



How to Conduct a User Study

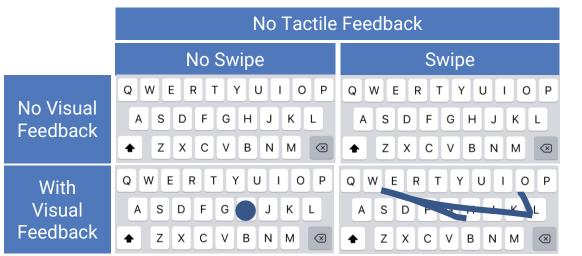
Human-Computer Interaction Exercise

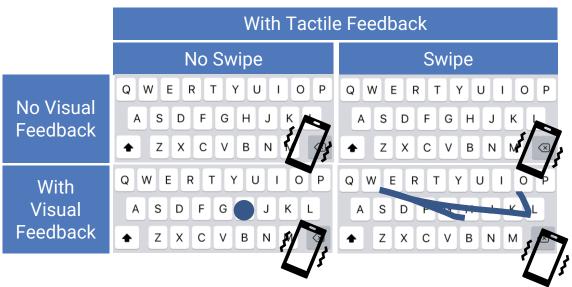
Image: Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences



Remember Your Method

- How do you want to answer the research question?
 - > Why is it the "best" method to answer the research question?
- Understand how your data must be collected
- Planning needs:
 - Study Design (the important thing)
 - > Stimuli/System/Prototype Creation (based on the factors changed)
 - Apparatus (the implemented testing system)
 - Tasks (hopefully a standardized one)
 - > Procedure (the narrative of your plan)
 - Participants (this part can only be finished when the study is over)
 - > Data Analyzes (filtering, transcription, etc.)



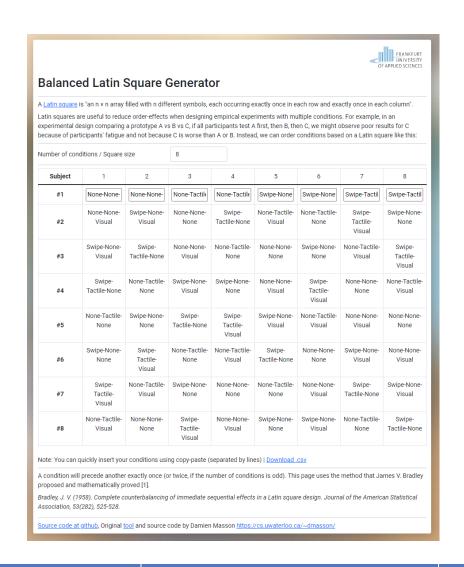


Recap: Swipe × Visual Feedback × Tactile Feedback

Quantitative or Qualitative?

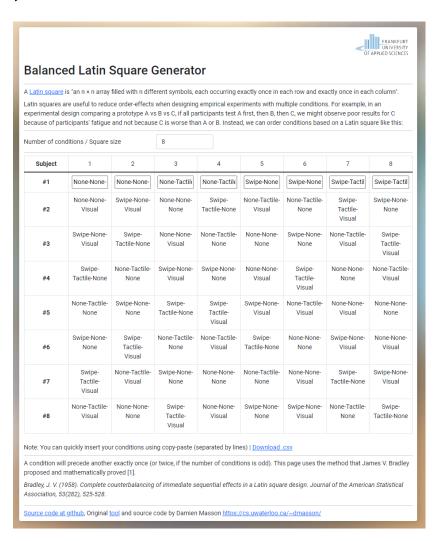
Exercise: Plan your Study

- Think about your independent and dependent variables
- If you have some, use our tool to find your study plan
 - https://hci-studies.org/study-design-planner/
 - > Enter your IVs and DVs
 - > Adapt your number of conditions if necessary
- What is your plan? How many participants do you need at least?



Exercise: Plan only the order (optional)

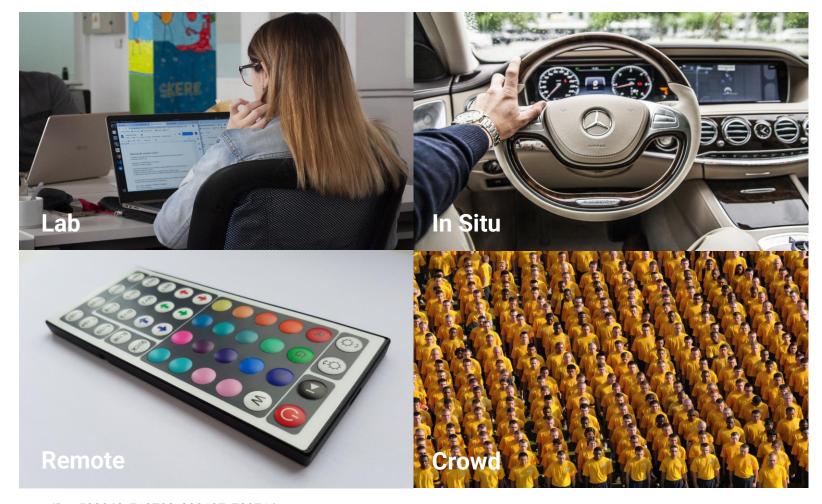
- Think about your conditions
- If you have some, use our tool to find your condition order
 - https://hci-studies.org/balanced-latin-square
 - > Just enter your condition
 - > Adapt your number of conditions if necessary
- What is your plan? How many participants do you need at least?
 - > Odd numbers need 2 latin squares
- Save the plan
 - Download the CSV



More about Planning

- Latin Square Assignments:
 https://cs.uwaterloo.ca/~dmasson/tools/latin_square/
- Block Plan (Permutation/Random) Assignments : http://www.jerrydallal.com/random/randomize.htm
- More information on how to assign subjects:
 https://www.scribbr.com/methodology/experimental-design/

The Location



Images from: https://pxhere.com ID: 1599048, 718703, 802607, 700764

The Preparations

- When we have a study design and a location, we can prepare the study...
- There are 3 preparation phases:
 - 1. Material (and location) check: final implementations, final setup, make sure that you have everything to run the experiment or survey, ...
 - 2. Pilot: test your apparatus with non-involved users (your supervisors, exercise members), final parameters, ...
 - 3. Recruitment phase: organization of participants, booking, invitation letter, ...

Image from https://pxhere.com/de/photo/652278

1. Material Check



- Check everything. Make things fix and safe. Be aware: after starting your experiment once, nothing can be changed anymore.
 - > Ensure that the material of your study, system, or device are functioning properly
 - > Finish your interview questions, questionnaires, material...
- Make sure the location is safe and available
- Last stakeholder meeting
 - > Discuss fallback scenarios when things/users do random stuff
 - > Discuss when the experimenter is supposed to intervene when the users are in trouble
 - > Discuss inclusion/exclusion criteria for your participants with respect to your system/test/study

2. Pilot



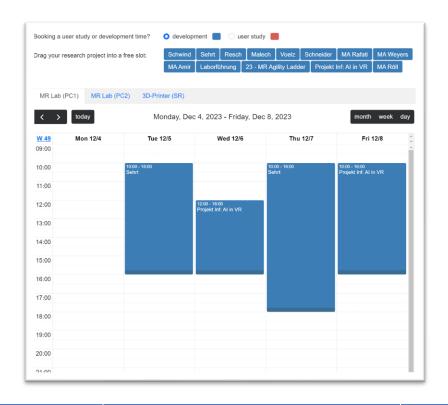
- The "dress rehearsal" (dt. "Generalprobe") of your study and carried out before large-scale research
 - > A critical insight to the study design, recruitment, and sample size of participants
 - You can assess the statistical power and number of your participants needed
 - > G-Power https://www.psychologie.hhu.de/arbeitsgruppen/allgemeine-psychologie-und-arbeitspsychologie/gpower
 - > Test everything (Intro, Experiment, Debriefing) and assume that you have a real participant
- After the pilot (and the feedback) you can adjust parameters
 - > e.g., volume sound, length of the trials, parameters of your system
- Pilot participants cannot participate in the study

3. Recruitment

1. Material Check 2. Pilot 3. Recruitment Study Start

- Find your participants
 - > course forum, advertising, mailing lists, social networks, crowdfunding (e.g., prolific.co)...
- Find appointments
 - > Book the Lab/Co-Working-Space/Printer
 - https://hci-studies.org/lab-booking-calendar/
 - > Password + PIN on demand (write us!)
 - > If not the lab:
 - https://doodle.de / https://terminplaner.dfn.de
- Write your invitation letter





The Invitation Letter

1. Material Check 2. Pilot 3. Recruitment Study Start

Hi,

we are Tim, Malte, Jan und Isabela and we would like to invite you to participate in our research study on integration of EMG Bio-Feedback in Virtual Reality (VR)!

WHAT?

Our study consists in measuring the muscle response using EMG electrodes attached to the arm. The signals are used as input for a VR mini game to test different biofeedback methods (audio, visual and tactile).

HOW LONG?

The study duration is approximately 40 minutes for each participant (depending on your skill level 😉).

WHERE?

The study will take place in the House of Science and Transfer (HoST) building, second floor. However, you will be picked up at the entrance.

