

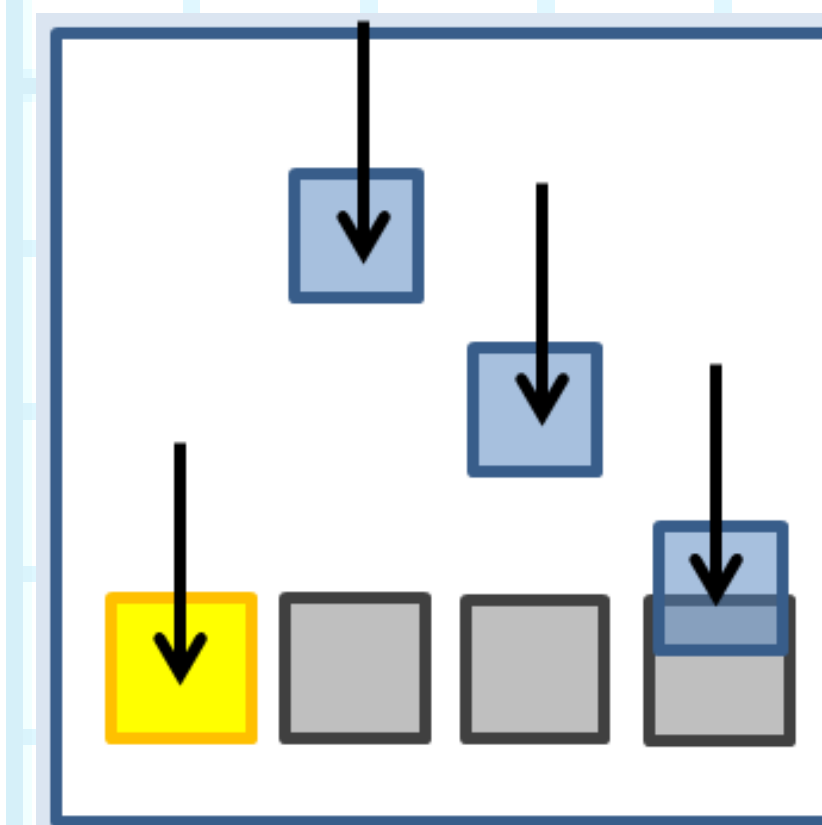


# Designing Rhythm Game Interfaces for Touchscreen Devices

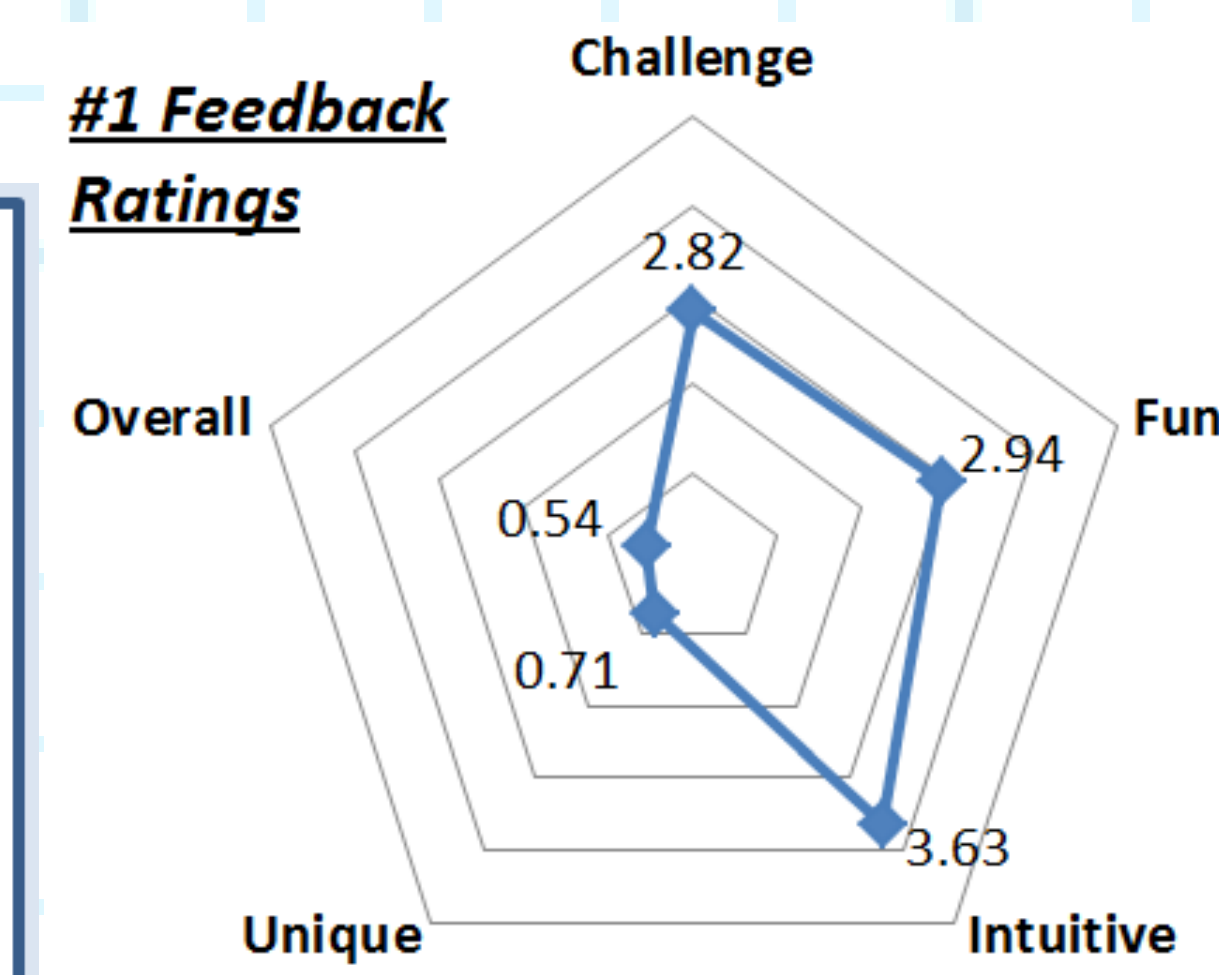
Philip Peng, Faculty Advisor: Stephen H. Lane

