

Applications of Fitts' Law

Images adapted from https://pixabay.com/de/photos/computer-laptop-arbeitsplatz-maus-2982270 by Skitterphoto



Learning Goals

- Know how to extend Fitts' Law to two dimensions
- Understand how Fitts' Law can be helpful for HCI
- Being able to compare input devices using throughput



Applications of Fitts' Law





What are width and distance?

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W

By Scott MacKenzie from http://www.yorku.ca/mack/



Commonly using a fixed set of amplitudes and Widths, e.g.:

- Amplitude (A): 64, 128, 256, 512 pixels
- Width (W): 8, 16, 32, 64 pixels

figure FittsTaskOne					
Setup For FittsTaskOne					
Parameters					
Participant Code	P99				
Condition Code	C01 ~				
Block Code	B01 ~				
Number Of Trials	10 ~				
Target Amplitudes	300 500				
Target Widths	30 60				
Error Threshold	50				
Spatial Hysteresis	1.0				
\checkmark	Randomize Target Conditions				
\checkmark	Beep On Error				
	Button-down Highlight				
Colours	Mouse-over Highlight				
Background Fore	ground Target Button-down Mouse-over				
OI	Save Reset Exit				

By Scott MacKenzie from http://www.yorku.ca/mack/



Commonly using a fixed set of amplitudes and Widths, e.g.:

- Amplitude (A): 64, 128, 256, 512 pixels •
- Width (W): 8, 16, 32, 64 pixels

Parameters	
Participant Code	P99
Condition Code	C01 ~
Block Code	801 ~
Number Of Targets	15 ~
Target Amplitudes	250 500
Target Widths	30 60
Error Threshold	50
Spatial Hysteresis	1.0
\checkmark	Randomize Target Conditions
\checkmark	Beep On Error
	Button-down Highlight
	Mouse-over Highlight
Colours	
Background Fore	ground Target Button-down Mouse-over

Convert

Applications of Fitts' Law

\sum	Zurück	Alt + Linkspfeil	
N	Vorwärts	Alt + Rechtspfeil	
	Neu laden	Strg + R	
	Speichern unter	Strg + S	
	Drucken	Strg + P	
	Streamen		
ᅳ	An Pixel 3a senden		
	Übersetzen in Deutsch		
C	AdBlock – der beste Ad-Blocker		•
U	Element blockieren		
	Seitenquelltext anzeigen	Strg + U	
	Untersuchen	Strg + Umschalttaste + I	

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Image based on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Wikipedia-fonttest-firefox-3.0.1-mac-os-x-10.5.png by Quiddity (CC BY-SA 3.0) and https://www.pexels.com/photo/silver-imac-on-white-wooden-desk-3740288/ by bongkarn thanyakij (PD)

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Using Fitts' Law "was a major factor leading to the mouse's commercial introduction by Xerox"

http://www2.parc.com/istl/groups/uir/people/stuart/stuart.htm

Image from Card, S. K., English, W. K., & Burr, B. J. (1978). Evaluation of mouse, rate-controlled isometric joystick, step keys, and text keys for text selection on a CRT. Ergonomics, 21(8), 601-613.

Applications of Fitts' Law

Throughput

- Single metric for a pointing device
- Different definition:
 - TP = ID / MT (average ID and MT)
 - TP = 1 / b (equivalent to ID / MT if a=0)



- Sufficient to test 6 IDs to determine the device-specific constants a and b
- 6 IDs are enough to compare pointing devices



MacKenzie, I. S., & Teather, R. J. (2012). FittsTilt: the application of Fitts' law to tilt-based interaction. NordiCHI

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touchscreen

Which device has the highest throughput?

touchpad

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