# Perception, Cognition, Action



Ken Nakayama Harvard University

# Sperry, R.W. Neurology and the mind brain problem American Scientist 40, 291-312, 1952

"... An approach to the interpretation of higher brain functions is here suggested in which motor adjustment, rather than stimulus patterns or the contents of subjective experience, figures predominantly as a proper frame of reference for understanding the organization, meaning, and significance of brain excitation"

### visuo-motor control

- Flexible behavior afforded by parallel motor plans
- Limits to and possible irrelevance of speed-accuracy trade offs
- Revealing otherwise hidden states
  - dynamics of attentional selection
  - analog number line
  - rapid influence of unseen words

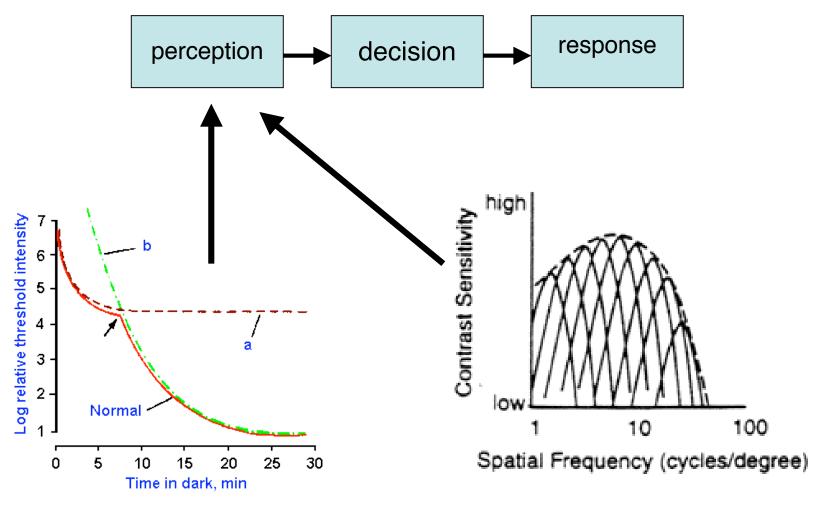
Collaboration with Joo-Hyun Song Now at Smith Kettlewell Also Robert McPeek



# Underlies psychophysical and many behavioral methods

- Some examples
- Hecht, Shlaer and Pirenne, 1943
- Julesz 1960s
- Sperling 1960s

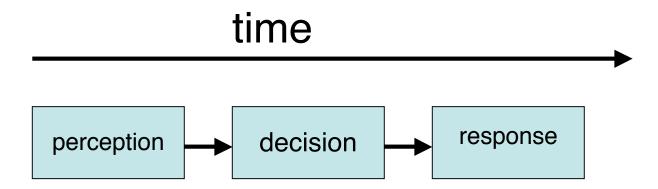
#### Success of serial assumption



Rods/cones

S.F. channels

#### Serial assumption- mainstay of cognitive studies



# Additive Factors Logic Mental Chronometry

F.C. Donders

S. Sternberg

M. Posner

Woodman, Kang, Thompson, Schall (2008)

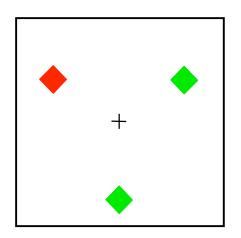
# Generality of serial processing ??



Maradona

The problem of serial order in behavior. Lashley, K. S. (1951)In Cerebral Mechanisms in Behavior, Wiley, pp. 112-136.

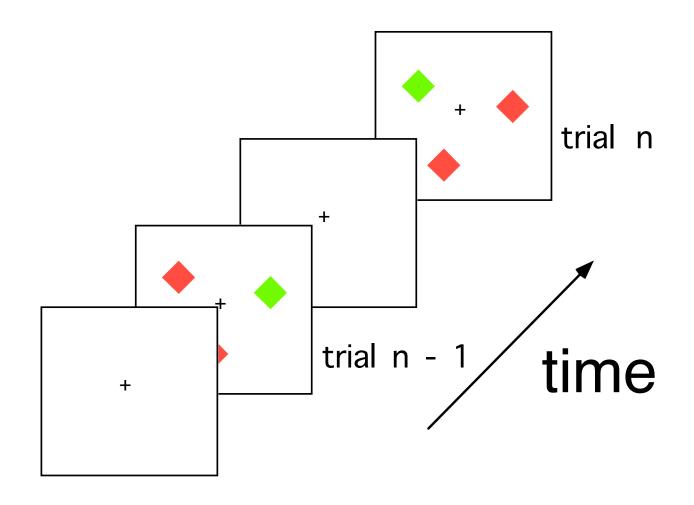
#### Ph.D. work of Rob McPeek



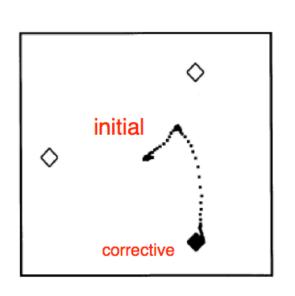
Task:

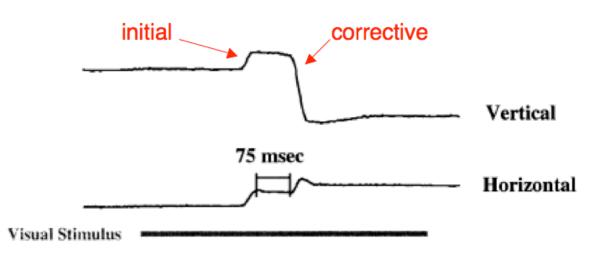
Make eye movement to odd colored target

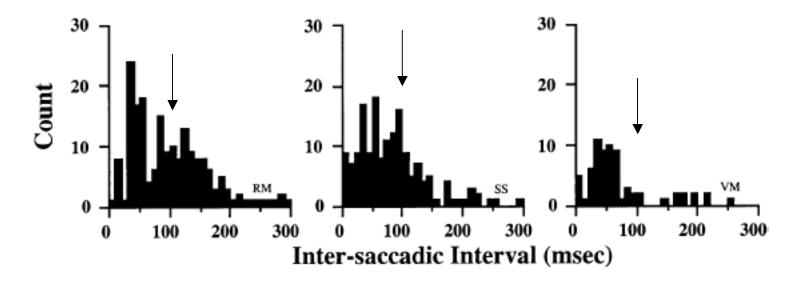
(McPeek, Skavenski, Nakayama, 2000)

