Would You Rather Teleport or Spend Some Time Commuting?
Investigating Individuals Teleportation Preferences
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Introduction

Teleportation test, a survey instrument developed to measure Positive Utility of travel (PUT)
“Would you could snap your fingers or blink your eyes and instantaneously teleport yourself to the desired destination, would you do so”

Yes: Regarding travel as disutility i.e. means to reach destination
No: Find benefits during travel or traveling itself

How do teleportation preferences vary with sociodemographic (age, gender, race, or education), employment (work hours, flexibility), and other personal characteristics?
Are teleportation preferences associated with transportation characteristics such as commute mode, existing and ideal travel times, and travel perceptions?
Why would people prefer to teleport? Why would people prefer to spend some time commuting?

Previous work

67-75% of people would prefer to teleport across studies.
Factors associated with increased teleportation preference: longer commutes, motorized modes, and age.
Different response of people on teleportation test, ideal travel time and travel liking questions within same study

Research Questions

How do teleportation preferences vary with sociodemographic (age, gender, race, or education), employment (work hours, flexibility), and other personal characteristics?
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Data Collection: 30 min online questionnaire in Portland, Oregon. 648 complete responses.
Information on Personal Characteristics, Travel Time, Satisfaction, Travel Liking, Recent Commute Experience

Results

I would rather teleport
I would rather spend some time commuting

I have other things to do
My commute is a waste of time
I like trying new technology
I dislike most aspects of my commute
I am always in a rush

I enjoy certain aspects of my commute
I like to use my commute time
Teleportation is and always will be impossible
I would be uneasy or afraid to teleport

Other reasons for teleportation choice: Congestion, Weather, Environmental concern, Safety
Other reasons for commute choice: Physical activity, Buffer time between activities, Home-work separation

I would rather teleport
I would rather spend some time commuting

There are several possible reasons for choosing to teleport or spend time commuting. These include:

- **Teleportation Preference**:
  - Longer commutes (large ACT)
  - Travel usefulness (mostly wasted)
  - Active mode (walking and cycling) and public transit (w.r.t auto drivers)
  - Ideal travel time
  - Travel usefulness (mostly useful)

- **Travel Time**:
  - **Reasons for Teleportation Choice**:
    - Congestion, Weather, Environmental concern, Safety
  - **Reasons for Commute Choice**:
    - Physical activity, Buffer time between activities, Home-work separation

- **Factors Associated with Increased Teleportation Preference**:
  - Longer commutes, motorized modes, and age.

- **Other PUT Measures**
  - Desire to teleport does not imply zero ideal time or travel time as wasted.
  - Discrepancy in responses to ideal commute time and travel time productivity (wasted or useful) questions.
  - Assumptions of binary logit, linearity between log odds of dependent and independent variables.

- **Future Studies**
  - To examine non-linear relationship between teleportation preference and travel time.
  - Structural Equation Models to understand relationships between teleportation preferences and other travel time perceptions.

Limitations

- Low R-squared values, suggesting other additional variables regarding attitudes, personality traits, etc.
- Assumptions of binary logit, linearity between log odds of dependent and independent variables.

Conclusion and Future Research

- Desire to teleport does not imply zero ideal time or travel time as wasted.
- Discrepancy in responses to ideal commute time and travel time productivity (wasted or useful) questions.
- Teleportation test is useful, but not enough to indicate the presence of utilities related to “value of travelling itself”. Other PUT measures required.
- Future studies to examine non-linear relationship between teleportation preference and travel time.