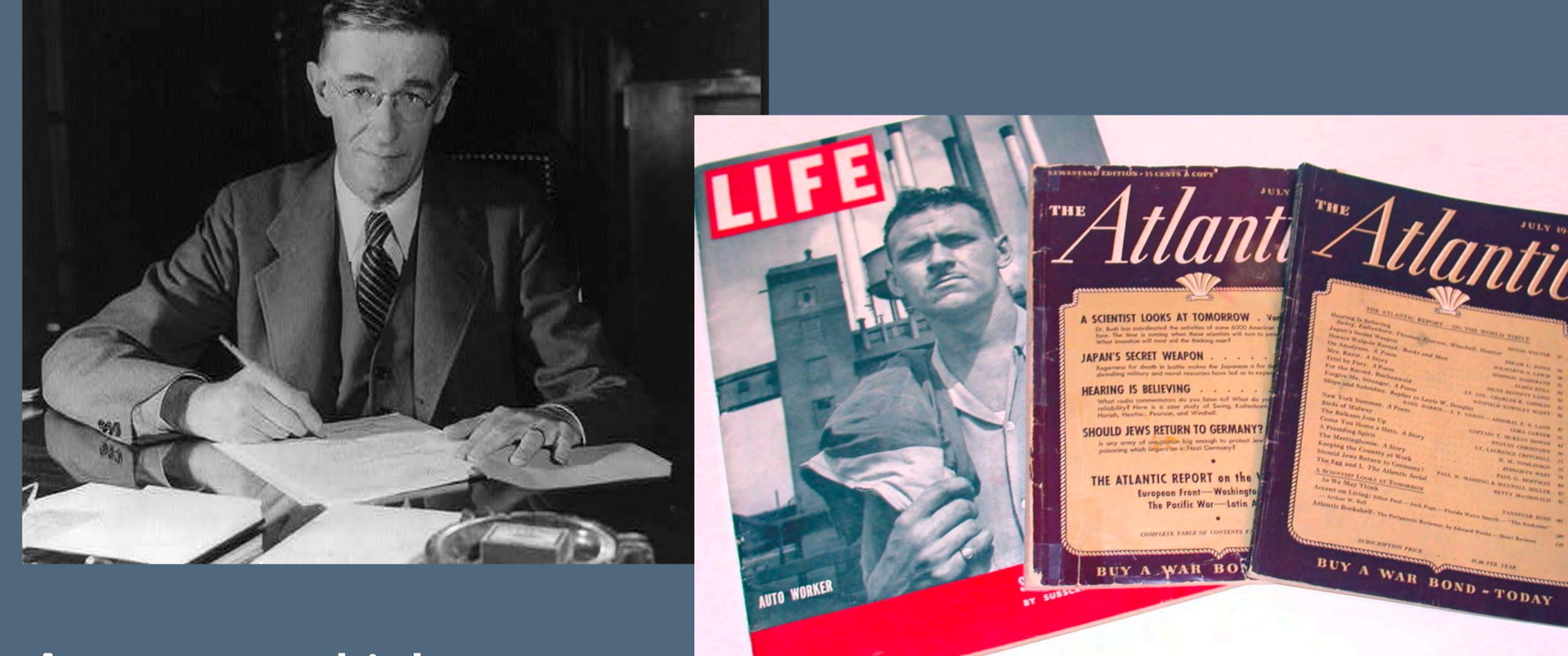
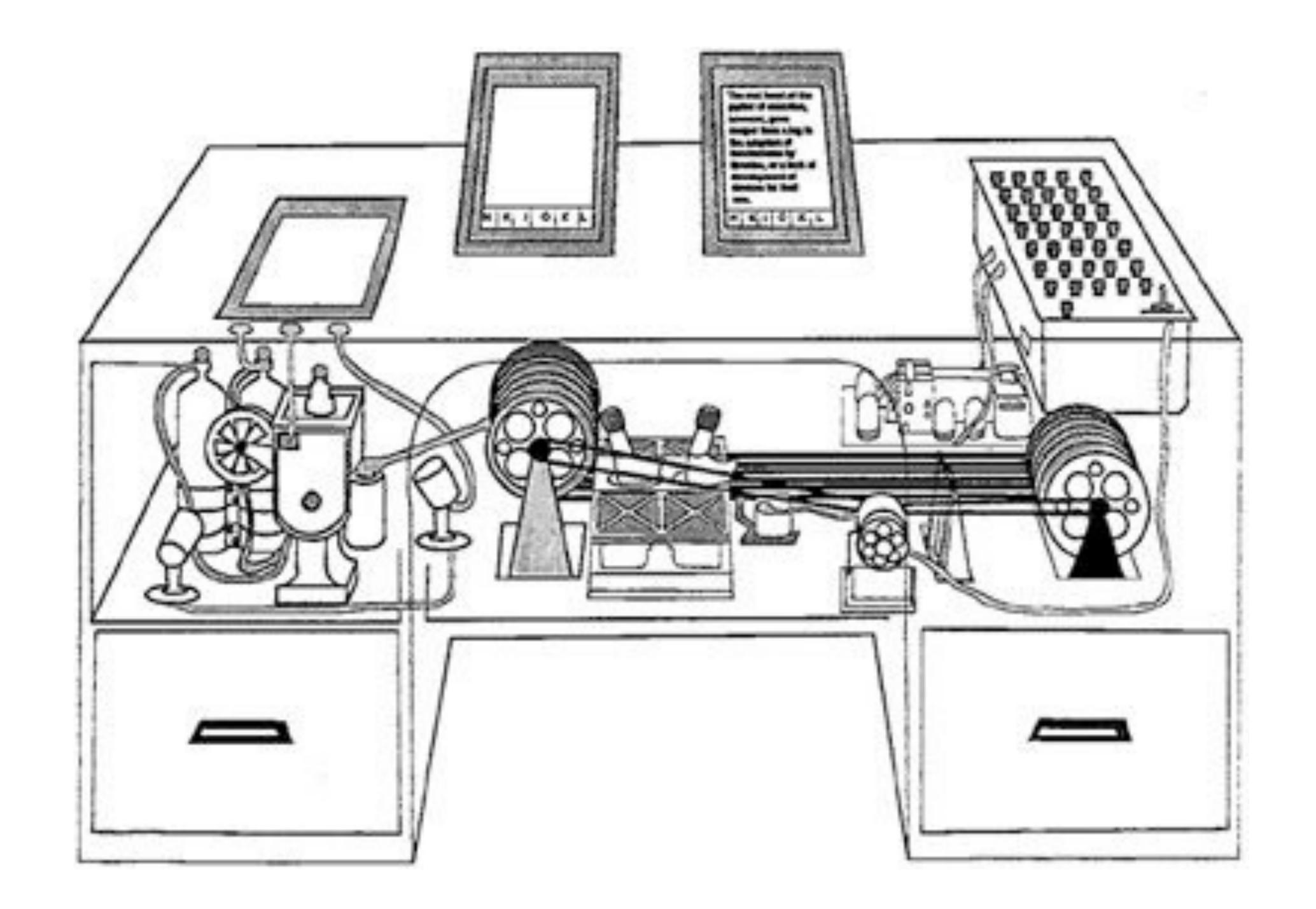
# HCI Foundations and Frontiers

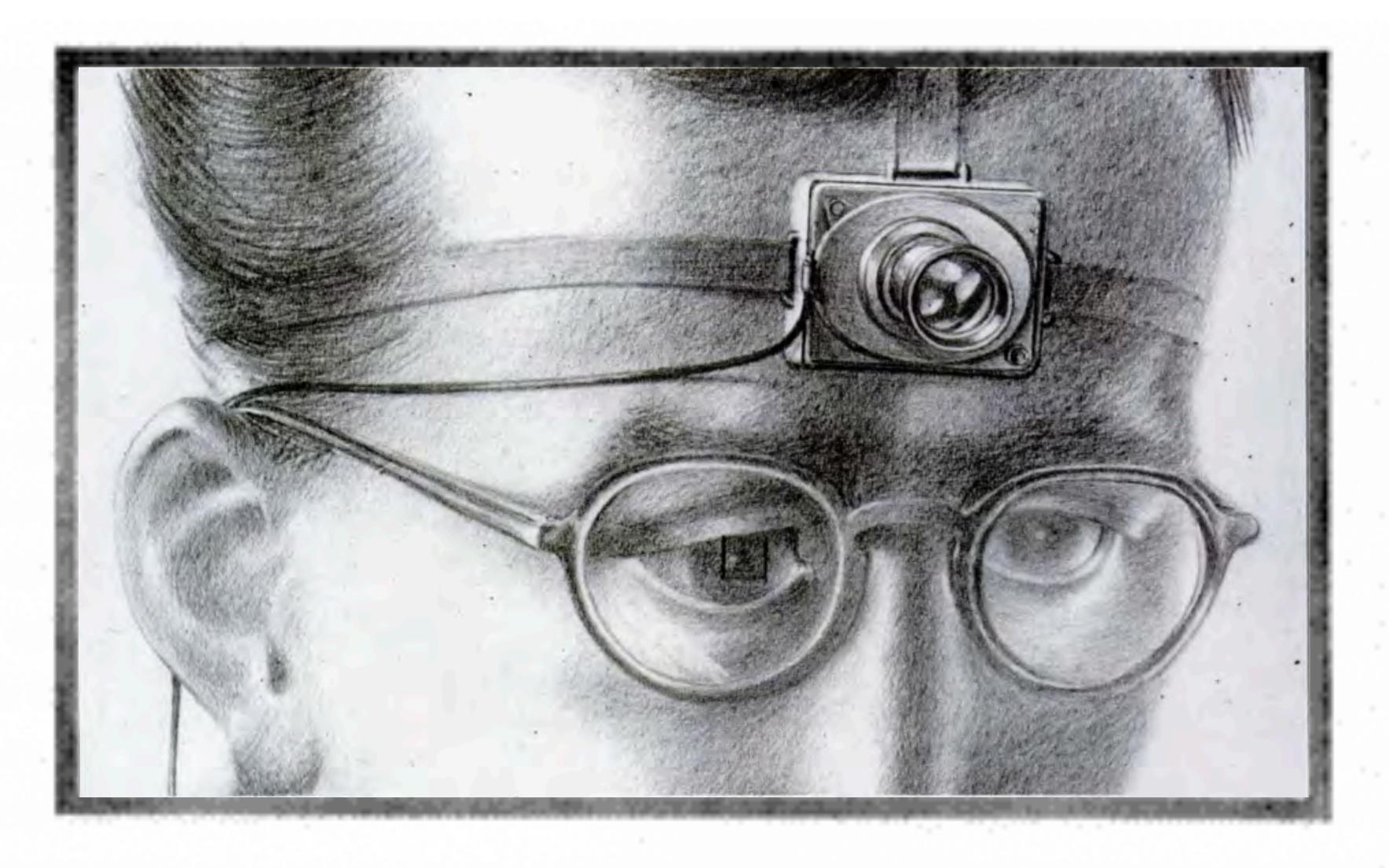
CS 347
Maneesh Agrawala



As we may think.
Vannevar Bush, 1945.

First appeared in The Atlantic, later that year a condensed version in Life



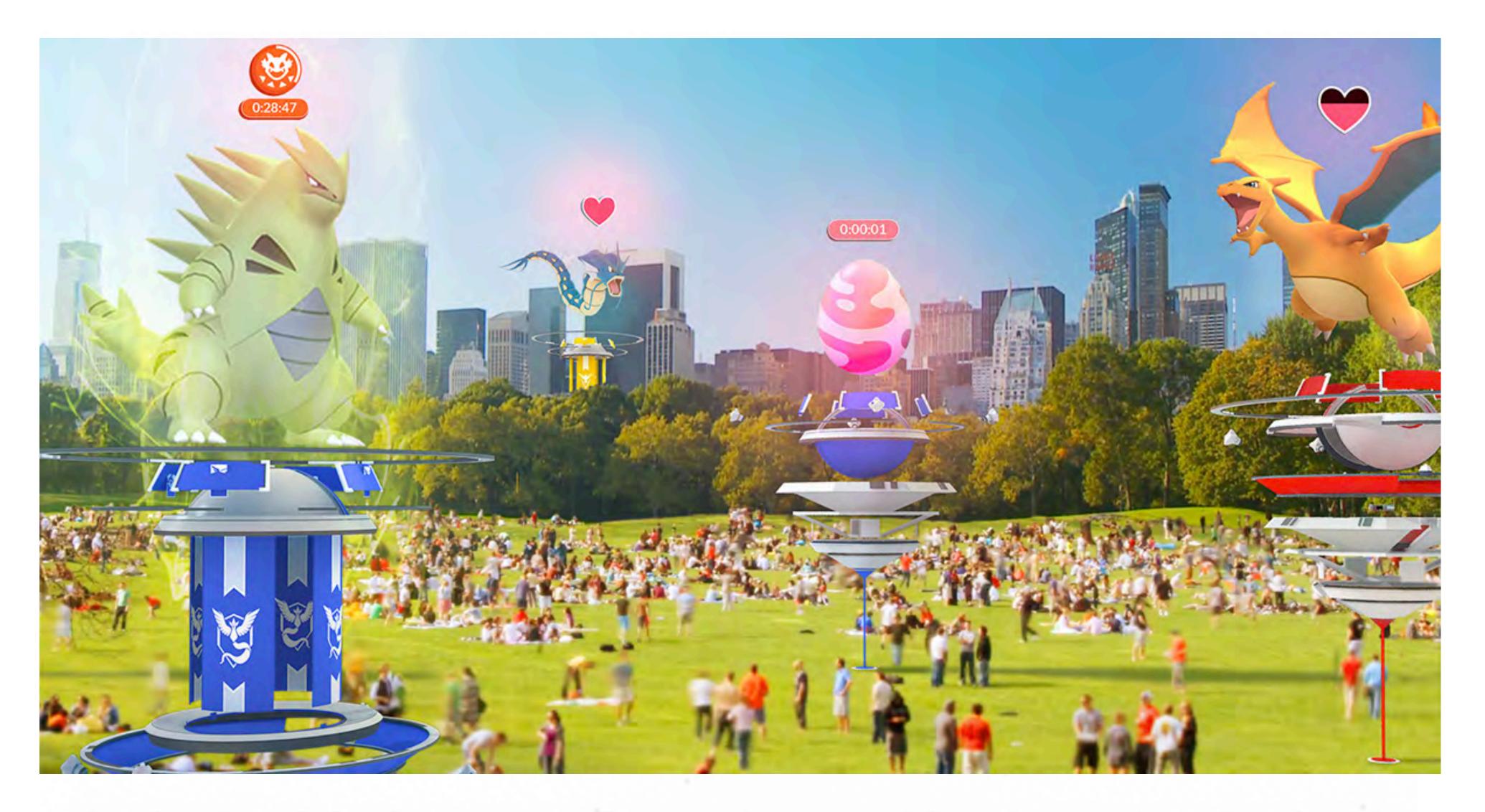




[image from TechCrunch]



[image from spar3d]



"Wholly new forms of encyclopedias will appear, ready-made with a mesh of associative trails running through them."

