



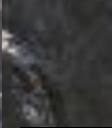
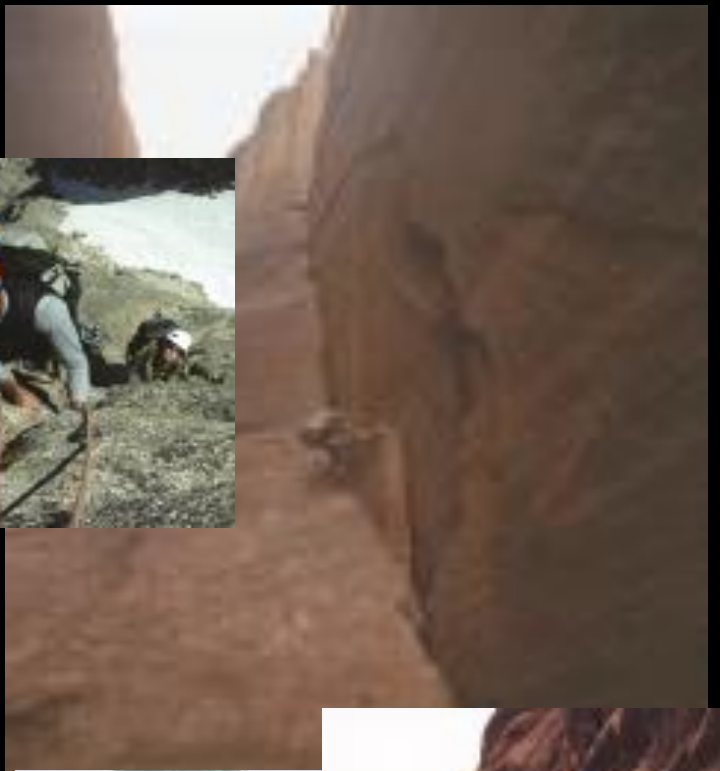
# Hold design supports learning and transfer of climbing fluency

2<sup>nd</sup> International rock climbing conference,  
Pontresina, 16<sup>th</sup> Sep 2014

