

Information Theory as a Unified Tool for Understanding and Designing Human-Computer Interaction

Abby Wanyu Liu



Committee:



#HumanComputerInteraction

#MutualInformation

#Bayesian

#ComputationalInteraction

#CoAdaptation



Because human-computer interaction studies
a human

Because human-computer interaction studies
a human



User

Because human-computer interaction studies
a human and a machine



User

Because human-computer interaction studies
a human and a machine



User



Computer

Because human-computer interaction studies a human and a machine in **communication**,



User



Computer

Because human-computer interaction studies a human and a machine in **communication**,



User

communication



Computer

Because human-computer interaction studies a human and a machine in **communication**, it draws from supporting knowledge on both the machine and the human side.

**User****communication****Computer**

1948

Information Theory



1948

Information Theory

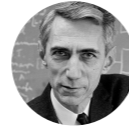


1950

Experimental Psychology Applications

1948

Information Theory



1950

Experimental Psychology Applications

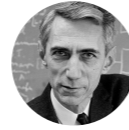
●

Hick's law (1952)



1948

Information Theory



1950

Experimental Psychology Applications



Hick's law (1952)




Fitts' law (1954)





1948 Information Theory 

1950 Experimental Psychology Applications

Hick's law (1952) 

Fitts' law (1954) 

2017 Bayesian Information Gain



User input Y

System feedback X




1948 Information Theory 

1950 Experimental Psychology Applications

Hick's law (1952) 

Fitts' law (1954) 

2017 Bayesian Information Gain

BIGnav (2017) 



User input Y

System feedback X




1948 Information Theory 


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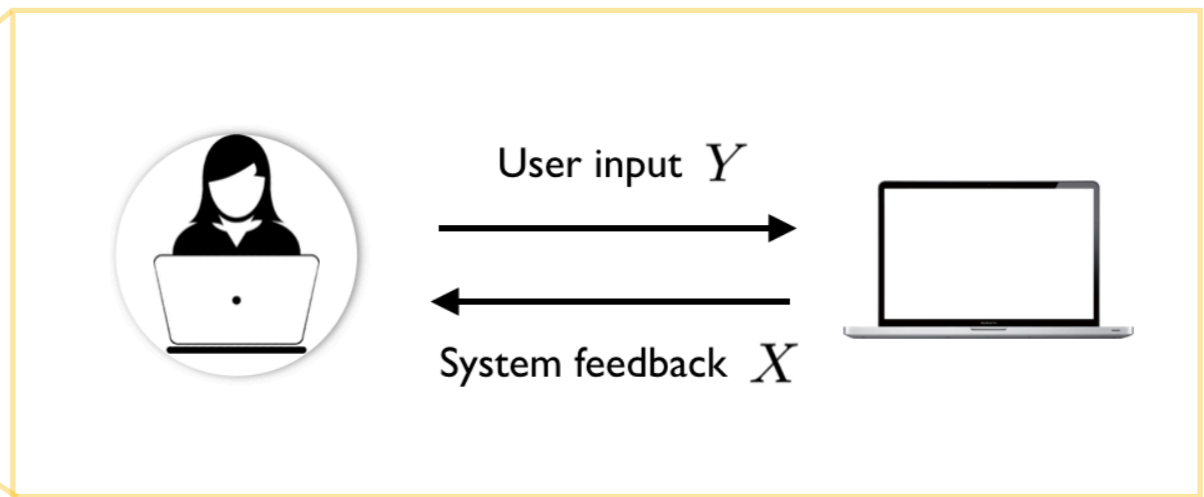
Hick's law (1952) 

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BIGnav (2017) 

BIGFile (2018) 



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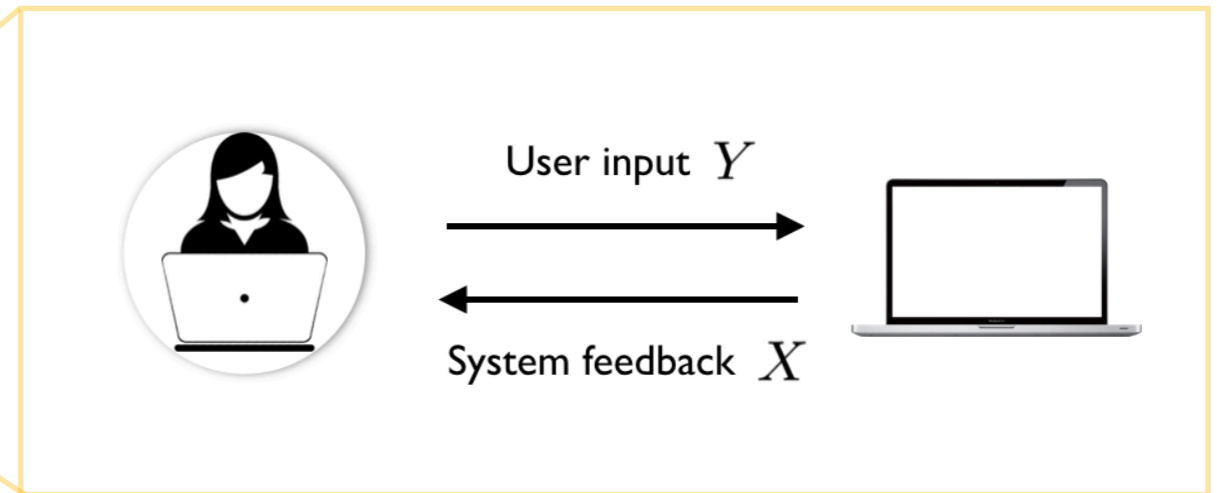
Fitts' law (1954) 

2017 Bayesian Information Gain

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BIGFile (2018) 


2018 Information-Theoretic Measures



1948 Information Theory 

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Hick's law (1952) 

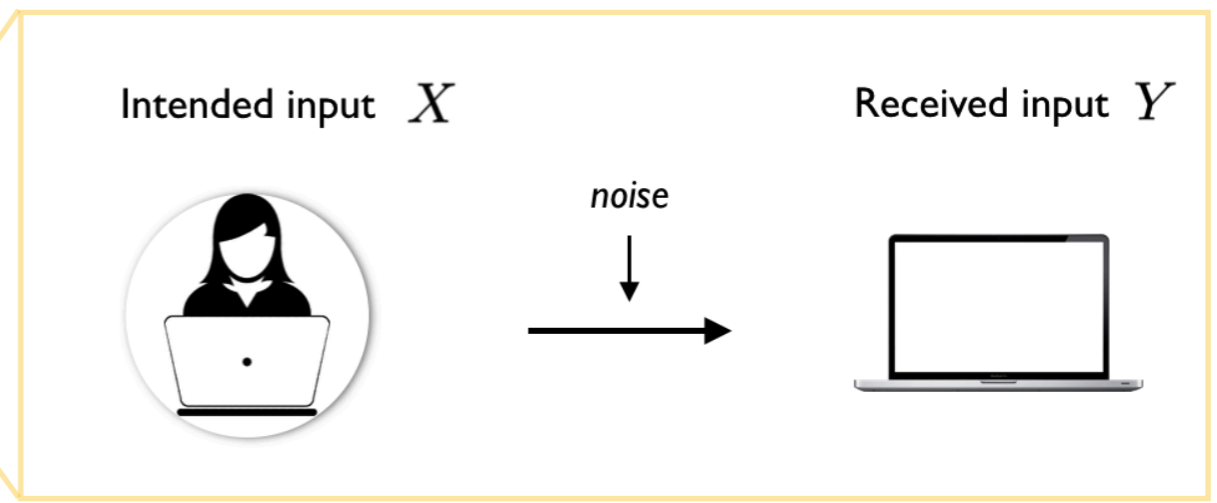
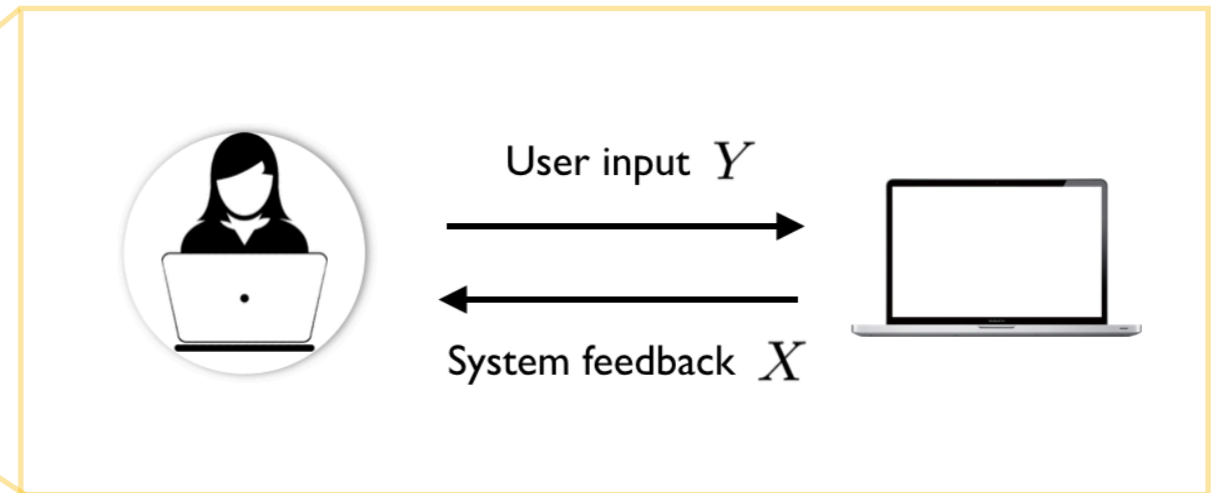
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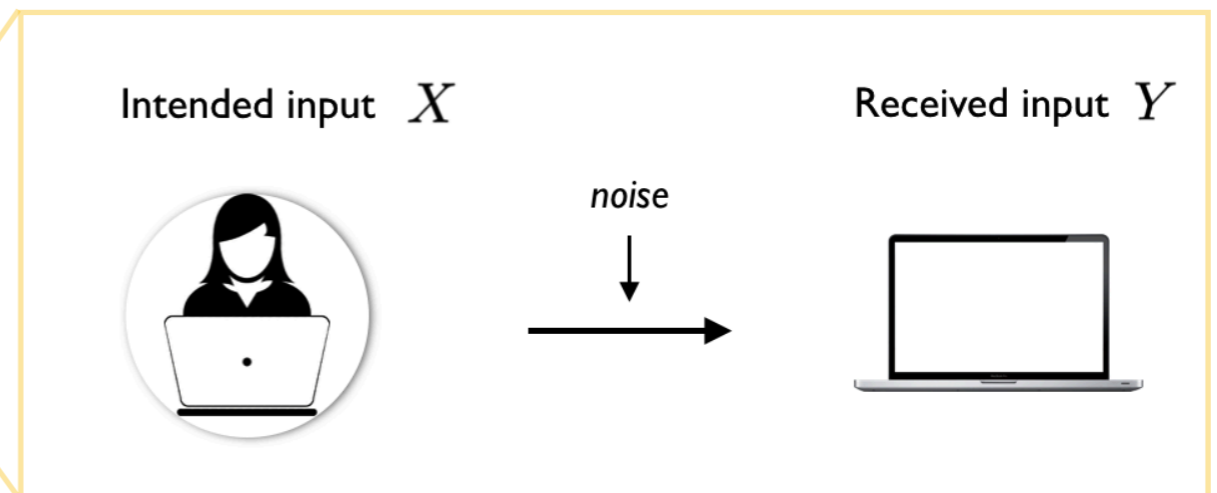
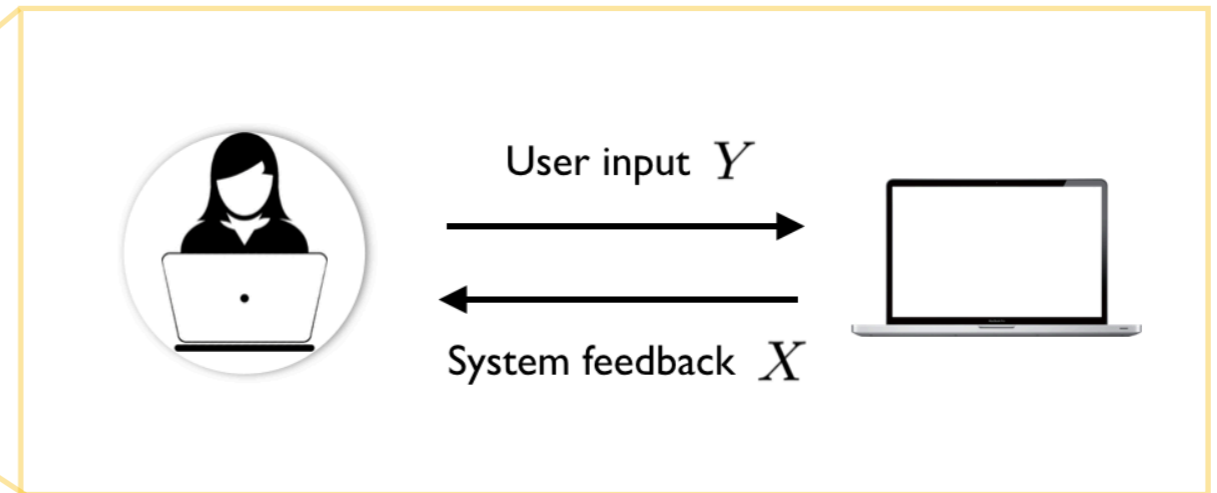
2017 Bayesian Information Gain

BIGnav (2017) 

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2018 Information-Theoretic Measures

Command Selection 




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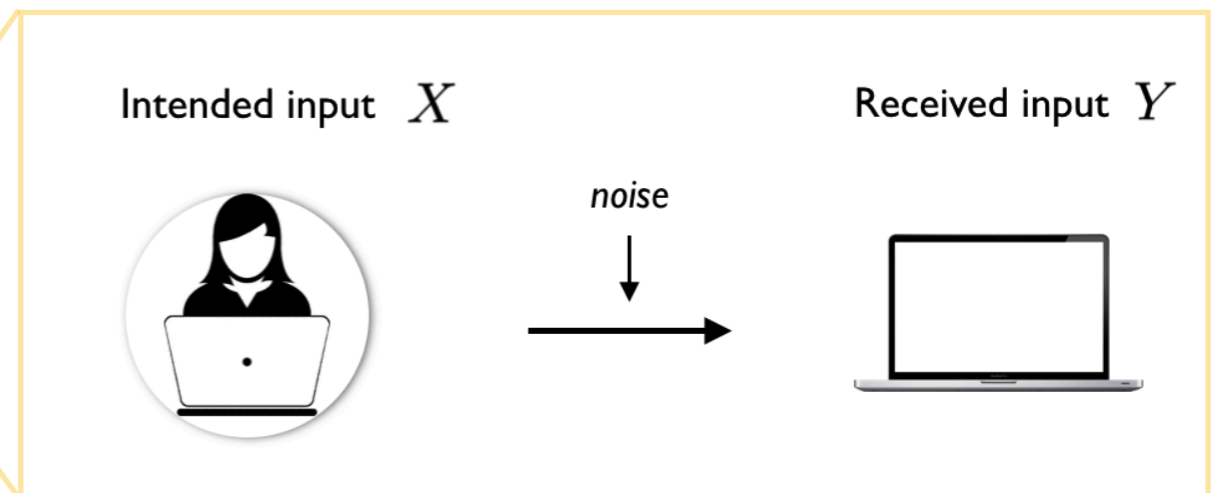
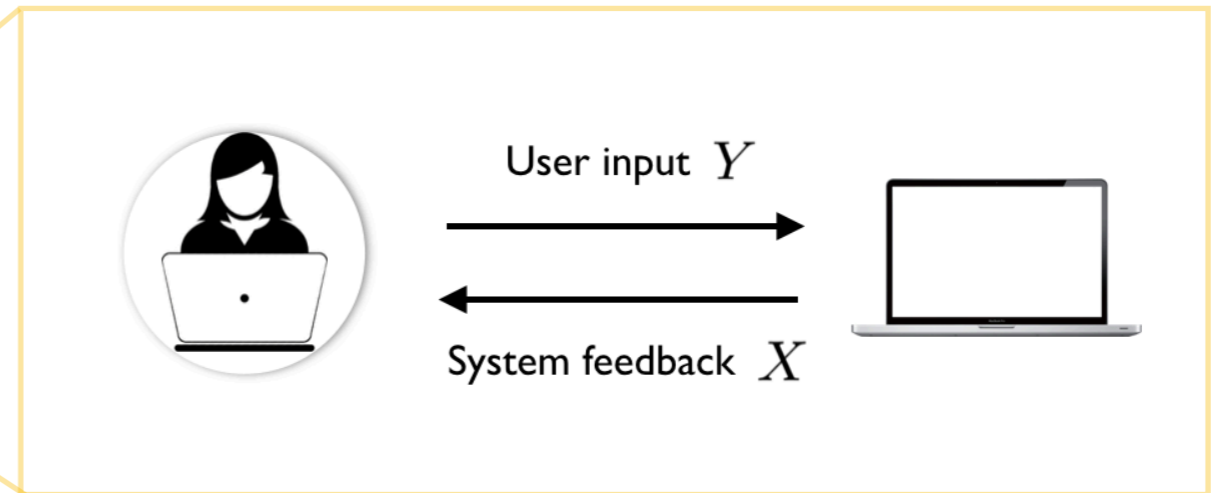
BIGnav (2017) 

BIGFile (2018) 

2018 Information-Theoretic Measures

Command Selection 

Text Entry 




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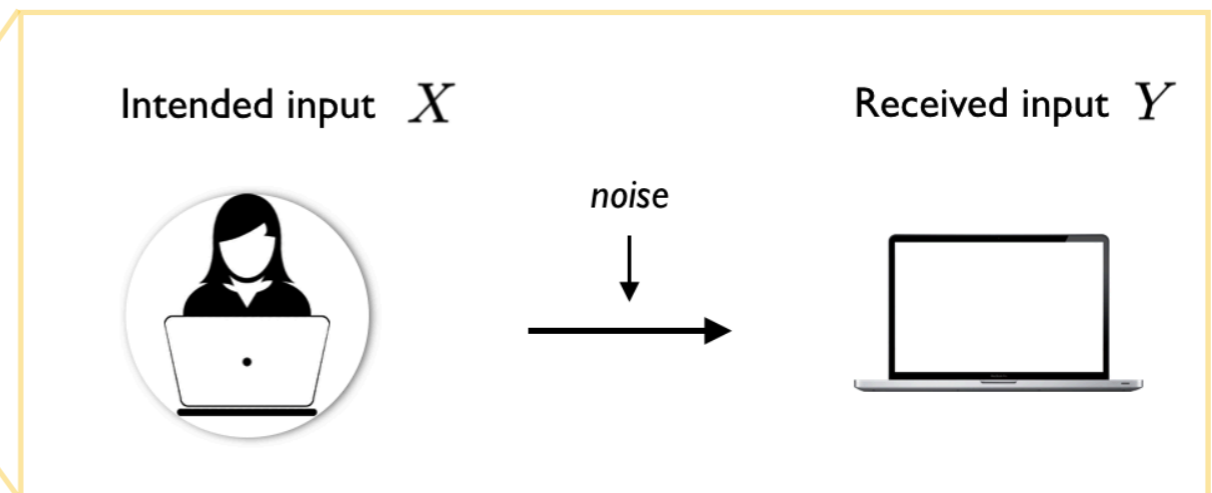
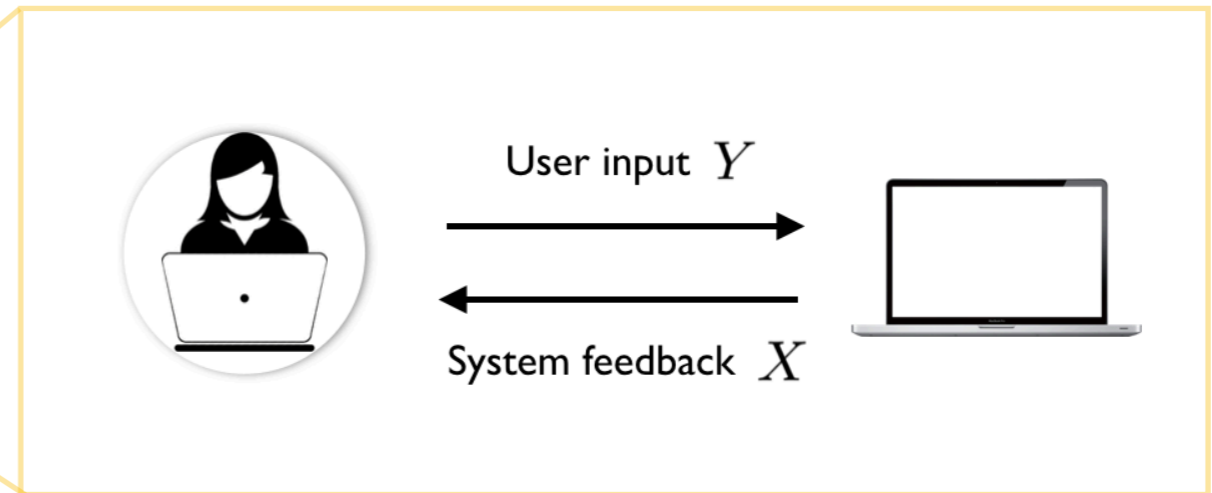
BIGnav (2017) 

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2018 Information-Theoretic Measures

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Part i

2017 Bayesian Information Gain

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BIGFile (2018) 

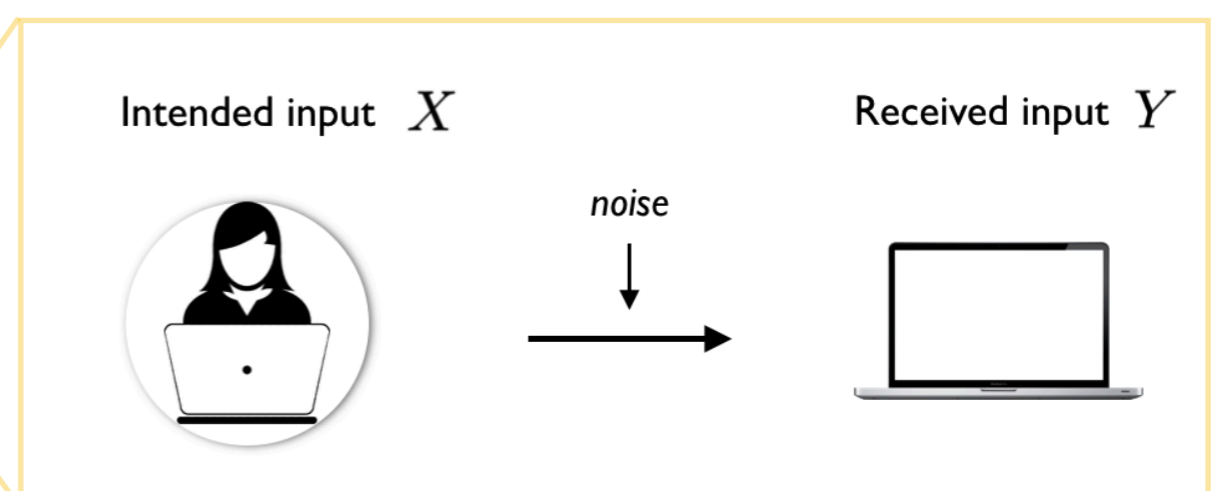
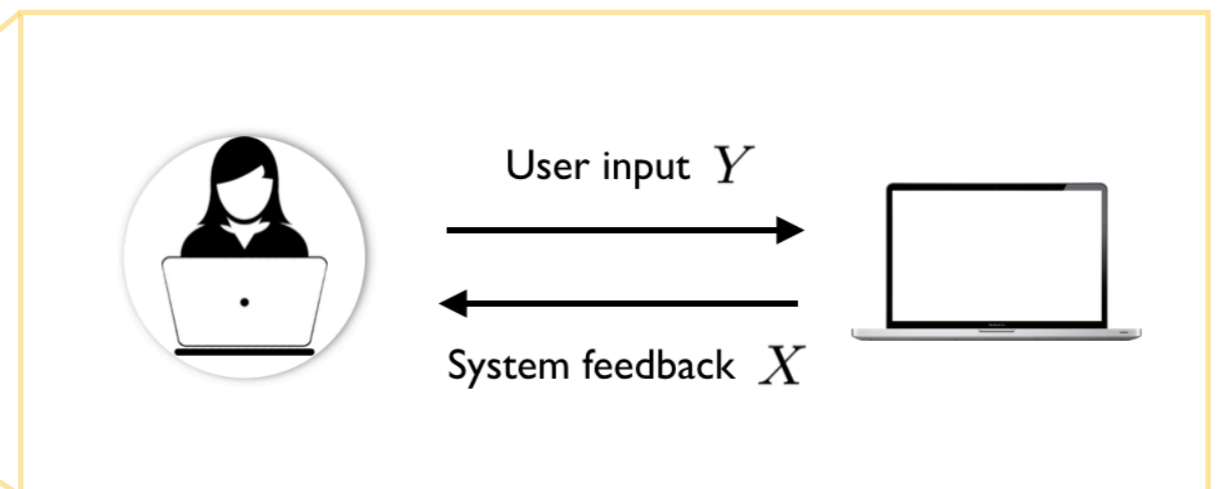
Part ii

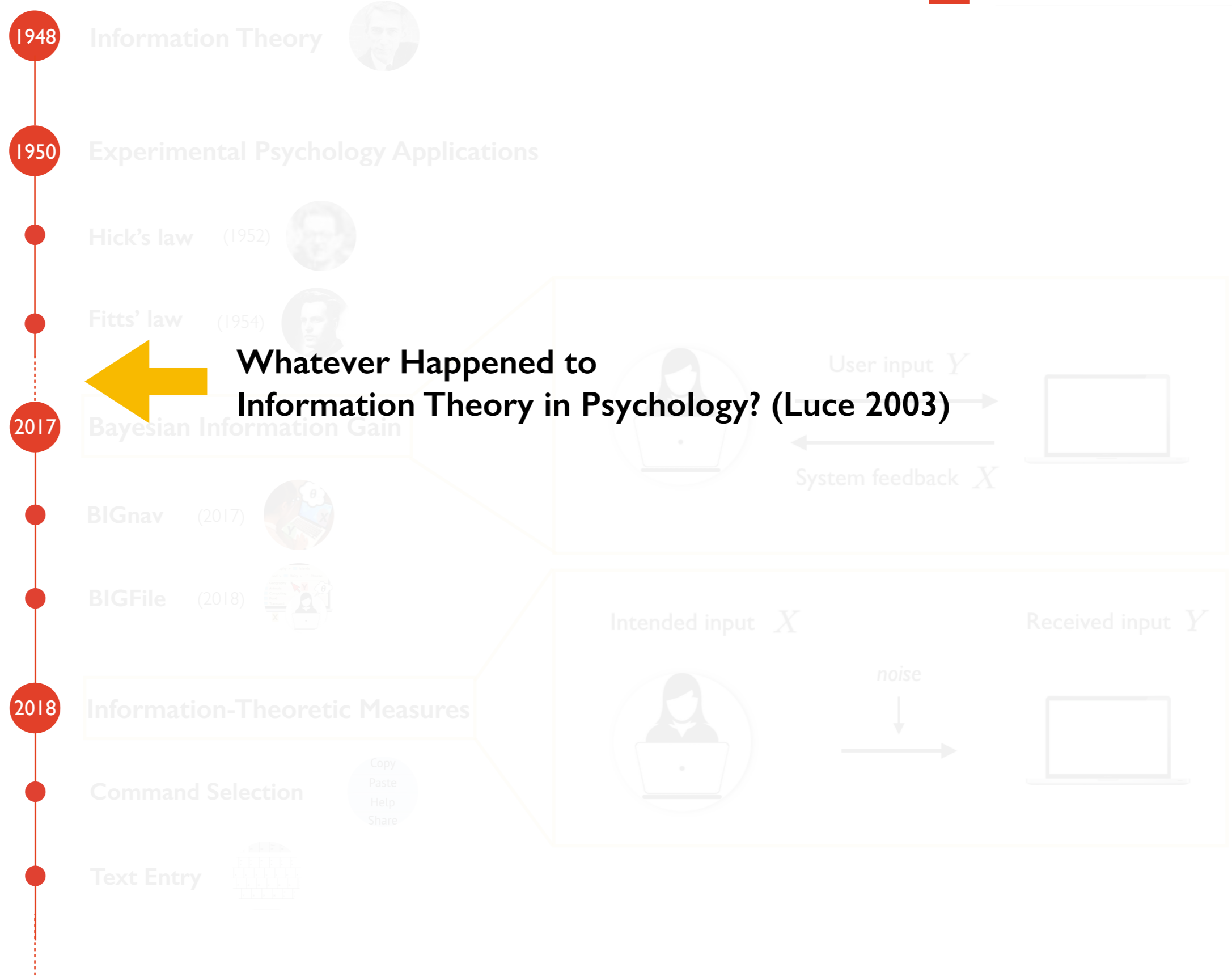
2018 Information-Theoretic Measures

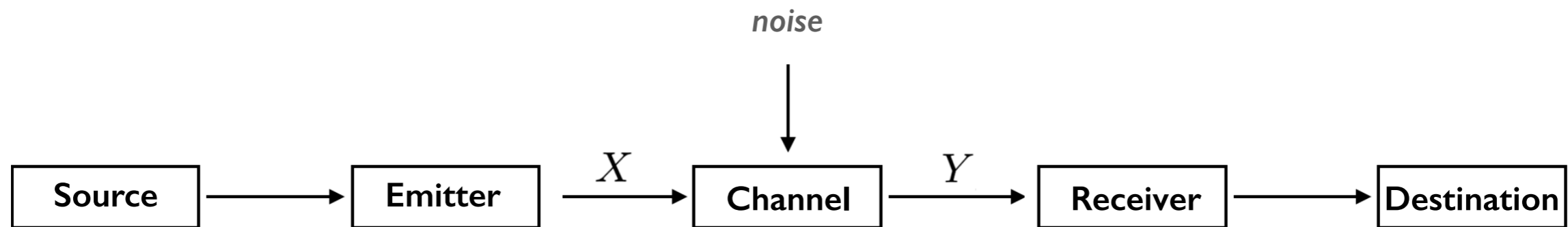
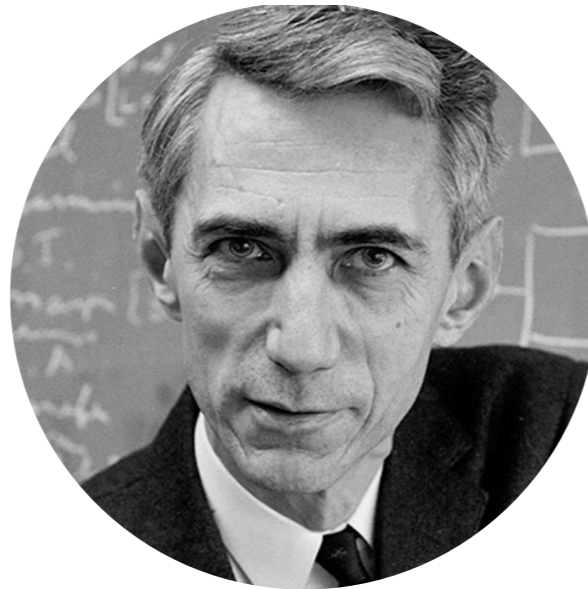
Command Selection 