"Wholly new ready-made value through them

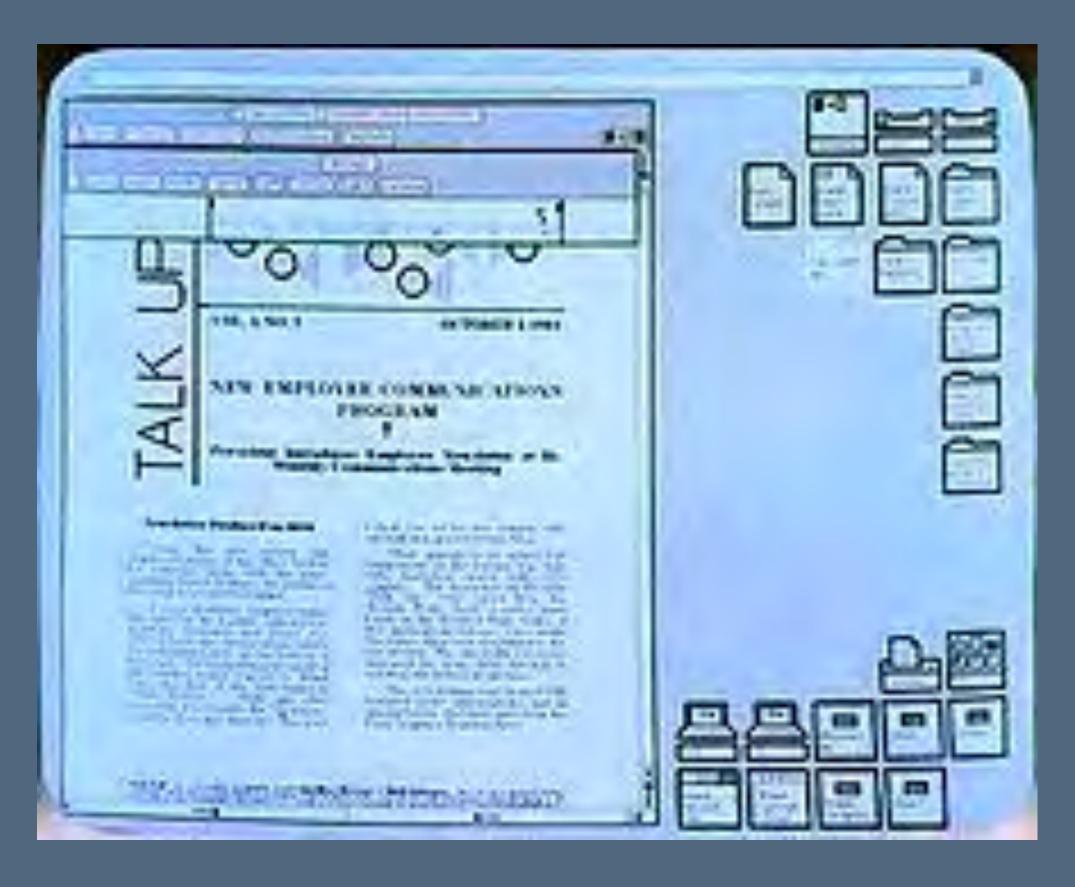


will appear, trails running

# WIKIPEDIA

The Free Encyclopedia

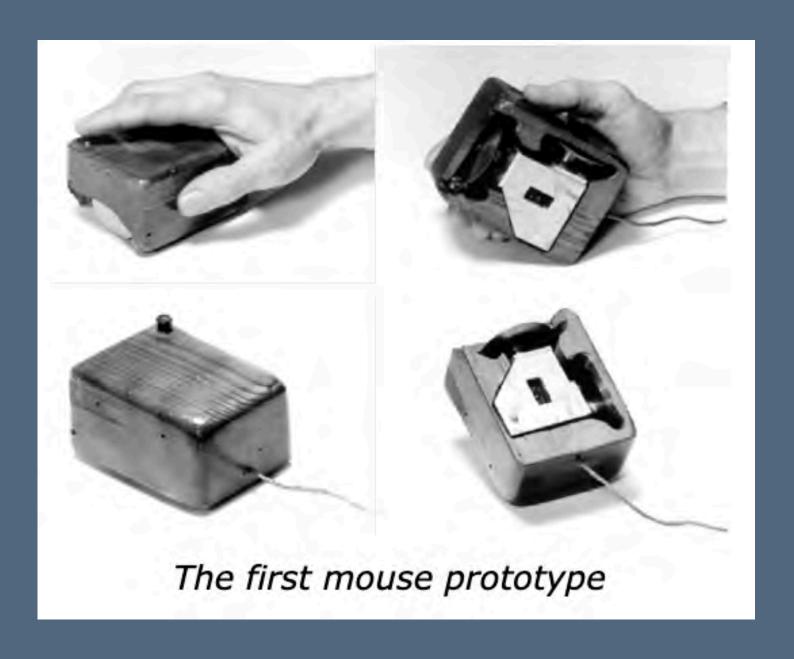
### Xerox PARC. 1973. The Xerox Alto.



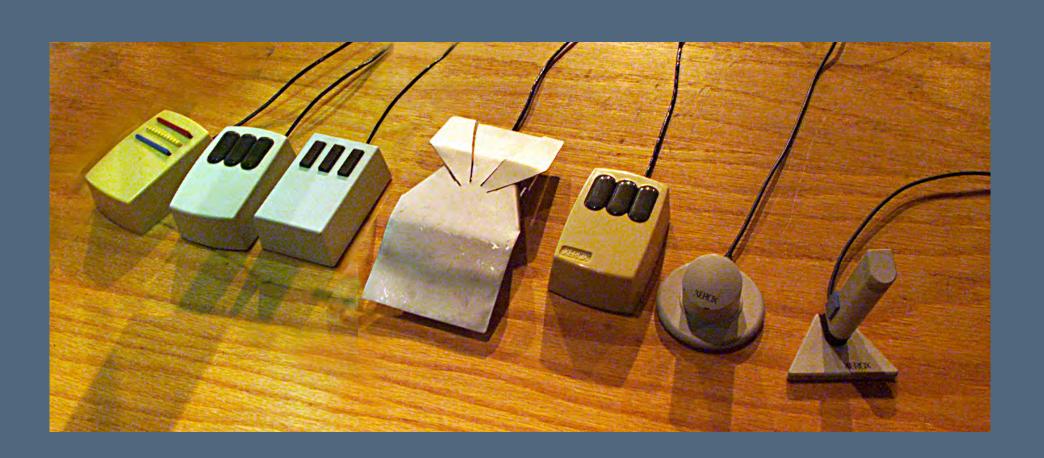
#### Modern MacOS desktop



#### Engelbart 1963-64 First mouse prototype



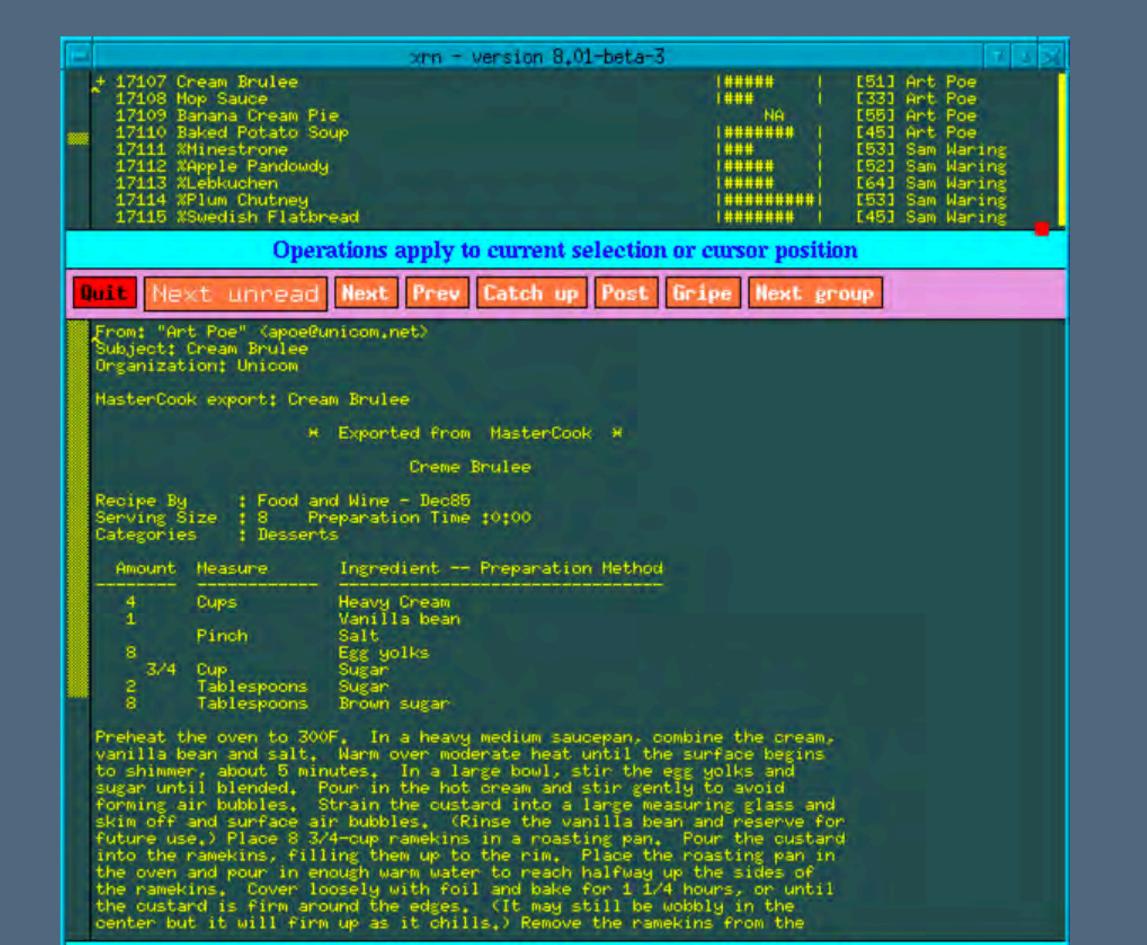
Card, English and Burr. 1978. Evaluation of mouse, rate-controlled isometric joystick, step keys, and text keys for text selection on a CRT.



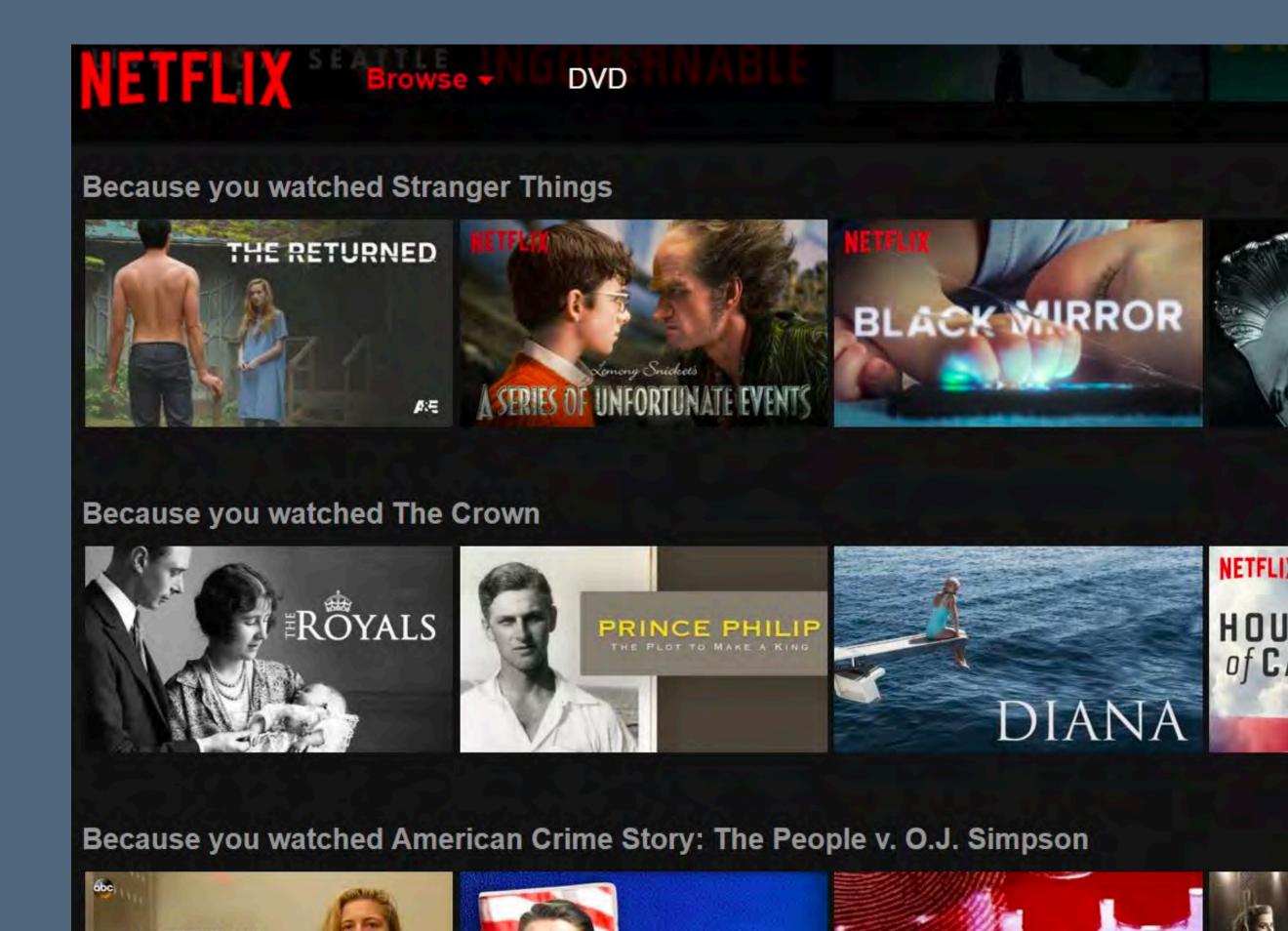
Modern mouse



Resnick et al. 1994. GroupLens: an open architecture for collaborative filtering of netnews.



