

Participant Information Sheet



A study investigating scene interpretation for visual accessibility in virtual reality.

Thank you for your interest in this study. Before you decide to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. The study organiser is available if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Purpose of the study

This study aims to evaluate our visual accessibility tool for scene interpretation in virtual reality (VR). We are examining whether the tool can deliver improved accessibility and will also collect user feedback. During the experiment, participants will be asked to wear a VR headset and explore a virtual environment with and without the help of spatial sound guidance and scene descriptive audio. Participants will be asked to perform several simple tasks within the virtual scene. Further details are provided below.

1. **Why have I been chosen?** The study investigates how visual accessibility tools should be designed to enhance the experience of blind and low vision users of VR.
2. **Do I have to take part?** No, participation is entirely voluntary. If you do decide to take part, you can still withdraw from the study at any time, without giving any reasons.
3. **Who is organising the study?** Junlong Chen and Dr John Dudley are organising the research study. They are based in the Engineering Department at the University of Cambridge.
4. **What will happen during the study?** You will first be introduced to the study procedure and the tasks you will perform. You will be given a period of familiarisation with the head-mounted display and assisted through any necessary setup. You will then be asked to perform various tasks within VR.
5. **What are the possible risks of taking part?** Some people experience mild discomfort (such as nausea) from the use of head-mounted displays. Some people may experience muscle fatigue in their arm after a period of using the hand-held controllers. Should you feel uncomfortable during the experiment, you are encouraged to inform the experiment runner and the experiment will be suspended. You may end the experiment at any time. If you are concerned about your balance or bumping into objects in your surroundings, you can complete the experiment while seated.
6. **What happens at the end of the study?** At the end of the study there will be a chance for you to ask any questions that you may have.
7. **What will happen to the study results?** The anonymised results will be written up and published in academic papers and presented at research meetings.
8. **Anonymity – will I be identified in any publications resulting from the study?** The data will be anonymised and any references to the data will be done so that you are not identifiable.
9. **What if there is a problem?** If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researcher(s) who will do their best to answer your questions.
10. **Who has reviewed the study?** The Department of Engineering Ethics Committee has reviewed this study through the light-touch review process.

Contact Information

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