

Mental Imagery and Mapping



Mental Imagery

- Subjective representation of non-present object or event that is experienced as the object or event itself
- Banned by Behaviorists
- Visual imagery is only one form of mental imagery



Comparison: Differences

How do we compare perception and imagery?

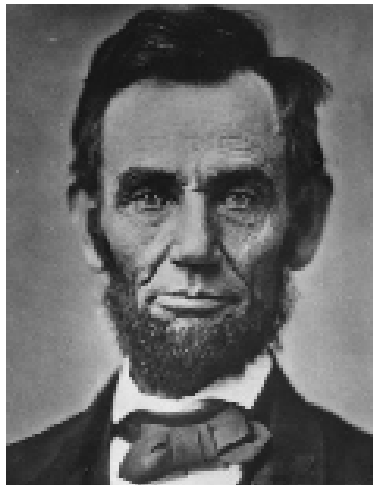
Perception	Imagery
Stimulus required	No stimulus required
Sensory receptor required	No sensory receptors needed
Bottom-up and top-down-processing	Top-down processing only

Comparison: Similarities

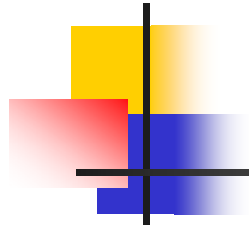
Perception	Imagery
Representation (visual, auditory, etc) is same for perception and images.	
Same/similar brain regions involved in the two processes.	

Visual imagery interferes with visual perception

Try imagining president Lincoln's face and read the text given below.



Imagery involves one or more of your five senses, hearing, taste, touch, smell, sight. An author uses a word or phrase to stimulate your memory of those senses. These memories can be positive or negative which will contribute to the mood of your poem.



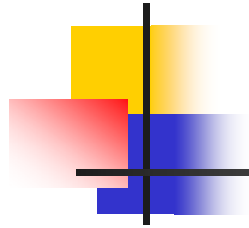
Mental Imagery

- 3 Theories

- (a) Dual-coding hypothesis

- (b) Conceptual-propositional hypothesis

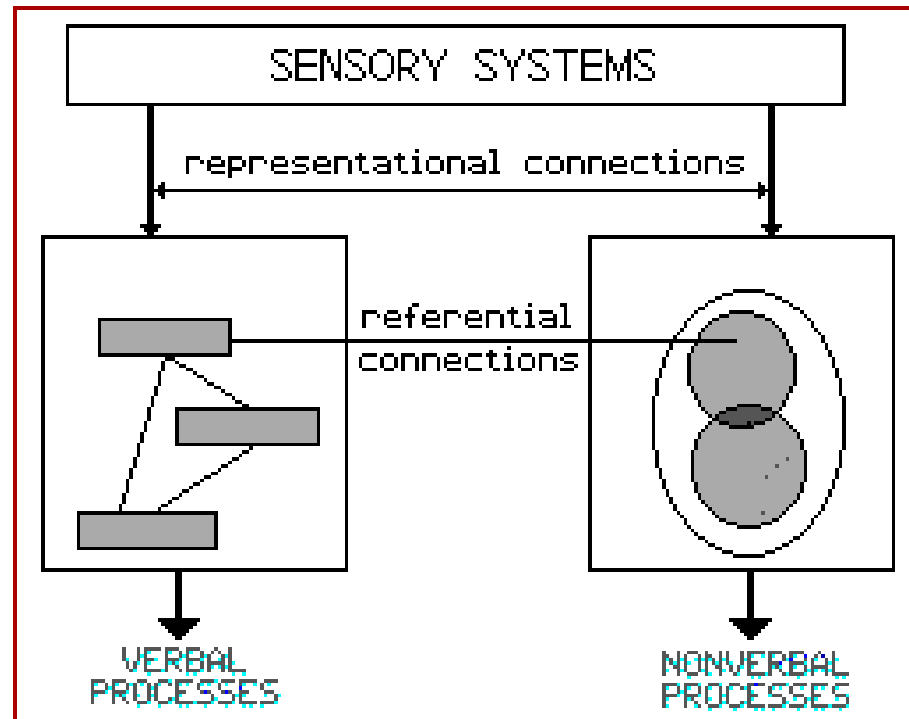
- (c) Functional-equivalency hypothesis



Mental Imagery

- **Dual-coding hypothesis (Paivio)**

- Information mentally represented as a verbal or non-verbal system...or both
- *Picture-like code* and *word-like code*
- Each concept connected to other related concepts
(activation of one primes activation of others)