Dominic Orth,  
Keith Davids &  
Ludovic Seifert



# Climbing constraints



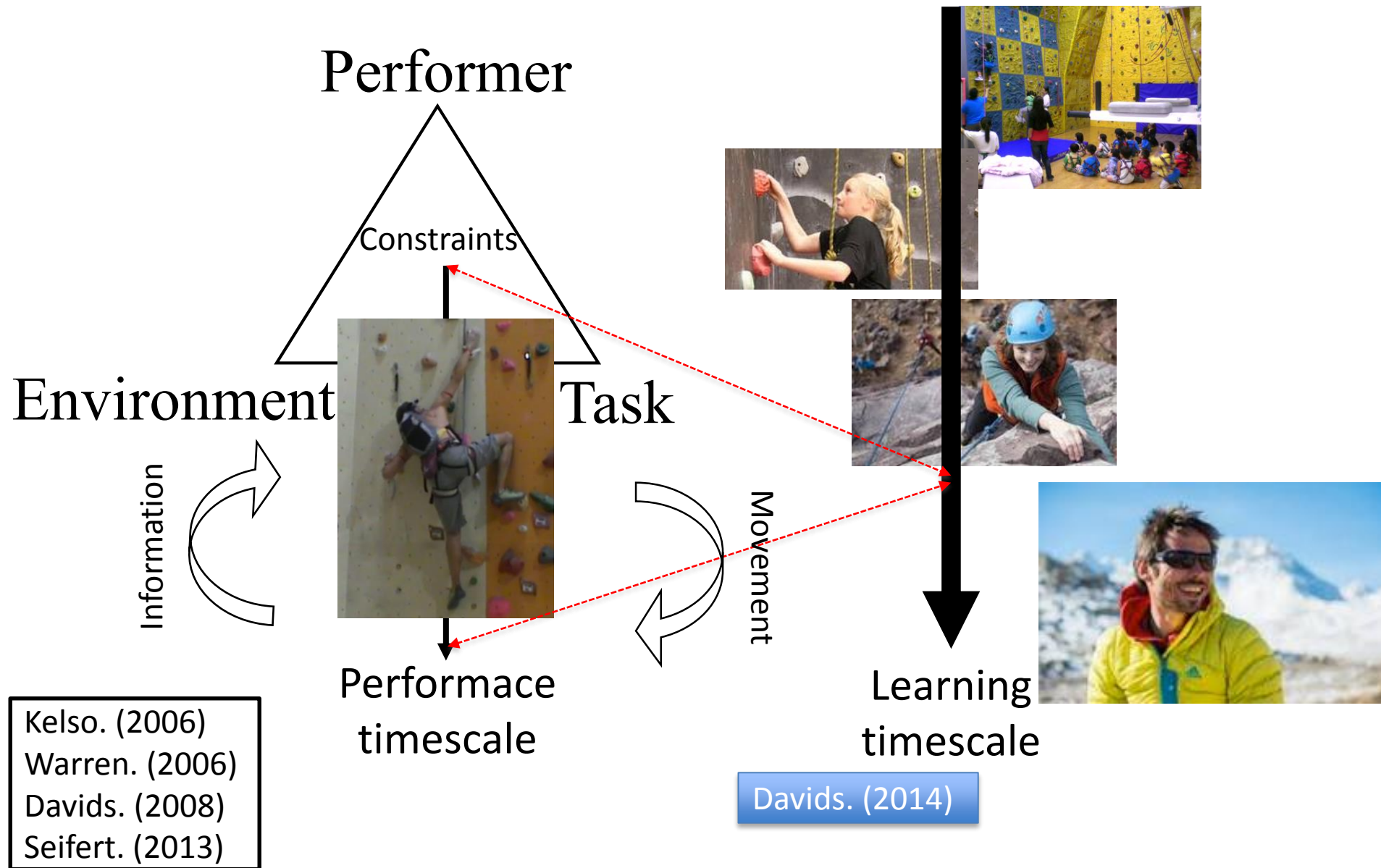
Environment



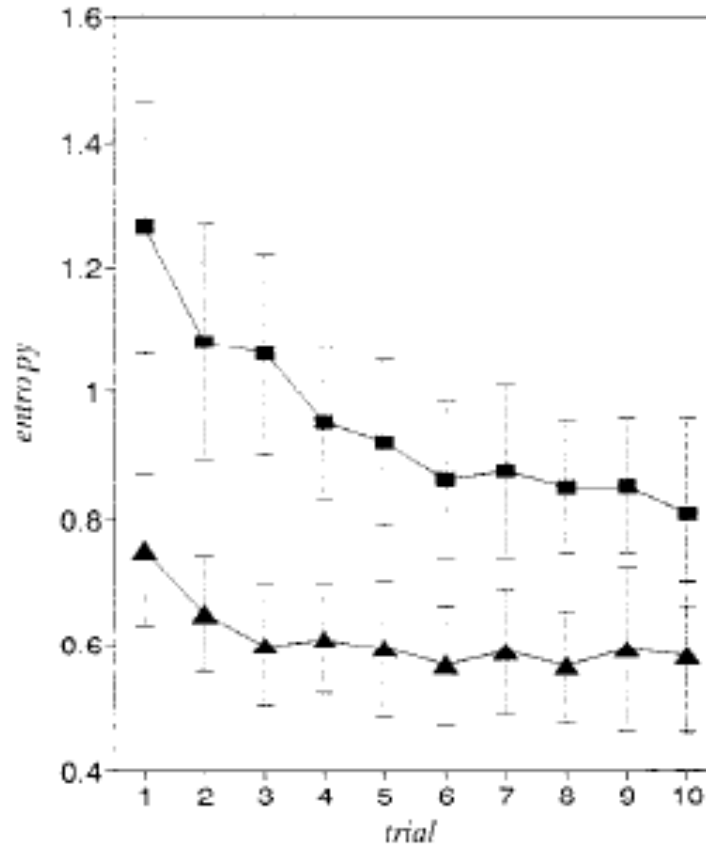
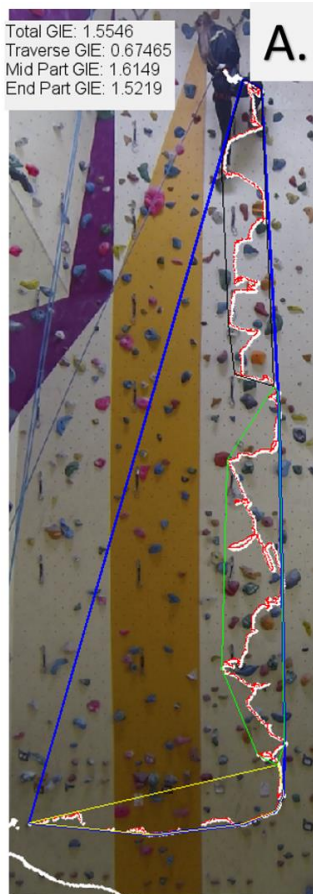
Task



# Skill in climbing: Complexity approach



# Skill in climbing: A rapid adaptation to the constraints on performance



■ S1 = non-expert  
 ▲ S2 = expert

Fig. 3  
 MEAN ENTROPY AND  
 STANDARD DEVIATION  
 OF LEARNING TRAJECTORIES

Geometric index of entropy =  $\log_2(2 \text{Distance} / \text{convex hull}) / \log_2$

Cordier. (1994)

Cordier. (1993)  
 Cordier. (1994)  
 Cordier. (1996)

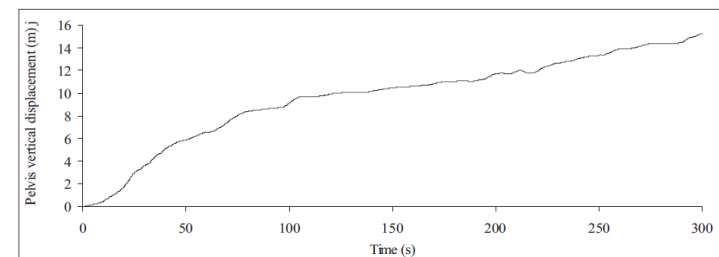
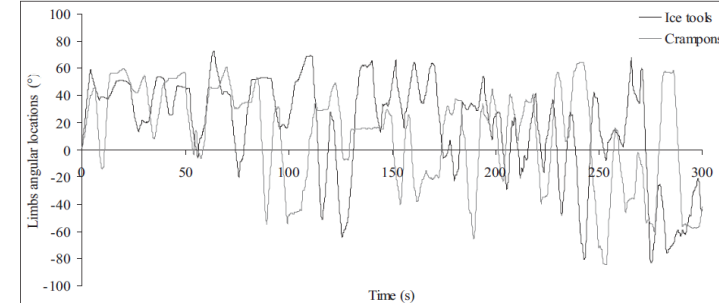
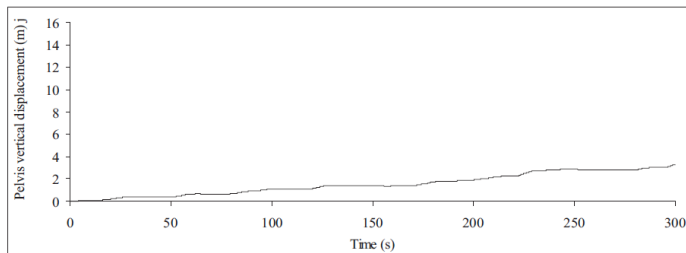
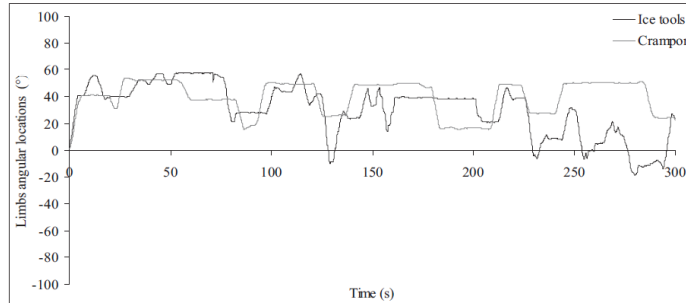
# Transfer of skill in climbing

