

Human-Centered VR Design

MIT VR Hackathon

Oct 6, 2017

Jason Jerald, PhD





Presents:

The VR Workshops

Are you ready to propel your VR Projects to the next level?

Human-Centered Design Workshop

Creators of the VR Book

The VR Book
Human-Centered Design for
Virtual Reality

Jason Jerald, Ph.D.

VR is not New!

1830s to 1990s

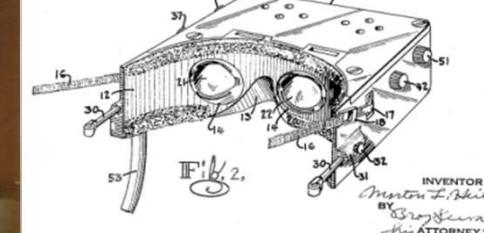
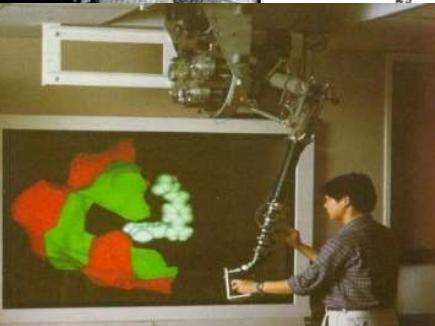
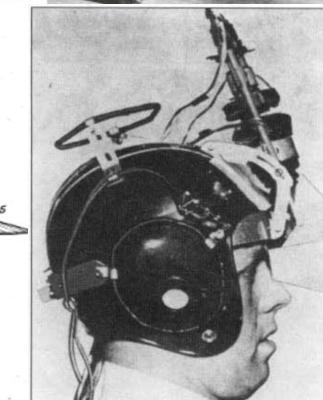
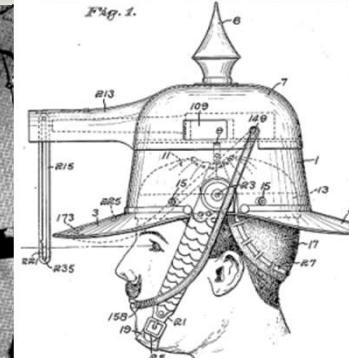
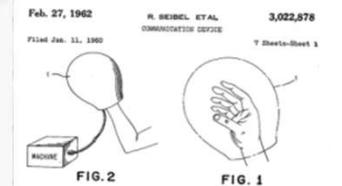


PYGMALION'S SPECTACLES

By STANLEY G. WEINBAUM

Author of "The Black Flame," "A Martian Odyssey," etc.

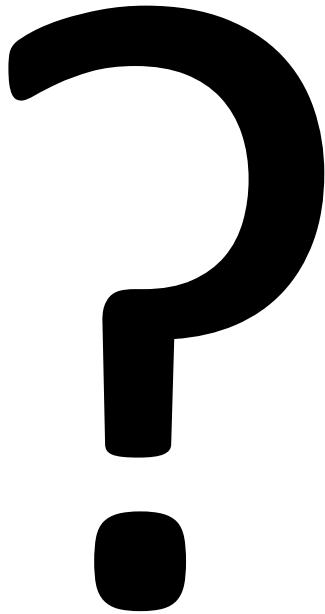
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Images Courtesy of The VR Book (with permissions from original sources)

Jason Jerald, PhD

The Most Exciting VR Tech



Jason Jerald, PhD

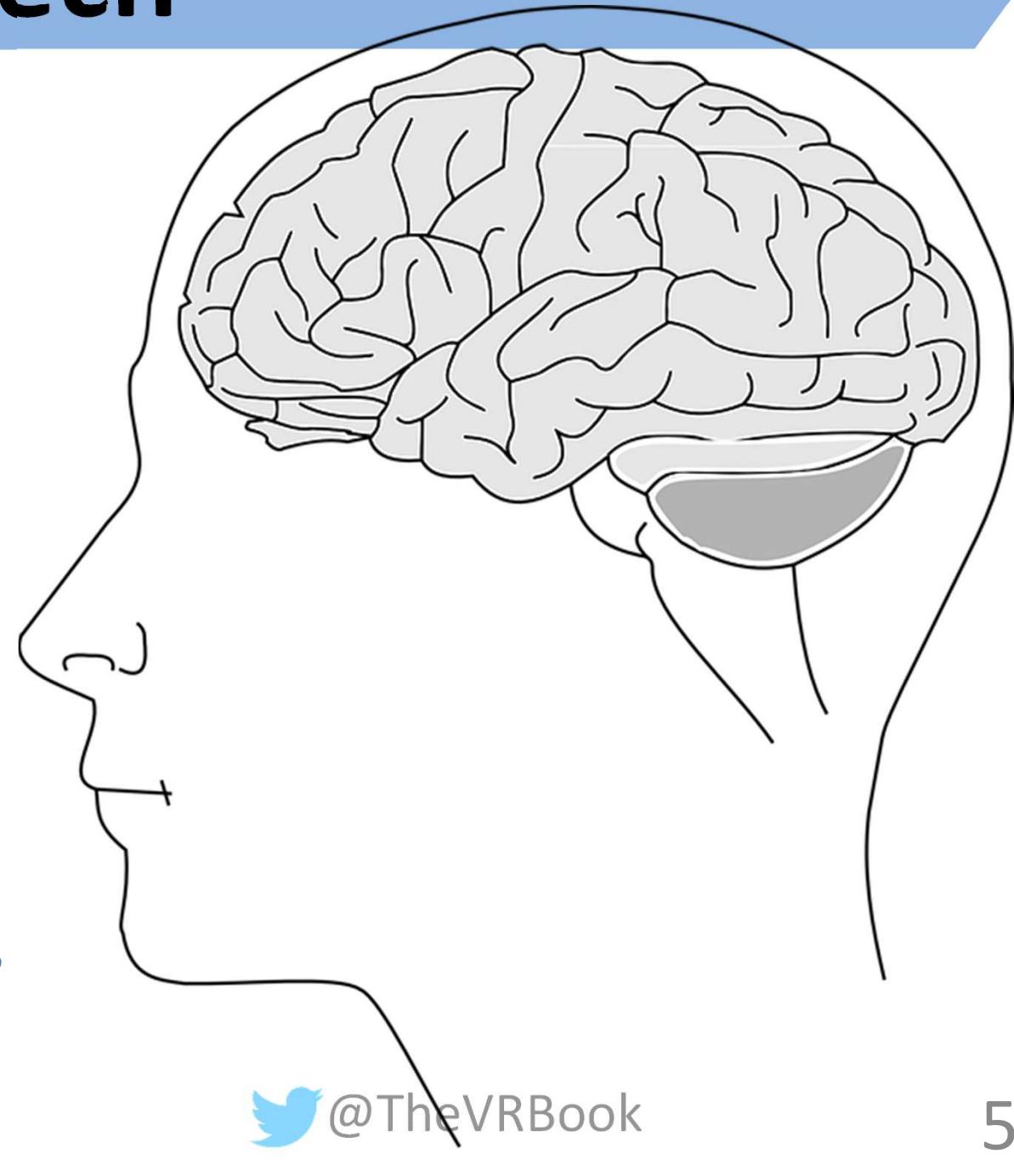


The Most Exciting VR Tech

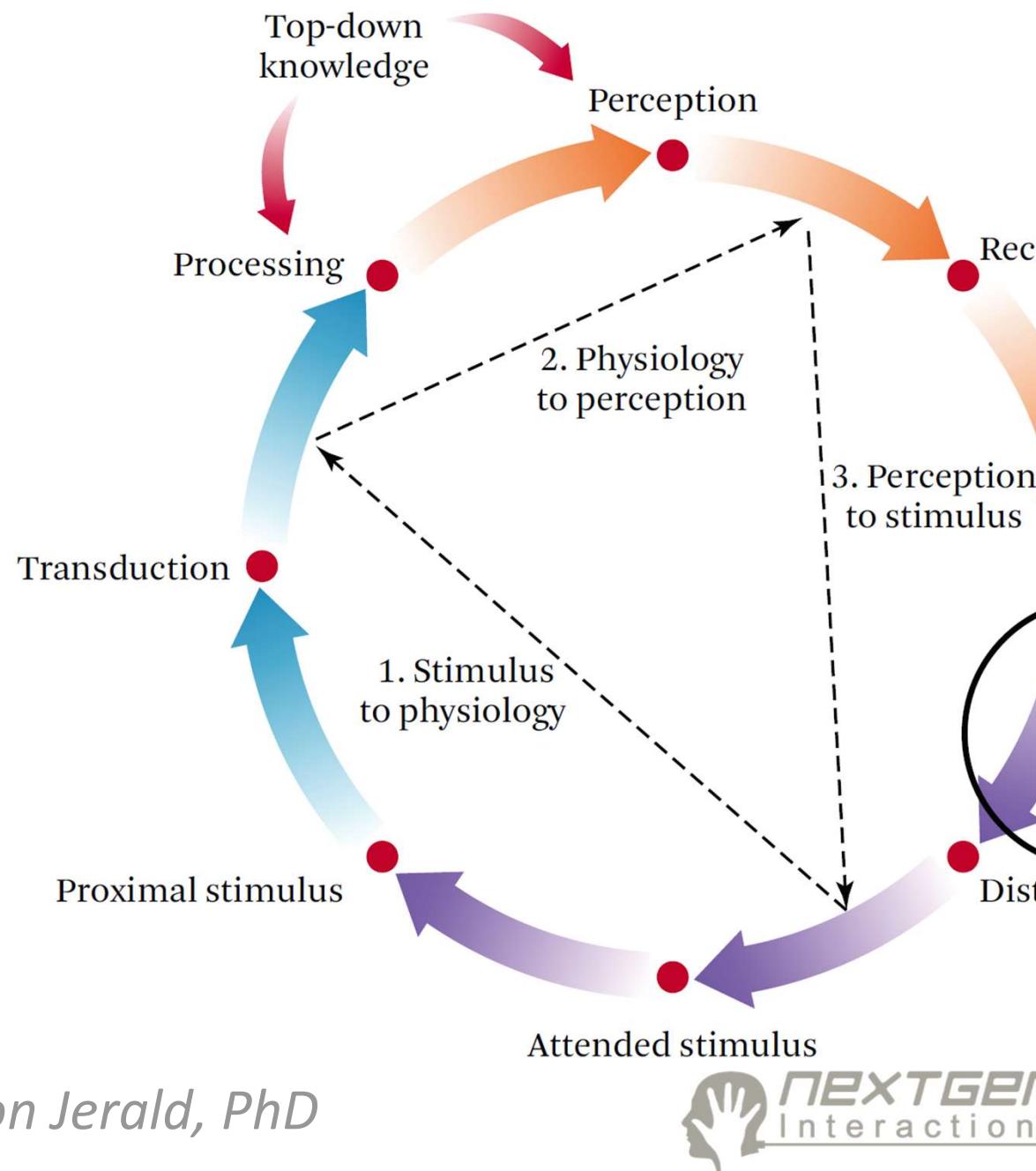
The Human Brain!

- ✓ ~100B Neurons
- ✓ Thousands synapses/neuron
- ✓ ~1B Synapses/mm³
- ✓ 150,000 km of nerve fibers
- ✓ Six degrees of separation

Marois & Ivanoff 2005
Alonso-Nanclares et al. 2008



The Iterative Perceptual Process



With VR, we hijack the human perception-action system

Human action = VR input/tracking

VR Output = Distal stimuli

Image Courtesy of The VR Book
(adapted from Goldstein [2007])

What is needed for Successful VR?

An open mind!

- ✓ New insight comes from diverse perspectives
- ✓ Save your judgments of what others are doing
 - There are likely good reasons for their design
- ✓ Understand there are few universal truths to VR design
 - The answer is most often “It depends” or “I don’t know lets find out!”
- ✓ Consider that what you know may be wrong
 - Or at least not apply in different situations
- ✓ The most value may come from what you don’t know you don’t know

You the Hackers

Project Ideas?

Teams?

Systems?

Most useful workshop topics?

Potential Topics

Humans

- ✓ Perception & Action
- ✓ Immersion & Presence
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Fidelities

Interaction

- ✓ Multimodal Input
- ✓ Norman's Principles of Interaction
- ✓ Classes of Input Devices
- ✓ #1 The Hands
- ✓ Reference Frames
- ✓ #1 Interaction Patterns & Techniques

Comfort

- ✓ Adverse Health Effects
- ✓ Factors & Theories
- ✓ Improving Comfort
- ✓ Measuring Sickness

Virtual Worlds

- ✓ Scene Space & Depth
- ✓ Environmental structure
- ✓ Audio
- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Art
- ✓ #2Story
- ✓ #2In-App Tutorials

Iteration

- ✓ Define
- ✓ Make
- ✓ Learn

- ✓ Eye tracking
- ✓ Weight/physics and perceptual illusions
- ✓ #3 Haptics
- ✓ Information overload
- ✓ Live 360 video

Workshop Schedule (tentative)

Humans

Interaction

Comfort

Virtual Worlds

Iteration

Workshop Schedule (tentative)

Humans

Interaction

Comfort

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Iteration

Humans

Humans

Perception

Immersion and Presence

Communication

Fidelity

What We Perceive is not Reality

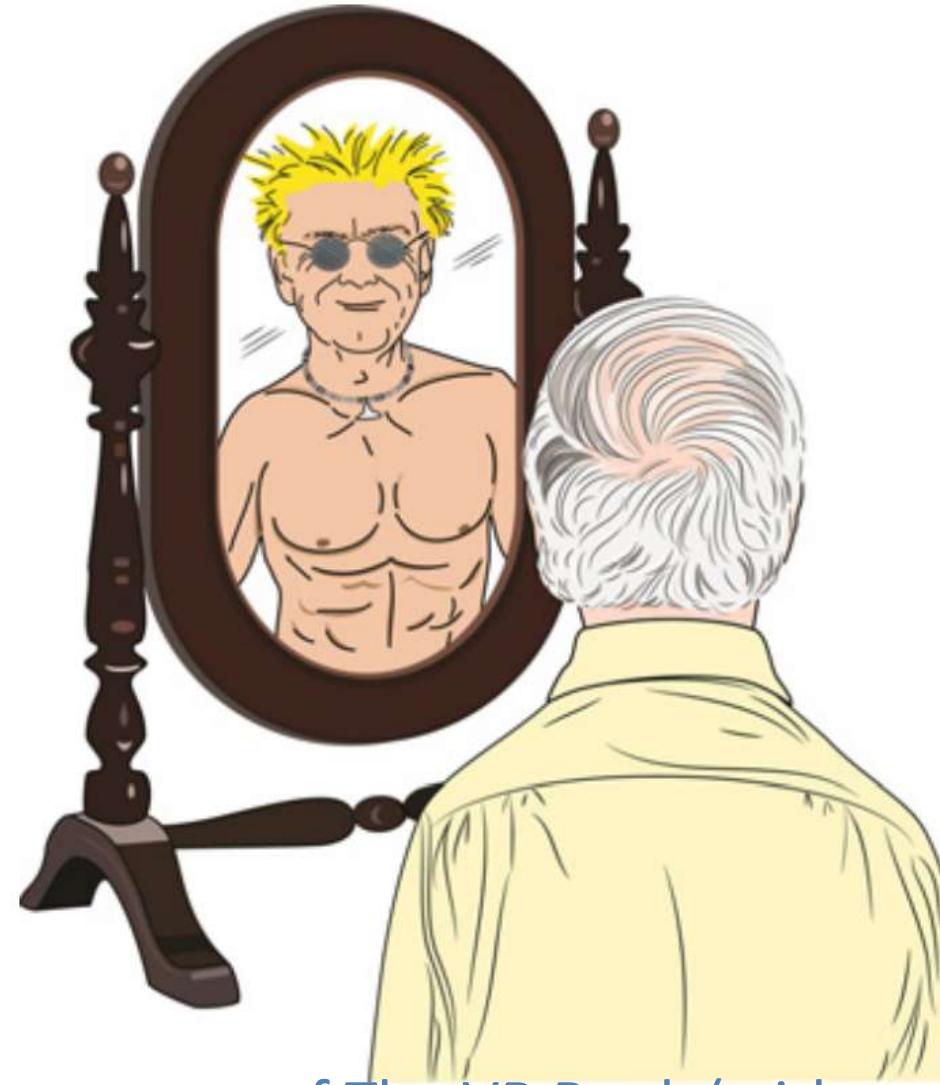


Image courtesy of The VR Book (with permission from original source)

Perception

The Human Senses

- ✓ Sight
- ✓ Hearing
- ✓ Touch
- ✓ Proprioception
- ✓ Balance and physical motion
- ✓ Smell and Taste
- ✓ Multimodal



Immersion and Presence

Why two terms?

Is there a difference?

Immersion and Presence

Immersion

The objective degree to which the real world or a VR system and application projects stimuli onto the sensory receptors of users.

Immersion

Matching is the congruence between sensory modalities (e.g., appropriate visual presentation corresponding to head motion and a virtual representation of one's own body).

Surroundness is the extent to which cues are panoramic (e.g., wide field of view, spatialized audio, 360° tracking).

Vividness is the quality of energy simulated (e.g., resolution, lighting, frame rate, audio bitrate).

Interactivity is the capability for the user to make changes to the world, the response of virtual entities to the user's actions, and the user's ability to influence future events.

Plot is the story—the consistent portrayal of a message or experience, the dynamic unfolding sequence of events, and the behavior of the world and its entities.

Immersion and Presence

Presence

*A **psychological state or subjective perception** in which even though part or all of an individual's current experience is generated by and/or filtered through human-made technology, part or all of the individual's perception fails to accurately acknowledge the role of the technology in the experience.*

-International Society for Presence Research, 2000

Presence

The illusion of being in a stable spatial place

The illusion of physical interaction

The illusion of self-embodiment

The illusion of social communication

The illusion of plausibility

Questions: Immersion & Presence



What type(s) of immersion & presence are you using in your VR project(s)?

What other types of immersion & presence might you utilize?

Perceptual Psychology

Objective vs subjective reality

Distal and proximal stimuli

Sensation vs perception

Bottom-up and top-down processing

Afference and efference

Iterative perceptual processing

The subconscious and conscious

Mental models

Visceral, behavioral, reflective, and emotional processes

Neuro-linguistic programming

Space, time, & motion

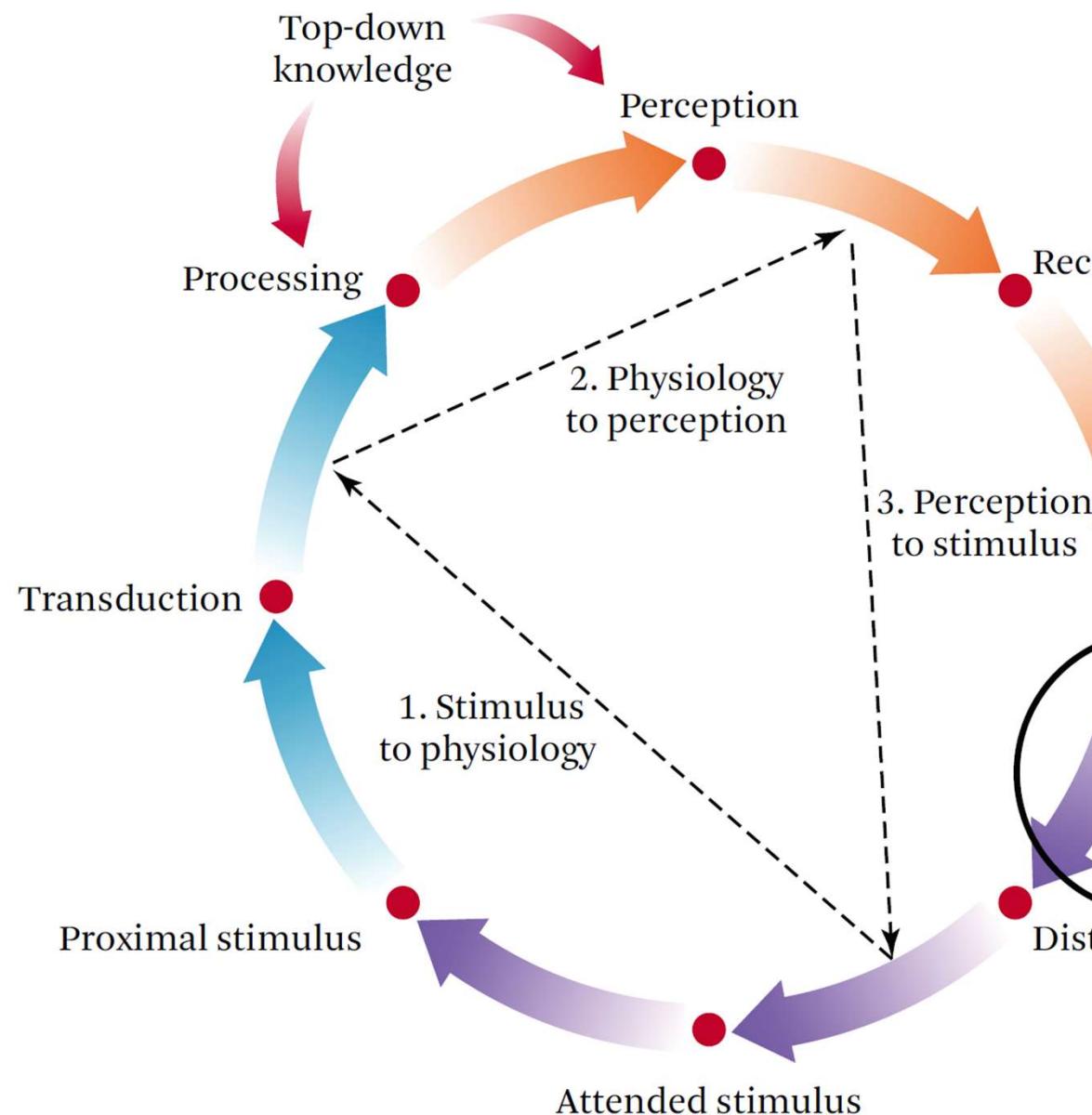
Perceptual constancies

Adaptation

Attention

Action

The Iterative Perceptual Process



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Image Courtesy of The VR Book
(adapted from Goldstein [2007])

The NLP Communication Model

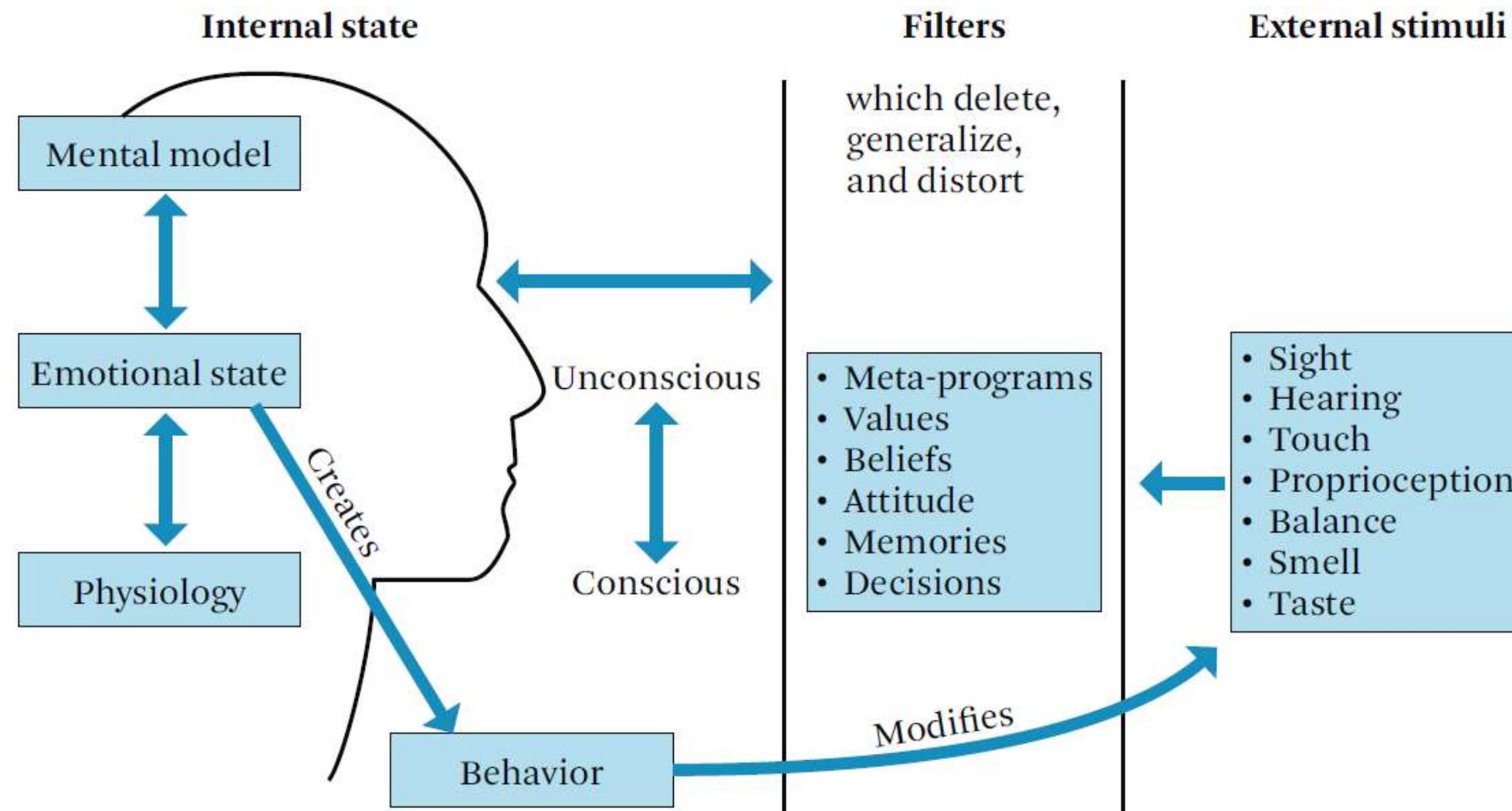


Image Courtesy of The VR Book (adapted from James & Woodsmall [1988])

VR is all About Communication

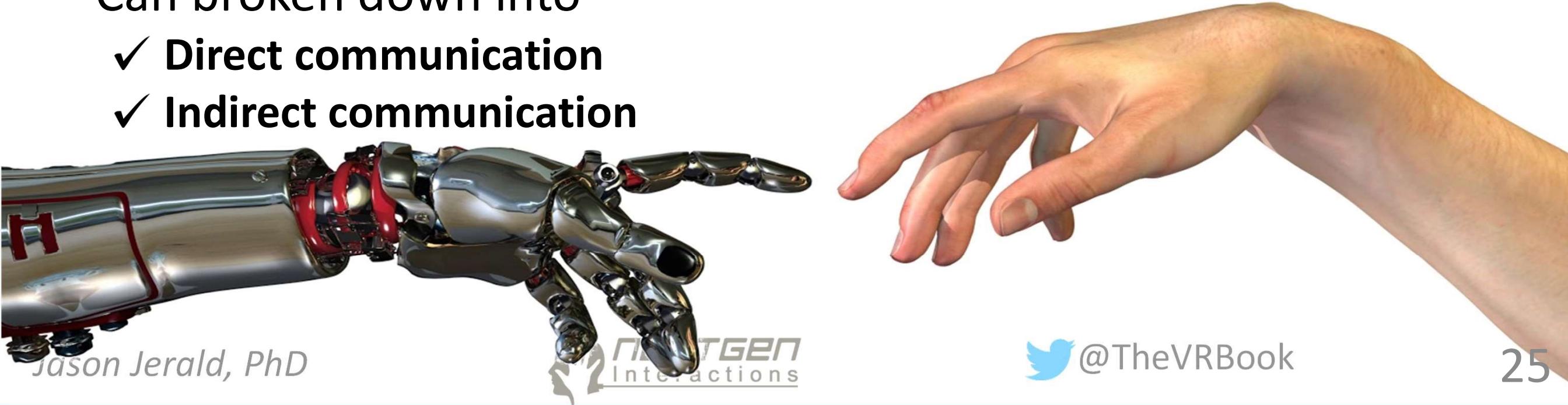
Communication

- ✓ The transfer of energy between two entities
- ✓ Even if just the cause and effect of one object colliding with another object

A basis for interaction

Can broken down into

- ✓ Direct communication
- ✓ Indirect communication



Jason Jerald, PhD

Types of Communication

Direct Communication

✓ Real World

Transfer of energy between two or more entities

No intermediary

No interpretation attached

✓ VR

Creators utilize an **artificial intermediary** (the VR system) between the user and carefully controlled stimuli

If designed well and system is **transparent**, users feel like they have direct access to virtual entities

✓ Can be further broken down

Structural communication

Visceral communication

Types of Communication

Structural communication

- ✓ The **physics of the world**, the **thing-in-itself**
- ✓ NOT the **description** or the mathematical description
- ✓ The **starting point** for perception, interpretation, and feeling
- ✓ The **signifiers and constraints** of the world
- ✓ VR structural stimuli include
 - pixels on a display
 - sound through headphones
 - rumble/vibration of a controller

Types of Communication

Visceral communication

- ✓ The language of **automatic emotion and primal behavior**
- ✓ **Always present** for humans
- ✓ **NOT the rational representation** of the emotions and behavior
- ✓ The in between of structural and indirect communication
- ✓ **Presence is the act of being fully engaged via visceral communication**
- ✓ Examples

The feeling of awe while sitting on a mountaintop

Solid eye contact

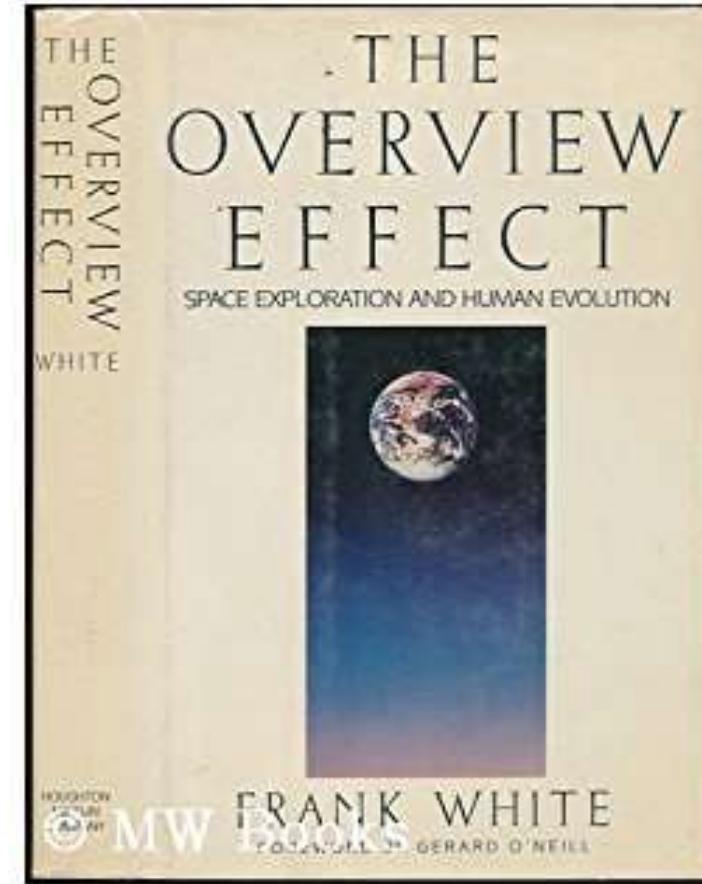
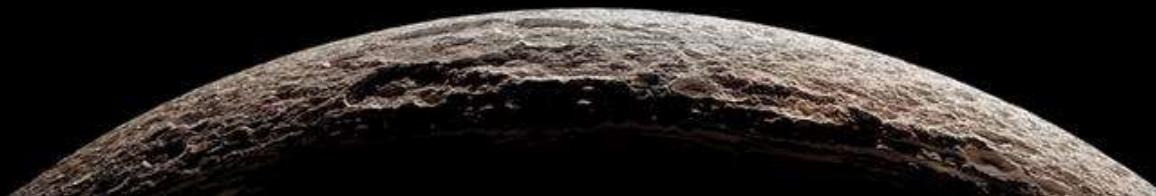
Experiencing VR

Example: Visceral Communication



The **overview effect** is the psychological shift astronauts feel when they leave Earth.

With a view like that, it's hard to worry about human squabbles.



Types of Communication

Indirect Communication

- ✓ The **connection of two or more things through some intermediary**
E.g., our minds interpretation that sits between world and behavior/action
- ✓ Examples
 - Languages**—spoken, written, & sign
 - Internal thoughts and giving meaning** (communicating with oneself)
understanding, creating stories/histories, giving meaning, comparing, negating, fantasizing, lying, romancing
 - Internal mental model**—how we “think” about interacting
 - Speech recognition systems**
 - Indirect gestures**
 - Indirect interactions** (e.g., moving a slider to change an object property)

Questions: Communication



What type of communication does your VR experience utilize?

What type of communication might your VR emphasize that it currently is not?

Fidelity

“The ultimate display would, of course, be a room within which the computer can control the existence of matter. A chair displayed in such a room would be good enough to sit in. Handcuffs displayed in such a room would be confining, and a bullet displayed in such a room would be fatal.”

–Ivan Sutherland, 1965

Fidelity Continua

Experiential fidelity [Lindeman and Bechhaus, 2009]

Representational fidelity [Jerald 2015]

Interaction fidelity [Bowman et al., 2012]

Experiential Fidelity

The degree to which the user's personal experience matches the creators intent.

Immersive film has high experiential fidelity.

Free-roaming social virtual worlds have low experiential fidelity.

Representational Fidelity

The degree to which the VR experience conveys a place that is, or could be, on Earth.

The content

✓ Not the technical quality (e.g., not immersion).

Not necessarily the goal

✓ abstract relaxing worlds of color blobs has low representational fidelity.

A cartoon world is somewhere in the middle.

Interaction Fidelity

The degree to which physical reality for a virtual task matches the equivalent real world task.

Training vs efficiency

Interaction Fidelity

Realistic

- ✓ Reaching out to grab something

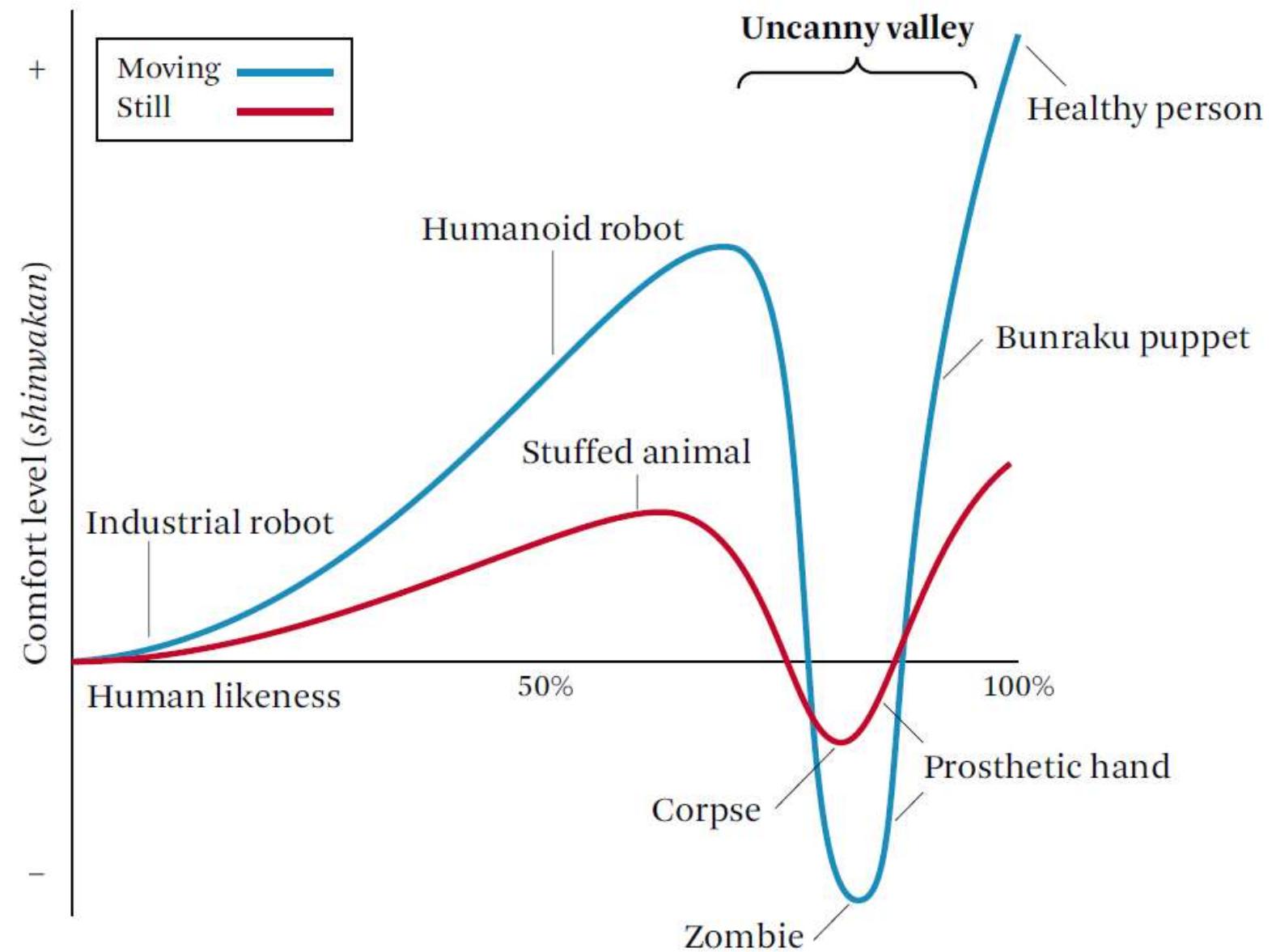
Magic

- ✓ Superhuman powers
- ✓ Shooting fireballs from the hand
- ✓ Selection at a distance

Non realistic

- ✓ Buttons
- ✓ Speech recognition

Fidelity: The Uncanny Valley



Hand/Arm Fidelity



Questions: Fidelity



Is perfect fidelity required for your project?

Where does your project fall upon the fidelity continua?

- ✓ Experiential fidelity
- ✓ Representational fidelity
- ✓ Interaction fidelity
- ✓ Other fidelity?

What if you chose different fidelities?

Interactions and Interfaces

Interaction

The **communication that occurs between a user and the VR application** that is mediated through the use of **input and output devices**

Interface

The **VR system side of the interaction** that exists whether a user is interacting or not

Human-Centered Interaction Design

- ✓ Designing interactions and interfaces from the **user's perspective**

Course Outline

Humans

Interaction

Comfort

Virtual Worlds

Iteration

Interaction

Interactions

Overview

Norman's Principles of Interaction

Classes of Input Devices

The Hands

Reference Frames

Interaction Patterns

Interactions and Interfaces

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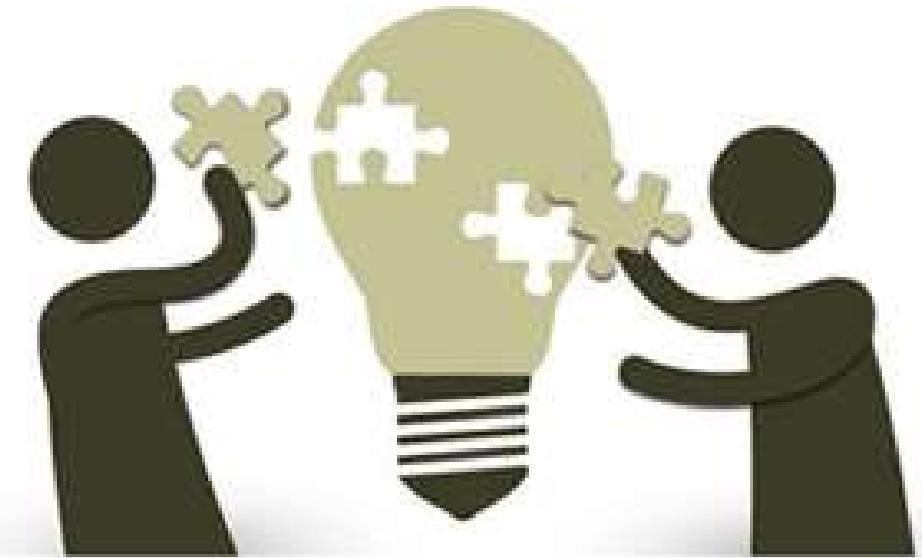
Action

Some researchers believe the **purpose of perception is not to create a representation of what is out there but to guide actions**

Taking action on information from our senses helps us to **survive** so we can **perceive another day**

Perception and actions are closely intertwined

- ✓ Intended action affects distance perception



Action

Some example VR actions

- ✓ Pressing button
- ✓ Making gestures
- ✓ Directional gazing
- ✓ Speaking
- ✓ Walking



Modal Actions

Based on Laviola [1999] & Martin [1998]

Single Input

Specialized

- ✓ Single modality where that modality is clearly ideal and sufficient
- ✓ Selection via physical intersection when input is reliable

Equivalent

- ✓ User chooses the modality
- ✓ Identical results
- ✓ System indifferent to user preferences
- ✓ Select a menu option by voice or through a panel

Simultaneous Input

Redundant

- Modalities contain same optional info to perform a single command
- Reduces ambiguity
- Grab gesture on cube while saying “select cube”

Complementarity

- Merge different required info from each modality
- Place object behind back while saying “delete”

Concurrent

- Issue different commands simultaneously
- Point to fly while verbally requesting info

Sequential Input

Transfer

- Transfer info from one modality to another
- Push-to-talk / Push-to-gesture

Questions: Multimodal Input



What Input modalities are you using for your project(s)?

