

Current Topics in Media Computing and HCI

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RWTH Aachen University*

Summer Semester 2013

<http://hci.rwth-aachen.de/cthci>



Current Topics in Media Computing and HCI

- Audience
 - M.Sc. Computer Science
 - M.Sc. Media Informatics
 - M.Sc. Software Systems Engineering
 - B.Sc. Computer Science (extra credit / carry-over)
 - B.Sc. / M.A. Technical Communication (with focus on CS/HCI research)
- Prerequisite: **DIS I**
 - In class, assignments, and exams we assume that you know DIS I



Goals

- Understand **ways to do research in HCI**
- Practice how to **retrieve** and **evaluate** information from the literature
⇒ Preparation for thesis and future research work
- Learn about **up-to-date developments** in Human–Computer Interaction and interactive multimedia from new books and **recent conference/journal articles**



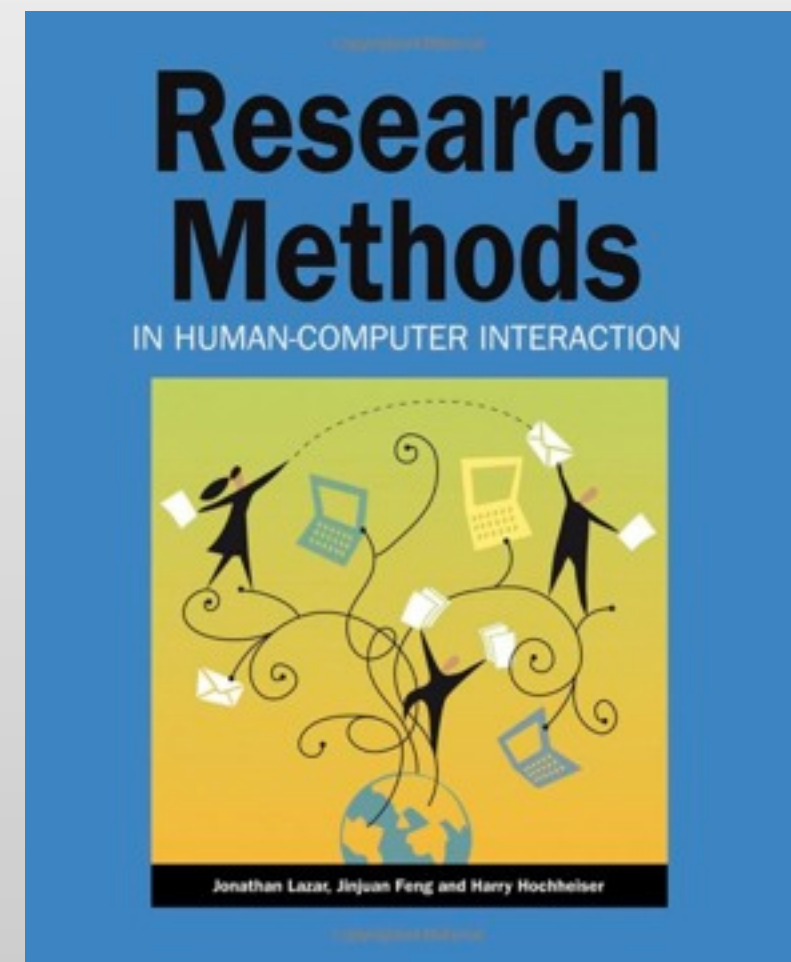
Literature Sources

- Recent (usually last 2 years) conference papers
 - CHI, UIST, TEI, ITS, DIS, NIME, MM, Ubicomp,...
- Recent journal articles
 - TOCHI, Interactions,...



Literature Sources

- Recent books
 - Research Methods in HCI
Lazar et al. (2010)
 - Recommended reading for more details about evaluation methods — especially if you are going to do your thesis at our chair!



Topics for 2013

- Part I: Research literacy (2 weeks)
 - Understanding HCI research and publication process
 - Sample topic: text entry
- Part II: Recent topics (8 weeks)
 - Midair input
 - Crowdsourcing and human computation
 - Personal fabrication and personal design
 - Claytronics
 - Coding and integrated development environment
 - Interactive surfaces and tangible UIs
 - HCI design patterns



Administrative

- Format: V2/Ü3 (6 ECTS)
- Lecture: Tuesday, 10:00–11:30
 - Presentation & discussion of research topics
 - Small group in-class exercises
- Lab: Wednesday, 13:00–14:30 **Attendance is compulsory!**
 - Weekly reading assignments (individual)
 - Moderate and summarize in mock PC meetings (in groups)
 - Four paper review assignments (in groups)
- Final Grade
 - 30% midterm & 40% final
 - PC meetings: 5% moderation, 5% summarizing
 - 5% × 4 paper reviews



Learning Resource

- Public website:
<http://hci.rwth-aachen.de/cthci>
- L²P course room: slides, literature, assignments
- Lecture recordings on iTunes U
RSS links available on L2P
- Research papers: [ACM Digital Library](#)
Free access from inside RWTH network

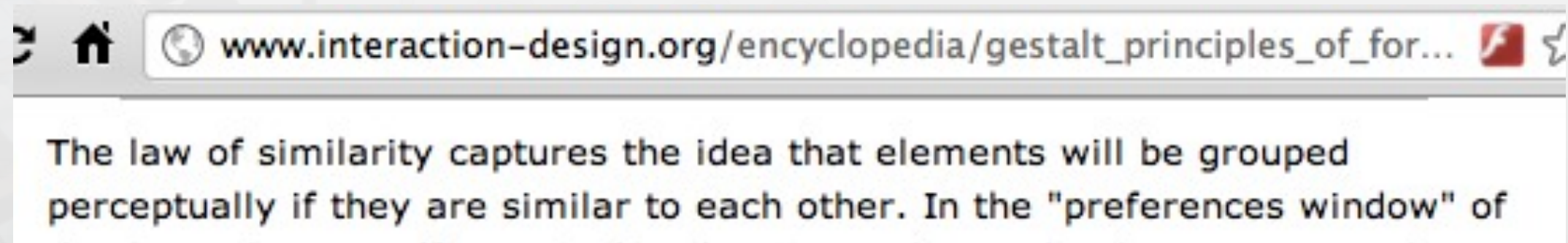


CTHCI Team

- Prof. Dr. Jan Borchers
- Chat Wacharamanotham, M.Sc.
 - chat@cs.rwth-aachen.de
- Topic presenters



Plagiarism



“ Law of Similarity
The law of similarity captures the idea that elements will be grouped perceptually if they are similar to each other. For instance in the following dialog we tend to divide the given files into two groups:

[1]

Law of Similarity –

The law of similarity states that objects will be grouped perceptually if they are similar to each other. In other words the repetition in the forms persuades the human mind to group it

[1]

[1] http://www.interaction-design.org/encyclopedia/gestalt_principles_of_form_perception.html

Cite and quote instead of
plagiarizing!



Consequences of Plagiarism in this Class

- Plagiarism will result in an immediate 5.0 for this class.
- Repeated plagiarism will also lead to banning from all other i10 classes.
- Sign the declaration of compliance and hand it in after the lab.