Part iii

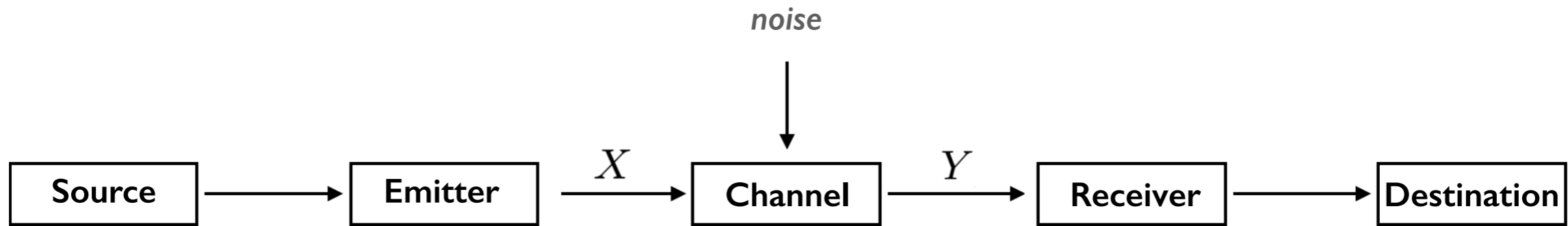
Text Entry 







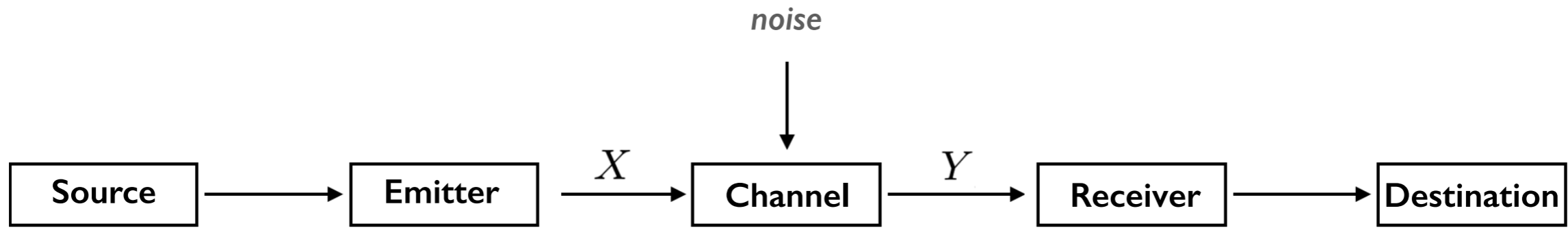
A mathematical theory of communication (Shannon 1948)



Discrete random variable X :

$$\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$$

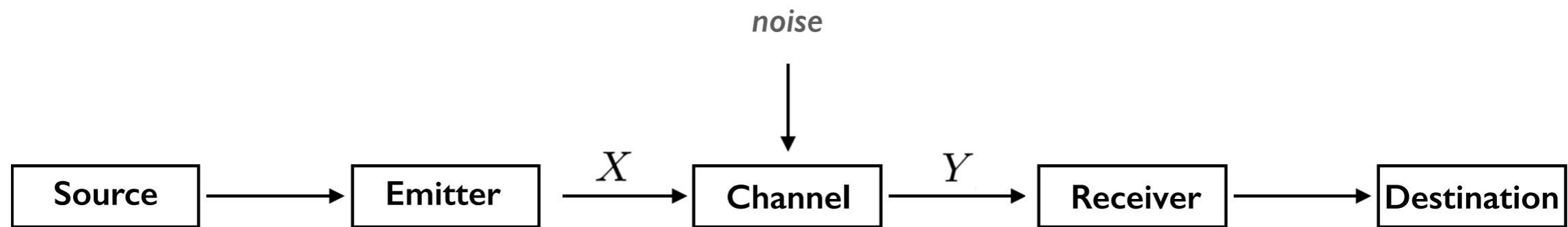
$$\begin{matrix} \uparrow & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ P_1 & P_2 & \dots & P_n \end{matrix}$$



Discrete random variable X :

$$\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$$

$$\begin{matrix} \uparrow & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ P_1 & P_2 & \dots & P_n \end{matrix}$$



Discrete random variable X :

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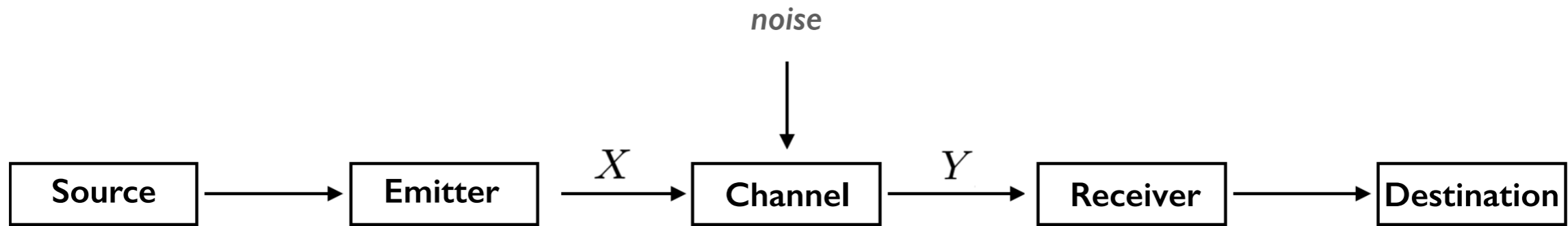
↑ ↑ ↑

$$P_1 \quad P_2 \quad \dots \quad P_n$$

Information as entropy:

$$H(X) = -\sum_{i=1}^n P_i \log_2 P_i$$

$$0 \leq H(X) \leq \log N$$



Discrete random variable X :

$$\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$$

↑ ↑ ↑

$$P_1 \quad P_2 \quad \dots \quad P_n$$

Information as entropy:

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Discrete random variable X:

$$\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$$

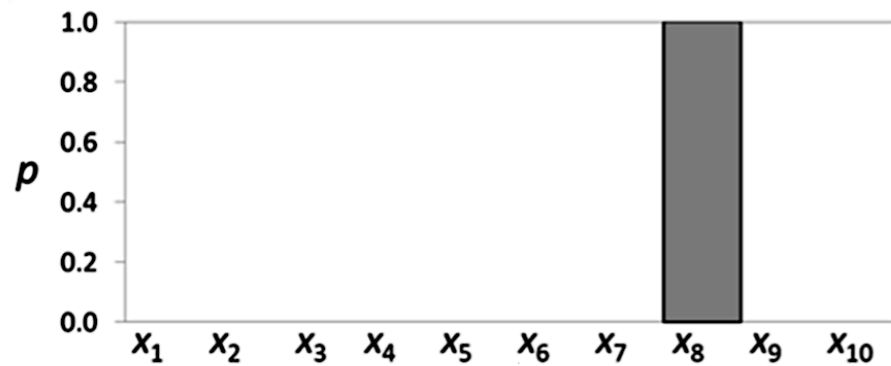
↑ ↑ ↑
 P_1 P_2 ... P_n

Information as entropy:

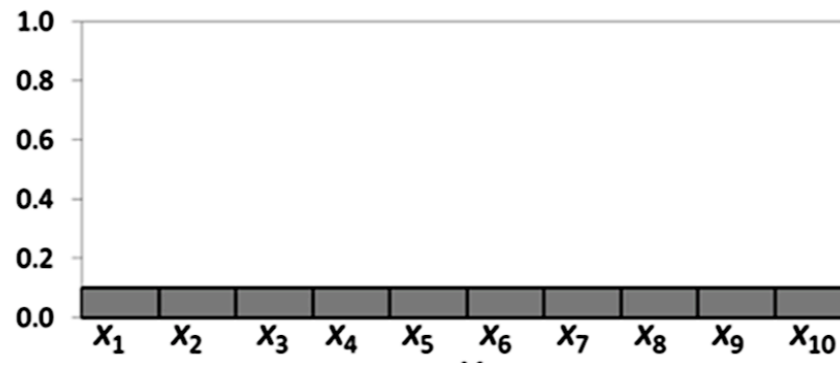
$$H(X) = - \sum_{i=1}^n P_i \log_2 P_i$$

$$0 \leq H(X) \leq \log N$$

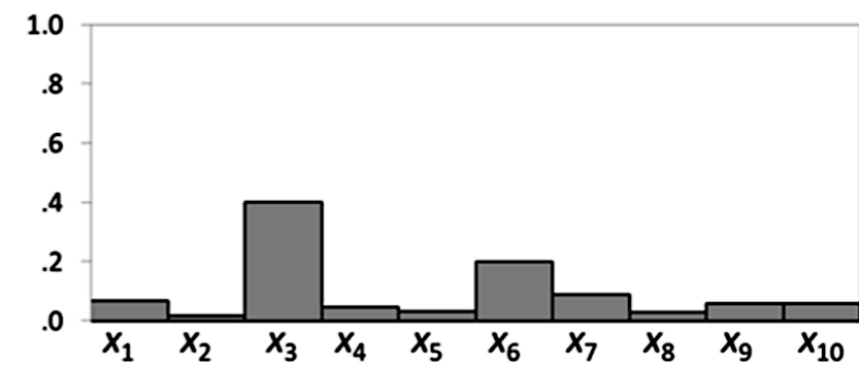
$H(X) = 0$ bits

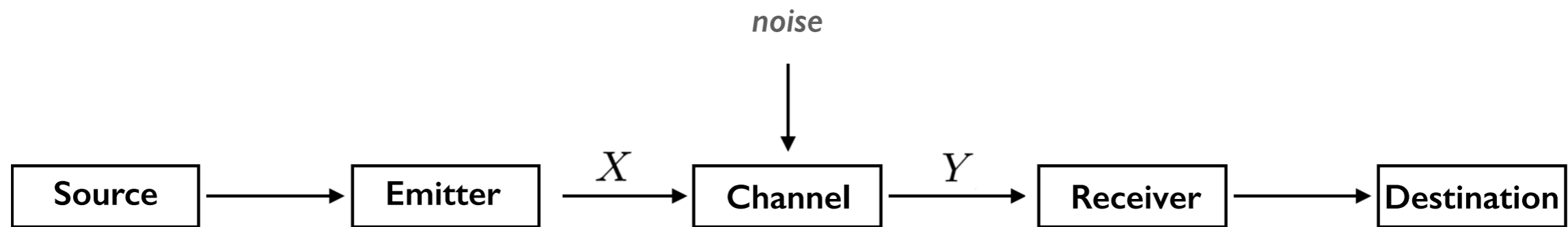


$H(X) = \log_2 10 = 3.3$ bits



$0 < H(X) = 2.7 < 3.3$ bits





Mathematics, statistics, computer science, physics, neurobiology, electrical engineering, statistical inference, natural language processing, cryptography, neurobiology, human vision, the evolution and function of molecular codes (bioinformatics), model selection in statistics, thermal physics, quantum computing, linguistics, plagiarism detection, pattern recognition, anomaly detection, gambling, music composition....

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_theory

- * **Choice-reaction time (Hick, Hyman)**
- * **Information Capacity of Motor Movement (Fitts)**
- * **Information Capacity of Working Memory (Miller)**



The Magical Number Seven, Plus or Minus Two (Miller 1956)

* Choice-reaction time



Helmholtz
(1821-1894)

* Choice-reaction time

Donders 1868:

First report of choice-reaction times

Blank 1934:

A logarithmic relationship is mentioned

Hick 1952

Hyman 1953

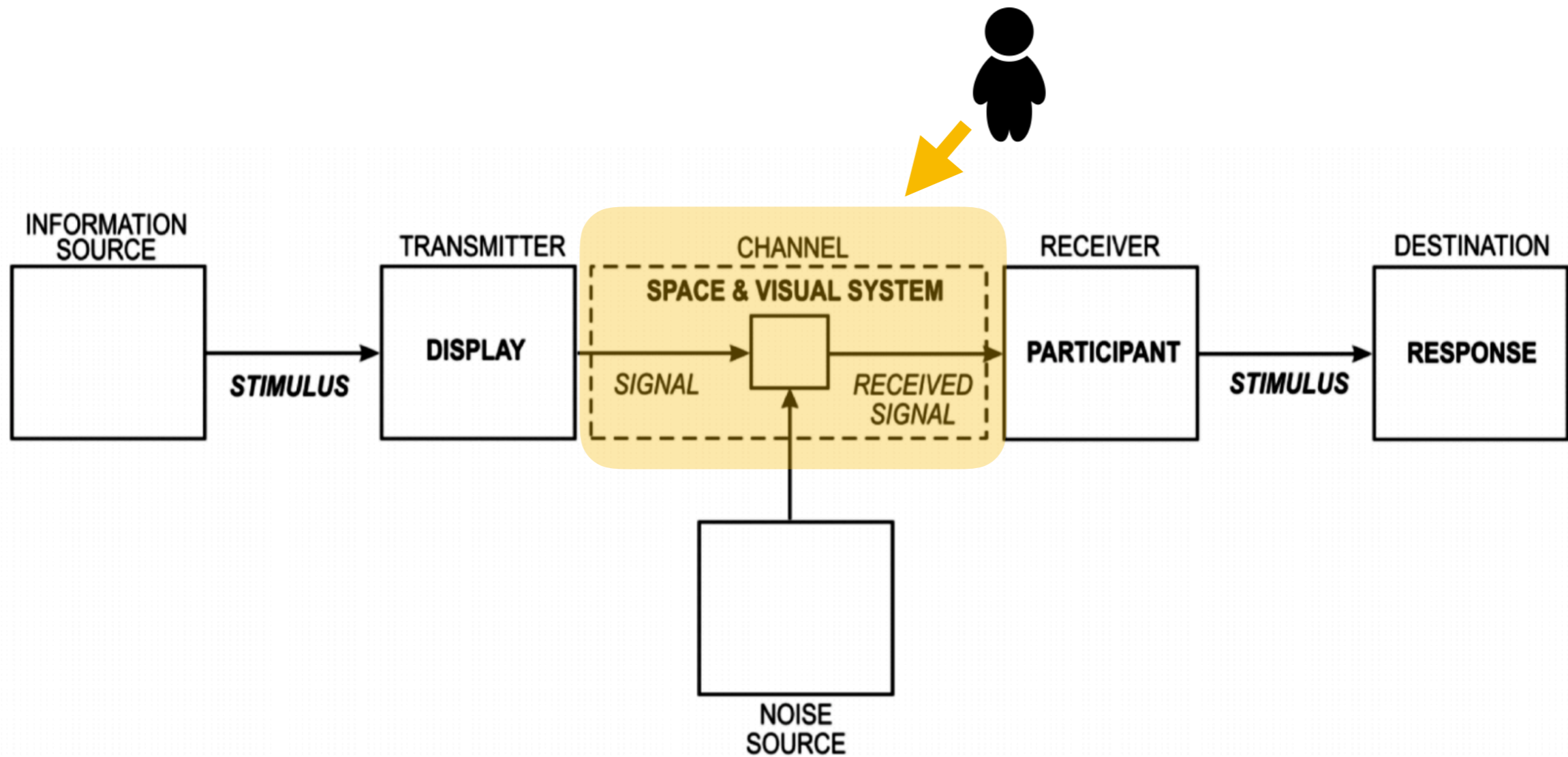
Merkel 1883:

Relationship between time and the number of stimuli (linear)

Shannon 1948:

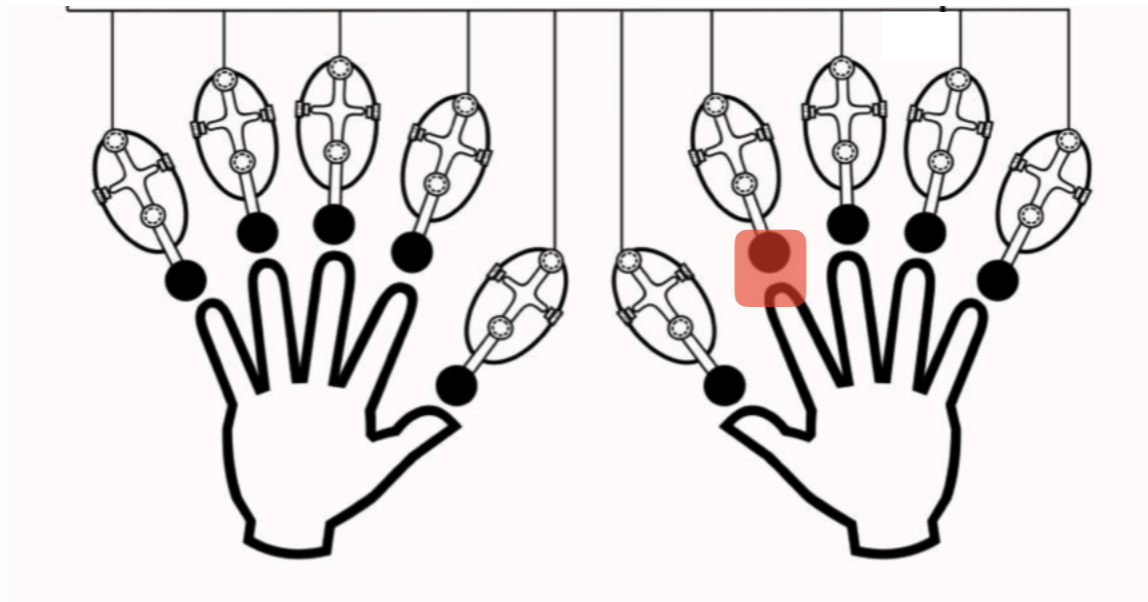
Information Theory

* Choice-reaction time (Hick, Hyman)

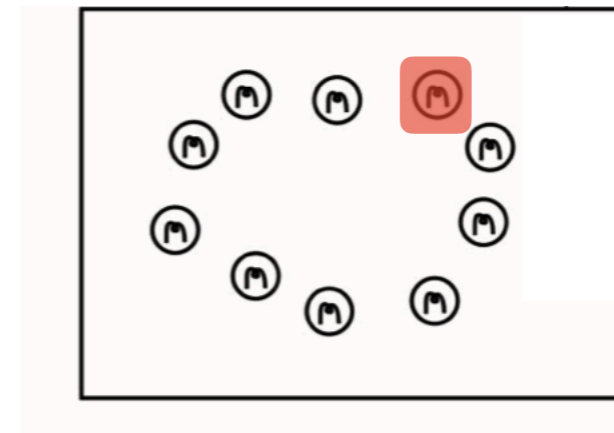


Information theory of choice-reaction times (Laming 1968)

* Choice-reaction time (Hick, Hyman)



Morse keys

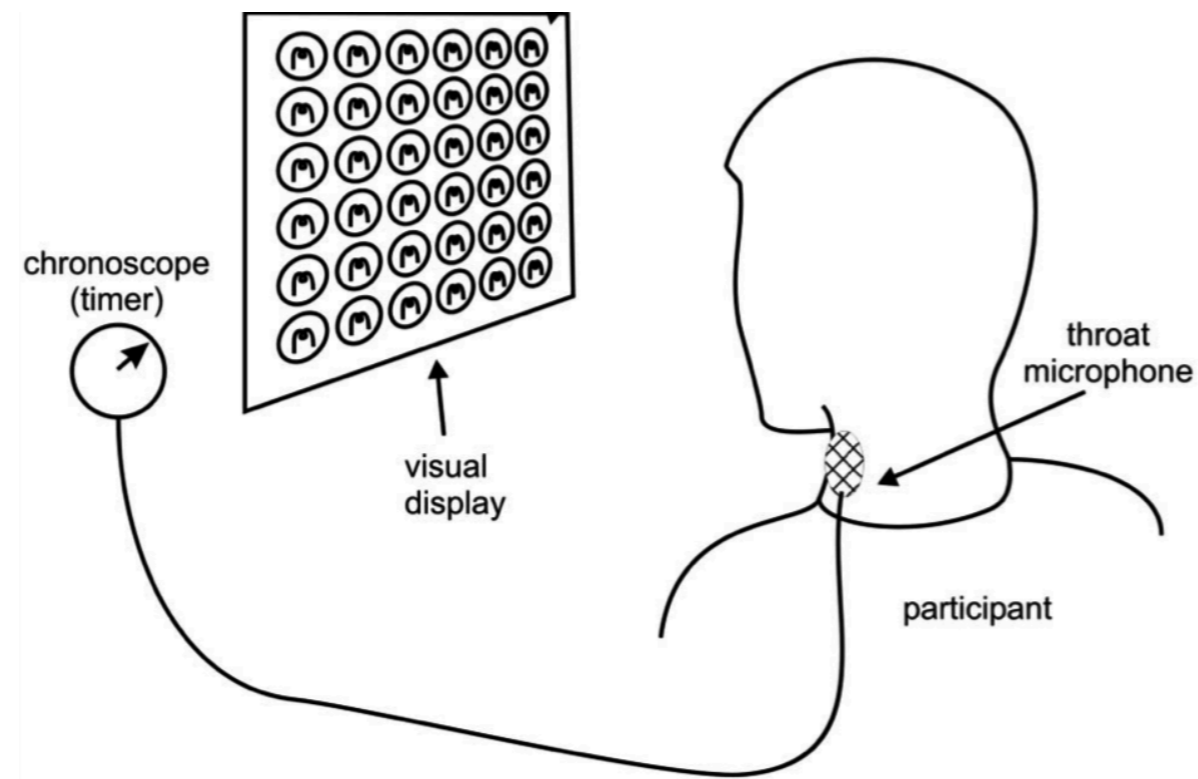


Pea lamps

$$T \propto \log_2 n$$

On the rate of gain of gain of information (Hick 1952)

* Choice-reaction time (Hick, Hyman)



$$T \propto \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log_2(1/p_i)$$

Stimulus information as a determinant of reaction time (Hyman 1953)

* Choice-reaction time (Hick, Hyman, etc.)

	<i>Hick</i>	<i>Hyman</i>	<i>Landauer & Nachbar</i>	<i>Cockburn et al.</i>	<i>Soukoreff & Mackenzie</i>	<i>Mackenzie et al.</i>	<i>Wobbrock & Myers</i>
Task	Reaction	Reaction	VS	Decision	VS	VS	VS
Stimuli	Random	Random	Ordered	Random	Keyboard	Keyboard	Random
Participants	Well-trained	Well-trained	All users	Users starting from block 2	Novice users	Novice users	All users
Distribution	Uniform	Non-uniform	Uniform	Zipfian	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform
Information Measure	Up to 3.32 bits	Up to 2.81 bits	Up to 4 bits	Up to 3.58 bits	4.75 bits	4.75 bits	Up to 2 bits
Formula	Mutual Information $\log(n+1)$ or $\log(n_e+1)$	Entropy $\log n$ or $-\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log_2 p_i$	Entropy $\log n$	Entropy $\log n$	Entropy $\log n$	Entropy $\log n$	Entropy $\log n$
Results	Logarithmic	Logarithmic	Logarithmic	Logarithmic	Logarithmic	Not Logarithmic	Logarithmic

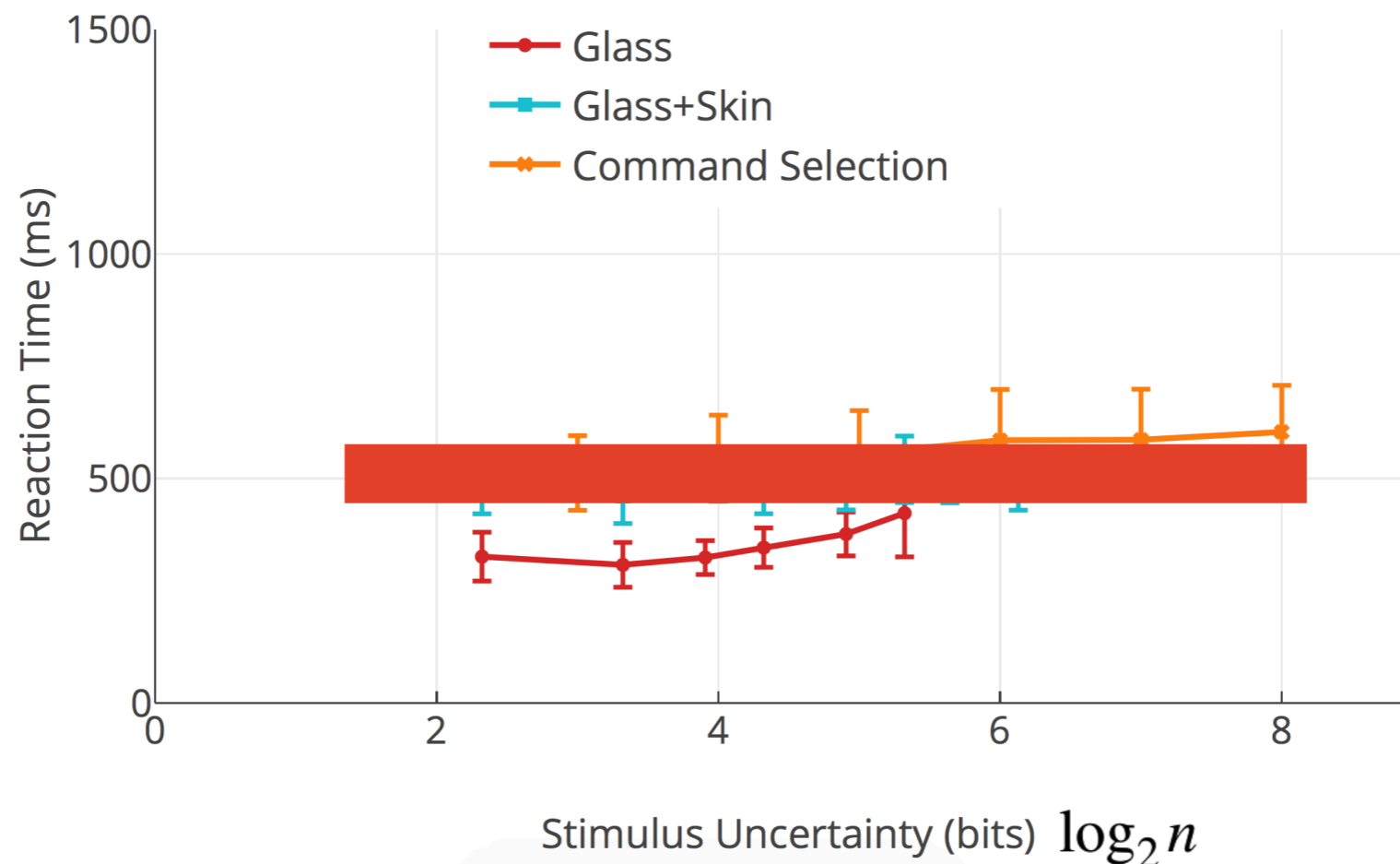
- VS: Visual search.

* Choice-reaction time (Hick, Hyman, etc.)

	<i>Hick</i>	<i>Hyman</i>	<i>Landauer & Nachbar</i>	<i>Cockburn et al.</i>	<i>Soukoreff & Mackenzie</i>	<i>Mackenzie et al.</i>	<i>Wobbrock & Myers</i>
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Results	Logarithmic	Logarithmic	Logarithmic	Logarithmic	Logarithmic	Not Logarithmic	Logarithmic

- VS: Visual search.

