

has less operator applications.

Figures 7-43 and 7-44 show the model fit displays for the modified version of Browser-Soar next to the original versions. These two displays show that the revised model has a denser level of support, the lines connecting the corresponding model and subject actions are closer together, and the RMSD and mean average deviation are lower. The rate of decision cycles to seconds ratio is also closer to the predicted mean, and visually the fit appears to be better. The modified version has slightly worse r^2 , more so when the model time unit is decision cycles (.69 versus .59) than for operator applications (.78 versus .75). The correspondence rates in decision cycles and operator applications per second for the modified model also go down, as less is done.

It is hard to tell if these differences are important. It would perhaps become easier to tell after further revisions of the *Evaluate-current-window* operator, and with a more proper regression line (Kadane et al., 1981; Larkin et al., 1986). These results do point out that it is hard to distinguish learning on the single problem space level at this time grain. In order to clearly distinguish these two problem space representations we would have to look at more episodes, more subjects, or further constraints from data. Given the lack of real difference, parsimony would argue for using the simpler, modified version of Browser-Soar.

This analysis also calls into question the strict interpretation used. The subject must decide to move the mouse. The operators that were removed originally represented this choice. With a different interpretation function, these operators would have been supported and would not have been removable. As noted in the list of corrections available when the model's predictions mismatch the data (Table 2-6), the interpretation function can also change. This case raises the question of how to interpret data given Soar's hierarchical operators and state representation. This may remain a problem for some time.

7.5 Testing and extending the sequentiality assumptions of protocol generation theory

As noted in their initial description, the relative processing rate displays allow the sequentiality assumption of Ericsson and Simon's (1984) theory of verbal protocol production to be tested. That is, if verbalizations are produced in the order that the corresponding data structures appear in working memory. There is another aspect to this assumption, that inputs to operators will be reported before their outputs, but is a more specific form that will not be directly tested unless we run into problems. A model of what appears in working memory is currently necessary to test this assumption. There are no other ways to tell when information enters working memory, and thus that it is reported in order. Having a model of the contents of working memory also allows use to judge if the verbalizations are retrospective or prospective.

Browser-Soar provides predictions of the contents of working memory while using a specific on-line help system. By examining the relationship of these predictions with the subject's verbal utterances in the ten Browser-Soar episodes, the sequentiality assumption can be tested.

The predictions of the external task actions (mouse movements and button presses) can also be compared with the contents of working memory, but because getting the order of the external actions the same for both model and subject is essential for performing the task, in a well developed model like Browser-Soar there is not likely to be many mismatches. What will be interesting though, is using the external actions to compute how later (or early) the verbal utterances are.

Finding that this holds will not be an iron-clad proof that this assumption holds. If it is an assumption, then it cannot be proven, only shown that we meet it. If it is treated more as part of the theory of verbal protocol production, then there may be similar models of browsing behavior where the information is reported in a different order, and that the current set of verbal protocols would not match sequentially.

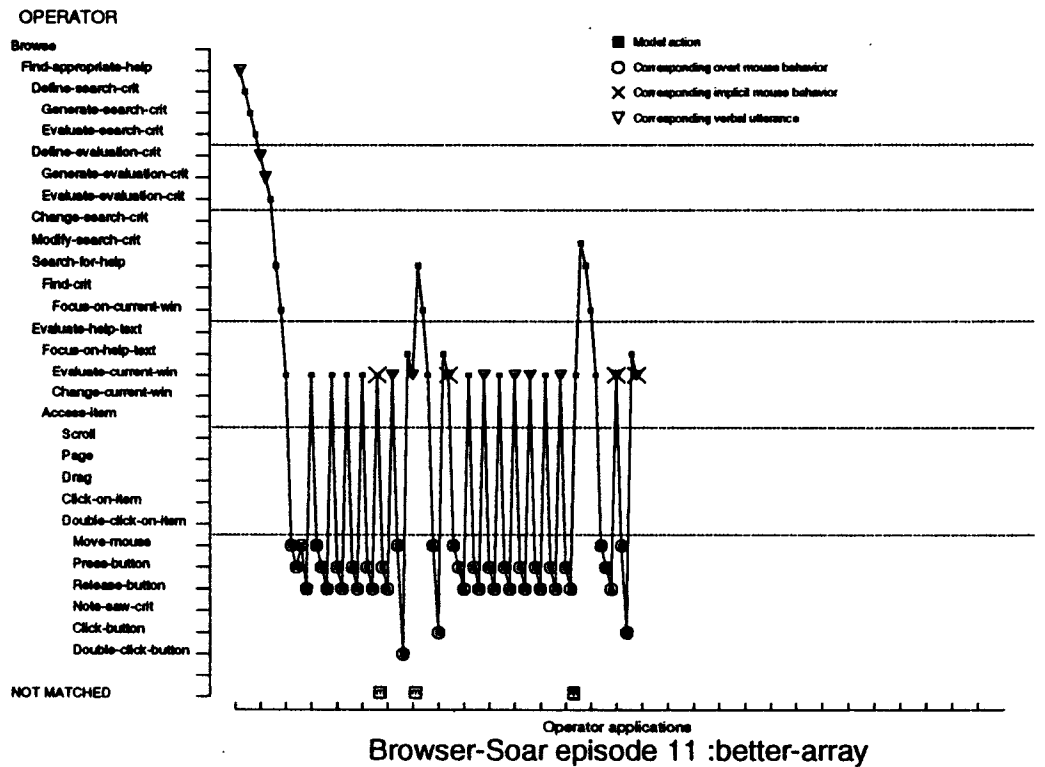
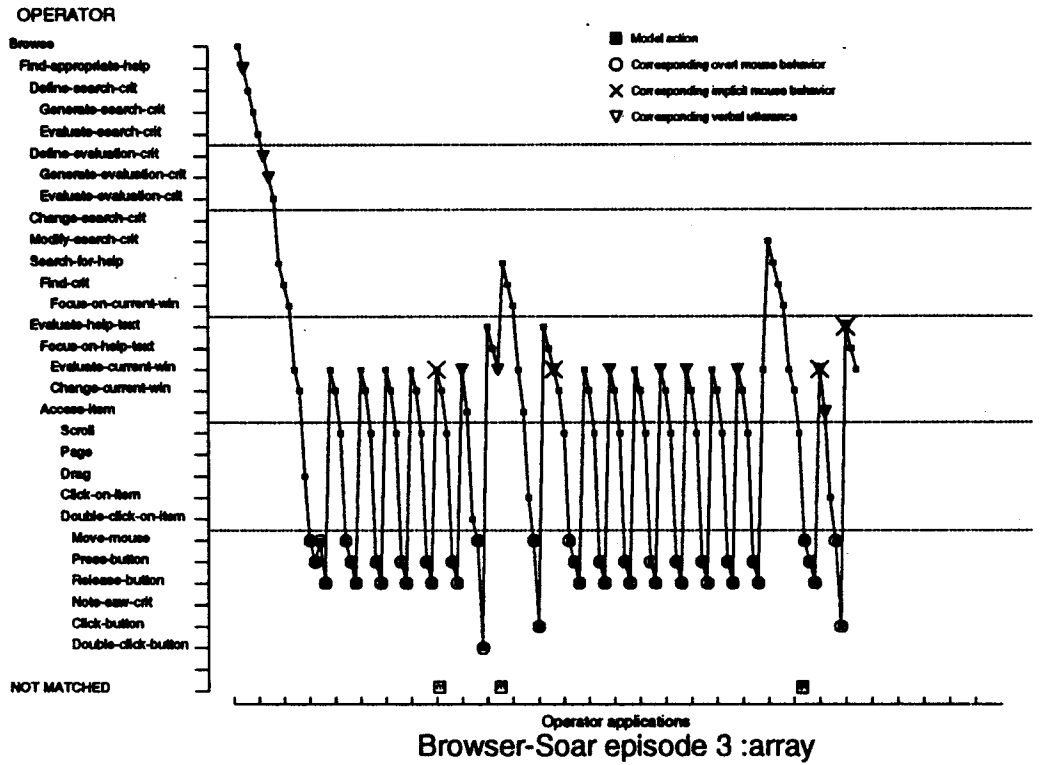


Figure 7-42: Operator support displays for the Array episode. The original Browser-Soar predictions are on the top, and the modified version on the bottom.

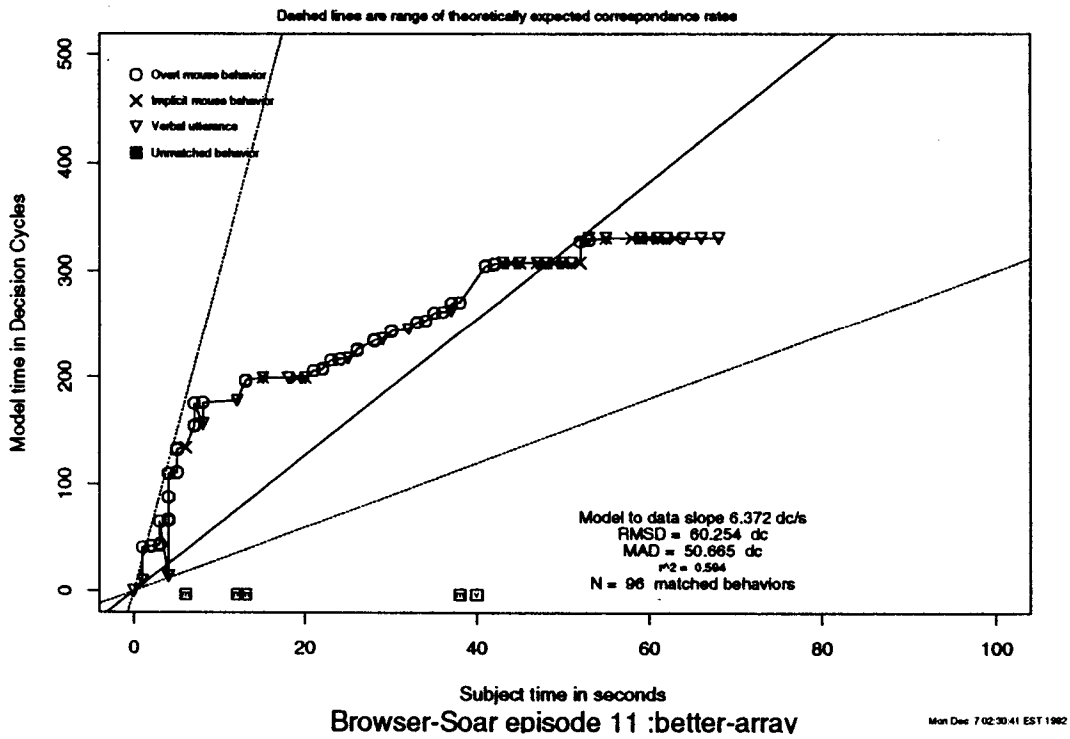
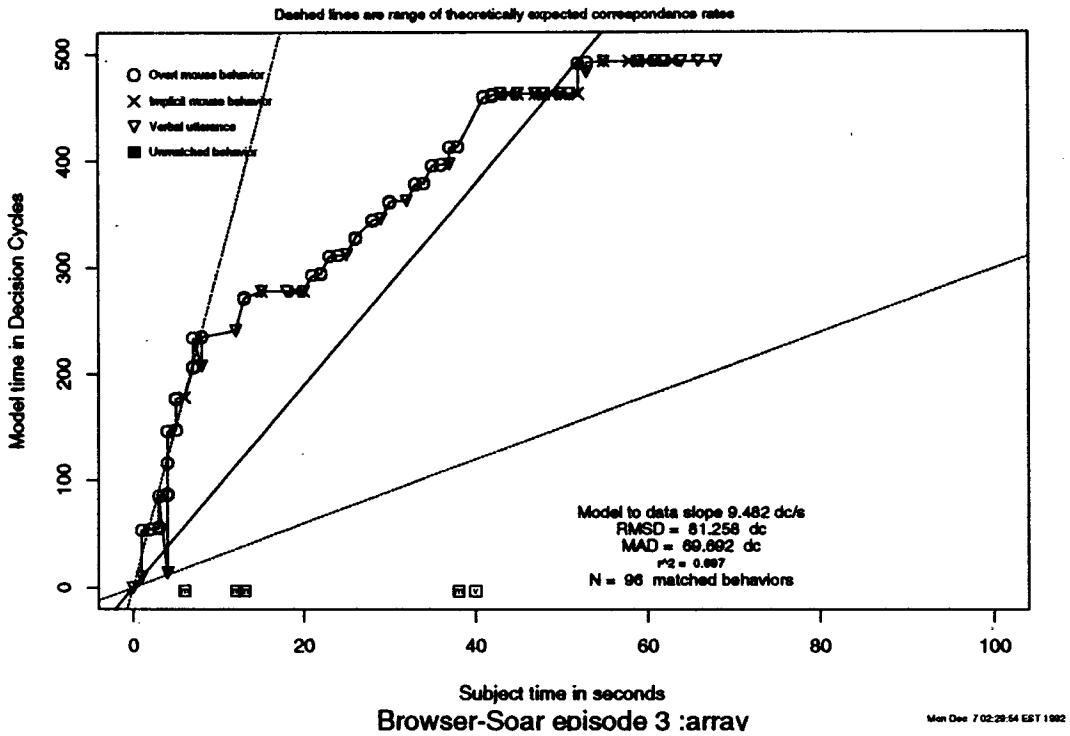


Figure 7-43: DC time based plots for the Array episode. The original Browser-Soar predictions are on the top, and the modified version on the bottom.