HCI Research Literacy I

Different approaches to HCI research



Three Approaches to HCI Research



Test

Empirical science



Look

Ethnography

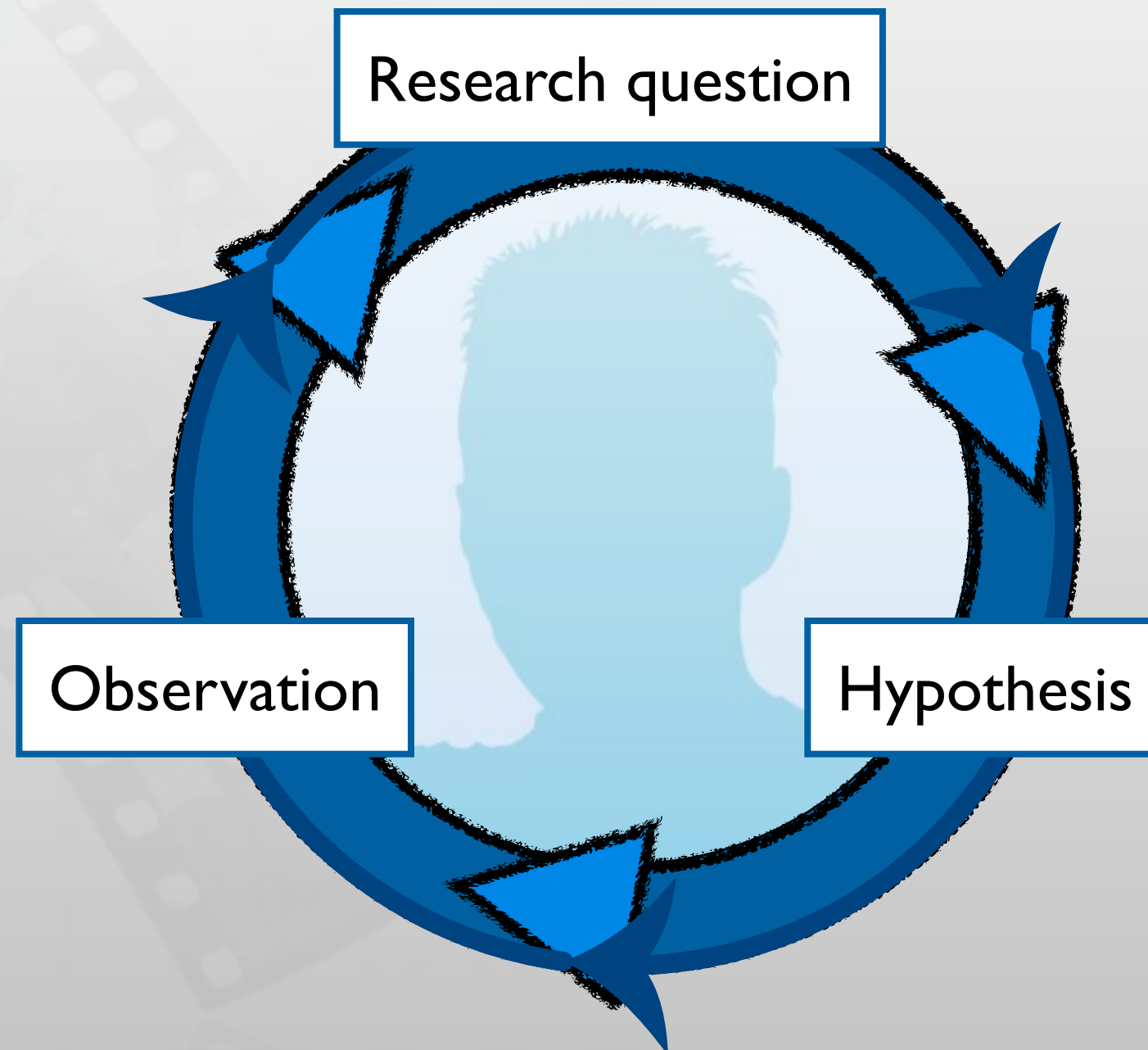


Make

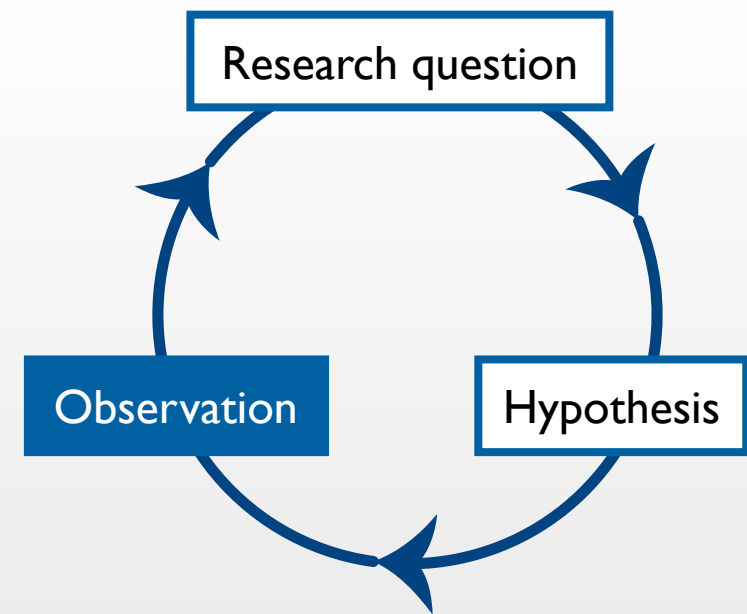
Engineering
and design



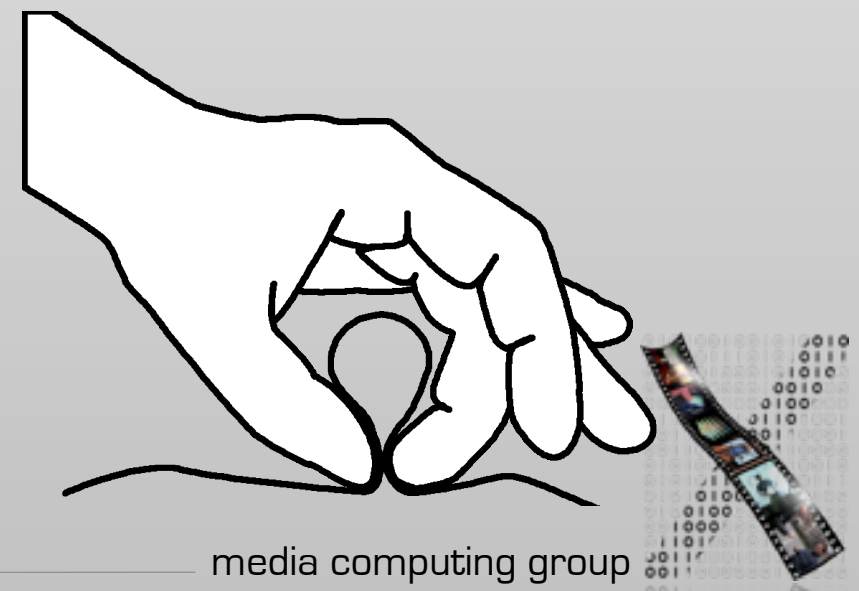
Empirical Approach



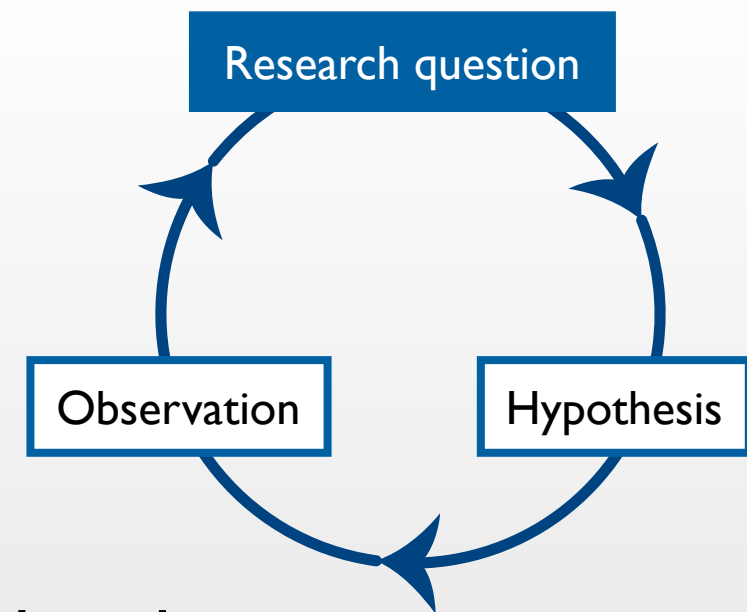
Initial Observation



- Begin with casual or informal observation
- Usually comes from personal experience that catches your attention or raises questions in your mind
- Example: “Cloth has an affordance of pinching. Could this be useful for interaction design?”



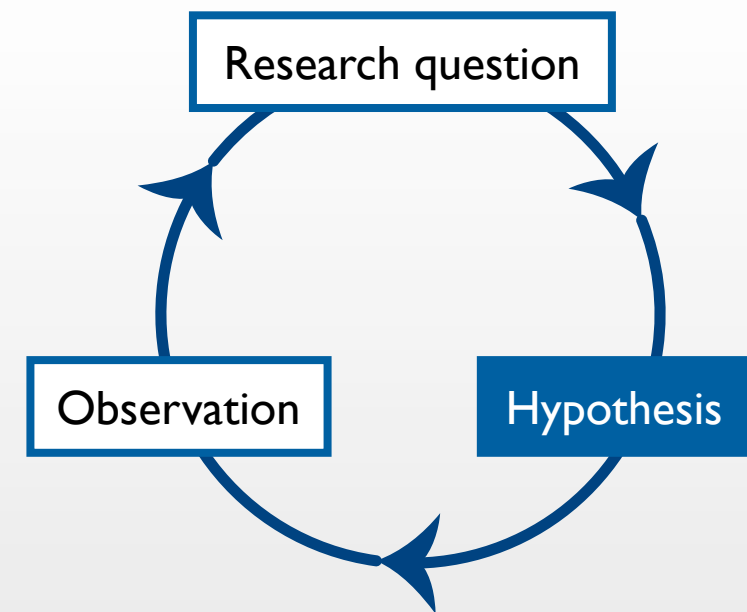
Research Question



- Identify variables and hypothesis that are associated with your observation
- **Variables:** characteristics or conditions that change or have different values for different individuals
- **Research question:** a statement that describes or explains a relationship between or among variables
 - A proposal to be tested
- Example: “For pinching cloth, different **areas** of the body would differ in **preference** and **the way people pinch**”



Hypothesis

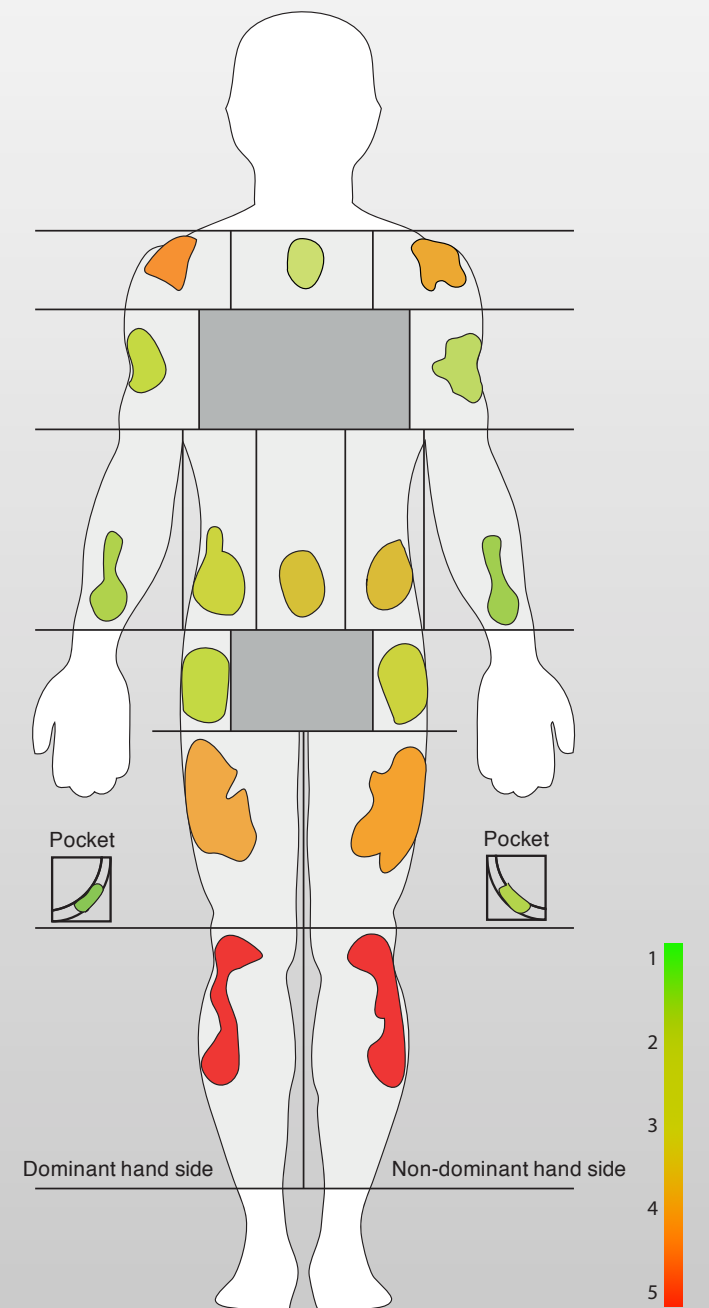


- **Concrete and testable** statements derived from the research question
- **Operational definition:** a specific set of operations for measuring external, observable behavior
- In-class exercise: try giving an operational definition for the variables highlighted below
 - “There would be a difference in **user’s preference** among different **areas** on the body for pinching cloth.”