Mental Imagery

- **Dual-coding hypothesis (Paivio)**
 - Subjects given list of pictures and/or words
 - Differences in retention found
 - Provides evidence of importance for imagery in cognitive functioning and operations



Mental Imagery

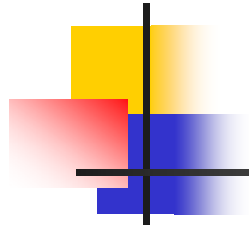
- **Dual-coding hypothesis (Paivio)**

- Shepard (1967)

- After 2 hours = 100% response rate accuracy for pictures, 88% for words

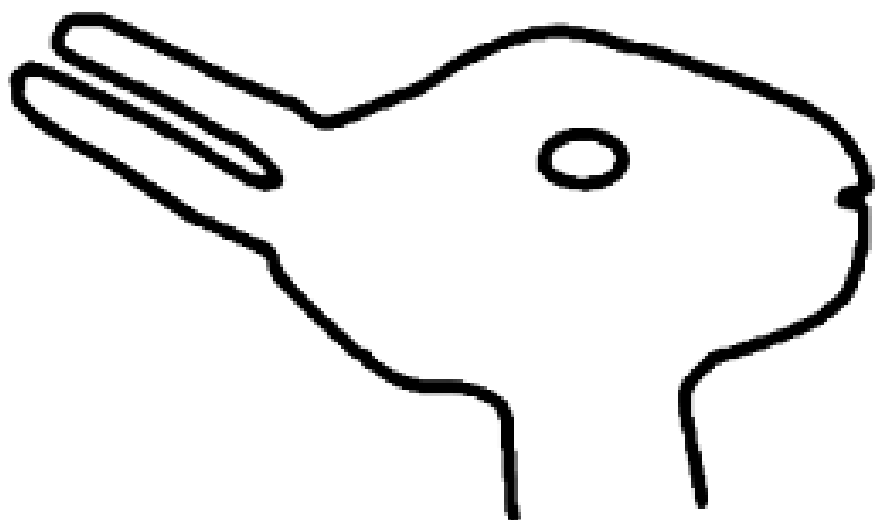
- Standing (1977)

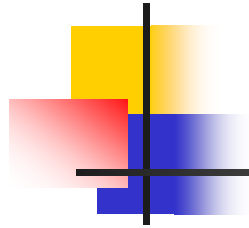
- After 2 days, recall was 62% for words, 77% for pictures, and 88% for bizarre pictures



Mental Imagery

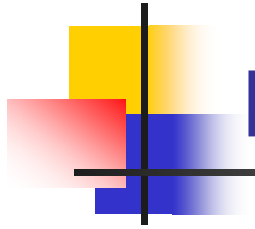
- **Conceptual-propositional hypothesis**
 - We code and store interpretations of events that are highly conceptual
 - Information is not stored in memory like a photograph





Mental Imagery

- **Functional-equivalency hypothesis**
 - Imagery and perception are very similar, if not functionally equivalent
 - “Perceptual overlap”



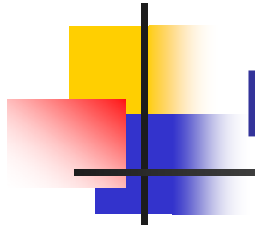
Mental Imagery

◆ Automatic Processes

- unintentional
- unconscious
- effortless

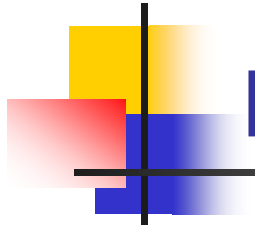
◆ Controlled Processes

- intentional
- conscious
- effortful



Mental Imagery

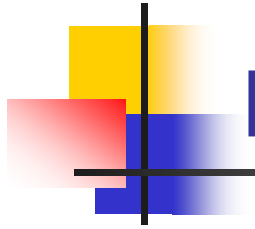
- **Controlled vs. Automatic Processing**
 - Amygdala involved in automatic judgments (good vs. bad)
 - Prefrontal cortex implicated in more controlled, evaluative reactions



Mental Imagery

- **Cognitive Maps**

- A mental map that relates preferences and perceptions with a spatial matrix
- Mental representations assist decision-making across environmental contexts