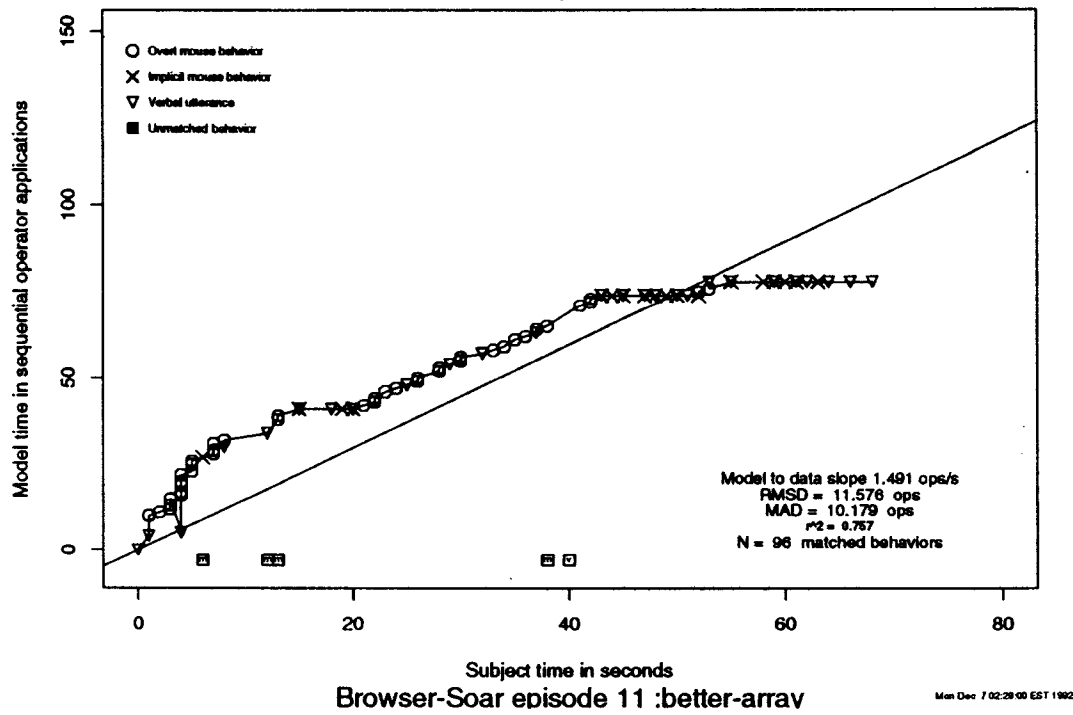
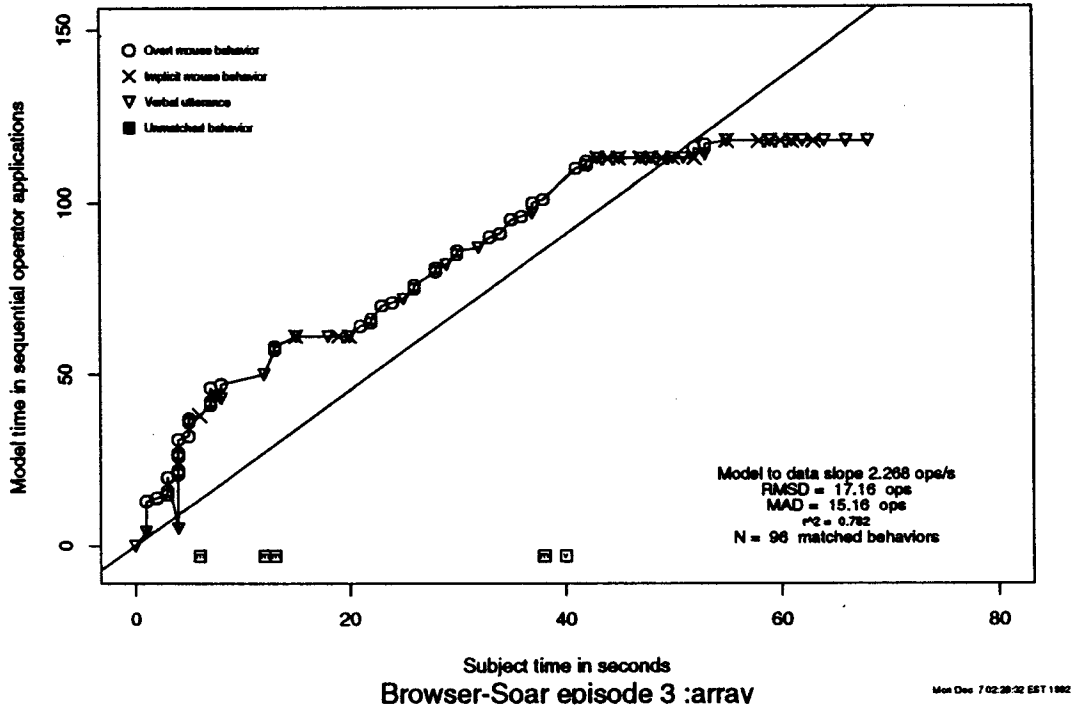


Figure 7-44: Relative processing rates displays based on operator applications for the Array episode. The original Browser-Soar predictions are on the top, and the modified version on the bottom.

7.5.1 Are verbalizations generated sequentially?

Of the 220 verbal utterances in the ten episodes, 195 can be aligned with the model's predictions. The remaining 25 are mostly too short to compare. The remaining segments make up 210 pairs of immediately sequential utterances that can be tested against the sequentiality assumption. This test can be performed by eye with the displays, and the initial analyses did this because it was so easy and direct. The final counts were taken from the data structure used to create the displays.

All 210 pairs follow the sequentiality assumption; for all the pairs, the later segment in each pair either matches the same model trace action as the first segment matches or a later model trace action. So this appears to be another constraint that Browser-Soar meets.

7.5.2 Are mouse actions generated sequentially?

In a similar way the mouse movements and mouse button actions can be tested for sequentially. Because these actions were used as fixed points to automatically align the subject's protocol and the model's trace, in order to match out of sequence they would had to have been moved by hand out of sequence, or items that could not be automatically aligned would have had to be aligned by hand.

Of the 404 mouse actions in the ten episodes, 373 can be aligned with the model's predictions.⁹ These 373 actions make up 363 pairs of sequentially contiguous actions. Again, a preliminary examination of the displays showed that none matched the model out of order, and an analysis of the data base confirmed that.

7.5.3 Does the sequentiality assumption hold across verbalizations and mouse actions?

All the subject's actions can be tested for sequentiality. As explained in Chapter 5, this can be done by examining the connected correspondences in the relative processing rate displays. Starting from the first correspondence and moving along the line of correspondences, a connecting segment with a negative slope indicates that the second correspondence matched earlier in the model than the first correspondence, violating the sequentiality assumption. Simply examining the displays shows that several verbal utterances lag the mouse movements noticeably. Of the 624 total segments, 568 are aligned with the model's actions in the ten episodes.¹⁰ These 568 actions make up 558 pairs of sequentially contiguous actions, and 21 pairs do not meet the sequentiality assumption, that is, in these pairs, the second subject action is a verbal utterance that matches an earlier prediction than the first action that is a mouse action.

The lag of verbal utterances was computed by comparing the decision cycle number of the model prediction corresponding to the verbal utterance with the decision cycle of the previously matched mouse action. Figure 7-45 shows the distribution of these times. Across all verbal utterances in all episodes the average lag was 9 decision cycles, or roughly 1 second. This is an acceptable number, indicating that while some verbal utterances appear to have been produced quite late compared to the mouse movements, overall the subject was not providing retrospective reports.

Most of the verbal statements (144 out of 195) match the model's predictions sequentially, not matching earlier portions of the model than their proceeding segment. Based on their starting points these utterances can be considered as truly concurrent protocol — it is generated as the subject doing the task and it matched the predictions of the contents of working memory. The ends of the utterances have not been included in these analyses, although Peck and John included this length in their data set.

⁹An astute reader may note that there are five more mouse movements matched by subject actions in this analysis than in the original analysis reported by Peck and John. One of these discrepancies has been found so far, and it was a typo.

¹⁰An astute reader may again note that there are five more predictions matched by subject actions in this analysis than in the original by Peck and John. Even with a semi-automatic tool, analysts will make mistakes.

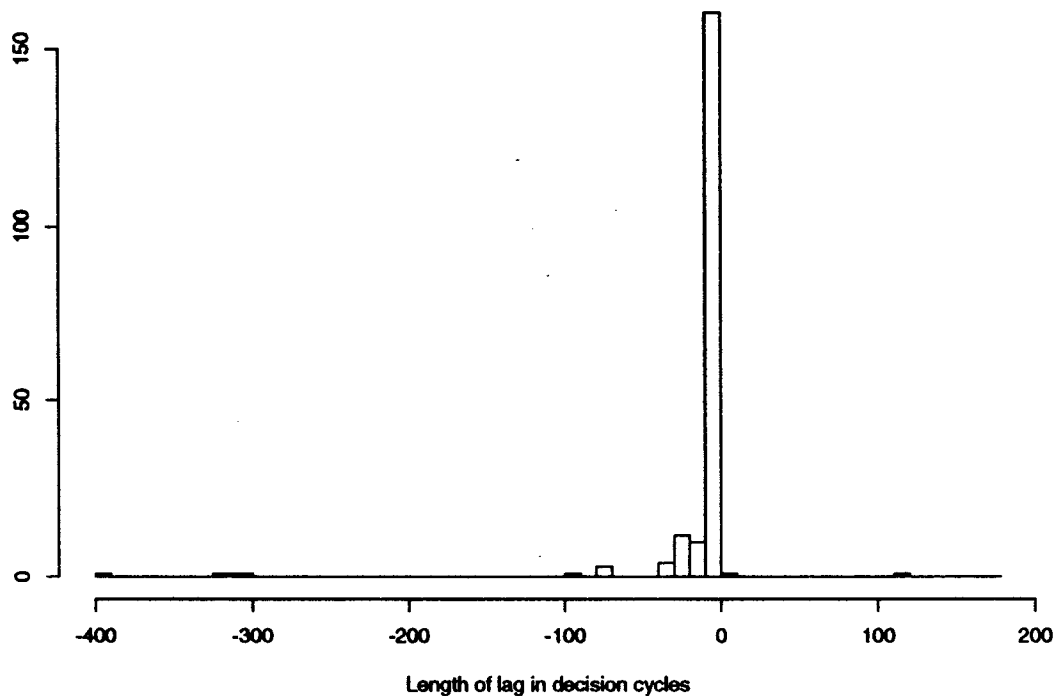


Figure 7-45: Histogram of the lags (in decision cycles) of the verbal utterances.

While these segments are not long generally, it is possible that their tail end ceases to be concurrent.

There are two prospective utterances, one in the axis episode, which upon inspection was an typo in alignment. The segment was properly concurrent, but misaligned by four decision cycles in the spreadsheet. The other utterance occurred in the Vars episode and is more interesting. It has a positive offset of 111 decision cycles (nominally 11 seconds). It is hard to see on the relative processing rate display because it is surrounded by several mouse movements, which is the cause of it being interpreted as early. When the segment is examined, it turns out that the verbal utterance is not so much prospective, but that the model's menu reading ability falls behind the subjects at that point, and the model has to perform an extra 100 cycles of work before it can match the verbal utterance.

The remaining 49 utterances all lag their previous segment, matching an earlier prediction. When an utterance lags, it lags on average 38 decision cycles, or roughly 4 seconds. Again this remains a modest amount. This amount of time is consistent with the amount of time items can exist in working memory. A very small number, three, lag over 300 decision cycles.

Characterizing the long lags Many short lags of the verbal utterances appear to be partly (but not completely) an artifact of the Browser-Soar model. The model does not read individual words but whole screens at a time, which leads to many of the short lags that occur late in an episode when the subject is reading a help text. Including predictions of reading individual words would remove this cause.

The three longest lags, however, are worrisome. They lag over three hundred decision cycles, and represent a mismatch on the order of 20 to 40 seconds. The problem space of the operator they match

has long been removed from the goal stack, and several other problem spaces on that level have been used as well. When these segments are examined they are found to be statements of the search or evaluation criteria that occur after the search has started and numerous items have been examined. While an operator put them on the state, at the point they are uttered, they clearly represent state information that has been guiding the search for some time. Other operators could be refreshing them, but if that is what lead to these utterances, then the operator used to interpret them is still the wrong one.

Finding this lag in the literature. The actual lag of verbal protocols has not been computed in this way to my knowledge. It requires an architecture that makes predictions about the time to perform a task, external actions to provide fixed points of reference, and the predictions must be aligned to this detail. We can see a lag in other data sets, however. The verbal data used to develop HI-Soar (John & Vera, 1992; John, et al., 1990) can be fixed relative to the performance of external actions. The verbal protocols lagged behind the external actions so much that they were ignored when testing the model.

7.6 Conclusions about Browser-Soar and the TBPA methodology

Having performed these analyses, we can summarize the results into several suggested changes to Browser-Soar, which is the point of testing a process model. In general, Browser-Soar performed very well. The operators in the model that performed best were the ones that are essential to browsing on-line help systems: manipulating the mouse, choosing windows, and evaluating text items. On a higher level, testing Browser-Soar also generated some lessons for the methodology and for the environment that should be incorporated into the environment.

This methodology was stretched in a particular direction through testing Browser-Soar. Browser-Soar and the data used to test it have some very particular characteristics: (a) very close matches, (b) very routine behavior and typical problem solving by the subject, (c) a highly interactive task, (d) mostly a mental task (the perception and motor actions were routine). This example application did not deal with every type of data. It is easy to name several data features that have not been touched: (a) very bad matches between data and model, (b) perceptually based reasoning, (c) how to create a model in the first place, or drastically revise it, (d) tasks that cannot be modeled as search through or in problem spaces, and (e) extremely long or short protocols. Adding any of these features to the data and task is likely to add further lessons and stretch the methodology in a new way.

7.6.1 Some conclusions about Browser-Soar

The analyses performed suggest several ways to improve Browser-Soar. Most, if not all, are known to the authors of Browser-Soar, but the importance and location of the changes should be clearer after these analyses. These changes are presented in Table 7-32.

Browser-Soar's ability to predict large amounts of the data should also be clearer as well. Chapter 2 put forward the idea that analytic testing would not only point out where to improve a model, but it also would make it more believable by presenting it more clearly. Several diagrams and tables were created in performing these analyses that should make the model more believable. There are more visual descriptions of the model (Figure 7-33), its performance (Figure 7-35), a rough measure of the amount of knowledge in each problem space (Figure 7-36), and a picture of the calling order of its operators (Figure 7-38). Aggregated measures of which operators and problem spaces are used and how often have been presented (Table 7-29). The analytic displays show when operators are supported, and by which type of data (Figure 7-38 and the Appendix to this chapter), and the relative processing rates of the model and subject over time (Figures 7-39 and 7-40, and the appendix to this chapter).

