Perception of Non-Linear Characteristics of Posture

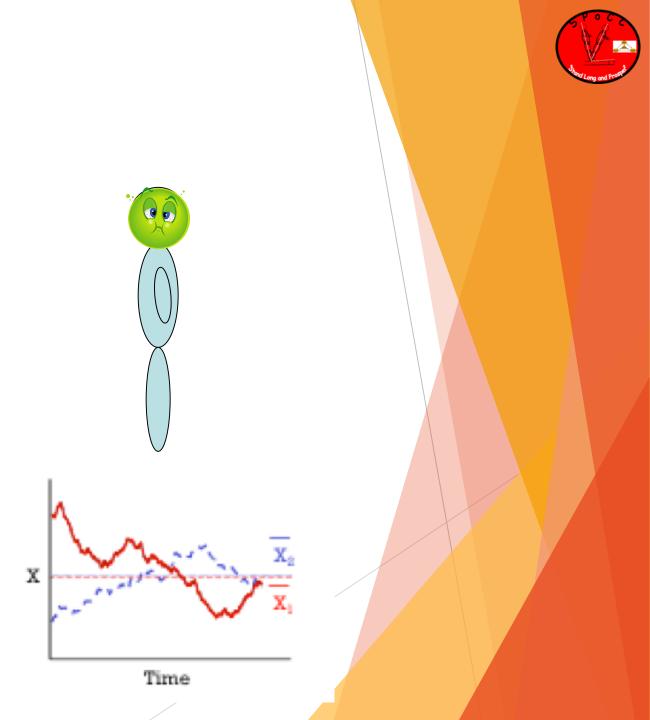


Dr. Jay Smart & Dr. Robin Thomas Department of Psychology Miami University



Moving to sickness

- Several studies over the past decade have shown that changes in postural motion both precede and can predict motion sickness in participants (Smart et al., 2014; Otten & Smart, 2009; Smart, Otten, & Stoffregen, 2007; Stoffregen & Smart, 1998).
- However, standard means of quantifying these data (e.g., variability, velocity, range) have yielded inconsistent relations with the behavioral changes observed.
- Nonlinear measures (e.g., Path length, elliptical area, Normalized Path length) have yielded better consistency, but still make errors in 'categorization'

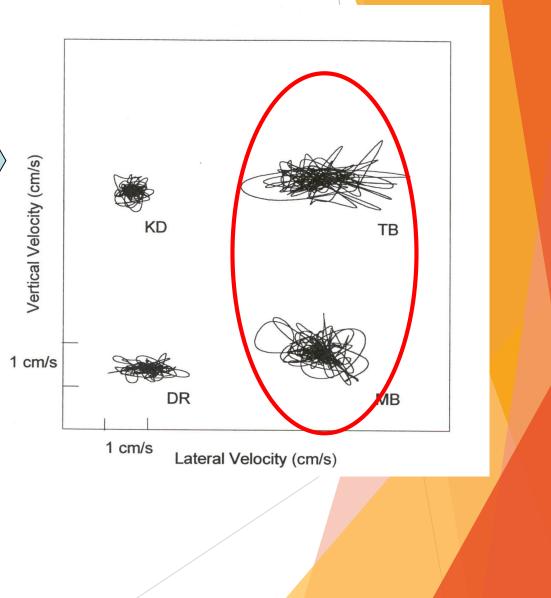




This is where we come in...

- An interesting phenomena that has been observed is that people have little problem distinguishing these behavioral changes.
- Which of these postural traces reflects people who became motion sick?

- If you said the ones on the right, you are correct!
- In fact in it has been shown that people's ability to identify "motion sickness" in a sorting task is on par with statistical predictions (86% - c.f., Braun, 2012)
- Interestingly the errors made by the statistical 'models' and people are similar





The Question...

Are people perceiving the same structures or traits that the quantitative analyses are using to make predictions/classifications?