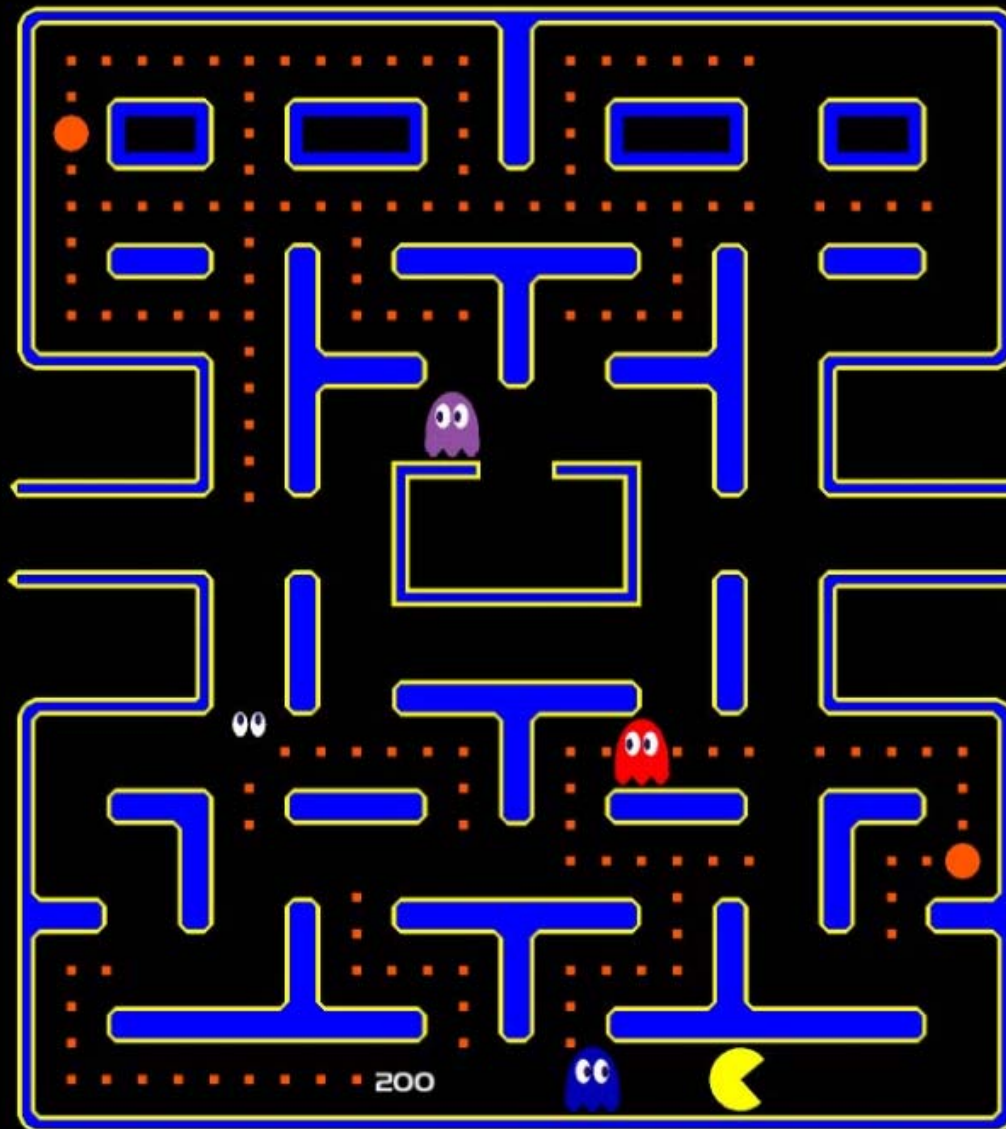
Mental Imagery

- **Route knowledge**

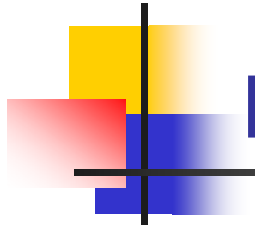
- Knowledge drawn upon to function in environment
- *Ex:* Geographical maps, giving directions to DigiPen
- More difficult to acquire?

SCORE 1560

LIVES 3





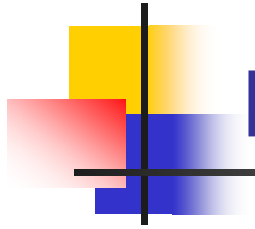


Mental Imagery

- **Survey knowledge**

- Understanding spatial relationships across broader contexts
- *Ex:* DigiPen campus vs. UW campus
- Easy acquisition?