Table 7-32: Suggested changes to Browser-Soar based on analyses performed.

- Operators without evidence, *Scroll*, *Page*, *Drag*, and *Click-on-item*, must be considered for removal from the model, or be supported with non-protocol data such as aggregate timing results.
 - Fitt's law should be included in the model of moving the mouse.
 - A more complete *Read* operator for reading text that takes longer.
 - A less complete *Read* operator for reading menus faster, more like scanning.
 - Overall, the model's performance is slightly lean, but this must be reevaluated after some other problems, most importantly the reading operator, have been improved.
 - Include learning, and decrease the goal stack depth.
 - Include state information in the trace and match to it.
-

7.6.2 Some conclusions about the methodology

Performing these analyses pointed out that it is nearly always good to have context, and sometimes it is required. Just providing information on a single item is often not enough to understand the item. The item's context is also needed. In several places, particularly in examining the model fit displays, users can now click on a data point and get a segment and a selectable amount of its context displayed.

Different grain sized operators and different commitments to operators lead to problems in the analysis, and should be avoided if possible. Soar in particular, as a general architecture for intelligence, provides the ability to model every action. As a unified theory of cognition it highlights the desire to provide a complete model, covering all the data. By definition, some portions of each model will be weaker than others.

Soar models are much finer in their grain size than Newell and Simon's (1972) systems; more actions occur that cannot be tested, such as goals and many problem spaces. Other items might be found, but are not found in every episode. It may be desirable to omit these items automatically and appropriately when performing an analysis.

While Newell and Simon (1972, p. 179) propose that states and operators are equivalent, the reanalysis of Browser-Soar shows that they are only equivalent for information purposes. When the timing of the correspondences is included, they are not equivalent. States, and the information they contain, last much longer. It may be possible to continue to match verbal utterances primarily to operators, but when this breaks down, one must match to the state. Using the state properly is not a trivial task, and will require designing and extending the trace. It will require further mechanations in the interpretation algorithms to find the appropriate items to support in the model when this does occur.

No problem spaces or goals are used to interpret the subject's behavior. Together their creation and selection make up a substantial portion of the model's behavior. What it would mean to match their prediction is not clear, problem spaces may be supported by their operators and states, goals by the indication of a lack of knowledge in some way. If they will not be directly supported, the cognitive modeler may desire to removal them from the trace if not the model.

Finally, we see that testing the model points out that the model is not complete without rules describing how to interpret the data with respect to the predictions. For example, the *Page*, *Scroll*, *Drag*, and *Click-on-item*, were considered for removal because they were not supported. A more generous interpretation of the mouse actions might have included the decision to click (e.g., to *Page*) as being supported as well.

Appendixes to Chapter 7

1 Alignment of the Write episode of Browser-Soar

Wed Nov 25 14:35:42 1992 - Diurnal (0.03) report for user ritter
 For file /afs/so.cmu.edu/user/ritter/soa/browser/write/writes.soa

To print use "enscript -r -s -8 -fCourier7 -L64 /afs/so.cmu.edu/user/ritter/soa/browser/write/writes.soa"

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
0	vapeak	28-Sep-91 revised 13-Jan-92 -PBR			3-Jun-92					To do:
1		From original transcription by Dec, 16-Mar-90, and verbal transcription by a.sosh, Jun-91								
2		Transcription of the 18-Jun-89 of browser tape 2								
3										
4		Browsing for information about writing the values of variables to the screen.								
5	Previous Goal:	define the 'loop' construct that will label the x-axis								
6	Current Goal:	to figure out how to write the value of 'EmpCondition' in order to label the x-axis with experimental condition names								
7										
8	Windows:	program window out front, right side and bottom of help win., only the left edge of the commands win., right side of execution window								
9										
10	Program Window	line 1 "*****" line 2 "unit DrawGraph" line 3 "gorigin 1107, 3407"								
11	Execution Window:	error bar with message at the top								
12	Help Text Window:	line 1 "search 'Typing-Paper' Coordinates"								
13	Keypad Menu	line 1 "search" (selected)"								
14	Microvibrel Menu:	line 1 "at Positioning a Display" (no lines selected)								
15	Commands Window:	(not used)								
16	Cursor:	positioned at the end of the 'get' command line within the 'loop' construct								
17	Mouse:	located (x) -3/4 in. from the end of the 'get' command line								
18		(mouse is currently a line)								
19		See also /afs/so/project/soar/member/vapeak/browser-soar/current/episodes/write/01-22.write.complete.log								
20	49 total behaviors		49							
21	11 distinct operators evidenced in behavior								Loaded from:	
22									/afs/so/project/soar/member/vapeak/browser-soar/current/LOAD-write.lisp	
23	25 total verbals								Loading /afs/so.cmu.edu/user/ritter/soa/browser/ep-trace-additions.lisp.	
24										
25										
26		last time verbal/mouse matches information used by an operator.								
27	21 total mouse movements									
28	9 unnecessary movements that give evidence									
29	6 necessary movements									
30										
31	24 Total mouse button actions			4						
32										
33	TIME is timestamp of action in s.									
34	DURATION is length in ms of behavior.									
35	VERBAL is verbal protocol.									
36	Mouse Action is the user's mouse movements.									
37	ST is Segment Type									
38	S is segment number									
39	MTYPE is type of match									
40	MDC is matched DC.									
41	DC is Decision cycle in Soar model.									
42	SOAR TRACE is the literal Soar Trace									
43										
44	0.94	percent subject data matched								
45	0.09	percent model matched								
46	0.18	seconds/decision cycle								
47										
48		total words		113						
49										
50	Time starts at 12400									
51	T Mouse actions	Window actions	Verbal	ST S	Mtype	MDC	DC		Soar trace	Comments
52	0		I believe	v	1	short				
53										
54										
55										
56										
57										
58										
59										
60										
61										
62										
63										
64										
65										
66										
67										
68	6		write	v	2	v	15	15		
69	9		write	v	3	v	15			
70	13		write	v	4	v	15			
71		M(x) (R of prog win)								
72		mouse line to pointer								
73										
74										
75										
76										
77										
78	14		Can I write	v	5	v	21	21		
79	15	M(y) (top of screen)								
80	15	M(x-y) (portion of help win below prog win)								
81	16	C	help win comes forward							

Sl	Mouse actions	Window actions	Verbal	SF #	MType	MDC	DC	Soar trace	Comments
82	16 M(+y) (R of 'cease' at top of keyword menu)	am 6	ms						
83	--(+y) (just L of keyword down arrow)		cont						
84								O: evaluate-evaluation-criteria	*** generated evaluation criterion
85								O: search-for-help	'value-of-something' **
86								-->: g137 (operator no-change	
87								F: p144 (search-for-help	
88								S: s155 ((to-be-found write) (value-of-something)	
89								O: find-criteria (keyword)	
90								-->: g161 (operator no-change	
91								F: p168 (find-criteria	
92								S: s178 ((to-be-found write) (value-of-something)	
93								O: focus-on-current-window	
94								O: evaluate-current-window	
95								-->: g239 (operator no-change	
96								F: p244 (evaluate-items-in-window	
97								S: s256 ((to-be-found write) (value-of-something)	
98								O: read-input (cease)	
99								O: attempt-match	
100								O: read-input (comment)	
101								O: attempt-match	
102								O: read-input (comp_M)	
103								O: attempt-match	
104								O: read-input (compute)	
105								O: attempt-match	
106								O: read-input (constant)	
107								O: attempt-match	
108								O: read-input (see_M)	
109								O: attempt-match	
110								O: read-input (oversee)	
111								O: attempt-match	
112								O: read-input (obtain)	
113								O: attempt-match	
114								O: change-current-window	
115								-->: g313 (operator no-change	
116								F: p318 (mac-methods-for-change-current-window	
117								S: s428 ((to-be-found write)	
118								O: scroll (keyword)	
119								-->: g551 (operator no-change	
120								F: p450 (mac-method-of-scroll	
121								S: s467 ((to-be-found write)	
122								O: move-mouse (keyword down)	
123	17 M(+x) to (keyword dn arrow)	am 7	mr 69					O: press-button	
124	17 D keyword menu scrolls	mb 8	mha 61						
125	19 keyword menu scrolls								
126	19 keyword menu scrolls								
127	21 write	v 3	v 32						
128	23 U scrolling stops	mb 10	mha 62					O: release-button	
129	23 M(+y) (R of item, keyd menu wrong (write imm 11	mi 69						O: evaluate-current-window	
130	23 wrong?	v 12	v 63						
131								-->: g587 (operator no-change	
132								F: p516 (evaluate-items-in-window	
133								S: s524 ((to-be-found write) (value-of-something)	
134								O: read-input (wrong)	
135								O: attempt-match	
136								O: read-input (wrongv)	
137								O: attempt-match	
138								O: read-input (ria)	
139								O: attempt-match	
140								O: read-input (most)	We are left matching operators
141								O: attempt-match	for we have not states.
142								O: read-input (salted)	
143								O: attempt-match	
144								O: read-input (saneent)	
145								O: attempt-match	
146								O: read-input (narrom)	
147								O: attempt-match	
148								O: read-input (temptempt)	
149								O: attempt-match	
150								O: change-current-window	
151								-->: g696 (operator no-change	
152								F: p703 (mac-methods-for-change-current-window	
153								S: s711 ((to-be-found write)	
154								O: scroll (keyword)	
155								-->: g724 (operator no-change	
156								F: p731 (mac-method-of-scroll	
157								S: s768 ((to-be-found write)	
158	23 M(+y) (keyword up arrow)	am 13	mr 51					O: move-mouse (keyword up)	
159	23 D keyword menu scrolls	mb 14	mha 52					O: press-button	
160	23 U scrolling stops	mb 15	mha 52					O: release-button	
161	24 no	v 14	v 43						
162	24 M(+y) (2nd keyword from bottom, ria)	am 17	mi 54					O: evaluate-current-window	
163	24 ha ha haaa v 18 vac								
164	25 write.	v 19	v 54						
165								-->: g777 (operator no-change	
166								F: p784 (evaluate-items-in-window	
167								S: s794 ((to-be-found write) (value-of-something)	
168								O: read-input (user-var)	
169								O: attempt-match	
170								O: read-input (vbar)	
171								O: attempt-match	
172								O: read-input (vector)	
173								O: attempt-match	
174								O: read-input (write)	
175								O: attempt-match	
176								O: access-item (keyword)	
177								-->: g878 (operator no-change	
178								F: p885 (mac-methods-for-access-item	
179								S: s893	
180								O: click-on-item (1888)	1888 is an unnamed item
181								-->: g899 (operator no-change	
182								F: p884 (mac-method-of-click-on-item	
183								S: s913	
184	25 M(+y) (3 items up to 'write')	am 20	mr 114					O: move-mouse (keyword unspecified)	

Sl	T	Mouse actions	Window actions	Verbal	ST #	MType	MDC	DC	Soar trace	Comments
185	28	C		mouse pointer to match	mb 21	mba	115	115	O: click-button	
186	26			'write' help text appears	io					
187	27			'write' becomes bold & moves	io					
188								116	O: evaluate-help-text	
189								117	-->: g927 (operator no-change)	
190								118	P: p934 (evaluate-help-text)	
191								119	S: s943 ((accessed write) (value-of-something))	
192								120	O: focus-on-help-text	
193								121	O: evaluate-current-window	
194	28			convenient way to v 22	v 22	v	121	121		
195	29			write out about	cont					
196	30			of text that lee	cont					
197	31			is your program	cont					
198	32			the text command	cont					
199	32	M(-m-y)	(3/4 dn help text scrollbar below elevator)		mb 21	mb	121	121		
200	33	M(-m-y)	(bottom R quad of help text win)		mb 25	mb	121	121		
201	34			show comman v 26	v 26	v	121	121		
202	36			are used v 27	v 27	v	121	121		
203	39			to display v 28	v 28	v	121	121		
204	41			so that's what I	cont					
205								122	-->: g946 (operator no-change)	
206								123	P: p973 (evaluate-press-in-window)	
207								124	S: s984 ((accessed write) (value-of-something))	
208								125	O: read-input	
209								126	O: comprehend	
210								127	O: compare-to-criteria	
211	42	M(+m-y)	(mid of hoped scrollbar, over slow)		mb 29	mb				
212	43			is show com v 30	v 30	v	126	126	O: change-search-criterion ((accessed write))	*** changed search criterion 'write' **
213										*** changed search criterion 'show' **
214								129	O: search-for-help	
215								130	-->: g1025 (operator no-change)	
216								131	P: p1032 (search-for-help)	
217								132	S: s1043 ((to-be-found show) (value-of-something))	
218								133	O: find-criterion (keyword)	
219								134	-->: g1049 (operator no-change)	
220								135	P: p1056 (find-criterion)	
221								136	S: s1066 ((to-be-found show) (value-of-something))	
222								137	O: focus-on-current-window	
223	43	M(-m-y)	(-1/2 in R of keyword 'saneest')		mb 31	mb	136	136	O: evaluate-current-window	gone by but doesn't stop on saneest.
224	43	-- (+m-y)	(keyword scroll bar, above elevator)		cont					
225	43	-- (+y)	(above keyword up arrow)		cont					
226								139	-->: g1092 (operator no-change)	micro-readable as:
227								140	P: p1099 (evaluate-items-in-window)	162 O: read-input (saneest)
228								141	S: s1109 ((to-be-found show) (value-of-something))	
229								142	O: read-input (write)	
230								143	O: attempt-match	
231								144	O: read-input (wrong)	
232								145	O: attempt-match	
233								146	O: read-input (wrong)	
234								147	O: attempt-match	
235								148	O: read-input (min)	
236								149	O: attempt-match	
237								150	O: read-input (mout)	
238								151	O: attempt-match	
239								152	O: read-input (salted)	
240								153	O: attempt-match	
241								154	O: read-input (saneest)	
242								155	O: attempt-match	
243								156	O: read-input (narrow)	
244								157	O: attempt-match	
245								158	O: change-current-window	
246								159	-->: g1274 (operator no-change)	
247								160	P: p1283 (new-methods-for-change-current-window)	
248								161	S: s1291 ((to-be-found show)	
249								162	O: scroll (keyword)	
250								163	-->: g1304 (operator no-change)	
251								164	P: p1311 (new-method-of-scroll)	
252								165	S: s1320 ((to-be-found show)	
253	44	M(-y)	(keyword up arrow)		mb 32	mb	164	164	O: move-mouse (keyword up)	
254	44			so let's ju v 32	v 32	v	126	126		
255	44	D		keyword menu scrolls & stops	mb 34	mba	167	167	O: press-button	
256										
257	44	W		keyword menu scrolls & stops	mb 35	mba	168	168	O: release-button	
258								169	O: evaluate-current-window	
259								170	-->: g1350 (operator no-change)	
260								171	P: p1365 (evaluate-items-in-window)	
261								172	S: s1375 ((to-be-found show) (value-of-something))	
262								173	O: read-input (use)	
263								174	O: attempt-match	
264								175	O: read-input (user-vars)	
265								176	O: attempt-match	
266								177	O: read-input (vbar)	
267								178	O: attempt-match	
268								179	O: read-input (vector)	
269								180	O: attempt-match	
270								181	O: read-input (write)	
271								182	O: attempt-match	
272								183	O: read-input (wrong)	
273								184	O: attempt-match	
274								185	O: read-input (wrong)	
275								186	O: attempt-match	
276								187	O: read-input (min)	
277								188	O: attempt-match	
278								189	O: change-current-window	
279								190	-->: g1547 (operator no-change)	
280								191	P: p1554 (new-methods-for-change-current-window)	
281								192	S: s1562 ((to-be-found show)	
282								193	O: scroll (keyword)	
283								194	-->: g1575 (operator no-change)	
284								195	P: p1583 (new-method-of-scroll)	
285								196	S: s1591 ((to-be-found show)	
286	44	D		keyword menu scrolls & stops	mb 36	mba	197	197	O: press-button	
287					io					

