

POSITIONS THROUGH TRIANGULATING

Writing - Outline

Guy Debord "The Society of the Spectacle"

I. Introduction

Debord's Point: "The spectacle is not a collection of images, but a social relation among people, mediated by images" (p.12).

My Response: Debord's argument *helped shift* my focus from the relationship between environment and personal identity to analyzing how urban design *shapes individual perception*. My research extends this critique by exploring how the environment in urban *safety influences and controls* what is perceived as safe.



II. Power and Spatial Control

Debord's Point: The spectacle puts individuals in a *passive state*, allowing them to consume images in a *fixed and static* manner. "The spectacle's estrangement from the acting subject is expressed by the fact that the individual's gestures are no longer his own; they are the gestures of someone else who represents them to him. The spectator does not feel at home anywhere, because the spectacle is everywhere" (p.11).

My Response: While Debord describes the spectacle as a static and passive environment, my practice explores how movement, such as rollerbladers in Stratford, *disrupts this visual order*. Speed and mobility *create temporary hierarchies*, revealing that social hierarchies are *resisted or altered* not only through visual spectacle but also through *physical behavior*.

III. Digital Identity as Image

Debord's Point: The spectacle *mediates reality* through images, reinforcing the *commodification of social life*. "The fetishism of the commodity... attains its ultimate fulfillment in the spectacle, where the perceptible world is replaced by a selection of images which is projected above it" (p.36).

My Response: While Debord argues that the spectacle replaces the real world with representational images, my research shows that *digital identities (as images) are not merely representational*; they *actively determine* who can access a space and under what conditions.

IV. Race, Class, and the Unequal Distribution of Security

Debord's Point: Debord suggests that the spectacle *primarily reinforces* social hierarchies through class division, presenting a *purified, commodified* view of reality that marginalizes those outside capitalist power structures. "It presents itself as what it is—a violent resurrection of myth calling for participation in a community defined by archaic pseudovalues: race, blood, leader" (p.55).

My Response: While Debord highlights the role of class in shaping social hierarchies, I argue that the spectacle's influence is more extensive than Debord assumes. Control is enacted *not solely through class* but through *more covert systems* of exclusion based on *race, class, and space*.

Practice



The frame rate is 30fps, so each frame lasts $1/30$ s. For a difference of 2 minutes 11 frames to 3 minutes 1 frame, the frame difference is calculated as:

