CSE 440: Introduction to HCI

User Interface Design, Prototyping, and Evaluation

Lecture 10:

Interface

Implementation

James Fogarty

Eunice Jun

David Wang

Elisabeth Chin

Ravi Karkar





Tuesday / Thursday 10:30 to 11:50

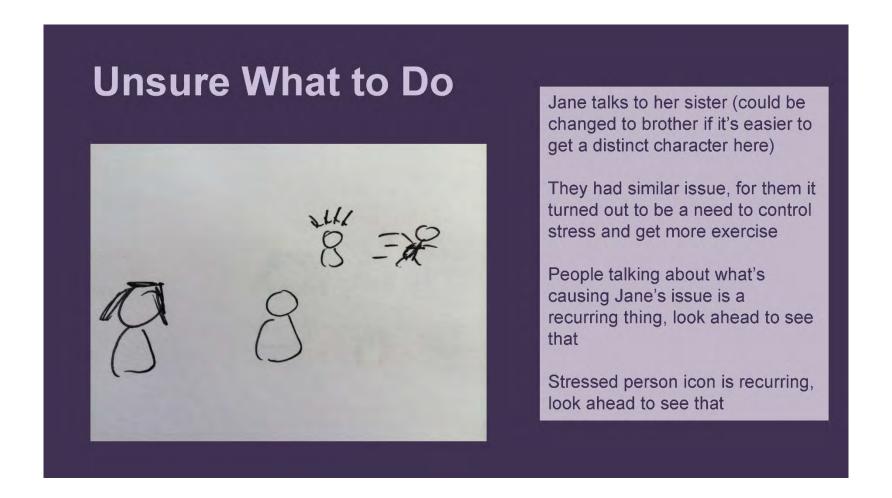
Fogarty Adventures in Bad Visuals

Needed to present for UW Innovation Award

Needed a storyboard, but am visually inept

First experience with oDesk (now called Upwork)