Address: Hungener Str. 6, 60389 Frankfurt am Main

Google-Maps: https://goo.gl/maps/wfBUJr6myFHGqyRt7

WHEN?

One slot between 27.07 and 06.08 between 10 AM and 6 PM - however, you can pick your own appointment in the Doodle poll provided below.

HOW TO REGISTER?

Please register in Doodle: https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/eElmGNNd

Please book only one appointment per person. Please try to not leave any gaps, if possible - book appointments close to others.

Further details about the event will be sent to you one week before the first appointment.

BIG REWARD!!!

As reward you will get 1 CP for the HMI lecture!!!!11eleven

If you have any further questions, please reply on this post! Thank you very much! And see you in our study!

- There are 3 study phases:
 - 1. Introduction: Your participants are here! Give them
 - 1. An explanation of the study
 - 2. Their informed consent
 - 3. Their demographic questionnaire
 - 2. Experiment/Survey: Main part of your data collection...
 - 3. **Debriefing**: Final question and answers, end of all records, participation confirmation...

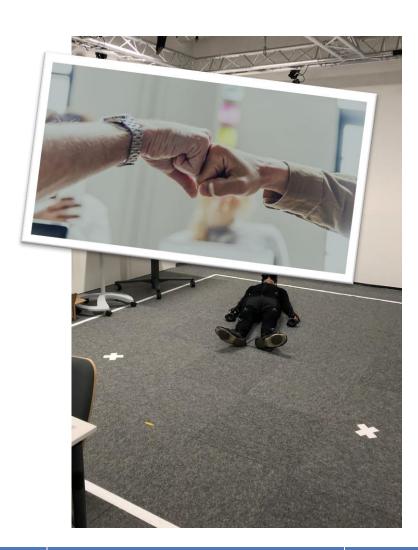


Image from https://pxhere.com/de/photo/652278

1. Welcome the participant

- "Only happy participants provide happy data"
- > In the lab: Inform about house rules, hygiene rules,...
- > Explain the purpose of the study
- 2. Give your subject the informed consent of participation
- 3. Give your subject the demographics questionnaire ...
 - > See Demographics: https://hci-studies.org/methods-and-measures/
 - > Ask for the confounds...
 - > Explain your study again, if necessary...



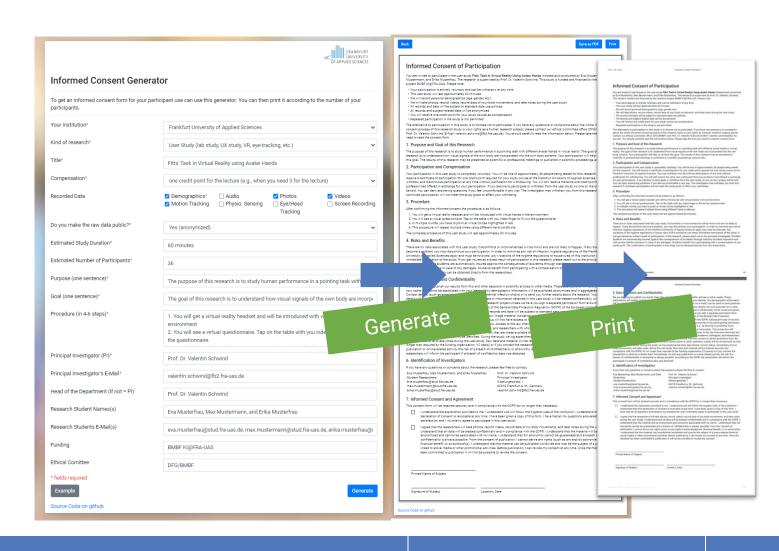
Informed Consent



- A principle of science in ethics and law, that every subject (the user) must have sufficient information and understanding before making decisions about participating in a study
- Valid informed consent in medicine has three components:
 - Disclosure requires the researcher to supply each prospective subject with the information necessary to make an autonomous decision and also to ensure that the subject adequately understands the information provided
 - Capacity pertains to the ability of the subject to both understand the information (signature)
 - Voluntariness refers to the subject's right to freely exercise his/her decision

INFORMED WHAT???

- Use the informed consent generator
 - https://hcistudies.org/informed-consentgenerator/
 - > Fill in all fields
 - Click on generate
 - > Read the result
 - Check and adapt if necessary
 - > Proceed...



Demographics

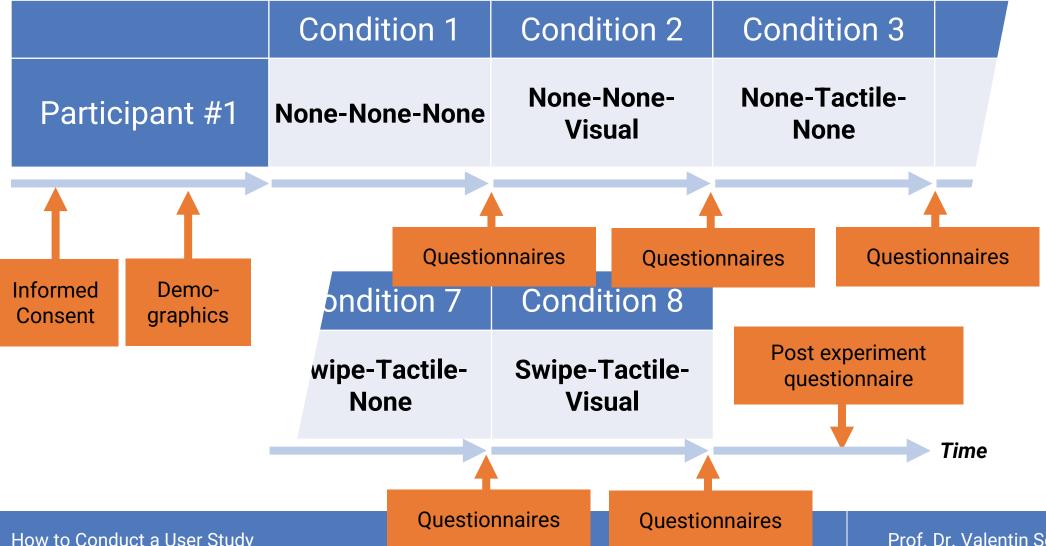


- Gender: male, female, other, do not want do specify
- Nationality: Afghanistan ... Zimbabe → <u>Click here</u>, if you like to have all countries
- Academic degree: None, Primary, Secondy, High school, Vocational, Bachelor, Master, Doctoral
- Occupation: Management, Natural Sciences, Engineering, Health, Law & Order, Clerical, Health, Spiritual, Humanities, Services & Sales, Agrictulture & Food, Craft, Military, Others
- Age: Numbers (not groups!)
- What could be relevant for <u>your</u> research? Discuss your covariates...

18

	Condition 1	Condition 2	Condition 3	Condition 4	Condition 5	Condition 6	Condition 7	Condition 8
Participant #1	None-None- None	None-None- Visual	None-Tactile- None	None-Tactile- Visual	Swipe-None- None	Swipe-None- Visual	Swipe-Tactile- None	Swipe-Tactile- Visual
Participant #2	None-None- Visual	None-Tactile- Visual	None-None- None	Swipe-None- Visual	None-Tactile- None	Swipe-Tactile- Visual	Swipe-None- None	Swipe-Tactile- None
Participant #3	None-Tactile- Visual	Swipe-None- Visual	None-None- Visual	Swipe-Tactile- Visual	None-None- None	Swipe-Tactile- None	None-Tactile- None	Swipe-None- None
Darti :	X-times	ile-	None-Tactile- Visual	Swipe-Tactile- None	None-None- Visual	Swipe-None- None	None-None- None	None-Tactile- None
Repeat	Visual	swipe-Tactile- None	Swipe-None- Visual	Swipe-None- None	None-Tactile- Visual	None-Tactile- None	None-None- Visual	None-None- None
Participant #6	Swipe-Tactile- None	Swipe-None- None	Swipe-Tactile- Visual	None-Tactile- None	Swipe-None- Visual	None-None- None	None-Tactile- Visual	None-None- Visual
Participant #7	Swipe-None- None	None-Tactile- None	Swipe-Tactile- None	None-None- None	Swipe-Tactile- Visual	None-None- Visual	Swipe-None- Visual	None-Tactile- Visual
Participant #8	None-Tactile- None	None-None- None	Swipe-None- None	None-None- Visual	Swipe-Tactile- None	None-Tactile- Visual	Swipe-Tactile- Visual	Swipe-None- Visual





Custom Questionnaires



- Questionnaires are subjective measures to get information about attitudes of people. They provide important qualitative and quantitative data:
- Quantitative ("closed-ended")
 - > Dichotomous Items: Yes/No, True/False, Agree/Disagree ☑
 - > Rank Order Items: e.g., sort from best to worst,
 - > Rating Items:
 - Semantic scales
 - > Visual/Numeric rating scales
 - > Likert scales
- Qualitative ("open-ended")
 - > Open-ended responses ("What do you see as more positive about the device?")

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Recommended for statistical evaluation

- Qualitative ("open-ended")
 - > Open-ended responses ("What do you see as more positive about the device?")

