



Flow as optimal user state for immersion and performance in BCI

Jelena Mladenovic
Inria Bordeaux, France
Lyon Neuroscience Research Center, France

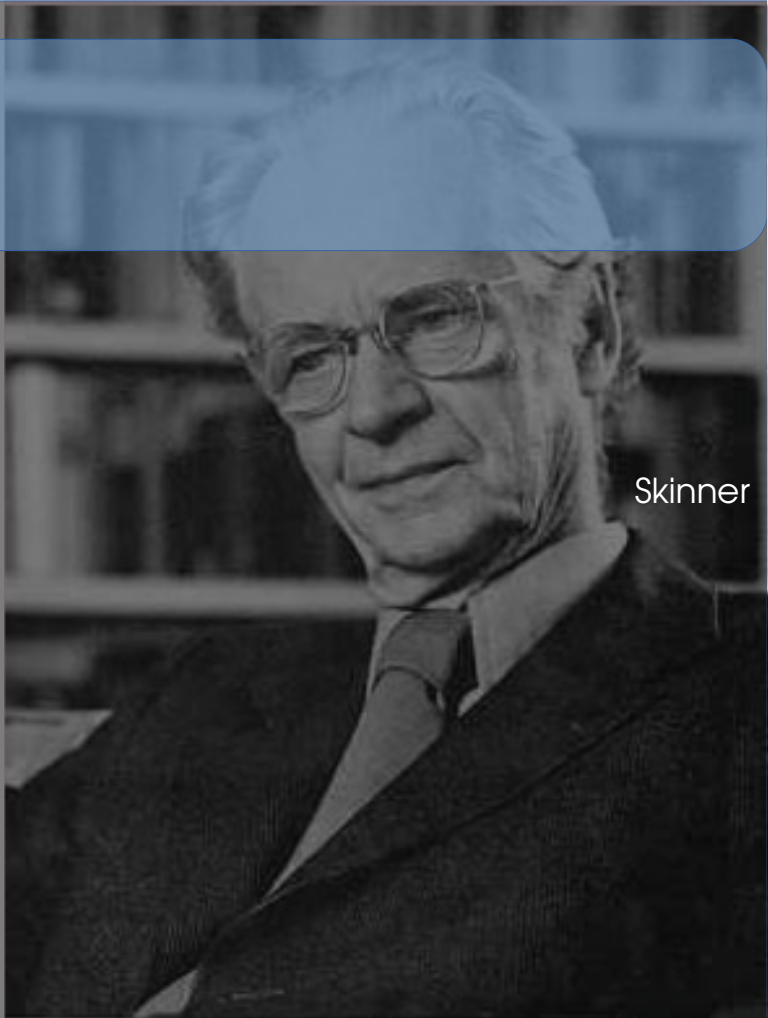
Feedback for learning

Behavioral Theories:

Extrinsic motivation

A black and white portrait of Edward Thorndike, a man with a mustache, wearing a suit and tie.

Thorndike

A black and white portrait of B.F. Skinner, an older man with glasses, wearing a suit and tie, sitting in front of bookshelves.

Skinner

Feedback for learning

Behavioral Theories:

Extrinsic motivation

Law of effect (Thorndike, 1905)

Operant Conditioning and Reinforced Learning
(Skinner, 1938)

The elements of psychology 1905

*The Behavior of Organism: An
Experimental Analysis (1938)*

Thorndike

Skinner

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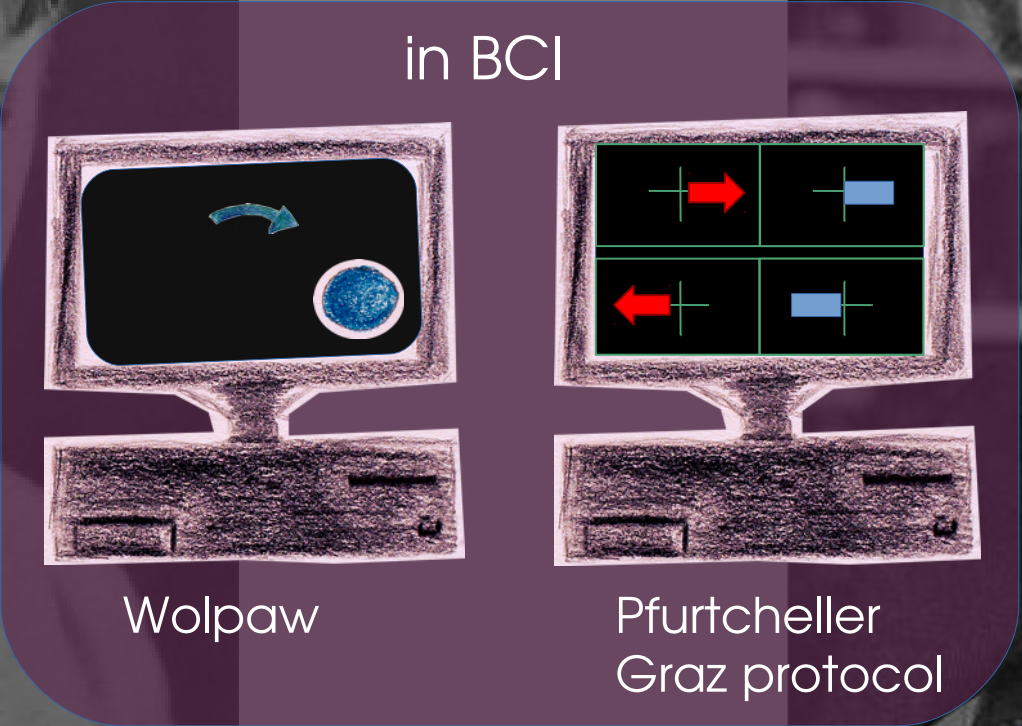
The Behavior of Organism: An Experimental Analysis (1938)

Thorndike

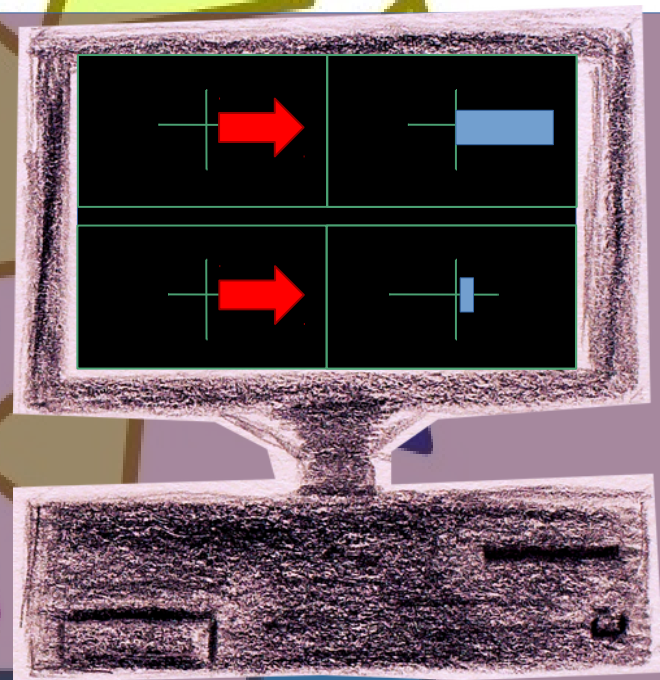
Wolpaw et al 1991 "An EEG-based brain-computer interface for cursor control" *Electroencephalography and clinical neurophysiology*

Skinner

Pfurtscheller et al, 1993 *Brain-Computer Interface-a new communication device for handicapped persons, journal of microcomputer application,*

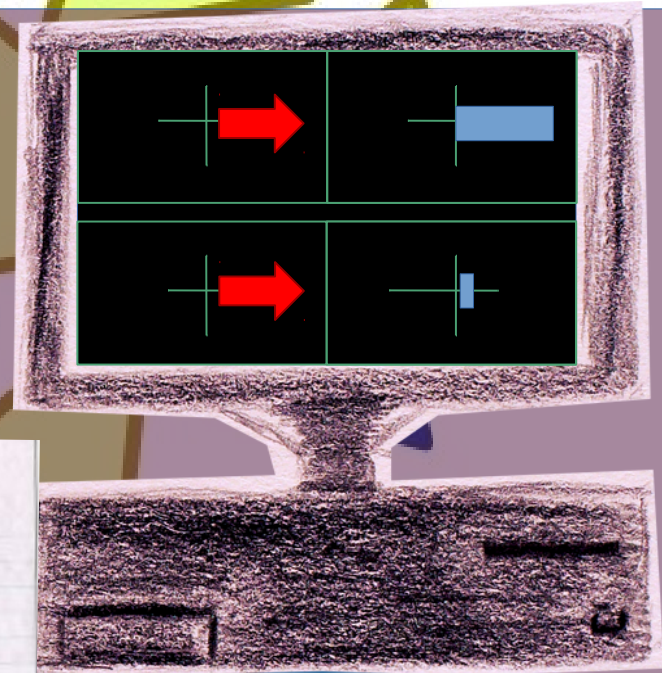


Example:



Why standard brain-computer interface (BCI) training protocols should be changed: an experimental study,
Jeunet, Jahanpour and Lotte, 2016

Example:



54 subjects

17% failed

Feedback for learning

Behavioral Theories:
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Cognitive Developmental
Theories:
Intrinsic motivation

Law of effect (Thorndike, 1905)

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Feedback for learning

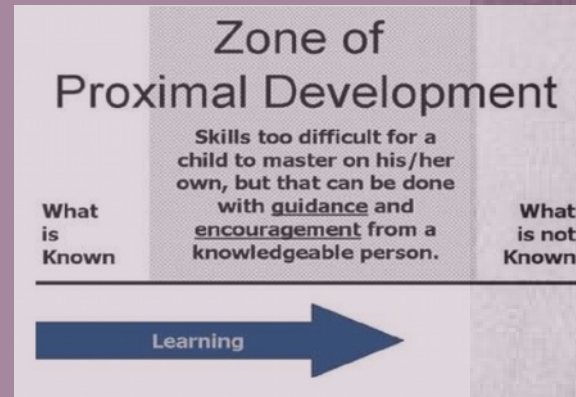
Behavioral Theories:
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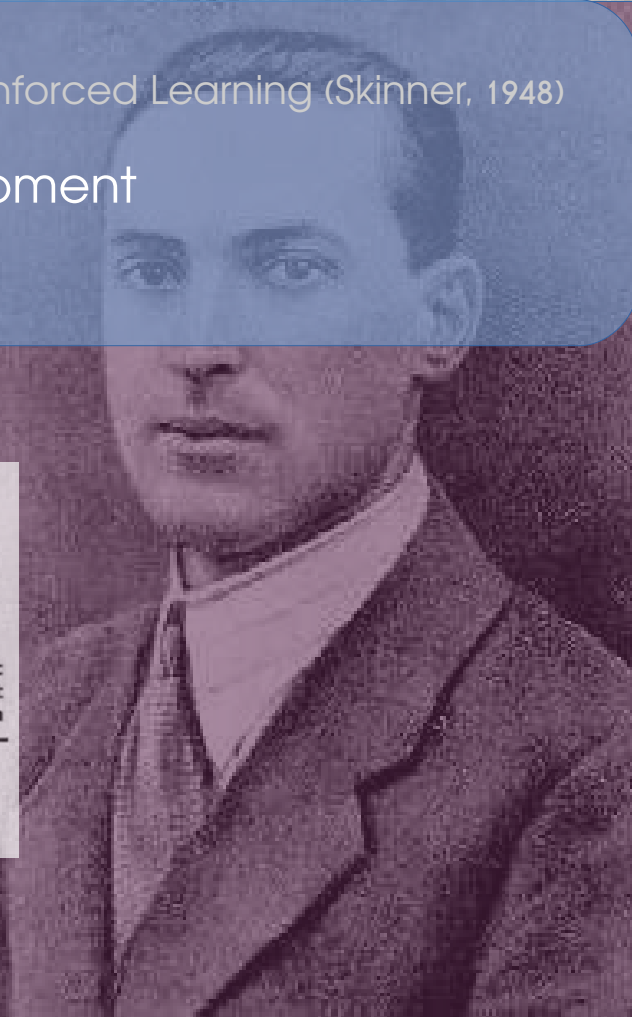
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Operant Conditioning and Reinforced Learning (Skinner, 1948)

Zone of Proximal Development
(Vygotsky, 1930)



*Mind in society : The development of
higher psychological processes.
Cambridge: Harvard University Press (1980)*



Feedback for learning

Behavioral Theories:
Extrinsic motivation

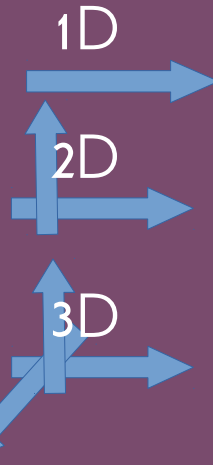
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in BCI



McFarland, et al. (2010).
Electroencephalographic
(EEG) control of three-
dimensional movement.

Zone of Proximal Development

Skills too difficult for a
child to master on his/her
own, but that can be done
with guidance and
encouragement from a
knowledgeable person.

What
is
Known

What
is not
Known

Learning

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Feedback for learning

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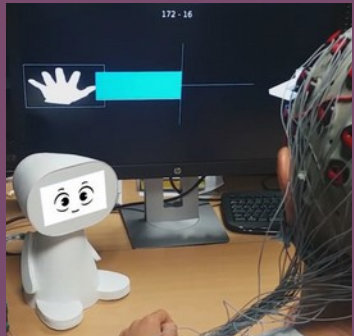
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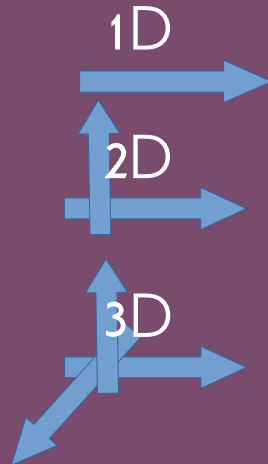
Operant Conditioning and Reinforced Learning (Skinner, 1948)

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in BCI



Pillette et al. 2017., PEANUT:
Personalised Emotional Agent
for Neurotechnology User-
Training.



McFarland, et al. (2010).
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Feedback for learning

Behavioral Theories:

Extrinsic motivation

Cognitive Developmental Theories:

Intrinsic motivation

Motivational Theories:

Extrinsic + intrinsic motivation

Law of effect (Thorndike, 1905)

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Instructional Design - ARCS model (Keller, 1987)

Taxonomy of Intrinsic Motivations for Learning (Malone & Lepper, 1987)

Malone

Keller

Feedback for learning

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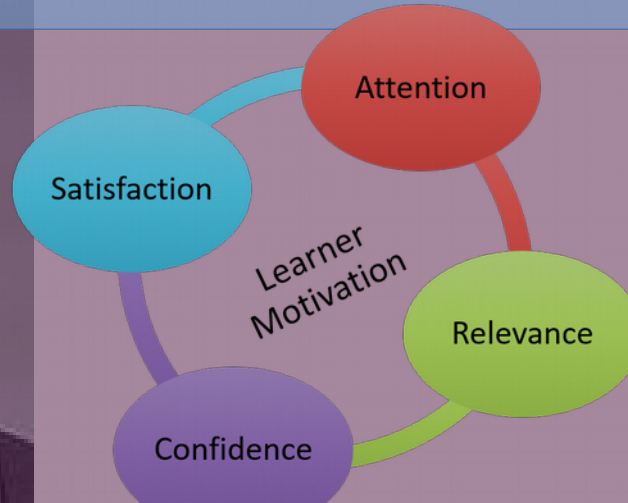
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Keller, Strategies for stimulating the motivation to learn, ISPI 1987

Malone

Keller

Feedback for learning

Social/ collaborative



J. Erp, F. Lotte, M. Tangermann, "Brain- Computer Interfaces: Beyond Medical Applications", Computer, vol. 45, no. 4, 2012

Feedback for learning

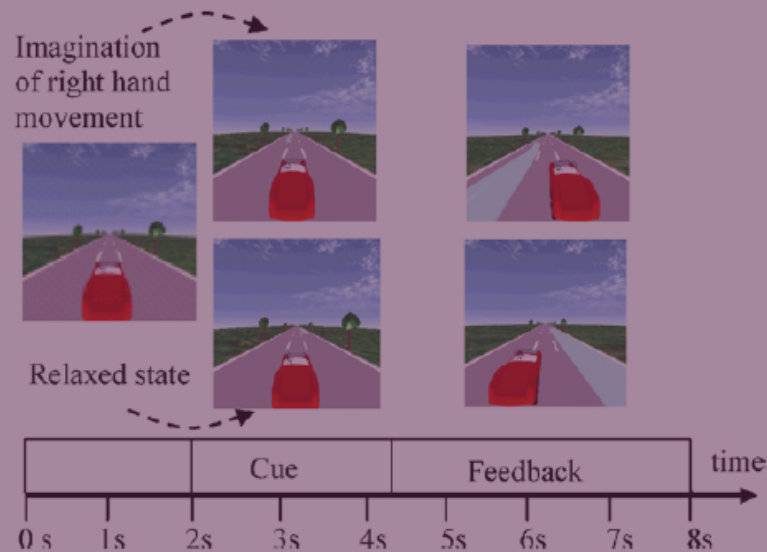
Social/ collaborative

Playful



J. Erp, F. Lotte, M. Tangermann, "Brain- Computer Interfaces: Beyond Medical Applications", Computer, vol. 45, no. 4, 2012

