Route selection in non-Euclidean virtual environments

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Abstract

The way people choose routes through unfamiliar environments provides clues about the underlying

representation they use. One way to test the nature of observers' representation is to manipulate the

structure of the scene as they move through it and measure which aspects of performance are

significantly affected and which are not. We recorded the routes that participants took in virtual mazes

to reach previously-viewed targets. The mazes were either physically realizable or impossible (the latter

contained 'wormholes' that altered the layout of the scene without any visible change at that moment).

We found that participants could usually find the shortest route between remembered objects even in

physically impossible environments, despite the gross failures in pointing that an earlier study showed

are evident in the physically impossible environment. In the physically impossible conditions, the

choice made at a junction was influenced to a greater extent by whether that choice had, in the past, led

to the discovery of a target (compared to a shortest-distance prediction). In the physically realizable

mazes, on the other hand, junction choices were determined more by the shortest distance to the target.

This pattern of results is compatible with the idea of a graph-like representation of space that can include

information about previous success or failure for traversing each edge and also information about the

distance between nodes. Our results suggest that complexity of the maze may dictate which of these is

more important in influencing navigational choices.

Keywords: Human Navigation, Spatial Representation, Cognitive Map, Topological Model, Labelled

Graph.

1   Introduction

In order to navigate successfully in a 3D environment, human participants have to develop a mental representation of the scene, locate themselves in the representation and plan optimal actions to reach a target. The exact form that such a mental spatial representation might take is still debatable. One view is that the spatial representation corresponds to a cognitive map [2–4], i.e. a stable 3D reconstruction of the environment (whether accurate or not). This provides the most complete description of the environment and can be used for versatile spatial tasks such as planning an optimal route, exploring novel shortcuts or pointing to unseen targets. It could be constructed by means of path integration [5] and fully working implementations of this model are now common in the computer vision and robotics literature based on visual SLAM (Simultaneous Localisation and Mapping) [6] which integrates information from views over multiple vantage points. It has been argued that in small and relatively simple environments such as 'vista spaces' participants have access to a relatively accurate cognitive map within a confined region [7,8] although even in the case of vista spaces there is dispute about whether the underlying representation in this case is Euclidean [9], i.e. corresponds to a rigid 3D reconstruction. However, in larger and more complex environments there is greater agreement that Euclidean reconstruction is a poor model. For instance, the perceived length of a route depends on the number of turns and decision points it contains [10–12], angular and directional judgments are highly inaccurate [8,13–15] and perceived angles between junctions are biased towards 90° [11,16]. Hence, while mental representations of small open environments can often appear to be consistent locally, participants typically have difficulties integrating local representations into a single global representation (as has been argued for other primates, too). In particular, performance in large environments is much more likely to be compatible with a distorted or globally inconsistent map [16,17]. This led Kuipers [18] to suggest that the concept of a global 'Map in the Head' should be replaced by an 'Atlas in the Head', with many local maps on separate sheets. Similar ideas of independent reference frames consisting of multiple vista spaces were also proposed in more recent studies [7,8]. It is not clear how these local representations are used by participants when they are

confronted by a spatial task (such as pointing) that forces them to integrate information across different

local reference frames except that, as Meilinger and colleagues say [7], pointing appears effortful and

performance depends on many factors such as the order in which the route was learned. Experimental

evidence suggests that performance in this case relies on a representation (or a process of accessing

information from a representation) that is not only distorted but also inconsistent with the idea of a

single global map [1,19–21].

In an early seminal paper, Siegel and White [22] suggested that, in large-scale environments,

spatial representation develops gradually and goes through three main phases: landmark knowledge

(salient features), route knowledge ('place-goal-action associations') and survey knowledge

(construction of a cognitive map) [23]. Developing this type of idea, Kuipers [18] suggested that, as

more information becomes available about an environment, 'topological connections can be

strengthened into relative-position vectors' and then, ultimately, a representation uniting multiple

frames of reference. He emphasized the co-existence of multiple strategies based on different levels of

detail which he described as a cognitive map having 'many states of partial knowledge'. Montello [24]

criticized Siegel and White's idea, pointing out that there can be gradual 'quantitative accumulation and

refinement of metric knowledge'. Ishikawa and Montello [15] set out to test the developmental

progression of representations that Siegel and White and others have advocated and found very little

learning across trials (although no feedback was given). They emphasised the fact that some individuals

acquired 'surprisingly accurate metric knowledge, even relatively quickly' relating locations between

which they had not travelled directly. In line with this finding, when Weisberg and colleagues [25–27]

tested a large number of participants in virtual reality (VR), they found that there was significant

variation in the ability of people to integrate spatial information across routes: participants' pointing

performance within a familiar route was not necessarily a good predictor of their ability to point between

targets on two different familiar routes.

Warren [29] has drawn together much of the literature on navigation in Euclidean (physically

possible) and non-Euclidean environments arguing that the evidence points to humans using a 'labelled

graph' (Chrastil and Warren [28], Strickrodt et al [20], Warren et al [19]). This lies between a

topological graph and survey knowledge because each edge of the graph can include information about

the length of the path connecting those two nodes and, as someone becomes more familiar with an

environment, there can be information stored about the angle between edges. Warren [29] emphasizes

that a labelled graph can become more and more accurate with experience: "*One would expect edge*

weights and node labels to become more accurate and precise with repeated exposure to an

environment," (p4). In theory, the information about edges can become so accurate that tasks such as

pointing from the current node to an object at another node can be as accurate as it would be based on

a Euclidean map, making it impossible to distinguish between a graph and a map for such tasks. A very

similar spectrum has been proposed for the processing of disparity information to guide judgements of

ordinal depth, bas relief depth or Euclidean shape [30,31].

There have been many studies that have explored the extent to which participants can encode

actions that have led to a successful result in the past and incorporate this in their representation [32–

35]. Marchette et al [34] showed that in a navigational experiment when searching for targets some

participants found novel shortcuts easily, while other participants preferred less efficient, but more

familiar routes that they had experienced during the learning phase. fMRI analysis showed that

participants who preferred shortcuts had a stronger activation in the hippocampal area, while

participants who followed the more familiar route had a stronger activation in the caudate which

encodes reward. Chrastil and Warren [28] review a hierarchy of tasks and corresponding representations

that would support such tasks, where route knowledge (in our case, knowing whether to go left or right

at a junction to get to a goal) is lower in the hierarchy than knowing a topological map of a maze which

would allow observers to take topological shortcuts (i.e. routes traversing a smaller number of edges).

Accurate pointing and reliable identification of novel shortcuts are higher in the hierarchy than route

knowledge, as both require the observer to do more than simply follow previously rewarded routes.