* Implications for HCI: Effect size of Hick's law is insignificant



Wanyu Liu, Julien Gori, Olivier Rioul, Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, and Yves Guiard.
How Relevant is Hick's Law for HCI? (CHI '19) [\[under review\]](#)

* Hick's law in design

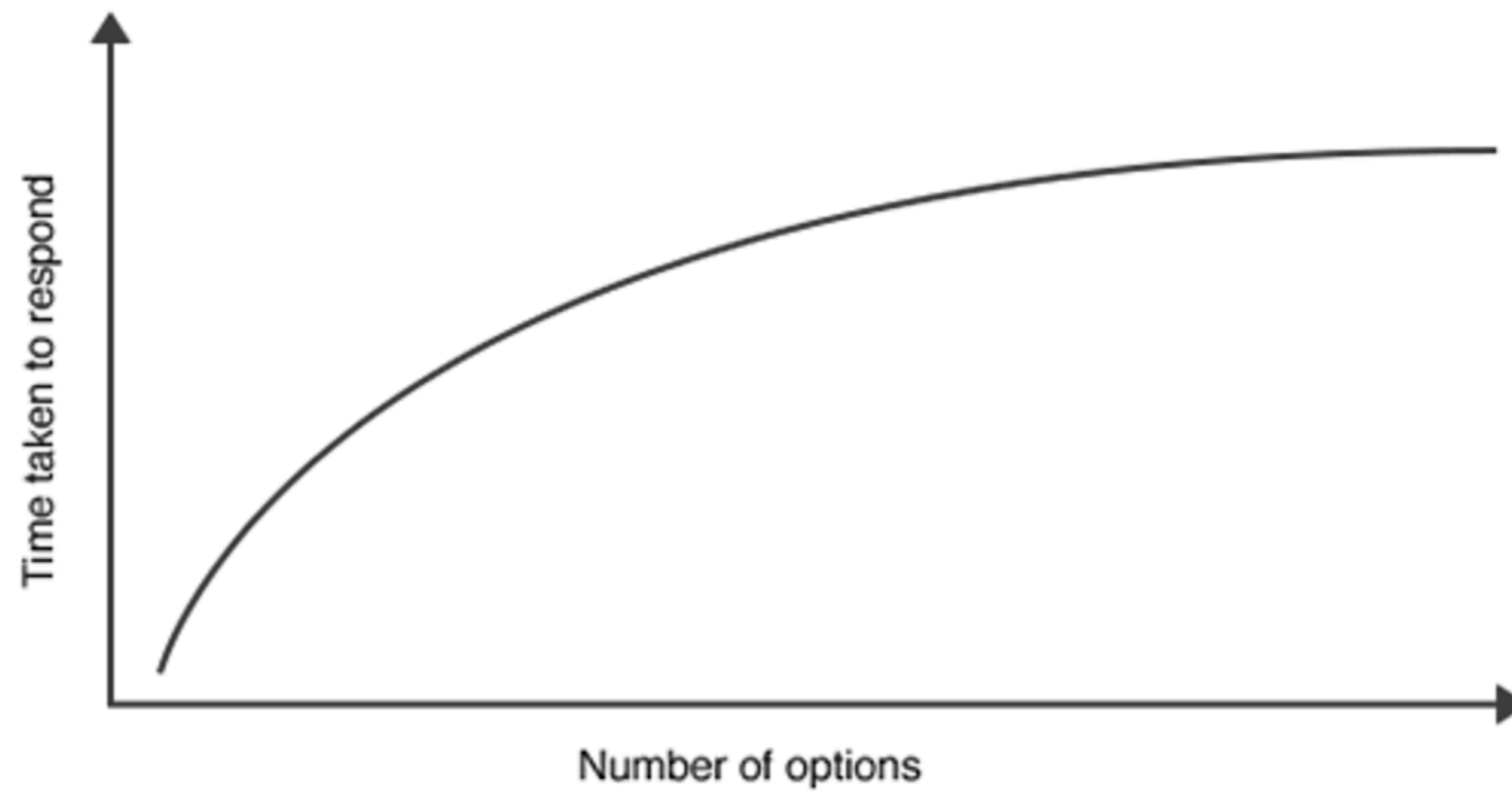
Hick's Law: Making the choice easier for users

Juggling Jam: Applying Hick's Law to Web Design

Design principle: Hick's Law — quick decision making

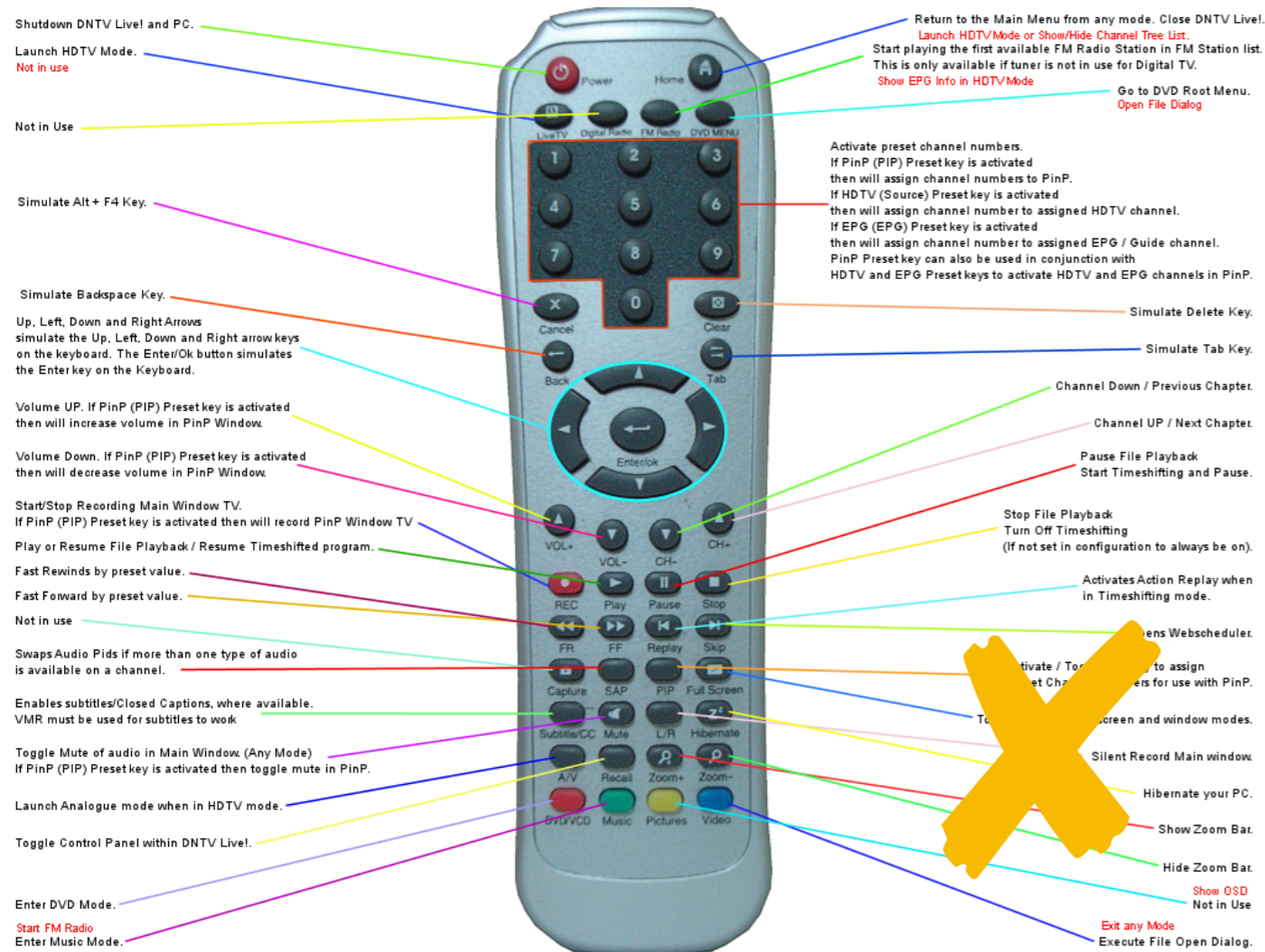
Universal Principles of Design (Lidwell 2010)

* Hick's law in design



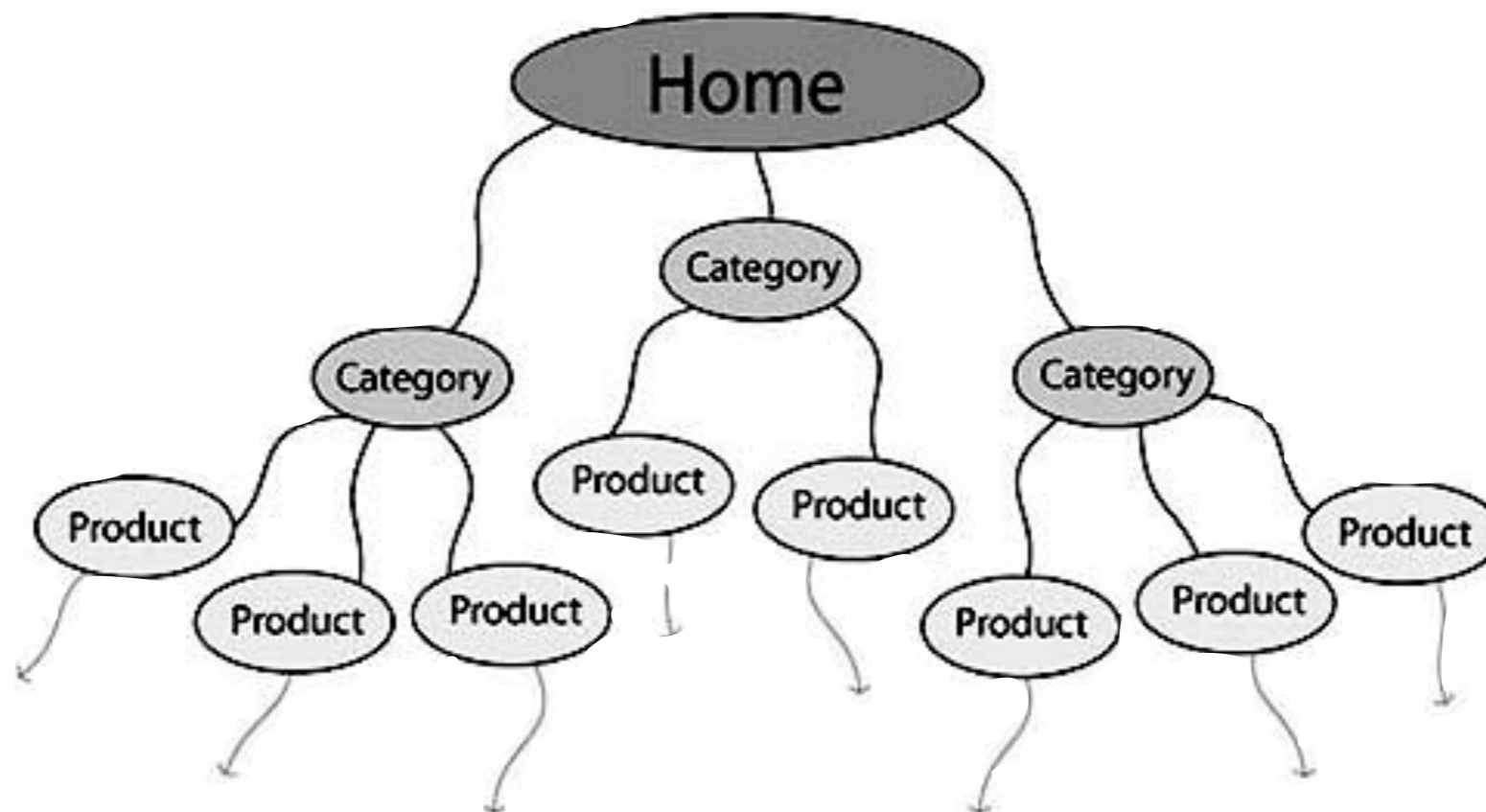
Hick's law in design

Do not bombard users with choices



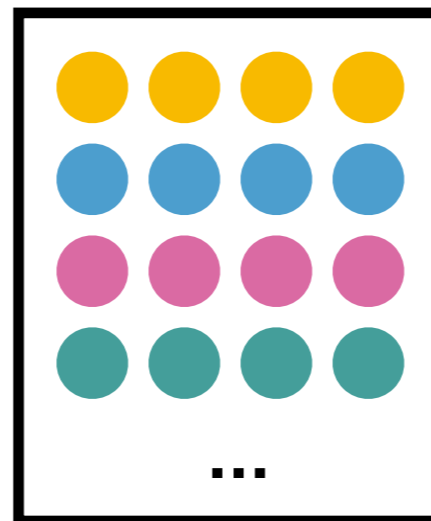
* Hick's law in design

Always categorize choices



* Implications for HCI: Hick's law does not justify design “rules”

$$N = 512$$



$$RT = a + b \log_2(512) = a + 9 \times b$$

Wanyu Liu, Julien Gori, Olivier Rioul, Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, and Yves Guiard.
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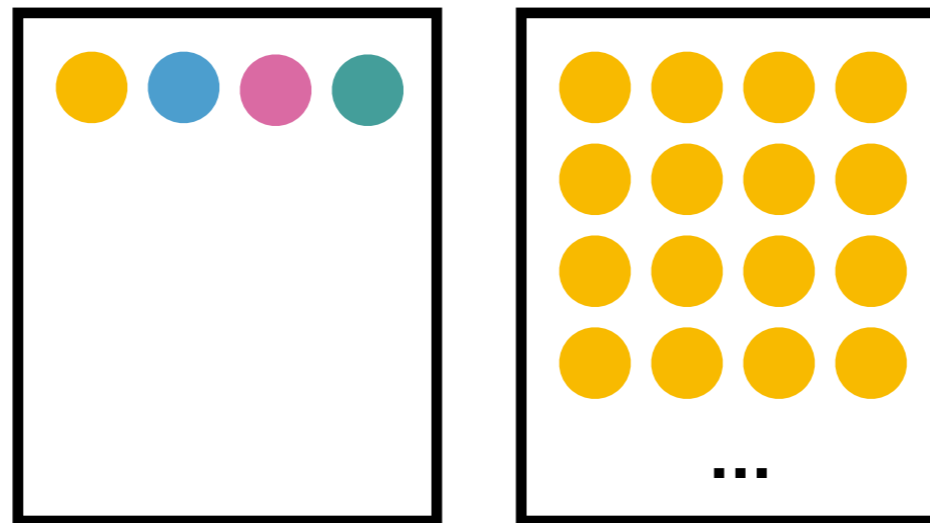


$$RT = 1/4 \left(\sum_{i=1}^4 a_i + b_i \log_2(128) \right) = 10/4 a + 70/4 b$$

Wanyu Liu, Julien Gori, Olivier Rioul, Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, and Yves Guiard.
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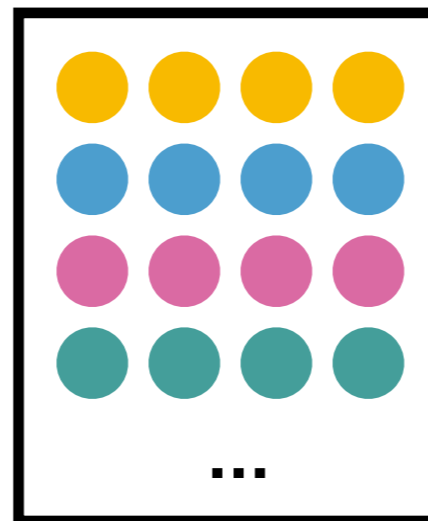


$$RT = a + b \log_2(4) + a + b \log_2(128) = 2a + 9 \times b$$

Wanyu Liu, Julien Gori, Olivier Rioul, Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, and Yves Guiard.
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**User****communication****Computer**

**User****communication****Computer**

Part ii: Bayesian Information Gain (BIG)

1948

1950

2017

Bayesian Information Gain



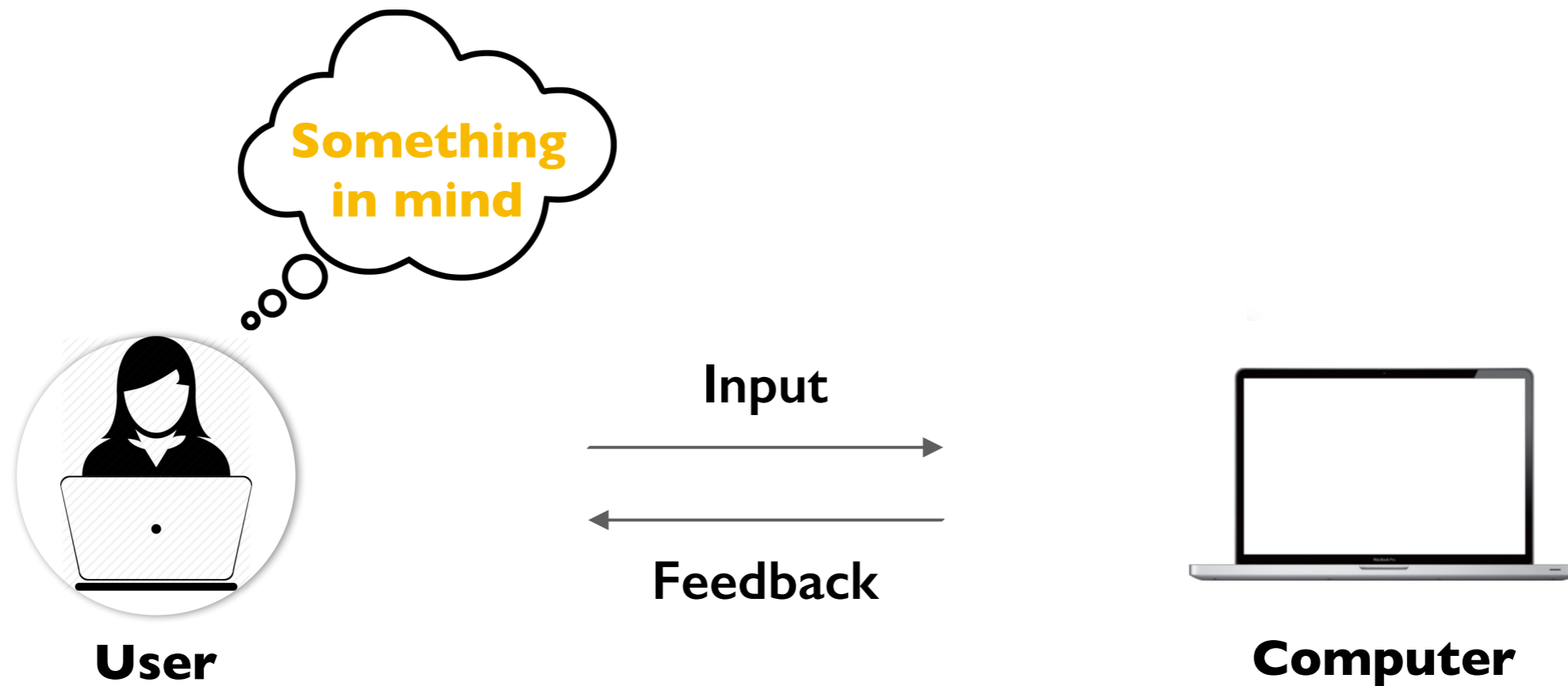
BIG



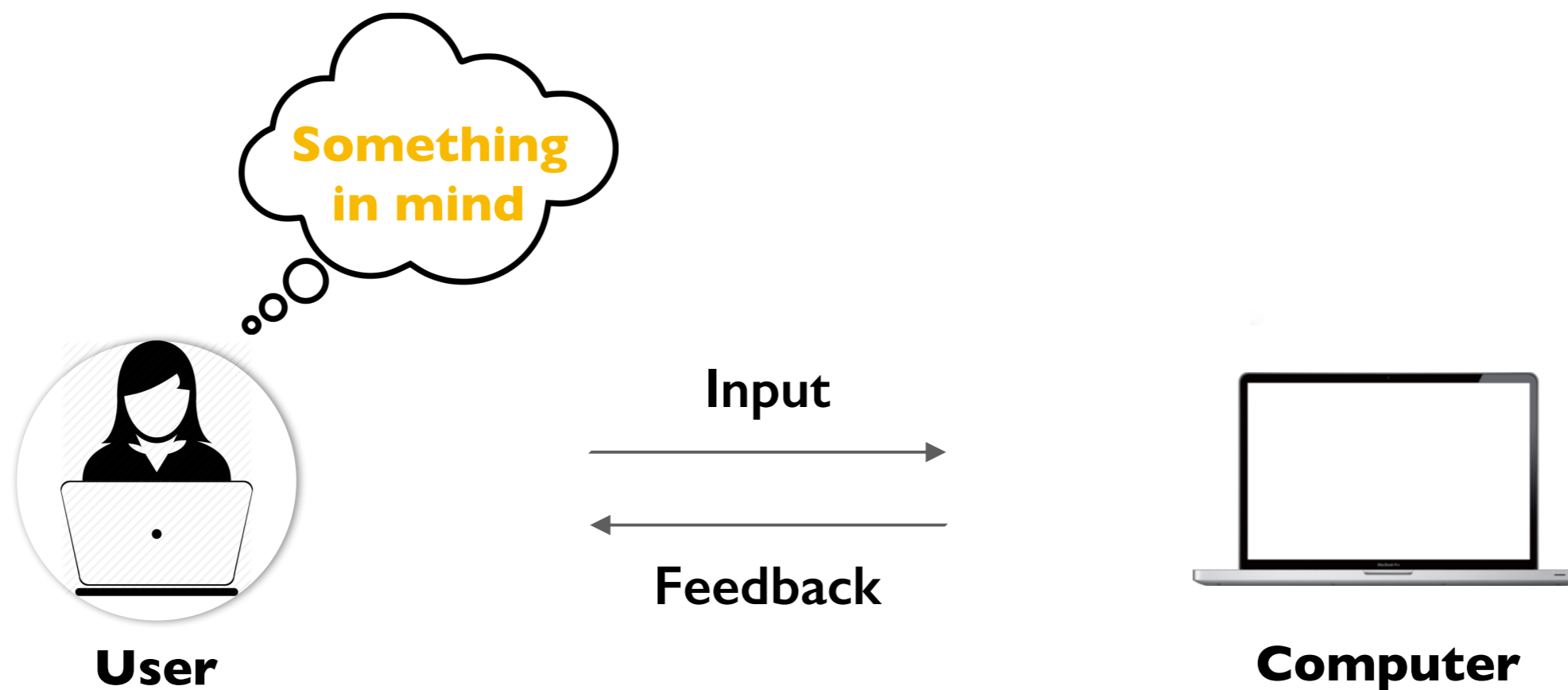
User



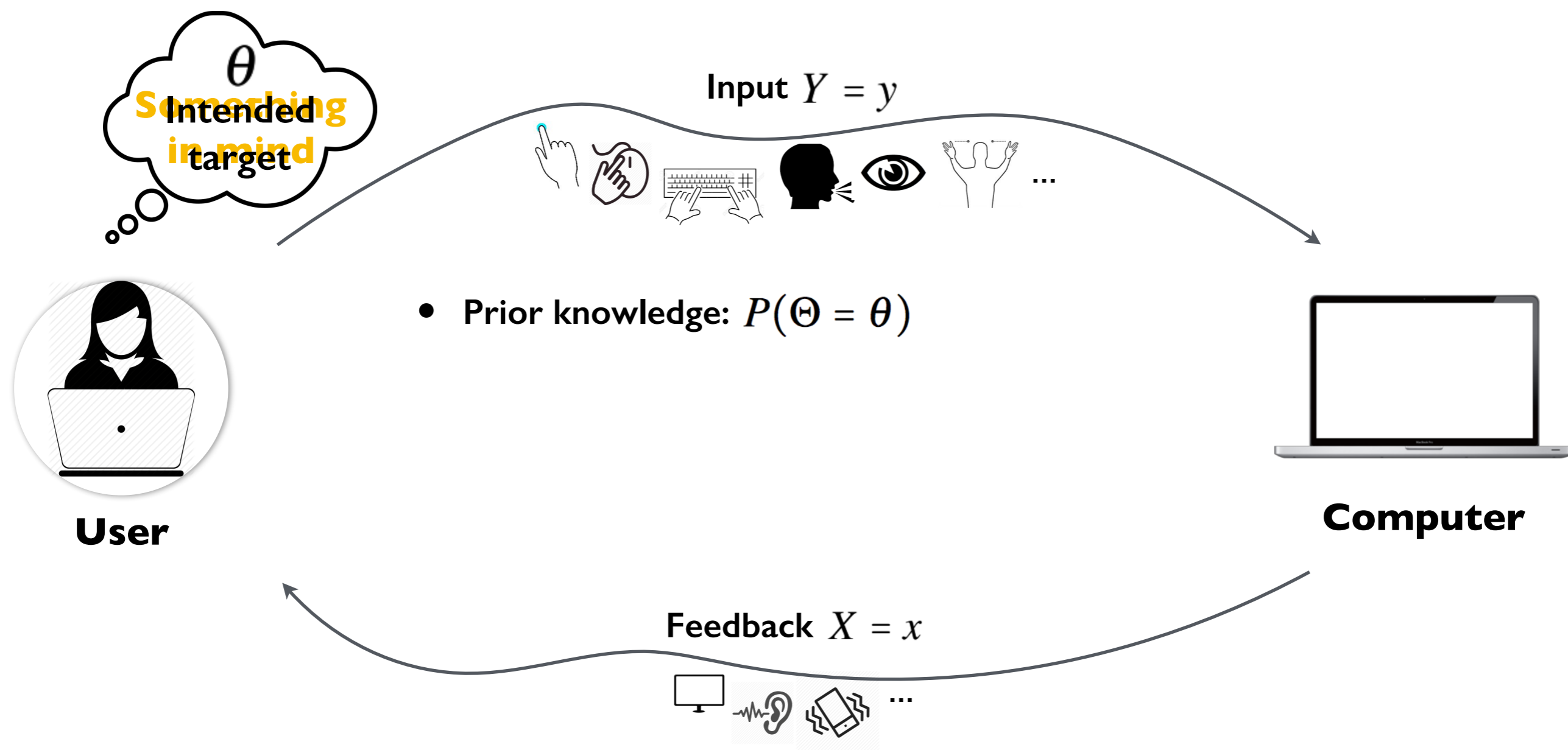
Computer

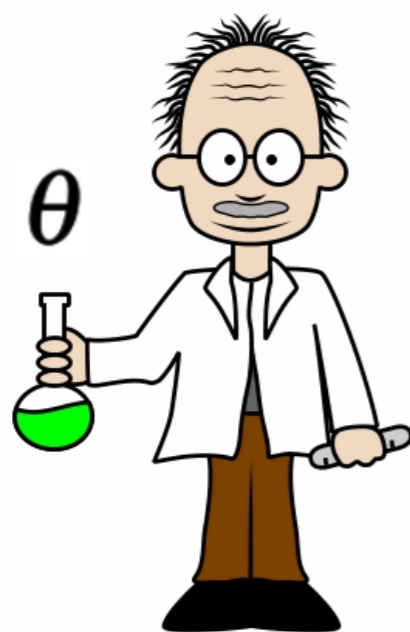
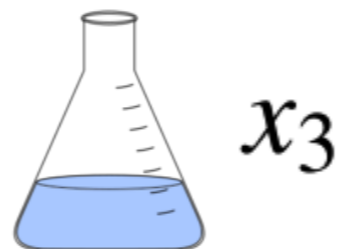
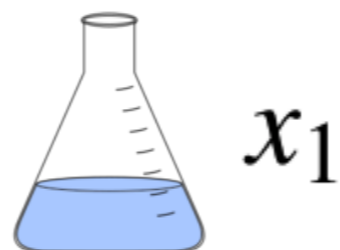
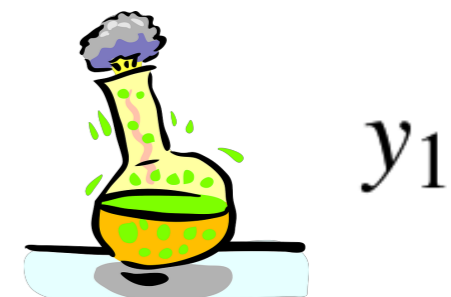


- To look for a restaurant
- To type a word
- To draw a gesture
- To select an icon
- To do something
-



- Uncertainty about this something
- Uncertainty reduces gradually when receiving user input

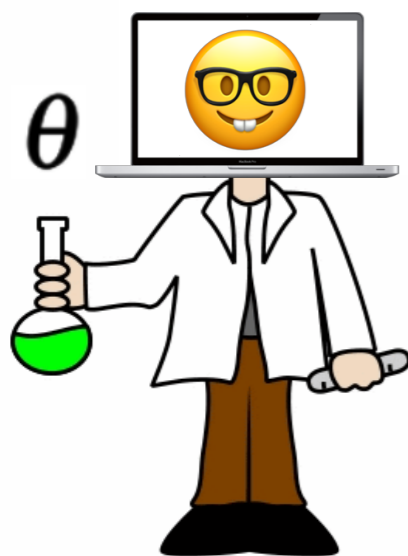


**The Scientist****Experiment****Observation**

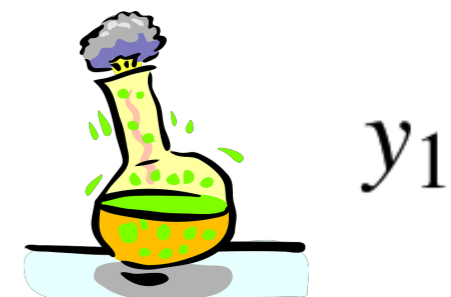
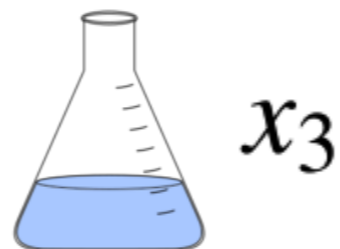
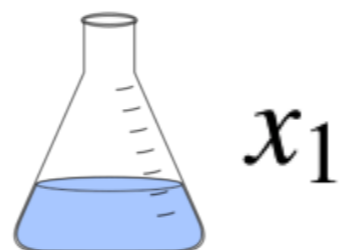
On a Measure of the Information Provided by an Experiment (Lindley 1956)

Experiment

Observation

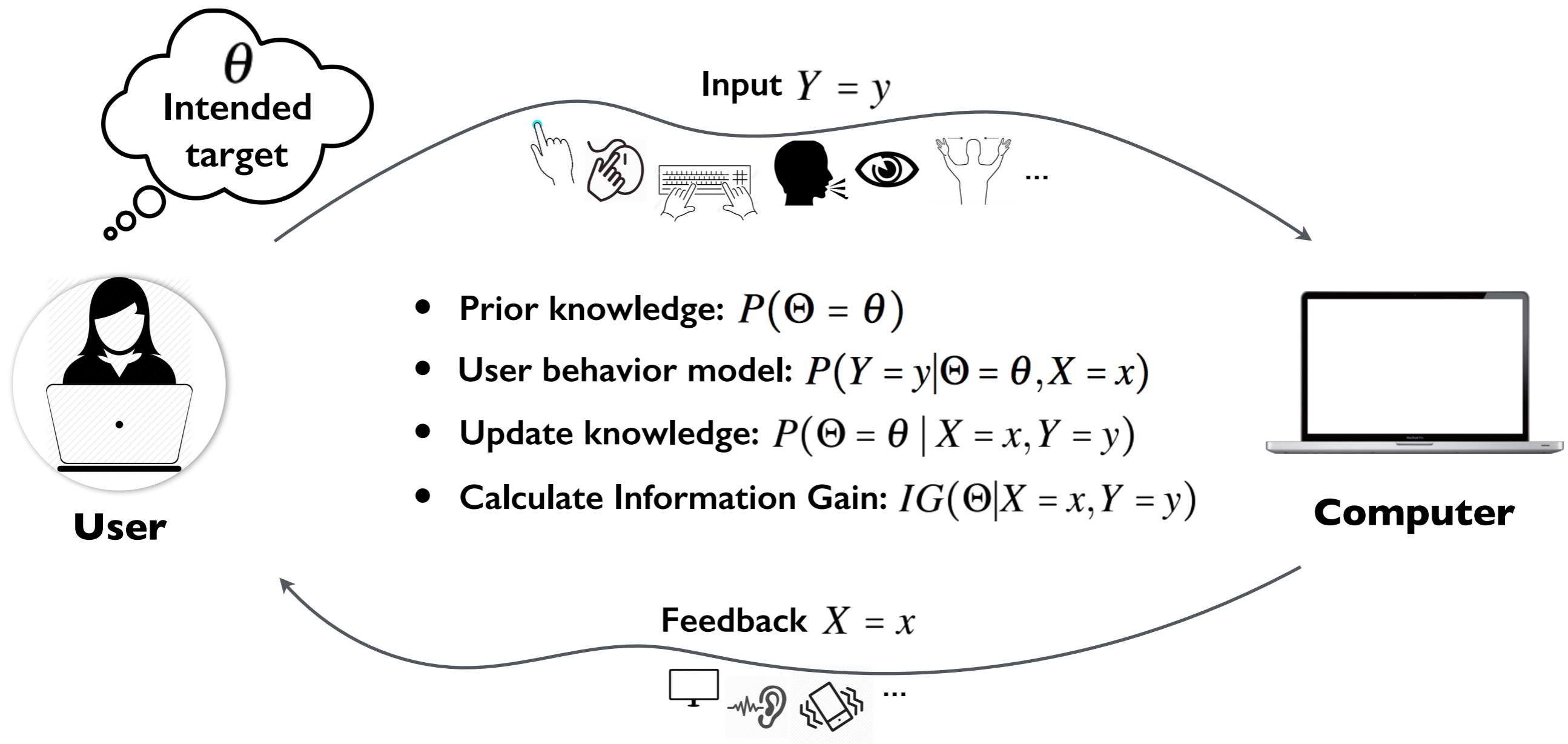


The computer



On a Measure of the Information Provided by an Experiment (Lindley 1956)

- Executes the user input only **Multiscale navigation**
- Maximizes the expected information gain $IG(\Theta|X = x, Y)$ **BIGnav**
- Leverages the expected information gain **BIGFile**



