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## Measuring Irregularity Via Approximate Entropy: How Does Perceived Human Instability Affect One's Own Stability?

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# Measuring Irregularity via Approximate Entropy: How Does Perceived Human Instability Affect One's Own Stability?

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Madi Braunersrither // [Utah State University](#)

Juergen Symanzik // [Utah State University](#)

# Research Questions and Implications

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Can external factors affect an individual's stability?

How do we measure irregularity in human movement?

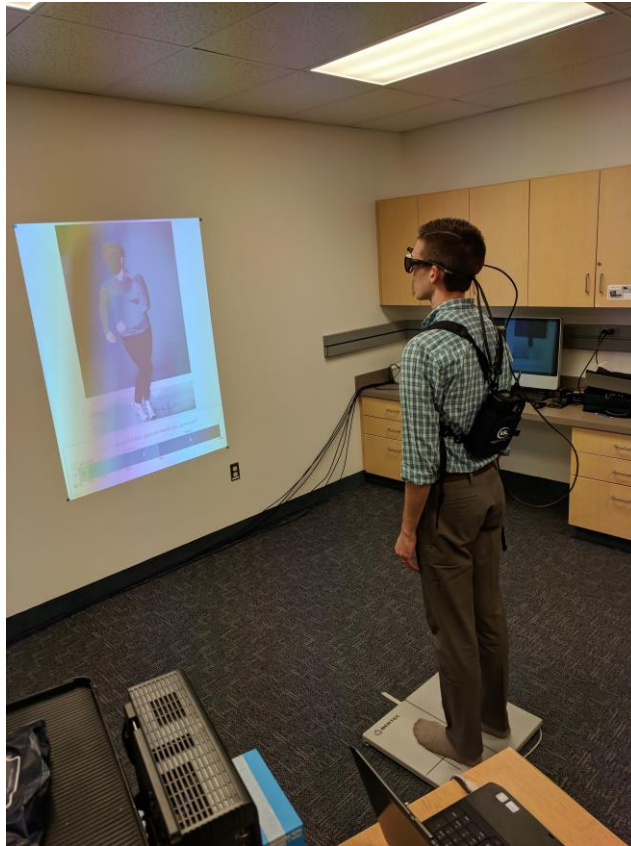
Implications:



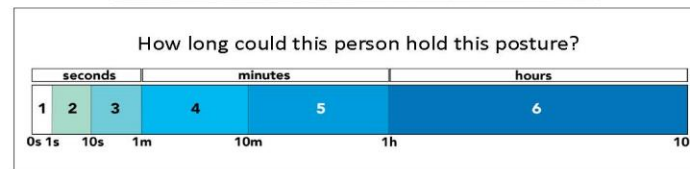
# Project Overview

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# USU Human Posture Study



- 



52 participants

Viewed 25 postures

Previous work focused on eye-tracking data

My focus is on force plate data

# Force Plate

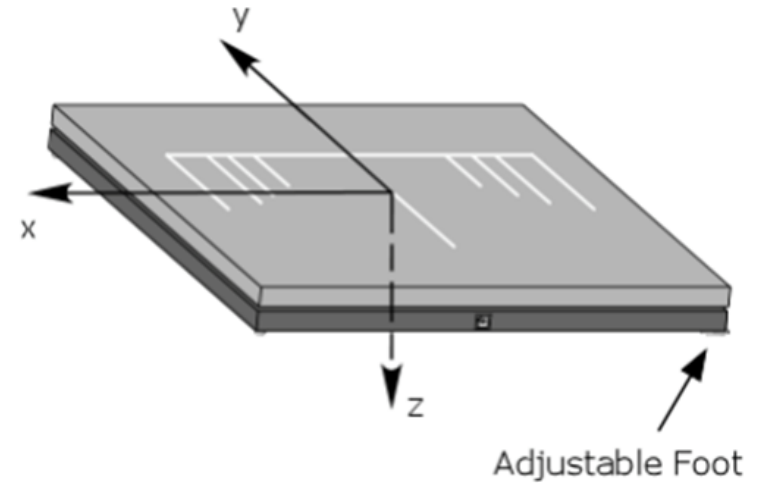
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Two force plate readings per subject:

- Calibration
- Judging Process

Produces a large amount of data

Center of Pressure, Force, Moment (rotations)



# Methods

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# Approximate Entropy (ApEn)

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Measure of irregularity

- Time series statistic
- Value between 0 and 1

Research suggests it has applications in measuring stability

- Ex: Athletes recovering from concussions



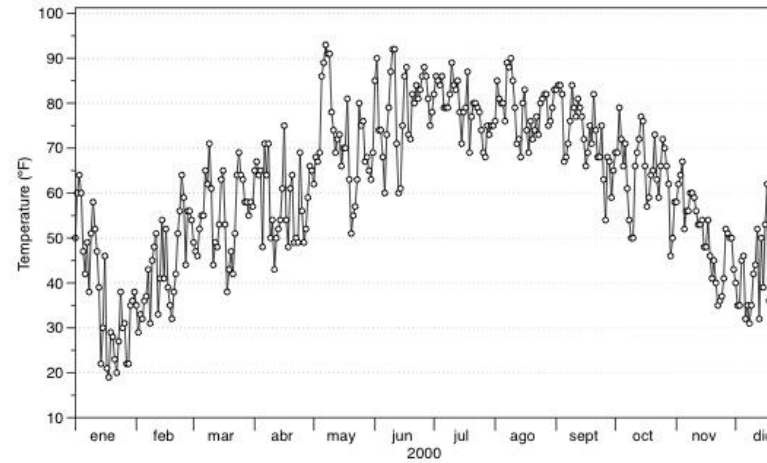
# ApEn (Cont.)

m: embedding  
dimension

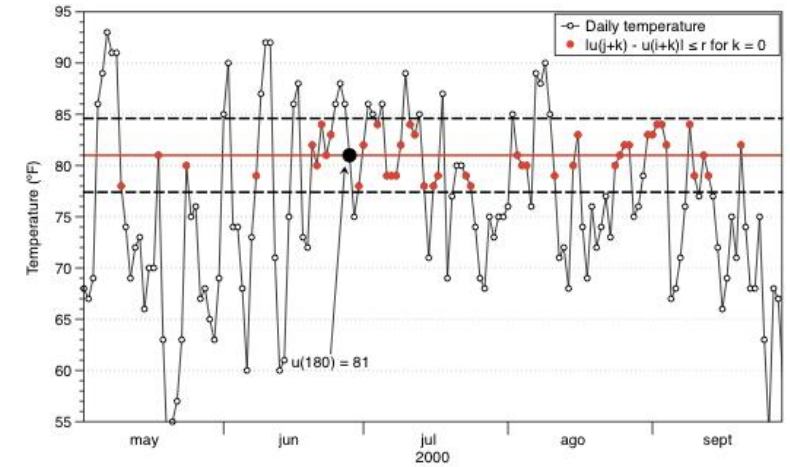
r: noise filter

N: length of  
sequence

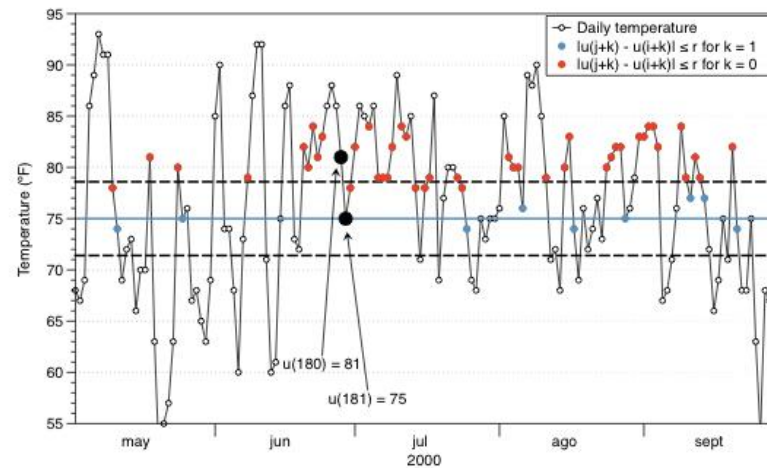
Conditional  
probability = possible  
matches /  
confirmed  
matches