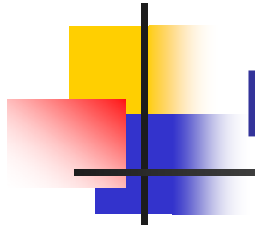


Mental Imagery

- **Cognitive Maps**

- Tend to be “drawn” very subjectively and are prone to personal bias
- Is DigiPen a ‘small’ college? Is that the first thing that comes to mind in your mental map?

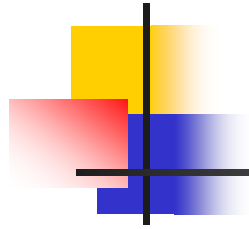




Mental Imagery

- **Cognitive Maps**

- A “metaphor” for cognitive spatial constructs
- Not a flawless or photographic representation of actual physical space
 - Often incomplete and error-prone



Mental Imagery

- **Cognitive Maps**

- Cognitive reference points
- Alignment
- Rotation



1



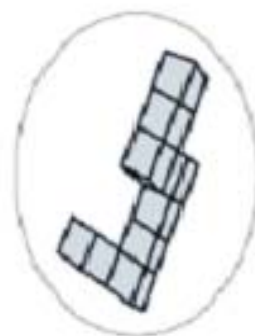
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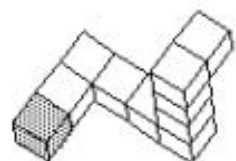


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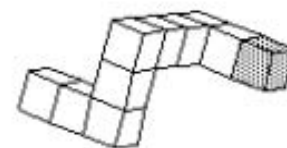
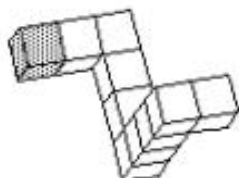


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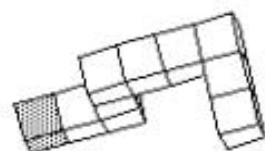
Example Trials



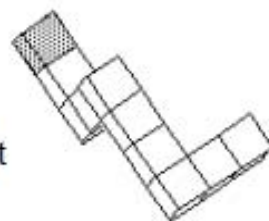
same



different



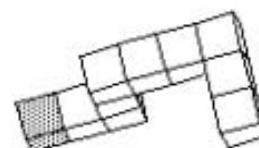
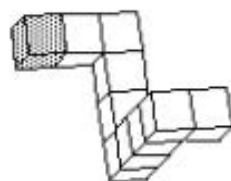
different



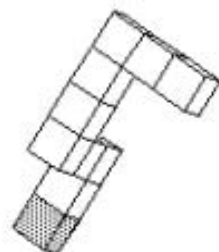
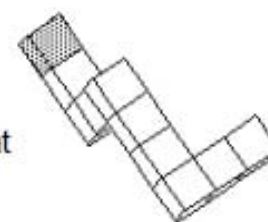
different



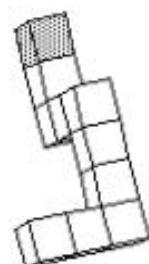
same



different



same

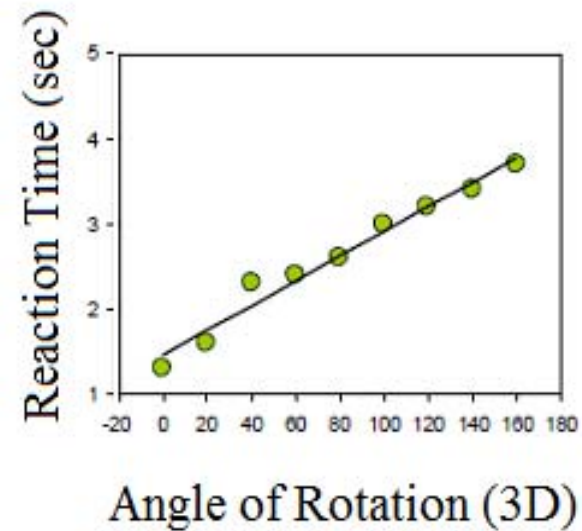
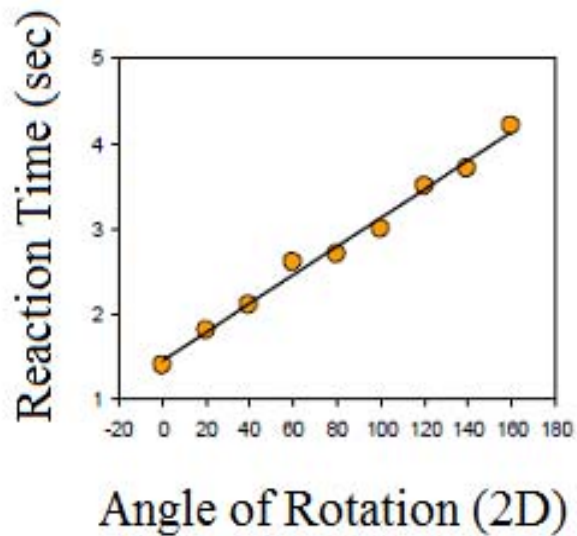