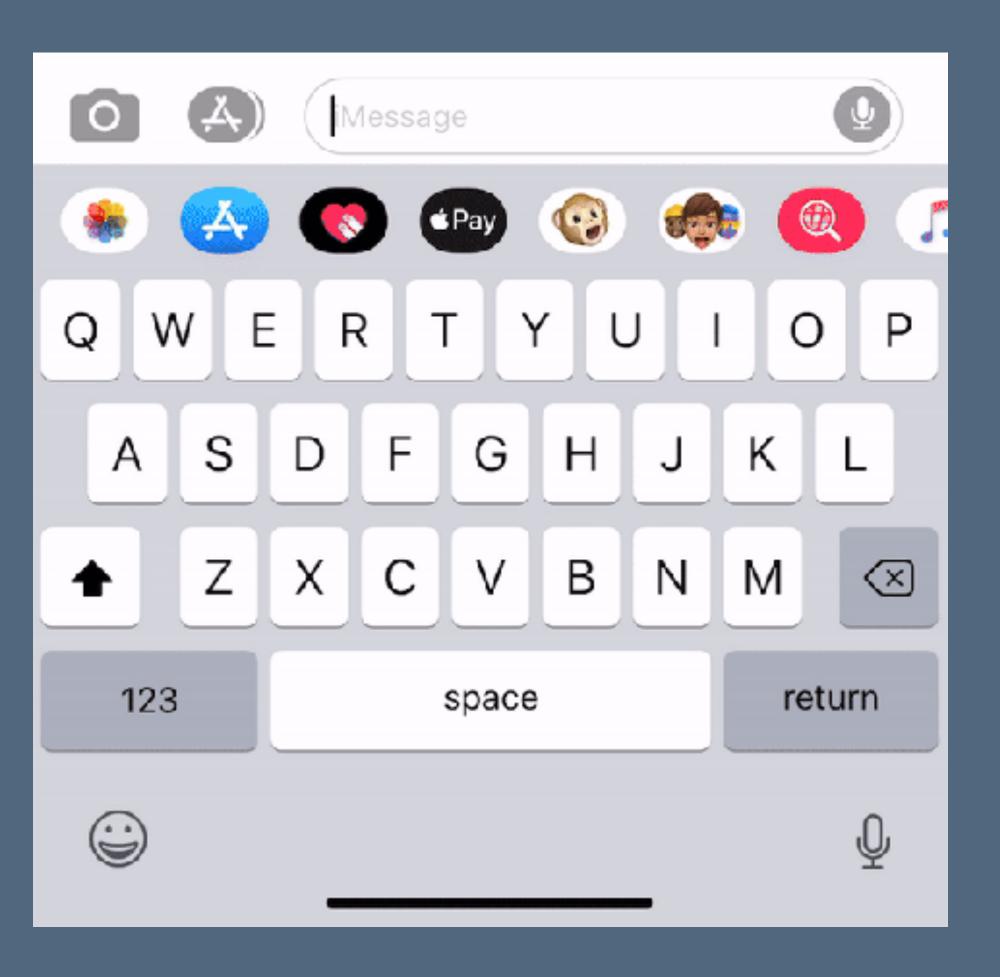
Modern recommender systems [image from HBS]



Zhai and Kristensson. 2003. Shorthand writing on a stylus keyboard.



Swipe keyboards (iOS, Android) [image from 9to5mac]

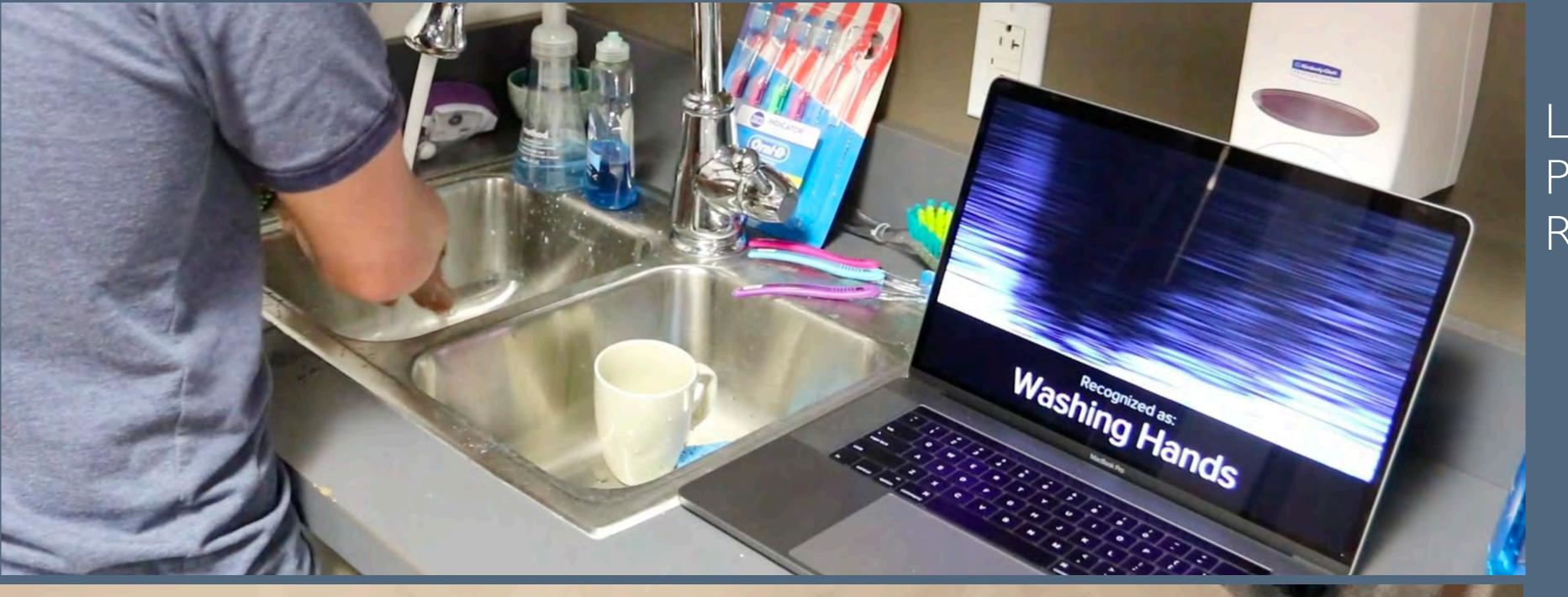


Consolvo et al. 2008. Activity sensing in the wild: a field trial of UbiFit Garden.



Modern fitness trackers [image from Apple]





