

# A Control-Centric Approach to Designing Multimodal Interfaces for Small Computing Devices

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science foundation ireland  
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Investing in People and Ideas





## Small Screen Devices: Mobile Offices



**WIMP methods cannot be  
fully employed.**

**Mobile Devices  
Everywhere!**

**There is a need!**

**Small screen devices**

Dynamics

Feedback

Problem setup

A proposed solution

Continuous interaction

A theoretical framework  
in HCI

Thesis contribution

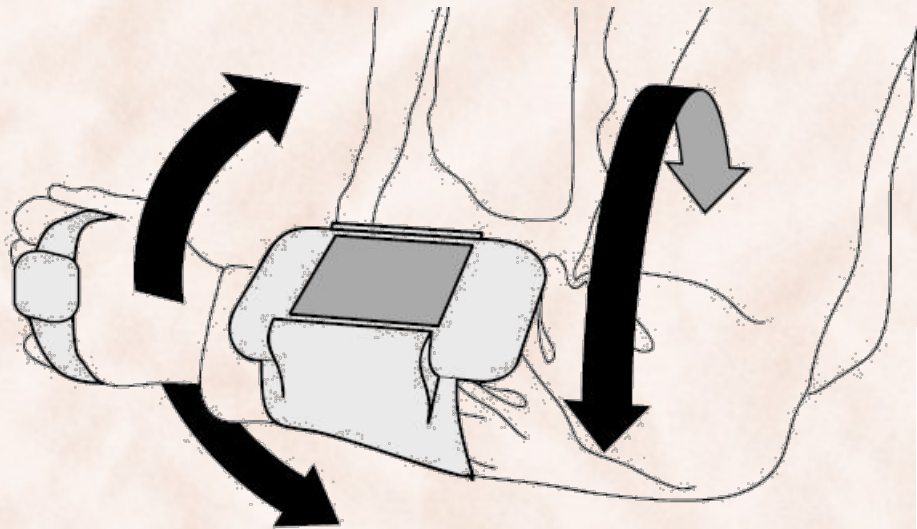
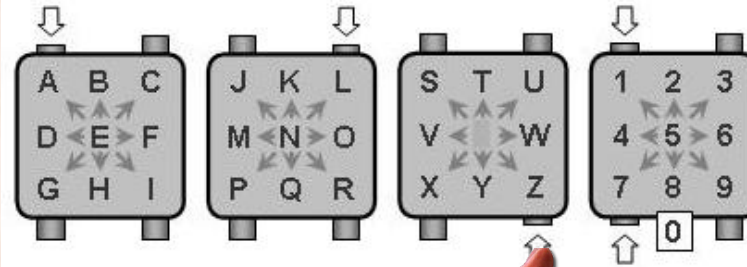
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# Dynamics: One-handed control



Example of interactive dynamic systems.



## One-Handed Control

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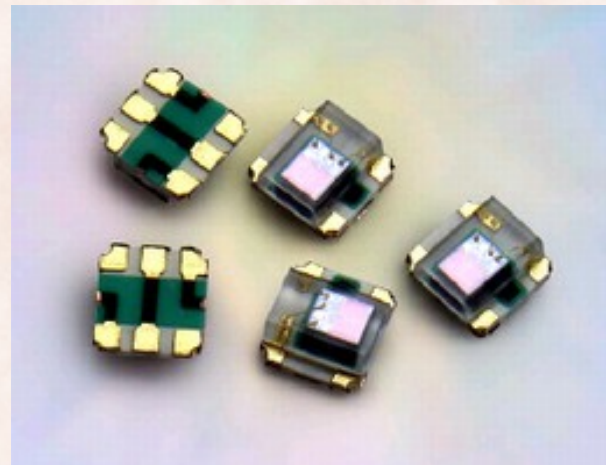
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# Feedback: Multimodality



