

**DCGI**

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER GRAPHICS AND INTERACTION  
CZECH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE



# EMPIRICAL STUDIES POWER ANALYSIS

SAN 2019/20

# HUMAN FACTORS

# HUMAN FACTORS

- Humans are complicated – Computers are simple
- Age, female, male, experts, novices, left-handed, right-handed, English-speaking, Chinese-speaking, from the north, from the south, tall, short, strong, weak, fast, slow, able-bodied, disabled, sighted, blind, motivated, lazy, creative, bland, tired, alert, ...
- Humans are never precise

# HUMAN FACTORS | TIME SCALE

- Workplace habits, groupware usage patterns, social networking, online dating, privacy, media spaces, design theory, ...
- Web navigation, user search strategies, collaborative computing, ubiquitous computing, social navigation, ...
- Selection techniques, force or auditory feedback, text entry, gestural input, ...

# HUMAN FACTORS | TIME SCALE

- workplace habits, groupware usage patterns, social networks, spaces, design
- web navigation, collaborative, social navigation
- selection techniques, text entry, graphical

Scale (sec)	Time Units	System	World (theory)
$10^7$	Months		<b>SOCIAL BAND</b>
$10^6$	Weeks		
$10^5$	Days		
$10^4$	Hours	Task	<b>RATIONAL BAND</b>
$10^3$	10 min	Task	
$10^2$	Minutes	Task	
$10^1$	10 sec	Unit task	<b>COGNITIVE BAND</b>
$10^0$	1 sec	Operations	
$10^{-1}$	100 ms	Deliberate act	
$10^{-2}$	10 ms	Neural circuit	<b>BIOLOGICAL BAND</b>
$10^{-3}$	1 ms	Neuron	
$10^{-4}$	100 $\mu$ s	Organelle	

*Newell 1999*

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*Newell 1999*

# HUMAN FACTORS | TIME SCALE

Qualitative

Quantitative

- Workplace habits, groupware usage patterns, social networking, online dating, privacy, media spaces, design theory, ...
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*Newell 1999*

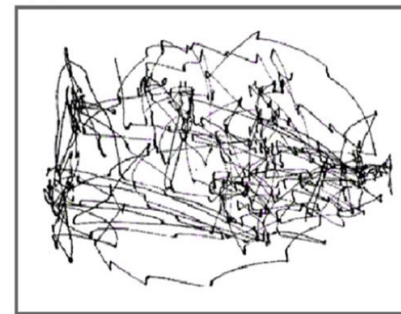
# HUMAN FACTORS | SENSORS

- Vision
  - Intensity, Fixations, Saccades
- Hearing
  - Loudness, Pitch, Timbre
- Touch
  - Position, Texture, Temperature, Movement, Resistance

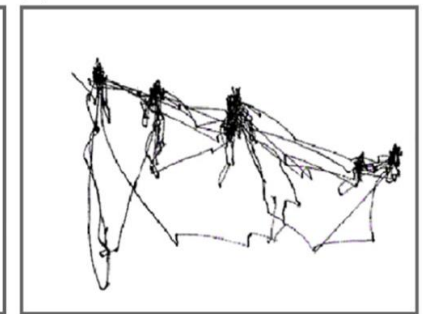
(a)



(b)



(c)

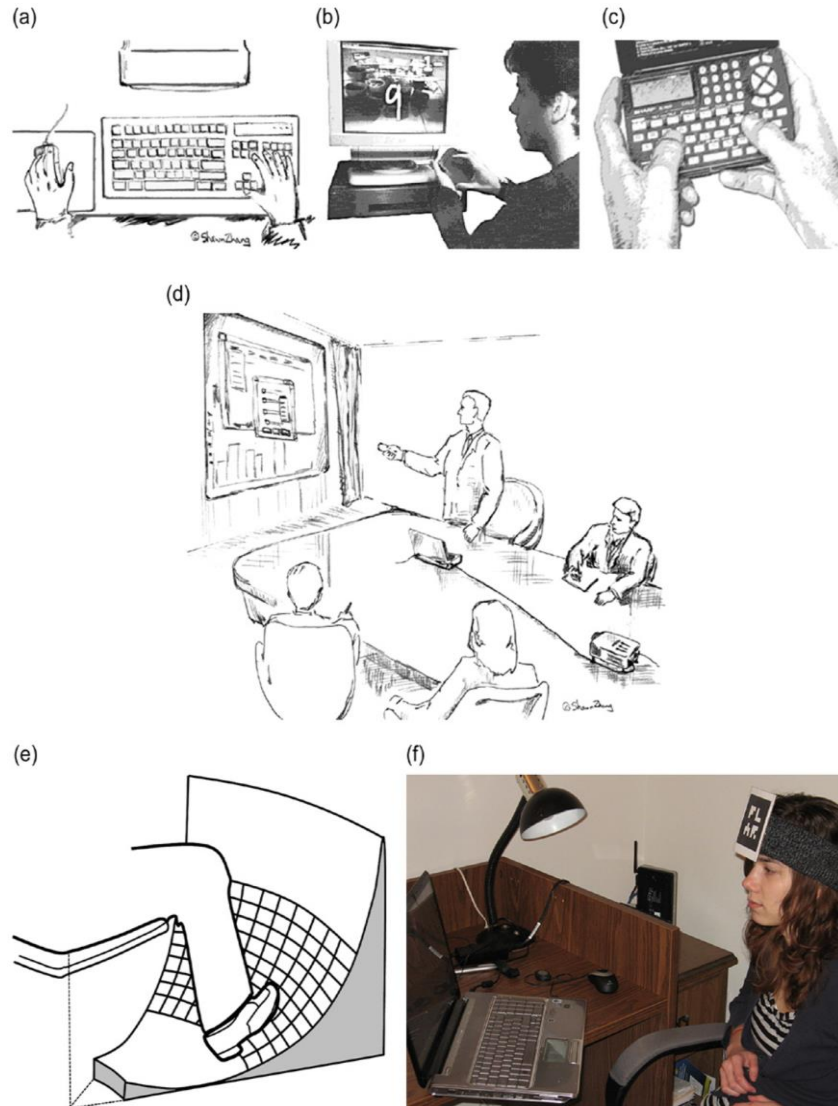


(a) Scene. (b) Task: Remember the position of the people and objects in the room. (c) Task: Estimate the ages of the people



