Report on Visit to Armstrong Laboratory, Brooks AFB, San Antonio, Texas, Feb 7-20, 1993

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11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

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13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

Describes Professor Serdiouk's visit to Armstrong Laboratory at Brooks AFB, San Antonio, Texas between February 7-20, 1993. Briefed Institute of Automated System's research in creating computer-aided learning systems. Training system INOK was designed to create and use computerized training courses in the process of shaping, securing and checking knowledge in any field, supposing differing levels of subject and language mastery. The technology realized by this system was successfully used for creating the training courses on geography, history, mathematics, chemistry, theory of music, English and other subjects.
REPORT
on the visit to Armstrong Laboratory, AFB Brooks,
San Antonio, Texas, USA, February 7-20, 1993

I was visiting Armstrong Laboratory on the "Window on
Science" program (WOS-93-4010). During my visit I had the
opportunity to meet many researchers at the Intelligent Training
Branch (AL/HRTI). I made one presentation on the topic
"Intelligent Tutoring Systems" at which I reported about
Training system INOK. This system was designed to create and use
computerized training courses in the process of shaping,
securing and checking of knowledge in any field, supposing
differing levels of subject and language mastery. Here, language
refers to the technical (spoken, written) language of the
subject area, as well as computer (programming, query)
languages.

After my presentation I had extensive discussion with Dr.
Patricia Carlson, Col. William Strickland, Col. Rodger
Ballentine, Dr. Jim Fleming, Mr. Charles Swanberg, Mrs. Teri
Jacson, Mrs. Carol Horwitz, Dr. Kurt Steuck, Cap. Ai Goodman,
Cap. Michael Slaven, Mr. Tony The, Mrs. Melinda Crevoisier, Mr.
Keith Brown, Mr. Scott Tucker and others.

A team of HRTI people was organized, meembers of which
decided to try to use the INOK trainig system. Especially for my
visit to Brooks I prepared a training course about the United
States (mostly about Geography of the United States). I added to
this my formal report the text, which reflect the content
(questions and answers) of this course. There were other
courses, prepared for my visit in English language, so that the
"student" could see the following "menu" to choose the training
course:

- U S A ( States, Capitals and Big Cities)
- U S A ( Rivers and Lakes)
- E U R O P E ( States, Capitals and Big Cities)
- A F R I C A ( States, Capital, & Rivers)
- North and South AMERICA ( in Russian )
- C I S (States, Capitals, Rivers, Islands, etc.)
- A S I A - (States, Capitals, Big Cities)
- "B R O O K S" A F BASE (Presentation Course)
After the "student" chose the course (let say it is the first course "USA (States, Capitals and Big Cities)") he/she saw on the screen the following list of users and had to choose his/her name:

- T O N Y - USA (States, Capitals and Big Cities)
- K E I T H - USA (States, Capitals and Big Cities)
- THERESE - USA (States, Capitals and Big Cities)
- Melinda - USA (States, Capitals and Big Cities)
- J O A N - USA (States, Capitals and Big Cities)
- J A C O B - USA (States, Capitals and Big Cities)
- PATRICIA - USA (States, Capitals and Big Cities)
- Al Goodman - USA (States, Capitals and Big Cities)
- Carol - USA (States, Capitals and Big Cities)
- Scott - USA (States, Capitals and Big Cities)

The INOK training system store a lot of information about the student during his/her lesson and use stored information to make the training process more efficient. The main feature of the system is that it "press" the student to work, to spend energy, to be active and to mobilize internal resources during the lesson. At the same time the system use very complicated algorithms to save student's time and energy preventing him/her from doing what is not necessary to do.

The results of using the system were impressive. "Students" learned something about USA (some of them also about Europe), but mostly tried to evaluate the "behaviour" of the system. Their general opinion was that such an approach can really save time and can help to obtain stable knowledge.

A lot of discussions was with AL/HRTI people about internal algorithms of the system, about fields where the system can be used, about technology of creating of training courses.

It was agreed, that the approach, which was demonstrated at the presentation and during the experimental usage of the INOK Training Intelligent system, can be very efficient in case when the training process is well motivated and a lot of information should be learned during short time or certain level of knowledge should be kept during necessary period of time.

Moscow, March 1993.