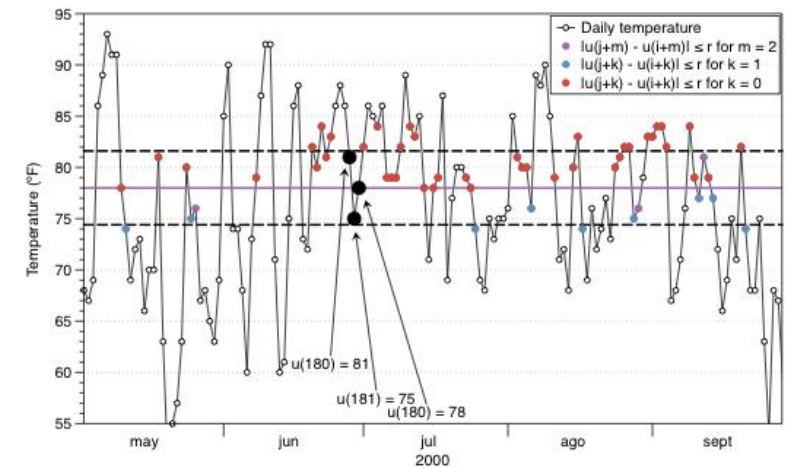
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

# ApEn (Cont.)

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Altogether:

$$ApEn(m, r, N) = -\frac{1}{N-m+1} \sum_{i=1}^{N-m+1} \log C_i^m(r)$$

**FastApEn fuction in R Package TSEntropies**

# Optimal Movement Variability (OMV) Theory

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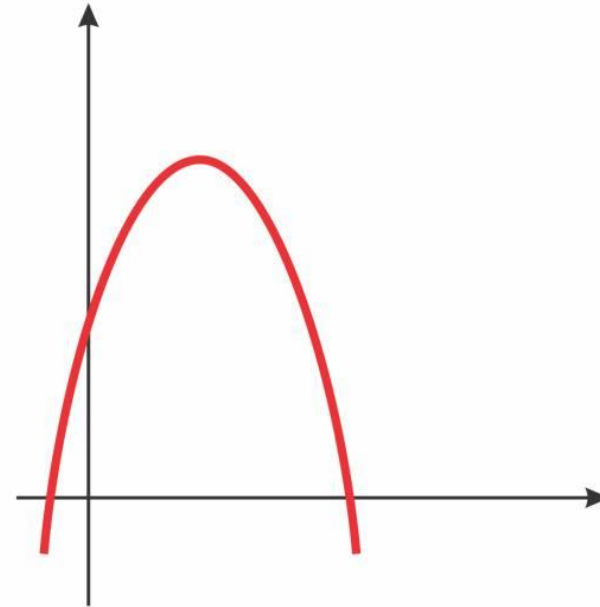
Goldilocks approach

Certain amount of variability maximizes stability

Resembles an inverted “U”

## Accounting for OMV

- Compare using initial ApEn



# Preliminary Results

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# Distribution of initial ApEn values

