

DES214 – Level Design Methods

Reward Schedules

DigiPen Institute of Technology

Reward Schedules

**How to space out
rewards to generate
optimal engagement.**

Reward Schedules

Reward

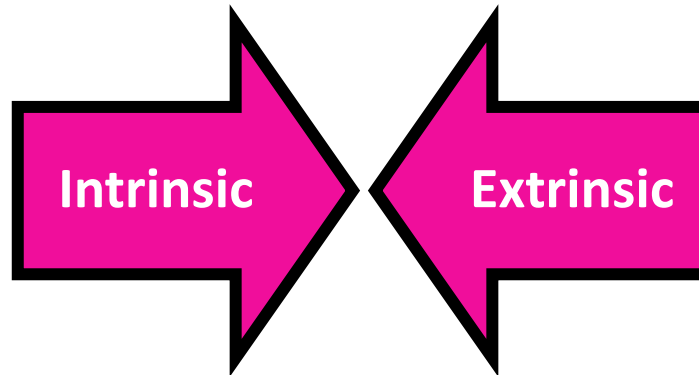
Any perceived payoff for time or effort put into a task.

- Intrinsic vs Extrinsic
- Reward Types
- Reward Impact
- Schedules

Reward Schedules

Intrinsic Reward

When the value is derived from the activity itself.

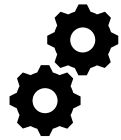


Extrinsic Reward

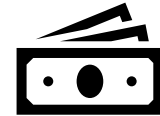
When the value is external to the activity.