<http://beatsportable.com>

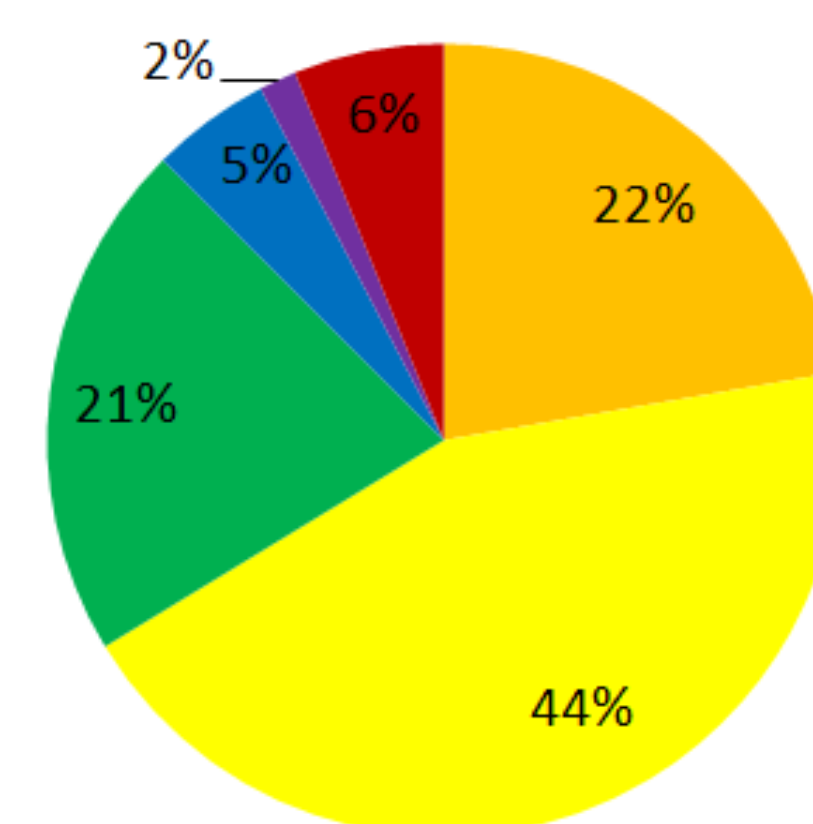
## Design 1: Fall



### #1 Feedback Ratings



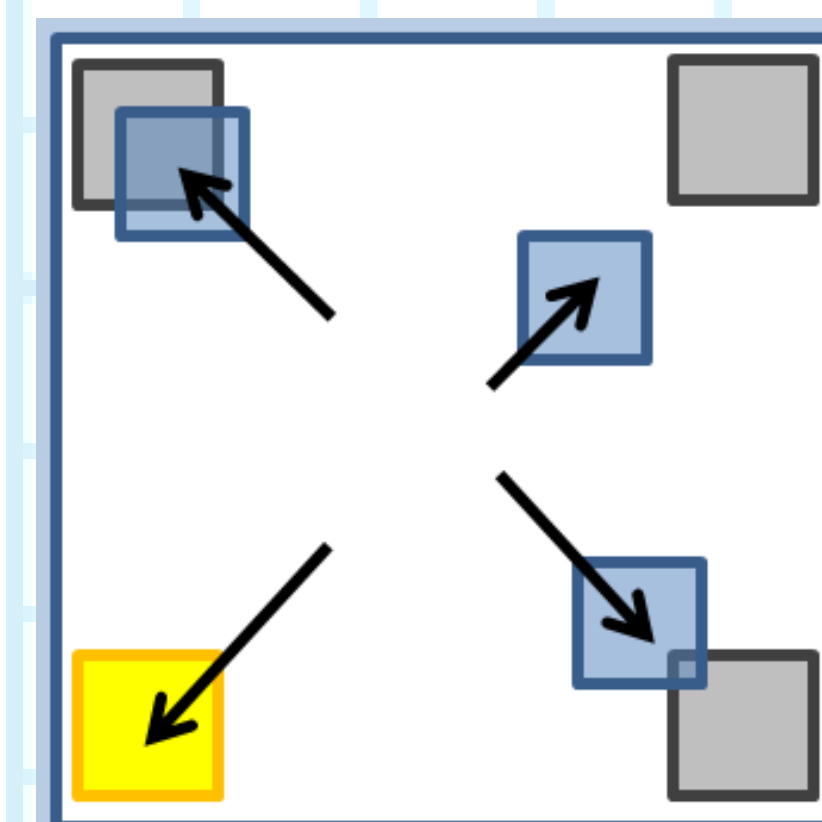
### #1 Timing Accuracy



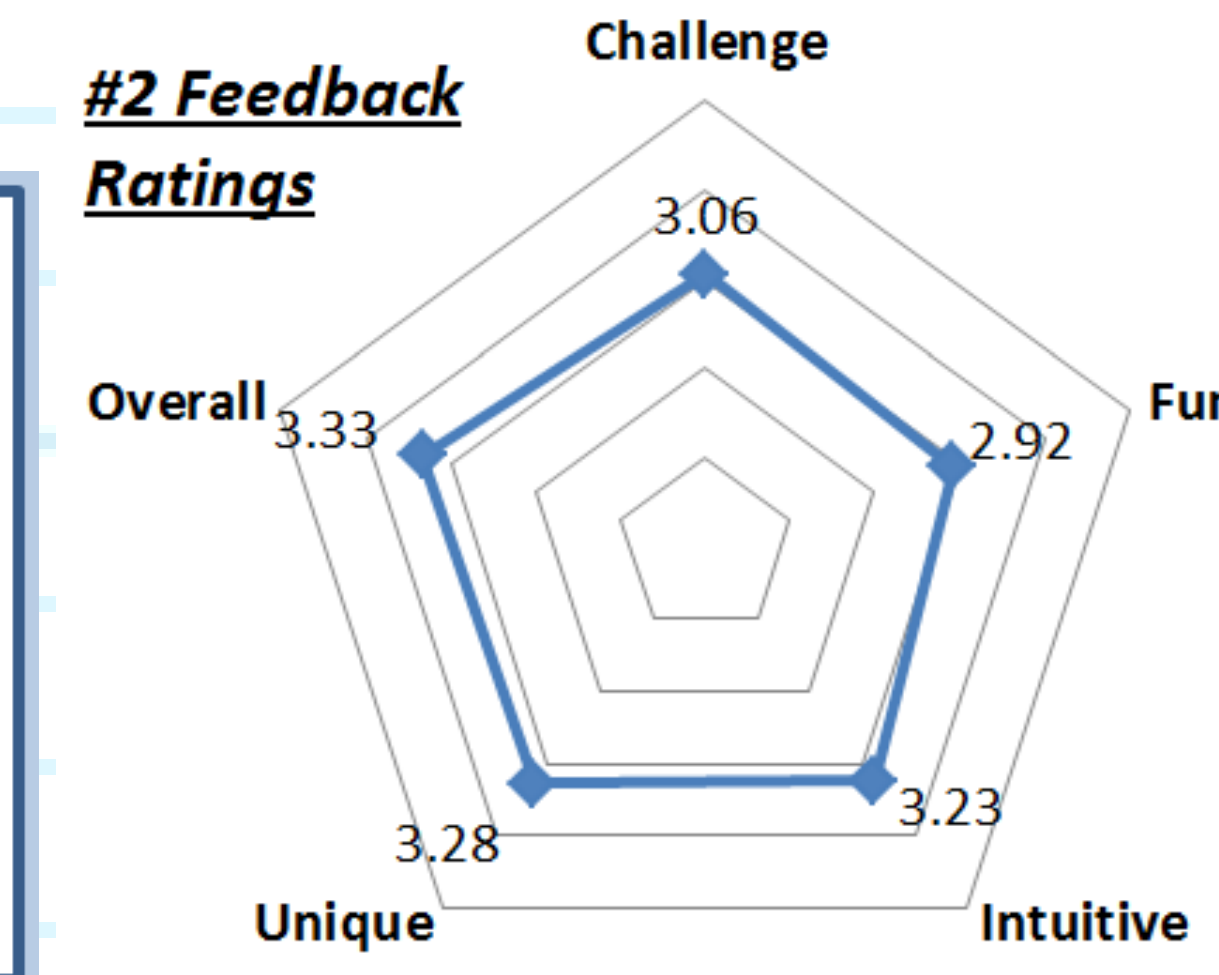
Moving notes fall toward fixed hitboxes from top to bottom