# HUMAN FACTORS | RESPONDERS

- Limbs
- Voice
- Eyes
- Taste and smell

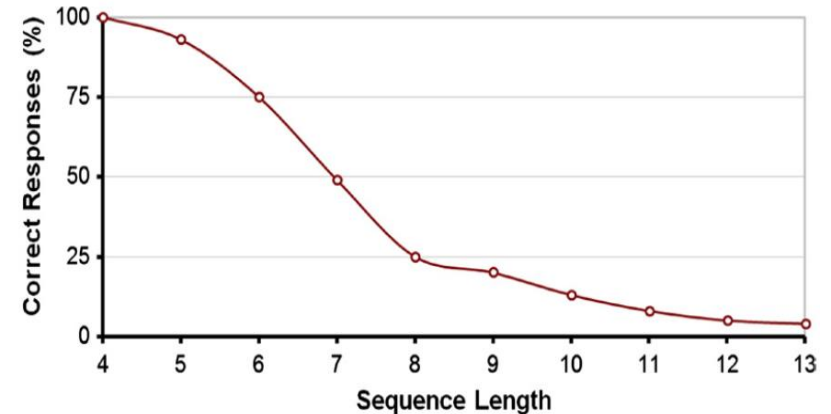


Use of the limbs in HCI: (a) Hands. (b) Fingers. (c) Thumbs. (d) Arms. (e) Feet. (f) Head.

*a and d courtesy of Shawn Zhang; e, adapted from Pearson and Weiser, 1986, MacKenzie 2013*

# HUMAN FACTORS | BRAIN

- Cognition
  - Thinking, reasoning, and deciding
- Memory
  - Long-term vs short-term (working)
- Language
  - Corpus, redundancy, entropy



```
THE ROOM WAS NOT VERY LIGHT A SMALL OBLONG
---ROO-----NOT-V-----I-----SM---OB-----

READING LAMP ON THE DESK SHED GLOW ON
REA-----O-----D----SHED-GLO--0-

POLISHED WOOD BUT LESS ON THE SHABBY RED CARPET
P-L-S-----O---BU--L-S--O-----SH----RE--C-----
```

# HUMAN FACTORS | PERFORMANCE

- Reaction time
  - stimuli->response delay
- Time to make decision
  - logarithmic if there is a system
- Visual search
  - linear relation to number of items
- Skilled behavior
  - performance improves through training
- Attention
  - no cognitive action without attention
- Error
  - error is a discrete event in a task, or trial, where the outcome is incorrect

# RESEARCH METHODS

# RESEARCH METHODS

- Observation
- Experiment
- Correlation



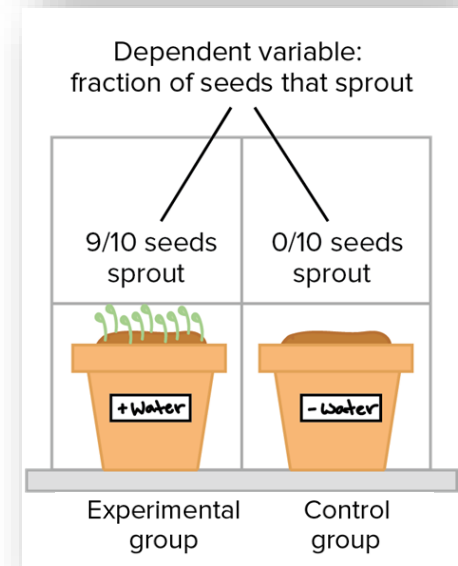
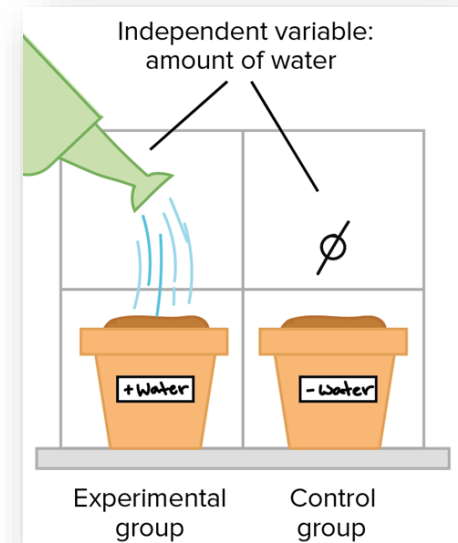
# RESEARCH | OBSERVATION

- Interviews, field investigations, contextual inquiries, case studies, focus groups, ...
- Focus on thought, feeling, attitude, emotion, reaction, expression, sentiment, opinion, mood, manner, strategy, ...
- Qualitative rather than quantitative
- Achieves relevance while sacrificing precision



# RESEARCH | EXPERIMENT

- Controlled experiments in laboratory settings
- Checking causality
  - manipulated (independent) variable => response (dependent) variable
  - systematically exposing participants to different configurations of the interface or interaction technique
- Measurement of responses
  - task completion time, number of errors, ...
- Allows conclusion to be drawn
  - hypothesis test



# RESEARCH | CORRELATION

- Looking for relations between variables
- Quantification of variables is necessary
  - age, income, number of privacy settings
  - nominal-scale variables are categorized (e.g., personality type, gender)
- Data collected through a various methods
  - observation, interviews, on-line surveys, questionnaires, or measurement
- Balance between relevance and precision