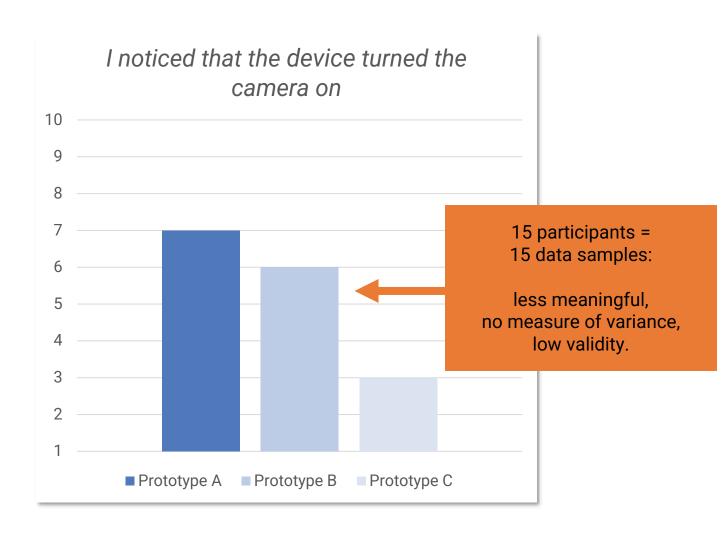
Not recommended for statistical evaluation

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Dichotomous Items

Please check, if yes	
I would be concerned if the device would turn on the camera at any time	
I noticed that the device turned the camera on	
I would benefit from more training to learn how to use the device	
I am skilled enough to use the device	



22

Study Start

1. Introduction 2. Experiment/ Survey

3. Debriefing

Please rank the following aspects of your mobile phone in order of importance to you, with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important

1. Battery Life

T

2. Camera Quality

3. Storage Capacity

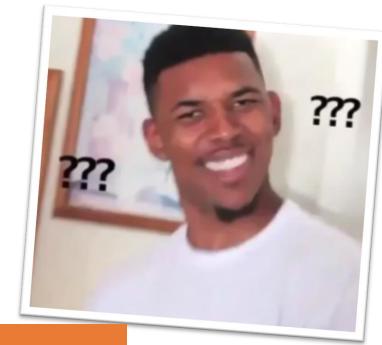


4. Screen Size

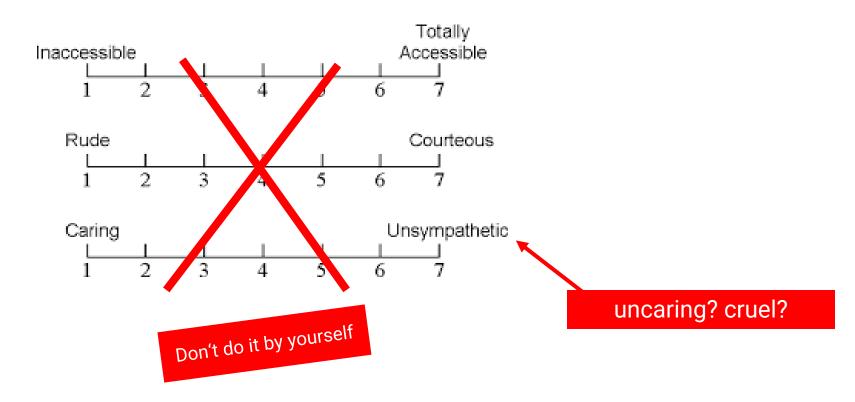


5. Processor Speed

.

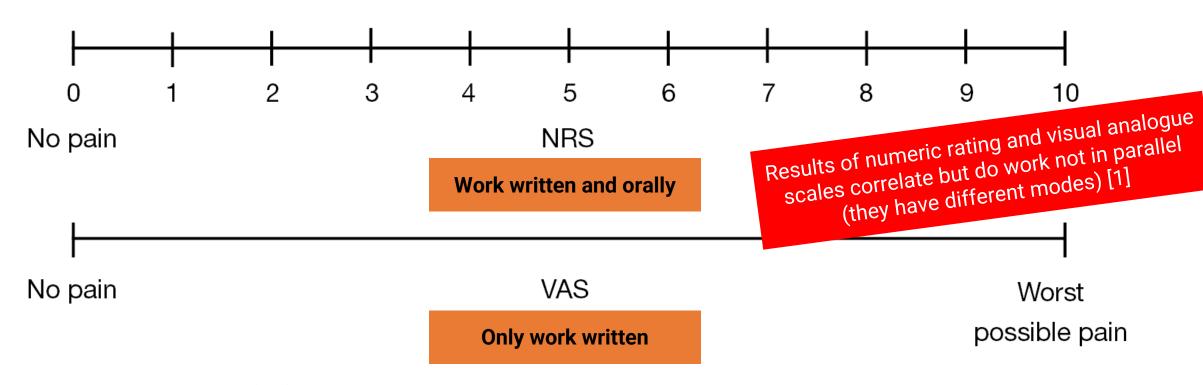


Too many possibilities of sorting. No way to evaluate that. Please evaluate the characteristics of the device by placing a mark on the line closest to your experience:



25

Numeric rating scales (NRS) and visual analogue scales (NRS), example: pain



Bielewicz, J., Daniluk, B., & Kamieniak, P. (2022). VAS and NRS, same or different? Are visual analog scale values and numerical rating scale equally viable tools for assessing patients after microdiscectomy?. Pain Research and Management, 2022.



- Psychologists found that the least biased way to obtain a subjective measure on a rating scale is providing a set of statements based on response anchors
- The most famous rating scales is the Likert scale [1]

If an app could turn on the camera at any time, I would be:

- [] Not at all concerned, [] Slightly concerned, [] Somewhat concerned, [] Moderately concerned, [] Extremely concerned
- ...or better:

To which extend to you agree with the statement that you would be concerned if an app could turn on the camera at any time:

- [] I strongly disagree, [] I disagree, [] Neither agree nor disagree, [] I agree, [] I strongly agree
- ...the more points you have, the easier to evaluate:
 - > We prefer 7-point Likert scales asking for extent and agreement!

Likert, Rensis (1932). "A Technique for the Measurement of Attitudes". Archives of Psychology. 140: 1-55.

Study Start

1. Experiment/ Survey

3. Debriefing

27

To which extend to you agree or disagree with the statement:	l completely disagree	l disagree	l somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	I somewhat agree	l agree	l completely agree
I would be concerned if the device would turn on the camera at any time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I noticed that the device turned the camera on	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I would benefit from more training to learn how to use the device	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I am skilled enough to use the device	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Study Start

1. Experiment/ Survey

3. Debriefing

28

To which extend to you agree or disagree with the statement:	I completely disagree	l disagree	l somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	I somewhat agree	l agree	I completely agree
I would be concerned if the device would turn on the camera at any time	0	0	Res	ponse and	chors	0	0
I noticed that the device turned the camera on	0	0	O	O		0	0
I would benefit from more training to learn how to use the device	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I am skilled enough to use the device	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Study Start

1. | 2. | Experiment/ Survey 3. Debriefing

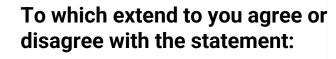
29

To which extend to you agree or disagree with the statement:	l completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	I somewhat agree	l agree	I completely agree
I would be concerned if the device would turn on the camera at any time	1	2	< 3 <	4	< 5 <	6	< 7
I noticed that the device turned the camera on	0	(ale has a every an			0
I would benefit from more training to learn how to use the device	0	O	can have	e a numei	ric value!	O	0
I am skilled enough to use the device	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Study Start