Initial Specification



Guidance on Desired Style



Version 1



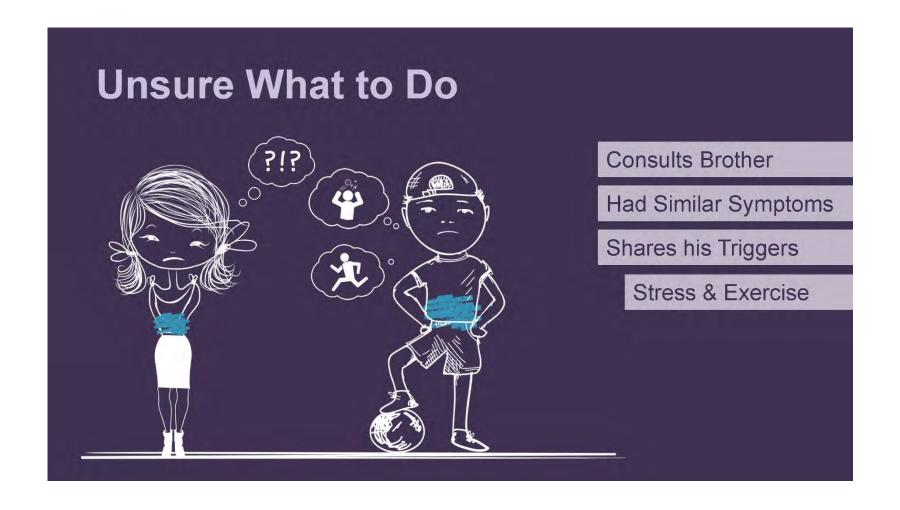
Version 2



Version 3



Final Version

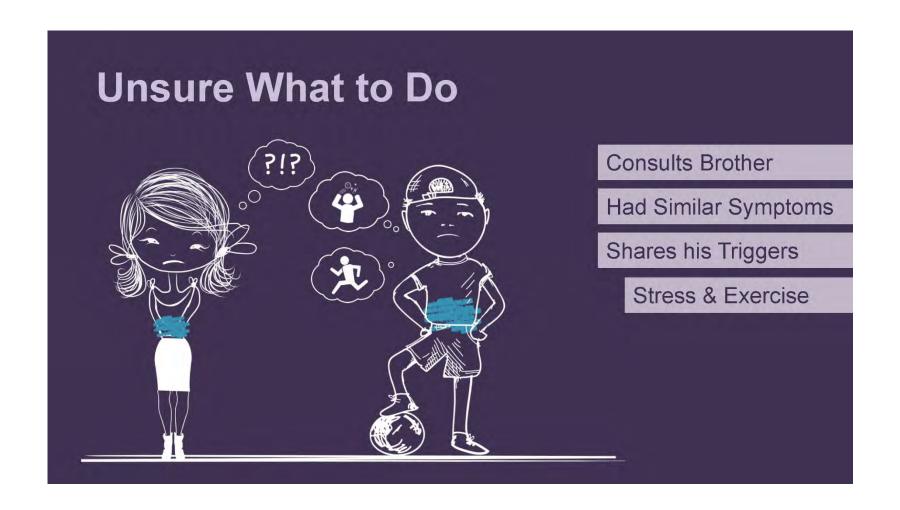


Two Storyboards

Before Our Advances
After Our Advances

Three Iterations
Less Than Three Hours Time
Approximately \$300



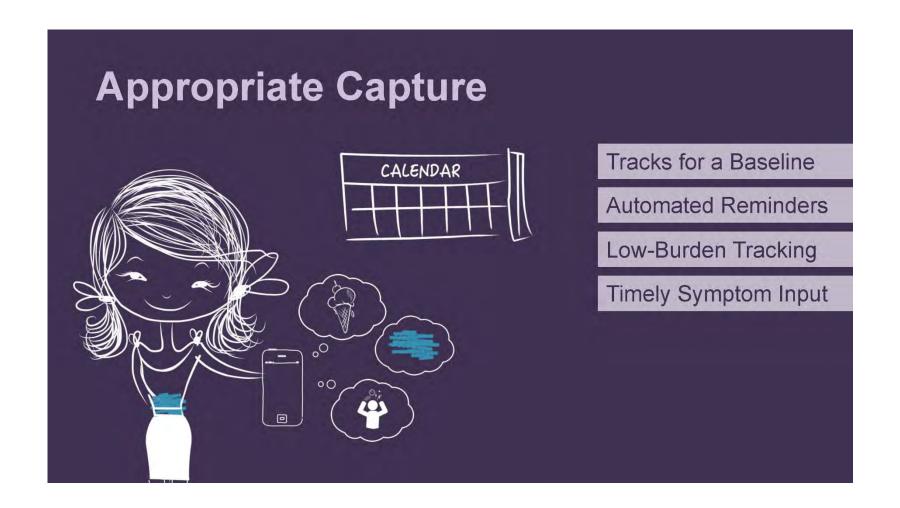


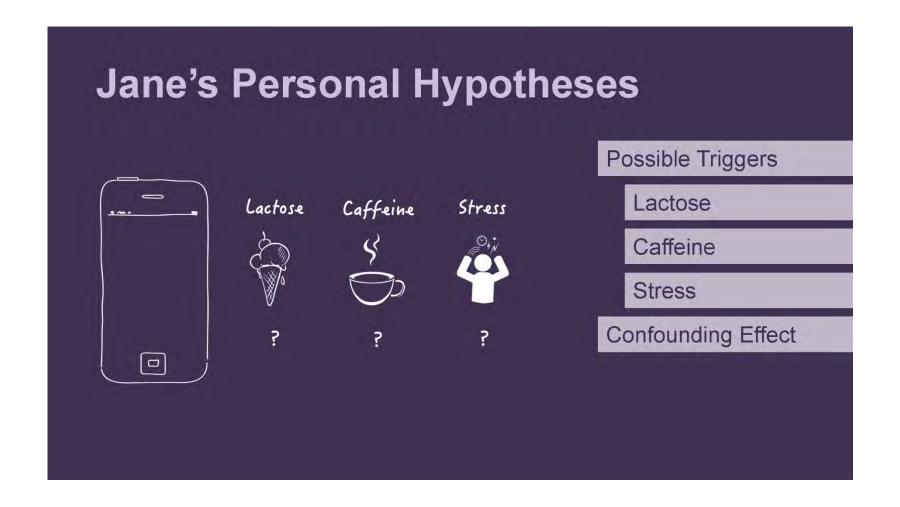


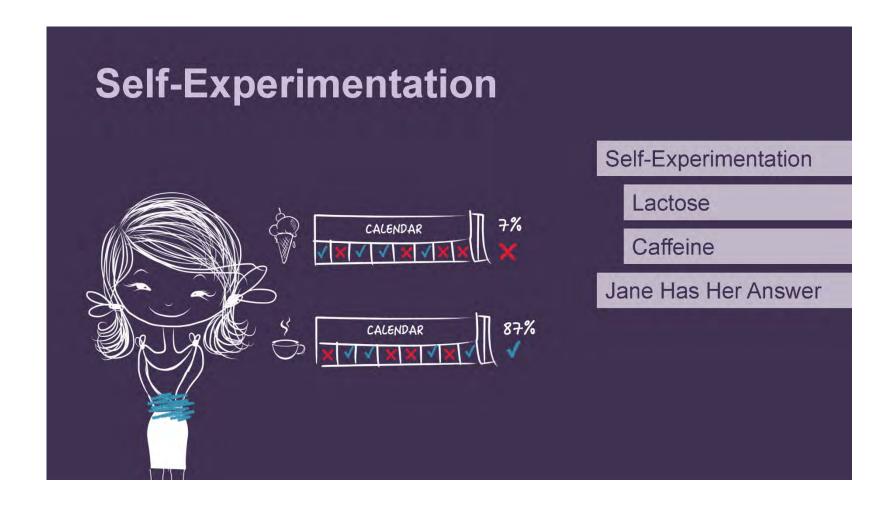


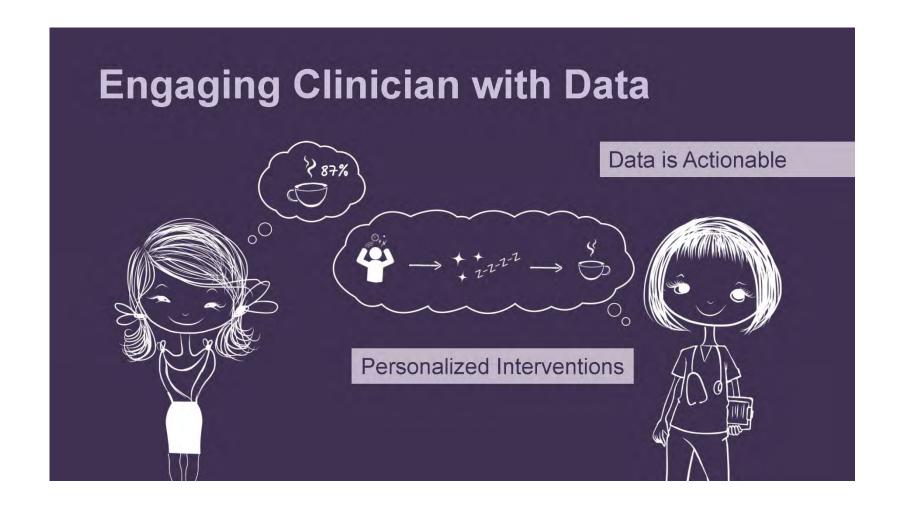












Fogarty Adventures in Bad Visuals

Needed to present for UW Innovation Award

Needed a storyboard, but am visually inept

First experience with oDesk (now called Upwork)

Presentation matters

In the real world, you can spend money on this

Today

Exam Q&A Time and Place
Comments on Mockups
Comments on Presentations

Understanding Tools and Interfaces

Project Status

Looking Forward

- 2g: Design Review (1x2) Due Tonight
 Critique on how this is based in research,
 why this design, details of this design
- 2h: Getting the Right Design Report Due Monday
- 2i: Presentations next Thursday / Friday
 Full progression from design research,
 themes, tasks, design exploration, design

Other Assignments

Reading 3 Posted, Due Tomorrow

Tools and Interfaces

Why Interface Tools?

Case Study of Model-View-Controller

Case Study of Animation

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

Thoughtfulness in Tools

Case Study in Self-Tracking

Sequential Programs

Program takes control, prompts for input

Person waits on the program

Program says when it is ready for more input, which the person then provides

Sequential Programs

```
while true {
    print "Prompt for Input"
    input = read_line_of_text()
    output = do_work()
    print output
}
```

Person is literally modeled as a file

Event-Driven Programming

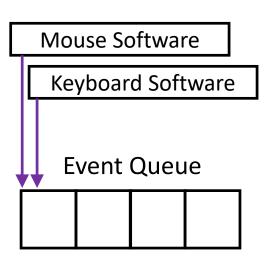
A program waits for a person to provide input

All communication done via events

"mouse down", "item drag", "key up"

All events go to a queue

Ensures events handled in order Hides specifics from applications



How many of these queues? How can you tell?

Basic Interactive Software Loop

```
do {
    e = read_event();
    dispatch_event(e);
    if (damage_exists())
        update_display();
} output

while (e.type != WM_QUIT);
```

All interactive software has this somewhere

Basic Interactive Software Loop

Have you ever written this loop?

Basic Interactive Software Loop

Have you ever written this loop?

Contrast with:

"One of the most complex aspects of Xlib programming is designing the event loop, which must take into account all of the possible events that can occur in a window."

Nye & O'Reilly, X Toolkit Intrinsics Programming Manual, vol. 4, 1990, p. 241.

We use tools because they

Identify common or important practices
Package those practices in a framework
Make it easy to follow those practices
Make it easier to focus on our application

What are the benefits of this?

We use tools because they

Identify common or important practices
Package those practices in a framework
Make it easy to follow those practices
Make it easier to focus on our application

What are the benefits of this?

Being faster allows more iterative design
Implementation is generally better in the tool
Consistency across applications using same tool

Why is designing tools difficult?

Need to understand the core practices and problems Those are often evolving with technology and design

Example: Responsiveness in event-driven interface

Event-driven interaction is asynchronous

How to maintain responsiveness in the interface while executing some large computation?

Why is designing tools difficult?

Need to understand the core practices and problems Those are often evolving with technology and design

Example: Responsiveness in event-driven interface

Cursor:

WaitCursor vs. CWaitCursor vs. In Framework

Progress Bar:

Data Races vs. Idle vs. Loop vs. Worker Objects

Fundamental Tools Terminology

Threshold vs. Ceiling

Threshold: How hard to get started

Ceiling: How much can be achieved

These depend on what is being implemented

Path of Least Resistance

Tools influence what interfaces are created

Moving Targets

Changing needs make tools incomplete or obsolete

Tools and Interfaces

Why Interface Tools?

Case Study of Model-View-Controller

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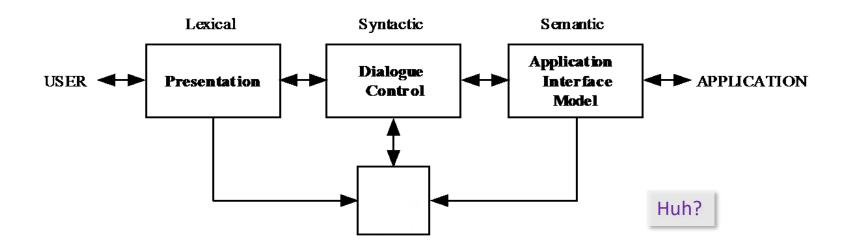
Model-View-Controller

How to organize the code of an interface?

This is a surprisingly complicated question, with unstated assumptions requiring significant background to understand and resolve

http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/988584.988586

Results from 1985 workshop on user interface management systems, driven by goals of portability and modifiability, based in separating the interface from application functionality



Lexical - Presentation

External presentation of interface

e.g., "add" vs. "append" vs. "^a" vs.



Generates the display, receive input

e.g., how to make a "menu" or "button"

Syntactic - Dialog Control

Parsing of tokens into syntax

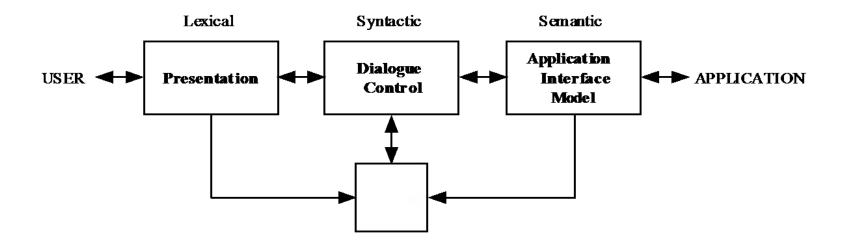
e.g., three-state model, interface modes

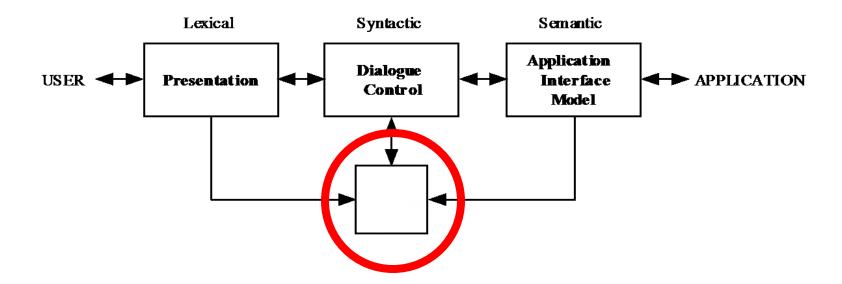
Maintain state

Semantic - Application Interface Model

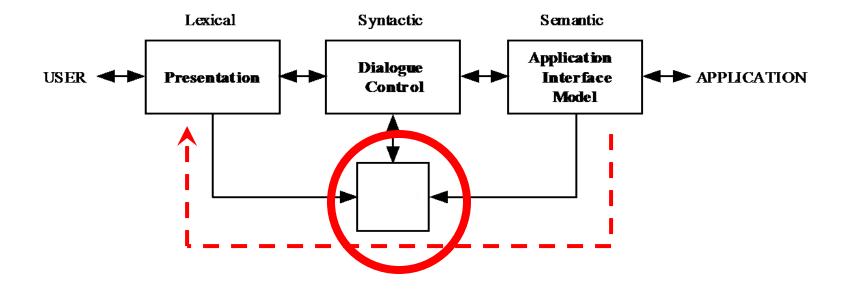
Defines interaction between interface and rest of software

e.g., drag-and-drop target highlighting





Huh?