SL	V	Mouse actions	Window actions	Verbal	SP #	Mtype	MDC	DC	Soar trace	Comments
288	44	U			mb 37	nba	198	198	O: release-button	Continued from what matched & 138
289	45			sure I know how	cont					
290									O: evaluate-current-window	
291									->O: g1622 (operator no-change	
292									P: p1629 (evaluate-items-in-window	
293									S: s1629 ((to-be-found show) (value-of-something)	
294									O: read-input (tan)	
295									O: attempt-match	
296									O: read-input (tamt)	
297									O: attempt-match	
298									O: read-input (touch)	
299									O: attempt-match	
300									O: read-input (unit)	
301									O: attempt-match	
302									O: read-input (use)	
303									O: attempt-match	
304									O: read-input (user-vars)	
305									O: attempt-match	
306									O: read-input (vbar)	
307									O: attempt-match	
308									O: read-input (vector)	
309									O: attempt-match	
310									O: change-current-window	
311									->O: g1611 (operator no-change	
312									P: p1610 (mac-methods-for-change-current-window	
313									S: s1610 ((to-be-found show)	
314									O: scroll (keyword)	
315									->O: g1609 (operator no-change	
316									P: p1606 (mac-method-of-scroll	
317									S: s1605 ((to-be-found show)	
318	48	D			mb 38	nba	227	227	O: press-button	these scrolls, all within 1 s in the human, don't correspond to this novice like model.
319				keyword menu scrolls & stops						-- some of this will chunk up in the human.
320	48	U			mb 39	nba	228	228	O: release-button	
321									O: evaluate-current-window	
322									->O: g1606 (operator no-change	
323									P: p1603 (evaluate-items-in-window	
324									S: s1603 ((to-be-found show) (value-of-something)	
325									O: read-input (string)	
326									O: attempt-match	
327									O: read-input (syntaxlevel)	
328									O: attempt-match	
329									O: read-input (tan)	
330									O: attempt-match	
331									O: read-input (tamt)	
332									O: attempt-match	
333									O: read-input (touch)	
334									O: attempt-match	
335									O: read-input (unit)	
336									O: attempt-match	
337									O: read-input (use)	
338									O: attempt-match	
339									O: read-input (user-vars)	
340									O: attempt-match	
341									O: change-current-window	
342									->O: g1605 (operator no-change	
343									P: p1602 (mac-methods-for-change-current-window	
344									S: s1602 ((to-be-found show)	
345									O: scroll (keyword)	
346									->O: g1603 (operator no-change	
347									P: p1610 (mac-method-of-scroll	
348									S: s1610 ((to-be-found show)	
349									O: press-button	
350	48	D			mb 40	nba	257	257	O: release-button	
351	48	U			mb 41	nba	258	258	O: evaluate-current-window	
352	47	M(x-y)		('show' 2nd f/ top of list)	mn 42	mi	259	259		
353	47	M(x-y)		(-1/4in R of 'show', the 1st item)	mn 43	mi	259	259		
354	48	M(x-y)		(just R & below keyword up arrow)	mn 44	mi	259	259		partial move to get ready to scroll again, Pitts law!
355	48	-- (x)		(up arrow)	mn	cont				
356	49			show B show v 45	v	259				
357									->O: g2150 (operator no-change	
358									P: p2157 (evaluate-items-in-window	
359									S: s2147 ((to-be-found show) (value-of-something)	
360									O: read-input (showb)	This is a patched in trace from & 262 to 277
361									O: attempt-match	
362									O: read-input (showb)	
363									O: attempt-match	
364									O: read-input (showb)	
365									O: attempt-match	
366									O: read-input (showt)	
367									O: attempt-match	
368									O: read-input (sign)	
369									O: attempt-match	
370									O: read-input (sin)	
371									O: attempt-match	
372									O: read-input (siab)	
373									O: attempt-match	
374									O: read-input (size)	
375									O: attempt-match	
376									O: change-current-window	
377									->O: g2339 (operator no-change	
378									P: p2346 (mac-methods-for-change-current-window	
379									S: s2354 ((to-be-found show)	
380									O: scroll (keyword)	
381									->O: g2347 (operator no-change	
382									P: p2374 (mac-method-of-scroll	
383									S: s2363 ((to-be-found show)	
384									O: press-button	
385									O: release-button	
386	51	D			mb 46	nba	287	287	O: evaluate-current-window	
387	51	U			mb 47	nba	288	288	O: release-button	
388									->O: g2415 (operator no-change	
389									P: p2422 (evaluate-items-in-window	
390									S: s2422 ((to-be-found show) (value-of-something)	
391									O: read-input (scroll)	

SI	T	Mouse actions	Window actions	Verbal	SP	Mtype	MDC	DC	Soar trace	Comments
391									0: attempt-match	
392									0: read-input (scaley)	
393									0: attempt-match	
394									0: read-input (set)	
395									0: attempt-match	
396									0: read-input (setfile)	
397									0: attempt-match	
398									0: read-input (show)	
399									0: attempt-match	
400									0: access-item (keyword)	
401									-->: g2327 (operator no-change	
402									P: g2324 (msg-methods-for-access-item	
403									S: a2342	
404									0: click-on-item (12327)	
405									-->: g2340 (operator no-change	
406									P: g2335 (msg-method-of-click-on-item	
407									S: a2342	
408									0: move-mouse (keyword unspecified)	
409	52	M(-m-y) ('show', 3rd from bot, keyword menu)		am 40	mr	311	311			
410		-- ('?') ('show')			oact					
411	52	C		mb 49	mbs	312	312		0: click-button	
412									-->: g2576 (operator no-change	
413									P: g2583 (evaluate-help-test	
414									S: a2522 ((accessed show) (value-of-something)	
415									0: focus-on-help-test	
416	53			I don't know v 50	v	310	310		0: evaluate-current-window	
417	54			show binary, pro	oact					
418	55			show compression.	oact					
419	56			is an infinite 2	oact					
420	56	M(-y) (middle R side of help text)		mm 51	md	310				
421	57	M(-y) (a little lower)		mm 53	md	310				
422	58			whm...	v	53	short			
423	58	M(-y) (a little lower)		mm 54	md	310				
424	60			but I wonder v 55	v	310				
425	62	M(-m-y) (just L of dn arrow for help text via)		mm 56	mm					
426	63			for	v	57	v 310			
427									-->: g2615 (operator no-change	
428									P: g2622 (evaluate-prose-in-window	
429									S: a2623 ((accessed show) (value-of-something)	
430									0: read-input	
431									0: comprehend	
432									0: compare-to-criteria	
433									0: change-current-window	
434									-->: g2650 (operator no-change	
435									P: g2645 (msg-methods-for-change-current-window	
436									S: a2673 ((accessed show)	
437									0: scroll (help-test)	
438									-->: g2685 (operator no-change	
439									P: g2682 (msg-method-of-scroll	
440									S: a2701 ((accessed show)	
441	63	M(-x) (down arrow)		mm 58	mr	332	332		0: move-mouse (help-text down)	
442	64	D	help text via. scrolls	mb 59	mbs	334	334		0: press-button	
443	65		markers	v 60	v	310				
444	65	U		mb 61	mbs	335	335			
445									0: release-button	
446									0: evaluate-current-window	
447									-->: g2744 (operator no-change	
448									P: g2751 (evaluate-prose-in-window	
449									S: a2742 ((accessed show) (value-of-something)	
450									0: read-input	
451									0: comprehend	
452									0: compare-to-criteria	
453									0: change-current-window	
454									-->: g2767 (operator no-change	
455									P: g2764 (msg-methods-for-change-current-window	
456									S: a2902 ((accessed show)	
457									0: scroll (help-test)	
458									-->: g2814 (operator no-change	
459									P: g2821 (msg-method-of-scroll	
460									S: a2830 ((accessed show)	
461	64	D	help text via. scrolls	mb 62	mbs	351	351		0: press-button	
462	67	U		mb 63	mbs	352	352		0: release-button	
463			okay	v 64	v	336				6in - This had been 332, a statof 30-jun-92 PER
464									0: evaluate-current-window	
465									-->: g2864 (operator no-change	
466									P: g2871 (evaluate-prose-in-window	
467									S: a2882 ((accessed show) (value-of-something)	
468									0: read-input	
469									0: comprehend	
470									0: compare-to-criteria	
471									0: change-current-window	
472									-->: g2887 (operator no-change	
473									P: g2914 (msg-methods-for-change-current-window	
474									S: a2922 ((accessed show)	
475									0: scroll (help-test)	
476									-->: g2934 (operator no-change	
477									P: g2941 (msg-method-of-scroll	
478	68	D	help text via. scrolls	mb 65	mbs	360	360		S: a2950 ((accessed show)	
479	69	U		mb 66	mbs	360	360		0: press-button	
480									0: release-button	
481									0: evaluate-current-window	
482									-->: g2994 (operator no-change	
483									P: g2991 (evaluate-prose-in-window	
484									S: a3002 ((accessed show) (value-of-something)	
485									0: read-input	
486									0: comprehend	
487									0: compare-to-criteria	
488									0: change-current-window	
489									-->: g3027 (operator no-change	
490									P: g3034 (msg-methods-for-change-current-window	
491									S: a3042 ((accessed show)	
492									0: scroll (help-test)	
493									-->: g3054 (operator no-change	
									P: g3061 (msg-method-of-scroll	

ST	Mouse actions	Window actions	Verbal	ST #	MType	MDC	DC	Soar trace	Comments
494							304	S: s3070 ((accessed show)	
495 76 D		help text win. scrolls	mh 67	mba	305	305		O: press-button	
496 73			wall, I'll v 68			v 370			
497 72 W			mh 69	mba	306	306		O: release-button	
498							307	O: evaluate-current-window	
499							308	-->G: g3104 (operator no-change	
500							309	P: p3111 (evaluate-press-in-window	
501							300	S: s3123 ((accessed show) (value-of-something)	
502							301	O: read-input	
503							302	O: comprehend	
504							303	O: compare-to-criteria	
505							304	-->S: state no-change	
506							305	-->G: g3152 (goal no-change	
507							306	-->G: g3159 (goal no-change	
508							307	-->G: g3166 (goal no-change	
509							308	-->G: g3173 (goal no-change	
510							309	-->G: g3180 (goal no-change	

2 Displays of each analytical measure for each episode of Browser-Soar

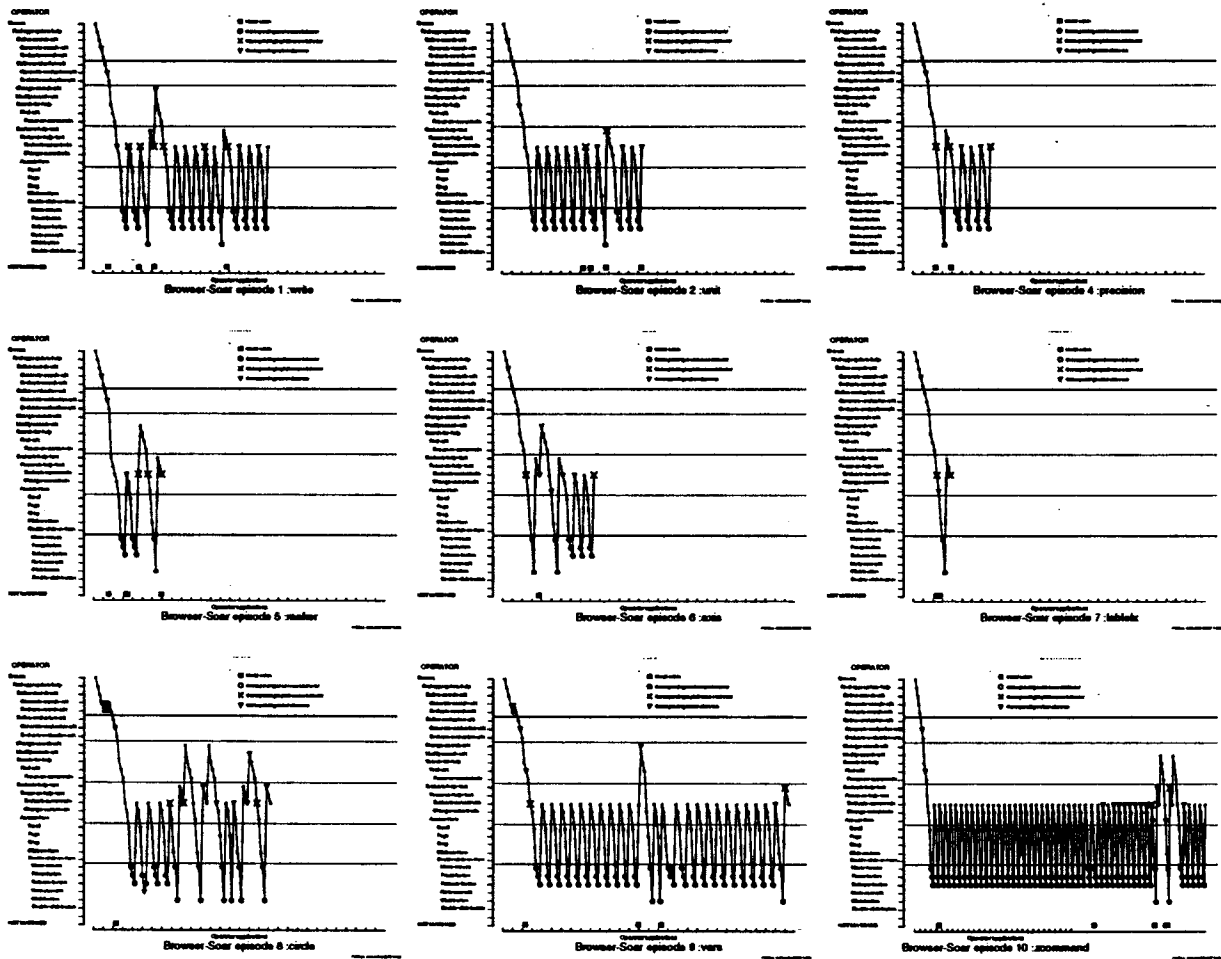


Figure 46: The operator support displays for each of the episodes.