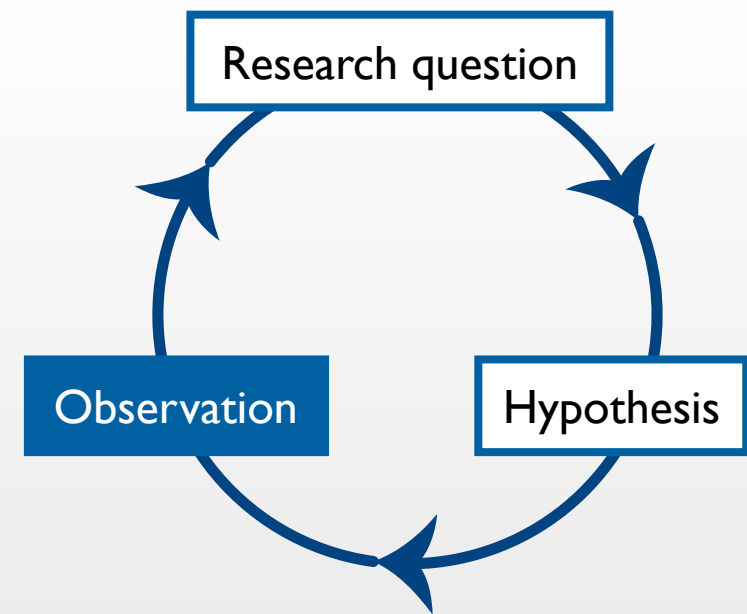


Research Example: Pinstripe

- Karrer et al., CHI '11
- Recall the prediction:
 - “There would be a difference in **user’s preference** among different **areas** on the body for cloth pinching.”
- Method:
 - Identify 16 different body area
 - Ask the participants to perform the pinching gesture in these areas
 - Collect convenience rating in 5-point Likert scale



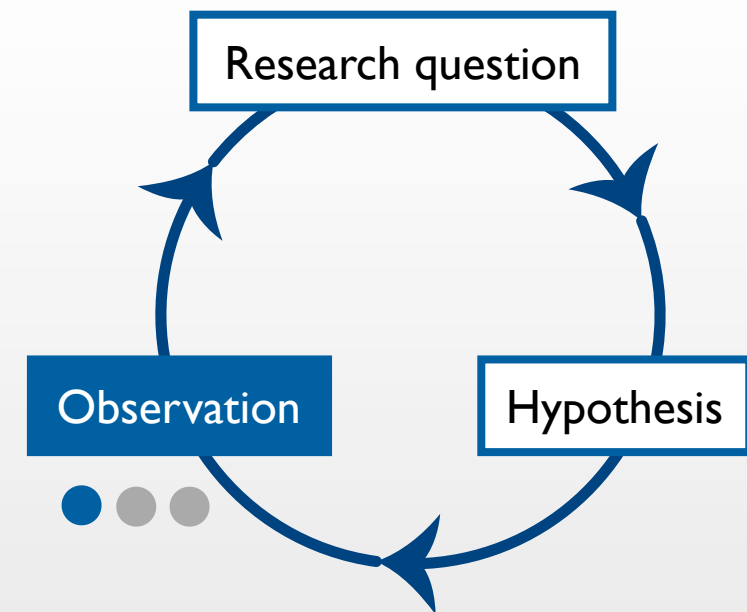
Planned Observation



- Collect data to support, refute, or refine the original hypothesis
- Three strategies
 - **Descriptive research:** X happens
Focus on the current state of each **individual** variable
 - **Relational research:** X and Y happen together
Measure **two or more variables** that **exist naturally** from each participant
 - **Experimental research:** X causes Y
Manipulate one or more variables and observe their **effects** to other variables




Descriptive Research



- Describe a naturally-occurring phenomenon
- Measure and report individual variables **without claiming relationships**
- Natural phenomena can occur when using a new technology as well
- Methods: observation, survey, case study



Research Example: Natural Troubles of Driving with GPS

- Brown (Sweden) and Laurier (Edinburgh), Best paper CHI '12 
- Goal: To understand users' interaction with GPS navigation system in non-controlled setting
- 14 drivers, 2 video cameras, field notes
 - 9 hours of video \Rightarrow 75 clips \Rightarrow 37 detailed transcriptions
 - Analyzed the data to find common patterns/themes and construct theories that explain them



The normal natural troubles of driving with GPS
Available at: <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2208285>

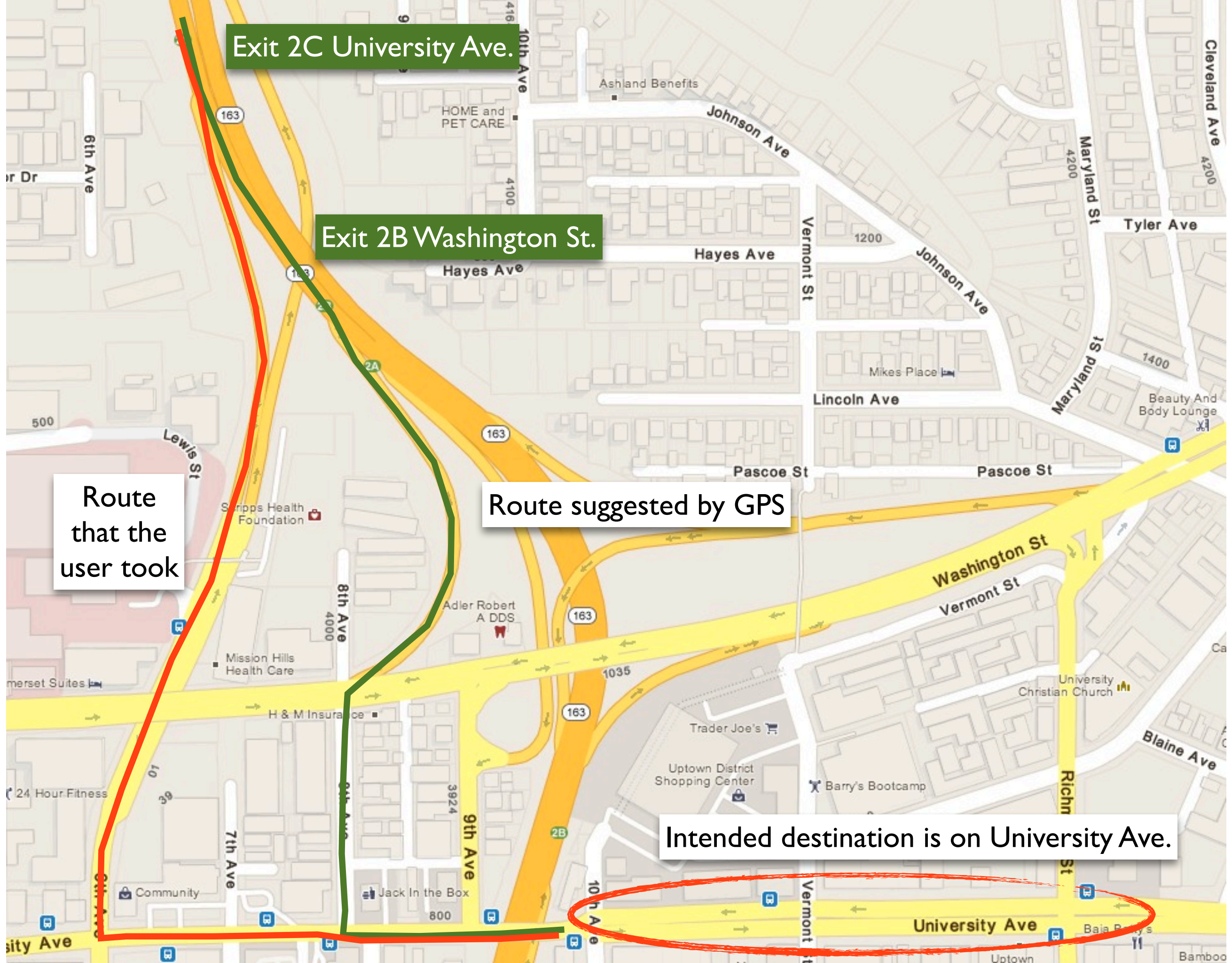
Exit 2C University Ave.

Exit 2B Washington St.


Route
that the
user took

Route suggested by GPS

Intended destination is on University Ave.





An aerial photograph of a multi-lane highway. A thick red arrow is drawn over the left side of the highway, pointing towards the bottom right. The highway has several lanes in each direction, with a median in the center. There are several cars visible on the road. To the right of the highway is a grassy area with some trees and a building in the distance. The text "GPS still recommends to take 2B, even when the car is in 'Exit only' lane" is overlaid on the image.

GPS still recommends
to take 2B, even when
the car is in "Exit only" lane

Exit 2C University Ave.

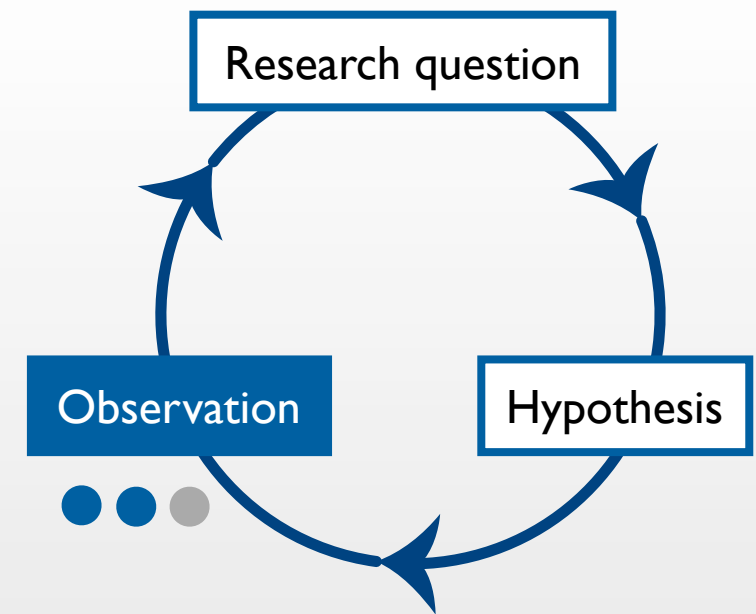
The normal natural troubles of driving with GPS
Available at: <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2208285>

Natural Troubles of Driving with GPS

- Contribution & benefits:
 - “Presents a [video analysis study](#) of driving using GPS navigation systems in [natural settings](#). The paper argues for [understanding] driving with [a] GPS as an active process and not as ‘docile driving’.”
- Conclusion
 - Designer should take into account the “intelligent driver”
E.g., less persistent instructions when the user decided to deviate from them
 - Normal natural trouble: “GPS is used in the way that was not foreseen. The driver must take instructions and the map and fit them with the situation.”