Vladimir Serdiuk
APPENDIX 1. Seminar AL Brooks AFB, San Antonio, Texas
February 9, 1993

Vladimir A. Serdiuk,
Institute for Automated Systems (IAS)
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Located in Moscow, the Institute for Automated Systems specializes in research on applied computer science and telecommunications. Software laboratories of the IAS over the last ten years achieved recognition in Russia and throughout the former Soviet Union as a group capable of sophisticated scientific research as well as having the ability to develop software to commercial level quality and reliability.

For about 10 years a team at the IAS have been working on the problem of creating computer-aided learning systems. The most difficult part of it was theoretical attempts to solve principal problems to avoid constraints related to the fact that didactics is not a science, at least not an exact science. Many principles and criteria were designed to find a way to describe didactic aims and student behavior by parameters, which computer can "understand" and use to make training process more efficient on the basis of special type of "artificial intelligence."

Training system INOK was designed to create and use computerized training courses in the process of shaping, securing and checking of knowledge in any field, supposing differing levels of subject and language mastery. Here, language refers to the technical (spoken, written) language of the subject area, as well as computer (programming, query) languages.

The practice shows that the field of INOK usage is much wider. The technology realized by this system was successfully used for creating the training courses on geography, history, mathematics, chemistry, theory of music, English and other subjects.

Practically, it is a facility for automatization of wide range of didactic processes in many fields of knowledge. The efficiency of automated training processes based on technology which is realized in this complex is provided with the approach to creation of systems of such a class as to adaptive artificial intelligence system of didactic trend.

As compared with other computer-aided learning systems, a new principle in INOK is the use of large information storage capacity in the process of training. This information is about different quantity aspects of studying at the concrete training course and about the time-varying parameter of mastering of this course. The stored didactic information is used by INOK in compliance with multiple algorithms realized for achievement of the main aim, i.e. for the multiple betterment of those sides of training process which are serious obstacle for the majority of trainees.

THE MAIN DIDACTIC PRINCIPLES realized in INOK are as follows:
(a) active orthographical and syntactic checking of a trainee's knowledge;
(b) individual process of training with the ability of the description of the individual didactic strategy by the unique parameters set;
(c) possibility of deep and detailed structuring of the training material including possibility of determination of semantic network for the complex material with the inter-related elements;
(d) controlled randomization of the didactic information;
(e) filtration of the training material elements on a basis of the quantity, quality and temporary criteria of a trainee's knowledge. The filtration is capable to economize essentially the trainee's time and energy due to the repetition of the poor assimilated knowledge and optimal return to the elements which are complex or difficult to study or to give the unstable knowledge.

Some of the above-mentioned principles are realized for the first time in practice of developing of automated training systems.

THE INOK SOFTWARE consists of two independent subsystems:
(a) author subsystems A-INOK, an integrated system for preparation of courseware, including a great number of basic and service subsystems on a base of powerful multi-window text editor;
(b) trainee subsystem T-INOK which employs adaptive artificial intelligence. These functions allow for the collection and processing of the individual didactic data.

**THE AUTHOR SUBSYSTEM** allows for didactic program development engineers to create new training courses with use of the window technology and programming graphic facilities, to realize deep structuring of training material in compliance with the principles entered into the system, to add and modify the existing training courses, to formalize the training aims and also to receive information of the reference character about the training courses as well as to look over the created training material as it occurs to be given to a trainee. The main feature of the author subsystem and the information technology realized in the frame of INOK is that authors of training courses do not need to have "heavy" computer knowledge. They must have an experience in preparation of usual texts with help of personal computer and must be acquainted with potentialities of linguistic support of INOK, i.e. person-to-computer language (author language) used for training courses creation, which provides transformation of the usual text into the didactic program. In this case the author need not remember author language syntax since the author subsystem has developed facilities of the automatic formation of the service elements of the language in the process of subject dialogue with the author.