What additional modalities could help increase presence and help your users more easily reach their goals?

Where might combining modalities be more effective?

Norman's Principles of Interaction

Affordances

Signifiers

Constraints

Feedback

Mappings

Affordances are NOT Signifiers

Affordances

The **possible actions** of how something can be interacted with **by a user**

Not a property!

The **relationship** between the capabilities of a user and the properties of a thing

Interface elements afford interaction

Different users might have **different affordances**

Signifiers

A **perceivable indicator** (a signal) that communicates appropriate purpose, structure, operation, and behavior of an object to a user

A good signifier **informs what is possible** before interaction occurs with its corresponding affordance

Questions: Affordances vs Signifiers



What are some affordances in your project?

How are those differentiated from your signifiers?

How could differentiating between affordances and signifiers help you think about your project differently?

Constraints

Limitations to guide actions/behaviors and ease interpretation

- ✓ Logical
- ✓ Semantic
- ✓ Cultural
- ✓ Physical
- ✓ Mathematical

Questions: Constraints



What are some constraints in your project?

What are some other constraints to consider?

Feedback

Communication to the user that provides results of an action or status of a task

Helps to aid understanding of the state of the thing being interacted with, and helps to drive future action

Feedback

Sensory substitution

✓ **Replace** one sensory modality
with another

✓ Examples

Highlights

Vibrations

Audio



Image courtesy of The VR Book (with
permissions from Cloudhead Games)

 @TheVRBook

Questions: Feedback



What type of feedback do/could you use?

What type of feedback can you not possibly provide given the hardware you are using?

How could you use sensory substitution?

Mappings

A **relationship** between two or more things

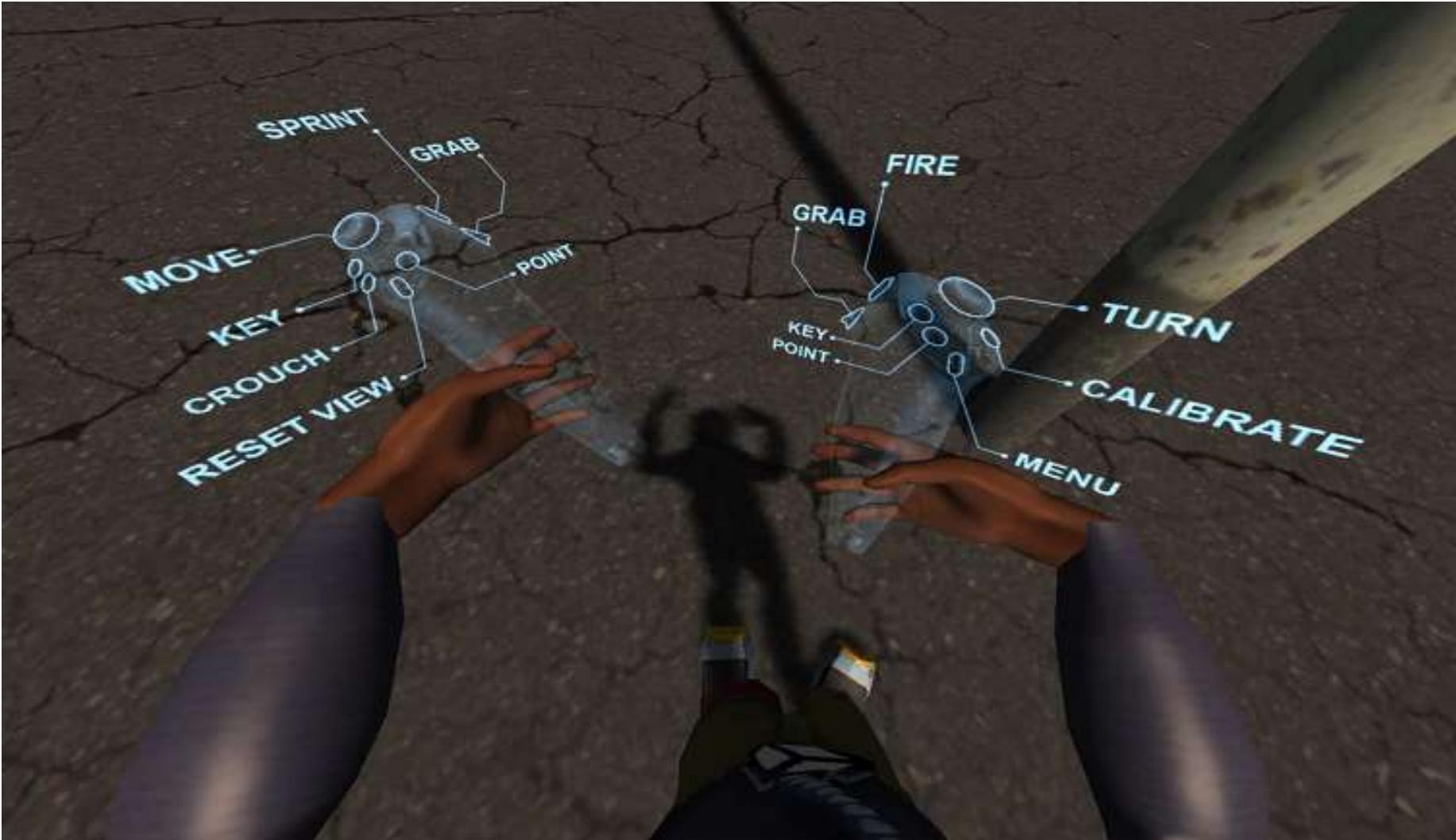
Interactions are easiest to learn where there is an **obvious understandable mapping** between controls, action, and the intended result

Useful even when the person is not directly holding the thing being manipulated

Mappings from **hardware to interaction techniques** defined by software are especially important for VR

Often an input device will have a natural mapping to one technique but poor mapping to another technique

Mapping Signifiers in the Hands



Jason Jerald, PhD



Trainexus  nextgen
Interactions

 @TheVRBook

Compliance

The **matching of sensory feedback** with input devices across time and space

Improves user **performance and satisfaction**

Results in **perceptual binding**

- ✓ Interaction feels as if interacting with a single coherent object

Visual-vestibular compliance is especially important for reducing motion sickness

Compliance

Temporal

Spatial

✓ -Directional

- Sensory feedback that matches the **rotation and directional movement** of an input device

✓ -Positional

- Co-location of sensory feedback with the input device position.

✓ -Nulling

- The matching of the initial placement of a virtual object when the corresponding input device **returns to its initial placement**

- Achievable with **absolute input devices but not relative input devices**

Questions: Mappings & Compliance



Are your mappings direct or indirect? Or somewhere in between?

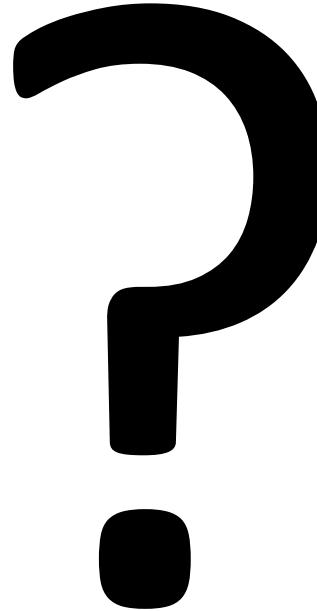
What type of compliance are you utilizing?

What type of compliance is important for your project?

Input Device Classes

	Proprioception	Consistent	Useable in lap or the side	Haptics capable	Unencumbered	Physical buttons	Hands free to interact with real world	General Purpose
Hand								
World-Grounded Devices	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Non-Tracked Hand-Held Controllers		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Bare Hands	✓				✓		✓	✓
Tracked Hand-Held Controllers	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Hand Worn	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Non Hand								
Head Tracking	✓	✓					✓	✓
Eye Tracking							✓	
Microphone			✓		✓		✓	✓
Full-Body Tracking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Treadmills	✓	✓			✓		✓	65

The Most Important Input Device?



The Most Important Input Device!

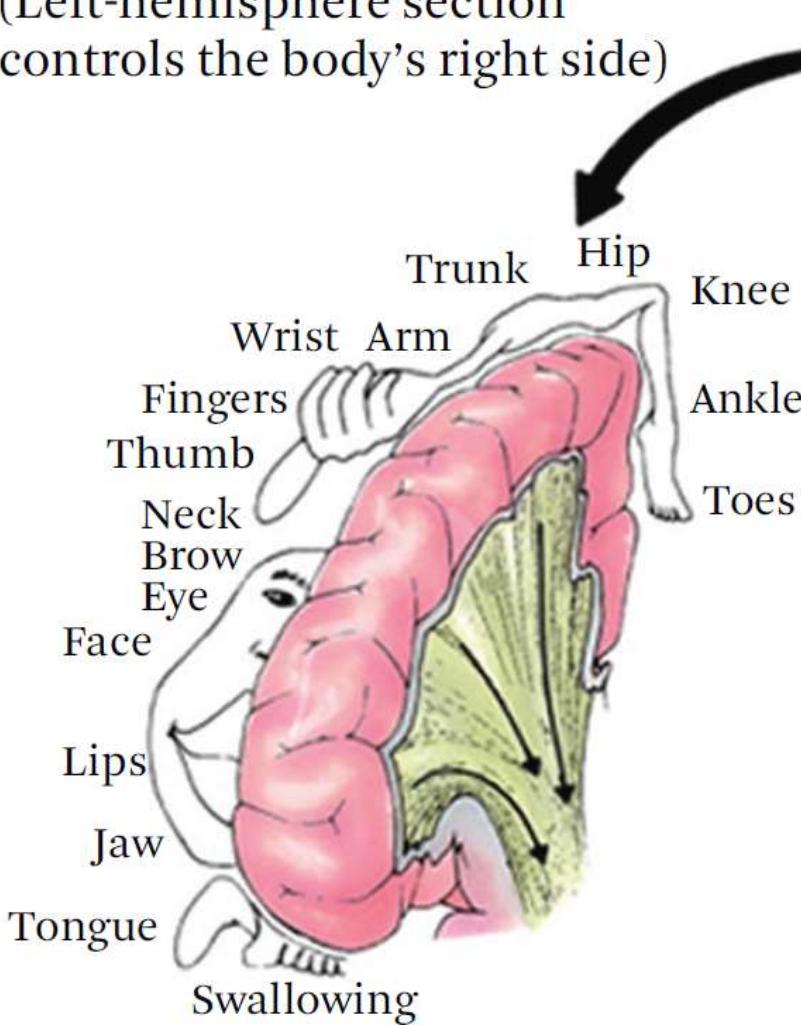
The Human Hands!

- ✓ Large proportion of **sensory and motor cortex devoted to the hands**
- ✓ Hand-tracking technology is simply **the mediator that brings the hands into VR**

The Homunculus

Output: Motor cortex

(Left-hemisphere section
controls the body's right side)



Output: Sensory cortex

(Left-hemisphere section receives
input from the body's right side)

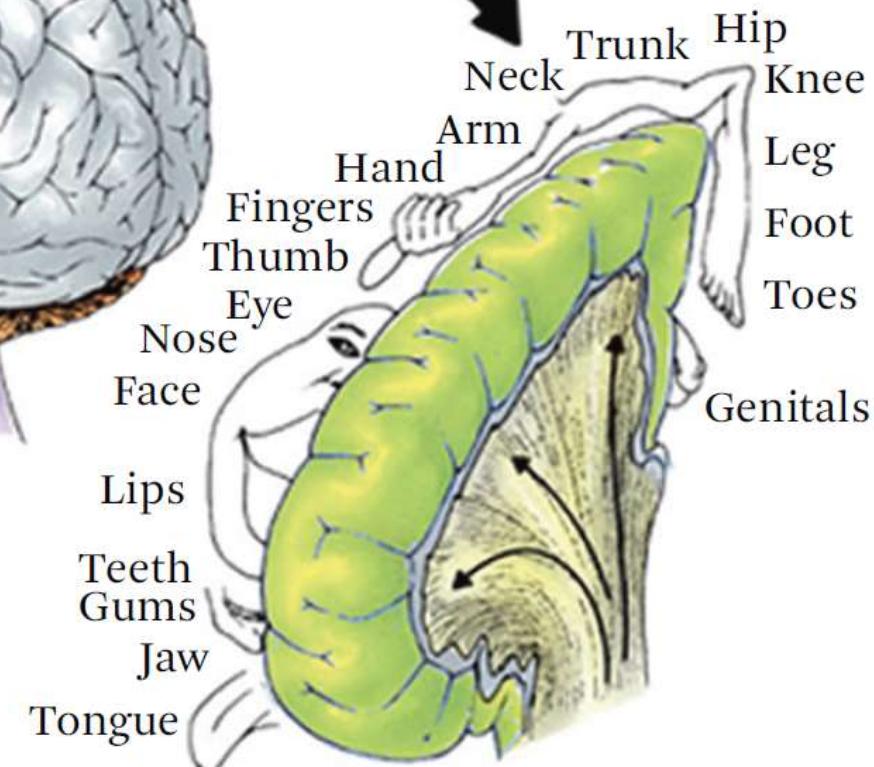
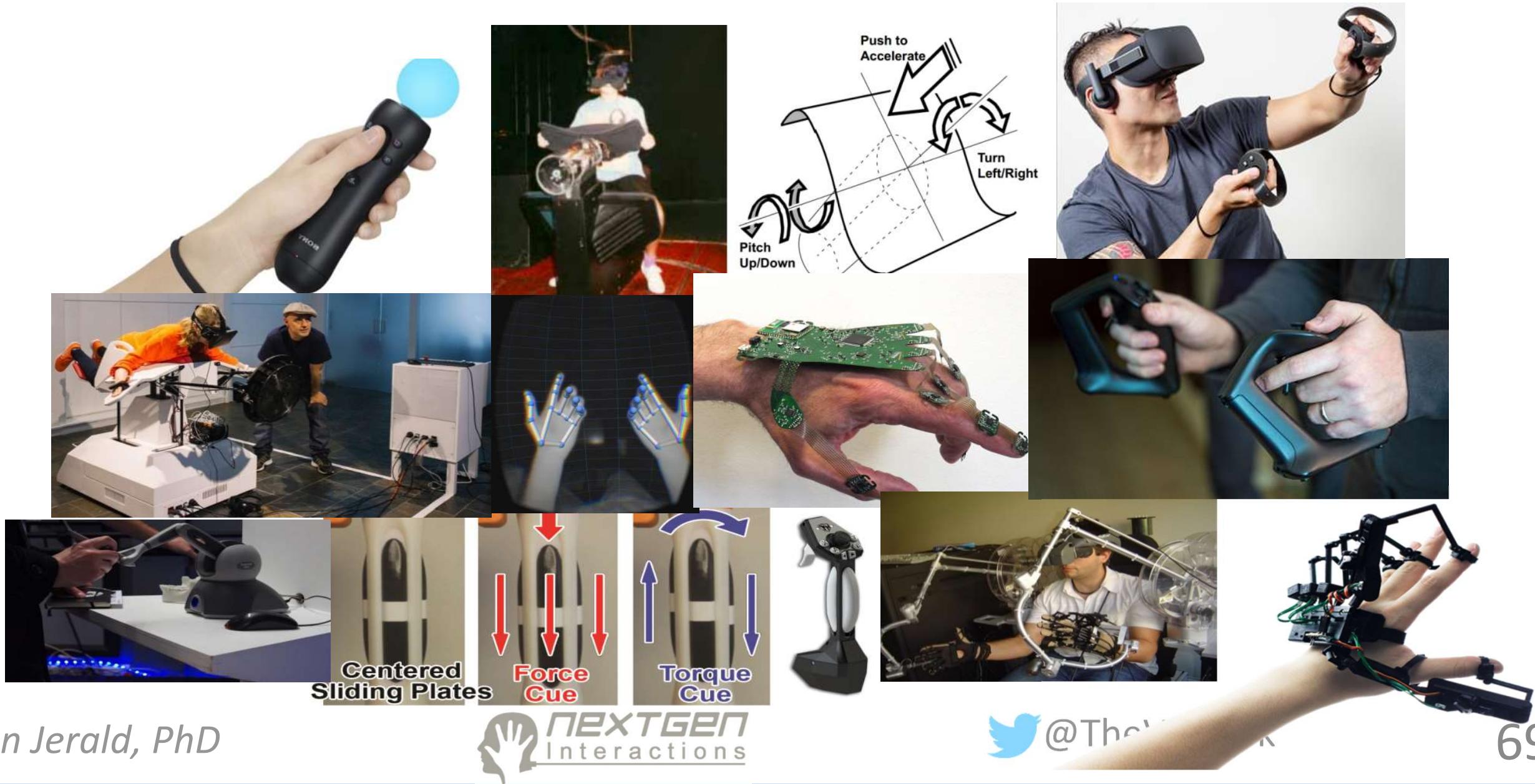


Image Courtesy of The VR Book (based on Burton [2012])

VR Hand Input Devices



Controllers vs. Bare Hands

Controllers

- + Highly reliable
- + Buttons
- + Capability to add haptics
- ± Physical prop appropriate for some tasks

Bare Hands

- + Can fully touch/interact with physical objects
- Computationally intense
- Physics challenges
 - Line of sight and volume
 - lighting
- Determination of intent
 - Difficult even if we had perfect systems

Buttons vs. No Buttons

Buttons

- ± Abstract interactions
- + Reliable
- + Physical feedback
- + Immediate

No Buttons

- ± Less abstract
- + High level of realism
- + Multiple points of continuous motion

Direct vs. Indirect Gestures

Direct

- + Immediate (no delay)
- ± Structural (no interpretation)
- + Convey spatial information

Examples

- Pushing an object
- Selection via pointing

Indirect

- + Convey semantic meaning
Symbolic, pathic, and affective info
- System often interprets over a period of time
Start of gesture not sufficient

Examples

- Sign language
- Marking menus

Bare Hands are Difficult!

Possible answers

- ✓ Choose appropriate use cases
- ✓ Multimodal interaction
- ✓ Lots of experimentation

Bimanual Classifications

Hand Symmetric

Synchronous

- ✓ Pushing on a large object with both hands

Asynchronous

- ✓ Climbing a ladder

Hand Asymmetric

Non-dominant hand

- ✓ Subconsciously provides a comfortable reference frame
- ✓ Gross movements
- ✓ Positioning a piece of paper or peeling a potato

Dominant hand

- ✓ Precise control

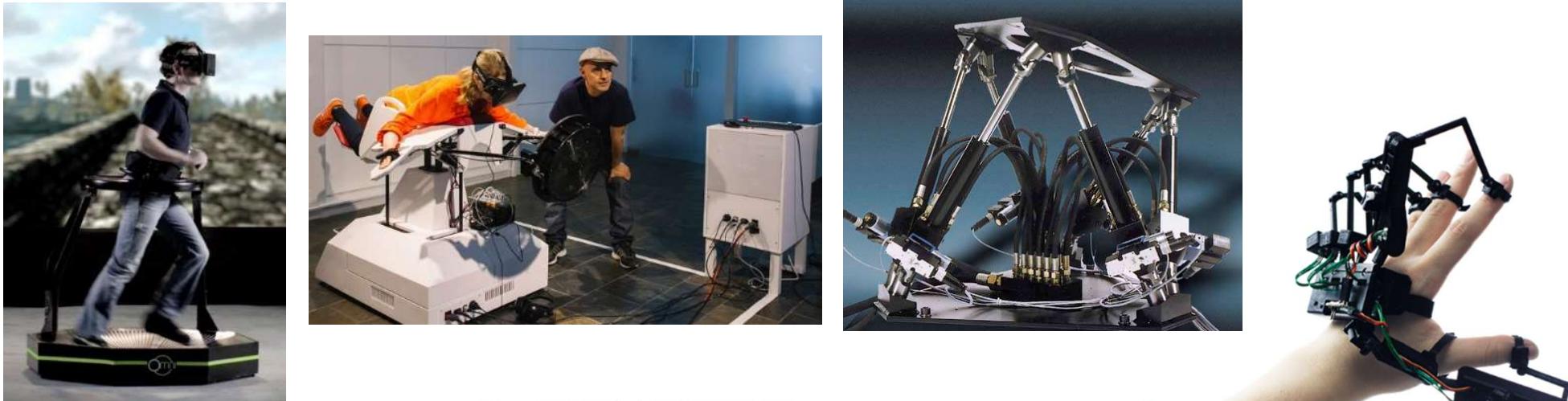
Tracked Hand-held controllers



The Evolution of Tracked Controllers



Haptics and Motion Devices



Jason Jerald, PhD

Questions: Hands



What type of hand tech (if any) are you using?

Is that tech the best choice given your situation?

- ✓ Are you trying to force something that does not fit the technology you are using?
- ✓ If you can't change your tech, could you change your goals and interactions to fit that tech?

Reference Frames

Head

Torso

Virtual World

Real World

Hands

Eyes



Image Courtesy of NextGen Interactions

Head Reference Frame

Cyclopean eye & HMD
reference Frame

Gaze-directed selection

Most often used when hand
tracking unavailable

Minimize visual cues

Careful of porting game HUDs



Image Courtesy of NextGen Interactions

Torso Reference Frame

Moves and rotates with the body

- ✓ Whether virtual or physical motion

Takes advantage of proprioception

- ✓ Body Relative Tools
- ✓ Info displays and utility belts

Best when Torso tracked, but can be approximated

Steering

- ✓ Misunderstanding this can result in Call of Duty Syndrome



Image Courtesy of NextGen Interactions

Virtual World Reference Frame

Geographic position and direction

Cognitive maps

Large scale travel

Objects difficult to directly grab/interact

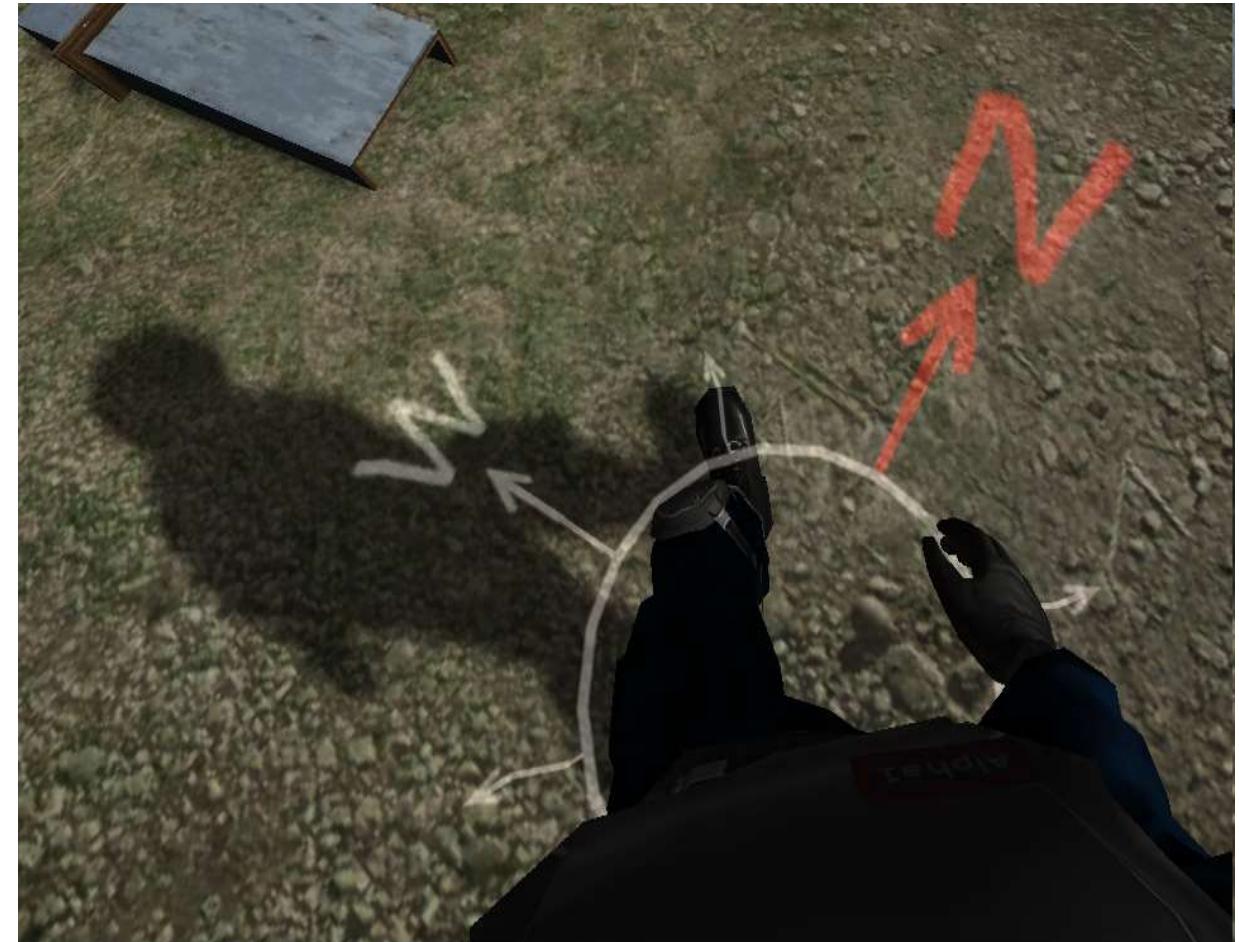


Image Courtesy of NextGen Interactions

Real-World Reference Frame

Independent of user motion

Real World Physical Props

Rest frames

Reduce sickness

E.g., a cockpit

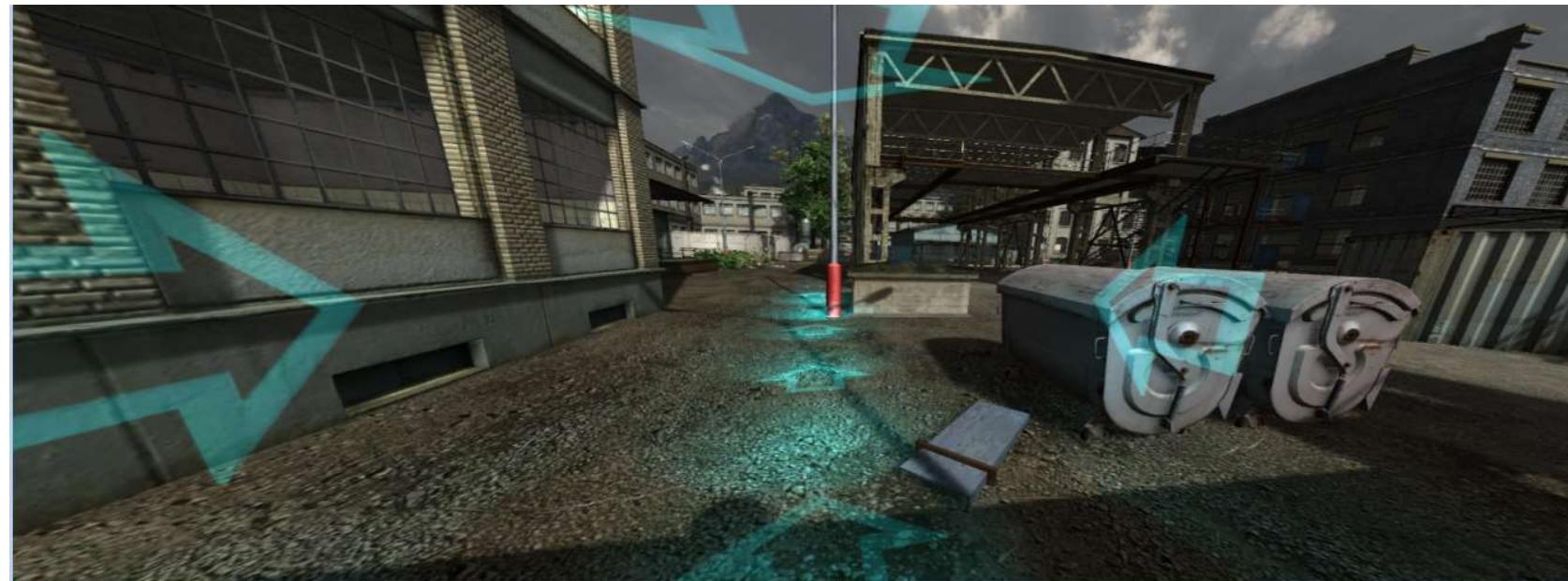


Image Courtesy of NextGen Interactions

Reference Frames Conclusion

Choose wisely what reference frames
you put your interfaces in!

Questions: Reference Frames



What reference frames might be useful for you?

What are some disadvantages & advantages of those reference frames for your design?

Interaction Patterns

Selection

- Pointing
- Hand Selection
- Image-Plane
- Volume Based

Manipulation

- Direct Hand
- Proxy
- 3D Tool

Viewpoint Control

- Walking
- Steering
- 3D Multi-Touch
- Automated

Indirect Control

- Widgets & Panels
- Non Spatial

Compound

- Pointing Hand
- World-in-Miniature
- MultiModal

The Pointing Pattern



The First Hand Pointing Technique

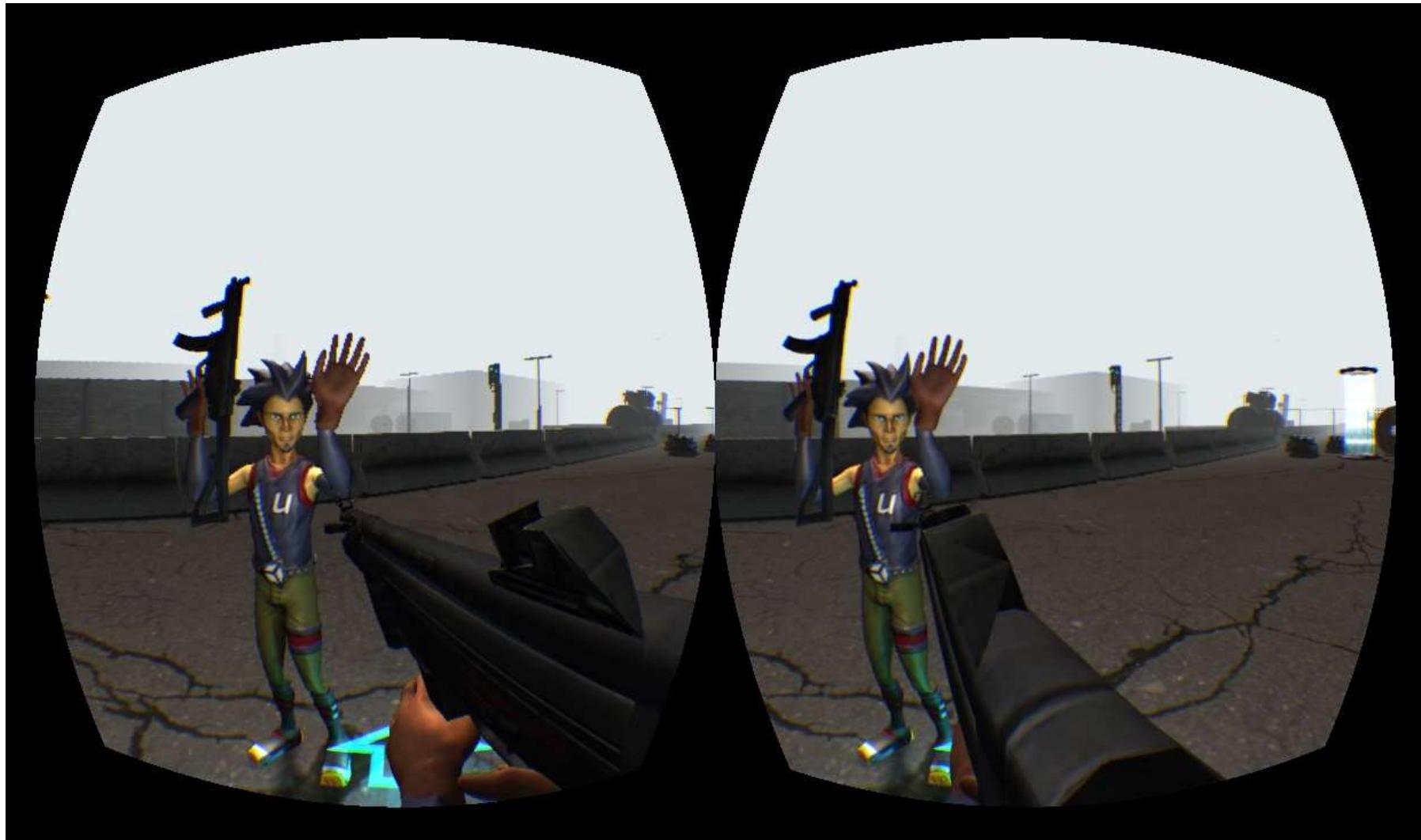


Image courtesy of NextGen Interactions

The Pointing Pattern

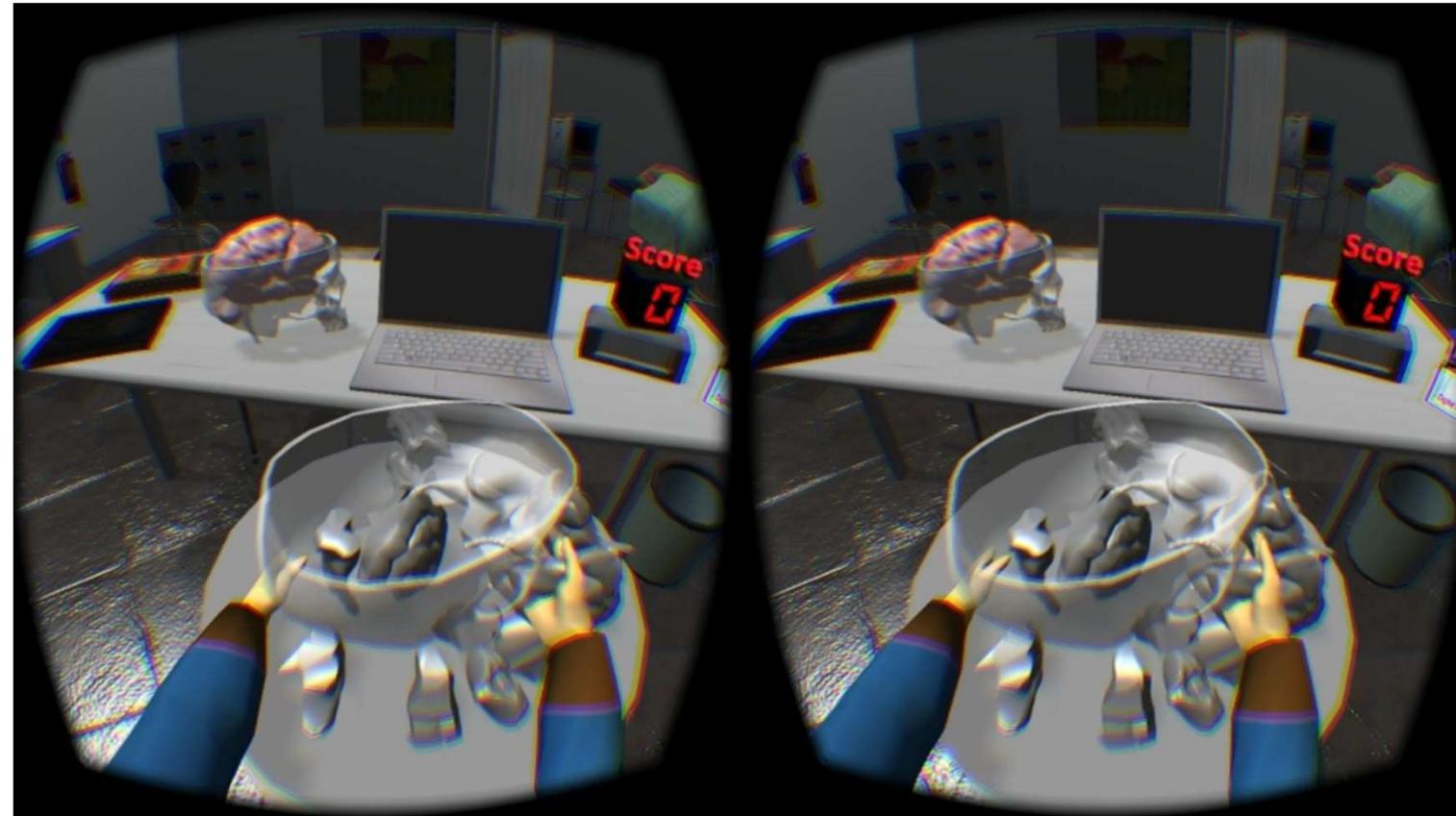


Cure Fred by *Digital ArtForms*

Hand Selection/Manipulation Patterns

(video)

Hands with Arms



Cure Fred by *Digital ArtForms*

The Image-Plane Pattern

The Head-Crusher
Technique

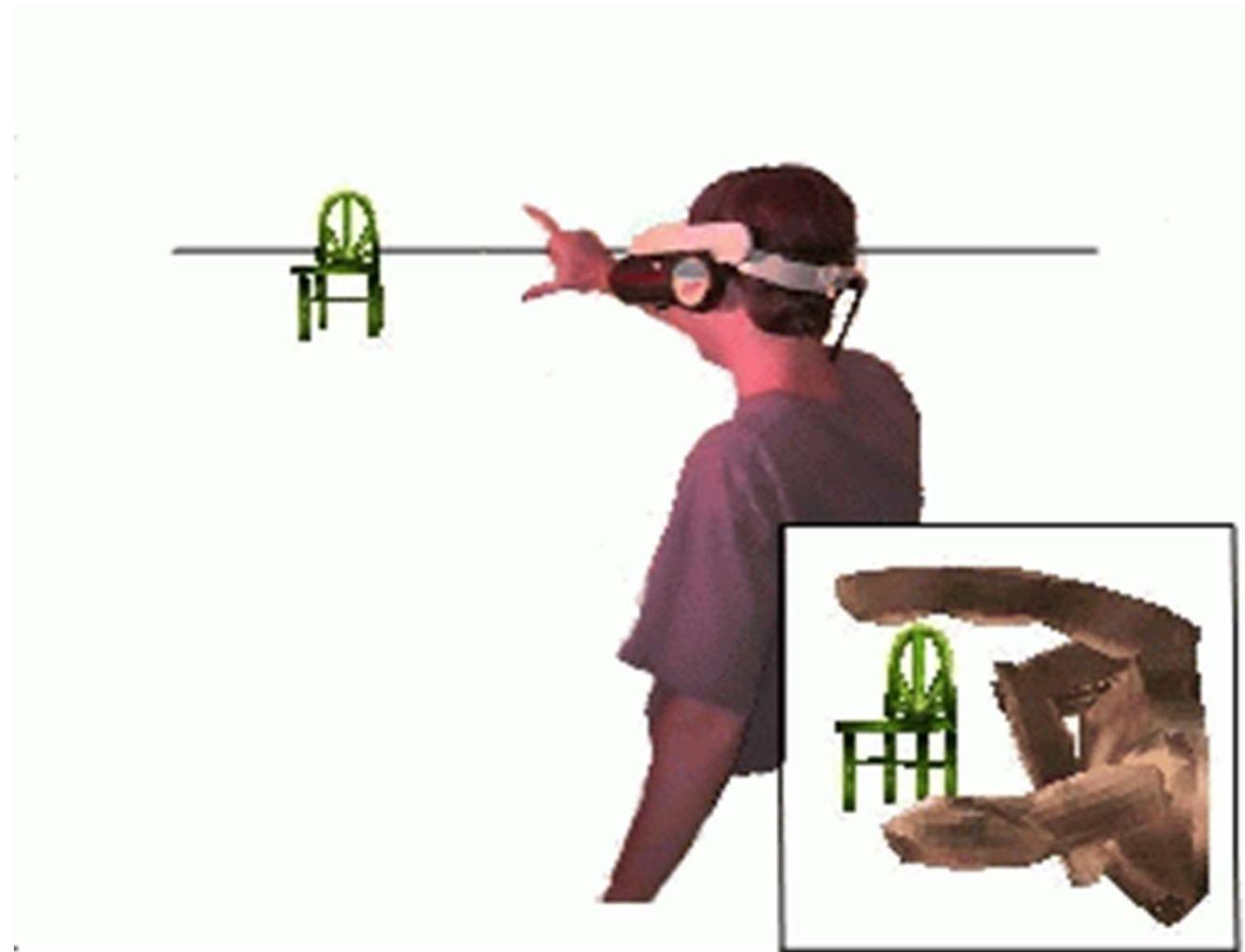


Image Courtesy of The VR Book (from Pierce et al. [1997])

