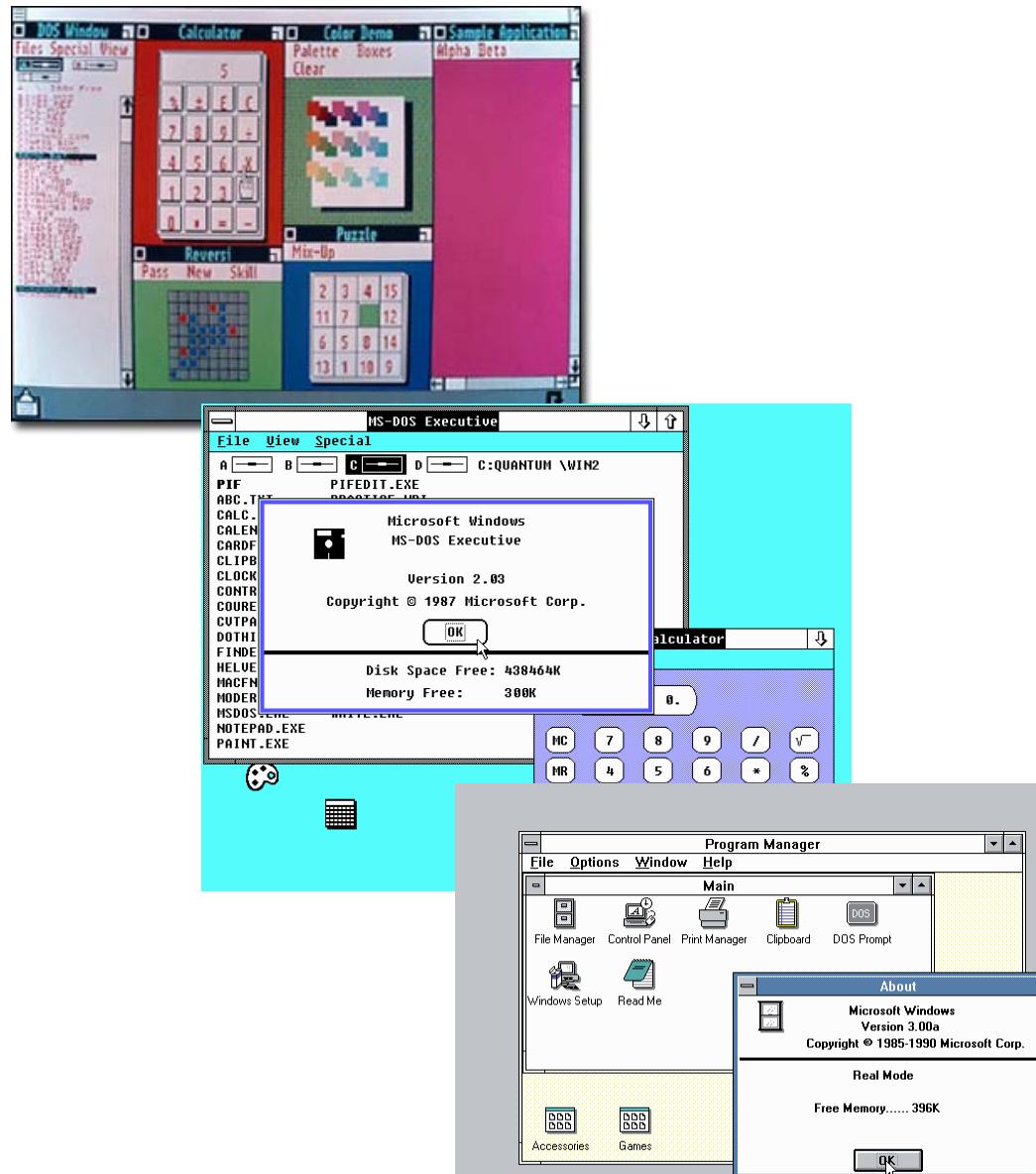
Unix Gets a GUI

- The X Windows System was introduced in the mid-1980s to provide graphical support for unix operating systems.
- The implementation was a client-server approach, where an X window system server ran on the displaying machine, and the client programs communicated with it using a network protocol.
- X provides only a communication *mechanism, not policy*. At least three major user interface look & feel styles are widely used on X - MIT's own Athena style, Sun and AT&T's OpenLook, and OSF's Motif (supported primarily by HP and IBM).



Microsoft Gets a GUI

- Microsoft introduced Windows 1.0 in 1985
 - Tiled Windows, no overlapping
- Windows 2.03 in 1987
 - Overlapping windows
- Windows 3.0 in 1990
 - Features Program Manager

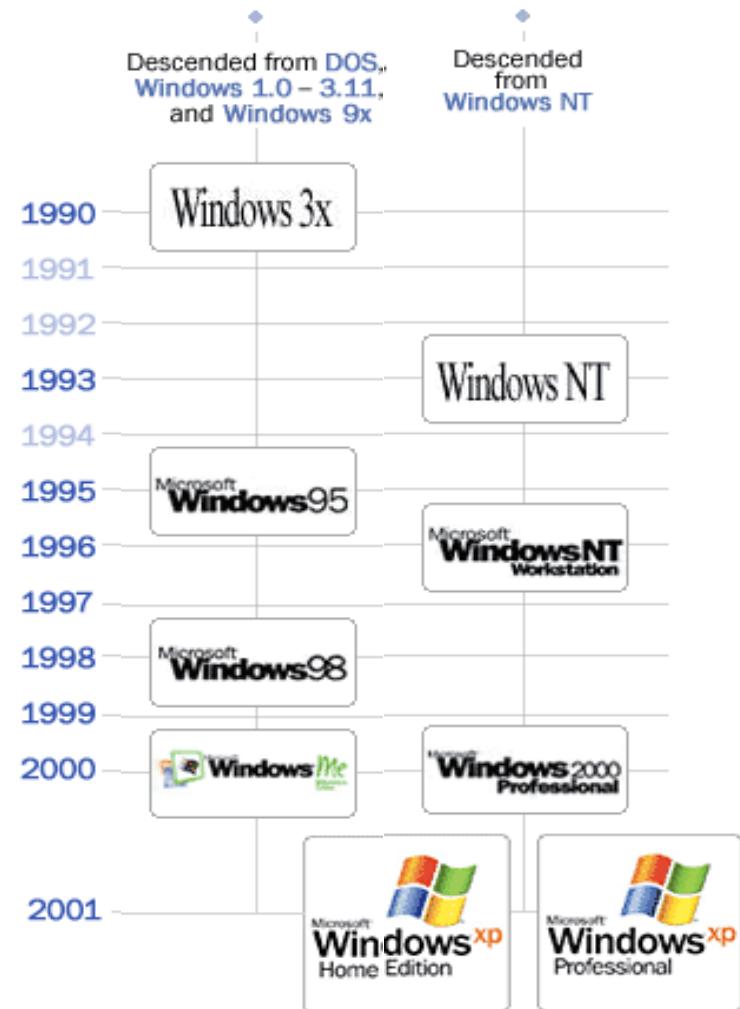


Shells

- Unix and DOS operating systems circa 1980s do support text-based user interfaces via a program called a shell. These shells insert another layer between the user and the operating system. Typical text shells under unix are csh and ksh. The typical text shell under microsoft is command.com. It is still emulated today by cmd.exe.
- Original unix and Microsoft GUI support was also implemented as shells. The dominant unix GUI library became an open library called X11 supported by the X.org foundation. Microsoft introduced Windows 1.0 as a shell that ran on a layer above MS-DOS.
- The original Apple GUI is embedded into its operating system kernel. Windows migrated to embedding GUI support beginning with Windows NT.

Windows Timeline

- It took roughly 15 years to consolidate its shell-based GUI architecture offerings with its embedded GUI architecture offerings.



Now: Graphics for the masses!

What enabled the sudden shift?

Chief hardware advances:

1. Cheap RAM
 - graphics buffers are memory hogs
 2. Success of raster graphics (vs. vector)
 - display (CRT) could be like cheap TV
 3. Fast, cheap CPUs
 - calculations for drawing & rendering fonts
- All thanks to **integrated circuit** technology!

- GUI and its history
- Mechanism of GUI devices
 - **Composing figures** in VC's Memory, and **Painting dots** on Raster display
- Support from OS
- Complements

Computer graphic system

- 5 major elements
 - Processor/CPU
 - Memory
 - Frame buffer
 - Input devices
 - Output Devices

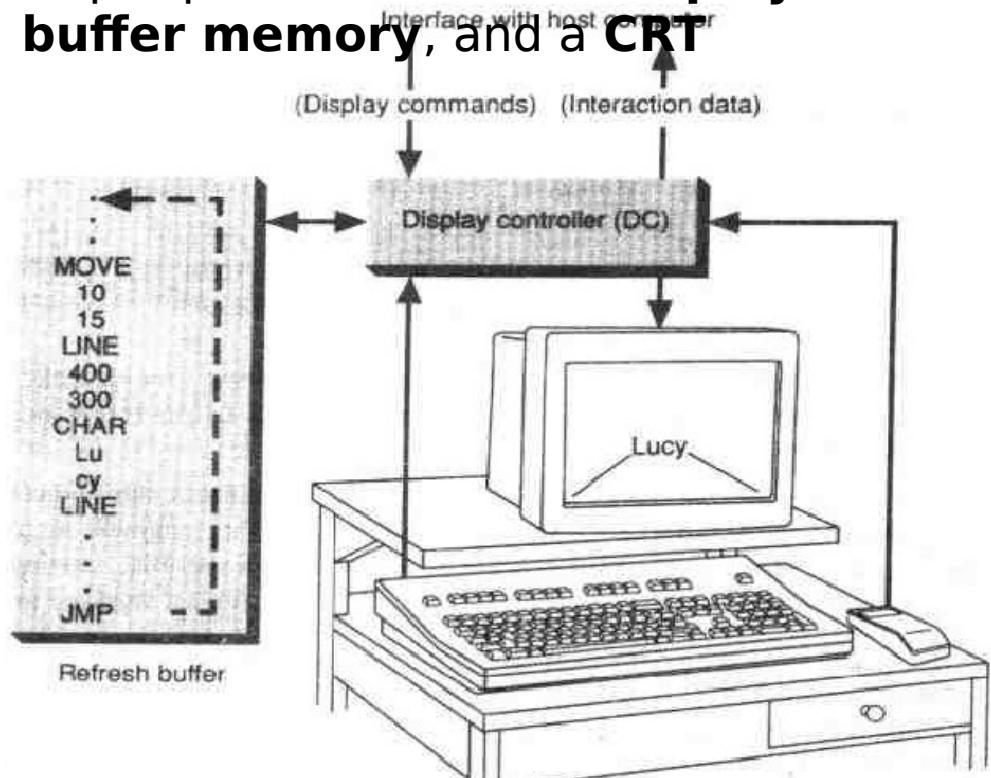
Res-GUI\02_GraphicDevices.ppt

http://www.informatics.buu.ac.th/~kubola/310355/Lectures/02_GraphicDevices.ppt

Mechanism of GUI devices

- 1966 ~ 1980
- Vector display
 - The display devices developed in mid-sixties and in common use until the mid-eighties are called vector, stroke, line drawing or calligraphic display.
 - Term vector is used as a synonym for line here; a stroke is a short line, and characters are made of sequences of such strokes

A typical vector system consists of a **display processor** (connected as an IO peripheral to CPU), a **display buffer memory**, and a **CRT**

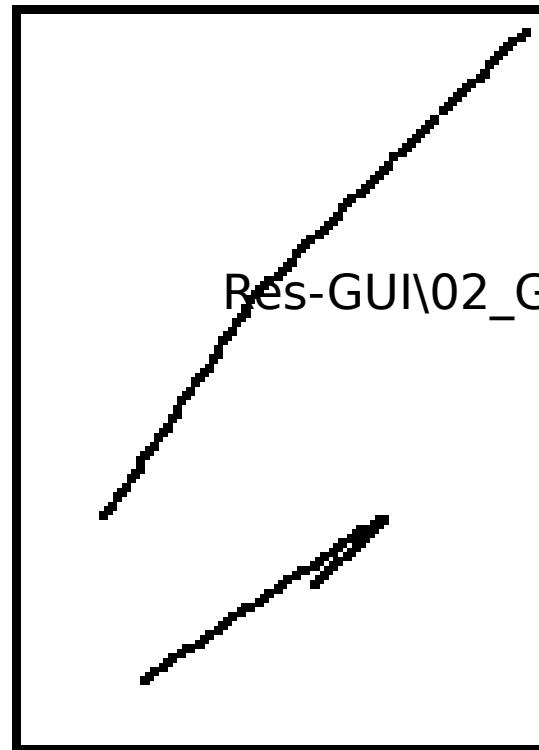


The buffer stores the computer-produced display list or display program; it contains point- and line-plotting commands with (x, y) or (x, y, z) endpoint coordinates, as well as character plotting commands.