Interestingly, in the reinforcement learning literature there has been a recent focus on representations

that are similar to the 'response-like' model in that they learn what action to carry out at each decision

point (given a particular goal) rather than computing a global map [36].

In this paper, we build on our previous study of human pointing errors in a virtual maze [1] which,

like the current study, examined the consequences of exploring a physically impossible maze. The maze

had long corridors with many turns in a way that could not be realized in the real world ('wormholes'),

similar to the manipulations many other researchers have used to explore spatial behaviours in non-

Euclidean environments ([9,19,37,38]). The conclusion of our previous paper was that the most likely

explanation of the data in this type of condition was that participants relied on a representation that has

no Euclidean interpretation. The current paper examines the performance of the same participants in

the same experiment but instead of analysing the pointing responses we report the ability of participants

to find the shortest distance through a maze to a target. This task is suited to finding out what information

participants use to choose a path when they are at a junction, not to finding out whether they use a

Euclidean reconstruction or a graph-like representation. Indeed, if observers have a Euclidean

representation that includes the target and their current location, and the task is to choose the shortest

route using their representation, then they should do that independent of any past experience of reward.

A graph-based representation is more flexible. Initially, observers may only store information about

whether or not they have travelled down a particular path and whether this led to the object that is their

current goal (similar to 'response-learning', [34,39,40]). Later, they may add information about the

distance between nodes. In the current experiment (to anticipate our results), we find that the more

complex the maze, i.e. with wormholes, the more likely participants are to choose previously rewarded

routes. In the Discussion, we consider how this relates to the idea that people may begin with a

topological graph of connectivity and gradually add information about reward and distance along

corridors (edges in the graph) once they gain more experience of the environment.

2   Material and methods

2.1   Participants

The 14 participants (5 male and 9 female) who completed the experiment were students or

members of the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences. All participants had normal or

corrected to normal vision (6/6 Snellen acuity or better), one participant wore glasses during the

experiment, and all had good stereo-acuity (TNO stereo test, 60 arcsec or better). All participants were

naïve to the purpose of the study. Participants were given a one-hour practice session in VR to

familiarize them with our set-up using physically possible mazes. We called physically possible mazes

'Fixed', for short, as they did not change as the participant moved around them. 10 potential participants

(1 male, 9 female) either experienced motion sickness during the practice session or could not move

confidently in VR and thus preferred not to continue at this stage (any participants who were excluded

did so before data was collected for either 'base layout' used in the experiment). The higher-than-normal

dropout rate is likely to be due to the overall scaling of the scene which results in a conflict between

eyeheight and other cues to scale (discussed in Section 3). Altogether, there were 7 sessions (including

the practice), each of about 1 hour, conducted on different days. Participants were advised not to stay

in VR longer than 10 minutes between breaks. They received a reward of 12 pounds per hour. The study

received approval of the Research Ethics Committee of the University of Reading.

2.2   Experimental set-up

The Virtual Reality laboratory was equipped with a Vicon tracking system with 12 infrared

cameras (T20 and Bonitas). We used an nVision SX111 head mounted display with a large field of view

(111° horizontally with a binocular overlap of 50°). The resolution of the LCD displays was 1280 by

1024 pixels. The headset was calibrated using the method described in [41] in order to minimize optical

distortions in the stimuli. We have measured the motion-to-photon latency of our VR system with the

nVis SX111 display as 40ms [46]. The HMD was connected via a 4m-long video cable to a video

controller unit on the ceiling. The Vicon tracking system (Tracker 3.1) provided an estimate of the

position and orientation of the headset with a nominal accuracy of ±0.1 mm and 0.15° respectively at a

frequency of 240Hz and relayed this information to a graphics PC with a GTX 1080 video card. The

stimuli were designed in Unity 3D software [42] and rendered online at 60fps. Participants were allowed

to walk freely and explore the virtual environment in a natural way, although they had to hold the HMD

video cable behind them and had to take care that the cable did not become tangled as they walked. The

experimenter was always close by to ensure that the cable remained behind them. The physical size of

the labyrinth was limited to a 3 by 3m region in the lab. The virtual labyrinth was originally a 5 by 5m

environment with corridors in the maze 1m wide. In order to fit in the 3 by 3m space, the labyrinth was

shrunk to 0.6 scale (e.g. 60cm wide corridors) which meant that the floor was displayed about 1m below

eye height. Participants generally found this acceptable and did not notice that the room was not normal

size, consistent with previous reports [9]. During the experiment, participants wore a virtual wristband

that provided information about the task (shown, for illustrative purposes only, in the bottom-right

corner of Fig. 1B). In the pointing phase of the experiment, participants used a hand-held 3D tracked

pointing device to point at targets. In VR, the pointing device was rendered as a small sphere (R=5cm)

with an infinitely long ray emanating from it in both directions, although the ray could not be seen

beyond the corridor walls. Text was displayed on a panel attached to the ray providing instructions (e.g.

'point to Red'). The 6-degrees-of-freedom pose of the cyclopean point (a point midway between the

eyes), together with the orientation of the headset was recorded on every frame (60 fps).

[FIGURE 1]

Fig 1. Views of the labyrinth. *A) View from above. B) First person view. The green target is visible inside a grey*

box. The target sequence is shown on the wrist-band in the bottom-right corner and the current target is

highlighted (Green). A movie version is here:

https://www.glennersterlab.com/muryy_glennerster/FirstPersonView_Fixed.mp4

2.3   Stimuli

We designed two general layouts of the virtual labyrinth (Layout 1, shown in Fig. 1 and 2, Layout

2 shown in the S1 Fig). Each of these general layouts could be modified by the addition of wormholes.

The virtual environment could be subdivided into 25 (5x5) elementary squares each having a size equal

to the corridor's width. Initially, the environment consisted only of a chequered floor and a green

cylinder, indicating the start location. The participant walked into the green cylinder, faced in the

direction of the red arrow (Fig. 1A) and then the green cylinder and red arrow disappeared, so that the

starting location was not marked during the exploration phase. The labyrinth contained 4 target objects

(red, green, blue and yellow spheres) hidden inside open grey boxes, so that they could be seen only

from a short distance (Fig. 1B). Other empty grey boxes were added as distractors.