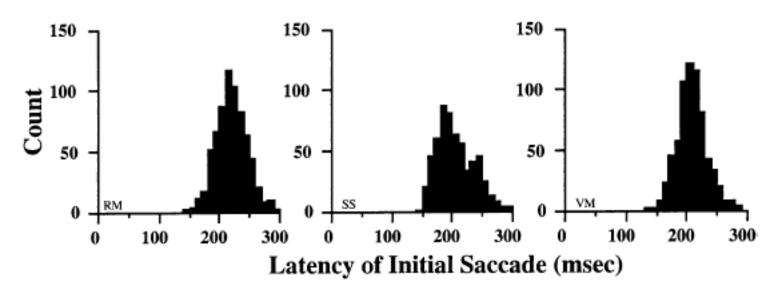


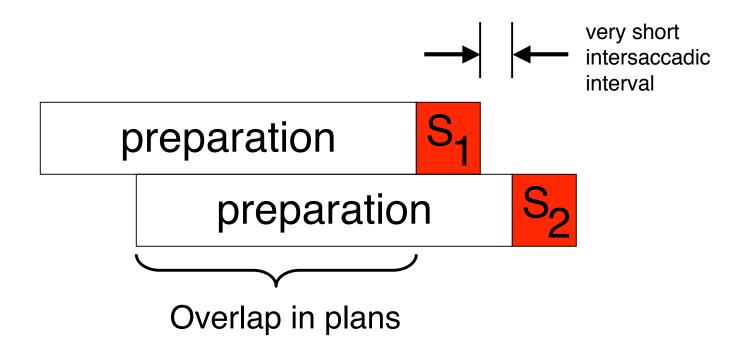
Task: make a saccade to the odd colored target





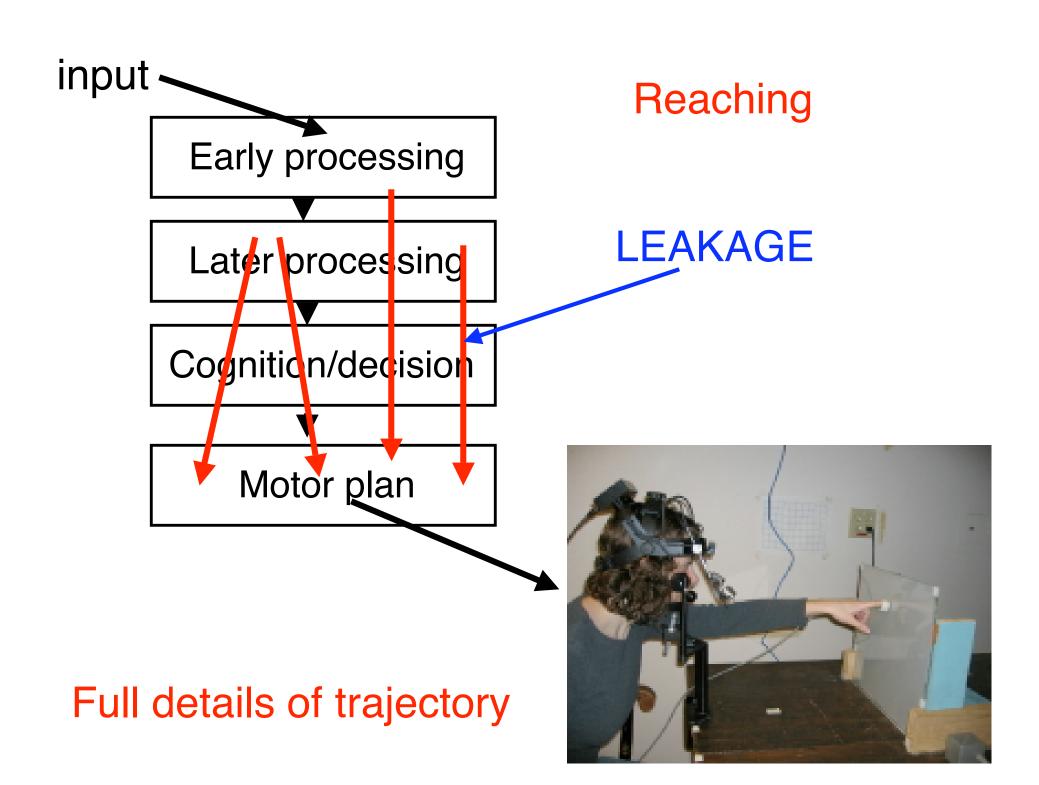






Concurrent (parallel) processing in motor systems

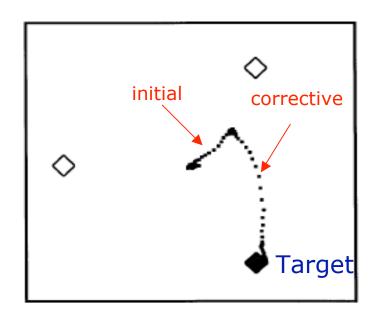
McPeek et al., superior colliculus study



