

Models

Human-Computer Interaction Lecture

Slides adapted from hci-lecture.org (A. Schmidt, N. Henze, K. Wolf, V. Schwind), Image from: https://pxhere.com/de/photo/956874



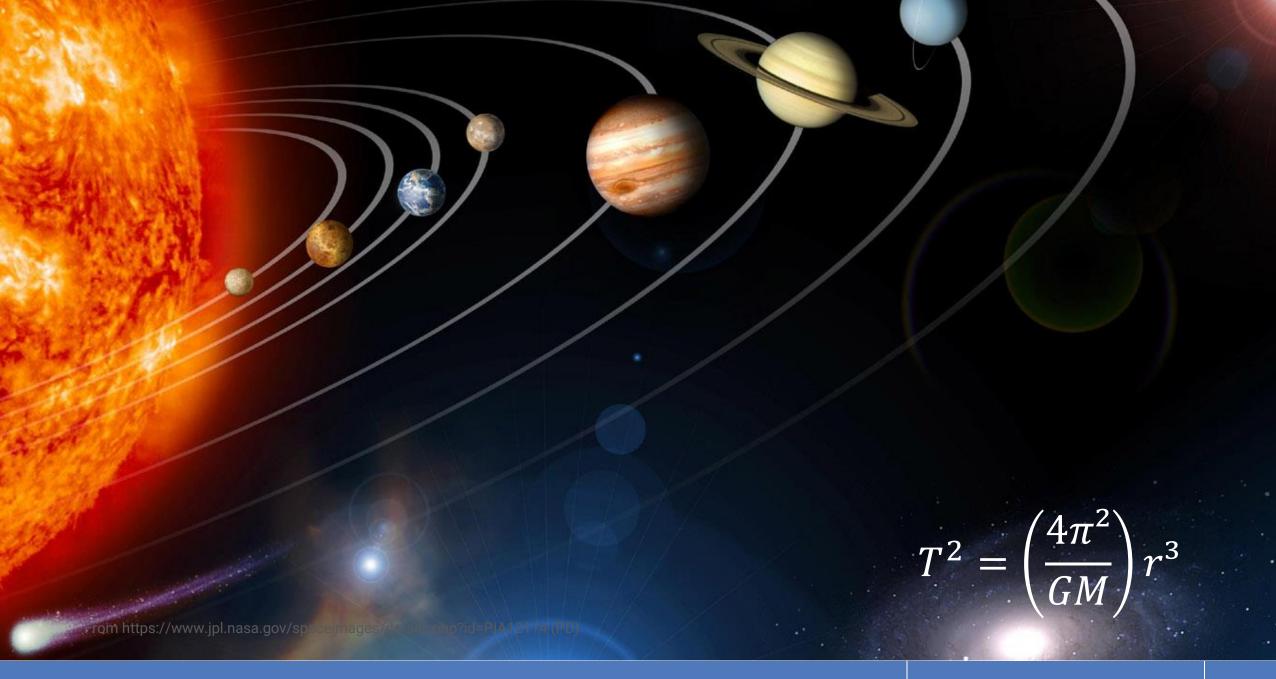


Models

Prof. Dr. Valentin Schwind

Learning Goals

- Understand ...
 - > what models are and why they are useful
 - > know about their limitations
 - > have a rough overview of models in HCI
- Be able to explain ...
 - > explain these models and give examples
 - > discuss implications and how models can be used to evaluate UIs



Models

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Models

- Are representations of phenomena that help us to understand how something works or how it will work.
 - > We need models for humans (e.g., Cognition, Mental Models,...)
 - > We need models for systems (e.g., Regression, Machine Learning,...)
 - > We need models how human interact with systems
- Models are never perfect. There will always be one that is better for specific questions.
- A model is only useful for specific phenomena but not is not useful for most phenomena.





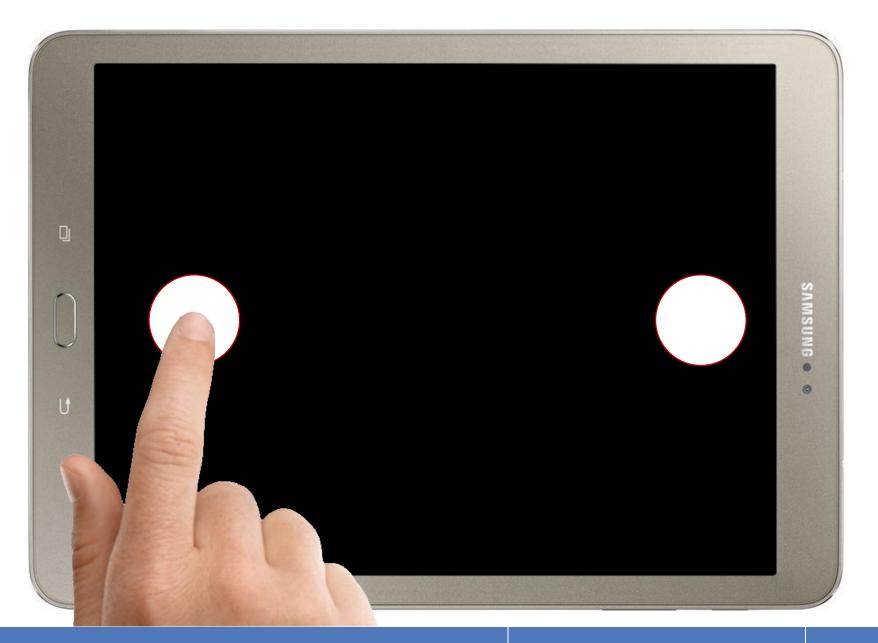
Fitts' Law

Prediction of Target Selection

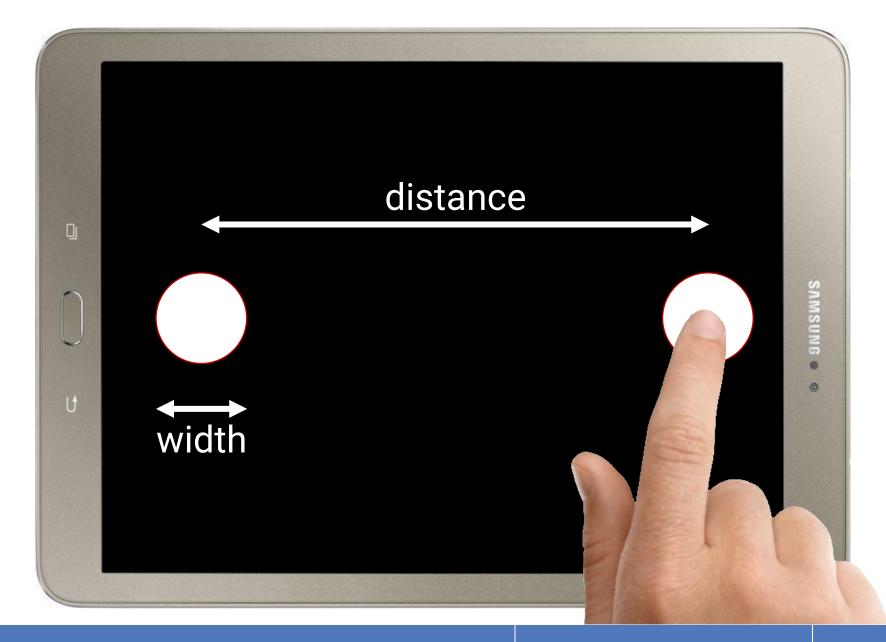
Slides adapted from hci-lecture.org (A. Schmidt, N. Henze, K. Wolf, V. Schwind), Image from: https://pxhere.com/de/photo/956874



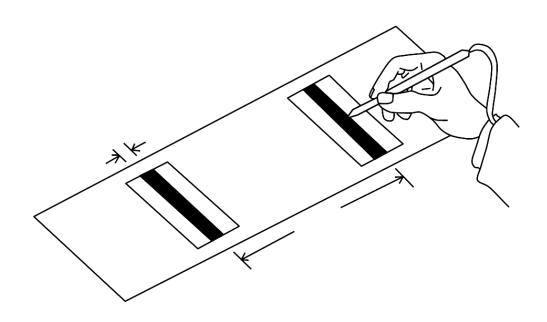
In- and Output



In- and Output



Paul Fitts' Experiment



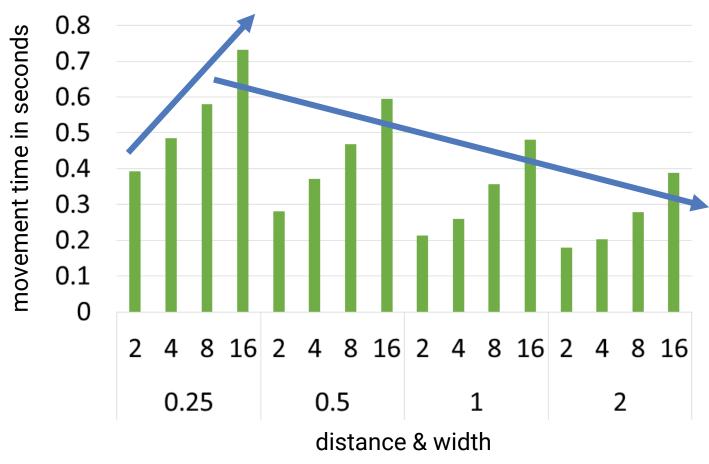
Four distances: 2, 4, 8, 16 inch

Four widths: 0.25, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0 inch

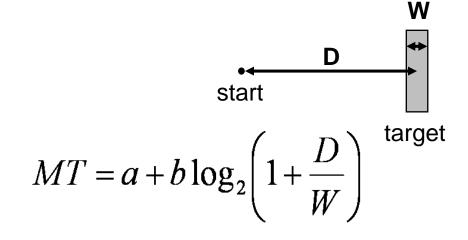
From: U-M Library Digital Collections. Bentley Image Bank, Bentley Historical Library. Accessed: March 27, 2020. CC



Fitts' Experiment



The movement time (MT) to select a target is a function of the target's width (W) and distance (D). It depends on the input device.



MT: movement time

a & b: input device-dependent constants

D: distance to the target W: width of the target

From: Fitts, P. M. (1954). The information capacity of the human motor system in controlling the amplitude of movement. Journal of experimental psychology, 47(6), 381.

The Index of Difficulty

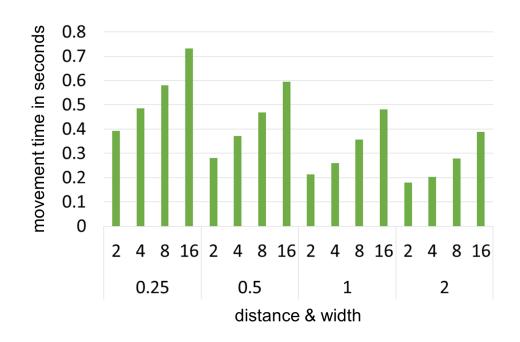
$$MT = a + b \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{D}{W} \right)$$

- Index of Difficulty, ID = $log_2 \left(1 + \frac{D}{W} \right)$
 - \rightarrow MT = a + b ·ID
 - > ID how difficult a task is independent from the input device

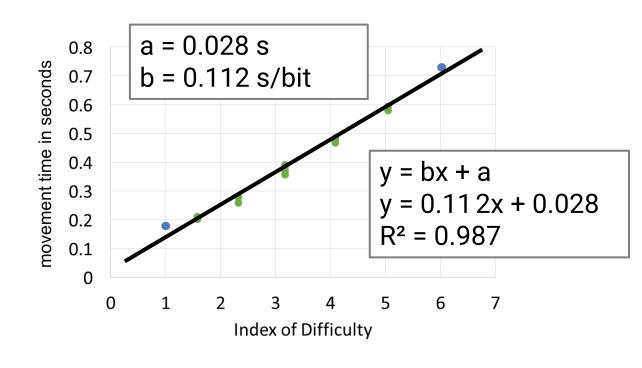
Units:

- > a is measured in seconds
- > b is measured in seconds per bit
- Index of Difficulty (ID) is described in bits

Determining a and b



$$ID = \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{D}{W} \right)$$



- D = 16, W = 0.25
- ID = $\log_2(1+64) = 6.02$

Predicting the Movement Time

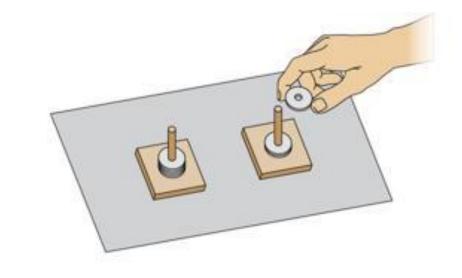
$$MT = a + b \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{D}{W} \right)$$

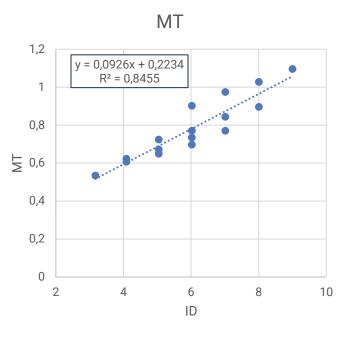
- a = 0.028s
- b = 0.112s/bit
- How long does it take to select a target that is 21 inch away and 3 inch wide?
- MT = 0.028 + 0.112 * log2(1+7)
 = 0.028 + 0.112 * log2(8)
 = 0.028 + 0.112 * 3
 = 0.364ms

Determine a and b for another device / task

width	distance	MT
0,0625	4	0,697
0,0625	8	0,771
0,0625	16	0,896
0,0625	32	1,096
0,125	4	0,649
0,125	8	0,734
0,125	16	0,844
0,125	32	1,028
0,25	4	0,607
0,25	8	0,672
0,25	16	0,771
0,25	32	0,975
0,5	4	0,535
0,5	8	0,623
0,5	16	0,724
0,5	32	0,902

What are a and b for this?