Rhythm Games: *Dance Dance Revolution, Guitar Hero, Beatmania IIDX*

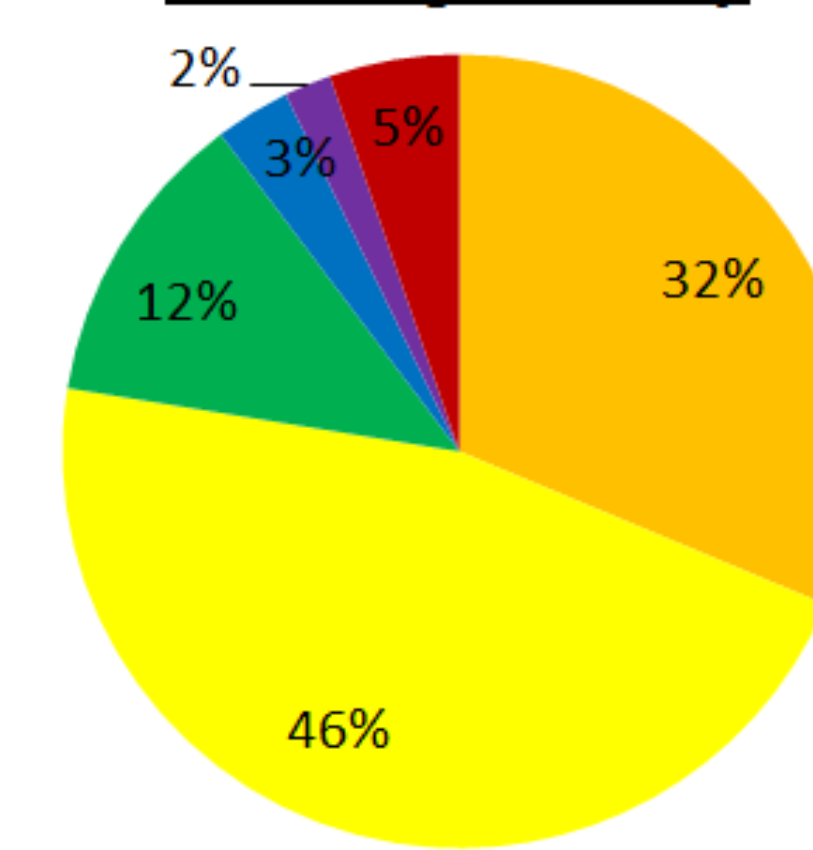
## Design 2: Spread



### #2 Feedback Ratings



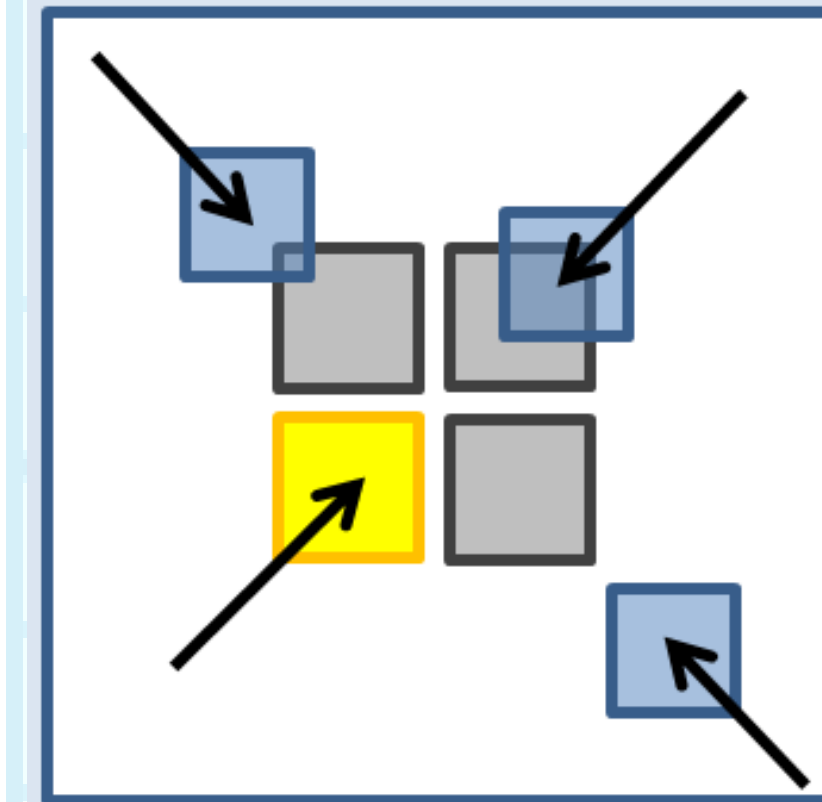
### #2 Timing Accuracy



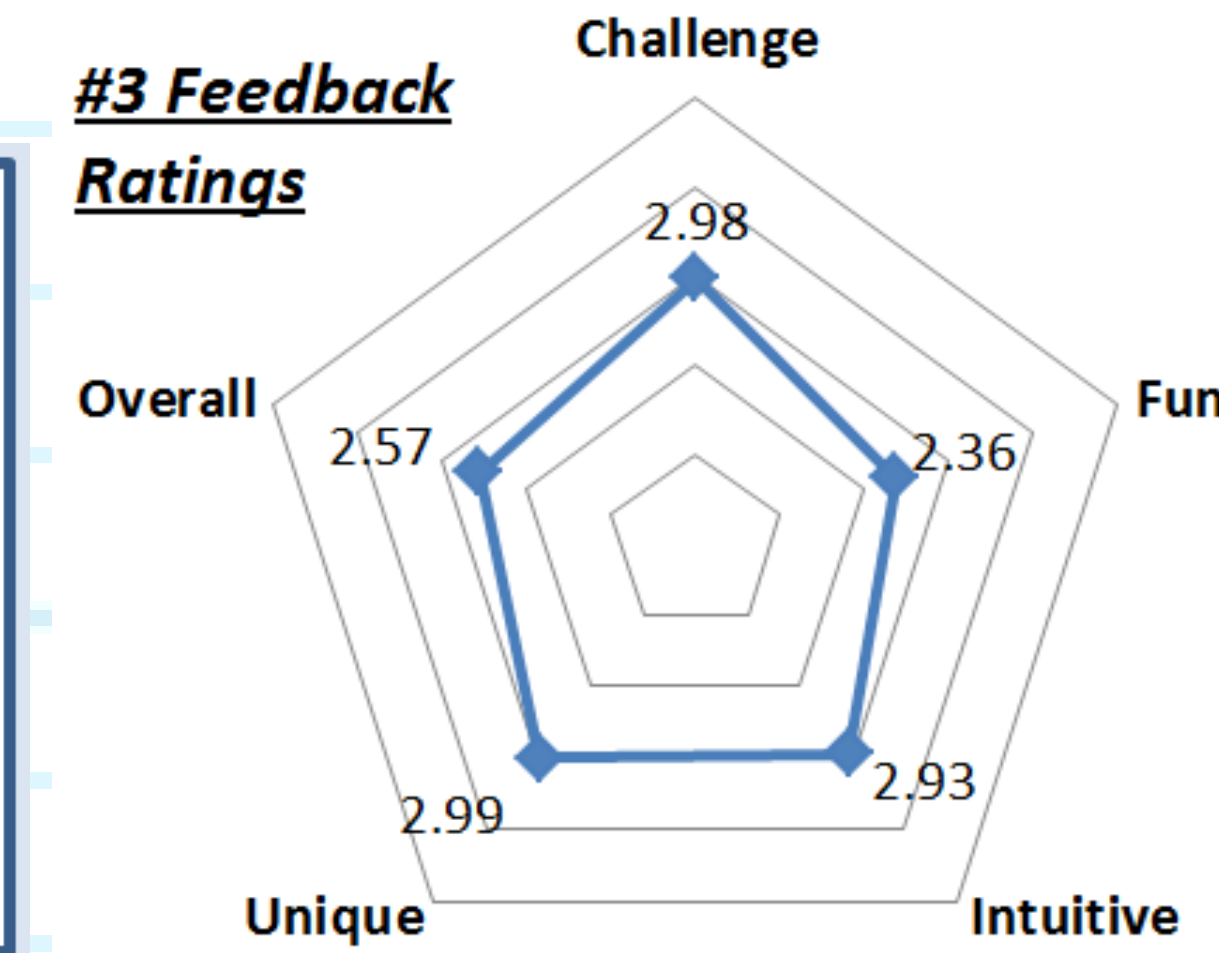
Moving notes slide toward fixed hitboxes from centre to corners