Widgets & Panels Pattern

2D Desktop
Integration
Technique



Image Courtesy of The VR Book (from Taylor et al. [2010])

Hand-held panels

Buttons

Sliders

Dials

Color cubes



MakeVR by  **SIXENSE™** & *Digital ArtForms*

Viewpoint Control Patterns

Walking

- Real walking

- Redirected walking

- Walking in place

Steering

- Dynamic field of view

- Dynamic rest frames

3D Multitouch

- Pinch, pull/push, rotate, and zoom

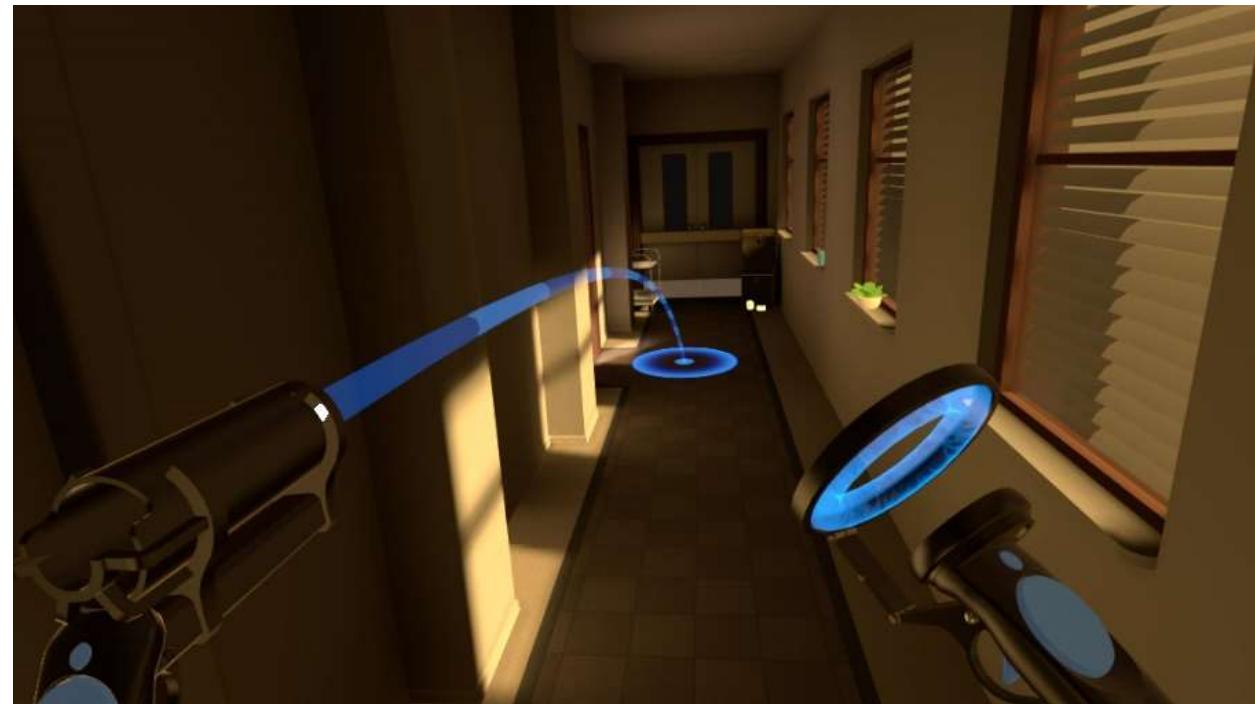
Automated

- Teleportation

Automated Pattern—Teleportation

Popularized by
CloudHead Games
Zero motion sickness
Results in disorientation

Bowman & Hodges (1997)



Budget Cuts by Neat Games

Case Study: Teleportation as Locomotion

Goal: ArchViz demo with a roomscale Vive experience

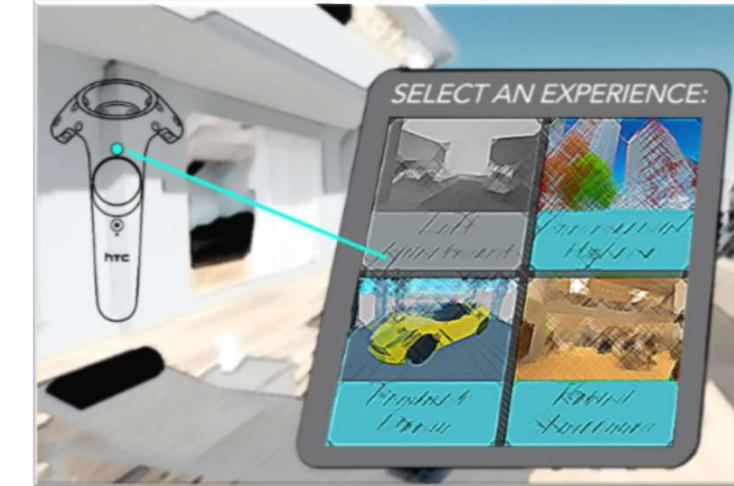
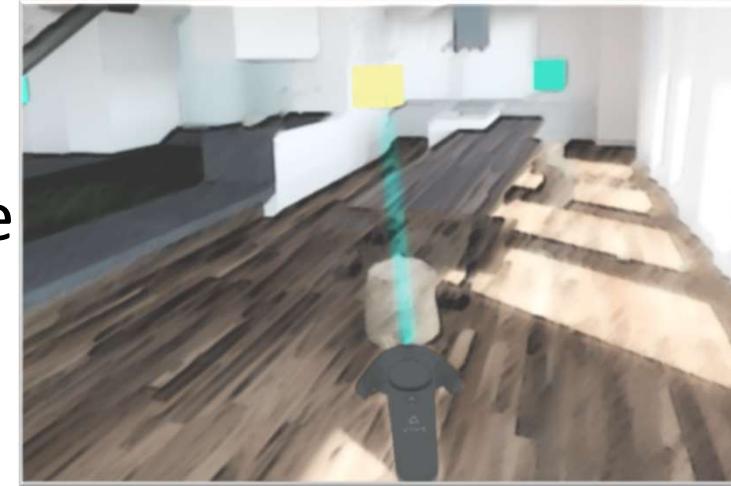
Needed a way for user to navigate through the visualizations past the boundary of the chaperone

Implemented simple node-based teleportation using a laser emitter from the controller

Used menu button as scene switcher, and thumbpad button as Scene Configurator

Users find laser pointer very intuitive, with low mental load

Jason Jerald, PhD



The Walking Pattern

Walking Pattern

- ✓ A form of viewpoint control
- ✓ Specific walking techniques

real-world walking

redirected walking

walking in place

treadmill walking

The Walking Pattern

The Treadmill Technique



VR Apocalypse by



nextgen
Interactions

with the Virtuix Omni

Jason Jerald, PhD



@TheVRBook

3D Multitouch Pattern

An extension of **2D Multitouch**

Manipulate the world as an object

Reduces sickness

Solves gorilla arm

Low interaction fidelity

Appropriate for **abstract non-realistic interactions**

Content/data independent

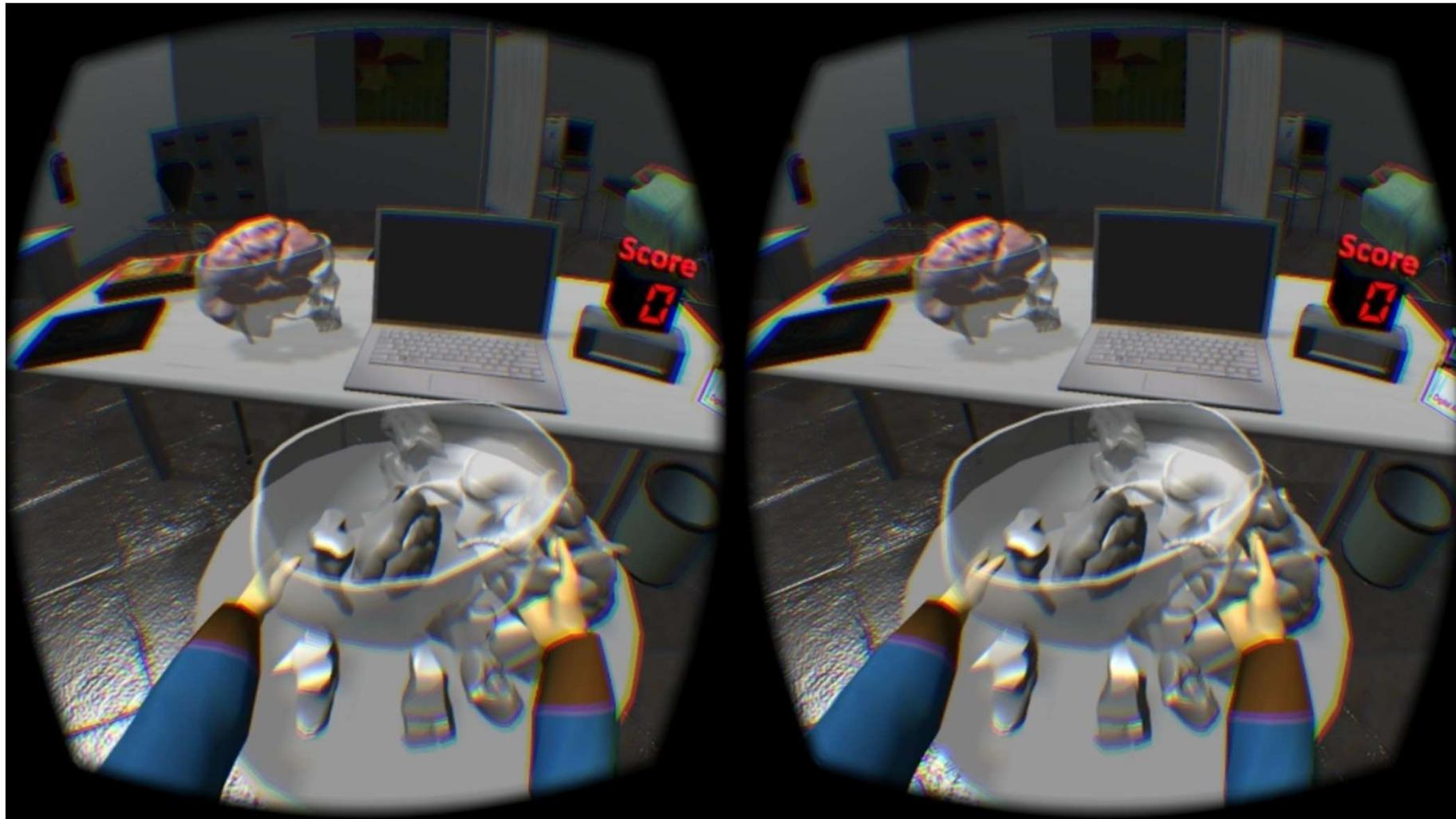
Emergency preparedness

Medical Visualization

MakeVR

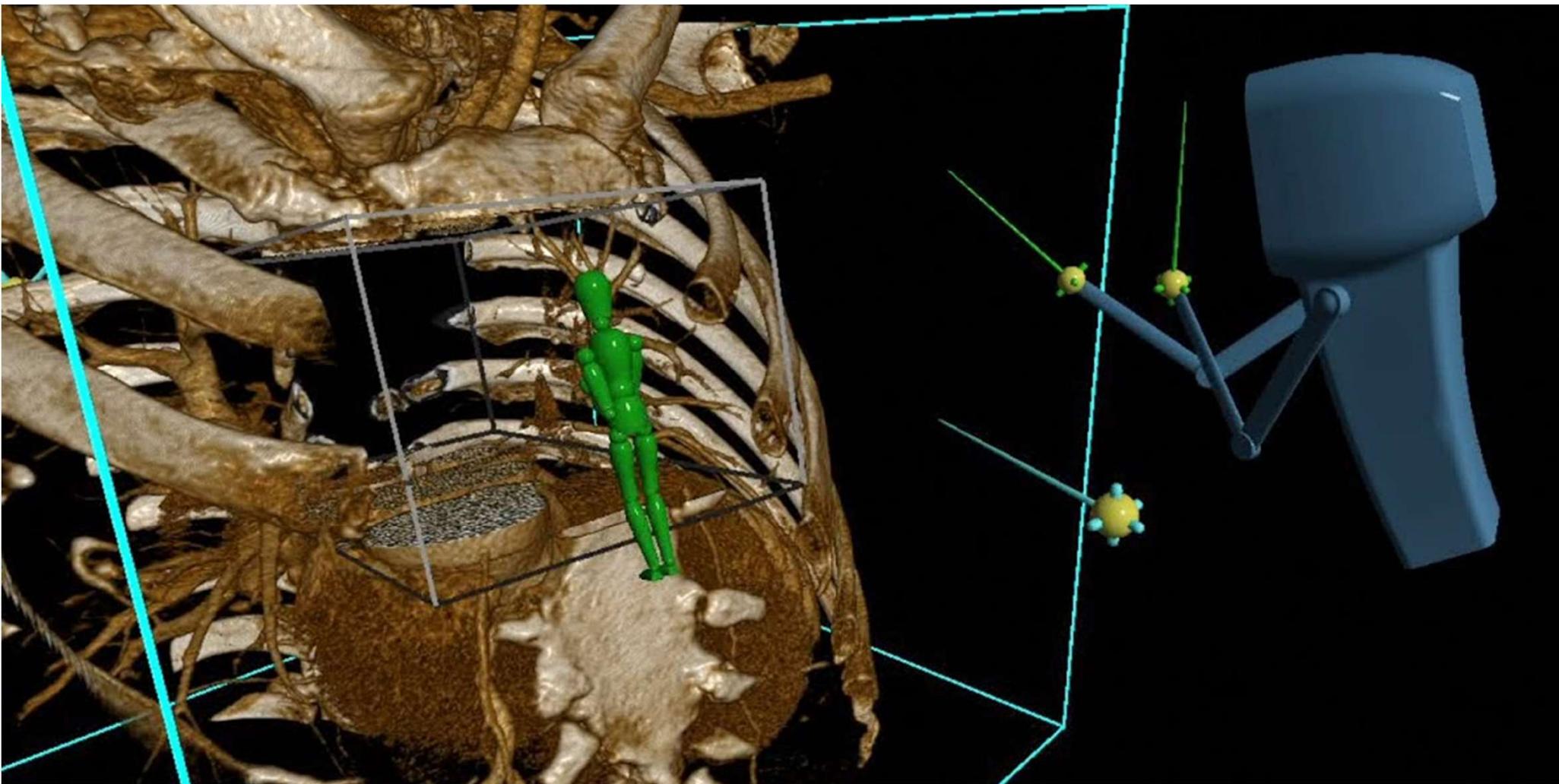
(video)

3D Multitouch: Education



Cure Fred by *Digital ArtForms*

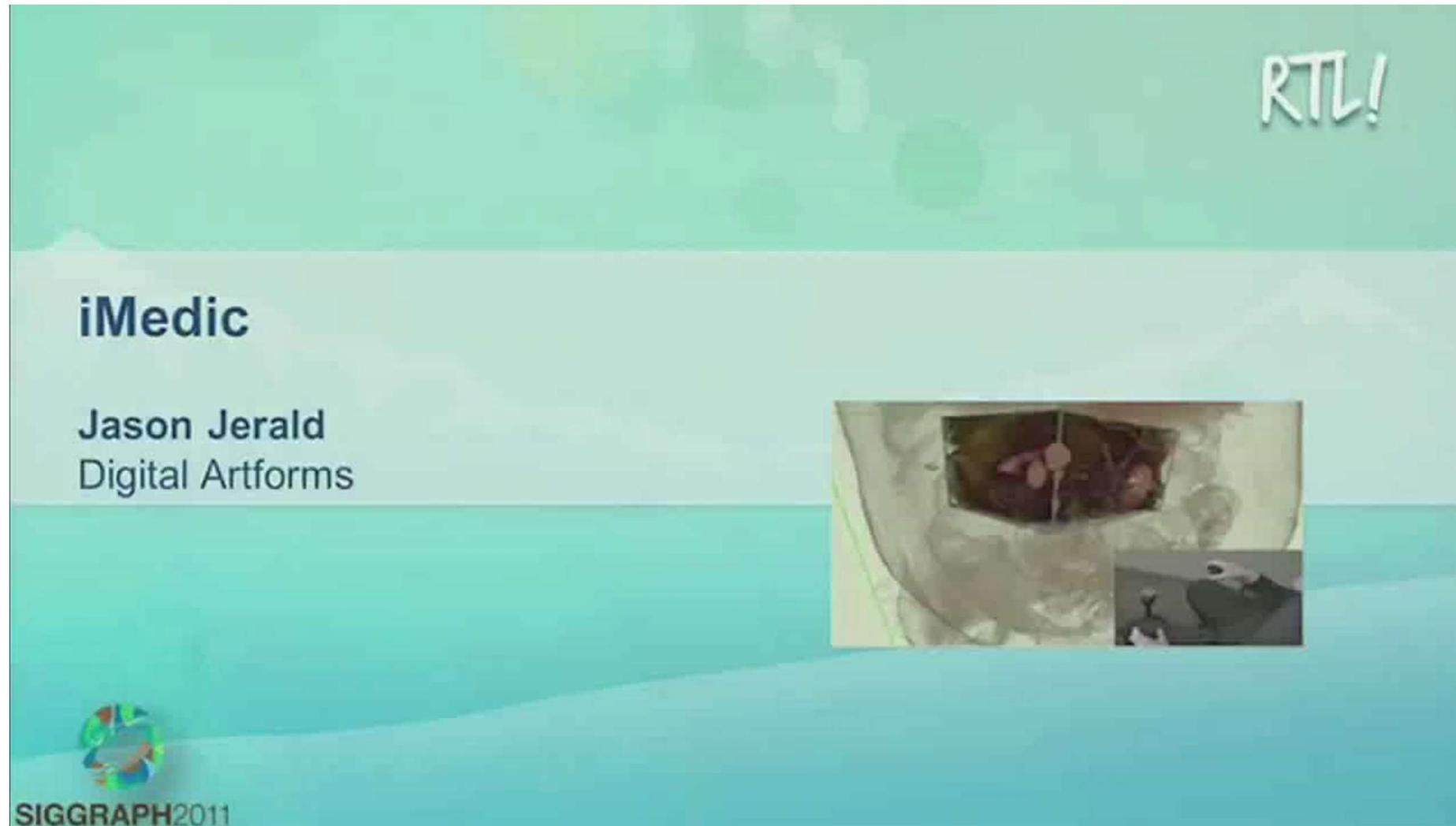
3D Multitouch: Medical Visualization



iMedic by *Digital ArtForms*

(video)

3D Multitouch: Medical Visualization



iMedic by *Digital ArtForms*

Jason Jerald, PhD



@TheVRBook

3D Multitouch: Computer-Aided Design^(video)



MakeVR by  **SIXENSE™** & *Digital ArtForms*

Jason Jerald, PhD



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3D Multitouch: Computer-Aided Design^(video)



MakeVR by  **SIXENSE™** & *Digital ArtForms*

Jason Jerald, PhD



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3D Multitouch: Computer-Aided Design^(video)

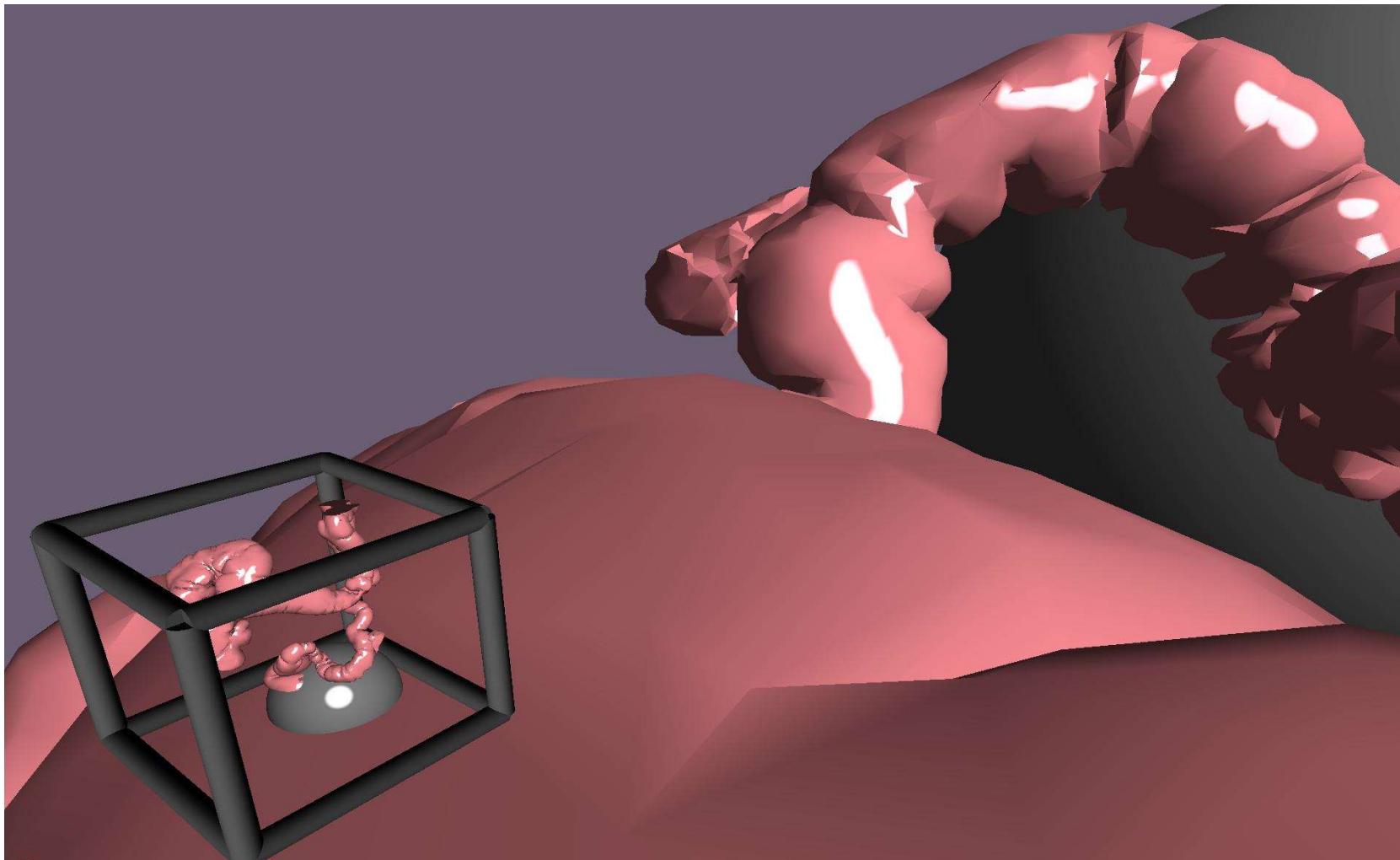
MakeVR Collaborative



MakeVR by  **SIXENSE™** & *Digital ArtForms*



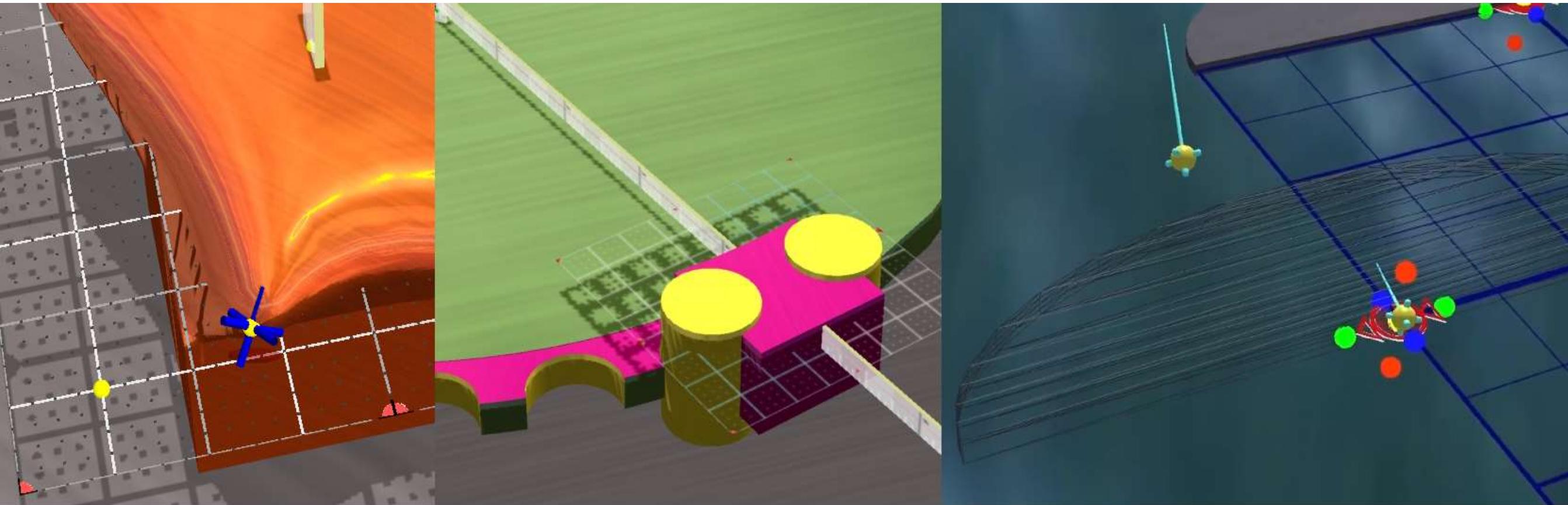
World-in Miniature Pattern



iMedic by *Digital ArtForms*

3D Tools Pattern

The Jigs Technique



MakeVR by  **SIXENSE™** & *Digital ArtForms*

Jason Jerald, PhD



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Questions: Interaction Patterns



Do your interactions fit within any of these patterns? Or they some other pattern?

What additional patterns might you use?

Course Outline

Humans

Interaction

Comfort

Virtual Worlds

Iteration

Comfort

Comfort

Challenges

Safety

VR Sickness

Presence

Examples

Measuring Sickness

Adverse Health Effects—Challenges

Motion sickness

Eye strain

Flicker

Accommodation-vergence
conflict

Occlusion-binocular
Conflict

Aftereffects

Seizures

Physical Fatigue

Headset Fit

Injury

Hygiene

Cables and Safety

Spend the time to arrange cables nicely. Cable tie them to desk, etc. And then leave them.

Provide harnesses, railing, and/or padding

Constrain/limit haptics

Use a human spotter

Safe audio levels

Sit in a Chair



Warning Grids

Wall collision warnings in real-world reference frame

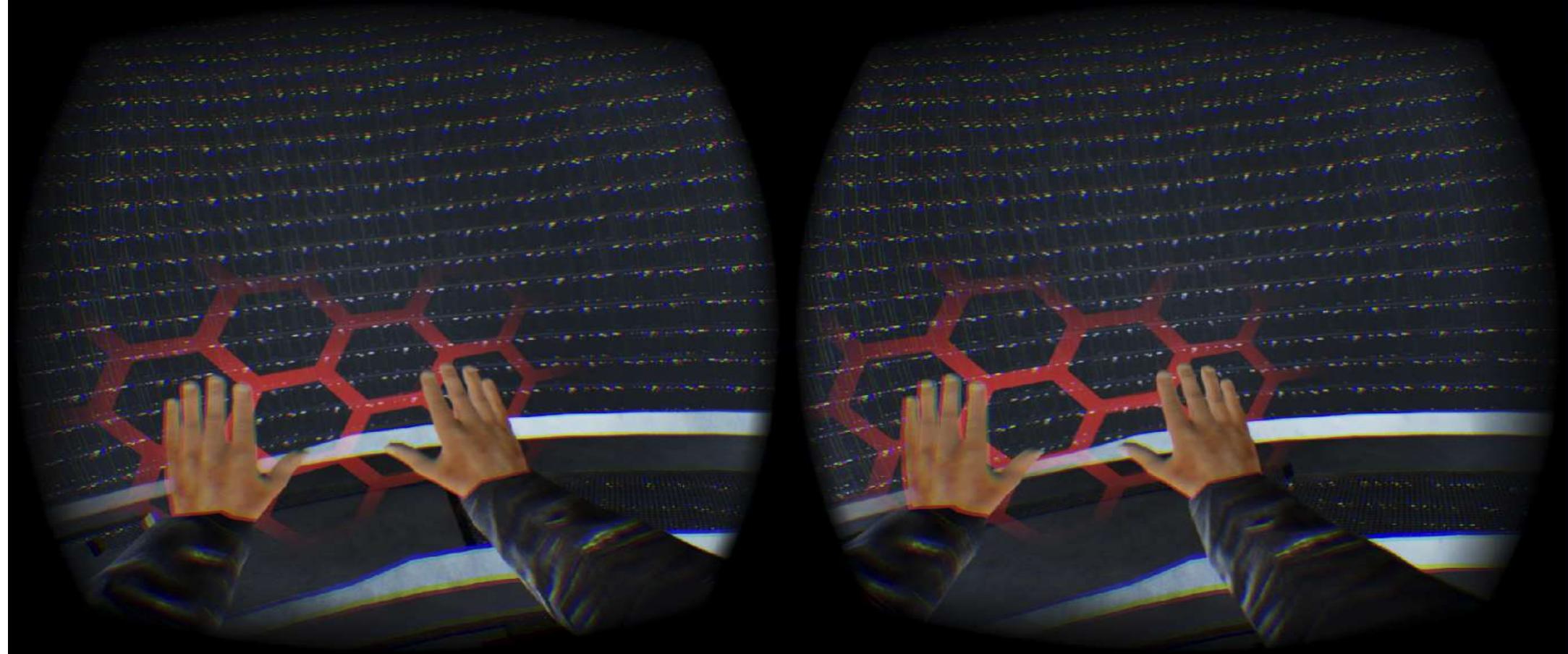


Image Courtesy of Sixense

 @TheVRBook

Factors of Adverse Health Effects

System

Latency
Calibration
Tracking accuracy & precision
Field of View
Refresh rate
Judder & Flicker
Display response & persistence
Vergence/Accommodation
Stereoscopic cues
Real world peripheral vision
Fit/Weight/center of mass
Motion platforms
Hygiene
Temperature
Dirty screens

Individual

History of motion sickness
VR experience
Health
Thinking about Sickness
Belief
Gender
Age
Mental model/expectations
Interpupillary distance
Not knowing
Sense of balance
Flicker fusion frequency threshold
Real-world task experience
Migraine history

Application

Frame rate
Locus of control
Visual acceleration
Physical head motion
Duration
vection
Binocular-occlusion conflict
Virtual rotation
Gorilla arm
Standing vs sitting
Rest frames
Binocular disparity
VR entrance & exit
Luminance
Repetitive strain



VR Sickness—The Basics

The biggest problem is **motion sickness**

- ✓ **Varies greatly** from person to person

As users:

- ✓ **Stop** at the first sign of sickness
- ✓ Be **well-hydrated** and **not hungry, not hung over**

As demoers

Remind users **not to “tough it out”**

Wipe down equipment periodically

As creators:

Make interactions **comfortable**

Initial signs of discomfort may very well lead to sickness

Provide **cues to induce mental models** of motions **that users expect**

Minimize accelerations (e.g., roller coaster motions) and virtual rotations

Maintain a **high frame-rate** (90Hz)

Motion Sickness Theories

Sensory Conflict

Evolution/Poison Theory

Postural Instability Theory

Rest Frame Hypothesis

Eye Movement Theory



Sensory Conflict

Most widely accepted theory

Sensory modalities don't match

Occurs mostly from **vestibular-visual conflict**

- ✓ Your eyes see movement but your inner ear doesn't feel it

Evolutionary/Poison Theory

Treisman 1977

Properly perceiving our body's motion and the motion of the world around us is critical for survival.

If we get conflicting information from our senses, it means something is not right with our perceptual system

The **brain interprets sensory mismatch as a sign of intoxication**, and triggers a **nausea/vomiting defense** program to **protect** itself.

Protection occurs by

discouraging movement (e.g., laying down until we recover)

ejecting the poison via sweating and vomiting

causing nausea and malaise (a slight or general feeling of not being healthy or happy) in order to **discourage us from ingesting similar toxins** in the future

Postural Instability Theory

Riccio and Stoffregen 1991

Claims

- ✓ **Predicts sickness occurs when we have don't have strategies for maintaining postural stability**
- ✓ Postural instability both **precedes motion sickness** and is necessary to produce symptoms
- ✓ **Length and magnitude of unstableness** are predictors of motion sickness and the intensity of symptoms.

Example:

- ✓ Visual scene moving towards user
- ✓ User leans forward to compensate
- ✓ User becomes less balanced
- ✓ Motion sickness increases

Rest Frame Hypothesis

Prothero and Parker, 2003

Claims

- ✓ Conflicting orientation and motion cues are not the problem
- ✓ **Unstable frames of reference** implied by cues are the problem

For AR, the real world is the rest frame. Most people do not get sick with AR.

Content creation tips

- ✓ **Make rest frame cues consistent** whenever possible rather than being overly concerned with making all orientation and all motion consistent.
- ✓ **Set user expectations** of what will and will not move

Rest Frames

Stabilized cues relative to real world

Reduces sensory conflict between what you are seeing and what you are feeling

Example: Cockpit



EVE Valkyrie by CCP Games

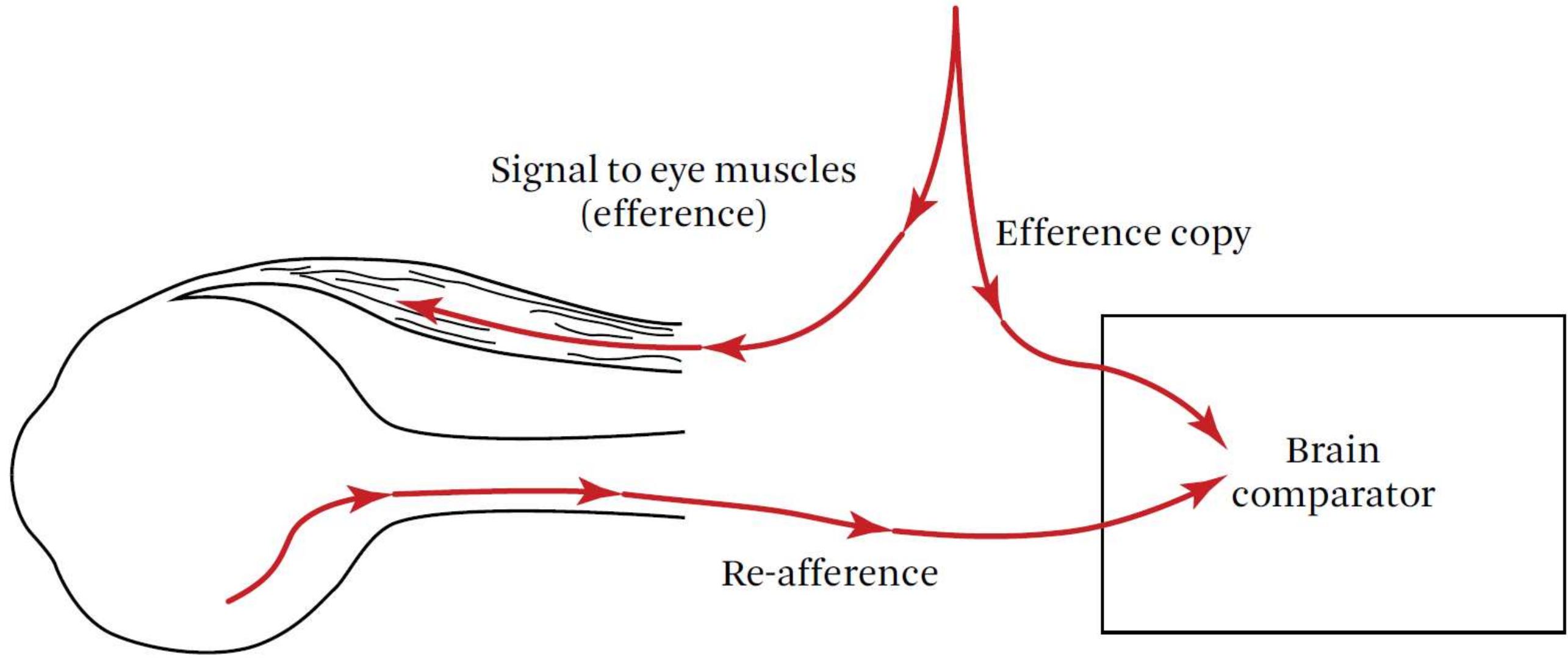
Eye Movement Theory

Problems occur from unnatural eye motion required to keep the scene's image stable on the retina

Do the eyes follow the motion of an unstable scene or does the scene motion move on the eyes?