Relational Research



- Measure a set of variables for each participant
- Examine to identify patterns of relationship
 - Changes in one variable are consistently and predictably accompanied by changes in another variable
- Measure the strength of the relationship

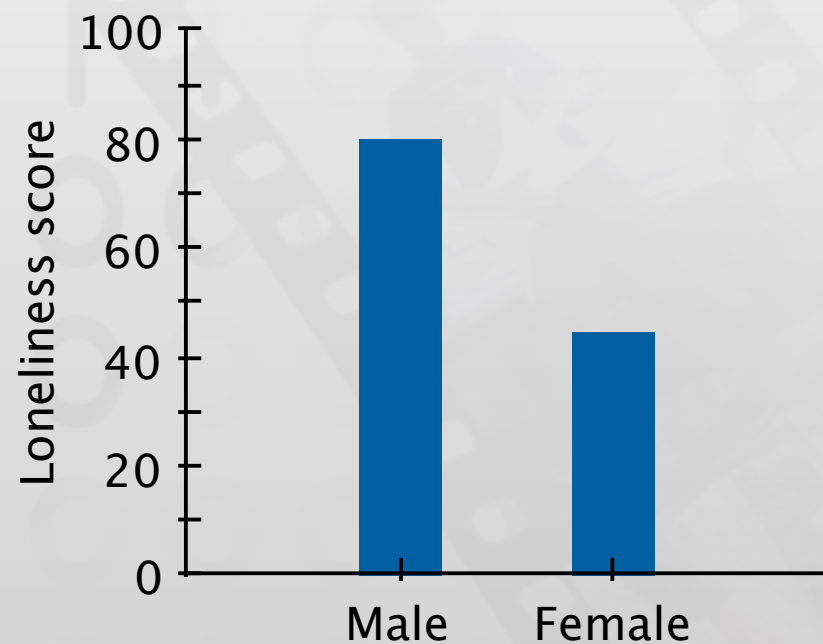


Research Example: Social Network Activity and Social Well-Being

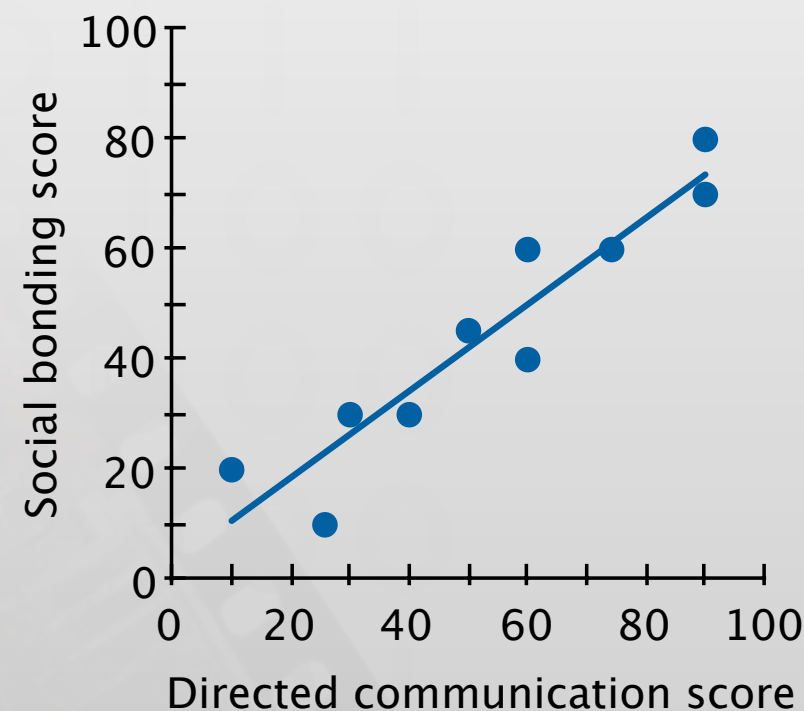
- Burke (CMU), Marlow, and Lento (Facebook). Best paper CHI '10 
 - “An empirical analysis of the **relationship** between **direct** and **passive communication** on Facebook and social well-being, including **loneliness**, **bridging**, and **bonding** social capital.”
- Survey in Likert scale (N=1193)
 - Bonding, e.g., “There are several people I trust to help solve my problems”
 - Bridging, e.g., “I come in contact with new people all the time”
 - Loneliness, e.g., “I often feel close to people”
- Analyze the past two months Facebook activity data, e.g.,
 - Friend count (actual)
 - Directed communication: comments, likes
 - Passive consumption of broadcasted items, e.g., status update



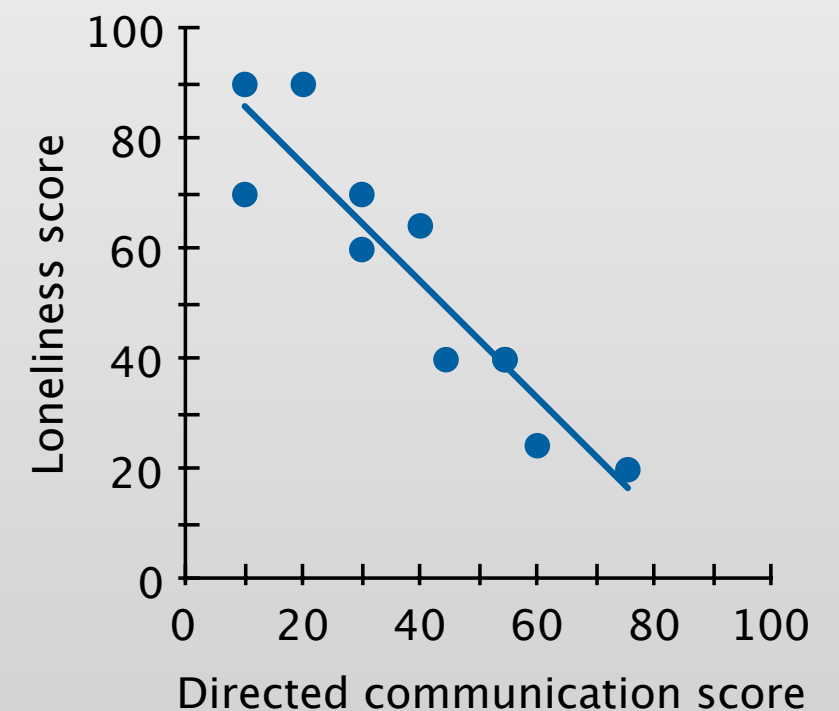
Patterns in the Relationship between Variables



General relationship



Positive relationship

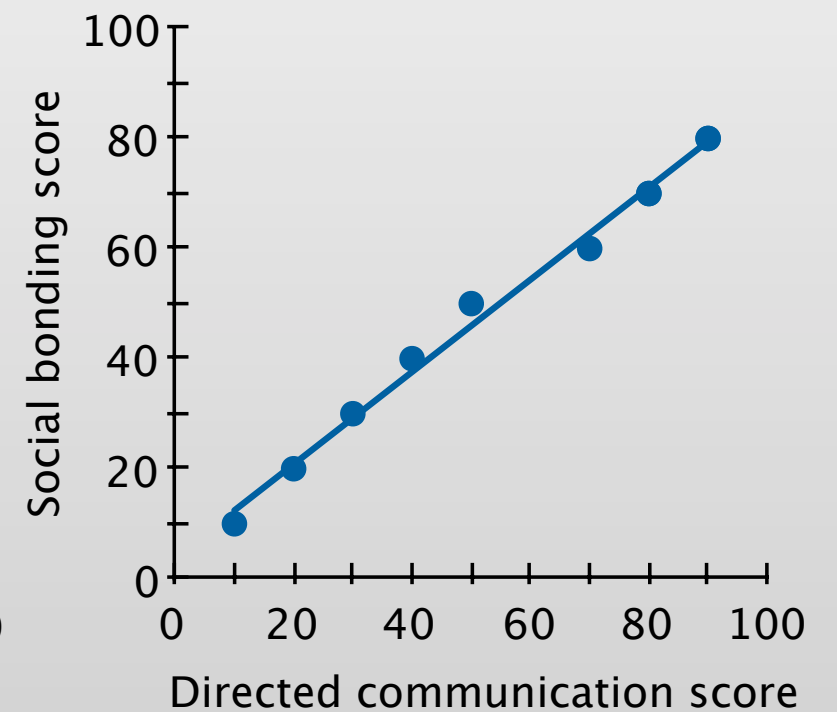
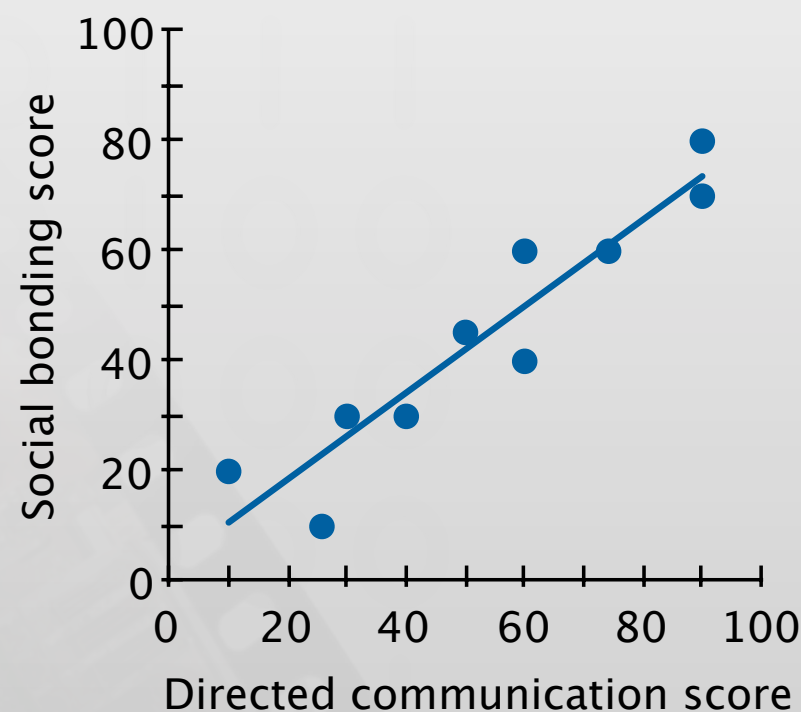
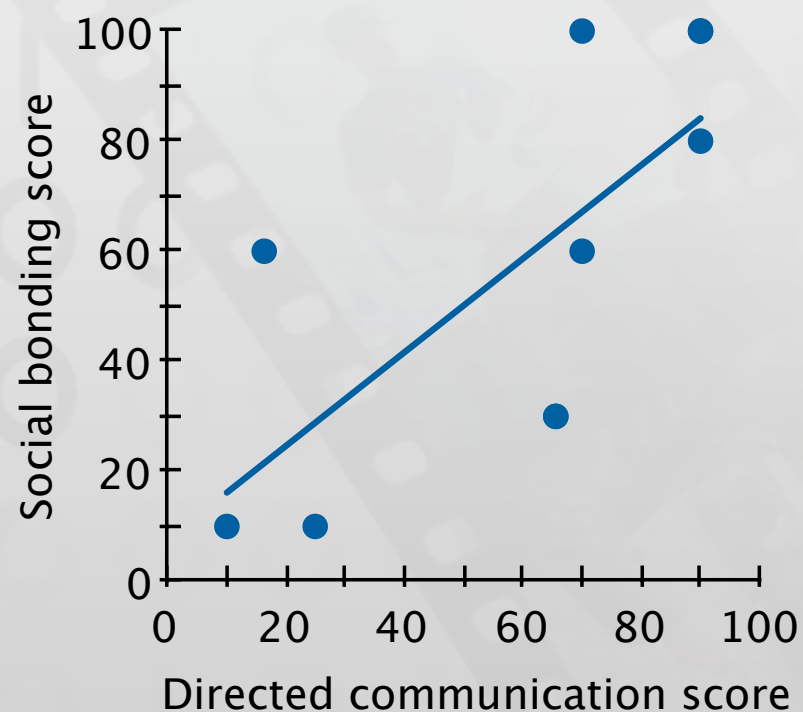