- Calligraphic Displays Res-GUI\02_GraphicDevices.p
 - also called vector, stroke or line drawing graphics
 - lines drawn directly on phosphor
 - display processor directs electron beam according to list of lines defined in a "**display list**"
 - phosphors glow for only a few micro-seconds so lines must be redrawn or **refreshed** constantly
 - deflection speed limits # of lines that can be drawn without flicker.

```
moveto(10,30)  
lineto(30,60)  
lineto(70,100)  
moveto(40,20)  
lineto(50,30)  
lineto(15,7)
```

display file



screen

- Images are described in terms of line segments rather than pixels.
- Display processor cycles through the commands

Also 1960s - DVST Direct View Storage Tube 直观存贮显象管

- The commands for plotting points, lines, and characters are interpreted by the display processor.
- It sends digital and point coordinates to a vector generator that converts the digital coordinate values to **analog voltages** for beam-deflection circuits that displace an electron beam writing on CRT's phosphor coating

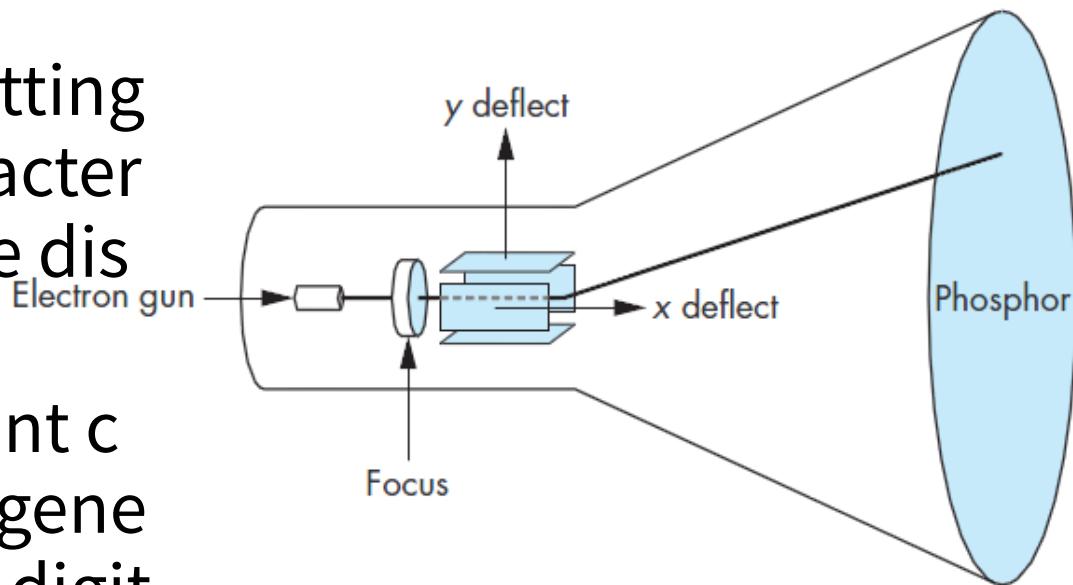


FIGURE 1.3 The cathode-ray tube (CRT).



- Raster Display [栅格显示器]
 - Display **primitives** (lines, shaded regions, characters) stored as pixels in **refresh buffer** (or **frame buffer**)
 - Electron beam scans a regular pattern of horizontal raster lines connected by horizontal retraces and vertical retrace
 - Video controller coordinates the repeated scanning
 - Pixels are individual dots on a raster line

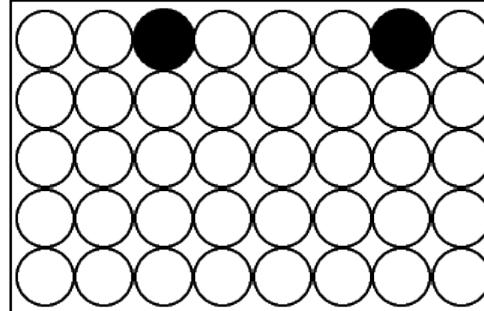
http://www.informatics.buu.ac.th/~kubola/310355/Lectures/02_GraphicDevices.ppt

Move(2,0)
Line(4,4)
Move(-4,0)
Line(4,-4)

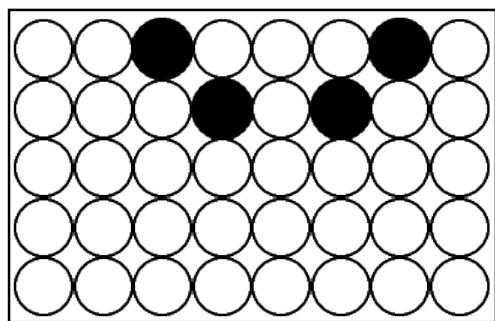
commands in
display list

00100010
00010100
00001000
00010100
00100010

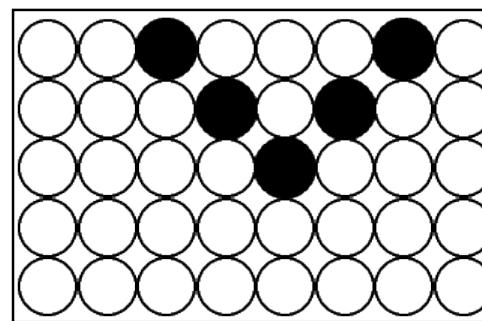
frame
buffer



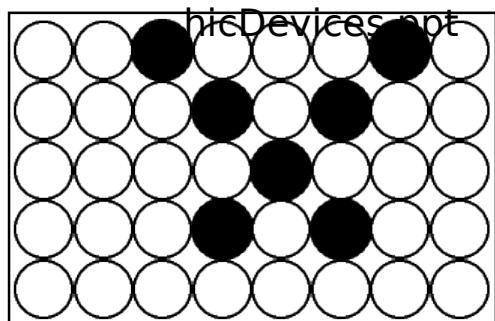
screen after
1 scan lines



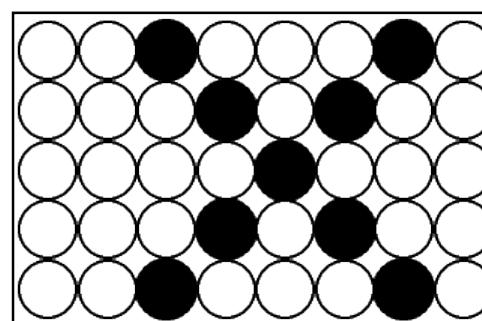
screen after
2 scan lines



screen after
3 scan lines



screen after
4 scan lines

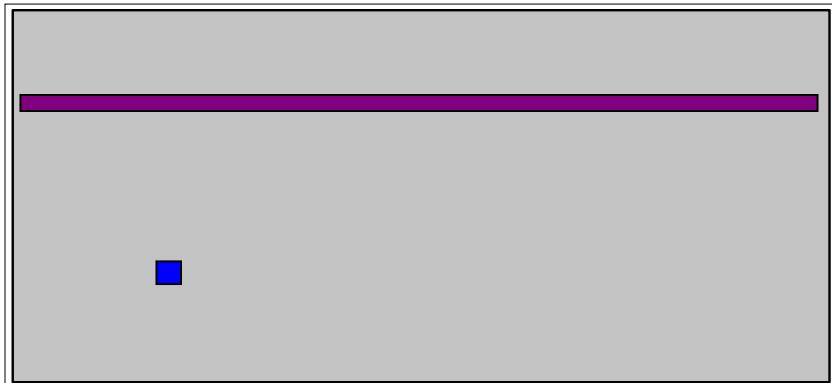


screen after
5 scan lines

http://www.informatics.buu.ac.th/~kubola/310355/Lectures/02_GraphicDevices.pdf

Basic Definitions

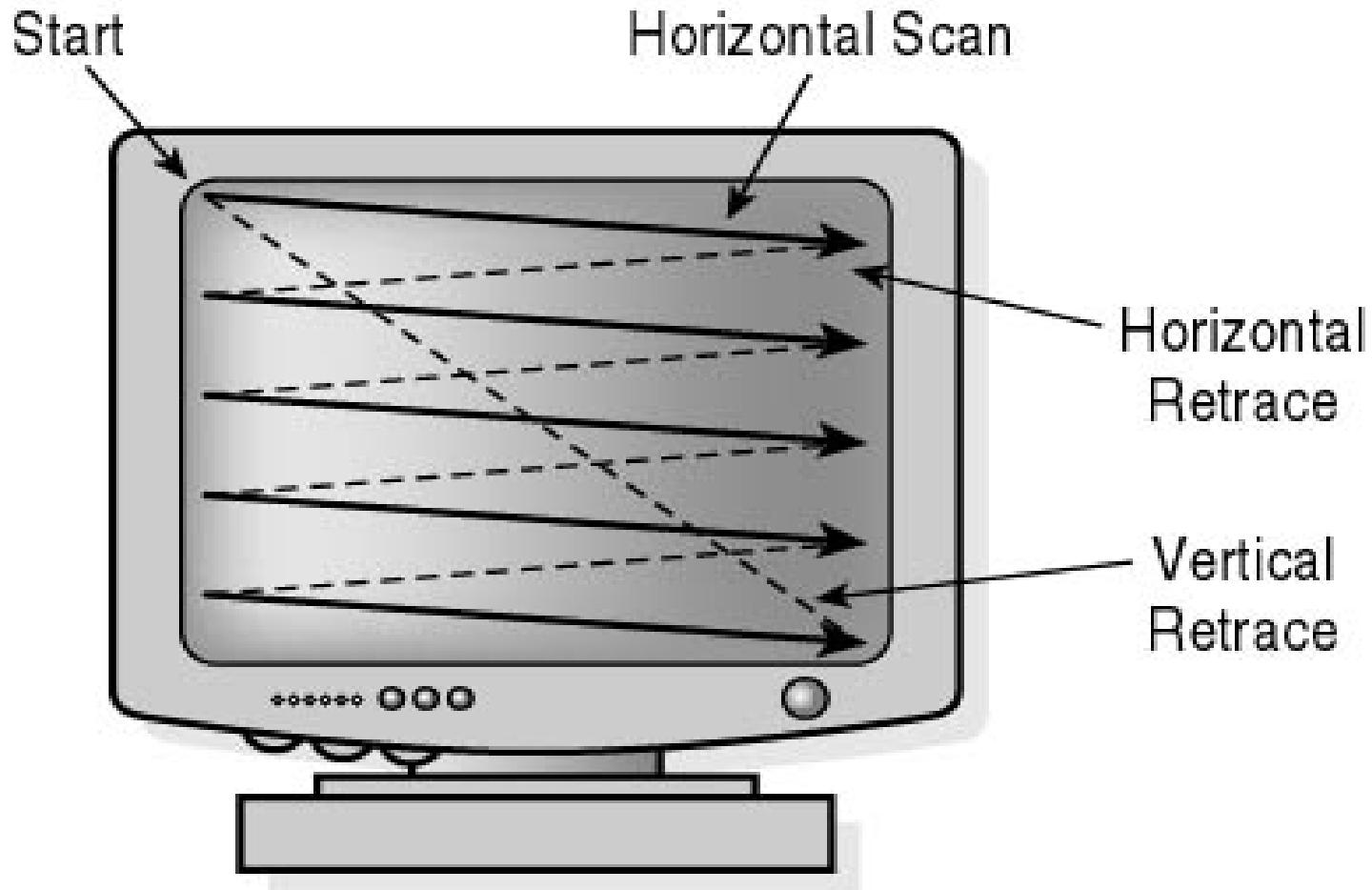
- Raster: A rectangular array of points or dots.
- Pixel (Pel): One dot or picture element of the raster
- Scan line: A row of pixels



Video raster devices display an image by sequentially drawing out the pixels of the scan lines that form the raster.