**TRAINING in the THE INOK system** is realized as a process of interpretation of didactic programs written on the mentioned author language. Such an interpretation is performed by the second program component of INOK, i.e. T-INOK or "Trainee subsystem". This system gives an opportunity to a trainee (or instructor) to choose the required training course, to choose or modify the process of training, to familiarize himself with the whole training material, to select the poor mastered, more complex or forgotten material, to check knowledge and experience of a trainee and to evaluate it impartially, to collect statistics for determination of integral evaluation of a trainee's knowledge, to provide automatically the access to the new training material as the previous one has been studied, to output the data to a trainee about his didactic situation. The following training courses were developed using the latest version of INOK:
- English on a basis of very well known in Russia text-book by N.A. Bonk or other text-books (this course is really big);
- English phonetics;
- geography of countries and their capitals;
- USA geography;
- data retrieval system DATA-STAR;
- simple music theory;
- chemistry test for 10-th form of Russian school.

INOK is used with IBM-compatible personal computers with EGA or VGA color monitors. Machines should have a fast hard-disk and not less than 1 MB of RAM memory.
Text of the training course
"USA (States, Capitals and Big Cities)".

United States of America.
Names of the States, Capitals and the Biggest Cities.

****** Part 1 Lesson 1 ******
USA
Territory - 3602.3 th. of sq. miles
Population - 248.7 mlns. (1990)
Administrative division -
- 50 States + 1 federal district.
Official language - English.
Political system - federal republic.

In what year the Constitution of USA was written? 1787
In what year the Constitution of USA come into force? 1789

Who was the First President of USA?
George Washington

Information about the State
Territory - 82,413 sq. miles
Population - 1,036,500
Higt Pt. - Borah Peak,
12,662 ft.

State?
Idaho
Abbr. for State Idaho?
ID
The Capital of State Idaho?
Boise
The biggest city of State Idaho?
Pocatello
The biggest city of State Idaho?
Idaho Falls

Information about the State
Territory - 55,965 sq. miles
Population - 2,909,500
Higt Pt. - (unnamed),
1,670 ft.

State?
Iowa

Abbr. for State Iowa?
IA
The Capital of State Iowa?
Des Moines
The biggest city of State Iowa?
Cedar Rapids

Information about the State
Territory - 50,766 sq. miles
Population - 4,093,100
Higt Pt. - Cheaha Mt.,
2,407 ft.

State?
Alabama
Abbr. for State Alabama?
AL
The Capital of State Alabama?
Montgomery
The biggest city of State Alabama?
Mobile
The biggest city of State Alabama?
Birmingham

Information about the State.
Territory - 570,833 sq. miles
Population - 551,700
Higt Pt. - Mt. McKinley,
20,320 ft.

State?
Alaska
Abbr. for State Alaska?
AK
The Capital of State Alaska?
Juneau
The biggest city of State Alaska?
Anchorage
The biggest city of State Alaska?
Fairbanks

Information about the State
Territory - 113,510 sq. miles
Population - 3,327,400
Higt Pt. - Humphreys Peak,
12,663 ft.

State?
Arizona
Abbr. for State Arizona?
AZ
The Capital of State Arizona?
Phoenix
The biggest city of State Arizona?
Tucson

Information about the State.

Territory - 52,082 sq. miles
Population - 2,404,800
Higt Pt. - Magazine Mt.,
2,753 ft.

State?
Arkansas
Abbr. for State Arkansas?
AR
The Capital of State Arkansas?
Little Rock
The biggest city of State Arkansas?
Hot Springs
The biggest city of State Arkansas?
Fort Smith

Information about the State.

Territory - 96,988 sq. miles
Population - 512,300
Higt Pt. - Gannett Peak,
13,804 ft.

State?
Wyoming
Abbr. for State Wyoming?
WY
The Capital of State Wyoming?
Cheyenne
The biggest city of State Wyoming?
Casper

Information about the State.

Territory - 66,512 sq. miles
Population - 4,479,300
Higt Pt. - Mt.Rainier,
14,410 ft.

State?
Washington
Abbr. for State Washington?
WA
The Capital of State Washington?

Olympia
The biggest city of State Washington?
Seattle
The biggest city of State Washington?
Spokane

Information about the State:

Territory - 39,700 sq. miles
Population - 5,845,100
Higt Pt. - White Top,
5,530 ft.

State?
Virginia
Abbr. for State Virginia?
VA
The Capital of State Virginia?
Richmond
The biggest city of State Virginia?
Roanoke
The biggest city of State Virginia?
Norfolk

Information about the State:

Territory - 54,424 sq. miles
Population - 4,834,600
Higt Pt. - Timms Hill,
1,951 ft.