# Concurrent process for "eyes" but what about larger body movements?

# Eye vs hand

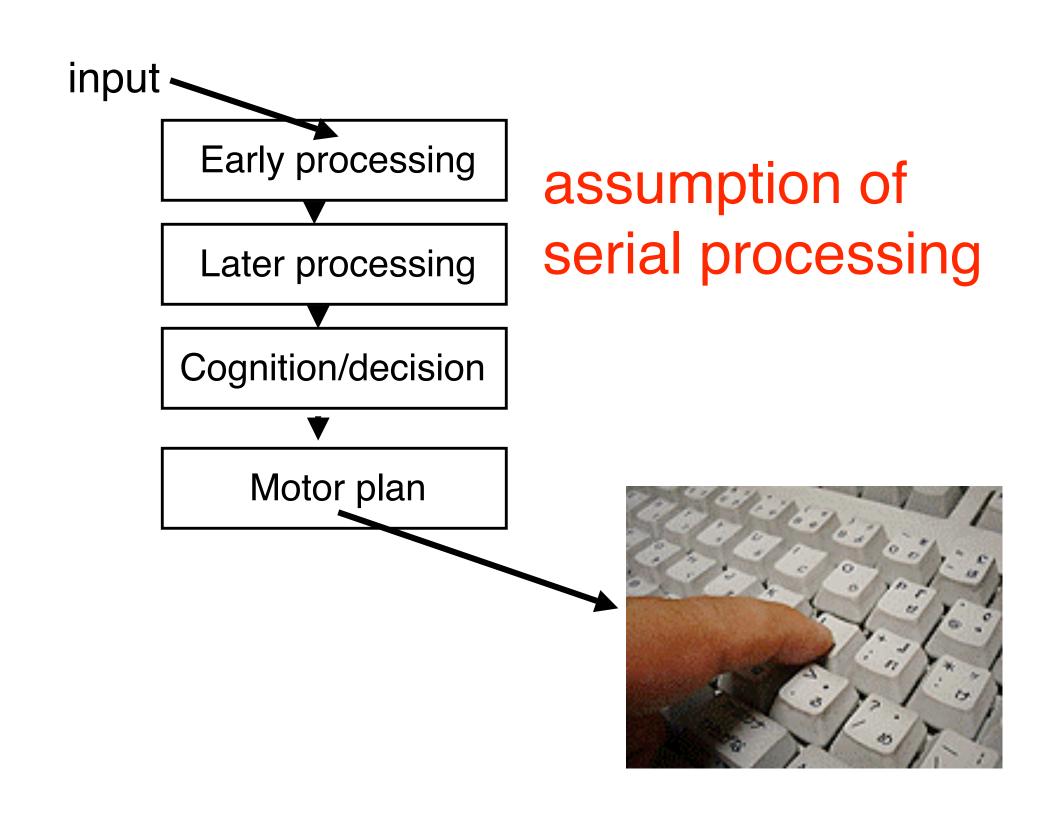




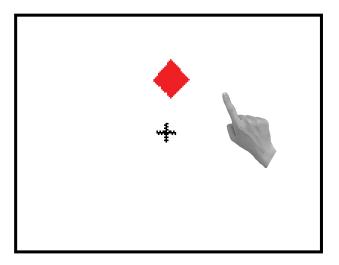
~zero mass (inertia)

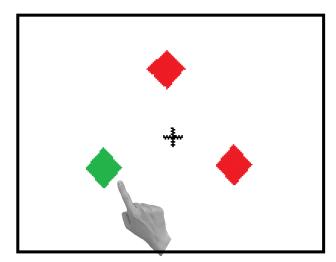


System more "careful" with arm movements?