Likely some combination of both depending on the situation and individual

Afference and Efference



A Unified Model of Motion Sickness

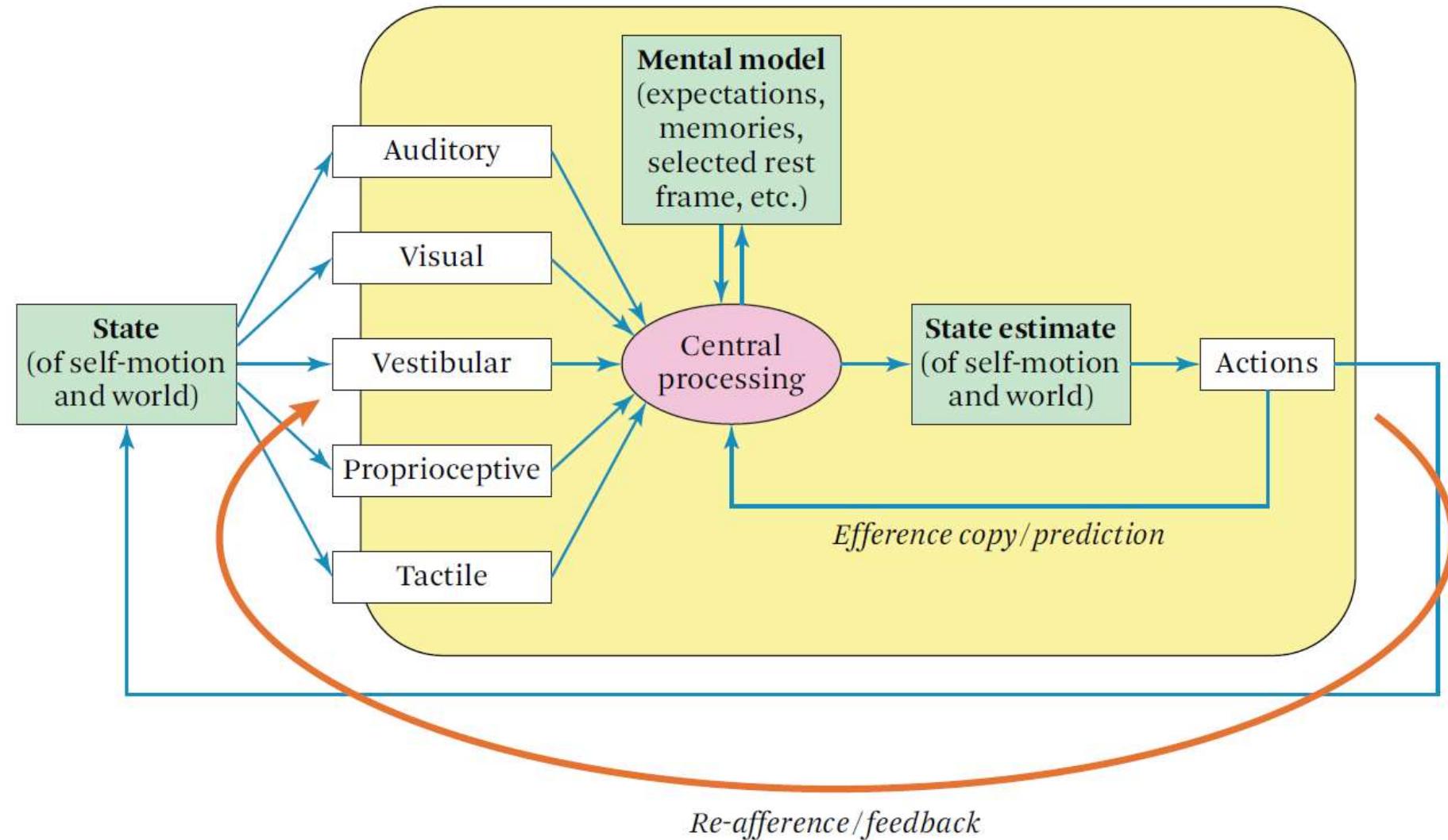


Image Courtesy of The VR Book (adapted from Razzaque [2005])

Locomotion

Physical walking

Teleportation

Dynamic field of view

Dynamic rest frames

Physical Walking

Real-world one-to-one walking

Treadmill walking

Redirected walking

Walking in place



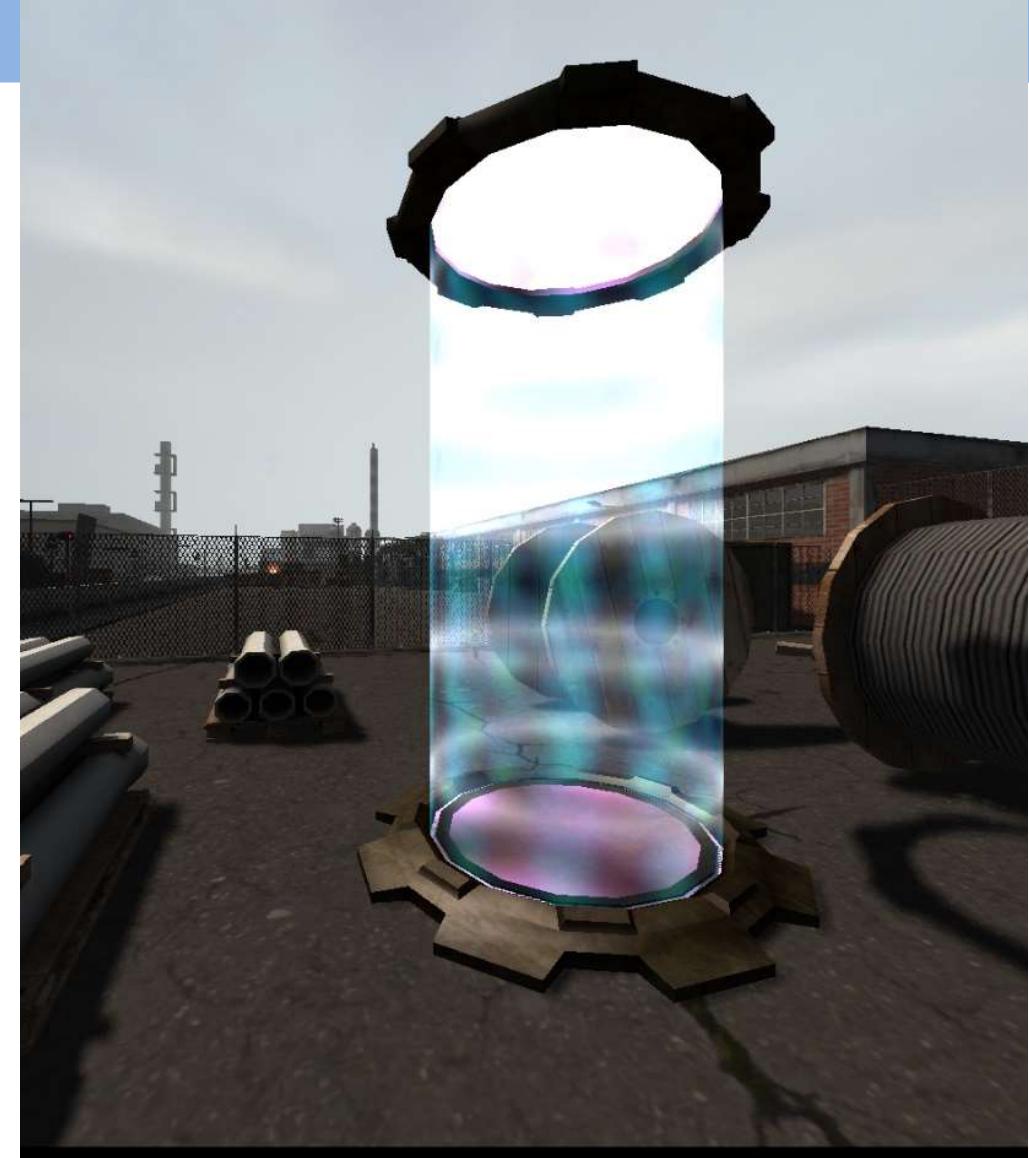
Teleportation

Popularized by
CloudHead Games

Zero motion sickness

Results in disorientation

Bowman & Hodges 1997



Trainexus by  **nextgen**
Interactions

Dynamic Field of View

Fernandes & Feiner 2016



Image Courtesy of NextGen Interactions

Rest Frames

Stabilized cues relative to real world [Prothero & Parker \(2003\)](#)

Reduces sensory conflict between what you are seeing and what you are feeling

Example: Cockpit



EVE Valkyrie by CCP Games

360 Rest Frame Example

Detroit Speed 1972 Corvette Stingray [360 VR]



LEVR
STUDIQS

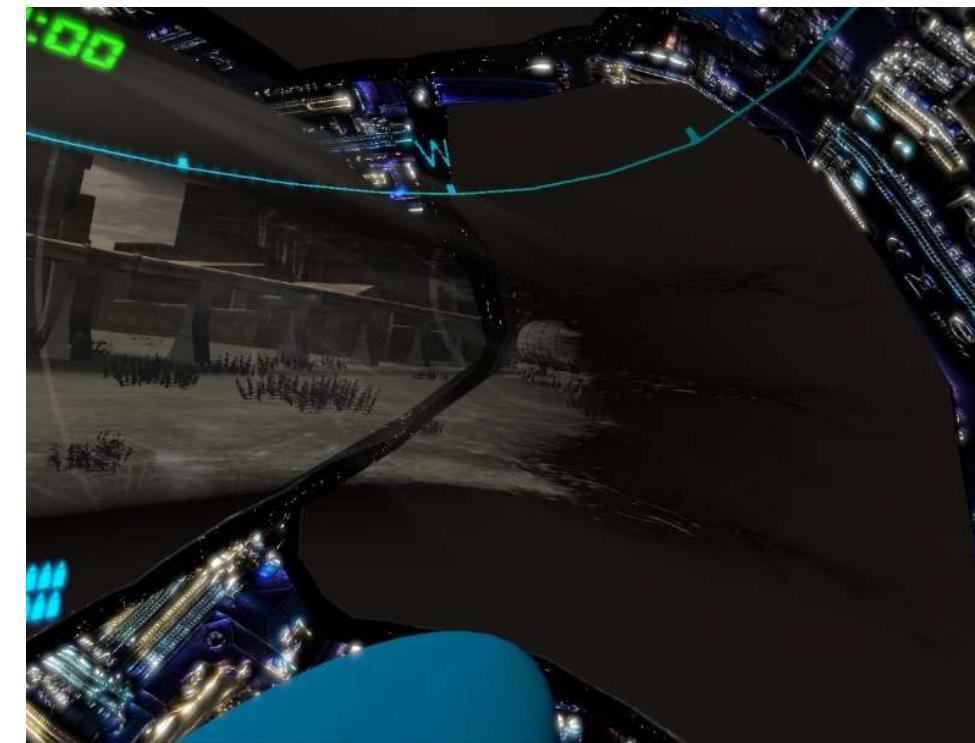
Dynamic Rest Frames



Looking ahead no DRF



Looking ahead with DRF



Looking to Right with DRF

VR APOCALYPSE by  **nextgen**
Interactions

Questions: Comfort



What might you do to increase comfort?

Measuring sickness

Kennedy Simulator Sickness Questionnaire

Observation

In-app questionnaires

Physiological measures

Nausea

General discomfort
Increased salivation
Sweating
Nausea
Difficulty concentrating
Stomach awareness
Burping

Disorientation

General Discomfort
Fatigue
Headache
Eyestrain
Difficulty focusing
Difficulty concentrating
Blurred vision

Nausea

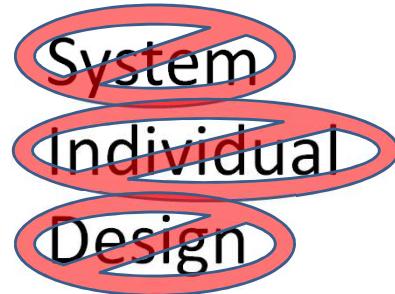
Difficulty focusing
Nausea
Fullness of Head
Blurred Vision
Dizzy (eyes open)
Dizyy (eyes closed)
Vertigo
Stomach awareness
Burping

Kennedy SSQ

The standard

But there are problems

- ✓ 3 factors of adverse health affects



- ✓ Large variance

Requires a large number of participants

- ✓ Subjective / Biased

- ✓ No score criteria of what is acceptable

In-App Questions

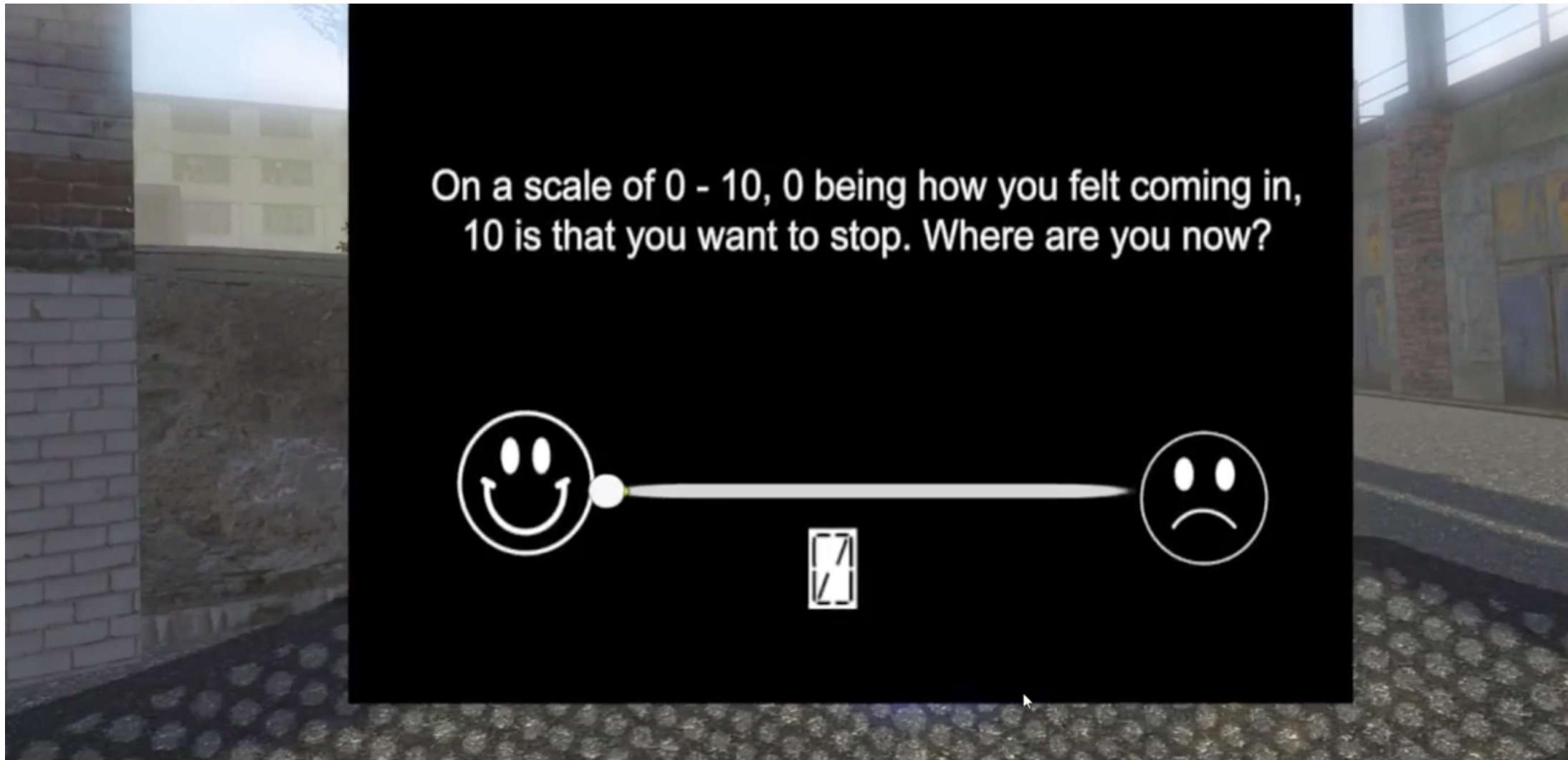


Image Courtesy of NextGen Interactions & Duke University



Physiological Measures

A wide open research area (i.e., your PhD!)

Postural stability?

Heart rate?

Skin conductance?

EEG?

Conclusions for Comfort

We know a lot about adverse health effects

We don't know a lot about adverse health effects

Expect to do LOTS of experimentation & iteration!

Questions: Comfort



How might you measure comfort?

What would those numbers tell you?

Course Outline

Humans

Interaction

Comfort

Virtual Worlds

Iteration

Virtual Worlds

Virtual Worlds

Scene space

Depth

Environmental structure

Audio

Collaboration

Story

Art

The Scene

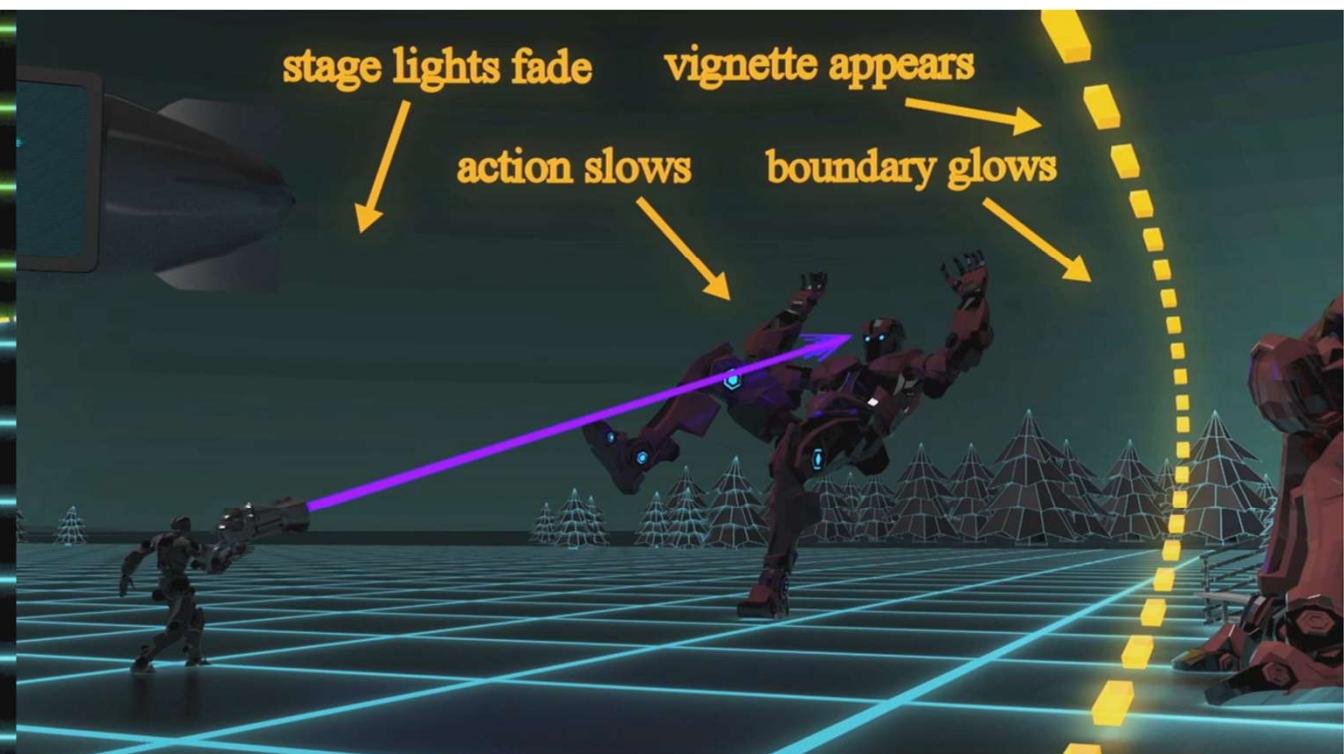
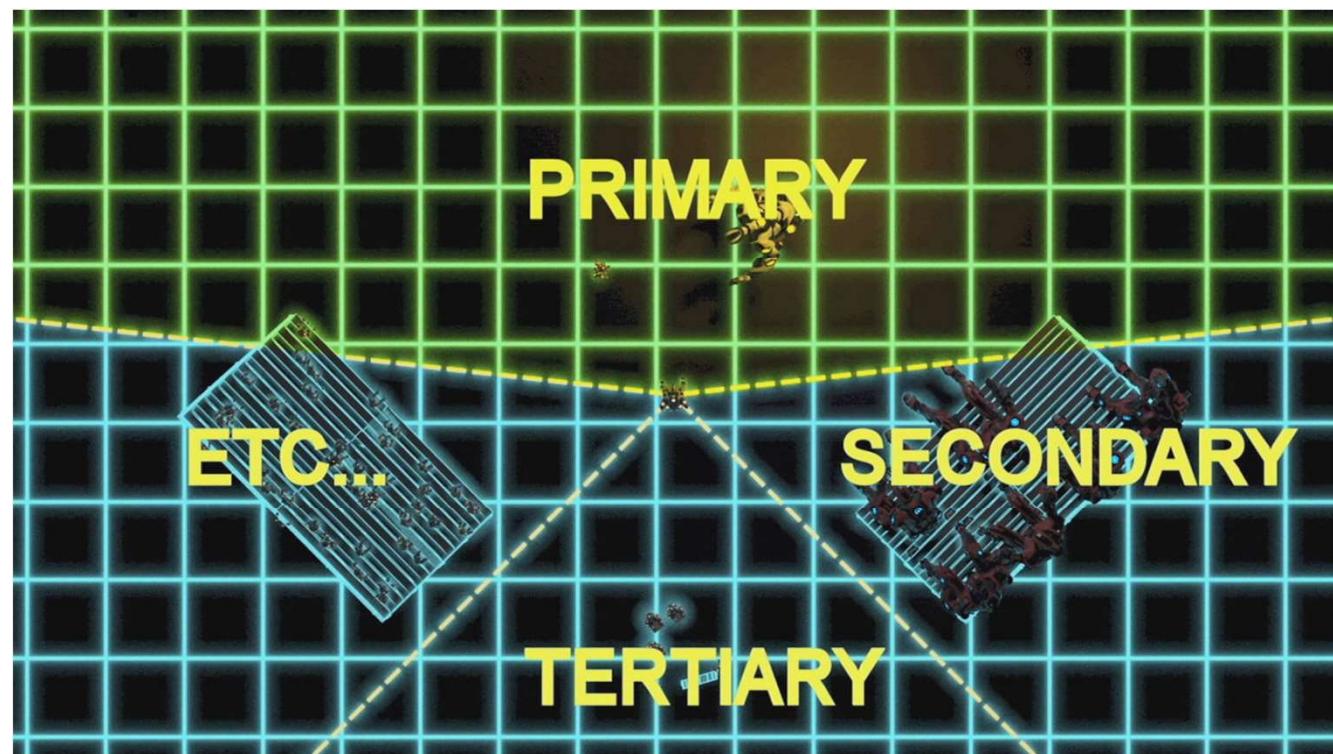
Background

Contextual Geometry

Fundamental Geometry

Interactive Objects

Action Space



Segmenting Space

Personal Space

- ✓ Within ~2 meters
- ✓ Intimate
- ✓ Within arm's reach
- ✓ Direct Interaction

Action Space

- ✓ ~2-20 meters
- ✓ Move, speak, throw

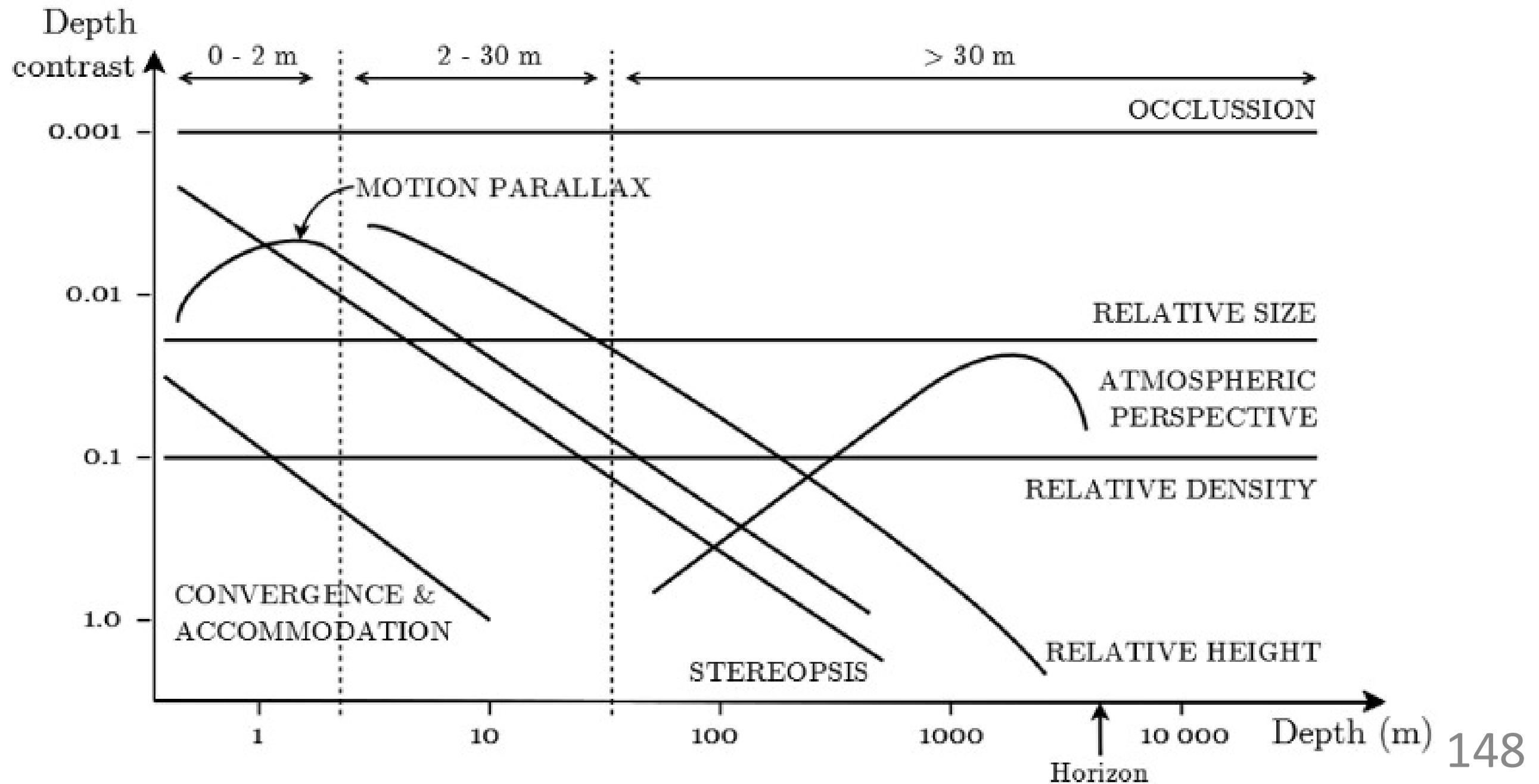
Vista Space

- ✓ Little immediate control
- ✓ Limited Depth cues

Depth Cues

- Pictorial Depth Cues
 - Occlusion
 - Linear perspective
 - Relative/familiar size
 - Shadows/shading
 - Texture gradient
 - Height relative to horizon
 - Aerial perspective
- Motion Depth Cues
 - Motion parallax
 - Kinetic depth effect
- Binocular Depth Cues
- Oculomotor Depth Cues
 - Vergence
 - Accommodation
- Contextual Distance Factors
 - Intended action
 - Fear

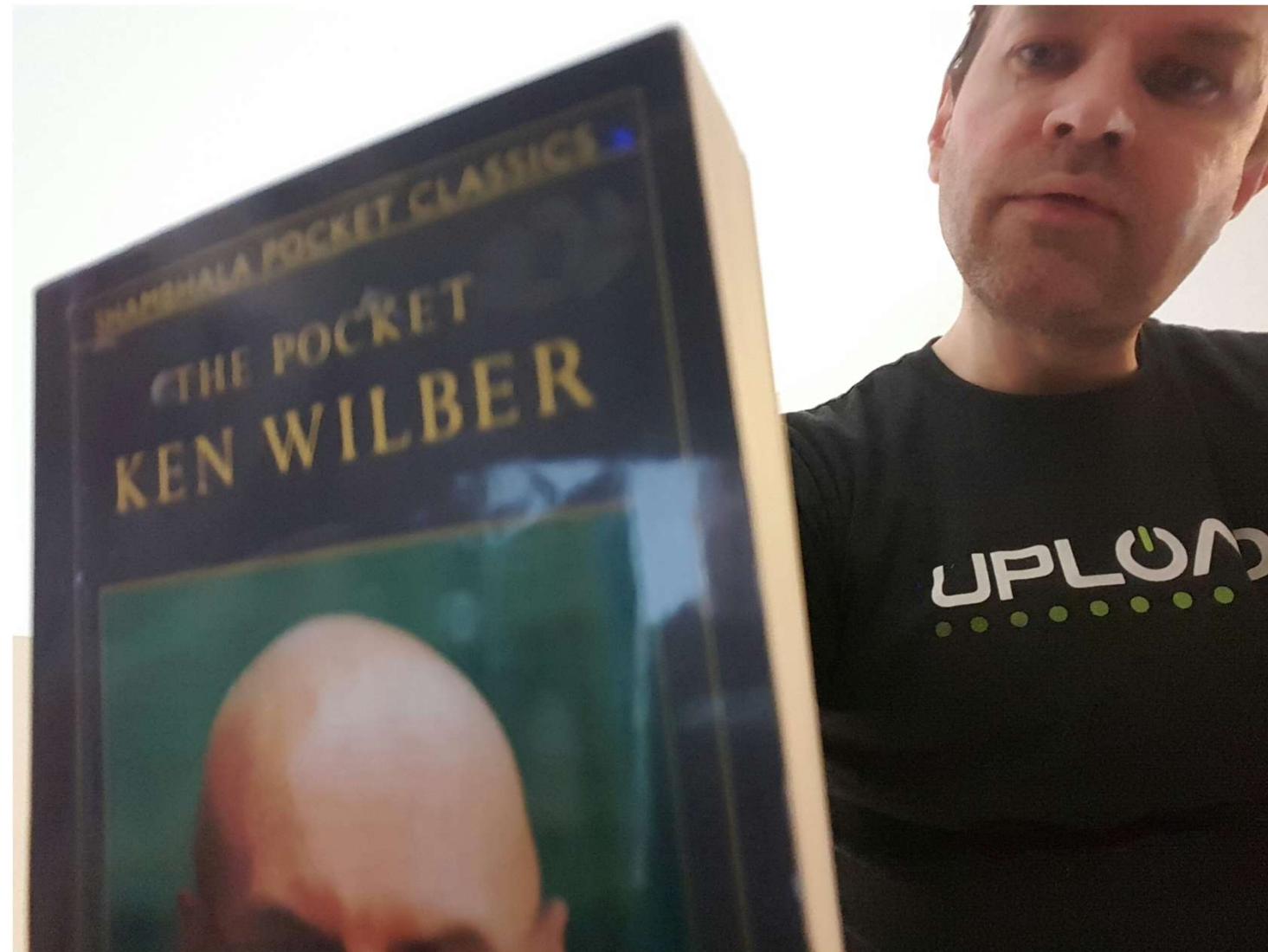
Depth Cue Importance



Depth Cue Importance

Source of Information	Space		
	Personal Space	Action Space	Vista Space
Occlusion	1	1	1
Binocular	2	8	9
Motion	3	7	6
Relative/familiar size	4	2	2
Shadows/shading	5	5	7
Texture gradient	6	6	5
Linear perspective	7	4	4
Oculomotor	8	10	10
Height relative to horizon	9	3	3
Aerial perspective	10	9	8

Depth perception



Depth Perception



Jason Jerald, PhD

Gestalt Perceptual Organization

Simplicity

Continuity

Proximity

Similarity

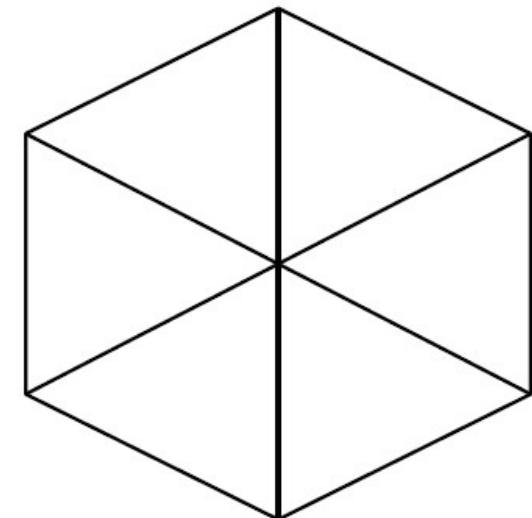
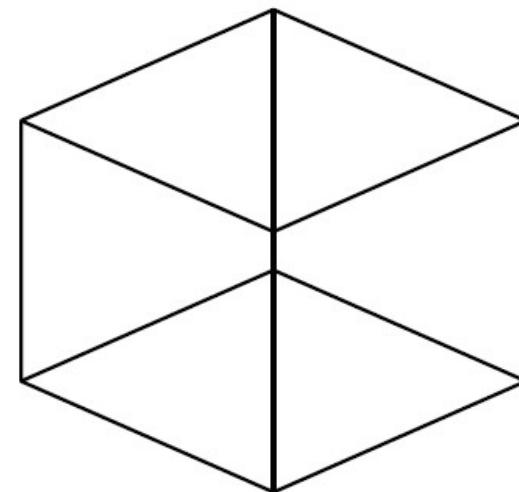
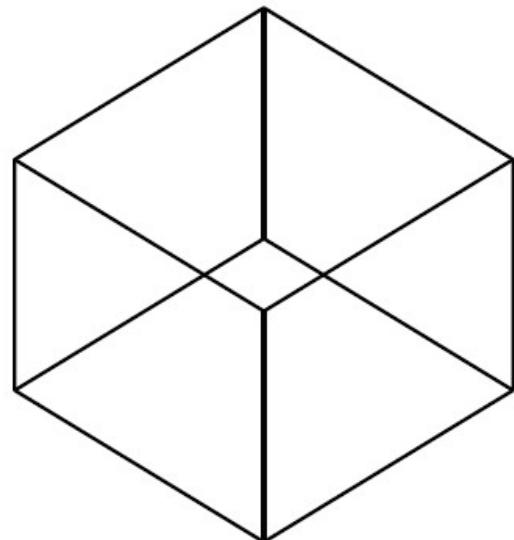
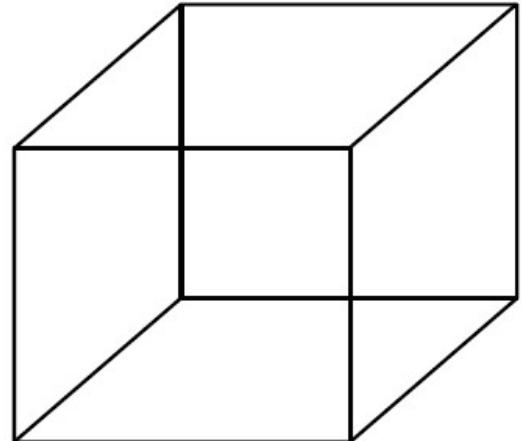
Proximity

Closure

Common Fate

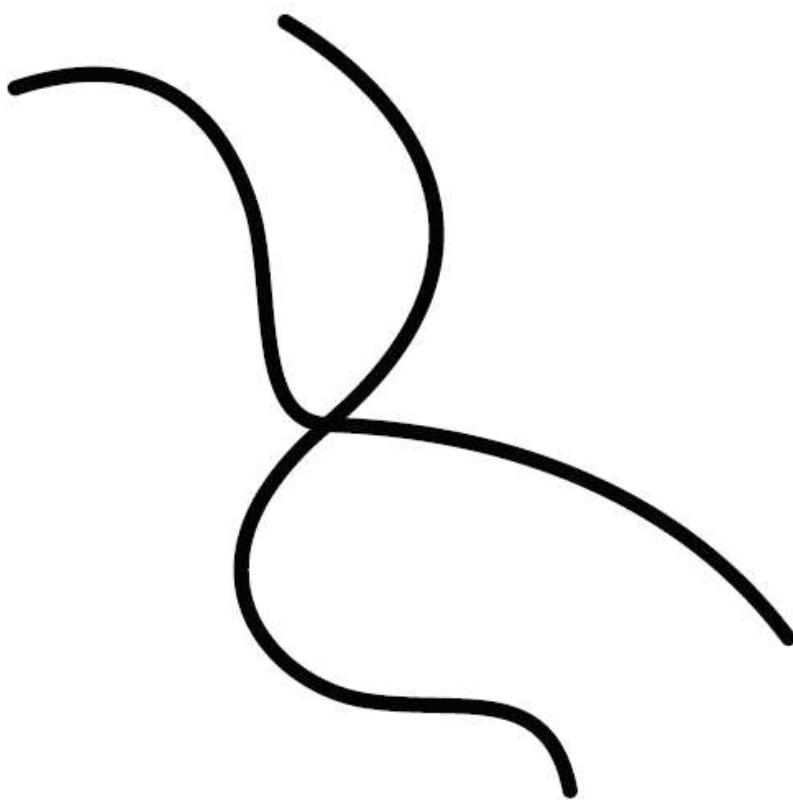
Simplicity

Figures tend to be perceived in their simplest form,
whether 2D or 3D

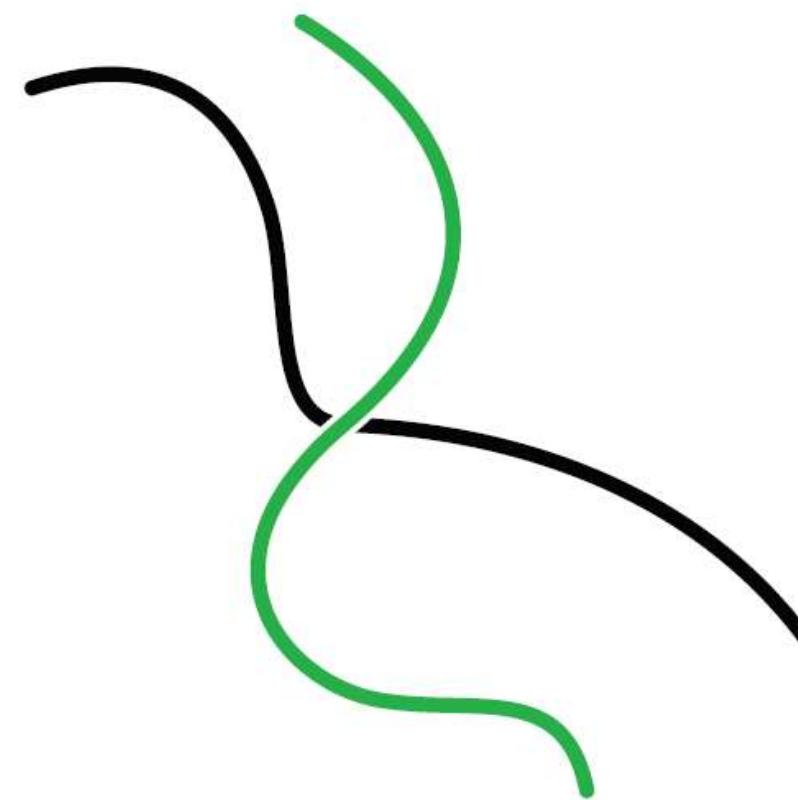


Continuity

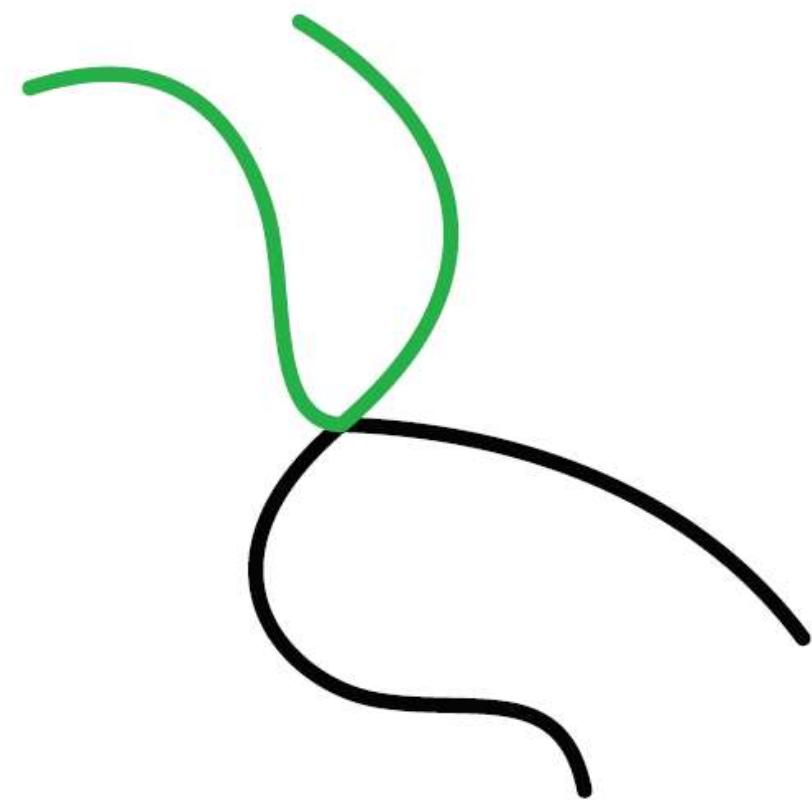
Elements tend to be perceived as following the most aligned or smoothest path.



This ...

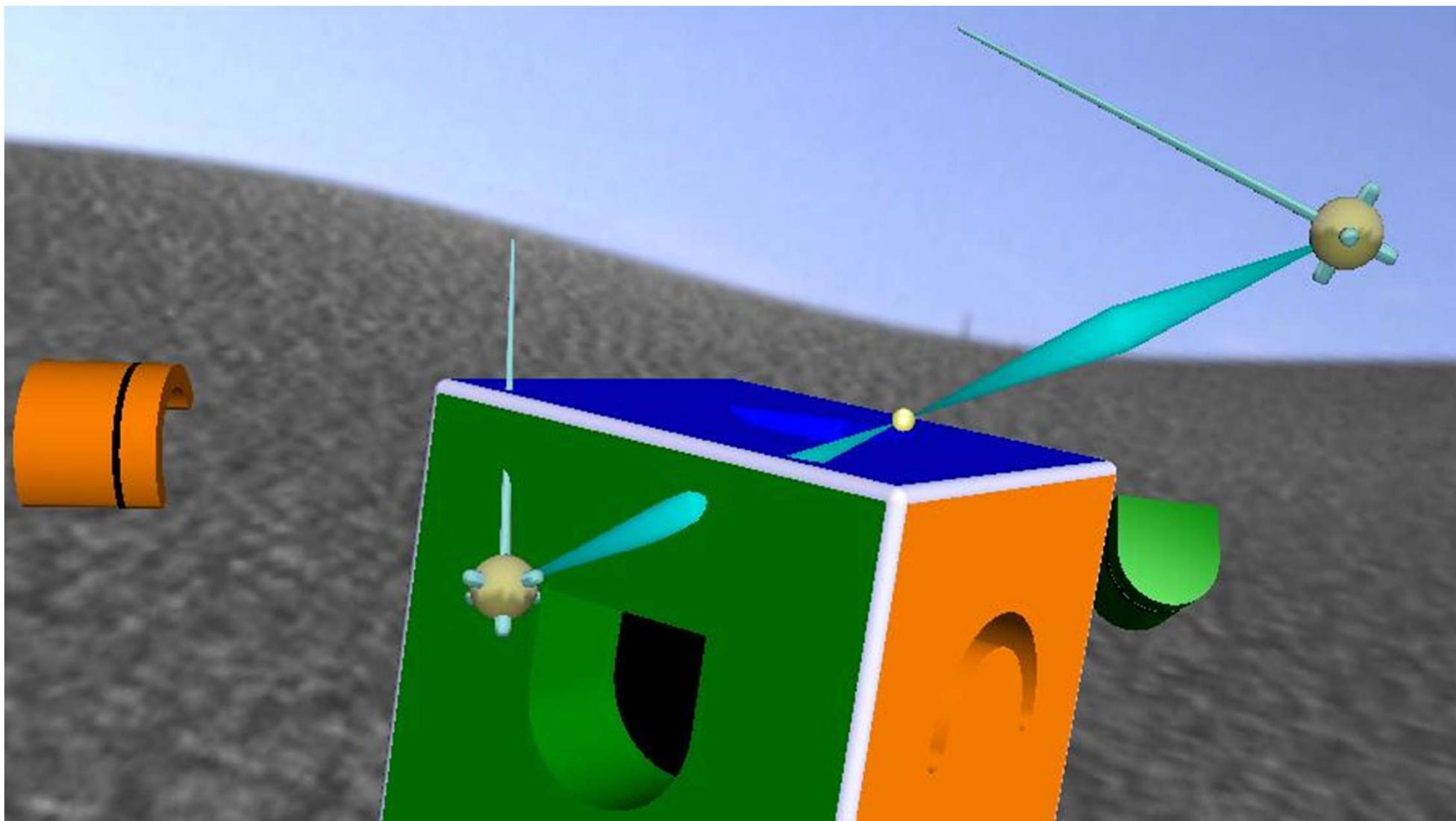


... looks like this ...