Negative relationship

Simulated data for instructional purpose, based on the result from [Burke et al., CHI '10]



Strength of the Relationship between Variables



Weak



Strong

Simulated data for instructional purpose

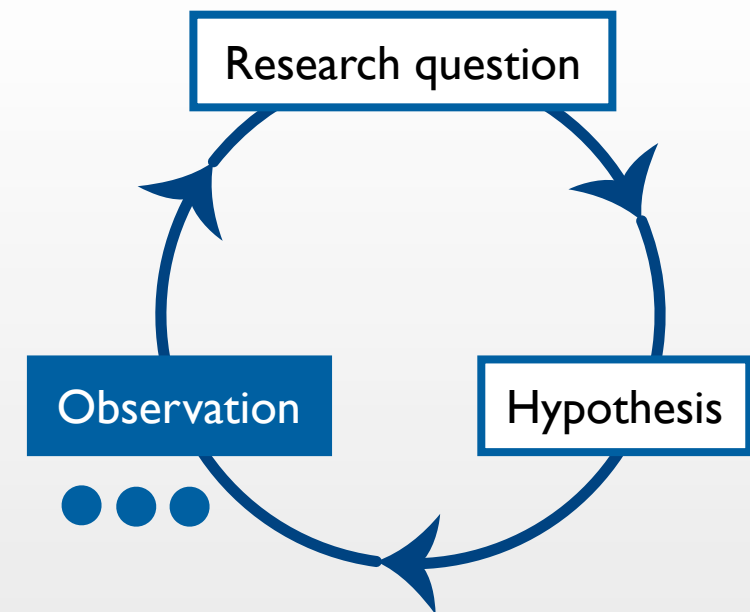


Limitations of Relational Research

- Correlation does not imply causation
 - E.g., loneliness \Rightarrow consumption
or consumption \Rightarrow loneliness?
or third variable \Rightarrow consumption and loneliness?
- **Third variable problem:** unidentified variable controls the correlated variables
- **Shallow** data from large number of people instead of **deep** data
 - Can be improved by follow-up interviews, follow-up surveys
- Participant sampling method limits the conclusion
 - Method: advertisement on Facebook
 - Participants: only English-speaking users, but compensated by many countries of origin



Experimental Research



- Purpose: To infer cause-and-effect relationship
- Controlling **independent variable**
- Observe the change in the **dependent variables**
- In-class exercise: recall the following experimental designs
 - Between-group vs. within-group
 - Benefits and drawbacks
- More details in lecture 2 and 3



In-class Exercise:

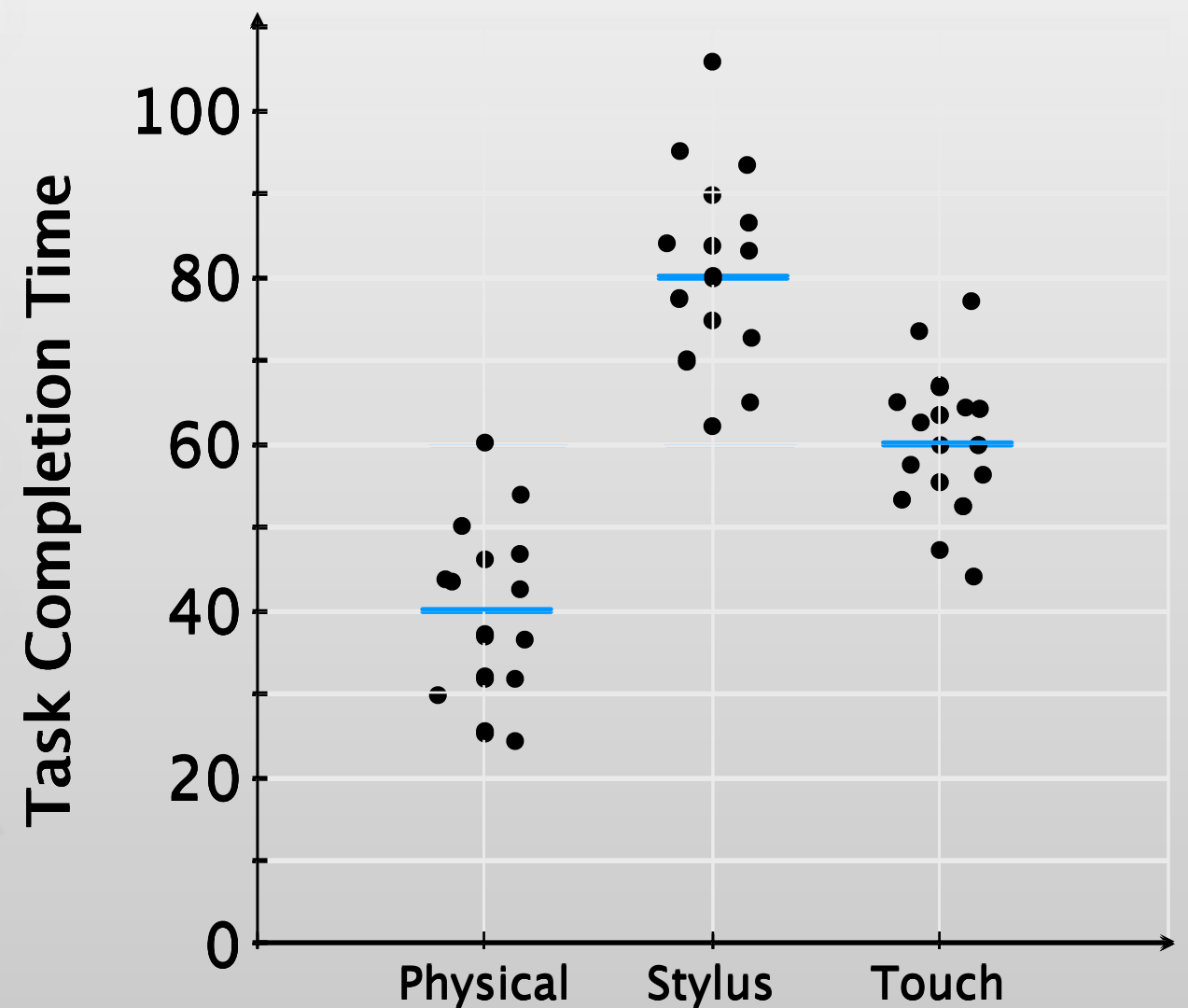
Mobile Phone Text Input Example

- Research question: On a mobile phone, is typing faster using *physical* keys compared to using a touchscreen and your *fingers* or a *stylus*?
- IV: keyboard types: {physical, stylus, touch}
- DV: time in seconds for typing a specified sentence.
 - Begin: when the user presses the first key
 - End: when the user presses Enter
- Design: between-groups
 - Each keyboard is tested by 20 participants
 - Each participant types the sentence only one time (one trial)




Variance of Real Data

- Data from experiments is noisy
- **Effect:** Variance caused by the different levels of our IV
- **Confound:** Variance caused by uncontrolled factors (“confounding variables”)



Research Example: Mid-air Pan-and-Zoom on Wall-sized Displays

- Nancel et al. (Paris), Best paper CHI '11 
- Contributions & Benefits:
 - “Design and evaluation of multiscale navigation techniques for very large displays based on **three key factors**: number of hands involved, type of movement, type of feedback.”



Mid-air pan-and-zoom on wall-sized displays

Available at: <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1978969>

Last Tuesday in Current Topics...

- Three approaches to HCI research
- Three steps in the empirical science approach
- Three strategies in the planned observation