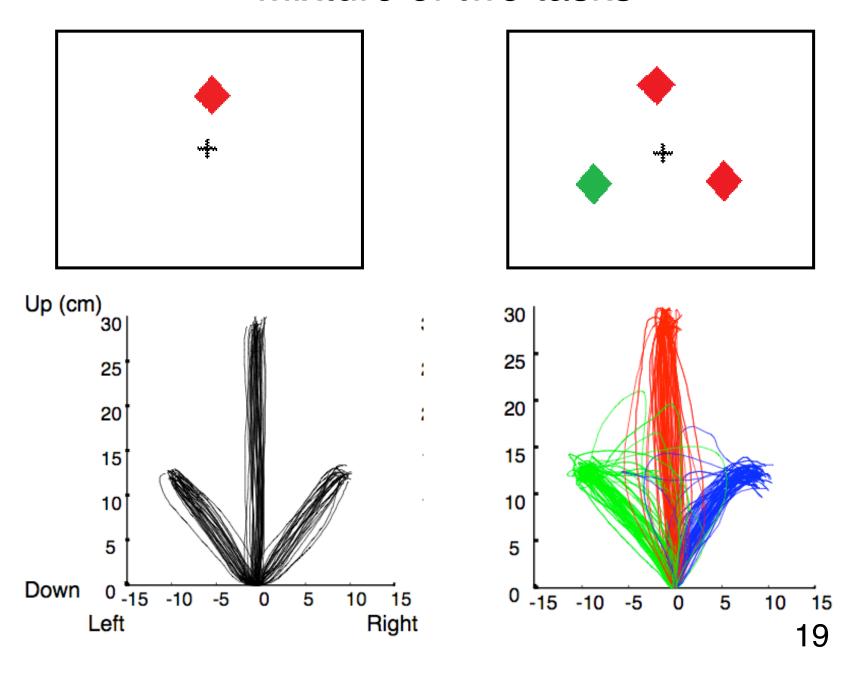
#### Pointing task

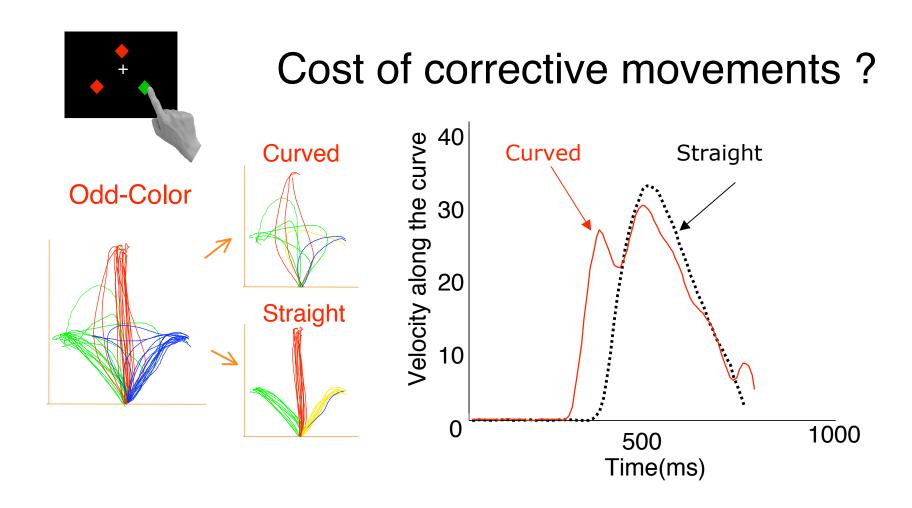




Touch the single target or Touch odd colored target

#### Mixture of two tasks

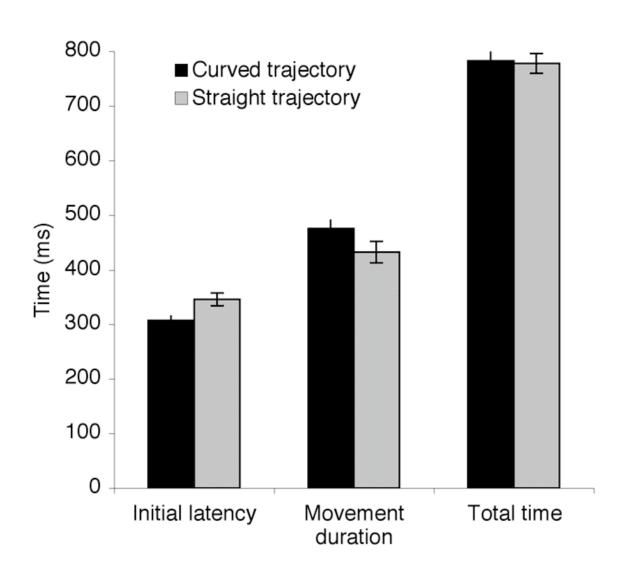




Latency, movement time, total time, accuracy

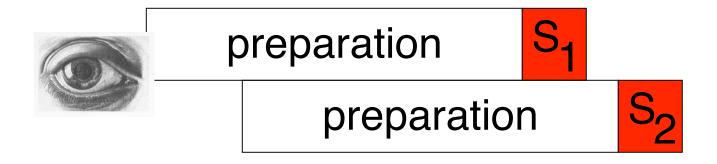
Optimality vs satisficing

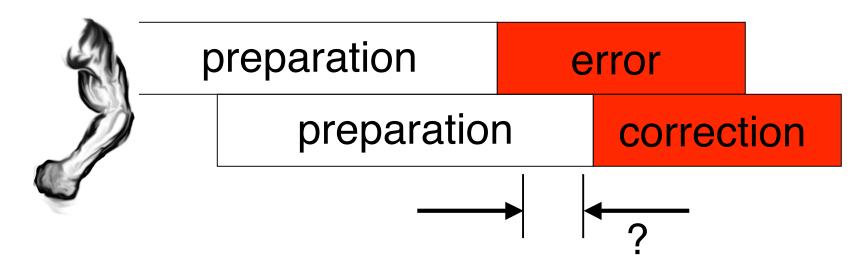
## Neglible cost in time and accuracy



# Neglible cost in time and accuracy why?

Answer
Concurrent motor planning?



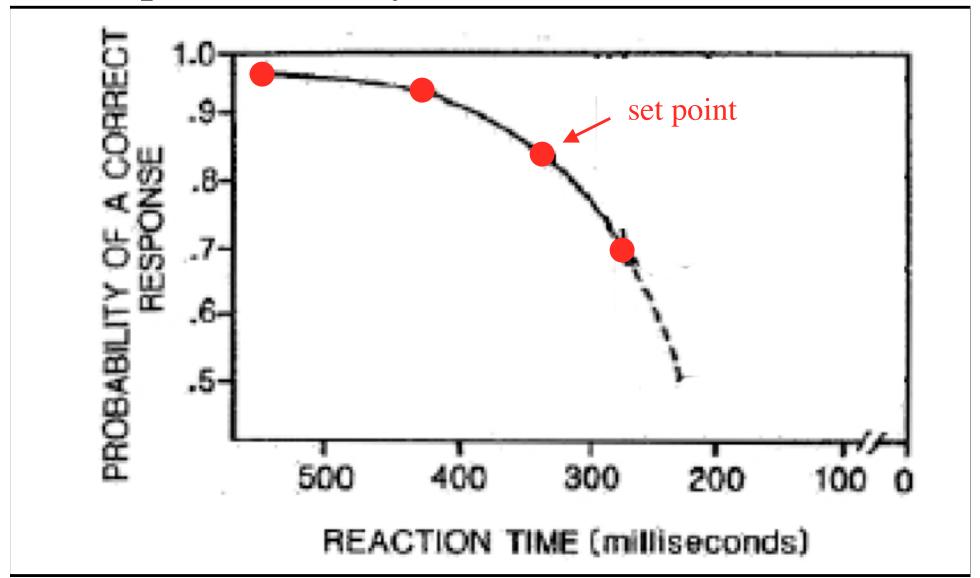


# Are curved trajectories typical?

### Can we control them?

mediator: visuo-motor readiness (related to speed-accuracy trade-off?)