For each labyrinth, we were able to increase the complexity of the environment by extending the

length of the corridors with non-metric 'wormholes', see Fig. 2B and 2C (for details of three-wormhole

condition and Layout 2 see Supplementary Material). There were three conditions per Layout: one

'Fixed' (i.e. rigid and unchanging as the participant explored the maze), one containing one wormhole

and another containing three wormholes. Colored circles in Fig. 2 show the location of the targets and

'S' shows the Start. In the wormhole conditions, the dashed lines acted as invisible triggers: when a

participant crossed this line, the environment changed as shown in the sub-plots although the changed

regions were always out of sight at the moment the participant passed through the trigger so there was

no visible indication that anything had changed. For instance, in the one-wormhole condition shown in

Fig. 2B, if a participant were to cross the trigger indicated by the red dashed line, the environment would

change to schematic W1(a); if the participant continued walking down the path through the wormhole

(e.g. along the dashed black line) and crossed the green trigger line, the environment would change

again to schematic W1(b), then if the participant crossed the blue trigger line he or she would exit the

wormhole and the environment would change back to the original layout. Note that the same is true if

the participant were to enter the wormhole the other way: they would then move from W1b scene to

W1a scene and back to the original base layout.

For both Layout 1 and Layout 2, the wormhole conditions were derived from the layout of the

Fixed condition, as shown in Fig. 2. One way to think of the wormholes is as generating a new floor in

a building and suddenly transporting the participant to a new floor. According to this analogy, for a

given Layout (say, Layout 1) the 'ground floor', or base-level layout, of the environment was the same

for Fixed, one-wormhole and three-wormhole conditions. The corridors through the wormholes did not

have any junctions which meant that the topological connectivity of space was the same in all 3

conditions (although the different coloured targets could be placed at different locations within the

maze). The main difference between Fixed and wormhole conditions was the length and configuration

of the corridors. The wormholes extended the corridors in a way that made a correct Euclidean

representation impossible. For instance, the path through the wormhole in Fig. 2B has the shape of a

figure of eight, i.e. it crosses itself, although there are no visible junctions along that path, which is

physically impossible.

[FIGURE 2]

Fig. 2. 'Fixed' and wormhole conditions. *The general layout (containing Start, which is marked as 'S') remained*

constant between conditions. A) 'Fixed' condition in Layout 1. B) One-wormhole condition in Layout 1; the green

target is inside the wormhole and the red and blue dashed lines show the location of the triggers to change the

virtual environment to one of the scenes indicated in the subplot w1(a) or w1(b). The only region in which a

participant could walk once they entered a wormhole is shown by the black dashed line. See text for details. C)

Three-wormhole condition for Layout 1; red, green and yellow targets are inside wormholes (for details of the

three wormholes see S1 Fig). For movies illustrating particpant trajectories in the Fixed, one-wormhole and

three-wormhole conditions and for the layout of the maze in Layout 2, see Supplementary Material.

[FIGURE 3]

Fig. 3. *Topological graphs corresponding to the schematics shown in Fig. 2A, B and C (Layout 1). Coloured*

circles represent targets; S, N1 and N2 are 3-way junctions; S is the start location.

2.4   Procedure

Participants followed the instructions they were given, finding the four targets shown on their

wristband in the specified order. When they reached the fourth target, they pointed at the other targets

and at the Start location but the results of this pointing task are reported in a separate paper [1] so ithey

are not described further here, although see Fig 13 for a comparison of the pointing data and the

navigational choice data. In the course of one experimental session, which took about 1 hour,

participants were tested sequentially on the three types of maze, i.e. Fixed, one-wormhole and three-

wormhole conditions, all with the same general layout (i.e. all Layout 1 or Layout 2). This was designed

deliberately to help participants to navigate in the more complex environments. The tasks and

instructions were identical for all three conditions. The instructions given to participants were to collect

all four target objects in a specified order in the most efficient way. 'Collect' meant approach

sufficiently close to the target (within a radius of 0.5m from the cyclopean point and within the field of

view) which caused its colour to change from bright to dull and, at the same time, the colour of that ball

changed in the same way on the wrist-mounted panel. The meaning of 'efficient' was not defined

precisely for participants although it was emphasized to them that they should not hurry and that their

performance was not being judged by their speed. 'Efficient' could mean choosing the shortest path, or

the smallest number of turns or junctions (i.e. navigational decisions) – this was left to participants to

decide.

The first five rounds were a 'learning' phase in which participants always began at the Start

location and 'collected' targets in the same sequence Start-Red-Green-Blue-Yellow (S-R-G-B-Y). The

purpose of the learning phase was to allow participants to build up a spatial representation of the

labyrinth gradually through multiple repetitions of the same navigational task. During the test phase

(the last 3 rounds out of a total of 8 rounds), the navigational sequences were changed to three new

sequences: Y-G-B-Y-R, R-B-R-Y-G and G-Y-G-R-B. Participants did not have to go to the Start

locations at the beginning of a round but instead started at the location where the previous round ended.

Excluding the practice session, each participant carried out 6 experimental sessions, each on a

different day. We tested one Layout per session (Layout 1 or Layout 2), testing 'Fixed', 'one-wormhole'

then 'three-wormhole' conditions in the session. On different days (sessions) participant was tested on

alternating Layouts (Layout 1 then Layout 2 etc). Then participants repeated the sequence for two

repetitions, hence 6 days (sessions). S2 Fig lists all 18 conditions that participants experienced (2

Layouts, 3 room conditions ('Fixed', one-wormhole and three wormhole) and three repetitions). The

repetitions were not identical because the colours of the targets were switched around, so that on

repetition 2 the blue sphere might appear in the box where the red sphere had appeared in repetition 1.

Importantly, the structure of the maze and the location of the grey boxes remained the same. This meant

that while the instructions remained the same (e.g., in the learning phase, collect targets in sequence R-

G-B-Y) the actual routes in the maze to complete those tasks were different on different repetitions. For

all subsequent description and figures in the paper, however, in order to make it easier to follow, the

colours of the target at each location in the maze or graph remain the same per Layout, independent of

the repetition. We also used these labels for the nodes in the analysis.

For the purposes of analysis, we divided participants' movements into discrete steps, as follows.

During the experiments, we recorded participants' locations and orientations at 60 frames per second

and then converted these trajectory data into topological steps through the maze. For instance,

participant P5 made the following steps in Layout 1, Fixed condition (start locations and goal locations

are shown in bold):

Learning round 1, task Start-R-G-B-Y: **S** B N1 N2 Y N2 N1 **R** S **G** N2 Y N2 N1 **B** N1 N2 **Y**

Learning round 2, task Start-R-G-B-Y: **S** B N1 **R** N1 N2 **G** S **B** N1 R S G N2 **Y**

Learning round 3, task Start-R-G-B-Y: **S R** S **G** S **B** N1 N2 **Y**

Learning round 4, task Start-R-G-B-Y: **S R** S **G** S **B** N1 N2 **Y**

Learning round 5, task Start-R-G-B-Y: **S R** S **G** S **B** N1 N2 **Y**

Test round 1, task Yellow-G-B-Y-R:　**Y** N2 **G** S **B** N1 N2 **Y** N2 G S **R**

Test round 2, task Red-B-R-Y-G:　　**R** N1 **B** N1 **R** S G N2 **Y** N2 **G**

Test round 3, task Green-Y-G-R-B:　**G** N2 **Y** N2 **G** S **R** S **B**

where S is Start and N1 and N2 are the 3-way junctions shown in Fig. 3. This labelling of the routes

that participants made was a prerequisite to modelling their navigational decisions, as described in the

next section.