different







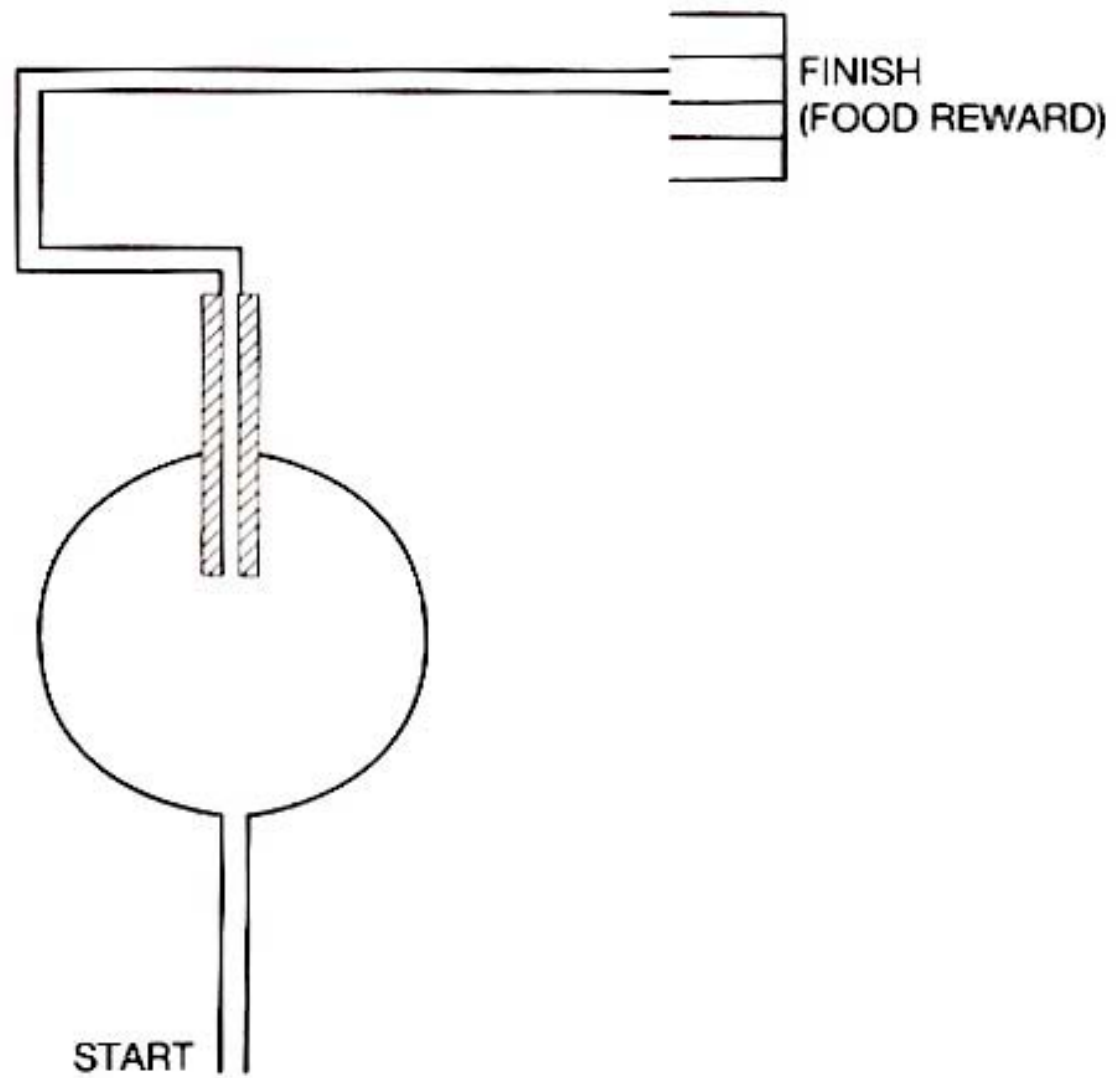
Images and Rotation

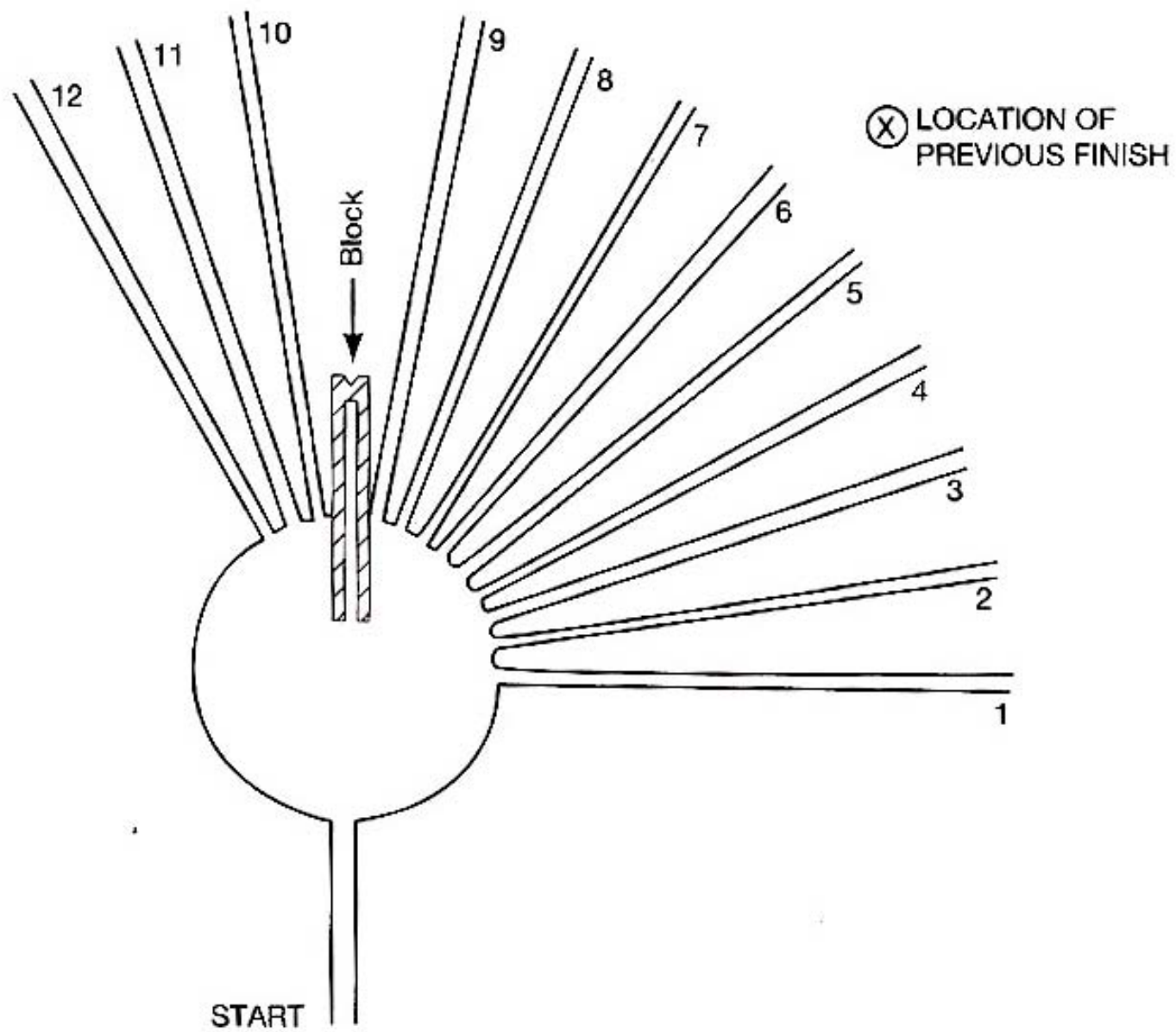
Reaction times increased linearly as the angle of rotation increased, whether the drawings rotated in 2-D or 3-D