(b)



Ron-Angevin et al. Brain-computer interface: Changes in performance using virtual reality techniques, Neuroscience Letters 2008

Performance increases with user experience/motivation

Feedback for learning

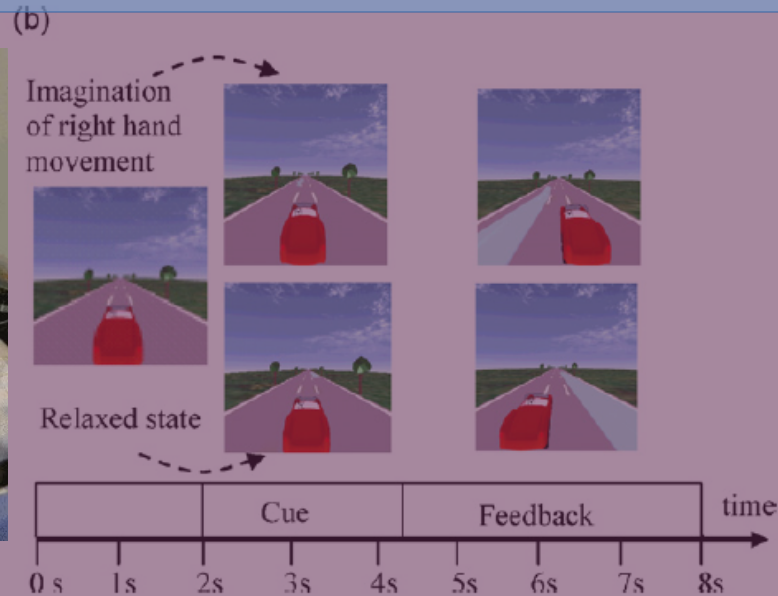
Social/ collaborative

Playful

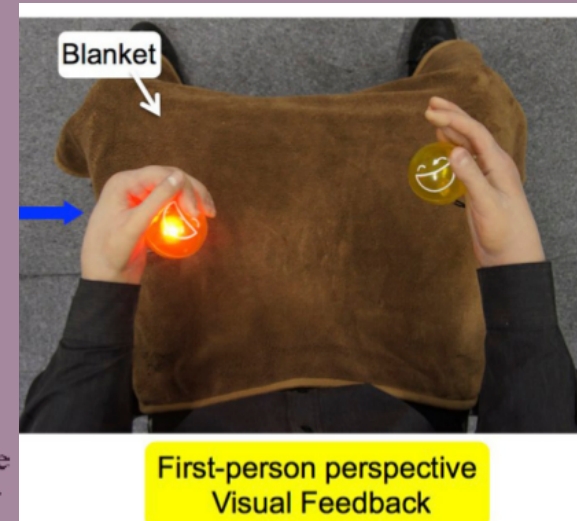
Immersive/ body ownership



J. Erp, F. Lotte, M. Tangermann, "Brain- Computer Interfaces: Beyond Medical Applications", Computer, vol. 45, no. 4, 2012



Ron-Angevin et al. Brain-computer interface: Changes in performance using virtual reality techniques, Neuroscience Letters 2008



Alimardani, Shuichi, and Hiroshi. "Effect of biased feedback on motor imagery learning in BCI-teleoperation system." Frontiers in systems neuroscience 8 (2014): 52

Performance increases with confidence/motivation

Reminder: Why use VR/AR with BCI?



Desired user states:

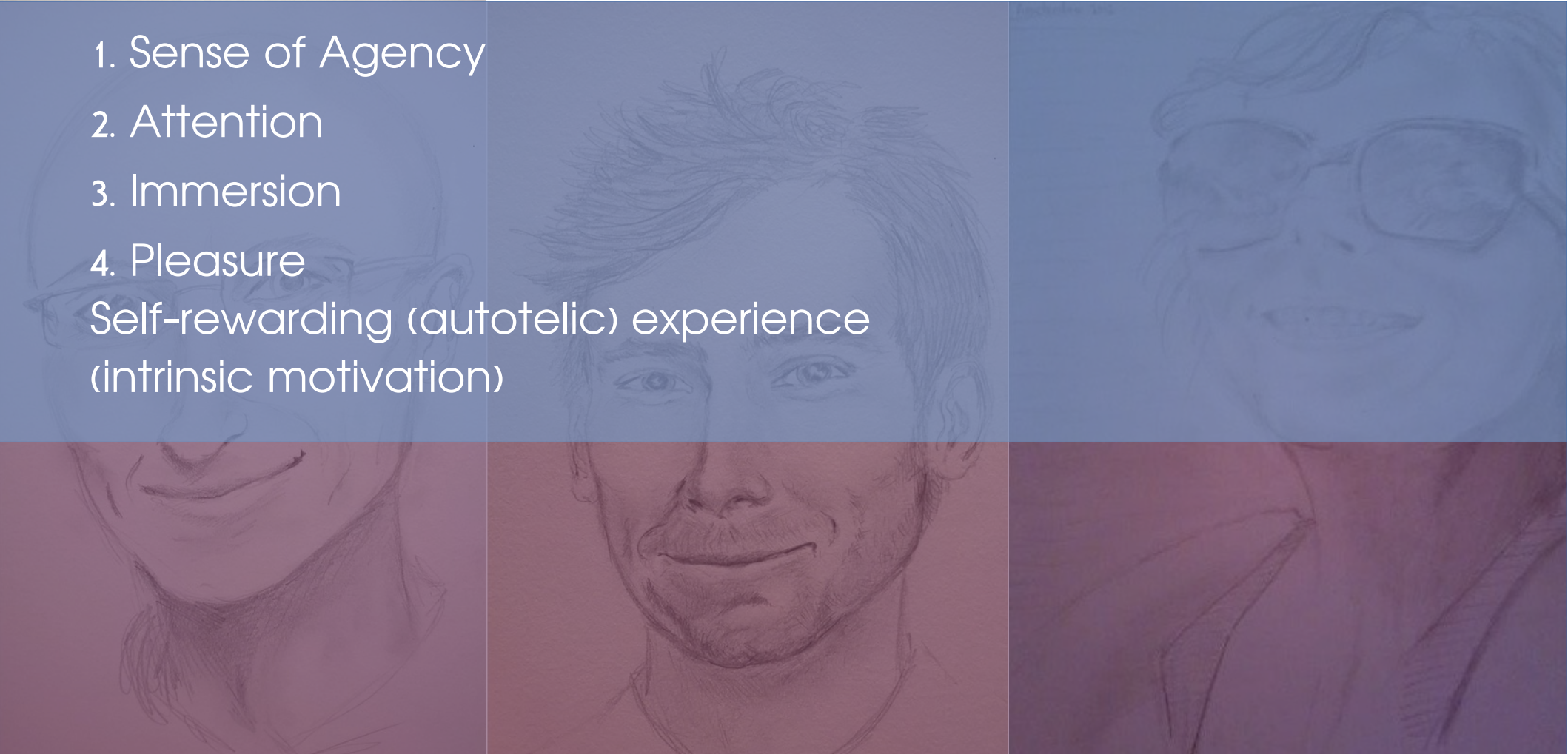
1. Sense of Agency

2. Attention

3. Immersion

4. Pleasure

Self-rewarding (autotelic) experience
(intrinsic motivation)



Optimal State?

1. Sense of Agency

2. Attention

3. Immersion

4. Pleasure

Self-rewarding (autotelic) experience
(intrinsic motivation)



Flow

FLOW



– Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi,
Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience

FLOW

“...It is when we act freely, for the sake of the action itself rather than for ulterior motives, that we learn to become more than what we were.”

playful content

– Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi,
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FLOW

“...It is when we act freely, for the sake of the action itself rather than for ulterior motives, that we learn to become more than what we were.”

“...the self expands through acts of self forgetfulness.”

– Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi,
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Immersive,
playful content

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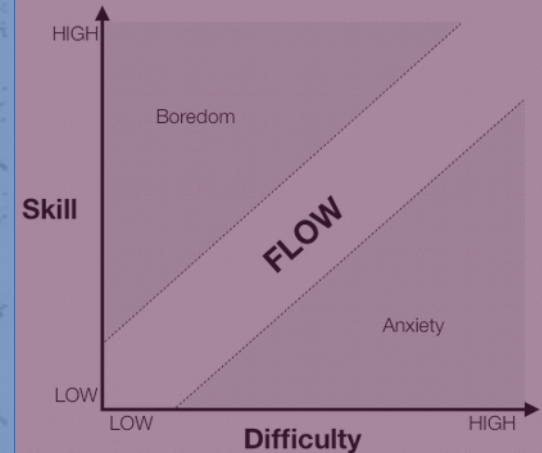
“...the self expands through acts of self forgetfulness.”