... not like this.

Continuity



Jason Jerald, PhD

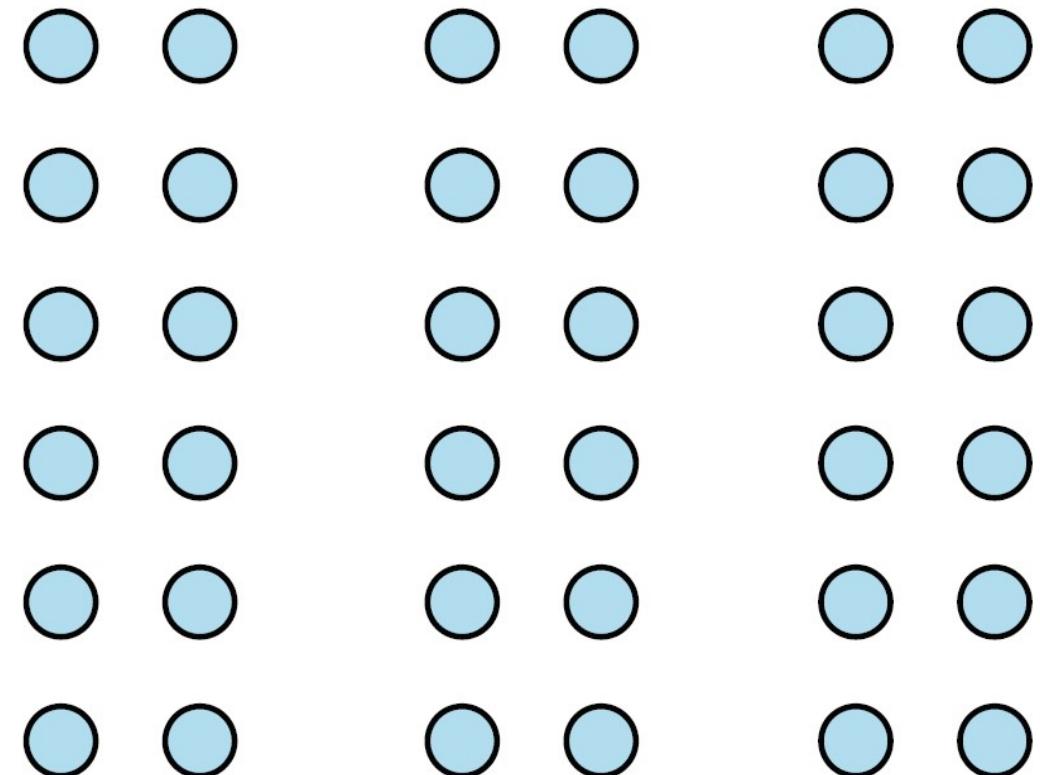
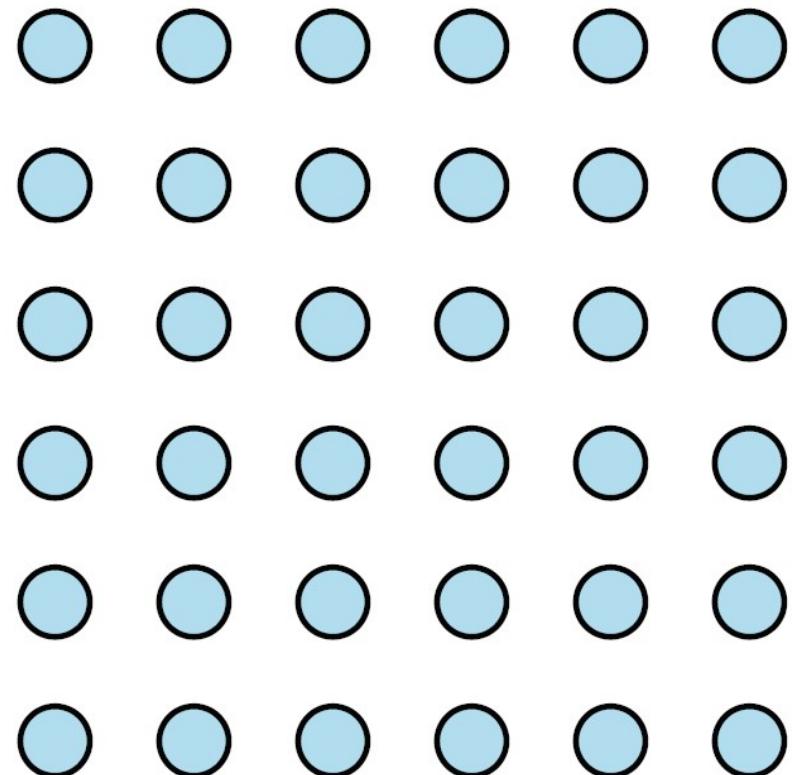


The Twitter logo, a blue silhouette of a bird in flight, is positioned next to the handle '@TheVRBook'.

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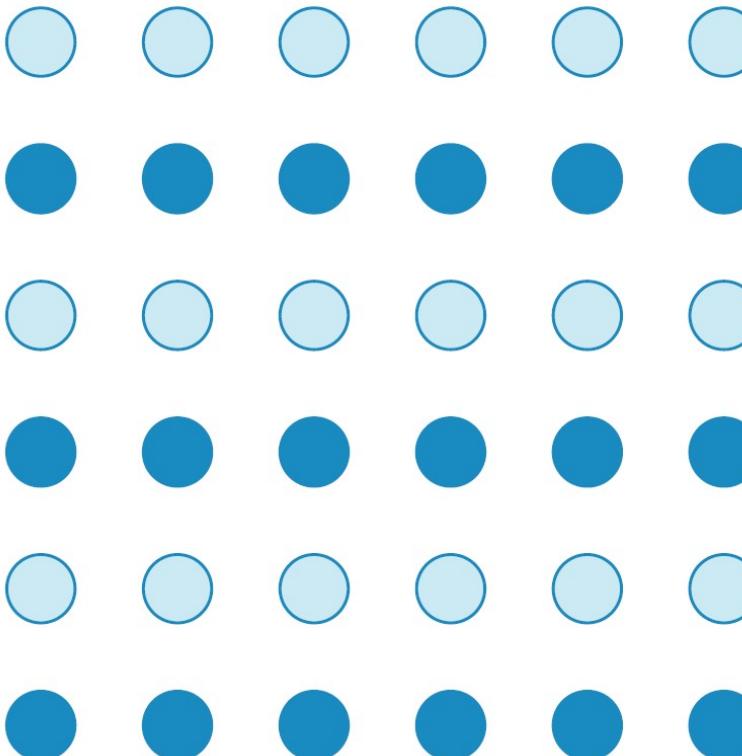
Proximity

elements close together tend to be perceived as a shape or group groups

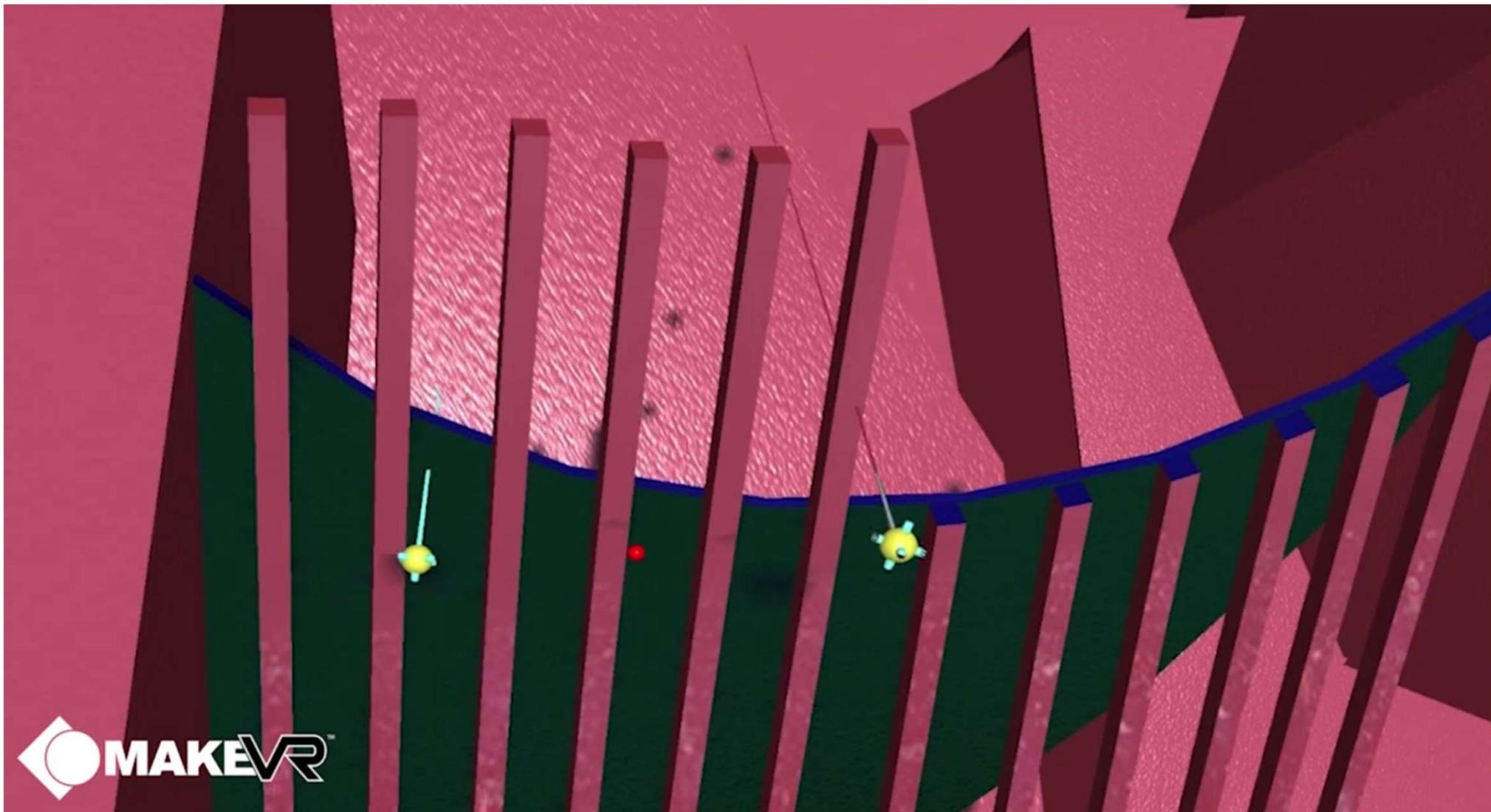


Similarity

Elements with similar properties tend to be perceived as being grouped together.



Similarity

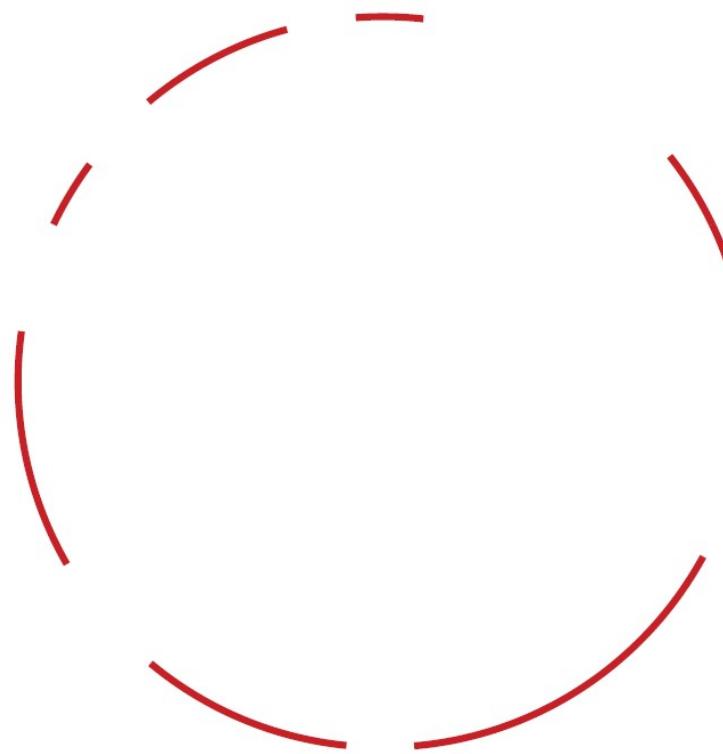


Proximity & Similarity



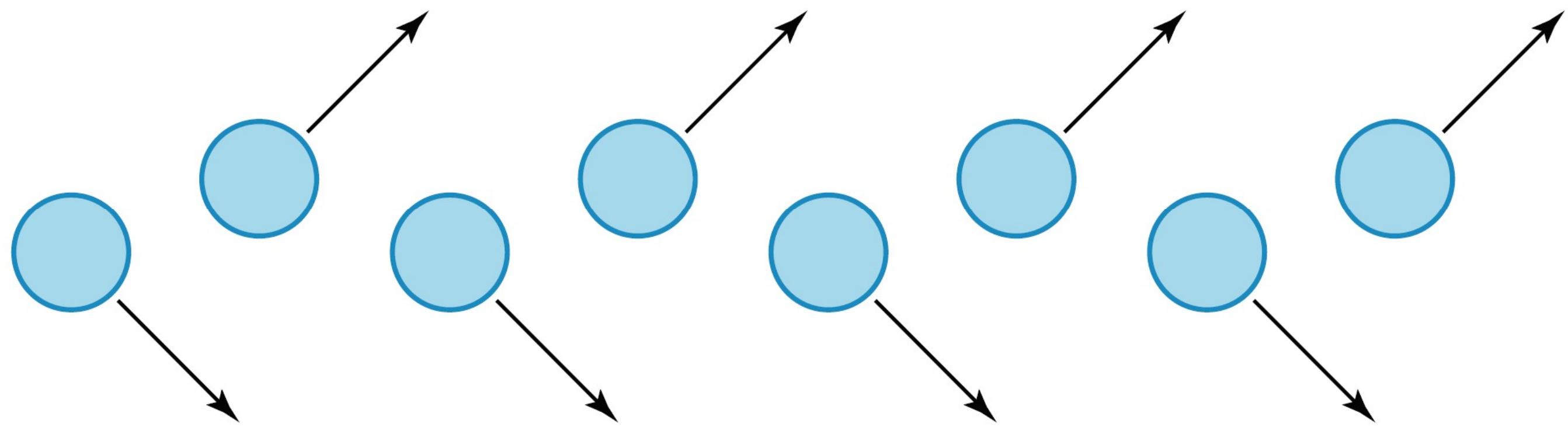
Closure

When a shape is not closed, the shape tends to be perceived as being a whole recognizable figure or object



Common Fate

Elements moving in a common way tend to be perceived as being grouped together



Environmental Wayfinding Aids

Landmarks

Regions

Routes

Channels

Nodes

Edges

Visual handrails

Environmental Wayfinding Aids

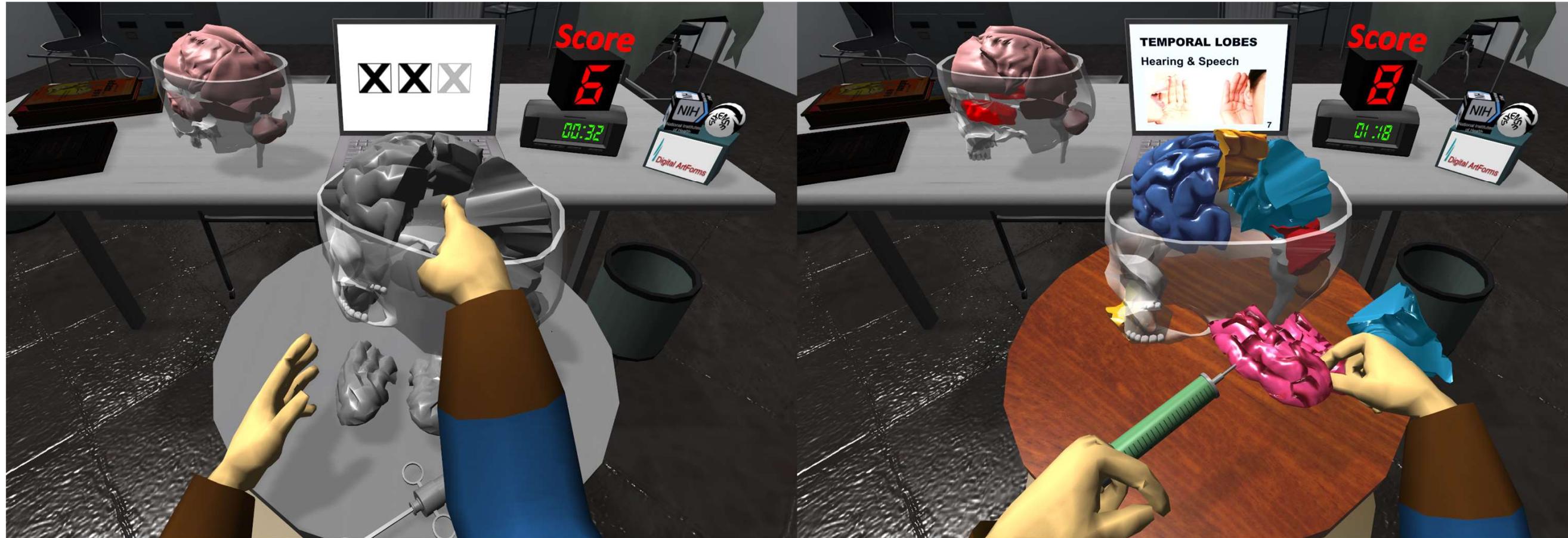
Markers

Breadcrumbs

Trails

Measurement

Salience

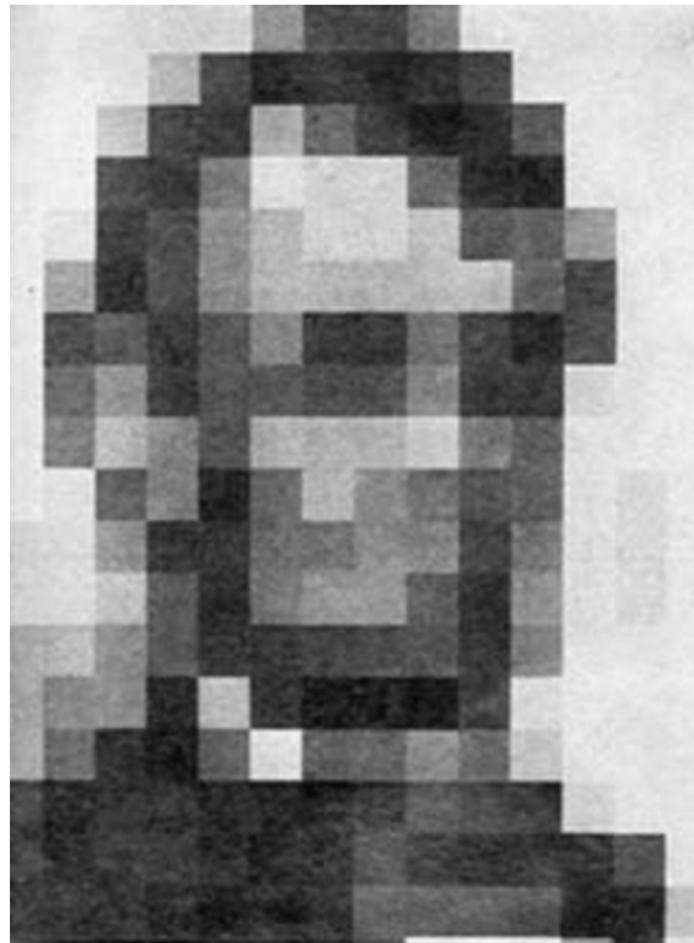


Facts Tell, Stories Sell

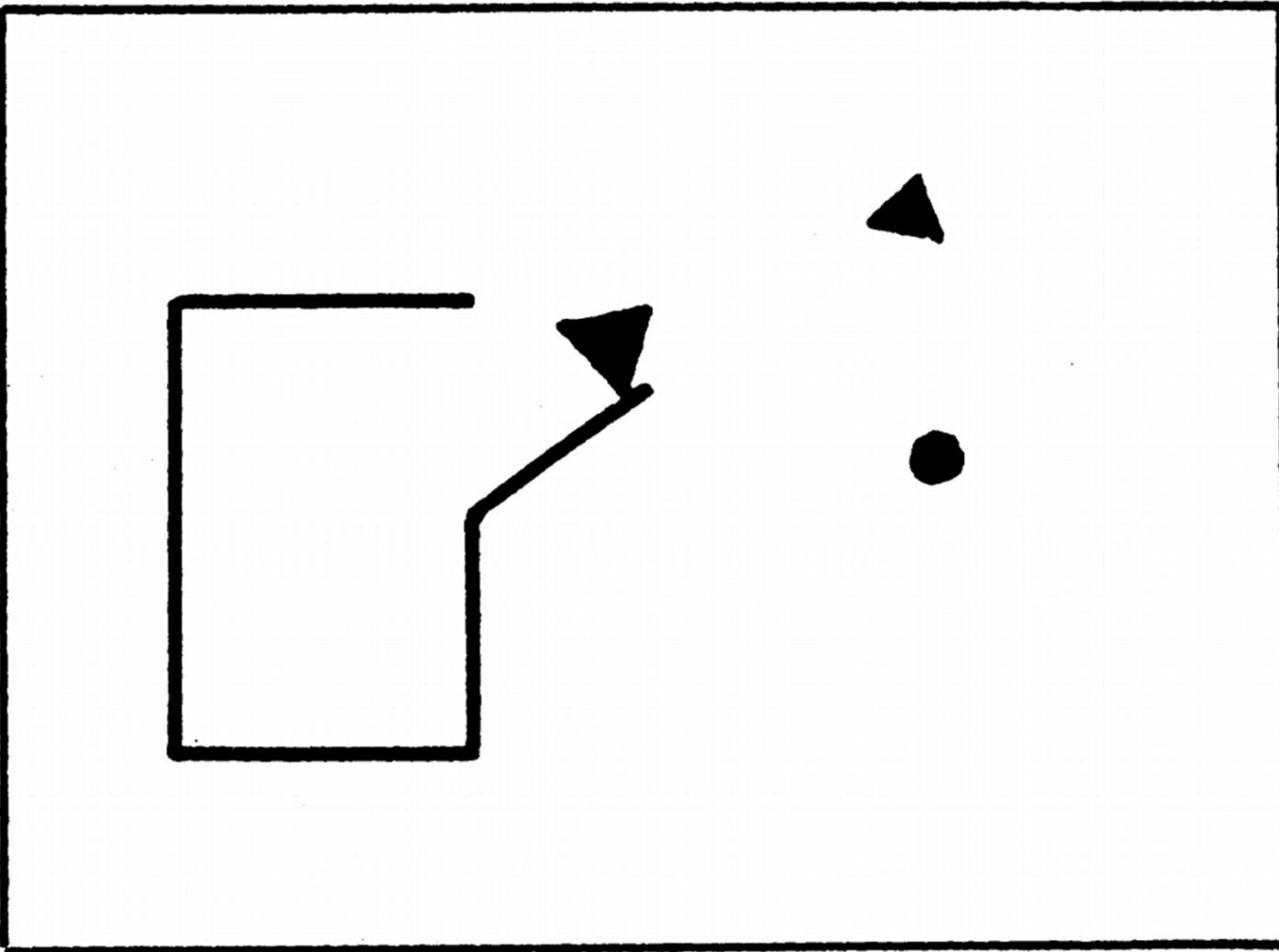
Backwards rationalization

Emotions run us—engineers included!

Story > Details



Story



A New Artistic Medium

The screen disappears

The best VR Games will be designed from the beginning for VR

Today the technology is being sold

Tomorrow the story and emotion will be sold

Collaboration in VR

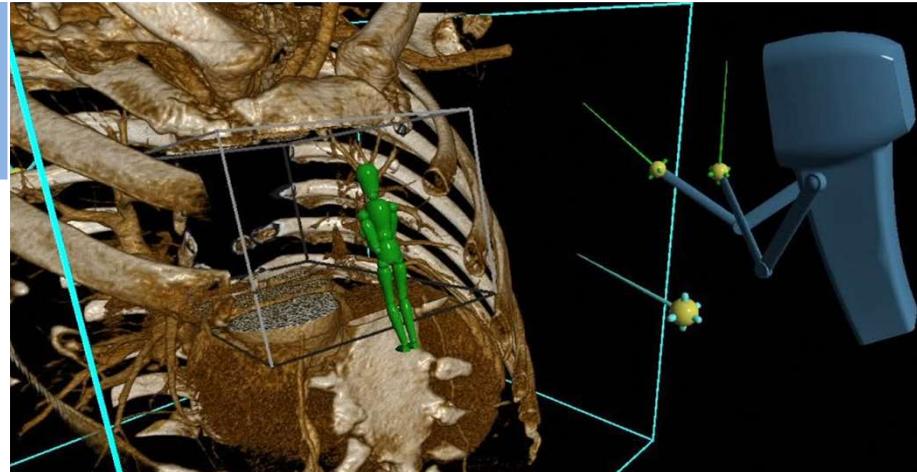
VR is a powerful tool for **collaboration**

Feeling present with others is a major part of why we fly across the country & world to work together

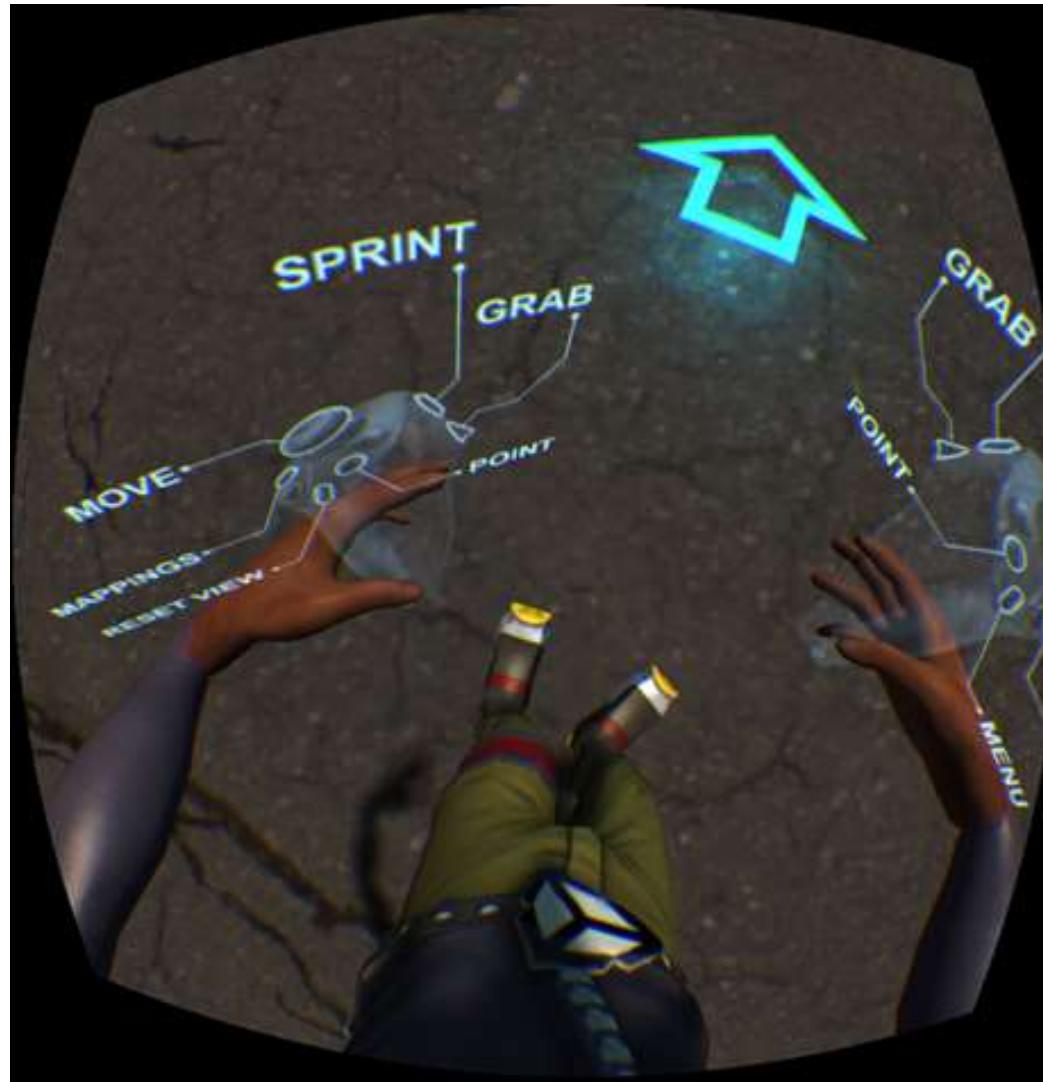
Shared experiences **increase presence** & make collaboration easier

Medical, ArchViz, Industrial Design

Many more potential fields to explore

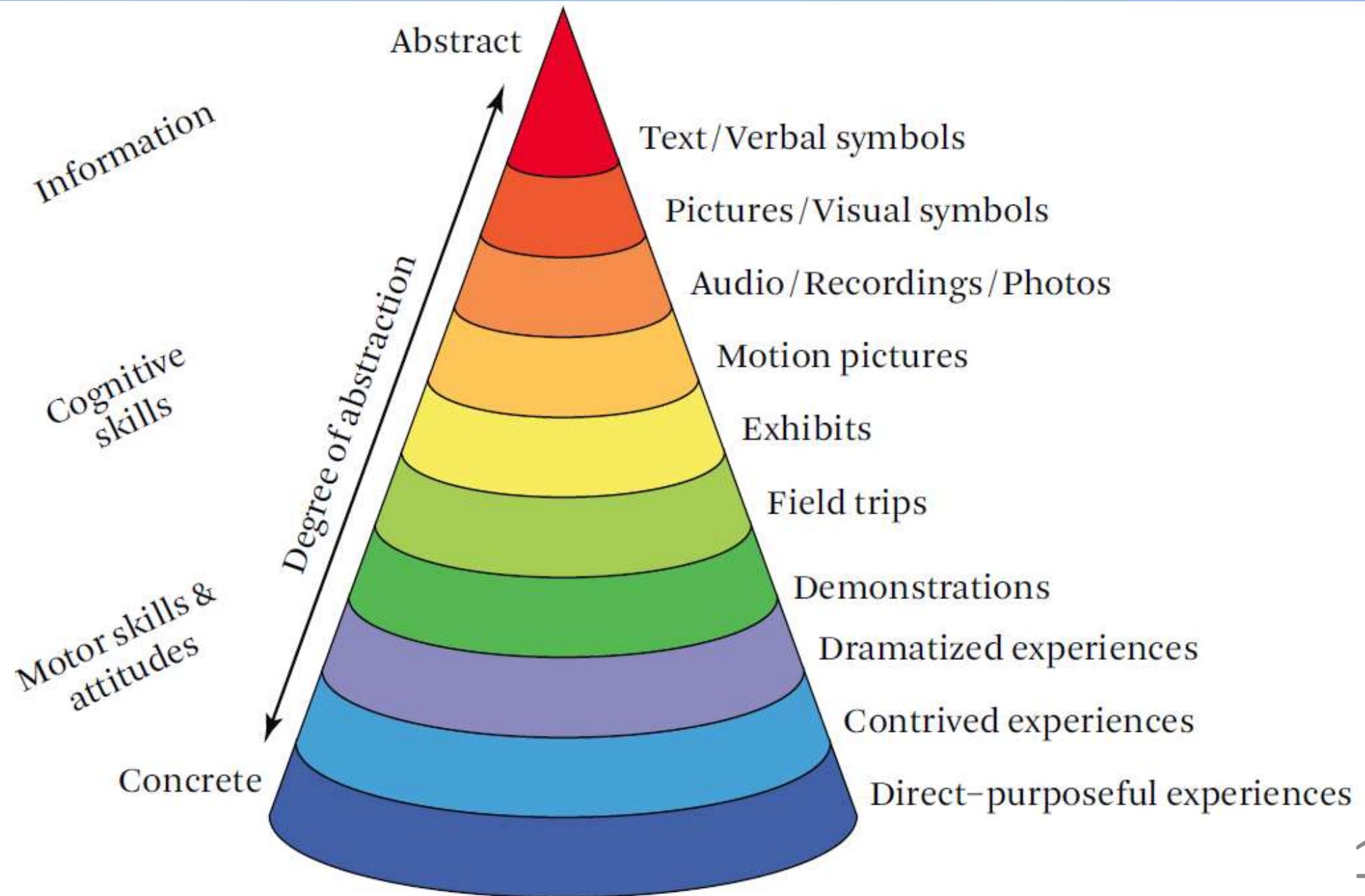


Early Attempts at Intuiting VR Apps



Trainexus by  **nextgen**
Interactions

A Learning Model



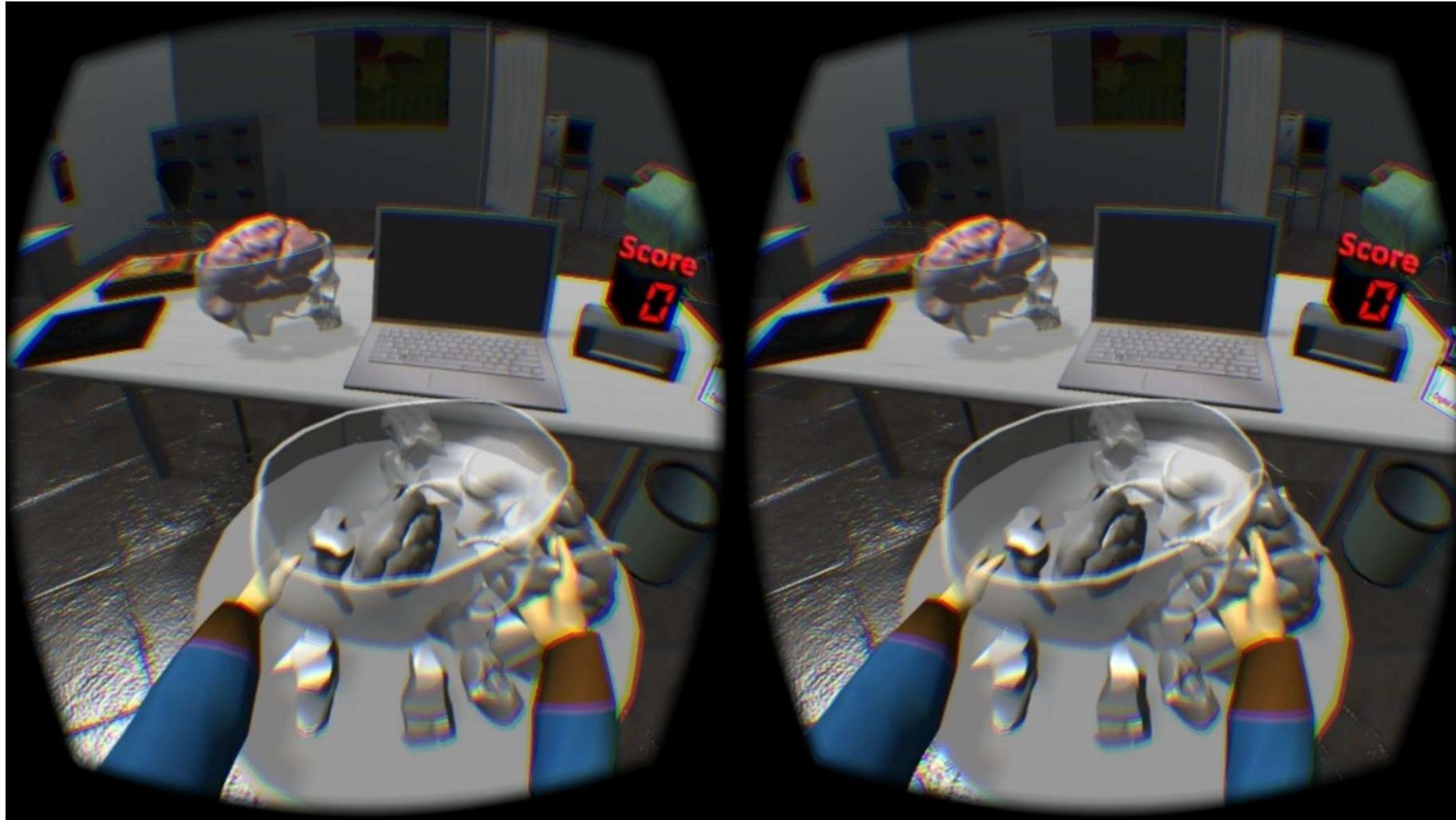
In-App Tutorials

Shipped VR experiences **don't have the luxuries** of in-person demos

Users must **quickly grasp interaction concepts** without an expert to explain the interface, answer questions, and correct mistakes

(video)

Tutorial Example #1: Cure Fred



Cure Fred by *Digital ArtForms*

In-App Tutorials

Help to convey consistent conceptual models in the mind of users by teaching **affordances** through **signifiers** and **feedback**

Simplify!

Simplifying tasks is often more difficult to implement than complex tasks

Hierarchical steps

Some steps are consecutive and some are concurrent

Completion criteria

Do not continue until user has taken some specific action

Repeated audio

Essential for users who didn't get it the first time

In-App Tutorials: Story Integration

How can we incorporate abstract interfaces into the story of our games?

We be creative!

