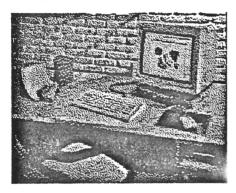


Pie Menus

Menus on computer displays are usually a linear row or column of choices. We propose an alternative to these rectilinear menus, called the Pie menu. The choices of a Pie Menu are positioned in a circle around the cursor. The direction in which the cursor is moved makes the menu selection, and the length of motion is available as a second input. We discuss the implementation, evaluation, and application of pie menus. We have implemented them in Sun's NeWS window system, where they are completely compatible with the standard menu package. This is a robust implementation in everyday use.

Figure 1: A Computer with a Mouse



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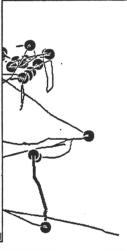
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Figure 2: A Pie Menu



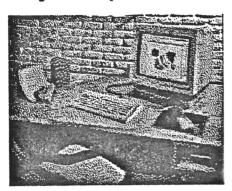
We have also evaluated pie menus in a controlled experiment comparing rectilinear menus with pies on a series of tasks chosen to show both rectilinear and pies to good advantage. Our computer-naive subjects, regardless of task, made selections faster and made fewer mistakes using pie menus. Finally, we offer a bit of speculation on the theoretical advantages of pie menus in new applications (or re-organized old applications). Three such advantages are: (1) the return of two kinds of information from every pie selection (angle and radius), and (2) the kinesthetics of nested menu selections and large angular arm motions, (3) the existence of natural opposites (left/right, up/down) in a pie menu.



Pie Merus

Merus on computer displays are usually a linear row or column of choices. We propose an alternative to these rectilinear merus, called the Pie menu. The choices of a Pie Meru are positioned in a circle around the cursor. The direction in which the cursor is moved makes the meru selection, and the length of motion is available as a second input. We discuss the implementation, evaluation, and application of pie merus. We have implemented them in Sun's NeWS window system, where they are completely compatible with the standard meru package. This is a robust implementation in everyday use.

Figure 1: A Computer with a Mouse



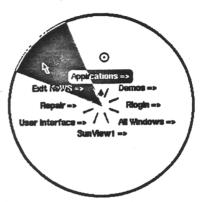
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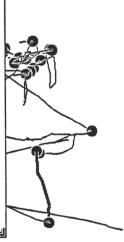
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Figure 2: A Pie Menu



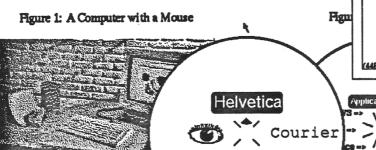
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