
Tech, AI, and Learning: A Dangerous Triumvirate

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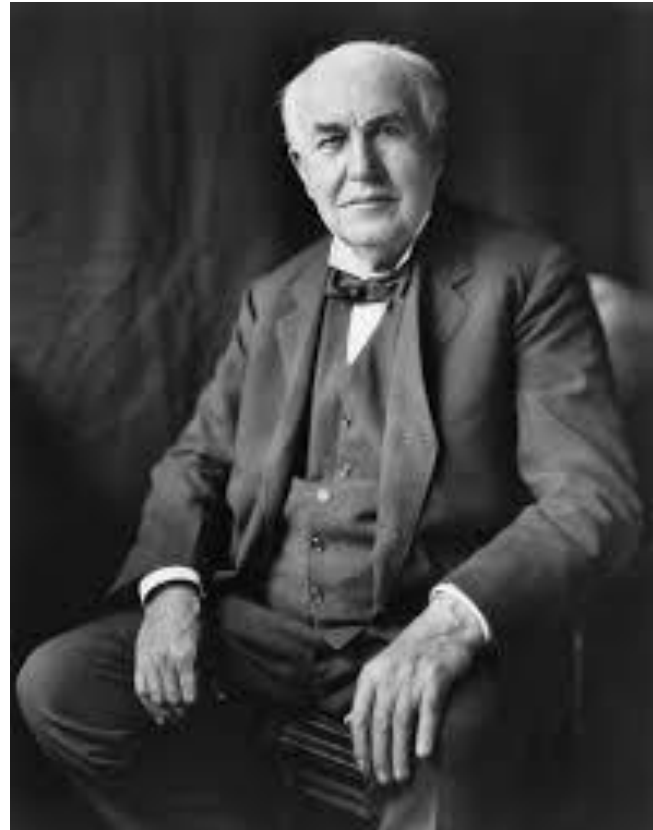


The Future of Education



Thomas Edison 1922

*“Textbooks will soon be
obsolete in schools - the
motion picture is destined to
revolutionize education.”*



William Levinson
1945

*“A portable radio receiver
will be as common in
classrooms as a blackboard”*



Popular Science 1961

“By 1965, over half of all students will be using an Automated Schoolmarm.”



B.F. Skinner
1985

*“With the help of computers,
students could learn twice as
much in the same time and
with the same effort as in a
standard classroom.”*



Digital is the Future



Computers

OECD

*“People who use
computers very frequently
[to learn] do a lot worse in
most learning outcomes.”*



Organisation of Economic
Co-Operation and Development

Computers

J-PAL

126 Research Studies

*“Computers do not
improve grades and test
scores. Online courses
lower academic
achievement compared to
in-person courses.”*



Computers

“Even small amounts of digital device use in classes (30min) are negatively related to scores on reading and comprehension tests.”

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Relation between digital tool practices in the language arts classroom and reading comprehension scores

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Abstract

Concerns about the negative effects of digitalization on students' reading comprehension, empirically backed by recent meta-analyses, question the efficacy of digital tools in the language arts classroom. By analyzing data from 4 and 8th grade US students from NAEP 2017, we aimed to test the generalization of the negative association between screens use and reading comprehension test scores within language arts classrooms, and to identify teachers' practices to support comprehension, which could reduce such a negative relationship. We used data from 149,400 4th grade and 144,900 8th grade students to predict their reading comprehension scores based on their frequency of use of digital devices in the language arts class, as well as on the specific learning activities performed with such devices. Results revealed that amount of daily use of digital devices was negatively related to scores on a reading comprehension test. In addition, teachers' uses of digital tools to support students' reading comprehension showed positive relations for student use of digital devices for reading projects, and negative relations for activities addressing specific reading skills, such as building and practicing vocabulary. We discuss these results in light of our current understanding of the effects of digitalization on reading.

Keywords Reading comprehension · Teachers' practices · Digital devices · NAEP

Computers

“...expanding the use of digital technologies at the expense of any other form of instruction is likely to have detrimental effects on achievement.”



