

**Ego OR Exo:  
Comparing Visual Perspectives on Guidance  
Visualisations for Motor Learning**

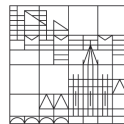
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## Abstract

Motor Learning in Mixed Reality proved to be good. But view reseach in the influence of the perspective on guidance visualisation. This work proposes a study to investigate this. Task is handling physical load. will enable designers of MR ML systems to base their work on on empirical data.

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# 1 Introduction

The acquisition of movements is a crucial part of human development. Learning movements empowers to be more efficient, faster and more exact. The capability of enhanced movements enables the learner to survive from the very beginning. The process of learning movements is called Motor Learning. Nowadays, Motor Learning is still crucial. Especially for tasks like sports, arts or the ergonomic handling of physical load.

Most movements we learn by voyeurism and mimicking: watching and trying it out by yourself. Mastering a movement is performed best with an experienced teacher. A teacher is hardly replaceable because of immediate visual, audible and haptic feedback on a performed movement. However, if a teacher is not available, for example, based on the location or economic reasons, other sources can be used to learn movements. For example, YouTube<sup>1</sup>, TikTok<sup>2</sup>, and other video platforms have become a great source for learning videos with a wide range of purposes. The downside of videos is the two dimensional (2D) experience of a three dimensional (3D) movement. Mixed Reality (MR) can provide this experience in 3D. Furthermore, MR can provide feedback on the performed movement and has the ability for interactions with the virtual guidance visualisation. MR already proved to be a suitable environment for Motor Learning for tasks like dancing [1–5], sports [6, 7], Rehabilitation [8–12], arts [13–20] and others [21, 22].

In the real world, where the student and teacher are real persons, the student sees the teacher, for example, in front of himself/herself. This perspective is called the exo-centric visual perspective. Nevertheless, if we move from the real world to the virtual world of MR, we are no longer restricted to the exo-centric visual perspective. The teacher can be rendered inside the student's body, allowing the student to see the teacher from an ego-centric perspective. The change from the exo-centric to the ego-centric visual perspective potentially influences Motor Learning, shown by previous research; for example, AR-Arm [13] lets the learner experience the movements from an ego-centric perspective. YouMove [1] teaches dance from an exo-centric perspective. OneBody [19], Light Guide [22], MR Dance Trainer [5], Free Throw Simulator [6], Training Physical skills [7], Sleeve AR [11] and Thai Chi Trainer [20] use both visual perspectives. However, only OneBody, LightGuide and TaiChi Trainer found a difference between the visual perspectives. Furthermore, none of these works investigated how the visual perspective influences the performance of the learner. Another topic where MR could be a valuable helper is the ergonomic conduction of movements while handling physical load [23, 24]. Handling physical load in the correct ergonomic conduct in working routines can prevent injuries in everyday life. However, a kinaesthetics teacher is not always accessible, for example, for economic reasons. The influence of the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation teaching the handling of physical load in mixed reality is sparsely investigated **todo: is there a source?**. Especially, locomotion movements like walking in the ego-centric perspective is left out. The lack of research in the influence of the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation, especially for handling physical loads, shows the necessity of investigations on:

RQ1: How does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence Motor Learning in Virtual Reality environments?

To answer this main research question RQ1, several aspects have to be taken into account: accuracy of movements, transfer of information of how to move, the visual focus of the learner and last but not least, the personal preference of the learner. Therefore, to answer the main research question RQ1, it is necessary to answer the following sub-research questions:

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.youtube.com/>, accessed 17.2.2021

<sup>2</sup><https://www.tiktok.com/>, accessed 17.2.2021

RQ1.1 How does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence movements' accuracy?

RQ1.1.1 How does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence movements' accuracy of the own body?

RQ1.1.2 How does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence the accuracy of handling physical load?

RQ1.1.3 How does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence sub-tasks' accuracy?

RQ1.2 Does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence the transfer of ergonomic principles?

RQ1.3 How does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence the learner's visual focus?

RQ1.4 What is the subjective personal preference of the learner for the visual perspectives?

A detailed discussion of the research questions can be found in 3.4.

**The answers to these research questions will enable designers of VR Motor Learning training systems to choose a suitable visual perspective on an empirical basis.**

## 1.1 Outline

This work proposes a study design to answer the research question. To design this study on a solid basis, the theoretical foundations are laid in chapter 2 with a closer look on Motor Learning (section 2.2), visual perspectives (section 2.3) and Mixed Reality (section 2.1). These sections result in the scope and parameters of the study design. Section 2.6 investigates previous works and illustrates the conceptual delimitation of this work from what has already been investigated. Chapter 2 concludes with a research contribution statement, clarifying the Empirical Contribution and Artifact Contribution of this work.

For the proposed study, a system had to be designed to produce data to answer the research questions. This system is called E(x|g)o. The design and implementation is described in section 3.3 followed by the design of the study itself in section 3.4.

E(x|g)o and the study design have been evaluated in a pilot study. The results of the evaluation are depicted in chapter 4. Furthermore, this chapter suggests improvements in the study design in section 5.2. This work concludes in chapter 5 with an outlook on how E(x|g)o can be enhanced and expanded as well as used for further investigations.

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## 2 Motor Learning in Virtual Reality

This chapter provides the theoretical background of Mixed Reality, Motor Learning, Visual Perspectives and handling physical load. These are the most important aspects that serve as the foundation for the proposed study design. Finally, an analysis of related work is provided. This chapter gives insights into how this work is informed and differentiated by other researchers.

### 2.1 Mixed Reality

Milgram and Kishinho [25] describe Mixed Reality for visual displays on a continuum (see seminar thesis chapter 2.3). Virtual Reality is purely digital, and thereby the environment is blocked entirely. In Augmented Reality, the environment is visible and augmented with digital elements. During Motor Learning, the visual perception of the own body is desirable. Though, the approach of augmenting the real-world body with a virtual guidance visualisation is promising. However, today's AR-technology provides a small field of view. A solution to this could be the video see-through technology, but it is limited by latency and distortion.

The body's perception can also be achieved by tracking the learner's body and render it over the learner's physical body. Though, the visual perception of the learner's body can be established in VR. Consequentially, this work will focus on Motor Learning in Virtual Reality.

### 2.2 Motor Learning

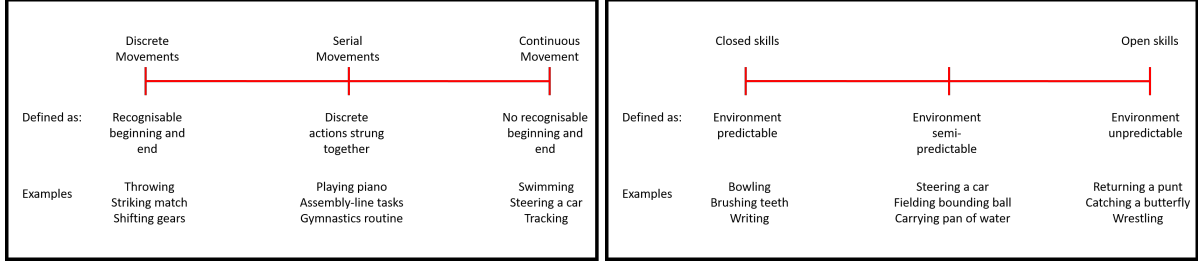
Motor Learning is achieved through instruction, trying, imitation or a combination of them [26]. The process of Motor Learning can be divided into three parts: cognitive stage, associative stage and autonomous stage. In the cognitive stage, training methods are most efficient, and the performance gain is the highest among the stages [26]. Tasks that belong to this stage are thereby best suited for a study. A detailed description of the stages can be found in the preceding seminar thesis chapter 2.2.

Movements can be classified by two means: by the *particular movements* and based on the *perceptual attributes*. Based on the *particular movements*, the classification is described by a continuum, compare figure 2.1 left. On the extremes of the continuum are discrete movements and continuous movements. Between these extremes, serial movements are located. Discrete movements are too short for an evaluation. Continuous movements do not have a recognisable beginning, and thereby they are not suitable for the study in question either. Serial movements are chained discrete movements with a recognisable beginning and end. This allows a task decomposition and an evaluation of particular sub-tasks. Discrete movements are widely used for research in Motor Learning, for example [16, 17, 22]; therefore, the study task design is based on discrete movements.