Rhythm Games: *none*

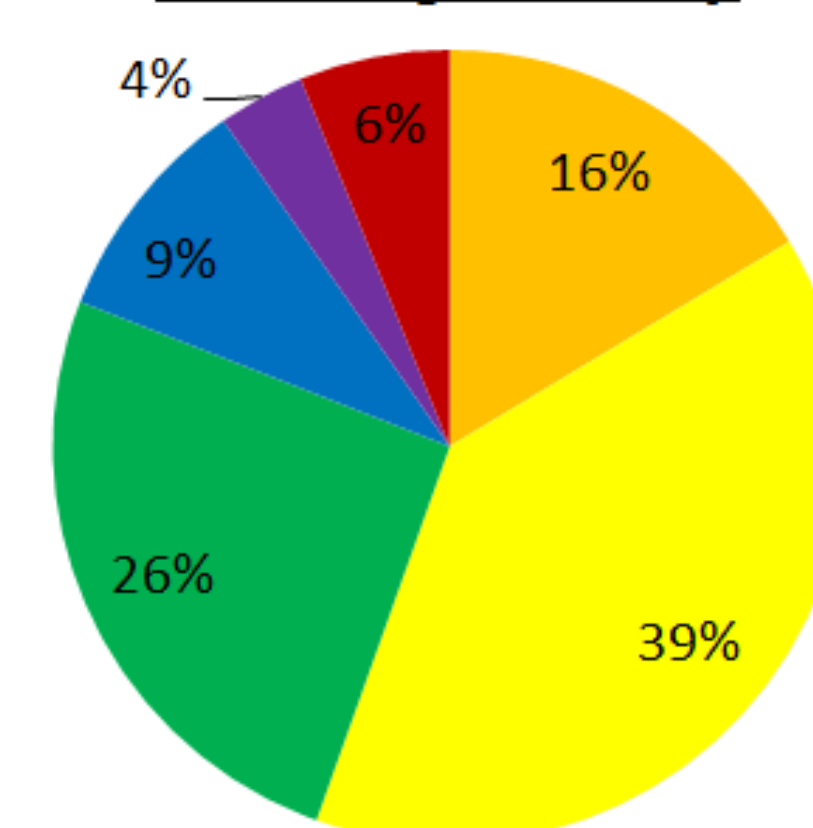
## Design 3: Focus



### #3 Feedback Ratings



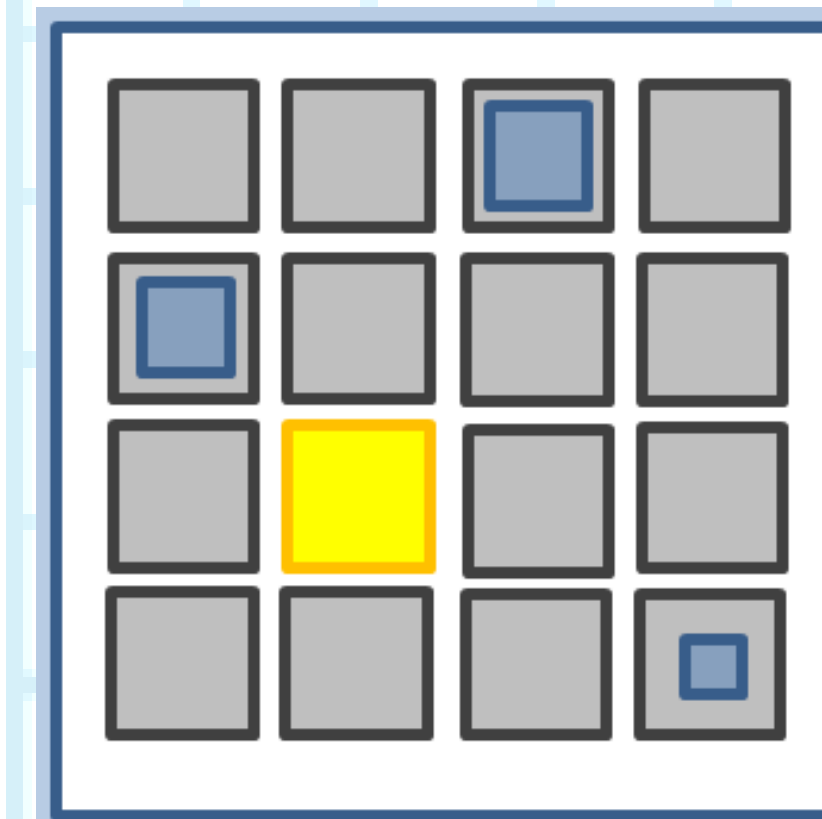
### #3 Timing Accuracy



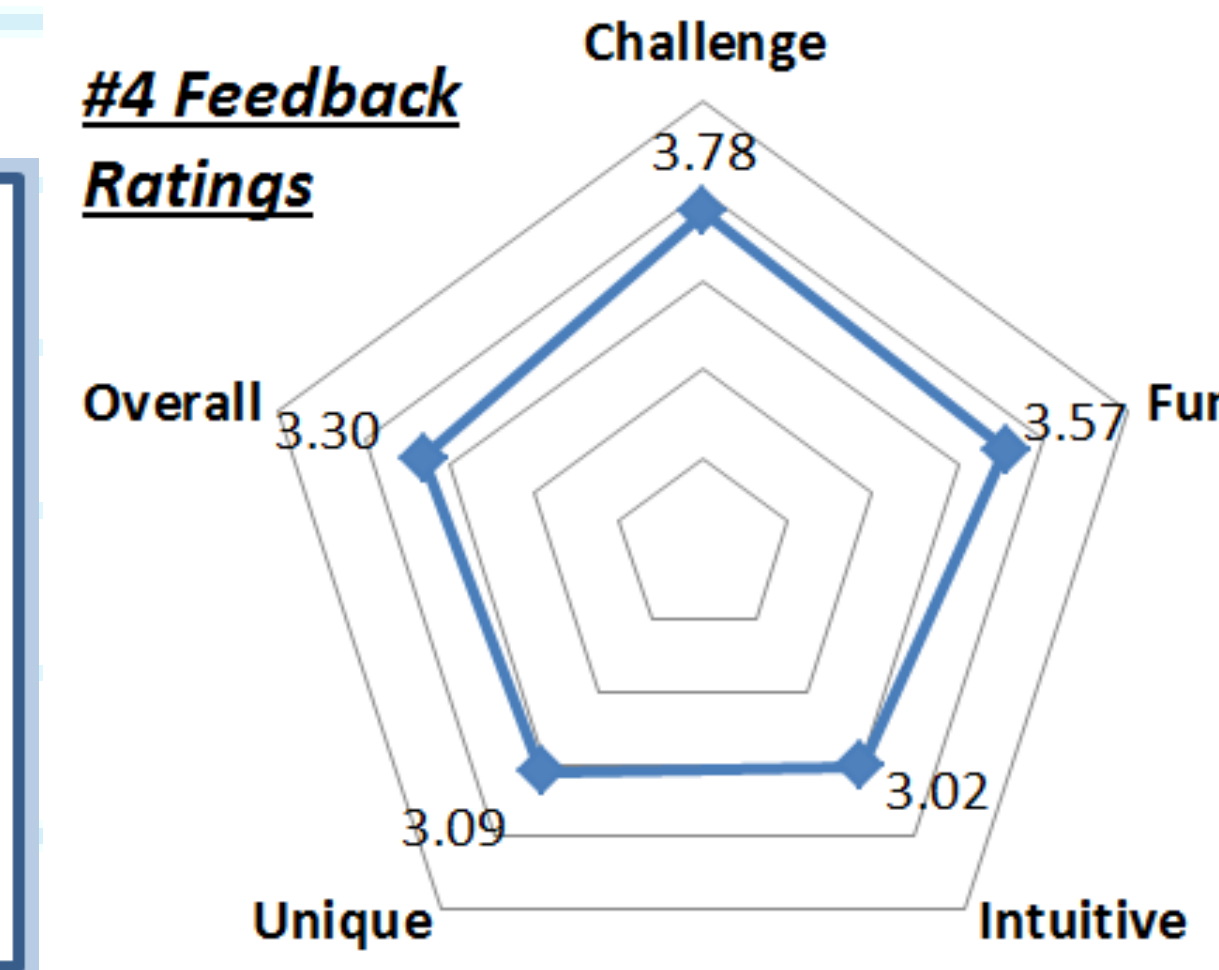
Moving notes slide toward fixed hitboxes from corners to centre

Rhythm Games: *Gitaroo Man Lives!, Hatsune Miku: Project DIVA*

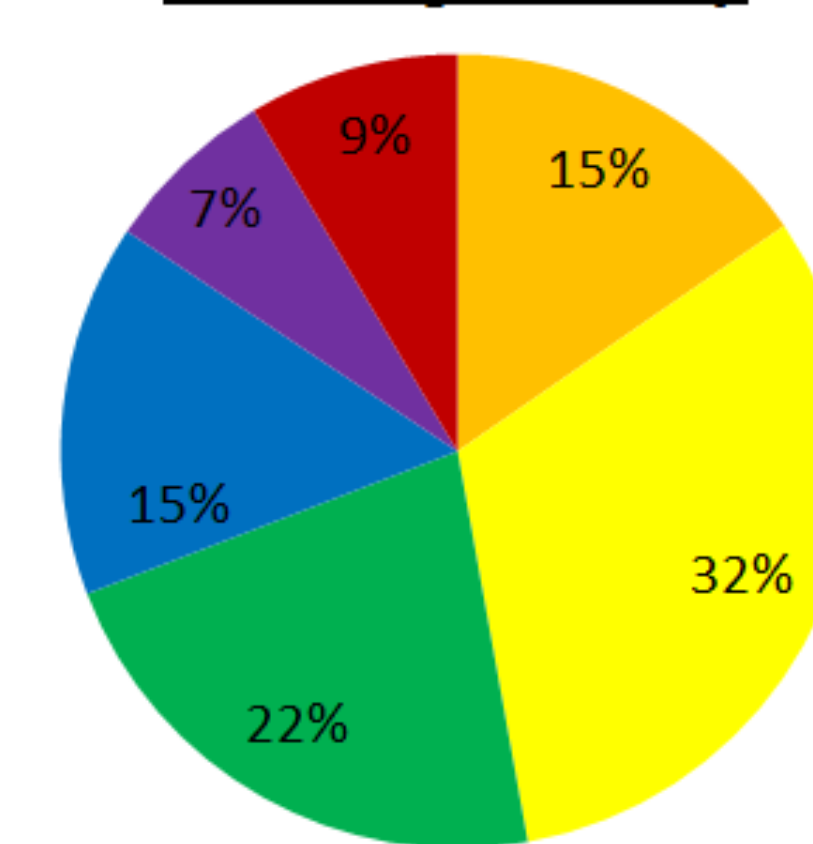
## Design 4: Grid



### #4 Feedback Ratings



### #4 Timing Accuracy



Expanding notes grow in fixed hitboxes at grid points

Rhythm Games: *jubeats*

## Abstract:

This project focuses on comparing different user interface designs for rhythm games on touchscreen devices. This is accomplished through the development of prototype rhythm games and analyzing collecting gameplay data.

## Implementation:

"Beats2 Prototypes", a rhythm game designed for Android tablets, was published on Google Play. This poster presents the eight interface designs prototyped in the app and their respective data collection summaries.

## Timing Accuracy:

During gameplay, note hits are assigned timing accuracy values based on the difference between expected and actual note hit times. The distribution of these values reflect on how the user interface affects the *user responsiveness*.

A high percent of "MARVELOUS" and "PERFECT" values means that the interface allows for accurate visual recognition (of note/tapbox elements) and high user reactivity (note tapping action).