Laput et al. 2018. Ubicoustics: Plug-and-Play Acoustic Activity Recognition

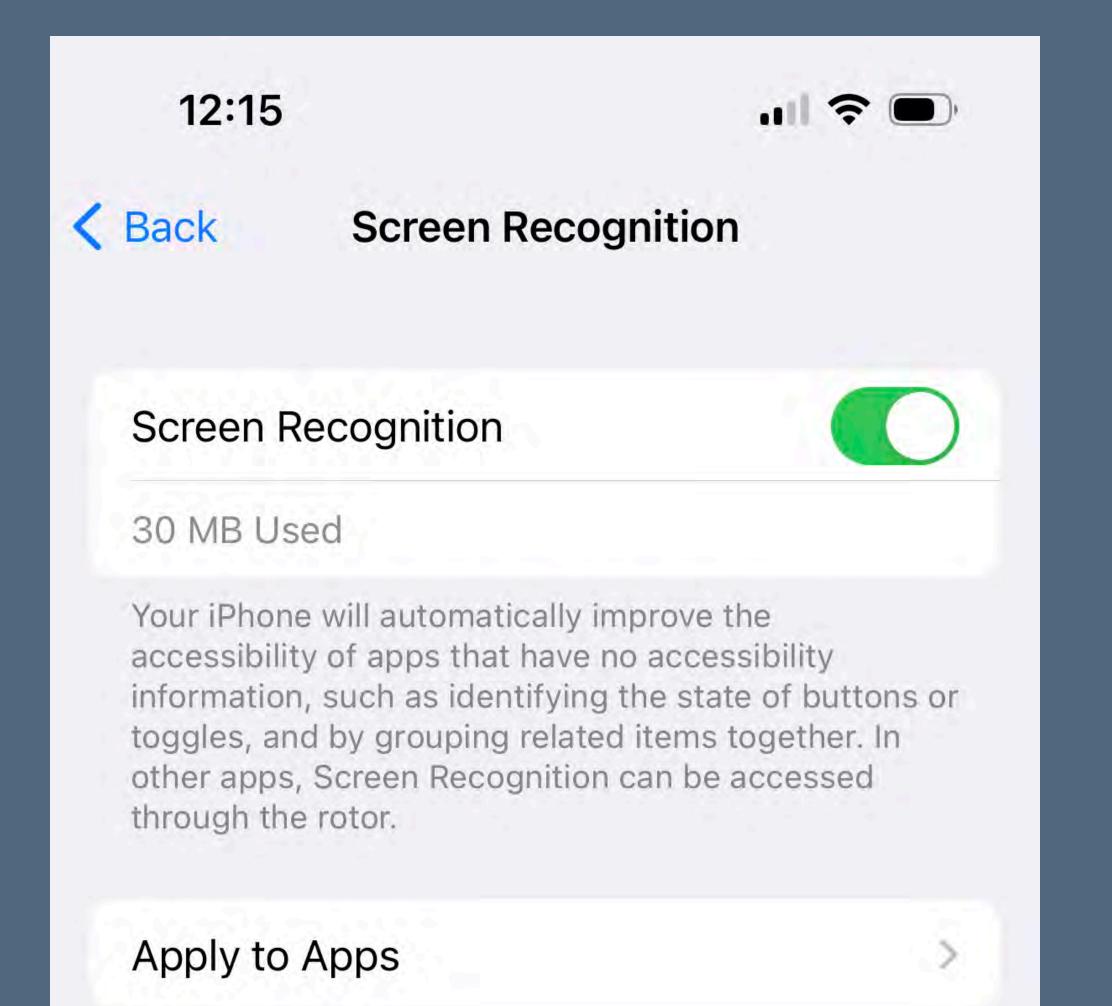


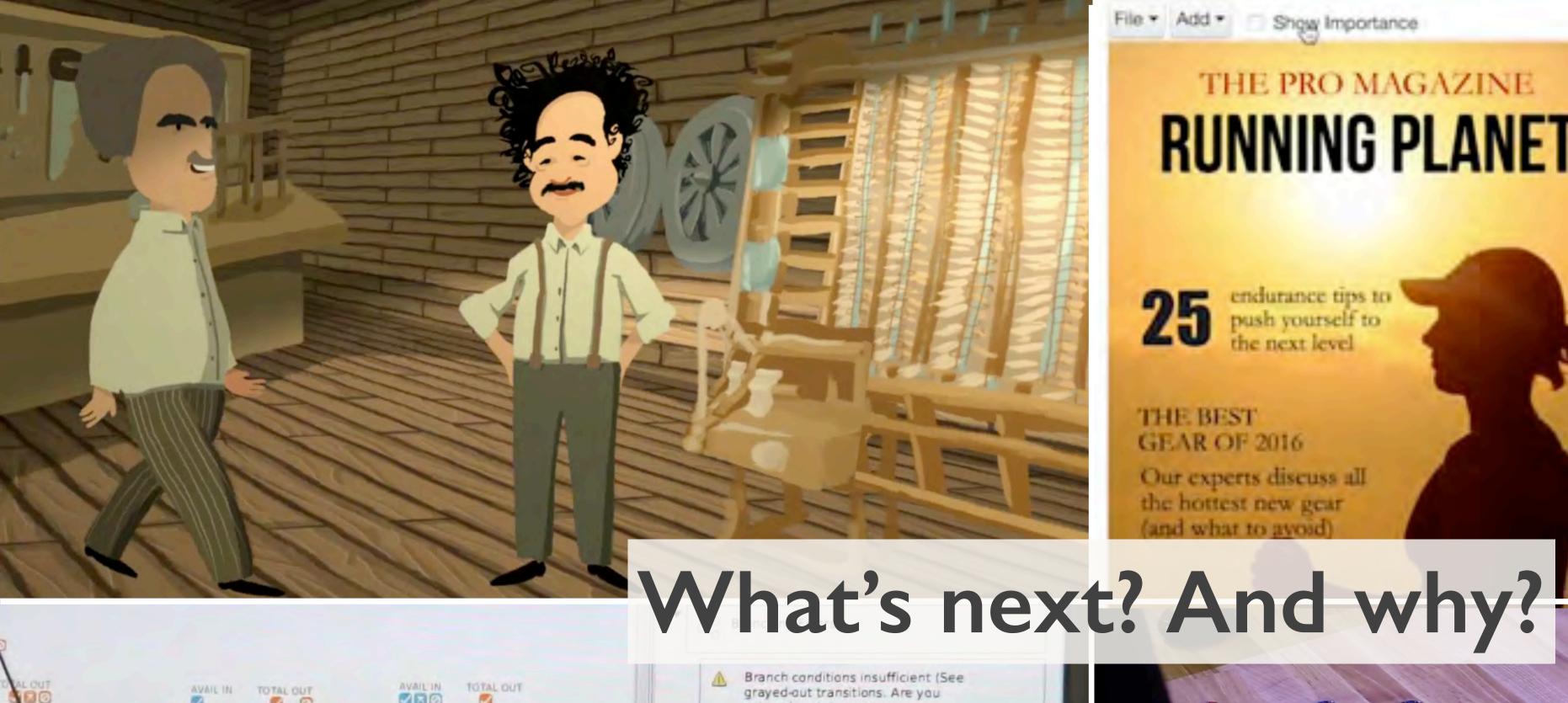
Apple Watch handwashing detection 2020

## Zhang et al. 2021. Al-powered screen reader accessibility.



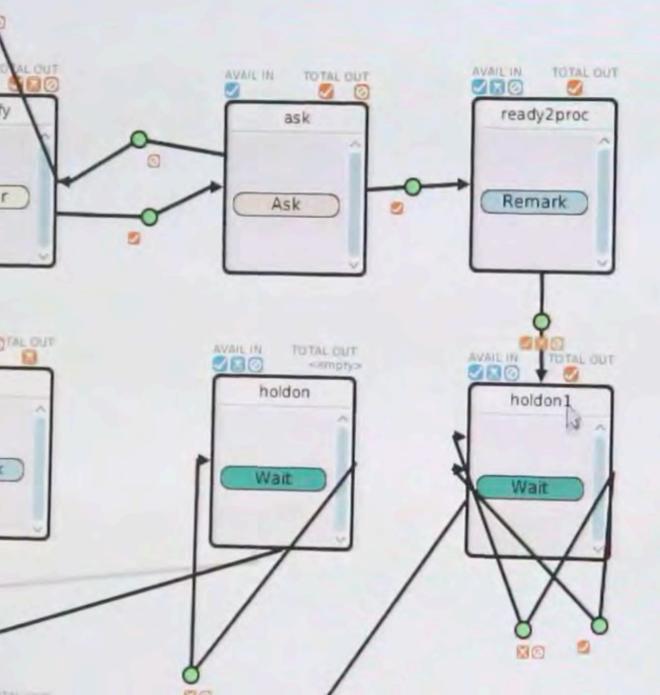
### iOS Screen Recognition

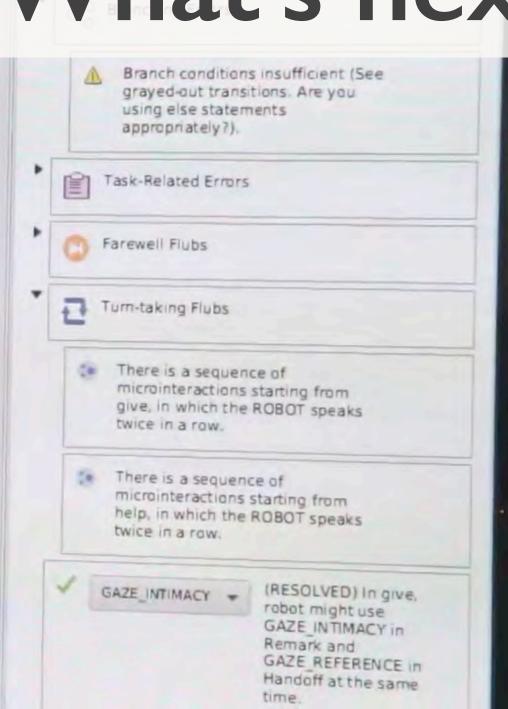


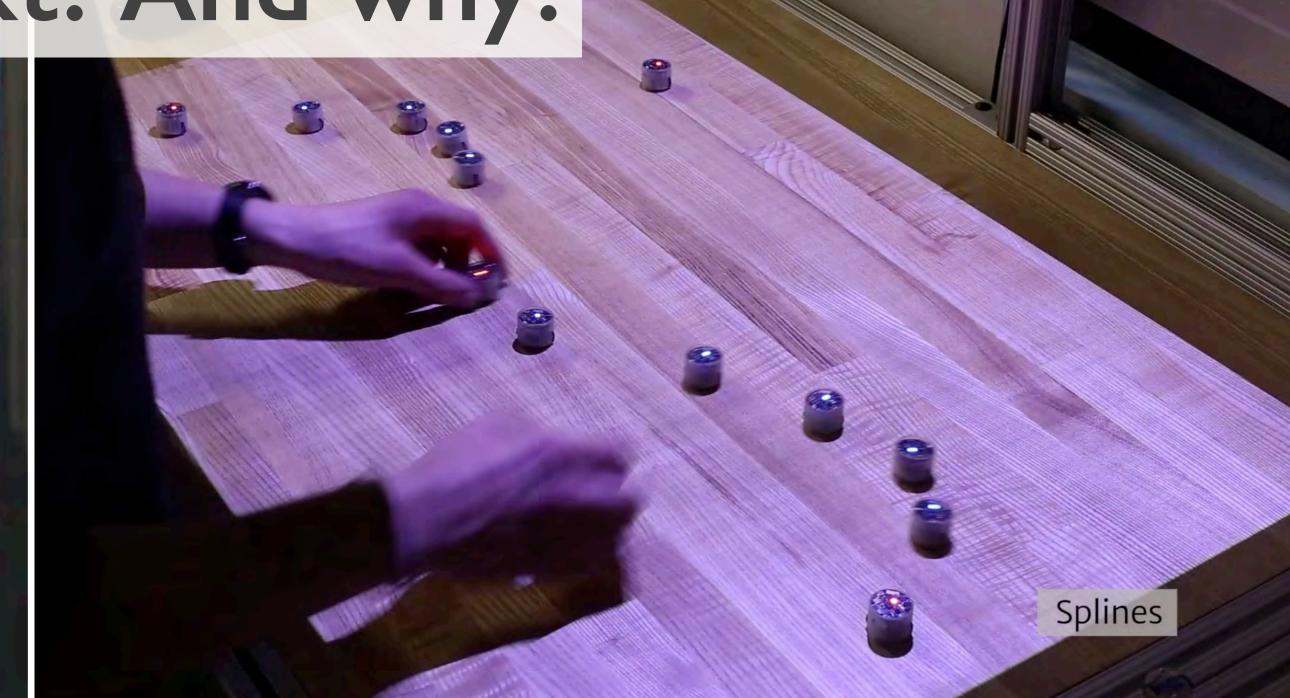












"How about a virtual reality headset that uses blockchain technology to securely store user data and personalize the VR experience using deep learning algorithms? The headset would be able to analyze a user's brain activity and eye movements in real-time to continuously and the VR content of the process and interests. It would also use blockchain the VR world, allowing them to seamlessly switch between devices and pick up where they left off. This technology would revolutionize the way we experience virtual reality, making it more immersive and personalized than ever before."

(ChatGPT prompt: "Generate a tech product idea that is full of technobabble about VR, blockchain, and deep learning")

### This class

Envisioning and understanding the future of interaction between people, society, and technology

### This class

Teaches foundational theories and modern frontiers

# Learning goals

# This is not like other HCI classes.

Your goal is **not** just to **design** an alignment between people and technology.

Your goal is to articulate, critique, and generate entirely new ideas about that relationship.

### Foundations and frontiers

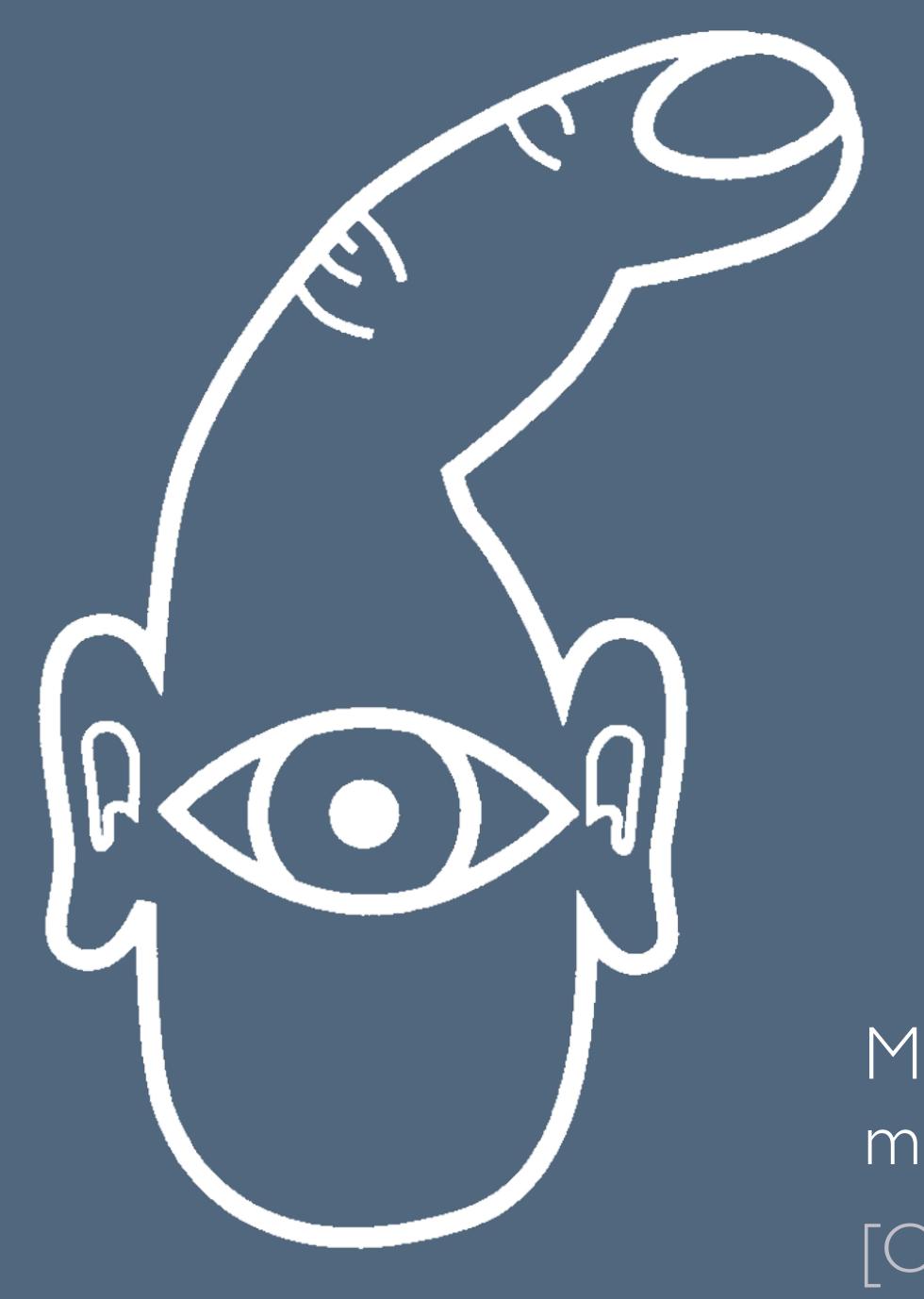
You will learn the major theories and concepts that underpin HCI

You will engage in critical analyses of these theories and concepts, apply them, and extend them



# Ubiquitous computing

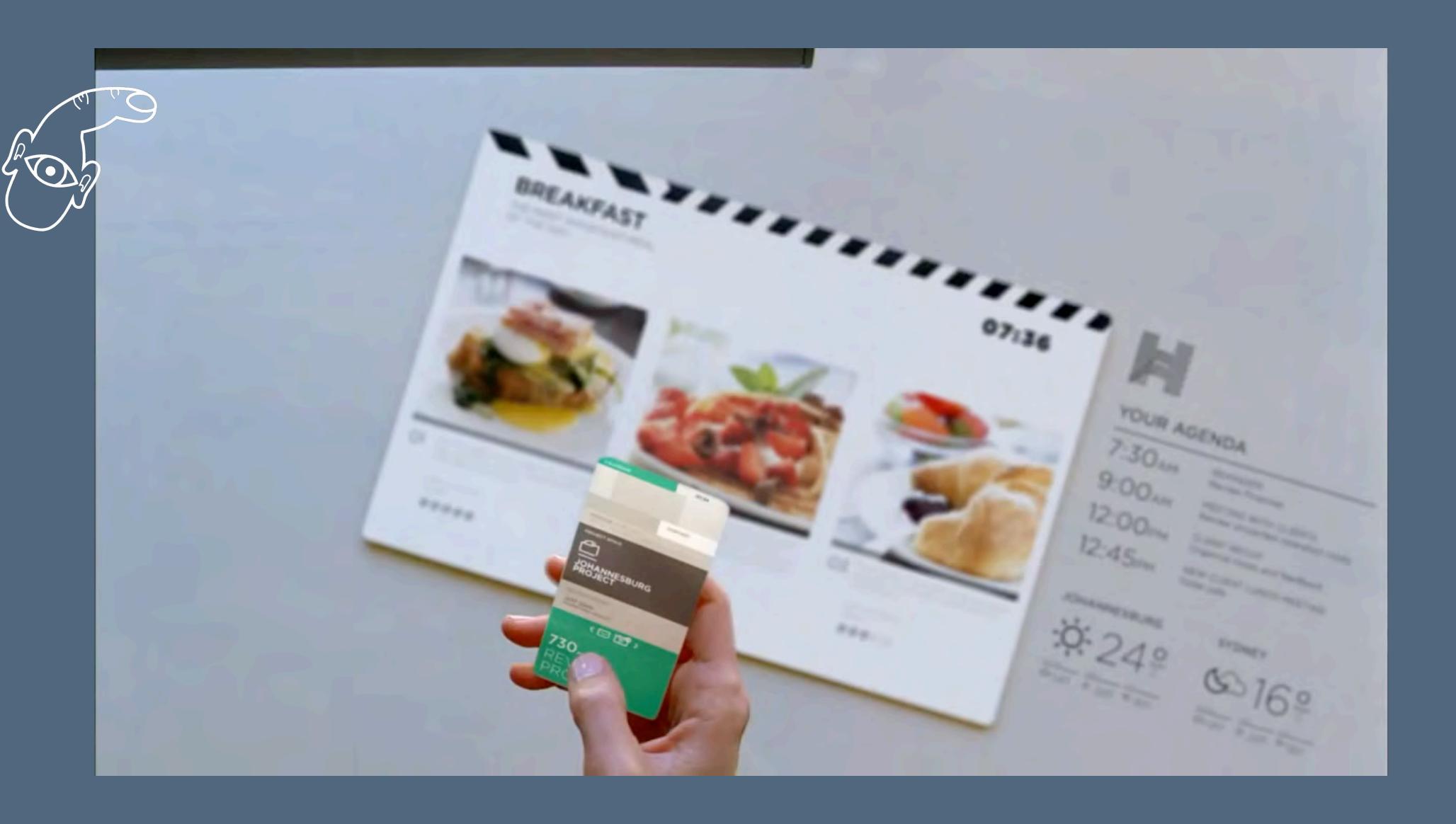
ubiquitous and tangible computing input and output activity, health, and behavior