Experience influences the ability of individuals to detect and use affordances for fluent traversal

Unexperienced climbers  
(<10hs) climbing an ice fall

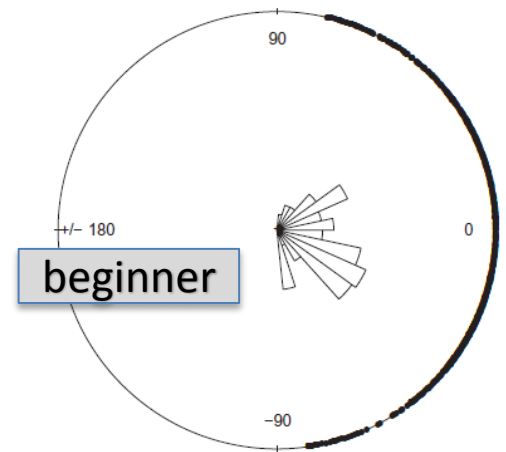
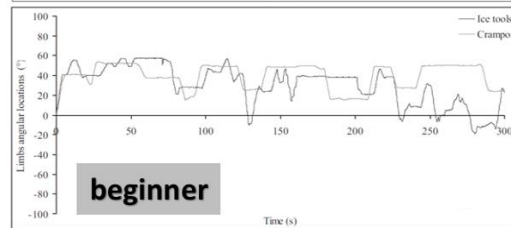
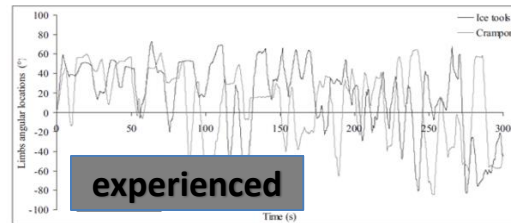
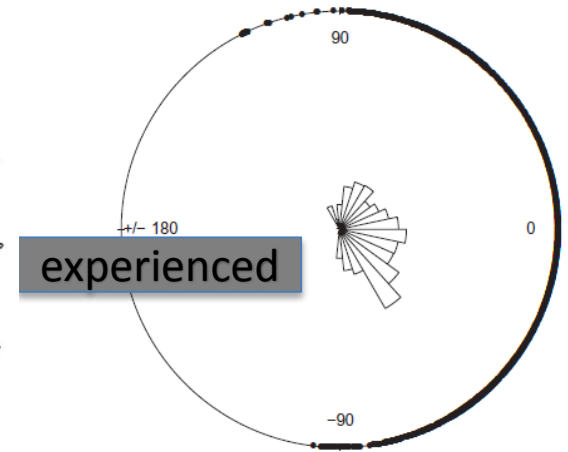
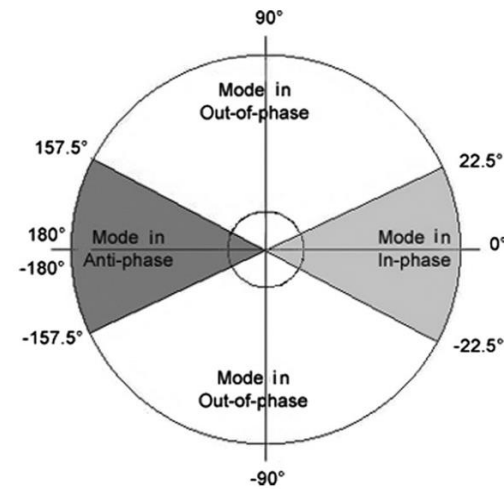
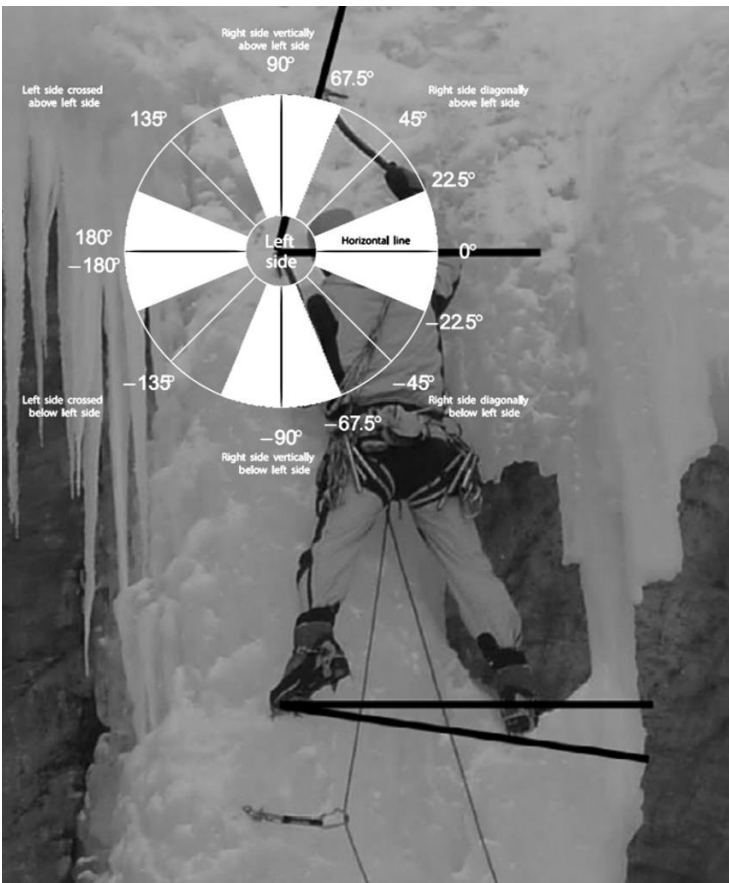
Experienced indoor  
climbers (~3yrs) climbing an  
ice fall

No  
experience  
on ice-falls



Seifert. (2013)