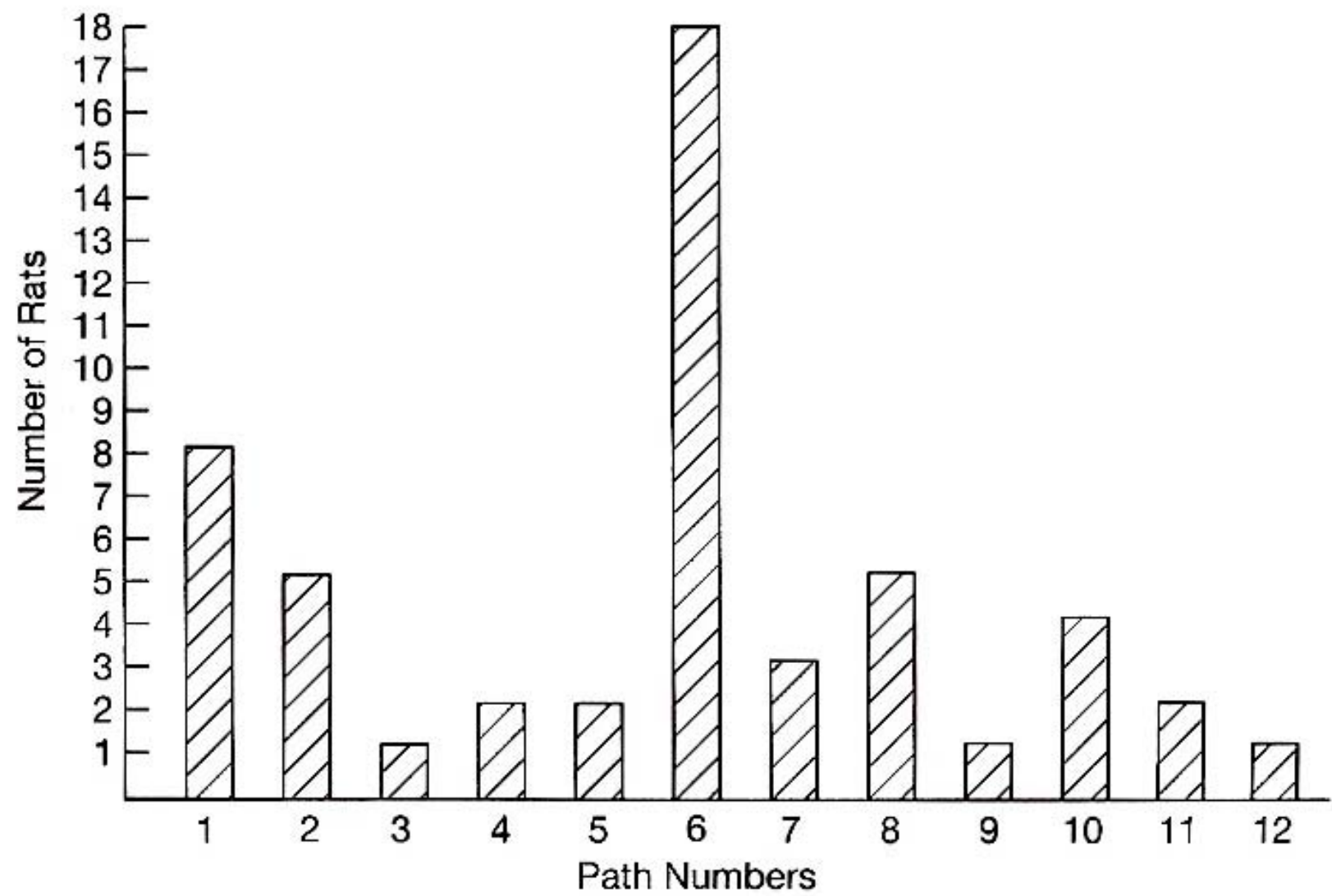


Are the angle in the faces of the two clocks the same?