3　　　Results and modelling

When participants are allowed to move freely through a maze, it can be challenging to aggregate

their data in meaningful ways. Our principal solution to this problem was to compare the likelihood of

their navigational decisions under rival models. Before presenting the results of this modelling, there

are some general observations that can be made. First, participants' trajectories demonstrate learning,

in the sense that trajectories became progressively closer to the shortest metric route during learning.

Fig 4 illustrates this pattern for Layout 1. It also shows the increasing length that was required for

participants to reach the targets, even by the shortest possible routes, as they go from 'Fixed' to one-

wormhole to three-wormhole conditions. Fig 5 illustrates this for a particular task (going from G to Y

in this case). It shows how the paths between targets become increasingly convoluted in the wormhole

environments even when, from a topological perspective, the task is similar. Fig 6 includes some of the

sketches that participants made of the environment, illustrating the confusion that becomes apparent

when they have to pinpoint the location of the target spheres on a map (see the coiled lines

corresponding to wormhole corridors in Figs. 6B and 6C).

306
307

308
309
310
311   **[FIGURE 4]**

Fig. 4. Travelled distance per round. *Bars show mean distances travelled by all participants (n=14) in Layout 1,*

repetition 1. Error bars indicate standard deviations. Horizontal black lines indicate lengths of the shortest path

to the target, measured along the middle of the corridors. During the 5 rounds of the learning phase, the task was

always the same. During the test phase, participants' tasks were different on every round. The three panels show

data from the Fixed, one-wormhole and three-wormhole conditions. Similar plots for all Layouts and all

repetitions are shown in S2 Fig.

[FIGURE 5]

Fig. 5. Examples of a participants' paths. *A) Trajectories of paths taken during one subset of the task, "go*

from G to Y" in Layout 1 for the Fixed, one-wormhole and three-wormhole conditions. The shortest path is

marked in red, while green and blue lines represent alternative routes. Trajectories are drawn in the coordinate

frame of the lab. B) Same data shown as a topological graph. Numbers in brackets indicate the number of times

each route was taken (all participants, all runs). See Fig. 2 for details of the layout in the wormhole conditions.

[FIGURE 6]

Fig. 6. Sketches drawn by participants. *The black circle indicates the Start location, coloured circles are the targets (added to the sketches for clarity). A) Fixed condition, Layout 1. Notice that the schematic is very accurate except for scale (e.g. length of the corridor with the Yellow target). B) one-wormhole condition, Layout 1. The Green target was inside a wormhole and, from the squiggles connecting it to other targets, the participant appears to be confused about its location on the map and the shape of the corresponding corridor, while Red, Blue and Yellow targets are sketched correctly. C) Three-wormhole condition, Layout 2. The participant makes large errors in the locations of several targets but demonstrates knowledge of topological properties (connectivity between nodes) of the maze. A and B are from Layout 1, C is from Layout 2. More sketches are included S3 Fig.*

In the following section, we consider two models. One takes into account the participant's previous experience and whether one path or another was successful in the sense that it led, ultimately, to the goal that the participant had at the time. If so, this model predicts that the path is more likely to be taken during the test phase. We call this a 'Rewarded-choice model'. This approach is somewhat similar to the 'Dual Solution Paradigm' proposed by Marchette et al [34]. Even though in our

experiment participants were not restricted in their paths during the learning phase, as they were in

Marchette's experiment, it is still possible for us to evaluate the degree of familiarity of the routes that

participants took in the test phase. The second model assumes that the participant knows the length of

all paths to the goal. We call this the 'shortest distance model'.

3.1   Rewarded-choice model

The rewarded-choice model takes into account all navigational decisions that participants took

during the learning phase, and the success or otherwise of the choice that they took at any particular

junction. It uses this information to predict how they might behave during the three test rounds for that

condition. Consider the connectivity matrix for Layout 1 in the one-wormhole condition shown in Fig.

7B. This shows which paths are possible between any two nodes in the graph (Fig. 7A). The rows

represent 'beginning' nodes, i.e. places where the participant has a choice about which way to go. The

columns represent 'end' nodes, i.e. where the participant arrives after having made that decision, and a

'1' means it is possible to get directly between these two (i.e. there is an edge in the graph between

these two nodes). For instance, from the Start node (first row), possible steps are to Red, Green and N2

(columns 2, 3 and 7). If we assume that at the beginning of the learning phase the participant does not

have any prior knowledge about the structure of the maze, and thus all decisions about the route are

equally probable, the connectivity matrix of Fig 7B can be converted to a matrix showing the likelihood

of taking each path at any given junction as shown in Fig 7C. The probabilities on each row must sum

to 1 so, at this default stage, 2-way junctions have a 50% probability for each path and 3-way junctions

33%.

[FIGURE 7]

***Fig. 7. Connectivity and default decision matrix**. A) Topological graph for Layout 1. 'S' indicates the Start location where participants entered the maze and 'N1' and 'N2' are nodes in the graph indicating 3-way junctions in the maze. B) Corresponding connectivity matrix. C) Default likelihoods of steps, prior to the learning phase.*

In order to predict the choices that participants will make in the test phase, separate decision matrices are required per participant and per goal (because a participant might be expected to make a different choice at a given junction depending on what their goal was: R, G, B or Y). These were generated as follows. Starting with the default likelihood matrix (Fig 7C, i.e. random choices), the likelihoods associated with each choice were updated in a way that reflected the participant's success whenever they found the target. We re-played all the participants' trajectories during the learning phase. If the participant found the target at the end of a particular route then the next time the participant reached the same junction and had the same goal, the model assumed the participant was more likely to make the same choice again. To explain how this is done in detail, consider an example in which the participant's path goal was R and their path was **Start**-G-B-N1-**R**. Since the Red target was found successfully, the decision matrix is updated by increasing the likelihood of all the decisions that made up that path according to the formula below. The update rule has one free parameter, α, that determines the learning rate. Specifically, the likelihood of the steps S-to-G, G-to-B, B-to-N1 and N1-to-R (i.e. steps that successfully led to the goal R) are all increased using the following updating rule:

$p_{i,j} = \frac{p_{i,j}+\alpha}{\sum_{k=1}^{n} p_{i,k}+\alpha}$. This rule updates the likelihood, $p_{i,j}$, of making a step from node i to node j, where

α is the learning coefficient and n is the total number of nodes (where n = 3 at the Start, N1 or N2

otherwise n = 2). All other elements of row i ($p_{i,m}, m \neq j$) should also be updated as $p_{i,m} = \frac{p_{i,m}}{\sum_{k=1}^{n} p_{i,k}+\alpha}$

which ensures that elements in the row sum up to 1 (see Figure 8). This updating is repeated until all

the participant's trajectories for the learning phase have been used.