Refresh Rates and Bandwidth

- Frames per second (FPS)
- TV (interlaced) $30 \text{ FPS} \times 1/4 = 8 \text{ MB/s}$



Interlaced



Odd lines
Field 1

Even lines
Field 2



Field 1 + Field 2 = Frame (complete image)

Display Rate: 60 fields per second (North America)

Then, new architecture for GUI

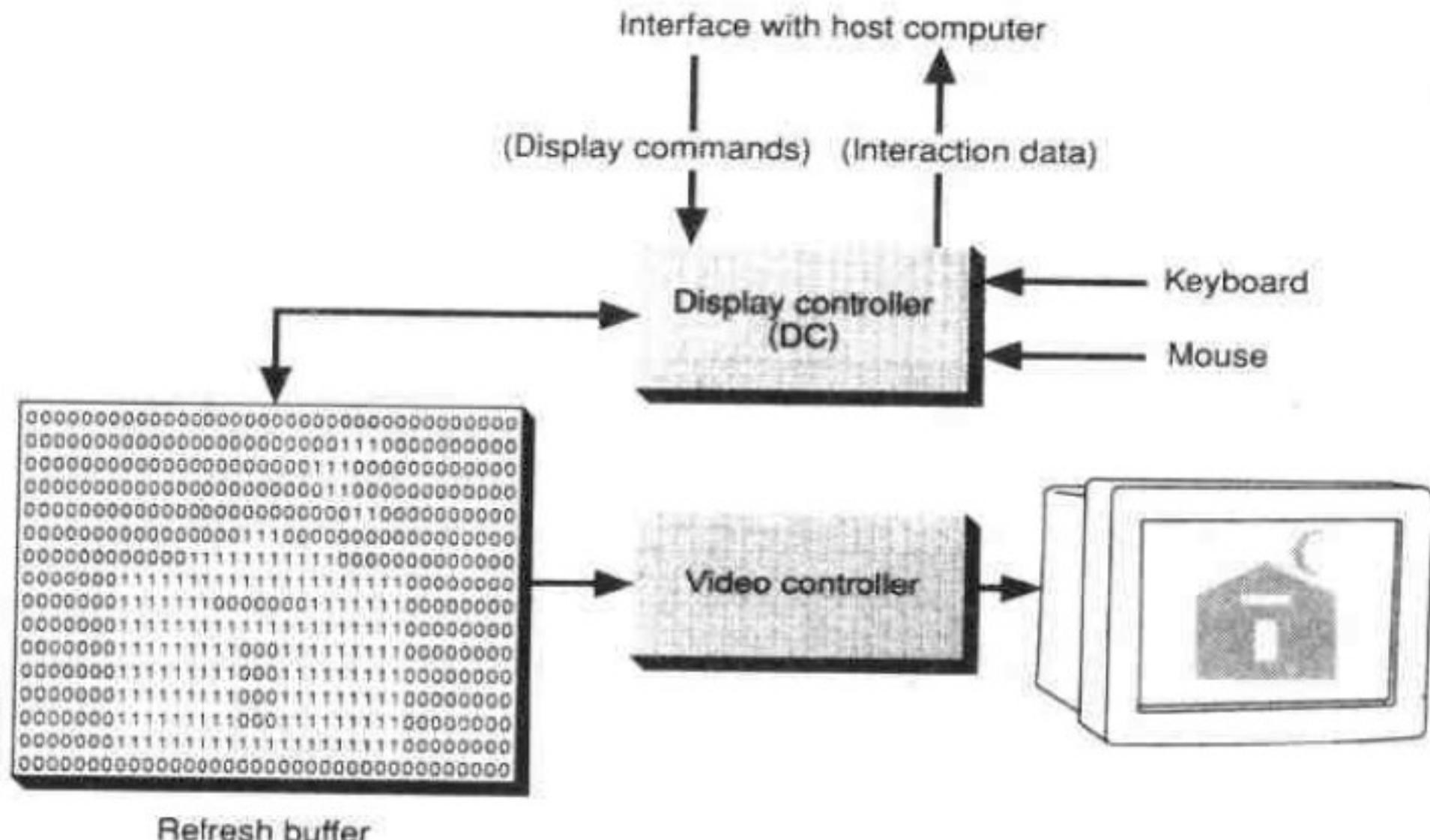
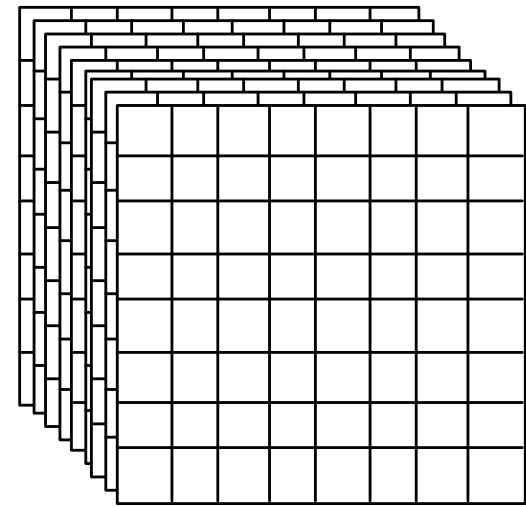


Fig. 1.2 Architecture of a raster display.

Frame Buffer

- A frame buffer is characterized by size, x, y, and pixel depth.
- the **resolution** of a frame buffer is the number of pixels in the display . e.g. 1024x1024 pixels.
- Bit Planes or Bit Depth is the number of bits corresponding to each pixel. This determines the **color resolution** of the buffer.

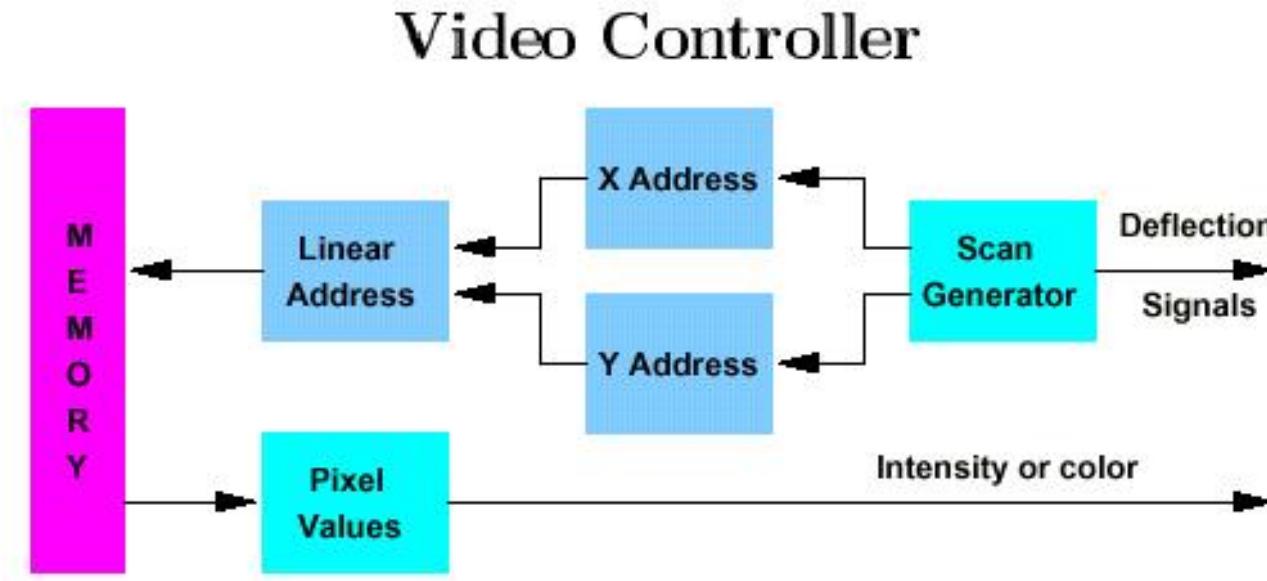


Bilevel or monochrome displays have 1 bit/pixel

8bits/pixel -> 256 simultaneous colors

24bits/pixel -> 16 million simultaneous colors

Video Controller

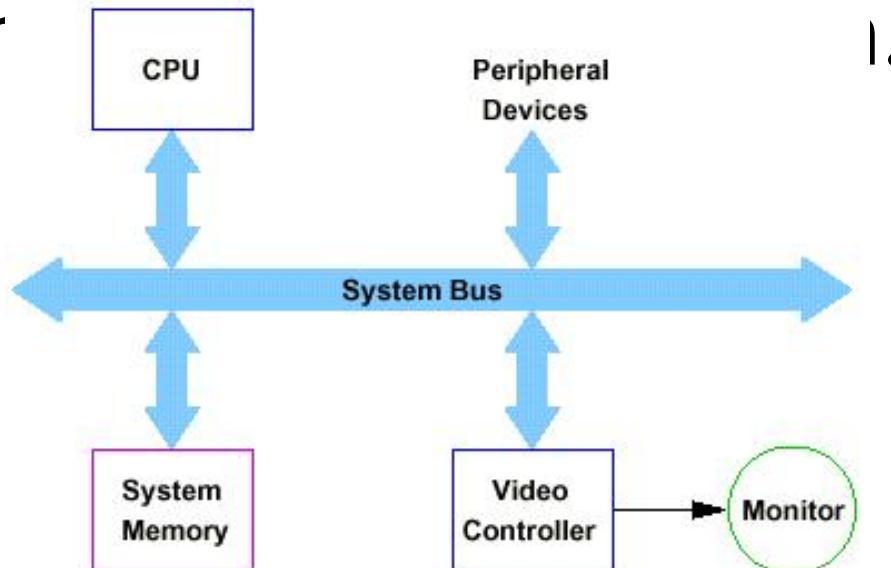


- Problems with memory access { 50 ns pixel time ($480 \times 640 \times 60$ Hz) is shorter than typical 200 ns RAM cycle time.
 - - Must fetch multiple pixels per access.
 - - Can eat up a lot of memory bandwidth.
 - - Can eat up a lot of main bus bandwidth if so organized.

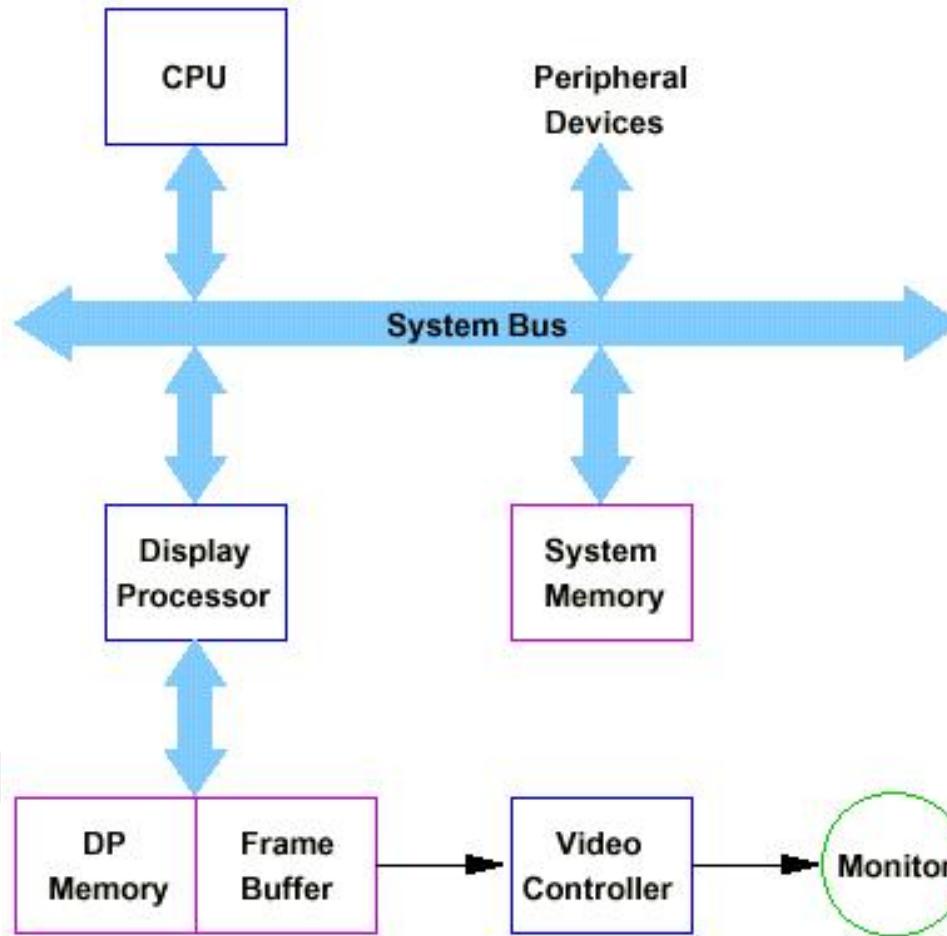
Simple Raster systems

http://www.informatics.buu.ac.th/~kubola/310355/Lectures/02_GraphicDevices.ppt

- No special graphics processing except **video controller**. Two basic frame-buffer mappings.
- **Single ported** frame buffer
- Passes video information over system bus.
- Simple and flexible.
- Problem



- Graphics process or has its local memory and manages the frame buffer and specialized graphics programs.
- Typical architecture for "plug in" graphics cards.