# Skill differences in climbing: Different movement patterns available built up through experience



## Interventions related to affordances in climbing

Different techniques can improve fluency

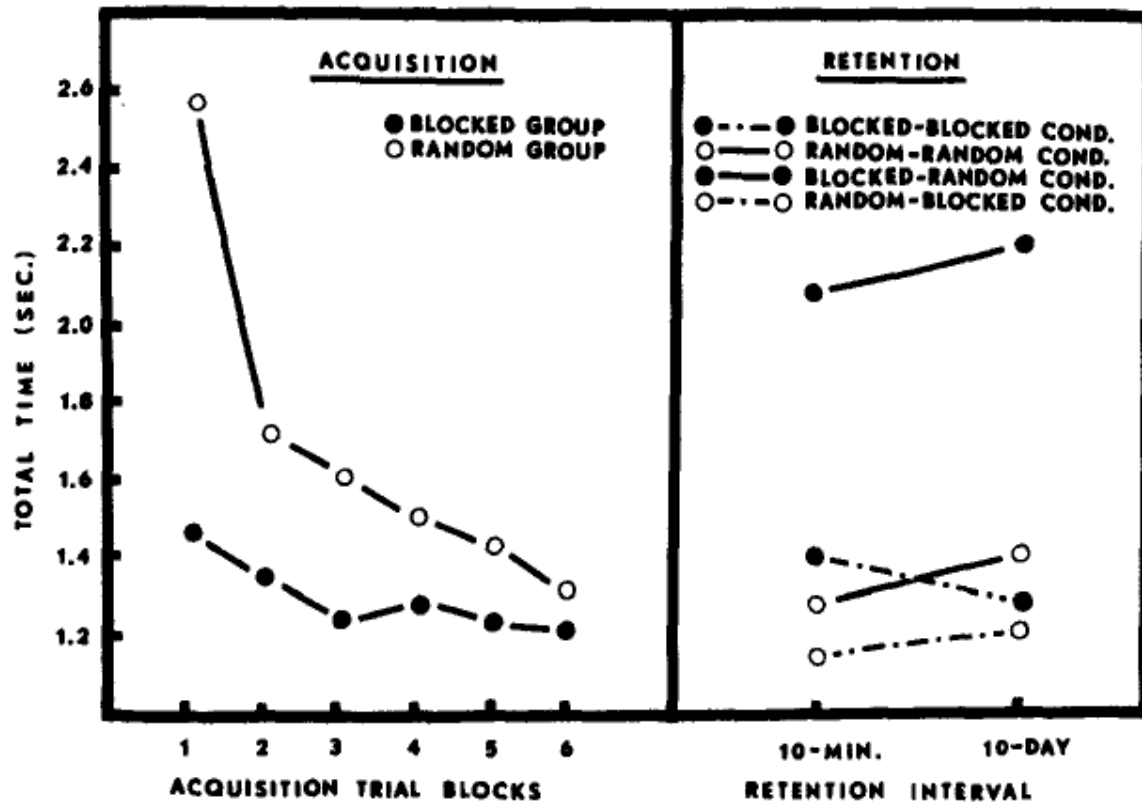
Nature of the constraints determine whether they are used

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GROUPS\* IN CLIMBING DURATION (SEC.) AND GEOMETRIC ENTROPY OF THE ROUTE'S MIDDLE SECTION

	Climb 1		Climb 2		Climb 3		Climb 4		Climb 5	
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD
Climbing Duration										
Arm Crossing	25.0	21.7	12.3	6.5 <sup>a</sup>	16.4	19.0 <sup>a</sup>	11.4	8.9 <sup>a</sup>	13.0	9.2
Dual Grasping	43.3	33.7	25.3	13.5 <sup>b</sup>	22.6	7.6 <sup>b</sup>	23.4	9.3 <sup>b</sup>	15.5	5.7
Control	19.7	1.9	25.8	12.4 <sup>b</sup>	21.6	4.9 <sup>b</sup>	23.6	7.4 <sup>b</sup>	19.7	7.5
Geometric Entropy										
Arm Crossing	0.77	0.39 <sup>a</sup>	0.47	0.18 <sup>a</sup>	0.57	0.38 <sup>a</sup>	0.41	0.23 <sup>a</sup>	0.57	0.34
Dual Grasping	1.46	0.66 <sup>b</sup>	0.96	0.40 <sup>b</sup>	1.05	0.32 <sup>b</sup>	0.92	0.40 <sup>b</sup>	0.69	0.20
Control	0.70	0.17 <sup>a</sup>	0.92	0.22 <sup>b</sup>	0.75	0.22 <sup>b</sup>	0.81	0.21 <sup>b</sup>	0.67	0.21

\*Arm Crossing, Dual Grasping, Control. <sup>a,b</sup>Significant performance differences between groups for each measure and climb are indicated by different superscripts ( $p < .05$ ).

# Variability during practice promotes retention and transfer through a more extensive exploration of affordances



Shea. (1979)