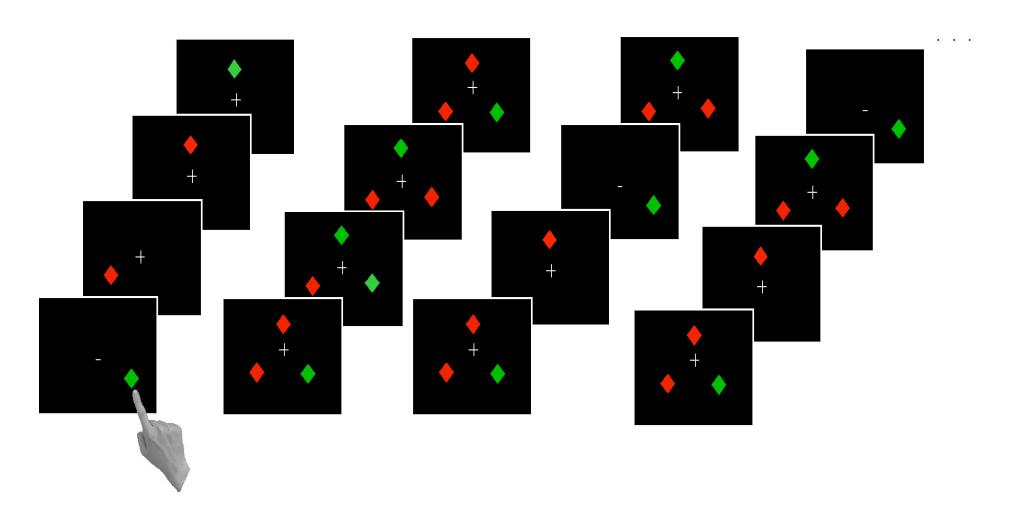
# Speed accuracy trade off (SATO)