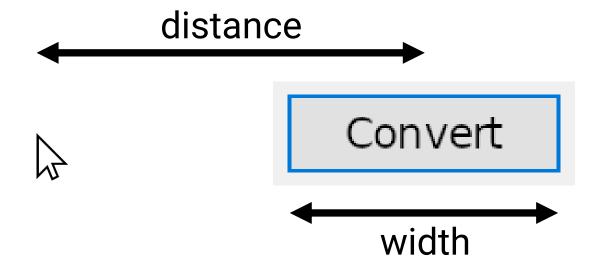


a = 0,2234

b = 0.0926

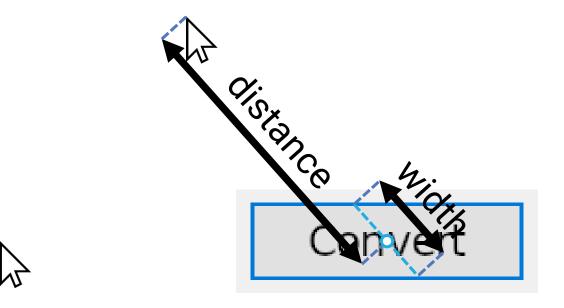
Understanding Fitts' Law. (2024, November 14). Retrieved from https://us.humankinetics.com/blogs/excerpt/understanding-fitts-law

Fitts' in 2D



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What are width and distance?

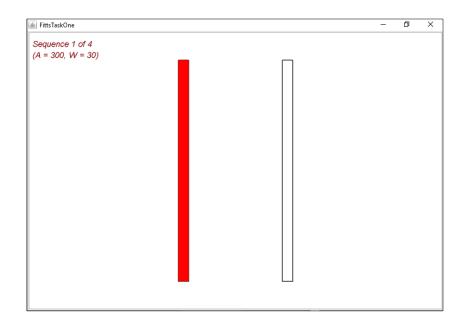
Fitts' in 2D

Convert

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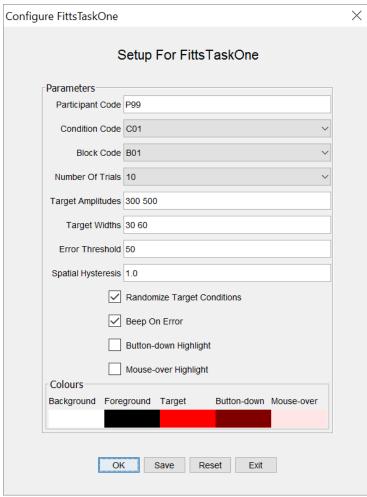
17

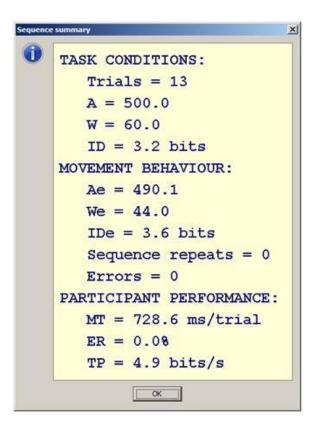
Standardized 1D Fitts' Task



Commonly using a fixed set of amplitudes and Widths, e.g.:

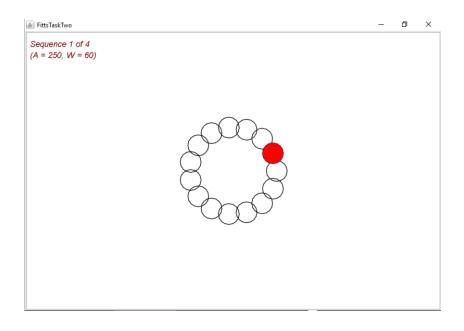
- Amplitude (A): 64, 128, 256, 512 pixels
- Width (W): 8, 16, 32, 64 pixels





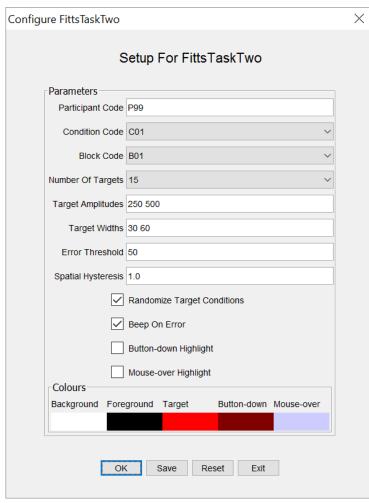
18

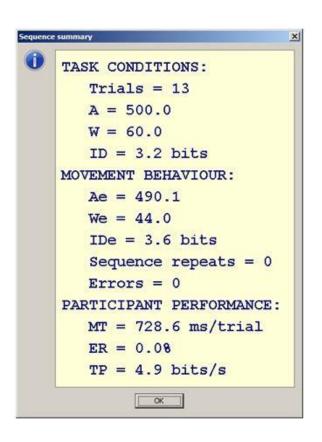
Standardized 2D Fitts' Task



Commonly using a fixed set of amplitudes and Widths, e.g.:

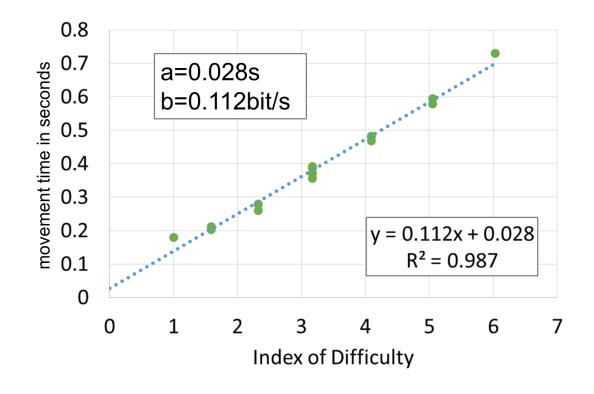
- Amplitude (A): 64, 128, 256, 512 pixels
- Width (W): 8, 16, 32, 64 pixels





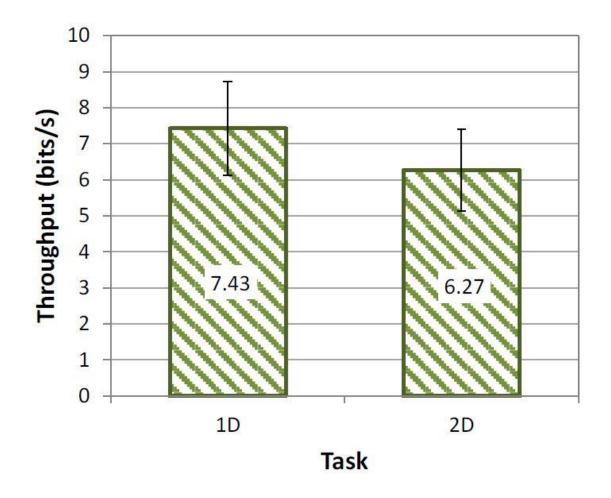
Throughput

- A single metric for a pointing device
 - Works with serial (a series of target selections)
 - > Works with discrete (single target selections)
- Sufficient with six different IDs to determine the device-specific constants a and b



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1D vs 2D

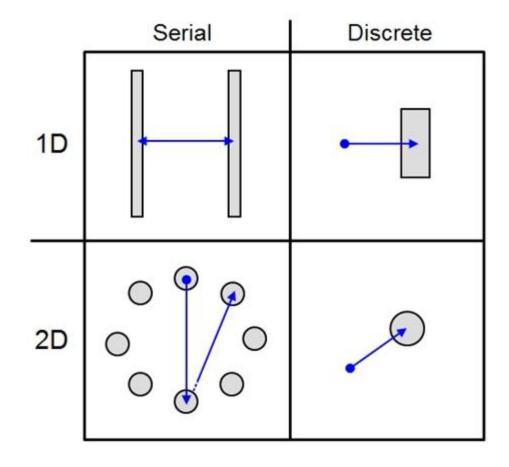


MacKenzie, I. S. (2018). Fitts' law. In K. L. Norman & J. Kirakowski (Eds.), Handbook of human-computer interaction, pp. 349-370. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley. doi:10.1002/9781118976005

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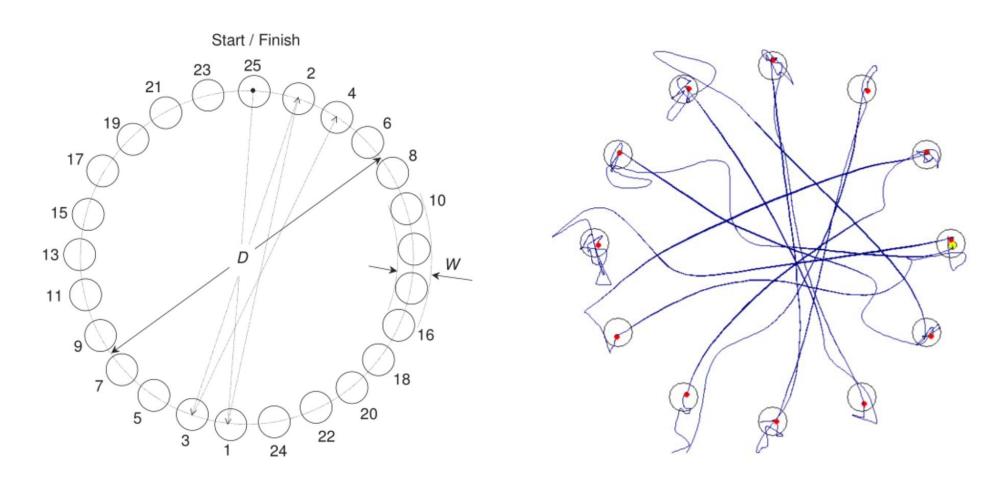
Serial vs Discrete



MacKenzie, I. S., and Isokoski, P. (2008). Fitts' throughput and the speed-accuracy tradeoff. Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems – CHI 2008, pp. 1633-1636. New York: ACM.

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Fitts' in 2D (ISO 9241-9)



Guo, X. (2022). A Fitts' law evaluation and comparison for human and manipulator on touch task. Cognit. Comput. Syst., 4. doi: 10.1049/ccs2.12057

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Effective Throughput

- Effective measures (like effective distance and effective width) account for the user's actual behavior and variability during the task not on predefined (ideal) parameters
- The effective throughput (TP_e) is a refined metric in Fitts' Law studies that true measures both the speed and accuracy of pointing tasks. It is defined by:

$$TP_e = \frac{ID_e}{MT} = \frac{\log_2(\frac{A_e}{W_e} + 1)}{MT}$$
 with

- \rightarrow the effective amplitude (A_e)
- \rightarrow the effective width (W_e)
- the effective index of difficulty (IDe)
- the actual movement time (MT)

Effective Distance

• Effective Distance (A_e) is the actual distance covered by the user, combining both the nominal distance and deviations along the target axis

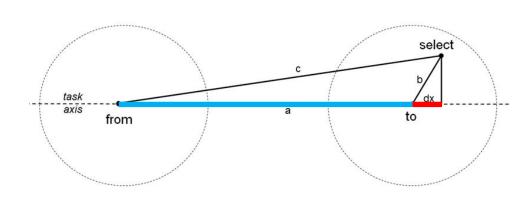
$$A_e = a + dx$$

- \rightarrow *a* is the distance from the starting point to the target
- dx represents the effective movement variation by accounting for any overshoot or undershoot of the target along the intended path with the formula:

$$dx = \frac{c^2 - b^2 - a^2}{2a}$$

with the distances between

- \Rightarrow a = "from" [x1, y1] and "to" [x2, y2]
- b = "select" [x, y] and "to" [x2, y2]
- $\Rightarrow a = \text{"from"} [x1, y1] \text{ and "select"} [x, y]$



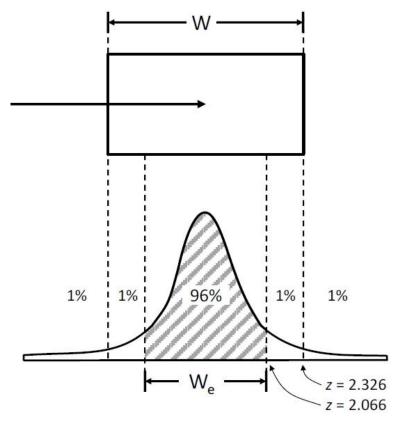
MacKenzie, I. S., and Isokoski, P. (2008). Fitts' throughput and the speed-accuracy tradeoff. Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems – CHI 2008, pp. 1633-1636. New York: ACM.