The classification based on the *perceptual attributes* is also represented by a continuum and includes the environment in which the movement is performed, compare figure 2.1 right. At the extremes of the continuum, open skills and closed skills are located. For closed skills, the environment is predictable, while in open skills, the environment is not predictable. The study aims to analyse the learners' performance of following a movement and



not how they can adapt to environmental changes. Thereby, this study's task must be located on the left-hand side of the continuum: closed skills.



**Figure 2.1:** Movement classification by *particular movements* (left) and *perceptual attributes* by Smift at al. [26]

### 2.2.1 Measurements for Motor Learning

The movements of a teacher and the movement of a learner differ. To assess the difference between the two movements, two main classes of measures can be applied [26]: *measures of error for a single object* and *measures of time and speed*. *Measure of error for a single object* represent the degree to which the target movement is amiss. Schmidt et al. [26] provide five *error measures* to calculate this error, compare seminar thesis chapter 2.2. *Constant Error* is the most common measure in related work to determine the difference between the movement of the learner and the movement of the teacher, for example [1, 2, 9, 19, 20, 22, 27]. Constant Error is defined as the average error between the movement of the learner and the movement of the teacher and is described as

$$CE = \frac{\sum_i (x_i - T)}{n} \quad (2.1)$$

with  $x_i$ : actual value,  $T$ : target value,  $n$ : number of values [26].

The basic idea of *measures of time and speed* is that a performer who can accomplish more in a given amount of time or who can accomplish a given amount of behaviours in less time is more skilful. In related work, this measure is mostly assessed by the task completion time, for example [19, 22, 27].

## 2.3 Visual Perspectives

Wang and Milgram [28] describe visual perspectives by the *centricity continuum* 2.2. On the left extreme on the continuum, the ego-centric visual perspective is located; on the right extreme, the exo-centric visual perspective can be found, while the middle part represents tethered visual perspectives. By moving from the left to the right, the so-called *tethering distance* increases. The *tethering distance* describe the distance of the anchor point of the eyes to the object to control. In this work, the object to control is the human-shaped guidance visualisation (avatar). Furthermore, Wang and Milgram distinguish tethered visual perspective in dynamic and rigid. A detailed description is given in the seminar thesis chapter 2.1. Given a scenario where one learner mimics the movement of one teacher, five different visual perspectives are possible:

- **Ego-centric:** the avatar of the teacher is located inside the body of the avatar of the learner; the learner sees the guidance visualisation inside the own body, compare figure 2.3 top left.

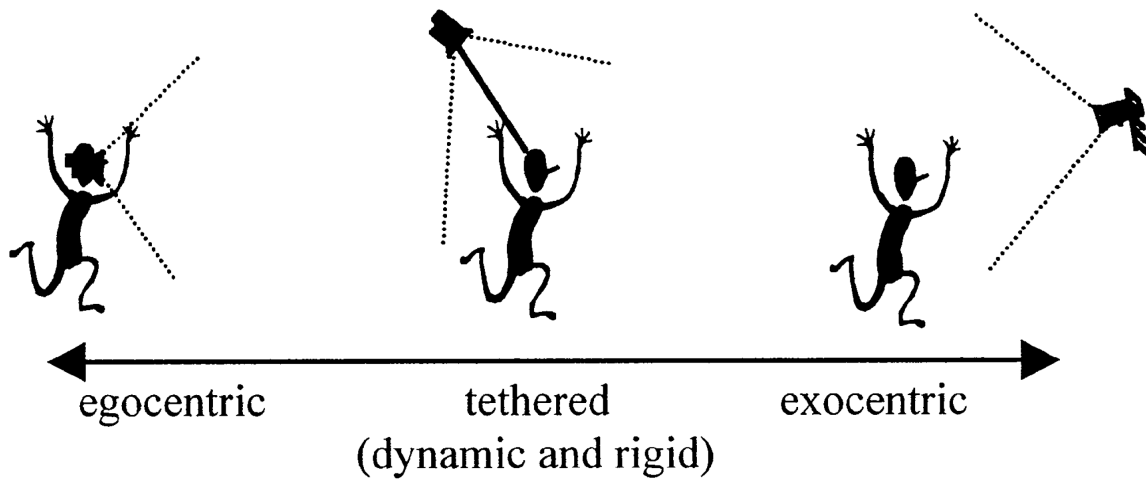


Figure 2.2: Centricity continuum by Wang and Milgram [28]

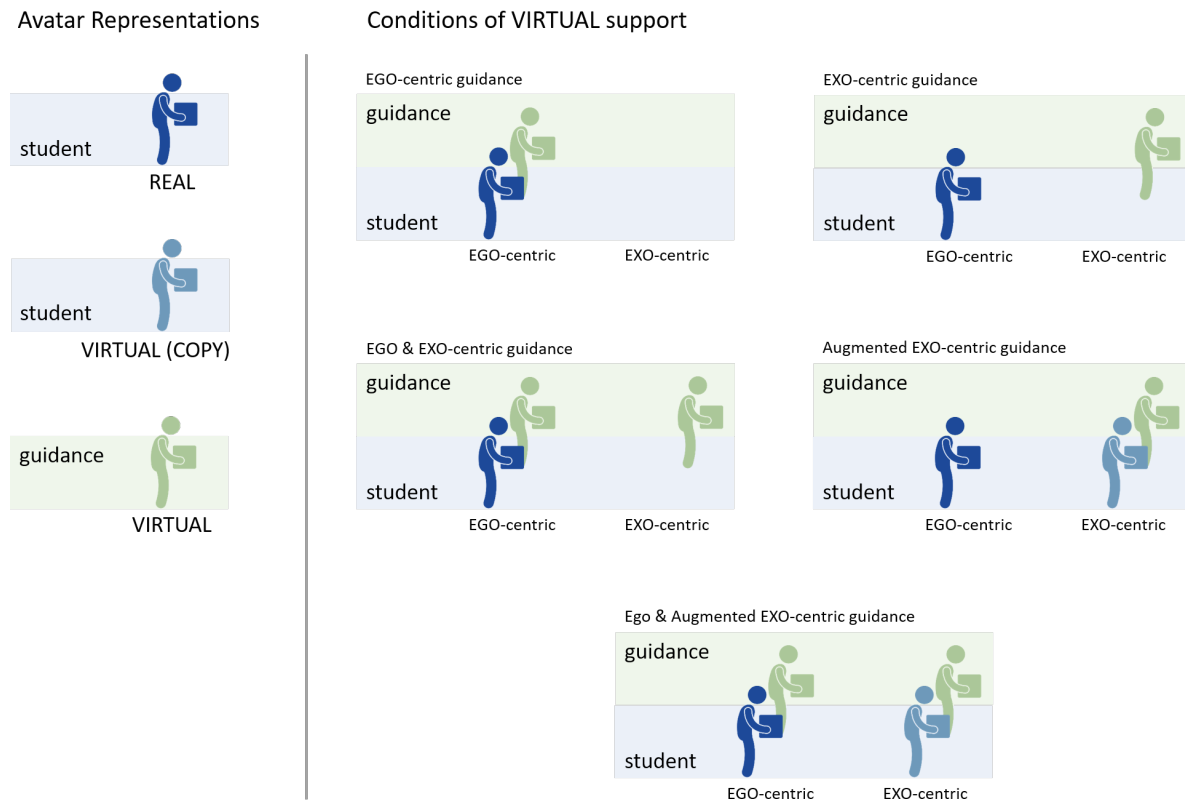
- **Exo-centric:** the avatar of the guidance visualisation is located outside of the avatar of the learner; the learner sees the guidance visualisation, e.g. in front of him/her, compare figure 2.3 top right.
- **Ego & exo-centric:** the combination of ego-centric and exo-centric. The learner sees the guidance visualisation as well as inside and outside of the own body, compare figure 2.3 middle left.
- **Augmented exo-centric:** the guidance visualisation is located outside of the learner's avatar. Additionally, a virtual copy of the student is located inside the exo-centric guidance visualisation, compare figure 2.3 middle right.
- **Ego & augmented exo-centric:** the combination of the ego-centric visual perspective and the augmented exo-centric visual perspective; the learner sees the guidance visualisation inside the own body, as well as outside. Additionally, a virtual copy of the learner is located inside the exo-centric guidance visualisation, compare figure 2.3 bottom.

