Prompt 1: What do Slack and Wise argue is the problem with using numeric measures of progress?

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The definition Slack and Wise use for progress is the movement towards something and or a goal which includes both quantitative and qualitative forms of progress. Slack and Wise object to the use of numeric measures of progress due to its limitation of only keeping track of quantitative forms of progress and completely missing qualitative forms of progress.

One such technical example from the lecture is with Virtual Reality (VR) headset technology. If viewed in the numerical measure of progress a headset like the Valve Index would be considered the latest and greatest as it has the most accurate tracking, fastest refreshing screens, and most capable sensors out of all the headsets on the market. However, it requires a lot of setup from installing a sensor base station for controller tracking to having to always be tethered to a computer through a cable. While on the other hand the Oculus Quest 2 is inferior to the Valve index in tracking, screen quality, and sensor quality. The Oculus Quest 2 requires none of the set up the valve index requires nor does it require a cable connection to a computer to operate. This is an example of qualitative measure of progress as the Oculus Quest is not as capable as the Valve Index, it is much easier to use and move around removing the barriers of entry demanded by the Valve Index.

Another example of the shortcomings of the numeric measure of progress from the reading is the worker conditions in factories. With the obsession with efficiency, many factories treat employees as less efficient, more flexible machines repeating the same tasks in an all day loop. Such human factors are ignored as they cannot be represented by numbers when progress is judged numerically.

Overall, using a singular way of measuring progress can render certain aspects of progress invisible and thus not be a comprehensive form of measurement. When judging

progress we must have a complete holistic view that can take into account much more than

numbers.