Computers

$AC = 0.21$

$1\text{-to-1} = 0.16$



Computers

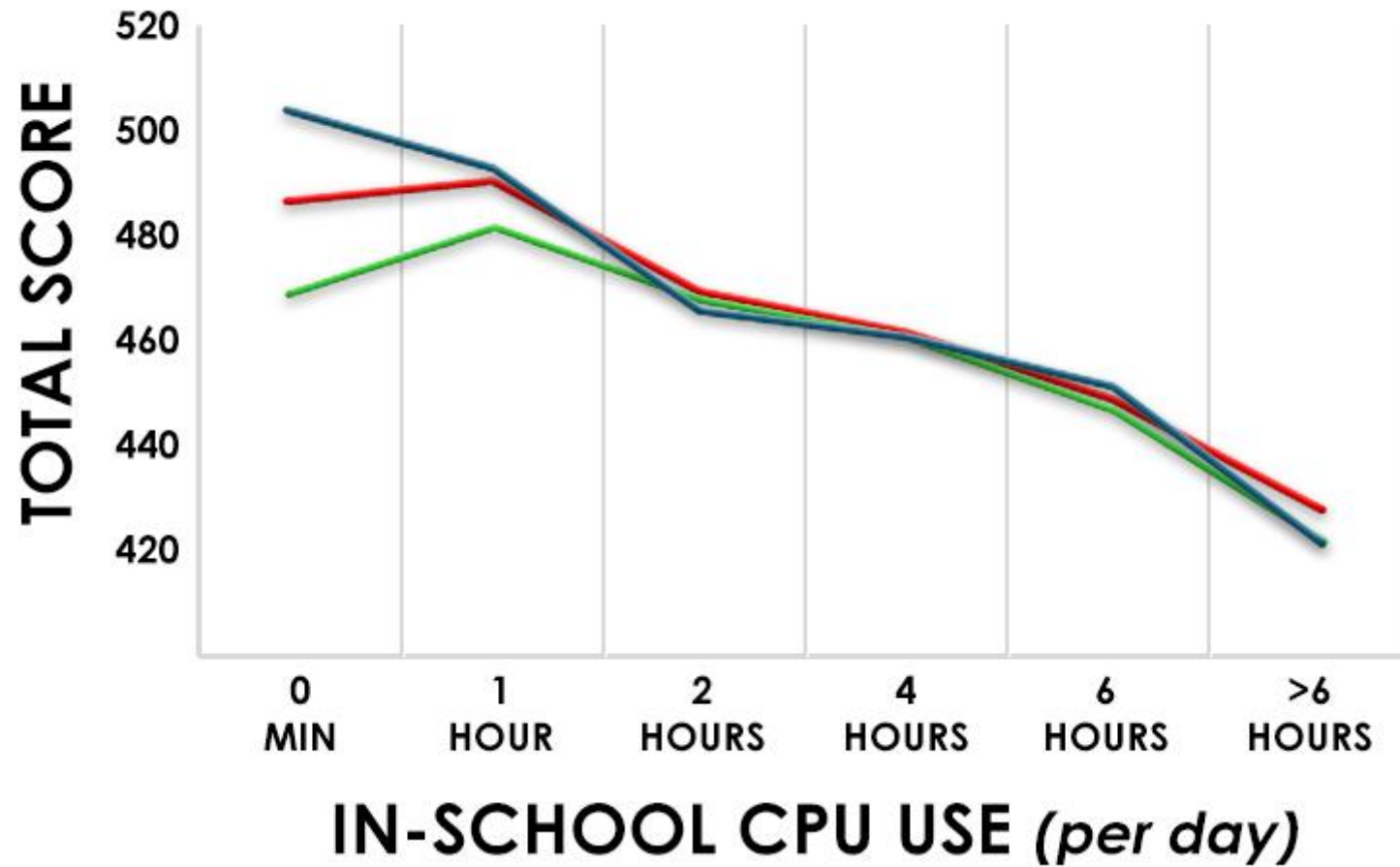
OECD

*“People who use
computers very frequently
at school do a lot worse in
most learning outcomes.”*



Organisation of Economic
Co-Operation and Development

PISA



Computers

OECD

“...countries that have invested *less* in introducing computers into school have *improved faster*, on average, than countries that have invested more.

Results are similar across **reading, mathematics, and science.**”