Dependent on the display  
of feedback

## Multimodality

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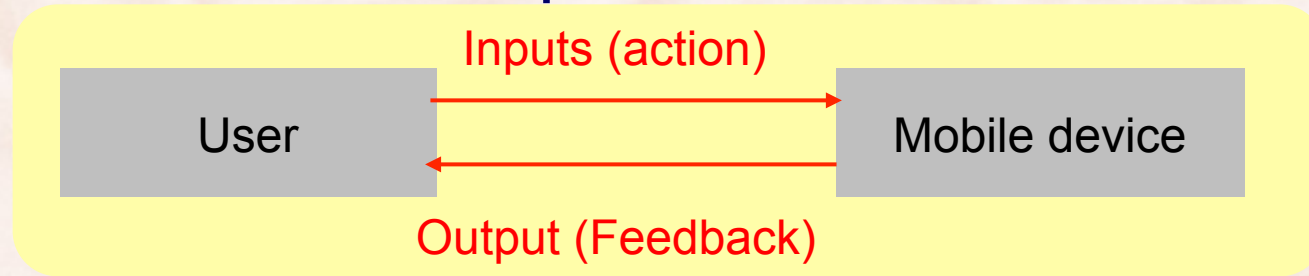
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# Device+ Feedback+Dynamics: Complex Problem



## The Problem!

### There is a need!

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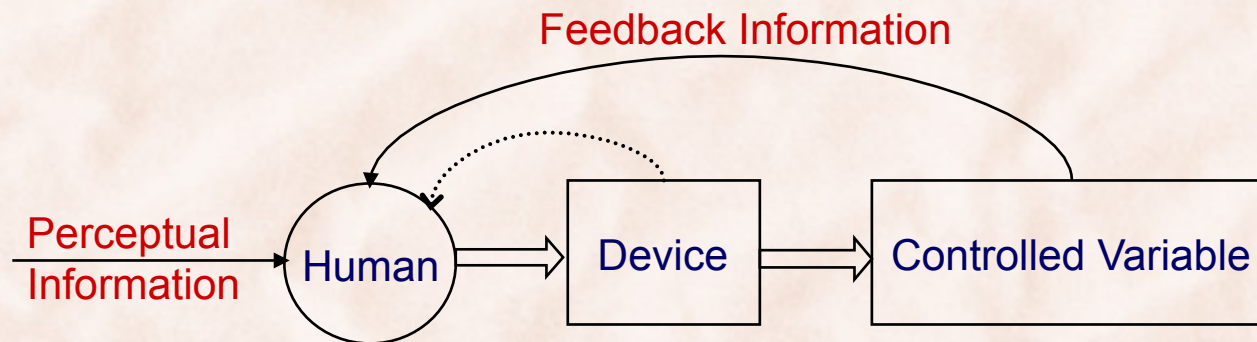
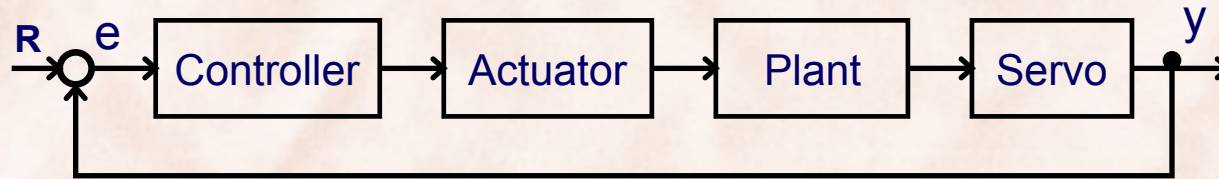
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**Complex  
&  
many  
interests!**



# Feedback Control & HCI: Continuous control problem



**We control what we perceive!**



## Continuous Control Problem

There is a need!

- Small screen devices
- Dynamics
- Feedback
- Problem setup

**A proposed solution**

**Continuous interaction**

- A theoretical framework in HCI

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# Need for a theoretical framework

## Problem:

- Many experiments
- Yet not generalisable

## Reason:

There is no theory of continuous interaction for designing and developing interfaces based on

**dynamic systems,  
continuous technologies and  
multimodal integration.**

**We need a theory!**

**We Need a  
Theory!**

There is a need!