“Enjoyment appears at the boundary between boredom and anxiety, when the challenges are just balanced with the person’s capacity to act.”

– Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi,
Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience

Immersive,
playful content

Matching task
difficulty with skill



Reaching Sense of Agency

“It is not the skills we actually have that determine how we feel but the ones we think we have.”

1. Body-ownership illusion
2. Adaptive biased feedback

Experiment: Tux Flow

Jeremy Frey



14 participants



Engaging,
Playful environment

14 participants



Engaging,
Playful environment



Experiment: Tux Flow

Jeremy Frey



14 participants



Engaging,
Playful environment

Clear goals and
immediate feedback

14 participants



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Intrinsic + Extrinsic
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Online **adaptive**
task difficulty
(biased feedback)

Experiment: Tux Flow

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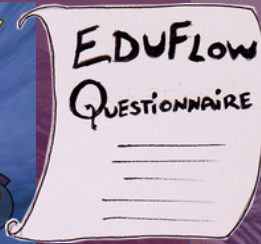
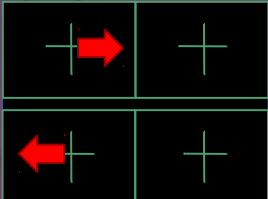
14 participants

Not Adapted
Feedback



~8min

6 x 3min



14 participants

Adapted
Feedback



Experiment: Tux Flow

Jeremy Frey



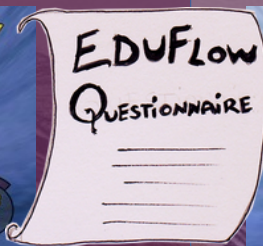
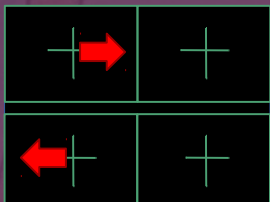
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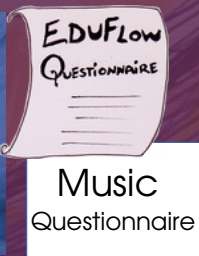
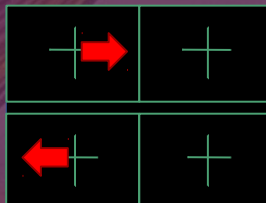
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Experiment: Tux Flow

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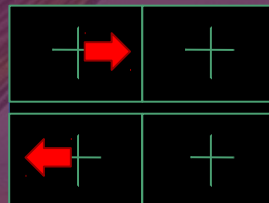
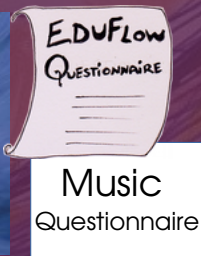
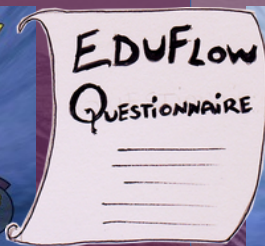
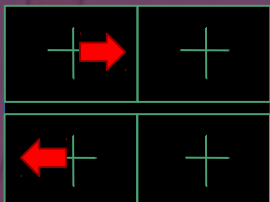
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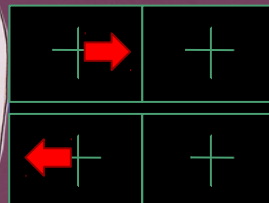
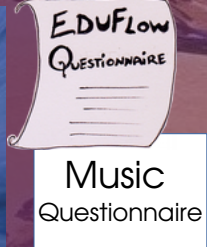
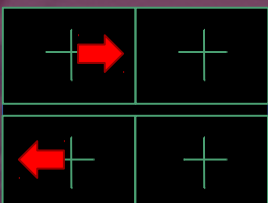
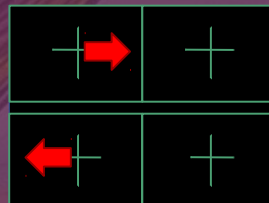
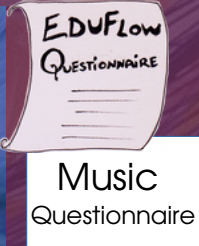
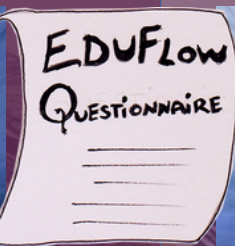
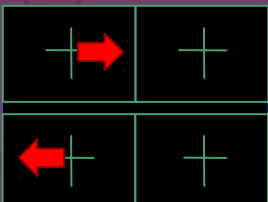