Mobile phone's model of a person

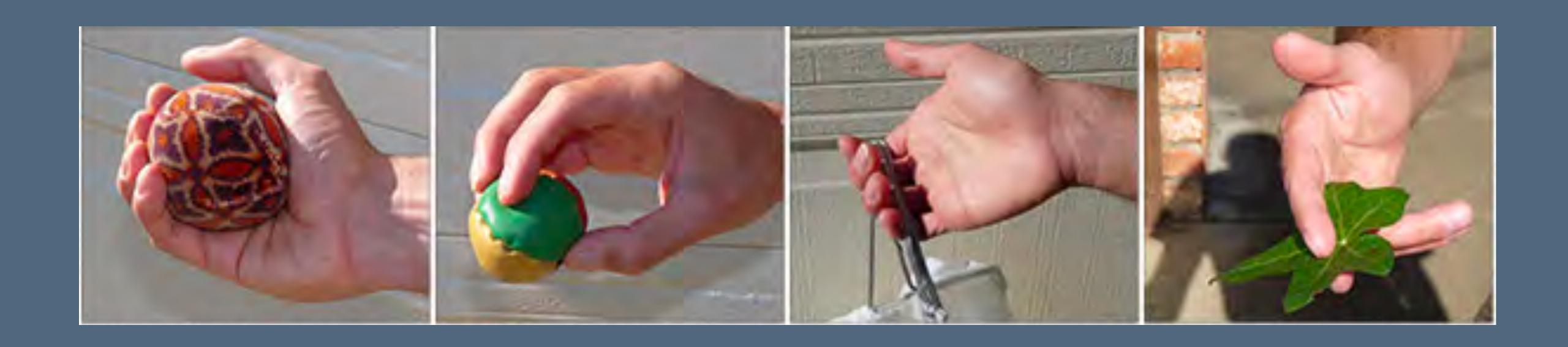
[O'Sullivan and Igoe 2004]

### The future of interaction?



"...this vision, from an interaction perspective, is not visionary. It's a timid increment from the status quo, and the status quo, from an interaction perspective, is actually rather terrible." — Bret Victor

http://worrydream.com/ABriefRantOnTheFutureOfInteractionDesign/



vs. "Pictures Under Glass"

[Victor 2011]



## Why is this so terrible?

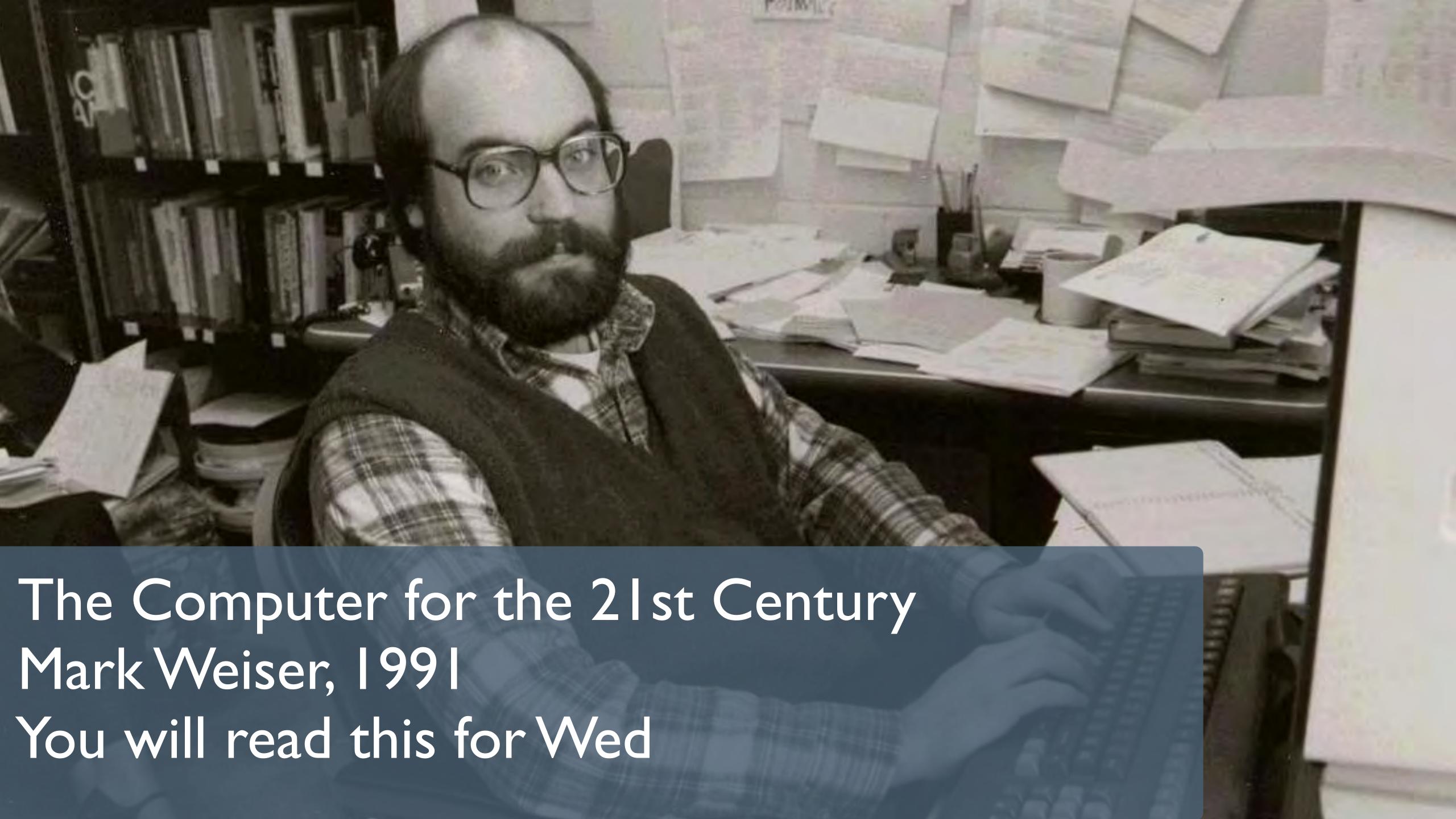
[Hutchins 1995, Dourish 2004; Klemmer, Hartmann, Takayama 2006]

Our cognition leverages embodiment—our bodies:

We learn through interaction with the world

We leverage the environments around us to make us smarter

We communicate our intent through much broader mechanisms than just our fingertips: consider musicians, dancers, construction workers, professors on stage trying to get your attention



"The most profound technologies are those that disappear. They weave themselves into the fabric of everyday life until they are indistinguishable from it."

— Mark Weiser

[Weiser 1991]

## Activity recognition [Laput et al. 2015]



Detecting ambient EM signals transmitted through body using commodity smart watch

# Context-aware computing

Collect information about the user's environment, and use it to customize their computing experience

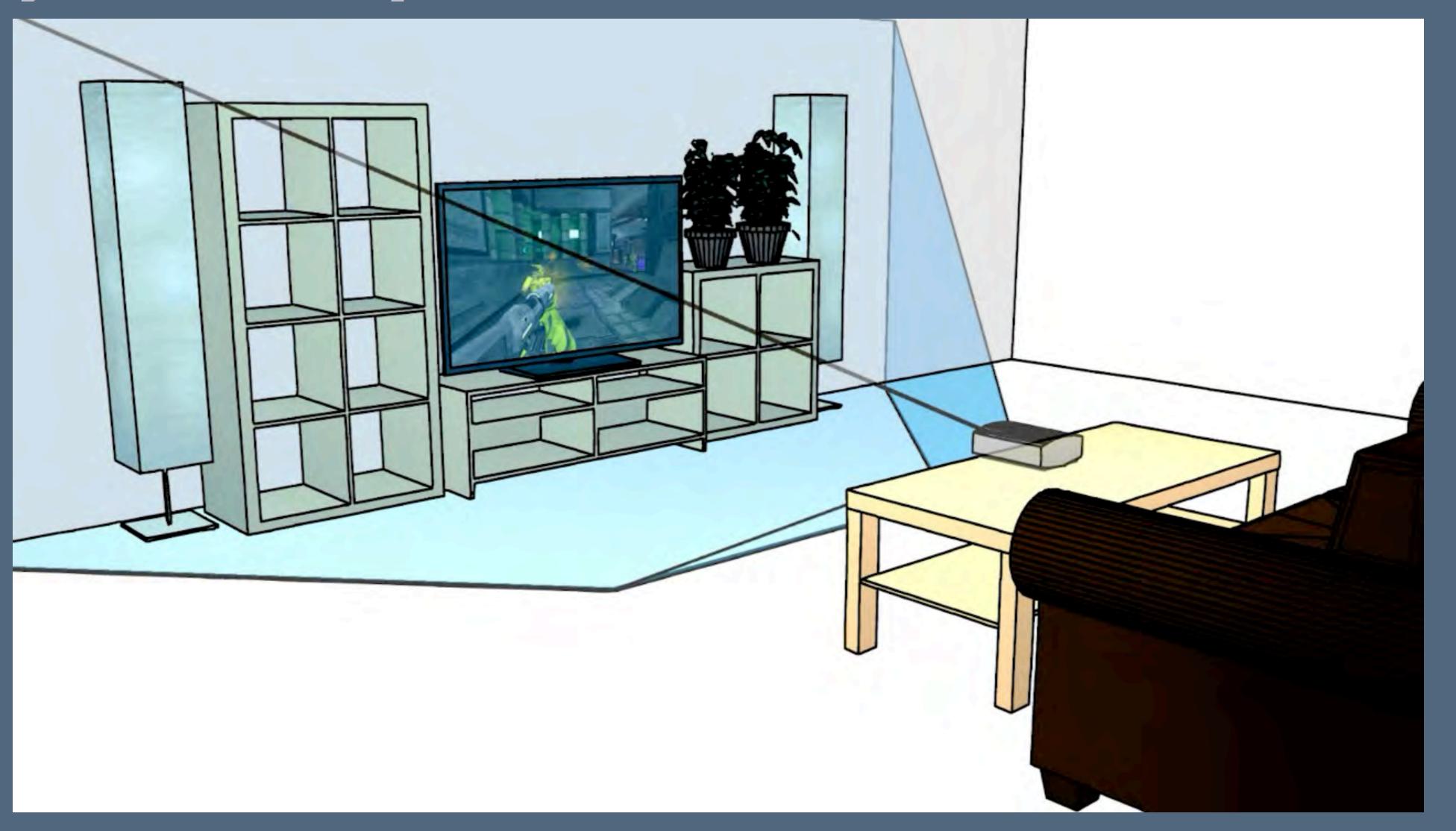
Some types of context: location, social surroundings, activity level

But beware overuse of the term 'context'!

# Towards a Better Understanding of Context and Context-Awareness

### Reactive environments

[Jones et al. 2013]



Wide-screen projector can augment whatever content you are watching or playing on your TV

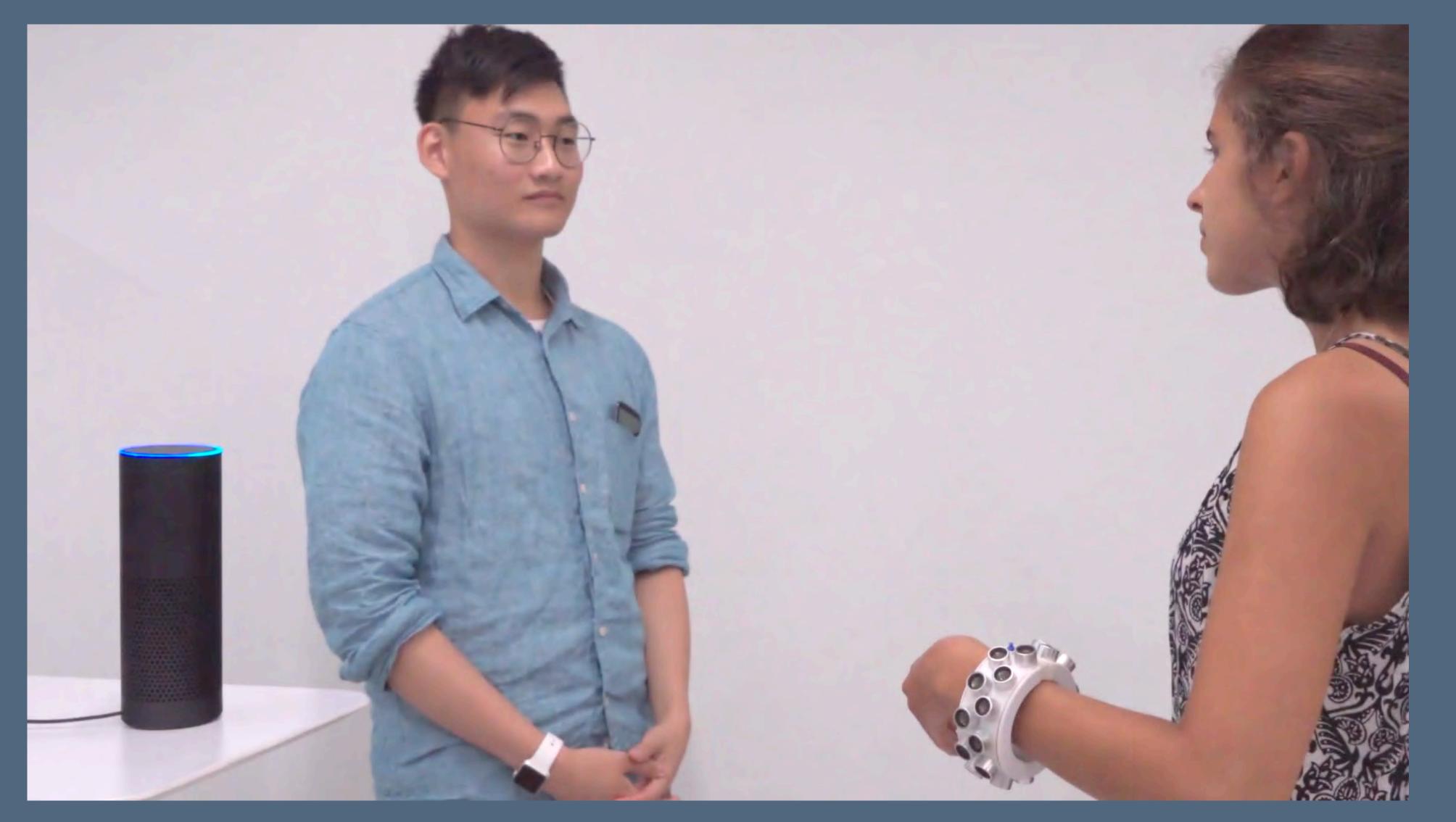
(Requires a depth camera to map the room surface)

