A Gripping Language

Please sit next to someone you like. This will be a “hands on” presentation.

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Who are we?

Sai Emrys
engelanger
cog neuro geek
organizer
sometimes bearded
speaks Russian
cat-like
partner to that guy→

Alex Fink
artlanger
tropical math geek
organized
Latvian
can reconstruct it from PIE
likes cats←
partner to that guy

(thanks, LCC2!)
What is the gripping language?

- for exactly 2 people
- touch-mediated
- covert
- metaconversational
- concise
- optimized for the medium
Which is your *on* hand?

- **Step 1:** Interlace your hands
  - Which hand's thumb is on top?
- **Step 2:** Try it the other way too (just for kicks)
  - Awkward, eh?

- Your *on* hand is the one which is more comfortable with its thumb on top.
- Your *off* hand is the other one.
Hand Dominance

• Don't worry, this is PG ;-) 
• Interlace your fingers with your partner's hand.

• If you and your partner have different on-handedness, then one of you will feel awkward. 
• The person whose thumb is on top is dom. The other is sub.
  - Just in this particular grip...
Articulations: Global motions

- upwards torsion
- downwards torsion
- thumb-out yaw
- pinky-out yaw

Start from horizontal, thumbs-up position
All are anti-symmetric
Articulations: Finger presses

- 4 fingers
- gap 2 3 4 5
- or knuckle 2' 3' 4' 5'
- knuckle → microtorsion
## Articulations: Thumb presses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dom</th>
<th>Sub</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tip</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; phalanx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; knuckle</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; knuckle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; knuckle</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; phalanx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>metacarpal</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; knuckle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wrist</td>
<td>webbing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Articulations: Thumb rubs

Dom | Sub
---|---
1\textsuperscript{st} \rightarrow 2\textsuperscript{nd} knuckle | 1\textsuperscript{st} \rightarrow 2\textsuperscript{nd} phalanx \ á/aj
2\textsuperscript{nd} \rightarrow 1\textsuperscript{st} knuckle | 2\textsuperscript{nd} \rightarrow 1\textsuperscript{st} phalanx \ è/ew
wrist \rightarrow \text{metacarpal} | \text{metacarpal} \rightarrow 1\textsuperscript{st} phalanx \ ó/oj
\text{metacarpal} \rightarrow \text{wrist} | 1\textsuperscript{st} phalanx \rightarrow \text{metacarpal} \ à/aw
Chords

• *chord* = fingers only
  - chord + thumb = *thumbchord*
  - 1 unit of time = *beat* ($\approx$ 1 phoneme)
• same knuckledness
• all pressed fingers adjacent (only runs)
Ligatures

- hold some finger(s)
  - 234→2345

- must have held-over fingers
  - * 2→3 = /2 3/

- must keep knuckledness
  - * 23→34', * 23→3'4'

- ends in neutral position (⌀)

- all words are a single ligature (for now?)
Simple x Simple = Lots

- 21 basic articulations
  - 4 globals
  - 8 finger presses
  - 5 thumb presses
  - 4 thumb rub
- 129 one-beat words
  - 4 globals, 125 thumbchords (20 simple chords)
- > 5000 two-beat ligatures
  - ~8-14k depending how you count rubs
English code

```

begin / end

i ʊ u

θ ɵ

eɪ oʊ

e ə a

d ə

æ

aɪ əʊ

ɔ

k h

g

p ʊ ɹ

b ɹ

v ɹ

w

l

ʃ tʃ

ʒ

θ ɵ

ɒ

ʃ ʒ

j

ŋ
```
Thanks

*Feel The Pain* by AF Grant

http://www.getangry.com/art/gallery1/strangle.htm

Parker Glynn-Adey
Long English code example

• just a coding example!
  (the griplang has its own lexicon)

“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood”

34oj 4'aw34'5' 34'i24'4'34'25.34'

In @ j El ow w u d ...

i4 u 25'e3'aw 2'oj34'...

(we lied a little: 2'3'4' is written 24'; . are for disambiguation)