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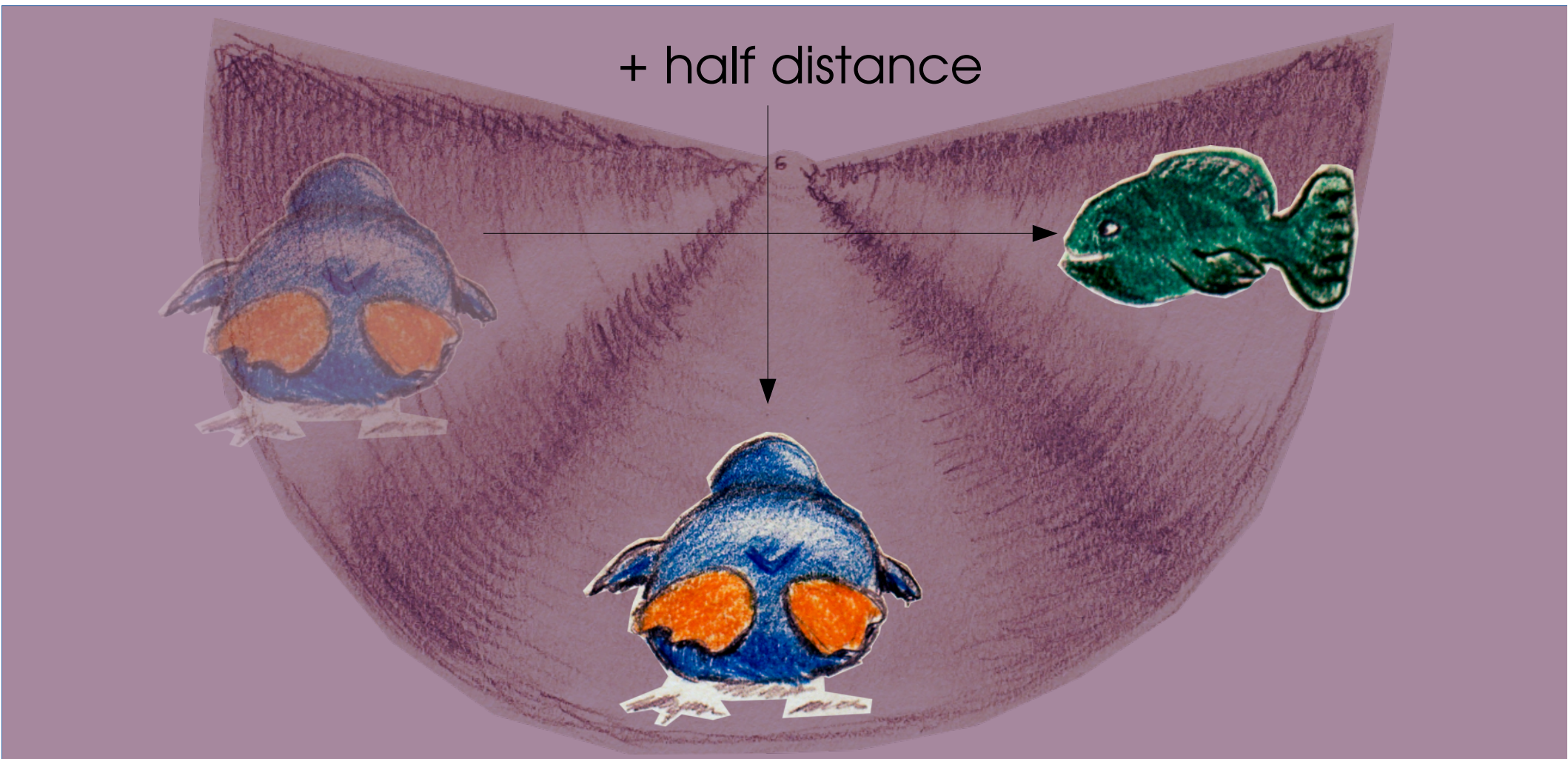
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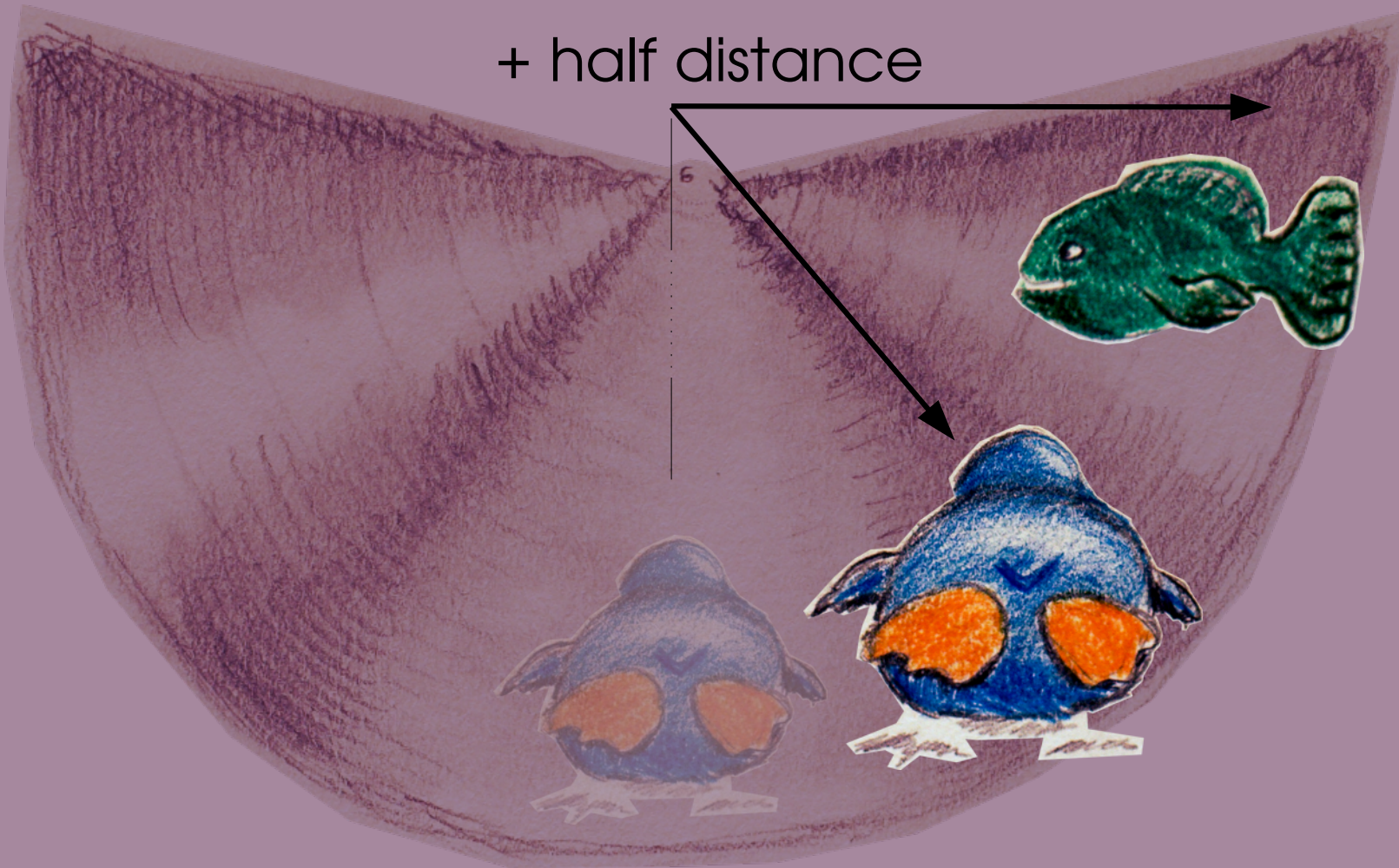
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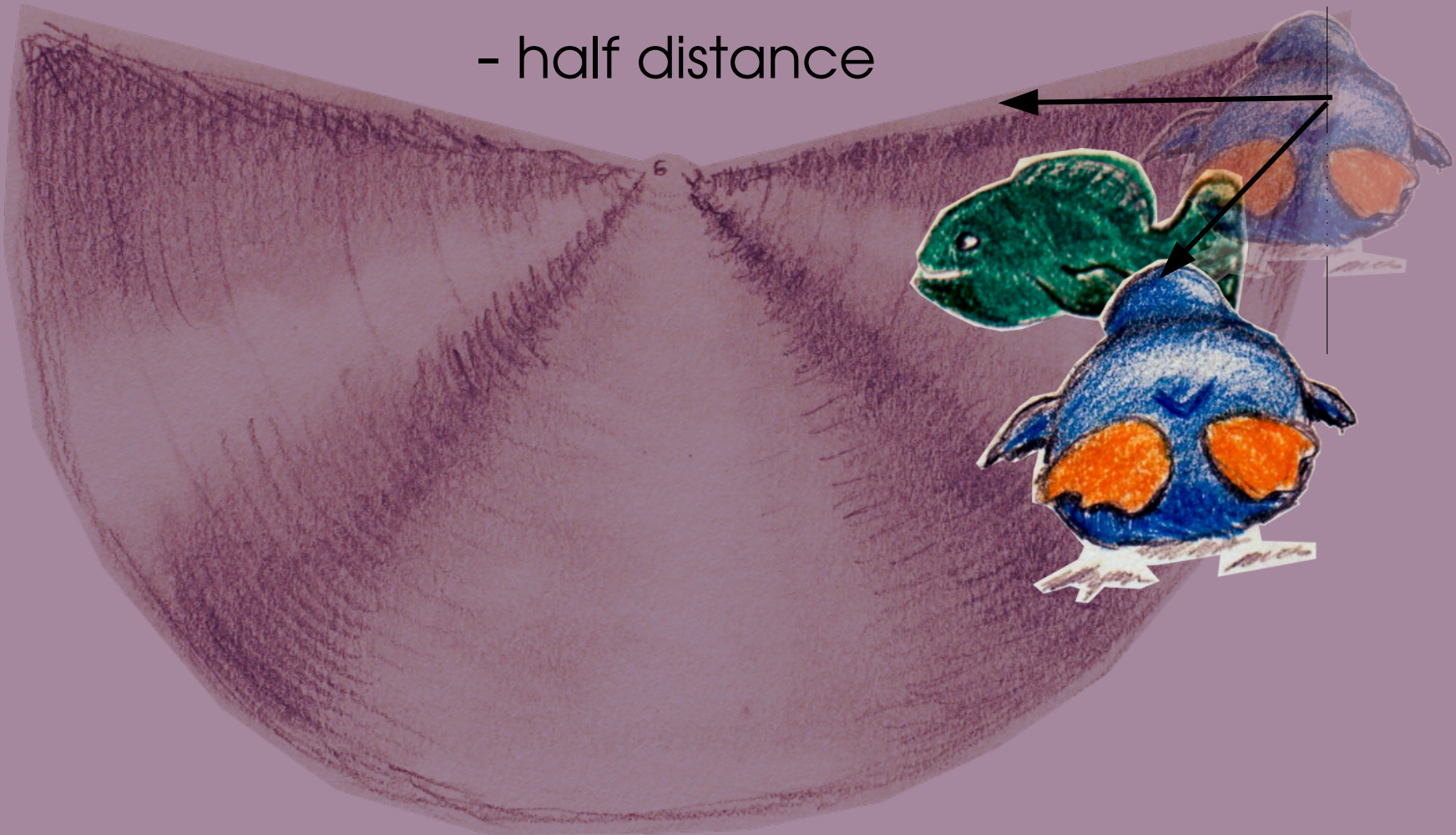
Biased Feedback (positive)