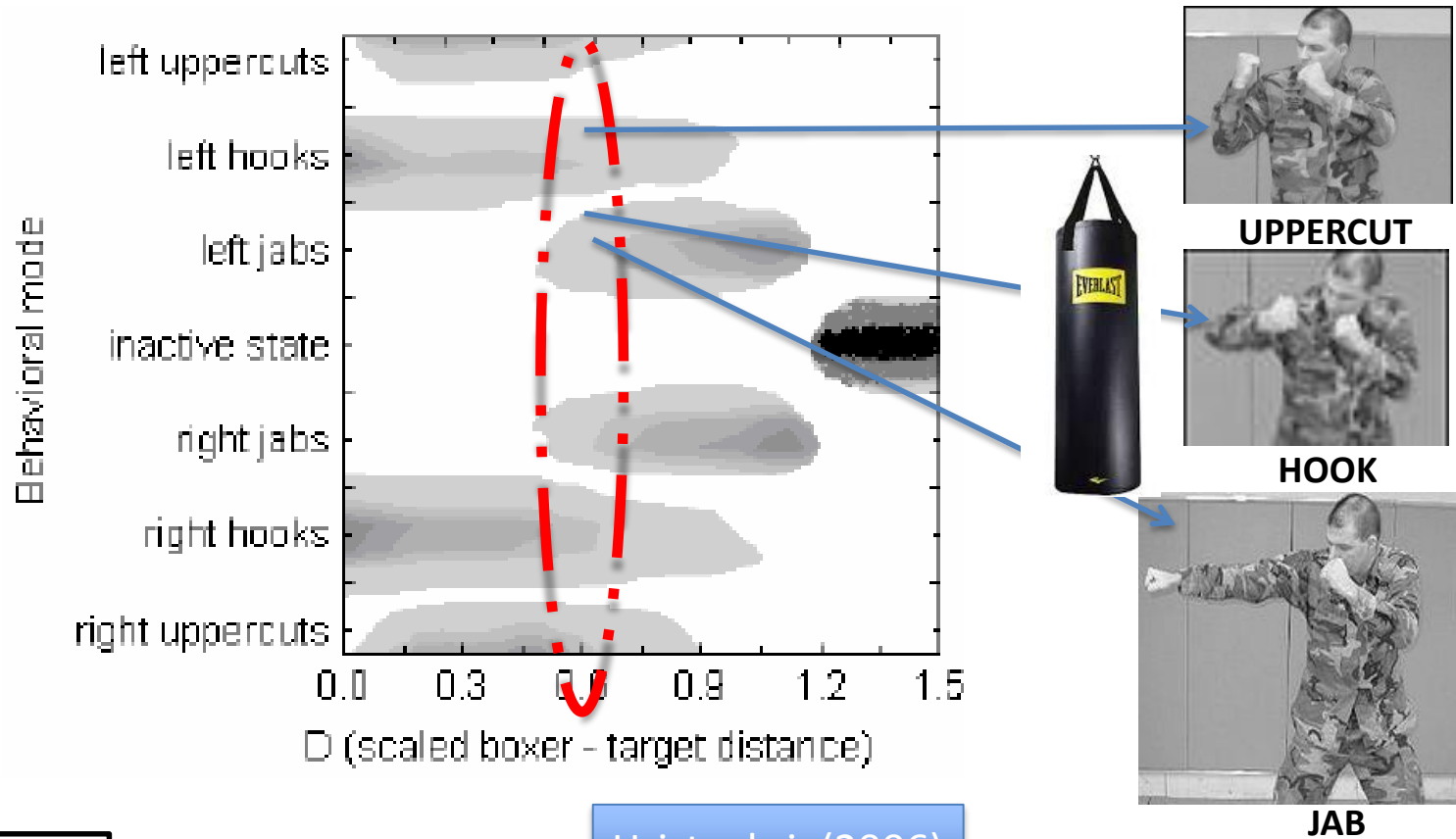
## Mechanisms

- New and better solutions
- Requires adaptation
- Context specific

Guadagnoli. (2004)  
Schollhorn. (2009)  
Chow. (2013)



# Induce exploration of affordances



Hristovksi. (2006)

- Hristovksi. (2011)
- Pinder. (2011)
- Chow. (2011)
- Kelso. (2012)





## Research question: *Role of technique variation in learning design for practicing climbing skills*

- Does possibility of practice of different climbing actions improve learning and transfer of skill?

2 Global patterns of climbing can be discriminated

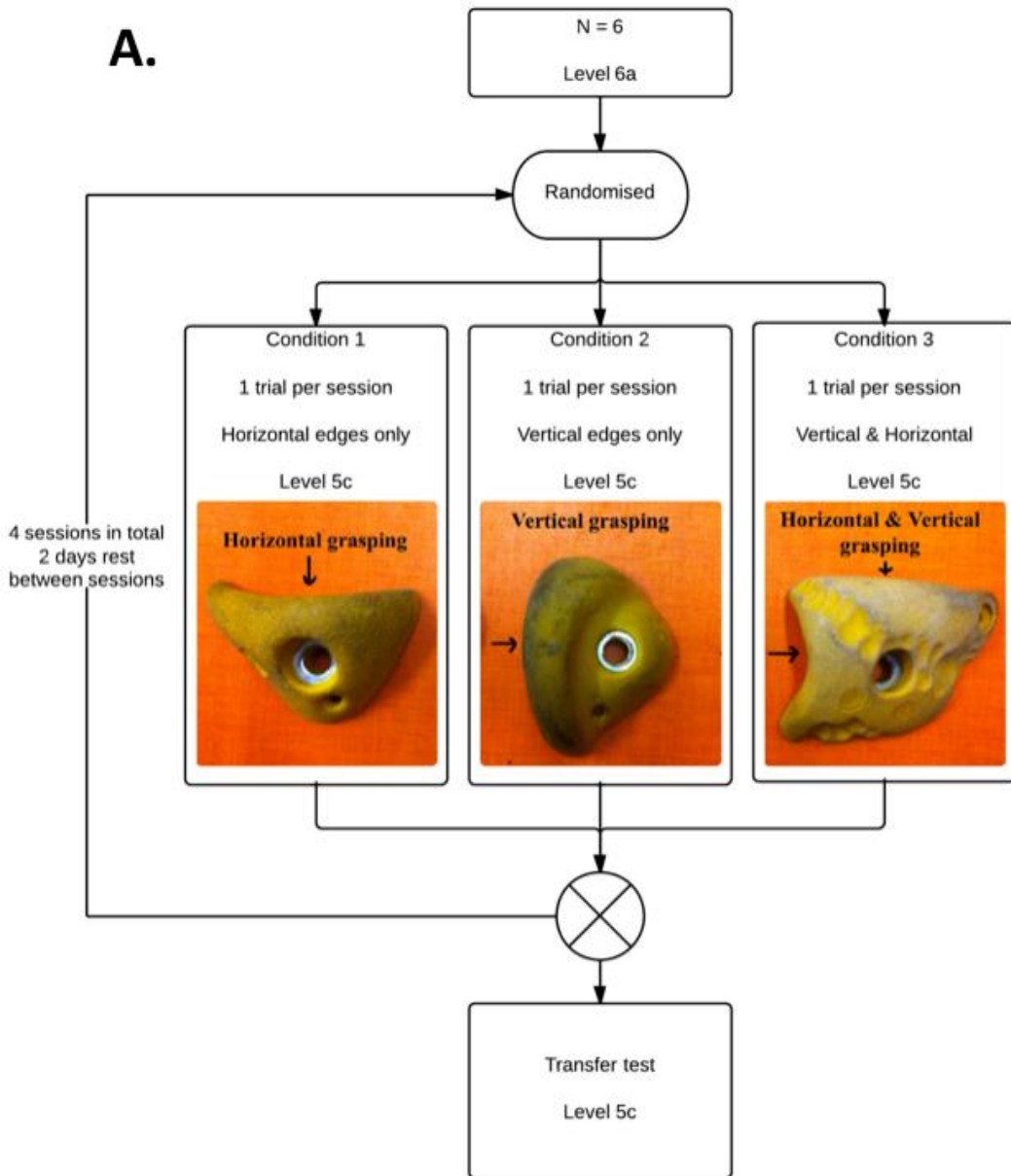
- Face-wall
- Side-wall

Seifert. (2013)