Example: GeForce 256

http://www.informatics.buu.ac.th/~kubola/310355/Lectures/02_GraphicDevices.ppt

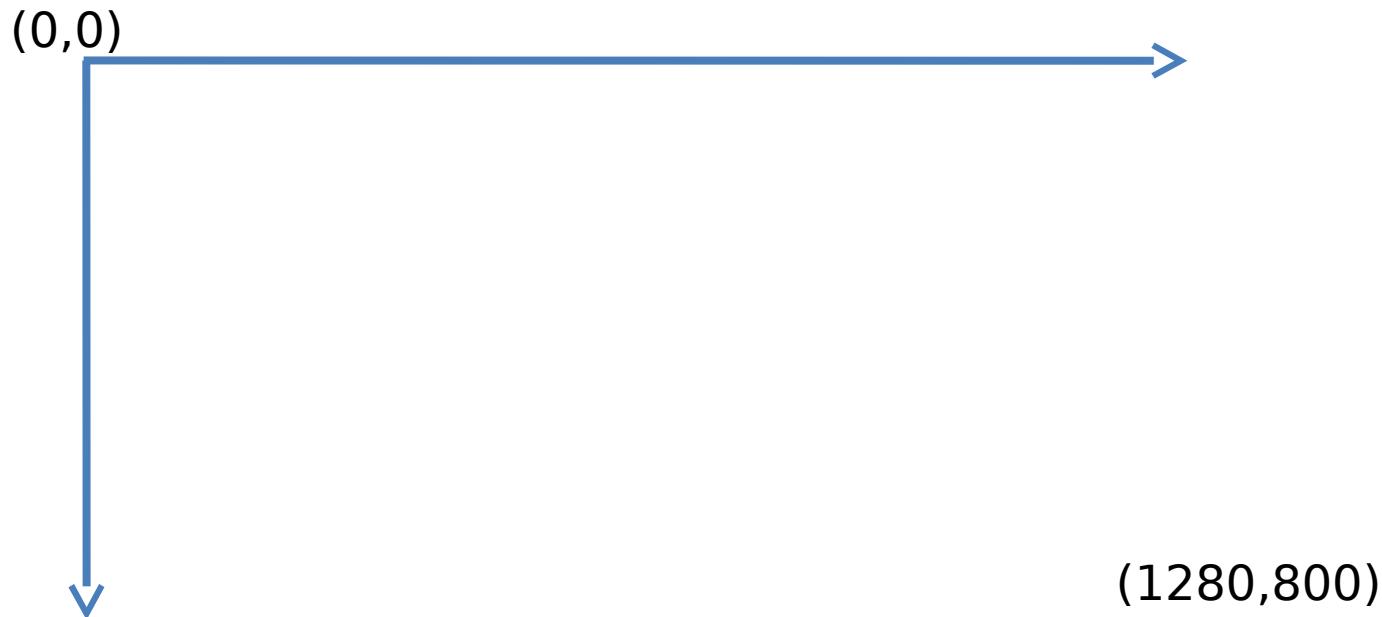
- Released in 1999.
 - One chip solution; 2D and 3D support. 2D includes MPEG-2 (DVD) decoder.
 - RAM from 32MB-128MB
 - GeForce GPU (graphics processing unit) has 23 million transistors ... more than Intel P1



- GUI and its history
- Mechanism of GUI devices
- Support from OS
 - Based on Device management
 - A special course named “**Computer Graphics**”
 - Interactions are based on event driven programs
- Complements

Logic of GUI

- With the VC (of course its drivers), GUI could be seen as a region you can draw pictures
 - It first defines a **DESKTOP** area – the display region, but with coordinate different from Cartesian coordinate
 - Figures are put into VC's memory, the controller then show them in the display – CRT, LED, ...



Logic of GUI

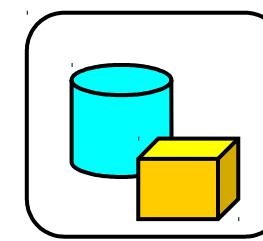
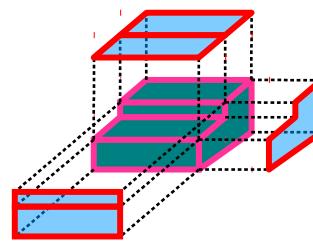
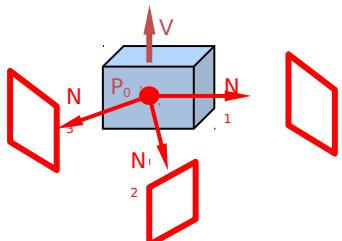
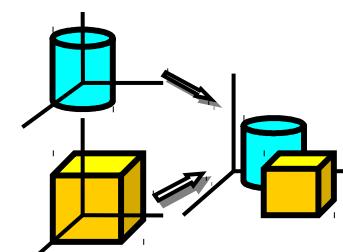
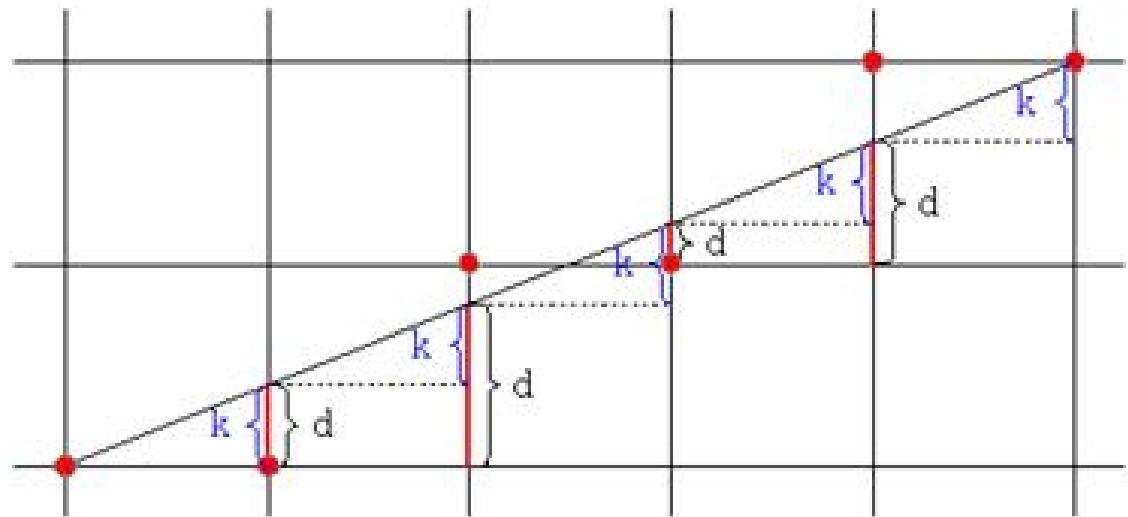
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHIGS>

- Beyond VC, there is another layer to provide Graphic Output Primitives (line, arc, region, ...) defined in some standard **GSS** (Graphic Support Software)
 - There are many standards – GKS, PHIGS, CGI



- A special course named Computer Graphics (CG), which aims to consider how to represent figures

How to draw lines by using dots?



How to represent 2-/3-D by transformation matrices?

Logic of GUI

- Similar with the relationship between basic data type (int, char) and compound data type (struct, union), it's convenient to provide higher abstraction based on primitives, that is the GUI components – WIMP
 - Called Graphic Application Software, like OpenGL, DirectX



- The most important type of graph we use is a tree. A (connected) tree is a directed graph without closed paths or loops.

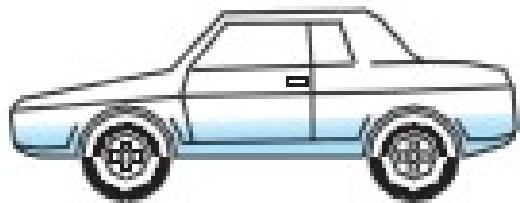


FIGURE 8.4 Automobile model.

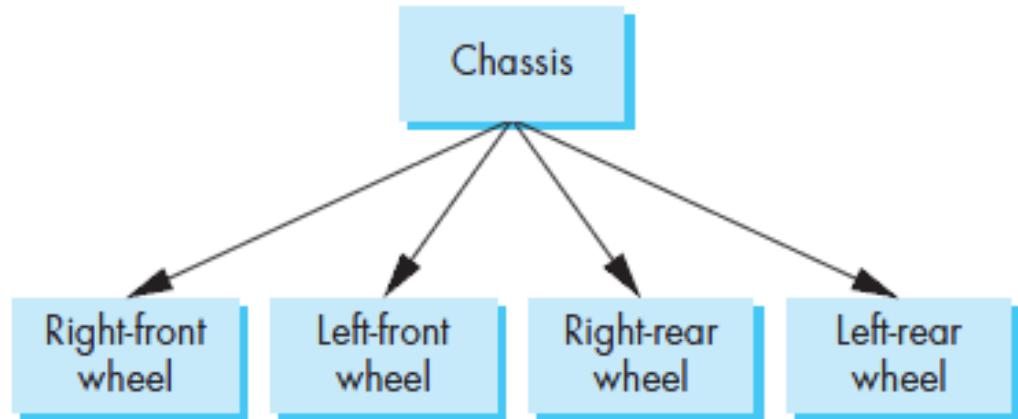


FIGURE 8.6 Tree structure for an automobile.

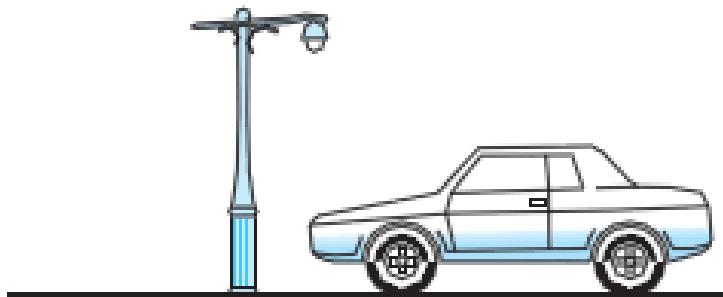
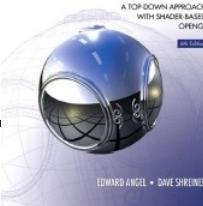


FIGURE 8.5 Two frames of animation.



INTERACTIVE
COMPUTER
GRAPHICS

A TOP-DOWN APPROACH
WITH SHADER-BASED
OPENCODE

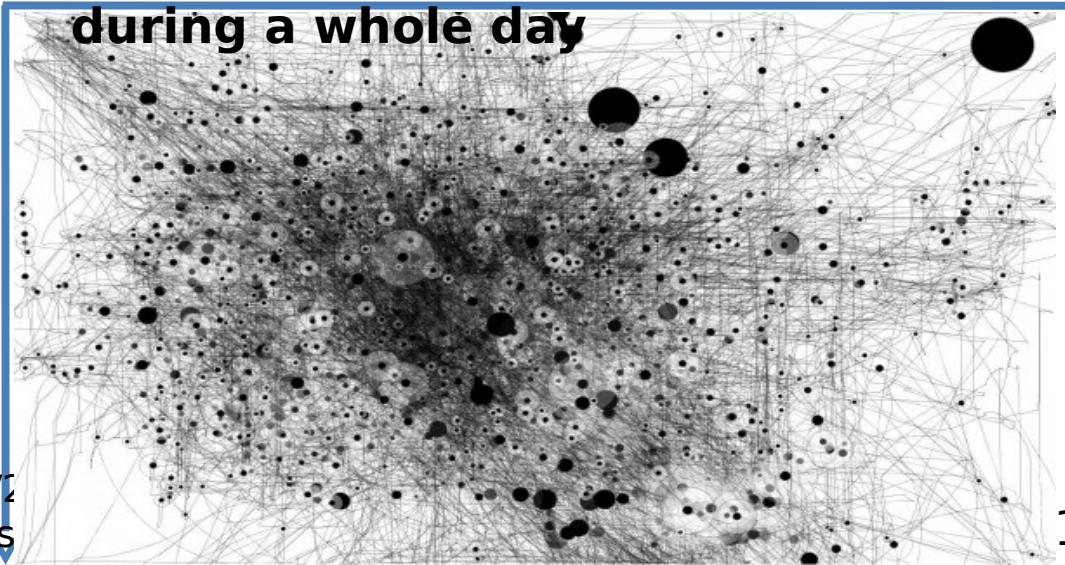
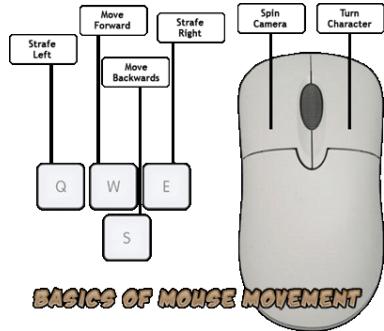


EDWARD ANGEL • DAVE SHREINER

Logic of GUI

- With **INTERRUPT**, OS can capture the position of your mouse as well as the input from keyboard, and then send messages to combine position with functions connected with GUI components
 - This is called **event driven** mechanism

(0,0) **Mouse movement captured and mapped during a whole day**



1280,800)