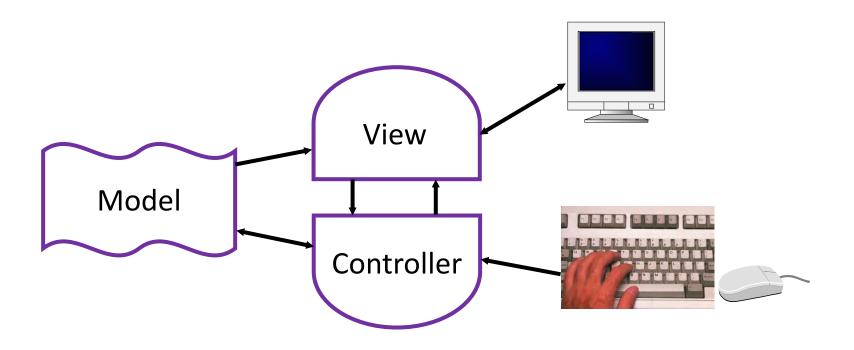


Rapid Semantic Feedback

In practice, all of the code goes in here

Model-View-Controller

Introduced by Smalltalk developers at PARC Partitions application to be scalable, maintainable



View / Controller Relationship

In theory:

Pattern of behavior in response to input events (i.e., concerns of the controller) are independent of visual geometry (i.e., concerns of the view)

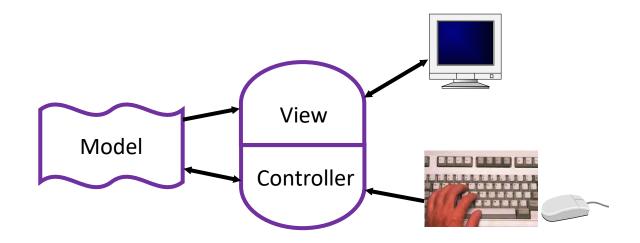
Controller contacts view to interpret what input events mean in context of a view (e.g., selection)

View / Controller Relationship

In practice:

View and controller often tightly intertwined, almost always occur in matched pairs

Many architectures combine into a single class



Model-View-Controller

MVC separates concerns and scales better than global variables or putting everything together

Separation eases maintenance

Can add new fields to model, new views can leverage, old views will still work

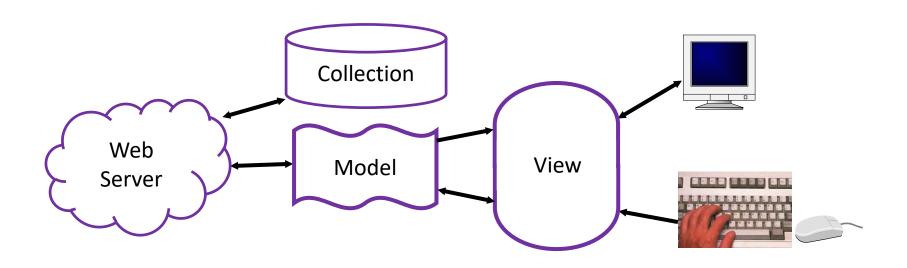
Can replace model without changing views

Separation of "business logic" can require care May help to think of model as the client model

Model-View-Collection on the Web

Core ideas manifest differently according to needs

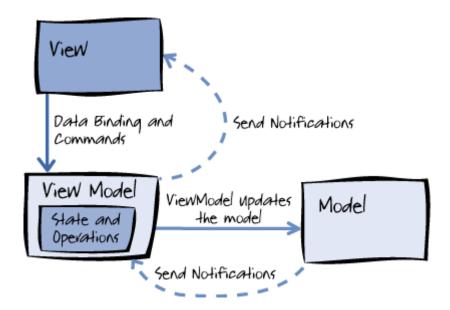
For example, backbone.js implements client views of models, with REST API calls to web server Web tools often implement views as templates



Model View View-Model

Design to support data-binding by minimizing functionality in view

Also allows greater separation of expertise



Tools and Interfaces

Why Interface Tools?

Case Study of Model-View-Controller

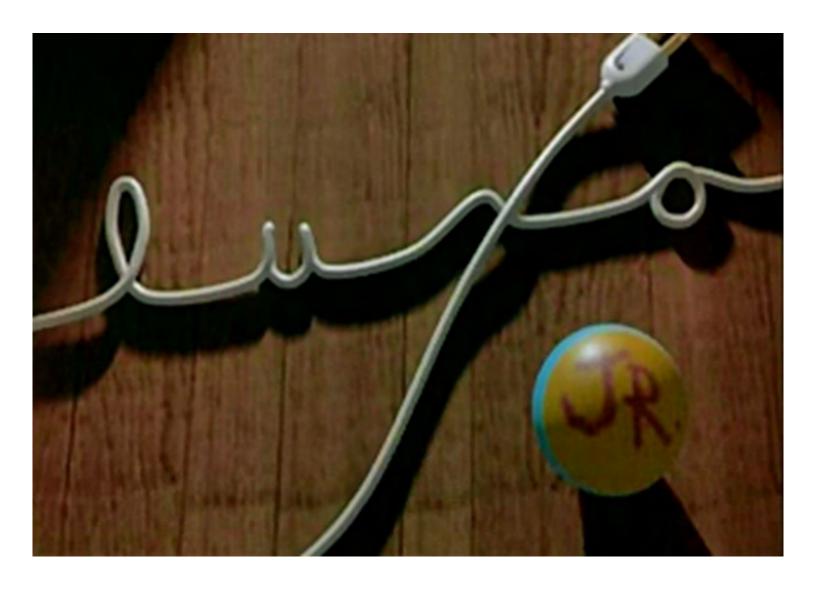
Case Study of Animation

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

Thoughtfulness in Tools

Case Study in Self-Tracking

Luxor Jr.



Animation Case Study

Principles of Traditional Animation Applied to 3D Computer Animation

Lasseter, 1987

http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/37402.37407



Computer Graphics, Volume 21, Number 4, July 1987

PRINCIPLES OF TRADITIONAL ANIMATION APPLIED TO 3D COMPUTER ANIMATION

John Lasseter Pixar San Rafael California

"There is no particular mystery in animation... it's really very simple, and like anything that is simple, it is about the hardest thing in the world to do." Bill Tytla at the Walt Disney Studio, June 28, 1937. [14]

ABSTRACT

This paper describes the basic principles of traditional 2D hand trawns animation and being application to 3D computer animation. After describing how these principles evolved, the individual principles are detailed, activating the remaining a 12D hand drawn animation and their application to 3D computer animation. This should demonstrate the importance of these principles to qualify 3D computer animation.

CR Categories and Subject Descriptors: 1.3.6 Computer Graphics: Methodology and Techniques - Interaction

- techniques;
 1.3.7 Computer Graphics: Three-dimensional Graphics and Realism -
- Animation;
 1.5 Computer Applications: Arts and Humanities Arts, fine and

General Terms: Design, Human Factors.

Additional Keywords and Phrases: Animation Principles, Keyframe Animation, Squash and Stretch, Luxo Jr.

1. INTRODUCTION

Early research in computer animation developed 2D emission techniques based on traditional animation. IT Techniques such as susypicating [11], keyframe animation, [4,5] indextencing, [16,22] scanginari, and multiplame happened on 2D interpret to apply the cel animation process to the computer. As 3D computer animation research material, more resource work deviced to image irreduring than an animation. Excess 2D computer variational animation animation animation animation animation animation animation animation and the second animation and the second animation and the second animation animation and the second animation and the second animation animation and the second animation animation and animation animat

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The last two years have seen the appearance of reliable, user friendly, keyframe animation systems from such companies as Warefroot Technologies for (29) Alias Research (inc., (2) Abel Image Research (RIV, (1) Vertigo Systems Inc., (28) Symbolics Inc., (25) and others. These systems will cauble people to produce more high quality comparts animation. Unfortunately, these systems will also enable people to produce more high quality comparts animation. Unfortunately, these systems will also enable people to produce more high compart animation.

Much of this bad animation will be due to unfamiliarity with the fundamental principles that have been used for hand drawn character animation for over 50 years. Understanding these principles of traditional minimation is essential to predocing good computer animation. Such an understanding thought also be important to the designers of the systems used by these engineers.

In this paper, I will explain the fundamental principles of traditional animation and how they apply to 3D keyframe computer animation.