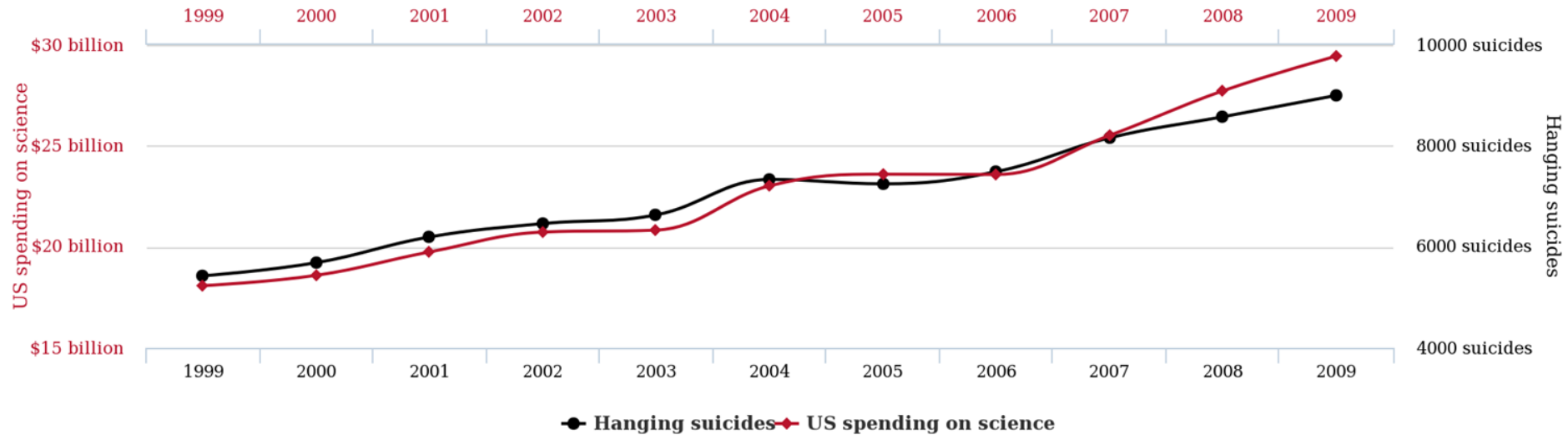
# RESEARCH | CORRELATION

- Looking for relations between variables

## US spending on science, space, and technology

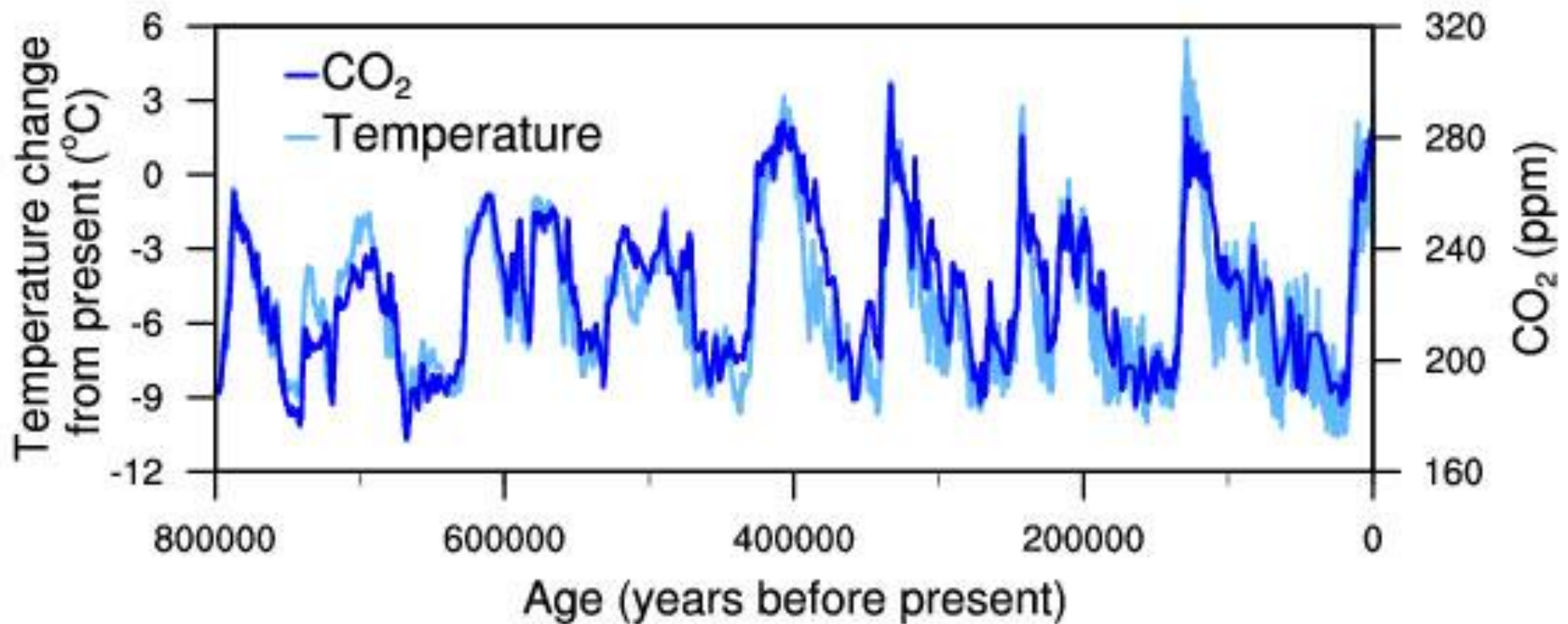
correlates with

## Suicides by hanging, strangulation and suffocation



# RESEARCH | CORRELATION

- Looking for relations between variables



NOAA, Jouzel 2007

# MEASUREMENT

# MEASUREMENT | SCALES

- Nominal, ordinal, interval, ratio
- Different sort of information
- Different analysis possible

# MEASUREMENT | NOMINAL

- Assigning a code to an attribute or a category
  - it does not need to be a number
- Often used with frequencies or counts

P02	F	BHAL	L	4
P06	F	AHBL	C	4
P07	F	ALBH	C	4
P08	F	BHAL	C	5
P09	F	BLAH	C	5
P10	F	AHBL	C	5
P11	M	ALBH	C	5
P13	M	ALBH		
P14	M	BLAH		
P15	F	BHAL		
P16	F	BLAH		
P18	M	BLAH		
P19	F	ALBH		
P20	M	AHBL		

Gender	Mobile Phone Usage		Total	%
	Not Using	Using		
Male	683	98	781	51.1%
Female	644	102	746	48.9%
Total	1327	200	1527	
%	86.9%	13.1%		

# MEASUREMENT | ORDINAL

- Order or ranking
- Interval is not intrinsically equal between successive points on the scale
- Comparisons of greater than or less than are possible
- It is not valid to compute the mean

How many email messages do you receive each day?