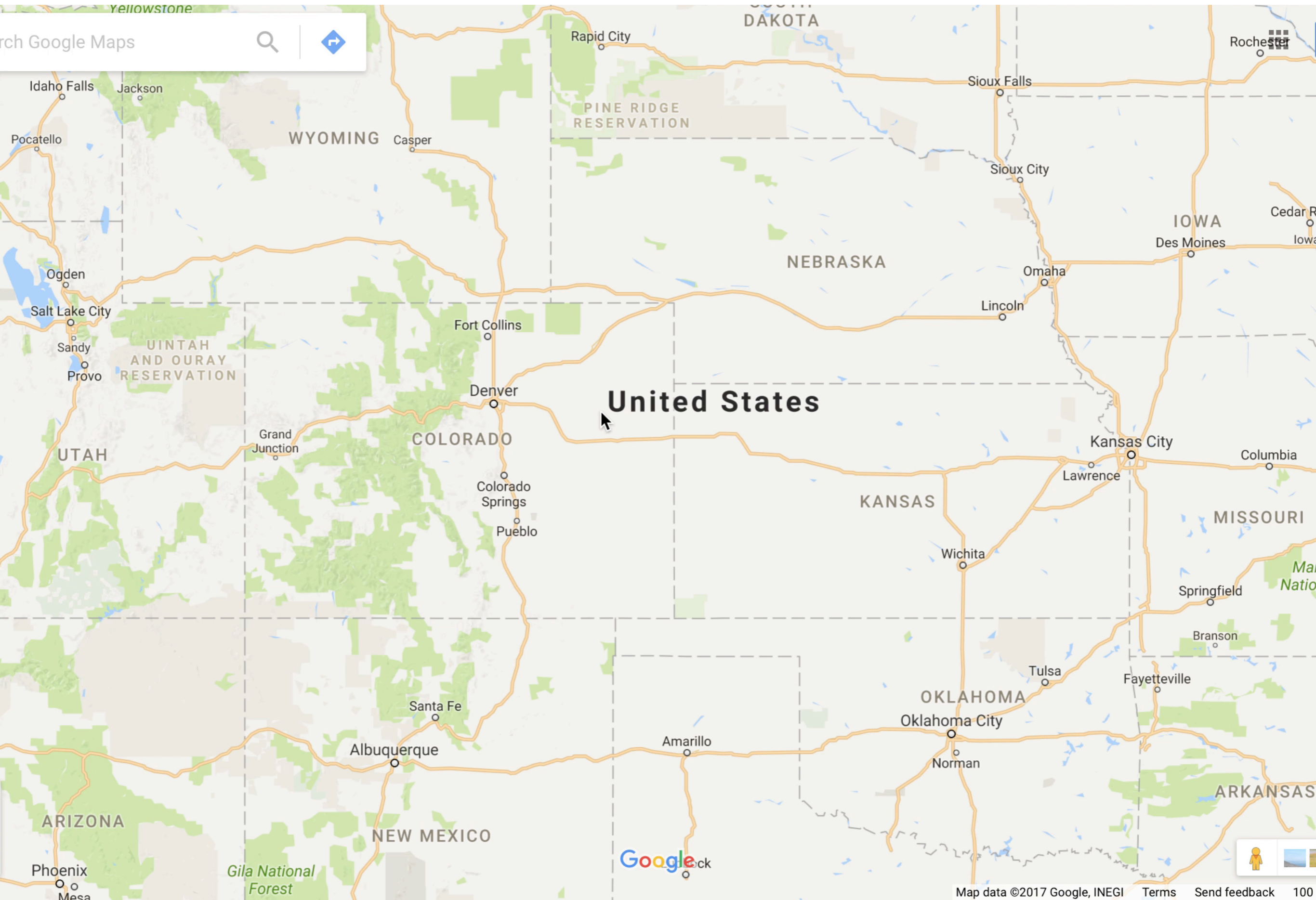
1948

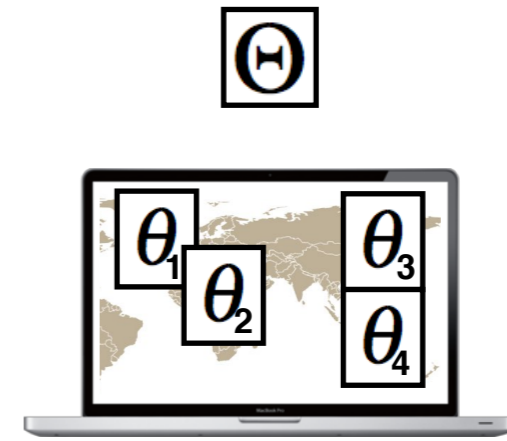
1950

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Bayesian Information Gain

BIGnav





$$P(\Theta = \theta_i)$$

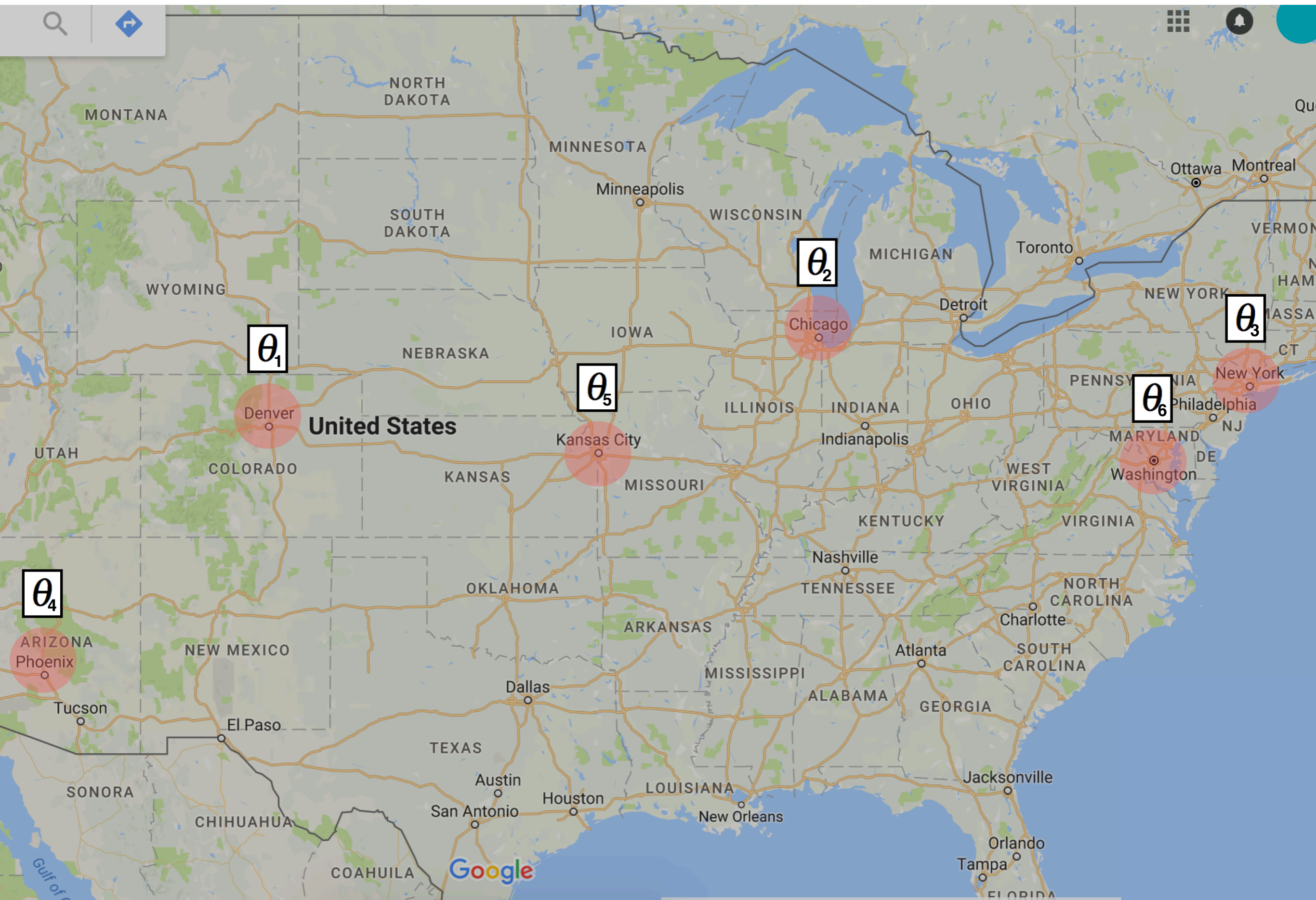
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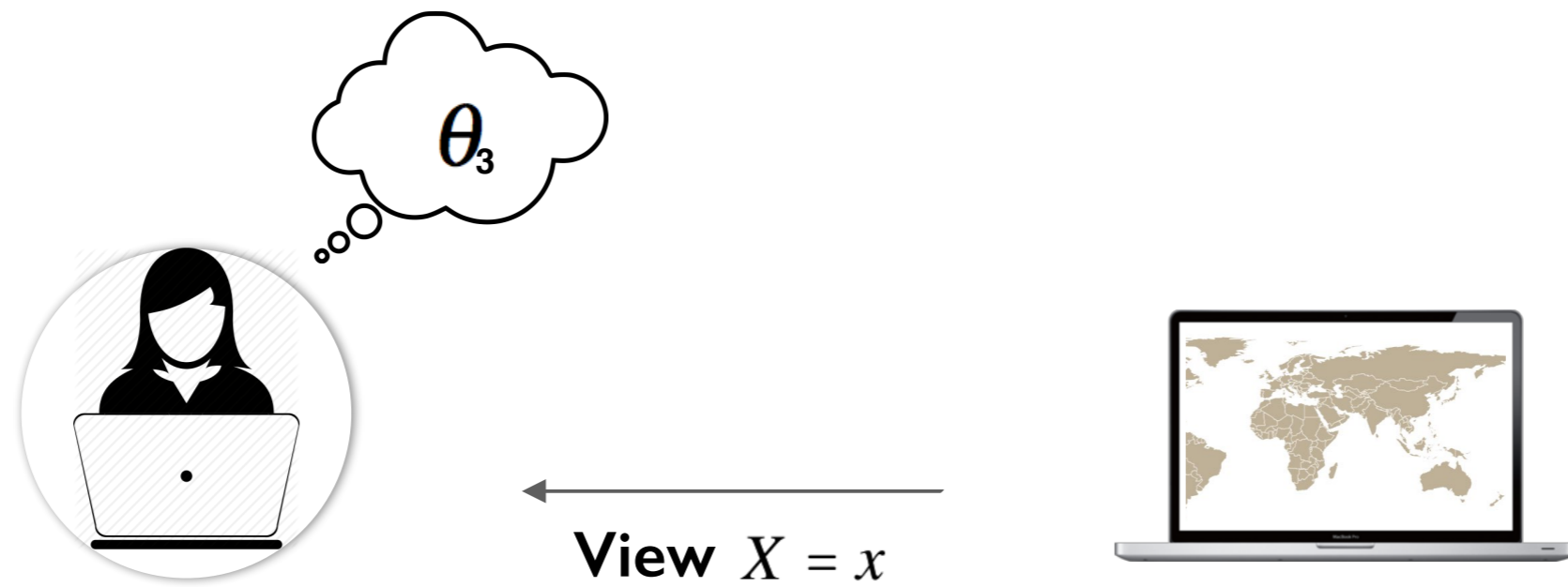
Bayesian Information Gain

BIGnav



- * The computer's **Uncertainty** about the user's goal

$$H(\Theta) = -\sum_{i=1}^n P(\Theta = \theta_i) \log_2 P(\Theta = \theta_i)$$



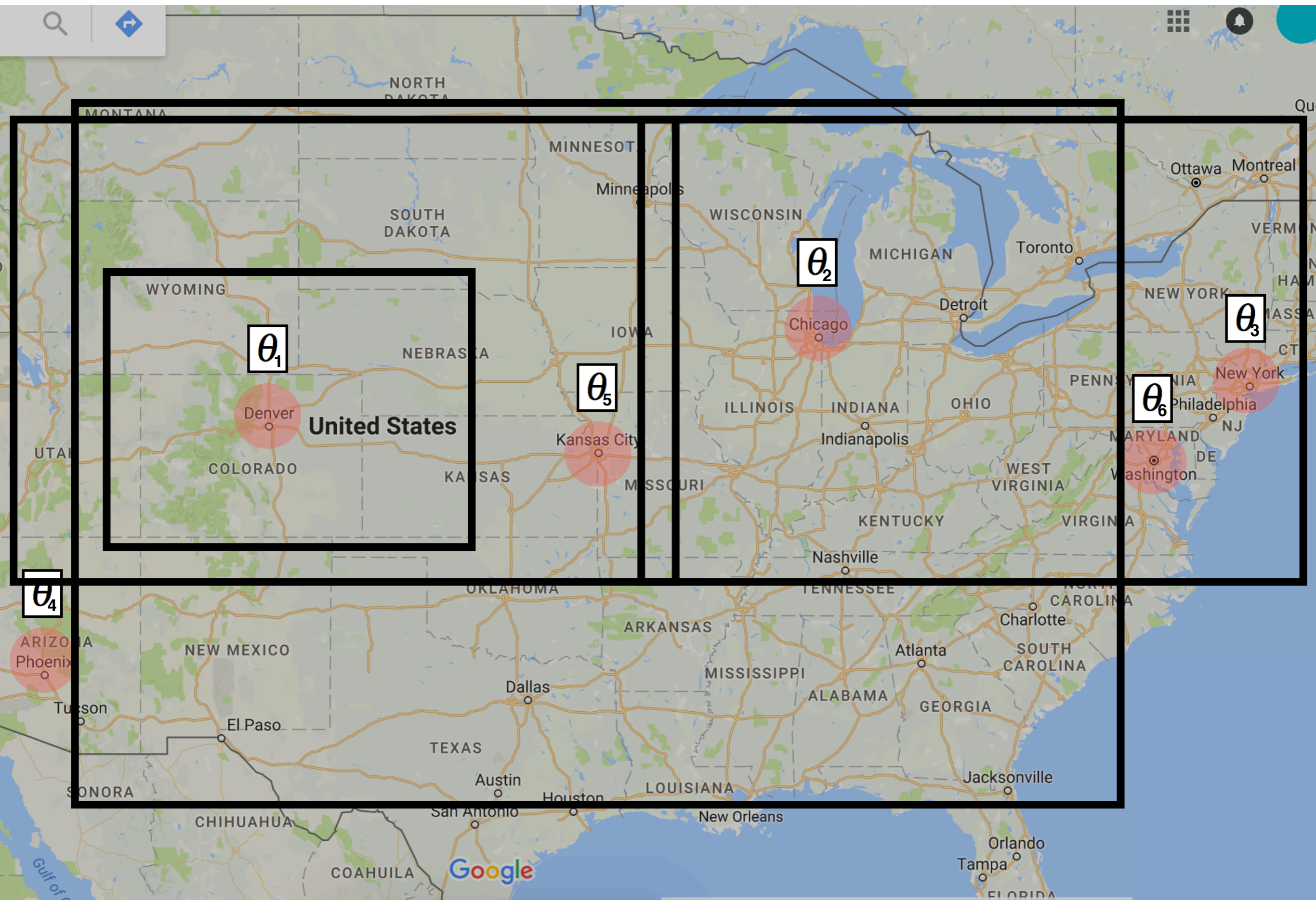
1948

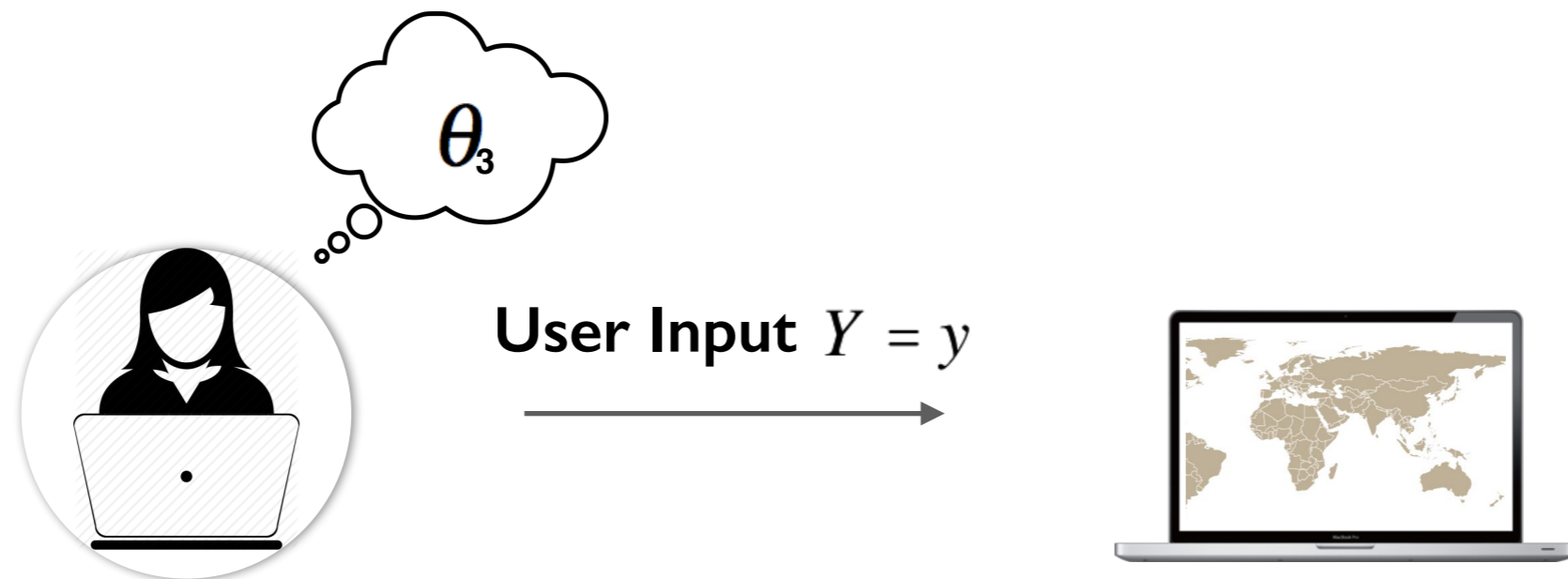
1950

2017

Bayesian Information Gain

BIGnav







View $X = x$

$$P(Y = y | \Theta = \theta, X = x)$$

Interpret User Input



$$P(\Theta = \theta_i)$$

User Input $Y = y$

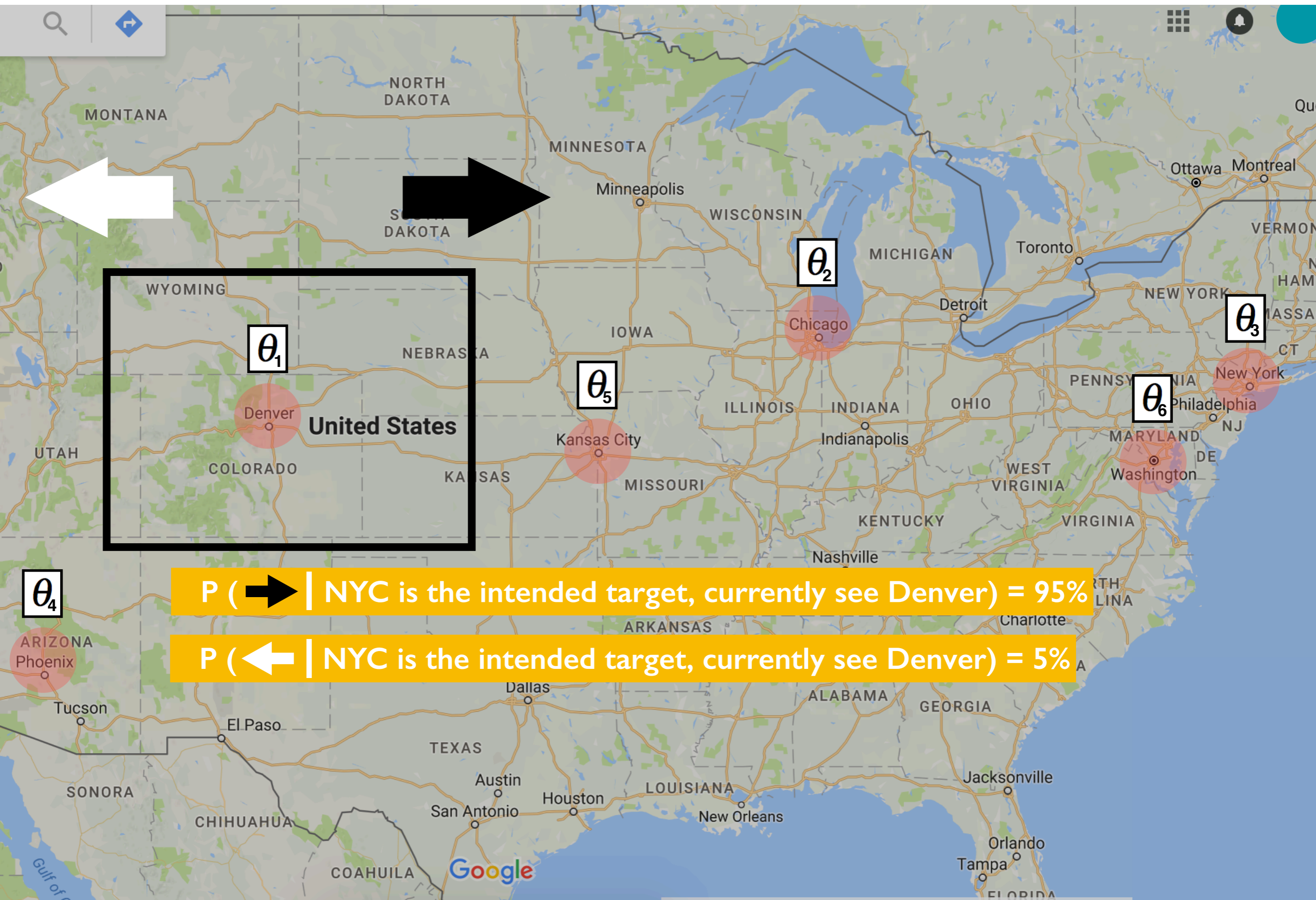
1948

1950

2017

Bayesian Information Gain

BIGnav





View $X = x$

$$P(\Theta = \theta \mid X = x, Y = y)$$

Update its knowledge



$$P(\Theta = \theta_i)$$

User Input $Y = y$

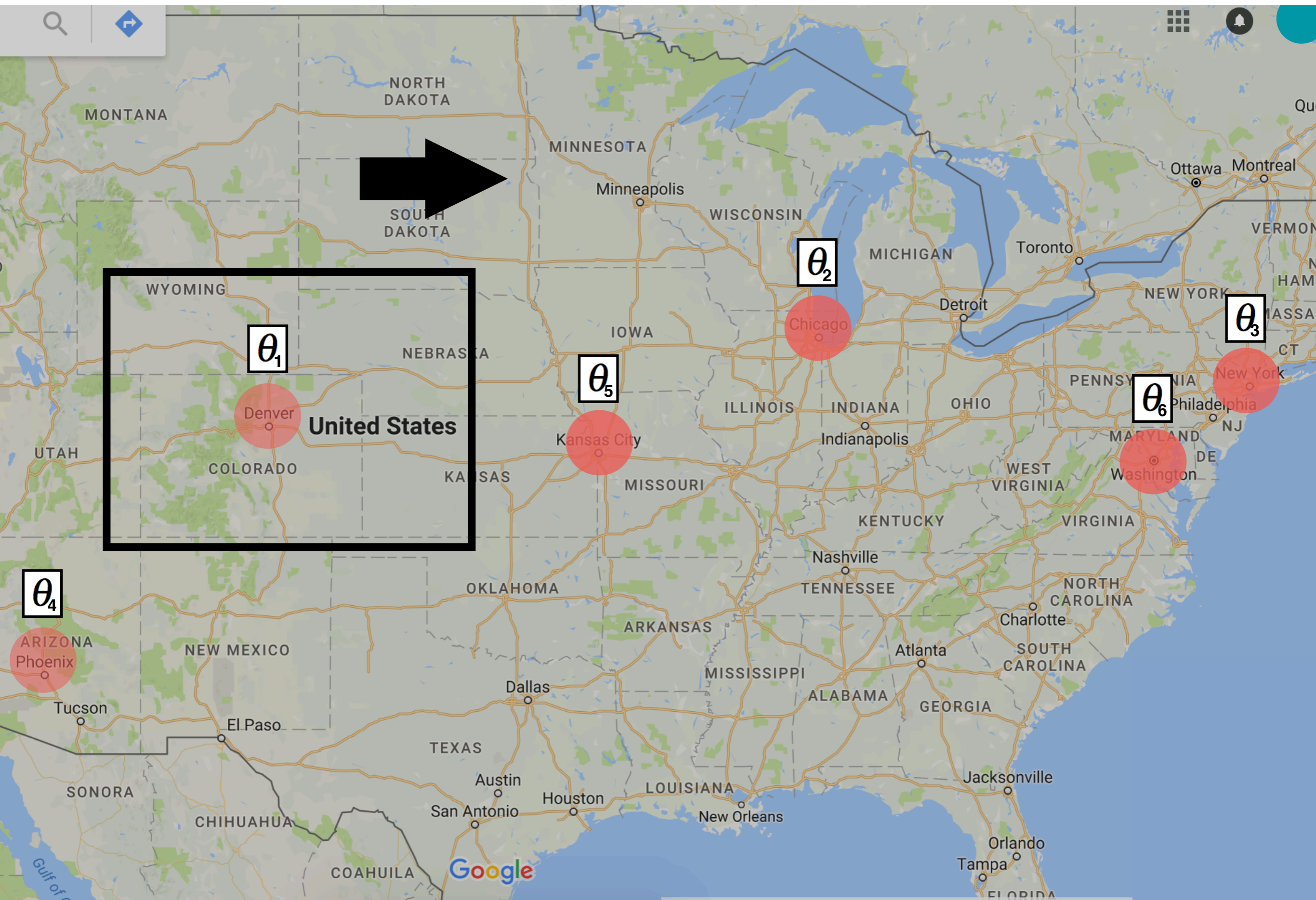
1948

1950

2017

Bayesian Information Gain

BIGnav



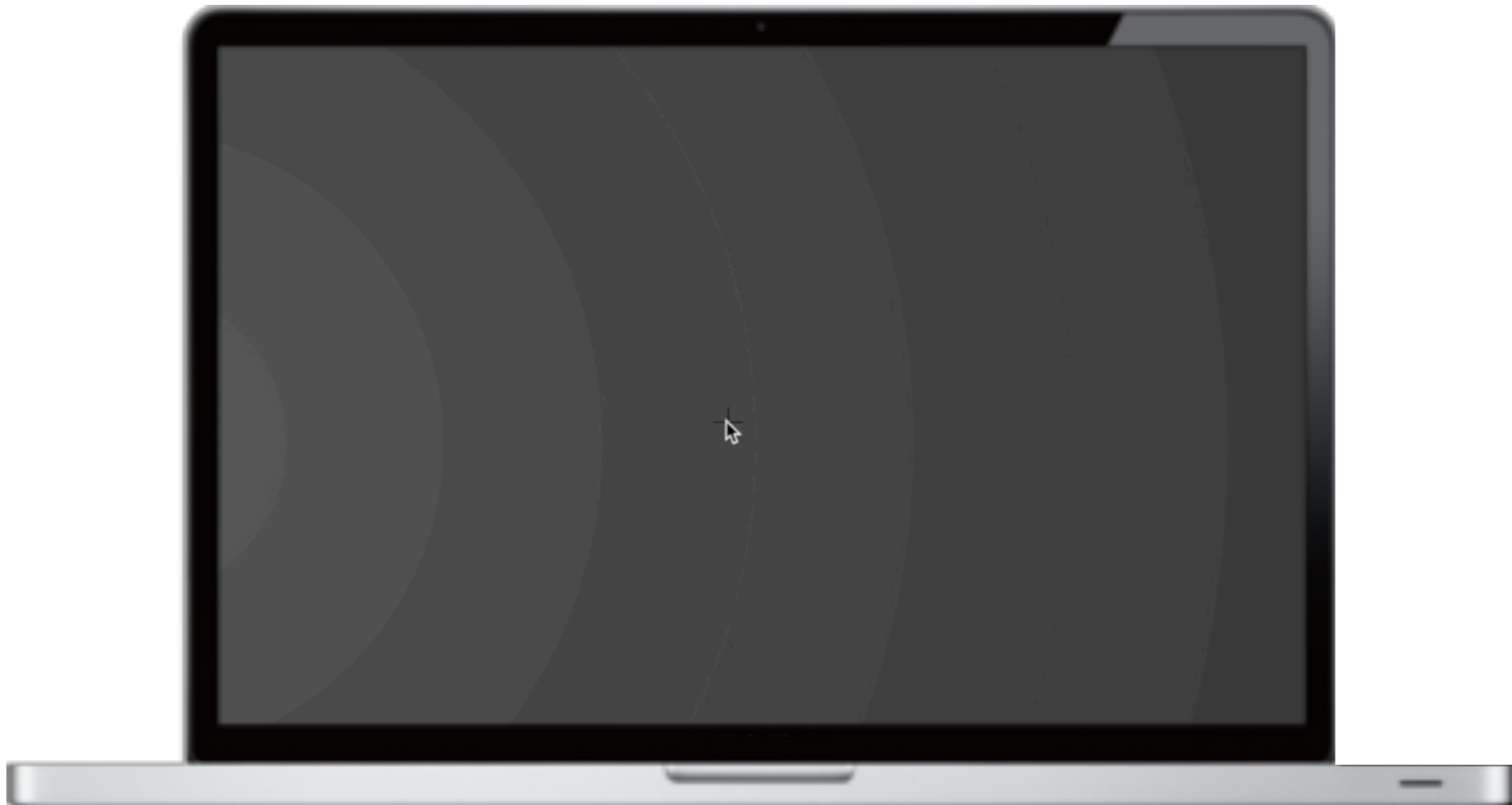
- * The computer's **Uncertainty** about the user's goal

$$H(\Theta) = -\sum_{i=1}^n P(\Theta = \theta_i) \log_2 P(\Theta = \theta_i)$$

- * The computer's **updated knowledge** about the user's goal

$$P(\Theta = \theta | X = x, Y = y) = \frac{P(Y = y | \Theta = \theta, X = x) P(\Theta = \theta)}{P(Y = y | X = x)}$$

* A calibration session to understand user behavior $P(Y = y | \Theta = \theta, X = x)$



Results

<i>Command</i>	<i>Main Region</i>	<i>Adjacent Regions</i>	<i>Other Regions</i>
Pan	90%	8%	2%
Zoom	95%	1.25%	3.75%
Click	100%	0	0

