SE 705
Human Computer Interaction
Fall 2007-2008
Tolga Can
Office: B-109
e-mail: tcan@ceng.metu.edu.tr
Course Web Page:
http://www.ceng.metu.edu.tr/~tcan/se705/
newsgroup:
metu.ceng.secondprog.se705
Accessible from http://cow.ceng.metu.edu.tr

Goals of the course
At the end of this course, you will
– Know what is meant by good design (guidelines and models that can be applied to interface design)
– Know and have applied a variety of methods for involving the user in the design process
– Have experienced building applications through various methods and systems
– Know and have applied methods to evaluate interface quality
– Have sufficient background to
  • Apply your training in industry
  • Continue your education

In other words...
1. Consciousness raising
   – Make you aware of these issues
2. Design critic
   – Question bad design

In other words...
Look at human factors that affect software design and development
Central Topic: User interface design
   – Not just a software interface on a desktop monitor!

Goals of HCI
Allow users to carry out tasks
   – Safely
   – Effectively
   – Efficiently
   – Enjoyably

Course Overview
• History of HCI
• Affordance, usability principles
• Human information processing limitations, human cognitive and sensory limits
• User interface design paradigms, interaction design, design paradigms
• Evaluating usability
• User modeling and the user profile. Adaptive interfaces
• Next generation user interfaces: 3D User interfaces, augmented reality, conversational interfaces, multimodal interfaces
• Information visualization
History of Human Computer Interaction

**Grading**
- Midterm exam - 20%
- Final exam - 30%
- Class project - 30%
- Reading assignments
  - Pop quizzes about reading assignments- 20%

**HCI**
What is it?
- Can you define/describe it?

**HCI**
What happens when a human and a computer get together to perform a task
- task - write document, calculate budget, solve equation, learn about Antarctica, drive home,...

**Technological Perspective**
- Technical constraints
  - Beyond the mouse and keyboard?

**Human Perspective**
- How people process information
  - Memory, perception, motor skills, attention etc.
- Language, communication and interaction
- Ergonomics
**Human Computer Interaction**

A discipline concerned with the design, implementation and evaluation of interactive computing systems for human use.

**Class Project**

Design and evaluate an interface

- Part 1 - Team formation & topic choice, understand the problem
- Part 2 - Design alternatives, prototype & evaluation plan, evaluation

**Details**

**Part 1**
- Identify team & topic
- Define the problem
- Describe tasks, users, environment, social context
- What components will be in your design?

**Part 2**
- Discuss design alternatives
- Storyboards, mock-ups for multiple different designs
- Explain decisions
- Semi-working interface functionality
- Plan for conducting evaluation
- Evaluation: Conduct evaluation with example users (2-3 users), characterize what's working and what's not

**Project Teams**

2-3 people
A project/team name
Start forming your teams

**Project Reports & Presentations**

Last week of classes
15-20 minute presentation of your project
**Project Ideas**

Mobile/handheld (cars, tour guides, etc.)
Wedding planner
GIS
Calendar agent (speech)
Audio / Web sites
Interfaces that are designed for children
A domain that you know well
Search the web for projects in other HCI courses

---

**What Makes a Good Project**

Access to domain experts & users
"Real" clients
Interesting human issues
Rich domain for design

---

**History of HCI**

**Input/output devices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Input</th>
<th>Output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connecting wires</td>
<td>lights on display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paper tape &amp; punch cards</td>
<td>paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keyboard</td>
<td>teletype</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Today</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keyboard</td>
<td>scrolling glass teletype</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ cursor keys</td>
<td>character terminal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ mouse</td>
<td>bit-mapped screen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ microphone</td>
<td>audio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soon?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>data gloves + suits</td>
<td>head-mounted displays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>computer jewelry</td>
<td>ubiquitous computing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>natural language</td>
<td>autonomous agents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cameras</td>
<td>multimedia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The lesson

- keyboards & terminals are just artifacts of today's technologies
- new input/output devices will change the way we interact with computers

---

**Last year's projects**

List

---

**History of HCI**

RAND's vision of the future
**History of HCI**

**Eniac (1943)**
- A general view of the ENIAC, the world’s first all electronic numerical integrator and computer.

**Mark I (1944)**
- The Mark I paper tape readers.

**IBM SSEC (1948)**

**Stretch (1961)**
- A close-up of the Stretch technical control panel.

**Intellectual foundations**

**Vannevar Bush (1945)**
- "As we may think" article in Atlantic Monthly
- Identified the information storage and retrieval problem: new knowledge does not reach the people who could benefit from it
- "publication has been extended far beyond our present ability to make real use of the record"

**Bush’s Memex**
- Conceiving Hypertext and the World Wide Web
  - a device where individuals stores all personal books, records, communications etc
  - items retrieved rapidly through indexing, keywords, cross references...
  - can annotate text with margin notes, comments...
  - can construct and save a trail (chain of links) through the material
  - acts as an external memory!

**Bush’s Memex based on microfilm records!**
- but not implemented
J.C.R. Licklider (1960)

Outlined “man-computer symbiosis”

“The hope is that, in not too many years, human brains and computing machines will be coupled together very tightly and that the resulting partnership will think as no human brain has ever thought and process data in a way not approached by the information-handling machines we know today.”

