

old criterion met by the ratio of the word's Scoring Metric value to that of the first word.

[0188] In another embodiment, more than one type of scoring metric calculation is used to determine how closely each analyzed word matches the input path, and the two most-closely-matching words are compared with respect to two or more distinct scoring metric calculations to determine whether the difference between the two words fails to exceed one or more thresholds. For example, one embodiment of a secondary scoring metric is shown in FIG. 3E at block 3505 where the value *avDistance* is calculated for each candidate word. In another embodiment, when more than one type of scoring metric calculation is used to determine how closely each analyzed word matches the input path, corresponding thresholds are used for each scoring metric to define threshold difference groups for each scoring metric used, and the list of possible word choices is presented to the user such that all words that fall into the same threshold difference group (as defined by one or more of the scoring metrics used) are presented in a contiguous group in the list, and wherein all words of a given difference threshold group are presented in the same distinctive visual fashion (for example, with a specific color background on the display). In accordance with these embodiments, at block 31045 the process identifies any candidate words for which the ratio of the secondary Scoring Metric value for the word to that of the first word falls below one or more determined threshold values. Then at block 31050, a display flag is set for each word identified at block 31945 corresponding to the lowest threshold criterion met by the ratio of the word's secondary Scoring Metric value to that of the first word. Then at block 31055, the list of candidate words is re-sorted in order to move any words in the list for which the secondary display flag has been set up to a position in the list immediately following the last word in the same threshold group (which therefore has the corresponding primary display flag set). If no word has been identified as belonging in the same threshold group according to the primary scoring metric, then the words in a given secondary threshold group are moved to follow words in any higher precedence threshold group, or if none exist, then to immediately follow the first word. Finally, at block 31060 a Word Choice list is created and displayed at the text insertion point showing the `Num_Display Word_Candidates[]` entries starting with the first word, where any words identified as belonging to the same threshold group are visually indicated in a distinctive manner.

[0189] FIGS. 7A and 7B shows an example of a word selection list that is modified and displayed in accordance with certain of the above embodiments. FIG. 7A shows an input path 7000 entered by a user where the intended word was the word "three" (for the purposes of this illustrative example, we will assume that the alternate DoubleLetter gesture has been disabled by the user, since otherwise the word "three" would appear as the top-ranked default word). The user enters an input path that begins at a PenDown location 7002, proceeds in sequence to the vicinities of the letter-keys associated with "h" and "r", and then attempts to enter a DoubleLetter "circle" gesture 7004 in the vicinity of the letter-key associated with "e" but fails to complete a recognizable gesture. The selection list 7006 shown in FIG. 7A shows the list that would result in accordance with the various aspects of the present invention but without implementing the above-described embodiment in which all

words that fall into the same threshold difference group (as defined by one or more of the scoring metrics used) are presented in a contiguous group in the list. Due to the unrecognized attempted DoubleLetter gesture at 7004, the primary Scoring Metric associated with the intended word "three" is not good enough for the word to appear on the displayed selection list 7006 of the top four candidates, since Scoring Metric "three" ranks seventh among the matched candidate words with respect to the primary Scoring Metric. As shown in FIG. 7A, "thread" and "enter" are the two top-ranked candidate words, both of which appear in the same highlighted fashion 7008 associated with the lowest threshold difference group, including those word candidates whose Scoring Metric most closely matches that of the top candidate (and thus, in the example shown, including the top candidate itself). The third-ranked candidate "threat" is shown is a second distinct highlighted fashion 7010 associated with the next lowest threshold difference group, and the fourth-ranked candidate "tuner" fails to meet any difference threshold and appears without distinctive visual highlighting 7012.

[0190] FIG. 7B shows the same input path 7000 with the selection list 7014 that results in accordance with the various aspects of the present invention and also including the above-described embodiment in which all words that fall into the same threshold difference group (as defined by one or more of the scoring metrics used) are presented in a contiguous group in the list. Since the intended word "three" is also included in the lowest threshold difference group with respect to the secondary Scoring Metric (*avDistance*, as shown in FIG. 3E at block 3505), in FIG. 7B the intended word "three" appears third in the displayed selection list 7014, immediately following the two top-ranked candidate words "thread" and "enter," and appearing in the same highlighted fashion 7008 associated with the lowest threshold difference group. This aspect thus makes it possible for the user to immediately find and select the intended word from the first displayed selection list.

[0191] In another aspect, the system detects when the stylus is lifted for less than a pre-defined threshold time interval prior to contacting the touch-screen again. In one aspect the system conducts a first analysis by processing the input path entered prior to the lifting of the stylus to generate a list of the highest scoring word candidates identified. In another aspect the system first presents a word choice selection list from the results of this first analysis of the input path entered prior to the lifting of the stylus. In another aspect, the system waits until the pre-defined threshold time interval has elapsed prior to displaying a word choice list, even if the analysis of the preceding input path has completed. The system then joins the input path entered prior to the lifting of the stylus with the input path entered following the lifting of the stylus, and processes the joined input path as a single input path with an initial contact location corresponding to that of the input path entered prior to the lifting of the stylus, and with a final contact location corresponding to that of the input path entered following the lifting of the stylus. The system then performs a second analysis of the joined input path and generates a list of the highest scoring word candidates identified. In another aspect, the system waits until this second analysis (that of the joined input path) is completed prior to displaying any word choice selection list. In another aspect, the system creates a single word choice list by merging the results of the first and second