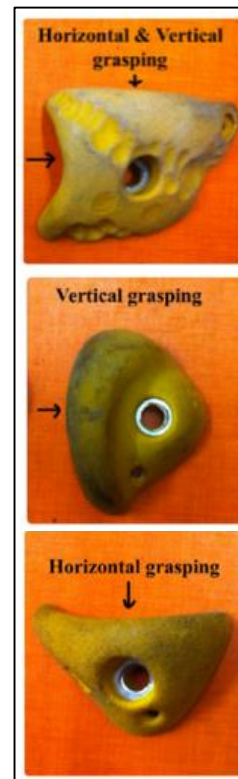
	Coordination pattern	Method of control
Face-wall	 A photograph of a climber on a face-wall, viewed from the front. The climber is wearing a white t-shirt, black shorts, and a climbing harness. The wall is grey and has several colorful holds.	 Two photographs showing hand and foot control for face-wall climbing. The top photo shows two hands holding green, oval-shaped holds. The bottom photo shows two feet wearing climbing shoes on a blue wall with circular holds.
Side-wall	 A photograph of a climber on a side-wall, viewed from the side. The climber is wearing a white t-shirt, black shorts, and a climbing harness. The wall is blue and has several colorful holds.	 Two photographs showing hand and foot control for side-wall climbing. The top photo shows a hand holding a blue, oval-shaped hold and a foot holding an orange, conical hold. The bottom photo shows two feet wearing climbing shoes on a white wall with red and blue holds.

# Design

A.