1. Experiment/
Survey

3. Debriefing

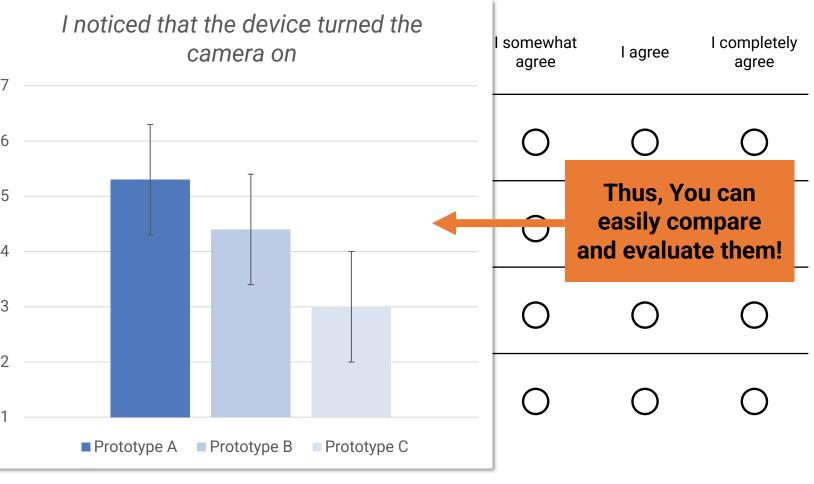


I would be concerned if the device would turn on the camera at any t 6

I noticed that the device turned th camera on

I would benefit from more training 3 learn how to use the device

I am skilled enough to use the dev

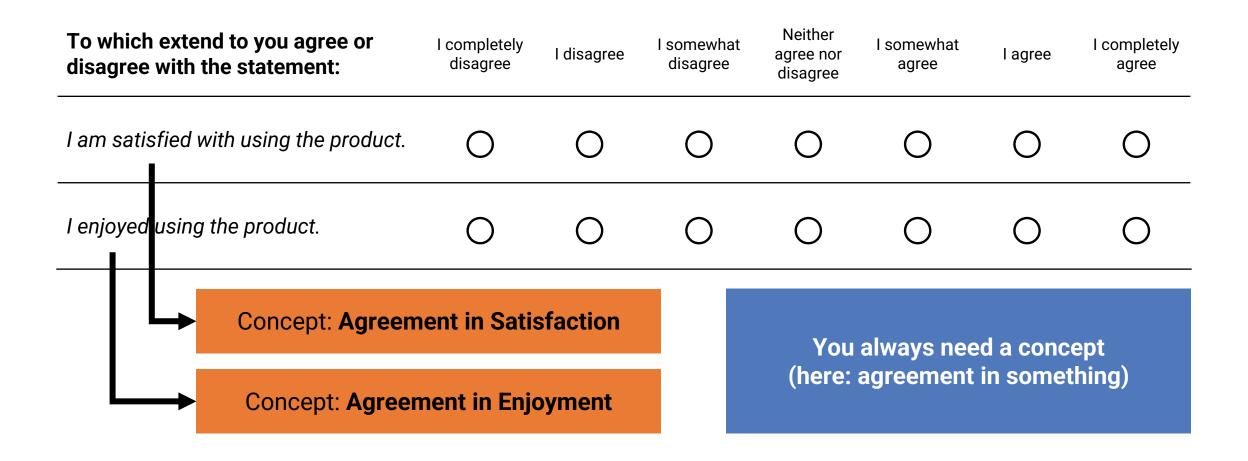


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Study Start

1. | 2. | Experiment/ Survey 3. Debriefing 3.



How to Conduct a User Study Prof. I

31

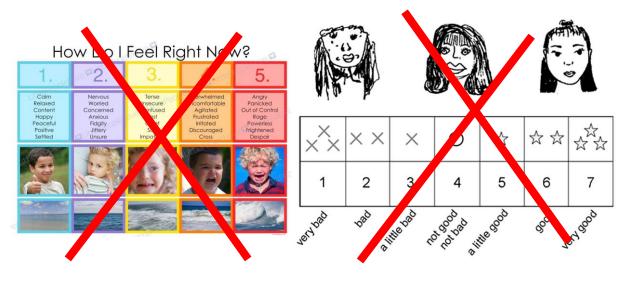
- Likert scales are most useful when you are measuring subjective concepts
- In addition to measuring the level of **agreement on something**, Likert scales can also measure other spectrums, such as **frequency**, **satisfaction**, or **importance**.

Agreement	Frequency	Satisfaction	Difficulty	Importance	Quality	Reflection
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree 	 Never Rarely Occasionally Sometimes Frequently Usually Always 	 Very dissatisfied Dissatisfied Slightly dissatisfied Neutral Slightly satisfied Satisfied Very satisfied 	 Very easy Easy Somewhat easy Neutral Somewhat hard Hard Very hard 	 Very unimportant Unimportant Rather unimportant Neutral Rather important Important Very important 	 Very poor Poor Below average Average Above Average Good Excellent 	 Very untrue of me Untrue of me Somewhat untrue of me Neutral Somewhat true of me True of me Very true of me

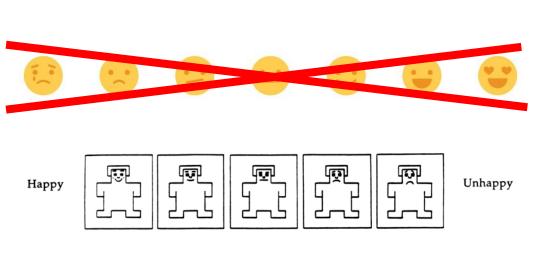
How to Conduct a User Study

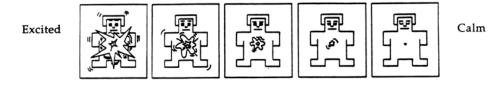
Prof. Dr. Valentin Schwind

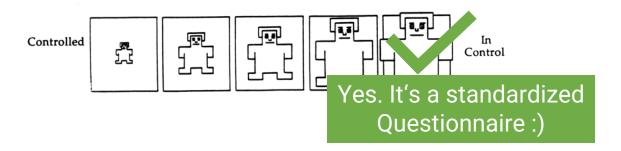












Prof. Dr. Valentin Schwind How to Conduct a User Study

Our all-time favs:

ime	Task Date
Mental Demand	How mentally demanding was the task?
Very Low	Very High
Physical Demand	How physically demanding was the task?
Very Low	Very High
Temporal Demand	d How hurried or rushed was the pace of the task?
Very Low	Very High
Performance	How successful were you in accomplishing what you were asked to do?
Perfect	Failure
Effort	How hard did you have to work to accomplish your level of performance?
Very Low	Very High
Frustration	How insecure, discouraged, imitated, stressed, and annoyed wereyou?
11111	

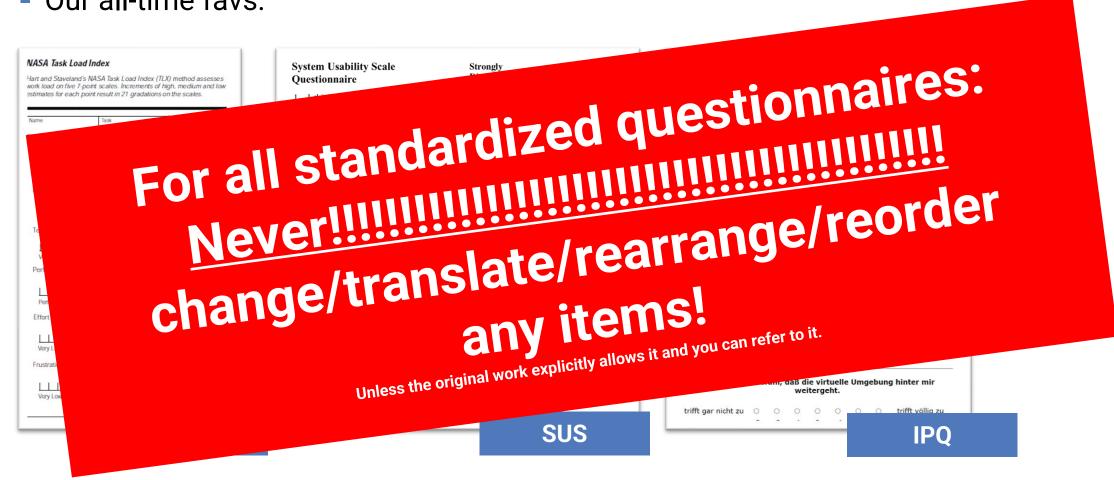
System Usability Scale Questionnaire	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Agree
1. I think that I would like to use this product frequently.	1 2 3	4 5
2. I found the product unnecessarily complex.	1 2 3	4 5
3. I thought the product was easy to use.	1 2 3	4 5
4. I think that I would need the support of a technical person to be able to use this product.	1 2 3	4 5
5. I found the various functions in the product were well integrated.	1 2 3	4 5
6. I thought there was too much inconsistency in this product.	1 2 3	4 5
7. I imagine that most people would learn to use this product very quickly.	1 2 3	4 5
8. I found the product very awkward to use.	1 2 3	4 5
9. I felt very confident using the product.	1 2 3	4 5
10. I needed to learn a lot of things before I could get going with this	1 2 3	4 5

SUS

icht das Gefühl, in dem virtuellen Raum zu sein.	
OOOOOA hatte das Gefühl	
-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3 28/sp3/0	
Ihr Erleben der virtuellen Umgebung dem Erleben einer realen Umgebung?	
O O O O o vollständig	
-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3	
etwas 7/real2/1	
s Gefühl, in dem virtuellen Raum zu handeln statt etwas von außen zu bedienen.	tandardize
Gefühl, in dem virtuellen Raum zu handeln statt etwas von außen zu bedienen. OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO	tandardize onnaires.
Gefühl, in dem virtuellen Raum zu handeln statt etwas von außen zu bedienen. O O O O O O O O trifft völlig We love Stal erschien Ihnen die virtuelle Umgebung? O O O O O O O O Gar nicht r	tandardized onnaires. Vhy?
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etwas von außen zu bedienen. -3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3 We love state of the state of th	tandardized onnaires. Vhy?

35

Our all-time favs:



Questionnaires

Are you allowed to change any items on a standardized questionnaire even when it does not make sense in your experiment?



Are you allowed to remove any items on a standardized questionnaire even when it does not make sense in your experiment?

