

The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a constellation of 24 satellites owned by the United States Department of Defense. By using specially encoded signals from at least 4 satellites, an inexpensive receiver is able to calculate latitude, longitude, elevation and time. The degree of accuracy of these measurements varies by the equipment, visibility and **government intent**.

While GPS offers an abstract measurement of the **origin** in space, video can provide an outward-looking image of the **destination**. The intersection of these two datasets provides a formal platform for my current artistic explorations.

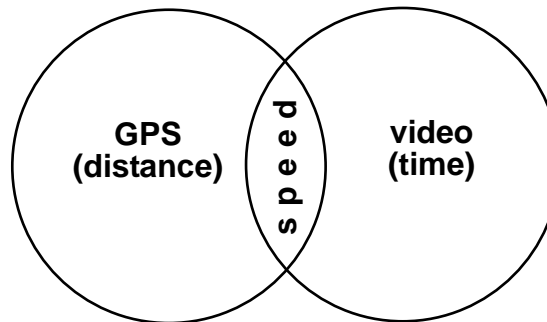


Figure 1

The relationship of the time-base of perceived space/time (film) and distance (measured by GPS) is speed.

The French architect and philosopher Paul Virilio explores what he calls **dro-mology**, or the philosophy of **speed**.¹ Speed is the relationship between **distance** and **time**, and the **vector** is an indicator of magnitude and direction of speed, or **velocity**. Virilio takes the concept of vectors and applies them to the influence of speed and telecommunications on contemporary society and political life. In this context a vector is a trajectory along which goods, money, information or military apparatuses can flow across a landscape: roadways, airwaves, communication and military circuits.²

Not unlike a highway, art itself is a vector along which money, power and information flow through urban life. The current project seeks to map these art vectors through the Los Angeles landscape. The dataset is provided by a field trip to Los Angeles by an Interdisciplinary Critique graduate seminar. Operating under the sanctions of a respected **institution** of art (San Jose State University), the itinerary of the trip itself provides a context that **validates** the venues and objects visited as art independent of original intent.

Will the collected data yield interesting results? This is largely irrelevant. The work lies in the actions performed, the data collected and the transposition/presentation of that data. The exploration of GPS as an artistic medium is ongoing and cannot yet be called a success or a failure. Like all art, it is just a theory.

Partial Bibliography

- 1) Kellner, Douglass. "Virilio War, and Technology: Some Critical Reflections." *Illuminations*. <http://www.uta.edu/huma/illuminations/>
- 2) Virilio, Paul. *Open Sky*. London: Verso, 1997.