There are choices to be made in deciding how one should build a learning model of this sort. In

our implementation, we assumed that participants would notice when they encountered a target *en route*

to their specified goal. This means that we update more than one learning matrix simultaneously. So,

for example, in the above case of a participant going from Start to Red by the route **Start**-G-B-N1-**R,**

the steps Start-G and G-B are both steps on the way to Blue (so we should update the Blue goal learning

matrix) and on the way to Red (so we should also update the Red goal learning matrix). Likewise, we

reward the step Start-G in the learning matrix that determines the paths to the Green target. When the

participant travelled **Start**-G-B-N1-**R**, we made the choice that, in our model, the reverse route **R**-N1-

B-G-Start should be rewarded according to the same rules (i.e. we assumed that people noticed the route

that would take them back from Red to Start). The likelihood matrices were filled in by using data from

the learning phase only. Note that our model differs from the 'response' model of Marchette et al [34]

because in their case the participant had no choice about the route taken during the training phase which

meant that, in the test phase, the rewarded route was inevitably the same as the previously-chosen route.

That is not the case in our experiment or model.

A   B   C

[FIGURE 8]

Fig. 8. Illustration of update rule in the rewarded-choice model. *A) At node N1, the default likelihoods for the three potential choices are 1/3 each. Each time the participant chooses the (successful) path from N1 to R (arrows) the likelihoods for the chosen route is increased in the model according to the rule $p_{i,j} = \frac{p_{i,j}+\alpha}{\sum_{k=1}^{n} p_{i,k}+\alpha}$ (see text), where the learning coefficient, α, is 0.7 in these examples. The other two routes are updated according to the rule $p_{i,m} = \frac{p_{i,m}}{\sum_{k=1}^{n} p_{i,k}+\alpha}$ (see text). This gives the likelihoods shown in **B**. When the participant chooses the route N1 to R again, the same rules give rise to the likelihoods shown in **C**.*

[FIGURE 9]

Fig. 9. Constructing a learning matrix. *A) A topological graph for Layout 1 including, along each edge, the distance (in metres) between nodes. Red arrows show an example of the participant's task during the test phase: 'go from Green to Red'. B) Likelihood matrices per target for one participant after they had completed the*

learning phase. These matrices show the likelihoods according to the rewarded-route model as described in the

*text. The highlighted elements of the matrix show the likelihoods of the steps shown in **A***.

Fig. 9B shows an example of the likelihood matrices calculated for one participant using all their

data in the learning phase in the one-wormhole condition (Layout 1). Fig. 9A shows an example of a

route that that participant took in the corresponding test phase. The task here was to go from Green to

Red (notice that this task does not happen during the learning phase). There are 4 possible solutions to

this task without loops: 1) G-B-N1-R, 2) G-S-R, 3) G-B-N1-N2-S-R, and 4) G-S-N2-N1-R. In this

example, the participant chose the first path, shown in Fig. 9A and by the red outlines in Fig. 9B. Notice

that steps along this path have the highest likelihood in the corresponding matrix (Fig. 9B), which

illustrates that, in this example, the participant's behaviour during the test phase is consistent with their

experience during the learning phase.

3.2   Shortest-distance model

The other model is much simpler to describe. The likelihood of a decision under the shortest-

distance model can be calculated in the following way. For each binary decision point (i.e. 3-way

junction) we found all paths to the goal via the left and right path from the current node (backward steps

were not allowed). Then, we found the shortest metric path for each of the two (via left and via right)

and calculated their lengths D_L and D_R. One option is to assign a probability of 1 in the model to the

shortest of these choices (eg the left path) and a probability of zero to the other choice but our model

assumed that there was noise on the estimate of lengths D_L and D_R so the probabilities were non-binary.

Specifically, we assumed that estimates of the path length are subject to Gaussian noise whose standard

deviation is proportional to overall route length (Weber's law): $\sigma_L = \beta * D_L$, $\sigma_R = \beta * D_R$, where $\beta <$

1 is a free parameter. The likelihood of taking the shortest route can then be estimated according to the

overlap of the two distance estimate distributions. This is $p_{shortest} = 1 - S_{intersection}/2$, where

$S_{intersection}$ is the area of the intersection of the two Gaussians and, since there are only two options,

$p_{longest} = 1 - p_{shortest}$.

447   It is important to note that the perceived size of the maze for all participants was determined by

448 eyeheight cues (i.e. participants assumed that their feet were at the level of the floor and that the rest of

449 the scene was scaled accordingly). In fact, as described in the Methods, the virtual floor was 0.6 times

450 the true distance below the eye and the whole scene 0.6 times the normal size so there is a conflict

451 between idiothetic cues from proprioception (distance walked) and interocular separation (baseline

452 cues, as discussed in the Introduction) about the size of the scene and, conversely, these two competing

453 scales give conflicting information about the distance in metres that the participant has walked (see

454 Svarverud et al [9] for discussion of combination of these cues). However, any effects of such conflict

455 would be expected to be the same in the 'Fixed', one-wormhole and three-wormhole conditions.

3.3 Model comparison

458 We compare the performance of the two models in predicting the binary choices participants made

459 during the test phase (the last 3 rounds of 8), i.e. at each 3-way junction (we assumed that they did not

460 go backwards at a junction, which was extremely rare in practice). For each model, we evaluate the

461 likelihood under that model of all the binary decisions participants made. For the rewarded-choice

462 model, the learning coefficient, α, was chosen such that it maximized the likelihood of responses during

463 the test phase per participant per condition. Mean parameter values across all participants for the Fixed

464 condition were $\alpha = 0.87$, for one-wormhole $\alpha = 0.70$ and, for three-wormholes, $\alpha = 0.73$. We

465 repeated the same exercise for the shortest-distance model. Parameter β (Weber fraction) was also fitted

466 per participant per condition. Mean parameter values over participants were: $\beta = 0.23$ for the Fixed

467 condition, $\beta = 0.22$ for one-wormhole and $\beta = 0.33$ for the three-wormhole condition.