## 2.4 Handling Physical Load - chang to mmh

The handling of physical load is composed of five elemental tasks: lift, lower, push, pull and hold [29]. Additionally, there are non-elemental tasks like turning and sliding, *ibid.*. This work will use a study tasks that include the handling of physical load. Evidently, the task should consist of these elemental tasks. A task that consists of elemental tasks can be generalised to other tasks to a certain extend. To gain a stronger data basis by repeating, multiple elemental tasks can be chained together, to form a so-called Unit-Combined-MMH, *ibid.*. In chapter ?? is described how the elemental tasks become sub-tasks of the study task.

## 2.5 Ergonomic Risk Measurements

Risk Measurements (RM)



**Figure 2.3:** Possible perspectives with one real-world student and one real-world teacher.

## 2.6 Related Work: Motor Learning in Virtual Reality

Training movements in Virtual Reality was investigated previously in several works. The preceding seminar thesis (see chapter 3) provided an overview over 23 (compare table 2.1) of these works and evaluated six of them in detail: Tai Chi Trainer by Chua et al. [20], YouMove by Anderson et al. [1], VR Dance Trainer by Chan et al. [2], OneBody by Hoang et al. [19], LightGuide by Sodhi et al. [22] and Pyhsio@Home by Tang et al. [9]. Special attention was paid to the visual perspective, task, guidance visualisation and their independent and dependent variables they used in their investigations. Finally, the results of these works were concluded. An overview is depicted in table 2.2. These works inform this work in various aspects. Chua et al. used the ego & augmented exo-centric visual perspective, Hoang et al. and Sodhi et al. the ego-centric visual perspective. These visual perspectives proved to be suited for the evaluation of Motor Learning in VR and is adopted for the proposed study design, compare section 2.3. Furthermore, Chan et al. and Chua et al. used high realistic avatars as guidance visualisation, which are used in the proposed study design, compare seminar thesis chapter 3.3. Additionally, recent research indicates that high realism avatars outperform abstract avatars [27, 30]. All authors used a performance measure to evaluate the performed movements of the participants of their studies. Primarily the distance-based measures informed the measures used in the proposed study design.

The above mentioned works do not use the relatively new technology of Vive Trackers in combination with Inverse Kinematics (IK, see project report chapter 2.1 and 2.2). Sra et al. [31] used this technology in 2018 for their system Your Place and Mine to render human-shaped avatars.

The results of related work yielded no clear conclusion about the influence of the perspectives on motor learning. Chua et al. found no difference in the performance between the visual perspectives, Anderson et al. and

## 2 Motor Learning in Virtual Reality

Ego-centric	Exo-centric	Ego    Exo-centric
AR-Arm (Han et al. 2016)	MotionMA (Velloso et al. 2013)	OneBody (Hoang et al. 2016)
Just Follow Me (Yang & Kim 2002)	YouMove (Anderson et al. 2013)	LightGuide (Sodhi et al. 2012)
Gohstman (Chinthammit et al. 2014)	VR Dance Trainer (Jacky Chan et al. 2010)	MR Dance Trainer (Hachimura et al. 2004)
Stylo and Handifact (Katzakis et al. 2017)	Physio@Home (Tang et al. 2015)	Free Throw Simulator (Covaci et al. 2014)
GhostHands (Scavo et al. 2015)	OutSide me (Yan et al. 2015)	Training Physical Skill (Kojima et al. 2014)
	e-Learning Martial Arts (Komura et al. 2006)	SleeveAR (Sousa et al. 2016)
	My Tai-Chi Coaches (Han et al. 2017)	Tai Chi Trainer (Chua et al. 2006)
	Performance Training (Chan et al. 2007)	
	RT Gesture Recognition (Portillo et al. 2008)	
	KinoHaptics (Rajanna et al. 2015)	
	TIKL (Lieberman & Breazeal 2007)	

Dance
Sports
Rehab
Arts
Abstract

**Table 2.1:** Overview of related work divided by perspective and task

Chan et al. found out that their exo-centric visual perspectives in Virtual Reality outperform traditional video guidance. Hoang et al. and Sodhi et al. conclude that the ego-centric perspective outperforms the exo-centric visual perspective. Nevertheless, an investigation of how the visual perspective influences motor learning was not investigated. Recently, in December 2020, Yu et al. [27] conducted three independent studies to close this gap. In the first study, Yu et al. compared the ego-centric visual perspective and a 2D-mirror for single arm movements. In the second study, they compared the ego-centric and exo-centric visual perspective for Yoga. In the third study, they compared the ego-centric visual perspective with a 3D-mirror for arm movements. Yu et al. conclude their findings in a design guideline for systems training Motor Learning in Virtual Reality: use the ego-centric visual perspective if the type of motion allows, consider alternatives for other types of motions, *ibidem*. In all three studies, the ego-centric visual perspective outperformed the other perspectives if the movement was completely visible from the ego-centric visual perspective. This work, in contrast, focuses on full-body movements that include the handling of physical load. Furthermore, this work provides a third visual perspective, where the ego-centric and exo-centric visual perspective is combined.

	Tai Chi Trainer	YouMove	VR Dance Trainer	OneBody	LightGuide	Physio@Home
Perspective	Exo-centric, Ego & Augmented Exo-centric	Exo-centric	Exo-centric	Ego-centric, Exo-centric	Ego-centric, Exo-centric	Exo-centric
Task	Tai Chi	Dance (Ballet), abstract	Dance (HipHop)	Martial Arts	Abstract	Shoulder rehab
Guidance Visualisation	hr avatar, wireframe, mimic avatar	Stick figure, mimic avatar	hr figure, mimic avatar	Stick figure, mimic avatar	Indicators, follow/mimic	Indicators
Variables	Perspectives, performance measure	VR/Video, performance	Video/VR, performance	Training method, performance	Visualisations, Perspective, Performance	Visualisation, performance
Results	No difference in performance	VR better than video	VR better than video	Ego better than exo	Ego better than exo	Multi view better than single view

**Table 2.2:** Detailed seminar thesis evaluation.

## 3 Study Design and System Implementation

### 3.1 Study Design

#### 3.1.1 Independent Variables: Visual Perspectives

The last chapter pointed out five possible visual perspectives in a scenario with one teacher and one student, compare figure 2.3. All visual perspectives are worth an investigation and a comparable study with all five visual perspectives is desirable. Though, to reduce complexity and the number of participants<sup>1</sup>, this work will focus on three visual perspectives.

Figure 2.3 shows three main classes of visual perspectives: ego-centric, exo-centric and combinations of them. To answer the research question, it is indispensable to examine at least one of each class. The ego-centric VP is unique and though chosen by default. The exo-centric VP can be realised as purely exo-centric or augmented exo-centric. The combination of ego-centric and exo-centric can be realised as ego & exo-centric or ego & augmented exo-centric. But before the exo-centric vp and the combination can be chosen, a closer look on the mechanics that makes Motor Learning in VR possible is necessary.

#### **Excursion: Mechanics for Motor Learning in Virtual Reality**

For teaching movements in Virtual Reality, in the exo-centric visual perspective the following issue arises. The guidance visualisation can move out of the field of view of the learner by the movement itself. Szenario: the learner and the guidance visualisation stand side-by-side, the learner sees the guidance visualisation on the left of him/her. The guidance visualisation now indicates a movement to turn by 90 degrees to the right. When the learner follow this movement, the guidance visualisation will be located behind the learner after the movement ended. A guidance visualisation standing behind the learner cannot be seen by the learner.

This issue is solved in existing work with either the restriction of movements [6, 16] or multiple representations of the guidance visualisation around the learner [17, 20]. The restriction of movements has a strong influence in the task design and is therefore not desirable for the study proposed in this thesis. Consequentially, for exo-centric visual perspectives multiple representations for the guidance visualisations on strategic positions around the learner are necessary.

In the ego-centric visual perspective, another issue arises during the teaching of locomotion movements. To understand this issue, two aspects have to be clear before. (1) The nature of an ego-centric guidance visualisation is to be located inside the learner at any time. (2) A guidance visualisation indicates movements by moving itself. If the guidance visualisation is about to indicate a movement away from the learner, the guidance visualisation is moving out of the students body. But a guidance visualisation that is outside of the learners body is no longer ego-centric.