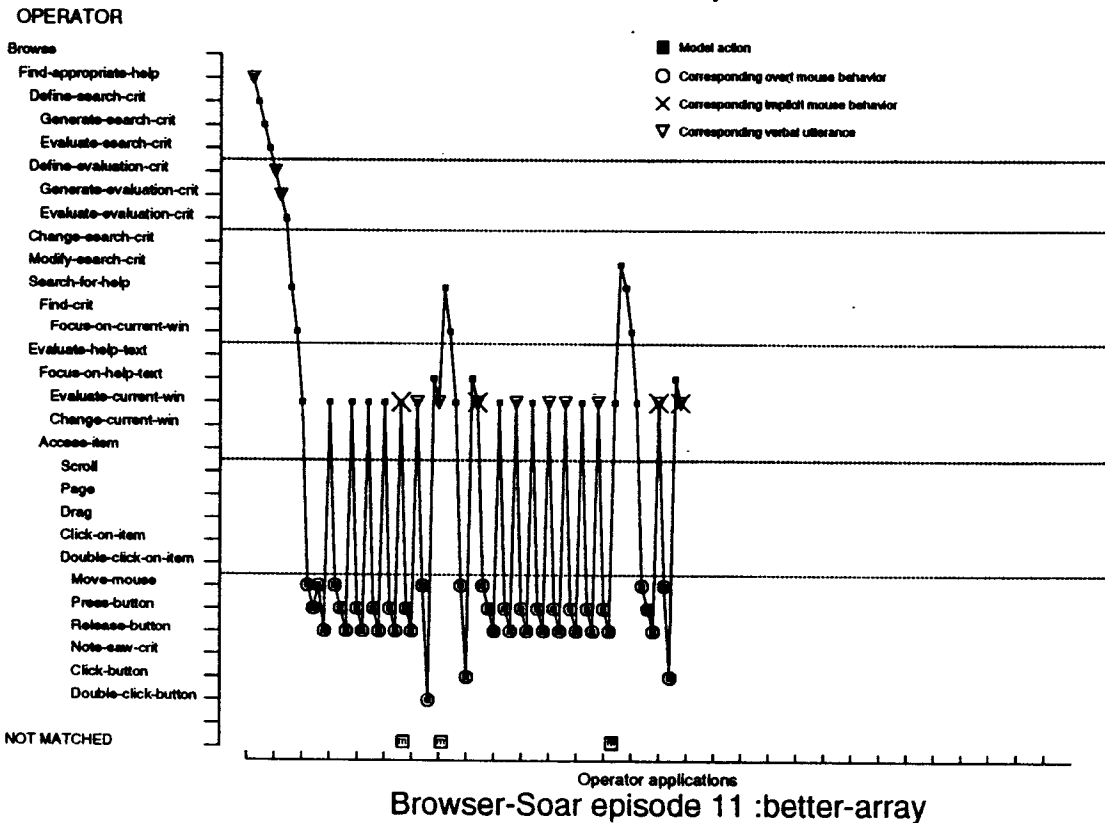
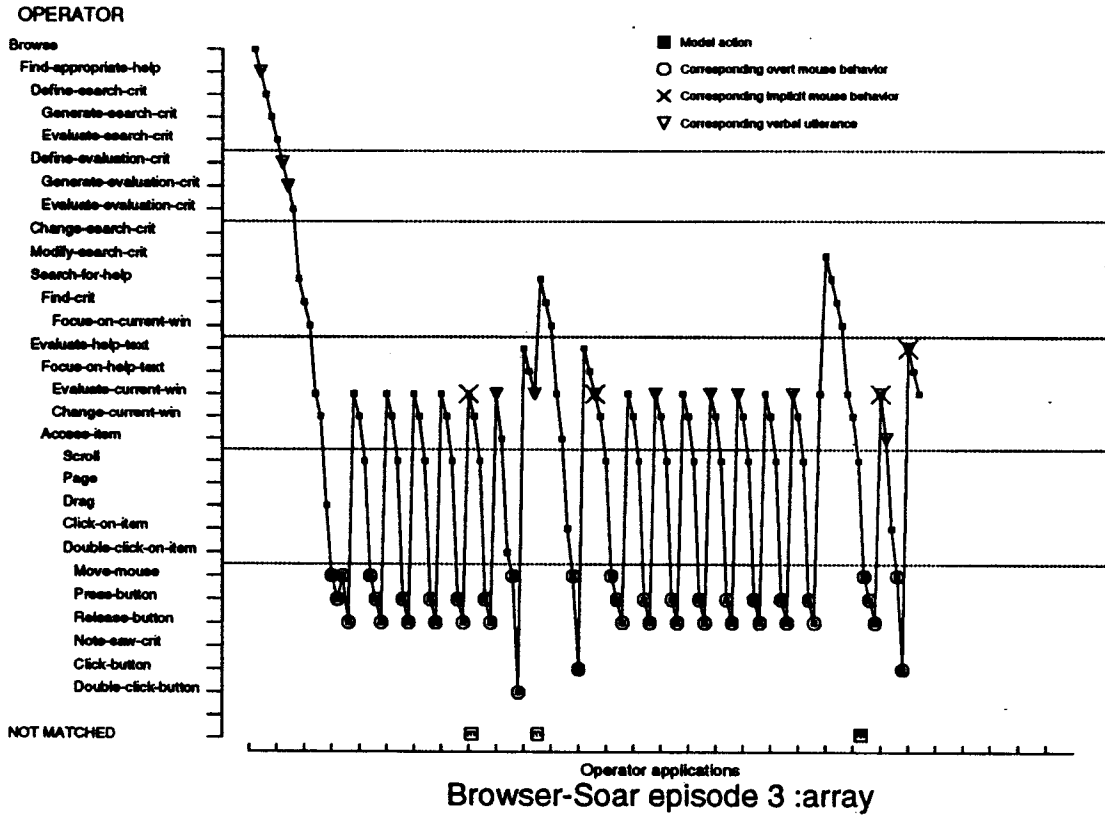


Figure 46: The operator support displays for each of the episodes (cont.).

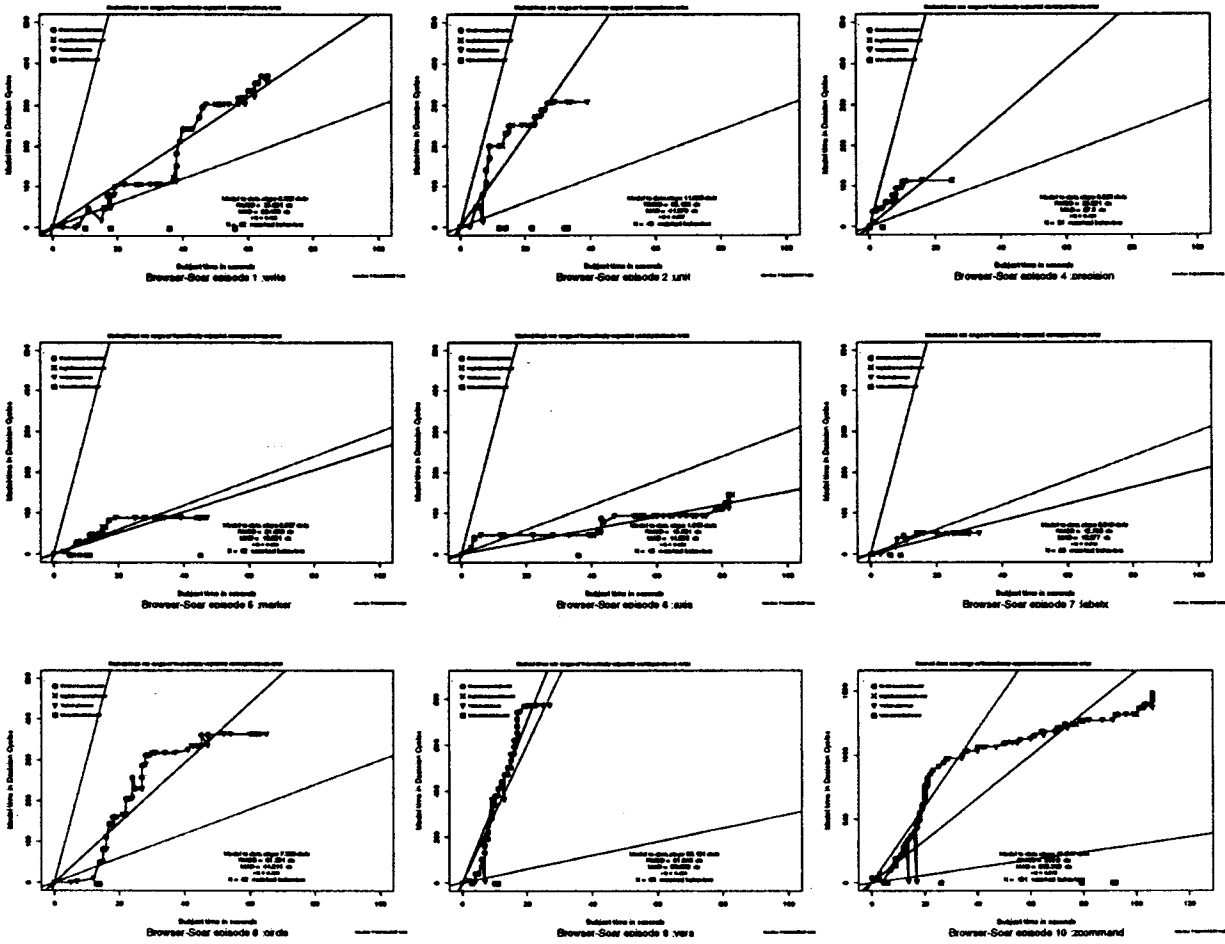


Figure 47: The relative processing rates displays based on decision cycles for each of the episodes.

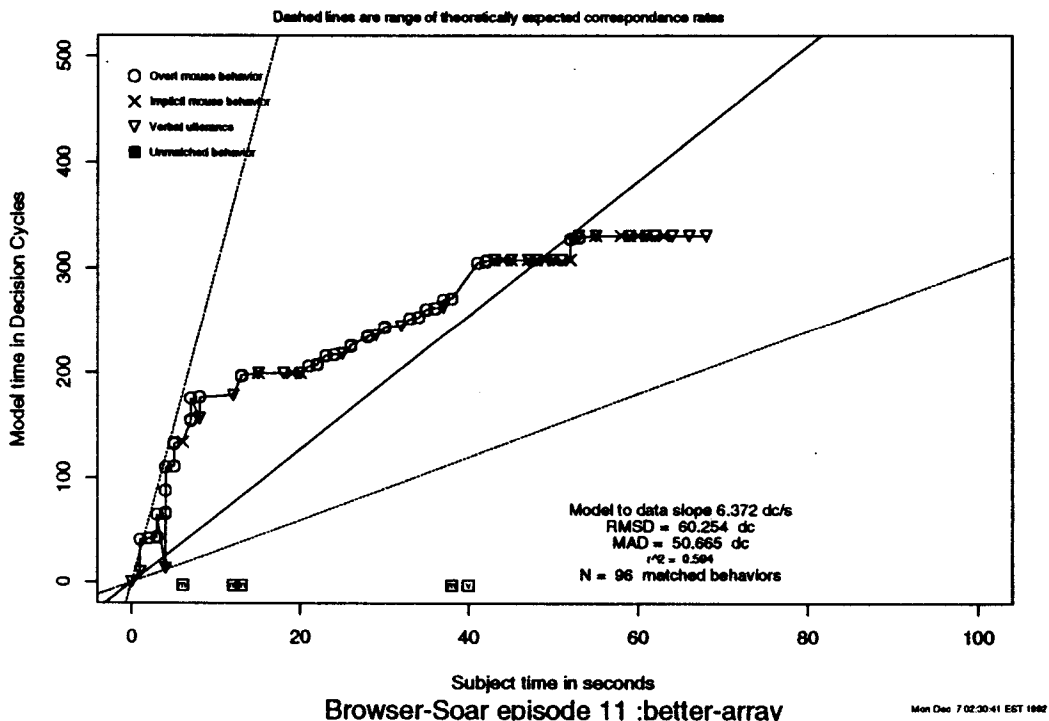
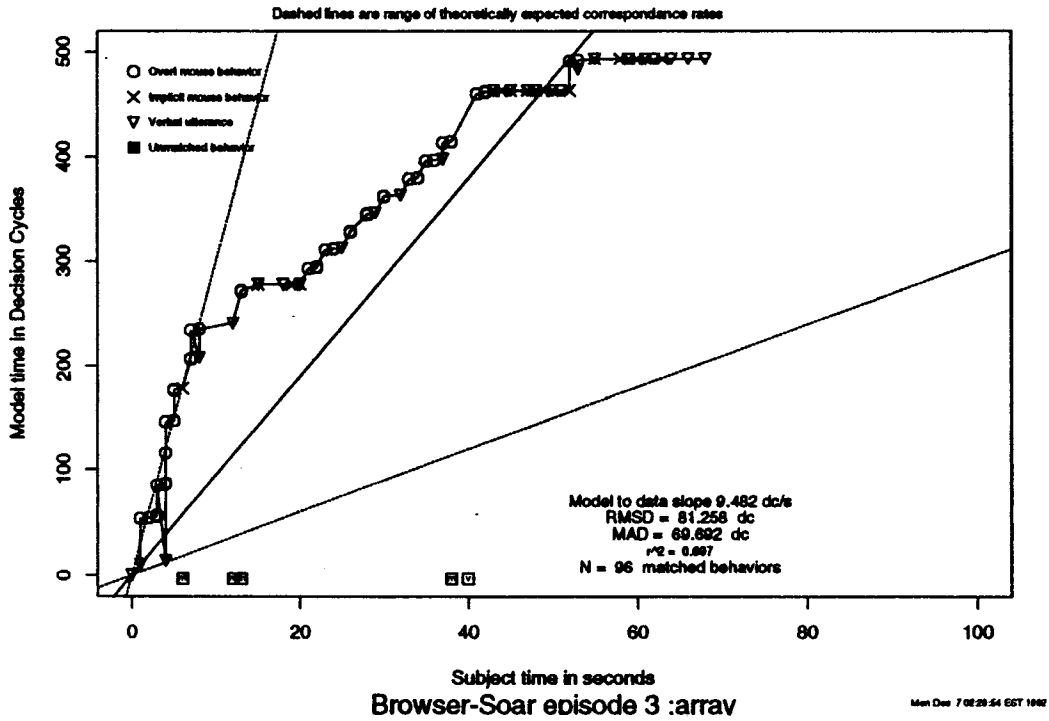


Figure 47: The relative processing rate displays based on decision cycles for of the episodes (cont.).