Part XII IO System

<http://www.artlayer.com/mouse-movement-screen-mapping>

<http://aggronaut.com/207/keyboard-turning-is-your-raid/>

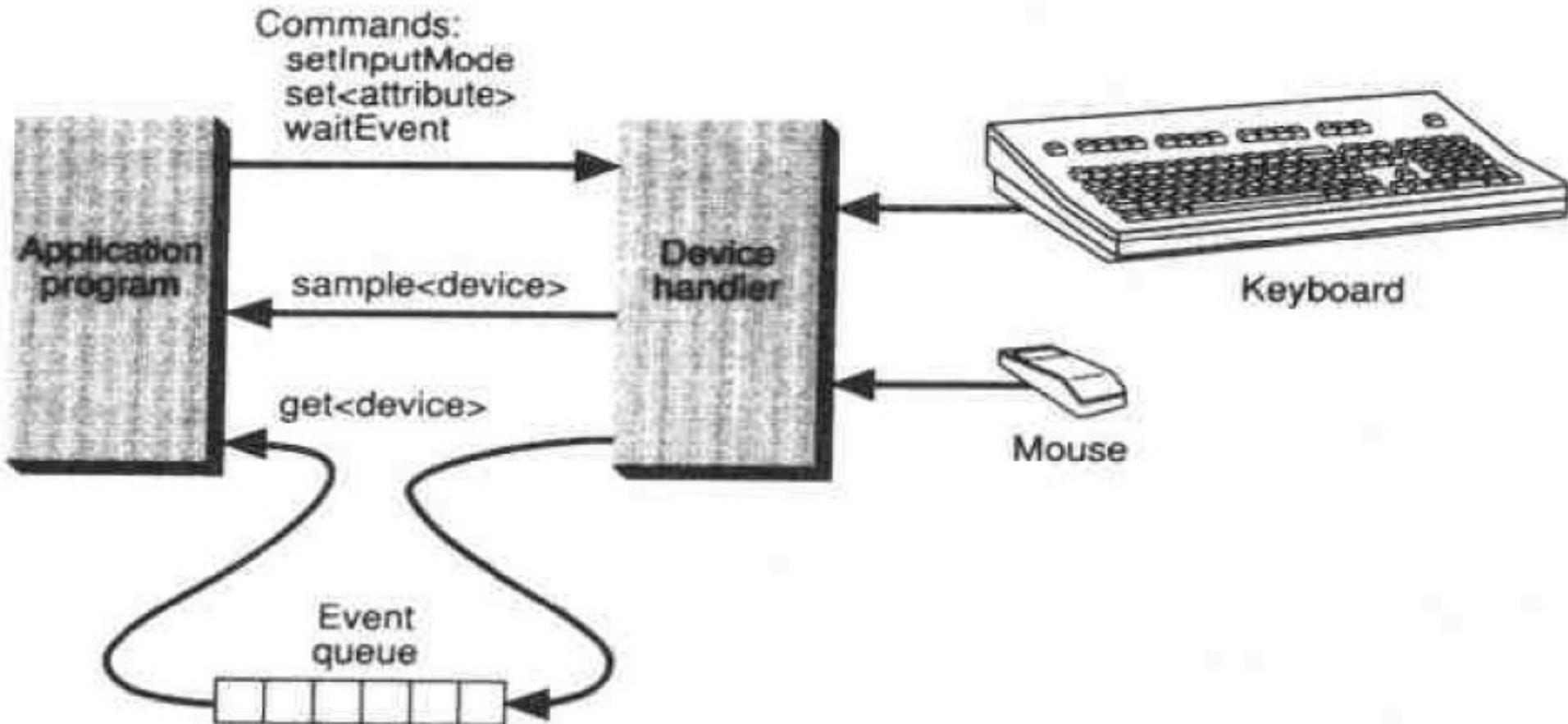


Fig. 2.16 Sampling versus event-handling using the event queue.

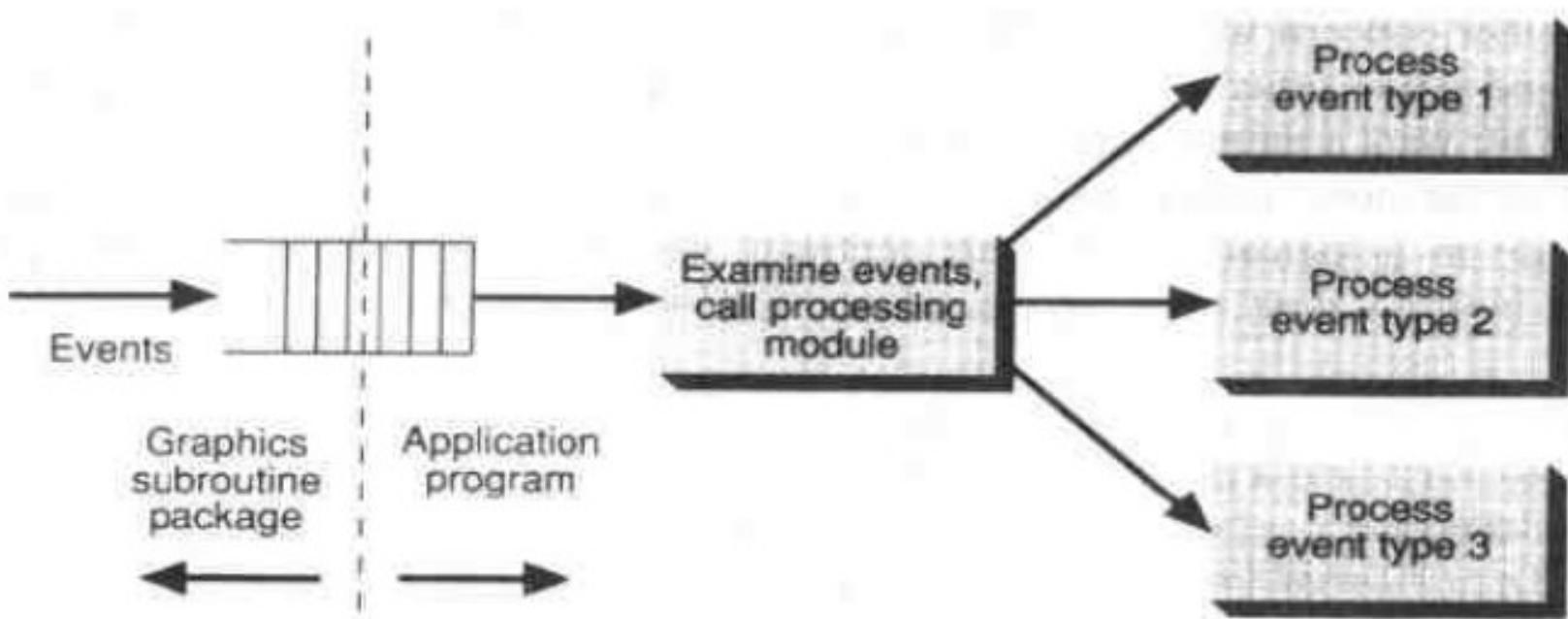


Fig. 10.2 The application program removes events from the queue and dispatches control to the appropriate procedure, which processes them.

*initialize, including generating the initial image;
activate interactive device(s) in event mode;
while (user has not requested quit) { /* main event loop */
 wait for user-triggered event on any of several devices;
 switch (device that caused event) {
 case DEVICE_1: collect DEVICE_1 event measure data, process, respond;
 case DEVICE_2: collect DEVICE_2 event measure data, process, respond;
 . . .
 }
}*

Fig. 2.17 Event-driven interaction scheme.

Application programmer's model of graphics system

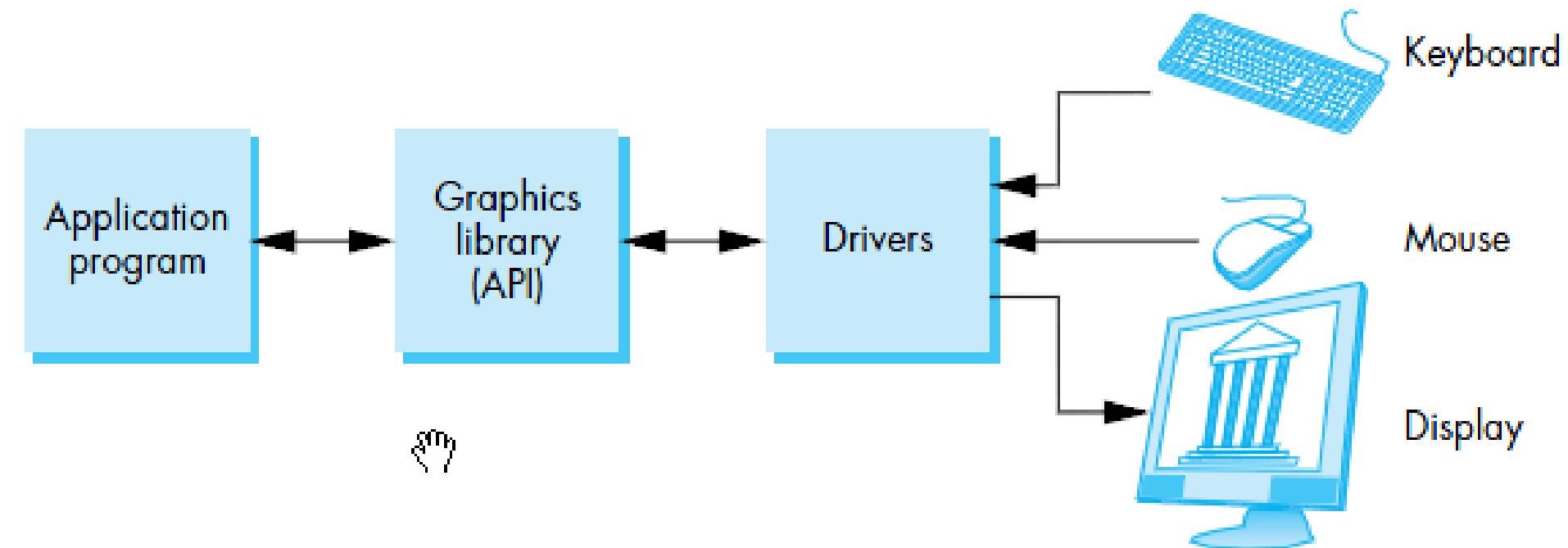
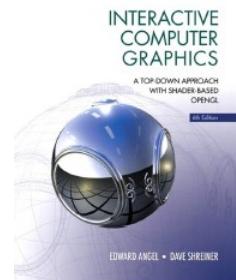
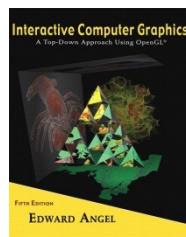


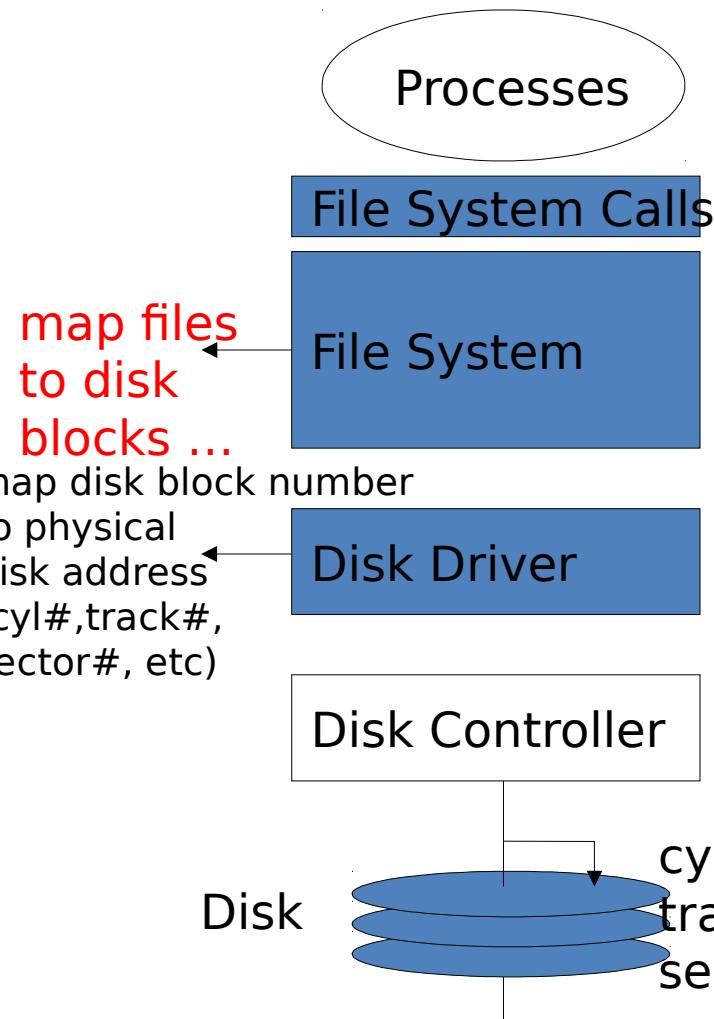
FIGURE 1.28 Application programmer's model of graphics system.