2. PRINCIPLES OF ANIMATION

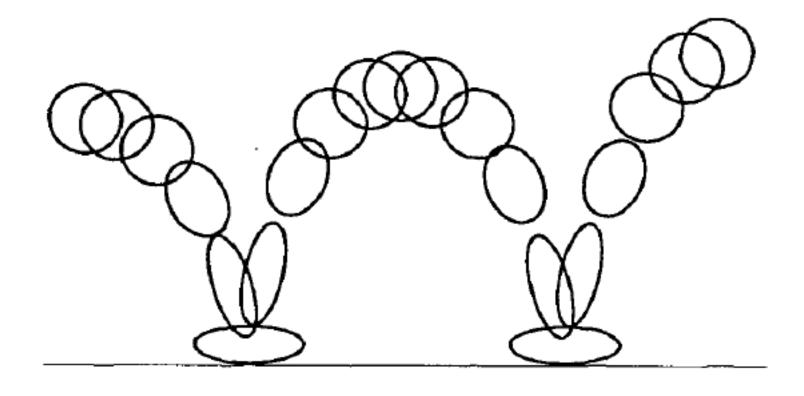
Between the Into 1900's and the Into 1903's minimation grow-from a novely to ma at form at the Walt Dieney Sterilo. Whit every picture, sections became more convincing, and characters were emerging as two personalises. Audiences were embrusiated and many of the animations were satisfied, however in was clear to Walt Dieney that the Level of animation and existing characters were not adequate to pursue new story limited.—characters were instead to tertain types of action and, audience acceptance potentiacunding, they were not appealing on the eye. It was appared to Walt Dieney the control of the Company of the Company of the Company of the Company new drawing approach was nocessary to improve the level of animotion exemplified by the Three Like Figs. [10]

FIGURE 1. Luxo Jr.'s hop with overlapping action on cord. Filip pages from last page of paper to front. The top figures are frames 1-5, the bottom are frames 6-10.

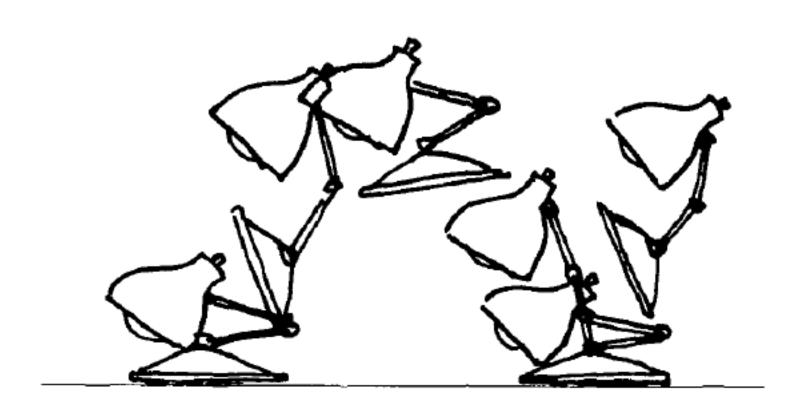




Squash and Stretch



Squash and Stretch



Squash and Stretch

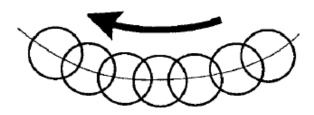


FIGURE 4a. In slow action, an object's position overlaps from frame to frame which gives the action a smooth appearance to the eye.

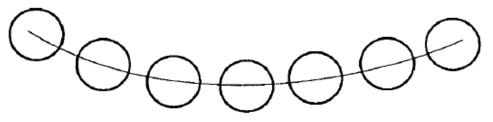


FIGURE 4b. Strobing occurs in a faster action when the object's positions do not overlap and the eye perceives seperate images.

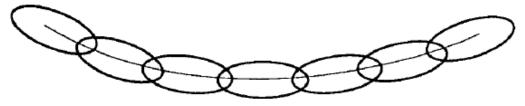


FIGURE 4c. Stretching the object so that it's positions overlap again will relieve the strobing effect.

Timing

Just two drawings of a head, the first showing it leaning toward the right shoulder and the second with it over on the left and its chin slightly raised, can be made to communicate a multitute of ideas, depending entirely on the Timing used. Each inbetween drawing added between these two "extremes" gives a new meaning to the action.

NO inbetweens....... The Character has been hit by a tremendous force. His head is nearly snapped off.

ONE inbetweens....... The Character has been hit by a brick, rolling pin, frying pan.

TWO inbetweens....... The Character has a nervous tic, a muscle spasm, an uncontrollable twitch.

THREE inbetweens..... The Character is dodging a brick, rolling pin, frying pan.

Timing

FOUR inbetweens........... The Character is giving a crisp order, "Get going!" "Move it!"

FIVE inbetweens............ The Character is more friendly, "Over here."

"Come on-hurry!"

SIX inbetweens........... The Character sees a good looking girl, or the sports car he has always wanted.

SEVEN inbetweens...... The Character tries to get a better look at something.

Timing

EIGHT inbetweens.......... The Character searches for the peanut butter on the kitchen shelf.

NINE inbetweens......The Character appraises, considering thoughtfully.

TEN inbetweens....... The Character stretches a sore muscle.

Anticipation



Staging

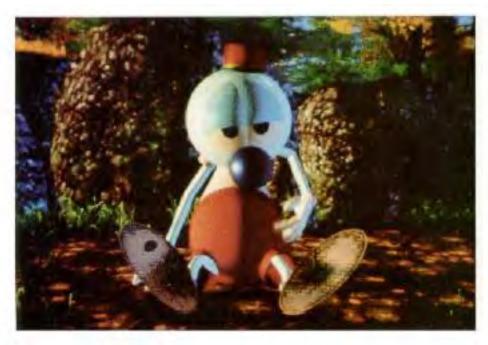


FIGURE 6. Andre's scratch was staged to the side (in "silhouette") for clarity and because that is where his itch was.

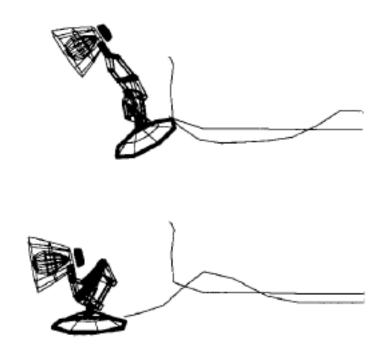
Staging





FIGURES 7-8. In Luxo Jr., all action was staged to the side for clarity.

Follow Through, Overlap, Secondary



Pose-to-Pose, Slow In, Slow Out

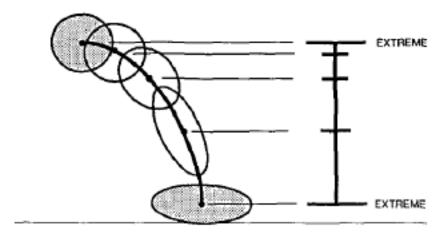
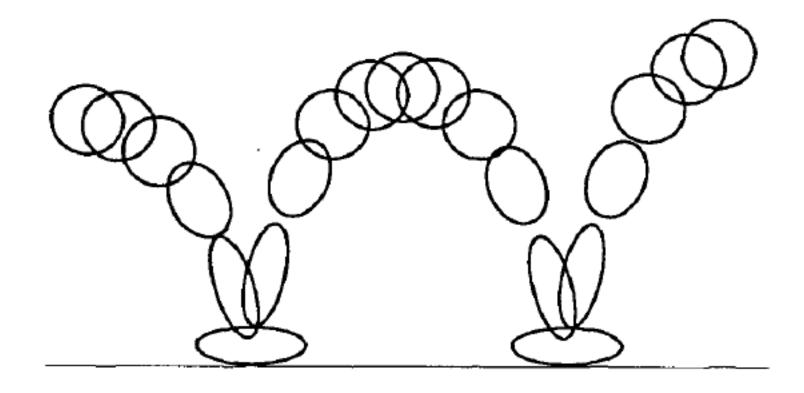


FIGURE 9. Timing chart for ball bounce.

Objects with mass must accelerate and decelerate Interesting frames are typically at ends, tweaks perception to emphasize these poses

Arcs



Luxor Jr.



Animation Case Study

Animation: From Cartoons to the User Interface

Chang and Ungar, 1993

http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/168642.168647

Animation: From Cartoons to the User Interface

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You must learn to respect that golden atom, that single frame of action, that 1724th of a second, because the difference between lightning and the lightning bug may hinge on that single frame.