1. None (I don't use email)
2. 1-5 per day
3. 6-25 per day
4. 26-100 per day
5. More than 100 per day

*MacKenzie 2013*

# MEASUREMENT | INTERVAL

- Equal distances between adjacent values
- There is no absolute zero
- Mean can be computed
- Ratios of interval data are not meaningful
  - one cannot say that  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  is twice as warm as  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Mildly disagree	Neutral	Mildly agree	Strongly agree
It is safe to talk on a mobile phone while driving.	1	2	3	4	5
It is safe to read a text message on a mobile phone while driving.	1	2	3	4	5
It is safe to compose a text message on a mobile phone while driving.	1	2	3	4	5

*Mackenzie 2013*

# MEASUREMENT | RATIO

- Ratio data have an absolute zero
- Time
  - completion time
- Count
  - normalization is recommended
- Errors normalized as “error rates (%)”
  - $\text{number of errors} / \text{number of trials} * 100$
  - $\text{number of incorrectly entered characters} / \text{total number of characters} \text{ times } 100$



# RESEARCH QUESTION IN HCI

# RESEARCH QUESTION

- Research is conducted to answer (and raise) questions about new or existing user interfaces or interaction techniques
- Often the questions contains the relationship between two variables:
  - One variable is a circumstance or condition that is manipulated – interface property
  - The other is an observed and measured behavioral response – task performance

# RESEARCH QUESTION

- Is it viable?
- Is it as good as or better than current practice?
- What are its strengths and weaknesses?
- Which of several alternatives is best?

**Relevant, but  
not testable!**

# RESEARCH QUESTION

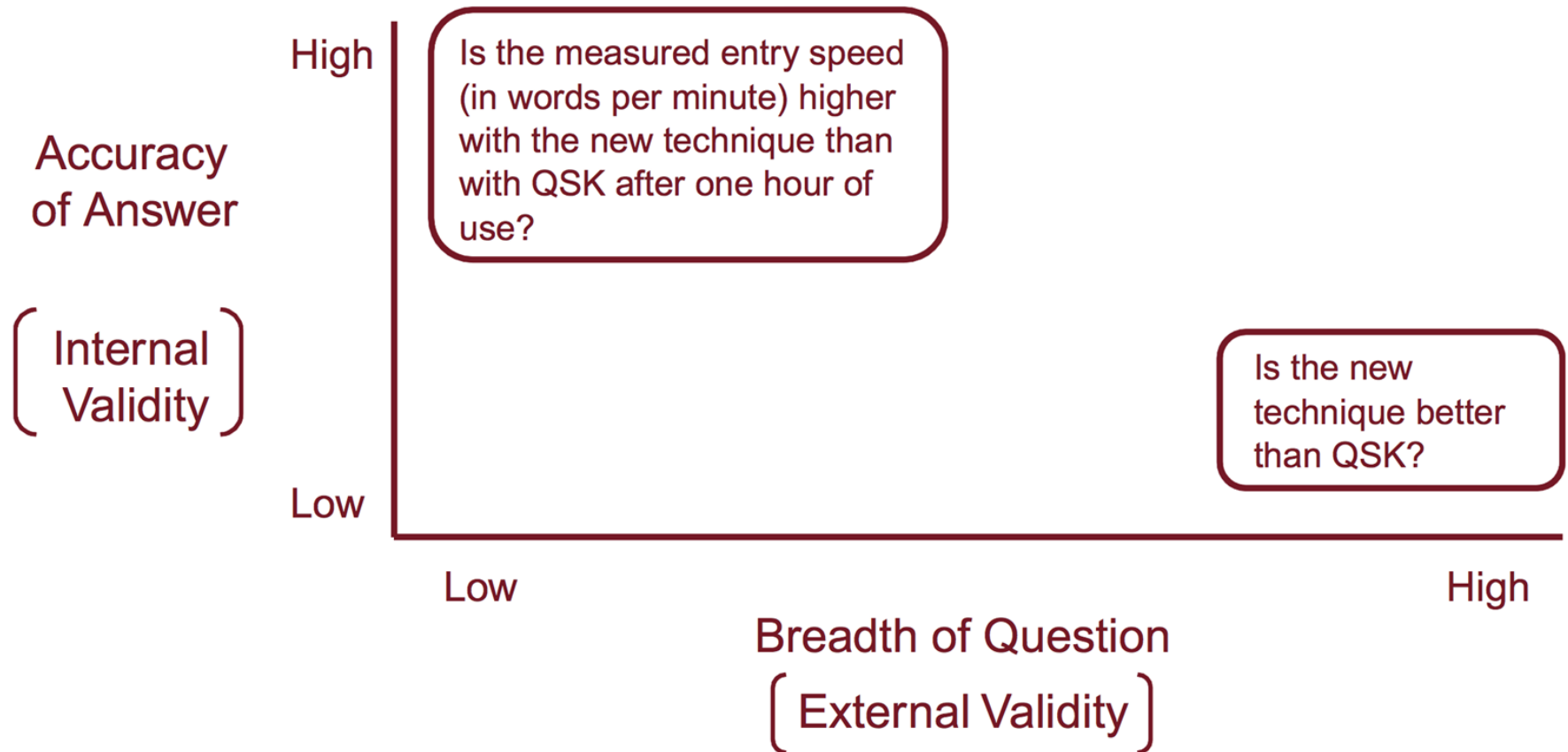
Example, questions about new technique comparing to qwerty software keyboard (QSK).

- Is the new technique any good?
- Is the new technique better than QSK?
- Is the new technique faster than QSK?
- Is the new technique faster than QSK after a bit of practice?

- Is the measured entry speed (in words per minute) higher for the new technique than for a QSK after one hour of use?