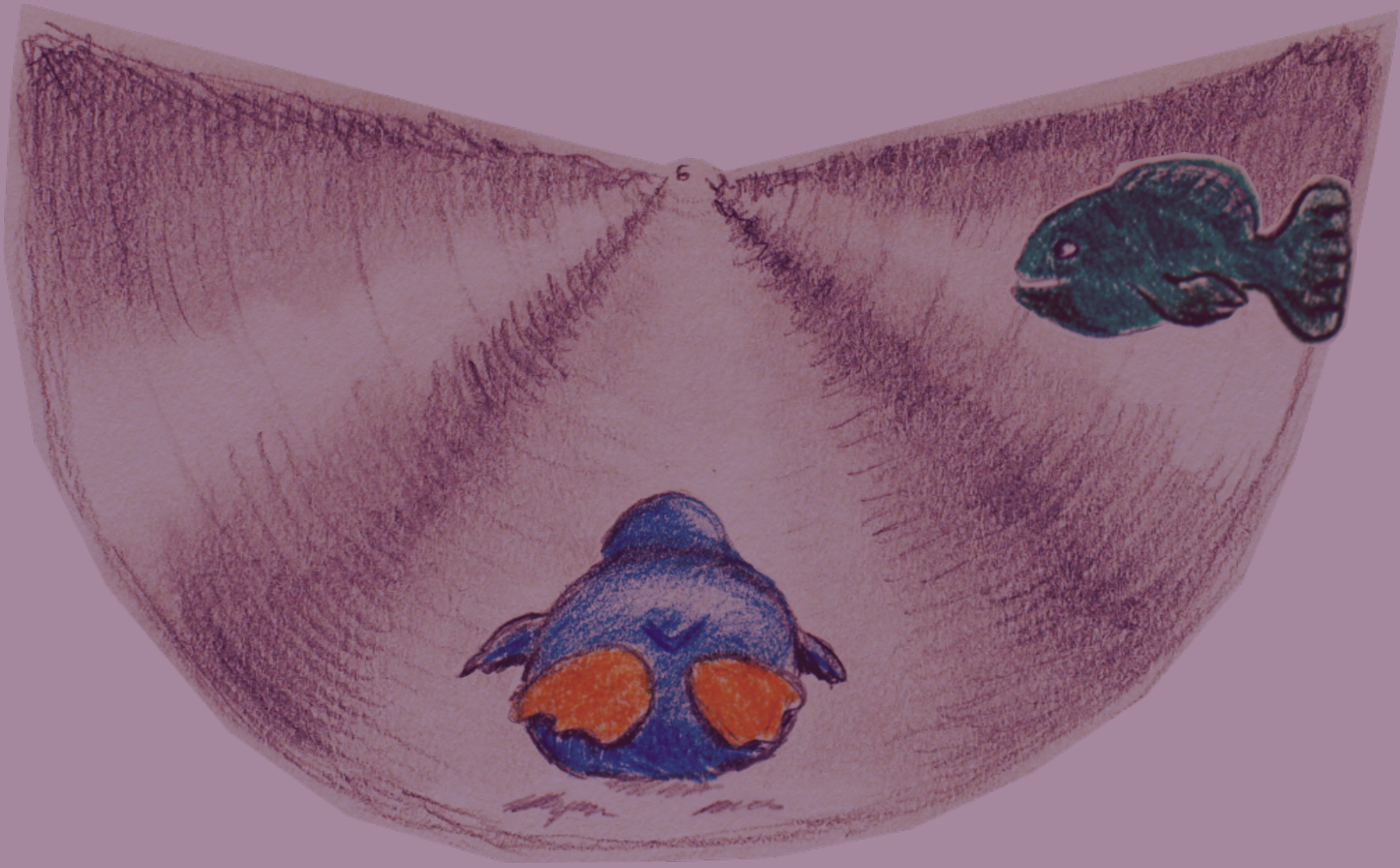
Biased Feedback (positive)



Biased Feedback (negative)



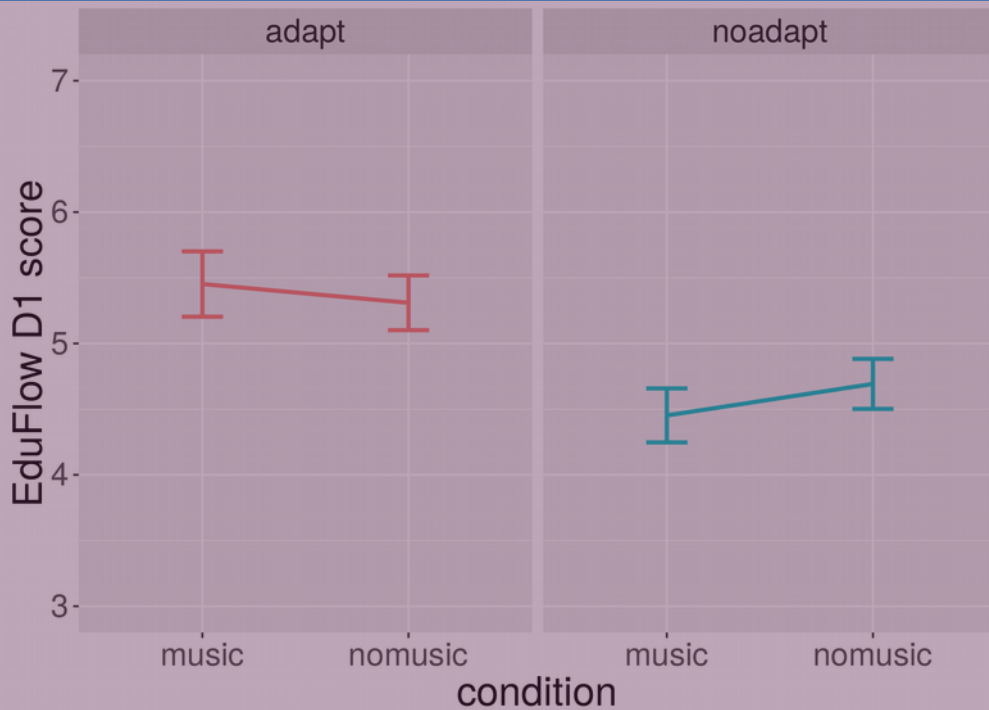
Video



Results

1. Participants felt more in flow in the adapt condition

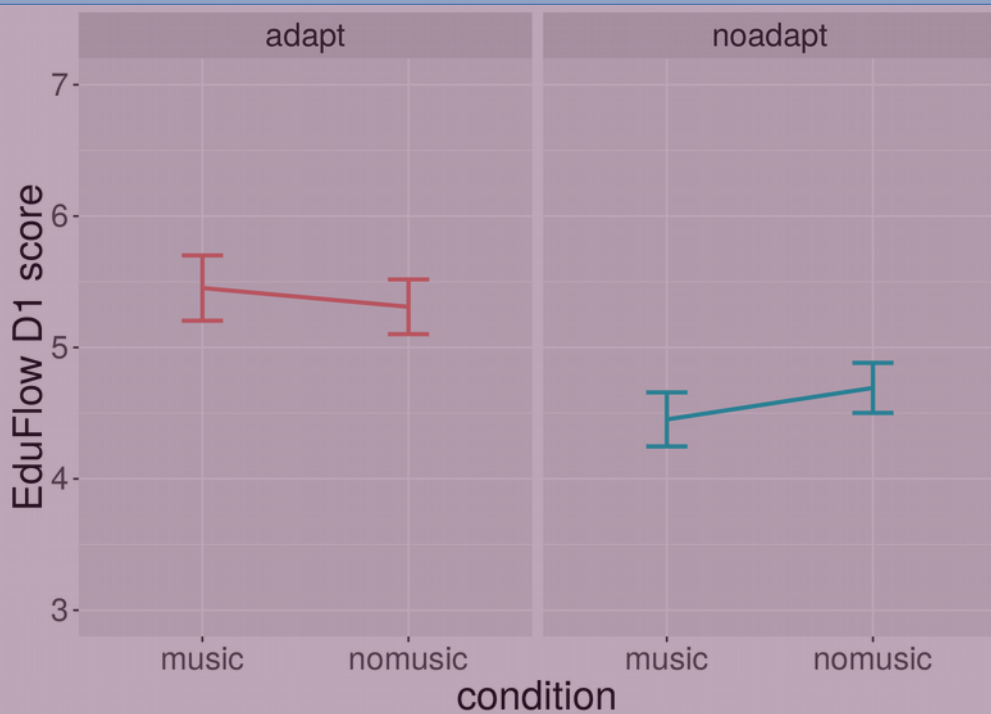
*Flow assessed with EduFlow Questionnaire (Heutte 2016)