Effective Width

- The effective target width (W_e) captures the endpoint variability
 - The variability and precision of the user's movements do not align perfectly with the physical dimensions of the target
 - > W_e reflects the **effective accuracy**, not just the theoretical difficulty implied by the nominal width W
- Effective width W_e is derived from the standard deviation of the endpoint positions along the axis of movement

$$W_e = 2\sqrt{2} \times 2 \cdot \sigma = 2 \cdot 2.066 \cdot SD_{dx} \approx 4.133 \cdot SD_{dx}$$

- \rightarrow where SD_x is the standard deviation of effective movement variations
- W_e is roughly equivalent to covering 96% of the data points in a normal distribution (two-tailed), encompassing nearly all endpoint variability



MacKenzie, I. S., and Isokoski, P. (2008). Fitts' throughput and the speed-accuracy tradeoff. Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems – CHI 2008, pp. 1633-1636. New York: ACM.

Effective Throughput

đsôř

ĝsộuřș

$$TP_e = \frac{ID_e}{MT} = \frac{\log_2(\frac{A_e}{W_e} + 1)}{MT} = \frac{\log_2(\frac{a + \frac{c^2 - b^2 - a^2}{2a}}{4.133 \cdot SD_{dx}} + 1)}{MT}$$

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Code example in R

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Example

Setup

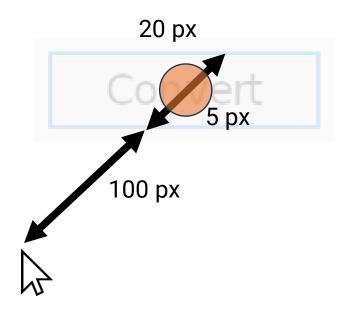
- > Target Distance (D) = 100 pixels
- > Nominal Target Width (W) = 20 pixels
- > Standard Deviation of endpoint spread (σ) = 5 pixels
- > Movement Time (MT) = 500 ms

Effective Throughput Calculation

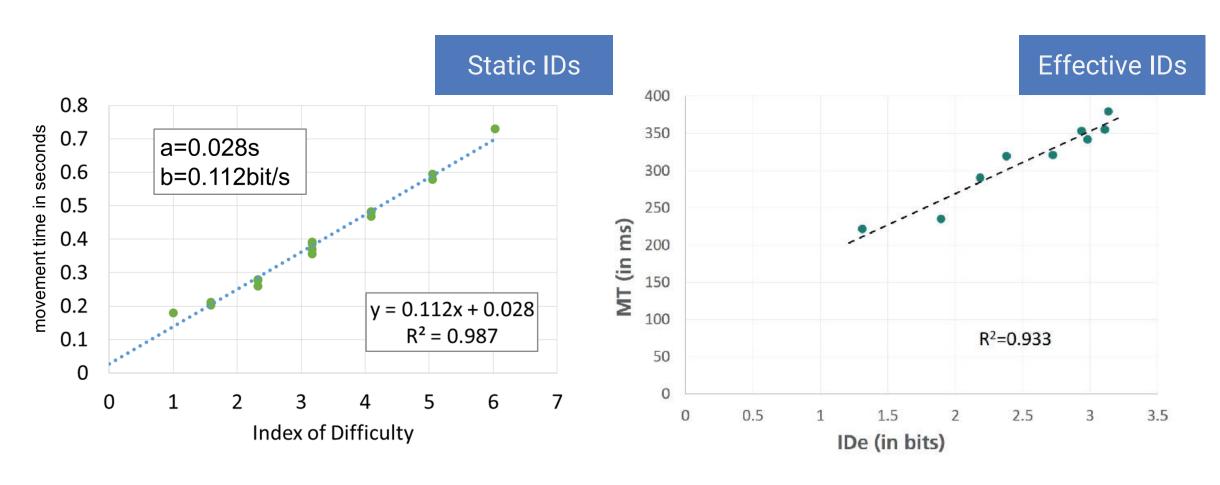
$$W_e = 4.133 \times 5 = 20.665 \ pixels$$

$$I_e = \log_2\left(\frac{100}{20.665} + 1\right) = \log_2(5.837) \approx 2.54 \ bits$$

$$TP_e = \frac{2.54}{0.5} = 5.08 \ bit/s$$



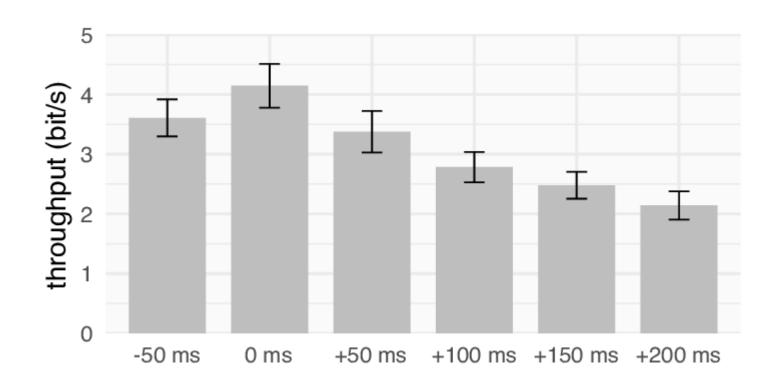
Regression Trend Examples

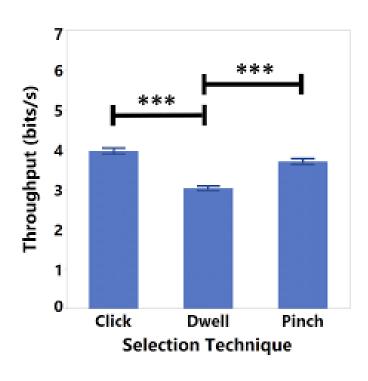


Priya, K., & Joshi, A. (2023). Fitts' Throughput Vs Empirical Throughput: A Comparative Study. Human-Computer Interaction – INTERACT 2023. Springer. doi: 10.1007/978-3-031-42280-5_28

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Throughput Measures Examples



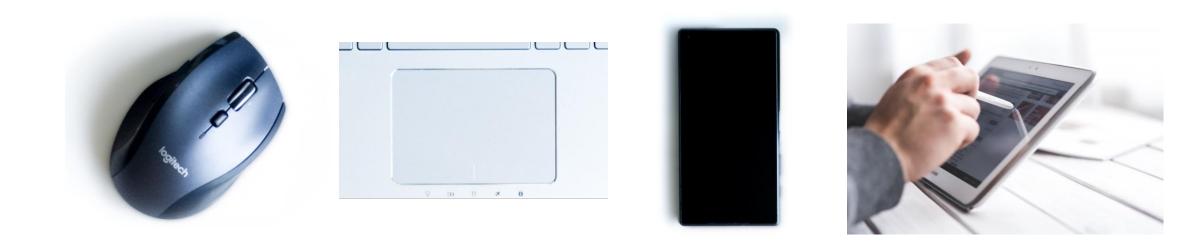


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Schwind, V., Halbhuber, D., Fehle, J., Sasse, J., Pfaffelhuber, A., Tögel, C., ...Henze, N. (2020). The Effects of Full-Body Avatar Movement Predictions in Virtual Reality using Neural Networks. ResearchGate, 1–11. doi: 10.1145/3385956.3418941

Mutasim, A., Batmaz, A., & Stuerzlinger, W. (2021). Pinch, Click, or Dwell: Comparing Different Selection Techniques for Eye-Gaze-Based Pointing in Virtual Reality. ResearchGate. doi: 10.1145/3448018.3457998

Which device has the highest throughput?

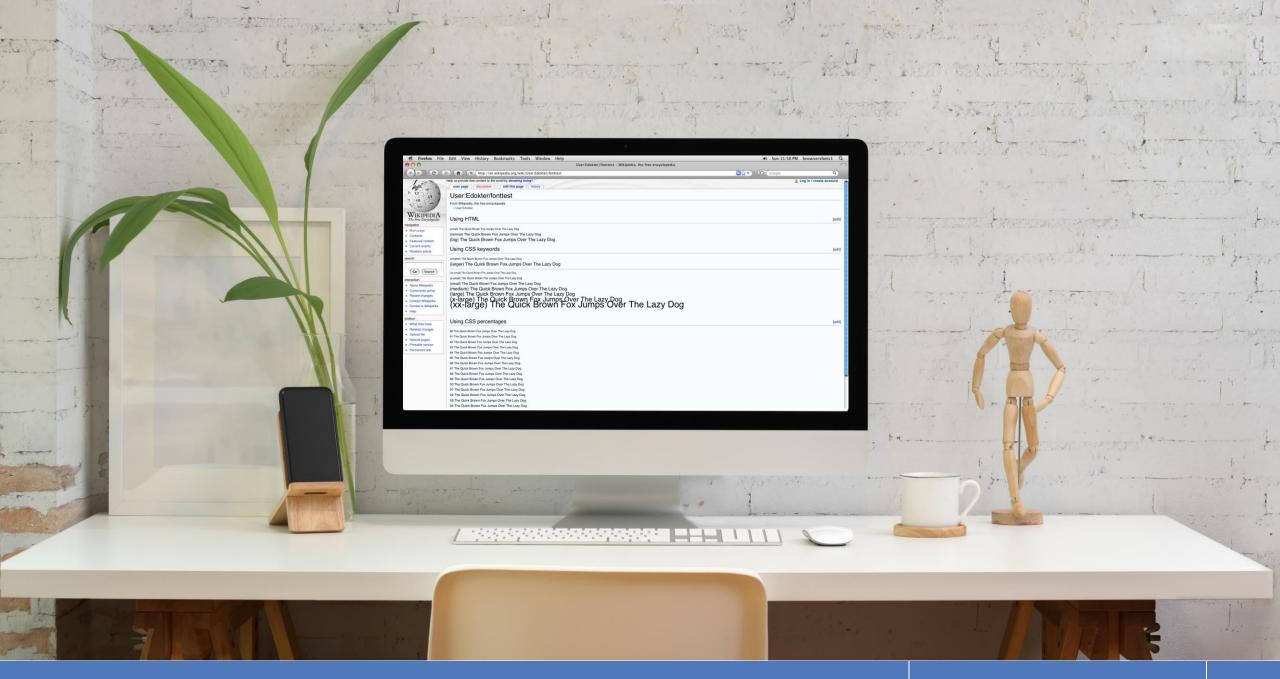


3.7 - 4.5 bit/s

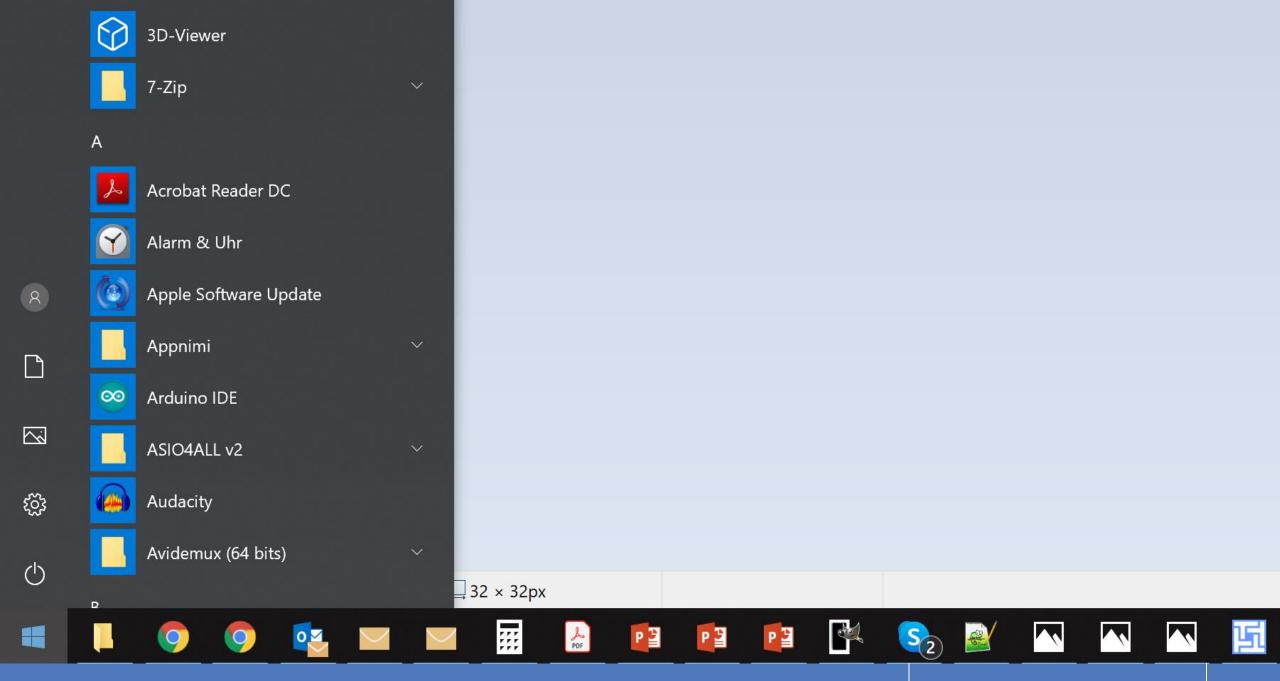
2.3 - 3.0 bit/s

2.3 - 2.9 bit/s

2.55 bit/s

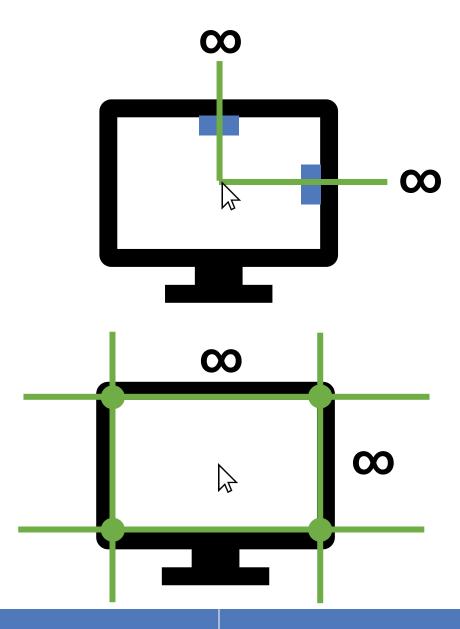


Fitts' Law

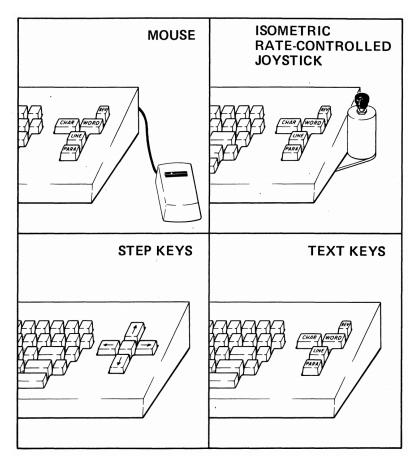


Rule of Infinite Edges

- Edges and corners are the easiest to reach by a pointing device
 - > The width of a target edge is infinite large
 - Only works in full screen
 - > Pages are scrollable
- The coordinates of the corners are also called prime-pixels