Frame difference = $(3 \times 30 + 1) - (2 \times 30 + 11) = 20$ frames

Time difference $t = 20f \times 1/30(\text{s/f}) = 0.67 \text{ s}$

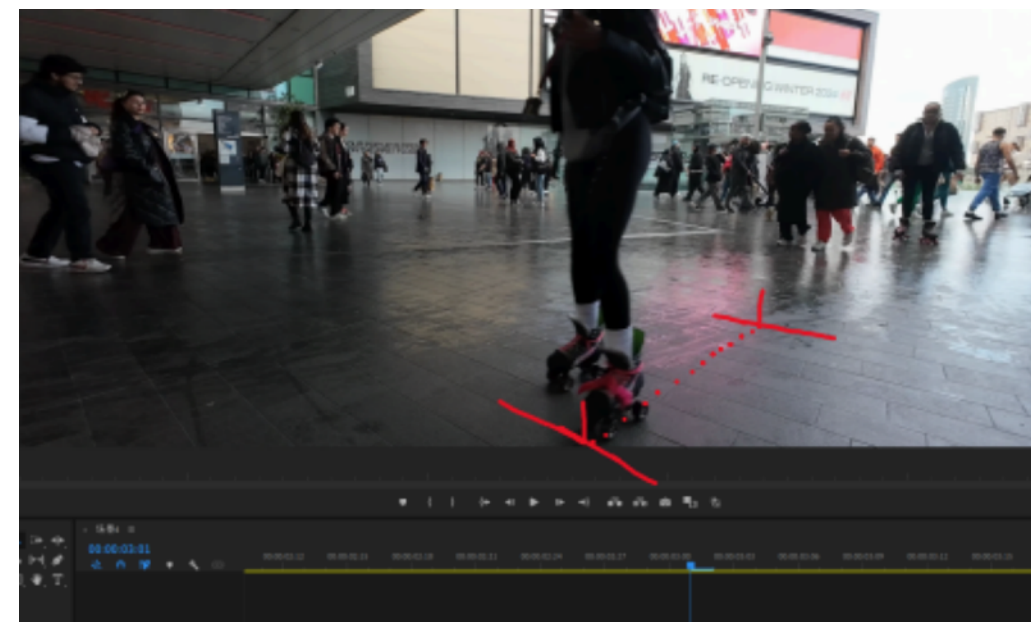
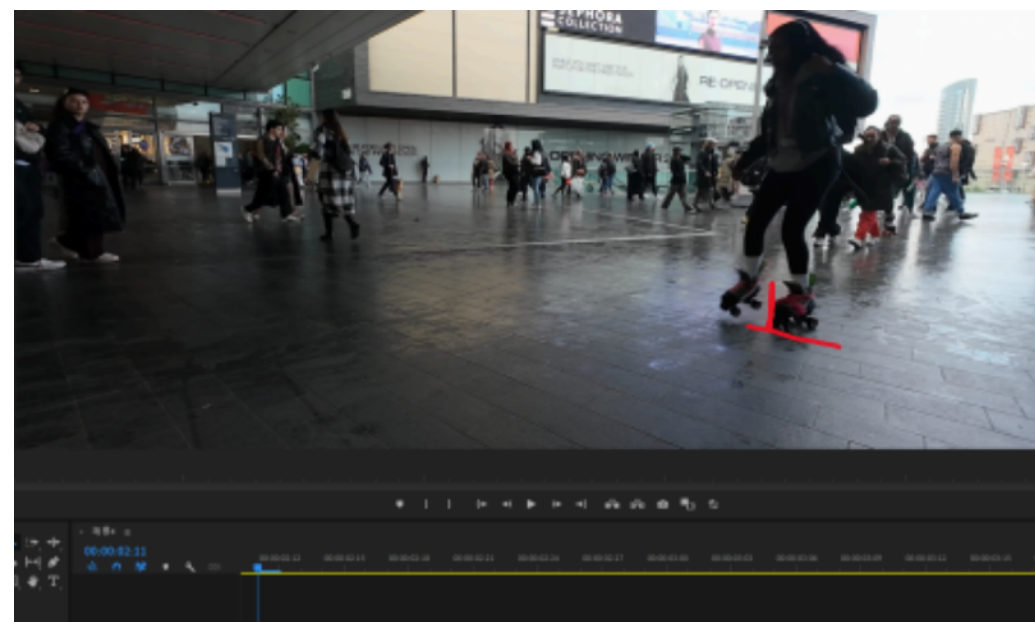
The exact width of the bricks is unknown, so let's assume it is $x \text{ cm}$