<http://www.pearsonhighered.com/educator/academic/product/0,3110,0321535863,00.html>

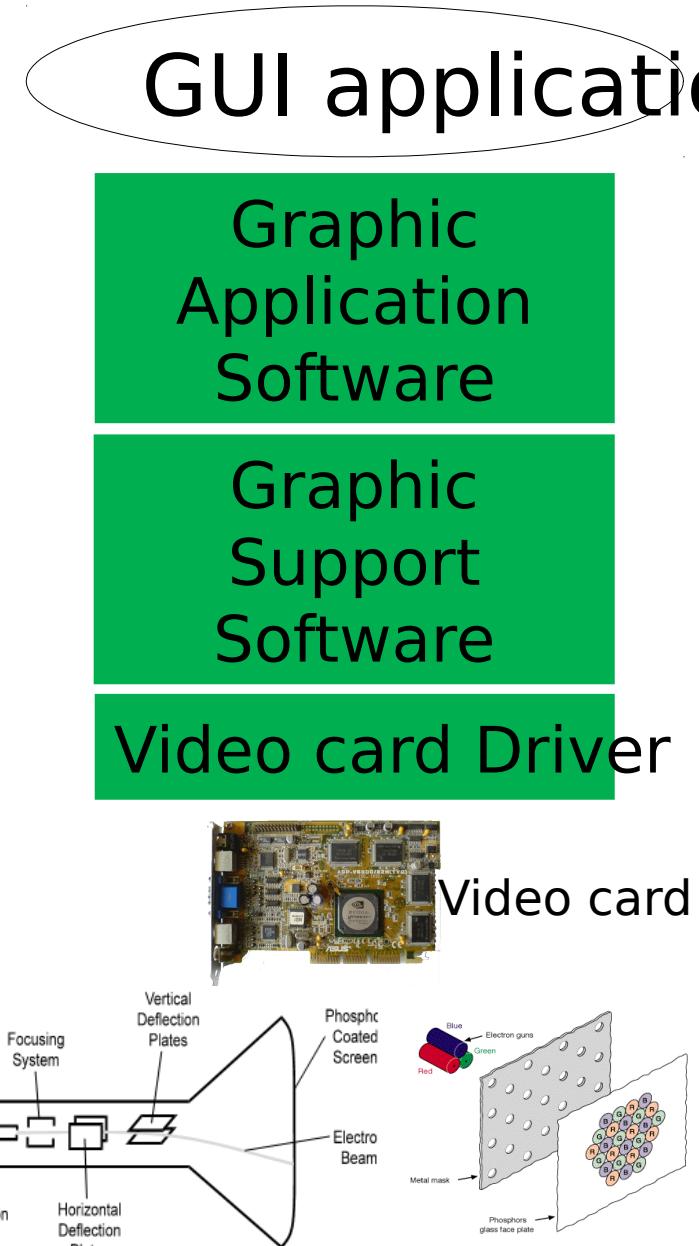


Logic of GUI v.s File system



Organize GUI components - WIMP, and compute the representations with primitive figures. OpenGL, DirectX provide basic figures like lines, region, etc. Several standard figures (KVS, PHIGS, GGI) map to memory as pixels/dots to display

Part XII IO System



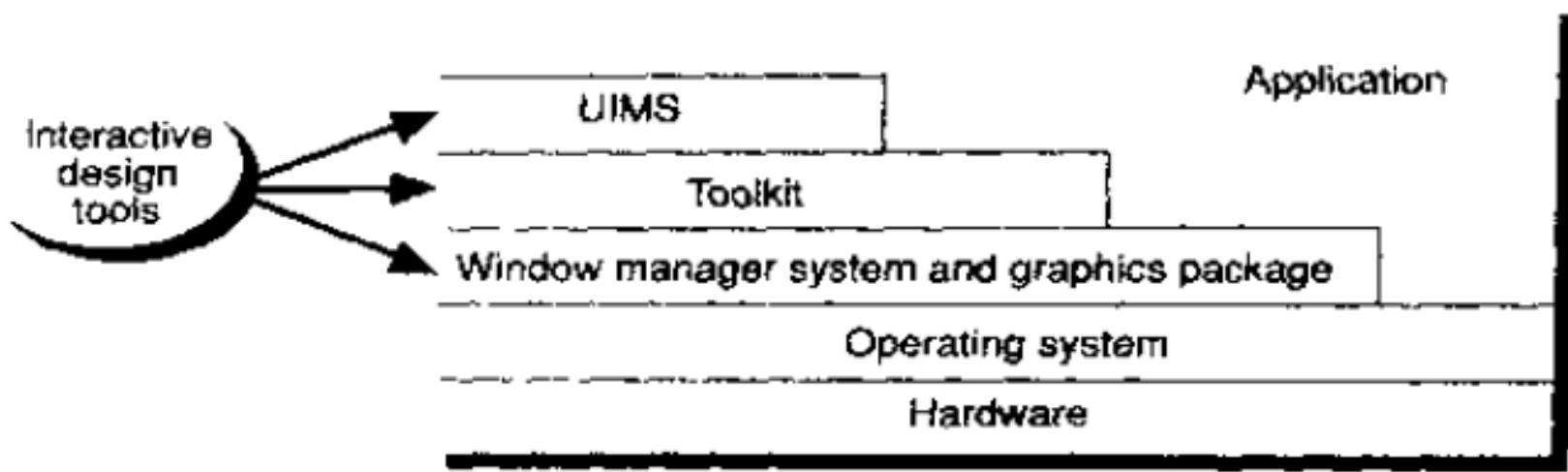


Fig. 10.1 Levels of user-interface software. The application program has access to the operating system, window-manager system and graphics package, toolkit, and user-interface management system (UIIMS). The interactive design tools allow nonprogrammers to design windows, menus, dialogue boxes, and dialogue sequences.

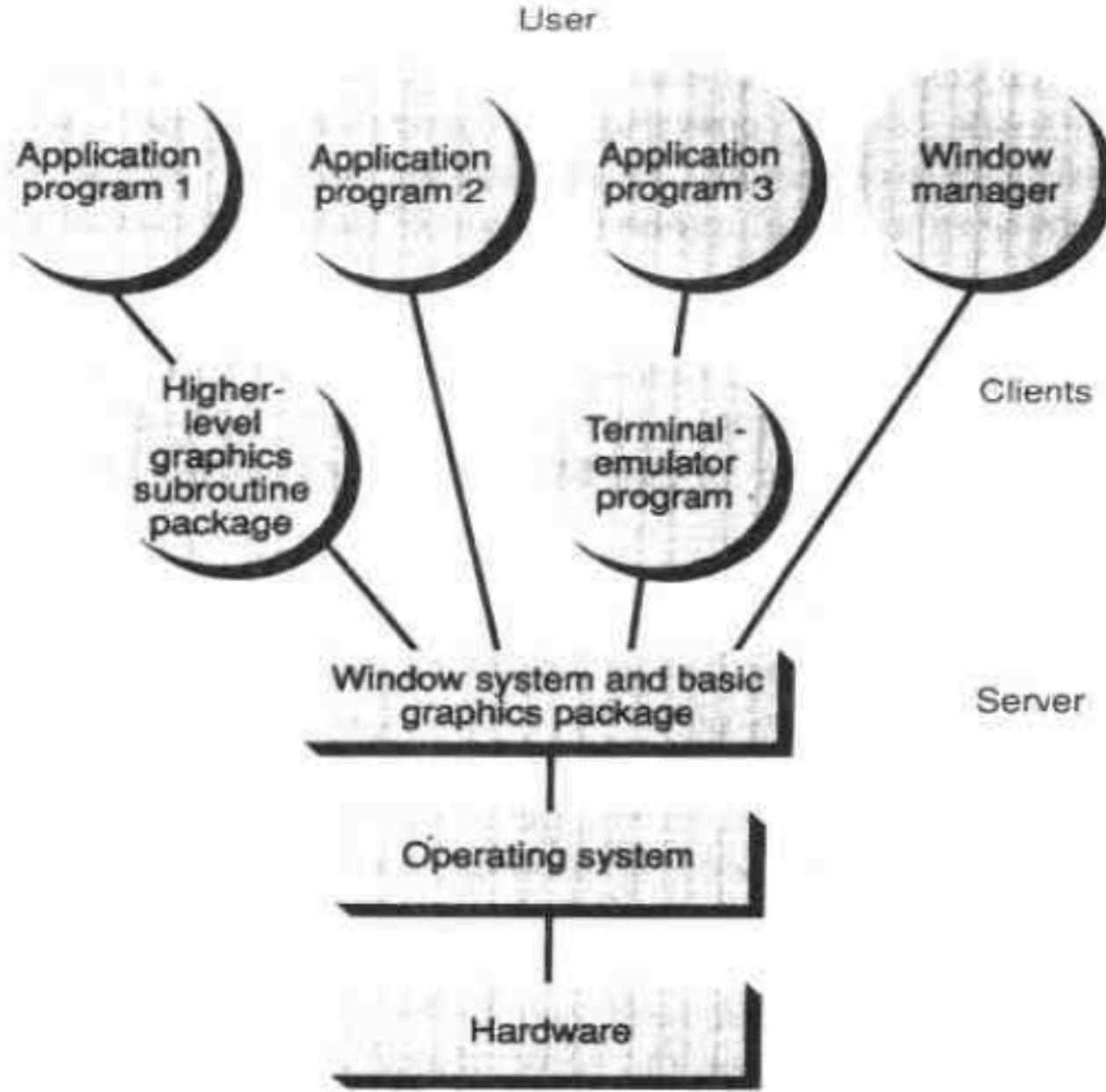
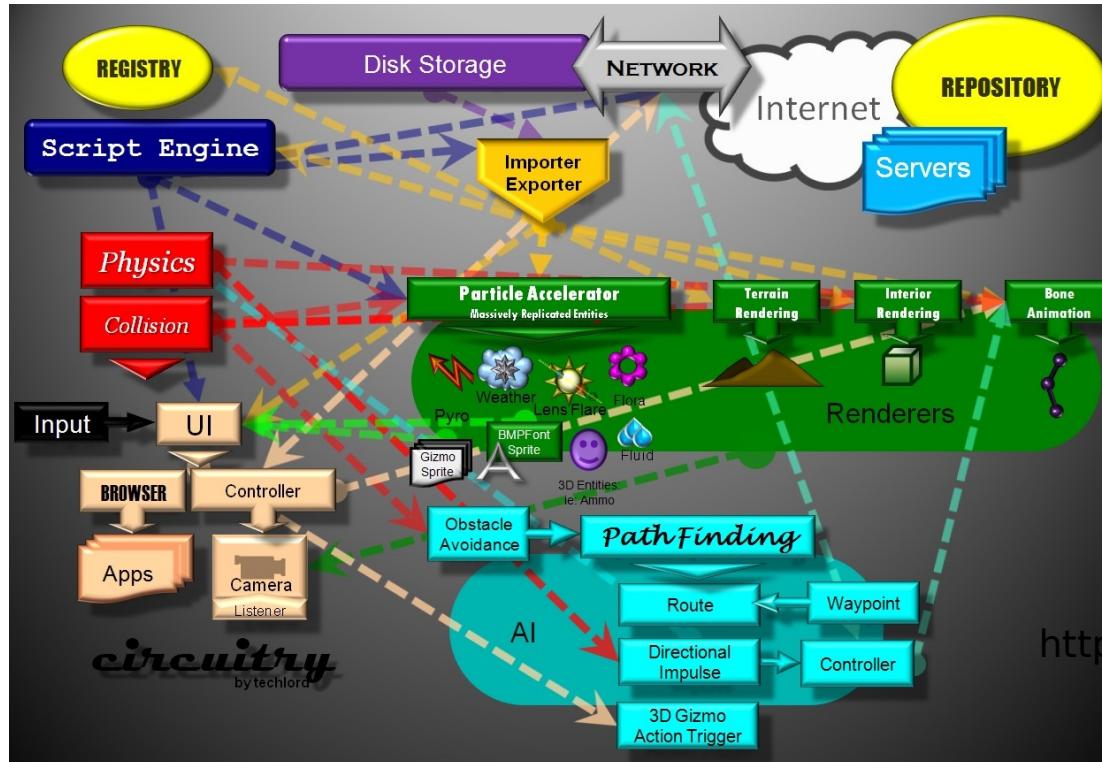


Fig. 10.4 The relationship of the window system to the operating system and application programs.

