

there along with other fingers for a second or two. Once resting, fingers can be lifted and tapped or impulsively pressed on the surface to generate key symbols without having to lift other resting fingers. Typematic is initiated either by impulsively pressing and maintaining distinguishable force on a key, or by holding a finger on a key while other fingers on the hand are lifted. Glancing motions of single fingers as they tap key regions are easily tolerated since most cursor manipulation must be initiated by synchronized slides of two or more fingers.

[0296] Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from consideration of the specification and practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and examples be considered as exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising the steps of:
 - a. examining a human hand with respect to sensor surface and periodically producing first indications regarding the nature and position of sensed contacts, the contacts comprising identified portions of the hand;
 - b. evaluating a first set of the first indications to determine if the character of sensed contacts is consistent with a hand gripping a writing implement for writing on the sensor surface;
 - c. evaluating a second set of the first indications to determine if the character of sensed contacts is consistent with a hand gripping a writing implement for writing on the sensor surface;
 - d. if the character of both the first set and the second set are both consistent with gripping a writing implement, producing second indications regarding the perceived motion of the perceived writing implement.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein sensed contacts comprise portions of a human hand that are within sensing range of the sensor surface but not physically touching the sensor surface.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein periodically producing first indications comprises producing a first set of first indications at time t_0 ; producing a second set of first indications at time t_1 ; and producing a third set of first indications at time t_2 .
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the time interval between times t_0 and t_1 is different than the time interval between times t_1 and t_2 .
5. The method of claim 1 wherein second indication comprise inking events.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein second indications comprise a character code.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the second indications are inking events and further comprising the step, evaluating a plurality of inking events and based thereon, producing an indication of a character.

8. A contact evaluation system comprising:

e. a contact identification unit that examines contacts with respect to a sensor surface and produces first indications regarding the nature and position of sensed contacts, the sensed contacts comprising identified portions of a human hand;

f. a handwriting detection unit that evaluates a plurality of first indications to determine if the character of sensed contacts is consistent with a hand gripping a writing implement and writing on the sensor surface;

g. an event generator that generates an event if the character of the sensed contacts is consistent with a hand gripping a writing implement and writing.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the event comprises indications regarding the perceived motion of the perceived writing implement.

10. The system of claim 8 wherein sensed contacts comprise portions of a human hand that are within sensing range of the sensor surface but not physically touching the sensor surface.

11. The system of claim 8 wherein the plurality of first indications comprises a first set of first indications at time t_0 , a second set of first indications at time t_1 , and a third set of first indications at time t_2 .

12. The system of claim 11 wherein the time elapsed between time t_0 and time t_1 is the same as the time elapsed between time t_1 and t_2 .

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the time elapsed between time t_0 and time t_1 is the different than the time elapsed between time t_1 and t_2 .

14. The system of claim 8 wherein second indications comprise an inking event.

15. The system of claim 8 wherein second indications comprise a character code.

16. The system of claim 8 wherein the second indications comprise an inking event and an inking evaluation unit evaluates the inking events and produces a character in response thereto.

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