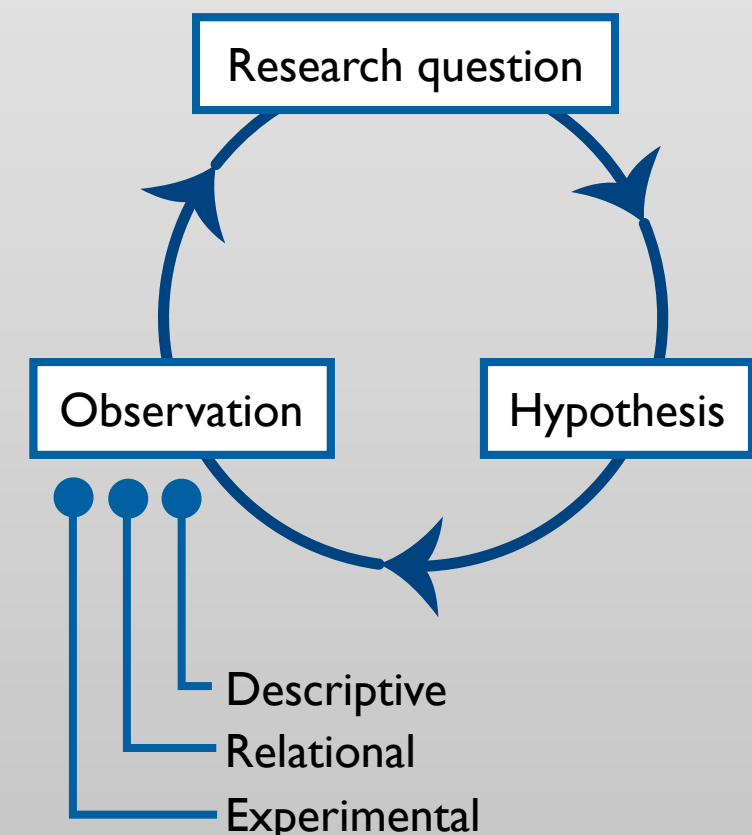
Empirical
science



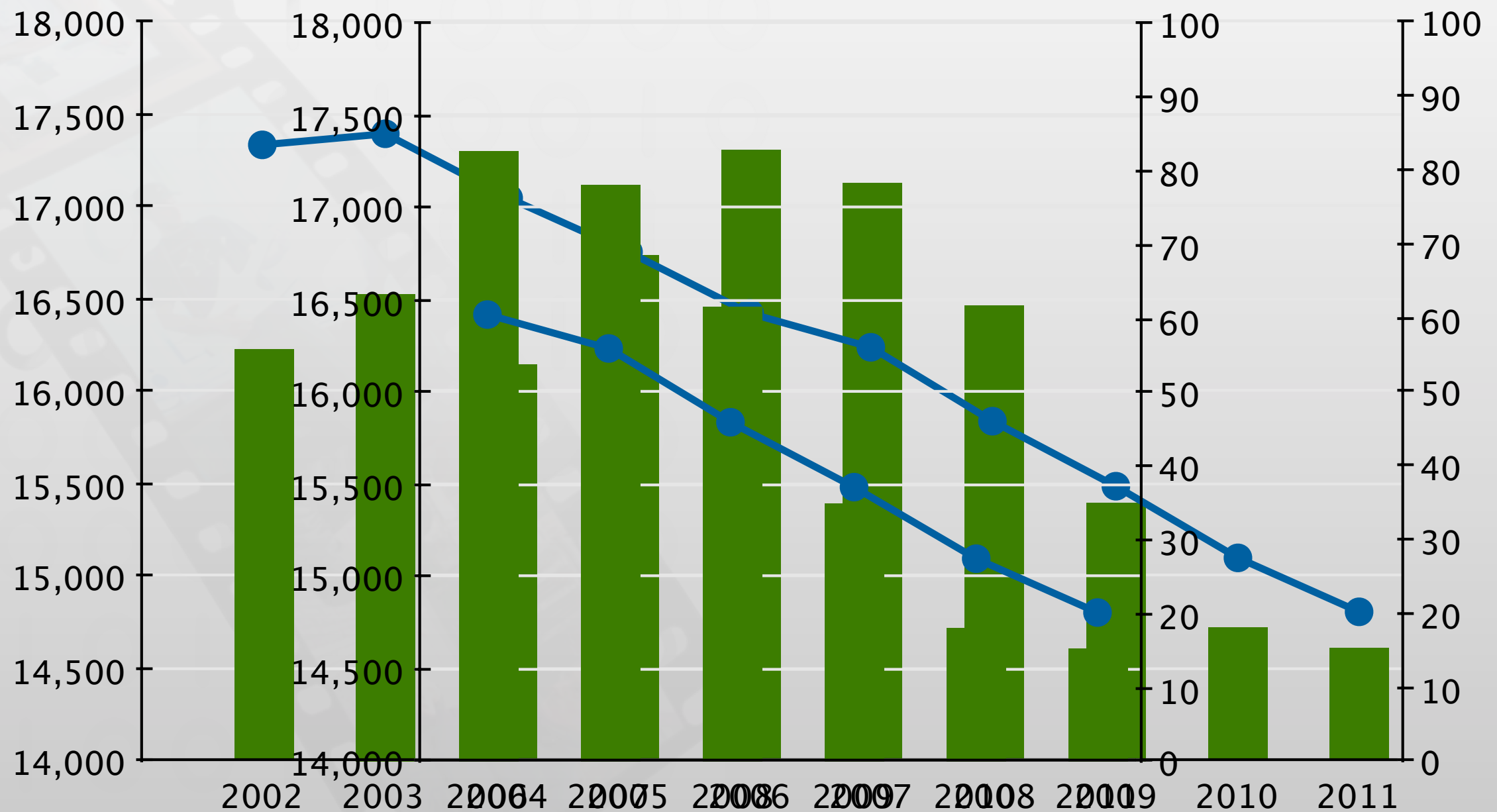
Ethnography



Engineering
and design



Correlation Does Not Imply Causation



Internet Explorer Market Share Murders in the US

Adapted from a tweet of @altonncf with data from FBI and W3Schools



Femtec.Network ist ein gemeinsames **Karriereprogramm von 10 großen Konzernen** mit dem Ziel, **Frauen aus den Ingenieur- und Naturwissenschaften** der teilnehmenden Hochschulen auf Führungspositionen vorzubereiten.

Bewerben können sich Studentinnen der Ingenieur- und Naturwissenschaften, die idealerweise am Ende ihres Bachelor- oder am Beginn ihres Masterstudiums stehen, **bis zum 12.05.2013 unter www.femtec.org.**

Informationen gibt es unter www.femtec.rwth-aachen.de oder zur **Infoveranstaltung am 23.04.2013 um 16.00 Uhr im SuperC.**

Kooperierende Unternehmen



Kooperierende Universitäten und Hochschulen



Literature in this Class

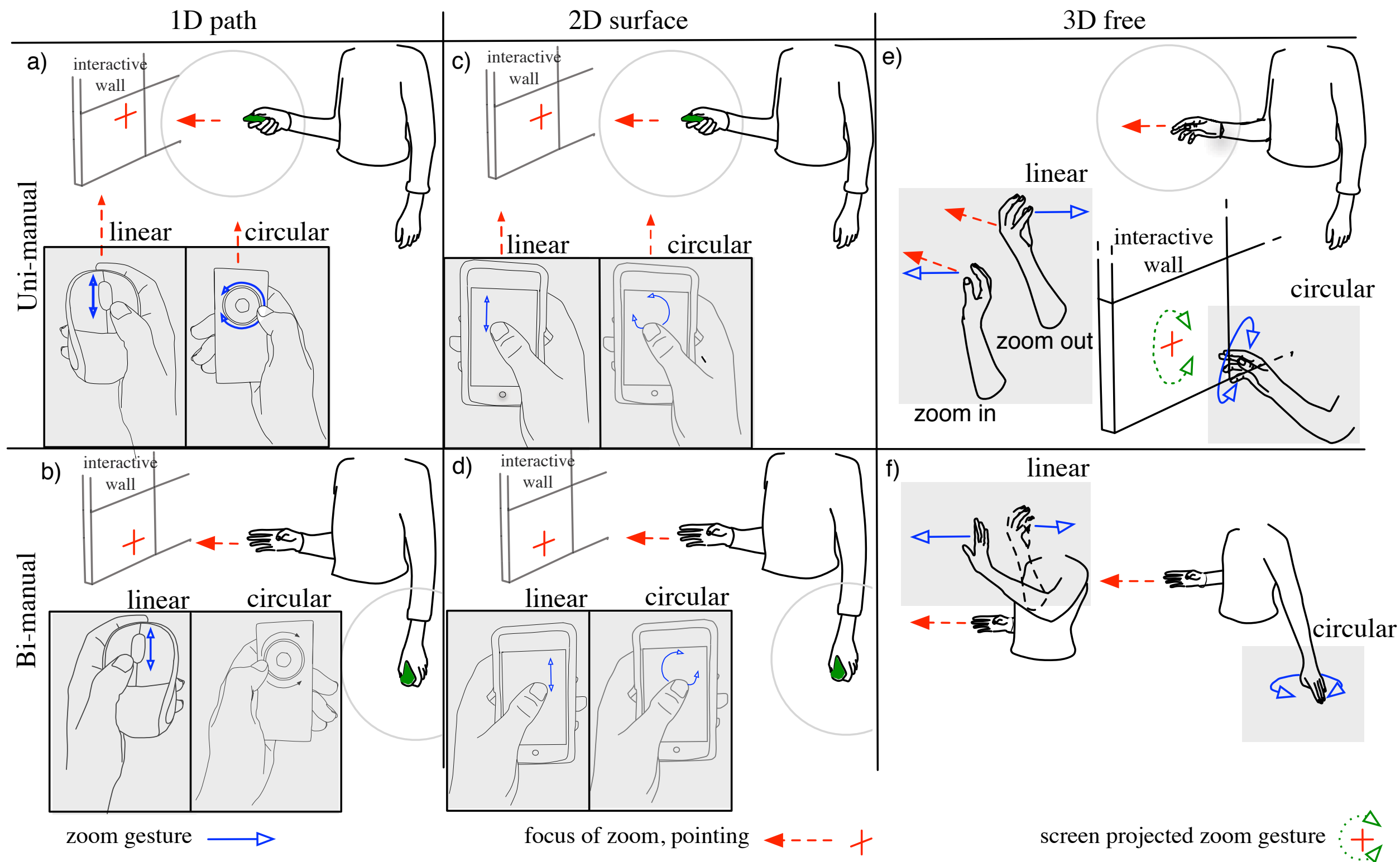
- Do I need to know what problems that GPS creates while driving?
 - No.
- Required reading: Examinable, must be read by everyone
 - The list will be published on our website and on L2P this week
- Recommended reading: Not examinable
 - Different papers for each groups for reviews or discussion
- Other papers are example
 - Examples to illustrate the concepts explained in the class.