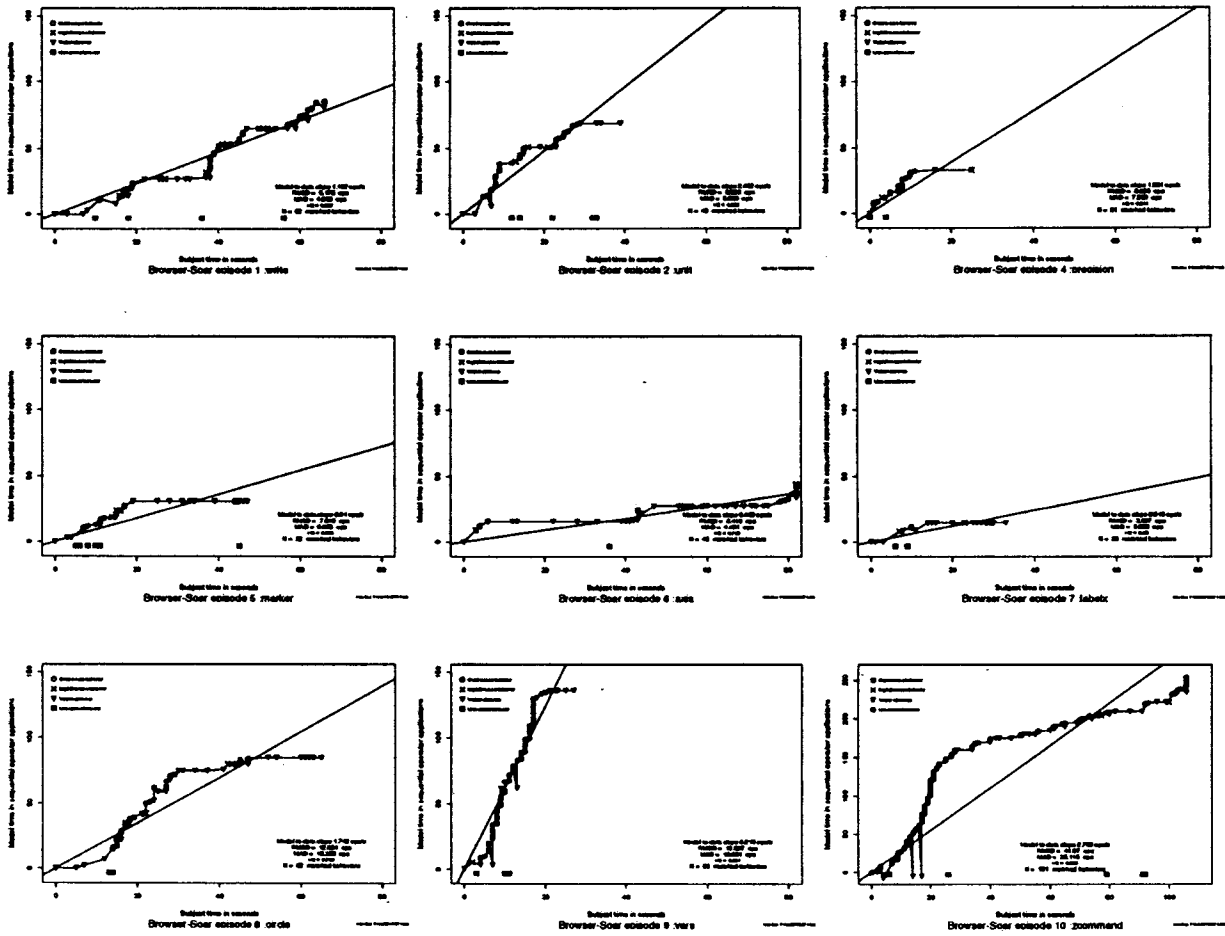
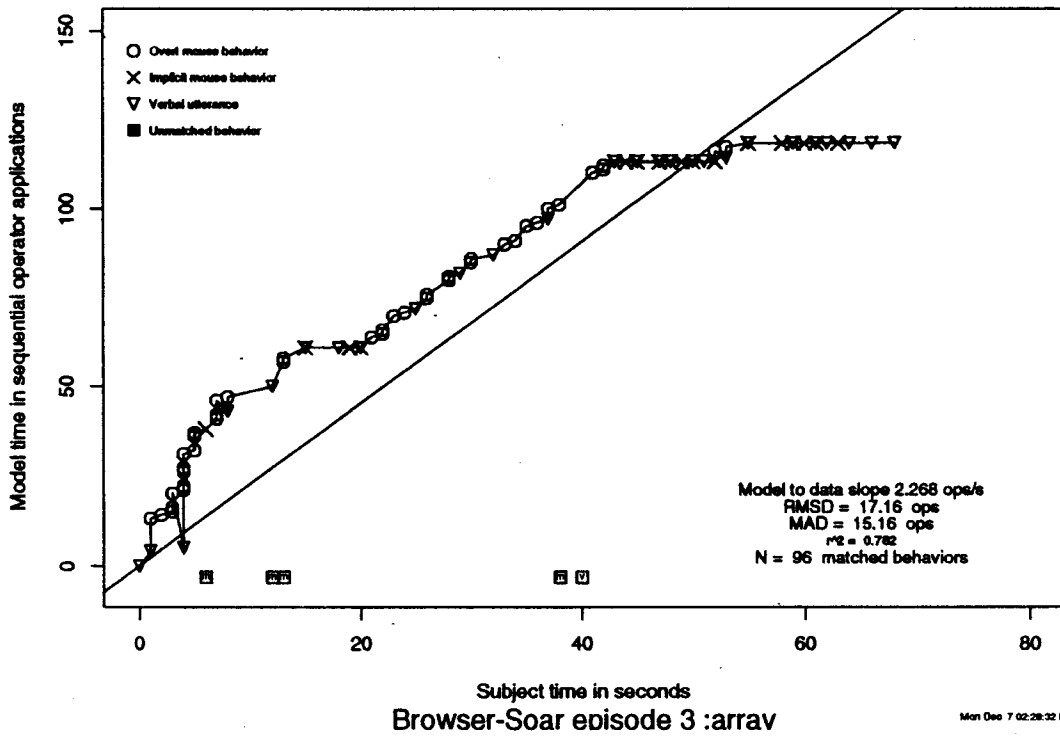
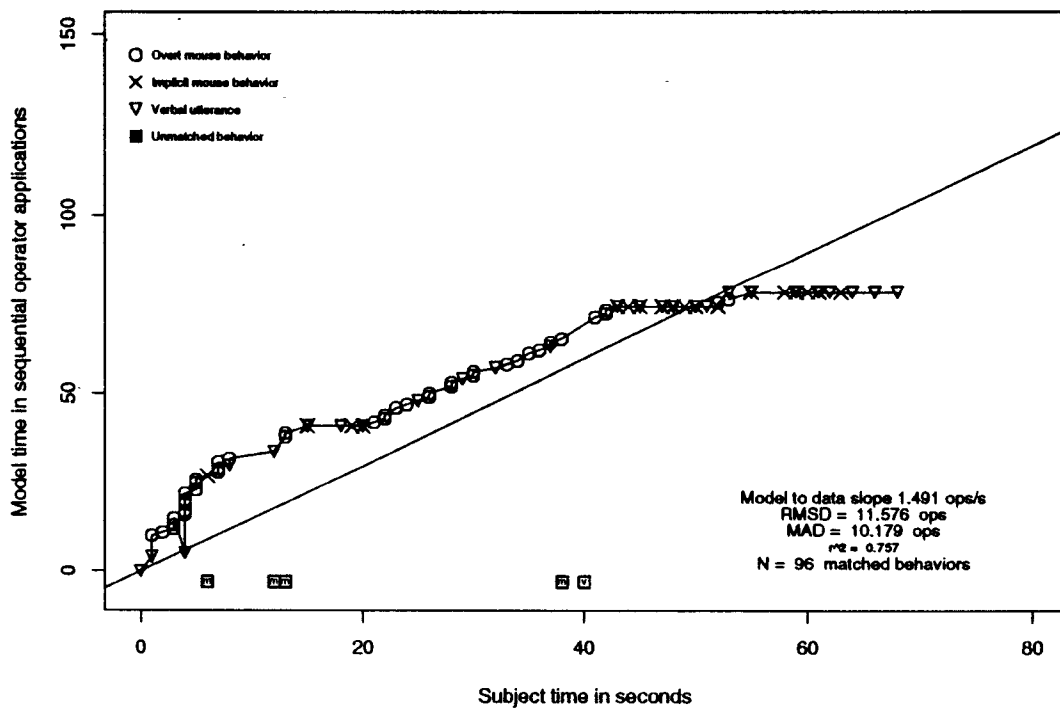


Figure 48: The relative processing rates displays based on operator applications for each of the episodes.



Mon Dec 7 02:28:32 EST 1992



Mon Dec 7 02:29:00 EST 1992

Figure 48: The relative processing rates displays based on operator applications for each of the episodes (cont.).

Chapter 8

Performance demonstration II: Use of Soar/MT components by others

While the environment is integrated, its components have been developed separately. As each component became available, it was spun off for use by others performing subsets of the tasks involved in model testing. The number of users of each tool, their comments, or both, provided feedback on how the various tools help perform (Tesler, 1983) specific tasks of model testing. Together they provides an estimate of the current and potential impact of the whole environment.

Spa-mode has had no use outside of this thesis. As noted earlier, the total environment, but for the displays, was used by V. Peck to perform two episodes of the Browser-Soar reanalysis. The underlying Dismal spreadsheet has had three to four additional users. It still has many problems, so a survey probably will not point out inadequacies not already known.

A survey was conducted of Soar users to find the strengths and weaknesses of the Developmental Soar Interface (DSI).

The other pieces of software either are not used by enough users (Spa-mode, Dismal), or they are so widely used that undertaking a survey is a more serious proposition (S-mode) than can be undertaken as part of this work. Portions of the DSI should no longer be considered pieces of developmental software, for out of the 60 Soar users responding to the survey, two-thirds now use some portion of it every time they use Soar.

8.1 Usage of the Developmental Soar Interface to develop Soar models

The three modules of the DSI (Soar-mode, Taql-mode, and the SX graphic display), have been through several releases. How to obtain them is explained in Appendix I. One or more of the modules are installed at each of the four principle Soar sites in the US, and at sites in Germany and the Netherlands, with over 40 researchers using one or more of the modules.

In the Fall of 1992, a survey (included as an appendix to this chapter) was sent to members of the Soar community identified through the Soar project's mailing lists, workshop attendance lists, and presenters at workshops, as most likely to use Soar in a routine way. In addition to the users directly targeted, an announcement of the survey was emailed to the general Soar mailing list, and an announcement was made at the Soar XI workshop in October, 1992.

Out of the 69 potential users identified, 63 returned a survey (a 92% response rate). The three people who never actually used Soar were dropped from later analyses. If users that were personally known did not fill in an item, or misidentified a portion of the DSI, this was corrected. Of the people responding, 50 are current members of the Soar community, and 13 are former members.

Table 8-33 shows a listing of the usage patterns. The columns list the components used, with each row representing a single user. The rows are grouped by the sets of components used. The primary tool used is Soar-mode, with 37 of the 60 users reporting using it. The SX graphic display has only been used as a routine tool for debugging by its developer and two other users, but 14 people have used it to create pictures of Soar models and to give demonstrations of their models. Taql-mode has been used and put aside by several people as they became more familiar with the TAQL grammar.

In users' responses of why they did not use additional modules, the largest number of responses (14) was that they did not use TAQL, so they did not need Taql-mode. (This would not necessarily translate into 14 users if they used TAQL.) The next largest concern (12) noted problems with installation and not knowing how to use the tools. Speed (5) was also a concern, and this concern was not limited just to the graphic display, a few users thought that Soar-mode and Taql-mode were slow to load. Most potential users of the SX graphic display were put off by how much it slowed down the system, and while only half the users reported dissatisfaction with its speed, this does not mean that

Table 8-33: Survey responses categorized by usage pattern.
 Each row represents a user. Totals do not include "tried" users.