The Dominance of the Mouse



Using Fitts' Law "was a major factor leading to the mouse's commercial introduction by Xerox"

http://www2.parc.com/istl/groups/uir/people/stuart/stuart.htm

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Image from Card, S. K., English, W. K., & Burr, B. J. (1978). Evaluation of mouse, rate-controlled isometric joystick, step keys, and text keys for text selection on a CRT. Ergonomics, 21(8), 601-613.

Complex Uls



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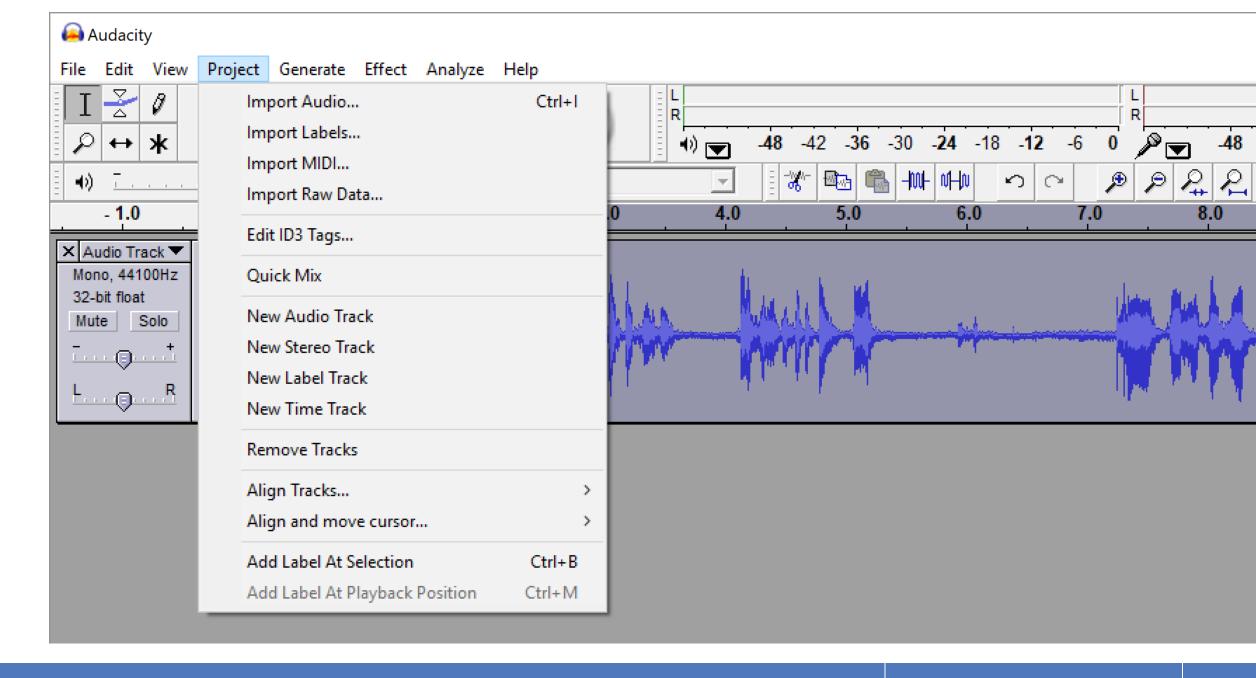


Steering Law

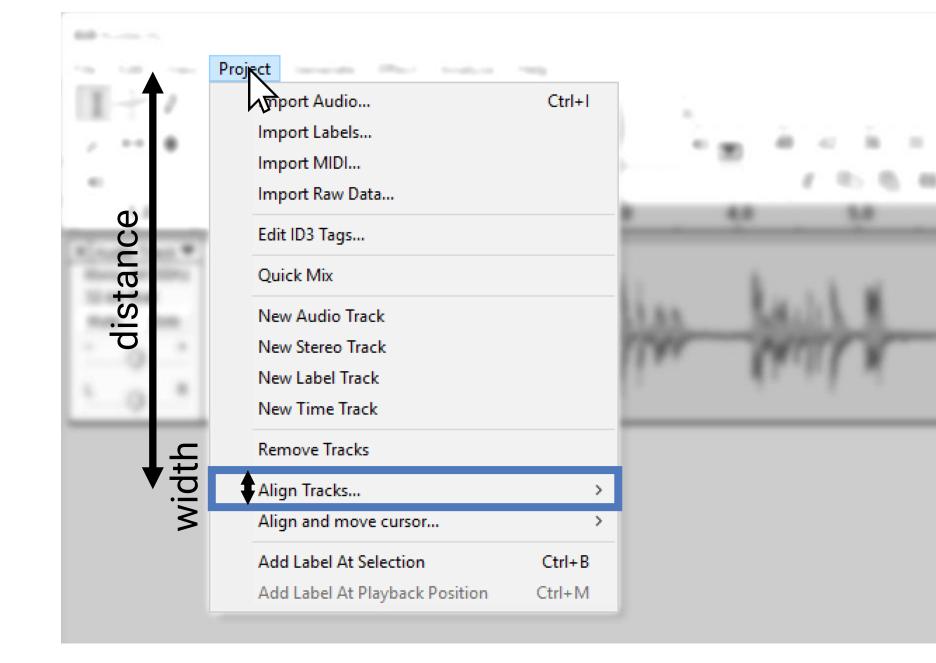
Pointing through tunnels

Slides adapted from hci-lecture.org (A. Schmidt, N. Henze, K. Wolf, V. Schwind), Image from: https://pxhere.com/de/photo/956874

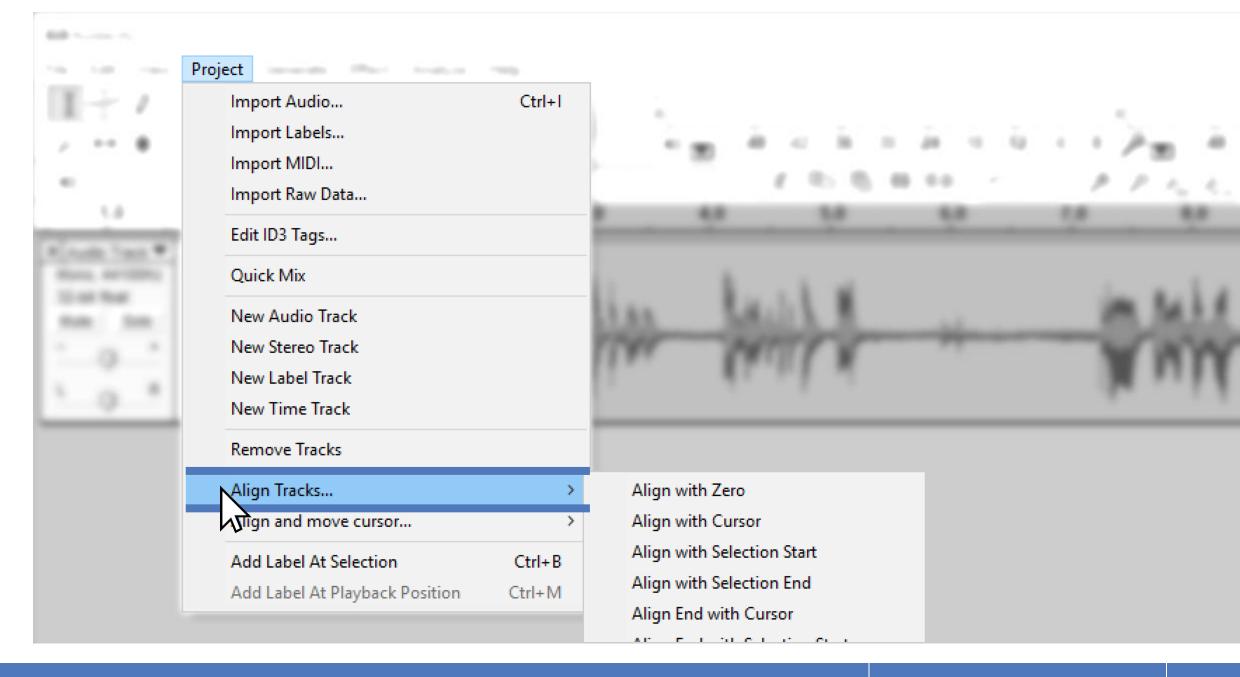




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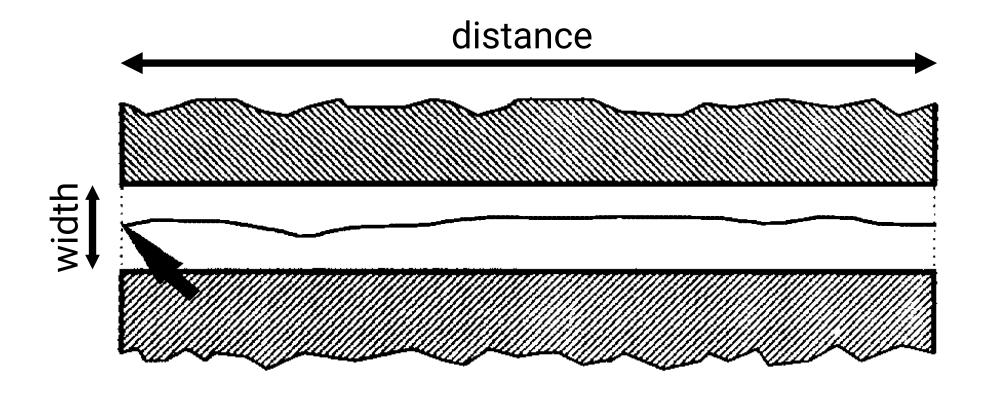


Steering Law Prof. Dr. Valentin Schwind



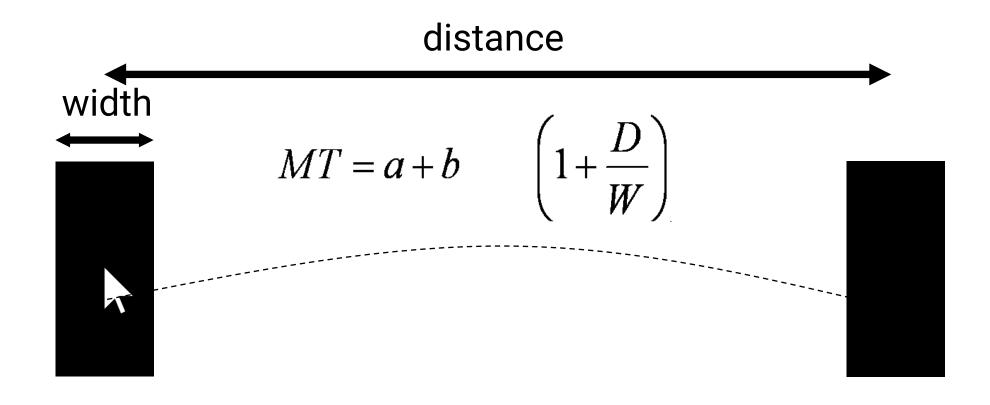
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Tunnels



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Changing Fitts' Law to model steering tasks?



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Steering Law Definition

$$MT = a + b\frac{D}{W}$$
 ID= $\frac{D}{W}$ $MT = a + b\int_{C} \frac{ds}{W(s)}$

The movement time (MT) to acquire a target through a tunnel is a function of the length (D) and width (W) of the tunnel. It depends on the input device and the number of tunnels.