## Programmable objects [Jin et al. 2019]



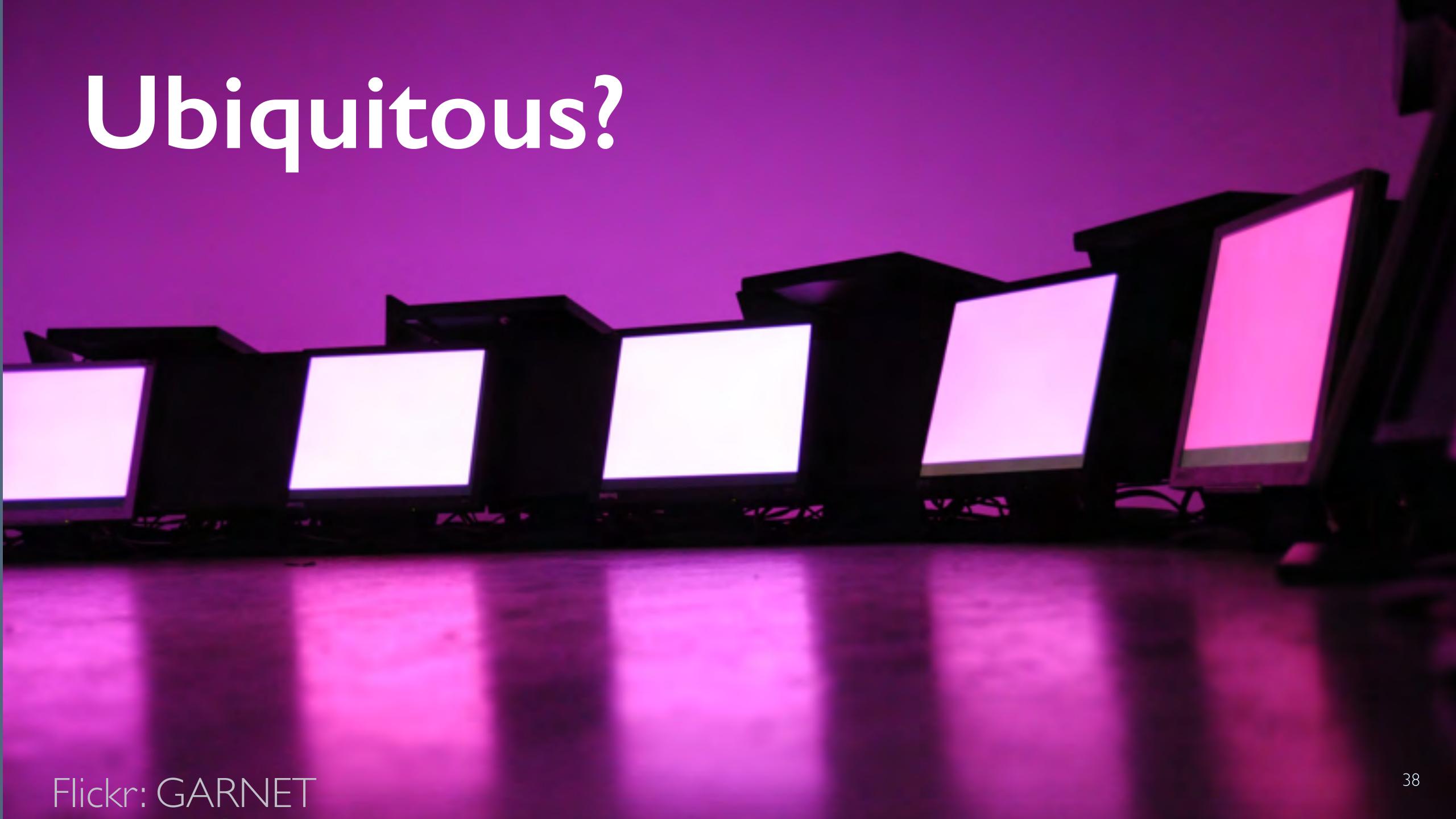
Photochromic inks change color when exposed to lights of a specific wavelength

# Privacy [Chen et al. 2020]



Wearable microphone jamming: ultrasonic speakers are read as white noise by mics

Wearing the bracelet means the speakers move, so we get better coverage 37





## Ubiquitous Computing [Weiser 1991]

Ubiquitous computing: a vision in which computers "vanish into the background" rather than focus our attention on a single box

This vision requires interactive systems to become reactive, context-aware, ambient, and embedded in everyday activities

#### Ubicomp is backgrounded

What Weiser calls one of the first 'calm' technologies: Live Wire, a wire on a stepper motor, monitoring net traffic [Jeremijenko 1995]







Tabs

Weiser envisioned ubiquitous computing devices at three scales.



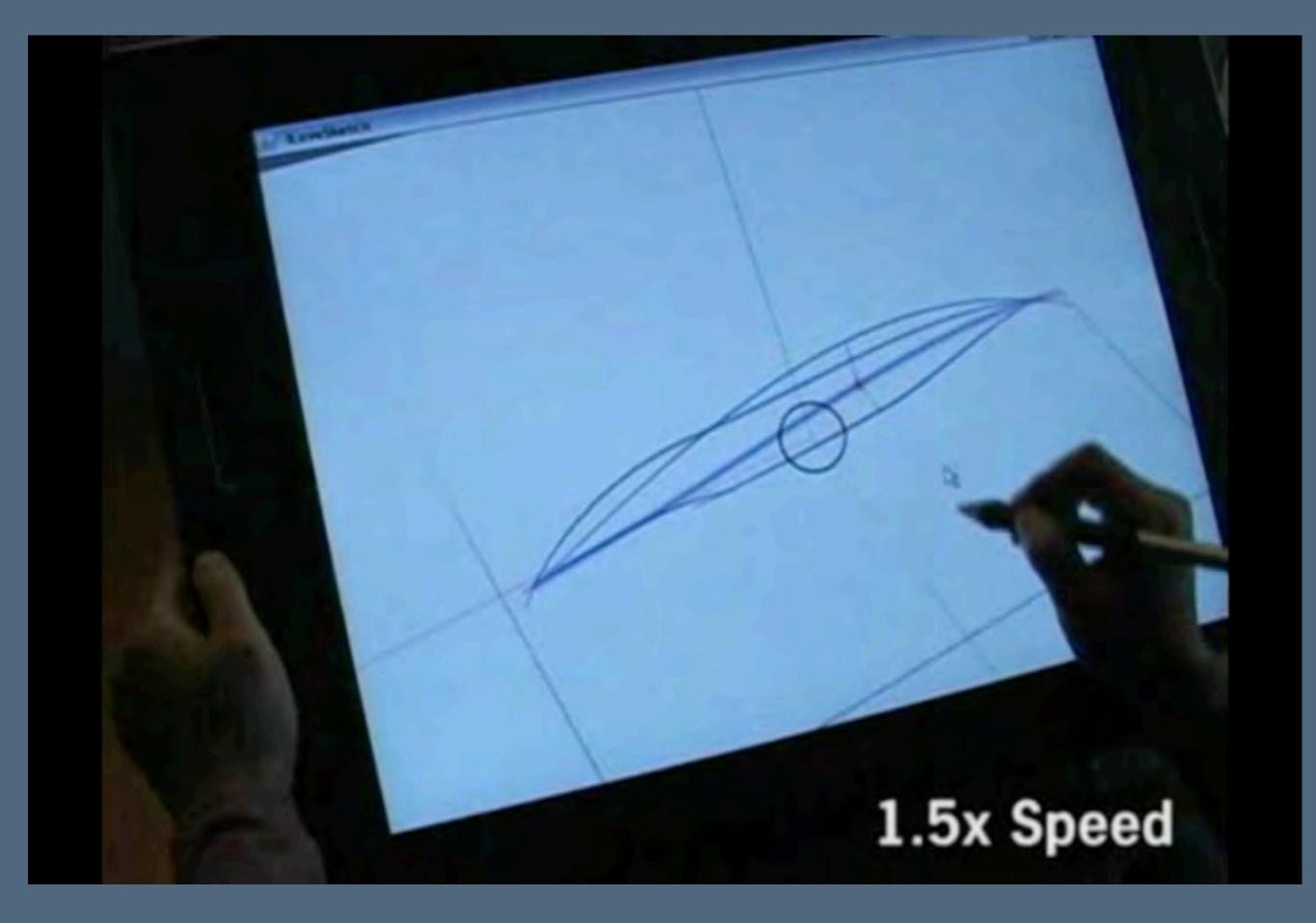
#### Tabs



Most similar to today's smart watches

Significant
Otter: sharing
biosignals with
romantic
partners [Liu
et al. 2021]

#### Pads Most similar to today's tablets

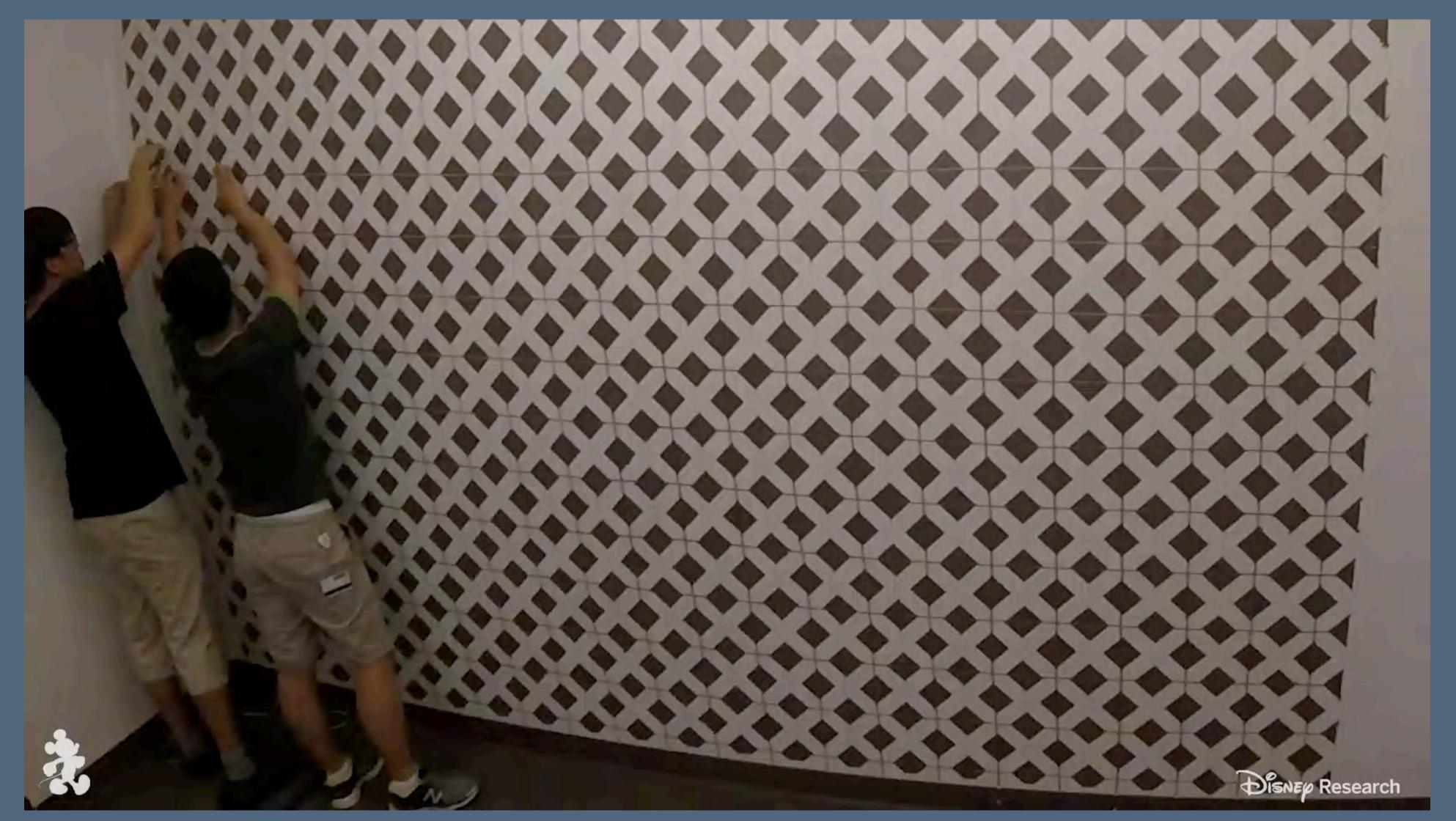




[Bae, Balakrishnan, and Singh 2008]

[Hinckley et al. 2010]

#### Boards



Create a grid of conductive diamonds similar to a phone screen

Sense the columns and scan the rows to ID the touch location

[Zhang et al. 2018]