## Transfer route



# Design

Horizontal



Vertical



Both



- Set to 5c
- 10.3m height
- 20 handholds

# Apparatus

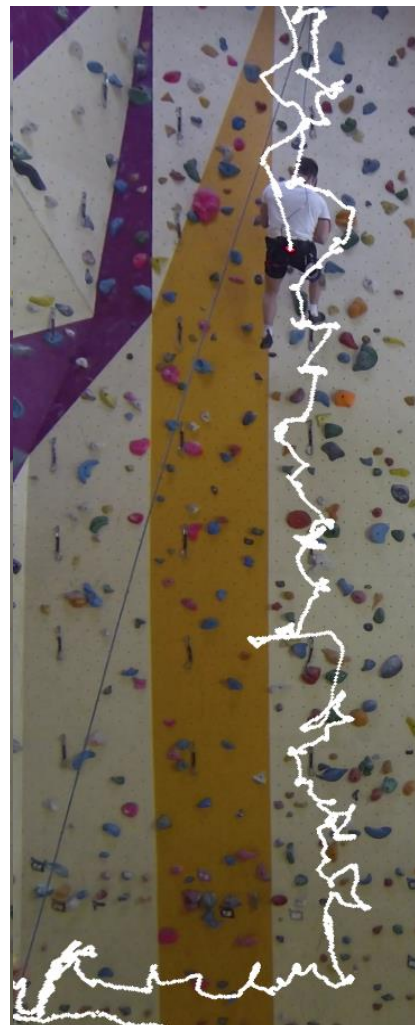
Raw



Distortion



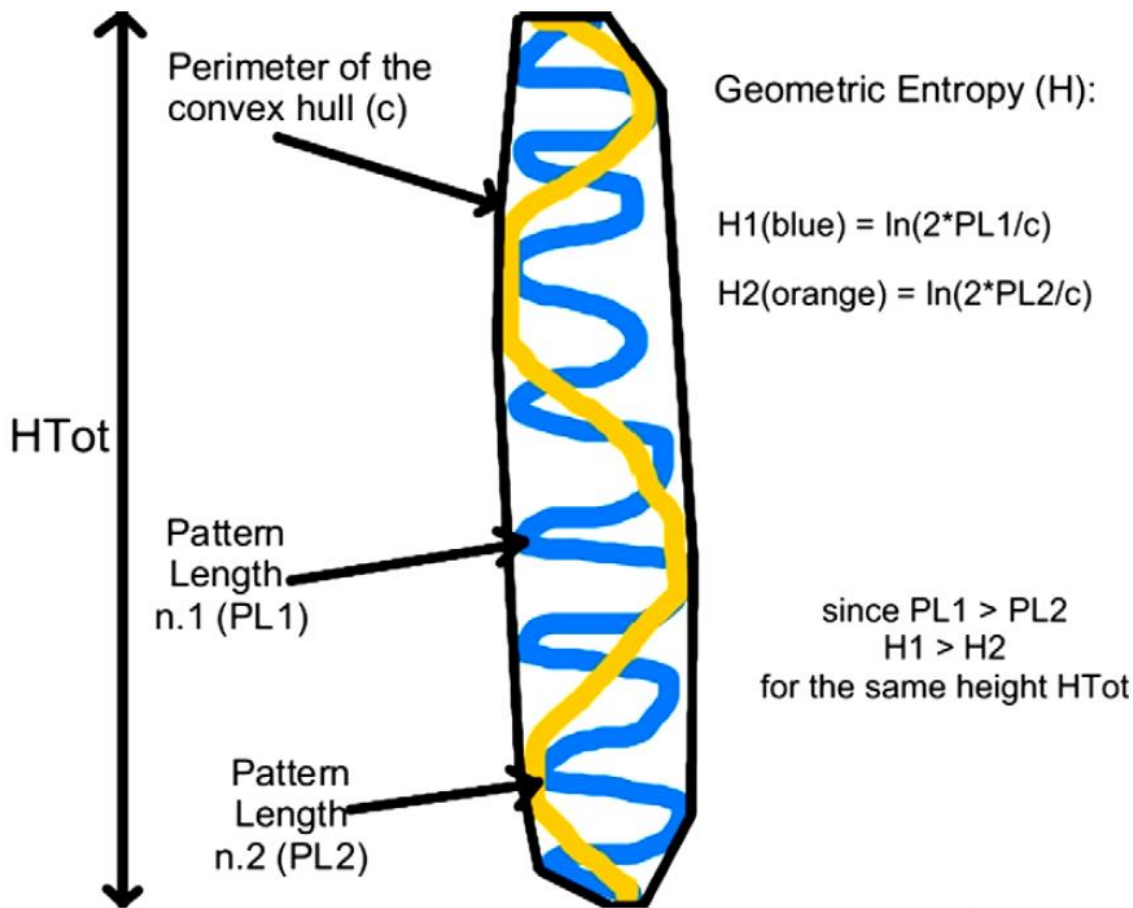
Paralax



SA-tracking



# Analysis: Geometric index of entropy



**Learning will only be induced in the double edged route**

Siefert. (2013)

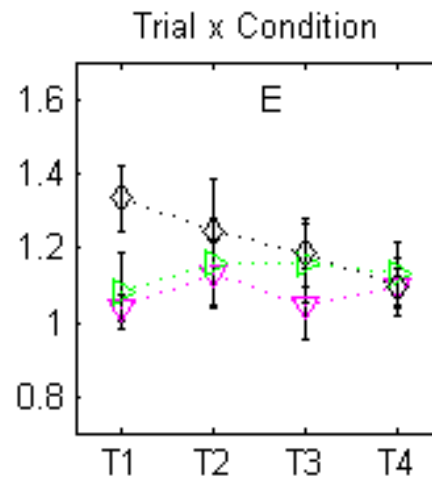
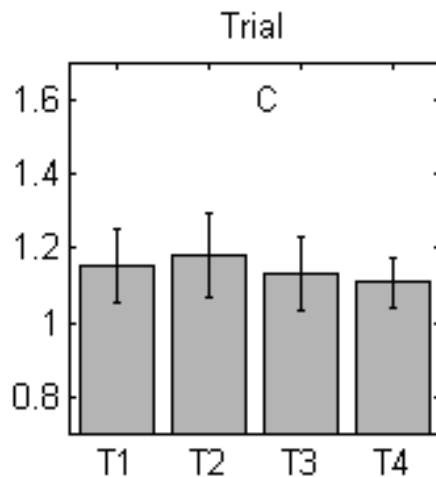
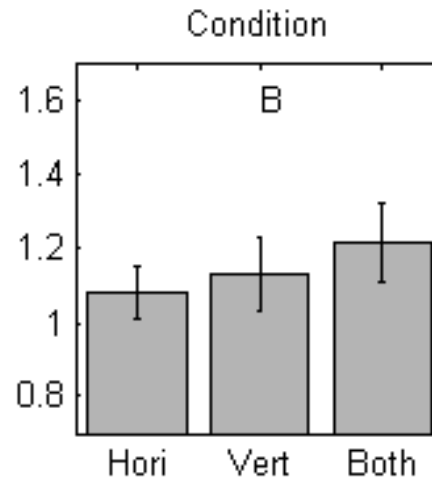
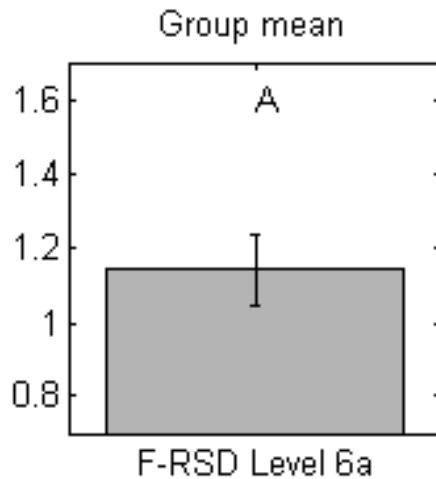
**Climbing fluency will transfer to new condition of the same difficulty and hold usability, but with different hold locations**

Guadagnoli. (2004)  
Schollhorn. (2009)  
Chow. (2013)

Geometric index of entropy =  $\log_2(2 \cdot \text{Distance} / \text{convex hull})$

Sibella. (2007)