- * The computer's **Uncertainty** about the user's goal

$$H(\Theta) = -\sum_{i=1}^n P(\Theta = \theta_i) \log_2 P(\Theta = \theta_i)$$

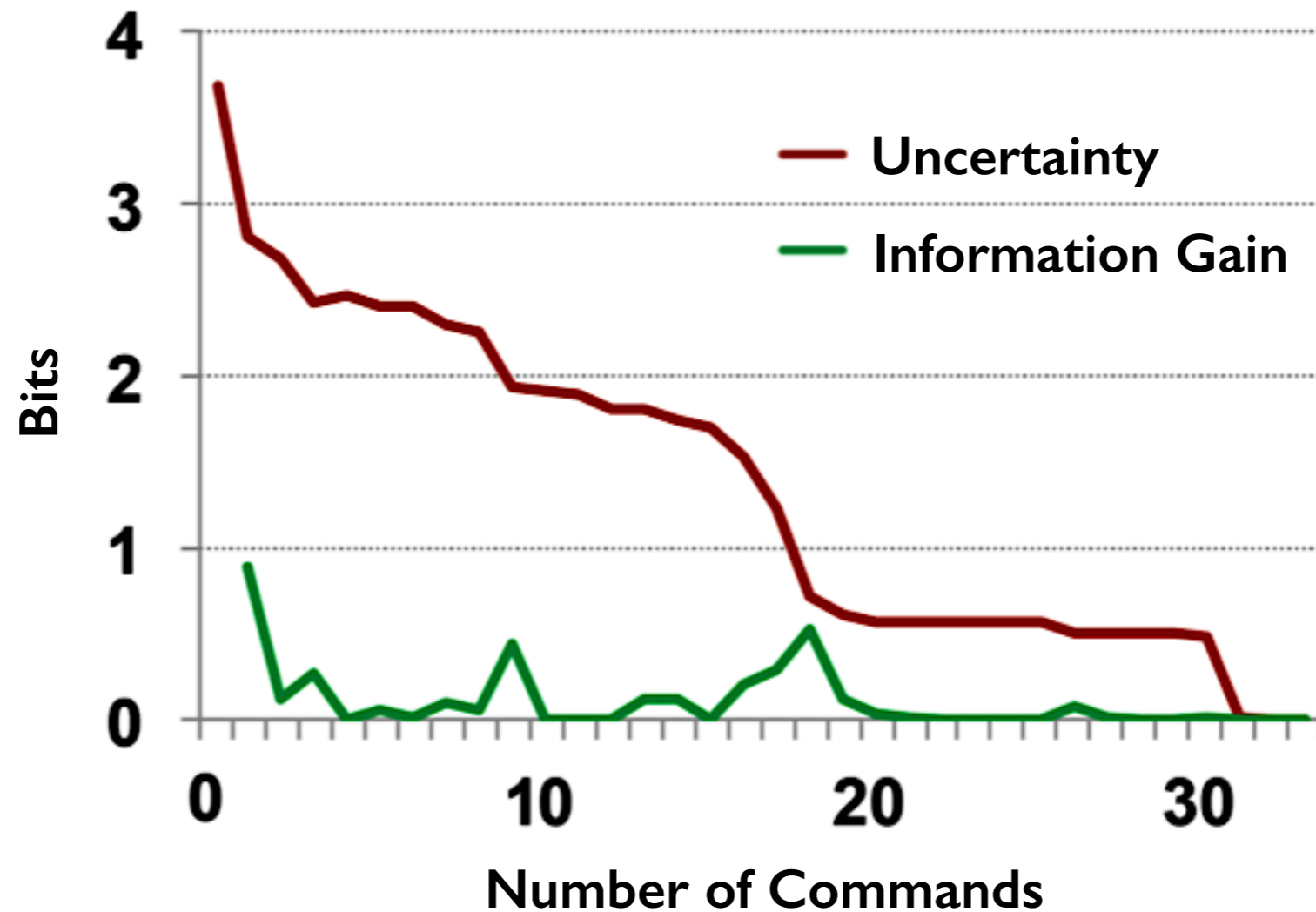
- * The computer's **updated knowledge** about the user's goal

$$P(\Theta = \theta | X = x, Y = y) = \frac{P(Y = y | \Theta = \theta, X = x) P(\Theta = \theta)}{P(Y = y | X = x)}$$

- * The **information** in the user's input for reducing the computer's uncertainty

$$IG(\Theta | X = x, Y = y) = H(\Theta) - H(\Theta | X = x, Y = y)$$

- * Executes the user input only **Multiscale navigation**
- * Each user input does not provide much information for the computer to know her goal



**Can we challenge users
to give more information?**

Experiment

Observation

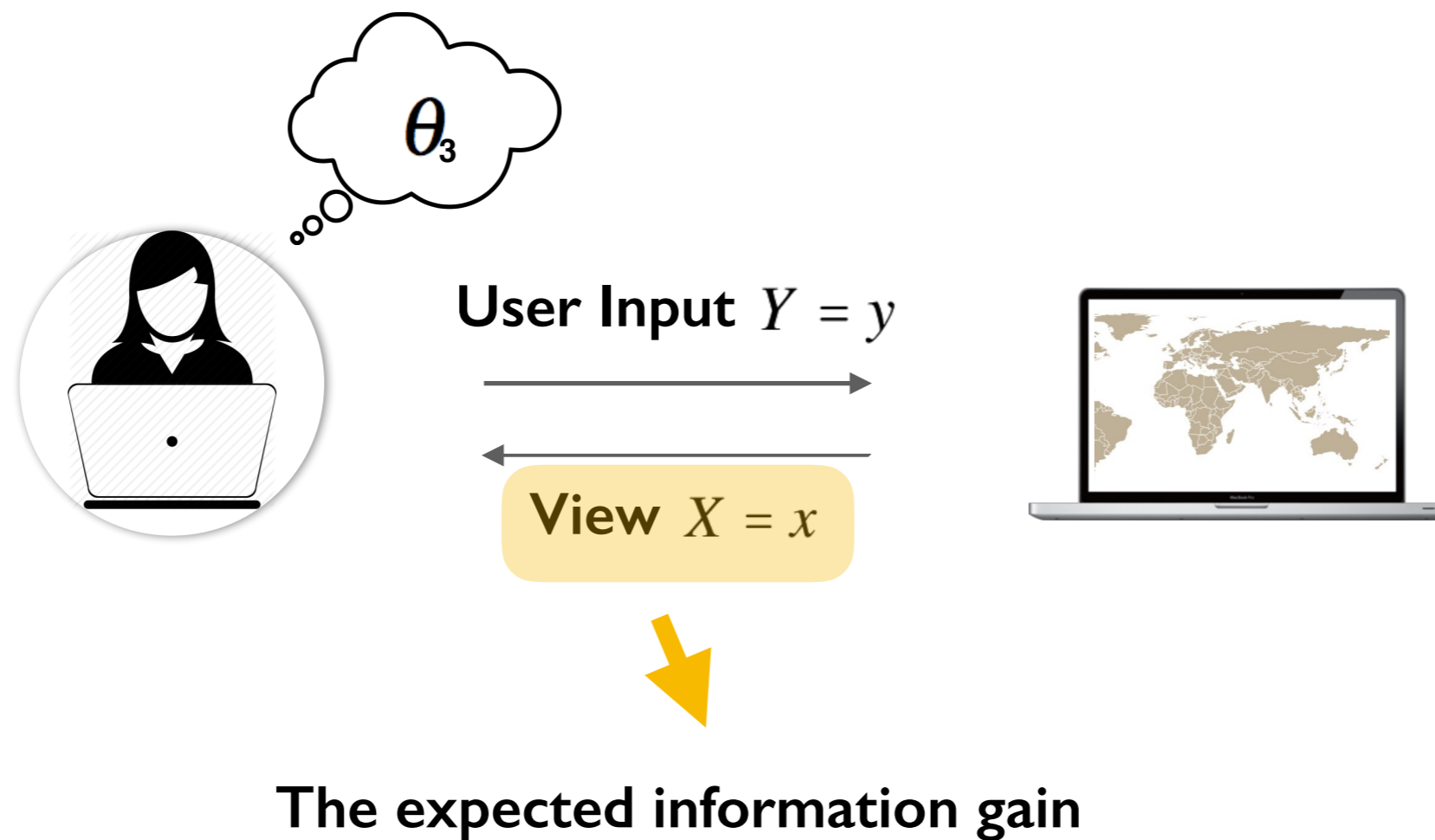


The Scientist

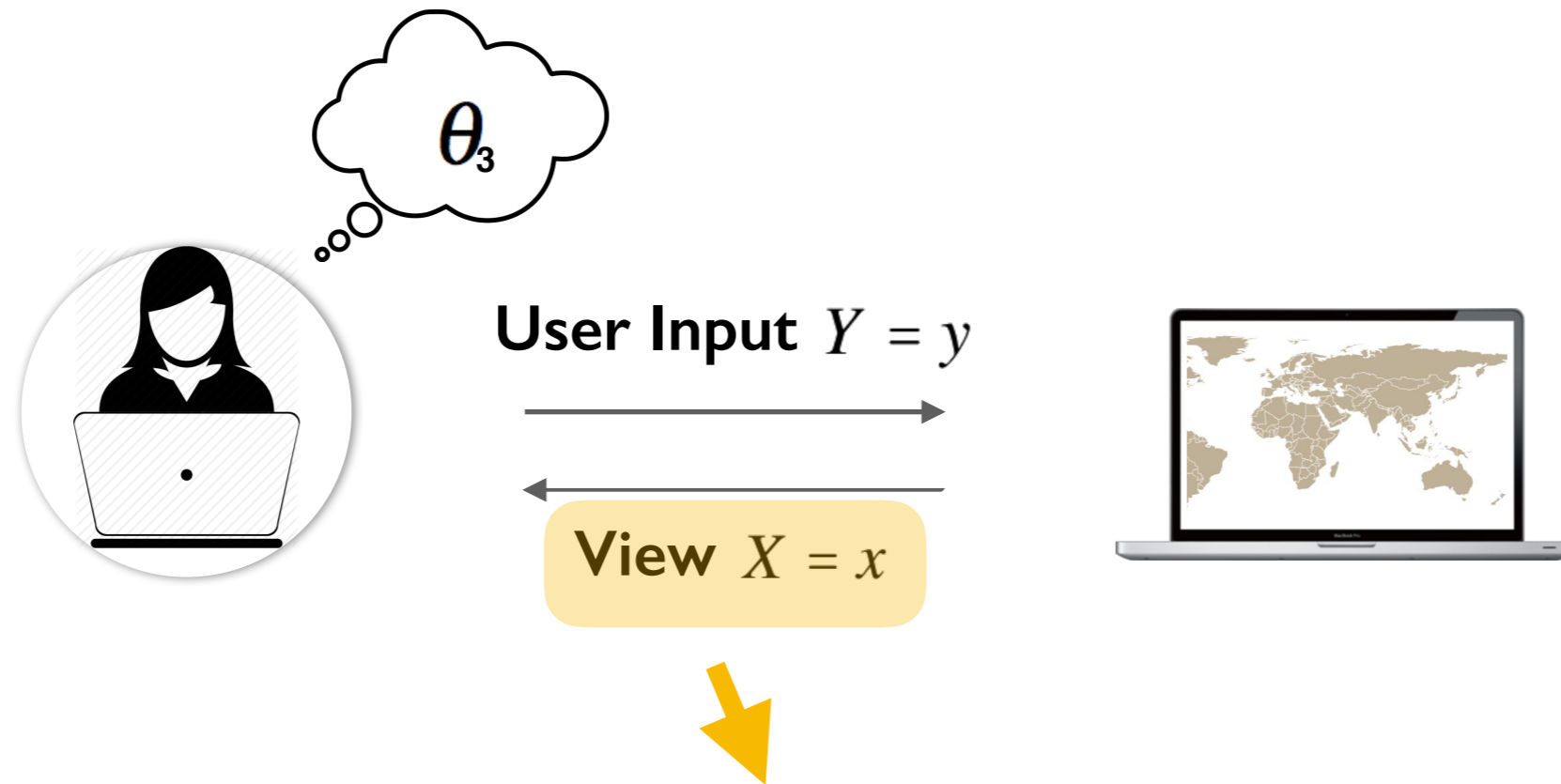


The scientist **optimizes**
the choice of the experiment
by **maximizing** the expected utility

On a Measure of the Information Provided by an Experiment (Lindley 1956)



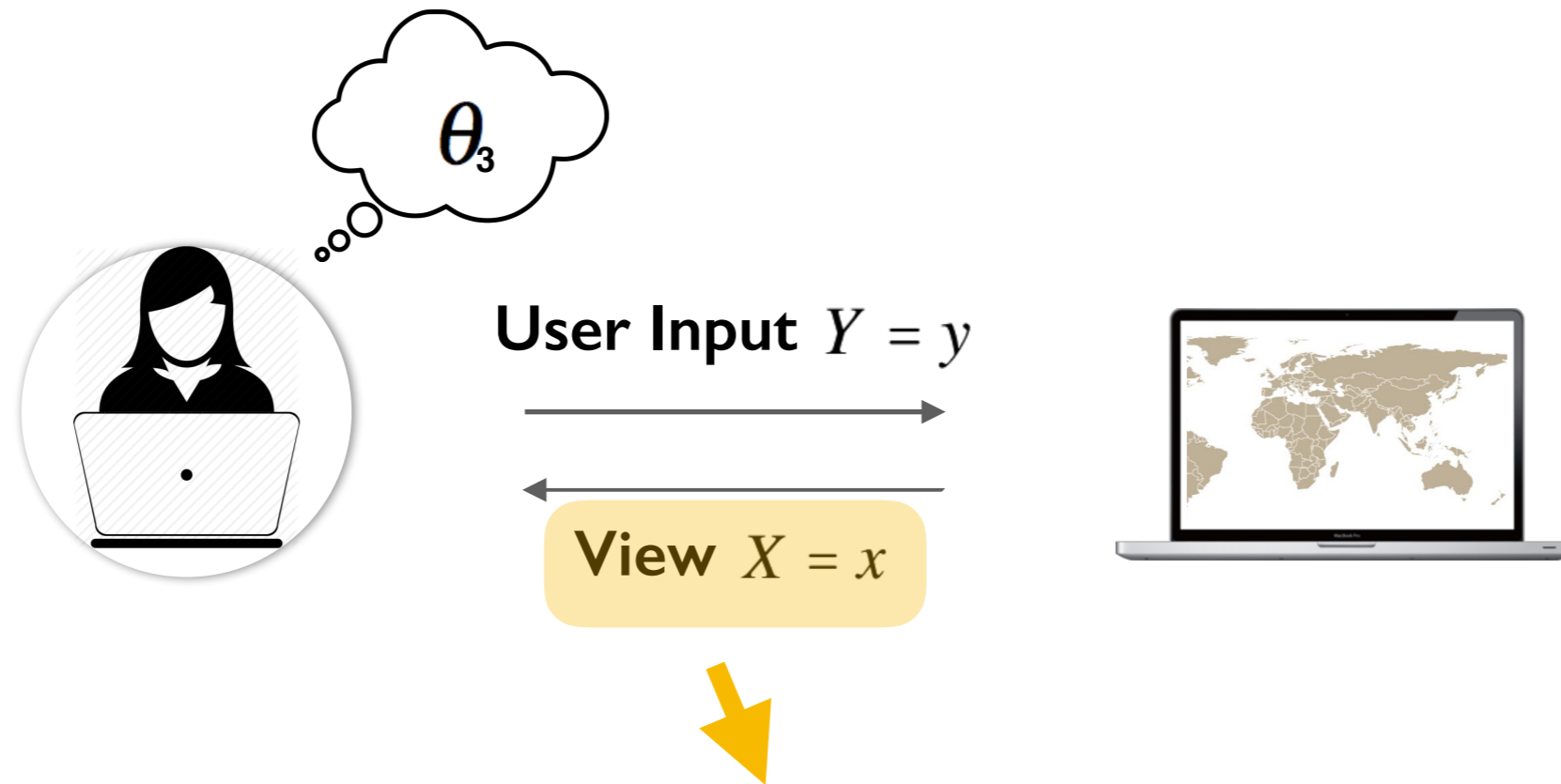
Wanyu Liu, Rafael Lucas D'Oliveira, Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, and Olivier Rioul.
BIGnav: Bayesian Information Gain for Guiding Multiscale Navigation. (CHI '17).



Choose the feedback (a view) that maximizes the expected information gain from the user's subsequent input



Wanyu Liu, Rafael Lucas D'Oliveira, Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, and Olivier Rioul.
BIGnav: Bayesian Information Gain for Guiding Multiscale Navigation. (CHI '17).



Go over all possible feedback,
and find the one that maximizes
the expected information gain

$$IG(\Theta|X = x, Y) = H(\Theta) - H(\Theta|X = x, Y)$$



Wanyu Liu, Rafael Lucas D'Oliveira, Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, and Olivier Rioul.
BIGnav: Bayesian Information Gain for Guiding Multiscale Navigation. (CHI '17).

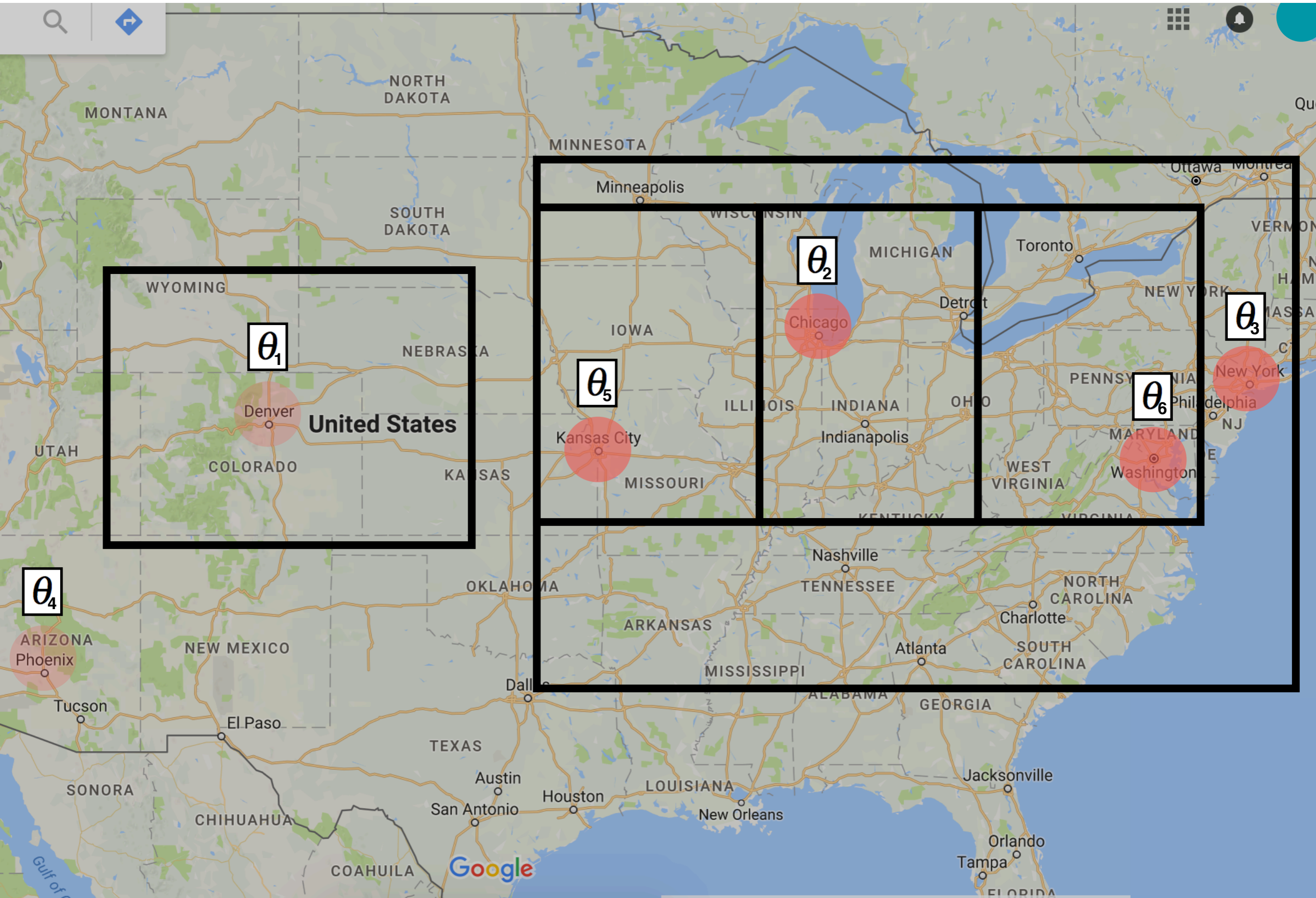
1948

1950

2017

Bayesian Information Gain

BIGnav



1948

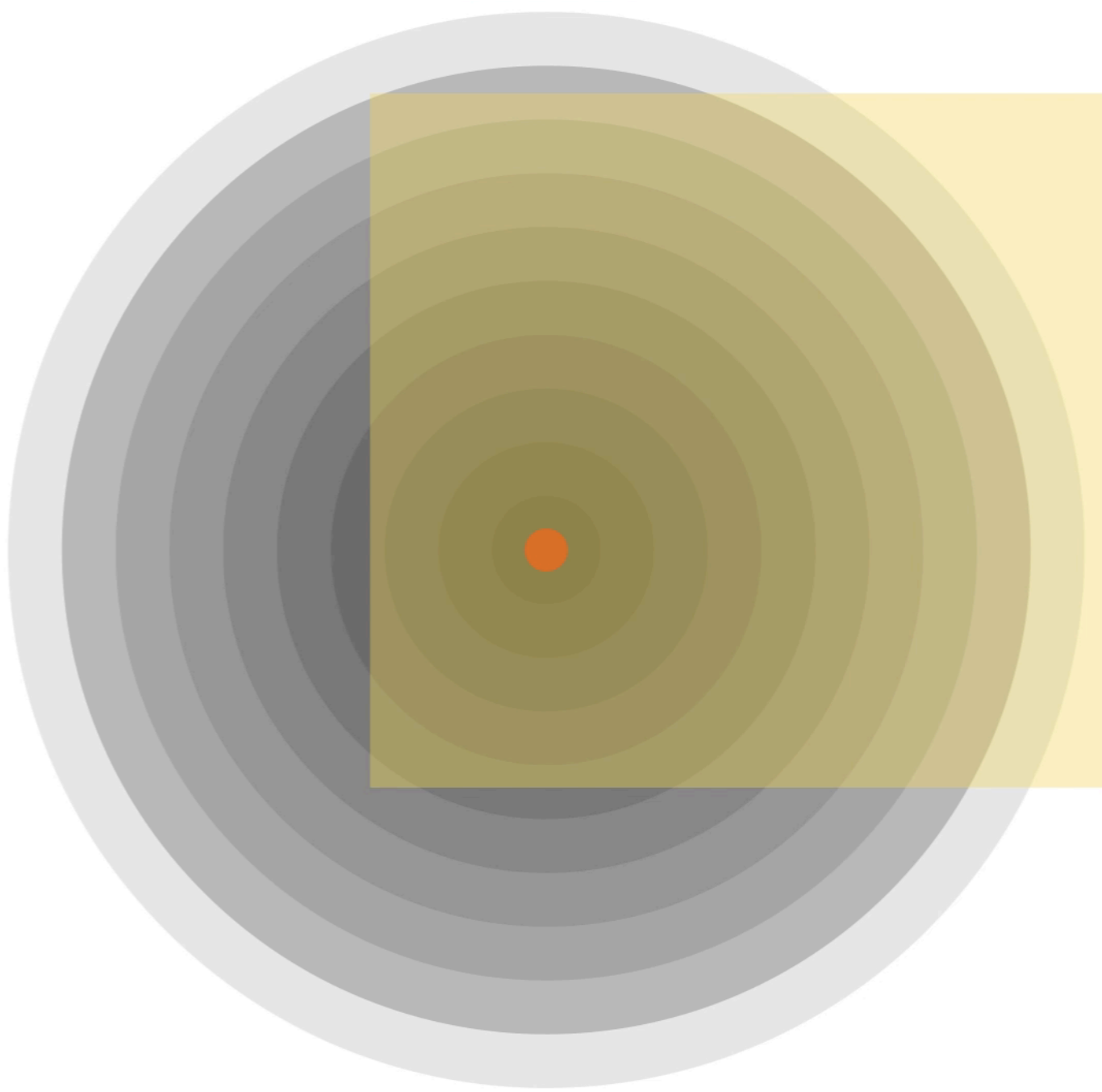
1950

2017

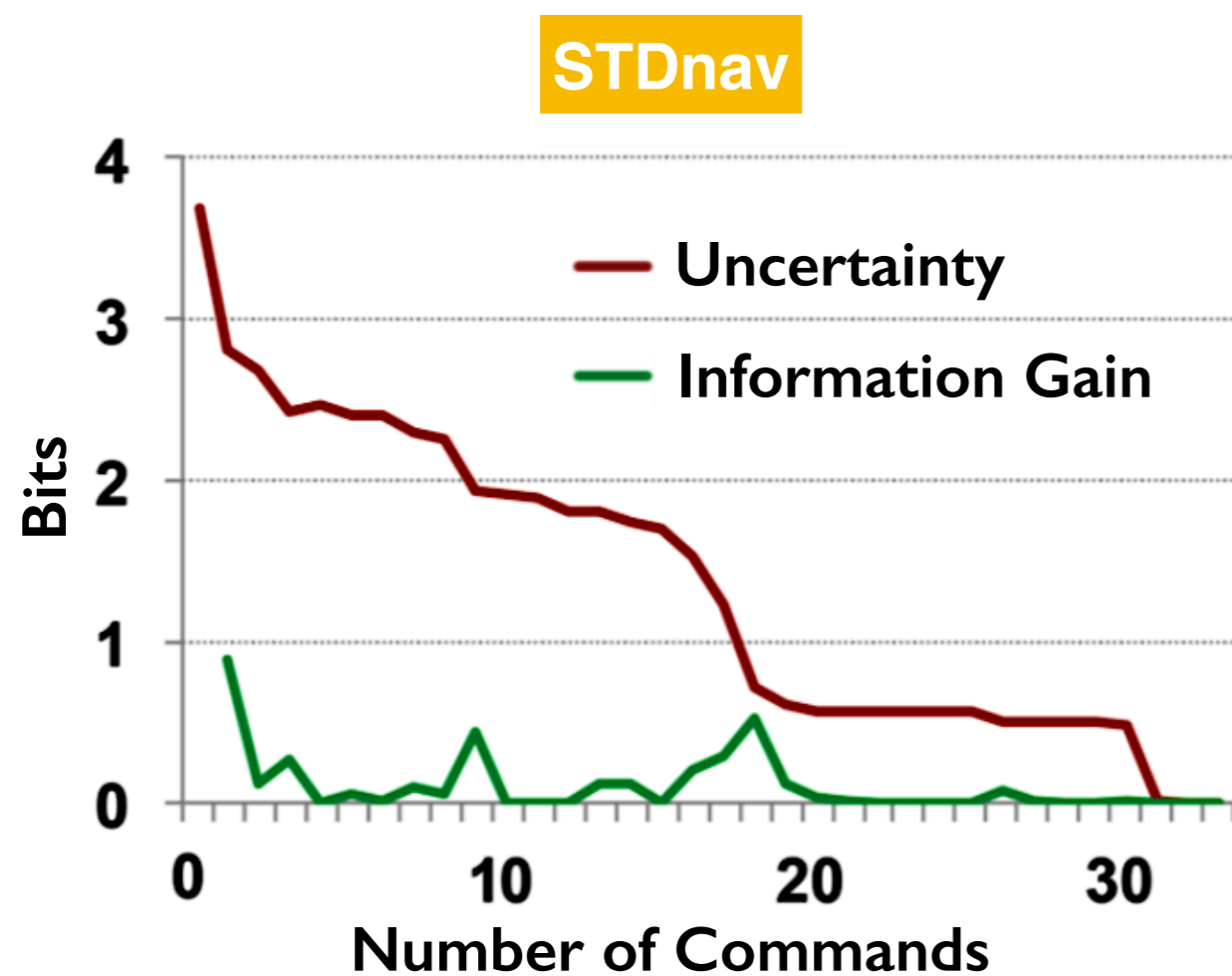
Bayesian Information Gain

BIGnav

View



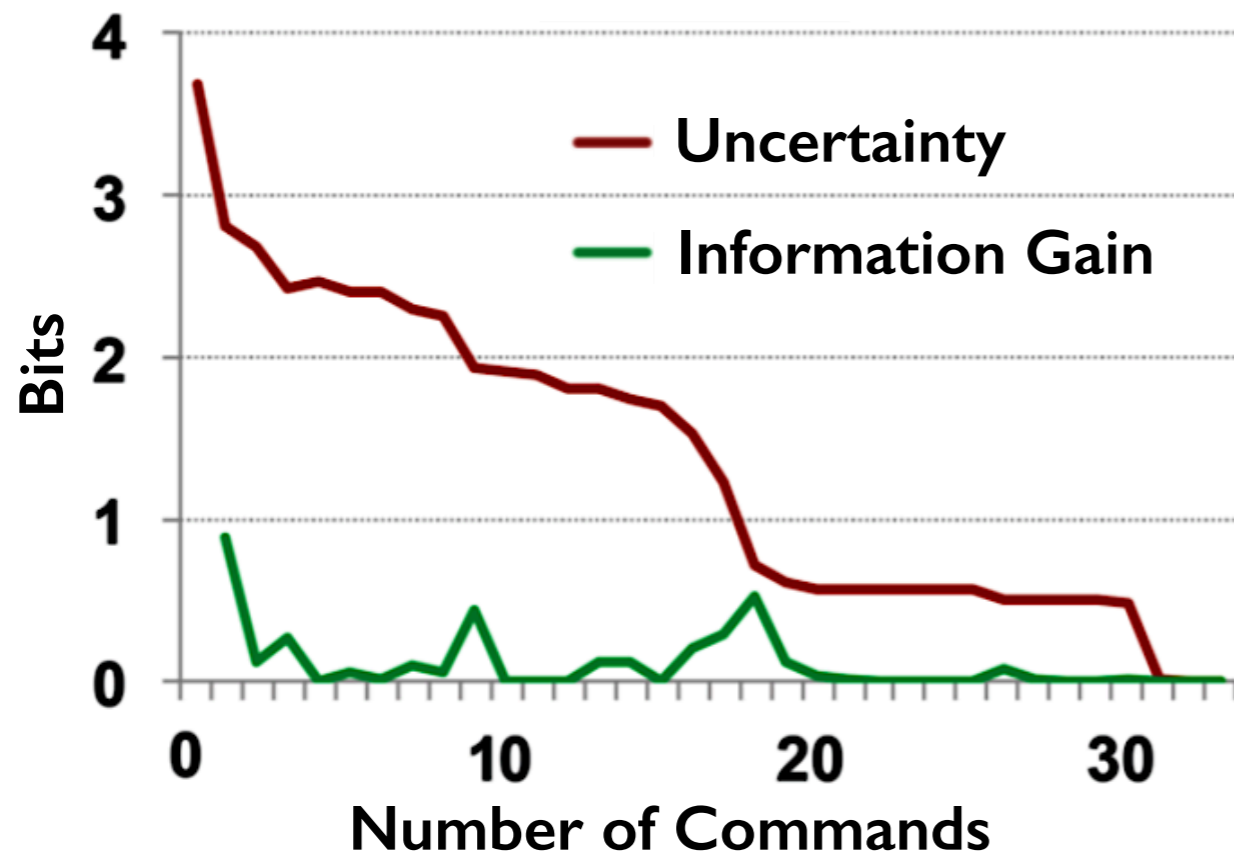
* **BIGnav** gains maximum information from each user input