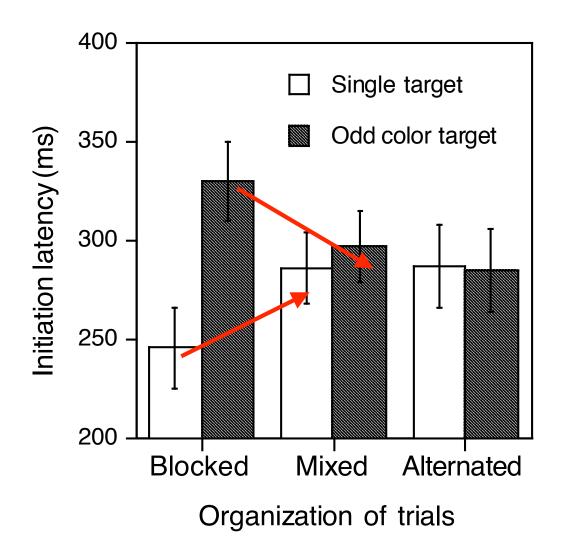


Pachella and Fisher (1972) redrawn by Sperling & Dosher (19825

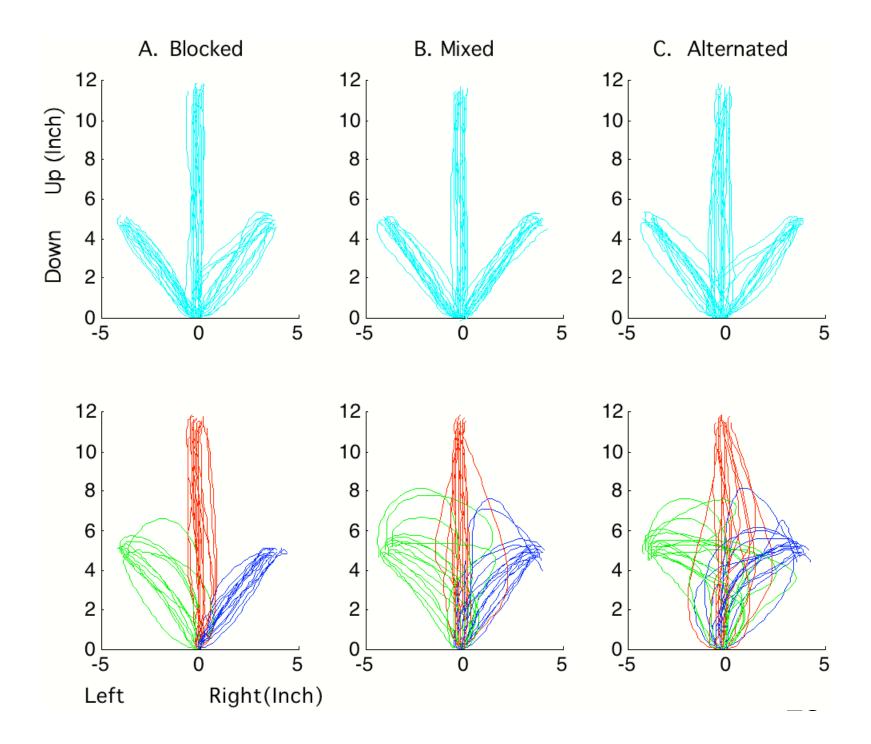
#### Blocked trials

#### Mixed Alternated

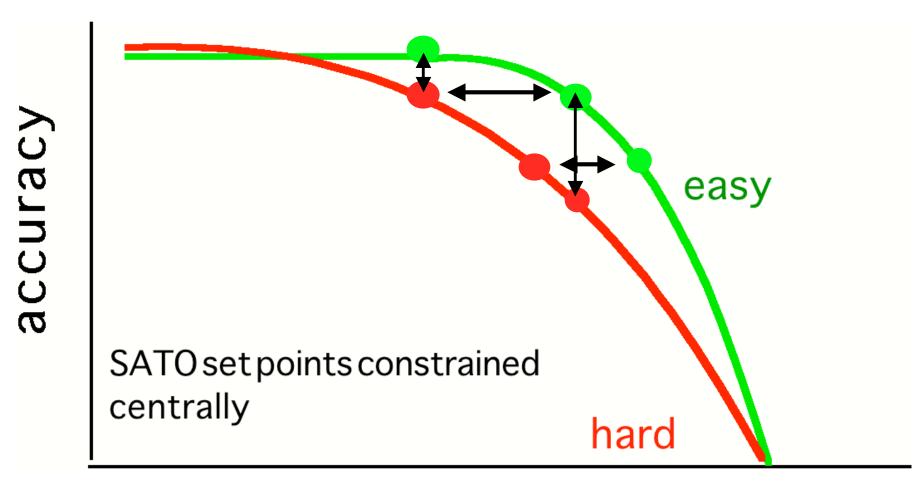




homogenization
Hard gets faster
Easy gets slower



Conjecture: Can't set up separate speed accuracy set points for Different tasks



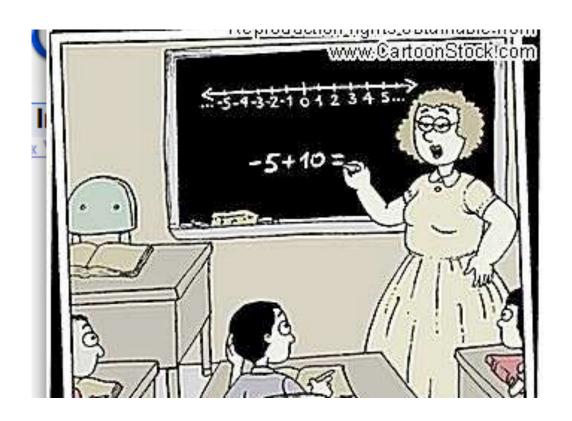
speed

input Reaching Early processing **LEAKAGE** Later processing Cognition/decision Motor plan

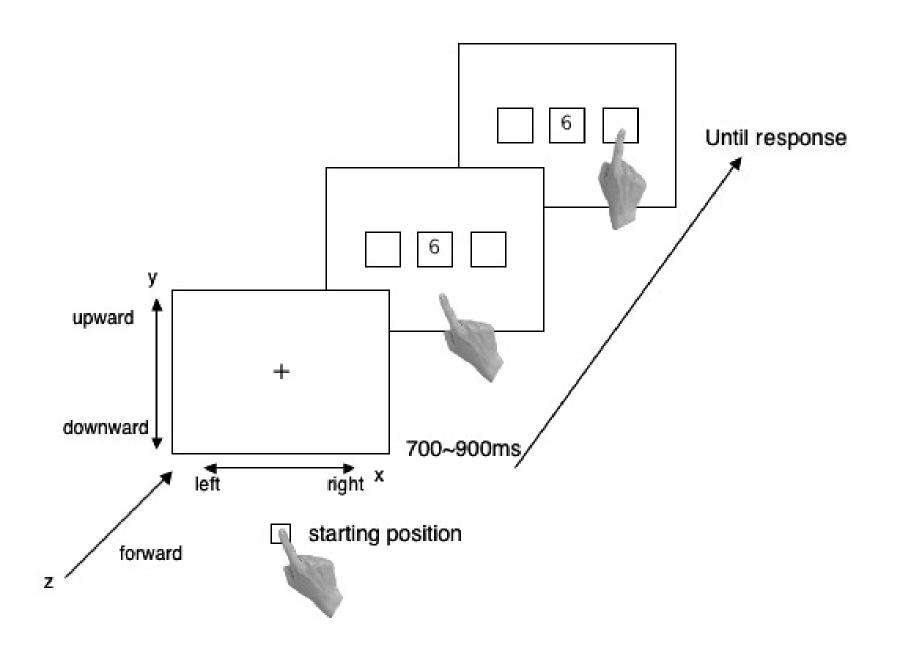
# Two examples of "leakage"

- I. Early hand trajectories reflect an underlying number representation
  - Song and Nakayama, Cognition (2008)
- II. pointing trajectories reveal influence of unseen words
  - Finkbeiner, Song, Nakayama, and Caramazza,
     Visual Cognition (2008)

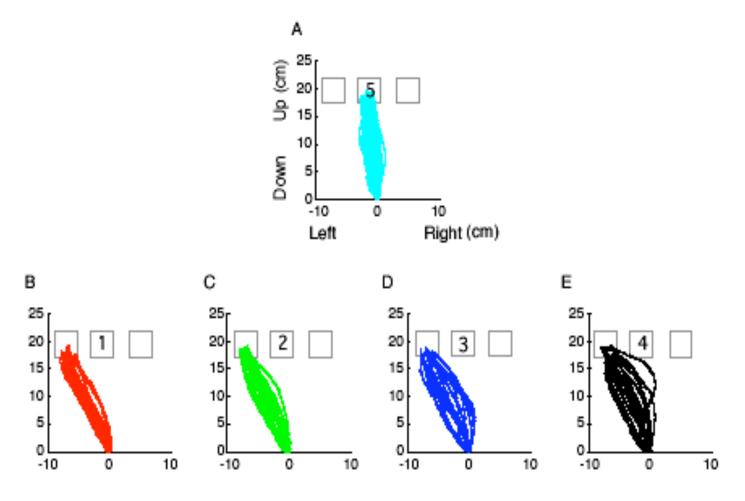
# Mental number line



- Characteristics of number representations are mainly examined with discrete responses such as reaction time and accuracy.
- In the current study, to map *invisible* internal cognitive processes of numeric comparison in spatial domain over time, we measured trajectories.