Organisation of Economic
Co-Operation and Development

Effect Sizes

General Learning = 0.29

Distance = 0.23

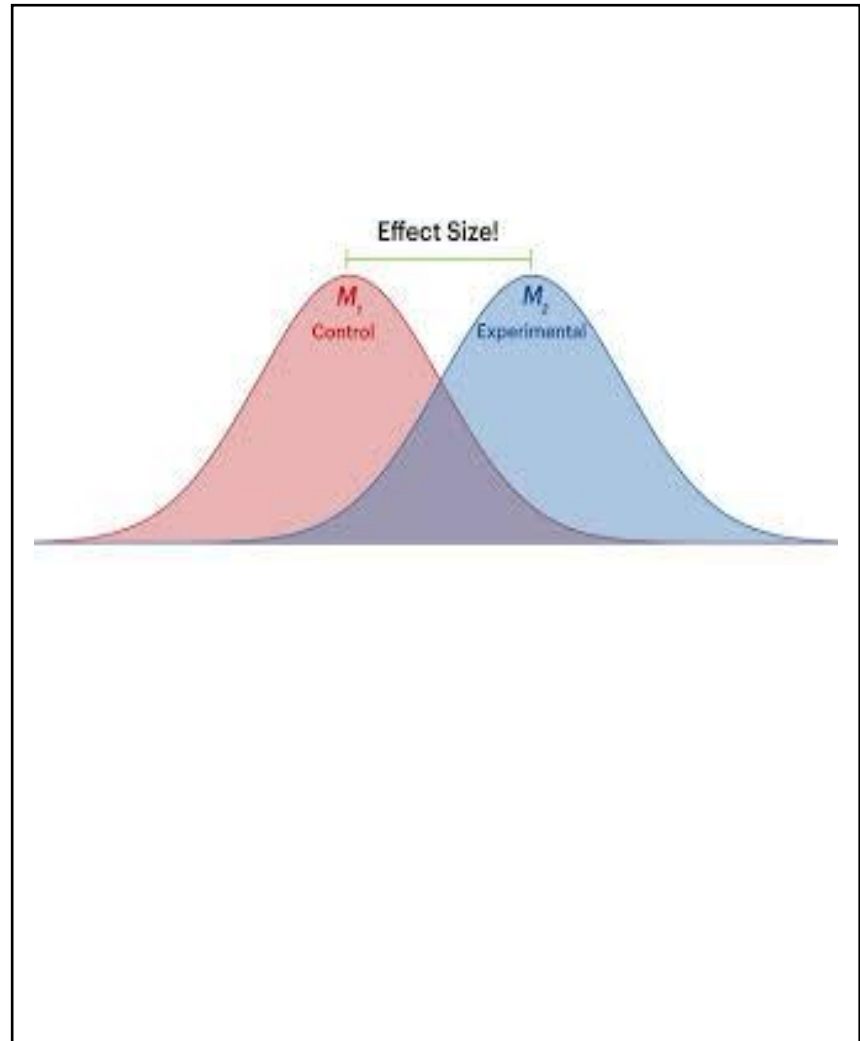
1-to-1 = 0.16

Disadvantaged = 0.18