- Chuck Jones [10]

ABSTRACT

User interfaces are often based on static presentations, a model ill suited for conveying change. Consequently, events on the screen frequently startle and confuse users. Cartoon animation, in contrast, is exceedingly successful at engaging its audience; even the most bizarre events are easily comprehended. The Self user interface has served as a testbed for the application of cartoon animation techniques as a means of making the interface easier to understand and more pleasant to use. Attention to timing and transient detail allows Self objects to move solidly. Use of cartoon-style motion blur allows Self objects to move quickly and still maintain their comprehensibility. Self objects arrive and depart smoothly, without sudden materializations and disappearances, and they rise to the front of overlapping objects smoothly through the use of dissolve. Anticipating motion with a small contrary motion and pacing the middle of transitions faster than the endpoints results in smoother and clearer movements. Despite the differences between user interfaces and cartoons-cartoons are frivolous. passive entertainment and user interfaces are serious. interactive tools-cartoon animation has much to lend to user interfaces to realize both affective and cognitive

KEYWORDS: animation, user interfaces, cartoons, motion blur, Self

1 INTRODUCTION

User interfaces are often based on static presentations—a series of displays each showing a new state of the system. Typically, there is much design that goes into the details of

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david.ungar@sun.com

these tableaux, but less thought is given to the transitions between them. Visual changes in the user interface are sudden and often unexpected, surprising users and forcing them to mentally step away from their task in order to grapple with understanding what is happening in the interface ited.

When the user cannot visually track the changes occurring in the interface, the causal connection between the old state of the screen and the new state of the screen is not immediately clear. How are the objects now on the screen related to the ones which were there a moment ago? Are they the same objects, or have they been replaced to the user's actions, and which are incidental? To be able to user's actions, and which are incidental? To be able to efficiently and reliably interpret what has happened when the screen changes state, the user must be prepared with an expectation of what the screen will look like after the action. In the case of most interactions in unanimated interfaces, this expectation can only come by experience; little in the interface or the action gives the user a clue about what will happen, what is hoppening, or what just happene,

For example, the Microsoft Windows interface 1151 expands an icon to a window by eliminating the icon and drawing the window in the next instant. In this case the first static presentation is the screen with the icon; the next is the screen with an expanded window. Much of the screen changes suddenly and without indication of the relationship between the old state and the new state. Current popular means suffer from the same problem—one instant there is nothing there; the next instant a menu obscures part of the display.

Moving objects from one location to another is yet another example. Most current systems be the user move an outline example, and current systems be the user move an outline of the object, and then, when the user is finished the move, the screen suddenly changes in two places: the object in the lod lo coation vanishes and the object appears in the new location. Sudden change, flash of the screen, no hint how the two states are related; the user must compare the current state and the preceding state and deduce the connection.

Users overcome obstacles like these by experience. The first few encounters are the worst; eventually users learn the behavior of the interface and come to interact with it efficiently. Yet while some of the cognitive load of

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Frames Three Principles

Solidity

Desktop objects should appear to be solid objects

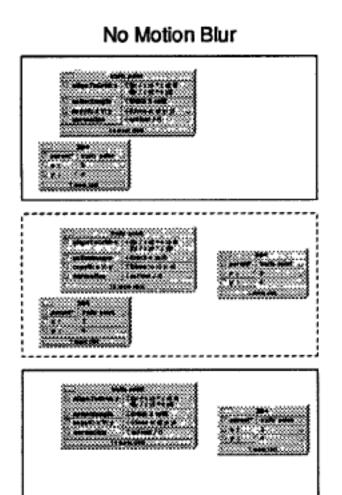
Exaggeration

Exaggerate physical actions to enhance perception

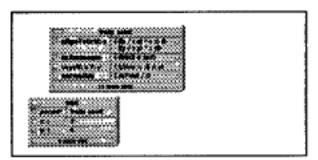
Reinforcement

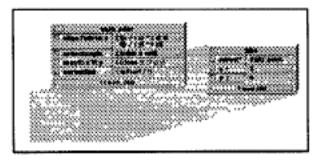
Use effects to drive home feeling of reality

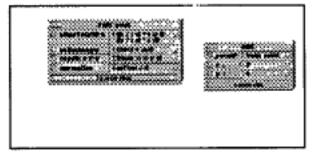
Solidity: Motion Blur



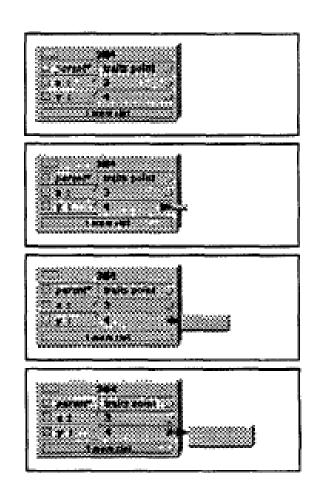
Motion Blur

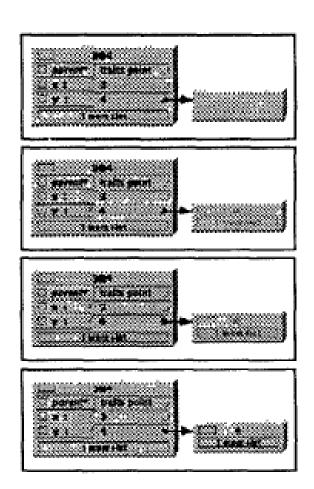




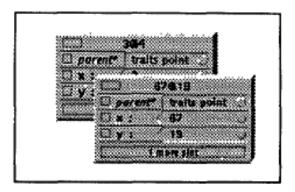


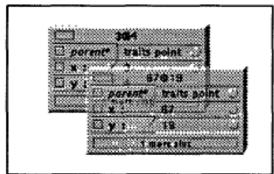
Solidity: Arrival and Departure

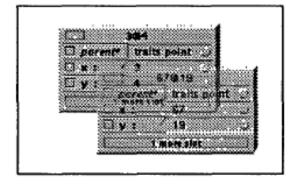


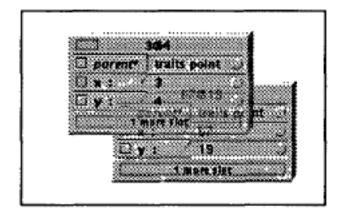


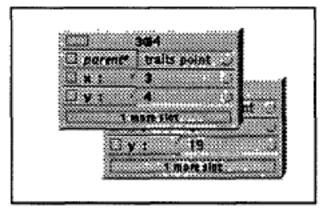
Solidity: Arrival and Departure



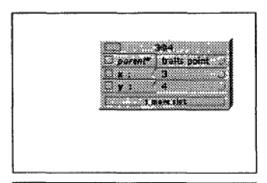


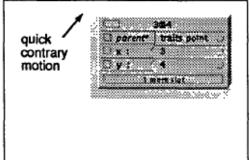






Exaggeration: Anticipation





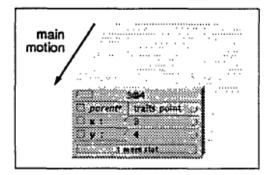


Figure 7. Objects anticipate major actions with a quick contrary motion that draws the user eye to the object in preparation for the main motion to come.

Reinforcement: Slow In Slow Out

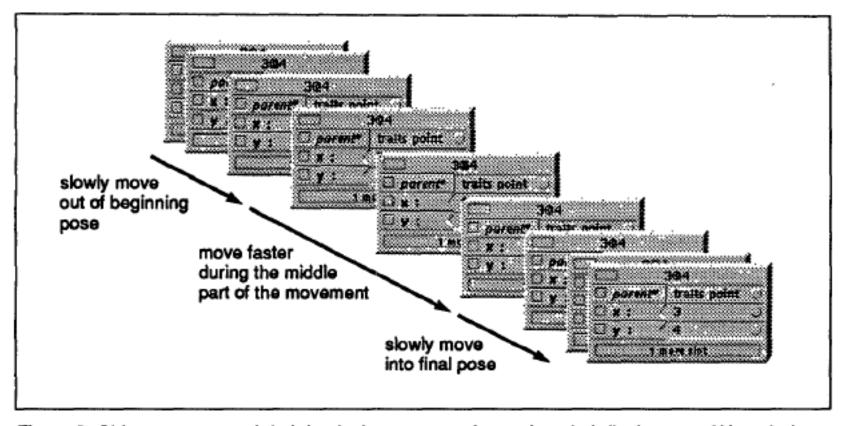


Figure 8. Objects ease out of their beginning poses and ease into their final poses. Although these motions are slower than that during the main portion of the movement, they are still quite fast.

Reinforcement: Arcs

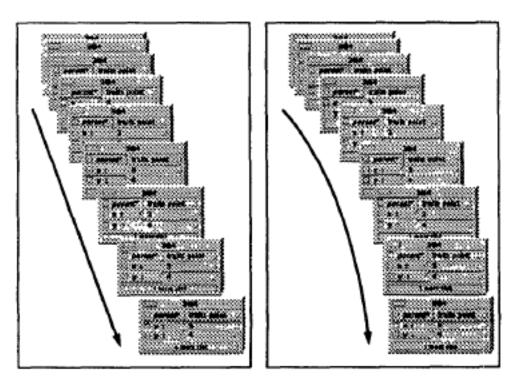
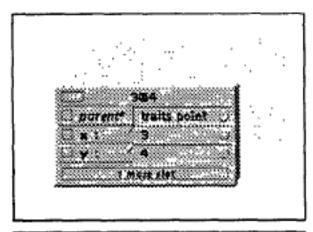


Figure 9. When objects travel under their own power (noninteractively), they move in arcs rather than straight lines.