A possible solution can give the centricity continuum by Wang and Milgram 2.2. Following the nature of the centricity continuum, the tethering distance can be increased by a small amount and the visual perspective

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<sup>1</sup>Due to COVID-19 pandemic

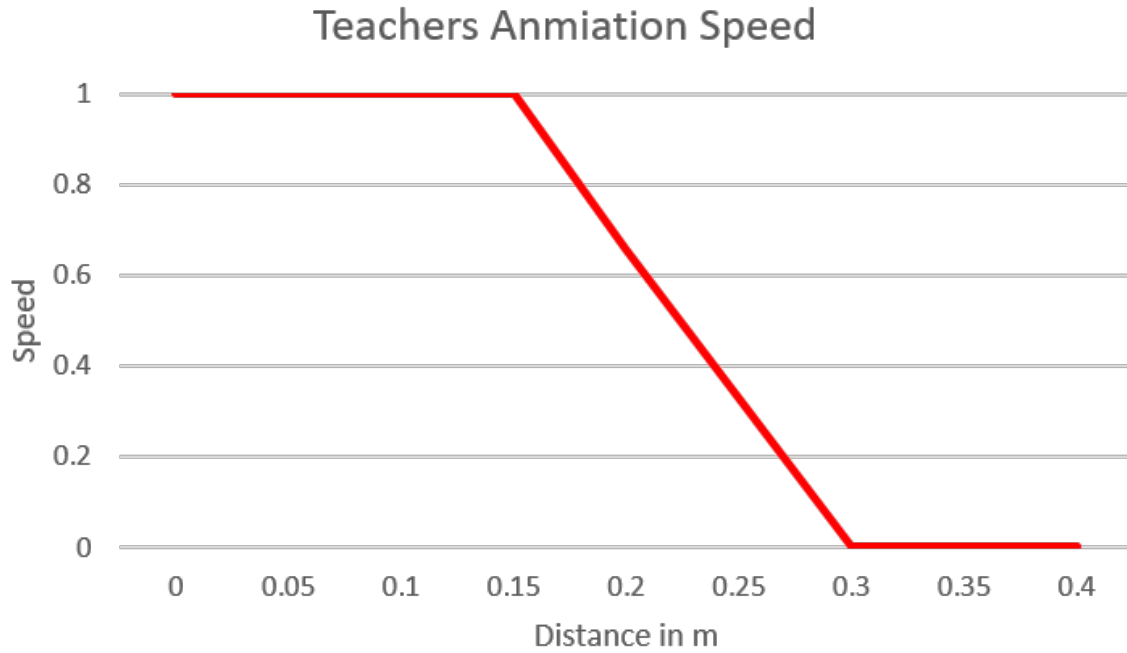
### 3 Study Design and System Implementation

can still be classified as ego-centric. But now arises the question, of how far the tethering distance can be increased, with which the perspective still feels ego-centric, but the indication of the movement is considerable. For simplicity reasons, this distance is further called ego-centric tethering distance (ETD). To determine a reasonable ETD, a small formative study was conducted<sup>2</sup>. During this study, a non biased<sup>3</sup> person was asked to follow movements in the ego-centric visual perspective. The first movement was conducted with an ETD of 5cm. For the following movements the ETD was increased by 5cm each. The subjective assesment of the participant and my observations yielded best for an ETD between 15cm and 30cm. These two values are further called:

$$ETD_{min} = 15cm$$

$$ETD_{max} = 30cm$$

Based on  $ETD_{min}$  and  $ETD_{max}$  the speed mechanic is developed. The speed mechanic controls the speed of the playback of the guidance visualisation. At  $ETD_{min}$  and below, the animation plays at normal speed. At  $ETD_{max}$  the guidance visualisation stops. Between  $ETD_{min}$  and  $ETD_{max}$  the animation speed of the guidance visualisation is linearly interpolated, compare figure 3.1. The speed mechanic was evaluated by one person<sup>4</sup>.



**Figure 3.1:** speed mechanic chart

The participant followed the guidance visualisation in the ego-centric visual perspective. Observations showed that the participant could follow the movement at ease. The opinion of the participant about the speed mechanic was very positive.

With this short excursion, a reasonable decision for the exo-centric VP and the combination can be chosen.

<sup>2</sup>A larger study was not possible because of the COVID-19 pandemic

<sup>3</sup>The person had no prior knowledge about the system or motor learning.

<sup>4</sup>Different person than the first one. This person had no prior knowledge about the system nor Motor Learning. A Larger evaluation was not possible because of COVID-19 pandemic.

In the ego-centric visual perspective, the learner sees the guidance visualisation inside the own body. Here, the learner can see the relation of the own body to the GV directly. In the pure exo-centric visual perspective this relation cannot be seen. Thereby, the position of the learner in relation to the guidance visualisation must be guessed. That, in turn, makes the application of the speed mechanic - which is necessary for ego-centric guidance - not possible. A mechanic that is used in all conditions but one could lead to biased data, compare table 3.1. The

Perspective	Speed Mechanic	Multiple Representations
Ego-centric	Yes	No
Exo-centric	No	Yes
Ego & Exo-centric	Yes	Yes
Augmented Exo-centric	Yes	Yes
Ego & Augmented Exo-centric	Yes	Yes

**Table 3.1:** Mechanics speed and multiple representations and in which VP they are applied.

mechanic of multiple representations does not influence the validity of the study, because the mechanic would solve an issue that does not exist in the ego-centric perspectives.

In the augmented exo-centric perspective, a virtual copy of the learner is located inside the exo-centric guidance visualisation. The copy lets the learner see the relation of the own body to the guidance visualisation. Furthermore, augmenting the exo-centric guidance visualisation with the learner is widely used and evaluated in related work [1, 20]. Consequently, the augmented exo-centric VP will serve as the exo-centric VP.

With the ego-centric and exo-centric VP set, the combination can be chosen. In the ego-centric VP the learner has a direct comparison of the own posture to the posture of the GV in the ego-centric VP. In the augmented exo-centric VP the learner has a direct comparison of the own posture and the posture of the GV in the exo-centric VP. To have the direct comparison from the ego-centric VP AND the exo-centric VP, the ego & augmented exo-centric VP is chosen as the combination. The ego & augmented exo-centric VP is the true combination of ego-centric and augmented exo-centric.

For simplification, the augmented exo-centric VP will be further called exo-centric VP, and the ego & augmented exo-centric will be further called ego & exo-centric VP.

The ego-centric VP, exo-centric VP and the ego & exo-centric VP are the independent variables of the study and form the three study conditions EGO, EXO, EGO & EXO.

#### 3.1.2 Task Design

Hornbæk [32] identified three main types of tasks in HCI studies: representative tasks, simple tasks and tasks that use task specific hypothesis. RQ1 states the main investigation field is Motor Learning. Motor Learning is strongly related to real-world movements, evidently the study task is a representative task.

Real-world tasks that include the handling of physical load, can found in a wide range of activities. For example, a storekeeper job is to clear a palette of cardboard boxes. This task includes to unload the palette, scale the boxes, measure the dimensions of the boxes and finally store them in a rack. Another example is the work at a grinding machine. The worker takes a slug from a shelf and works on it until the slug becomes a workpiece. After that the workpiece is carried to a measurement instrument to be verified. There are plenty of other examples, but these two already clarify that a tasks which includes the handling of physical load consists out of the elemental tasks for manual material handling: lift, lower, push, pull, hold.



The idea for the study task is to chain these elemental task together to a Unit-Combined-MMH task, that representatively stand for a wide range of tasks that includes the handling of physical load. To achieve this, several aspects have to be taken into consideration: (a) the artifacts with which the learner will interact, (b) a reasonable task decomposition that allows the investigation of sub-tasks. Furthermore, the study needs a (c) structure. (c) will reveal the necessity of three tasks. These tasks have to be equally (d) complex. This section will subsequently discuss (a-d) and propose the task for the study.

#### **(a) Artifacts**

A task that include the handling of physical load obviously need a physical load. In real-world tasks, the physical load can be everything a human can handle. The physical load for this task should fulfil the following criteria: the load should have a significant weight, that it is actually perceived as a load, but at the same time, any healthy person with no previous illnesses can handle it without getting injured. Secondly, the physical load should give a enough freedom for interactions. A simple box fulfils the criteria and furthermore has a relation to physical loads of real-world tasks like the handling of parcels. With a physical load, the elemental tasks of lift and lower can be realised by lifting and lowering the box from and to the floor.