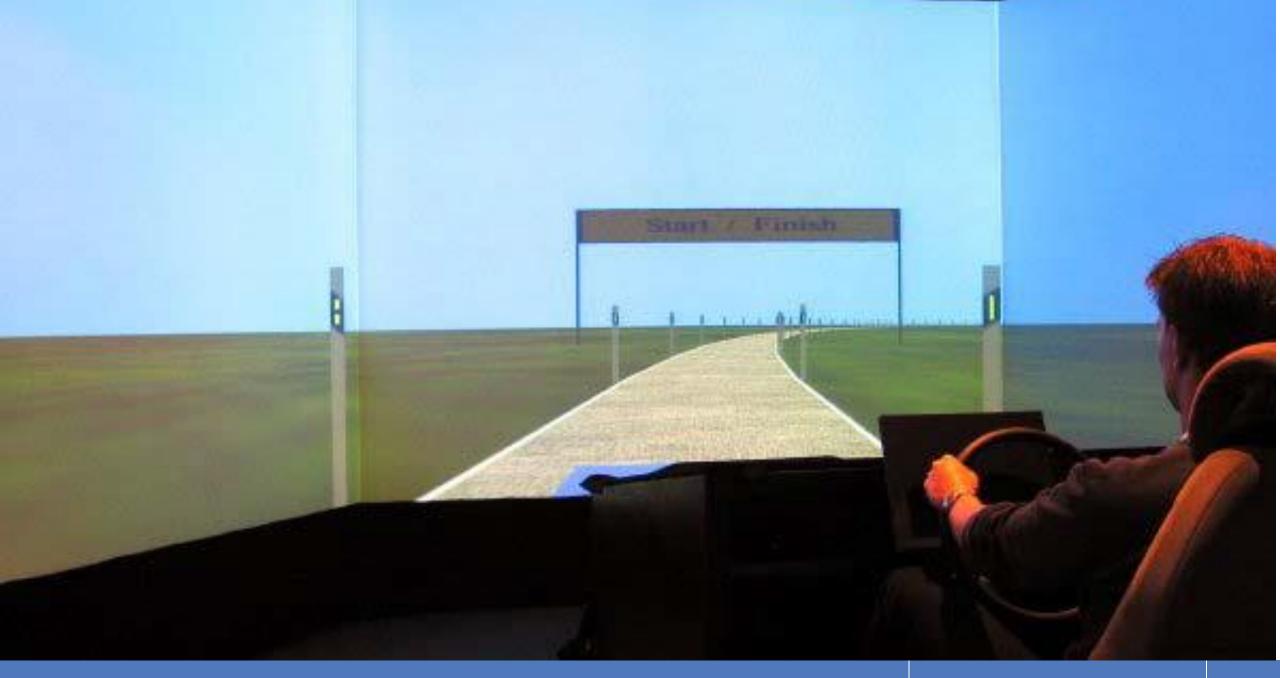
> MT: movement time

> a and b: constants dependent on the pointing system

> D: distance, i.e., the length of the tunnel

> W: width of the tunnel (can have variable thickness)

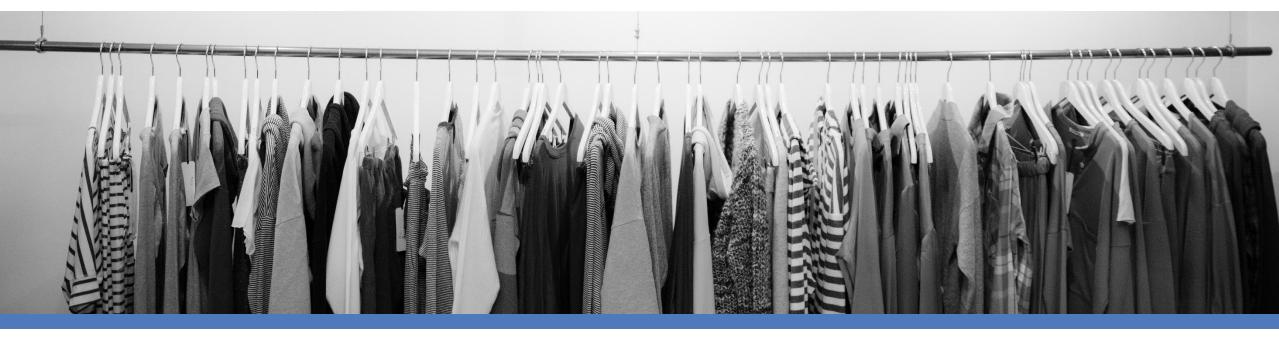
C: the parametrized path (any curvilinear shape)



Steering Law

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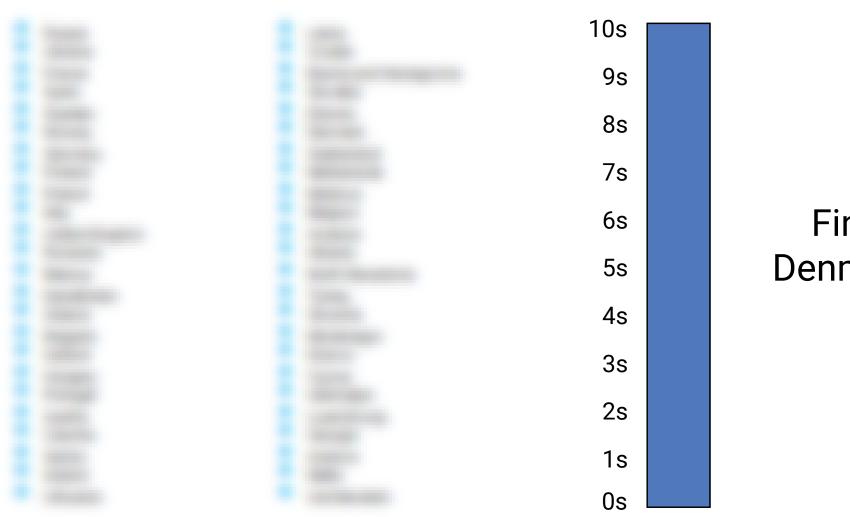
Hick's Law

Visual Search Tasks

Image from: https://www.pexels.com/photo/grayscale-photography-of-assorted-shirts-hanged-on-clothes-rack-1884584/

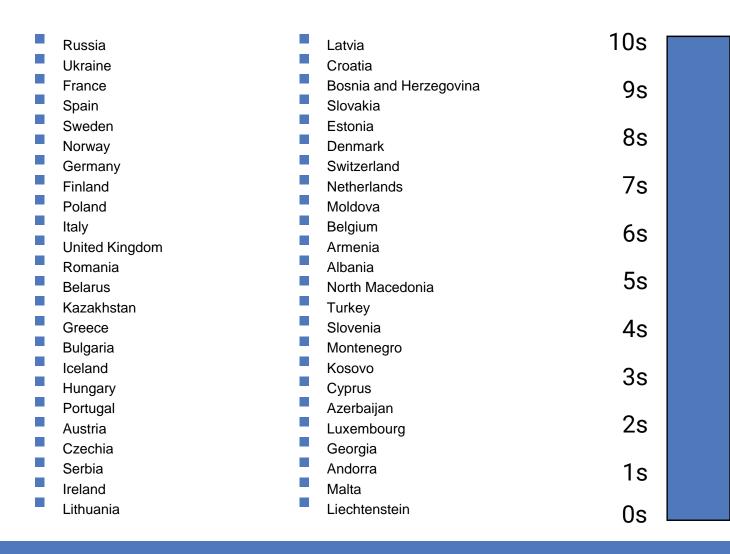


Visual Search



Find Denmark

Visual Search



Find Denmark

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Time Complexity for Unordered Lists

- We have a list with n items in an unknown order
 - > Time obviously increases with n
 - > What is the time complexity for an algorithm in Big O notation?
 - $\rightarrow O(n^2)$

Visual Search



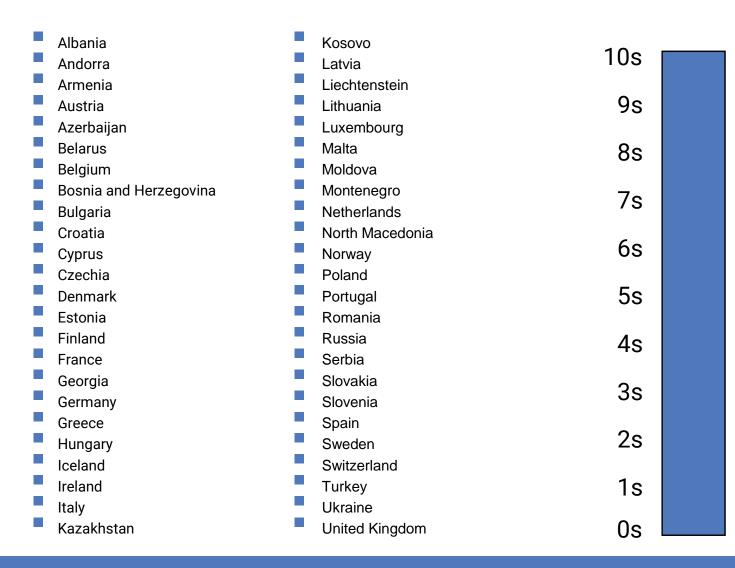




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Visual Search



Find Denmark

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Time Complexity for Ordered Lists

- We have a list with n items in an known order
- Time obviously increases with n
- What is the time complexity for an algorithm in Big O notation?
- O(log(n))

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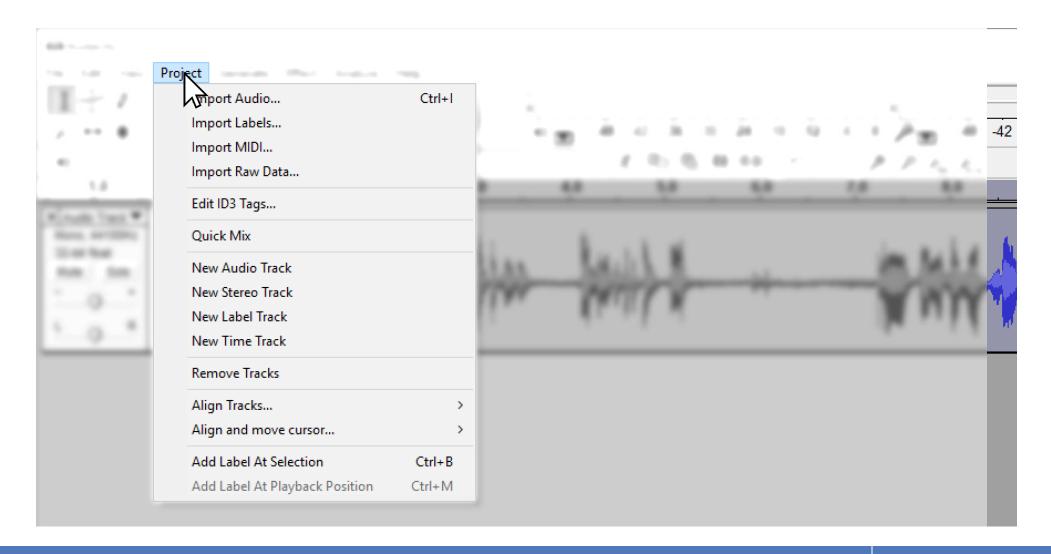
Hick's Law

 Given n equally probable choices, the average reaction time T required to choose among the choices is approximately:

$$T = b * \log_2(n + 1)$$

- Common practical value: $b = 150 \, ms/bit$
- Hick's Law is often used to motivate menu designs
 - > In an unordered list, search time is linear
 - > In an ordered list, search time becomes logarithmic

Combining Models



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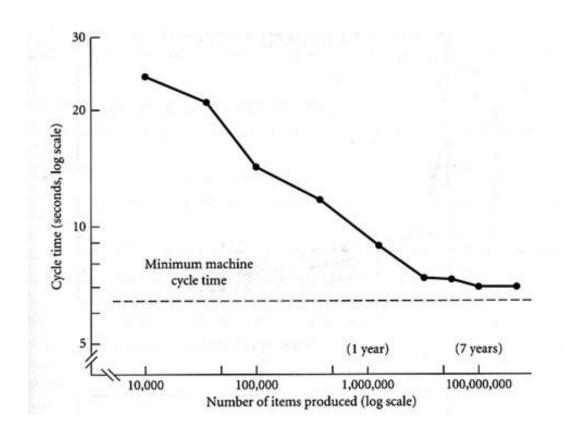
Power Law of Practice

Routine Tasks

Image generated with Midjourney



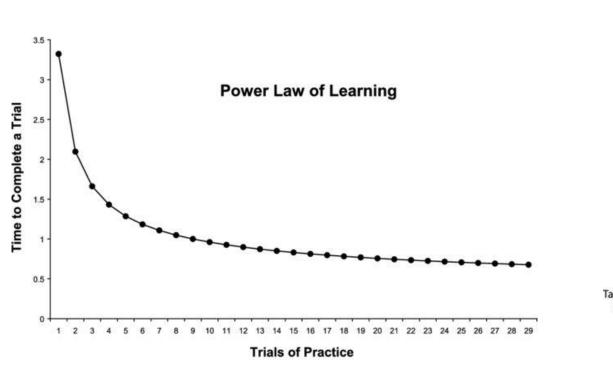
Cigar Roller in Cuba

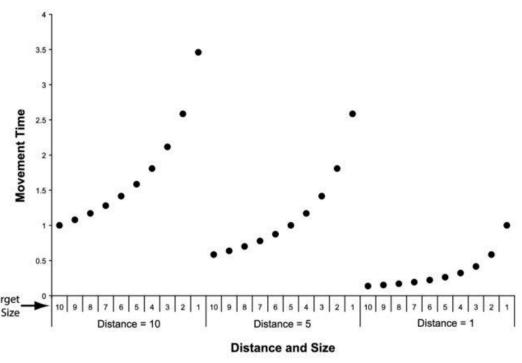


Crossman, E. R. F. W. (1959). A theory of the acquisition of speed-skill. Ergonomics, 2(2):153–166.