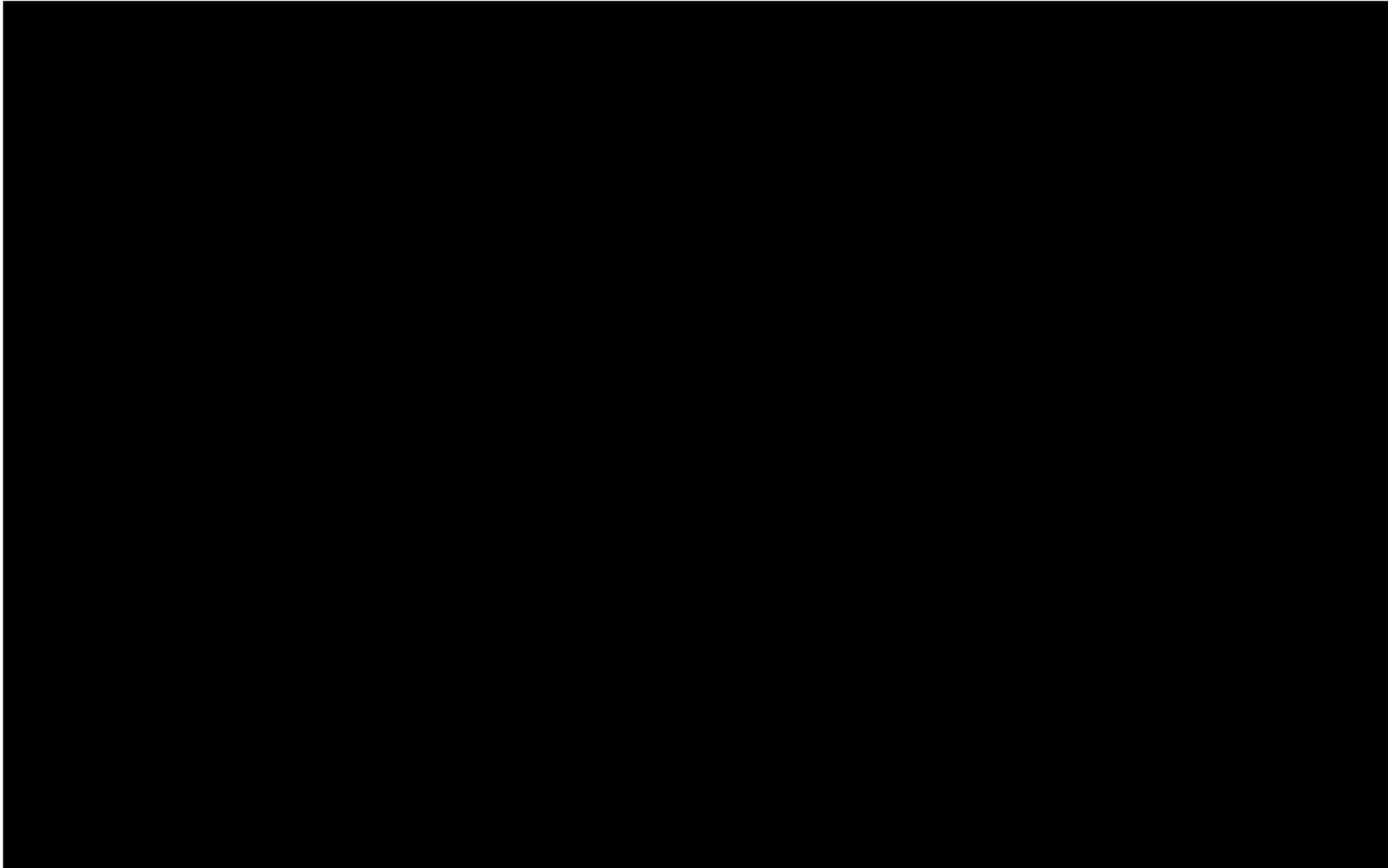
Tutorial Example #2: VR APOCALYPSE

(video)



Tutorial Example #2: VR APOCALYPSE

(video)



VR APOCALYPSE by 



Tutorial Example #3: MAKEVR™

(video)



MAKEVR™ by **VIVE STUDIOS**, **SIXENSE™**, & *Digital ArtForms*

Jason Jerald, PhD



@TheVRBook

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(video)

Tutorial Example #3: **MAKEVR**



Summary for Intuiting Interactions

By default, VR is not intuitive

✓ Intuitive applications are a result of

Creativity

Design thinking

Experimentation

User feedback

Lots of iteration

Questions: Tutorials



Might tutorials work for your design?

If not, might some tutorial concepts apply?

Exercise



Draft a tutorial script

Course Outline

Humans

Interaction

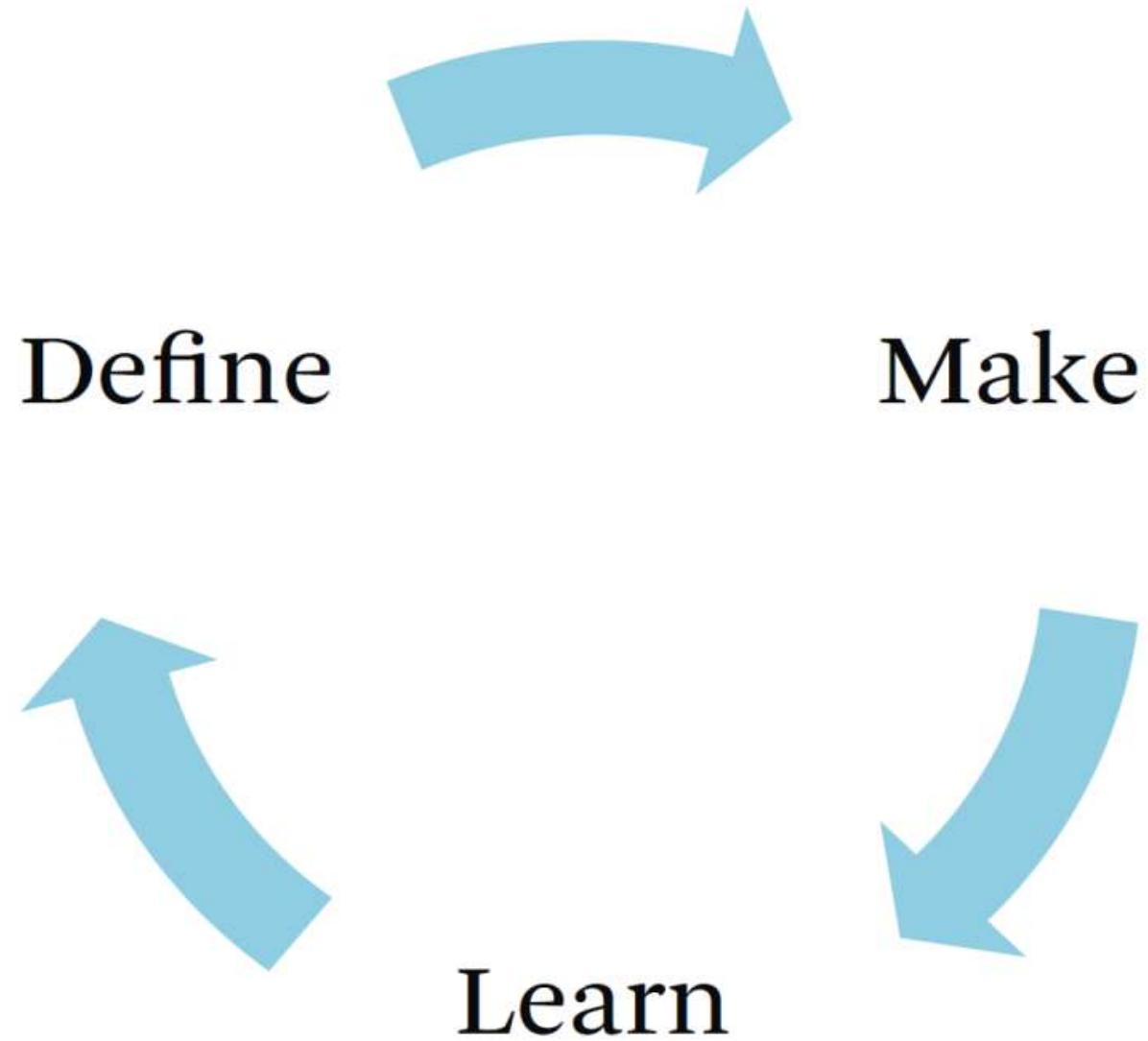
Comfort

Virtual Worlds

Iteration

Iteration

Iteration



The Define Stage

Define the vision

Ask questions

Assess and determine feasibility

High-level considerations

State the Objectives

Identify key players

Identify risks

Explicitly state assumptions

Determine constraints

Create personas

Create user stories

Draw Storyboards

Determine scope

List requirements

What's Your Vision?

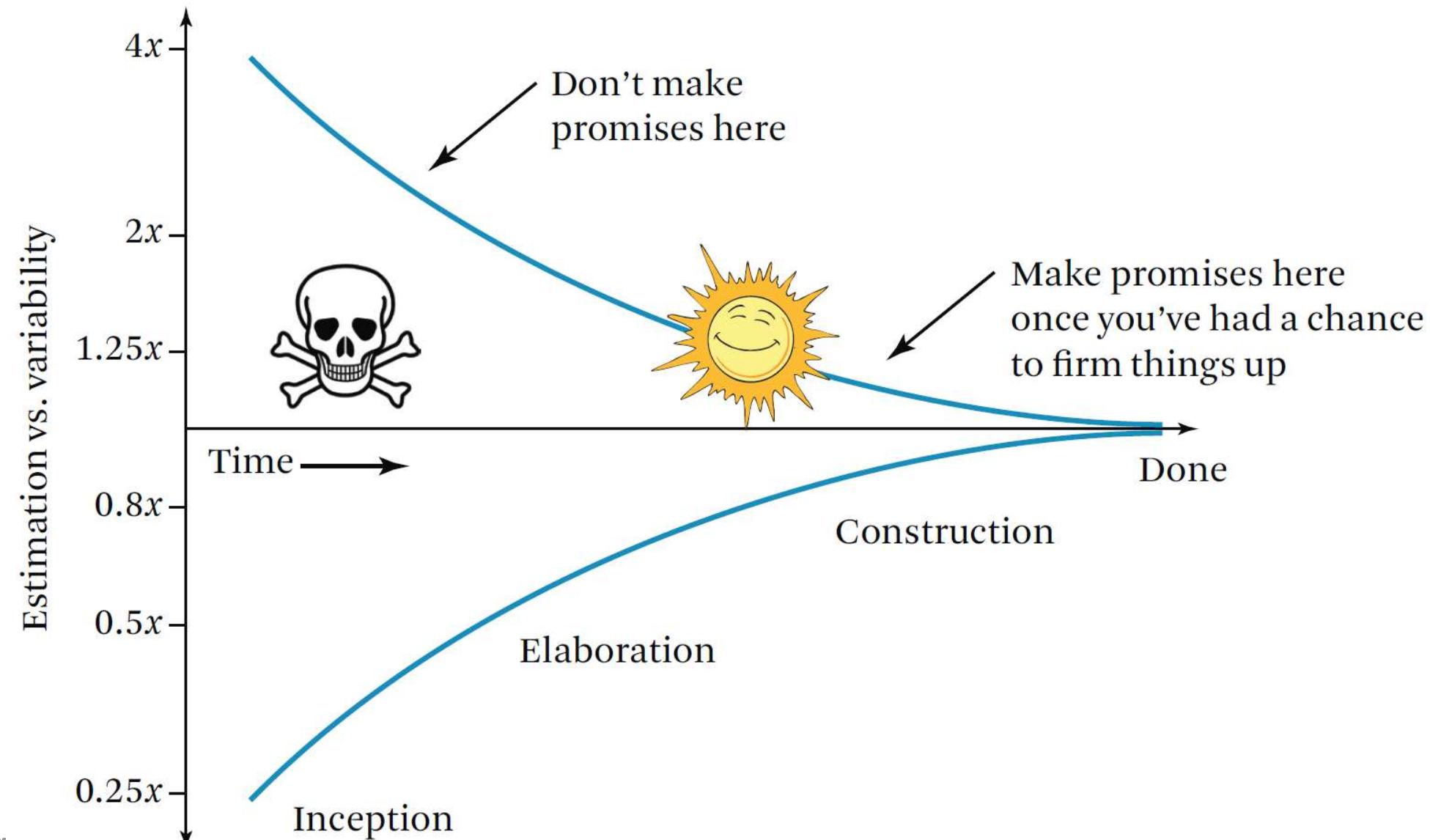
What is your vision?

A fun game or changing the world?

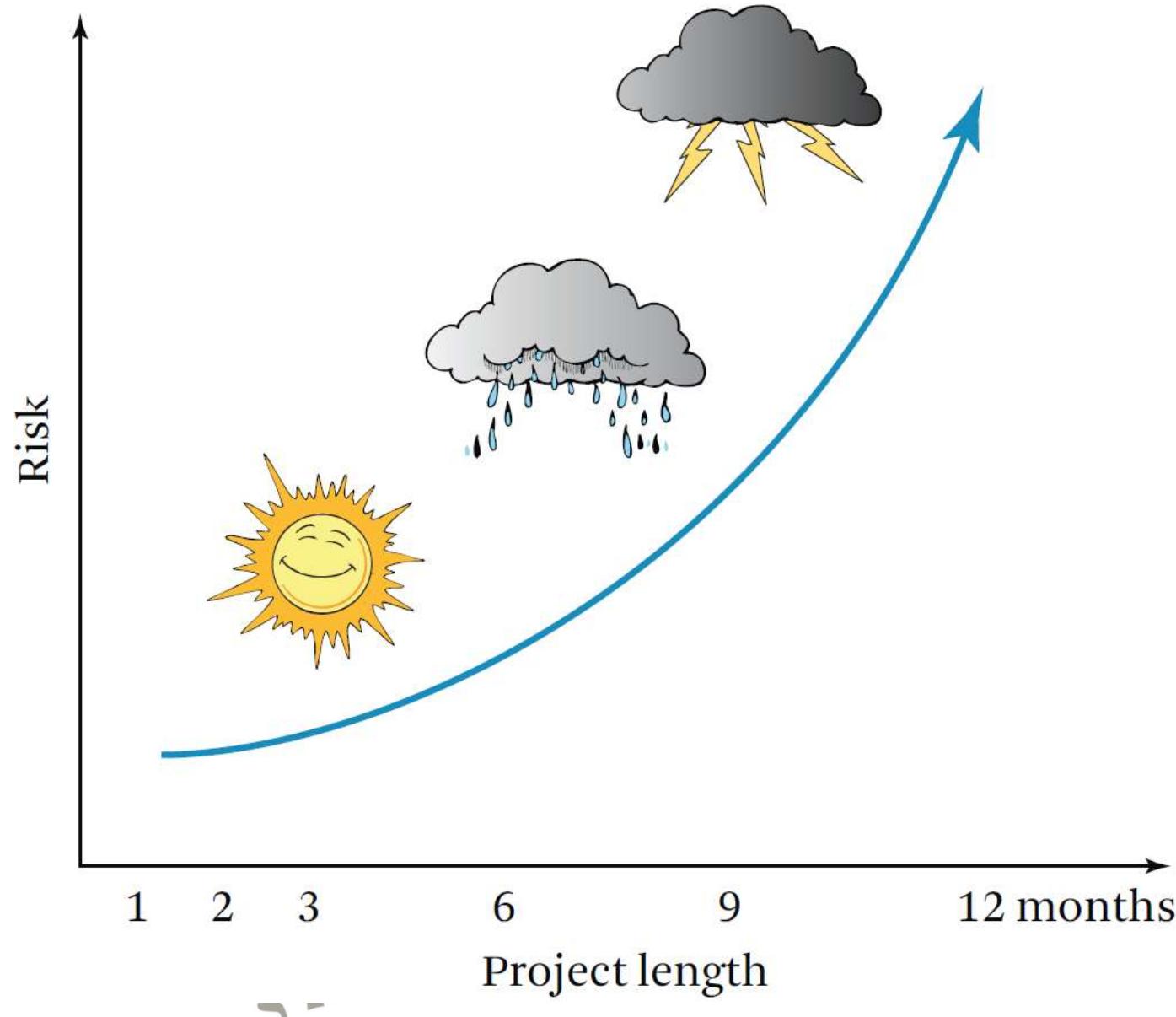
Its not where we you are at, its where you are going

What are two action items that you can
start taking on **TODAY**?

Estimating Costs



Long Projects Increase Risks



Personas

 <p>Name</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job• Experience• Activities• Attitude• Competencies• Age
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problems• Pain points• Needs• Concerns• Fears• Desires	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of VR• Dream VR system• Vision of VR• VR hardware access• Budget for VR• Activities that fit VR

The Make Stage

Task analysis

Design specification

- ✓ Sketches
- ✓ Block diagrams
- ✓ Use cases
- ✓ Classes
- ✓ Software design patterns

System considerations

- ✓ Tradeoffs and making decisions
- ✓ Supporting different hardware
- ✓ Frame rate and latency
- ✓ Sickness guidelines
- ✓ Calibration

Simulation

- Separate simulation from rendering
- Physics
 - Fighting policies
 - Jittering objects
 - Flying objects

Networked environments

- Ideals
- Message protocols
- Determinism and local estimation
- Reducing network traffic
- Simultaneous interactions

Networking physics

Prototype forms
Final production
Delivery

Example decisions

Decision	Example Choices
Hand input hardware	None, Leap Motion, Sixense STEM
Number of participants	Single user, multiplayer, massively multiplayer
Viewpoint control pattern(s)	Walking, steering, world-in-miniature, 3D multi-touch, automated
Selection pattern(s)	Hand selection, pointing, image-plane, volume-based
Manipulation pattern(s)	Direct hand manipulation, proxy
Realism	Real-world capture, cartoon world
Vection	None, short periods of self-motion, linear motion only, active, passive
Intensity	Relaxing, heart-thumping
Sensory cues	Visual, auditory, haptics, motion platform
Posture	Sitting, standing, walking around

The Cycle of Interaction

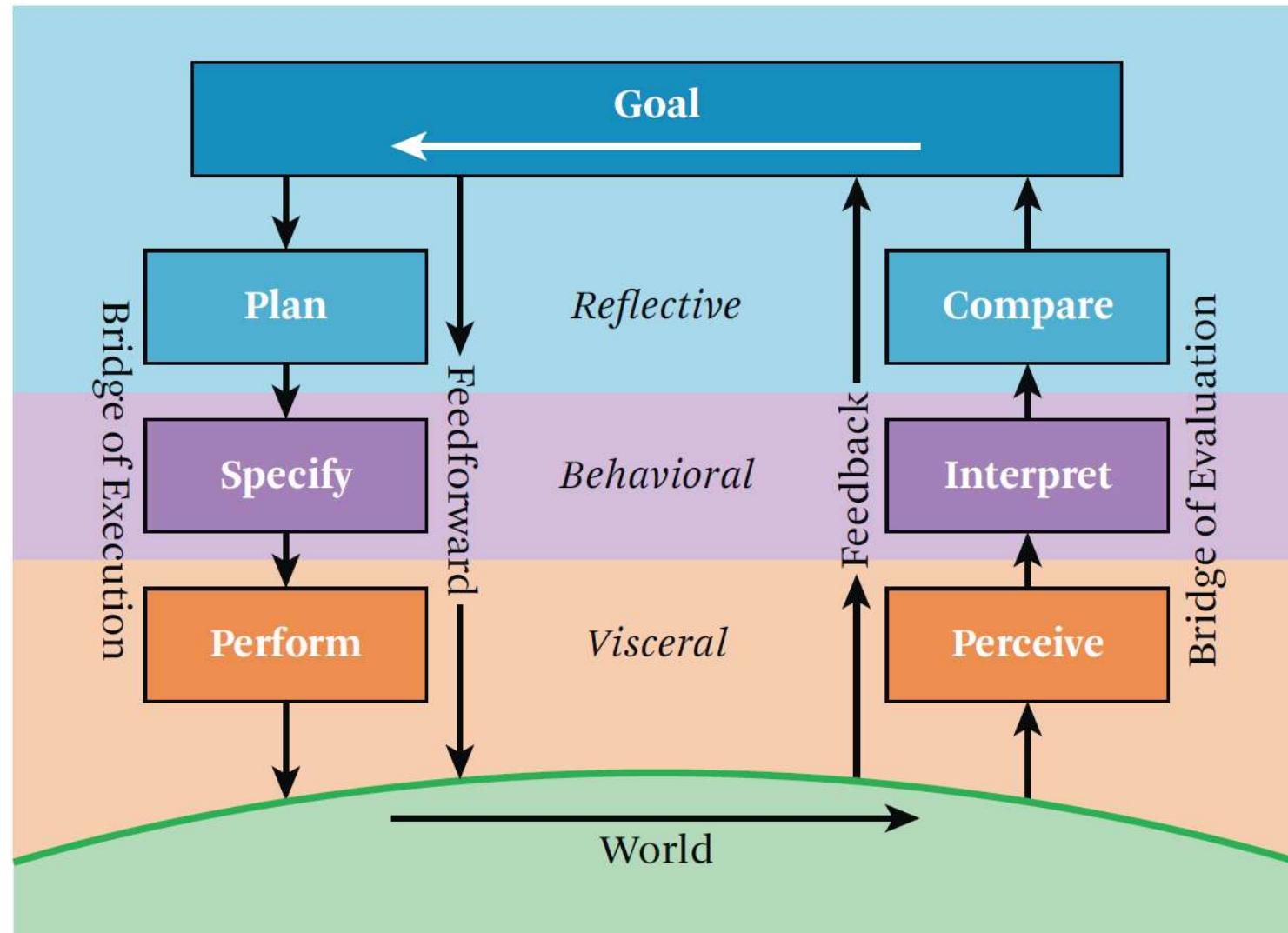


Image Courtesy of The VR Book (adapted from Norman [2013])

Class Diagrams

Bomb

+container: GameObject
#sounds: SoundManager
- explosion: GameObject
- damageEffect: GameObject
- timer: ClockManager
- health: Health
- damageAmount: int

+Start() : void
+Update() : void
+StopTimer() : void
+ResumeTimer() : void
+DamageBomb(damagePoints: int) : void
- PlayWarning(soundID: int) : void
- PlayAlarm() : void
- Detonate() : void
- Explode(size: float) : void

The Learn Stage

Communication and attitude

Research concepts

Data collection

Reliability

Validity

Sensitivity

Constructivist approaches

Mini-retrospectives

Demos

Interviews

Questionnaires

Focus groups

Expert evaluations

After action reviews

The scientific method

- ✓ Experimental design
- ✓ True experiments vs quasi-experiments

Data analysis

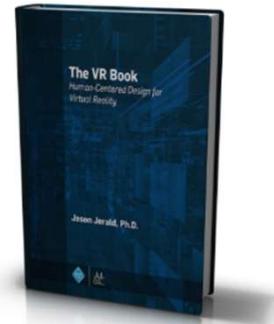
- ✓ Making sense of the data
- ✓ Statistical concepts
- ✓ Correlation
- ✓ Statistical and practical significance

Want to Learn More?

Books

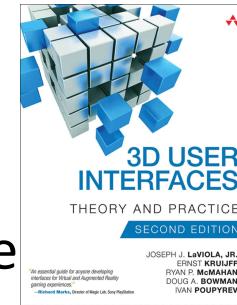
The VR Book: Human-Centered Design for Virtual Reality

<http://TheVRBook.net>



3D User Interfaces: Theory and Practice

<http://www.pearsoned.co.uk/bookshop/detail.asp?item=10000000595951>



Courses/Workshops

<http://TheVRWorkshops.net>

In-App Tutorial Examples

VR APOCALYPSE

<http://NextGenGameStudio.com>



MAKEVR™

<http://MakeVR.com.com>

Conclusion

Few have the chance to change the world

We have the opportunity!

Lets not blow it!

Questions



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Additional Slides

Value of AR/VR

Lower product design times

Increase quality

Increase confidence

Reduce risks

Increase innovation

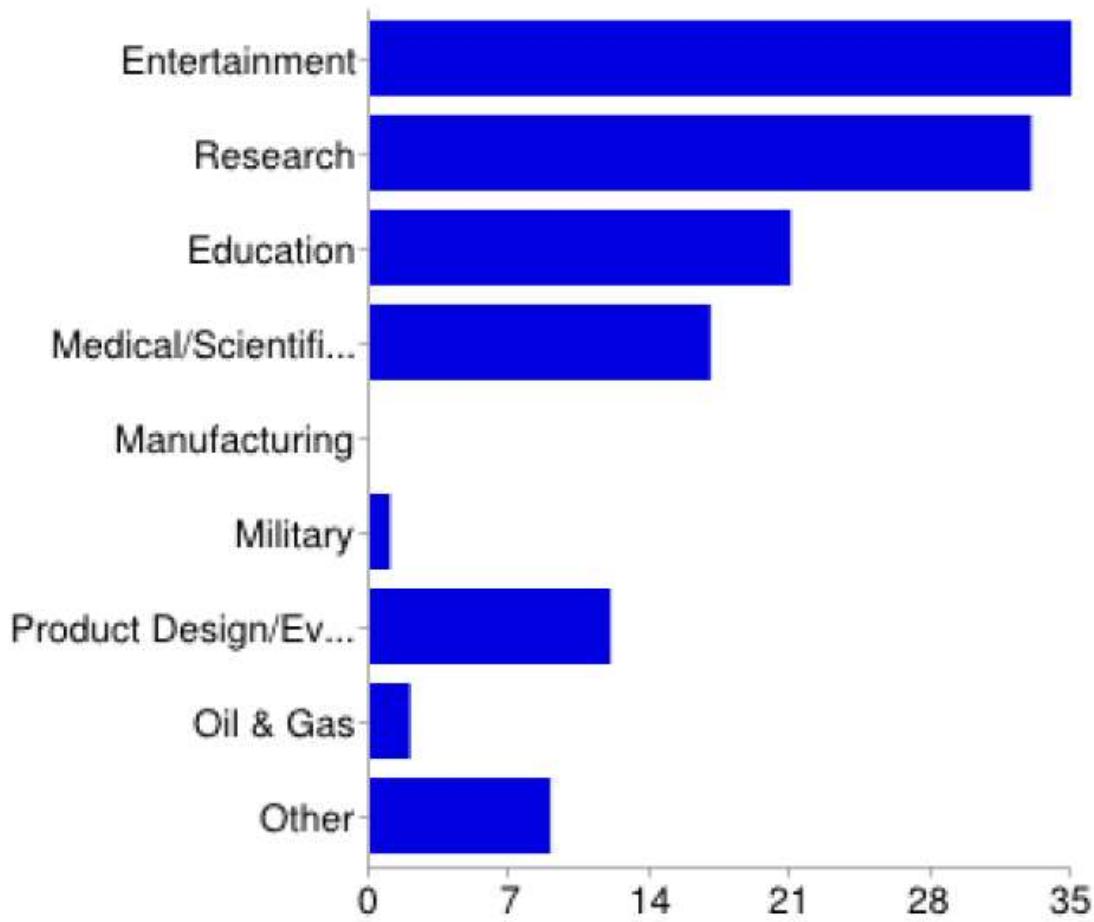
Cost savings

Test product acceptability

Ergonomics/usability
Validate interactions
Explore human behavior
Increase motivation
Increase understanding

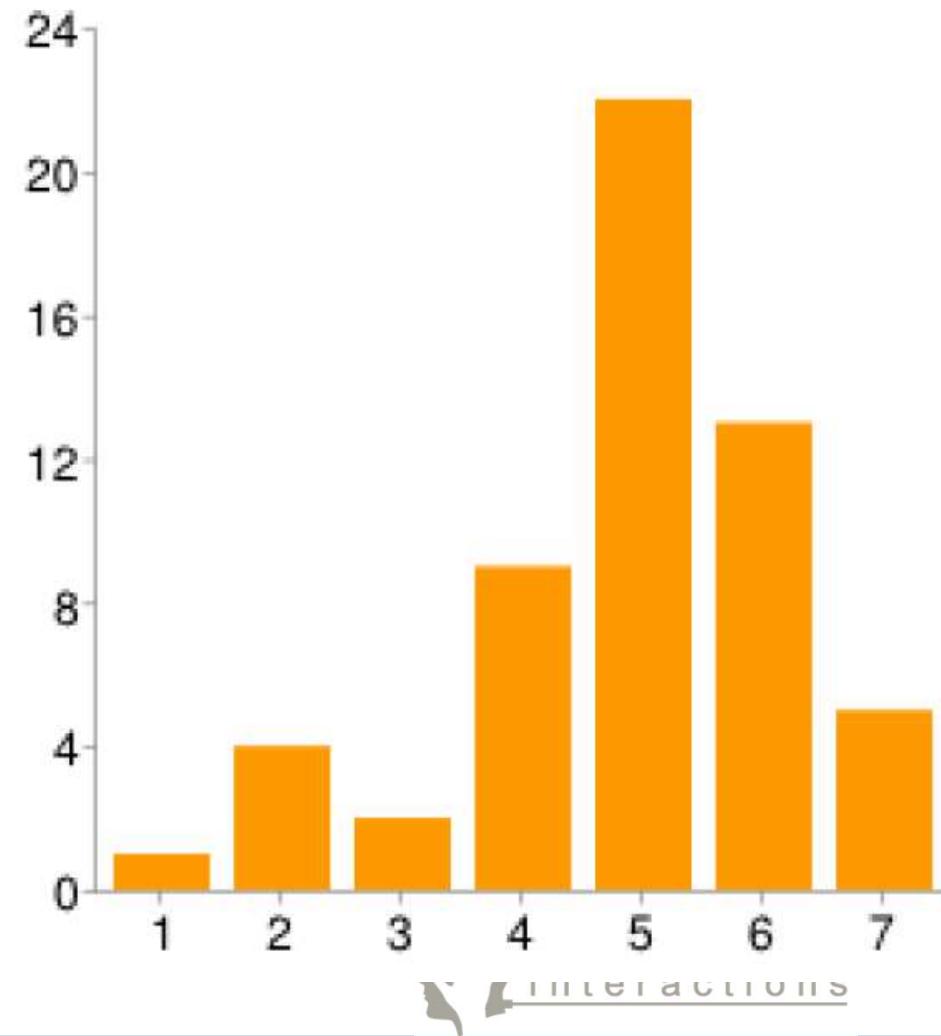
Survey Results From VR Experts

What do you use VR for?



Survey Results From VR Experts

How important are using the hands with VR?