Game Engines

- There are many game engines which are proposed by game producers for special game figures and components



**TORQUE
GAME ENGINE
ADVANCED**

- Now Available on the Mac!
- Use Modern Shaders and Post Processing
- Edit in Real Time
- Port Games to Xbox 360

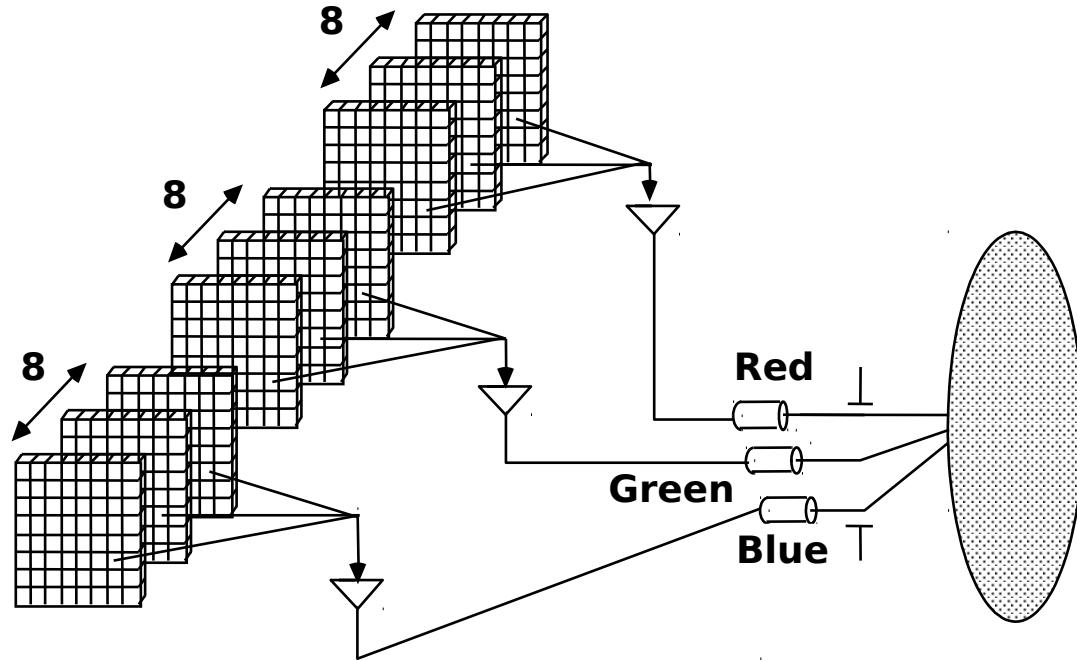


http://khmergame.com/torque_game.html

- GUI and its history
- Mechanism of GUI devices
- Support from OS
- Complements
 - Colorful GUI
 - 3D Input/Output
 - Virtual Reality
 - Do you remember Avatar?

Specifying Color

- direct color :
 - each pixel directly specifies a color value
 - e.g., 24bit : 8bits (R) + 8bits(G) + 8 bits(B)
- palette-based color : indirect specification
 - use palette (CLUT)
 - e.g., 8 bits pixel

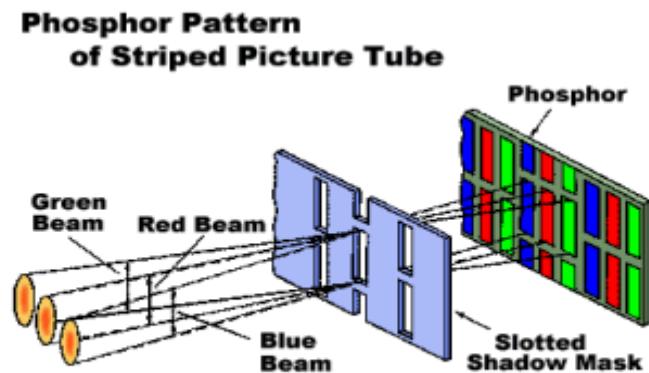
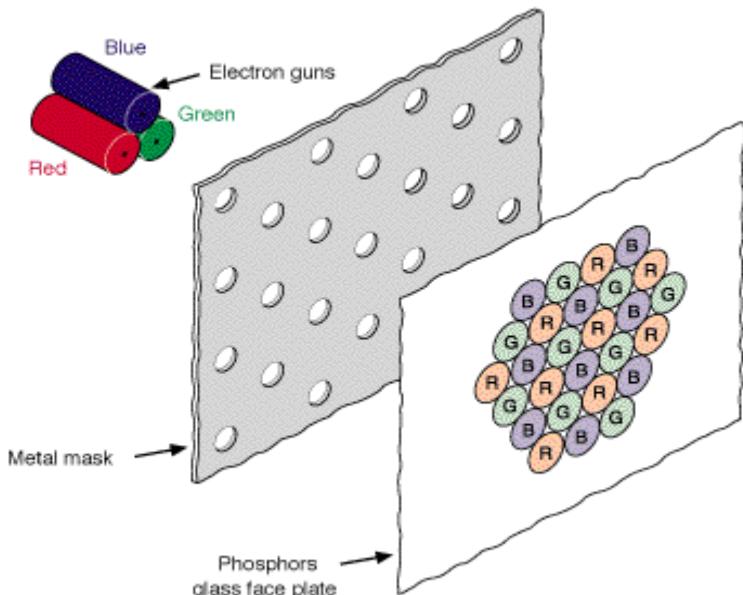


24 bits plane, 8 bits per color gun.

$$2^{24} = 16,777,216$$

Color CRTs

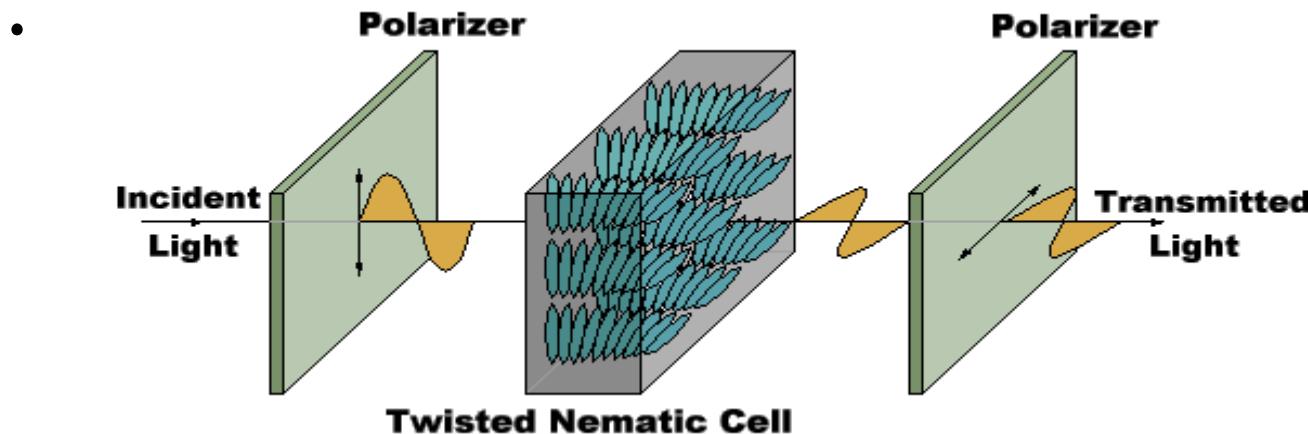
- Color CRTs have
 - Three electron guns
 - A metal *shadow mask* to differentiate the beams



<http://www.udayton.edu/~cps/cps460/notes/displays/>

LCDs

- Liquid Crystal Displays (LCDs)
 - LCDs: organic molecules, naturally in crystalline state, that liquefy when excited by heat or E field
 - Crystalline state twists polarized light 90°



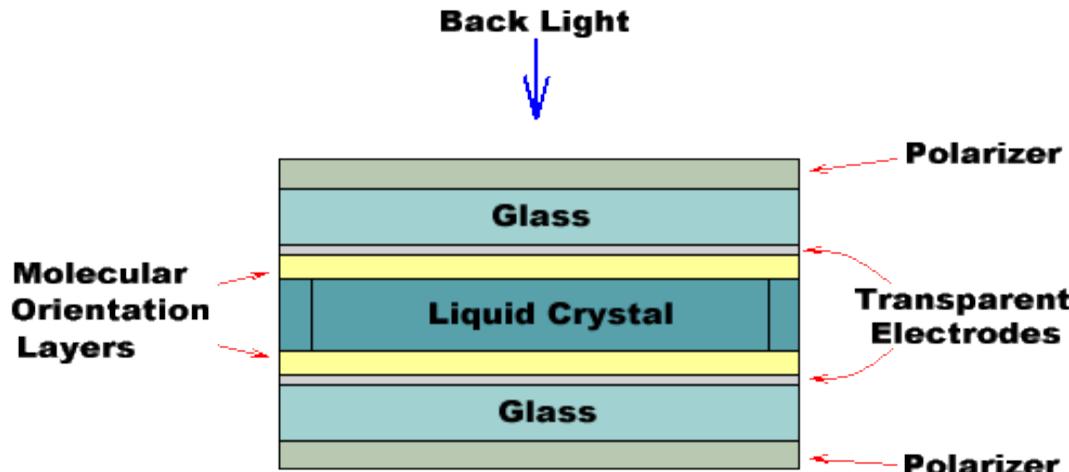
<http://www.udayton.edu/~cps/cps460/notes/displays/>

Part XI: LCD System

65

http://www.informatics.buu.ac.th/~kubola/310355/Lectures/02_Grap

- Transmissive & reflective LCDs:
 - LCDs act as light valves, not light emitters, and thus rely on an external light source.
 - Laptop screen: backlit, *transmissive display*
 - Palm Pilot/Game Boy: *reflective display*



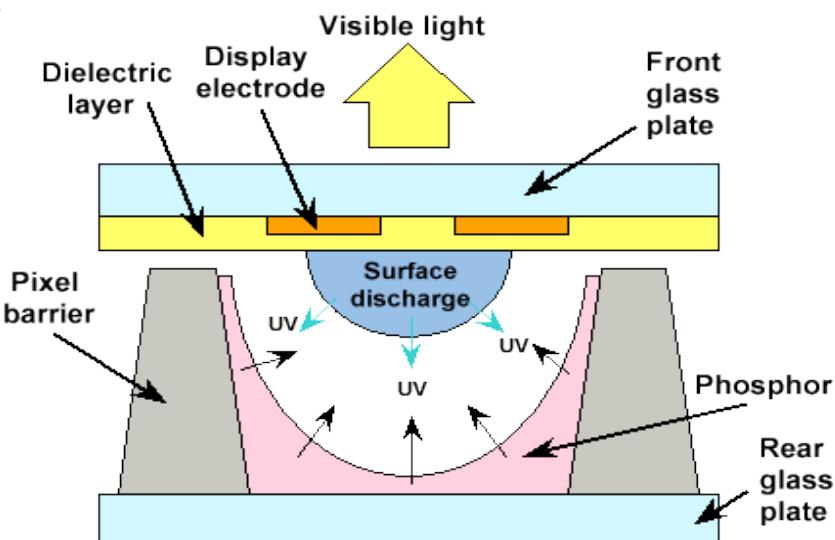
<http://www.udayton.edu/~cps/cps460/notes/displays/>

Plasma [等离子]

- Plasma display panels
 - Similar in principle to fluorescent light tubes
 - Small gas-filled capsules