Reinforcement: Follow Through



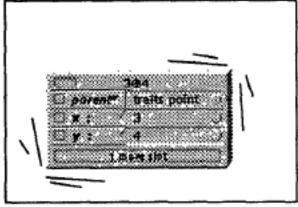


Figure 10. When objects come to a stop after moving on their own, they exhibit follow through in the form of wiggling back and forth quickly. This is just suggested by the "wiggle lines" in the figure—in actuality, the object moves back and forth, with motion blur.

Animation Case Study

Animation Support in a User Interface Toolkit: Flexible, Robust, and Reusable Abstractions

Hudson and Stasko, 1993

http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/168642.168648

Animation Support in a User Interface Toolkit: Flexible, Robust, and Reusable Abstractions

Scott E. Hudson John T. Stasko

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ABSTRACT

Animation can be a very effective mechanism to convey information in visualization and user interface settings. However, integrating animated presentations into user interfaces has typically been a difficult task since, to date, there has been little or no explicit support for animation in window systems or user interface toolkits. This naper describes how the Artkit user interface toolkit has been extended with new animation. support abstractions designed to overcome this problem. These abstractions provide a powerful but convenient base for building a range of animations, supporting techniques such as simple motion-blur, "squash and stretch", use of arcing trajectories, anticipation and follow through, and "slow-in / slow-out" transitions. Because these abstractions are provided by the toolkit they are reusable and may be freely mixed with more conventional user interface techniques. In addition, the Artkit implementation of these abstractions is robust in the face of systems (such as the X Window System and Unix) which can be ill-behaved with respect to timing considerations.

Keywords: object-oriented user interface toolkits, window systems, animation techniques, dynamic interfaces, motion blur, real-time scheduling.

1 INTRODUCTION

Human perceptual capabilities provide a substantial ability to quickly form and understand models of the world from moving images. As a result, in a well designed display, information can often be much more easily comprehended in a moving scene than in a single static image or even a sequence of static images. For example, the "cone tree" display described in [Robe93] provides a clear illustration that the use continuous motion can allow much more information to be presented and understood more easily.

However, even though the potential benefits of animation in user interfaces have been recognized for some time ([Baec90] for example, surveys a number of uses for animation in the interface and cites their benefits and [Stask93] reviews principles for using animation in interfaces and describes a number of systems that make extensive use of animation in an interface), explicit support for animation is rarely, if ever, found in user interface support environments. The work described in this paper is designed to overcome this problem by showing how flexible, robust, and reusable support for animation can be incorporated into a full scale object-oriented user interface toolkit. Specifically, this paper describes how the extension mechanisms of Artkit - the Advanced Reusable Toolkit (supporting interfaces in C++) [Henr90] - have been employed to smoothly integrate animation support with other user interface capabilities.

The animation abstractions provided by the Artkit system are designed to be powerful and flexible—providing basic support that can be used to build a range of sophisticated techniques such as: simple motion-blur, "squash and stretch", use of arcing

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^{* 1993} ACM 0-89791-628-X/93/0011...\$1.50

Events and Animation

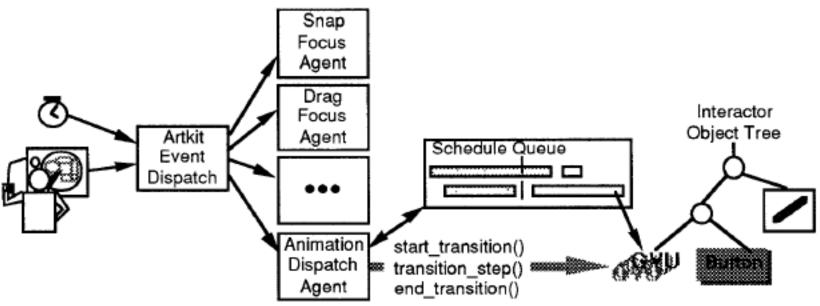


Figure 5. Animation Event Translation and Dispatch

Not Just an Implementation

Provides tool abstractions for implementing previously presented styles of animation

Overcomes a fundamental clash of approaches

Event loop receives input, processes, repaints

Animations expect careful control of frames, but the event loop has variable timing

Events and Animation

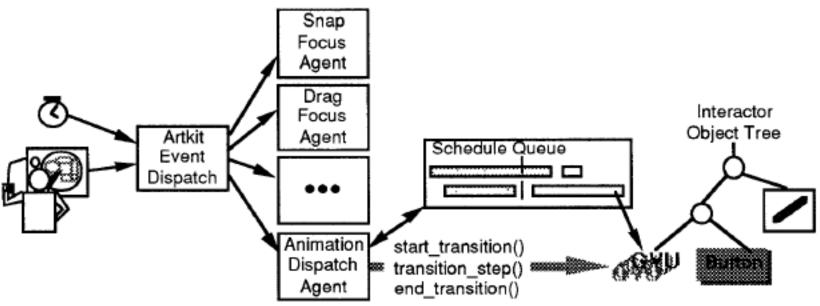


Figure 5. Animation Event Translation and Dispatch

Transition Object

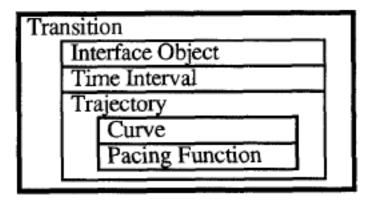


Figure 3. Parts of a Transition Object

Pacing Function

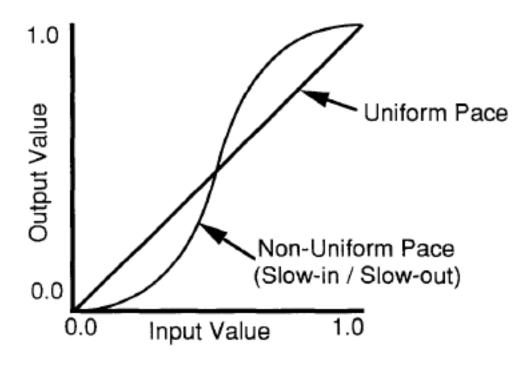


Figure 4. Two Example Pacing Functions

Computing a Frame

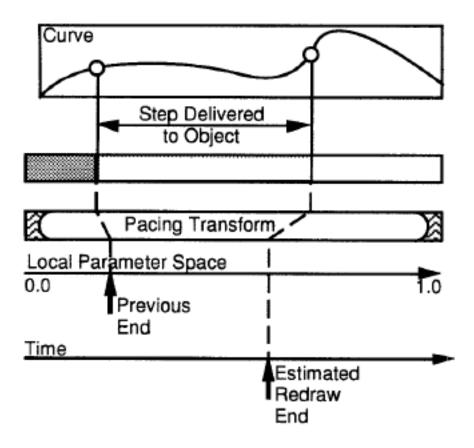


Figure 8. Translation from Time to Space

Animation Case Study

Based on increased understanding of how animation should be done in the interface, increasingly mature tools develop

Now built into major commercial toolkits (e.g., Microsoft's WPF, JavaFX, jQuery)

Once mature, begins to be used as a building block in even more complex behaviors

Animation Case Study

The Kinetic Typography Engine: An Extensible System for Animating **Expressive Text**

Lee et al, 2002

http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/571985.571997

The Kinetic Typography Engine: An Extensible System for Animating Expressive Text

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Kinetic typography - text that uses movement or other temporal change - has recently emerged as a new form of communication. As we hope to illustrate in this paper, kinetic typography can be seen as bringing some of the expressive power of film such as its ability to convey emotion, portray compelling characters, and visually direct attention to the strong communicative properties of text. Although kinetic typography offers substantial promise for expressive communications, it has not been widely exploited outside a few limited application areas (most notably in TV advertising). One of the reasons for this has been the lack of tools directly supporting it, and the accompanying difficulty in creating dynamic text. This paper presents a first step in remedying this situation - an extensible and robust system for animating text in a wide variety of forms. By supporting an appropriate set of carefully factored abstractions, this engine provides a relatively small set of components that can be plugged together to create a wide range of different expressions. It provides new techniques for automating effects used in traditional cartoon animation, and provides specific support for typographic manipulations.

KEYWORDS: kinetic typography, dynamic text, timebased presentation, automating animation effects

INTRODUCTION

The written word is one of humanity's most powerful and significant inventions. For over 4000 years, its basic communicative purpose has not changed. However, the method in which written communication is authored and presented has never stopped evolving. From cunciform markings on clay tablets, to pen and parchment, to the Gutenberg press, to computers and the internet, technology has always provided text with new mediums to express itself. The explosion of available computing power has added a new possibility: kinetic typography text that moves or otherwise changes over time

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Kinetic typography can be seen as a vehicle for adding some of the properties of film to that of text. For example, kinetic typography can be effective in conveying a speaker's tone of voice, qualities of character, and affective (emotional) qualities of text [Ford97]. It may also allow for a different kind of engagement with the viewer than static text, and in some cases, may explicitly direct or mampulate the attention of the viewer

In fact, the first known use of kinetic typography appeared in film - specifically, Saul Bass' opening credit sequence for Hitchcock's North by Northwest (Base59) and later Psycho [Bass60]. This work stemmed in part from a desire to have the opening credits set the stage for the film by establishing a mood, rather than simply conveying the information of the credits. Use of kinetic typography is now commonplace for this purpose, and is also very heavily used in TV advertising where its ability to convey emotive content and direct the user's attention is generally a good match to the goals of advertising. We believe that if it can be made accessible via good tools, the power of kinetic typography can also be applied to benefit other areas of digital communications.