REQUIRED

Group 1–5

Group 6–10





Three Approaches to HCI Research



Test

Empirical science



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Ethnography

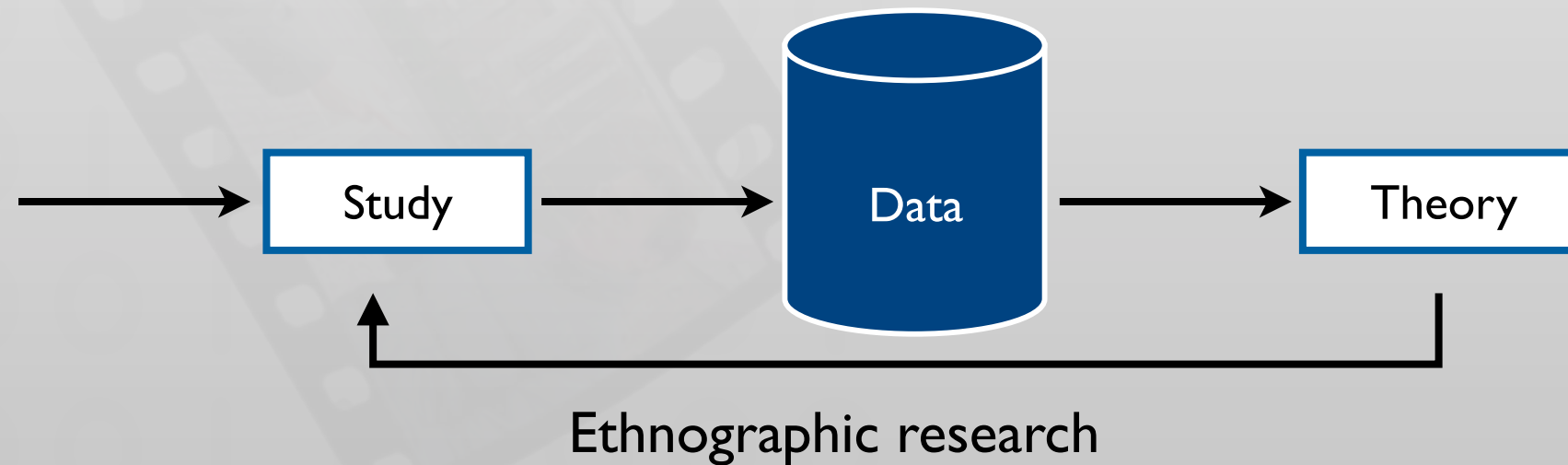
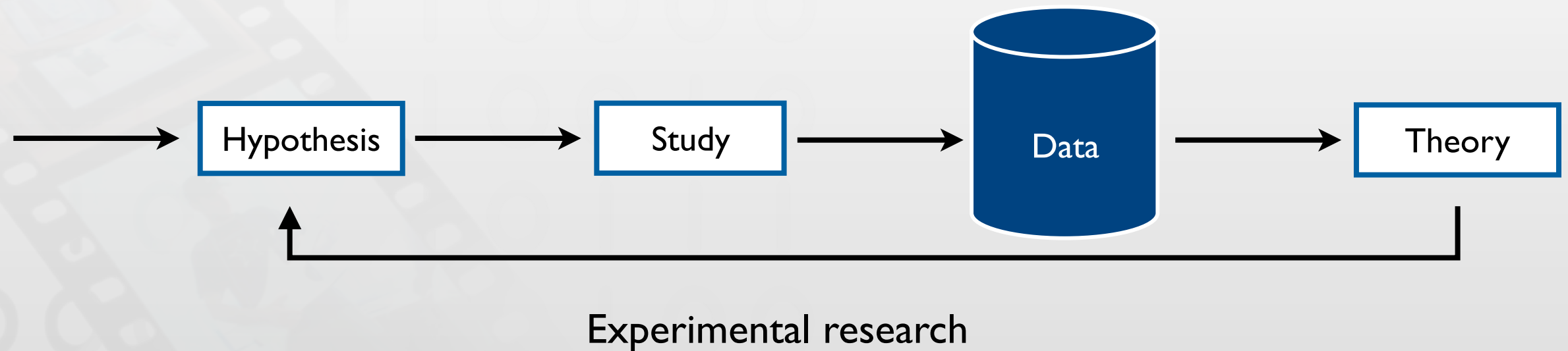


Make

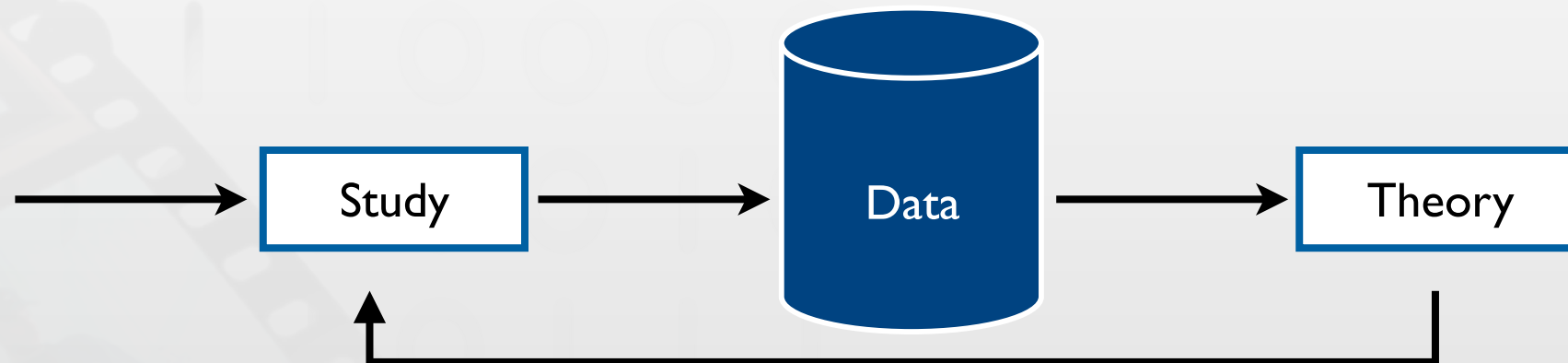
Engineering
and design



Ethnography



Ethnography



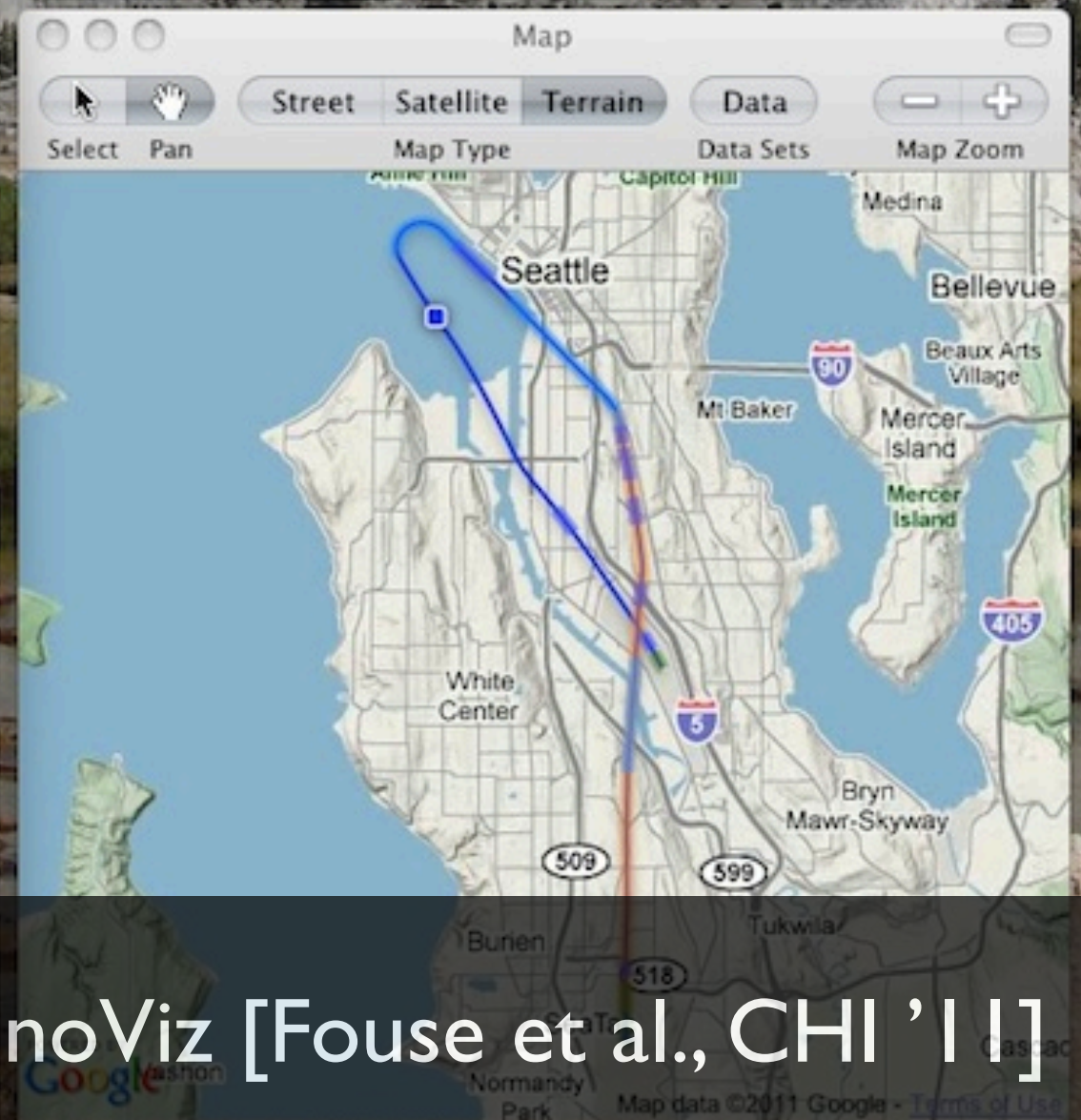
- Collect the data
- Code the data and find patterns that occur in the data
- Create theories that explain the data
- Try to attack the theories by gathering more data
 - Leads to stronger theories



Data Collection

- Methods: Observation, interview, participation, logging
 - Format: Field notes, video, audio, log files
- **Triangulation**: use multiple data sources to support an interpretation to increase the confidence of the conclusion
 - From different participants
 - From different types of data, e.g., observation, interview, logs





ChronoViz [Fouse et al., CHI '11]

Research Example: Vlogging in Dentist Training

- Becvar and Hollan (UCSD), GROUP '07
- Field site: dental hygiene training program in San Diego, CA, USA
- Goals
 - To gain understand the teaching and learning practices, media and representations
 - To implement and evaluate a design prototype based on the finding of the first goal
- Method
 - Ethnographic study of the current practice
 - Implement and deploy the prototype, then do another ethnographic study