## Tangible computing

## Tangible Computing

Directly-manipulable physical interfaces to data and computation

'Pure' form of ubicomp in that there is no computer to be seen

You will read this for Wed

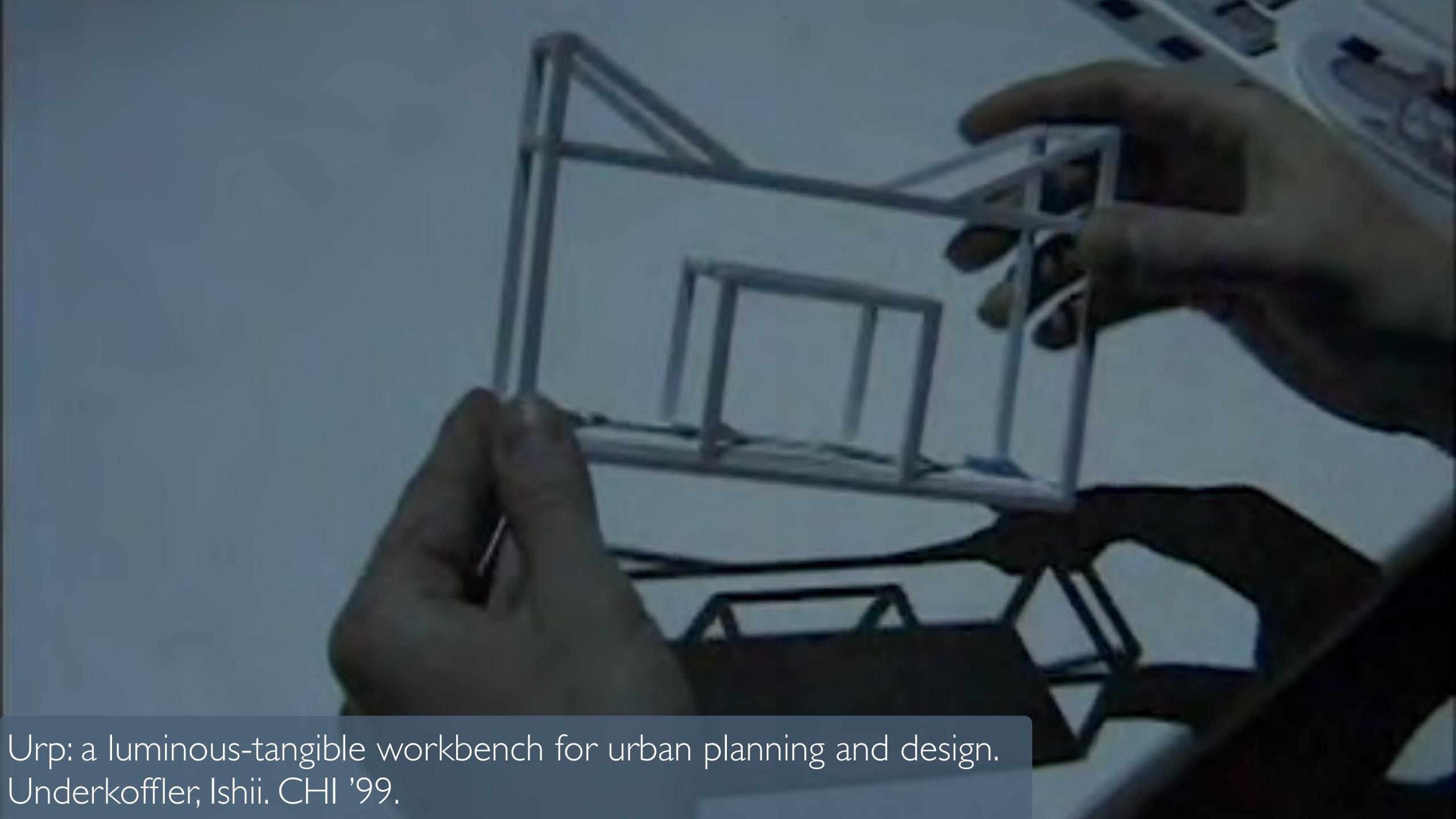
#### Tangible Bits: Towards Seamless Interfaces between People, Bits and Atoms

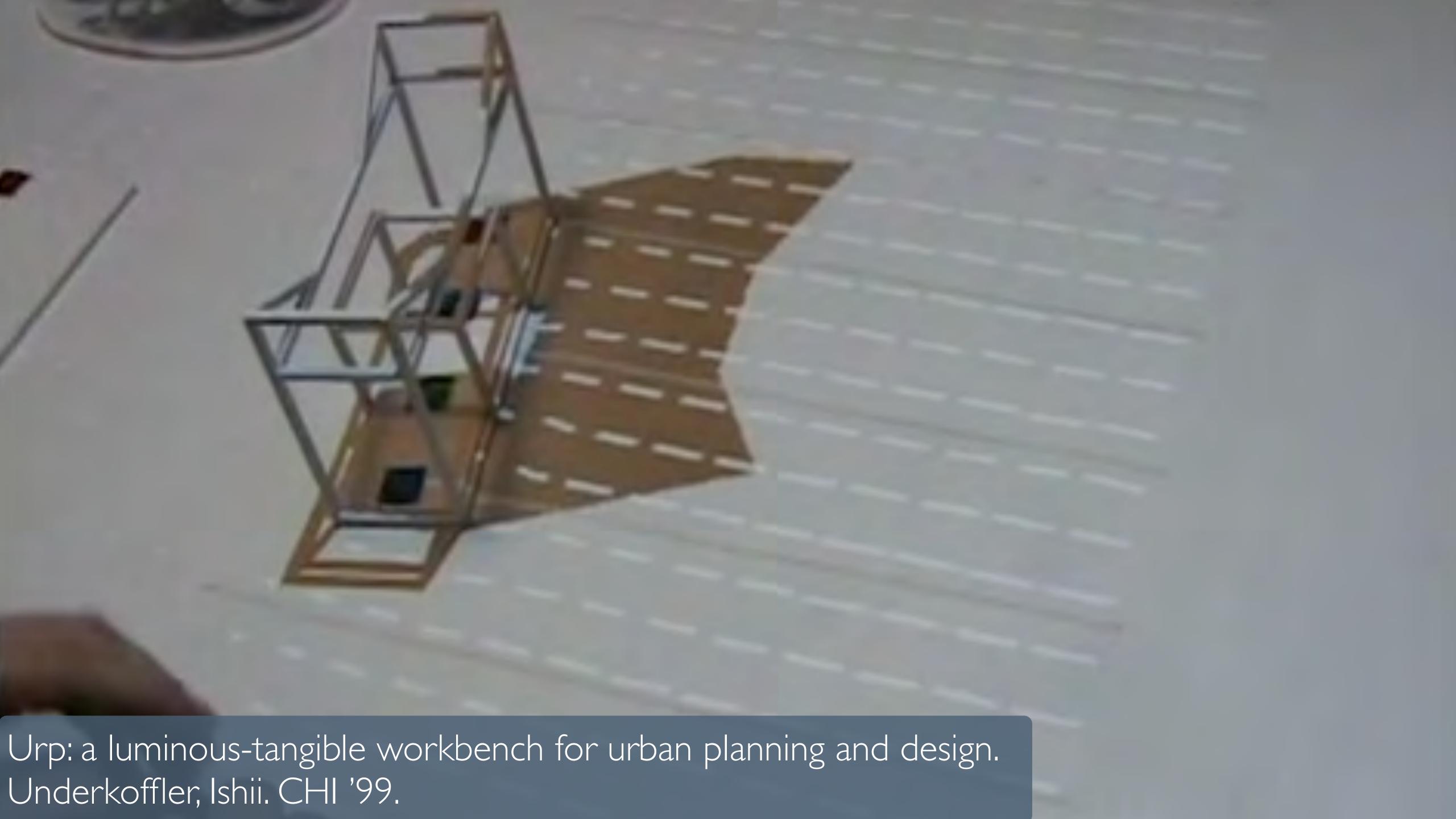
Hiroshi Ishii and Brygg Ullmer MIT Media Laboratory Tangible Media Group 20 Ames Street, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307 USA {ishii, ullmer}@media.mit.edu

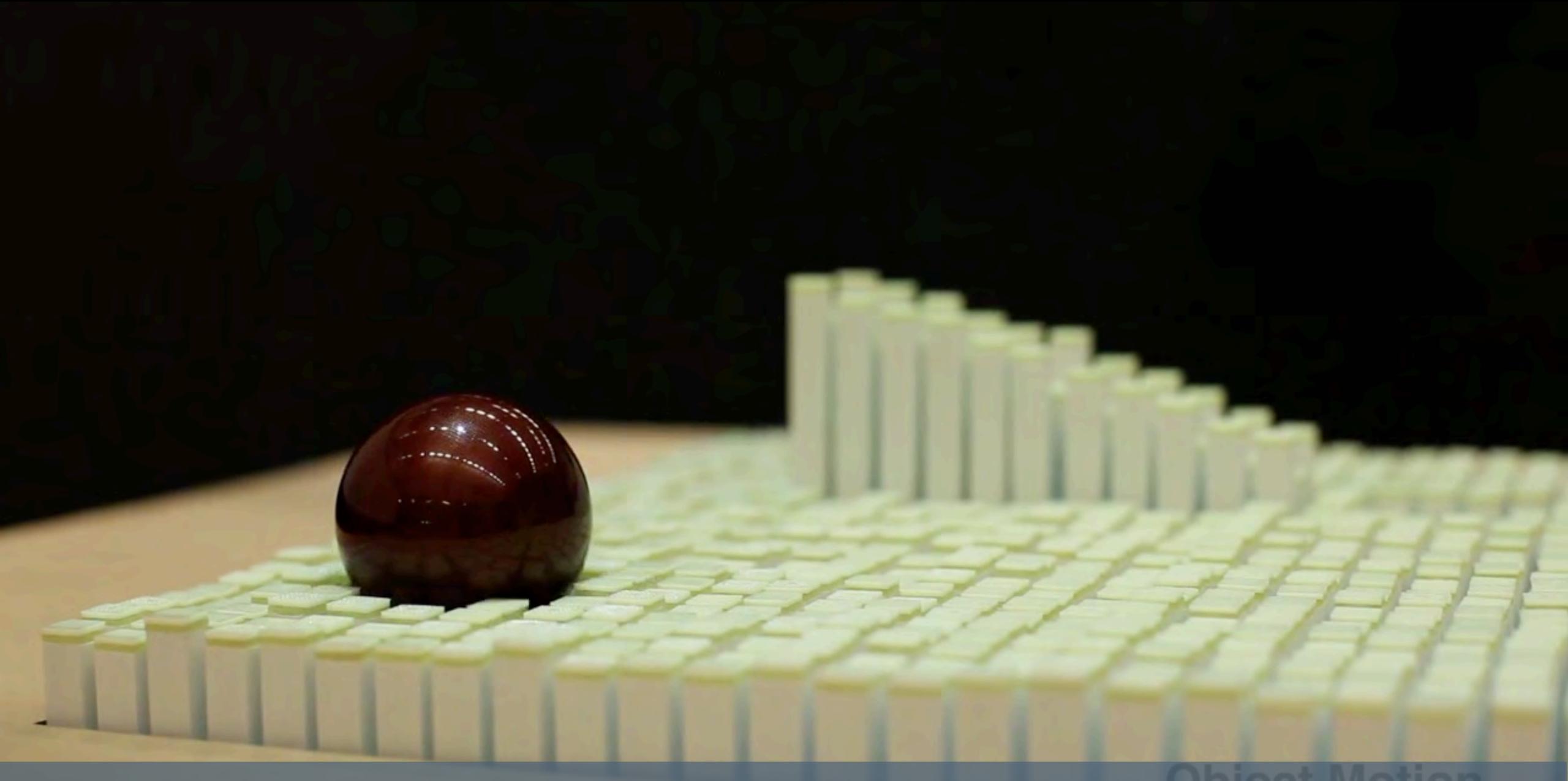
**ABSTRACT** 

BITS & ATOMS

collection of Historical Scientific Instruments Wa live between two realms







Follmer, Leithinger, Olwal, Hogge, Ishii. in FORM: Dynamic Physical Affordances and Constraints through Shape and Object Actuation. UIST '13.

# Questions you ought to be asking

Why do, and don't, we have elements of the ubiquitous and tangible computing visions in our lives today, thirty years later?

What are resilient challenges or mistaken assumptions, and what challenges might we actually be able to tackle?

### Yesterday's tomorrows

[Bell and Dourish 2007]

Ubiquitous computing is driven not by a technological goal, but by a shared vision of the future.

However, this vision is a future in 1991.

What should the future of ubicomp be, from today's perspective?

### Where we go from here

week I Ubicomp

week 2 Ubicomp/Design

week 3 Design

week 4 Social Computing and Collaboration

week 5 Human-Centered Al

week 6 Cognition/Visualization

week 7 Software Tools/Content Creation

week 8 Critical Theory/Simulating People

week 9 Methodology

week 10 History

#### How this class works

# Class activity 1 of 3: Readings

# Yes, you are reading in a Computer Science class.

There will be two papers to read for each class day.

This will take substantial time. It will get faster as the course proceeds and you get more used to reading papers.

If you are reading off-campus, use the Stanford library proxy linked at the top of the syllabus webpage.

#### Commentaries

After reading the papers for each class, you will reflect on the main ideas in each paper and submit a written commentary.

- These commentaries serve as a mechanism to drive deeper reflection on the concepts in each paper.
- Commentaries are due at 5pm the day before lecture.
- We will drop the four lowest commentary grades at the end of class: meaning, you may drop four readings' worth of commentaries
- We will be using these commentaries to drive discussion in class.

#### Writing a strong commentary

Do: engage with the core contributions —

Step 1: What is the point that this paper is trying to make?

**Step 2**: How effectively does it convince you of that argument? How could the argument be even more persuasive, on its own terms?

**Step 3**: What are the implications of the argument? **What future** frontier projects might be inspired by this work? What follow-up project would you work on?

**Don't:** nitpick low-level details, harp on already-acknowledged limitations / future work, bring expectations from other HCl paper genres ("needs a user study!"), spend too much time summarizing, levy judgment ("I like this!") without digging into why or implications

# "This paper has so many problems:"

"This paper inspired me to develop an idea:"

## Example Length

#### As We May Think

This paper was fascinating because it forces us to consider technologies that nowadays we take for granted. In some ways Bush was overly optimistic; for example walnut-sized wearable cameras are uncommon (even though they are possible), likely because optical and physical constraints favor handheld sizes. In other ways he underestimated, such as the explosion of data. For example, some modern cameras can store ten thousand photos rather than a hundred.