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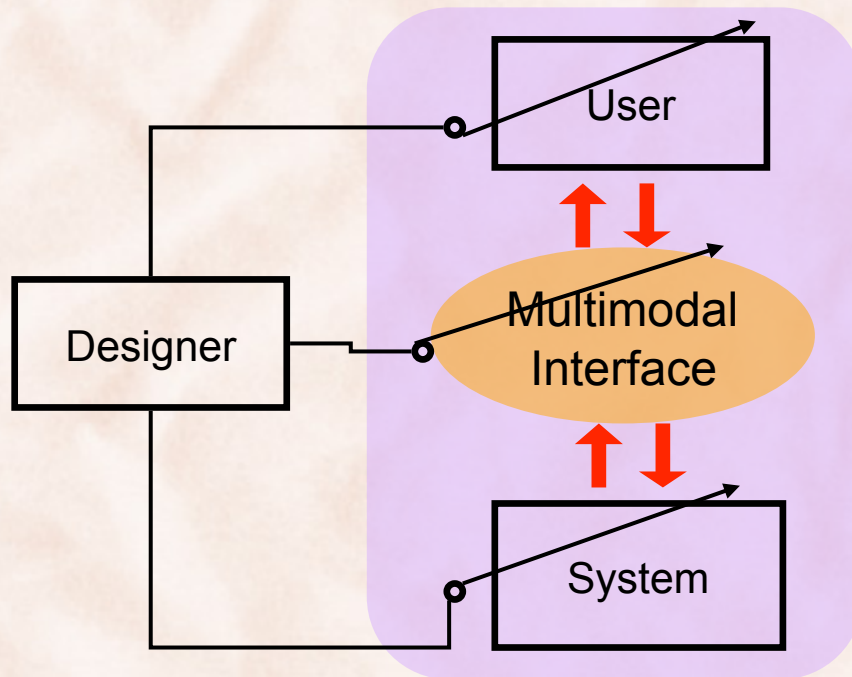
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# An old theoretical framework... but overlooked in HCI!

## Proposed interaction metaphor



Incorporates analytical tools from control theory, probabilistic models, &

integrates multimodality in a principled manner.

## What Does This Theory Offer?

There is a need!

- Small screen devices
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- Feedback
- Problem setup

### A proposed solution

- Continuous interaction

### A theoretical framework in HCI

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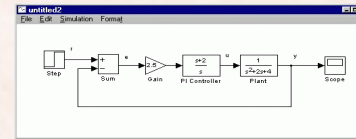
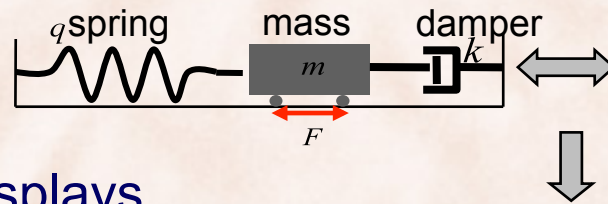
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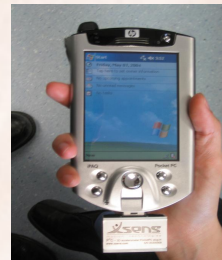
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# Achievements in the thesis



- Quickened displays
- Predictive feedback mechanism
- Pseudo-physical models
- Tuning parameters
- Intermittent interaction
- Adapting to user behaviour
- Coupling dynamic models to probability theory



Research on interaction with  
**portable computing devices,**  
**tilt-controlled applications,**  
**multimodal user interfaces, and**  
**probability theory**

## Thesis Contributions

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## Model-Based Target Sonification

1. **P. Eslambolchilar**, R. Murray-Smith, A. Crossan, S. Dalzel-Job, F. Pollick . In J. Lumsden, editor, Handbook of Research on User Interface Design and Evaluation for Mobile Technology, chapter "Model-based Target Sonification in Small Screen Devices: Perception and Action". Idea Group Reference, 2007.
2. **P. Eslambolchilar**, A. Crossan, R. Murray-Smith , "**Model based Target Sonification for Small Screen Devices**", Interactive sonification workshop, University of Bielefeld, Germany, 2004
3. S. Strachan, **P. Eslambolchilar**, R. Murray-Smith, "**GPSTunes - controlling navigation via audio feedback**", Mobile HCI05, Salzburg, Austria, 2005

## Tilt-Controlled Zooming User Interfaces

1. **P. Eslambochilar**, J. Williamson, R. Murray-Smith, "**Multimodal Feedback for Tilt Controlled Speed Dependent Automatic Zooming**", UIST 2004, Santa Fe, 2004.
2. **P. Eslambolchilar**, R. Murray-Smith , "**Tilt based Automatic Zooming and Scaling in Mobile Devices, a State-Space Implementation**", Mobile HCI'04, Glasgow, Scotland, 2004.