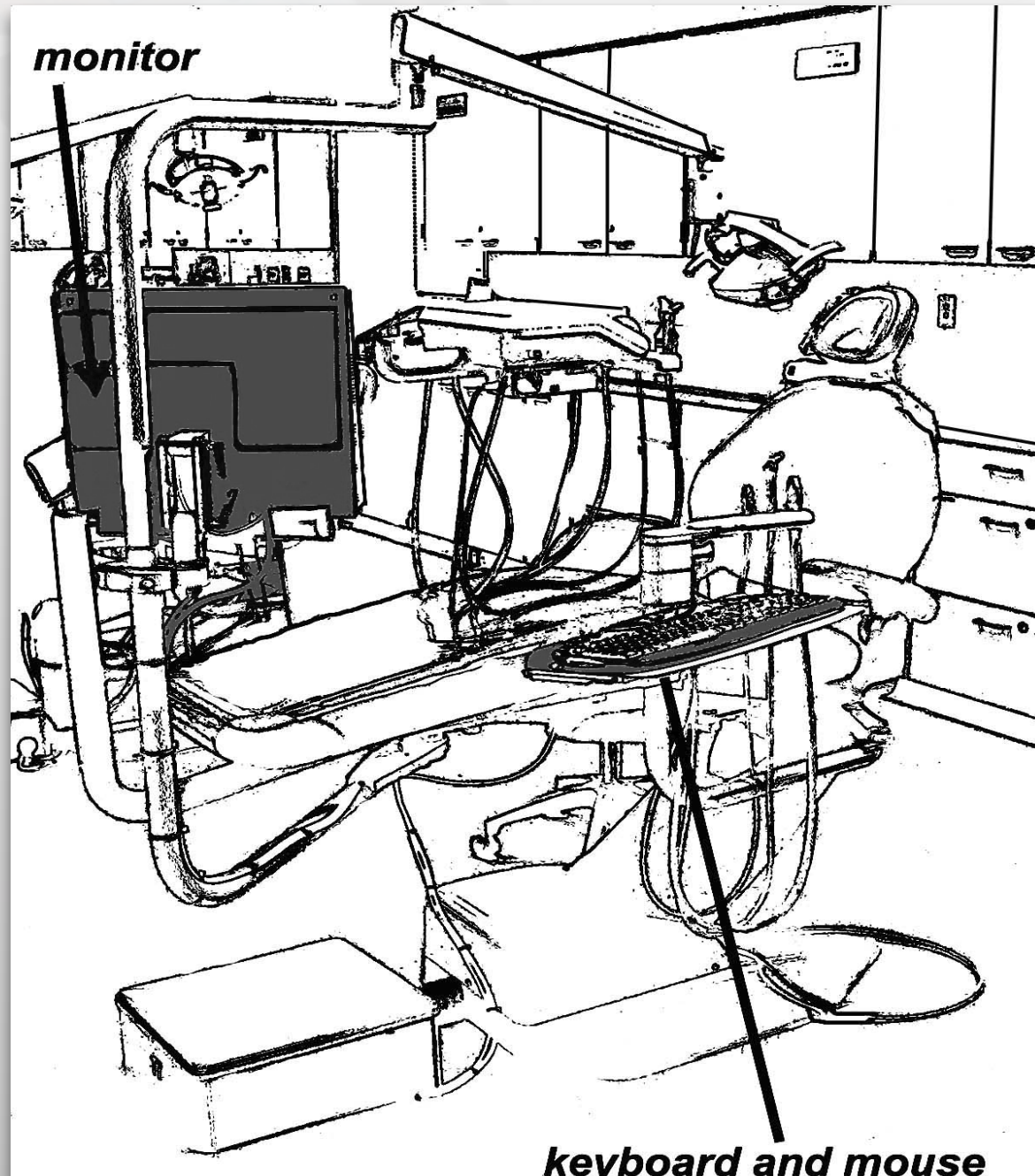


Vlogging in Dentist Training: Understanding Current Practice

- Method (2004, one year in the field)
 - Observation
 - Video recording
 - Contextual interview
- 18 students, 4 instructors participated
- Sample finding: strategies used by clinical instructors
 - Molding: laying their hands over students' hands as they work with instruments
 - Directing: verbally talking a student through a new procedure: "Do this"
 - Demonstration: using hand gestures to show correct/incorrect ways to handle instruments



Vlogging in Dentist Training: Evaluation of the Prototype



- Methods
 - Observation, video recording, web-based survey, server log data, interviews
- 63 students, 5 instructors over 2 semesters (Fall 2005–06)



Vlogging in Dentist Training: Evaluation of the Prototype

- Sample finding: how instructors and students used vlogs
 - Following: students compared their hand with the first-person view videos
 - Context-supporting: students opened vlog to support their discussion
 - Highlighting: instructors indicated relevant gestures or speech in vlog



All watch screen.

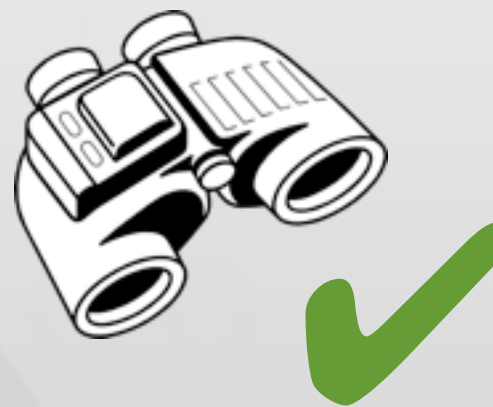
Instructor lifts her instrument.

Three Approaches to HCI Research



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Empirical science



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Ethnography



Make

Engineering
and design



Engineering & Design




- Objective: solve a problem with a solution that works
- Key attributes*:
 - Compelling target
 - Solve a **concrete, compelling problem** with demonstrated need
 - Solve a set of problems using a **unifying set of principles**
 - Explore** how people will interact with computers in the future
 - Technical challenge
 - Requires novel, non-trivial algorithms, or configuration of components
 - Deployed when possible
 - System is deployed and intended benefits and unexpected outcomes documented

* from James Landay Slides: James & Friends' Systems How To



Research Example: Skinput

- Harrison et al., Best paper CHI '10 
- Contributions & Benefits
 - “Skinput is a **technology** that appropriates the human body for acoustic transmission, allowing the skin to be used as a finger input surface.”



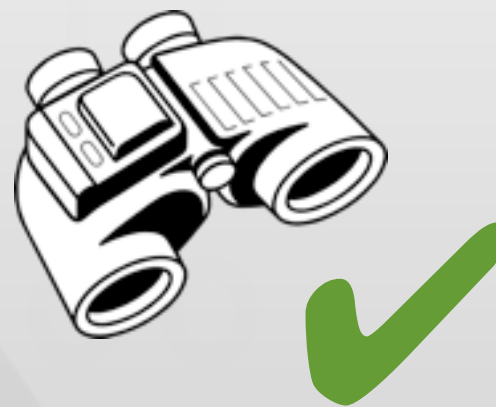
Skinput: appropriating the body as an input surface
Available at: <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1753394>

Three Approaches to HCI Research



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Ethnography

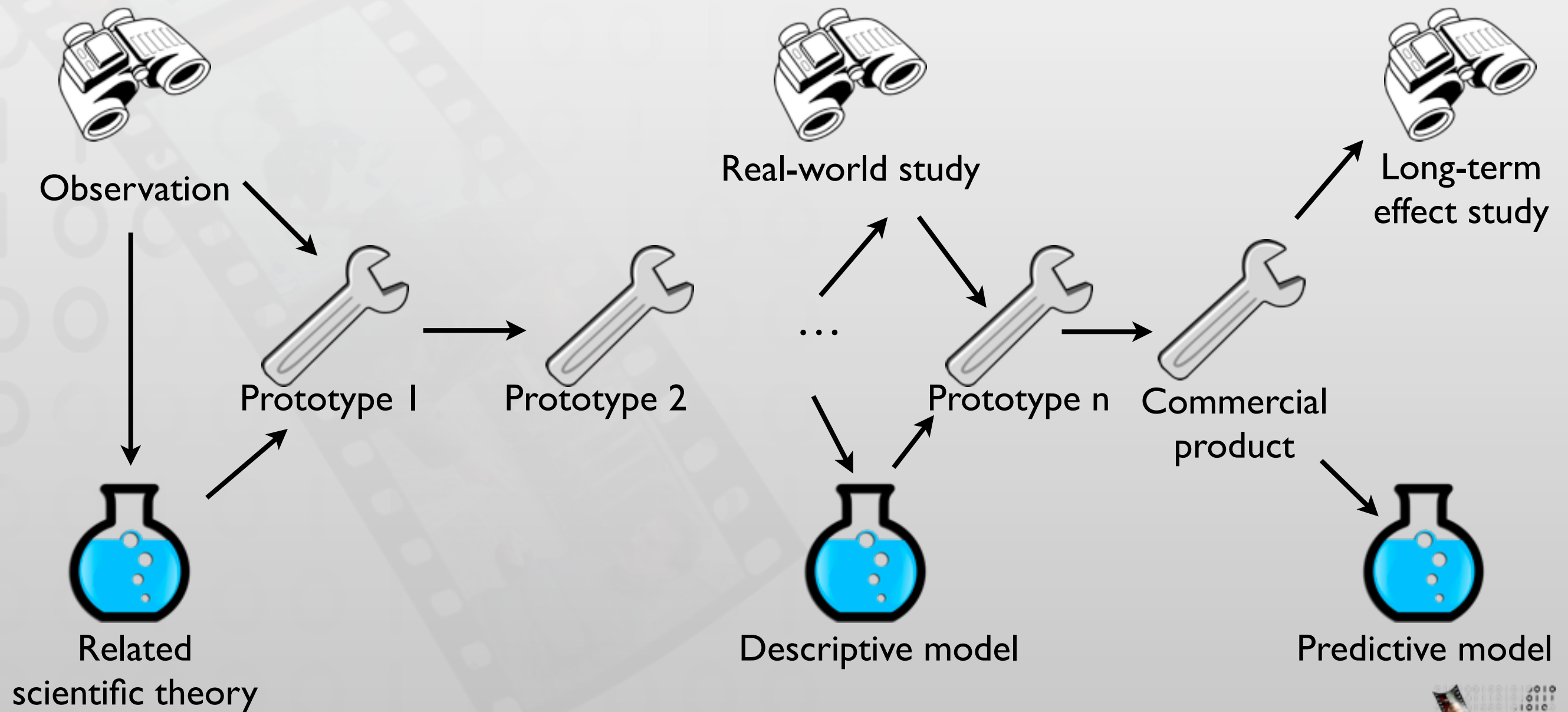


Make


Engineering
and design



The Messy Truth



Research Example: CommandMaps

- Scarr et al., Best paper CHI '12 
- Improve toolbar (specifically Microsoft's Ribbon interface)
- In-class exercise:
 - Contributions?
 - Benefits?
 - Which part uses empirical science, ethnography, and engineering/design approach?



CommandMaps, CHI '13

Available at: <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2207713>

CommandMaps

- Contributions & Benefits:
 - “Introduces **CommandMap** interfaces for mouse-based command invocation. Theoretically and empirically demonstrates that their defining properties — spatially stable command locations and a flat command hierarchy — **improve user performance.**”
[Scarr et al., CHI '12]



Closing Remarks: Design Meets Science

“This was my ideal model of how the supporting science could work. **It required good designers to actually do design**, but what we could do was help **structure the design space** so that the movement through that design space was much more rapid. The science didn’t design the mouse, but it **provided the constraints** to do it.”

— Stu Card, **Designing Interactions** (2007)