More focused

# INTERNAL VS. EXTERNAL VALIDITY



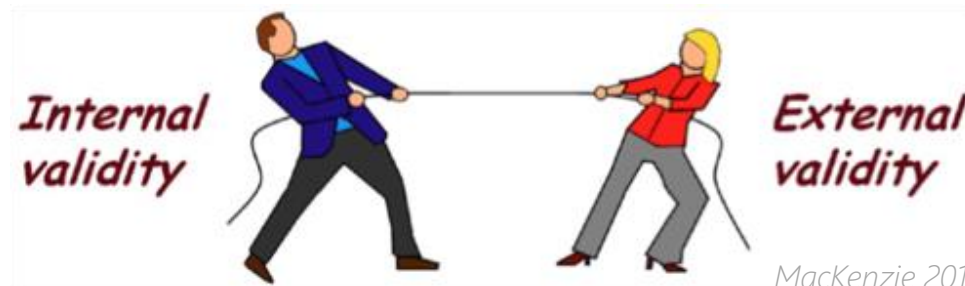
# INTERNAL VS. EXTERNAL VALIDITY

- Internal Validity

- low in breadth (that's bad!) yet answerable with high accuracy (that's good!)
- we can craft a methodology to answer it through observation and measurement

- External Validity

- high in breadth (that's good!) yet answerable with low accuracy (that's bad)
- we lack a methodology to observe and measure "better than"



# VARIABILITY AND CONFIDENCE

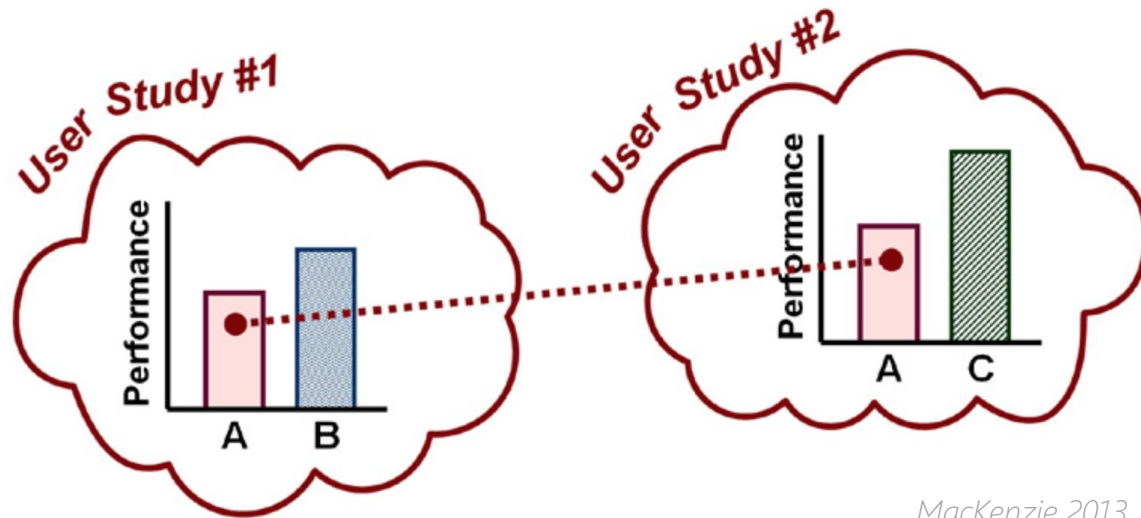
- People exhibit variability in their actions
- Variability person per person, but also person per task
- The result is always different!
- Variability strongly affects the confidence with which we can answer research questions

# DESIGNING HCI EXPERIMENT



# COMPARATIVE EVALUATION

- Evaluation on its own is questionable
- Baseline condition validates the methodology
- Testable research questions are crafted as comparisons



*MacKenzie 2013*

# EXPERIMENT DESIGN

Process of bringing together all the pieces necessary to test hypotheses on a user interface or interaction technique:

- Variables
- Tasks and procedure
- Participants

# VARIABLES | INDEPENDENT

An independent variable (factor) is a characteristic that is manipulated or systematically controlled to evoke a change in a human response.

- Manipulated across multiple levels (at least 2)
- Independent of participant behavior
- Typically a nominal-scale attribute, often related to a property of an interface
  - device, entry method, feedback modality, selection technique, menu depth, button layout
  - unchangeable human characteristic (age, handedness, gender, expertise, ...)
  - environment characteristics (room lighting, noise, ...)

# VARIABLES | DEPENDENT

A dependent variable is a measured human behavior.

- Typically a ratio-scale human behavior
  - task completion time, error rate, accuracy, number of button clicks, scrolling events, gaze shifts, ...
- Dependent on the human behavior
- Any observable, measurable aspect of human behavior is a potential dependent variable
  - all dependent variables must be clearly defined to ensure the research can be replicated

# VARIABLES | OTHER

- Control variables
  - influence a dependent variable but are not under investigation => we try to make them constant
  - lighting, temperature, noise, display size, mouse shape, keyboard angle, chair height, participant characteristic
- Random variables
  - increase variability of measured behavior => results are less generalizable
  - typically characteristics of the participants: biometrics, social disposition (nervousness), genetics (gender, IQ)

Variable	Advantage	Disadvantage
Random	Improves external validity by using a variety of situations and people.	Compromises internal validity by introducing additional variability in the measured behaviours.
Control	Improves internal validity since variability due to a controlled circumstance is eliminated	Compromises external validity by limiting responses to specific situations and people.

Mackenzie 2013

# VARIABLES | OTHER

- Confounding variables
  - any circumstance or condition that changes systematically with an independent variable is a confounding variable
  - very problematic in research – is the effect due to independent variable or confounding?
  - e.g. prior experience, experiment setup (difference in conditions), ...

# VARIABLES | EFFECTS

- Main effect vs. interaction effects on dependent variables
- Interaction effects that are three-way or higher are extremely difficult to interpret
- Optimal number of independent variables: one or two, three at most

# TASK & PROCEDURE

- Procedure should contain all combinations of independent variable and their values
- Task is representative and discriminates
- Besides tasks the procedure contains instruction and training



# PARTICIPANTS

- Select participants from the same population to whom to results apply
- Use sufficient number of participants
  - a priori power analysis
  - check similar research studies
- Increasing the number of participants increases the likelihood of achieving statistically significant results
  - Large number of participants: statistically significant results for a difference of no practical significance

# PARTICIPANTS | WITHIN/BETWEEN S.

## WITHIN-SUBJECT

- repeated measures
- less participants
- variance low
- interference between test cond.
  - learning effect
  - fatigue effect

## BETWEEN-SUBJECT

- separate groups
- more participants
- balancing needed
- no interference between test cond.