Literacy = 0.33

Mathematics = 0.33

Science = 0.24

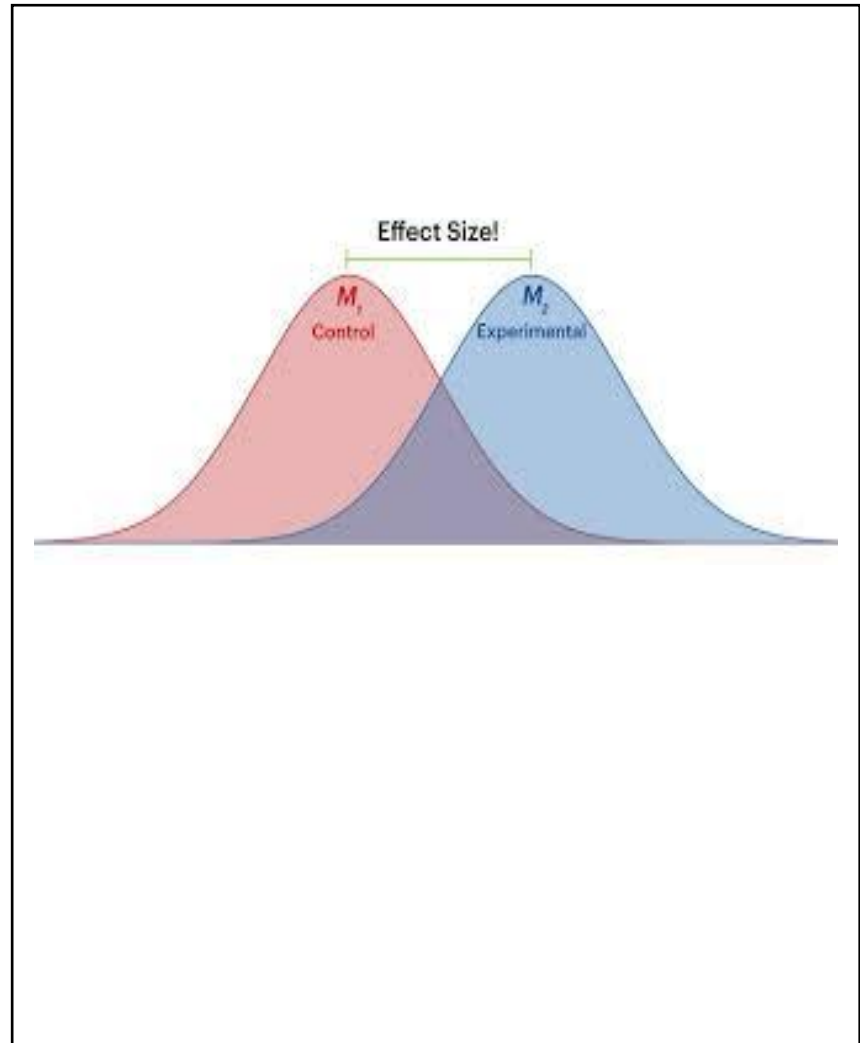


Effect Sizes

1) 0.42

2) 0.44

3) 0.50



Effect Sizes

General Learning = 0.29

