• Do we have to measure?
• Spatial relation within the whole
• the total visual field

• Visual experience is dynamic: interplay of directed tensions & the invisible center point
• Establishing a correct distance
• The structural skeleton
• Gunnar Goude & Inga Hjortzberg, Psychological Laboratory, University of Stockholm

- Black disk on white square

  8 principle directions of space - tendency?

  Results: 1. Striving towards edges
          2. Cluster along axis of skeleton
          3. Stability around center
          * Lowest attainable tension level

  - "Dead center" is not dead

          * Rope Analogy

- Repelling forces

  - size of disk and square
  - location within

  *a.* working together
  *b.* unbalanced??

- Psychological v.s. Physical Balance

  - opposite forces
  - trial and error v.s. balancing on the tip of the finger
  - hanging the canvas: visual center of gravity v.s. finger trick
  - photography: the dancer and the model
- St. Michael weighing Souls  
Austrian, c.1470  
*the strength of prayer &  
the dark patch  

- Why Balance??  
- action stands still  
- potential energy = minimum  
- does not require symmetry  

-A Test by Maitland Graves  
Set 1:  
  a. every element stays in its place  
  b. equality or inequality?  
Set 2:  
  a. a kite or a cross-like figure? Adrift in space  
  b. reassuring clarity - successful disequilibrium
Weight and Spatial Depth
- weight & location:
  the structural framework
  the center and counterbalance
- “vistas” greater balancing power!
- depth v.s. weight
- volume of empty space in front

Weight & Color
- red heavier than blue
- bright heavier than dark
- black v.s. white: the effect of irradiation
Weight & size, intrinsic interest, isolation
- larger the heavier
- subject matter & formal complexity
- the sun and the moon
Shape & Weight
- simple geometrical figures = heavier

*The Graves Test: counterweighing geometries
The influence of knowledge
- understanding materials and construction

Direction
- attraction & weight of neighboring elements
- the shape of objects: counterbalancing the gravitational pull
- Numerous factors acting with and against
- Weight counterbalanced through different forces
- Complexity creates liveliness!!

Homogenous Texture: patterns composed of many units of equal weight
Top v.s. Bottom
- moving away from ct. of gravity
- more weight at the top

*CLASS EXPERIMENT*
- bisecting a perpendicular line

Weight at the bottom

Notre Dame and its rose window
- balancing the vertical & horizontal
- main mass of the façade
Right v.s. Left
- reading left to right, an affect of lateral asymmetry
- mirrored images: losing meaning
- ascending & descending diagonals
- right v.s. left: given 2 equal objects

Emphasizing the left side: a result of the dominance of the left cerebral cortex
Why bother?
- stabilizing the forces
- striving for equilibrium in all phases
* Freud - the “pleasure principle"

Conclusion: Portrait of Cézanne’s wife
- internal tranquility v.s. charged w/ energy
- scale of increasing slimness
- scale of increasing brightness
- 2 ovals: core of stability