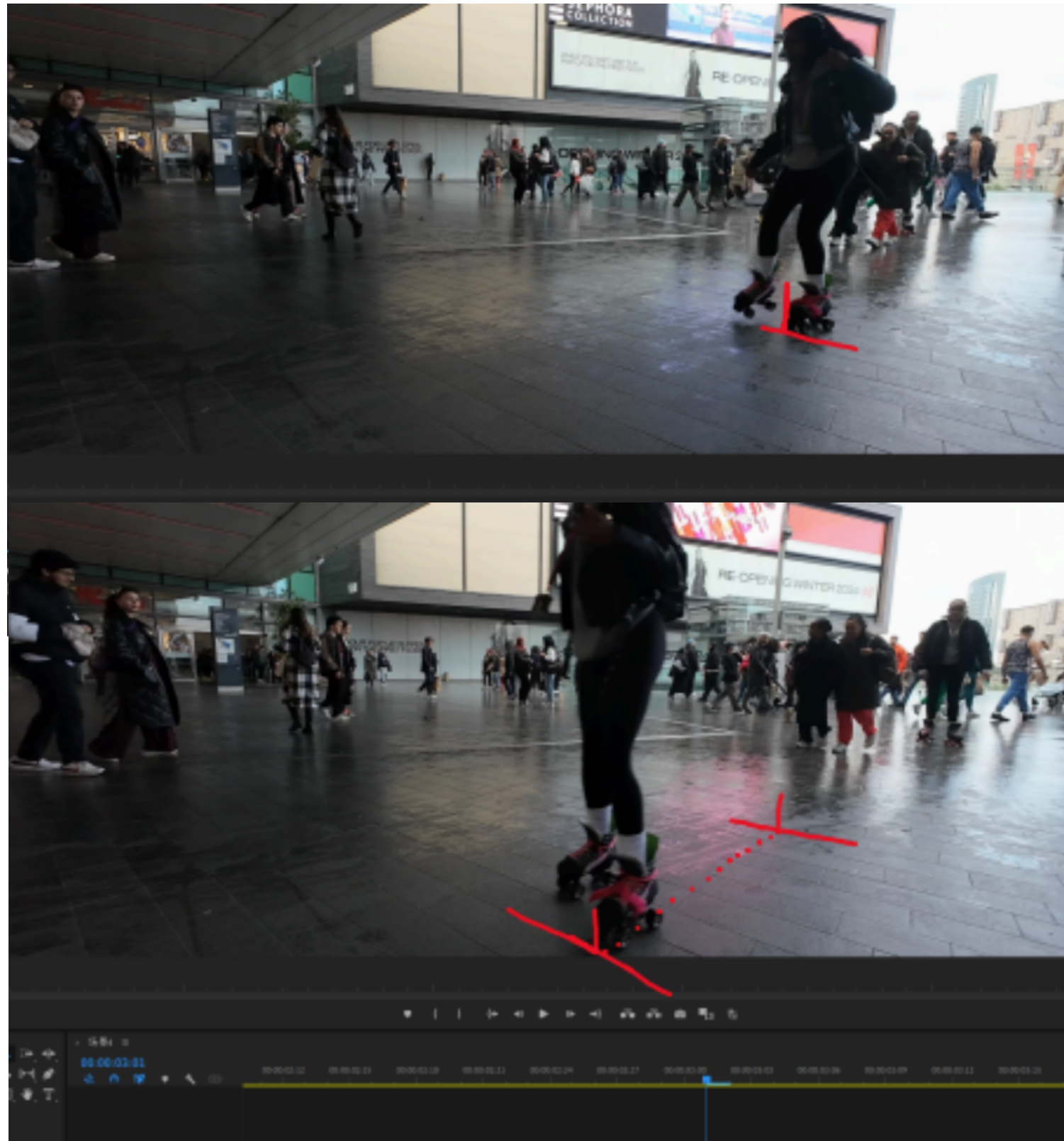
$d = 8X \text{ cm} = 0.08X \text{ (m)}$

$s = d/t = 0.08X / 0.67 = 0.12X \text{ m/s}$

simplified form: speed equals 0.3 multiplied by the number of bricks, multiplied by X , divided by the frame difference.

The floor tile is 20cm, so female skater: **2.4m/s.**





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The floor tile is 20cm,

so female skater: 2.4 m/s .

Practice



$s= d/t = 0.15X / 1 .03 = 0.145 X \text{ m/s}$

The floor tile is 20cm,
so male skater 2.9m/s.



Practice



Female skater 2.4m/s



Male skater 2.9m/s



Female skater 4.16m/s



Male skater 8.3m/s

Practice

- 1、 Speed is not a single physical quantity, but rather a highly situational perception phenomenon, based on my subjective judgment in situations where space is narrow or densely populated, leading to unpredictability in spatial control and order.
- 2、 The process of deconstructing perception through the analysis of behavioral data.
- 3、 The essence of a map: navigation? information? distance? perception-related aspects? terraced space?