Distance = 0.23

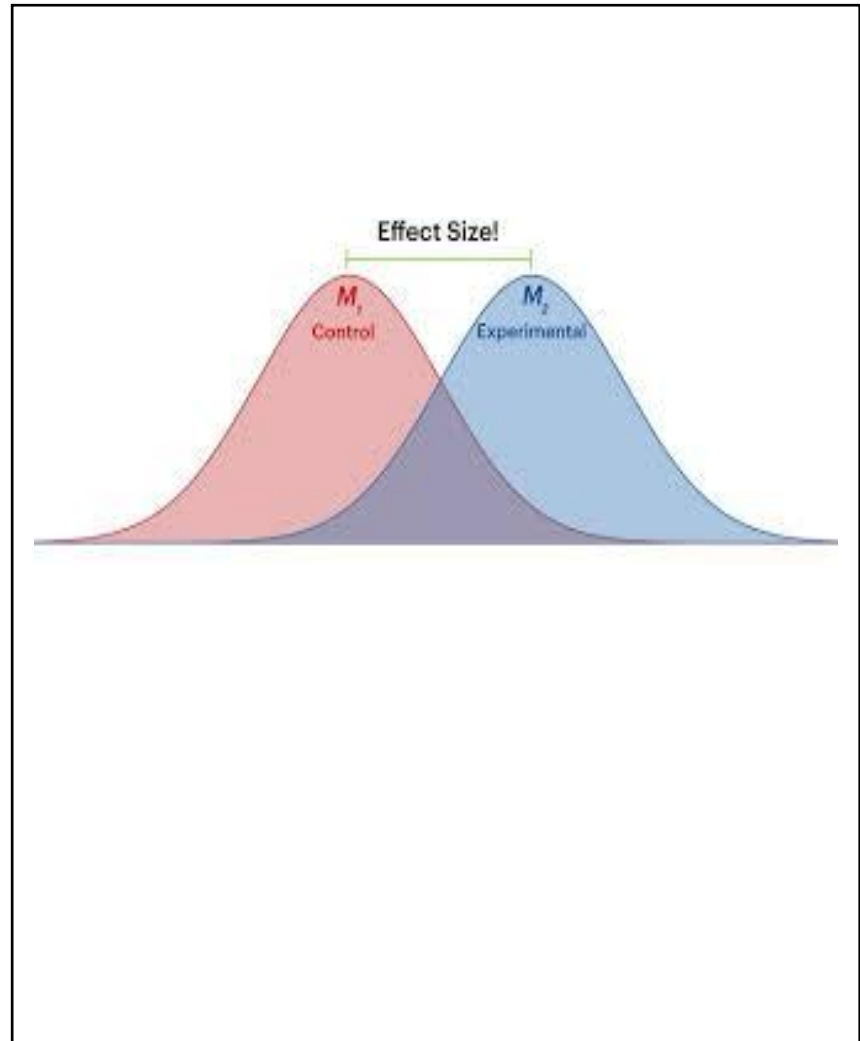
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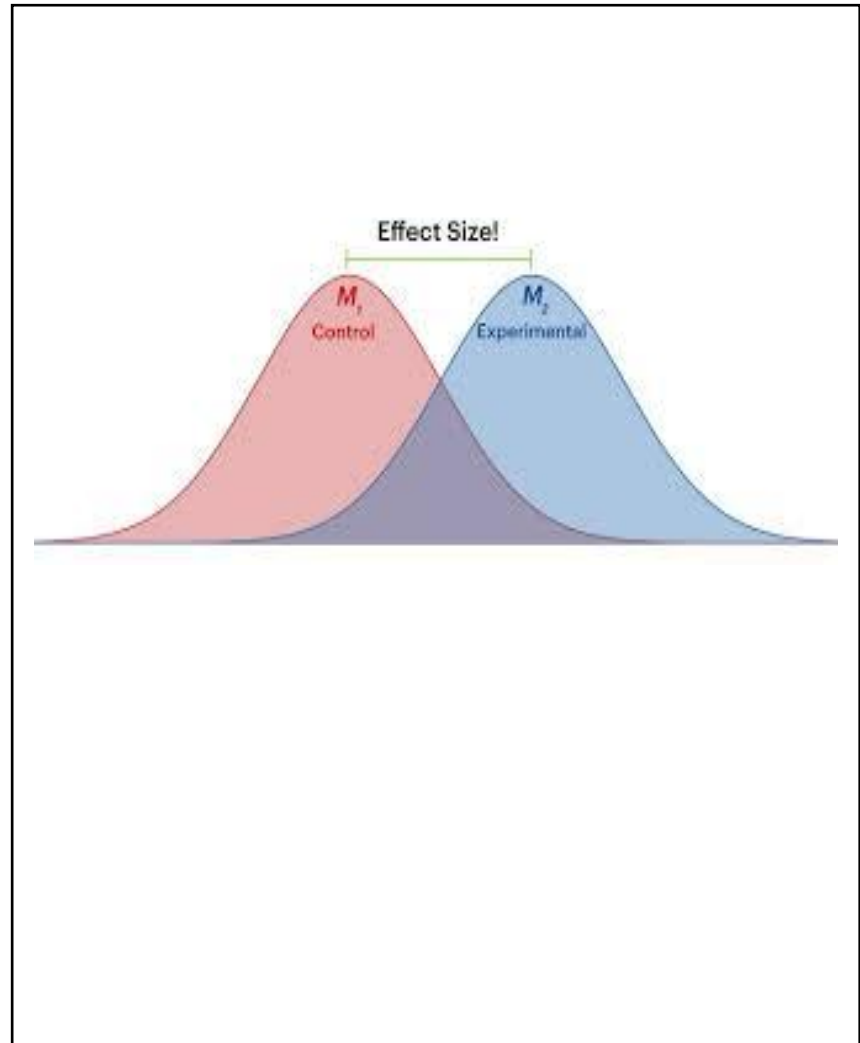
Science = 0.24