Clock Faces		Reaction Time
		Slow
		Fast

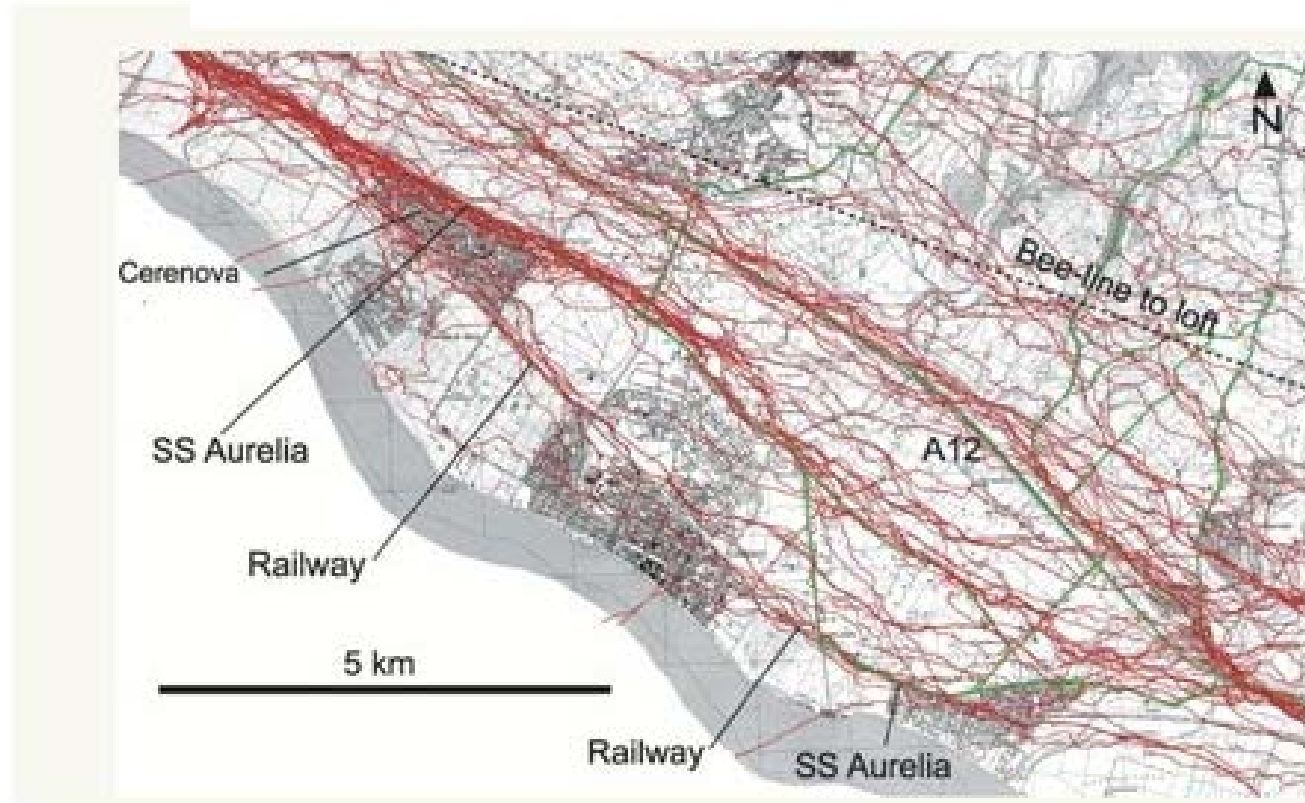


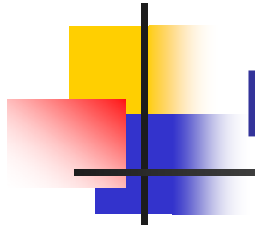






Carrier pigeons follow "highways"

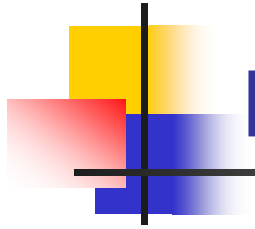




Mental Imagery

■ Cognitive Maps

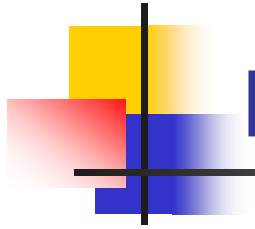
- Landmarks as navigational aids are often major features (...but subjective importance varies!)
- Lines/boundary edges, routes, linearity/curvature
- Surface areas, gradient textures, color, changes in slope/elevation
- Social factors: perceived crowding, accessibility, safety



Mental Imagery

■ Cognitive Maps

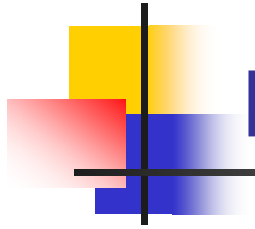
- Like other mental processes, mapping develops over time as a function of age, interest, experience
- Draws upon multiple sensory/cognitive inputs
 - Motor response/capability
 - Interpretation of symbols (road signs, structures)
 - Devising “short-cuts”



Mental Imagery

■ Cognitive Maps

- Individual differences in spatial abilities
 - Ability to think geometrically
 - Image complex spatial relations
 - Recognize spatial patterns
 - Perceive three-dimensional structures in two dimensions



Mental Imagery

■ Cognitive Maps

- “Spatial iconicity” – location relates to mental representations of words and mapping

- Presented word pairs: Are they related?

- Basement

- Attic

vs.

- Attic

- Basement



Mental Imagery

- **Cognitive Maps**

- “Spatial iconicity”

- When vertical arrangements of word pairs are ‘correct’, participants display faster recall than when pairs are ‘incorrect’