Reward Schedules

Reward Types



Mechanical



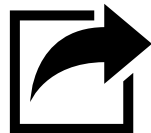
Material



Sensory



Social



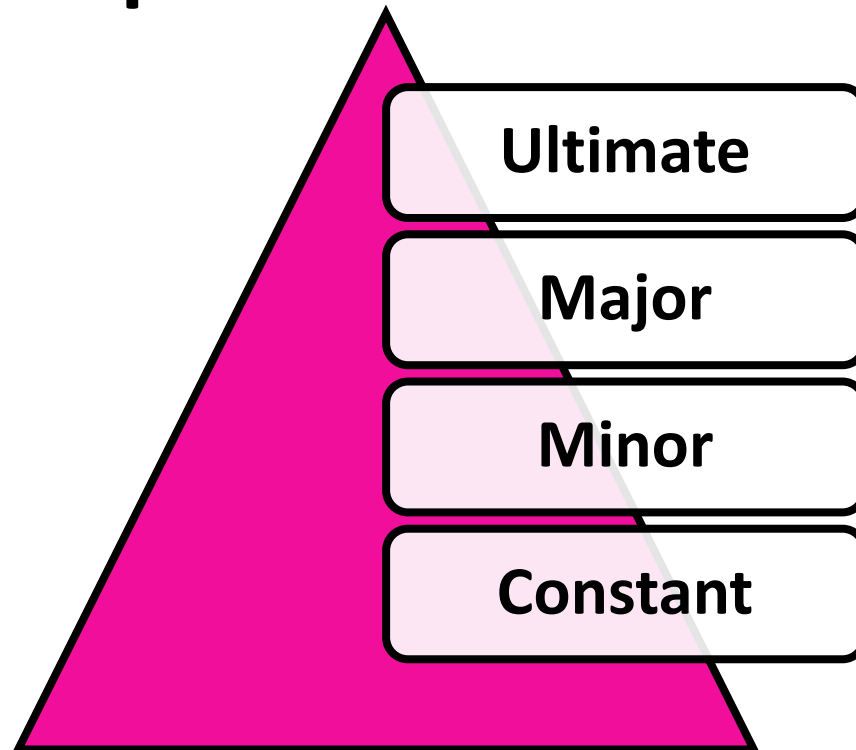
Progression



Skills

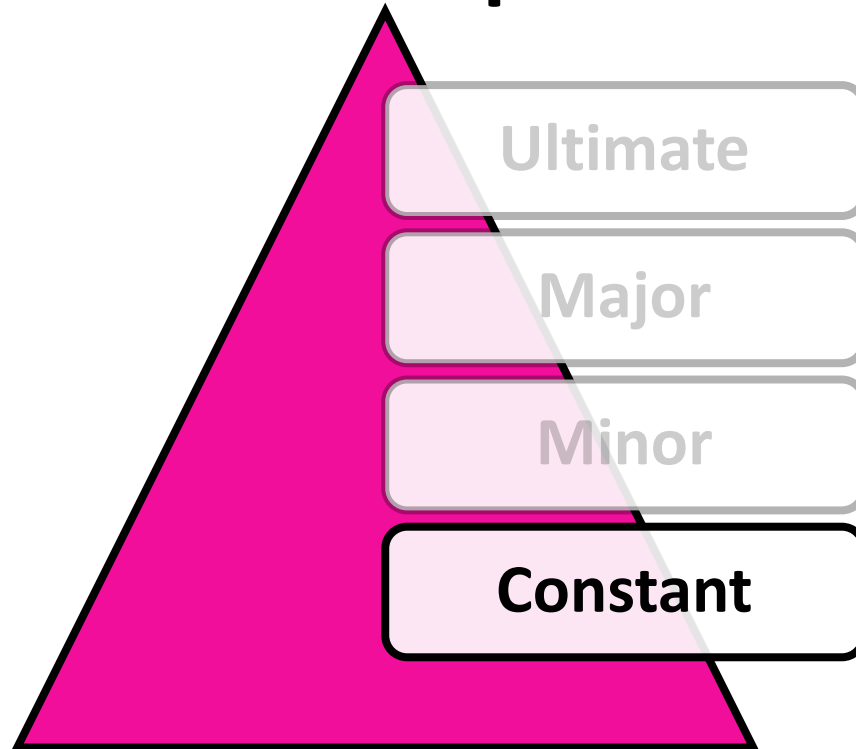
Reward Schedules

Reward Impact



Reward Schedules

Reward Impact



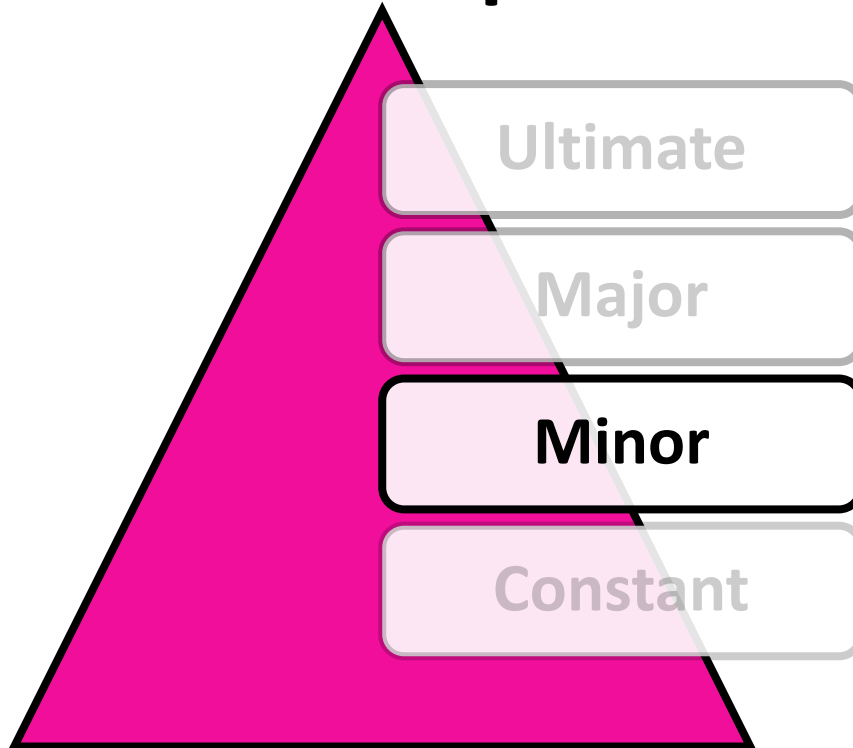
Given at the end of most if not all encounters.