Effect Sizes

General Learning = 0.29

398 ma / 21,155 es



Three Intractable Mechanisms



#1
Primary Function



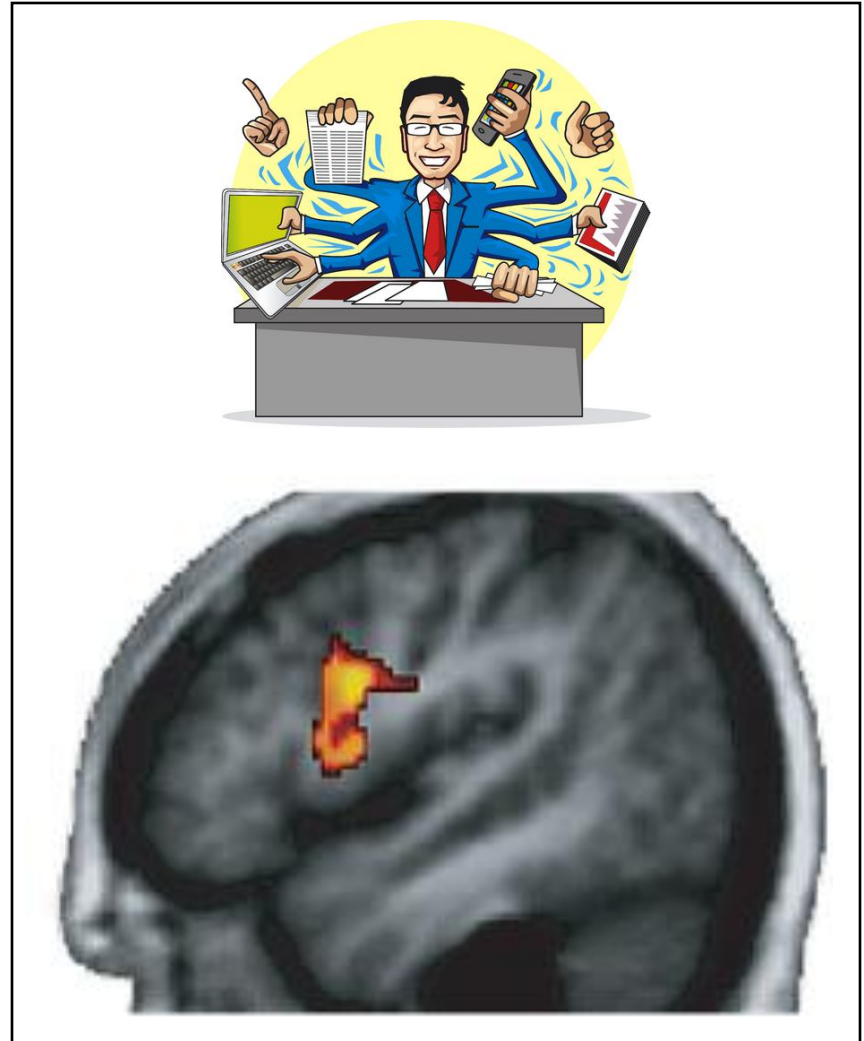
Primary Function



A Game



Multitasking



Multitasking

*The Single Worst Thing for
Learning & Memory*



Primary Function



Breakdown (*per week*)