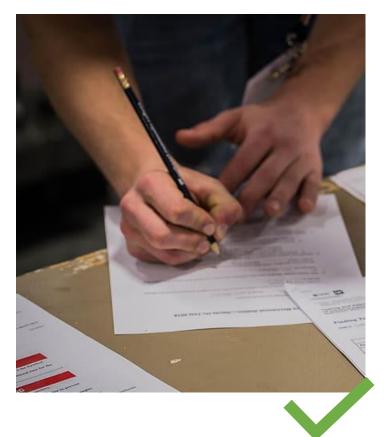


Study Start 1. Introduction

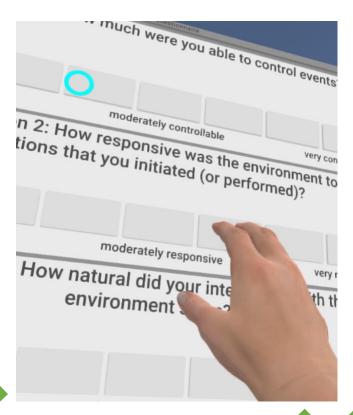
2. Experiment/ Survey

3. Debriefing

• Allowed hand-out devices





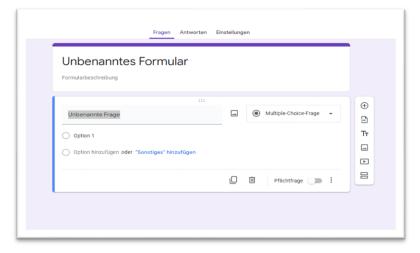


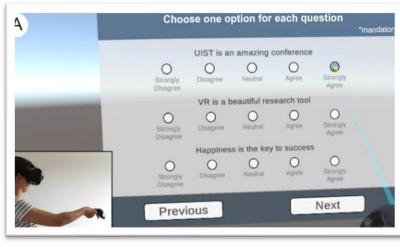
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Survey Systems







LimeSurvey

https://hci-studies.org/limesurvey/

Admin Usability



Features



Features

Google Forms

https://docs.google.com/forms

Admin Usability



VR Questionnaire Toolkit [1]

https://github.com/MartinFk/VRQuestionnaireToolkit

Admin Usability



Features

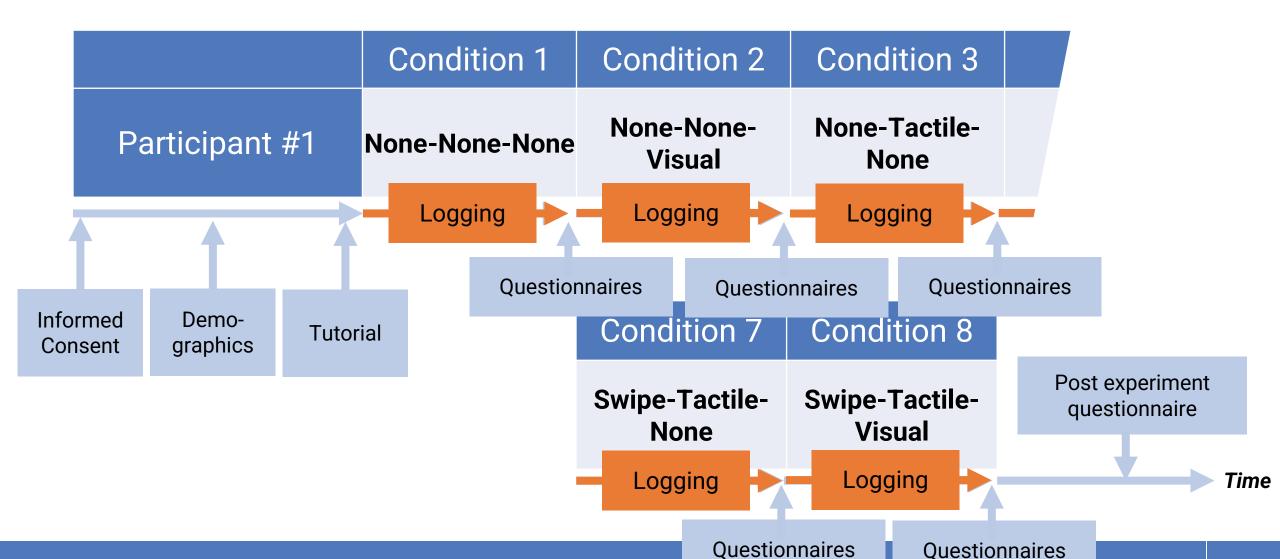


Feick, M., Kleer, N., Tang, A., & Krüger, A. (2020, October). The Virtual Reality Questionnaire Toolkit. UIST EA (pp. 68-69).

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Objective Measures



How to Conduct a User Study

Questionnaires
Questionnaires
Questionnaires

Logging



- The purpose of logging is to track objective data in your experiment
 - > The term "logging" can refer both to the practice of event logging or to the actual log files
- Log files can contain continuous or discrete events over time during application or system in your experiment:
 - Implies that you log the time (time stamp)
- Think about:
 - > What objective data can I log?
 - How can I log the data?
 - Important: Logging must not affect the user!
 - In which intervals do I log?
 - Can I evaluate the data (e.g., is it a table?)

Discrete logging

- only the events are recorded
- fast and easy to evaluate
- useful to count stuff (e.g., events, button clicks,...)

Continous logging

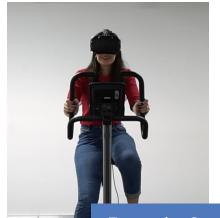
- > useful to measure stuff over time (e.g., motions, tracks, audio,...)
- you need a (constant) sampling rate
- > can be lot of data

Every sample needs a time stamp

> A number - not a date

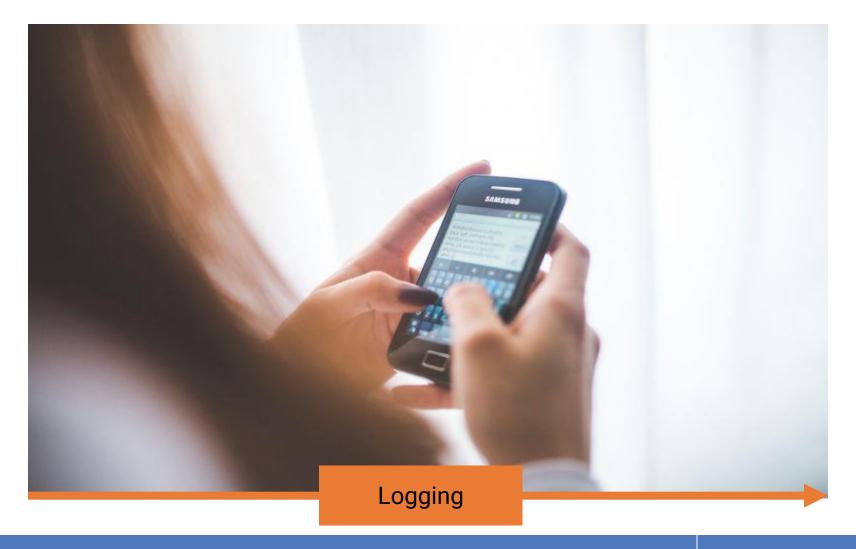


Example: Discrete events (Accuarcy, Precision)

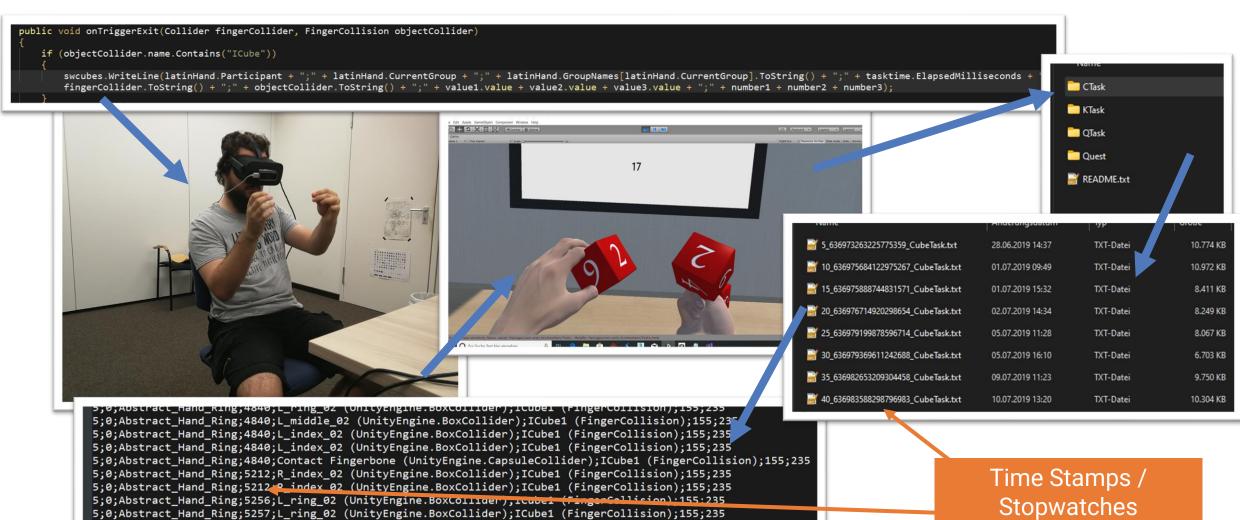


Example: Continous events (Speed, movement)

43

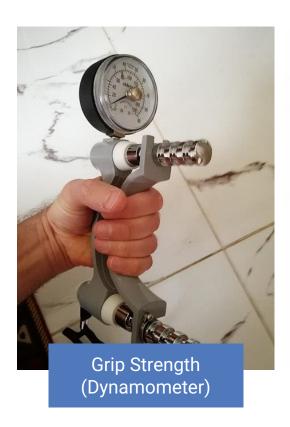


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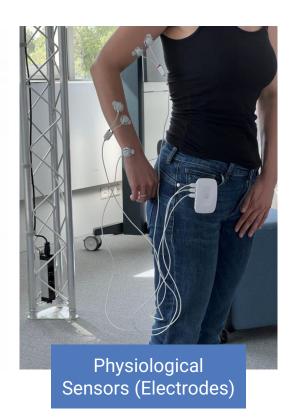


Stopwatches **EVERYWHERE!**

DateTime.Now.Ticks









There are thousands of methods, tasks, and measures to obtain objective data! We will talk about that later...