## Feedback Ratings:

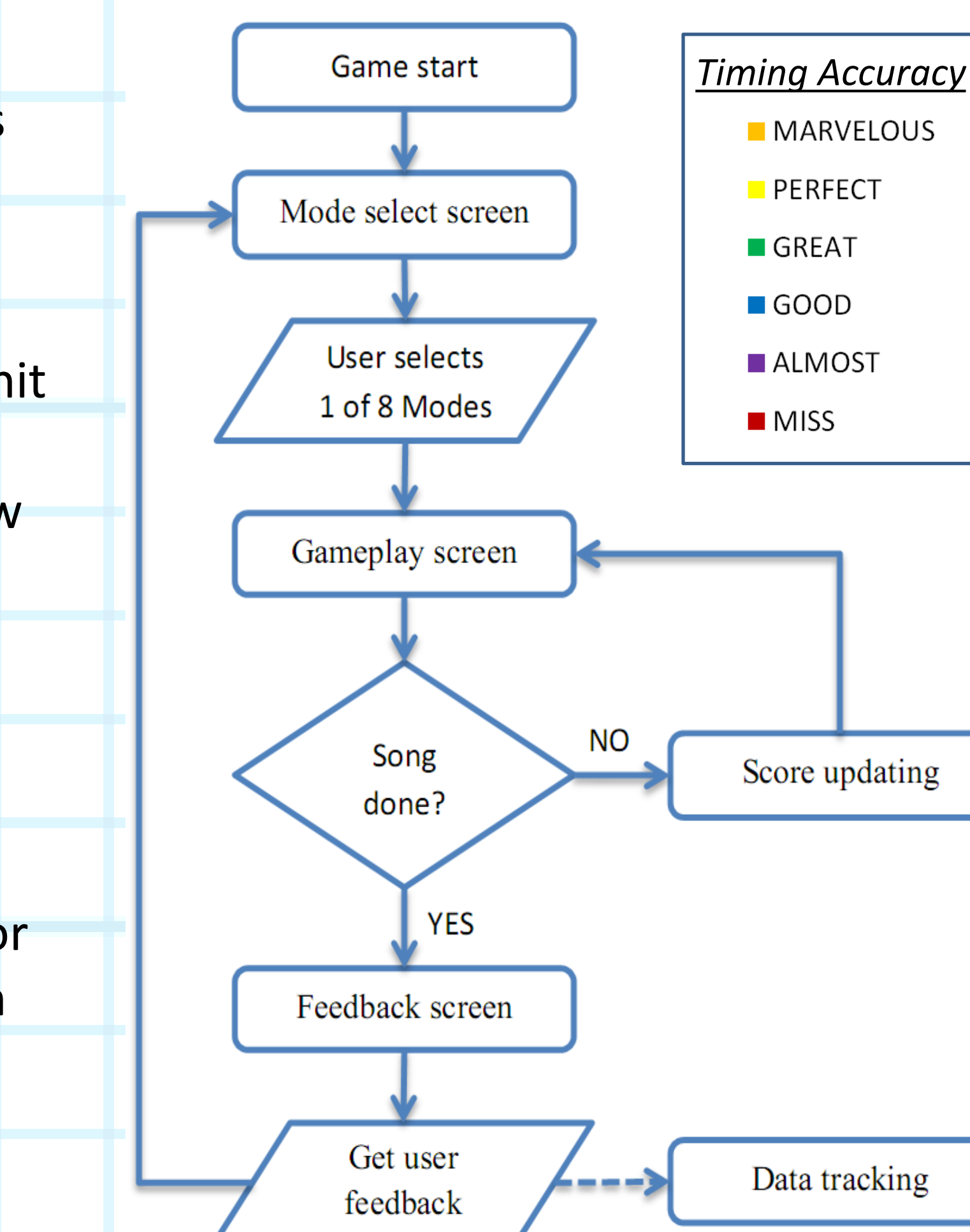
At the end of a song, the user is prompt to give qualitative feedback ratings on a 1-5 star scale. These star ratings reflect on various aspects of the *gameplay experience*.

- **Challenge:** Difficulty of gameplay. More difficult = higher skill ceiling.
- **Intuitive:** Usage learning curve. More intuitive = higher reactivity.
- **Fun:** Game enjoyability. More fun = more returning users.
- **Unique:** Novelty of design. More unique = more first time users.
- **Overall:** General evaluation of gameplay experience.

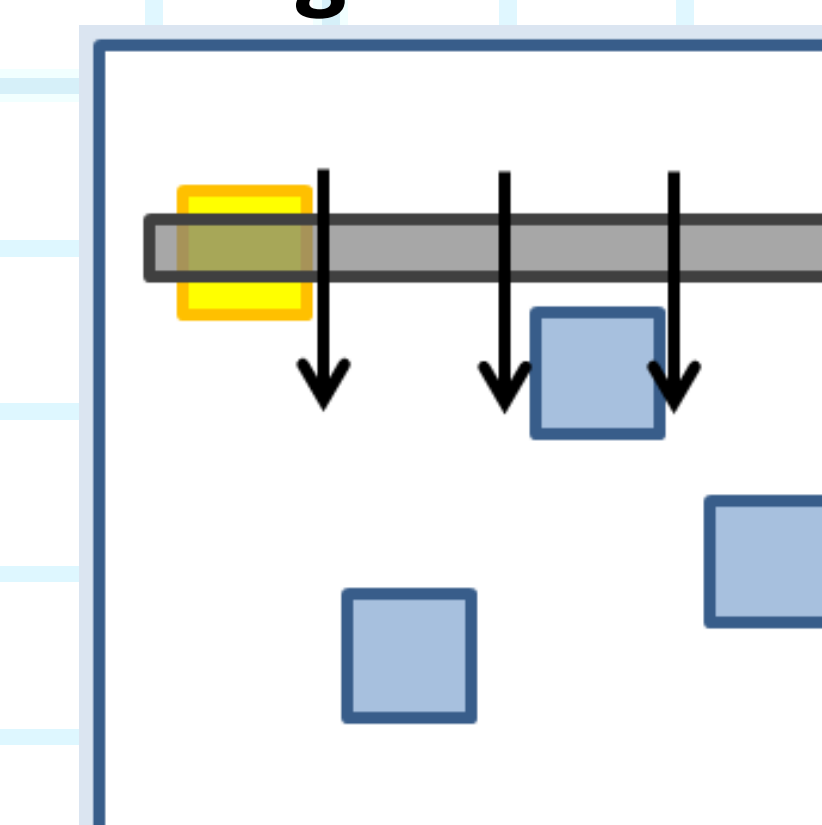
## Conclusion:

Based on these results, each interface design was ranked relative to each other. Of the eight designs studied, **Design #2** is the best candidate for usage in future rhythm game development.

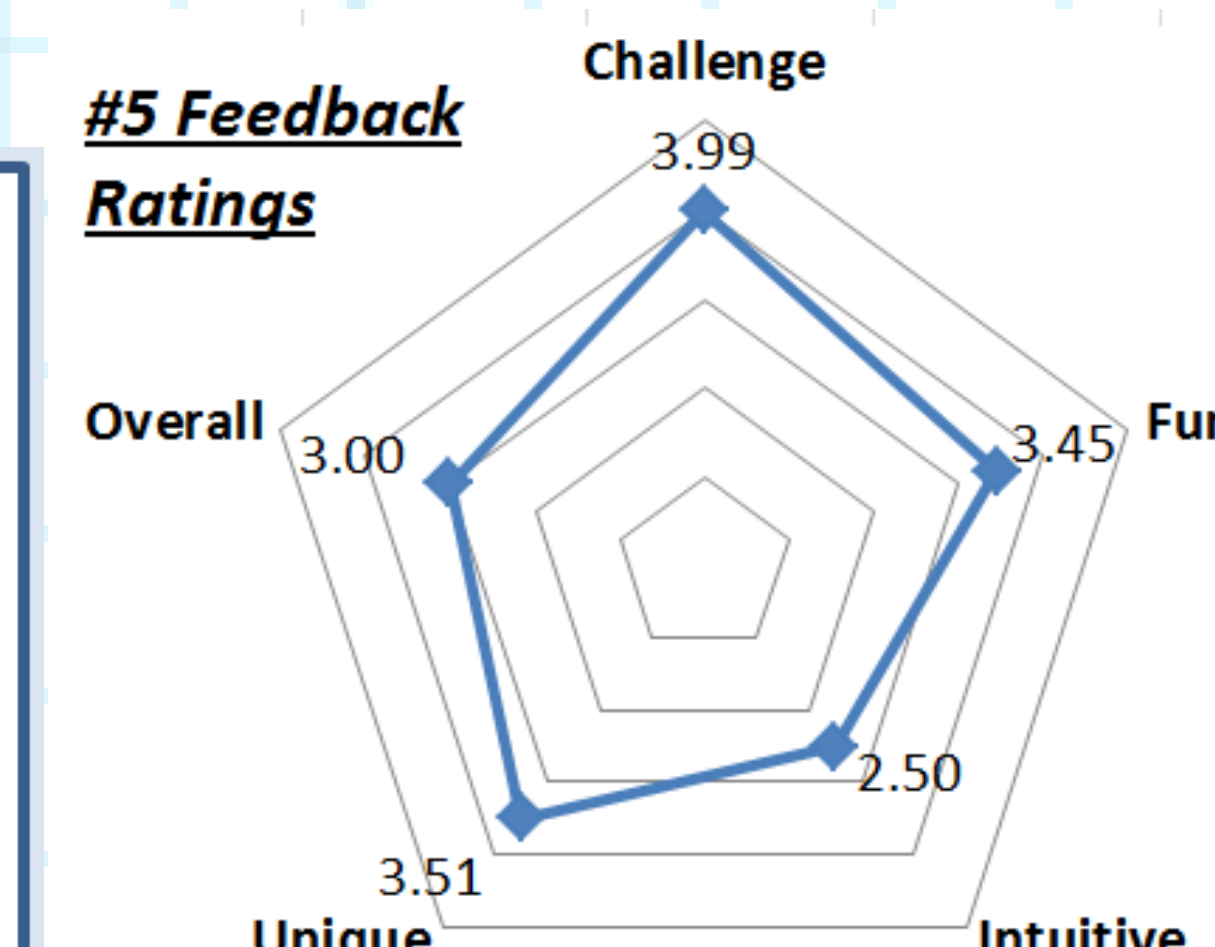
These results can also be applied in the design of user interfaces for other future applications on touchscreen devices. As touchscreen technology become more and more commonplace, user interfaces for interacting with touchscreen elements in **time-critical scenarios** (such as military or medical applications) will benefit from designs improving user responsiveness.