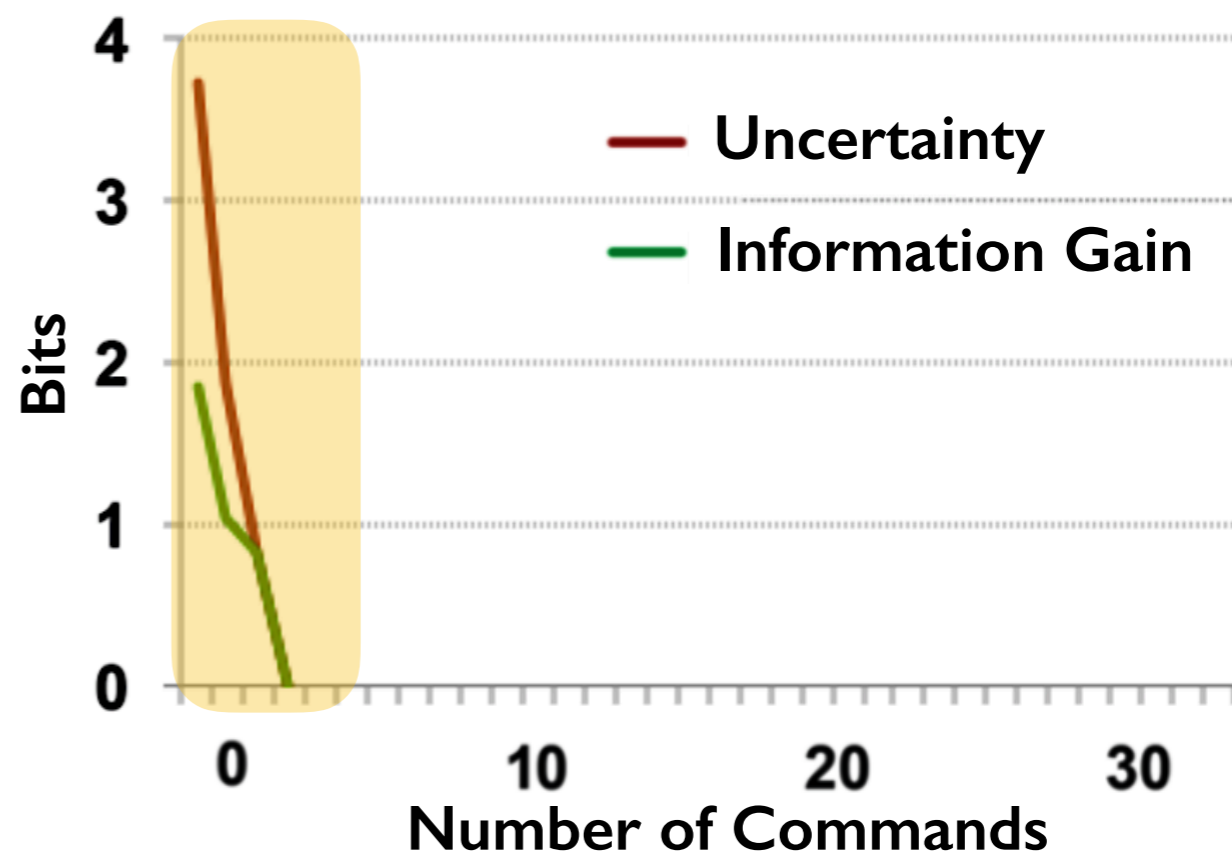


* **BIGnav** gains maximum information from each user input

STDnav



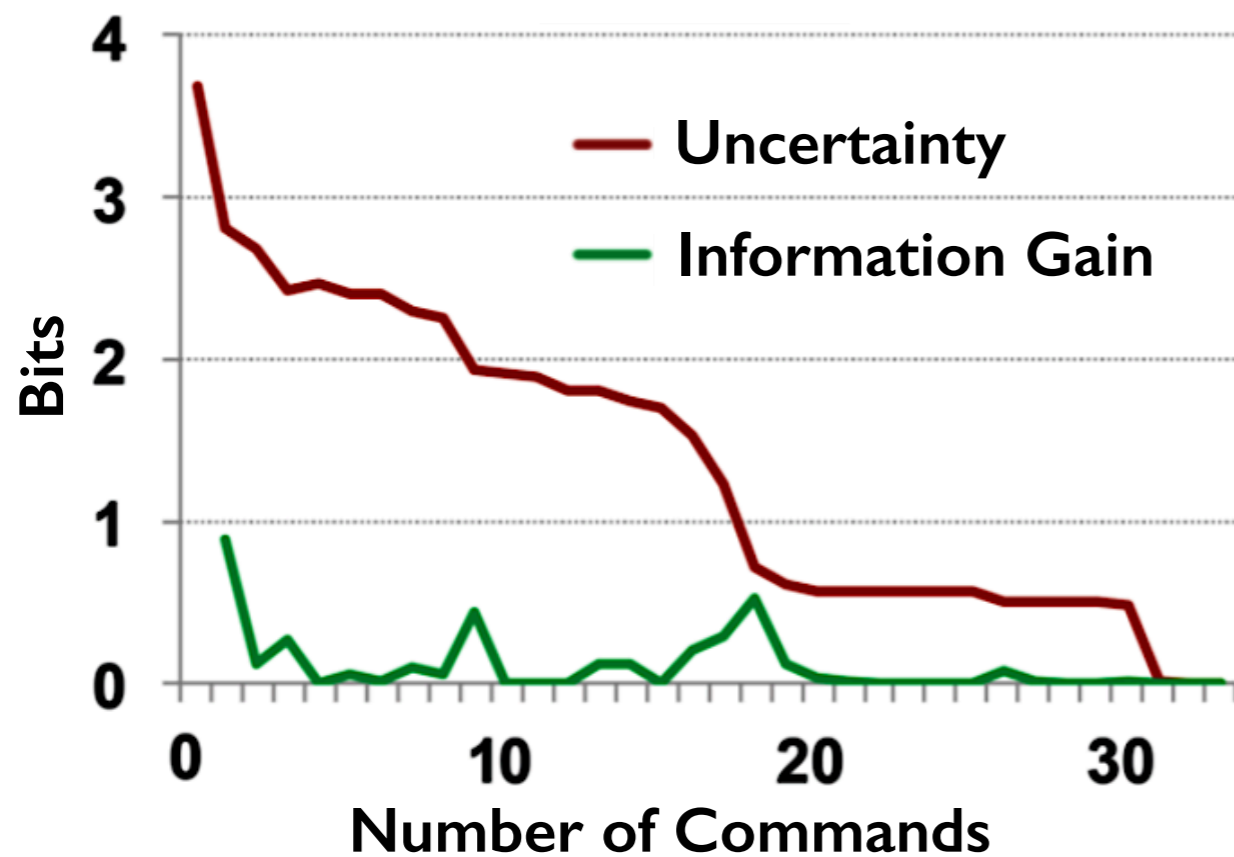
BIGnav



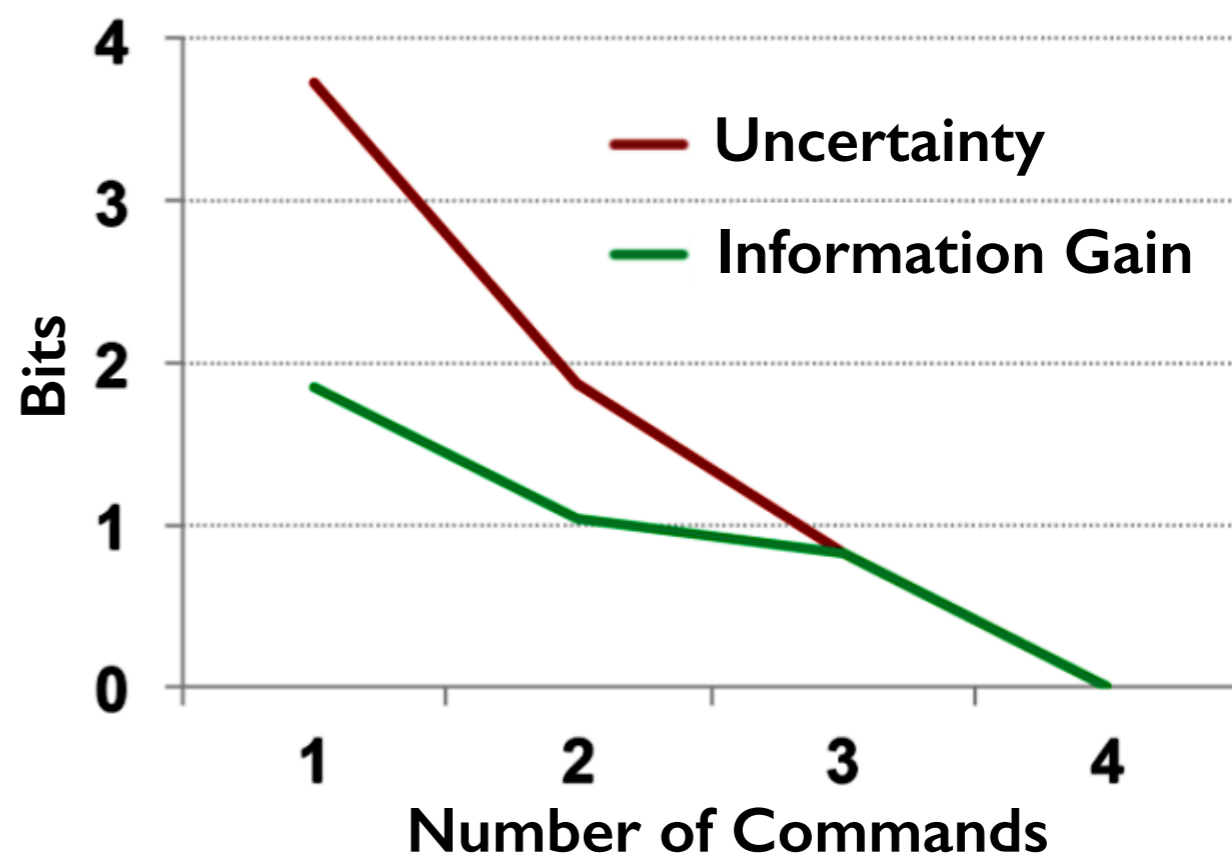


* **BIGnav** gains maximum information from each user input

STDnav



BIGnav



A satellite-style map of Europe and Africa. The text 'BIGmap' is overlaid in large, white, bold letters across the center of the image. The map shows the Mediterranean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Sahara Desert. A small blue crosshair is visible on the map, positioned over the letter 'G' in 'BIGmap'.

BIGmap

A map application - “3 steps to go to Paris”.

Europe map featuring large cities with their population as distribution.



A map application - “Navigate to Helsinki”.

Europe map featuring large cities with their population as distribution.

* Full factorial within-participant design:

16 Participant

x 2 Navigation Technique

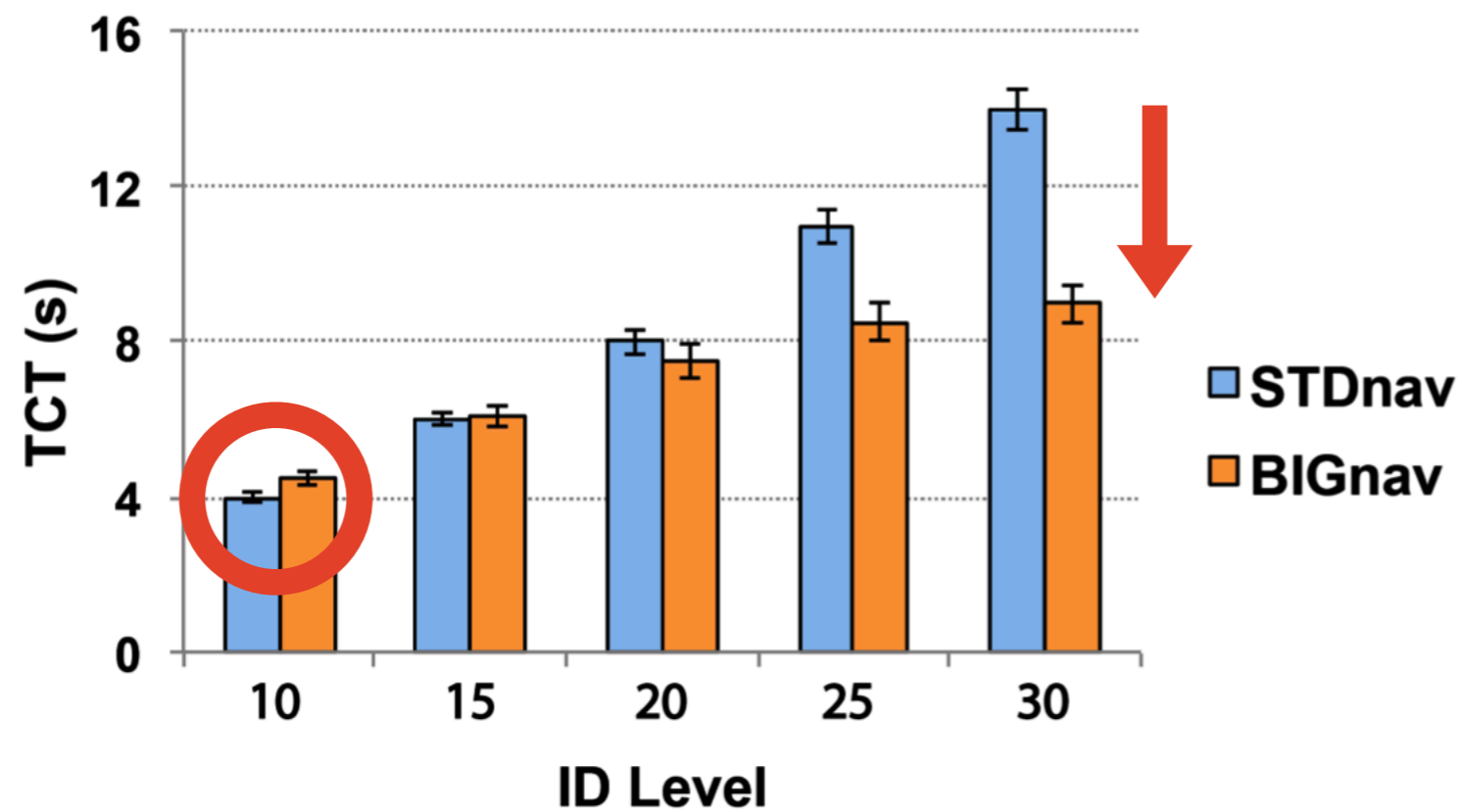
x 5 Index of Difficulty x 6 Distribution

x 5 Replication

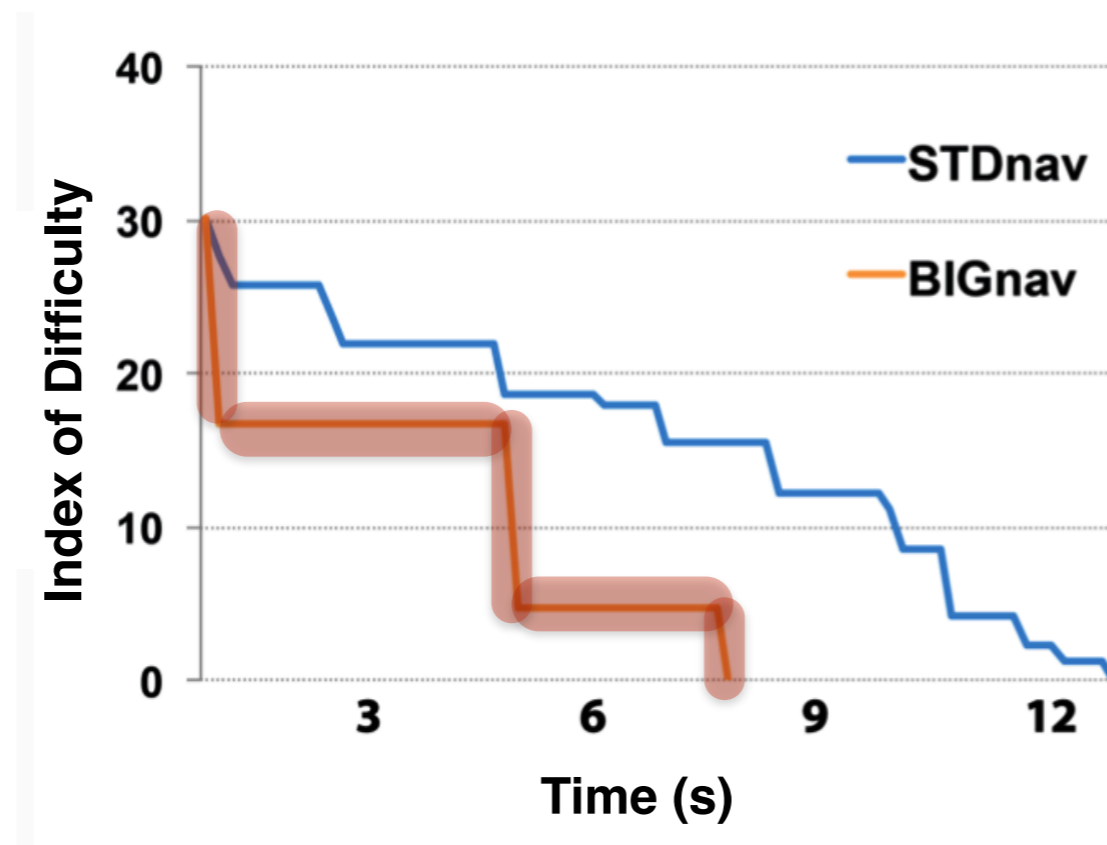
* Technique: BIGnav, STDnav

* Index of Difficulty: 10, 15, 20, 25, 30

- * The further the target is located, the better **BIGnav** performs



- * Trajectory in multiscale worlds.
Though being more efficient, **BIGnav** incurs a higher cognitive load



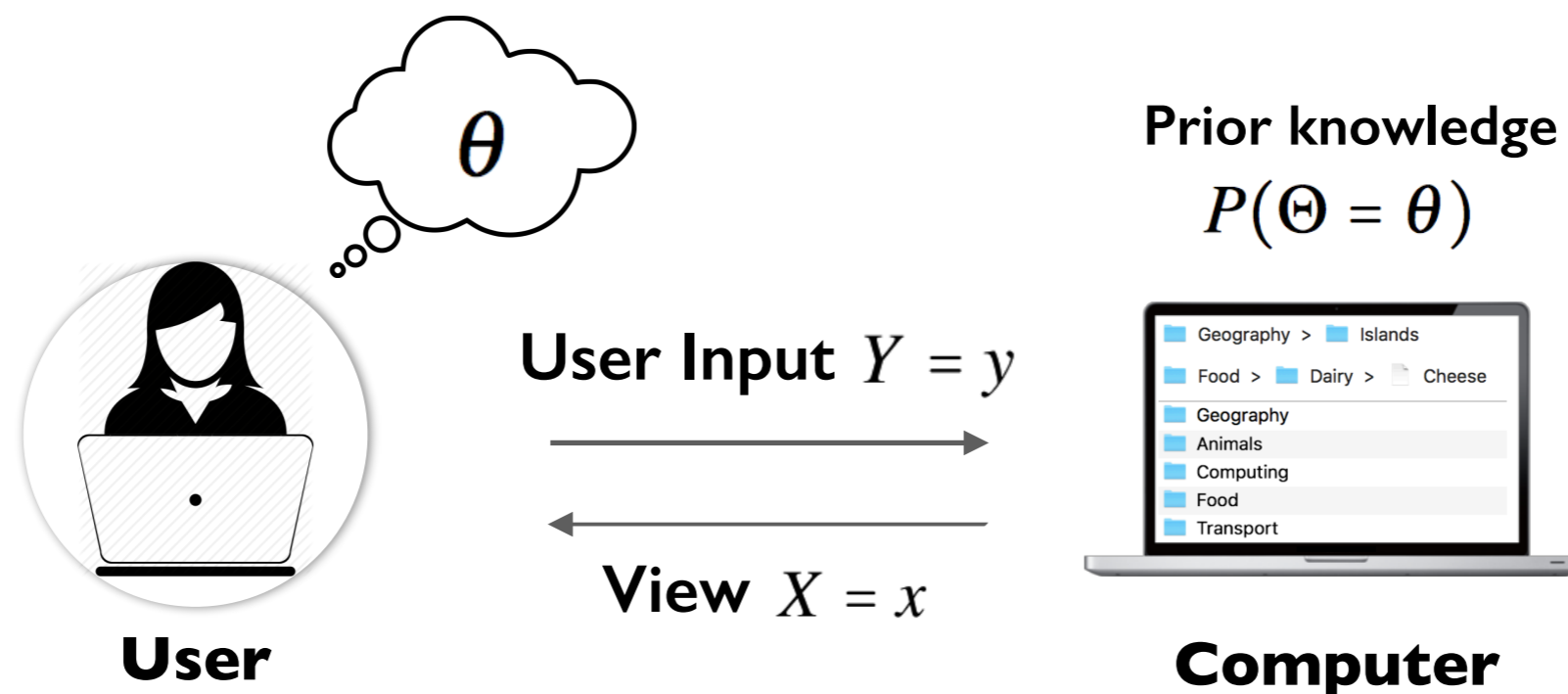
* Experiment Summary

BIGnav is up to 40% faster than STDnav

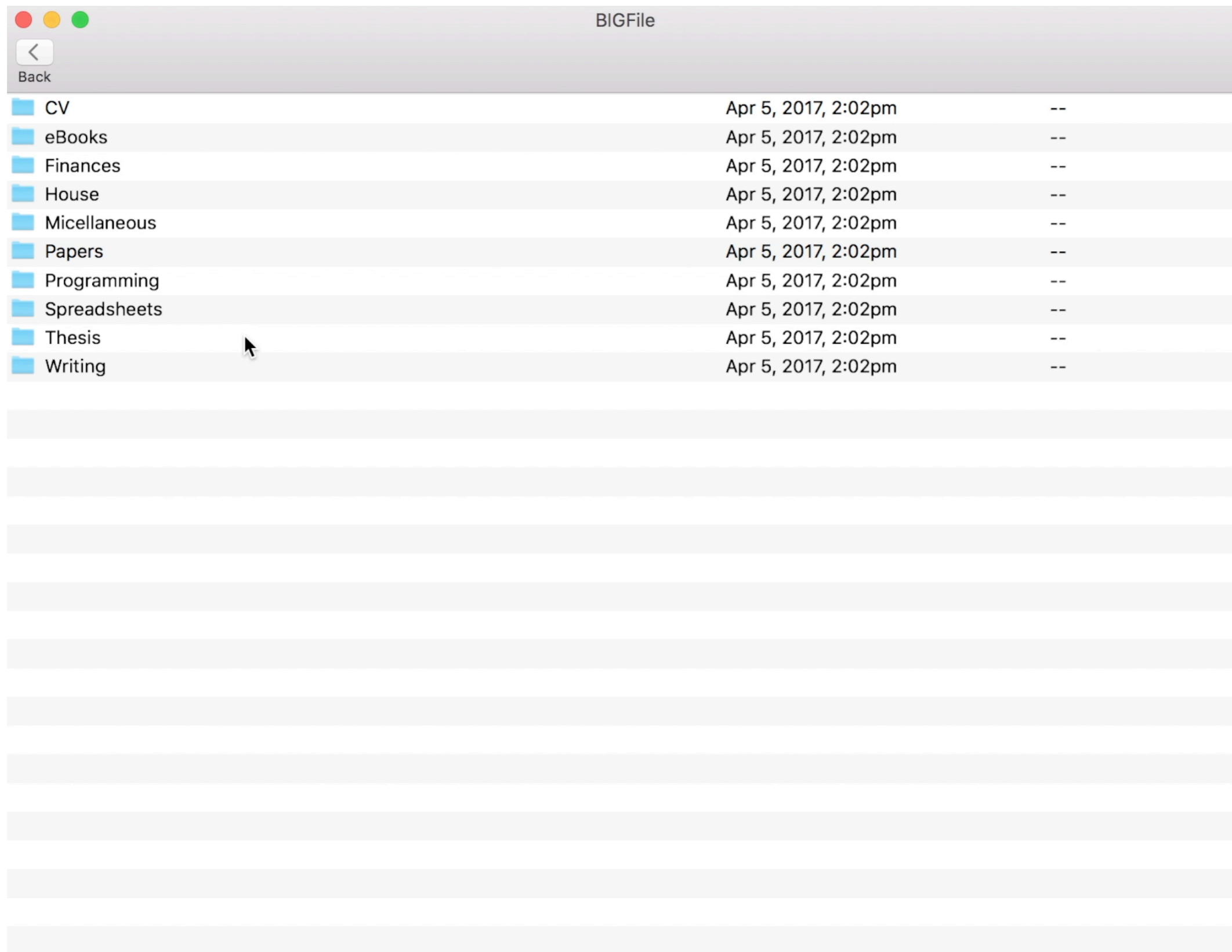
Half of the participants preferred **BIGnav** for being efficient and interactive

The other half favored STDnav for being comfortable and intuitive

- * Leverages the expected information gain $IG(\Theta|X = x, Y)$



Wanyu Liu, Olivier Rioul, Joanna McGrenere, Wendy Mackay, and Michel Beaudouin-Lafon.
BIGFile: Bayesian Information Gain for Fast File Retrieval. (CHI '18).



The screenshot shows a window titled "BIGFile" with a standard macOS-style title bar (red, yellow, green buttons). Below the title bar is a navigation bar with a "Back" button (a left-pointing arrow) and the text "Back". The main content area displays a list of folders, each with a blue folder icon, a name, a date and time, and a status indicator. The folders listed are: CV, eBooks, Finances, House, Micellaneous, Papers, Programming, Spreadsheets, Thesis, and Writing. All folders have a creation date of "Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm" and a status of "--". A mouse cursor is visible over the "Writing" folder.

Folder Name	Date and Time	Status
CV	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
eBooks	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Finances	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
House	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Micellaneous	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Papers	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Programming	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Spreadsheets	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Thesis	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Writing	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--

The screenshot shows the BIGFile application window. At the top, there are window control buttons (red, yellow, green) and the title 'BIGFile'. Below the title bar is a navigation bar with a 'Back' button and a breadcrumb path: Geography > Islands > Tropical > Touristic > Large > Hawaii. Below the breadcrumb is a list of folders: Food > Dairy > Cheese, History > Inventions, and Education > Curriculum > Masters > German. The main content area is a table with three columns: item name, date, and size. The items are grouped into folders and files. A mouse cursor is pointing at the 'Article' row.