State?
Wisconsin
Abbr. for State Wisconsin?
WI
The Capital of State Wisconsin?
Madison
The biggest city of State Wisconsin?
Milwaukee

Information about the State.

Territory - 6,427 sq. miles
Population - 1,077,700
Higt Pt. - Mauna Kea, 13,796 ft.

State?
Hawaii
Abbr. for State Hawaii?
HI
The Capital of State Hawaii?
Honolulu

Information about the State:

Territory - 58,060 sq. miles
Population - 6,124,000
Higt Pt. - Brasstown Bald,
4,784 ft.
State?
Georgia
Abbr. for State Georgia?
GA
The Capital of State Georgia?
Atlanta
The biggest city of State Georgia?
Savannah
The biggest city of State Georgia?
Macon

Information about the State:

Territory - 24,124 sq. miles
Population - 1,951,100
Higt Pt. - Spruce Knob, 4,860 ft.

State?
West-Virginia (Abbr.- WV)
The Capital of State West Virginia?
Charleston
The biggest city of State West Virgindia?
Huntington

Information about the State:

Territory - 55,646 sq. miles
Population - 11,663,200
Higt Pt. - Charles Mound, 1,235 ft.

State?
Illinois
Abbr. for State Illinois?
IL
The Capital of State Illinois?
Springfield
The biggest city of State Illinois?
Chicago
The biggest city of State Illinois?
Rockford

***** Part 2 Lesson 1 *****

U S A
Territory - 362.3 th. of sq. miles
Population - 248.7 mlns. (1990)
Administrative division -
50 States + 1 federal district.

Official language - English.

Political system - federal republic.

Information about the State:

Territory - 35,936 sq. miles
Population - 5,571,900
Higt Pt. - (unnamed), 1,257 ft.

State?
Indiana
Abbr. for State Indiana?
IN
The Capital of State Indiana?
Indianapolis
The biggest city of State Indiana?
Fort Wayne
The biggest city of State Indiana?
Gary

Information about the State:

Territory - 156,297 sq. miles
Population - 27,080,800
Higt Pt. - Mt. Whitney, 14,491 ft.

State?
California
Abbr. for State California?
CA
The Capital of State California?
Sacramento
The biggest city of State California?
Los Angeles
The biggest city of State California?
San Francisco
The biggest city of State California?
San Diego

Information about the State:

Territory - 81,783 sq. miles
Population - 2,483,900
Higt Pt. - Mt. Sunflower, 4,039 ft.

State?
Kansas
Abbr. for State Kansas?
KS
The Capital of State Kansas?
Topeka
The biggest city of State Kansas?
Wichita
The biggest city of State Kansas?
Kansas City

Information about the State
Territory - 39,674 sq. miles
Population - 3,777,600
Higt Pt. - Black Mt.,
4,145 ft.

State ?
Kentucky
Abbr. for State Kentucky ?
KY
The Capital of State Kentucky ?
Frankfort
The biggest city of State Kentucky ?
Louisville
The biggest city of State Kentucky ?
Lexington

Information about the State:
Territory - 103,598 sq. miles
Population - 3,300,100
Higt Pt. - Mt. Elbert,
14,433 ft.

State ?
Colorado
Abbr. for State Colorado ?
CO
The Capital of State Colorado ?
Denver
The biggest city of State Colorado ?
Pueblo
The biggest city of State Colorado ?
Colorado Springs

Information about the State:
Territory - 44,520 sq. miles
Population - 4,547,000
Higt Pt. - Driskill Mt.,
535 ft.

State ?
Louisiana
Abbr. for State Louisiana ?
LA
The Capital of State Louisiana ?
Baton Rouge
The biggest city of State Louisiana ?
New Orleans

Information about the State:
Territory - 79,548 sq. miles
Population - 4,292,700
Higt Pt. - Eagle Mt.,
2,301 ft.

State ?
Minnesota
Abbr. for State Minnesota ?
MN
The Capital of State Minnesota ?
St. Paul
The biggest city of State Minnesota ?
Minneapolis
The biggest city of State Minnesota ?
Rochester
The biggest city of State Minnesota ?
Duluth

Information about the State:
Territory - 47,234 sq. miles
Population - 2,668,400
Higt Pt. - Woodall Mt.,
806 ft.