468   Fig. 10A shows the two models compared using the data for all participants taken together. In

469 the 'Fixed' condition, the shortest-distance model provides a better account of the data than the

470 rewarded-choice model (negative log likelihood of the shortest-distance model is 60 lower, equivalent

471 to a Bayes Factor of 10^{26}) whereas, for the three-wormhole condition, the reverse is true and the

472 rewarded-choice model provides a better account than the shortest-distance model (negative log

likelihood of rewarded-choice model is 82 lower, equivalent to a Bayes Factor of 10^{-36}). This change

arises because the shortest-distance model becomes a progressively worse predictor of performance for

more complex scenes (i.e. from the Fixed to one-wormhole to three-wormhole condition) while the

likelihood of the rewarded-choice model changes much less across conditions. An ANOVA on

likelihoods per condition per participant confirms that, for the shortest-distance model, condition has a

significant effect ($F_{(2,41)} = 14.6$, $p<0.001$), whereas for the rewarded-choice model there is no

significant effect of condition ($F_{(2,41)} = 0.67$, $p=0.52$). For the shortest-distance model, breaking this

main effect of condition down into steps, there is a significant effect of changing from 'Fixed' to one-

wormhole condition ($F_{(1,27)} = 5.44$, $p=0.036$) and from one-wormhole to three-wormhole conditions

($F_{(1,27)} = 9.81$, $p=0.008$).

Fig 10B illustrates the effect of condition for the shortest route model, shown here for the 'Fixed'

and three-wormhole conditions. The negative log likelihood of the data for each participant under the

shortest-distance model (plotted on the ordinate) is systematically greater in the three-wormhole (blue)

condition: for all but one participant (down-going triangles), the negative log likelihood of the shortest-

distance model is greater for the three-wormhole condition than it is for the fixed condition (i.e. for all

other pairs in this plot, the blue symbol is higher than the red symbol, paired t-test, $t(13) = 5.4$, $p<0.001$).

A

B

[FIGURE 10]

496 ***Fig. 10. Model comparison.*** *A) Likelihoods of combined participants' data per condition per model. B)*

497 *Comparison of the goodness-of-fit of the two models for each participant in the 'Fixed' and three-wormhole*

498 *conditions. Different symbols indicate different participants. The same parameters were used for all participants*

499 *(in both A and B).*

501   Another way to assess the significance of the difference in negative log likelihoods between the

two models is to sample from each model and then to measure the likelihood of these samples under

both models. Fig. 11 illustrates why this is an informative way of assessing data under two rival models.

Essentially, this is illustrating the fact that data can have a quite high likelihood under two quite different

models even when the models are different. In Fig. 11, looking only at likelihood of a data point under

the red model (a Gaussian), it can be hard to tell whether a sample was drawn from the red model (which

one would think should provide highly likely samples) or drawn from the blue model (which is a quite

different Gaussian but gives rise to samples that have a high likelihood under the red model). By

measuring the likelihood of samples drawn from each model and tested against each model, as shown

in Fig. 11, it is possible to distinguish clearly between the models. A likelihood ratio of 1 corresponds

to the line of unity on this plot and a data point falling either side of this line favours one model or the

other. But this method provides a visualization of whether the data are a typical sample of either model.

[FIGURE 11]

Fig. 11. Illustration of model comparison. Reproduced from Gootjes-Dreesbach et al (2017), with

permission. The left panel shows two Gaussians as two 'toy' models. Sampling from the red model and

evaluating the likelihood (t) of the sample under the red model gives rise to a very similar distribution of

likelihoods (shown on the y-axis) as the distribution of likelihoods of the same samples evaluated under the the

blue model. The reverse is not the case: sampling from the blue model and evaluating the likelihood of these

samples under both the blue and red model gives rise to quite distinct distributions of likelihoods (x-axis).

Fig 12 shows this type of analysis applied to the shortest-distance and rewarded-choice models.

To generate samples from the model, we have used the same number of decision points as there are in

the experimental data. At each junction where a participant made a choice in the experiment, a discrete

choice was generated from the model according to the probability of a L/R decision in that model for

that junction. Hence, a different set of choices is generated for each simulated trial. These samples can

then be assessed under each model in the same way as the data. Fig. 12 plots the negative log likelihood

of each sample under both models for the Fixed, one-wormhole and three-wormhole conditions.

Samples drawn from the shortest-distance model are shown in green and from the rewarded-choice model in orange. Unlike Fig. 11, the samples from the models in this case are much more likely under the model from which they were drawn, suggesting that the models do not overlap in the way that they do in Fig. 11. The likelihood of the experimental data (all participants, all Layouts, all repetitions combined) under both models is shown by the grey dot. This data point falls on opposite sides of the line of unity for the Fixed and three-wormhole conditions, which is simply a re-plot of the data from Figure 10A and reiterates the result that the shortest-distance model gives a better account of the data for the Fixed condition while the rewarded-choice model gives a better account for the three-wormhole condition. Data for individual participants is included in the plot (appropriately scaled, see Fig. 12 legend), re-plotted from Figure 10B.

[FIGURE 12]

Fig. 12. Comparing models by sampling. Panels A, B and C show data and models for the Fixed, one-wormhole and three-wormhole conditions respectively. As in Fig 10B, negative log likelihood under the shortest-distance model is plotted against negative log likelihood under the rewarded-choice model. The grey dot in each panel shows, for each condition, the likelihood of the data for all participants in both Layouts and all repeats under both models (with α and β parameters fitted individually per participant). Orange and green clouds indicate 10000 synthetic data-samples generated from the rewarded-choice and shortest-distance models respectively. (likelihoods sampled from individual participant models and then combined). The negative log likelihood of the actual combined data is indicated by the grey circle and is the same as shown in Fig. 10A. Open symbols indicate

individual participants, where corresponding likelihoods were scaled by raising each to the power n=14 (number

of participants.

It is striking that the likelihood of the combined data (grey dot) is similar to the likelihood of samples

taken from the *either* model (i.e. the likelihood of the data falls within the marginal distributions for

both models) yet this is not true at all for the samples taken from the models (green or orange dots)

which are quite likely under the model they were picked from but highly *un*likely under the opposing

model. This is because samples from each model include a small number of predictions of decisions

that are highly unlikely according to the opposing model. Participants, on the other hand, largely avoid

these cases.