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Practice vs TCT





McLaughlin, A., Simon, D., & Gillan, D. (2010). From Intention to Input: Motor Cognition, Motor Performance, and the Control of Technology. Reviews of Human Factors and Ergonomics, 6, 123–171. doi: 10.1518/155723410X12849346788741

Power Law of Practice Prof. Dr. Valentin Schwind 57

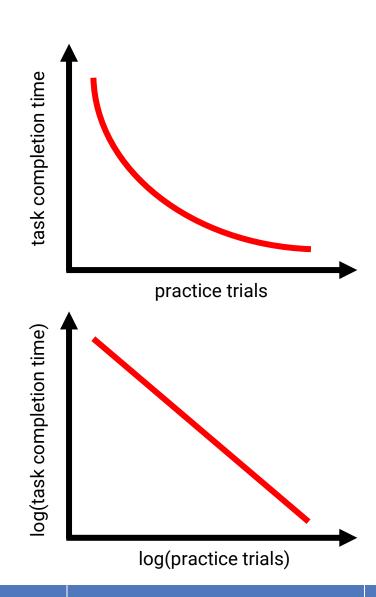
Learning by Doing

- The more practice
 - > the easier a task becomes
 - > the faster a user becomes
- How does a skill improves over time?
 - General observation: User skills improve as power function of amount of practice
- General formula:

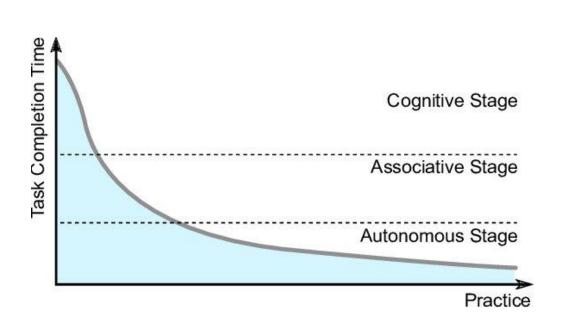
$$T = a \cdot P^{-b}$$
 or $\log(T) = -b \cdot \log(P) + \log(a)$

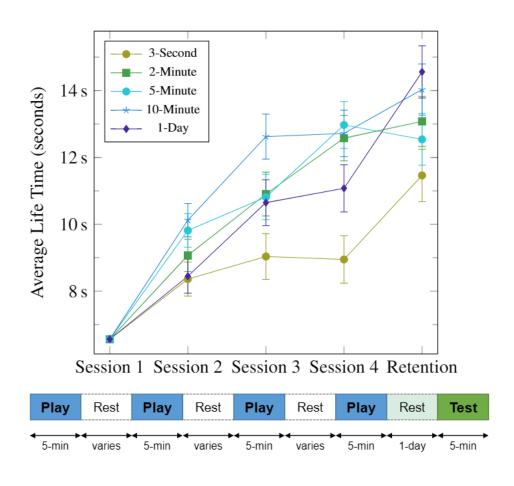
with

- > T = task completion time
- > P = practice trials
- > a,b = device specific constants



The Three Stages of Learning and the Resting Debate





Johanson, C., Gutwin, C., Bowey, J., & Mandryk, R. (2019). Press Pause when you Play: Comparing Spaced Practice Intervals for Skill Development in Games. . doi: 10.1145/3311350.3347195

Power Law of Practice Prof. Dr. Valentin Schwind 59

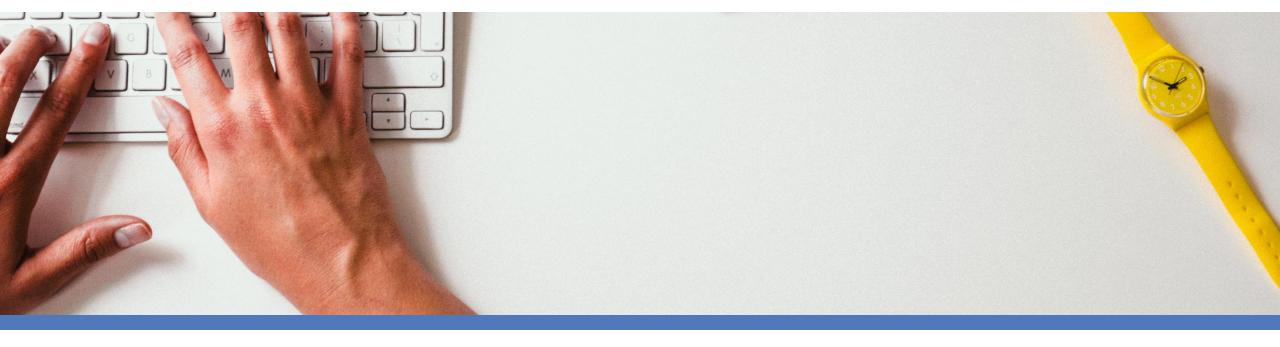
The Power of Practice

- Continuous practice lacks rest intervals, which are critical for the brain to generalize feedback and avoid getting "stuck in a rut"
- Rest intervals may help break ineffective learning cycles, particularly in problemsolving scenarios
- Debate exists on whether rest intervals should remain constant or adapt based on the learner's experience

Johanson, C., Gutwin, C., Bowey, J., & Mandryk, R. (2019). Press Pause when you Play: Comparing Spaced Practice Intervals for Skill Development in Games. . doi: 10.1145/3311350.3347195

Power Law of Practice Prof. Dr. Valentin Schwind 60



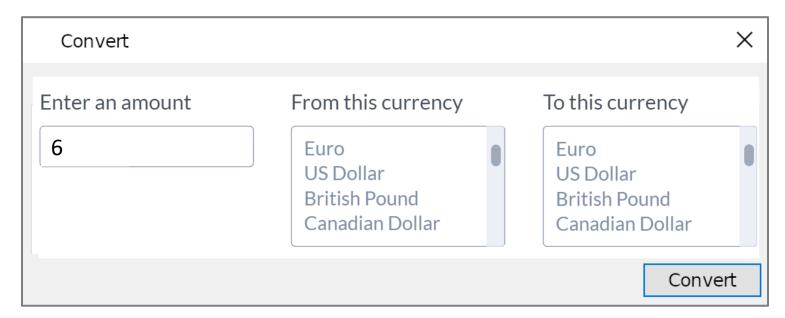


Learning and Reacting

Image from: https://pxhere.com/de/photo/779902

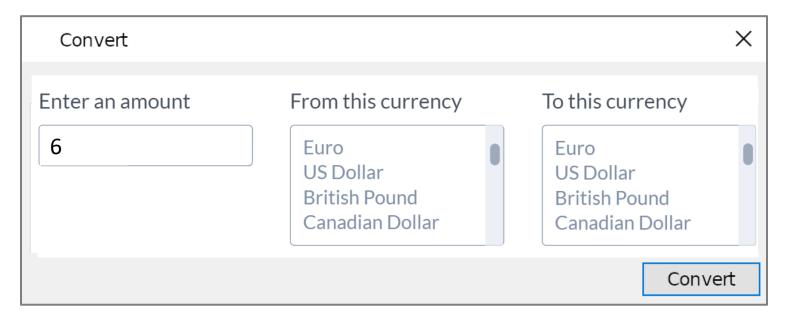


Currency Converter



- Task: Convert 12 Euro in US Dollar
- one hand on the mouse, nothing selected
- What do we need to know?

Currency Converter



- select text field
- 2. delete value
- 3. enter value
- 4. select Euro
- 5. select Dollar
- 6. select Convert

- Simplified version of GOMS "Goals, Operators, Methods, and Selections rules"
- KLM predicts how long it will take an expert (or trained) user to accomplish a routine task without errors using an interactive computer system
- Execution of a task is decomposed into primitive operators
 - > Physical motor operators
 - > Pressing a button, pointing, drawing a line, ...
 - Mental operator
 - > Preparing for a physical action
 - System response operator
 - User waits for the system to do something

Card, Stuart K; Moran, Thomas P; Allen, Newell (1980). "The keystroke-level model for user performance time with interactive systems". *Communications of the ACM.* **23** (7): 396–410. doi:10.1145/358886.358895. S2CID 5918086.

Operator	Description	Associated Time
K	Keystroke, typing one letter, number, etc. or function key such as 'CRTL' or 'SHIFT'	
Н	'Homing', moving the hand between mouse and keyboard	
B/BB	Pressing (B) or clicking (BB) a button	
Р	Pointing with a mouse to a target	
$D(n_D, I_D)$	Drawing n_D straight line segments of length I_D	
M	Subsumed time for mental acts; sometimes used as 'look-at'	
R(t)	System response time, time during which the user cannot act	

Keystroke-Level Model (KLM) Prof. Dr. Valentin Schwind

Operator	Description	Associated Time
K	Keystroke, typing one letter, number, etc. or function key such as 'CRTL' or 'SHIFT'	Expert typist (90 wpm): 0.12s Averaged skilled typist (55 wpm): 0.20s Average non-secretarial typist (40 wpm): 0.28 Worst typist (unfamiliar with keyboard): 1.2s
Н	'Homing', moving the hand between mouse and keyboard	
B/BB	Pressing (B) or clicking (BB) a button	
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B/BB	Pressing (B) or clicking (BB) a button	
Р	Pointing with a mouse to a target	
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М	Subsumed time for mental acts; sometimes used as 'look-at'	
R(t)	System response time, time during which the user cannot act	

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Keystroke-Level Model (KLM) Prof. Dr. Valentin Schwind

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B/BB	Pressing (B) or clicking (BB) a button	0.1s / 2*0.1s
Р	Pointing with a mouse to a target	
$D(n_D, I_D)$	Drawing n_D straight line segments of length I_D	
М	Subsumed time for mental acts; sometimes used as 'look-at'	
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Н	'Homing', moving the hand between mouse and keyboard	0.4s
B/BB	Pressing (B) or clicking (BB) a button	0.1s / 2*0.1s
Р	Pointing with a mouse to a target	0.8s to 1.5s with an average of 1.1s Can also use Fitts' Law
$D(n_D, I_D)$	Drawing n_D straight line segments of length I_D	
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$D(n_D, I_D)$	Drawing n_D straight line segments of length I_D	$0.9s*n_D + 0.16*I_D$
М	Subsumed time for mental acts; sometimes used as 'look-at'	
R(t)	System response time, time during which the user cannot act	

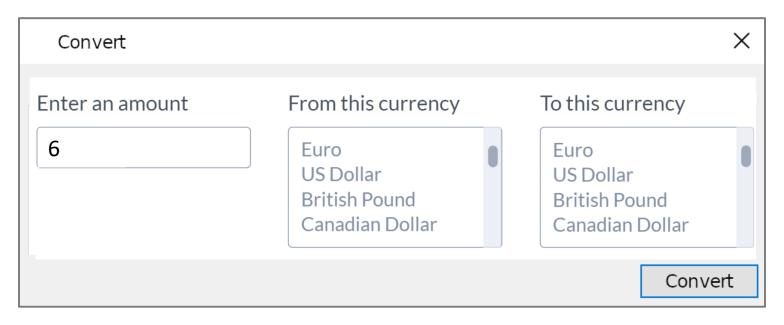
Keystroke-Level Model (KLM) Prof. Dr. Valentin Schwind

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R(t)	System response time, time during which the user cannot act	

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$D(n_D, I_D)$	Drawing n_D straight line segments of length I_D	$0.9s*n_D + 0.16*I_D$
М	Subsumed time for mental acts; sometimes used as 'look-at'	1.35s
R(t)	System response time, time during which the user cannot act	Dependent on the system

Keystroke-Level Model (KLM) Prof. Dr. Valentin Schwind



- . select text field P, BB
- 2. delete value
- 3. enter value M, K, K
- 4. select Euro
- 5. select Dollar M, P, BB

H, K

H, M, P, BB

6. select Convert P, BB

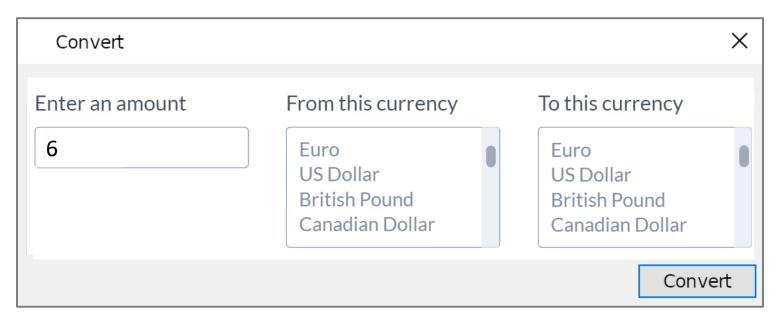
Operator Times:

 $P \approx 1.1s$ B = 0.1s H = 0.4s M = 1.35s K = 0.28s

Total time:

$$4 \cdot P + 8 \cdot B + 2 \cdot H + 3 \cdot M + 3 \cdot K =$$

Keystroke-Level Model (KLM)



- . select text field P, BB
- delete value
- 3. enter value M, K, K
- 4. select Euro
- 5. select Dollar M, P, BB
- 6. select Convert

P, BB

H, M, P, BB

H, K

Operator Times:

$$P \approx 1.1s$$
 B = 0.1s H = 0.4s
M = 1.35s K = 0.28s

Total time:

$$4 \cdot P + 8 \cdot B + 2 \cdot H + 3 \cdot M + 3 \cdot K = 10,89s$$

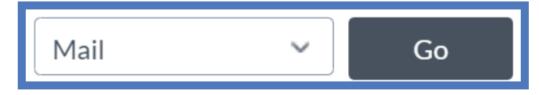
Keystroke-Level Model (KLM)



Hand on mouse, nothing selected, go to photo:

- Which is the fastest interface?
- Which is the slowest?