State ?
Mississippi
Abbr. for State Mississipi ?
MS
The Capital of State Mississippi ?
Jackson

Information about the State:
Territory - 68,945 sq. miles
Population - 5,149,300
Higt Pt. - Taum Sauk Mt.,
1,772 ft.

State ?
Missouri
Abbr. for State Missori ?
MO
The Capital of State Missouri ?
Jefferson City
The biggest city of State Missouri ?
Kansas City
The biggest city of State Missouri ?
St. Louis

Information about the State:
Territory - 56,959 sq. miles
Population - 9,222,900
Higt Pt. - Mt. Arvon,
1,979 ft.

State ?
Michigan
Abbr. for State Michigan ?
MI
The Capital of State Michigan ?
Lansing
The biggest city of State Michigan ?
Grand Rapids
The biggest city of State Michigan ?
Detroit

Information about the State:

Territory - 145,388 sq. miles
Population - 841,700
Higt Pt. - Granite Peak, 12,799 ft.

State?
Montana
Abbr. for State Montana?
MT
The Capital of State Montana?
Helena
The biggest city of State Montana?
Billings

Information about the State:

Territory - 30,995 sq. miles
Population - 1,182,400
Higt Pt. - Mt. Katahdin, 5,268 ft.

State?
Maine
Abbr. for State Maine?
ME
The Capital of State Maine?
Augusta
The biggest city of State Maine?
Portland

Information about the State:

Territory - 9,838 sq. miles
Population - 4,486,300
Higt Pt. - Sugar Loaf Mt., 1,281 ft.

State?
Maryland
Abbr. for State Maryland?
MD
The Capital of State Maryland?
Annapolis
The biggest city of State Maryland?
Baltimore

Information about the State:

Territory - 76,639 sq. miles
Population - 1,624,600
Higt Pt. - (unnamed), 5,426 ft.

State?
Nebraska
Abbr. for State Nebraska?

NE
The Capital of State Nebraska?
Lincoln
The biggest city of State Nebraska?
Omaha

Information about the State:

Territory - 109,895 sq. miles
Population - 963,900
Higt Pt. - Boundary Peak, 13,143 ft.

State?
Nevada
Abbr. for State Nevada?
NV
The Capital of State Nevada?
Carson City
The biggest city of State Nevada?
Las Vegas
The biggest city of State Nevada?
Reno

********* Part 3 Lesson 1 *********

USA
Territory - 3602.3 th. of sq. miles
Population - 248.7 mlns. (1990)
Administrative division -
50 States + 1 federal district.
Official language - English.
Political system - federal republic.

Information about the State:

Territory - 47,379 sq. miles
Population - 17,979,600
Higt Pt. - Mt. Marcy, 5,344 ft.

State?
New York (Abbr.-NY)
The Capital of State New York?
Albany
The biggest city of State New York?
New York
The biggest city of State New York?
Syracuse

Information about the State:

Territory - 121,336 sq. miles
Population - 1,494,200
Higt Pt. - Wheeler Peak, 13,161 ft.

State?
New Mexico (Abbr.-NM)
The Capital of State New Mexico?
Santa Fe
The biggest city of State New Mexico?
Albuquerque

Information about the State:

Territory - 41,004 sq. miles
Population - 10,837,300
Higt Pt. - Campbell Hill,
1,550 ft.

State?
Ohio
Abbr. for State Ohio?
OH
The Capital of State Ohio?
Columbus
The biggest city of State Ohio?
Cleveland
The biggest city of State Ohio?
Akron
The biggest city of State Ohio?
Dayton

Information about the State:

Territory - 68,656 sq. miles
Population - 3,360,400
Higt Pt. - Black Mesa,
4,973 ft.

State?
Oklahoma
Abbr. for State Oklahoma?
OK
The Capital of State Oklahoma?
Oklahoma City
The biggest city of State Oklahoma?
Tulsa

Information about the State:

Territory - 96,187 sq. miles
Population - 2,726,800
Higt Pt. - Mt.Hood,
11,239 ft.

State?
Oregon
Abbr. for State Oregon?
OR
The Capital of State Oregon?
Salem
The biggest city of State Oregon?
Portland

Information about the State:

Territory - 44,892 sq. miles

Population - 11,953,900
Higt Pt. - Mt.Davis,
3,213 ft.