Push and pull can be realised by pushing and pulling the box on the floor, but it can feel cumbersome. Moreover, in real-world task pushing and pulling a box is made possible in a more ergonomic height if possible, not least for security reasons. To support push and pull, a table is introduced. This table stands representatively for example the grinding machine or a parcel sorting table.

Finally, the transitions between the elemental tasks have to be supported, to increase the real-world reference. This is achieved by providing a waypoint. The waypoint is a plate on the floor and helps to bring sense in movements. This plate representatively stands for example for a scale or second machine. Walking to a scale or lower a box to the scale on the floor increases the real-world reference more than just an empty place in the room.

#### **(b) Sub-tasks**

The goal is to create a Unit-Combined-MMH task with the elemental tasks push, pull, lift, lower and hold. The process of designing the task is complex and happens iteratively.

In the first approach, was a task with four occurrences of every elemental task. For lifting the box from the scale and carry the box to the table, obviously a new task type had to be introduced: carry. Because carry is not a elemental task and for simplicity, elemental tasks and newly introduces task types are from now on referred as sub-tasks. This first approach of designing a task revealed an issue: chaining a given amount of sub-tasks together so that the task is still conductable is hard to achieve. To overcome the inflexibility, a new sub-tasks is introduced: walk. Walk means locomotion without the box in hand. With walk, the box can be pushed from one side of the table, and then be pushed from the other side of the table, which achieves flexibility in task design, otherwise on push will always follow pull.

The next approach was a task that consists out of the sub-tasks push, pull, lift, lower, carry, walk and hold. Each sub-task appeared again four times. The task was evaluated with one person. This person had to follow the instructions in the ego-centric VP and exo-centric VP. During the conduction of the task, the person started to look around and correct the own position during the sub-task hold. An interview afterwards showed, that the person thought the GV stopped because his position was too far away from the GV. It became clear, that the speed-mechanic and the sub-task are not compatible. For the participant of the study it is indistinguishable if he/she is too far away from the GV or if it is the sub-task hold. Because of this indistinguishableness, the sub-task hold is excluded from the task as sub-task. However, hold is still part of the whole tasks: between the transitions of the tasks (for example between lift ends and lower starts) is a small pause which is equivalent to hold, but this sequence is too short to log. Furthermore, hold is part of the sub-task carry, where the box is holded

in front of the body. But hold is not a stand alone sub-task and cannot be evaluated isolated.

A new task was designed with the sub-tasks push, pull, lift, lower, carry and walk. During the design special attention was paid to the magnitude of the movements. For example, every push should be equally far. Lift and lower from and to the scale and lift and lower from and to the table are very different in the magnitude. This resulted in two new sub-tasks: pick and place. Pick means to pick up the box from the table, place means to place the box on the table, while lift and lower the target remained the scale on the floor.

The next stage of the task consists out of the sub-tasks push, pull, lift, lower, carry, walk, pick and place. The task was inspected by a professional physiologist. The physiologist was asked to describe the sub-tasks in detail and perform every sub-task ergonomically. The professional's description of the sub-tasks are listed in table 3.2. From the performance of the professional physiologist and the description of the sub-tasks could be derived several insights. The sub-tasks push and pull are very similar in their conduction. The same applies for the pairs lift and lower as well as pick and place. This meant for the evaluation, that the variations of movements is nearly halved, and the possibility of making mistakes is reduced. Example: for push and pull, one foot has to be placed to the back while the other foot remains under the hip, the hands do the same for every push and pull. If in the participant does perform the sub-task intrinsically correct without the perception of the GV's, the study will not measure the influence of the perspective. To increase the number of sources of error, two new sub-tasks are introduced: turn and fold. Turn means to turn the box by 90 degrees on the table, fold means to tilt the box from one side to another. The difference of the hand movement to push and pull is obvious. The difference for the feet results from the fact, that during turn and fold, the weight of the box remains on the table and the force to apply on the box is significantly lower than during push and pull. This results in a different feet placement, which are hip wide under the hip.

The introduction of turn and fold all sub-tasks are introduced. A new task was created with all 10 sub-tasks. To assess all sub-tasks multiple times, they appear four times per task. The pair lift and lower and the only in magnitude different pair place and pick relate to each other. To be presented equally in the task among the other sub-tasks should also only be present four times. Because, lift and lower are measured with the RM (6.2) (see next section) lift and lower was decided to appear three times each, and pick and place one time each. Unfortunately, only one time each pick and place means that all sub-tasks that do not happen at the table had to be conducted in sequence. To regain flexibility in the task, it was decided that pick and place will occur 2 times each. This results in 34 sub-tasks per task. Table 3.2 provides an overview over the sub-tasks and their corresponding description, as well as the occurrences per task.

Sub-task ID	Sub-task description	Professional's description	#of sub-tasks/Task
<b>push</b>	Push box on table	Lunge, feet hip wide, chest out, shoulders back, straight back, lean forward, bend front knee, extend your arms, pressure on front leg, push box by activating back muscles	4
<b>pull</b>	Pull box on table	Lunge, feet hip wide, chest out, shoulders back, straight back, lean forward, bend front knee, extend your arms, pressure on front leg, pull box by activating back muscles	4
<b>turn</b>	Turn box by 90° on table	Feet hip wide, lean slightly forward with straight back, turn box with arm muscles, weight of the box remains on the table	4
<b>fold</b>	Put the box from one side to another on the table	Feet hip wide, straight back, slightly bended arms, depending on the distance to the box: lean over table, no bent knees, weight of the box remains on the table	4
<b>carry</b>	Translation in space with the box in hand	Chest out, straight back, bend elbows to 90°, box near to body, shoulder in neutral-zero	4
<b>walk</b>	Translation in space without the box	"normal walking on their own judgment", straight back	4
<b>lift</b>	Lift up the box from the floor	Approach box as near as possible, weight shifted slightly to the front, bend knees, open legs while going down, stop at the raised heels, lean forward with straight back, lift box with quadriceps (tights), chest out, ellbows aim at ca. 90°	3
<b>lower</b>	Lower box to floor	Head above pelvis, bend knees and open legs, chest out, straight back and head, extend arms	3
<b>place</b>	Put box on table	Paralell hip wide feet, bend knees slightly, lean forward with straight back, lower arms	2
<b>pick</b>	Pick up box from table	Paralell hip wide feet, bend knees slightly, lean forward with straight back, lift with arms, abdominal and back muscles	2
			Total: 34 sub-tasks per task

Table 3.2: Sub-tasks that appear in every task.

### (c) Study Structure

In the study three conditions are compared: EGO, EXO and EGO & EXO. The main question in this section is how to assign the participant to the independent variables. The key distinguishing is between within-subject design and between-subject design [32]. In the within-subject design the participant would experience all VPs. In the between-subject design, the participants would experience only one VP. Within-subject designs typically can detect the differences of between the conditions more precisely, *ibid.* Furthermore, within-subject designs need less participants <sup>5</sup> than between subject designs, *ibid.* For these reasons, is conducted in a within-subject design. The within-subject design does also have a drawback: the participants gain experience about the task

<sup>5</sup>The COVID-19 pandemic makes it hard to find enough participants.

and the conditions during the study. This means that one condition is influence by another condition, which the participant already experienced. Furthermore, there is a asymetrical carry-over effect between the conditions: EGO & EXO contains condition EGO and EXO and thereby influences EGO and EXO more than EGO influences EGO & EXO. To reduce the task related learning effect, three tasks with an nearly equal complexity is created. With this, a participant will face for every condition a different task. The tasks are still similar and the learning effect persits. A reduction of the influence of the learning effect on the outcome can be countered out by counterbalancing the task. Similar to the task, the carry-over effect between the conditions can be also countered by counterbalancing the conditions. Hornbæk proposes in this case to cross the conditions with the task and use a Greco-Latin square. Three conditions and three tasks in a Greco-Latin square results in blocks of nine participants. This block is depicted in figure 3.2. The study should be conducted with at least 4 blocks (4x9=36 participants) todo: warum????.