Example Applications

Marketing

Retail

Training

Education

Architecture/construction/real estate

Data Visualization

Empathy

Rehabilitation

Distraction from pain

Driving/Flight simulation

Medical Visualization

Location-based Entertainment

Immersive film

Crime scene investigation

Emergency preparedness

Telepresence and Tourism

3D printing

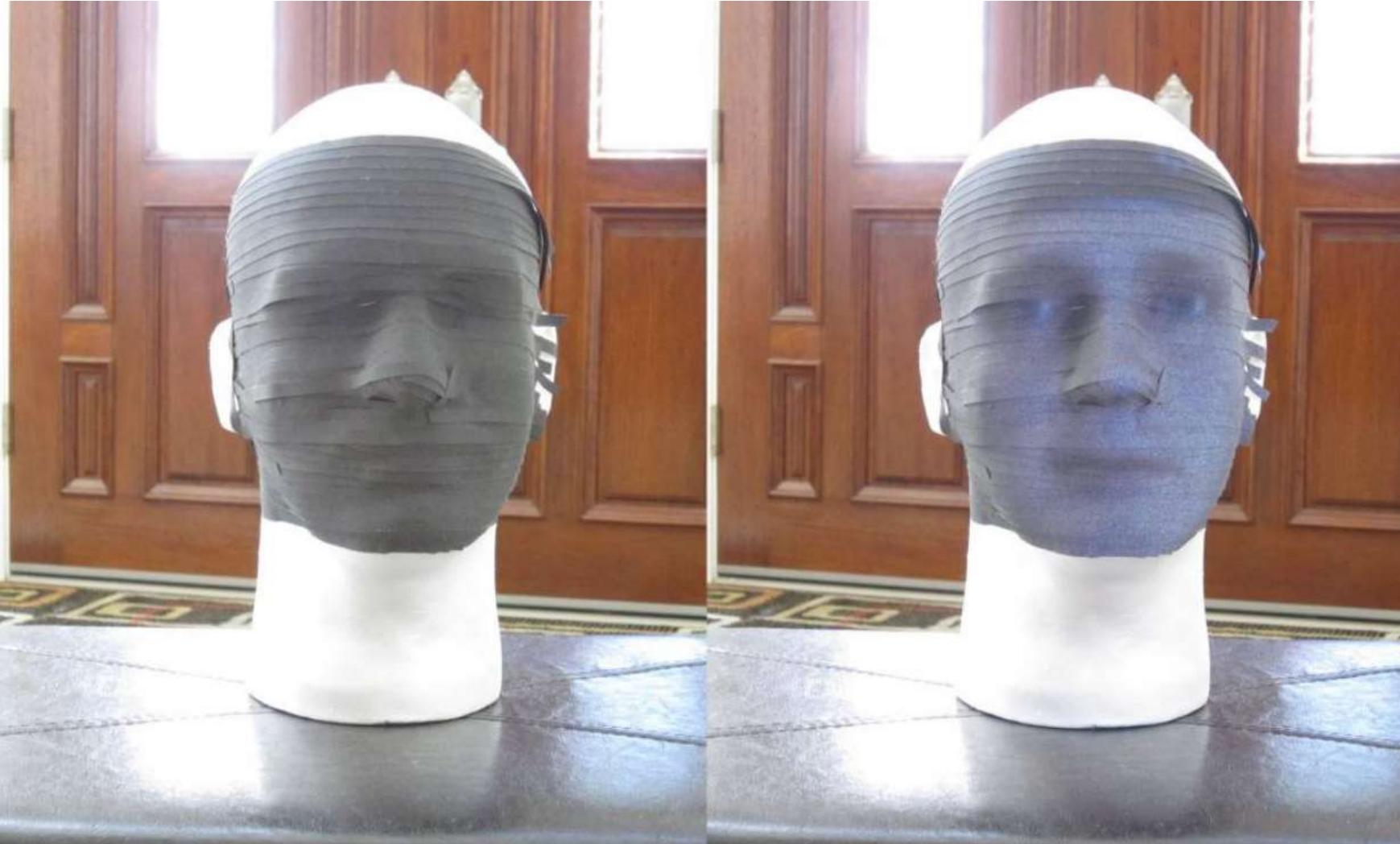
Training Room

Pit Room

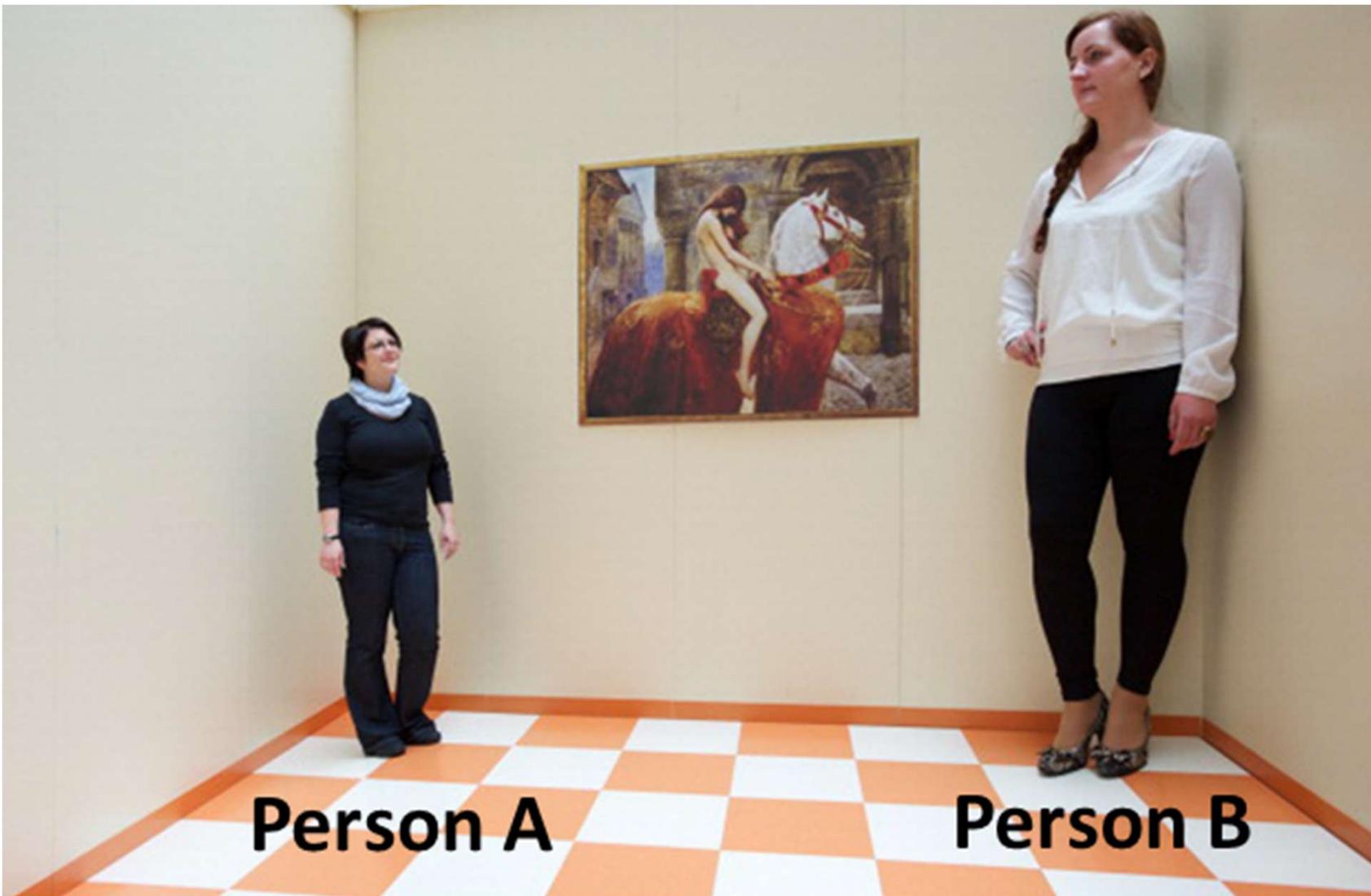


USC ICT Retroreflection

David Krum, Evan Suma, & Mark Bolas

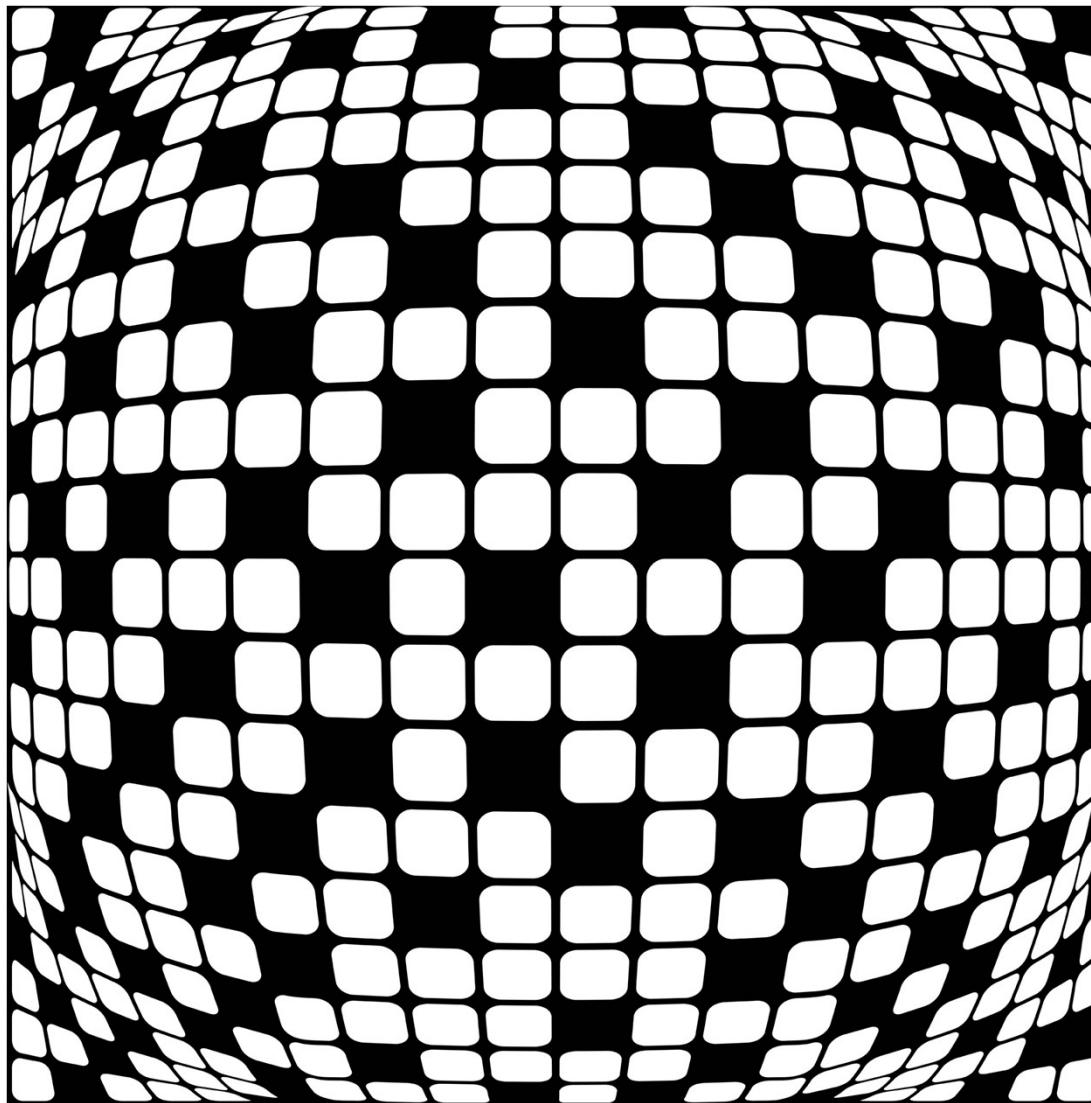














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Aeriel Perspective



Diversity Training

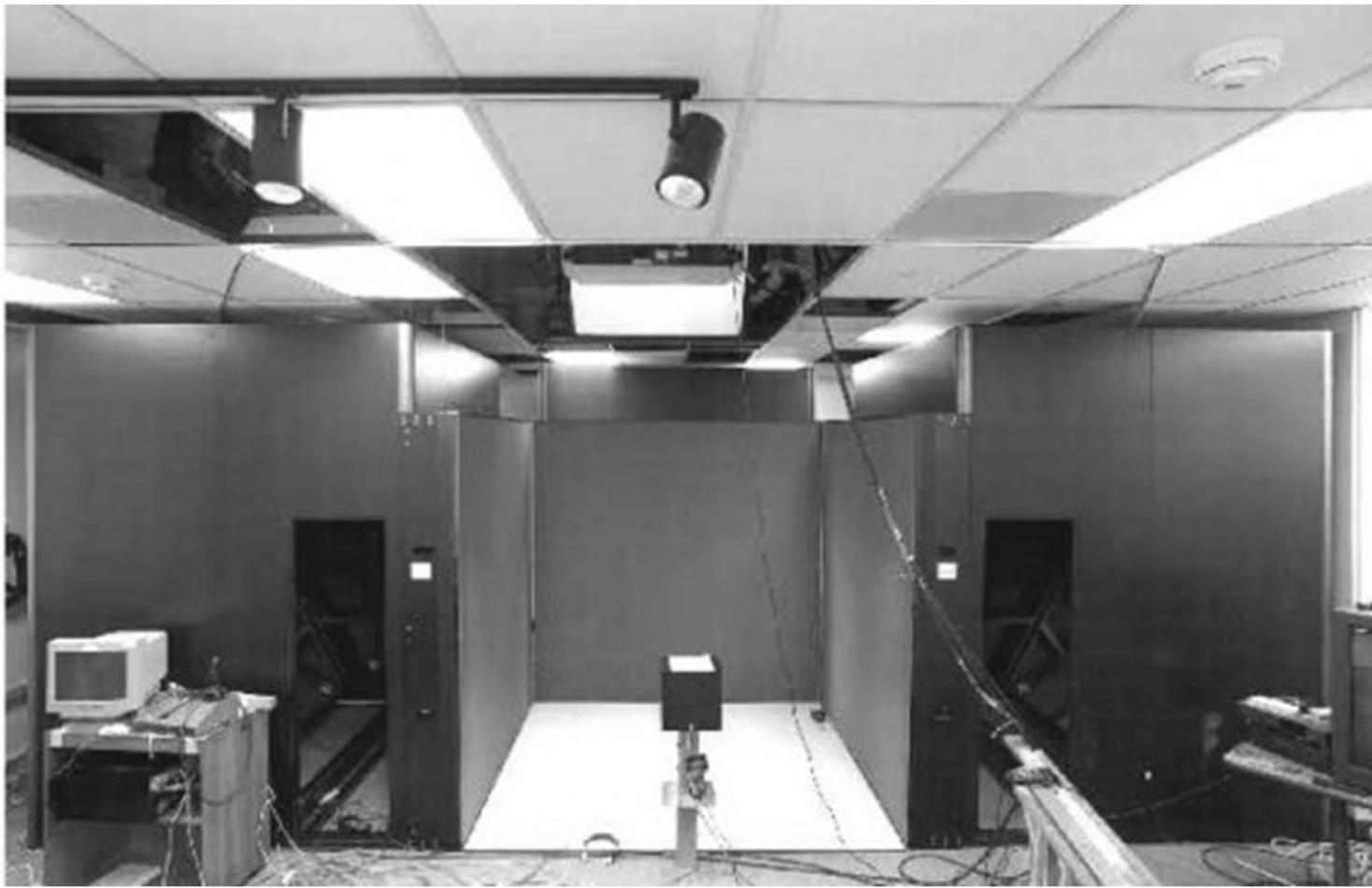
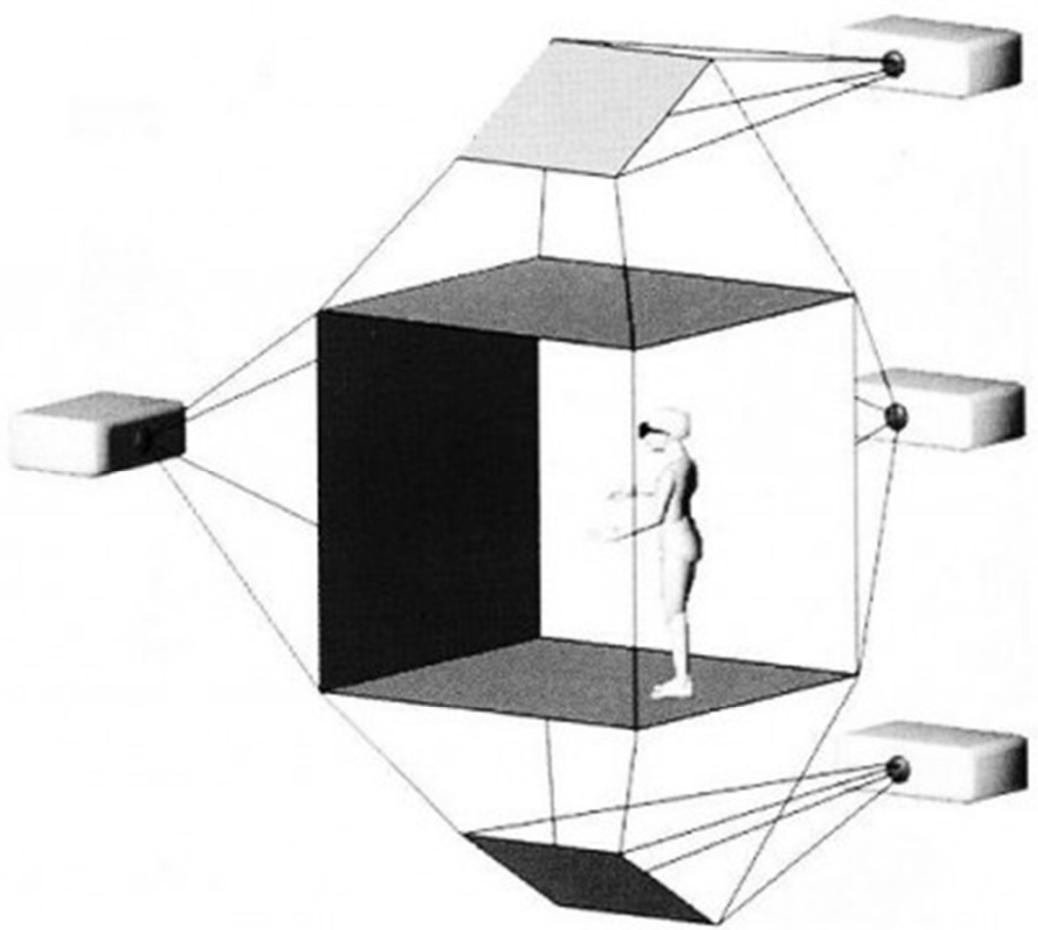




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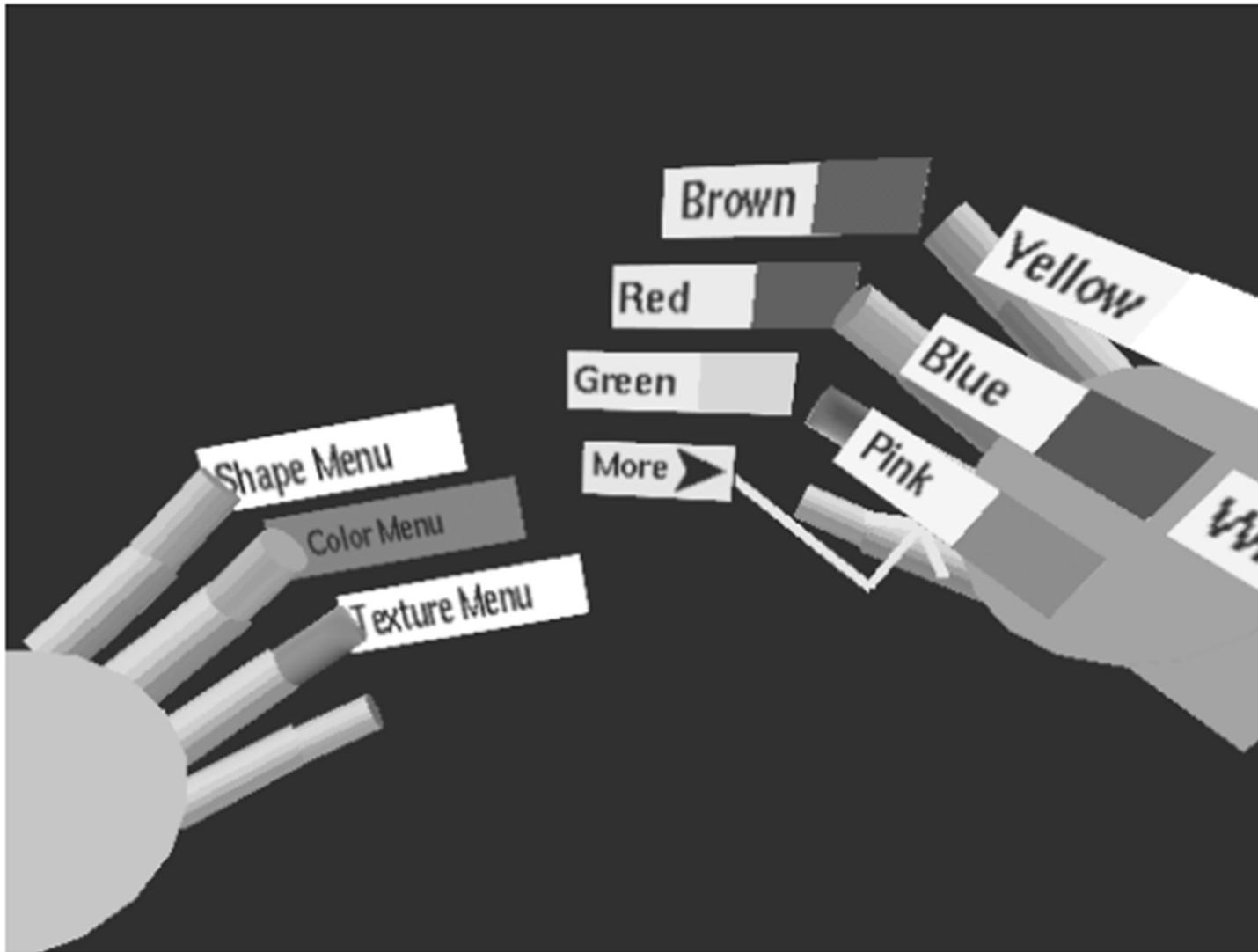


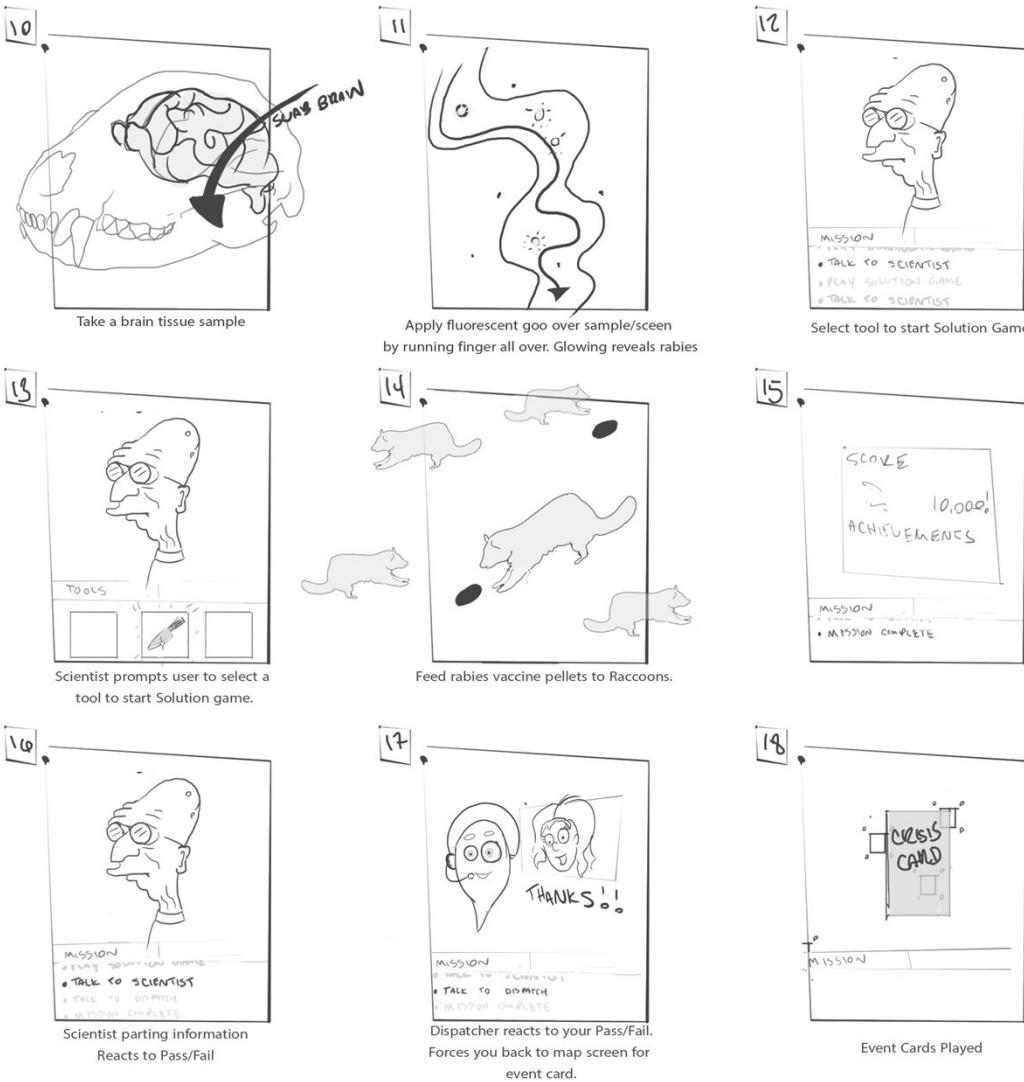


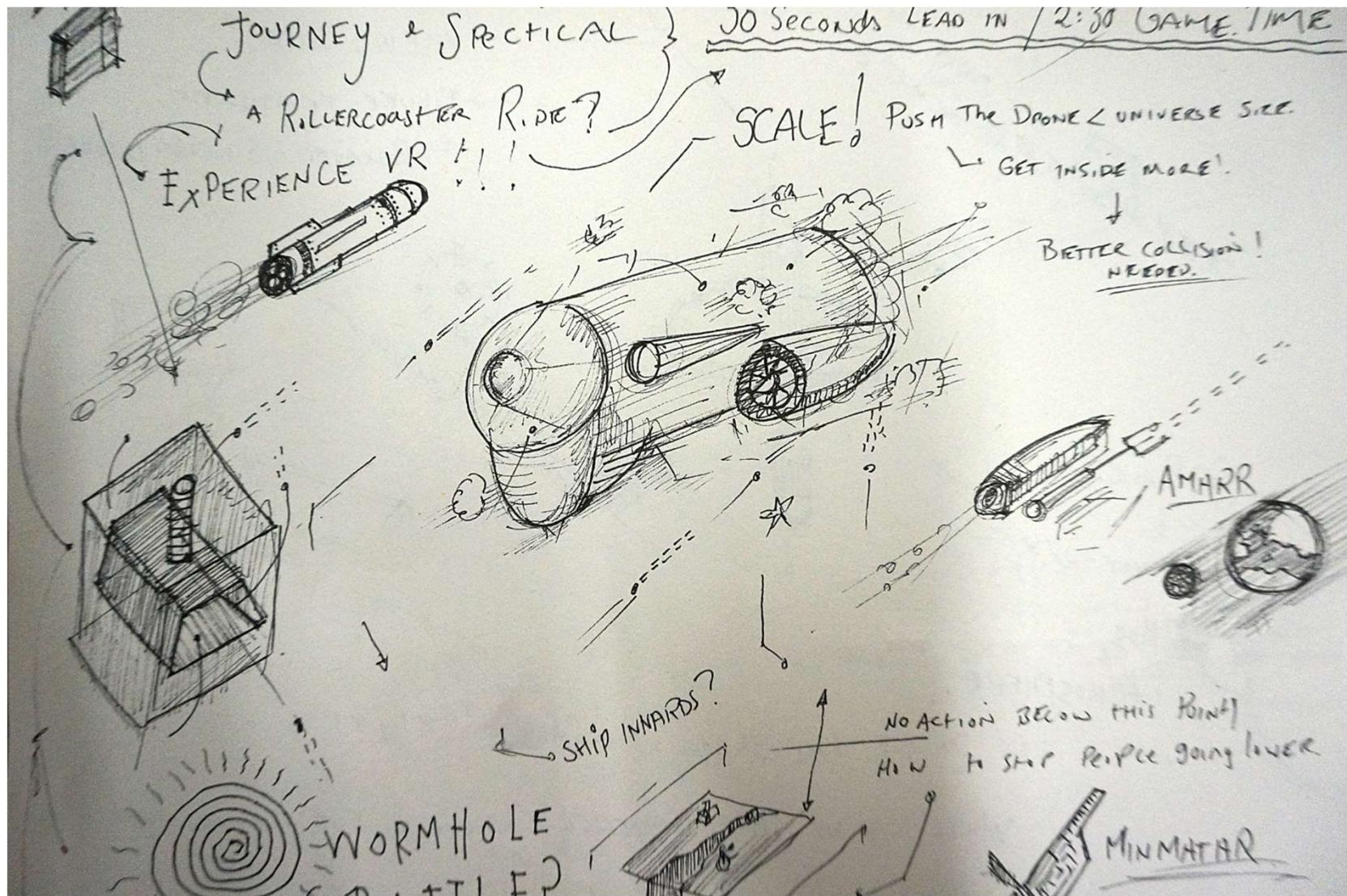
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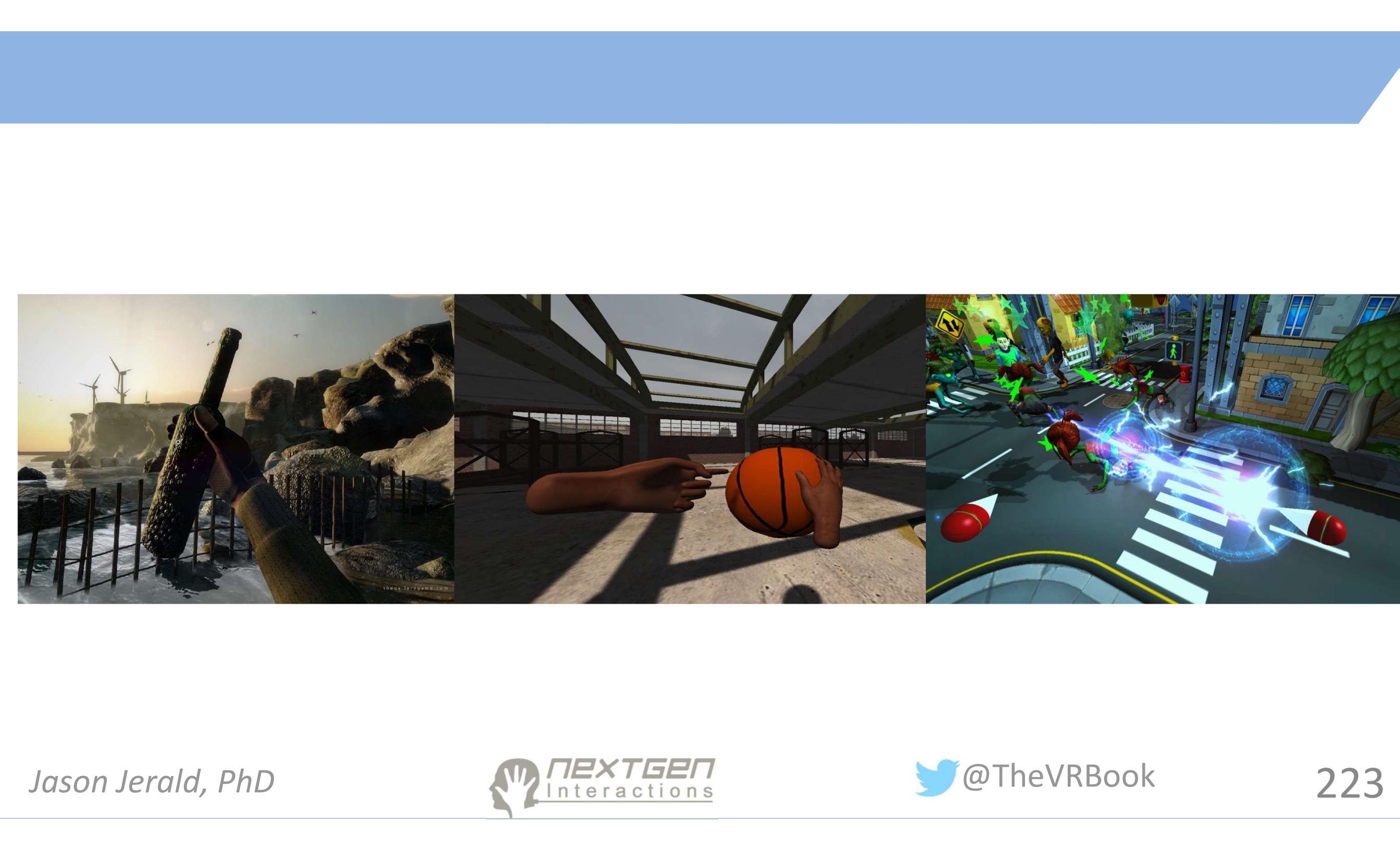


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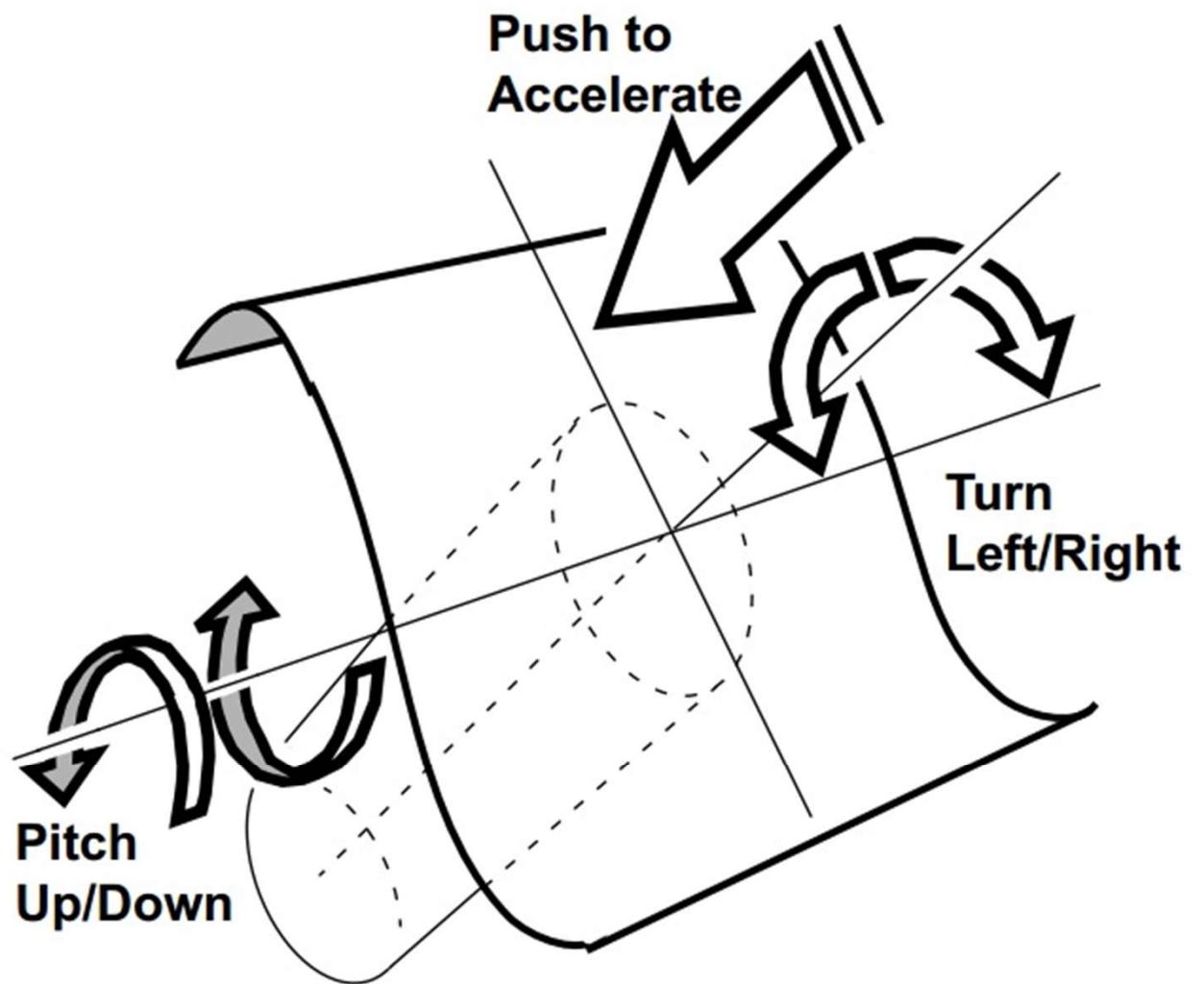






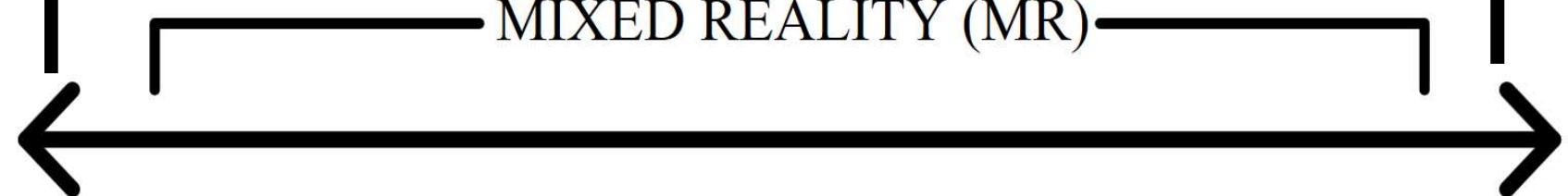
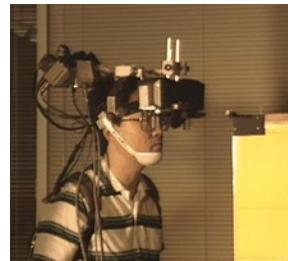
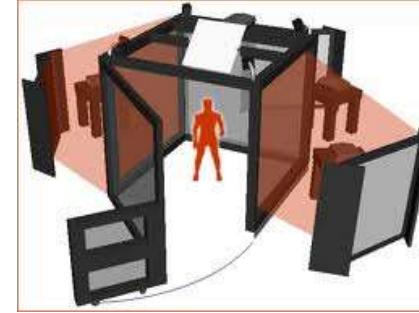


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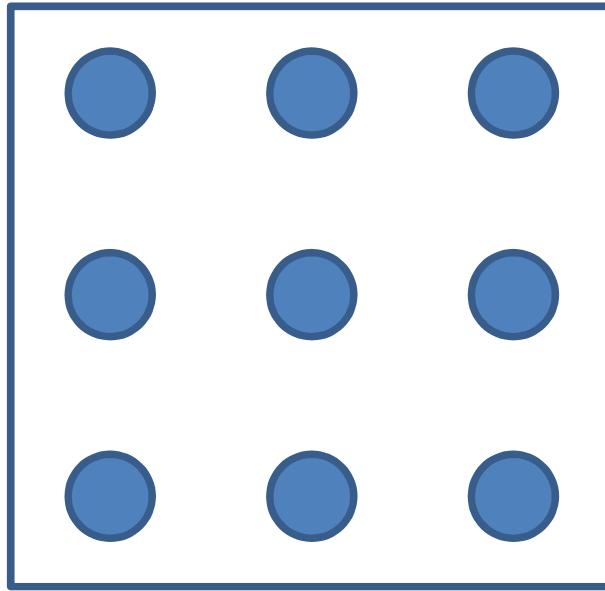




What is Reality?

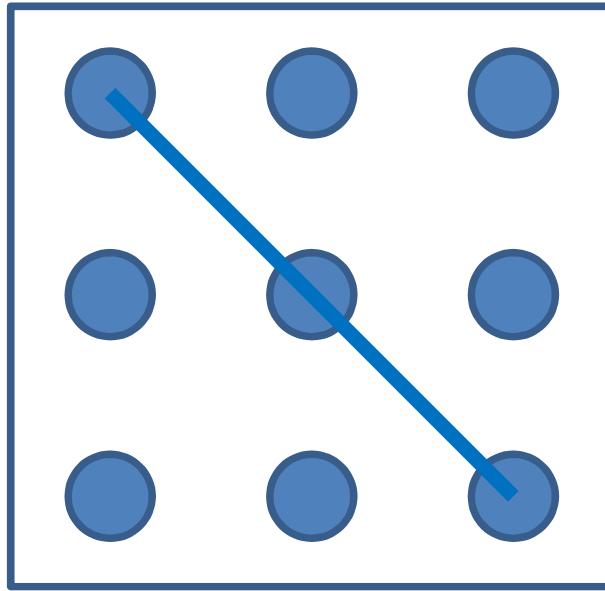


A Puzzle



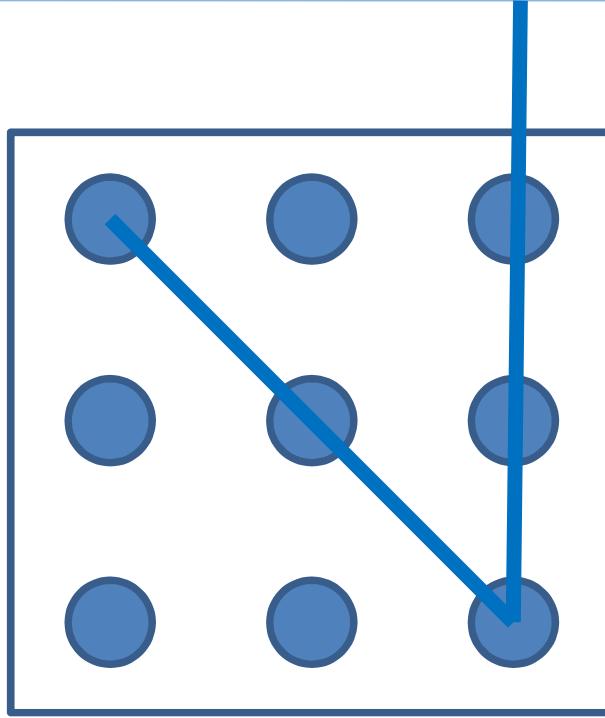
Draw four straight lines which go through the middle of all of the dots without taking your pen off the paper.

A Puzzle



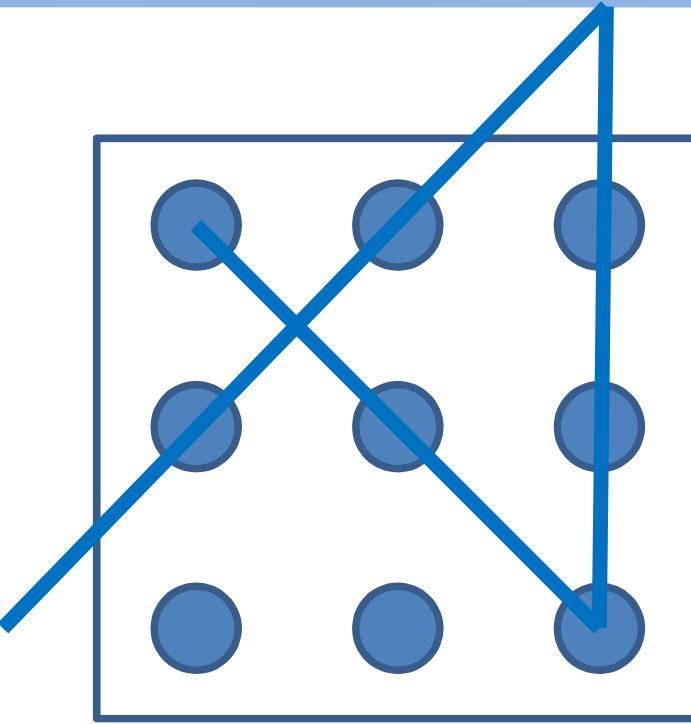
Draw four straight lines which go through the middle of all of the dots without taking your pen off the paper.

A Puzzle



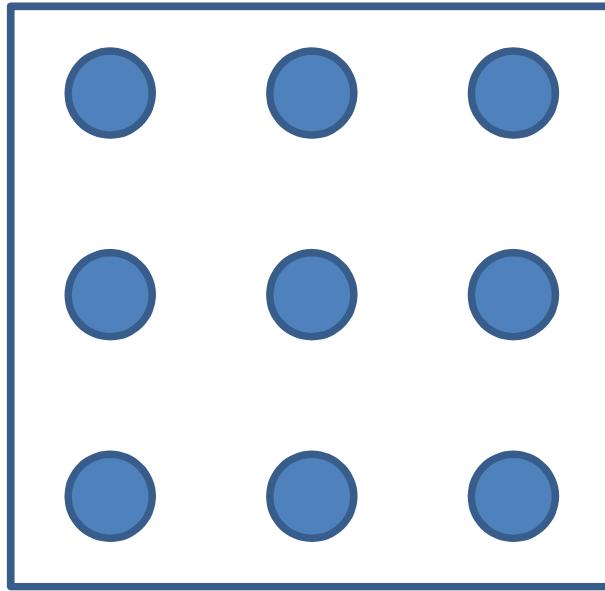
Think outside the box!

A puzzle



Think outside the box!

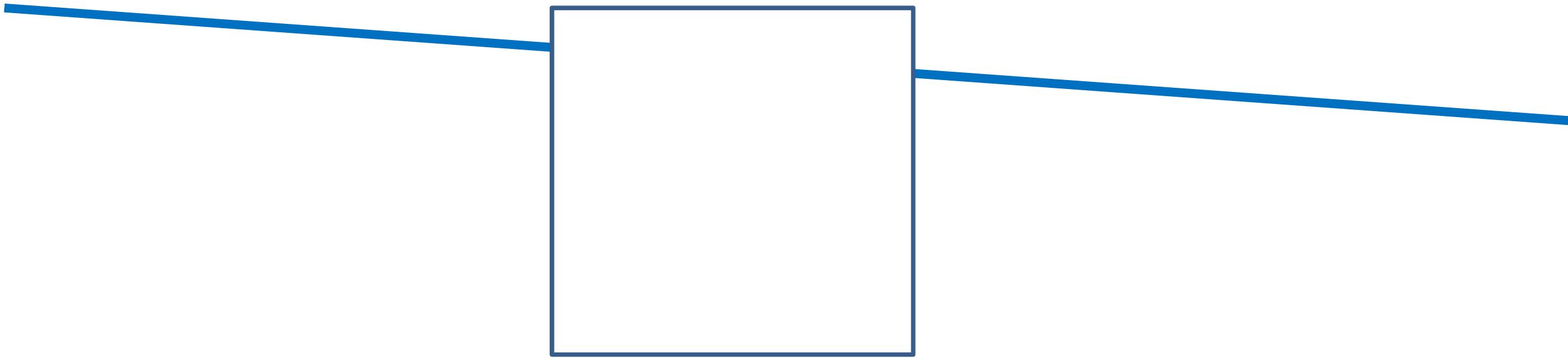
A Puzzle



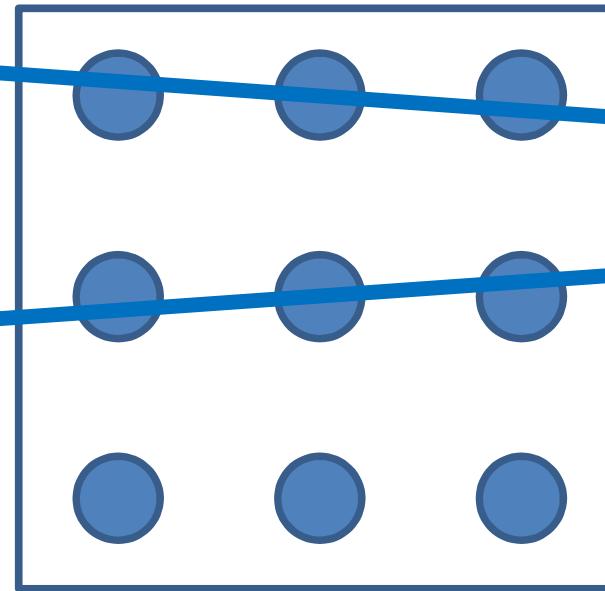
Can you draw over all 3 dots with three straight lines connected end-end?