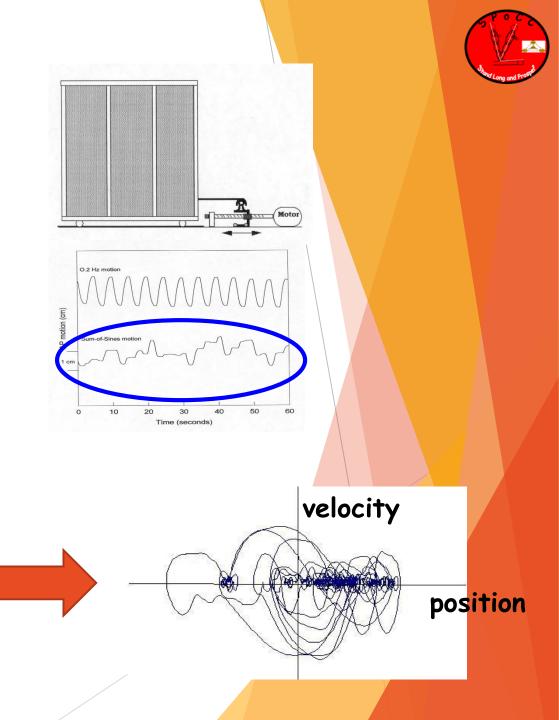




The task

- Using data from Stoffregen & Smart (1998) and Smart, Stoffregen, & Bardy (2002):
 - 74 postural motion phase plots (AP position vs. AP velocity) were created.
 - Each plot represents 10 min* of motion data while being exposed to complex optic flow
 - Participants were not told what the plots represented* and the axes were not labeled
 - Phase plots were printed on 3" x 5" index cards
 - Participants were told to sort cards based on "similarity"*



