

respective candidate word if the respective candidate word, compared to the sequence of input characters, has only a set of transposed characters that are different.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the keyboard comprises a virtual keyboard.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the dictionary comprises a list of words and associated usage frequency rankings.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the associated usage frequency rankings are tailored to the user based on previous input from the user.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein selecting a subset of the candidate words comprises organizing the candidate words into a first group and a second group, the first group comprising the candidate words having respective usage frequency rankings that exceed a threshold, the second group comprising the candidate words having respective usage frequency rankings that do not exceed the threshold; and

wherein presenting the subset of the candidate words comprises presenting one or more of the candidate words of the first group in an order based on their scores.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein selecting a subset of the candidate words further comprises adding a candidate word of the second group into the first group if the candidate word of the second group has a score that exceeds a score of the highest scoring candidate word of the first group by a predefined margin.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein presenting the subset of the candidate words further comprises presenting a highest scoring candidate word of the second group.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting the sequence of input characters as a candidate word.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the keyboard comprises a physical keyboard.

13. A computer program product for use in conjunction with a portable communications device, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

instructions for receiving a sequence of input characters from a keyboard, wherein the keyboard has a predefined layout of characters with each character in the layout having one or more neighbor characters;

instructions for generating a set of strings from at least a subset of the sequence of input characters, the set of strings comprising permutations of respective input characters in the subset of the sequence and neighbor characters of the respective input characters on the layout of the keyboard;

instructions for identifying in a dictionary one or more candidate words, each candidate word having a string in the set of strings as a prefix;

instructions for scoring the candidate words;

instructions for selecting a subset of the candidate words based on predefined criteria; and

instructions for presenting the subset of the candidate words.

14. A portable communications device, comprising:

a display;

a keyboard, the keyboard having a predefined layout of characters with each character in the layout having one or more neighbor characters;

one or more processors;

memory; and

a program, wherein the program is stored in the memory and configured to be executed by the one or more processors, the program including:

instructions for receiving a sequence of input characters from the keyboard;

instructions for generating a set of strings from at least a subset of the sequence of input characters, the set of strings comprising permutations of respective input characters in the subset of the sequence and neighbor characters of the respective input characters on the layout of the keyboard;

instructions for identifying in a dictionary one or more candidate words, each candidate word having a string in the set of strings as a prefix;

instructions for scoring the candidate words;

instructions for selecting a subset of the candidate words based on predefined criteria; and

instructions for presenting the subset of the candidate words.

15. A portable communications device, comprising:

display means;

input means, the input means having a predefined layout of characters, each character in the layout having one or more neighbor characters;

one or more processor means;

memory means; and

a program mechanism, wherein the program mechanism is stored in the memory means and configured to be executed by the one or more processors means, the program mechanism including:

instructions for receiving a sequence of input characters from the input means;

instructions for generating a set of strings from at least a subset of the sequence of input characters, the set of strings comprising permutations of respective input characters in the subset of the sequence and neighbor characters of the respective input characters on the layout of the input means;

instructions for identifying in a dictionary one or more candidate words, each candidate word having a string in the set of strings as a prefix;

instructions for scoring the candidate words;

instructions for selecting a subset of the candidate words based on predefined criteria; and

instructions for presenting the subset of the candidate words.

16. A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving a sequence of individual touch points input by a user that form a user-input directed graph;

comparing the user-input directed graph to respective directed graphs for words in a dictionary;

generating a list of candidate words based at least in part on the comparing step; and

presenting at least some of the candidate words to the user.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the sequence of individual touch points is input by the user on a touch screen of a portable electronic device.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein generating a list of candidate words is based at least in part on the usage frequency of the candidate words.