A second origin for time-based presentation of text comes independently from psychological studies of perception and reading. For example, [Mill87] studies perceptual effects of a number of text presentations, such as scrolling text. One of the most fruitful of these is a method known as Rapid Serial Visual Presentation (RSVP), where text is displayed one word at a time in a fixed position [Pott84]. Studies have shown that, because scanning eye movements are unnecessary when using RSVP, it can result in rapid reading without a need for special training. In addition, RSVP techniques provide advantages for designers because they allow words to be treated independently without regard to effects on adjacent text elements. Finally, RSVP can be seen as a means for trading time for space, potentially allowing large bodies of text to be shown at readable sizes on small displays

Figures 1-3 illustrate some of the things that kinetic typography can do. (Please refer to the video proceedings for dynamic renditions of these figures.) Figure 1 shows two different renditions of the same words expressing a different emotional tone. As described by Ishizaki

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Kinetic Typography Engine

Kinetic Typography

Johnny Lee, Jodi Forlizzi, Scott Hudson Carnegie Mellon University Human-Computer Interaction Institute 2002

Kinetic Typography Engine

Kinetic Typography

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Kinetic Typography Engine

Goals of Kinetic Type

Emotional content
Creation of characters
Direction of attention

Animation Composition

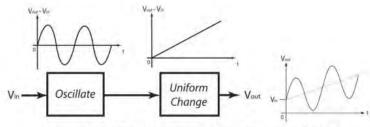


Figure 6. Waveform addition by chaining"

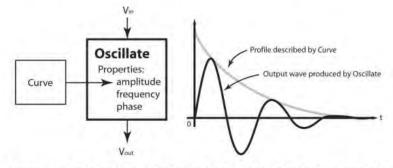


Figure 7. Waveform scaling by functional composition with amplitude

Tools and Interfaces

Why Interface Tools?

Case Study of Model-View-Controller

Case Study of Animation

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

Thoughtfulness in Tools

Case Study in Self-Tracking

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

Roughly, some thoughts in one language cannot be stated or understood in another language

Our tools define the language of interaction

Beyond the simple matter of code Frame how we think about possibilities



Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

Roughly, some thoughts in one language cannot be stated or understood in another language

Language is not simply a way of voicing ideas, but is the very thing which shapes those ideas

Our tools define the language of interaction

Beyond the simple matter of code

Frame how we think about possibilities

You must be aware of this when choosing tools, designing applications, and creating new tools

Animation Case Study

Phosphor:

Explaining Transitions in the User Interface Using Afterglow Effects

Baudisch et al, 2006

http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/1166253.1166280

Phosphor: Explaining Transitions in the User Interface Using Afterglow Effects

Patrick Baudisch, Desney Tan, Maxime Collomb, Dan Robbins, Ken Hinckley, Maneesh Agrawala, Shengelong Zhao, and Gonzalo Ramos Microsoft Research, One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052, USA (baudisch, desney, kenh, der/@microsoft.com, mancesh@cs.berkeley.edu collomb@limn.ft, stszhao, bonzo/@dep.toroto.edu

ABSTRAC

Sometimes users fail to notice a change that just took place on their display. For example, the user may have accidentally deleted an icon or a nemote collaborator may have changed settings in a control panel. Animated transitions can help, but they force users to wait for the animation to complete. This can be cumbersome, especially in situations where users did not need an explanation. We propose a different approach. Phosphor objects show the outcome of their transition instantly; at the same time they explain their change in retrospect. Manipulating a phosphor slider, for example, leaves an afterglow that illustrates how the knob moved. The parallelism of instant outcome and explanation supports both types of users. Users who already understood the transition can continue interacting without delay, while those who are inexperienced or may have been distracted can take time to view the effects at their own pace. We present a framework of transition designs for widgets, icons, and objects in drawing programs. We evaluate phosphor objects in two user studies and report significant performance benefits for phosphor objects.

ACM Classification: H5.2 [Information interfaces and presentation] User Interfaces - Graphical user interfaces.

General terms: Design, Human Factors.

Keywords: Phosphor, comic ammation, cartoon ammation user interfaces, information visualization, diagrams.

INTRODUCTION

Computer isers sometimes make mistakes, such as accidentally deleting an icon of filing it into the wrong folder Similarly, unexpected things may occur un collaboration scenarios. Users trying to replicate a process demonstrated by a collaboration may letter realize that they missed some of the steps. This is particularly difficult for actions that leave no trace, such as shorted teamingth.

The potential changes that users need to keep track of continues to rise with increasing user interface complexity, more concurrently running applications, large screens where the user may be attending to the wrong location, and

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UEST '05, October 15-18, 2006, Montreux, Switzerland Copyright 2006 ACM 1-59593-313-1/06/0010., \$5.00. the possibility of remote collaboration. Without knowing what changed and how it changed, users can find it hard to detect and correct unintended or unexpected actions.

Animated transitions have been proposed to help users undestand changes in the user interface [9, 19] and have found their way into a range of products. Windows Media Player 10, for example, hides its play controls in fullscreen nucle by slowly moving them off screen. While this can help users understand where the controls went and how to get them back, it also untroduces 'lag' must be interaction, i.e., it forces users to wait for the arrination to complete. For experienced users who do not used an explanation, this forced pause can be cumbersome and may break their concentration.



Figure 1: These phosphor widgets use green afterglow effects to show how they have changed. The sider labeled "volume" was dragged all the way to the left. Two of the checkboxes in the next row were unchecked. The combio box was set from 1 to 2

PHOSPHOR USER INTERFACE OBJECTS

We propose explaining user interface transitions without forcing users to wait. We define a phosphor transition as a transition that:

- I. shows the outcome of the change instantly and
- explains the change in retrospect using a diagrammatic depiction

The space of retrospective diagrammatic descriptions encompasses a great number of possible designs. In this paper, we concentrate on a specific subset based on the notion of afterglow. Figure 1 shows an example. When a user op-

Animation can help people follow interface transitions

But the right speed is crucial

Too fast increases error rate

Too slow increases task time

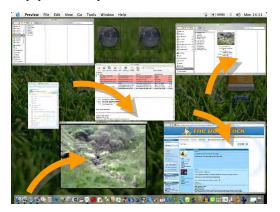
The right speed depends on familiarity, distraction, etc.

It cannot be determined

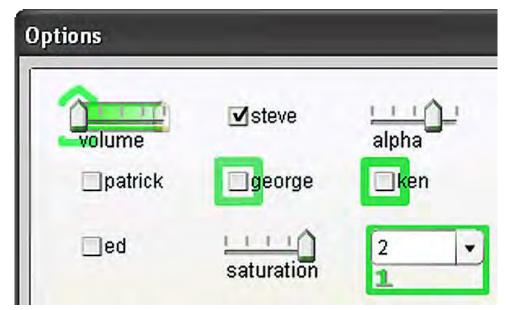
Windows Media Player



Apple Expose



Phosphor shows the outcome immediately, then explains change in retrospect using a diagrammatic depiction

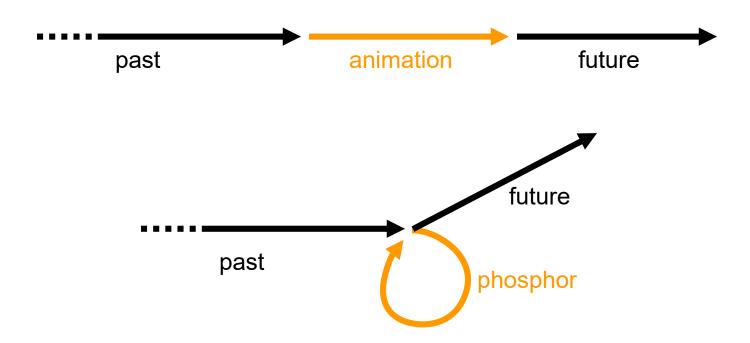


phosphor

phosphor

Challenging Assumptions of Tools

Phosphor breaks from the assumptions that have evolved into current transition tools



Tools and Interfaces

Tools embody expertise and assumptions

Tools evolve based on emerging understanding of how to address categories of problems