Item	Date	Size
Geography	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Animals	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Computing	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Food	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Transport	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Health	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Entertainment	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
History	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Plants	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
People	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
House & Home	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Education	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	--
Budget	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k
Essay	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k
Paper	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k
Article	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k
Fireman	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k
Building	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k
Watch	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k
Plan	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k
Footstep	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k
Camera	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k
Cardboard	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k
Photo	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k
Brick	Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm	60k

Estimated shortcuts

The usual hierarchy



Back

Geography > Islands > Tropical > Touristic > Large > Hawaii

Food > Dairy > Cheese

History > Inventions

Education > Curriculum > Masters > German

Geography

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

--

Animals

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

--

Computing

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

--

Food

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

--

Transport

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

--

Health

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

--

Entertainment

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

--

History

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

--

Plants

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

--

People

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

--

House & Home

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

--

Education

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

--

Budget

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

60k

Essay

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

60k

Paper

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

60k

Article

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

60k

Fireman

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

60k

Building

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

60k

Watch

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

60k

Plan

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

60k

Footstep

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

60k

Camera

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

60k

Cardboard

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

60k

Photo

Apr 5, 2017, 2:02pm

60k

Having direct access to the target

* [3 x 2] within-participant design:

18 Participant

x 3 Interface

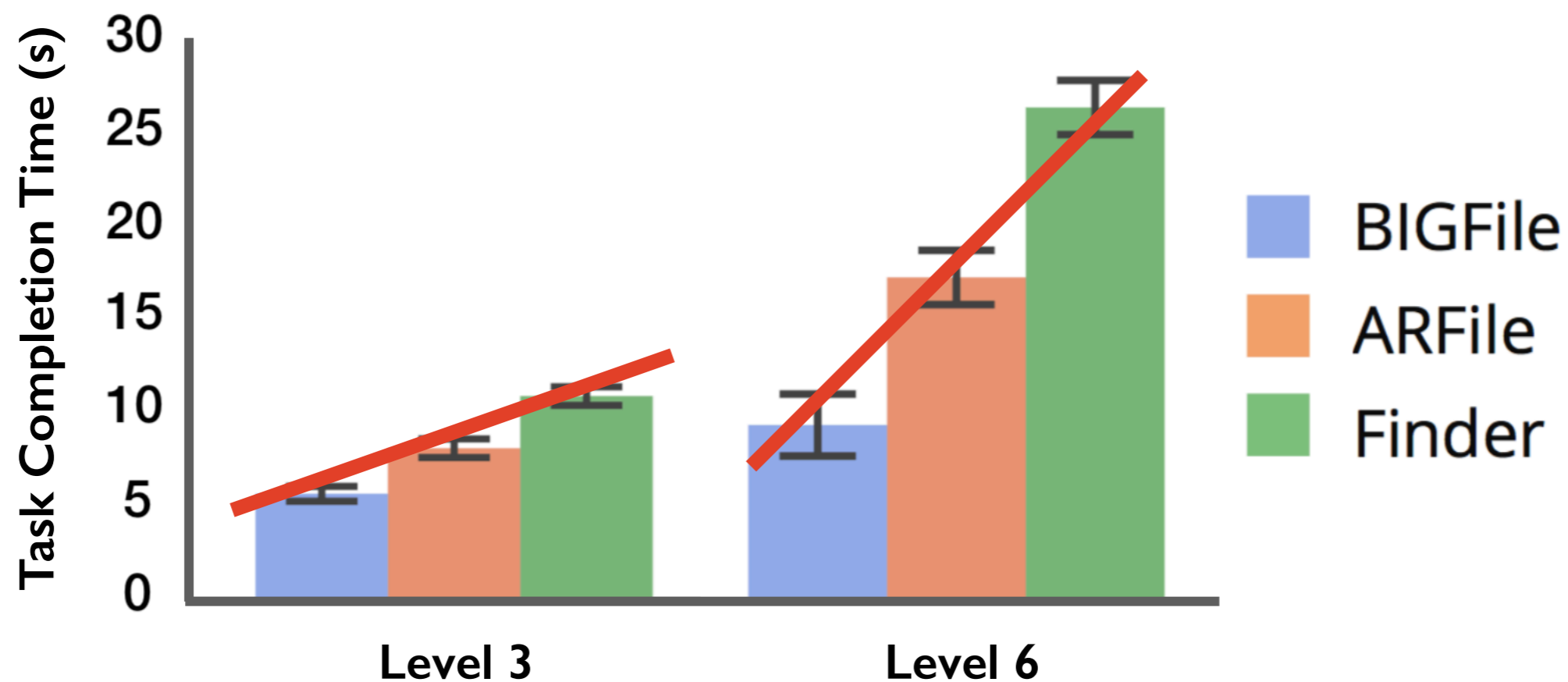
x 2 Target Level

* Interface:  BIGFile  ARFile  Finder

* Target Level: 3, 6

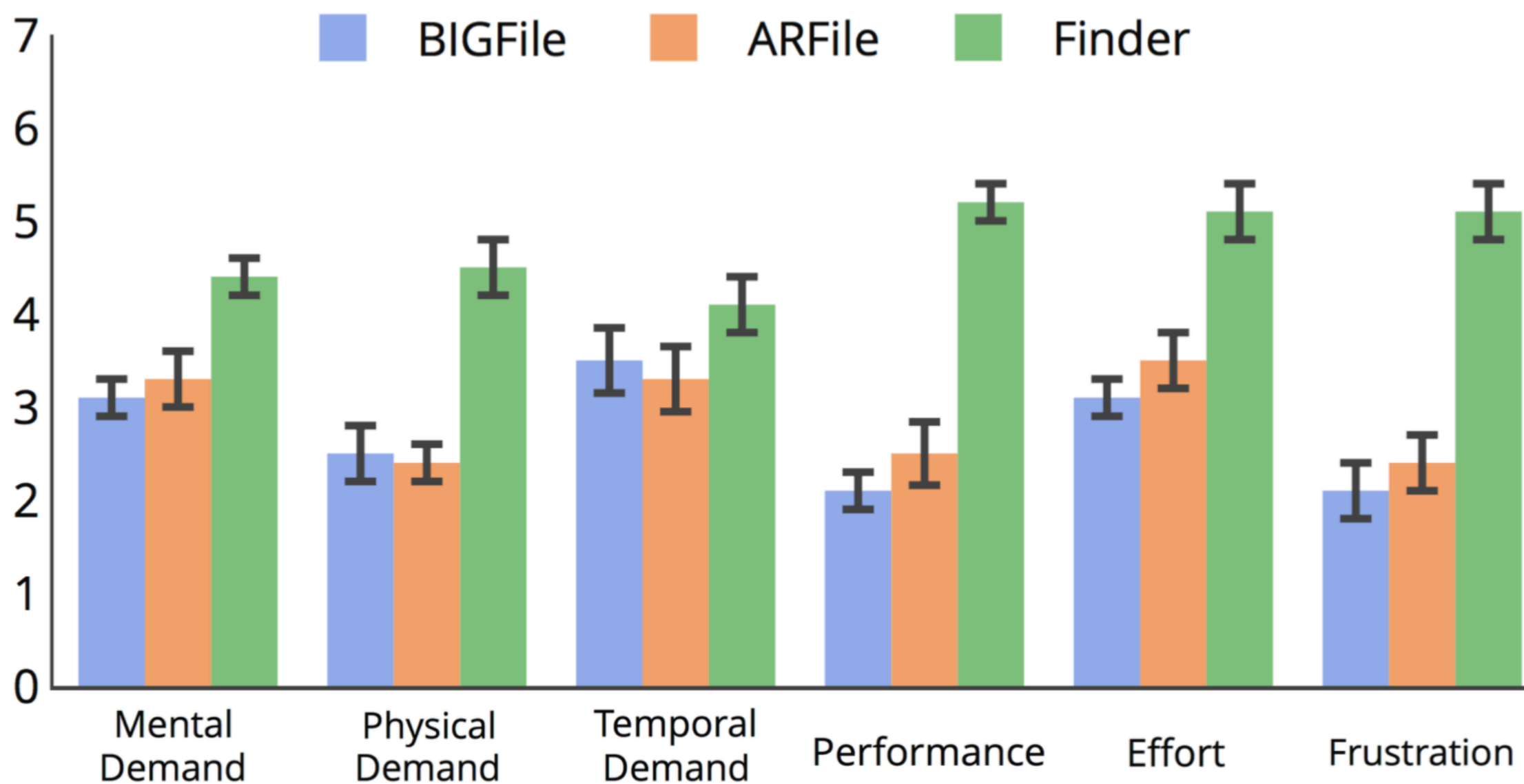
AccessRank: predicting what users will do next (Fitchett & Cockburn 2012)

* **BIGFile** saves time to retrieve a file



• Only data from the second session is shown here.

* Both **BIGFile** and ARFile are preferred by participants



• NASA TLX scores: lower is better.

1948

1950

2017

Bayesian Information Gain

BIGFile

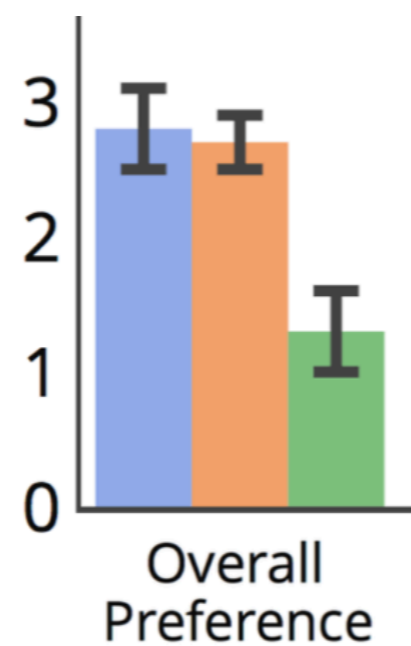
* Experiment Summary

BIGFile is up to 44% faster than ARFile and 64% faster than Finder

* Experiment Summary

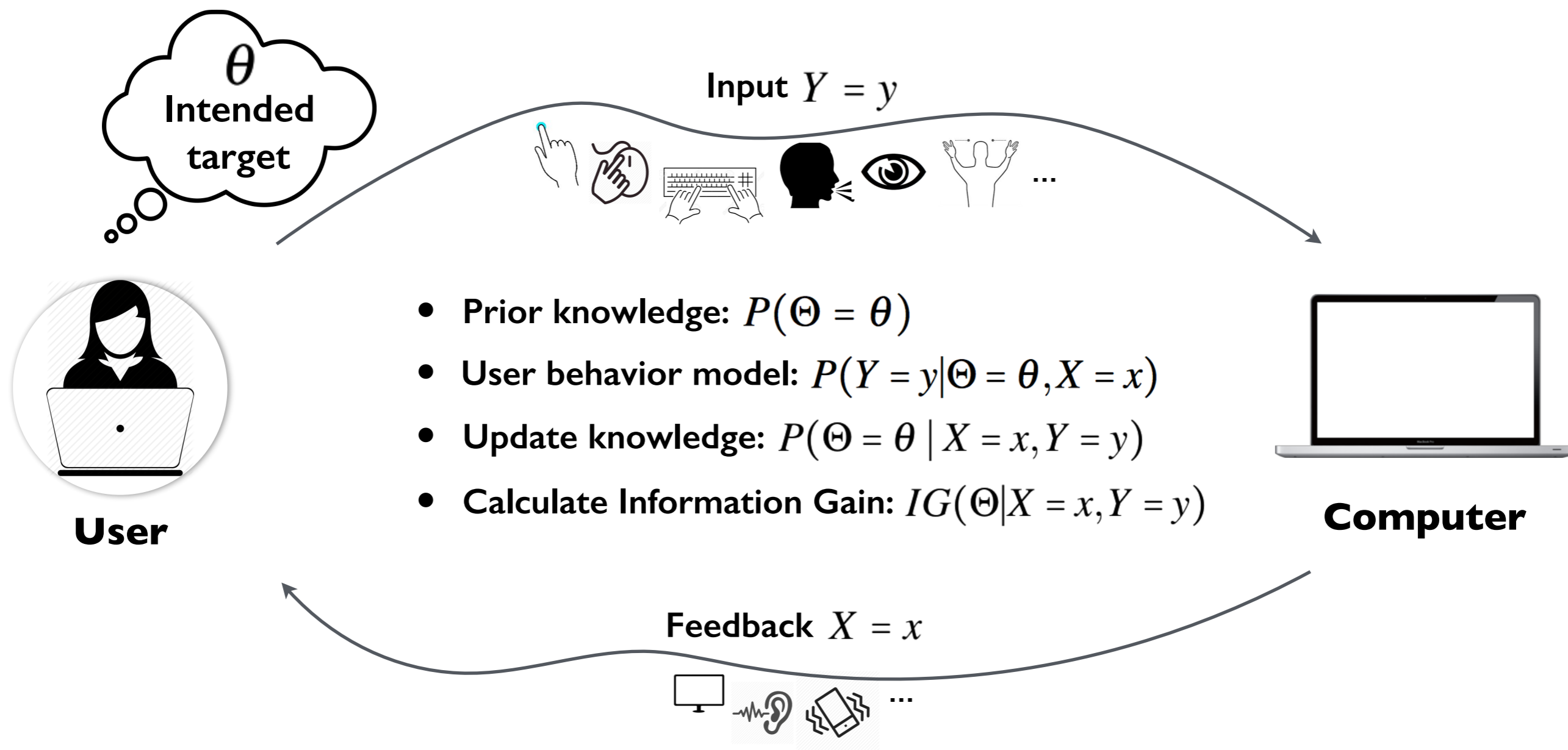
Both **BIGFile** and ARFile are preferred by participants

■ BIGFile ■ ARFile ■ Finder



- Overall preference: higher is better.

- Executes the user input only **Multiscale navigation**
- Maximizes the expected information gain $IG(\Theta|X = x, Y)$ **BIGnav**
- Leverages the expected information gain **BIGFile**



1948

1950

2017

2018

Information-Theoretic Measures

Measures

Input

Interface

Time, errors



User



Computer

1948

1950

2017

2018

Information-Theoretic Measures

Measures

Drawback I: Speed-accuracy tradeoff

1948

1950

2017

2018

Information-Theoretic Measures

Measures

Solution: Control errors

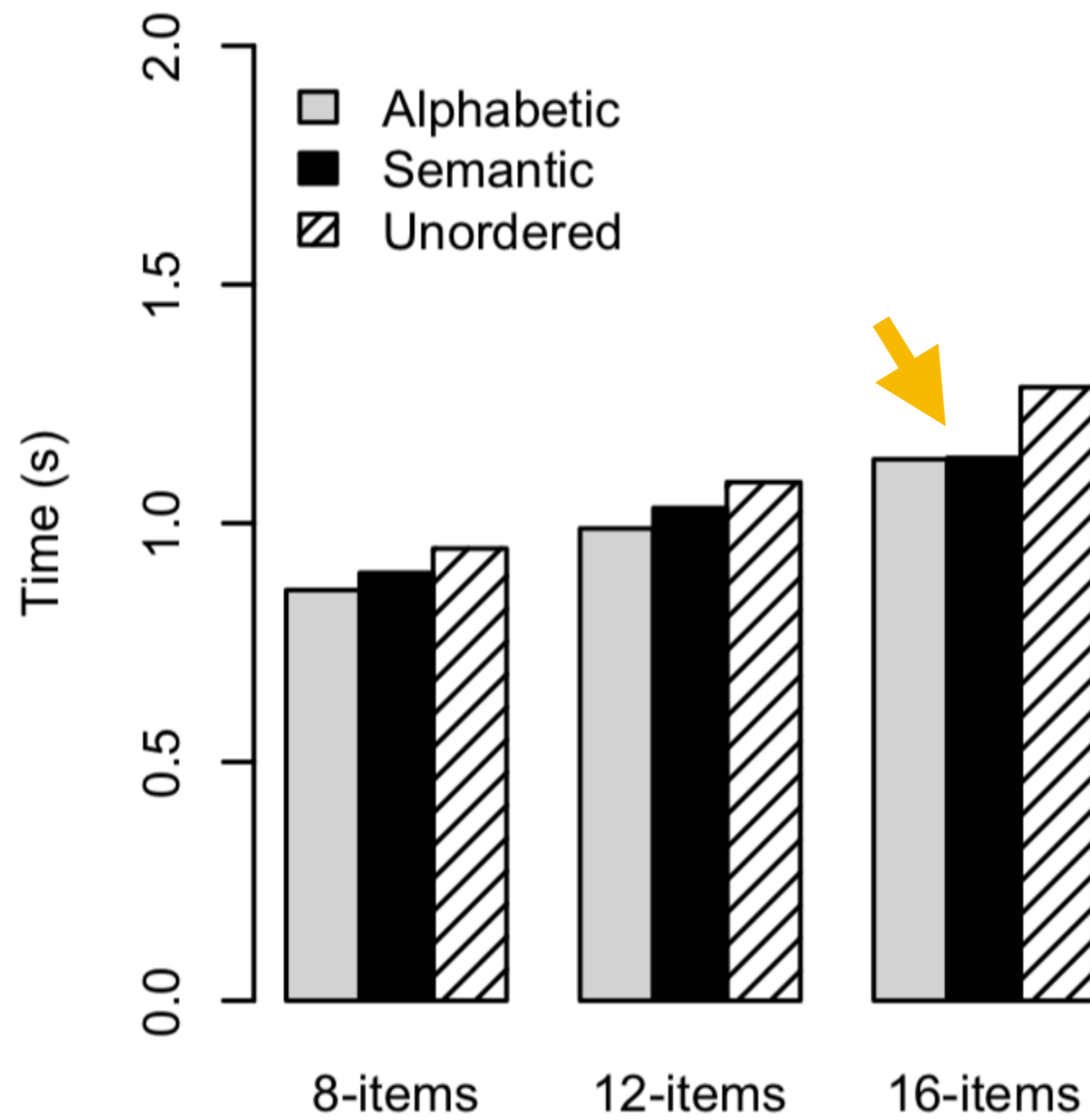
Solution: Control errors

Control error rate under 4 %, such as pointing, text entry, etc.

Solution: Control errors

Control error rate under 4 %, such as pointing, text entry, etc.

Remove errors from data analysis.



A..
B..
C..
D..
E..
P..
W..
Z..

Alphabetic

A..
B..
C..
D..
E..
P..
W..
Z..

Semantic

P..
D..
B..
A..
W..
C..
Z..
E..

Unordered

Model of visual search and selection time in linear menus. (Bailly 2014)

1948

1950

2017

2018

Information-Theoretic Measures

Measures

Drawback 2: The treatment of errors

1948

1950

2017

2018

Information-Theoretic Measures

Measures

1

2

3

4

1948

1950

2017

2018

Information-Theoretic Measures



Measures

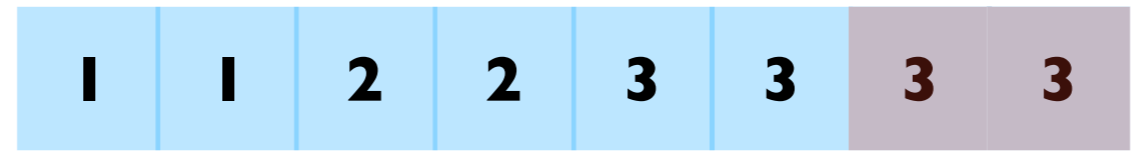
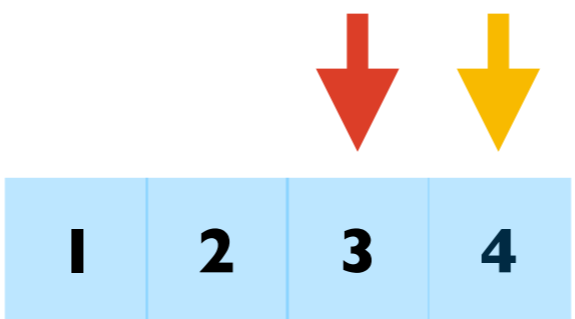


1948

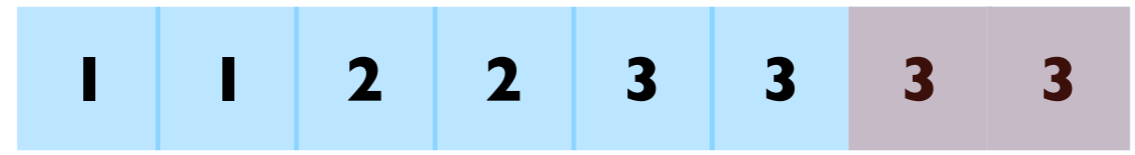
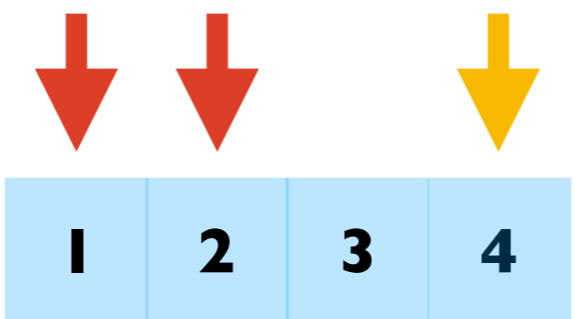
1950

2017

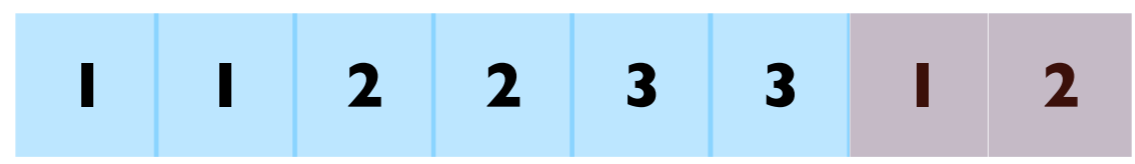
2018



Error rate: $2 / 8 = 25 \%$



Error rate: $2 / 8 = 25 \%$



Error rate: $2 / 8 = 25 \%$

Because human-computer interaction studies a human and a machine in **communication**, it draws from supporting knowledge on both the machine and the human side.



User

communication



Computer



User

Information
communication



Computer

Part iii: Information-theoretic Measures

1948

1950

2017

2018



User

Information



Computer



X : A set of all possible messages that a user can transmit, representing the intended inputs.

X takes values in

1	2	3	4
x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4



$P(X)$: The probability distribution of the intended inputs.

X takes values in

1	2	3	4
$p(x_1)$	$p(x_2)$	$p(x_3)$	$p(x_4)$



Input entropy: How much information could be transmitted.
 Corresponding to **input size** and the **probability distribution**.



$$H(X) = - \sum_{i=1}^n P_i \log_2 P_i$$



Y : The actual input received by the computer.

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---



Y : The actual input received by the computer.

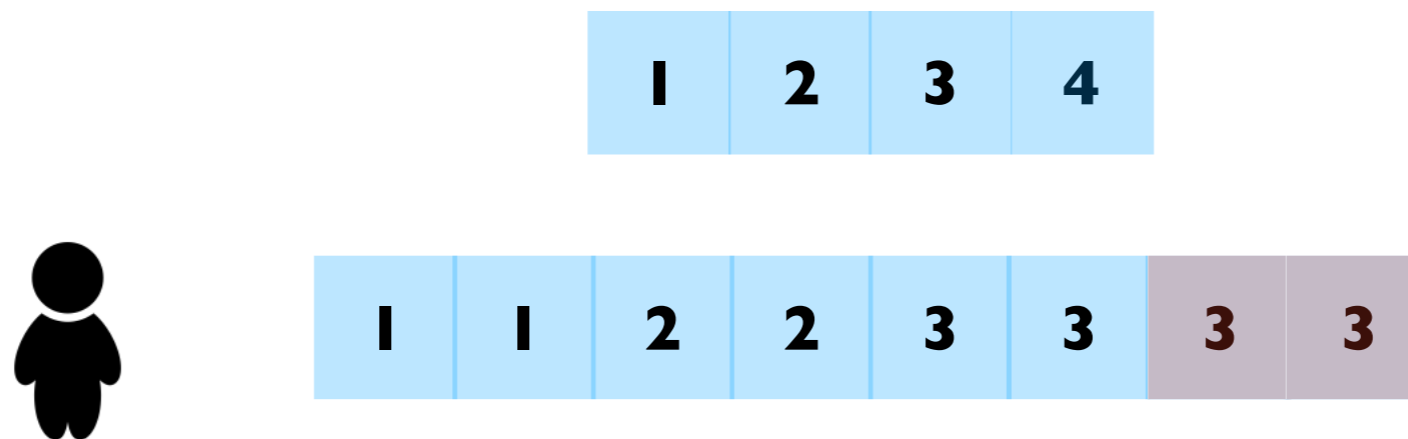


$$H(X) = 2 \text{ bits}$$



$I(X; Y)$: Mutual information between the intended input and the actual input.

It describes how much information actually gets transmitted.

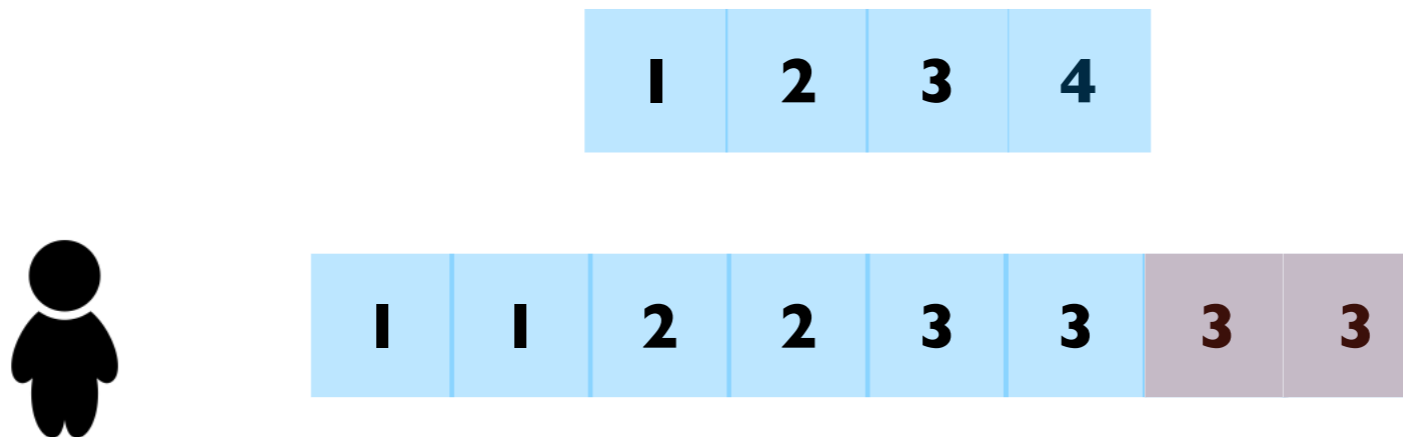


$$I(X; Y) = H(X) - H(X|Y)$$



$I(X; Y)$: Mutual information between the intended input and the actual input.

It describes how much information actually gets transmitted.

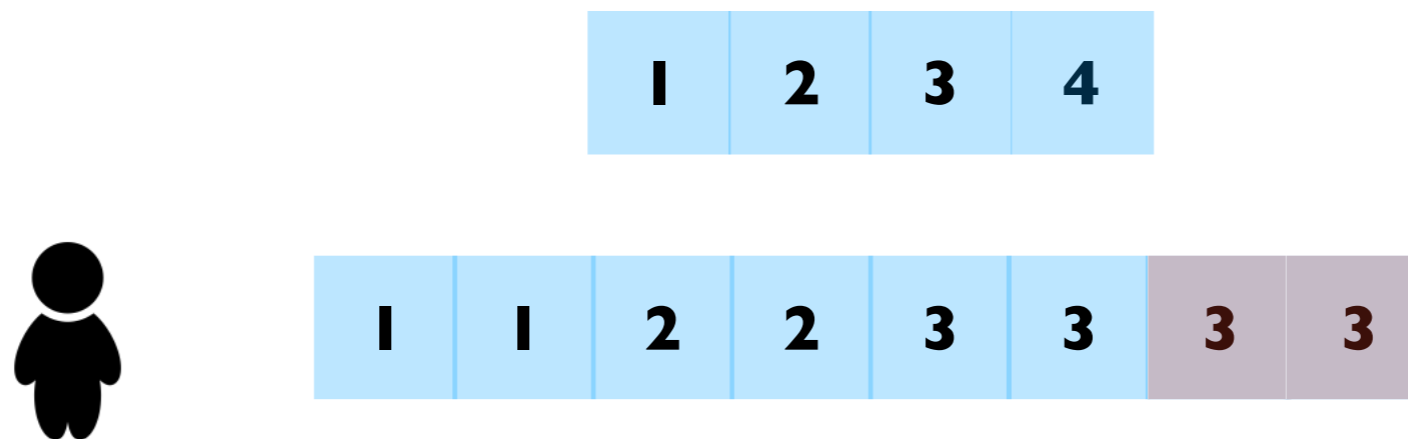


$$I(X; Y) = \sum_x \sum_y P(X = x, Y = y) \log_2 \frac{P(X = x, Y = y)}{P(X = x)P(Y = y)}$$

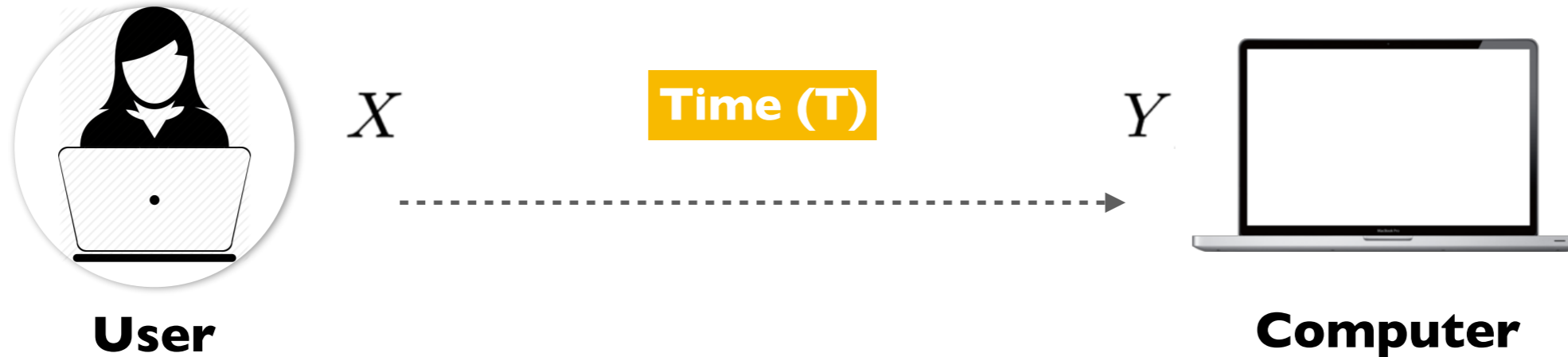


$I(X; Y)$: Mutual information between the intended input and the actual input.

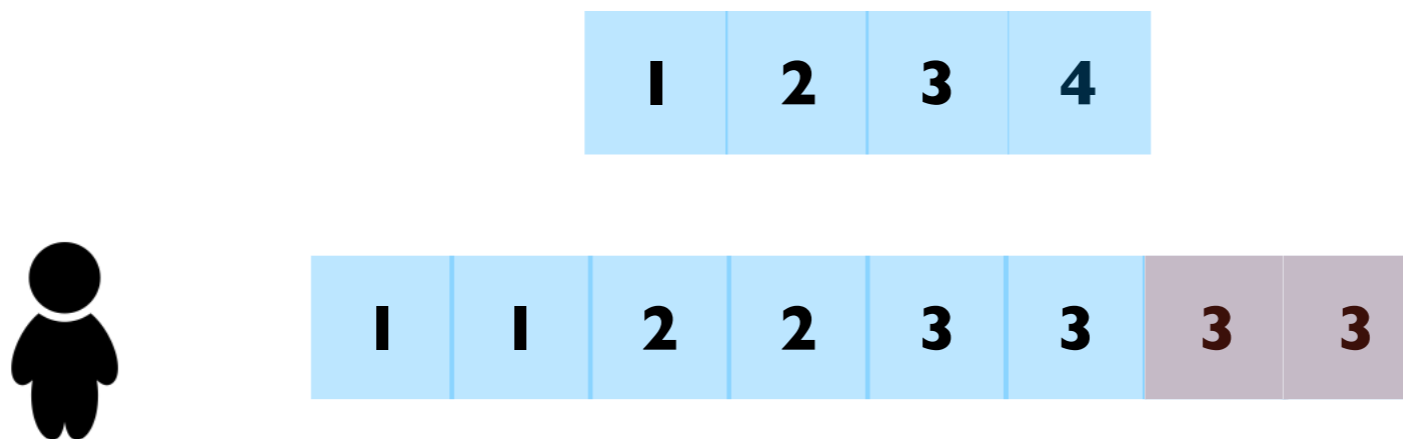
It describes how much information actually gets transmitted.