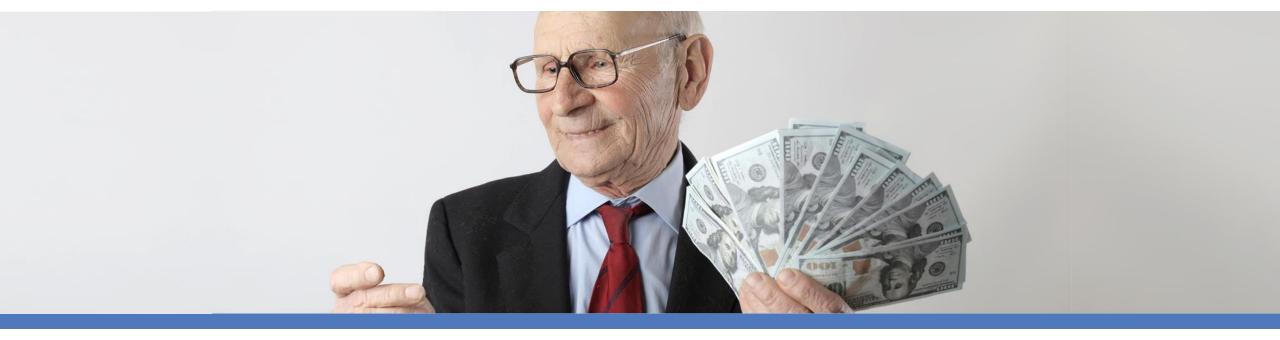
Version 4



Summary

- The Keystroke-Level Model predicts task completion time for simple dialogs
- Assumes a trained average user
- Especially useful to compare alternatives
- Using KLM by hand can become lengthy and complex
- KLM is not useful for tasks that require reasoning





GOMS

A Human Information Processor Model

Image from: https://pxhere.com/de/photo/779902



GOMS

Goals

- > (Verbal) description of what a user wants to accomplish
- > Various levels of complexity possible

Operators

- > Possible actions in the system
- > Various levels of abstraction possible (sub-goals / ... / keystrokes)

Methods

> Sequences of operators that achieve a goal

Selection rules

> Rules that define when a user employs which method (among alternatives)

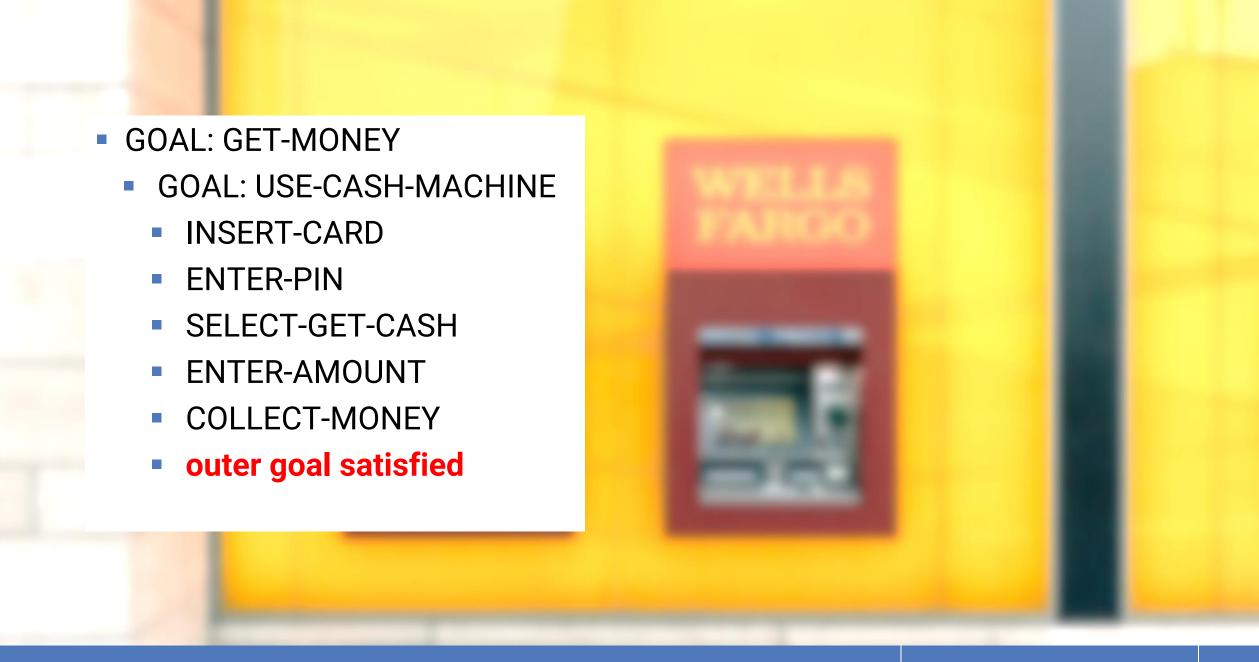
GOMS

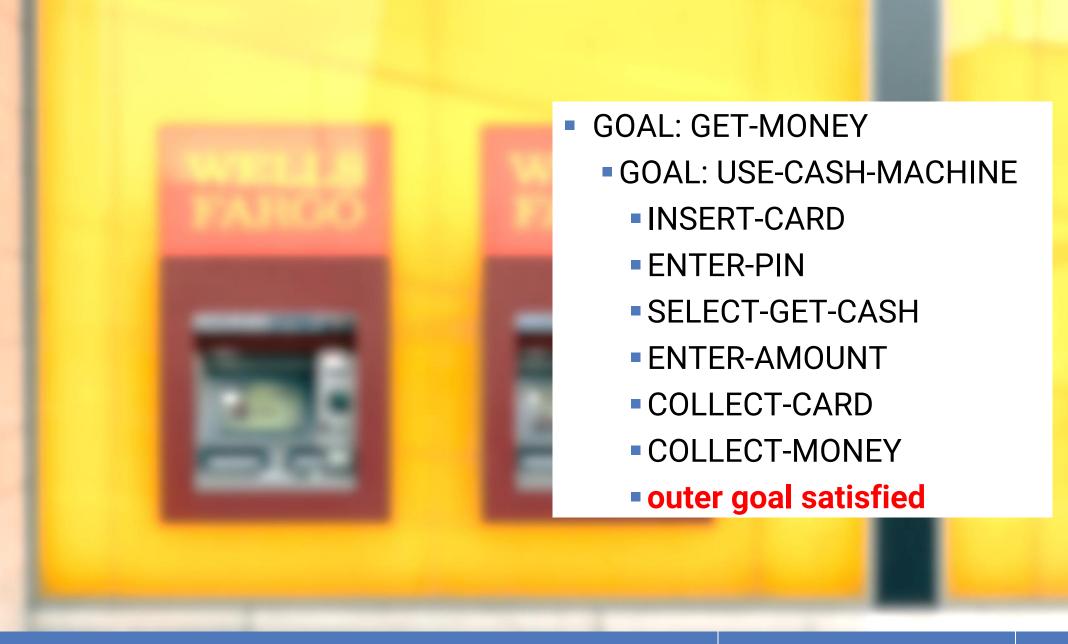
GOMS (CMN-)GOMS CPM-GOMS KLM **NGOMSL** Plain GOMS Keystroke-Level Natural GOMS • <u>C</u>ognitive Pseudo-code Model Perceptual Motor Language Simplified version First introduced by Stricter version of analysis of activity Card, Moran and of GOMS **GOMS** Critical Path Newell Provides more Method well-defined, Based on the structured natural parallel multilanguage processor stage of Estimates learning human information time processing

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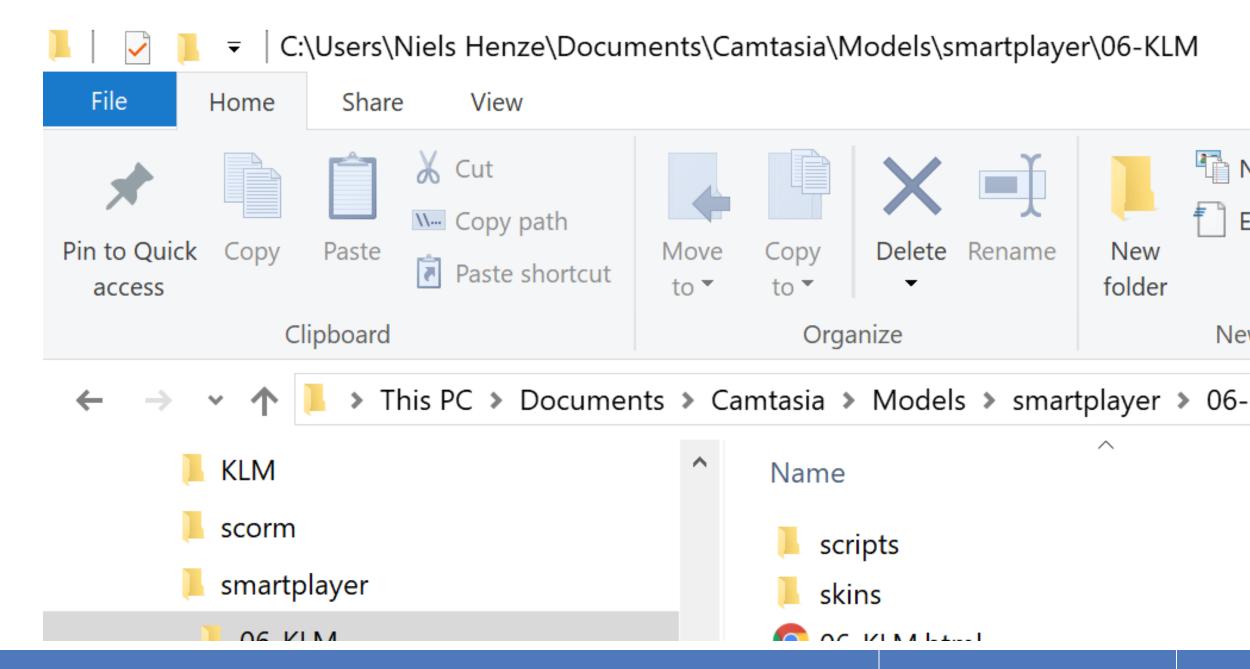
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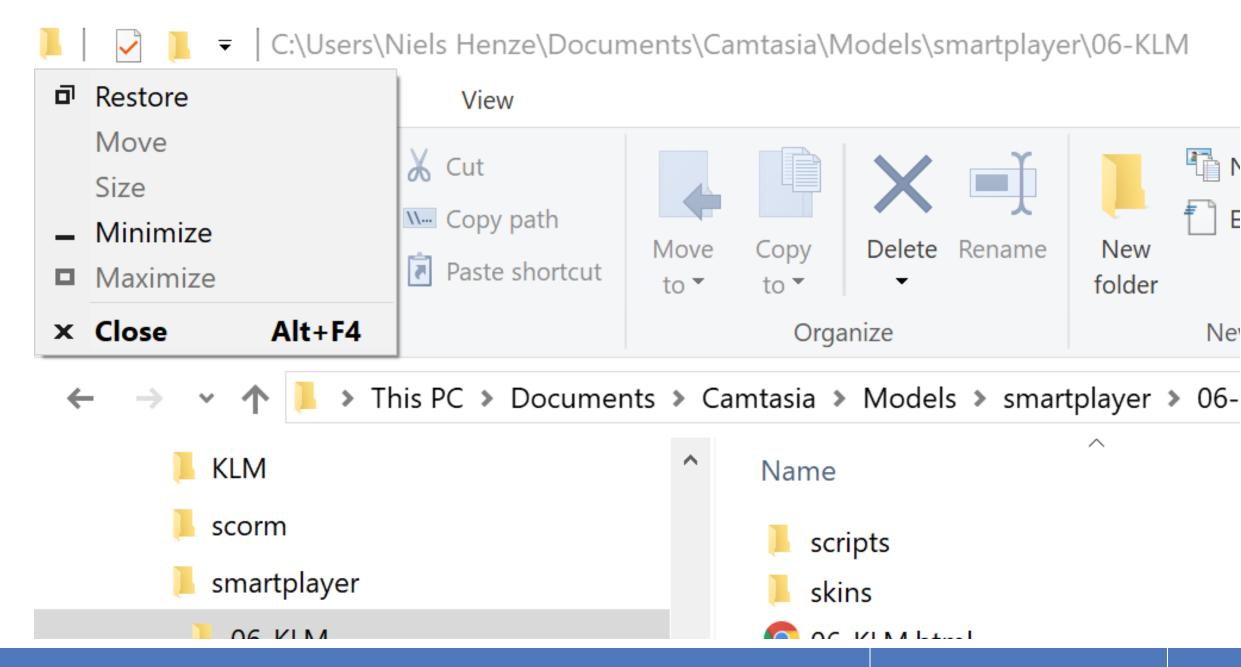