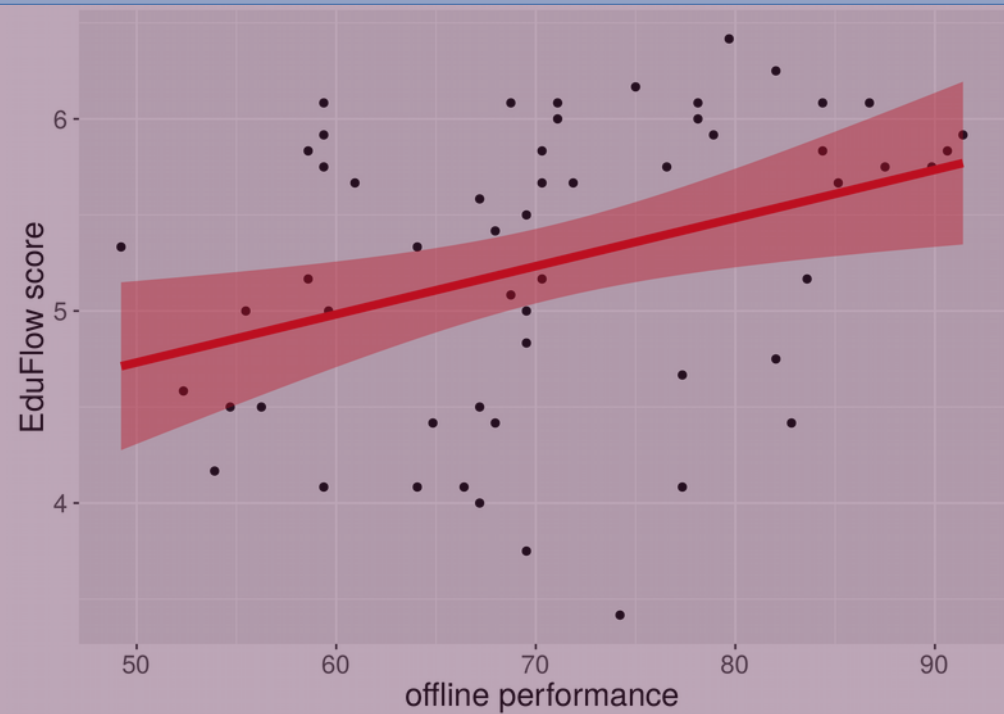
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2. Correlation between offline performance and flow state

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*Offline performance – k-fold cross-validation

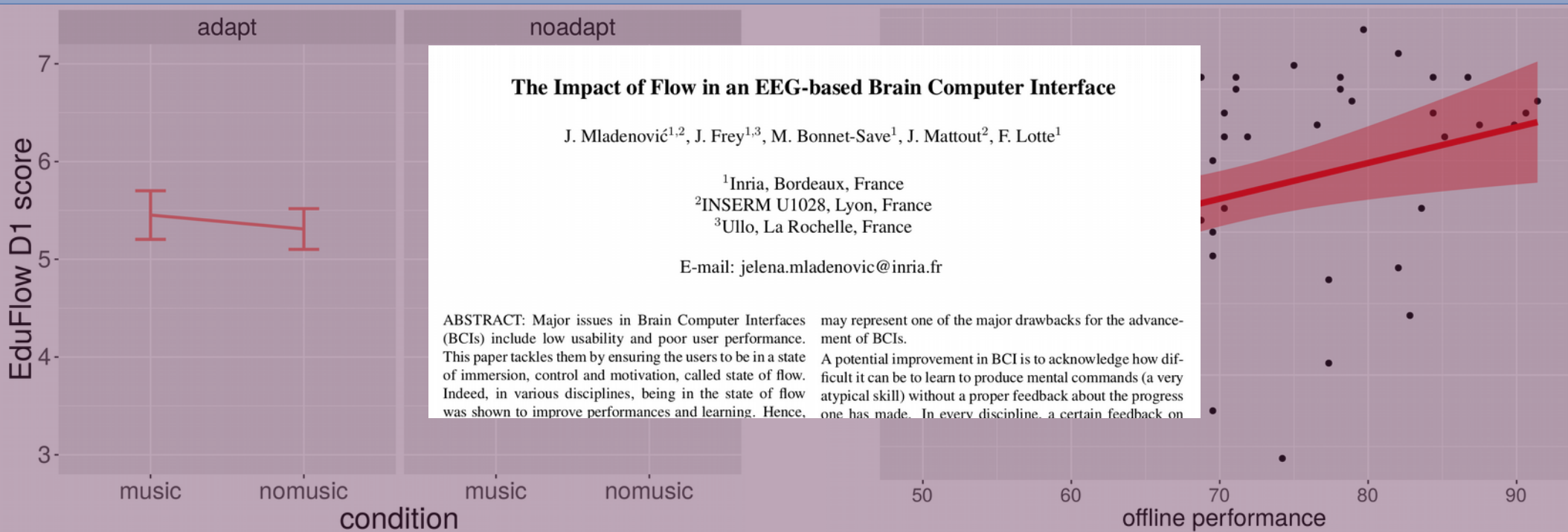


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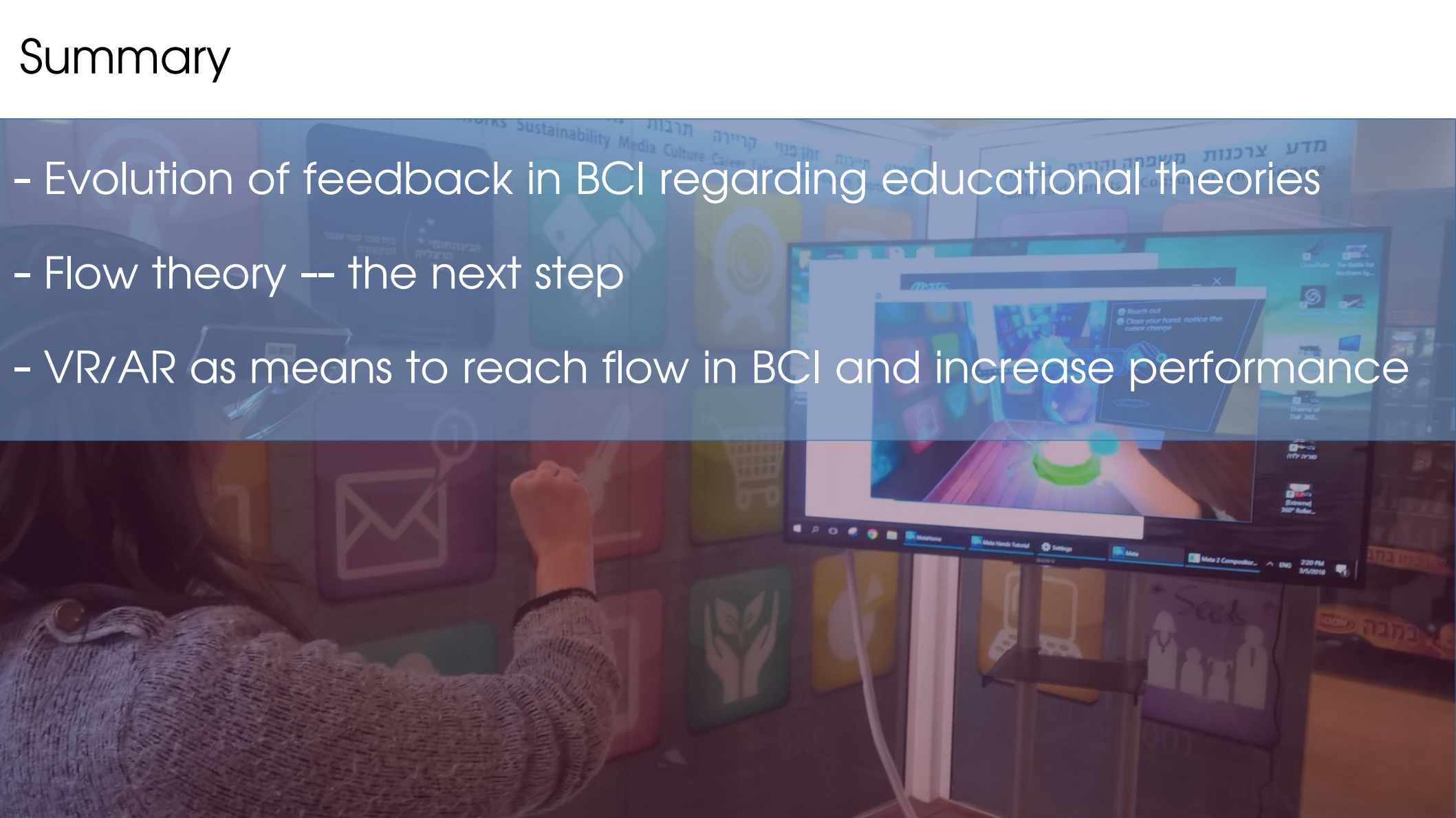
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Summary

- Evolution of feedback in BCI regarding educational theories
- Flow theory -- the next step
- VR/AR as means to reach flow in BCI and increase performance

A person is seen from the side, wearing a grey sweater, interacting with a large digital wall display. The wall is covered with various colorful icons and text in Hebrew. A computer monitor is positioned in front of the wall, displaying a VR/AR interface with a 3D environment and a list of instructions: 'Reach out', 'Clear your hand, notice the number change'. The background is a blurred image of the same scene.