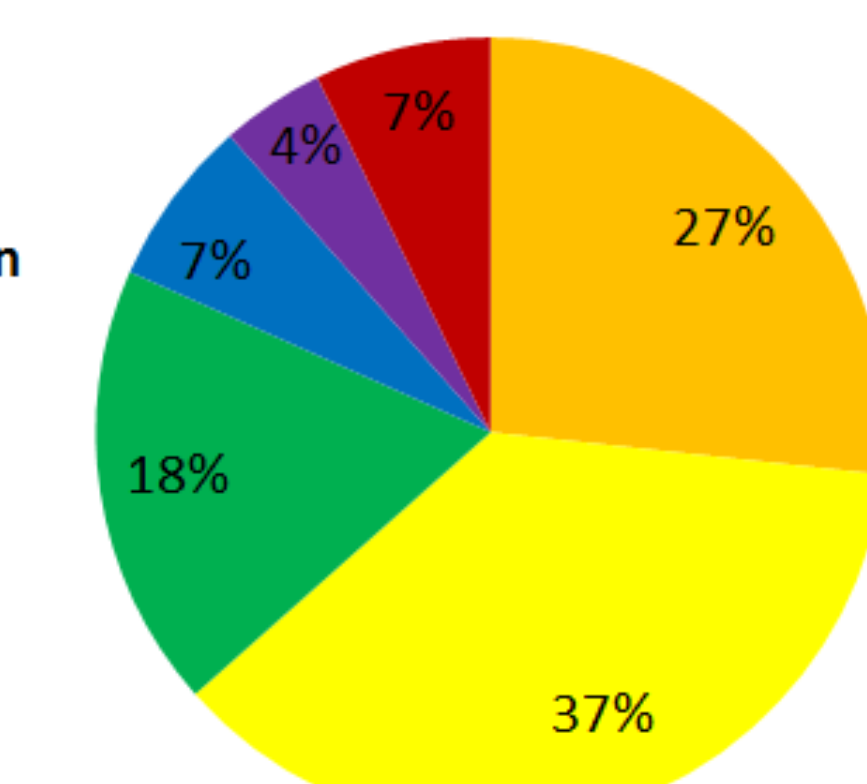
## Design 5: Slide



### #5 Feedback Ratings



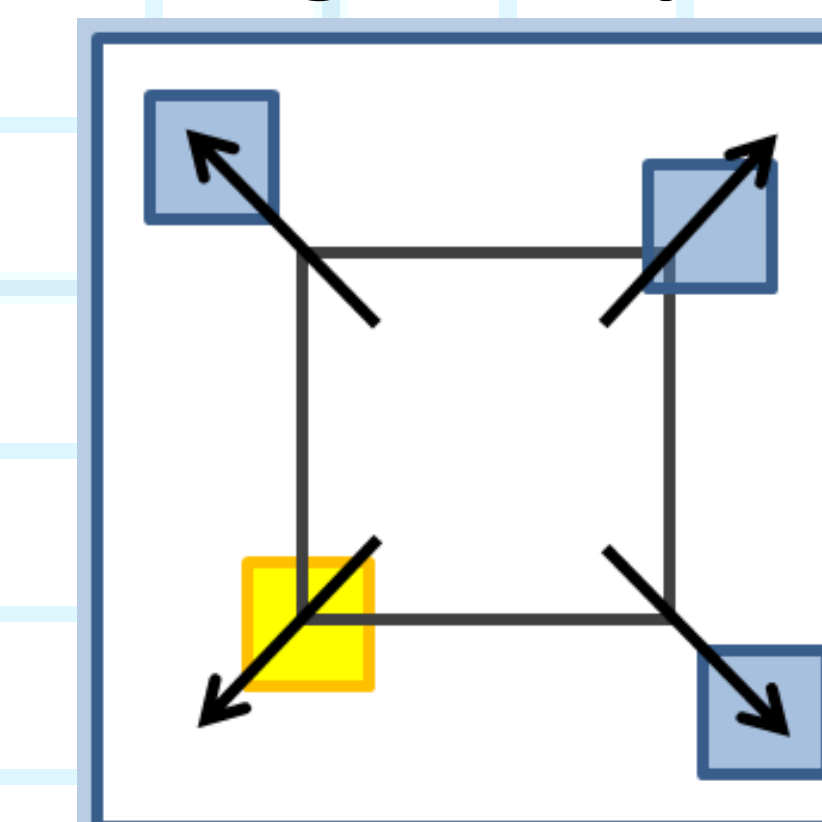
### #5 Timing Accuracy



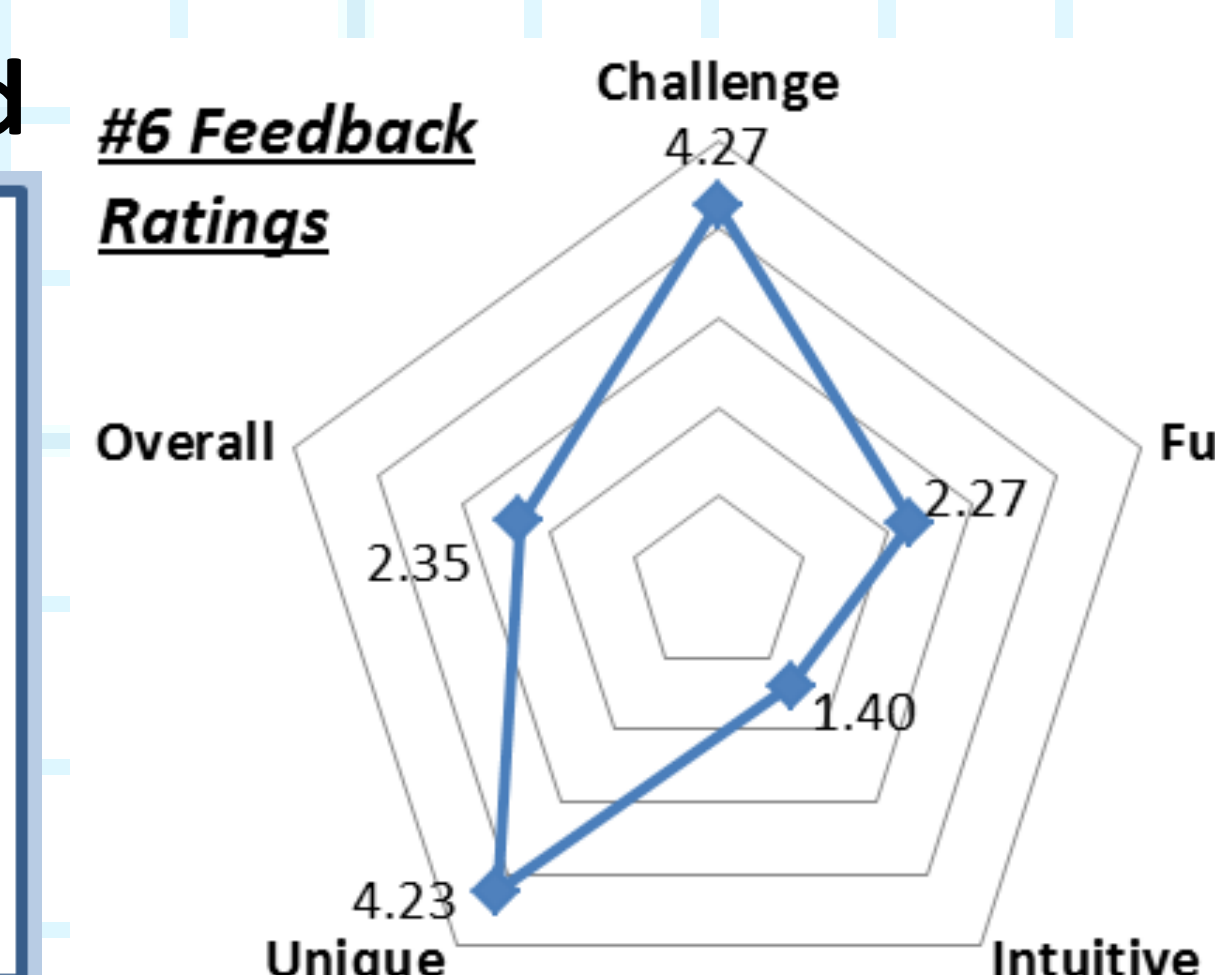
Moving hitbox fall toward fixed notes appearing from top to bottom