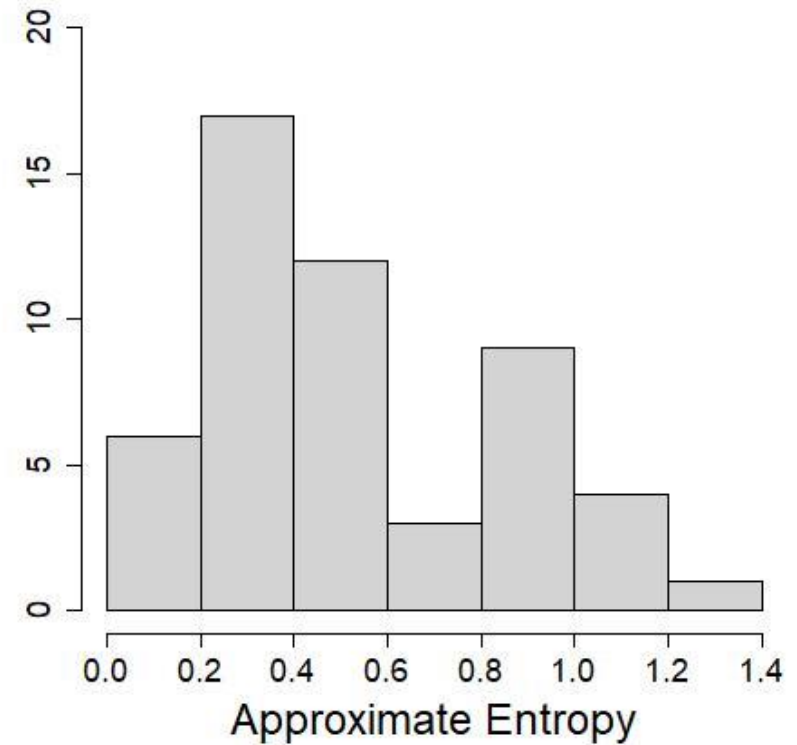
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Spans all possible values

Bimodal

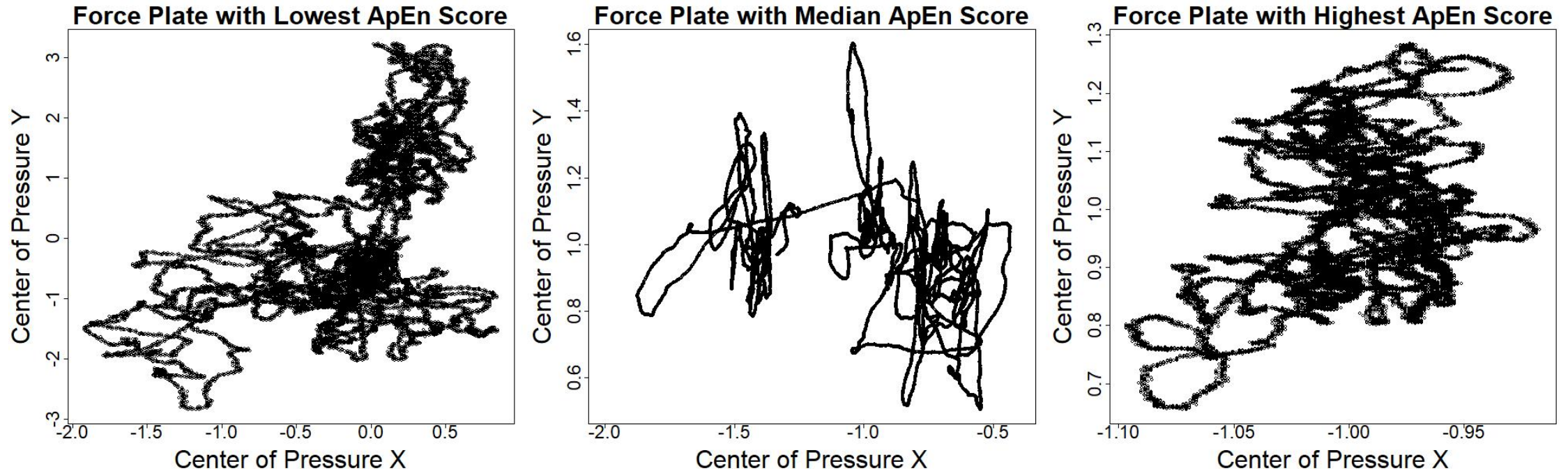
Median occurs at .4

Initial ApEn Scores of 52 Participants



# Center of Pressure Plots

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Plots have ApEn scores of 0.072, 0.410, and 1.245, respectively

# Future Work

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# Next Steps

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Transform data:

- Account for biological processes

Analyze force plate data during the judging process:

- Requires much data processing
- Compare ApEn scores at each pictured posture
- Test for significance



# Contact Info

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## Questions?

## For More Information:

### Sensory Motor Behavior Laboratory

- Lab director: Breanna  
Studenka



**UtahState**  
University