	Session 1		Session 2		Session 3	
PT	Perspective	Task	Perspective	Task	Perspective	Task
PT1	Ego	T1	Exo	T2	Ego-Exo	T3
PT2	Ego	T3	Exo	T1	Ego-Exo	T2
PT3	Ego	T2	Exo	T3	Ego-Exo	T1
PT4	Ego & Exo	T3	Ego	T1	Exo	T2
PT5	Ego & Exo	T2	Ego	T3	Exo	T1
PT6	Ego & Exo	T1	Ego	T2	Exo	T3
PT7	Exo	T2	Ego-Exo	T3	Ego	T1
PT8	Exo	T1	Ego-Exo	T2	Ego	T3
PT9	Exo	T3	Ego-Exo	T1	Ego	T2

**Figure 3.2:** Experiment structure: within-subject desing in a Greco-Latin square.

#### (d) Equal Task Complexity

A study participant will face in every condition another task. For the validity of the study it is indispensable that these three tasks have a nearly equal complexity. As described in (b) a task consits of 10 subtasks that occur a specific amount. The main idea to ensure a comparable complexity is to to use the for all three tasks the same sub-tasks in an equal amount. This means, the 34 sub-tasks of task one occure in task two and three, but in a different order. Table 3.3 lists all three tasks. For every task, the a sub-task number ST1-ST34 is provided. Every number stands for a sub-tasks, which comes with a description and the sub-task ID. Reading the description from top to bottom are the instructions the learner recieves from the GV during one condition. The mirror mention in the first line is another waypoint which. The mirror is necessary for technical reasons and is described in section todo: 4.

### 3 Study Design and System Implementation

Task 1			Task 2			Task 3		
Sub-task#	Description	ST ID	Sub-task#	Description	ST ID	Sub-task#	Description	ST ID
	start in front of mirror, box on floor			start in front of mirror, box on floor			start in front of mirror, box on floor	
ST1	lift up box	lift	ST1	lift up box	lift	ST1	lift up box	lift
ST2	carry box to table	carry	ST2	carry box to scale	carry	ST2	carry box to table	carry
ST3	place box on table	place	ST3	lower box to scale	lower	ST3	place box on table	place
ST4	push box away	push	ST4	lift up box	lift	ST4	fold box away	fold
ST5	fold box away	fold	ST5	carry box to table	carry	ST5	walk to table center	walk
ST6	walk to left side of the table	walk	ST6	place box on table	place	ST6	turn box left	turn
ST7	fold box to bottom	fold	ST7	push box away	push	ST7	fold box to bottom	fold
ST8	pull box	pull	ST8	walk to right side of table	walk	ST8	push box away	push
ST9	pick up box	pick	ST9	pull box	pull	ST9	walk to right side of table	walk
ST10	carry box to scale	carry	ST10	push box away	push	ST10	pull box	pull
ST11	lower box to scale	lower	ST11	walk to table center	walk	ST11	fold box away	fold
ST12	lift up box from scale	lift	ST12	fold box left	fold	ST12	turn box right	turn
ST13	carry box to table	carry	ST13	turn box right	turn	ST13	push box away	push
ST14	place box on table	place	ST14	fold box to bottom	fold	ST14	walk to table center	walk
ST15	turn box left	turn	ST15	turn box left	turn	ST15	fold box to bottom	fold
ST16	push box away	push	ST16	push box away	push	ST16	turn box left	turn
ST17	pull box	pull	ST17	turn box left	turn	ST17	pick up box	pick
ST18	turn box right	turn	ST18	pull box	pull	ST18	carry box to scale	carry
ST19	fold box away	fold	ST19	fold box away	fold	ST19	lower box to scale	lower
ST20	pull box	pull	ST20	turn box right	turn	ST20	lift up box from scale	lift
ST21	walk to left side of table	walk	ST21	walk left side	walk	ST21	lower box to scale	lower
ST22	pull box	pull	ST22	pull box	pull	ST22	lift up box from scale	lift
ST23	turn box right	turn	ST23	fold box to bottom	fold	ST23	carry box to table	carry
ST24	push box away	push	ST24	push box away	push	ST24	place box on table	place
ST25	fold box to bottom	fold	ST25	walk to table center	walk	ST25	push box away	push
ST26	push box away	push	ST26	pull box	pull	ST26	pull box	pull
ST27	walk to scale	walk	ST27	pick up box	pick	ST27	turn box right	turn
ST28	walk to box on table	walk	ST28	place box on table	place	ST28	walk to right side of table	walk
ST29	turn box left	turn	ST29	pick up box	pick	ST29	pull box	pull
ST30	pick up box	pick	ST30	carry box to scale	carry	ST30	push box away	push
ST31	carry box to (invisible) mirror	carry	ST31	lower box to scale	lower	ST31	pull box	pull
ST32	put box on floor	lower	ST32	lift up box	lift	ST32	pick up box	pick
ST33	lift box up	lift	ST33	carry box to (invisible) mirror	carry	ST33	carry box to (invisible) mirror	carry
ST34	put box to ground	lower	ST34	lower box to ground	lower	ST34	lower box to ground	lower

**Table 3.3:** tasks

#### 3.1.3 Measures: dependent variables

This work's aim is to answer the main research question RQ1: How does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence Motor Learning in Virtual Reality. To answer this research question, the proposed study has to generate data that answers the sub-research questions RQ1.1-4. This section will provide the underlying paradigm to every sub-research question and explain which measures are necessary.

**RQ1.1** How does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence movements' accuracy?

**Paradigma:** the more exact the learners' movements match the GV movements, the better the learner could

follow the instruction of the GV. For RQ1.1.1 the limbs of the learner and the limbs of the GV are compared. For RQ1.1.2 the box' accuracy is compared. For RQ1.1.3, both are compared and additionally, the current sub-task is taken into consideration. The accuracy can indicate, how the particular movement is suited for the VP.

**RQ1.1.1** How does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence movements' accuracy of the own body?

**Measures:** (1) Euclidean distance between the learners and GV's hands, feet, head and hip in meters. (2) Angle between learners and GV's the hands, feet, head and hip in degrees.

**RQ1.1.2** How does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence the accuracy of handling physical load?

**Measures:** (3) Euclidean distance between the learners and GV's physical load. (4) Angle between the learners and GV's physical load in degrees.

**RQ1.1.3** How does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence sub-tasks' accuracy?

**Measures:** (1-4), additionally matched to the sub-tasks that is currently performed (5).

(1-4) gives insights to what extent the learner could follow the GV for the whole task. (5) can extract specific sub-tasks for which the learner could follow the GV to a certain extent. For example, in the ego-centric VP the overall accuracy for a task is lower than in the other VPs, but the accuracy for the sub-tasks lift and lower is higher than in other VP. For this example, measure (5) can extract specific sub-tasks that are performed better or worse than in other VPs.

**RQ1.2** Does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence the transfer of ergonomic principles?

**Paradigma:** the more exact the learner's RM matches the GV's RM, the better the ergonomic principles could be transferred.

**Measures:** (6) Risk Measurements: (6.1) spine bend in degrees, (6.2) squat distance in meters, (6.3) good base in meters **todo: check names**, (6.4) box near body.

Muckell et al. [33] used four RM in their work to assess the performance of the conducted movements. Three of them are assessed in the proposed study, too.

(6.1) spine bend is defined by the difference in degrees between the straight upward vector and the back of the learner. For all sub-task, spine bend should be in a certain window. This window is calculated from the teacher, who recorded the movement. Spine bend indicates, if the learner could perceive the correct posture of his back.

(6.2) squat distance is defined by the distance in meters between the feet. For the sub-tasks lift and lower, the squat distance should be in a certain window. This window is calculated from the teacher, who recorded the movement. For the other sub-tasks, squat distance is not applied. Squat distance indicates, if the learner could perceive that he should bend his knees during lift and lower.

(6.3) good base is defined by the distance in meters between the feet. For the sub-tasks push, pull, turn, fold, lift, lower, pick and place, the squat distance should be in a certain window. This window is calculated from the teacher, who recorded the movement. Good base indicates, if the learner could perceive the correct posture of the feet. Muckell et al. [33] use the RM spine bend in their work. This RM cannot be applied for this study because of the multiple perspective mechanic. The learner has multiple GV around him/her and is free of choice which one to look at. The turn of the head implies spine twist. Though, spine twist has a low validity and reliability.

(6.4) box near body. For the study task design, a professional physiologist was consulted (compare **todo: section**). During the interview, all movements were described in detail, compare **todo: figure**. During the sub-task carry the box should be as near as possible to the body while the elbows should have bend angle of 90 degrees. Unfortunately, the bend angle could not be determined during a study for technical reasons, see chapter **todo: implementation**. Fortunately, the distance from between the box and the body can be determined. Box near body, is defined as the distance in meters between the box and the body of the learner. For the sub-task carry, box near body should be in a certain window. The window is calculated by from the teacher who recorded the movement.