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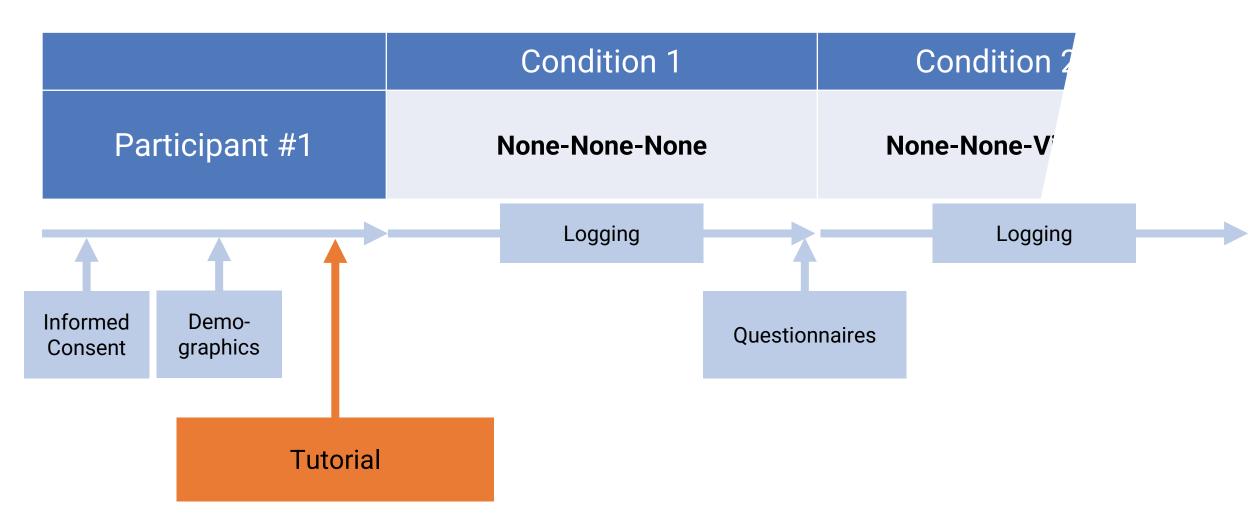
BUT: NEVER FORGET THE MEASURE(S) ANSWERING YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION(S)

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Experiment

47



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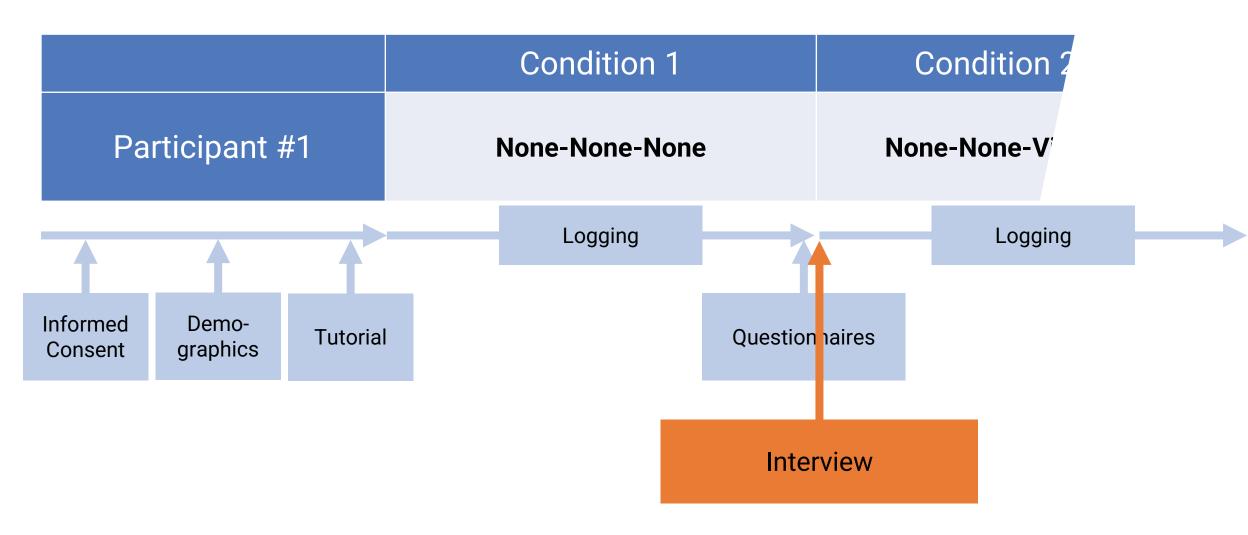
Think about

- > a **"tutorial"** or unbiased "training" to make participants familiar with their task
- > a **"warm-up phase"** before you start with the experiment (e.g., physiological sensors)
- explanations during the trial
- > automated instructions and integrated questionnaires
 - e.g., InVR-Questionnaires https://github.com/MartinFk/VRQuestionnaireToolkit [1]
- > instructions that help participants to do the next step without your help
- randomness (e.g., random assignments)
- fatigue of the participants
- > keeping participants motivated without killing the study

[1] Martin Feick, Niko Kleer, Anthony Tang, and Antonio Krüger. 2020. The Virtual Reality Questionnaire Toolkit. In Adjunct Publication of the 33rd Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST '20 Adjunct). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 68–69. https://doi.org/10.1145/3379350.3416188

Experiment

49



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50

- Example: "[...] we present the findings from multiple design sessions [...] exploring the placement and form factor possibilities for input and output on a power wheelchair." [1]
 - > General question, design aspects should be explored
- Example: "We describe a qualitative study investigating the acceptability of Google Glass eyewear computer to People with Parkinson's disease (PD.)" [2]
 - Study on the possible uses and acceptance of Google Glass in Parkinson's patients





[1] Patrick Carrington, Amy Hurst, and Shaun K. Kane. 2014. Wearables and chairables: inclusive design of mobile input and output techniques for power wheelchair users. In Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '14). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 3103–3112. https://doi.org/10.1145/2556288.2557237

[2] McNaney, R., Vines, J., Roggen, D., Balaam, M., Zhang, P., Poliakov, I., & Olivier, P. (2014). Exploring the Acceptability of Google Glass As an Everyday Assistive Device for People with Parkinson's Images from: https://pxhere.com/de/photo/732815 and https://pxhere.com/de/pho

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- Unravel your research question
 - > What are the related questions that could be answered with qualitative methods?
 - > Who, When, What, Why or How questions (= open questions)
 - Make a protocol!!!!
- Choose data collection method
 - Textual feedback, audio (for text transcript), video (behavioral observations)
- Determine a sampling approach
 - > Feedback/Observation method, target group, location and time frame
- Integrate comparative aspects
 - > Discussions arise when there is disagreement



Conducting an Interview



- Central instrument of qualitative research
- Various forms of interviews depending on the specification of the questions/content of the interview:
 - > Unstructured (candid) interview
 - > Semi-structured interview (we highly recommend that)
 - > Structured interview (no follow-up questions)
- Advantages and disadvantages of structure:
 - > + Comparability of the interviews in terms of length, topics, ...
 - > + Easier to evaluate
 - > Biasing the responses
 - Restriction of perspective (instead of extension)

The Semi-Structured Interview



- Interview based on a predefined protocol (a list of questions or topics to cover)
 - > Ensures that the same general areas are covered with each participant
 - > Makes the data and analysis more comparable than fully unstructured interviews
- Interviewers are free to deviate based on the interviewee's responses
 - Ask follow-up questions to clarify or expand on points made by the interviewee (probing)
 - > The format enables interviewers to probe interesting areas that emerge during the interview, which are not in the protocol.
 - > Allow deep exploration of the interviewee's thoughts, feelings, and beliefs, providing rich qualitative data.
 - > Questions can be adapted to suit the context of the conversation or the specific respondent
 - Interviewers can gain a better understanding of the context
 - > Can reveal inconsistencies within the interviewee's thoughts

The Semi-Structured Interview



- Establish a connection with the participant to facilitate open communication
- Establish common ground and provides context (events, situations) and initial questions
 - > "Image you are in a park with a new fitness tracker..."
- Open-ended questions around the research question
 - > Questions are designed to encourage detailed and expansive answers
 - > Allows interviewees to express their perspectives and experiences
- Enables "active listening"
 - More questions to go deeper
- Repeat the interview with all conditions/concepts/scenarios...