## Multimodal Motion Controlled Focus-in-Context Method: Sensing Complex Information

1. **P. Eslambolchilar**, R. Murray-Smith , "**Model-Based, Multimodal Interaction in Document Browsing**", Invited paper to the 3rd Joint Workshop in Multimodal Interaction and Related Machine Learning Algorithms, MLMI'06, Washington DC, USA, 2006.
1. **P. Eslambolchilar**, R. Murray-Smith. "Where is the user in the interaction?: Multimodal tilt-controlled SDAZ". In preparation for a journal paper, 2007.
2. **P. Eslambolchilar**, R. Murray-Smith. "Intermittent interaction in tilt-controlled ZUIs". In preparation for a journal paper, 2007.

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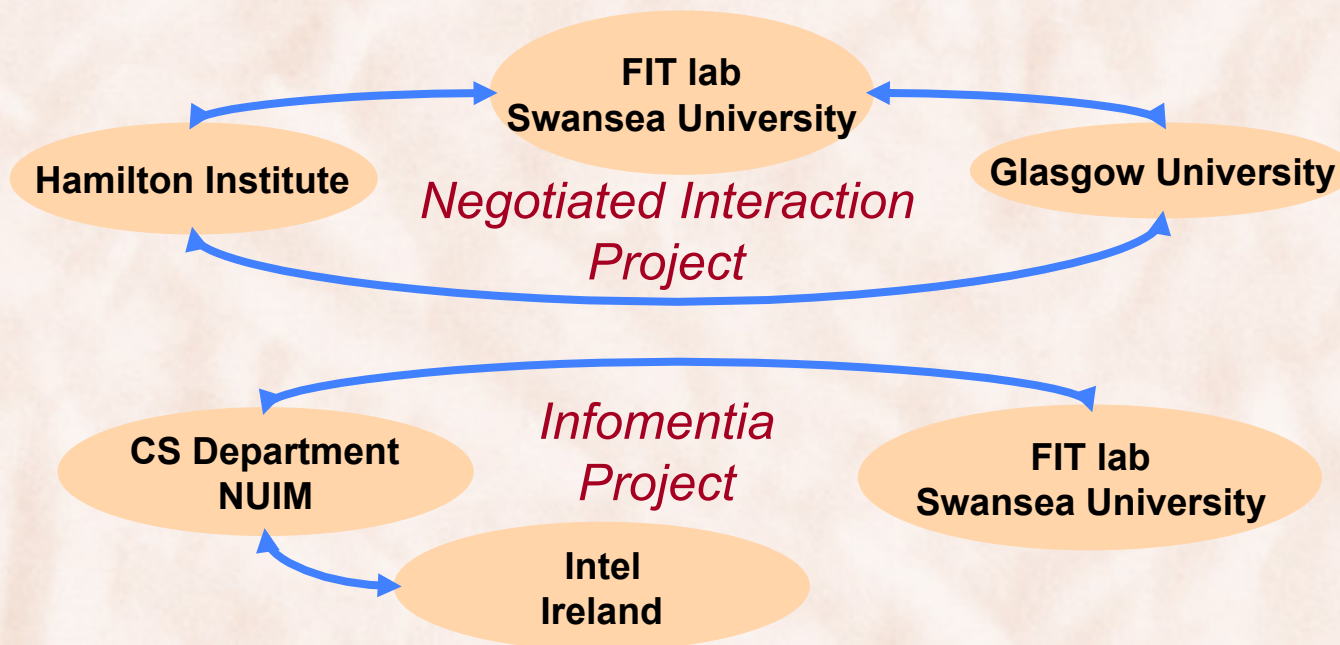
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## Making Sense of Interaction Using a Model-Based Approach

- Interactive systems for users
- Toolkit for designers
- Novel inputs and sensing devices

It is an interesting metaphor for both designers and users!



## Outlook

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