# Results: RM-ANOVA



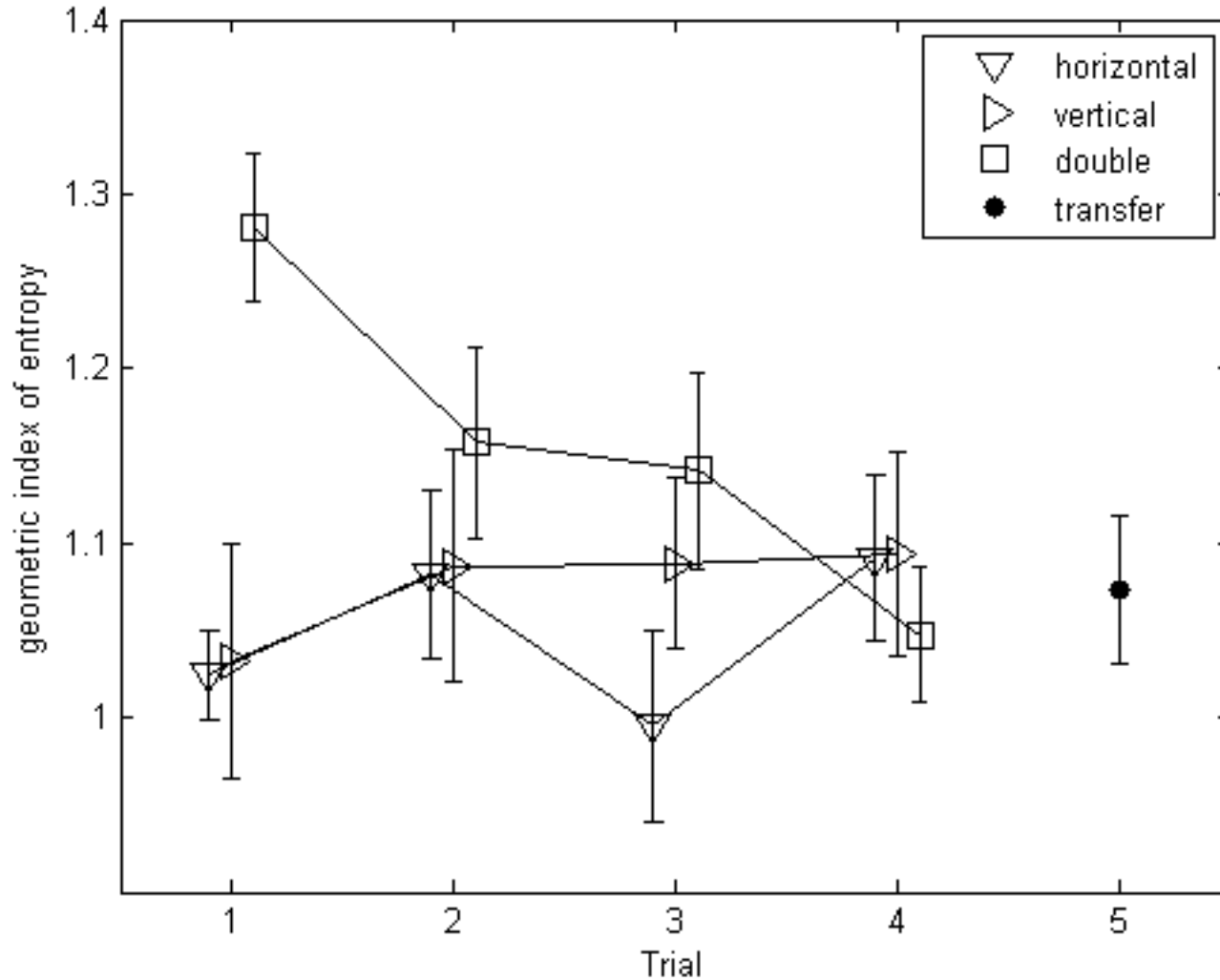
**Main effects:**

- **Condition**
- **Condition x trial**

**Planned contrasts confirmed a trial by condition effect driven by the double edged route**

# Results

error bars = standard error of the mean



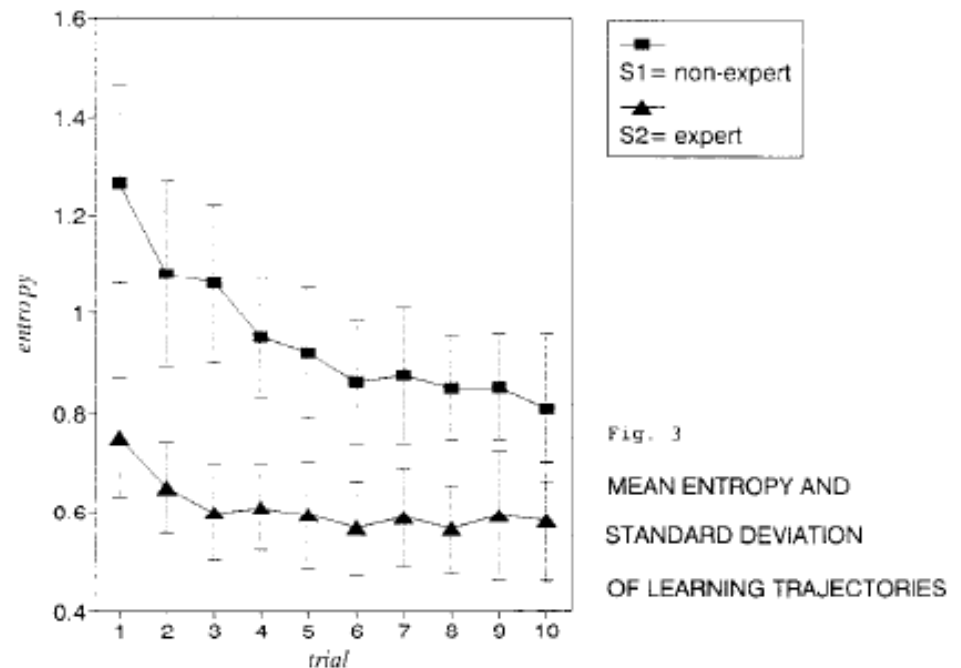
**Double edged route was only route that showed a learning effect**

**Climbing fluency remained good under transfer**



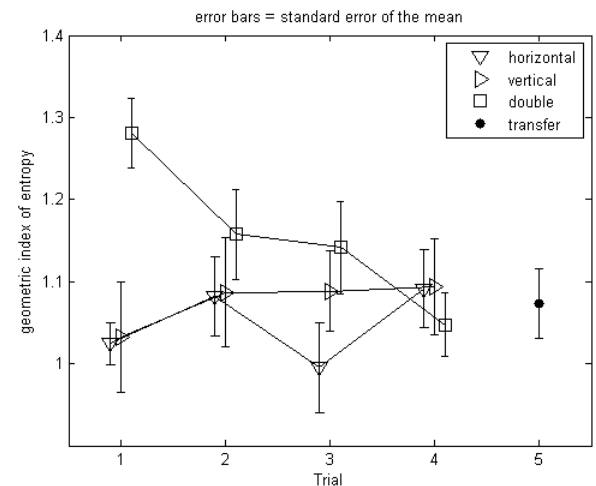
## Discussion: learning effect

- The effect of choice at each hold drove learning effect and not the practice of different movement patterns, the route difficulty or route novelty



## Discussion: transfer effect

- The uncertainty represented in the route facilitated the transfer of climbing fluency to a novel route
  - Transfer effects appear to be driven by learning to adapt movement patterns, as opposed the practice of those movement patterns in isolation



## Discussion: Practical applications

- Once movement patterns have been stabilised, representing uncertainty is an important design factor for inducing learning and facilitating transfer

# end

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