How to go deeper...



- Active listener tries to grasp the content of the answers and to establish the connection to research questions & to clarify inconsistencies or ambiguities
- Expand what has been said with "Can you tell us more about it?", "Can you give an example?"
- Find out why with "Can you tell me why you reacted?" "Why do you think you reacted that way"
- Ask for effects/consequences with "What happened next?" "What effect did that have on you?"
- Underlying values experienced with "Why was that important to you?" "Why did you react so strongly to it?"

Focus Groups

Study Start

1. | 2. | Experiment/ Survey 3. Debriefing

- An interview with group of participants (3-10) directed by one or more researchers
 - > Typically, you have 3-4 focus groups per study
- Participants typically have common goals, traits, experiences, etc.
- Goals is to...
 - improve a prototype
 - > solve problems
 - > explore design options



By NSaad (WMF) - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6709 2238

Focus Lenses (Examples)

Designs Exploration

- > Explore the design spaces/design options with your focus group
- > Brainstorm solutions

Prototype Test

- > Test the concept for a product
- Test reactions to a mock-up physical or digital

Opinion Gathering

- > After a product is already out in the world
- > Determine how people feel about it or how they make use of it

Slides adapted from Dr Kami Vaniea https://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/hci/1718/lects/Lecture11_focus_groups.pdf

Pros

- > Get group opinion about issues
- > Efficient way to test early ideas/designs
- Good way to identify issues or areas of conflict
- > Multi-constituent discussion

Cons

- Can be taken over by assertive individuals
- > Focus on people's opinions not actual behaviors
- > Limited sample size

Slides adapted from Dr Kami Vaniea https://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/hci/1718/lects/Lecture11_focus_groups.pdf

Plan and Discussion Stimuli



- Goal is to get valuable information about the potential and design spaces of an artifact
 - > To encourage the members to talk more freely early prototype (discussion stimuli) can be presented
- In HCI, focus groups have typically brainstorming phases Explain what is going to happen to the participants (example)
 - > 1. Explain what is going to happen to the participants
 - > 2. Ask the attendees to introduce themselves and share their last app experience
 - > 3. Hand out discussion stimuli and associated questions
 - > 4. Ask participants to try and use the stimuli to answer the questions silently by themselves
 - > 5. Ask participants to discuss the answers and explore options
 - > 6. Ask participants how they would improve the discussion stimuli (brainstorming session)

Slides adapted from Dr Kami Vaniea https://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/hci/1718/lects/Lecture11_focus_groups.pdf

Example: Qualitative Studies

Survey methods

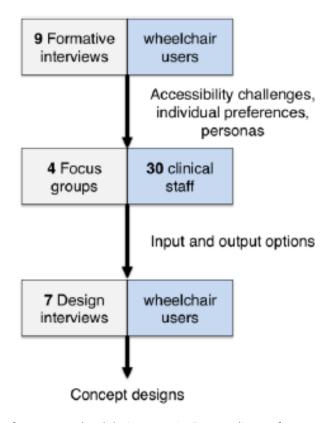
> 3 different methods: interviews, focus groups, design interviews

Sample

- > Heterogeneous sample of a certain group
- > Wheelchair users and clinical staff

Time frame

- > Period studied: habits, problems in using systems
- > Several examination times to further process & check results



[1] Patrick Carrington, Amy Hurst, and Shaun K. Kane. 2014. Wearables and chairables: inclusive design of mobile input and output techniques for power wheelchair users. In Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '14). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 3103–3112. https://doi.org/10.1145/2556288.2557237

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61

Data Collection

Study Start 1. Introduction

2. Experiment/ Survey

3. Debriefing

- Interview protocols
- Live protocol
- Focus group output
- Video observations
- Audio records
- Existing data: Ethnography
- Diaries
- Textual feedback forms





Record & Log Events

Event Log

- > Recorded and observed events during the study
- > Key data of the interview: interviewer, ID of the subject, location of the interview, start and end times of the interview

Transcription

in audio-recorded interviews, what is said is written down true to its meaning = transcribed



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Transkript "Usability von Alltagsgeräten"

Interviewer: Manfred Muster

Befragter-ID: TP3

Ort: FIL, Uni Regensburg

Datum/ Zeit: 20.05.2014, 18:40-18:45 Uhr

- 6 I: Wie alt sind Sie?
- 7 B:27 Jahre.
- 8 I: Ihr Geschlecht?
- 9 B:Weiblich.
- 10 I: Was ist ihr Beruf/ Ausbildung?
- 11 B:Softwareentwickler.
- 12 I: Wie groß ist ihr Interesse an Technik zum Beispiel Smartphones, PC, Tablets, Digitalkamera?
- 13 B:Sehr groß.
- 14 I:Welche Alltagsgeräte nutzen Sie?
- 15 B:Ja, mein Geschirrspüler. Und den Herd, die Kaffemaschine. (...) Wasserkocher.

Context Data

Time is Value



- You can use time as "object of investigation or manipulation"
 - > Before/during/after an event (e.g., before, while, or after using a system)
 - > The order determines biases (counter-balance if required)

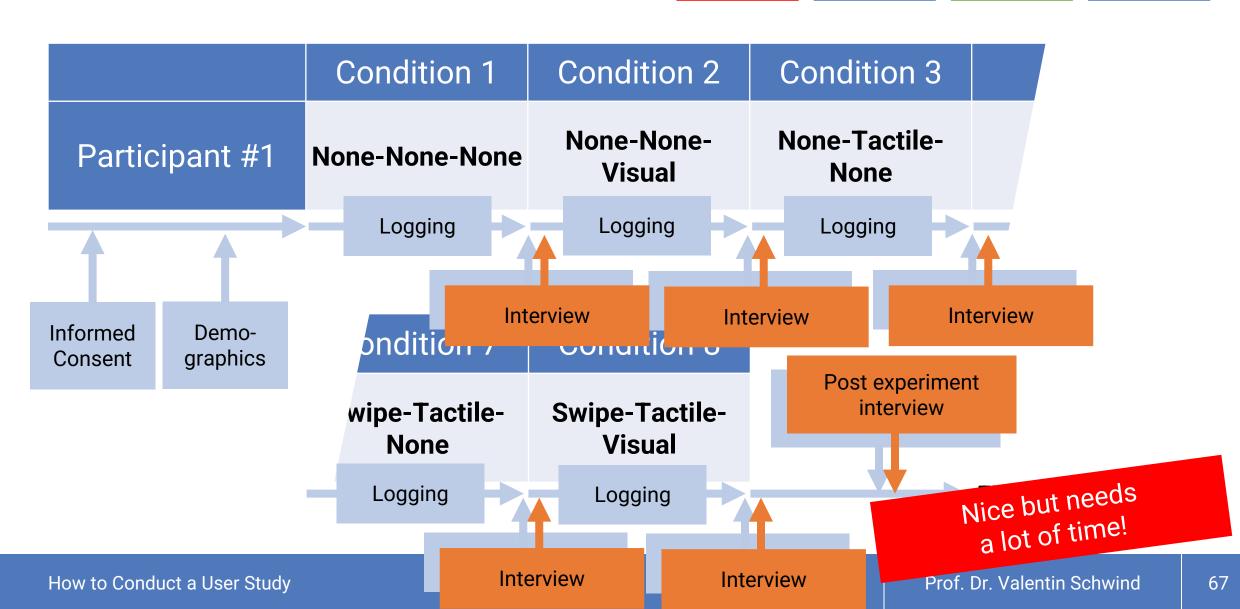
Study Episodes

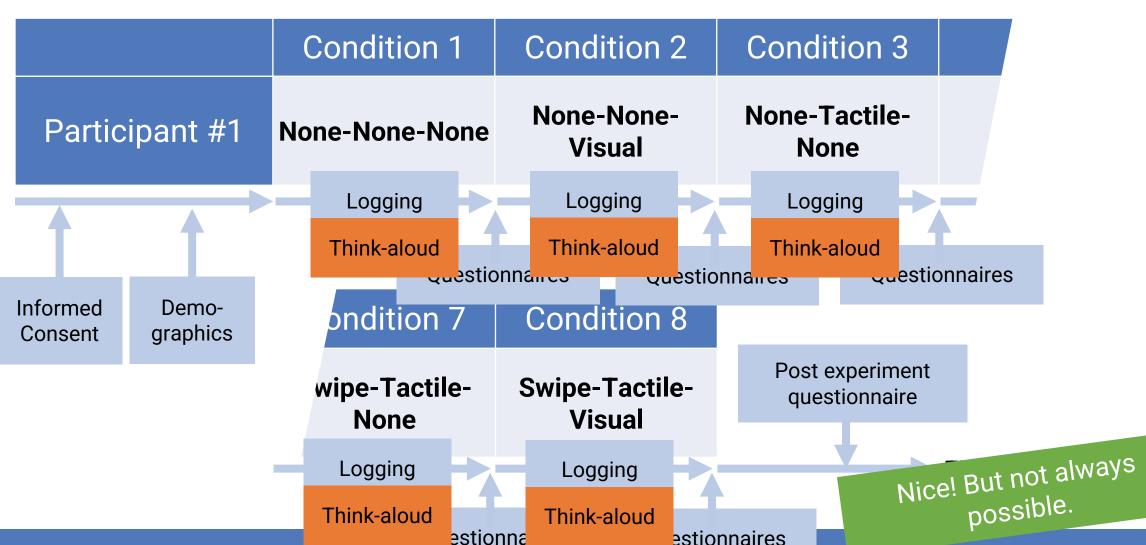
- > Single Episode
- > Multiple Episodes
 - > Capture different points in time
 - Use of different methods to capture different aspects (context, frequency of use, emotions, problems)
 - > Example: Diary study to capture the user experience of a streaming platform