Internet + Social Media – 13hrs

TV / Videos– 11.75hrs

Video Games – 11.25hrs

In-Class Work – 9hrs

Music – 7.5hrs

Homework – 3.5hrs

Video Chatting – 2hrs

Reading + Writing – 1.5hrs

Creating Content – 1hr



Breakdown
(*per year*)

Learning

~450hrs

***Passive Consumption of
Rapidly Switching Media
Content***

>2,500hrs



Breakdown
(*per year*)

Learning

~450hrs

MULTITASKING

>2,500



Digital Learning

~6min study

*~15min live-lesson
(~2min)*

38min per hour



Why Intractable?

Entertainment

Vs

Education



#2

Relationships



ELIZA



Today

Depression – 3x

Anxiety – 5x



Student Teacher Relationship

Effect Size =
0.57



Student Teacher Relationship

Genuineness = 0.28

Adaptability = 0.41

Encouragement = 0.48

Empathy = 0.68



Biological Synchrony

Heart Rate

Breathing

Blink Rate

Neural Patterns

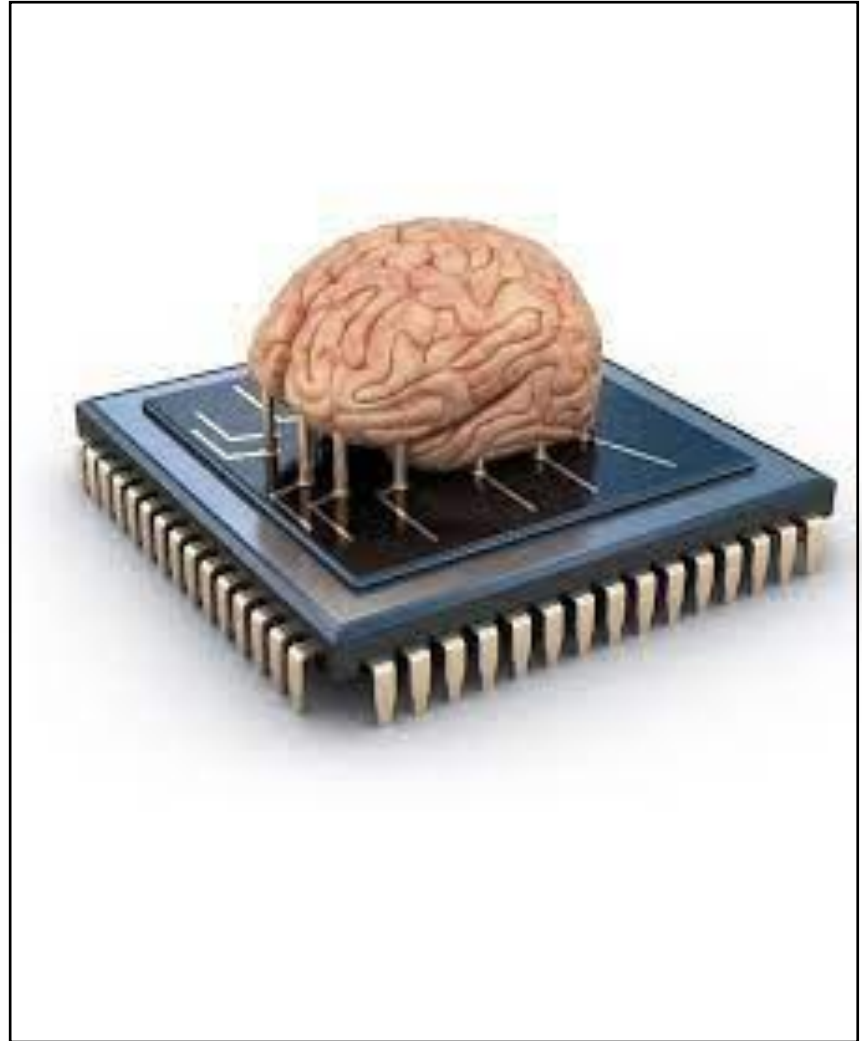


Biological Synchrony

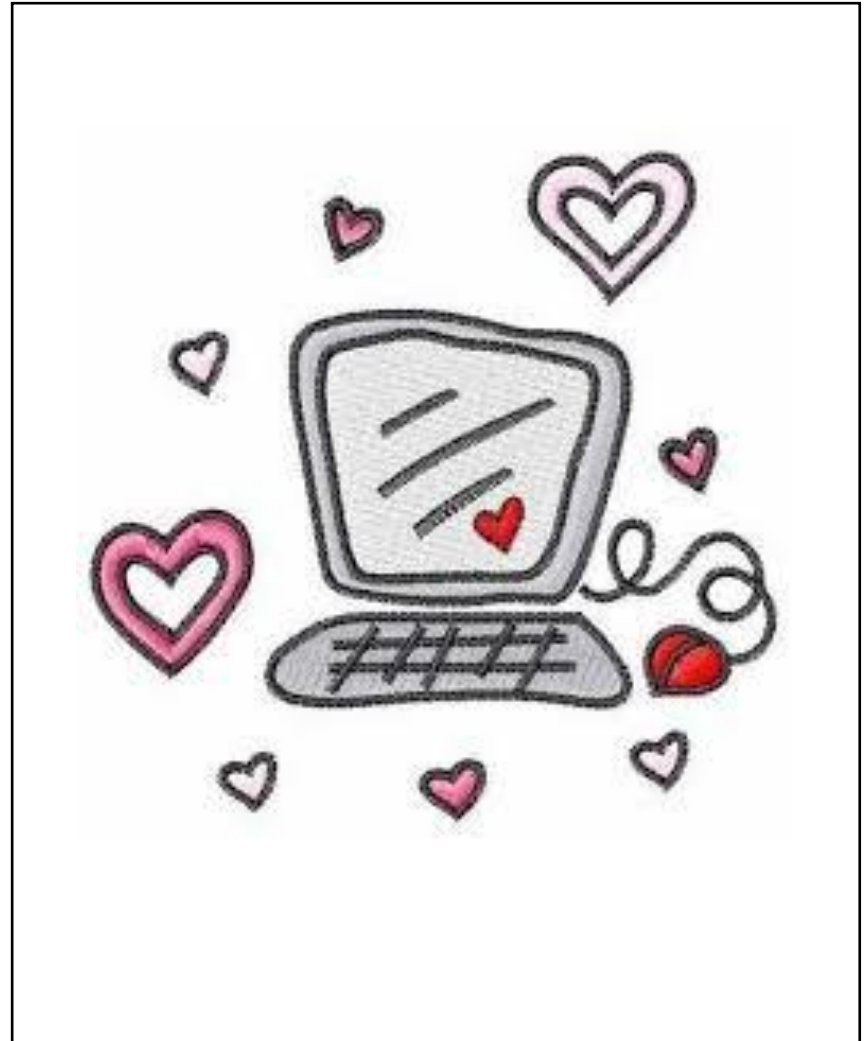
*Understanding &
Motivation*



Why Intractable?



But I Feel It...



#3 Transfer



Transfer is Contextual



Computers are Narrow



Screen to Real-World?

COVID-19



Wait a Second...



Additive vs Subtractive



Computers are Easy



Fluency

Writing to Typing

Typing to Writing



Why Intractable?

PRODUCTION



LEARNING

When Do They Work?