are excited by electric field,
emits UV light

- UV excites phosphor
- Phosphor relaxes, emits some other color

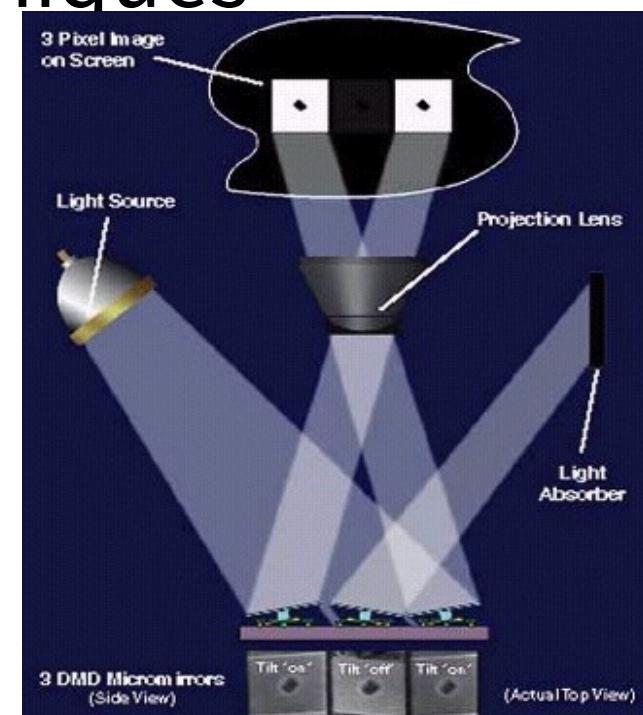
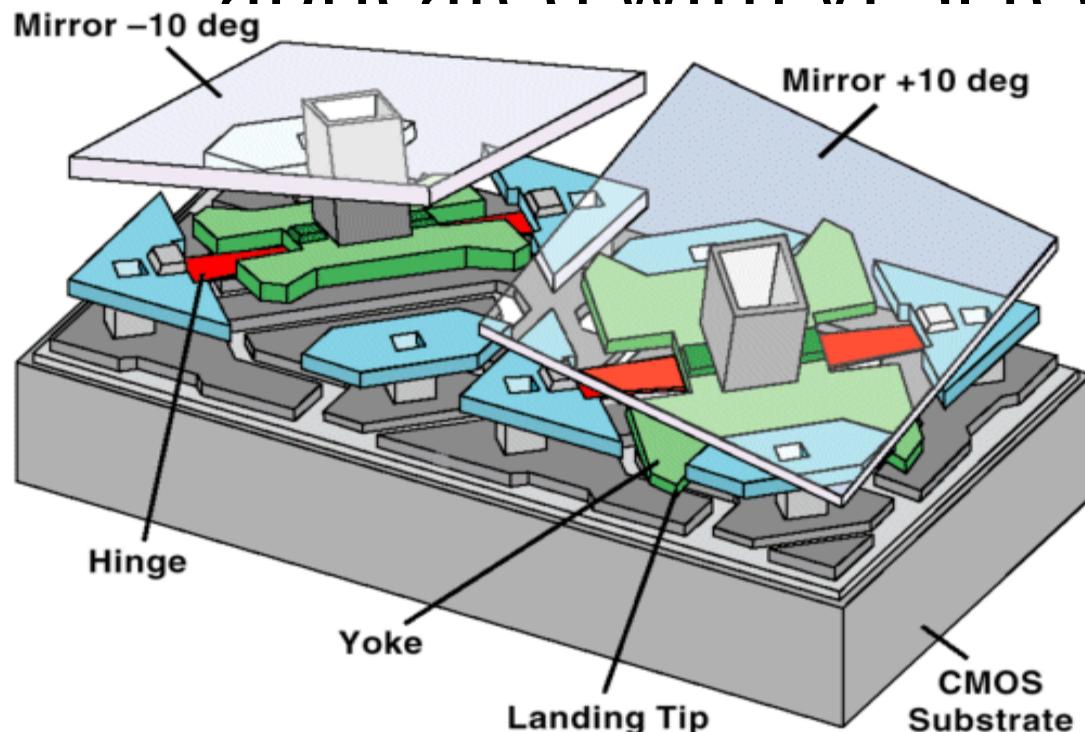


Plasma Display Panel Pros and Cons

- Plasma Display Panel Pros
 - Large viewing angle
 - Good for large-format displays
 - Fairly bright
- Cons
 - Still very expensive
 - Large pixels (~1 mm versus ~0.2 mm)
 - Phosphors gradually deplete
 - Less bright than CRTs, using more power

DMDs [数字微镜器件]

- Digital Micromirror Devices (projectors)
 - Microelectromechanical (MEM) devices, fabricated with VLSI techniques



DMDs Pros and Cons

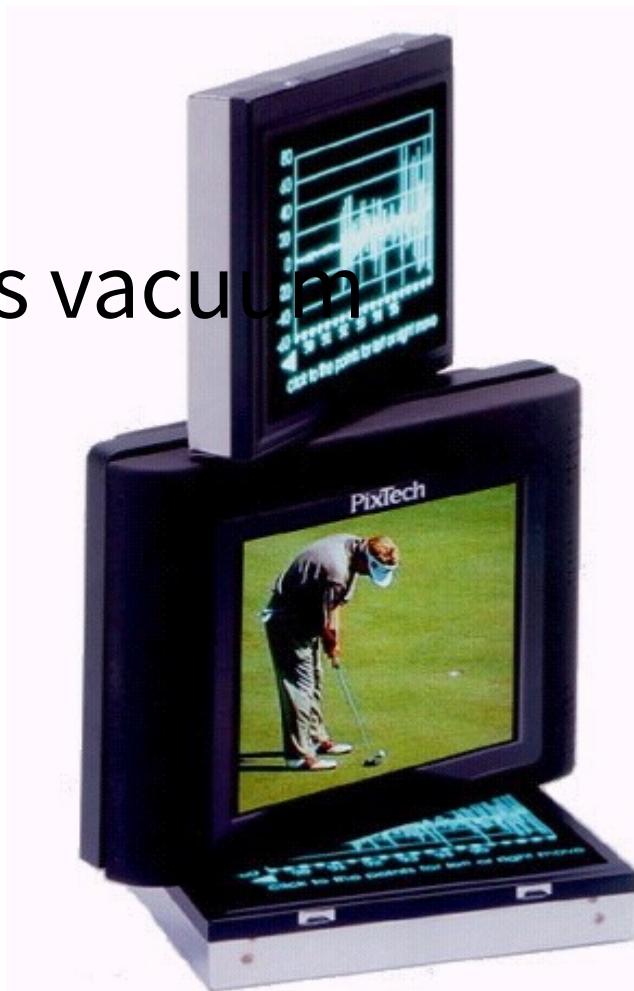
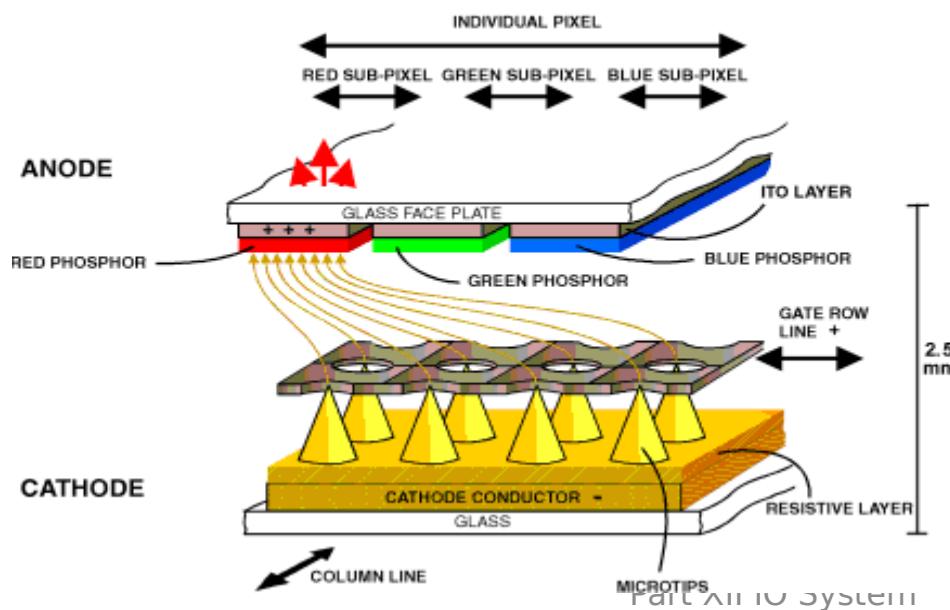
- DMDs are truly digital pixels
- Vary grey levels by modulating pulse length
- Color: multiple chips, or color-wheel
- Great resolution
- Very bright
- Flicker problems



FEDs [场致发射器件]

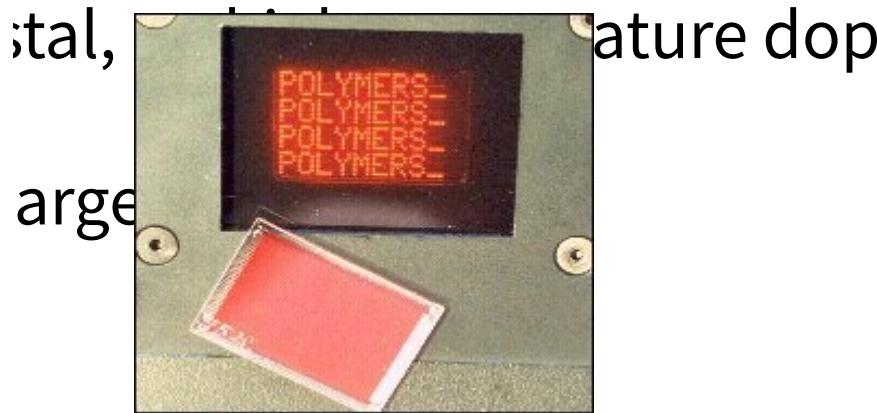
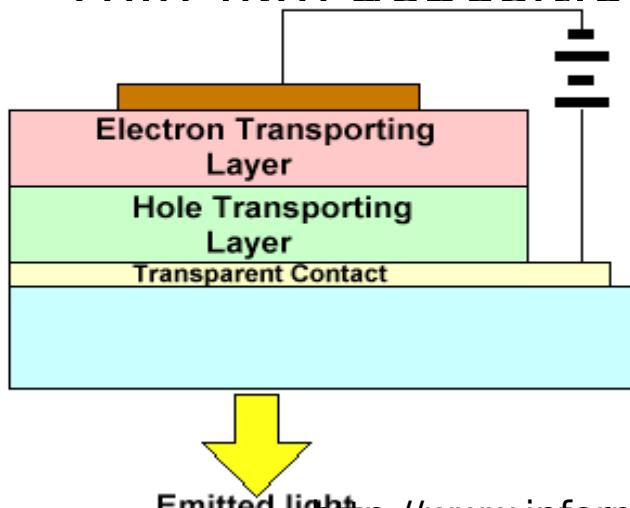
- Field Emission Devices (FEDs)

- Like a CRT, with many small electron guns at each pixel
- Unreliable electrodes, needs vacuum
- Thin, but limited in size



Organic LED [全球有机发光二极管] Arrays

- Organic Light-Emitting Diode (OLED) Arrays
 - The display of the future? Many think so.
 - OLEDs function like regular semiconductor LEDs
 - But with thin-film polymer construction:
 - Thin-film deposition or vacuum deposition process



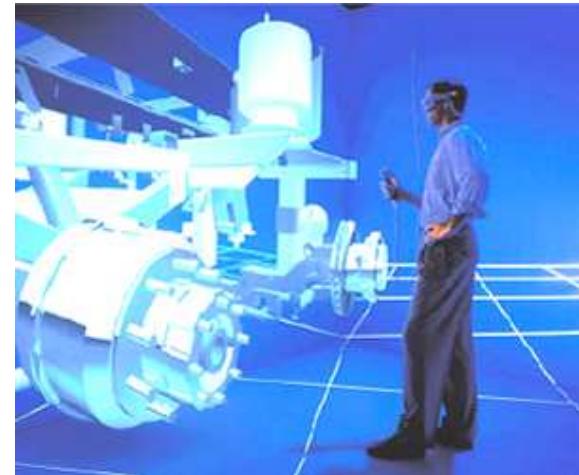
Render farms

- Closely related to Beowulf clusters
- Idea: Use many tightly-coupled off-the-shelf machines to do rendering
- Problem: Dividing the work
- But sometimes easy, e.g. one frame per machine
- Example: Titanic water effects used cluster of about 160 Alphas running Linux/NT.



3D Input Device

- Electromagnetic trackers
 - can be attached to any head, hands, joints, objects
 - Polhemus FASTRAK™(used in Brown's Cave)
- Acoustic-inertial trackers
 - Intersense IS-900



<http://www.polhemus.com/ftrakds.htm>

<http://www.intersense.com/products/prec/is900/index.html>

3D Input Device

- Gloves
 - attach electromagnetic tracker to the hand
- Pinch gloves
 - contact between digits is a “pinch” gesture
 - in CAVE extended Fakespace gloves extra contacts



<http://www.fakespacelabs.com/products/pinch.html>

Video Output Devices

- Classification
 - Stereo
 - head-mounted displays
 - shutter glasses
 - Degree of immersion
 - conventional desktop screen
 - walkup VR, semi-immersive displays immersive virtual reality



<http://robotics.aist-nara.ac.jp/equipments/E-equips/hmd.html>



<http://www.virtualresearch.com/index.html>

Video Output Devices

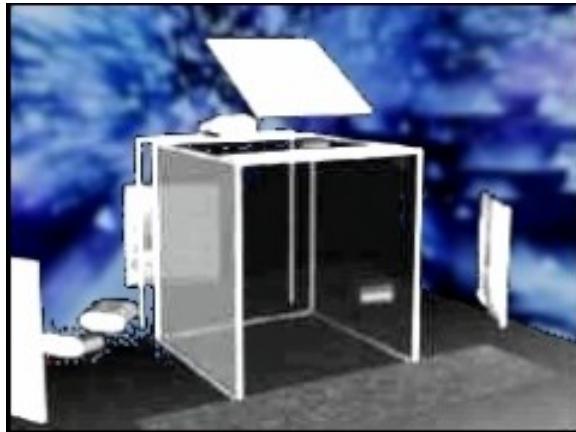
Example of Immersive Display

- Diffusion Tensor MRI Brain Visualization at Brown University



Video Output Devices

- Immersive
 - Head-mounted displays (HMD)
 - Stereo shutter glasses
 - Virtual Retinal Display (VRD)
 - CAVE™



http://www.evl.uic.edu/research/template_res_project.php3?indi=27



It's time!



http://james-camerons-avatar.wikia.com/wiki/The_Making_of_Avatar_%28book%29

Do you remember Avatar?



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