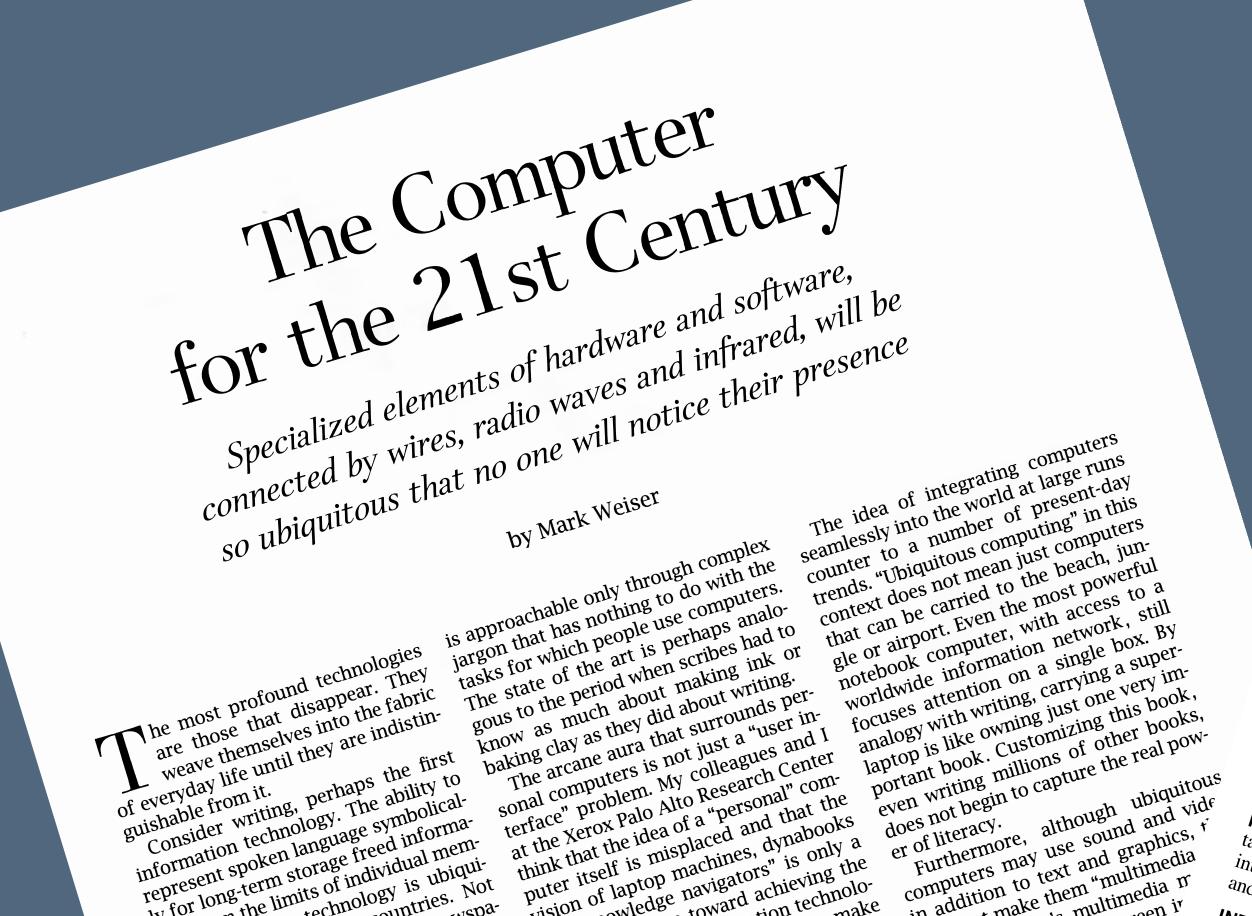
Underestimating the data explosion is also apparent in the disconnect between the initial problem description ("publication has been extended far beyond our present ability to make real use of the record") and the first two-thirds of the paper, which describe technologies that would (and did!) exacerbate the issue by further proliferating data. Yet, he recognizes this issue later in the paper, and then goes on to predict search engines

It is remarkable how many technologies are predicted in this paper: digital photography, speech recognition, search engines, centralized record-keeping for businesses, hypertext (even Wikipedia?). At the same time, many of the predicted implementations are distorted by technologies and practices common at the time, like "dry photography" or "a roomful of girls armed with simple keyboard punches". While these presumably served to make the hypotheses more accessible to readers of the time, is it even possible to hypothesize technology without such artifacts.

Aside from predictions, this paper is important for the way Bush frames science in the support of the human race, by augmenting the power of the human mind. It is likely that many of the scientists (and physicists in particular) that were his audience felt guilt and despair from the destruction wrought by advances in nuclear, and even conventional, weaponry in the war. In that social context, seeing science described as a powerful constructive tool for good must have been inspiring.

# First readings for Wednesday

nake them "multimedia r



the limits of individual mem

technology is ubiqui-

Tangible Bits: Towards Seamless Interfaces between People, Bits and Atoms CHI 97 \* 22-27 March 1997 Hiroshi Ishii and Brygg Ullmer 20 Ames Street, Cambridge Media Group

Sichii ullmer) @ media.mit.edu

Tangible Media Group

Ilmer) @ media.mit.edu ABSTRACT ABSTRACT
This paper presents our vision of Human Computer
Tanoihle Rits of Tanoihle Rits allows This paper presents our Interaction (HCI): "Tangible Bits." of Human Computer manipulate" hits in the center of users' Interaction (HCI): "Tangible Bits."

attention by counling the bits in the center of users, on the bits with everyday on hygical attention grasp & manipulate bits in the center of users of architectural surfaces.

Tanoihle Rits also attention by coupling the bits with everyday physical architectural surfaces. Tangible Bits also at the Objects and architectural surfaces.

Parinhary of human narcention using amhient display media enables users to be aware of background bits at the such as light. Sound airflow, and water movement in an Periphery of human perception using ambient display media anomented enace The origin of Tanoihle Rite ic to hridge BITS & ATOMS augmented space. The goal of Tangible Bits is to bridge on how it in an the control of the movement in an and the nhveical We live between two realms: augmented space. The goal of Tangible Bits is to bridge foreoround and the physical Our physical environment and the gaps between both cyberspace and the physical human activities. Well as the foreground and background of cyberspace. Despite our dual Citizenship, the absence of seamless couplings between This paper describes three key concepts of Tangible Bits: these parallel existences leaves This paper describes three key concepts of Tangible Bits:

and amhient media for hackoround a great divide between the interactive surfaces; the physical objects; the coupling of bits with wareness the illustrate these concerns to the coupling of bits with graspable concerns to the coupling of bits with graspable concerns to the coupling of bits with graspable concerns the coupling of bits with graspable co Worlds of bits and atoms. At physical objects; and ambient media for background that <math>media tor background that <math>media tor that <math>these that <math>these tor that <math>these tor that <math>these tor torthe present, we are torn between these parallel but prototype systems - the metadlesk, transboaktories identify underlying research ice.We are now almost constantly tangible user interface. amb: "Wired" so that We can be i 61 (physical space) and periphery (cyberspace)

# Class activity 2 of 3: Discussion

# Yes, there is human-human interaction in a CS class.

You will join a weekly discussion section (starting week 2)

You will dig into themes that arose in commentaries and in class

Discussions run Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

#### Sections

```
Section I (Nava, Wednesday 4:30 - 5:20): recommended for PhDs
```

Section 2 (Joon, Wednesday 5:30 - 6:20)

Section 3 (Yubin, Thursday 3:00 - 3:50)

Section 4 (Yubin, Thursday 4:30 - 5:20)

Section 5 (Dan, Friday 10:30-11:20)

Section 6 (Dan, Friday 11:30-12:20)

Section 7 (Joon, Friday 2:30-3:20)

#### Required section application

Submit the section application by 11:59 tonight for priority placement

Link to the application is on cs347.stanford.edu under the "Syllabus" page

We will use this application to assign you a section and discussant date

### Being a discussant

For one class day, you will be the **discussant**, responsible for helping drive effective in-class discussion.

Discussants have two goals:

Summarize the commentaries on one paper into a meta-commentary before the next day's lecture

Helping lead discussion on the paper in your discussion section that week

## Writing a metacommentary

Read the submitted commentaries from your section, on the assigned paper. Put together a summary document that:

Identifies especially insightful commentary ideas and quotes

Clusters commentary responses into themes, with a few pull quotes per theme

Submit the document by the start of lecture, so the staff can print out copies for us and bring them with us.

#### Lead discussion

Pick theme(s) that you identified in the metacommentary and prepare a **2 minute response** that you can share in section to kick off discussion on that paper.

First: a synthesis of the main points being raised in that theme, using quotes as relevant.

Second: your response to the points being raised. What do you agree with, and why? What do you disagree with, and why? Can you offer an alternative perspective?

# Class activity 3 of 3: Quizzes

### Five in-class quizzes

First 4 quizzes cover the lecture and reading material since the last quiz e.g., Quiz I at the end of Week 2 will cover today through next Monday

Final quiz is comprehensive and 2x in length (Wed of Week 10)

Closed-book, will ask you to recognize and apply the concepts from lecture

#### Course Timeline

week I

week 2 Quiz

week 3

week 4 Quiz

week 5

week 6 Quiz

week 7

week 8 Quiz

week 9

week 10 Quiz 2x

## Prereqs and background

**Most important:** are you prepared to dive deep into foundational HCl theories and critique/discuss them?

#### Helpful:

Depth in at least one of {computer science, social science methods, design, STS}

Experience in human-computer interaction (e.g., CS 147, CS 247)

#### Required:

CS or SymSys HCI track undergraduate and masters: CS 147 or CS 247

PhD or other programs: no prereqs

# Grading

- 30% Paper commentaries
- 60% First four quizzes 10%, Final Quiz 20%
- 10% Participation (discussant, section, class)

### Introductions

# Maneesh Agrawala

Professor of Computer Science

HCI/Graphics/Visualization

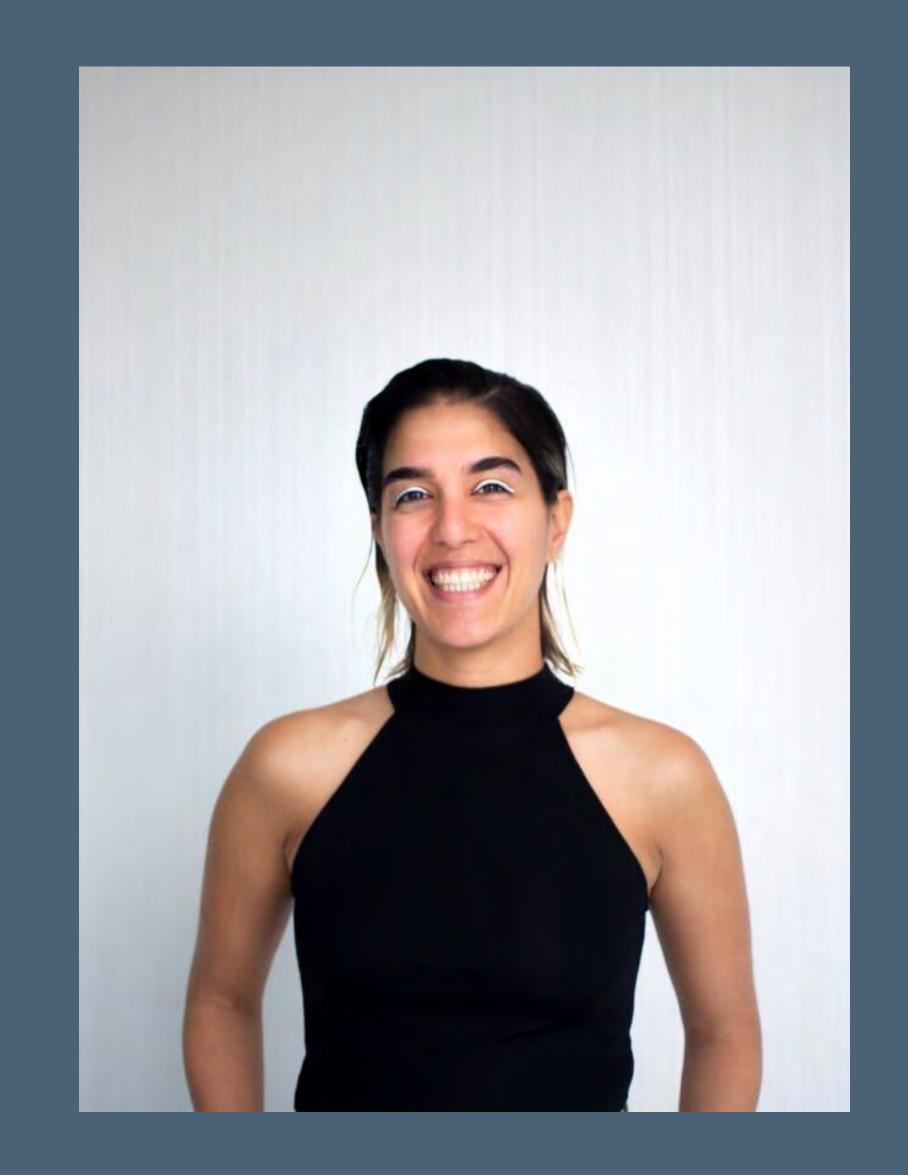
Office hours: Fri 9:30-10:30am, Coupa Cafe Y2E2 & Zoom



## TA: Nava Haghighi

PhD student in HCI

Office hours: Monday 4-5pm, Location: Gates 3B Common Area



## TA: Yubin Jee

BS in HCI, now MS student in Al

Office hours: Wednesday 1-2pm, Location: Tressider



### TA: Joon Sung Park

PhD student in HCl

Office hours: Friday 1:15-2:15pm, Location: Gates 3B Common Area



#### TA: Daniel Wan Rosli

BS/MS student in HCI

Office hours: Wednesday 12:30-1:30pm,

Location: 2nd Floor Old Union



### Contact us

Email: cs347@cs.stanford.edu

Readings, policies, entertainment: cs347.stanford.edu

Assignment submission: <u>canvas.stanford.edu</u>

#### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Michael Bernstein and I are rejiggering CS 347 to focus on the big ideas (theories) of HCI and critical analyses of these ideas and their applications to real world problems.

We appreciate your enthusiasm for trying new things, your patience for bearing with things that don't quite work, and your sharing with us your opinions on what we should keep and change.

# Questions?

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