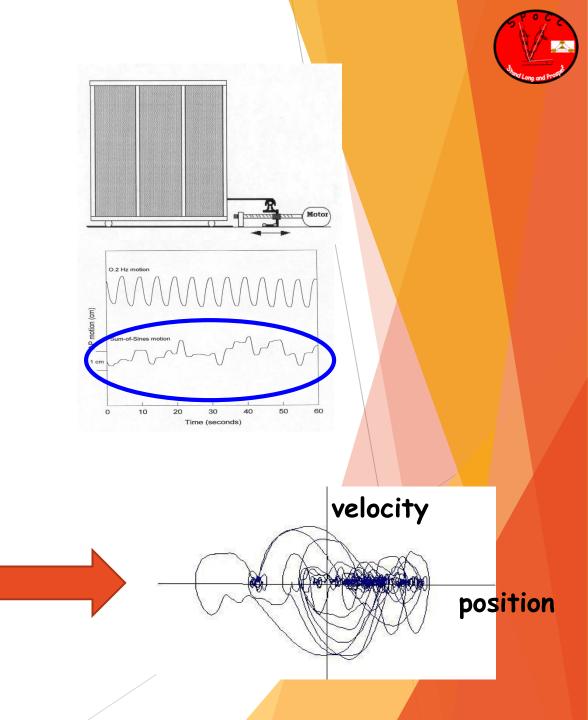




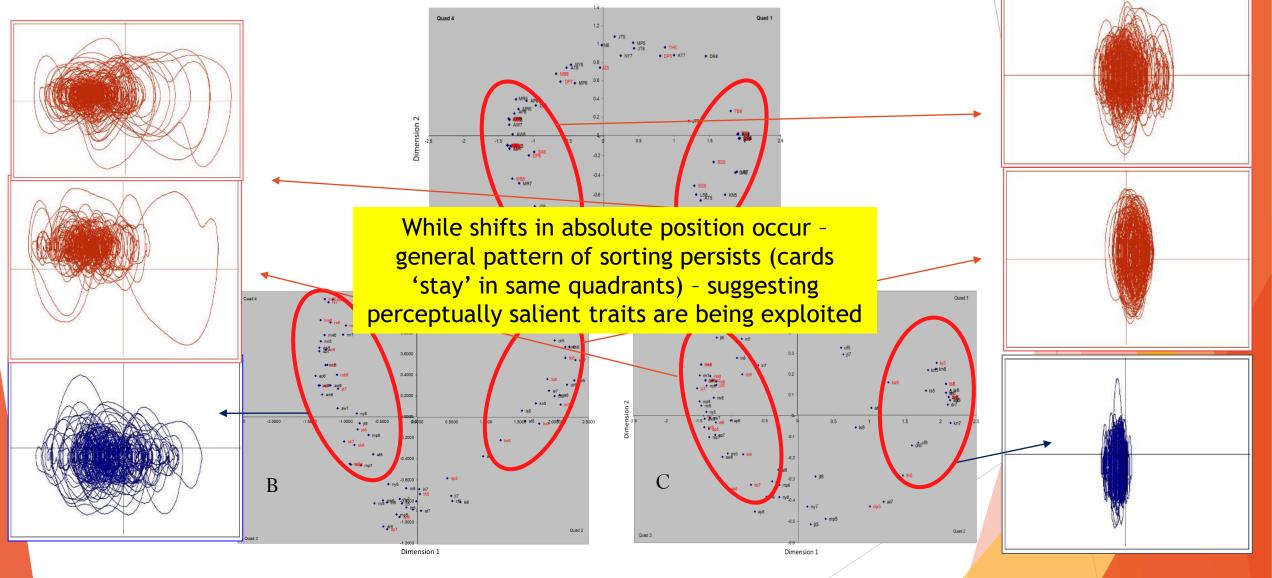
The Measures

- Using measures from Smart, Otten, Strang, Littman, & Cook (2014):
 - **Hurst Exponent measure of 'self-similarity' across timescale
 - **Sample Entropy** measure of temporal stability
 - > Path Length measure of sway extent
 - Path Length Normalized measure of spatial complexity
 - Elliptical Area measure of sway magnitude