<u>Components used</u>	<u>Frequency of usage</u>				<u>Totals</u>
	<u>Soar</u>	<u>Soar-mode</u>	<u>SI</u>	<u>Tagl-mode</u>	
<u>EVERYTHING</u>	daily	daily	Weekly	daily	7
	daily	daily	special	weekly	
	daily	daily	special	daily	
	daily	daily	daily	special	
	weekly	weekly	weekly	monthly	
	weekly	weekly	special	special	
	weekly	weekly	special	daily	
<u>SI & SOAR-MODE</u>	daily	daily	weekly		8
	daily	daily	special	tried	
	daily	daily	special		
	daily	daily	special		
	daily	daily	special		
	weekly	weekly	special		
<u>TAQL-MODE</u>	weekly	weekly	weekly	tried	1
	daily	tried		daily	
<u>SOAR- & TAQL-MODE</u>	daily	daily		daily	6
	daily	daily	tried	daily	
	daily	daily		daily	
	daily	daily		daily	
	weekly	weekly		weekly	
<u>SOAR-MODE</u>	monthly	monthly		monthly	17
	daily	weekly	tried		
	daily	daily		tried	
	daily	daily			
	daily	daily			
	daily	daily			
	daily	daily			
	daily	daily			
	daily	daily			
	weekly	weekly		tried	
	weekly	weekly			
	weekly	weekly			
	weekly	weekly			
	weekly	weekly			
	monthly	monthly			
monthly	monthly	tried	tried		
<u>NOTHING</u>	daily	tried		tried	21
	daily	tried			
	daily				
	daily				
	daily				
	daily				
	daily				
	daily				
	daily				
	daily				
	daily				
	daily				
	weekly				
	weekly				
monthly	tried		tried		
monthly					
quarterly					
na					
na					
<u>Totals</u>	60	38	15	14	60

they were satisfied with it. There were no underlying problems reported with the metaphor, representations, and manipulation of the problem space level objects.

Other users had problems with the underlying systems that the tools were built on. Several users (4) reported that they did not have a machine that could run the X window system, and some users (2) did not know or want to learn Emacs. A few users, perhaps four or five, use a Macintosh exclusively, or nearly exclusively, and the current environment is unavailable to them.

While only two respondents had not heard of all the software, a few were misinformed. One user did not know that they were using Soar-mode (but loaded it in their startup files), and one did not know that they were using Taql-mode (but when reporting useful Soar-mode features included a feature only in Taql-mode).

Use in video productions. The SX graphic display has been used to make three videos of Soar and Soar models that have been shown outside of CMU. A 20 minute tape of NTD-Soar was shown at a NASA contractors' meeting and as part of a research talk at Queen Mary & Westerfield College, both in the Spring of 1992. A 2 minute video showing the basic interaction method with the DSI and how Soar uses the Garnet toolkit has been shown four times: at the CHI '91 Garnet Special interest group meeting, at the CHI '92 Doctoral Consortium, May 1992, and as part of research talks at the Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge, England and at Queen Mary & Westerfield College in the Spring of 1992.

Work is underway to create an introductory video explaining Soar (Newell, P., et al., forthcoming). This video is a demonstration of what will be a general capability to take a graphic description of Soar models and create high quality graphic output suitable for commercial broadcast. The initial depictions of the Soar model were created with the SX graphic display and then sent to a commercial computer graphics company for visual enhancement. The project is expected to be completed in the Spring of 1993.

Impact of the DSI on the next release of Soar software: Soar6. In the next release of the Soar software, called Soar 6, several of the features of the DSI have been incorporated or have encouraged the Soar 6 developers to include similar features. These include a very customizable trace, hooks for interacting with Soar-mode, and a better command line interpreter. Soar 6 is still under development; given time, we hope to migrate additional features to Soar 6, such as the ability to display the match set continuously, and the ability to provide a display of which productions will fire on the next decision cycle.

8.2 Usage of S-mode to create functions in S

S-mode has been distributed through three sources that make its total usage hard to compute. It appears, however, to be one of the dominant ways of interacting with S. It was first placed in 1991 in the GNU-Emacs archives at The Ohio State University. This makes it available via anonymous FTP. S-mode has also been distributed via anonymous FTP from the authors' machines. The number of users who picked it up in these two ways cannot be known.

The second mode of distribution, through a statistics software mail server, allows an approximation of a lower bound. Statlib, run by Dr. Michael Meyer at CMU, is a system for distributing statistical software and datasets by electronic mail. The system keeps track of the mail requests for each piece of software and can provide a listing of who requested each piece. Since S-mode was first placed in the Statlib server, there has been 1,043 requests for it, including requests for updated versions (personal communication, M. Meyer, October, 1992).

The exact size of its distribution is confounded further by the nature of GNU-Emacs' copy protection and the nature of S-mode's installation. GNU-Emacs and S-mode are copylefted, which means that users are entitled to (and indeed legally obligated to) provide others with copies upon request, although a copying fee can be charged. How many sites have passed S-mode on would be impossible to

compute. GNU-Emacs and its extensions are installed primarily on multi-user machines and distributed file systems. Once installed, many users can use the same piece of software although on different machines. For example, S-mode has been installed with GNU-Emacs on the Andrew system at CMU (and I don't even know who installed it). Any of the approximately 5,000 Andrew users at CMU can use S-mode.

Appendix to Chapter 8: Survey distributed to Soar users

Survey on the Developmental Soar Interface
 Frank Ritter
 12-Oct-92

I'm writing up my thesis and would like to get a better headcount of how many people use the DSI, and how they use it. Your comments will also be used to improve the current interface and serve as background for future versions.

* How often do you use Soar?

Daily Weekly Monthly Quarterly Other (describe)

 * Which of the following have you heard of and which have you used?

	Heard of		Have used	
	Y	N	Y	N
SX graphic display (triangle thingy)	Y	N	Y	N
Soar-mode	Y	N	Y	N
Taql-mode	Y	N	Y	N

* For items you've heard of, but never used, have you considered using any? Any specific reasons why you have not used them?

* Are there any features that you would like to see added to the Soar interface for programming, editing, or understanding Soar models ?

If you have not used any items, you can quit here. Thank you.

SX graphic display (triangle thingy)

* How often you use it ? (tick one and/or write in a modifying number)

Daily Weekly Monthly Quarterly

Tried once or twice Never

Special purpose (e.g., demos, making figures; please explain)

* If you don't use the SX graphic display, why don't you use it?

* How do you use it? (you may tick more than one)

I've only tried it.

I use it for special debugging.

I use it for demos.

I use it for routine development.

I use it to make presentation diagrams

* How long have you used it (e.g., 3/91 to present) ?

* What are the most valuable features ?

* What are the worst problems/bugs/factors stopping you from using the SX graphic display more often?

Soar-mode, extensions to gnu-emacs for editing productions.

* How often you use Soar-mode ? (tick one and/or write in a modifying number)

Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly
Tried once or twice	Never		

Special purpose (e.g., demos, making figures; please explain)

* How do you use Soar-mode? (you may tick more than one)

I use it for special debugging.	I use it for routine development.
I use it for demos.	I've only tried it.

* How long have you used soar-mode (e.g., 3/91 to present) ?

* What are the most valuable features of Soar-mode?

* What are the worst problems/bugs/factors stopping you from using Soar-mode more often?

* If you don't use Soar-mode, why don't you use it?

 Taql-mode (extensions to Emacs for editing TAQL constructs)

* How often do you use taql-mode ? (tick one and/or write in a modifying number)

Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly
Tried once or twice	Never		

Special purpose (e.g., demos, making figures; please explain)

* How do you use taql-mode? (you may tick more than one)

I've only tried it.	I use it for demos.
I use it for special debugging.	I use it for routine development.

* How long have you used taql-mode (e.g., 3/91 to present) ?

* What are the most valuable features of taql-mode?

* What are the worst problems/bugs/factors stopping you from using taql-mode more often?

* If you don't use taql-mode, why don't you use it?

 Additional on-line & hardcopy copies available from Frank Ritter@cs.cmu.edu

Please return surveys by email or hardcopy to Frank Ritter@cs.cmu.edu

Chapter 9

Contributions and steps toward the vision of routine automatic model testing

Compared with Chapter 1, we are not in the same place in many ways, and we are considerably further along toward the capacity to perform routine process model testing. Progress has been made on defining a methodology for testing the sequential predictions of process models. A computer environment has been implemented to support this methodology, and this environment has been used to test an actual model with actual data. Portions of the environment are used by researchers around the world. The environment was used to test and extend the sequentiality assumption of Ericsson and Simon's (1984) theory of verbal protocol production. The path to an intelligent automatic modeling system based on agent tracking is clearer. Only model testing (open analysis) has been considered in this work, but the methodology and environment should largely be applicable to using models to classify sequential behavior (closed analysis) for such things as cognitive-based testing (Ohlsson, 1990).

The central problem: dealing with large amounts of information. Within the methodology of TBPA the essential problem in testing process models still appears to be one of manipulating and understanding the large amounts of information involved: the model, its predictions, and the data used to test it. Scientists do not decry the difficulty of model creation and manipulation as often as they have the amount of bookkeeping required for testing the sequential predictions. The size of the data sets prove a real problem; the amount of qualitative information used in this task is relatively large given the analyst's limited processing capabilities.

Each of the steps in TBPA requires manipulating large amounts of information. This is a central problem that runs through this work, and it is fought in every tool in the Soar/MT environment. Two approaches have been developed for dealing with it. The first is to automate as many tasks as possible, and to support the analyst for the remainder. The second is to design and use visual displays of information.

Secret weapon #1: Automate and support. Automating aspects of each step reduces the work load required of the analyst. Soar/MT assists the analyst by automatically aligning unambiguous parts of protocols, creating model-based summary displays of the comparison, and providing many aids for displaying and manipulating the model. Although the automatic processes fall short of the ideal speed, and still must be speeded up through better algorithm and data structure design, they have proved useful in their current state. The process is not so inherently large or computationally intensive that so-called super-computing will be required.

The data set presented with Browser-Soar (Peck & John, 1992) is not the largest data set ever used to test a model (although it is fairly large, see Table 2-2), but Soar/MT has substantially speeded up the analysis of this data set. We can now imagine analyzing enough protocol data to achieve Ericsson and Simon's (1984) vision of verbal reports as data.

Supporting the analyst in performing the tasks that are not yet automated has required careful design of the displays and manipulation tools for the large amount of information. The current maximum size of the predictions and data, not including the model, is about 330 Kb. The analyst cannot directly visualize and manipulate information sets the size of a small phone book (5,000 names at 60 bits per name, or 300 Kb total). Special displays have been created to show the important trends in the data, which is the next secret weapon.

Secret weapon #2: Scientific visualization of qualitative information. Appropriate visual displays can support faster processing rates and provide new insights (Larkin & Simon, 1981). Visual displays of qualitative information have become central to quantitative data analysis in many domains and they have lead to the major methodology of scientific visualization.

Visual displays should now be considered essential for performing each step of protocol analysis and process model testing. Visual displays help the analyst understand the model's structure and performance, relating them to each other in a single display, the SX graphic display. Tabular displays of the model's predictions, the data, and their correspondences show simple and directly where the model's predictions do and do not match the data. Other displays aggregate the correspondences in terms of the model components and in terms of relative processing rates. These displays summarize where the model performs well and where it performs poorly, providing clues about where and how to improve the model's fit to the data.

9.1 A methodology for testing the sequential predictions of process models

Trace Based Protocol Analysis (TBPA), a methodology for testing the sequential predictions of process models with protocol data has been defined through listing its inputs, processing steps, and their requirements. TBPA tests a model by running it to generate a trace of how the model performs the task. This trace provides a set of theoretical predictions of what will be found in a subject's verbal and non-verbal protocol, and it is used to interpret the data. TBPA is designed to be an integrated and iterative process, so a summary of where the predictions are unmatched in the protocol is then used to modify the model, and the model is run again. The necessary inputs to TBPA, its steps, and the processing requirements for each step to perform the testing routinely, were specified in enough detail to create a computer environment to support this methodology.

Clarification of the testing process. What it means to test the model became clearer from specifying each step in the process. What are tested in any given episode are the model's predictions. The comparison of the predictions with the data is not just one of alignment. The model's predictions are used to interpret the data. With unambiguous data, such as mouse clicks on menu items, the process appears to be one of simple alignment and it can be treated that way. When the data are verbal protocols, then the items in the trace may provide substantial guidance for interpreting the meaning and function of the information described verbally.

Some theories require every prediction to be matched, but the theory of verbal protocol used to interpret the utterances (Ericsson & Simon, 1984) states that not every possible prediction will be found. The model's predictions are predictions of what could be found in the subject's verbal protocol.

The need for declarative versions of models. It is necessary for model based analysis to refer to structures of the model and to note which parts of the model did and did not apply, or were and were not supported. It is necessary to have declarative representations of process models representing procedural knowledge. Running the model to create the structures upon demand is not enough. There is the simple problem that the structures will be created and then disappear as the context changes. There is also a more complicated problem of coverage, on any given run not all the possible structures will be created. Examining the initial implementation of the model is not adequate either, the model might learn from its environment, and computing all the model's structures is equivalent to running it.

At a minimum, it is necessary to create a description of the model computed by observing the model's performance over time, although combinations of the other methods, such as derivation from the static structure, are a useful adjunct. Although this method is the best way to build the model, even this model is not guaranteed to be complete.

The DSI creates a declarative representation of Soar models. While the Soar model runs, the DSI displays and remembers which and how often the problem spaces, states, and operators have been applied. By watching the model as it runs the DSI builds up as complete a view of the model as is possible. The resulting description can be used by other components in the environment. The interpretation environment can use it to initially code the data. The saved model can be used to summarize the correspondences created through interpreting and aligning the data with respect to the predictions.

9.2 Each step in the methodology was supported in a software environment

An environment to support an analyst performing TBPA has been created based on its requirements. The environment directly supports the main tasks of model tracing; interpreting and aligning the model's predictions with the data, both automatically and semi-automatically; aggregating the comparison data in a variety of displays designed to show how to improve the model; understanding and modifying the model based on how it does not fit.