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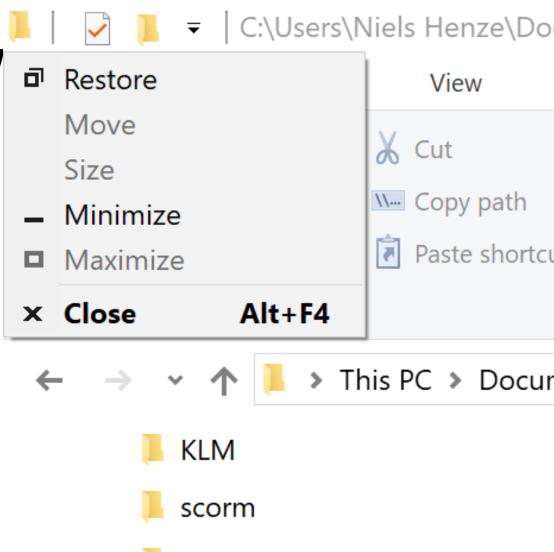
GOMS Example: Closing a Window

```
GOAL: CLOSE-WINDOW

[select
GOAL: USE-MENU-METHOD
MOVE-MOUSE-TO-FILE-MENU
PULL-DOWN-FILE-MENU
CLICK-OVER-CLOSE-OPTION
GOAL: USE-ALT-F4-METHOD
HOLD-ALT-KEY
PRESS-F4-KEY]
VERIFY-CLOSE
```

For a particular user:

Rule 1: Select USE-MENU-METHOD unless another rule applies
Rule 2: If the application is GAME, select ALT-F4-METHOD

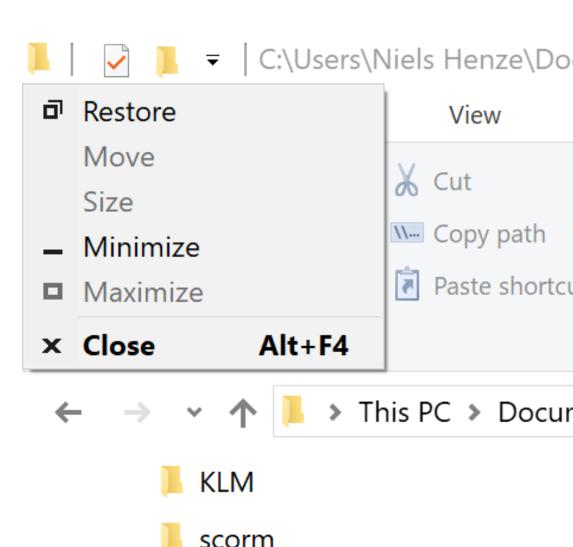


smartplayer

OF VINA

Goals

```
GOAL: CLOSE-WINDOW
   GOAL: USE-MENU-METHOD
     MOVE-MOUSE-TO-FILE-MENU
     PULL-DOWN-FILE-MENU
   GOAL: USE-ALT-F4-METHOD
     HOLD-ALT-KEY
     PRESS-F4-KEY]
  VERIFY-CLOSE
For a particular user:
Rule 1: Select USE-MENU-METHOD unless
Rule 2: If the application is GAME,
```



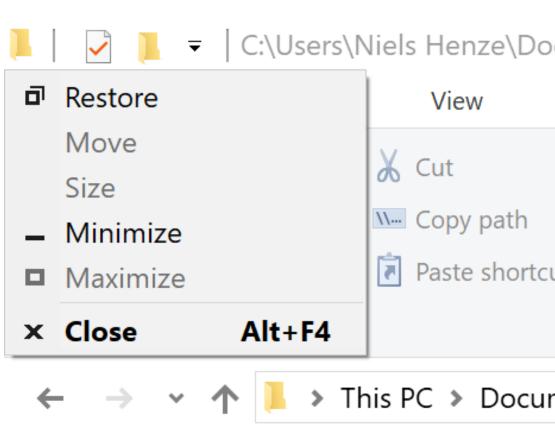
smartplayer

OF KINA

Operators

```
GOAL: CLOSE-WINDOW
[select
GOAL: USE-MENU-METHOD
MOVE-MOUSE-TO-FILE-MENU
PULL-DOWN-FILE-MENU
CLICK-OVER-CLOSE-OPTION
GOAL: USE-ALT-F4-METHOD
HOLD-ALT-KEY
PRESS-F4-KEY]
VERIFY-CLOSE
```

For a particular user:
Rule 1: Select USE-MENU-METHOD unles
another rule applies
Rule 2: If the application is GAME,
select ALT-F4-METHOD



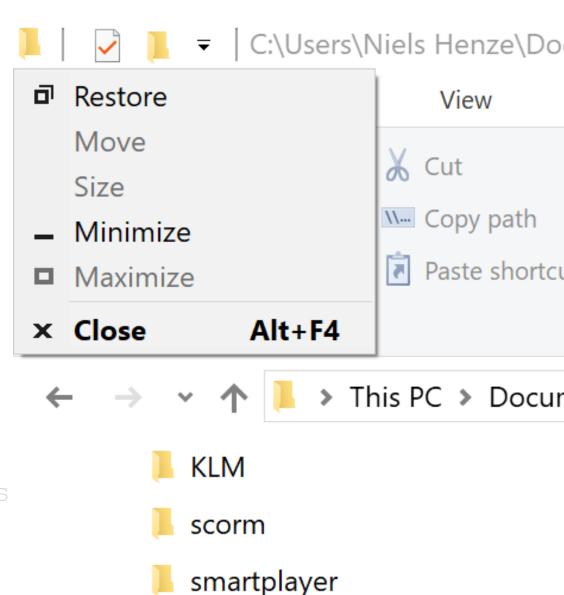
- KLM
- scorm
- smartplayer

OE VINA

Methods

```
GOAL: CLOSE-WINDOW
[select
GOAL: USE-MENU-METHOD
MOVE-MOUSE-TO-FILE-MENU
PULL-DOWN-FILE-MENU
CLICK-OVER-CLOSE-OPTION
GOAL: USE-ALT-F4-METHOD
HOLD-ALT-KEY
PRESS-F4-KEY]
VERIFY-CLOSE
```

For a particular user:
Rule 1: Select USE-MENU-METHOD unles
another rule applies
Rule 2: If the application is GAME,
select ALT-F4-METHOD

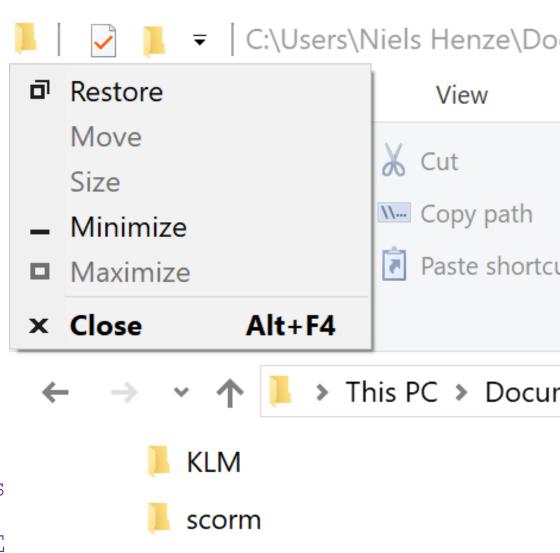


OF VINA

Selection Rules

```
GOAL: CLOSE-WINDOW
[select
GOAL: USE-MENU-METHOD
MOVE-MOUSE-TO-FILE-MENU
PULL-DOWN-FILE-MENU
CLICK-OVER-CLOSE-OPTION
GOAL: USE-ALT-F4-METHOD
HOLD-ALT-KEY
PRESS-F4-KEY]
VERIFY-CLOSE
```

For a particular user:
Rule 1: Select USE-MENU-METHOD unles
another rule applies
Rule 2: If the application is a GAME
select USE-ALT-F4-METHOD



smartplayer

OF VINA

GOMS Summary

Characteristics

- Can be used to model complex tasks
- Clearly sets inner and outer goals
- Cannot predict completion times
- > But the simpler KLM can

Predictions

- More operators, longer completion
- > Deep depth of goal structure → high short term-memory load
- Users stop when goals are satisfied





Seven Stages of Action

Human-Computer Interaction Lecture

Image from: Photo by Paolo Sacchi / Meet the media Guru from https://www.flickr.com/photos/meetthemediaguru/5553249364/ (CC BY-SA 2.0)





Seven Stages of Action Prof. Dr. Valentin Schwind

Bridging the Gulfs



the gulf of execution

refers to unclear mapping between intention and execution

a brighter world

the gulf of evaluation

refers to the degree to which an artifact provides representations that can be directly perceived and interpreted

a dark world

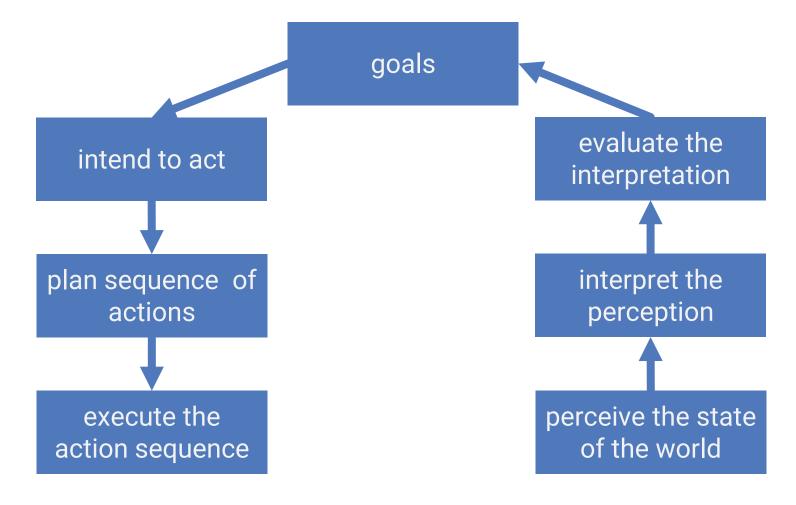
Overcoming the Gulfs

- Question: "How to bridge the gulfs, especially the gulf of evaluation?"
 - > The solution to this problem is precisely the task of the designer of an interface the cognitive effort of the user must be minimized.
 - A good design should therefore assist the steps of action cycles and allow "a comfortable transition between the stages".

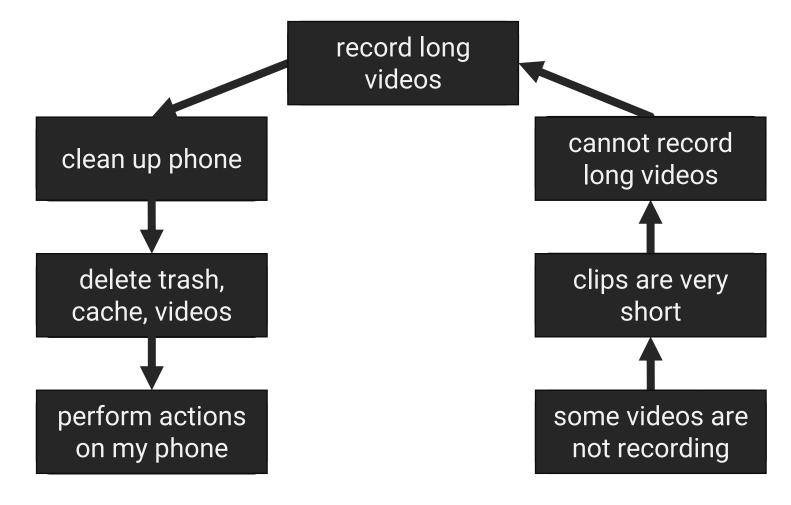
Examples:

- Is it possible for the user to recognize the system status?
- Does the UI provide sufficient feedback on the consequences of an action that could be executed?
- Is the user able to understand the system feedback?
- > Does the UI provide sufficient feedback for all interpretations that are possible?
- Can the user match his/her goal with the (changed) status of the system?

Seven Stages of Action



Seven Stages of Action



Evaluation and Design Questions

Avoid the gulf of evaluation

- Can the user tell what state the system is in?
- Can the user tell if the system is in the desired state?
- Can the user map from the system state to an interpretation?

Avoid the gulf of execution

- Can the user tell what actions are possible?
- Does the device easily support required actions?
- Does the interface help with mapping from intention to physical movement?

Implications on Design

Critical points

- Forming inadequate goal
- Not knowing the appropriate action
- Not finding the correct action
- > Receiving inappropriate feedback

Principles of good design

- > System state and actions are always visible
- > Good conceptual model with a consistent system image
- Interfaces include good mappings that show the relationship between stages
- Continuous feedback to the user

Watch

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahtOCfyRbRg
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4fCHYbRcKw



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