# PARTICIPANTS | CONTERBALANCING

- Simplest case 1 factor, 2 levels (A, B), within-subject experiment participants are divided into two groups, 12 participants:
  - 6 in one group order A, B
  - 6 in the other group order of conditions B, A
- This is the simplest case of **Latin square**
- $n \times n$  table filled with  $n$  different symbols positioned such that each symbol occurs exactly once in each row and each column

(a)

A	B
B	A

(b)

A	B	C
B	C	A
C	A	B

(c)

A	B	C	D
B	C	D	A
C	D	A	B
D	A	B	C

(d)

A	B	C	D	E
B	C	D	E	A
C	D	E	A	B
D	E	A	B	C
E	A	B	C	D

# PARTICIPANTS | CONTERBALANCING

- **Balanced Latin squares** where each condition precedes and follows other conditions an **equal number of times**
- Number of levels of the factor must divide equally

A	B	C	D
B	C	D	A
C	D	A	B
D	A	B	C

4x4 unbalanced Latin square

(a)

A	B	D	C
B	C	A	D
C	D	B	A
D	A	C	B

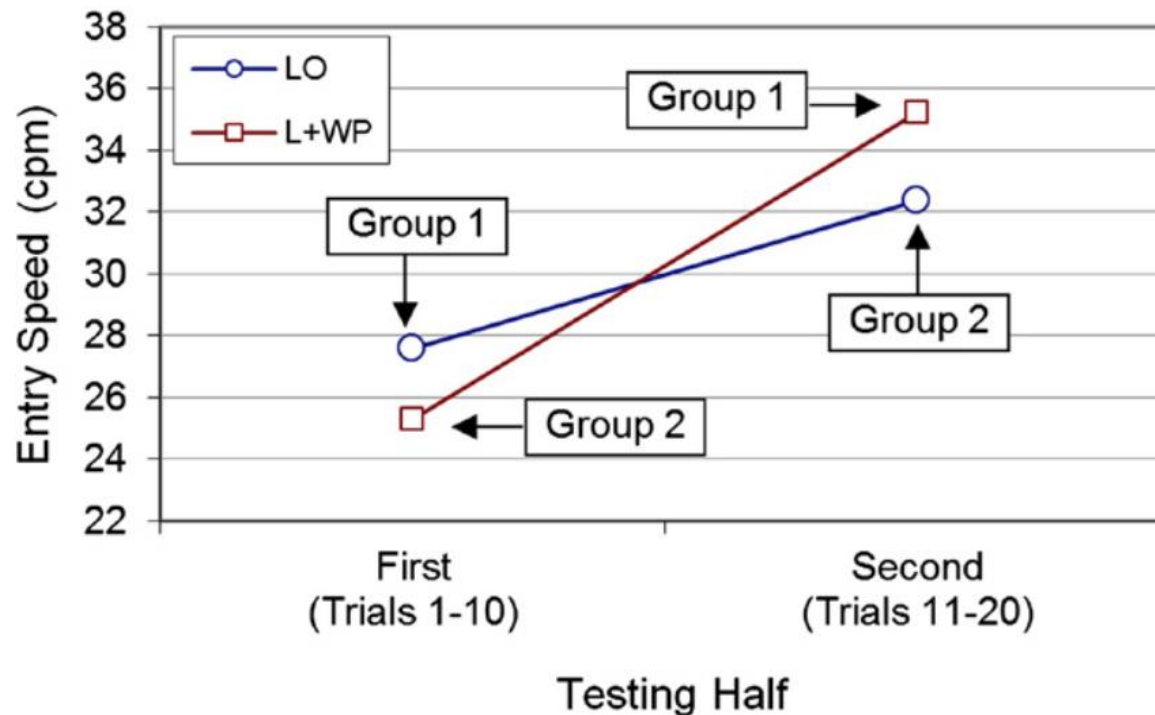
(b)

A	B	F	C	E	D
B	C	A	D	F	E
C	D	B	E	A	F
D	E	C	F	B	A
E	F	D	A	C	B
F	A	E	B	D	C

Balanced Latin squares (a)  $4 \times 4$ . (b)  $6 \times 6$ .

# ASYMMETRIC SKILL TRANSFER

- There are occasions where different learning effects appear for one order (e.g.,  $A \rightarrow B$ ) compared to another (e.g.,  $B \rightarrow A$ )
  - group effect = different amount of improvement depending on the order of testing



# POWER ANALYSIS

# ERRORS IN EXPERIMENTS

- Type I error (False positive,  $\alpha$  error)
  - $H_0$  is rejected, when in reality  $H_1$  is not correct
- Type II error (False negative,  $\beta$  error)
  - $H_0$  is not rejected ( $H_1$  is not accepted), when in reality  $H_1$  is correct

	<b>H0 not rejected</b>	<b>H1 accepted</b>
<b>H0 is truth</b>	Correct	Type I error
<b>H1 is truth</b>	Type II error	Correct

# SOURCES OF ERRORS

- 1. Usability properties identification
- 2. Prototype creation
- 3. Experiment design
- 4. Participants recruitment
- 5. Test execution and data collection
- 6. Data analysis
- 7. Conclusions and recommendations statement



# SOURCES OF ERRORS | CONT.

## ■ 3. Experiment design

- poor choice of stimuli
- wrong choice of task
  - unaware of the task
  - poor design in terms of task
- accidental errors
- insignificant stimuli
  - large spread of stimuli
  - shift of modality



## ■ 6. Data analysis

- analysis of influence of test conditions on the data measured
- evaluator bias => analysis performed by more evaluators

# DATA ANALYSIS | OUTLIERS

- Outliers are always there
  - but more often for “long tail” distributions
- Outliers elimination
  - selection bias => “data fishing”
  - before looking at the data measured (step 6)
  - better: before test execution (step 5)
  - perform qualitative evaluation of outliers behavior

	method A					method B				
min	26	24	22	17	15	10	9	8	7	6
max	94	98	75	82	72	41	39	31	29	27