# X-Y trajectories

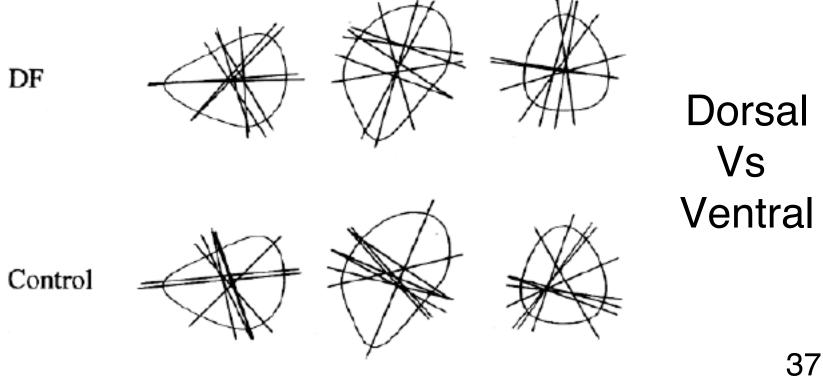


• *Systematic shift* of initial trajectories towards a hypothetical position on a number line intermediate between the numeral 1 and 5 positions

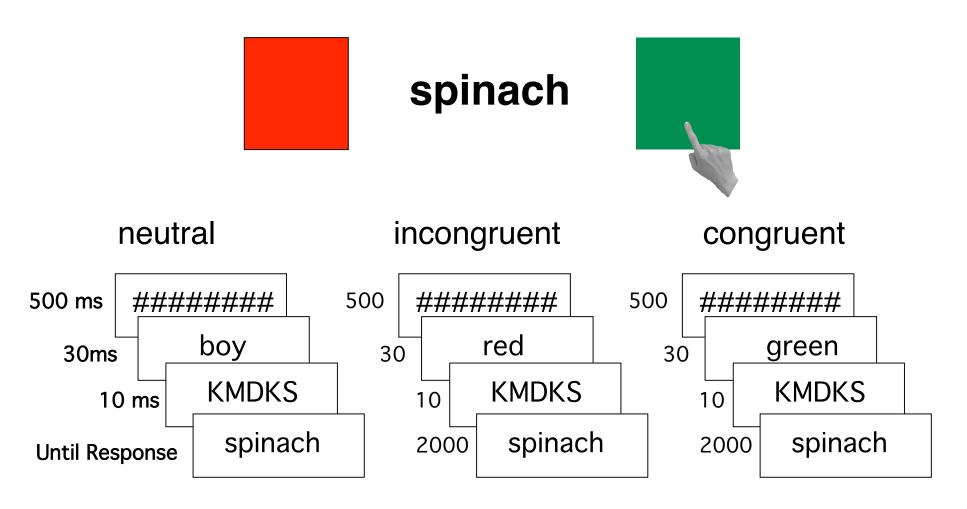
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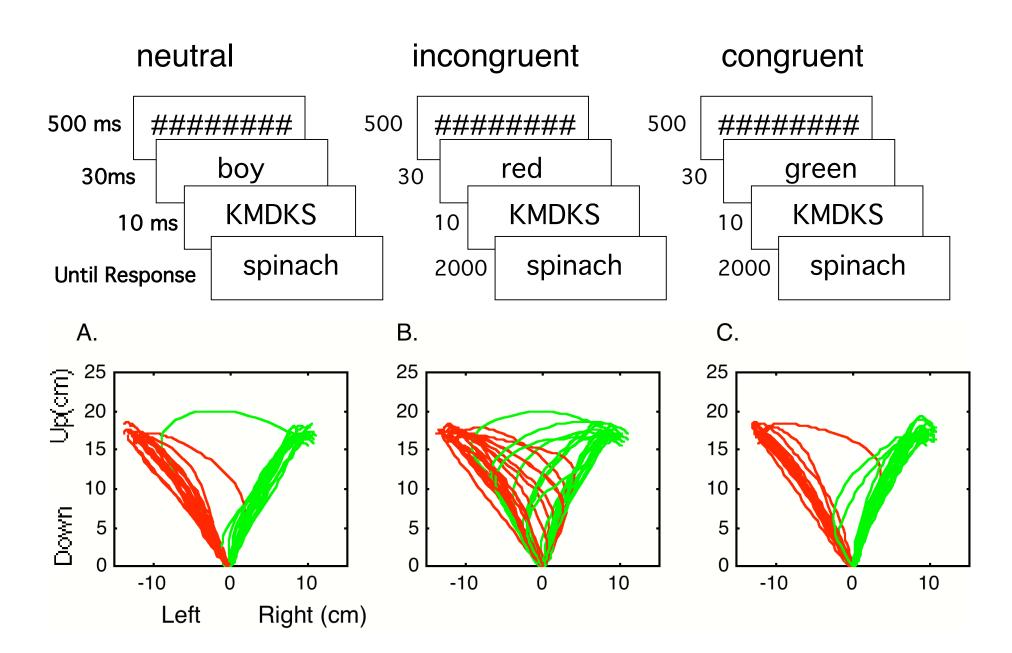
# linkage between invisible text and actions?