RM (6.1-4) are different from accuracy measurements (1-5), because they are independent from the position of the learner and the GV. For example, in the exo-centric VP, a learner cannot percept the correct position where he/she should stand. The learner thereby stands 15cm away from the position he/she should stand. The overall accuracy is thereby lower. But the learner could percept the positioning of his/her feet correctly. In this case the RM (6.3) are fulfilled while the accuracy is biased.

**RQ1.3** How does the visual perspective on a virtual guidance visualisation influence the learner's visual focus?

Measures: (7) looking at

Paradigma: the learners visual focus is on the object the learner is looking at.

The learner interacts with a box and has multiple GVs around and inside the learner. Looking at can give insights on which GV the learner is focusing, the frequency of focus changes and the role of the physical load.

**RQ1.4** What is the subjective personal preference of the learner for the visual perspectives?

Measures: (8) qualitative data; likert scales, semi-structured interview, digging into occurrences.

The qualitative data serves not only to investigate the learners personal preference, but can be also serves as triangulation method for measures (1-7).

The last measure is the (9) task completion time measured in seconds. The speed-mechanic regulates the speed of the animation of the GV. The further the learner is located to the GV, the slower the animation speed of the GV until it stops completely. The task completion time gives insights about the learning effect **todo: schreib das morgen nocham**

#### 3.1.4 Procedure

#### 3.1.5 How to Evaluate

#### 3.1.6 Research Contribution Statement

The conduction of the proposed study will produce data that serves as a reasonable basis for designers of VR Motor Learning systems choosing a suitable perspectives. This is achieved by an Empirical Research Contribution. The empirical data is gathered by a comparative study between the ego-centric visual perspective, the exo-centric visual perspective and the combination. As novelty, the task includes handling of physical load which consists of the elemental tasks of manual material handling. This allows an evaluation of the elemental tasks per visual perspective and can give insights which perspective is suited for specific tasks. Additionally, an artifact contribution is provided by the ego-centric guidance of locomotion movements.

## 3.2 E(x|g)o- Design and Implementation

(15 pages)

## 3.3 E(x|g)o

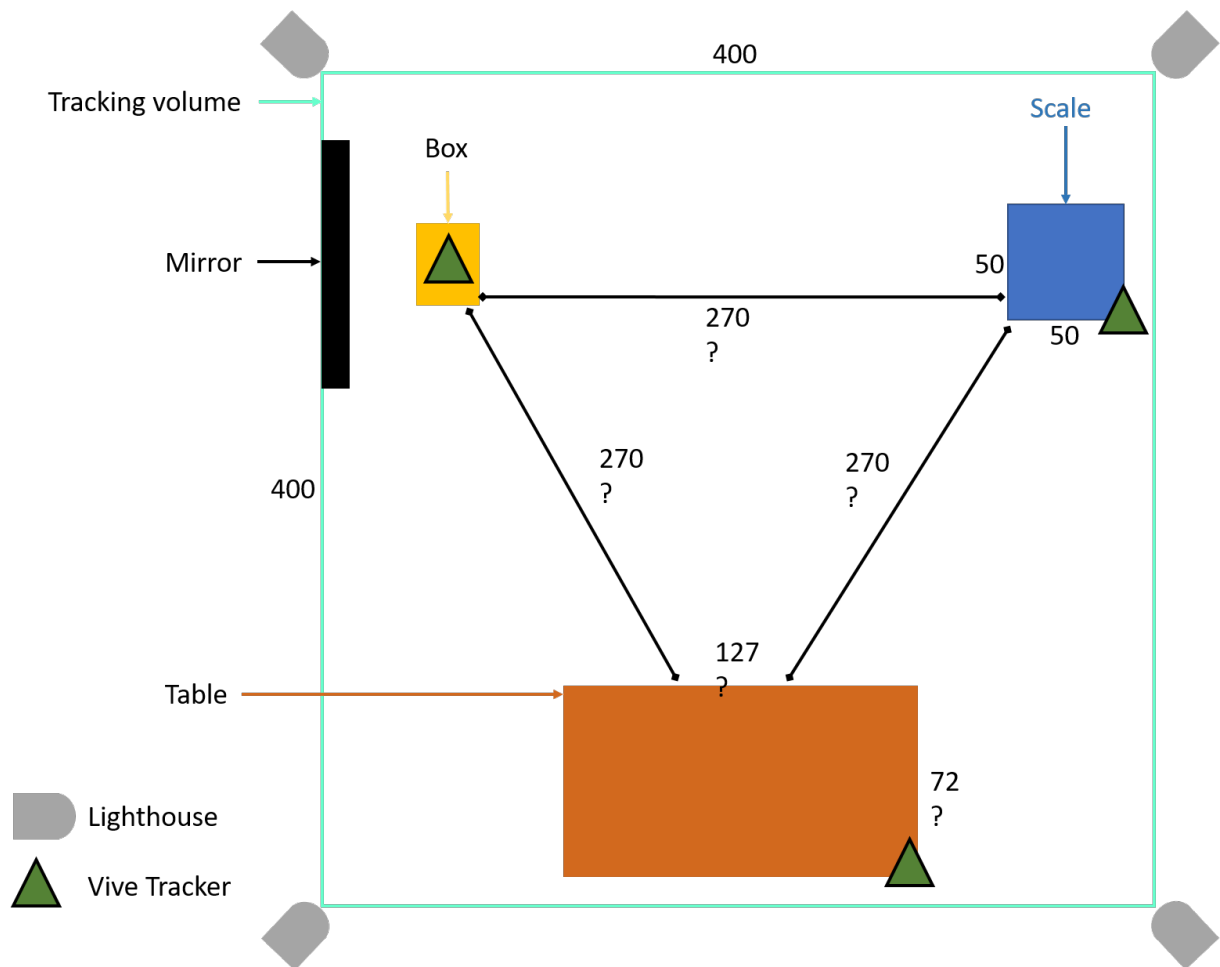
### 3.3.1 Study Setting

Studysetup  
frameworks  
implementation  
perspectives  
mechanics  
logging  
limitations  
iterative implementation  
formative tests