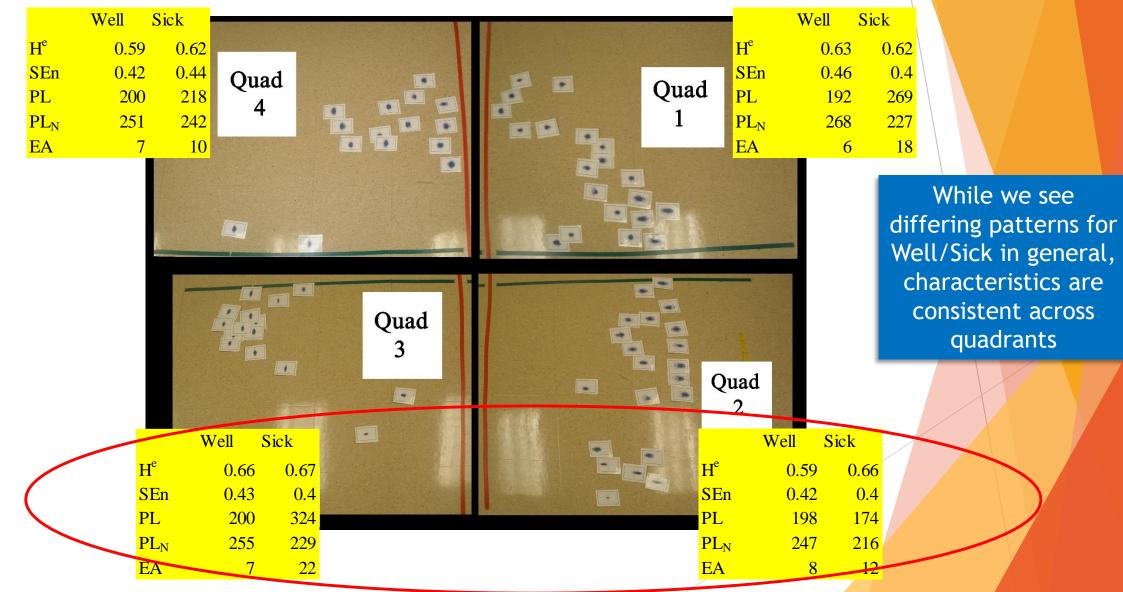
The Data - Overview

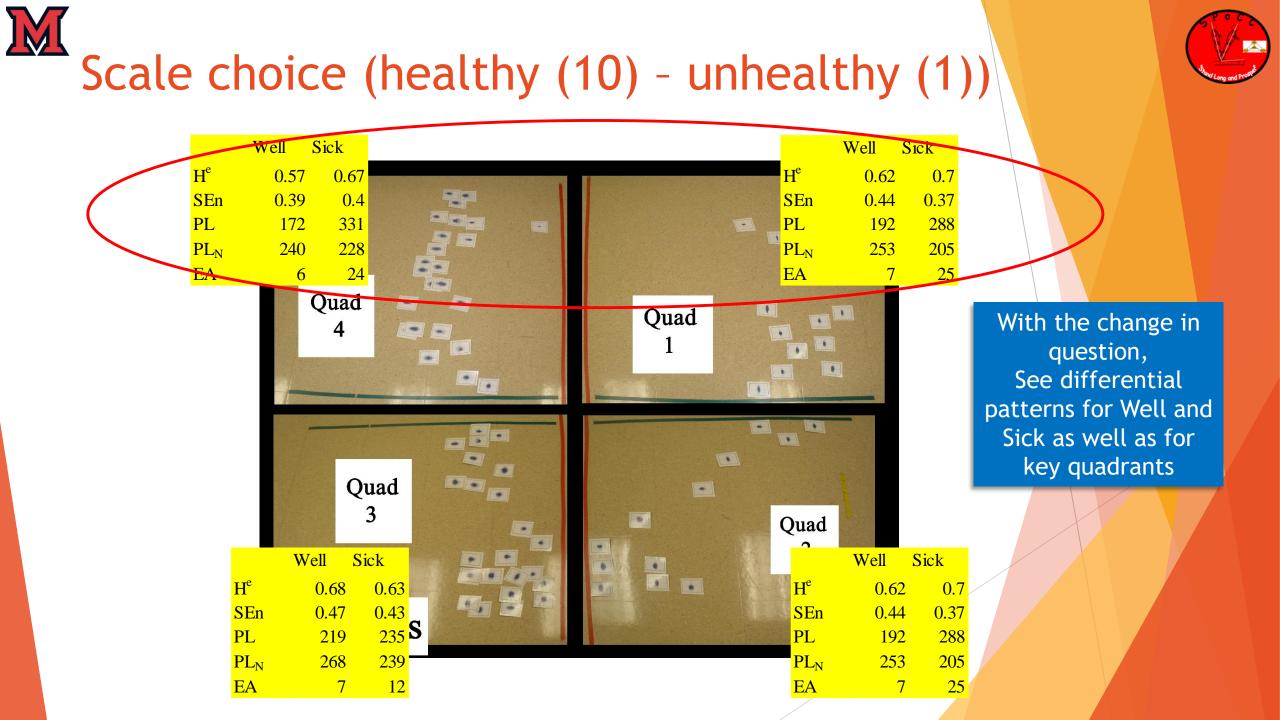


A- Free "choice", B - Scale Choice, C - Binary Choice



Free Choice (based on similarity)





Binary choice (healthy/unhealthy) Sick Sick Well Well H^e 0.59 0.62 0.66 H^e 0.66 **SEn** 0.41 0.38 **SEn** 0.44 0.37 Quad PL PL 179 316 192 229 247 218 254 **PL**_N **PL**_N 211 6 23 EA 7 17 FΑ ... With the forced Quad . choice, we see further differentiation . between Well/Sick ... and key quadrants Quad 3 . . Sick Well Sick Well H^e H^e 0.66 0.61 0.65 0.65 **SEn SEn** 0.43 0.45 0.44 0.47 PL PL 212 264 209 201 253 PL_N 260 251 PL_N 260 7 EA 13 EA 8 8



So what can we say...

- Across three samples of participants and different sorting instructions, people were fairly consistent in how they categorized the stimuli.
- At the tails of the distributions, the stimuli had high magnitude (PL, EA) motion coupled with persistent strategies (H^e, SEn)
- What seemed to determine which extreme the stimuli were placed was the spatial complexity (PL_N)
- In short, while complex, these non-linear changes across stimuli are both perceivable and usable.
- Our next step is to try to develop a model incorporating the perceptual measure with the quantitative measures.