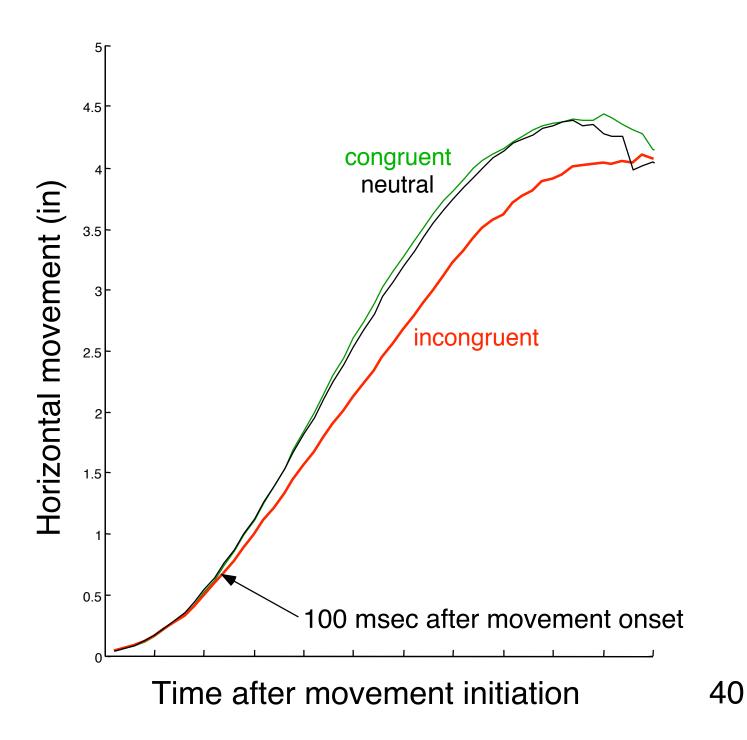
#### Goodale and Milner



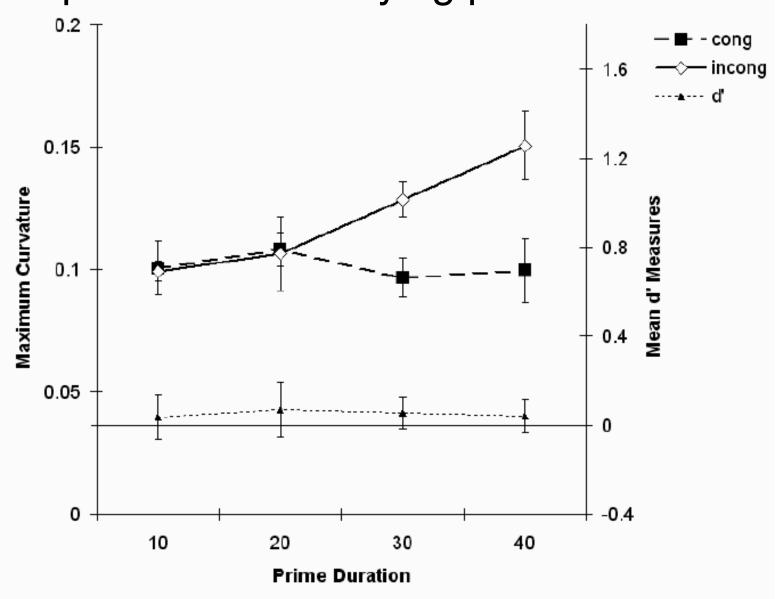
#### Point to color of the word



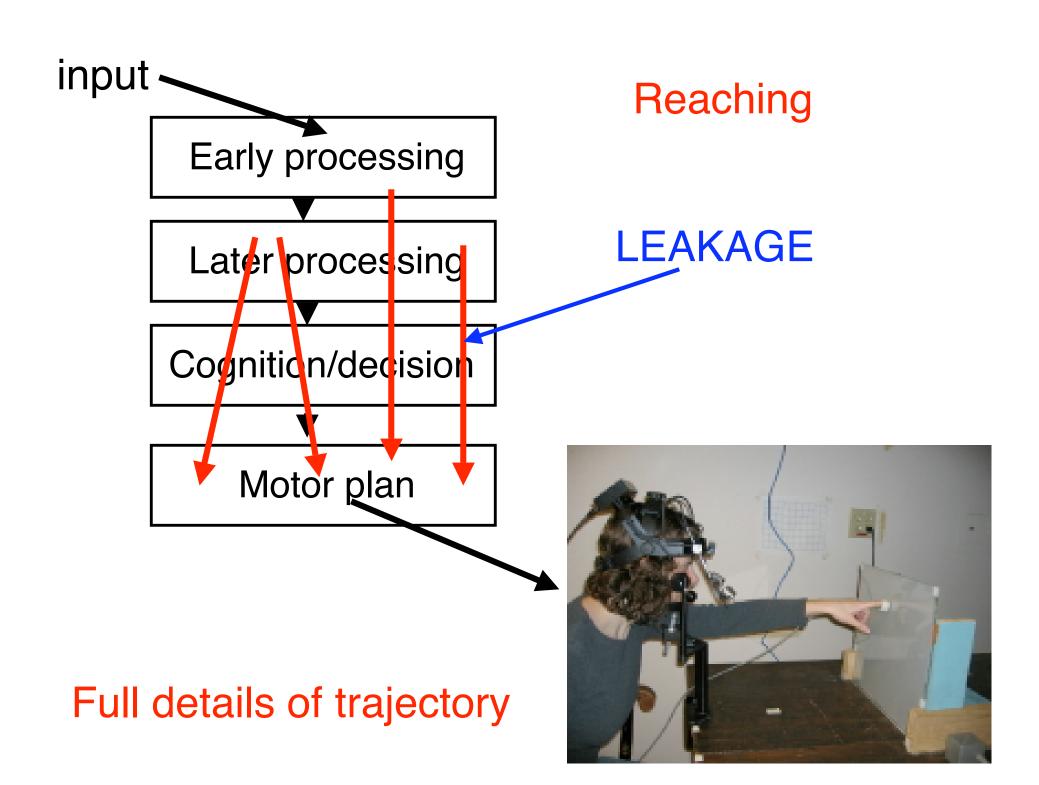




### Replication with varying prime duration



- Despite the unavailability of the invisible stimulus to visual awareness, the congruity of the prime stimulus with the target stimulus had a significant effect on participants' pointing trajectories.
- Masked unseen word processing extends down to include the formulation of overt motor responses
- Word form area (ventral)
   Visuo motor area (dorsal)



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