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Digital fonts and reading

Thousands of years ago, humans started to create symbols to represent things they saw, heard, touched, found, remembered, imagined, and talked about. We can see them carved on rocks, walls, shells and other materials. From these symbols, words and different languages were invented, modified, expanded, and evolved over the years. Following the invention of paper and writing instruments, different ways of representing the same symbol started to appear, forming the basis of different stylistic variations and font types. As time went by, computers and digital technology emerged with which the alphabets of all languages in the world can be printed digitally. Once a symbol has been represented in a digital format, there are infinite ways of representing it in unlimited type fonts for publishing. This talk summarizes the evolution of fonts, their characteristics and their personality traits. Aspects such as font styles and their effects on reading and eyesight, legibility and comprehension, will be discussed with experimental results.

Biography

Ching Y Suen is the Director of CENPARMI and the Concordia Honorary Chair on AI & Pattern Recognition. He received his PhD degree from UBC (Vancouver) and his Master's degree from the University of Hong Kong. He has served as the Chairman of the Department of Computer Science and as the Associate Dean (Research) of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science of Concordia University. He has served at numerous national and international professional societies as President, Vice-President, Governor, and Director. He has given 45 invited/keynote papers at conferences and 200 invited talks at various industries and academic institutions around the world. He has been the Principal Investigator or Consultant of 30 industrial projects. His research projects have been funded by the ENCS Faculty and the Distinguished Chair Programs at Concordia University, FCAR (Quebec), NSERC (Canada), the National Networks of Centres of Excellence (Canada), the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, and the industrial sectors in various countries, including Canada, France, Japan, Italy, and the United States. Currently, he is the Editor-in-Chief of the journal of Pattern Recognition, an Adviser or Associate Editor of 5 journals, and Editor of a new book series on Language Processing and Pattern Recognition. He is not only the Founder of three conferences: ICDAR, IWFHR/ICFHR, and VI, but has also organized numerous international conferences including ICPR, ICDAR, ICFHR, ICCPOL, and as Honorary Chair of numerous international conferences.

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