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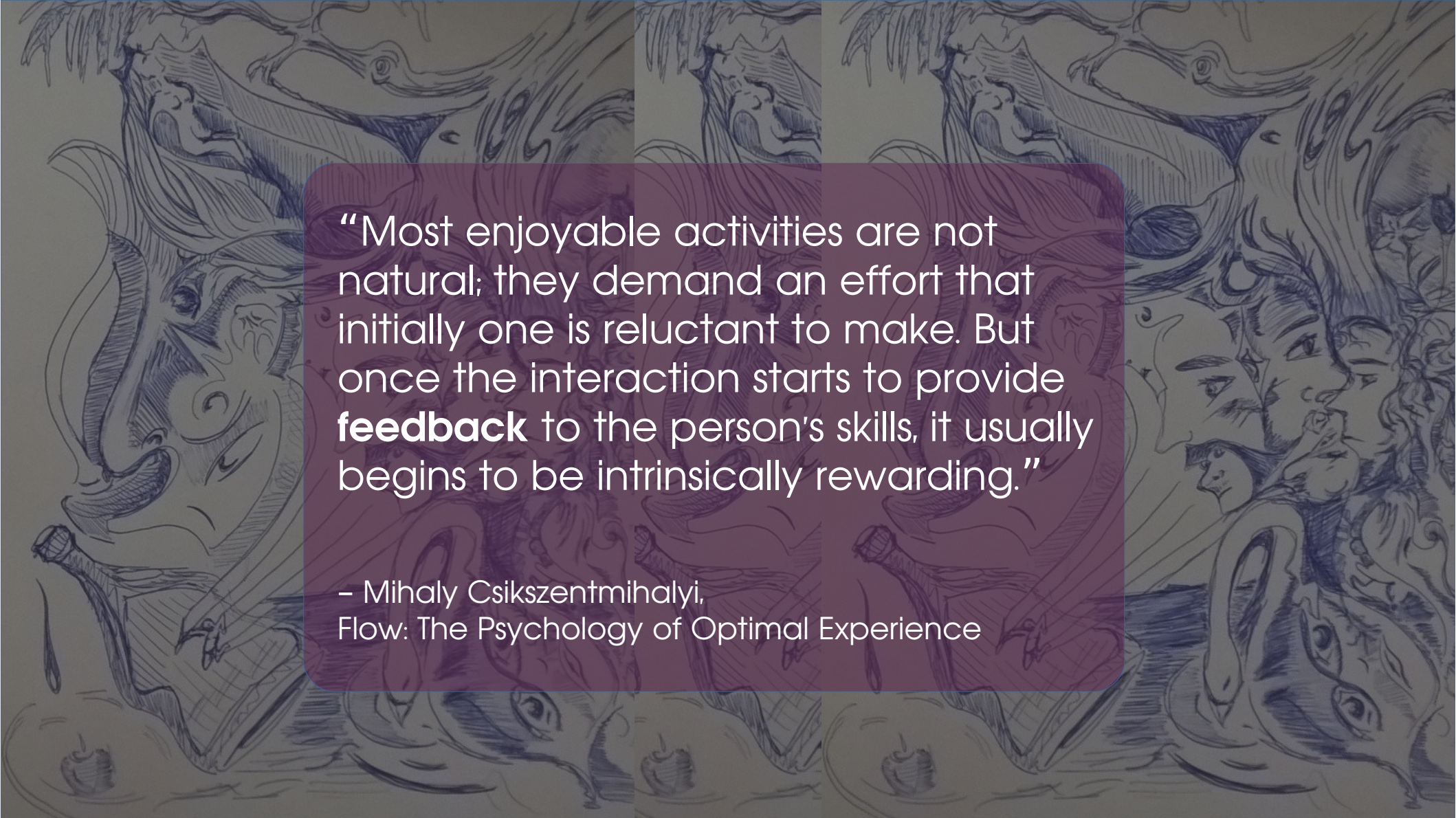
Doron Friedman,
AVR Lab

IDC Herziliya,
Israel

Fabien Lotte, Inria Bordeaux

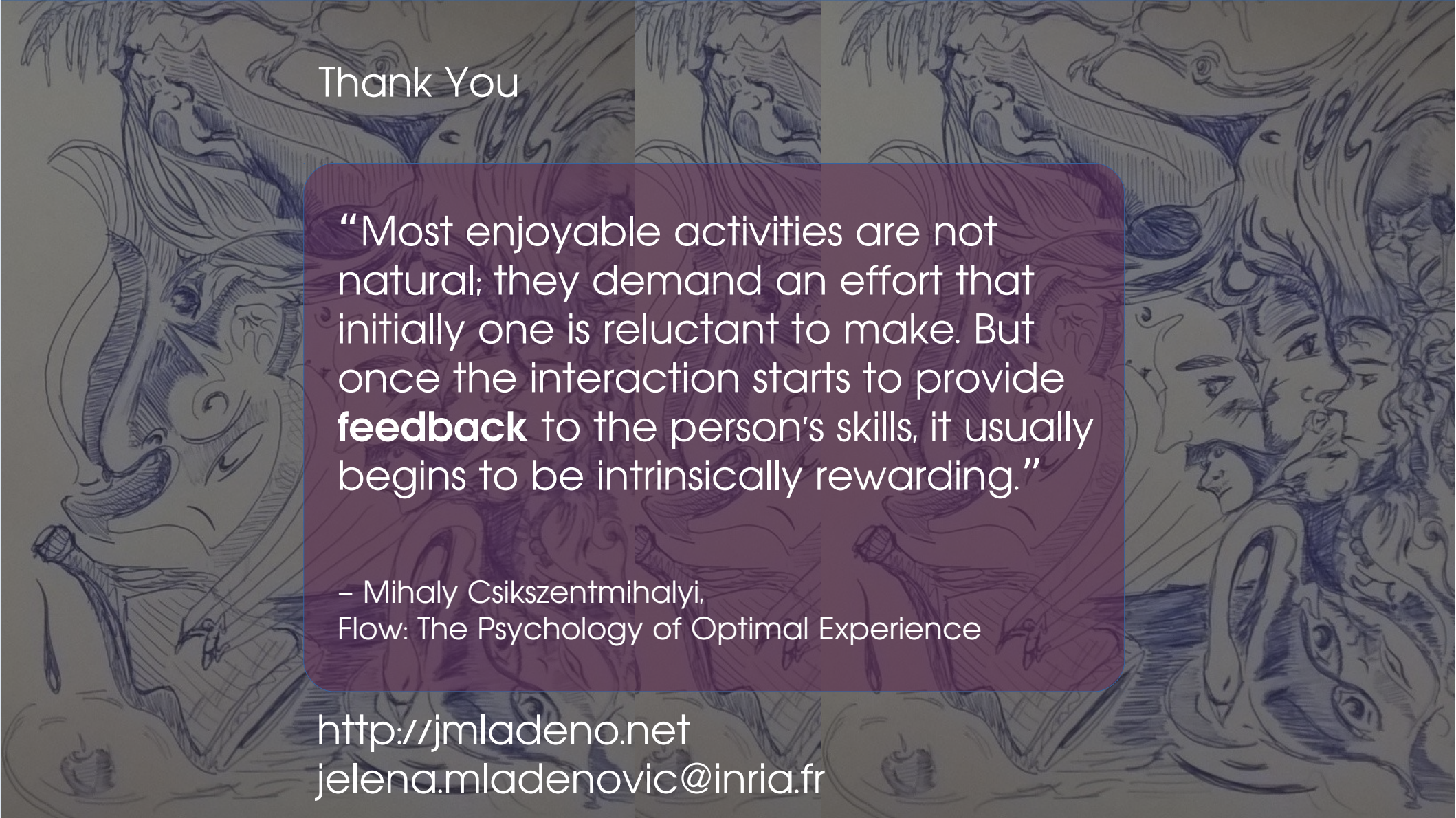
Jeremie Mattout, CRNL

Jeremy Frey, Ullo



“Most enjoyable activities are not natural; they demand an effort that initially one is reluctant to make. But once the interaction starts to provide **feedback** to the person's skills, it usually begins to be intrinsically rewarding.”

– Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi,
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Thank You

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<http://jmladenovic.net>
jelena.mladenovic@inria.fr

Appendix:

Methods and Materials

- 32 electrodes Brain Product;
- 2 class Motor Imagery BCI;
- CSP spatial filter;
- Probabilistic SVM classifier output modified in real-time providing biased feedback,
- 3 music songs
- Tux Racer, open source video game, being controlled by a virtual joystick connected to openvibe

NB. classifier accuracy presents user performance

Appendix:

Problem:

Not balanced groups. Non-adaptive group more advanced from the beginning than the adaptive group.

No corr between online perf and flow because of the diff of environments in train and test (graz and tux)