Rhythm Games: *DJMax Technika*

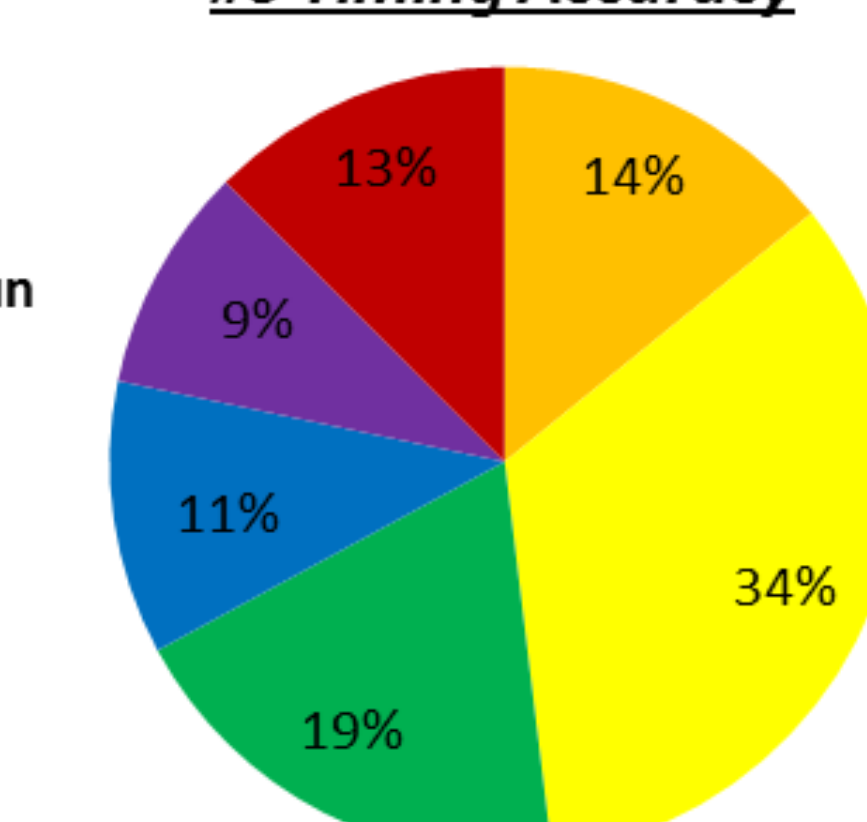
## Design 6: Expand



### #6 Feedback Ratings



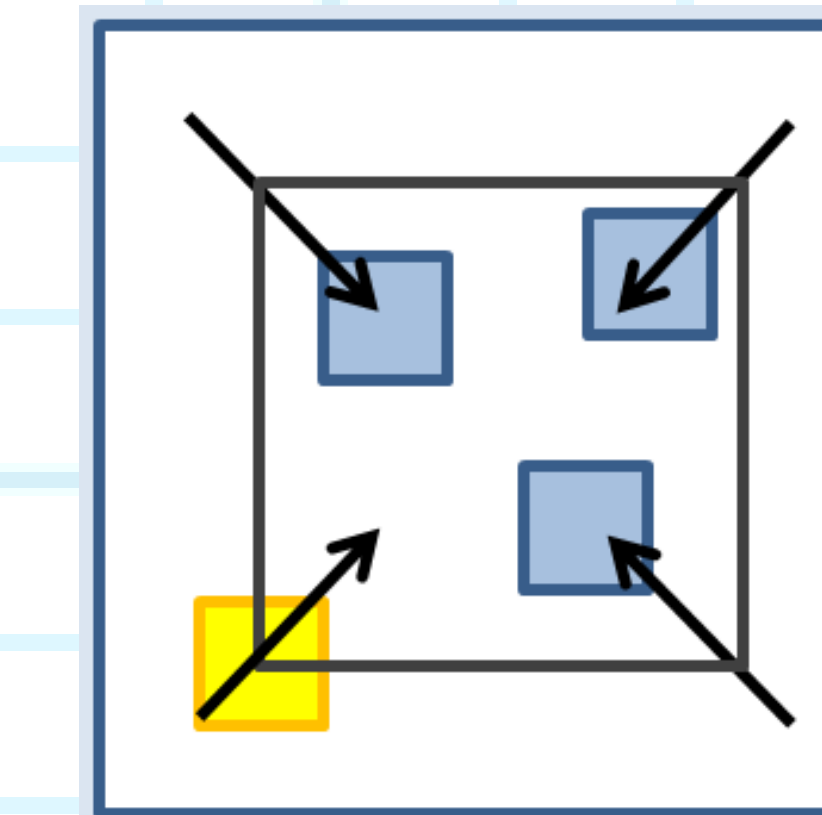
### #6 Timing Accuracy



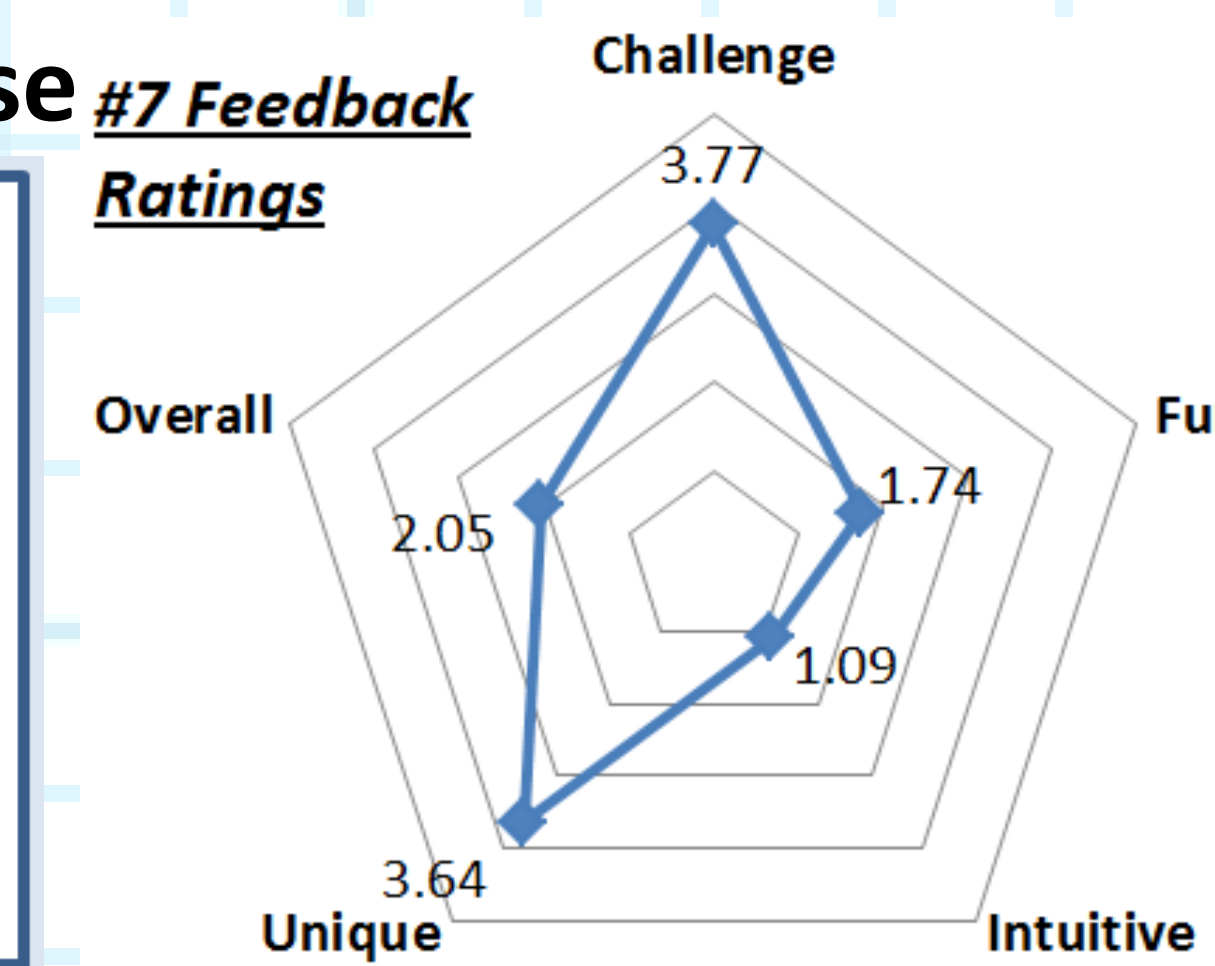
Expanding hitbox grows toward fixed notes from centre to corners