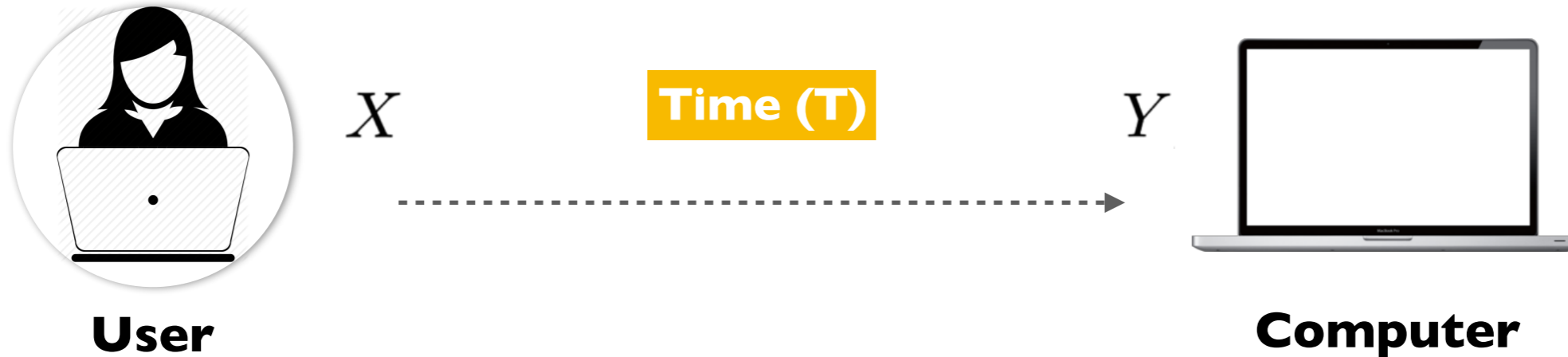
$$I(X; Y) = 1.5 \text{ bits}$$



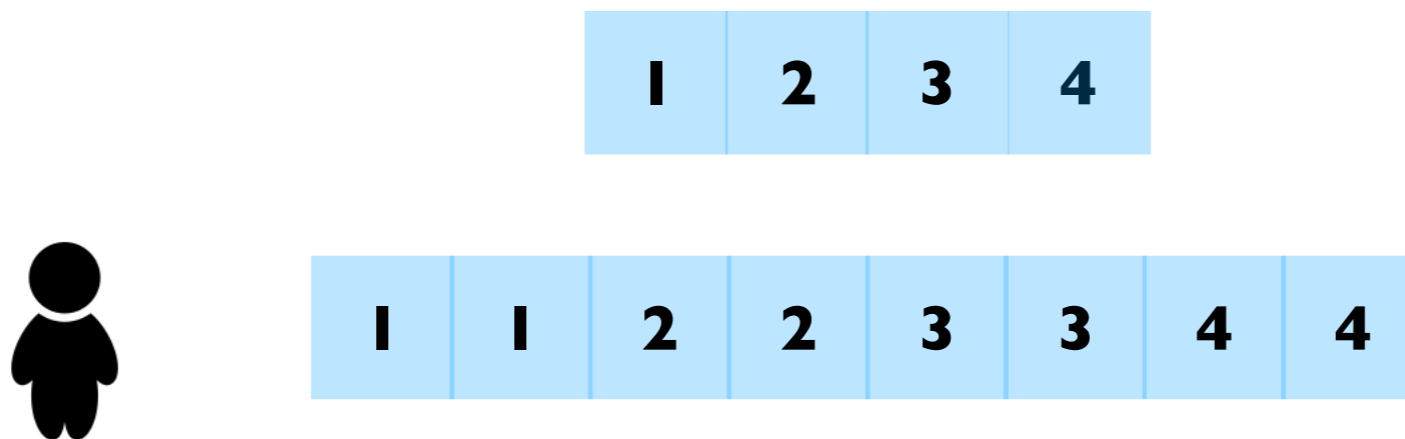
$TP = \frac{I(X;Y)}{T}$: Throughput describes information transmission efficiency.



$$TP = I(X;Y)/T = 1.5/1.5 = 1 \text{ bit / s}$$



$TP = \frac{I(X;Y)}{T}$: Throughput describes information transmission efficiency.



$$TP = I(X;Y)/T = H(X)/T = 2/1.5 = 1.3 \text{ bit / s}$$

Advantage I:
Standard language to describe interaction

Advantage I:

Standard language to describe interaction

$H(X)$: how much information could be transmitted.

$I(X;Y)$: how much information actually gets transmitted.

$H(X|Y)$: how much information gets lost, related to how users make errors.

TP: information transmission efficiency.

Advantage 2:
More consistent measure

Advantage 2:

More consistent measure

	$H(X)$
Time	
Input size	
Distribution	
Error rate	

Advantage 2:

More consistent measure

	$H(X)$	$I(X; Y)$
Time		
Input size		
Distribution		
Error rate		

Advantage 2:

More consistent measure

	$H(X)$	$I(X; Y)$	$H(X Y)$
Time			
Input size			
Distribution			
Error rate			

Advantage 2:

More consistent measure

	$H(X)$	$I(X; Y)$	$H(X Y)$	TP_i
Time				
Input size				
Distribution				
Error rate				

Advantage 2:

More consistent measure

	$H(X)$	$I(X; Y)$	$H(X Y)$	TP_i	TP_m
Time					
Input size					
Distribution					
Error rate					

$$TP_m = ID/MT$$

$$MT = a + b \times ID$$

Fitts' throughput and the speed-accuracy tradeoff (Mackenzie 2008)

Advantage 2:

More consistent measure

	$H(X)$	$I(X; Y)$	$H(X Y)$	TP_i	TP_m	TP_z
Time						
Input size						
Distribution						
Error rate						

$$TP_z = 1/b$$

$$MT = a + b \times ID$$

Evaluation of mouse, rate-controlled isometric joystick, step keys, and text keys for text selection on a CRT (Card 1978)
 Characterizing computer input with Fitts' law parameters - the information and non-information aspects of pointing (Zhai 2004)

Advantage 2:

More consistent measure

	$H(X)$	$I(X; Y)$	$H(X Y)$	TP_i	TP_m	TP_z
Time ↗						
Input size						
Distribution						
Error rate						

Advantage 2:

More consistent measure

	$H(X)$	$I(X; Y)$	$H(X Y)$	TP_i	TP_m	TP_z
Time ↗	—	—	—			
Input size						
Distribution						
Error rate						

Advantage 2:

More consistent measure

	$H(X)$	$I(X; Y)$	$H(X Y)$	TP_i	TP_m	TP_z
Time ↗	—	—	—	↘	↗	—
Input size						
Distribution						
Error rate						

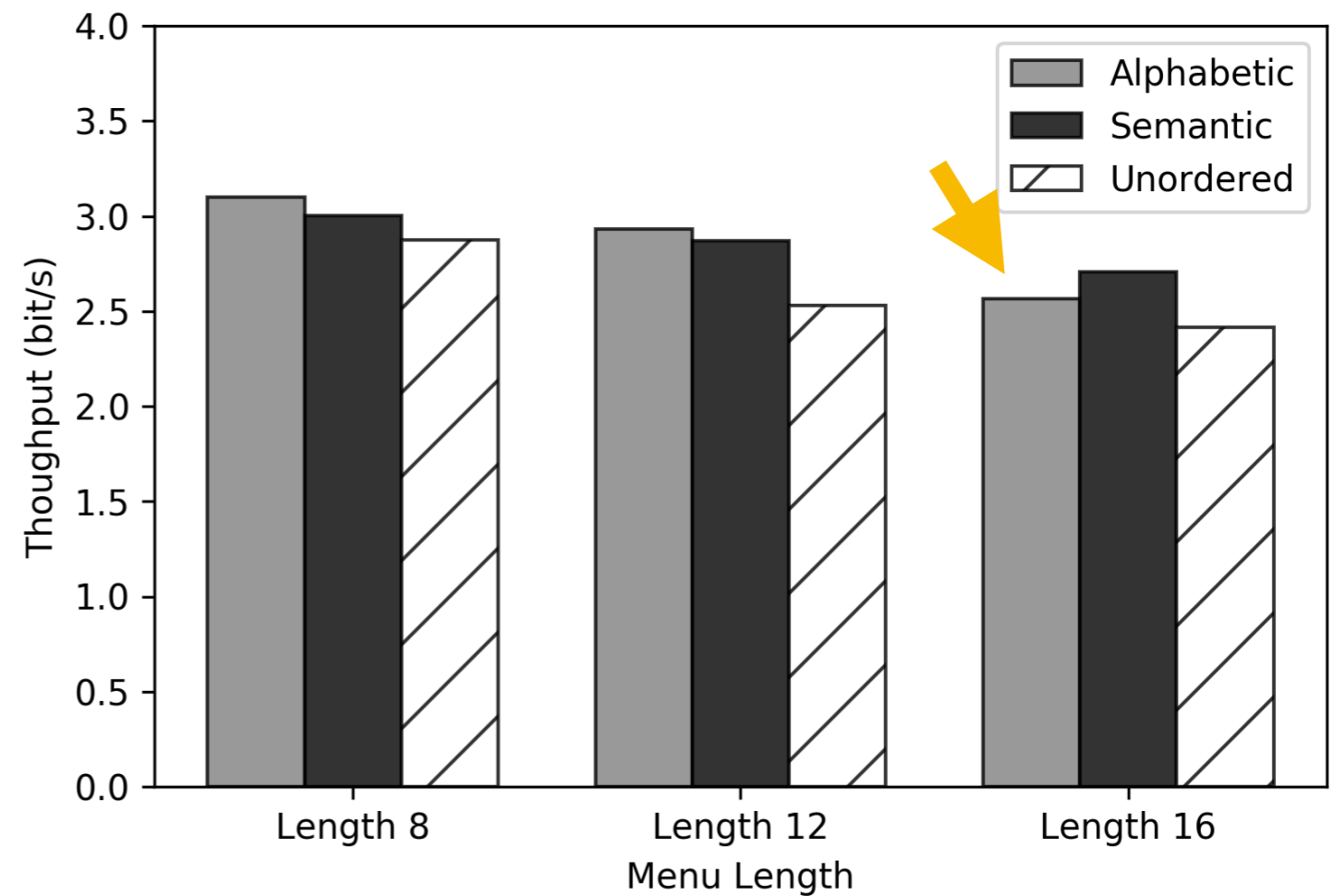
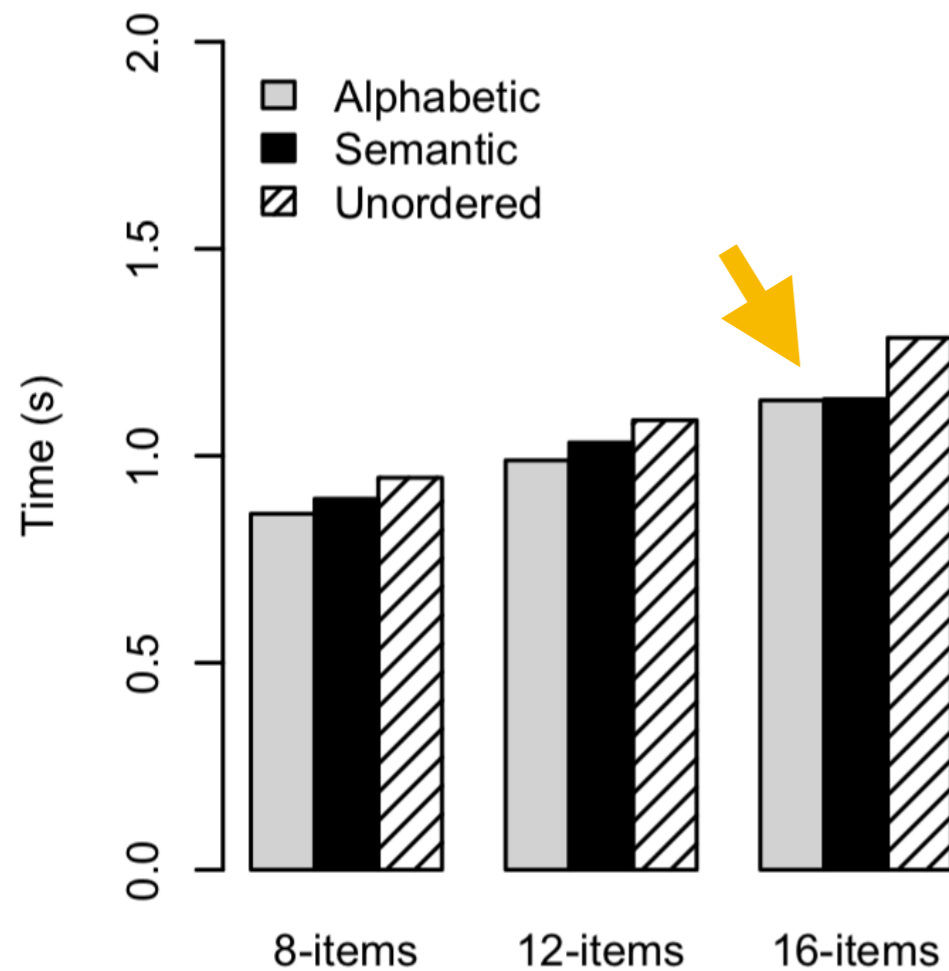
Advantage 2:

More consistent measure

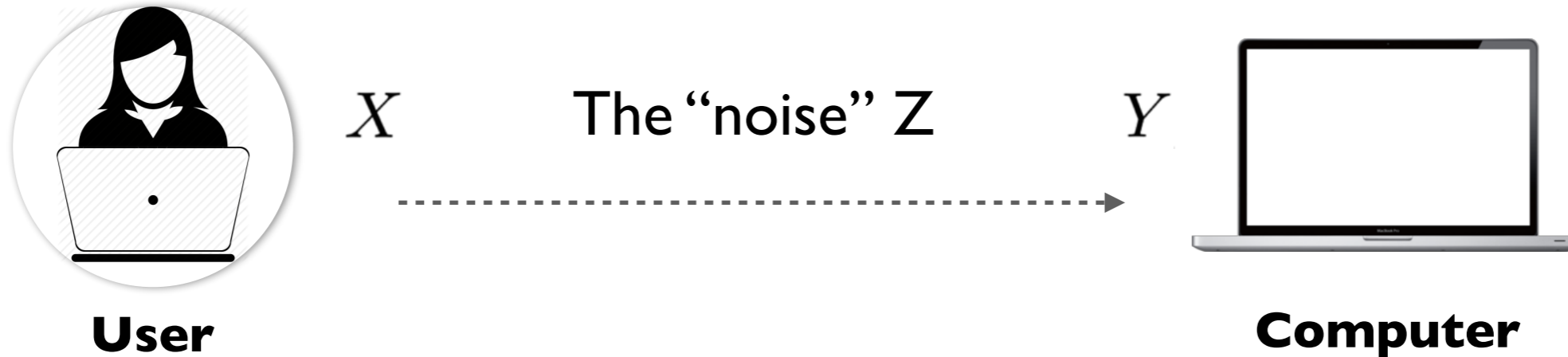
	$H(X)$	$I(X; Y)$	$H(X Y)$	TP_i	TP_m	TP_z
Time	—	—	—	↘	↗	—
Input size	↗	↗	—	↗	↗	—
Distribution	↘	↘	—	↘	—	—
Error rate	—	↘	↗	↘	↘	—

Advantage 3:
Speed-accuracy tradeoff

Advantage 3: Speed-accuracy tradeoff



Advantage 4:
**Equivocation provides information about
how users make errors**

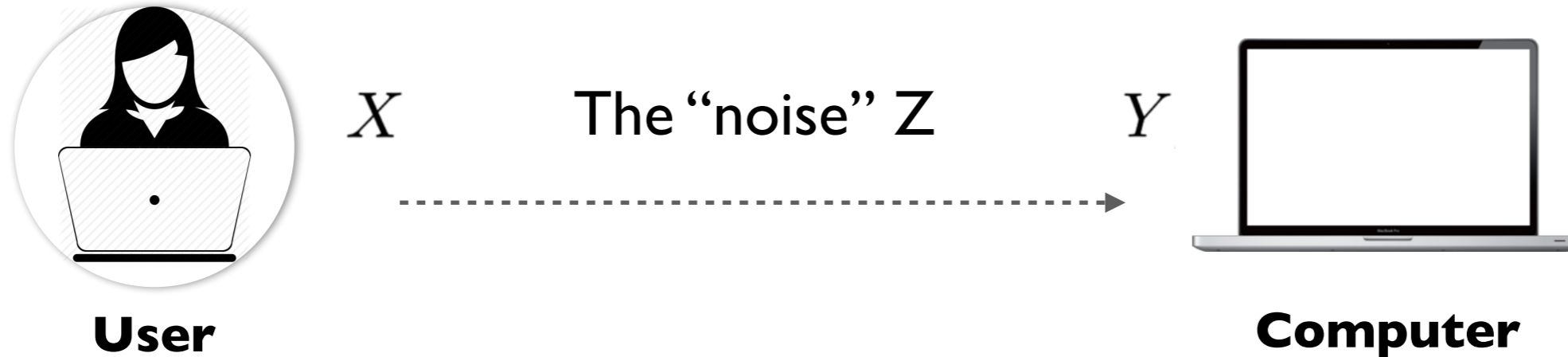


The error random variable:

$$E = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } X = Y; \\ 1 & \text{if } X \neq Y. \end{cases}$$

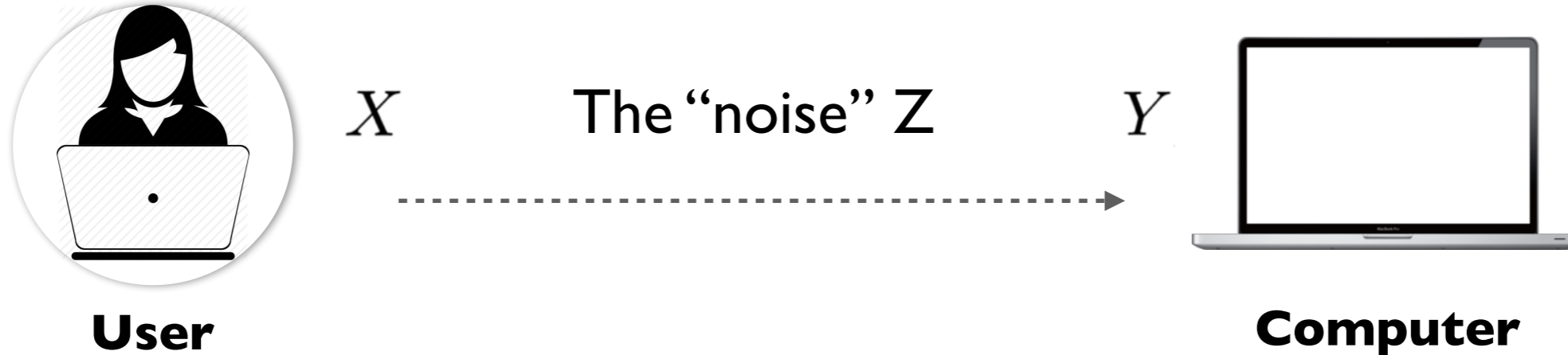
The error rate:

$$P_e = P(X \neq Y)$$



The error rate P_e has binary entropy:

$$H(E) = -P_e \log_2 P_e - (1 - P_e) \log_2(1 - P_e)$$

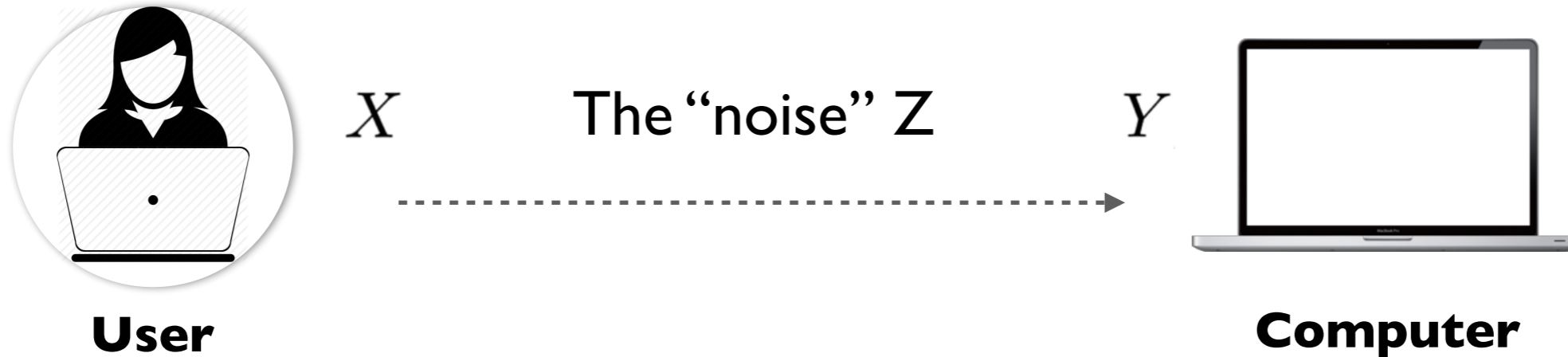


$$I(X; Y) = H(X) - H(X|Y)$$

$$H(X|Y) \leq H(E) + P_e \times H(Z|E = 1)$$

Fano's inequality.

[Theorem 2.10.1] *Elements of information theory*. Cover, T. M., & Thomas, J. A. (2012).

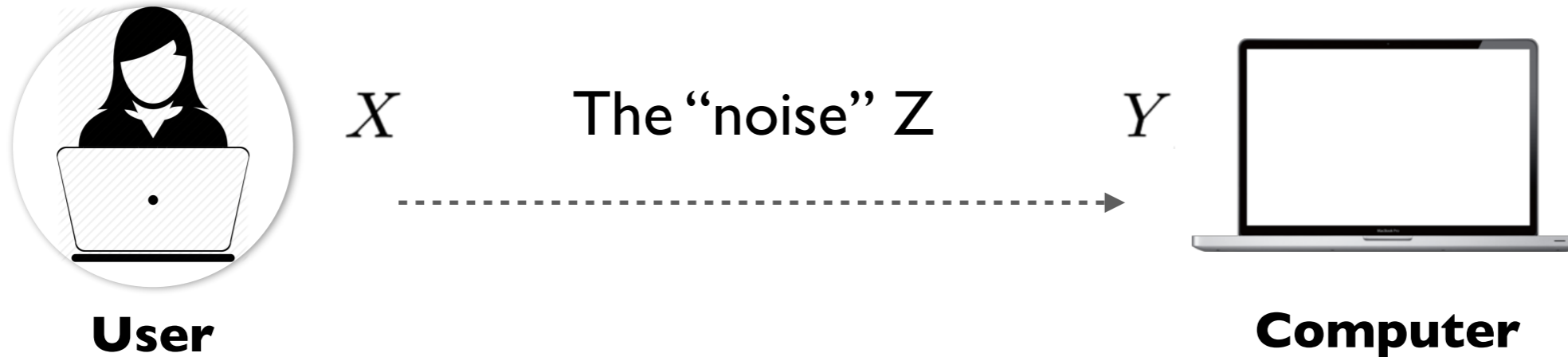


$$I(X; Y) = H(X) - H(X|Y)$$

$$H(X|Y) \leq H(E) + P_e \times H(Z|E = 1)$$



The fact that users make errors. At most 1 bit.

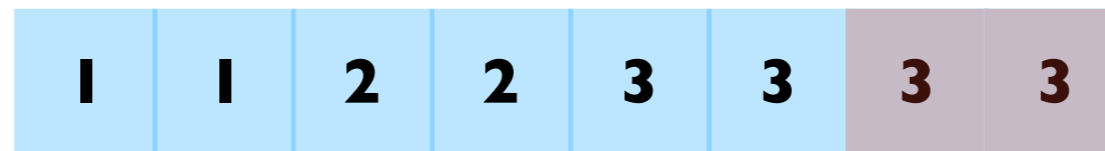
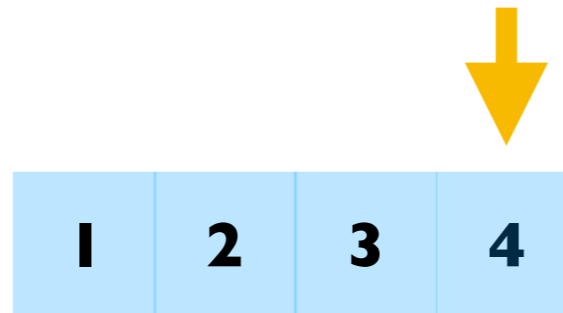


$$I(X; Y) = H(X) - H(X|Y)$$

$$H(X|Y) \leq H(E) + P_e \times H(Z|E = 1)$$



How they make errors.



Error rate: $2 / 8 = 25\%$

$$H(X|Y) = 0.5 \text{ bits}$$

$$TP = I(X;Y)/T$$

$$= 1.5/1.5 = 1 \text{ bit / s}$$



Error rate: $2 / 8 = 25\%$

$$H(X|Y) = 0.7 \text{ bits}$$

$$TP = I(X;Y)/T$$

$$= 1.3/1.5 = 0.8 \text{ bit / s}$$



Information-theoretic Measures

Wanyu Liu, Olivier Rioul, Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, and Yves Guiard.
Information-Theoretic Analysis of Human Performance for Command Selection. (INTERACT '17).
Wanyu Liu, Antti Oulasvirta, Olivier Rioul, Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, and Yves Guiard.
Information-theoretic Measures for Characterizing Interaction (TOCHI '19) [\[under preparation\]](#)

1948 **Information Theory** 

1950 **Experimental Psychology Applications**

Hick's law (1952) 

Fitts' law (1954) 

Part i

2017 **Bayesian Information Gain**

BIGnav (2017) 

BIGFile (2018) 

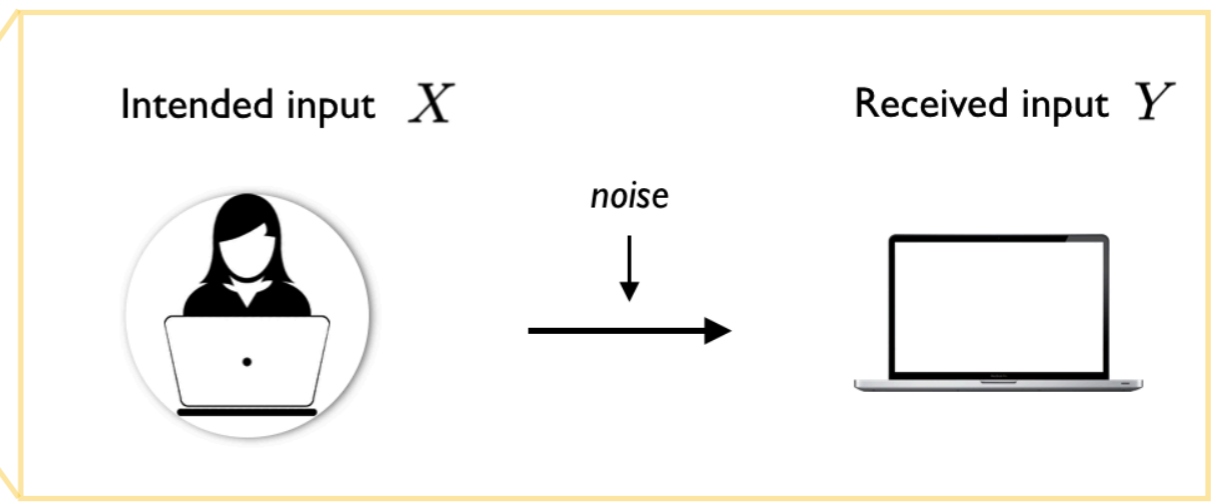
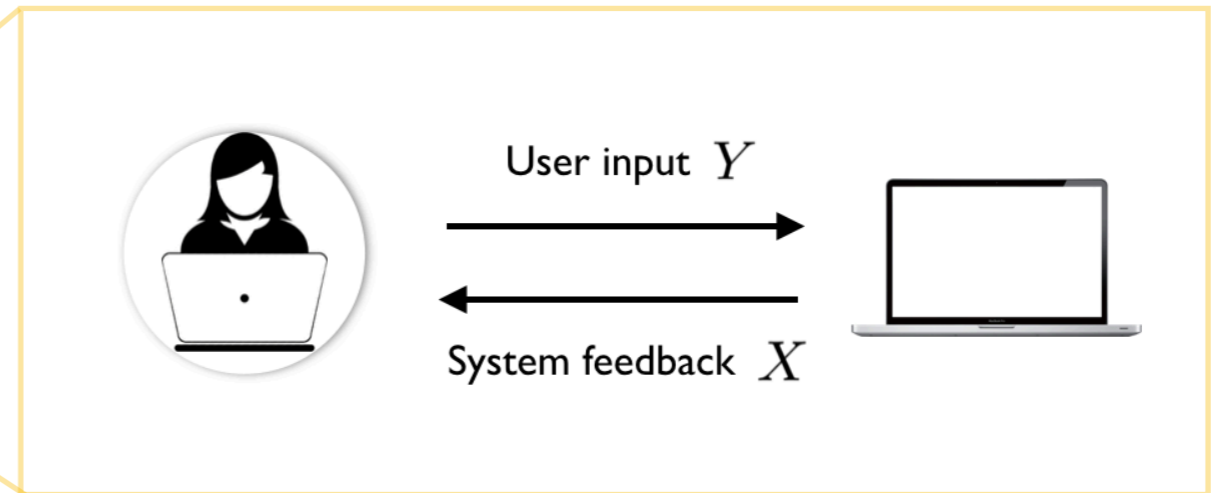
Part ii

2018 **Information-Theoretic Measures**

Command Selection 

Text Entry 

Part iii



* Other “BIG” applications

Bayesian Information Gain for Guiding Design Exploration
(in collaboration with Luana Micallef, University of Copenhagen)

BIGnote: Bayesian Information Gain for Collaborative Music Composition
(came up with the idea during lucid dreaming) August 10, 2018, 12:46 AM

* Other “BIG” applications

* Refine “BIG” framework

Model real user behavior $P(Y = y | \Theta = \theta, X = x)$

User independent

Machine learning

Shared control

Maximize other utility function

- * **Other “BIG” applications**
- * **Refine “BIG” framework**
- * **Information-theoretic measures for other interaction tasks**

Continuous input

Taking advantage of equivocation

* Main publications



Wanyu Liu, Rafael Lucas D'Oliveira, Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, and Olivier Rioul.
BIGnav: Bayesian Information Gain for Guiding Multiscale Navigation. (CHI '17).

Wanyu Liu, Olivier Rioul, Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, and Yves Guiard.
Information-Theoretic Analysis of Human Performance for Command Selection. (INTERACT '17).



Wanyu Liu, Olivier Rioul, Joanna McGrenere, Wendy Mackay, and Michel Beaudouin-Lafon.
BIGFile: Bayesian Information Gain for Fast File Retrieval. (CHI '18).

Merci



#HumanComputerInteraction

#MutualInformation

#Bayesian

#ComputationalInteraction

#CoAdaptation





Thank you everyone!

Merci à tous!

LE CONCERT D'ABBY

ABBY: WIENER BLUT OP.354

**OLIVIER: WIND CRIES ABBY
& MONEY FOR NOTHING (I WANT MY PHD)**

MICHEL: SURPRISE

**YVES: FEELINGS
DE MORRIS ALBERT & UNE BLUES**

BRUNO: JAZZ IMPROVISATION

JEAN-PHILIPPE: JAZZ IMPROVISATION

TÉO: BACH À LA JAZZ

ABBY: LES PATINEURS OP.183

PLUS DE SURPRISES SUR PLACE

**LE CONCERT
SERA SUIVI PAR UNE
SOIRÉE DE DANSE:
LA VALSE VIENNOISE,
LE TANGO ARGENTIN,
LA SALSA,
LE FOXTROT, LE DISCOFOX,
LA BACHATA, LE ROCK, ETC.**

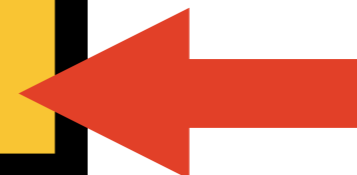
20H30

LE 22 NOVEMBRE 2018

LA POMME D'ÈVE

1 RUE LAPLACE, 75005 PARIS

DRESSCODE: FORMEL



* Prediction algorithm: AccessRank

$$w_n = w_{m_n}^\alpha w_{crf_n}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} w_{t_n}$$

* Prediction algorithm: AccessRank

$$w_n = w_{m_n}^\alpha w_{cr f_n}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} w_{t_n}$$



A Markov chain model

* Prediction algorithm: AccessRank

$$w_n = w_{m_n}^\alpha w_{crf_n} \frac{1}{\alpha} w_{t_n}$$



A combined recency and frequency model

* Prediction algorithm: AccessRank

$$w_n = w_{m_n}^\alpha w_{crf_n}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} w_{t_n}$$



A time weighting model