*SAN 2018 experiment*

# POWER ANALYSIS

- Power of a test =  $(1 - \beta)$ 
  - probability that the test correctly rejects  $H_0$

$$\text{power} = \mathbb{P}(\text{reject } H_0 | H_1 \text{ is true})$$

- Depends on
  - significance level  $\alpha$  (Type I error probability)
  - sample size  $n$
  - effect size  $d$  (min. degree of violation of  $H_0$ )
    - specify on a priori grounds

$$\text{t test: } \text{Cohen's } d = \frac{\mu_1 - \mu_2}{\sigma}$$

# POWER ANALYSIS | SIZE $d$

- t tests

- Cohen's suggestion:  
0.2, 0.5, 0.8

$$d = \frac{\mu_1 - \mu_2}{\sigma}$$

- ANOVA

- Cohen's suggestion:  
0.1, 0.25, 0.4

$$f = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^k p_i * (\mu_i - \mu)^2}{\sigma^2}}$$

$$p_i = n_i/N$$

$n_i$  = number of observations in group  $i$

$\mu$  = grand mean

- Chi-square test

- Cohen's suggestion:  
0.1, 0.3, 0.5

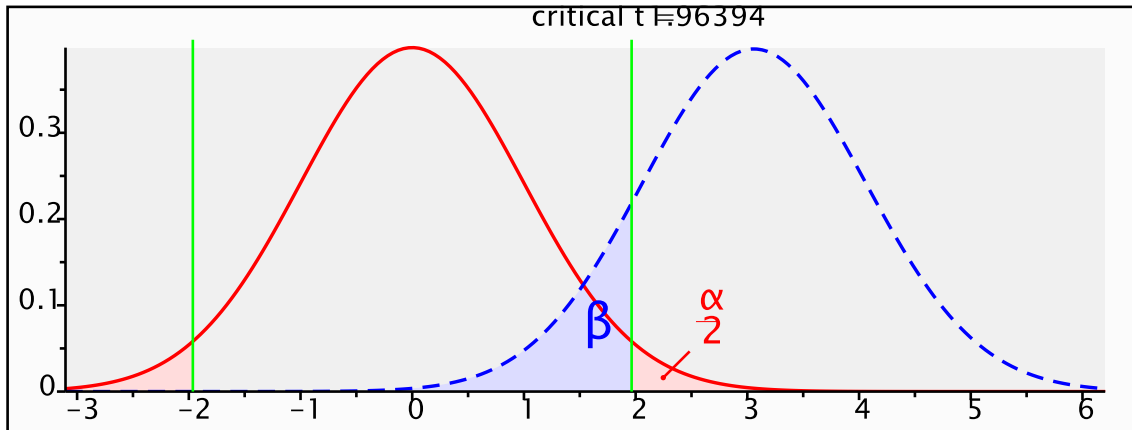
$$w = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{(p0_i - p1_i)^2}{p0_i}}$$

$p0_i$  = cell probability in  $i^{th}$  cell under  $H_0$

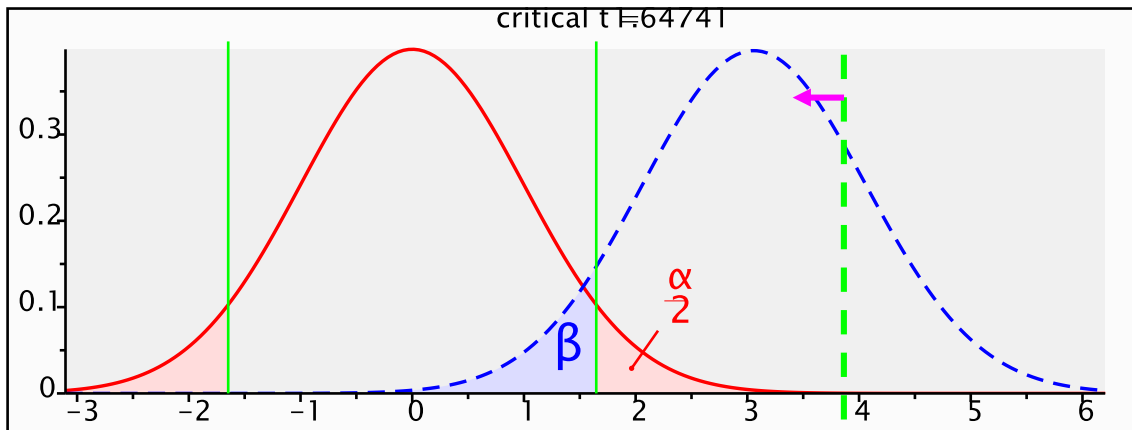
$p1_i$  = cell probability in  $i^{th}$  cell under  $H_1$

# POWER ANALYSIS | DEPENDENCE

t test (difference between two independent means)



$$\alpha = 0.05$$
$$\beta = 0.14$$



$$\alpha = 0.1$$
$$\beta = 0.08$$

# POWER ANALYSIS | TYPES

- A priori
  - controlling power level before conducting test
  - computing sample size  $n$
  - function of required power level, specified  $\alpha$ ,  $d$
- Post hoc
  - after a test was conducted
    - Does the test had fair chance to reject incorrect  $H_0$ ?
  - computing the power level
- Compromise
  - fixed ratio between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$
- Sensitivity
  - estimating/checking the size of an effect  $d$

# POWER ANALYSIS | DISCOVERY

- How many users do we need for discovering 95% of (**ALL**) problems?
- Golden rule of usability testing: Five users is enough to observe **all relevant** problems with **very high** probability.
- To detect X % of problems that affects Y % of users.
- To have a X % chance of detecting ...

$$n = \frac{\ln(1 - X)}{\ln(1 - Y)}$$

$$n = 5$$

*very high* = 95 %

*all relevant* = 50 %

# POWER ANALYSIS | COMPARING

- Determining  $n$  for comparing two means
  - within-subject

$$n = \frac{(t_\alpha + t_\beta)^2 s^2}{d^2}$$

$t_\alpha$  = critical value for Confidence level

$t_\beta$  = critical value for Power

$s^2$  = the variance (estimate of  $SD^2$ )