Rhythm Games: *none*

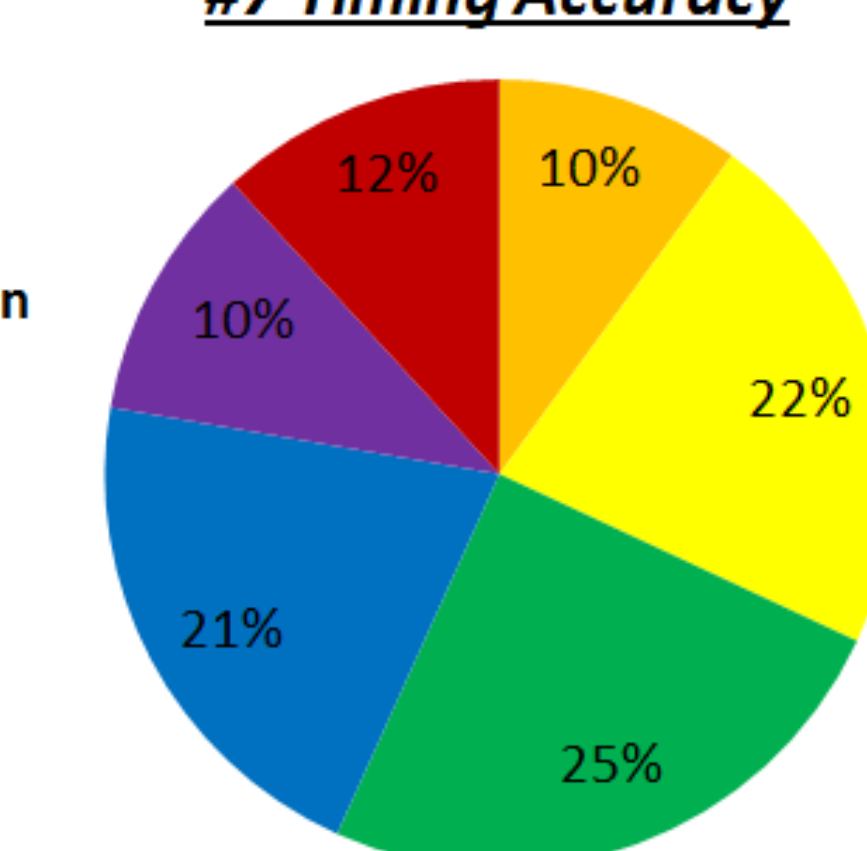
## Design 7: Collapse



### #7 Feedback Ratings



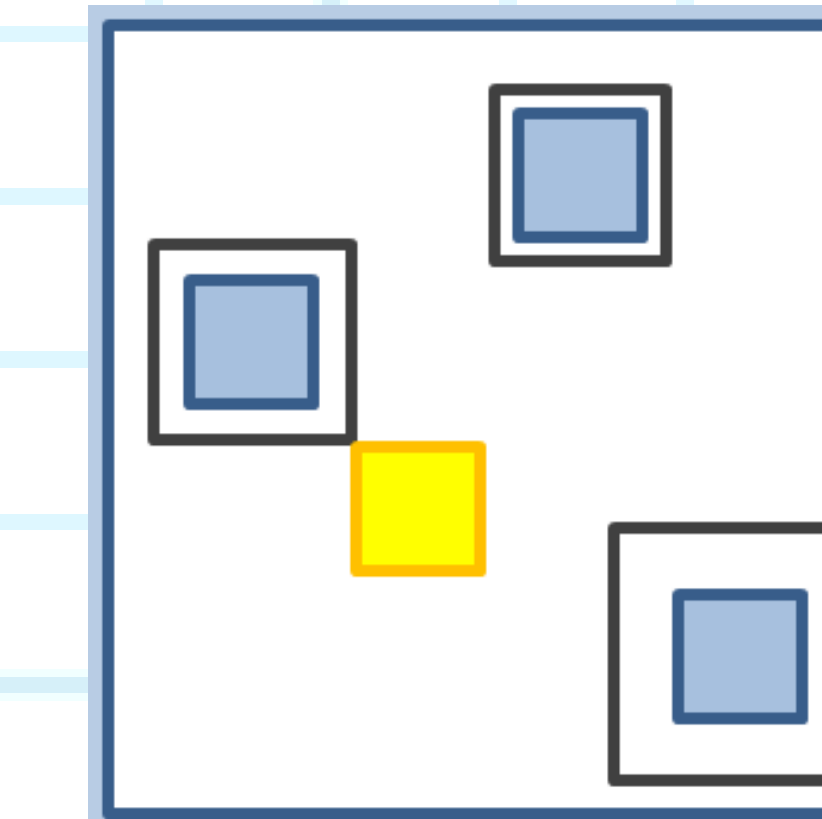
### #7 Timing Accuracy



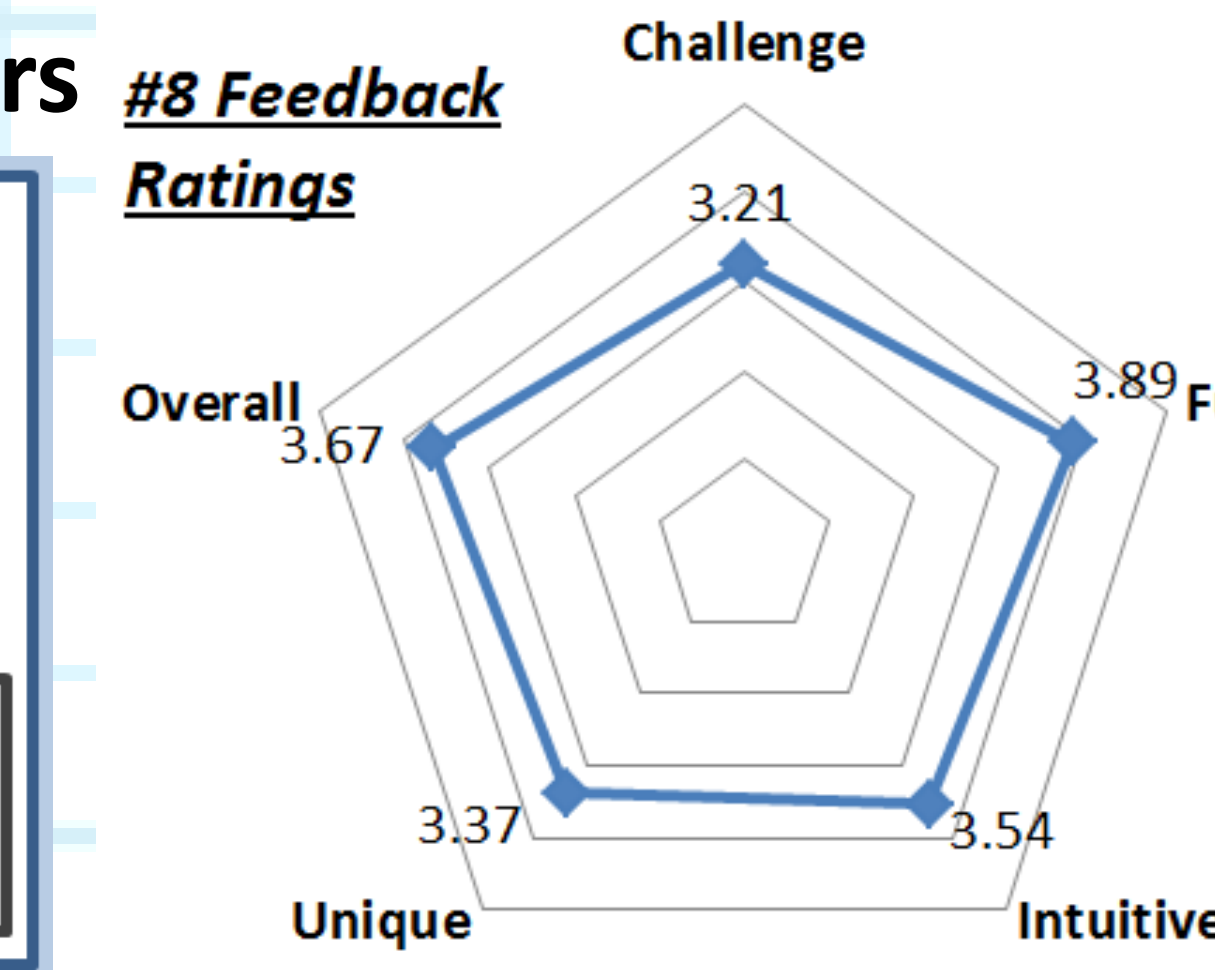
Collapsing hitbox shrink toward fixed notes from corners to centre

Rhythm Games: *none*

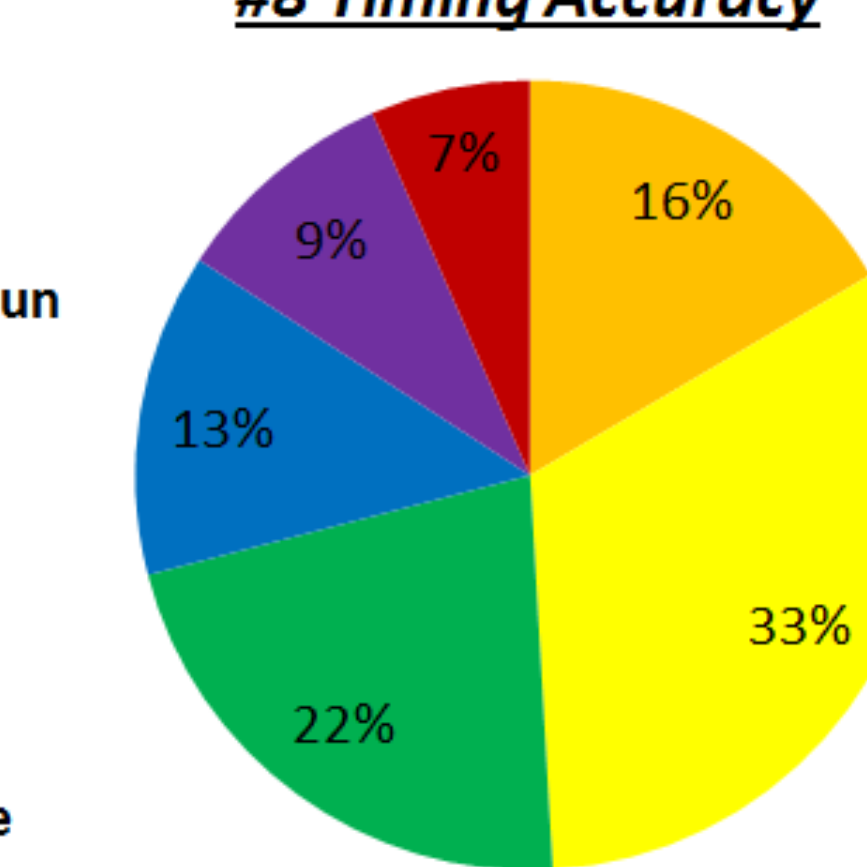
## Design 8: Appears



### #8 Feedback Ratings



### #8 Timing Accuracy



Collapsing hitboxes shrink around fixed notes appearing at grid points

Rhythm Games: *Osu! Tatakae! Ouendan!*