Hint: Think even further outside the box

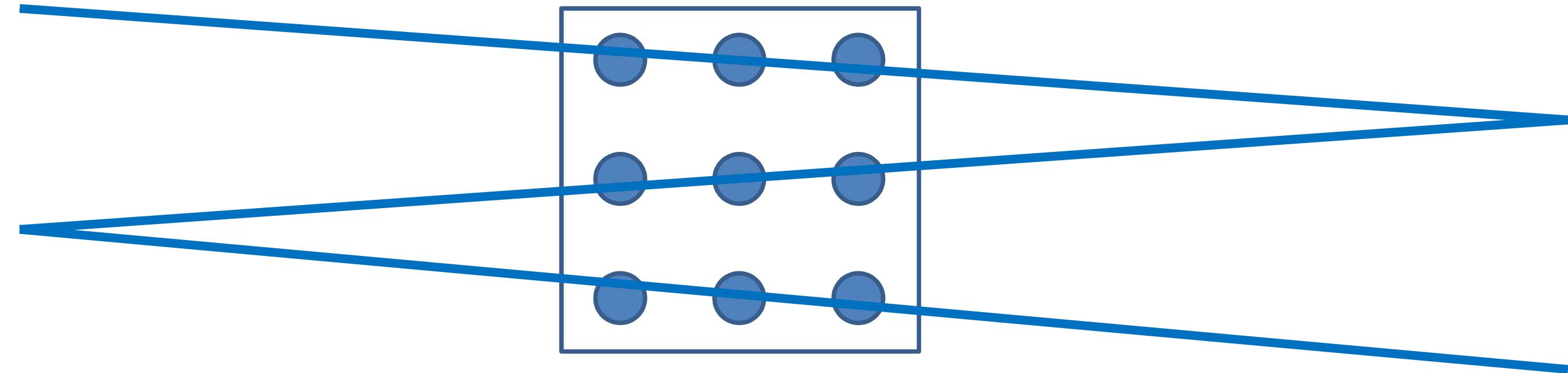
A Puzzle



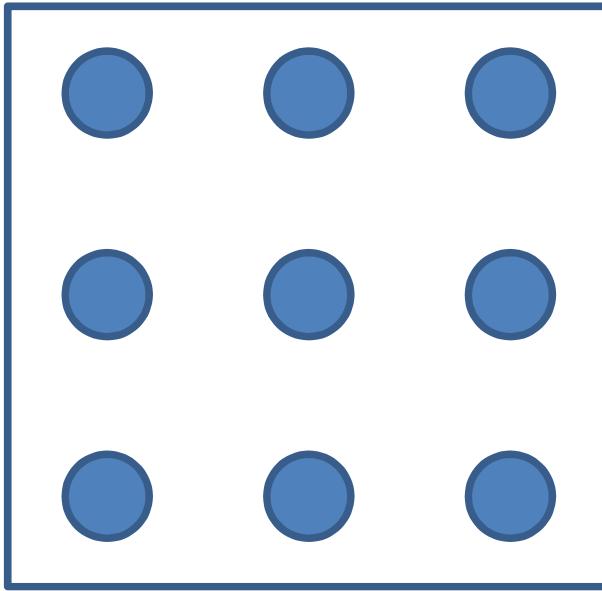
A Puzzle



A Puzzle

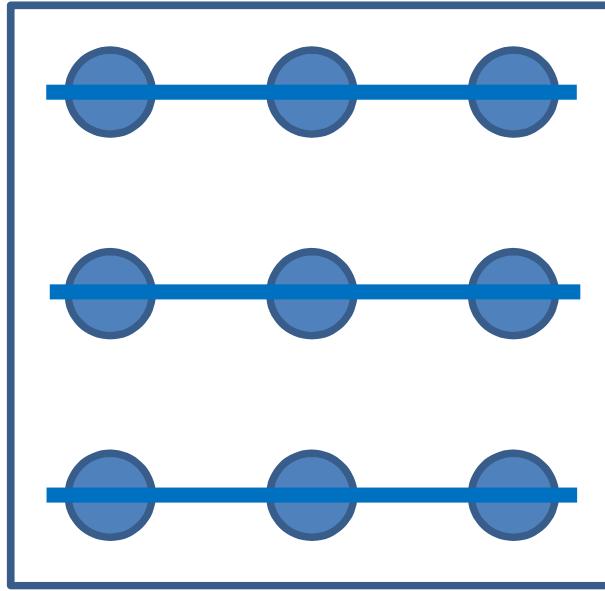


A Puzzle

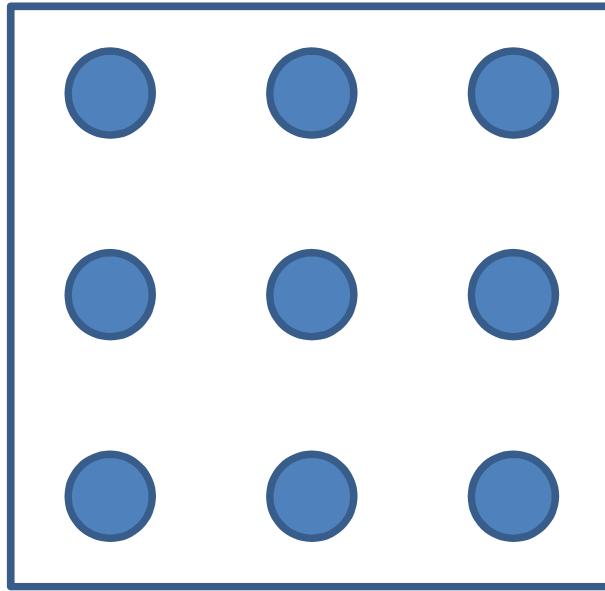


Now draw over all nine dots with three straight lines, but this time the lines cannot extend beyond the box boundaries

A Puzzle

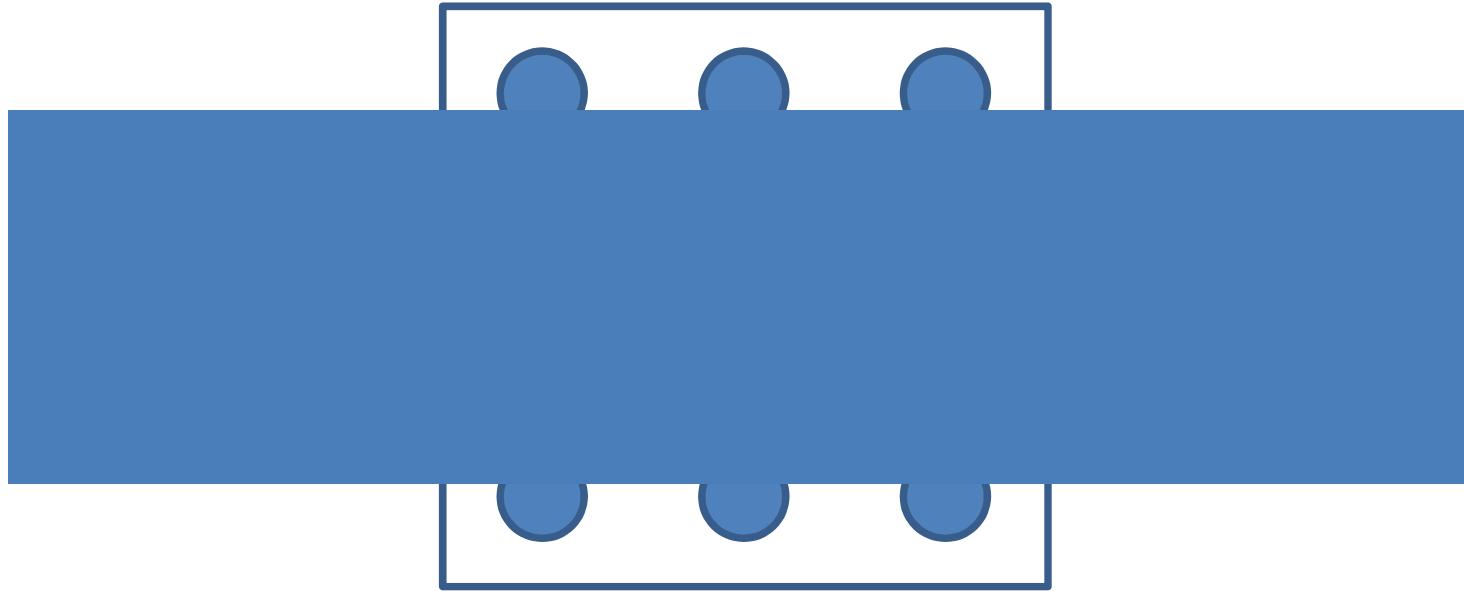


A Puzzle



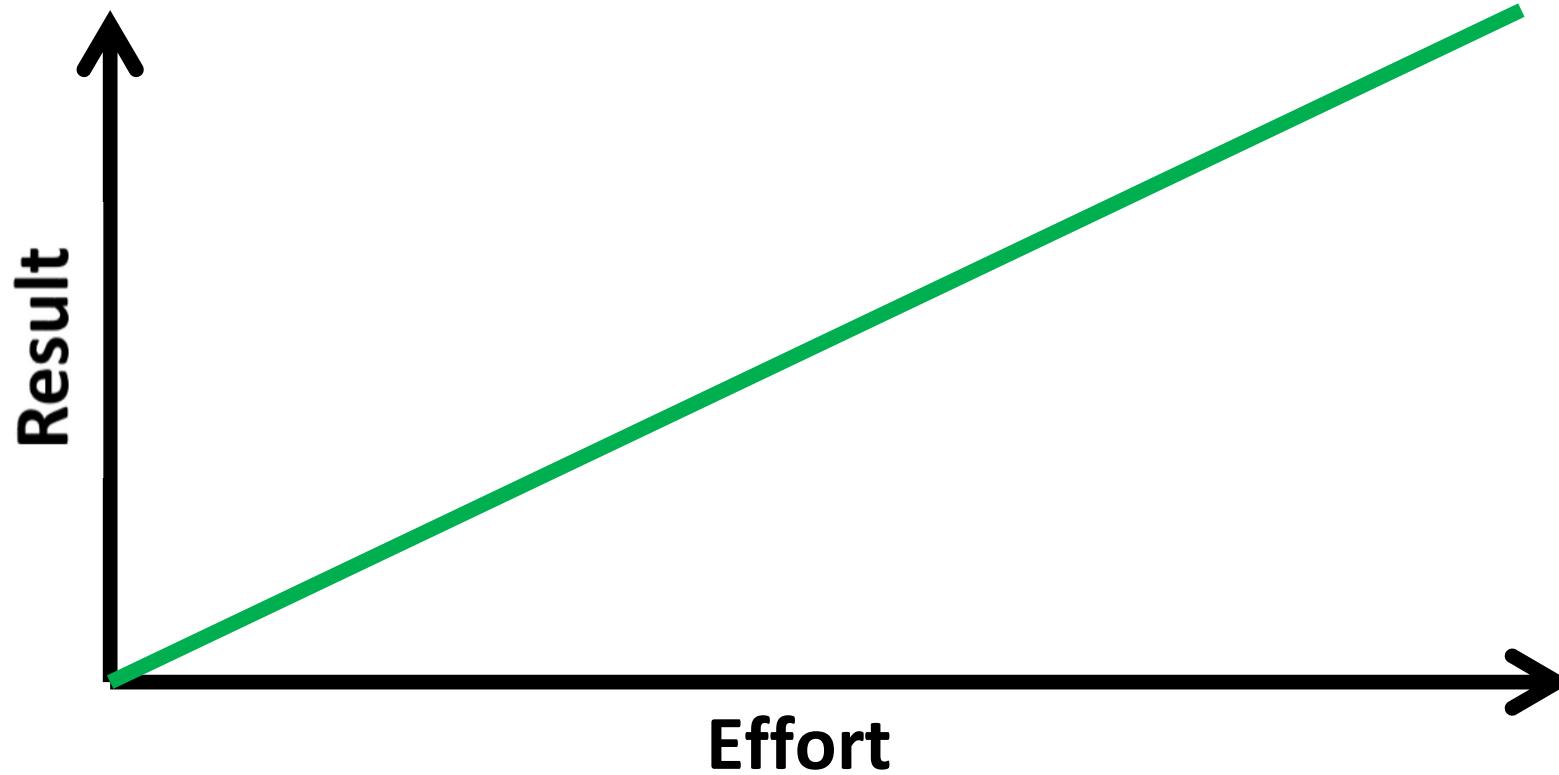
Now draw over all nine dots
with a single straight line

A Puzzle



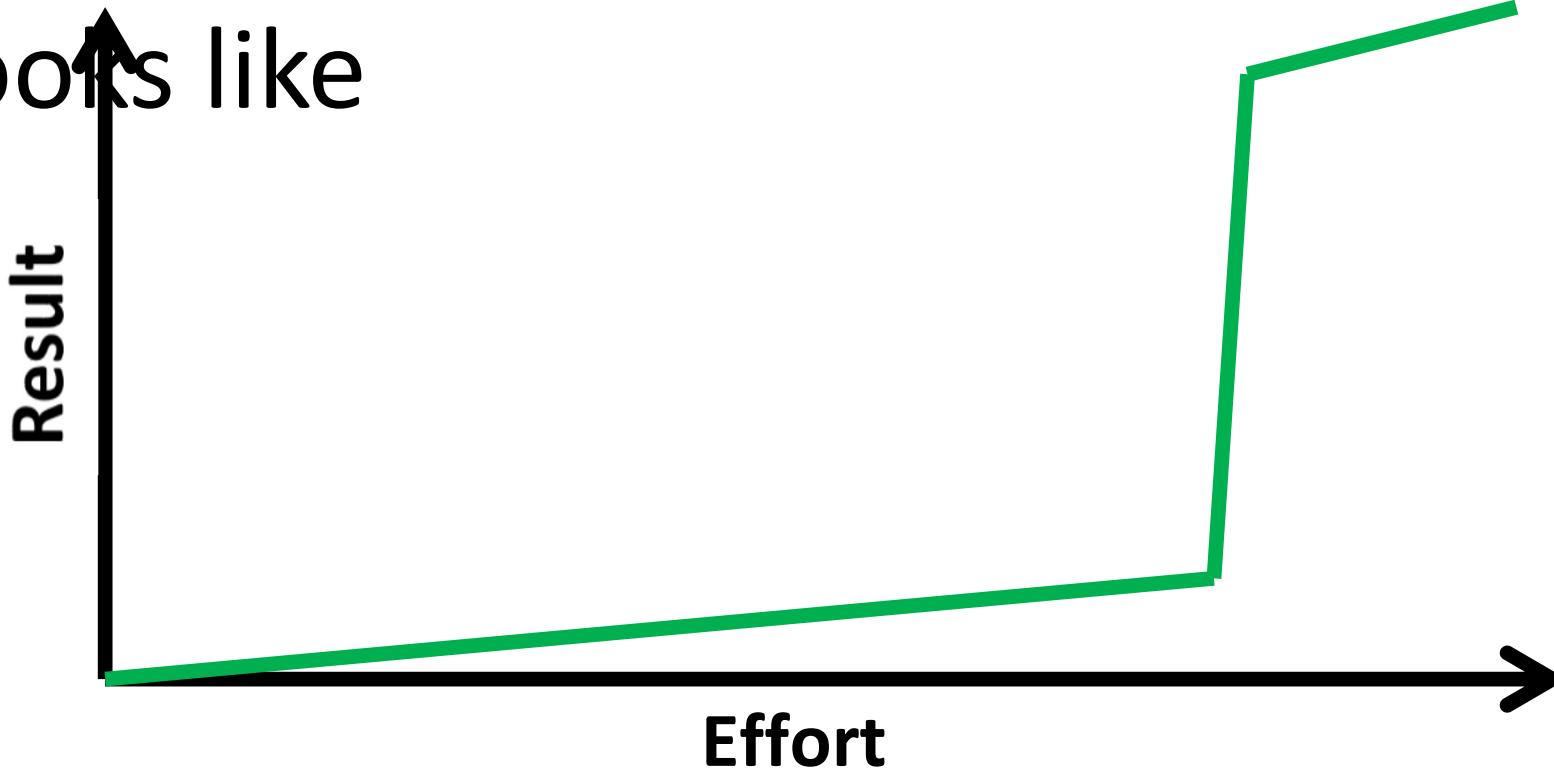
Innovation

What people think it looks like

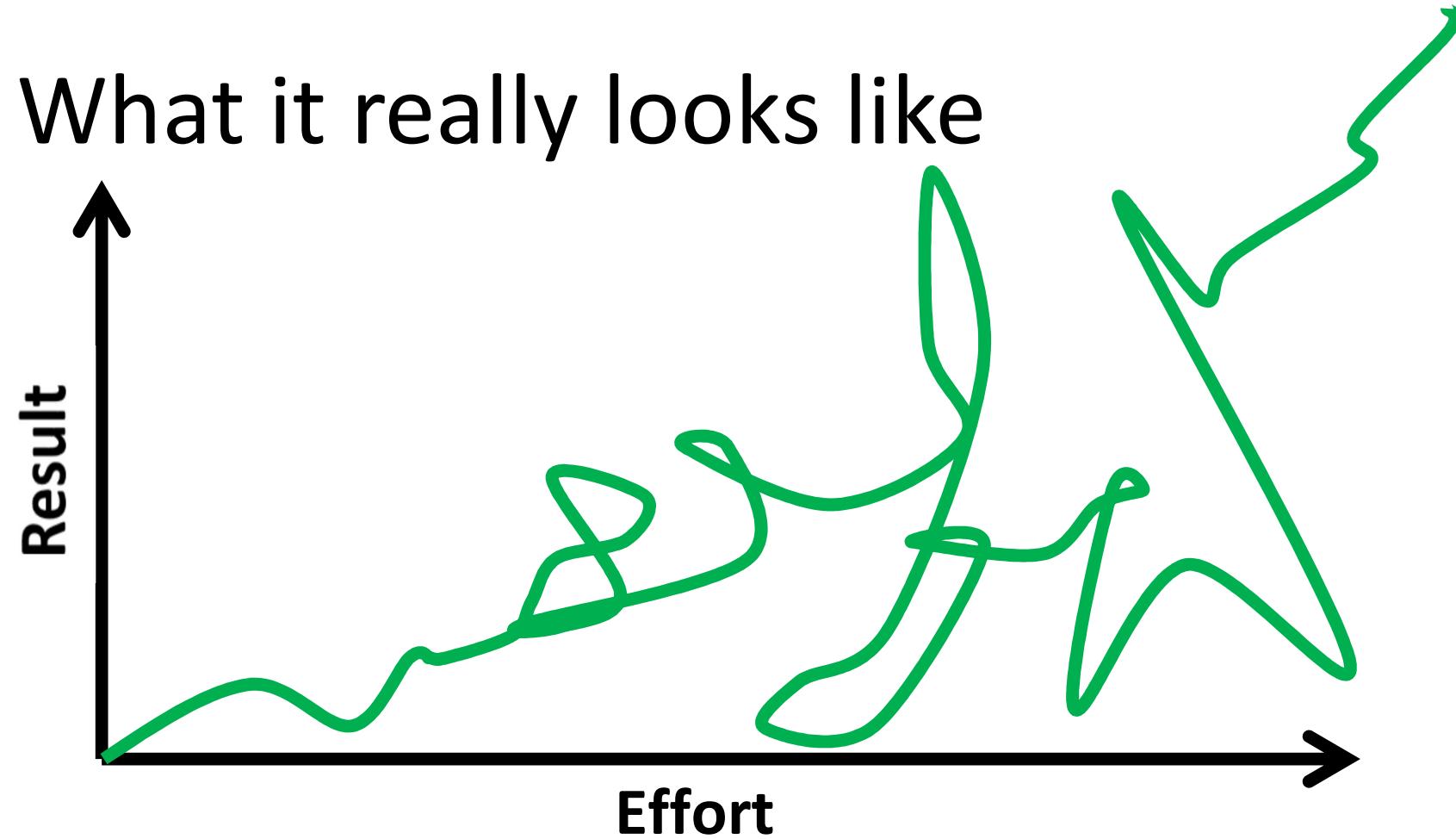


Innovation

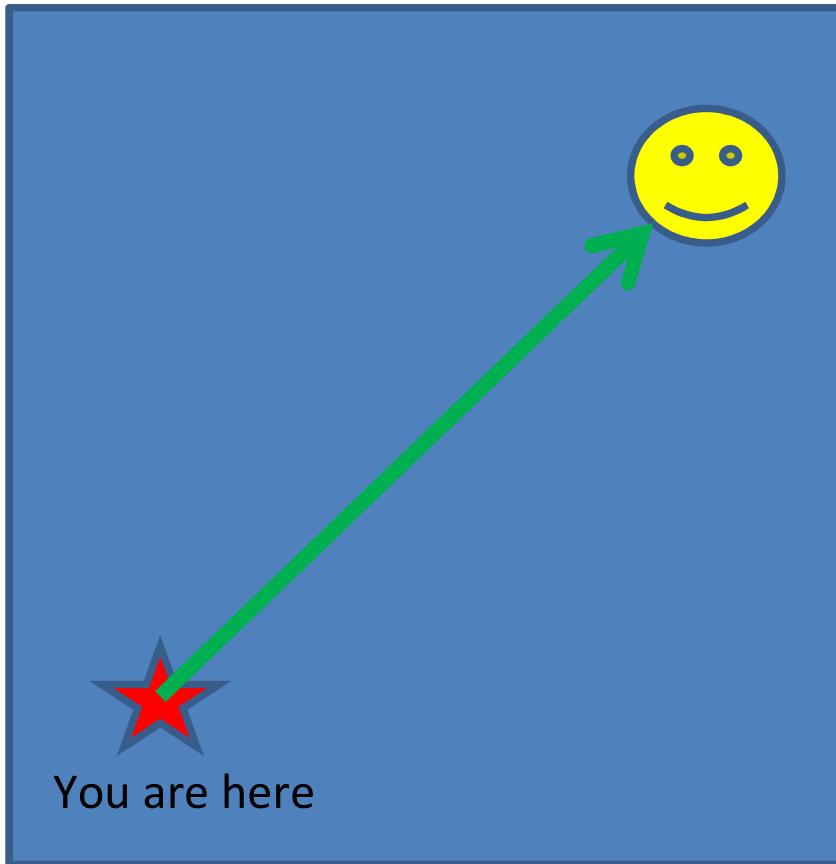
What enlightened people think it
looks like



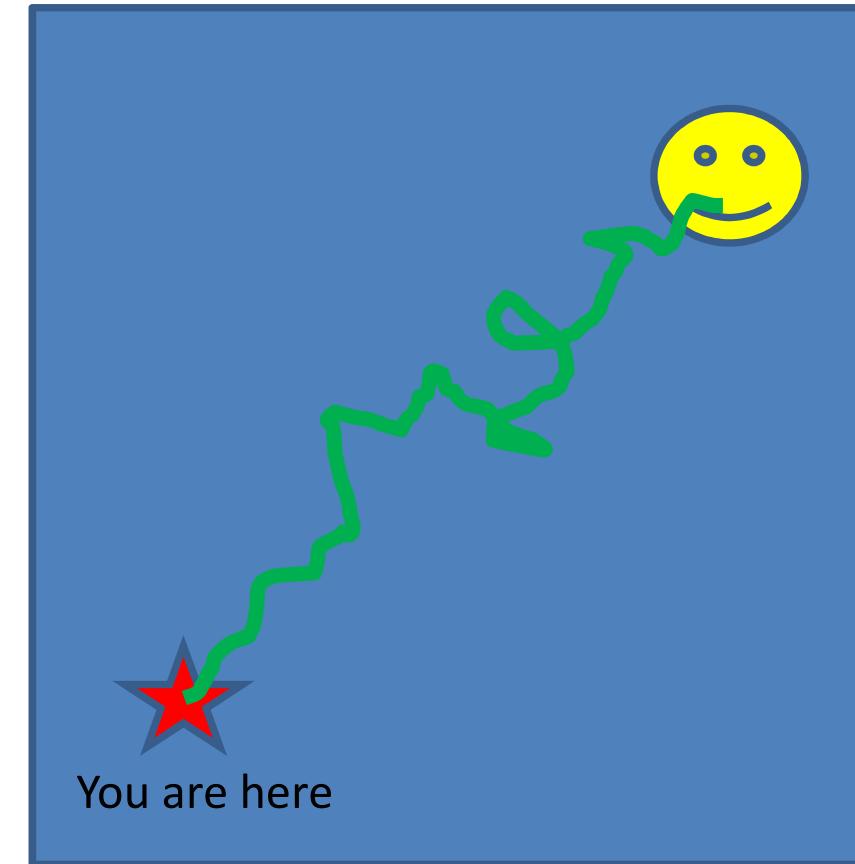
Innovation



Two Methods

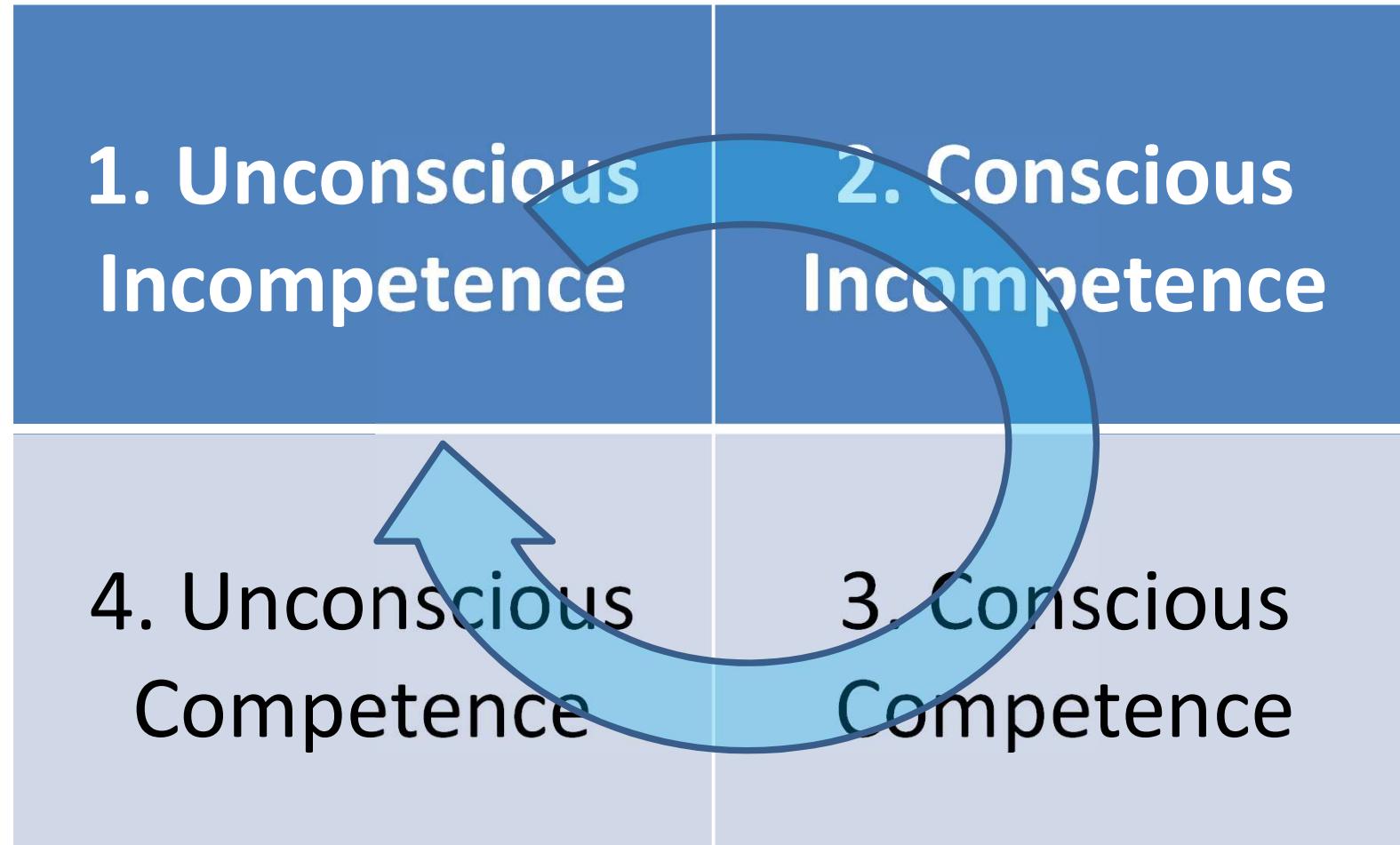


The Fantasy Method



The Zig-Zag Method

The 4 Levels of Competence



An Uncomfortable Exercise



How to Get Better at...

What is the secret of quality VR apps?

✓ The secret is that there is no secret

Practice.

Practice.

Practice.

Your First Innovations

Will not be great!

- ✓ In fact it may be painful

Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn. -*John Maxwell*

Becoming a Great VR Creator

Learning to create great VR is no different than anything else in life

There is a learning curve

Becoming great will not happen overnight

Summary

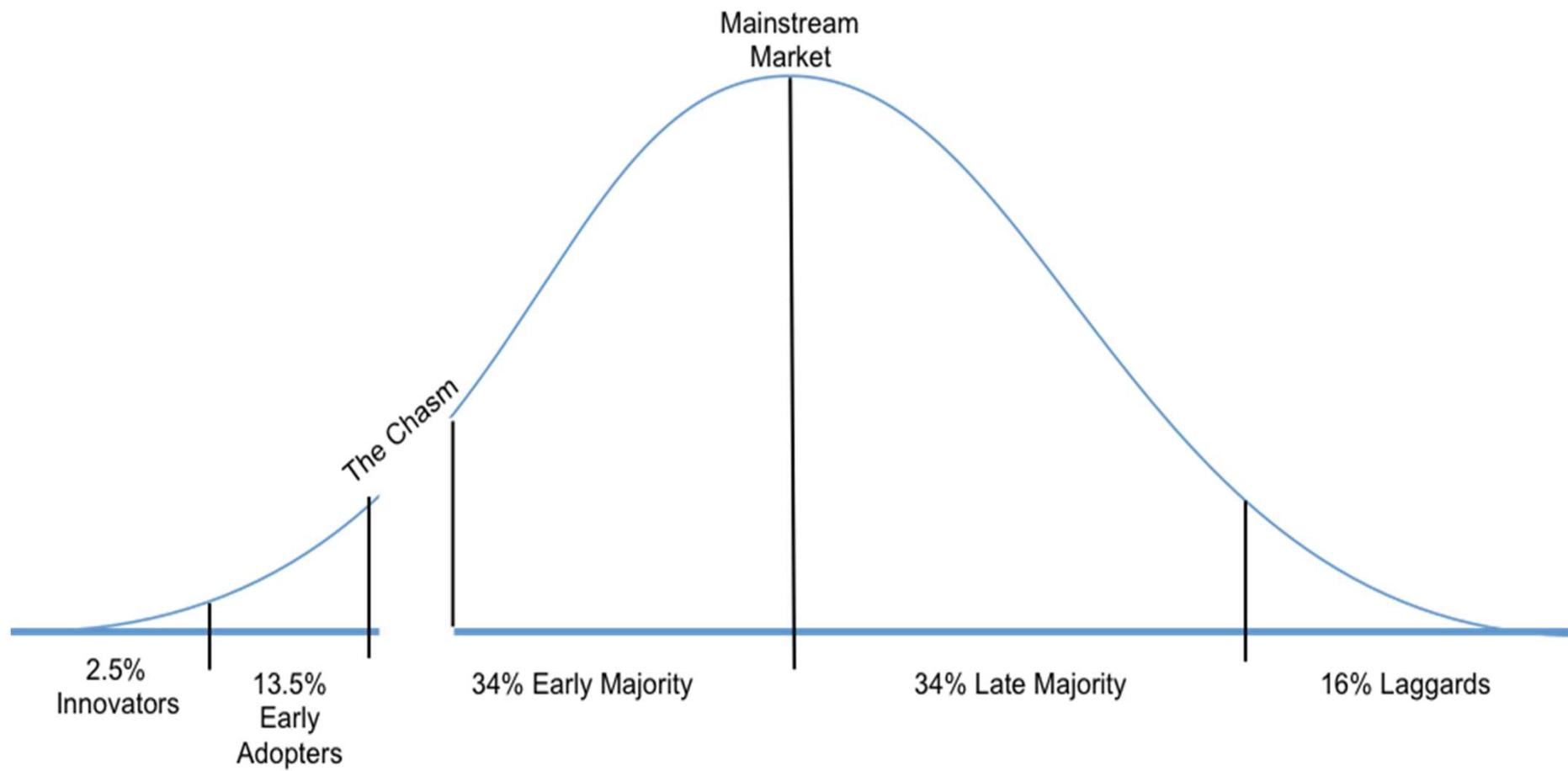
1. Persistence of action
2. Open minded exploration
3. Vision is seeing that which does not yet exist

Haptics and Motion Devices

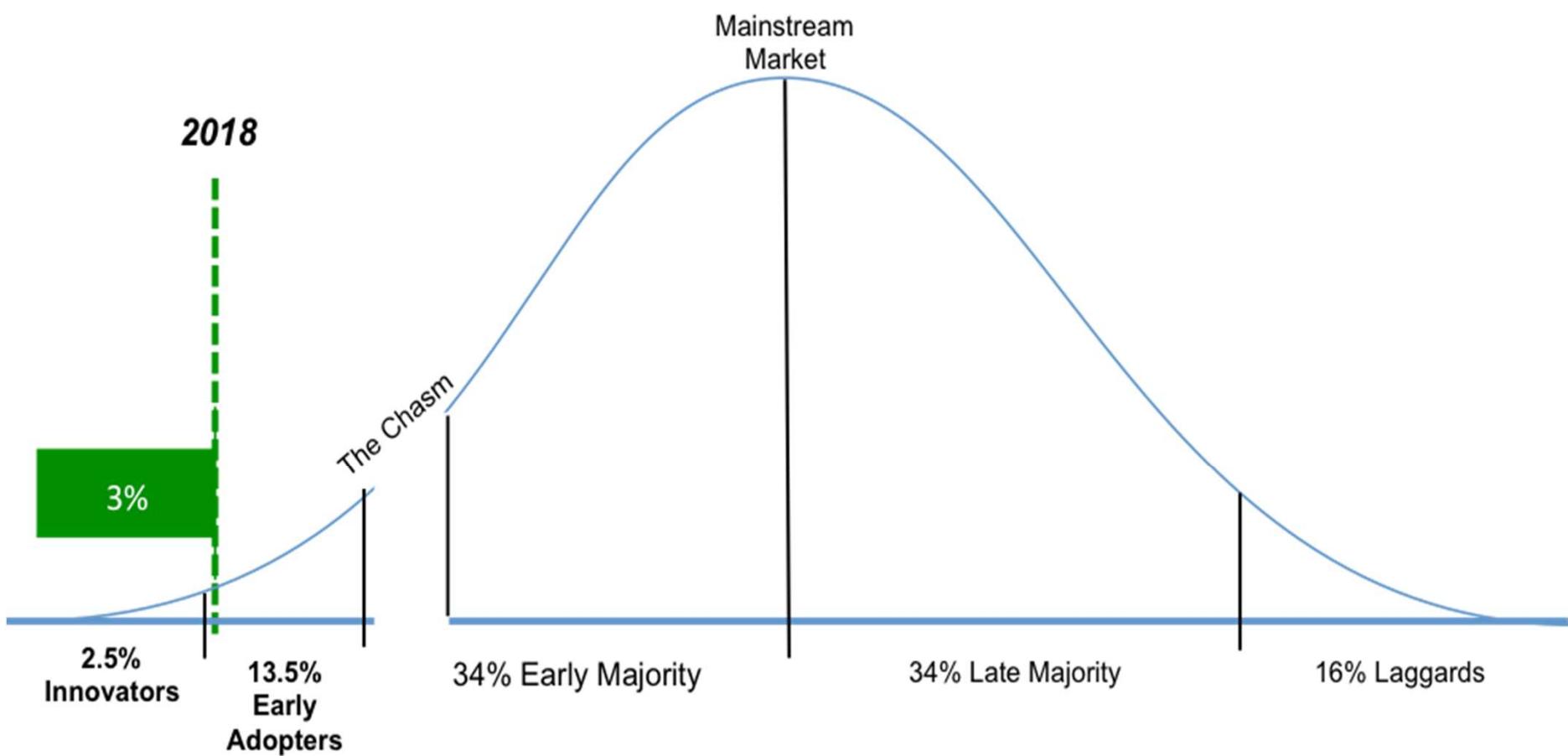


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Technology Adoption Curve



Technology Adoption Immersive VR



Segmenting Users

User Category	% Distribution	General Attributes
Innovator	2.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk Takers• Not afraid of failure• Typically viewed as the “Techie” or “Tinkerer”• Access to afford costlier models• High tolerance to product bugs and often desires to be part of development
Early Adopter	13.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More selective on technology usage• Considered Visionaries and often cited as the group to check in with for input before other peers proceed to buy• Product is more widely available
Early Majority	34%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Takes time to adopt new technology• “Wait and see” but still willing to adopt when there is a clear fit in the user’s lifestyle• Product is widely available and has undergone several generations of enhancements
Late Majority	34%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skeptical and generally adopts new technologies in reaction to peer pressure or general social norms.• Product is overall mature with a clear stickiness in the marketplace
Laggard	16%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traditionalists that do not accept change easily• Typically do not have means or desire to spend money on new applications• Product has reached maturity and may be a necessity that prohibits non-adoption

VR Market: A Changing Paradigm

2012
55% of AR/VR-related systems are military based¹



2017
75% of all AR/VR systems related to entertainment, infotainment, & edutainment¹

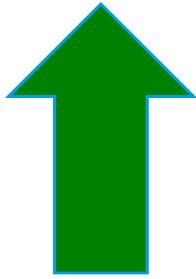
Key Drivers

- Lower cost
- Improved technology
- Mainstream media attention

A paradigm shift resulting in greater competition, innovation, and an educated market

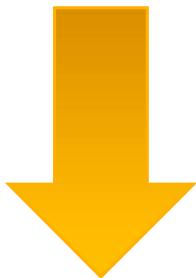
1. Balanced Business Advisors & CyberEdge Information Services, Virtual & Augmented Reality: Nearing Consumer-Driven Inflection Point, 2012

Financial Implications



Revenue

- Visualize before you rent/buy
- Upsell opportunities
- Immersive marketing – no longer limited to showroom
- Increase sales training effectiveness



Expenses

- Avoid costly manufacturing mistakes
- Limit travel
- Lower cost and greater accessibility outside of the lab
- Decrease overhead / inventory needs

Technical Challenges



Fixed-World Displays vs Head-Mounted Displays

Fixed-World Displays

\$\$\$\$\$

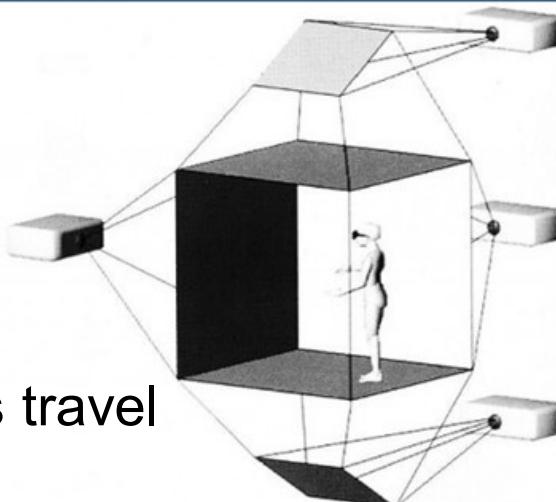
Truck

Requires travel

Group settings

Less sim sickness

- Less swimming
- Real-world cues



Head-Mounted Displays

\$

Suitcase

On the go



Isolating / fully immersive

More sim sickness

- Technical
- Perceptual

Content and Interaction

Content is largely independent of display

- Static data & models

- Animations, simulations, & behaviors

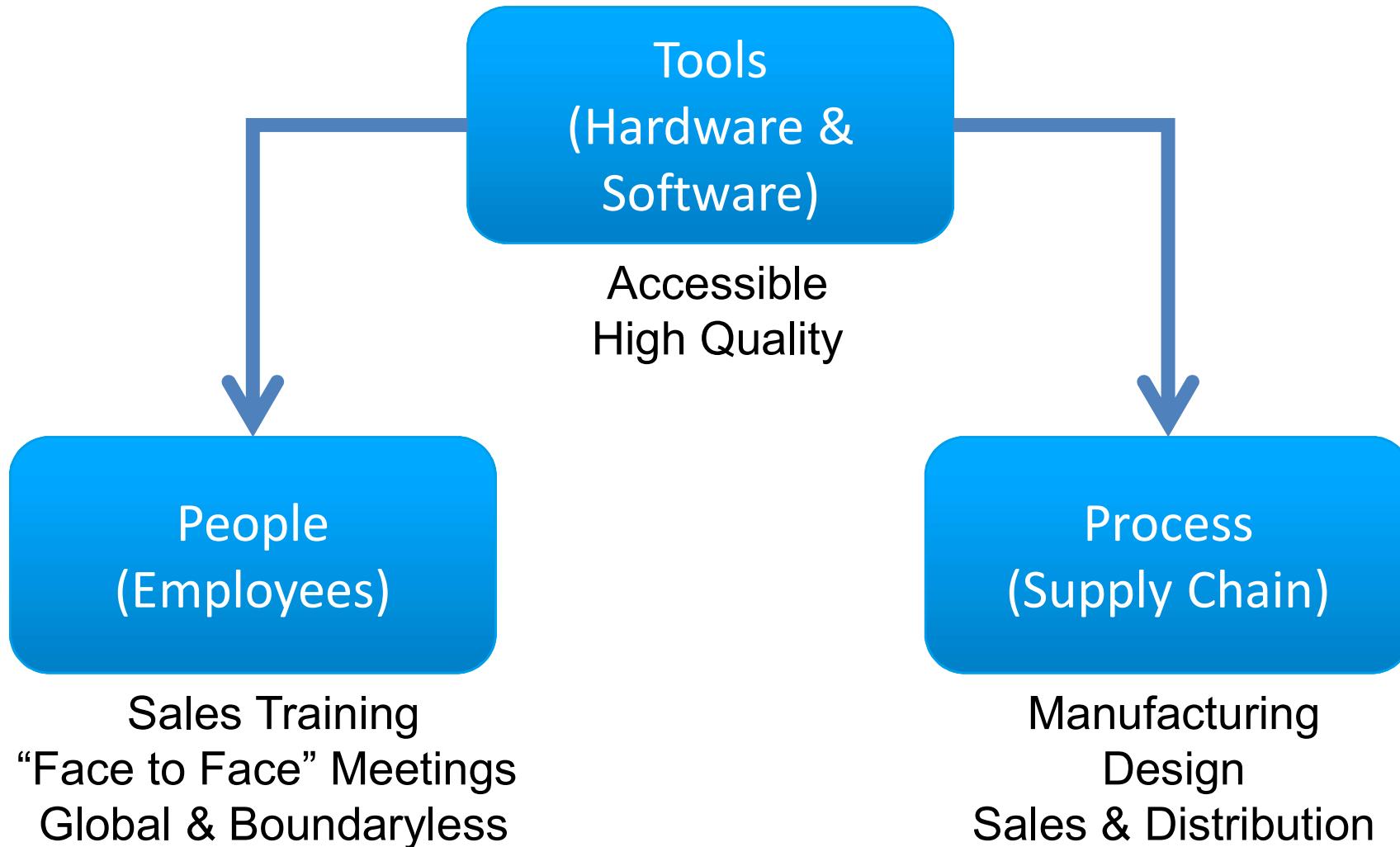
Interaction sometimes independent of display

- The display is not perceived in an HMD

- Interactions in display space are specific to the display

VR content quality is now expected to be high quality

Operational Implications



Conclusion

The AR/VR industry is dramatically changing

Accessible anywhere

Significant financial benefits

Enhanced operational capabilities

Competition will create innovation