We also sampled from a chance model, i.e. where a model participant would choose options at

any junction with equal probability. However, this is a highly unlikely model. The chance model gave

rise to negative log likelihoods over 2000 for each condition, way outside the range both of participants'

data and of our two models.

4   Discussion

We have measured the ability of participants to find the shortest route to a previously-viewed

target in a virtual labyrinth, especially in cases where the labyrinth has a non-Euclidean structure.

Participants' success in this task contrasted markedly with the drastic failures in pointing to previously-

viewed targets that we have described before [1] despite the fact that both measures were obtained

contemporaneously from the same participants in the same experimental setup. Our main finding is that

participants' choices at junctions in the complex, non-physically-realisable, 'wormhole' conditions

were predicted by a rewarded-choice model better than a shortest-distance model. In other words, in

these wormhole environments, participants tended to make the same choices at junctions that had been

successful before when searching for the same target. By contrast, in the simpler, physically-realisable

environments participants' choices at junctions were best predicted by a shortest-distance model.

Marchette and colleagues [34] described these as 'response' and 'place' strategies respectively. They

found that participants spanned a wide range between the two extremes. We found that the relative

dominance of the two different strategies changed depending on the complexity of the scene. Within

participant, and tested over the same number of trials, we have found evidence that participants use

different strategies or representations depending on the complexity of the scene. Hence, the variation in

strategy cannot be due only to individual differences or the number of times an observer experiences an

environment [15,24–27]. Instead, the length of corridors and the number of twists and turns down each

seems to have an important effect on the way people tackle the navigation task. This might also be true

in a complex environment with many twists and turns that is Euclidean or 'Fixed', without wormholes.

If observers use a graph-like representation, then this change in strategy with different degrees

of complexity of the environment is easy to explain. Similar to Siegel and White [22] and others [14],

our working hypothesis is that observers start with a representation of connectivity and gradually add

information about the edges between nodes. This is a flexible notion. The information about edges could

be quite crude (e.g. 'shorter than average edge' versus 'longer distance') but in theory it could include

much more precise information. As we discussed in the Introduction, this could include sufficient

information about the distance and angles between nodes of the graph representation for it to become

impossible to distinguish the behaviour of an observer who relied on this 'well-calibrated' graph from

a participant using a Euclidean map, if their tasks were to find shortcuts between (and point between)

previously-viewed targets. A similar argument has been made about the representation of object shape

[30,31]. The two types of information that we have explored in this paper, i.e. rewarded choice and

shortest distance, can both be seen as part of this hierarchical progression. It makes sense that past

success at a junction should be more basic and ranked lower in the hierarchy than distance along an

edge (i.e. the latter is part of a more calibrated representation). Our results are compatible with that

view: in the more complex, non-Euclidean mazes with longer corridors, observers seem to rely more

on previously reward-choices at junctions whereas in the simpler, Euclidean mazes with short corridors

observers show evidence that they take account of the lengths of corridors in their choices.

Complexity and non-Euclidean structure co-varied in our experiment because the length of

corridors in the maze, and the number of twists and turns (but not junctions) was greater in the non-

Euclidean environment. It would take a much larger virtual environment than was available in our lab

to disentangle these two. It is worth noting that the likelihoods of the metric model across participants

were significantly worse for the three-wormhole condition than for the one-wormhole condition,

suggesting that one cannot lump together both the wormhole environments and explain performance

simply according to whether an environment has *any* non-Euclidean structure. The three-wormhole

condition was more complex and more parts of it were non-Euclidean than the one-wormhole condition,

so it is not surprising that the effects of the wormholes were more extreme.

An alternative model, which we have not tested, is that participants take the shortest topological

route to the goal (Chrastil and Warren [14]). The fact that wormholes do not affect the topological

structure of the maze but radically alter the metric length of certain edges makes this quite a distinct

hypothesis from the shortest metric route hypothesis. For example, the shortest topological distance and

metric distance between any pair of nodes might correlate highly in the 'Fixed' condition but, assuming

this to be the case, the correlation would inevitably be reduced by increasing the metric length of some

edges and not others, as happens in the wormhole conditions. Anecdotally, participants in the three-

wormhole condition often tend to get lost and have 'loops' in their trajectories in which they return to

the same node *en route* to a target. Despite the similar topological structure, this behaviour is uncommon

in the 'Fixed' condition.

A speculation that goes beyond our data, but which is testable, is that the same result would be

observable in 'fixed' environments of different degrees of complexity even without introducing non-

Euclidean elements in the maze such as wormholes. If it were possible to let participants explore far

more complex (but 'fixed', Euclidean) environments and, on other trials, wormhole environments then

participants could carry out two tasks simultaneously: (i) search for targets, as in the current experiment,

and (ii) judge, in a forced-choice paradigm, whether they believed they were in a complex 'fixed'

environment or a 'wormhole' environment. Our prediction is that in a highly complex environment, just

like a tourist arriving in a new city, participants would find the second of these tasks quite difficult. We

also predict that the rewarded-choice model would be the best model of their navigation strategy for

both types of environment during the period of learning when they are unable to discriminate between

'Fixed' and non-Euclidean environments. Once participants have more experience with the

environment, they should be able to store information about distances between nodes in their labeled

graph. If so, this should enable them to make judgements about the shortest distance between two

locations so, at this stage, the shortest-distance model should be the better model for predicting their

navigation behaviour. Note that this prediction does not depend on whether or not the participants are

able to determine whether the maze is 'Fixed' or non-Euclidean. Such an experiment would establish

whether the Euclidean structure of the environment (and, by extension, a Euclidean representation) was

important *per se* in determining performance, independent of complexity and familiarity.

Finally, it is worth comparing the navigation data in the current paper to the pointing data in our

previous paper collected in the same environment [1], because, unlike the navigation task, pointing is a

direct way of testing whether participants can form a Euclidean representation of the scene. Muryy and

Glennerster [1] applied different models to the pointing data and concluded that a Euclidean

representation could not account for the pointing responses of participants in the three-wormhole

condition as successfully as a non-Euclidean one. The non-Euclidean model in that case allowed both

the perceived location *and orientation* of the observer to vary as they moved around the maze (yellow

bars in Figure 13). The conclusion reached was similar to that in the current paper, i.e. that in the three-

wormhole environment participants use a cruder form of representation. In more familiar environments

(the 'fixed' condition), participants add information to this representation so that, at its most extreme,

the information about each edge in the graph is so rich that the representation is equivalent to full

Euclidean structure.