$d^2$  = the square of critical difference

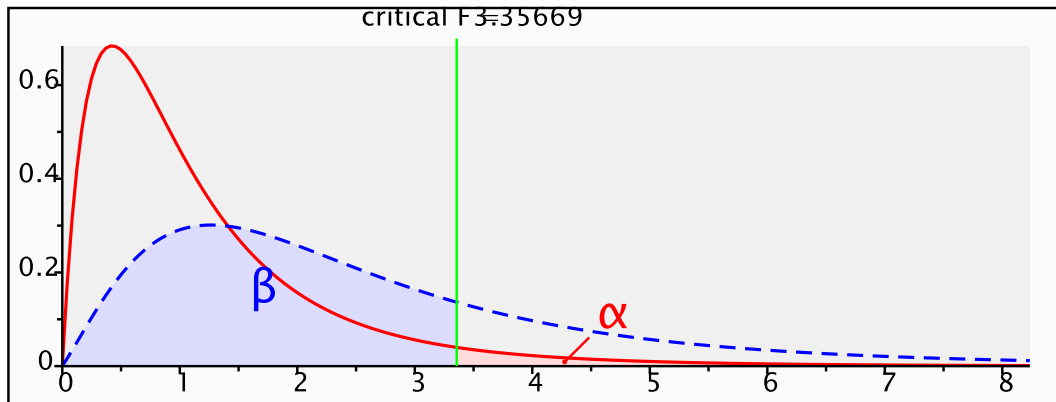
- between subject

$$n = \frac{2(t_\alpha + t_\beta)^2 s^2}{d^2}$$

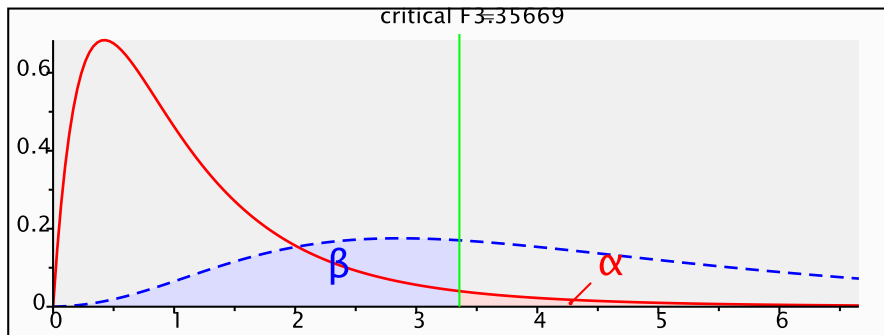


# POWER ANALYSIS | COMPARING

F test (MANOVA: Repeated measures, within factors)



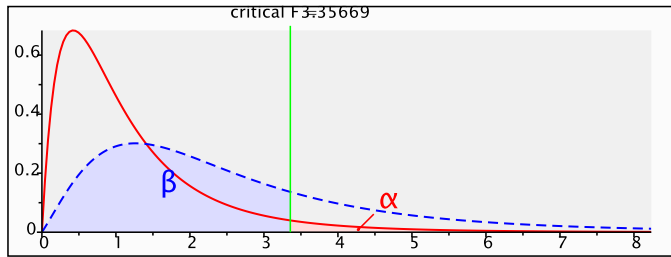
$\alpha = 0.05$   
 $\beta = 0.73$   
 $f = 0.25$  (medium)  
 $n = 16$



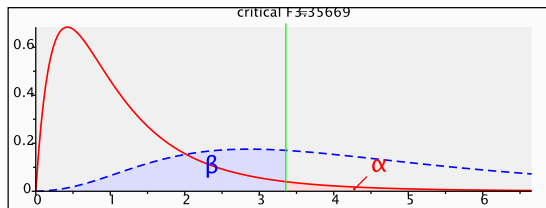
$\alpha = 0.05$   
 $\beta = 0.37$   
 $f = 0.4$  (large)  
 $n = 16$

# POWER ANALYSIS | COMPARING

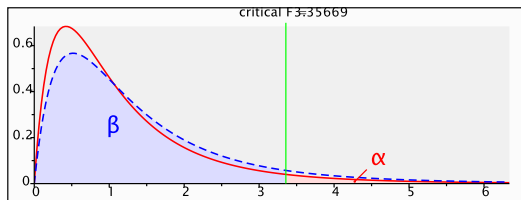
F test (MANOVA: Repeated measures, within factors)



$\alpha = 0.05$   
 $\beta = 0.73$  for  $\beta = 0.2, n = 44$   
 $f = 0.25$  (medium)  
 $n = 16$



$\alpha = 0.05$   
 $\beta = 0.37$  for  $\beta = 0.2, n = 22$   
 $f = 0.4$  (large)  
 $n = 16$



$\alpha = 0.05$   
 $\beta = 0.92$  for  $\beta = 0.2, n = 244$   
 $f = 0.1$  (small)  
 $n = 16$

# EXPERIMENT RESULTS

F test (MANOVA: Repeated measures, within factors)

Keyboard type means:

A=41.86400

B=14.40800

Group means:

AB=29.92800

BA=26.34400

```
=====
```

Effect	df	SS	MS	F	p
Group	1	1605.632	1605.632	3.020	0.08865
Participant (Group)	48	25519.320	531.653		
Keyboard type	1	94228.992	94228.992	341.435	0.00000
Keyboard type x Group	1	1083.392	1083.392	3.926	0.05330
Keyboard type x P (Group)	48	13247.016	275.979		
Trails	4	8265.372	2066.343	107.509	0.00000
Trails x Group	4	38.148	9.537	0.496	0.73855
Trails x P (Group)	192	3690.280	19.220		

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```

*SAN 2018 experiment*

# THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION



**DCGI**

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER GRAPHICS AND INTERACTION  
CZECH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE

Zdeněk Míkovec  
[xmikovec@fel.cvut.cz](mailto:xmikovec@fel.cvut.cz)

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## Further reading

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