The steps were specified and broken down to a level that they could be performed automatically, or semi-automatically. Building, loading, and running models was supported in a semi-automatic way. Many small tasks are supported through keystroke macros in the structured editors and smarter interfaces. Finding the emergent properties of Soar models (listing the problem spaces and their operators) is supported, as is counting how often they are instantiated. Unambiguous portions of the subject data are now matched automatically. The same algorithm can be used to interpret and align the data in an incomplete and heuristic fashion, requiring the analyst only to check and clean up the approximate interpretation. Finally, the analytic displays can be automatically created from the comparison data.

The environment also supports the requirements of integrating the steps, automating the tasks where possible, and supporting the analyst for the rest. The environment and the methodology it supports were tested by testing a process model, and in the process learning new things about the model and its fit to the data. The tasks in TBPA that the environment support overlap with other tasks often performed in cognitive model building and modification, data manipulation with a tabular display, and exploratory data analysis.

Sub-portions of the environment supported other users doing the sub-tasks for different reasons, the DSI for AI modeling, Dismal for spreadsheets, and S-mode for statistics and graphing. A survey of users of the DSI found that over half the Soar community uses some portion of the DSI whenever they use Soar. It would be safe to say that pieces of the environment supporting these tasks are in use by over 500 researchers around the world.

The analyses are fast enough to be considered routine. A minute long episode of subject data (approximately 20 verbal segments and 30 motor actions in the browsing task) can now be compared with the model's predictions in 2.5 hours given sufficient inputs, the process model and transcribed data. This is almost within automating range; when it took 60 hours to perform (estimate derived from Ohlsson, 1980), too many under specified processes were required, and automating this task was not conceivable.

Example testing of Browser-Soar using TBPA. The methodology was demonstrated on the Browser-Soar (Peck & John, 1992) model. A set of suggestions for improving Browser-Soar was generated, and one of them was implemented. This led to a slightly better fit, but more importantly, to a much more parsimonious model. Browser-Soar and its data set did not push this methodology in all directions, but this was good. It allowed making headway on some problems by avoiding others.

9.2.1 Interpreting and aligning the model's predictions and the data

This thesis explored the automatic alignment of unambiguous data to model predictions. The Card algorithm for doing this was slightly improved, and its behavior characterized more clearly.

A spreadsheet approach to the comparison process was demonstrated, and it appears to visually support many of the necessary operations on the data that would otherwise require extensive computation by hand. For example, areas where the predictions match the data in a denser manner is clearly presented. The spreadsheet was also effective in supporting the analyst in easily adjusting the alignment manually when necessary.

9.2.2 Analyzing the results of the testing process

A lack of clarity about what measures are necessary or desirable for measuring predictions fit to the data may have contributed to the lack of progress. The review in Chapter 2 outlined the uses and abuses of several of these measures, and championed Grant's (1962) approach of analytic testing, of finding out where the model can be improved.

A display for showing the support of operators in the model was automated, and an additional family of displays were produced for presenting and analyzing the relative processing rate of the subject with respect to the model. These two sets of displays can be created automatically from the comparison data. They have shown the periodicity of human browsing behavior, the types of mismatches between model and data, and ways to improve the fit of the model. There are many ways for data to not match the model. Additional graphs will be necessary, so an environment is provided to assist in editing and designing these graphs.

9.2.3 Steps related to manipulating the model: Prediction generation and modification

While the model's components are used throughout the analyses, the process model itself is directly involved in two steps, that of generating the sequential predictions, and the final step of revising the model based on the testing process.

Generating the predictions. Generating the model's predictions in a way that they can be used for automatic alignment has required extending infrastructure from the model (in this case, a Soar model) out further toward the data. This has resulted in a better trace — one that is less ambiguous and more readable by humans. Based on the example analysis, we also found that a problem space model must provide state traces in addition to operator traces.

The improved trace lead to an unexpected benefit. We found that deriving aggregate measures in the trace was useful for comparing models and describing their behavior in general terms.

Manipulating and creating models. The Developmental Soar Interface demonstrates the feasibility and utility of several design principles. Across the environment it was possible to meet the design shown in Table 9-34.

Table 9-34: The ease of use and learnability design features met by each tool in the environment.

- Provide a path to expertise through:
 - Menus to drive the interface.
 - Keystroke accelerators available and automatically placed on menus for users to learn.
 - Help provided for each command on request.
 - Hardcopy manuals also available on-line through the menu.
- Treat structures on the theoretical level as first class objects.
- Provide a general tool with macro facilities.

These features make the task of inserting the model's knowledge into Soar easier. Keystroke level models can be presented as evidence for this, as well as the fact that approximately two-thirds of the Soar community now use some portion of the DSI in their daily work.

Node based graph display. Many structure display algorithms draw the complete structure, forcing the user to scroll a window pane across it. Presenting Soar's working memory contents is such a structure

display task. The set of tasks users need to perform when examining the structures within working memory have been identified, and a display meeting these requirements has been designed and implemented. The task analysis led to a different design than a big scrollable window — a node-based design that allows users to open up individually selected nodes in working memory, close their parents, and so on. The users seem pleased, and it provides a much faster display.

General results about Soar. The visual and structural representations in the Developmental Soar Interface highlighted several features of Soar models and the TAQL macro language. For TAQL, the templates within the structured editor provided a measure of the cumbersome size of the TAQL syntax.

For several specific models we were able to display how their behavior is not best characterized as just search in problem spaces. Behavior within many models now includes routine behavior, search through problem spaces, migration of knowledge between problem spaces, and composition of knowledge.

Within Soar models in general, displaying their behavior graphically pointed out how ephemeral problem spaces and their structures are. In many ways the application and interactions of objects on the problem space level should be considered as emergent behavior. The structure of the model is only available from repeated viewing; the model itself has no representation of itself, and cannot conjure up all the problem spaces and operators that are possible.

9.2.4 The synergy from integration

The environment receives much of its power from integration. The model, its behavior, the subject data, and the comparison of the model and the data all exist in the same environment. This supports several analyses that would be difficult without the integration and it allows them to be much more fluid. Integration allows: (a) direct, preliminary coding of the protocols based on the model's components; (b) appropriate mixed (text and symbolic graphics) presentation of data in the DSI; (c) appropriate mixed (text and symbolic graphics) presentation of data in the analyses; and (d) the portions of the trace that were well aligned and not well aligned could be directly compared with the model's structures.

9.3 Validated and extended the sequentiality assumption of protocol generation theory

Using the TBPA methodology and the Soar/MT environment, the Browser-Soar model and data of Peck & John (1992) were re-examined. Besides providing a test-bed for the methodology and environment, this effort yielded the following new scientific result.

The verbal protocol production theory of Ericsson and Simon (1984) assumes that working memory structures are reported in the order that they enter working memory. This assumption can be tested with a model that predicts when objects enter working memory. The Soar/MT display of the relative processing rates of the Browser-Soar model and the subject provided a direct visual test of this assumption. The underlying data structures were then directly queried to confirm and count the number of sequential and non-sequential pairs of events there were. In every episode of the Browser-Soar, the sequentiality assumption was found to hold for the verbal protocol. An examination of the non-verbal protocol segments found that they too were always performed in the same order as the model, both for overt task actions, and for actions that were not directly related to the task, such as moving the mouse pointer over words being read on the screen.

The two data streams appeared to be presented in a non-sequential order. Verbal utterances typically lagged 10 to 30 simulation cycles (approximately 1 to 3 s) behind the overt actions; and rarely (3/300) they lagged up to 400 simulation cycles (approximately 40 s).

The shorter lags were probably reports of working memory delayed by workload associated with the task, and minor inconsistencies in the model. Examination of the correspondences showed that the

primary cause of the long lags was probably an artifact of the interpretation process. The verbal utterances in the analysis were matched to operators rather than to the state information created by the operators. This approximation simplified the analysis considerably, and it should remain available — it is a valuable technique. But it must be seen as only an approximation; one that will sometimes lead to inconsistencies in the comparison. Any operator that sets up long lasting state information can cause this problem.

As a result of these analyses it is proposed that the sequentiality assumption holds for both verbal utterances and task actions. Including motor task actions as part of the protocol provides reference points for fixing the correspondences between the predictions and subject's actions, and allows the lag of the verbal utterances to be measured.

9.4 Progress toward the vision of routine applied theoretically guided protocol analysis

This work has made appreciable progress toward the vision of automatic modeling. All the parts of Soar/MT are part of a grand vision of what an integrated modeling and data analysis system would need to do, and could do. The major steps and inputs have been identified as the parts of TBPA, and a prototype environment has been created that an automatic modeling system would need. The next steps will be to create initial models, and to provide a more intelligent process for interpreting ambiguous data with respect to the model's predictions.

Because this environment is based on an architecture for general intelligence, it is conceptually possible to add knowledge to the architecture of how to perform parts or all of the analysis. To do this completely would require incorporating a complete model of the analyst. However, the architecture used in this environment, Soar, also learns. So perhaps an easier, but less direct way to automate this task might be through having a Soar-based agent learn to perform the analyses by watching a series of analyses. As it watched a series of routine analyses over similar episodes be performed, it could follow along, learning how to run the analyses, and then driving the analyses programs itself.

Not that we are there, but we can now see further down the path toward completely automatic modeling. If NL-Soar (a Soar system for interpreting natural language) were to be incorporated, then Soar/MT might take in instructions for different experiments, and use the models that NL-Soar creates from reading the instructions as initial models to predict the behavior of subjects for each experiment (Lewis, Newell & Polk, 1989; Newell, 1991). The alignment also could be automated. The non-verbal overt actions can be compared directly; the verbal utterances would have data structures, the predictions, laying around that are designed to be sufficient to parse them. NL-Soar (Lehman et al., 1991) is available as a potential parser designed to use these predictions.

This style of protocol analysis requires further computer science and AI work: performing the alignment of predictions to natural language, running the models more quickly, and gathering better statistics. But it remains a task within psychology: the real use is for comparing protocols against models' predictions.

Remaining problems. Many problems remained in this methodology and environment. I would like to note a few here to admit its deficiencies, to warn potential users of the current specificity of the tasks Soar/MT can address, and to suggest directions for future work.

How to aggregate support from the predictions to the model structures is not always as straightforward as it appeared in the sample analysis of Browser-Soar. There is a problem of specifying how the predictions are used to interpret the data. There is also a problem in specifying how to aggregate support for model components. Across episodes, the structures in the model that generated the predictions remain and summarize the behavior over time. The current model implemented its operators rather directly and in the same manner each time. This need not be the case. Consider an *Add* operator such as Siegler uses in his work modeling children's arithmetic knowledge (Siegler,

1988; Siegler & Shrager, 1984). Different operands result in different reaction times and error patterns. Assigning support to an operator in this case must be differentiated by the operator's arguments, and a representation for this must be developed. So there is an additional step to TBPA, not yet made explicit, of translating the support that individual predictions receive from the data back to the structures in the model that generated them.

The analyst is currently left with an abduction task of improving the fit with indications of where the model does not fit and with tools for understanding and modifying the model. There are some simple rules that would apply in specific circumstances, and these were noted in the chapter describing the graphical measures of model fit. The possibility of finding a more complete and algorithmic description, like Heise (1987, 1989; Corsaro & Heise, 1990; Heise & Lewis, 1991) provides for his models, should be explored.

Speed, always and everywhere — the analyst always desires a faster system that performs more complicated analyses automatically. Partial views of the data and model are included in this. The recent translation of Soar to the C language offers a speedup in the basic architecture. Taking advantage of this may require translating the DSI into C.

Directions for future work. The way to improve this methodology is the same way to improve a model, by testing and using it on additional models and data sets. Some preliminary discussions have taken place with other researchers about using Soar/MT to test their process models, usually models implemented in Soar.

The software environment could be automated further, and as noted in Chapter 3, the next direct step toward automatic agent modeling would be to represent the knowledge to perform a single step as a Soar model. This would provide further automation. One of the potential places for doing this would be to have NL-Soar parse the verbal utterances, another would be to further automate the generation of the analytical diagrams.

9.5 Concluding remarks

We build our theories, test them, then modify them, iterating through a loop. This loop was described briefly and perhaps for the first time with respect to process models and protocol analysis by Feldman (1962, p. 342). But not surprisingly, it is like all theory testing in science. Models are not primarily tested to be rejected (as the popularization of Popper's (1959) views goes), or tested simply with a significance test to determine their value, but models are tested in order to improve them (Grant, 1962; Newell, 1990, p. 14). By using protocols to test these models, we are not attempting to *code* a segment so that it is *coded*, but we are using the data to build a model (e.g., a simulation process model). That is, to test whether subjects perform the same actions in the same order as the model predicts.

Because they will allow us to see new things, new analyses and tools are also science (Hall, 1992; Laird & Rosenbloom, 1992; Newell, 1991; Ohlsson, 1990; Simon, 1991). New scientific problems are found this way (Toulmin, 1972). Indeed, much of what science consists of — what is passed on from generation to generation of scientists — is just technique (Ohlsson, 1990; Toulmin, 1972).

Because of the difficulties associated with creating process models and of manipulating protocol data, sometimes analysts have lost sight of this fundamental nature of protocol analysis. The technique of testing process models' predictions of sequential behavior has been nudged forward just a bit.

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statistics. S-mode is built on top of comint (the general command interpreter mode written by Olin Shivers), as an interface to S.

The latest version of S-mode is available from the Statlib email statistical software server by sending a blank message with subject "send index from S" to statlib@stat.cmu.edu, and following the directions from there. Comint is probably already available at your site, and already in your load path. If it is not, you can get it from archive.cis.ohio-state.edu (login name is anonymous, password is your real id) in directory /pub/gnu/emacs/elisp-archive/as-is/comint.el.Z. This version has been tested and works with (at least) comint-version 2.03. You probably have copies of comint.el on your system. Copies of comint are also available from ritter@cs.cmu.edu, and shivers@cs.cmu.edu.

S-mode is also available for anonymous FTP from attunga.stats.adelaide.edu.au in the directory pub/S-mode, and from the Emacs-lisp archive on archive.cis.ohio-state.edu.

The simple menu package

Updated versions (if any) of the simple-menu package used to provide the menus in S-mode, Soar-mode, and Taql-mode are available from the author or via FTP: from the elisp archive on archive.cis.ohio-state.edu as file pub/gnu/emacs/elisp-archive/interfaces/simple-menu<version>.el.Z. If you post me mail that you use it, I'll post you updates when they come out.