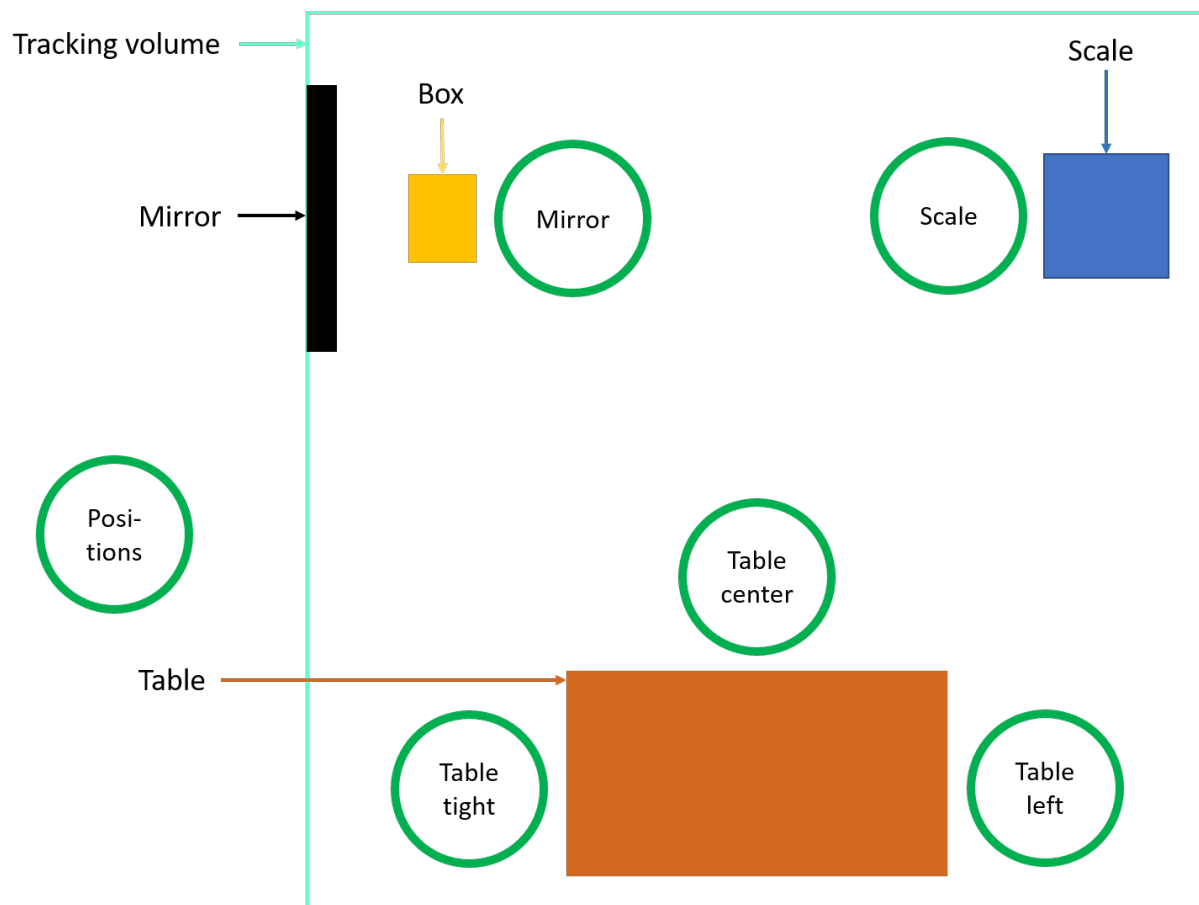
## 3.4 Study

tasks  
procedure  
geplante evaluierung  
limitations  
bezug zwischen messungen und forschungsfragen  
triangulation nutzen wo sinnvoll





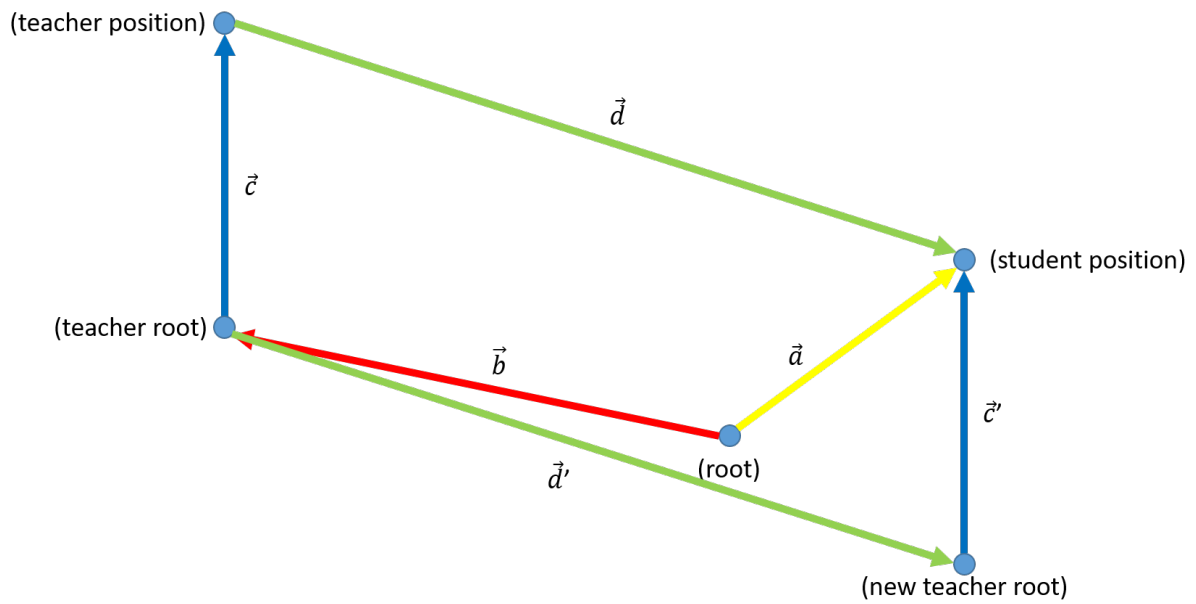
**Figure 3.3:** study setting



**Figure 3.4:** learner positions

Logging ID	Description	Unit	Research question
Elapsed time	Time since the beginning of the task	Milliseconds	RQ1.1.1-3
Current animation Frame	Current frame of the GV animation	frames	RQ1.1.1-3
Subtask ID	The current sub task performed by L	STID	RQ1.1.3
Hip distance	ED between hip of the GV and the hip L	Meters	RQ1.1.1
Left hand distance	ED between left hand GV and left hand L	Meters	RQ1.1.1
Right hand distance	ED between right hand GV and right hand L	Meters	RQ1.1.1
Left foot distance	ED between left foot GV and left foot L	Meters	RQ1.1.1
Right foot distance	ED between right foot GV and right foot L	Meters	RQ1.1.1
Head distance	ED between head GV and head L	Meters	RQ1.1.1*
Box distance	ED between box GV and box L	Meters	RQ1.1.2
Hip angle	ED between hip of the GV and the hip L	Degrees	RQ1.1.1
Left hand angle	ED between left hand GV and left hand L	Degrees	RQ1.1.1
Right hand angle	ED between right hand GV and right hand L	Degrees	RQ1.1.1
Left foot angle	ED between left foot GV and left foot L	Degrees	RQ1.1.1
Right foot angle	ED between right foot GV and right foot L	Degrees	RQ1.1.1
Head angle	ED between head GV and head L	Degrees	RQ1.1.1*, RQ1.3
Box angle	ED between box GV and box L	Degrees	RQ1.1.2
L spine bend	RM spine bend of L	Degrees	RQ1.2
L foot distance	RM base of L	Meters	RQ1.2
L squat distance	RM squat distance of L	Meters	RQ1.2
L hip-box distance	RM elbows L	Meters	RQ1.2
GV spine bend	RM spine bend of GV	Degrees	RQ1.2
GV foot distance	RM base of GV	Meters	RQ1.2
GV squat distance	RM squat distance of GV	Meters	RQ1.2
GV hip-box distance	RM elbows GV	Meters	RQ1.2
L looking at	The object L is looking at	LAID	RQ1.3
Pos x	X position for all 12 trackers	Meters	**
Pos y	Y position for all 12 trackers	Meters	**
Pos z	Z position for all 12 trackers	Meters	**
Rot x	X rotation for all 12 trackers	Meters	**
Rot y	Y rotation for all 12 trackers	Meters	**
Rot z	Z rotation for all 12 trackers	Meters	**
Total 146 columns			

**Figure 3.5:** Detailed overview of logs produced by E(x|g)o per frame. L: learner, GV guidance visualisation, ED: euclidean distance. \*head position and rotation is biased in exo-centric conditions because of multiple GV the L can focus on. \*\*All trackers are logged for backup reasons: after the study is conducted a measurement can become interesting that was not of importance before. With these values any measurement can be calculated post-study.



**Figure 3.6:** shift calc

## 4 Study Evaluation

(5 pages)

### 4.1 Study Evaluation

aufgrund der Pilotstudie beschreiben, welche elemente gut bzw schlecht sind.

Wird gemessen was gemessen werden soll

sind die positionen der lehrer ok

sind tisch und box geeignet

gibt es schwierigkeiten etwas zu verstehen

ist die aklimatisierungsmethode angebracht

wie ist die dauer der durchführung einer session

sind die gestellten fragen am ende zielführend

pausen zwischen den sessions

sind die anweisungen die gegeben wurden zu viel/zu wenig

...

refinements

## 5 Conclusion

(3 pages)

### 5.1 System and Study

Zusammenfassung der Evaluation des Systems über die Eignung zur Durchführung einer Studie, die Daten generiert, um die Forschungsfrage zu beantworten.

Zusammenfassung, was gut und schlecht ist bei der Studienaufführung.  
Reflexion und Contribution, inkl. zu erwartende empirische Contribution

### 5.2 Outlook

Was kann noch evaluiert werden mit diesem System?

anderer Task ohne physical load, sitzend zur Bedienung von Maschinen, Realismusgrad der Avatare, Anzahl Avatare, Position von Avataren, Geschwindigkeit der Animationsanleitung...

Wer hat welchen Nutzen von der Beantwortung der Forschungsfrage: Designer von Motorlearning VR-Systemen.

Bezug zu Erweiterungen der Implementierung

Possible improvement: DTW <https://towardsdatascience.com/dynamic-time-warping-3933f25fcdd>

## 6 Attachments

### 6.1 Task description

### 6.2 Study Documents

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