Example: Streaming Platform

- A diary study capturing the UX of an online streaming platform
 - 1. First contact interview
 - "Your expectations?"
 - "Your first impression of the start page?"
 - 2. Diary study on the use of the system
 - "What are your entries in weblog (tabular, free text)
 - More questions about usability
 - 3. Post follow-up interviews
 - Summary
 - > Perceived user experience curves







Think-Aloud

Study Start

1. Experiment/ Survey

3. Debriefing

- Involve participants thinking aloud while they are performing a set of specified tasks
- Participants are asked to say whatever comes into their mind as they complete the task
- Include open-ended and allows follow-up questions (semistructured)
- Include what participants are
 - looking at
 - thinking
 - doing
 - feeling
- Very efficient, but not always possible (e.g., audio tasks)



Task-Centered User Interface Design: A Practical Introduction, by Clayton Lewis and John Rieman.

More Qualitative Research

Study Start

1. | 2. | Experiment/ Survey 3. Debriefing

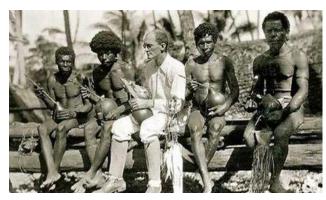
- Ethnography
 - > Technology Biography
 - > Rapid Ethnography (Guerilla Sampling)
- Case Studies
- Diaries / Longterm Studies

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Ethnography

- "[…] the art and science of describing a human group its institutions, interpersonal behaviors, material productions, and beliefs" [1]
- Emerged from the field of anthropology that served the study of non-Western cultures field research
 - Researcher shares (actively) the everyday life of the people
 - Researchers observe them, make field notes,
 - > from which patterns and meanings are then deductively evaluated
 - > See the work by e.g. Bronisław Malinowski
- Other methods: photography, videos, audio,...



http://hilobrow.com/2012/04/07/bronislaw-malinowski/

[1] Angrosino, M. (2007). Doing ethnographic and observational research. SAGE Publications Ltd, https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781849208932

Ethnography = Technology Biography

- "Technology Biography": hardly "real" ethnography in the sense of long-term field research
 - Example: a field study into technology use by three households was examined [1]
- Method used: Technology Biography
 - > Technology Tour: devices are shown
 - > Last Time Questions: Questions e.g., "When was a household task fun?"
 - > Personal History: "How did habits develop?"
 - Three wishes for new products
- Results
 - Enjoyability
 - > Recodification-Gendered Design
 - Inclusivity

Blythe, M., & Monk, A. (2002). Notes Towards an Ethnography of Domestic Technology

Rapid Ethnography (Guerilla Sampling)

- Real ethnography is too "expensive", broad spectrum of observation, long duration of observation
 - Let's shorten it: guerrilla sampling
- Guerilla sampling:
 - Refer to a specific question and find information in the field
 - > Can be in-situ: e.g., asking habits of car drivers at parking slots
 - Use as many digital recording methods as possible (audio, video, photos, etc.)
 - > Collaborative evaluation (possibly also tool-supported)





73

David R. Millen. 2000. Rapid ethnography: time deepening strategies for HCl field research. In Proceedings of the 3rd conference on Designing interactive systems: processes, practices, methods, and techniques (DIS '00). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 280–286. https://doi.org/10.1145/347642.347763

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Case Study

- "The essence of a case study, the central tendency among all types of case stuy, is that it tries to illuminate a decision or set of decisions: why they were taken, how they were implemented, and with what result." [1]
- Detailed and in-depth analysis of one or more occasions
- Research questions are how and why
 - > when a topical phenomenon is examined (in our case: a new device, domain, application, form of interaction)
 - > certain factors or events cannot be controlled (e.g., due to realism or novelty)
 - > mostly for innovative developments, new methods

[1] Schramm, W. (1971). Notes on Case Studies of Instructional Media Projects.

Case Study: "Quantified Cats" [1]

- Example: Quantification of Pets
 - Discussing fiction and speculative prototypes (websites) in focus groups with pet owners & animal behavior experts
 - Prototypes, descriptions and websites for various products
- Pet owners want to understand their pet:
 - » "Sometimes you think is she just barking to protect me. But then sometimes you're not 100% sure...if you knew she wasn't a threat [with EmotiDog], you'd probably be more relaxed" [1]



t-a-Log The Cat-A-Log system is used to track the movement of is and other micro-chipped animals around your property.



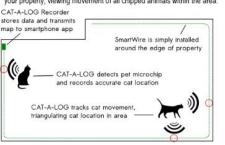
ecial wire is buried around the eage of your garden or yard, connected to a nside the house.

The wire can detect when pet identification chips pass nearby

The system uses triangulation to work out the exact location of the animal The system requires no special collar attachments, and works with the vast majority of existing identification chips

The system is completely invisible to the animal, and they do not fee anything during detection

You can use a website and smartphone app to browse historical maps of your property, viewing movement of all chipped animals within the area.



75

[1] Lawson, S., Kirman, B., Linehan, C., Feltwell, T., & L. Hopkins (2015) Problematising Upstream Technology through Speculative Design: The Case of Quantified Cats and Dogs

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The Art of Case Studies: Drawing Conclusions

"Beyond the human-animal relationship, our study suggests implications for the quantified-self movement more generally. As mentioned, our participants were fascinated by the utility offered by our products, without any concern for how they worked. This issue goes beyond our own case study: if there is little incentive for ensuring a consistent level of scientific accuracy in quantified data interpretation, it seems unlikely that companies would bother to engage in the expensive and time consuming trials necessary to demonstrate this." [1]

[1] Lawson,S., Kirman,B., Linehan,C., Feltwell,T., & L. Hopkins (2015) Problematising Upstream Technology through Speculative Design: The Case of Quantified Cats and Dogs

76

Diaries

- Fill the gap between direct observation & interrogation
- Form
 - > Paper, digital via blogs, email, mobile app, online account etc.
 - > Open questions/entries versus tabular form
 - > With additional media such as photo, video, comments
 - > Elicitation Diary
- Notes on use (e.g., in the form of photos and comments)
 - > Follow-up interviews clarify questions about usage
 - > Feedback Diary
 - > Answer usage questions (at the end of each tag or usage)



Why Diaries?

- Advantages
 - > Phenomena can be captured in context & with a personal view
 - > Participants are less disturbed than with an observation/ethnography
- Disadvantages
 - > Accuracy of recording can be highly variable (motivation, time resources of participants)
 - > Interpretability of described phenomena \(\mathbb{I} \) Interviews for clarification, method. Triangulation

Avoiding Biases in Qualitative Research

Use multiple people to transcribe and code the data

If there is consistency between your interpretation and that of others, it is more likely that there is some truth by agreement in your interpretations

Have participants review your results

> Ask the people who provided the data whether your interpretations seem to reflect their opinions

Verify data sources (Triangulation)

If you can find other sources of data that support your interpretations, then you can have more confidence that what you've found is legitimate

Check for alternative explanations

Consider whether there are other reasons why you obtained your data. If you can rule out or account for alternative explanations, your interpretations will be stronger.

Review findings with peers

Ask others to review your conclusions. Sometimes others will see things that you missed or can identify gaps in your argument that need to be addressed

Summary

A good research question

- > Can be answered, is clear, and has a verifiable goal
- Formulated to fit the method
- Research methods answer your research question
 - > Distinguish research from practice: valid, reliable and dependable results
 - > Should correspond to one of the three research approaches:
 - > Quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods

Less is more

- > The aim is not to explore as many aspects as possible or as generally as possible
- > Examine a few specific aspects very thoroughly and closely
- Read, read, read
 - > Good examples provide clues for interesting questions, methodologies, study designs,...

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Task Next Time

- Update your problem statement (PDF)
 - > There should be 3 sections now: 1. Introduction, 2. Related Work, 3. Method
 - > Update if necessary and make the 3 sections consistent
- Update and upload your presentation (PDF)
 - > Add/Change your slides according to the things you want to change
 - Your update research question(s)
 - > Describe your method. Depending on your research method ...
 - The picture of your thingy
 - > Your experimental/survey procedure!
- Next time: Intermediate Presentation