

Character generation methods: stroke, starburst, bitmap.

- We can display letters and numbers in variety of size and style.
- The overall design style for the set of character is called typeface.
- Today large numbers of typefaces are available for computer application for example Helvetica, New York platino etc.
- Originally, the term font referred to a set of cast metal character forms in a particular size and format, such as 10-point Courier Italic or 12- point Palatino Bold. Now, the terms font and typeface are often used interchangeably, since printing is no longer done with cast metal forms.
- Two different representations are used for storing computer fonts.

Bitmap Font/ Bitmapped Font

- A simple method for representing the character shapes in a particular typeface is to use rectangular grid patterns.
- Figure below shows pattern for particular letter.

1	1	1	1	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0	1	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	1
0	1	1	1	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0	1	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	0

Fig. 1.1 : - Grid pattern for letter B.

- When the pattern in figure 1.1 is copied to the area of frame buffer, the 1 bits designate which pixel positions are to be displayed on the monitor.
- Bitmap fonts are the simplest to define and display as character grid only need to be mapped to a frame-buffer position.
- Bitmap fonts require more space because each variation (size and format) must be stored in a font cache.
- It is possible to generate different size and other variation from one set but this usually does not produce good result.

Stroke Method

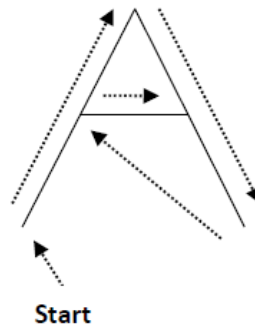


Fig. 1.1 - Stroke Method for Letter A.

- It uses small line segments to generate a character.
- The small series of line segments are drawn like a stroke of a pen to form a character as shown in figure.
- We can generate our own stroke method by calling line drawing algorithm.
- Here it is necessary to decide which line segments are needed for each character and then draw that line to display character.
- It supports scaling by changing the length of the line segment.

Starburst Method

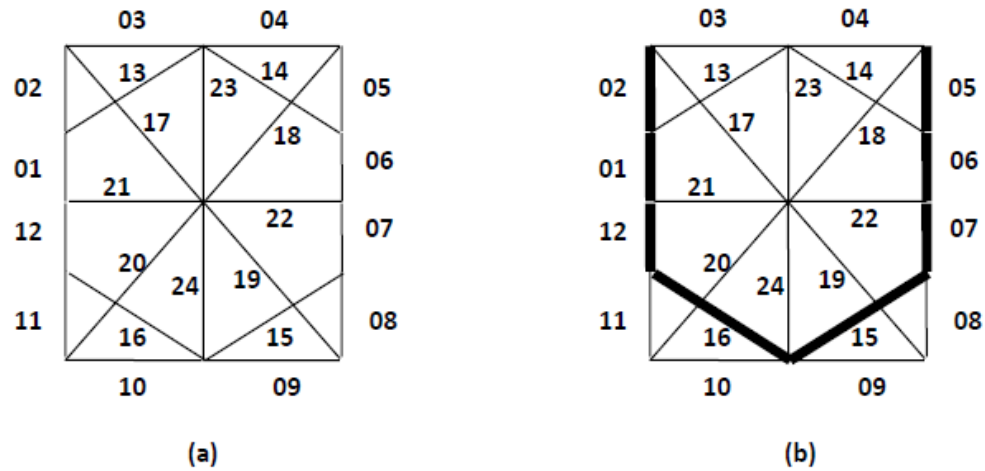


Fig. 1.1 :- (a) Starburst Method. (b) Letter V using starburst method

- In this method a fix pattern of line segments are used to generate characters.
- As shown in figure 1.1 there are 24 line segments.
- We highlight those lines which are necessary to draw a particular character.
- Pattern for particular character is stored in the form of 24 bit code. In which each bit represents corresponding line having that number.
- That code contains 0 or 1 based on line segment need to highlight. We put bit value 1 for highlighted line and 0 for other line.
- Code for letter V is
1 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
- This technique is not used now a days because:
 1. It requires more memory to store 24 bit code for single character.
 2. It requires conversion from code to character.
 3. It doesn't provide curve shapes.