State?
Pennsylvania
Abbr. for State Pennsylvania?
PA
The Capital of State Pennsylvania?
Harrisburg
The biggest city of State Pennsylvania?
Pittsburgh
The biggest city of State Pennsylvania?
Philadelphia

Information about the State:

Territory - 69,299 sq. miles
Population - 701,200
Higt Pt. - White Butte,
3,506 ft.

State?
North Dakota (Abbr.- ND)
The Capital of State North Dakota?
Bismarck
The biggest city of State North Dakota?
Fargo

Information about the State:

Territory - 48,843 sq. miles
Population - 6,386,600
Higt Pt. - Mt.Mitchell,
6,643 ft.

State?
North Carolina (Abbr.- NC)
The Capital of State North Carolina?
Raleigh

Information about the State:

Territory - 41,154 sq. miles
Population - 4,852,500
Higt Pt. - Clingmans Dome,
6,643 ft.

State?
Tennessee
Abbr. for State Tennessee?
TN
The Capital of State Tennessee?
Nashville
The biggest city of State Tennessee?
Memphis
The biggest city of State Tennessee?

Information about the State:

Territory - 262,015 sq. miles
Population - 16,738,100
Higt Pt. - Guadalupe Peak, 8,749 ft.

State?
Texas
Abbr. for State Texas?
TX
The Capital of State Texas?
Austin
The biggest city of State Texas?
Houston
San Antonio
The biggest city of State Texas?
Dallas

Information about the State:

Territory - 54,157 sq. miles
Population - 11,740,600
Higt Pt. - (unnamed), 345 ft.

State?
Florida
Abbr. for State Florida?
FL
The Capital of State Florida?
Tallahassee
Jacksonville
The biggest city of State Florida?
Orlando
The biggest city of State Florida?
Tampa
Miami

Information about the State:

Territory - 75,956 sq. miles
Population - 721,100
Higt Pt. - Harney Peak, 7,242 ft.

State?
South Dakota (Abbr. - SD)
The Capital of State South Dakota?
Pierre
The biggest city of State South Dakota?
Sioux Falls
The biggest city of State South Dakota?
Rapid City

Information about the State:

Territory - 30,207 sq. miles
Population - 3,436,400

Higt Pt. - Sassafras Mt., 3,560 ft.

State?
South Carolina (Abbr. - SC)
The Capital of State South Carolina?
Columbia
The biggest city of State South Carolina?
Charleston

Information about the State:

Territory - 82,076 sq. miles
Population - 1,704,200
Higt Pt. - Kings Peak, 13,528 ft.

State?
Utah
Abbr. for State Utah?
UT
The Capital of State Utah?
Salt Lake City
The biggest city of State Utah?
Provo

********** Part 4 . Lesson 1 **********

USA
Territory - 3602.3 th. of sq. miles
Population - 248.7 mlns. (1990)
Administrative division - 50 States + 1 federal district.
Official language - English.
Political system - federal republic.

Information about the State:

Territory - 9,273 sq. miles
Population - 544,000

State?
Vermont
Abbr. for State Vermont?
VT
The Capital of State Vermont?
Montpelier
The biggest city of State Vermont?
Burlington

Information about the State:

Territory - 1,933 sq. miles
Population - 630,100
Higt Pt. - Southwood, 327 ft.

State?
Delaware
Abbr. for State Delaware ?
DE
The Capital of State Delaware ?
Dover
The bigest city of State Delaware ?
Wilmington

Information about the State

Territory - 4,872 sq. miles
Population - 3,212,000
Higt Pt. - Bear Mt.,
2,355 ft.

State ?
Connecticut
Abbr. for State Connecticut ?
CT
The Capital of State Connecticut ?
Hartford
The bigest city of State Connecticut ?
Bridgeport
The bigest city of State Connecticut ?
New Haven

Information about the State

Territory - 7,826 sq. miles
Population - 5,876,000
Higt Pt. - Mt. Greylock,
3,491 ft.

State ?
Massachusetts
Abbr. for State Massachusetts ?
MA
The Capital of State Massachusetts ?
Boston
The bigest city of State Massachusetts ?
Worcester
The bigest city of State Massachusetts ?
Springfield

Information about the State

Territory - 7,468 sq. miles
Population - 7,687,300
Higt Pt. - High Point,
1,803 ft.