*Something is
Better than Nothing*



Something is
Better than Nothing

*Specific Learning
Disabilities*



Something is Better than Nothing

*Specific Learning
Disabilities*

Procedural Simulations

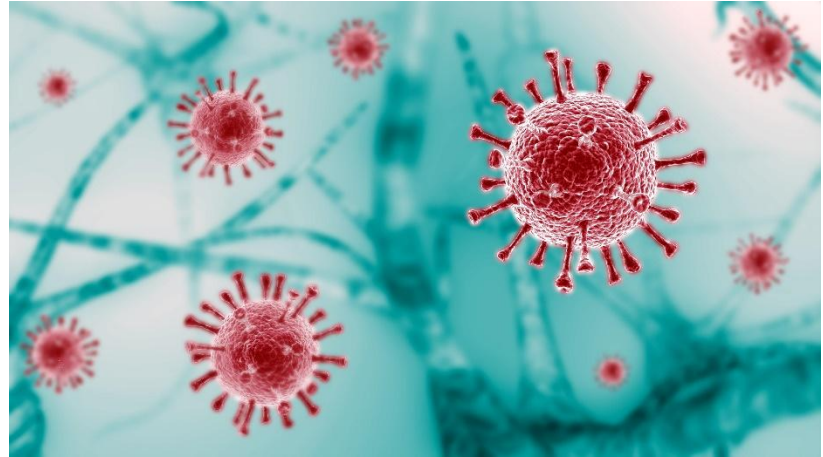


Something is Better than Nothing

*Specific Learning
Disabilities*

Procedural Simulations

Global Pandemic



Something is Better than Nothing

*Specific Learning
Disabilities*

Procedural Simulations

Global Pandemic

Locked Systems



Engagement



POSSIBILITY OF LEARNING

100%

50%

0%

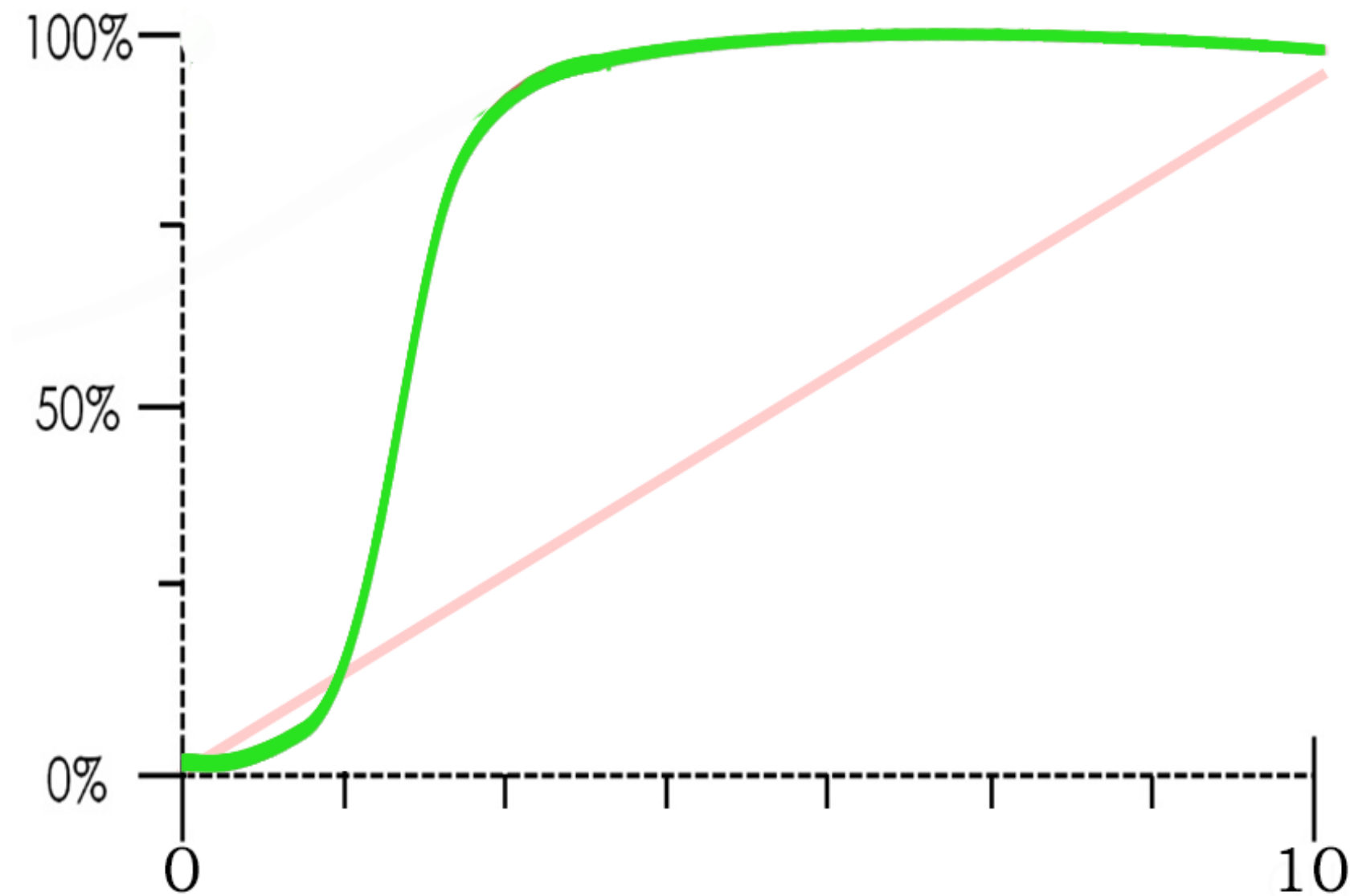
0

10

DAY

ENGAGEMENT

WEEK



**Memory is the Residue
of Thought**



So Now Then