Provides a baseline motivation and acknowledgement that the player has done something positive.

Alone they have minimal to no impact.

Reward Schedules

Reward Impact

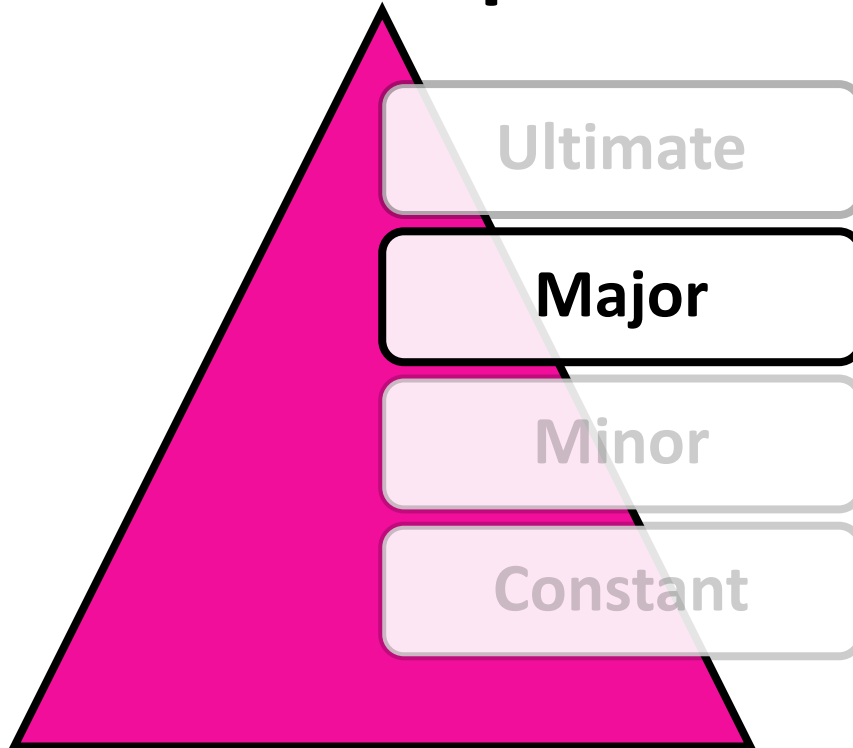


Given intermittently
punctuating each
segment.

Offers a small but not
insignificant benefit that
may compound.

