INFORMATIONAL LOAD AS A DESIGN PARAMETER FOR A COMBINED MANUAL AND DECISION TASK

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Increased acceptance of automation by the management has changed the role of a typical industrial worker. These days workers are required more and more to use their manual and decision making capabilities. The designers of manmachine systems, who are required to predict the performance of such systems do not have available to them well-tested techniques suitable for making such predictions. Some methodologies are available which asume the additivity of manual and decision times. Current experimental work has indicated that a certain informational load does not effect equally the performance time for various sub-sections of a given task when discrete type motions are made. Various types of motions, i.e., move, position, etc., having different magnitudes have been investigated to study the effect of informational load on performance time. Informational loads were varied by changing the set size and the statistical structure of the same set.

In addition to presenting the findings of this ongoing research, various categories of combined manual and decision tasks along with industrial examles will be included in this paper.