Tightly coupled human brain and machine, speech recognition, time sharing, character recognition

J.C.R. Licklider (continued)

Produced goals that are pre-requisite to “man-computer symbiosis”

Immediate goals:
- time sharing of computers among many users
- electronic i/o for the display and communication of symbolic and pictorial information
- interactive real time system for information processing and programming
- large scale information storage and retrieval

Intermediate goals:
- facilitation of human cooperation in the design & programming of large systems
- combined speech recognition, hand-printed character recognition & light-pen editing

Long term visions:
- natural language understanding (syntax, semantics, pragmatics)
- speech recognition of arbitrary computer users
- heuristic programming

Significant Advances 1960 - 1980

Mid ‘60s
- computers too expensive for a single person

Time-sharing
- the illusion that each user was on their own personal machine
- led to immediate need to support human-computer interaction
  - dramatically increased accessibility of machines
  - afforded interactive systems and languages vs batch "jobs"
  - community as a whole communicated through computers (and eventually through networks) via email, shared files, etc.

Ivan Sutherland’s SketchPad-1963 PhD

Sophisticated drawing package
- introduced many ideas/concepts now found in today’s interfaces
  - hierarchical structures defined pictures and sub-pictures
  - object-oriented programming: master picture with instances
  - constraints: specify details which the system maintains through changes
  - icons: small pictures that represented more complex items
  - copying: both pictures and constraints
  - input techniques: efficient use of light pen
  - world coordinates: separation of screen from drawing coordinates
  - recursive operations: applied to children of hierarchical objects
The Problem (early '50s)

"...The world is getting more complex, and problems are getting more urgent. These must be dealt with collectively. However, human abilities to deal collectively with complex / urgent problems are not increasing as fast as these problems.

If you could do something to improve human capability to deal with these problems, then you'd really contribute something basic."

...Doug Engelbart

The Vision (Early 50's)

...I had the image of sitting at a big CRT screen with all kinds of symbols, new and different symbols, not restricted to our old ones. The computer could be manipulated, and you could be operating all kinds of things to drive the computer

... I also had a clear picture that one's colleagues could be sitting in other rooms with similar work stations, tied to the same computer complex, and could be sharing and working and collaborating very closely. And also the assumption that there'd be a lot of new skills, new ways of thinking that would evolve "

...Doug Engelbart


"By augmenting man's intellect we mean increasing the capability of a man to approach a complex problem situation, gain comprehension to suit his particular needs, and to derive solutions to problems.

One objective is to develop new techniques, procedures, and systems that will better adapt people's basic information-handling capabilities to the needs, problems, and progress of society."

...Doug Engelbart

The First Mouse (1964)

The Personal Computer

Alan Kay (1969)

- Dynabook vision (and cardboard prototype) of a notebook computer:

"Imagine having your own self-contained knowledge manipulator in a portable package the size and shape of an ordinary notebook. Suppose it had enough power to out-race your senses of sight and hearing, enough capacity to store for later retrieval thousands of page-equivalents of reference materials, poems, letters, recipes, records, drawings, animations, musical scores..."

Ted Nelson

- 1974: "Computer Lib/Dream Machines"
- popular book describing what computers can do for people (instead of business)
Xerox PARC, mid-'70s
- Alto computer, a personal workstation
  - local processor, bit-mapped display, mouse
  - modern graphical interfaces
    - text and drawing editing, electronic mail
    - windows, menus, scroll bars, mouse selection, etc
  - local area networks (Ethernet) for personal workstations
    - could make use of shared resources

ALTAIR 8800 (1975)
- Popular electronics article that showed people how to build a computer for under $400

Commercial machines: Xerox Star-1981
First commercial personal computer designed for "business professionals"
- familiar user's conceptual model (simulated desktop)
- promoted recognizing/pointing rather than remembering/typing
- property sheets to specify appearance/behaviour of objects
- what you see is what you get (WYSIWYG)
- small set of generic commands that could be used throughout the system
- high degree of consistency and simplicity
- modeless interaction
- limited amount of user tailorability

Commercial Machines: Apple Lisa (1983)
Based upon many ideas in the Star
- predecessor of Macintosh,
- somewhat cheaper ($10,000)
- commercial failure as well

"Old ideas" but well done!
- aggressive pricing ($2500)
- did not need to trailblaze
  - learnt 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
### History (and future) of HCI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Large displays</th>
<th>Speech recognition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small displays</td>
<td>Multimedia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral displays</td>
<td>Video conferencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative I/O</td>
<td>Artificial intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ubiquitous computing</td>
<td>Software agents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual environments</td>
<td>Recommender systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implants</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other events:

- **MIT Architecture Machine Group**
  - Many innovative inventions, including:
    - Wall-sized displays
    - Use of video disks
    - Use of artificial intelligence in interfaces (idea of agents)
    - Speech recognition merged with pointing
    - Speech production
    - Multimedia hypertext
    - ...

- **ACM SIGCHI (1982)**
  - Special interest group on computer-human interaction
  - Conferences draw between 2000-3000 people

- **HCI Journals**
  - Many others since 1982

### History of HCI

#### You know now:

HCI importance result of:

- Cheaper/available computers/workstations meant people more important than machines
- Excellent interface ideas modeled after human needs instead of system needs (user centered design)
- Evolution of ideas into products through several generations
  - Pioneer systems developed innovative designs, but often commercially unviable
  - Settler systems incorporated (many years later) well-researched designs
- People no longer willing to accept products with poor interfaces

### Next week...

- **Reading assignment:** No reading assignment this week. I will post your reading assignment next week on the class web page.
- **Project:** Start forming your project groups.

We will continue with “Usability principles” next week.