Fig. 13. Data replotted from Muryy and Glennerster [1]. *Bayesian Information Criterion is used to compare performance of a metric and a non-metric model of pointing data in the same environment as the current experiment (plotted using data shown originally in Fig 9B in* [1]*). Unlike the models compared in the current paper, the two pointing models were nested with different numbers of parameters and hence BIC is an appropriate method of comparison.*

It is logically possible for observers to show excellent performance on the navigation task while making large errors in the pointing task provided one assumes that there is no common, Euclidean representation supporting both tasks. If the visual system relied on a common representation for both tasks, there should be a correlation between the two measures of performance. In each case, we can take measures that indicate how 'lost' a participant is, one from their navigation and one from their pointing. For navigation, we take a ratio of travelled distance to the shortest distance for a full round (including all 4 targets). For participants who are very familiar with the environment, this ratio should be close to one. For pointing, we take the mean absolute pointing error measured for 8 pointing directions (4 targets) at the end of a round as a different measure of how lost they are. In the 'Fixed' condition, there is a significant positive correlation between these two measures, as one might expect (Pearson correlation 0.43, $p < 10^{-9}$). On the other hand, for both wormhole conditions there is no significant correlation (0.02, $p=0.70$ and 0.07, $p=0.35$ for WH1 and WH3 respectively), see S4 Fig. This supports the contention that the two measures of 'being lost' are not necessarily linked, something

that is compatible with a graph-like representation, but one would not expect this if the observer relied

on a Euclidean map for both tasks. There are many examples of such task-dependency in tests of spatial

performance: [9,31,43–45]. A recent example is the demonstration by Strickrodt et al [20] that

participants can point in quite different directions to the same target depending on how they imagine

arriving at it [29]. The authors conclude that local spatial information is not integrated into a coherent

global map. The data we have presented here, especially when considered in conjunction with the

pointing data from [1], support this view.

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Supplementary Material. Supplementary Figures S1_fig.pdf, S2_fig.pdf, S3_fig.pdf and S4_fig.pdf

attached. Also, below see links to movies illustrating figures the maze layout (like Fig 1 and Fig 2A,B,C

but with a moving observer).

688
For Fig. 1, see movie:

https://www.glennersterlab.com/muryy_glennerster/FirstPersonView_Fixed.mp4

which shows first-person view of the labyrinth-scene, Fixed condition.

For Fig. 2a, see movie: https://www.glennersterlab.com/muryy_glennerster/Scene1_Fixed.mp4

which shows trajectories of a participant in Fixed scene.

For Fig. 2b, see movie: https://www.glennersterlab.com/muryy_glennerster/Scene1_WH1.mp4

which shows trajectories in the one-wormhole condition, notice that global structure of the scene

changes as the participant moves through the wormhole.

For Fig. 2c, see movie: https://www.glennersterlab.com/muryy_glennerster/Scene1_WH3.mp4

this shows trajectories in the three-wormhole condition.

Raw data and code that reproduces S2 Fig in the supplementary information (distance travelled in all

conditions by all participants) is at:

http://glennersterlab.com/muryy_glennerster/muryy_glennerster_data.zip

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Supplementary Material, Muryy and Glennerster

Figure S1: *Schematics of the labyrinths for Layout 1 (A,B,C) and Layout 2 (D,E,F). A)*
'Fixed' condition. B) One-wormhole condition; green target is inside wormhole W1. C) Three-
wormhole condition; red, green and yellow targets are inside wormholes. The general layout
(containing Start, which is marked as 'S', described as the 'ground floor' in the text) remained
constant between conditions. The wormholes are marked with letters W surrounded by red
and blue triggers. As the participant crossed a trigger, the environment changed without the
participant being able to detect this transition, leading to the changes shown in the sub-
schematics. Inside a wormhole, the participant could only walk along the route marked by the
black dashed line. There were no junctions inside wormholes. D), E), F) show the same for
Layout 2. Also see movies for A), B) and C).

Figure S2: *Travelled distance per round. Bars show mean distances (in metres) travelled by all participants (n=14) in each condition. Error bars indicate standard deviations. Horizontal black lines indicate lengths of the shortest solution, measured along the middle of the corridors. During the 5 rounds of the learning phase, the task was always the same (go from Start to Red-Green-Blue-Yellow). During the test phase (last 3 rounds), participants were asked to solve novel tasks, i.e. the routes were different on every test round.*

Layout 1

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Layout 2

Figure S3. *Sketches drawn by participants right after experimental session. The ground-truth schematics for both scenes in all conditions are shown in Fig. S1.*

Original drawing **Reoriented to match Fig2**

Scene1, Metric, rep1, Participant8

Scene1, WH1, rep1, Participant3

Scene1, WH1, rep2, Participant4

Original drawing   **Reoriented to match Fig2**

Scene1, WH1, rep2, Participant7

Scene1, WH3, rep1, Participant8

Scene1, WH3, rep2, Participant1

Original drawing   **Reoriented to match Fig2**

Scene2, M, rep1, Participant8

Scene2, M, rep2, Participant6

Scene2, WH1, rep1, Participant8

Original drawing   **Reoriented to match Fig2**

Scene2, WH1, rep2, Participant4

Scene2, WH1, rep2, Participant7

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Scene2, WH3, rep1, Participant4

Scene2, WH3, rep2, Participant4

Figure S4. *Ability to point accurately against ability to find the shortest path. The x-axis*
shows a measure of the ability of participants to find shorter paths: it is a ratio of travelled
distance during a full round to the shortest distance of that round. The y-axis shows the ability
of participants to point accurately (from Muryy and Glennerster (2018)): this is a mean pointing
error (degrees) per round (mean over 8 pointings, since at the end of a round participants
pointed 8 times). Solid lines show fitted linear regression models.
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Other supplementary material

See links to movies illustrating figures the maze layout (like Fig 1 and Fig 2A,B,C but with a moving

observer).

For Fig. 1, see movie:

https://www.glennersterlab.com/muryy_glennerster/FirstPersonView_Fixed.mp4

which shows first-person view of the labyrinth-scene, Fixed condition.

For Fig. 2a, see movie: https://www.glennersterlab.com/muryy_glennerster/Scene1_Fixed.mp4

which shows trajectories of a participant in Fixed scene.

For Fig. 2b, see movie: https://www.glennersterlab.com/muryy_glennerster/Scene1_WH1.mp4

which shows trajectories in the one-wormhole condition, notice that global structure of the scene

changes as the participant moves through the wormhole.

For Fig. 2c, see movie: https://www.glennersterlab.com/muryy_glennerster/Scene1_WH3.mp4

this shows trajectories in the three-wormhole condition.

Raw data and code that reproduces S2 Fig in the supplementary information (distance travelled in all

conditions by all participants) is at:

http://glennersterlab.com/muryy_glennerster/muryy_glennerster_data.zip

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