Be conscious of your tool decisions

Try to think about designs before tying to a tool

Choose good and appropriate tools

Understand what you are getting in a tool

Push yourself to think outside the tool

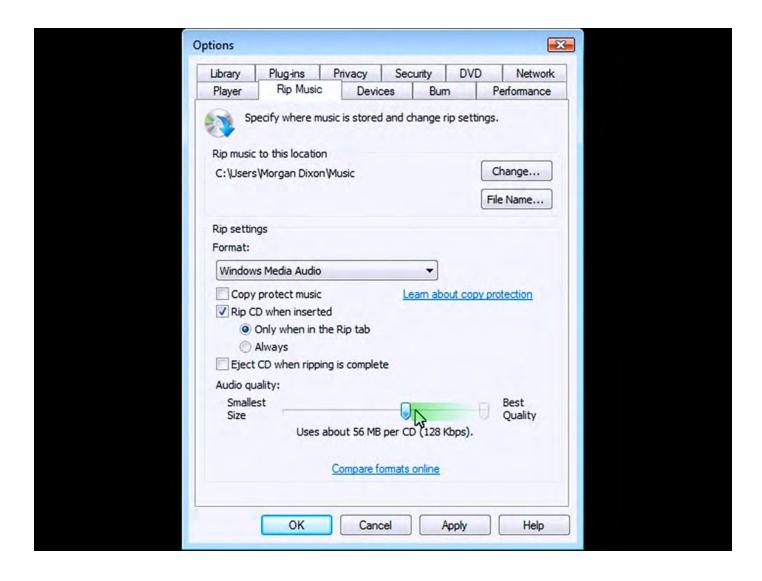
Prefab

Prefab uses pixel analysis to modify existing applications from the outside, using only pixels

Prefab is informed by how toolkits work, but not linked to any particular toolkit implementation

Allows trying and fielding new ideas that are not supported by existing applications or toolkits

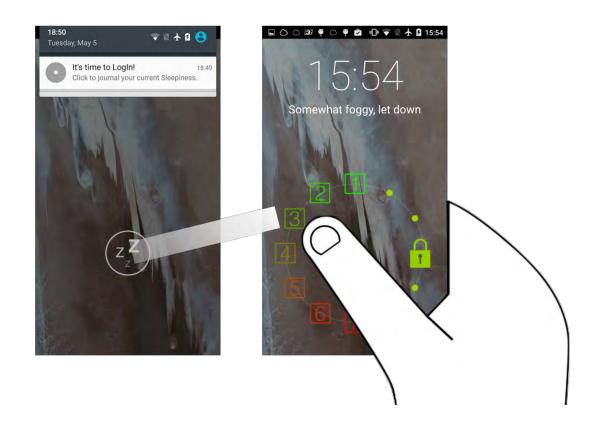
Prefab



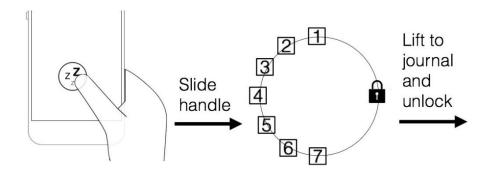
Mobile Phones as Pagers

Our notion of technology design for journals / ESM / EMA has been anchored by papers journals and pager-based reminders

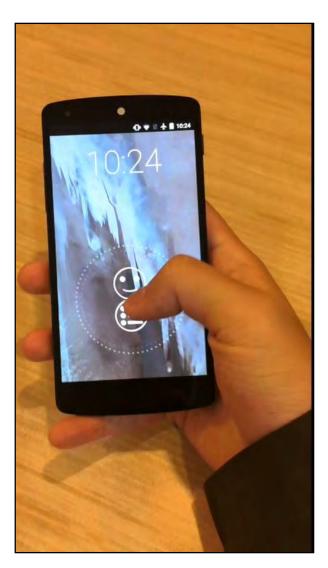


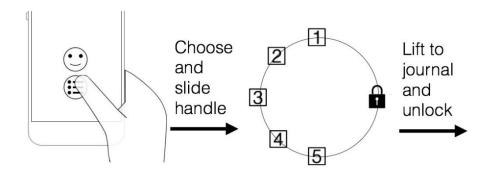






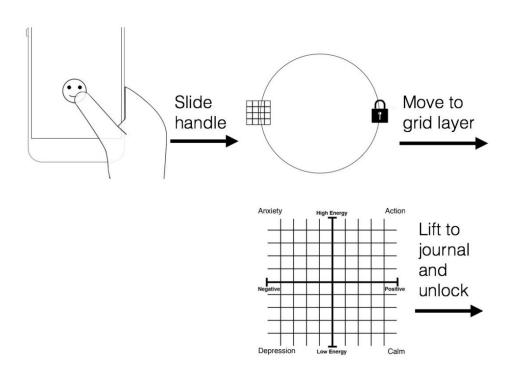
Stanford Sleepiness Scale





Pleasure and Accomplishment (e.g., self-monitoring depressive symptoms)





Russell's Affect Grid

Unlock Journaling vs. Notifications

Unlock journaling is:

rated less intrusive

(1.77 vs. 2.22 on a 5-point scale)

yields greater frequency

(15.0 vs. 9.8 per 12-hour day)

comparable timeliness

(8.6 vs. 9.3 minutes)



Instead of reminders to journal, unlock journaling makes the opportunity visible, easy, and optional

It should not have taken 10 years to get here

Mobile Food Journals

Origins in daily recall

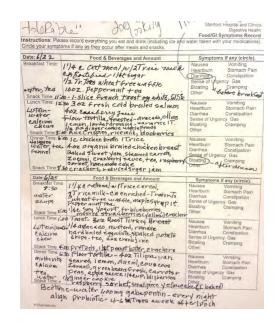
Self-monitoring of food can support many goals

Weight Loss

Diabetes Management

Trigger Identification

High burdens detract from potential benefit, data is often wrong



Mobile Food Journals

Mobile devices provide real-time feedback

Search for each food in a large database, often breaking into components

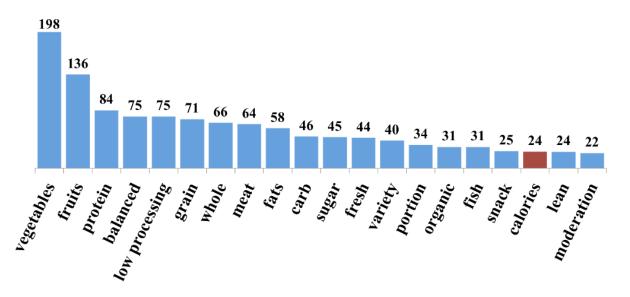
Typically provide calorie-based feedback

High burdens detract from potential benefit, data is often wrong



Perceptions of Healthy Eating

"What does healthy eating look like to you?"



Food types:

"vegetables"
"fruits"
"protein"

Food qualities:

"low processed"

"organic"

"fresh"

Diet qualities:

"balanced"
"variety"
"portion"

Difficulty as a Negative Nudge

"I just avoided eating things that were hard to log" – SP132

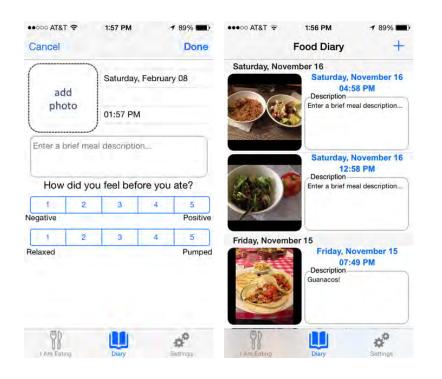
"Prepackaged meals were the easiest because of bar codes but those aren't healthy" – SP123

"I could make life easier by eating the same things regularly" – SP97



"It discourages you from eating out or at a friend's, even if it is healthy" – SP42

Deploying a Photo-Based Journal





Mobile capture and review

Web review and annotation

Leveling the Difficulty of Journaling

With prior techniques:

60% report not journaling because it was too difficult

65% report not journaling because they did not know

With photo-based capture:

22% report not journaling because it was too difficult

None report not journaling due to food knowledge



"For some meals, it's just really easy to take a picture ... than sit there and type in every ingredient" – FP20

Journaling without Judgment

With prior journals, participants report choosing not to journal because they would exceed a calorie budget or because a food was unhealthy

13% of survey participants

45% of field participants

Photos enable mindfulness while avoiding judgment

"[it was] easier because there were no calorie counts, no judgments, but still makes you aware" – FP14

"Do I really want to eat this? I'm capturing this" - FP17

Triggers and Trends

"I eat too much pizza" - FP10

"I'm surprised at how many times I'm seeing things that I consider an exception to my diet!" – FP4

"I don't branch out as much as I thought I did, even when I go somewhere new, I kind of get what I always get somewhere else" – FP10







Food Journals as Daily Recall

"it should be noted that much of the use of food journaling is in a more clinical setting with the purpose being sharing and evaluating the journal with nutritionists and care providers ...

it's not relevant if photos are more or less easily understood by the user if a nutritionist is the eventual consumer of the data"

Actual Anonymous Grumpy R3

CSE 440: Introduction to HCI

User Interface Design, Prototyping, and Evaluation

Lecture 10:

Interface

Implementation

James Fogarty

Eunice Jun

David Wang

Elisabeth Chin

Ravi Karkar





Tuesday / Thursday 10:30 to 11:50