Reward Schedules

Reward Impact

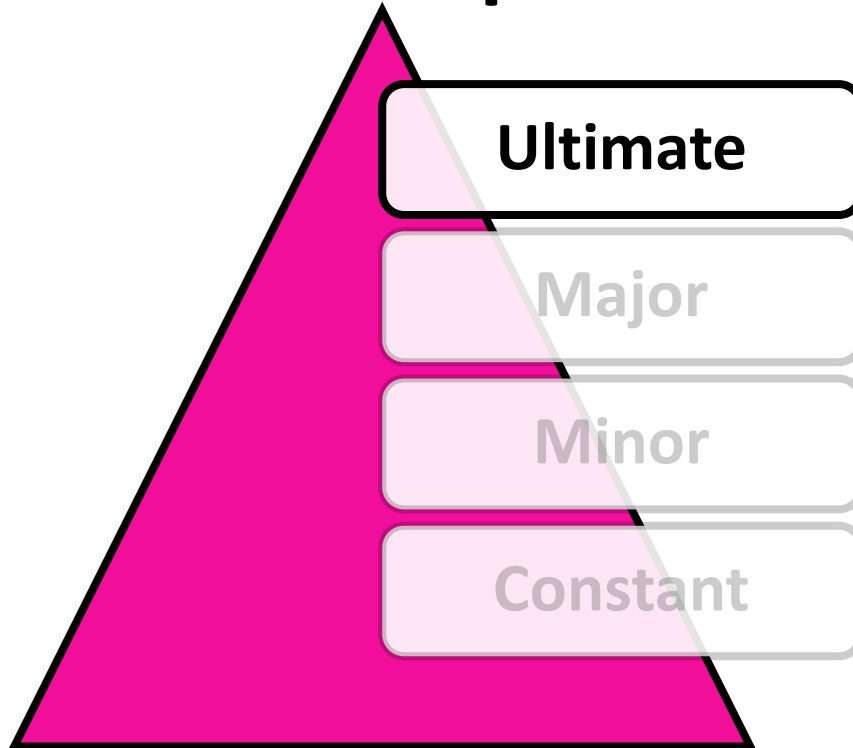


Given infrequently,
typically after
conquering a given
segment or difficult
hurdle.

Represent a noticeable
spike all on their own.

Reward Schedules

Reward Impact



Ultimate

Only given a specially designated points in the experience.

Major

Fundamentally alter the player's relationship to the game permanently.

Minor

Constant

Reward Schedules

Schedules

Frequency

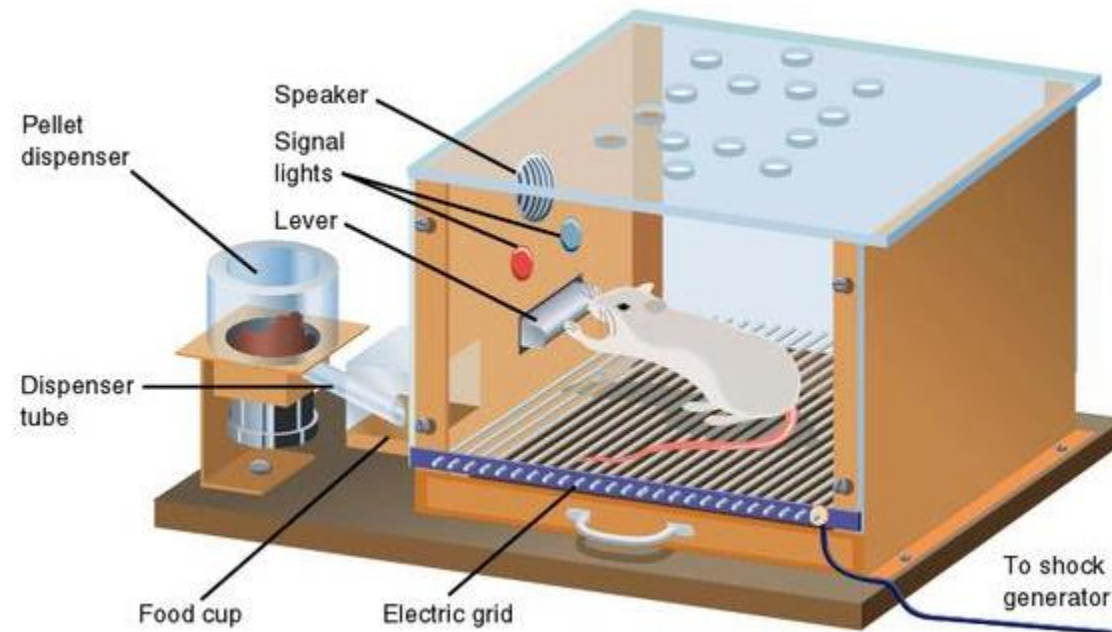
The rate at which a reward is granted over time.

Reliability

The likelihood a reward will be given in a certain time interval.

Reward Schedules

Schedules



Reward Schedules

**Vary your reward types
impact and schedules
to captivate the player.**

Reward Schedules

Extra Material



[This Psychological Trick Makes Rewards Backfire](#)

Reward Schedules

Extra Material



[Throwing Out the Dopamine Shots: Reward Psychology Without the Neurotrash](#)

Thank You!

Questions?

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