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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTINUOUS STROKE WORD-BASED TEXT INPUT**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The disclosed System enables word-level text entry on a small displayed keyboard by tracing an input path that begins on or near the key of the first letter, passes through or near the key of each letter in sequence, and terminates in the vicinity of the key of the last letter. The input path is processed by scoring it against words in a database that includes an indication of relative frequency. A correctly spelled word is output even when the input path corresponds to an incorrect spelling of a word. Words are ranked according to a score calculated from the weighted distances from each associated key to determined input path points, further weighted by the frequency of use and by other characteristics of the input path. Alternate word choices are presented to the user in a manner to minimize distraction. Efficient editing mechanisms and other enhancements are included.

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